Current State of Lung Cancer

Nasser Hanna, MD
Professor of Medicine
Lung Cancer Facts for 2022: Indiana

Ca: A cancer journal for clinicians 2022

- Most commonly diagnosed cancer in Indiana

- 1 in 16 men, 1 in 17 women in Indiana will be diagnosed this year

- Most common cause of cancer-related death in men and women in Indiana
  
  - Rank #9 of 50 states for lung cancer mortality in men, and #6 in women in Indiana
  
  - 4 X more deaths from lung cancer than breast cancer in Indiana
  
  - 3 X more deaths from lung cancer than colorectal cancer in Indiana
  
  - More than breast cancer, ovarian cancer, and cervical cancer COMBINED in Indiana
Deaths due to cancer: U.S
Ca: A cancer journal for clinicians 2022
Deaths due to cancer: U.S

This dramatic reduction has taken place BEFORE the optimal implementation of lung CT screening scans and the remarkable scientific discoveries of the last few years.
Dramatic action in the U.S.
Dramatic action in the U.S.

Public servants and ADVOCATES deserve credit for this!
Dramatic action in the U.S.

In 1965, 54% of men and 38% of women between the ages of 18-24 routinely smoked cigarettes.

By 2019, this figure was 8% for both men and women.

Public servants and ADVOCATES deserve credit for this!
ADVOCATES are responsible for saving more lives from lung cancer than medical science!
Major breakthroughs in last decade

- Dramatic reduction in cigarette consumption
- Discovery of 9 distinct DNA mutations in lung cancer that can be “targeted” by specialized therapy
- Discovery of ways to use the immune system to cure lung cancer
The gains are substantial

- Cure rates are steadily rising in all stages of lung cancer
- The reduction on all-cancer mortality over the last several years has been entirely due to reduction in lung cancer mortality
- Lung cancer mortality is decreasing 5% PER YEAR!
- Many patients expected to live only months are now living > 5 years
Screening lung scans save lives

A. Lung Cancer

B. Death from Lung Cancer
Cancer-death projections by 2040

But attitudes are hard to overcome

• In one study, across all groups evaluated, bias was substantially more negative towards lung cancer compared to breast cancer
  – 70% of participants had a negative descriptive bias towards lung cancer

• This has negative consequences
  – Support for lung cancer research
  – Emotional support for patients and their caregivers
No one deserves lung cancer!

- Patients with lung cancer feel shame and stigma, whether they ever smoked or not.
- Blaming the victim is cruel and counter to our common humanity.
- It is also counter-productive.
  - Research for lung cancer is research for CANCER.
  - When you study lung cancer, you study what underlie almost all forms of cancer.