

# How genetics play a role in developing melanoma

August 24 2022

---



Credit: Pixabay/CC0 Public Domain

A recent study from Cleveland Clinic shows that melanoma, which is the most serious type of skin cancer, isn't just caused by environmental factors. Researchers discovered genetics can also play a role.

"What we found was that one in six people who have melanoma and other cancers running in their family have a hereditary predisposition to melanoma and other cancers," Pauline Funchan, MD, who is the lead author on the study.

The study included 400 patients with melanoma and who have a family history of multiple cancers.

Based on the results, Dr. Funchain encourages those with melanoma to get genetic testing done.

If you are unfamiliar, genetic testing examines your DNA and determines whether you could be at risk for certain cancers, and that information can in turn help doctors develop a prevention plan.

Dr. Funchain said in a situation where a person does not have melanoma but their family member does, she advises that the family member with melanoma get the [genetic testing](#) done first.

"So if that person is a carrier, then we know what gene to look for and then other [family members](#) can all look to see if they carry that gene," she explained. "If they don't currently have melanoma, but let's say a family member has unfortunately passed from melanoma, there are testing options in that case when you aren't able to test the person who has the cancer."

Dr. Funchain said their research is far from over. They plan to further look at [genetic factors](#) that can cause [melanoma](#).

Dr. Funchain presented the findings in a poster discussion session at the 2022 American Society of Clinical Oncology Annual Meeting.

**More information:** Presentation abstract:  
[meetings.asco.org/abstracts-presentations/209888](https://meetings.asco.org/abstracts-presentations/209888)

Provided by Cleveland Clinic

Citation: How genetics play a role in developing melanoma (2022, August 24) retrieved 27 April 2024 from <https://medicalxpress.com/news/2022-08-genetics-role-melanoma.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.