

SMOKING CAUSES LUNG CANCER



**Front of Cigarette Pack
(representation only)**



**Back of Cigarette Pack
(representation only)**

Cigarette smoking causes most cases of lung cancer.¹ As a result, lung cancer is the most preventable form of cancer death.²

In Australia, smoking causes 89% of lung cancer deaths in men and 70% in women.³ People who smoke are about 20 times more likely to develop lung cancer than non-smokers.¹

In Australia, the most common cancer causing death in males is lung cancer and it is the second most common in females. In 2001, there were 8,275 deaths from lung cancer (4,657 male and 2,382 female). This represents nearly 20% of all cancer deaths for that year.³

The age at which a person starts smoking has an impact on their risk of developing lung cancer. The younger the age that a person begins smoking, the higher the later risk of developing lung cancer.^{4,5}

The longer a person smokes and the more cigarettes they smoke, the greater their risk of developing lung cancer.^{4,5,6}

There is also evidence that smokers with other lung diseases, such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), have a greater risk of developing lung cancer.⁵

Smoking low-tar cigarettes does not reduce your risk of developing lung cancer.¹

Your risk of developing lung cancer drops by up to 50% ten years after you quit smoking.¹

Quitting at any age will help, however the largest reduction in risk occurs in those who quit the earliest.⁵

Second hand smoke can cause lung cancer for non-smokers. Non-smokers who are exposed to secondhand smoke at home or at work have an increased risk of developing lung cancer of 20-30%.^{7,8}

Decided to quit? For help, talk to your doctor or pharmacist, call the Quitline on 131 848 or visit the Quitline web site at www.quitnow.info.au.

Sources

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