

16<sup>th</sup>  
**CONGRESS**  
*Lung* **ON**  
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**Multidisciplinary approach for patients with early and locally advanced non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC):  
2nd SLCG consensus**

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## Conflicts of interest

- I have no conflicts of interest related to this presentation

# Background

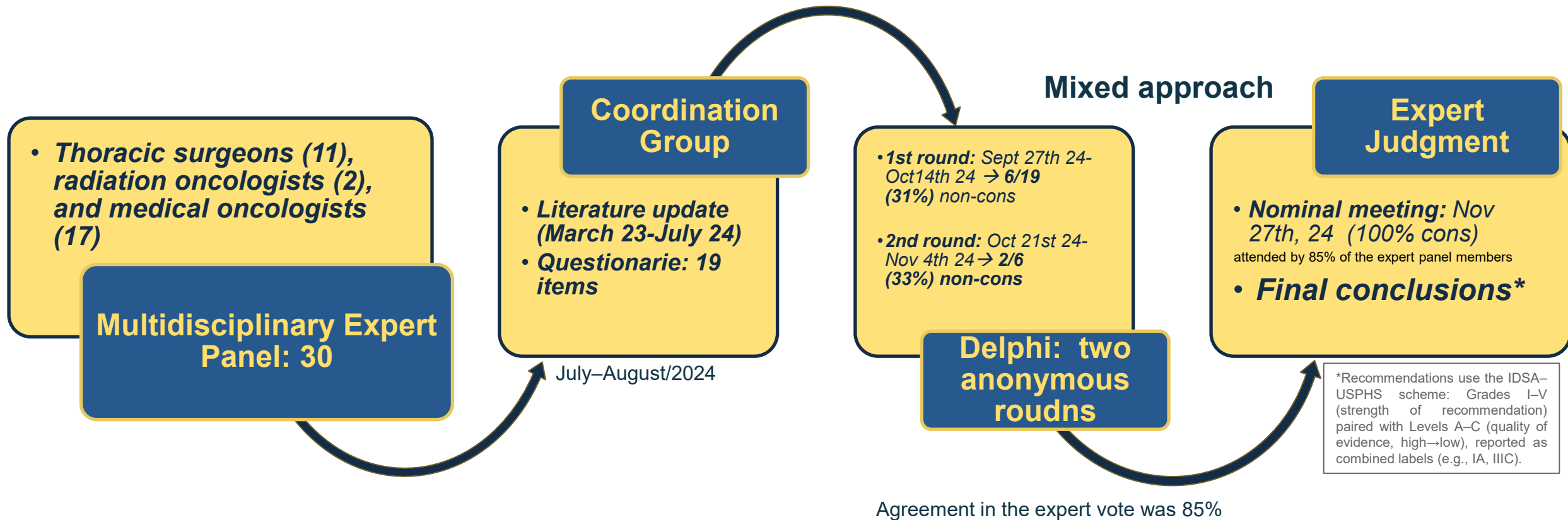
- Locally advanced NSCLC presents a **heterogeneous profile** → **individualized management**.
- The **2023 SLCG consensus** provided **standardized protocols** for the initial diagnosis and treatment of **stage III NSCLC** including **Neo-IO** and **controversial issues**.

## Objectives 2025:

- The SLCG **updated** its consensus to incorporate the **latest advances** in the **early and locally advanced** treatment of NSCLC, **highlighting** the role of a **multidisciplinary approach**.

***“valuable tool for standardizing and supporting clinical practice”***

# Methods: (From July to November 2024 )



# Overall results

## 1. **Main updates** included 2025 consensus:

1. Advances in **molecular diagnosis and biomarkers**
2. Role of the **multidisciplinary thoracic committee (MTC)**
3. Criteria for **neoadjuvant** and **perioperative** treatment
4. **Neoadjuvant CRT**
5. **Adjuvant treatment** recommendations
6. Approaches to **inoperable** or **unresectable** disease

## 2. Unchanged sections: proposals that did not require updates were not re-voted and remain from the original version.

1. Radiological diagnoses
2. Mediastinal staging and surgical decisions
3. Follow-up

# 1. Advances in molecular diagnosis and biomarkers

## 2023 Consensus

- Mandatory PD-L1 and EGFR testing
- Optional ALK, KRAS, ROS1 if available

## 2025 Update

- Systematic **PD-L1**, **EGFR**, and **ALK** testing at diagnosis
- Optional **KRAS** and **ROS1** if available Clinical Trial
- NGS only if available at the diagnostic center (not mandatory)

