What is the Oncotype DX test?

What is the Oncotype DX test?

Oncotype DX is a test panel used to help predict whether a patient with breast cancer could benefit from chemotherapy in addition to hormone therapy. The panel tests multiple specific tumor genes and generates a score which helps predict response to chemotherapy. The genes tested are those expressed by the tumor, not genes that you inherit from your parents our pass along to your children.

Is the Oncotype Dx test right for me?

The test has been shown to be helpful in specific groups of patients. To qualify you must have breast cancer that:

- is early-stage and has been treated with surgery
- is hormone sensitive (ER+/PR+)
- is negative for HER2-overexpression (HER2-)
- involves less than four lymph nodes

In addition, you must also be well enough to tolerate chemotherapy and willing to consider it as an option. Your medical oncologist will help decide if you are a candidate.

The test is done using your breast cancer that was removed from the surgery so there is no further harm or potential harm to you.

This test is done after your breast surgery. Some cancers are treated with chemotherapy first and this test is not used in those patients.

Patient and family feedback is very important to us.

We would like to invite you to send any comments or suggestions on how to improve this booklet to <u>education.cancercare@nshealth.ca</u> or feel free to call us at 1-866-599-2267.