Lung Cancer

Lung cancer has been the most common cancer in the world for several decades, and despite advancements in treatment, has resulted in more deaths than any other cancer.

What is Lung Cancer?

Lung cancer starts when cells of the lung become abnormal and begin to grow out of control.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC) accounts for about 85–90% of diagnoses and is composed of 3 subtypes: squamous cell (epidermoid) carcinoma, adenocarcinoma and large cell (undifferentiated) carcinoma.

Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC) is less common than NSCLC; SCLC accounts for about 10–15% of all lung cancers. For non-smokers, SCLC is even less common. Small cell lung cancer tends to grow and spread early to distant parts of the body before it is found.

Risk Factors

While tobacco smoking is the most common cause in the development of lung cancer, there are many other risk factors.

Incidence by Gender

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in both men and women.

Estimated numbers of annual new lung cancer cases by region (thousands)

- North America: 252,7
- Europe: 470.0
- Asia: 1,225.0
- Central America: 10.3
- Africa: 39.4
- South America: 68.5
- Australia & New Zealand: 15.6

Source: Globocan 2018

Common Signs & Symptoms

- Chest Pain
- Feeling Weak
- Hoarseness
- Persistent Cough
- Shortness of Breath

Lung Cancer “Hot Spots”

Estimated numbers of annual new lung cancer cases by region (thousands)

Risk of a patient's death within 5 years by stage of disease:

Stage I: 60% (92% 5-year survival rate)
Stage II: 36% (60% 5-year survival rate)
Stage III: 13% (36% 5-year survival rate)
Stage IV: 10% (13% 5-year survival rate)

SCLC five-year survival rates tend to be lower, as SCLC grows faster and symptoms are often not detected until the cancer is at an advanced stage.

Stage I: 31% (9% 5-year survival rate)
Stage II: 19% (19% 5-year survival rate)
Stage III: 8% (8% 5-year survival rate)
Stage IV: 2% (2% 5-year survival rate)

A patient’s prognosis is largely dependent on the type and stage of the disease. As with many other cancers, early detection can help improve survival rates.

Treatment

A patient’s treatment options are largely dependent on the stage of the disease. For both NSCLC and SCLC, they may include:

- Chemotherapy
- Radiation Therapy
- Targeted Therapy
- Immunotherapy
- Surgery
- Radiofrequency ablation (RFA)

Source: American Cancer Society

Incidence by Gender

- 2018 Diagnoses: 1,369,000 Men (725,000 Women)
- 2018 Deaths: 1,185,000 Men (576,000 Women)

Source: American Cancer Society

5-year Survival Rates by Stage

Source: American Cancer Society

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