

# The Technologist's Role in Breast Cancer Risk Assessment

Communicating the benefits of comprehensive risk assessment to patients

Comprehensive breast cancer  
risk assessment

3

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 Myriad genetics



# Comprehensive breast cancer risk assessment: Program overview and disclaimer

## Overall course description

In this 1-unit module, through a case-based approach, attendees will learn about a variety of models and methods used to assess breast cancer risk, many of which can be incorporated in the breast imaging space.

## Disclaimer

This information is provided to help answer questions with respect to hereditary cancer risk assessment and hereditary cancer testing. It is general in nature and is not intended to provide a comprehensive, definitive analysis of specific risks. The information provided herein should be taken into consideration with other medical and research information regarding cancer risks, hereditary cancer risks and pre-dispositional cancer testing and risk factors.

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# Comprehensive breast cancer risk assessment: Learning objectives

- 01** Identify and discuss timing and strategies for providing breast risk assessment with a breast imaging setting.
- 02** Describe breast cancer risk factors that can be incorporated into comprehensive risk assessment
- 03** Compare and contrast accepted breast cancer risk models
- 04** Discuss an emerging enhancement in the field of breast cancer risk assessment, specifically polygenic risk scores (PRS)
- 05** Learn how to appropriately discuss risk assessment with patients in collaboration with your facility and leadership team(s)



# Breast cancer risk assessment: when & how

Section 3.1

## In 2018 the ACR & SBI called for all women to have risk assessment at age 30

The ACR and SBI now call for all women to have a risk assessment at age 30 to see if screening earlier than age 40 is needed.

New ACR & SBI breast cancer screening guidelines are the first to recognize that African-American women are at high-risk for the disease and should be screened as such.”<sup>1</sup>



1. <https://www.sbi-online.org/Portals/0/Position%20Statements/2018/New-2018-BCS-Guidelines.pdf>

# ACOG & NCCN have reinforced the need for early risk assessment



**“Health care providers periodically should assess breast cancer risk by reviewing the patient’s history. Breast cancer risk assessment is based on a combination of the various factors that can affect risk... Women with a potentially increased risk of breast cancer based on initial history should have further risk assessment.”<sup>1</sup>**

**“Individuals should undergo breast cancer risk assessment by age 25 and be counseled regarding potential benefits, risks, and limitations of breast screening in the context of their risk stratification.”<sup>2</sup>**

1. ACOG Practice Bulletin 179 <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/practice-bulletin/articles/2017/07/breast-cancer-risk-assessment-and-screening-in-average-risk-women>. 2. National Comprehensive Cancer Network. Breast Cancer Screening and Diagnosis Guidelines. V1.2021.

## Critical steps in risk assessment

Screen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Collect personal history and family history for every patient</li></ul>
Evaluate	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Review of personal risk factors and family history to determine and document appropriateness for screening and to build a risk profile and personalized care program</li></ul>
Diagnose	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Genetic testing, if appropriate</li><li>• Enhanced surveillance, if appropriate</li></ul>
Manage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Determines and recommends personalized management plan for the patient based on risk category</li></ul>

# Strategies for breast cancer risk assessment: Examples of how

## Physical paper survey

**myRisk** Cancer Family History Questionnaire

**Personal Information**

Patient Name	Date of Birth	Healthcare Provider	Today's Date
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Instructions: Your personal and family history of cancer is important to provide you with the best care possible. Your provider will use this information as a screening tool for cancers that run in families. Please complete the chart below based upon your personal and family history of cancer. Leave blank what you do not know. The following relatives should be considered: Parents, siblings, half-siblings, children, grandparents, grandchildren, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews on both sides of the family.

Do you have a personal history of:	Yes (Y) or No (N)?	Which cancer?	Age at diagnosis?
Breast, ovarian, or pancreatic cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		
Colorectal or uterine cancer at 64 or younger	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		

Do you have a family history of:	Yes (Y) or No (N)?	Which relative?	Maternal (M) or Paternal (P) side of the family?	Age at diagnosis?
Breast cancer at 49 or younger	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Two breast cancers (bilateral) in one relative at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Three breast cancers in relatives on the same side of the family at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Ovarian cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Pancreatic cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Male breast cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Metastatic prostate cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Colon cancer at 49 or younger	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Uterine cancer at 49 or younger	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	
Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry with breast cancer at any age	<input type="checkbox"/> Y <input type="checkbox"/> N		<input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> P	

Do you have a family history of other cancers?  Y  N List them here: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you or anyone in your family had genetic testing for hereditary cancer?  Y  N Who? \_\_\_\_\_ What gene(s)? \_\_\_\_\_ What was the result? \_\_\_\_\_

**Your provider will use the following information to determine if you should consider carrier screening.**

Do you plan to become pregnant in the next year?  Y  N Do you have Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry?  Y  N

**Cancer Risk Assessment Review (to be completed after discussion with your healthcare provider)**

Patient Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Healthcare Provider Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Office Use Only: Patient offered hereditary cancer genetic testing?  Yes  No  Accepted  Declined  
 If yes, which test?  BRACAnalysis<sup>SM</sup> with Myriad myRisk<sup>SM</sup>  Multitita 3 BRACAnalysis<sup>SM</sup> REFLEX to BRACAnalysis<sup>SM</sup> with Myriad myRisk<sup>SM</sup>  COUAP<sup>SM</sup> with Myriad myRisk<sup>SM</sup>  COUARIS AP<sup>SM</sup> with Myriad myRisk<sup>SM</sup>  Single Site Testing  Myriad myRisk<sup>SM</sup> Update  
 Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Follow-up appointment scheduled?  Yes  No Date of next appointment: \_\_\_\_\_

## Electronic survey

**myGeneHistory<sup>TM</sup>**  
by Myriad Genetic Laboratories

Have you or anyone in your family ever been diagnosed with?

