

1 *Type of the Paper (Review)*

2 **Population Based Testing for Primary Prevention: a** 3 **Systematic Review**

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11

12 **Abstract:** The current clinical model for genetic-testing is based on clinical-criteria/family-
13 history(FH) and a pre-defined mutation probability threshold. It requires people to develop cancer
14 before identifying unaffected individuals in the family to target prevention. This process is
15 inefficient, resource intense and misses >50% of individuals/mutation carriers at risk. Population
16 genetic-testing can overcome these limitations. It is technically feasible to test populations on a large
17 scale; genetic-testing costs are falling and the acceptability/awareness is rising.
18 MEDLINE/EMBASE/Pubmed/CINAHL/PsychINFO databases were searched using a free-text and
19 MeSH terms; reference lists of publications retrieved screened; additionally web-based platforms,
20 Google, and clinical-trial registries were searched. Quality of studies were evaluated using
21 appropriate check-lists. A number of studies have evaluated population-based BRCA-testing in the
22 Jewish-population. This has been found to be acceptable, feasible, clinically-effective, safe,
23 associated with high satisfaction rates and extremely cost-effective. Data support change in
24 guidelines to population-based BRCA-testing in the Jewish-population. Population panel-testing
25 for *BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIP1/PALB2* gene mutations is the most cost-effective
26 genetic-testing strategy in general-population women and can prevent thousands more
27 breast/ovarian cancers than current clinical-criteria based approaches. A few ongoing studies are
28 evaluating population-based genetic-testing for multiple cancer susceptibility genes in the general-
29 population but more implementation studies are needed. A future population-testing programme
30 could also target other chronic diseases.

31

32 **Keywords:** Population testing, genetic testing, BRCA, Jewish, general population, cancer
33 prevention, primary prevention

34

35 **1. Introduction**

36 A number of moderate to high penetrance cancer-susceptibility genes (CSG) with well-
37 established clinical utility have been identified over the last two decades, and testing for these is
38 widely available in clinical practice. The prime, most well-known exemplars have been *BRCA1* and
39 *BRCA2*. *BRCA1/BRCA2* carriers have a 17-44% risk of ovarian cancer (OC) and 69-72% risk of breast
40 cancer (BC) till age 80 years.[1] The current model for genetic testing is still predominantly driven by
41 family-history (FH) or clinical-criteria with testing undertaken in hospitals or specialist genetic clinics
42 following informed pre-test counselling. These FH-based criteria have been used to calculate

43 mutation probability with genetic testing offered over a pre-defined probability threshold. Clinical-
44 criteria have been loosened and this threshold for offering testing has fallen over the years (from an
45 earlier high of 20%), with most countries/health systems now offering *BRCA*-testing at about a 10%
46 *BRCA*-mutation probability. A number of different models, ranging from standardized criteria to
47 complex mathematical (Empirical/Mendelian) methodologies have been used to calculate mutation
48 probability and are used in clinical practice. Carrier identification has numerous potential clinical
49 benefits, which have been the main drivers for genetic testing. Effective options for prevention and/or
50 screening are well-established for these mutation-carriers in clinical practice. Unaffected *BRCA*-
51 mutation carriers can opt for: risk-reducing salpingo-oophorectomy (RRSO) to reduce their OC-
52 risk;[2] as well as MRI/mammography screening, and chemoprevention with selective estrogen-
53 receptor-modulators (SERM)[3] or risk-reducing mastectomy (RRM)[4] to reduce their BC-risk.
54 Additionally, mutation identification enables informed reproductive and contraceptive choices
55 which can impact risk, including timing of pill use, planning a family, as well as prenatal and pre-
56 implantation genetic-diagnosis (PGD)[5]. Cancer affected carriers can opt for novel drugs like PARP
57 inhibitors which improve survival as well as gain access to newer precision medicine based targeted
58 therapeutics through clinical trials.[6-8]

59 Pre-test genetic-counselling is a fundamental element of international guidelines[9] for informed
60 decision-making before genetic-testing. The model for counselling has evolved over the years, with
61 the original Huntingdon Model involving a minimum of two 60 minute face-to-face pre-test
62 counselling sessions[10] now archived as a fixture of the past. Telephone counselling, DVD-based
63 and group based approaches have been found to be non-inferior to traditional 1:1 face-to-face
64 counselling.[11-16] Over the years a wide variety of decision aids have been used as adjuncts to help
65 informed decision making, such as booklets, pamphlets, audiotapes, computer-based programmes
66 and web-based platforms. Another important recent development is the move away from traditional
67 genetics clinics towards non-genetic clinicians undertaking routine pre-test counselling and testing
68 at cancer diagnosis.[17]

69

70 1.1. The need for change

71 The current Clinical-criteria/FH-based system of genetic testing has many limitations. It is only
72 moderately effective at identifying mutations and poor at ruling out the presence of one.[18] We[19]
73 and others[20,21] have shown current testing-criteria miss >50% *BRCA*-carriers with a relevant cancer
74 and an even higher proportion of unaffected carriers don't fulfil current genetic-testing criteria. There
75 are a number of reasons for this including paternal inheritance, poor communication within and
76 between families, inability to access health records, population migration, smaller nuclear families,
77 lack of awareness and pure chance. Besides number of carriers are missed because they will have a
78 probability below the clinical testing threshold (their *BRCA* probability is not nil or 0). Additionally
79 the current approach requires individuals to be aware of their FH of cancer, understand its
80 importance, and contact their GP or relevant health professional. The health professional in turn
81 needs to understand the importance of this history and needs to refer to an appropriate genetics
82 centre/ clinician. This gate keeper approach requires people to jump through a number of hoops. Lack
83 of public and health professional awareness and complexity/inefficiency of the current structure and

