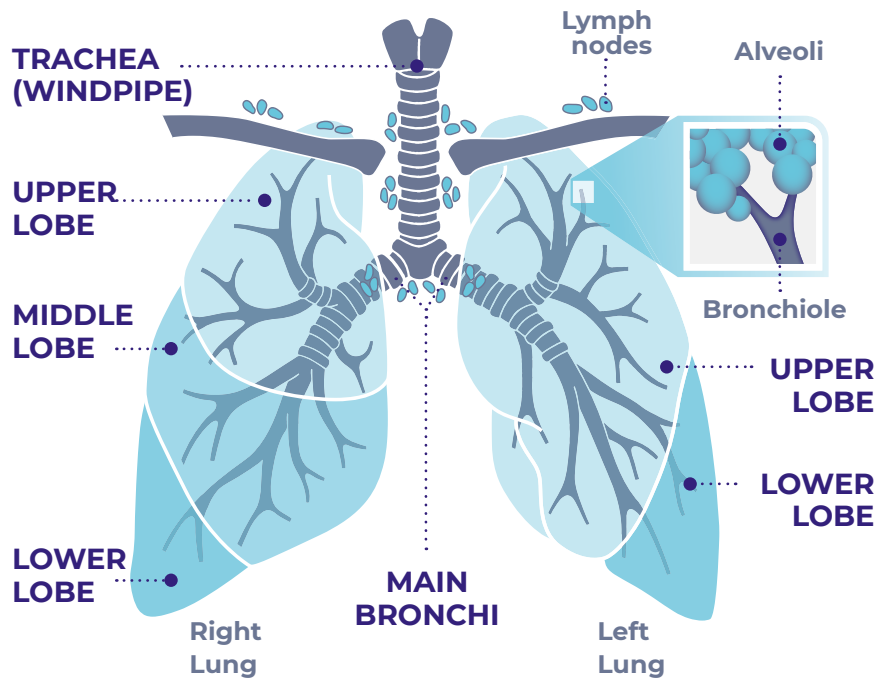


# SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER

## Limited Stage

### What is Small Cell Lung Cancer?

Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) is a less common type of lung cancer. SCLC is named for the small, oval-shaped cancer cells seen under a microscope. SCLC usually starts in the breathing tubes known as bronchi in the center of the chest, and spreads quickly.



### Staging

Many cancers are divided into four stages: I, II, III, and IV (1, 2, 3, and 4). However, small cell lung cancer is commonly called limited stage (stage I through III) or extensive stage (stage IV). It is important to know your stage.

**Limited stage small cell lung cancer refers to a cancer that has been caught while still in one lung and hasn't spread very far.**

## TREATMENT OPTIONS

Limited stage small cell lung cancer treatment can vary depending on the size, spread of the cancer, and your overall health.

**Surgery** If the cancer is found early enough, surgery to remove it may be an option. The surgeon will usually remove nearby lymph nodes for further testing to make sure there was no spread.

**Chemotherapy** is a common treatment for small cell and usually involves two drugs given together through a vein. It is given in cycles followed by a rest period to allow recovery time.

**Radiation** uses high energy beams to kill or shrink cancer cells or prevent them from spreading.

**Chemoradiation** is when both chemotherapy and radiation are combined to treat the cancer. Chemoradiation is the most common way to treat limited stage SCLC.

**Brain Radiation** Your doctor might discuss as an option prophylactic cranial radiation, or PCI, which is low level radiation to the brain. This is to try to stop the cancer from going to the brain. However, researchers are studying the use of PCI to determine if it is needed and helpful for people with SCLC.

**Clinical trials** are an important option for people diagnosed with limited stage SCLC. A clinical trial may be your best care and should be considered every time a treatment decision is made. Talk to your treatment team about whether a clinical trial is right for you.

### **Palliative care/Supportive care**

Palliative care is given to prevent or treat symptoms from lung cancer and treatment side effects. Palliative care can help ease pain, improve quality of life, and can also help people live longer. This type of care may be available in different settings, including hospitals, outpatient centers or your home. Ask your doctor how palliative care can be helpful to you.

If you have any questions relating to your care, we are here to help. Call our free helpline at 1-800-298-2436

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To learn more about small cell lung cancer, visit <https://go2foundation.org/smallcell>