



LINEKER JOINS LINE-UP TO GIVE LUNG CANCER PATIENTS EXTRA TIME

Lung Cancer Awareness Month 1 – 30 November

The United Kingdom Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC) is supporting a new Lung Cancer Awareness Month campaign being kicked off today (1 November, White Hart Lane Football Ground) by the former England football captain and sports presenter, Gary Lineker.

Together with health minister, Ann Keen, the soccer star will be urging people not to delay a visit to their GP if they think they may have any symptoms of lung cancer.

“The consequence of not seeking help could mean the difference between life and death,” says Dame Gill Oliver, chair of the UKLCC. “Early diagnosis is key and will substantially increase a patient’s chances of survival.”

The UK has one of the worst lung cancer survival rates in Europe.¹ Currently, just a quarter of people with lung cancer in England (25%) will live for a year and less than one in ten (7% in England) will still be alive five years after diagnosis.^{2,3}

Lung cancer kills over 33,000 people each year - more than breast cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer and leukaemia combined.⁴ Around 22,500 men and 15,200 women are diagnosed with lung cancer each year.² Half of all diagnosed will die within six months.⁵

The main symptoms of lung cancer are: a persistent cough, or change to a longstanding cough; shortness of breath; coughing up phlegm with signs of blood; chest pain; loss of appetite; fatigue and weight loss.⁶

This is the sixth year of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, organised by Macmillan Cancer Support and The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation (RCLCF). Both charities are partners of the UKLCC, which is the UK's largest multi-interest group in lung cancer.

Anyone wanting more information on lung cancer symptoms should call the Macmillan CancerLine on 0808 808 2020, The Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation Helpline on 0800 358 7200 or the British Lung Foundation on 08458 50 50 20.

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Note to editors:-

The UK Lung Cancer Coalition (UKLCC) is a powerful new coalition of the UK's leading lung cancer experts, senior NHS and Department of Health professionals, charities and healthcare companies. It is the UK's only multi-interest group in lung cancer and it is the first time that all the major charities with an interest in the disease have joined forces to fight lung cancer. Its vision, as well as details of its financial and in-kind support, can be found on its website: www.uklcc.org.uk

1. EURO CARE 3. Cancer survival in Europe: IARC, 2003 (Accessed 14 Suppl 5, at http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query.fcgi?cmd=Retrieve&db=pubmed&dopt=Abstract&list_uids=14684501&query_hl=1.) and <http://www.eurocare.it/>
2. <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/lung/incidence/>
3. One- and five-year survival of patients diagnosed in 1998-2001: 21 common cancers, sex and age, England. 2005. (Accessed at <http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D8982.xls>)
4. <http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/aboutcancer/statistics/mortality>
5. Cancer Research UK Statistics Dept
6. <http://www.cancerhelp.org.uk/help/default.asp?page=2964#general>

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