- Breast Cancer
- Colon Cancer
- DCIS
- Endometrial / Uterine Cancer
- Fallopian Tube Cancer
- Gastric Cancer
- Melanoma (skin)
- Ovarian Cancer
- Pancreatic Cancer
- Peritoneal Cancer
- Prostate Cancer
- Colon Polyps (5 or more)

YES

NO



## Combined with RIS system

**NCCN Guidelines**

- In the absence of clinical signs and symptoms suggestive of recurrent disease, there is no indication for laboratory or imaging study for metastases screening
- Women on an aromatase inhibitor or who experience ovarian failure secondary to treatment should have monitoring of bone health with a bone mineral density determination at baseline and periodically thereafter
- Assess and encourage adherence to adjuvant endocrine therapy
- See NCCN guidelines for survivorship
- Consider referral to cancer genetics professional

**Genetic Counseling**

Patient Qualifies - Incomplete

Date Offered: 06/02/2021 Sent on: 04/02/2021 01:31:59 PM  
 Date Responded: 06/02/2021

Patient agreed to proceed with testing  
 Patient not interested  
 Patient interested in learning more

Date Performed: //

**Send To Myriad PES**

Patient Name: Smith, Jane MRN: 11114 DoB: 01/11/1965 Gender: F

Ordering Provider: Blake, Angela

Are you sure you want to send this patient to Myriad?

Relation: Maternal aunt, Sister, Daughter (add)

DOB: 1951, 1965, 1990

Age: 70, 56, 31

Sex: M, F, F

Notes: Print Relative List Risk Values: BRCA 5yr: 2.1% BRCA life: 15.7% T/C short: 6.9% T/C life: 23.2%

Last Breast Density: Hetero. Dense

**Key definitions:** RIS - Radiology Information System is a radiology software system that manages data



# Breast cancer risk assessment: critical risk factors

Section 3.2

# Factors impacting breast cancer risk

## Personal History

- Age
- Post-menopausal BMI
- Age at first life birth
- Hormone replacement therapy
- Age at menarche (first menstrual period)
- Menopausal status & age
- Breast density

## Medical History

- Surgeries (oophorectomy)
- Breast biopsy history

## Family History

- Maternal and paternal family history of:
  - Breast cancer
  - Ovarian cancer
  - Additional hereditary cancers

## Genetic Variants

- High/moderate penetrance genes (*BRCA1/2*, *CHEK2*, etc.)
- Low penetrance variants (SNPs)

**Key definitions: SNP** - A single nucleotide polymorphism is a genomic variant at a single base position in the DNA (genome.gov)

# Breast cancer risk models

## Section 3.3

## Breast cancer risk models

- Gail (NCI)
- Claus
- Tyrer-Cuzick (IBIS)
- BOADICEA (CanRisk)
- BRCAPro

**Key definitions:** NCI - National Cancer Institute. IBIS - International Breast Cancer Intervention Study. CanRisk - A web interface/platform for the BOADICEA model

# Case study: Martha

## Patient personal risk factors

- Age: 38
- Height/Weight: 5'7"/142 lb
- Self-Reported Ethnicity: White/Hispanic/Latino
- Nulliparous
- Menarche: 11
- Premenopausal

## Family history & genomic information

- Mother, breast cancer diagnosed at age 60
- Father, prostate cancer, diagnosed at age 68
- Paternal grandmother, breast cancer, diagnosed at age 40
- Paternal aunt, breast cancer, diagnosed age 60
- Unaffected female relatives: 1 maternal aunt, 1 sister
- Genetic testing: *BRCA1/2*, multigene panel NEGATIVE

**Key definitions:** Nulliparous - Never having given birth

# The Gail model

**NIH** NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE

Breast Cancer Risk Assessment Tool

RISK CALCULATOR ABOUT THE CALCULATOR

Patient Eligibility 1 — Demographics 2 — Patient & Family History 3

### Patient Eligibility

Does the woman have a medical history of any breast cancer or of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS) or lobular carcinoma in situ (LCIS) or has she received previous radiation therapy to the chest for treatment of Hodgkin lymphoma?

Yes

No

Does the woman have a mutation in either the *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* gene, or a diagnosis of a genetic syndrome that may be associated with elevated risk of breast cancer?

Yes

No

# Gail model<sup>1,2</sup>

## Risk Factors Included

- Age (35-90)
- Menarche, age at first live birth
- Biopsy history
- Self-reported ethnicity
- Up to 2 first degree female relatives with breast cancer

## Benefits

- Quick, easy, accessible
- Named by NCCN and other guidelines to calculate 5-year risk for risk-reducing medications

## Limitations

- Limited family history
- Cannot be calculated in patients <35 years

## Other Considerations

- Underestimates risk for those with a strong family history of breast cancer
- Not recommended to calculate lifetime risk to determine enhanced surveillance

1. <https://bcrisktool.cancer.gov/calculator.html>

2. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/breast\\_risk.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast_risk.pdf)

# Case study: Martha's Gail model

## Patient personal risk factors

- Age
- Ethnicity
- Menarche

## Family history & genomic information

- First degree relatives with breast cancer only (Mother's breast cancer)
- *BRCA1/2* Negative

## Information not incorporated

- Paternal family history of cancer

## Gail risk estimates

- 5-year risk: 0.7%
- Lifetime risk: 14.4%



# The Claus model

Predicted cumulative probability of breast cancer for a woman who has two first-degree relatives affected with breast cancer, by age of onset of the affected relatives

