

Oxford Oesophageal and Stomach Organisation (OOSO)

OOSO was established in 2009 in Oxfordshire to help support patients suffering from oesophageal and stomach cancer being treated primarily but not exclusively at the Churchill Hospital in Oxford. It is the only registered patient support charity of this kind in the UK.

It is run by 4 volunteer Trustees including two senior clinicians, a cancer patient survivor and a local business woman who sadly lost her husband to oesophageal cancer.

With first-hand experience of these cancers, OOSO helps over 200 patients and their families each year through the emotional trauma of life-threatening diagnoses, aggressive treatment and long recovery times with multiple side effects.

OOSO offers:

- support to people from around the UK and indeed all over the world, with face to face or online zoom meetings, as well as by email, WhatsApp and a 7-day a week telephone line;
- they host a popular 6-weekly patient support Zoom meeting facilitating Q&A's between patients and leading clinicians, and coordinates monthly café catch up lunches at garden centres around the home counties;
- has annual events including a Spring networking day, a Summer Lunch and Autumn BBQ and cycle ride;
- runs a website [OOSO | Oxford Oesophageal and Stomach Cancer Organisation](https://www.ooso.org.uk) which provides a focal point for information endorsed by leading clinicians at the Churchill Hospital with links to useful services OOSO cannot provide;
- and coordinates local fundraising to cover the minimal running costs of a purely volunteer based charity, and raises funds to donate equipment to the Churchill Hospital cancer wards, otherwise not affordable through NHS budgets, that help staff and towards the care of patients.

