

About Biomarkers

This information will help you understand what a biomarker is and how biomarker information will be used to determine eligibility in Janssen clinical research studies.



Biomarkers

In the past, most types of non-small-cell lung cancer (NSCLC) were treated similarly. Today, researchers know that just as people with NSCLC are all different, so are their tumors. In some cases, doctors can use information about a patient's tumor to help decide what option may be right for them. **This information is called a biomarker.**¹ A biomarker is an identifier of a process, condition, or disease in one's body.²



The role of biomarkers in research studies

Biomarkers can be used to determine if you are a good candidate for a research study that is evaluating an investigational medicine for NSCLC. These research studies are seeking to target cancer cells that are caused by changes (or mutations) in specific genes, while leaving normal cells alone.³ By looking for certain biomarkers, healthcare professionals can find out which mutations are causing your NSCLC.



Testing for biomarkers

Biomarkers are identified through genetic testing. Your doctor will take a tumor tissue or blood sample and test it in a lab. They will then look for biomarkers to determine which mutations are causing your NSCLC.⁴



How biomarker test results are used

The results of a biomarker (genetic) test can determine whether you may be eligible to participate in a research study. They can also provide insight into whether your NSCLC is more likely to respond to certain treatments. In this way, getting a biomarker test and reviewing the results can help you and your medical team identify potential options that are right for you.

Sources:

¹ https://www.lungcancer.org/find_information/publications/94-lung_cancer_new_tools_for_making_decisions_about_treatment

² <https://www.cancer.gov/publications/dictionaries/cancer-terms/def/biomarker>

³ <https://lungevity.org/for-patients-caregivers/lung-cancer-101/treatment-options/targeted-therapy>

⁴ <https://www.verywellhealth.com/lung-cancer-with-an-egfr-mutation-4097338>