Age of onset of first relative (yr)													
20-29						30-39							
Age of onset of second relative (yr)													
Age (yr)	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	30-39	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79		
29	.021	.020	.018	.016	.014	.012	.018	.016	.014	.012	.009		
39	.069	.066	.061	.055	.048	.041	.062	.056	.048	.040	.032		
49	.166	.157	.146	.133	.117	.099	.148	.134	.116	.096	.077		
59	.295	.279	.261	.238	.210	.179	.265	.239	.209	.175	.143		
69	.412	.391	.366	.335	.297	.256	.371	.337	.296	.251	.207		
79	.484	.460	.434	.397	.354	.308	.437	.399	.353	.302	.252		
Age of onset of first relative (yr)													
			40-49			50-59			60-69			70-79	
Age of onset of second relative (yr)													
Age (yr)	40-49	50-59	60-69	70-79	50-59	60-69	70-79	60-69	70-79	70-79			
29	.014	.012	.009	.007	.009	.006	.005	.004	.003	.002			
39	.048	.039	.030	.023	.030	.022	.016	.016	.012	.008			
49	.117	.096	.075	.058	.075	.056	.042	.041	.030	.023			
59	.210	.174	.139	.108	.138	.105	.081	.080	.061	.049			
69	.298	.249	.202	.161	.200	.157	.124	.122	.098	.081			
79	.354	.300	.246	.200	.245	.195	.158	.156	.128	.109			

**Key definitions: First degree relatives -**  
A person's parent, sibling, or child

# Claus model<sup>1,2</sup>

## Risk Factors Included

- Patient Age
- Family history of breast, ovarian cancers (first- and second-degree relatives)
- Relative's age of diagnosis

## Benefits

- Quick, easy
- Named by NCCN, ACS to calculate lifetime risk for enhanced breast screening

## Limitations

- Limited family history (maximum of 2 relatives)
- No personal, hormonal risk factors

## Other Considerations

- Smartphone application available
- Model based on primarily Caucasian patient data from the 1980s

1. Claus EB, et al. Autosomal dominant inheritance of early-onset breast cancer. Implications for risk predication. Cancer 1994;73:643-651

2. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/breast\\_risk.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast_risk.pdf)

Key definitions: ACS - American Cancer Society

# Case study: Martha's Claus model

## Patient personal risk factors

- Patient age

## Family history & genomic information

- Only 2 first/second degree relatives can be included

## Information not incorporated

- All cancer family history
- Personal risk factors (parity, menarche, menopausal status, etc.)

## Claus risk estimates

- 10-year risk: 2.8%
- Lifetime risk: 14.6%

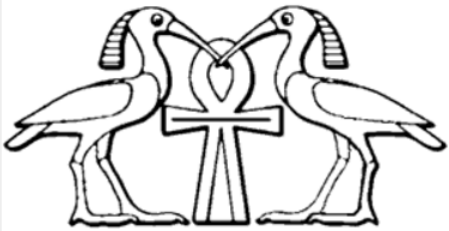
# The Tyrer-Cuzick model

## IBIS Breast Cancer Risk Evaluation Tool

DescriptionSoftware DownloadsDocumentationScreenshots & ExamplesSoftware Change Log

FAQs

**NEW! v8** [ZIP]



### Description of breast cancer risk program

The program assumes that there is a gene predisposing to breast cancer in addition to the *BRCA1/2* genes. The woman's family history is used to calculate the likelihood of her carrying an adverse gene, which in turn affects her likelihood of developing breast cancer. The risks of developing breast cancer for the general population were taken from data on the first breast cancer diagnosis (ICD-10 code C50) in Thames Cancer Registry area (UK) between 2005-2009. The risk from family history (caused by the adverse genes) is modelled to fit the results in "Familial Breast and Ovarian Cancer: A Swedish Population-based Register Study, Anderson H et al., American Journal of Epidemiology 2000, 152: 1154-1163".

The risk from other classical factors including age at first child and benign disease are combined with familial risk.

The latest version of the model (v8) incorporates mammographic density.

### Contact Details

Prof. Jack Cuzick  
Centre for Cancer Prevention,  
Wolfson Institute of Preventive Medicine,  
Charterhouse Square,  
London  
EC1M 6BQ  
email: [riskevaluator@ems-trials.org](mailto:riskevaluator@ems-trials.org)

# Tyrer-Cuzick Model (IBIS)

## Risk Factors Included

- Personal factors (Age, BMI, Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry, breast biopsy)
- Hormonal risk factors (menarche, parity, HRT)
- Breast, ovarian cancer family history (first, second, and some third degree relatives)
- Breast density and PRS (version 8)

## Benefits

- Comprehensive, many risk factors included
- Well-accepted, named by multiple guidelines to calculate risk
- Available for download and as a web-based version

## Limitations

- May overestimate risk in certain patient populations (Hispanic/Latino patients)

## Other Considerations

- Different versions of model available
- 10-year risk can be used for chemoprevention

1. Amir E, et al. Evaluation of breast cancer risk assessment packages in family history evaluation and screening programme. Journal of Medical Genetics. 2003;40:807-814
2. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/breast\\_risk.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast_risk.pdf)  
Key definitions: IBIS - International Breast Cancer Intervention Study.

