About Small Cell Lung Cancer (SCLC)

In the U.S.

13% of lung cancers are small cell1

SCLC is a disease where cancerous cells form in the tissues of the lung.2 It typically grows and spreads faster than non-small cell lung cancer.2 Lung cancer mainly occurs in older people, and the average age at diagnosis is about 70.4

~30,000 new cases of SCLC recorded in the U.S. each year1

~70% of people with SCLC will have cancer that has already spread at the time of diagnosis.3

SCLC is the most aggressive form of lung cancer. It usually starts in the breathing tubes (bronchi) in the center of the chest. Although the cancer cells are small, they grow very quickly and create large tumors. These tumors often spread rapidly (metastasize) to other parts of the body, including the brain, liver, and bone.5

SCLC Staging

Depending on the stage at diagnosis, patients may benefit from more aggressive treatment.6

Limited: Limited stage means that the cancer is only in one part of the chest and radiation therapy could be a treatment option. About 1 out of 3 people with SCLC have limited stage disease when first diagnosed.

Extensive: Extensive stage is used to describe SCLC that has spread to parts of the body such as the other lung, bone, brain, or bone marrow. When cancer spreads to other parts of the body like this, it is also known as metastatic SCLC. Many doctors consider SCLC that has spread to the fluid around the lung to be extensive stage as well. About 2 out of 3 people with SCLC have extensive disease when the cancer is first found.

SCLC can sometimes progress following first-line therapies.7 It is important to have a conversation with your doctor to determine what treatment options are the best choice for you.

References: