

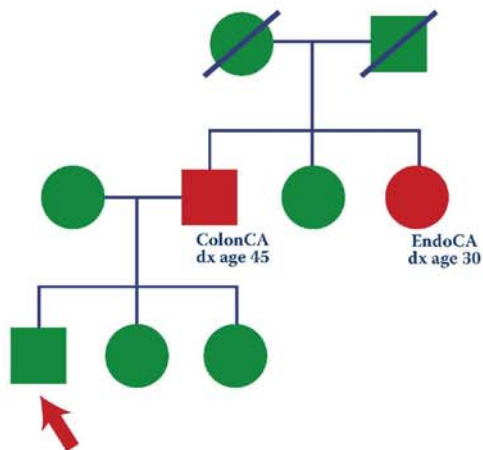
Do **YOU** know Tony?

Tony, 35, knows he has a lot to be thankful for: a great job, a nice home and a terrific family. He also knows he owes a debt of gratitude to his primary care provider.

When Tony's PCP took a thorough family history during a physical last year, he found that Tony's father had been diagnosed with colon cancer at 45 and that a paternal aunt had endometrial cancer at 30. His provider recognized that Tony was at increased risk for **hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer syndrome (HNPCC), or Lynch syndrome.**

Tony learned that HNPCC causes about 3-5 percent of all cases of colorectal cancer and greatly increases the risk of early-onset colon and endometrial cancer in affected individuals. His primary care provider referred him to a specialist familiar with the disorder. Tony and his family underwent genetic counseling and testing, which revealed that he and several relatives carry a gene alteration causing HNPCC.

Armed with that knowledge, Tony and others in his family now get regular cancer screening. Early and frequent colon cancer screening for people with HNPCC has been shown to save lives. Tony knows it might just save his.



The next time you see a “Tony,” take the time to obtain a complete family history. It could make all the difference in the world.



The U.S. Surgeon General's **MY FAMILY HEALTH PORTRAIT TOOL** can help your clients gather and organize their family history before visiting your office. Direct them to it at www.surgeongeneral.gov/familyhistory/

