### Types of 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.

**Small Cell Lung Cancer:** 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.

### 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 lungs 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.

### Glossary Terms

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

**Biomarker Testing (molecular testing):** Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

**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.

**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.

**Lung Cancer Driver Mutations:** Mutations in a cell’s DNA or gene in a chromosome that can be caused by numerous factors like natural aging, asbestos exposure, or various environmental factors. A significant number of lung cancer patients benefit from personalized approaches based on mutation evaluation.

**Immunotherapy:** Type of therapy that harnesses one’s own immune system to help the body fight cancer, infection, and other diseases.

**Maintenance Therapy:** Maintenance therapy is ongoing therapy for a disease that is administered after the acute phase of treatment has been completed.

**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.

**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.

**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 Treatment Approaches

- Surgery
- Radiation Therapy
- Systemic Treatments
  - Chemotherapy
  - Targeted Therapy
  - Immunotherapy

Considerations When Choosing Lung Cancer Therapy

- Type of Lung Cancer (Histology)
- Stage of Lung Cancer
- Overall Health of the Patient

Advocating for a Precise Diagnosis

- Confirm lung cancer diagnosis
- Know lung cancer stage
- Understand treatment options
- Ensure essential testing has taken place
- Discuss which option is best for your lung cancer

Lung Cancer Resources

- EGFR Resisters
- Lung Cancer Initiative of North Carolina
- Lung Cancer Research Foundation
- Clinicaltrials.gov

Insist on Better Lung Cancer Care

- Always speak up and ask questions. You have a voice in YOUR care.
- Inquire about test results and how they may impact your care and treatment plan.
- Consider a second opinion and/or a consult with a lung cancer specialist.
- Include a friend or family member in your appointments.

MORE TOOLS FOR EMPOWERMENT

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

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