

Frequently Asked Questions

What is a low-dose CT scan?

Computed tomography (CT scan) is an imaging procedure that uses computer-processed X-rays to produce precise and detailed images of specific areas of the body. A low-dose CT scan is used to minimize exposure to radiation.

What can I expect during the screening?

It is an easy and quick test, and there are no needles or injections. You will need to lie still for a few minutes while the scan is performed. No preparation is needed.

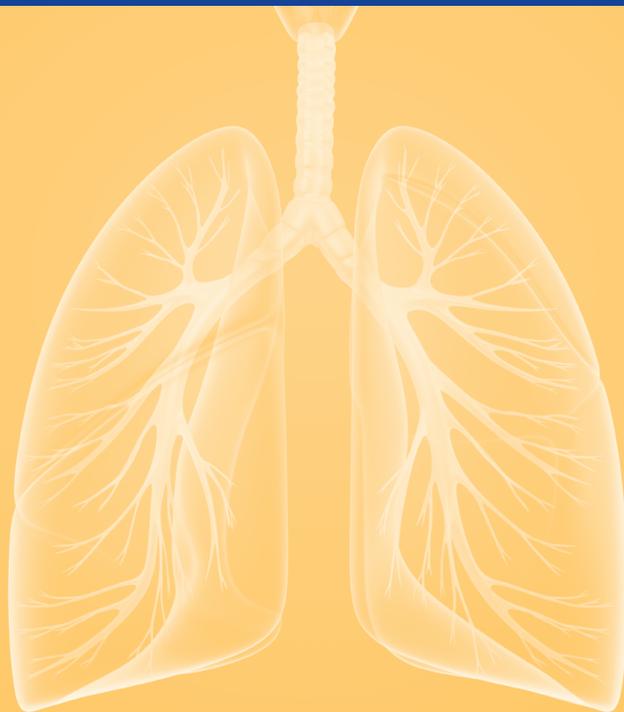
How effective is lung CT screening for lung cancer?

Screening for lung cancer with a low-dose CT scan can save lives. Recent studies have shown a 20 percent lower risk of death from lung cancer in high-risk people who underwent screening with a low-dose CT scan. Talk with your doctor to determine if a low-dose CT screening scan for lung cancer is a good option for you.

What is the next step after the screening test?

A radiologist reviews your scan and reports the results to your doctor. Be sure to follow up with your primary care physician to review the results and discuss the need for further evaluation when indicated.

Lung Cancer CT Screening



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National Lung Cancer CT Screening Trial

Lung cancer is the most common cancer worldwide both in terms of incidence and mortality. Lung cancer also kills more people in the United States than any other cancer.

There are multiple treatment options available for lung cancer, but the most important factor in determining the response to treatment is how early the cancer is detected. Earlier detection is associated with better treatment outcomes. As most people with early lung cancer have few or no symptoms early in the course of the disease, screening for early lung cancer in high-risk people is critical. X-rays and low-dose CT scans are the two widely used tests for the purpose of this screening.

The National Cancer Institute recently performed a clinical trial study: "National Lung Screening Trial (NLST)" to evaluate the efficacy of low-dose CT scans in comparison to regular chest X-rays in screening individuals at high risk for lung cancer.

The results of this study showed that eventually there were 20% fewer deaths from lung cancer in high-risk patients who underwent a low-dose CT screening.

The American Cancer Society also supports low-dose CT lung cancer in high-risk patients.



Qualification Criteria

You may qualify for a CT lung screening at HealthAlliance Hospital if you meet these criteria:

- You are between 55 and 74 years old,
- Are currently a smoker or have quit within the past 15 years, and
- Have smoked at least a pack of cigarettes a day for 30+ years.



Scheduling a Screening

If you think you meet the criteria, please call your primary care physician to complete a screening questionnaire. Qualified candidates may be scheduled for their LDCT lung screening at the HealthAlliance Hospital Leominster Campus.

Please note: There is a \$100 cost for the procedure at the time of the CT scan.

**The Smoking Cessation Support Program at
HealthAlliance Hospital
has many resources to help you quit.
For more information, call 978-343-5048.**