

What is lung cancer?

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Lung cancer is the **most common type of cancer**, with around **2.2 million people** diagnosed worldwide in 2020¹

Who might develop it?

Some risk factors for lung cancer include^{2,3}:



Tobacco smoking



Secondhand smoke



Cancer-causing agents in the workplace



Exposure to radon



Air pollution



Family history and genetics

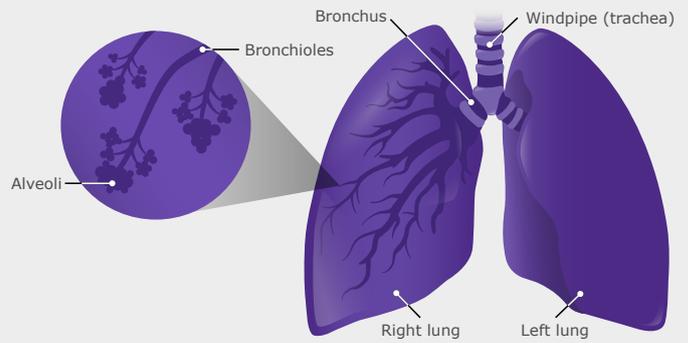


Previous radiation to the lungs



Arsenic in drinking water

The lungs and cancer



There are different types of lung cancer: **non-small cell lung cancer** and **small cell lung cancer**. **Non-small cell lung cancer** describes a group of different cancers that have similar treatment options and outlooks, and is the most common type of lung cancer based on historical data⁴

The main types of non-small cell lung cancer are⁵:

1. **Squamous cell carcinoma:** cancer that forms in cells that line the lungs⁵
2. **Nonsquamous carcinoma:** any cancer that is not from a cell that lines the lungs. This includes multiple subtypes of cancer⁶:
 - **Adenocarcinoma:** cancer that forms in cells that line the alveoli which release substances like mucus^{5,6}
 - **Large cell (undifferentiated) carcinoma:** cancer that forms in different types of large cells in the lungs⁵
 - **Other:** cancer subtypes that are less common, like adenocarcinoma and sarcomatoid carcinoma⁵

What symptoms are associated with lung cancer?

Lung cancer patients may not experience symptoms in the early stages of the disease.^{7,8} If symptoms are experienced, the **most common signs of lung cancer** include^{7,8}:

Long-lasting cough that may make blood or rust-colored sputum

Chest pain or difficulty breathing

Raspy voice or starting to wheeze

Loss of appetite or losing weight without trying

Feeling tired or weak

Long-lasting or repeated lung infections

Signs that the **lung cancer has spread** may include⁷:

Bone pain

Headaches

Jaundice, or yellowing of the skin and eyes

Swollen lymph nodes

How can lung cancer be treated?

Disease management may vary depending on⁹:

- The type of lung cancer
- When the diagnosis was made (disease stage)
- The size of the cancer
- Whether the cancer has spread
- The general health status

A doctor may discuss the following treatment options^{6,9}:



Surgery



Radiation



Chemotherapy



Targeted therapy



Immunotherapy

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