

[ACT]IVATED | SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (SCLC)

RESOURCE GUIDE | Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila and Dr. Vinicius Ernani



An [ACT]IVATED patient is informed, empowered, and engaged in their care.

- Get information about choosing a small cell lung cancer (SCLC) specialist or treatment center
- Discuss your treatment options and make the decision that best fits your personal needs
- Ask your care team if clinical trials would benefit you
- Talk openly with your doctor about your fears or concerns
- Determine if financial assistance is available
- Find an in-person or online support group to connect with others living with SCLC

EXTENSIVE STAGE (ES) VS LIMITED STAGE (LS) SCLC

- **Limited-stage (LS) SCLC** means the cancer is contained in one part of the chest. Although the tumor is in one place, surgery is rarely an option for limited-stage SCLC and instead is treated by radiation and chemotherapy.
- **Extensive-stage (ES) SCLC** means that the cancer has metastasized and spread to other parts of the body like the second lung, bone, or brain. Since SCLC, and lung cancer in general, is often not diagnosed until symptoms are present, most people (about 2 in 3) have extensive-stage SCLC when the cancer is found.
- Occasionally it is hard to tell the difference between ES and LS SCLC, and different oncologists may have different ideas of diagnosis and treatment. This is why it's important to consult multiple oncologists or make sure your medical oncologist talks to a radiation oncology to be on the same page as to what's the best treatment for your particular SCLC.

Source

THE HOPE OF IMMUNOTHERAPY

- **Immunotherapy** is a type of treatment that augments a patient's own immune system, so the immune system can recognize the cancer. According to SCLC expert Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila, immuno-oncology has completely changed the paradigm of cancer treatments, and many patients have very long survivals thanks to this development.
 - For ES-SCLC, an FDA approved type of immunotherapy called PD-L1 inhibitors can be used in conjunction with chemotherapy. These drugs block the protein PD-L1 and have been shown to increase overall survival and progression-free survival vs. chemotherapy alone.
- Be sure to ask your doctor, "Is immunotherapy an option for me?" Most ES patients are eligible for immunotherapy unless they have major contraindications (e.g., history of autoimmune diseases, on an immunosuppressive drug, etc.).
- SCLC patients can feel left out compared to treatment advances for non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), NSCLC has more treatment options, because it's less aggressive than SCLC and encompasses a variety of diseases. So it's natural to have more advancements, because there are more diseases to look at.
- Experts are making headway in SCLC looking at other immunotherapies like BiTE therapies and antibody drug conjugates plus epigenetic therapies through clinical trials. Inquire about and get involved in clinical trials.

SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER EXPERT TIPS

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "Ask your doctor, "What am I looking at? What are the goals of treatment? How am I gonna feel in the next month? How am I going to feel in the next three months? And where am I gonna be in the next six months? And what is my prognosis? And what do you expect to happen?" - Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...if you are seeing a community oncologist, ask your doctor, 'Can I have access to a second opinion to a sub-specialist in lung cancer? Is there any availability of clinical trials here or in other centers?' Patients need to be the best advocates for themselves. They know that they're going through a very rough time, but they just need to say, 'What else can I do for this?'" - Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "I encourage all my patients to participate in clinical trials because some of the treatments you can only get in clinical trials today, they might become the standard of care tomorrow." - Dr. Vinicius Ernani

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "Stay tuned, I think we are having great advances lately in small cell lung cancer and hopefully that will be down the road, available to our patients." - Dr. Vinicius Ernani

SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER FACTS

- Small cell lung cancer affects roughly 1 in every 10 people diagnosed with lung cancer; accounts of 15% of all lung cancer cases in the U.S.
- The Recalcitrant Cancer Research Act and the National Cancer Institute in partnership with the lung cancer research community is making SCLC a major focus of research.

Source

RESOURCES

- [ACCC](#)
- [Go2Foundation for Lung Cancer](#)
- [CancerCare](#)
- [Cancer Support Community](#)
- [Cancer Grace](#)
- [Triage Cancer](#)
- [Family Reach](#)
- [Lung Cancer Foundation of America \(LCFA\)](#)
- [Lazarex Cancer Foundation](#)

This [ACT]IVATED SCLC program is brought to you by the **Patient Empowerment Network**. Funding is provided by a sponsorship from Amgen and through generous donations from people like you.

