Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer.

Breast Cancer is a disease in which certain cells in the breast become abnormal and multiply uncontrollably to form a tumor. Although breast cancer is much more common in women than in men, it can occur in men as well. According to the American Cancer Society, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in women, after lung cancer.

Breast cancer risk factors include:
- Age: Women who develop breast cancer are usually between the ages of 50 and 60.
- Family history: Women with a family history of breast cancer are more likely to develop the disease.
- Hormonal factors: Women who begin menstruating early or who have delayed menopause are at higher risk.
- Genetics: Certain genetic mutations increase the risk of breast cancer.
- Radiation: Women who have received radiation to the chest area for other reasons are at higher risk.
- Menstrual factors: Women who have never had children or who have had children later in life are at higher risk.
- Obesity: Women who are obese or who have a history of obesity are at higher risk.
- Alcohol: Women who drink excessively are at higher risk.

Genetic mutations in the BRCA1 or BRCA2 genes are associated with increased risk of breast cancer. Other genes, such as TP53, MDM2, PTEN, and TP73, are also associated with breast cancer risk.

It is estimated that 5% to 10% of breast cancer cases are due to genetic causes. Genetic testing can help identify those at increased risk for breast cancer.

For more information about breast cancer, visit www.cancer.org or call Susan G. Komen®'s breast cancer hotline.

Reference: American Cancer Society.