

Treatments for Lung Cancer

If you have lung cancer, you and your doctor should talk about the best treatment for you.

What are the treatments for lung cancer?

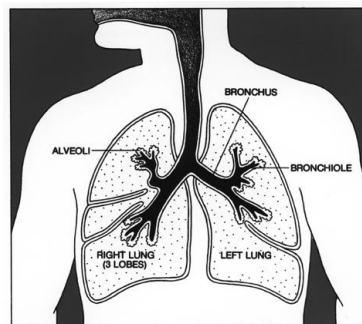
It can be treated with surgery, chemotherapy, radiation and laser therapy. Some people have more than one kind of treatment. *The treatments for lung cancer do not usually cure it, but they may help you feel better.*

These things are important when deciding on the best treatment.

- your age
- your general health
- the size of the cancer
- the type of cancer cells
- where in the lung the cancer is
- if the cancer has spread

Treatments for lung cancer.

Surgery –taking out some or all of the lung. Some people cannot have surgery because of the size of the cancer or where it is growing. Some people also get chemotherapy or radiation to kill any cancer cells that are left.



Chemotherapy uses drugs to kill cancer cells.

How is chemotherapy given?

- One way is to take pills.
- Another way is through a needle that a nurse puts in a vein (IV).
- Some people get both.

Radiation uses cancer-killing rays to damage cancer cells and stop them from growing. Some people call radiation x-ray treatment. There are two kinds of radiation treatment. Some people have one kind and some people have both kinds.

- **External radiation** comes from a large machine and is given while you lie on a table. You go to a hospital or clinic 5 days a week for 5 to 6 weeks for treatment. Each treatment takes about 15 to 30 minutes. It does not hurt.



- **Internal radiation** comes from a tube placed in or near the cancer. Some people stay in the hospital, others can go home right after having the treatment.



Laser Treatment uses a very strong beam of light to kill cancer cells.

Are there any other treatments?

Clinical trials test new cancer treatments on people who have cancer. Ask your doctor if a clinical trial might be right for you.

Talking to your doctor about treatment

Writing down your questions before you talk to the doctor can help you remember them. It may also help to take a family member or friend with you.

Where can I find out more about lung cancer?

- Call the Cancer Information Service at 1-800-4-CANCER (1-800-422-6237). The call is free.
- or
- Call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-ACS-2345 (1-800-227-2345). The call is free.