



Patient Power

What Is Minimal Residual Disease (MRD)?

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MRD is the term used for the small number of cancer cells that remain in the body during or after treatment. Monitoring MRD can provide detailed insights into a patient's disease status and their response to treatment. The presence of MRD in a patient's body may be associated with increased likelihood for the disease to return after treatment.

MRD is usually tested for in the blood or bone marrow. MRD is currently detected using the following techniques: flow cytometry, polymerase chain reaction (PCR), next-generation sequencing (NGS) and next-generation flow (NGF) cytometry.

An MRD-positive result means that residual disease was detected. An MRD-negative result means that residual disease was not detected, also known as undetectable MRD. MRD-negative results indicate that a patient is less likely to relapse. MRD results assess the depth response to treatment, assists in evaluating whether a treatment is working, monitors remission status and aids in early detection of relapse.

Questions to Ask Your Healthcare Team About MRD Testing

- Do I need to have an MRD test?
- When and how often should I have an MRD test?
- What does an MRD-positive or MRD-negative status mean for me?
- How might MRD results affect my treatment plan?
- What tests are available and how do they vary in sensitivity and accuracy?
- Is MRD testing covered by insurance?
- Is financial assistance available?

Visit patientpower.info/MRD to learn more about MRD testing.

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