

What You Should Know About LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is the second most common non-skin cancer among American men and women, after prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. It is also the leading cause of cancer-related deaths, causing more deaths than colorectal, breast and prostate cancers combined. Early diagnosis and advances in treatment mean more people can expect to beat the disease.



represents about of all new

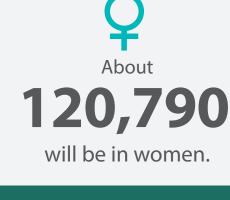
Lung cancer

cancer cases.

About

new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed.





The **lifetime risk** of developing lung cancer is about:



for women



- These numbers include both smokers and non-smokers.
- The risk is much higher for smokers and lower for non-smokers.

RISK FACTORS

SMOKING

Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. It causes about 9 out of 10 cases of lung cancer in men and about 8 out of 10 cases of lung cancer in women.



SMOKE People who inhale

SECONDHAND

secondhand smoke may be exposed to cancer-causing agents, making this a potential contributing risk factor.



People with a first-degree relative (i.e.,

FAMILY HISTORY

parent, child or sibling) who has or had lung cancer may be twice as likely to develop the disease.



Taking **beta carotene** supplements

DIETARY SUPPLEMENTS

increases lung cancer risk in smokers who smoke one or more packs a day.



Radon is a colorless, scentless

RADON GAS

radioactive gas found in some houses. Radon exposure is a leading cause of lung cancer.



OTHER POLLUTANTS Carcinogenic chemicals in

ASBESTOS OR

the workplace increase lung cancer risk, especially if you smoke.



The lungs are made of **spongy tissue**.

They sit above the

RADIATION People who have had

extensive radiation to the chest may be at increased risk of lung cancer.

Most lung cancers are treated with surgery, chemotherapy or radiation therapy, or a combination of the three. Targeted therapy is an important advancement

TREATMENT OPTIONS

because it treats the cancer by zeroing in on a specific gene mutation in tumor cells. Immunotherapy drugs, which are designed to trigger the immune system to attack the disease, may also be an option for some patients. A well-rounded treatment plan can include interventional pulmonology procedures for diagnosis, treatment and symptom relief.



The most common surgical treatment for early-stage lung cancer involves removing the tumor, often with minimally

Surgery

invasive incisions performed via robotic and video-assisted procedures. These newer techniques are designed to reduce pain and improve recovery times. A larger incision, performed via thoracotomy, may be required, depending on the tumor size or other factors. The most common lung cancer surgeries are: • Lobectomy: Removal of a lobe from the lung, including the tumor. The right lung has three lobes, and the left lung has two.

than removing an entire lobe, the surgeon may remove (resect) a smaller amount of tissue. • Pneumonectomy: Removal of the entire right or left lung. This

procedure is much less common than a lobectomy.

• Wedge resection and segmentectomy: When appropriate, rather

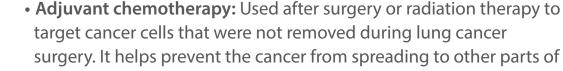
without opening up the chest. The surgeon removes cancerous tissues using images from a camera and small surgical instruments inserted into the chest. • Pleurodesis: A minor operation used for more advanced cancers to remove fluid around the lung and lower the risk of recurrence.

• Video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS): A minimally invasive

technology used to perform a lobectomy or wedge resection

Lung cancer chemotherapy treatments are used in three primary ways:

Neoadjuvant or primary systemic lung cancer chemotherapy:



Used before surgery to destroy cancer cells.

through the bloodstream to cancer cells through the body. Mainly used to treat locally advanced or metastatic lung cancer.

• Systemic chemotherapy: The circulation of chemotherapy drugs

Radiation therapy There are two primary types of radiation therapy for lung cancer: • External beam radiation therapy (EBRT): Delivers high doses of

radiation to lung cancer cells from outside the body, using a variety of

from implants placed close to or inside the tumor(s) in the body. These advanced radiation therapy techniques can target the tumor

It examines a tumor at the genetic level to identify DNA alterations that are driving the growth of cancer. These findings help oncologists better understand what caused the tumor and tailor treatment

options to the patient. Genomic testing is part of the standard care



machine-based technologies. • **High dose rate (HDR) brachytherapy:** Delivers high doses of radiation

the body.

