



Small Cell Lung Cancer

Small cell lung cancer is a fast growing type of lung cancer. About 15 percent of lung cancer diagnoses are small cell lung cancer; non-small cell lung cancer accounts for the other cases.

The two types of lung cancer are staged differently. The diagnosis depends on the tumor size, location and spread. The tumor can spread (metastasize) to other organs of the body, such as the brain or liver, or to the bones or lymph nodes, which are small groups of white blood cells in the body.

Stages of small cell lung cancer

Small cell cancer is divided into two stages, limited or extensive, to identify the best treatment options for each person. Possible signs of small cell lung cancer include coughing, chest pain and shortness of breath.

- **Limited stage** cancer is only on one side of the chest, including the lungs, the tissues between the lungs and/or lymph nodes.
- **Extensive stage** cancer has spread to other areas of the chest and/or other body organs.

Treatment

After the type and stage of lung cancer is identified, you and your family can discuss treatment options with your team of health care professionals.

Treatment plans are based on the type and stage of lung cancer and the patient's overall health. Many people benefit from a combination of treatments including:

- Surgery to remove the tumor
- Chemotherapy (medication that kills or shrinks the tumor)
- Radiation therapy (X-rays that damage cancer cells)
- A research study

Lung cancer support

It is important to know you are not alone when you or someone you love is living with lung cancer. Respiratory Health Association of Metropolitan Chicago's Lung Cancer Initiative serves as a resource for people living with lung cancer, their families, and friends and health care professionals.

A list of lung cancer support groups can be found online at www.lungchicago.org/lung-cancer-support.