



## WHY IS BIOMARKER TESTING IMPORTANT?

- Biomarker testing may improve outcomes for people with cancer, particularly those with digestive, lung, and breast cancers.
- It is common for targeted therapies to require patients to have biomarker testing. Out of all cancer drugs approved in the last five years, almost 60% suggest biomarker testing before use.
- Biomarkers can provide doctors with clues about how patients will react or respond to standard treatment options and help guide treatment decisions.
- Biomarkers and targeted therapies are driving more cancer clinical trials.

### BIOMARKER TESTS

A biomarker test analyzes tissue or blood samples for the presence of specific differences that can provide insights into diseases like cancer. Medical treatment can be guided by biomarker testing, often called precision medicine. By identifying these biomarkers, cancer patients may be able to receive treatments they might not otherwise receive.



## WHAT IF MY DOCTOR DOES NOT BRING UP BIOMARKER TESTING?

You have every right to ask about it yourself! Discussing biomarker testing with your healthcare team will help ensure you are getting the care you need and want. Write down your list of questions about biomarker testing or additional treatment options and bring them to your next appointment. It can be helpful to list your most important questions first to ensure they are answered during your visit.

## QUESTIONS TO DISCUSS WITH YOUR MEDICAL TEAM

Get the most out of your care by becoming an educated health consumer. Ask questions! Most people do not have personal experience discussing or dealing with biomarker testing. If you are unsure what questions to ask, start here:

### TYPES OF TESTS AVAILABLE

Am I a good candidate for genomic profiling (a method used to understand the genetic information related to an individual person or specific cell type and how their genes interact with each other and the environment)?

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Are there biomarkers that could provide information to guide choices about chemotherapy, targeted therapy, or immunotherapy for me?

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Does my cancer have a molecular test available?

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Will I need another biopsy to have the testing completed? Can testing be done using a blood test (e.g., liquid biopsy)?

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▶ **CLICK TO LISTEN**

**EXPECTATIONS BEFORE AND AFTER TESTING**

Are there any risks to having more testing?

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Will the test results influence my treatment options? If they won't, why am I having the testing done?

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Who will perform my testing? How reliable are the test results?

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When is the best time for me to get biomarker testing done?

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How long will it take to get the results back? Will I be able to get a copy of my test results?

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**FINANCIAL OPTIONS AND BILLING**

How much will the testing cost, and will my insurance cover some or all of the cost?

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Do I need to have my testing completed by a specific laboratory or testing location to ensure coverage by my insurance company?

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What are my options if I cannot pay the out-of-pocket costs associated with testing?

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Will I be billed separately for testing?

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Patient Advocate Foundation can help you address financial or insurance barriers you face with gaining access. Click this [link](#) to view our full-length guide entitled ***Getting the Right Test at the Right Time: A Cancer Patient's Guide to Biomarkers***. References for all Biomarker Tip Sheets can be found [here](#).

Curious about other topics? Our newly redesigned Education Resource Library houses our resources and provides straightforward information in a variety of formats to help you make informed decisions throughout your healthcare journey. Learn about health insurance, disability, medical bill management, and more by visiting our Education Resource Library today. Call us anytime at 800-532-5274 or visit [www.patientadvocate.org](http://www.patientadvocate.org) for help!