



Hereditary Prostate Cancer Fact Sheet

Facts:

*Genetics is only one factor contributing to the development and progression of prostate cancer. Some of the other factors include environmental exposures and age.

*Genetics plays an even greater role in the development of prostate cancer than it does in the development of either breast or colon cancer.

What type of family history do you have?

Sporadic Prostate Cancer: 1 close relative (father, brother, or son) has prostate cancer

Familial Prostate Cancer: 2 close relatives have had prostate cancer

Hereditary Prostate Cancer: 3 or more close relatives have had prostate cancer

Approximately 1 out of every 10 men diagnosed with prostate cancer will be a member of a family with hereditary prostate cancer

Determining your chance of developing prostate cancer:

- The general population risk for developing clinically significant prostate cancer is 8%.
- If a man has one close relative (father, brother, son) with prostate cancer, his risk is twice as high as the general population to develop prostate cancer.
- If a man has 2 close relatives with prostate cancer, his risk is increased by 5 times higher than the general population.
- If a man has 3 or more close relatives with prostate cancer, his risk is 11 times higher than a man in the general population.
- African Americans have a higher risk of developing prostate cancer than Caucasian Americans.
- Men who have relatives who have been diagnosed at younger ages (before the age of 60) are at a higher risk to develop prostate cancer than men whose relatives were diagnosed at later ages.

What you can do:

- If you have been diagnosed with prostate cancer, tell your relatives your diagnosis, how you were diagnosed (clinical symptoms, PSA, etc.) and your age at diagnosis.
- If someone in your family has been diagnosed with prostate cancer, tell your doctor who they are, what age they were diagnosed, how it was diagnosed, and how they are related to you.
 - o This information may help your doctor determine your risk of developing prostate cancer.
 - o You should consider beginning prostate cancer screening using both digital rectal exams and PSA screening earlier than the general population.
- Participate in research: there are many research opportunities looking at both environmental and genetic causes of prostate cancer as well as trials for new treatments.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please e-mail Angela Schwab at alheil@uncg.edu or contact Aubrey Turner at (336) 713-7549.