Types of Lung Cancer

There are two types of lung cancer.

1. Small cell lung cancer(SCLC)
2. Non small cell lung cancer(NSCLC)

Small cell lung cancer

About 12 out of every 100 lung cancers diagnosed are this type (12%). Small cell lung cancer is called this because under the microscope the cancer cells look small and are mostly filled with the nucleus (the control centre of cells). It is also called oat cell cancer.

This type of cancer is usually caused by smoking. It is very rare for someone who has never smoked to develop it. Small cell lung cancer often spreads quite early on and so your doctors may recommend chemotherapy treatment rather than surgery.

Non small lung cancer

None small lung cancer different from small cell lung cancer.threre are three types of non small lung cancer.

1. adenocarcinoma
2. squamous cell carcinoma
3. large cell carcinoma.

Non small cell lung cancer

There are three common types of non small cell lung cancer. These are grouped together because they behave in a similar way and respond to treatment in a different way to small cell lung cancer. They make up about 87 out of 100 lung cancers in the UK (87%). The three types are adenocarcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and large cell carcinoma.

Adenocarcinoma

This is the most common type of primary lung cancer. It develops from mucus making cells in the lining of the airways. It is often found in the outer areas of the lungs. There are different sub types of adenocarcinoma of the lung. Bronchiolo alveolar carcinoma (BAC) is one of these sub types.

Squamous cell cancer

Squamous cell lung cancer develops from the flat, surface covering cells in the airways. It is often found near the centre of the lung in one of the main airways (the left or right bronchus). This type of cancer is often due to smoking. The number of people developing squamous cell lung cancer is going down in the UK.

Large cell carcinoma

This is so called because the cells look large and rounded under a microscope. This type of lung cancer tends to grow quite quickly.