

Basic Principle for Surgical Treatment of Esophageal Cancer

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contents

- Surgical indication and guideline
- Operative method and technical principle

Operative Indication

- Complete resection(R0) is ultimate goal of esophagectomy for cancer
- Positive nodal disease is not necessarily a contraindication for surgery if the metastatic LNs are deemed resectable and within the region of the primary tumor
- In case of cN+ and /or cT3-4(transmural tumor extension), multimodality treatment plan including induction chemo±radiotherapy is commonly used in most centers today.

Absolute contraindication for esophagectomy

- Local tumor invasion of non-resectable neighboring structures(T4b)
- Carcinomatosis peritonei
- Hematogenous metastases involving solid organs
- Non-resectable LN metastases

NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2020

Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

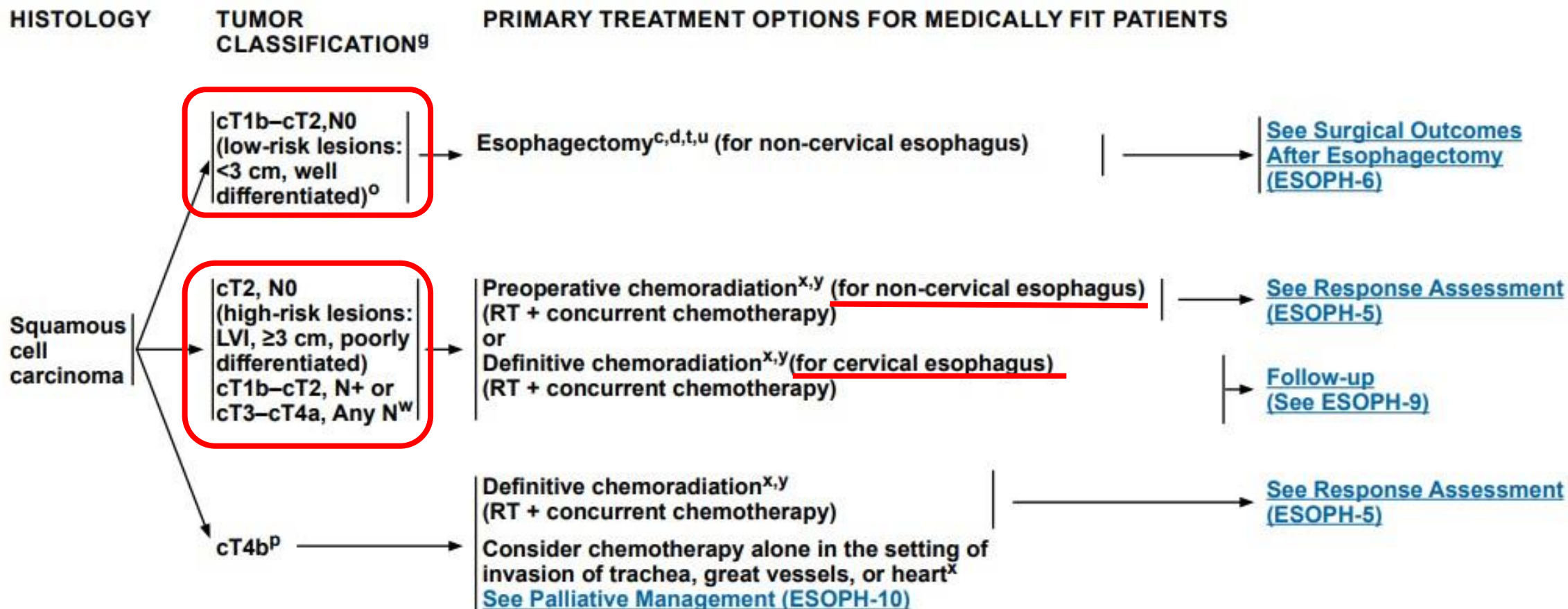
HISTOLOGY	TUMOR CLASSIFICATION ⁹	PRIMARY TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR MEDICALLY FIT PATIENTS	
Squamous cell carcinoma	pTis ^{m,n}	Endoscopic therapies (preferred): • ER ^a • Ablation ^a • ER followed by ablation ^{a,q,r} or <u>Esophagectomy^{c,d,s,t,u}</u>	Endoscopic surveillance See ESOPH-A (4 of 5) See Surgical Outcomes After Esophagectomy (ESOPH-6)
	pT1a ^{m,n}	Endoscopic therapies (preferred): • ER ^a • ER followed by ablation ^{a,q,r} or <u>Esophagectomy^{c,d,s,t,u}</u>	Endoscopic surveillance See ESOPH-A (4 of 5) See Surgical Outcomes After Esophagectomy (ESOPH-6)
	pT1b,N0 ^m	<u>Esophagectomy^{c,d,t,u,v}</u>	See Surgical Outcomes After Esophagectomy (ESOPH-6)
	cT1b–T4a,N0–N+ ^o	See (ESOPH-4)	
	cT4b ^p		

