Marc A. Rovito, MD
Medical Director, Medical Oncology
Dr. Rovito is Board Certified in medical oncology and internal medicine. He received his medical degree from Temple University, and completed his residency in internal medicine at the Medical College of Pennsylvania, where he also completed his hematology and oncology fellowship. He is an Assistant Professor within the Hematology-Oncology Department at Penn State Cancer Institute. Dr. Rovito is the Cancer Liaison Physician for St. Joseph Medical Center and is an integral part of our cancer program’s accreditation by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer (CoC), Quality Oncology Practice Initiative (QOPI), and the American College of Radiology (Radiation Oncology).

Donna A. Lamp, RN, BSN, CCM
Ms. Lamp has over 20 years of clinical nursing experience. She currently serves as the coordinator for the Cancer Risk Evaluation Program and a Certified Case Manager in Oncology Services at SJRHN. She earned her RN degree from St. Joseph School of Nursing and her Bachelor of Science degree in nursing from Alvernia University. She facilitates the coordination of patient care focusing on the provision of patient and family education and arranging appropriate resource referrals. She has served on the Berks County Breast Cancer Services Board of Directors and the American Cancer Society’s Volunteer Leadership Council.

Maria J. Baker, Ph.D.
Dr. Baker received her Master’s degree in Genetic Counseling from the University of Pittsburgh’s Graduate School of Public Health in 1985 and her Doctoral degree in Genetics from the Penn State University College of Medicine in 1991. She is a diplomate of both the American Board of Medical Genetics and the American Board of Genetic Counseling with dual certification as a Master’s trained genetic counselor and a Ph.D. medical geneticist. Dr. Baker developed and coordinates the Penn State Cancer Genetics Program.

If you have a personal and/or family history of any of the following risk factors, you may benefit from CREP:
• Breast cancer before age 50
• Bilateral breast cancer
• Male breast cancer at any age
• Ovarian cancer at any age
• Both breast and ovarian cancers
• Relative with BRCA mutation
• Ashkenazi/Eastern European Jewish descent

Our experienced oncology professionals will:
• Conduct a comprehensive evaluation of family, medical and lifestyle history
• Determine a woman’s risk for developing breast/ovarian cancer
• Assist in developing a realistic opinion of a woman’s breast cancer risk status
• Recommend a plan for ongoing screening and risk reduction approaches
• Help women understand current breast health management issues and research studies related to breast cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment
• Explain the genetics of breast cancer and, when indicated, provide counseling and access to genetic testing
• Provide access to appropriate clinical research studies related to breast health or genetic testing consideration for women found to be at high risk
• Offer women accurate, relevant information to enable them to make informed decisions about their healthcare management
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As part of our commitment to providing compassionate, quality cancer care in the community, and through our affiliation with the Penn State Cancer Institute, St. Joseph is pleased to offer the Cancer Risk Evaluation Program (CREP). The program offers information and evaluation using genetics to assess your risk for developing breast, ovarian and other hereditary cancers.

CANCER RISK EVALUATION PROGRAM
Using genetics to assess your risk for developing breast, ovarian, and other hereditary cancers.

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Getting started

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Once you have decided you would benefit from the Cancer Risk Evaluation Program (CREP), the first step is to place a simple phone call to our Nurse Coordinator at 610-378-2457. During the phone call, you will be asked some basic health questions and you will be provided with an overview of how the program works. A packet of information will be mailed to you containing a Personal Health History form and Family History Questionnaire. Review these forms and complete the information as thoroughly as possible and return them in the enclosed envelope. Once these completed forms are received, you will be contacted to schedule your first interview with our Nurse Coordinator. You can expect to be scheduled for two separate visits, each taking approximately one and a half hours.

What to expect

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On your first visit, you will meet with an oncology nurse who has experience in genetic counseling. During this session, additional information will be gathered and the completed questionnaires will be reviewed. A pedigree or family tree will be constructed to help identify key family members who may have had cancer. Your nurse will spend a considerable amount of time explaining the nature of cancer development, the relationship of cancer genetics and breast and ovarian cancer incidence, and exploring known risk factors. You will also be taught how to perform a breast self-examination.

At your second visit, you will meet with a medical oncologist and the results of this evaluation will be incorporated into the information gathered at the first visit to complete a comprehensive cancer risk assessment. The doctor will review the recommendations for follow-up based on the risk factor evaluation provided by the Penn State Medical geneticist. Findings will be thoroughly explained and there will be plenty of time for discussion. You will be provided with a written summary and an individualized surveillance plan. Recommendations may include intensive surveillance, chemoprevention strategies or prophylactic surgery.

Would I benefit from genetic testing?

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Genetic testing is sometimes recommended for women with a strong family history of breast and/or ovarian cancer. Genetic testing involves identification of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genetic mutations, which have been linked with an increased risk of hereditary breast and ovarian cancers. Additional factors are considered before a recommendation for genetic testing is made.

You might want to consider genetic testing for a variety of reasons. Some women want to know if they have inherited a predisposition to breast or ovarian cancer, while others prefer to learn how to reduce their risk factors rather than knowing their odds of an inherited susceptibility. Still others want both pieces of information. To help women make informed decisions, staff provide education and counseling about the benefits, limitations and potential drawbacks of genetic testing.

What about clinical research?

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Dramatic progress has been made in treating breast and ovarian cancer, predominantly through rigorous scientific research, including the testing of new medications and procedures. Patients who participate in these investigational studies gain access to the very latest changes in cancer care developed by the nation’s foremost cancer specialists. People at high risk for cancer may be eligible to participate in prevention and detection studies. Your physician will discuss this option with you, if appropriate.

For more information,
or to make an appointment,
call 610.378.2457.