OhioHealth Cancer Care

Precision Medicine

FOR PATIENTS

At OhioHealth, we believe your cancer care should be as unique as you.

Precision medicine is an approach to care, that looks at your tumor's genetic profile at different stages of cancer and treatment, to better understand the genetic and molecular changes that might help in deciding specific treatment for each individual patient. Genomic testing is a precision medicine tool that your doctor can use to better understand your tumor cells. This helps find treatments that may be safer and more effective because they target specific characteristics of your tumor cells.

Is genomic testing right for me?

Your doctor will decide if genomic testing is right for you based on your traits, treatment history, type and stage of cancer. Genomic or molecular testing are the most common terms, but you may also hear it referred to as DNA or gene sequencing. Genomic testing is generally used for people with advanced, recurrent or rare cancers.

How does genomic testing work?

+ **Samples:** A sample of your tumor, and in some cases a blood or saliva sample, will be sent to a special laboratory for testing.
+ **Testing:** The lab will perform tests on the samples to analyze the DNA of the tumor to identify mutations, variations or other markers. Once these tests are complete, a report will be provided to your doctor.
+ **Molecular Tumor Board:** Your doctor can submit your genomic testing report with other information about you to OhioHealth's Molecular Tumor Board, a team of pharmacists, genetic counselors, research coordinators, pathologists, specialized doctors and others with expertise in cancer and genomics. These experts will review your case and make treatment suggestions to your doctor.
+ **Treatment plan:** Your doctor will review the Molecular Tumor Board's suggestions with you to determine a treatment plan, which may include targeted therapy, immunotherapy or clinical trials.

NEED MORE INFO

For more information about Precision Medicine, contact OhioHealth CancerCall at (614) 566.4321 or 1 (800) 752.9119, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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How is genomic tumor testing different from genetic testing for inherited conditions?

Most cancers are the result of genetic changes that happen over the course of a person's life. These genetic changes are present in tumor cells, but not normal cells. Genomic testing looks at the tumor itself, finding defects in the genetic makeup of the tumor.

In rare cases, people inherit mutations or harmful genetic variations from a parent that put them at a higher risk of developing cancer or other conditions. These gene mutations can be identified by looking at the normal cells in blood or saliva of people with or without cancer. Genetic testing looks at a person's DNA to help confirm or rule out genetic conditions or the likelihood of passing down the risk of genetic conditions, including cancer, to their children.

Why test the tumor?

Tumor cells have unique DNA and other genetic materials. Testing the tumor provides information about how and why it is growing.

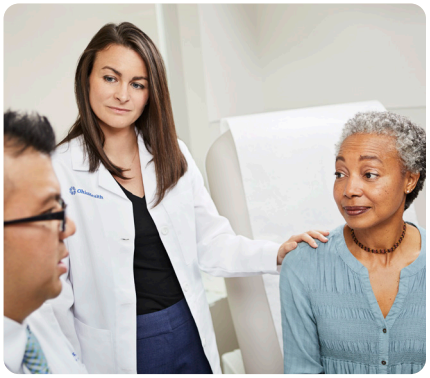
Will genomic testing result in a change in my treatment plan?

Genomic testing does not always identify changes that can be targeted with treatment. Your doctor will use the results and your health history to come up with a treatment plan for you.

Will my insurance cover genomic testing?

The cost of genomic testing varies based on the type of test ordered, the lab performing the testing and your medical insurance coverage.

Financial assistance may be available if needed.



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