






# Smokers' mistaken notions about lung cancer screening

Eighty-three smokers were asked the following questions after undergoing low-dose computed tomography screening for lung cancer at a VA facility.

QUESTION	CORRECT ANSWER	% OF SMOKERS SURVEYED WHO GOT IT WRONG
Does having a lung cancer screening test decrease your chances of getting lung cancer?	No	 39%
Which disease is the leading cause of death in Americans who smoke cigarettes?	Heart disease	 66%
True or False: If nothing abnormal or suspicious is found on your lung cancer screening test, it means you are safe from lung cancer for at least 12 months.	False	 39%
True or False: All nodules or spots found in the lungs eventually grow over time to be life threatening.	False	 49%
For people over age 55 who are current smokers, which is more likely to prevent the most premature deaths: lung cancer screening or quitting smoking?	Quitting smoking	 47%



Only **7%** of smokers answered all five questions correctly.

**Conclusion:** "Messages about benefits and limitations of LDCT for lung cancer are either not being provided or are not being accurately received and/or recalled by the patients."

From "[Smokers' Inaccurate Beliefs about the Benefits of Lung Cancer Screening](#)," *Annals of the American Thoracic Society*, online June 7, 2018. Infographic by VA Research Communications, July 2018. Photo: © iStock/Tamara Dragovic