84 testing pathway has led to restricted access and massive under-utilisation of genetic testing
85 services.[22,23] Childers et al estimate that >70% BC and >80% OC patients eligible for genetic testing
86 in the USA have never discussed this with a health professional.[22] We recently analysed recent
87 NHS genetic-laboratory *BRCA*-testing data from 1993-2014 across a 16 million Greater-London
88 population and found that <3% of estimated *BRCA*-carriers had been identified to date.[23] Our
89 forecasting models suggest detection-rates using the current system are inadequate to identify all
90 *BRCA*-carriers in the population and even doubling them will need 165-years to identify the
91 'clinically detectable' proportion of *BRCA*-carriers (~50% don't fulfil clinical-testing criteria,
92 remaining undetectable).[23] Given the small proportion of unaffected individuals getting cancer
93 annually, even addition of unselected case series testing while useful in identifying the pool of
94 individuals without strong FH of cancer, will require ~250 years to identify residual undetected *BRCA*
95 carriers.[23] Why do we need to wait for decades for people to develop cancer before identifying
96 mutation carriers and their at risk family members? With the effective options for cancer-risk
97 management and prevention available for high-risk women, this raises serious questions about the
98 adequacy of the current clinical-criteria/FH-based approach. A number of these limitations can be
99 overcome by offering unrestricted/unselected population based testing.

100 Next generation sequencing driven high throughput testing coupled with advances in
101 bioinformatics has technologically enabled large scale population wide testing. Falling costs of testing
102 and increasing population awareness of cancer genetics and its implications offers a timely
103 opportunity to apply this knowledge and technology on a broad population-scale to provide an
104 important impetus in healthcare towards disease prevention. We present a systematic review of the
105 literature on population-based germline testing for *BRCA* gene mutations. We also explore future
106 applicability and potential for this strategy across other CSGs/chronic disease.

107 2. Methods

108

109 2.1. Search strategy and selection criteria

110 We systematically reviewed the current literature on population-based germline testing for
111 *BRCA*-mutations using a comprehensive three step search strategy to identify relevant studies. First
112 we searched the following five databases from inception to August 30 2018: MEDLINE, EMBASE,
113 Pubmed, CINAHL, and PsychINFO. A common search strategy (Table-1) was developed for database
114 searching using a combination of free text and controlled vocabulary (MeSH terms). Second,
115 reference lists of publications retrieved in the first step were screened for relevant studies. Third, we
116 searched additional web-based platforms including specialised journals, Google searches for grey
117 literature, conference proceedings and clinical trial registries (ISRCTN registry/ClinicalTrials.gov
118 registry).

119

Objective	To identify published literature on unselected population based germline testing
Data sources	A systematic review of articles with the use of MEDLINE (1946 to August 2018), EMBASE (1974 to August 2018), Pubmed (1996 to August 2018), CINAHL (1937 to August 2018), PsychINFO (1806 to August 2018)
Search strategy	49 searches were undertaken using the below PICO framework: Participants: unaffected men/women Intervention: unselected population genetic testing Comparison: family history/clinical criteria genetic testing Outcomes: acceptability; detection rate; satisfaction; quality of life; cost-effectiveness of unselected genetic testing
	1. (LOW RISK).ti,ab
	2. exp "LOW RISK"/
	3. (POPULATION RISK).ti,ab
	4. exp "POPULATION RISK"/
	5. 1 OR 2 OR 3 OR 4
	6. (CANCER).ti,ab
	7. exp "CANCER"/
	8. 6 OR 7
	9. (POPULATION GENETIC TESTING).ti,ab
	10. exp "POPULATION GENETIC TESTING"/
	11. (UNSELECTED GENETIC TESTING).ti,ab
	12. exp "UNSELECTED GENETIC TESTING"/
	13. 9 OR 10 OR 11 OR 12
	14. 8 AND 13
	15. (FAMILY HISTORY).ti,ab

16. exp "FAMILY HISTORY "/
17. 15 OR 16
18. (GENETIC TESTING).ti,ab
19. exp "GENETIC TESTING"/
20. 18 OR 19
21. 8 AND 17 AND 20
22. (BRCA).ti,ab
23. exp "BRCA"/
24. (BRCA AND "1 OR 2").ti,ab
25. exp "BRCA AND 1 OR 2"/
26. (BRCA AND 1).ti,ab
27. exp " BRCA AND 1"/
28. (BRCA AND 2).ti,ab
29. exp "BRCA AND 2"/
30. 22 OR 23 OR 24 OR 25 OR 26 OR 27 OR 28 OR 29
31. 8 AND 30
32. 14 OR 21 OR 31
33. (ACCEPTABILITY).ti,ab
34. exp "ACCEPTABILITY"/
35. 33 OR 34
36. (DETECTION RATE).ti,ab
37. exp "DETECTION RATE"/
38. 36 OR 37
39. (SATISFACTION).ti,ab
40. exp "SATISFACTION"/
41. 39 OR 40

42. (QUALITY OF LIFE).ti,ab	
43. exp "QUALITY OF LIFE"/	
44. 42 OR 43	
45. (COST EFFECTIVE).ti,ab	
46. exp "COST EFFECTIVE"/	
47. 45 OR 46	
48. 35 OR 38 OR 41 OR 44 OR 47	
49. 5 AND 32 AND 48	
Eligibility criteria	Unselected, unaffected individuals at population level risk undergoing genetic testing for cancer predisposing genes; full text articles in English language.
Data extraction	Citations, abstracts extracted and reviewed by FG. Relevant papers reviewed by authors FG and RM.
Conclusion	Population genetic testing can overcome the limitations of family history/clinical criteria genetic testing. The technology to test populations on a large scale is available and the cost of testing is falling. Population based <i>BRCA</i> testing has been evaluated in the Jewish population and found to be acceptable, clinically effective, safe and cost-saving. However, these data cannot be 'directly' extrapolated to the non-Jewish general population. While recent data suggest genetic testing for breast/ovarian cancer gene mutations could be cost-effective in general population women too, additional research including implementation studies in the general population are needed to address various knowledge gaps before that step can be considered.

