

Risk factors

Smoking



Smoking is the single greatest risk factor of lung cancer.

Previous lung disease



COPD/TB

Chronic obstruction pulmonary disease and tuberculosis.

Passive smoking



Second hand smoke (SHS) contains carcinogens and chemicals such as cyanide, DDT, ammonia and carbon monoxide.

(Smoke free NZ)

Family history of lung cancer



1 in 5 people that develop lung cancer have never smoked. Increased prevalence of mutations (EGFR, ALK) in patients with lung cancer that have never smoked.

Occupational exposure



Occupational exposure to asbestos is associated with an increased risk of asbestosis, mesothelioma (a rare cancer of the pleural membranes on the surface of the lungs) and lung cancer.

For people with asbestosis, their risk of developing lung cancer is doubled. If the person also smokes, then the risk is increased.