

THE ROLE OF BIOMARKER TESTING IN ADVANCED NSCLC

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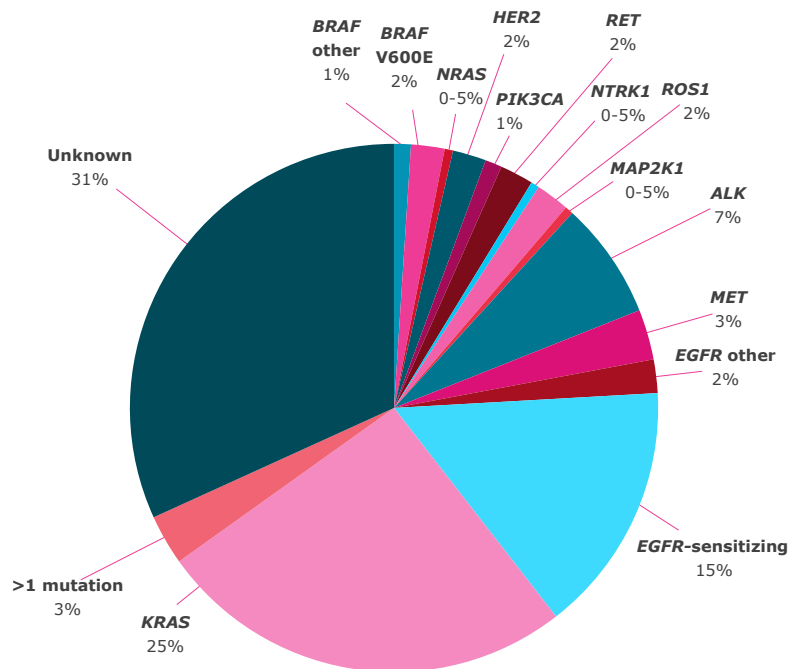


OVERVIEW OF BIOMARKERS IN NSCLC

Known biomarkers and use of biomarker
testing for patient care

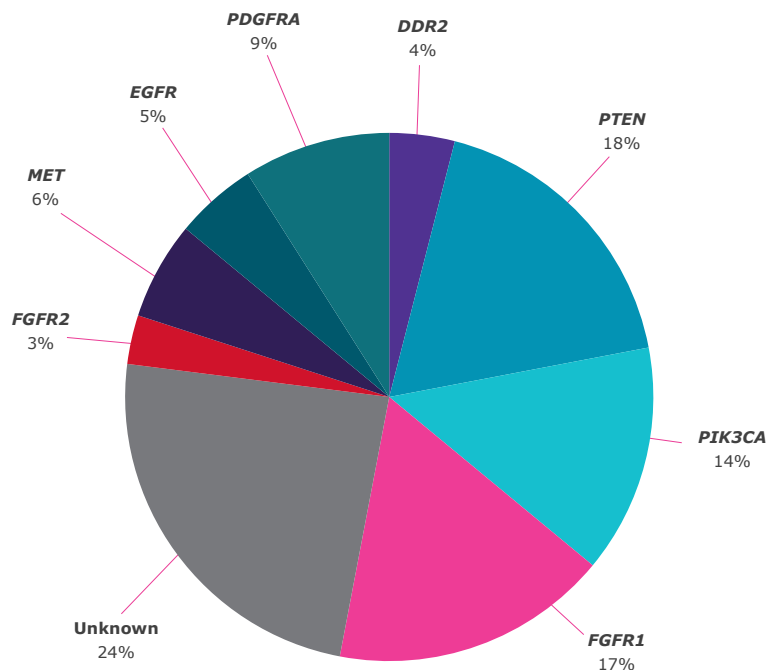
NSCLC is a heterogenous group of diseases with distinct histological subtypes and numerous oncogenic drivers

ONCOGENIC DRIVERS IN ADENOCARCINOMA¹



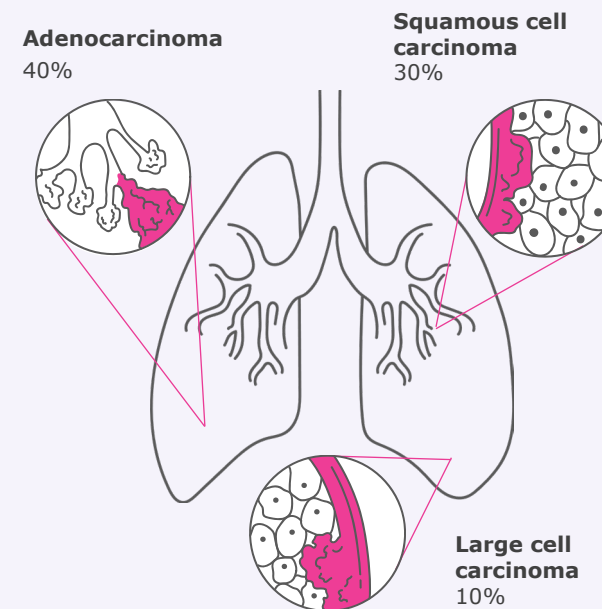
Up to 60% of patients with adenocarcinoma have a known oncogenic driver²

ONCOGENIC DRIVERS IN SQUAMOUS CELL CARCINOMA¹



50% to 80% of patients with squamous cell carcinoma have a known oncogenic driver²

NSCLC INCLUDES 3 MAIN HISTOLOGICAL SUBTYPES¹



Known oncogenic drivers differ in commonality between these subgroups¹

Oncogenic drivers may serve as prognostic or predictive biomarkers to help guide patient management³

NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer.

1. Types of Lung Cancer. Lungevity. [Types of Lung Cancer | LUNGevity Foundation](#) (accessed August 2024). 2. Chan BA, et al. Transl Lung Cancer Res. 2015;4:36-54. 3. Ballman KV. J Clin Oncol. 2015;33:3968-3971.

