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 **Circulating Tumor Cell Count**

Natera is a company that analyzes Circulating Tumor Cell count in people who have a history of cancer.  This is an amazing test that allow us to see if there is any residual cancer left.

Signatera would need to get your pathology slides from the latest biopsy that had cancer cells, or the original cancer biopsy.  It then takes 6-8 weeks to get the results back.  Natera is able to get reimbursement from insurance, and will not balance bill for any difference - so it costs you nothing!!

In my opinion, this is the most sensitive test in the world to assess if there is any residual cancer, and allows following levels down as treatment is successful, then making sure that remission is maintained.

Linda is here Tuesdays and Wednesdays to draw this test.  But Natera can send a phlebotomist to you to have it drawn!!

I recommend this testing for essentially all my cancer patients (including myself).

RGCG is a company in Greece that uses a different technique to test for cancer cells that can be done as a screen in people without a history of cancer. They also have the ability to test the cancer cells for sensitivity to chemotherapy agents and natural products.

For people with a family history of cancer, this can be used as a screen for any type of cancer.

A study of 125,000 people done in China showed that circulating tumor cells are present in the blood as much as 4 years before cancer is clinically diagnosed. This allows identifying cancer before it is advanced and difficult or impossible to cure or treat.