

Understand your lung cancer screening results



What will the doctor look for in my LDCT scan images?

The radiologist (imaging doctor) who reviews your LDCT scan images will look for anything abnormal in and around your lungs. These abnormalities in the lungs are called **lung nodules**.

What are lung nodules?

Lung nodules are growths of tissue in your lungs. Lung nodules are very common, and most are **not** cancer.



What are the possible results of my LDCT scan and next steps?

Your doctor will discuss your results with you. The results may be one of these:

- ⊖ **Negative**, which means the doctor **did not find any lung nodules**
- ⊕ **Positive**, which means the doctor **found 1 or more lung nodules**

An LDCT can also find other abnormal growths in chest tissues outside the lungs.

This table shows possible results and next steps:

	Negative result ⊖	Positive result ⊕
What it means	No lung nodules or abnormalities found	1 or more lung nodules or abnormalities found
Next steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Have another LDCT scan in 1 year <input type="checkbox"/> Your doctor will decide how long you need to have yearly LDCT scans 	<p>Your doctor may suggest:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> You have other tests or scans to get a clear view of the nodules <input type="checkbox"/> Another LDCT scan sooner than 1 year



If my scan shows one or more lung nodules, what are the next steps?

Your doctor will discuss your next steps based on whether the nodules are more or less likely to be cancer. This is based on factors such as the nodule's size, shape, or location (where they are in your lungs).

If your doctor thinks a lung nodule could be cancer, they may suggest one or more of these next steps:

- Another lung cancer screening sooner than 1 year. Your doctor will compare follow-up scan images to your first scan to look for any changes in the size of the nodules.
- Other imaging tests, such as a PET/CT or chest CT scan, to get another view of a nodule
- Biopsy: Doctors will remove tissue from the lung nodule and look at it under a microscope to see if it is cancer
- Surgery to remove the nodule



Questions to ask your doctor

These questions may help you talk with your doctor about your results. Write their answers next to the questions.

- What are my results and what do they mean? _____

- What is the next step if my scan is negative (no nodules found)? _____

- What is the next step if my scan is positive (lung nodules found)? _____

 - How likely is it that my lung nodule is cancer? _____

 - If it is cancer, what are my treatment options? _____

To learn more, visit [LUNgevity.org](https://www.lungevity.org) and read the 6 mini booklets in the lung cancer screening series