

1 What are the benefits of testing MRD in my cancer?

The answer to this question could help you understand your doctor's experience with measuring MRD in your kind of cancer and how that information was used in the treatment of other patients. It may also help you determine a plan of when to test and what to do with the results.

2 Which tests should we use to measure my MRD?

Your specific cancer can determine which tests should be considered. Each of them will give you and your doctor different information. Some tests can be administered in different ways, and some require a different sample from you (for example, blood, urine, bone marrow). Your doctor may want your input on what you'd like, based on the methods available, or the level of aggressiveness you want to take in treatment.

3 How often will I need MRD tests?

This can also depend on your type of cancer and stage or line of therapy. Some tests make more sense after therapy and can help guide steps to take next and treatment decisions. You may wish to monitor for signs of a relapse on a regular basis after successful treatment.

4 What results are we aiming for?

It's good to agree on your treatment goals beforehand. Keep in mind that in some blood cancers, it's realistic to aim for no detectable disease, while low levels of MRD can be acceptable in others. In some cases, you may agree on a "watch and wait" approach if you aren't showing any symptoms.

5 Will MRD testing be part of my treatment plan?

MRD testing is commonly used in some cancers and widely accepted as part of clinical care. For other cancers, it may be a new option that your treatment team is still beginning to incorporate and understand. Either way, make sure you understand what the options are for your situation.