120 **Table-1.** Search strategy for literature search

121 Predefined inclusion criteria were unselected, unaffected individuals at population level risk
 122 undergoing genetic-testing for cancer predisposing genes. Outcomes investigated in relation to
 123 population genetic testing were: 1) acceptability, 2) testing uptake, 3) mutation detection rate, 4)
 124 satisfaction, 5) quality-of-life, 6) psychological health, 7) genetic counselling, 8) knowledge, 9) risk
 125 perception, 10) cost-effectiveness.

126

127 2.2. Data extraction and quality assessment

128 Data were extracted using a standardised, predesigned data extraction sheet in Microsoft Excel
 129 2013. Four main categories of data were extracted: methodological characteristics of each study, study
 130 population, details of interventions and reported outcome measures pertaining to population genetic

131 testing. The quality of the studies was assessed depending on study design, using the following
132 checklists: Quality of Health Economic Studies (QHES) checklist,[24] Critical Appraisal Skills
133 Programme (CASP) qualitative research checklist, [25] Jadad scale for reporting randomized
134 controlled trials[26] and Methodological Index for Non-Randomized Studies (MINORS)
135 checklist.[27]

136 2.3. Data analysis

137 We tabulated characteristics and reported outcome measures of all studies for qualitative
138 synthesis.

139 3. Results

140 Figure-1 provides the flow chart outlining the search outcomes and study selection process.
141 Searches of electronic databases and reference lists generated 323 references. On evaluation of all
142 titles and abstracts, 32/323 articles were potentially eligible for detailed assessment. 26/32 met our
143 inclusion criteria for qualitative synthesis.[19-21,28-50] Relevant studies on population testing and
144 design/outcomes/quality are summarised in Table-2. Table-3 encapsulates the main
145 findings/conclusion from each study.

146

147 3.1. The Jewish BRCA Model

148 The majority of the evidence base for population-based testing currently comes from *BRCA*
149 founder mutation testing (as the genetic disease model) in the Jewish population (population model).
150 Six studies describe attitudes, interest, intention, barriers, and facilitators of *BRCA* testing in the AJ
151 population (Table-2, Table-3).[29,30,45-47,51] Four main studies have evaluated the impact of
152 unselected population-based *BRCA*-testing in the Jewish population: Two Israeli cohort studies (8195
153 men & 1771 women/men)[20,52]; One Canadian cohort study (2080 women)[21]; and one UK
154 randomised controlled trial (RCT) (1034 women and men)[19]. Details of these studies and published
155 outputs are described in Table-2 and Table-3. These studies demonstrate that population-based
156 *BRCA*-testing in the Jewish population is feasible, acceptable, safe, can be undertaken in a community
157 setting, and identifies >50% additional *BRCA*-carriers who would have been missed by traditional
158 clinical-criteria. RCT data show no significant difference in psychological well-being and quality-of-
159 life outcomes between population-based and FH/Clinical-criteria based *BRCA*-testing
160 approaches.[19] Overall anxiety and uncertainty with *BRCA*-testing were found to decrease with
161 time.[19] Israeli and Canadian cohort data show increased anxiety and distress in identified mutation
162 carriers at 6 months/1 year.[52,53] However, overall satisfaction rates are high for all participants
163 (>91%) and similar to non-carriers.[52] Hence, outcomes seen with population-based testing appear
164 to be similar to those reported from high-risk clinics.[54]

165 Both Israeli and UK data suggest testing uptake and satisfaction rates are higher for testing
166 undertaken through self-referral in ambulatory or community centres compared to hospital
167 ascertainment.[19,52] Qualitative data re-confirm overall satisfaction with population-based *BRCA*-
168 testing reported with quantitative analyses, with 81% carriers and 90% non-carriers interviewed
169 expressing unequivocal positive attitudes towards the *BRCA*-testing experience.[51] Barriers and

170 facilitators reported with population-testing are similar to those found in high risk clinics. Other
171 emergent themes reported include the need for incorporating testing into routine practice through
172 primary care and via non-genetic clinicians as well as preservation of autonomy in decision
173 making.[51] Familial communication following testing has been found to be associated with overall
174 satisfaction with the process and FH of cancer. Initial cascade testing rates are higher in first-degree
175 than second-degree relatives.[33]

