

# Information for Patients About **Precision Medicine**and **Biomarker Testing**



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#### What is **precision medicine**?

Precision or individualized medicine is a way health care providers can provide and plan specific care based on the person's genes in their cancer cells.

## How can this **help me** and my cancer?

When a person is diagnosed with cancer, they often get the same treatment as other people with that type of cancer. But gene changes might be different from one person to another meaning that even if they have the same type of cancer they might have a different response to the same drug.

Doctors can now test for gene changes to help them tell if a person might respond better to one drug than another. It's important to ask if these biomarker tests are relevant to you.

#### What is a biomarker test?

Biomarker testing is a way to look for genes, proteins and other substances (called biomarkers or tumor markers) that have caused cells to evade normal growth patterns and change to become a cancer. The test results can provide information about your cancer and its unique pattern of biomarkers. Some biomarkers affect how certain cancer treatments work.

## Which **cancers** can benefit from biomarker testing?

All patients with advanced cancer may benefit from having a greater understanding of their cancer in the hope of finding as many treatment options as possible.

However, many treatment options require a person to have some physical and mental preparation and reserves to tolerate these treatments.

As such we suggest performing these tests at the beginning of the cancer treatment pathway when patients are fitter, stronger and more resilient.



OncoDNA prides itself on being at the cutting edge of predictive and precision medicine to ensure the best possible care of patient worldwide. As a result, we offer access to our biomarker tests from anywhere in the world.

We encourage you to discuss the relevance of such tests for you with your treating clinician.

The OncoDNA test you may be offered as part of your care will help guide your oncologist to uncover the right treatment for your cancer. This could include:



**Chemotherapy** that will work on your particular cancer because it stops cancer cells reproducing, preventing them from growing and spreading



**Immunotherapy** that uses certain parts of your immune system to fight cancer and attack the cancer cells



**Targeted therapies** that attack the changes in cancer cells stopping them to grow, divide and spread



**Hormonal treatments** that stop or slow the growth of cancer that uses hormones to grow



**Clinical trials** which could provide access to a new drug as part of a research study

Importantly, OncoDNA tests might help understand why chemotherapy has failed in the past.



#### How is the **test** organized?



Firstly, you should discuss the possibility of a biomarker test with your oncologist.

You will be asked to complete a 'patient consent' which you must read and sign. This consent is mandatory to perform the analysis.





OncoDNA staff and your cancer center will work together to retrieve a tissue sample (biopsy) from a laboratory or organize a blood test which will be sent to the OncoDNA testing laboratory in Belgium for analysis.

Payment can be made for your test via the OncoSHARE portal or via a bank transfer.





Provided that the biopsy is adequate the results of the test will be available by your oncologist via OncoSHARE within 10 to 15 days.





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### Learn more about OncoDNA



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