

MUTYH-Associated Polyposis

Frequently Asked Questions

MUTYH-associated polyposis (MAP) is one of the three main hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes. People with two variants or two copies of a variant in the MUTYH gene tend to develop colon and rectal polyps and have an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. They may also have a slightly increased risk of developing certain other cancers. This test includes two genetic variants in the MUTYH gene that are most common and best studied in people of Northern European descent.

MUTYH-Associated Polyposis

What does this test do?

This test looks for two specific genetic variants in the MUTYH gene, called Y179C and G396D. These variants are linked to MAP, which increases a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer.

This test provides information on whether a person's genetic result is associated with an increased risk for colorectal cancer and may also be associated with a slightly increased risk for certain other cancers.

This test does not include all possible variants in the MUTYH gene that may increase a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer.

This test does not include variants in other genes that are linked to other hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes, such as Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

What does this test not do?

This test does not diagnose any type of cancer or any other health conditions. Only a healthcare professional can do that.

This test should not be used to make medical decisions. Results should be confirmed in a clinical setting before taking any medical action.

This test does not tell you if you have cancer or if you will definitely develop cancer in the future.

This test does not take into account other risk factors for colorectal cancer, such as personal and family health history. Thus, this test does not provide a complete assessment of your overall risk of developing colorectal cancer.

This test does not include all possible variants in the MUTYH gene that may increase a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer.

This test does not include variants in other genes that are linked to other hereditary colorectal cancer syndromes, such as Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

The report says the variants included in this test are most common and best studied in people of Northern European descent. What if I'm not of Northern European descent?

Even though these two variants are most common in people of Northern European descent, they have also been observed in people of other ethnicities.

Similarly, even though the effect of these variants on a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer is best understood in people of Northern European descent, the effect is expected to be similar in people of other ethnicities. For example, if a person who is not of Northern European descent has both of the variants included in this report, he/she is still expected to have a similar elevated risk of developing colorectal cancer. [See Scientific Details for more information.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

Where can I learn more about MAP and colorectal cancer, support groups, and other resources?

You can learn more about **MAP** from the following resources:

- [Cancer.net \(American Society of Clinical Oncology\)*](#)

You can learn more about **colorectal cancer** from the following resources:

- [American Cancer Society*](#)
- [Colorectal Cancer Alliance*](#)
- [Fight Colorectal Cancer*](#)

If you have questions about your results or how they might affect you or your family, a genetic counselor may be able to help. [Learn more about genetic counseling.](#)

You can review the MUTYH-Associated Polyposis tutorial [here](#)*.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says I do not have one of the tested genetic variants but my result for one variant could not be determined. What does this mean?

This means you do not have one of the two genetic variants we tested. But we could not tell if you have the other tested variant. This can be caused by random test error or other factors that interfere with the test.

This result does **not** mean your cancer risk is reduced. You could still have the variant not determined or a variant that is not included in this test.

More than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP, which increases the risk for colorectal cancer. This report only includes two of those variants. In addition, this test does not include variants in other genes that can also increase colorectal cancer risk, including genes linked to Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). So you could still have a variant that is not included in this test.

About 1 in 25 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer during their lifetime, and the majority of these cases are not caused by inherited genetic variants. This means that other factors such as lifestyle, age, and family history are also important. For example, the risk for colorectal cancer is higher in people with a family history of colorectal cancer. [Learn more about other factors.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says I do not have one of the tested genetic variants but my result for one variant could not be determined. Does this mean I'm not at risk of developing colorectal cancer?

No. People who don't have any variants detected still have a risk of developing colorectal cancer. It is still possible that you have the variant we could not determine. You could also have a variant that is not included in this test.

More than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP, which increases the risk for colorectal cancer. This report only includes two of those variants. In addition, this test does not include variants in other genes that can also increase colorectal cancer risk, including genes linked to Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP). So you could still have a variant that is not included in this test.

About 1 in 25 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer during their lifetime, and the majority of these cases are not caused by inherited genetic variants. This means that other factors such as lifestyle, age, and family history are also important. For example, the risk for colorectal cancer is higher in people with a family history of colorectal cancer. [Learn more about other factors.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says I do not have one of the tested genetic variants but I have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer. What does this mean for me?

People with a family history of colorectal cancer have a higher risk of developing colorectal cancer themselves. Specifically, people with a **first-degree** relative who has been diagnosed with colorectal cancer are about twice as likely to develop colorectal cancer themselves, compared to the general population. The risk is even higher if that relative was diagnosed before the age of 45 or if there are two or more first-degree relatives who have developed colorectal cancer.

Even though you do not have one of the two genetic variants we tested, you could still have the variant we could not determine or another variant that is not included in this test. More than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP, which increases the risk for colorectal cancer. This report only includes two of those variants. In addition, this test does not include variants in other genes that can also increase colorectal cancer risk, including genes linked to Lynch syndrome and familial adenomatous polyposis (FAP).

Other non-genetic factors may also influence your risk of developing colorectal cancer, even if you do not have any genetic variants. [Learn more about other factors.](#)

It is important to discuss your personal or family history of cancer with a healthcare professional, who can help you determine if additional genetic testing is appropriate. Genetic counseling can also help you understand your results and your options for additional testing. [Learn more about genetic counseling.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says I do not have one of the tested genetic variants but my result for one variant could not be determined. What are some things I could do?

Your genetic result means you do not have one of the two genetic variants we tested but we could not tell if you have the other tested variant. However, because there are more than 100 genetic variants in the MUTYH gene linked to MAP and they only account for about 1% of colorectal cancer cases, your result doesn't give you much new information about your risk for colorectal cancer.

There are many other genetic and non-genetic factors that can affect your risk, which this test does not take into account. [Learn more about other factors.](#)

It is important to continue with any colorectal cancer screenings your healthcare provider recommends. Current U.S guidelines recommend that people in the general population should start regular screening at age 50. Learn more from the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force](#)*.

If you have a family history of colorectal cancer or a personal history of colorectal polyps, consider talking to a healthcare professional to learn more about options for screening and prevention. Your doctor may have specific screening recommendations for you, such as earlier or more frequent screening.

Talk to a healthcare professional if:

- You have a personal or family history of cancer.
- You think you might have colorectal polyps, colorectal cancer, or any other type of cancer.
- You have questions about other risk factors you may have.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No