

BRIP1 predictive genetic testing

Information for patients

A BRIP1 gene change has been identified in your family and is thought to have contributed to your family history of cancer. This means that a genetic test is available for you to help clarify your cancer risk.

Having a BRIP1 gene change is associated with an increased risk of ovarian and fallopian tube cancer in women.

Studies estimate the lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer with a BRIP1 gene change to be between 5 and 15% (compared to a population risk of around 2%). However, an individual's actual risk depends on their family history of cancer and is calculated using a risk assessment tool. Studies show that the risk is highest after the age of 50 years.

Our knowledge of BRIP1 is evolving, and advice may change over time.

At present there is no evidence to support an increased risk of additional cancers in association with an BRIP1 gene change. Therefore, no other additional screening is currently advised other than the national cancer screening programmes.

Your result - women

- If you do not carry the gene change, your risk of developing ovarian cancer is similar to other people in the general population and your children cannot inherit the gene change from you
- If you do have the gene change, you will have an individualised risk assessment and will be advised accordingly. Your children (or future children) will each have a 1 in 2 (50%) risk of inheriting the gene change.

Unfortunately, there is no effective screening available for ovarian cancer. You may consider having risk reducing ovarian (and fallopian tube) surgery - surgery to remove your ovaries and fallopian tubes. This is thought to reduce the risk of ovarian cancer by over 90%. Ovarian cancer, even in families with a BRIP1 genetic predisposition, rarely occurs before age 50 years, so surgery is best considered at that age. However, occasionally women are offered this at a younger age if their individualised risk assessment suggests an increased risk at a younger age. The disadvantages of surgery include the small risks involved in the procedure itself but more importantly the implications of loss of fertility and the onset of the menopause.

Your result - men

There is currently no evidence to support an increased risk of cancer in men who have a BRIP1 gene change. However, if you are found to have one, your children (or future children) will each have a 1 in 2 (50%) risk of inheriting the gene change.

Additional information

Insurance and genetic test results – In 2018 the Association of British Insurers agreed to an open-ended moratorium which means that you will not have to disclose the results of your predictive genetic test to them when you are taking out insurance, unless their position changes. For further information please see:

www.abi.org.uk/data-and-resources/tools-and-resources/genetics/genetics-faqs



Plan of action

Please tick as appropriate		Enter details
	You have decided to proceed with genetic 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.	

Following genetic testing, results are usually available within 6 weeks. Results are always confirmed in writing to you and copied to your referring clinician/GP.

You were seen by:	Genetic Counsellor	Patient Label
Date:		

Contact Details

South East of Scotland Clinical Genetics Service
Western General Hospital
Crewe Road South
Edinburgh, EH4 2XU

Tel: 0131 537 1116