Biomarker Testing in Cancer

We asked 32 Canadian oncologists about their current use and perceptions of biomarker testing, and the role it plays in their management of cancer.

Biomarker testing is currently widely used among Canadian oncologists

All oncologists interviewed claimed to have requested biomarker testing at least once in the past 6 months. When combining all cancer types together, biomarker testing is requested for 50% of patients.

Biomarker testing is most commonly used in these cancer types:

LUNG | BREAST | SKIN | LEUKEMIA | BRAIN

The survey results confirm the opportunity to further invest in research to support testing in the following cancer types

NEURO-ENDOCRINE | PANCREAS | UROTHELIAL | KIDNEY | LIVER

Despite the growing use of biomarker testing, significant barriers remain

75% of physicians say delays in receiving test results negatively impact their use.

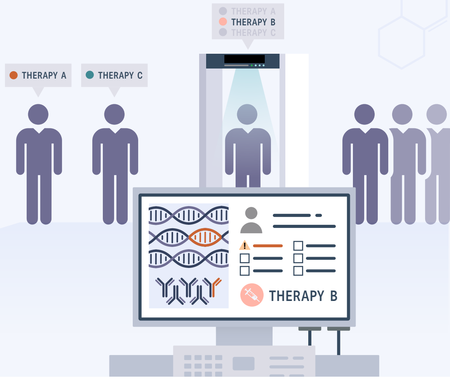
59% of physicians say cost prevents them from using as often as they'd like.

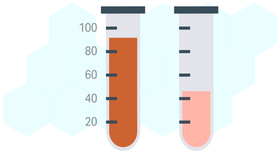
Some key opportunities that help increase biomarker testing for cancer diagnosis and targeted therapy

Oncologist use of biomarker testing for:

	USED	UNUSED
Diagnostic confirmation	59%	41%
Cancer risk assessment	64%	36%

The benefits of biomarker testing should be further demonstrated to increase use in these contexts.





91% of oncologists use biomarker testing to determine an appropriate treatment plan.

47% say they are not fully comfortable in interpreting the test results on their own.

There is an opportunity to increase oncologists comfort in the development of personalized treatment plans.

Only 25% of oncologists strongly agree that biomarker testing can significantly reduce side-effects and toxicity for patients, suggesting a need to further emphasize this message.

100% of Oncologists strongly believe that **targeted therapy through the use of biomarker testing is very important for the future of cancer treatment**

Data based on survey of n=32 Canadian Oncologists. February 2018.

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