

The Long Hard Slog: The Journey Since 1990 and Lessons Learned Along the Way and How Do We Take It To the NEXT LEVEL

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Disclosures

- I am a named inventor on a number of patents and patent applications relating to the evaluation of pulmonary nodules on CT scans of the chest which are owned by Cornell Research Foundation (CRF).
- As of April 2009, I signed away any financial benefit including royalties and any other proceeds related to the patents or patent applications owned by CRF.
- I am the President of the Early Diagnosis and Treatment Research Foundation without compensation
- I am on the Advisory Board of LungLifeAI without compensation

**My views and any VA data that I discuss do not necessarily represent the views and official policies of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

- i3 Health and FLASCO have mitigated all relevant financial relationships

**Over the past 45 years (1975-2020),
prevention and screening accounted for
4.75 of 5.95 million cancer deaths averted**

**Recommended more investment in prevention and screening
strategies for cancers of the breast, cervical, colorectal, lung and
prostate as 8 of 10 of these deaths were averted**

JAMA Oncology, December 5, 2024; E1-6

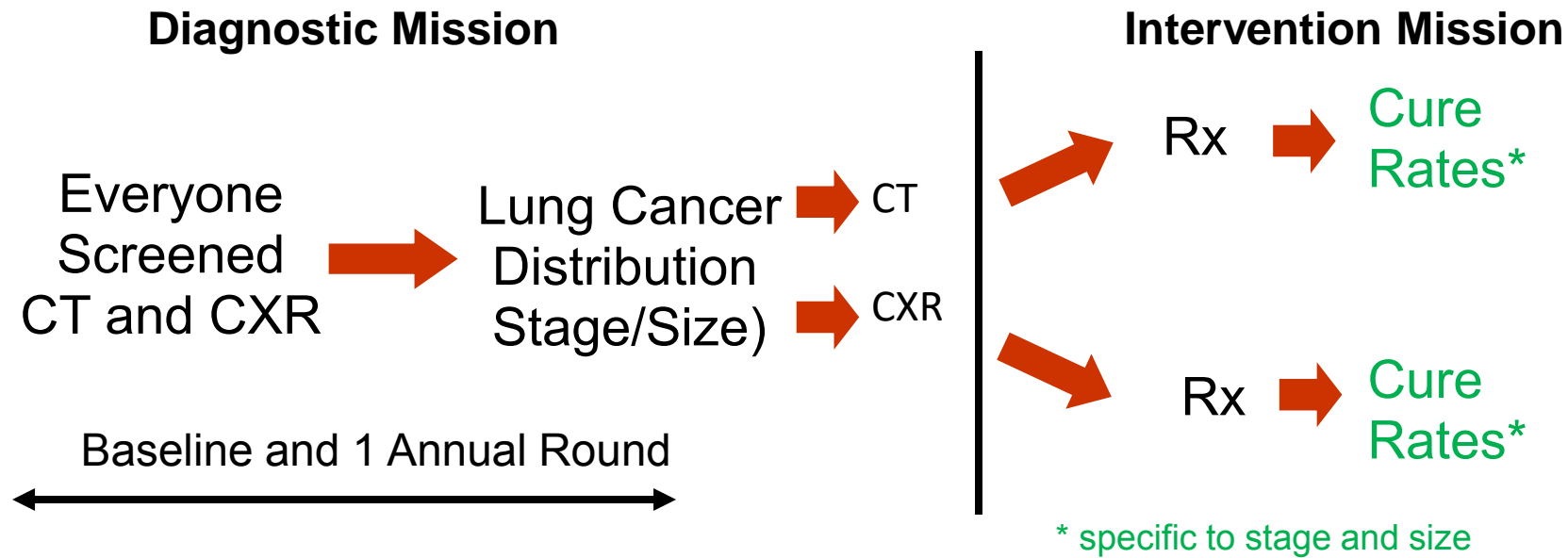
The Goal of Screening

- To reduce deaths from lung cancer by finding lung cancer earlier as early treatment is the best chance for **cure**
- How to start learning about low-dose CT scans in an efficient manner at low budget

The ELCAP Approach:

1000 participants, aged 60+ and at least 10 pack-years of smoking

Stage and Size distribution can be answered in 2 years
by a single baseline round and one annual repeat round
Cure rate requires long-term follow-up of annual screenings



July 10, 1999

Lancet Article

25 Fishman JA, Rubin RH. Medical progress: infection in organ-transplant recipients. *N Engl J Med* 1998; **339**: 1711-21.
26 Niu MT, Coleman PJ, Alter MJ. Multicenter study of hepatitis C virus infection in chronic haemodialysis patients and haemodialysis center staff members. *Am J Kidney Dis* 1993; **22**: 568-74.
27 Adam HO, Chou WH, Nysen G, et al. Excess risk of primary liver cancer in patients with diabetes mellitus. *J Natl Cancer Inst* 1996; **88**: 1472-77.
28 de Villiers EM, Weidauer H, Otto H, zur Hausen H. Papillomavirus DNA in human tongue carcinomas. *Int J Cancer* 1985; **36**: 573-78.
29 Bunker KR, Tyring S. Human papillomavirus and human disease. *Am J Med* 1997; **102**: 9-15.
30 Winkelplecht B, Muelle-Lantach N, Kohler H. Serological evidence for reactivation of EBV infection due to iatrogenic immunodeficiency. *Medical Clin Transplant* 1997; **12**: 2099-104.
31 Yamamoto T, Nakajima Y, Yamamoto M, Honada T, Hirai K, Nakamura Y. Epstein-Barr virus activity in patients on chronic haemodialysis. *Nephron* 1995; **70**: 449-54.
32 Chertow GM, Paltiel AD, Owen WF Jr., Lazarus JM. Cost-effectiveness of cancer screening in end-stage renal disease. *Arch Intern Med* 1996; **156**: 1345-50.

