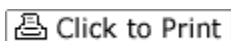




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Health Matters: Gene Testing for Breast Cancer

Triston Sanders - Medical Anchor

Genetic testing lets doctors look into the future of your health. Though you might not have any signs or symptoms of a disease like breast cancer, if you have a strong family history, you might be at risk of developing that disorder.

In this Health Matters we take a look at what your genes can tell you about breast cancer.

Chuck Dubais went through a challenging time with his wife's treatment for breast cancer. He is grateful that there are tests out there that can predict this disease for other family members.

Chuck says, "So every day is a new day and we keep praying that we don't have any bad news."

Gene testing is a medical procedure that can specifically evaluate intricate aspects of our physical makeup.

Dr. David Cho, a radiation oncologist at Capital Regional Medical Center, says, "Some hereditary forms of breast cancer express certain genes. That's when we see them we can better educate the patient and the family as to the family's risk to potential breast cancer in the future."

The results from this type of testing can warn your doctor of your potential risk of developing breast cancer.

"The gene mutation is called brca 1 or brca 2, and those are the two genetic defects that can be associated with breast cancer."

Families with a history of breast cancer can plan for their futures by understanding the risks to them and their future generations.

"It's really not just for the woman who has breast cancer, it's also for the relatives and her daughter."

Before genetic testing became available, some women with strong family histories of breast cancer chose to have both breasts surgically removed to reduce their future risk of breast cancer by 90 percent.

Only about 10 percent to 15 percent of all breast cancers are due to inherited factors, which is why self-breast exams, mammograms and physicals are still vitally important.

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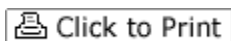
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