

Mayo Clinic Minute Lighting up lung nodules during surgery

A tiny lung nodule can be difficult to find during surgery. Now, Mayo Clinic surgeons are using fluorescent imaging technology that can make suspicious nodules light up, helping guide treatment with greater precision. Jason Howland explains in this Mayo Clinic Minute.

NAT POP (Operating Room Team) Tumor glows green.	"Oh, wow, look at that."
Reporter	That's the reaction as a cancerous lung nodule lights up during surgery. Injected before surgery, the contrast substance binds to cancer cells, gets internalized, and makes them glow under specialized imaging, helping surgeons find suspicious nodules more easily.
JONATHAN D'CUNHA, M.D., Ph.D. CARDIOTHORACIC SURGERY Mayo Clinic	"Using this fluorescent agent is really helpful. Because it hones to the cancer cells and binds to one of the receptors on cancer cells. When you're in the operating room, you can use your advanced fluorescent imaging to see the tumor light up."
Reporter	The goal is to completely remove the tumor while preserving as much healthy lung tissue as possible.
Jonathan D'Cunha, M.D., Ph.D.	"What we use to identify the fluorescent agent is a special type of camera, fluorescent technology to identify the target we're after."
Reporter	This technology is being used during minimally invasive lung surgery to help surgeons pinpoint cancerous tissue that may otherwise be difficult to see or feel.
Jonathan D'Cunha, M.D., Ph.D.	"We're always looking for tools to be more precise in what we do."
Reporter	For the Mayo Clinic News Network, I'm Jason Howland.

