

Are lung NETs lung cancer?

The simple answer is: lung NETs **can** be **lung cancer**. They can also be gastrointestinal cancers, pancreatic cancers and more. This makes lung NETs special and different from most other types of lung cancer.

In order to know how to treat a tumor in the lung, physicians need to perform a **biopsy**. This removes a small amount of tissue and examines what it looks like under a microscope. From there, physicians can learn a lot about the tumor, including the type of cells in its makeup which informs treatment.



Can you screen for lung NETs?

Lung cancer **screening** looks for nodules in the lungs in people who are at high risk for lung cancer. If a nodule is found, further testing is used to determine if it is cancer and what kind it is.

Lung cancer screening will catch lung NETs, typically at an early stage when it is easier to treat.

However, the screening criteria is based on age and tobacco-use history. Even though some lung NETs may be associated with tobacco-use, it is still unclear how much the two are connected. The current lung cancer screening criteria may miss people who have lung NETs but do not meet the eligibility criteria for screening.

In some rare cases, an inherited genetic disorder called multiple endocrine neoplasia type 1 (MEN1) can increase your risk of developing lung NETs. Be sure to tell your doctor if you have any family history of lung NETs so you can be screened for the disease.

Why can't everyone be screened for lung cancer so all cancers are found early?

Changing the lung cancer screening criteria to be more inclusive does seem like a logical step to catch more cancers earlier, but it is important to remember that lung cancer screening has benefits as well as risks. Learn more about why **lung cancer screening isn't for everyone**.



Do lung NETs have the same symptoms as other lung cancers?

Lung NETs can cause the same [symptoms](#) as other types of lung cancer. Any type of tumor that blocks an airway can cause breathing problems and pain. Respiratory symptoms may include trouble breathing, coughing, coughing up blood, chest pain and others.

Because lung NETs are made of hormonal cells, tumors can sometimes “dump” hormones into the bloodstream and cause hormonal symptoms like wheezing, facial flushing (redness) and diarrhea, among others.

Often lung NETs do not cause any symptoms in the earlier stages. It is important to talk with your doctor about any symptoms you may be experiencing.

Are lung NETs treated the same as other lung cancers?

Lung NETs can be treated using some of the same treatments used in other lung cancers. In lung cancer, [surgery](#) is often used to remove earlier stage cancers that have not spread very far. Later stage cancers may be treated with a combination of [chemotherapy](#), [radiation](#), [immunotherapy](#), and/or [targeted therapy](#). However, researchers have also identified several medications (not typically used in other lung cancers) that may work specifically for lung NETs based on how these medicines work on NETs in other parts of the body. Additionally, [clinical trials](#) are an important consideration for any cancer treatment, especially for rarer cancers like lung NETs. A clinical trial may provide access to emerging treatment. It is important to speak with your physician about all of your treatment options and what you can expect.

Learn more about lung NETS at: Lung.org/NETs