

## **Landmark Study Shows Low-dose CT Screenings Reduce Lung Cancer Deaths by 20% in High-Risk Population**

August 4, 2011 -- Results of a 6-year study published in the *New England Journal of Medicine* show that low-dose Computer Tomography (CT) scans reduced deaths from lung cancer by 20% compared with simple chest x-rays.

The National Lung Screening Trial (NLST) involved more than 53,000 current or heavy smokers age 55-74 – none of whom had been diagnosed with lung cancer at the start of participation. From August 2002 through April, 2004, participants received three screenings with either low-dose CT or single-view posteroanterior chest radiography.

Researchers then collected data on cases of lung cancer and deaths through 2009, and found that there were 247 deaths from lung cancer per 100,000 person-years among the CT group, compared with 309 deaths per 100,000 person-years in the radiography group. The results represent a reduction in mortality from lung cancer with low-dose CT screening of 20%, as compared with the radiography group.

According to the authors, 7 million U.S. adults meet the criteria for the study, and an estimated 94 million U.S. adults are current and former smokers. The study was funded by the National Cancer Institute. To read the full report from the study go to <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa1102873>.

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