

# Lung Cancer Patient Reported Experiences With Biomarker Testing

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## INTRODUCTION

Research was undertaken to better understand awareness and experiences with biomarker testing among patients living with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer (NSCLC). Additionally, research sought to understand potential health inequities in terms of access to biomarker testing.

## METHODS

In August 2023, an email invitation to an online survey was sent to US members of MyLungCancerTeam. In total, 82 members living with Non-Small Cell Lung Cancer completed the survey. All respondents were 21 or older and have been diagnosed with lung cancer.

## DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

Given the challenges in diagnosing lung cancer at an early stage, getting patients onto the most effective treatment regimen as early as possible is critical. Biomarker testing can help oncologists develop more targeted approaches to treating their patients. As such, eliminating disparities in regard to access to biomarker testing is paramount in ensuring health equity and the best possible outcomes regardless of who the patient is or where the patient lives.



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## RESULTS

The majority of respondents had stage 3 or 4 lung cancer (53%) and 35% had been diagnosed within the last year. Receiving a diagnosis was a daunting, emotional experience. (Figure 1)

More than half (55%) have discussed biomarker testing with their doctor (Figure 2) and 46% have had a biomarker test. (Figure 3)

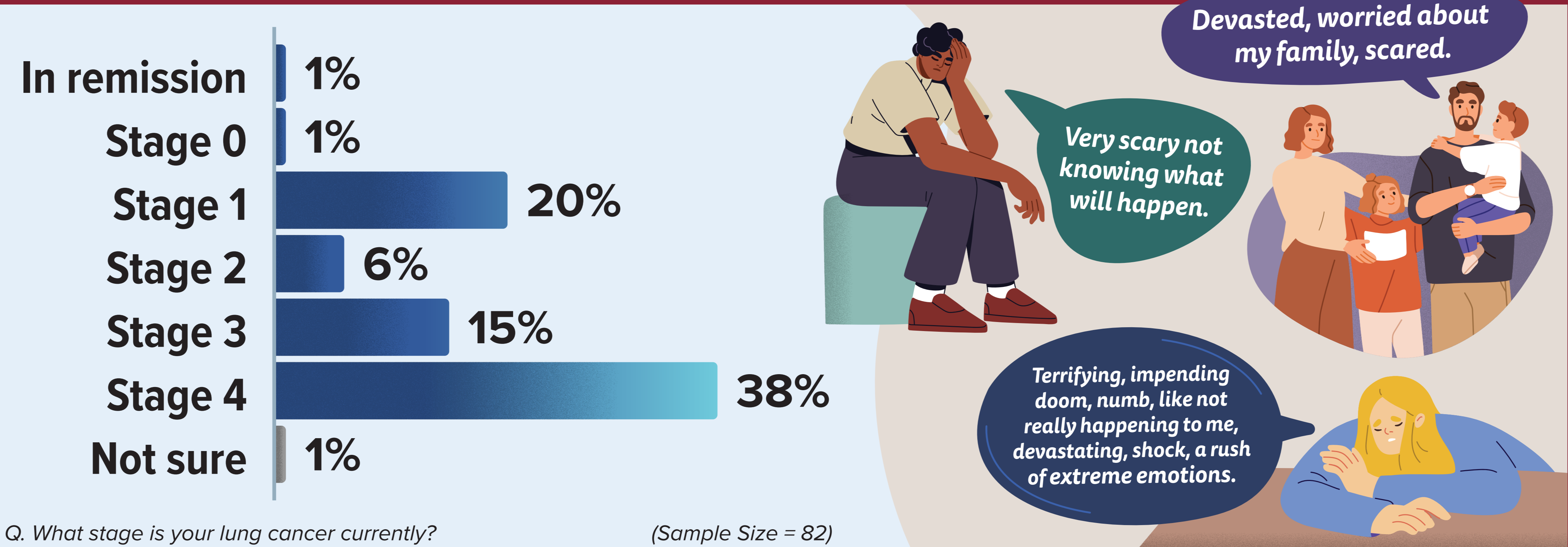
Based on biomarker test results, 39% were put on an immunotherapy drug and 32% were put on a targeted therapy. For a small number (11%), results suggested they were not good candidates for immunotherapy. Five percent were able to apply for or enter a clinical trial based on results. (Figure 4)

