

GENETIC TESTING

If genetic testing is indicated, the genetic counsellor will discuss the potential advantages and limitations with you.

In order for testing to proceed, you must provide consent and have a blood sample collected at any Western Diagnostic Pathology collection centre.

Testing is performed at a laboratory that is accredited by the National Association of Testing Authorities and The Royal College of Pathologists of Australia. Results will be available approximately four weeks after the blood sample is collected, and will be discussed at a follow-up appointment with the genetic counsellor.

Some of the more common cancer predisposition syndromes include:

- Hereditary Breast/Ovarian cancer (BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes)
- Lynch syndrome (MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, PMS2 genes)

COSTS

- Initial appointment between **\$150** to **\$295**
- Genetic testing and results appointment between **\$500** and **\$2500**
Eg comprehensive BRCA gene testing and results appointment - **\$1395**
- Specific costs are available from WOMEN Centre upon request
- Please note that testing costs are subject to change

Western Australia
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GENETIC
COUNSELLING

GENETIC COUNSELLING

Individuals with a personal and/or family history of cancer may be interested to learn whether there are particular factors that led to the cancer development, whether family members are at increased risk of cancer, and how to manage potential cancer risks. Usually there are multiple factors that contribute towards cancer development, including advancing age, lifestyle, environment, chance and, in some families, an inherited gene fault.

Cancer is a common condition, affecting around 1 in 3 Australians during their lifetime, and therefore it is not unusual for a number of individuals to be affected by cancer in any given family. However, a small proportion (less than 10%) of cancers are due to an inherited cancer predisposition syndrome.

BENEFITS

Genetic counselling can help to clarify whether cancers that have occurred in a family are likely to result from an inherited cancer predisposition syndrome, and can help at-risk family members understand and adapt to the medical, psychological, familial and reproductive implications of such conditions.

WHEN TO SEEK GENETIC COUNSELLING

If one or more of the following are present in a family, genetic counselling should be considered:

- Cancer predisposition gene fault previously identified in the family
- Diagnosis of cancer at a young age
- Multiple primary cancers of the same type
- Multiple affected family members, over multiple generations
- Grade 3 triple negative breast cancer
- High grade epithelial ovarian cancer
- Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- Male breast cancer

FAMILY HISTORY QUESTIONNAIRE

Following referral to WOMEN Centre for genetic counselling, you will be asked to complete a **Family History Questionnaire** (FHQ). The FHQ can be completed online (see www.WOMENcentre.com.au for details) or, if you do not have access to the internet, a paper version can be sent to you to be completed and returned.

Once your FHQ has been received, it may be necessary for the genetic counsellor to review some of your affected family members' medical records - ideally, histopathology reports are obtained, which requires the

consent of the affected individual (or their next of kin if deceased). You may therefore be asked to facilitate completion and return of a **Consent Form** by the family member(s) of interest, which can also be completed online or a paper version may be used. Alternatively, if you have access to this information, it can be forwarded to the genetic counsellor directly.

APPOINTMENT

When the necessary information has been obtained, it will be analysed by the genetic counsellor and clinical geneticist. An appointment will then be arranged to discuss the family history of cancer and its implications. During the appointment, the genetic counsellor can:

- Address your concerns and questions relating to the family history of cancer
- Assess the likelihood of a familial cancer predisposition syndrome
- Provide information about inherited cancer predispositions
- Recommend risk management options
- Provide support and short-term counselling
- Advise whether genetic testing is indicated in your family
- Arrange genetic testing