



LUNG CANCER CT SCREENING AT DAVIS MEDICAL CENTER

ABOUT



Screening Criteria

For lung cancer in particular, a number of groups have agreed on the criteria for people who should consider a CT scan of their lungs even if they have no symptoms. According to the National Lung Cancer Partnership, guidelines from the American Cancer Society, The American College of Chest Physicians/American Society of Clinical Oncology/ American Thoracic Society and The American Lung Association recommend CT screening for lung cancer only for the following “high-risk” individuals:

- People 55-74 with a history of heavy smoking - at least “30-pack years”, which would include people who smoked one pack of cigarettes per day for 30 years or people who smoked two packs per day for 15 years, or three packs per day for 10 years, etc.
- If not currently smoking, quit within the prior 15 years.
- Others also might want to consider the precautionary step, according to The National Comprehensive Cancer Network. That entity suggests including people over 50 years of age with at least 20 pack-years plus at least one other risk factor.

The Procedure

The screening is performed in the diagnostic radiology department of Davis Medical Center. During the exam spiral CT scans create 3-D images by rotating the scanner around the body, in this case to check for abnormalities in the lungs. The procedure takes less than one minute and no medications are necessary.

Risks

Although advance screening has proven to save lives, it is not without risks that patients and their physicians should consider. A conversation is a must before starting the screening process, but here are some things to consider:

- The CT scanner utilized by Davis Medical Center delivers a low dose of radiation, but exposure to radiation does carry some inherent risk. By utilizing specific techniques, the amount of radiation in LDCT lung screening is small.
- Scans may show a “false positive,” or indicate abnormality that is not cancerous. Additional follow up tests or procedures may be recommended. Some invasive procedures such as a bronchoscopy, biopsy or surgery can have potential side effects. In rare cases, those procedures can lead to major complications.
- It is possible that you may have a medical condition, including lung cancer, which is not found during your exam. This is referred to as a “false negative”.
- Early screening procedures have proven to help, but a CT scan may discover a lung cancer at a more advanced stage.
- Images captured during the LDCT lung screening also capture images of areas of your body next to your lungs. In a small percentage of cases, the CT scan will show an abnormal finding in one of these areas. Your health care provider may recommend further examination or additional testing.



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Screening Results

Results should be expected within 2 weeks of the screening exam. A copy of the results will be sent to the referring physician. Abnormal results will also be sent to Dr. Ronald Mudry, Pulmonologist, for review and follow up care.

The Cost

The cost of the program is \$99 and includes the Low Dose CT Screening and a Smoking Cessation class. The fee will be collected the day of your test. Insurance cannot be billed for your screening exam. Your insurance may be billed for additional tests should they be recommended following the CT Lung Screening.

To Make an Appointment

A physician order is necessary for the screening. If you are a physician office staff or patient please call 304.637.3185 to determine if you qualify, and to schedule a lung screening exam.

