

What can be done to detect colorectal cancer early?

Screening

If you have had cancer and are still seeing a specialist, he or she will help you to decide how often you should be screened.

If you are no longer seeing a specialist but there is a chance that your cancer could have been inherited, we may be able to help to arrange regular screening for you.

If you change your address we would be grateful if you would let us know.

For more information:

If you need more information about inherited cancer please contact:

Clinical Genetics Departments

Northern Scotland (main base Aberdeen)

Tel: 01224 552120 Fax: 01224 559390

(Aberdeenshire, Moray, Highland, Western & Northern Isles)

Tayside (main base Dundee)

Tel: 01382 632035 Fax: 01382 645731

(Perth & Kinross, Angus, North East Fife)

South East Scotland (main base Edinburgh)

Tel: 0131 651 1012 Fax: 0131 651 1013

(Borders, Lothian, South West Fife)

West of Scotland (main base Glasgow)

Tel: 0141 201 0808 Fax: 0141 201 0361

(Glasgow, Argyll & Bute, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Stirling, Lanarkshire, Falkirk)

If you need more advice about cancer and support groups, please contact:

Maggies Centres

www.maggiescentres.org

Maggies Highlands Tel: 01463 706302

Maggies Dundee Tel: 01382 496384

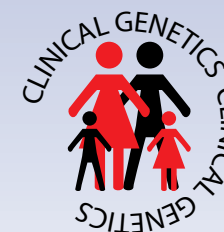
Maggies Edinburgh Tel: 0131 5373131

Maggies Glasgow Tel: 0141 330 3311

Seen in clinic by.....

This leaflet was written by Guy's & St. Thomas' Clinical Genetics.
Updated by Genetic Interest Group Scotland. Last updated June 2002.

Genetic Testing



Information for people
who have had an
HNPCC type of cancer

What is a genetic test?

If there is a chance that you have had an Hereditary Non-Polyposis Colorectal Cancer (HNPCC) type of cancer, we will have talked to you about the possibility of having a **genetic test**.

Having a genetic test involves taking a blood sample. We would look at your sample to see if you have an altered HNPCC gene (please see leaflet about HNPCC).

If we find that you have an altered gene, other members of your family can be offered a test to see if they have inherited the same altered gene as you.

What happens if you are interested in having a genetic test?

After you have discussed what genetic testing could mean for you, you may decide to give a blood sample. We will then ask you to sign a consent form and we will take the blood sample from you.

The laboratory team will search through the HNPCC genes (hMLH1 and hMSH2) in your blood sample to see if the code in either of these genes differs from that of a normal gene.

When will you hear from us?

If you would like to know your test results, we will contact you when we have looked at the HNPCC genes in your blood sample. This can take a long time, as the genes are large and genetic alterations may be hard to find.

The results are confidential to you and it is up to you whether or not you decide to tell other members of your family or your doctors.

What do the results mean if an altered gene IS found in your sample?

For you

It would confirm that your cancer was probably due to an altered gene that has been passed down to you from one of your parents.

The result would mean that even though you have had a cancer before, you may be at increased risk of getting another colorectal cancer. If you are female, you could also be at increased risk of developing cancer of the womb and ovaries.

For your family

Each of your children (if you have any) would have a 50/50 chance of having inherited that altered gene from you.

They and other members of your family could have a test to see whether or not they have inherited the same altered gene as you.

What do the results mean if an altered gene IS NOT found in your sample?

For you

Unfortunately, if we do not find an altered gene in your blood sample, we cannot give you a definite answer about whether or not your cancer is inherited. Either your cancer **may not** have been inherited **or** you **may** still have an alteration in another cancer gene that has not yet been discovered.

We would store the remainder of your sample unless you ask us not to. This is because if, in the future, we discover more cancer genes, we may be able to carry out further tests on your blood sample.

For your family

If we do not find an altered gene in your blood sample, we would not be able to offer your relatives genetic testing.