



Digestive and Liver Center of Florida

April is...

Esophageal Cancer Awareness Month

Esophageal Cancer is *deadly* and **INCREASING RAPIDLY**

The type of Esophageal Cancer **caused by reflux disease** is increasing at a faster rate than any other cancer in the U.S. Sadly, only those who catch their cancer at the earliest stages are likely to be cured. So finding this cancer early is very important.

Only one in five patients diagnosed with Esophageal Cancer will survive five years because it is most often caught at late stages. The disease is often only discovered when patients have a hard time swallowing because of a large tumor in their esophagus.

Sounding the Alarm: Heartburn can cause Cancer!

Digestive and Liver Center of Florida wants to raise awareness of the risk of Esophageal Cancer posed by persistent heartburn or gastroesophageal reflux disease (known as GERD).

Talk to your doctor about your concerns if:

- You have more than occasional heartburn symptoms
- You have any pain or difficulty swallowing
- You have a family history of Barrett's Esophagus or Esophageal Cancer
- You have a persistent, unexplained cough
- You have been speaking with a hoarse voice over several weeks
- You have a persistent, unexplained sore throat
- You cough or choke when you lie down

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