

United Kingdom

Lung Cancer Factsheet: Insights & Key Developments

Key Insights on Lung Cancer Care
and Infrastructure

Core Pillars:

1. Infrastructure
2. Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns
3. Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care
4. Utilization of Biomarkers
5. Clinical Guidelines
6. Reimbursement
7. Lung Cancer Screening

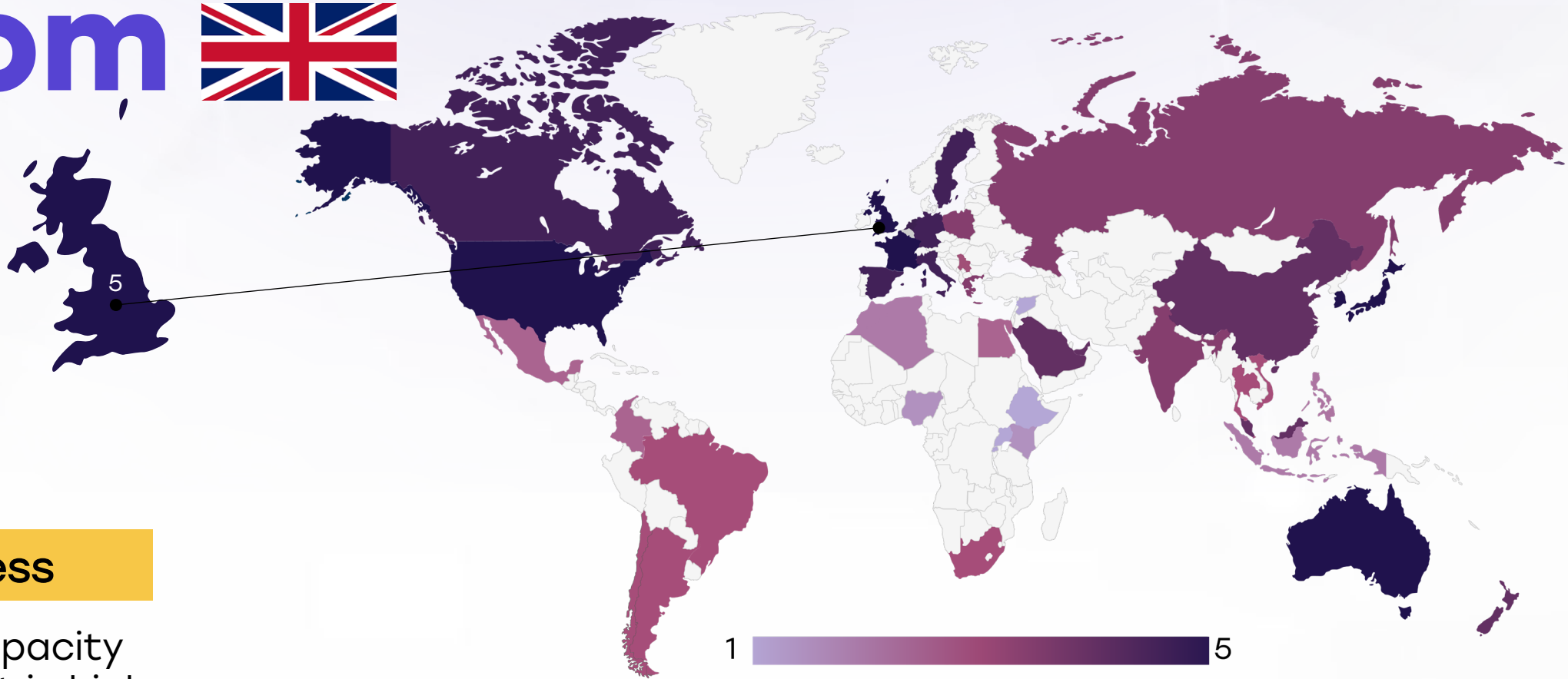
Lung cancer remains one of the most prevalent cancers worldwide, affecting millions of individuals each year. Despite advancements in diagnostics, treatment, and awareness, disparities in access to care, molecular testing, and specialized centers persist.

This factsheet provides a comprehensive overview of key pillars shaping lung cancer care, including specialized infrastructure, treatment accessibility, research funding, early detection, and palliative care.

- Lung cancer incidence: ~48,500 new cases annually
- Incidence rate: ~82.6 per 100,000 people
- Gender distribution:
 - Men: ~24,500 cases/year
 - Women: ~24,000 cases/year (increasing trend among women)
- Most affected age group: 70–74 years
- Lung cancer deaths annually: ~34,800 deaths
- 5-year survival rate: ~17% overall (varies by stage)
- 1-year survival rate: ~44%
- 10-year survival rate: ~10%
- Stage at diagnosis:
 - ~48% diagnosed at Stage III or IV
 - ~20% diagnosed at early stage (Stage I)
- Screening program:
 - Targeted low-dose CT screening piloted for high-risk groups
 - Full national rollout in progress
- Smoking-related cases: ~70% of lung cancer cases linked to smoking
- Molecular testing availability: Widely available (EGFR, ALK, ROS1, PD-L1, etc.)
- Awareness campaigns: Active public health campaigns (e.g., “Be Clear on Cancer”)

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Infrastructure



Strengths

- The UK has a well-distributed network of **NHS cancer centers** providing access to diagnostics (CT, PET-CT, MRI), surgery, radiotherapy, and systemic therapies across all nations.

