

Friday, November 12, 2021 11:10 AM – 11:55 AM EST

General Principles of Test Interpretations: *What Results are Actionable and*

How to Advise Patients About Results?

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University of Colorado Cancer Center



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Learning Objectives

- Describe the benefits and limitations of companion diagnostic and alternative tests
- Review ways to decipher laboratory reports and understand pitfalls and limitations of genomic test results
- Describe how the tiered reporting systems can be used to prioritize results
- Name web resources that can be used to obtain information about complex variants

Overview

- Types of tests
 - Regulatory perspective
 - Technology perspective
- Types of results

Types of Tests: Regulatory Perspective

- Laboratory medicine is subject to regulation through CLIA '88, which has many stipulations about testing
- Testing developed by manufacturers and distributed to laboratories is additionally subject to FDA approval
 - These are treated as medical devices (like a pacemaker)
- Currently there is debate about the role of FDA in regulation of laboratory testing that is not distributed by a manufacturer

42 CFR 493.1253 - Standard:

Establishment and verification of performance specifications

- (2) Establishment of performance specifications. Each laboratory that or introduces a test systemmust, before reporting patient test results, establish the **performance specifications** for the following performance characteristics, **as applicable**:
- (i) Accuracy.
- (ii) Precision.
- (iii) Analytical sensitivity.
- (iv) Analytical specificity to include interfering substances.
- (v) Reportable range of test results for the test system.
- (vi) Reference intervals (normal values).
- **(vii)** Any other performance characteristic required for test performance

Different 'Dx' Assays – what does this mean?

Testing Type	Pros	Cons
Companion Diagnostic (CDx)	 Specifically associated with responsiveness in trial FDA Approved for that specific indication Considered mandatory for drug utilization in indication 	 Can be limited to specific variants, locked in testing methodology Difficult to add new targets May compromise ability to perform other tests (e.g. tissue utilization)
Complementary Diagnostic	 Applies to a class of assays and therefore a single specific assay not needed, can apply to a class of drug Considered optional 	Not many of themMostly in IHC space
Laboratory Developed Test (LDT)	 Greatest degree of flexibility to update testing Optimized for specimen types typical to a specific population 	 Perception that they are unreliable (I disagree!) Thresholding at or near decision cutpoints may differ from CDx



Most oncology NGS today is LDT

Different Viewpoints on LDTs

JAMA February 17, 2015 Volume 313, Number 7



Genetic Testing and FDA Regulation Overregulation Threatens the Emergence of Genomic Medicine

AJCP / REVIEW ARTICLE

Regulation of Laboratory-Developed Tests

A Clinical Laboratory Perspective

Jonathan R. Genzen, MD, PhD1,2

From the Department of Pathology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City; and ARUP Laboratories, Salt Lake City, UT.

A High-Level Overview of the Regulations Surrounding a Clinical Laboratory and Upcoming Regulatory Challenges for Laboratory Developed Tests

Kevin C. Graden, MS, Shannon A. Bennett, MS, MBA, Sarah R. Delaney, PhD, Hillary E. Gill, BS, Maria A. V. Willrich. PhD*

Laboratory Medicine 2021;52:315-32



FDA Regulation of Laboratory-Developed Diagnostic Tests

JAMA February 17, 2015 Volume 313, Number 7

Protect the Public, Advance the Science

EDITORIAL

Precision Medicine and Testing for Tumor Biomarkers—Are All Tests Born Equal?

JAMA Oncology June 2018 Volume 4, Number 6

Daniel F. Hayes, MD

Removing FDA Oversight of Laboratory Developed Test Approvals Threatens Safety of Cancer Care

Statement By Association for Clinical Oncology (ASCO) Chair Monica M. Bertagnolli, MD, FACS, FASCO

ASCO AMBRICAN SOCIETY OF CHIRCAL ONCOLOGY

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Technical Elements ALWAYS Underlie Interpretation

- Interpretation of any test without knowing something about the technology has risks
- The technology platform selected for a test influences:
 - The spectrum of results obtained
 - The confidence for detection of low level mutations
 - Which may be very meaningful if a sample has low tumor content
 - The ability to detect less common events like fusions

Major things to know about testing:

- What type of sample was tested?
- Was tumor enrichment utilized?
- What testing methodology was utilized?
- ➤ What are the major 'gaps' in that method?
- Are those gaps worth pursuing?

The Most Important Thing...

No Test Is Perfect

- Every test has 'holes'
- It's important to know what they are!







Methods for Mutation Testing: A Balancing Act

Clinical Sensitivity:

How many of the possible changes does the test detect?

