

Hereditary Ovarian Cancer

What is hereditary ovarian cancer?

Approximately 5–10% of women develop ovarian cancer due to a change in a gene that is passed on within families. These gene changes (referred to as mutations) most often occur in two different syndromes: Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) and Lynch Syndrome.

	HBOC	Lynch Syndrome
Genes	<i>BRCA1</i> and <i>BRCA2</i>	<i>MLH1</i> , <i>MSH2</i> , <i>MSH6</i> and <i>PMS2</i>
Increased risk of cancer	Breast, ovarian, pancreatic, prostate	Colon, uterine, ovarian, other cancers of the digestive tract

Why is knowledge of hereditary ovarian cancer important?

Approximately 1 in 70 women develop ovarian cancer during their lifetime, and the majority of ovarian cancers are sporadic (not caused by a hereditary mutation). For women with a hereditary ovarian cancer, awareness of a gene mutation may be beneficial for several reasons.

- Women with a hereditary cancer have a higher risk of developing a second primary cancer, and additional medical or surgical options may reduce this risk.
- If the cancer is hereditary, and a causative change in a gene is identified, family members may be interested in testing to identify if they carry the mutation.
 - Those that do not carry the gene mutation may not have an increased risk of developing cancer, and can follow the cancer screening guidelines for the general population.
 - Those that do carry the gene mutation may be interested in medical or surgical options to help prevent cancer from ever occurring or detect cancer at an earlier, and perhaps more treatable, stage.

Could my ovarian cancer be hereditary?

There are certain features that suggest an ovarian cancer may be hereditary, including:

- Multiple cancers related to a genetic syndrome that occur either in one person or within the family
- Younger age of onset in related cancers (e.g. breast cancer in HBOC and colon or uterine cancer in Lynch Syndrome)
- Ashkenazi Jewish (Eastern European) heritage

Each person and family is unique, and your health care team can help evaluate your personal history to assess the likelihood of hereditary ovarian cancer.

What is genetic testing and counseling?

Genes are made up of DNA, and genetic testing “reads” the DNA sequence within the gene. Genetic testing may determine if you are carrying a mutation. Genetic counseling can assess

Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance (COCA)

The mission of the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance (COCA) is to promote awareness about ovarian cancer through advocacy, education and support. ~ www.coloro-ovariancancer.org ~ 1-800-428-0642

your likelihood of a genetic syndrome through a personal and family history evaluation, provide you with background information before testing, and help interpret the results from testing. Through genetic testing and education, you and your health care team can develop a personalized risk reduction and medical plan for you and your family.

Colorado Genetic Counseling Resources

Alamosa

San Luis Valley Regional Medical Center: (719) 587-6320

Aurora

University of Colorado: (720) 848-5944

Colorado Springs

Memorial Hospital Oncology Services: Penrose Cancer Center: (719) 776 5279

Denver

Exempla St. Joseph Hospital: (303) 318-1320 Kaiser Permanente: (303) 614-1202

Porter Adventist Hospital: (303) 765-3923

Edwards

Shaw Regional Cancer Center: (970) 569-7626

Englewood

Swedish Medical Center: (303) 788-4668

Glenwood Springs

Valley View Hospital Cancer Center: (970) 384-7570

Grand Junction

St. Mary's Hospital: (970) 298-2572

Greenwood Village

Invision Sally Jobe: (720) 493-3226

Littleton

Littleton Adventist Hospital: (303) 734-2090

Parker

Parker Adventist Hospital: (303) 765 -3923

Pueblo

St. Mary Corwin Cancer Center: (719) 557-5701

Wheat Ridge

Exempla Lutheran Medical Center: (303) 425-8191

Locations Throughout the Metro Denver Area

Rocky Mountain Cancer Center: 303 -930 -7837

Nationwide Telephone Genetic Counseling

Informed Medical Decisions: 800 -975 -4819 x826

Internet Resources

Check our website for online resources for genetic counseling:

www.colorado-ovariancancer.org/genetic_counseling

Genetic discrimination is illegal

Protected information includes health history, results of genetic tests, and use of genetic counseling. For more information, please visit <http://www.ginahelp.org>.

Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance (COCA)

The mission of the Colorado Ovarian Cancer Alliance (COCA) is to promote awareness about ovarian cancer through advocacy, education and support. ~ www.colorado-ovariancancer.org ~ 1-800-428-0642