Mucinous Bronchioalveolar Carcinoma

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Dear OncoLink "Ask the Experts,"
I need information on Mucinous Bronchioalveolar Carcinoma.

Can you help?
Thanks
O

Li Liu, MD, OncoLink Editorial Assistant, responds:
Dear O:
Thank you for your interest and question.

Bronchioalveolar carcinoma is one of the subtypes of adenocarcinoma in non-small cell carcinoma of the lung. It represents approximately 10 to 25% of the adenocarcinoma of lung cases. Cigarette smoking does not appear to correlate with this type of cancer.

It may present as a solitary peripheral nodule, a multifocal lesion, or a rapidly progressive pneumonic form that appears as a diffuse infiltrate on chest radiograph. Stage by stage, the management and prognosis are essentially the same as other types of non-small cell lung cancer.

Surgery is the preferred treatment if the tumor can be resected. Radiation therapy and chemotherapy may be used in non-operable cases. Prognostic factors are stage, the presence of signs and symptoms, diffuse malignant invasion, and mucin-producing tumors (). Dr. Dumont and his colleagues reported the outcomes in 105 surgically treated patients with bronchioalveolar carcinoma (Chest 1998; 113(2):391-395). Mucinous differentiation was present in 43% of patients. Overall survival was 89% at 1 year, 48% at 5 years and 39% at 10 years. Patients with diffuse lesions had a worse prognosis that those with nodular lesions.

You should consult your oncologist for the best possible treatment plan for you and specifics on your own case.

Li Liu, MD
The Abramson Cancer Center of the University of Pennsylvania

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No

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