



Indiana
Department
of
Health

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Cancer and Family History

Does Breast or Ovarian Cancer Run in Your Family?

Knowing your family health history can help you find out if you could be more likely to develop breast, ovarian, and other cancers. If so, you can take [steps](#) to prevent cancer or to detect it earlier when it may be more treatable.¹

Did you know that of the 258,500 people diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer in the US each year, 13% of those cases may have occurred because “it runs in the family”? Now is the time to talk to your family about cancer. You may have a mutated gene called BRCA1 and/or BRCA2. That mutation is present in 10% of breast cancer cases and 3% of ovarian cancer cases.

This mutation is more common in women but it also can be passed along to male relatives, increasing their chance of having breast cancer and pancreatic cancer and high grade prostate cancer. Always consult with your doctor.

If you or a loved one has been diagnosed with breast cancer visit [The Indiana Breast and Cervical Cancer Program \(BCCP\)](#) for access to screenings and additional information.

¹ https://www.cdc.gov/genomics/disease/breast_ovarian_cancer/breast_cancer.htm



Genetic Testing for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer

- [Genetic testing is available for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer](#). Most breast and ovarian cancer is not caused by inherited mutations, so genetic testing will not help most women with a family health history of breast and ovarian cancer. Genetic testing will not identify the cause for some hereditary breast and ovarian cancers, because the genes affected in these cancers are not yet known.
- [Genetic counseling](#) before genetic testing for hereditary breast and ovarian cancer is important to determine whether you and your family are likely enough to have a mutation that it is worth getting tested. Usually, genetic testing is recommended if you have:
 - A strong family history of breast and ovarian cancer
 - A moderate family health history of breast and ovarian cancer and are of Ashkenazi or Eastern European Jewish ancestry
 - A personal history of breast cancer and meet certain criteria (related to age of diagnosis, type of cancer, presence of certain other cancers or cancer in both breasts, ancestry, and family health history)
 - A personal history of ovarian, fallopian tube, or primary peritoneal cancer
 - A known BRCA1, BRCA2, or other inherited mutation in your family²

² https://www.cdc.gov/genomics/disease/breast_ovarian_cancer/testing.htm

Resources for Indiana Residents

- The Indiana Health Coverage Program (IHCP) covers a variety of genetic tests. Visit [here](#) for information on both genetic testing and counseling.
- [The Indiana Familial Cancer Clinic](#) provides care to families with a history of cancer.

To **promote**, **protect**, and **improve** the health and safety of all Hoosiers

Indiana Department of Health

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