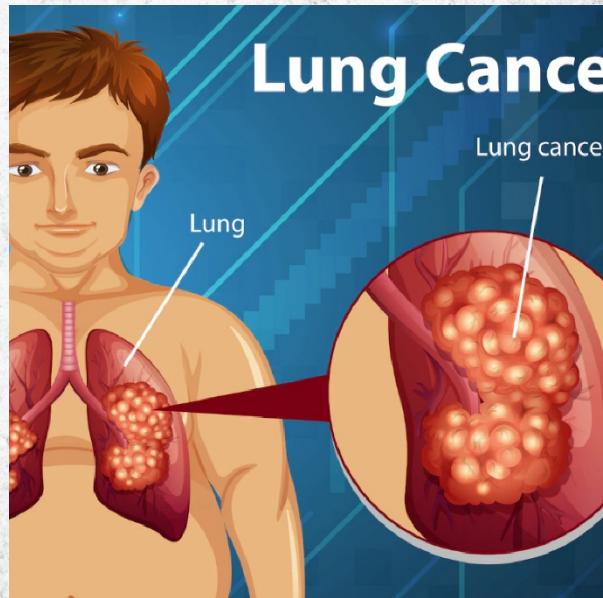


Lung cancer:



Lung cancer is a type of cancer that begins in the lungs.

Symptoms:

In the early stages lung cancer doesn't show any symptoms. Signs and symptoms of lung cancer are shown when the disease is advanced.

Signs and symptoms of lung cancer may include:

- A constant cough
- Coughing up blood, even a small amount
- Shortness of breath
- Chest pain
- Hoarseness
- Losing weight without trying
- Bone pain

- Headache

Causes:

Smoking is the main cause of lung cancer for both smokers and people exposed to secondhand smoke. But lung cancer can also happen in people who never smoked and in those who never had prolonged exposure to secondhand smoke. In these cases, there may be no clear cause of lung cancer. Scientists think that smoking causes lung cancer by damaging the cells that line the lungs. When the person inhale cigarette smoke, which is full of cancer-causing substances (carcinogens), changes in the lung tissue begin almost immediately.

Types of lung cancer:

Non-small Cell Lung Cancer

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

Small Cell Lung Cancer

Small cell lung cancer is less common than non-small cell lung cancer. This type of lung cancer grows fairly rapidly, is likely to be advanced by the time of diagnosis and spreads to other parts of the body quickly.

Complications:

- Shortness of breath.
- Coughing up blood.
- Pain because advanced lung cancer that spreads to the lining of a lung or to another area of the body, such as a bone, can cause pain.
- Fluid in the chest (pleural effusion). Lung cancer can cause fluid to accumulate in the space that surrounds the affected lung in the chest cavity (pleural space).

Prevention:

- Quit smoking and avoid second hand smoke.
- Test your home for radon. Have the radon levels in your home checked, especially if you live in an area where radon is known to be a problem. High radon levels can be remedied to make your home safer.
- Take precautions to protect yourself from exposure to toxic chemicals at work.
- Maintain a healthy lifestyle by choose a healthy diet with a variety of fruits and vegetables, and try to exercise most days of the week.

Treatment:

Surgery

Surgery is still considered the 'gold standard' to treat early stage of lung cancer.

Radiation Therapy

Radiation therapy is a form of high energy X-ray that destroys cancer cells. It can be used as a primary treatment, or in combination with chemotherapy (with or without surgery). It often can play an important role in advanced cancer patients by providing relief from pain, blockage of the airways, shortness of breath or coughing.

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy is the use of drugs that are designed to destroy cancer cells.

Stereotactic body radiotherapy

Stereotactic body radiotherapy, also known as radiosurgery, is an intense radiation treatment that aims many beams of radiation from many angles at the cancer. Stereotactic body radiotherapy treatment is typically completed in one or a few treatments.



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