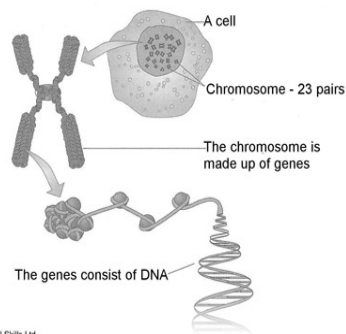


Genes and Cancer

Cancer develops when abnormal cells grow and spread quickly. Our bodies are made up of billions of cells. Inside the cells are chromosomes (23 pairs) and on the chromosomes are genes. The genes are



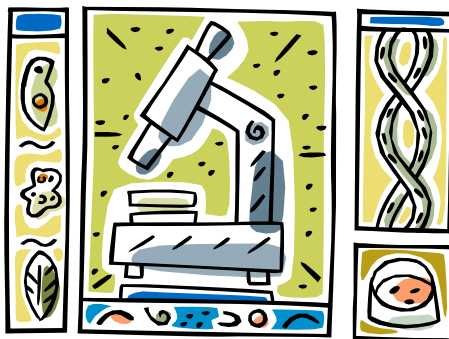
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are made up of DNA and control our growth and how our bodies work. Sometimes there is a change or mutation in a gene which

stops the gene from working properly which may result in abnormal cell growth. Studying DNA allows scientists to better understand what raises a person's risk of getting cancer. Families with a history of cancer give a unique view into the cancer process. This may help find causes of cancer in people with a family history of the disease. It could also lead to finding cancer at an earlier stage when it can be cured, preventing it, or discovering new methods to treat the disease.

If you agree to participate, you will need to give a blood or saliva sample to be stored in a DNA bank. The samples and medical and family history information will be kept confidential and may be used by scientists who study genes and cancer.

This project is supported by a grant from the National Cancer Institute (NCI) to the Cancer Genetics Network (CGN). The CGN is a group of scientists located across the country who study how cancer runs in families. This project has been approved by the Institutional Review Board for the protection of rights of human subjects at all participating institutions.



Cancer Genetics Network Data Coordinating Center

Massachusetts General Hospital
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Boston, MA 02114
Phone: 617-724-3000
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<http://hedwig.mgh.harvard.edu/cgn/public/studies/biorepository>



Cancer Genetics Network

DNA Bank

For the Study of Familial Cancer



Contact: CGN Study Coordinator
Massachusetts General Hospital
Phone: (866) 593-8419
Email: contactcgn@partners.org



Cancer Genetics Network

The Cancer Genetics Network (CGN) was established by the National Cancer Institute (NCI), which is part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to do research in the genetic causes of cancer. The Network has over 24,000 participants who have volunteered to participate in research studies.

Scientists in the CGN are now collecting blood or saliva samples from people in families with a history of cancer. Families with a history of cancer provide a unique view into the cancer process. You are being invited to participate in this research project because it is believed that you could contribute to this research.

Who can join the DNA Bank?

The CGN DNA Bank is for individuals who have had cancer at an early age, or multiple cancer diagnoses. You may be eligible to join if you:

- Had cancer before age 40
- Had more than one type of cancer before age 50
- Have one or more family members that had cancer before age 50
- Have the same type of cancer in 2 or more blood-related relatives
- Have not tested positive for a genetic mutation (such as BRCA1 or BRCA2)

What will I have to do?

We will ask you to donate about 1 tablespoon of blood taken from a vein in your arm. If you are unable or unwilling to provide a blood sample, you can provide a saliva sample instead. We will also ask you to answer some questions about your medical and family cancer history.

We will contact you one time each year to find out if anything has changed. You may ask us to stop contacting you at any time.

Participating CGN Clinical Centers:

Duke University
Georgetown University
Johns Hopkins University
MD Anderson Cancer Center
University of California
University of Colorado
University of New Mexico
University of North Carolina
University of Pennsylvania
University of Texas Health Sciences Center
University of Washington

What will happen with my blood or saliva sample?

If you decide to join the DNA bank, you will give blood or saliva one time. Your sample will be sent to Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, Massachusetts. DNA will be extracted from your blood or saliva and stored for up to 20 years for use in future research. You can decide at any time that you do not want to participate and your DNA will be destroyed. Results from any genetic tests we perform will not ordinarily be returned to you.

Will my information be kept private?

Yes. All of the information you provide will be kept private. Only staff at the clinical site we refer you to will be able to link your blood or saliva sample with your name. Only CGN-approved investigators will have access to the DNA bank samples. All investigators will be required to have Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval for any study that uses your DNA. An IRB is a group of people at an institution that review studies to make sure they are well-designed, legal, ethical, and do not involve unnecessary risk.

I might be interested, what should I do first?

If you have more questions about this study or may be interested in participating, please contact the CGN DNA Bank Coordinator:

- (866) 593-8419
- contactcgn@partners.org

You will be asked a few short questions and will be directed to one of the CGN clinical centers listed in blue box to the left. You will then talk to study staff, receive additional information, complete questionnaires, and provide a blood or saliva sample (at no cost to you).