# Case study: Martha's Tyrer-Cuzick model

## Patient personal risk factors

- Patient Age & BMI
- Reproductive history

## Family history & genomic information

- All breast cancer family history (maternal and paternal)
- *BRCA1/2* Negative status
- Unaffected relatives

## Information not incorporated

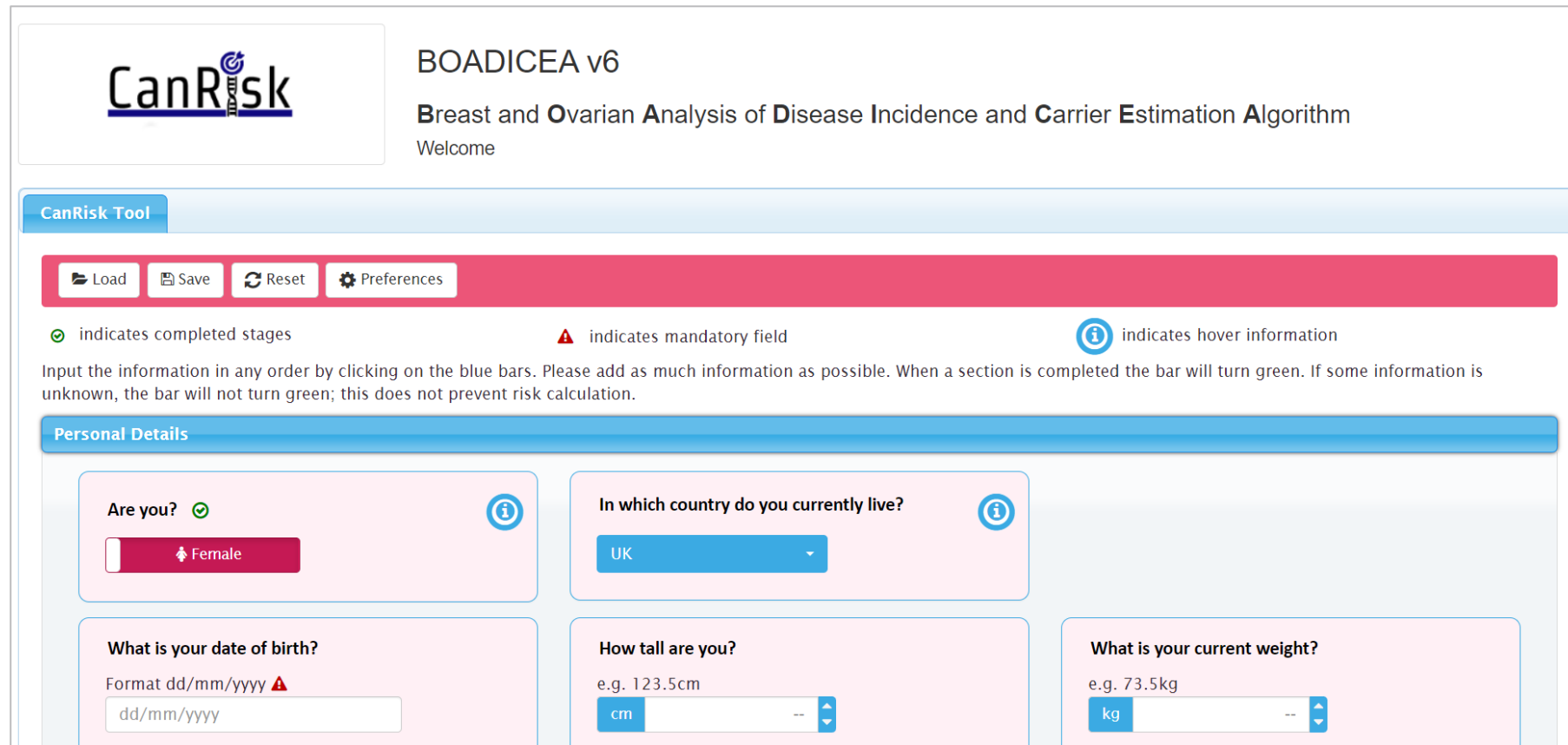
- Patient ethnicity

## TC risk estimates

- 10-year risk: 4.4%
- Lifetime risk: 38.2%

**Key definitions:** Body mass index is a person's weight divided by the square of height (CDC)

# The BOADICEA model



**CanRisk**

**BOADICEA v6**  
**Breast and Ovarian Analysis of Disease Incidence and Carrier Estimation Algorithm**  
Welcome

**CanRisk Tool**

Load Save Reset Preferences

✔ indicates completed stages      ⚠ indicates mandatory field      ⓘ indicates hover information

Input the information in any order by clicking on the blue bars. Please add as much information as possible. When a section is completed the bar will turn green. If some information is unknown, the bar will not turn green; this does not prevent risk calculation.

**Personal Details**

**Are you?** ✔ ⓘ  
Female

**In which country do you currently live?** ⓘ  
UK

**What is your date of birth?**  
Format dd/mm/yyyy ⚠  
dd/mm/yyyy

**How tall are you?**  
e.g. 123.5cm  
cm

**What is your current weight?**  
e.g. 73.5kg  
kg

Key definitions: CanRisk - A web interface/platform for the BOADICEA model

# BOADICEA via CanRisk

## Risk factors included

- Age, BMI, Reproductive history, breast density, surgical history
- Family history of breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancers (first- and second-degree)
- Alcohol Consumption
- Polygenic risk scores

## Benefits

- Accessible online and free
- Comprehensive, includes many personal/lifestyle risk factors
- Well-accepted, named by multiple guidelines to calculate risk

## Limitations

- Does not incorporate biopsy history, breastfeeding
- Can be cumbersome to use in clinical setting

## Other considerations

- Provides risk assessment for ovarian cancer
- Able to incorporate testing of multiple different genes
- Can be used for patients with a personal history of breast cancer

1. <https://canrisk.org/>
2. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/breast\\_risk.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast_risk.pdf)

**Key definitions: Polygenic risk scores (PRS)** - An assessment of the risk of a specific condition (such as cancer) based on the collective influence of many genetic variants (NCI)



