

UNDERSTANDING YOUR DIAGNOSIS



WHAT IS LUNG CANCER?

A disease in which cells grow out of control and form a mass or masses (also called tumors) in the lungs.

NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (NSCLC):

Makes up nearly 85% of cases.

There are three main types:

- Adenocarcinoma
- Squamous cell carcinoma
- Large cell carcinoma

SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (SCLC):

Cells are smaller in size and tend to spread quickly to other parts of the body.



RISK FACTORS

- A history of smoking
- Exposure to radon
- Exposure to industrial chemicals including arsenic, asbestos, beryllium, uranium and Agent Orange
- Exposure to secondhand smoke
- A family history of lung cancer
- Radiation therapy to the chest area



SYMPTOMS

- Coughing, wheezing or shortness of breath
- Tiredness
- Pain in the chest, shoulder, upper back or arm
- Coughing up blood
- Repeated pneumonia or bronchitis
- Loss of appetite and weight loss

DIAGNOSIS

To make a diagnosis, your doctor will order one or more of the following tests:

IMAGING TESTS: CT (computed tomography) scans, MRI (magnetic resonance imaging) scans and PET (positron emission tomography) indicate location and size.

BIOPSY: Confirms the presence of cancer. Small pieces of suspicious tissue are removed from the body and examined under a microscope.

OTHER LABORATORY TESTS: Indicate how other organs are functioning. Results may provide information about overall health and potential spread of cancer.

TREATMENT



SURGERY

An operation to remove the tumor.



CHEMOTHERAPY

Chemicals that kill cells that grow quickly, including cancer cells.



RADIATION THERAPY

High energy x-rays used to kill or shrink cancer cells at the site of the tumor.



TARGETED THERAPIES

Special drugs designed to target cancer cells based on the unique ways in which they grow and divide.



IMMUNOTHERAPY

Special drugs that use the body's own immune system to fight the cancer.



CLINICAL TRIALS

Research studies that allow patients to try new treatments, combinations of treatments or methods of delivering treatment.



PALLIATIVE CARE

Treatment given alone or in combination with other treatments to prevent or manage symptoms and side effects.

SIDE EFFECTS

Depending on the treatment(s) you receive, you may experience side effects. Not everyone experiences the same side effects and they may vary in severity. Some common side effects include hair loss, nausea, numbness in hands or feet, rashes and digestive issues. If you experience any uncomfortable side effects from treatment, talk with your doctor about how to manage them.



LUNG CANCER ALLIANCE

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