

Do you have lung cancer?

Find out with a Lung Screen...it only takes *five minutes*.



*Lung cancer kills more men and women than any other type of cancer. Screening can detect cancer before symptoms develop and the disease spreads. A lung cancer screen is a **painless low dose CT scan** which scans the body and uses low doses of radiation to take pictures of the lungs. The scan **only takes 5 minutes** and is recommended for people who are at high risk for lung cancer.*

* Who is at highest risk?

According to the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN), those at the highest risk for lung cancer are ages 55-75 who are current or former smokers with a 30 or more pack year history.

pack year history = number of packs per day X the number of years smoked

Additional criteria for those at high risk include people who are older than 50 with a 20 pack-year history AND a history of:

- Radon or occupational carcinogen exposure
- Family history of lung cancer
- COPD or pulmonary fibrosis
- Personal history of cancer or lymphoma

* Why should I get screened?

Lung cancer kills more people than breast, cervix, colon, and prostate cancers combined. More than 85% of lung cancer patients are diagnosed in the late stages, because lung cancer does not have early warning signs or symptoms. When lung cancer is diagnosed at a later stage and has spread to other organs, the five year survival rate is only 4%. Using a lung screen to detect lung cancer in its early stages has shown to increase survival rates in lung cancer patients by 20%. The CT scan can detect small nodules on your lungs before they have grown and spread to other parts of the body. These small nodules can then be surgically removed or treated which vastly increases the 5 year survival rate.

* How long will the screen take?

The CT scan takes less than 5 minutes, but please allow for time to fill out any necessary paperwork required at the imaging center.

* Will insurance pay for the lung screening?

Your insurance company may or may not cover the cost of a CT scan for the detection of early stage lung cancer. If you and your doctor determine that you meet the recommended eligibility criteria, then it is likely that your insurance coverage will cover the scan. For questions regarding coverage, you should contact your insurance company prior to your scan. If your insurance company does not pay for the lung screening, then you may pay cash at most imaging centers. The average cost of a low dose CT scan ranges from \$200-\$400.

* How often should I get screened?

The American Cancer Society recommends yearly screening for high risk patients.

* What are the risks of lung screening?

While the radiation exposure of a low dose CT scan is minimal, it is still considered a risk. The amount of radiation for the lung screening is similar to the amount given for a mammogram which is considered the gold standard for breast cancer detection. Scans may also reveal nodules that are not cancerous, so the anxiety associated with false positives needs to be taken into consideration when making your decision.

* How long does it take to get back my results?

Most imaging centers will have the results between 5-7 business days.

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Lung Cancer: Prevention, Early Detection, Cure

For more information on lung cancer screening or Smoking Cessation classes, visit our website at: selungalliance.org