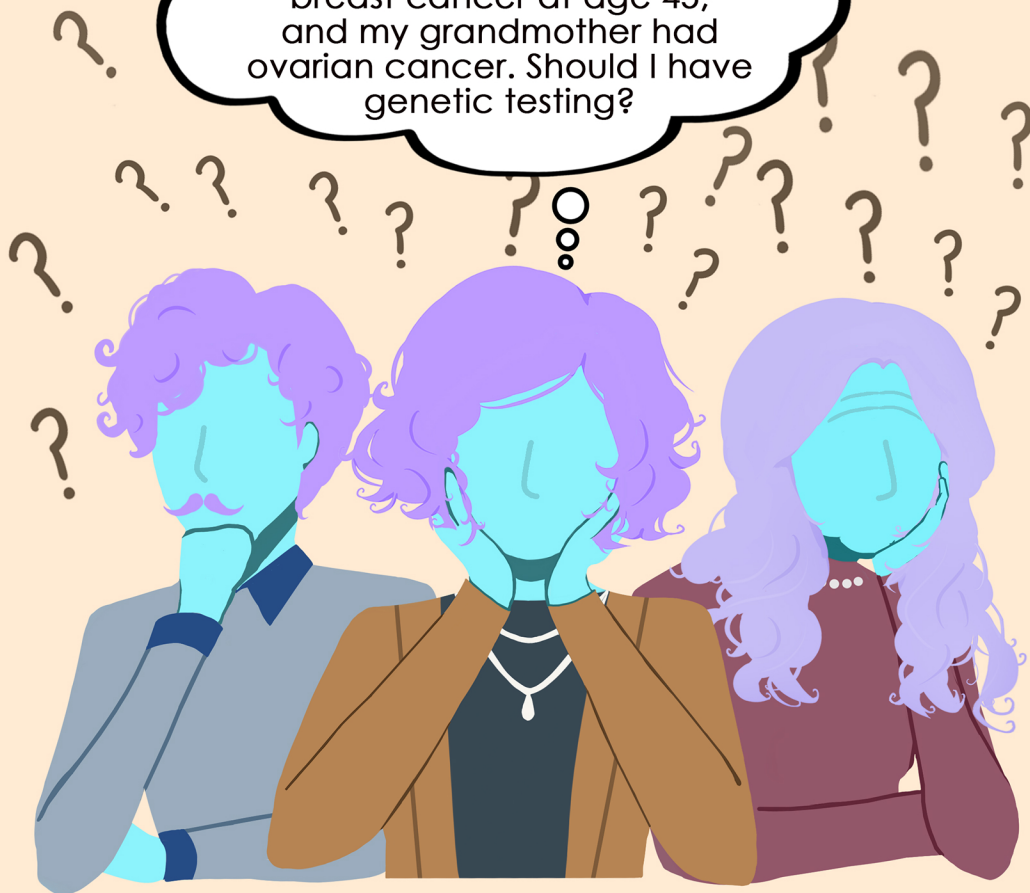
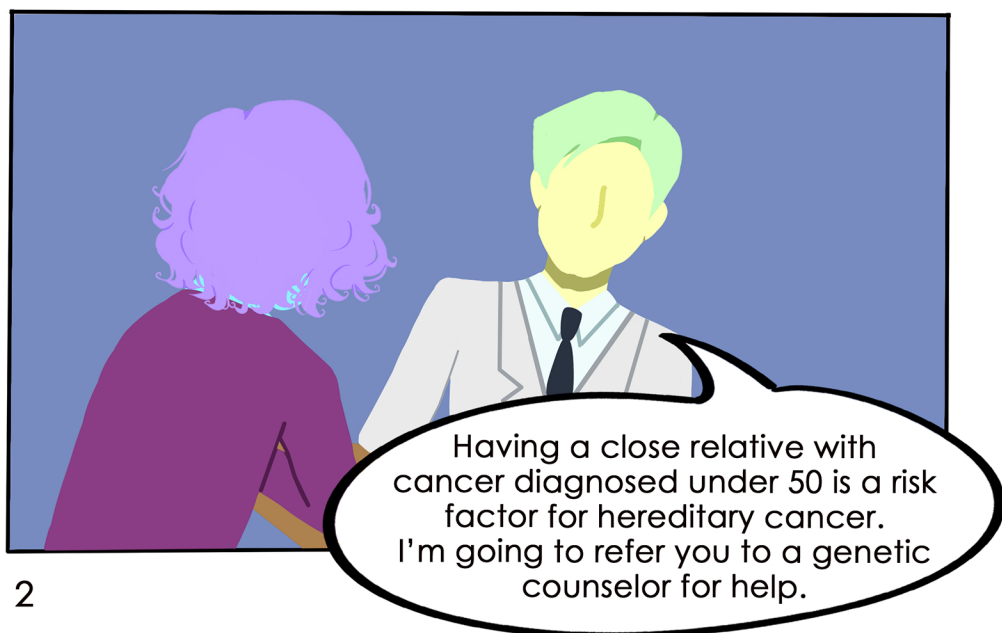
