

Could I benefit from a Cancer Genetics Consultation?

You may want to see a cancer genetics expert if:

- You have questions about inherited cancer risk in your family
- You or one of your family members carry a mutation in an inherited cancer risk gene
- You want personalized information about cancer treatment, prevention, screening options and/or research opportunities for individuals with inherited cancer(s)



HOW DO I GET INFORMATION?

Our cancer risk assessment, counseling and testing service is comprised of board-certified genetics experts. To set up a genetic counseling appointment at one of our Vanderbilt Hereditary Cancer Clinics, please call:

(615) 343-7400

ONLINE LINKS FOR DIRECT REFERRALS

Provider referrals:

bit.ly/ProviderReferral

Patient self-referrals:

bit.ly/PatientSelfReferral

Additional Resources

INHERITED CANCER REGISTRY (ICARE)

The mission of ICARE is to end the cycle of inherited cancer through research, education and engagement. Through ICARE, we partner with healthcare providers and patients facing inherited cancer risk to meet this goal. To learn more, visit InheritedCancer.net or contact the study team:
Email: ICARE@inheritedcancer.net
Phone: (615) 875-2444
Fax: (615) 343-3343
facebook.com/ICARERegistry



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF GENETIC COUNSELORS (NSGC)

The mission of the National Society of Genetic Counselors is to advance the various roles of genetic counselors in health care by fostering education, research and public policy to ensure the availability of quality genetic services. To locate genetic counseling services close to you, visit:

NSGC.org/page/find-a-gc-search

NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE PDQ®

The PDQ Genetics Cancer Information Summaries, supported through the National Cancer Institute, is an online resource through which information about inherited cancer predisposition is continuously reviewed and updated by a national group of experts. This web-based freely available resource is designed to make the most current, credible and accurate information focused on inherited cancers available to health professionals and the public:
Cancer.gov/about-cancer/causes-prevention/genetics/overview-pdq

DOES CANCER RUN IN YOUR FAMILY?



Hereditary Cancer Clinic

PATIENT RESOURCES



VANDERBILT-INGRAM CANCER CENTER

WHAT IS INHERITED CANCER RISK?

- Most cancers are sporadic (or happen by chance) and occur in patients without family history
- Approximately 5-10% of all cancers are “inherited” or “hereditary”
- Hereditary cancers are caused by a change (mutation) in certain genes
- Inherited cancer risk can affect both men and women of all ages
- These gene changes:
 - May be passed down from mothers OR fathers to sons AND daughters
 - May increase a person’s risk for developing one or more types of cancer (however, not all people who inherit the changed gene will develop cancer)

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I MEET WITH A CANCER EXPERT?

Your personal and family cancer history will be reviewed, including type(s) of cancer and age(s) at diagnosis. Based on this information a genetics professional will:

- Evaluate your risk of inherited cancer
- Discuss available genetic testing options to evaluate your risk of cancer
- Discuss the benefits and considerations of testing, including insurance coverage and confidentiality
- Help you decide if genetic testing is right for you
- Explain the process for ordering genetic testing
- Talk to you about medical management options based on your family history and/or genetic test results
- Discuss the emotional impact of the information on you and your family
- This visit may be referred to as a “genetic counseling session”

HOW MAY GENETIC RISK ASSESSMENT, COUNSELING AND TESTING HELP ME AND/OR MY FAMILY MEMBER?

Knowing if there is inherited cancer risk in your family may offer options for:

- Cancer prevention
- Early detection
- Personalized cancer treatment

Testing may help you learn about the chances that you or your family members might develop certain types of cancer, and counseling will help to understand the types of cancer that can be related to an inherited cancer risk factor (e.g. breast, colon, ovarian, uterine, and others)

A cancer genetics expert can be an important part of your healthcare team.



WHAT DOES GENETIC TESTING FOR INHERITED CANCER INVOLVE?

- Blood draw or saliva sample collection
- Results are usually available in a few weeks
- There are several options for covering the cost of genetic testing (e.g. health insurance, patient pay, financial assistance)

6 features that make inherited cancer risk more likely in your family:

- 1** Cancer diagnosed at a young age (generally at or below age 50)
- 2** A person with more than one type of cancer (e.g. both colon and uterine cancer OR both breast and ovarian cancer)
- 3** The presence of a very rare cancer (e.g. male breast cancer)
- 4** Cancer diagnosed in multiple family members across generations
- 5** Certain ethnic backgrounds (e.g. Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry)
- 6** Certain tumor study results

There may be one or several of these features in a family.