What is the EXaCT-1 test?

EXaCT-1 is the first clinical Cancer Whole Exome Sequencing test that is approved by NY State. The purpose of this test is to examine the genomic mutations of all genes (about 22,000 genes in human being) in each patient’s cancer cells. The complete cancer cell-specific mutation profile will provide information about biomarkers which matches currently FDA-approved target therapies and all active clinical trials, but also provide other cancer genome properties which will help doctors choose more efficient and personalized treatment regimes, including immunotherapy, check point inhibitor therapy and gene therapy.

Where is the test performed?

The EXaCT-1 test is performed in the Clinical Genomics Laboratory located at 1300 York Ave, Room LC-904. This laboratory is CAP and CLIA certified. The lab director is Dr. Wayne Tam

How can one order the test?

Please discuss with your oncologist whether ordering this test is right for you. Oncologist are currently able to order this test through EPIC. The doctor will then work directly with the patient to schedule a time to collect blood. The pathology department will select the most suitable tumor specimen and send it to the EXaCT-1 laboratory for processing

What kind of specimens can be used for testing?

EXaCT-1 (Whole Exome Sequencing) requires both a tumor sample AND matched normal sample. In most cases, a new blood draw will be scheduled and sent to the laboratory however in some patients a different type of non-tumorous sample may be required (such as a cheek swab). The ordering physician will work with each patient to select the most suitable material.

Can the test be performed on tissue specimens from outside hospitals?

Yes, tissue located at an outside hospital can be sent to our laboratory for Whole Exome Sequencing.

Is there a requirement for a consent form?

Yes, due to the ethical considerations of genomic testing, the laboratory requires a clinical consent to be signed by the patient before the EXaCT-1 test can be performed.
Where is the tissue sent and what are the tissue requirements?

Tissue from an outside hospital can be sent to 1300 York Ave, Room LC-904. Currently only Formalin Fixed Paraffin Embedded (FFPE) material can be accepted. FFPE can be shipped at room temperature. We require 20 unstained slides and a recut H&E. In addition, an in-house blood draw will be required.

How long will it take for results (turnaround time)?

Our estimated turnaround time is 14-21 business days once material is received in the laboratory. Should any delay occur, the laboratory will notify the ordering physician.

Will results be in EPIC?

Yes, the results for the ExACT-1 test will be reported in Cerner Copath and populated into EPIC.

Can we give results to a patient?

Results from this test should be treated as any other clinical test result. Results will be found in the patients’ medical record and can be obtained via the patient portal and/or medical records department.

Who do we contact with questions about the results?

For further information on the assay or for questions on the results of the EXaCT-1 test please contact:

Dr. Wei Song, Laboratory Director  212-746-6419
Jeffrey Catalano, Operations Manager  212-746-9117
Laboratory Staff  646-962-3816

Can we make clinical decisions on the results?

Results from this test should be treated as any other clinical test result.

How much will the test cost patients?

Currently, the specific test requested is what will be billed.

Can we order the test again on new tissue from the same patient (a later biopsy)?

Yes, the test can be ordered again if clinically indicated. The test does not interrogate germline variants. The clinician will decide whether additional testing is clinically indicated. Please contact Dr. Wei Song for any questions regarding clinical utilization of this test.