Early Lung Cancer Action Project: overall design and findings from baseline screening

Claudia I Henschke, Dorothy I McCauley, David F Yankelevitz, David P Naidich, Georgeann McGuinness, Olli S Miettinen, Daniel M Libby, Mark W Pasmantier, June Koizumi, Nasser K Altorki, James P Smith

Summary

Background The Early Lung Cancer Action Project (ELCAP) is designed to evaluate baseline and annual repeat screening by low-dose CT in people at high risk of lung cancer. We report the baseline experience.

Methods ELCAP has enrolled 1000 volunteers, aged 60 years or older, with at least 30 years of cigarette smoking and no previous cancer, medically fit to undergo thoracic surgery. After interview and informed consent, chest radiography and low-dose CT were done for each participant. The investigation of screen-detected non-calcified nodules was guided by ELCAP recommendations. Short-term high-resolution CT followed the smallest non-calcified nodules.

Findings Non-calcified nodules were detected in 95 (9.5%) of 21-26 participants by low-dose CT compared with 68 (7%) [5-9] by chest radiography. Lung disease was detected in 27 (2.7%) [1.8-3.4] seven (0.7%) [0.3-1.3] by chest radiography. Malignant disease in 23 (2.3%) [1.5-3.3] and 10 (1-0.9%), respectively. Of the 27 CT-detected nodules were resected. Biopsies were done on 2 participants with non-calcified nodules; 27 non-calcified nodules and one had a benign nodule. Three individuals underwent biopsy against recommendations. All had benign non-calcified nodules. One participant had thoracotomy for a benign nodule.

Well Medical College of Cornell University and New York Presbyterian Hospital (Prof C I Henschke, Prof D I McCauley, Prof O S Miettinen, Prof D P Naidich, Prof M W Pasmantier, Prof J Koizumi, Prof N K Altorki, Prof J P Smith), University Medical Center (Prof D I McCauley, Prof D F Yankelevitz, Prof G McGuinness), New York, NY, USA; and McGill University (Prof O S Miettinen), Montreal, Canada (Prof O S Miettinen).

Correspondence to: Dr Claudia I Henschke, Department of Radiology, New York Presbyterian Hospital/Well Cornell Medical Center, 525 East 68th Street, New York, NY 10021, USA. (email: chensch@mail.med.cornell.edu)

Interpretation Low-dose CT can greatly improve the likelihood of detection of small non-calcified nodules, and thus of lung cancer at an earlier and potentially more curable stage. Although false-positive CT results are common, they can be managed with little use of invasive

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experimental cohort.¹¹ Concerned that the recommendations against radiographic screening for lung cancer may have been based primarily on a single, perhaps falsely negative

CT IMAGING IN 1990

12 tiny images on 1 x-ray film
24-30 images on 2-3 x-ray films



15 images on 1 X-RAY

Low dose acquisition just introduced



Celebrating NYC Chest conferences



Conferences 2000 to 2001

- **3rd International Conference on Screening for Lung Cancer** on October 27-29, 2000
 - Call to develop an international consortium
 - Create working groups
 - Call to develop an international protocol
 - Develop strong ties to all interested organizations
- **4th International Conference on Screening for Lung Cancer** on February 23-25, 2001
 - Recommended combining screening and smoking cessation
 - Recognized part-solid and nonsolid nodules and the need to study these
 - Dr. Fagerstrom (NCI) presented plans for NLST of 150,000 participants and 10 years of follow-up (revised at later meetings)



1st – 5th
at Weill Cornell
Medical College
starting in
October 1999

I-ELCAP Held International Conferences on Screening for Lung Cancer Every 6 Months



21 held in New York City, 25 at other sites
IELCAP.org



I-ELCAP Held International Conferences on Screening for Lung Cancer Every 6 Months

Paris, France

Rome, Italy

Nara, Japan

Jerusalem, Israel

Zhuhai, China

Beijing, China

Zurich, Switzerland

Verona, Italy

Madrid, Spain

São Paulo, Brazil

New York City, New York

Miami, Florida

Washington, DC

Palm Springs, California

Newark, Delaware

Seattle, Washington

Scottsdale, Arizona

Chicago, Illinois

Poughkeepsie, New York

Multiple Pathology Panels 2001-2006

William Travis MD, Elizabeth Brambilla MD, Darryl Carter MD, Adi Gazdar MD, Masayuki Noguchi MD together with June Kozumi, Madeleine Vazquez and Doug Flieder from Weill Cornell Pathology

- reviewed all the early stage cases from screening

Flieder DB, Vazquez M, Carter D, Brambilla E, Gazdar A, Noguchi M, Travis WD, Kramer A, Yankelevitz DF, Henschke CI. Pathologic findings of lung tumors diagnosed on baseline CT screening. *American Journal of Surgical Pathology* 2006; 30:606-13

Carter D, Vazquez M, Flieder DB, Brambilla E, Gazdar A, Noguchi M, Travis WD, Kramer A, Yip R, Yankelevitz DF, Henschke CI, ELCAP and NY-ELCAP Investigators. Comparison of pathologic findings of baseline and annual repeat cancers diagnosed on CT screening. *Lung Cancer* 2007; 56:193-9
PMID:17239983

Vazquez M, Carter D, Brambilla E, Gazdar A, Noguchi M, Travis W, Huang Y, Zhang L, Yip R, Yankelevitz DF, Henschke CI. Solitary and Multiple Resected Adenocarcinomas after CT Screening for Lung Cancer: histopathologic features and their prognostic implications. *Lung Cancer* 2009; 64:148-54
PMID:18951650 PMID: PMC2849638

Multiple Pathology Panels 2001-2006

American Cancer Society grant for pathology review led to

- Changes pathology descriptors
 - Atypical adenomatous hyperplasia (AAH)
 - Adenocarcinoma-in-situ (AIS)
 - Minimally invasive adenocarcinoma (MIA)
 - Invasive adenocarcinoma according to **predominant findings**
- These insights and definitions change
 - the workup paradigm
 - the treatment paradigm

