Small cell lung cancer (SCLC) is a frequent neoplastic disease which has shown an increasing incidence during recent years, particularly in women. Because of the high sensitivity of chemotherapy, remission is usually achieved with standard regimens. However, relapses are common and 5-year survival is < 10%. Over the last few years intensive chemotherapy with or without stem cell support has been developed and has brought about an improvement of overall survival in SCLC patients. This therapeutic approach is reviewed.