Chemotherapy

while sparing healthy tissue. Advanced radiation therapy technologies include the CyberKnife® VSI™ Robotic Radiosurgery System, TomoTherapy® and TrueBeam™.

Genomic testing



Attempts to prevent cancer cells from dividing or to destroy cancer cells directly. As an example, Iressa™ (gefitinib) and Tarceva®

Targeted therapy

for patients with non-small cell lung cancer.

The goal of targeted therapy is to interfere with specific molecules involved in tumor growth. Targeted therapy is a type of chemotherapy, but targeted drugs do not affect all cells in the body as chemotherapy does. They are typically used for advanced lung cancers, either with chemotherapy or alone.

(erlotinib) are two targeted drugs used for patients with non-small

cell lung cancer whose tumor cells have a specific gene mutation.

Immunotherapy Immunotherapy is a broad category of anti-cancer therapies that use the

body's immune system to fight cancer cells. These drugs are designed to

alert the immune system to mutated cells so it can locate and destroy

them. Immunotherapies fall into three general categories: checkpoint inhibitors, which disrupt signals that allow cancer cells to hide from an

immune attack; cytokines, protein molecules that help regulate and direct the immune system; and cancer vaccines, which are used to both

treat and prevent cancer by targeting the immune system.

- Interventional pulmonology
- Used to diagnose lung cancer, treat tumors and relieve symptoms that limit breathing or cause pain. It addresses four primary areas:
- Advanced airway diagnostics: Imaging technology is used to identify the cause of symptoms such as wheezing, coughing and

• Central airway obstruction: Advanced techniques are used to

locate and clear central airway obstructions.

For more information, visit cancercenter.com/lung-cancer/

• Pleural effusion: Minimally invasive techniques are used to remove excess fluid buildup and restore more comfortable breathing. • Treatment-related side effects: Procedures are used to treat

diaphragm and under the rib cage. When you breathe in, your lungs absorb oxygen and deliver it to the bloodstream, where it's pumped throughout the body. **Lung cancer interferes** with this vital process and can make breathing more difficult, though many people with lung cancer When you experience no exhale, the lungs symptoms at all. remove carbon

dioxide, a waste gas,

from the bloodstream.

There are two main types of lung cancer: small cell lung cancer (SCLC) and non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Both are classified according to cell size and

THE DISEASE

UNDERSTANDING

type. Treatment options will differ based on the type of lung cancer. **SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER** Tends to be more aggressive and spread more rapidly than NSCLC. There are two

stages of small cell lung cancer: limited

The stage of small cell lung cancer will be

and extensive.

staging process.

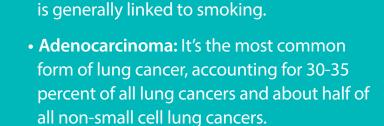
NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER Accounts for nearly 9 out of every 10

determined during the testing and

• Squamous cell: It accounts for about 30

percent of all non-small cell lung cancers and

cases. There are three main types NSCLC:



 Large-cell undifferentiated carcinoma: It grows and spreads quickly, and usually

accounts for 10-15 percent of all cases.

CARCINOID LUNG TUMOR A less common form of lung cancer, this disease is more slow-growing than SCLC or NSCLC. Made of neuroendocrine cells,

carcinoid tumors are typically treated with

Common lung cancer signs and symptoms:

surgery.

 No symptoms in the Shortness of breath, wheezing or noisy early stages breathing A persistent cough

coughing and pain Coughing up blood

that doesn't go away

or changes to a

chronic "smokers"

cough" with more

Fatigue

PREVENTION AND SCREENING GUIDELINES

Loss of appetite

pneumonia

• Recurring infections,

such as bronchitis or

REDUCE RADON EXPOSURE Have your home tested and, if needed, treated.

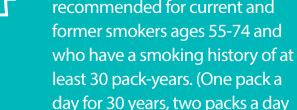
tissue gradually repairs itself after

Don't smoke. Damaged lung

PREVENTION

BE SMOKE-FREE

SCREENING



Low-dose CT scans are recommended for current and former smokers ages 55-74 and

least 30 pack-years. (One pack a day for 30 years, two packs a day for 15 years, etc.) Current and former smokers ages 50 and older who have a smoking history of at least 20 pack-years are also urged to be screened.

labored breathing.

symptoms, and to distinguish between a side effect of treatment and the progression of the cancer.

SOURCES cancer.gov, cancer.org, lung.org

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