EDUCATIONAL TUTORIAL

The **BRCA1/BRCA2 (Selected Variants)** report tests for genetic variants that increase a person's risk for cancer.

This report has some limitations that are important to understand. The following information explains what you can expect from the report, and what different results mean. For some people, getting genetic results related to cancer risk can be upsetting or cause anxiety. We encourage you to talk with a healthcare professional, such as a genetic counselor, if you need more support.

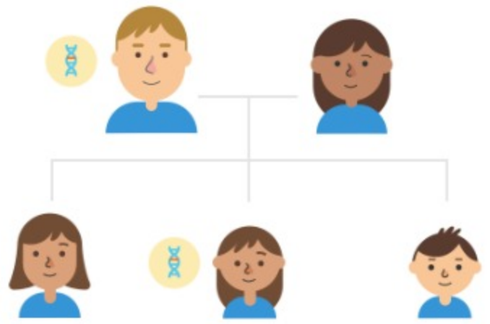
Start tutorial

Cancer results when cells divide and grow in an uncontrolled way.

This can be caused by DNA changes that occur by chance as our cells divide over time. This is why everyone has some risk of developing cancer.

However, certain **inherited genetic variants** can also predispose cells to grow uncontrollably.

These variants increase a person's risk of developing cancer and can be passed down through families.



Back

Next

If your report says you have a variant, it means you have an **increased risk** of developing certain cancers.

Women with these variants

have a greatly increased risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer. They may also have an increased risk for pancreatic cancer and melanoma.*

Men with these variants

have an increased risk of developing male breast cancer. They may also have an increased risk for prostate cancer, pancreatic cancer, and melanoma.*

*** Learn more about these cancer risks**

If you have this kind of result, it is important to follow up with a doctor or a genetic counselor, since there may be preventive options that are effective in reducing cancer risk. You should also think about sharing this information with your family members, since they may also have the risk variant.

This report does **not** include all possible variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.

More than 1,000 variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes are known to increase cancer risk. This report only includes three of those variants.

The three variants included in this report are most common in people of **Ashkenazi Jewish** descent.

This report does **not** include the majority of variants found in people of other ethnicities.

Other factors also influence your risk of developing cancer.

Some of these factors have a small effect on cancer risk, and others can have a large effect.

So if you don't have one of the variants we tested, you still have a risk of developing cancer.

In fact, **most** cases of cancer are not caused by the genetic variants in this report. A person could have a variant not included in this test, or could develop cancer due to other factors. A genetic counselor can help you understand how both genetic and non-genetic factors may influence your risk of developing cancer.

Example: Breast cancers

Image does not represent exact proportion of cancers

It's normal to have questions or concerns about your results.

Your doctor or a genetic counselor can help you understand what your results may mean for you, especially if you have a personal or family history of cancer. Your report will also provide information about resources and next steps.

Note that this test **does not diagnose cancer** or any other health conditions and is not a substitute for visits to a healthcare professional for recommended screenings. Results should not be used to make medical decisions. Results should be confirmed in a clinical setting before taking any medical action. Always consult with a healthcare professional before taking any medical action.

View More Tutorials