

Simplified Bronchiectasis (BE) Screening Tool and Early Findings in Smokers

Original Article: Bronchiectasis in Low-Dose CT Screening for Lung Cancer
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OBJECTIVE

Bronchiectasis is associated with a decrease in lung function, significant use of healthcare resources and increased mortality and morbidity. The purpose of this study was to assess the frequency and severity of bronchiectasis and related clinical findings of participants in a low-dose CT screening program.

METHODS

- Screened 2,191 adult smokers between the ages of 40 and 90 over a nine-year period
- Developed a quantitative scoring assessment for bronchiectasis called the Early Lung and Cardiac Action Program (ELCAP)
- Performed analysis two years later to assess chronic respiratory symptoms, acute respiratory events and hospitalizations

RESULTS

- Bronchiectasis was identified in 23% (504) of the patients screened
- Patients with bronchiectasis were:
 - Older (69 yr average)
 - Underweight
 - More extensive smokers
 - More likely to self-report COPD
- Bronchiectasis found in the lower lobes of most participants

CONCLUSION

Low-dose CT imaging reveals high prevalence of bronchiectasis in smokers. Patients with higher ELCAP scores also had a higher incidence of respiratory symptoms and acute events.

KEY POINTS

- Annual low-dose CT screening for lung cancer is already recommended for smokers, and therefore the addition of the ELCAP screening tool may help improve early identification of BE within this population
- This study supports bronchiectasis as a common finding in smokers screened via CT



Bronchiectasis identified in nearly 1 in 4 (23%) smokers.

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