



ALCHEMIST*

THE ALCHEMIST* SCREENING TRIAL (A151216)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST IN ALCHEMIST.

When you were diagnosed, we briefly explained the ALCHEMIST trial as something you might consider. Now you are following the treatment plan you developed with your doctor. Many patients feel this is a good time to find out more about ALCHEMIST and how to participate.

For patients with early stage non-small cell lung cancer, there is a 50 percent chance that the cancer will come back, even after they receive the usual treatment (surgery, chemotherapy and/or radiation). The ALCHEMIST trial is testing to see if adding extra treatment — after the usual treatment — will improve the odds that the cancer will not return. This extra treatment is called “targeted therapy” and uses medicines that are developed to “target,” or attack specific changes in a patient’s tumor.

WHAT IS THE SCREENING TRIAL?

ALCHEMIST includes four possible trials – the first step is the Screening Trial. In order to determine which trial is best for you, your doctors will “screen” a small sample of your tumor and test it for the presence of certain gene mutations or changes. The screening tests will determine if your tumor has changes to the ALK or EGFR genes. They may also test to see if your tumor has PD-L1, a protein that stops the immune system from attacking the cancer cells.

HOW DOES MY SAMPLE GET SUBMITTED?

Discuss with your doctor if you would like to have your tumor tissue tested, then read and sign the consent form. Your doctor will submit the tumor sample obtained during your surgery.

HOW IS THE SCREENING DONE?

Laboratory technicians will test your sample to see if it has either ALK or EGFR gene changes or the PD-L1 protein (if your clinic is participating in the PD-L1 study).

WHAT DOES THE SCREENING COST?

The screening costs are paid for by the National Cancer Institute.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SAMPLE CONTAINS CHANGES IN ALK OR EGFR?

If your tumor contains changes in either ALK or EGFR, you will be asked to consider the next step: joining an ALCHEMIST treatment trial (either ALK or EGFR). You would participate in this trial after you finished your scheduled treatment that you and your doctor discussed for your lung cancer. As part of the ALCHEMIST treatment trial, you would be assigned to a group of patients who receive a drug designed specifically for the gene change, or to a group of patients who are only observed and followed by their doctors.

HOW LONG DOES THE ALK OR EGFR TREATMENT TRIAL LAST?

Patients will receive the drug on the ALCHEMIST treatment trial for two years, but can stop at any time for any reason. When you submit a sample for screening we would like you to be thinking about going onto one of the treatment trials. You can always change your mind, but one of the main reasons we are screening patients is to enroll them onto one of the treatment trials.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY SAMPLE DOES NOT CONTAIN CHANGES IN ALK OR EGFR?

If your tumor does not have the ALK or EGFR changes, if your clinic is participating, you may be asked to participate in the ALCHEMIST immunotherapy trial after you finish your scheduled treatment for your lung cancer. This trial tests if a type of immunotherapy medicine, called nivolumab, helps a patient's own immune system prevent the cancer from coming back. You would be assigned to a group of patients who receive nivolumab for one year, or to a group of patients who are only observed and followed by their doctors.

REMIND ME AGAIN – WHY IS ALCHEMIST IMPORTANT?

Targeted therapies may be able to slow or stop cancer from returning. As part of ALCHEMIST, you can help us test the possible benefits of these therapies, for you and for future patients with cancer.

ALL I HAVE TO DO IS ASK MY DOCTOR TO SUBMIT MY SAMPLE?

Yes, if you decide to join after reading the informed consent form for the ALCHEMIST screening trial. You have no obligation to take the next step if the screening shows that you qualify. Ask your doctor for a consent form and review it with him or her. You can also find out more at: www.cancer.gov/alchemist.

Thank you for your interest in the ALCHEMIST trials.

