



Today's Best **Care** Tomorrow's Best **Hope**



Find our clinical program for a type of cancer: Select a cancer type

Patient Care

Research

Training

Symposia/Seminars

About Us



"When you come to UNC,
they make you feel like
you're their only patient."

LaTeacha Coleman, Fayetteville NC
Cancer Survivor

[Read LaTeacha's Story](#)

UNC LCCC News Release

January 3 , 2008

New Lung Technology Offers Minimally Invasive Approach to Lung Biopsies; UNC Health Care is First Facility in North Carolina

CHAPEL HILL, N.C. - A new medical device at UNC Health Care harnesses the technology of global positioning to capture and biopsy lesions from the traditionally hard to reach peripheral area of the lung.

UNC Health Care is the first hospital in North Carolina and one of only 38 in the United States to perform electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy (ENB) developed by the Minneapolis-based company, superDimension. For patients, this innovative technology means a minimally invasive approach to biopsies, an earlier diagnosis and the potential to provide treatment sooner.



"We are very excited to have the ENB system here at UNC as part of our Multidisciplinary Thoracic Oncology Program," said Dr. Richard Feins, program co-leader, professor of surgery and a member of UNC's Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center. "Our ability to cure lung cancer is intimately related to our ability to make the diagnosis early." Feins has used the procedure on 11 patients thus far.

"We are finding that electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy is making it much easier to do this. For those patients who are not felt to be candidates for surgery, this system works hand in hand with our new Cyberknife radiation therapy program," he added.

Until now, patients with lesions too small to reach with the standard bronchoscopes or too small to biopsy with a needle only had the options of major surgery or just following the lesion.

Similar to GPS (global positioning system) technology, the ENB inReach System provides a three-dimensional "roadmap" of the lungs, generated from standard CT (computed tomography) images. Once the patient's lungs have been "mapped," physicians use superDimension's disposable guiding catheters with standard bronchoscopes and tools to reach the targeted lesion.

The catheter's tip contains an electromagnetic location sensor, which allows its location to be overlaid in real time on the pre-generated CT roadmap of the lungs. The physician can steer the catheter to reach distant locations in the bronchial tree and collect a sample of the lesion. By getting a more adequate biopsy, ENB can reduce the need for more invasive procedures. It can also be of help diagnosing other lung conditions besides cancer such as fungal infections.

Bronchoscopy is a procedure where a small scope is placed through the anesthetized nose and into the lungs. The procedure is done as an outpatient and usually takes about 60 to 90 minutes. A diagnosis is often available the same day.

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in North Carolina and the United States, with an estimated 5,150 deaths in North Carolina and 160,390 deaths nationally.

UNC Lineberger Cancer Center contact:

Dianne Shaw, Director of Communications, (919)966-5905

UNC Health Care contact:

Stephanie Crayton, (919)966-2860

University Cancer
Research Fund

Find a
Clinical Trial

New Hospital
Taking Shape

What's
Afoot?

Make a gift

NCL
CCC
A Comprehensive Cancer
Center Designated by the
National Cancer Institute