Receiving a positive BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test result

Patient information sheet (PIS-3)

This information sheet is for patients with cancer who had a BRCA1 and BRCA2 gene test. **Your test result is positive, which means you have a pathogenic variant or significant gene change known to cause disease in either the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. The details of the significant gene change are shown in your report.**

What does this result mean for me?

A significant gene change in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene increases the risk of developing breast or ovarian cancer. This explains why you developed cancer.

This result may affect your current treatment plan and/or follow-up. The cancer team should discuss this with you. Pathogenic variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes may affect your future risk of another cancer. This means that you may need further cancer screening and may need to consider measures to reduce your future cancer risk.

What does this result mean for my relatives?

This positive result may affect your relatives, as the gene change could be inherited. Your relatives may decide whether they would like to have the gene test after discussing it with the doctor.

Who should I speak to if I have further questions?

You can speak to the doctor from the cancer team or the genetic team. Please make an appointment to discuss your results further. You can bring your family members along during the consultation.

What will happen after this?

The cancer team will discuss what this result means for you. They would discuss the significance of this result for your current treatments, your future risk of cancer, the options for future cancer screening, and the measures to reduce your future cancer risks.

Depending on your needs, you may be referred to a breast surgeon, gynaecologist, or genetic specialist. A genetic specialist would further discuss what this test result means for you and your relatives. They would discuss your risks of developing another cancer, your options for cancer screening and measures to reduce your cancer risk in the future. They would also be able to provide psychosocial support.

A standard referral letter would be prepared for your relatives so they could self-refer to the genetic services. They could make an appointment for genetic counselling to learn more about their future risks of cancer and consider genetic testing to check if they have inherited a significant change in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene.