

The Smith Family Tree depicts the immediate three-generation relationship of my paternal family. Murray E. Smith is my paternal grandfather. He was born in Wilmot, New Hampshire in 1912 where he met and later married my paternal grandmother, Dorothea Phelps, who was born in 1917. They were married in 1938 and settled in Andover New Hampshire and later had two sons, Murray F. Smith and Steven Smith. My father, Murray F. Smith, was born on August 28, 1941. My uncle, Steven Smith, did not come along until seven years later, on April 12, 1948. My uncle never had any children of his own. My mother was born on November 5, 1948 in North Reading, Massachusetts. My mom is an only child. She met my father on the ski slopes in New Hampshire where he worked as a ski patrolman. They were married in 1969 and settled in North Sutton, New Hampshire. My sister, Jennifer Smith was born July 9, 1971 and is 49 years old. I was born on March 6, 1973 and am currently 47 years old.

My grandfather died of throat and liver cancer in 1982 at the age of 70. He was survived by my grandmother who died of pneumonia and complications of dementia at the age of 85. My father had chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, hyperlipidemia, and hypertension. He developed and later succumbed to pancreatic cancer in 2017 at the age of 76. The only known health issues my uncle currently has are hyperlipidemia and hypertension, which are both well-controlled with medication. My mother is 72 years old and is only being treated for hypertension. My sister, age 49, has just battled self-induced cirrhosis of the liver, with multiple complications where she nearly died. However, she has made a nearly full recovery and is no longer a qualifier for liver transplantation. I am 47 years old and currently have no known diseases or health issues.

The Smith Family Tree is quite small due to the fact that my mother had no siblings, and my uncle had no children of his own. However, there are still signs of potential genetic disposition for diseases. Cancer runs in my family, as both my grandfather and father passed away at relatively early ages due to the disease, although in different forms. I am also at risk for developing hyperlipidemia and hypertension, which run on both sides of my maternal and paternal families. My grandmother did not develop dementia until the last couple years of her life prior to her death at 85. Due to the fact that my grandfather died at age 70, it is unknown if he would have developed dementia, but had not at the time of his death. My father did not display signs of dementia, nor does my uncle who is still living at age 72. My mother and my uncle are both 72 and are relatively healthy. My sister is compromised due to the damage her bodied sustained from the cirrhosis. She will have to practice a strict and extremely healthy lifestyle to reduce the risk of further complications.

Without delving further into the family tree going back further generations on both the paternal and maternal sides of my family, it is unclear as to other potential inherited risks I may be susceptible to, but this is a small list. The women in my family appear to have lived healthier and longer than the men, but there still is not a clear pattern. Regardless of the risk factors and contracted diseases in my family, the one common thread is that no one has developed and/or died from diseases at any age earlier than 70, besides my sister who developed the cirrhosis from years of alcohol abuse.