Forum of International Respiratory Societies
United for Lung Health

Lung Cancer 2020 Fact Sheet

Lung cancer: the most fatal cancer

- The most frequently diagnosed cancer is lung cancer (11.6 percent), followed by female breast (11.6 percent) and colorectal cancers (10.2 percent).
- Worldwide lung cancer incidents are on track to increase by 38 percent to 2.89 million by 2030.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of death from cancer at 1.74 million (18.4 percent), followed by colorectal (9.2 percent) and stomach cancers (8.2 percent).
- Lung cancer deaths exceed breast cancer mortality for women in 28 countries.
- Lung cancer mortality is projected to reach 2.45 million worldwide by 2030, a 39 percent increase since 2018.
- About 80 percent of lung cancer deaths are as a result of smoking tobacco. Smokers exposed to other known risk factors such as radon and asbestos are at an even higher risk.
- For men, lung cancer is the most prevalent form of cancer, it is third for women.
- The five-year cancer survival rate in middle-income countries for all types of lung cancer (19 percent) is lower than many other leading cancer sites, such as the colon (71 percent), breast (85 percent) and prostate (98.9 percent).

Treating lung cancer

- In lower-income countries, access to care and cost-effective treatments can reduce the human burden and societal impact of lung cancer.
- Screening with CT scans compared with chest radiography resulted in a 20 percent reduction in lung cancer-specific deaths, but much cheaper and more accessible methods are needed for low-income settings.
- Early-stage lung cancer is treated with curative-intent surgery or radiation therapy.
- Selective patients may benefit from chemotherapy after surgical resection, while patients with local advanced disease may benefit from concurrent chemo-radiotherapy with or without surgery.
- Although advanced stage lung cancer is not curable, many patients may have symptom improvement and survival prolongation by effective treatment.
- Molecular-targeted therapy against epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) mutations and anaplastic lymphoma kinase (ALK) re-arrangements attain tumor response rates of around 70 percent.

CHEST AMERICAN COLLEGE of CHEST PHYSICIANS
AMERICAN THORACIC SOCIETY 1905 ATS
APSR
ALAT Asociación Latinoamericana de Tórax Associação Latino-americana do Tórax
ERS EUROPEAN RESPIRATORY SOCIETY every breath counts
The Union International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Disease Health solutions for the poor
PAN AFRICAN THORACIC SOCIETY
GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR ASTHMA
GLOBAL INITIATIVE FOR CHRONIC OBSTRUCTIVE LUNG DISEASE

- Immunotherapy for lung cancer alone, or in combination with conventional treatments, may also improve outcomes for patients fighting lung cancer.
- Environmental causes of lung cancer, such as radon and asbestos, can be monitored and reduced. Countries must not be allowed to export asbestos to poorer countries.
- Other known modifiable risk factors, such as biomass fuels, diesel exhausts and air pollution must also be addressed.
- Better screening, early diagnosis and identifying molecular targets for effective and cost-effective modern treatment should improve lung cancer outcomes.
- Globally, efforts to reduce inequity of care and access to effective and affordable treatments are also vital for addressing the lung cancer crises around the world.

About FIRS

The Forum of International Respiratory Societies (FIRS) is an organisation comprised of the world's leading international respiratory societies working together to improve lung health globally: American College of Chest Physicians (CHEST), American Thoracic Society (ATS), Asian Pacific Society of Respirology (APSR), Asociación Latino Americana De Tórax (ALAT), European Respiratory Society (ERS), International Union Against Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases (The Union), Pan African Thoracic Society (PATS), Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA), and the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD).

The goal of FIRS is to unify and enhance efforts to improve lung health through the combined work of its more than 70,000 members globally.