BRCAl/BRCAl2 (Selected Variants)

Significant genetic variants in the BRCAl and BRCAl2 genes are examined as a way to identify individuals with a hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome. If you have a positive family history, your doctor may recommend genetic testing.

If you have a positive family history of breast or ovarian cancer, you should consult a healthcare professional about getting tested.

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To use this test, you do not have to have the three genetic variants we tested.

You do not have the three variants we tested linked to hereditary breast and ovarian cancer.

You could still have a variant not included in this test.

In the general population, about 1 in 8 women develops breast cancer during their lifetime, and about 1 in 80 women develops ovarian cancer.

If you have a personal or family history of cancer, talk to a healthcare professional about other testing options.

Lifestyle, family history, and other factors also influence the chances of developing breast and ovarian cancer.

See Sample Details for more information.

About BRCAl/BRCAl2-Related Cancers

BRCAl and BRCAl2 are tumor suppressor genes located on chromosomes 17 and 13, respectively. When these genes work properly, they help prevent the development of breast and ovarian cancers.

The BRCAl gene

- Acts as a tumor suppressor gene and helps prevent the development of breast and ovarian cancers.
- Located on chromosome 17.
- Mutations in the BRCAl gene can lead to breast and ovarian cancer.

The BRCAl2 gene

- Acts as a tumor suppressor gene and helps prevent the development of breast and ovarian cancers.
- Located on chromosome 13.
- Mutations in the BRCAl2 gene can lead to breast and ovarian cancer.

How this test works

- Analyzes DNA from blood samples to look for genetic variations in the BRCAl and BRCAl2 genes.
- Identifies specific mutations that are associated with a higher risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer.

The following cancers are associated with BRCAl/BRCAl2-related variants:

- Breast cancer
- Ovarian cancer
- Peritoneal cancer
- Fallopian tube cancer

Learn more about BRCAl/BRCAl2-related cancers.

See our Frequently Asked Questions for more information.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the difference between genetic testing and diagnosis?

Genetic testing is used to identify specific genetic alterations associated with an increased risk of breast or ovarian cancer. It is not a definitive diagnosis. Genetic testing is typically recommended for individuals with a strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer.

What are the potential risks and limitations of genetic testing?

Possible risks of genetic testing include the potential for incorrect test results, misunderstandings about the implications of the test results, and the potential for psychological distress associated with the knowledge of having a genetic risk.

What are the potential benefits of genetic testing?

Genetic testing can help identify individuals with a hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome, leading to early detection and treatment of cancer, and may help guide treatment decisions.

What are the next steps if I have a positive genetic test result?

If you test positive for a genetic variant associated with an increased risk of breast or ovarian cancer, you may be recommended for risk-reducing surgery, chemoprevention, or other interventions. Consult your healthcare provider for personalized recommendations.

What is the turnaround time for genetic testing?

The turnaround time for genetic testing typically ranges from 7 to 21 days, depending on the complexity of the test and the laboratory's workflow.

What are the costs associated with genetic testing?

The cost of genetic testing varies depending on the laboratory and the specific genetic variant being tested. Genetic testing can be covered by insurance in some cases, but typically requires a co-pay or out-of-pocket expense.
**Frequently Asked Questions**

**BCC (Basal Cell Carcinoma)**

**What is BCC?**

BCC is the most common type of skin cancer and occurs in people of all ages. It is usually caused by chronic sun exposure. BCCs are rarely life-threatening but can cause disfigurement if left untreated. They can appear on any part of the body, often on the head, neck, or trunk, and usually develop in areas exposed to sunlight. Risk factors include light skin, light hair, fair complexion, and a family history of skin cancer.

**What are the symptoms of BCC?**

BCCs often appear as small, pearly-white or pink growths. They can also be flat or raised, slightly shiny, and feel soft and rubbery. They may change in size, color, or shape. If left untreated, BCCs can grow large and lead to disfigurement.

**How is BCC diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is typically made through clinical examination by a healthcare provider. Biopsy may be performed if the lesion is not clearly benign or if there is concern for another type of cancer.

**How is BCC treated?**

The treatment for BCC depends on its size, location, and depth. Options include excision, laser therapy, cryotherapy, topical medications, and rarely, surgery. Early detection and treatment can prevent complications and reduce the risk of recurrence.

**What can I do to prevent BCC?**

Prevention strategies include limiting sun exposure, wearing sunscreen, and using sun-protective clothing. Regular skin checks and early detection can help prevent BCC from becoming severe and disfiguring.

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**Melanoma**

**What is melanoma?**

Melanoma is a malignant (cancerous) skin cells. It is the most deadly form of skin cancer and can spread to other parts of the body. Risk factors include having a fair complexion, light-colored eyes or hair, a family history of melanoma, or previous melanoma.

