



(VUS)  
**VARIANTS OF  
UNCERTAIN  
SIGNIFICANCE**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)**

### **Does this uncertain result explain my child's medical history?**

If your child's doctor thinks the uncertain result explains your child's diagnosis, they might refer your child to a genetics doctor (geneticist). Knowing more about family history and a careful physical exam can sometimes help us learn more about a variant.

### **Could there be other reasons for my child's cancer diagnosis?**

Yes. Only about 5-10% of children with cancer have a gene change they were born with that made them more likely to develop cancer (hereditary).

The other 90% of child with cancer likely developed their cancer by chance (sporadic).

### **What are the next steps?**

Most of the time, we just have to wait until there is more information about a gene change. It is possible your doctor will order more testing.

### **Can you do any extra tests to get a definite answer?**

Usually not, but if there are other tests that might help us, your cancer doctor might contact you. Sometimes there are research studies that might help us understand these changes. Families do not always get results from research tests.

## **WHO CAN I CONTACT IF I HAVE MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT AN UNCERTAIN RESULT?**

KidsCanSeq Study Team: (832) 824-7965 or [KidsCanSeq@texaschildrens.org](mailto:KidsCanSeq@texaschildrens.org)



## WHAT IS A VUS?

**An uncertain genetic result**

A VUS is a change in a gene that the laboratory does not know for sure if it causes disease or if it is unique to your child.

### WHO HAS UNCERTAIN GENE CHANGES?



**Almost Everyone**

Most people have never had genetic testing so they don't know about them. Test reports will often say whether a parent also has a VUS. The lab includes this because it helps doctors understand if it is more or less likely to cause disease.

### HOW CAN I FIND OUT WHAT THIS MEANS FOR MY CHILD?



**Contact us or ask your doctor every few years**

As more people have genetic testing, we learn more about gene changes. We can look into what new information we have learned about uncertain changes again. Over time many VUS are found to be benign.

### DOES MY CHILD NEED EXTRA MEDICAL CARE BECAUSE OF A VUS?



**Probably not**

Most of the time these uncertain changes do not change how the gene works. If your doctor thinks a VUS is related to your child's medical history they may refer you to see a genetics doctor (geneticist) and/or genetic counselor.