



## NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

# Lung Cancer Screening

This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Lung Cancer Screening](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit [NCCN.org/patients](http://NCCN.org/patients) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](#)

NCCN Guidelines  
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Page Number

### What is lung cancer?



Lung cancer is a disease that starts in the cells that make up the lungs.	<a href="#">8</a>
Symptoms of lung cancer include a cough that lasts, wheezing, hoarse voice, shortness of breath, pain when swallowing, blood in mucus, pneumonia, weight loss, tiredness that lasts, and pain in chest area.	<a href="#">15</a>

### What are the risk factors for lung cancer?

Tobacco smoking	Family history of lung cancer	Contact with radon	<a href="#">11</a>
History of cancer cancers	Contact with asbestos or other cancer-causing agents	History of COPD or Pulmonary Fibrosis	<a href="#">11</a>

### What is screening?

Screening can help find disease early, before symptoms occur. When disease is found early, it is more likely to be cured with treatment.	<a href="#">15</a>
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### When should I start screening?

<b>Start before you have symptoms</b>	The goal of lung cancer screening is to find lung cancer in people who are at a high risk for lung cancer. Treatment works best when started at an early stage of cancer, before there are symptoms.	<a href="#">15</a>
<b>Find out your level of risk</b>	Screening is recommended for those at high risk for lung cancer. There are 2 groups at high risk for lung cancer.	<a href="#">16</a>



## What is low-dose computed tomography (LDCT)?

<b>LDCT</b>	LDCT uses small amounts of radiation and computer technology to take pictures of the inside of your body from different angles.	<a href="#">18</a>
	An LDCT test is recommended as part of lung cancer screening.	<a href="#">18</a>
<b>Baseline LDCT</b>	Your initial or very first LDCT test is called the baseline LDCT.	<a href="#">24</a>
<b>Lung nodules</b>	Screening with LDCT is used to find nodules in the lungs. Nodules are small, round areas of abnormal tissue and are quite common.	<a href="#">22</a>

## What happens after the baseline LDCT?

<b>First follow-up</b>	A first follow-up LDCT test is done to compare to your baseline LDCT. You will have other follow-up LDCT tests every 12 months or sooner depending on the results.	<a href="#">28</a>
<b>Yearly LDCT screening and other follow-ups</b>	Screening tests are repeated over time to see if a nodule may be cancer. You might have tests more often to track any changes in size, density, and appearance of nodules.	<a href="#">28</a>

## How do I decide between options?

Ask questions. Know your risk factors. Engage in shared decision-making with your doctor. Compare the risks and benefits of lung cancer screening and different lung cancer screening plans.	<a href="#">35</a>
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