Analytic Sensitivity:

How sensitively can the test detect a rare change in a background of normal? [LOD]

- Clinical sensitivity is inherent in test design i.e. what was the test designed to evaluate?
- False negatives attributable to clinical sensitivity are related to mutations which fall outside of the test design
- Example: EGFR test which picks up only L858R and Exon 19 deletions will not detect Exon 20 insertions



- Low analytic sensitivity can be overcome with tumor enrichment methods (microdissection, laser capture microdissection)
- False negatives attributable to analytic sensitivity are related to too few tumor cells compared to non-tumor (or rare sub-clone with mutation)
- Example: Pleural fluid cell block, with many more reactive mesothelial cells than tumor cells, difficult to enrich

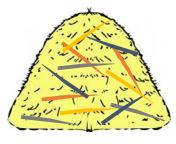
In English...

Clinical Sensitivity:

How many of the possible changes does the test detect?

Analytic Sensitivity:

How sensitively can the test detect a rare change in a background of normal? [LOD]



Looking for a needle in a haystack

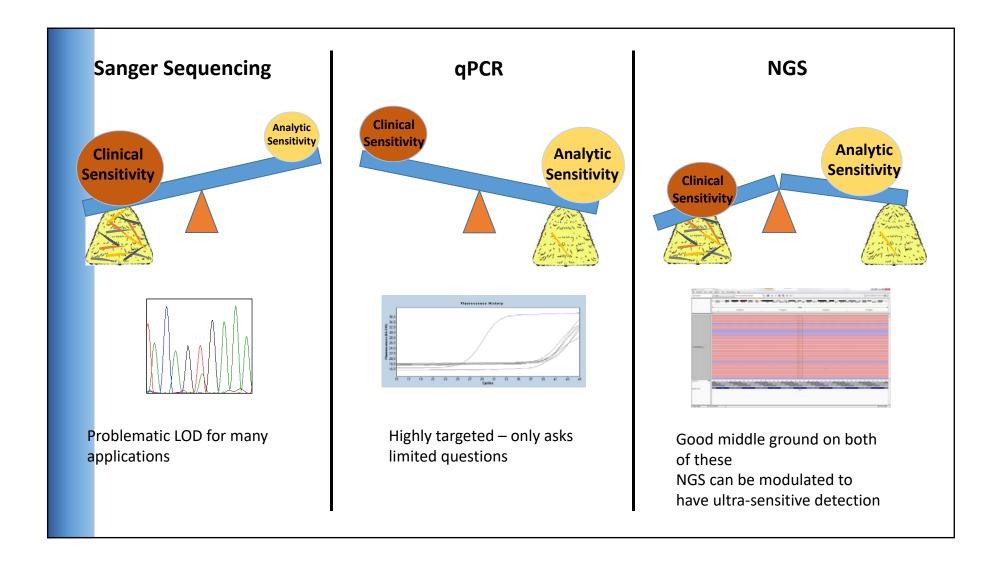
- The test can identify needles of many different colors, but need to exist at a relatively high level





Looking for a needle in a haystack

- The test can identify only a couple of colors of needles, but can pick them out even when they are very rare



NGS: A Platform

- NGS is a platform not a test
- How the NGS test is designed will dictate what it can and can't tell you
- Things to think about:
 - What genes are on the panel?
 - What kinds of alterations can the assay detect?
 - What are the known weak spots for how the assay is designed?

Type of NGS Test	Features/Scope
Targeted Mutation Assay	 Can be performed on FFPE or blood Mutations in a set of genes Can be 3 to hundreds of genes and will vary May not evaluate for amplifications, fusions
Exome	 Evaluates all coding genes (~20,000 genes) Typically does not cover fusions
Transcriptome	 Evaluates all expressed genes Typically covers fusions Ability to detect rare events may be compromised

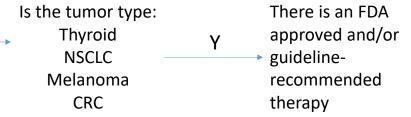
Overview

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Types of Results: The Traditional View

- Classify by the type of genomic alteration, e.g.:
 - Point mutations
 - In/del mutations
 - Copy number changes
 - Structural changes (e.g. rearrangements/fusions)
 - Mutational burden
 - Microsatellite instability
- Each one of these has a cognate cohort of therapies to choose from
 - In the appropriate context of the specific alteration
 - And specific disease

- Specific Alterations:
 - *BRAF* p.V600E
 - *EGFR* p.L858R
 - METex14 skip
 - ERBB2 amplification
 - NTRK1/2/3 fusion
 - etc





- *BRAF* p.V600E
- *EGFR* p.L858R
- METex14 skip
- ERBB2 amplification
- NTRK1/2/3 fusion
- etc

Is the tumor type:

There is an FDA
approved and/or
NSCLC
guidelinerecommended
CRC
therapy

There may be off-label or investigational therapy options specific to this finding