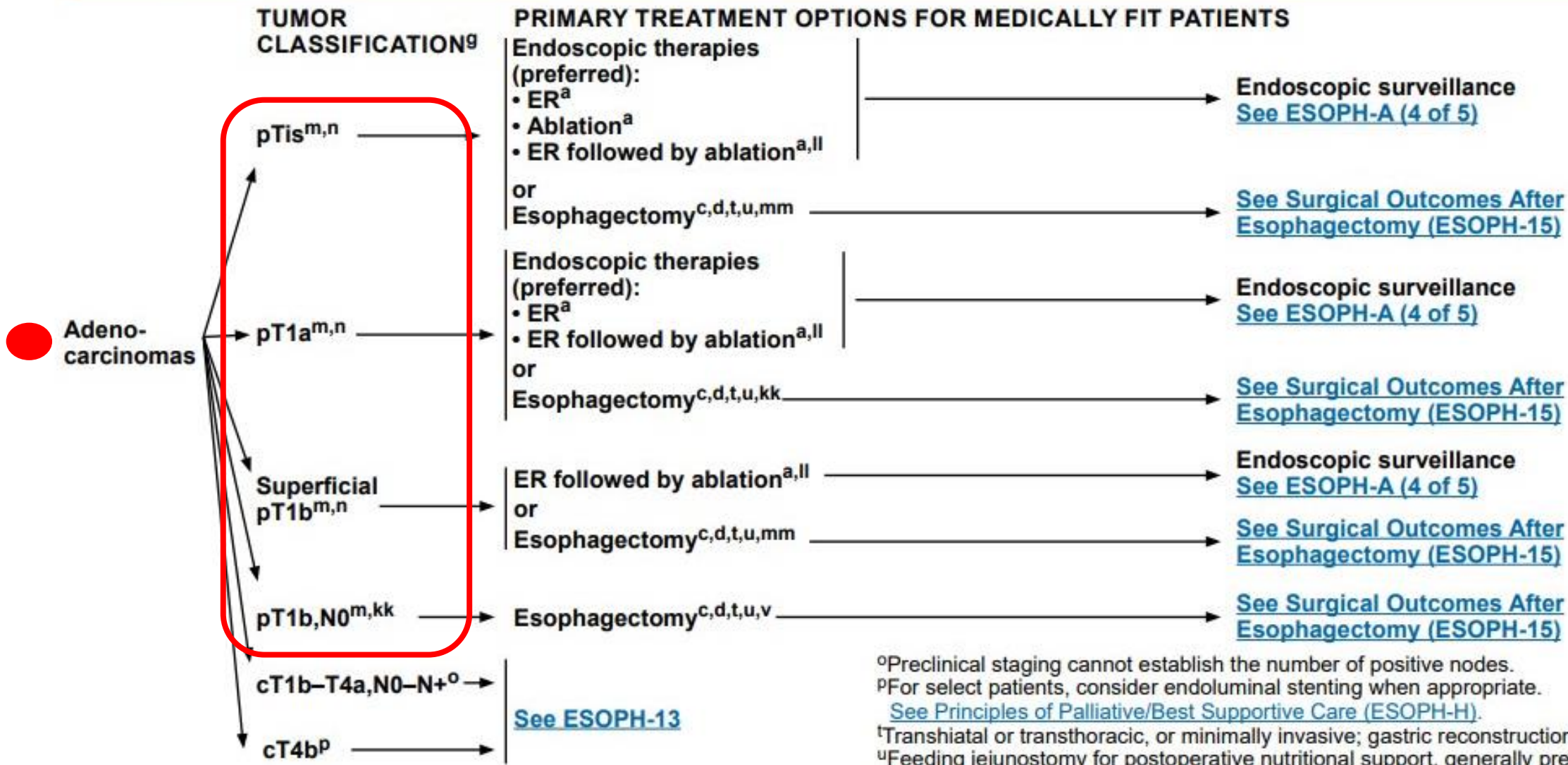
⁹For pTis and pT1a the level of evidence for ablation of SCC after ER is low. However, additional ablation may be needed if there is multifocal high-grade



NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2020 Esophageal and Esophagogastric Junction Cancers

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)
[Table of Contents](#)
[Discussion](#)





^oPreclinical staging cannot establish the number of positive nodes.

^pFor select patients, consider endoluminal stenting when appropriate.

[See Principles of Palliative/Best Supportive Care \(ESOPH-H\).](#)

^tTranshiatal or transthoracic, or minimally invasive; gastric reconstruction preferred.

^uFeeding jejunostomy for postoperative nutritional support, generally preferred.

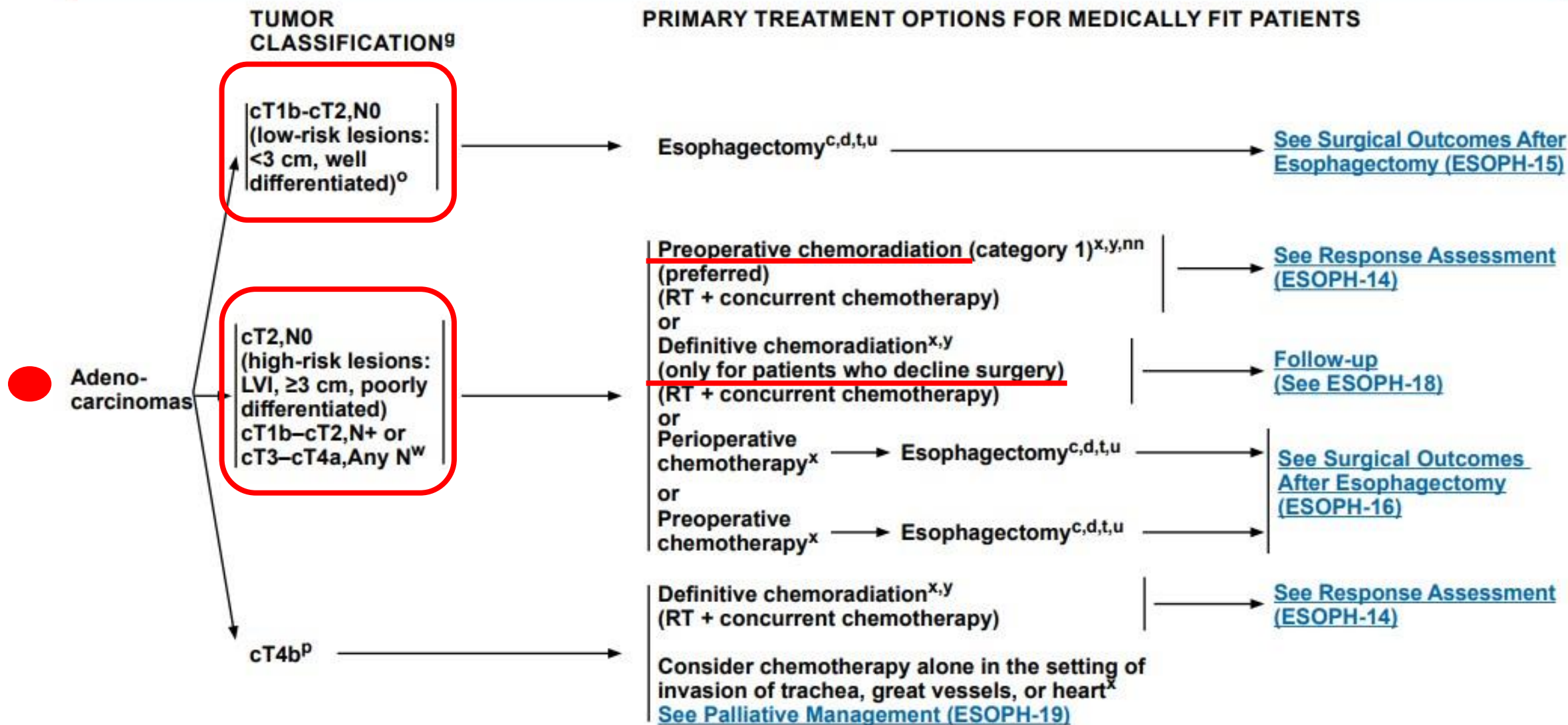


Table 1. Definitions for T, N, M

T Primary Tumor

- TX** Primary tumor cannot be assessed
- T0** No evidence of primary tumor
- Tis** High-grade dysplasia, defined as malignant cells confined to the epithelium by the basement membrane
- T1** Tumor invades the lamina propria, muscularis mucosae, or submucosa
 - T1a** Tumor invades the lamina propria or muscularis mucosae
 - T1b** Tumor invades the submucosa
- T2** Tumor invades the muscularis propria
- T3** Tumor invades adventitia
- T4** Tumor invades adjacent structures
 - T4a** Tumor invades the pleura, pericardium, azygos vein, diaphragm, or peritoneum
 - T4b** Tumor invades other adjacent structures, such as the aorta, vertebral body, or airway

