

# Genetic Counseling for Cancer Risk

The University of Kansas Cancer Center is nationally recognized for identifying and proactively managing cancer risk through genetic counseling and risk assessment for patients and their family members.

Genetic counselors assess hereditary cancer risk indications for early detection and risk reduction. This allows early surveillance for cancer, including screening, management and treatment for individuals at a higher risk.

Hereditary factors may contribute to the development of cancer in 10 percent or more of cases.

Genetic counseling is important if there is a family history of breast, colon, ovarian, uterine, kidney, prostate or pancreatic cancers.



## Family cancer syndromes

- HBOC (hereditary breast-ovarian cancer)
- Lynch syndrome
- Familial colon polyposis syndromes
- Von Hippel-Lindau disease
- Multiple endocrine neoplasia
- Cowden syndrome
- Li-Fraumeni syndrome

Individuals, and families, who have any of the following should consider genetic counseling:

- Cancer prior to age 50
- Two or more family members with the same type cancer
- Rare cancer (ovarian, male breast, sarcoma)
- More than 10 colon polyps (lifetime)
- Individuals with more than one cancer (both kidneys, breasts and ovaries)
- Cancer in multiple generations or multiple siblings

Genetic counseling includes:

- Obtaining and evaluating three generations of your family medical history
- Discussion of natural history, diagnostic tests and risk management for hereditary cancers
- Coordination of appropriate laboratory and diagnostic studies for genetic risk assessment
- Discussion of the complexities of genetic testing and interpretation of test results
- Integration of genetic test results with personal and family medical history to communicate risk factors and management
- Review of national guidelines and recommendations for surveillance and risk management
- Discussion of extended family members' risk factors for cancer or other tumors

# Genetic counseling team



**Eric T. Rush, MD, FAAP, FACMG**  
Clinical geneticist



**Meera Clytone, MS, CGC**



**Debra Collins, MS, CGC**



**Devin Cox, MS, CGC**



**Katie Nelson, MS, CGC**



**Alisdair Philp, MS, PhD, CGC**

Our genetic counseling team is part of The University of Kansas Cancer Center's multidisciplinary care team. Our genetic specialists coordinate and collaborate to provide individualized care for patients and family members at risk for hereditary cancer. This includes:

- Reviewing options for treatment, surveillance and management
- Determining the most appropriate testing options
- Identifying susceptible family members
- Communicating results and their implications for extended family members
- Providing educational and support group resources for patients and their families

## For more information

Patients: **913-588-1227** | 844-323-1227

Physicians: **913-588-5862** | 877-588-5862

[kucancercenter.org/genetictesting](http://kucancercenter.org/genetictesting)

