



## ALK Positive Lung Cancer (UK)

Some Common Abbreviations/Terms  
Used in Thoracic Oncology

## Some Common Abbreviations/Terms Used in Thoracic Oncology

AACR	American Association for Cancer Research
Adenocarcinoma	most common type of non-small lung cancer
Adjuvant	treatment after principal treatment-e.g. chemotherapy after surgery
AI	artificial intelligence-machine learning-research underway for lung imaging
ALK	Diagnostic marker: Anaplastic Lymphoma Kinase
ALK Positive UK	Support Group for ALK-positive patients
ASCO	American Society of Clinical Oncology
ASTRO	American Society for Radiation Oncology
BTOG	British Thoracic Oncology Group
BTS	British Thoracic Society
Bronchoscopy	small instrument inserted into airways/lungs for diagnosis/exploration
CNS	clinical nurse specialist or central nervous system
COPD	chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
COSD	cancer outcomes and services dataset-NHSE dataset for cancer services
CRUK	Cancer Research UK-funders of cancer research-major UK charity
CT	computerised tomography-a type of scan widely used for lung imaging
CVD	cardiovascular disease
CXR	chest x-ray used extensively in respiratory/lung imaging
LF/ERS	European lung foundation/European respiratory society
EBUS	endobronchial ultrasound-used for diagnosis in LC
EGFR	Gene mutation: Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor
EORTC	European organisation for the research/treatment of cancer
ESMO	European Society for Medical Oncology
ESTRO	The European Society for Radiotherapy and Oncology
ETOP	European Thoracic Oncology Platform
GIRFT	Getting It Right First Time (national programme to improve treatment and care)
Grade	a term used to describe the severity of side effects of treatment/symptoms
HER2	gene mutation-human epidermal growth factor alterations in some NSCLC
HES	hospital episode statistics-dataset widely referred to in studies/posters
IASLC	International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer
10	common abbreviation for immunotherapy
ITMIG	International Thymic Interest Group
KRAS	gene mutation-Kirsten rat sarcoma virus-involved in some NSCLC
LCNEC	Large Cell Neuro-Endocrine Carcinoma
LC	abbreviation commonly used for lung cancer

LCNUK	Lung Cancer Nursing UK
Lobectomy	surgical removal of part of the lung (left lung has 2 lobes, right lung has 3)
Macmillan nurse	term often used for lung clinical nurse specialist (due to funding)
MESO	Mesothelioma (cancer caused by asbestos)
Mesothelioma UK	Charity dedicated to mesothelioma support/information
MRI	magnetic resonance imaging — a type of scan used for imaging (esp. brain)
Neoadjuvant	treatment prior to first treatment — e.g. immunotherapy before surgery
NCRI	National Cancer Research Institute (closed 2023)
NHSE	National Health Service England — overall body for NHS (devolved nations have cancer boards) oversee cancer services, spec. commissioning, cancer alliances
NICE	National Institution for Health and Social Care Excellence
NLCA	National Lung Cancer Audit
NOLCP	National Optimal Lung Cancer Pathway
NSCLC	Non-small-cell lung cancer
OS	term used for ‘overall survival’ in research/studies/presentations
Oligometastatic	term used for multiple metastatic tumours —number varies
PCI	prophylactic cranial irradiation — ‘preventative’ brain radiotherapy for some types/stages of lung cancer that may spread
PDL/PDL1	Programmed death ligand — markers used for immunotherapy eligibility
PET	Positron emission tomography — a type of scan/imaging used for cancer
PFS	term used in papers/research for ‘progression free survival’
Platform studies	term used in research study design — offering multiple trial arms/studies for flexibility — opening/closing as new treatments emerge
Pneumonectomy	surgical removal of a lung
PPI	patient and public involvement
PPIE	patient and public involvement/engagement
Precision Medicine	term used for targeting specific gene mutations present in some tumours
Prehabilitation	tests undertaken for patients to determine fitness for treatments
Primary endpoints	key outcomes/measures for research/clinical trial
PS	performance status = measurement to describe patients’ level of functioning Pulmonary rehabilitation sometimes offered post treatment for LC patients
QOL	quality of life term used in research and service design scale devised by EORTC— shortened and full/cancer type scales available
RATS	robotic assisted thoracic surgery
RCLCF	Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation — UK lung cancer charity

RCP	Royal College of Physicians
RCPath	Royal College of Pathologists
RCGP	Royal College of General Practitioners
RCR	Royal College of Radiologists
RCS	Royal College of Surgeons
RCT	Randomised Control Trial
RNA	ribonucleic acid
ROS1	gene mutation usually found in NSCLC
RT	radiotherapy
RST	Ruth Strauss Foundation – charity for non-smoking LC
SABR	stereotactic ablative body radiotherapy
Sample size	number of patients in a study
SCLC	small cell lung cancer
SIG	special interest group
Spirometry	test to check for lung capacity
Squamous cell	a type of non-small cell lung cancer
Stage	number used to denote the size and spread of cancer
TAT	turnaround time for sample results
TLHC	targeted lung cancer check– LC screening
TKI	tyrosine kinase inhibitor – targeted cancer therapy
TMG	trial management group
TNM	classification of spread of cancer – tumour, node and metastases
TSC	trial steering committee
Thoracic	chest/thorax
Thoracotomy	open lung surgery
UKLCC	United Kingdom Lung Cancer Coalition
UKPS	UK Pleural Society
Umbrella Trial	particular design of a trial
VATS	video assisted thoracic surgery
WBI	Whole brain irradiation
WCLC	World Conference on Lung Cancer