

# Breathalyzer to detect lung cancer

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Dr. Rachel Airey and Emer Sheridan are researchers at the University of Huddersfield working on a breathalyzer device that will be able to detect very early signs of the disease, making a cure much more likely. Credit: University of Huddersfield

Researchers at the University of Huddersfield are working on a breathalyser device that will be able to detect very early signs of cancer, making a cure much more likely.

LUNG cancer is one of the world's biggest killers. In the UK it accounts

for six per cent of all deaths, largely because treatment is often ineffective by the time symptoms are diagnosed. But researchers at the University of Huddersfield are working on a breathalyser device that will be able to detect very early signs of the disease, making a cure much more likely. And it will be pharmacists who administer a test that has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives.

"The intention is that we will catch [patients](#) before they start getting the symptoms. Once [lung cancer patients](#) start experiencing [symptoms](#) it is often very advanced and has a very low cure rate,"

says Dr Rachel Airley, the University of Huddersfield lecturer who developed the breath test project. It has received backing of £105,000 from Dr Philip Brown of the S.G. Court Group, a pharmacy chain based in the South East of England, where initial trials will be carried out. The University itself has provided matching funding.

"We are looking to be able to distinguish between patients with early [lung cancer](#) and patients who have maybe got bronchitis, emphysema or non-malignant smoking related disease...or who have maybe just got a cough."

Provided by University of Huddersfield

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