

What does it mean to have EGFR positive (EGFR+) Lung Cancer?

WHAT IS A BIOMARKER?

Biomarkers help identify what specific subtype of cancer you have. Cancer biomarkers are often referred to by a 3- or 4-letter abbreviation, such as ALK or EGFR. Biomarkers are sometimes called molecular markers, cancer markers, or tumor markers. If you have advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC), ask to have **comprehensive biomarker testing** (which will include EGFR testing) before you start treatment.

Your tumor tested positive for the EGFR biomarker. It is important to understand what this means and how it may affect lung cancer treatment.

WHAT IS EGFR?

EGFR (epidermal growth factor receptor) is both a gene and a protein made by the gene. The protein helps cells grow and divide. Cancer cells sometimes have too much EGFR, causing the disease to grow and spread. Doctors do not know why this happens. They have found that blocking EGFR in non-small cell lung cancer tumors can slow cancer growth.

WHO HAS EGFR+ LUNG CANCER?

EGFR is more often found in people of East Asian descent, women, and people who never smoked or are light smokers. Around 15 percent of people with non-small cell lung cancer test positive for EGFR. They usually have a type of non-small cell lung cancer called adenocarcinoma.

HOW DO DOCTORS TREAT EGFR+ LUNG CANCERS?

A positive test for the EGFR biomarker means that you are eligible for targeted therapy. Targeted therapy drugs keep cancer from growing and spreading with less harm to cells that aren't cancer. The drugs for EGFR+ cancer are tyrosine kinase inhibitors. They aim to block the EGFR protein.



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1-888-793-9355



The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved the following drugs to treat EGFR-positive advanced NSCLC. Most are given as a pill to be taken once per day. Portrazza® is approved to treat advanced squamous cell lung cancer. It is given through a vein with chemotherapy. Other drugs may be available through clinical trials. If the first drug you try does not work or stops working, ask your doctor about trying another. Tagrisso® may be an option.

- ✓ Afatinib (Gilotrif®)
- ✓ Dacomitinib (Vizimpro®)
- ✓ Erlotinib (Tarceva®)
- ✓ Gefitinib (Iressa®)
- ✓ Necitumumab (Portrazza®)
- ✓ Osimertinib (Tagrisso®)

Common side effects of these drugs include:

- Diarrhea
- Fatigue
- Loss of appetite
- Mouth sores
- Nail infection
- Skin changes (acne-like rash, dry skin, itchiness)
- Swelling

In rare cases, these drugs may cause problems in the heart, lungs, liver, or eyes.

For more information, visit:

- ✓ Cancer Support Community's Frankly Speaking About Lung Cancer program: www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Lung
- ✓ Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Targeted Therapy and Biomarker Testing for Lung Cancer booklet
- ✓ Frankly Speaking About Cancer: Lung Cancer book
- ✓ EGFR Resisters – <https://egfrcancer.org>
- ✓ Exon 20 Group – <https://exon20group.org>

Lung Cancer Information, Survivorship, and Support

Cancer Support Community • 888-793-9355 • www.CancerSupportCommunity.org

American Cancer Society • 800-227-2345 • www.cancer.org

American Lung Association • 800-586-4872 • www.lung.org

CancerCare • 800-813-4673 • www.cancercare.org

Cancer.net • 888-651-3038 • www.cancer.net

GO₂ Foundation for Lung Cancer • 800-298-2436 • www.go2foundation.org

Lung Cancer Research Foundation • 844-835-4325 • www.lcrf.org

LUNGeity Foundation • 321-407-6100 • www.LUNGeity.org

National Cancer Institute (NCI) • 800-422-6237 • www.cancer.gov

NCI Clinical Trial Information • 800-422-6237 • www.cancer.gov/ClinicalTrials

Patient Advocate Foundation • 800-532-5274 • www.patientadvocate.org

Cancer Support Community Resources

Cancer Support Helpline® — Have questions, concerns or looking for resources? Call CSC's toll-free Cancer Support Helpline (888-793-9355), available in 200 languages Mon - Fri 9am - 9pm ET.

Open to Options® — Need help making a cancer treatment decision? Our trained specialists can help you create a list of questions to share with your doctor. Make an appointment by calling 888-793-9355 or by contacting your local CSC or Gilda's Club.

Frankly Speaking About Cancer® — Trusted information for cancer patients and their loved ones is available through publications, online, and in-person programs at

www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/FranklySpeakingAboutCancer.

Services at Local CSCs and Gilda's Clubs — With the help of 170 locations, CSC and Gilda's Club affiliates provide services free of charge to people touched by cancer. Attend support groups, educational sessions, wellness programs, and more at a location near you.

www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/FindLocation

Cancer Experience Registry® — Help others by sharing your cancer patient or cancer caregiver experience via survey at www.CancerExperienceRegistry.org.

MyLifeLine — CSC's private, online community allows patients and caregivers to easily connect with friends and family to receive social, emotional, and practical support throughout the cancer journey and beyond. Sign up at www.MyLifeLine.org.

Grassroots Network — Make sure your voice is heard by federal and state policy makers on issues affecting cancer patients and survivors by joining our Network at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/become-advocate.

LUNG BIOMARKER DIGITAL TOOL PROGRAM PARTNERS:



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The Cancer Support Community and its partners provide this information as a service. This publication is not intended to take the place of medical care or the advice of your doctor. We strongly suggest consulting your doctor or other health care professionals to answer questions and learn more.

This booklet is available to download and print at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/immunotherapy. For print copies of this more resources about coping with cancer, visit Orders.CancerSupportCommunity.org.

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