Weakness

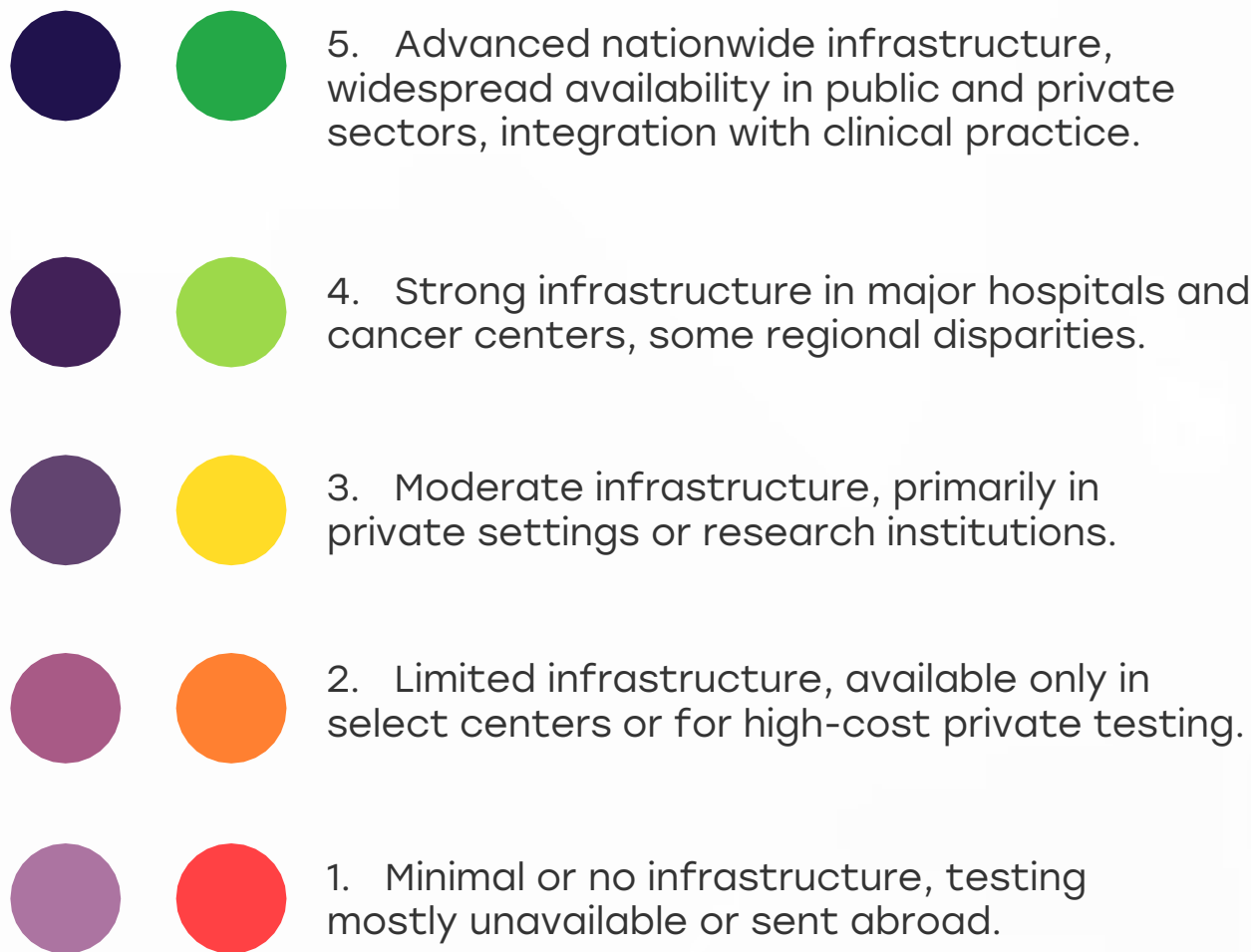
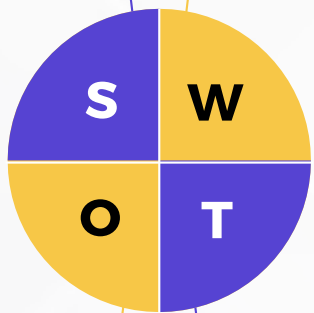
- Regional capacity strains exist in high-demand areas, leading to delays—some radiotherapy services report **4–6 week backlogs**.






















Opportunity

- Investment through the **NHS Long Term Plan** includes expansion of community diagnostic hubs and faster access targets.

