



Inherited Cancer Predisposition

Triona McCarthy

Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NCCP



- No conflicts of interest
- Not a clinical geneticist





Inherited (Germline) v Acquired (Somatic) Variants

Germline Variants

Variant present in gamete

Variation present in every cell in the body, including those of the germline

Variants can be passed on to offspring

Blood
Saliva
Skin

Somatic Variants

Variant absent in gamete

Variation can occur during fetal development or any time after birth in any cell of the body, except those of the germline

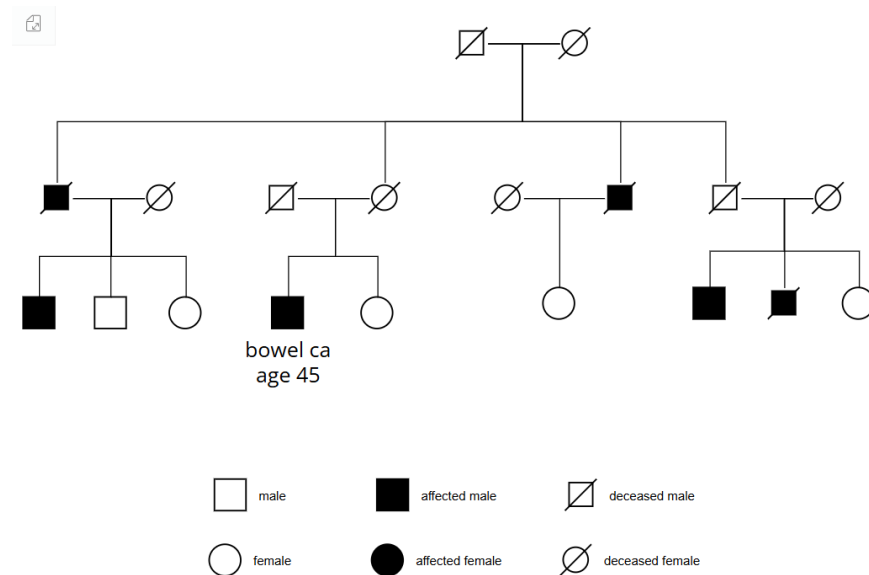
Variants are not passed on to offspring

- Inherited = Germline = Constitutional
- Mutation = Variant = Alteration
- Pathogenic Variant
- Likely Pathogenic Variant
- Variant of Uncertain Significance

