Lung cancer screening using low-dose spiral CT in Korean

안 명 임
가톨릭의대 방사선과

Lung cancer has high prevalence and poor prognosis when detected by clinical symptoms. Because its prognosis is much better if detected at early stage, early detection can decrease mortality from this disease. Previous lung cancer screening using chest radiography and sputum cytology have failed to demonstrate decreased lung cancer mortality. Thus, lung cancer screening using these techniques has not been generally recommended. Computed tomography (CT) is a sensitive method in detecting small pulmonary nodules, but it is associated with a relatively high level of radiation exposure as a screening tool. Recent studies have shown that low-dose spiral CT can be used for detection of small pulmonary nodules with significant reduction of radiation dose. Therefore, lung cancer screening programs using low-dose spiral CT promise reliable detection of early stages of lung cancer.

Lung cancer screening using low-dose spiral CT is at its beginning stage in Korea, and it has been performed only in some university and general hospitals since last few years. As it is well known that CT often demonstrates small pulmonary nodules which do not represent malignant disease in clinical practice, differentiation of benign nodules from malignant ones should be investigated further in a screening setting.