



In [cancer](#), most prognostic tests are biomarkers that help indicate likelihood of disease events such as progression of disease, metastasis (spread of [cancer](#)), or recurrence. Prognostic markers can also be used to predict which patients will have a very low risk of disease events and can avoid toxic treatment, or high-risk patients who may benefit from more aggressive therapies. While presence or absence of a prognostic marker can be useful to determine which patients need treatment it does not directly predict the response to a treatment.

Biomarkers can be lymph nodes, pathology features, or proteins found in the blood. Recently genetic variants in tumor cells have also been included with the prognostic tools used in [cancer](#) treatment. These tests examine several genes to help determine the likelihood of recurrence and whether that patient should continue chemotherapy.

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for questions about pediatric or adult genetic conditions.