DNA banking allows genetic material from an individual to be saved for future use. It lets families pursue genetic testing at a later time and take advantage of future technology.

**When might DNA banking be appropriate for me or my family?**
- Current technology is unable to find a genetic cause for a suspected hereditary condition.
- No testing is available yet.
- Cost of current testing is too high.
- There is not enough time for traditional genetic testing (e.g. terminal illness).
- There has been a sudden, unexplained death.

**How can my family participate in DNA banking?**
- Discuss the option with your family and healthcare provider.
- A genetic counselor can help to determine whether DNA banking is appropriate and coordinate this service. If you don’t have a genetic counselor, your provider can refer you, or you can find one at findageneticcounselor.com

**How and where is my DNA banked?**
- DNA can be obtained from blood, saliva or other tissue samples.
- The sample is sent to a laboratory where DNA is extracted and stored.
- Storage times may vary from a few years to no time limit.
- DNA banking is offered by various commercial and academic labs. Your genetic counselor will discuss the options and help determine the most appropriate one for you.

**How much does DNA banking cost?**
- Cost varies depending on the laboratory, but is typically under $200 per individual.
- Most labs do not charge an annual fee, but there may be a charge to release the sample for testing.
- Generally, DNA banking is not covered by health insurance, but individual plans may vary
- Future genetic testing cost is not included in DNA banking costs.

**Is DNA banking secure?**
- Only the person who banked their DNA (the depositor) or a legally authorized person (designee) has the authority to request the DNA bank to release, transfer, test or destroy the sample.
- The sample cannot be accessed or used without permission from the depositor or their designee.

For more information about DNA Banking and Genetic Testing, visit [www.findageneticcounselor.com](http://www.findageneticcounselor.com)