



ASL Cancer Genetics

Module 2 Video

English Transcript

Anna finished her family tree and looked at it. She noticed that cancer was common on her father's side of the family. She began to think that cancer might be inherited in her family. Anna isn't sure. She needs more information.

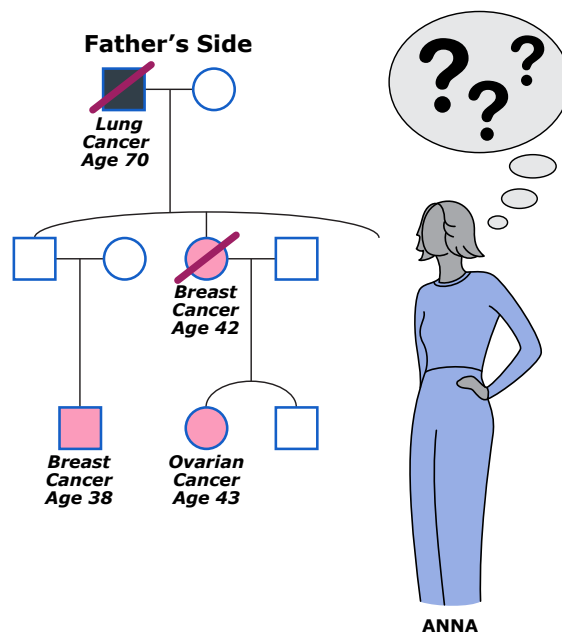
Compared to most people Anna may have a higher risk for inherited cancer. Let's look at Anna's family tree again to see if we can find risk factors.

Remember, when you look at family history information it is important to look at both sides of the family tree.

How many people in Anna's family have cancer? Do not add the number of people with cancer on her father's side with the number on her mother's side. Instead, count the number of people with cancer on her father's side separately from those on her mother's side. **If three or more people on the same side of the family have cancer, the risk for inherited cancer increases.**

Let's take a look at Anna's family. On the left, on her father's side of the family, we see that four people have cancer. On the top left, her grandfather has lung cancer. Lung cancer is not usually inherited. However, breast and ovarian cancers can be inherited. We focus on those two cancers in this program. Anna's aunt and her cousin both have breast cancer. Her other cousin, on the bottom left, has ovarian cancer. All of these cancers together show that Anna's family has a higher risk for inherited cancer.

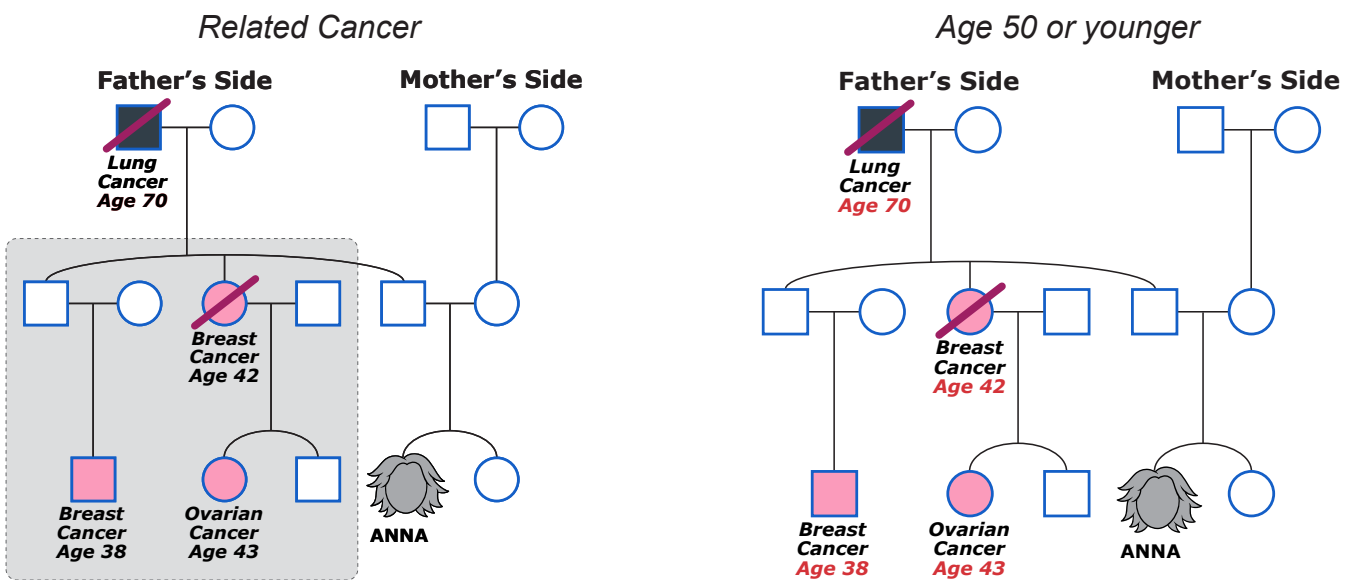
Sometimes a family history will have both breast and ovarian cancer in it. Why? Because those two cancers can be related. Other families may have colon and uterine cancers. Those cancers are also related. **Related cancers** are a sign of higher risk for



