Lynch syndrome, also known as hereditary non-polyposis colorectal cancer (HNPCC), is a type of inherited cancer syndrome associated with a genetic predisposition to different cancer types. It is a genetic condition where there is a mutation of the mismatch repair genes. This means people with Lynch syndrome have a higher risk of certain types of cancer.

If you are diagnosed with Lynch Syndrome there is an increased risk of colorectal (60%), uterine (40%), and ovarian (10%-15%) cancers developing. Removing the uterus, fallopian tubes and ovaries will decrease this risk. Ideally this procedure is performed laparoscopically once you have completed your family, or are around the age of 40 (or later, depending on the specific mutated gene). You would have usually met the hereditary cancer team and discussed your own personal risk of cancer prior to seeing Dr Farrell.

Annual colonoscopy is also required for this condition and you will need to see a gastroenterologist or colorectal specialist for this. There is some evidence that low dose aspirin may also help prevent colorectal cancer.