Characteristics of patients with different driver mutations*

Mutation	Age (year) Mean ± SD	Gender (%)		Smoking history (%)	
		Female	Male	Ever smoked	Never smoked
ALK positive (n=27)	55.0 ± 13.7	48.1 (n=13)	51.9 (n=14)	41.7 (n=10)	58.3 (n=14)
EGFR positive (n=180)	63.5 ± 10.9	54.4 (n=98)	45.6 (n=82)	32.1 (n=53)	67.9 (n=112)
KRAS positive (n=61)	64.7 ± 9.1	18.0 (n=11)	82.0 (n=50)	79.6 (n=43)	20.4 (n=11)
METex14 skipping (n=18)	73.7 ± 11.6	38.9 (n=7)	61.1 (n=11)	50.0 (n=9)	50.0 (n=9)
METamp (high) (n=8)	65.5 ± 11.7	12.5 (n=1)	87.5 (n=7)	100.0 (n=7)	0.0
ROS1 positive (n=10)	53.9 ± 16.2	60.0 (n=6)	40.0 (n=4)	42.9 (n=3)	57.1 (n=4)

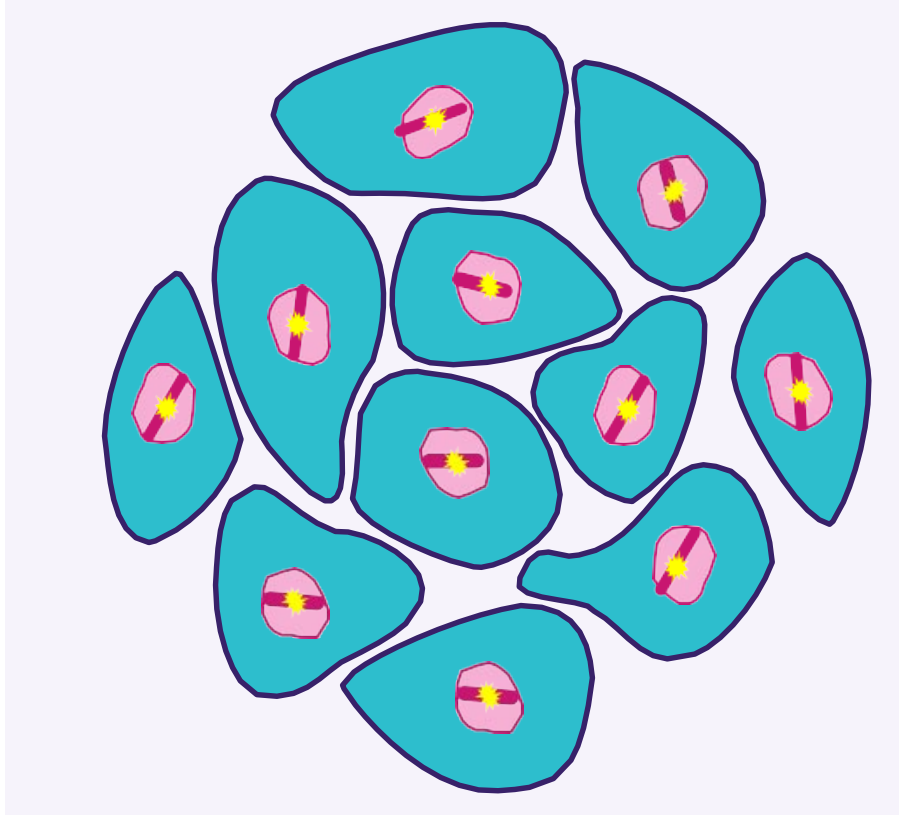
*Note that the data presented may have been calculated from small population sizes (range: 8-180).¹



TESTING FOR BIOMARKERS IN NSCLC

Technical approaches, testing needs, and
clinical guideline recommendations

Importance of biomarker testing in NSCLC¹⁻³



- NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines[®]) recommend **biomarker testing in all appropriate patients with NSCLC** based on data showing clinical benefit for patients receiving appropriate targeted therapy or immunotherapy as opposed to chemotherapy options¹
 - **Predictive biomarkers** are indicative of therapeutic efficacy because there is an interaction between the biomarker and therapy on patient outcome¹
 - **Prognostic biomarkers** are indicative of patient survival independent of the treatment received¹
- Molecular testing to detect actionable targets as part of a diagnostic work-up can help **personalize care**²
- Longitudinal biomarker testing can provide **insights into tumor evolution, heterogeneity, and resistance**^{2,3}

NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer.

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Current actionable biomarkers in metastatic NSCLC according to NCCN Guidelines®¹

Patients receiving appropriate targeted therapy or immunotherapy based on biomarker testing show greater clinical benefit as opposed to patients receiving chemotherapy*

PREDICTIVE BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONSIVENESS TO TARGETED THERAPY

- *EGFR*[†] mutations such as exon 19 indels, exon 20 mutations (eg, p.T790M), or exon 21 mutations (eg, p.L858R)
- *ALK*[†] rearrangements
- *ROS1*[†] gene fusions
- *BRAF* V600E point mutations
- *ERBB2* (*HER2*) mutations
- *KRAS* G12C point mutations
- *MET*ex14 skipping mutations
- *RET* gene rearrangements
- *NTRK1/2/3* gene fusions

PREDICTIVE BIOMARKERS ASSOCIATED WITH RESPONSIVENESS TO IMMUNOTHERAPY

- PD-L1 protein expression level

EMERGING BIOMARKERS

- High-level *MET* amplification[‡]

*The NCCN Guidelines® for NSCLC provide recommendations for individual biomarkers that should be tested and recommend testing techniques but do not endorse any specific commercially available biomarker assays or commercial laboratories.¹ †Considered must test biomarkers by CAP-IASLC molecular testing guidelines.² ‡The definition of high-level *MET* amplification is evolving and may differ according to the assay used for testing. For NGS-based results, a copy number greater than 10 is consistent with high-level *MET* amplification.¹