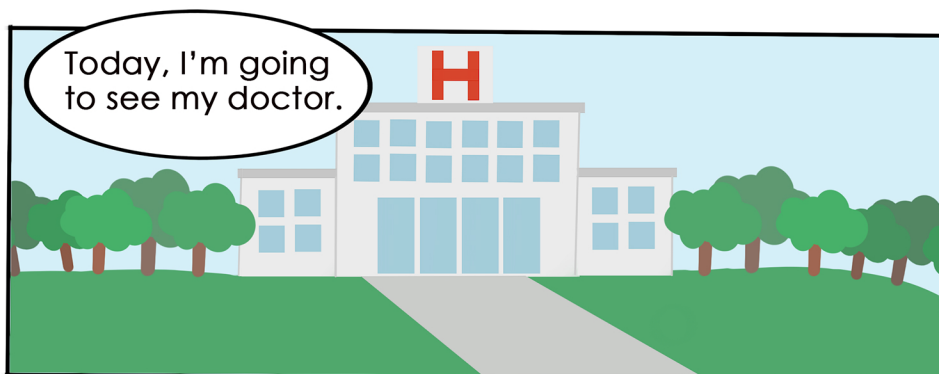
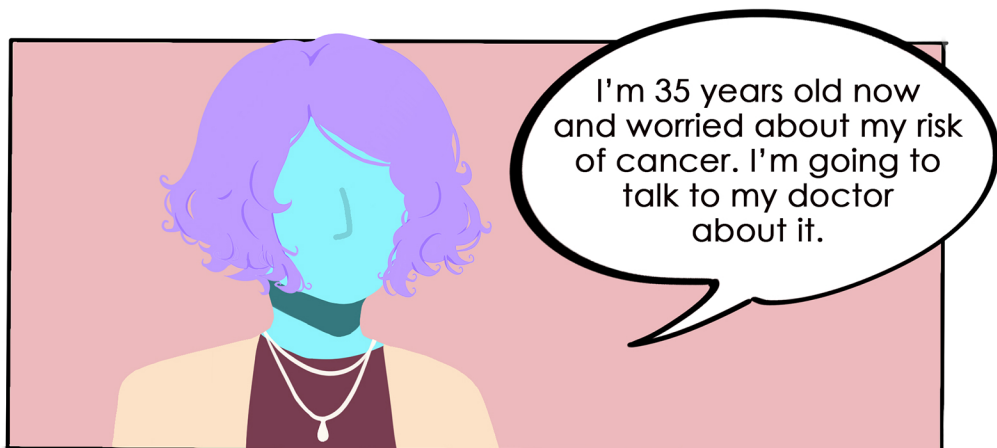


