

## Inherited Genes and Breast Cancer Risk

Every cell in your body contains genes. Sometimes, people are born with an error in one of these genes called a mutation. Some gene mutations are linked to breast cancer (i.e., *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*). A mutated gene can be inherited from either your mother or father. This inherited mutation may increase your risk of breast or ovarian cancer. However, only 5-10 percent of all breast cancers in the U.S. are due to inherited genetic mutations. Answers to these questions may help you talk with your doctor or a genetic counselor about your risk of breast cancer.

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Q: How do I know if I have an inherited genetic mutation? Do you recommend I speak to a genetic counselor or get genetic testing? If so, why?

A:

### Questions to ask the genetic counselor

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Q: What can I learn from genetic testing?

A:

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Q: What do I need to think about before I get genetic testing? What does our family need to know about genetic testing and how will we use this information?

A:

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

A:

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Q: When should I have genetic testing done?

A:

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Q: Who will see my results? Will my results be kept private?

A:

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Q: If I have a mutation, what can I do?

A:

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Q: If I have a mutation, does it mean I will get breast cancer? Will my family members (i.e., daughter, son, sister, mother) get breast cancer? Where can we go for counseling and testing?

A:

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Q: If I do not have a mutation, what does that mean about my risk of breast cancer?

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 does not provide medical advice.

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