

## The ChOLLECTIVE Video: Dr Juan Valle Transcript

**Introductory Slate:** The ChOLLECTIVE logo, tagline underneath: “Uniting Stories, Inspiring Hope, Empowering the Cholangiocarcinoma (CCA) Community”

**Slate:** An Expert Perspective: Understanding Symptoms and the Importance of Biomarker Testing in Cholangiocarcinoma

**Lower Thirds: Juan Valle, M.D.,** *Chief Medical Officer, The Cholangiocarcinoma Foundation*

**Juan:** The symptoms of cholangiocarcinoma can vary, and often it varies with where the cholangiocarcinoma has started. If you get a blockage quite low down, the distal cholangiocarcinoma, then typically, patients get yellow jaundice, which means that their eyes go yellow, the skin goes yellow, and can be very itchy, as well as pale stools and dark urine.

If the cholangiocarcinoma starts quite high up inside the body of the liver, in the root system, very often, patients don't have any symptoms at all, certainly not initially. And patients can sometimes develop with quite large tumors. And the symptoms are generally fatigue, weight loss, less able to do things that they were doing before. Cancer is not just one word, one disease, it's actually many different types of diseases. And even in cholangiocarcinoma, we're now aware that there are certain subgroups of cholangiocarcinoma where it looks like the tumor has developed and driven because of a particular genetic abnormality that's developed.

**Lower Thirds:** Biomarker testing can help healthcare providers develop individualized treatment plans.

We call that testing biomarker testing, which means that we take, usually, a sample from the tumor itself in terms of a biopsy, and then we can look at the genetic makeup of that sample. And that will sometimes help to identify whether there is one of these alterations for which we have an increasing number of therapies.

If patients get a sense that their team is not aware of biomarker testing, then it is very important that they advocate for themselves, and they say, “I need to have biomarker testing”.

**Closing Slate:** [The ChOLLECTIVE logo] The ChOLLECTIVE is a storytelling initiative that aims to bring to life the reality of living with cholangiocarcinoma by highlighting unique journeys, perspectives and learnings of the community.

Visit **TestMyCholangio.com** to access tools and resources to support your cholangiocarcinoma journey.

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