Perform **molecular profiling**, including **EGFR**, **ALK**, and **PD-L1** ( $\pm$  KRAS/ROS1), at diagnosis to **select the optimal treatment** for each patient

## 2. Role of the multidisciplinary thoracic committee (MTC)

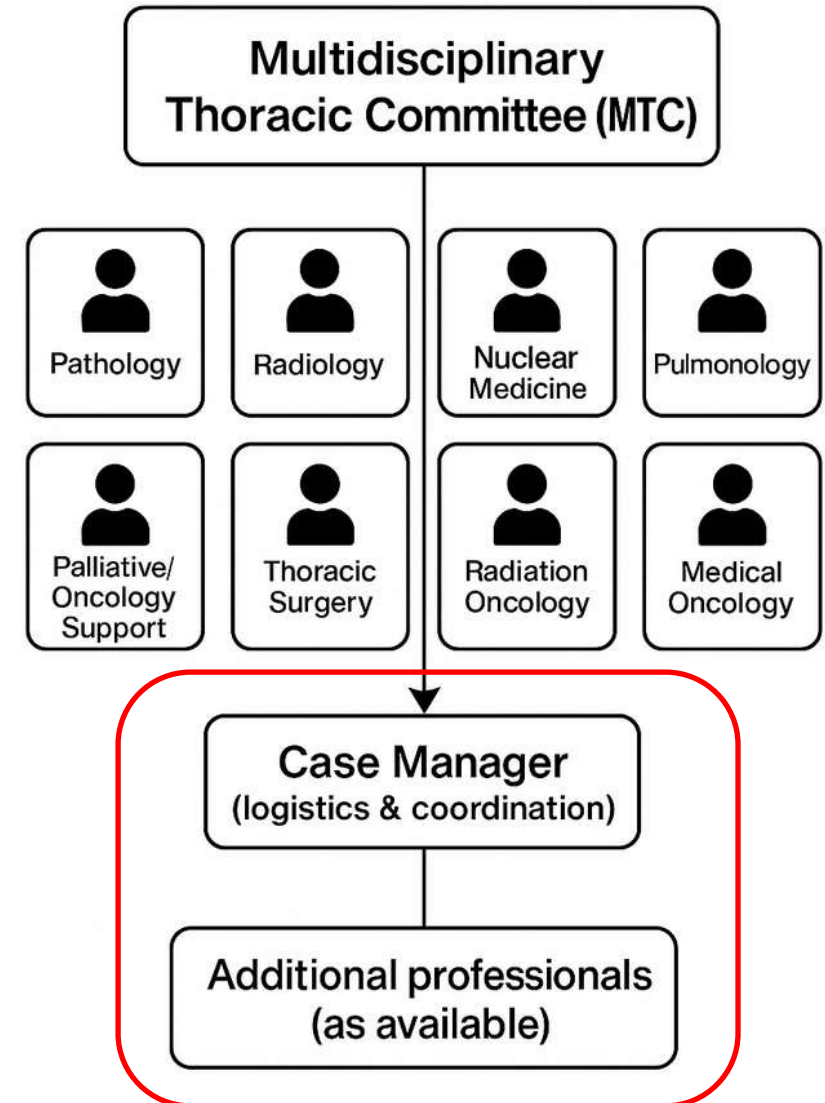
### 2023 Consensus

- Composition defined (pathology, radiology, nuclear med, pulm., surgery, oncology, palliative care)
- Stage III
- Case manager optional

### 2025 Update

- **Expanded MTC scope:**
  - Stages Ib-II, EGFR, ALK Complex cases
  - Best mediastinal techniques
  - Mandatory review before/after neoadjuvant therapy/after surgery
- Standardized **case manager** role
- **Other professionals** can also participate

Emphasizes **structured** decision-making improves **OS !!**



# 3. Criteria for neoadjuvant and perioperative treatment

## Neoadjuvant IO

Study	Population	Exp vs Contr	Primary endpoints	Key results (selected)
CheckMate-816	Resectable IB-IIIa	Nivolumab + platinum-chemo (3 cycles) vs chemo	pCR; DFS	pCR ↑ (~24% vs 2.2%); EFS HR=0.63; ↑R0; surgery feasible
NADIM II	Resectable IIIa-IIIb	Nivolumab + chemo vs chemo	pCR; EFS	Higher pCR and EFS with IO
LCMC3 / LCC3	Resectable NSCLC	Atezolizumab (mono) surgical program	MPR; pCR	MPR ~20%; defines feasibility & pathology metrics
NEOSTAR	Resectable NSCLC	Nivovs Nivo+ipi	MPR	Higher MPR/pCR with dual ICI

Forde PM, et al. CheckMate 816. *N Engl J Med.* 2022;386(21):1973-1985; Provencio M, et al. (NADIM II). *N Engl J Med.* 2023;389(6):504-513; Chafft JE, et al. (LCMC3). *Nat Med.* 2022;28:2155-2161; Cascone T, et al. (NEOSTAR). *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg.* 2021;162(5):1379-1392.e3.

