

# Understanding Your Positive Epilepsy Genetic Test Result

INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS WITH A **PATHOGENIC OR LIKELY PATHOGENIC VARIANT**

<b>Result</b>	The genetic testing done for you or your family member shows a pathogenic or likely pathogenic variant (a change in a gene that is disease-causing or likely to be disease-causing) in a gene that causes epilepsy.
<b>Genes and Inheritance</b>	Genes are instructions for how our bodies work and develop. Everyone has two copies of each gene, one from each parent. Changes in certain genes can cause epilepsy and may be passed down in families or be brand new in the person who has epilepsy. Even if there is no history of epilepsy in your family, it can still be caused by a change in a gene.
<b>Cause</b>	There are many causes for epilepsy; however, the genetic testing confirms a genetic cause for the epilepsy in you or your family member. Sometimes epilepsy can be the first sign that a person may have other health or medical problems. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more about whether you or your family member might need any additional screening.
<b>Management Options</b>	Some epilepsy genetic test results can help identify specific medical management options that are more or less likely to be helpful. Management options can include: medication, specific diet, surgery, or avoiding certain situations that can provoke seizures. Knowing the genetic cause of epilepsy for you or your family member may help to avoid some tests or procedures. Talk with your healthcare provider to learn more about how treatment options may change based on the genetic test result.
<b>Family Members</b>	Many people with epilepsy are the first person in their family to have it. Often, genetic testing can find a gene change in someone even if the gene change was not found in other family members and was not passed down from a parent. In other families, gene changes can be inherited from earlier generations. Talk to your healthcare provider about how epilepsy may run in your family based on your test results and family history, and what this means for the rest of your family. It is recommended that you share this information with your family members so they can learn more and discuss with their healthcare providers.
<b>Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• American Epilepsy Society <a href="http://aesnet.org">aesnet.org</a></li><li>• Citizens United for Research in Epilepsy <a href="http://cureepilepsy.org">cureepilepsy.org</a></li><li>• Epilepsy Foundation <a href="http://epilepsy.com">epilepsy.com</a></li><li>• National Society of Genetic Counselors <a href="http://nsgc.org">nsgc.org</a></li><li>• Canadian Association of Genetic Counsellors <a href="http://cagc-accg.ca">cagc-accg.ca</a></li></ul>

Please discuss this information with your healthcare provider. The field of genetics is continuously changing, so updates related to your epilepsy genetic testing result, medical recommendations, and/or potential treatments may be available over time. This information is not meant to replace a discussion with a healthcare provider, and should not be considered or taken as medical advice.