

COMMON LUNG CANCER SCREENING TERMS (GLOSSARY)

Contents of this glossary were adapted from the [GO2 Foundation for Lung Cancer Glossary](#), [the Lungevity Foundation Glossary](#), and the [Benign Lung Tumors](#) webpage from the Cleveland Clinic. Visit these sites to learn more about common terms associated with lung cancer treatment and survivorship.

A

Acute: Sudden onset of symptoms or disease.

Adenocarcinoma: A type of non-small cell lung cancer that begins in the cells that form the lining of the lungs and has gland-like properties.

Adenosquamous carcinoma: A type of cancer that contains two types of cells: squamous cells (thin, flat cells that line certain organs) and gland-like cells.

Adjuvant Therapy: A treatment used in addition to primary therapy to increase effectiveness of treatment; for example, adjuvant chemotherapy following surgery.

Adverse Reaction: An unintended or unexpected negative reaction to treatment; for example, low blood counts.

Alveoli: Tiny balloon-like sacs in the lungs where oxygen, carbon dioxide, and other substances are exchanged between the lungs and bloodstream.

Alveolus: Plural of Alveoli.

Analgesic: A drug that relieves pain.

Anesthesia: Drugs that control pain during surgery and other procedures.

Angiogenesis: The process in which cancer cells develop new blood vessels that supply them with oxygen and nutrients, which allow them to grow; treatment designed to stop this process and to starve the cells to slow or stop growth is called anti-angiogenesis therapy.

Anorexia: Loss of appetite or strong lack of interest in food, a result of the cancer itself, from treatments, or from emotional reaction to the diagnosis.

Antibiotic: A drug that kills or reduces the growth of bacteria.

Antibody: A protein in the immune system that identifies and destroys foreign substances such as bacteria and viruses.

Antiemetics: Drugs that reduce or prevent nausea and vomiting.

Asbestos: A group of minerals that take the form of tiny fibers. Asbestos has been used as insulation against heat and fire in buildings. Loose asbestos fibers breathed into the lungs can cause several serious diseases, including lung cancer and malignant mesothelioma (cancer found in the lining of lungs, chest, or abdomen)

Ascites: A build-up of fluid in the space between the lining of the abdomen and abdominal organs.

Aspergillus: A type of fungus that can cause infection resulting in a benign lung nodule.

Atelectasis: Collapsed lung; failure of lung to inflate properly.

Asymptomatic: Without obvious signs or symptoms of disease.

Atypical: Abnormal or not usual.

B

Bacteria: A large group of single-cell microorganisms. Some cause infections and disease in animals and humans.

Benign: Not cancer (see also Malignant).

Biomarkers (molecule marker, signature molecule): A biological molecule (the basis for all human cells), found in blood or other bodily fluids or tissue, which is a sign of normal or abnormal process or of a condition or disease.

Biopsy: The removal and examination of tissue or fluid, used to confirm the presence of cancer and to determine the type of lung cancer.

Bronchi: Plural of bronchus, used when referring to both the air tubes.

Bronchial adenoma: A type of benign lung tumor that grows in the large airways (bronchi) of the lungs.

Bronchiogenic Carcinoma: Another name for lung cancer.

Bronchioalveolar Carcinoma (BAC): A rare subtype of adenocarcinoma that begins in the alveoli.

Bronchioles: The very small tubes that lead into the alveolus.

Bronchoscope: A thin, usually flexible lighted tube used during a bronchoscopy.

Bronchoscopy: A procedure in which a bronchoscope is inserted through the nose or mouth, into the lungs, which allow the doctor to look directly into the airways and lungs. A needle inserted into the bronchoscope can be used to obtain samples of the tumor or fluid for biopsy testing.

Bronchus: One of the two main breathing tubes branching off from the windpipe; one bronchus leads into each lung.

C

Cancer: A disease characterized by cells that change, grow and divide in an out of control manner, and then interfere with the body's normal functioning.

Cancer Cell: A cell that divides and reproduces abnormally.

Carcinoid tumor: A slow-growing type of tumor usually found in the gastrointestinal system (most often in the appendix), and sometimes in the lungs or other sites.

Carcinoma in Situ: Earliest stage cancer in which the disease is confined to the original cells or tissue in which it started.

Carcinogen: A substance that causes cancer; something that is carcinogenic is cancer causing.

Carcinogenesis: The process by which cancer develops.

