

Follow-up and Management of Indeterminate Lung Nodules Detected Incidentally on Nonscreening CT

Perspective on the Natural History of Subsolid Nodules

1182 patients deemed high risk for lung cancer have been followed with serial CT scans at NYU for 10 years. Of these, 239 patients were found to have 442 subsolid nodules. 116 (26.2%) are documented to have resolved on at least 2 follow-up scans, most within 3 months. 241 (54.5%) have remained stable while 40 (9.1%) decreased in size and 42 (9.5%) increased in size. (6)

Resources for Physicians

In support of the collaborative, Excellus BlueCross BlueShield examined a subset of Chest CT scan reports for calendar year 2010 in Monroe County. It is important to note that this was a qualitative analysis of the documentation in order to clarify the need for 1) standardization of reports, 2) to facilitate communication between the ordering and rendering physicians, and 3) to optimize evidence based care. Reports were examined for all the following variables including the size and characteristics of the nodule, a statement regarding risk factor status (e.g. known risk factors, or risk factor status unknown), and recommendations for or against follow-up CT testing. Based on the methodology published in the AJR in 2011, (7) 78% of the reports included documentation of all of the above relevant variables.