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

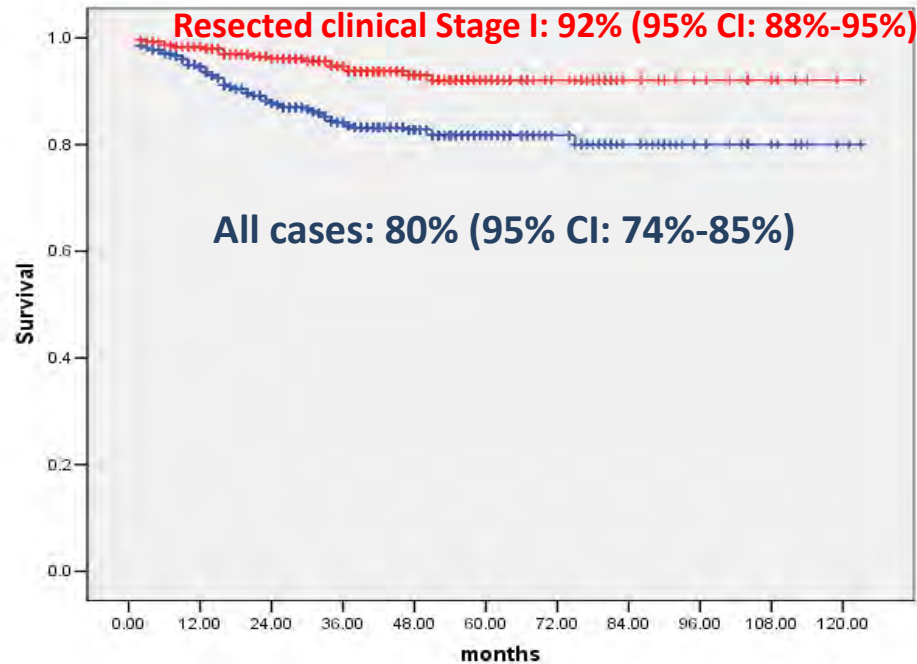
ESTABLISHED IN 1812

OCTOBER 26, 2006

VOL. 355 NO. 17

Survival of Patients with Stage I Lung Cancer Detected on CT Screening

The International Early Lung Cancer Action Program Investigators*



31,567 participants

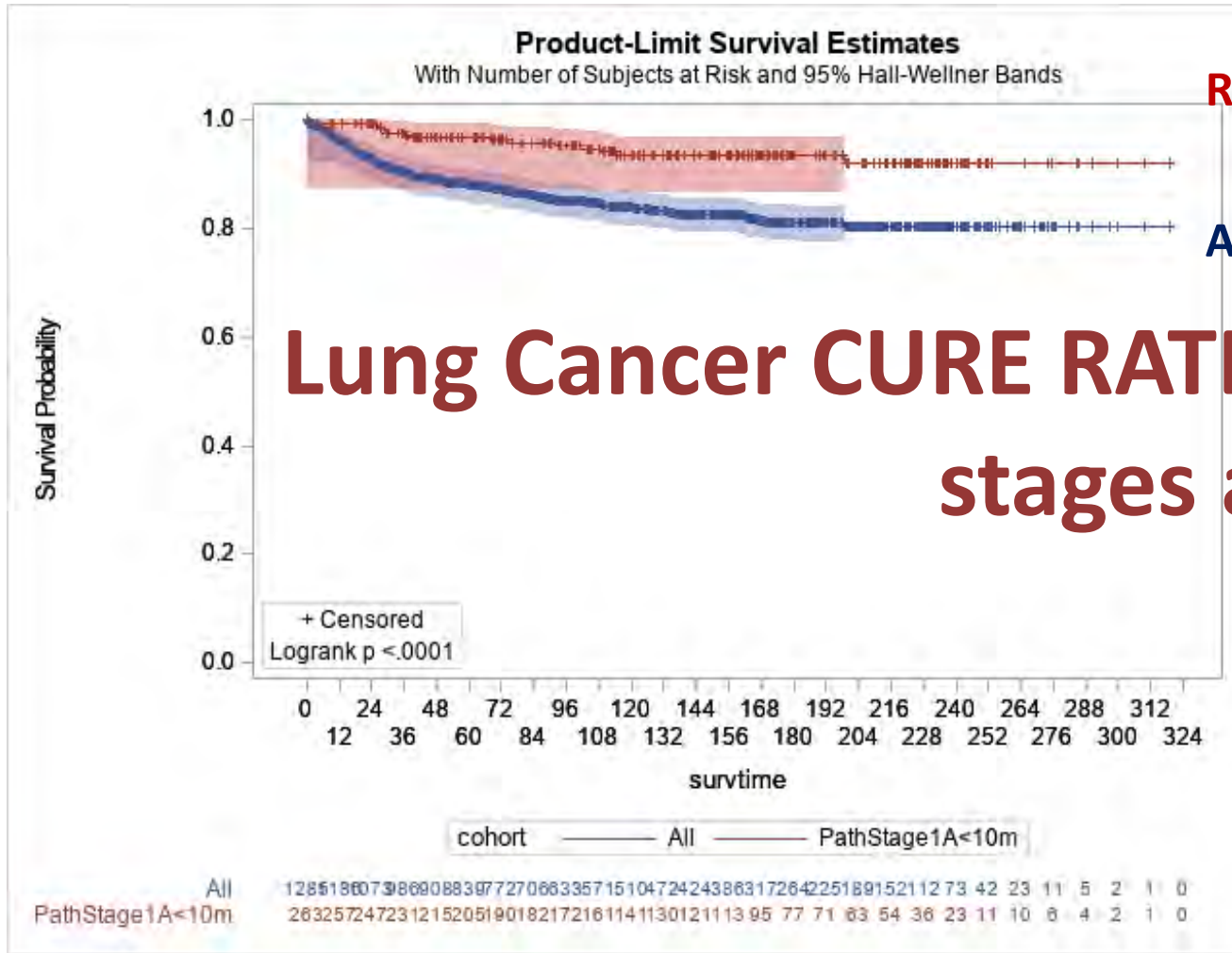
484 participants diagnosed with lung cancer