Ν

Tier I: Variants of Strong Clinical Significance

Therapeutic, prognostic & diagnostic

Level A Evidence

FDA-approved therapy Included in professional guidelines

Level B Evidence

Well-powered studies with consensus from experts in the field

Tier II: Variants of Potential Clinical Significance

Therapeutic, prognostic & diagnostic

Level C Evidence

FDA-approved therapies for different tumor types or investigational therapies

Multiple small published studies with some consensus

Level D Evidence

Preclinical trials or a few case reports without consensus

Tier III: Variants of Unknown Clinical Significance

Not observed at a significant allele frequency in the general or specific subpopulation databases, or pan-cancer or tumor-specific variant databases

No convincing published evidence of cancer association

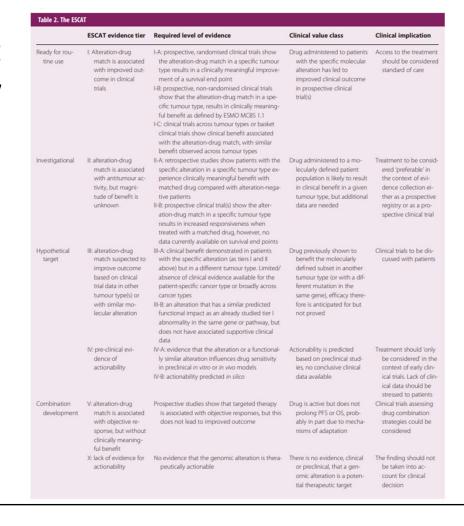
Tier IV: Benign or Likely Benign Variants

Observed at significant allele frequency in the general or specific subpopulation databases
No existing published evidence of cancer association

Standards and Guidelines for the Interpretation and Reporting of Sequence Variants in Cancer

A Joint Consensus Recommendation of the Association for Molecular Pathology, American Society of Clinical Oncology, and College of American Pathologists

Murilyn N. Li, " Michael Datto, " Eric J. Duncavage, " Shashikant Kulkami, " Neal I. Lindeman, " Sonak Roy, " "
Apostolia N. Tsinberkiou," (Indy L. Vinercal-Jones, " Dayrna J. Wolff, " Anas Ysunes, " and Marina N. Nikiforu





What is NOT a Mutation?*

* from a clinical perspective for somatic changes

- Single Nucleotide Polymorphism(s)
 - Benign** changes in the genome
 - Everyone carries lots of SNPs
 - In molecular genetics, we define a SNP as any alteration that has a prevalence of ≥ 1% minor allele fraction in any population**
 - How do we decide what is a SNP?
 - We use databases there are lots of them!
 - ** There are exceptions

Population	Allele Count	Allele Number	Number of Homozygotes	Allele Frequency
European (non- Finnish)	94889	128822	34940	0.7366
European (Finnish)	18300	25100	6645	0.7291
Ashkenazi Jewish	7414	10366	2641	0.7152
Latino/Admixed American	25286	35416	9030	0.7140
• Other	4999	7178	1753	0.6964
East Asian	11314	19918	3235	0.5680
South Asian	15313	30614	3897	0.5002
African/African- American	9317	24432	1785	0.3813
xx	85910	128672	29624	0.6677
XY	100922	153174	34302	0.6589
Total	186832	281846	63926	0.6629

- Some of these have debatable biologic function
- Many studies about SNPs serving as modifiers of disease
- Currently, most labs filter these out...so you will not see them...
- Why should you care, then?

TP53 c.215C>G; p.P72R

- In tumor-only NGS testing:
- Hundreds or thousands of variants are identified per person
- We use databases to filter out anything that meets criteria as a SNP
- BUT...
 - SNP databases are only as good as the populations that are represented
 - Means ethnically underrepresented groups could have true SNPs overcalled

SNP Filtering and VUS



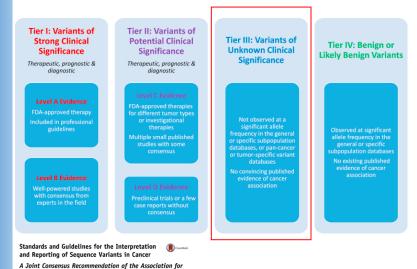
= Variant of Uncertain Significance

 Filtering of SNPs impacts what variants show up here:

Molecular Pathology, American Society of Clinical Oncology,

Marilyn M. Li,* Michael Datto,* Eric J. Duncavage,* Shashikant Kulkami,* Neal I. Lindeman,* Somak Roy,***
Apostolia M. Tsimberidou.* Cindy L. Veencak-Jones.* Dawma J. Wolff.* Anas Younes.* and Marina N. Nikiforova

and College of American Pathologists



- Patient reports may have variants listed which are benign/SNP
 - If not in databases as a SNP/benign, will be called a VUS
 - 'Private' polymorphism benign change that does not have significant population frequency
- Don't be misled by these anything that is classified as VUS implies insufficient evidence exists to make a data-based treatment decision
 - Even if it's in a gene that is known to impact therapy selection
 - Example:

EGFR c.2170G>A; p.P848L
In between known activating mutations
Not an indication for first-line TKI