N Regional Lymph Nodes

- NX** Regional lymph nodes cannot be assessed
- N0** No regional lymph node metastasis
- N1** Metastasis in one or two regional lymph nodes
- N2** Metastasis in three to six regional lymph nodes
- N3** Metastasis in seven or more regional lymph nodes

M Distant Metastasis

- M0** No distant metastasis
- M1** Distant metastasis

G Histologic Grade

- GX** Grade cannot be assessed
- G1** Well differentiated
- G2** Moderately differentiated
- G3** Poorly differentiated, undifferentiated

Squamous Cell Carcinoma

Location Location Criteria

- X** Location unknown
- Upper** Cervical esophagus to lower border of azygos vein
- Middle** Lower border of azygos vein to lower border of inferior pulmonary vein
- Lower** Lower border of inferior pulmonary vein to stomach, including gastroesophageal junction

Note: Location is defined by the position of the epicenter of the tumor in the esophagus.

Operative method and technical principle

- Extent of operation
 - Standard resection
 - En bloc resection
- Acceptable LN dissection
 - In patients undergoing esophagectomy without induction chemoradiation, at least 15 LNs should be removed and assessed to achieve adequate nodal staging
 - After induction chemoradiation, optimal number of dissected LNs is unknown, although similar LN resection is recommended

Operative method and technical principle

- **Standard resection**

- periesophageal tissue

- **En bloc resection**

- Extensive en bloc resection
- Radical en bloc resection
 - En bloc resection with extensive lymphadenectomy
 - Two field and three field LN dissection

Operative methods and technical principles

- Operative approaches
 - Transthoracic esophagectomy
 - Transhiatal esophagectomy
 - Minimally invasive esophagectomy