## Perioperative IO

Study	Population	Exp vs Contr	Primary endpoints	Key results (selected)
KEYNOTE-671	Resectable IB-IIIa	Pembrolizumab + chemo → surgery → pembrolizumab vs placebo regimen	EFS; pCR (key sec)	↑EFS and ↑pCR; consistent across stage/PD-L1 OS (ns)
AEGEAN	Resectable II-IIIb (N2)	Durvalumab + chemo → surgery → durvalumab vs placebo regimen	EFS; pCR	EFS HR=0.68; pCR ↑; surgery not compromised
CheckMate 77T	Resectable IIA-IIIb; PD-L1 all-comers; EGFR/ALK excluded	Nivolumab + chemo → surgery → nivolumab vs placebo regimen	EFS; pCR (key sec); MPR	EFS HR=0.58 (18-mo 70.2% vs 50.0%); pCR 25.3% vs 4.7%; MPR 35.4% vs 12.1%
NEOTORCH	Mainly stage III resectable	Toripalimab + chemo → surgery → toripalimab vs chemo	EFS; MPR	EFS HR=0.40; MPR 48.5% vs 8.4%; pCR 24.8% vs 1%
RATIONALE-315	Resectable stage II-IIIa (multicentre, China)	Tislelizumab + chemo (neo) → surgery → tislelizumab (adj) vs matched placebo regimen	EFS; MPR (co-primary)	EFS HR=0.56; MPR 56% vs 15%; surgery feasible; safety manageable

Spicer J, et al. (KEYNOTE-671). *N Engl J Med.* 2023;389(6):491-503; Heymach JV, et al. (AEGEAN). *N Engl J Med.* 2023;389; Forde PM, et al. (CheckMate 77T) *N Engl J Med.* 2024;390:1756-1769; Wang Z, et al. (NEOTORCH). *JAMA.* 2024;331(3):201-211; Yue D, et al. (RATIONALE-315). *Lancet Respir Med.* 2025;13(2):119-129

TNM 7<sup>a</sup>/8<sup>a</sup>

- Benefit in N2 disease
- Periop ↑EFS? → No-head to head comparisons
- EGFR/ALK under-represented

TNM 8<sup>a</sup>

### 3. Criteria for neoadjuvant and perioperative treatment

#### 2023 recommendations

- Platinum doublet + immunotherapy (nivolumab) for resectable stage IIIA–IIIB
- 3 cycles recommended
- No consensus on neoadjuvant IT for EGFR/ALK-mutant tumors

#### 2025 recommendations

- Evaluate **at diagnosis** at MTC
- Include **early-stage (IB–II)**: Borderline
- **N2 disease**: Individualize IIIB (T4N2)
- **Adds perioperative Ch-IO** (nivo, pem, durva) (AEGEAN/KEYNOTE-671/CheckMate77T)\*
- **Neo/Periop IT not recommended for EGFR/ALK**
- **Re-evaluate** with **MTC** after neoadjuvant for “resecability”

**Expands eligibility for pre/perioperative treatment regardless of PD-L1 levels, excludes patients with driver mutations, and emphasizes the role of the MTC**



## 3.b Mediastinal re-staging and response criteria

	2025 recommendation	GoR/LoE
<b>When to re-stage</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After neoadjuvant therapy if <u>imaging response is unclear</u> to guide surgery.</li> </ul>	IIIC
<b>Techniques after induction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(EBUS-TBNA/EUS-FNA) has variable NPV (<math>\approx 20-78\%</math>); repeat mediastinoscopy reduced sensitivity (adhesions/fibrosis) → <u>discuss in MTC</u></li> </ul>	Expert opinion
<b>If nodes look worse on imaging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Biopsy to confirm</u> progression if technically feasible.</li> </ul>	Expert opinion
<b>N2 after neo-IO—surgical candidacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>CR/PR</u> and technically resectable → <u>surgery</u></li> <li><u>SD</u> → <u>discuss in MTC</u> (feasibility, patient factors).</li> </ul>	Expert opinion
<b>Unresectable/inoper after induction</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Definitive CRT</u> → <b>consolidation IO</b> if no progression during RT.</li> <li><u>Systemic treatment</u> if distant PD</li> </ul>	Expert opinion

