

Common Abbreviations in Clinical Research

Term	Abbreviation	Meaning
Antibody Drug Conjugate	ADC	A therapy combining an antibody that finds cancer cells, a chemotherapy drug that kills them, and a linker that delivers the drug into the cancer cell.
Adverse Event	AE	Any medical problem that happens during treatment; this can include expected side effects or serious problems.
Complete Response	CR	The cancer responded to the treatment and there is no evidence of disease.
Circulating Tumor Cells	CTCs	Cells that have detached from a tumor and circulate in the bloodstream.
Circulating Tumor DNA	ctDNA	Small pieces of DNA from cancer cells found in the bloodstream.
Duration of Response	DoR	How long tumor shrinkage lasts before the cancer starts to grow.
Disease Free Survival	DFS	Time after treatment or surgery when patients have no signs of cancer or death from any cause.
Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor	EGFR	A protein found on the surface of cells that plays a crucial role in how cells grow and survive. Mutations in EGFR promote tumor growth in EGFR NSCLC.
Hazard Ratio	HR	A number that compares risk over time: An HR less than 1 means the new treatment reduced the risk of progression or death compared to the other treatment.
Immune Checkpoint Inhibitors	ICI	Immunotherapy drugs that release the immune system's 'brakes' (for example: PD1/PDL1/CTLA4) so it can attack cancer cells; they are widely used in lung cancer, but are generally less effective for EGFR-positive NSCLC.
No Evidence of Disease	NED	No signs of active cancer are detectable through diagnostic testing or physical exam.
Next Generation Sequencing	NGS	Advanced technology that reads many genes at once to find changes, including mutations that guide treatment decisions.
Overall/Objective Response Rate	ORR	Percent of people whose cancer shrinks or disappears (commonly defined by RECIST criteria as a 30% or greater decrease). <i>*RECIST is a standardized set of rules used to evaluate how tumors respond to cancer treatment in clinical trials</i>
Overall Survival	OS	Time from the start of treatment until death from any cause.

Partial Response	PR	The cancer shrinks but does not completely go away.
Progression-Free Survival	PFS	The length of time from the start of treatment until the cancer grows.
Quality of Life	QOL	How a person feels and functions in daily life while on treatment and the ability to work and enjoy activities.
Stereotactic Body Radiation Therapy/ Stereotactic Ablative Radiotherapy	SBRT/SABR	High dose, targeted radiation given to a small area of the body to try to kill all the cancer cells. The treatment can be given in the lung or other parts of the body.
Stable Disease	SD	Time that the cancer is not growing significantly (RECIST criteria define growth as less than 20%).* <i>RECIST is a standardized set of rules used to evaluate how tumors respond to cancer treatment in clinical trials</i>
Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor	TKI	A targeted therapy that blocks specific proteins on or in a cell that help the cancer grow and divide.
Video Assisted Thoracoscopic Surgery	VATS	Lung surgery done through a few small incisions rather than a large incision. Robotic surgeries are also performed through small incisions.

Common Terms in Clinical Research

Term	Meaning
Adjuvant Therapy	Treatment given after the main treatment (usually surgery) to lower the chance of the cancer coming back.
Antibody therapy	Treatment that uses antibodies (a protein made by the immune system) to help the body fight cancer.
Biomarker	A measurable sign in the body (through blood, tissue, body fluids) that gives doctors information about a disease or how to guide treatment
Biomarker Testing	Test to check for specific changes in cancer cells that can be used to personalize treatment.
Driver Mutation/Oncogene	A genetic change in the cancer's DNA that helps it grow; often present only in the cancer cells, not in the normal cells of the body.
EGFR Mutation	A change in DNA of the epidermal growth factor receptor gene that can drive cancer. Knowing your mutation guides treatment.

