

# Patient & Caregivers' Perspective on BIOMARKER TESTING Across Canada - Survey Results



## INTRODUCTION

The Colorectal Cancer Canada (CCC) national patient advocacy group launched this pioneering research project in 2021 as part of Get Personal, a program that aims to inform health policy on biomarker testing in Canada.

A pan-Canadian & pan-tumour survey aimed to assess the needs and gaps in Canadian personalized medicine by gathering patients' and caregivers' experiences with biomarker testing in cancer treatment centres across Canada.

## PATIENTS' VALUE OF BIOMARKER TESTING

**60.7%** said it is VERY important for them to know their biomarkers.

**61.8%** said they feel like biomarker testing helped them find the right personalized treatment.

"I have very limited mobility and extreme pain due to bone [metastasis] that disappeared after combination immunotherapy treatment."

- Respondent with Stage III, Colorectal Cancer

"Medically, it kept me alive and improved survivorship. Socially, I could maintain a reasonable quality of life. Psychologically, it created a space for me to get involved with advocacy work and prevented depression."

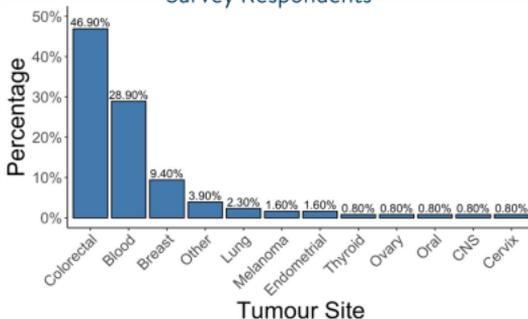
- Respondent with Stage IV, Lung Cancer

## RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

In total, 168 responses were received. However, 128 were complete and used for analysis (76.2% completion rate). Thus, the survey sample consists of 128 respondents.

- 76.6% are patients.
- 70.3% are between 50-79 years of age.
- 64.1% have a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- 60.2% are not working.
- 69.6% are female.

Percentage of Different Tumour Sites Among Survey Respondents



Note: the distribution of the respondents by province/territory reflects the distribution of the Canadian population across Canada, according to Statistics Canada. For more details, please email [info@colorectalcanercanada.com](mailto:info@colorectalcanercanada.com)

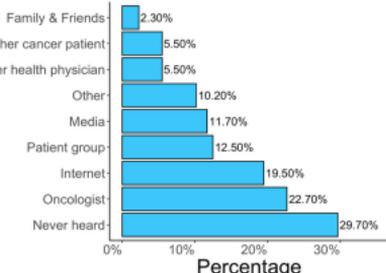
## PATIENTS' KNOWLEDGE & AWARENESS OF BIOMARKER TESTING

**46.8%** said they are unfamiliar with the term "biomarker."

**50.8%** said they are unfamiliar with the term "personalized medicine."

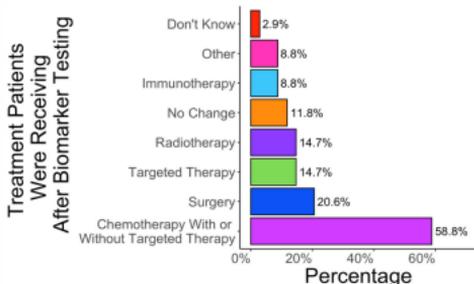
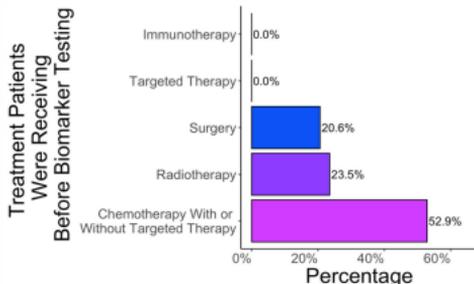
**69.1%** said they are unaware that biomarkers can help determine the best treatment when diagnosed.

Where did you first hear about biomarker testing?



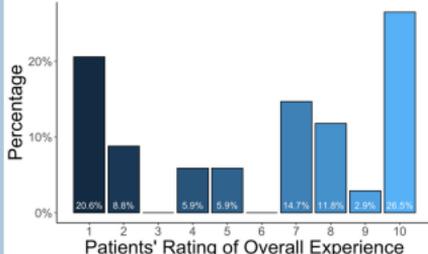
## PATIENTS' EXPERIENCE WITH BIOMARKER TESTING

Out of the 128 respondents, only 26.6% received biomarker testing. These respondents were asked what treatments were receiving before and after biomarker testing



## PATIENTS' DIFFICULTIES & RESTRICTIONS FACED DURING BIOMARKER TESTING PROCESS

Respondents were asked to rate their overall experience with access to biomarker testing on a scale from 1-10 with 1 being "very limited" and 10 being "very appropriate".



## CONCLUSION & RECOMMENDATIONS

There is a major lack of awareness and education among cancer patients & caregivers in Canada about biomarker testing.

Moreover, there is a lack of equitable availability and access to biomarker testing across Canada. This is due to the lack of standardized guidelines between and within provinces & territories in Canada.

Therefore, there is an urgent need for increased awareness and availability of biomarker testing in Canada because:

- 1** Biomarker testing opens patients' first-line treatment options to targeted treatments, including immunotherapy.
- 2** Biomarker testing is highly valued by cancer patients and targeted treatments have the potential to prolong their overall survival and improve their quality of life.