WHAT IS CASCADE SCREENING?
Cascade screening is a way to identify family members who have the same genetic condition as a patient. Cascade screening saves lives through early diagnosis and treatment.

Cascade screening

Affected person with a known genetic condition — such as certain hereditary cancer syndromes

Niece/Nephew

Sibling

Child

These 1st degree relatives have a 50% risk

Affected person

Children

Parents

Sibling

The parents, children, and siblings of someone diagnosed with hereditary cancer syndrome have a 1 in 2 chance of also having that syndrome (50% risk).

Second degree relatives, such as nieces/nephews, aunts/uncles, grandparents and grandchildren, have a 1 in 4 chance (25% risk).

Hereditary cancer syndromes

Hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome

HBOC affects:
- both men and women
- 1/500 people in the United States
- 1/40 people of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry
- 15,000 Washington residents

HBOC significantly increases the risk of early onset breast, ovarian, male breast, prostate, and other cancers.

Lynch syndrome

LS affects:
- both men and women
- 1/400 people in the United States
- 27,000 people in Washington state, and over 98% don’t know they have it

LS significantly increases the risk of colon, endometrial, stomach, ovarian, and other cancers.

Learn more

Cascade screening: https://www.doh.wa.gov/CascadeScreening
Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer Syndrome: https://www.doh.wa.gov/HBOC
Lynch Syndrome: https://www.doh.wa.gov/LynchSyndrome

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