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# Inherited Genetic Change May Predict More Aggressive Stomach Cancer

Researchers discovered a genetic variation (difference) that may predict stomach cancer that is more likely to grow and spread. This genetic variation is located on the *CD44* gene and is inherited, meaning it is passed from generation to generation within a family. For patients with this genetic variation and stomach cancer, the cancer returned after treatment more than three times sooner than for patients without this genetic change.

**What this means for patients**

?Testing for the *CD44* variation may help us identify patients who would benefit from more aggressive treatment and develop treatments that target this genetic variation,? said lead author Thomas Winder, MD, a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Southern California. Because this gene is inherited, it may be possible to use it to predict a person's risk of developing stomach cancer. However, more research is needed to fully understand how this gene affects a person's chance of developing stomach cancer.

**What to ask your doctor**

- What type of stomach cancer do I have?
- What is my prognosis (chance of recovery)?
- What is the chance that the cancer might come back after treatment?
- What are my treatment options if the cancer does return?

**For More Information**

Guide to Stomach Cancer [1]

The Genetics of Cancer [2]

Coping With the Fear of Recurrence [3]

Dealing With Cancer Recurrence [4]

**Links:**
[1] http://www.cancer.net/node/19645
[2] http://www.cancer.net/node/24897
[3] http://www.cancer.net/node/25241
[4] http://www.cancer.net/node/25042