

Thyroid Cancer, MEN II,* and Genetic Testing— Checking for Understanding

NAME(S) _____

1. What is MEN II? Although many kinds of cancer are linked with MEN II, nearly 100 percent of people with the gene for MEN II will get cancer of what organ?
2. The Alzheimer's disease genetic test doesn't predict Alzheimer's disease with certainty; a person who tests positive for *E4* has only a 13-to-57-percent lifetime risk of Alzheimer's disease. If a person tests positive for the mutation that causes MEN II, what is the chance that the person will get thyroid cancer?
3. There is no followup medical procedure that will prevent onset of Alzheimer's disease. What followup medical options are there for a person who has tested positive for the mutation that causes MEN II?
4. As noted, this type of thyroid cancer is caused by an *autosomal dominant* mutation. What does this mean? (What does *autosomal* mean? What does *dominant* mean?)
5. Other than the predictive value of the test and the options for followup medical care, what is another difference between Alzheimer's disease and the type of thyroid cancer associated with MEN II?
6. If Max were to test positive for the mutation, would he know anything more about anyone else in his family? Explain, and be as specific as possible.