

Two Free Resources
For Lung Cancer Patients
And Their Loved Ones!



To improve the lives of
patients and communities by
empowering and educating
them to be advocates for
their own health.

Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer



Lung Cancer CHOICES 3rd Edition

Diverse Viewpoints and Choices for
Your Lung Cancer Journey



CaringAmbassadors.org

Lung Cancer Choices
is a useful tool
for anyone
impacted by
lung cancer,
with the primary
focus on the
patients.

Caregiver Choices
focuses on the
unique challenges
of caring for
someone with
lung cancer
and provides
caregivers
with tools and
resources for
the journey
ahead.

Caregiver CHOICES

An empowerment guide to help you
navigate the journey together!

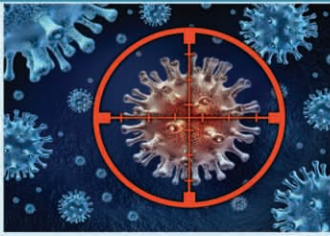


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Targeted Therapy for Lung Cancer

Targeted therapy is the foundation of precision medicine that is technically considered chemotherapy, however, targeted therapy goes after the cancer cell's inner workings, it is a type of cancer treatment that targets the changes in cancer cells that help them grow, divide, and spread. Targeted therapies are agents that interfere with cancer cell proliferation (an overproduction of the cancer cell) by blocking specific signals (or processes) that drive tumor growth (or proliferation).

Types of Targeted Therapy

Small-molecule drugs are small enough to enter cells easily, so they are used for targets that are inside cells. Small-molecule drugs are pills or capsules that you can swallow.

Monoclonal antibodies drugs are cancer treatments that enlist the immune system to fight cancer; these drugs are not able to enter cells easily. Instead, they attach to specific targets on the outer surface of cancer cells. Monoclonal antibodies are usually given as an intravenous (IV) infusion.

Who should undergo mutation analyses?

When your doctor suspects you have cancer, they take a small portion of the suspected tumor (a biopsy). All patients with pathologically confirmed advanced stage non-small cell lung cancer (the most common type of lung cancer) should have biopsy specimens sent for mutation analyses to screen for specific proteins present and for mutations in the DNA make-up of the tumor. Results of mutation analysis, as directed by your medical oncologist, are used to assist in your treatment planning regardless of gender, ethnicity, or smoking history.

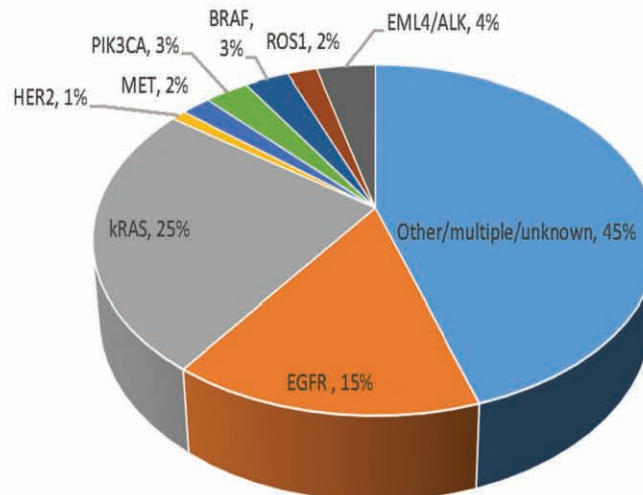
How do I get my tumor tested?

If there is enough tissue from the original biopsy of your tumor, this tissue can be tested. If not, you may need a second biopsy or minor surgery to obtain a sample. A biopsy is a procedure in which your doctor removes a piece of the tumor for testing.

There are some risks to having a biopsy. These risks vary depending on the size of the tumor and where it is located. Your doctor will explain the risks of having a biopsy for your type of tumor.

Molecular testing (mutation analysis) is a way for doctors to test the genetic makeup of a tumor and to help make the best decision possible about your treatment.

Breakdown of some of the most common lung cancer specific mutations.



Weiss JM, Stinchcombe TE. Second-Line Therapy for Advanced NSCLC. *The Oncologist*. 2013;18(8):947-953. doi:10.1634/theoncologist.2013-0096.

Where You Go for Your Treatment

Where you go for treatment depends on which drugs you are getting and how they are given. You may take targeted therapy at home. Or, you may receive targeted therapy in a doctor's office, clinic, or outpatient unit in hospital. Outpatient means you do not spend the night in the hospital.

ASK YOUR DOCTOR IF YOU SHOULD BE RECEIVING TARGETED THERAPIES?

Questions to ask your Doctor to make sure you get the information you need to be an active part of your healthcare team. You might want to ask:

- Have you tested my lung cancer for mutations?
- Does my lung cancer have a specific type of mutation? If so, what type?
- What are my treatment choices when it comes to targeted therapy?
- What are the side effects of targeted therapy for my mutation?
- How will this treatment affect my job, family life, and day-to-day activities?
- Should I think about joining a clinical trial? If so, how do I find one that's right for me?

For more information about targeted therapy visit: www.caringambassadors.org
Click on Lung Cancer Choices, 3rd Edition, Chapters 3 and 6.

Supported by funding from:

