PreSENTIA FAQs

What are mutations?

A mutation is a change that happens in the DNA that could possibly affect the health of an individual.

What is genetic testing?

Genetic testing identifies changes in the DNA.

What is cancer susceptibility and cancer predisposition?

Cancer susceptibility, or predisposition, is the likelihood of developing cancer in the future. This depends on an individual's DNA. There are certain inherited, genetic changes that raise someone's risk of developing cancer in the future. This is because these changes happen in genes that are responsible for protecting the body from disease, and when they are affected, their protective role halts.

What are germline mutations?

Germline mutations are changes in the DNA that are inherited from parents to their children. These changes are present from birth in all the cells in the body. Germline mutations are different from somatic mutations, which occur when a genetic change happens in the DNA due to exposure to risk factors – after a person is born. People with germline mutations in a cancer gene have a higher chance of developing cancer in their lifetime. If cancer develops due to a germline mutation, it is called hereditary cancer.

What is hereditary screening?

A hereditary screening test checks if an individual has an inherited, genetic change in a gene with high cancer susceptibility from birth. Identifying the mutation that could cause cancer in the future is useful for people with cancer in their family history, and for people suspected of having a hereditary form of cancer. This knowledge can help with better medical planning and avoiding risk factors.

How do I decide what is the best panel for me?

Your healthcare provider will recommend the best panel for you after considering the types of cancers that have affected your family members, any genetic changes that have already been diagnosed in one of your family members, and any symptoms exhibited. Consult with your healthcare provider on which panel is ideal.