

Operative and Pathologic Protocol for Prophylactic Bilateral Salpingo-Oophorectomy (BSO) in BRCA Carriers

A surgical-pathologic protocol has been developed for female carriers of BRCA mutations pursuing BSO. The protocol includes complete removal and serial sectioning of both ovaries and fallopian tubes, peritoneal and omental biopsies and collection of peritoneal washings for cytology.

In a series of women with BRCA mutations undergoing 'prophylactic' BSO, this protocol helped to detect several occult malignancies. For these women appropriate follow-up care and treatment was then offered.

Therefore a rigorous operative and pathologic protocol increases the ability to detect occult cancers and is warranted in BRCA carriers undergoing prophylactic BSO.

Please share these guidelines with your physicians and pathologists before undergoing prophylactic BSO.

Specific Surgical-Pathological Protocol for Risk-Reduction Salpingo-Oophorectomy in Women who Carry BRCA Mutations

1. Bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy and removal of entire fallopian tube (up to their insertion into the cornua of the uterus)
2. Cytologic examination of peritoneal washings using saline solution
3. Random peritoneal and omental biopsies
4. Serial sectioning of entire fallopian tubes and ovaries at 2-mm intervals and microscopic examination of all sections.

Reference:

1. Powel CB. et al. J Clin Oncol 2005; 23(1):127-32.