Threats

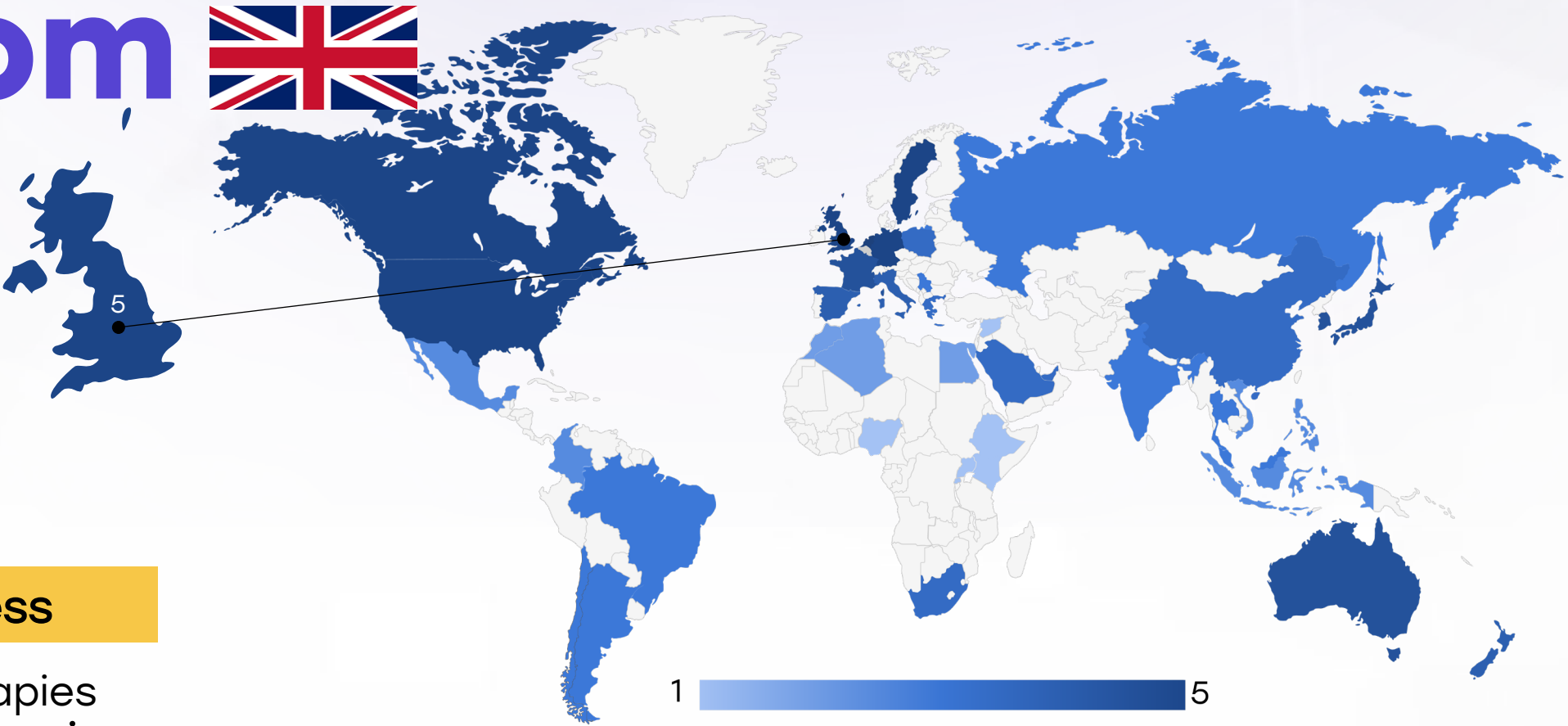
- Workforce shortages in radiology and oncology, and outdated equipment in some Trusts, affect timely diagnosis and treatment.



Country	Specialized Centers	Genetic & Molecular Testing Infrastructure
South Africa		
Kenya		
Nigeria		
Egypt		
Morocco		
Algeria		
Ethiopia		
India		
Japan		
South Korea		
China		
Thailand		
Singapore		
United Kingdom		
Germany		
France		
Netherlands		
Sweden		
Italy		
Spain		
Poland		
Mexico		
Brazil		
Argentina		
Chile		
Colombia		
United States		
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Uganda		
Serbia		
Saudi Arabia		
UAE		
Syria		
Indonesia		
Vietnam		
Philippines		
Russia		
Malaysia		

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Treatment Access, Research
Funding and Awareness
Campaigns



Strengths

- Access to **targeted therapies, immunotherapy, and combination regimens** is widespread and reimbursed via NICE recommendations.

Weakness

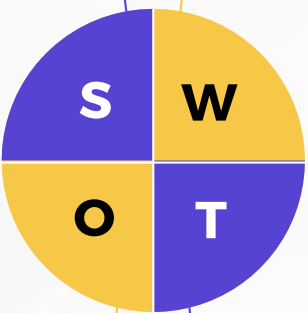
- Newer therapies face **time lags in NICE approval and NHS rollout**, which can delay access by 6–12 months after EMA approval.

Opportunity

- The UK is a leader in lung cancer clinical trials (e.g., through **Cancer Research UK, NCRI**), with robust public funding—CRUK allocated **£24 million** to lung cancer in 2022.

Threats

- Post-Brexit regulatory divergence from EMA may affect drug approval timelines and research collaboration.