85% (412/484) were clinical Stage I

Median follow-up time=49 months

Lung cancer deaths =88/484 (18.2%)

I-ELCAP reported on the 20-Year Lung Cancer Survival Rate in 1285 Participants



Resected Path T1a NOM0<10mm **95%**

All cases **80.5%**

Lung Cancer CURE RATE: 80%, inclusive of all stages and treatments

Awarded the Alexander R. Margulis Award for best scientific paper

Cure Rate of Lung Cancer Diagnosed at Annual CT Screening

Philippe A. Grenier, MD

Dr Philippe A. Grenier is a former professor of radiology and chairman at Sorbonne University in Paris, France. He currently works at Foch Hospital in Suresnes, France, in affiliation with Versailles-Saint Quentin University. His main interests are lung cancer imaging and diffuse lung disease. Dr Grenier is past president of the Fleischner Society and European Society of Thoracic Imaging. He has received the European Congress and Association of Radiology Gold Medal.



participants enrolled in the prospective I-ELCAP from 1992 through 2022. Eligible participants were aged at least 40 years and were current or former cigarette smokers or had never smoked but had been exposed to secondhand tobacco smoke. Among 89 404 participants, 1257 (1.4%) were diagnosed with a first primary lung cancer at baseline and annual screenings. The median age at diagnosis was 66 years, with a median smoking history of 43 pack-years. Of the 1257 cases of lung cancer, 1008 (80.2%) were solid and 249 (19.8%) were subsolid. The median tumor diameter was 14 mm, and 81% of all cancers (1017 of 1257)

“This study is the first to report on 20-year lung-cancer–specific survival for low-dose CT screening programs.”

“The primary outcome reported in this study was that for all these categories of lung cancers, the lung cancer–specific survival reached a plateau after 10 years of followup. **Hence, Henschke and Yip et al confirm the results of their previously published study (3), where they estimated the 10-year cure rate of patients diagnosed with lung cancer during annual screening to be 80%.** They also confirm with real data the estimates provided by empirical demonstrations published in the literature, **that is, 8–10 years of follow-up after diagnosis is sufficient to estimate cure rates for lung cancer (5–7).**”

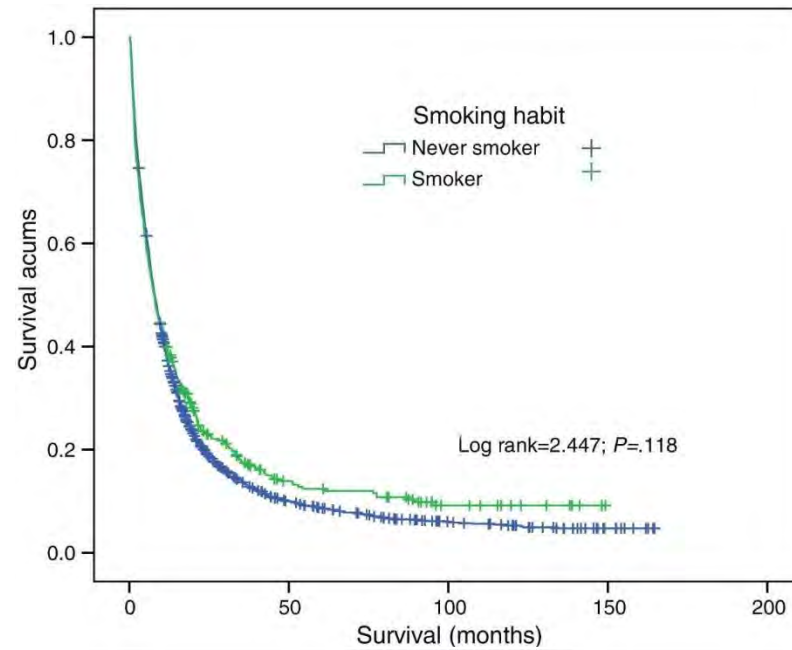
Radiological Society of North America (RSNA) Alexander R. Margulis Award 2024

The 20-year Follow-up of the International
Early Lung Cancer Action Program (I-ELCAP)

Douglas E Wood | Implementation for CT Screening Programs

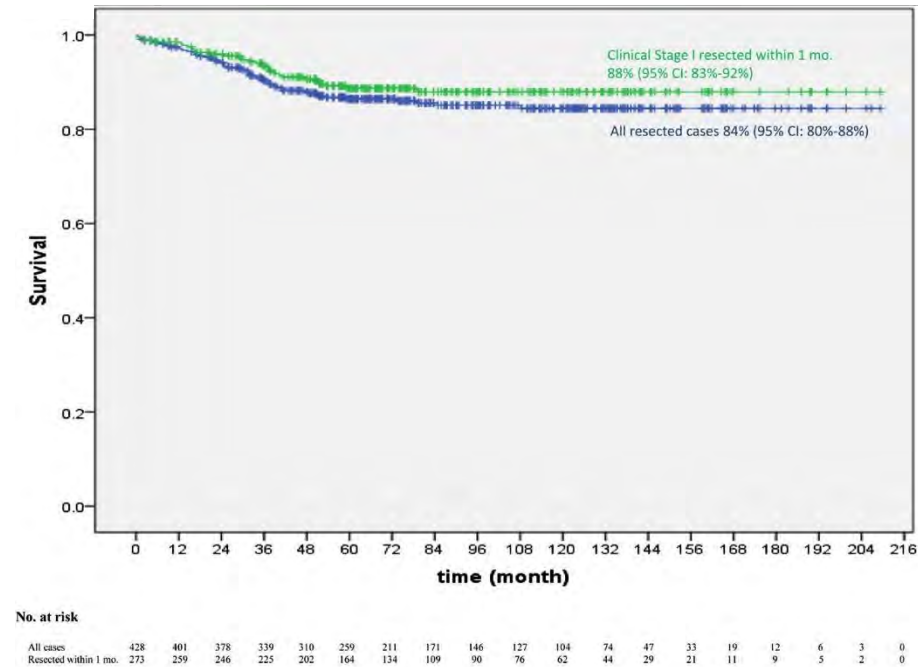
Lung Cancer Survival

Current Lung Cancer Survival



Lamelas, IP, et al. Arch Bronconeumol.2014;50:62-6

I-ELCAP



J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg 2014; 147:1619-1626.

