

Genes and Inherited Breast Cancer Risk

Every cell in your body contains genes. Some genes are key in the development of breast cancer (i.e., BRCA1 and BRCA2). Sometimes, people are born with a problem in one of these genes, an inherited mutation that can be passed on to children. Inheriting a mutated breast cancer gene may increase a woman's risk of breast or ovarian cancer. However, only 5-10 percent of all breast cancers are caused by those inherited mutations.

Answers to these questions will help you to understand the relationship between genes and inherited breast cancer risk.

Q: Should I get genetic testing? Should I talk with a genetic counselor? If yes, why? How is the test done?

A:

Q: When should I get the test? Will options be different in my treatment?

A:

Q: What are the benefits and risks of genetic testing?

A:

Q: What does our family need to think about when considering genetic testing (i.e., emotional impact, what it will mean for other family members, what we will do with the information)?

A:

Q: How much does genetic testing cost? Does my insurance pay for it?

A:

**Q: Will my results be confidential? Who will see my results?
What are the risks and benefits of getting tested?**

A:

Q: What are my options if I have a mutation in a breast cancer gene?

A:

Q: If I have a mutation, will I get breast cancer? Are my family members (i.e., daughter, son, sister, mother) at a higher risk for breast cancer? What can we do? Where can we/they go for testing and counseling?

A:

Q: What does it mean if my test is negative?

A:



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen for the Cure does not provide medical advice.

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