ULTRAFAST CT SCREENING OF THE LUNG

What is a CT Screening of the Lung?
It is a new, non-invasive CT scan test with an excellent sensitivity for the detection of lung tumors.

How does it work?
Patients are given a CT scan, using a new technique called helical low-dose CT scanning that takes less than a minute. The CT scan clearly picks up tumors that a chest x-ray can miss. The goal is to catch lung cancer early, in Stage I.

What preparation is required for the test?
You may be asked to remove your shirt or blouse and the technologist will provide you with a gown. The Ultrafast scanner acquires a series of images of your lungs while you hold your breath for 23 seconds. The test is completely painless, "non-invasive" that is, it does not involve inserting or injecting anything into the patient’s body, and is completed in less than one minute.

Who should have an Ultrafast CT Scan of the Lung?
Death rates from lung cancer could be greatly reduced if smokers and former smokers were routinely given CT scans of their lungs. Researchers suggest that the test is appropriate for men and women, especially those with the following risk factors:
- Smokers or smokers who recently quit (should be tested once a year)
- Individuals who quit many years ago (testing may be needed less frequently)

What do I do with my results?
It is extremely important to discuss positive results with your physician. Your doctor will be able to interpret the results of a positive result in the context of other important factors such as age, gender, medical history and other risk factors for lung disease. A copy of your report will be sent to your doctor at your request. Please provide us with his or her name and address at the time of your scan.

How Important is the CT Scan Lung Screen?
Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the United States, killing 160,000 people a year, more than the combined total of the next three causes: cancers of the colon, breast and prostate. Survival rates for lung cancer patients have been dismal because the disease typically has been detected after it had begun to spread. It causes no symptoms in its early stages, and even tumors picked up by chest X-rays are generally so advanced that treatment cannot cure them or even do much to prolong a patient’s life.

The time to do something is now!
Lung cancer has one of the poorest prognoses of all cancers, with a 5-year survival rate of less than 13%. Important risk factors for lung cancer include tobacco use and certain environmental carcinogen exposures. Tobacco is associated with 87% of all cases of cancer of the lung, trachea, and bronchus. Patients diagnosed with Stage I disease generally have positive outcomes. They will have surgery to remove the small tumors, and usually need no chemotherapy or radiation, or any other further treatment. However, “almost 85 % of lung tumors are discovered at a late stage.” - July 9, 1999 The New York Times

Is this test covered by insurance?
As with most new screening tests, your CT scan is not covered by insurance or Medicare at the present time. If your doctor orders the test for diagnostic purposes, or if your plan has a provision for prevention and screening activities, then it may be covered. We will provide documentation to help you file your claim. Payment of $99 is due when services are rendered.

If you have questions, please call (239) 936-2316. To schedule an appointment, call (239) 936-4068.