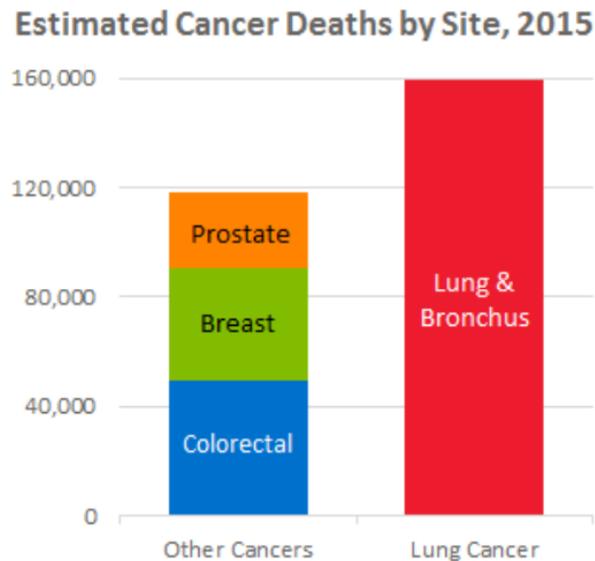


Invisible No More: A Closer Look at Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is responsible for more cancer-related deaths in our country than breast, prostate and colorectal cancer *combined*.



American Cancer Society, *Cancer Facts & Figures 2015*

Almost everyone knows that “smoking causes lung cancer,” but many cases are caused by other environmental factors. Secondhand smoke can increase a person’s chances up to 30%. Exposure to asbestos and other carcinogens are other risk factors, as well as a family history of lung cancer. Radon exposure is the leading cause of lung cancer for non-smokers. Prevalent in north Alabama, this naturally occurring gas cannot be seen, tasted or smelled.

Most newly diagnosed cases of lung cancer are in later stages, making the 5-year survival rate only 17%. However, if lung cancer is diagnosed at Stage I, *the survival rate at 10 years increases to 92% if lesions are removed immediately.*¹ The key to long-term survival is earlier detection.

Cutting edge equipment provided by Huntsville Hospital Foundation has made a significant difference in physicians' ability to make an earlier diagnosis. Through the generosity of its philanthropic supporters, Huntsville Hospital Foundation has funded a \$60,000 SurePath cytology instrument and a \$116,000 endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS) system. This equipment is used by Huntsville Hospital's Lung Cancer Program, part of the Southeast Lung Cancer Alliance. This group of more than 140 area physicians is working together to build awareness about lung cancer prevention, screening, and diagnosis.

The Surepath cytology instrument is used in the pathology lab, which, according to Dr. Jay Harrison, performs approximately 20,000 special cancer subtyping tests annually. The SurePath cytology instrument has a significantly higher diagnostic sensitivity for lung cancer than conventional methods.² The EBUS is a tool used by surgeons, combining ultrasound along with a bronchoscopy for better visualization. Both SurePath and EBUS replace more invasive methods for staging lung cancer. Combined, these weapons against lung cancer bring us one step closer to better survival rates.

“If passion is closing the gap between where you are and where you should be, then we couldn't be more passionate about fighting lung cancer.”
Jason Smith, MD
Pulmonologist

This November, join us by wearing white to symbolize awareness for this “invisible cancer.” With the goal of catching *every* case of lung cancer at the earliest diagnosis, the Huntsville Hospital Lung Cancer Program and Southeast Lung Alliance hope to turn lung cancer into a cancer that is “invisible” because it is *gone*.

¹Henschke, CI, Yankelevitz, DF, Libby DM, Pasmantier MW, Smith JP, Miettinen OS. Survival of patient with stage I lung cancer detected on CT screening. N Engl J Med. 2006 Oct 26;355(17):1763-71.

²Yi-Bo Fan, Qing-Shan Wang, Lin Ye, Tian-Yu Wang, Guang-Ping Wu. Clinical application of the SurePath liquid-based Pap test in cytological screening of bronchial brushing for the diagnosis of lung cancer. Cytotechnology 2010 Jan 17;62(1):53-9. Epub 2010 Apr 17

Below: The Southeast Cancer Alliance physicians hosted the Huntsville Hospital Foundation BMW Brunch, an event that raised funds for the cause in 2014.