Is genetic testing right for me?

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



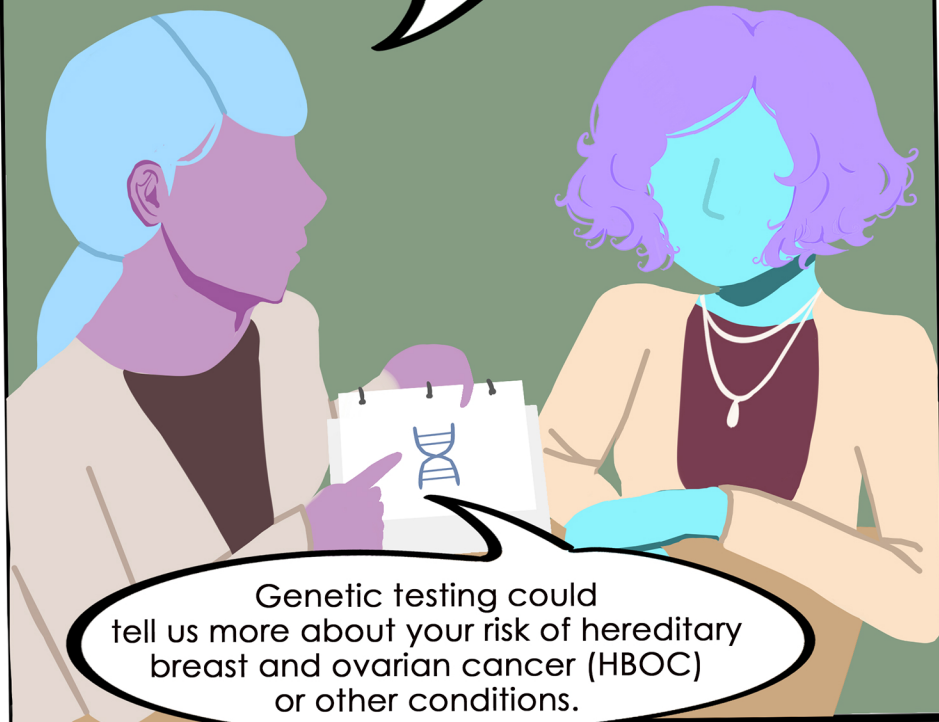
By Xinman Zhang and
the MDHHS Cancer Genomics Program



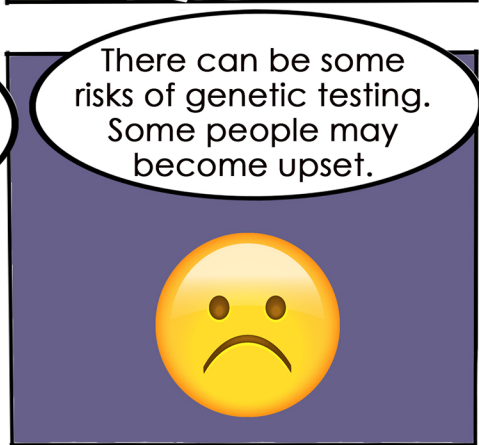
