

Endobronchial Ultrasound Training Programme

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Lung cancer is the fourth most prevalent form of cancer in Europe, with lung cancer making up the largest number of cancer-related deaths. Between European countries there are variations in the incidence and mortality rates of lung cancer. These are reflected by differences in national health system policies, regional risk factors, disparities in human development and local cancer control measures. International health systems are looking for more cost-effective and accurate tools for screening and diagnosing lung cancer and other respiratory diseases. One such procedure that is helping clinicians in daily practice is endobronchial ultrasound (EBUS). A relatively new technique within the field of interventional pulmonology, EBUS is a minimally invasive procedure that can be used on an outpatient basis to not only diagnose and stage lung cancer but also to assess mediastinal nodes for other diseases such as sarcoidosis, tuberculosis or metastases from extrathoracic malignancies. The European Respiratory Society (ERS) has worked with a task force of EBUS experts from three university hospitals (Heidelberg, Copenhagen and Amsterdam) and an expert simulation centre to investigate, formulate and implement a comprehensive training programme to train qualified doctors to be able to independently and competently perform EBUS. The programme includes: online learning, courses, simulation based learning and clinical observations as well as assessments. This session would discuss the key learnings, challenges faced in the development and implementation of this international programme.