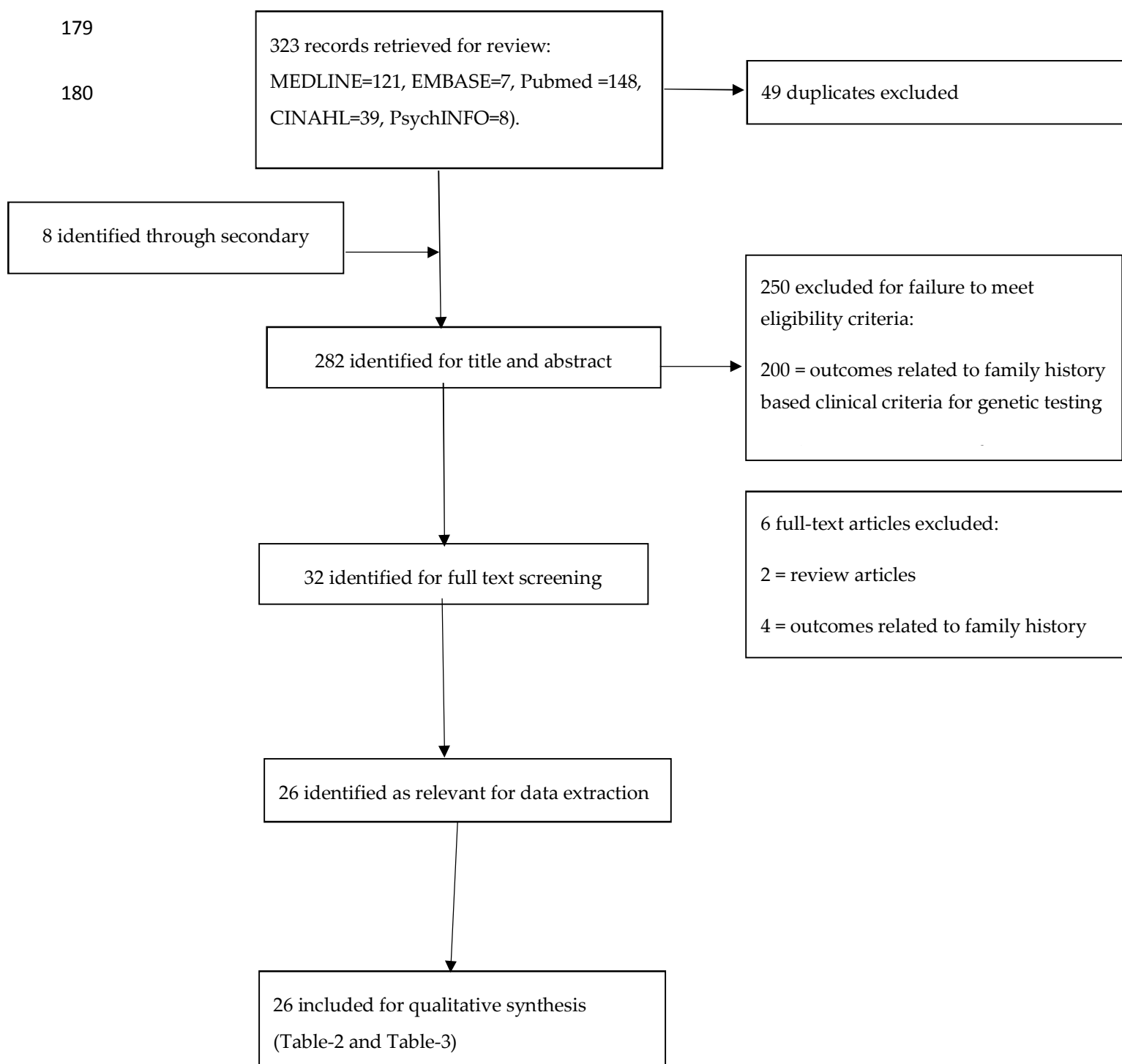
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**Figure-1.** Flowchart of study selection

Publication/register ed study	Country	Sample size (n)	Study design	Population	Intervention	Outcomes	Follow up	Quality of study methodology
Brown, 1995[28]	US	N/A	Cost-effectiveness analysis	General population	PGT for <i>MSH2/MLH1</i>	Cost per life year gained	N/A	31/100 [‡]
Cousens, 2017[29]	Australia	370	Prospective, survey	AJ women	Survey on <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> PGT	Attitudes; acceptability; interest	None	13/16 [‡]
Gabai-Kapara, 2014[20]	Israel	8195 (& 694 relatives of carriers)	Prospective cohort	AJ men/women	PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Risk of BC/OC in female carriers ascertained through an unaffected male index subject	Not reported	12/16 [‡]
Lehmann, 2002[30]	US	200	Prospective, survey	AJ women	Telephone survey on <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> PGT	Attitudes; acceptability	None	12/16 [‡]
Lieberman, 2017[31]	Israel	36	Qualitative	AJ men/women	Semi structured interviews in individuals undergoing PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Motivators/barriers to testing; satisfaction	18 months	Good~
Lieberman, 2017[32]	Israel	1,771	Prospective cohort	AJ men/women	PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Uptake; post-test counselling compliance; satisfaction; anxiety; distress; increase in knowledge	6 months	12/16 [‡]
Lieberman, 2018[33]	Israel	1,771	Prospective, cohort	AJ men/women	PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Familial communication; cascade testing	2 years	12/16 [‡]

Manchanda, 2015[19] (ISRCTN73338115)	UK	1,034	Randomised controlled trial	AJ men/women	PGT versus FH based testing of AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Acceptability; psychological impact; QoL	3 months	5/5*
Manchanda, 2015[34] (ISRCTN73338115)	UK	N/A	Cost-utility analysis	AJ women	PGT versus FH based testing for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Incremental cost effectiveness ratio per quality adjusted life year	N/A	96/100 ^e
Manchanda, 2016[35] (ISRCTN73338115)	UK	936	Cluster randomised non-inferiority trial	AJ men/women	DVD assisted versus face-to-face pre-test counselling in individuals undergoing PGT of AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Uptake; cancer risk perception; increase in knowledge; counselling time; satisfaction	N/A	4/5*
Manchanda, 2017[36]	UK, US	N/A	Cost-utility analysis	AJ women	PGT versus FH based testing for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations with differing AJ ancestry	Incremental cost effectiveness ratio per quality adjusted life year	N/A	90/100 ^e
Manchanda, 2018[37]	UK, US	N/A	Cost-utility analysis	General population women	PGT versus FH based testing of <i>BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIP1/PALB2</i> mutations	Incremental cost effectiveness ratio per quality adjusted life year	N/A	96/100 ^e
Meisel, 2016[38]	UK	829	Prospective, cohort	General population women	Survey	Interest; attitudes	None	12/16 [#]

