

STR Public Statement on USPSTF Draft Recommendation for CT Lung Cancer Screening



For immediate release.

July 30, 2013

The Society of Thoracic Radiology (STR), whose mission is to promote excellence in cardiothoracic imaging and improve patient care through research and education, welcomes and supports the United States Preventive Services Task Force (USPSTF) draft recommendation (Grade B) for computed tomography (CT) lung cancer screening of high-risk patients (those 55 through 79 years old and have a 30-pack-year or greater history of smoking). Previous evidence, including published National Lung Cancer Screening Trial (NLST) results, shows that with careful patient selection and follow-up, LDCT screening provides a significant reduction in the rates of both death from lung cancer and death from any cause, giving patients a greater chance for a cure from this terrible disease.

"The USPSTF draft recommendation is an important step in providing a national policy towards low dose CT screening for lung cancer. As a society of cardiothoracic radiologists, the STR looks forward to contributing to and co-sponsoring the American College of Radiology Practice Guideline for the Performance and Reporting of Lung Cancer Screening to help ensure that proper imaging guidelines, patient selection, and follow up are in place to provide uniform, quality care as the corner stone of successful screening programs," said Eric Stern, MD, President of the STR.

"We are extremely supportive of the USPSTF's recommendation and are working to complete practice guidelines and appropriateness criteria that cover how lung cancer screening CT exams are performed, interpreted and results communicated, to ensure that those who should be screened can do so regardless of where they live. These standards will provide guidance for establishing a robust screening program that provides the lifesaving results that everyone wants. We expect to complete this process in the near future," said Ella A. Kazerooni, MD, STR Past President, and chair of the American College of Radiology, Thoracic Imaging Panel.

As a draft recommendation, we urge all those interested in voicing your support to visit the USPSTF public comment page for the draft Recommendation Statement on Screening for Lung Cancer <<http://tinyurl.com/mafnt4y>>. The STR will provide the USPSTF with additional comments during the 30-day comment period.

The STR recognizes the outstanding efforts of STR members Dr. Denise Aberle, Dr. William Black, Dr. Claudia Henschke, and Dr. David Yankelevitz, as well as our many members who have participated in the NLST and ELCAP, that have helped pave the way for this important and dramatic recommendation to change public policy. Here are some of the key publications referencing low dose CT lung cancer screening that include STR members:



1. National Lung Screening Trial Research Team; Aberle DR, Adams AM, Berg CD, Black WC, Clapp JD, et al. Reduced lung-cancer mortality with low-dose computed tomographic screening. [New Engl J Med. 2011;365\(5\):395-409.](#)
2. National Lung Screening Trial Research Team; Aberle DR, Adams AM, Berg CD, Clapp JD, Clingan KL, et al. Baseline characteristics of participants in the randomized National Lung Screening Trial. [J Natl Cancer Inst. 2010;102\(23\):1771-9.](#)
3. National Lung Screening Trial Research Team; Church TR, Black WC, Aberle DR, Berg CD, Clingan KL, et al. Results of initial low-dose computed tomographic screening for lung cancer. [New Engl J Med. 2013;368\(21\):1980-91.](#)
4. The International Early Lung Cancer Action Program Investigators; Henschke CI, Yankelevitz DF, Libby DM, Pasmantier MW, Smith JP, Miettinen OS. Survival of Patients with Stage I Lung Cancer Detected on CT Screening. [N Engl J Med 2006; 355:1763-1771](#)

To arrange an interview with an STR spokesperson, please contact Barbara McLeod at 507-288-5620 or barbara@matrixmeetings.com



The mission of the STR is to promote excellence in cardiothoracic imaging and improve patient care through research and education. To learn more about the STR, please visit <http://thoracicrad.org>

Society of Thoracic Radiology
c/o Matrix Meetings, Inc.
1202 1/2 Seventh Street NW, Suite 209
Rochester, MN 55901

Telephone: 507-288-5620
Fax: 507-288-0014
General Information: str@thoracicrad.org
Webmaster: webmaster@thoracicrad.org
STR Staff
Barbara McLeod, CMP - Administrator
barbara@matrixmeetings.com

thoracicrad.org