

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer occurs when cells grow out of control and form a malignant tumor in the lungs. There are two main forms of lung cancer: non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), which accounts for 80 to 85 percent of cases; and small cell lung cancer (SCLC), which makes up 15 to 20 percent of cases.

Common Symptoms and Signs

According to the American Cancer Society, these are the most common signs and symptoms of lung cancer:

	Persistent cough that does not go away or worsens		Unintended weight loss
	Coughing up blood or rust-colored sputum (spit or phlegm)		Shortness of breath; feeling tired or weak
	Chest pain that may feel worse when you breathe deeply, cough, or laugh		Frequent, hard-to-treat infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia
	Hoarseness		Wheezing
	Loss of appetite		

If lung cancer spreads to other parts of the body, it may cause:

	Bone pain		Seizures
	Headache		Jaundice (yellowing of skin and eyes)
	Weakness or numbness in the limb		Swollen lymph nodes in the neck or above the collarbone
	Dizziness, balance problems		



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Risk Factors

Smoking cigarettes is by far the biggest risk factor for lung cancer, accounting for 80 to 90 percent of cases. Other risk factors include:



Smoking cigars, pipes, or other tobacco products



Exposure to secondhand smoke



Exposure to air pollution



A family history of lung cancer



Exposure to radon and asbestos



Radiation treatment to the chest

Who Gets Lung Cancer?

Three quarters of lung cancer deaths occur in people **aged 65 and older**.

In the United States, men are 42 percent more likely to die of the disease.

Death rates from lung cancer are highest among **Black males**, who are **23 percent** more likely than white males to die of this disease. But **Black women** are significantly less likely than white women to develop lung cancer.

Countries with the highest rates of lung cancer, in order:

1. Hungary
2. Serbia
3. New Caledonia
4. French Polynesia
5. Turkey
6. Montenegro
7. Belgium
8. Bosnia and Herzegovina
9. North Korea
10. Denmark



How Common Is Lung Cancer?



Lung cancer is the second-most common cancer in the world (after breast cancer), with an estimated **2.2 million cases diagnosed in 2020**.

However, lung cancer is the deadliest form, responsible for **about 1.8 million deaths around the world each year**.

In the United States, The American Cancer Society predicts that in 2023:

- **About 238,340 new cases diagnosed**
(117,550 in men and 120,790 in women)
- **About 127,070 deaths**
(67,160 in men and 59,910 in women)
- Clinical trials of **lung cancer treatments: more than 1,500.**



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