Gastroesophageal Surgery Program Specializes in Complex Upper GI Surgery

The Gastroesophageal Surgery (GES) Program at Massachusetts General Hospital brings together surgical experts to provide optimal treatment and outcomes for gastroesophageal reflux disease, hiatal hernias, achalasia, and gastric and esophageal cancers. Our surgeons work closely with physicians in the Swallowing and Heartburn Center within the Digestive Healthcare Center and physicians in the Tucker Gosnell Center for Gastrointestinal Cancers within the Mass General Cancer Center. Members of the care team work collaboratively to provide comprehensive, personalized treatment for cancer patients and other patients with complex gastroesophageal conditions.

Leaders in Novel and Minimally Invasive Procedures

Surgeons in Mass General’s GES program pioneered the introduction of several minimally invasive techniques for the treatment of upper GI conditions.

- The first hospital in New England to offer magnetic sphincter augmentation (LINX®) for the treatment of GERD
- One of the first hospitals in the United States to perform the per oral endoscopic myotomy (POEM) technique for the treatment of achalasia
- One of the few hospitals in the United States with expertise in the evaluation, counseling and management of patients with hereditary diffuse gastric cancer (HDGC) syndrome due to the CDH1 mutation, including the successful performance of a prophylactic total gastrectomy in 15 patients

They also were among the first to introduce:

- Laparoscopic procedures for anti-reflux surgery, fundoplication, Heller myotomy, hiatal hernia repair, and cancers of the stomach and gastroesophageal junction
- Minimally invasive esophagectomy for esophageal cancer and other esophageal pathology
- Transoral, endoluminal treatment of Zenker’s diverticulum, avoiding a traditional neck incision

Expertise in Complex Open Surgeries

Mass General GES surgeons perform high volumes of surgical procedures each year. For complex and reoperative surgery, our multidisciplinary team collaborates to provide expert care to patients. Procedures performed include:

- Subtotal (partial) gastrectomy
- Total gastrectomy, including prophylactic total gastrectomy for HDGC syndrome
- Complex repair of hiatal and paraesophageal hernias
Rapid Access, Timely Communications for Referring Physicians
GES program services to help referring physicians serve their patients include:

- Same-day triage by a dedicated access team
- Appointments scheduled within 24 hours of referrals
- Scheduling and coordination of all necessary imaging and testing
- Punctual communication of post-procedure notes and follow-up requirements

Specialists

David Rattner, MD
As chief of the Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery and co-director of the Digestive Healthcare Center at Mass General, Dr. Rattner focuses on the minimally invasive treatment of achalasia, GERD and paraesophageal hernias, as well as cancers of the stomach.

Ozanan Meireles, MD
A surgeon in the Division of Gastrointestinal and General Surgery at Mass General, Dr. Meireles focuses on the minimally invasive treatment of achalasia, GERD and paraesophageal hernias.

Christopher Morse, MD
A surgeon in the Division of Thoracic Surgery at Mass General, Dr. Morse specializes in minimally invasive and open approaches to the treatment of esophageal cancer and GERD, paraesophageal hernia repair, esophageal diverticula and reoperative anti-reflux surgery.

John Mullen, MD
A surgeon in the Division of Surgical Oncology at Mass General, Dr. Mullen focuses on cancers of the stomach and gastrointestinal tract, including carcinoid tumors and GI stromal tumors (GISTs).

How to Refer a Patient
Direct Access Phone: 617-724-1020
Direct Access Fax: 617-726-7667
Refer online at massgeneral.org/GES and click on the refer option
Review and download recent case scenarios at massgeneral.org/GES