

# Your Genetic Test Results: Positive

Your cancer team offered you a genetic blood test to look for the possibility of hereditary cancer (a risk for cancer that can be inherited or passed on in families). Following that discussion, you had genetic testing that looked at several genes linked to hereditary cancer.

Your genetic testing is now completed and your results report is included.



**A pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant was found in one or more of the genes from your blood sample. This is called a “positive” hereditary cancer genetic test result.**

## What does this result mean for you?

Your **positive** result means that a **pathogenic variant** (also called a **mutation**) was found in the gene(s) tested. This result means that your cancer is likely hereditary and you may have an increased risk for other types of cancer. Your medical team can use this result to determine the best plan for you. Together, you can discuss options for cancer treatment, screening and managing your risk. Your doctor should refer you to speak with a genetic counsellor to better understand your genetic test results and what they mean for you and your family.

## What does my hereditary cancer genetic test result mean for my family?

Your result means that your relatives may also have this pathogenic variant. Your relatives can ask their doctor for a referral to a genetics clinic to learn more. Genetic testing can help identify whether or not your family members have a higher risk for cancer and what they can do about it.

**Please share this information with your close family members.**

## What happens in the future?

In the future, scientists may discover new information about hereditary cancer. There may be additional risk information regarding your pathogenic variant(s) or other genetic testing options for you to consider. Talk to your doctor if you are interested in updated information about your genetic testing in the future and when a new referral to a genetics clinic might be right for you.

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Visit the [Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors Website](http://www.cagc-accg.ca) for more information and resources, including a list of genetics clinics in Canada.

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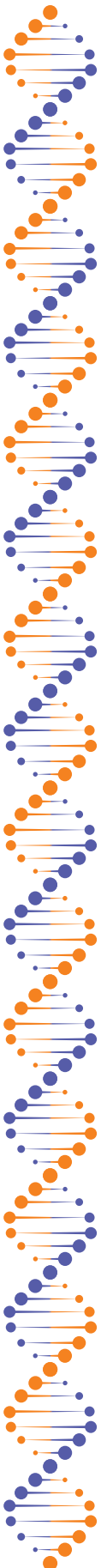
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**This information is not intended to replace personalized advice from your healthcare professionals. Please speak with your healthcare team to discuss how this information applies to your individual genetic test result and medical care.**

The content of this template handout pertains to constitutional (i.e. germline) genetic test results, and does not apply to somatic (i.e. tumour tissue) genetic test results.



Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors  
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# Your Genetic Test Results: Negative

Your cancer team offered you a genetic blood test to look for the possibility of hereditary cancer (a risk for cancer that can be inherited or passed on in families). Following that discussion, you had genetic testing that looked at several genes linked to hereditary cancer.

Your genetic testing is now completed and your results report is included.



**No pathogenic variants were found in any of the genes looked at in your blood sample. This is called a “negative” or “uninformative” hereditary cancer genetic test result.**

## What does this result mean for you?

Your **negative** result means that **no pathogenic variants** (also called **mutations**) were found in the genes tested. There is a lower chance that your cancer is hereditary.

## What does my hereditary cancer genetic test result mean for my family?

Your result means that your relatives do not likely need to have genetic testing. The family history of cancer can still affect their medical care. They should talk with their doctor about appropriate cancer screening and whether a genetics referral is needed.

**Please share this information with your close family members.**

## What happens in the future?

In the future, scientists may discover new information about hereditary cancer and there may be different genetic testing options for you to consider. Talk to your doctor if you are interested in updated information about your genetic testing in the future and when a new referral to a genetics clinic might be right for you.

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# Your Genetic Test Results: VUS

Your cancer team offered you a genetic blood test to look for the possibility of hereditary cancer (a risk for cancer that can be inherited or passed on in families). Following that discussion, you had genetic testing that looked at several genes linked to hereditary cancer.

Your genetic testing is now completed and your results report is included.



**A change or variant was found in one or more of the genes from your blood sample, but it is unknown at this time whether it is linked to cancer risk. This is called an “uncertain” hereditary cancer genetic test result.**

## What does this result mean for you?

Your result means that no pathogenic variants (also called mutations) were found. **An uncertain change was found** in one or more of the genes tested. The genetic experts cannot confirm whether this change is linked to cancer risk or not. **This result is called a “Variant of Uncertain Significance” (VUS).**

## What does my hereditary cancer genetic test result mean for my family?

Your result means that your relatives do not likely need to have genetic testing. The family history of cancer can still affect their medical care. They should talk with their doctor about appropriate cancer screening and whether a genetics referral is needed.

**Please share this information with your close family members.**

## What happens in the future?

In the future, scientists may discover new information about your VUS and hereditary cancer testing in general. Talk to your doctor about re-referring you to a genetics clinic in \_\_\_ years' time to learn updates about your genetic test result and any other important information that might affect your care.

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