

Lung Cancer Fact Sheet

Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Survival Statistics

- As many as 219,000 men and women in the U.S. will be diagnosed and 159,000 will die of cancer of the lung and bronchus in 2009¹.
- The present five-year survival rate in the United States for lung cancer is only 15 percent².
- Thirty percent of all cancer deaths, including 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, can be attributed to tobacco³.
- In recent years, an increasing number of lung cancers are found in the periphery of the lungs, a shift that has largely been attributed to increased use of filtered cigarettes: smokers must inhale more deeply to achieve the same amount of nicotine, sending the smoke into the far reaches of the lungs. By contrast, in Asia - where unfiltered cigarettes are common - lesions are more likely to occur more centrally in the lungs⁴.
- Radon is the No. 1 cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year (about 13.1 percent who have never smoked)⁵.
- Secondhand smoke is the third-leading cause of lung cancer deaths, claiming 3,000 lives each year⁵.
- More than 75 percent of new lung cancer cases present with late-stage cancer (Stage III or IV)⁶.
- In a recent study published in the NEJM, lung cancer diagnosed at Stage I resulted in a survival rate of 88 percent at 10 years⁷.

Lung Cancer Treatment⁸

- Current detection options offer varying results:
 - Chest X-rays are able to detect lesions 1-2cm.
 - A Spiral CT Scan can detect tumors less than 1 cm, but this is more costly
 - TransThoracic Needle Aspiration (with the help of a CT scan) is a needle inserted between the ribs and into the peripheral lung tissue where a bronchoscope cannot reach. The treatment is invasive and the patient is at risk up to 30 percent for a collapsed lung⁹.
 - “Watchful waiting” is also an option for patients with small lesions, in order to avoid a surgical procedure on a lesion that may be benign.

- Flexible fiber optic bronchoscopy through the nasal passages or mouth to insert bronchoscopic tools.
- Treatment can be done via a surgical Wedge Resection of the lung for patients that are surgical candidates.
- Radiation therapy and chemotherapy are also treatment options, particularly for the non-surgical candidates.

Smoking Statistics

- There are more than 43 million current smokers and 47 million former smokers in the United States, many of whom are at risk for lung cancer¹⁰.
- In 2006, the 47 million smokers represented an estimated 20.8 percent of the population¹¹.
- There are over 15 billion cigarettes smoked worldwide everyday. Smoking related diseases cost the U.S. more than \$193 billion a year¹².

¹ American Cancer Society – Key Statistics About Lung Cancer, 2009.

² US Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking - A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD: US Department of Health and Human Services, Public Health Service, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Office on Smoking and Health; 2004.

³ American Cancer Society, Cancer Prevention & Early Detection Facts & Figures 2006.

⁴ US Department of Health and Human Services. The Health Consequences of Smoking - A Report of the Surgeon General. Rockville, MD; 2004.

⁵ US EPA Health Risk, Radon, Indoor Air Quality, Exposure to Radon Causes Lung Cancer in Nonsmokers and Smokers Alike.

⁶ Dubey S., Powerll C. Update in lung cancer 2006. American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine 2007; 175:868-874.

⁷ The International Early Lung Cancer Action Program Investigators. Survival of Patients with Stage I Lung Cancer Detected on CT Screening. New England Journal of Medicine 2006; 355; 1763-1771.

⁸ Emerging Therapeutics in the US Non-small Cell Lung Cancer Markets, F138-52, 2004. Frost & Sullivan.

⁹ Manhire A, Chariq M, Clelland C. et al; Guidelines for Radiologically Guided Lung Biopsy, Thorax 2003; 58:920-936.

¹⁰ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Health Interview Survey (NHIS), 2007, National Center for Health Statistics.

¹¹ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Cigarette Smoking Among Adults – United States 2005. CA Cancer J Clin 2007;57:43-66, January/February 2007.

¹² Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Annual Smoking-Attributable Mortality, Years of Potential Life Lost, and Productivity Losses United States, 1997-2001. Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report [serial online]. July 2005. Vol. 54;25:625-628.