Use this handout to learn what to expect on the lung cancer journey. You may go through the steps more than once.

1. **You may have symptoms**
   You may go to your doctor or an Emergency Department for symptoms, such as a cough, pain, or trouble breathing.

2. **Testing to find lung cancer**
   This may include:
   - **Lab tests**, such as blood tests
   - **Imaging tests**, such as computed tomography (CT), X-rays, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or positron emission tomography (PET)

3. **Diagnosing lung cancer based on test results**
   Your doctor will do a biopsy (take a sample of blood or tumor tissue to check for cancer and biomarkers). Then, they will diagnose the cancer:
   - **Type** – small cell (SCLC) or non-small cell (NSCLC) and subtype, such as adenocarcinoma, squamous, or large cell
   - **Stage** – the lower the stage, the less advanced the cancer is
   - **Biomarkers** – changes in a cancer cell that cause cancer to grow, such as EGFR. They guide treatment decisions.

4. **Deciding on treatment**
   You and your doctor will decide which treatment is right for your EGFR-positive lung cancer. There are different types of treatments. Your treatment plan may include one or more of these in an order that is right for you:
   - **Surgery** – removes the tumor
   - **Targeted therapy** – medicines that attack cancer cells that have the EGFR biomarker and do less harm to normal cells. They are also called EGFR inhibitors and tyrosine kinase inhibitors (TKIs).
   - **Chemotherapy** – medicine to destroy cancer cells
   - **Radiation therapy** – beams of high-energy to kill cancer cells
   - **Clinical trials** – research studies

5. **Ongoing care and checkups**
   This may include:
   - **Care to lessen symptoms** or treatment side effects
   - **More imaging tests, lab work, or repeat biopsies** to check for biomarkers and see how well the treatment is working
   - **Follow-up visits**
   - **Other support**, such as help with financial needs, insurance, and nutrition

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**Your health care team may include:**
- Oncologist - cancer doctor
- Thoracic oncologist – cancer doctor who specializes in lung cancer
- Nurses
- Pathologist who reads biopsies
- Pulmonologist – lung doctor
- Radiation oncologist – doctor who treats cancer with radiation
- Thoracic surgeon – doctor who operates on the heart, lungs, and chest
- Supportive and palliative care doctors - help manage symptoms and side effects

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Find a list of questions to ask on your journey and learn more at egfrcancer.org