

SOMATIC DNA TESTING

Somatic DNA variants occur after conception, and can occur in any cell in the body except germ cells.

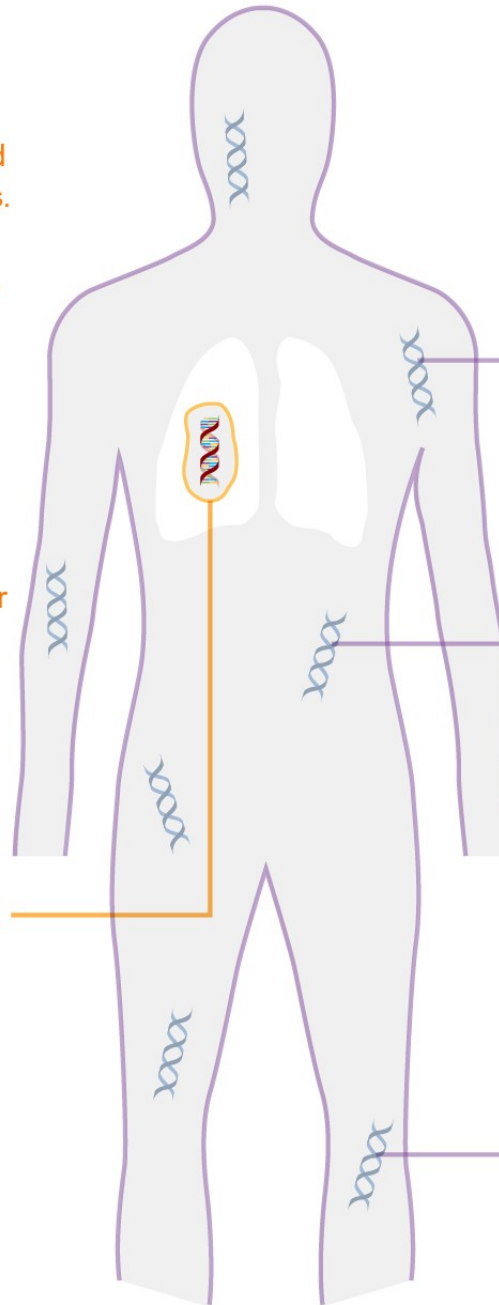
Somatic DNA variants are therefore not inherited, and cannot be passed to offspring.

Somatic DNA variants may (but do not always) cause cancer: Somatic DNA testing is generally used to test tumour tissue, specifically to guide cancer treatment

Examples would be HER2 testing in breast cancer when considering treatment with Herceptin, or EGF-R testing in non-small cell lung cancer



TUMOR



CONSTITUTIONAL DNA TESTING

Constitutional DNA is DNA found in every cell of the body, including germ cells, i.e. egg or sperm. Also called germ-line DNA as it is the source of DNA for all cells in the body.

Constitutional DNA may be passed to offspring.

Constitutional DNA testing (usually via blood sample) tests for inherited disorders.

Examples would be testing for BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene variants which would confer a high risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer in women.