

ACS: MRI recommended for women at high risk for breast cancer

Women with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer syndrome due to mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* have up to an 87% lifetime risk of developing breast cancer. Breast cancer management options for these women have included increased surveillance, chemoprevention and preventative surgery. Two commonly used surveillance methods are mammography and breast MRI (magnetic resonance imaging). Several studies have been published in the past few years addressing the utility of breast MRI in detecting breast tumors in high-risk women.

In view of this mounting evidence, the American Cancer Society (ACS) recently updated their breast screening guidelines to include recommendations for MRI as an adjunct to mammography.

Saslow D, et al. American Cancer Society guidelines for breast screening with MRI as an adjunct to mammography. CA Cancer J Clin. 2007 Mar-Apr;57(2):75-89.

The ACS recommends annual breast MRI screening as an adjunct to mammography in the following women based on evidence:

- BRCA mutation positive women
- First-degree relative of a BRCA carrier, but untested
- Lifetime breast cancer risk greater than 20-25%, based upon family history risk assessment models

The ACS recommends annual breast MRI screening as an adjunct to mammography based upon expert consensus opinion for:

- Women who had radiation to the chest between the ages of 10 and 30 years
- Women with rare hereditary cancer syndromes (Li-Fraumeni, Cowden, and Bannayan-Riley-Ruvalcaba)
- First-degree relatives of these rare hereditary cancer syndrome patients

Bottom Line:

The American Cancer Society recommends the use of MRI and mammography as surveillance methods for women at high risk for breast cancer. These recommendations, in addition to similar guidelines from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network (NCCN)¹, make it imperative to identify women at high risk for breast cancer so that proper medical management options can be implemented.

1. www.nccn.org

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Myriad Genetic Laboratories, Inc.
320 Wakara Way, Salt Lake City, UT 84108

For more information:

www.myriadpro.com 800-4-MYRIAD (800-469-7423)