Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is staged from I (one) through IV (four). Each of the four stages is further broken down into sub-stages using letters. Both the size of the cancer and if it has spread to the lymph nodes or other parts of the body are used to determine the stage. To find out the stage of your cancer, you will have a number of tests and/or procedures.

**STAGE I**

Lung Cancer and Treatment Options

Stage I means that your lung cancer has been found very early. There are two sub-stages – IA and IB.

**STAGE IA**

The cancer is in one lung and is less than 3 cm in size.

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

- **Lung cancer surgery** may be done by:
  - **Thoracotomy**, in which a cut is made in the chest wall to see and reach the lungs and/or other organs.
  - **Video Assisted Thoracic Surgery (VATS) or Robotic Assisted Thoracic Surgery (RATS)**, which are less invasive ways of doing the surgery.

A less invasive surgery usually means smaller cuts, less time in the hospital and shorter time to recover. Ask your doctor if a less invasive way is right for you.

- Depending on where the cancer is and how it looks, the surgeon may take one of the following:
  - **Lobectomy**: Removal of one lobe of the lungs.
  - **Bi-lobectomy**: Removal of two lobes of the lungs.
  - **Pneumonectomy**: Removal of an entire lung.

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

**Stereotactic Body Radiotherapy (SBRT)**, a special kind of targeted radiation may be used if the cancer is in a place that is hard to reach or if you have other medical conditions or factors that make surgery too risky.

- Stereotactic radiation therapy can deliver higher and more precise doses of radiation to the cancer, without causing as much damage to surrounding healthy tissue.

*Note: Chemotherapy, a treatment that kills cancer's fast growing and dividing cells, is generally not used for stage IA NSCLC.*

**Lymph nodes** are small bean shaped structures throughout your body that help to fight infections and remove harmful substances. Cancer often spreads to the lymph nodes before going to other parts of the body.
STAGE IB  The cancer is in one lung and is more than 3 cm in size.

As with stage IA, surgery and SBRT are options. Other treatments include:

- **Chemotherapy**: destroys cancer by killing fast growing cells. Often two types of chemotherapy are given in multiple cycles, with breaks in between to allow your body to recover.

- **Radiation**: uses high energy beams to kill or shrink cancer cells or prevent them from spreading.
  
  *If surgery is not an option, you may be treated with chemotherapy and/or radiation.*

- **Adjuvant Therapy**: After surgery or SBRT, you may receive more treatment, often in the form of chemotherapy, to reduce the chance of the cancer returning.

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 I lung cancer.

**LungMATCH**

To learn more about clinical trials, visit LungMATCH.org or contact our HelpLine at 1-800-298-2436 to speak with a Clinical Trial Navigator.