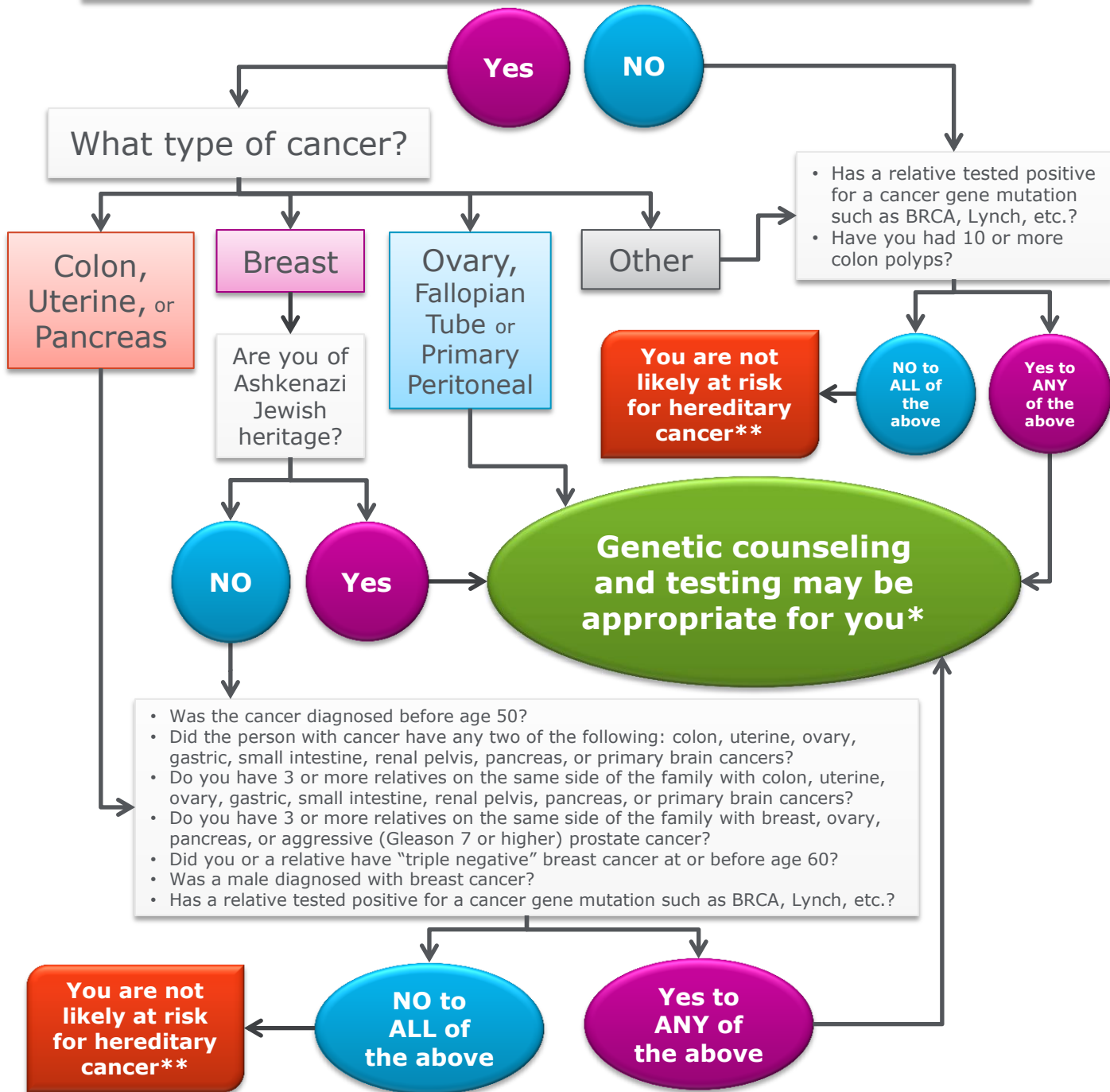


Are You at Risk for Hereditary Cancer?

Have you or any of your relatives had cancer?



*Genetic counseling and testing can help to determine whether a family has a hereditary cancer syndrome. Individuals who have genetic predisposition to develop cancer are recommended to follow increased cancer surveillance and management which can lead to prevention and early detection.

**This does not account for all forms of hereditary cancer and does not exclude the risk of hereditary cancer. Review your family history with your healthcare provider to determine if genetic counseling and testing are appropriate for you.

Hartford HealthCare Cancer Genetics Program

Hartford Hospital
860.972.6000

The Hospital of Central Connecticut
860.827.4185

MidState Medical Center
203.238.7747

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Who should have cancer genetic counseling?

A. Genetic counseling and testing is not meant for everyone. The majority of cancers are by chance, or sporadic – due to environmental, lifestyle and other factors. Only 5%-10% of cancers are inherited, or “run in the family.” If you have a family history of certain cancers, genetic counseling may be appropriate for you and/or someone in your family.

Q. Where does genetic counseling take place?

A. At Hartford HealthCare Cancer Institute, cancer genetic counseling by a board-certified genetic counselor is presently available at the following locations:

HCCC: 183 North Mountain Road - New Britain, CT 06053

Hartford Hospital: 85 Retreat Avenue – Hartford, CT 06106

Hartford Hospital: 80 Fisher Drive – Avon, CT 06001

MidState Medical Center: 435 Lewis Avenue – Meriden, CT 06451

Backus Hospital: *Coming Soon* - Norwich, CT

Q. What will happen during a genetic counseling appointment?

A. We would discuss the factors that may contribute to your cancer risk. These include details of your own medical history, as well as the medical and cancer history for your maternal and paternal family members. We will address any concerns you may have about hereditary cancer and what the options are for genetic testing as well as your continued health care. If genetic testing is appropriate, it is typically done by a blood draw, or in some cases, a saliva sample.

Q. How long would the appointment take?

A. The appointment may take approximately 30-60 minutes. Completely filling out a detailed family history questionnaire before your appointment will help to expedite the appointment.

Q. How much does genetic testing cost?

A. Most insurance companies cover testing for those who meet the medical criteria. If appropriate, we would discuss the process of insurance authorization for genetic testing at the appointment. If testing is pursued, the laboratory would contact the patient to inform them of the cost *prior* to starting the test, with the option to cancel the test. If a person does not have health insurance, coverage for testing may be available through a financial assistance program.

Q. Can I be discriminated against if I have genetic testing?

A. Some people are worried that they may be discriminated against based upon the results of genetic testing. The Genetic Information Non-discrimination Act, also called GINA, signed into federal law in May 2008, prohibits group and individual health plans and employers from using genetic information to determine health insurance eligibility or premiums. GINA protections are excluded for life, long-term, and disability policies. It is important to weigh the potential benefit of a genetic test against the concern of discrimination. Likewise, it is important to base the decision whether or not to have genetic testing on credible and up-to-date information received from a genetic counselor.

Q. Do I need genetic counseling if I or my relative had testing previously?

A. As technology advances, additional genetic testing for newly identified genes may become available. If your relative had testing and it was negative/normal, this may not completely eliminate your risk of having a genetic mutation, especially if you have had cancer. A genetic counseling appointment may help to clarify your cancer genetic risks and to help determine if genetic testing is appropriate for you.

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