

Protecting Future Jewish Generations

TESTING,
EDUICATION and
AWARENESS of
RECESSIVE

Jewish Genetic Diseases

1 in every 5

Jews of Eastern European descent carry a gene for at least one of eleven Jewish genetic diseases.

- ✧ If both parents carry a gene for the same disease, there is a 25% chance in each pregnancy that their child will be born with that disease.
- ✧ Even if one parent is NOT Jewish and your children are healthy, your children can still be carriers.
- ✧ Screening for these harmful genes can now be performed simply using saliva. The carrier test is available at little or no cost to you.

A presentation about these illnesses and the carrier test will be given at:

Harford Jewish Center
8 North Earlton Road Ext.
Havre de Grace, MD

March 14, 2010 at 9:30 am



Shown above with my mom, my sister, Jamie Bress, died in 1996 at 5 years of age from complications of Familial Dysautonomia (FD).

For my Bat Mitzvah project, I have chosen to raise awareness for FD and 10 other devastating Jewish genetic diseases (JGDs) that appear at birth. In memory of my sister, Jamie, I want to make a difference by helping families prevent suffering similar to what Jamie and my parents experienced. One symptom of FD is the absence of tears, so I named my Mitzvah project "TEAR" for **T**esting, **E**ducation & **A**wareness of **R**ecessive Jewish genetic diseases.



Hannah Bress, age 12

Jews of Eastern European descent (Ashkenazi Jews) are at greatest risk for carrying one or more genes that could result in a devastating disease for their children. Carriers are healthy, but when two carriers of the same disease have a child, there is a 1 in 4 chance that each pregnancy could result in the birth of a child with that disease. A simple carrier test can help protect future generations from being born with these diseases.

About the Presentation

Attendees of this presentation will be educated by David Brenner, the Executive Director of the Dysautonomia Foundation about Familial Dysautonomia and the other Jewish genetic diseases. The presentation will include:

- An overview of Jewish genetic diseases (JGDs)
- An introduction to carrier screening for recessive JGDs
- Reasons why everyone should be screened for JGDs

Attendees will have an opportunity to ask questions about the diseases and about carrier screening. Those who pre-register can arrange to get a simple saliva carrier screening test at the event, or they can learn how to arrange for a carrier test after the event.

About Carrier Screening

Jews of Eastern European descent (Ashkenazi Jews) are often carriers of one or more genes that can cause tragic diseases in their children. 1 in 5 Ashkenazi Jews is a carrier for at least one of these diseases.

Carriers are healthy individuals who do not have the disease themselves, and they are usually unaware that the gene for the disease runs in their family. Often, they only find out that they are carriers after one of their children is born with a Jewish genetic disease.

My project is designed to help people learn about these diseases and how carrier screening can help them have healthy babies. I want everyone to get tested so that there are no more babies born with FD or any of the Jewish genetic diseases.

Through this program, anyone 18 or older can arrange for completely confidential carrier testing at little or no cost. Please pre-register to be screened at the event.

R.S.V.P. to attend: ProjectHannah@comcast.net

Register for screening: counsyl.com/hannah

Notes:

Jewish genetic diseases include: Bloom's Syndrome, Canavan Disease, Cystic Fibrosis, Familial Dysautonomia, Fanconi Anemia Type C, Gaucher Disease Type 1, Maple Syrup Urine Disease, Mucopolysaccharidosis Type IV, Niemann-Pick Disease Type A, Glycogen Storage Disease Type 1a, Tay-Sachs Disease

An individual can be tested to find out if he or she is a carrier for any of these diseases with a saliva or blood specimen. Knowing your carrier status can help you to prevent tragedies in future generations. If you are considering having a child soon, you should seek genetic counseling by a doctor, genetic counselor, or alternative means to fully understand the process and implications of genetic screening, prior to testing. If you are pregnant, talk to your doctor about getting tested and obtaining results via a more timely method. Based on your ancestry, additional genetic screening may be recommended for you. If you are of mixed ancestry, you may be advised to obtain a blood test for Tay-Sachs disease screening. Although the results of these tests are highly accurate, no test is 100% accurate. There are mutations that these tests cannot detect. When two members of a couple are both tested, the risk is dramatically reduced.

More information about Harford Jewish Center, also known as Temple Adas Shalom, can be found at: www.harfordjewishcenter.org or by calling 410-939-3170

Get Tested!
Find out if you are a carrier
Protect future generations

This program has been arranged in conjunction with the [Dysautonomia Foundation](http://www.famdys.org), a 501(c)(3) public charity dedicated to pursuing the best possible medical treatment, research and public awareness for familial dysautonomia (FD).

