Lynch Syndrome Screening

For Hereditary Colorectal and Uterine Cancer

Immunohistochemisry (IHC) is a screening test performed on tumor tissue that helps characterize the type of tumor. As recommended by national guidelines, Cadence Health is using IHC on all colon and uterine cancers to screen for Lynch syndrome, a genetic predisposition to colon, uterine and other cancers.

What is Lynch Syndrome?

It is estimated that about 10 percent of all cancers occur due to inherited risk factors. Lynch syndrome is the most common known cause of hereditary colon and uterine cancers, accounting for about 3 percent of these cancer types. People with Lynch syndrome have a significantly increased risk of developing cancers of the colon, uterus, ovaries, stomach and other organs. They have a higher chance of having more than one cancer in their lifetime, having cancer at a younger age or having a family history of cancer.

What does the IHC test for?

IHC screens for the presence or absence of the Lynch syndrome associated proteins in tumor tissue. Absent proteins indicate an increased likelihood of Lynch syndrome.

Why is the test important?

It is important to identify people who have an inherited cancer risk because they and their families can benefit greatly from increased cancer screening and prevention. Screening for Lynch can help aid in treatment of current cancer and help determine risk for other Lynch-associated cancers (colon, uterine, ovarian, stomach, urinary tract, etc.).

What if the IHC test results show that my proteins are present/normal?

Most likely your cancer is not due to Lynch syndrome. If you are under age 50, have had multiple (<10) colon polyps, or have a strong family history of cancer, we recommend a genetic counseling consultation to evaluate for other inherited cancer risk factors and possibly further testing.

What if the IHC results show that one or more of my proteins absent?

If proteins are absent you will be contacted by your doctor or Cadence Health Cancer Genetics. We recommend you schedule an appointment for further testing. During your genetic counseling appointment, you will learn more about your results and discuss the option of further testing.

For questions on Lynch syndrome or other cancer genetic testing, please contact Cadence Health Cancer Genetics at 630.933.6249. TTY for the hearing impaired 630.933.4833.

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