Carcinoma: A form of cancer that develops in tissues covering the external or internal surfaces.

Capillaries: Tiny blood vessels.

Cell: The basic building block of all living tissues; comprised of a nucleus (the "brain" of the cell), the cytoplasm surrounding the nucleus, and a cell wall.

Centimeters (cm): A measure of length in the metric system; 3 cm is just over an inch; 5 cm is nearly 2 inches; 7 cm is 2 ¾ inches.

Chemotherapy: A drug or combination of drugs used to fight cancer.

Chest X-ray: A type of high-energy radiation that can go through the body and onto film, making pictures of areas inside the chest, which can be used to diagnose disease.

Chondroma: A benign type of lung tumor that is made up of connective tissue.

Chromosome: A strand of DNA and related proteins that carries the genes and transmits hereditary information.

Chronic: Lasting for a long period of time or marked by frequent recurrence.

Cilia: Tiny, hair-like projections located on cells; in the lungs, they clean by sweeping out mucus containing dust, germs, etc.

Clinical Trials: Studies that evaluate new treatments or possible improvements in current treatments.

Coccidiomycosis: A type of fungus that can cause infection resulting in a benign lung nodule.

Combination Chemotherapy: A treatment that uses two or more anti-cancer medications.

Combined Modality Therapy: The use of two or more types of treatment; may include combinations of radiation, chemotherapy, surgery, or others.

Complications: Unexpected symptoms or problems resulting from medical treatment.

Computed Tomography Scan (CT or CAT Scan): An imaging test that can detect extremely small tumors and helps doctors understand more about the tumor and if it has spread.

Contralateral: On the opposite side of the body; in lung cancer this term is generally used to refer to cancer in the lung or lymph nodes opposite that of the primary tumor (see also Ipsilateral).

Contrast: A dye or other substance that helps show abnormal areas inside the body. It is given by injection into a vein, by enema, or by mouth. Contrast material may be used with X-rays, CT scans, MRI, or other imaging tests.

Control group: In a clinical trial, the group that does not receive the new treatment being studied. This group is compared to the group that receives the new treatment, to see if the new treatment works.

Core biopsy: The removal of a tissue sample with a wide needle for examination under a microscope. Also called “core needle biopsy”.

Counselor: A professional who helps in coping with life issues such as emotional or social difficulties.

Cryptococcosis: A type of fungus that can cause infection resulting in a benign lung nodule.

Curative treatment: Treatment that is meant to cure the disease itself as opposed to masking the symptoms; in the case of lung cancer, killing or removing all lung cancer cells.

Cytology: The study of cells, their origin, structure, function and pathology.

DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid): The part of the cell that contains and controls genetic instructions used in the functioning of the cell.

Diagnosis: The process of identifying a disease by its characteristic signs, symptoms, and through tests.

Diagnostic Procedure: A method used to identify a disease.



Differentiation: The degree to which tumor tissue resembles normal tissue; differentiated cells resemble normal cells and tend to grow and spread at a slower rate than undifferentiated or poorly differentiated cells.

Dysphagia: Difficulty or pain in swallowing.

Dyspnea: Shortness of breath.

Early detection: The process of detecting lung cancer before it has progressed into full-blown disease.

Efficacy: The ability of an intervention (for example, a drug or surgery) to produce the desired beneficial effect.

Emphysema: A disorder which results in the inability of the lungs to exchange oxygen for carbon dioxide and other gases, making it difficult to breathe.

Endoscope: A thin, tube-like instrument used to look at tissues inside the body. An endoscope has a light and a lens for viewing, and may have a tool to remove tissue.

Esophagus: The tube through which food travels from the mouth into the stomach.

Excision: Removal, usually by surgery.

Extensive Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer: One of the two ways small cell lung cancer is staged; indicates the cancer is in both lungs or has spread to other parts of the body.

Fatalism: An individual belief that events are predetermined and therefore inevitable.

Fibroma: A benign type of lung tumor that are made up of connective tissue.

Fibrosis: Scarring of the lung; may occur due to treatment and/or disease.

First Line Treatment: First therapy given after the diagnosis of cancer.

Food and Drug Administration (FDA): The governmental agency that reviews and approves all clinical trials for drugs and other procedures that might prevent or treat cancer as well as other diseases.

Gene: The functional and physical unit of heredity passed from parent to offspring. Genes are pieces of DNA, most contain the information for making a specific protein.

General anesthesia: Medicine that puts the patient in a deep sleep.

