



# Genetic Testing for Bladder Cancer

## Talking to Your Doctor

*Urology Care*  
FOUNDATION™

*The Official Foundation of the  
American Urological Association*

When cells of the bladder grow abnormally, they can convert to bladder cancer. A person with bladder cancer will have one or more tumors in his/her bladder. You may have heard that genetics can play a role in a person developing cancer. As a result, genetic testing has emerged as a way to identify a person's risk for bladder cancer. If you've been diagnosed with bladder cancer, or if you have a close family member who's been diagnosed, genetic testing can tell you a lot.

By learning more about genetic testing for bladder cancer, you may feel more ready to talk with your doctor. Your health care team is a great resource, and they appreciate your questions.

### Tips to Help You Get Started

At many stages in the cancer journey, you can learn if genetic tests may help. It's never a bad time to ask your doctor about it.

Here are a few questions you may wish to ask your health care team:

- Is genetic testing right for me?
- How will my genetic test results be used?
- Who will be performing the tests?
- What does a genetic test involve?
- Will a biopsy, archival tissue, blood or urine be used?
- What are the next steps for me after testing is complete?
- What should my family know about my genetic results?
- What are my cancer treatment options based on genetic findings?

### How Genetic Test Results May Help Doctors Manage Bladder Cancer

In the cancer world, genetic/molecular testing looks for certain abnormalities a person may have inherited through his or her family or acquired that may increase their cancer risk or offer information on the cancer aggressiveness. The presence of these findings may allow for recently approved therapies or clinical trials.

Genetic/molecular testing may help identify risk of bladder cancer early on or even before it starts. If your results show genetic biomarkers for bladder cancer, you may be a good fit for a specific treatment. Because genetic testing can help find what treatments may be good for you, these are sometimes called precision or tailored therapy, rather than using a "one-size-fits-all" approach.

### Why Talking with Your Doctor May Help

Doctors who work regularly with bladder cancer patients may be able to tell you about treatment options based on genetic test results. For example:

- Patients who have HRR mutations may benefit from a clinical trial with PARP inhibitor drugs.
- Patients with TMB mutations may benefit from a clinical trial with checkpoint inhibitors or PD blockers.
- Patients with the FGFR gene mutation could benefit from an FDA-approved oral therapy called erdafitinib.

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Also, genetic testing may allow family members with inherited genetic risks to be screened earlier. If your doctor is not familiar with genetic testing, ask if they can recommend a specialist who is.

### About the Urology Care Foundation

The Urology Care Foundation is the world's leading urologic foundation – and the official foundation of the American Urological Association. We provide information for those actively managing their urologic health and those ready to make health changes. Our information is based on the American Urological Association resources and is reviewed by medical experts. To learn more, visit the Urology Care Foundation's website, **UrologyHealth.org/UrologicConditions** or go to **UrologyHealth.org/FindAUrologist** to find a doctor near you.

### Disclaimer

This information is not a tool for self-diagnosis or a substitute for professional medical advice. It is not to be used or relied on for that purpose. Please talk to your urologist or health care provider about your health concerns. Always talk to a health care provider before you start or stop any treatments, including medications. For more information, visit **UrologyHealth.org/Download**.

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