



Dear Family Member,

A member of your family has been identified as having a genetic mutation in the **BARD1 gene**. Mutations in this gene are known to be associated with an increased risk for certain cancers. This means that other family members are at risk to carry this same gene mutation and hence at an increased risk for certain cancers. This letter has been written to summarize information regarding BARD1 mutations.

Mutations in the BARD1 gene are associated with an increased risk for breast cancer.

Most studies have found that the risk is approximately doubled, with some studies suggesting that the risk could be much higher in certain populations or in women with a family history of breast cancer. Researchers have only recently learned about BARD1-associated risk, therefore whether there is an increased risk for other types of cancer is unknown at this time.

Understanding risk is an important tool in prevention and management of cancer. It is important to note that many individuals with BARD1 mutations will never develop cancer over their lifetime. When one inherits an BARD1 mutation, he/she is not inheriting cancer; rather they are inheriting a predisposition to cancer.

When an individual has one copy of the BARD1 gene mutation they have an increased risk breast cancer as outlined above. Because everyone has two copies of the gene for BARD1, this means that a parent who carries an BARD1 mutation has a 50% chance of passing the mutation onto each of their children. It also means that if a person carries such a mutation, their siblings have a 50% chance to carry the same mutation. Extended family members may also be at risk for having the same mutation. If a person does not carry the mutation, they cannot pass it onto their children.

We strongly recommend that you and all persons in your family who are at risk for carrying the BARD1 gene mutation consider scheduling an appointment for cancer genetic counseling to discuss the benefits and limitations of genetic testing. To pursue cancer genetic testing, it is helpful if you have a copy of your family member's genetic testing report indicating that they have an BARD1 mutation.

GeneScreen is available to discuss this information in more detail with you and coordinate appropriate testing. Please visit the following website to submit your request for genetic counseling: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/200926739003048>. You can also contact Genescreen directly at 908-766-2800 to schedule a remote consultation with a genetic counselor.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Nunziato-Virga, MS, LGC
Senior Oncology Genetic Counselor
Genescreen

Jill Chisholm, APN
President
Genescreen