Genome: The complete genetic information of a species.

Grade: A method of classifying a tumor on the basis of how aggressively it is growing.

Granuloma: A small clump of inflamed cells that develop due to a bacteria or fungal infection resulting in a benign lung nodule.

H

Hamartoma: A benign type of lung nodule that are made up of abnormal amounts of cartilage, connective tissue, fat, and muscle.

Hemoptysis: Coughing or spitting up blood.

Heredity: The transmission of information from parent to offspring through genes.

High Risk: When the chance of developing cancer is greater than normally seen in a population.

Histology: The study of tissues and cells under a microscope.

Histoplasmosis: A type of fungus that can cause infection resulting in a benign lung nodule.

Hospice: End-of-life care that focuses on pain control and comfort rather than treatment of the disease; generally available when the person has six months or less to live.

Imaging: Procedures that produce pictures of areas inside the body; includes x-ray, CT and PET scans and MRIs.

Immunotherapy: The treatment of disease by inducing, enhancing, or suppressing an immune response.

Incidence: The number of new cases of a specific disease in a defined population during a set period of time.

Incidental finding: A result that is not the primary aim of a test or procedure but is discovered in the process of seeking something else.

Incision: A cut, usually in reference to surgery.

Infection: When harmful and disease-producing germs and organisms enter the body.

Informed Consent: A legally required procedure to make sure patients understand potential risks and benefits of a treatment before it is started.

Infusion: The administration of fluids or medications into the blood through the veins.

Injection: The use of a syringe and needle to deliver medications to the body; a shot.

In situ: In its original place. For example, in “carcinoma in situ,” abnormal cells are found only in the place where they first formed. They have not spread.

Interstitial lung disease: A group of disorders that causes scarring of the lungs, which eventually affects patients’ ability to get enough oxygen into their bloodstream and to breathe.

Interventional radiologist: A medical doctor who is specially trained to use minimally invasive image-guided procedures to diagnose and treat diseases, with the goal of minimizing risk to the patient and improving health outcomes

Intradermal: Within the skin; also called “intracutaneous”.

Intramuscular (IM): Within a muscle.

Intravenous (IV): Through a vein, as opposed to intramuscular (through the muscle).

Invasive Cancer: Cancer that has spread beyond its site of origin and is growing into surrounding, healthy tissues.

Ipsilateral: On the same side of the body; in lung cancer this term is generally used to refer to cancer in another lobe or lymph nodes in the lung on the same side of the primary tumor (see also Contralateral).

L

Large Cell Carcinoma:

A subtype of non-small cell lung cancer; cells are large and poorly differentiated meaning they have none of the features that would allow it to be diagnosed as another type of non-small cell lung cancer.

Larynx: The voice box; located above the windpipe.

Limited Stage Small Cell Lung Cancer: One of the two ways small cell lung cancer is staged; indicates that the cancer has not spread beyond one lung, the tissues between the lungs and/or nearby lymph nodes.

Lipoma: A benign type of lung tumor that are made up of fatty tissue.

Lobe: Section of a lung; there are two lobes in the left lung and three lobes in the right lung.

Lobectomy: The surgical removal of one lobe of a lung.

Localized Cancer: A cancer confined to the site of origin, usually the organ where it began.

Locally Advanced Cancer: Cancer that has spread only to nearby tissues or lymph nodes.

Low-dose CT scan (LDCT): A newer form of CT scan that uses less radiation than a standard chest CT and takes less than one minute to complete. It continuously rotates in a spiral motion and takes several three-dimensional, very detailed X-rays of the lungs. This type of CT uses no dyes and no injections, and requires nothing to swallow by mouth. Also known as “low-dose spiral [or helical] CT scan”.

Lung abscess: A pus-filled infection that can result in a benign lung nodule.

Lung Metastases: Not primary lung cancer; tumor cells that have spread from the original tumor to the lung.

Lymph Fluid: An almost colorless fluid that travels through the lymph system to help fight infection and disease.

Lymph Node: Part of the lymph system, a small bean shaped gland that filters bacteria and other foreign substances.

Lymph Vessel: Similar to blood vessels, help to circulate lymph fluid throughout the body.

Lymphatic (Lymph) System: A collection of fluid, vessels, and nodes that are found throughout the body; one of the way lung cancer spreads to other parts of the body is through the lymph system.

M

Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI): A type of imaging scan that uses magnetic fields to create clear images of body parts, including tissues, muscles, nerves, and bones and show the presence of tumors.

