

Mayo Clinic Sesquicentennial

Title: Seeing Cancer Sooner with CT Lung Scans – Date: November 2014

Intro: As the number one cancer killer, lung cancer claims more lives than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined. To help detect it sooner, when it’s far more treatable, Mayo Clinic has launched a Lung Cancer Screening Program. For some, the process is already proving to be a life saver.

| Video | Audio |
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| Total running time [Est trt 3:00] | OPENING Slide/Music |
| Kathleen Fischer speaking | “I started smoking when I was 14-years old.” |
| X-ray technician speaking | “Alright, roll your shoulders forward and your arms out.” |
| Kathleen Fischer speaking | “Smoked for 30 years.” |
| X-ray technician speaking | “Alright, breathe in. Take a deep breath in. Hold it. Alright, you can relax and let it out now.” |
| Title: Kathleen Fischer, Former Smoker | “Watched my father-in-law die from emphysema, so that was the deciding factor for me. I had to do something about it then.” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | What Kathleen Fischer did, was quit smoking. That was 15-years ago. But, this summer she learned that her smoking past - hadn’t exactly faded into history. |
| Dr. Stephen Cassivi speaking | “This area of the lung was where the tumor is and we removed the lung which would have been in this area here...” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | She was diagnosed with lung cancer. In spite of that, Mayo Clinic surgeon Dr. Stephen Cassivi says Kathleen is extremely lucky. It was detected so early, as a stage-1 tumor, that minimally invasive surgery seems to have delivered a cure, with no need for additional treatment, like chemotherapy or radiation. |
| Title: Stephen Cassivi, M.D. Mayo Clinic Thoracic Surgeon | “Her case is very illustrative of the opportunities that can be found in lung cancer screening.” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | Multiple studies, including the National Lung Screening Trial - which Mayo Clinic participated in - showed that looking inside the body with CT Scans can reduce lung cancer deaths by 20% in high risk groups of people. |

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| Dr. Cassivi speaking | “Using the low-dose CT screening program system, we need to treat about 300 or so patients to save a life.” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | With 87% of lung cancers attributed to smoking, <i>heavy</i> smokers - those who’ve smoked the equivalent of a pack of cigarettes a day for 30-years or more - are at the highest risk. Adding to the problem, lung cancer often presents no symptoms until it’s very advanced. |
| Kathleen Fischer speaking | “I think you always assume that because you feel good, you’re okay.” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | Kathleen’s husband Gary, was also a heavy smoker, so together they volunteered for a medical study in her home state, at the University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics. The COPD-Gene study’s goal is to identify genetic links that predispose people to develop lung diseases, such as emphysema. It uses low-dose CT scans to reveal changes in lung capacity, as well as muscle and bone structure. |
| Title: Alejandro Comellas, M.D. University of Iowa Hospitals | “So the Cat Scan is providing us a very rich data base to really correlate the genes and these characteristics.” |
| Dennis Douda speaking | Pulmonologist and researcher Dr. Alejandro Comellas says the scans also tipped Kathleen off to the tiny cancerous tumor growing in her lung. |
| Kathleen Fischer speaking | “We did one scan a year and the third year it looked a little suspicious.” |
| Dr. Stephen Cassivi speaking | “We know with lung cancer, as with many other cancers but specifically with lung cancer, that your survival from treatment of it, is directly related to the stage at which it’s first found |
| Dr. Stephen Cassivi speaking | “So lung cancer screening has really come of age.” |
| Kathleen Fischer speaking | “I mean, I think I’m living proof.” |
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Anchor tag: The federal government has announced Medicare will cover low-dose CT scans to screen high risk patients for lung cancer, a move some estimate could save up to 20,000 lives each year. Those wishing to contact Mayo Clinic’s Lung Cancer Screening Program in Rochester, Minnesota may call 507-538-0340.

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