

Our Last Webinar on Replay

Is there a genetic predisposition to prostate cancer?

Presented by



Partners



Here are 5 points to remember:

1. Genetic predisposition: Am I at risk?

If you have inherited certain genetic mutations, your risk of developing prostate cancer may be higher than average and, depending on some genetic variants, more aggressive than others at diagnosis.

2. Only 5-10% of prostate cancers are hereditary

This means that these cancers have a genetic component that can be passed on from one generation to the next, from the father or the mother. But be aware that not all children inherit genes from their parents, which may explain why one will develop prostate cancer while the other will not.

3. I have prostate cancer. Should I have genetic screening?

Your doctor may encourage you to take a genetic test if your cancer is aggressive and has metastasized, if you have a family history of cancers (breast, ovary, pancreas, prostate). He will consider the number of members of your family who have been diagnosed with these cancers and whether they are 1st-degree relatives: father, mother, siblings.

4. What do the test results mean to me and my family?

A genetic counselor (attached to a hospital center) can help you learn more about your test results, including the chances that other members of your family may carry the same genetic variants. Your genetic counselor can also help you decide if, when, and how you want to share information about your test results with family members. In some cases, they may offer genetic testing to your relatives. Please be aware that the results are confidential and that, by law, you do not have to disclose them to insurance companies.

5. Will my result influence prostate cancer screening or treatment?

If you test positive for certain genetic traits that increase your risk of cancer, your doctor or genetic counsellor may suggest that you get tested as early as age 40, recommend lifestyle changes or other strategies to reduce your risk of developing cancer, and discuss medical implications with family members. Being diagnosed with prostate cancer while carrying a genetic mutation can affect your treatments and medical follow-up.