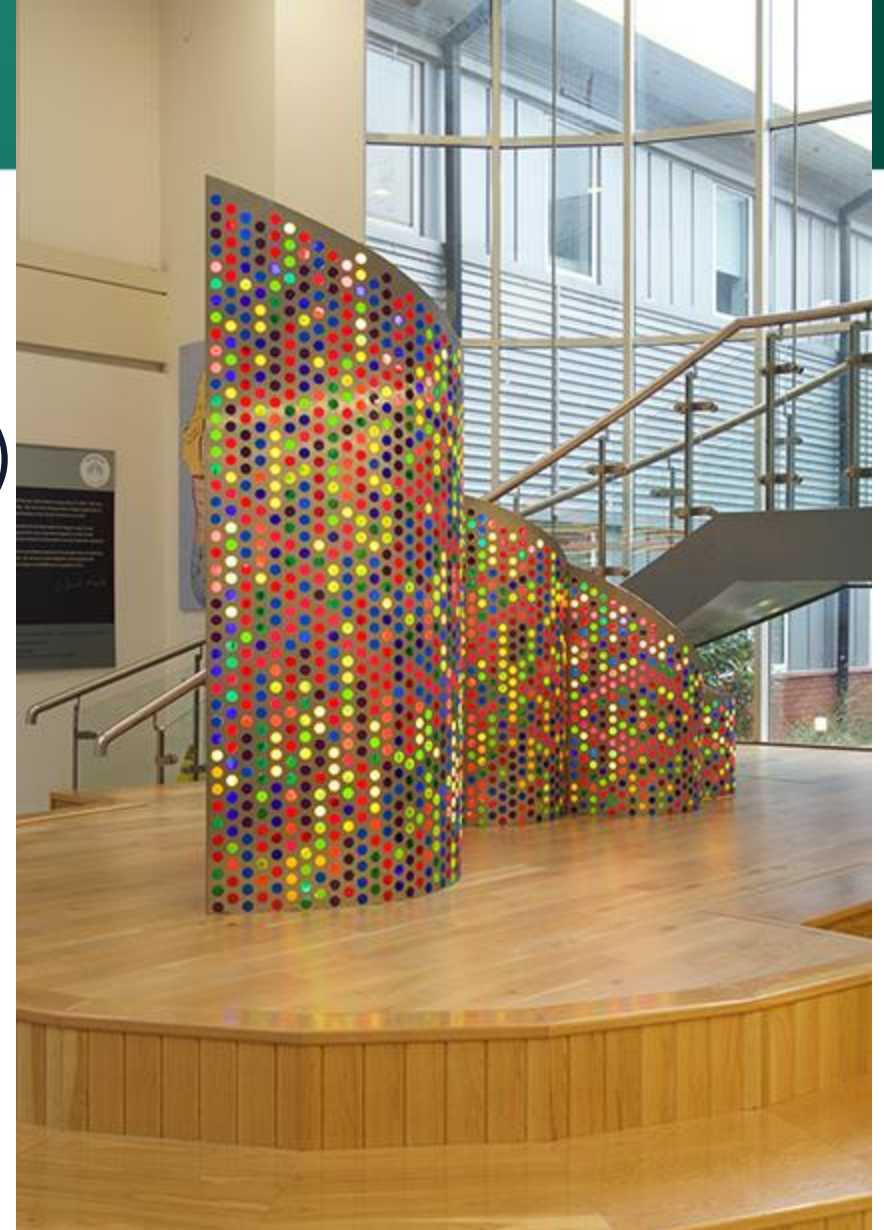


Features of 'inherited' cancer

- Multiple primary cancers in one individual
- Multiple cancers (same/related) in close family members
- Diagnosis of cancer at young age
- Bilateral or multiple rare cancers
- Histological features e.g.
 - High grade serous ovarian cancer
 - Endometrioid/ clear cell ovarian cancer



- BRCA 1, BRCA 2
(Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer Syndrome)
- Breast cancer risk (60-80%)
- Ovarian cancer risk (10-50%)
- Also: prostate, pancreatic cancer risk
with BRCA 2





BRCA Decision Aid

Empowering you on your journey

Lynch Syndrome



- ‘Hereditary NonPolyposis Colorectal Cancer HNPCC’
- Mismatch repair genes: MLH1, MSH2, MSH6 or PMS2 (or EPCAM affecting MSH2)

40-80% risk of cancers such as

- bowel cancer (2-3% are lynch related)
- endometrial cancer
- ovarian cancer
- Also – upper GI, pancreatic, urinary tract, depending on gene affected



Prospective Lynch syndrome database (PLSD) – www.plsd.eu

Calculation of cumulative risk for cancer in selected organ(s) irrespective of cancer(s) in any other organ

Select organ, variant, current age, and sex below.

