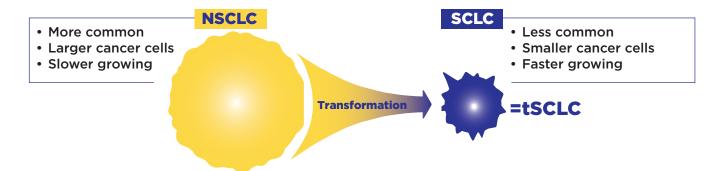


# **Transformed Small Cell Lung Cancer**

## What is transformed small cell lung cancer?

Transformed small cell lung cancer (tSCLC) happens when non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) changes or transforms into small cell lung cancer (SCLC).



### Why do cancer cells change?

It is common for cancer cells to change over time. They change themselves to avoid being harmed by cancer treatment.

When treatment stops working well, we know cancer has changed. This is known as "drug resistance" because cancer can resist the effects of the treatment that is being used.

#### What do we know about tSCLC?

Cancer cells often change in little ways. However, in rare cases, NSCLC cells change into SCLC as they try to resist the drug treatment.

Studies show that tSCLC can occur in people whose tumors have an EGFR biomarker and who are treated with certain drugs. But tSCLC can also occur in lung cancer that has other types of biomarkers. tSCLC is being studied to see why this type of change happens in some people and not others. This data helps researchers learn what causes tSCLC, which can lead to more treatment options.

Biomarkers are pieces of information that cancer cells carry with them that guide your healthcare team on the best treatment options.

Questions? Email us at support@go2.org or call our HelpLine at 1-800-298-2436.

#### **How is tSCLC treated?**

tSCLC may have both NSCLC and SCLC cells as it transforms. For that reason, one treatment or a combination of treatments may be used to treat both cell types. Treatment decisions are based on your most recent biopsy results and your specific health needs.

#### **Common treatments for tSCLC**

**Chemotherapy** is often used to treat SCLC and works by killing cells in the body that divide quickly. It may be used alone or with other treatment types.

**Targeted therapy** is used to treat NSCLC, and it works by attacking certain biomarkers in cancer cells. You may stay on your current targeted therapy drug or change to one that is similar. Targeted therapy will need to be used along with another treatment type since it only affects NSCLC cells.

Radiation therapy may be used to treat an area of your body or brain. It works by aiming high-energy beams at the tumor to kill cancer cells. It would most likely be used along with other treatment types.

**Clinical trials** are new treatment options that are being studied. They are research studies that decide whether a new drug or blend of drugs, procedure, or medical device is safe and effective.

## Ask questions to understand your options.

What are my biopsy test results, and what do they mean?Which treatment is best for me and why?What are the treatment risks and benefits?



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