

# BRCA1 & BRCA2



BRCA1 & BRCA2  
SCREENING  
FROM THE  
WORLD LEADER  
IN GENETICS

“Discovering the possibility of BRCA1 and BRCA2 screening gave me real information so I could make educated decisions about my future and my family’s future.”

— Patient who underwent the BRCA1 & BRCA2 Screen

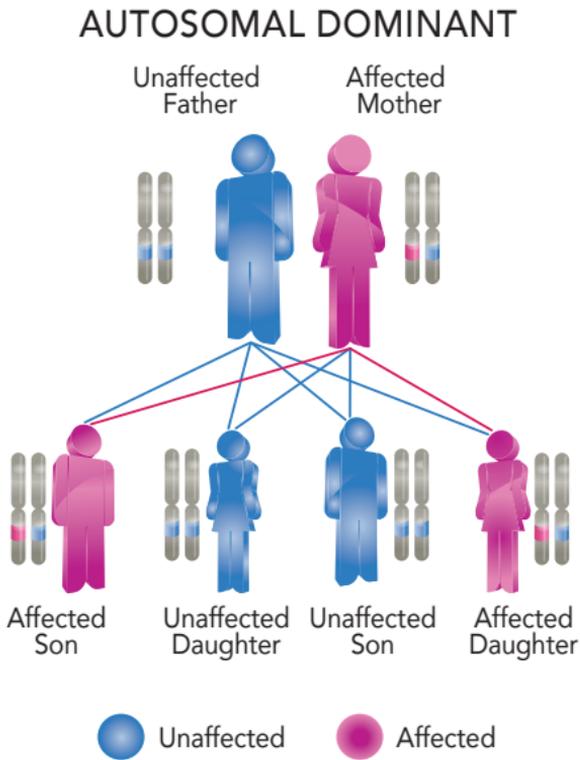
## WHAT IS THE BRCA1 & BRCA2 SCREEN?

BRCA1 and BRCA2 are two genes that can protect normal cells from becoming cancerous, when working properly. However, a change in the genes, called a variant (also known as a mutation), can affect the ability of the genes to work properly. This test looks for disease-causing variants in the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. An individual with a disease-causing variant can have an increased risk of developing certain types of cancers.



# WHAT IS AN INHERITED CANCER?

Most genes that cause a hereditary form of cancer are inherited in a dominant fashion. This means that a variant in just one copy of the gene (each of us has two copies of each gene) can lead to symptoms of the condition, including an increased risk of cancer. Not all people who inherit a variant will develop cancer. However, the risk for developing cancer will be greater if a person inherits a disease-causing variant in a cancer-related gene.



# IS THE BRCA1 & BRCA2 SCREEN RIGHT FOR YOU?

Personal and family cancer histories are important factors used to determine if hereditary cancer testing is right for a patient. The BRCA1 & BRCA2 Screen should be considered for a patient with any of the following indications:

- Cancer diagnosed prior to age 50
- Cancer in three or more close relatives
- Multiple primary breast cancers or bilateral breast cancer
- Ovarian cancer at any age
- Breast and ovarian cancer
- Male breast cancer
- Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry

## WHAT CAN I DO WITH THE KNOWLEDGE OF A DISEASE-CAUSING VARIANT?

Discovering you have a BRCA1 or BRCA2 disease-causing variant can influence:

- Surgical decisions
- Screening recommendations
- Medication recommendations to reduce cancer risk
- Cancer screening and cancer risk-reducing options for other family members

## WHAT IF I HAVE A DISEASE-CAUSING VARIANT OF BRCA1 OR BRCA2?

A disease-causing variant increases the risk for associated cancers. For example, a woman who has a BRCA variant can have a 50% to 85% chance of developing breast cancer and a 20% to 45% chance of ovarian cancer. A man with a BRCA variant may have a 16% to 45% chance of developing prostate cancer. If you are found to carry a BRCA mutation, you can take steps to reduce your risk of cancer.

## CAN THE RESULTS OF THIS SCREEN HELP MY FAMILY MEMBERS?

If you are found to carry a BRCA mutation, your first-degree relatives, including parents, siblings, and children, have a 50% chance of carrying the same variant. Individuals with a positive result should share their variant report with their family so they can discuss genetic testing and management recommendations with their physician and genetic counselor. Genetic counseling is recommended for all family members to clarify their risks.

## IS THE BRCA1 & BRCA2 SCREEN COVERED BY MY INSURANCE?

When there is a personal and/or family history of cancer, most insurance plans will cover this test. Additionally, Baylor Miraca Genetics Laboratories is contracted with all major national insurance providers. Since genetic testing coverage varies from plan to plan, the BMGL offers a pre-verification service, by request, where we work closely with insurance companies to determine coverage and estimate your out-of-pocket expense prior to testing.

## CAN MY RESULTS AFFECT MY EMPLOYMENT OR HEALTH INSURANCE?

Federal laws, such as the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) and the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), and many local laws prohibit discrimination for health benefits, employment eligibility, or insurance premiums based solely on genetic information.

## HOW CAN I GET THIS SCREEN?

The BRCA1 & BRCA2 Screen is a blood or saliva test ordered by your healthcare provider. Results will be available in less than 2 weeks.

