

EXPLORING YOUR OVARIAN CANCER CARE OPTIONS: HOW TESTING HELPS PERSONALIZE TREATMENT



Program Resource Guide

Questions to Ask About Your Diagnosis

- Was my diagnosis made via biopsy either surgically or by a radiologist?
 - Was my diagnosis made on a slide assessment of tissue?
- What subtype of ovarian cancer do I have?

Germline vs. Somatic Mutations

Germline Mutations: A hereditary mutation, passed directly from a parent to a child at the time of conception. Cancer caused by germline mutations is called inherited cancer and accounts for about 5% to 20% of all cancers.

Somatic Mutation: Mutations that can occur in any of the cells of the body but are not hereditary. These mutations may, in some cases, cause cancer or other diseases.

Homologous Recombination Repair (HRR)

Homologous recombination repair (HRR): A natural process that cells use to fix damaged DNA.

HR-deficient (HRD) tumors: Cancers where this DNA repair system is not working properly, causing them to respond better to certain treatments, like targeted therapies.

HR-proficient (HRP) tumors: Cancers where the DNA repair system is still working, which can make them harder to treat with some therapies.

Ovarian Cancer Treatment Options

- Surgery
- Chemotherapy
- Targeted therapy
 - PARP inhibitors
 - Antibody drug conjugates (ADCs)
- Immunotherapy
- Clinical trials

Questions to Ask About Treatment

- Am I a candidate for surgery?
- Am I candidate for a clinical trial?
 - If there isn't a trial at this cancer center, is there one at a site near me?
- Is there an approach that will reduce the toxicity of the treatment that I receive?

Glossary

Antibody Drug Conjugates (ADCs): Medicines designed to target cancer cells directly. These treatments combine an antibody with a powerful cancer-fighting drug, which reduces side effects compared to standard chemotherapy.

Biomarker Testing (molecular testing): Laboratory testing that identifies certain genes, proteins, or other molecules in a sample of tissue, blood, or other body fluid. In cancer, it may also be used to evaluate treatment or to make a prognosis.

CA-125 (Cancer antigen 125) Test: Looks for high levels of CA-125, which can be a sign of ovarian cancer.

Heated Intraperitoneal Chemotherapy (HIPEC): A treatment given during surgery where a warm chemotherapy solution is placed directly into the abdomen to kill cancer cells.

PARP Inhibitors: Type of targeted therapy that targets poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase, a protein in cells.

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

Ovarian Cancer Resources

- **FORCE**
- **Cancer Support Community**

[Insist Ovarian Cancer](#)

[PEN Powered Activity Guides:](#) Financial Resources, Health Literacy, and Survivorship.

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