MOUNT SINAI
Comprehensive BRCA
Program

WE FIND A WAY

Mount Sinai
Tisch
Cancer Center

About the Progam

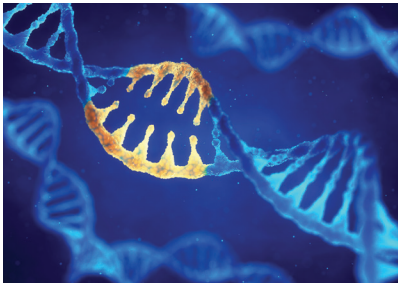
Mount Sinai's Comprehensive BRCA Program is designed for women and men who have a mutation of the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene. The program provides expert guidance to ensure that you receive appropriate cancer screenings, monitoring, and treatment, as needed.

BRCA Genes

BRCA1 and *BRCA2* are genes that produce proteins that help repair damaged DNA. Everyone inherits two copies of each gene, one from each parent. If you inherit a mutation of the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene, you are at an increased lifetime risk for developing certain cancers as compared to someone who does not have a mutation. People who have inherited a mutation in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* also tend to develop cancer at younger ages than people who do not have a mutation. However, having a mutation does not mean that you will definitely develop cancer.

Women with a *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation are at increased risk of developing breast cancer and ovarian cancer, as well as fallopian tube cancer and primary peritoneal cancer, both of which start in the same cells as the most common type of ovarian cancer. Men with *BRCA2* mutations, and to a lesser extent *BRCA1* mutations, are at increased risk of developing prostate cancer and male breast cancer. Both men and women with a *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* mutation are at increased risk of developing pancreatic cancer. A mutation in the *BRCA2* gene is associated with an increased risk of developing melanoma in both men and women.

Cancer, Genes, and Inheritance



All cancers develop as a result of mutations or changes in your cells' genes, but most of these changes are not passed on through the family. Only about 5-10 percent of cancers are caused by hereditary genetic mutations, such as *BRCA1* and *BRCA 2* mutations.

If one parent has a BRCA mutation but the other does not, each of their children has a 50 percent chance of inheriting the same mutation.

Our Program Can Help

If you have been found to carry a mutation in the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene, it is important to have your risk for developing cancer assessed in the context of your personal health condition(s) and lifestyle. You may need screening for specific cancers on a regular basis. Screening may involve radiology imaging, blood work, and other diagnostic tests. Regular screening is the best way to find cancer early, before it progresses to advanced stages. You may also be advised to watch for specific symptoms. We will also discuss strategies and interventions to reduce risk for developing cancer.

To be screened for multiple cancers, you will likely need multiple appointments with different specialists. Our Comprehensive BRCA Program experts will identify those specialists and coordinate appointments for you. The program serves as a hub for all your BRCA-related needs and is there for you as a continual roadmap for your care.

No matter where you receive your health care—from a Mount Sinai Health System provider or other provider—you are eligible to participate in our Comprehensive BRCA Program if you carry a BRCA mutation.

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For information and appointments, call 877-309-BRCA (2722).

mountsinai.org/care/cancer/about/brca-program