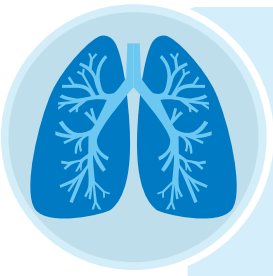




Lung Cancer Screening



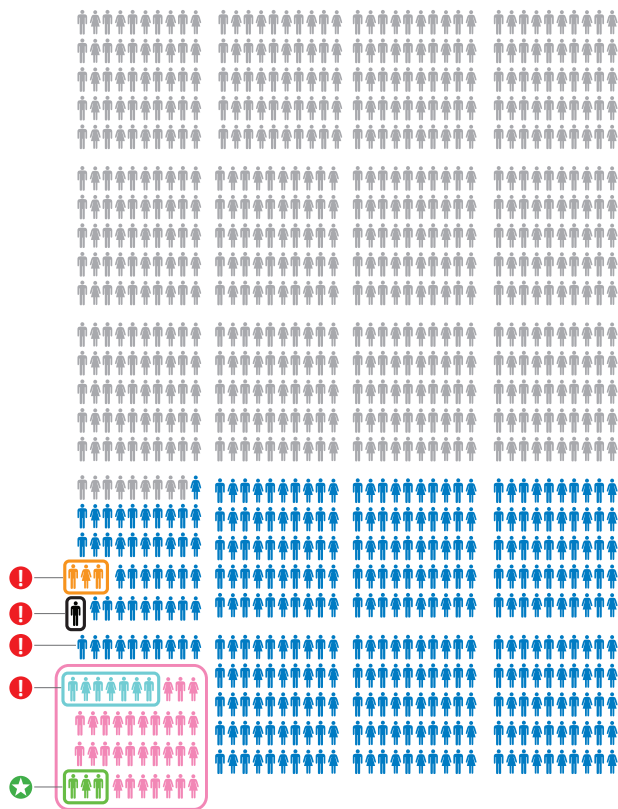
We recommend screening for lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography (low-dose CT) in adults who

- are aged 55–74
- are current smokers or former smokers who quit within the last 15 years
- have smoked one pack a day for at least 30 years (or two packs a day for 15 years or equivalent; i.e., 30 “pack-years”)

If you think you meet all of these criteria, you should talk to your primary care provider about being screened once a year for up to three years in a row.

We do not recommend being screened for lung cancer with a chest x-ray.

Screening 1000 eligible people with low-dose CT (annually for 3 years)



	609 will have a negative low-dose CT scan result	
	40 will be diagnosed with lung cancer	
	351 will have a positive scan result and find out after further testing that they do not have cancer (false positive)	Harm
	7 of the 40 diagnosed lung cancers would not have caused illness or death (overdiagnosis)	
	3 will have major complications from invasive follow-up tests	
	1 will die from invasive follow-up testing	
	3 fewer people will die from lung cancer (vs. when screening with chest x-ray)	Benefit

1. What is low-dose CT and why should I be screened with it?

- Low-dose CT is a very detailed scan of your lungs and it can pick up much more than a chest x-ray can.
- By being screened with low-dose CT, you are more likely to detect lung cancer when the disease is at an early stage, which can make treatment more successful.

2. Why should I not be screened with chest x-ray?

- There is no demonstrated benefit of screening for lung cancer with chest x-ray (e.g., better survival after treatment), an abnormal chest x-ray test result could lead to harms from an invasive follow-up test.

3. Why should I be screened only once a year for 3 years?

- Currently, we have evidence only on the benefits and harms of annual screening for three years in a row.

4. What happens if I receive a positive low-dose CT scan result?

- Most people who receive a positive low-dose CT scan result do not really have lung cancer (these are called false positives).
- If you receive a positive scan result, you may go through additional testing to confirm whether or not you have lung cancer. Some of these follow-up tests can be invasive, and there is a risk of major complications or, possibly, death.

Being screened is an individual preference. Because of the small chance of benefit, and the risk of possible harms, you should discuss your decision with your primary care provider.