

# Ovarian Cancer: Testing Times

## Ask for the tumour test

### QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

If you – or a friend/loved one – have recently been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, or are at risk of ovarian cancer, knowing what to ask your specialist (usually an oncologist and/or surgeon) about genetic testing can quicken the process of understanding if your cancer could be linked to a genetic fault. Importantly, knowing this information can indicate what treatment might work best for you.

Whilst you will no doubt have plenty of questions of your own specific to your personal experience, the below questions might prove useful as a guide in your early interactions with your specialist healthcare professional regarding genetic testing.

Remember, it is important to ask for the tumour test as soon as you are diagnosed.

#### Understanding if your ovarian cancer is linked to a gene mutation/genetic fault:

- Have I had germline testing previously?
- What are the benefits of understanding if my ovarian cancer is linked to a hereditary or non-hereditary genetic mutation?
- If my ovarian cancer is linked to a genetic mutation, why is it important to further understand if that genetic mutation is hereditary (i.e. germline/blood) or non-hereditary (i.e. somatic/tumour) in origin?
- What tests are available to understand if my cancer is linked to either a hereditary (i.e. germline/blood) or non-hereditary (i.e. somatic/tumour) genetic mutation?
- Are there any out-of-pocket expenses associated with genetic testing?
- Am I eligible for a tumour (somatic) test?
- How is a tumour (somatic) test conducted, and how is it different to other tests?
- When is the best time to undertake a tumour (somatic) test?
- How soon after undertaking a tumour (somatic) test can I expect the results?
- Am I eligible for a blood (germline) test?
- When is the best time to undertake a blood (germline) test?
- How soon after undertaking a blood (germline) test can I expect the results?

#### Understanding what treatment options might be best for you:

- Has my tumour had other testing for biomarkers that might influence my treatment?
- What are the next steps in terms of potential treatment options once the results of a tumour/ blood test are known?
- How does treatment differ based on whether an ovarian cancer diagnosis, linked to a gene mutation, is hereditary (i.e. germline/blood) or non-hereditary (somatic/tumour) in origin?
- How does treatment differ if my ovarian cancer is not linked to a (hereditary/non-hereditary) genetic mutation?