



What is HER2 positive (HER2+) 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 HER2. 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 HER2 testing) before you start treatment.

If you have non-small cell lung cancer and your tumor has higher than normal levels of HER2, you have HER2+ (HER2 positive) lung cancer. This fact sheet explains what this means and how it may affect lung cancer treatment.

WHAT IS HER2?

HER2 is a protein involved in cell growth. Lung cancers sometimes have too much of the HER2 protein caused by a mutation in

the HER2 genes. A mutation is a change in a cell's genes that can lead to cancer growth. HER2+ cancers are more likely to respond well to treatments that target the HER2 protein.

WHO HAS HER2+ LUNG CANCER?

HER2+ lung cancer is more common in people who were assigned female at birth and people who have little to no smoking history. Around 2 percent of people with lung cancer test positive for HER2. They usually have a type of non-small cell lung cancer called adenocarcinoma.

HOW DO DOCTORS TREAT HER2+ LUNG CANCERS?

A positive test for the HER2 biomarker means that you may be eligible for targeted therapy. Targeted therapy drugs keep cancer from growing and spreading. These drugs are designed to be more precise. They target specific changes in cancer cells that help them grow, divide, and spread. For example, they can target tumors with HER2 gene

mutations. Targeted therapy drugs attack cancer cells while causing less harm to other cells in the body.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved **trastuzumab deruxtecan (Enhertu®)** to treat HER2+ non-small cell lung cancer. This treatment is given into a vein (intravenously) every three weeks. Other drugs targeting HER2 are being developed and may be available through clinical trials.

Common side effects include:

- Low red blood cell counts (anemia)
- Increased risk of infection
- Hair thinning or hair loss
- Fatigue

- Constipation
- Diarrhea
- Loss of appetite
- Nausea and vomiting
- Increased risk of bruising and bleeding

In rare cases, these drugs may cause problems in the heart, liver, kidneys, or lungs. For information on coping with side effects, visit www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/SideEffects.

HER2+ LUNG CANCER AND BIOMARKER TESTING INFORMATION

Cancer Support Community · *Frankly Speaking About Lung Cancer* program · www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/Lung

Cancer Support Community · *Frankly Speaking About Cancer Targeted Therapy and Biomarker Testing for Lung Cancer* booklet · download or order from orders.CancerSupportCommunity.org

Cancer Support Community · *Frankly Speaking About Cancer Lung Cancer* book · download or order from orders.CancerSupportCommunity.org



LUNG CANCER RESOURCES

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

LUNgevity Foundation · 321-407-6100 · www.LUNgevity.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-8pm ET and Sat 9am-5pm ET.

Open to Options® — Preparing for your next appointment? 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.

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.

Photos are stock images posed by models.

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 publication is available to download and print yourself at www.CancerSupportCommunity.org/lung. For print copies of this publication or other information about coping with cancer, visit Orders.CancerSupportCommunity.org

Frankly Speaking About Cancer:
Lung Biomarker Digital Tool
PROGRAM PARTNER



This publication was
made possible through
generous support from:

AMGEN®

Oncology

Novartis