Meisel, 2017[39]	UK	1031	Randomised experimental survey	General population women	Brief information versus lengthier information to inform decision making about participating in a study (PROMISE study) on PGT for OC	Knowledge; intention; attitudes towards taking part in the PROMISE study	None	3/5*
Meisel, 2017[40]	UK	837	Cross-sectional survey	General population women	Survey on <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> PGT	Anticipated health behaviour change; perceived control to disclosure of OC/BC risk	None	11/16 [#]
Metcalfe, 2010[21]	Canada	2080	Prospective, cohort	AJ/SJ women	PGT for Jewish <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Mutation prevalence	None	14/16 [#]
Metcalfe, 2010[41]	Canada	2080	Prospective, cohort	AJ/SJ women	PGT for Jewish <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Satisfaction; cancer related distress; cancer risk perception	1 year	14/16 [#]
Metcalfe, 2012[42]	Canada	2080	Prospective, cohort	AJ/SJ women	PGT for Jewish <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Cancer related distress; uptake of cancer risk reduction options	2 years	14/16 [#]
Patel, 2018[43]	UK, US	N/A	Cost-utility analysis	SJ women	PGT versus FH based testing for SJ <i>BRCA1</i> founder mutations	Incremental cost effectiveness ratio per quality adjusted life year	N/A	90/100 [£]
Rubinstein, 2009[44]	US	N/A	Cost-utility analysis	AJ women	PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations versus 'no' genetic testing	Incremental cost effectiveness	N/A	71/100 [£]

								ratio per quality adjusted life year
Schwartz, 2001[45]	US	391	Randomised controlled trial	AJ women	PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> educational material versus general BC education control material	Knowledge; perception of risks and limitations; interest	1 month	3/5*
Shkedi-Rafid, 2012[46]	Israel	14	Qualitative	Unaffected <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> AJ female carriers ascertained following a positive test result in a male family member who underwent PGT	Semi structured in-depth interviews on PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations	Emotional implications; motivations; consequences; attitudes	None	Good~
Tang, 2017[47]	US	243	Cross-sectional survey	Orthodox AJ women	Survey on PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i>	Knowledge; perceived BC risk/worry; religious/cultural factors affecting decision making	None	13/16 [#]
Warner, 2005[48]	Australia	300	Prospective, cohort	AJ men/women	PGT for APC I1307K mutation, but non-disclosure of results	Acceptability; facilitators and barriers to testing	None	10/16 [#]
PROMISE Feasibility Study[49] (ISRCTN54246466)	UK	100	Prospective, cohort	General population women	PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIPI</i> and subsequent risk stratified screening and prevention	Acceptability; risk perception; cancer worry; QoL; stratification of OC risk; uptake of risk management options; satisfaction/regret; follow up completion rate; telephone helpline use; decision aid use	6 months	N/A

The Screen Project[50]	Canada	10,000	Prospective, cohort	General population men/women	PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i>	Satisfaction; cancer worry	Not reported	N/A
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181 **Table-2.** Publications and registered studies reporting population genetic testing outcomes

182 PGT – population genetic testing; FH – family history; AJ – Ashkenazi Jewish; SJ – Sephardi Jewish; QoL – quality of life; BC – breast cancer; OC – ovarian cancer;
183 PROMISE - Predicting risk of ovarian malignancy improved screening and early detection feasibility study; ICER – incremental cost-effective ratio; QALY – quality
184 adjusted life year

185 [‡]Quality of study assessed using Quality of Health Economic Studies (QHES) checklist

186 ^ˆQuality of study assessed using the Critical Appraisal Skills Programme (CASP) qualitative research checklist

187 ^{*}Quality of study assessed using the Jadad scale for reporting randomized controlled trials

188 [#]Quality of study assessed using the Methodological Index for Non-Randomized Studies (MINORS) checklist

189

Publication/registered study	Findings
Brown, 1995[28]	Exploratory analysis for cost effectiveness of PGT for MMR gene mutations <i>MLH1/MSH2</i> compared to FH testing. PGT may be cost-effective if the base case analysis assumes a restrictive set of assumptions most favourable to the outcome with respect to prevalence, costs, clinical efficacy of screening and preventive interventions.
Cousens, 2017[29]	96.8% support a Jewish <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> testing program; 65.6 % interested in undergoing PGT. Interest in population based BRCA testing was higher in women <50 years than women >50 years.
Gabai-Kapara, 2014[20]	For female relatives with <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> mutations identified through unaffected AJ male relatives, cumulative risk of developing BC/OC by age 60 and 80 respectively were 0.60/0.83 for <i>BRCA1</i> ; 0.33/0.76 for <i>BRCA2</i> carriers. 2.17% AJ carry a <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> mutation.
Lehmann, 2002[30]	40% AJ women interested in PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> , 40% not interested, and 20% uncertain. Increased interest associated with desire to obtain information on children's risk and valuing information for its own sake. 17% expressed concern or discomfort about Jews being offered <i>BRCA1/2</i> testing. Increased concern about genetic discrimination associated with highly educated women.
Lieberman, 2017[31]	Motivators for <i>BRCA</i> testing: knowledge of <i>BRCA</i> status to enable cancer risk reduction; health-empowerment. Barriers: lack of physician awareness/support. Routinization of testing can overcome medical and social barriers. Importance of maintaining/safeguarding autonomy of choice and providing adequate post-test services was highlighted.
Lieberman, 2017[32]	<i>BRCA</i> testing uptake 67%. Post-test counselling compliance 100% for carriers; 89% for non-carriers with FH. All groups had high satisfaction (>90%). At 6 months, carriers had significantly increased distress/anxiety; greater knowledge; similar satisfaction to non-carriers. 90% recommended PGT for <i>BRCA</i> in the AJ community. Proactive recruitment through a clinical service captured older women more unselected for FH compared to self-referral based recruitment.
Lieberman, 2018[33]	97% carriers informed at least one relative. FH and higher Satisfaction With Health Decision scores predicted results communication. FDRs had a higher rate of cascade/predictive testing than SDRs. Female relatives had a higher level of cascade testing than male relatives.
Manchanda, 2015[19] (ISRCTN73338115)	Compared with FH based testing, PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> AJ founder mutations, does not adversely affect short-term psychological/QoL outcomes and may detect 56% additional <i>BRCA</i> carriers. 56% of carriers do not fulfil clinical criteria for genetic testing, and the <i>BRCA1/2</i> prevalence is 2.45%.

