

**Who Should Consider Genetic Counseling?
Genetic counseling may be indicated if:**

- You or a close relative has:
 - Cancer at a young age (under age 50)
 - Multiple primary cancers or bilateral cancer
- You have two or more close relatives with cancer, especially of the same type
- You have a relative who is a known carrier of an inherited cancer susceptibility
- You are concerned about your family history of cancer.

How To Schedule an Appointment

Talk to your physician about a referral if you are interested in scheduling an appointment in the Cancer Genetics Risk Assessment Program. A genetic consultation is billed as an outpatient visit and is usually covered by insurance. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please contact our office at (317) 338-RISK (7475) or visit cancergenetics.stvincent.org

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The Spirit of Caring is alive at St. Vincent, represented by the three doves of our logo flying proudly in an integrated formation, depicting the three aspects of holistic healing—body, mind and spirit. We strive to deliver to our patients and families extraordinary patient care every day, with the three doves as our guiding symbol.

As a member of Ascension Health and St. Vincent Health, we are called to:

Service of the Poor

Generosity of the spirit for persons most in need

Reverence

Respect and compassion for the dignity and diversity of life

Integrity

Inspiring trust through personal leadership

Wisdom

Integrating excellence and stewardship

Creativity

Courageous innovation

Dedication

Affirming the hope and joy of our ministry



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INSPIRED
TO BE PROACTIVE



Cancer
Genetics
Risk
Assessment
Program



THE SPIRIT OF CARING®

The St. Vincent Hospital Cancer Genetics Team includes board-certified and specially trained genetic counselors who can assess cancer risk in your family and provide clear and clinically relevant information in a supportive environment.

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Am I At Risk?

Everyone has a risk of developing cancer. Most individuals who develop cancer do not have a family history. If you have a family member with cancer, your risk for cancer may be increased. It is very important to be familiar with your family and personal health history.

Is Cancer Genetic?

Cancer is caused by abnormal gene changes known as mutations. Mutations accumulate over time, leading to sporadic cancer. Sometimes environmental factors influence the accumulation of mutations. In a small percentage of families, a gene mutation can be passed on from generation to generation. Inherited mutations may predispose those who are carriers to develop particular types of cancer. Not everyone with an inherited mutation will develop cancer, although the risks are increased.

How Can I Learn About My Risk for Cancer?

The Cancer Genetics Risk Assessment Program at St. Vincent Hospital offers genetic counseling and, in some cases, genetic testing to assess your risk for hereditary cancer. This process is intended to answer your questions and concerns about cancer risks and provide information regarding the risk to you and your close relatives.

What Should I Expect During the Genetic Counseling Session?

Genetic counseling involves reviewing your personal medical and family history and obtaining medical records on those affected with cancer, when possible. You will receive a questionnaire by mail, which will need to be completed before your visit. This information will allow the genetic counselor to determine your personal risk for developing cancer as well as the likelihood that there is a genetic predisposition for cancer in your family.

What Does Genetic Testing Involve?

We will discuss the benefits, limitations, and potential outcomes of genetic testing during your visit and how they may have an impact on medical management for you and your family. Genetic testing may not be appropriate for everyone, and many factors need to be considered during your session. Currently, genetic tests are available to detect a variety of hereditary cancer syndromes. These include (but are not limited to) cancers that involve the breast, colon, ovary, thyroid, kidney and prostate.

A genetic consultation is billed as an outpatient visit and is usually covered by insurance. Genetic testing is generally quite expensive, but most insurance plans cover most or all of the cost. There are also options for financial assistance and payment plans that may be investigated if testing is not fully covered.

