



BC Cancer Agency

CARE + RESEARCH

An agency of the Provincial Health Services Authority

Hereditary Cancer Program

Familial Pancreatic Cancer

Familial pancreatic cancer is usually defined by the presence of 2 or more close relatives with pancreatic cancer. 5-10% of pancreatic cancers are related to a hereditary cancer syndrome including: Peutz-Jeghers, Familial Melanoma, Hereditary Breast/Ovarian Cancer and Lynch syndrome.

A Familial Pancreatic Cancer (FPCP) focus was created within the BC Cancer Agency's Hereditary Cancer Program in June 2016. The goals of this clinical research program are to further our understanding of the causes of pancreatic cancer, evaluate the contribution of genetic factors, and develop a pancreatic cancer screening research protocol.

Hereditary Cancer Program referral should be considered for a person with:

- personal history of:
 - pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (see also urgent storage of a blood sample)
 - intraductal papillary mucinous neoplasm or pancreatic intraepithelial neoplasia
- family history of:
 - 1 close relative with pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma before age 40
 - 2 or more close relatives with pancreatic cancer

People with a confirmed hereditary cancer syndrome may also be connected to the FPCP if their family history includes a close relative with pancreatic cancer.

Lifetime Pancreatic Cancer Risks

general population (men and women):	1.5%
1 close relative with pancreatic cancer:	3-5% (increased by 2-3 times)
2 close relatives with pancreatic cancer:	8-12%
3 close relatives with pancreatic cancer:	16-30%

Pancreatic Cancer Risk Management Recommendations

Avoiding smoking, getting regular exercise, maintaining a healthy weight and diet, and limiting alcohol intake are likely to be beneficial for people with increased pancreatic cancer risk.

There is a need for further evidence of benefit from pancreatic cancer screening with currently available methods. In the meantime, people with family history of pancreatic cancer may consider referral to a specialist for discussion about a program of endoscopic ultrasound and MRI screening of the pancreas. There are limitations to this screening and it has not been proven to improve outcomes.

Additional Information

Video series: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5xuSF2N71CvwEhBXLUcQiToNrsYt5u2J>

FPCP: <http://pancreascentrebc.ca/research#panel-5>

References available on request.

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