Pink & Pearl Campaign

Mammography Saves Lives and So Does Lung Screening

- Pink is the ribbon color for breast cancer awareness.
- One in six breast cancers occurs in women in their 40’s.
- Mammography has helped reduce breast cancer mortality in the U.S. by nearly 40% since 1990.
- One study shows mammography screening cuts the risk of dying from breast cancer by nearly half.
- Three out of four women diagnosed with breast cancer have no family history of the disease and are not considered high risk.
- Early detection decreases breast cancer mortality. ACR® recommends annual mammographic screening beginning at age 40 for women of average risk. Higher-risk women should start mammographic screening earlier and may benefit from supplemental screening modalities.

What is a mammogram?

A mammogram is a noninvasive X-ray used to check breasts for breast cancer and other abnormalities. It is the only test shown to reduce breast cancer deaths. Mammograms can detect cancer early — when most treatable — long before it can be felt. This improves the odds of survival and can help avoid more extensive treatment.

- White is the ribbon color for lung cancer awareness.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death for all adults.
- Lung screening using a low-dose CT scan saves lives by finding lung cancer early for individuals at high risk when it’s easiest to treat.
- Over 90% of test results are negative (no cancer).
- The screening exam looks for lung nodules. Most people who smoke or live in cities have nodules. 90% of the time, the nodules are NOT harmful.
- Once you have your first lung screening scan, you should return every year. It is very important to get your scans regularly to make sure that if there are any changes, they can be looked at to see if a lung cancer has developed.

What is a Low-Dose CT?

Lung Cancer Screening is done with a low-dose CT scan. There is no contrast with this test, so there’s no need to drink anything or get an IV. The scan takes about two minutes. The radiation exposure for lung screening is much less than a regular CT scan.

Risk Factors for Breast and Lung Cancer

Getting Older.
Family history of breast or ovarian cancer.
Early periods, before age 12.
Drinking alcohol.
Starting menopause after age 55.
Having first pregnancy after age 30.

Smoking or using tobacco products.
Not being physically active.

Family history of lung cancer.
Radon exposure.
Smoking exposure.
Secondhand smoke exposure.
Exposure to other workplace hazards, such as asbestos, arsenic, diesel exhaust and forms of silica and chromium.

Talk to your physician to see if you qualify for a mammogram and/or lung cancer screening.

Learn more about mammography and lung cancer screening.