What is biomarker testing and how is it used?

A biomarker is a substance that doctors can measure in your tissues, blood, or other body fluids, like fluid around your lungs. Cells with certain biomarkers have errors (mutations) in their genes or changes in their protein levels that cause cells to divide in an uncontrolled way. This can cause lung cancer. It’s important to note that biomarker testing looks at your cancer’s cells and is not the same thing as genetic testing which looks for inherited changes to cells.

If biomarker testing shows that you are positive for a certain biomarker (positive means you have it), your doctor can choose treatments that work to attack the specific biomarker you have.

Ideally, you should wait for your biomarker testing results before deciding on treatment. It can take up to 4 weeks or longer to get your results. Your doctor needs the complete picture of your biomarkers to make the best treatment plan.

To learn more, visit LUNGevity.org and read the booklets in the biomarker testing series: www.lungevity.org/4R

Patient Support Resources:
- **Patient Advocate Foundation Case Management:** 800-532-5274 or https://personalizedmedicine.pafcareline.org
- **Co-Pay Relief program:** 866-512-3861 or https://copays.org
- **CancerCare:** 1-800-813-HOPE (4673) or info@cancercare.org
- **LUNGevity HELPline:** 1-844-360-5864
- **Amgen Patient Assistance Program:** 1-888-427-7478 or www.biomarkerassist.com
- **Lilly Lung Cancer NGS Program with Tempus xT:** https://www.tempus.com/oncology/partnerships/lilly-lung

*Patient Advocate Foundation has funds specifically for biomarker testing (also referred to as genomic testing). Guidelines, availability, award amount and application can all be found online at Patient Advocate Foundation Cancer Genetic and Genomic Testing – Co-Pay Relief (copays.org).