



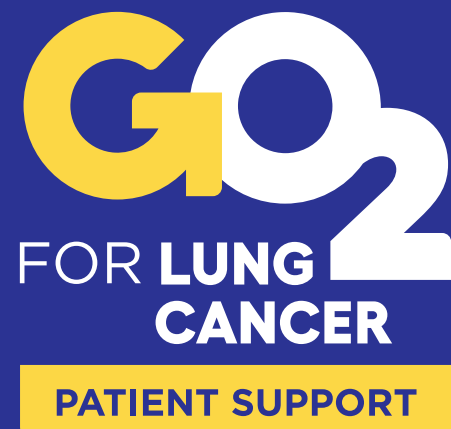
# Small Cell Lung Cancer and Immunotherapy



[go2.org](http://go2.org)

## About GO2 for Lung Cancer

GO2 is at the forefront of everything that's happening in lung cancer. We're the go-to for one-on-one assistance, supportive connections, treatment information, and finding the best care close to home. We're the place to go to learn about the latest research and special initiatives that increase survivorship. We're the source for improving health policies and leading public awareness to shift this disease from one of stigma to one of hope. We are teachers, guides, advocates and supporters. **Confronting lung cancer starts here.**



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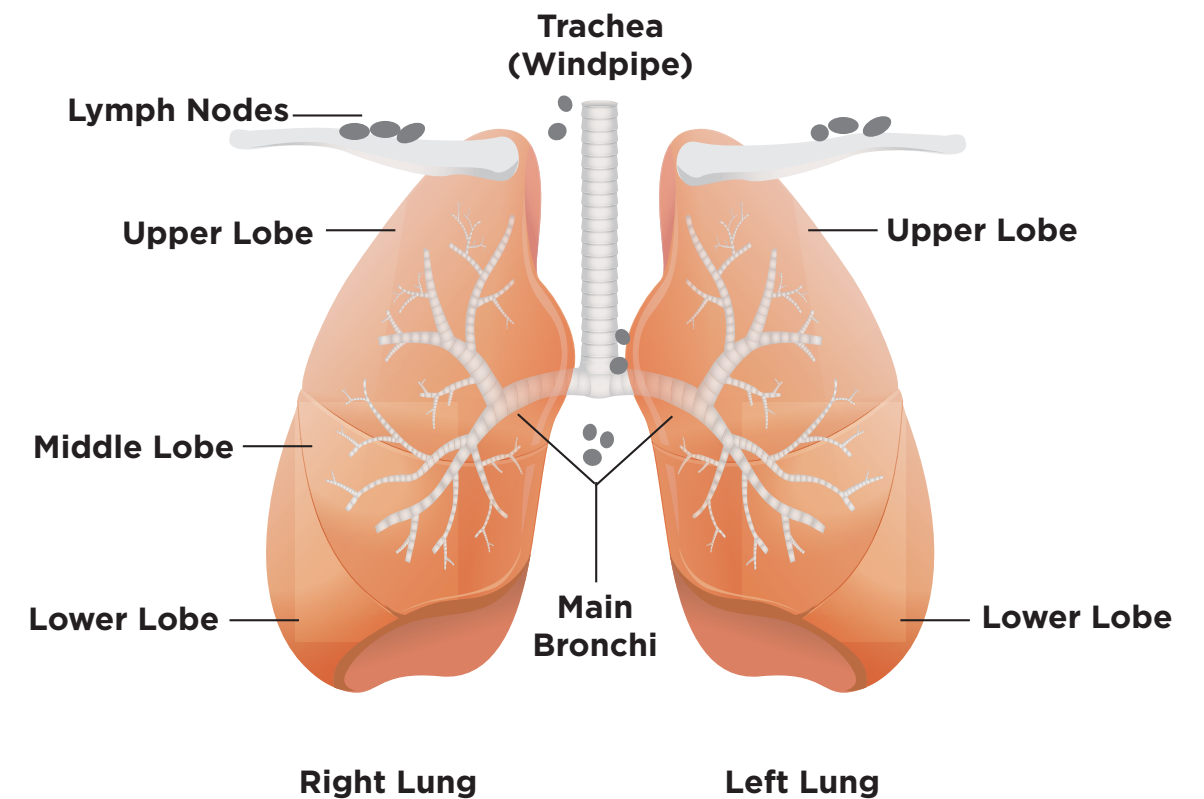
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**Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that helps the body's own immune system find and attack cancer cells.**

