

Unit 9 Assignment Case Study: Lung Cancer

Sofia, a 65-year old woman, visits her doctor, complaining of a 4 week history of right sided chest pain. She describes the pain as dull and intermittent, and has not changed over the last few weeks. She has also lost about 7 pounds last few months.

After a series of tests and procedures such as chest X-ray, CT scan, sputum cytology, and biopsy of the lung tissue, Sofia is diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). She used to smoke, but quit 10 years ago at age 55. She had started smoking at age 16. Her father was also a smoker, and died of lung cancer.

She is informed about other tests and procedures that may be used in the staging process, such as magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), positron emission tomography (PET) scan, and pulmonary function tests (PFTs).

Sofia is terribly anxious and asks her doctor about the prognosis.