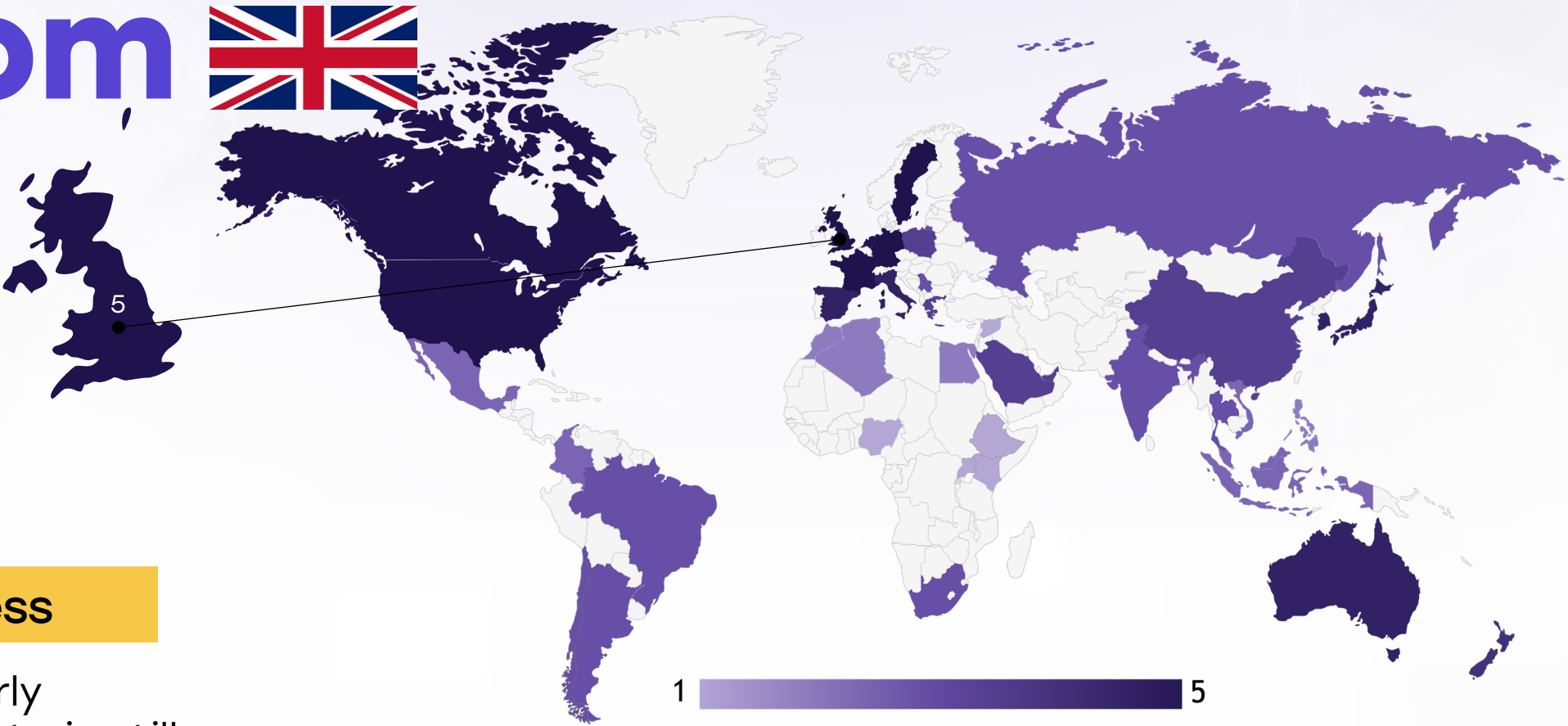


- 5. Strong healthcare infrastructure with comprehensive treatment access, high research funding, and nationwide awareness campaigns. Patients have access to advanced therapies, clinical trials, and widespread early detection programs.
- 4. Well-developed system with good treatment availability, strong research funding, and effective but regionally focused awareness campaigns. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or between public and private sectors.
- 3. Moderate development, with specialized treatments available in major hospitals, research funding concentrated on specific cancers, and occasional but limited awareness efforts. Healthcare access may be restricted by cost or geography.
- 2. Limited system where cancer treatment is available only in select urban centers, research funding is minimal or sporadic, and awareness campaigns are rare or underfunded. Patients often face long wait times or financial barriers.
- 1. Poor infrastructure with severe barriers to treatment, little to no research funding, and lack of structured awareness campaigns. Cancer care is largely inaccessible, with many patients relying on out-of-pocket expenses or external aid.

Country	Treatment Access	Research Funding	Awareness Campaigns
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
Germany			
France			
Netherlands			
Sweden			
Italy			
Spain			
Poland			
Mexico			
Brazil			
Argentina			
Chile			
Colombia			
United States			
Canada			
Australia			
Zealand			
Greece			
Rwanda			
Uganda			
Serbia			
Saudi Arabia			
UAE			
Syria			
Indonesia			
Vietnam			
Philippines			
Russia			
Malaysia			

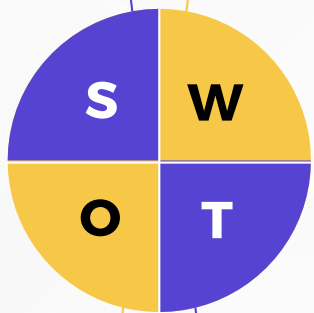
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Survival Rates, Early
Detection and
Palliative Care



Strengths

- The UK 5-year lung cancer survival rate has improved to **19.3%** (ONS, 2023), with over **30% diagnosed at early stages** in areas with screening pilots.



Weakness











- National early diagnosis rate is still suboptimal, with 40–50% of cases diagnosed at stage III or IV.




























































































































Opportunity

- The **Targeted Lung Health Checks (TLHC)** program offers LDCT screening for high-risk adults (ages 55–74 with smoking history) and showed **14% increase in early-stage diagnosis** in pilot areas.

Threats

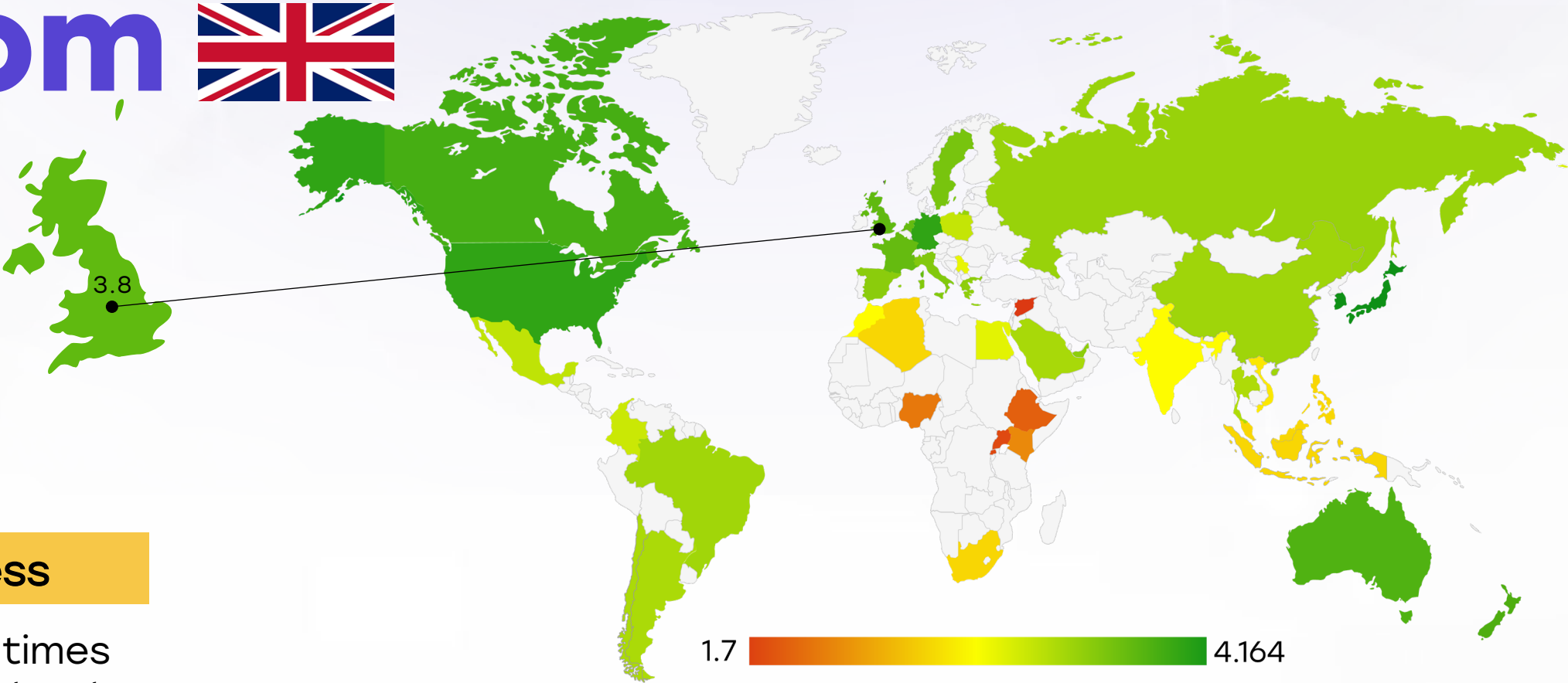
- Socioeconomic disparities in screening uptake and delayed referrals still lead to poor outcomes in deprived populations.

