

OVARIAN CANCER BIOMARKER TESTING: WHAT IT IS AND WHY IT MATTERS

Resource Guide

Understanding Biomarkers in Ovarian Cancer

Biomarkers are measurable signs in the body, such as genes, proteins, or signals from cancer cells, that provide important health information. In ovarian cancer, **biomarkers can help predict** how aggressive the cancer might be and which treatments are more likely to be effective.

Biomarker testing can provide more insight about your specific type of ovarian cancer, which supports a more personalized approach to care. Results can show whether certain options may be more effective than others, like targeted therapies aimed at specific mutations, or clinical trials that match your cancer's unique profile.

Understanding test results can help you feel more confident discussing options, asking questions, and making informed decisions about your care.

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Team About Testing

- Have I had biomarker testing?
- What type of testing was done—tumor testing, blood testing, or both?
- How do my results affect my treatment options and care?
- How will we determine whether my treatment is working?
- Are there clinical trials I should consider?
- Should I speak with a genetic counselor or consider additional testing?

Testing Defined

- **Somatic (tumor) testing** analyzes a sample of cancer tissue to identify acquired genetic mutations or changes that help the tumor grow.
- **Germline (blood) testing** looks for inherited genetic mutations, like BRCA mutations, that may increase cancer risk and affect treatment choices.
- **Nongenetic biomarker testing** measures substances in the blood that reflect cancer activity, evaluate treatment response, or detect recurrence.

Learn More

Understanding Your Role in Your Ovarian Cancer Care

Personalized Medicine for Ovarian Cancer: What You Should Know About Biomarker Testing

Ovarian Cancer Diagnosis and Staging: Essential Testing Explained

Why an Accurate Ovarian Cancer Diagnosis Matters



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