

Genetic Testing

Genetic tests are tests on blood and other tissue to find genetic disorders. About 900 such tests are available.



Doctors use genetic tests for several reasons. These include

- Finding possible genetic diseases in unborn babies
- Finding out if people carry a gene for a disease and might pass it on to their children
- Screening embryos for disease
- Testing for genetic diseases in adults before they cause symptoms
- Confirming a diagnosis in a person who has disease symptoms

People have many different reasons for being tested or not being tested. For many, it is important to know whether a disease can be prevented or treated if a gene alteration is found. In some cases, there is no treatment.

But test results might help a person make life decisions, such as career choice, family planning or insurance coverage.

A genetic counselor can provide information about the pros and cons of testing.