

Biomarker Testing

Stories behind the statistics



Real Texans whose lives were changed with access to comprehensive biomarker testing and precision medicine to treat cancer.

“ I went to MD Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, TX for my biopsy. I was then diagnosed with non-small cell lung cancer. I had surgery to remove the growths on my lungs as well as a few lymph nodes. Pathology results showed cancer was in two of my higher lymph nodes and chemotherapy was recommended to continue treatment. **The oncologist overseeing my care ordered biomarker testing which showed my lung cancer was RET+.** I qualified for an experimental treatment that saved my life. ”



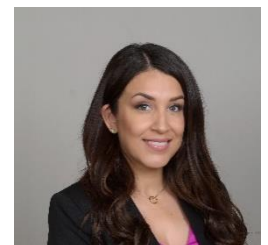
Ilana Stromberg
Austin, TX



Michelle Cappel
Humble, TX

“ I experienced abdominal pain and cramping, that a doctor initially assumed was Crohn’s disease. A colonoscopy revealed it was stage 4 colon cancer. Surgery would include a full hysterectomy as the cancer had spread to my ovaries. After a grim initial prognosis, I sought additional tests to find a therapy that could work. **Biomarker testing showed I was positive for KRAS, G12c, and MSS. A targeted chemotherapy was prescribed by my oncologist as the appropriate treatment for my unique cancer experience.** I was declared cancer-free after completing treatment. ”

“ I was diagnosed with breast cancer at the age of 29. Despite a family history of cancer, this still came as a shock. But I am thriving today, and I credit that, in large part, to the biomarker testing I received at my diagnosis. **I think that having biomarker testing and targeted therapy is what resulted in seeing no evidence of disease for four years now.** I’ve been able to resume my education and return to work and fulfill everything that I did before cancer. ”



Rebecca Muñoz
Austin, TX

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In a 2021 survey, 66% of oncology providers reported that insurance coverage for biomarker testing is a barrier to biomarker testing.¹ A peer-reviewed study in *Personalized Medicine* found that 70% of Texans in fully insured commercial plans are covered by insurance policies that are more restrictive than National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) guidelines for biomarker testing of breast cancer, non-small cell lung cancer, melanoma and/or prostate cancer.²

ACS CAN Texas supports SB 989, ensuring state-regulated insurance plans to cover comprehensive biomarker testing when supported by medical and scientific evidence, including nationally recognized clinical practice guidelines. Timely access to appropriate biomarker testing can lead to better health outcomes, reduced health inequities and reduced costs by connecting patients with the most effective treatments for their individual condition.

For questions or more information please contact:

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or visit

www.fightcancer.org/TXBiomarkers

¹ ACS CAN. "Survey Findings Summary: Understanding Provider Utilization of Cancer Biomarker Testing Across Cancers." December 2021. https://www.fightcancer.org/sites/default/files/national_documents/provider_utilization_of_biomarker_testing_polling_memo_dec_2021.pdf

² William B Wong, Daniele Anina, Chia-Wei Lin & Devon V Adams. Alignment of health plan coverage policies for somatic multigene panel testing with clinical guidelines in select solid tumors. *Personalized Medicine*. January 2022. <https://www.futuremedicine.com/doi/epub/10.2217/pme-2021-0174>