BREAST CANCER

Questions to Ask Your Doctor

Beginning the conversation

"I've read about biomarker testing, but it's pretty complicated, and I'd like to get your thoughts about whether it could be helpful for my care. Could I ask you a few questions?"

☐ **Would biomarker testing be useful to help us decide on next steps?**

Tumor testing may reveal information to guide treatment. Ask how it differs from testing for inherited cancer risk.

☐ **What biomarkers will my testing cover?**

Ask whether the plan covers the relevant genes and proteins, and whether anything important is missing.

☐ **Will I need a new biopsy and/or blood work?**

Ask whether an existing tissue sample can be used and when a tissue or blood test would be appropriate.

☐ **Are we using the best testing methods?**

Different methods detect different findings. Ask which methods the lab will use and whether results have limitations.

☐ **How soon can we complete the testing?**

Ask whether tests can be ordered together so results are available when treatment choices are discussed.

☐ **Who will explain my biomarker results?**

Ask what the findings mean for your care plan, treatment choices and clinical trials.

☐ **If I have Stage I-IIIA breast cancer, have I had testing to evaluate for both early AND late distant recurrence risk?**

Ask how information about both time horizons may help guide short- and long-term care decisions.

TESTING METHOD MATTERS:

Different methods can detect different biomarkers. Ask which method was used for each item below, so the most accurate information possible is used for your care.

Comprehensive testing should analyze all genes — not just a small subset — and should include, at a minimum, these tumor-specific biomarkers:

PROTEIN	DNA PROFILING	RNA PROFILING
☐ ER / PR	☐ PIK3CA	☐ NTRK
☐ HER2	☐ ESR1	☐ FGFR1-3
☐ PD-L1 (22c3)	☐ BRCA1 / BRCA2	
	☐ AKT / PTEN pathway	
	☐ HER2	
	☐ gPALB2	
	☐ TMB	

☐ **For any unchecked item above: Should additional testing be ordered now, so that potentially important information for treatment and/or clinical trials is not missed?**

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A companion discussion sheet for the breast cancer patient brochure