Beacon NSCLC-04

Understanding Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer

Plain-language disease information for people considering BEACON NSCLC-04.

What is NSCLC?

Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) is the most common form of lung cancer and accounts for roughly 85% of all lung cancer diagnoses. It starts in the cells lining the airways of the lung and can spread to nearby lymph nodes or other organs over time.

Common types

The most common types of NSCLC are adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and large cell carcinoma. Each behaves slightly differently, and treatment plans are often tailored based on the specific type, the stage of disease, and individual biomarkers.

How it is staged

NSCLC is staged from I to IV based on the size of the primary tumor, whether lymph nodes are involved, and whether the cancer has spread (metastasized) to other parts of the body. Stage III and stage IV are considered advanced stages.

Common treatments

Depending on the stage and characteristics of the cancer, treatment may include surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, and immunotherapy. Clinical trials evaluate new therapies and new combinations for people whose disease has progressed on standard treatment.

Why biomarker testing matters

Modern NSCLC care often includes testing for specific genetic or protein markers in the tumor. These results help the care team choose treatments most likely to work for your specific cancer. Ask your care team what testing has been done on your tumor sample.

Where to learn more

The National Cancer Institute (cancer.gov), the American Lung Association (lung.org), and major academic cancer centers all publish trustworthy, up-to-date information about NSCLC. Bring questions to your appointments — your care team is your best source for information about your specific diagnosis.

This is a demonstration document for BEACON NSCLC-04. Sample content — not a substitute for the official study document reviewed with your care team.