

Start a conversation on genomic testing

Your tumor has a genomic fingerprint that may help your physician map the best path to overcoming it.

If you or a loved one is living with cancer, we encourage you to start a conversation with your doctor on getting your tumor tested. Here are some steps that you can take today:

Educate Yourself



Learn more about genomic cancer testing and its potential benefits. Genomic alterations that can be matched with therapies today include EGFR, BRAF, KRAS, HER2, ROS1, PTEN, and gene fusions involving ALK, NTRK, RET, or ROS1, among others.

Even if there is not an approved therapy for your tumor type, you may be eligible for a clinical trial based on the results of a genomic test. Some clinical trials for emerging driver alterations such as the NRG1 gene fusion are tumor-agnostic, meaning that patients with any solid tumor type could be eligible as long as their tumor has the alteration.

Be Your Own Advocate



Just like your tumor, you are unique. You should feel confident that your treatment decisions are designed with your needs in mind. If you have tried other treatment options in the past, think about your experiences with them and what you did and did not like. Your lifestyle and personal goals are important too. Consider what is most important for you to live life to the fullest.

Develop a list of questions and priorities to share with your doctor.

Ask For Support



Ask a trusted loved one to accompany you to your appointment. They may also have questions to add to the conversation and can help you remember parts of the discussion later on.

Continue The Conversation



It is ok to still have questions after your appointment, and you should not feel pressured to make a decision immediately. Talk to your doctor about additional resources that can help you feel confident in your decision. Make a clear list of next steps and follow up after your appointment to continue the discussion.

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Conversation Starters

What are the different kinds of genomic tests for cancer?

What can genomic testing tell us about my tumor?

How could the results of a genomic test for my tumor change my treatment journey?

Which types of genomic tests could be most helpful for me?

What additional resources could I review next?

What are our next steps to determine which genomic test I should receive?



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