



# Prevention

Lung Cancer Awareness Month November 2016

## LUNG CANCER PREVENTION

### Lung Cancer is the most Common Cancer (excluding skin cancer) in the US.

The American Cancer Society estimates that about 224,000 Americans; 118,000 men and 106,000 women, will be diagnosed with lung cancer in 2016. Men have a 1 in 14 lifetime risk of lung cancer and women a 1 in 17 risk.

### *Tobacco smoking is the overwhelmingly predominant risk factor for lung cancer.*

Nonsmokers exposed to others' smoke (second hand smoking) are also at greater risk.

Radon gas, which occurs naturally and can be detected with home monitors, and asbestos exposure, usually in work settings, also raise risk.

### The Strategies to Prevent Cancer Focus on Preventing Smoking and Increasing Quit Rates.

Smoking prevention strategies focus on audiences in their teens and 20's. Because adolescents and young adults often challenge norms and discount long-term consequences, effective aversive advertising is challenging to create.

Blocking cigarette marketing and increasing its cost by raising tobacco taxes are more promising.

Smoking cessation strategies have taken advantage of more personalized messages, such as referring to smokers' children, the influence of a physicians advice to quit, and less hazardous nicotine sources, such as nicotine gum, skin patches and electronic cigarettes.

Source: American Cancer Society

For further information please visit [www.strang.org](http://www.strang.org)

## SCREENING FOR LUNG CANCER

Until recently, the promise of early detection was frustrated. Screening smokers with chest x-rays did not reduce deaths. However, CT scans can detect smaller abnormalities that may be earlier and more curable cancers.

*A recent large trial found that screening with low-dose CT scans reduced lung cancer deaths by 20% in current or recent (quit less than 15 years ago) heavy smokers (30 pack-years or more).*

However, scans that find smaller cancers also increase the chance of finding innocent lung abnormalities (false positives) that could lead to further testing, including biopsies. Even when cancer is diagnosed, it may not be one that would have grown and harmed the patient if not diagnosed and treated (over diagnosis).

Therefore, Medicare requires and will pay for a discussion of the pros and cons of screening (shared decision making) to help patients decide about screening and prepare for potentially anxiety-provoking findings.

Medicare covers lung scans in those who have smoked at least one pack a day for thirty years.

### DEATHS FROM LUNG CANCER

Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in the US. It is expected to cause about 158,000 deaths in 2016, including 86,000 men and 72,000 women.

Because cigarette smoking decreased decades earlier, lung cancer diagnoses and deaths have been declining for men since the mid-1980's but not until the mid-2000's for women. Women came to smoking later than men and have been slower to quit. Therefore, lung cancer diagnoses and deaths have declined more slowly for women than men.

Because lung cancers are usually advanced when diagnosed, most are fatal. While cancer survival rates have improved for many cancers, they have changed little for lung cancer.

Currently, the 5-year survival rate for lung cancer is 18%. However, recent innovations may improve survival: earlier diagnosis by CT scan screening and new treatments that attack specific tumor mutations or release checkpoints holding the immune system back.

# CREATE A QUIT SMOKING PLAN

## QUIT PLAN BENEFITS

One of the keys to a successful **QUIT** is preparation by creating a **QUIT PLAN!**

This combines quit smoking strategies to keep you focused, confident, and motivated and to identify the challenges on your journey to quit and the ways to overcome them. This maximizes your chances to quit smoking for good.

**The following steps will help you create your own customized Quit Plan. As you move through the steps keep a record of your plan and have it readily available at all times.**

### Pick a Quit Date

When choosing a quit date sooner is better than later. Many smokers choose a date within two weeks to quit smoking. That will give you enough time to prepare. Give serious thought to your **Quit** date. Avoid choosing a day where you know you will be busy, stressed, or tempted to smoke (e.g., a night out with friends or days where you may smoke at work).

**Next Step:** Circle your quit day on your calendar. Write it out somewhere where you will see it every day. This will remind you of your decision to become smoke free and give you time to prepare to **Quit**.

### Let Loved Ones Know You Are Quitting

Quitting smoking is most helpful with a support team you can count on from important people in your life. Let them know you are planning to quit and give them ample notice of your quit date. Explain how they can help you quit. We all have different needs so be sure to let friends and family know exactly how they can help.

**Next Step:** A support system is one of the keys to successfully quitting. However, it can be hard to ask for help, even from the people closest to you. Review tips on getting support to make sure you get the help you need.

### Remove Reminders of Smoking

Removing smoking reminders keeps you on a pathway during your quit. Smoking reminders can include your cigarettes, matches, ashtrays, and lighters. It may also help to make things clean and fresh at work, in your car, and at home. Even the smell of cigarettes can cause a cigarette craving.

