Genetic Counseling Service
75 Claremont Rd Suite 305
Bernardsville, NJ 07924

Dear Family Member,

A member of your family has been identified as having a genetic mutation in the **CDKN2A gene**. Mutations in this gene are known to be associated with an increased risk for certain cancers. This means that other family members are at risk to carry this same gene mutation and hence at an increased risk for certain cancers. This letter has been written to summarize information regarding CDKN2A mutations.

Individuals with mutations in the CDKN2A gene have familial predisposition for cutaneous malignant melanoma and pancreatic cancer (Melanoma-Pancreatic Cancer Syndrome (M-PCS) or Melanoma Cancer Syndrome (MCS)). Clinical features that may include multiple primary melanomas in the same individual (often with an early age of onset), melanoma observed in multiple family members , and many skin moles (often >50). Individuals with mutations in the CDKN2A have an approximate 28%-78% lifetime risk of developing melanoma. Individuals carrying CDKN2A mutations also have an approximate 17-25% lifetime risk for pancreatic cancer; however, recent reports suggest this risk may be as higher. It is possible that these estimates will change over time as we learn more about the exact risks associated with mutations in CDKN2A. It has been suggested that patients with CDKN2A mutations have an increased risk for cancers other than melanoma and pancreatic cancer.

Understanding risk is an important tool in prevention and management of cancer. It is important to note that many individuals with CDKN2A mutations will never develop cancer over their lifetime. When one inherits an CDKN2A mutation, he/she is not inheriting cancer; rather they are inheriting a predisposition to cancer.

When an individual has one copy of the CDKN2A gene mutation they have an increased risk cancer as outlined above. Because everyone has two copies of the gene for CDKN2A, this means that a parent who carries an CDKN2A mutation has a 50% chance of passing the mutation onto each of their children. It also means that if a person carries such a mutation, their siblings have a 50% chance to carry the same mutation. Extended family members may also be at risk for having the same mutation. If a person does not carry the mutation, they cannot pass it onto their children.

We strongly recommend that you and all persons in your family who are at risk for carrying the CDKN2A gene mutation consider scheduling an appointment for cancer genetic counseling to discuss the benefits and limitations of genetic testing. To pursue cancer genetic testing, it is helpful if you have a copy of your family member's genetic testing report indicating that they have an CDKN2A mutation.

GeneScreen is available to discuss this information in more detail with you and coordinate appropriate testing. Please visit the following website to submit your request for genetic counseling: https://hipaa.jotform.com/200926739003048. You can also contact Genescreen directly at 908-766-2800 to schedule a remote consultation with a genetic counselor.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nunziato-Virga, MS, LGC
Senior Oncology Genetic Counselor
Genescreen

Jill Chisholm, APN
President
Genescreen