

What's Jewish about Breast and Ovarian Cancer?

5 Things You Should Know

- 1. About 1 in 40 individuals of Ashkenazi Jewish descent will have a *BRCA** mutation, regardless of family history of cancer.**
- 2. Most women who have breast or ovarian cancer do *not* have a family history. Speak to your doctor about the availability of screening.**
- 3. Your genes are not your destiny. Women who are *BRCA* carriers have options to significantly reduce their risk of developing breast and ovarian cancer.**
- 4. Males can carry *BRCA* mutations too, and therefore have an increased risk to develop male breast cancer and prostate cancer.**
- 5. More research needs to be done in the realm of hereditary cancers and Jewish genetics. We still have a lot to learn.**

***BRCA:** A gene that, when altered or “mutated,” causes an increased risk for breast and ovarian cancers and other cancers as well. BRCA mutation testing is recommended for individuals with a strong personal or family history of breast or ovarian cancer, as known BRCA mutation carriers may take measures to reduce their risk of developing cancer. BRCA carriers have a 50% risk of passing down their mutation to each of their children.

Genetic counseling for BRCA-related cancers is available at many genetics clinics in your area. For more information or to make an appointment with the Program for Jewish Genetic Health of Yeshiva University/Einstein, please email us at: jewishgenetichleath@yu.edu.