

ABOUT YOUR LDCT LUNG CANCER SCREENING

Who should have a LDCT (Low Dose CT) Lung Cancer Screening?

The patient must be between the ages of 50 and 80 years old. He/she should not have symptoms of lung cancer some of which include a cough that gets worse or does not go away; unexplained weight loss and loss of appetite; shortness of breath; and lung infections such as bronchitis or pneumonia that do not go away or keep coming back. The patient must have smoked at least 20 pack years (number of pack-years = number of cigarettes smoked per day divided by 20 x number of years smoked). If patient is a former smoker, then he/she needs to have smoked within the last 15 years.

How often should I have the LDCT Lung Cancer Screening?

If you meet the criteria above and are 50 to 80 years old, you should have the screening performed every year.

What should I know about the exam?

Benefits: The benefit of a LDCT lung cancer screening is that it is designed to catch lung cancer at its earliest stages when it is most treatable. The National Lung Screening Trial sponsored by the National Cancer Institute found that performing a LDCT lung cancer screening of high risk individuals (listed above) can lower the risk of death from lung cancer by up to 20 percent.

Risks: There are several risks and limitations to the LDCT lung cancer screening. It is very important to know what these are so that you and your healthcare provider can make an informed decision about this exam.

- **Radiation Exposure:** LDCT lung screening uses radiation to create images of your lungs. Radiation can increase your risk of cancer. The LDCT lung cancer screening uses techniques to reduce the radiation exposure so the amount of radiation you receive from this exam is comparable to the amount of radiation received from the sun in one year.
- **False Negatives:** Even though the LDCT lung cancer screening is a very good test, it is not perfect. It is possible that you will have a form of lung cancer or lung disease that it will not detect. Please be aware of all the symptoms of lung cancer/lung disease and let your healthcare provider know if you are experiencing any of them.
- **False Positives/Additional Testing:** In the National Lung Cancer Screening Trial, 39.1% of the participants had at least one positive test when they were screening annually over a three year period. Of these exams, 96.4% were false positive meaning that the initial observed finding turned out to be noncancerous. If an initial screening exam shows a suspicious area(s), then additional radiology exams may be ordered. Occasionally, invasive procedures, such as a lung biopsy, could also be ordered.

When can I expect to receive my results?

Imaging centers make every effort to get your report to your healthcare provider as quickly as possible. Your healthcare provider will then review the report and contact you with the results. This process could take several days.



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