



## Positive Quality Intervention: Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer Stage III Overview and Patient Eligibility of Durvalumab (Imfinzi®)

**Description:** The purpose of this PQI is to discuss Stage III Non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC) and patient eligibility of durvalumab (Imfinzi®).

**Background:** Within the category of lung cancer, approximately 80-85% of lung cancers are NSCLC.<sup>1,2</sup> Treatment for stage III NSCLC may include combinations of radiation, chemotherapy, and/or surgery, which requires input from the medically integrated team, including medical and radiation oncologists along with thoracic surgeons. Concurrent chemoradiation therapy (CRT) is often utilized when patients with Stage III NSCLC either decline or are ineligible for surgical options.<sup>3</sup> Immunotherapy is possible to be given at this stage with durvalumab being the standard of care in patients who have not progressed after 2 or more cycles of definitive concurrent CRT. Meta-analysis has shown that concurrent CRT confers significant benefit when it comes to long-term survival of patients with for NSCLC (2,3,4, and 5-year survival rates).<sup>4</sup> NCCN guidelines suggest use of durvalumab as the Category 1 recommendation in unresectable Stage III NSCLC following definitive CRT.<sup>5</sup> Initiation of durvalumab following CRT may also elicit a synergistic antitumor immune response, given the mechanism of durvalumab as a monoclonal antibody that binds to programmed cell death ligand-1 (PD-L1), thereby blocking the PD-L1/PD-1 immune checkpoint signaling cascade.<sup>6-11</sup> Based on the PACIFIC study criteria approximately 70% of patients with unresectable stage III NSCLC would be eligible to receive durvalumab following CRT.<sup>12</sup> If initiating durvalumab, therapy care teams are instructed to begin therapy within 42 days after CRT completion.<sup>13</sup>

### PQI Process:<sup>13</sup>

- Consider durvalumab for NSCLC if ALL of the following are met:
  - Individual is 18 years of age or older
  - Individual has not received previous therapy with a PD-L1/PD-1 unless otherwise specified
  - Used as a single agent
  - Used as consolidation therapy
  - Disease is unresectable stage III without progression after 2 or more cycles of definitive CRT
  - Individual has performance status 0-1 (able to perform all pre-disease activities without restriction or restricted when engaging in physical activity but able to carry out light work)
- If durvalumab is an option, especially with concurrent CRT, plan to initiate within **42 days** of CRT
- Review [PQI Durvalumab \(Imfinzi®\) Therapy Overview](#) for management guidance
- Screen patients for immune-related adverse event symptoms using [Immune-Related Adverse Event \(irAE\) Management Tool](#)
- Schedule regular visits for blood tests (CBC, renal, hepatic, pancreatic, thyroid) and monitoring

