# **RET+ Advanced Thyroid Cancer**

# What is advanced thyroid cancer?



Thyroid cancer begins in the thyroid gland. The thyroid is a butterfly-shaped organ that makes hormones to help regulate your heart rate, metabolism, blood pressure, and body temperature.

Advanced or metastatic thyroid cancer happens when the cancer spreads to other organs. This means the cancer forms new tumors in other parts of your body.

There are several types of thyroid cancer, including: follicular, Hürthle cell, anaplastic, and papillary.

### WHAT IS RET AND WHY DOES IT MATTER?



RET is a type of **gene** that everyone has within their cells. Genes are pieces of DNA that give the cells in your body instructions to perform certain functions.



In specific types of cancer cells, the RET gene is abnormal. Abnormal RET genes drive the uncontrolled growth of cells, leading to cancer.



If your advanced thyroid cancer is caused by abnormal RET genes, it is referred to as **RET positive (RET+)**.

RET=rearranged during transfection.

Learn more about how common abnormal RET genes are in thyroid cancer on the next page.

### WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON TYPE OF RET+ THYROID CANCER?

Abnormal RET genes may be found in several types of advanced thyroid cancers, including PTC, anaplastic, follicular thyroid cancer, and Hürthle cell, but are most commonly found in PTC.



of all thyroid cancer is PTC



of all PTC cases are RET+

PTC=papillary thyroid cancer.

## HAS YOUR CANCER BEEN TESTED FOR RET?

Whether you were just diagnosed with thyroid cancer or are determining a different treatment course, be sure to ask your doctor to test for all known biomarkers, including RET. Your doctor will need to perform **biomarker testing** to determine your biomarker status—including whether or not your tumor is RET+.



### **HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Talk to your doctor about questions you may have about your cancer and RET. Below are some potential questions you could ask:

- ☐ Has my cancer been tested for all biomarkers, including RET?
- ☐ If my cancer is RET+, how does that affect my treatment options?
- Should my family be tested for inherited cancer risk?

