

Understanding Genetic 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.

Questions to Ask About Testing

- What tests will I undergo?
- Are there additional biomarkers we should test for that weren't tested for in the upfront setting?
- Do you feel you have a complete picture of my cancer?
- What is the outcome of these tests?

What Is a Biomarker?

Biomarker: Measurable substances found in the blood, urine, or tissues of some people with cancer. Biomarkers may also refer to mutations, changes, or patterns in a tumor's DNA.

Biomarkers associated with ovarian cancer include:

- BRCA-1 and BRCA-2
- Homologous recombination deficiency (HRD)

Glossary

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.

HER2: Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.

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

Shared Decision-Making (SDM): Process of communication by which patients and clinicians collaborate to make healthcare decisions. The process encourages patients to take a more active role in their care and treatment.

Ovarian Cancer Resources

- [American Cancer Society](#)
- [The Foundation for Women's Cancer](#)
- [FORCE \(Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered\)](#)
- [SHARE Cancer Support](#)
- [The Society of Gynecologic Oncology](#)

About Insist! Ovarian Cancer

INSIST Ovarian Cancer is brought to you by the Patient Empowerment Network. It is sponsored by GSK and through generous donations from people like you.



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