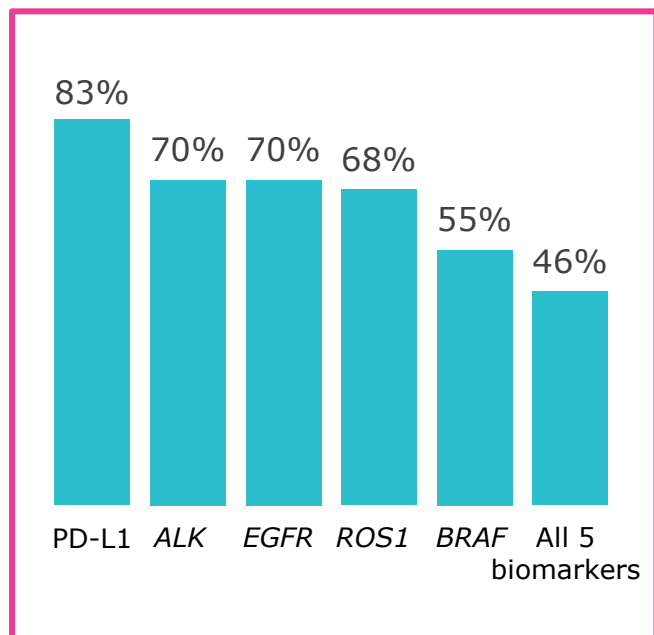
NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; *MET*ex14, *MET* exon 14; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1.

1. Referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer V.11.2024. © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2024. All rights reserved. Accessed November 19, 2024. To view the most recent and complete version of the guideline, go online to NCCN.org. NCCN makes no warranties of any kind whatsoever regarding their content, use or application and disclaims any responsibility for their application or use in any way. 2. Lindeman NI et al. J Mol Diagn. 2018;20(2):129-159.

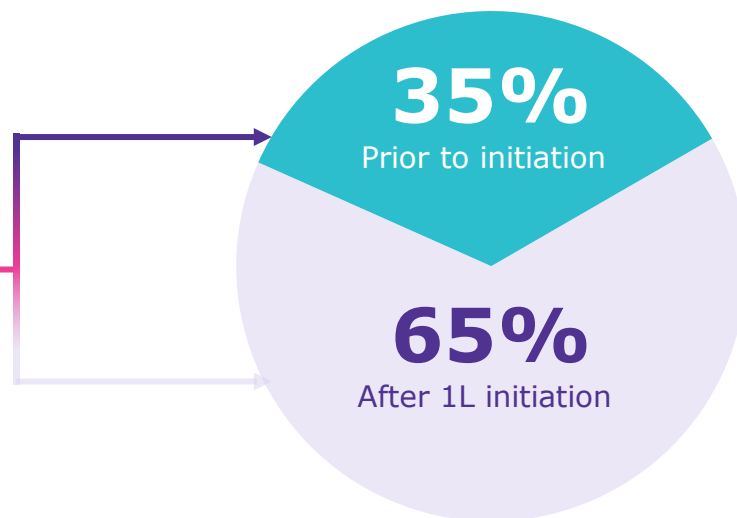
Despite the identification of actionable biomarkers and known patient benefit, biomarker testing may be limited

Although biomarker testing rates have increased in the last few years, challenges to biomarker testing in NSCLC remain¹⁻³

BIOMARKER TESTING RATES^{1,*}
(% OF PATIENTS TESTED; N=3474)



BIOMARKER TESTING PRIOR TO 1L INITIATION^{1,*}



Only about a third of patients with actionable mutations received biomarker testing results before the initiation of 1L therapy¹

Current challenges to biomarker testing include^{3,4}:

- Tissue sample adequacy
- Selecting the appropriate biomarker test
- Interpretation of biomarker test results
- Financial considerations
- Turnaround time for some results

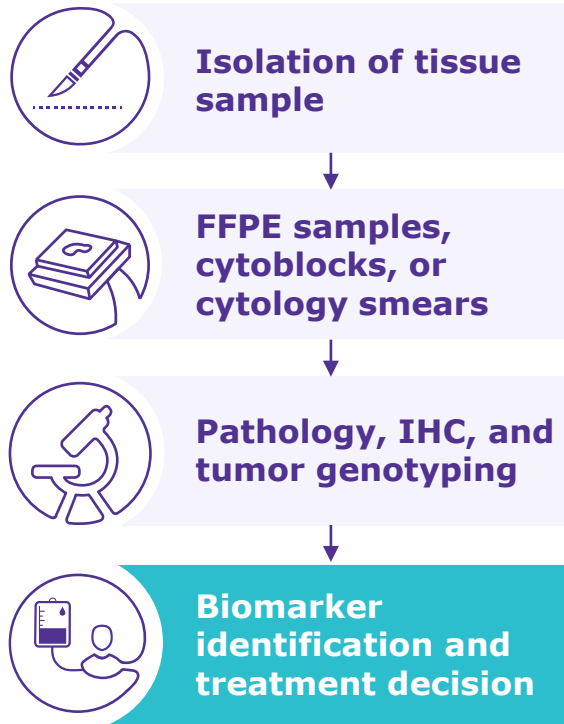
*A retrospective study in patients with metastatic NSCLC who initiated 1L systemic therapy in The US Oncology Network between April 1, 2018, and March 31, 2020. 1L, first line; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1.

1. Robert NJ, et al. Lung Cancer. 2022;166:197-204. 2. Griesinger F, et al. Lung Cancer. 2021;152:174-184. 3. Kim ES, et al. J Thorac Oncol. 2019;14(3):338-342. 4. Kerr KM, et al. Lung Cancer. 2021;154:161-175.

