Genetic Testing for Breast and Ovarian Cancer...

It’s not just a simple blood test.

Concerned about your personal or family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer? Thinking about genetic testing?

A cancer genetics professional can help answer your questions about whether genetic testing may be right for you.

Important things to understand about hereditary breast/ovarian cancer and genetic testing:

• Not everyone needs genetic testing. Only about 5 to 10 percent of all breast and ovarian cancers are caused by changes in genes such as BRCA1 or BRCA2.

• Genetic testing is most helpful when there is a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer including one or more of the following:
  » Several affected relatives
  » Breast cancers at a young age (under 50)
  » A person with cancer of both breasts, or both breast and ovarian cancer
  » A male relative with breast cancer
  » Ashkenazi Jewish Ancestry with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer

• Genetic testing will not find all causes of hereditary breast or ovarian cancer.

• People without changes in genes such as BRCA1 or 2 can still develop cancer.

• Health insurance often, but not always, covers the cost of genetic counseling and testing.

For more information on family health history, breast and ovarian cancer, genetic counseling, and genetic testing visit:
• www.cdc.gov/genomics/resources/diseases/breast_ovarian_cancer.htm
• www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/factsheet/Risk/BRCA/
• www.facingourrisk.org

To locate a cancer genetics professional or clinic in your area visit:
• www.nsgc.org/resourcelink.cfm
• www.cancer.gov/search/geneticsservices/

or call toll free: 1-800-CDC-INFO

This flyer was created through a collaborative effort between public health and genetics professionals in the states of Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri, and Ohio.

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