Patients’ experiences of lung cancer
Insights from the US

Key findings from the US

Demographics
50 lung cancer patients responded
72% of respondents identified as male, 28% identified as female
72% had non-small cell lung cancer
80% were diagnosed in the last five years

Biomarker testing
Of those who had been tested:
- 58% of respondents had received biomarker testing
- 22% were unsure if they had been tested

These results suggest that while many patients have access to testing, there is a substantial gap in communication between patients and treatment teams.

Screening
86% of respondents were aware of a lung health check or screening programme in the US
78% of respondents attended a screening appointment and were diagnosed with lung cancer as a result

While the sample size of this survey was small and questions remain around participants’ understanding of screening programmes, these findings highlight the value of screening.

Patient involvement in decision making
Only 24% of respondents said they felt fully involved in decisions about their treatment and care. While patient preferences for involvement will differ, treatment teams should ensure patients have the opportunity to be involved in decision-making as much as they would like.

Patient preferences about receiving information
The majority of respondents said they prefer face-to-face appointments when finding out their diagnosis, but preferences for video, telephone, or face-to-face conversations varied markedly depending on the situation, suggesting that treatment teams should look to understand and accommodate individual patient preferences as much as possible.

Call to action
The GLCC is calling for the implementation in the US of the rights set out in its Patient Charter, to ensure that all lung cancer patients have access to quality healthcare; informed self-determination, which includes involvement in decision-making; and physical and mental integrity.

More information
The GLCC’s members in the US are:
- CancerCare: www.cancercare.org
- Go2 for Lung Cancer: www.go2.org
- Lung Cancer Research Foundation: www.lungcancerresearchfoundation.org
- Prevent Cancer Foundation: www.preventcancer.org

For more information about this survey and the work of the GLCC, please visit our website: https://www.lungcancercoalition.org/ or email our secretariat at: glcc@roycastle.org