

Did you know that a drop of your blood can predict diseases you may develop in the future? The most common type of genetic testing is called "newborn screening." The goal of newborn screening is to identify treatable genetic disorders in newborn babies. In many countries, infants are screened in the hospital shortly after they are born. Although it is rare to find that a baby has a genetic disorder, those that do have a disorder start receiving treatment right away. This early diagnosis and treatment prevents physical and mental problems, and sometimes even death. 2021 – 1443 54 Another type of genetic testing is called "predictive gene testing. People who undergo this type of genetic testing are usually from a family in which many members have had a particular inherited disease, like certain cancers or Alzheimer's disease. Jen Thomson, who recently underwent predictive gene testing for colon cancer, explains, "So many people in my family died of colon cancer, I worried constantly." The information in DNA can help determine a person's risk of developing certain diseases years from now. This is used to predict an adult's risk of developing certain diseases later in life. A negative test (a test that says a person is not likely to develop a disorder) can bring a tremendous sense of relief. This is possible through genetic testing—testing that analyzes the genetic information found in the cells of your body. Each cell contains a sample of DNA!