



# Cancer Genetics (Breast and Ovarian Cancer)

Patient Education Resource Center (PERC)  
Information Guide

---

## Brochures

- FORCE. Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowerment
  - **If Breast or Ovarian Cancer Runs in Your Family**
  - **Genetic Information, Privacy & Discrimination**
  - **What Every Jewish Woman Should Know About Breast & Ovarian Cancer**
  - **For Families Facing Hereditary Breast or Ovarian Cancer**
  - **What Every Young Woman with Breast Cancer Should Know**
  - **What Every Woman with Ovarian Cancer Should Know**Printable versions of these brochures are available on the FORCE Website at:  
<http://www.facingourrisk.org>
- National Cancer Institute. **Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer Risk: It's Your Choice.** A printable version is available online at National Cancer Institute site at:  
<http://www.cancer.gov>

## Books

- Merajver, Sofia; LeClaire, Virginia and Taylor, Kelly. **Understanding Cancer and Genetics: a Counseling Handbook.** Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center, 1998.
- Reilly, P. **Abraham Lincoln's DNA and other adventures in genetics.** Cold Spring Harbor, NY: Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, 2000.
- Zimmerman, Barbara T. **Understanding Breast Cancer Genetics: Clinical Explanations for the Genetic Causes of the Disease Women Most Greatly Fear.** Jackson, MS: University Press of Mississippi, 2004.

## Web Resources

- **Breast Cancer Genetics Network of Michigan**  
<http://www.mi-cancergenetics.org/>  
Information on the genetics of breast and ovarian cancer, and the experiences of visiting a cancer genetics clinic in the State of Michigan.

---

The purpose of this information guide is to direct patients and health care professionals to sources of information on cancer and related topics, it does not constitute an endorsement of the information contained in the resources. This list is not meant to be comprehensive, but rather to provide starting points for Information seeking.

All listed materials can be found at the Patient Education Resource Center of the University of Michigan Comprehensive Cancer Center in room B1-361. An online version of this document can be found at:  
[http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu/support/information\\_guides.shtml](http://www.cancer.med.umich.edu/support/information_guides.shtml)

- **FORCE. Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowerment**  
<http://www.facingourrisk.org>  
The information on this site helps women understand risk, genetic testing, and legal and ethical issues facing women with a confirmed BRCA mutation. Preventative measures that may reduce risk are discussed in detail, including prophylactic mastectomy, surgical menopause, chemoprevention and more.
- **Genetics, Causes, Risk Factors, Prevention section on Cancer.gov**  
<http://www.cancer.gov>  
→ Click on the link to: "Prevention, Genetics, Causes"  
Links to documents on cancer genetics, genetics of breast and ovarian cancer, and the Cancer Genetics Services Directory; a directory of professionals who provide services related to cancer genetic risk assessment, counseling, and testing.
- **GeneticHealth.com** <http://www.genetichealth.com/>  
Comprehensive explanations of human genetics and genetic counseling including a section on breast cancer genetics.
- **Genetics Home Reference** <http://ghr.nlm.nih.gov/>  
This site includes condition summaries that describe the genetic causes and pattern of inheritance for specific cancer types and a handbook that provides illustrated, basic explanations of how genetic mutations cause disorders.
- **Understanding Gene Testing** - an online tutorial  
<http://rex.nci.nih.gov/behindthenews/ugt/ugtframe.htm>  
Colorful illustrations with concise explanations on the role of genes in the process of cancer, genetic testing, emotional and confidentiality issues.

## Organizations

- **FORCE - Facing Our Risk of Cancer Empowered**  
Website: [www.facingourrisk.org/](http://www.facingourrisk.org/)  
Phone: (954) 255-8732

This document is not intended to take the place of the care and attention of your personal physician or other professional medical services. Our aim is to promote active participation in your care and treatment by providing information and education. Questions about individual health concerns or specific treatment options should be discussed with your physician.

©2009 The Regents of the University of Michigan  
Document # 00160/ Revised December 2009