# Case study: Martha's BOADICEA model

## Patient personal risk factors

- Age, BMI, Reproductive History

## Family history & genomic information

- All family history of breast, prostate cancers

## Information not incorporated

- Patient ethnicity

## BOADICEA risk estimates

- 5-year: 1.8%
- 10-year: 4.7%
- Lifetime: 26%

# The BRCAPro model

## BayesMendel Lab

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Boston, MA 02215  
[Contact](#)

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MODELS
<a href="#">BRCAPro</a>
<a href="#">MMRpro</a>
<a href="#">MelaPRO</a>
<a href="#">PancPRO</a>

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## BRCAPro

BRCAPro™ is a statistical model, with associated software, for assessing the probability that an individual carries a germline deleterious mutation of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes, based on family history of breast and ovarian cancer, based on his or her family's history of breast and ovarian cancer, including male breast cancer and bilateral synchronous and asynchronous diagnoses. BRCAPro™ uses a Mendelian approach that assumes autosomal dominant inheritance. This assumption is supported extensively by previous linkage analyses. Age-dependent penetrances and prevalences are based on a systematic review of the literature.

**Recent updates to the BRCAPro™ software include:**

- BRCAPro has been re-calibrated and improved with updated penetrances for contralateral breast cancer.
- Package now allows for input on ethnicity for each family member, in order to better characterize families containing more than one ethnic groups, each of which may present different allele frequencies for the mutations of interest.
- Mastectomy as an intervention has been added to BRCAPro™.
- Improved the error message returned when there is a problem with the Twins input.

# BRCAPro

## Risk Factors Included

- Age, biopsy history
- Prophylactic surgeries
- Breast density
- Family history of breast, ovarian, pancreatic, and melanoma cancers (first-, second-, and some third degree relatives)

## Benefits

- Comprehensive, includes many risk factors
- Accepted model, named by multiple guidelines to calculate risk

## Limitations

- Does not incorporate all family history (third degree relatives)
- Not easily accessible – must be registered for use

## Other Considerations

- Most accurate with complete family history (including information on unaffected relatives)
- Can be cumbersome to use in clinical setting

1. Parmigiani G, Berry D, Aguilar O, et al. Determining carrier probabilities for breast cancer-susceptibility genes BRCA1 and BRCA-2. Am J Hum Genet 1998;62:145-158.
2. [https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician\\_gls/pdf/breast\\_risk.pdf](https://www.nccn.org/professionals/physician_gls/pdf/breast_risk.pdf)

# Which risk model is best?

## The American Cancer Society

(ACS)<sup>1</sup> recommends annual breast MRI for women with a 20-25% or greater lifetime risk of breast cancer

- Tyrer Cuzick/IBIS
- BRCAPro
- Claus model
- BOADICEA

ACS and NCCN<sup>2</sup> caution against using Gail to calculate lifetime risk for purposes of supplemental imaging:

- Gail Model (BCRAT) “does not have the capacity to analyze detailed family histories including first- and second-degree relatives on both the maternal and paternal side.” Smith (2012)
- Gail can be used for 5-year risk to prescribe risk-reducing medication

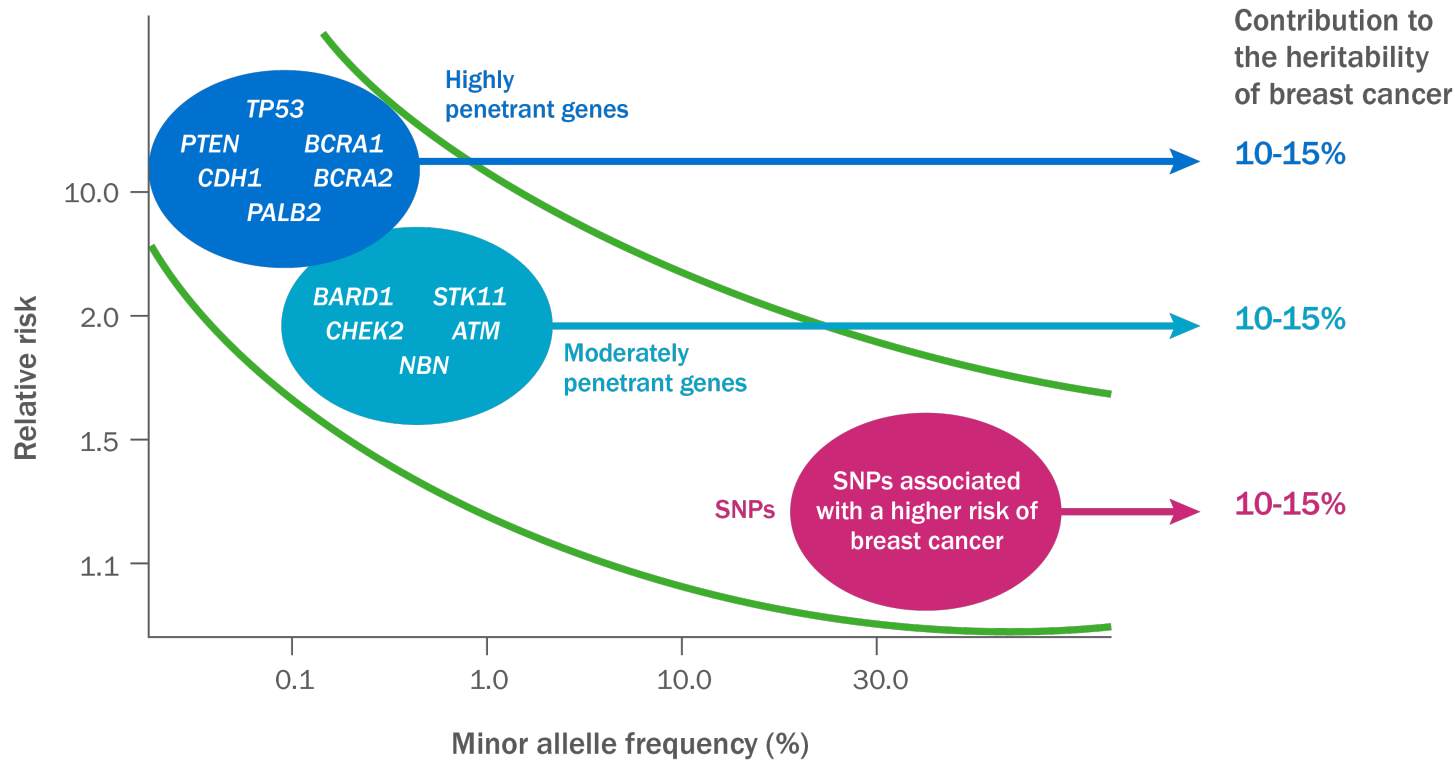
1. Saslow D et al. American Cancer Society Breast Cancer Advisory Group . American Cancer Society guidelines for breast screening with MRI as an adjunct to mammography. CA Cancer J Clin. 2007 Mar-Apr;57(2):75-89.

