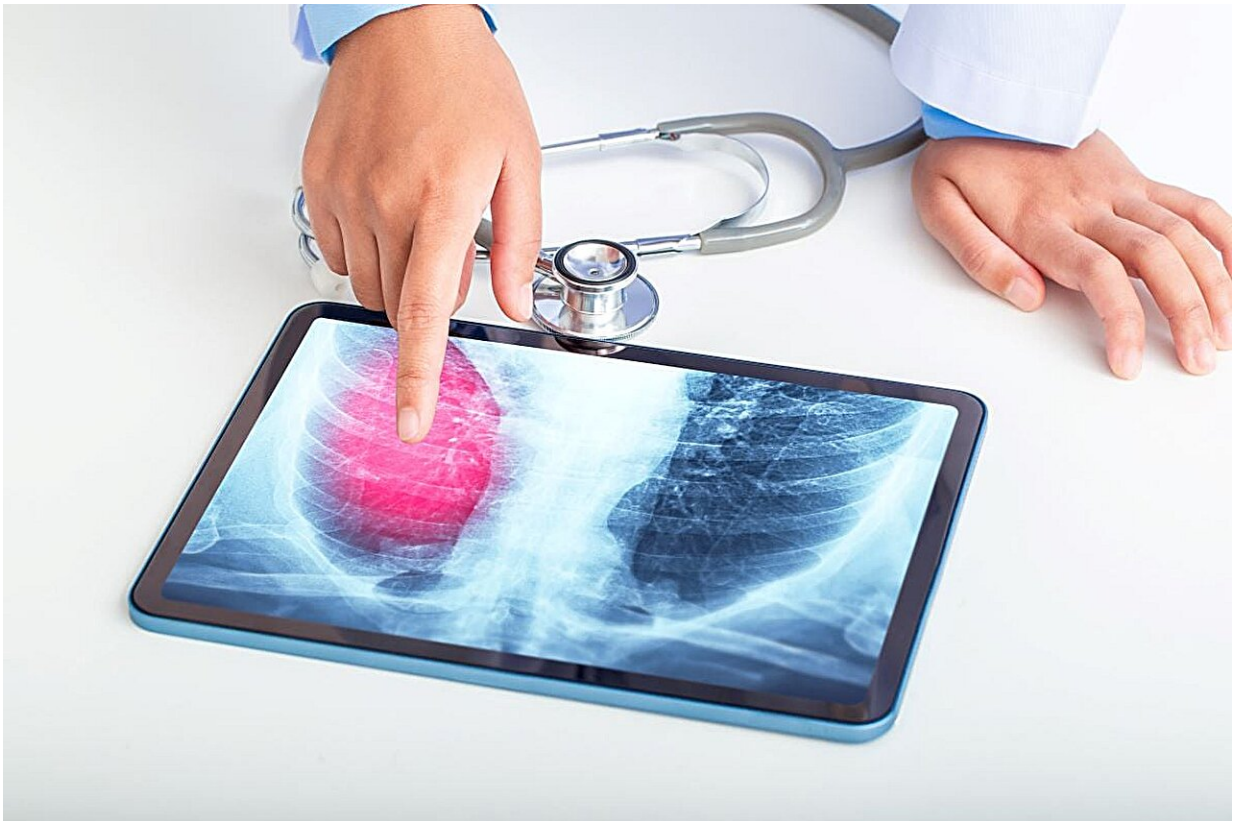


Rheumatoid arthritis tied to higher risk for lung cancer

August 12 2024, by Lori Solomon



Rheumatoid arthritis (RA) is associated with a significantly increased risk for lung cancer, according to a study [published](#) online July 28 in *Arthritis & Rheumatology*.

Rebecca T. Brooks, M.D., from the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, and colleagues evaluated [lung cancer](#) risk in people with RA and RA-interstitial lung disease (ILD). The analysis included 72,795 Veterans Health Administration patients with RA and 633,937 matched non-RA persons.

The researchers found that RA was independently associated with an increased lung cancer risk (adjusted hazard ratio [aHR], 1.58), which persisted in never-smokers (aHR, 1.65) and incident RA (aHR, 1.54).

Prevalent RA-ILD (757 patients) was more strongly associated with lung cancer risk (aHR, 3.25) than RA without ILD (aHR, 1.57) compared with non-RA controls. Results were similar for both prevalent and incident RA-ILD (RA-ILD versus non-RA: aHR, 2.88).

"RA was associated with a >50 percent increased risk of lung cancer, and RA-ILD represented a particularly high-risk group with an approximate threefold increased risk," the authors write. "Increased lung cancer surveillance in RA, and especially RA-ILD, may be a useful strategy for reducing the burden posed by the leading cause of cancer death."

More information: Rebecca T. Brooks et al, The Risk of Lung Cancer in Rheumatoid Arthritis and Rheumatoid Arthritis-Associated Interstitial Lung Disease, *Arthritis & Rheumatology* (2024). [DOI: 10.1002/art.42961](https://doi.org/10.1002/art.42961)

Copyright © 2024 [HealthDay](#). All rights reserved.

Citation: Rheumatoid arthritis tied to higher risk for lung cancer (2024, August 12) retrieved 12 August 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2024-08-rheumatoid-arthritis-higher-lung-cancer.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.