As lung cancer is the number one cancer killer in the United States, our mission is to reduce lung cancer deaths by identifying treatable lung cancers with CT lung screening.

Vanderbilt University Medical Center has pioneered the field of lung screening and has been providing lung screening CT exams since 2013. We work with Vanderbilt pulmonologists, thoracic surgeons and oncologists to create evidence-based, personalized treatment plans for all individuals facing a diagnosis of lung cancer.

The Vanderbilt Lung Screening Program has been designated a Lung Cancer Screening Center by the American College of Radiology (ACR), a voluntary program that recognizes facilities that have committed to practice safe, effective diagnostic care for individuals at the highest risk for lung cancer.

Vanderbilt Lung Screening Program

For appointments or clinical questions, please call:

(615) 322-0580

Lung Screening Locations

Vanderbilt Imaging Services Bellevue
8124 Sawyer Brown Road
Nashville, TN 37221

Vanderbilt Bedford County Hospital
2835 US-231
Shelbyville, TN 37160

Vanderbilt Imaging Services Cool Springs
2009 Mallory Lane, Suite 150
Franklin, TN 37067

Vanderbilt Radiology Hendersonville
128 Anderson Lane
Hendersonville, TN 37075

Vanderbilt Imaging Services Hillsboro
1909 Acklen Avenue
Nashville, TN 37212

Vanderbilt Imaging Services Midtown
337 22nd Avenue North
Nashville, TN 37203

Vanderbilt Imaging Services One Hundred Oaks
719 Thompson Lane, Suite 23300
Nashville, TN 37204

Vanderbilt Tullahoma-Harton Hospital
1801 North Jackson Street
Tullahoma, TN 37388

VUMC.org/Radiology/Lung

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LUNG SCREENING PROGRAM

EARLY DETECTION SAVES LIVES

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VANDERBILT HEALTH

THE VANDERBILT LUNG SCREENING PROGRAM IS DEDICATED TO SAVING LIVES.

Five-year survival rates for lung cancer are only about 15 percent. One reason for this low rate is that many patients have advanced stage lung cancer at the time of their initial diagnosis. Lung screening CT detects lung cancer before symptoms arise when treatment can be most successful.

IS LUNG SCREENING CT SCIENTIFICALLY VALIDATED?

The National Lung Screening Trial (NLST), sponsored by the National Cancer Institute, was a randomized controlled trial to determine the efficacy of screening individuals at high risk for lung cancer with annual low-dose computed tomography (LDCT). More than 53,000 people who were currently or formerly smoking heavily, ages 55-74, participated in the study across the U.S.

Study Findings:
•Twenty percent cancer-specific mortality reduction in high-risk individuals who were screened with lung screening CT (relative to those screened with chest X-ray).
•One in 100 high-risk persons enrolled in the study was found to have lung cancer on the first screening exam.
•One life was saved for every 320 high-risk persons screened over two years (after receiving three screens).

WHAT IS RECOMMENDED?

Based on the NLST results and other studies, the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, American Lung Association, American Association for Thoracic Surgery, American Society of Clinical Oncologists, American College of Chest Physicians, American Thoracic Society and the American Cancer Society all recommend that individuals at high risk for lung cancer consider annual lung screening CT.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

CT for lung screening is recommended for patients who meet high-risk for lung cancer criteria. The current CMS criteria are:

- Ages 50-80
- Current or former people who smoke (who have quit in the last 15 years) who have smoked at least 1 pack per day for 20 years, or the equivalent (1/2 pack per day for 40 years)

Patients who meet high risk for lung cancer criteria should be screened annually from 50-80 years of age.

HOW DOES IT WORK?

Medicare and private insurance companies require that a patient meet with a provider prior to their CT for lung screening to confirm the patient's smoking history and to discuss the specific risks and benefits of the test with the patient. The Vanderbilt Lung Screening Program provides this service prior to the imaging test. In addition to the mandated topics of the visit, tobacco cessation counseling is provided.

Following the consultation, the lung screening CT is performed.

HOW DOES A PATIENT PREPARE FOR THE TEST?

There are no special instructions for your patients to follow prior to, or following, the screening.

WHAT IS THE COST?

If your patient qualifies as high-risk for lung cancer (which will be verified on the day of, or prior to, their visit), private insurance and Medicare should cover their screening in full.

WHAT IF MY PATIENT IS NOT ELIGIBLE?

If the patient does not meet the CMS criteria, insurance will not cover the test. We offer a self-pay option for patients who do not meet the high-risk criteria, but may have other risk factors that are not included in the criteria. Individuals who qualify but do not have insurance may also inquire about available clinical trials at Vanderbilt that may cover a screening CT scan.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

Radiation exposure from a low-dose CT for lung screening is equivalent to or less than the amount of radiation that one would experience living in Nashville for one year. The most common negative effect is a false positive test.

HOW WILL I RECEIVE STUDY RESULTS?

A nurse practitioner or radiologist will contact your patient with their results either by phone or the MyHealthAtVanderbilt portal. The full radiology report will also be available on My Health at Vanderbilt, our secure online health tool, and we will send them a letter with the results. If there is an abnormality, the Lung Screening Program will contact you to discuss referral or follow-up recommendations.

WHAT ARE THE EVALUATION AND FOLLOW- UP PLANS FOR NODULES FOUND DURING SCREENING?

About one in four lung nodules will require additional imaging or evaluation. More than 96 percent will be benign. Based on the imaging findings, recommendations may include:

- Repeat annual screening
- Diagnostic imaging evaluation
- Consultation with our Lung Nodule Clinic
- Review by our multidisciplinary lung cancer team

Results from these follow-up appointments will be communicated to you.

The Vanderbilt Lung Nodule Clinic is available for all positive screening tests and offers services including:

- Evaluation of lung nodules & suspected lung cancer
- Minimally invasive lung cancer staging
- Evaluation of enlarged lymph nodes in chest
- Bronchoscopy
- Computer assisted navigational biopsy of lung
- nodules
- Linear and radial endobronchial ultrasound

IS SMOKING CESSATION CONSULTATION INCLUDED?

Our nurse practicioners are Tobacco Treatment Specialists and will provide tobacco cessation counseling before the lung screening CT is performed. Recommendations for prescription cessation aids may be made based on the patient's stated interest, and all current people who smoke will be offered enrollment in the Tennessee Tobacco Quitline.