

Cancer

By Jessica

Cancer is a disease that has affected many families. It's caused when cells grow out of control. Although it is rarely passed down through genes, I do believe it is in my family.

You have two genes that can cause you to have cancer. If both of the genes malfunction, you will develop cancer. Your parents can pass down a malfunctioning gene to you. The reason people get cancer in their older years is it takes quite a long time for both genes to stop working. Things like smoking, air pollution, radiation, obesity, and other harmful chemicals can cause cancer. Some symptoms of cancer are chills, fatigue, weight loss, fever, and loss of appetite.

Treatments really depend on the type of cancer. If the cancer is just in one area and hasn't spread, the cancer can be surgically removed. If it isn't, chemotherapy and radiation can be used to try to kill the cancer. There is no way that you can fix the actually genes that cause cancer, yet. If cancer is in your family, doctors will want you to get screened for cancer more frequently than other people who do not have close relatives with the disease.

Breast cancer and lung cancer have affected my family a lot. My grandfather was diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year. My grandmother was diagnosed with breast cancer in the 1980's. They both have had the cancers removed. The cancer hasn't returned and it probably shouldn't. My grandfathers doctor said that there is a 20% chance that the cancer will return. It was very scary hearing the news but the cancer was caught early. My grandfather had been a smoker most of his life also.

Well, I hope you have learned a lot from my essay. Cancer is a horrible, scary disease. I believe that someday we will be able to find a way to fix these genes that cause cancer when they malfunction so we can prevent cancer.

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