Organ

Colon/sigmoid/rectum

Genetic variant

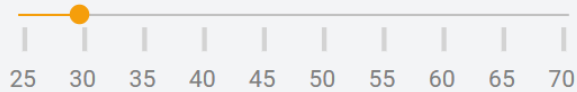
path_MLH1

path_MSH2

path_MSH6

path_PMS2

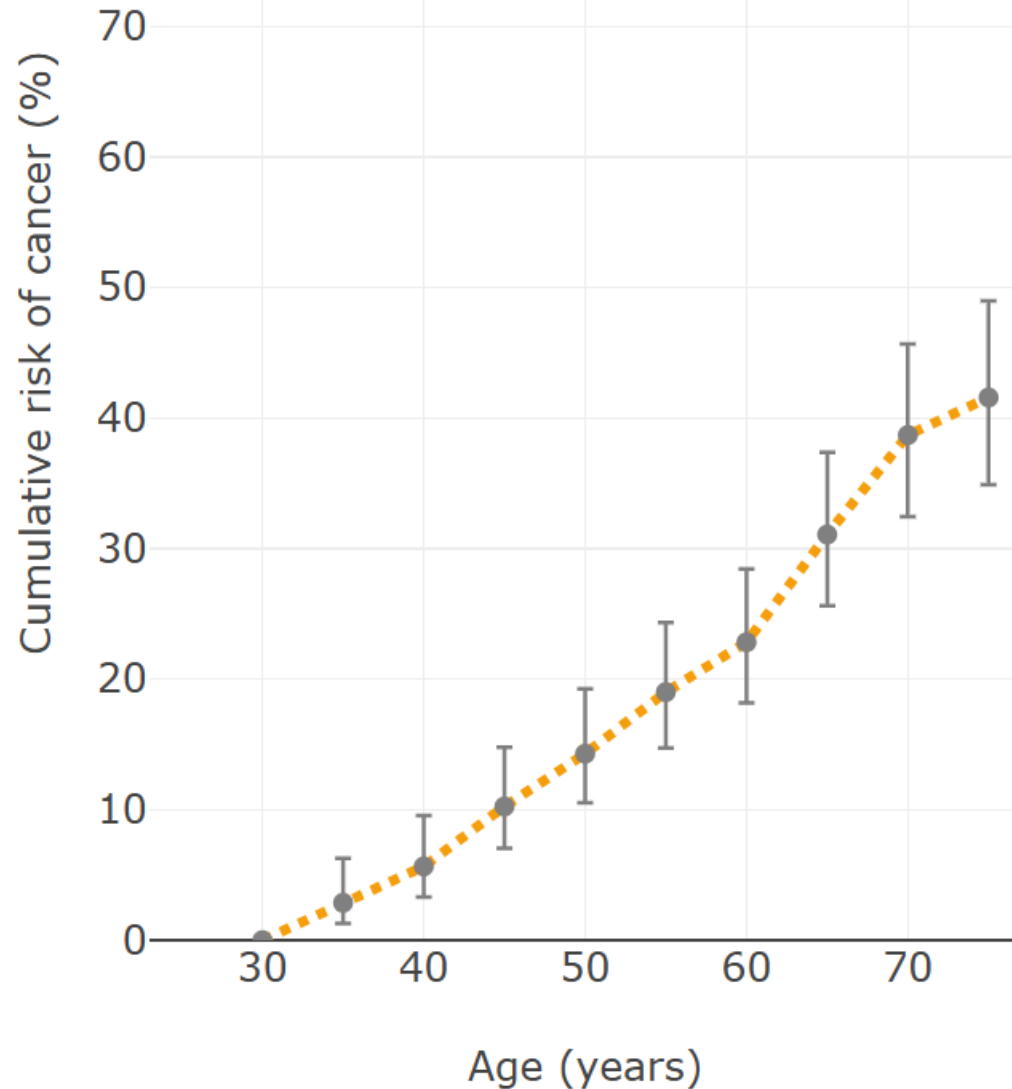
Current Age



Sex

Female

Male





Prospective Lynch syndrome database (PLSD)

www.plsd.eu

Calculation of cumulative risk for cancer in selected organ(s) irrespective of cancer(s) in any other organ

Select organ, variant, current age, and sex below.

