

*Learn more
about how your
family history of
cancer may
impact your
personal cancer
risk...*



Contact Information

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.lahey.org/FCRAC>

If you would like to speak with a genetic counselor or you would like to schedule an appointment, please call 781-744-3982.



Familial Cancer Risk Assessment Center



Services for Families with a
History of Cancer



It is estimated that one out of every three Americans will develop cancer at some point during their lifetime. While it is difficult to determine the exact cause of cancer in an individual, the majority of cancer is thought to be due to a combination of factors such as chance events, the aging process, or environmental exposures. In about 5-10% of cases, cancer is due in part to a hereditary predisposition that is passed on within a family.

Inherited factors (genes) play an important role in many cancers. We know of several genes that are associated with an increased chance of developing certain types of cancer, including breast, ovarian, colon, and uterine cancer, to name a few.

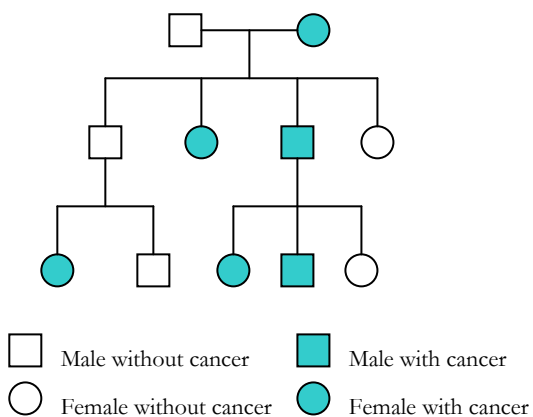
About Us

The Familial Cancer Risk Assessment Center at Lahey Clinic was created to provide comprehensive cancer risk assessment and cancer surveillance recommendations to individuals with significant personal and/or family histories of cancer. Our team includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants, social workers and genetic counselors with expertise in hereditary cancer risk assessment and management.

Features that are suggestive of an hereditary predisposition to cancer include the following:

- ❖ Multiple family members affected with the same cancer (such as breast cancer) or related cancers (such as breast & ovarian cancer, or colon & uterine cancer)
- ❖ Earlier than average ages of diagnosis of cancer (such as breast cancer before the age of 50)
- ❖ Multiple primary cancers in the same individual (such as cancer in both breasts)
- ❖ Cancer occurring in multiple generations of the family

Example of a family with an inherited cancer syndrome:



Our Services

Your risk assessment and genetic counseling appointment will involve the following:

- Detailed questions about your family history of cancer
- Assessment of the likelihood that the cancer in the family could be due to a hereditary cause
- Discussion of cancer genetics and available genetic testing
- Discussion of the advantages and disadvantages of genetic testing and assistance in the decision-making process of whether or not to pursue genetic testing
- Coordination of the logistics of genetic testing and suggestions for appropriate cancer surveillance

Confidentiality

We respect our patients concerns about privacy and confidentiality of genetic information. Family history and genetic testing results are kept confidential like any other information in a medical record and are shared only with the explicit, written permission of the patient.