Tiering (in some fashion) is how you are likely to see molecular results

- May tier based on
 - Published guidelines
 - CDx status
 - Separate strategy
- = know how to read the report (regardless of the tiering structure)

The ins and outs of molecular pathology reporting

Véronique Tack¹ · Kelly Dufraing¹ · Zandra C. Deans² · Han J. van Krieken³ · Elisabeth M. C. Dequeker¹

Virchows Arch (2017) 471:199-207 DOI 10.1007/s00428-017-2108-0

A Review of Precision Oncology **Knowledgebases for Determining the Clinical Actionability of Genetic Variants**

Xuanyi Li¹ and Jeremy L. Warner^{2,34}



frontiers
in Cell and Developmental Biology

Recommendations for designing genetic test reports to be understood by patients and non-specialists

George D. Farmer (5)1,2 · Harry Gray (6)1,3,4 · Gemma Chandratillake5,6 · F Lucy Raymond5,7 ·

European Journal of Human Genetics (2020) 28:885-895



Clinical Use of Precision Oncology Decision Support ascopuls.org/journal/po JCOTM Precision Oncology

TECHNICAL REPORT

nature cancer

Integrating molecular profiles into clinical frameworks through the Molecular Oncology Almanac to prospectively guide precision oncology

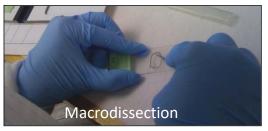
Pitfalls and Landmines: VUS



= Variant of Uncertain Significance

- Many labs have a separate section of the report for these variants
- In general, these are NOT actionable
- But that doesn't mean you shouldn't review them
- Examples:
 - Some things that truly *are* VUS are in the main part of the report
 - Examples: ROS1 amplification, NTRK1/2/3 point mutations
 - Some labs will put anything that *might* be biologically important into the 'top' part of the report
 - Other labs may put anything without *definitive* biological/therapeutic impact into the VUS section
 - Rarely, something important might get misclassified as VUS

Pitfalls and Landmines: Tumor Enrichment (and methodology)





Tumor enrichment approaches are variable
No enrichment vs. macrodissection vs. microdissection:

5. Does your laboratory use macrodissection or microdissection to enrich cell populations before testing?	No. labs (133)
Laser capture microdissection (LCM)	11-
Manual microdissection (H&E slide is examined and marked by a pathologist for subsequent tumor dissection under the light microscope)	26
Macrodissection (H&E slide is examined and marked by a pathologist for subsequent tumor dissection without microscope)	89
Do not use micro or macrodissection (whole tissue used for analysis)	18



CAP Proficiency testing participant summary (KRAS-B-2020)

Pitfalls and Landmines: Amplification

- Some NGS tests don't do a great job of distinguishing a true amplification from a whole chromosome gain
- NGS tests best detect amplification when it is based in a copy number >6
 - This means that true amplifications with lower copy number won't be detected
 - Example: Breast carcinoma with FISH defined amplification of:
 - ERBB2/HER2 copies per cell: 5
 - CEP17 copies per cell: 2
 - Ratio = 2.5

Sensitivity Study for ERBB2 Amplification Detection					
Sample	Dilution (%)	ERBB2 fold change	Result		
FFPE (HER2/CEP17, 13.7)	100	49.38	AMP called		
	50	14.44	AMP called		
	25	6.90	AMP called		
	12.50	3.73	AMP called		
	6.25	2.34	AMP called		
	3.13	1.56	AMP called		
MDA-MB-361 (HER2/CEP17, 4.2)	100	5.66	AMP called		
	50	3.32	AMP called		
	25	2.16	AMP called		
	12.50	1.61	AMP called		
	6.25	1.33	AMP not called		
MDA-MB-453 (HER2/CEP17, 2.4)	100	2.31	AMP called		
	50	1.61	AMP called		
	25	1.3	AMP not called		
	12.50	1.15	AMP not called		
	6.25	1.0	AMP not called		

Ross et al. J Mol Diagn. 2017.

Pitfalls and Landmines: Tiering Based on CDx

- Look for alterations in the non-CDx section!
- CDx sections of an NGS report are a regulatory designation
 - It means that the test is FDA-approved for the specific alteration in a specific tumor type
 - But it is not everything that could have a clinical implication

Example from a real report:

In the 'CDx' section of the report: 'No reportable alterations with Companion Diagnostic Claims'

In the 'Other Biomarkers' section of the report:

'CD74-ROS1 Fusion identified'

This is a regulatory distinction

Not a biologic distinction

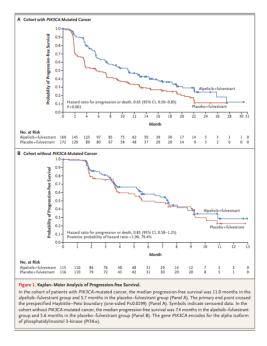
Pitfalls and Landmines: Drugs Based on CDx

- Assays with FDA approved CDx indication may list a drug for an identified target
 - But it will only list the drug with which the CDx is associated
 - Example:
 - NTRK3 fusion detected
 - Which drug is listed in the report will depend on which test it is!

