Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)

Globally, lung cancer is the second most common form of cancer and accounts for nearly 1 in 5 cancer deaths.1 Lung cancer is broadly split into two types: non-small cell (NSCLC) and small cell (SCLC).2

**SCLC VS. NSCLC: WHAT’S THE DIFFERENCE?**

**SIZE**  
SCLC cells are small and oval, compared to larger NSCLC cells3

**GROWTH**  
Typically, SCLC is more aggressive and fast-growing than NSCLC, and spreads more rapidly to other parts of the body4  

**PROGNOSIS**  
SCLC is associated with a poorer prognosis than NSCLC5  

**STAGING**  
NSCLC and SCLC are divided into stages according to the severity of disease. In addition to the traditional four stages, SCLC is divided into two groups which can help determine the treatment approach: 4,8,9

**LIMITED STAGE** (Stages I-III)  
Cancer is localised to one lung and can be treated with local radiation therapy.  

**EXTENSIVE STAGE** (Stage IV)  
Cancer has spread to both lungs or body; can rarely be treated with radiation therapy as an initial treatment.  

**TREATMENT**  
Compared to NSCLC, there are fewer treatment options for patients with SCLC.6  

**SURGERY**  
Surgery is only possible in the very early stages10

**STANDARD OF CARE** for advanced disease includes chemotherapy, sometimes followed by radiation, but most patients’ cancer returns after treatment10,11

The introduction of immunotherapy to a chemotherapy combination may provide a valuable option to patients. Clinical trials are also investigating targeted agents and other combination approaches6,10,11

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**LUNG CANCER TYPES**  
- 15% SCLC  
- 85% NSCLC

**GLOBALLY**  
Lung cancer is the second most common form of cancer and accounts for nearly 1 in 5 cancer deaths.1 Lung cancer is broadly split into two types: non-small cell (NSCLC) and small cell (SCLC).2

**SCLC**  
- Cells are small and oval, compared to larger NSCLC cells3  
- Typically, SCLC is more aggressive and fast-growing than NSCLC, and spreads more rapidly to other parts of the body4  
- SCLC is associated with a poorer prognosis than NSCLC5  
- Limited Stage (Stages I-III): Cancer is localised to one lung and can be treated with local radiation therapy. Accounts for one-third of patients  
- Extensive Stage (Stage IV): Cancer has spread to both lungs or body; can rarely be treated with radiation therapy as an initial treatment. Accounts for two-thirds of patients  
- Surgery is only possible in the very early stages10  
- Standard of care for advanced disease includes chemotherapy, sometimes followed by radiation, but most patients’ cancer returns after treatment10,11  
- The introduction of immunotherapy to a chemotherapy combination may provide a valuable option to patients. Clinical trials are also investigating targeted agents and other combination approaches6,10,11

**REFERENCES**  