

Genomic testing for sarcoma

Helping improve sarcoma treatment and care

A Sarcoma UK
Factsheet
produced by
the information
and support team

Genomic testing has been made available in England for sarcoma. These tests can help to confirm your diagnosis, identify appropriate treatments and may improve access to clinical trials and future treatments.

Routine genomic testing is now available for all newly diagnosed sarcoma patients. For patients in treatment, your sarcoma team can give you more information on your eligibility for genomic tests.



What is genomic testing?

Genomic testing can help doctors learn more about a tumour by looking at an entire genome (a complete set of genes). It can be used to understand more about a tumour and why it changes or behaves in a certain way. This can help doctors make more informed decisions about your treatment and care.



How does this benefit me?

The results from genomic testing can help:

- Confirm your diagnosis on a genetic level
- Inform on which treatments are the most appropriate for your subtype
- Make sure you don't receive the wrong treatment for you, some of which can have negative side effects
- Give a likely prognosis on your disease so you can make informed choices on your treatment and quality of life decisions
- Identify you as eligible to receive treatments or take part in clinical trials



How do I get tested?

If you are newly diagnosed, your doctor will arrange for genomic testing to be carried out. It will involve taking a blood sample and a sample of your tumour. These will then be sent to a genomic laboratory for testing. Your doctor will give you your results and discuss what happens next.

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What if I'm not newly diagnosed, will I be eligible for testing?

Unfortunately genomic testing is not available for everyone with sarcoma. Fresh or frozen tissue samples of tumours are needed to carry out these tests and not all people will have samples of their tumours available. If a sample does become available, for example, if you have a recurrence of sarcoma, then genomic testing may be carried out but only if your doctor thinks it is appropriate. Even without the results of a genomic test you will still be offered the most appropriate treatment for your type of sarcoma.



Can my family be tested?

Genomic testing is not the same as genetic testing. Genomic testing for sarcoma looks at the genes in a tumour to learn more about it. Genetic tests look for inherited traits that can be passed on to the next generation through genes. In some cases, it might be appropriate to test relatives or family members, but genetic testing is not available for everyone with sarcoma.

Some genetic tests can work out someone's risk of developing a certain cancer if the risk is inherited in the genes. There is not currently a genetic test for sarcoma. However, research into this area is ongoing.



Why is genomic testing only available in England?

Currently genomic testing is not available to people with sarcoma in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

Talking to us



0808 801 0401



supportline@sarcoma.org.uk

Our Support Line offers practical and emotional support and advice to anyone affected by sarcoma.

- Our support line is independent & confidential.
- We believe no question is a silly question.
- We lend a listening ear.

We can point you in the right direction.