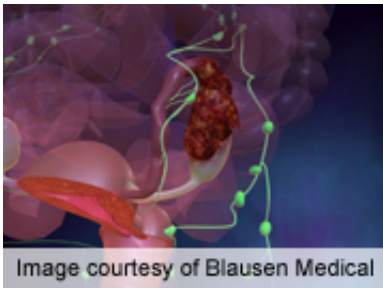


# Germ-line *BRCA1/2* testing recommended in ovarian cancer

June 19 2012

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Due to the potential survival and treatment response implications of *BRCA* mutation status, it is recommended that germ-line *BRCA1/2* testing be offered to all women diagnosed with nonmucinous ovarian carcinoma, regardless of family history, according to research published online June 18 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

(HealthDay) -- Due to the potential survival and treatment response implications of *BRCA* mutation status, it is recommended that germ-line *BRCA1/2* testing be offered to all women diagnosed with nonmucinous ovarian carcinoma, regardless of family history, according to research published online June 18 in the *Journal of Clinical Oncology*.

To investigate the impact of germ-line *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutations in ovarian cancer, Kathryn Alsop, of the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in East Melbourne, Australia, and colleagues screened 1,001 women with nonmucinous ovarian carcinomas enrolled in a case-control study for germ-line point mutations and large deletions in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*

genes.

The researchers found that 14.1 percent of patients exhibited *BRCA1/2* germ-line mutations. Of these, 16.6 percent had serous cancer and 44 percent reported no family history of either breast or ovarian cancer. Compared with women without germ-line mutations, patients with germ-line mutations had improved rates of progression-free and overall survival and tended to respond to platin and nonplatin-based regimens in the relapse setting. Somatic *BRCA1/2* mutations were more likely to be found in mutation-negative patients who responded to multiple cycles of platin-based treatment.

"Our findings suggest changes in the guidelines for genetic testing of all invasive ovarian cancer patients, indicate that the measurement of *BRCA* status should be explicitly integrated into future clinical trial designs as a major stratification factor, and declare *BRCA* status is now ready to be included in the [clinical management](#) of women with [ovarian cancer](#)," the authors write.

**More information:** [Abstract](#)  
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