SHOULD YOU CONSIDER GENETIC TESTING AND COUNSELING

The majority of breast cancers are not caused by a single hereditary mutation. However, several factors (listed below) increase the chance that cancer is hereditary. Genetic mutations can be inherited from the mother or the father, so it is important to investigate family history on both sides of the family.

CONSIDER GENETIC COUNSELING IF YOU HAVE A PERSONAL AND/OR FAMILY HISTORY OF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING:

- Breast cancer diagnosed before age 50.
- Multiple cases of breast cancer on the same side of the family.
- Ovarian cancer in a family with breast cancer.
- Male breast cancer.
- The combination of breast, ovarian, and/or pancreatic cancer on the same side of the family or in a single individual.
- Jewish ancestry in combination with any of the above.
- Jewish ancestry and even one case of breast, ovarian, or pancreatic cancer (even in the absence of additional family history).
- “Triple negative” breast cancer (estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), and HER2 negative (ER/PR/HER2-)) diagnosed before age 60.

Genetic counseling is a new frontier in the fight against cancer. Our program provides genetic counseling and testing to people at increased risk for hereditary cancer and helps them to make informed medical decisions based on their own personal risk assessment. These interventions can have a huge impact on a person’s life by allowing them to better manage their health and can provide useful information for their family members. The clinical team in the YCC Cancer Genetic Counseling Program is committed to providing a comprehensive plan to help assist patients and their families with all aspects of the risk assessment and testing process, surveillance, surgical decision-making, and follow-up care. The counselor navigates the insurance pre-authorization process for genetic testing. At the conclusion of the last appointment, patients are provided with a detailed end-of-treatment summary.

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The cancer genetic counseling and testing process can be quite complex. Studies have shown a high rate of genetic test mis-ordering and result misinterpretation among providers who do not specialize in this area. If your personal and/or family history meets any of the listed risk factors, consider seeing a certified cancer genetic counselor for a personalized risk assessment and a discussion of the appropriate testing options. This program is a component of Yale Cancer Center, a comprehensive cancer center designated by the National Cancer Institute. All of our genetic counselors are graduate-trained and certified by the American Board of Genetic Counseling.

TO MAKE AN APPOINTMENT:

Please call us at (203) 200-4362. Our voicemail system will result in a return phone call within 24 hours.