

Mayo Clinic Minute: Why early treatment of esophageal cancer is critical

Video	Audio
	"We think esophageal cancer is on the rise with the obesity pandemic as well as with the problem with the increase in reflux in the United States."
	While a serious form of cancer, five-year survival rates have quadrupled over the last several decades. What's key to these positive outcomes?
Shanda Blackmon, M.D. Thoracic Surgery Mayo Clinic	"Early treatment for esophageal cancer is critical. We know that survival is directly dependent with the stage when you present."
	Dr. Shanda Blackmon says early detection allows for minimally invasive treatments that can preserve the esophagus.
	"Esophagectomy is the surgery that we perform when people have cancer in the esophagus. We can remove a small part of the esophagus or the whole length of the esophagus. And the way that we remove it and rebuild it depends on the stage, the extent of the tumor, and how much we have to do and how much we have to rebuild."
	Having a minimally invasive esophagectomy typically allows a patient to recover quicker with less pain than an open esophagectomy.
	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm DeeDee Stiepan.