RECEIVING A NORMAL BREAST GENE PANEL TEST RESULT

Patient label

You had a breast gene panel test because you have had cancer.

The test result is normal. No disease-causing gene variants were identified in your blood sample.

The following genes were tested: BRCA1, BRCA2, PALB2, PTEN, STK11, TP53, ATM, CHEK2, RAD51C, RAD51D. Very occasionally the current understanding of gene variants may change as more information becomes available.

WHAT DOES THIS RESULT MEAN FOR ME?

This means we have not found a gene variant which would put you at high risk of developing another new cancer.

A normal result is common. Most people with breast cancer receive this result. If you have a strong family history of breast, ovarian or stomach cancer, or if you developed cancer at an unusually young age, it may be helpful to look into things further. You can ask for a referral to the Clinical Genetics Service if you have questions or concerns about this.

Very occasionally variants in other genes can be involved in causing breast cancer. Also new discoveries are being made all the time. Your sample is stored in case further gene testing is requested in the future.

WHAT DOES THIS RESULT MEAN FOR MY RELATIVES?

This result is good news for your relatives, as it means they are unlikely to be at high increased risk of developing breast cancer themselves. You may wish to share this result with them.

If you have had a different cancer previously, or if you have a family history of cancer, it is still possible that your relatives may have an increased risk of developing cancer. If you think that this applies to you, you can talk to your GP or hospital clinician.

Anyone registered female with a GP will be invited for NHS mammograms from 50 and 71 years as part of the National Breast Screening Program. Depending on the family history, some people may be eligible for mammograms starting from 35 or 40 years, even if there has been a normal breast gene panel test in the family. For example, if you developed breast cancer under 40 your daughters would be eligible for early access. If your relatives wish to discuss their own risks of cancer, they can speak with their GP.

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If you have any questions, please contact the Edinburgh Clinical Genetics Service on 0131 537 1116 or email on WGH.clinicalgenetics@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

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