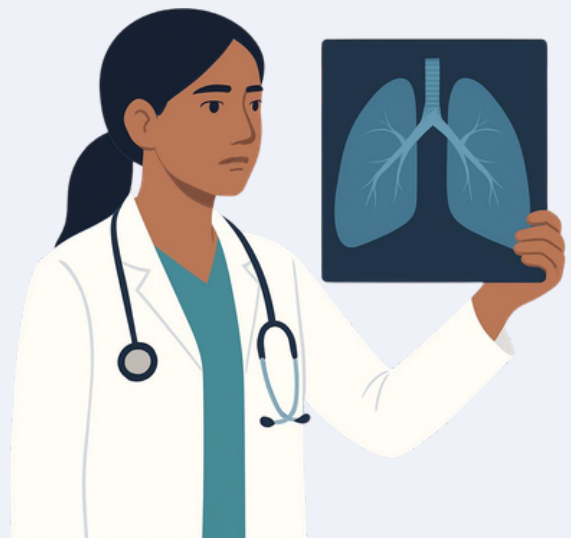


GETTING A SECOND OPINION IN LUNG CANCER

A second opinion involves consulting another doctor or specialist to confirm your diagnosis, review your treatment plan, and explore additional treatment options that may be available. In lung cancer, especially young-onset lung cancer, second opinions can be incredibly valuable because treatment approaches, biomarker testing, clinical trials, and targeted therapies are constantly evolving. Seeking a second opinion does not mean you distrust your doctor or are being difficult. In fact, most oncologists encourage it, especially when facing major treatment decisions. A second opinion is about empowering yourself with information, gaining peace of mind, and ensuring you have access to the most expert and up-to-date care possible.

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WHY IT MATTERS

Young lung cancer patients often have unique needs that may benefit from specialized expertise and personalized treatment approaches.

A second opinion can:

- Confirm your current treatment plan
- Reveal additional or better treatment options
- Uncover advanced therapies or clinical trials
- Help ensure you are receiving the most up-to-date care
- Provide access to thoracic oncologists who specialize specifically in lung cancer
- Confirm that comprehensive biomarker testing has been completed
- Offer reassurance and peace of mind when making major treatment decisions
- Help patients better understand potential side effects, risks, and long-term considerations
- Connect patients with multidisciplinary teams including surgery, radiation oncology, pulmonology, fertility preservation, supportive care, and mental health resources
- Ensure all available treatment options, including targeted therapies and immunotherapy, have been considered

Cancer care is constantly evolving, and second opinions help patients stay informed, empowered, and actively involved in their care decisions.

WHEN TO GET A SECOND OPINION

Consider getting a second opinion if:

- You are unsure of your treatment plan
- Biomarker testing was not completed or you are unsure which biomarkers were tested
- You are considering surgery, radiation, or another major treatment decision
- Your cancer has progressed, recurred, or stopped responding to treatment
- You were diagnosed at a younger age or have a rare biomarker or subtype of lung cancer
- You want to explore clinical trials or newer treatment options
- You are early-stage and want to determine whether additional treatment such as chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, or radiation may be recommended after surgery to reduce the risk of recurrence
- You want to establish your “A Team” early, before you urgently need additional guidance
- You are being treated at a community hospital and would like input from a thoracic oncology specialist or NCI-designated cancer center
- You feel rushed, confused, or uncertain about your options
- You want reassurance and peace of mind before beginning treatment
- You simply feel like getting one



You do not need a specific reason to seek a second opinion. Many leading cancer centers and oncologists encourage second opinions, especially in lung cancer where treatments, targeted therapies, biomarker testing, and clinical trial opportunities are rapidly evolving. Seeking additional expertise can help patients feel more informed, confident, and empowered in their care decisions.

THORACIC ONCOLOGIST VS GENERAL ONCOLOGIST

A thoracic oncologist is a doctor who specializes in cancers of the chest, including lung cancer. They are important because lung cancer treatment is highly specialized and constantly evolving. Thoracic oncologists are experts in biomarker testing, targeted therapies, immunotherapy, clinical trials, and the latest treatment guidelines, helping ensure patients receive the most up-to-date and personalized care possible.

