

CT Studies For Lung Cancer Screening

New Statistics from the NCI:

Reported by the National Cancer Institute, a randomized national trial involving more than 53,000 current and former heavy smokers ages 55 to 74 compared the effects of low-dose helical computed tomography (CT) versus standard chest X-ray on lung cancer mortality and found **20 percent** fewer lung cancer deaths among trial participants screened with low-dose helical CT.*

"This large and well-designed study used rigorous scientific methods to test ways to prevent death from lung cancer by screening patients at especially high risk," said Harold Varmus, M.D., NCI Director. "Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality in the U.S. and throughout the world, so a validated approach that can reduce lung cancer mortality by even **20 percent** has the potential to spare very significant numbers of people from the ravages of this disease."

*Source: National Cancer Institute

NEW



Risk Factors of Lung Cancer:

- Smoking
- Exposure to secondhand smoke
- Exposure to radon gas
- Exposure to asbestos and other chemicals
- Family history of lung cancer
- Excessive alcohol use
- Certain lung diseases such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COHP)

Symptoms:

- A new cough or cough that does not go away
- Chest, shoulder or back pain that does not go away or gets worse with deep breathing
- New wheezing
- Shortness of breathe
- Hoarseness
- Coughing up blood or bloody mucus
- Swelling in the neck and face
- Difficulty swallowing
- Weight loss and loss of appetite
- Increasing fatigue and weakness
- Recurring respiratory infections, such as pneumonia

Source: Mayo Clinic

Radiation Exposure:

Because CT scans are able to detect very small nodules in the lung, chest CT is especially effective for diagnosing lung cancer at its earliest, most curable stage. There is always a slight risk associated with exposure to radiation. However, the benefit of an accurate diagnosis could greatly outweigh the risk. The radiation for a typical chest CT is equivalent to the natural background radiation one receives during a six month period.

Source: www.RadiologyInfo.org

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