



Results were then validated with data sets from Northwestern Medicine.

Lung cancer is one of the most common causes of death on Earth, according to World Health Organization data, taking more than 2 million lives annually and killing roughly as many people each year as breast cancer. A 2015 analysis found that only 2-4% of patients get an LDCT screening today.

“By showing that deep learning can increase specificity without sacrificing sensitivity, we hope to spur more research and conversation around the role AI can play in tipping the cost-benefit scale for cancer screening,” the blog post reads.

This is by no means Google’s first foray into cancer detection and treatment. Google Inception v3 was used to detect lung cancer by New York University researchers last year.

And deep learning is also behind Google’s advances in diabetic retinopathy diagnosis through eye scans, as well as DeepMind’s AI that can recommend the proper line of treatment for 50 eye diseases with 94% accuracy.