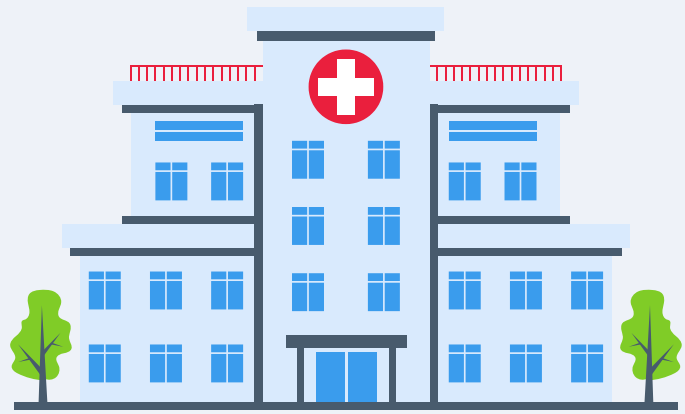
A general oncologist is a doctor who treats many different types of cancer, including lung cancer. While they often provide excellent care, lung cancer treatment has become highly specialized and rapidly evolving. Because of this, some general oncologists may not be as familiar with the latest biomarker testing, targeted therapies, immunotherapy options, and clinical trials as a thoracic oncologist who focuses specifically on lung cancer.

An NCI-designated cancer center is a hospital recognized by the National Cancer Institute for excellence in cancer care and research. These centers often provide access to thoracic oncologists, the latest treatments, clinical trials, and specialized multidisciplinary care, which can be especially beneficial for lung cancer patients.

A community hospital is a local hospital that treats many different health conditions and cancer types, including lung cancer. While many provide excellent care, they may not always have thoracic oncologists, comprehensive biomarker testing, access to clinical trials, or the same level of specialized lung cancer expertise as larger academic or NCI-designated cancer centers. This is why many lung cancer patients benefit from seeking at least a second opinion from a specialized center.

NCI DESIGNATED CANCER CENTER VS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

HOW TO GET A SECOND OPINION



1. Find a Thoracic Oncologist

If possible, seek care at an NCI-designated cancer center with a thoracic oncologist who specializes in your specific type of lung cancer or biomarker.

2. Check Insurance Coverage

Confirm whether your insurance covers consultations, virtual visits, or treatment at that institution. Many centers also offer financial counselors to help navigate coverage questions.

3. Ask for a Referral

Ask your current oncologist for a referral. Second opinions are common practice and are often encouraged, especially for lung cancer patients.

4. Contact the Institution Directly

You can also contact the new institution on your own to request an appointment. Many cancer centers have dedicated second opinion or new patient departments to help guide you through the process.

5. Gather Your Records

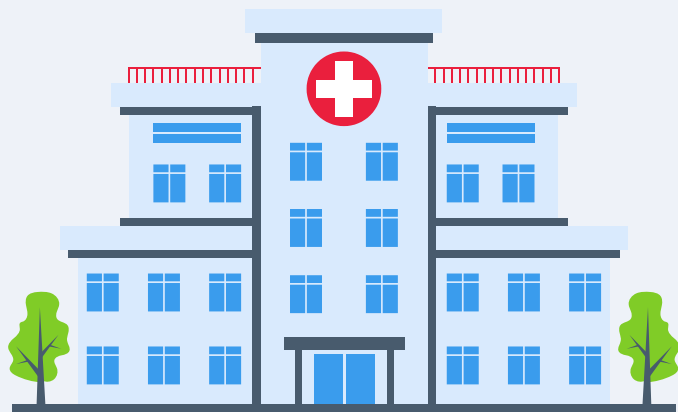
Bring or send:

- Hard copies of your scans on CD or electronic imaging access
- Pathology reports and biopsy results
- Biomarker testing results, if completed
- Access to your digital medical records or printed copies
- A current medication list
- A list of questions and concerns for your appointment

6. Do Not Be Afraid to Advocate for Yourself

You deserve to fully understand your diagnosis and treatment options. Seeking a second opinion is not disrespectful. It is an important part of making informed decisions about your care.

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ADVOCATE FOR YOURSELF

You are your best advocate.

- **A second opinion is not disrespectful — it is smart.**
- **It could change your life.**
- **Trust your instincts**
- **Never settle for less than expert care.**
- **Lung cancer treatment is rapidly evolving, and another expert may offer additional insights or options.**
- **A second opinion can help confirm that comprehensive biomarker testing and the most current treatment recommendations have been considered.**
- **Even if the recommendation stays the same, many patients gain reassurance, confidence, and peace of mind from hearing another expert's perspective.**
- **You deserve to fully understand your diagnosis, treatment options, potential side effects, and long-term plan.**
- **Asking questions and seeking expert guidance is an important part of informed, empowered cancer care.**