



FIVE THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is not a death sentence – with new treatments there is hope. Raising awareness of the disease can extend lives for those at risk of developing, and those diagnosed with, lung cancer.

Here are important facts to help increase your knowledge of lung cancer:

- **Early detection can increase survival.** Finding the disease before it has spread can increase survival; however, only 15% of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at the early stages.
- **Advances in screening methods have increased survival.** New screening methods are making it possible to detect lung cancer at the earliest stages of the disease, when it is most treatable and survivable.
- **More and better treatments have improved survival.** New treatment options and combinations of existing treatments can reduce pain and, for many patients, extend lives.
- **Addressing risk factors can reduce the incidence of lung cancer.** Smoking is the primary risk factor of lung cancer and quitting smoking can reduce the chances of developing the disease. Other risk factors include air pollution, tuberculosis, and second-hand smoke.
- **Lung cancer is increasingly a women's disease.** Women now account for nearly half of all new lung cancer cases. Since 1987, more women have died each year of lung cancer than breast cancer.

In 2003, an estimated 171,900 people will be diagnosed with lung cancer and 157,200 will die from the disease, a number higher than breast, prostate, and colorectal cancers *combined*. To learn more about lung cancer visit www.lungcancer.org.