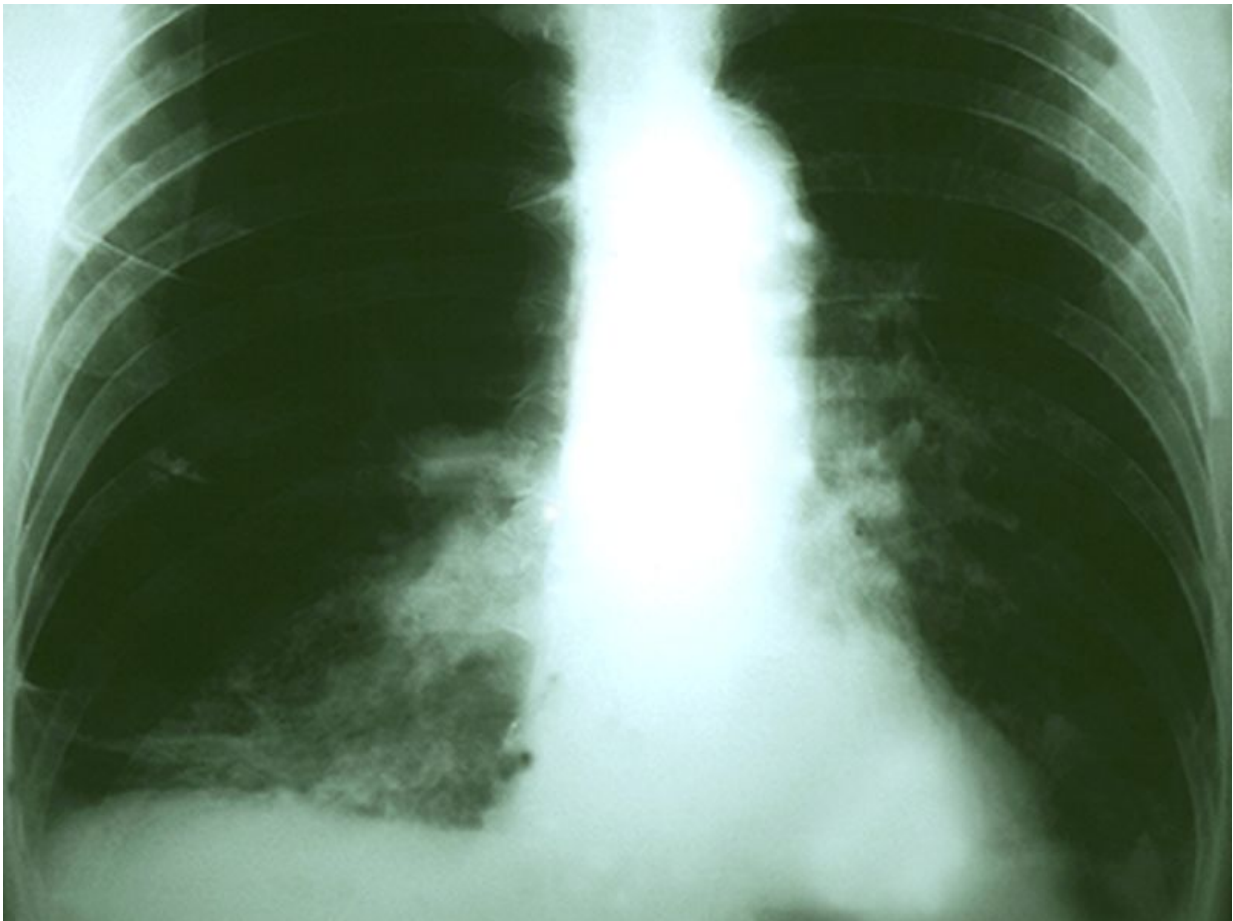


Increasing severity of airflow limitation linked to lung CA risk

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(HealthDay)—For older heavy cigarette smokers, the severity of airflow

limitation is associated with increasing lung cancer risk, according to a study published online Jan. 11 in the *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*.

Raewyn J. Hopkins, M.P.H., from the University of Auckland in New Zealand, and colleagues examined the correlation between the severity of airflow limitation and [lung cancer](#) risk in a prospective study of older heavy smokers from the American College of Radiology Imaging Network sub-cohort of the National Lung Screening Trial (NLST-ACRIN). Airflow limitation was classified according to the Global Initiative for Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (GOLD) grade 1 to 4.

The researchers found that 35 and 65 percent of the NLST-ACRIN cohort of 18,473 screening participants had airflow limitation and no airflow limitation, respectively. Seven hundred fifty-eight lung cancer cases were prospectively identified. Lung cancer incidence was 3.78/1,000 person-years for those with no airflow limitation. For those with airflow limitation, incidence rates increased in a simple linear relationship: 6.27, 7.86, 10.71, and 13.25/1,000 person-years for GOLD 1, GOLD 2, GOLD 3, and GOLD 4, respectively. Compared with the reference group, all relationships were significant ($P \leq 0.0001$).

"In a large prospective study of high-risk cigarette smokers, we report a strong linear relationship between increasing severity of airflow limitation and risk of lung cancer," the authors write.

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