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*November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month*  
**Advances in Imaging Offer Hope for  
Lung Cancer Patients**



**Peter Apicella, M.D.**  
SRMC Chief  
Radiologist

Although lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death in the U.S., it's highly treatable when detected in its early stages.

Salem Regional Medical Center (SRMC) offers the latest imaging technology to aid in the early diagnosis of lung cancer and give patients the best chance of beating the disease.

**Low-Dose CT Lung Screening**

Smoking is the greatest risk factor for lung cancer, accounting for up to 90% of lung cancer deaths. To help improve a person's chance of surviving lung cancer, SRMC offers a low-dose CT lung screening to look for signs of cancer before there are any symptoms in patients who are at high risk.

"Low-dose lung cancer screening uses our state-of-the-art CT scanner to take pictures of the lungs to help detect cancer at an early stage, before it has spread and when it is most treatable," said Peter Apicella, M.D., SRMC Chief Radiologist. "Studies have shown that annual screening of current and former heavy smokers reduced their risk of dying from lung cancer by 20 percent."

Eligibility for the lung cancer screening:

- You are age 50-77.
- You don't have signs or symptoms of lung cancer (asymptomatic).
- You're either a current smoker or have quit smoking within the last 15 years.
- You have a tobacco smoking history of at least 20 "pack years" (an average of one pack - 20 cigarettes - per day for 20 years).
- You get an order from your doctor.

"Those interested in participating in SRMC's CT lung cancer screening program should talk with their doctors to determine if the screening is right for them," he advised.

**3D PET/CT Scans**

PET/CT scanning is one of the most powerful imaging tools available to diagnose cancer, monitor cancer treatment and detect cancer recurrence. SRMC is a Siemens

National Showcase Site for its next generation 3D PET/CT scanner with the fastest and highest image quality available anywhere in the nation.

The technology is particularly useful for diagnosing cancers that are not easily reached for biopsy, such as lung cancer.

“The superior detail of the 3D PET/CT images makes it possible to distinguish between cancerous and non-cancerous tumors, as well as to help pinpoint the precise size, location and extent of the disease,” Dr. Apicella said. “This can help reduce the need for patients to undergo invasive procedures like biopsies or other diagnostic tests and allows for more effective and targeted treatment of the cancer. Knowing the exact location of cancer helps guide surgical planning, chemotherapy and radiation treatment to provide the best treatment success. These lung cancer diagnostic and treatment services are available right here at Salem Regional Medical Center through our partnership with the University Hospitals Seidman Cancer Center.”

SRMC is accredited by the American College of Radiology (ACR) as a Designated Lung Cancer Screening Center. ACR accreditation is the health care industry’s gold standard, and accreditation demonstrates SRMC’s Lung Cancer Screening Center’s commitment to providing the highest quality care to patients at the greatest risk for lung cancer.

### **Nationally-Recognized Imaging**

State-of-the-art medical imaging services at Salem Regional Medical Center are accredited by the American College of Radiology, assuring they are nationally-recognized for high quality and safety. For more information about SRMC’s imaging services, call 330-332-7413.