

Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee
Wednesday 15 May 2024
9th Meeting, 2024 (Session 6)

PE2080: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome

Introduction

Petitioner Louise McKendrick

Petition summary Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to implement screening for people with, or at risk of, Li Fraumeni Syndrome (TP53 mutation), in line with the guidelines recommended by the UK Cancer Genetics Group

Webpage <https://petitions.parliament.scot/petitions/PE2080>

1. This is a new petition that was lodged on 22 January 2024.
2. A full summary of this petition and its aims can be found at **Annexe A**.
3. A SPICe briefing has been prepared to inform the Committee's consideration of the petition and can be found at **Annexe B**.
4. Every petition can collect signatures while it remains under consideration. At the time of writing, 932 signatures have been received on this petition.
5. The Committee seeks views from the Scottish Government on all new petitions before they are formally considered. A response has been received from the Scottish Government and is included at **Annexe C** of this paper.

Action

6. The Committee is invited to consider what action it wishes to take on this petition.

Clerks to the Committee
May 2024

Annexe A: Summary of petition

PE2080: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome

Petitioner

Louise McKendrick

Date Lodged

22 January 2024

Petition summary

Calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to implement screening for people with, or at risk of, Li Fraumeni Syndrome (TP53 mutation), in line with the guidelines recommended by the UK Cancer Genetics Group

Previous action

I have made a complaint to NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

I have also recently contacted my local MSP and my MP for East Renfrewshire.

Background information

Li Fraumeni TP53 mutation is a genetic syndrome that predisposes a person to cancer, usually of an aggressive type.

The UK Cancer Genetics Group (UKCGG) have made recommendations for screening which have been implemented in parts of England, however they have not been implemented in Scotland. I am calling on the Scottish Government to implement screening for Li Fraumeni patients in line with the guidelines set out in the [UKCGG paper in the Journal of Medical Genetics](#).

Annexe B: SPICe briefing on petition PE2080



Background

The petitioner is calling on the Scottish Parliament to urge the Scottish Government to implement screening for people with, or at risk of, Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (LFS) (TP53 gene mutation), in line with the guidelines recommended by the UK Cancer Genetics Group.

It is not fully clear from the wording of the petition, but it is assumed that the petitioner wishes to see LFS genetic screening for people diagnosed with LFS related cancers, and then for encouragement for initial screening of any close relatives of those individuals to see if they too have LFS. The guidelines cited by the petitioner do not recommend routine cancer screening for those identified as having a 50% risk of a faulty TP53 gene.

LFS is caused by a gene mutation on a gene that controls cell growth in the body. It is a condition that makes it more likely that someone will develop cancer, often at a young age.

[Cancer Research UK say that it is extremely rare](#) and that data is limited, but researchers estimate that there are a few thousand people in the UK with LFS.

Genes

Genes are in the nucleus of all cells, carried on chromosomes, and give instructions for how cells in the body grow and function. Genes come in pairs and a person inherits one copy from each parent.

The function of the TP53 gene, that the petitioner highlights, is a gene that protects a person from cancer by controlling the growth of cells.

If someone inherits a mutation (fault) in one copy of the TP53 gene, they will be more likely to develop cancer. People with a change in the TP53 gene have Li-Fraumeni syndrome.

Someone with a TP53 gene mutation also has one normal copy. Only one copy of each gene pair is passed on to a child. If someone has a mutation in one copy of the gene, they have a 1 in 2 (50%) chance of passing on this mutation to each child they have, regardless of their biological sex or the child's sex.

Because it is an inherited condition based on a gene mutation, it is not something that can be treated.

Li-Fraumeni syndrome

According to the [Manchester Cancer Research Centre](#):

“Li Fraumeni Syndrome or LFS is caused by a TP53 germline mutation (a gene change in an egg or sperm cell of a parent that then appears in the DNA of every cell of the body of the child), which was one of the first hereditary cancer predisposition genes identified in the 1990s. Around 1 in 5,000 people in the UK have this inherited condition, which results in a high cancer lifetime risk. This means around 80% of people with this syndrome will develop cancer by age 70 (greater than a 70% chance for men and 80% chance in women). In addition, 40-49% of individuals with LFS have a risk of developing a second cancer.

Five cancer types account for the majority of tumours caused by LFS, including tumours located in the adrenal glands, breast, central nervous system, bones and soft tissues. Young women with LFS commonly develop breast cancer, while children and young adults with the syndrome can be seen to develop sarcomas, and brain tumours.

The average onset of cancers in individuals with LFS is in early adulthood with one [study](#) showing the average age at onset of the first cancer being around 25 years, with around 20% of carriers having developed a cancer by age just 5 years and 40% by age 18 years. Furthermore, 40-50% of individuals will go on to further primary cancers. As such, there is a need to identify adolescents, children and young adults with TP53 mutations.”