-   5. High survival rates, strong early detection programs, and well-established palliative care services. Patients have access to timely diagnosis, advanced treatments, and comprehensive end-of-life care.
-   4. Good survival rates, effective early detection efforts, and accessible but regionally limited palliative care. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or for specific cancer types.
-   3. Moderate survival rates, early detection available but not widespread, and palliative care services mainly in urban centers. Some patients experience delays in diagnosis or limited end-of-life care.
-   2. Low survival rates, early detection efforts are inconsistent or underfunded, and palliative care is minimal or only available in select hospitals. Cancer patients face significant access barriers.
-   1. Very low survival rates, poor early detection infrastructure, and almost no palliative care services. Many patients are diagnosed late and lack proper support for pain management and end-of-life care.

Country	Survival Rates	Early Detection	Palliative Care
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
Germany			
France			
Netherlands			
Sweden			
Italy			
Spain			
Poland			
Mexico			
Brazil			
Argentina			
Chile			
Colombia			
United States			
Canada			
Australia			
New Zealand			
Greece			
Rwanda			
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Serbia			
Saudi Arabia			
UAE			
Syria			
Indonesia			
Vietnam			
Philippines			
Russia			
Malaysia			

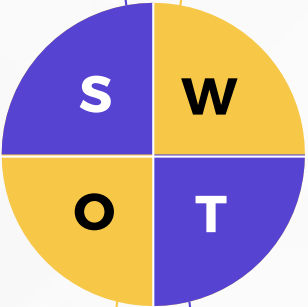
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Utilization of Biomarkers



Strengths

- Biomarker testing for **EGFR, ALK, ROS1, BRAF, RET, PD-L1, and NTRK** is integrated into NHS diagnostic pathways, guided by NICE and NHS Genomic Laboratory Hubs (GLHs).



Weakness

- Turnaround times vary across trusts, with some exceeding **21 days**, delaying treatment initiation.

Opportunity

- Nationwide roll-out of **next-generation sequencing (NGS)** and centralized GLHs supports equity in molecular diagnostics.

Threats

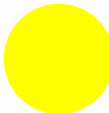
- Workforce shortages and inconsistent local practices limit uniformity in biomarker testing, especially in non-specialist hospitals.



5. Biomarker testing is widely available and routinely performed as part of standard clinical practice. Strong integration into treatment decisions, with national coverage and reimbursement ensuring accessibility.



4. Biomarker testing is commonly used, but access may be limited in certain regions or patient groups. Some disparities exist in coverage or affordability, but it is still a crucial part of cancer diagnostics