A vertical red graphic on the right side of the page, composed of various shades of red triangles and polygons, creating a jagged, abstract shape.

1st Conference on Integrating Early Detection of Heart and Lung Disease through Low-Dose CT

*"Scientific Think-Tank Event Exploring New Frontiers in Averting
Preventable Premature Deaths through AI-enabled Early Detection"*

Together with

**46th International Conference on
Screening for Lung Cancer**

**14th Conference on Early Lung
Cancer Research on Treatment**

Integrating Cardiac
and Lung Screening

September 19-21, 2024

New York Academy
of Medicine in
New York City

Combined detection of coronary artery disease and lung cancer

Harvey S. Hecht*, Claudia Henschke, David Yankelevitz, Valentin Fuster, and Jagat Narula

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Introduction

Coronary artery disease (CAD) and lung cancer have several important features in common. First, their dramatic increases are in large part attributable to societal ills, including worsening dietary patterns, obesity, and tobacco use. Secondly, as these behaviours permeate the world, the diseases are disproportionately increasing in the poorer societies with limited resources for healthcare. Consequently, it is necessary to develop cost-effective strategies. Both disease states may be amenable to early detection by a single low radiation dose CT scan.

In an attempt to simplify cholesterol treatment, the 2013 ACC/AHA Guideline on the treatment of blood cholesterol to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in adults⁶ restricted the use of CAC to the patients who did not fall into four designated conventional risk factor-based categories. Coronary artery calcium was downgraded to a Class IIb status (recommendation's usefulness/efficacy less well established),⁷ ignoring the robust CAC literature that initially engendered the Class IIa recommendation, and the more recent data from three prospective, population-based outcome trials that the CAC Net Reclassification Index of the FRS is extremely high, particularly for the intermediate-risk group (52–66%) (Table 1).^{8–10} The guide-

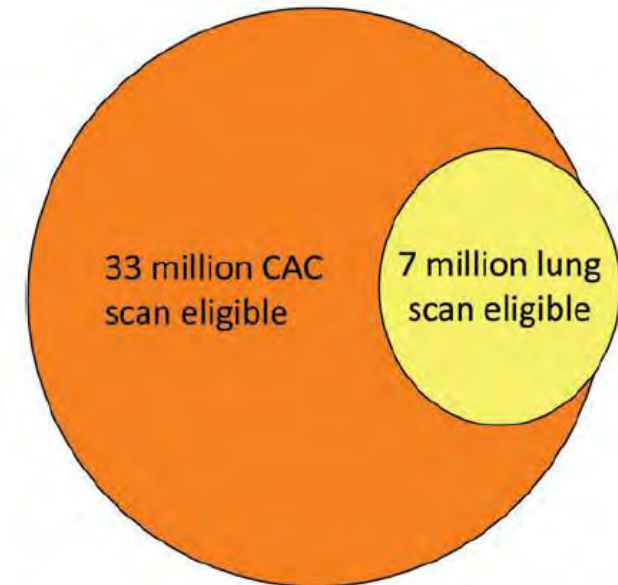


Figure 1 USA estimates, and overlap, of coronary artery calcium and lung scan eligible patients. The number of eligible patients in the USA is estimated at 33 million for coronary artery calcium scanning (orange)²⁸ and 7 million for lung scanning (yellow).²⁷ Excluding lung scan eligible patients who have established coronary disease (5.3%, unpublished data from the I-ELCAP database) yields an overlap of 6.6 million lung scan patients who would be expected to benefit from coronary artery calcium scanning.

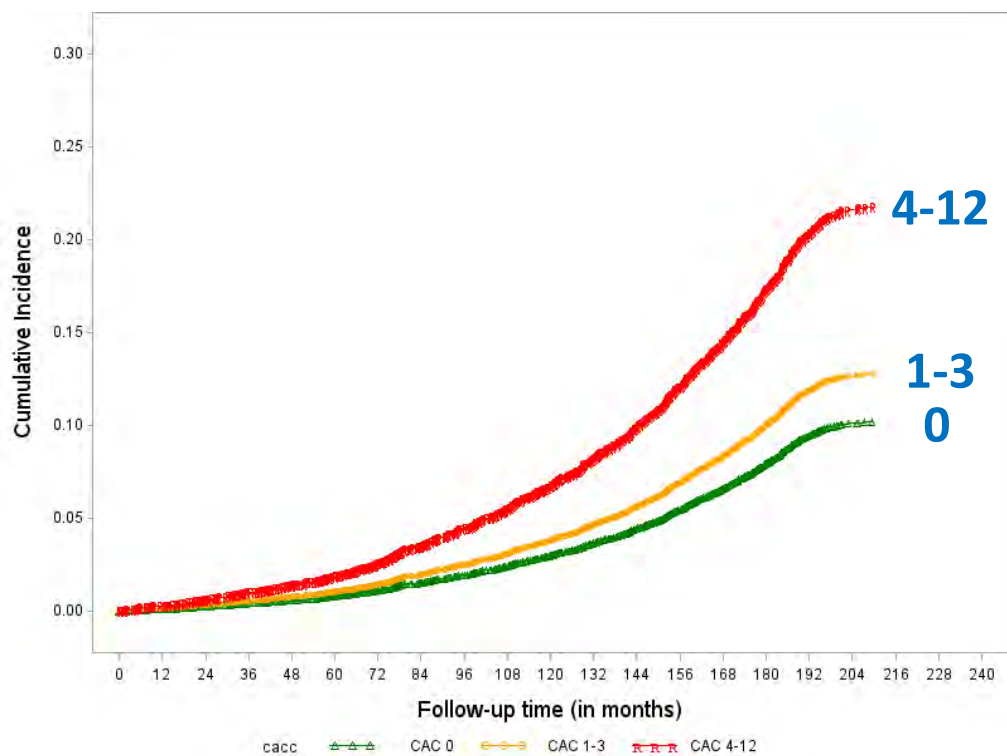
Ordinal Coronary Artery Calcification Score

