



Nearly everyone has had at least one family member with cancer. Although most cancers are not hereditary, in some families a predisposition to cancer can be passed from one generation to the next. When several family members are affected, suspicions arise about inheritance of cancer risk, especially when cancer occurs at a young age.

The Cancer Genetics Program can provide answers to your questions about familial cancer.

APPOINTMENTS

Call to schedule an appointment for a family cancer risk assessment. Generally we begin the process by sending you the information and forms to gather the necessary family history information. With this family history, we can determine how best to proceed with setting appointments to provide the assessment, counseling and possible testing to address your concerns about inherited cancer risk.

Genetic concerns usually affect multiple family members. If you wish, we encourage you to include other family members (such as a spouse, significant other, siblings, parents or adult children) in the counseling session.

If you are unsure who you may or may not feel comfortable with at the session, feel free to ask the counselor what will be covered, when scheduling your appointment.

All or any part of counseling/ testing process can be done with several family members or as private, individual sessions, as best fits your needs.

FOR AN APPOINTMENT CALL

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Genetic Counselor

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Located at:

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Tenet HealthSystem

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CANCER IN THE FAMILY ARE YOU AT RISK?



*Information, Support, and Testing
for Families with Cancer History*

*Orange County Cancer Education
and Research Foundation*



THE CANCER GENETICS PROGRAM PROVIDES SERVICES TO ANSWER YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT FAMILIAL CANCER:

Does my family history affect my risk for cancer?

Our genetic counselor does an in-depth review of your personal and/or family history of cancer. We draw a family tree to identify patterns suggesting the presence of inherited cancer susceptibility in your family. Does this pattern of cancers fit with a known hereditary cancer syndrome? Or are the cancers in your family more likely to be due to non-inherited causes?

What is my risk to develop the types of cancer in my family or other types?

We do an assessment of your personal risk of developing cancer. We fully discuss our findings with you to help you understand your risk. Genetic testing may be available in some cases. We identify and discuss testing options that you may have. Deciding whether or not to have genetic testing is your personal choice, which can be made during counseling or in the future.

How can this information improve my care, change my lifestyle or affect me emotionally?

We provide personalized counseling to help your decision making about cancer risk. This counseling includes discussion

of issues related to the risk of developing cancer, the impact of genetic test results on cancer screening and prevention strategies, the emotional effect of genetic information on you and other family members, and concerns about genetic privacy and insurance issues.

What can I do about increased cancer risk?

Based on the family history assessment and/or genetic test results, we help you and your physician develop the best approach to manage cancer risk. This includes prevention strategies to avoid developing high-risk cancers and screening strategies for early detection. We provide educational materials and resources to answer all your questions.

Can these services help me if I have already had cancer?

Inherited forms of cancer may present increased risks for new occurrence of the original cancer or development of a related cancer. Understanding these risks and other features of the specific type of inherited cancer can aid you and your physician, in the treatment of your existing cancer and in the detection and prevention of future cancers. Understanding whether your cancer type is inherited can also aid unaffected family members in the ways discussed above.

Who else may benefit from these services to detect inherited cancer risk?

Even if there are few or no family members who have had cancer, the following features may indicate a risk for an inherited type of cancer:

- You or a family member had cancer at an age much earlier than that cancer typically occurs (for example, breast cancer occurring before menopause or colorectal cancer or endometrial cancer occurring before age 45-50).



- You or a family member had more than one cancer (primary cancers, not metastatic or cancer that has “spread”): both breasts, colon and uterus, etc.
- A rare cancer has occurred in the family, e.g., ovarian cancer, pancreatic cancer, sarcomas (bone, muscle or connective tissue tumors), breast cancer in a man.
- A cancer susceptibility gene has already been detected in the family (e.g., BRCA1, BRCA2, p53, genes for HNPCC, etc.)

The cost of all counseling and consultation is covered by the Orange County Cancer Education and Research Foundation. Neither you nor your insurance will be billed for these services. All genetic testing is done by outside labs. Therefore we will bill you or your insurance for any testing you choose to pursue.

As part of the consultation, we will assist you in all concerns of insurance coverage, authorization, and billing for testing, in coordination with your doctor's office and the testing lab. When applicable, we will help you explore low- or no-cost testing options, as available.