



Sonic  
Genetics

Douglas Hanly Moir Pathology

# Personalised cancer care

Information for patients



ContextualGenomics



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Every cancer is different. Different combinations of faulty genes in different tissues cause different types of cancer.

The particular pattern of faulty genes in a cancer can be regarded as the cancer's 'genetic signature' because it is specific for the individual cancer. Research studies across the world are identifying genetic signatures in different cancers. They are also developing treatments that can target those signatures, leading to a revolution in cancer diagnosis and treatment.

This is a new field of medicine. At this stage, we do not understand all of the signatures found in cancer, and we do not have targeted treatments for every signature that we have identified. However, progress is happening very rapidly.

### **Genes and cancer**

The genes in every cell are inherited from our parents, and tell our bodies how to grow, develop and function. Throughout our lives, our cells need to be both copied, to allow us to grow, and also replaced, in order to maintain our health.

There are many control genes in the cells which make sure that this growth is tightly controlled. All genes, including these control genes, develop faults as we age. These changes are called mutations. The number of faulty genes increases over time and eventually this can stop the control genes working properly and the cell grows out of control. Cancer results from the uncontrolled growth in the tissue containing that cell.

There are rare instances in which a faulty control gene has been inherited from a parent, making a person particularly susceptible to cancer. Your doctor will advise you if this mechanism is relevant to you.



## Genomic testing of your tumour

Sonic Genetics provides a test, known as the FIND IT® panel, that documents the pattern of faulty genes, i.e. the genetic signature, of solid cancers.

The FIND IT Cancer Hotspot Panel can help doctors by identifying the genetic signature of a solid cancer and the therapy that is most likely to work. There are separate tests for blood cancers.

Your doctor can advise you if the FIND IT test may be helpful in making decisions about your treatments. The standard cancer treatments, which have been used for many years, are still the mainstay of cancer care for many patients. It may not be necessary for you to have the FIND IT test. Your doctor will be your guide.

## When a genetic test may be helpful

The FIND IT test requires a sample of your cancer, which is usually obtained at the time of biopsy or surgery. It is usually not necessary to have another surgical procedure to collect a sample.

FIND IT panel checks more than 120 different mutations in 33 genes at the same time. The FIND IT panel is regularly updated to reflect the new research that is being done.

- Most of the mutations tested by FIND IT are targeted by drugs that are currently available.
- Other mutations are targeted by drugs that are being evaluated in clinical trials.
- A few of the mutations in FIND IT are for new treatments that will be tested in clinical trials in the near future.

## How the FIND IT panel works

Our genetic pathologists and scientists compare the mutations in your tumour detected by FIND IT with a detailed database of mutations that are targeted by drug treatments available in Australia and overseas.

This comparison includes analysis of de-identified patient information from around the world. Accordingly, we can match the cancer genetic signature we find in your cancer to those medications or clinical trials that may be useful in treating your cancer.

Your de-identified test result and genomic and clinical data are shared with Contextual Genomics, the company which developed the FIND IT test. By comparing the data from all patients tested with FIND IT in Australia and overseas, we can improve the quality of the report we provide to your doctor.

Please note that we do not share your name, date of birth or address, as this private information is handled in accordance with Australian privacy laws and regulations.

Your FIND IT report is delivered to your doctor within seven business days of our laboratory receiving the cancer sample (and, if applicable, prepayment being completed).

## Using FIND IT to help make treatment decisions

Before making a recommendation for your treatment, your doctor will review many aspects of your medical history and cancer diagnosis. This would include, but not be limited to, the result of your FIND IT test.

After reviewing all of the available information, your doctor may suggest using a particular drug or discuss your eligibility for taking part in a clinical trial.

## Arranging a test

Your doctor will have completed a FIND IT Cancer Hotspot Panel (NGS) Request Form, providing details such as:

- Your clinical history and diagnosis
- Previous genetic test results
- A copy of the pathology report of your tumour
- The name of the laboratory holding the original tissue sample

The completed FIND IT request form is then faxed or emailed to the Sonic Genetics laboratory.

## How much does the FIND IT test cost?

You may be eligible for a Medicare rebate that will cover part of the cost of this test. Please ask your doctor about your eligibility for a Medicare rebate.

- If you qualify for a Medicare rebate, the price of FIND IT is \$395\*.
- If you do not qualify for a Medicare rebate, the price of FIND IT is \$595\*.

The laboratory will contact you for prepayment by credit card over the phone if criteria for Medicare or other reimbursement is not met.

Once we have received a completed FIND IT request form from your doctor and payment is complete, we will retrieve your tissue sample from the laboratory that provided the original pathology report<sup>^</sup>. Testing starts as soon as we have received your sample.

\*Prices correct at time of printing.  
Please refer to [www.sonicgenetics.com.au/pricing](http://www.sonicgenetics.com.au/pricing) for current price.

<sup>^</sup>If a sample is held by a laboratory outside of the Sonic Healthcare network, there may be a charge to the patient for processing, postage and administration by that laboratory.

## Points to consider

- The FIND IT test may identify possible targeted treatments that your doctor has already considered for you.
- The FIND IT may not identify any specific mutations with targeted treatments. This does not mean that there is no treatment available for you. Your doctor will advise regarding other treatment options.
- The FIND IT test may identify a treatment that is available in Australia but not funded by the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme. Your doctor would discuss funding options with you.
- The FIND IT test may identify a clinical trial for which you may be eligible, but we cannot guarantee that you would be accepted onto the trial. Your doctor will discuss your eligibility for a trial with you.
- This is a test to guide your immediate treatment. It is not a test to check if you are in the rare situation where you have inherited a faulty gene that made you susceptible to cancer. Your doctor will advise you if such testing is recommended.
- Sonic Healthcare, our parent company, is Australia's largest provider of diagnostic services. We have extensive experience in the delivery of genetic testing across the country – with expertise in medically-led practices.



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For further information, please refer to our website  
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