

## New genetic test will make breast cancer screening affordable for more women

A Silicon Valley start-up with some big-name backers is threatening to upend genetic screening for breast and [ovarian cancer](#) by offering a test on a sample of saliva that is so inexpensive that most women could get it.

At the same time, the nation's two largest clinical laboratories, [Quest Diagnostics](#) and [LabCorp](#), normally bitter rivals, are joining with French researchers to pool their data to better interpret mutations in the two main [breast cancer](#) risk genes, known as BRCA1 and BRCA2. Other companies and laboratories are being invited to join the effort, called BRCA Share.

The field has also been propelled by the actress and filmmaker Angelina Jolie, who has a BRCA1 mutation and [has written about her own decision](#) to have her breasts, ovaries and fallopian tubes removed to sharply reduce her risk of developing cancer.

But the issue of who should be tested remains controversial. The effort of the start-up, Color Genomics, to "democratize access to genetic testing," in the words of the chief executive, Elad Gil, is generating concern among some experts.

Testing of the BRCA genes has generally been limited by medical guidelines to women who already have cancer or those with a family history of breast or ovarian cancers. Insurers generally have not paid for BRCA tests for other women, and some insurers are not paying at all for a newer type of screening known as a panel test that analyzes from 10 to 40 genes at once.

**The GLP aggregated and excerpted this blog/article to reflect the variety of news, opinion and analysis. Read full, original post: [New Genetic Tests for Breast Cancer Hold Promise](#)**