PHARMACOGENOMIC TESTING FOR RASBURICASE

What is pharmacogenomic testing?
Pharmacogenomic testing looks at changes in your genetic code, called polymorphisms, that can affect how you respond to certain medications. Some genetic changes may make it more likely to have side effects from a medication, while other genetic changes may make it less likely that the medication will help treat your symptoms. Knowing whether or not you carry these genetic changes can help your healthcare provider select the medication and/or dose that will work best for you.

Pharmacogenomic testing may not be accurate for people who have received some types of transplants. Talk to your healthcare provider if you are a transplant recipient.

How do genetics affect my response to rasburicase?
Hemolytic anemia (the destruction of red blood cells) is a potential side effect of the medication rasburicase. Individuals who have a deficiency in a special enzyme called G6PD are at higher risk of this side effect.

Your body’s instructions for making G6PD are located in your DNA. Variations in these instructions can affect how much G6PD is made. People with lower amounts of working G6PD may be at higher risk of experiencing hemolytic anemia and possibly other side effects.

What can pharmacogenomic testing for rasburicase tell me?
Rasburicase is a medication that is most commonly used for treating high uric acid during chemotherapy for certain cancers. Knowing how much working G6PD you have can help your healthcare providers select the right medication for your condition and prevent harmful effects. Your doctor may choose a different medication that is not affected by the G6PD gene.

It is important to know that pharmacogenomic testing can influence decisions about which medication may work better for you, but it is not the only factor. Other things that can affect how you respond to a medication include your age, sex, the symptoms of your condition, other medications or supplements you are taking, any other health conditions you have (for example, liver or kidney problems)—and possibly other changes to your genetic code that have not been discovered yet.

What can’t this pharmacogenomic test tell me?
- This pharmacogenomic test cannot tell you how your family members might respond to this medication.
- This pharmacogenomic test cannot tell you about your diagnosis.

What should I do after I receive my test results?
Talk to your doctor or pharmacist about your results to determine whether any changes should be made to your medications. Ask them:
- What do these results mean?
- How will these results affect how I take my medication?
- Do these results affect any other medications I am taking?

DO NOT START, STOP, OR CHANGE DOSES OF YOUR MEDICATIONS WITHOUT CONSULTING YOUR HEALTHCARE PROVIDER.