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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 two copies of a variant were detected. What does this mean?

This means you have two copies of a genetic variant we tested.

People with this result have an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer and may have a slightly increased risk for certain other cancers. However, there are options for screening and prevention that may reduce cancer risk.

It is important to discuss this result with a healthcare professional, who can provide information about options for screening and prevention. It is also important to confirm this result in a clinical setting before taking any medical action.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

What does increased risk mean?

An "increased risk" means that, based on your genetic result for this test, your chances of developing colorectal cancer are higher than average. [See Scientific Details for more information.](#)

People with two MUTYH variants or two copies of a MUTYH variant tend to develop colon and rectal polyps, which can become cancerous. Studies suggest that people with this result have a 43-100% chance of developing colorectal cancer during their lifetime without appropriate surveillance. Risk for certain other cancers may also be slightly increased. However, there are options for screening and prevention that may reduce colorectal cancer risk.

It is important to share this result with a healthcare professional.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

My report says two copies of a variant detected. What are some things I could do?

This result is associated with an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer. It is important to share this result with a healthcare professional, such as a doctor or a genetic counselor.

Professional guidelines recommend that people with MAP should be screened for colorectal cancer earlier and more often using a procedure called colonoscopy. Guidelines also recommend these individuals be screened for small bowel cancer. Your doctor can advise you on the best screening and prevention plan. Learn more from [GeneReviews](#)*.

It is important to discuss your result with a healthcare professional. **Results should be confirmed in a clinical setting before taking any medical action.**

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

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No

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 two copies of a variant, it is expected that:

- Each of your children will inherit this variant from you. If your partner has a variant linked to MAP, each child has a 50% chance of having this condition.
- Each of your parents has at least one copy of this variant.
- Each of your siblings has at least a 25% chance of having two copies of this variant, which means they would have an increased risk of developing colorectal cancer.

Because the variant we detected is associated with an increased risk for colorectal cancer, your adult family members may wish to learn more about their own colorectal cancer risk. 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?

Yes

No

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

It's normal to have questions or concerns after viewing this report. Some people feel anxious, upset, or worried about their risk or risk for their family members. Others simply want to understand their results better or talk to someone about what they can do. 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](#)*.

Because you have two copies of a variant detected, it is also important to talk with a healthcare professional about your result and options.

Is this answer helpful?

Yes

No