

Category	Category Descriptor	Category	Findings	Management	Probability of Malignancy	Estimated Population Prevalence
Incomplete	-	0	prior chest CT examination(s) being located for comparison part or all of lungs cannot be evaluated	Additional lung cancer screening CT images and/or comparison to prior chest CT examinations is needed	n/a	1%
Negative	No nodules and definitely benign nodules	1	no lung nodules nodule(s) with specific calcifications: complete, central, popcorn, concentric rings and fat containing nodules	Continue annual screening with LDCT in 12 months	< 1%	90%
Benign Appearance or Behavior	Nodules with a very low likelihood of becoming a clinically active cancer due to size or lack of growth	2	solid nodule(s): < 6 mm new < 4 mm			
			part solid nodule(s): < 6 mm total diameter on baseline screening			
			non solid nodule(s) (GGN): < 20 mm OR ≥ 20 mm and unchanged or slowly growing category 3 or 4 nodules unchanged for ≥ 3 months			
Probably Benign	Probably benign finding(s) - short term follow up suggested; includes nodules with a low likelihood of becoming a clinically active cancer	3	solid nodule(s): ≥ 6 to < 8 mm at baseline OR new 4 mm to < 6 mm part solid nodule(s) ≥ 6 mm total diameter with solid component < 6 mm OR new < 6 mm total diameter non solid nodule(s) (GGN) ≥ 20 mm on baseline CT or new	6 month LDCT	1-2%	5%
Suspicious	Findings for which additional diagnostic testing and/or tissue sampling is recommended	4A	solid nodule(s): ≥ 8 to < 15 mm at baseline OR growing < 8 mm OR new 6 to < 8 mm part solid nodule(s): ≥ 6 mm with solid component ≥ 6 mm to < 8 mm OR with a new or growing < 4 mm solid component endobronchial nodule	3 month LDCT; PET/CT may be used when there is a ≥ 8 mm solid component	5-15%	2%
		4B	solid nodule(s) ≥ 15 mm OR new or growing, and ≥ 8 mm part solid nodule(s) with: a solid component ≥ 8 mm OR a new or growing ≥ 4 mm solid component	chest CT with or without contrast, PET/CT and/or tissue sampling depending on the *probability of malignancy and comorbidities. PET/CT may be used when there is a ≥ 8 mm solid component.	> 15%	2%
		4X	Category 3 or 4 nodules with additional features or imaging findings that increases the suspicion of malignancy			
Other	Clinically Significant or Potentially Clinically Significant Findings (non lung cancer)	S	modifier - may add on to category 0-4 coding	As appropriate to the specific finding	n/a	10%
Prior Lung Cancer	Modifier for patients with a prior diagnosis of lung cancer who return to screening	C	modifier - may add on to category 0-4 coding	-	-	-

**IMPORTANT NOTES FOR USE:**

- Negative screen: does not mean that an individual does not have lung cancer
- Size: nodules should be measured on lung windows and reported as the average diameter rounded to the nearest whole number; for round nodules only a single diameter measurement is necessary
- Size Thresholds: apply to nodules at first detection, and that grow and reach a higher size category
- Growth: an increase in size of > 1.5 mm
- Exam Category: each exam should be coded 0-4 based on the nodule(s) with the highest degree of suspicion
- Exam Modifiers: S and C modifiers may be added to the 0-4 category
- Lung Cancer Diagnosis: Once a patient is diagnosed with lung cancer, further management (including additional imaging such as PET/CT) may be performed for purposes of lung cancer staging; this is no longer screening
- Practice audit definitions: a negative screen is defined as categories 1 and 2; a positive screen is defined as categories 3 and 4
- Category 4B Management: this is predicated on the probability of malignancy based on patient evaluation, patient preference and risk of malignancy; radiologists are encouraged to use the McWilliams et al assessment tool when making recommendations
- Category 4X: nodules with additional imaging findings that increase the suspicion of lung cancer, such as spiculation, GGN that doubles in size in 1 year, enlarged lymph nodes etc
- Nodules with features of an intrapulmonary lymph node should be managed by mean diameter and the 0-4 numerical category classification
- Category 3 and 4A nodules that are unchanged on interval CT should be coded as category 2, and individuals returned to screening in 12 months
- LDCT: low dose chest CT

**\*Link to McWilliams Lung Cancer Risk Calculator**

Upon request from the authors at: <http://www.brocku.ca/lung-cancer-risk-calculator>

At UpToDate <http://www.uptodate.com/contents/calculator-solitary-pulmonary-nodule-malignancy-risk-brock-university-cancer-prediction-equation>