

Writing Assignment #4: Summary of a Genetics-Related Article found in the Popular Press Article: [What to know about genetic testing for cancer, and when to request it](#) (January 17th, 2025)

The Washington Post article, “What to know about genetic testing for cancer, and when to request it,” highlights the crucial role genetic testing plays in identifying individuals who may be at increased risk for cancer, particularly breast and pancreatic cancers. Despite the benefits, a surprising number of people who carry cancer-related genetic mutations have never undergone genetic screening. The article emphasizes the value of genetic testing as a preventative measure, encouraging individuals to consider it. By identifying genetic mutations early, patients can pursue preventative treatments and medications that may significantly reduce their chances of developing cancer in the future.

Many clinical trials have already shown the significant impact of treatment and medication on the reduction of cancer risk and progression. For instance, clinical trials have concluded that the use of anastrozole with high-risk women has helped decrease the chances of breast cancer (Cuzick et al., 2020). With that source, The Washington Post’s article can be proven accurate as it informs readers about possible preventative measures that can be discovered post-testing. This article, therefore, looks to share information and advice to motivate others to consider genetic testing for cancer.

Work Cited

Cuzick, J., Sestak, I., Forbes, J. F., Dowsett, M., Cawthorn, S., Mansel, R. E., Loibl, S., Bonanni, B., Evans, D. G., Howell, A., & IBIS-II investigators (2020). Use of anastrozole for breast cancer prevention (IBIS-II): long-term results of a randomised controlled trial. *Lancet* (London, England), 395(10218), 117–122.
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)32955-1](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)32955-1)

Markovitz, N. (2025, January 17). What to know about genetic testing for cancer, and when to request it. Genetic testing is recommended for those with personal and family histories of several types of cancer — including pancreatic and breast cancer. *The Washington Post*.
<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wellness/2025/01/17/breast-pancreatic-cancer-genetic-testing/>