

QUESTION A 60-year-old man with a long history of smoking presents with a 2-week history of coughing up blood. He has lost weight and has a persistent cough. He has no other symptoms. What is the most likely diagnosis?

- ANSWERS**
1. Tuberculosis
 2. Lung cancer
 3. Bronchitis
 4. Pneumonia
 5. Pulmonary embolism

ANSWER 2. Lung cancer



EXPLANATION

INTRODUCTION Lung cancer is a malignant tumor of the lung. It is the leading cause of cancer death in men and women in the United States. The most common type of lung cancer is adenocarcinoma, which accounts for about 40% of all lung cancer cases. Other types include squamous cell carcinoma, small cell carcinoma, and bronchioloalveolar carcinoma.

DIAGNOSIS The most common symptom of lung cancer is a persistent cough. Other symptoms include coughing up blood, weight loss, and chest pain. A physical examination may reveal a persistent cough, wheezing, or a crackle. A chest X-ray may show a mass or consolidation. A CT scan of the chest may show a mass or consolidation. A biopsy of the lung may confirm the diagnosis.

TREATMENT The treatment of lung cancer depends on the type and stage of the cancer. For early-stage lung cancer, surgery is the most common treatment. For advanced-stage lung cancer, chemotherapy and radiation therapy are the most common treatments. Targeted therapy and immunotherapy are also used in the treatment of lung cancer.