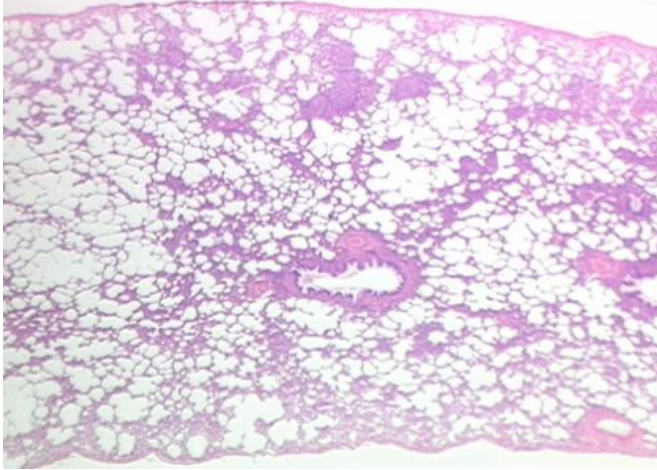


# Lung cancer survival signal

3 December 2018, by Niyati Vachharajani



**More information:** Jonathan M. Lehman et al. Somatostatin receptor 2 signaling promotes growth and tumor survival in small-cell lung cancer, *International Journal of Cancer* (2018). [DOI: 10.1002/ijc.31771](https://doi.org/10.1002/ijc.31771)

Provided by Vanderbilt University

Lung tissue. Credit: Rutgers University

Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) represents up to 25 percent of lung cancer cell deaths and is associated with early metastasis and poor patient survival. Thus, SCLC is in need of better therapeutics and more efficient targeted treatments.

Jonathan Lehman, MD, PhD, Pierre Massion, MD, and colleagues have demonstrated that somatostatin receptor 2 (SSTR2), considered to be a cell growth inhibitor, is highly expressed in SCLC cancer cell lines as well as in primary tumors. However, the authors found that high expression of this molecule has a direct correlation to poor survival rate in SCLC patients. They found that reducing SSTR2 expression results in increased apoptosis and decreased [tumor growth](#).

The study published in the *International Journal of Cancer* demonstrates that SSTR2 is a candidate biomarker for poor prognosis in SCLC. Furthermore, SSTR2 signaling is not inhibitory in high-grade malignant tumors and instead appears to serve an important pro-tumor survival signal, thus making SSTR2 a potential therapeutic target for [lung cancer](#).

APA citation: Lung cancer survival signal (2018, December 3) retrieved 18 September 2019 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2018-12-lung-cancer-survival.html>

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