

Hereditary Colon Cancer Syndromes

Based on your family history, it is possible that you or members of your family have a change in a gene that makes it more likely you will get colon cancer.

Things You Should Know:

- People who have a gene change that increases their chance of getting colon cancer are also more likely to get other cancers in the:
 - Small intestine
 - Thyroid
 - Brain
 - Liver
 - Pancreas
- Hereditary cancers may develop before age 50.
- Not everyone who inherits a gene change will get cancer.
- There is a 50% chance that people with a hereditary colon cancer syndrome will pass the gene on to their children.

Reasons to See a Genetic Counselor:

- The MeTree tool is a screening tool. It cannot tell you for certain that you or someone in your family has a hereditary colon cancer syndrome.
- A genetic counselor can tell you how likely you are to have a hereditary colon cancer syndrome.
- A genetic counselor can talk to you about testing for these syndromes.
- If you have a hereditary colon cancer syndrome there are things you can do to lower your chance of getting cancer or find it earlier, when it is easier to treat.
- If you have a hereditary colon cancer syndrome, other members of your family are at risk and can be tested for the same syndrome.