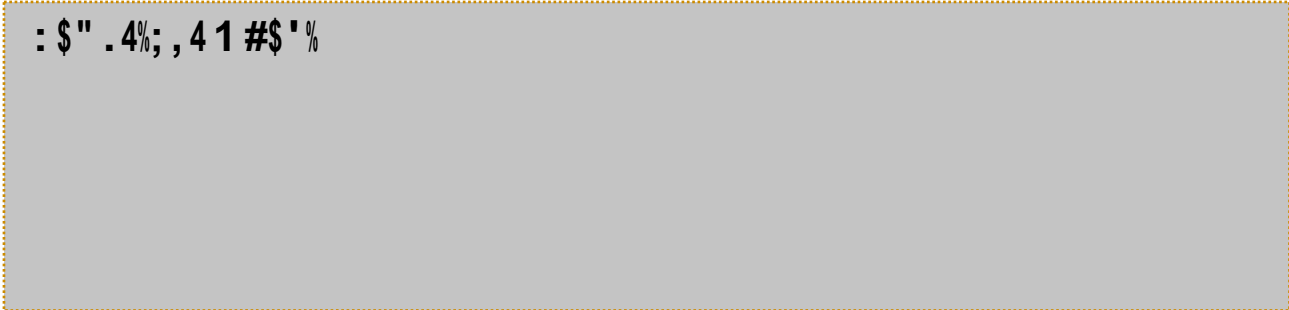


# L g d e



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A lung nodule is a small rounded or oval shadow seen in the lung on a CT scan or chest X-ray. It may also be referred to as a 'spot on the lung.' Lung nodules are smaller than 3 centimeters in diameter (around 1.2 inches).



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Lung nodules are very common. Around 1 in 4 people who have smoked will have a lung nodule. Approximately 1 in 10 people who have not smoked will have lung nodules. Lung nodules can be caused by a variety of problems, including infections or inflammatory problems. Lung nodules are common in people who have had TB.

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Most lung nodules are benign (non-cancerous) and do not cause any symptoms. In a small number of people, a lung nodule may be an early lung cancer.

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Lung nodules are often found incidentally when you have investigations for another problem. They may have been there for a long time without causing you any problems.

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Usually lung nodules do not cause any symptoms. If you are suffering from symptoms, these may be due to the underlying condition which is causing the nodules.

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Your scans will be discussed at a specialist meeting<sup>3</sup>. We may suggest follow-up scans as either an X-ray or CT scan in 3 or 12 months' time. If these show that the nodule(s) are growing, we may need to arrange further tests such as a biopsy or a specialist CT scan.

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Removing the nodules now would involve major surgery which carries significant risks. This could potentially cause you serious harm by removing something which may never have caused you any problems.

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We attempt to minimise any radiation you receive through investigations. If possible, in order to limit this, we will perform a restricted CT scan which only looks at a small area of your lung or a chest X-ray.

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We do not know the underlying cause of your lung nodule(s). If you decide not to have any further investigation, there is a chance that it will not cause you any problems in your lifetime. However, if your nodule(s) represent an early cancer, then this could become more advanced and incurable.

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Your GP will be kept informed of your progress. You can contact your GP if you have any questions.

**PALS**

The Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) ensures that the NHS listens to patients, relatives, carers and friends, answers questions and resolves concerns as quickly as possible. If you have a query or concern call 01271 314090 or email [ndht.pals@nhs.net](mailto:ndht.pals@nhs.net).

**H a e o r a**

Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust aims to provide high quality services. However, please tell us when something could be improved. If you have a comment or compliment about a service or treatment, please raise your comments with a member of staff or the PALS team in the first instance.

'Care Opinion' comments forms are on all wards or online at [www.careopinion.org.uk](http://www.careopinion.org.uk).

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