

Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer: A Rabbi's role in protecting the community

What you need to know:

- ❖ BRCA mutations cause a *significantly increased risk* for breast and ovarian cancer (among others)
- ❖ BRCA mutations (mistakes in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes) are more common in the Ashkenazi Jewish population
 - **1 in 40 Ashkenazi Jews carriers a BRCA mutation**
- ❖ BRCA mutations can be passed down in families
- ❖ Men can carry BRCA mutations
- ❖ **Knowledge of BRCA mutation status can save lives**
- ❖ Women who have BRCA mutations have options to reduce their cancer risks or increase their cancer screening
- ❖ A meeting with a **genetic counselor** will consist of: discussing one's personal and family history of cancer, *reviewing the option and utility of genetic testing* and deciding what the best next steps are.

What you need to do:

- ❖ *Anyone* in your community who meets the following criteria **should be referred to meet with a genetic counselor:**
 - a. Diagnosed with **breast cancer**
 - b. Diagnosed with **ovarian cancer**
 - c. Diagnosed with **male breast cancer**
 - d. Has a family member who has been diagnosed with **breast cancer**
 - e. Has a family member who has been diagnosed with **ovarian cancer**
 - f. Has a family member who has been diagnosed with **male breast cancer**

Local genetic counselors can be identified by going to:

www.NSGC.org and clicking on the "Find a Genetic Counselor" box.

Or by contacting the *Program for Jewish Genetic Health* at:

JewishGeneticHealth@yu.edu
www.yu.edu/genetichealth



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