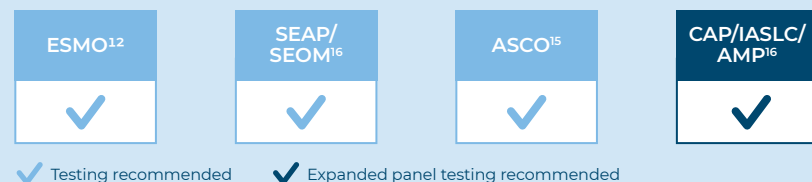


THE IMPORTANCE OF BRAF TESTING IN NSCLC

Incidence of BRAF mutations

- **BRAF mutations are rare**, occurring in around 2–4% of patients with NSCLC¹
- **Around 50% of BRAF mutations are BRAF^{V600E} mutations**,^{1,3} which mostly occur in lung adenocarcinoma¹
- **BRAF^{V600} mutations are actionable therapeutic targets in advanced NSCLC**, with effective treatment options^{2,4-11}
- **International guidelines for advanced/metastatic BRAF^{V600}-mutant NSCLC** recommend BRAF/MEK inhibitor combinations for first-line treatment, or second-line treatment in patients with disease progression after first-line chemotherapy or immunotherapy¹²
- **Early BRAF testing could help identify appropriate treatment pathways** for patients with BRAF^{V600}-mutant NSCLC^{4,12,13}

European and international guidelines recommend testing for BRAF mutations in advanced and metastatic disease^{12,14,15}



Which mutations to test for?

- ESMO guidelines recommend testing for all targetable oncogenic gene mutations in metastatic NSCLC¹²
- Broad biomarker testing could support early drug access¹²

Recommended gene mutation testing



Abbreviations: ALK, anaplastic lymphoma kinase; AMP, Association for Molecular Pathology; ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; BRAF, V-Raf murine sarcoma viral oncogene homolog B; CAP, College of American Pathologists; ctDNA, circulating tumour DNA; EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor; ESMO, European Society for Medical Oncology; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IASLC, International Association for the Study of Lung Cancer; IHC, immunohistochemistry; KRAS, Kirsten rat sarcoma viral oncogene; MET, mesenchymal-epithelial transition factor; MEK, meiotic chromosome-axis-associated kinase; NCCN, National Comprehensive Cancer Network; NGS, next-generation sequencing; NTRK1, neurotrophin receptor kinase; RET, rearranged during transfection; ROS1, ROS proto-oncogene 1; RT qPCR, real-time quantitative polymerase chain reaction; SEAP, Spanish Society of Pathological Anatomy; SEOM, Spanish Society of Medical Oncology

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NGS is the preferred testing method for BRAF^{V600} mutations^{1-3,12,13}

| | NGS | RT qPCR | IHC |
|--------------------|--|---|---|
| Sensitivity | High | High (for known targets) | Moderate-high |
| Specificity | High | High | Moderate (83-100%) |
| Scope | BRAF ^{V600} & non-BRAF ^{V600} , multiplex | BRAF ^{V600} allele-specific | Detects BRAF ^{V600} mutant protein only |
| Other | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multiple testing is cost-effective Analysis of ctDNA in liquid biopsy is possible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wide range of use Reproducible | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cost-effective Fast turnaround |

Despite guideline recommendations, real-world testing is not consistently implemented in metastatic and advanced NSCLC¹⁷⁻²⁰

Key barriers include:



Long turnaround times that can delay treatment

Opportunities^{18,20,21}

- Multiplex testing using NGS panels within a single sample for optimised testing efficiency (i.e. more rapid than sequential testing)
- Optimise tissue sample use and cost-effectiveness

Opportunities^{18,20}

- Ensure enough tissue is obtained at diagnosis
- Optimise tissue handling
- Liquid biopsy is a less invasive option for repeat sampling

Insufficient sample (repeat biopsy challenging)

Best practices to achieve timely and accurate genetic testing

- **Close co-ordination** between pathologists, oncologists, surgeons, and radiologists²²
- **Multidisciplinary collaboration** to quickly and accurately procure tissue samples²⁰
- **Testing of multiple biomarkers** for concurrent testing with a faster turnaround and better sample management^{20,22}
- **Standardisation of testing protocols** with the goal of improving patient outcomes and cost-effectiveness²²
- **Reflex testing and open dialogue** between pathologists and oncology teams to prioritise the sample, simplify preparations, and minimise waiting time^{14,16,18}