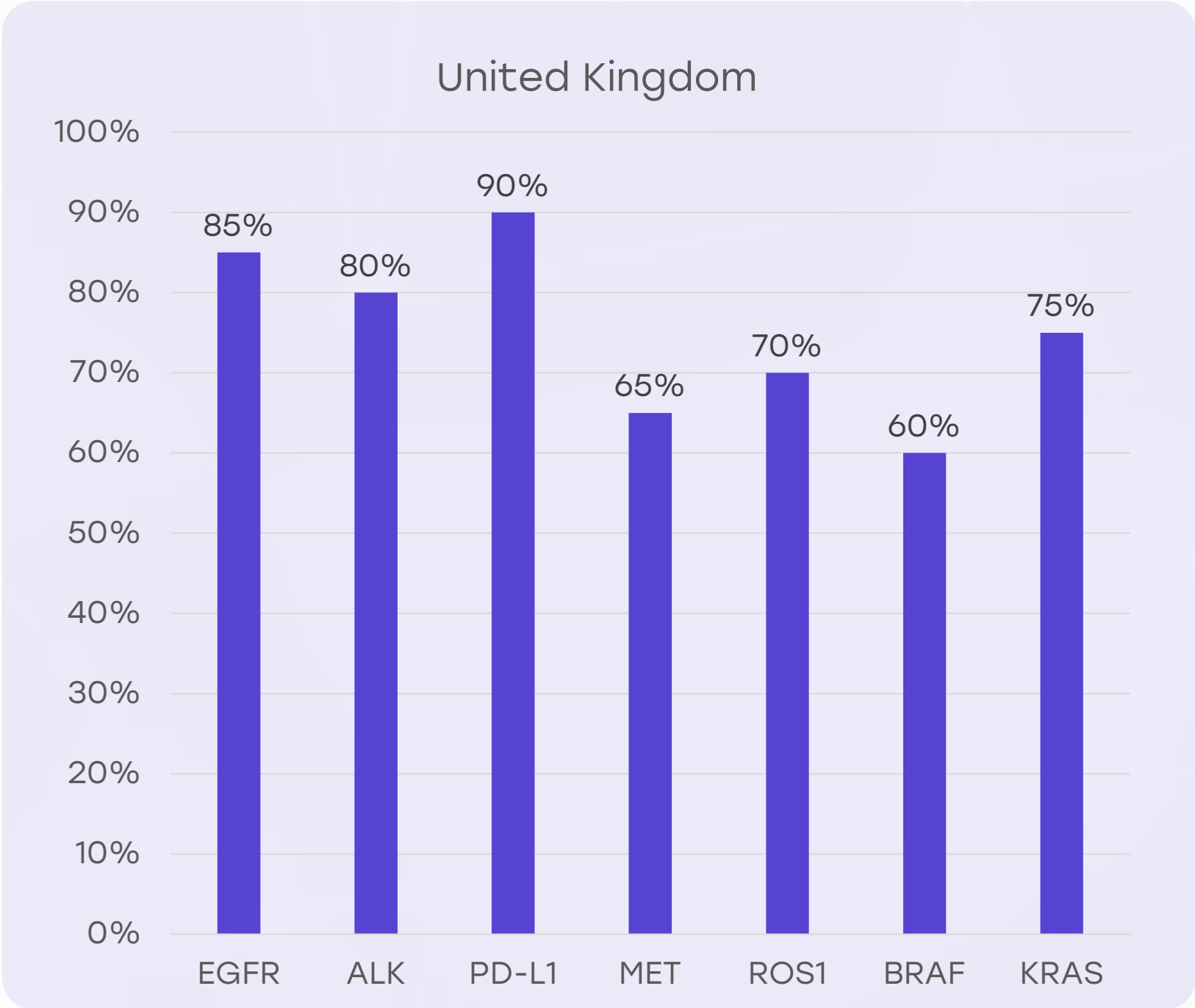
3. Moderate utilization, often restricted to major hospitals or private healthcare settings. Some patients may not receive biomarker testing due to cost or limited availability in public healthcare systems.



2. Biomarker testing is available but underutilized, with significant barriers such as high costs, lack of awareness, or limited infrastructure. Many patients may not receive recommended biomarker assessments.

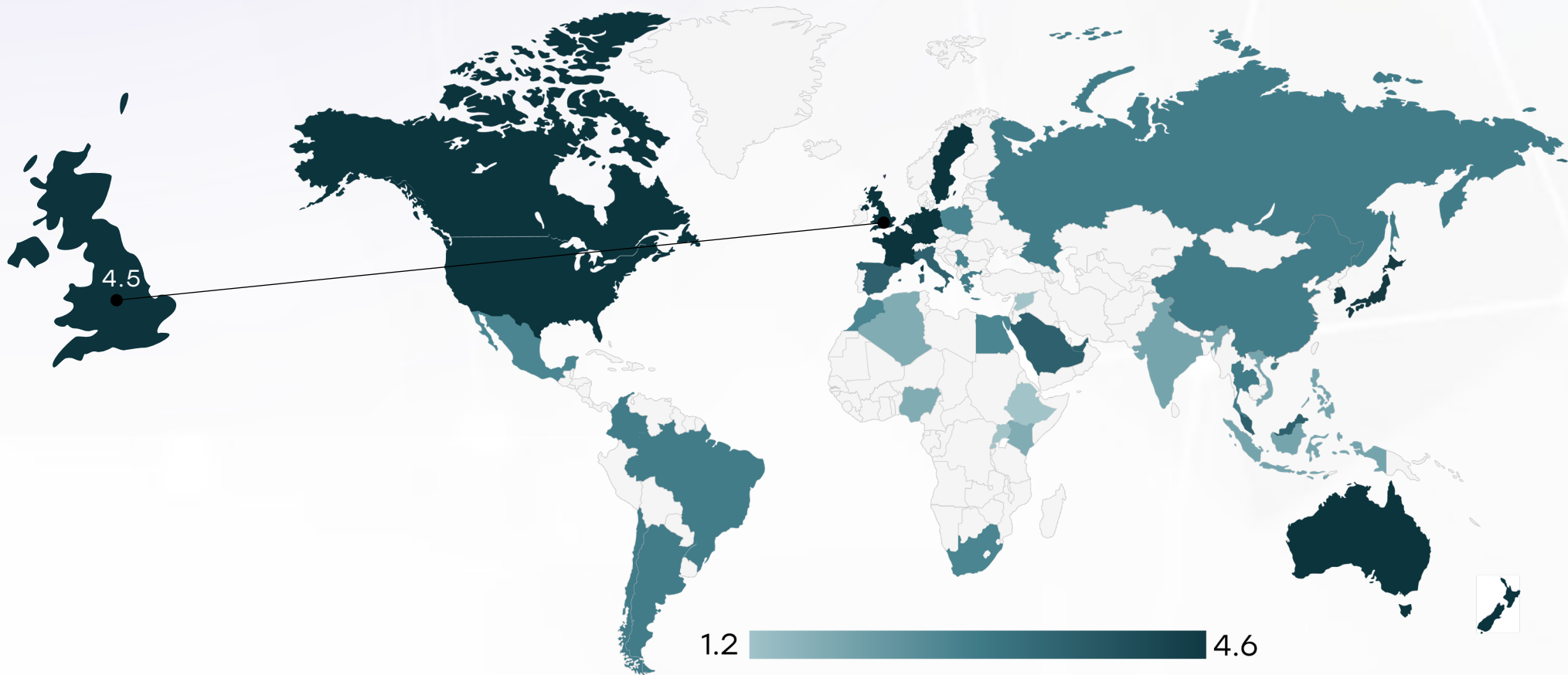


1. Biomarker testing is rarely performed, often due to lack of infrastructure, awareness, or financial barriers. Patients typically do not receive targeted therapies based on biomarker status.