Alternative Conduits for Replacement of the Esophagus

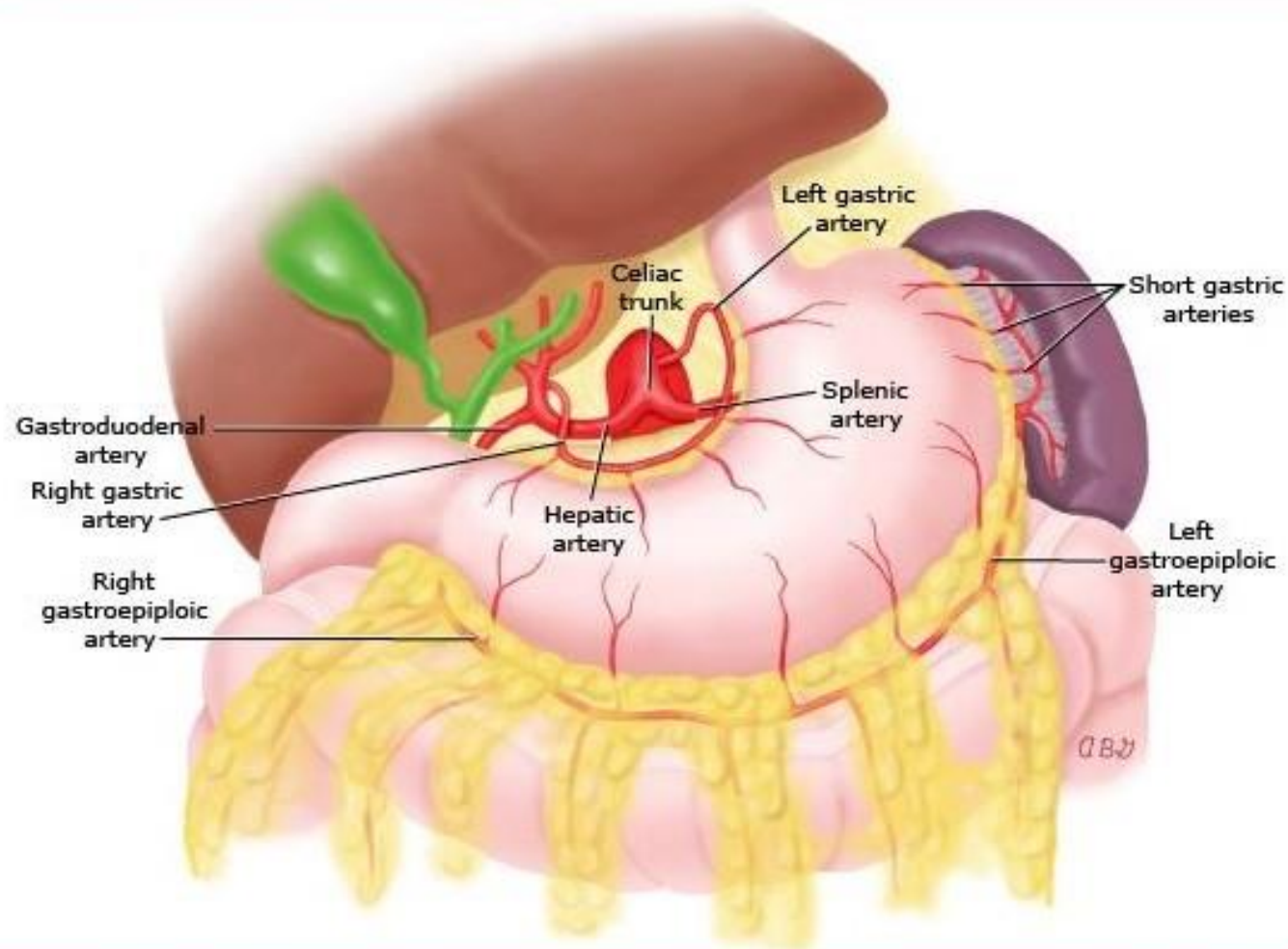
- Gastric (preferred)
- Colon
- Jejunum

Gastric conduit

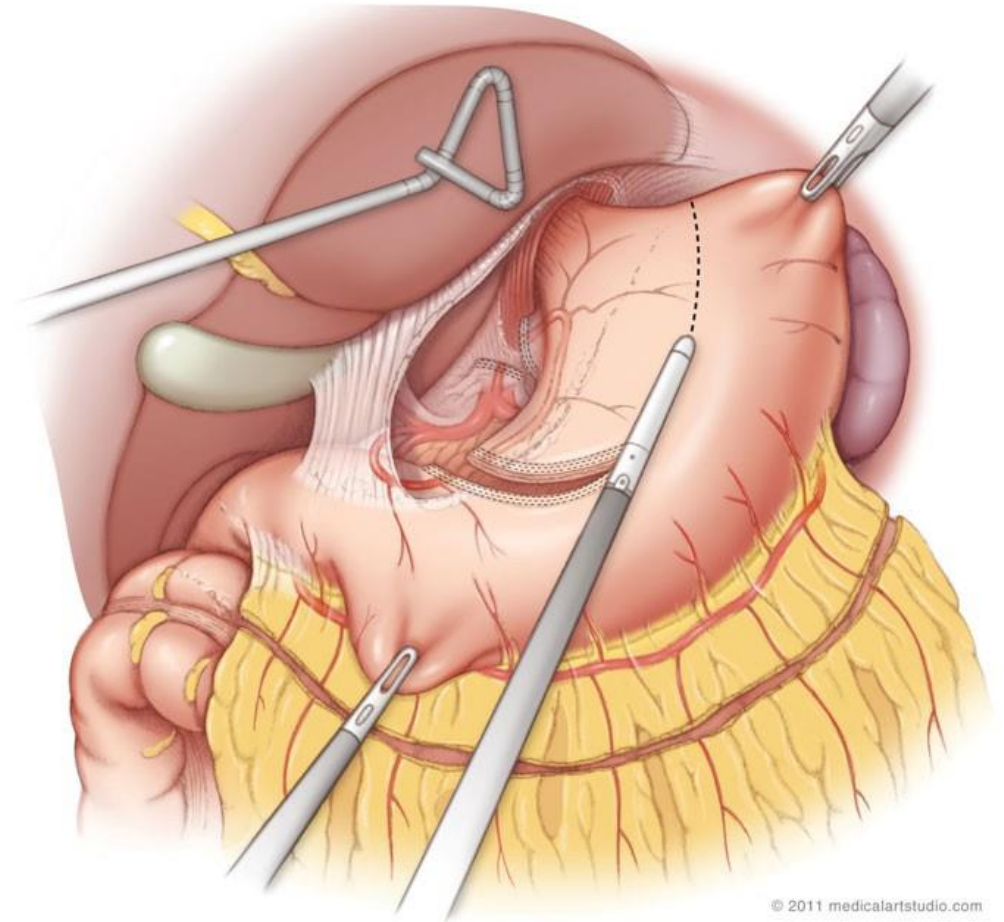
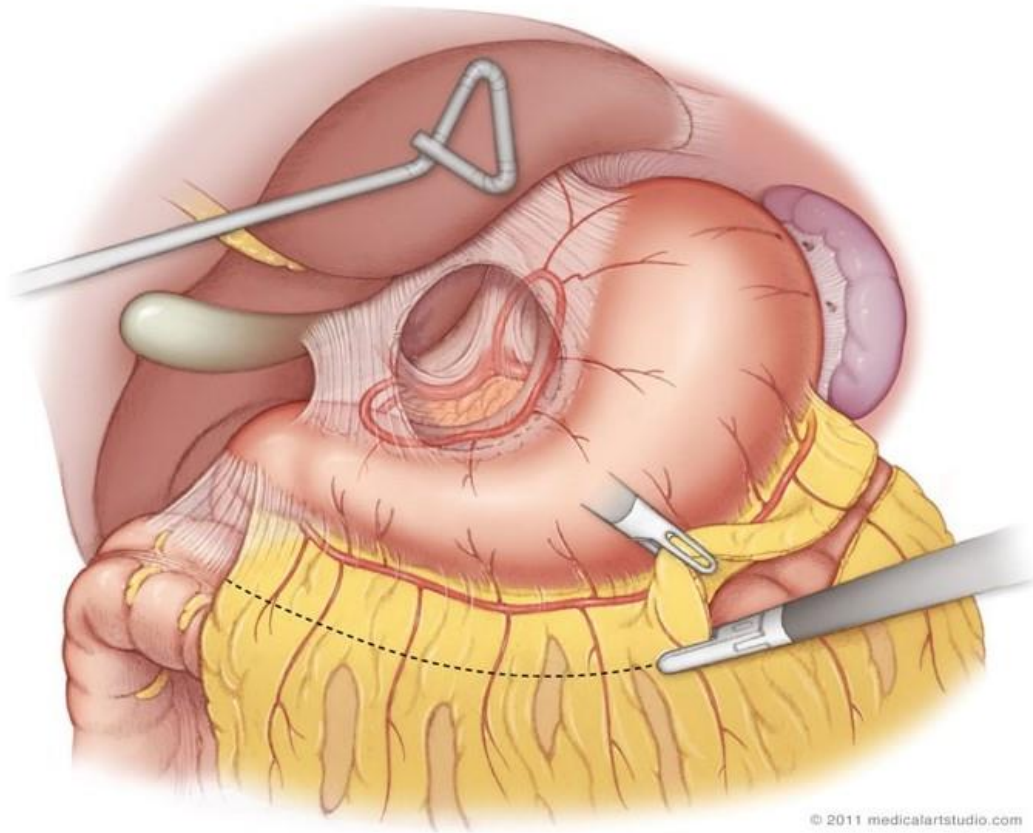
- Gastric mobilization with/without tubulization
- Esophagogastrostomy
 - Cervical anastomosis vs thoracic anastomosis
 - Hand-sewing and stapling (circular vs linear)

