The Breast and Ovarian Cancer Susceptibility (BOCS) Study
INFORMATION SHEET

We would like to invite you to take part in a research study to investigate the causes of breast and/or ovarian cancer.

We are members of a research team working on genetic factors that increase the risk of developing breast and/or ovarian cancer. In some families there are several cases of these cancers. Because cancer is quite common this may be due to chance, or it may be due to the presence of genetic factors which increase the chance that cancer will occur.

Although some breast and ovarian cancer genetic factors have already been found, it is very likely that more exist. We hope this study will help us to identify currently unknown breast and/or ovarian cancer genetic factors. We also hope to work out how breast and ovarian cancer genes interact with each other and with non-genetic factors to increase the risk of these cancers. If we can discover more about the genes that cause breast and/or ovarian cancers we may be able to develop new treatments to combat these diseases.

If you agree to participate in this study you will be sent a short questionnaire to complete. You will also be asked for a small sample of blood, which will be used for genetic analysis of known breast and ovarian cancer genetic factors and to discover new factors. If you have had breast or ovarian cancer we will ask your pathologist if we can review the records and cancer samples. All samples will be used for research purposes only. There are no insurance implications and you do not need to inform anyone that you are taking part in the study. All samples will be stored indefinitely.

It is possible that information that might be relevant to the medical care of you and/or your family may become available as a result of information discovered in this study. For example, a gene alteration that increases the risk of cancer might be found and a genetic test may become available as a result. Any such information will be sent to the Doctor that referred your family to the study to be dealt with in accordance with standard medical practice. A genetic test would require full discussion with a doctor and may require a fresh blood sample.

Any information you give us will be kept strictly confidential. No member of your family will be contacted by us, except through yourself. Participation is entirely voluntary and you may withdraw from the study at any time, without affecting your medical care.

If you have any questions about the study please do not hesitate to contact us.

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