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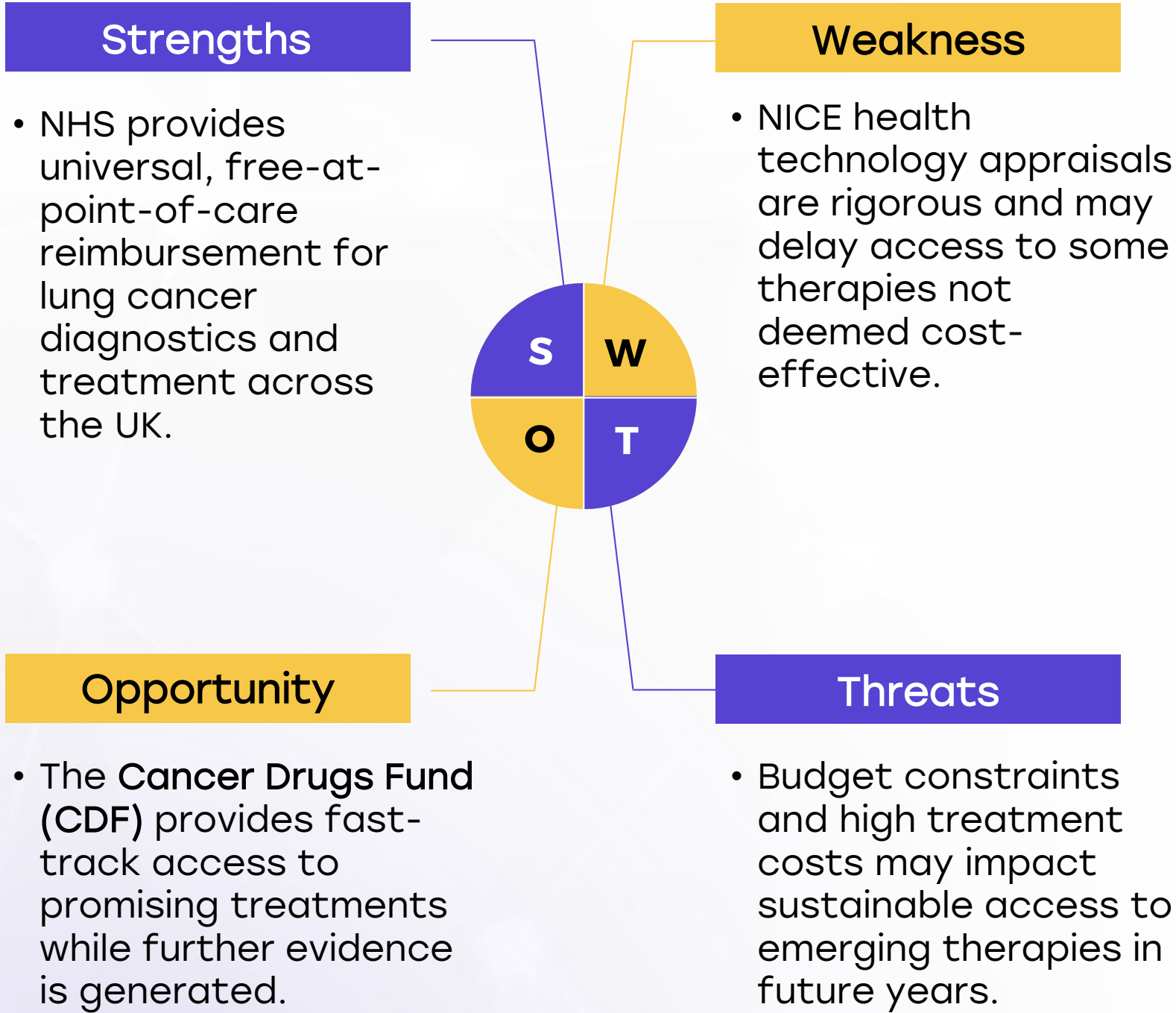
Clinical Guidelines


























































































	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Clinical Guideline Implementation	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Feasibility of Integration	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Adoption of International Guidelines	○	✗	✗	✗	✗
Engagement with Updates	✗	○	✗	✗	✗
ESMO Guidelines Implementation	○	✗	✗	✗	✗

