

Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer of both men and women in the United States. Lung cancer causes more deaths than the next three most common cancers (colon, breast, and prostate) combined.



Breathe New Hampshire has served the people of New Hampshire for over 90 years. Through education, advocacy, research, and partnerships, we are working to eliminate lung disease and improve the quality of life for those living with lung disease in New Hampshire.

We invite you to join us as a volunteer, partner, or donor, so that we can continue to strengthen our efforts.



145 Hollis Street, Unit C
Manchester, NH 03101
800.835.8647 info@breathenh.org
www.breathenh.org

Disclaimer: This brochure is published for information only. Any person with lung cancer should seek medical advice.
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Lung Cancer



THE BASIC FACTS



What is lung cancer?

Lung cancers are cancers that begin in the lungs. The two main types of lung cancer are *small cell lung cancer* and *non-small cell lung cancer*.

Non-small cell lung cancer is more common than small cell lung cancer and usually grows and spreads slowly.

Small cell lung cancer is less common, grows more quickly, and is more likely to spread to other organs in the body than non-small cell lung cancer.



Who is at risk for lung cancer?

Some of the things that put you at risk for lung cancer include:

- Smoking or a history of smoking (cigarettes, cigars, or pipes)
- Long-term exposure to *carcinogens* (things that may cause cancer), such as radon, asbestos, arsenic, and chromium
- Being exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work
- A family history of lung cancer
- A history of lung disease, such as tuberculosis (TB)

What are the signs and symptoms of lung cancer?

Different people have different symptoms for lung cancer. Some people don't have any symptoms at all. Lung cancer symptoms may include:

- Shortness of breath
- Coughing that does not go away
- Wheezing
- Coughing up blood
- Chest pain
- Fever
- Weight loss

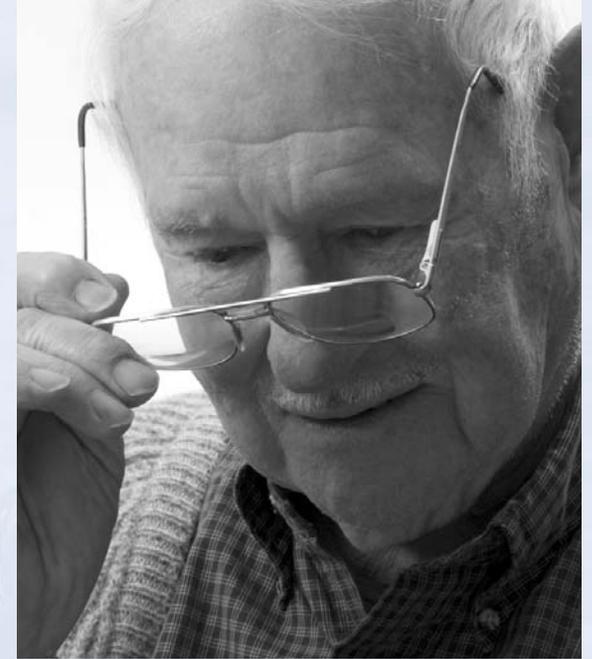
It is important to talk to a doctor if you notice any of these symptoms.

How is lung cancer diagnosed?

To find out if lung cancer is present, a doctor will look at your medical history, smoking history, exposure to substances at home, and family history of cancer. The doctor will also do a physical exam and may order a chest x-ray or other tests.

How is lung cancer treated?

There are several ways to treat lung cancer. The treatment depends on the type of lung cancer and how far it has spread. Treatments include surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation. People with lung cancer often get more than one kind of treatment.



Surgery: Doctors cut out and remove cancer tissue in an operation. Part or all of a lung may be removed, depending on where the cancer is located.

Chemotherapy: This treatment involves the use of drugs to shrink or kill the cancer. The drugs could be pills or medicines given through an IV (intravenous) tube.

Radiation: Radiation uses high-energy rays (similar to x-rays) to try to kill the cancer cells. The rays are aimed only at the part of the body where the cancer exists.

For more information, visit our website at www.breathenh.org or call 1.800.835.8647.