Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

STAGE 2

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common type of lung cancer. It has 4 stages (1,2,3,4). Each stage also has sub-stages that are named using letters (A, B). The stage of NSCLC is based on the size of the cancer and whether it has spread outside of the lung or to other parts of the body.

What is Stage 2 NSCLC?

Stage 2 = Cancer is found early but has spread in or just outside one lung

2A = Cancer is in one lung and is between the size of a walnut and lime (4-5cm)

2B = Cancer is the size of a lime (5cm) and has not spread beyond nearby lymph nodes

OR

2B = Cancer is between the size of a lime and apple (5cm-7cm) and has spread in or around one lung.

Lymph nodes

are small bean shaped structures in your body that help to fight sickness and remove harmful substances. Cancer often spreads to the lymph nodes.

Surgery to remove the cancer is the first choice if possible.

Based on your needs, the surgeon may remove part of the lung or the whole lung.

- **Lobectomy**: Removes one lobe of the lungs.
- **Bi-lobectomy**: Removes two lobes of the lungs.
- **Pneumonectomy**: Removes the whole lung.

Lung cancer surgery involves careful testing of the lymph nodes near the cancer to see if it has spread.

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Why is Biomarker Testing Important?

People with NSCLC should have **biomarker testing before treatment starts** to look for certain “targets” on cancer cells. This is done by testing a piece of a tumor or blood and looks for many biomarkers at one time.

**If treatment stops working, repeat biomarker testing** may be needed if to look for other targets.

**Each person’s cancer is different. Biomarker testing offers the information needed to make the best treatment choice for you.**

For more information about biomarkers and biomarker testing, see GO2foundation.org or call the Helpline at 800-298-2436.

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### Treatments for Stage 2

- **Radiation Therapy** uses **high energy beams** aimed at the tumor to kill cancer cells. There are different types of radiation therapy that may be used based on the location of the cancer and other factors.

- **Targeted Therapy** kills cancer by **attacking a “target” on cancer cells**. The target is found through **biomarker testing**. Targeted therapy may be used after surgery based on your biomarkers and your treatment needs.

- **Immunotherapy** helps your body’s own immune system slow or stop cancer from growing. Immunotherapy may be used before or after surgery based on your treatment needs.

- **Chemotherapy** kills cells that grow and divide very fast, like cancer cells. Often, chemotherapy is given every 3 weeks for several cycles. Chemotherapy may be a given before or after surgery based on your treatment needs.

  **In stage 2B** chemotherapy can be given with radiation (called chemoradiation), after radiation, or after surgery to reduce the chance of the cancer returning.

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Always think about joining a clinical trial every time you need to make a choice about treatment. By being part of a trial, you may be able to try new ways to treat your cancer and help us learn more about the best ways to treat stage 2 lung cancer.

**Lung MATCH**

To learn more about clinical trials, visit LungMATCH.org or contact our HelpLine at 800-298-2436 to speak with a Clinical Trial Navigator.