What is gastric cancer?
Gastric cancer (stomach cancer) is cancer that occurs in the stomach. The most common type of stomach cancer is gastric adenocarcinoma, which is a stomach cancer that begins in the mucus-producing cells lining the inside of the stomach.1

Incidence
Gastric cancer is uncommon in the U.S. and Western Europe.2,3 Each year, there are approximately 22,000 new cases of gastric cancer diagnosed in the U.S.6 and 80,626 cases diagnosed in the E.U.7

Gastric cancer is much more commonly diagnosed in East Asia, Eastern Europe, and parts of South America.2,3

90–95% of gastric cancers are adenocarcinomas.1,2

Diagnosis and prognosis
Gastric cancer is most often diagnosed when it is already at an advanced stage and has metastasized to different parts of the body.2 For patients with advanced disease, the prognosis is poor. The 5-year survival rate in the U.S. is ≤ 20% for Stage III gastric cancer and < 5% for Stage IV gastric cancer.4

Risk factors3,8,9

- Helicobacter pylori infection
- Smoking
- Male gender
- Older age
- Diet high in salty, smoked or preserved foods
- Low consumption of fruits and vegetables
- Pernicious anemia
- Other chronic gastric disease or long term stomach inflammation
- Family history of stomach cancer
- Having an inherited cancer syndrome
- Exposure to certain hazardous materials (i.e., lead compounds, asbestos)
- Epstein–Barr virus infection

Symptoms of gastric cancer can include:5

- Stomach pain or fullness, even after just a small meal
- Nausea and vomiting
- Unexplained weight loss
- Loss of appetite
- Heartburn
- Anemia
- Difficulty swallowing
- Excessive belching
- Persistent ulcer

Current treatment options for gastric cancer may include:2,10

- Surgery
- Chemoradiotherapy
- Radiotherapy
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapies

Need for further research
Gastric cancer is aggressive and the prognosis remains poor for the majority of patients, who are typically diagnosed with advanced disease.2,4 There is a clear unmet medical need for new treatment options.
References