What is IBM Watson™ Genomics from Quest Diagnostics®?

IBM Watson™ Genomics from Quest Diagnostics® is a test used to find out more about your specific cancer's makeup. This test analyzes your tumor to look for any mutations, or changes in the tumor's DNA from what is expected. If a mutation is found, it may help your doctors find a new treatment that you may benefit from. This testing may also provide information about your prognosis.

I know this test can help in treating my cancer; can this testing tell me anything else about my DNA?

Your cancer grew from normal tissue. This means that its DNA is based on your germline, or the DNA that you were born with. This test is intended to focus on the DNA within your tumor. To better understand what DNA changes are new in your tumor, this test also uses a blood (germline) sample. That means that this test can sometimes tell us information about the DNA that you were born with, which may include information about inherited conditions. Given that the purpose of this test is to help with treatment of your cancer, only information about possible predisposition to certain hereditary cancer syndromes will be provided. If your physician has questions about which hereditary cancer syndromes, please have them contact Quest Diagnostics Genomics Client Services at 1.866.GENE.INFO.

When DNA changes are found with this test, IBM Watson™ Genomics from Quest Diagnostics® helps understand how these DNA changes may affect your tumor’s response to treatment. This test is not designed to understand if these changes cause an inherited condition. Therefore, another test specifically designed to diagnose the inherited condition would be the next step for follow up.

It is important to know that this test does not look at every gene in the body, not even every gene related to cancer. Mutations that cause inherited disease may be missed with this test or may be found with this test but not reported. If there is a specific inherited condition that is a concern, either because of the results of your tumor testing or for other reasons, you would need to have testing designed for that specific inherited condition to diagnose that condition. This additional testing is optional and you may wish to see a genetic counselor to discuss these additional tests.

What are the limitations of this testing?

It is important to know that your test may not provide any information that changes your doctor’s treatment plan or that helps understand your prognosis.

Additionally, this test does not examine all the genes within your tumor, or any information about your tumor beyond the genes tested.

It is important to know that this testing is performed on a portion of your tumor sent to the laboratory, and that sometimes tumors have different genetic makeup in different sections of the tumor. This means that your testing result may not reflect the entire picture of your tumor. Also, this test is a snapshot of your tumor’s genome at the time of testing. Over time, and in response to treatment, your tumor’s genome may change and these results may become outdated.

This test may also identify clinical trials that your physician may consider for your enrollment. Based on your physician's judgment, or your geographic location, these trials may not be available for your participation.
What is required to perform this test?

Your doctor will send a sample of your tumor to the laboratory. If there is not enough, or if the lab will use the whole sample, we will call your doctor to discuss. It is possible your doctor may wish to discuss collecting a new sample of your tumor for this testing.

Your doctor has also asked you to provide a blood sample for this testing. The blood sample is used to provide a baseline of what is normal for your body, so we can understand what changes have happened new within the tumor. This allows your test results to be more informative than if no blood sample is provided.

Is there a cost for this test?

This is a clinical laboratory test and the results may aid in your diagnosis, treatment and care; thus, you or your health insurer will be billed for this test. There may be financial assistance programs for patients who may be uninsured or underinsured. Please work with your physician to discuss these options.

How will I obtain the results from this test?

Genomic testing is complex. Your physician will receive a written report and then will discuss the results with you. To the extent permitted by law, all of your laboratory records and results are confidential and shall not be disclosed without your written authorization.

Patient Attestation of Informed Consent:

My signature below indicates that I have received information about this test, and that I have read and understood the material in this document. I have been given a full opportunity to ask questions that I may have about the testing procedure and related issues. I agree to undergo this testing.

Signature of Patient           Date

For the Physician:

As the referring physician, I understand the benefits and limitations of this study and have requested that the above named patient be tested. I attest to the fact that I have provided the patient with the information contained above and fully answered any questions. I believe that the patient understands the information and is voluntarily signing this informed consent.

Signature of Physician        Print name of Physician