2. <https://www.nccn.org/>

# Emerging enhancements: Polygenic risk scores

Section 3.4

# Breast cancer genomic risk factors



## Key definitions:

**SNP** - A single nucleotide polymorphism is a genomic variant at a single base position in the DNA (genome.gov)

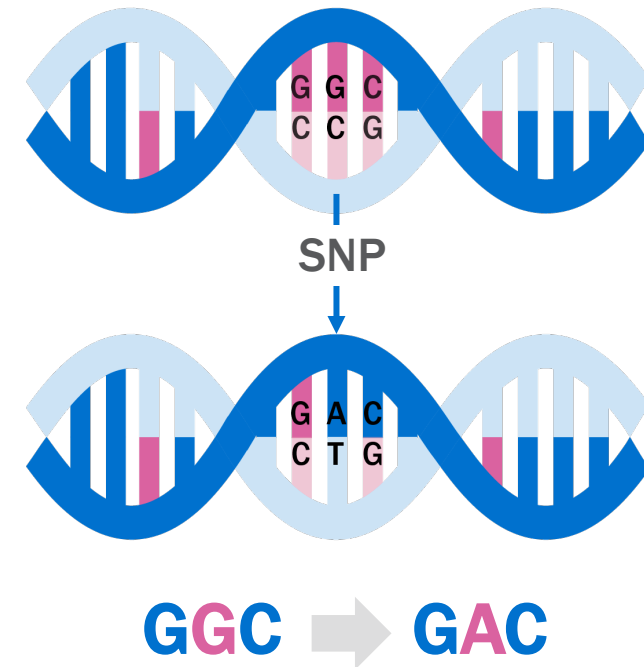
1. Foulkes et al, "Inherited susceptibility to common cancers." N Engl J Med. 2008 Nov 13;359(20):2143-53.
2. Dite, Gillian S., et al. "Breast cancer risk prediction using clinical models and 77 independent risk-associated SNPs for women aged under 50 years: Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry." Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Biomarkers 25.2 (2016): 359-365.
3. Mavaddat et al. "Prediction of breast cancer risk based on profiling with common genetic variants." J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 Apr 8;107(5).
4. Tung et al. "Frequency of Germline Mutations in 25 Cancer Susceptibility Genes in a Sequential Series of Patients With Breast Cancer" J Clin Oncol. 2016 May 1; 34(13): 1460-1468.

# SNP: Single Nucleotide Polymorphism

- Each SNP represents difference in a single DNA building block (nucleotide)
- Present in >1% of a population
- Some SNPs are associated with a slight impact on breast cancer risk
- Multiple SNPs in aggregate may prove useful in breast cancer risk assessment