Maintenance Therapy: A treatment used to maintain remission and prevent a recurrence.

Malignant: Also called cancerous; cells that exhibit rapid, uncontrolled growth and can spread to other parts of the body (see also Benign).

Margin: The edge or border of the tissue removed in cancer surgery. The margin is described as “negative” or “clean” when the pathologist finds no cancer cells at the edge of the tissue, suggesting that all of the cancer has been removed. The margin is described as “positive” or “involved” when the pathologist finds cancer cells at the edge of the tissue, suggesting that not all of the cancer has been removed.

Mass: A growth that may or may not be cancerous.

Mesothelioma: A type of cancer of the lining of organs and not only can originate in the lungs but also the abdomen, heart, and chest; associated with exposure to asbestos.

Measurable Disease: An accurate measurement of a tumor's size; changes in measurable disease indicate a response (or lack of response) to treatment.

Mediastinoscopy: A surgical procedure for examining the lymph nodes and area in the middle of the chest (mediastinum).

Mediastinum: The area in the middle of the chest behind the breastbone and in front of the heart; organs in this area include the heart, windpipe, esophagus, bronchi, mediastinal lymph nodes.

Metaplasia: A change in cells from normal to abnormal.

Metastasis: The spread of cancer cells from the original site to other parts of the body; the plural of metastasis is metastases.

Metastatic Cancer: Cancer that has spread from one part of the body to another.

Microscope: An instrument that gives an enlarged view of an object.

Microscopic: Too small to be seen without a microscope.

Multi-Modality Therapy: A therapy that combines more than one method of treatment such as chemotherapy and radiation.

Mutation: Change in the DNA of a cell; caused by mistakes during cell division, or exposure to DNA-damaging agents in the environment.

Mycobacteria avian complex: Types of bacteria that can cause infection resulting in a granuloma or benign lung nodule.

Mycobacterium tuberculosis: A type of bacteria that can cause infection resulting in a granuloma or benign lung nodule.

National Cancer Institute (NCI): A governmental agency that is part of the National Institute of Health (NIH); conducts research on cancer and helps to set national policy regarding cancer.

National Lung Screening Trial (NLST): National Institutes of Health-funded clinical trial that found using a low-dose CT scan to screen for lung cancer can reduce mortality due to lung cancer.

Nausea: A feeling of sickness or discomfort in the stomach that may come with an urge to vomit.

Needle Aspiration or Needle Biopsy: A procedure in which a hollow needle is inserted through the skin to draw out tissue or fluid for testing.

Neoplasm: Abnormal mass of tissue, may be benign or cancerous.

Neurofibroma: A benign type of lung tumor that are made up of connective tissue.

Neurological: Involving the nerves or nervous system.

Nihilism: The belief that traditional values and beliefs are unfounded and that existence is useless.

No Evidence of Disease (NED): Any disease, if present, is not detectable by imaging tests.

Nodule: A small solid mass; may be benign or cancerous.

Non-contrast: Refers to an imaging test that does not make use of contrast agent.

N

Non Small Cell Lung Cancer: One of the two main types of lung cancer; includes subtypes, most common of which are adenocarcinoma, squamous cell, and large cell carcinoma.

Observation: Watching the patient and offering treatment only when symptoms increase or change.

Oncologist: A physician who specializes in the study, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer.

Oncology: The study of the development, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of cancer.

Palliative Treatment: Treatments designed to reduce the symptoms of a disease or side effects of treatment.

Papilloma: A benign type of lung tumor that grow in the large airways of the lung.

Partial Response: Indicates that tumors have shrunk, but not completely disappeared as a result of therapy.

Pathology: The study of the nature of disease and its causes, processes, development, and consequences.

Pathology report: The description of cells and tissues made by a pathologist based on what is seen under a microscope. This is sometimes used to make a diagnosis of lung cancer or another disease. May also be referred to in short form as “path report” or even “the path”.

Pathologist: A physician trained to examine and evaluate cells and tissues.

Patient navigator: Someone who provides personal guidance to patients as they move through the health care system. Patient navigators may have professional medical, legal, financial, or administrative experience. Other navigators may have personally faced health care-related challenges and want to help others in similar situations. Navigators can be employed by community groups, hospitals, or insurance companies. They may be paid by those organizations, they may be volunteers, or they may be independent consultants hired by people who want help managing their complex medical needs.

