

THE POWER OF BIOMARKERS TO PERSONALIZE OVARIAN CANCER CARE

What are biomarkers?

Biomarkers are measurable features, such as proteins and genes, found in your blood and tumour tissue that give doctors a clearer picture of your cancer. They could reveal how your cancer might behave, what makes it unique, and which treatments may benefit you the most.

When should I have biomarker testing?

Biomarker testing may be appropriate:

- at diagnosis
- when planning treatment to prevent a recurrence
- if the cancer comes back
- when considering clinical trials

Some biomarker tests are done automatically at the time of diagnosis. This is called **reflex testing**. You can decide with your doctor when and how much detail you would like about the results.

It is possible that your tumour's biomarkers may change over time. Ask your doctor if you should be retested.

Biomarkers provide important information that helps guide your care at every stage. They can help with:

DIAGNOSIS AND CLASSIFICATION

Confirming the type of ovarian cancer

PROGNOSIS

Predicting how the cancer may grow or change over time

TREATMENT PLANNING

Guiding decisions about options and timing

MONITORING

Tracking changes in the cancer and how the body responds to treatment

RISK AND PREVENTION

Identifying genetic differences that may increase cancer risk for you and your relatives

**LEARN MORE ABOUT PREVENTION
AND GENETIC MUTATIONS**

What biomarkers are relevant to ovarian cancer?

The following are some examples of biomarkers that are relevant to ovarian cancer treatment. This is **not** a complete list:

HRD (homologous recombination deficiency)

The result of this test can help predict your response to chemotherapy and the likelihood that a PARP inhibitor, such as niraparib (Zejula) or olaparib (Lynparza) will be effective for you.

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MMR (mismatch repair deficiency)

If you have a recurrence, the result of this test can help predict the likelihood that the immunotherapy, pembrolizumab (Keytruda), will be effective for you.

FR α (folate receptor alpha)

If you have a recurrence, the result of this test can help predict the likelihood that mirvetuximab soravtansine (Elahere) will be effective for you.



Not everyone needs every test. Speak with your oncologist about the above biomarker tests, and to learn about other biomarker tests that may be appropriate for you.

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What does biomarker testing involve? —————

Depending on the test, biomarker testing may involve:

- A blood or saliva test.
- A test performed on cancer tissue that was already removed during surgery.
- A test performed on a new sample of cancer tissue removed by biopsy.

How do I access biomarker testing? —————

Depending on which province/territory you live in, some biomarker testing may be publicly funded. Some biomarker testing may also be accessed in clinical trials, or patients may pay for biomarker testing. Speak to your oncologist to learn what options are available to you. This is an evolving situation as research and advocacy efforts are ongoing.

SOME QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER ASKING YOUR DOCTOR

TESTING

- Which biomarker testing is most appropriate for me?
- When should this testing be done?
- Are these biomarker tests publicly funded where I live?
- Will private insurance cover the tests?
- Do I have to pay for the biomarker testing that you have recommended?
- Are there financial assistance programs available?
- In addition to HRD, MMR, and FRα, are there other biomarker tests that would be appropriate for me?

RESULTS

- What biomarkers have I been tested for? What were the results of these tests?
- What do the results of my biomarker tests tell you about my cancer?
- Is it possible that my biomarkers have changed since I was tested? Should my biomarker tests be repeated at any point?
- Based on my biomarker test results, am I at increased risk for other cancers? Are my biological family members at increased risk?

TREATMENT OPTIONS

- How do my biomarkers affect my treatment options?
- What treatments are most appropriate for me based on the results of my biomarker testing?
- Are these treatment options available to me? Will I have to pay? Are there financial assistance programs available? Will private insurance cover these treatments?
- Based on what we know about my cancer from biomarker testing, are there any clinical trials that may be appropriate for me?



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