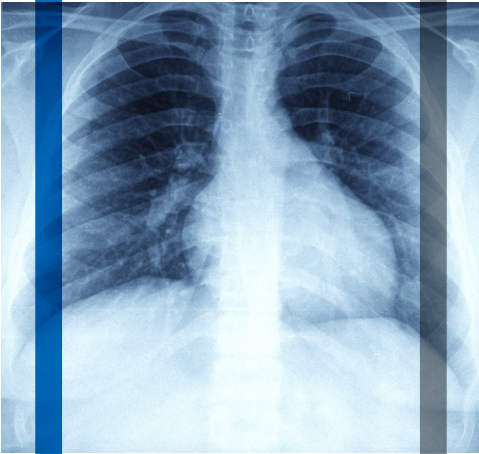




PULMONARY NODULES

What you need to know

The rapid investigation access point team coordinates all examinations and consultations with medical specialists, within the time limits established for your state of health, in order to provide you with the best possible care. The results are rapidly sent to your family doctor, who will ensure follow-up throughout the investigation process

Role of the lungs

Your lungs enable the oxygen you breathe to keep your body running smoothly.

Pulmonary nodules and possible causes

A nodule is a tissue formation in your lungs, other than the pulmonary pleura. A pulmonary nodule forms a visible mass on X-rays and CT scans. Very often it is benign (not cancerous). However, it can also be a cancer.

The main causes of lung cancer:

- Tobacco or exposure to second-hand smoke
- Personal or family history of lung cancer
- Exposure to radon gas and certain substances such as asbestos, arsenic, chromium and nickel

Diagnosis

To make a diagnosis, you must take several tests:

- **Blood tests**
- **Pulmonary function test:** measures the amount of air your lungs can hold and your ability to expel it
- **Thoracic CT scan:** a medical imaging exam that measures the size and number of nodules
- **PET scan (positron emission tomography):** imaging method in nuclear medicine to detect whether the nodule is benign or cancerous and eliminate the possibility of metastasis in the body



PULMONARY NODULES

What you need to know

Diagnosis (continued)

- **Bone scintigraphy:** nuclear imaging test that enables the bones to be viewed for evidence
- **Bronchoscopy:** a mini-camera is inserted into the lungs to view them and take a tissue sample (biopsy)
- **Transthoracic biopsy:** procedure to take a tissue sample (biopsy) if inaccessible by bronchoscopy
- **Brain and abdominal pelvic scan:** a medical imaging examination that visualizes your brain and abdominal area (belly) to check for the presence of masses.

Treatments

If the exam results indicate that the pulmonary nodules are non-cancerous, no treatment is necessary. If cancer is present, the treatments recommended for your condition will be explained to you by a doctor (surgery, radiation therapy or chemotherapy).

Consult your doctor

It is important to consult your doctor rapidly if you have any of the following symptoms:

- Persistent or worsening cough
- Severe shortness of breath or wheezing
- Chest pain during coughing
- Presence of blood in your secretions
- Exhaustion
- Loss of weight or appetite
- Hoarse voice

After your visit to the doctor, notify the rapid investigation access point to reschedule your exam appointments if necessary.

Contact information

Rapid investigation access point

450-371-9920, ext. 3197

Our mission

To maintain, improve, and restore the health and well-being of the Québec population by making accessible an array of integrated and quality health and social services, while contributing to the social and economic development of Québec.

Our vision

Accessible and efficient health care and services that adapt to the needs of Québécois.

Our goals

The CISSS de la Montérégie-Ouest achieves its goals through its innovative approaches and stands apart through:

- its exemplary offer of care and integrated services based on interdisciplinarity, accessibility, and adaptability to the needs of its population;
- its willingness to question and improve its professional, clinical, and administrative practices;
- its appreciation of its personnel and the implementation of human resource management practices;
- its strong relationships with its partners.

Our values

Our actions are guided by five equal and interconnected values: compassion, collaboration, commitment, confidence and consistency.