Manchanda, 2015[34] (ISRCTN73338115)	PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations is cost saving with a baseline discounted ICER of -£2079/QALY. PGT lowered OC/BC incidence by 0.34% and 0.62% respectively. Assuming 71% testing uptake, this leads to 276 fewer OC and 508 fewer BC cases. Overall, reduction in treatment costs leads to a discounted cost savings of £3.7 million in the UK population.
Manchanda, 2016[35] (ISRCTN73338115)	DVD assisted counselling for PGT is non-inferior to face-to-face counselling for increase in knowledge; counselling satisfaction; risk perception and is equivalent for uptake. 98% found DVD length/information satisfactory. 85–89% felt it improved understanding of risks/benefits/implications/purpose of PGT. 95% would recommend it to others.
Manchanda, 2017[36]	PGT for <i>BRCA</i> mutations is cost-saving in AJ with 2-4 grandparents (22-33 days life gained) in the UK and 1-4 grandparents (12-26 days life-gained) in the US. It is extremely cost-effective in women in the UK with 1 AJ grandparent with ICER=£863/QALY; 15 days life gained. PGT remains cost-effective in the absence of reduction in BC risk from RRSO; at lower RRM (13%) or RRSO (20%) rates.
Manchanda, 2018[37]	Population panel genetic testing for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIP1/PALB2</i> mutations is the most cost-effective genetic testing strategy compared with current policy: ICER=£21,599.96/QALY or \$54,769.78/QALY (9.34 or 7.57 days' life-expectancy gained). PGT for <i>BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIP1/PALB2</i> testing can prevent 1.86%/1.91% of BC and 3.2%/4.88% of OC in UK/US women: 657/655 OC cases and 2420/2386 BC cases prevented per million.
Meisel, 2016[38]	85% reported they would 'probably' or 'definitely' take up PGT for OC which increased to 88% if test also informed BC risk. 92% anticipated they would 'probably' or 'definitely' participate in risk-stratified OC screening. University level education is associated with lower anticipated uptake of PGT.
Meisel, 2017[39]	No significant differences between participants receiving brief versus lengthier information to inform decision making in terms of OC knowledge/intention to participate in OC screening following PGT. 74% reported they would participate in OC screening based on PGT assessment.
Meisel, 2017[40]	UK women anticipate that they would engage in positive health behaviour changes in response to BCOC risk disclosure. 72% reported 'I would try harder to have a healthy lifestyle'; 55% felt 'it would give me more control over my life'. Associations were independent of demographic factors or perceived risk of OC/BC.
Metcalfe, 2010[21]	Overall <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> prevalence in unselected Jewish women undergoing PGT was 1.1% (0.5% for <i>BRCA1</i> and 0.6% for <i>BRCA2</i>). Only 45% met clinical testing criteria.
Metcalfe, 2010[41]	In Jewish <i>BRCA</i> carriers, mean BC risk perception increased significantly from 41.1% to 59.6% after receiving a positive result. Among non-carriers, BC risk perception decreased non-significantly, from 35.8% to 33.5%. Cancer related distress increased significantly for carriers, but not in non-carriers. 92.8% satisfied with PGT.

Metcalfe, 2012[42]	Within 2 years of receiving a positive Jewish <i>BRCA</i> founder mutation result, 11.1% had RRM; 89.5% RRSO. Mean BC risk estimated to be 37.2% at time of testing versus 20.9% at 2 years post-testing. Distress decreased between 1 and 2 years for women with RRM/RRSO and for women with only RRSO but not for those with no surgery.
Patel, 2018[43]	PGT is cost-effective for SJ <i>BRCA1</i> founder mutation. It results in 12 months (QALY=1.00) gain in life expectancy. Baseline discounted ICER for UK PGT = £67.04/QALY; US population= \$308.42/QALY. PGT remains cost effective in UK/US, even if premenopausal RRSO doesn't reduce BC risk or if HRT compliance is nil.
Rubinstein, 2009[44]	Compared to a no testing policy, PGT for AJ <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> founder mutations is cost-effective and would result in 2,811 fewer cases of OC, with a life expectancy gain of 1.83 QALYs among carriers. At a cost of \$460 for founder mutation testing, the cost of the program is \$8,300/QALY.
Schwartz, 2001[45]	Compared to the BC education control material, the PGT education material led to increased knowledge; increased perception of the risks/limitations of testing; and a decreased interest in obtaining a <i>BRCA1/BRCA2</i> test.
Shkedi-Rafid, 2012[46]	Having no FH of cancer was a source of optimism but also confusion; engaging in intensified medical surveillance and undergoing preventive procedures was perceived as health promoting but also induced a sense of physical/psychological vulnerability; overall support for population <i>BRCA</i> testing in the AJ community, with some reservations.
Tang, 2017[47]	49% had adequate genetic testing knowledge; 46% had accurate BC risk perceptions. 20% reported they probably/definitely will get tested; 28% probably/definitely will not get tested; 46% had not thought about <i>BRCA</i> testing. Adequate genetic testing knowledge, higher BC risk, and overestimation of risk is associated with PGT intention. Cancer prevention and effect on children were the most important factors affecting testing intention.
Warner, 2005[48]	Following pre-test counselling 94% acceptability for PGT for colorectal cancer, but participants were not disclosed results. Facilitators: desire for information for their families; to decrease personal cancer risk. Barriers: insurance discrimination; test accuracy; confidentiality.
PROMISE Feasibility Study[49] (ISRCTN54246466)	Not reported. Study closed to recruitment and in follow up phase.
The Screen Project[50]	Not reported. Study actively recruiting.