**MTC:** defines **need** for re-staging and **best technique** and **reviews stable/complex cases**

## 3.c IASLC Patology Report:

Recommendations	
<b>Terminology</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Define <u>tumor bed</u> (pre-treatment tumor area)</li> </ul>
<b>Sampling</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>≤3 cm</u>: sample entirely</li> <li><u>&gt;3 cm</u>: map and photograph; include a ~0.5 cm cross-section through the largest dimension + ≥1 cm adjacent lung.</li> </ul>
<b>Rad-path correlation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use pre/post-therapy <b>CT (± FDG-PET)</b> to localize the tumor bed</li> </ul>
<b>Quantification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record % <u>viable/necrosis/stroma</u></li> </ul>
<b>Response</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>MPR</u>: ≤10% viable tumor</li> <li><u>pCR/CPR</u>: 0% viable tumor in lung <b>and</b> sampled nodes (<b>ypT0N0</b>)</li> </ul>
<b>Lymph nodes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>Sample thoroughly</u> when feasible</li> <li>Report <u>% components</u> as for the primary. <b>Nodal pCR</b> = scar/necrosis <b>without</b> viable tumor.</li> </ul>
<b>Post-therapy staging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If no discrete mass: <b>viable invasive size ≈ tumor-bed size × % viable invasive tumor</b>; apply special rules for lepidic; <b>ypT0N+</b> if lung 0% but nodes positive.</li> </ul>

## 3.c IASLC Patology Report:

### 2023 recommendations

- Mentions pathological response but format is variable across centers
- pCR/MPR referenced but not uniformly enforced.
- Pathology informs decisions, linkage less explicit.

### 2025 recommendations

- **Surgeon must detail** preoperative therapy, specimen labels, tumor count, and any involvement of nearby structures.
  - Pneumonectomy not absolute contraindication
- The **pathology report** should measure treatment effects, including **percentages of viable tumor, necrosis, stroma, and inflammation level** (IASLC)

The pathology-report supports decision-making for MTC and provides quality control

# 4. Neoadjuvant Chemorradiation + Surgery

Study (year)	Design / Population	Induction Strategy (vs comparator)	Main finding	
Intergroup 0139 (Albain 2009)	Phase III, stage IIIA-N2	cCRT → surgery vs definitive cCRT	No OS benefit with surgery after cCRT (trial pre-IO era).	NO survival impact
SAKK 16/00 (Pless 2015)	Phase III, stage IIIA-N2	cCRT → surgery vs chemo → surgery	Randomized data did not show OS advantage for induction CRT.	
WJTOG9903 (Katakami 2012)	Phase III, pathologic N2 (IIIA)	Concurrent CRT → surgery vs chemo → surgery	No superiority of CRT over chemotherapy induction.	
SWOG 9416 / Intergroup 0160 (Rusch 2007)	Phase II/trimodality, superior sulcus (Pancoast)	Induction CRT → surgery (single-arm)	Durable outcomes in Pancoast tumors with trimodality.	Trimodality: PANCOAST
De Leyn 2009 (trimodality series)	Observational, superior sulcus/central T4	CRT → surgery	Long-term survival achievable in selected anatomy.	
→ Exploratory (SAKK 16/18; INCREASE, 2023-24)	Phase II, CRT + IO (cT1-4N0-2M0)	Neo-IO ± CRT (single-arm/phase II)	Hypothesis-generating; no definitive OS data.	Insufficient to recommend

Albain KS, et al. (Intergroup 0139). Lancet. 2009;374(9687):379-386; Pless M, et al. (SAKK 16/00). Lancet. 2015;386(9998):1049-1057; Katakami N, et al. (WJTOG9903). Ann Oncol. 2012;23(11):2807-2812; Rusch VW, et al. (SWOG 9416/INT 0160). J Clin Oncol. 2007;25(3):313-318; De Leyn P, et al. J Thorac Oncol. 2009;4(1):62-68; Mauti LA, et al. SAKK 16/18. J Clin Oncol 2023;41:8547; Bahce I, et al. INCREASE. J Immunother Cancer 2024;12:e009799

## 4. Neoadjuvant Chemorradiation

### 2023 recommendations

- Induction CRT could **be considered** in selected **IIIA-N2** cases (trimodality)
- **Superior sulcus tumors (Pancoast)**

### 2025 recommendations

- The SLCG 2025 panel **does not recommend** routine **pre-operative CRT**
- Reserved for **superior sulcus (Pancoast) tumors**

The **SLCG 2025 consensus** limits **preoperative CRT** to Pancoast tumors and identifies **ChIO (neoadjuvant or perioperative)** as the **standard induction therapy**

