

# Be a GIST Detective



In detective work, there are several important questions that allow someone to uncover evidence and to see the whole picture. Sharing the **Who, When, Where, Why** and **How** of biomarker/mutational testing with your doctor will help you advocate to obtain the testing you need for an accurate diagnosis and targeted treatment.



**Who should obtain testing?** Any patient diagnosed with Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST) should receive basic biomarker/mutational testing. GIST is not one cancer but a sarcoma with many rare subsets. To receive the most effective treatment for your mutation, you need to know as much information as possible.



**When should testing be done?** It is important to have testing done at the beginning of the diagnostic process prior to receiving any treatment, or at any point where resistance to treatment and progression is identified.



**Where can I obtain testing?** In the United States, most large academic medical centers can perform biomarker testing. There are private labs that perform more sophisticated tests such as next generation sequencing. Internationally, access varies. The Life Raft Group can help you locate these services. **For more information, visit this link:** <https://lifaftgroup.org/mutations-in-gist/>



**Why should I have testing?** It is critical to know the driving force behind an individual's GIST tumor. This knowledge helps ensure an accurate diagnosis to identify personalized treatment to avoid ineffective interventions that cost patients time, money and needless side effects.



**How can I get tested?** When speaking with your doctor, have all relevant documentation with you - pathology reports, imaging results, etc. and bring this sheet for discussion about what type of testing is best for you.

The LRG can help you navigate this process, from diagnosis to testing to treatments.

Please contact: [patientregistrydepartment@lifaftgroup.org](mailto:patientregistrydepartment@lifaftgroup.org)

For more information on biomarker testing, go to: <https://lifaftgroup.org/mutations-in-gist/>