



## The Doctor is In

**Q:** How can I know if my cancer has spread while I'm still going through radiation treatment?

**A:** Radiation focuses on treating a specific area of the body, but it's natural to have questions about whether the cancer may be growing or moving elsewhere during this time.

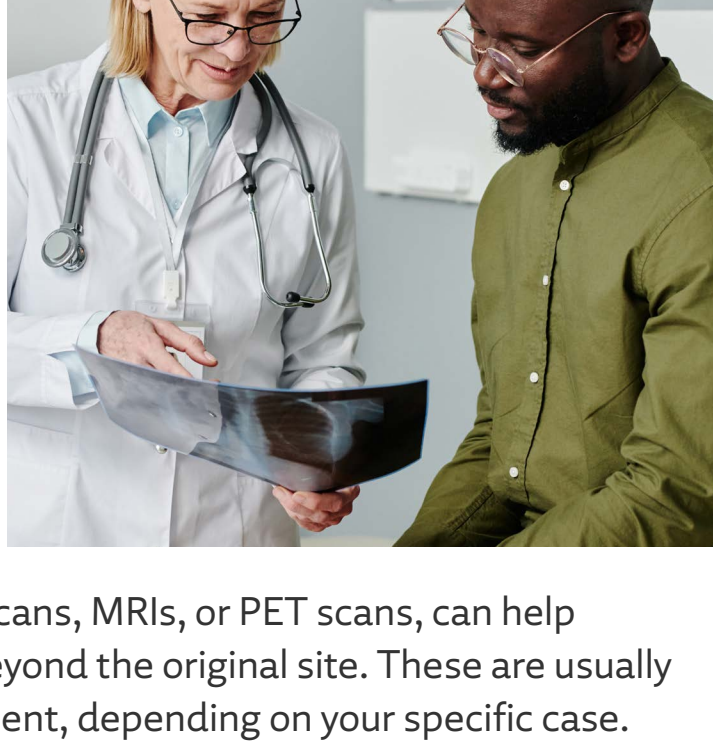
While you're going through radiation, your care team may use a combination of tools to monitor how things are going:

- **Imaging scans**, such as CT scans, bone scans, MRIs, or PET scans, can help detect whether the cancer has spread beyond the original site. These are usually scheduled before, during, or after treatment, depending on your specific case.
- **Blood tests**, including PSA (prostate-specific antigen) levels if you're being treated for prostate cancer, can provide clues. Rising PSA levels during or after treatment may suggest that more evaluation is needed.
- **Physical symptoms** may also be important. New pain, fatigue, or other unexplained symptoms should always be shared with your doctor, as they might indicate changes worth looking into.

It's important to know that some changes in how your body feels during treatment are normal and not necessarily a sign that the cancer has spread. But if there's ever a concern, your healthcare team can order additional tests or scans to check.

If you're unsure or feeling anxious, don't hesitate to ask your doctor questions directly.

**Have a question?** PROMISE researchers Drs. Channing Paller and Heather Cheng, and Genetic Counselor Justin Lorentz are here to help. Feel free to email your questions to [pcctcpromise@mskcc.org](mailto:pcctcpromise@mskcc.org). While we may not be able to respond to every individual query, we'll gather common themes and provide answers.



## Clinical Trial Spotlight

### Predicting and Preventing Treatment-Related Blood Cancers

The **CHANCES (Clonal HemAtopoeisis iN CancEr Survivors)** Study, led by Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center and the University of Washington, aims to understand why some cancer survivors develop blood cancers like leukemia after treatment, especially from certain chemotherapies combined with PARP inhibitors.

Researchers are inviting survivors of ovarian and other solid cancers to join.

Participation includes:

- A small blood sample (collected at a convenient lab)
- Sharing treatment history every six months for 3 years

Though individual results aren't returned, participants receive:

- A \$50 gift card after 6 months
- Periodic study updates with overall findings

Your involvement could help predict—and prevent—these serious treatment-related complications.

By joining this effort, you'll be helping protect and improve the health of future cancer patients.

**Learn more:** [CHANCES Clinical Trial](#)

### Helping Families Understand Their Risk: OHSU Seeks Volunteers for Prostate Cancer Genetic Study

The Knight Cancer Institute at OHSU is seeking individuals and families affected by prostate cancer to join a study on **Cascade Genetic Testing (CGT)**.