The top reason for not getting a biomarker test is lack of familiarity with the test (38%). Other reasons for not getting tested included cancer being in remission (20%), the oncologist had already developed a treatment plan (18%) or did not feel the test was needed (8%). (Figure 5)

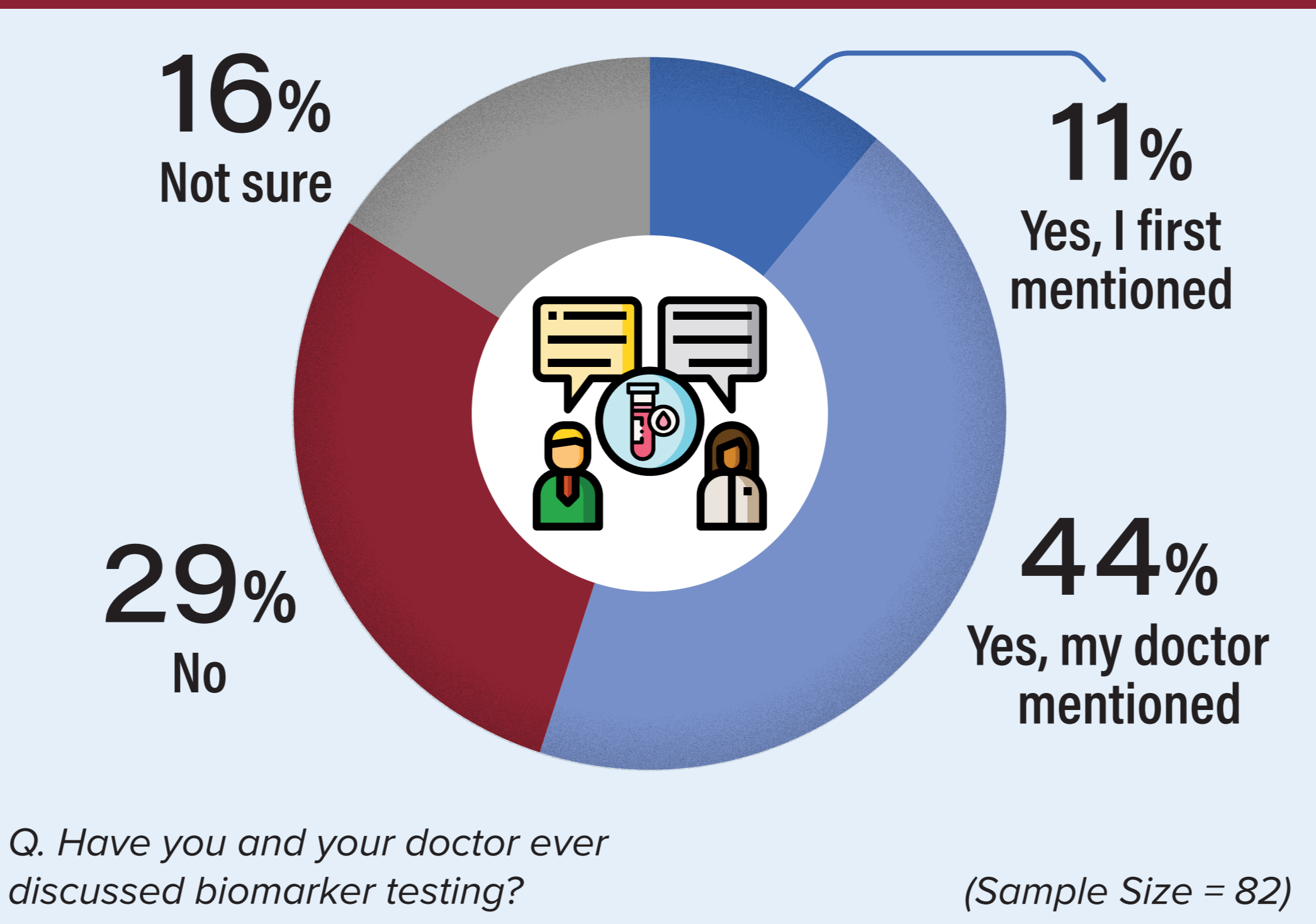
Results also identified health inequities regarding who underwent a biomarker test. For example, those who received the test were more likely to have at least an associate college degree (74% vs. 42%), earn \$50K or more (56% vs. 40%), have private insurance (26% vs. 14%), live in a non-rural area (80% vs. 59%) and live in a non-Southern census region (70% vs. 61%). (Figure 6)

