

WHAT'S NEXT AFTER INITIAL TREATMENT? A GUIDE TO MAINTENANCE THERAPY

MAKING SENSE OF YOUR CHOICES SO YOU CAN PLAN WHAT COMES NEXT

WHAT IS MAINTENANCE THERAPY?

If your first treatment for small cell lung cancer (SCLC) has helped shrink the cancer or stop it from growing, your doctor may recommend maintenance therapy. Maintenance therapy is the second part of initial treatment and is intended to help keep the cancer under control for as long as possible. It is not always offered, but may be discussed as an option based on your overall health and if your cancer did not get worse after the first course of therapy.

THE ROLE OF MAINTENANCE THERAPY IN SCLC



SCLC often responds well to first course of treatment, but in many cases the tumor may still continue to spread.



Maintenance therapy may help extend the amount of time before cancer returns.²

Studies show that **more than 90% of people with advanced SCLC face recurrence within 2 years** after initial treatment.¹

HOW YOU MIGHT RECEIVE MAINTENANCE THERAPY

METHOD

Continuation maintenance

WHAT IT MEANS

Continuing part of the therapy you have already been using to maintain disease control.³

Switch maintenance

Starting a different treatment after initial therapy to continue controlling cancer.³

MAINTENANCE DRUGS

WHAT IT MEANS

Chemotherapy

Using drugs that kill cancer cells or stop them from growing.⁴

Immunotherapy

Using treatments that help your immune system recognize and fight cancer cells.⁴

Your care team will consider your disease stage, how you responded to your first course of treatment, any side effects you may have experienced, and your personal goals in deciding if and which maintenance therapy is right for you.

WHAT MAINTENANCE THERAPY MIGHT OFFER

Explore some possible benefits,* based on clinical studies and patient experiences:

Learn more
about an
FDA-approved
treatment option →

*Results will vary for each person.

TOP 5 QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CARE TEAM



1

Am I eligible for maintenance therapy? Why or why not?

2

What benefits might it offer in my situation?

3

What side effects should I watch for, and how can we manage them?

4

How often would I need visits, scans, or treatments?

5

What are the alternatives if I decide not to do maintenance therapy or if the cancer comes back?

Tip: Bring someone with you to appointments to help take notes and remember information.



SUPPORT AND WHAT TO EXPECT

Your emotional well-being matters. Your care team can help you find support groups, counselors, and peer connections that can help.

Keep track of symptoms, side effects, and how you feel physically and emotionally (a journal or app can help).

Ask your care team about resources for caregivers so your support system gets help too.

NEXT STEPS

If your first treatment for SCLC has been successful, talk with your care team about whether maintenance therapy may be right for you. Discuss with your care team what you have read here, share your priorities, and decide together what makes sense for your care plan.

YOU'RE NOT ALONE – SUPPORT AND RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE

Navigating treatment decisions can feel overwhelming, but you are not alone.

For more tips on talking with your doctor about your care plan, download our [Doctor Discussion Guide](#). It outlines questions and considerations to help you prepare for appointments and guide meaningful conversations about your treatment goals.

You can also explore resources on Nothing Small About It, including:

- [Wellness Tips](#): Guidance around different aspects of wellness, including financial health, mental health, and physical health
- [Support for SCLC Caregivers](#): For family and friends caring for someone with SCLC

References

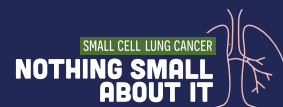
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