Gastric mobilization with/without tubulization

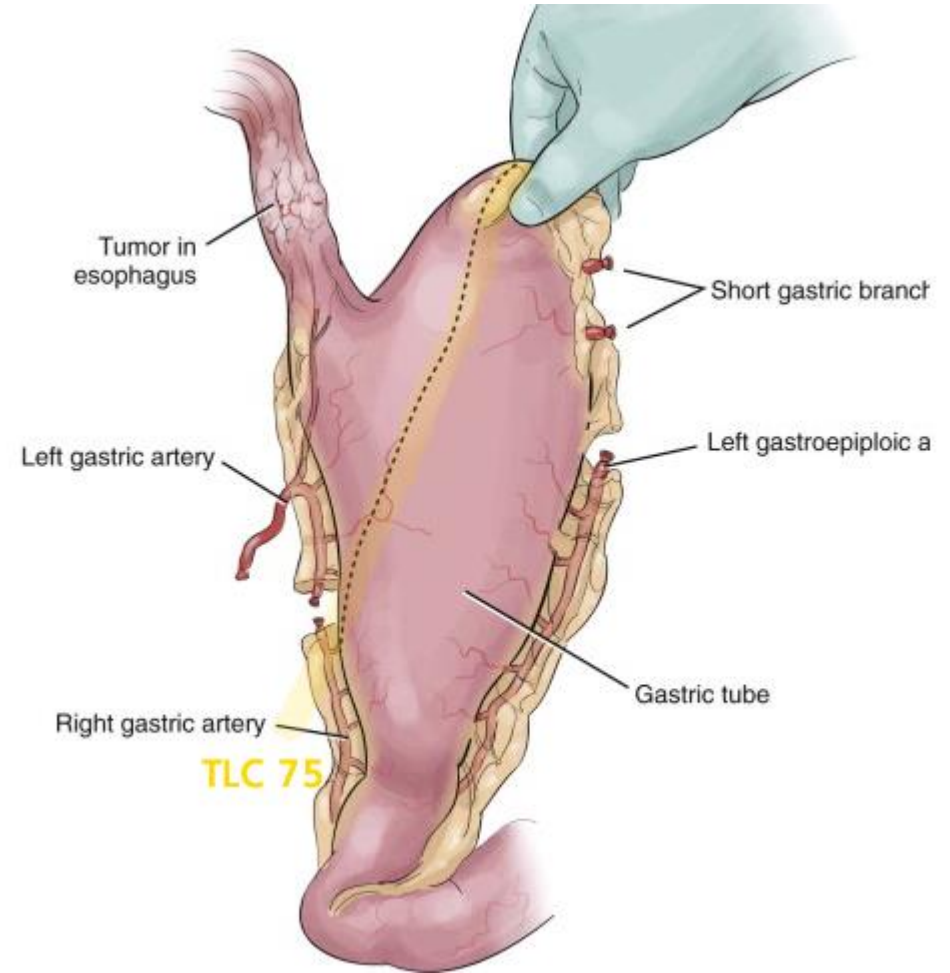
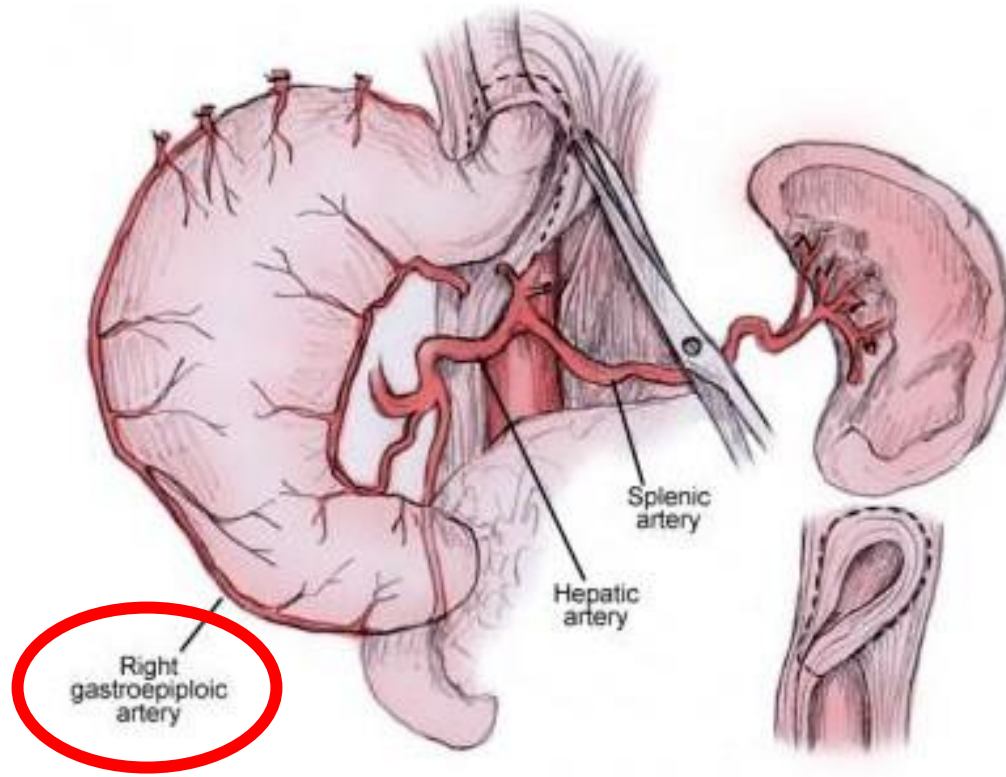
Anatomy of the stomach



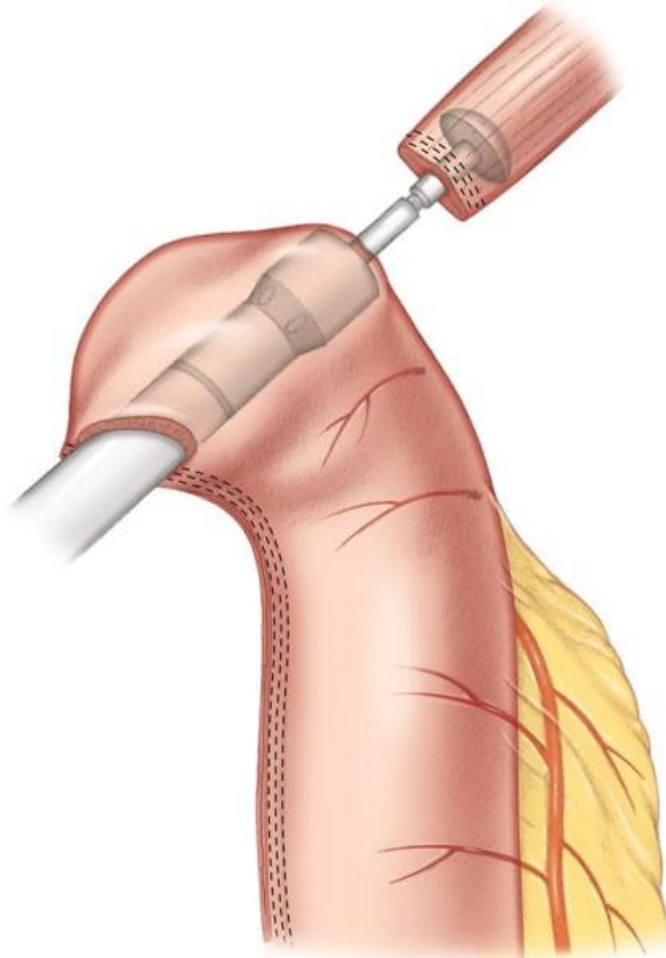
Gastric mobilization with/without tubulization



