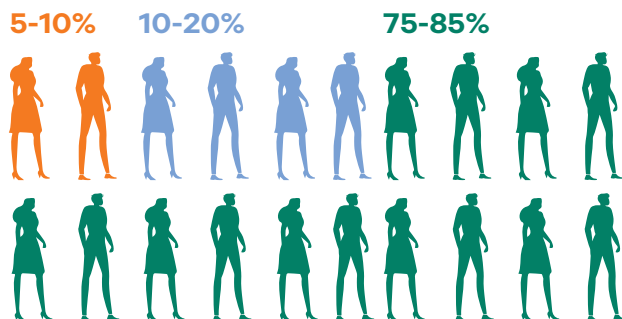


## What does it mean to have an inherited risk of cancer?



Percentages of cancer types amongst cancer cases.  
Orange: hereditary; Blue: familial; Green: sporadic

### Inherited or Hereditary cancer

Caused by a fault (i.e., mutation) in a cancer protection gene, increasing the risk of cancer. Can run in families and be passed down.

### Familial cancer

Caused by a combination of certain genes, that interacts with an individual's environment and lifestyle factors to raise his/her risk of cancer.

### Sporadic cancer

Caused by chance events; age and environmental factors are generally the biggest factors increasing the risk of such cancers.

## How can I get more information?

You may contact the  
Cancer Genetics Service

Tel: 6436 8088

[cgsgroup@nccs.com.sg](mailto:cgsgroup@nccs.com.sg)

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

Please scan the following QR codes to access our website (left) or make a donation to CGS (right):



Website



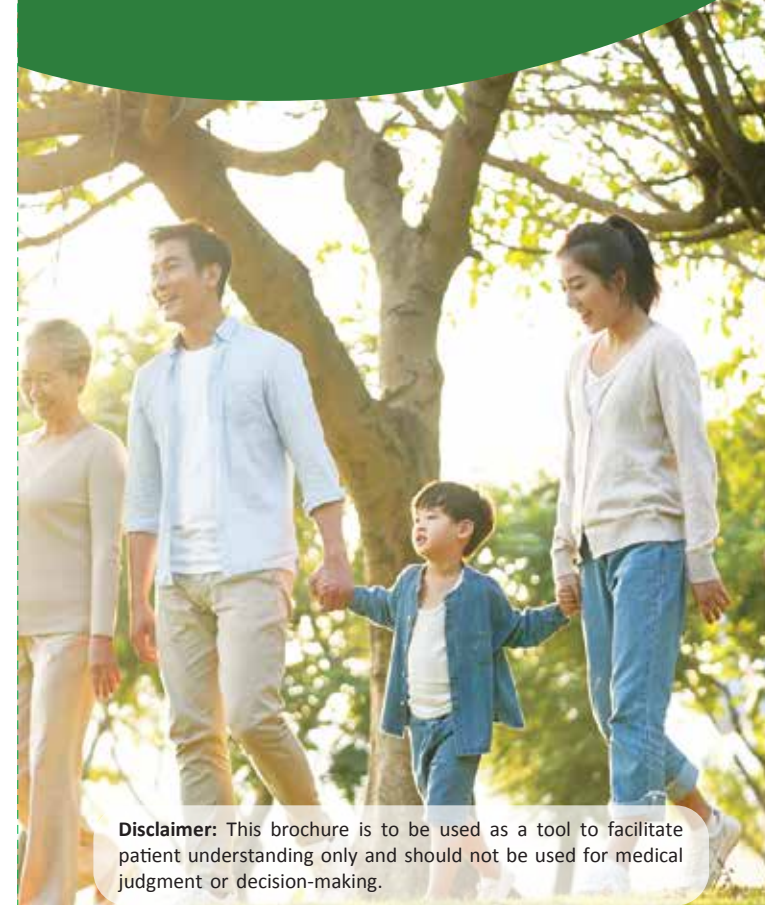
Donations

**For general information about cancer:**

Call the Cancer Helpline at 6225 5655 or email [cancerhelpline@nccs.com.sg](mailto:cancerhelpline@nccs.com.sg)



## Does Cancer Run in My Family?



**Disclaimer:** This brochure is to be used as a tool to facilitate patient understanding only and should not be used for medical judgment or decision-making.



