

**P3.013 Lung Cancer Diagnosis in the Absence of Screening:
A Three Year Analysis From a Regional Irish Cancer Centre**

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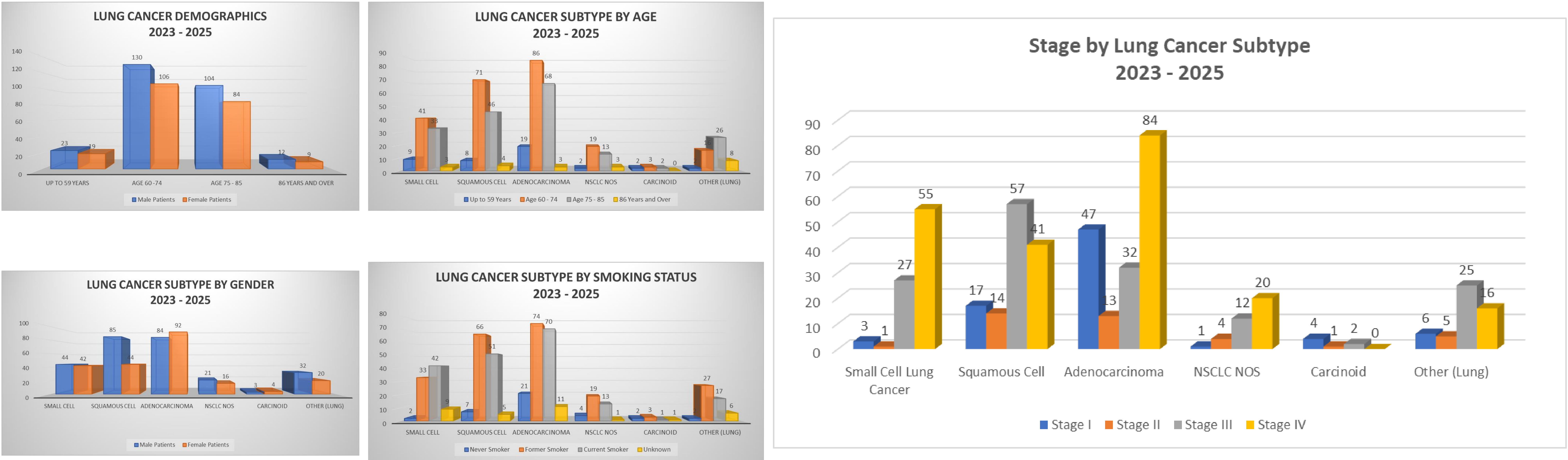
INTRODUCTION

University Hospital Waterford (UHW) is one of eight designated cancer centres in the Republic of Ireland, serving a population of approximately 500,000 in the South East region. Ireland has some of the highest residential radon levels in Europe which is a recognized risk factor for lung cancer, particularly in smokers. There is currently no publicly funded lung cancer screening programme in Ireland. We reviewed our lung cancer incidence, demographics, staging, and histological subtypes over a three-year period at our institution.

METHODS

We reviewed patients diagnosed with lung cancer at UHW between 1 January 2023 and 31 December 2025, using data from a prospectively maintained institutional database. Patient demographics, smoking status, stage at diagnosis, and histological subtype were analysed.

RESULTS



DISCUSSION

A total of 487 patients were diagnosed over the study period, with an increasing annual incidence (143 in 2023, 167 in 2024, and 177 in 2025). The majority of patients (91%) were aged ≥ 60 years, and 8% were never smokers. There was a slight male predominance (55% vs 45%). At diagnosis, 16% of patients had stage I disease, 8% stage II, 32% stage III, and 44% stage IV disease. Adenocarcinoma was the most common histological subtype. Notably, small cell lung cancer (SCLC) accounted for 18% of cases, which appears higher than typically reported in international cohorts.

CONCLUSION

Most patients in this regional cohort were diagnosed with advanced-stage lung cancer, highlighting the ongoing challenge of late presentation in the absence of a national screening programme. The relatively high proportion of SCLC warrants further investigation. Implementation of lung cancer screening in Ireland may facilitate earlier diagnosis and improve outcomes.