

## Integrated classifier identifies benign lung nodules

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(HealthDay)—An integrated plasma proteomics classifier, which



integrates the relative abundance of two plasma proteins with a clinical risk prediction model, can distinguish benign from malignant lung nodules in those at low-to-intermediate risk for cancer, according to a study published in the September issue of *CHEST*.

Gerard A. Silvestri, M.D., from the Medical University of South Carolina in Charleston, and colleagues conducted a prospective observational trial involving 685 patients with 8- to 30-mm lung nodules. The relative abundance of two plasma proteins, LG3BP and C163A, was measured using multiple reaction monitoring mass spectrometry. To identify likely benign nodules, results were integrated with a clinical risk prediction <u>model</u>.

The researchers found that the prevalence of lung <u>cancer</u> was 16 percent in a subgroup of 178 patients with a clinician-assessed pretest probability of cancer ≤50 percent. The integrated classifier demonstrated sensitivity, specificity, and a negative predictive value of 97, 44, and 98 percent, respectively, in distinguishing benign from malignant nodules. Performance was better with the classifier than with positron emission tomography, validated <u>lung</u> nodule risk models, and physician cancer probability estimates. Forty percent fewer procedures would be performed on benign nodules and 3 percent of malignant nodules would be misclassified if the integrated classifier were used to direct care.

"If used in clinical practice, invasive procedures could be reduced by diverting <u>benign nodules</u> to surveillance," the authors write.

Several authors disclosed financial ties to diagnostics companies, including Integrated Diagnostics, which provided funding for the study.

More information: Abstract/Full Text

**Editorial** 



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