

Stomach cancer risk

What you need to know about the H. pylori test, including its benefits and limitations.

What is stomach cancer?

Around 6,700 people are diagnosed with stomach cancer in the UK each year. It is more common in men than women, and around 50% of cases occur in people aged 75 or over. Most cases are linked to lifestyle or environmental factors such as smoking or eating smoked or high-salt foods. Infection with Helicobacter pylori (H. pylori) also increases the risk.

About the test

This blood test analyses H. pylori antibody levels to detect infection at an early stage, before symptoms appear. When an H. pylori infection is found, it can be easily treated.

Results

Positive test result

- A positive result means you are currently infected with H. pylori or had an infection in the past that has since cleared. Speak to your GP for further advice.
- A positive H. pylori result does not mean you have stomach cancer or will definitely develop it.

Negative test result

- A negative result means no H. pylori was detected, and it is unlikely you have had a past infection.
- A negative result does not rule out stomach cancer. Some individuals with stomach cancer will not have a positive H. pylori test.
- Treat a negative result with caution if you have symptoms such as unexplained weight loss, heartburn, nausea, difficulty swallowing, abdominal discomfort, or early fullness. If you have any of these symptoms, speak to your GP.

Next steps

We understand that a health assessment is just the beginning. That's why we work alongside carefully selected partner organisations to provide you with exclusive onward cancer support.

Scan the QR code below to stay up to date with our latest partnerships.



Contact our customer care line for more information: 0808 168 7867