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Reimbursement

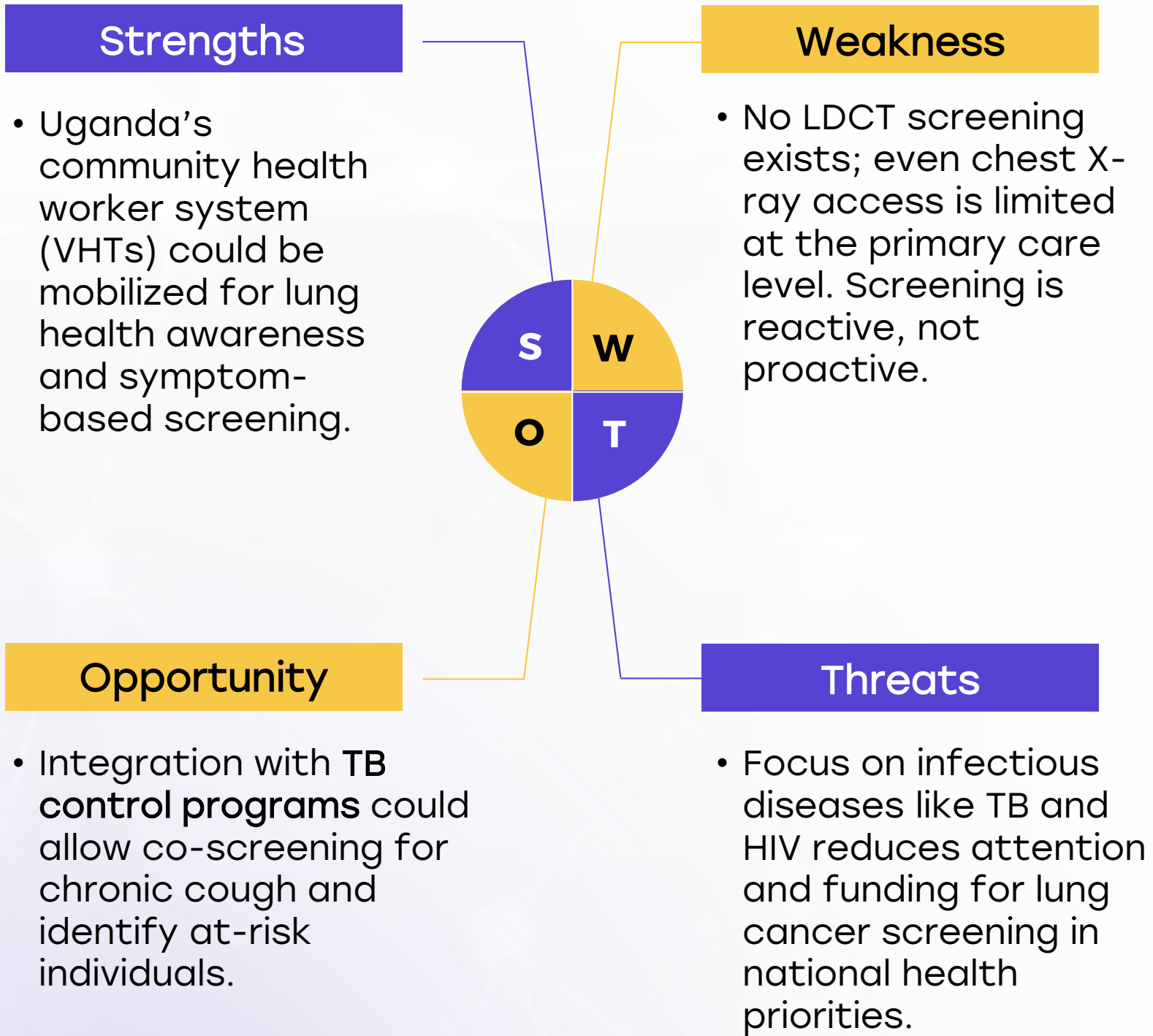


-  A structured reimbursement system exists, ensuring biomarker testing is covered through national healthcare systems, insurance, or public-private partnerships. Patients face no direct financial burden.
-  A reimbursement framework is in place, but patients may still have out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pays, limited coverage, or financial caps on testing.
-  No formal reimbursement system exists, meaning patients must fully cover the cost of biomarker testing out-of-pocket.

Country	Reimbursement Framework	No-cost Access
United States		
United Kingdom		
Canada		
Australia		
Germany		
France		
Netherlands		
Sweden		
Italy		
Spain		
Poland		
Japan		
South Korea		
China		
India		
Singapore		
Thailand		
South Africa		
Kenya		
Nigeria		
Egypt		
Morocco		
Algeria		
Ethiopia		
Mexico		
Brazil		
Argentina		
Chile		
Colombia		
New Zealand		
Greece		
Rwanda		
Uganda		
Serbia		
Saudi Arabia		
UAE		
Syria		
Indonesia		
Vietnam		
Philippines		
Russia		
Malaysia		

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Lung Cancer Screening



Country	Lung Cancer Screening
United States	Annual LDCT (50-80 years, high-risk smokers)
United Kingdom	LDCT for high-risk individuals (55-74 years)
Canada	LDCT for high-risk individuals (55-74 years)
Australia	No national program, high-risk groups advised LDCT
Germany	No national program, under evaluation
France	No national LDCT screening
Netherlands	Participating in European screening studies
Sweden	No national LDCT screening
Italy	Regional pilot LDCT screening
Spain	No national LDCT program
Poland	No national program
Japan	No national LDCT program
South Korea	LDCT for high-risk individuals (50-74 years)
China	No national LDCT program
India	No national LDCT program
Singapore	No national LDCT program
Saudi Arabia	No national LDCT program; some hospital-based opportunistic screening
UAE	No national LDCT program; early-stage pilot studies ongoing in select hospitals
Syria	No national LDCT program; screening not prioritized due to conflict
Malaysia	No program; high-risk CT pilots

Country	Lung Cancer Screening
Thailand	No national LDCT program
South Africa	No national LDCT program
Kenya	No national LDCT program
Nigeria	No national LDCT program
Egypt	No national LDCT program
Morocco	No national LDCT program
Algeria	No national LDCT program
Ethiopia	No national LDCT program
Mexico	No national LDCT program
Brazil	No national LDCT program
Argentina	No national LDCT program
Chile	No national LDCT program
Colombia	No national LDCT program
Zealand	No national LDCT program
Greece	No national LDCT program
Rwanda	No national LDCT program
Uganda	No national LDCT program
Serbia	No national LDCT program
Indonesia	No national LDCT program; opportunistic screening in private sector
Vietnam	No national LDCT program; early pilot screening studies in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh
Philippines	No national LDCT program; feasibility and awareness programs under discussion
Russia	No formal national LDCT program; regional pilot screening programs in large cities