

Gender-Specific Differences of Lung Cancer

Did you know?



Jewish Hospital

Medical Center East

Center for Gender-Specific Medicine

- Even when adjusted for body size, women's lungs are smaller than those of men, although their hemoglobin levels are lower.
- Residual volume and vital capacity is lower in females than in males.
- In 2003, lung cancer will claim more lives than breast, prostate and colon cancers combined.
- Men have a higher risk of squamous cell cancer. Women have a higher incidence of small cell lung cancer that spreads rapidly and has a poor prognosis.
- Women's cancers are more likely to be peripheral while men's are more central, hindering early detection in women compared with men.
- In 1987, lung cancer surpassed breast cancer as the chief malignancy killing American women (68,000 deaths in 2002).
- Between 1950 and 1995, the mortality rate from lung cancer increased by 500 percent among American females.
- Vulnerability of women to lung cancer is three times that of the same-aged male smokers.
- 20 to 30% of lung cancers occur in women who are nonsmokers.
- Women get lung cancer at younger ages, and are more likely to develop a more aggressive form of cancer than men.