Frequency of CAC on LDCT Screenings

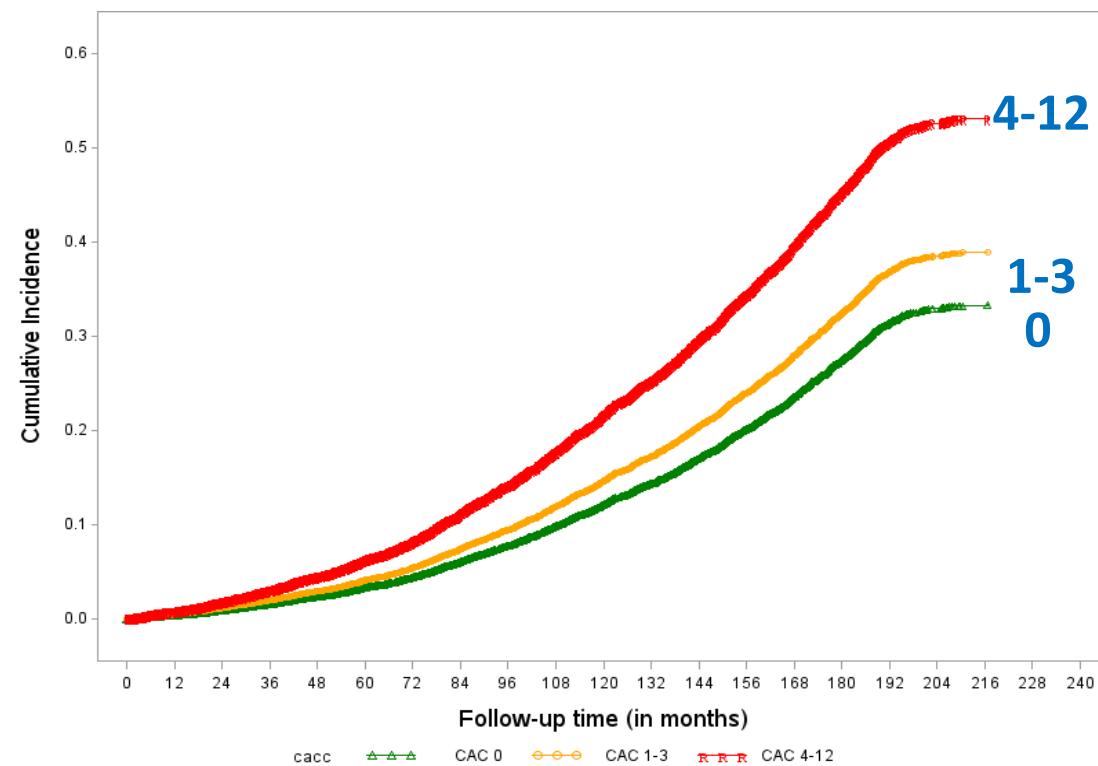
- In 2006, scored visualized CACs in the four coronary artery (main, left anterior descending, circumflex, and right) were scored separately as 0 (absent), 1 (mild), 2 (moderate), or 3 (severe)
 - Yielded a total possible score of 0-12 for each person.
- In 2010, we demonstrated the clinical relevance of this visual Ordinal CAC score as a strong predictor of death from CVD up to 8-years of follow-up in a screening cohort of 8792 New York State participants.
- We also showed that three Ordinal CAC score categories of 0, 1-3 and 4-12 were highly correlated with
 - Agatston score categories of 0 (low risk), 1-400 (intermediate risk) and 400+ (high risk)

A Single Ordinal Coronary Artery Calcification Score Predicts 25-Year CVS and All-Causes of Death

Cardiovascular Deaths



All causes of death



AI-CARDIAC CHAMBER ASSESSMENT ON CT

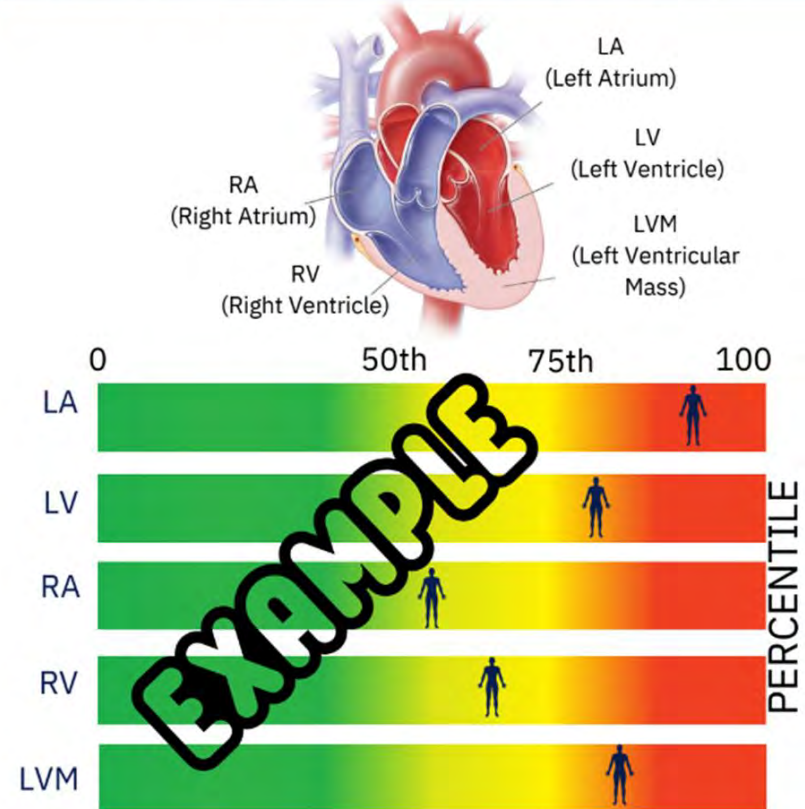
A Strong Predictor of Atrial Fibrillation and Heart Failure

