

# Why is flow cytometry important for understanding and managing your mycosis fungoides or Sézary syndrome?

## Why might you need a flow cytometry test?



**Mycosis fungoides** and **Sézary syndrome** are rare types of cancer that manifest in the skin<sup>1</sup>



For some patients whose disease progresses, there is said to be **blood involvement** where cancerous cells circulate in the blood<sup>2</sup>




Understanding the degree of blood involvement helps to **classify, understand and treat** your disease<sup>2,3</sup>

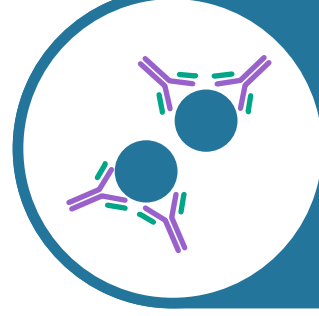


**Flow cytometry** assesses blood involvement by detecting and counting **abnormal cells** in your blood<sup>2</sup>


## How is a flow cytometry test conducted?



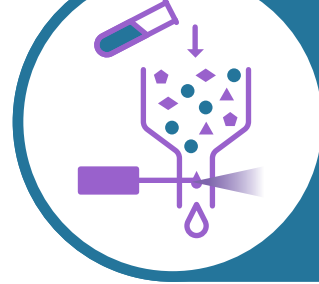
A **blood sample** is taken in the **usual way**. No special preparation is needed, and the risks are the same as those for any routine blood draw<sup>4</sup>



**Cells** in the blood sample are labelled using **antibodies** linked to **coloured fluorescent dyes**<sup>5</sup>




The cell sample is mixed with a fluid and **loaded into the flow cytometry machine**<sup>4</sup>




The sample flows past a **laser beam** and **abnormal cells** are identified and counted based on their **fluorescent patterns**<sup>2,5</sup>

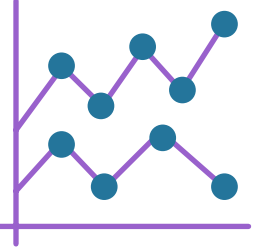
## How does a flow cytometry test help you?




Help to further **understand** the **severity** of your disease<sup>1,2</sup>



Assess the **stage** (extent and spread) of your disease and help to guide **treatment choice**<sup>1,6</sup>




**Monitor** how your disease is **responding to treatment**<sup>1,2</sup>




European Organisation for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC)

Flow cytometry is the recommended method for measuring blood involvement in mycosis fungoides and Sézary syndrome<sup>2</sup>


## Who will arrange and perform your flow cytometry test?




**Your doctor** involved in diagnosing or treating your disease will tell you whether you need a flow cytometry test<sup>1,4</sup>



The **blood sample** will usually be taken by a **nurse or phlebotomist**<sup>4</sup>



The **flow cytometry test** will be performed by a **lab technician or pathologist**<sup>4</sup>



**Your doctor** will discuss the test results with you and talk through options for your **treatment plan**<sup>4</sup>

Please speak to your healthcare team if you have any further questions about flow cytometry or your treatment plan

1. Vermeer MH, et al. Br J Dermatol. 2022;187:21–8; 2. Scarisbrick JJ, et al. Eur J Cancer. 2018;93:47–56; 3. Willemze R, et al. Ann Oncol. 2018;29(Suppl 4):iv30–40; 4. Cleveland Clinic. Flow cytometry. Available at: <https://my.clevelandclinic.org/health/diagnostics/22086-flow-cytometry>. Accessed Oct 2022; 5. McKinnon KM. Curr Protoc Immunol. 2018;120:5.1.1–5.1.11 ; 6. Cancer Support. Treatment for cutaneous T-cell lymphoma CTCL. Available at: <https://www.macmillan.org.uk/cancer-information-and-support/lymphoma/treatment-for-cutaneous-t-cell-lymphoma-ctcl>. Accessed November 2022.

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