**Next Step:** Throw away all your cigarettes and matches. Give or throw away your lighters and ashtrays. Don't save even one pack of cigarettes "just in case."

### Identify Your Reasons to Quit Smoking

Everyone has their own reasons to quit smoking. To be healthier, feel better, live a longer life, to be responsible and keep their family safe, save money, etc. As you prepare your mindset to quit think seriously about your reasons for quitting. Remind yourself of them every day as this is powerful inspiration to stop smoking for good.

**Next Step:** Make a list of all the reasons you want to quit smoking. Keep it with you every day. Any time you feel the urge to smoke review your list. This will keep you motivated to stay smoke free.

### Identify Your Smoking Triggers

Smoking relates to many parts of your life. Various activities, feelings, and people are linked to your smoking. When you come across these, they may "trigger" or turn on your urge to smoke. Try to anticipate these smoking triggers and develop ways to deal with them.

**Next Step:** Make a list of everything that draws you toward smoking. Then write down a way you can deal with or avoid each of them on your list. Keep this list nearby during your quit.

### Develop Coping Strategies

Nicotine is the chemical in cigarettes that makes you addicted to smoking. When you stop smoking, your body has to adjust to the absence of nicotine in its system. This is known as withdrawal. Withdrawal can be unpleasant, but you can get through it. Have a positive attitude. Developing strategies to cope with withdrawal ahead of your quit can help ensure you stay smoke free for good!

**Next Step:** Medications and behavior changes can help you manage the symptoms of withdrawal. Many **Quit Smoking** medications are available over the counter. Make sure you have them on hand prior to your quit. While medications will help, they cannot do all the work for you. Develop other quit smoking strategies to use with medications. Remember that withdrawal symptoms, including cravings, will fade with every day that you stay smoke free.

**If all attempts fail consider using e-cigarettes.**

**Sources:** American Lung Association, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and [www.smokefree.gov](http://www.smokefree.gov).

For further information on screening for lung cancer visit [www.strang.org](http://www.strang.org)

## WHERE CAN YOU GET IMMEDIATE HELP?

### The Most Difficult Time to Quit Smoking is During the First Few Weeks

You will experience uncomfortable feelings, temptations to smoke, withdrawal symptoms, and cigarette cravings. Whether it is a quit line, support group, or good friend, make sure you have quit smoking support options at your fingertips at all times. Use multiple **Quit Smoking** support options.

#### OPTIONS TO CONSIDER

**Smoke Free TXT:** A mobile text messaging service designed for adults and young adults across the United States who are trying to quit smoking.

**Quit Lines:** If you want to talk to a quit smoking counselor right away, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

**Quit Smoking Apps:** Mobile phone applications can help you prepare to quit, provide support, and track your progress.

**Support Groups:** Visit your county or state government's website to see if they offer quit smoking programs in your area.

**Friends and Family:** Getting support from the important people in your life can make a big difference during your quit.

**Medications:** If you are using a quit smoking medication, such as the patch, gum, lozenges or prescription medications, make sure you have them on hand.

### Set Up Rewards for Quit Milestones

The progression to quit smoking happens one minute, one hour, one day at a time. Reward yourself throughout your quit. Celebrate individual milestones, including being 24 hours smoke free, one week smoke free, and one-month smoke free, etc. To quit smoking is challenging so be proud of your accomplishments.

**Next Steps:** You should be empowered every time you hit a quit smoking milestone. Treat yourself to a nice dinner, trip to the movies, or any other smoke free activity. Be positive! Plan your milestones ahead of time and set up a smoke free reward for each one.

## The Strang Cancer Prevention Cookbook

Reduce your Risk for Cancer by Eating a Healthy Diet!

### Citrus Cranberry Sauce \* 10 Servings

3/4 pound fresh cranberries, 1/2 cup packed brown sugar,

1 cup fresh orange juice, grated zest of 1 orange and 1 lime



In a medium saucepan combine all the ingredients. Bring to a boil, then lower the heat to simmer. Cover and cook until the cranberries burst open, about 10 minutes. Let the sauce cool and refrigerate.

Calories 70, Protein 1g, Carbohydrates 17g, Fat 0g, Cholesterol 0 mg, Dietary fiber 2g Saturated fat 1g

Major sources of Potential Cancer fighters:

Phytochemicals: plant polyphenols (flavonoids, phenolic acids), plant sterols, terpenes (carotenoids, limonene).

Recipe by Laura Pensiero, R.D. Owner Gigi Trattoria, Rhinebeck, New York



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