## Nucleotides:

**C** = cytosine, **G** = guanine, **T** = thymine, **A** = adenine

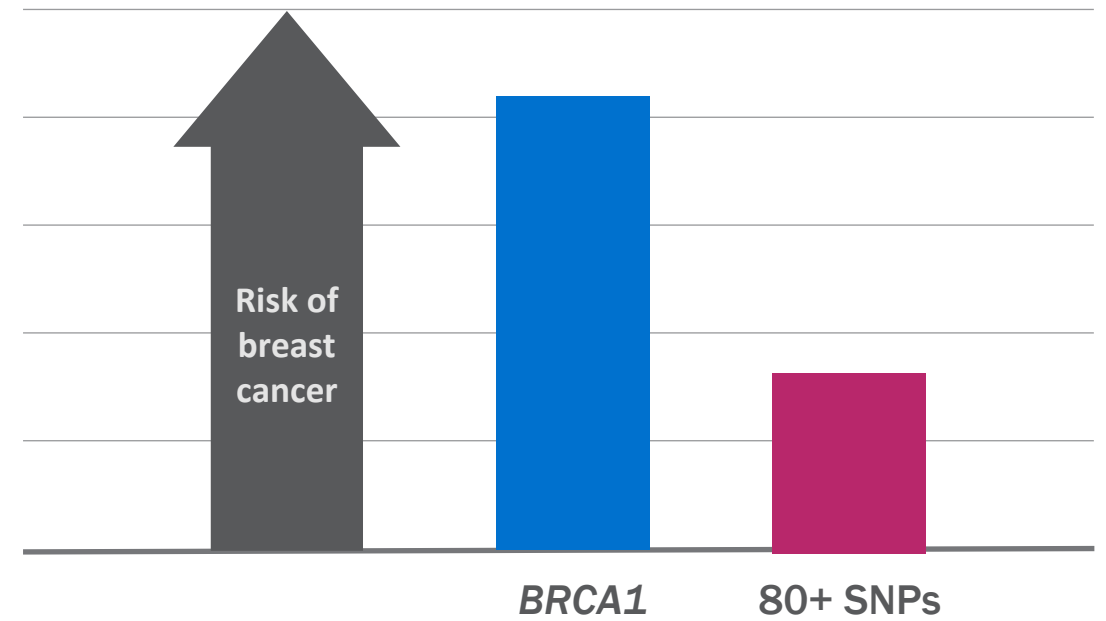


1. Foulkes et al, "Inherited susceptibility to common cancers." N Engl J Med. 2008 Nov 13;359(20):2143-53. 2. Dite, Gillian S., et al. "Breast cancer risk prediction using clinical models and 77 independent risk-associated SNPs for women aged under 50 years: Australian Breast Cancer Family Registry." Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention Biomarkers 25.2 (2016): 359-365. 3. Mavaddat et al. "Prediction of breast cancer risk based on profiling with common genetic variants." J Natl Cancer Inst. 2015 Apr 8;107(5). 4. Tung et al. "Frequency of Germline Mutations in 25 Cancer Susceptibility Genes in a Sequential Series of Patients With Breast Cancer" J Clin Oncol. 2016 May 1; 34(13): 1460-1468.

# Clinical implications of SNPs

## Risk of breast cancer

Unlike high-risk mutations (e.g., *BRCA1*), SNPs need to be combined into a **polygenic risk score (PRS)** for useful risk assessment





# Defining a polygenic risk score (PRS)

Polygenic risk scores (PRSs) combine the small effects of single nucleotide polymorphisms (SNPs) to estimate risk of a particular disease, such as breast cancer

Most of the early work published in medical literature that identified breast cancer risk SNPs took place primarily in women of European ancestry

Major Allele

AAGGTCA  
(96%)

Versus

Minor Allele

AACTCA  
(4%)

**Key definitions:** Allele - One of two or more versions of DNA sequence (genome.gov)

# PRS vs. risk models

## PRS

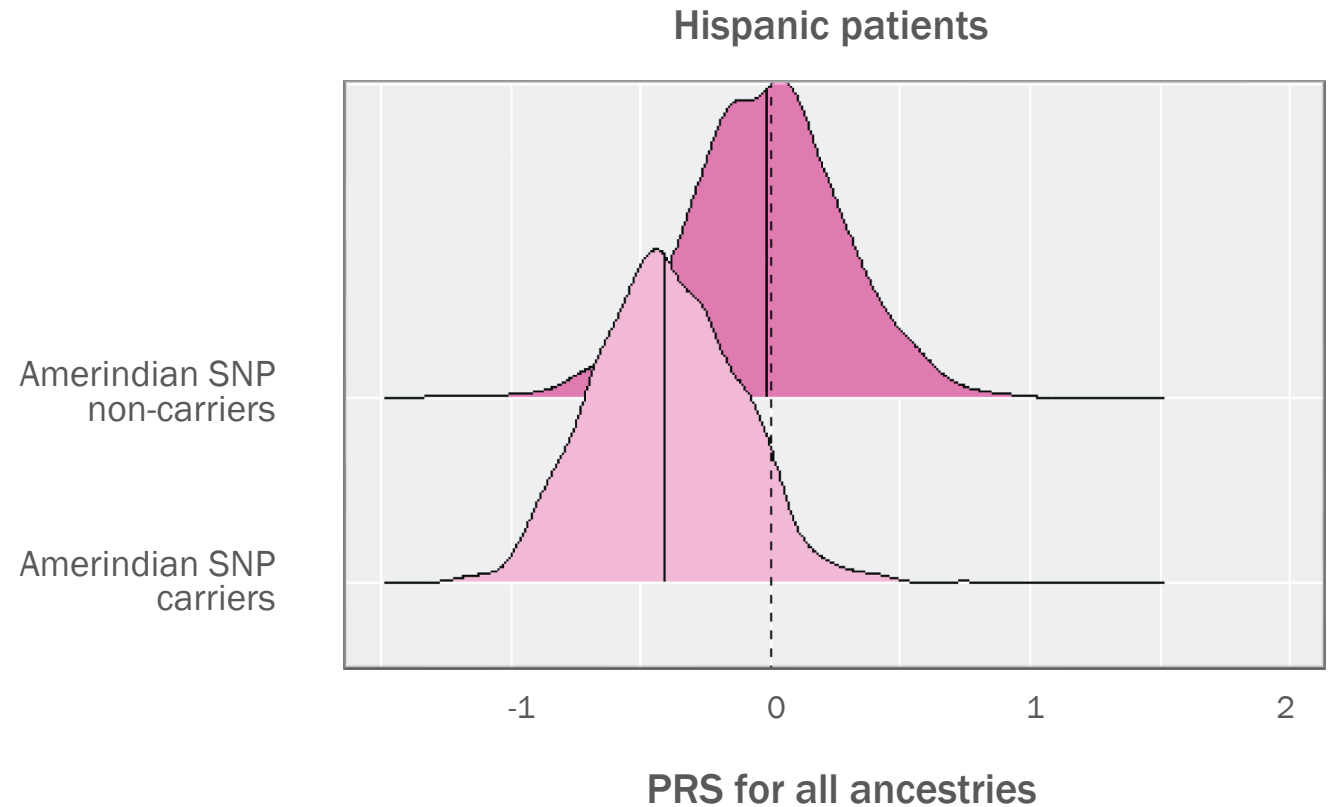
- Uses **genomic data** to calculate risk based on sets of individual markers called SNPs
- Does not account for clinical/medical history, such as hormone exposure
- Does not incorporate family history data to calculate a risk estimate
- Have been, until recently, primarily studied and validated in women of European ancestry

