

Genetic Testing – Cancer Predisposition

Information for Patients

Patient Label

Cancer is a common condition. It is not usually inherited. However, if we see more cancer in a family than we would expect to see by chance, if it starts at a very young age, or if certain patterns of cancer occur together, there may be an underlying predisposition to cancer running in that family caused by an inherited genetic change. It is important to identify such families so that people who are at a higher risk of developing cancer than the general population can be offered appropriate screening or intervention.

5-10% of cancers are due to an underlying genetic change and in some families we are able to detect such a change by genetic testing. You have been offered testing on the basis of your personal history of: _____.

If a genetic change is identified, this offers an explanation for your cancer development and the result may be useful for your management. Depending on the gene involved, this may mean you have an increased risk of developing different cancers. It also means it is possible to offer a genetic test to other family members to confirm whether or not they have an increased cancer risk.

If a genetic change is not identified, the probability that a high risk gene is the explanation for your cancer development will be reduced. However, the result does not completely rule out a genetic component, so we would take account of personal and family history to assess screening requirements for you and other family members. As we learn more about the genes involved in cancer predisposition, further genetic testing may be carried out in the future and we would contact you with any significant results.

Occasionally we identify an alteration in one of the genes that has not been seen before and we are unable to determine whether it is significant in relation to the development of cancer or just a natural variation that is unrelated to disease. This is called an **unclassified variant**. If this happens, the implications for other family members will be the same as **not** finding a gene change.

Plan of action going forward

Please tick as appropriate		Enter details
	You have decided to proceed with testing and we have made the following arrangements for you to receive the results:	
	A follow up appointment has been arranged on:	
	You have decided to get back in touch when you feel ready to proceed with testing.	

We will write to your referring clinician/GP with details of the plan above.

Following testing, **results are usually available within 3 months.**

Results are confirmed in writing to you and copied to your referring clinician/GP.

You were seen by:	Genetic Counsellor (contact number at top of first page)	Date:
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