Lung Cancer Screening


For people 50 to 80 years old with 20 or more pack-years smoking history and who currently smoke or have quit within the past 15 years, chest CT ([https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/chestct](https://www.radiologyinfo.org/en/info/chestct)) without intravenous contrast (an imaging test done with a lower radiation dose) is usually appropriate. Twenty pack-years is smoking one pack of cigarettes a day for 20 years, two packs a day for 10 years, and so on.

There are no imaging tests recommended for people younger than 50 years, regardless of their smoking history, and people of any age with a less than 20 pack-year smoking history, even if they have other risk factors. These risk factors include radon exposure, occupational exposure to cancer-causing chemicals (carcinogens), having been diagnosed with cancer, having a family history of lung cancer, having been diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or with pulmonary fibrosis.


— By Rachael Newman and Nina Vincoff, MD. This information originally appeared in the *Journal of the American College of Radiology.*

**Disclaimer**

This information is copied from the RadiologyInfo Web site ([http://www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org)) which is dedicated to providing the highest quality information. To ensure that, each section is reviewed by a physician with expertise in the area presented. All information contained in the Web site is further reviewed by an ACR (American College of Radiology) - RSNA (Radiological Society of North America) committee, comprising physicians with expertise in several radiologic areas.

However, it is not possible to assure that this Web site contains complete, up-to-date information on any particular subject. Therefore, ACR and RSNA make no representations or warranties about the suitability of this information for use for any particular purpose. All information is provided "as is" without express or implied warranty.

Please visit the RadiologyInfo Web site at [http://www.radiologyinfo.org](http://www.radiologyinfo.org) to view or download the latest information.

**Note:** Images may be shown for illustrative purposes. Do not attempt to draw conclusions or make diagnoses by comparing these images to other medical images, particularly your own. Only qualified physicians should interpret images; the radiologist is the physician expert trained in medical imaging.

**Copyright**

This material is copyrighted by either the Radiological Society of North America (RSNA), 820 Jorie Boulevard, Oak Brook, IL 60523-2251 or the American College of Radiology (ACR), 1891 Preston White Drive, Reston, VA 20191-4397. Commercial reproduction or multiple distribution by any traditional or electronically based reproduction/publication method is prohibited.

Copyright © 2024 Radiological Society of North America, Inc.