

HOW IS MY GENETIC INFORMATION PROTECTED?

UF Health protects all of your health information, including genetic information, with strict security policies and safeguards. Protecting the privacy of our patients is of utmost importance to us.



HOW TO LEARN MORE

To learn more about personalized medicine at UF Health and how your information is protected, visit our patient resources page on the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program's website. We provide information about which medications and health care providers are part of our program, as well as links to UF Health and other resources on patient privacy and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act.

personalizedmedicine.UFHealth.org

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UF HEALTH PERSONALIZED MEDICINE PROGRAM

Information on Genetic Testing for Thiopurines





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As part of your care at UF Health, your doctor may order a genetic test through the UF Health Personalized Medicine Program to help identify which medication or dose is likely to work best for you.
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HOW DO MY GENES AFFECT MY RESPONSE TO MEDICATIONS?

Genes, which are made of DNA, act as the instruction manual for making all of the proteins in your body. Proteins help your body process medications, and differences in genes can affect the proteins that process certain medications. Screening for specific genetic variations can help you receive the proper dose, experience fewer side effects or avoid drugs that might not work well.

WHAT ARE THE THIOPURINES?

The thiopurines are a family of three medications: azathioprine (Imuran®), mercaptopurine (Purinethol®, 6-MP) and thioguanine (Tabloid®). These medications are used to treat various conditions, including certain types of bowel or joint disorders and some types of cancer.

WHY AM I GETTING A GENETIC TEST?

For thiopurines to work, a protein called TPMT has to help your body process the medications. This protein works faster or slower depending on your genetics. If the protein works slower, there may be a higher chance of developing side effects. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration includes a precaution about these genetic factors in thiopurine drug labels.

Information about your genes that influence TPMT will help your doctor determine the right medicine and the right dose to treat your condition.



WHAT DOES THE GENETIC TEST INVOLVE?

A health care provider will draw a small amount of blood to be processed in the lab.

WHEN IS THE GENETIC TEST ORDERED?

A TPMT genetic test is usually ordered before starting a thiopurine medication. Your doctor may order additional blood tests throughout your therapy to monitor drug levels in your blood.

HOW CAN I LEARN ABOUT MY TEST RESULTS?

Your test results will be stored in your UF Health electronic medical record for your doctor and health care team to use in your care. Let your UF Health provider know if you'd like to discuss your test results. Always speak to a health care provider before starting or stopping any medication.