

Cancer is unfortunately very common, affecting approximately 1 in 2 men and 1 in 3 women during their lifetime. Although most cancers are not inherited, some families do have a higher risk for cancer than others. Genetic counseling and testing can help determine if there may be inherited genetic risk for cancer in a family, who in the family is at higher risk for cancer, and to guide the appropriate screening and medical management for individuals at higher risk. This section discusses the connection between genes and cancer, provides an overview of the genetic testing process, and touches on some important considerations when deciding whether or not to pursue cancer genetic testing.

Click below to learn more about hereditary cancer and genetic testing

- [**Sporadic vs Inherited Cancer**](#)
- [**Genetic Testing for Hereditary Cancer**](#)
- [**Why Consider Genetic Testing?**](#)
- [**Common Concerns About Genetic Testing**](#)
- [**DNA Banking**](#)

Click below to learn about more common hereditary cancer predispositions:

- [Breast Cancer](#)
- [Prostate Cancer](#)
- [Colon Cancer](#)
- [Gastric Cancer \(stomach\)](#)
- [Gynecologic Cancer \(uterine, ovarian\)](#)
- [Urinary tract Cancer \(bladder, kidney\)](#)
- [Neuroendocrine tumors and Endocrine cancers \(thyroid, parathyroid, adrenal gland\)](#)
- [Pancreatic Cancer](#)
- [Retinoblastoma](#)
- [Tumor predisposition](#)

Click [here](#) to learn more about scheduling a genetic counseling appointment for questions about hereditary cancer predisposition.

Additional Resources

[*Positive Results Facebook Group](#)

Genetic Support Foundation hosts a Facebook group for Hereditary Cancer Support and Resources. Get trusted information and join a community of support.

*[Cascade Screening Connector](#)

Genetic Support Foundation has partnered with the Washington State Department of Health to provide cascade screening to help people identify and contact family members who may have an increased chance of developing cancer.

*[FORCE \(Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered\)](#)

The FORCE mission is to improve the lives of individuals and families facing hereditary cancer. Resources include peer navigation and expert-reviewed information.

*[AliveAndKickn](#) AliveAndKickn is a nonprofit working to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by Lynch Syndrome and associated cancers through research, education, and screening.

*[Health Experiences USA](#) This national research project brings patient voices into the healthcare experience and features video clips of people facing hereditary cancer. Individuals from a variety of backgrounds share both positive and negative experiences about living with hereditary cancer.

Related Articles

- [Genetics 101](#)

Genetics is a vast and increasingly complicated field of science. The information here will help to provide a basic background in general genetics concepts, and can be a resource as you come up with questions. We'll start with the basics: The birds and the bees and how we pass on...

- [Genetics & Pregnancy](#)

These days, it's hard to get through a pregnancy without hearing something about genetics. There are a growing number of genetic tests available that can give some information about the likelihood of a genetic condition in a pregnancy. It is important to know that these tests are optional and that...

- [Genetics & Personalized Medicine](#)

Precision medicine is often used interchangeably with “personalized medicine” and “individualized medicine”. All of these terms describe an approach to healthcare that focuses on individual differences in genetics, environment, and lifestyle rather than a “one size fits all” kind of care. One aspect of precision medicine uses tests for certain...