

# LYNCH SYNDROME INTERNATIONAL



Protecting Families  
Saving Lives

## **DOES CANCER RUN IN YOUR FAMILY?**

Multiple Cancers?  
Early Age Diagnosis?  
Could It Be In Your Genes?

[www.lynchcancers.com](http://www.lynchcancers.com)

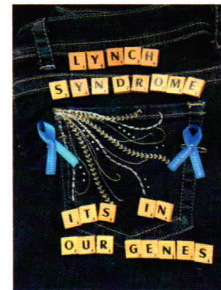
## WHAT IS LYNCH SYNDROME

Lynch Syndrome (previously called HNPCC or Hereditary Nonpolyposis Colorectal Carcinoma) is an inherited disorder that dramatically increases the risk of many types of cancer, particularly cancers of the colon (over an 80% lifetime risk), and the endometrium (up to a 71% lifetime risk). People with LS also have an increased risk of many other cancers including but not limited to, small bowel, stomach, liver, gallbladder, kidney, urinary tract, pancreas, ovarian, prostate, duodenal, brain and skin. LS has no gender, age, ethnic or cultural preference. It is caused by a mutation on a mismatch repair gene which ordinarily protects us from cancer by repairing errors in DNA replication. The "non working" mutated gene predisposes the individual to aggressive cancers often at a younger than average age. Early diagnosis and annual cancer screenings is essential to improve survival. It is estimated that only 5-10% of those affected with LS have been diagnosed. Knowledge and the identification of high risk individuals are crucial so regular surveillance can be carried out, limiting the risk of advanced stage cancers, thus saving lives!



## GETTING DIAGNOSED

The only way to accurately diagnose Lynch Syndrome is through genetic testing. If the family medical history indicates three family members, in two successive generations or at least one family member diagnosed with a LS cancer under the age of 50, then genetic testing should be discussed with your family doctor.



It is important to meet with a qualified genetic counselor. Testing consists of a simple blood sample or saliva swab. The DNA in the sample will be tested to look for a mutation on the LS genes. Once LS has been diagnosed, a highly targeted screening and medical management program can be lifesaving!

This paves the way for early detection and possibly dodging a life threatening diagnosis!

# LIFE!

## OPEN FAMILY DISCUSSION



Because Lynch Syndrome is inherited, it is important to understand your family's medical history and discuss it with family members as many generations back as possible. This is critical for the health of future generations. Patterns of cancers in the family especially with a younger onset (<50), is a huge red flag!

Research and document a comprehensive "Family Medical Tree"

and share the findings with your physicians. Children of those with Lynch Syndrome have a 50/50 chance of inheriting the mutated gene.

**\*Cancer risks increase with age.**

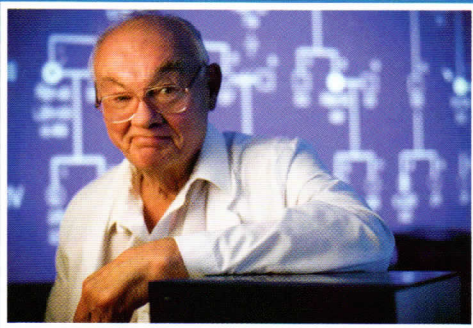
**\*The mutations run in families.**

**\*Preventive measures can significantly reduce the risk of cancer.**

# Lynch Syndrome International

The mission of LSI is to serve our global communities by providing support for individuals and their families with Lynch Syndrome. We create public awareness, educate the general public and healthcare professionals, as well as provide ongoing support to research efforts. The LSI organization is governed by survivors, previvors, their families and health professionals who specialize in Lynch Syndrome.

**WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!**



**Dr. Henry T. Lynch**

## "The Father of Hereditary Cancer"

Thank you to Dr. Lynch and his hard work at a time when cancer was considered an environmentally caused disease. His dedication led to discoveries of the inheritance pattern in colon cancer in what is now known as Lynch Syndrome. His work has enabled physicians to more quickly identify high risk patients, which has led to better surveillance, management and treatment.



**Find Out If Lynch Syndrome Is In Your Family**

## **KNOW YOUR RISKS**

CANCER SITE	LS Lifetime Risk	General Population
Colon	>82%	2-5%
Endometrium	Up to 71%	2.7 %
Ovary	Up to 24%	1-2%
Urinary Tract	4-10%	<1%
Small Bowel	3-6%	<1%
Skin / Sebaceous Neoplasm	Up to 20%	<1%
Hepatoabiliary Tract	Up to 7%	<1%
Brain	1-3%	<1%
Stomach	11-19%	<1%

\*LS cancers include but are not limited to only those listed above.



**Lynch Syndrome International**

**PO Box 19**

**Madison, CT 06443**

**(203) 779-5034**