

Talking to PDAC patients about the Genetic Testing Station

Pancreatic Nurse Navigator: As part of your evaluation at UCSF, our doctors recommend genetic testing. The National Guideline is that all patients with pancreas cancer be offered genetic testing. The results are used by your doctor to help determine the best way to treat you. To make this as easy as possible for you, we have a genetic testing station where you can learn about the testing and give a saliva sample on the same day as your visit with the doctor. There is no cost for the genetic test or visiting the genetic testing station. Visiting the Genetic Testing Station does not mean you must test, but we recommend you visit the station to learn more and ask questions. If you do decide to test, you will meet with a genetic counselor to go over your results in person or by video depending on your preference. If you have any more questions about this, you can discuss it in your appointment. Our practice coordinator will schedule this appointment for you.

If patients have further questions, please email our genetic counselor assistant group at geneticcounselorassistants@ucsf.edu and one of them will call the patient back.

Please document using the smartphrase if patient is interested in visiting the GTS before the appointment or if they will wait to discuss it with their oncologist. If they refuse or have questions, please explain they can speak with someone at the GTS on the day of their visit or someone from genetics can call them before their visit. (let us know via email above)

Points to Remember

- The oncologists have requested that every patient be scheduled even if they decline because they might decide to test after meeting with the oncologist. Please ask the practice coordinator to schedule every eligible patient. (We suggest scheduling the GTS visit after the oncology visit if the patient seems hesitant or wants to defer)
- Genetic test results may change the patient's treatment plan (ie PARP-inhibitors and immunotherapies)
- Genetic testing should be offered to every PDAC patient (regardless of family history), per national guidelines issued by NCCN and Medicare in 11/2018
- Going to the GTS doesn't mean the patient has to have a genetic test.
- The test itself is covered by donor funds and the original GTS visit is not billed.
- If a patient wants to know the cost of a results visit with a genetic counselor, it can be discussed at the GTS visit. You do not have to take time to discuss it on your phone call, just refer them to us. (Genetic counseling is almost always a covered benefit, including Medicare and Medical)