

Key questions to ask your family



- 1 How old was each family member when diagnosed with cancer?
(Cancer at a young age is a red flag that a genetic connection may exist).
- 2 Have the same cancers appeared in more than one generation of your family?
- 3 Where did the cancer start?
Cancer can spread, but the only genetic connection would be to where the cancer first started. (For example, maybe someone had lung cancer, but the cancer started in the prostate).
- 4 Have any family members had genetic testing?
(It's vital to get specifics from family members. If they have undergone genetic testing ask for a copy of the test report and take it to your doctor.)

Share these answers with your physician, who will determine if a more in-depth look at your family history and genetics could benefit you.

SOURCE: MARSHFIELD CLINIC GENETICS DEPARTMENT