

Understanding genetic testing in ovarian cancer

Women and Children's Division
Information for patients

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Introduction

Most cancers happen by chance. However, in approximately 15% of women with a particular type of ovarian cancer, the development of cancer is caused by an inherited faulty gene (BRCA 1, BRCA 2 or PALB 2).

It is important to find out if you carry the BRCA 1, BRCA 2 or PALB 2 gene alteration because this will affect decisions about what is the most appropriate treatment (for example, surgery or chemotherapy) for you. It will also affect the advice that we give you regarding the best options for reducing your risk of developing cancer in the future.

This is why you have been offered the genetic test. Carrying the BRCA 1 / BRCA 2 / PALB 2 gene alteration increases the risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. Knowing if you carry the gene alteration is important as it also provides your close relatives information about their cancer risk and options to consider to reduce the risk.

Genetic testing

If you decide to go ahead with genetic testing, you will be asked to sign a consent form and a sample of your blood will be taken. The result of the test takes approximately eight weeks to be reported. If you feel you need further time to decide whether or not to have the test, it is important that you let your gynaecology team know.

Most women who have cancer do not carry the gene alteration, so it is highly likely that your result will show that you do not carry the BRCA 1, BRCA 2 or PALB 2 gene alteration. This will help the team managing you to reach the right decision about your care. It also means that your risk of developing another new cancer in the future is reduced and your close relatives are not at risk of carrying the gene alteration.

We may also offer you other genetic tests to help us decide on the best treatment for you. These will be explained to you as needed.

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or call 111 for non-emergency medical advice**

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Genetic testing (continued)

If you have had a biopsy or an operation, we may also be able to test any tissue samples for BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene alteration.

Results of genetic testing

You will receive a letter from your gynaecology team to inform you of the result. If the team looking after you feels that your family history warrants further investigations, despite not carrying the gene alteration, then they will refer you to the Clinical Genetics team.

If the results show that you carry the BRCA 1, BRCA 2 or PALB 2 gene alteration, the doctors treating you will use this information for your benefit in treating you. You will also be given an appointment with the Clinical Genetics team to discuss what the test means to you, your risk of developing cancers in the future and the screening options available to you. Your close family members will be given the opportunity to discuss their risk and options for genetic testing if they wish.

The test result may not be clear-cut, as occasionally a gene change may be found known as a variant. If this is the case, further assessment by the Clinical Genetics team may be necessary and you will be referred to the team to discuss the result and your family history.

You will also be given an appointment to have **genetic counselling** with the Clinical Genetics team to discuss what the test results means to you, your risk of developing cancers in the future and the screening options available to you. Your close family members will be given the opportunity to discuss their risk and options for genetic testing if they wish.

Useful contacts

Gynaecology-oncology nurse specialists (key workers)

Telephone: 0116 258 4840 (8:00am to 4:00pm, Monday to Friday)

Further information

For further information from Ovarian Cancer Action please follow this link:

https://targetovariancancer.org.uk/sites/default/files/2020-07/TOC-Hereditary-Guide_0.pdf

اگر آپ کو یہ معلومات کسی اور زبان میں درکار ہیں، تو براہ کرم مندرجہ ذیل نمبر پر ٹیلی فون کریں۔
على هذه المعلومات بلغة أخرى، الرجاء الاتصال على رقم الهاتف الذي يظهر في الأسفل

જો તમને અન્ય ભાષામાં આ માહિતી જોઈતી હોય, તો નીચે આપેલ નંબર પર કૃપા કરી ટેલિફોન કરો

ਜੇ ਤੁਸੀਂ ਇਹ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਕਸ਼ਮિ ਹੋਰ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਵਿਚ ਚਾਹੁੰਦੇ ਹੋ, ਤਾਂ ਕਰਿਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਹੇਠਾਂ ਦੱਤੇ ਗਏ ਨੰਬਰ 'ਤੇ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

Aby uzyskać informacje w innym języku, proszę zadzwonić pod podany niżej numer telefonu

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