

LUNG CANCER

THINK A-G



Supporting earlier & faster cancer diagnosis

APPETITE LOSS

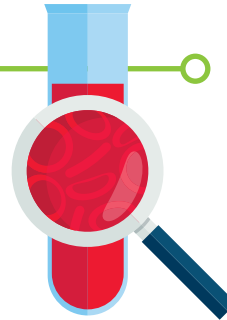
Reduced appetite, lethargy or weight loss can be presenting symptoms of lung cancer. Consider a chest X-ray (CXR), CT scan or referral to a non-site specific clinic.



A

BLOOD TESTS

Abnormal blood test results (i.e. anaemia, raised platelets, raised white cell count low albumin, and/or ferritin) may trigger a suspicion of lung cancer. Investigate further with a CXR and consider a referral on the suspected lung cancer pathway for a CT scan, even if the CXR is normal.



B

C

COUGH

Any cough lasting 3 weeks or more (or breathlessness/chest pain) should trigger a CXR. If any concern of lung cancer remains despite a normal CXR, then refer on the suspected cancer pathway.

REMEMBER: Not every cough is Covid.



D

DON'T FORGET NEVER-SMOKERS

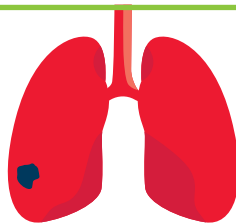
A never-smoker is defined as someone who has smoked less than 100 cigarettes in their lifetime. Approximately 6000 people that are never-smokers die of lung cancer each year in the UK; this is the 8th commonest cause of cancer-related death. Always investigate patients with persistent chest symptoms.



E

EARLY DIAGNOSIS

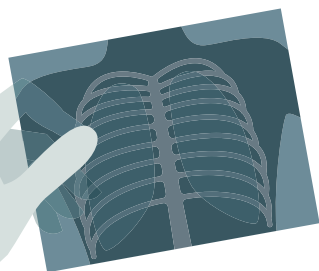
The early diagnosis of lung cancer improves prognosis. It's important to investigate patients with persistent respiratory symptoms such as, breathlessness, chest pain and haemoptysis.



F

FALSE NEGATIVE RATE OF CHEST X-RAYS

25% of lung cancers are not visible on chest X-rays. A normal CXR does not exclude lung cancer. If any concern of lung cancer remains despite a normal CXR, refer for a CT scan or on the suspected lung cancer pathway.



G

GREATER MANCHESTER REFERRAL PROFORMA

- Please refer all patients using the Greater Manchester form
- Ensure the patient understands the reason for referral
- Include frailty information as this helps direct patients to the most appropriate investigation or assessment

REFERRAL PROCESS FOR GREATER MCR

GM referral form

Bloods

Recent CXR results