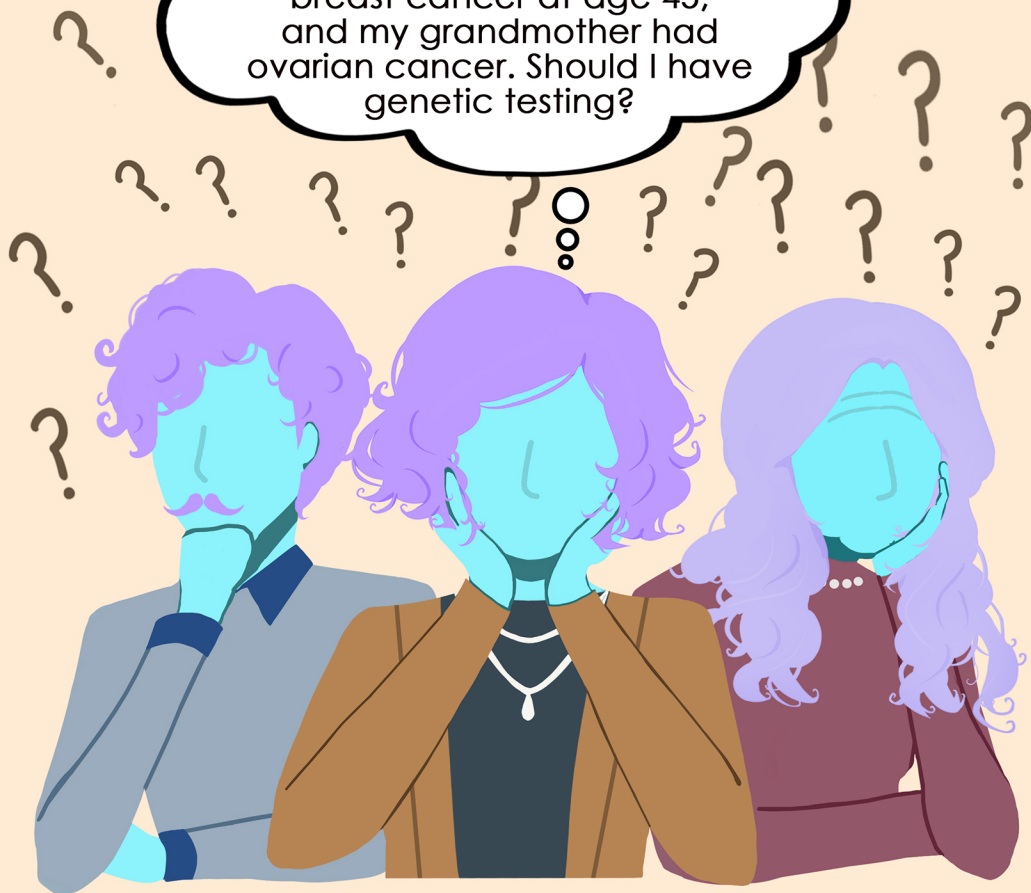


Is genetic testing right for me?

My mother had breast cancer at age 45, and my grandmother had ovarian cancer. Should I have genetic testing?



By Xinman Zhang and
the MDHHS Cancer Genomics Program

I understand why having testing would be helpful to you and our family. But I would feel horrible if I passed a gene change to you. So I have decided not to get genetic testing.

That's okay. I think I'm still going ahead with testing.

A few weeks later...

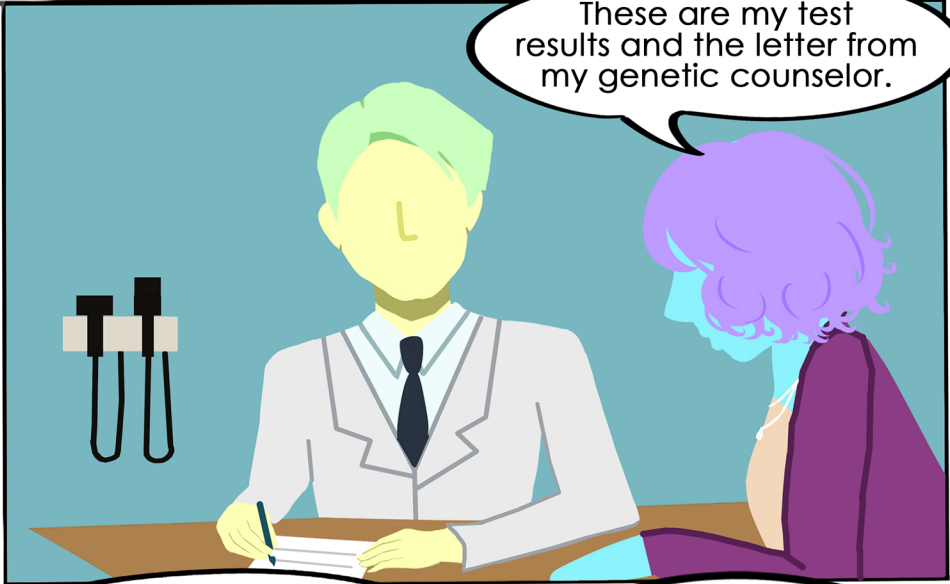
POSITIVE:
pathogenic
variant
detected

Me: I received my test result. I have a gene change.