Phase I Trial: A clinical study designed to evaluate the safety and dosage of a new drug or treatment.

Phase II Trial: A clinical study designed to continue testing the safety of a new drug and to begin to evaluate how well it works.

Phase III Trial: A clinical study designed to confirm the effectiveness of the study drug or treatment and compare it to the current standard of care.

Placebo: An inactive substance or treatment that looks the same and is given in the same way as an active drug or treatment being tested.

Pleomorphic: Occurring in various distinct forms; in terms of cells, having variation in the size and shape of cells or their nuclei.

Pleura: Two thin membranes that surround the lung and line the chest cavity and protects and cushions the lung; the space between is called the pleural space, which contains fluid.

Pleural Effusion: The collection of excess fluid in the pleural space.

Pneumonectomy: The surgical removal of one lung.

Pneumonia: A respiratory condition that involves inflammation of the lung.

Pneumonitis: Inflammation of the lungs that may be caused by disease, infection, radiation or other therapy, allergy, or irritation of lung tissue by inhaled substance.

Pneumothorax: An abnormal collection of air or gas in the space between the lung and the chest wall.

Poorly Differentiated Cells: Lack the structure and function of normal cells and grow uncontrollably; poorly differentiated cells grow faster than differentiated ones but not as fast as those that are undifferentiated.

Port: Used to deliver chemotherapy, ports are placed and left in the skin to protect the veins and prevent repeated needle sticks.

PET-CT scan: A special scan that is able to do a positron emission tomography (PET) scan and a computed tomography (CT) scan at the same time. It allows the doctor to compare areas of radioactivity on the PET with the more detailed appearance of that area on the CT. Also called “positron emission tomography-computed tomography scan”.

Positron Emission Tomography (PET Scan): A type of imaging scan that is used to tell if lung cancer has spread to other parts of the body.

Precancerous/Premalignant: An early cellular change that may develop into cancer.

Primary Tumor: The original tumor, at the site the cancer began.

Prognosis: A prediction of the probable course and outcome of a disease; based on averages calculated from a large population.

Progression: The process of spreading or becoming more severe.

Prophylactic: Guarding against or preventing disease.

Protocol: A detailed plan of treatment or procedure.

Psychosocial Support: Support designed to meet emotional, psychological, and social needs.

Pulmonary: Relating to the lungs.

Pulmonologist: A doctor specializing in the diagnosis and treatment of lung diseases.

Quality of Life: Relates to the general ability to perform daily living tasks and to enjoy life.

Radiation: Energy carried by waves or a stream of particles.

Radiation Field: The part of the body that receives radiation.

Radiation Oncologist: A physician who specializes in radiation therapy for treatment of cancer.

Radiation Surgery: A type of therapy that delivers a single high dose of radiation directly to the tumor, sparing the healthy tissue from the effects of the radiation; also known as radiosurgery, stereotactic body radiation therapy, and stereotactic external beam irradiation.

Radiation Therapy: A type of treatment that uses high-energy radiation to shrink tumors and kill cancer cells.

Radiologist: A physician with training in reading diagnostic radiological tests and performing radiological treatments.

Randomized Clinical Trial: Trial design in which participants are assigned by chance to a group for study.

Radon: An invisible, tasteless, radioactive gas that occurs naturally in soil and rocks, exposure to which is a risk factor for lung cancer.

Recurrence: When cancer returns.

Recurrent Cancer: Cancer that has come back after treatment; may occur in the original site or it may return elsewhere in the body.

Refractory Cancer: Cancer that does not respond or stops responding to treatment.

Regimen: The plan that outlines the dosage, schedule and duration of treatment.

Regional Involvement: The spread of cancer from its original site to nearby surrounding areas.

Relapse: The return of a disease or the signs and symptoms of a disease after a period of improvement

Remission: The complete disappearance of cancer cells and symptoms; does not always mean the patient has been cured.

Resectable (Operable): Able to be surgically removed.

Resection: Surgical removal.

Risk Factor: Any factor that may increase a person's chances for developing a disease.

Risk profile: The probability of developing lung cancer, as determined by laboratory tests and spiral CT.

Risk Reduction: Techniques used to reduce the chances of developing a disease.

Robotic-assisted surgery: Surgery in which a doctor sits at a control panel using robotic arms to maneuver long surgical instruments.

Screening: Checking for disease before there are symptoms.

Second-Line Therapy: Treatment used after initial treatment.