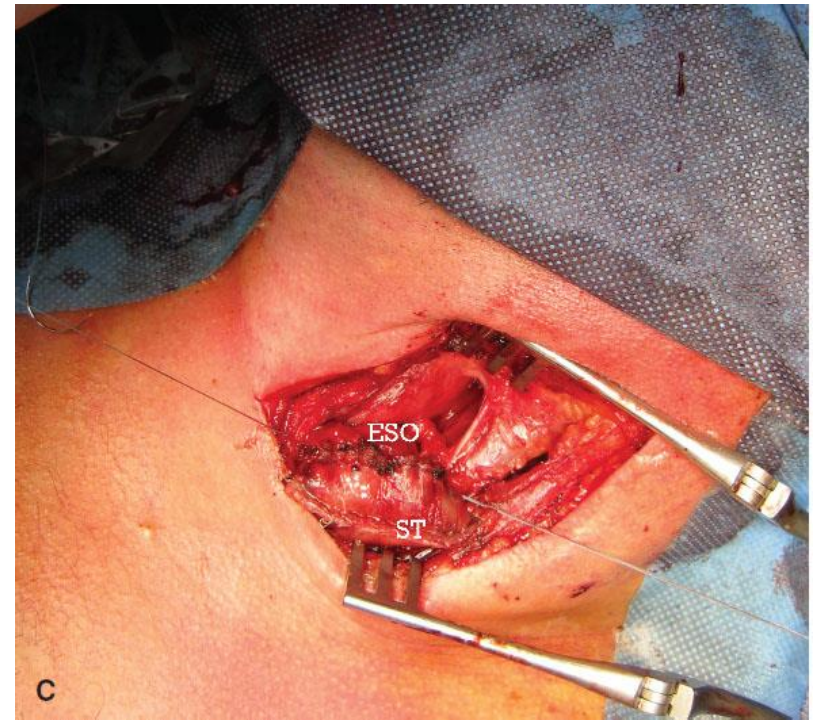
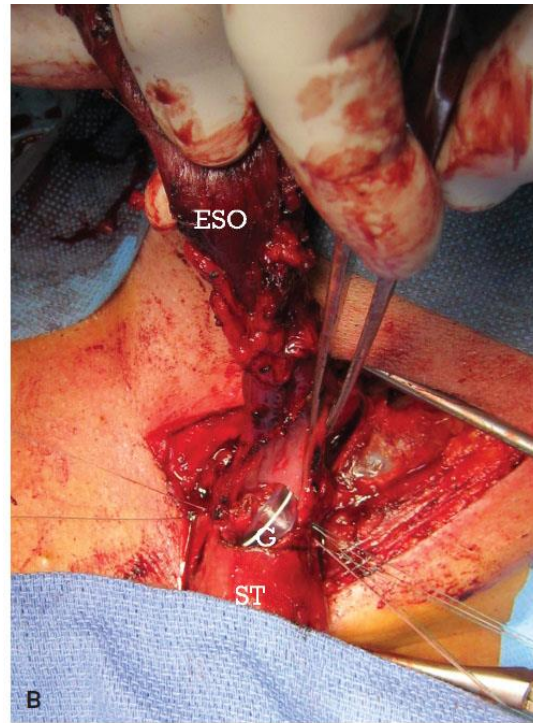
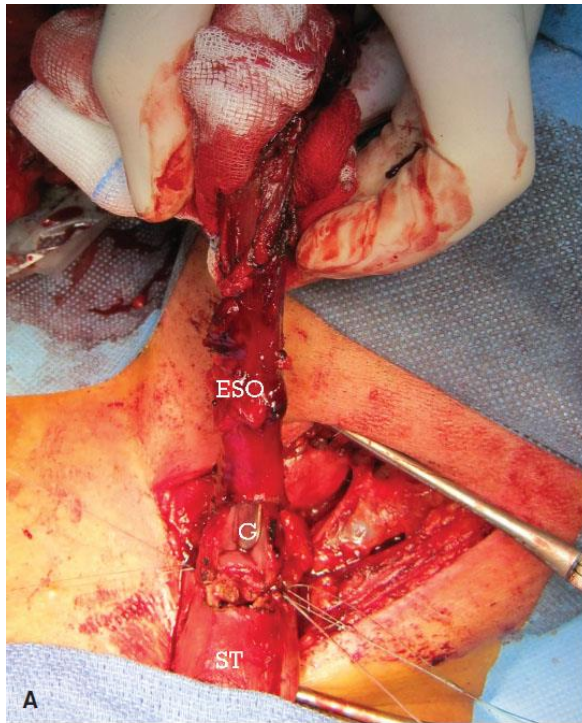
Gastric mobilization with/without tubulization



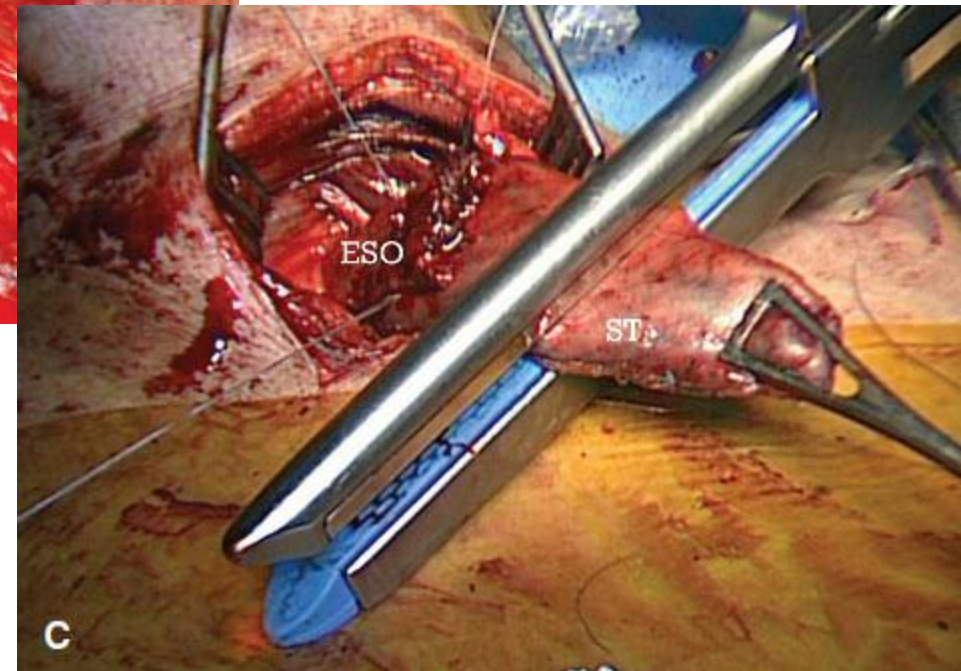
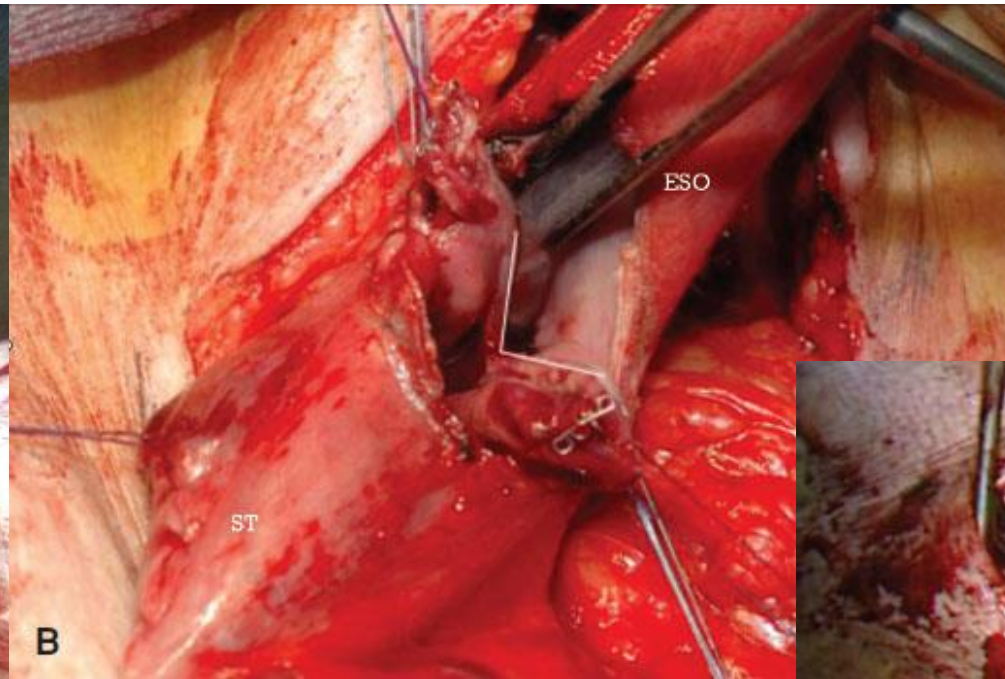
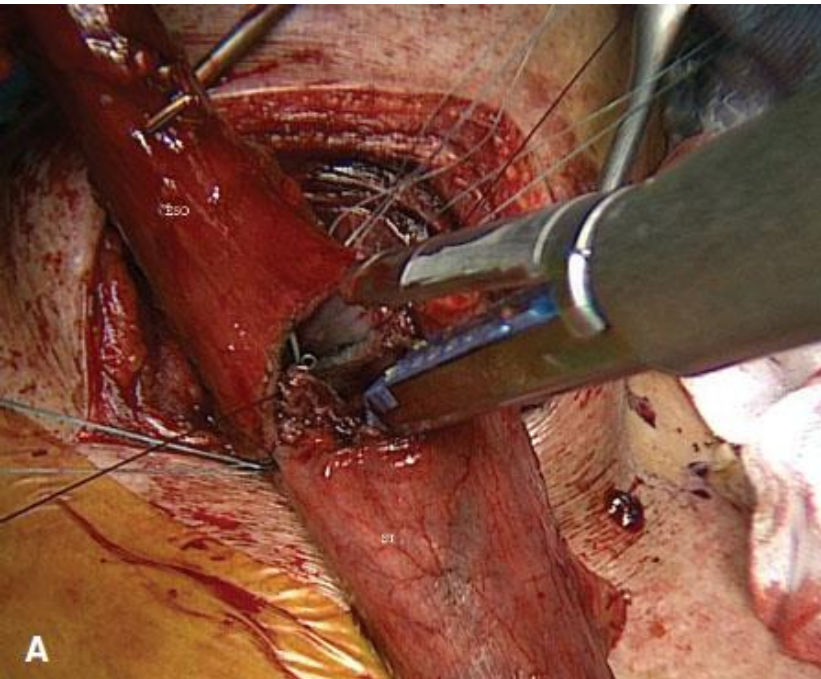
Esophagogastrostomy – circular staple



