



BRIDGING THE GAP

Enhancing Equitable Access & Innovation in Lung Cancer Care in France

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

France offers one of the most comprehensive lung cancer care systems in the world, with universal access to advanced therapies and internationally renowned cancer centers like Gustave Roussy (Paris) and Centre Léon Bérard (Lyon). Precision oncology, immunotherapy, and well-integrated palliative care are widely available. However, despite these strengths, early detection remains underdeveloped. A nationwide LDCT screening program is still lacking, and awareness campaigns have not fully translated into preventive action.

Rated at the highest level of lung cancer care maturity, France is well-positioned to close these gaps—by moving from pilot screening efforts to full implementation and by turning public awareness into earlier diagnoses.

INTRODUCTION

France's lung cancer care system is currently rated at **Level 5 – Leading**, reflecting high levels of development across diagnosis, treatment, research, and palliative services. The country benefits from a strong public healthcare infrastructure, which guarantees access to most advanced therapies. Leading cancer centers and substantial government and private investment fuel innovation in precision medicine.

However, despite its strengths, the system still lacks a nationwide LDCT screening program, which contributes to late diagnoses in many cases. Public awareness campaigns on lung cancer exist but have not fully translated into action—highlighting the need to convert strong foundations into early interventions for better outcomes.



France Ranks at Level 5 – Leading in Lung Cancer Care



LUNG CANCER CARE IN FRANCE

Key Pillars, Challenges, and Policy Solutions

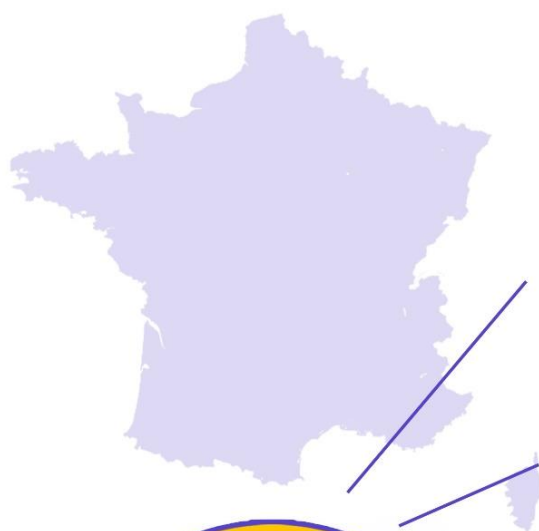
Key Area	Current Situation	Challenges	Policy Recommendations
Screening & Early Detection	LDCT screening is limited to pilot projects in selected regions.	Yes, pilots are ongoing—but without a nationwide program, many high-risk individuals remain undiagnosed until late stages.	Expand LDCT screening into a coordinated, nationwide program targeting high-risk populations.
Treatment Access	Universal healthcare covers most advanced treatments including immunotherapy.	Yes, access is guaranteed—but delays in diagnosis and administrative processes can still hinder timely treatment initiation.	Streamline care pathways and reduce wait times by optimizing diagnostic and referral systems.
Research Funding	Strong public and private investment in lung cancer research and innovation.	Yes, funding is robust—but coordination between institutions and translation into clinical practice could be stronger.	Strengthen collaboration across research centers and enhance support for translational research and innovation.
Public Awareness	National campaigns on lung cancer awareness and smoking cessation exist.	Yes, campaigns exist—but they have not led to widespread participation in early detection or screening programs.	Launch targeted outreach focused on high-risk populations to convert awareness into action.
Palliative Care	Widely integrated through national health system and NGOs like La Ligue Contre le Cancer.	Yes, services are available—but regional disparities persist, with some rural areas lacking consistent access to palliative and end-of-life support.	Invest in rural palliative care infrastructure and integrate services with local primary healthcare providers.



CONCLUSION & Call to Action

France's lung cancer care system ranks among the best in the world. Patients benefit from equitable access to innovative treatments and world-class clinical research. But these achievements lose their full impact when early detection remains limited. The absence of a nationwide LDCT screening program is a critical gap—and one that can be closed with political will and strategic investment.

To fully realize the potential of its healthcare system, France must now act to elevate early detection and prevention to the same level as treatment. Expanding screening, improving care coordination, and reaching underserved populations will ensure that lung cancer patients across the country benefit from timely, effective, and compassionate care.



1 Implement a nationwide LDCT screening program for high-risk populations, building on the success of pilot initiatives.

2 Accelerate diagnostic-to-treatment timelines by optimizing hospital coordination and reducing administrative barriers.

3 Foster translational research and inter-institutional collaboration to bring innovations more quickly to patients.

4 Enhance public education campaigns with focused outreach to high-risk, underserved populations.

5 Improve equity in palliative care access by expanding rural services and supporting integrated care delivery models.