



Will your children be healthy?

What You Need To Know About Jewish Genetic Diseases



1 out of every 6 Jewish individuals of Eastern European/Ashkenazi descent is a carrier for a Jewish genetic disease. This means that the carrier frequency for these diseases is between 1 in 30 to 1 in 100, which is staggering.

These disorders include diseases that are fatal in childhood and others associated with chronic debility and premature death in adulthood. There are no curative treatments for these disorders. With carrier screening and genetic counseling, these diseases are preventable.

The Amit Program is dedicated to increasing awareness of these diseases. With its partners, The Amit Program wants to make a difference and prevent these often-fatal and debilitating diseases.

These are a group of disorders that occur more frequently among Jewish individuals of Eastern European descent than in the larger population. Genetic testing is available to determine carrier status.

Jewish Genetic Diseases

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| Bloom Syndrome | Fanconi Anemia, Type C | Mucopolidosis IV |
| Canavan Disease | Gaucher Disease, Type 1 | Niemann-Pick Disease, Type A |
| Cystic Fibrosis | Glycogen Storage Disease, Type 1a | Tay-Sachs Disease |
| Familial Dysautonomia | Maple Syrup Urine Disease | |

How is the carrier testing done?

Genetic DNA testing is generally done on a blood sample obtained after genetic counseling and the signing of an Informed Consent. Genetic test results should be maintained as confidential and released only to the person tested (and to other individuals only upon authorization of the person tested).

Who should have carrier testing for Jewish genetic diseases?

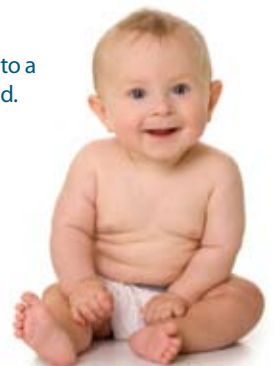
Any Jewish individual of Eastern European/Ashkenazi descent is a candidate for genetic testing to determine carrier status. Most important are individuals of child-bearing age who should be tested to determine their risk of having an affected child. Carrier testing ideally is done prior to pregnancy. If both parents are carriers for the same disorder, prenatal diagnosis is available to determine whether or not the fetus is affected.

What if only one member of a couple is of Ashkenazi Jewish descent?

The Ashkenazi Jewish partner should be tested to determine carrier status. If the Ashkenazi Jewish partner is found to be a carrier, referral to a genetic counselor is appropriate to determine what further tests and measures should be considered to avoid the birth of an affected child.

What if I'm found to be a carrier for a Jewish genetic disease?

Genetic counseling is appropriate for the individual found to be a carrier for a Jewish genetic disease. Knowledge of the partner's carrier status is vitally important. The genetic counselor can help the carrier understand the risks and the measures available to avoid an affected child.



L'Dor V'Dor: From Generation to Generation...

Please talk to your doctor about getting tested for Jewish Genetic Diseases.



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