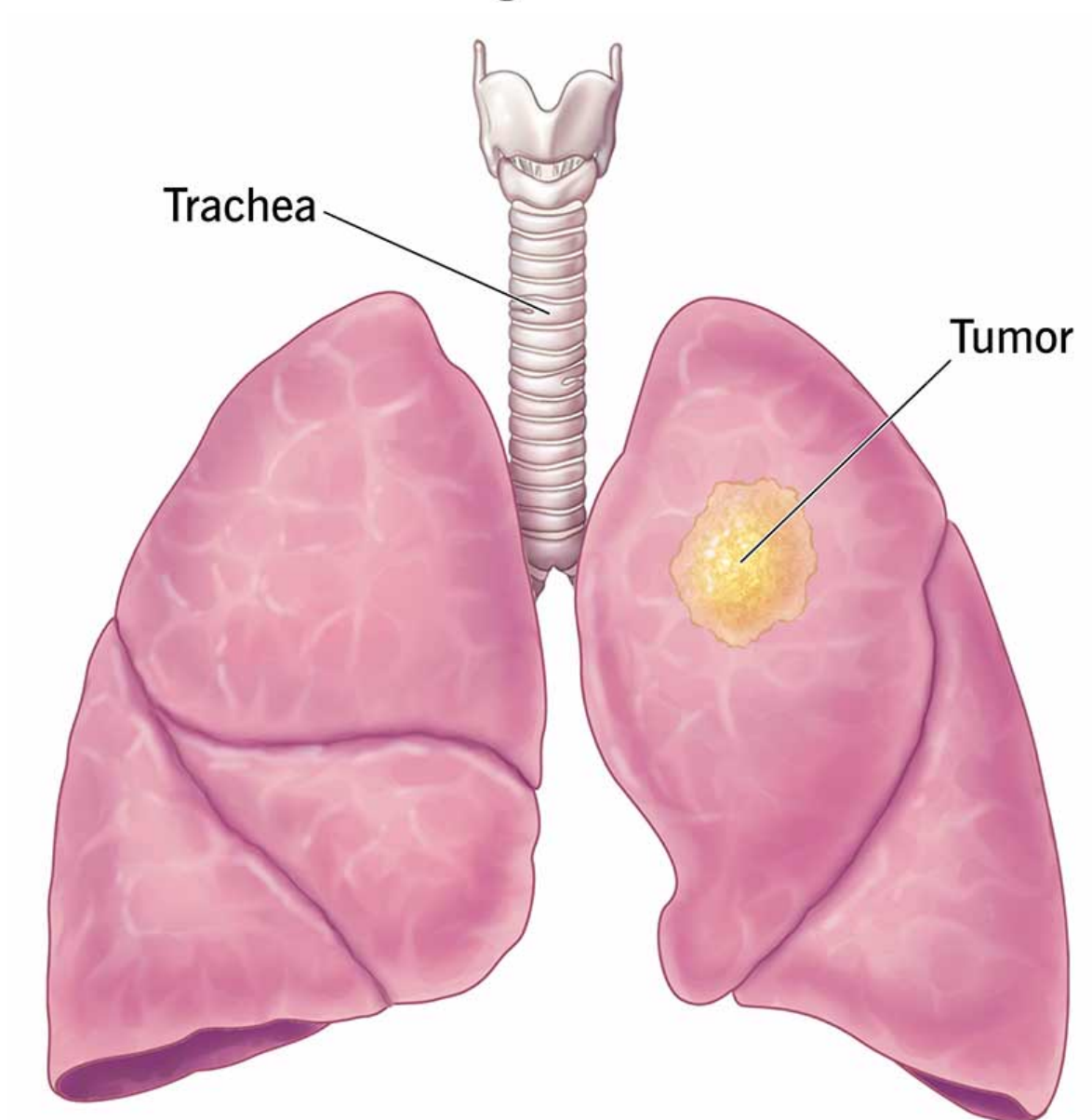




Lung Cancer

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What is lung cancer?

Lung cancer is a disease caused by uncontrolled cell division in your lungs. Your cells divide and make more copies of themselves as a part of their normal function. But sometimes, they get changes (mutations) that cause them to keep making more of themselves when they shouldn't. Damaged cells dividing uncontrollably create masses, or tumors, of tissue that eventually keep your organs from working properly.

What are the types of lung cancer?

- Non-small cell lung cancer
- Small cell lung cancer

What are the stages of lung cancer?

- **Stage 0 (in-situ):** Cancer is in the top lining of the lung or bronchus. It hasn't spread to other parts of the lung or outside of the lung.
- **Stage I:** Cancer hasn't spread outside the lung.
- **Stage II:** Cancer is larger than Stage I, has spread to lymph nodes inside the lung, or there's more than one tumor in the same lobe of the lung.
- **Stage III:** Cancer is larger than Stage II, has spread to nearby lymph nodes or structures or there's more than one tumor in a different lobe of the same lung.
- **Stage IV:** Cancer has spread to the other lung, the fluid around the lung, the fluid around the heart or distant organs.

Symptoms and Causes

▼ Symptoms

A cough or pneumonia that keeps coming back after treatment can sometimes be an early sign of lung cancer (though it can also be a sign of less serious conditions). The most common signs of lung cancer include a persistent or worsening cough, shortness of breath, chest pain, hoarseness or unexplained weight loss.

Depending on where in your lungs cancer starts, some of these symptoms can happen early (in stages I or II) but often they don't happen until cancer has progressed to later stages.



Cancer can grow in your body for a long time — years — before you know it's there. Lung cancer often doesn't cause symptoms in early stages.

▼ Causes

While there are many factors that can increase your risk of lung cancer, smoking any kind of tobacco products, including cigarettes, cigars or pipes is the biggest single risk factor. Experts estimate that 80% of lung cancer deaths are smoking-related.

Other risk factors include:

- Being exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke.
- Being exposed to harmful substances, like air pollution, radon, asbestos, uranium, diesel exhaust, silica, coal products and others.
- Having previous radiation treatments to your chest (for instance, for breast cancer or lymphoma).
- Having a family history of lung cancer.

Diagnosis and Tests

- Blood tests
- Imaging
- Biopsy
- Molecular tests