

women

and LUNG CANCER

Unlike the familiar pink ribbon associated with breast cancer awareness, the ribbon for lung cancer is clear. The reason, says SOCH medical oncologist **Paul Chung, MD**, lung cancer tumors remain invisible and present no symptoms in the early stage of the disease, making it difficult to diagnose early, when there is the best chance for successful treatment.

“However, we do have a way to combat this devastating illness – smoking prevention!” exclaimed Dr. Chung. “Nearly 90 percent of all lung cancers are caused by tobacco use. So if you smoke, you should quit, and if you don’t smoke, don’t start!”

Particularly troubling to Dr. Chung is the increase in lung cancer cases in women, while cases in men continue to decrease. Dr. Chung cites an increase in women smokers, as well as attempts by tobacco companies to target their ads towards females, as part of the reason why lung cancer has surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer deaths in women.

The good news, says SOCH radiation oncologist **Joseph Lattanzi, MD**, is as soon as you stop smoking, you begin to lower your risk of lung cancer. “After ten years of being smoke-free, former smokers actually lower their risk to be close to that of non-smokers,” he said.

Dr. Lattanzi and Dr. Chung work in tandem with experienced surgeons, radiologists, pulmonologists, family practice physicians, and certified oncology nurses to provide the full range of diagnostic, treatment and support services that are the hallmark of the Cancer Center at SOCH. Patients benefit from advanced diagnostic imaging technology, chemotherapy, radiation oncology, surgery, a host of support and education programs and an affiliation with the Cancer Institute of New Jersey, bringing the promise of exciting research protocols close to home.

The most recent addition to SOCH’s impressive array of diagnostic imaging capabilities is PET/CT, which combines Positron Emission Tomography and CT Scanning .

SOCH’s Cancer Support Group

Meets the first Monday of the month at 3 pm. Call 609-978-3148 to register.

Stop Smoking With Hypnosis

This class will meet on Wednesday, April 5 at 7:00 pm at the Family Resource Center at the Ocean Club, located on Route 9 in Stafford Township. Fee: \$29.95. To register, call SOCHConnect at 609-978-3400.

“PET Scans can detect differences in glucose between normal cells and cancer cells, enhancing physicians’ ability to diagnose disease” explained **Thomas Yu, MD**, Chairman of the Department of Radiology at SOCH. “A CT scan creates three-dimensional images of the inside of the body. PET/CT integrates these two technologies, all in one scan.”

With PET/CT, physicians have access to quicker and more accurate lung cancer diagnosis, information on the stage of the disease and if the disease has spread to other parts of the body. This detailed scan can also determine the effectiveness of radiation and chemotherapy, giving oncologists a powerful tool to help plan the most appropriate treatment.

One such treatment, stereotactic body radio surgery, has shown promise with inoperable or recurrent tumors. “Unlike traditional radiation therapy treatments, which involve brief, daily treatments over four to six weeks, stereotactic body radio surgery targets the tumor with high doses of radiation every day for a short period of time, such as a week.” Dr. Lattanzi explained.

In addition to new treatments, exciting advances have been made in helping patients cope with side effects that can occur from cancer treatment. “New medications are available to prevent nausea and to treat anemia,” said Dr. Chung. “We also have new options available to control pain and to improve the quality of life for people with late-stage disease.”

Dr. Chung is also hopeful that ongoing research involving chemotherapy use after a tumor has been removed will lead to increased survival rates.

For more information about the *Cancer Center at SOCH*, call 609-978-3400.



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