

Oncotype DX Breast Cancer Test

What is the Oncotype DX Breast Cancer Test?

The Oncotype DX breast cancer test examines the activity and interaction of certain genes in your tumor. This information can help predict how likely your cancer is to return, whether or not you will benefit from having chemotherapy and assist in developing an individualized treatment plan that is right for you.

Who Can Have the Oncotype DX Test?

Candidates for this test typically have early-stage breast cancer (stage I or II) that is:

- Estrogen-receptor positive (ER+) breast cancer.
- Human epidermal growth factor protein negative (HER₂ -).

When Should I Have the Oncotype DX Test?

You and your doctor can discuss when it is appropriate for you.

How is the Oncotype DX Test Performed?

A small sample of the tumor tissue is removed during your surgical procedure (biopsy, lumpectomy or mastectomy) and sent to a laboratory for examination. A group of 21 genes in this tissue are analyzed and measured to see if they act in a way that makes your tumor more aggressive.

What Will I Learn from the Oncotype DX Test?

The test results include a Recurrence Score (RS) that can help identify how likely your cancer is to come back and if chemotherapy is beneficial. The RS can range from 0 to 100.

A low RS is 17 and below. This means:

- You are a low risk of cancer recurrence.
- The benefits of chemotherapy may not be worth the risks for you.

A medium RS is 18 to 30. This means:

- You are at an intermediate risk of cancer recurrence.
- The benefits of chemotherapy for you are uncertain. Your doctor will discuss this in more detail with you.

A high RS is 31 or over. This means:

- You are at a higher risk of cancer recurrence.
- Adding chemotherapy to your cancer treatment may be beneficial.

How Long Does it Take to Get the Results?

It typically takes about two weeks for your doctor to get the results.

Is the Oncotype DX Covered by Insurance?

Most insurance companies will cover the cost of this test. However, your insurance company must approve the test before it is done. If it is not covered, the testing company may assist with funding.

If Chemotherapy isn't Needed, Do I Still Need Hormone Therapy?

If your cancer cells are estrogen-receptor positive (ER+), your doctor may prescribe tamoxifen or an aromatase inhibitor. These medications can help stop the growth of tumors by either blocking or lowering the amount of estrogen in your body.