

Gastric Cancer Stages	Staging Considerations Include:
<p><b>Stage I:</b> Early stage disease that typically can be treated with endoscopic procedures.</p> <p><b>Stage II &amp; III:</b> Involvement of the tumor through or into the muscle of the stomach and some lymph node involvement.</p> <p><b>Stage IV:</b> Cancer cells have spread to lymph nodes and/or organs outside of the abdomen</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ The size of the tumor.</li> <li>▪ Depth of the tumor's invasion into the stomach wall.</li> <li>▪ Lymph node involvement.</li> <li>▪ Clinical symptoms.</li> <li>▪ Endoscopic ultrasound results.</li> <li>▪ PET scan or CAT scan results.</li> <li>▪ Microscopic involvement of the lymph nodes.</li> </ul>

## Glossary Terms

**Biomarker Testing (molecular testing):** Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

**Gene Mutation:** A permanent change in the DNA sequence that makes up a gene. Mutations can be acquired or inherited and may impact treatment choices.

**HER2:** Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 mutation.

**H. Pylori Infection:** Occurs when the common *Helicobacter pylori* (H. pylori) bacteria infects a person's stomach.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one's own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**PD-L1:** PD-L1 is a receptor expressed on the surface of T cells. If PD-L1 is detected, the patient may benefit from immunotherapy.

**Targeted Therapy:** A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and by preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.

Treatment Decision Factors	Considerations for Personalizing Care
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ How is the patient feeling?</li> <li>▪ Does the patient have nutritional deficits?</li> <li>▪ What is the patient's functional status?</li> <li>▪ Is the patient able to tolerate treatment?</li> <li>▪ Is the patient open to clinical trial participation?</li> <li>▪ What subset of stomach cancer does the patient have?</li> <li>▪ What are the biomarker testing results?</li> </ul>	<p><b>Key Gastric Cancer Biomarkers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Microsatellite instability (MSI)</li> <li>▪ HER2</li> <li>▪ PD-L1</li> <li>▪ Claudin-18.2</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions for Your Provider:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Are there any clinical trials that may be right for me?</li> <li>▪ Should I see a specialist?</li> <li>▪ Have I had essential biomarker testing?</li> </ul>

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