

Cancer is Personal. Treatment Should Be, Too.

Cancer occurs when cells grow and multiply out of control. But what causes those cells to behave that way? The answer is in your genes. Genes are the instruction manual for your cells and they control how cells grow and multiply. Changes to your cells can be inherited or caused by random changes in your DNA, which is like a molecular blueprint for your body. Changes can also be from environmental exposures like UV radiation from the sun and/or chemicals in tobacco smoke.



Cancer Treatment is Becoming more Personalized.

Advances in cancer treatment include a greater understanding of the role of genetics in care plans. Your care team may talk to you about biomarkers, which hold clues to how your cancer may develop or progress.



No two cancers are exactly alike, and biomarker testing helps create a treatment plan unique to you. Like your car's GPS navigation, biomarkers provide information about what paths to take, and which options are best for you. From your biomarkers, your care team determine if they should stay the course or change your treatment. This helps avoid unnecessary side effects and improves outcomes.

Ask About Biomarkers and Cancer Clinical Trials

Another opportunity may be available – a conversation on biomarker testing may open the door to cancer clinical trial participation. A clinical trial helps determine how well a treatment works across various populations and gives you access to advanced treatments not yet available elsewhere.

Ask your cancer care team if biomarker testing could help guide your treatment plan and whether you qualify for cancer clinical trial participation. Either, or both, could help improve outcomes.



To learn more, go to
hoparx.org/clinical-trials

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