ABOUT GENETIC TESTING

Genetic testing is used to help people make informed decisions about managing cancer and the potential cancer risks for their family members.

Different genetic tests may be recommended depending on who is being tested and where they are in their cancer journey.

People who have been diagnosed with cancer

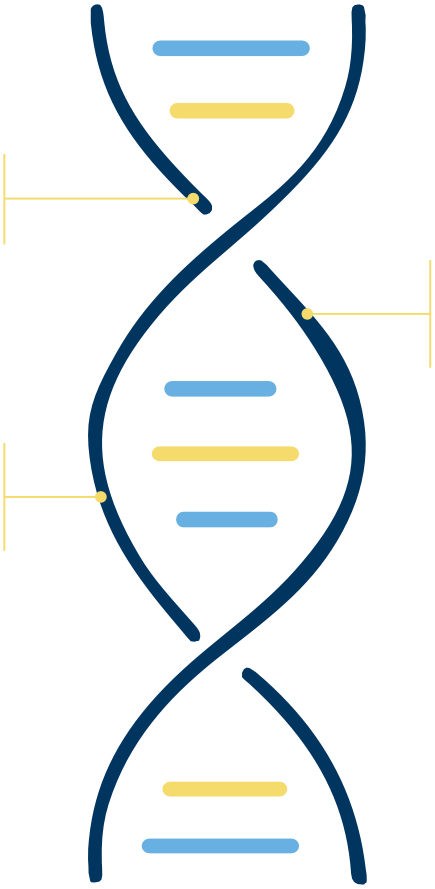
Tumour testing

To identify unique genetic changes in a tumour that were caused by hereditary (germline) and non-hereditary (somatic) changes.

Blood testing

To identify specific germline (hereditary) genetic mutations, such as *BRCA*1 and *BRCA*2 that have been linked to an increased risk of certain cancers.

Results of genetic blood testing can affect treatment options and potentially have an impact on family members who may have inherited the same mutation.



Family members of people who have tested positive for a germline (hereditary) genetic mutation

A genetic blood test

Should be carried out if a specific gene mutation has already been identified in a close relative, or if there is a strong history of cancer in your family.

Both the men and women in your family can have germline (hereditary) genetic mutations, so it is important that all family members have access to genetic counselling and testing.

There are no right or wrong decisions in managing cancer risk if you have tested positive for a germline (hereditary) genetic mutation.

People who have a genetic mutation and are at a higher risk of getting a certain type of cancer could benefit from seeking advice from a genetic counsellor. A genetic counsellor is a medical professional with specialized training to help you understand the pros and cons of having a genetic test and explain what the changes in your DNA may mean for you and your family.

Depending on the individual, these options may include:

- Regular screening to detect cancer as early as possible
- Preventative medications
- Risk-reducing surgery