



Are you a smoker or former smoker?

Lung cancer screening with a low-dose computed tomography scan may be right for you.



Screening tests check for cancer in people who don't have any signs or symptoms. Screening tests may help find cancer early, when it's small and easier to treat.

A low-dose CT (LDCT) scan is the test used to screen for lung cancer. This is a type of x-ray to look at your lungs. The scan is painless and takes just a few minutes. You will not have to change out of your clothes.

Your doctor can talk with you about lung cancer screening and determine if you are eligible for screening. Together, you can decide if lung cancer screening with LDCT is right for you.

Check with your doctor about your insurance coverage.

The American Cancer Society recommends yearly lung cancer screening only for adults at **higher risk of the disease who meet each of the following criteria:**

Age: 55 to 74. Medicare covers screening up to age 77.

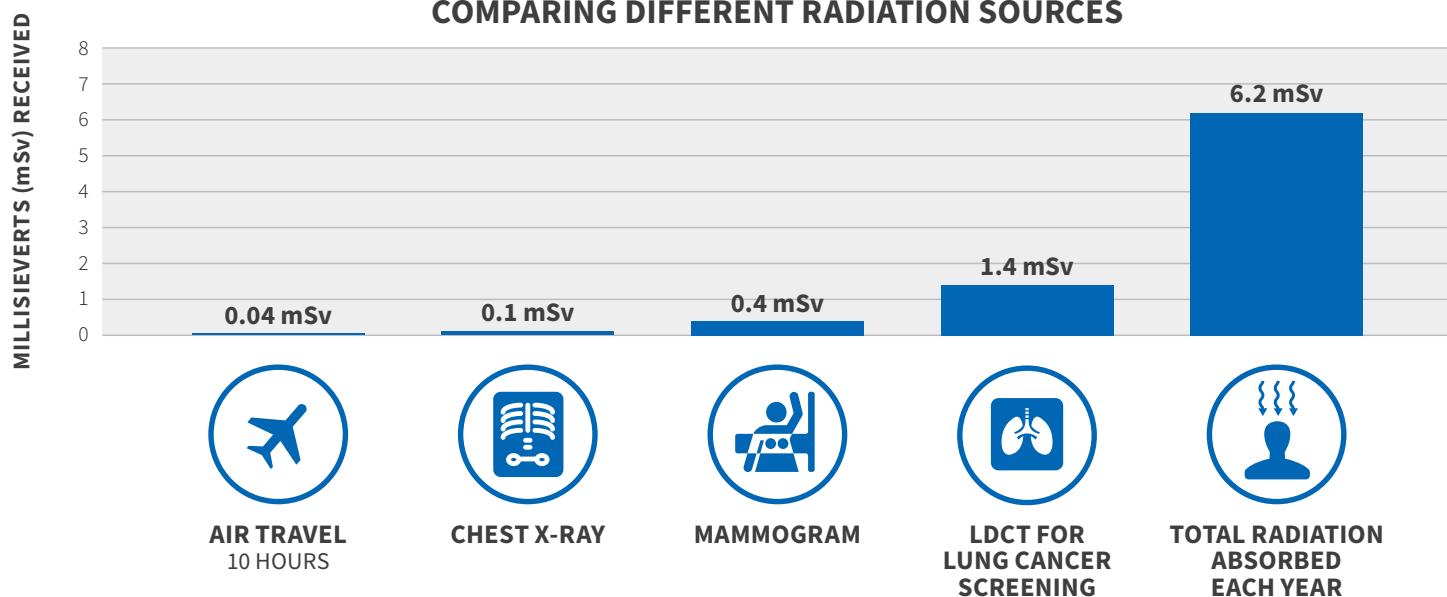
Smoking history: Current smokers, or former smokers who stopped smoking within the past 15 years. For example, if you have smoked 1 pack (20 cigarettes) a day (or more) for many years.

What should I know about lung cancer screening?

- **An LDCT scan gives more detailed pictures than a standard chest x-ray.** Standard chest x-rays are not recommended for lung cancer screening
- **Additional testing may be necessary.** Many smokers have lung nodules that can be seen on an LDCT scan, and your doctor may want to take another look at these.
- **Follow-up.** People who choose to be screened should be willing to undergo additional tests and treatment if something is found. Additional testing doesn't always mean you have lung cancer.
- **Overtreatment.** Sometimes screening leads to finding and treating a cancer that would not have ever caused symptoms.



COMPARING DIFFERENT RADIATION SOURCES



Sources: Agency of Healthcare Research and Quality, effectivehealthcare.ahrq.gov/decision-aids/lung-cancer-screening/clinician-summary
United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission, nrc.gov

- **Radiation exposure.** LDCT exposes you to a small amount of radiation, much less than a standard chest CT scan. There is a very small chance that yearly exposure to radiation from LDCT scans could cause cancer.

The graph above shows the amount of radiation that people are exposed to in one year and exposure from commonly used tests and from everyday activities. Experts say that the radiation exposure associated with LDCT screening is low.

- **Screening reduces the risk of dying from lung cancer.**
- **If you choose to be screened, it is important to return each year for LDCT screening.**
- **Quitting smoking can help reduce your risk of lung cancer.** You do not have to have quit smoking before being screened for lung cancer, but if you are a smoker, talk with your doctor about a plan and tools to help you quit.

Call your American Cancer Society at **1-800-227-2345** or visit **www.cancer.org** for information about lung cancer screening or for help quitting smoking.