Esophagogastrostomy – hand sewn



Esophagogastrostomy – linear staple



Acceptable operative approaches for resectable esophageal or EGJ cancer

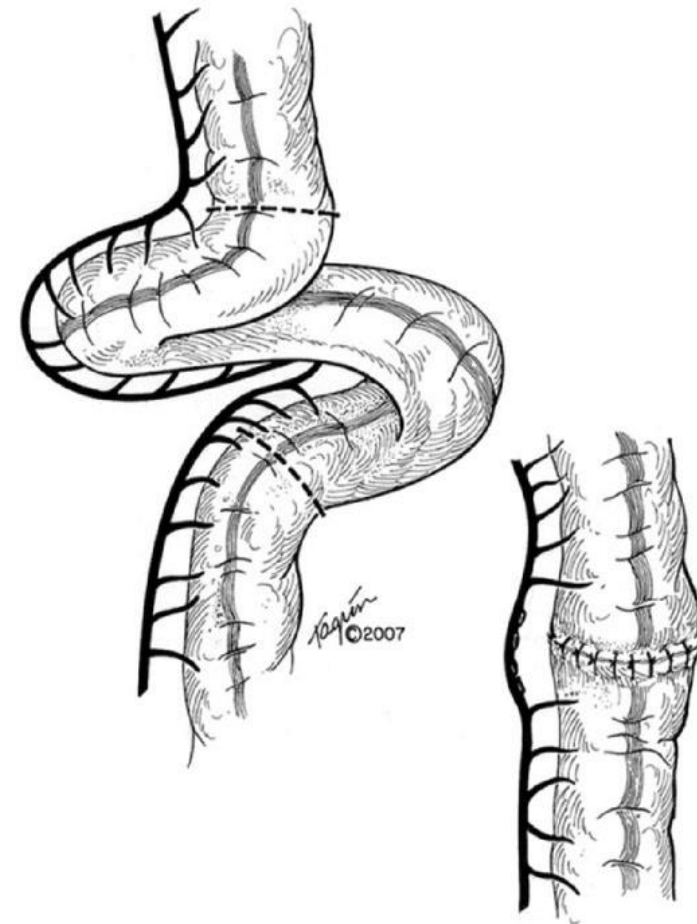
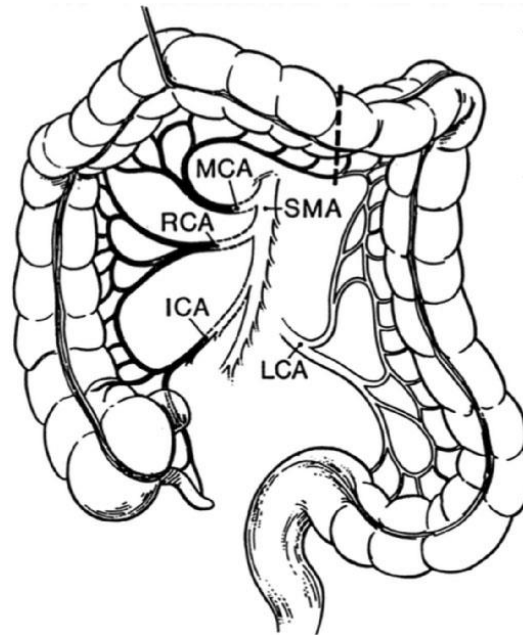
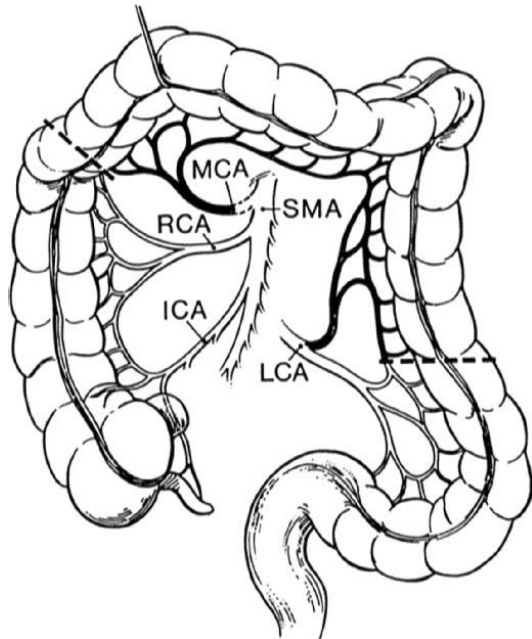
- Ivor Lewis esophagogastrectomy
(laparotomy + Rt thoracotomy)
- McKeown esophagogastrectomy
(Rt thoracotomy+ laparotomy + cervical anastomosis)
- Minimally invasive Ivor Lewis esophagogastrectomy
(laparoscopy + limited Rt thoracotomy)
- Minimally invasive McKeown esophagogastrectomy
(Rt thoracoscopy + limited laparotomy/laparoscopy + cervical anastomosis)