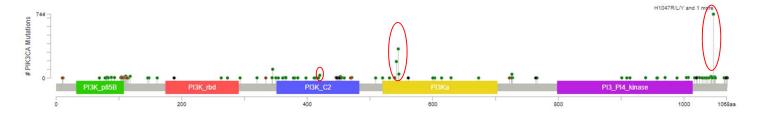
Pitfalls and Landmines: Targeted CDx Assays

- Example: PIK3CA mutation testing in breast cancer
- Targeted CDx (real-time PCR) for this mutationdrug combo detects:
 - p.C420R
 - p.E542K/A/D
 - p.E545G/K/E
 - p.Q546R
 - p.H1047L/R/Y

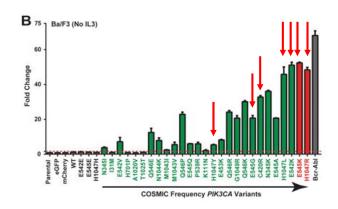




Pitfalls and Landmines: Targeted CDX Assays



- The variants detected in the CDx assay are the only ones with proven association with therapy response
- But that doesn't mean others won't respond



Pitfalls and Landmines: Fusion Detection

- Fusion detection efficacy varies based on:
 - DNA vs RNA NGS
 - Sample type tested
- This is an important hole to fill when appropriate!



DNA NGS (=driving):

- See lots of beautiful countryside
- Comparatively long, challenging



RNA NGS (=flying):

- More efficient
- But only if you have well timed layovers (= specimen quality)

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
- Not informative (stop)
- Not informative (keep pursuing)

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
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- Will be listed in top tier for reporting
- Defined target in a defined tumor type with FDA approval for that indication
 - ** the test itself might not be FDA approved
 - > ** opinion: that should not matter

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
- Not informative (stop)
- Not informative (keep pursuing)

- > Tiering may be variable
- Typically this is a target that has FDAapproved therapy in a different indication
 - Example: BRAF p.V600E detected in an ovarian serous carcinoma
 - ➤ Rare!
 - What does this mean for therapy???
 - Response to BRAFi is tumortype specific

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
- Not informative (stop)
- Not informative (keep pursuing)

- > Tiering may be variable
- > Typically this is a known driver event that is not associated with therapy
 - > Example: KRAS p.G12V in NSCLC
 - > Common finding
 - Is most likely the driver event for this tumor
 - Additional driver events are unlikely, even if undetected by testing platform
 - This might be something that could go into *maybe* actionable depending on clinical trial availability + patient PS + patient interest

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
- Not informative (stop)
- Not informative (keep pursuing)

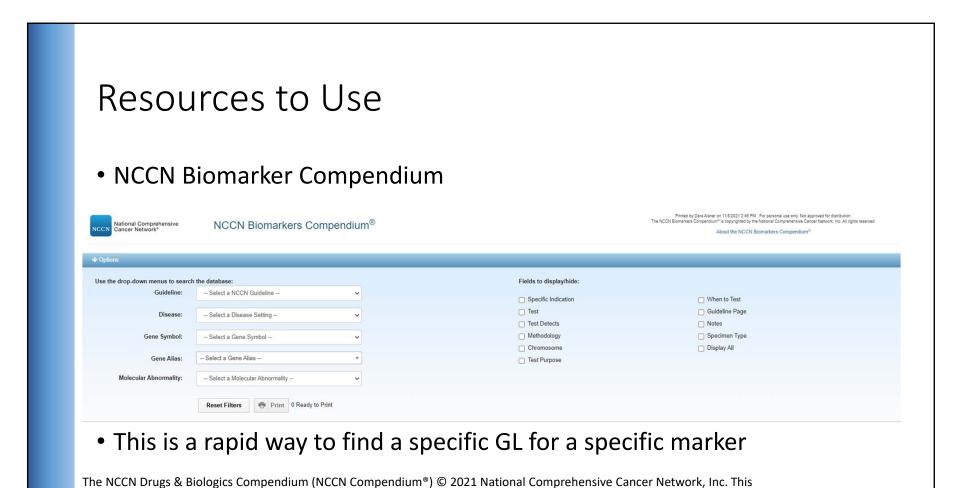
- Many alterations may be in VUS section
- > Typically lots of passenger mutations
- Example: No driver mutations identified in a squamous NSCLC, patient with poor PS, DNA-NGS performed
- > OK to stop testing at this point
- (Also OK to pursue fusion by RNA-NGS, but low pre-test probability)

- Informative and actionable (on label)
- Informative and *maybe* actionable
- Informative but not actionable
- Not informative (stop)
- Not informative (keep pursuing)

- This is about knowing the 'holes' in the assay(s)
- Is there a high pre-test probability for an actionable alteration?
- ➤ Example: DNA-NGS in never-smoker with adenocarcinoma is negative for driver alterations.
 - This is an example where RNA-NGS fusion testing is likely to be of highest yield

Look at the Methods Section!