Sample collection – tissue biopsy

Tissue biopsy is well established and sensitive, but has significant challenges

Tissue biopsy^{1,2}



Advantages¹



- **Highly specific and sensitive**
- **Allows assessment of both DNA and non-DNA biomarkers**
- **Provides pathology information**
- **Allows PD-L1 assessment**

Disadvantages¹

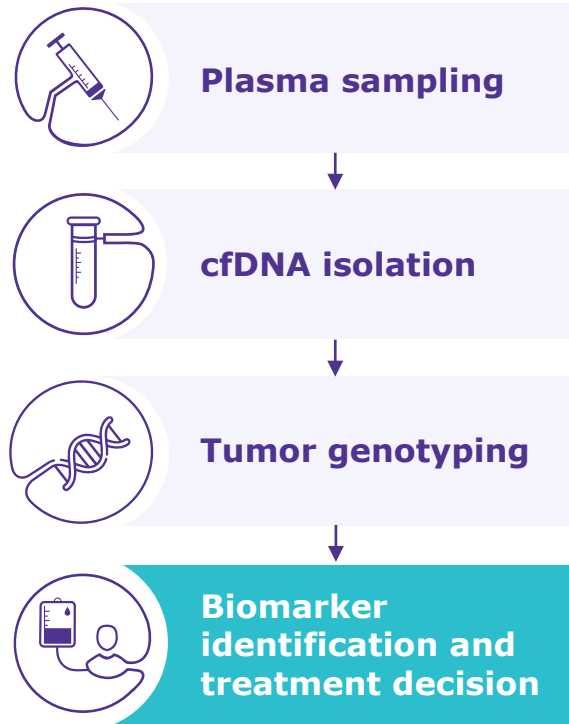


- **May have longer turnaround time**
- **Limited tissue quantities**
- **Invasive**
- **Re-biopsy not always possible in case of progressive disease**
- **May not capture tumor heterogeneity**

Sample collection – liquid biopsy

Liquid biopsy makes repeat sampling and detecting tumor heterogeneity easier, but may have limited sensitivity

Liquid biopsy^{1,2}



Advantages¹



- High concordance rate
- May have rapid turnaround time
- Minimally invasive
- Repeatable over time
- Captures tumor heterogeneity and clonal evolution

Disadvantages¹



- Non-DNA biomarkers not evaluable
- Concurrent use with tissue testing can increase costs
- False negatives
- Low concentrations of ctDNA may be difficult to detect

Sample collection – National Comprehensive Cancer Network® (NCCN®) recommendations¹

The use of plasma cfDNA/ctDNA testing (plasma testing) for metastatic NSCLC **can be considered in specific clinical circumstances:**

- If a patient is medically unfit for invasive tissue sampling
- In the initial diagnostic setting following pathologic confirmation of NSCLC if there is insufficient material for molecular analysis and if follow-up tissue-based analysis is planned for patients without oncogenic drivers identified

Plasma cfDNA/ctDNA testing:



Should not be used in lieu of a histologic tissue diagnosis



Has very high specificity, but significantly compromised sensitivity (up to 30% false-negative rate)



Does not have established standards/guidelines for analytical performance characteristics



Can identify alterations that are unrelated to a lesion of interest

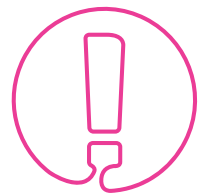
Overview of assessment techniques

Method	Used to assess/detect:	Sensitivity (%)	Turnaround time	Biopsy method ³	Point mutations	Small indels	CNAs	Rearrangements
PCR and Sanger sequencing ^{1,2}	DNA changes, including point mutations, insertions, or deletions	20 to 50	3 to 4 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid Tissue 	✓	✓		
RT-PCR ^{1,2,4}	RNA expression, including fusion transcripts	0.00001	2 to 3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid Tissue 	✓	✓		✓
FISH ^{1,2}	Gene rearrangements including deletions, amplifications, translocations, and fusions	<1	2 to 3 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tissue 			✓	✓
NGS: targeted approach ^{1,2,5}	Genetic changes in multiple genes simultaneously	1 to 10	7 to 20 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid Tissue 	✓	✓	✓	May not reliably detect fusions
NGS: WES/WGS ^{1,2,5}		Variable	Weeks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liquid Tissue 	✓	✓	✓	✓ (As long as in design)
IHC ^{2,5,6}	Protein expression, localization or specific alterations, including fusions	Variable	1 to 2 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Tissue 				✓

It is important to choose the technique that ensures accurate and reliable detection of the selected biomarkers within a reasonable turnaround time

CNA, copy number alteration; FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NGS, next-generation sequencing; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; RT-PCR, reverse-transcription PCR; WES, whole-exome sequencing; WGS, whole-genome sequencing.
 1. Pennell NA, et al. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2019;39:531-542. 2. El-Deiry WS, et al. CA Cancer J Clin. 2019;69(4):305-343. 3. Rolfo C, et al. J Thorac Oncol. 2021;16(10):1647-1662. 4. Tests used on biopsy and cytology specimens to diagnose cancer. American Cancer Society. [Tests Used on Biopsy and Cytology Samples to Diagnose and Classify Cancer | American Cancer Society](#) Accessed September 2024). 5. Dong J, et al. Front Pharmacol. 2019;10:230. 6. Doshi S, et al. Diagnostics (Basel). 2016;6(1):4.