In total, 49% are or had been on an immunotherapy drug. (Figure 7) The percent who were extremely satisfied with their treatment regimen was much higher if immunotherapy was part of that regimen (53% versus 29%). (Figure 8)

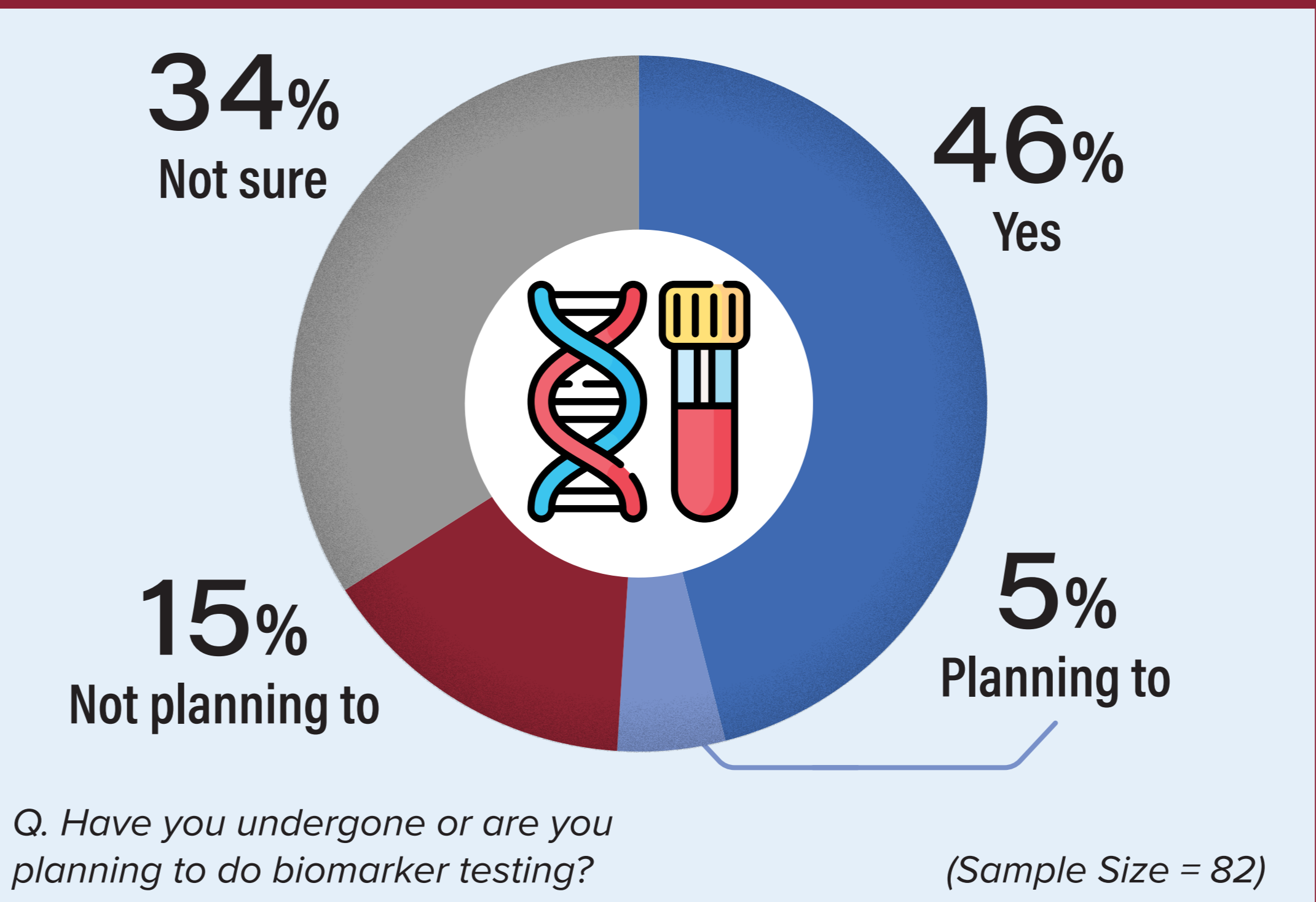
**FIGURE 1**  
Stage of Cancer



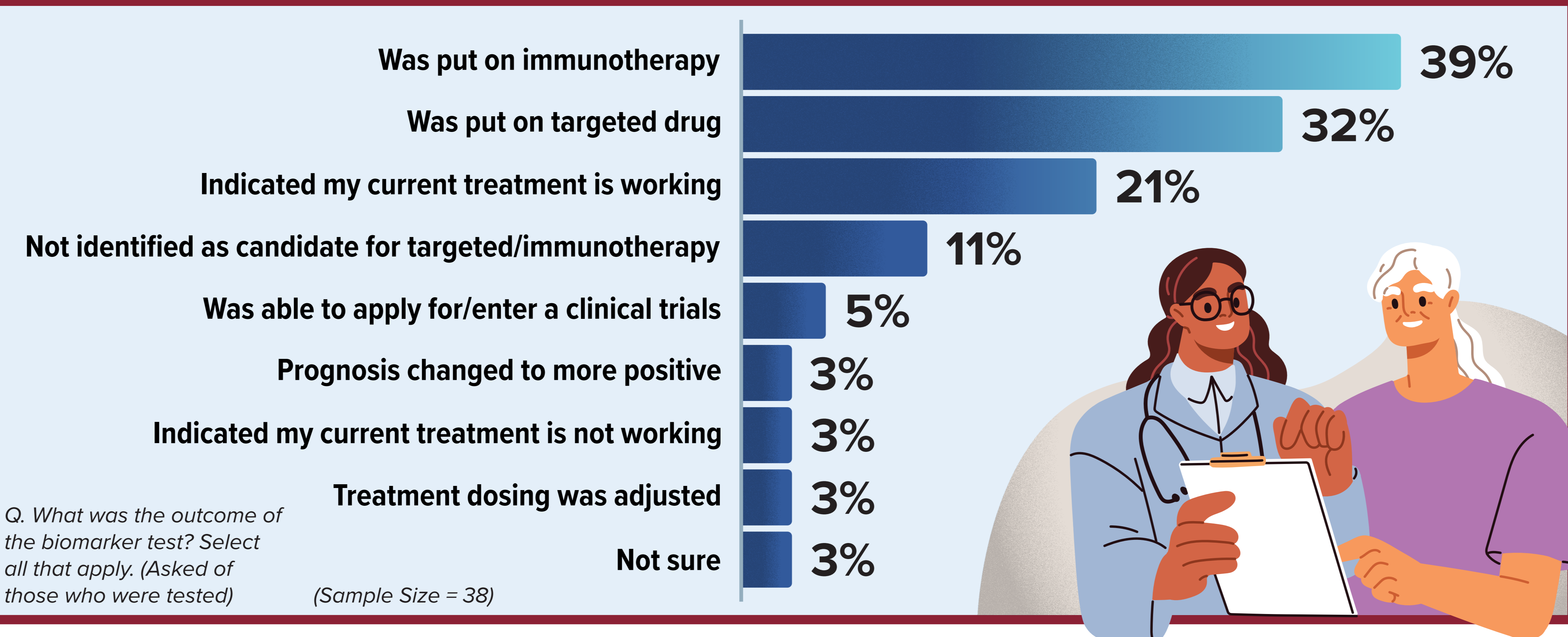
**FIGURE 2** Discussed Biomarker Testing With Doctor



