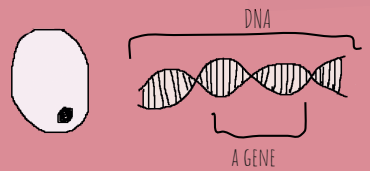




INHERITED CANCER



Cancer will affect 1 in 2 of us in our lifetime, but only 5-10% of cancers are inherited.



WHAT IS AN INHERITED CANCER?

Our bodies are made of cells. Inside cells are genes, which are instructions that tell the cell what to do. Sometimes a gene does not work properly which means the cell stops working properly, which means a person is more likely to get cancer.

Half of our genes and DNA, come from our mother, and half come from our father. If our mother or father has a damaged gene, they can pass this gene on to their children. This means their children have 50% chance of getting the damaged gene, so they are more likely to get cancer than people with a gene that works properly. It doesn't matter what gender the child is.



Each child has a 50% chance of inheriting the damaged gene.

WILL MY FAMILY GET CANCER?

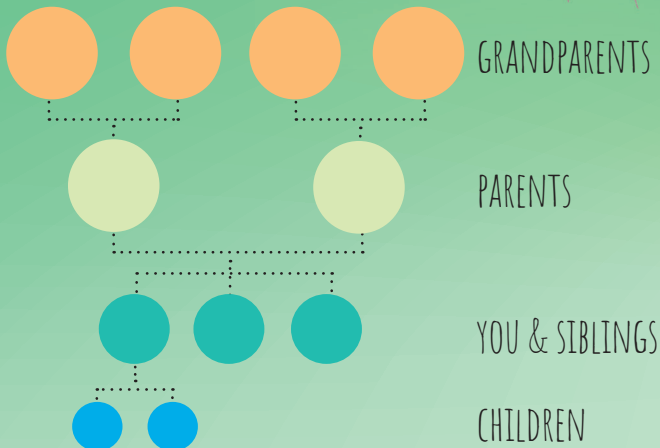
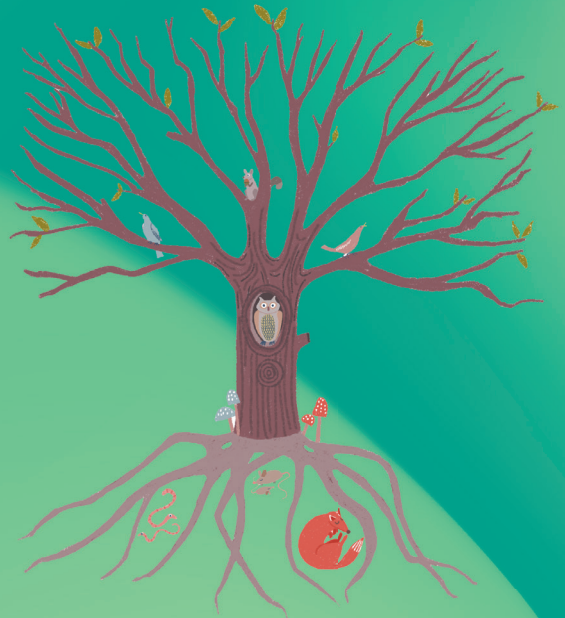
Not all damaged genes will increase the risk of cancer, but some might. If you are born with a gene that doesn't work properly it doesn't mean that you will definitely get cancer, but you are more likely than a person who has a gene that works properly.

Working out who else in the family might be at risk of getting cancer, is very important, because they can get themselves screened and tested early, and before any disease occurs.

FAMILY TREE

It can be a good idea to make a family tree by getting information about the relatives you have, and have had in your life to map out any patterns. Remember to include both genders.

The more family members who have had the same types of cancer, and the younger they were at diagnosis, the more likely that the cancers are being caused by an inherited damaged gene.



For further support, please speak to your nurse or doctor. Remember the only way of confirming whether anyone has genes that do not work properly is through genetic testing.

MORE SUPPORT:

www.lynch-syndrome-uk.org
www.fruitflycollective.com