

Lynch Syndrome Screening on Endometrial Cancer Resections



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Effective June 2021, the Gynecologic Pathology Group at the UVMHC Department of Pathology will switch to performing Universal Screening for Lynch Syndrome on endometrial biopsy and curettage specimens found to have endometrial cancer, in accordance with NCCN, SGO, and ACOG guidelines. This change is primarily to avoid technical issues commonly encountered in hysterectomy specimens. If insufficient material is present in the endometrial biopsy or curettage, testing may be performed on the subsequent hysterectomy specimens.

It is important to note that as an initial screening test, immunohistochemical (IHC) staining with antibodies against four mismatch repair proteins is NOT considered a molecular test. Any follow up molecular testing (e.g. MLH1-Promoter Methylation, Microsatellite Instability by PCR, or germline testing), however, requires preauthorization or an advanced beneficiary notice (depending on patient's insurance). The most common scenario in which this is encountered is in endometrial cancers that show the following IHC results: Loss of MLH1/PMS2 and retention of MSH2 and MSH6 proteins. In these cases the following comment will always be present in the surgical pathology report:

“The majority of cancers with loss of MLH1/PMS2 protein expression are associated with somatic changes rather than an inherited mutation (Lynch syndrome). However, if additional testing to rule out Lynch syndrome is warranted in this individual, additional molecular testing (specifically MLH1 Promoter Methylation) can be ordered upon obtaining preauthorization or an advanced beneficiary notice.”

If you have any questions concerning this new Universal Screening protocol, please contact the Gynecologic Pathology Team at Lab-GynPathologists@uvmhealth.org or Dr. Bronwyn Bryant at Bronwyn.Bryant@uvmhealth.org.

Initial Test	Reflex Criteria	Reflex Tests	Additional CPT Billed
Endometrial Cancer, biopsy/ curettage/ Resection	All cases of endometrial cancer	Immunohistochemical Testing (MLH1, PMS2, MSH2, MSH6) Performed at UVMHC	88342 x 4 for MMR

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