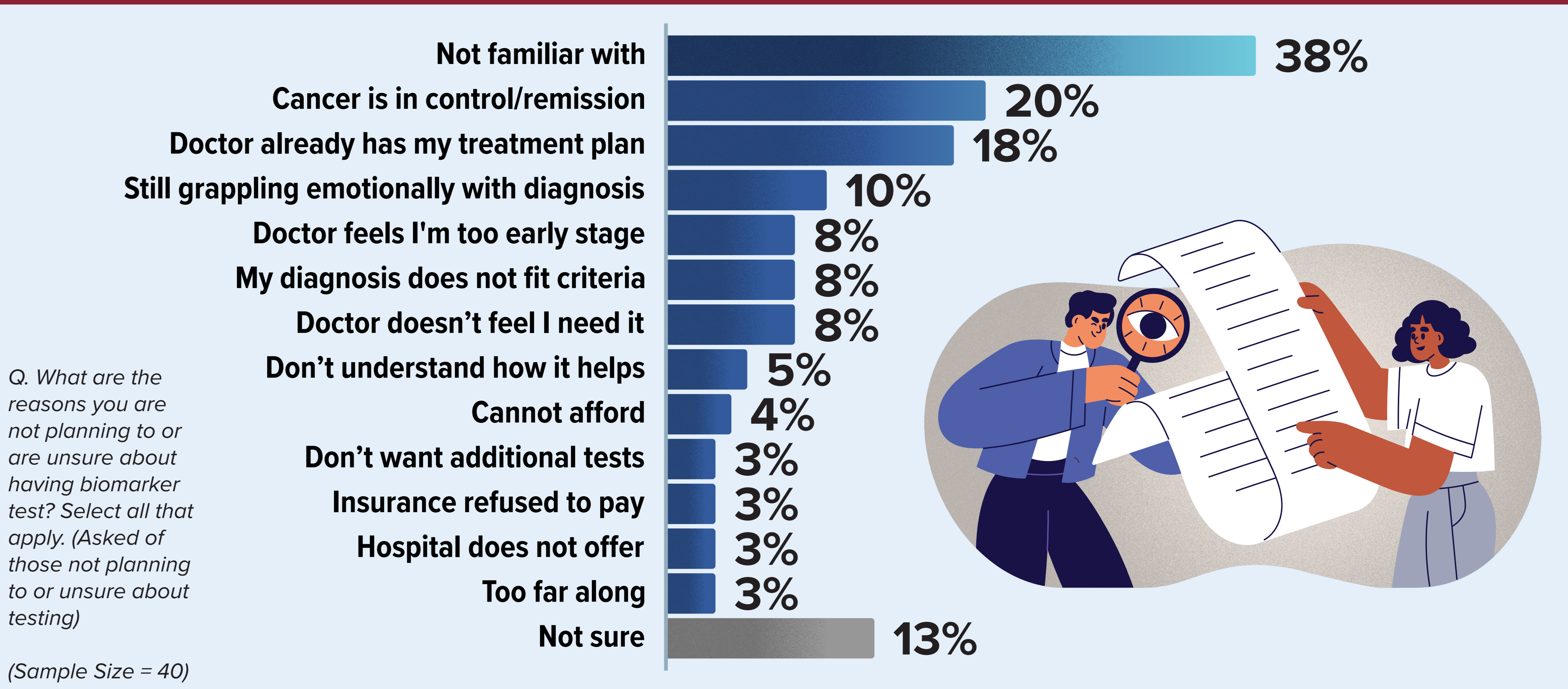
**FIGURE 3** Have Undergone Biomarker Testing