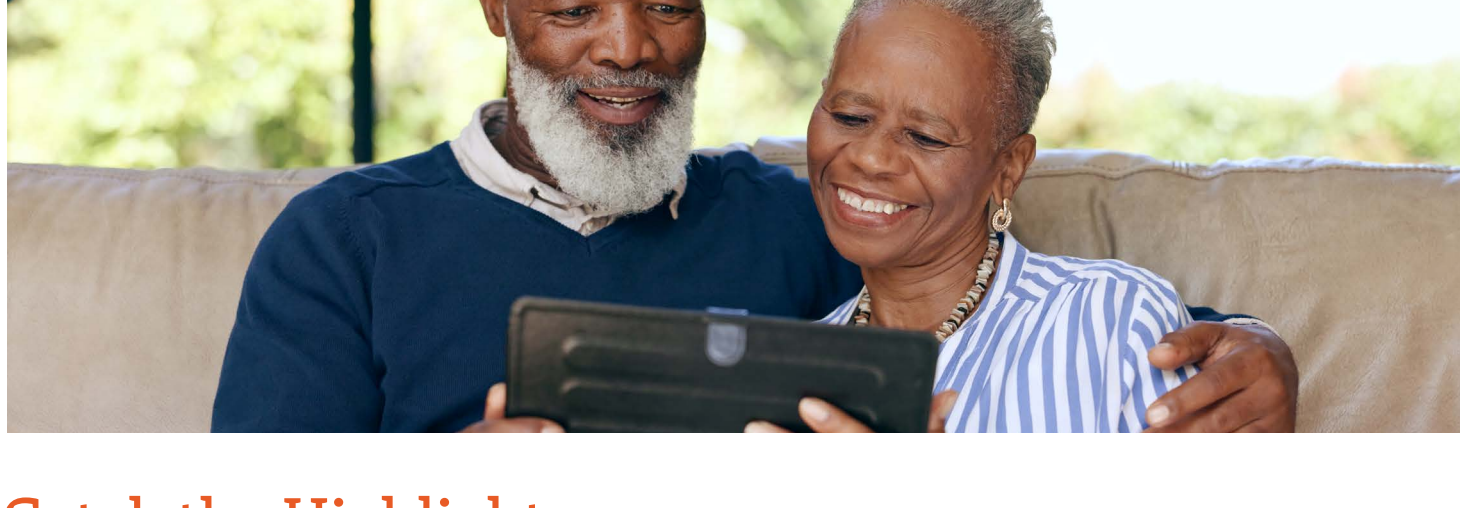
When one person carries a cancer-related genetic mutation, close relatives may also be at risk. CGT offers them genetic testing and counseling to support informed health decisions.

This study examines the barriers families encounter when accessing CGT and seeks to enhance the process.

**Participants receive free genetic testing and counseling**, helping both their own families and others in the future.

If you or a loved one has been affected by prostate cancer, your experience could make a difference for countless families.

**Learn more:** [Cascade Germline Genetic Testing in Families Study](#)



## Catch the Highlights

**HELD MARCH 19, 2025**

### 3rd Annual PROMISE Webinar

#### Advanced Treatment Options & Understanding Variant Classifications

What we covered:

- New treatment options for advanced prostate cancer
- How genetic test results can change over time—and what that means for you
- How using genetic information with family can help them take action, too

**Watch the webinar recording [here](#).**

**HELD JULY 16, 2025**

### Decoding ATM Mutations in Prostate Cancer

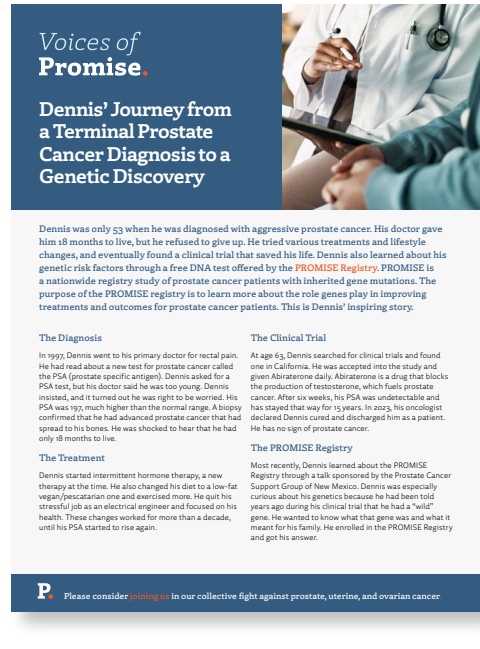
#### What It Means for You and Your Care

Two leading experts broke down the role of ATM gene mutations in cancer:

- **Burcu Darst, PhD (Fred Hutchinson/University of Washington)** explained how these mutations can influence cancer risk and progression.
- **Cathy Marshall, MD, MPH (Johns Hopkins)** discussed the implications of ATM mutations for patient care, highlighting targeted treatments, genetic testing, and ongoing monitoring strategies.

**Watch the mini-webinar [here](#).**

## Voices of PROMISE



**Read Dennis' full story [here](#).**

### From Terminal Diagnosis to Triumph: How Dennis Found Hope Through Genetic Testing

At just 53, Dennis was told he had 18 months to live after being diagnosed with aggressive, metastatic prostate cancer. Refusing to give up, he pursued innovative treatments, lifestyle changes, and a clinical trial that ultimately saved his life. Now 80, Dennis credits part of his survival to a free genetic test through the PROMISE Registry, which revealed a CHEK2 mutation that not only explained his remarkable response to therapy but also provided critical insights for his children and grandchildren. His story is a powerful reminder of the role genetics can play in cancer outcomes—and why he urges other prostate cancer patients to consider enrolling in the **PROMISE Registry**.

## PROMISE by the Numbers



**5,000+**  
genetic tests completed



**454**  
participants are eligible for long-term follow-up

The PROMISE Registry is represented in all 50 states. Check out our website for any updates and news: [prostatecancerpromise.org](http://prostatecancerpromise.org).

## How to Reach Us

### PROMISE Study Team

#### Hours of Operation

Mon. – Fri., 9 am to 5 pm EST

#### Phone Number

(646) 449-3363

#### Email

[pcctcpromise@mskcc.org](mailto:pcctcpromise@mskcc.org)

### Color Support

When contacting Color Support, inform them that you are a participant in the PROMISE study.

#### Hours of Operation

Mon. – Fri., 6 am to 5 pm PST

#### Phone Number

(844) 352-6567

#### Email

[support@color.com](mailto:support@color.com)