191 PGT – population genetic testing; FH – family history; AJ – Ashkenazi Jewish; QoL – quality of life; BC – breast cancer; OC – ovarian cancer; FDR – first degree
192 relative; SDR – second degree relative; ICER – incremental cost-effective ratio; QALY – quality adjusted life year

193 For large-scale, population-based genetic-testing to become feasible/practical it is necessary to
194 move away from the cost and time intensive 'traditional face-to-face' genetic-counselling[55]
195 approach. A UK non-inferiority cluster-randomised trial, in the Jewish population showed that DVD-
196 based pre-test counselling for population *BRCA*-testing is an effective, acceptable, non-inferior, time-
197 saving and cost-efficient alternative to traditional genetic-counselling.[15] Other studies in high-risk
198 women have established telephone-counselling is an effective non-inferior alternative to traditional
199 genetic-counselling.[13] The Israeli and Canadian population-based studies successfully undertook
200 *BRCA*-testing without pre-test counselling, and provided post-test counselling. Around 50% of
201 *BRCA*-carriers and 20% of overall participants in the Canadian population-based study expressed a
202 preference for pre-test counselling after receiving their results.[53] Nevertheless, high satisfaction
203 rates (91-95%) are reported in all (UK/Israeli/Canadian) population-based *BRCA*-testing studies. A
204 recent UK pilot study has shown acceptability of a web decision-aid plus helpline and post-test
205 counselling approach for population-based testing.[56] Robust RCT data comparing pre-test
206 counselling with decision-aid and helpline or post-test only counselling alone are lacking.

207 An initial paper confirms the cost-utility of population testing compared to no testing.[44] Three
208 published analyses have evaluated cost-effectiveness of population-based *BRCA*-testing compared to
209 current standard of clinical-criteria/FH testing in: the AJ population,[57] the AJ-population with
210 varying AJ-ancestry[58] and the Sephardi-Jewish population.[59] These show that *BRCA*-testing in
211 the Jewish-population is extremely cost-effective compared to FH-based testing. In fact in most
212 published scenarios the intervention is cost-saving for both UK and USA health systems,[58] saving
213 both lives and monies. Overall data thus strongly support the introduction of population-based
214 *BRCA*-testing in the Jewish population. It is time guidelines change to reflect this.

215 The challenge of implementation: There is no single best/ideal model for implementing
216 population-based *BRCA*-testing in the Jewish community. It is likely that different/bespoke models
217 will be needed for various health systems and contexts. Implementation will need development of
218 testing pathways through a community or primary care based approach outside the traditional
219 hospital based genetics clinic model, particularly in regions with large or dense Jewish populations.
220 Areas with small or sparse populations could even be absorbed within the current clinical genetics
221 system through changes in testing criteria. Implementation will require significant efforts towards
222 engagement of community leaders, charities, stakeholders, opinion makers and Rabbis across all
223 sections of the community. Additionally downstream pathways for management of unaffected
224 carriers (including genetics services, gynaecologists, breast clinicians and screening and prevention
225 services) will need expanding or establishing. This will need integration into GP networks to ensure
226 adequate infrastructure and coherent pathways for managing newly identified mutation carriers.
227 This needs to be coupled with information campaigns to increase both public and health professional
228 awareness.

229

230 3.2. Other founder populations

231 Specific *BRCA* founder mutations have been described in a number of other founder populations
232 (in addition to the Jewish population). These include Polish, French, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch,
233 Hispanic, Malaysian, Afro-American, Pakistani, Filipino, Inuit and Bahamian populations.[60-62]

234 Findings of *BRCA* founder mutation testing studies from the Jewish population could also have
235 implications for *BRCA*-testing in other founder populations. However, it is difficult to currently
236 generalise these beyond this to the rest of the non-founder general population. The Polish ‘Twoj Styl’
237 study offered Polish *BRCA1* founder mutation testing to 5024 women through a magazine
238 advertisement.[63] Post-test counselling was provided to mutation carriers identified and high
239 satisfaction rates (97%) reported overall. However, this was not true unselected population testing as
240 there was ascertainment bias with testing offered only to women with cancer or a FH of
241 breast/ovarian cancer.

242 3.2. General Population and Panel Testing

243 Next generation sequencing has enabled testing of multiple CSGs at the same time, i.e. Panel
244 testing. This is now being implemented in clinical genetics for women at increased risk fulfilling usual
245 clinical-criteria. Population-based testing too can incorporate multiple genes on a NGS panel. The
246 panel of genes needs to have established analytic validity (sensitivity, specificity, reliability, and
247 assay robustness- to reliably and accurately measure the genotype) and clinical validity (test’s ability
248 to reliably and accurately predict the associated disorder/ phenotype).[64] A key unassailable
249 principle underpinning extending panel testing to a population-based setting is only testing for those
250 genes which have well-established ‘clinical utility’ i.e. demonstrable clear net clinical benefit
251 (clinically effective) which can impact disease outcome.[64] A number of genes widely available or
252 offered through panels by gene testing companies/laboratories do not yet have well-established
253 clinical utility. However, the list of genes with proven clinical utility will evolve and expand in the
254 coming years.

