HEREDITARY COLORECTAL CANCER

What You Should Know

Up to 10% of people with colorectal cancer will have an **inherited gene mutation** that caused their cancer.

Genetic counseling and testing can tell you if you have an inherited mutation. Results of testing may make you eligible for certain types of treatment or clinical trials.

The most common cause of hereditary colorectal cancer is **Lynch syndrome,** caused by inherited mutations in these genes:

- **EPCAM**
- **MLH1**
- **MSH2**
- **MSH6**
- **PMS2**

Other genes associated with **increased colorectal cancer risk** include:

- **APC**
- **CHEK2**
- **GREM1**
- **MUTYH**
- **POLE**
- **POLD1**
- **PTEN**
- **STK11**
- **TP53**

*Each mutation has a varying level of risk

Results of genetic testing can help you and your relatives **learn about your risks for future cancers** and take steps to improve your health outcomes.

Experts recommend people with colorectal cancer have tumor testing to **look for abnormalities that may help guide cancer treatment.** These include biomarkers known as MSI-High, which is commonly found in cancers of people with Lynch syndrome. People with MSI-High cancers may benefit from immunotherapy.

"The importance of sharing family history can't be stressed enough. Had I known my grandfather had passed away from colorectal cancer at the age of 38, I may have taken early measures, instead of waking from surgery and learning that I probably had my colon cancer for 15 years."

– WENORA JOHNSON, Lynch Syndrome Colorectal and Endometrial Cancer Survivor

FORCE improves the lives of the millions of individuals and families facing hereditary cancer. Learn more at **FacingOurRisk.org**

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