



Lynch syndrome is a genetic disease that most people have never heard about, yet 1 in 279 people or almost 1.2 million people in the United States have it. Unfortunately, 95% of these people do not know they have it. Lynch syndrome affects our cells' *mismatch repair mechanism* or "spell checking method" that makes sure that a perfect copy of our DNA is made when a cell replicates (copies itself). When a mistake is made in the cell replication process, it can lead to cancer. Lynch syndrome should always be considered when a person has a cancer below the age of 50. The two most common cancers caused by Lynch Syndrome are colon and uterine (womb) cancer. But Lynch syndrome can also cause other cancers throughout the body.

Lynch syndrome is an autosomal dominant disease. This means that only 1 gene from 1 parent is needed to pass it on. It also means that a parent with Lynch Syndrome has a 50/50 chance of giving it to each of their children. So, if there are multiple cancers in a family, then Lynch syndrome should be considered. Importantly, family members with Lynch Syndrome can have different types of cancer. Thus, if there is a history of an aunt with uterine cancer, a mom with ovarian cancer, and a brother with colon cancer, then a person should be tested for Lynch syndrome.

Most cases of Lynch syndrome have been identified in 4 genes. While genetic testing used to cost up to \$6,000, it can now be done for \$300. Knowing about Lynch syndrome is important for patients and their family members in order to prevent future cancers and to minimize the severity of cancer. This can be accomplished by starting yearly colonoscopies, PAP smears, and skin checks and seeing a physician early when new symptoms appear. More information is online at www.fightlynch.org.

Our efforts are focused on educating individuals and health care providers about Lynch syndrome. Through education we can increase the awareness of Lynch syndrome, identify affected individuals, and then diagnose cancers at their earliest possible stage. This program can significantly improve the life and longevity of affected individuals.

CCARE Lynch Syndrome was founded by Drs. Neil and Sharon Perlman in memory of their family members affected with Lynch Syndrome. CCARE is an approved 501c3 non-profit organization.

Donations are always appreciated to help us accomplish this mission. This can be done online at www.fightlynch.org

Or you can send a check to: CCARE, 127 W. Oak, Unit C Chicago, IL 60610

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