

Mayo Clinic Minute

Should Women at High Risk of Cancer have Surgery?

Video	Audio
Vivien Williams	Every woman is at risk of breast and ovarian cancer. But some are at high risk because they carry one of two known genes.
	Researchers in the Mayo Clinic Cancer Center asked this question: How do we help women at high risk figure out the best way to prevent getting these diseases?
Lynn Hartmann, M.D. Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic	“Most of the time to date, we’ve lumped BRCA1 and BRCA2 carriers together and talked about their management. In fact, we know now that these women develop quite different types of breast cancer.”
	Oncologist Dr. Lynn Hartmann and colleagues published a review article in <i>The New England Journal of Medicine</i> . They found women need guidance when deciding between these options: having preventive surgery such as mastectomy, taking risk-lowering medications or increasing surveillance.
Lynn Hartmann, M.D. Medical Oncology Mayo Clinic	“This is an area that needs much more study. How can we help women look at these vastly different options and provide them with the best information.”
Vivien Williams	I’m Vivien Williams, and for more health news, visit the Mayo Clinic News Network.