HOW GENETIC TESTING WORKS

1. Discuss with your provider to decide if genetic testing is right for you

2. Your provider will then determine which appropriate test to order

3. Provide either a blood or saliva sample at your provider's office or even from home

4. Receive your results and discuss possible preventative measures with your provider

5. Your provider may suggest genetic counseling to help you understand what the results mean for you and your family

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What Are The Possible Results Of A Hereditary Cancer Genetic Test?

POSITIVE (PATHOGENIC VARIANT IDENTIFIED)

- A positive test is a test that identifies one or more pathogenic variant(s), a genetic change that is associated with an increased risk for cancer.
- For an individual that has been diagnosed with cancer, a positive result may provide an explanation to the cause of the cancer, determine risk for future cancer, and/or aid in determining the best course of treatment of a current cancer diagnosis.
- For an individual that has not yet been diagnosed but is tested based on symptoms and/or family history, a positive hereditary cancer genetic test does not mean that the person has cancer, it indicates that there is a higher risk for certain cancers as compared to the general population risk. A positive result may aid in diagnosis and/or aid in determining the best course of treatment. Depending on the pathogenic variant identified and the hereditary cancer condition, not all individuals with the pathogenic variant will develop cancer.
- Overall, a positive result can impact an individual and their family. If testing identifies a pathogenic variant associated with cancer, consult with your healthcare provider to create a management plan and to identify relatives who may need to be tested.

NEGATIVE (NO PATHOGENIC VARIANTS IDENTIFIED)

- A negative test is a test that does not identify any pathogenic variants in any of the genes tested in the panel.
- For an individual that has been diagnosed with cancer, a negative result means that the underlying cause of that cancer remains unknown. It may be that the cause is not genetic, related to a variant in a different (or possibly unidentified) gene, or a variant that is unable to be found in the method of testing used.
- For an individual that has not yet been diagnosed but is tested based on symptoms and/or family history, a negative result does not necessarily mean that they won't develop cancer. The risk for developing cancer would depend on the individual's symptoms, their family history, and any previous genetic testing results in the family.

VARIANT OF UNCERTAIN SIGNIFICANCE IDENTIFIED

- In some cases, testing can identify a variant, but it is not known whether the variant is associated with an increased risk for cancer. Over time and with new information, the laboratory may be able to change the classification of the variant to pathogenic (associated with a genetic condition) or benign (not associated with a genetic condition). Since the classification may change in the future, it is important to ensure your healthcare provider is aware of the result.
- In general, a variant of uncertain significance should not be used to determine an individual's medical management.