

## Study Uses Gene Test to Detect Lung Cancer

According to a study published in the Journal of Natural Medicine, United States scientists have developed a new method to detect lung cancer in its earliest stages by locating genetic changes in a smoker's airway. Medical News Today reported "researchers took tissue samples from smokers who were tested for lung cancer and compared the genetic structure of those who were given the all clear against those who went on to develop the disease. Cigarette smoke passes into the lungs via the airways, and creates a "field of injury" as the scientists called it. They had a hunch that this field of injury might give genetic clues for early stage lung cancer." Scientist found a gene that gave a clear indication of which smokers had cancer, and which ones did not. Seventy-seven smokers were involved in the study and took bronchoscopy examinations and compared them to a commercially available gene profiler, the Affymetrix HG-U133A microarray. According to the Medical News Today article, the gene profiler holds the gene pattern for 14,500 well-characterized human genes and is used by scientists to explore human biology and disease. To test the studies reliability, they took samples from the airway cells from another 8 patients experiencing the same problems and found that there method detected stage one cancer successfully 90 percent of the time. This would be a great step forward in the fight against lung cancer, which is the number one cause of death from cancer in the world.

## About the Author

Countway Library of Medicine home page. The Countway Library serves Harvard Schools of Medicine, Dentistry, and Public Health, as well as the larger.

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