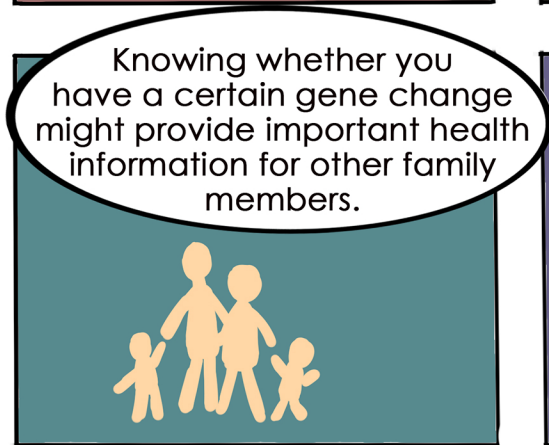
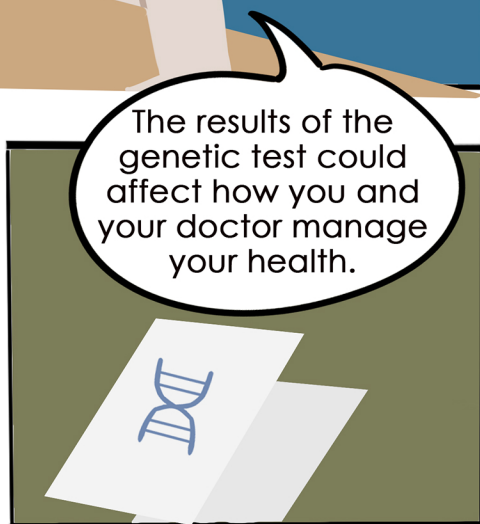
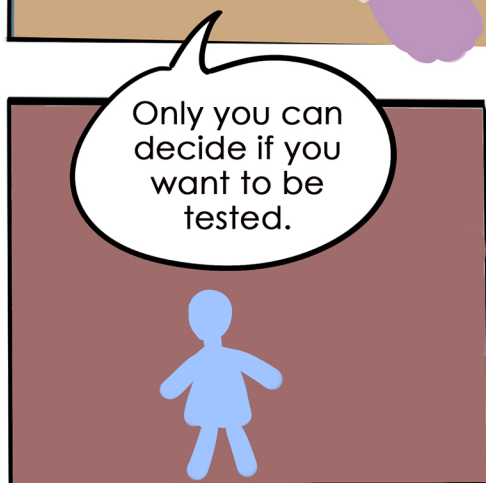
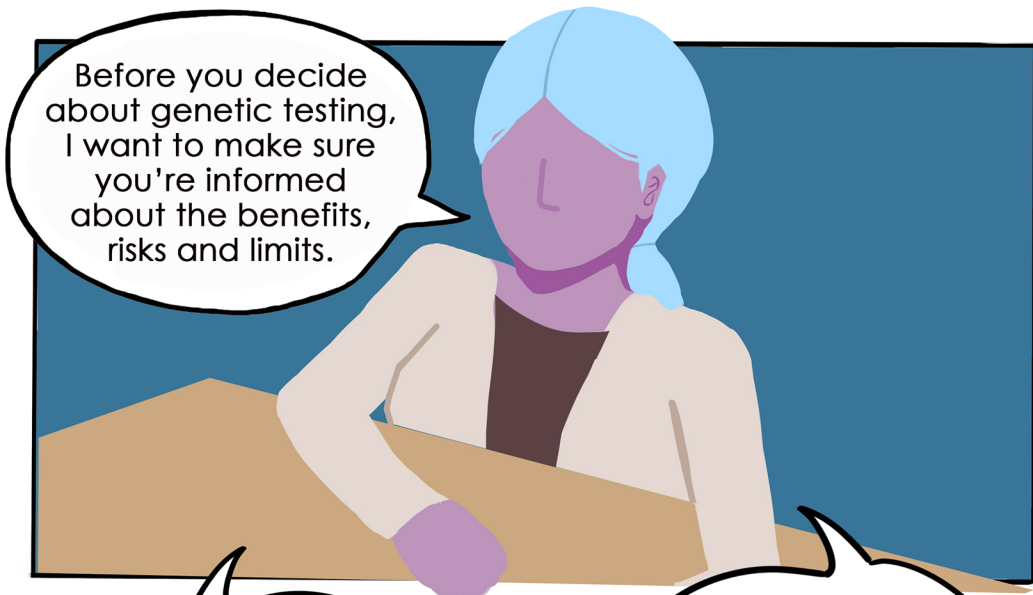
Today is my appointment with the genetic counselor. I'm nervous but I want to know my risk.