Advantages and disadvantages of assessment techniques



DNA and RNA				Protein
NGS ¹⁻³	RT-PCR ³⁻⁵	Sanger sequencing ⁶	FISH ^{3,4}	IHC ^{4,7}
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High sensitivity • Broad-panel testing • Detects gene rearrangements • Detects gene amplifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly sensitive • Detects fusion transcripts at the RNA level • Detects gene rearrangements • Turnaround time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ability to identify all possible mutations in the analyzed fragment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge of fusion partner not required • Rearrangements can be discriminated from polysomy/ amplifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sensitive • Familiar • Time saving and easily automatable • Cost-friendly • Many validated antibodies available
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Turnaround time • Sophisticated bioinformatics needs • Large data storage capabilities • Reports can be hard to interpret • Cost 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor quality of FFPE RNA samples • Limited number of variants tested at once 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low sensitivity assay requiring tumor enrichment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not all rearrangements produce an expressed fusion transcript • May miss unknown variants 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May require confirmatory test • Accuracy can vary by fixative and background • Insufficient tumor content of tissue • Skilled pathologist required

FFPE, formalin-fixed paraffin embedded; FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NGS, next-generation sequencing; RT-PCR, reverse-transcription polymerase chain reaction.
 1. Rolfo C, et al. J Thorac Oncol. 2021;16(10):1647-1662. 2. Whole-genome sequencing. Healio Learn Genomics. [Strengths and Limitations of Next-Generation Sequencing \(healio.com\)](https://www.healio.com/learn/genomics/strengths-and-limitations-of-next-generation-sequencing). Accessed September 2024. 3. Pennell NA, et al. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2019;39:531-542. 4. Bruno R, Fontanini G. Diagnostics. 2020;10:521. 5. El-Deiry WS, et al. CA Cancer J Clin. 2019;69(4):305-343.
 6. Jain D, and Roy-Chowdhuri, S. Arch Pathol Lab Med. 2018;142(9):1127-1133. 7. Jain D, et al. Cancer Cytopathol. 2019;127:325-339.

Recommended assays to assess for actionable biomarkers according to NCCN Guidelines^{1,*}

Biomarker	DNA					PROTEIN
	NGS	Sanger [†]	RT-PCR	PCR	FISH	IHC
EGFR	✓	✓	✓			
ALK	✓		✓ (Unlikely to detect fusions with novel partners)		✓	✓
ROS1	✓ (DNA-based NGS may under detect)		✓ (Unlikely to detect fusions with novel partners)		✓ (May under-detect FIG-ROS1 variant)	✓ (Low specificity)
BRAF	✓	✓	✓			
KRAS	✓	✓	✓			
METex14 skipping	✓ (RNA-based NGS may have improved detection)					
RET	✓ (RNA-based NGS preferred)		✓ (Unlikely to detect fusions with novel partners)		✓ (May under-detect some variants)	
NTRK1/2/3	✓ (DNA-based NGS may under-detect NTRK1/3 fusions)			✓	✓ (May require ≥3 probe sets for full analysis)	✓ (May be complicated by baseline expression)
ERBB2	✓	✓		✓		
PD-L1						✓ (Definition of positive or negative depends on assay)

*The NCCN Guidelines[®] for NSCLC provide recommendations for individual biomarkers that should be tested and recommend testing techniques but do not endorse any specific commercially available biomarker assays or commercial laboratories.¹ [†]Ideally paired with tumor enrichment.¹

FISH, fluorescence in situ hybridization; IHC, immunohistochemistry; *METex14*, *MET* exon 14; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; RT-PCR, reverse-transcription PCR.

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NCCN Guidelines recommend a broad, panel-based approach to test for biomarkers prior to initiating treatment in eligible patients with metastatic NSCLC¹

NGS can provide a large profile of oncogenic alterations at a point in the patient's journey without sequential testing, with limited tissue sample and through either tissue or plasma testing (also known as liquid biopsy)^{2,3}

Additional benefits of NGS⁴:

- More cost effective than single gene testing
- May facilitate an increase in life-years gained in advanced NSCLC
 - A model comparing the value of an NGS panel (*EGFR*, *ALK*, *ROS1*, *BRAF*, *RET*, *MET*, and *NTRK*) with single-gene testing (*EGFR* and *ALK*) in NSCLC has shown 10% increase in NGS use resulting in 2630 life-years gained⁵
- Easier to add new biomarker genes in patient assessment
- Can provide value for low frequency biomarkers

Testing tissue samples with NGS following a negative result with non-NGS methods revealed genomic alterations with a corresponding targeted therapy in 26% of retested samples, and a targeted agent in a clinical trial was available for 39% of retested samples⁶

DNA-based versus RNA-based NGS assays

NGS assays vary widely in the information they provide in terms of sensitivity, specificity, comprehensiveness, tissue requirements, and turnaround times

DNA-based NGS assays^{1,2}



- Allows the characterization of the exact gene fusion breakpoints and other genetic alterations
- Can detect genetic alterations that lead to aberrant isoforms
- Does not require an additional RNA purification step



- Does not indicate expression of the rearranged locus of some fusion events
- Involves intronic regions



Identification of key biomarkers



Tumor biopsy and sample preparation for NGS



NGS assay

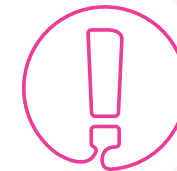


Interpretation of results and treatment decision



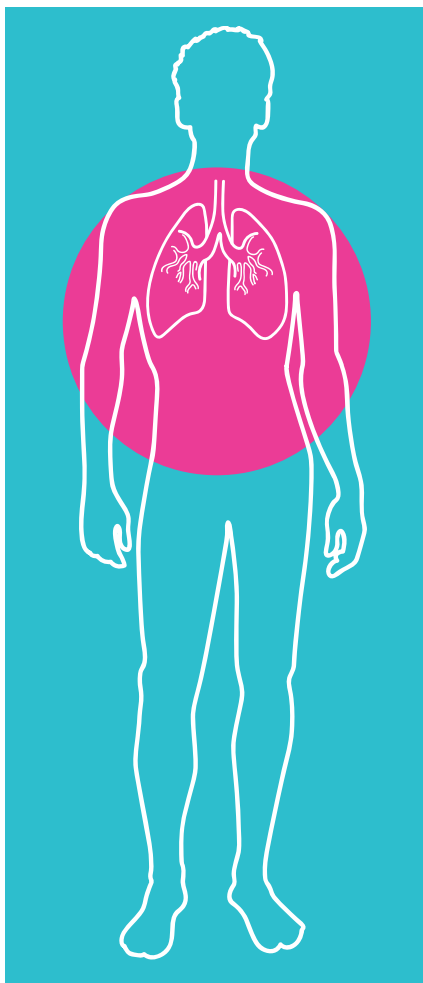
RNA-based NGS assays^{1,2}

- Can be more sensitive, efficient, and functionally definitive
- Can discriminate splicing isoforms and quantify fusion transcripts
- Not impacted by intronic regions

