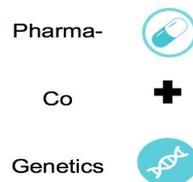


Patient Information Leaflet on Genetic Drug Response testing i.e. Pharmacogenetic Testing (PGx)



What is pharmacogenetics?

A bit complex ? Let's break it down.



Pharmacogenetics is the study of how genes affect a person's response to drugs.

Some of us respond differently than others to the same medications that we take, or we may experience different side effects from drugs. The way we respond can be due to the genes we have inherited. With respect to drugs, our unique genetic make-up and our individual response may mean that a drug that is effective for one person may be less effective for another or that a drug that is safe for one person may be less safe for another person—even at the same dosage.

So many factors affect our response to medications. They include:

Genes, age, kidney and liver function, lifestyle factors such as smoking and diet can affect how people respond to medication.

What is a pharmacogenetic test (PGx)?

This is a DNA based test to find differences in genes related to medication response.

Pharmacogenetic testing can help to determine the following:

- how likely a medication is to work for you (efficacy of the medication)
- the best dose of a medication, or
- whether you could have serious side effects from a medication.

A pharmacogenetic test may help to predict your response to one or a few medications.

However, other genes that are not tested and factors such as diet can cause side effects or the medicine to not work for you. So, this test can only partly predict how you will respond to a medicine.

Further, it cannot tell you how you will respond to all medications. The test being offered at your GP will look at 1 - 3 genes.

With this information and clinical guidelines your doctor can make a better decision about which medicine will work best for you or have fewer side effects.

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What is involved with testing?

When it comes to medications, one size does not fit all. The test requires a cheek swab. It will be collected and sent to a testing laboratory.

How long does it take for your doctor to get the results?

Most Pharmacogenetic test results are available within 1-2 weeks.

Who should be considered for testing?

This test is only indicated if previous medications were not effective or if you experienced side effects or you are newly diagnosed with a condition that require treatment.

Can I decline testing?

It is completely your decision to have testing or not.

Are there any risks to testing?

No test is 100% accurate and genetic drug response knowledge is continuously evolving.

What happens to my DNA sample?

Your DNA sample will be kept for 30 days just in case it has to be re-analyzed and after 30 days the sample will be destroyed.

What about my insurance?

At present, the results of a Genetic Drug Response Test do not impact UK insurance coverage decisions.

What happens to my data?

Your genetic data is anonymous and will be stored for 10 years, however, no personal information will be shared with the laboratory or anyone. Your data will not be shared or sold to third parties.

Will my data be used in research?

No

Will my prescription or dosing change following testing?

This will depend on the test result as well as other clinical factors taken into account by your GP.

Can I be tested in relation to a broad range of medications?

At present this test is only available for specific medications.