MANAGEMENT OF PULMONARY NODULES

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Pulmonary nodules are a common diagnostic problem. The challenge in the management of pulmonary nodules lies in the necessity to identify the few lung cancers within the vast majority of benign nodules.

Nodule characteristics, such as size and density, as well as volume doubling time and metabolic activity, are used in combination with clinical and demographic data to predict the probability for malignancy in individual nodules. While nodules with a low to high risk for malignancy are further investigated with follow-up examinations, PET/CT or biopsy, nodules with a very high risk for malignancy frequently resected directly without prior histologic confirmation.