
Receiving a BRCA1 and BRCA2 test result that identifies an alteration in your cancer

Information sheet for patients with cancer

You had a *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* gene test because of your diagnosis of cancer.

The test result has shown that you have a pathogenic variant (alteration) in either the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene in your cancer sample. This alteration was not found in your blood sample.

What does this result mean for me?

Your cancer team will discuss with you if this result has implications for your cancer treatment and/or follow-up. Because this alteration was not found in your blood sample, it does not have implications for your risks of other cancers.

If you have a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer, or a strong family history of other cancers, or if you developed cancer at an unusually young age, it may be helpful to look into things further. The cancer team will discuss this with you and, if appropriate, refer you for further assessment by the Clinical Genetics team.

Very occasionally alterations in other genes can be involved in causing breast or ovarian cancer. Also new discoveries are being made all the time. In the years to come if you would like to find out if any further genetic testing is available, please discuss this with your GP, who could refer you to the genetics team, if appropriate.

What does this result mean for my relatives?

This result is good news for your relatives, as it means they are less likely to be at a high increased risk of developing breast and/or ovarian cancer themselves because it was not found in your blood sample. You may wish to share this result with them.

There is currently no known effective form of ovarian screening. If a woman has more than one relative with ovarian cancer, removal of the ovaries is sometimes considered.

All women are eligible to have mammograms from 47 years in the National Breast Screening Programme. Depending on the family history, some women may be eligible for mammograms from 40 years.

If this is the case in your family, please discuss this further with your cancer team.

If any of your relatives wish to discuss their own risks of cancer further, they should speak with their GP who can refer them for further discussions at their local Family History screening clinic.

If you have any further questions, please contact your cancer team on [\[local contact details\]](#).