

WHAT ARE CANCER SCREENINGS AND WHY ARE THEY IMPORTANT?

Cancer Screening is the process of checking for cancer cells that are present - or abnormal cells that could become cancer - often before symptoms appear.

The **goal of screening** is to detect cancer early, or prevent it from starting, which can lead to better treatment outcomes and higher survival rates.

These routine, preventive tests **can - and do - save lives.**

LUNG CANCER SCREENING

- **Low-Dose Computer Tomography** - The most common screening for lung cancer is low-dose computed tomography (a **low-dose CT or LDCT**). While lying on a table, an x-ray machine takes detailed images of your lungs - the scan is non-invasive and takes less than one minute.

SCREENING RECOMMENDATIONS FOR LUNG CANCER

Screening recommendations may depend on your risk factors.

- LDCT scans are recommended for **adults aged 50 – 80 years if they have or have had a 20 pack-year smoking history (1 pack/day for 20 years, or 2 packs/day for 10 years) who are current smokers or have quit within the past 15 years.**

GENETIC OR BIOMARKER TESTING

Genetic or Biomarker Testing could occur to see if you may have an increased risk of lung cancer or, if you have a diagnosis, how best to target the tumors.

- **If you have been diagnosed with lung cancer**, you may undergo what is called **genetic or biomarker testing**. Taking a sample of tissue from an existing tumor or a sample of your blood, a laboratory will analyze its DNA to see if there are any mutations that drive cancer growth. Information on mutations can help **guide targeted therapies and immunotherapies**, as well as **customize treatment plans**.
 - Some of the most common mutations are **EGFR, KRAS, and TP53** - acquired (somatic) mutations in genes that regulate cell growth and repair. These mutations cause cells to divide uncontrollably.
- **To see if you have a predisposition or inherited risk of being diagnosed with lung cancer**, you may undergo germline or genetic panel testing. Taking a sample of your blood or a swab of your saliva, a laboratory will analyze your DNA to identify any possible hereditary, predisposing, or non-smoking-related risks, or genetic markers that are associated with increased lung cancer susceptibility.

ABOUT US

Our mission is to reach **all** people impacted by cancer - those diagnosed, their loved ones, and caregivers - so that **no one** faces cancer alone.

All our programs and services are **FREE** to our members.