- Was tumor enrichment applied?
- What technology was used for testing?
- What is the stated LOD?
- What types of alterations are detected?



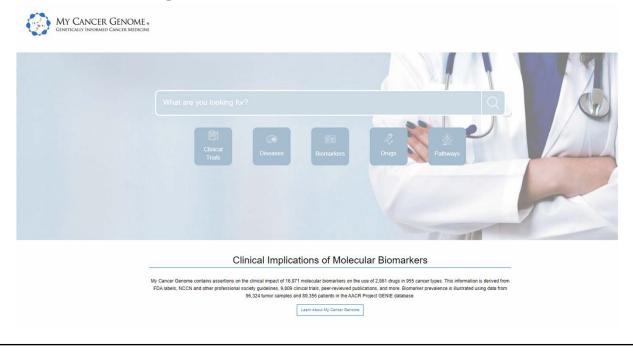
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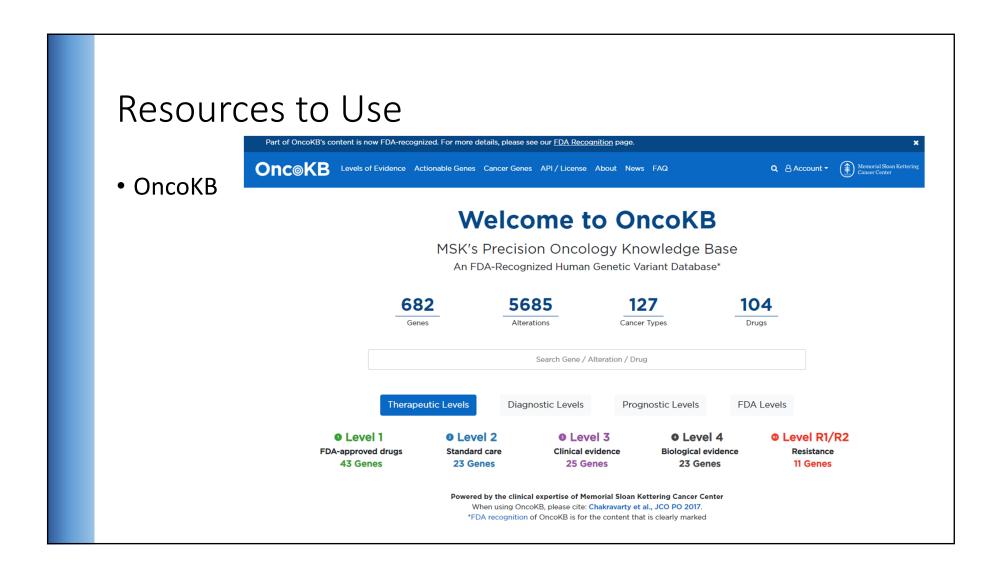
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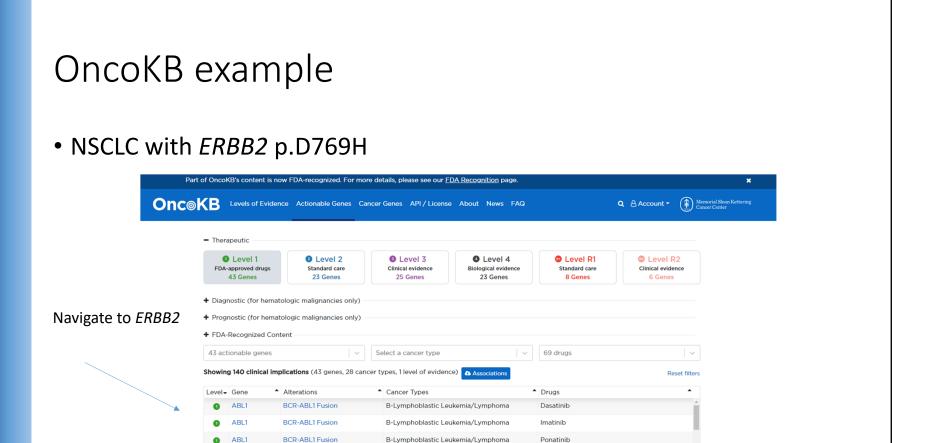
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Resources to Use