EGFR Common vs. Uncommon Mutations	Common: Ex19del, L858R. Uncommon: Exon 20, G719X, L861Q, S768I—these can impact choice of treatment.
First Line Therapy	The first treatment a person receives after being diagnosed.
Liquid Biopsy	A blood test that looks for tumor DNA or cells to help guide care.
Lobectomy	The surgical removal of one lobe of the lung.
Local Therapy	Surgery or radiation for specific areas, even with advanced disease.
Median Overall Survival	The point in time when half of the people in a study are still alive and half are not.
Pneumonectomy	The surgical removal of one lung.
Progression	When the cancer grows or spreads while on treatment
Second line therapy	The next treatment given if the first treatment stops working or the cancer comes back.
Segment resection	The surgical removal of a segment of a lobe that may be used to remove the tumor and a small amount of normal tissue around it.
Targeted Therapy	Treatment that targets specific cancer proteins.
Tissue Biopsy	A procedure that removes a sample of tumor tissue so it can be examined and tested. It can be done when someone is first diagnosed or when the cancer grows or spreads.
Wedge resection	The surgical removal of a small part or of lung tissue that may be used to remove the tumor and a small amount of normal tissue around it.

Trial Names for Current Therapies

Trial Acronyms	Intervention
FLAURA	Osimertinib vs older generation EGFR TKIs.
FLAURA2	First line osimertinib alone or combined with chemotherapy.
MARIPOSA	First-line amivantamab and lazertinib combination vs osimertinib in the first line setting.
ADAURA	Adjuvant osimertinib after surgery.
LAURA	Osimertinib as consolidation therapy with chemoradiation.

MARIPOSA2	Amivantamab + chemotherapy with or without lazertinib vs chemotherapy alone after progression on a 3 rd generation TKI (osimertinib).
HARMONI	Ivonescimab + chemotherapy vs chemotherapy after progression on a 3 rd generation TKI (osimertinib).

Osimertinib (Tagrisso®-AstraZeneca)

Amivantamab (Rybrevant®-Janssen Biotech/Johnson & Johnson)

Lazertinib (Lazcluze®-Janssen Biotech/Johnson & Johnson)

Ivonescimab (Investigational as of 8/2026-Summit Therapeutics)

Clinical Trials

Term	Meaning
Accelerated approval	The FDA approves a drug faster, based on early evidence, allowing earlier access while confirmatory studies continue.
Arm	A group of participants in a clinical trial that will receive the same treatment
Blinded / Double-Blind	When participants (and sometimes researchers and staff) don't know which treatment is given to avoid bias.
Clinical Trial	A research study testing new treatments or approaches.
Cohort	A group of study participants that are similar in some way
Eligibility	Requirements for a person to participate in a clinical trial
Endpoints	What a trial measures (e.g., PFS, OS, response rate).
Expanded Access / Compassionate Use	A way to access investigational drugs outside of a clinical trial.
Exclusion Criteria	Reasons someone cannot join a trial
Inclusion Criteria	Requirements that allow someone to join a trial
Informed Consent	The process of learning about the trial and agreeing to participate in it.
Placebo	An inactive treatment used for comparison: Rarely used alone in cancer trials
Protocol	Detailed plan of study procedures
Randomization	A computer-based method that assigns study participants to treatment groups fairly.
Crossover	When participants on standard of care treatment switch to the investigational treatment during or after the trial.

Phases of Clinical Trials

Why are clinical trials important?

They test whether new treatments are safe and effective and help bring new options to patients.

Phases of Clinical Trials

Phase 1: Is the treatment safe in humans?

- Main goal is to make sure the treatment can be given safely and understand how it behaves in the body. Researchers may also look for early signs that it works.

Phase 2: Does treatment show benefit?

- Main goal to see if it helps treat the cancer, determine the dose and continue to evaluate safety.

Phase 3: How does it compare to standard of care?

- Main goal is to compare the new approach with the current standard treatment. .

Phase 4 – What do we learn after approval?

- Main goal is to learn about long-term benefits, side effects and use in broader patient populations.