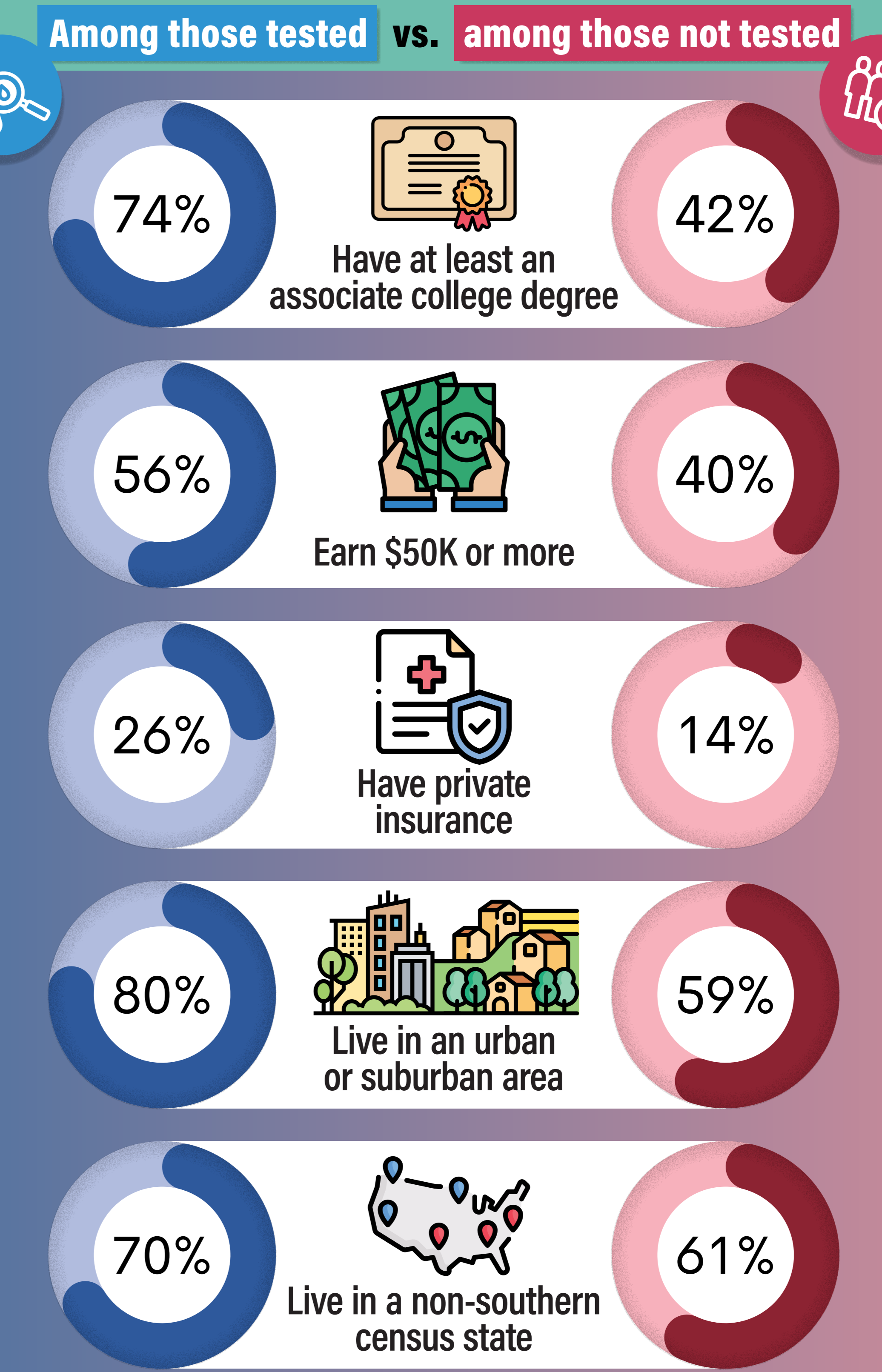
**FIGURE 4**  
Outcome of Biomarker Test