inherited cancer.

We know that Anna's aunt and two cousins have breast or ovarian cancer. This increases the risk that cancer is inherited in her family.

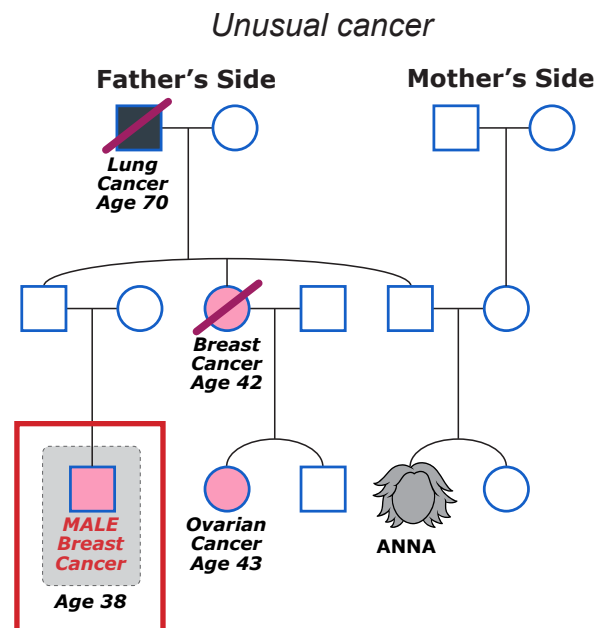
If relatives in two generations have breast or ovarian cancer, it increases the chance that these cancers are inherited. Anna's aunt with breast cancer is in the second generation. Her two cousins with breast and ovarian cancer are in the third generation. That makes two generations with cancer. This increases the risk of inherited cancer.



If you see relatives age **50 or younger diagnosed with cancer**, it increases the chance that the cancer is inherited. In Anna's family, several relatives were diagnosed under age 50.

Another sign of inherited cancer is a relative with an **unusual cancer**. Anna has a male cousin with breast cancer.

It is unusual for a man to have breast cancer, but it can happen. This increases the risk that cancer is inherited in Anna's family.



Let's review five important risk factors for inherited cancer to look for in a family tree.

1. Three or more people with cancer on the same side of the family. This can be either on the mother or father's side.
2. Related cancers such as breast and ovarian cancer, or colon and uterine cancer.
3. Relatives with cancer are in two or more generations.
4. One or more of the cancers is diagnosed at age 50 or younger.
5. One or more of the cancers is unusual.

Those five risk factors increase a person's risk for inherited cancer. All five of these risk factors are found on Anna's family tree. Anna noticed her risk for inherited cancer is high.

In the next module we discuss more about how cancer is inherited.

Now, let's get started!