



Serial testing with the CTC Test allows your physician to assess your prognosis at any time during therapy.

The CTC Test is used at many of the world's leading cancer centers.

Ask your doctor if this test is right for you.

The CellSearch™ CTC is an FDA cleared test developed by Veridex, a Johnson & Johnson Company.

Available at:

Applied Diagnostics

1140 Business Center Drive
Suite 370
Houston, TX 77043

T 713 / 271 / 4133
F 713 / 271 / 6885



Applied Diagnostics

For patients with
metastatic breast cancer...

DIAGNOSIS DEFINED

CIRCULATING TUMOR CELL TEST

An effective monitoring tool to help your doctor provide the care that is right for you.

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Coping with treatment for metastatic breast cancer is hard enough. But having to wait precious months to see how the disease is progressing can be even more difficult.

Fortunately, now there's a simple test that can help you and your doctor learn about how you are doing sooner. It's called the **Circulating Tumor Cell Test**, and it allows your doctor to check your prognosis at any time during your treatment. Used in combination with imaging and all the other important parts of your therapy, the CTC test can help your doctor make more informed decisions regarding your care.

Circulating Tumor Cell Test Q&A

Q. What is metastatic breast cancer?

A. Metastatic breast cancer occurs when cancer spreads from its primary site in the breast to other places in the body through the circulatory system or the lymphatic system.

Q. What are circulating tumor cells (CTCs)?

A. Circulating tumor cells are cancer cells that spread through the blood after detaching from a solid tumor and entering the bloodstream. CTCs are present in significant levels in people with metastatic breast cancer and not in people without the disease, according to recent studies. The number of CTCs present in a blood sample has been shown to be an independent predictor of progression-free and overall survival.

Q. How is the progression of cancer traditionally determined?

A. Traditionally, the progression of metastatic breast cancer is determined through laboratory studies using tumor markers and/or imaging studies, such as a CT scan.

Q. How is counting CTCs useful?

A. Measuring the number of CTCs in a sample of blood over the course of treatment can be helpful in monitoring metastatic breast cancer because results of CTC testing can help oncologists evaluate the progression of a patient's cancer early in the course of treatment and make critical decisions about patient care. CTCs are a strong, independent predictor of progression-free and overall survival, based on more than four years of clinical follow-up — fewer than five CTCs in 7.5 mL of blood predicts

significantly longer overall survival compared with five or more CTCs.

Q. What is the CTC Test?

A. The CTC Test is a **simple blood test** that captures, identifies, and counts circulating tumor cells (CTCs) in a tube of blood. The test's advanced technology makes it possible to detect as low as one CTC. The results of serial CTC testing in conjunction with other clinical methods for monitoring metastatic breast cancer, can help oncologists individualize patient care because results may provide important information about the clinical status of the patient.

Q. Why should patients request the CTC Test?

A. With more than four years of clinical data, the CTC Test is the first simple blood test that helps oncologists predict progression-free survival and overall survival of patients with metastatic breast cancer at any time during therapy. The specificity and reproducibility of the CTC Test allows for more rapid observation of changes of rare CTCs as early as the first cycle of treatment.

Q. How often should the CTC be ordered?

A. Typically, a blood sample is taken for the CTC test before a new line of therapy begins to establish a baseline, then every 3 to 4 weeks during the course of therapy on the disease. The CTC Test helps physicians monitor the effect of the therapy on the disease, providing results that can help them make more informed patient care decisions sooner than with the current standard of care. The combination of CTC measurement and imaging may provide the most accurate assessment of disease status.