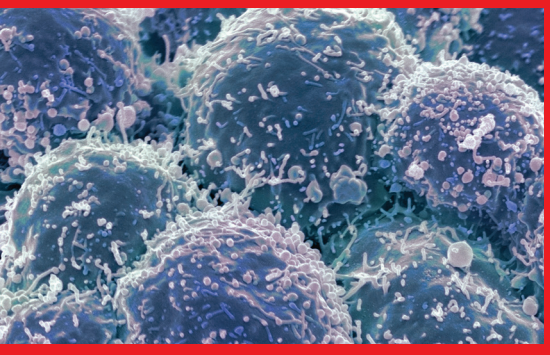
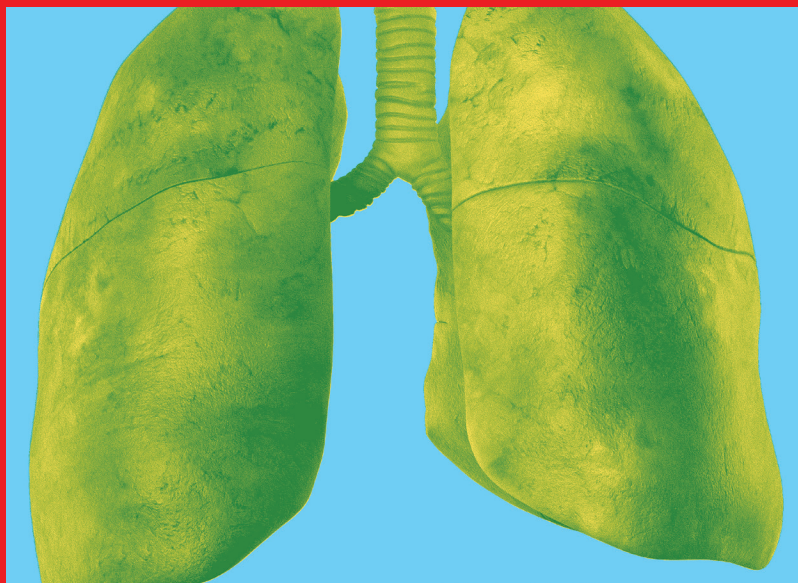
Saving Lives,
Transforming Futures

Report from the San Camillo Lung Cancer Screening European Expert Summit





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Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related mortality in Europe, with approximately 376,000 deaths annually.[1]

Mortality is high because lung cancer is often diagnosed at a late stage when treatment options are limited[2] and 5-year survival can be less than 10%.[3] However it doesn't have to be this way; if diagnosed at an early stage, lung cancer 5-year survival rates can exceed 90%.[3]

At the Lung Cancer Screening European Expert Summit in July 2025, held at the San Camillo Forlanini Hospital, Rome, and supported by an unconditional grant by Johnson & Johnson, lung cancer experts from across Europe presented evidence that early detection and treatment can significantly reduce lung cancer mortality, transforming it from a deadly disease to a treatable condition.[4-6] In light of this growing body of evidence, Summit delegates called for expanded and equitable access to Low Dose CT screening programmes for patients at high risk of lung cancer.

> *"The evidence clearly shows that early detection of lung cancer through screening programmes saves lives and is cost-effective."*

Gabriele Fishetto, MD, Italy, J&J MedTech EMEA

The San Camillo Project

No time to wait: the San Camillo Project offers Low Dose CT (LDCT) scans and immediate treatment options to high-risk citizens, demonstrating the power of early detection to save lives and transform futures.

> *'Early diagnosis offers enormous advantages, with a radical improvement in life expectancy."*

Prof. Giuseppe Cardillo, Director of the Thoracic Surgery Unit, San Camillo Forlanini Hospital, Rome

In its first six months the San Camillo Project identified and enrolled 845 high-risk patients via an online questionnaire. Over 300 LDCT scans were performed, and five patients underwent minimally invasive surgery. Four of these had early-stage tumours, giving them a high chance of five-year survival. Without screening, these patients might not have been diagnosed until their disease was at a more advanced stage when treatment options are limited.

