

CANCER CAN RUN IN THE FAMILY

Knowing a cancer syndrome, such as Lynch syndrome, runs in your family can help you and your family members detect cancer earlier and take steps to reduce your cancer risk.

Cancer syndromes are caused by gene mutations that can be passed down from parents to children. The likelihood of developing cancer is higher for people with cancer syndromes.

Lynch Syndrome

Lynch syndrome is caused by a mutation or a change in people's genes that can lead to cells developing mistakes in their DNA. These mistakes can eventually lead to cancer.

It is estimated that about 27,000 individuals in our state have Lynch syndrome, and over 98% or about 26,500 don't even know they have it.

Lynch syndrome increases risk for colorectal, endometrial, ovarian, stomach, and other cancers.

COLORECTAL CANCER RISK*



80%

with Lynch syndrome

4.5%

general population

*www.ccalliance.org

Find out more at www.doh.wa.gov/LynchSyndrome

SIGNS OF CANCER SYNDROMES

- Multiple family members with the same type of cancer
- Stories about cancer running in the family
- Family members developed cancer at a young age
- Family members with more than one type of cancer

WHAT IF I HAVE A CANCER SYNDROME?

- You may not have signs or symptoms, but you are at higher risk of developing certain types of cancer
- However, not everyone who inherits a cancer syndrome will develop cancer



UNDERSTAND & REDUCE YOUR RISK

If cancer runs in your family:

- Collect your family history of cancer
- Talk to your doctor about it
- Encourage family members to talk to their doctors
- Talk to a genetic counselor about if genetic testing may be right for you
- Reduce your risk by getting screened for cancer

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