

PATIENT INFORMATION

Lung Cancer

Advanced Nurse Practitioner Targeted Treatment Clinic

Jenny Cook

What are targeted treatments?

These treatments are used to treat cancer that has spread, and is not curable, or after curative intent treatment to reduce the risk of cancer coming back. Targeted tablet treatment can be very different to chemotherapy and the side effects are different. Most types of targeted therapy help treat cancer by interfering with specific proteins that help tumours grow and spread throughout the body. This is different from chemotherapy, which often kills all cells in the body that grow and divide quickly.

What are the Side effects?

All treatments can cause side effects. They vary for each individual drug. You will be given specific information about the drug you are taking. The side effects of these treatments are usually mild and treatable. Sometimes they can be more troublesome. Some side effects are often more noticeable when you first start treatment, and they may improve with time. Others can occur when you have been on treatment for a long time. Side effects can be managed well if we are informed as soon as you experience something new even if it is a mild side effect. The reason for informing us early is that the sooner we can treat the side effects, the faster we can control them. This reduces the risk of us needing to pause or stop the treatment.

Who is looking after me?

You will remain under your named consultant but will be reviewed by the Lung Cancer Advanced Clinical Practitioner in clinic prior to each treatment prescription and more regularly if you are experiencing side effects.

How long will I have this treatment for?

You will continue to have scans at regular intervals to see how you are responding to your treatment. The nurse, or consultant, or Speciality Doctor will discuss your scan results with you and confirm the ongoing plan. You will stay on your treatment for as long as it is working, and you are not experiencing serious side effects, and you wish to continue taking it. Where your treatment is to reduce the risk of cancer coming back, it will usually be given for a set time, often up to 3 years.

Who do I call for help and support?

If you are on treatment and unwell or think you may have treatment side effects, then you should **NOT** leave messages on the voicemail of your specialist nursing team.

You should contact:

Telephone Triage Line – where you can speak to a nurse on **01803 655219 24 hours a day, 7 days a week**. The nurses will advise you what you need to do depending on the problem. You must call this number and **NOT** the Lung Cancer Nurses for concerns about treatment side effects. If you have questions in relation to your hospital or scan appointments, then please contact the **Oncology department** on **01803 655380** or your consultant's secretary to discuss. For ongoing support and advice re any concerns you may have that are **NOT** treatment related contact the **Lung Cancer Specialist Nurses on 01803 655069** and leave a message. Messages are checked Monday to Friday 9-5 (excluding bank holidays).

Where can I find other support and information?

**The Lodge
Cancer Support & Information Centre**
Torbay Hospital Annexe.
Tel: 01803 656490

Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation
Tel: 0333 323 7200
www.roycastle.org

EGFR+UK www.egfrpositive.org.uk

ALK Positive UK www.alkpositive.org.uk

The ROS1ders www.theros1ders.org

Facebook groups (not vetted)

ALK Positive

EGFR Resisters

MET Crusaders

RET Positive

KRAS Cancer Connect – KRAS Kickers

EGFR Exon 20

Oncogene Cancer Research

For further assistance or to receive this information in a different format, please contact the department which created this leaflet.