

# The Effect of Early Detection and Treatment of Early Stage Lung Cancer on the Thoracic Navigator Role

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## Background

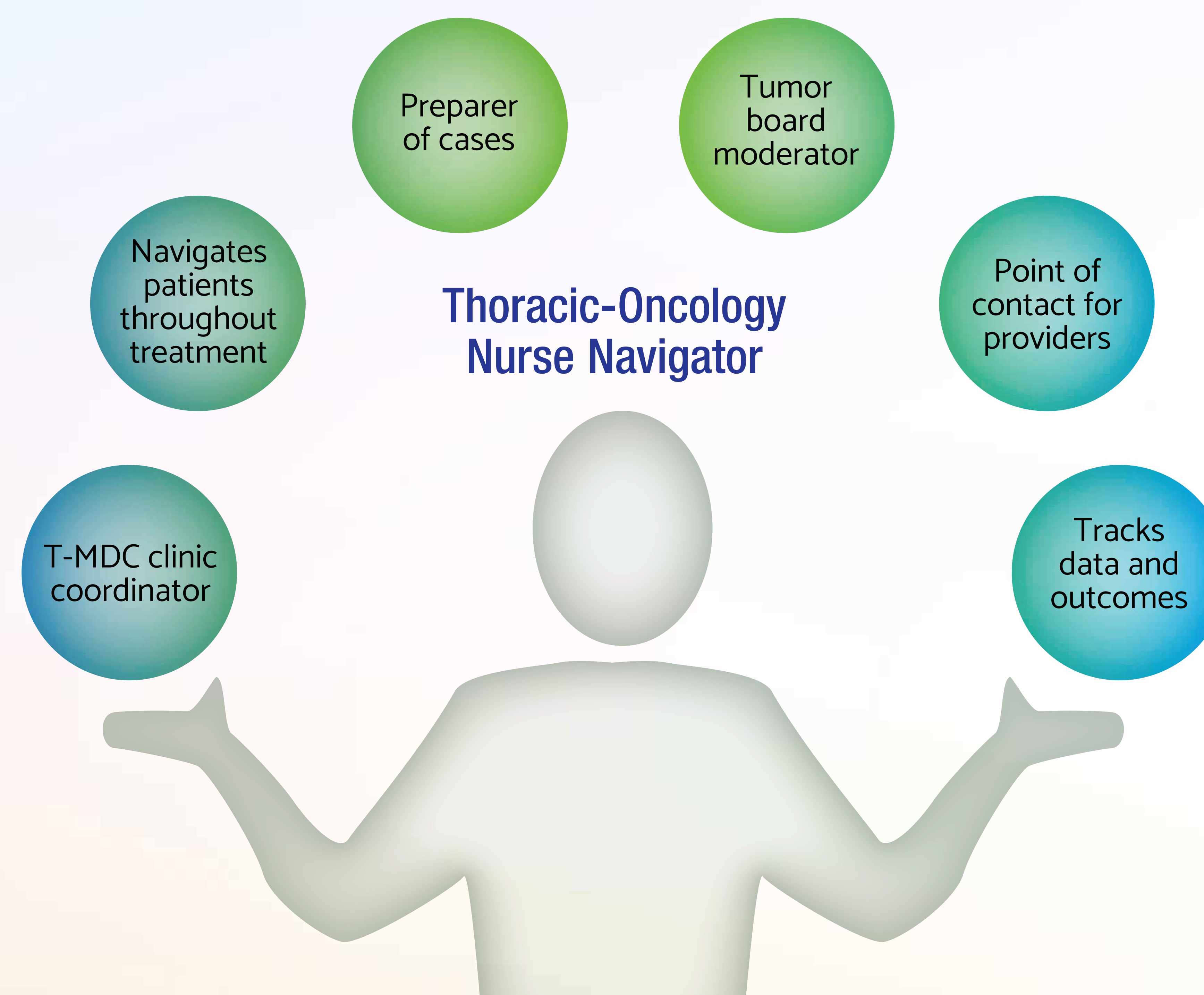
With preventative screening, increased focus on early detection, and advances in treatment in lung cancer, the multidisciplinary approach at Lehigh Valley Health Cancer Institute continues to evolve, providing innovative care to this patient population. The Thoracic Multidisciplinary Clinic (T-MDC) has experienced changes leading to continuous evolution of the role of the Thoracic-Oncology Nurse Navigator (T-ONN).

## Objectives

- Identify the multiple roles of the T-ONN.
- Demonstrate the impact of the increase in early detection on the T-MDC and on the T-ONN role.

