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 help us decide on next steps?**
  Tumor testing may reveal information that helps guide treatment. Ask how it differs from testing for inherited cancer risk.

- ☐ **Which biomarkers will my testing cover?**
  Ask whether the plan includes the relevant DNA, RNA and protein findings, and whether any important areas are missing.

- ☐ **Will I need another biopsy or blood work?**
  Ask whether an existing tissue sample can be used and when a tissue or blood test would be appropriate.

- ☐ **Are the testing methods right for each biomarker?**
  Different methods detect different findings. Ask which methods the lab will use and whether the results have limitations.

- ☐ **When should testing happen?**
  Ask whether tests can be ordered together so results are available when treatment choices are discussed.

- ☐ **Who will explain my results and care options?**
  Ask what the findings mean for treatment, clinical trials and any further questions you may have.

- ☐ **Should I have a blood test that assesses DPYD and UGT1A1 before chemotherapy?**
  DPYD testing can identify inherited differences that may raise the risk of severe side effects from certain chemotherapy drugs.
  UGT1A1 testing may help assess the risk of severe side effects from irinotecan therapy.

- ☐ **Could a decision support tool help?**
  Ask whether a tool such as FOLFIRSTai® is relevant to your first-line treatment discussion.

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

- ☐ HER2
- ☐ dMMR

RNA

- ☐ NTRK 1/2/3
- ☐ RET

DNA

- ☐ KRAS
- ☐ NRAS
- ☐ BRAF
- ☐ MSI-H
- ☐ POLD1 / POLE
- ☐ 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 colorectal cancer patient brochure