## Risk models (e.g., Tyrer-Cuzick, Gail)

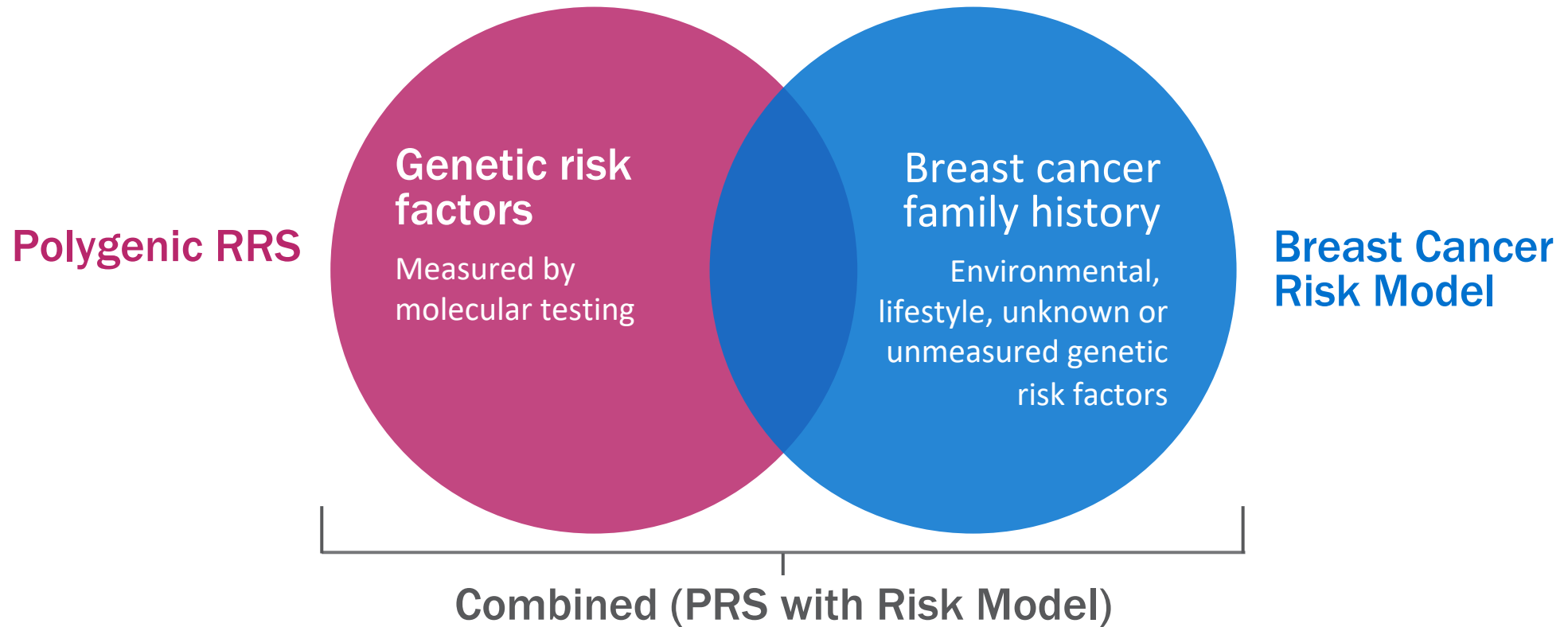
- Use **clinical data** such as family history of cancer, height, weight, age of menarche, etc., to estimate risk of disease
- Can be calculated in clinic with the patient and updated over time
- Can potentially overestimate risk in certain groups of women (Hispanic/Latino populations)
- Until recently, the performance of the Tyrer-Cuzick model had not been determined in women of Non-European ancestry

## PRS can capture protective SNPs

Looking more closely at self-reported Hispanic patients, we see that the PRS is centered around zero for patients who do not carry the protective Amerindian SNP and appropriately shifted toward lower risk for carriers



# Prior studies have demonstrated that PRS is more effective when combined with a family-history based model



Source: Hughes, et al. Integrating Clinical and Polygenic Factors to Predict Breast Cancer Risk in Women Undergoing Genetic Testing. JCO Precision Oncology 2021. <https://ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/PO.20.00246>

# Key take-away points

Section 3.5

## Key take-away points

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- **Guidelines** support starting comprehensive breast cancer risk assessment **early** helps to optimize screening and risk management
- Multiple **strategies** exist to incorporate comprehensive risk assessment, often involving processes and tools **already present** in the mammography setting
- Multiple breast cancer **risk factors** can be incorporated into several validated **risk models** to determine a patient's risk and appropriate **management** plan
- Risk assessment continues to evolve with **new tools** and **genomic data** (PRS)

# Apply what you've learned, put into practice, and tips for implementation

## Within the guidelines of your clinical practice in collaboration with your multi-disciplinary team

Talk to your leadership team or Lead Interpreting Physician (LIP) about some of the questions you get from patients regarding risk assessment. Ask for their recommendation on how to appropriately answer their questions.

## Example question/verbiage:

I have already had genetic testing. Why would I need further risk assessment?

Genetic testing is just one tool to help us determine a patient's risk and screening plan.

Many different factors can affect a patient's risk and a patient's history can change over time.

Our team would like to provide the most up to date, comprehensive risk assessment possible to keep you informed of your health.

# Thank you for joining!

## The Technologist's Role in Breast Cancer Risk Assessment

Communicating the benefits of comprehensive risk assessment to patients

Program 3: Comprehensive breast cancer risk assessment

# 3

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