

# Pulmonary polymorphic carcinoma

Pulmonary [polymorphic carcinoma](#) (PPC) is a rare and poorly differentiated form of [non-small cell lung cancer](#) (NSCLC), accounting for just approximately 0.1% to 0.4% of all NSCLC cases. Historically, the conventional treatments for PPC have been linked to a grim prognosis. However, with the advent of [immune checkpoint inhibitors](#) (ICIs), including [PD-1 inhibitors](#), for the management of NSCLC, our center has witnessed encouraging outcomes in two PPC patients who underwent PD-1 inhibitor therapy. The first patient was a 70-year-old male who initially came to our attention after the discovery of a lung mass during a routine physical examination. A lung biopsy confirmed the diagnosis of PPC, and further complications included brain metastasis. Surgical intervention was conducted for the brain metastases, while PD-1 inhibitor therapy was employed for the lung tumors. The second patient was a 60-year-old male who was admitted with a history of persistent coughing and hemoptysis, which led to the diagnosis of a left lung tumor. Subsequent postoperative pathology revealed pulmonary adenocarcinoma coexisting with PPC. However, 2 months later, distant metastases were detected during a follow-up examination. The patient encountered difficulty in tolerating the adverse effects of chemotherapy, prompting the initiation of PD-1 inhibitor treatment. Notably, both patients underwent one cycle of PD-1 inhibitor therapy without encountering significant adverse reactions, and their responses proved to be promising during re-examinations. These findings suggest that surgery combined with immunotherapy PD-1 inhibitor therapy may represent an effective approach for the treatment of PPC <sup>1)</sup>.

<sup>1)</sup>

Jiang T, Wang H, Xue F, Wu X, Ni M, Wang Y, Chen N, Zhang Y, Zhang G, Fu J, Liu X, Wu Q. Pulmonary pleomorphic carcinoma treated with PD-1 inhibitor: Two case reports. Thorac Cancer. 2023 Oct 1. doi: 10.1111/1759-7714.15120. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 37779217.

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