



QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR HEALTHCARE TEAM ABOUT Minimal/Measurable* Residual Disease (MRD)

What is Minimal/Measurable Residual Disease (MRD)? After a patient achieves complete remission based on standard test results, there may be cancer cells that remain in the body, known as MRD. For this reason, more sensitive tests will be done to detect whether the patient is negative or positive for MRD.

What is MRD Testing? MRD testing uses highly sensitive methods that can look for a small amount of cancer cells in a very large sample of cells. The test used is based on the cancer type. The most widely used tests are flow cytometry, next-generation sequencing (NGS), and polymerase chain reaction (PCR) assay. These tests use samples of bone marrow cells (taken by aspiration) and/or peripheral blood cells (taken through a vein).

General Questions About MRD Testing

1. What are the benefits of MRD testing?

2. Is MRD testing available as a standard part of treatment or is it used only in clinical trials?

3. Which MRD test is used for this type of cancer?
How is the test done?

4. Where will the MRD test be done?

5. How often is MRD testing done?

6. Do patients need to bring someone with them to the test?

MRD Test Results

7. How long does it take to get results of the MRD test?

8. How do patients find out about MRD test results?

9. Is there an online portal patients can access to view MRD test results? If so, how can it be accessed?

10. What do the MRD test results mean?

*These terms may be used interchangeably.

11. What does it mean to be MRD positive?

12. What does it mean to be MRD negative?

MRD Status and Treatment

13. Do MRD-negative patients need to continue treatment?

14. If patients are MRD positive, what is the treatment plan?

15. If MRD-negative patients become MRD positive, will they begin treatment immediately, or will treatment be put off until a clinical relapse?

16. How is MRD status used to determine specific information about treatment (for example, the number of treatment cycles a patient receives, the timing of a transplant, or when to begin or end maintenance treatment)?

MRD Testing and Finances

17. Is this test covered by medical insurance? If not, are there any assistance programs to help pay for the cost?

18. Is the sample being sent to an out-of-network laboratory? If so, can it be sent to an in-network laboratory instead?

19. Is there a social worker and/or nurse in the hospital or doctor's office with whom a patient can speak to, especially about financial issues and concerns?

Acknowledgement

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