Early Lung Cancer Detection and Intervention: Low-Dose Computed Tomography (LDCT) Lung Screening and Incidental Findings

• Conduct community outreach to at-risk patient populations
• Perform screening and culturally competent community outreach/education to healthcare providers via social media campaigns and advocacy groups
• Offer education on new updated USPSTF criteria, what LDCT screening entails to encourage patients to get screened
• Create lung screening and incidental nodule management programs and protocols with emphasis on shared decision-making

Diagnosis and Staging

• Perform labs, pulmonary function tests, imaging tests (ie, x-ray, CT, PET, or MRI)
• Determine tumor stage based on tumor size, lymph node involvement, and tumor metastasis
• Perform biopsy to determine lung cancer type and subtype
  - Analysis of molecular driver mutations across all stages
  - Analysis of PD-L1
• Utilize standard biomarker testing practices
• Introduce rationale for re-biopsy, if necessary, or obtaining liquid biopsy for future testing

BIOMARKER TESTING

Navigators help manage patients’ and caregivers’ anxiety while patients wait for screening results. Once a definitive diagnosis is confirmed, navigators can ensure appropriate follow-up occurs and begin to assess barriers to care.

Depending on the treatment plan:
- Investigate potential clinical trials and patient eligibility
- Coordinate oncology specialist referrals
- Participate in multidisciplinary tumor boards
- Advocate for shared decision-making with the patient
- Track key metrics, such as time from diagnosis to initial treatment

Multidisciplinary Team Involvement/Treatment Planning

Once treatment begins, other healthcare professionals will join the patient’s journey:
- Pulmonologist
- Thoracic surgeon
- PCP
- Medical oncologist
- Radiation oncologist
- Interventional pulmonologist
- Radiologist
- Nurse Navigator
- Pharmacist
- Community/Lay Navigator

Navigators ensure PCPs know about their patient’s participation in screening or nodule identification.

Navigators may expedite the staging activities, help patients understand the rationale for biomarker testing, coordinate biomarker testing, and maintain communication with all stakeholders.

The road signs describe the roles and actions a navigator will take along the way for patients.

The directional signs describe the clinical milestones in the lung cancer patient’s journey.

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