

Overview

A lung cancer screening, or an LDCT scan, is nothing to be afraid of. It's a simple procedure. Yet, very important. In fact, it can save your life.

You may have some questions. We're here to answer some of those questions and walk you through what will happen, so you know what to expect.



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Your Lung Cancer Screening

What to expect



What is an LDCT scan?

LDCT stands for Low Dose Computed Tomography – it's the only way to screen for lung cancer. Screening means to look for early signs of a disease before the disease happens. It can catch cancer while it is still treatable.

An LDCT scan uses many X-rays to form a clear picture of your lungs. It's a type of CT scan that uses a lower dose, or amount, of radiation compared to a normal CT scan. There is no contrast, or colored liquid, used for this type of scan. So, you don't have to do much to prepare.



On the day of your scan

- You can eat and drink as normal.
- You may be asked to remove any metals, such as jewelry or glasses, which can disrupt the picture of your lungs.
- You may be asked to change into a hospital gown so your clothing does not get in the way.

During the scan

- A technologist will help you and tell you what to do.
- You'll lay flat on a table and will be asked to lie very still.
- The table will move you through a large circle-shaped machine (the CT scanner) and it will take pictures of your lungs.
- You may be asked to hold your breath for a few moments to get better pictures of your lungs.
- The whole scan should only take a few minutes. It is painless and you should not feel anything.



After the scan

- You can go about the rest of your day as normal.
- Your doctor will review the results of the scan and tell you about the them. Lung cancer screening is usually repeated every year. Sometimes, you may need closer follow-up or you may need extra tests for a better look at your lungs. Your doctor will tell you about any next steps.