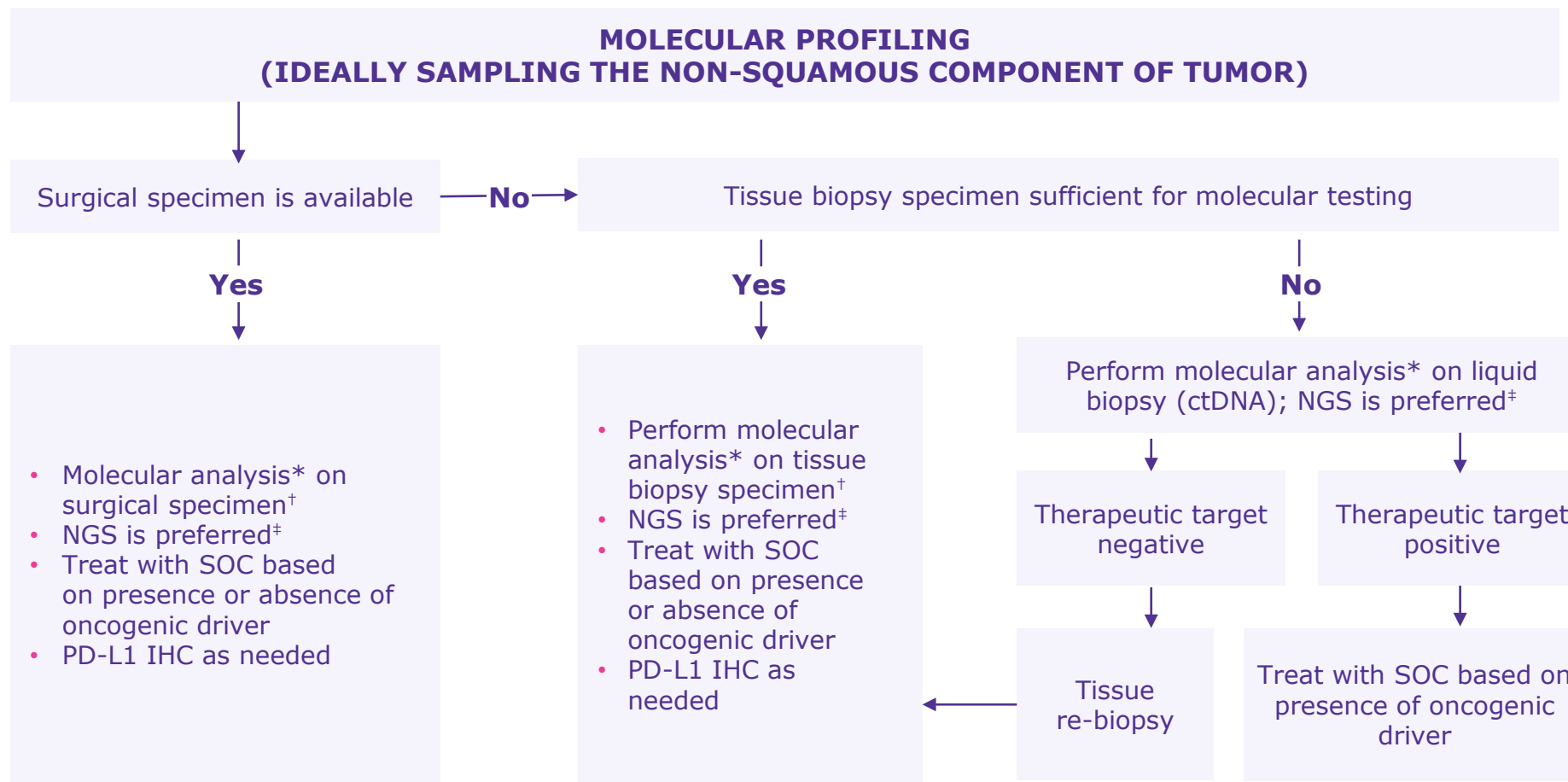


- RNA is more complicated to handle
- RNA can be highly degraded in FFPE specimens
- Fusion gene detection limited to those functionally expressed

