

## FAQs

### Up to 10% of pancreatic cancer may be due to a genetic and hereditary reason

Most cancers happen sporadically, driven by age, environment and chance events.

But for every 10 people with pancreatic cancer, **one** has a faulty gene (i.e., mutation) that increases their risk for the disease.



These faulty genes can run in families and increase the risk of hereditary pancreatic cancer. **Genetic testing can help identify these faulty genes.**



**Know your family  
Know your risk  
Know your plan**

**If I have a faulty gene for hereditary cancer, does it mean I will definitely get pancreatic cancer?**

No, having a faulty gene for hereditary pancreatic cancer only increases your risk of cancer. It does not guarantee that pancreatic cancer will happen. Nonetheless, you should consider regular screening to detect cancer early.

**If I have a faulty gene, does it mean my children will also inherit it?**

No, all first-degree-relatives (parents, siblings & children) have a 50% chance to inherit the faulty gene running in the family. Genetic testing can be done to understand who in the family has inherited it and who has not.

**To understand more about germline genetic testing for pancreatic cancer, please contact :**  
**Cancer Genetics Service**

Tel: 6436 8088  
cgsgroup@nccs.com.sg

Visit the Cancer Genetics Service webpage:  
<https://www.nccs.com.sg/patient-care/specialties-services/cancer-genetics-service>

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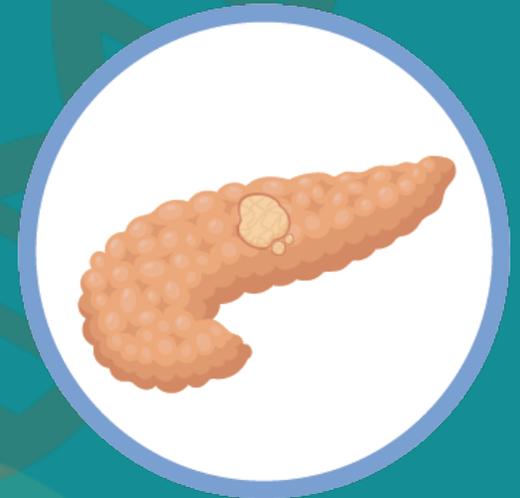


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## Germline Genetic Testing for Pancreatic Cancer



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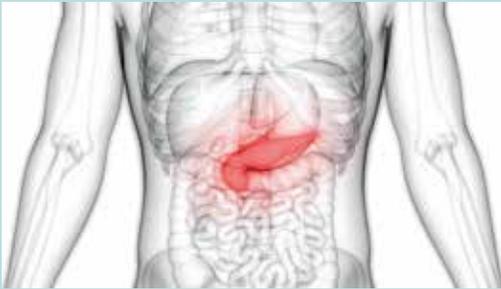
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# Facts about Pancreatic Cancer

The pancreas is an organ that lies behind the stomach.



Pancreatic cancer makes up around 3% of all cancers. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma is the most common type of pancreatic cancer.

The incidence of pancreatic cancer increases with age. Most are diagnosed between age 50 – 80.

Some symptoms of pancreatic cancer include:



There are other warning signs as well. Some may not even cause any symptoms.

## Know Your Family



Anyone who meets the following criteria should consider genetic testing:

- Personal history of pancreatic cancer
- Chronic pancreatitis – repeated pancreatic inflammation
- Two or more individuals from the same side of the family with pancreatic cancer
- Clustering of breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate cancer or melanoma on one side of the family

## Know Your Risk

Consider genetic counselling and testing if you meet any of the above criteria to understand if you have a faulty gene which increases your risk of cancer.



## Know Your Plan

Your genetic test result can help in several ways. If you have pancreatic cancer:

- Personalised treatment options for you
- Inform doctors if you are at risk of other cancers
- Understand if your cancer is running in the family and who else in the family can benefit from testing

If you do not have cancer:

- Guide screening options to detect cancer at its earliest, most treatable stage
- Consider dedicated reproductive options for those planning to have children

## Screening for Pancreatic Cancer

Screening for pancreatic cancer is offered on a case-by-case basis, dependent on your personal and family history of cancer, to be discussed further with your doctors.

There are imaging options like magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and ultrasound scans that can be considered.