## Methods

- Increasing the focus on low dose CT screening (LDCT) allows an increased number of patients with stage 1 thoracic cancer to be referred to the T-MDC for team evaluation and discussion of treatment options:
  - Stereotactic body radiation therapy (SBRT)
  - Robotic surgical options
- In 2018, an increase in the amount of LDCTs performed led to a higher number of Lung-RADS Category 4 (L-RADS4) cases reviewed in T-MDC, contributing to early stage diagnosis.



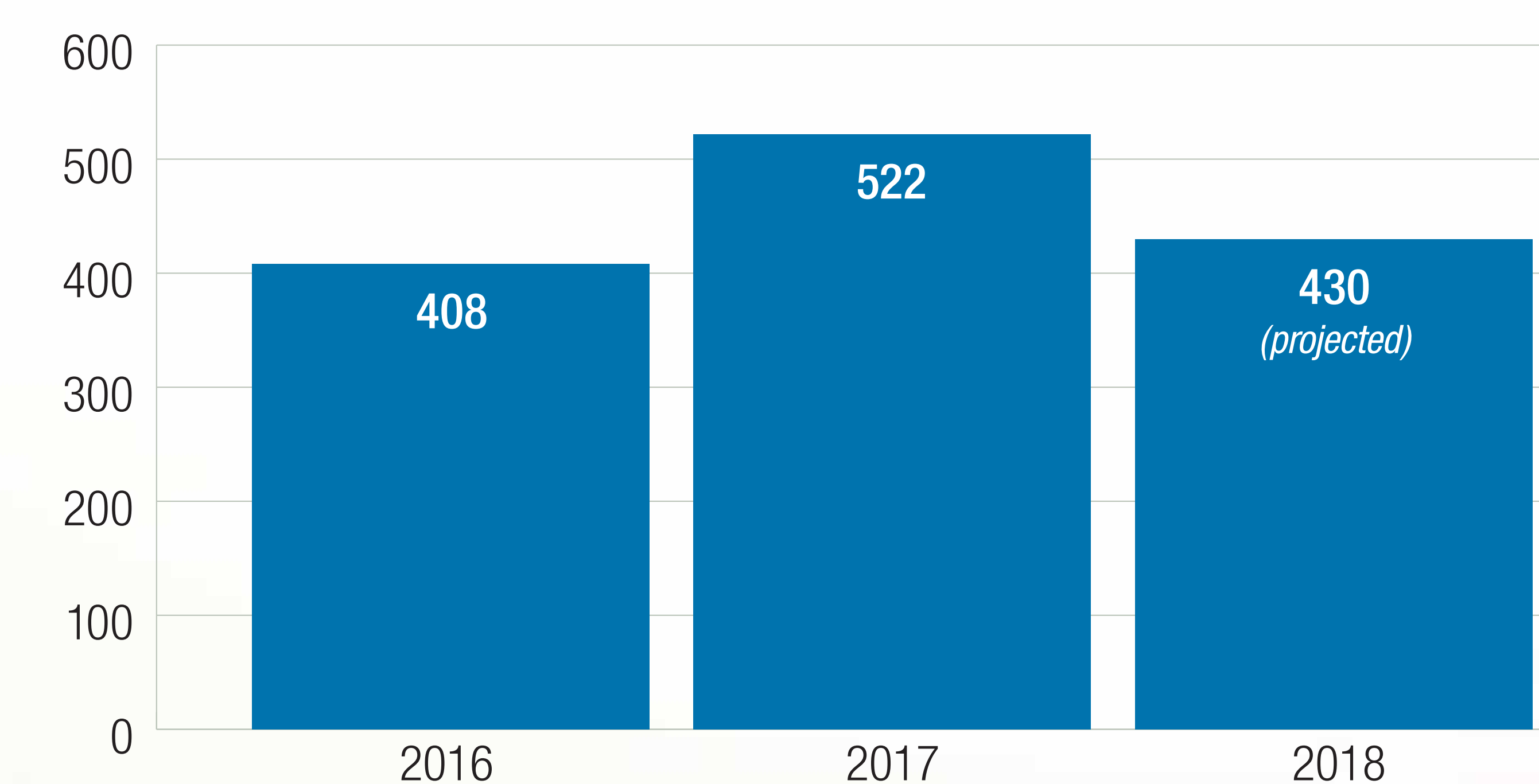
## Roles of the Thoracic-Oncology Nurse Navigator

- T-MDC Clinic Coordinator
- Providing navigation to patients throughout treatment
- Preparing cases for review
- Moderating at Pulmonary tumor board
- Point of contact for the Radiologist and Primary Care Physician (PCP)
- Tracks data and outcomes for L-RADS4 cases, ensuring follow up