• MyCancerGenome.org







Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia

Chronic Myelogenous Leukemia

Bosutinib

Dasatinib

ABL1

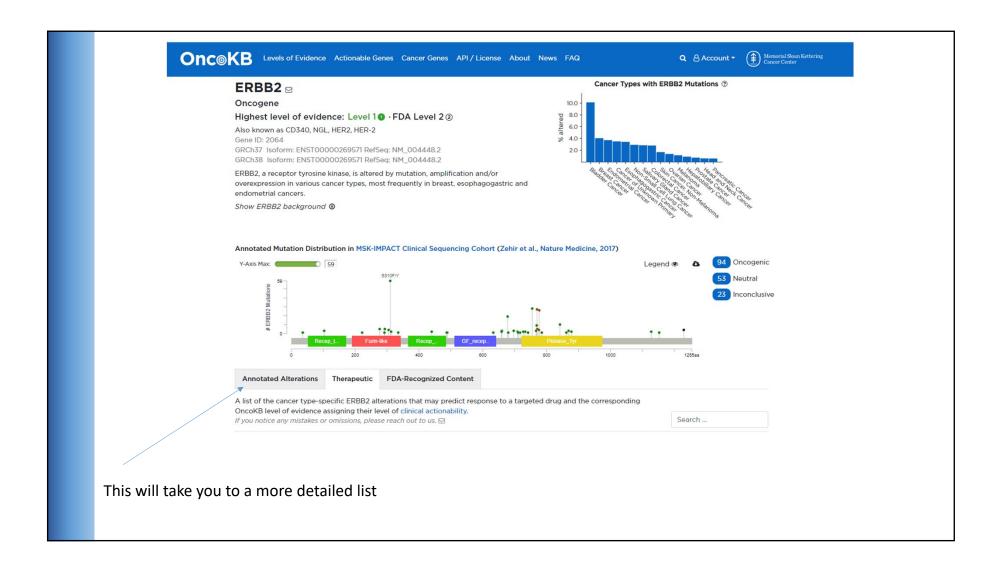
ABL1

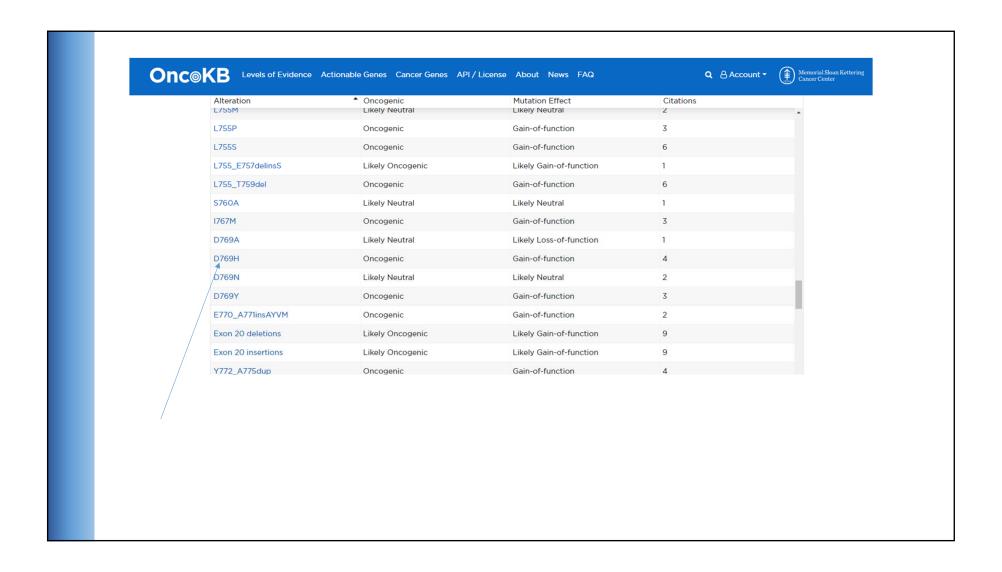
BCR-ABL1 Fusion

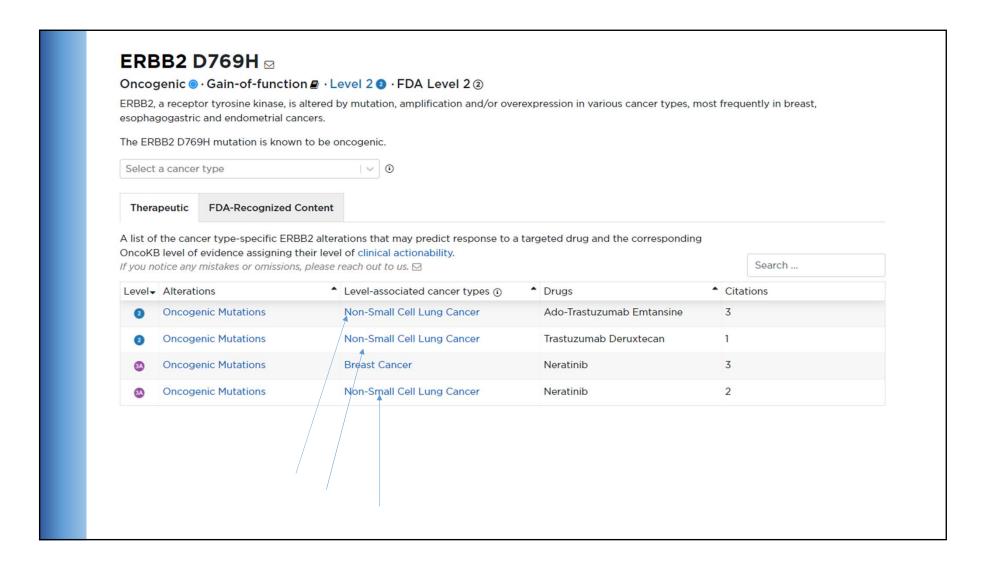
BCR-ABL1 Fusion

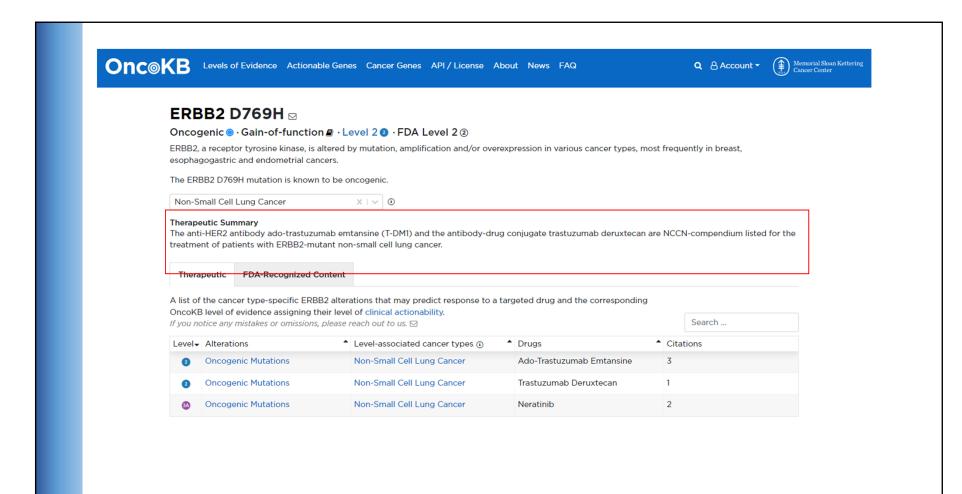
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Ado-Trastuzumab Emtansine
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Lapatinib + Capecitabine, Lapatinib + Letrozole
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Margetuximab + Chemotherapy
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Neratinib, Neratinib + Capecitabine
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab + Chemotherapy
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Trastuzumab + Tucatinib + Capecitabine
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Trastuzumab Deruxtecan
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Breast Cancer	Trastuzumab, Trastuzumab + Chemotherapy
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Esophagogastric Cancer	Pembrolizumab + Trastuzumab + Chemotherapy
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Esophagogastric Cancer	Trastuzumab + Chemotherapy
0	ERBB2	Amplification	Esophagogastric Cancer	Trastuzumab Deruxtecan