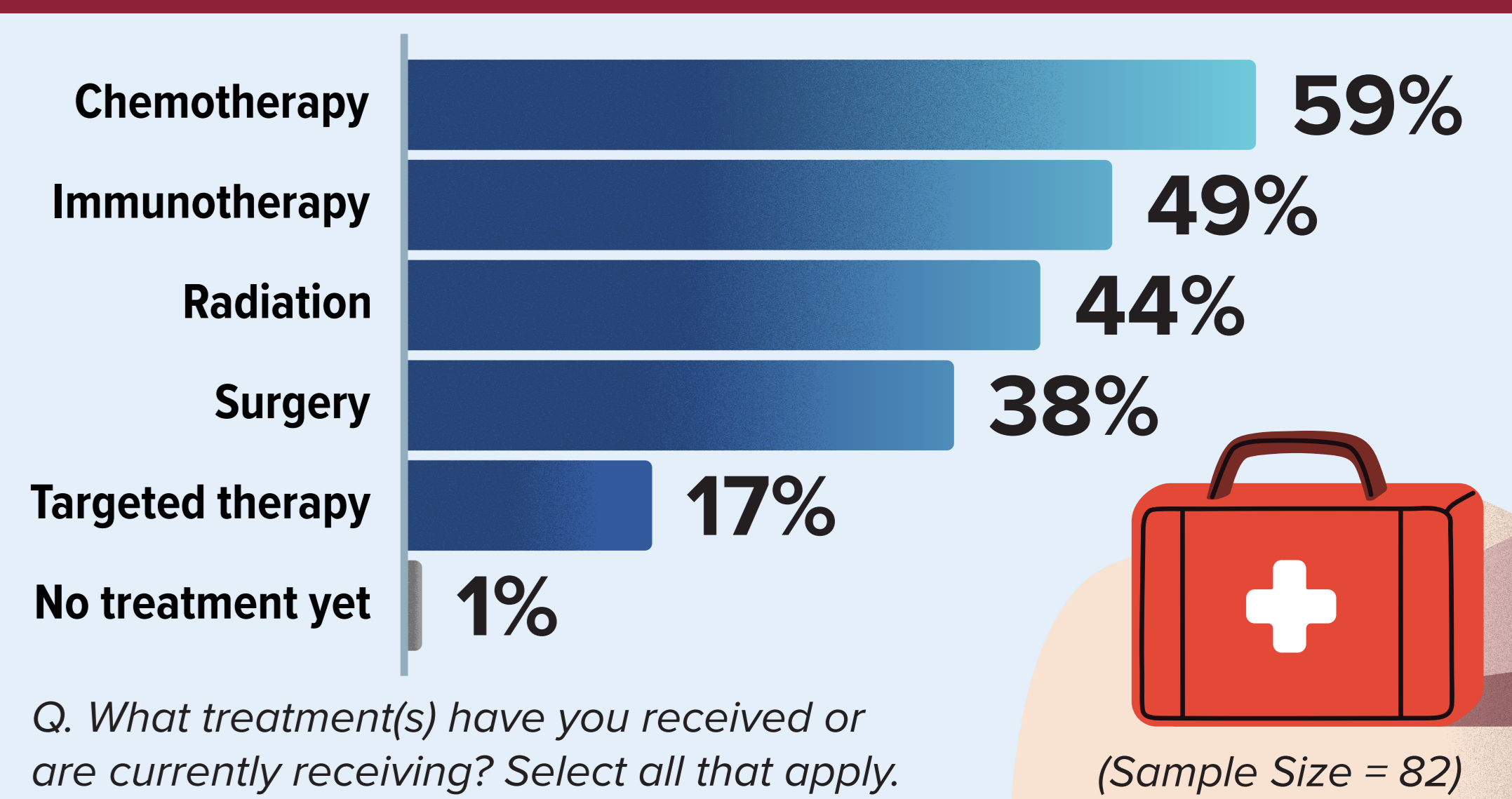
**FIGURE 5**  
Reasons Not Getting a Biomarker Test



**FIGURE 6**  
Disparities in Biomarker Testing Those Tested Were More Likely To...



**FIGURE 7**  
Treatment Regimen



**FIGURE 8**  
Satisfaction With Treatment — By Whether Treatment Includes Immunotherapy

