Receiving a negative BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test result

Patient information sheet (PIS-2)

This information sheet is for patients with cancer who had a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test. **Your test result is negative, which means no pathogenic variants (significant changes) known to cause disease were detected in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes.**

What does this result mean for me?

This means we have not found a significant BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene change that may be related to your cancer or may put you at high risk of developing another cancer. The cancer team will discuss if this result affects your treatment plan.

Most women with breast or ovarian cancer will have no BRCA1 or BRCA2 pathogenic variant found in their sample. However, you may wish to discuss further with the cancer or genetic team if you have a strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer or other cancers or if you had cancer at an unusually young age.

Some gene changes may not be detected in the current laboratory testing. Rarely, changes in other genes could be related to breast or ovarian cancer. New genes that may be involved in causing breast or ovarian cancer are being discovered all the time. The cancer or genetic team may discuss and offer other gene tests to you if appropriate.

What does this result mean for my relatives?

This result has no potential implications for your relatives. The cancer risk of your relatives may be the same as the general population or raised if there is a strong family history of cancer. Whether you would like to share your results with your relatives is your choice.

However, your relatives may wish to discuss further with the cancer or genetic team if they have a strong family history of breast or ovarian cancer or other cancers or if there is cancer at an unusually young age.

Women aged 50-74 years with an average risk of developing breast cancer (i.e., not at higher risk) should have screening mammography every two years. However, there is currently no effective screening for ovarian cancer.

If any of your relatives wish to discuss their own risks of developing cancer, they could speak to their family doctor specialist. The family doctor may refer them to a genetic clinic if appropriate.

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

You may contact the cancer team or the genetic counselling services if you have further questions about your gene test result.