



**TUMOR**

**BIOMARKERS CAN**

**IMPACT TREATMENT**

**FOR COLORECTAL**

**CANCER.**

Biomarkers are specific tumor features (genes, proteins, or other markers) that can provide information about a person's cancer.

Understanding your cancer's unique characteristics can help your doctor create a treatment plan specific to you.

# BIOMARKER TESTING CAN HELP DETERMINE A PATIENTS BEST TREATMENT OPTION.

## When should biomarker testing take place?

Biomarker testing for colorectal cancer requires a sample of the tumor. Most often, testing will take place after surgery. If surgery is not performed, a biopsy of the tumor can be used to run the test.

## What can a biomarker tell me?

Knowing your tumor's unique biomarkers is key to accessing precision medicine and may help determine which of the available treatment options is best suited for your specific cancer. Precision medicine includes targeted therapies, immunotherapies, and more.


Biomarker testing is not the same as genetic testing. Some biomarker tests may find a gene mutation (a typo in your genes) associated with more aggressive tumors. If this occurs, discuss your results with a genetic counselor to consider additional genetic testing, based on family history or other risk factors.

## Monitoring during and after treatment.

Commercially available blood tests can also look for evidence of residual cancer or circulating tumor DNA (ctDNA) in the blood during treatment. These tests may help determine if your current course of treatment is working or monitor for relapse after treatment is complete. Talk to your care team to learn more about these options.



[ColonCancerCoalition.org](http://ColonCancerCoalition.org)

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