A joint initiative ECPC-EAPM

European Cancer Patient Coalition
European Alliance for Personalised Medicine

PATIENT AWARENESS ON BIOMARKERS ACROSS EUROPE

Do you know that biomarkers can help doctors find the best treatment for you? 70% of the respondents to ECPC survey are aware of the existence of biomarkers.

Have you been offered a biomarker test by your oncologist/physician? 60% of the respondents to ECPC survey have not been proposed a biomarker testing by their oncologist.

Did your doctor explain to you the importance of biomarker tests? 70% of the respondents to ECPC survey said that the importance was not adequately explained.

Where did you find information about biomarkers to educate yourself? 1. Internet 2. Doctor 3. Patient organizations 4. Another patient

Are biomarkers reimbursed in your country? 1. Yes, are reimbursed! 2. RAS biomarker test is not reimbursed in Portugal. The test analysis is paid by the pharmaceutical companies to the laboratories whereas the biopsy transportation is paid by Europacenol Portugal.

RAS test
Cancer

Success story
A young woman who never smoked and who was suffering from lung cancer was not offered molecular testing by one of the most famous hospitals in Rome. According to ESMO, IASLC and AIOM guidelines, she should have been entitled to this test, as her cancer was an adenocarcinoma. The patient subsequently requested a second opinion from a hospital in Perugia, a small city in Italy. The physician in this hospital tested her at once and she was found to be ALK+. This result allowed her to be considered for treatment with a targeted therapy that was only available via clinical trial. Fortunately, the hospital was taking part in a trial and she was enrolled and treated by the hospital in Perugia.

The patient is still alive after three years and she has almost a normal “quality of life” with very few side effects.

* the survey was answered by 150 patients/patient advocates

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