1. Naghavi M, Yankelevitz DF, Reeves AP, Budoff MJ, et al. AI-enabled left atrial volumetry in coronary artery calcium scans (AI-CACTM) predicts atrial fibrillation as early as one year, improves CHARGE-AF and outperformed NT-proBNP: The multi-ethnic study of atherosclerosis. J of Cardiovasc Comput Tomogr. 2024; 18:383-391. PMID: 38653606
PMCID: PMC11216863
2. Naghavi M, Budoff M, Greenland P, et al. AI-enabled automated cardiac chambers volumetry in coronary calcium scans outperforms NT-proBNP for prediction of health failure: the multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis. J Cardiovasc Comput Tomogr 2024; 18:392-400. PMID: 38664073 PMCID: [PMC11216890](#)
3. Naghavi M, Reeves, Atlas K, Zhang C, Atlas T, Henschke C, Yankelevitz D, Budoff M, et al. AI-enabled cardiac chambers volumetry and calcified plaque characterization in coronary artery calcium (CAC) scans (AI-CAC) significantly improves on Agatston CAC score for predicting all cardiovascular events: The multi-ethnic study of atherosclerosis. Res Sq 2024; 20;rs-4433105. PMID: 38947043 PMCID: [PMC11213177](#)
4. Naghavi M, Reeves AP Atlas K, Li D, Zhang C, Atlas T, Roy SK, Budoff MJ, Henschke CI, Yankelevitz DF, Wong ND. AI-powered coronary artery calcium scans (AI-CAC) cardiac volumetry predicts heart failure comparable to cardiac JACC In press 2024.

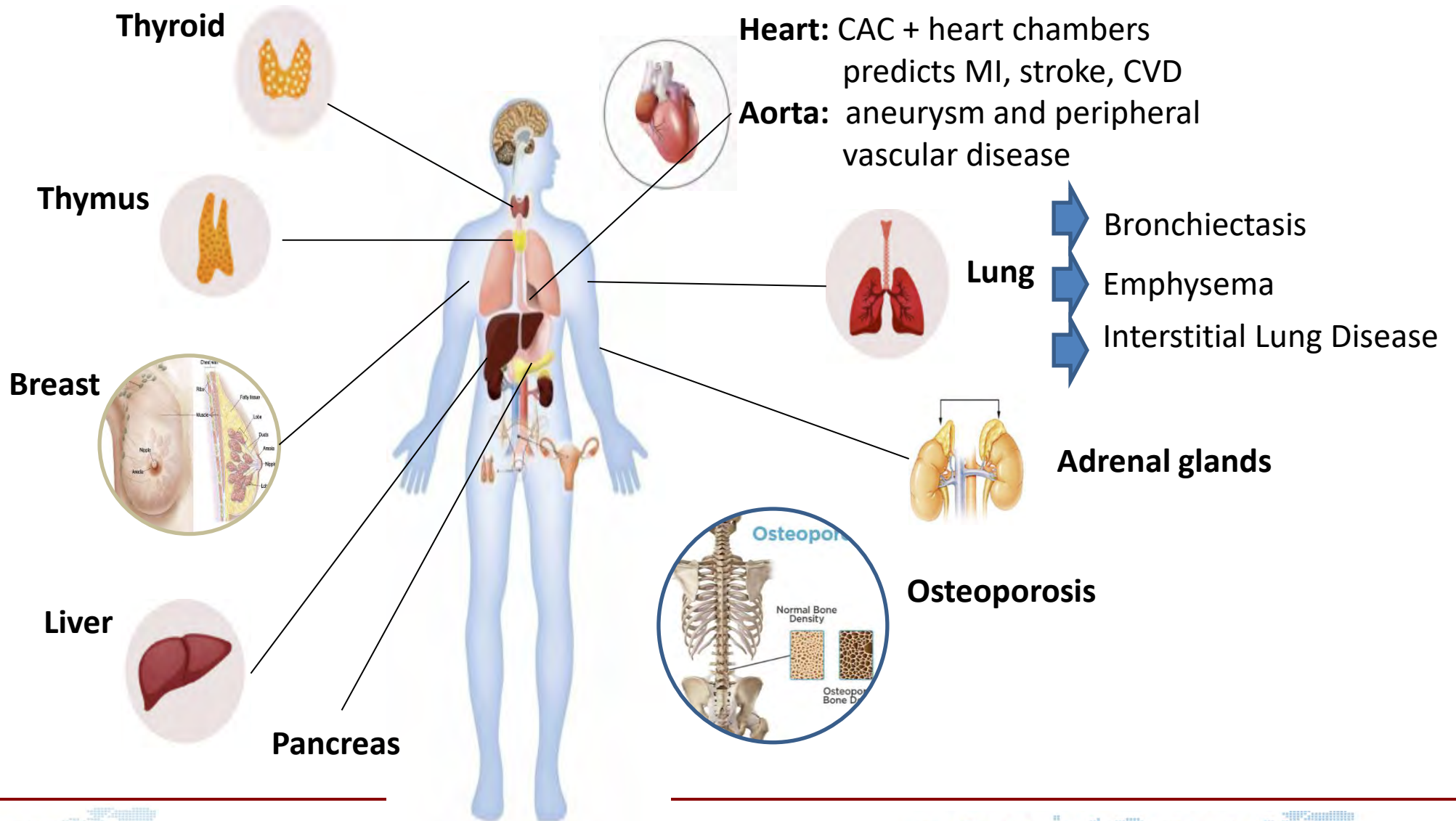
CARDIAC CHAMBER ANALYSIS



Percentile for Males Adjusted by Body Surface Area (BSA)



