



## Lung Cancer Awareness Month – November 2007

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### For immediate release.<sup>1</sup>

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As lung cancer awareness month gets underway ASH Wales is urging the public not to delay a visit to their GP if they believe they have symptoms of lung cancer. 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. The majority of lung cancer cases are smoking related.

The UK has one of the worst lung cancer survival rates in Europe.<sup>2</sup> 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. It is crucial therefore to get diagnosed and begin treatment as soon as possible.

Lung cancer kills over 33,000 people each year - more than breast cancer, prostate cancer, bladder cancer and leukemia combined. Around 22,500 men and 15,200 women are diagnosed with lung cancer each year. Half of all diagnosed will die within six months.<sup>3/4</sup>

Director of ASH Wales Tanya Buchanan said:

*“Lung cancer and smoking go hand in hand and it can be an extremely painful and traumatic way to die. But if you stopped smoking today your health would immediately improve. After 10 years of being smoke free your chances of contracting lung cancer drop by a half. For more help and information on becoming smoke free please visit [www.ashwales.co.uk](http://www.ashwales.co.uk).”*

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### Notes

ASH Wales is hosting a groundbreaking Tobacco Control conference in April 2008. Please visit our Conference Website <http://www.smoking-conference-wales.org.uk/>

- 1 Page adapted from <http://www.uklcc.org.uk/pdf/LCAM2007final.pdf>
- 2 EUROCORE 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.](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/>
- 3 <http://info.cancerresearchuk.org/cancerstats/types/lung/incidence/>
- 4 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>)