BRCA2 gene

Associated Syndrome Name: *BRCA2*-associated hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome

BRCA2 Summary Cancer Risk Table

CANCER	GENETIC CANCER RISK
Breast	High Risk
Male Breast	High Risk
Ovarian	High Risk
Pancreatic	High Risk
Prostate	High Risk
Skin	Elevated Risk

BRCA2 gene Overview

BRCA2-associated hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome [1, 2]

- Individuals with mutations in *BRCA2* have *BRCA2*-associated hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome.
- Women with *BRCA2* mutations have a risk for breast cancer that is greatly increased over the 12.5% lifetime risk for women in the general population of the United States.
- Women with *BRCA2* mutations also have high risks for ovarian, fallopian tube, and primary peritoneal cancer.
- Men with *BRCA2* mutations have a high risk for breast cancer and prostate cancer. The increase in prostate cancer risk is most significant at younger ages. Additionally, men with a *BRCA2* mutation have a higher risk for an aggressive prostate cancer.
- Male and female patients with *BRCA2* mutations also have a high risk for exocrine pancreatic cancer. These are cancers developing in the enzyme-secreting cells of the pancreas.
- Male and female patients with *BRCA2* mutations also have an elevated risk for melanomas of both the skin and eyes.
- Although there are high cancer risks for patients with *BRCA2* mutations, there are interventions that have been shown to be effective at reducing many of these risks. Guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN) for the medical management of patients with *BRCA2* mutations are listed below. It is recommended that patients with *BRCA2* mutations be managed by a multidisciplinary team with experience in the prevention and treatment of the cancers associated with *BRCA2* mutations.

BRCA2 gene Cancer Risk Table

CANCER TYPE	AGE RANGE	CANCER RISK	RISK FOR GENERAL POPULATION
Female Breast	To age 50 [3, 4, 5, 6, 7]	17%-35%	2.1%
	To age 70 [3, 4, 6, 7, 8]	38%-84%	7.5%
	Second primary within 5 years of first breast cancer diagnosis [5, 9, 10, 11]	4%-9%	1.6%
Ovarian	To age 50 [3, 6, 7, 8]	0.4%-4%	0.2%
	To age 70 [3, 5, 6, 7]	15%-27%	0.6%
	Ovarian cancer within 10 years of a breast cancer diagnosis [12, 13]	6.8%	<1.0%

CANCER TYPE	AGE RANGE	CANCER RISK	RISK FOR GENERAL POPULATION
Pancreatic	To age 80[7, 14, 15]	7%, or higher if there is a family history of pancreatic cancer.	1.1%
Male Breast	To age 70[7, 16]	6.8%	0.1%
Prostate	To age 70[7, 17, 18]	20%	6.3%
Melanoma	To age 80[7, 19, 20]	Elevated risk for melanomas of both the skin and eye	1.6%

BRCA2 Cancer Risk Management Table

The overview of medical management options provided is a summary of professional society guidelines. The most recent version of each guideline should be consulted for more detailed and up-to-date information before developing a treatment plan for a particular patient.

This overview is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute a recommendation. While the medical society guidelines summarized herein provide important and useful information, medical management decisions for any particular patient should be made in consultation between that patient and his or her healthcare provider and may differ from society guidelines based on a complete understanding of the patient's personal medical history, surgeries and other treatments.

CANCER TYPE	PROCEDURE	AGE TO BEGIN	FREQUENCY (UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY FINDINGS)
Female Breast	Breast awareness - Women should be familiar with their breasts and promptly report changes to their healthcare provider. Periodic, consistent breast self-examination (BSE) may facilitate breast awareness.[2]	18 years	NA
	Clinical breast examination[2]	25 years	Every 6 to 12 months
	Breast MRI with contrast[2]	25 years, or individualized to a younger age if a relative has been diagnosed younger than age 30.	Annually
	Mammography[2]	30 years. If MRI unavailable, start at 25 years, or individualized to a younger age if a relative has been diagnosed younger than age 30.	Annually
	Consider risk-reducing mastectomy.[2]	Individualized	NA
	Consider options for breast cancer risk-reduction agents (i.e. tamoxifen).[2]	Individualized	NA
Ovarian	Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy[2]	35 to 45 years, upon completion of childbearing	NA
	Consider options for ovarian cancer risk-reduction agents (i.e. oral contraceptives).[2, 29]	Individualized	NA

CANCER TYPE	PROCEDURE	AGE TO BEGIN	FREQUENCY (UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED BY FINDINGS)
Pancreatic	For patients with a family history of pancreatic cancer, consider available options for pancreatic cancer screening, including the possibility of endoscopic ultrasonography (EUS) and MRI/magnetic resonance cholangiopancreatography (MRCP). It is recommended that patients who are candidates for pancreatic cancer screening be managed by a multidisciplinary team with experience in screening for pancreatic cancer, preferably within research protocols.[15]	Age 50, or 10 years younger than the earliest age of pancreatic cancer diagnosis in the family	Annually
	Provide education about ways to reduce pancreatic cancer risk, such as not smoking and losing weight.[26]	Individualized	Individualized
Male Breast	Breast self-examination[2]	35 years	Monthly
	Clinical breast examination[2]	35 years	Annually
	Consider mammography[2]	50 years, or 10 years earlier than the youngest male breast cancer diagnosis in the family	Annually
Prostate	Recommend prostate cancer screening.[2, 28]	40 years, or 10 years younger than the earliest prostate cancer diagnosis in the family	Annually, or adjusted based on results from first PSA screen
	Since mutation carriers are at an increased risk for more aggressive prostate cancer this information may be included as part of the risk and benefit discussion about prostate cancer screening.[25, 28]	NA	NA
	Since mutation carriers are at an increased risk for more aggressive prostate cancer this information may be considered when choosing management options for men with a diagnosis of prostate cancer.[25]	NA	NA
Melanoma	Whole-body skin and eye examinations, and education about minimizing exposure to UV radiation.[2]	Individualized	Annually
For Patients With A Cancer Diagnosis	For patients with a gene mutation and a diagnosis of cancer, targeted therapies may be available as a treatment option for certain tumor types (e.g., platinum chemotherapy, PARP-inhibitors)[21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27]	NA	NA

Information for Family Members

The following information for Family Members will appear as part of the MMT for a patient found to have a mutation in the *BRCA2* gene.

This patient's relatives are at risk for carrying the same mutation(s) and associated cancer risks as this patient. Cancer risks for females and males who have this/these mutation(s) are provided below.

Family members should talk to a healthcare provider about genetic testing. Close relatives such as parents, children, brothers and sisters have the highest chance of having the same mutation(s) as this patient. Other more distant relatives such as cousins, aunts, uncles, and grandparents also have a chance of carrying the same mutation(s). Testing of at-risk relatives can identify those family members with the same mutation(s) who may benefit from surveillance and early intervention.

In rare instances, an individual may inherit mutations in both copies of the *BRCA2* gene, leading to the condition Fanconi anemia, complementation group D1 (FANCD1). This condition is rare and includes physical abnormalities, growth retardation, progressive bone marrow failure and a high risk for cancer. The children of this patient are at risk of inheriting FANCD1 only if the other parent is also a carrier of a *BRCA2* mutation. Screening the other biological parent of any children for *BRCA2* mutations may be appropriate.[30]

Parents who are concerned about the possibility of passing on a *BRCA2* mutation to a future child may want to discuss options for prenatal testing and assisted reproduction techniques, such as pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD).[2]

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