

# Known DPD deficiency and 5-FU/Capecitabine treatment

Information for patients



Yorkshire Regional  
Genetics Service

You have been found to have a change (mutation) in the *DPYD* gene. This gene is responsible for instructing the body to make the enzyme dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (DPD).

This enzyme helps to the body to break down and process fluoropyrimidine drugs such as 5-FU and Capecitabine. There is an increased risk of you developing side-effects when given these drugs as they may build up in the body and cause serious side-effects.

### **How does having DPD deficiency affect my cancer treatment?**

To reduce the chance of these side-effects the dose of the drugs will be adjusted to a level that your body should be able to process. This should not reduce the cancer treatment effect but aims to reduce the drug building up in your system and should reduce unwanted side-effects. Your medical team will discuss your treatment and answer questions that you have.

Even though the treatment will be adjusted you may still develop side-effects because not all side-effects are caused by DPD deficiency. You may still get some side-effects as detailed on the specific drug treatment information.

***It is important that you read this information. You should report any side-effects to your medical team without delay so you can get prompt treatment.***

## **What does having a DPD deficiency mean to my family?**

As you share your genetics with blood relatives, other members in your family may have the same *DPYD* gene mutation. The chance of problems for people with a DPD deficiency who are not receiving fluoropyrimidine chemotherapy is very small and therefore testing for family members is not offered. We would however encourage you to share this information with your family as it would be important for them to inform their medical team if they need to have chemotherapy in the future.

**Talk to your doctor or nurse if you are worried about your *DPYD* gene result and want any further information.**



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**Yorkshire Regional Genetics Service**  
**Department of Clinical Genetics**  
**Level 3, Chapel Allerton Hospital, Chapeltown Road,**  
**Leeds LS7 4SA**

## **What did you think of your care?**

Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/nhsleedsfft](https://bit.ly/nhsleedsfft)

***Your views matter***



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