

Lung Cancer Diagnosis and Survival Statistics

- Lung cancer accounts for more deaths than any other cancer in both men and women. An estimated 159,480 deaths, accounting for about 27 percent of all cancer deaths, are expected to occur in 2014.
- Lung cancer overtook breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer death among women in the United States in 1987 and now claims the lives of more women each year than breast, ovarian and cervical cancers combined.
- The five-year survival rate in the United States for all stages of lung cancer is only 16 percent. Only 15 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at a localized stage, for which the 5-year survival rate is 52 percent. The 5-year survival for small cell lung cancer (6 percent) is lower than that for non-small cell (18 percent).
- At least thirty percent of all cancer deaths, including 87 percent of lung cancer deaths, can be attributed to smoking.
- Six percent or 1 in 14 men and 1 in 16 women will be diagnosed with lung cancer during their lifetime.
- Each year, about 3,400 nonsmoking adults die of lung cancer as a result of breathing secondhand smoke.
- More than 75 percent of new lung cancer cases present with late-stage cancer (Stage III or IV).
- In a study published in the NEJM, lung cancer diagnosed at Stage I resulted in a survival rate of 88 percent at 10 years.
- The National Lung Screening Trial investigators report that persons undergoing three annual screening examinations with low-dose computed tomography had a 20 percent reduction in lung-cancer mortality as compared with those screened with annual chest radiography.
- Researchers found that screening all current and former smokers who fall within guideline recommendations could prevent up to 12,000 lung cancer deaths per year.
- Lung cancer has little or no symptoms in early stages, therefore more than 85 percent of men and women diagnosed with lung cancer are diagnosed in late stage when there is very little chance of cure. With early detection, 85 percent of cancers can be found in earliest, more curable stage.

Lung Cancer Detection

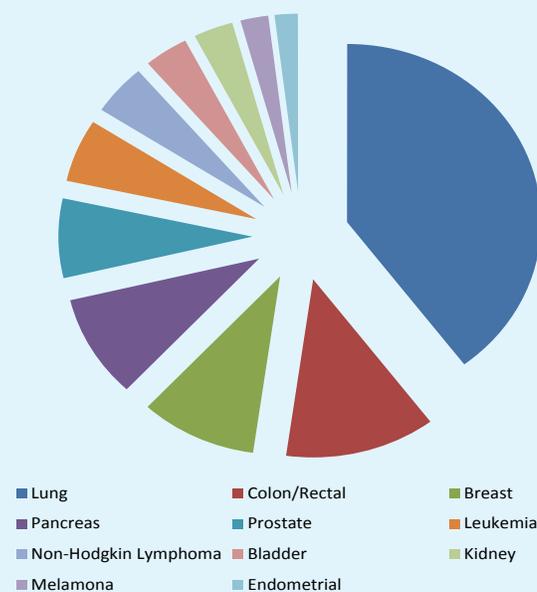
Current detection options offer varying results:

- Chest X-rays are able to detect lesions 1-2 cm.
- A Spiral CT Scan can detect tumors less than 1 cm, but this is more costly.
- Transthoracic Needle Aspiration (with the help of a CT scan) is a needle inserted between the ribs and into the peripheral lung tissue where a bronchoscope cannot reach. The treatment is invasive and the patient is at risk up to 30 percent for a collapsed lung. "Watchful waiting" is also an option for patients with small lesions, in order to avoid a surgical procedure on a lesion that may be benign.

LUNG CANCER QUICK FACTS¹

- 27% of all cancer deaths
- Approximately 160,000 deaths in 2014
- Screening could prevent 12,000 lung cancer deaths per year
- 87% of lung cancer deaths attributed to smoking

ESTIMATED CANCER DEATHS BY SITE 2014



Source: American Cancer Society: Cancer Facts & Figures 2014.



the Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health and Gender Biology, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, April, 2010.
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