

Team-up for lung health: A collaborative approach to lung cancer and COPD risk assessment Pearls for Practice

Speaker : Dr Satvir Gill, Nova Medical Clinic

Key Messages

- COPD is responsible for the highest number of patient hospitalizations and is the sixth leading cause of death in Alberta.
- COPD is commonly underdiagnosed and costs the healthcare system an estimated \$1.5 billion annually
- The Canadian Lung Health test increases pretest probability. If YES to any of the questions, patient should be sent for screening spirometry.

**Smoker or ex-smoker who is >40 years old
and answers "yes" to any one question below:**

Canadian lung health test

- Do you cough regularly?
- Do you cough up phlegm regularly?
- Do even simple chores make you short of breath?
- Do you wheeze when you exert yourself, or at night?
- Do you get frequent colds that persist longer than those of other people you know?

Spirometry recommended



- Lung Cancer is the leading cause of cancer deaths in Alberta.
- Screening for lung cancer can save lives. The eligibility criteria for referral to the Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program (ALCSP) are:
 - 50 to 74 years of age
 - Current or ex-smoker
 - At least 1.5% risk of lung cancer over 6 years (The ALCSP uses a risk-based approach to lung cancer screening. Upon receipt of referral, the program will calculate the patient's individual risk. Patients with a lung cancer risk of $\geq 1.5\%$ over 6 years will require screening using low dose Computed Tomography)
 - Have a family physician or other primary care provider, such as a nurse practitioner
- A Team - based approach to identifying patients at risk for lung cancer and COPD using available tools can improve patient outcomes.

Resources for COPD

- [A Breath of Fresh Air! Webinar Series](#)
 - [Targeted Screening and Management of COPD in Primary Care Pearls for Practice](#)
 - [Webinar recordings](#)
 - [How to Help your Patients Quit Smoking](#)
- 2023 CTS COPD Pharmacotherapy Guidelines: Jones et.al. ERJ 2009; 34 (3): 648-54
- Canadian Lung Association: Tkacz J et.al. int Chron Obstruct Pulmon Dis. 2022;17:329-342
- [Pulmonary rehabilitation referral program](#)

Resources for Lung Cancer

- [Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program Patient Pathway](#)
- [Lung Cancer Risk Self Assessment](#)
- [Patient Education Resources](#) (includes FAQ for primary care providers and referral form)
- [Referral Form for Alberta Lung Cancer Screening Program](#)