**What are the symptoms of melanoma?**

Melanoma symptoms may include a new growth or change in an existing mole, a dark or purple skin discoloration, or an asymmetrical growth. The ABCDE rule (Asymmetry, Border irregularity, Color change,大小, and Evolution) can help identify melanoma.

**How is melanoma diagnosed?**

Diagnosis usually involves a skin biopsy to confirm the presence of melanoma. Further tests like sentinel lymph node biopsy may be done to determine if the cancer has spread.

**How is melanoma treated?**

Treatment options depend on the stage and extent of the disease. Options include surgery, chemotherapy, targeted therapy, immunotherapy, and radiation therapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent melanoma?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of melanoma are key to improving survival rates.

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**Skin Cancer in Older Adults**

**What is skin cancer in older adults?**

Skin cancer in older adults is more common due to cumulative sun exposure over a lifetime. Melanoma and BCC are the most common types of skin cancer in older adults. Risk factors include fair skin, red hair, or blue eyes, a family history of skin cancer, and a history of smoking.

**What are the symptoms of skin cancer in older adults?**

Symptoms of skin cancer in older adults can be similar to those in younger adults, but they may be more difficult to detect due to changes in skin appearance with aging.

**How is skin cancer in older adults diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is usually made through a physical examination and may include skin biopsies or other tests.

**How is skin cancer in older adults treated?**

Treatment options depend on the type, stage, and location of the cancer. Options include surgery, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent skin cancer in older adults?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of skin cancer in older adults are key to improving survival rates.

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**Skin Cancer in Children and Adolescents**

**What is skin cancer in children and adolescents?**

Skin cancer in children and adolescents is rare but can occur. Melanoma and BCC are the most common types of skin cancer in this age group. Risk factors include fair skin, blue eyes, or red hair.

**What are the symptoms of skin cancer in children and adolescents?**

Symptoms of skin cancer in children and adolescents can be similar to those in older adults, but may be more difficult to detect due to changes in skin appearance with aging.

**How is skin cancer in children and adolescents diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is usually made through a physical examination and may include skin biopsies or other tests.

**How is skin cancer in children and adolescents treated?**

Treatment options depend on the type, stage, and location of the cancer. Options include surgery, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent skin cancer in children and adolescents?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of skin cancer in children and adolescents are key to improving survival rates.

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**Skin Cancer in Women**

**What is skin cancer in women?**

Skin cancer in women is more common in older adults. Melanoma and BCC are the most common types of skin cancer in this group. Risk factors include fair skin, red hair, or blue eyes, a family history of skin cancer, and a history of smoking.

**What are the symptoms of skin cancer in women?**

Symptoms of skin cancer in women can be similar to those in older adults, but may be more difficult to detect due to changes in skin appearance with aging.

**How is skin cancer in women diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is usually made through a physical examination and may include skin biopsies or other tests.

**How is skin cancer in women treated?**

Treatment options depend on the type, stage, and location of the cancer. Options include surgery, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent skin cancer in women?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of skin cancer in women are key to improving survival rates.

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**Skin Cancer in Men**

**What is skin cancer in men?**

Skin cancer in men is more common in older adults. Melanoma and BCC are the most common types of skin cancer in this group. Risk factors include fair skin, red hair, or blue eyes, a family history of skin cancer, and a history of smoking.

**What are the symptoms of skin cancer in men?**

Symptoms of skin cancer in men can be similar to those in older adults, but may be more difficult to detect due to changes in skin appearance with aging.

**How is skin cancer in men diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is usually made through a physical examination and may include skin biopsies or other tests.

**How is skin cancer in men treated?**

Treatment options depend on the type, stage, and location of the cancer. Options include surgery, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent skin cancer in men?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of skin cancer in men are key to improving survival rates.

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**Skin Cancer in the Elderly**

**What is skin cancer in the elderly?**

Skin cancer in the elderly is more common due to cumulative sun exposure over a lifetime. Melanoma and BCC are the most common types of skin cancer in this age group. Risk factors include fair skin, red hair, or blue eyes, a family history of skin cancer, and a history of smoking.

**What are the symptoms of skin cancer in the elderly?**

Symptoms of skin cancer in the elderly can be similar to those in older adults, but may be more difficult to detect due to changes in skin appearance with aging.

**How is skin cancer in the elderly diagnosed?**

Diagnosis is usually made through a physical examination and may include skin biopsies or other tests.

**How is skin cancer in the elderly treated?**

Treatment options depend on the type, stage, and location of the cancer. Options include surgery, radiation therapy, and immunotherapy. Early detection and treatment are crucial for a better prognosis.

**What can I do to prevent skin cancer in the elderly?**

Prevention strategies include sun protection, regular skin checks, and avoiding tanning beds. Early detection and treatment of skin cancer in the elderly are key to improving survival rates.