



## NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

# Lung Cancer

## Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

### Treatment Planning

This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete [NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Lung Cancer](#). These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit [NCCN.org/patients](#) or, to order printed copies, visit [Amazon.com](#)

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#### What is lung cancer?

It is a disease that causes cells within the lung to grow fast, live longer, and spread into other tissues. Most lung cancers start in cells that don't look small (non-small cells).	<a href="#">8</a>
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#### How is lung cancer found?

Your lungs may have small, round masses of tissue called nodules. These nodules can be seen with imaging tests. Your doctors will look at these nodules for features that suggest there may be cancer. If cancer is likely, fluid or tissue must be removed from your body and tested for cancer cells.	<a href="#">15</a>
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#### How is lung cancer staged?

Cancer staging is a rating by your doctors of how far the cancer has grown and spread. Staging is very important for treatment planning.	<a href="#">22</a>
Imaging and lab tests are used to assess the extent of cancer.	<a href="#">22</a>
There are 5 stages of lung cancer. They are stage 0, stage I (IA & IB) stage II (IIA & IIB), stage III (IIIA, IIIB, & IIIC), and stage IV (IVA & IVB). In general, earlier cancer stages have better outcomes. Some people will do better than expected. Others will do worse.	<a href="#">26</a>

## What health care is needed before treatment?



All stages	■ A report of your health history and an exam of your body	29
	■ Blood tests to count blood cells and levels of chemicals	30
	■ Pictures of the insides of your chest and belly area with CT scans	30
	■ Removal of tissue samples to test for cancer	33
Stage I	■ PET/CT scan to see cell activity which might show cancer	30
	■ Brain MRI to look for tumors is an option for stage IB	31
	■ Bronchoscopy to look at your airways	32
	■ Lung function tests if surgery may be an option	33
Stage II	■ PET/CT scan to see cell activity which might show cancer	30
	■ Brain MRI to look for tumors	31
	■ Bronchoscopy to look at your airways	32
	■ Lung function tests if surgery may be an option	33
Stage III	■ PET/CT scan to see cell activity which might show cancer	30
	■ Brain MRI to look for tumors	31
	■ Bronchoscopy to look at your airways for stages IIIA and IIIB ■ Sometimes this test is used for stage IIIC	32
	■ Lung function tests if surgery may be an option	33
Stage IV	■ In some cases, PET/CT scan	30
	■ Brain MRI to look for tumors	31
	■ In some cases, bronchoscopy	32
	■ In some cases, lung function tests	33
	■ Testing of markers—EGFR, ALK, ROS1, BRAF—for adenocarcinomas, large cell, or another rare subtype ■ Testing may be done for squamous cell carcinomas	36
	■ Testing of marker—PD-L1—for all types of lung cancer	37

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