

WHAT IS LUNG CANCER?

Lung cancer is a type of cancer that starts in the lungs when cells mutate and begin to multiply uncontrollably. This occurs most often as a result of exposure to toxins but can happen in people with no known exposures.

TYPES OF LUNG CANCER

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common type of lung cancer. It accounts for over 80% of lung cancer cases. Common types include adenocarcinoma and squamous cell carcinoma.

Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) is less common than NSCLC and is more aggressive. SCLC is a fast-growing cancer that spreads quickly to other parts of the body.

HOW IS LUNG CANCER DIAGNOSED

Lung cancer is diagnosed through using screening devices combined with biopsies, taking a sample of the lung. The most common screening instruments used are x-rays, ct scans, and primarily low-dose ct scans, which all take pictures of the lung. If nodules are found, doctors will take a piece of the tissue and test to see if lung cancer is present.

RISK FACTORS

These are some of the known risk factors associated with lung cancer:

- Tobacco use
- Being exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke
- Being exposed to harmful substances, like radon, asbestos and air pollution
- Having previous radiation treatments to your chest (for instance, for breast cancer or lymphoma)
- Having a family history of lung cancer

SYMPTOMS

Lung cancer often has no symptoms until it has spread (metastasized). This is because there are few specialized nerves (pain receptors) in the lungs. Some lung cancer symptoms may include:

- A cough that doesn't go away or gets worse over time
- Trouble breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or discomfort
- Wheezing
- Coughing up blood
- Swelling in the face, neck, arms or upper chest
- Hoarseness
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Unexplained fatigue (tiredness)
- Shoulder pain

DID YOU KNOW?

1 in 16 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer

Every **2 minutes** someone is diagnosed with lung cancer