You can click on any of these...











National NCCN Cancer Network®

Comprehensive NCCN Guidelines Version 7.2021 **Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer**

NCCN Guidelines Index Table of Contents Discussion

EMERGING BIOMARKERS TO IDENTIFY NOVEL THERAPIES FOR PATIENTS WITH METASTATIC NSCLC

Genetic Alteration (ie, Driver event)	Available Targeted Agents with Activity Against Driver Event in Lung Cancer	
High-level MET amplification	Crizotinib ¹⁻² Capmatinib ³	
ERBB2 (HER2) mutations	Ado-trastuzumab emtansine ⁴ Fam-trastuzumab deruxtecan-nxki ⁵	

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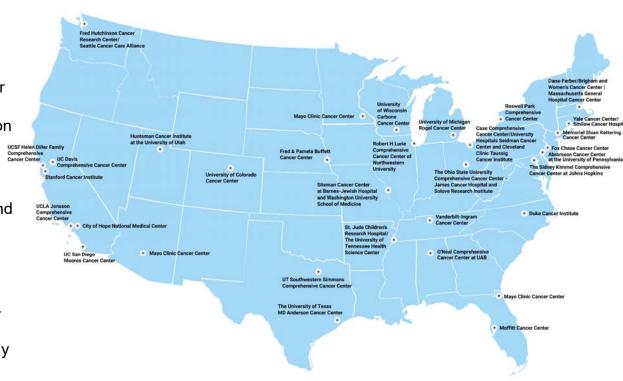
Summary

- Know enough about the testing methodology to know what the 'holes' are
 - Use this to decide whether additional exploration is warranted given clinical considerations
- Learn the nuances of how results are reported by the lab(s) most frequently used for testing
- Sometimes, being able to dig for information on variants separately can be illuminating!



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 To improve and facilitate quality, effective, efficient, and accessible cancer care so patients can live better lives
- Our Vision
 To define and advance high-quality, high-value, patient-centered cancer care globally



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