

# Counting cigarettes to calculate cancer risk

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WASHINGTON (AP) — Smokers and ex-smokers soon will be able to predict their risk of lung cancer by using a formula that counts how long and how much they smoked. Scientists hope it will help people decide if they want to try a controversial test to detect early-stage lung cancer.

The calculation shows a wide variation in risk. For a 51-year-old woman who smoked a pack a day since she was 14 until stopping nine years ago, the formula puts her chances of getting lung cancer in the next 10 years at less than 1 in 100. A 68-year-old man who smoked two packs a day since he was 18 and hasn't yet quit has a 1 in 7 chance of lung cancer by his 78th birthday. If he quit smoking today, the risk drops slightly, to 1 in 9. See [www.mskcc.org/PredictionTools/LungCancer](http://www.mskcc.org/PredictionTools/LungCancer). □