

American Cancer Society Circle Of LifeSM: Cancer Education and Wellness



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Lung Cancer Fact Sheet

About the Lungs

- The lungs are found in the chest. They are part of your respiratory (breathing) system.
- When you breathe in and out through your mouth or nose, the lungs take in oxygen needed by your body and give off carbon dioxide.

What is lung cancer?

- Lung cancer is cancer that starts in the lungs. Lung cancers are thought to develop over many years.
- Signs and symptoms of lung cancer:
 - A cough that does not go away
 - Chest pain that is often worse with deep breathing, coughing, or laughing
 - Hoarseness
 - Weight loss and loss of appetite
 - Coughing up blood or rust-colored sputum (spit or phlegm)
 - Shortness of breath
 - Feeling tired or weak
 - Infections such as bronchitis that keep coming back

The Bottom Line about Lung Cancer

Stopping the use of commercial tobacco could reduce the deaths from lung cancer. This means stopping daily or frequent use of cigarettes, pipes, and cigars.

Lung cancer screening guidelines are now available for heavy smokers ages 55-74. If you are or used to be a heavy smoker, you can talk over screening options with your health care provider.

If you would like more information about lung cancer, please visit cancer.org or call 1-800-227-2345.

