

# Understanding the Risks and Symptoms of Lung Cancer

(NAPSA)—Every three minutes someone in the U.S. is diagnosed with lung cancer. Many people do not realize that lung cancer is the leading cancer killer of both men and women, killing more people each year than breast, prostate, and colorectal cancer combined. As with most cancers, lung cancer survival rates are much higher for people diagnosed with early stage disease compared with advanced disease. Unfortunately, nearly 85 percent of people with lung cancer have advanced disease at the time of diagnosis. Early detection could help save the lives of many people threatened by lung cancer.

Most people are aware of the connection between smoking and lung cancer. However, several other factors can put someone at risk. Lung cancer risk factors include a history of smoking or exposure to second-hand smoke, other lung diseases, family history of lung cancer, air pollution, radon, and certain chemicals such as arsenic, asbestos, uranium, and diesel fuel.

Even if you know your risk factors, early detection can be difficult because many people either do not have symptoms until the disease has progressed, or have symptoms that can be easily confused with other illnesses. It is important to familiarize yourself with symptoms of lung cancer and discuss them with your doctor.

Five-year survival rates can reach up to 80 percent for people diagnosed with early stage disease. “We currently do not have an FDA-approved test for lung cancer screening and early detection. But we are hopeful such a test will be available in the near future because of the many clinical trials that are currently underway to evaluate different screening programs,” said Cindy Langhorne, Director of Operations, Alliance for Lung Cancer, Advocacy, Support,

## Common lung cancer symptoms include:

- Coughing
- Shortness of breath
- Fatigue
- Pain in chest, shoulder, upper back, or arm
- Frequent pneumonia or bronchitis
- Blood coughed up from the lungs
- Unexplained weight loss
- Hoarseness
- Wheezing



and Education. “Until effective lung cancer screening has been established, it is important to know the symptoms and risk factors for the disease, and talk with your doctor if you are at risk.”

## Treatment

When a person is diagnosed with lung cancer, his or her doctor will recommend a course of treatment. New treatments and combinations of treatments are increasing survival rates for people with lung cancer. “Many chemotherapy regimens used to treat lung cancer trigger a great deal of nausea and vomiting. Thankfully, there are medications available such as EMEND® that, when used with other anti-vomiting medicines, can help prevent nausea and vomiting in patients receiving highly emetogenic chemotherapy, the type of chemotherapy that causes patients to vomit the most,” said Langhorne.

## Important Information About EMEND®

EMEND is an antiemetic medicine for use in adult patients. An antiemetic is a medicine used to prevent and control nausea and vomiting. EMEND is always used WITH OTHER MEDICINES to prevent and control nausea and vomiting caused by your chemotherapy treatment. EMEND is not used to treat nausea and vomiting that you already have.

Tell your doctor if you are taking other medicines, if you are pregnant or plan to become pregnant, if you are breast-feeding, or if you have liver problems. EMEND may cause serious life-threatening reactions if used with certain medicines. Some medicines can affect EMEND. EMEND may also affect some medicines, including chemotherapy, causing them to work differently in your body. **Women who use birth control pills while taking EMEND should also use a backup method of contraception to avoid pregnancy.**

Do not take EMEND if you are taking any of the following medicines: ORAP® (pimozide), SELDANE® (terfenadine), HISMANAL® (astemizole) or PROPULSID® (cisapride). Taking EMEND with these medicines could cause serious or life-threatening problems.

Do not take EMEND if you are allergic to any of the ingredients in EMEND. The active ingredient is aprepitant.

Your doctor may check to make sure your other medicines are working, while you are taking EMEND. Patients who take COUMADIN® (warfarin) may need to have blood tests after each 3-day treatment with EMEND to check their blood clotting.

The most common side effects with EMEND are tiredness, nausea, hiccups, constipation, diarrhea, and loss of appetite. These are not all of the possible side effects of EMEND. For further information ask your doctor or pharmacist.

For more information on EMEND visit [www.emend.com](http://www.emend.com). Please see the adjacent patient product information and discuss it with your doctor.

For more information about lung cancer and its treatment, please speak with your doctor or contact the Alliance for Lung Cancer Advocacy, Support, and Education at [www.alcasc.org](http://www.alcasc.org) or 800-298-2436.