Lung cancer is the second most common non-skin cancer among American men and women, after prostate cancer in men and breast cancer in women. It is also the leading killer, causing more deaths than colorectal, breast and prostate cancers combined. Early diagnosis and advances in treatment mean more people can expect to beat the disease.

**What You Should Know About LUNG CANCER**

About 224,390 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in the United States this year, and about 117,920 people will die from the disease. An estimated 13% of all cancer deaths this year will be from lung cancer.

**SECONDHAND SMOKE**

People who inhale secondhand smoke are **exposed** to the same cancer-causing agents as smokers.

**RISK FACTORS**

Smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer. It causes about 8 out of 10 cases of lung cancer.

**SMOKING**

9 out of 10 cases of lung cancer are due to smoking and secondhand smoke.

**EXPOSURE TO RADON GAS**

Radon exposure accounts for about 22,000 new cases of lung cancer.

**EXPOSURE TO ASBESTOS OR OTHER POLYVALENTS**

Carcinogens in asbestos can cause lung cancer, even at very low levels.

**AGE**

About 2 of 5 lung cancer cases are diagnosed in people age 65 or older.

**FAMILY HISTORY**

People with lung cancer in their family are 2 times more likely to develop the disease.

**EXPOSING TO FAMILY HISTORY**

About 65% of people with lung cancer have a family history of the disease.

**PREVENTION AND SCREENING GUIDELINES**

PREVENTION

- **Don’t smoke and avoid secondhand smoke.**
- **Avoid exposure to radon gas.**

SCREENING

- **New NSCLC guidelines recommend lung cancer screening for high-risk adults.**

**UNDERSTANDING THE DISEASE**

Lung cancer is a group of diseases that arise from cells that line the airways of the lungs. There are two main types of lung cancer: non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and small cell lung cancer (SCLC).

**NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER**

This form of lung cancer is more common and usually doesn’t spread to other parts of the body. There are seven main subtypes of NSCLC:

- **Adenocarcinoma:** accounts for nearly 30-35% of all lung cancers and about half of all non-small cell lung cancers. It is found in the outer region of the lung.
- **Squamous cell carcinoma:** tends to be more aggressive and spread faster than other types of NSCLC. It accounts for 20-25% of NSCLC and is found throughout the lungs.
- **Large cell carcinoma:** accounts for about 15% of all lung cancers and is found throughout the lungs.
- **Bronchioloalveolar carcinoma:** is the least common and can be found anywhere in the lung.
- **Microinfarct:** makes up about 5% of all lung cancers and is found in patients with advanced NSCLC.
- **Extrathoracic:** occurs in tissues near the lung,
- **Carcinoid:** accounts for about 1% of all lung cancers and is found throughout the lungs.

**SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER**

Tends to be more aggressive and spread faster than other types of NSCLC. Three main stages of small cell lung cancer:

- **Limited stage:** small cell lung cancer that is contained to the chest.
- **Regional stage:** small cell lung cancer that has spread to other areas of the chest.
- **Widespread stage:** small cell lung cancer that has spread to other parts of the body.

Surgery

- **Cancer surgery:** may be used for surgery. It helps prevent the cancer from spreading to other parts of the body.
- **Pneumonectomy:** removes an entire lung.
- **Lobectomy:** removes an entire lobe from the lung.
- **Wedge resection and segmentectomy:** used to remove cancerous nodules and tumors that limit breathing or cause pain. It addresses four primary areas:
  - **Advanced airway diagnostics:** used to diagnose lung cancer, treat tumors and relieve symptoms
  - **Genomic testing:** examines a tumor at the genetic level to identify DNA alterations that limit breathing or cause pain. It addresses four primary areas:
  - **Adjuvant chemotherapy:** used after surgery or radiation therapy to control or prevent cancer from returning. It works by using medicines that stop cancer cells from dividing or to destroy them.
  - **Targeted therapy:** attempts to prevent cancer cells from dividing or to destroy them. It works by using medicines that target specific cancer-causing agents.
  - **Immunotherapy:** the therapy works to stimulate the body’s immune system to identify and destroy cancer cells. It works by using medicines that stop cancer cells from dividing or to destroy them. It works by using medicines that stop cancer cells from dividing or to destroy them.
  - **Interventional pulmonology:** includes diagnostic lung biopsy and other minimally invasive procedures. It uses various techniques and equipment to diagnose and treat lung cancer

For more information, visit www.cancercenter.com/lung-cancer/