What to know about advanced lung cancer: testing, diagnosis, treatment and next steps

If you have been diagnosed with advanced lung cancer or are at increased risk, having accurate information about early detection, treatment options and next steps is critical in the fight against the disease.

Screening

Can you detect lung cancer early?

Doctors have found a screening test for those who meet the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force’s (USPSTF) screening criteria to help find a cancer disease early, when treatment may work better.

The U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recently expanded screening eligibility to recommend annual screenings for lung cancer in adults (ages 50-80 years old) who have a 20-pack year smoking history and who currently smoke or have quit smoking within the past 15 years.

What to know about advanced lung cancer:

- 52% of people living with advanced lung cancer were unaware of screening requirements prior to diagnosis, according to results from a survey conducted by Merck and GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer of over 500 patients, caregivers and healthcare providers.
- Only ~4% of eligible, high-risk Americans were screened for lung cancer in 2018, according to The American Lung Association (ALA).

It’s important to advocate for your health, which may include communicating with your doctor about changes to testing and treatment options, visits due to COVID-19. This may help ensure that you are receiving the best care possible during the pandemic. Ask your doctor about early detection and preventative measures you can take to lower your risk of advanced lung cancer during the pandemic and throughout your cancer care.

Preventing the disease

The majority of healthcare providers (87%) in the same survey of over 500 patients, caregivers and healthcare providers believe it’s easy for patients, caregivers and healthcare providers to learn more and download a discussion guide www.fightlungcancer.com to learn more.

Understanding your diagnosis and options

Understanding treatment options

People with advanced lung cancer often lean on their doctors

People with advanced lung cancer often are not sure how to weigh the risks and benefits of various treatment options, even after speaking with their oncologist. Some patients may leave the ultimate decision on treatment up to their healthcare providers.

When first diagnosed, 79% of patients said their doctor clearly explained the value of being treated for advanced lung cancer as found in the survey conducted by Merck and GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer.

However, of the patients surveyed:
- 56% doubted that treatment would make a difference in their outcome
- 53% did not feel informed enough to make the right decisions for themselves about treatment.

Treatment decisions should ideally be made by both the doctor and person who has been diagnosed with the disease. Ask your doctor for information about the different treatment options that are available to help you make an informed decision about your treatment.

Coming to terms with the realities of advanced lung cancer

The major role of healthcare providers (56%) in the same survey of over 500 patients, caregivers and healthcare providers is to help navigate those commonly faced issues and to connect you with others who have been through similar experiences.

Visit www.fightlungcancer.com to learn more and download a discussion guide to help you and your loved ones have an informed conversation with your doctor about treatment options and additional support resources.

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Understanding early detection, treatment options and next steps is critical in the fight against advanced lung cancer.