

What to expect after learning you have EGFR-positive lung cancer



How EGFR-positive lung cancer will affect your life depends on many things.

When should I start treatment and which treatment will I have?

You and your doctor should wait for the results of your biomarker testing to decide on and start treatment. After your test results show your cancer is EGFR-positive, doctors will likely recommend that you start treatment right away. Treatment will be different based on the location of cancer in your lungs and whether it has spread (metastasized).

If cancer **hasn't spread** to other parts of your body:

- Doctors may be able to do surgery to remove the tumor, depending on its location in your lungs
- You may also get other treatments, such as:
 - Chemotherapy - medicine to destroy cancer cells
 - Targeted therapy - medicine to attack cancer cells that have the EGFR biomarker and do less harm to normal cells
 - Radiation therapy - beams of high energy to destroy cancer cells and shrink tumors

If cancer **has spread** to other parts of your body:

- Doctors may recommend a targeted treatment with TKIs (tyrosine kinase inhibitors). This type of treatment targets the EGFR mutation (change) to shrink cancer or stop it from growing or spreading further in your body.
- If cancer spread to your lymph nodes only, you may also get other treatments

To learn more, see our material "Treatment options for EGFR-positive lung cancer".

How will I know if a treatment is working?

To find out if a treatment is working, doctors will do tests to see:

- Where the cancer is in your body
- If a tumor is shrinking, has stayed the same, or is growing

If your cancer is growing despite treatment, doctors may recommend that you try a different one.



Targeted therapies help people with EGFR-positive lung cancer live longer and better lives.

Which tests can doctors use to see if a treatment is working?

Doctors may use different tests, such as:



Blood tests



Imaging tests, such as PET, CT scan, X-ray, or MRI



Biopsy (testing a sample of tumor in a lab)



Liquid biopsy (testing a sample of your blood)

To learn more, visit: [egfrcancer.org](https://www.egfrcancer.org)

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