



thetimes.co.uk

US lung patients already feeling the benefits

Case study

After ten months using the test in pilot trials, Keith Kelly, a doctor in Paducah, western Kentucky, said that his patients were already experiencing the benefits. Dr Kelly, a lung disease

specialist, said that the Early CDT-Lung test had been used with conventional scanning to show when lesions could be left alone or when surgery was needed. "You see these indeterminate nodules, and they could be totally harmless and irrelevant to health and best left alone. But other patients will have ones that are small lung cancers.

"[The test] has dramatically changed our management of things, of how we make our decisions," Dr Kelly said. "For some of those patients who we had not planned to operate, we have then taken a different approach. When the

nodules are studied afterwards it has confirmed that it was malignant."

Chris Ottinger, a family doctor in Kansas, said that about 10 per cent of nodule tests came up positive — when the cancer was very small, as opposed to the size of a tennis ball, which eventually caused the coughs and back aches that brought people to his surgery. "It is as useful for those patients who are negative," he added. "Many of them are smokers and they live in denial. Having the test and then learning they are clear acts as a wake-up call. Some have immediately quit smoking."