LDCT is Comprehensive Health Screening



I-ELCAP Awards Banner Time

- Ochsner Award from the Ochsner Clinic in New Orleans 2023
- Joseph W. Cullen Prevention/Early Detection Award from the International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer.
September 7, 2024
- Honorary Member of the Chinese Society of Radiology for promoting lung cancer screening (Shanghai, China November 14, 2024)
- Radiological Society of North America: Alexander R. Margulis Award for best scientific paper in 2024

The Long Hard Slog not finished

- I-ELCAP Protocol since 2002
 - People who have smoked or never smoked
 - Age 40 and older with at least 5 years of life expectancy
 - Annual LDCT and follow-up as per protocol
 - Published more than 300 scientific papers
- But there are around 40,000 deaths each year in never smokers, 2/3 of them women –they need screening
- Now expanding the I-ELCAP Protocol to countries with limited resources but increasing frequency of smoking and lung cancer

Global Lung Cancer Statistics in 2020

- 2.2 million people were diagnosed with lung cancer
- One fifth (1/5) of all deaths from cancer were due to lung cancer
 - Almost twice as many deaths as 2nd most (colorectal cancer) or 3rd most (liver cancer) cancer
- Lung cancer has a higher economic burden than any other cancer
- Without LDCT screening, the cure rate for lung cancer is low

To Maximize the Benefit of Screening

We need to keep rethinking and optimizing all components of the diagnostic-treatment paradigm



An Open Source
automated image reading
system (AIRS) that
determines no clinical
change has occurred –
no new nodules and
no nodule size change

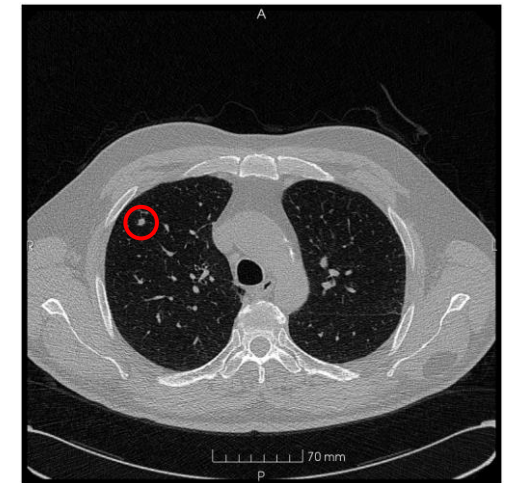
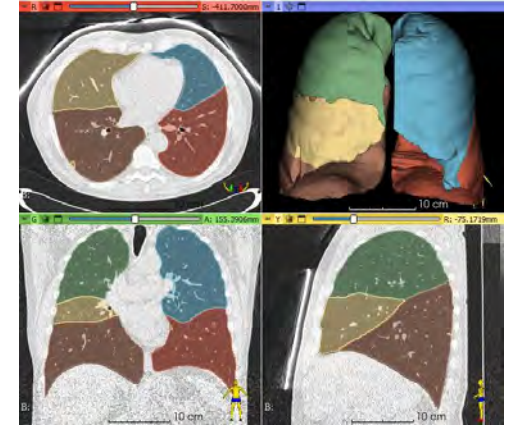
How to Improve Lung Cancer Outcomes

- Find the lung cancer when it is smaller using the latest generation of CT scanners
- Development of optimal protocol for accurate growth assessment
 - Enhanced automated accurate methods for determining growth rates of pulmonary nodules and their probability of malignancy
 - Integrate AI in the screening protocol and in the future blood biomarkers when available
- Integrate management systems to continuously reevaluate and update the workup protocol
- Develop Heart and Lung protocols
 - Integrate new software tools for comprehensive health checks of cardiac illness, lung illness and personalized measures of health
- Expand outreach to the at risk population
 - Improve with natural language processes making reports more specific and easier to understand
 - Translation to other languages

Imagine What Could be Accomplished

If sites around the world had access to this tool it would:

- Dramatically reduce the burden on radiologists, especially in low and moderate income countries
- Allow for automation of the entire screening process by connecting to a management system, such as the open source VAPALS-ELCAP / ScreeningPLUS system
- Standardize quality of scan interpretations



SAVE THE DATES

April 3rd – 5th , 2025 in BANGKOK, THAILAND
2nd AGILE^{DxRx} Conference

**47th International Conference on
Screening for Lung Cancer**

&

**15th Conference on Research for
Early Lung Cancer Treatment**

Princess Srisavangavadhana College of Medicine
Host: Natthaya Triphuridet, MD, PhD



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4.75 of 5.95 million cancer deaths averted**

**Recommended more investment in prevention and screening
strategies for cancers of the breast, cervical, colorectal, lung and
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JAMA Oncology, December 5, 2024; E1-6

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead, Anthropologist

Never underestimate what a dedicated group of physicians, epidemiologists, statisticians, and engineers can accomplish by self-funded collaboration using a common protocol and screening management system

THANK YOU on behalf of the I-ELCAP Investigators



Thanks and Acknowledgements

- **The efforts of all the I-ELCAP Investigators and their teams**
We express our deepest gratitude to the many physicians, nurses, patient coordinators, academicians, and technical and administrative staffs whose dedicated and meticulous work over the past decades has provided the platform on which I-ELCAP research is built.
- **Our very, very special thanks to the thousands of screening participants**
who have allowed us to follow their progress over the years so that others could benefit from the information gleaned from their experiences. We greatly appreciate their generosity of spirit.

EARLY DIAGNOSIS AND EARLY TREATMENT

A new era in Preventive Health

