

The PD-L1 Biomarker: A Lung Cancer Survivor's Guide Show Notes

Brief Episode Summary

What is PD-L1, and why does it matter for your lung cancer treatment? Host James Hiter talks with longtime cancer survivor and patient advocate Jane Perlmutter about PD-L1 — what it is, how it fits into complete biomarker testing, and why your score is a guide, not a guarantee. Together they explore why it's worth waiting for full test results before starting treatment, how to speak up with your care team, and the hope that comes from a rapidly advancing field of research.

What You'll Learn in this Episode

- What PD-L1 is, how it helps some cancer cells hide from the immune system, and how it differs from other biomarkers like EGFR, ALK, and ROS1
- Why complete biomarker testing — including next-generation sequencing (NGS) — matters, and what your PD-L1 score can and can't tell you
- Must-ask questions for your care team, how to bring an advocate and seek a second opinion, and reflections on hope and research progress

Guests

James Hiter – Patient Advocate, LCFA Speakers Bureau. James is living with lung cancer and is the founder of Streak For a Cure, a non-profit raising awareness and funding for lung cancer research.

Jane Perlmutter – Lung cancer survivor, LCFA Speakers Bureau member, and patient advocate. Jane's cancer journey began more than 40 years ago with a breast cancer diagnosis in her early 30s. She has been living with lung cancer for about four years and has spent decades helping newly diagnosed patients and working alongside cancer researchers.

Links and Resources

- LCFA Speakers Bureau - <https://lcfamerica.org/speakers-bureau/>

- Understanding PD-L1:
lcfamerica.org/about-lung-cancer/diagnosis/understand-pd-l1
- Questions to Ask Your Care Team about PD-L1 (free printable guide):
lcfamerica.org/about-lung-cancer/diagnosis/understand-pd-l1/#pd1l-toolkit
- Biomarker Testing: lcfamerica.org/about-lung-cancer/diagnosis/biomarkers
- Immunotherapy education: lcfamerica.org/treatment/immunotherapy
- How to Talk to Your Doctor:
lcfamerica.org/living-with-lung-cancer/first-diagnosed/talk-to-doctor
- Find a Clinical Trial: lcfamerica.org/resources/find-clinical-trial
- Get a Second Opinion: lcfamerica.org/resources/second-opinion

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