

LEARNING ABOUT LIVER DISEASE

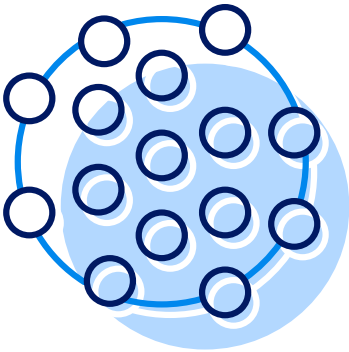
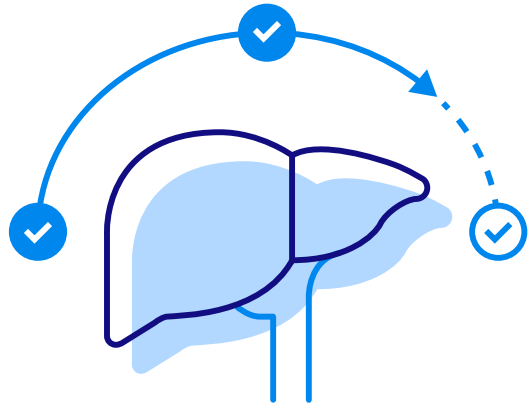
The Importance of Regular Testing
to Detect Liver Cancer

oncoguard[™] liver

by EXACT SCIENCES

Your liver is important. Did you know...

The liver is a vital organ that performs many important functions. It provides immunity against infections, cleans the blood, and has an important role in digestion, among other functions. There are diseases that can affect the health of your liver and put you at risk for developing liver cancer.



Cancer often develops as the result of cells that have become damaged over time. Cell damage can occur due to a variety of causes. The most common form of cancer that starts in the liver is called hepatocellular carcinoma, or HCC.^{1,2}

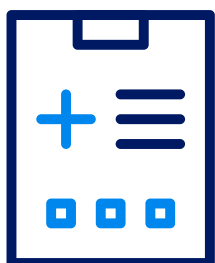
>40,000

Americans are diagnosed with liver cancer each year, and that number is rising.³

Finding liver cancer as early as possible allows for more treatment options and improves your chances for survival.^{4,5}

Am I at risk for liver cancer?

The most common form of liver cancer is hepatocellular carcinoma, or HCC.^{1,2} **Nine out of ten** people who develop HCC have cirrhosis.⁶ In cirrhosis, damaged liver tissue is slowly replaced by scar tissue, preventing the liver from doing its job.⁷ Cirrhosis can be caused by a variety of things. All of them are risk factors for liver cancer.⁵



Finding out you are at risk for liver cancer can be scary; however, it's important to know your risk so you can watch for the early signs of cancer.

What can I do?

You can help manage your health by understanding your risk for developing liver cancer and working closely with your doctor.

Common risk factors for liver cancer and cirrhosis⁵

- **Chronic infection with hepatitis B (HBV) or hepatitis C (HCV)**
- **Fatty liver conditions such as nonalcoholic fatty liver disease and nonalcoholic steatohepatitis**
- **Heavy alcohol use**
- **Inherited conditions that cause excessive iron or copper storage in the liver**
- **Rare genetic conditions**



The importance of testing

If you have liver disease and your doctor believes you are at risk for liver cancer, they may recommend regular testing to keep an eye on any changes in your liver.

The purpose of this testing is to carefully watch for signs of cancer. The goal is to spot cancer as early as possible, which may improve the chances of successfully treating it. When cancer is detected in later stages, it is harder to treat and can have worse results.⁶

Early detection means a chance for early action fighting liver cancer.

Staying on top of your testing

When you have liver disease, the damaged cells may turn into cancer cells. These cancer cells can grow quickly.^{1,2} However, the signs and symptoms of liver cancer often aren't clear until it is in its later stages. If you're at risk, your doctor may recommend testing to look for the signs of cancer every 6 months. Once you start getting tested, continuing with your testing plan is important, even if test results are negative.⁶ Without regular testing, you might not know that cancer has developed and is continuing to grow.

Research has shown that regular testing may **double** your chances for early detection of cancer.^{4,8} This research also found that more testing led to earlier diagnoses of cancer, which led to improved treatment.

Testing options

There are a few ways to monitor your liver and look for signs of liver cancer. Regular testing may include imaging tests, like an ultrasound, and blood testing. One such blood test option is the Oncoguard™ Liver test.

The **Oncoguard™ Liver** test is a simple and convenient blood test that can be drawn in a doctor's office or lab. The test helps detect markers in the blood that are associated with liver cancer, even when cancer is in its early stages.⁹ The earlier a cancer is detected, the better the chance for successful treatment.^{4,5}



Help where it's needed

The makers of the Oncoguard™ Liver test are experts in earlier cancer detection. They are committed to building relationships to help support your care. The **Oncoguard™ Liver Patient Engagement Program** was designed to help support you so you can stick to your recommended testing plan. Educational materials help you understand your risk factors for liver cancer and the importance of keeping up to date on your ongoing testing. They are also available to remind you to stay in touch with your doctor's office and reach out to schedule follow-up appointments and testing.

Stay ahead of liver disease and liver cancer with regular testing

Talk to your doctor if you have any questions about the type of liver disease you may have, what your risk is for developing liver cancer, and why ongoing testing is so important.

Feel free to visit **OncoguardLiver.com/Patients** for more information and resources.

References: **1.** Tholey D. Hepatocellular carcinoma. Merck Manual Consumer Version. Updated April 2020. Accessed September 3, 2020. <https://www.merckmanuals.com/home/liver-and-gallbladder-disorders/tumors-of-the-liver/hepatocellular-carcinoma> **2.** Bray F, Ferlay J, Soerjomataram I, Siegel RL, Torre LA, Jemal A. Global cancer statistics 2018: GLOBOCAN estimates of incidence and mortality worldwide for 36 cancers in 185 countries. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2018;68(6):394-424. doi: 10.3322/caac.21492 **3.** Siegel RL, Miller KD, Jemal A. Cancer statistics, 2020. *CA Cancer J Clin.* 2020;70(1):7-30. doi: 10.3322/caac.21590 **4.** Choi DT, Kum HC, Park S, et al. Hepatocellular carcinoma screening is associated with increased survival of patients with cirrhosis. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2019;17(5):976-987.e4. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2018.10.031 **5.** Cancer Stat Facts: Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Duct Cancer. National Cancer Institute. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program. Accessed September 3, 2020. <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/livibd.html> **6.** Marrero JA, Kulik LM, Sirlin CB, et al. Diagnosis, staging, and management of hepatocellular carcinoma: 2018 practice guidance by the American Association for the Study of Liver Diseases. *Hepatology.* 2018;68(2):723-750. doi: 10.1002/hep.29913 **7.** Heimbach JK, Kulik LM, Finn RS, et al. AASLD guidelines for the treatment of hepatocellular carcinoma. *Hepatology.* 2018;67(1):358-380. doi: 10.1002/hep.29086 **8.** Singal AG, Pillai A, Tiro J. Early detection, curative treatment, and survival rates for hepatocellular carcinoma surveillance in patients with cirrhosis: a meta-analysis. *PLoS Med.* 2014;11(4):e1001624. doi: 10.1371/journal.pmed.1001624 **9.** Chalasani NP, Porter K, Bhattacharya A, et al. Validation of a novel multi-target blood test shows high sensitivity to detect early-stage hepatocellular carcinoma. *Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol.* 2021. doi: 10.1016/j.cgh.2021.08.010.

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