

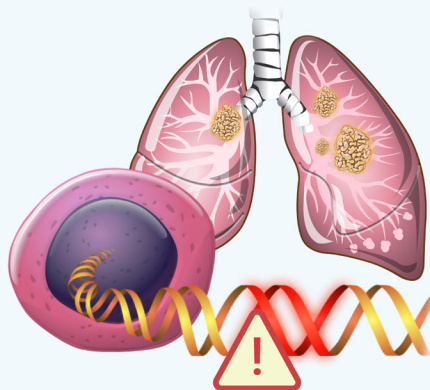
# UNDERSTANDING BIOMARKER TESTING IN NON-SMALL CELL LUNG CANCER (NSCLC)

## What is a biomarker?

A **biomarker** is a substance found in the blood, urine, or body tissues. In cancer, it is something the body makes in response to the disease.

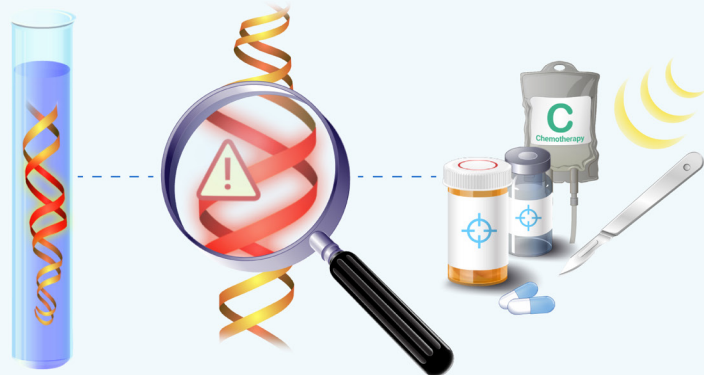
## What is biomarker testing?

**Biomarker testing** shows specific mutations that drive NSCLC to grow and spread. It can also show changes in the level of a protein called PD-L1.



NSCLC has **20+** known gene mutations

- EGFR
- ALK
- KRAS
- ROS1
- cMET
- RET
- NTRK
- BRAF V600E



## Why is biomarker testing so important?

Biomarker testing is a **critical part of every NSCLC diagnosis**. It helps doctors learn more about **your unique type of lung cancer and how best to treat it**. In the past, everyone with lung cancer got the same treatment. Now there are **individualized treatment plans based on biomarkers**.

**Your biomarker report** may be useful for shared decision making, pursuing a second opinion, and pursuing a clinical trial.

## Who should have biomarker testing?

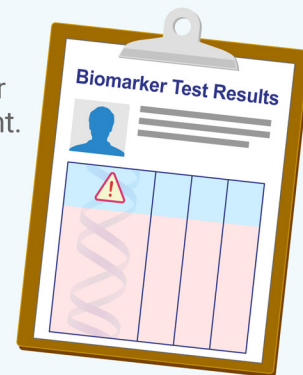
**Anyone diagnosed with NSCLC should have biomarker testing**. If you did not receive it, talk with your doctor about doing the tests now.



## Biomarker testing for African Americans and other minorities

**African Americans** are likely to have more advanced NSCLC at diagnosis, a longer wait for care, and lower survival rates than white Americans. Biomarker testing is critical to improving care and survival for African Americans with NSCLC. **Be sure to ask your doctor about biomarker testing**.

Some other minorities also tend to have higher lung cancer rates and receive less treatment. If you are **American Indian, Alaska Native, or Pacific Islander**, be sure to ask your doctor about comprehensive biomarker testing.



Please note: This information is not intended to be a substitute for professional medical advice, diagnosis, or treatment. Always consult your doctor about any questions you may have regarding a medical condition.

References:

1. Ryan BM. Lung cancer health disparities. *Carcinogenesis*. 2018;39(6):741-751.
2. A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation and Mechanisms in Medicine Inc.: You And Lung Cancer: An Animated Patient's Guide to Lung Cancer. Available at: [www.YouAndLungCancer.com](http://www.YouAndLungCancer.com)



For more information visit:  
**YouAndLungCancer.com**

Developed by A Breath of Hope Lung Foundation and Mechanisms in Medicine Inc.

