

Why Genetic Counseling?

Information for patients who have been diagnosed with colorectal cancer.

Why is genetic counseling being recommended?

1. The person diagnosed was under the age of 50 at the initial diagnosis
2. The person diagnosed has >10 adenomatous polyps
3. The person diagnosed has had tumor studies showing high MSI and/or absent IHC
4. The person diagnosed has a history of other Lynch syndrome related cancers*
5. The person diagnosed has a first degree relative with any of the above cancers diagnosed before age 50 OR two second degree relatives diagnosed with any of the above cancers at any age

* Lynch syndrome related cancers: colorectal, small intestine, endometrial (uterine), gastric (stomach), ovarian, pancreatic, ureter, renal/pelvis, biliary tract, brain

About 5 to 10% of colorectal cancer is hereditary and passed through families. A genetic counselor can closely examine your personal and family history to assess your risk.

After reviewing this history, he or she may recommend genetic testing for one or more cancer predisposition syndromes, such as Lynch syndrome (also known as hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer syndrome) or polyposis syndromes. If you are found to carry a mutation in a gene associated



with a cancer predisposition syndrome, you and your medical team can work together to form a more personalized treatment and management plan.

How would carrying a gene mutation change things for me?

For individuals who are fighting colorectal cancer, genetic test results can provide an explanation for the cancer diagnosis, it may help to make informed medical decisions, including treatment, surveillance, and preventive options, and qualify you for participation in clinical trials or research studies. Additionally, individuals with mutations in cancer predisposition genes are sometimes at an increased risk for other types of cancer and may be candidates for additional surgeries and/or screening.

What would this mean for my family members?

Mutations in genes associated with cancer predisposition syndromes are passed through families. Most of the time, if you are positive for a genetic mutation, your first-degree family members (mother, father, sisters, brothers and/or children) have a 50% chance of also carrying this mutation. If you are found to be positive for a mutation, a genetic counselor can help you inform your family members about their risk of developing certain cancers. In those that test positive but do not have cancer, preventative action can be taken, reducing their risk of developing cancer. These actions may include more aggressive screening beginning at younger ages and preventative surgeries.

Does insurance cover the cost of genetic counseling and genetic testing?

At Invision Sally Jobe, genetic counseling visits are most often covered by insurance. When a genetic counselor or other medical professional recommends genetic testing, insurance covers it in most cases. A genetic counselor and the laboratory conducting the testing can help you find out if genetic testing is covered by your specific insurance plan and what the out-of-pocket cost would be to you. If you would like to contact your insurance company to check on your coverage for genetic counseling and/or testing, please contact us for the relevant billing code(s).

If I test positive for a genetic predisposition syndrome, could this affect the insurability of my children and/or other relatives?

Genetic information cannot be accessed by anyone, except you and people you authorize to view this information. Furthermore, the Genetic Information and Discrimination Act of 2008 (also known as "GINA"), is a federal law that prohibits insurance companies and employers from discriminating against someone because of their genetic information. Additionally, Colorado law (S.B. 94-058) states that health insurance, group disability insurance and long-term insurance coverage cannot be denied based on genetic information.

Locations

Invision Sally Jobe offers convenient locations throughout the Denver metro area. Visit www.invisionsallyjobe.com to find the location nearest you.

Why Invision Sally Jobe?

Every Invision Sally Jobe breast imaging site is a National Quality Measures for Breast Centers® (NQMBC) Certified Quality Breast Center of Excellence™. This designation is awarded to facilities that consistently demonstrate excellence in patient care and adherence to the highest clinical quality standards. Invision Sally Jobe is the only breast network in Denver metro area to earn this distinction.

Invision Sally Jobe is also an American College of Radiology (ACR) Breast Imaging Center of Excellence and fully certified by the FDA.



Resources

- GINA : Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (ginahelp.org)
- National Society of Genetic Counselors (NSGC.org)
- American Cancer Society (www.cancer.org)
- Colon Cancer Alliance (www.ccalliance.org)
- Hereditary Colon Cancer Takes Guts (www.hcctakesguts.org)

For more information about our commitment to quality, please visit www.InvisionSallyJobe.com.

To schedule an appointment, call 720.493.3700.

For other inquiries, call our Patient Care Coordination line at 720.493.3459 or email pcc@riaco.com.



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