Transforming supportive care for people living with lung cancer when you have never smoked

Submission date	Recruitment status	Prospectively registered
16/10/2025	Recruiting	☐ Protocol
Registration date	Overall study status	Statistical analysis plan
29/10/2025	Ongoing	Results
Last Edited	ed Condition category	Individual participant data
13/11/2025	Cancer	[X] Record updated in last year

Plain English summary of protocol

Background and study aims

The incidence of lung cancer in never smokers (LCINS) makes up 10-25% of all cases diagnosed globally and is the 8th most prevalent cancer in the UK. It is usually diagnosed at stage 4. The focus of most of the research in this field is the tumour itself, molecular understanding, its clinical detection, treatment and response. This knowledge has changed the treatment landscape and improved survival outcomes. However, there is little research that focuses on what someone with LCINS thinks and feels, perceives and makes sense – their lived experience and that of their carer. This study aims to understand what supportive care is needed for people with LCINS. The study objectives are to explore the experiences of people with a diagnosis of LCINS, on and after treatment, and the experiences of their carer, and the staff experiences who provide support to people with LCINS.

Who can participate?

Adult patients with a diagnosis of LCINS at any stage.

What does the study involve?

The study team will ask people with LCINS having treatment if they wish to take part in a one-to-one interview. They will be asked to nominate someone who they see as their carer or significant support person who is also willing to be interviewed. Up to 20 people are expected to be interviewed, and the same number of carers will be separately interviewed. Staff (n=6-10) involved in the care of people with LCINS will be asked to take part in a focus group.

The interviews and focus group will, with permission, be audio recorded and transcribed. Data is analysed using a research method specifically designed to make sense of the experiences of a small group of people through in-depth interviewing. People with experience of cancer /treatment will be asked to help further develop the research before the start, to ensure it is easy for people with LCINS to understand and take part in.

What are the possible benefits and risks of participating?

The anticipated findings are expected to provide a greater understanding of the experiences of people with LCINS and their carers and to help us develop a support package specific to their needs. Following the analysis, a stakeholder event will be hosted to discuss and identify the

right actions to take moving forward, inviting people from the charity, participants, clinical staff and researchers. The findings will be published.

There is a chance that some of the questions might be upsetting. The interview might bring back difficult memories for participants. If this happens, participants can stop at any point. The researcher can offer information about support available within the hospital from the clinical team.

If there are any concerns raised during the interview, the researcher will ask permission to ask a member of the clinical team to contact participants directly.

Where is the study run from?
The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, UK

When is the study starting and how long is it expected to run for? April 2025 to March 2026.

Who is funding the study? The Ruth Strauss Foundation, UK

Who is the main contact?
Prof Susanne Cruickshank - Strategic Lead for Health Services Research, and Geraldine.
O'Gara@rmh.nhs.uk - Nurse Researcher

Contact information

Type(s)

Public, Scientific, Principal investigator

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Additional identifiers

Integrated Research Application System (IRAS)

356843

Protocol serial number

CCR6208

Central Portfolio Management System (CPMS)

70081

Study information

Scientific Title

Transforming supportive care for people living with lung cancer when you have never smoked

Acronym

LIVING

Study objectives

Primary objectives:

- 1. Explore the experiences of living with a diagnosis of lung cancer who have never smoked (LCINS)
- 2. Explore the experiences of the support and care that having LCINS may require or need
- 3. Explore how life has changed since diagnosis with LCINS and during different treatments
- 4. Explore the family experiences of having a family member with LCINS Secondary objective:

Explore the experiences of clinical staff in providing support to people with LCINS.

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval required

Ethics approval(s)

approved 09/09/2025, Leeds East Research Ethics Committee (2 Redman Place, Stratford, London, E20 1JQ, United Kingdom; +44 (0)207 104 8012; leedseast.rec@hra.nhs.uk), ref: 25/YH /0178

Study design

A qualitative explorative study

Primary study design

Observational

Study type(s)

Quality of life

Health condition(s) or problem(s) studied

Lung cancer in people who have never smoked (LCINS).

Interventions

A qualitative, explorative study using purposive sampling and a phenomenology approach. The study team will conduct in-depth, semi-structured interviews with people with LCINS (n=up to 20) and a significant other (n=up to 20). The person with LCINS will nominate a significant other. The interviews will take place face-to-face within a quiet, private room in the hospital, or can be facilitated via an online platform such as TEAMS, or via phone, depending on participant choice /convenience. Interviews with the LCINS patients will be carried out first, then separately with their significant other (i.e. family member or close friend).

A focus group with clinical staff involved with the care and support of people with LCINS will be offered through the clinical societies (n=6-10). The study will seek to recruit different healthcare professionals (HCP) from within and outside of the centre to gather experiences of providing supportive care to this group, such as oncologists, specialist doctors, nurse specialists, radiographers, pain specialists and specialist psychologists. It will be conducted online via TEAMS.

Completion of interpretative phenomenological analysis of data from interviews with people with LCINS. We anticipate that our findings will give us a greater understanding of the experiences of people with LCINS and their family members/significant others and inform the local development of a support package specific to their needs. Findings will also feed into local business cases and psychological care services to enable better support for this unique patient group. Outcomes may also lead to specifically designed interventions. Results will form a robust evidence base and will have the potential to change support structures for patients nationally and internationally.

Intervention Type

Other

Primary outcome(s)

A greater understanding of the experiences of people with LCINS and their family members /significant others to inform the local development of a support package specific to their needs will be assessed by the completion of interpretative phenomenological analysis of data from interviews with people with LCINS during the study

Key secondary outcome(s))

A greater understanding of the experiences of people with LCINS and their family members /significant others will be assessed by the completion of interpretative phenomenological analysis of data from focus groups with staff who support people with LCINS and their significant others during the study

Completion date

31/03/2026

Eligibility

Key inclusion criteria

People with LCINS interviews:

- 1. People with a diagnosis of LCINS at any stage
- 2. Aged 18 or over
- 3. Any gender, ethnicity and socio-economic grouping
- 4. Able to give consent and participate in an interview
- 5. Nomination and participation of a significant other (see below) is not mandatory to be able to take part

Significant other interviews:

- 1. Nominated as a significant other of a person with LCINS
- 2. Aged 18 or over
- 3. Any gender, ethnicity and socio-economic grouping
- 4. Able to consent and participate in an interview

HCP focus group:

Involved with the care and support of people with LCINS and their significant others

Participant type(s)

Employee, Health professional, Patient

Healthy volunteers allowed

No

Age group

Mixed

Lower age limit

18 years

Upper age limit

99 years

Sex

Αll

Total final enrolment

Λ

Key exclusion criteria

- 1. <18 years old
- 2. Unable to give consent

Date of first enrolment

01/10/2025

Date of final enrolment 31/03/2026

Locations

Countries of recruitment

United Kingdom

England

Study participating centre
The Royal Marsden Hospital
Fulham Road
London
England
SW3 6JJ

Sponsor information

Organisation

Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

ROR

https://ror.org/0008wzh48

Funder(s)

Funder type

Research organisation

Funder Name

Ruth Strauss Foundation

Results and Publications

Individual participant data (IPD) sharing plan

IPD sharing plan summary

Not expected to be made available

Study outputs

Output type Details Date created Date added Peer reviewed? Patient-facing?

Participant information sheet 11/11/2025 No Yes