# 5. Adjuvant treatment recommendations

## Ajuvant IO

Study	Population	Exp vs contr	Primary endpoints	Key results
<b>IMpower010</b>	Resected IB( $\geq 4$ cm)-IIIA post-cisplatin	Atezolizum ab (16cy) vs BSC	DFS	DFS $\uparrow$ ; strongest in II-IIIa PD-L1 $\geq 1\%$ (max $\geq 50\%$ )
<b>KEYNOTE-091 (PEARLS)</b>	Resected IB-IIIa ( $\pm$ prior chemo)	Pembrolizu mab (18cy) vs placebo	DFS (overall; PD-L1 $\geq 50\%$ )	Overall DFS HR $\approx 0.76$ ; PD-L1 $\geq 50\%$ not clearly superior

Felip E, et al. (IMpower010). Lancet. 2021;398(10308):1344-1357; O'Brien M, et al. (PEARLS/KEYNOTE-091). Lancet Oncol. 2022;23(10):1274-1286.

## Adjuvant Target

Study	Population	Exp vs contr	Primary endpoints	Key results
<b>ADAURA</b>	Resected IB-IIIa EGFR-mut	Osimertinib (3y) vs placebo ( $\pm$ prior chemo)	DFS; CNS-DFS	Large DFS benefit (HR $\approx 0.23-0.27$ ); CNS protection
<b>ALINA</b>	Resected IB( $\geq 4$ cm)-IIIa ALK+	Alectinib (1y) vs platinum chemo	DFS	DFS HR $\approx 0.24$ ; strong CNS control

Wu Y-L, et al. (ADAURA). N Engl J Med. 2020;383(18):1711-1723; Tsuboi M, et al. (ADAURA OS). N Engl J Med. 2023;389(2):137-147; Wu Y-L, et al. (ALINA). N Engl J Med. 2024;390(14):1265-1276

# 5. Adjuvant treatment recommendations

## 2023 recommendations

- Pathology per IASLC
- Adjuvant osimertinib for EGFR-m
- Adjuvant RT only for R1/N2 (selected)

## 2025 recommendations

- **Formal** IASLC-based **pathology report** required
- **Re-evaluate with MTC** after “surgery” → only Adj in periop
- Adds **pembrolizumab**, **atezolizumab** as adjuvant options in primary resected
- Adjuvant **osimertinib** (EGFR) and **alectinib** (ALK)

Improves identification of patients needing postoperative treatment using standardized IASLC pathology reports and molecular testing (MTC role)

## 6. Approaches to inoperable or unresectable disease

Study	Setting	Population	Exp vs Contr	Primary endpoints	Key results
<b>PACIFIC (+5y)</b>	Unresectable	Stage III unresectable, no progression after cCRT	<b>Consolidation Durvalumab vs placebo (1y)</b>	OS; PFS	Sustained OS/PFS benefit at 5 years
<b>LAURA</b>	Unresectable	Stage III unresectable EGFR-mut (Del19/L858R), no progression after cCRT	<b>Consolidation Osimertinib vs placebo (until PD)</b>	PFS (BICR); OS (secondary)	<b>Median PFS ~39.1 vs 5.6 months; HR ~0.16; OS immature with favorable trend</b>

Antonia SJ, et al. (PACIFIC—primary). N Engl J Med. 2017;377:1919-1929; Spigel DR, et al. PACIFIC 5y. J Clin Oncol. 2022;40(12):1301-1311; Lu S, et al. (LAURA). N Engl J Med. 2024;391(7):585-597.

## 6. Approaches to inoperable or unresectable disease

### 2023 recommendations

- Ch-RDT: Only for unresectable stage IIIB or superior sulcus tumors

### 2025 recommendations

- Unresect/inoper: **Ch-RT + durvalumab** consolidation (PACIFIC) as standard
- Neo-IO failure: PACIFIC (case by case) **MTC**
- In EGFRm (Del19, L858R) Osimertinib after Ch-RT: **(LAURA)**

**No specific trial for “neo-IO failure”**; the application of PACIFIC in this context is based on extrapolation and **expert judgment**

# Take home messages

## What defines the 2025 SLCG Consensus?

- The **2025 SLCG consensus** establishes our group's position within both national and international frameworks for managing **early-stage and locally advanced NSCLC**
  - Dynamically incorporating the **latest advances** in neo/perioperative/adjuvant treatments
  - Emphasizing coordinated multidisciplinary efforts through **MTC**
  - Addressing and responding to **current challenges** through **expert opinion**

**To provide precise, patient-centered care!!**

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THANK YOU