

Endoscopy for Oesophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma: Diagnosis and Therapeutic Procedures

Representing over 85% of global oesophageal cancer cases, Oesophageal Squamous Cell Carcinoma (OSCC) is the predominant cancer subtype in low- and middle-income countries, particularly in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Developed under the Africa Connect Project – African Initiative Against Oesophageal Cancer (AFROC) – this blended-learning course aims to strengthen the capacity of gastroenterologists and surgical endoscopists across Africa to enhance OSCC detection and treatment outcomes. The course contributes to more equitable healthcare access and improved survival and quality of life for patients.

This program effectively combines job shadowing and practical training for selected leaders with an open-access webinar series, driving knowledge exchange and focused discussions on real-world clinical challenges. Participants benefit from the insights and expertise of leading international experts, ensuring a high-level learning experience.

Aims and Learning Outcomes

This course is designed to enhance endoscopists' clinical competencies and adherence to best practices in upper gastrointestinal endoscopy for the screening, diagnosis, and treatment of OSCC. It promotes evidence-based approaches and aims to improve early detection and therapeutic outcomes.

By the end of the course, participants will be able to:

- Analyse and discuss current data on the prevalence, incidence, and risk factors of OSCC in Africa;
- Explain and apply current guidelines for endoscopic diagnosis and biopsy procedures for both superficial and advanced OSCC;
- Explain and apply current guidelines on indications, techniques and outcomes to achieve after endoscopic therapy;
- Discuss the role of endoscopy in providing nutritional support during palliative care for patients with advanced OSCC.

Curricular Structure

This course adopted a b-learning methodology, including three main components:

- **Webinar series:**
 1. SCC: Epidemiology in Africa;
 2. Endoscopic diagnosis;
 3. Endoscopic resection techniques;
 4. Palliation: stents and PEGs.



- **Job shadowing:** Five endoscopists working in key African educational and clinical organizations will be visiting IPO Porto;
- **On-the-job training:** One expert from a key European clinical organization (IPO-Porto) will visit African organizations to train endoscopists on site.

Webinars

1. SCC: Epidemiology in Africa

27 June 2025, 15:00 CEST / 16:00 EAT

Keynote speaker: Amos Mwasamwaja

Moderators: Lúcio Lara Santos; Michael Mwachiro

2. Endoscopic diagnosis

25 July 2025, 15:00 CEST / 16:00 EAT

Keynote speaker: Michael Mwachiro

Moderators: Amos Mwasamwaja; Mário Dinis Ribeiro

3. Endoscopic resection techniques

29 August 2025, 15:00 CEST / 16:00 EAT

Keynote speaker: Alanna Ebigbo

Moderators: Kennedy Misso; Mário Dinis Ribeiro

4. Palliation: stents and PEGs

26 September 2025, 15:00 CEST / 16:00 EAT

Keynote speaker: Lars Aabakken

Moderators: Doreen T. Eliah; Alanna Ebigbo

Applications

Applications for the webinar series

Number of vacancies: 150 per webinar

Participants may apply to attend all webinars or select specific ones.



Selection criteria: Applications will be considered in the order in which they are received, until all available spots have been filled.

Tuition fees: Participation in the course is free of charge but requires prior application.

Application period:

- Webinar 1: SCC: Epidemiology in Africa: 19 May to 20 June
- Webinar 2: Endoscopic diagnosis: 19 May to 18 July
- Webinar 3: Endoscopic resection techniques: 19 May to 22 August
- Webinar 4: Palliation: stents and PEGs: 19 May to 19 September

Fee:

Participation in the course is free of charge but requires prior application.

Applications may be submitted online. Please use the form available at <https://epop.ipoportop.pt/corso/afroc/#inscricoes>

If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact us at **afroc@ipoportop.min-saude.pt**.