

Test Your Biomarkers

Checklist & Conversation Guide

Biomarkers can tell you if you have cancer and help you understand a tumor's unique makeup. They can also help guide which treatments to try (or avoid). Think of biomarkers as a “fingerprint” for cancer. They are the backbone of personalized medicine.

Use this resource to have a conversation about biomarker testing.


Patients & Doctors Discuss:

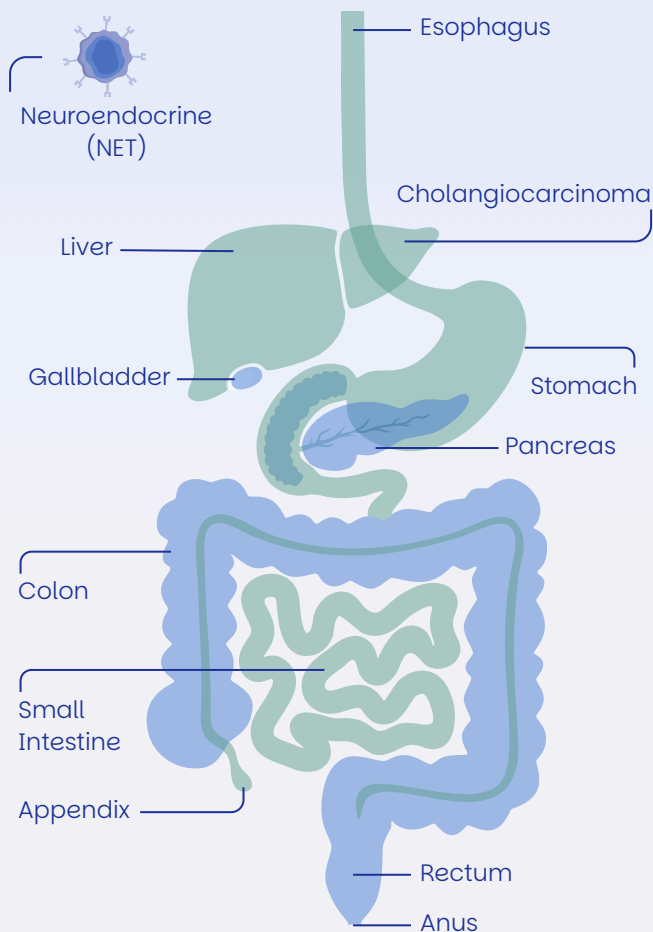
Where is the cancer?

What is the type and stage?

What biomarkers are being tested now, and which ones may be tested in the future?

What did the test results say, and how do those results influence the treatment plan?

Find the  on the other side for biomarkers that may impact your treatment.



About Biomarker Testing

- Tests look for specific changes in genes, proteins, or other molecules.
- Next-generation sequencing (NGS) analyzes multiple biomarkers in a single test.
- ctDNA tests your blood for tumor DNA and may guide treatment plans.
- Oncologists order biomarker tests using a sample of tumor tissue or blood.
- Many guidelines suggest that doctors use biomarkers to help determine treatment.
- Test biomarkers at diagnosis, ideally before treatment begins.
- Retesting may occur if you change treatment, there's a recurrence, or disease growth.
- Insurance coverage varies; discuss which tests are needed and when.
- Patient assistance programs (PAPs) and foundation funds may be available to cover the costs if insurance will not cover testing.

Record Your Biomarkers

Understand Your Tumor's Fingerprint



Actionable Biomarkers

Biomarkers that may impact which drugs you receive based on current FDA approvals. Use this to track your biomarker test results.

All GI Cancers

- BRAF _____
- MSI-H/dMMR _____
- HER2 _____
- NTRK _____
- RET _____
- TMB _____
- PD-L1 _____

Cholangiocarcinoma

- FGFR2 _____
- IDH1 _____
- NRG1 _____

Colon/Rectal

- KRAS/NRAS _____
- PIK3CA _____
- Sidedness: ___ L ___ R

Gastric/Esophageal/GEJ

- CLDN18.2 _____

Neuroendocrine (NET)

- SSTR _____
- Ki-67 _____

Pancreatic

- BRCA1 _____
- BRCA2 _____
- KRAS _____
- NRG1 _____
- PALB2 _____



Scan for FAQ and to see which treatments apply to each biomarker.



Emerging Biomarkers

Emerging biomarkers are showing promise in clinical trials and may impact standardized treatment plans in the future. Every GI cancer type has a set of emerging biomarkers. Visit [gicancersalliance.org](https://www.gicancersalliance.org) to learn more.

Thank you to our program sponsors!



The GI Cancers Alliance works to convene and amplify voices within the global gastrointestinal cancer community through collaboration, education, and research so that GI cancer patients around the world are informed, supported, and heard.

Test Your Biomarkers is an educational program for patients of all GI cancer types. For more information about our programs, research, or to become a member, visit [gicancersalliance.org](https://www.gicancersalliance.org)

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The strong, **collective voice** for the GI cancer community.