

Heavy Smoking And Lung Cancer Risk

NEW YORK, Dec. 10 (A.A.P.) — A research scientist at the Sloan-Kettering Institute for Cancer Research, Dr. Ernest Wynder, told a science symposium yesterday that prolonged and heavy use of cigarettes increased up to 20 times the risk of developing lung cancer.

Dr. Wynder told a Greater New York Dental meeting that interviews with 1,000 men suffering lung cancer showed only 15 were non-smokers.

Studies of patients suffering other types of cancer showed about 15 in every 100 were non-smokers.

He said a study of the smoking habits of more than 5,000 lung cancer patients in the United States, England, Germany, Switzerland, Denmark and Czechoslovakia pointed to a definite association between cancer of the lung and heavy smoking.

One leading cigarette company challenged claims of a connection between smoking and lung cancer and said it was contributing thousands of dollars a year to laboratory studies of the problem.

Two prominent American cancer specialists also warned smokers yesterday.

Dr. Ernest C. Fender, of the Memorial Centre for Cancer and Allied Diseases in New York, and Dr. Altop Ochsner, former president of the American College of Surgeons, said prolonged and heavy use of cigarettes increased up to 20 times the risk of developing lung cancer.