



CDH1 gene: What You Need to Know

What does it mean to test positive for a CDH1 gene mutation?

Mutations in the *CDH1* gene cause a cancer predisposition condition called Hereditary Diffuse Gastric Cancer (HDGC) syndrome.

What is my risk for cancer if I have a CDH1 gene mutation?

If you have a *CDH1* mutation, you have an increased risk of developing certain types of cancer. However, not everyone who has a gene mutation will develop cancer.

Lifetime Cancer Risks

	<i>CDH1</i> Gene Mutation
Diffuse gastric cancer	40-83%
Lobular breast cancer (females)	39-52%

It is important to note that these risks are based on individuals who did not have regular screening and/or other treatments such as preventive surgery. There are data that suggest that people with a *CDH1* mutation can significantly decrease their risk of developing cancer by careful medical and surgical follow-up.

How is diffuse gastric cancer different from other gastric cancers?

Diffuse gastric cancer (DGC) is also referred to as signet ring carcinoma. DGC is difficult to detect because no visible tumor is formed. Cancer cells spread under normal gastric tissue and are not visible on the surface of the stomach.

What is the chance that my family members will have a CDH1 mutation if I test positive?

There is a 50% chance that a person with a mutation will pass it on to each of his/her children. In most cases, brothers and sisters of a person with a mutation have a 50% chance to have the mutation. Additionally, other family members are at risk to have the mutation.