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## As Genetic Information Floods Medicine, What Role Will Genetic Counselors Play? 08:21

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Thanks to advances in genetic testing, it's now easier and cheaper than ever before to figure out your risk of developing some diseases — like cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's.

But getting the results can often come at an emotional cost. It raises questions like, what can you do — and what should you do — if you find out that you might develop Alzheimer's years down the road?

A genetic counselor can help with those questions — someone who can explain what the genetic tests actually mean.

But, according to [a recent study](#) from Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston, when looking at the risk of developing diseases like Alzheimer's, an intensive session with a genetic counselor might not always be necessary and a much simpler process could work just as well.

## Guests

**Carey Goldberg**, co-host of [WBUR's CommonHealth blog](#). She tweets [@commonhealth](#).

**Dr. Robert Green**, physician-scientist in the division of genetics and the department of medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School.

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- "Sparked by the sequencing of the human genome a decade ago, a new generation of prenatal screening tests, including MaterniT21, has exploded onto the market in the past three years."

*This segment aired on January 5, 2015.*

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