

What is a Previvor?

A previvor is someone who has not been diagnosed with cancer but is at a higher risk for the disease due to certain inherited genetic mutations in tumor suppressor genes (BRCA1, BRCA2, CHEK2, ATM, PALB2, TP53, MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, etc.) or a family history of cancer.

1 in 279 people are born with an inherited genetic mutation that increases their risk of cancer. And it's more than BRCA and breast cancer. Colorectal, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate, melanoma, and other cancers can be hereditary.

Being a previvor does not mean you will get cancer. But a previvor needs to be proactive and monitored appropriately to reduce the risk. Many hereditary cancers can be avoided all together with preventative healthcare or detected early and successfully treated.

The word was coined by a Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered (FacingOurRisk.org) community member back in 2000 from a challenge on the nonprofit's message board.

National Previvor Day is celebrated on the Wednesday of National Hereditary Cancer Week, which is the last week in September.