This booklet was created to help you learn how immunotherapy works, what to expect during treatment and when it is important to contact your healthcare team. If you have any questions after reading this, be sure to ask your team.

**Many have found the support of family, friends, and social or faith groups to be helpful in coping with lung cancer. If you would like to connect with other people living with lung cancer and learn more about support groups or GO2's Phone Buddy program, call us at 1-800-298-2435 or email [support@go2.org](mailto:support@go2.org).**



## Small Cell Lung Cancer

Lung cancer is one of the most common cancers in the United States. There are two main types of lung cancer: non-small cell lung cancer and small cell lung cancer (SCLC). SCLC is a less common type of lung cancer that is named for the small, oval-shaped cancer cells seen under a microscope. It often starts in the breathing tubes known as bronchi in the center of the chest and spreads quickly.

Many cancers are divided into 4 stages: I, II, III and IV (1, 2, 3 and 4). However, SCLC is often called limited stage, which includes stages 1, 2 and 3, or extensive stage, which includes stage 4.

**Limited stage** SCLC is cancer that has been caught while still in one lung and has not spread very far.

**Extensive stage** SCLC is cancer that has been caught after it has spread, or metastasized, to the lung, liver, brain or other parts of the body.

It is very important to know your stage because it guides your treatment options.

**If you would like to learn more about SCLC and the stages, please visit [go2.org/sclc](http://go2.org/sclc).**

## Immunotherapy

Immunotherapy is a type of cancer treatment that helps your body's immune system find and attack cancer cells.

Your **immune system** protects your body against germs and diseases that can make you sick. Most of the time, it knows which cells in the body are healthy and which cells are not healthy. This allows the immune system to attack disease and germ cells without attacking healthy cells.

When your immune system finds cancer cells, it goes to work to destroy them. Sometimes, it has trouble finding cancer cells because they can "hide" and appear like healthy cells. Cancer cells hide from the immune system by attaching themselves to immune cells. Staying attached to immune cells slows down or stops attacks.

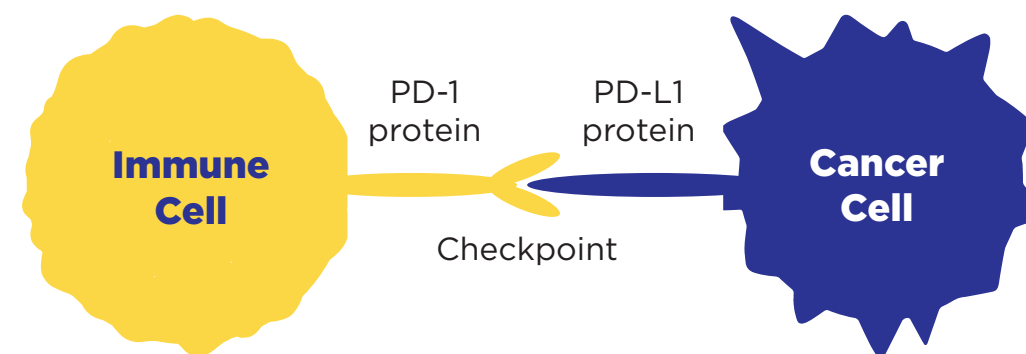
The place on the cells where the cancer cell and the immune cell try to attach to each other is called a **checkpoint**. There are proteins on the surface of each cell that attach the immune cell and the cancer cell together.