Brother: 😞.
Will this affect my daughter?

Me: According to my genetic counselor, this could affect you too, not just your children. I suggest you talk with a genetic counselor as well.



These are my test results and the letter from my genetic counselor.

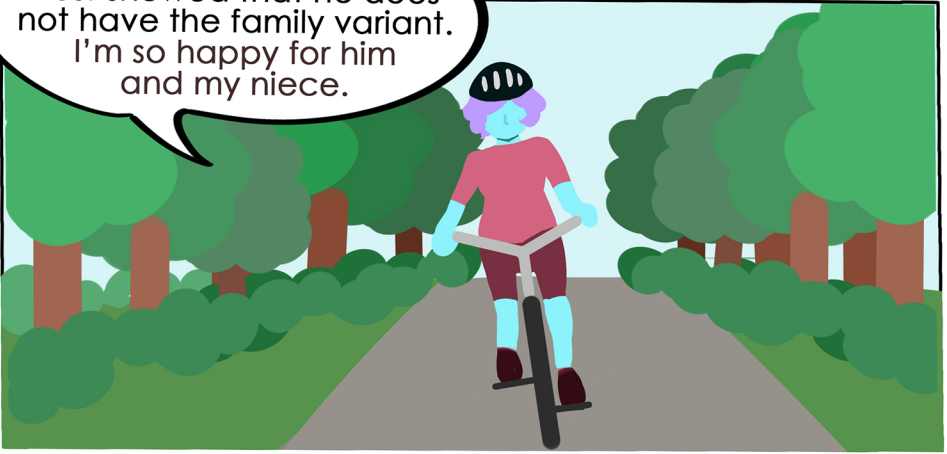
Now that we know that you have this variant, there are things we can do to manage your risk.

For example, we will get you scheduled for both a mammogram and an MRI every year, starting now. Typically, screening for breast cancer does not start until around age 40 and only uses mammogram.

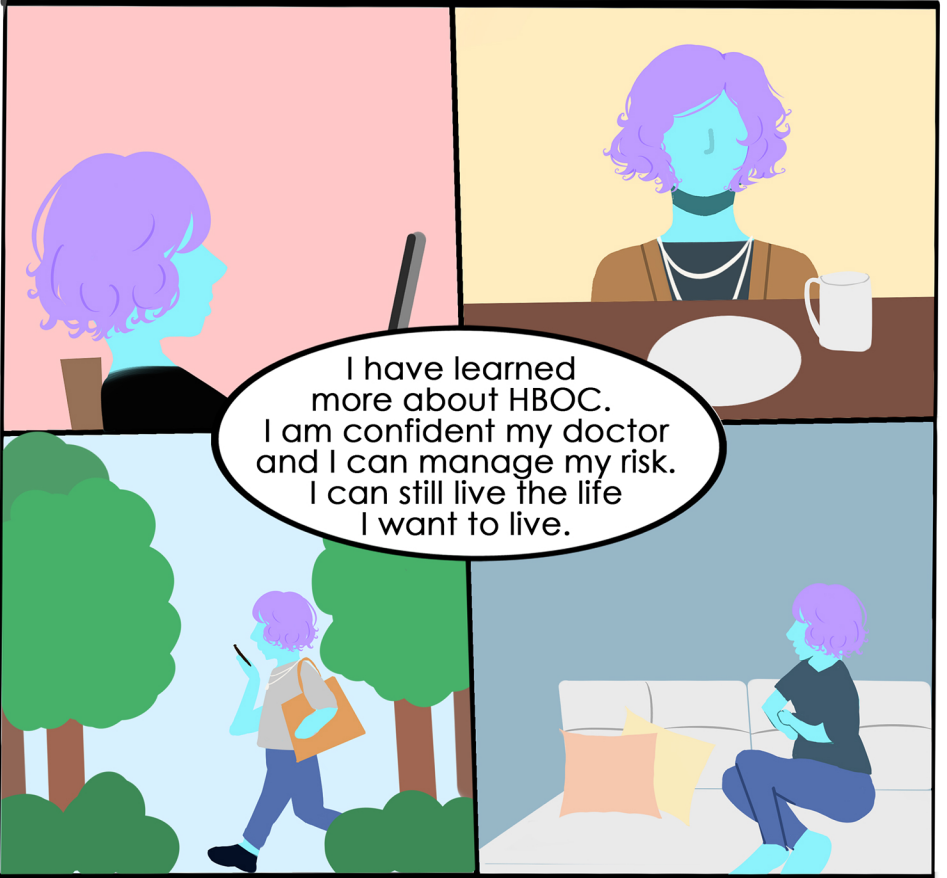
Since you have this variant, we need to start earlier and add a breast MRI.

Let's talk about managing other risks associated with this variant, such as ovarian cancer. I am confident that together, we can manage your risk so you can live a healthy life.

My brother's genetic test showed that he does not have the family variant. I'm so happy for him and my niece.



I have learned more about HBOC. I am confident my doctor and I can manage my risk. I can still live the life I want to live.



For more information about
informed consent for genetic testing,
talk to a genetics professional or
to your health care provider.

Michigan's Hereditary Cancer Hotline 866-852-1247

Michigan.gov/hereditarycancer



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