Family testing starts with you

Start out by sharing with your family members that you have undergone genetic testing, which has found a faulty gene that increases your risk of cancer.

Let them know that this faulty gene runs in families, and they may have inherited it as well.

If you need help, do let your genetic counsellor know and they can help facilitate discussions about genetic testing amongst family members.

Knowledge IS Power

Family testing results can be helpful as results from your family member's testing can help to identify who carries the faulty gene, and may be at increased risk of developing cancer.

FAQs

Is testing recommended for children?

Predictive testing for adult-onset conditions is not recommended in individuals aged under 21. Testing in children is only offered when the familial faulty gene increases the risk of childhood cancer or they have cancer.

There is a faulty cancer gene running in my family. Why is it that only some of them get cancer?

Having a faulty gene does not mean you will definitely develop cancer, instead, you have inherited an increased risk of cancer. There are carriers who never end up developing cancer.

If you or your family members are interested to undergo genetic testing, 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

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

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Family Genetic Testing

Sharing your genetic test result with the family

National Cancer Centre Singapore
SingHealth

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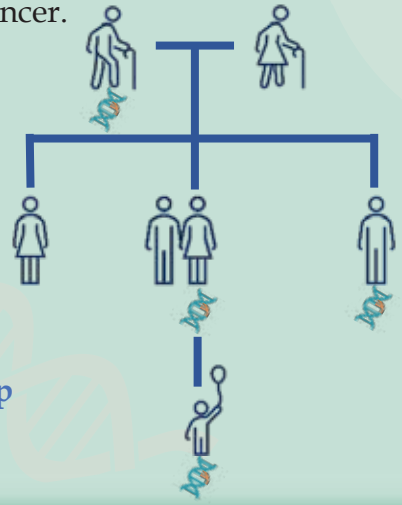
Family genetic testing is offered to family members of an individual who has a faulty gene that causes an increased risk of disease / cancer (*carrier*).

Parents, brothers, sisters and children of carriers have a 50% (1 in 2) chance of inheriting it, and would be recommended to undergo their own genetic testing.

What are faulty genes?

Genes are the instructions that our body reads to carry out different functions. Some of them protect us from cancer.

When an individual has a fault (i.e., mutation) in a cancer protection gene, it results in an increased risk of cancer.



The faulty gene can be inherited or hereditary, meaning that it runs in families.

It does not skip generations.

What results can my family members expect to receive?

They may receive two different types of results:

Negative

familial faulty gene not detected

- Reassured that they do not have an increased risk of cancer.
- Can avoid unnecessary screening and worry as their children are not at risk of inheriting the faulty gene.

Positive

familial faulty gene detected

- Can receive early screening to detect cancer at its earliest, most treatable stage.
- Consider risk-reducing surgery to reduce risk of developing cancer.

How can my family members receive their own testing?

Interested family members can see a CHAS GP or visit a polyclinic for a referral to a cancer genetics service. You may also contact our service if you need more information.

They should bring along the following to their appointment with us:

- Their medical records
- Genetic test reports of their family members
- Information on their family history of cancer / disease

However, not all family members who test positive will develop cancer.