Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP) syndrome

Aflac Cancer & Blood Disorders Center
CHILDREN'S HEALTHCARE OF ATLANTA

Familial Adenomatous Polyposis (FAP) syndrome is a hereditary genetic syndrome that predisposes individuals to develop hundreds to thousands of adenomatous polyps, in addition to colorectal cancer, papillary thyroid cancer and others. In childhood, patients with FAP are at risk for developing a type of liver cancer called hepatoblastoma typically before age 5, as well as certain types of brain tumors such as medulloblastoma.

Cause

FAP is caused by inherited genetic changes in the APC gene. A child of a parent diagnosed with FAP has a 50 percent chance of inheriting this condition.

Diagnosis

FAP can be diagnosed through genetic testing, which is typically performed by a genetic counselor.

Treatment and surveillance

Guidelines and recommendations exist for surveillance of children and adults with FAP.

References

ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/nbk1345/