

DNA Diagnostic Laboratory
CMSC 10-106
Johns Hopkins Hospital
600 N. Wolfe St.
Baltimore, MD 21287

Things Every Patient Should Know Before Consenting to a Genetic Test

1. Patients are required to give informed consent prior to having a genetic test. The DNA Diagnostic Lab's informed consent is located on our test requisition.
2. Links to clinical information about the disease your health care provider wants to test for are available from the DNA Lab's web site:
www.hopkinsmedicine.org/dnadiagnostic
3. The genetic tests offered by the DNA Lab are performed to identify mutations (gene changes) that may cause or predispose to disease. Targeted tests are performed when a family gene change is known; mutation identification or full sequence tests are performed to search for an unknown gene change.
4. Genetic tests can be offered to confirm or rule out a diagnosis, to test for a disease before symptoms develop, to determine carrier status or for prenatal diagnosis. Your health care provider will tell you about why he/she would like to order genetic testing for you.
5. Prior to consenting to a genetic test, you may find counseling by a genetic counselor or other genetics professional helpful in weighing the benefits and drawbacks of the test.
6. A negative genetic test for a disease, in many cases, will not completely rule out that disease. Your health care provider will use your health and family history to interpret what the negative result means to you.
7. A positive result may mean that you have or are predisposed to developing a genetic disease. There may be additional testing to evaluate or clarify your medical status. You can consult your health care provider or ask to be referred to a genetics professional to discuss any additional testing that would be helpful in your case.