

**KNOWLEDGE  
IS POWER**

**FACT SHEET**

**DID YOU  
KNOW  
THAT?**



**WHAT ARE  
MY RISK  
FACTORS?**

For More  
Information  
Visit  
[REACHGLOBAL.ORG](http://REACHGLOBAL.ORG)  
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Your  
Healthcare  
Professional

Any material within this brochure is for informational purposes only. You should seek the advice of your healthcare provider.

# Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer in Women

- Approximately 10% of all breast and ovarian cancers are hereditary.
  - A mutation in the BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 gene is associated with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer. These mutations can be inherited from either parent.
  - One in 500 women has a mutation in their BRCA 1 and BRCA 2 gene. However, certain mutations of the BRCA gene are more common among people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent.
  - With a mutation in your BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene, you have a 33-50% risk of developing breast cancer by age 50 and 56-87% by age 70.
  - You also have a 27%-44% risk of developing ovarian cancer by age 70.
- Any of the following risk factors significantly increase the possibility of having a BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene mutation:
- A personal history of breast cancer before age 50 or ovarian cancer at any age.
  - A family member with a BRCA 1 or BRCA 2 gene mutation.
  - A family member with breast cancer under the age of 50 or ovarian cancer at any age.
  - A male family member with breast cancer.

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**IS THERE A  
TEST TO  
FIND OUT  
IF I HAVE  
THIS  
GENE  
MUTATION?**

**WHAT ARE  
THE BENEFITS  
OF  
GENETIC  
TESTING?**



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# Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer in Women

- A simple blood test is all that is needed to detect mutations in the genetic code of BRCA 1 or BRCA 2.
- A healthcare provider or genetic counselor can evaluate your personal and family medical history and discuss whether the test is right for you.
- If you have an increased hereditary risk, earlier screening and other preventive measures are available.
- Even if you already have been diagnosed with breast or ovarian cancer, genetic information can be used to make important treatment decisions.
- If you have a family history of breast and ovarian cancer, you may learn that you do not have the BRCA mutation.
- With genetic information and appropriate medical intervention, you can reduce your risk of breast and ovarian cancer up to 96%.

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