Acceptable operative approaches for resectable esophageal or EGJ cancer

- Transhiatal esophagogastrectomy
(laparotomy + cervical anastomosis)
- Robotic minimally esophagogastrectomy
- Left transthoracic or thoracoabdominal approaches with anastomosis in chest or neck

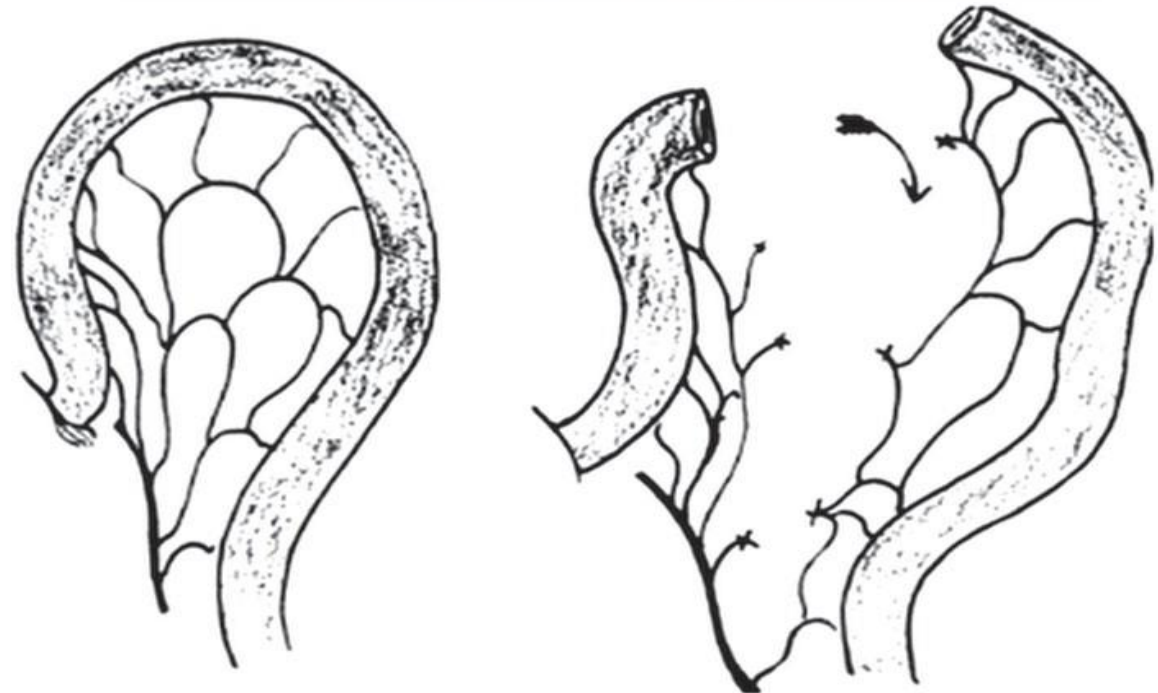
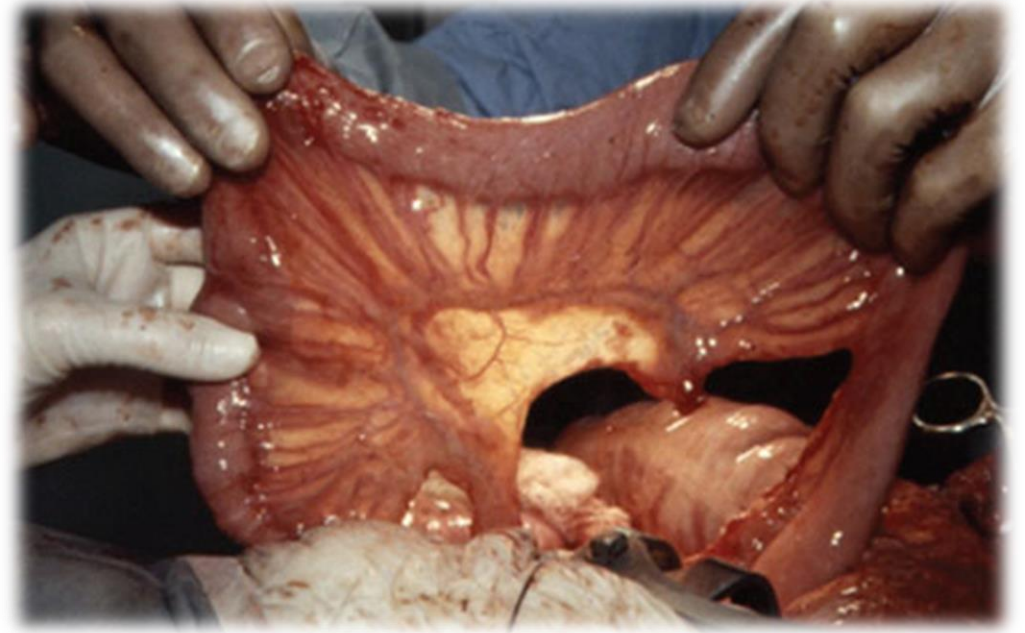
Colon conduit

- Either the left or right colon may serve as an alternative conduit
 - Lt colon is preferred
 - The ideal colon conduit includes transverse colon and extends to a point distal to the splenic flexure.



Jejunal conduit

- Pedicle jejunum
 - Pedicled jejunum is an excellent conduit for replacement of the distal esophagus
- Supercharged jejunum
 - a technique in which the blood supply to the proximal conduit is augmented using microvascular anastomoses between the mesenteric vessels and vessels in the neck



Position of conduit

- Posterior mediastinal
- Substernal
- Transpleural
- Subcutaneous

Other considerations

- Pyloric drainage
 - Not mandatory
 - selective postoperative pneumatic dilation of pylorus
- Feeding jejunostomy
 - allow for early enteral nutrition
 - their own set of complications, including local wound complications, intussusception, and small bowel obstruction.