Breast and ovarian cancer guidelines

Approximately 1 in 8 women in the United Kingdom develop breast cancer over their lifetime, and around 5-10% of these have a hereditary cause.

All women are eligible for 3-yearly mammography in the NHS Breast Screening Programme and will be called for their first mammogram between the ages of 47 and 50. For women with a strong family history of breast and ovarian cancer, additional screening is recommended.

Referral for additional screening is only made following accurate assessment of family history, please see referral guidelines and documents below.

Genetic testing for BRCA1 and BRCA2 is only appropriate in a small number of families, and usually begins in a relative who has been affected by breast or ovarian cancer. Testing is currently offered when there is a >10% chance of finding a mutation, please see document below.