Biomarker testing to guide care of treatment-naive NSCLC¹

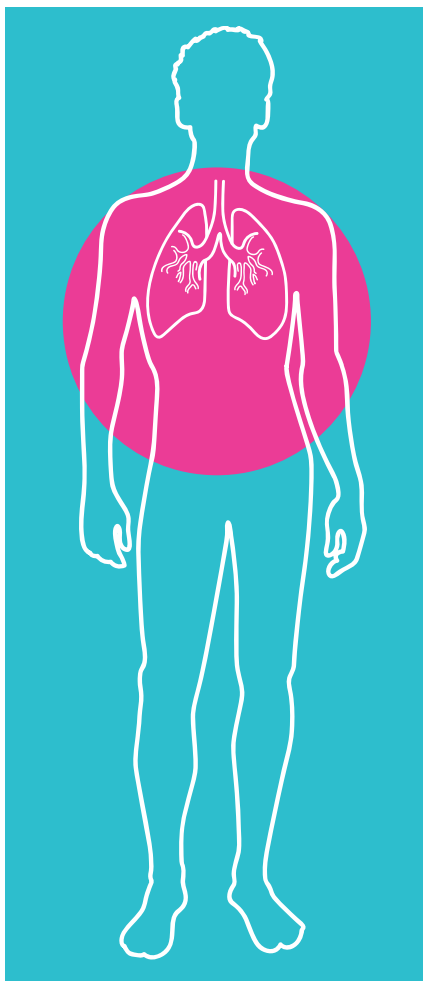


PATIENT WITH ADVANCED TREATMENT-NAIVE NSCLC

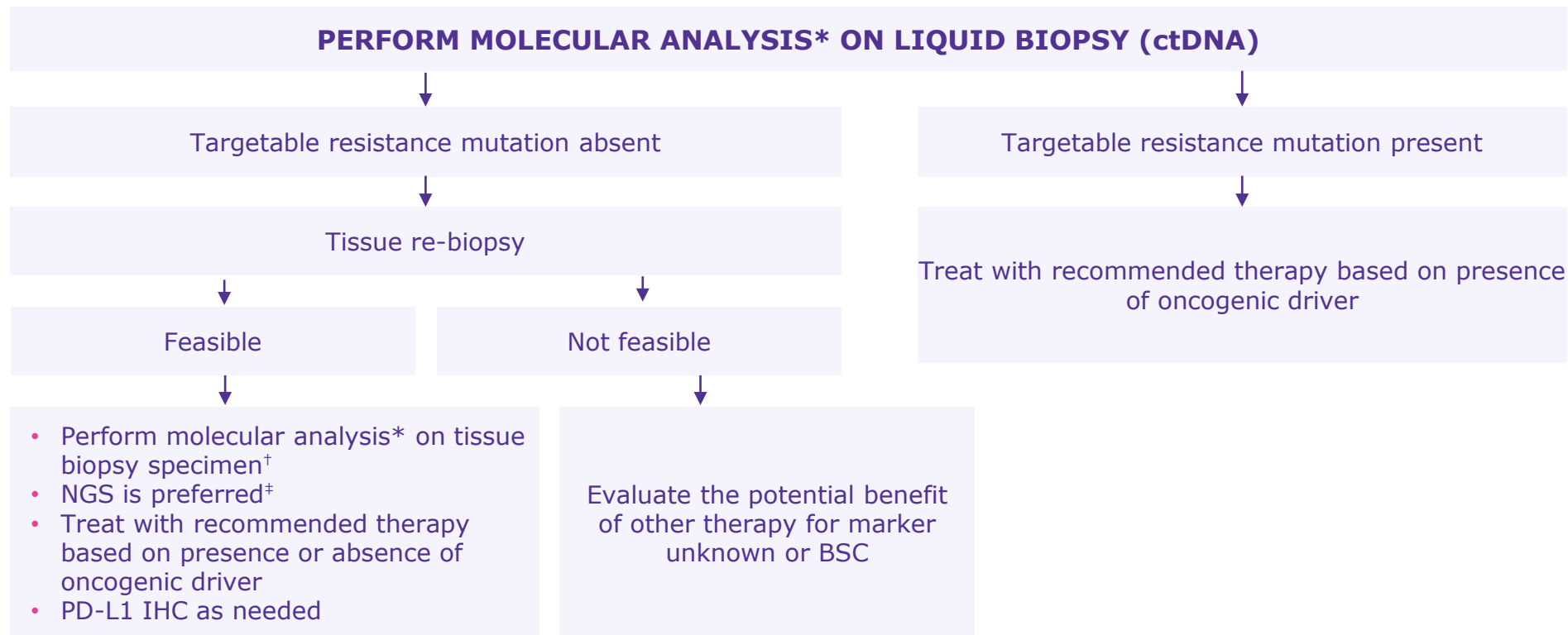


*EGFR, ALK, ROS1, and BRAF at minimum, but a panel if available. [†]Strongly suggest tissue sparing to facilitate participation in clinical trials. [‡]While NGS is preferred, based on availability, other validated assays are acceptable. ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; SOC, standard of care.
1. Pennell NA et al. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2019;39:531–542.

Biomarker testing to guide care of progressive or recurrent NSCLC¹



PATIENT WITH NSCLC PROGRESSIVE OR RECURRENT DISEASE DURING TREATMENT WITH TKI

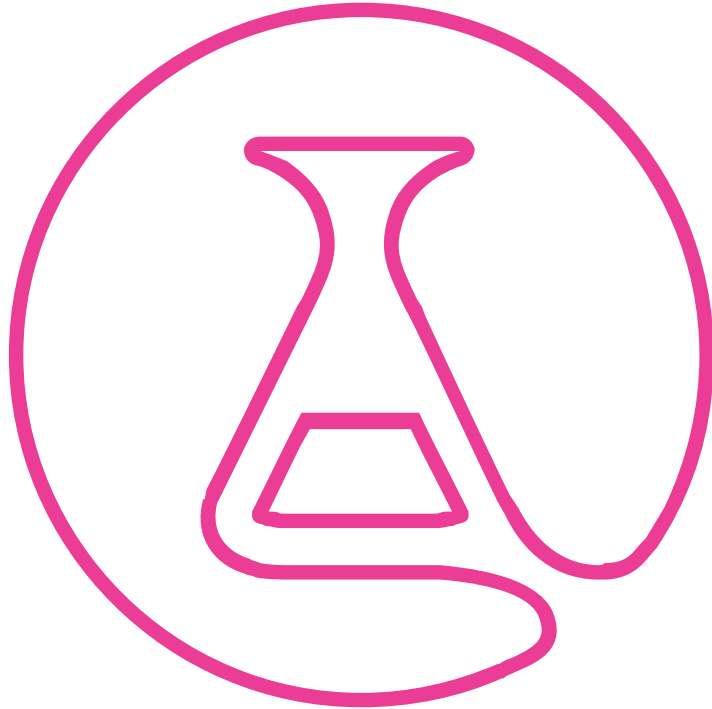


Retesting a tumor after progression on targeted therapy can support the appropriate next therapeutic steps²

*PCR for *EGFR* mutation; NGS preferred for *ALK* and *ROS1*. [†]Strongly suggest tissue sparing to facilitate participation in clinical trials. [‡]While NGS is preferred, based on availability, other validated assays are acceptable. BSC, best supportive care; ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; IHC, immunohistochemistry; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PCR, polymerase chain reaction; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; TKI, tyrosine kinase inhibitor.

