



News**RELEASE**

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NEW LUNG CANCER CLINIC TO BEGIN DECEMBER 6TH AT MLMH

HASTINGS — Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer death among men and women, according to the American Cancer Society. For patients with lung abnormalities, proper detection, diagnosis and treatment is key.

That's why Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital and Dr. Francisco Almeida, Interventional Pulmonologist with the Hastings Pulmonary & Sleep Clinic, have teamed with oncologists from the Morrison Cancer Center-MLMH, a Palliative Care Specialist from MLMH and a Thoracic Surgeon from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. This group, forming the Thoracic Oncology Clinic at MLMH, will begin providing patients with a multidisciplinary approach to their care on December 6th.

Patients with thoracic cancer often require a combination of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. By recognizing the team approach as the best way to manage multimodality therapy, the Thoracic Oncology Clinic provides highly-coordinated care and reflects Mary Lanning's commitment to quality patient care.

The Thoracic Oncology Clinic offers patients initial evaluation and second opinions from its team of healthcare providers; discussion of the team's recommendations with the patient and family; and access to state-of-the-art therapies.

In addition to Dr. Almeida, the team includes Medical Oncologists Dr. Debora Bruno and Dr. Pornchai Jonglertham; Thoracic Surgeon Dr. Rudy Lackner; Radiation Oncologist Dr. Vera Nigrin; and Palliative Care Specialist Dr. L. Joe Davis.

At Mary Lanning Memorial Hospital, the goal is to provide comprehensive assessment, management recommendations and support. The Thoracic Oncology Clinic services are designed to offer the latest therapies, reduce treatment complications and improve the overall quality of life for patients dealing with lung cancer, lung nodules, lung mass, pleural effusion and mesothelioma.

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LUNG CANCER FACTS

- Lung cancer is the leading cancer killer in both men and women in the United States. In 1987, it surpassed breast cancer to become the leading cause of cancer deaths in women.
- Lung cancer causes more deaths than the next three most common cancers combined (colon, breast and prostate). An estimated 162,460 deaths from lung cancer occurred in the United States during 2006.
- Between 1979 and 2003, lung cancer deaths increased by 60 percent. The age-adjusted death rate for lung cancer in males was 74 percent greater than the rate seen in females. The age-adjusted death rate in the black population was 12 percent greater than the rate in the white population.
- Smoking is the most significant cause of lung cancer in the United States. It is estimated that 90 percent of lung cancer cases are caused by smoking.
- An estimated 351,344 Americans are living with lung cancer. During 2006, an estimated 174,470 new cases of lung cancer were diagnosed.
- Men have higher rates of lung cancer than females. In 2003, 78.5 per 100,000 men compared to 51.3 per 100,000 women were diagnosed with lung cancer in the United States. However, lung cancer incidence rates have been significantly decreasing among men while the rate has been stable since 1998 in women, after a long period of increases.
- In 2003, the lung cancer incidence rate in black men was 50% higher than that of white men. Rates were similar among black and white women.
- There are two major types of lung cancer. Non-small cell lung cancer is much more common. It usually spreads to different parts of the body more slowly than small cell lung cancer. Squamous cell carcinoma, adenocarcinoma, and large cell carcinoma are three types of non-small cell lung cancer. Small cell lung cancer, also called oat cell cancer, accounts for less than 20% of all lung cancer.
- The expected five-year survival rate for all patients in whom lung cancer is diagnosed is 15.5 percent compared to 64.8 percent for colon, 89 percent for breast and 99.9 percent for prostate cancer. The five-year survival rate is 49.3 percent for cases detected when the disease is still localized. However, only 24 percent of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at an early stage. For distant tumors the five-year survival rate is just over 2 percent.
- About six out of 10 people with lung cancer die within one year of being diagnosed with the disease. Between seven and eight will die within two years.
- Lung cancer is one of the most common cancers worldwide, accounting for 1.2 million new cases annually. It is the most commonly diagnosed cancer but with marked regional variation. Over 3 million people have lung cancer, the majority residing in developed countries.

Source: American Lung Association