Testing and screening for Li-Fraumeni Syndrome

According to the [NHS Scotland Genomic Test Directory](#), testing for LFS is available in Aberdeen and Glasgow, two of four regional genetics centres in Scotland commissioned by NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS). These centres carry out genetic testing for Scotland and can test for over 200 conditions listed in the directory. LFS is one of 17 inherited cancers that can be tested for.

The referral criteria associated with testing for LFS appear to only apply to a person diagnosed with specific cancers and in certain age ranges. That is, it is not used specifically for screening relatives and children of people found to have LFS. However, in the Directory’s introduction, there is reference to the testing of one person having implications for other family members, and this association appears to be recognised in the referral criteria for testing.

[Guy’s and St Thomas’s NHS Foundation Trust](#) explain more about the way that testing is carried out for LFS.

[The Manchester Cancer Research Centre](#) explain that there are two ways that someone is identified as having LFS: if they present with cancer and are tested for the inherited mutation or where there is known to be LFS in the family other family members are offered predictive genetic testing for the TP53 gene alteration and surveillance is offered to those testing positive.

The petitioner [refers to guidelines](#), published in June 2020 – written as a position statement – which emerged from a consensus meeting organised by the UKCGG using a preworkshop survey, followed by structured discussion on the day. A consensus was achieved for a UK surveillance protocol for carriers of the mutation which could be adopted by UK Clinical Genetics services. The key recommendations for screening those who have the TP53 gene mutation are:

- for annual [WB-MRI \(whole body magnetic resonance imaging\)](#) and dedicated brain MRI from birth,
- annual breast MRI from 20 years in women and
- three-four monthly abdominal ultrasound in children along with
- review in a dedicated clinic

The background to the guideline states that most carriers of the TP53 carriers have been identified through referral to clinical genetics services due to a personal or family history of cancer. Testing can be offered to at-risk relatives. However, it should be remembered that not everyone offered testing for the condition will wish to take it up. These guidelines set out more comprehensive surveillance proposals for carriers than have existed previously. The authors do not recommend screening of patients with a 50% risk of the gene mutation (from one parent), but should be provided with ‘appropriate counselling and support, but should be encouraged to consider testing in order to access cancer screening.’ The reason that it is not recommended is because of the “intensity of the surveillance protocol”.

Anne Jepson
Senior Researcher, SPICe
9 February 2024

The purpose of this briefing is to provide a brief overview of issues raised by the petition. SPICe research specialists are not able to discuss the content of petition briefings with petitioners or other members of the public. However, if you have any comments on any petition briefing you can email us at spice@parliament.scot

Every effort is made to ensure that the information contained in petition briefings is correct at the time of publication. Readers should be aware however that these briefings are not necessarily updated or otherwise amended to reflect subsequent changes.

Published by the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe), an office of the Scottish Parliamentary Corporate Body, The Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP

Annexe C: Written submission

Scottish Government submission of 14 February 2024

PE2080/A: Implement the recommended screening guidelines for people with Li Fraumeni Syndrome

Thank you for your email of 22 January 2024 on behalf of the Citizen Participation and Public Petitions Committee in relation to PE2080, regarding screening around Li-Fraumeni Syndrome (TP53 mutation).

Background

Li-Fraumeni syndrome is a rare hereditary genetic condition caused by changes in the TP53 gene. This gene would normally be protective against cancer by helping to control the growth of cells within the body. Anyone in Scotland with a family history of specific cancers can be referred for a genomic test at an accredited NHS genomic laboratory to identify if they are at risk of developing Li-Fraumeni syndrome. People diagnosed with Li-Fraumeni syndrome are managed by clinical genetic services, with screening procedures carried out across the 14 territorial health boards.

Action called for in the petition

The Scottish Government is pleased to offer the Committee our views on the following action called for in the petition:

- ***Implement screening for people with, or at risk of, Li Fraumeni Syndrome (TP53 mutation), in line with the guidelines recommended by the UK Cancer Genetics Group***

The UK Cancer Genetics Group (UKCGG) guidelines are endorsed and supported by clinical genetics teams working across Scotland.

We are aware of variation in how these guidelines are implemented across the 14 territorial health boards in Scotland and of acute demand for MRI procedures in particular. Therefore, we are considering how to better signpost management guidelines and support resources to improve the consistency in implementation across Scotland. We will continue to work with Boards and clinical communities to ensure that the requirements of people with Li-Fraumeni syndrome are understood.

I would like to thank you again for raising this concern with the Scottish Government and I hope that you find this response helpful.

**Directorate for Chief Operating Officer
NHS Scotland**