Identification of at risk family for hereditary cancer

Chanin Limwongse, MD April 29, 2009

Familial vs. Hereditary Cancers

- Familial = clustering within a family due to shared genetic and/or environmental risk factor(s)
- Hereditary = transmitted within a family due to inheritance of mutated gene(s)

Hereditary cancer genes

- Oncogene
 mutated proto-oncogene
- Tumor suppressor gene
- DNA repair gene

Managing Hereditary Cancer

- Detailed pedigree construction
- Clinical and pathologic diagnosis in proband
- Determination of potential testing
- Pre-test genetic counseling
- Psychological evaluation
- DNA-based testing
- Post-test genetic counseling
- Determination of potential prevention

Pedigree construction

- 3 generations
- Focus on cancer in the family but include other illnesses
- Put as much info as possible into the pedigree
- Indicate who has been tested
- Periodic update is necessary



When to suspect hereditary cancer

In a patient

multiple primary bilateral young age at Dx rare histology other related tumor associated congenital defects associated precursor associated karyotypic abnormality

In a family >=2 FDR with similar cancer >=2 FDR with related cancer >=3 any R with similar cancer R with feature of a syndrome

Presymptomatic testing –Why doing it ?

- To know the risk
- To lessen anxiety
- To justify lifelong surveillance
- To benefit family members
- To decide on prophylactic treatment if possible
- To make reproductive choices

Contribution of Gene Mutations to HNPCC Families



BRCA2-Associated Cancers: Lifetime Risk



Comparing Breast Cancer Risk Estimates in BRCA Mutation Carriers



Easton DF et al. *Am J Hum Genet* 56:265, 1995 Struewing JP et al. *N Engl J Med* 336:1401, 1997

Genetic Testing for cancer susceptibility

