



**About Women By Women, PC**  
*Obstetrics · Gynecology · Infertility*

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### *Cancer Screening*

#### **Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer (HBOC) Lynch Syndrome: Colon and Endometrial Cancers**

For the majority of people, cancer can occur by chance, but in some families we see more cancer than we would expect by chance alone. Everyone has genes in her body that help fight cancer, but if these genes are broken you and your family are at higher risk for certain types of cancer. These broken genes, or gene mutations, can be passed down through generations of a family from your mother or your father. Testing for these gene mutations can be done with a blood test in our office. By and large, this test is a “rule out”, but if it does come back positive, there are a number of proactive steps we can take with you to reduce your risk of cancer as much as possible.

When you come in for an appointment, you will prepare a history of cancer in your family – those questions are included here for you to review ahead of time. Based on this information, your clinician will determine whether your family’s history warrants further investigation. If necessary, she will order a blood test to establish if:

1. You have inherited a mutation of the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene. If you have a family history of breast cancer, you have a 15% to 40% risk of breast cancer in your lifetime. If you have the BRCA mutation, your lifetime risk of developing breast cancer jumps as high as 87% and your lifetime risk of developing ovarian cancer goes up as high as 44%.
2. Or you have inherited a mutation in one or more of the five genes associated with Lynch Syndrome. People with Lynch Syndrome have a higher risk of colon, endometrial, ovarian and some other more rare cancers. If you have a family history of colon cancer, your risk of colon cancer ranges from 2% to 20%; but if you test positive for Lynch syndrome, your chances of developing colon cancer can jump as high as 82% over the course of your lifetime and your chances of developing endometrial cancer can go as high as 71% lifetime.

We have a number of tools in our arsenal for minimizing your risk – whether or not you have the gene mutation. These tools can be as simple as increased surveillance and as aggressive as surgery. In about six weeks after the test results are back, we will meet with you to develop a plan tailored to meet your specific needs.

#### **Privacy**

A federal law was signed in 2009 called the Genetic Information Non-Discriminatory Act making it illegal for health insurance companies or employers to deny coverage, increase rates or any other form of discrimination based on genetic information. Life insurance coverage and rates are based on family history, not genetic test results. About Women by Women utilizes genetic testing offered by Myriad Genetic Laboratories and it is their policy that unless you give your consent, test results are disclosed only to your AWBW clinicians.

## **Insurance Coverage**

Insurance coverage for genetic testing is excellent, with the majority of patients covered for testing. If you have any questions about your coverage, you can check with your insurance company. Myriad will contact your insurance company once your sample is received and to get an estimated out-of-pocket cost and work on any prior authorizations should one be needed. If your test is less than 90% covered, they will contact you before releasing the test to the lab. You will receive a Myriad Promise brochure at the time of your test that will have information and links to assistance programs and their Customer Service staff.

