

# Consistent Testing Terminology Use Cases Workshop

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# Consistent Testing Terminology Working Group

## PATIENT ADVOCACY GROUPS



## PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES



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# Use Case – Ovarian Cancer

Presented by Vanessa Cramer, Ovarian Cancer Research Association (OCRA)

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

## Presenter: Ovarian Cancer Research Alliance (OCRA)

- American Cancer Society estimates for ovarian cancer in the United States for 2021 are:
  - $\approx$  21,410 women will receive a new diagnosis of ovarian cancer
  - $\approx$  13,770 women will die from ovarian cancer
- Over the past 20 years, BRCA1/BRCA2-related discoveries have profoundly changed our understanding & management of HBOC (hereditary breast and ovarian cancer). Patients with BRCA1/2 account for only approximately 15% of all women who have ovarian cancer
- Guidelines by NCCN (National Comprehensive Cancer Network), SGO (Society of Gynecologic Oncology), and ACOG (American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists) all agree that anyone with a personal history of ovarian cancer should receive genetic counseling and testing (regardless of family history, age, or other risk factor).
- According to NCCN (2021):
  - In addition to mutations in BRCA1/2 and the genes associated with Lynch Syndrome (e.g., MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, PMS2) germline mutations in a variety of other cancer genes have been associated with increased risk of ovarian cancer (e.g., ATM, BRIP1, NBN, PALB2, STK11, RAD51C, RAD51D).
  - Studies testing large panels of genes have found that 3%-8% of patients with ovarian cancer carry mutations in genes other than BRCA1 and BRCA2 known to be associated with ovarian cancer susceptibility.

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

APPLICABILITY OF BIOMARKER TESTING

APPLICABILITY OF GENETIC TESTING FOR  
INHERITED MUTATIONS/INHERITED CANCER RISK



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## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2021 Ovarian Cancer/Fallopian Tube Cancer/ Primary Peritoneal Cancer

### ▶ Tumor molecular analyses as clinically indicated:

- ◊ Next-generation sequencing (NGS) for *BRCA1/2* mutations, other somatic mutations (eg, *NTRK* gene fusions), and tumor mutational burden [TMB]
- ◊ Additional testing (particularly for endometrioid carcinomas)
  - Immunohistochemistry (IHC) for DNA mismatch repair (MMR) proteins (MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, and PMS2)
  - Microsatellite instability (MSI) testing
- ◊ In addition to *BRCA1/2* testing, other methods for evaluating HR deficiency status (ie, genomic instability, loss of heterozygosity) can be considered.
- ◊ Additional somatic tumor testing can be considered at the physician's discretion to identify genetic alterations for which FDA-approved tumor-specific or tumor-agnostic targeted therapy options exist.

[References](#)

[Continued](#)

**Note:** All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

**Clinical Trials:** NCCN believes that the best management of any patient with cancer is in a clinical trial. Participation in clinical trials is especially encouraged.

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

- Professional guidelines have been in place for 10+ years → **and yet, research shows alarmingly low rates of genetic testing among OC survivors**
- Last year, JCO (Journal of Clinical Oncology) published a baseline-setting study looking at genetic testing among rates among HBOC survivors → *first population study of hereditary cancer genetic testing the U.S. with laboratory-confirmed testing results*
- Study uses data from 83,000+ women from SEER cancer registries in California and Georgia and finds that, in 2013 and 2014:
  - → ≈ One-third of women with ovarian cancer underwent genetic testing for inherited BRCA1/2 mutations in compliance with guidelines
  - → Among patients who did receive genetic testing, 15% of ovarian cancer patients had “actionable” gene variants, meaning variants that might warrant changes in treatment, screening, and risk-reduction strategies

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

- Presented at OCRA's National Conference in September 2021 (300+ attendees)
- Heard a lot feedback about CTWG's position w/ respect to CA-125 testing

→ *Screenshots of pertinent slides*

## Where CA-125 Testing Fits In: What the Working Group decided (1/2)

- Traditionally we have viewed biomarker testing as “non-genetic” (& thus limited to things like CA-125) → BUT the rise of precision oncology and explosion of genetic/genomic testing has created some tension w/ this initial framing of the term “biomarker”
- The thought process in the paper is that the more salient distinction is not so much whether something is “genetic” or “non-genetic” but rather whether it originates from tumor tissue/malignancy or from the germline, as this has implications on treatment/familial risk
- → We intentionally broadened the term “biomarker” to include BOTH tumor genetic testing results and more traditional biomarkers like CA-125.

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

## Where CA-125 Testing Fits In: What the Working Group decided (2/2)

- In application/use:
  - CA-125 testing can continue to be defined as “biomarker testing” – but to clarify, tag on “for CA-125” → “biomarker testing for CA-125”
  - When it comes to molecular tumor profiling, you could say “biomarker testing for molecular tumor characteristics” or “biomarker testing for molecular tumor profiling” to differentiate
  - Be sure you’re using “genetic testing for inherited mutation/cancer risk” solely to describe germline testing

Session title:

“How to Talk about Genetic Testing and Precision Oncology (& Why It’s So Confusing)”

*Recommended session title:*

"Understanding the Language of Cancer Testing: Biomarkers, Molecular Profiling, Genetic Testing."

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

The sticky intersection between CA-125 testing & biomarker testing:

- CA-125 is a glycoprotein (sugar associated protein) commonly referred to as a "biomarker" or "tumor marker". The CA-125 provides information via a blood sample.
- It can assist in diagnosing and following ovarian cancer (& has multiple other clinical applications).
- Limitations → CA-125 is only elevated in 50% of women w/ early-stage ovarian cancer and 85% of women w/ advanced cancer
  - The CA-125 can be elevated in someone who does not have cancer.
  - The number does not correlate with the extent of disease.
- How is the CA-125 used in ovarian cancer?
  - It is used as a tool to detect changes in CA-125 levels. If elevated in a woman with ovarian cancer, it can represent disease status.

# More on CA-125 in OC

- All women with ovarian cancer are given the CA125
- It is the most reliable and useful test for monitoring disease, however, for many women, it is not a good marker.
- Why do some gynecologic oncologists hate the CA-125? → Evidence suggests that using the CA125 to diagnose recurrent disease sooner does not result in overall improved survival.
- Following the CA-125 more closely caused physicians to administer more chemotherapy without improving outcomes.
- The CA-125 test causes incredible anxiety in women with the disease

# Use Case: Ovarian Cancer

- Make no mention of CA-125 tests in context of “biomarker testing”
  - OC population is already familiar with CA-125 tests and its application & discussing as part of “biomarker testing” in context of precision seemed to serve no real purpose and caused confusion.
- Gaps in education and awareness are considerable
  - OC patients/survivors who are in the know when it comes to “biomarker testing” are highly sophisticated in their knowledge and understanding.
  - BUT overall awareness and understanding is alarmingly low. As the JCO study found, nearly two-thirds of OC survivors haven’t received basic biomarker tested for inherited cancer risk in BRCA1/2 genes (in compliance with guidelines).
  - Geographic disparities are a particularly significant barrier for OC patient population.