

Somatic Testing

Frequently Asked Questions

Because DNA and our genes contain the instructions for how the body works, harmful changes to those genes can cause certain medical conditions. These harmful changes can be inherited from one or both parents, or, happen randomly before birth. They are referred to as genetic conditions or genetic disorders.

What is somatic testing?

Somatic testing is genetic testing specifically done on your cancer. You may also hear it called next-generation sequencing.

How is this testing done?

There are two parts to this test. First, a piece of cancer tissue from your biopsy or surgery is sent to our partner company called Tempus. Second, we will need a blood sample to send. This will require a lab draw to obtain the blood. Your medical care team will help schedule this lab work and get it sent to Tempus.

What is this test looking for?

This test is done to see if there are any genetic mutations within the cancer itself. Cancer's DNA is different from your DNA. This test is different from genetic testing that your doctor may have done before. Somatic testing will help determine if there are treatments available to target the mutation from the cancer.

How will this test help me?

There could be specialized treatment available to you based on these results. The treatment will depend on if there is a mutation in the cancer and if there is treatment available for that mutation.

Is this test only done once?

This test can be done at diagnosis and/or if your current cancer treatment stops working.

How much does this cost?

Billing will be done through Tempus. Patient financial assistance is available through Tempus for those who qualify. You can reach them at 800-739-4137.



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