- An example of a protein on the immune cell is PD-1
- The protein on the cancer cell is called PD-L1



### Without immunotherapy:

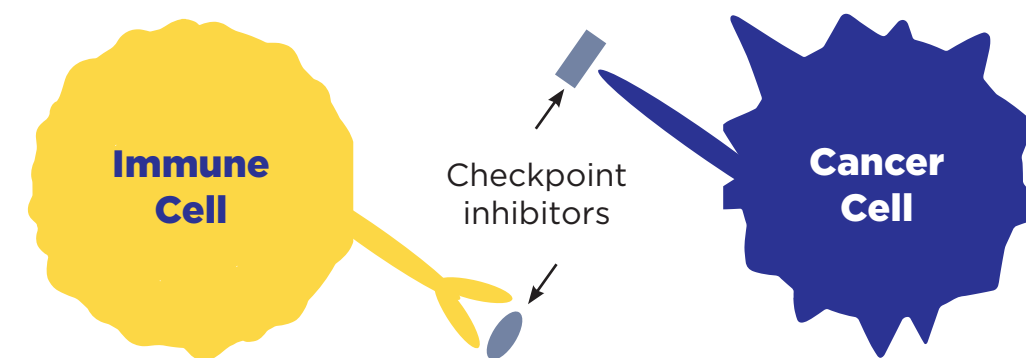
PD-1/PD-L1 are attached at the checkpoint. The cancer cell is hidden and protected from attack.



Immunotherapy works by blocking cancer cells from trying to attach to immune cells. This leaves them exposed and allows the immune system to attack them. A checkpoint inhibitor is a type of immunotherapy. It works by blocking the checkpoint proteins from attaching to each other.

### With immunotherapy:

PD-1/PD-L1 checkpoint is blocked by a checkpoint inhibitor. The cancer cell can be found and attacked.





## Immunotherapies for Small Cell Lung Cancer

**Tecentriq (atezolizumab)** and **Imfimzi (durvalumab)** are the two immunotherapy drugs approved to treat SCLC. They are both PD-L1 checkpoint inhibitors. At this time, these drugs are only used for extensive stage SCLC. This is cancer that has been caught after it has spread, or metastasized, to the lung, liver, brain or other parts of the body.

Both Tecentriq (atezolizumab) and Imfimzi (durvalumab) are most often used with chemotherapy as a first-line treatment. However, both are sometimes used for later treatments or after chemotherapy is complete.

## Side Effects

Your healthcare team can help prevent or reduce some side effects from immunotherapy before you have them.

**The most common side effects of immunotherapy are:**

- Aching joints and muscles
- Constipation and/or diarrhea
- Coughing
- Trouble sleeping and/or feeling tired
- Loss of appetite
- Mouth sores
- Skin reaction
- Throat soreness

Since immunotherapy increases the activity of your immune system, sometimes healthy cells are attacked. Some of the more serious side effects are caused by inflammation of other organs and need medical attention.

**Contact your healthcare team right away if you have any of these symptoms:**

- Trouble breathing, chest pain, fainting, dizziness or confusion
- Diarrhea with bad cramping or pain, blood in the stool or urine, or dark urine
- Fever of 100.5° F or higher
- Changes in vision, memory or thinking skills
- Swelling in any part of the body



## Side Effects Tracker

You may use this form to track your symptoms and share it with your healthcare team.

Date/Time	What symptoms or side effects are you having?	How severe is it? 1=mild, 2=medium, 3=severe	What made it better? What made it worse?	Did you take all medicines as prescribed today?



## Ask Your Healthcare Team

**Always ask your healthcare team any question you have about your treatment. Here are a few questions you may want to ask.**

- What are my treatment options?
- What type of treatment do you recommend for me and why?
- What are the risks and benefits of the treatment options?
- What are the possible side effects from my treatments and how can I manage them?
- When do I start treatment? How long will it last?
- How often will I get it?
- Are there any clinical trials that are appropriate for me? If so, how do I get more information?







# GO<sub>2</sub>

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