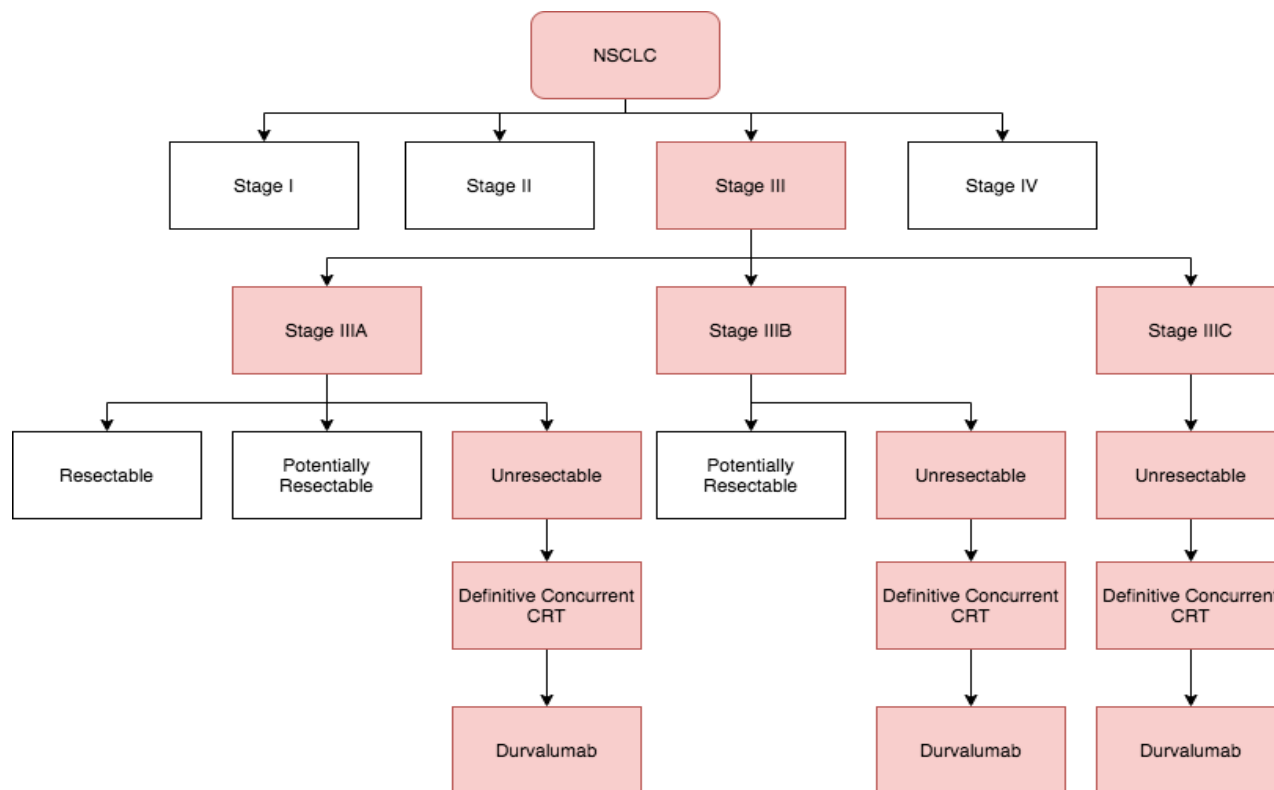
### Patient-Centered Activities:

- Review with patient potential options for stage III NSCLC
- Provide written and verbal education on durvalumab if selected as treatment option
  - Provide [Intravenous Cancer Treatment Education \(IVE\)](#) Sheet
  - Counsel patient on imAE symptoms and when to report symptoms to oncologist
  - Consider early initiation of steroids as necessary

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** NCODA has developed this Positive Quality Intervention platform. This platform is intended as an educational aid, does not provide individual medical advice, and does not substitute for the advice of a qualified healthcare professional. This platform does not cover all existing information related to the possible uses, directions, doses, precautions, warning, interactions, adverse effects, or risks associated with the medication. The materials contained in this platform do not constitute or imply endorsement, recommendation, or favoring of this medication by NCODA. NCODA does not ensure the accuracy of the information presented and assumes no liability relating to its accuracy. All decisions related to taking this medication should be made with the guidance and under the direction of a qualified healthcare professional. It is the individual's sole responsibility to seek guidance from a qualified healthcare professional. *Updated 9.29.23*

## Supplemental Information:

Diagram of durvalumab's current place in therapy for NSCLC<sup>2</sup>



## References:

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8. Deng L, Liang H, Burnette B, et al. Irradiation and anti-PD-L1 treatment synergistically promote antitumor immunity in mice. *J Clin Invest.* 2014;124(2):687-695.
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12. Sakaguchi T, et al. Patients with unresectable stage III non-small cell lung cancer eligible to receive consolidation therapy with durvalumab in clinical practice based on PACIFIC study criteria. *Respir Investig.* 2019 Sep;57(5):466-471.
13. [Imfinzi® \(durvalumab\) \[prescribing information\]](#).