

Online Supplementary Material

Walter FM, Emery J. 'Coming down the line'—patients' understanding of their family history of common chronic disease. *Ann Fam Med.* 2005;3:405-414.

<http://www.annfammed.org/cgi/content/full/3/5/405/DC1>

**Supplemental Table 1. Interview Schedule**

**Introduction**

**Sociodemographic questionnaire**

**General discussion**

Prompt questions may include the following:

A. Core questions

- Do you think that [disease] runs in families?
- Why do you think that [disease] runs in families?
- Do you think much about having a family history?
- Is it an issue for you?

B. Specific questions

- What do you feel about your personal risk of this [disease]?
- What do you think makes it matter to you?
- Are there features which, you think, make a family history more serious?
- What do you understand about inheritance?
- What do you feel makes you prone or vulnerable to your relative's illness?
- Can you tell me about what helps you deal with your family history?
- How do you cope with the uncertainty?

**Pedigree construction**

Paper pedigree to ascertain names, ages at diagnosis and death, and relationships

**Conclusions**

**Supplemental Table 2. Participants for Whom Perceived Likeness With a Parent Affects Risk Perception**

<b>Patient No. Sex, Age</b>	<b>Side of Family With Illness Side: Disease</b>	<b>Perceived (Actual*) Risk</b>	<b>Sex :Likeness</b>	<b>Predominant Features of Likeness</b>	<b>Positive Likeness Effect on Risk Perception</b>
04 Female, 56 y	M: leukemia F: bladder cancer	Average (average)	Female: female	Personality Ways	"Female cancer more likely to run down female side of family."
06 Female, 58 y	M: breast cancer F: Parkinson's disease	High (average)	Female: male	Personality Ways	"I shared a lot of characteristics with [my mother], but I didn't identify in quite the same way as with [my father], although I was close to her."
07 Female, 44 y	M: uterus and bowel cancer F: heart disease	CA: High (moderate) CAD: Average (average)	Female: Female	Personality Ways	"I'm quite like my mum, I must admit, in other ways too."
08 Male, 39 y	M: heart disease	Moderate (moderate)	Male: female	Looks Personality Ways	"Everybody says how much we do look alike ..."
09 Male, 52 y	F: bowel F's father: stomach cancer	Moderate (average)	Male: male	Looks Ways	"People have always said I was just like my father, same mannerisms as him."
10 Female, 38 y	M: breast cancer	Moderate (average)	Female: female	Looks Personality Feelings	"As I'm getting older, I'm really starting to look like her now, and feel like her. I guess that it makes you think I am like her, and maybe I'm going to get the same as her."
12 Male, 37 y	F: heart disease	Average (average)	Male: female	Ways	"You're like the person in your ways. Certainly we're not going on looks, and we're going on ways of behavior and hereditary illnesses."
14 Male, 31 y	F: esophageal cancer and heart disease	CA: High (average) CAD: Average (average)	Male: male and female	Looks Personality	"I'm probably like my mum but actually minus the neurosis. Actually, could I change my mind a little about that, because I suppose I'm like my dad as well in some ways."

*Continued*

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16 Female, 52 y	M, sister, and F's mother: breast cancer	Moderate (average)	Female: female	Looks Ways	"I suppose [I'm like my mother], and the other things as well like ... her marriage had split up a few years before mine had.... I would say more it's the close relationship than the genetic stuff."
17 Female, 38 y	M: heart disease	Moderate (average)	Female: female	Feelings	"Both me and my sister, we're definitely [very like her], we're bound to inherit things from mum aren't we? I think we felt much closer to her than we do to dad."
22 Female, 45 y	M: multiple sclerosis F: diabetes	Moderate (average)	Female: male	Personality Feelings	"I'm actually very much like my Dad, so I probably take it on board a bit more because I have a lot of his other characteristics, looks, and the creative side. Temperament, yes, definitely Dad's side."
24 Male, 38 y	F: heart disease	Moderate (moderate)	Male: male	Personality	"I'd definitely say I'm more like my dad than my mother, probably health wise and in physical characteristics.... I'm told that I'm very similar to him."
25 Female, 48 y	F: diabetes	Average (average)	Female: male	Personality	"... a similar personality, everyone used to say that, yeah."
26 Female, 44 y	F: breast and bowel cancer M's mother: bowel cancer	Average (average)	Female: female		"I have to be more concerned with the female members of my family don't I?"
30 Female, 52 y	M: heart disease and diabetes F: heart disease	CAD: high (moderate) DM: moderate (average)	Female: female and male	Looks Feelings	"We all look more like our father, really, except my brother, who's a little bit like my mother. It's really difficult: I felt more that my genes are like my father's, except my weight. Emotionally more like my mother."

M = mother; F = father; CA = cancer; CAD = coronary artery disease; DM = diabetes mellitus.

\* Actual risk, calculated according to current risk assessment criteria.