

INCIDENCE AND SCREENING OF NON SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER



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Lung cancer is the most common cancer and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths worldwide. [1] There are two main types of lung cancer; small cell and non-small cell lung cancer. Non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) consists of approximately ~85% of primary lung cancers, the most common subtypes being adenocarcinoma (ADC) and squamous cell carcinoma (SCC) [2].

Environmental and lifestyle factors have been proven to affect the subsequent development of lung cancer, of which cigarette smoking is the most important. Smoking is estimated to account for 85% to 90% of lung cancers. [3] Cancer development risk is associated with the extent of smoking and exposure to other carcinogenic factors, such as asbestos. Other factors associated with increased lung cancer risk include ionizing radiation, as found in patients with a history of Hodgkin lymphoma [4] or breast cancer [5]; environmental toxins, such as secondhand smoke, radon, and toxic metals (arsenic, chromium, and nickel); and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. [3] History of pulmonary fibrosis, human immunodeficiency virus infection, and alcohol consumption have also been identified as risk factors for lung cancer. [6,7]

Interestingly, Lung cancer incidence and mortality rates are the highest in the developed countries. In contrast, lung cancer rates in underde-

veloped areas are estimated to be lower. However, many developing countries have inadequate data collecting and reporting systems; therefore, many lung cancer cases go unreported, obscuring the disease's real incidence. [8]

According to The World Health Organization (WHO), estimations, lung cancer death rates worldwide will continue to rise, mainly due to an increase in global tobacco use. [9] Because women had an increasing smoking pattern, lung cancer death rates decreased more than a decade after they decreased in men. [10] Researches focusing on lung cancer incidence in non smokers revealed that women are more likely than men to have non-smoking-associated lung cancer. [11]

Regarding ethnicity, the incidence of lung cancer, although declining for both white and black men, is approximately 20% higher for black men. [12] On the contrary, the lowest incidence and mortality rates are seen in Asian-Americans, Pacific Islanders and Hispanic women. [13] Race-related differences are the result of complex interactions between socioeconomic status, occupational exposures, and lifestyle.

LUNG CANCER SCREENING

The time taken for lung cancer to develop is variable. It takes several years for cancer to devel-

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The identification of oncogenic driver alterations that underlie small inhibitors' sensitivity has led to a growing interest in identifying additional targetable oncogenes in non-small cell lung cancer. Although the therapeutic impact of discovering these alterations has now been widely demonstrated, the epidemiological data associated with each of these biomarkers remained insufficient. The concept of "oncogene addiction" refers to tumor-cell dependence on the specific activity of an activated or overexpressed oncogene. The main oncogenic drivers in thoracic malignancies are mutations of *EGFR*, *KRAS*, and *ALK*, which are most often reported in adenocarcinomas. However, additional molecular targets have been highlighted recently: *i.e.*, *BRAF* mutations, *HER2* and *PIK3CA*, and new translocations, such as *ROS1* and *RET*. Therapeutic strategies target to inhibit these signaling pathways, among which are monoclonal antibodies and tyrosine-kinase inhibitors.

While the new markers primarily are aimed to be in use in therapeutic strategies, studies are targeting to obtain screening tests such as detecting tumor presence via examining HnRNP A2 / B1 in sputum or analyzing exhaled air. The antigens can be detected in serum or plasma via ELISA (p53, NYO-ESO-1, CAGE, GBU 4-5, Annexin, SOX-2) and can be used in diagnostic tests in patient groups at risk [21]. In another study, the protein group (C-reactive protein, prolactin, hepatocyte growth factor) and four biomarkers, including the NYO-ESO-1 antigen, have been examined, ultimately relative to the carcino-embryogenic antigen they are more susceptible to lung cancer, and combining these antigens with LDCT can contribute to screening programs [22]

The detection of real-time micro RNAs (miRNA) in circulation by PCR is among the remarkable works of recent years.

The stability of miRNAs and their unique structure in cancerous tissue provide advantages. miRNAs found to have high diagnostic value in patients identified with LDCT and yet asymptomatic [23]

Another exciting research of our day is the volatile biomarkers. Volatile organic compounds (VOCs), a diverse group of carbon-based chemicals in exhaled breath, sweat, or urine, provide information about human health status. Different patterns of VOCs have been correlated with various diseases and syndromes such as cancer [24], asthma [25], cystic fibrosis [26], diabetes [27], tuberculosis [28], chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [29], heart allograft rejection [30], and irritable bowel syndrome [31].

Ehman et al. have conducted interesting researches; exhalation samples of 220 volunteers (healthy individuals, confirmed lung cancer patients, or chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)) were presented to sniffer dogs following a rigid scientific protocol. Lung cancer was identified with an overall sensitivity of 71% and a specificity of 93%. [32]

The role of VOCs in clinical diagnosis and therapeutic monitoring is expected to become increasingly significant due to recent advances in the field.

Although the advancement of technology has made significant steps in treatment, screening tests, and early diagnosis, we believe that there will be exciting new developments in which artificial intelligence will be added.

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