DISCUSSION GUIDE:

Discussing Comprehensive Biomarker Testing With Your Patients

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Comprehensive biomarker testing might be unfamiliar for many people living with non-small cell lung cancer (NSCLC). Use the information below to help explain to your patients what comprehensive biomarker testing is, why it is important, and how you will use test results.

How to explain comprehensive biomarker testing and its benefits

Consider using these discussion points:

- It is my understanding that you have further questions surrounding biomarker testing and why it is needed before proceeding with treatment.
- We want to make sure we are prescribing you with the most appropriate treatment for your unique type of lung cancer. We will need to conduct comprehensive biomarker testing to better understand which treatment is appropriate for you.
  - Comprehensive biomarker testing can identify specific genetic "drivers" in your cancer, called biomarkers, that cause your cancer to grow and spread in different ways.[1] Mutation testing, genomic testing, molecular testing, or biomarker testing are all terms that relate to the same thing.
  - Most importantly, lung cancer patients experience much better outcomes when they are treated with appropriate therapies.[2] That is why biomarker testing is so important.
- There are many different types of biomarkers.[3] It is important that we test for many at once so we can create a treatment plan designed specifically for your unique cancer.
  - Comprehensive biomarker testing results can provide information on who should or should not receive targeted therapies or immunotherapies.
    - Targeted therapies work to shrink cancer directly.
    - Immunotherapies stimulate your own immune system to shrink cancer.
  - Since we want to have a complete picture before we develop a treatment plan that is right for you, we will not start treatment until we have received your biomarker testing results.

How to explain the ways comprehensive biomarker testing is performed and how results are used

Consider using these discussion points:

- We will perform your testing using either tissue from your biopsy or a blood test.
  - **For patients who have to have a second biopsy to run biomarker testing:** You will have another biopsy for additional tissue to be taken so the complete testing can be run.[4]
  - **For patients who have already had a biopsy and adequate tissue is available for comprehensive biomarker testing:** The tissue from your biopsy will be used to run the comprehensive biomarker testing.[4]
  - **For patients who will have a liquid biopsy instead of or in addition to tissue-based biomarker testing:** We will use a blood test (also known as a liquid biopsy) to identify biomarkers in your cancer.[4] For this test, we would take a small sample of blood and look for DNA pieces that have been shed by tumor cells.[5] It's important to note that if no biomarkers appear in the biomarker testing on your blood, our next step is to do the same biomarker testing on tissue from your biopsy to be sure about the results.

- It might take up to 4 weeks to receive your test results. Once we have the results, we will analyze them in a few different ways.
  - Based on the test results, possible treatment plans may include chemotherapy, immunotherapy or a targeted therapy.[4] There is also a chance that your appropriate treatment option may be a clinical trial—this is where we study breakthrough approaches to treating your specific type of cancer. We will discuss treatment plans more once we have your results.
  - It is possible your cancer might not test positive for any biomarkers, or it might test positive for a biomarker that currently does not have an FDA-approved treatment. That is okay—there is treatment available for lung cancer regardless of whether or not your cancer tests positive for biomarkers.
  - As a reminder, your treatment will not begin until we have received and analyzed your biomarker testing results. Do not be concerned about the wait period for test results—significant cancer growth is unlikely in such a short period of time, and it is very important for you to receive the most appropriate treatment possible for your unique type of lung cancer.

How to explain where to find additional resources, including payment information, for comprehensive biomarker testing

Consider using these discussion points:

- Now, I would like to talk about the cost of biomarker testing.
  - Medicare, many private insurers, and some Medicaid plans cover the cost of biomarker testing. You should contact your health insurance provider for a better understanding of how much testing will cost.
  - If you are concerned about covering the cost of testing, there are also financial assistance programs. You can ask to speak to a financial navigator about this or contact a patient advocacy group like the LUNGevity Foundation for more information.
- We have discussed a lot of information today. If you need additional information, I can direct you to a helpful resource on comprehensive biomarker testing.
  - Visit www.NoOneMissed.org for more information and videos about comprehensive biomarker testing.
  - If you are looking for additional resources, the LUNGevity Foundation is a national patient advocacy organization dedicated to supporting all lung cancer patients. Contact the LUNGevity helpline at 844-360-5864 or visit www.LUNGevity.org.

[1] Gierman HJ, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2019;37(15) doi:10.1200/JCO.2019.37.15_suppl.1585.
[2] Howlader N, et al. N Engl J Med. 2020;383(7):640-649. doi:10.1056/NEJMoa1916624.
[3] NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology. Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, Version 5.2021. https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/nscl.pdf. Accessed October 1, 2021.
[4] NCCN Guidelines for Patients. Metastatic Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer, 2021. https://www.nccn.org/patients/guidelines/content/PDF/lung-metastatic-patient.pdf. Accessed October 1, 2021.
[5] Biomarker testing for cancer treatment, 2021. National Cancer Institute. https://www.cancer.gov/about-cancer/treatment/types/biomarker-testing-cancer-treatment#how-is-biomarker-testing-done. Accessed October 1, 2021.

Know your biomarkers. Know your options.

There's never been a better time to talk about comprehensive biomarker testing. Encourage your NSCLC patients to find helpful resources and learn more at **www.NoOneMissed.org**

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