

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE CHOOSING A CANCER TREATMENT

Program Resource Guide



No Two Cancers Are the Same.

Identification of unique features of a specific cancer through biomarker testing could impact prognosis and treatment decisions – and enable patients to get the best, most personalized cancer care.

ABOUT BIOMARKER TESTING

- Biomarker testing may also be referred to as molecular profiling, genomic testing, or genetic testing.
- Biomarker testing is laboratory testing that identifies certain gene mutations, proteins, chromosomal abnormalities, and/or other molecular changes that are unique to an individual's disease.
- In cancer, biomarker testing may so be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.
- When deciding whether biomarker testing is necessary, your doctor will also take into consideration the stage of your cancer at diagnosis.

PERSONALIZED MEDICINE

- Personalized medicine, also referred to as precision medicine, is chosen based on unique biomarkers of an individual's disease.
- The study of human genes and genes in different cancers has allowed research to design these more effective treatments.
- Personalized cancer medicine may have fewer side effects than other types of treatment.
- When considering treatments, it's important to have all of the information about your diagnosis, including biomarker testing results.

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THIS IS NOT A SUBSTITUTE FOR SEEKING MEDICAL ADVICE, PLEASE REFER TO YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM ABOUT WHAT MIGHT BE BEST FOR YOU.

TARGETED THERAPY VS. CHEMOTHERAPY

Targeted Therapy: A type of personalized medicine that works by blocking specific mutations and preventing cancer cells from growing and dividing, without affecting normal cells.

Traditional Chemotherapy: Works by destroying cancer cells and keeps them from growing and dividing. Because cancer cells typically grow faster than normal cells, chemotherapy is more likely to kill cancer cells.

TAKE ACTION

1. No two cancers are the same. What might be right for someone else's cancer may not work for you.
2. Ask your doctor if biomarker testing is appropriate for your diagnosis.
3. Discuss all test results with your provider before making a treatment decision. Your treatment choice should be a shared decision with your healthcare team.
4. Inquire about whether a targeted therapy or a clinical trial might be appropriate for you.