

CHRNA5 (Smoking, Cognition)

Gene Report

REPORT CATEGORIES —



COGNITION



ADDICTIONS

Sample Client

Report date: 15 January 2026

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DISCLAIMER

This report does not diagnose this or any other health conditions. Please talk to a healthcare professional if this condition runs in your family, you think you might have this condition, or you have any concerns about your results.

Personal information

NAME

Sample Client

SEX AT BIRTH

Male

HEIGHT

5ft 5" 165cm

WEIGHT

137lb 62kg



How this works

Our Wellness Reports analyze how your DNA influences your health.
We then use this analysis to give you personalized risk estimates and recommendations.



Similarly, our Trait Reports look at how your DNA influences your traits.



Your DNA is like an instruction manual — it contains a lot of information.
You can think of it as a blueprint for your body.

Genetic variants are parts of DNA that differ from person to person. Some can make you more vulnerable to certain health issues, while others may influence traits such as eye color.



We use artificial intelligence and machine learning to analyze all this information.
We then summarize your results as a risk score or display it on a gauge.

In total, we analyze up to 83 million genetic variants.

When we give a risk score, the risk icon tells you if you are at a higher or lower risk compared to other people:



Genotype color info:

AA

You don't have any risk alleles

AA

You have 1 risk allele

AA

You have 2 risk alleles

Your risk is also displayed as a percentile. This will tell you how your risks compare to our sample population. The lower your percentile number, the lower your risk. The "50th percentile" would be an average risk.

Similarly, the gauge tells you your relative risk score compared to our sample population, or it indicates a specific trait or haplotype you are more likely to have based on your genetic variants.

When applicable, we also list top evidence-based recommendations that may help lower your risk. The focus is on recommendations that may be of benefit to you, based on your genetics.

Our recommendations come in four categories: lifestyle, diet, supplements and drugs. The following icons tell you which category a recommendation falls into:



Our team of scientists also ranks each recommendation.
We rank based on impact and the strength of evidence in the medical literature.

Impact shows how strongly a recommendation will affect your health in a certain area.
Evidence is how much scientific support there is for the recommendation. Rankings are from 1 to 5 (low to high):



Impact

Impact scores range from 1-5. These scores reflect how much of an effect each recommendation can have. An impact score of 5 predicts the biggest effect.

When a recommendation affects something we can measure, we use those measurements to assign the impact score. For example, a recommendation that decreases cholesterol by 20% will have a higher impact score than one that decreases it by 5%.

Some recommendations affect things that we cannot directly measure, like stress or mood. For these, the impact score is based on how well they work relative to other recommendations and standard treatments. The best ones get the highest scores.

If there is a lot of research that shows a recommendation works especially well for your genotype, the impact score gets increased.

Recommendation Evidence

- 5 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered effective and generally recommended by experts and medical bodies.
-
- 4 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered likely effective and that have multiple independent meta-analyses and a great many studies supporting them.
-
- 3 / 5
- Recommendations that are considered possibly effective and have many studies supporting them
-
- 2 / 5
- Recommendations that have insufficient evidence, with two or several clinical trials supporting them, or many studies but with ambiguous results.
-
- 1 / 5
- Recommendations that have insufficient evidence, with a single clinical trial, or with many studies most of which didn't find support for the recommendation.
-
- 0 / 5
- No evidence in humans.

Genotype-specific Evidence

- High-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (many clinical trials, a few large clinical trials, or a meta-analysis).
- Medium-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (a few clinical trials or one large clinical trial).
- Low-quality
- Direct evidence that a recommendation helps more in people with your gene variant (a single clinical trial or more trials with inconsistent results).
- Indirect
- A recommendation may help more in people with your gene variant because it targets a specific gene or protein affected by your variant (e.g., MTHFR, dopamine).
- In theory
- A recommendation may help more in people with your gene variant because it targets a specific mechanism affected by your variant (e.g., inflammation, oxidative stress).

Some things to keep in mind:

- Genetics doesn’t play a considerable role in a condition or a trait.
- There is not enough research available to estimate a genetic predisposition.
- There are technical limitations to estimating or presenting a genetic predisposition.
- The topic is sensitive, and a genetic predisposition should only be estimated and presented by a healthcare professional.

Introduction

The [CHRNA5](#) gene, a key component of nicotinic acetylcholine receptors in the brain, plays a central role in **smoking behavior, lung health, and cognitive function**. This gene influences how the brain **responds to nicotine**, making it a crucial factor in nicotine dependence and heavy smoking.

CHRNA5 is also strongly linked to smoking-related diseases such as **lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)**. Its effects extend beyond physical health, as it impacts **cognitive processes** like memory and decision-making. Nicotine use may temporarily enhance cognition, but long-term smoking often worsens both brain function and respiratory health.

Research into CHRNA5 helps us better understand the genetic roots of addiction and smoking-related conditions, paving the way for more personalized treatments to improve both lung health and cognitive outcomes.

Genetics

The following [CHRNA5](#) variants are linked to **smoking, nicotine dependence, and different lung conditions** [\[R, R, R, R, R\]](#):

- [rs16969968](#)-A
- [rs588765](#)-C
- [rs637137](#)-T
- [rs1051730](#)-A (located in a nearby [CHRNA3](#) gene)

At the same time, these variants are linked to **reduced cognitive function** [\[R, R\]](#).

These variants may **reduce CHRNA5** (and CHRNA3) activity, impairing receptor function and **lower acetylcholine levels** in brain regions responsible for cognition. Since nicotine activates these receptors and temporarily boosts cognition, people with these variants tend to smoke more and be more addicted to nicotine [\[R, R, R, R, R\]](#).

It’s important to note that nicotine only provides short-term cognitive benefits. In the long run, nicotine, especially smoking, impairs cognitive function [\[R, R\]](#).



TYPICAL ACTIVITY

Predisposed to typical CHRNA5 activity based on 4 genetic variants we looked at

Your top variants that most likely impact your genetic predisposition:

GENE	SNP	GENOTYPE
CHRNA5	rs637137	TT
CHRNA5	rs16969968	GA
CHRNA5	rs588765	TC
CHRNA3	rs1051730	GA

The number of "risk" variants in this table doesn't necessarily reflect your overall result.