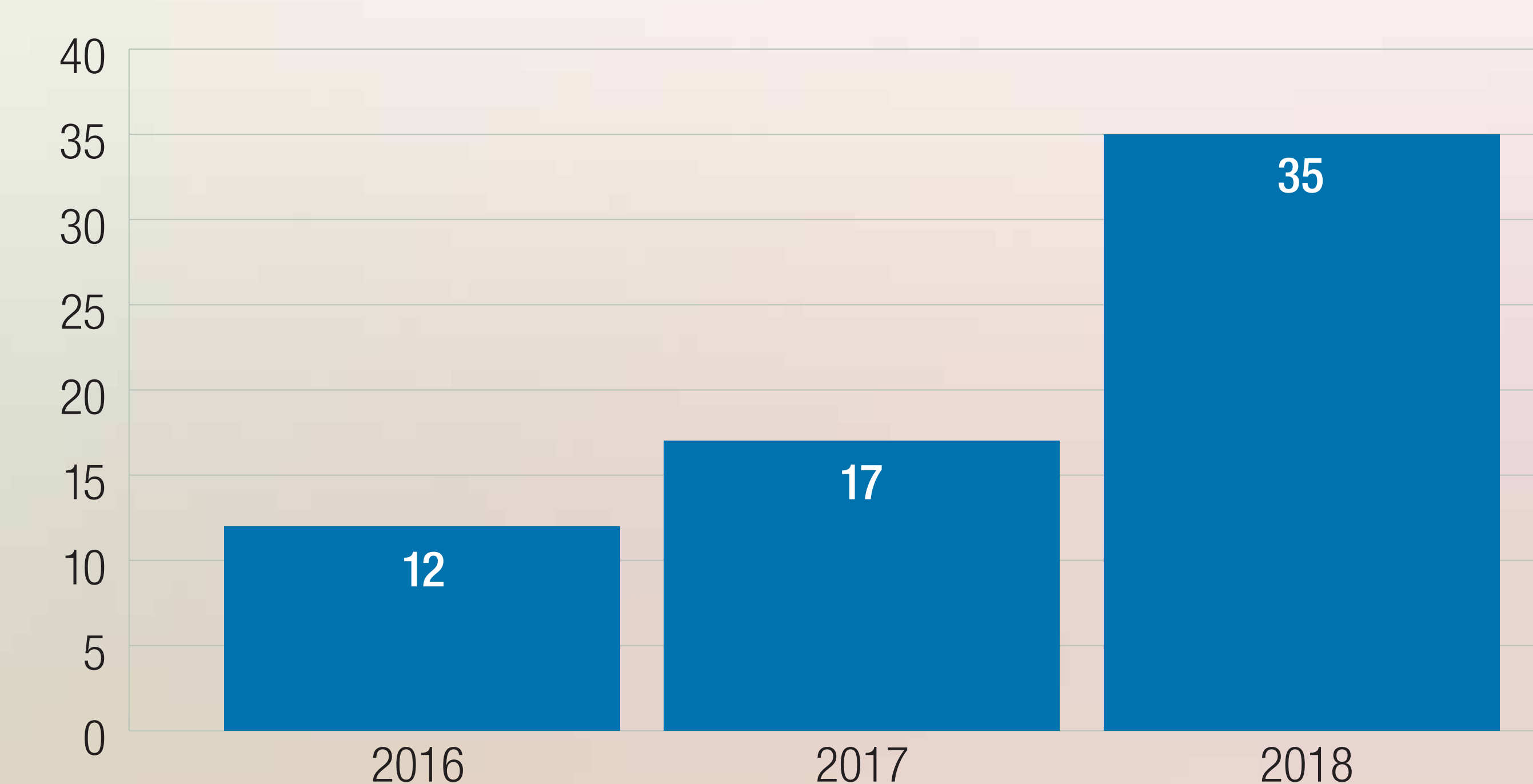
## Results

**359** The number of visits to T-MDC from 2016–18, with an average of 120 per year.

The total number of lung cancers at Lehigh Valley Health Cancer Institute increased from 408 in 2016 to 522 in 2017, with a projected annualized number of 430 for 2018.



The number of LDCT L-RADS4 have increased each year: 2016 – 12; 2017 – 17; 2018 – 35.



## Conclusions

- Increase in workload of T-ONN with added responsibilities
  - Increased preparation time
  - Additional coordination of patient visits, ensuring appropriate imaging/testing are completed
  - Increased caseloads for ongoing navigation services
  - Participation in Lung Disease Management Team meetings in order to develop a workflow for the L-RADS4 population
  - Hiring of additional staff and second full time T-ONN
- Impact on network goals at Lehigh Valley Health Network
  - Increased lung screenings ensuring continued referrals to the T-MDC
  - Development of a comprehensive Lung Health program including adding a Certified Registered Nurse Practitioner (CRNP) and support staff to follow all high risk patients and ensure referrals to appropriate multidisciplinary care.