Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common type of lung cancer. It has 4 stages: I, II, III, IV or 1, 2, 3, 4. Stage 3 NSCLC has sub-stages that are named using the letters A, B, and C. The stage of NSCLC is determined by the size and number of tumors found and where the cancer has spread.

What is NSCLC Stage 3?
In stage 3 NSCLC, cancer is found in one lung and has spread to the chest and to lymph nodes further away from the lungs.

It is divided into sub-stages 3A, 3B, and 3C based on the size and number of tumors, the location of the lymph nodes found to have cancer, and exactly where the cancer has spread in the chest area.

Treatments for Stage 3
Surgery is more likely to be an option in stage 3A.
Your surgeon may remove part of or the whole lung, depending on your specific situation.
- Lobectomy — Removes one lobe of the lungs.
- Bilobectomy — Removes two lobes of the lungs.
- Pneumonectomy — Removes the entire lung.

Questions? Email us at support@go2.org or call our HelpLine at 1-800-298-2436.
Targeted therapy kills cancer by attacking a "target" on cancer cells. The target is found through biomarker testing. The type of targeted therapy used is based on which biomarkers you have.

What are biomarkers, and why is testing important?
Biomarkers are mutations or changes inside cancer cells that make them different from healthy cells. These mutations or changes drive cancer cells to grow and spread.

Biomarker testing tells your healthcare team what mutations or changes you have to guide your treatment plan. If your test results include one of the biomarkers that has a targeted therapy, then your best treatment will most often be a targeted therapy.

Chemoradiation combines chemotherapy and radiation and is the treatment of choice if surgery and targeted therapy are not options.

Chemotherapy kills cells that grow and divide very fast, like cancer cells. Often, chemotherapy is given every 3 weeks for several cycles.

Radiation therapy uses high-energy beams aimed at the tumor to kill or shrink cancer cells.

Immunotherapy helps your body's own immune system slow or stop cancer from growing.

Clinical trials are a type of research that is done to find new and better ways to treat lung cancer safely. Talk to your healthcare team about whether a clinical trial is right for you.

Ask your healthcare team about palliative care.
Palliative care is given to prevent or ease lung cancer symptoms and manage treatment side effects. It can help reduce pain, improve quality of life, and help people live longer.

If you have questions about NSCLC, would like to learn about clinical trials, or need support, we are here to help. Visit go2.org or call our free HelpLine at 1-800-298-2436.

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