Table 1

Upper gastrointestinal cancer alarm symptoms that should prompt referral and investigation[26-28]

Alarm symptoms

- Chronic gastrointestinal bleeding
- Dysphagia
- Progressive unintentional weight loss
- Persistent vomiting
- Iron deficiency anaemia
- Epigastric mass
- Suspicious barium meal result
- Unexplained upper abdominal pain and weight loss, with or without back pain
- Obstructive jaundice

In patients with unexplained worsening of their dyspepsia and known cancer risk factors:

- Barrett's oesophagus
- Atrophic gastritis or intestinal metaplasia
- Peptic ulcer surgery more than 20 years ago