

WHICH LUNG CANCER TREATMENT IS RIGHT FOR YOU? WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Program Resource Guide

INSIST ON BETTER CARE

- Ask your doctor if you have had or will receive biomarker testing.
- Inquire about the results and how they may impact your care and treatment plan.
- Always speak up and ask questions. You have a voice in YOUR lung cancer care.
- Include a friend or family member in your appointments.
- Consider a second opinion and/or a consult with a lung cancer specialist.

LUNG CANCER TYPES

Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC): Small, oval-shaped, fast-growing cancer cells that form in lung tissue and can spread to other parts of the body. About 15% of lung cancer diagnoses are small cell lung cancer.

Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC): This is the most common type of lung cancer and is typically slow-growing. The three main subtypes include adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and large cell carcinoma.

STAGES OF LUNG CANCER

Stage I: The lung cancer is located only in the lungs. It has not spread to lymph nodes.

Stage II: The lung cancer may or may not have spread into the nearest lymph nodes.

Stage III: The cancer is in the lung and in the lymph nodes located in the middle of the chest.

Stage IV: The lung cancer has spread beyond the lungs to other areas of the body.

INSIST ON ESSENTIAL TESTING

BIOPSY

- Removal of tissue from a specific area of the body for further examination.
- This helps determine the lung cancer subtype.

IMAGING

- For diagnosis and disease monitoring.
- Types of imaging tests include:
 - CT scan
 - MRI
 - PET scan
 - X-ray

BIOMARKER TESTING

- Laboratory testing that identifies certain gene mutations, proteins, chromosomal abnormalities and/or other molecular changes that are unique to an individual's disease.
- This may be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.
- Biomarker testing includes genetic testing, molecular testing, and genomic profiling.

VISIT THESE RELATED PROGRAMS

- [What You Need to Know Before Choosing a Cancer Treatment](#)
- [What Are Biomarkers and How Do They Impact Lung Cancer Treatment Options?](#)
- [What Key Tests Impact Lung Cancer Treatment Choices?](#)
- [Insist! Lung Cancer](#)
- [Engage Lung Cancer](#)

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Biopsy: Removal of tissue from a specific area of the body for further examination.

Gene Mutation: A permanent change in the DNA sequence that makes up a gene. Changes can occur due to mistakes when the DNA is copied or as the result of environmental factors.

Liquid Biopsy: Test on a sample of blood to look for cancer cells from a tumor that are circulating in the blood or for pieces of DNA from tumor cells that are in the blood.

CT (Computerized Tomography) Scan: Provides detailed images of the body (including bones, blood vessels, and soft tissue) from a series of X-ray images from different angles around the body and uses computer processing to create cross-sectional images.

Next-generation sequencing (NGS): Technology to sequence DNA or RNA to identify genetic variations associated with diseases or other biological phenomena.

PET (Positron Emission Tomography) Scan: Imaging test that uses a special dye with radioactive tracers to allow your doctor to check for diseases in your body.


PD-L1 Expression: PD-L1 is a receptor expressed on the surface of T cells. The presence of PD-L1 indicates that a lung cancer patient may respond to immunotherapy.

Targeted Therapy: A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and by preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.

LUNG CANCER RESOURCES

- Cancer.net
- EGRF Resisters: egfrcancer.org
- Lung Cancer Research Foundation: LCRF.org
- Lung Cancer Initiative of North Carolina: lungcancerinitiativenc.org

MORE TOOLS FOR EMPOWERMENT

- Digitally Empowered™
- PEN-Powered Activity Guide
- Empowered Blog
- Empowered! Podcast 



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