

HOW DO I KNOW IF I AM AT HIGH RISK FOR DEVELOPING AN INHERITED CANCER?

According to the National Cancer Institute, the features of an individual's personal or family medical history that, particularly in combination, may suggest an increased risk for developing an inherited cancer include:

cancer diagnosed at a younger age than usual, such as colon cancer in a 20-year-old;

more than one type of cancer diagnosed in the same person, such as a female with both breast and ovarian cancer;

cancers diagnosed in both of a pair of organs, such as both eyes, both kidneys, or both breasts;

several first-degree relatives with the same type of cancer, such as a mother, daughter, and sisters with breast cancer;

family members with breast or ovarian cancer;

family members with colon cancer and endometrial cancer;

unusual cases of a certain type of cancer, such as breast cancer in a man;

the presence of birth defects associated with inherited cancer syndromes, such as benign tumors associated with neurofibromatosis type 1;

being a member of a racial or ethnic group known to have an increased risk of certain inherited cancer susceptibility syndromes and having one or more of the above features as well;

several family members with cancer.