Patient Empowerment Network

5 Things to know about

Biomarker testing in ovarian cancer

Biomarker testing can help people with ovarian cancer learn more about their cancer and treatment options. Knowing this information may help you and your care team make better treatment decisions. Here are five things to know:

1 What is biomarker testing?

Biomarker testing looks for mutations and other changes in the cancer cells, including genes or proteins. These changes can give your health care team more information about your ovarian cancer.



2 Testing can help guide your treatment

Some ovarian cancers have certain biomarkers, like BRCA mutations. Knowing this may help your doctor decide if targeted therapy or a clinical trial could help treat your cancer.



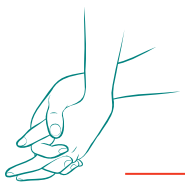
3 Testing may be needed more than once

Biomarker testing is not only done at diagnosis. Your care team may suggest more testing if the cancer comes back or treatment stops working well.



4 Ask questions about your results

Test results can feel confusing. It is okay to ask your healthcare team what the results mean and how they may affect your treatment choices.



5 Support is available

Patient navigators, genetic counselors, support groups, and advocacy organizations can help you learn more about ovarian cancer and biomarker testing. Support can help you feel more confident during your care.