Organ

Ovaries

Genetic variant

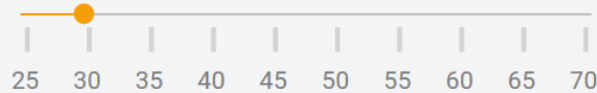
path_MLH1

path_MSH2

path_MSH6

path_PMS2

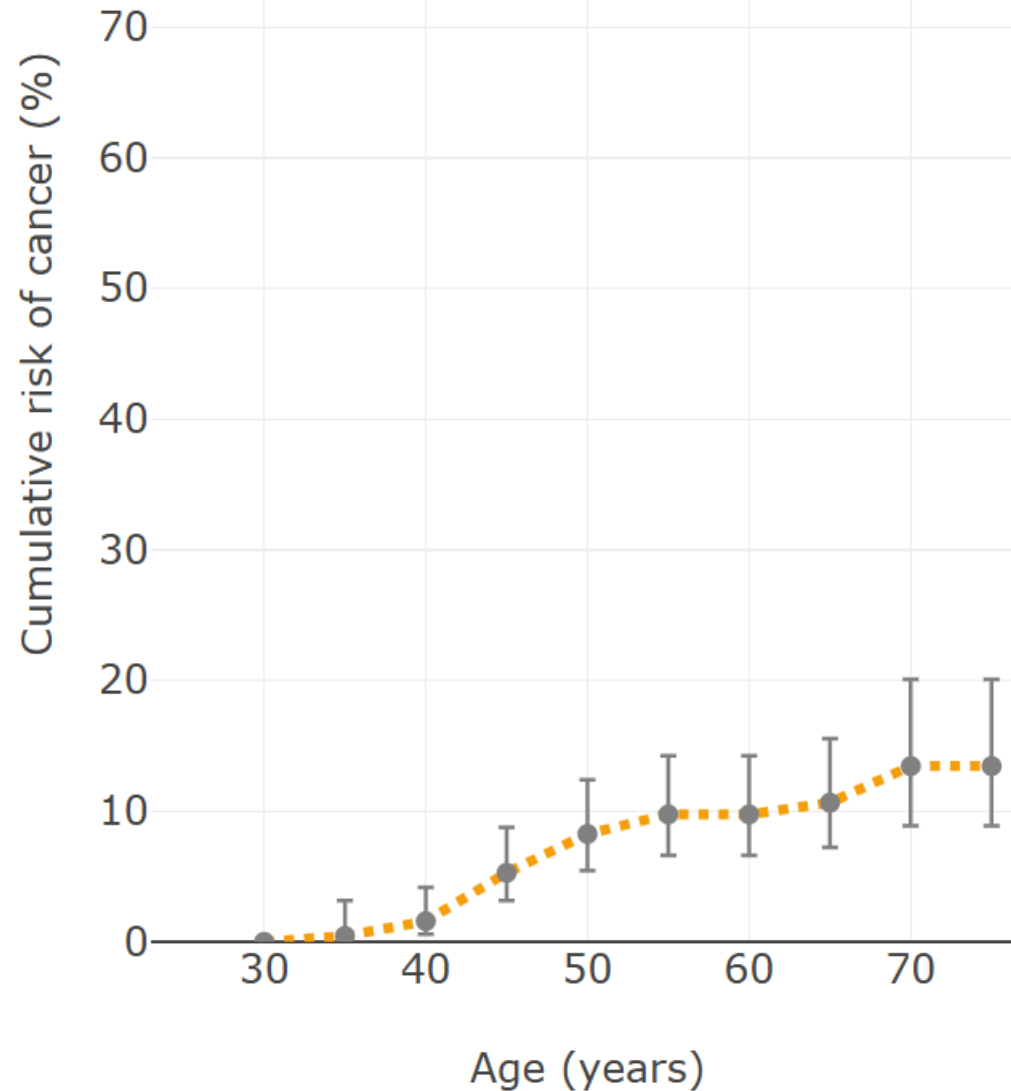
Current Age



Sex

Female

Male





Management of Lynch Syndrome

Surveillance

- Colonoscopy every 2 yrs
- From age 25/35

Chemoprevention

- Aspirin 2+years
- H Pylori eradication
- Research: LynchVax

Surgery

- Bilateral salpingo oophorectomy and total hysterectomy

If a cancer diagnosed

Choice of surgery
– prophylactic
surgery also?

Predicted response
to Systemic Anti
Cancer Therapy –
guide choice



Broader Implications

- Implications for family
 - Cascade testing
 - Planning a family
- Psychological impact
- Adverse effects of management
 - Prophylactic surgery – reconstruction, early menopause
 - Chemoprevention
- NB: role of healthcare professionals – genetic counsellors, Advanced Nurse Practitioners, psychologists – beyond diagnosis



Patient information and support



BRCA Peer to Peer
Support Network

[BRCA Decision Aid](#) [What is BRCA?](#) [Cancer Risks: BRCA 1](#) [Cancer Risks: BRCA 2](#) [What are my options](#) [Comparing options](#) [Resources](#)

BRCA Decision Aid

Empowering you on your journey



Cancer
and genes



National Cancer
Control Programme



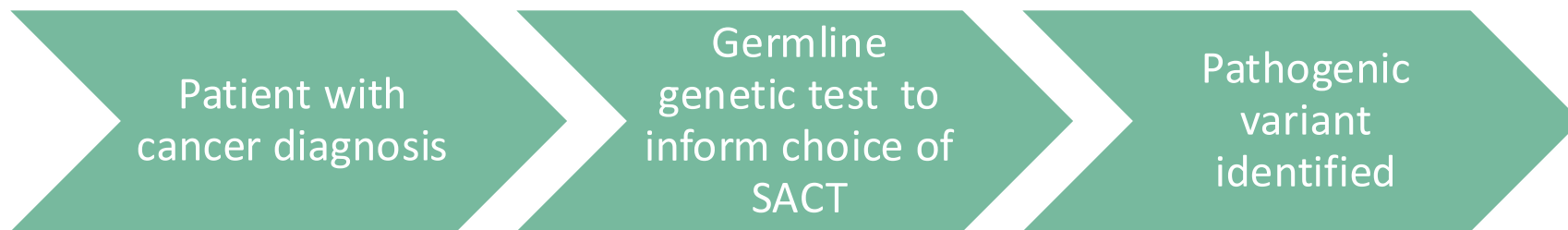


Identification of Cancer Predisposition

- Cascade testing – i.e. a relative diagnosed first
- Diagnosis of cancer and family history raises suspicion
- Diagnosis of cancer and age/ features raise suspicion
- Diagnosis of cancer and somatic/ germline test carried out



Identification of Cancer Predisposition





Mainstreamed testing

- Patient with a cancer diagnosis but no known cancer predisposition gene
- Germline genetic testing offered by patient's oncology team
- Team member trained to provide pre-test counselling, consent, testing and deliver result to patient
- Patient still sees specialist services with result as required, e.g. if pathogenic variant or unclear result (variant of uncertain significance)



Go raibh maith agaibh

Thank you

hse.ie/cancer

prevention@cancercontrol.ie

oncologydrugs@cancercontrol.ie

