



**THE LONDON BRIDGE FERTILITY,
GYNAECOLOGY AND GENETICS CENTRE**

Bridge welcomes the decision of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to approve the use of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis (PGD) for inherited cancers.

Science and medicine often advance when two or more fields unite. This the case with the convergence of preimplantation genetic diagnosis of human genetic disorders in embryos created as a result of IVF treatment and the growing body of knowledge about genetics, especially the genes which cause cancer.

In the UK over 150,000 people die from cancer each year - and 5% of all cancers are inherited, including those listed below and it is not uncommon for multiple family members in each generation to die from the same type of cancer.

Because the cancer may not appear until individuals are in their 30s and 40s, the mutation predisposing to the cancer has often already been passed on to their children and typically will affect half of them.

Currently there are no cures for inherited cancers. Prevention often involves radical surgery, for example, bilateral breast and ovary removal which still leaves affected individuals at higher risk of other types of cancer.

PGD now offers a preventative option to 'at risk' families and Professor Alan Handyside, Scientific Director of Bridge, has led the way in investigating its use in cancer detection. Initial ideas were first published in 1994 and Professor Handyside was involved in the first diagnosis of inherited colon cancer in 1997. Both PGD techniques and genetic knowledge have increased dramatically since then and Bridge is able to provide a wide range of tests immediately.

Bridge, in partnership with Laboratorio Genoma, Italy's leading PGD laboratory, is the UK's first IVF centre to provide accurate and reliable PGD testing tailored to the genetics of at risk couples.

Examples of inherited cancers for which PGD is available at Bridge:	
Familial breast/ovarian cancer	Neurofibromatosis
Retinoblastoma	Von Hippel Lindau syndrome
Familial melanoma	Multiple endocrine neoplasia
Li-Fraumeni syndrome	Tuberous sclerosis
Familial adenomatous polyposis	

To enquire about PGD treatment, please contact [Professor Alan Handyside](#)
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