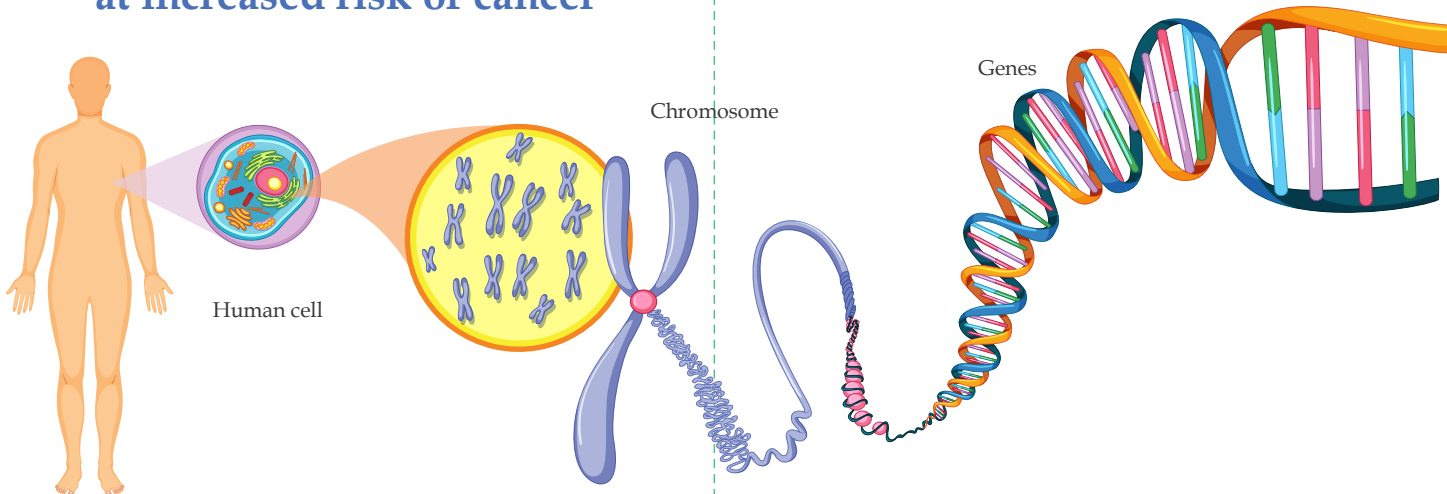
## What are genes?

We have ~25,000 genes in our body that we inherit from our parents. Half from our father and the other half from our mother.

Genes are the instructions that our body reads to carry out different functions. Many of our genes function normally to protect us from various diseases, including cancer.

A cancer protection gene that is not working well (faulty) can increase our risk for cancer. This can run in families and may be passed down.

## Genetic testing can identify individuals and family members at increased risk of cancer



## Who should consider genetic testing?

Individuals who meet any of the following conditions can consider genetic testing:

- Cancer diagnosed at a young age
- Multiple primary cancers
- Rare tumour or cancer diagnosis
- 3 or more relatives on the same side of the family with similar types of cancer

## How do I undergo genetic testing?

A genetic counselling session will be offered to you to discuss genetic testing. It will involve a discussion with a genetic counsellor/genetics specialist to assess how likely a hereditary cause or a faulty gene may be identified in you.

The benefits, limitations & implications of genetic testing will also be explained to you.

## What results can I expect from genetic testing?

There are 3 types of results you may receive:



Faulty gene(s) identified



Ways to manage and reduce cancer risk will be explained to you and your family



Unclear if these change(s) increase cancer risk. Result may change when more information is known.

Family members may be offered testing to clarify result.



No faulty genes identified



Screening will be based on the personal/family history of cancer.