



What you need to know about...

Lung Cancer

Lung cancer begins in the lung, and develops when cells in the lung begin to grow out of control. While normal cells grow, divide and die, cancer cells do not die and continue to form abnormal cells. A tumor forms because cells are growing out of control. Cancer cells begin to act differently from normal cells because of something that damages a person's DNA (genes that tell the cells what to do). There are several different types of lung cancer that fall under two general types: non small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer.

There are many symptoms, or signs, of lung cancer. These symptoms usually develop after the cancer has been growing for some time.

Symptoms can include:

- Cough that won't go away
- Coughing up blood
- Chest, back or shoulder pain
- Shortness of breath
- Wheezing
- Hoarseness
- Being tired
- Weight loss

There are many causes of lung cancer. It is important for you to be aware of your risk.

Causes of lung cancer include:

- Smoking
- Radon
- Secondhand smoke
- Small particles in the air that come from diesel vehicles and power plants
- Family history
- History of having another lung disease like tuberculosis, asthma, pulmonary fibrosis or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- Other things in the environment like asbestos, dusts, smoke, fumes, gases, mists, sprays or vapors

If you or someone you know has these symptoms or you believe you are at risk for lung cancer, please see your doctor to talk about your concerns.