Southeast of Scotland Genetic Service
Western General Hospital, Crewe Road, Edinburgh, EH4 2XU
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Founder Gene Changes
Genetic Testing BRCA1 and BRCA2 Genes

Information for Patients

Patient Label

Cancer is a common condition. It is not usually inherited. However, if we see more cancer in a family than we would expect to see by chance, if it starts at a very young age, or if certain patterns of cancer occur together, there may be an underlying predisposition to cancer running in that family caused by an inherited gene change. It is important to identify such families so that people who are at a higher risk of developing cancer than the general population can be offered appropriate screening or intervention.

5-10% of breast and ovarian cancers are due to an underlying genetic change. There are two known breast and ovarian cancer predisposing genes – BRCA1 and BRCA2 and in some families we are able to detect such a change by genetic testing.

We are able to offer limited genetic testing to you because there are some specific changes in one or both of these genes which are more common in the population you originate from.

If a genetic change is identified, this would mean that you have an increased risk of developing cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancer. We talked briefly about the options available to manage an increased risk of these cancers. It also means it is possible to offer a genetic test to other family members to increase the accuracy of our risk assessment and ensure screening recommendations are appropriate.

If a genetic change is not identified, we may offer screening on the basis of your family history.

A limitation of any genetic test is that just like much of medical science, we cannot yet know with certainty all the factors that influence health. Very occasionally the current understanding of a gene change or variant may change as more information becomes available.

Please see overleaf.

Plan of action going forward

Please tick as appropriate		Enter details
	You have decided to proceed with testing and we have made the following arrangements for you to receive the results:	
	A follow up appointment has been arranged on:	
	You have decided to get back in touch when you feel ready to proceed with testing.	

We will write to your referring clinician/GP with details of the plan above.

Following testing, **results are usually available within 8 weeks**.

Results are confirmed in writing to you and copied to your referring clinician/GP.

You were seen by:	Genetic Counsellor (contact number at top of first page)	Date: