

Are You a Candidate for Cancer Genetic Counseling?

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If your personal and/or family history meets any of the following risk factors, you may wish to consider seeing a certified cancer genetic counselor for a personalized risk assessment and discussion of the risks and benefits of appropriate testing options.

- A personal or family history of early-onset cancer (e.g. younger than 50 years for breast cancer; younger than 50 years for colon or uterine cancer)
- A personal or family history of triple negative (ER-/PR-/Her2-) breast cancer diagnosed under the age of 60
- Multiple family members on the same side of the family with the same or related cancers (e.g. breast, ovarian and pancreatic cancer, or colon and uterine cancer)
- A personal or family history of ovarian cancer
- A personal or family history of male breast cancer
- A personal or family history of breast, ovarian or pancreatic cancer and Jewish ancestry
- A personal or family history of a rare type of cancer/tumor (e.g. breast cancer in a male; medullary thyroid cancer; a sebaceous carcinoma or adenoma)
- Rare or unusual tumors or physical findings (including sebaceous carcinomas, rare colon polyps or CHRPE (congenital hypertrophy of the retinal pigment epithelium))
- Any Lynch syndrome related cancer (e.g. colon, endometrial) that has an abnormal MSI (microsatellite instability) or IHC (immunohistochemistry)
- Individuals with 10 or more colon polyps
- Individuals with a known genetic mutation in the family
- Concern about developing cancer because of family history

Benefits of Genetic Counseling

- Detailed education about hereditary cancer
- Comprehensive evaluation of personal and family medical history
- Hereditary cancer risk assessment and risk to other family members
- Discussion of genetic testing options and benefits and limitations of testing
- Personalized Cancer screening and risk reduction recommendations
- Psychological support and referrals
- Referrals to clinical research trials and research registries

Our clinical team is committed to providing a comprehensive plan to help assist patients and their families with all aspects of the risk assessment and testing process, surveillance, surgical decision making, and follow-up care.

Many exciting breakthroughs in genetics are expected in the coming years as a result of our improved understanding of the human genome. Cancer genetics is an exciting field that has shown great promise in the development of new cancer treatments and in cancer prevention. Our program is involved in several research projects aimed at helping to determine additional causes of hereditary cancers.