

THE STORY BEHIND THE DIAGNOSIS

Understanding autism through genetics, care, and connection



START WITH THE KEY POINT



- Autism is diagnosed clinically
- Genetic testing does not diagnose autism
- Genetic testing should be part of the clinical pathway after a clinical diagnosis of autism



STANDARD OF CARE: Genetic testing is recommended as part of autism care

WHAT CAN GENETICS TELL US?

Genetics can help provide answers



**UP TO 30% OF AUTISTIC INDIVIDUALS
MAY HAVE AN UNDERLYING PATHOGENIC FINDING**

That information can help explain the diagnosis and support more personalized care

THE GAP IN ALBERTA

Many families still miss out



**Only 10% of Albertans
with autism have ever received
genetic testing**

WHY COULD THIS MATTER?

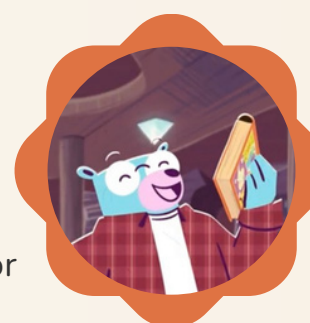
- Find an underlying explanation
- Identify associated health risks
- Connect families to resources and community
- Guide medical care and monitoring
- Support informed family planning and future decisions

HOW TO START THE CONVERSATION

A few simple steps can open the door

Talk to your:

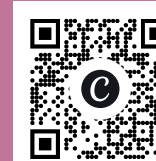
- Paediatrician
- Family doctor
- Psychiatrist
- Developmental specialist
- Genetic counsellor
- Another clinician involved in autism care



You can ask:

- Should genetic testing be part of our care plan?
- Which tests are recommended?
- Would a genetics referral or genetic counselling be helpful?
- Genetic testing is a choice, but families should know it is part of recommended care
- Can you order this test for me directly

**THERE'S ALWAYS
MORE TO DISCOVER**



Explore autism, genetics, and genetic testing with Bo, DiNA in the PRISMA Library of Life

www.youtube.com/watch?v=iXvd_GeNCE