

LUNG CANCER

Signs and Symptoms

Most lung cancers do not cause any symptoms until they have spread, but some people early lung cancer do have symptoms. Annual screening for those at high risk for lung cancer can save lives.

Most Common Lung Cancer Symptoms

- A cough that does not go away or gets worse
- Coughing up blood or rust-colored spit or phlegm
- Chest pain that is often worse with deep breathing, coughing, or laughing
- Hoarseness
- Loss of appetite
- Unexplained weight loss
- Shortness of breath
- Feeling tired or weak
- Infections such as bronchitis and pneumonia that don't go away or keep coming back
- New onset of wheezing

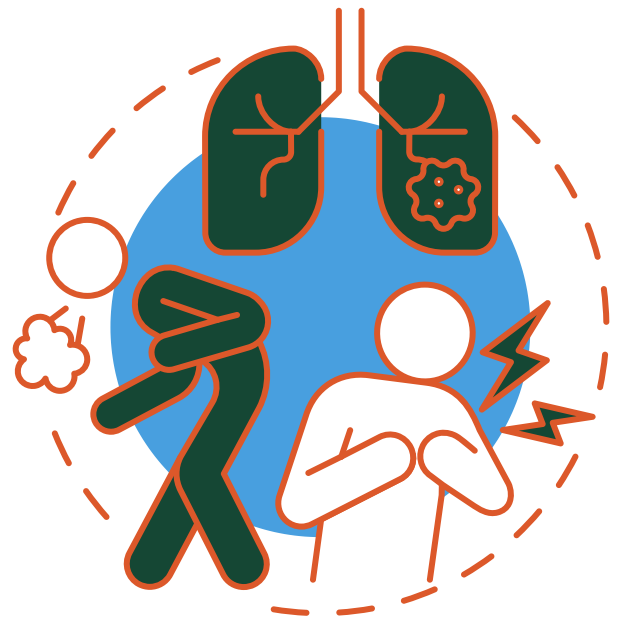
Signs and Symptoms of Lung Cancer That Has Spread

- Bone pain (like pain in the back or hips)
- Nervous system changes (such as headache, weakness or numbness of an arm or leg, dizziness, balance problems, or seizures)
- Yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice)
- Swelling of lymph nodes such as those in the neck or above the collarbone

Tell Your Doctor if You Have Symptoms

If you go to your doctor when you first notice lung cancer symptoms, your cancer might be diagnosed at an earlier stage, when treatment is more likely to be effective.

Most of these symptoms are more likely to be caused by something other than lung cancer. Still, if you have any of these problems, it's important to see your doctor right away so the cause can be found and treated, if needed.



Source: American Cancer Society, 2025