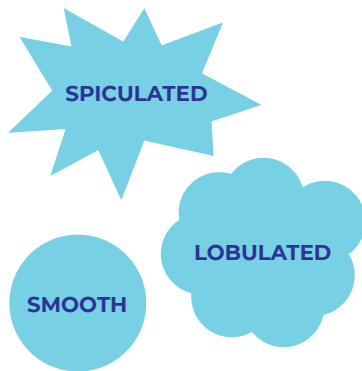## What are lung nodules?

Abnormal spots that may show up on your lung cancer screening scan or other imaging test. Nodules are also called lesions, coin lesions, growths or solitary pulmonary nodules.

AT LEAST 50% OF PEOPLE HAVE LUNG NODULES BY AGE 50.

95% OF LUNG NODULES ARE NOT CANCER.

NODULE FEATURES

MARGIN
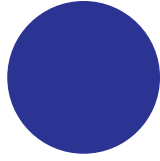

SPICULATED

LOBULATED

SMOOTH

The margin is where the nodule is in contact with normal lung tissue. The margins of many cancers are uneven, look spiky and are described as "spiculated". Most nodules that are not cancer have smooth or rounded margins or look like several rounded nodules together (also called "lobulated").

DENSITY

Density describes how compact a substance like bone or tissue appears on an image. A nodule has a range of densities depending on what it is made of. Regardless of whether a nodule is cancer or not, it appears grey on a CT scan. Some nodules contain deposits of calcium, which makes them look white like bone. These calcified nodules are less likely to be cancer.

GO2 FOUNDATION FOR LUNG CANCER

SIZE

Most benign (not cancerous) nodules are small in size. If you have a nodule and you are at high risk for lung cancer, you may be asked to come back in a year or sooner for another screening imaging test just to make sure it hasn't changed. Smaller nodules are usually followed by additional CT scans while larger nodules require further tests in addition to imaging scans, such as a biopsy.

20mm / 2cm   **15mm / 1.5cm**   **10mm / 1cm**   **5mm**   **1mm**
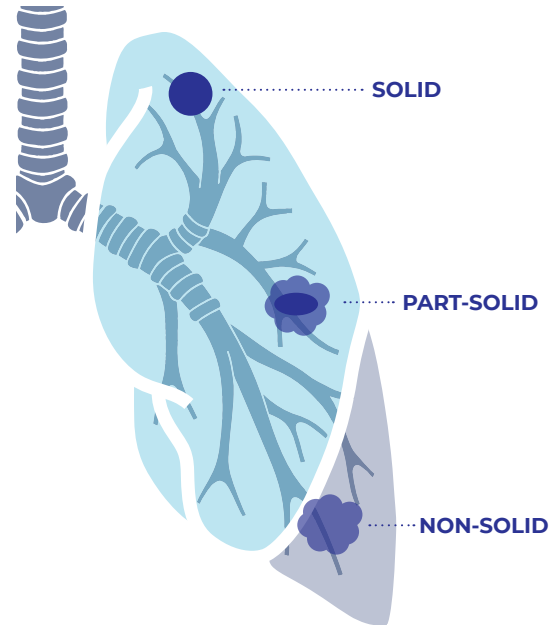
mm= millimeters,   cm=centimeters

CONSISTENCY

When a nodule is solid, it is called a solid nodule. If it is hazy with no solid parts, it is called a non-solid nodule or a ground glass nodule (GGN) because it looks like ground glass. In some cases, a nodule may have a solid part of it with a hazy part around it. These are called part-solid or semi-solid nodules.

SOLID

PART-SOLID

NON-SOLID

— WHAT NEXT —

Nodules that are large, look suspicious or have changed over time will need further evaluation such as additional imaging tests or a biopsy. Your doctor will choose the best next step for you.