

Treatments of Pleural Effusion in Lung Cancer

Karel Petrak*

University of Sussex (Brighton)/Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, England

*Corresponding author: Karel Petrak, University of Sussex (Brighton)/Imperial Cancer Research Fund, London, England E- mail: klpetrak@gmail.com

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Introduction

Some lung cancers can cause paraneoplastic syndrome. This is a rare group of symptoms caused when cancer cells or your body's immunity cells produce hormones or other substances that affect other organs or tissue. These symptoms are sometimes the first evidence of cancer. However, they often confuse or delay a lung cancer diagnosis because they occur outside of your lungs. Symptoms can affect many parts of your body, including the:

1. Musculoskeletal system
2. Endocrine system
3. Skin
4. Gastrointestinal tract
5. Blood
6. Nervous system

Symptoms of Lung Cancer

Symptoms of lung cancer vary depending on whether the disease is in its early or late.

In early stage (stage 1 and stage 2) lung cancer, the cancerous tumor is typically no bigger than 2 inches and hasn't spread to your lymph nodes. Minor symptoms, such as coughing, wheezing, or shortness of breath, may appear during this time. Or you may not notice any symptoms at all. Once the tumor grows larger than 2 inches, or spreads beyond your lung to your lymph nodes or other organs, the disease is usually considered late stage (stage 3 and stage 4). During these stages, you're more likely to have noticeable symptoms.

It's important to note that symptoms of lung cancer are similar to symptoms of other lung diseases. Keep reading to learn what these symptoms are. If you experience any of them,

you should see your doctor for a medical evaluation. Coughing allows your body to expel irritants from your throat or airway by pushing a burst of air into your lungs. An intense, persistent, or consistently worsening cough can indicate lung cancer. It's a common symptom of many other conditions as well. See your doctor right away if you cough up blood or bloody mucus and phlegm.

Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Dyspnea is sometimes described as tightness in the chest or an inability to take a big breath. Large tumors or the spread of lung cancer can cause blockages in your major airways as well as fluid buildup around your lungs. This buildup is called a pleural effusion. Pleural effusion can lead to shortness of breath and chest pain, common symptoms of lung cancer. If any shortness of breath you're experiencing is new or constant, or interferes with your daily life, see your doctor.

Your doctor may use one or more of the following tests to diagnose lung cancer:

1. Biopsy: Your doctor takes a small sample of tissue from your lungs to test for cancerous cells.
2. Imaging tests: X-rays or CT scans check for lesions in your lungs.
3. Sputum cytology: Your doctor examines a sample of sputum (material that you cough up) under a microscope.
4. Bronchoscopy: An instrument with a camera and light lets your doctor examine the inside of your lungs for abnormalities and collect cells for microscopic examination.

If you're at high risk of developing lung cancer, ask your doctor if a screening CT scan is warranted. An early diagnosis improves the prognosis for people who smoked for a long time and continue to smoke or have quit within the past 10 years.