

## Key Facts - Lung Cancer

### How common is lung cancer?

Approximately 1000 men are diagnosed with lung cancer in New Zealand each year. Lung cancer is the leading cause of death from cancer in New Zealand men, with around 900 men dying each year.

### What is lung cancer?

Lung cancer usually starts in the lining of the bronchus or bronchioles (tubes that carry air into the lungs). There are two main types: small cell lung cancer and non-small cell lung cancer.

### Symptoms of lung cancer

- a persistent cough or change in a chronic cough
- repeated chest infections
- shortness of breath
- noisy breathing
- pain in the chest area
- blood stained sputum
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These symptoms may be caused by other conditions but should be checked by a doctor.

### How is lung cancer diagnosed?

- chest X-ray
- sputum (what you cough up) test
- Bronchoscopy - a flexible tube (scope) that lets the doctor see into your lung and take a biopsy
- CT Scan

### Treatments

The treatments for lung cancer include surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy and may involve one of these or a combination. Treatment depends on the size, type and where the cancer is in the lung, and if it has spread.

### Reducing your risk of lung cancer

The best way to reduce your risk of lung cancer is to **stop smoking** and avoid second-hand smoke. If you are a smoker stopping now will lower your risk.

For more detailed information please contact 0800CANCER (226 237) or visit the Cancer Society website [www.cancernz.org.nz](http://www.cancernz.org.nz)

This Key Fact Sheet was written in July 2008 by the Cancer Society of New Zealand. Key Fact Sheets are reviewed every two years with the help of cancer experts and the public.