THE POWER OF LOW DOSE CT LUNG SCREENING in the Battle Against Lung Cancer: Finding the Early Stage Lung Cancers in Our Local Community

GOAL
- Find an effective way to diagnose lung cancer at an earlier stage to significantly improve patients survival

IMPLEMENTATION
- Multidisciplinary team developed a program to refer high risk patients for low dose CT lung screening

BARRIERS
- Patients expect this to be free of cost when the word “screening” is used, but not all insurance companies agree
- Do not underestimate the amount of work and team members needed behind the scenes to create, implement and sustain the program
- Tissue adequacy continues to be an ongoing challenge

RESULTS
- Identified low stage unexpected clinically silent tumors that would not have otherwise been identified. The success of a program is more than a CT scanner but takes cooperation and planning from an organized multidisciplinary team.

EARLY DETECTION HELPED RAMONA SURVIVE NOT ONE, BUT TWO CANCERS

Like most people diagnosed with lung cancer, the tumor in Ramona’s left lung was discovered when she had an X-ray for another condition.

Until recently, there was no screening test for lung cancer. Low-dose CT scans are now being offered for people ages 55-77 who are long-time smokers and therefore at high risk for developing lung cancer.

KNOW THE FACTS
- Lung cancer is the #1 cancer killer in the United States
- 90% of lung cancer is linked to cigarette smoking
- 2 in 5 adults who don’t smoke and ¼ of children are exposed to secondhand smoke.

KNOW THE RISK FACTORS
- Cigarette Smoking
- Secondhand Smoke
- Radon Exposure
- Workplace Exposure
- Air pollution

KNOW THE SYMPTOMS
- Most people with lung cancer don’t have symptoms until the cancer is advanced
- Coughing that gets worse or doesn’t go away
- Chest pain
- Shortness of breath or wheezing
- Coughing up blood
- Feeling very tired all the time
- Weight loss with no known cause

KNOW WHEN TO SCREEN
- Current smoker or quit in the last 15 years
- AND between the ages of 55-77
- AND smoked 30 pack years or more
- Talk to your doctor about screening and ways to reduce your lung cancer risk