it prospectively or retrospectively to see what kinds of diseases develop; is that right?

A That is correct.

Q Okay. How does that compare to what is called a case control study?

A Well, in a case control study, what you do, you take cases of disease, you match those or you choose a set of controls that don't have disease, and then you ask questions about what their exposures might be.

You ask questions about cases and you ask questions about controls.

Q And what are you trying to do by doing that, by matching the cases with the controls?

A Well, you try to control for what we call confounding variables, those things that could be associated with exposure and disease, but might make it difficult for you to observe a relationship.

Q For example, with lung cancer, would that be smoking; would that be a confounding factor?

A That is a potential confounder for lung