



Biomarker-driven management of **NSCLC**

Shared decision making communication aid

WHEN COMMUNICATING ABOUT DIAGNOSIS AND BIOMARKER TESTS...

What are the key messages I should give when discussing the need for biopsies in biomarker testing?

- ☐ Explain to the patient how the procedure will work and what to expect
- ☐ Make sure the patient is aware that it may be necessary to have more than one procedure
- ☐ Advise on the safety of the method being used and any possible complications
- ☐ Assure the patient that the chosen method is most suitable for their specific case
- ☐ Reassure the patient that in lung cancer, the idea that the cancer might be spread by carrying out a biopsy is not a concern
- ☐ Explain the rationale behind more invasive procedures, such as core needle biopsy or surgery, so that the patient understands why these are being carried out

What advice can I give to patients while they're waiting on the results of biomarker tests?

- ☐ Inform the patient about how long the biomarker test results are likely to take
- ☐ Advise the patient that they may wish to take some time to process what's going on, and to put any necessary arrangements into place before starting treatment

How should I communicate the possibility of receiving a negative biomarker result?

- ☐ Highlight that other options are available beyond targeted therapy
- ☐ Be optimistic that a biomarker could be detected, however be mindful about the language used when describing targeted therapies to help minimize negative feelings if the biomarker result is negative

How much information should I give about treatment before the results of the biomarker tests are available?

- ☐ It is best to explain the different treatment options in a step-by-step manner once the test results are available, so as not to overwhelm the patient
- ☐ It can be helpful to point patients in the direction of some simple educational materials about biomarker testing and what the results mean, that can assist them whilst waiting for their results

KEY MESSAGES

- Use clear communication to ensure that the patient understands what to expect throughout the biomarker testing process
- Be optimistic when discussing targeted therapy but reiterate that other options are available, to help prepare patients for the consequences of biomarker testing regardless of the outcome
- Explain the different treatment options in a step-by-step manner once the biomarker testing results are available



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WHEN COMMUNICATING ABOUT TARGETED TREATMENT OPTIONS...

What are the key messages I should give about each treatment option?

- ☐ In tailored language, explain:
 - ☐ How the treatment works and how well it might work
 - ☐ Expected side effects and the benefits and risks associated with each treatment
 - ☐ What time of day it should be taken and method of administration
- ☐ Be prepared to answer questions that patients have about the future, e.g., what if this therapy stops working? What is my prognosis on this medication?
- ☐ Inform patients that everyone's reactions and experiences will differ

How should I communicate about possible side effects and complications?

- ☐ Describe a few common side effects that the patient should expect but also mention rare/severe side effects that they should be aware of
- ☐ Make sure that the patient knows how and when to report serious side effects
- ☐ Highlight that side effects can be managed through dose adjustments, additional medication, and supportive care
- ☐ Ensure that the patient can distinguish between the life threatening/severe side effects and the ones that can be managed at home
- ☐ Point the patient towards advocacy groups, as these can provide support by allowing them to share experiences with other people with similar side effects

How can I best ensure that the patient's preferences are taken into consideration?

- ☐ Once a diagnosis has been made, schedule an appointment with adequate time to:
 - ☐ Discuss all available treatment options
 - ☐ Ensure that the patient fully understands their treatment plan
 - ☐ Allow time for questions
- ☐ Ask the patient if they would like to schedule a follow up appointment shortly after this initial discussion to allow them time to process the information and ask further questions
- ☐ Schedule more regular follow-ups initially and once the patient gets used to managing the side effects, this can be reduced or scheduled by the patient as needed
- ☐ Offer patients an alternative means of communication (e.g., email), to allow them to ask further questions and discuss topics that they feel uncomfortable talking about in person
- ☐ Encourage them to involve other people in their consultations (e.g., chaperones, family members, or friends) to help them feel more comfortable when communicating their preferences

How can I ensure adherence to treatment, specifically on longer lasting therapies?

- ☐ Provide practical tips that can help boost adherence to treatment (e.g., using a pill organizer, setting an alarm on their phone, by taking the medication at the same time as a daily habit such as brushing their teeth)
- ☐ Offer the patient the option to schedule regular appointments with their oncologist
- ☐ Reassure the patient that they can always speak to their medical team if concerned

What sort of patient focused materials would be useful to provide?

- ☐ Patient decision aids and educational materials should use patient-friendly language, images and visuals to make them easy to understand
- ☐ Digital materials (e.g., Youtube videos) are useful: they are easily accessible and can be saved for future reference

KEY MESSAGES

- Use clear and tailored communication when discussing targeted treatment options and make sure that they are aware of potential side effects
- There should be a process of shared communication throughout the whole treatment journey
- Direct patients towards additional resources, such as simple educational materials and patient advocacy groups, that can be beneficial to help facilitate shared decision making