Sarcoma - Alveolar Soft Part and Cardiac - Risk Factors

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Risk Factors

ON THIS PAGE: You will find out more about what factors increase the chance of developing ASPS. To see other pages in this guide, use the colored boxes on the right side of your screen, or click ?Next? at the bottom.

A risk factor is anything that increases a person?s chance of developing cancer. Although risk factors often influence the development of cancer, most do not directly cause cancer. Some people with several risk factors never develop cancer, while others with no known risk factors do. However, knowing your risk factors and talking about them with your doctor may help you make more informed lifestyle and health care choices.

The following factor can raise a person?s risk of developing ASPS:

Genetics. Research has shown that people with ASPS often have a genetic abnormality or mutation in which part of one chromosome (a long strand of genes) breaks off and reattaches to another chromosome. This is called a translocation. The translocation causes two genes called *ASPL* and *TFE3* to merge into one gene called *ASPL-TFE3*. This mutation is found only in the tumor cells, not in other organs of the body, and is not inherited (passed down from one generation to the next). Therefore, family members of a person diagnosed with ASPS do not have an increased risk of developing ASPS themselves. The *ASPL-TFE3* gene causes cells to make an abnormal enzyme that causes soft tissue cells to grow out of control.

There are no known risk factors for cardiac sarcoma.

Choose ?Next? (below, right) to continue reading this guide to learn about what symptoms these types of sarcoma can cause. Or, use the colored boxes located on the right side of your screen to visit any section.

Links:
[1] http://www.cancer.net/about-us