

Lung cancer

europeanlung.org/lung-cancer/

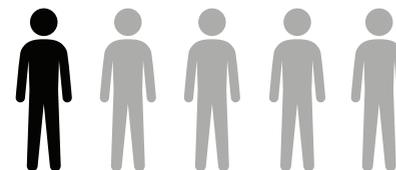
Lung cancer is cancer of the trachea (windpipe), bronchus (airway) or lung air sacs (alveoli).

Lung cancer was a rare disease at the start of the 20th century, but increase in exposure to tobacco smoke and other triggers of the disease have contributed to a pandemic in the 20th and 21st centuries.

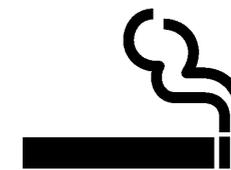


Areas for action

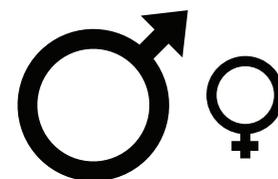
- Since smoking is the leading cause of lung cancer, tobacco control measures such as smoking prevention and smoking cessation remain the most effective methods of reducing the incidence of lung cancer
- Smoking bans in public places are needed to help reduce the effects of passive smoke
- A worldwide ban on asbestos use is urgently required to help prevent the development of lung cancer
- New techniques that help doctors understand what stage the lung cancer has developed to are needed to help reduce hospital admissions and speed up decisions about treatment
- More research is needed to refine radiotherapy techniques and identify markers for lung cancer to ensure early diagnosis
- Screening of people who are thought to be at high risk of developing lung cancer could lead to detecting the disease at an early stage while it is still curable
- A well-organised and reliable database of lung cancer cases is needed to allow for trends to be identified and investigation at a public health level to look at differences for survival in different countries
- There needs to be an increased understanding of lung cancer in people who have never smoked



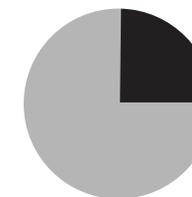
Lung cancer is the **biggest cancer killer in Europe**, accounting for approximately **20% of total cancer deaths**



Tobacco smoke is responsible for more than **80% of lung cancer cases**



Men are more frequently affected than women – this is expected to change



More than a quarter of lung cancer cases occur in the **under-60s**



7 out of 8 patients are dead 5 years after their first diagnosis



Lung cancer is the **leading cause of cancer deaths worldwide** with **1.38 million** in 2008