



Lung Cancer

The American Cancer Society estimates approximately 219,440 new cases of lung cancer will be diagnosed in the United States in 2009 ⁽¹⁾.

The lungs are located in your chest cavity and are essential for breathing. These organs allow your body to take in oxygen from the air and release carbon dioxide, a toxic waste gas, from your body ^(1, 2).

- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for men and women
- More than eight out of ten lung cancer cases are attributed to smoking tobacco

Several key factors may increase the risk of developing lung cancer; they include ^(1, 3):

- Tobacco smoke
- Nonsmokers who breathe in secondhand smoke
- Asbestos exposure
- Air pollution
- Exposure to cancer causing agents in the workplace (e.g., radon, arsenic, etc.)
- Family history of lung cancer

Some common symptoms of lung cancer include ^(1, 3):

- Persistent and worsening cough
- Constant chest pain
- Shortness of breath, wheezing, or hoarseness
- Coughing up blood
- Recurrent pneumonia or bronchitis
- Loss of appetite or weight loss
- Fatigue and fever
- Swelling of the neck and face

Research shows the best way to prevent lung cancer is to stop smoking or not start the smoking habit at all. Early lung cancer detection is often difficult because symptoms do not occur until the cancer has already spread.

If you are concerned about symptoms you are experiencing, you should contact your doctor. For more information on lung cancer, please visit the following web-links:

Lung Cancer Information:

- [All About Lung Cancer](#)
- [Facts About Secondhand Smoke](#)
- [Lung Cancer Risk Questionnaire](#)
- [Lung Cancer Interactive Tutorial](#)

References:

1. [American Cancer Society](#)
2. [National Heart Lung and Blood Institute](#)
3. [U.S. National Library of Medicine and National Institutes of Health](#)

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