HEREDITARY CANCER FAQS

WHAT IS HEREDITARY CANCER?

Cancer is a common disease with most cancers diagnosed at a later age. About 10-15% of the time, the risk for cancer is hereditary and caused by an abnormal gene or genes that are passed down from your parents.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE INDICATORS OF INHERITED RISK FOR CANCER?

- Cancer diagnosed at a younger age than is usual. For example developing breast cancer before the age of 45.
- More than one type of cancer in an individual. For example a women diagnosed with uterine cancer and later diagnosed with colon cancer.
- Cancer in both sets of a pair of organs (often called bilateral). For example breast cancer in both breasts diagnosed at the same time or at different times.
- Cancer occurring in genders not usually affected such as breast cancer diagnosed in a man.
- Uncommon or rare cancers such as cancer in the heart muscle.
- Multiple pre-cancerous growths such as many colon polyps.

HOW DO I FIND OUT IF I HAVE A HEREDITARY INCREASED CANCER RISK?

Your doctor will help you determine if you have a personal and/or family history that indicates a possibility of an inherited cancer risk. If you decide the testing will be beneficial, your doctor will order the test. The testing is performed on a sample of body fluid, usually saliva.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I FIND OUT I HAVE AN INHERITED RISK FOR CANCER?

This information can help you make informed decisions about your health. Having an inherited cancer risk means that you will likely undergo earlier, more frequent, and enhanced screening for associated cancers. It also provides options for considering surgery and medications to reduce your risk of cancer.

HOW DOES THIS IMPACT MY FAMILY MEMBERS?

Most hereditary cancer is autosomal dominant that means that one abnormal copy of a pair of genes is sufficient to cause the increased risk. The abnormal gene was inherited from one of your parents; your siblings and offspring have a 50% chance of having inherited the abnormal gene. Having the abnormal gene does not guarantee you will develop the related cancers. It increases your cancer risk.

There are a few inherited conditions associated with both of a pair of genes are abnormal. This is called autosomal recessive inheritance. If you have an autosomal recessive inherited cancer, both of your parents carry one abnormal gene and your siblings have a 25% chance of inheriting 2 abnormal copies associated with an inherited cancer risk. Once an abnormal gene is found in a family, we recommend blood relatives consider genetic testing for that abnormality/mutation.

CAN I GET CANCER IF I TEST NEGATIVE?

If you undergo genetic testing for inherited risk you may still develop cancer but your risk may be close to average risk. Since we don't know all causes of cancers running in families in some cases a negative result means we aren't able to identify the cause of cancer running in a family, meaning you may still be at some increased risk for cancers we see in your family.

HEREDITARY CANCER CLINICALLY ACTIONABLE PANELS	
Includes	Three separate panels of genes: Breast, Breast/Gyn, and Colon. Includes only hereditary cancer conditions that are clinically actionable.
Who its best for	Patients with a personal/family history of early onset cancers, multiple diagnoses of cancer, multiple family members with the same or related cancer, and numerous colon polyps.
Conditions	*Breast Cancer Panel:* Syndromes associated with hereditary breast cancer including Hereditary Breast and Ovarian cancer syndrome (aka BRCA1/2), Cowden syndrome, Li-Fraumeni Syndrome, Peutz-Jeghers syndrome, Neurofibromatosis, Hereditary Diffuse Gastric syndrome (Includes hereditary risk for lobular breast cancer), and other genetic factors associated with an increased risk for breast cancer. *Breast/Gyn Cancer Panel:* Breast cancer panel plus Lynch Syndrome and other genetic factors associated with an increased risk for ovarian cancer. *Colon Cancer Panel:* Lynch Syndrome, Li-Fraumeni Syndrome and several hereditary gastrointestinal polyposis syndromes: Familial Adenomatous polyposis, MYH Associated Polyposis, Juvenile Polyposis, Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome, Cowden Syndrome and other genetic factors associated with an increased risk for colon polyps and colon cancer.

ABOUT PREMIER GENOMICS

Premier Genomics is committed to advancing the field of personalized genetic medicine by offering cutting-edge genetic screening services to help practitioners and their patients in pursuit of tailored treatment and optimized, personalized health care.

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