1. Pennell NA et al. Am Soc Clin Oncol Educ Book. 2019;39:531–542. 2. Referenced with permission from the NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines[®]) for Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer V.11.2024. © National Comprehensive Cancer Network, Inc. 2024. All rights reserved. Accessed November 19, 2024. To view the most recent and complete version of the guideline, go online to NCCN.org. NCCN makes no warranties of any kind whatsoever regarding their content, use or application and disclaims any responsibility for their application or use in any way.

Interpreting biomarker test results



Depending on the testing approach and the facility, testing results may be reported differently, and results may include genes tested, probes used, qualitative data, and quantitative data.¹

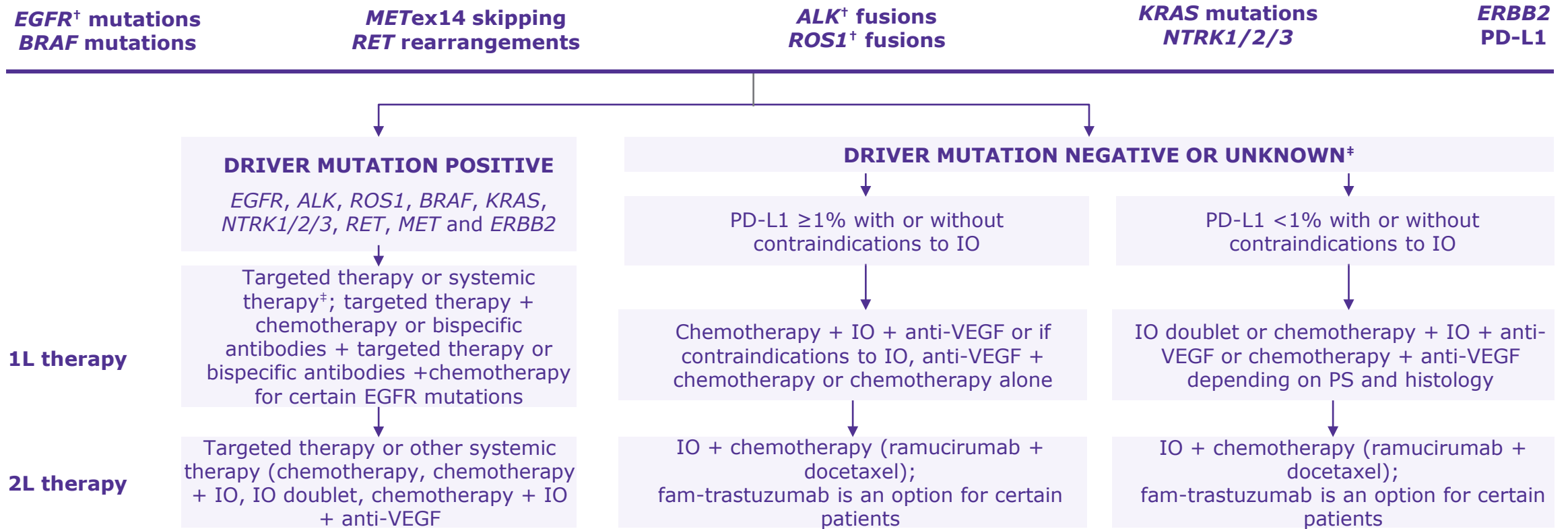
However, there have been efforts to standardize reports through templates.¹

NGS reports may include²:

- A top-line summary of the key findings
- Clinically relevant biomarkers with an associated FDA-approved therapy
- Biomarkers that are potentially relevant but without a clear consensus
- Negative results that are clinically relevant but have not been identified
- A list of clinical trials for which a patient may be eligible based on the presence of an identified biomarker

NCCN Guidelines overview for advanced or metastatic NSCLC^{1,*}

VALIDATED TESTING SHOULD ASSESS A MINIMUM OF:



When patients do not have an identifiable driver oncogene, broad panel testing with RNA-based NGS should be considered to maximize detection of fusion events¹

*See the NCCN Guidelines[®] for detailed recommendations, including treatment regimens.¹ [‡]Considered must test biomarkers by CAP-IASLC molecular testing guidelines.² [†]IO, IO doublet, chemotherapy + IO, chemotherapy + IO + anti-VEGF regimens are recommended as first-line therapy for patients with *KRAS* mutations or *ERBB2* mutations or *EGFR* exon 20 insertion mutations (squamous histology).

1L, first line; 2L, second line; BsAbs, bispecific antibodies; IO, immuno-oncology; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NSCLC, non-small cell lung cancer; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; PS, performance status.

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SUMMARY

Summary



NSCLC is both **histologically and genetically diverse**¹



Current actionable biomarkers for eligible patients with metastatic NSCLC according to the **NCCN include *EGFR, ALK, ROS1, BRAF, METex14 skipping mutations, RET, KRAS, ERBB2, NTRK1/2/3, and PD-L1***; the NCCN recommends that when feasible, molecular testing be performed via a broad, panel-based approach²



If tissue quantity and testing methods limit testing for all recommended biomarkers during initial diagnosis of metastatic NSCLC, **repeat biopsy or cfDNA/ctDNA testing should be done**²



Biomarkers can be assessed via well-characterized techniques such as NGS, RT-PCR, PCR, FISH, and IHC, with assay selection depending on biomarker^{2,3}



Biomarker testing can help **guide patient management and treatment** for eligible patients with metastatic NSCLC²



Broad, panel-based testing can provide a view of the patient's biomarker profile without high tissue demands of sequential testing^{2,3}