



Blackrock Clinic

GP INFORMATION

Cancer Genetics

AT BLACKROCK CLINIC

When your Experience Needs Ours

Introduction

The Cancer Genetics Clinic has been established at Blackrock Clinic by Prof David Gallagher, Consultant Oncologist and Medical Geneticist.

This service is supported by Eoin Hanney, Genetic Counsellor.

The Cancer Genetics Clinic

At the Cancer Genetics Clinic, an initial hereditary cancer risk assessment is carried out by a Genetic Counsellor. The patient's personal and family history is taken and their risk of having an inherited pre-disposition to cancer is assessed. Patients with a suspicious personal and/or family history of cancer may be offered genetic testing in line with established criteria. Not all patients seen at the genetic clinic will be eligible for genetic testing.

For those undertaking genetic testing, pre-test genetic counselling is important so that the patient fully understands the implications that genetic testing may have for themselves and their relatives.

VHI will cover the cost of genetic testing for certain hereditary cancer genes under some of their plans. Please find more information on their website: <https://www.vhi.ie/members/genetic-testing>. Referrals must be made via GP or Consultant.

The Cancer Genetics Clinic at Blackrock Clinic will also accept referrals for non-VHI patients for cancer risk assessment and genetic testing on a private basis.

Benefits of attending the Cancer Genetic Clinic

Genetic testing in patients who currently have cancer or have had cancer in the past can help to direct treatment, clarify future cancer risks and provide other family members with information about their cancer risk.

If a faulty gene known to cause an increased risk of cancer is identified in a family, genetic testing can be offered to unaffected family members. This allows relatives to clarify their cancer risks and take screening and surgical options to reduce their cancer risk and promote early diagnosis.

Who to refer?

Relatives of a patient known to have a mutation in a gene known to increase cancer risk such as BRCA1, BRCA2 or any of the genes associated with Lynch Syndrome (MLH1, MSH2, MSH6 or PMS2). This type of testing is known as “predictive” genetic testing. It is helpful to enclose a copy of the affected relative’s genetic test results with the patient’s referral or to encourage the patient to bring this along to their appointment at the Genetics Clinic.

For guidance on who to refer if a genetic predisposition has not been identified in a family, please see below:

BREAST CANCER

Please refer patients diagnosed with:

- Breast cancer at a young age (under 40)
- Bilateral breast cancer
- Both breast and ovarian cancer
- Triple negative breast cancer
- Breast cancer and a family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer
- Male breast cancer and a family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer

Please refer women from families with a strong family history of breast cancer:

- Four or more breast cancers
- Three breast cancers diagnosed at average age under 60
- Two breast cancers diagnosed at average age under 50
- Both breast and ovarian cancer
- Male breast cancer and at least one relative with breast or ovarian cancer

OVARIAN CANCER

Please refer patients with the following:

- Any patient with a high grade- serous ovarian cancer
- Any family with two or more cases of ovarian cancer
- Any family with endometrial cancer AND colorectal cancer or ovarian cancer with at least one case under the age of 50

COLON CANCER

Please refer any patient with:

- colorectal cancer diagnosed under 50 years
- a parent, sibling or child diagnosed with colorectal cancer under 50 years
- two close relatives with colorectal cancer diagnosed under 60 years
- three close relatives with colorectal cancer diagnosed under 70 years
- a close relative with colorectal cancer diagnosed under 50 years AND a family history of endometrial, ovarian, urothelial, gastric or hepatobiliary cancer

Where to refer?

Referrals should be addressed to:

**Prof David Gallagher,
Suite 16, Blackrock Clinic,
Rock Road,
Blackrock,
Dublin A94 E4X7**

Contact details:

**Eoin Hanney,
Genetic Counsellor, Blackrock Clinic**

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