

Mayo Clinic Minute

Lung Cancer: Should More People Be Screened?

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	This is a low-dose CT scan of someone's lungs. See that spot? It's cancer. The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force has guidelines about who should have this screening test, because research shows it saves lives. But Mayo Clinic researchers found those guidelines would only apply to about one-third of the people who get lung cancer.
Ping Yang, M.D., Ph.D. Epidemiology Mayo Clinic	"So we're wondering what happened to the other two-thirds of the patients. Who were they?"
	Dr. Ping Yang and colleagues found that the people the guidelines may be missing are those who quit smoking more than 15 years ago. You see, the current recommendations are that people between the ages of 55 and 80 who smoked at least a pack a day for 30 years and who are still smoking or quit within 15 years should get screened. But...
Ping Yang, M.D., Ph.D. Epidemiology Mayo Clinic	"The criteria for lung cancer screening may not fit the high-risk population."
	So Dr. Yang hopes that policymakers will eventually rewrite guidelines to include people who have quit smoking for 15 to 30 years, because the new study shows they too are at high risk of lung cancer.
	I'm Vivien Williams and for more health news, visit the Mayo Clinic News Network.