

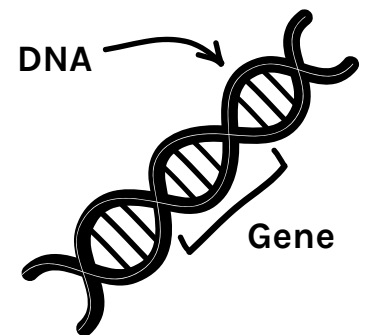
Genetics in AML: Information for family members

Finding out a close member of your family has acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) can be upsetting. Discovering that you might also have a higher chance of getting it can be a shock.

Leukaemia is a type of blood cancer. There are many different types. Acute myeloid leukaemia (AML) is a fast-growing type of blood cancer that starts in blood-forming cells in your bone marrow called myeloid stem cells.

People with AML have genetic changes in their leukaemia cells that stop the cells working the way they should. Most of these changes happen by chance and cannot be passed on. But some people with AML have genetic changes that can run in families.

Inheriting these genetic changes does not mean you will definitely get AML. It means you have a higher chance of getting it than people without the genetic changes.



If a family member has AML and their tests have found a genetic change that runs in families, you will be offered **genetic counselling** and **genetic testing** to find out if you also have it. Both **medical** and **psychological support** should be available.

Do I have to have the test?

Finding out you have a genetic change that increases your chance of getting AML can be very worrying. Some people prefer not to know, especially as they might never develop AML. **It is your choice whether or not to be tested.**

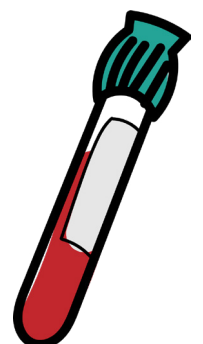
You should be offered genetic counselling to help you decide.

Why might I want to find out?

If you do have a genetic change that increases your chance of getting AML, you and your doctor can be aware of signs and symptoms of AML to look out for. This means that if you do develop AML, you may be diagnosed earlier. It can also help ensure you get the most appropriate treatment as soon as possible.

What does testing involve?

Genetic tests are usually performed using a **blood sample** or a small amount of **saliva**. Results may take **several weeks** to come back.



What could the results show?

- Your test could show that you do not have the inherited genetic change. This means you are **unlikely to have a higher chance than other people of getting AML**.
- Your test could show that you do have the inherited genetic change. **This does not mean you will definitely get AML**. It means you have a higher chance of getting it than people who do not have the genetic change.

What happens then?

If you do have the inherited genetic change, you can be made aware of **symptoms** and signs of AML to look out for. You might also have regular blood tests.



Pale skin



Fatigue



Shortness of breath



Fever and excessive sweating



Weight loss



Infections



Unusual bleeding



Wounds that take longer to heal

If you do develop any symptoms of AML, your doctor can make sure you get the tests you need quickly. This should help you get an **earlier diagnosis** and start treatment as soon as possible.

If you or your partner are pregnant, or you think you might want to have children in the future, talk to your genetics doctor or genetic counsellor. They can explain your personal chance of passing on the genetic change, and testing or reproductive options you could consider.

Want to talk?

If you need support:

Call our freephone helpline on **08088 010 444**

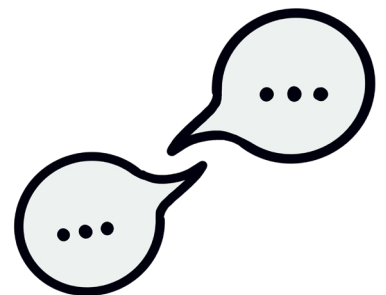
Message us on WhatsApp at **07500068065**

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Scan the QR code to access our support services.

For more information about AML, you can download or order our free dedicated booklets by scanning the QR code.



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