

Genetic Counseling and Testing for Hereditary Breast/Ovarian Cancer



Our program was developed to counsel and educate women who are concerned about their family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer. Patients meet with a genetic counselor — a health professional with specialized training in genetics, medicine, risk assessment and counseling. The genetic counselor will take a thorough medical and family history. Based on this assessment, he or she will determine the probability that the patient carries a gene mutation. The risks and benefits of genetic testing will also be reviewed. Some patients will choose to have testing, while others may feel that testing is not appropriate for them.

Several genes may predispose a woman toward breast/ovarian cancer, though the most commonly tested genes are called BRCA1 and BRCA2. Testing usually requires a simple blood draw. The analysis is performed at Myriad Genetic Laboratories, a Utah-based laboratory that has extensive experience with BRCA testing. Results usually take about four weeks. All results are confidential.

Genetic counseling usually lasts 30-90 minutes and costs about \$100-\$350. You may bring friends or relatives to the counseling session. Genetic testing can cost from \$350-\$3,000, depending upon a variety of factors unique to each situation.

Some insurance companies do not cover genetic counseling, so please check with your company to determine coverage. Many insurance companies cover genetic testing, though each company has different criteria for when they will cover testing. The genetic counselor and laboratory can work with you to determine the extent of your insurance coverage for testing. For confidentiality reasons, some people prefer not to have insurance companies pay for testing.

Genetic counseling is provided by Robert Resta, a certified genetic counselor at the Swedish Cancer Institute's Hereditary Cancer Clinic.

For appointment scheduling: 206-215-4377

To contact Robert Resta: 206-386-2552

Fax number: 206-215-3959



HEREDITARY CANCER CLINIC
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For a free physician referral:
1-800-SWEDISH (1-800-793-3474)
www.swedish.org