Summit delegates also heard updates on the lung cancer screening situation in countries across Europe, including:

- Croatia, which became the first EU country to introduce a national lung cancer screening programme in October 2020
- Greece, which is running pilot programmes and preparing to implement a national screening programme in 2026
- Poland, which is also in advanced preparations for a national screening programme starting in 2026
- Spain, where a pilot screening programme called CASSANDRA (Cancer Screening, Smoking Cessation and Respiratory Assessment) is underway to demonstrate the efficacy and cost-effectiveness of lung cancer screening
- UK, where a national cancer screening programme is being rolled out, with the aim of providing access to the whole country by 2029

The Case for Lung Cancer Screening

Lung cancer symptoms, such as persistent cough, shortness of breath or chest pain, often do not present in the early stages of the disease, when treatment is most effective.[7] And when these symptoms do finally occur, they can be mistaken for other problems including chest infections or the effects of long-term smoking,[7] such as Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease.

Low Dose CT screening of high-risk patients – such as heavy smokers or ex-smokers over the age of 55 – can help identify lung cancer early, when it is still treatable, and is proven to reduce mortality:

20%

The US National Lung Screening Trial demonstrated that Low Dose CT (LDCT) screening reduced mortality by 20% compared to radiography scans[4]

39%

The MILD trial showed a 39% reduction in lung cancer mortality at 10 years with LDCT scans compared to no scanning[5]

24%

The NELSON trial demonstrated a 24% reduction in mortality at 10 years with LDCT scans compared to no scanning[6]

Lung cancer screening has also been proven cost-effective in a high risk population,[8] and is recommended by both the World Health Organization[9] and the European Parliament.[10]

> *"CT uses very low doses of radiation, ensuring safety and efficacy."*

Dr. Teresa Pasquariello, Director of Radiology, San Camillo Forlanini Hospital, Rome

The Voice of the Patient

Advanced lung cancer. It's hard to imagine of a more devastating diagnosis, and yet it happens every day in hospitals and doctor's offices across Europe. Patients not only have to deal with the challenging and potentially terminal prognosis, if they are smokers or ex-smokers they may also experience feelings of blame, stigma and guilt.

It doesn't have to be that way.

"I was rescued by lung cancer screening – it saved me."

These are the words of one of the patients from the San Camillo Lung Cancer Screening Project, speaking at the Lung Cancer Screening European Expert Summit. Following enrolment, the patient attended an initial consultation and was given a LDCT scan, which identified early-stage lung cancer. Surgery to remove a small tumour followed and within weeks she was soon able to return to her normal life – with one significant exception. The shock of the diagnosis has given her the motivation to finally quit smoking. For this patient, and many more like her, it's no exaggeration to say that LDCT lung cancer screening saved her life and transformed her future.

"The 5-year survival rate for lung cancer patients is drastically lower compared to colorectal and breast cancer. Awareness, early diagnosis, and research are what make the difference."

Debra Montague, President, Lung Cancer Europe (LuCE)

Call to Action

Despite the overwhelming evidence in favour of lung cancer screening programmes, they remain the exception in Europe, and not the norm.

Often they are small, regional projects, under-resourced and unavailable to all those who could benefit.

There are many barriers to universal lung cancer screening for those at high risk, including systemic issues, such as lack of data infrastructure or appropriately trained healthcare professionals, and also a reluctance among high-risk populations to participate, perhaps because of the stigma of lung cancer as a self-inflicted condition, or through fear of what they'll find out.[11]

These are significant but not insurmountable challenges, and delegates at the Lung Cancer Screening European Expert Summit were united in their determination to overcome them. Collectively they called for expanded and equitable access to Low Dose CT screening programmes for patients at high risk of lung cancer.

Johnson & Johnson MedTech

As leaders in lung cancer treatment, Johnson & Johnson MedTech takes seriously our responsibility to listen to, partner and unite the lung cancer community in the quest for improved patient outcomes.

We do this through our surgical products and the support we provide to thoracic surgeons, but also through advocating for the single most significant factor in determining outcomes - screening for early detection.

As a leading voice in lung cancer care, J&J MedTech is working with a broad coalition of stakeholders to build momentum towards the widespread adoption of screening in Europe and beyond. The Lung Cancer Screening European Expert Summit marks another important step in that journey.

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