

About Lung Cancer

Definition of lung cancer:

Cancer that forms in tissues of the lung, usually in the cells lining air passages. The two main types are small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer. These types are diagnosed based on how the cells look under a microscope.

Estimated new cases and deaths from lung cancer in the United States in 2017

New cases: 222,500

Deaths: 155,870

Lung cancer represents 25.9% of all cancer deaths in the U.S.

Risk factors:

- *Tobacco smoke*: Tobacco smoke causes most cases of lung cancer. It's by far the most important risk factor for lung cancer. Harmful substances in smoke damage lung cells. That's why smoking cigarettes, pipes, or cigars can cause lung cancer and why secondhand smoke can cause lung cancer in nonsmokers.
- *Radon*: Radon is a radioactive gas that you cannot see, smell, or taste. It forms in soil and rocks.
- *Asbestos and other substances*: People who have certain jobs (such as those who work in the construction and chemical industries) have an increased risk of lung cancer.
- *Air pollution*: Air pollution may slightly increase the risk of lung cancer.
- *Family history of lung cancer*: People with a father, mother, brother, or sister who had lung cancer may be at slightly increased risk of the disease, even if they don't smoke.
- *Personal history of lung cancer*: People who have had lung cancer are at increased risk of developing a second lung tumor.
- *Age over 65*: Most people are older than 65 years when diagnosed with lung cancer.

Symptoms:

- a cough that gets worse or does not go away
- breathing trouble, such as shortness of breath
- constant chest pain
- coughing up blood
- a hoarse voice
- frequent lung infections, such as pneumonia
- feeling very tired all the time
- weight loss with no known cause

Treatment:

Lung cancer is hard to control with current treatments. Many doctors encourage patients with this disease to consider taking part in a clinical trial. Treatment options are surgery, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and targeted therapy.