

Aims of medical genetics

Medical genetics is an independent branch of medicine. Medical genetics is **interdisciplinary** field, dealing with problems that affect any system/organ/tissue of the body. Anyway, medical genetics is usually interested in those **types of pathologies**:

- Monogenic diseases (inherited diseases, hereditary diseases, familiar diseases etc).
- Congenital malformations (birth defects, congenital anomalies, inborn errors of development).
- Chromosomal aberrations (including chromosomal syndromes).

The **main aims** of medical genetics are as follows:

- Diagnostics
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Surveillance

Right now, the medical genetics is primary the **diagnostic branch of medicine**. In individuals, where the possibility of "genetics" diagnosis is considered, the geneticist shall perform clinical and (if necessary) also the genetic laboratory (cytogenetic and/or molecular genetic) examination. Geneticists also provide genetic counselling - that means they provide the information to the patients (proband) regarding their diagnosis, possibilities of prevention and/or treatment and also regarding the risks for other family members.