Thank you for sharing your family history with me. Because of your family history, you might have an increased chance of developing breast, ovarian and possibly other cancers.



Genetic testing could tell us more about your risk of hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC) or other conditions.



I heard that genetic test results could affect my health insurance. Is that true?

There are state and federal laws that help protect patients from losing their health insurance based on genetic tests.

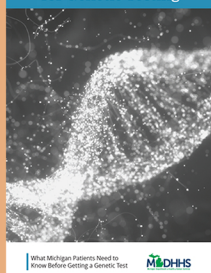
You can find more information in this booklet.

One limit of genetic testing is that we don't know all the genes that cause hereditary cancer.

That's why testing is most helpful when we start with a relative who has had cancer, like your mother.

Thank you for your information. I need some time to think about what I'm going to do.

Informed Consent for Genetic Testing



Mom, the genetic counselor said having a relative with early onset breast cancer increases the chance of hereditary breast cancer.

Genetic testing can help us figure this out. But she said it would be most effective to test you first.

Mother: "I thought about it and I don't know if I want to know. But I'm willing to talk to a genetic counselor."

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.

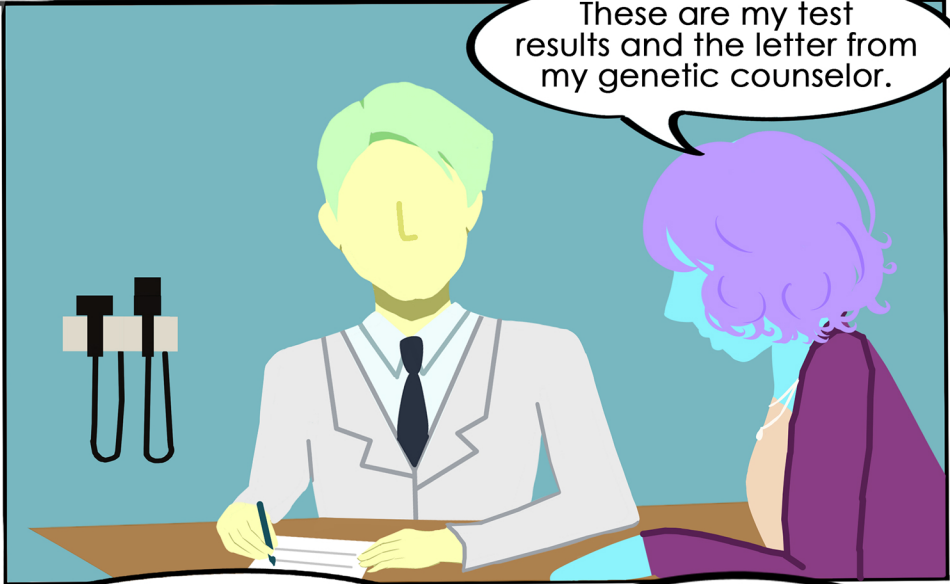
A few weeks later...

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.

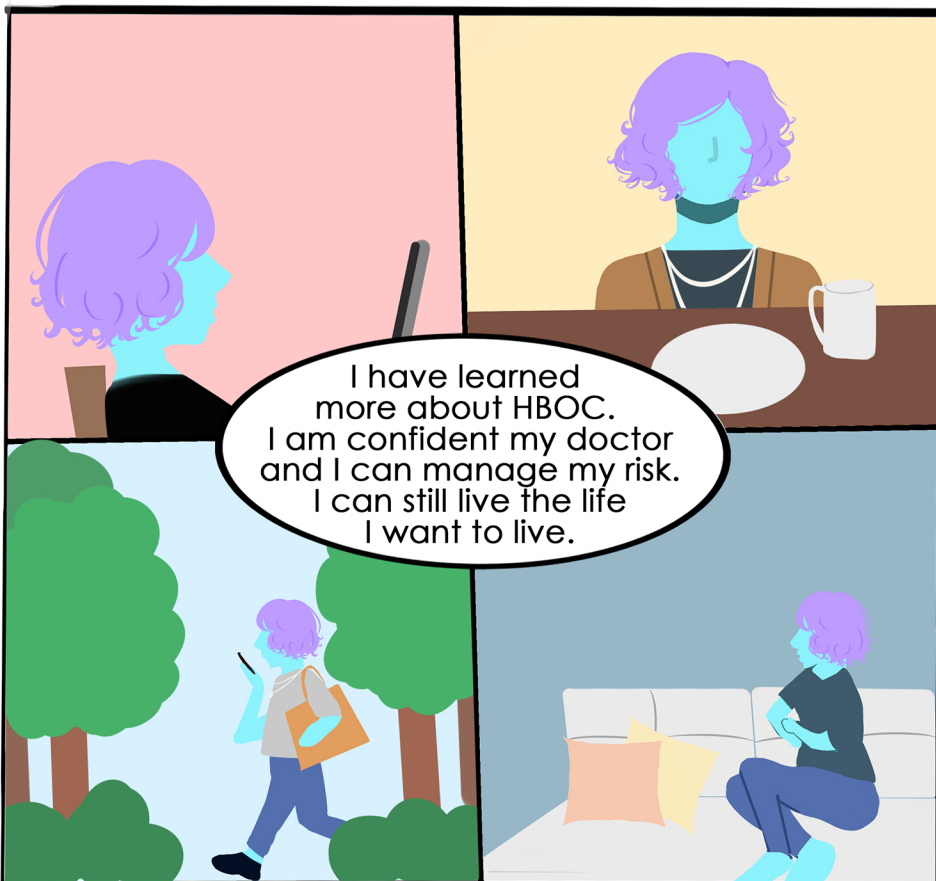
Now that we know that you have this variant, there are things we can do to manage your risk.

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.



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



The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services will not exclude from participation in, deny benefits of, or discriminate against any individual or group because of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, height, weight, marital status, partisan considerations, or a disability or genetic information that is unrelated to the person's eligibility.

This publication was supported in part by Cooperative Agreement CDC-RFA-DP19-1905 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.