

Facts About Lung Cancer

Cells are the building blocks of life. We understand very well that cells grow, divide, and multiply with the need of the body to keep it hale and healthy. Occasionally the cells will divide among themselves even though there is no need to multiply, and the mass of extra cells forms tumor or cancer. An unchecked and rapid growth of lung cells is called lung cancer. Lung cancer can be caught in two forms, non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer.

Lung cancer has been categorized based upon the morphology of the cells as seen under a microscope. Each type of the lung cancer has its own method of treatment since they spread in different ways.

The regularly occurring lung cancer is non-small lung cancer, which grows and spreads slowly. The three major kinds of non-small cell lung cancer are large cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and squamous cell carcinoma.

Instances of small cell lung cancer is not so common as that of non-small lung cancer. This type of lung cancer spreads rapidly and may affect different organs of the body. This type of lung cancer is also known as oat cell cancer.

Recently lung cancer has been recognized as the deadliest form of cancer in many developed nations, including the USA where 170,000 people die from the disease each year. Even though lung changes start almost immediately upon exposure to carcinogens, lung cancer takes years together to develop.

The main cause of the lung cancer is the inhalation of the carcinogens through cigarette smoke by both smokers and non-smokers. The risk of lung cancer greatens when there is an environmental exposure to radon compounded with smoking. Aside from this, lung cancer is considered to be an occupational hazard among the people who are working in asbestos industry, which is known as mesothelioma lung cancer.

Lung cancer mostly affects people over fifty and who also had the habit of smoking for a quite long time. The lung cancer symptoms vary based upon the location of the tumor in the lungs. You may suspect lung cancer if you are experiencing chronic cough, chest pain, wheezing, and recurring lung infections.

Diagnosis of lung cancer can easily be done by an experienced health care professional based on your symptoms, smoking history, medical history, earlier family history of lung cancer, and exposure to occupational and environmental materials. The affirmative diagnosis can be completed with a chest X-ray. Different tests are available to diagnose small cell or non-small lung cancer to gauge the stage of the cancer. Medical professionals also diagnose whether the lung cancer is localized in your lung or spreading to other parts of your body.

As prevention is better than cure, it is highly prudent not to use any tobacco. The best way to reduce the occurrence of lung cancer is to quit smoking. If you quit smoking at the earliest opportunity, you may gradually decrease your risk of lung cancer over 10 to 15 years as your lungs recover.

Treatment of lung cancer may be done by chemotherapy (cancer cells can be eliminated by medications), radiation therapy (eliminating the cancer cells by high-dose X-rays or other high-energy rays), or surgery (cancer removal). Treatment of advanced stage lung cancer is considered difficult with moderate success rate in early stage treatment.