









## 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?

YesNo

#### 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?

YesNo

#### 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?

YesNo

#### 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?

YesNo

#### My report says one variant was detected. What does this mean?

This means you have one of the two genetic variants we tested.

Currently, scientists are uncertain as to how having one MUTYH variant may affect your risk of developing colorectal cancer. Some studies suggest that people with this result may have a slightly increased risk, particularly if they have a family history of colorectal cancer, but the evidence is still limited. More studies are needed to establish exact risk estimates.

In addition, more than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP and this report only includes two of those variants. Therefore, it's possible that you could also have another variant not tested, which could increase your risk of developing colorectal cancer. A healthcare professional can help you decide if additional testing is right for you.

Consider discussing your result with a healthcare professional to learn more about options for screening and prevention, especially if you have a personal or family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps.

Is this answer helpful?

YesNo

#### My report says one variant was detected. How does this result affect my risk of developing colorectal cancer?

Currently, scientists are uncertain as to how having one MUTYH variant may affect a person's risk of developing colorectal cancer. Some studies suggest that people with this result may have a slightly increased risk, particularly if they have a family history of colorectal cancer, but the evidence is still limited. More studies are needed to establish exact risk estimates. [See Scientific Details for more information.](#)

In the general population, about 1 in 25 people will be diagnosed with colorectal cancer during their lifetime. The majority of these colorectal cancers are influenced by other factors, such as age, family history, and lifestyle. Only about 1% of colorectal cancer cases are caused by inherited variants in the MUTYH gene. [Learn more about other factors.](#)

Keep in mind that more than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP and this report only includes two of those variants. Therefore, it's possible that you could also have another variant not tested, which could increase your risk of developing colorectal cancer. A healthcare professional can help you decide if additional testing is right for you.

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

**If you do not have a family history of colorectal cancer, current U.S. guidelines advise following screening recommendations for the general population, which is to start screening at age 50.** Learn more from the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force\\*](#).

Is this answer helpful?

YesNo

#### My report says one variant was detected. What are some things I could do?

Currently, scientists are uncertain as to how having one MUTYH variant may affect your risk of developing colorectal cancer. Some studies suggest that people with this result may have a slightly increased risk, particularly if they have a family history of colorectal cancer, but the evidence is still limited. More studies are needed to establish exact risk estimates.

In addition, more than 100 variants in the MUTYH gene have been linked to MAP and this report only includes two of those variants. Therefore, it's possible that you could also have another variant not tested, which could increase your risk of developing colorectal cancer. A healthcare professional can help you decide if additional testing is right for you.

Consider discussing your result with a healthcare professional to learn more about options for screening and prevention. If you have a family history of colorectal cancer or colorectal polyps, your doctor may have specific screening recommendations for you, such as earlier or more frequent screening.

**If you do not have a family history of colorectal cancer or a personal history of colorectal polyps, current U.S. guidelines advise following screening recommendations for the general population, which is to start screening at age 50.** Learn more from the [U.S. Preventive Services Task Force\\*](#).

For more information and possible next steps, see this [help article\\*](#).

Is this answer helpful?

YesNo

#### How could my result affect my family?

Since you share **DNA** with your family members, they may also be interested in your result. If you are thinking about talking to family members about your results, [see this article](#) for a discussion of things to consider before having the conversation.

Because you have one variant, it is expected that:

- Each of your children has a 50% chance of inheriting this variant from you. If your partner has a variant linked to MAP, each child has a 25% chance of having this condition.
- At least one of your parents has this variant.
- Each of your siblings has at least a 50% chance of having this variant.

Because you have one variant, your result may be relevant to your family members. They can talk with a healthcare professional, such as a doctor or genetic counselor, to help them decide if genetic testing is right for them. [Learn more about genetic counseling.](#)

Is this answer helpful?

YesNo

#### I have questions about my results. Who should I talk to?

It's normal to have questions or concerns after viewing this report. Genetic counselors can help. Genetic counselors are healthcare professionals with special training in genetics and genetic testing. [Learn more about genetic counseling.](#)

For more information and possible next steps, see this [help article\\*](#).

Is this answer helpful?

YesNo