An Integrated Approach to Lung Cancer Care

The Lung Cancer Program at Temple University Hospital in Philadelphia combines an array of specialty services to precisely diagnose and effectively treat lung cancer.

The state-of-the-art Temple Lung Center, one of the largest pulmonary referral centers in the nation, is the base for lung cancer patients during their consultations and procedures, from the first suspicion of cancer and throughout the course of treatment.

Temple’s multidisciplinary lung cancer group includes board-certified pulmonologists, medical oncologists, pathologists, radiation oncologists, interventional radiologists, cardiologists, cardiothoracic surgeons, oncology-certified nurses and respiratory therapists who work together to coordinate each patient’s care.

At Temple University Hospital, the group meets weekly to review all cases to help ensure that the appropriate diagnosis has been made and the best approach to treatment is being pursued. The priority is high-quality, compassionate care for all patients.

Advanced Tools for Precise Detection and Diagnosis

A positive lung cancer outcome involves early detection and an accurate diagnosis. Temple University Hospital’s skilled lung cancer group uses sophisticated imaging technologies and minimally invasive procedures to properly diagnose and pinpoint the location of the cancer.

Temple University Hospital was the first hospital in the Philadelphia region to offer the electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy system, which allows for earlier detection and management of small peripheral lung lesions. The use of this and other advanced technologies allows Temple to remain a leader in the early detection of lung cancer.

Diagnostic tools offered at Temple University Hospital include:

- Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI)
- Computed tomography (CT Scan)
- Electromagnetic navigation bronchoscopy system
- Endobronchial ultrasound
- Transbronchial and transthoracic needle biopsy
- Thoracotomy and video-assisted thoracotomy
- Mediastinoscopy

Personalized Treatment for Each Patient

At Temple University Hospital, lung cancer is most common type of cancer treated. The multidisciplinary lung cancer group customizes treatment for each patient’s needs, utilizing the most advanced procedures, therapies and technologies available.
Treatment of lung cancer can involve surgery, radiation therapy and chemotherapy. The exact treatment a patient receives depends on several factors, including the size and stage of the lung cancer, its location and a patient’s overall health. In many cases, a combination of therapies provides the safest and most effective treatment.

Treatment approaches at Temple University Hospital include:

**Surgery**

Surgery to remove tumors can improve the outcome of a lung cancer diagnosis and is often recommended. At Temple University Hospital, the goal of surgery is to remove all of the lung cancer and preserve lung function.

Temple’s board-certified pulmonary surgeons use advanced technology to precisely direct surgery and limit the amount of surrounding lung tissue removed. In most cases, surgery is most effective when combined with other treatments to minimize the risk of recurrence.

The Temple University Hospital lung cancer program offers the following surgical options for patients with lung cancer:

- Wedge resection, or segmentectomy, in which a small section of the lung is removed
- Lobectomy, in which an entire section of the lung is removed
- Pneumonecctomy, in which the entire lung is removed
- Video-assisted thoracic surgery (VATS), or thoracoscopy, a minimally invasive procedure in which the surgeon operates with robotic assistance by inserting an illuminated tube through a small incision between the ribs into the lung

**Medical Oncology (Chemotherapy)**

Chemotherapy is used to shrink fast-growing or inoperable tumors in the lung. It can also be used before, during, or after surgery to kill any remaining cancer cells or reduce the risk of recurrence.

In many cases, chemotherapy enhances the effectiveness of radiation therapy and improves cure rates for advanced cancers compared to radiation alone. The Temple lung cancer group provides chemotherapy options for patients in all stages of disease.

**Radiation Therapy**

Treatment with radiation therapy can be an effective alternative to surgery for the treatment of lung cancer. It may also be used in combination with other treatments or to prevent recurrence.

Temple’s Radiation Oncology department uses the most advanced forms of radiation therapy, including stereotactic body radiotherapy (also known as stereotactic ablative radiation therapy) using 4-dimensional treatment planning for targeted high-dosage radiation and radiofrequency ablation. These minimally invasive therapies are often used when surgery is not an option. They may also be used in combination with surgery or other therapies including chemotherapy, hormonal or immune therapies, and molecular biotherapies.
Temple University Hospital also has other advanced radiation therapy capabilities, with experienced radiation oncologists and the latest technologies, including: intensity-modulated radiation therapy (IMRT); 3D conformal endobronchial high dose-rate Brachytherapy (HDR) irradiation (temporary placement of radioactive implants in the lung to treat tumors from the inside out); and image guided radiation therapy (IGRT).

Support Services
From diagnosis to treatment to recovery, a patient’s fight against lung cancer can be challenging. The anxiety that can come with managing this disease often calls for support. Temple University Hospital provides every patient with the resources he or she needs to meet the psychological, social and physical challenges related to lung cancer and its treatment.

Support services include:

- **Support groups** – Lung Cancer Support Group
- **Psychosocial support** – social workers and other experts can help with community resource referral, coping with illness, family and relationship concerns, employment issues, and financial or insurance needs
- **Nutritional counseling** – provided by registered dietitians who help patients understand and meet their nutritional needs
- **Social work** – specially trained social workers can help patients and family members cope with the non-medical effects of cancer
- **Wellness Community Outreach Programs** – offering coping skills for patients with any cancer diagnosis and their caregivers

**FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT TEMPLE’S LUNG CANCER PROGRAM, CALL 1-800-TempleMED (836-7536)**