

What is cascade screening, and why is it important for identifying genetic conditions?

Cascade screening is a method used to identify individuals within a family who may be at risk of inheriting specific genetic conditions. It involves screening close relatives of a person diagnosed with a specific genetic condition to determine if they also have the same genetic mutation.

In the case of Familial Hypercholesterolemia (FH) and elevated Lipoprotein(a) {Lp(a)}, early intervention can help manage LDL (bad) cholesterol levels and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease.

How does cascade screening work for identifying FH?

Genetic Risk

- 25% probability of inheriting two unaffected genes that don't cause FH.

Who should consider getting screened for genetic conditions like FH?

- First-degree relatives of a person with FH such as parents, siblings, and children of someone with FH.
- Those with a family history of FH.
- People with unexplained high cholesterol or at risk of having a heart attack or stroke.