

When Found Early, Lung Cancer Can be Highly Curable

UF Surgeon Dedicated to Lung Cancer Care

There's something about lung cancer you may be surprised to learn: the disease can be highly curable — when it's found early.

“Lung cancer is not the cancer most often diagnosed in women, but it is the leading cause of cancer death in women,” says University of Florida College of Medicine thoracic and cardiovascular surgeon David A. Wyatt, M.D. “And while we do not have regular screening recommendations for lung cancer as we do for breast cancer, we do have the capability to detect lung tumors in their earliest stages when successful treatment is most effective.”

Although lung cancer can strike even lifelong non-smokers, the vast majority of cases are directly linked to tobacco use. Patients at the highest risk for developing the disease are 50 years of age or older with at least a 10-year smoking history.

“The most effective strategy for preventing lung cancer is to quit smoking,” Dr. Wyatt emphasizes. “All too often, lung cancers originate in the peripheral areas of the

lung, causing no pain or symptoms and avoiding detection until late-stage disease has developed.

“We can find early, treatable tumors with CT scans and chest x-rays, and when appropriate surgical intervention is undertaken for these cases, survival rates increase dramatically.”

Dedicated, Multidisciplinary Lung Cancer Care

A national leader in comprehensive cancer care and part of the only health system in the region to provide a full range of dedicated thoracic services, the University of Florida Shands Cancer Center offers patients the most sophisticated treatments and technologies available, including minimally invasive surgery, stereotactic radio-surgery and unique bronchial treatments.

“Thoracic medicine is advancing so quickly that it is impossible to stay current with the latest developments in lung cancer treatment without having a specific focus on the disease,” notes Dr. Wyatt, who is one of only a handful of surgeons in the state dedicating his practice to thoracic surgery. “With a team of thoracic surgeons, pulmonologists, radiation oncologists and medical oncologists, we give our patients access to a level of care that would be otherwise unavailable.”

Curtis G. Tribble, M.D., UF College of Medicine professor and chief of the division of thoracic and cardiovascular surgery, adds “Not only do we have an unwavering commitment to the highest quality of patient care, but we also have the scientific infrastructure and clinical research capabilities necessary to actively pursue the most advanced techniques available for the evaluation, diagnosis and treatment of lung cancer.”

Allied with the H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center and Research Institute, UF clinical investigators have access to a broad array of clinical trials as well as one of the largest tissue banks in the country.



David A. Wyatt, M.D.

“Our highest priority is on delivering integrated, compassionate care in a patient-centered environment,” says Dr. Wyatt. “By offering the best treatments of today with the most promising research, we can ensure each patient receives the best results possible.”

For more information about lung cancer care and Shands at the University of Florida, please call 352-273-8256. Visit the website at www.surgery.ufl.edu/tcv.

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University of Florida College of Medicine faculty deliver the latest in medical care to patients at Shands HealthCare, a private, not-for-profit healthcare system affiliated with UF and its Health Science Center campuses in Gainesville and Jacksonville.