

Mystery rise in lung cancer in women

Andrew Gregory
Health Editor

Rising numbers of women who have never smoked are being diagnosed with lung cancer but the cause of the increase remains a mystery.

Dr Michael Beckles, medical adviser to the [British Lung Foundation](#), said: “Lung cancer in those who have never smoked is now being diagnosed more frequently across the world and it is particularly common in women. The cause or causes of this type of cancer aren’t known yet.”

More than 46,000 people are diagnosed with lung cancer every year in the UK. About 3% have a form called ALK-positive non-small-cell lung cancer. David Gilligan, of the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation, said: “Younger patients under 55 who have never smoked are most likely to be diagnosed with ALK-positive lung cancer.”

Symptoms include a persistent cough; coughing up blood; persistent breathlessness; unexplained tiredness and weight loss.

@andrewgregory

