



NCCN QUICK GUIDE™

Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma

This NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ sheet summarizes key points from the complete NCCN Guidelines for Patients®: Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma. These guidelines explain which tests and treatments are recommended by experts in cancer. To view and download the guidelines, visit NCCN.org/patients or, to order printed copies, visit Amazon.com.

NCCN Guidelines
for Patients®
Page Number

What is malignant pleural mesothelioma?



Malignant pleural mesothelioma is the medical name for cancer that starts in the mesothelium of the lungs.	8
--	-------------------

How is mesothelioma found?

To confirm you have mesothelioma, you will need to have a biopsy. A biopsy removes a sample of fluid or tissue for testing. You will also have other recommended tests like a CT (computer tomography) scan and SMRP (soluble mesothelin-related peptides) blood test.	13
--	--------------------

What are the stages?

Stage I	The tumor hasn't grown beyond the pleura where it started.	19
Stage II	The tumor has grown into the diaphragm or the lung, or both.	
Stage III	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tumor has grown into 1) the first layer of the chest wall or a confined area of the other layers, 2) the fat between the lungs, or 3) the pericardium. The cancer has spread to nearby lymph nodes or the nodes at the base of the breast bone. 	
Stage IV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The tumor has grown into 1) a wide area of the chest wall, 2) the peritoneum, 3) an organ between the lungs, 4) the spine, or 5) the pleura around the other lung. The cancer has spread to the lymph nodes near the other lung or near the collarbone. The cancer has spread to distant sites. 	



What is needed before surgery?

<p>If your doctors think the cancer can be removed by surgery, then you may have a few tests. The tests may include imaging tests, a biopsy, and tests to see how well your lungs and heart work.</p>	<p>22</p>
---	---------------------------

What are the treatment options?

<p>Neoadjuvant treatment</p>	<p>You can receive chemotherapy either before or after surgery. Chemotherapy given before surgery is called neoadjuvant treatment.</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>Primary treatment</p>	<p>Primary treatment is the main treatment used to rid your body of cancer. Surgery is used as a primary treatment for some mesotheliomas.</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>Adjuvant treatment</p>	<p>Adjuvant treatment is given after surgery to treat any remaining cancer cells.</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>Clinical trials</p>	<p>Clinical trials (research studies) find advances to test for and treat mesothelioma.</p>	<p>28</p>

What is supportive care?

<p>Supportive care is treatment given to relieve the symptoms of mesothelioma, side effects of mesothelioma treatment, and other health issues related to the cancer.</p>	<p>30</p>
---	---------------------------

How do you decide between options?

<p>Ask your doctors many questions. Also, you could get a second opinion, attend support groups, and compare the benefits and downsides.</p>	<p>37</p>
--	---------------------------

The NCCN QUICK GUIDE™ series and NCCN Guidelines for Patients® are supported by charitable donations made to the NCCN Foundation®. For more details and the full library of patient and caregiver resources, visit NCCN.org/patients.



DONATE NOW
nccnfoundation.org



NCCN.org - for Clinicians | NCCN.org/patients - for Patients