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Direct-to-Consumer Genetic Testing

Once the purview of science fiction, direct-to-consumer genetic testing (DCGT) is now offered by dozens of companies. These tests can offer glimpses into a user’s ancestry, reveal markers for specific health conditions, or uncover previously unknown family members. While DCGT may give consumers a greater feeling of control over their personal health, medical experts worry about the potential effects of uncovering genetic surprises without accompanying professional counseling. Below are a selection of articles examining the scope of the issue.

- All your data (effectively) belong to us: data practices among direct-to-consumer genetic testing firms. Laestadius LI, Rich JR, Auer PL.
- Direct-to-consumer genetic testing: a revised position statement of the American College of Medical Genetics and Genomics. ACMG Board of Directors.
- False-positive results released by direct-to-consumer genetic tests highlight the importance of clinical confirmation testing for appropriate patient care. Tandy-Connor S, Guiltinan J, Krempely K, LaDuca H, Reineke P, Gutierrez S, Gray P, Tippin Davis B.

By Rachel Becker, MLIS