

[NICE guidance](#) recommends that people undergoing curative surgery for oesophago-gastric (OG) cancer should be offered:

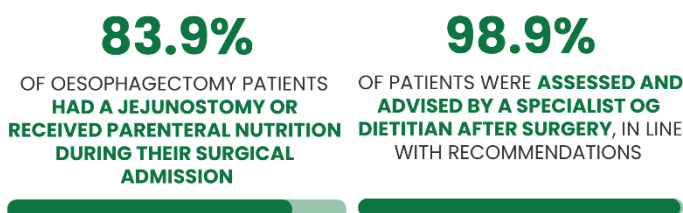
- Nutritional assessment and tailored specialist dietetic support before, during and after surgery.
- Immediate enteral or parenteral nutrition after surgery for oesophageal or gastro-oesophageal junctional cancers.

In 2019, NOGCA added new items to its dataset to capture patterns of nutrition support for patients with OG cancer.

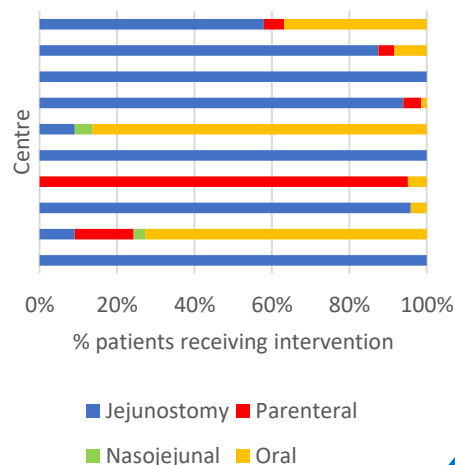


Information about postoperative nutrition was available for 617 patients who had curative surgery for OG cancer diagnosed April 2019-March 2020, across 10 (of 30) specialist surgical centres.

[The audit showed](#) that in the 10 centres, practice was in line with NICE recommendations:



REGIONAL VARIATION IN PERIOPERATIVE NUTRITIONAL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES (OESOPHAGECTOMY)



However, as only 10 centres with high levels of data completeness were included in this analysis it is possible that centres with good nutritional practices are over-represented.

The audit findings were presented at the [AUGIS 2022 Annual Scientific Meeting](#) in Aberdeen in September 2022. NOGCA also hosted a quality improvement workshop on the topic of postoperative nutritional management. The workshop identified that:

- There is wide variation in practice, reflecting a lack of evidence on the role of specific nutritional management strategies in improving surgical outcomes. For example:
 - One NHS trust keeps patients on a jejunostomy during adjuvant treatment after oesophagectomy, as they have observed that recovery of weight loss is faster for these patients.
 - Another trust has moved from routine placement of jejunostomy to selective placement of jejunostomy and nasojejunal tubes, but there are associated challenges such as blockage or displacement of tubes.
 - In another trust, almost all patients receive total parenteral nutrition as standard, to eliminate the risks associated with jejunostomy and prolonged jejunal feeding.
- There is a need for more data on the long term outcomes of different approaches to nutritional support.

[AUGIS](#) is currently undertaking a quality improvement project on this topic.