


# Lung Cancer

## Quick Facts

- **Lung cancer** is the number one cancer killer in the United States, with one in every sixteen Americans expected to receive a diagnosis of lung cancer in their lifetime.
- **It kills almost twice** as many women as breast cancer and almost three times as many men as prostate cancer.
- **Over 234,000 Americans** are diagnosed with lung cancer every year. Since symptoms generally do not appear until the late stages, lung cancer is often undiagnosed until it is difficult to treat.



Lung cancer can affect anyone – regardless of age, gender, ethnicity, or smoking history.

## Symptoms

- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing when you breathe
- Ache or pain in chest, upper back or shoulder that won't go away
- Hoarse voice
- A cough that gets worse/does not go away
- Frequent respiratory tract infections (such as pneumonia or bronchitis)
- Blood in a cough

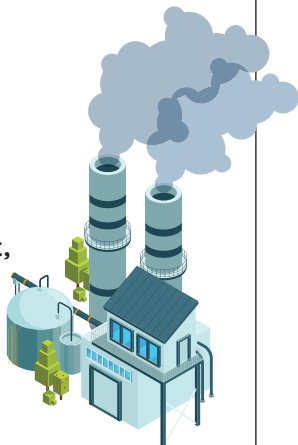
## Detection & Diagnosis



There is no universal early detection for lung cancer. Current guidelines make CT scans available only to high risk individuals. Early detection, by low-dose CT screening, can decrease lung cancer mortality by 14%-20% among high-risk populations. Additional early detection and prevention could result in more people being diagnosed at earlier stages, increasing survival rates. Only a biopsy, in which a small amount of tissue is removed for examination, can provide a definite diagnosis of lung cancer, so, until biopsy results come back, a person does not know for sure whether he or she has lung cancer.

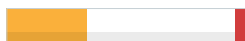
## Risk Factors

- Smoking and exposure to secondhand smoke
- Exposure to air pollution, radon, and other substances (including asbestos, arsenic, diesel exhaust, and some forms of silica and chromium)
- Radiation therapy to the chest
- Genetic factors



65%

of people diagnosed with lung cancer have either never smoked or have stopped smoking a decade ago.



## Treatment

Today, thanks to advances in research, specifically targeted therapies and immunotherapy, lung cancer is no longer always a death sentence. Many patients are living their lives with the disease—working, parenting, and traveling. The past decade has brought extraordinary advancements for people affected by lung cancer. More lung cancer treatments have been approved by the FDA in the last three years than in the last three decades. Research is accelerating at a pace never seen before, resulting in new treatment options for many patients, promising new ways to find the disease early (when it is most treatable), and new hope for people with lung cancer.

