



Expert [ACT]IVATION Tips Small Cell Lung Cancer

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "Patients who are diagnosed with small cell lung cancer should ask a doctor, "What about immunotherapy? Is that the right thing for me?" And in the great majority of extensive stage disease, they will be eligible for unless there are contraindications." - **Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...make sure before you leave the office or on the day you're coming for chemotherapy that you have all your questions answered, that you feel pretty confident in what side effects you may experience. I am a proponent of writing down your questions." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...always ask your team about clinical trials. And again, I recommend patients, if it's a reasonable clinical trial, I will always recommend my patients to be enrolled in it." - **Dr. Vinicius Ernani**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...don't feel afraid or scared to ask the questions that you want the answers to. And if you do, it's okay to change providers, to be honest with you, because you should have that level of trust and ability to be open with your provider." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "talk to your doctors and say, 'Okay, what am I looking at? What are the goals of treatment? How am I going to feel in the next month? How am I going to feel in the next three months? And where am I going to be in the next six months? And what is my prognosis?'" - **Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila**

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

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...make sure that you ask your doctor, 'Well, what about palliative care? What about social worker?' or 'I'm having trouble with this or that. Who can help me with this?'" - **Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...if you are short of breath or coughing, get to the doctor...If it's more than a week and over-the-counter medications aren't helping, go and get worked up because this is very much a curable illness if we can catch it early." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "Patients should ask their doctors, 'What are the latest developments in the treatment of this lung cancer? And am I eligible to receive those treatments? And is this a time where I should seek a second opinion or be referred to a clinical trial and another center?'" - **Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "Make sure you know your stage, make sure you're understanding what your treatments will be, and then make sure you understand what support services are available to you." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "If you're considering a clinical trial, to make sure you read that consent. And that consent can be difficult sometimes. So if you have questions, just ask." - **Dr. Rafael Santana-Davila**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "...there's even data to show in lung cancer that patients who see palliative care in addition to their primary oncologist actually live longer and have improved quality of life." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**

[ACT]IVATION TIP: "I'll say up front is when providers like doctors or nurses ask you if you've ever smoked, that is by no means being something accusatory. It actually helps us understand the trajectory of your disease better... Another thing that we know about both non-small and small cell lung cancer is that patients who have smoked actually often respond better to immunotherapy. So that can help us understand just how your disease may act and what treatments may even work better." - **Beth Sandy, CRNP**