

## **The RAMON study (stands for **Radical management of advanced non-small cell lung cancer**)**

### **From the Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel (MASAP)**

There has been a lot of interest from our ALK+ community in the RAMON study and the Medical and Scientific Advisory Panel members would like to comment on some specific points.

The aim of this study is to find out whether treatment in the form of surgery, radiotherapy and/or ablation, with the aim to remove all remaining cancer within the lung and throughout the body, is worthwhile (or not) for patients with residual advanced lung cancer. Collectively, these treatments are known as Local Consolidative Treatment (LCT). Eligible for participation are patients aged 18 years and over with advanced stage (stage IV) non-small cell lung cancer who have undergone a course of initial systemic\* anti-cancer treatment.

We approached Professor Eric Lim, the Principal Investigator of this study, who said:

“The trial is very relevant to the ALK positive community, as it is often this sub-group that does the best with minimal residual disease after commencement of an ALK inhibitor.

ALK inhibitor needs to be planned or started, as randomisation occurs at the [approximately] 3 month interval after the start of the ALK inhibitor.

ALK treatment is continued throughout the trial as participants are randomised to either

- a) local consolidation and maintenance ALK inhibitor or
- b) maintenance ALK inhibitor alone. “

In other words, the ALK inhibitors, TKIs, will continue in both groups in the trial.

Since this trial would only recruit ***newly diagnosed patients after [approximately] three months on TKI***, not many of us will qualify. Those who potentially do qualify and are interested in learning more can contact the research team (details are in the web link below).

Professor Lim also explained that they only would apply surgery as a radical aggressive method (although in the description they listed radiotherapy and ablation as well). He indicated that there could be substantial loss of quality of life for patients. He emphasized the point that it is not known if the LCT would make a positive difference for patients, in fact it could be that it would make things worse. If the outcomes show that the LCT is beneficial, the research team will extend the study to include further cohorts of patients with a history of advanced lung cancer.

Professor Lim was very positive about the ALK+ UK group and very optimistic about the efficiency of TKIs, giving us many years! This is very good news to hear!

Researchers have been awarded almost £2 million to conduct this trial:

( <https://www.rbht.nhs.uk/research/advanced-lung-cancer-study-awarded-2-million>).

This is the website with the information about RAMON study:

<https://www.isrctn.com/ISRCTN11613852>

\*Treatment using substances (e.g. chemotherapy, targeted therapy medications) that travel through the bloodstream, reaching and affecting cells all over the body.