

Test result FAQ: Positive



Your genetic test result for inherited cancer testing was positive. This means a change was found in your DNA that is known to increase the risk for cancer. Here are some answers to the most commonly asked questions about this type of test result:

What does a positive genetic test result mean?

If you test positive, that means a change in the DNA, referred to on our test report as a pathogenic variant, was identified in one of the genes on your test panel, and your risk of developing cancer is likely increased. The type of cancer, degree of risks and medical recommendations will depend upon your specific genetic test result.

Identifying a pathogenic variant in your DNA may provide an explanation for your cancer diagnosis, if you have one. It may also clarify your future cancer risk, allowing you to work with your physician to create a plan designed to help to identify a cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage or, in some cases, prevent a cancer.

What does this result mean for my family members?

Importantly, a positive genetic test result may provide helpful information for your family members to clarify their own cancer risks. Your first degree relatives (parents, children and siblings) and even more distant relatives may also be at risk. Genetic counseling and consideration of genetic testing is recommended for them.

What are my options to learn more about my genetic test result?

We strongly recommend that you schedule a genetic counseling session to review this result with a board-certified genetic counselor. Invitae offers this service, and there is no additional cost for you to schedule a telephone genetic counseling appointment with an Invitae counselor. Please call Invitae at 800-436-3037 anytime during business hours to schedule an appointment.

What if I prefer to meet with a genetic counselor in person?

If you prefer to pursue in-person genetic counseling, please visit the website of the National Society of Genetic Counselors (www.nsgc.org) to find a genetic counselor in your area.

What happens during a genetic counseling appointment?

Your genetic counselor will review your family's medical history as well as your personal medical history in order to best assess what this result means for you and your family. This will include a review of medical management options that may be available to reduce your cancer risk.