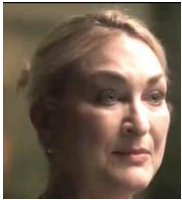


Backgrounder: Experience of Advanced Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Patients

How genotyping helped these two non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) survivors get the benefit of precision oncology: targeted treatment matched to their cancer's genomic profile



Patty Watkins
Nonsmoker
Stage IV lung cancer survivor

Genotyping helped Patty get on the right track

- Initially suspected of having a blood clot
- After blood clot surgery to address the blood clot, diagnosed as stage 4 non-small cell lung cancer and told she had only a few days to live
- Treated initially with Tarceva® —without being genotyped — then rapidly progressed
- Husband pleaded for chemotherapy and genotyping
- After five months and a second opinion, received complete genomic testing
- Positive result for ROS1 mutation
- Treated successfully with targeted therapy
- Unfortunately, cancer soon progressed until radiation treatment and enrolled in a clinical trial of an investigational targeted therapy
- Disease stable for the past 3 years

Attending her son's graduation – that was Patty Watkins' motivation to keep fighting after she'd been diagnosed with stage IV non-small cell lung cancer at 57 and told she had only a few days to live.

She had been diagnosed with bronchitis and pneumonia in years past but maintained a healthy lifestyle, ate a good diet, avoided smoking... did all the "right things." So why did she feel pain in the back of her calf one day? Pain so bad, she had to go to the ER... twice. The first time, the physician told her it was a blood clot and sent her home. Two weeks later, when the pain was so bad that she had to return to the ER, she underwent surgery to address the suspected blood clot. When she woke up, she received the diagnosis of stage IV non-small cell cancer.

An oncologist prescribed an EGFR inhibitor. Unfortunately, it didn't work for Patty. After her husband pleaded for three months for her to receive chemotherapy and another five months for her to receive genotyping, she received genotype testing. The results showed she was positive for the mutation ROS1. Her physician prescribed targeted therapy, and Patty responded to her treatment...for a while.

However, her cancer progressed, and eventually numerous tumors and lesions were detected. She received radiation therapy and a referral to another oncologist, who put her on a clinical trial of the targeted therapy lorlatinib. Now, she has been on the treatment for three years and continues to do well. In fact, she not only made it to her son's graduation, she recently got to hold her first grandchild.

For journalists and media reporters: For more information about this initiative, contact:
media@clearyourview.org



Star Dolbier
Nonsmoker
Stage IV lung cancer survivor

Using complete genotyping right from the start

- A CT scan revealed a tumor in her chest – diagnosed as stage IV non-small cell lung cancer
- PET scanning revealed that the cancer had metastasized to her brain
- Some specialists recommended a gamma knife procedure for the brain metastasis, but Star's physician ordered complete genotyping before starting first-line treatment
- Her lungs were full of fluid, making a tissue biopsy difficult, so her physician ordered a liquid biopsy test
- Positive result for EGFR mutation
- Started targeted therapy immediately and responded well

In her early 50s, Star experienced severe pain in her left side. Her physicians ruled out musculoskeletal issues, kidney stones, gynecologic disorders, and acid reflux. A gastroenterologist scoped her GI tract, which didn't detect anything suspicious but precipitated a severe cough and nausea. Those symptoms led her to the ER.

In the ER, an X-ray of her chest showed that one side had a large mass. A CT scan revealed a tumor. A PET scan showed the cancer had metastasized throughout Star's body, including her brain. Star received a diagnosis of stage IV NSCLC.

Fluid had accumulated in her lungs, making a tissue biopsy extremely challenging. So, Star's physician ordered a liquid biopsy test to obtain genotyping results. The results came back positive for an EGFR mutation (which about 15% of lung cancer patients have). She immediately started on targeted therapy. Thanks to genomic profiling and a targeted therapy, Star is doing well a year and a half later.

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