

The Knoxville Comprehensive Breast Center Breast Health Library has been designed to give you more information about breast health issues. If you have additional questions after you read this brochure, please be sure to ask our Breast Health Nurse Specialist.

HEREDITARY BREAST CANCER

In the United States, approximately 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer during her lifetime. Ten percent (10%) of these women may have hereditary breast cancer syndrome. This means that they may have inherited a genetic cause for their breast cancer. Through a process involving a careful and thorough review of family history, personal risk factors and sometimes a blood test, individuals with hereditary breast cancer syndrome can be identified.

HOW DO I KNOW IF MY FAMILY HISTORY OF CANCER IS HEREDITARY?

There are certain characteristics of hereditary breast cancer that when present in your family history can help determine if you or anyone in your family is at high risk for breast cancer.

- You or a family member has a breast cancer diagnosed before age 50.
- You or a family member have had both breast and ovarian cancer.
- You or a family member has had breast cancer in both breasts.
- You or a family member has had ovarian cancer at any age.
- A first or second degree relative with breast or ovarian cancer and another family member with pancreatic cancer.
- A male family member with breast cancer.
- Women of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.
- Previously identified BRCA1 or BRCA2 mutation in the family.

These are only a few of the characteristics that are involved in hereditary breast cancer syndrome. It takes a careful and comprehensive analysis of all the factors involved in your personal and family cancer history to determine your probability. If the chance for a genetic cause for your family cancer history is high enough, then actual DNA testing can be done.

WHAT CAN I DO IF I THINK HEREDITARY BREAST CANCER SYNDROME IS IN MY FAMILY?

At Knoxville Comprehensive Breast Center, we offer genetic counseling through our High Risk Assessment Clinic. You will first complete a detailed Center covering your personal and family cancer history. This information is used to develop a pedigree that is then compared to several statistical models. Your personal risk estimate is then calculated. There is an nominal charge for this research due at the time of your scheduled high-risk assessment counseling session. The counseling session itself usually takes 60 to 90 minutes and will be billed through your insurance. All information gathered and the results of all testing are strictly confidential. The counseling session will cover your personal risk factors, your family cancer pedigree and the results of the various statistical model comparisons. With this information we can estimate your risk and make appropriate recommendations. These recommendations can range from increased imaging surveillance, endocrine therapy to genetic testing.

WHAT IS GENETIC TESTING?

Genetic testing is an actual blood test for a gene alteration that is known to be associated with breast/ovarian cancer. This test can provide valuable information for you that can help you and your family. Negative results can also give you peace of mind, knowing that your chances for developing cancer are not as great as you may have feared.

HOW DO I MAKE AN APPOINTMENT?

If you feel you meet one or more of the criteria for high risk as listed above or just want to know more about hereditary breast and ovarian cancer you may contact the High Risk Assessment Center by calling **865-583-2922**.

KCBC
Knoxville Comprehensive Breast Center



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