



A nonprofit organization for women whose family history or genetic status puts them at high risk of getting ovarian and/or breast cancer, and for members of families in which this risk is present.

- 👉 Communicate with others via our message boards, online chats, toll-free helpline and face-to-face meetings.
- 👉 Gather information and support.
- 👉 Learn more through expert-reviewed articles on our information pages and in our quarterly newsletter.
- 👉 Locate specialists who can help you evaluate your risk and explore your options.

This brochure is made possible through a generous grant from the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund



FORCE -
Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered, Inc.

A 501(c)3 Nonprofit Organization
16057 Tampa Palms Boulevard W. • PMB #373
Tampa, Florida 33647
(954) 255-8732
Fax: (954) 827-2200
email: info@facingourrisk.org
www.facingourrisk.org

All contributions are tax-deductible

FORCE
Facing Our Risk of Cancer
EMPOWERED
16057 Tampa Palms Boulevard W.
PMB #373
Tampa, Florida 33647

What Every Woman with Ovarian Cancer Should Know



Ovarian Cancer May Be Hereditary

WHAT is hereditary ovarian cancer?

Ovarian cancer can be caused by changes in genes called "hereditary mutations." These gene changes can be passed down from the mother or the father to daughters or sons and cause cancer to run in the family.

One out of every eight women with ovarian cancer carries a hereditary mutation.

Families with ovarian, fallopian tube, breast, or pancreatic cancer may have a hereditary mutation in the genes called BRCA1 or BRCA2.

Families with ovarian, uterine, or colon cancer may have mutations in the MLH1, MSH2, or MSH6 genes, which are associated with Hereditary "Nonpolyposis Colorectal Cancer" (HNPCC).

Other signs of a cancer-causing mutation include:

👤 A family member with:

- ovarian or fallopian tube cancer at any age
- breast cancer at age 50 or younger
- breast cancer in both breasts at any age
- both breast and ovarian cancer or both colon and ovarian cancer
- male breast cancer

👤 More than one relative on the same side of the family with any of these cancers:

- breast cancer
- ovarian or fallopian tube cancer
- uterine cancer
- colon cancer
- prostate cancer
- pancreatic cancer

WHAT is gene testing and how would it affect me?

If you have been diagnosed with ovarian cancer, you can take a blood test to find out if you carry a BRCA or HNPCC gene mutation.

If you test positive for one of these mutations your risk for other cancers may be increased.

If you test positive for one of these mutations, each of your children and siblings has a 50% chance of carrying the mutation. Aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins may also carry the mutation. An expert in cancer genetics can help you identify which relatives may benefit from genetic testing.

If you test positive for a gene mutation, there are options available for you and your family members to lower cancer risk and to detect cancer at an earlier, more treatable stage.

If you test negative for these mutations, your risk for additional cancers may vary depending on other factors. An expert in cancer genetics can help you and your family understand your cancer risks.

The cost for gene testing can vary. In many instances the cost is covered, either in part or in full, by insurance carriers. A genetics expert can assure that the right test is ordered.

WHERE can I learn more about hereditary cancer?

Experts in cancer genetics can help you understand hereditary cancer and provide you and your family with information about your cancer risk. They will:

- review your family medical history to assess and explain your risk for cancer
- describe the benefits and drawbacks of gene testing and discuss whether you are a candidate for the test
- order the appropriate test if you choose to proceed with gene testing
- interpret gene test results and explain what they mean for you and your family
- discuss how to manage your cancer risk and refer you to experts for follow-up care

If you have ovarian cancer, please talk with a genetics expert and your doctor about gene testing for a hereditary mutation!

To find an expert in your area, or to receive support and information visit

www.facingourrisk.org

or call our peer support helpline at

(866) 824-RISK (7475)