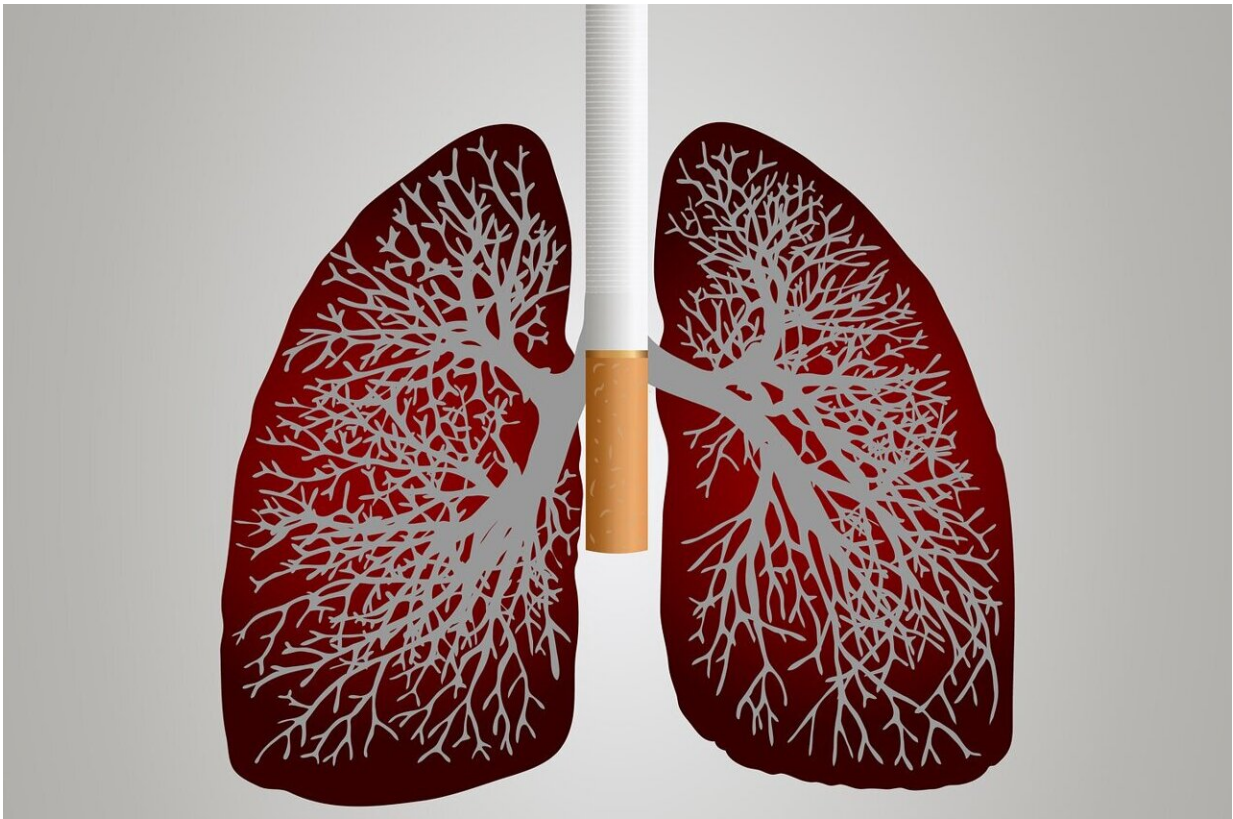


Screening nonsmokers may up long cancer overdiagnosis and spurious survival rates

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(HealthDay)—Low-dose computed tomography (LDCT) screening of mostly nonsmoking Asian women is associated with considerable early-stage lung cancer overdiagnosis, according to a study published online

Jan. 18 in *JAMA Internal Medicine*.

Wayne Gao, Ph.D., from Taipei Medical University in Taiwan, and colleagues used data from the Taiwan Cancer Registry to identify women diagnosed with [lung cancer](#) between 2004 and 2018. The association of [lung](#) cancer incidence with the promotion of screening in a largely nonsmoking population was evaluated.

The researchers found that after the introduction of LDCT screening, the incidence of early-stage (stages 0 to I) lung cancer in women increased more than sixfold, from 2.3 to 14.4 per 100,000 population. For late-stage (stages II to IV) lung [cancer](#), no change in incidence was observed (absolute difference, 0.6; 95 percent confidence interval, -0.5 to 1.7). Virtually all the additional cancers detected represent overdiagnosis, the authors said, because the early-stage cancers were not accompanied by a concomitant decline in late-stage cancers. Mortality remained stable, but five-year survival more than doubled from 2004 to 2013, because of increased detection of indolent early-stage lung cancers.

"Unless randomized [trials](#) can demonstrate some value to low-risk groups, LDCT screening should remain targeted only to heavy smokers," the authors write.

More information: [Abstract/Full Text](#)

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