

Aurora Health Care leads in breast cancer research and treatment

Genomic medicine shows promise

The risks posed by genetic mutations are real. They can cause a variety of diseases, including cancer, and if you do a little research you'll find there is a lot of information out there – and it can be confusing. Without expert help, it's hard to know what risk you might have and what to do about it. Making sense of it all is what Aurora's Genomic Medicine Department is about.

The experts who make up this specialized team are leading the way in determining prevention and treatment options as the field of genetic testing expands.

cancer-risk assessments, along with approaches to reducing risk. Aurora is one of very few centers in the country with a full team of board-certified genetic counselors.

The days when only two well-known gene mutations were associated with breast cancer – BRCA1 and BRCA2 – are over. Dr. Tjoe said that current research suggests that many other gene mutations may also be connected to hereditary breast cancer. That's why Aurora offers the most up-to-date genetic testing for up to 50 different genes.

MD, Aurora's Genomic Medicine Department created the Aurora Hereditary Cancer Prevention and Management Center to educate people on how to participate in their own care.

"The center provides complete care for families with complex or difficult hereditary cancer conditions," Dr. Mullane said. "We offer a full risk evaluation and help patients understand what their inherited genetic abnormalities and predisposition to cancer may mean for them and their family."

AURORA NOW GOES BEYOND TESTING FOR BRCA1 AND BRCA2 – THE TWO WELL-KNOWN GENE MUTATIONS ASSOCIATED WITH BREAST CANCER.

With more genes being identified with cancer-related mutations, Aurora's Genomic Medicine Department created specific guidelines to identify people who should consider expanded testing. These guidelines help the team avoid notifying people who likely won't have a cancer diagnosis in their future. That way they can focus on giving attention to those who might, and who may need to act.

This guidance matters, in part, because the outcome from genetic mutations isn't always perfectly clear.

"These families need a solid game plan for ongoing surveillance and cancer screenings. We are the family's 'quarterback,' so to speak, directing their care through a multidisciplinary team approach," Dr. Mullane said.

Developing a 'solid game plan'

Information may be power, but knowing what to do with information about risk is even more powerful.

Working in partnership with medical oncologist/hematologist Michael Mullane,

Is genetic testing/counseling right for you?
Genetic counseling can offer insights on:



Your hereditary cancer risk



Implications of a positive or a negative test result



Risks of passing on a gene mutation to your child



Breast cancer surgeon Judy Tjoe, MD

Today, it is known that gene mutations can cause up to 5 to 10 percent of breast cancer cases, according to breast cancer surgeon Judy Tjoe, MD. For people who feel they may have a hereditary cancer risk, Aurora's genetic counselors offer personalized

FOCUSING ON PREVENTION

Aurora is on the forefront of the newest medical advancements in genetics, oncology and – importantly – cancer prevention.

"It's so much better to prevent cancer than to treat it," Dr. Mullane said. At the same

time, when treatment becomes necessary, Aurora leads the way, with an experienced team that provides the most innovative options available.

Aurora has helped *literally* thousands of breast cancer patients move past their fear of the unknown. Gaining a deeper understanding of their genetic makeup allows people to explore prevention options and take ownership of their situation, with highly trained experts at their side.

Advancing the science of breast cancer prevention and treatment – both today and tomorrow – is the driving force behind ongoing, groundbreaking efforts in genomic medicine at Aurora Health Care.

LEARN MORE

To connect with our genetic counselors, call **877-647-2502**.

Leading the charge against cancer. So you can get back to leading life.

Preventing breast cancer is the best possible situation. At Aurora Health Care, experts use the most advanced genetic testing options available to help women identify their risks so they can take the right action, right now. It's just one way Aurora is providing better breast cancer care and leading the charge against cancer.

Learn more at aurora.org/MovingForward.