

Lung Cancer Screening-More Than Nodules. New Perspectives and Challenges for the Respiratory Medicine



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Educational background

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The lung cancer screening in Europe is supported by both scientific evidence, clinical and technical guidelines, including documents published by the European Respiratory Society as well as by the increasingly helpful legislative environment. Currently, major European initiatives are focused on facilitating the optimization and implementation of equitable lung cancer screening programs across the heterogeneous healthcare landscape in EU member states as exemplified by the SOLACE project a joined initiative by the European Respiratory Society and the European Society of Radiology. It is the first pan-European network of experts poised to drive real-world implementation of lung cancer screening. Targeting populations previously underrepresented in screening programs due to the socio-economic or geographic barriers, enhancing public awareness by tailored recruitment strategies as well as building comprehensive information portfolio are its major aims. It has been accepted that effective low-dose CT screening programs allow for detection of suspicious nodules and therefore earlier diagnostic of lung cancer. However, there is an increasing awareness of LDCT screening as an excellent opportunity to identify other abnormalities within chest not limited to emphysema and coronary calcifications. In addition, incorporating spirometry into screening programs targeting high risk population of ex- and current smokers has been shown as an efficient tool enhancing earlier COPD detection and management.