Secondary finding: A result that is actively sought as part of a test or procedure but is not the primary aim.

Secondary Tumor (Secondary Cancer): A tumor that develops as a result of metastases or spread beyond the original cancer.

Segmental Resection: The surgical removal of a segment or wedge of lung tissue.

Side Effect: A secondary effect caused by treatment.

Small Cell Lung Cancer: One of the two main categories of lung cancer; faster growing than non-small cell lung cancer.

Solid Tumor: Cancer of the body tissues other than blood, bone marrow or the lymphatic system; lung cancer is a solid tumor.

Sputum: Mucus from the bronchial tubes; phlegm.

Sputum Cytology: The examination of cells in sputum; usually used to look of the presence of cancer cells.



Squamous Cell Carcinoma: A subtype of non small cell lung cancer; begins in the thin, flat cells that line the passages of the respiratory tract.

Stable Disease: A cancer that is not growing or shrinking.

Stage: A determination of the extent of cancer.

Staging: A way of describing where the cancer is located, if or to where it has spread, and whether it is affecting other parts of the body. Useful for deciding treatment approach and helping to predict a patient's chance of recovery.

Standard Treatment: Treatment that has been proven effective and is commonly used.

Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT): A type of external radiation therapy that uses special equipment to position a patient and precisely deliver extremely high doses of radiation to the tumor while decreasing the dose to healthy tissue nearby. Instead of giving small doses of radiation each day for several weeks, SBRT can be given in two to five treatments.

Stigma: A mark of shame or discredit.

Subcutaneous: Beneath the skin

Surgeon: A physician who treats disease and injury by performing an operation.

Surgery: An operation.

Surgical Biopsy: The surgical removal of tissue to be examined under a microscope to determine if cancer is present.

Survivorship: The experience of dealing with lung cancer, along the continuum of diagnosis, treatment, living with cancer, and after the cancer has been cured

Symptom: Something that indicates the presence of an abnormality in relation to the body and/or its functions.

Systemic Disease: A disease that affects the entire body rather than only one organ.

Systemic Symptoms: Symptoms affecting the whole body; fever, night sweats, weight loss.

Systemic Treatment: Treatment that reaches cells all over the body by traveling through the bloodstream; most chemotherapies for lung cancer are systemic treatments.

Targeted therapies: A type of treatment that uses drugs to attack specific types of cancer cells with less harm to normal cells. Some targeted therapies block the action of certain enzymes, proteins, or other molecules involved in the growth and spread of cancer cells

Therapy: Treatment.

Third-line treatment or therapy: Treatment that is given when both initial treatment (first-line therapy) and subsequent treatment (second-line therapy) don't work or stop working.

Thoracentesis: The removal of fluid, by needle, from the space between the lungs and chest wall (pleural space).

Thoracic Surgeon: A physician who specializes in performing chest surgery.

Thoracoscope: An instrument fitted with a lighting system and telescopic attachment for examining the chest cavity.

Thoracotomy: A surgical procedure in which an incision is made through the chest wall to examine structures in the chest for the presence of cancer or other disease and to remove tumors or sections of the lung.

Thorax: The upper part of the trunk between the neck and the abdomen.

Tissue: A group of similar cells that works together to perform a specific function.

Toxicity: The degree to which something is harmful or poisonous.

Trachea: Windpipe; allows for the passage of air from the larynx to the bronchial tubes.

Tumor: Mass of tissue formed by a new growth of cells; may be benign or cancerous.

Tumor Board: A group of specialists who meet regularly to discuss management of individuals who have cancer.

Tumor Marker: Proteins and other substances found in the blood that signify the presence of cancer somewhere in the body.

Ultrasound: A medical test that uses sound waves to create an image of the inside of the body.

Undifferentiated cells: Cells that lack the structure and function of normal cells and grow uncontrollably; undifferentiated cells are faster growing than those that are differentiated or poorly differentiated.

Unresectable (Inoperable): Unable to be surgically removed.

Vein: A blood vessel that carries blood to the heart.

Video Assisted Thoroscopic (Thoracic) Surgery (VATS): A minimally invasive type of surgery that uses smaller incisions and typically requires less recovery time than typical lung cancer surgery (See Thoracotomy).

Wedge Resection: The surgical removal of the tumor and a small amount of lung tissue (a wedge) surrounding the tumor.

X-Ray: Uses small amounts of radiation to take a two dimensional picture of the inside of the body.

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