255 A number of other moderate/high penetrance CSGs (in addition to *BRCA1/BRCA2*) can be
256 incorporated into a population testing panel. Amongst the BC genes, *PALB2* confers non-syndromic
257 quasi-Mendelian susceptibility to BC (BC-risk till age 80 years =44%)[65] for which equivalent
258 interventions of MRI screening / preventive mastectomy are now offered to mutations carriers, and
259 hence, *PALB2* can be incorporated. Although *ATM* and *CHEK2* are offered on some commercial
260 panels, clinical testing of these genes is not currently routinely undertaken in most centres as the risks
261 conferred by mutations in these genes are moderate (RR~1.5-2) and MRI/mastectomy not routinely
262 offered for this. Hence, these are probably currently best left out of a population testing panel.
263 Amongst the newer moderate risk OC genes, risk estimates for *RAD51C*, *RAD51D* and *BRIP1* (OC-
264 risks ~6-11%) have been recently validated. We showed that surgical prevention (RRSO) is cost-
265 effective at ≥ 4 -5% OC-risk.[66,67] This enables clinical-utility for clinical-testing for these newer
266 moderate OC-risk genes and the option of surgical prevention in unaffected women. Testing for these
267 genes is now incorporated into clinical practice[68] and can be included in a population-based panel.
268 Additionally Lynch-Syndrome (LS) *MLH1/MSH2/MSH6* mismatch-repair (MMR) genes have a 40-
269 60% risk of colorectal-cancer, 30-45% risk of EC and 6-14% risk of OC.[69] LS/MMR-carriers can
270 benefit from 1-2 yearly colonoscopies for colorectal-cancer screening and opt for daily aspirin[70] or
271 prophylactic hysterectomy-&-oophorectomy for cancer prevention.[71] Amsterdam-II or Bethesda
272 criteria used to identify *MLH1/MSH2/MSH6* carriers in clinical practice miss 55-70% or 12-30%
273 (respectively) of these *MLH1/MSH2/MSH6* carriers[72] even amongst those with cancer. Thus,
274 *MLH1/MSH2/MSH6* are also potential candidate CSGs that can be included in an extended

275 population germline testing panel. Overall these mutations account for around 15%-20% OC,[73] 6%
276 BC,[74] 4-6% EC[75] and 4% bowel-cancers.[76]

277 Initial survey based data suggest that population-testing for OC gene mutations for risk
278 stratification may be acceptable to 75% women[39] and 72% women anticipate they would engage in
279 positive health behaviour changes in response to BC/OC risk disclosure following genetic testing.[40]
280 An ongoing UK pilot study (ISRCTN54246466) shows feasibility of counselling and recruitment for
281 panel genetic-testing for multiple moderate-high penetrance OC genes in unselected general-
282 population women ascertained through primary care.[56] The team in Toronto have implemented
283 unselected *BRCA* testing for general population Canadian women and men over 18 years who are
284 willing to pay for this themselves, through a Direct to Consumer testing model within 'The Screen
285 Project' (<http://www.thescreenproject.ca/>) study. We recently evaluated the cost-effectiveness of
286 population-based panel testing for OC and BC gene mutations
287 (*BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BRIP1/PALB2*) by comparing this strategy to the usual clinical-
288 criteria/FH based testing for both UK and US health systems.[37] Modelling showed that population-
289 based panel testing for BC/OC CSGs was more cost-effective than any currently used clinical-
290 criteria/FH-based strategy: either clinical-criteria/FH-based *BRCA*-testing or clinical-criteria/FH-
291 based panel testing. The ICER (incremental cost-effectiveness ratio) were well below the UK
292 £30,000/QALY (ICER= £21,599.96/QALY) and USA \$100,000/QALY (ICER=\$54,769.78/QALY)
293 thresholds in the UK and USA respectively. Sensitivity analyses demonstrated that population-
294 testing was the cost-effective and the preferred strategy in 84% UK and 93% USA simulations
295 respectively. This could potentially prevent thousands more BC and OC cases over and above current
296 policy. This was estimated to be 17505 OC and 64493 BC cases prevented in UK women, and 65221
297 OC and 237610 BC cases prevented in US women.

298 However, cost-effectiveness modelling, like all such analyses incurs assumptions, and further
299 research is necessary for prospective validation of some key assumptions. Jewish data cannot be
300 directly extrapolated or generalised to the non-Jewish general-population and general population
301 implementation studies are necessary to evaluate the impact and reconfirm cost-effectiveness of
302 population-based panel testing. More data are needed on uptake rates of screening and prevention
303 options in mutation carriers without a strong FH of cancer. A critical issue which needs addressing
304 is the management of variants of uncertain significance (VUS). Further research is needed around
305 giving VUS results back to individuals, their ability to deal with uncertainty, the impact of this result,
306 developing a robust platform for VUS monitoring and evolving an acceptable long-term management
307 pathway for this.

308 3.3. Return of 'incidental' or 'secondary' findings of cancer gene mutations in population research 309 studies

310 Some studies have offered return of incidental or secondary findings of post hoc genetic testing
311 undertaken in patients recruited for other research purposes. Thompson et al undertook post-hoc
312 genetic testing for *BRCA* mutations in 1997 women and Rowley et al reported testing in 5908 women
313 over 40 years (mean age 59.2 years) undergoing mammographic screening for BC in the Australian
314 Life-pool study.[77,78] Secondary findings of *BRCA* testing in 50,726 men and women have also been
315 reported through the MyCode Community Health Initiative.[79,80] Preliminary outcomes from such

316 studies show acceptability of returning clinically relevant genetic research results or secondary
317 findings along-with engagement with screening/preventive services and are supportive of the
318 concept of broadening access towards a population based approach. These studies give a good idea
319 of mutation rates. In the 100,000 Genomes Project 'additional looked-for findings' are being offered
320 as part of the whole genome analysis (and include 10 cancer-susceptibility genes).[81] Additionally
321 in many studies the sub-groups opting for return of incidental/secondary looked-for findings are
322 highly selective and not generalizable to an unselected unaffected general-population. For e.g. the
323 100,000 Genomes-Project is not a true population-cohort but comprises of individuals with cancer
324 and families with rare paediatric diseases. However, this 'bolt-on' paradigm of returning additional
325 secondary-findings is very different and not equivalent/identical to prospective uptake of testing
326 CSGs in an unselected unaffected population. Data from these studies cannot be equated to outcomes
327 of impact of true population-based testing. Such an approach does not address in an unbiased and
328 prospective manner key questions of population testing around logistics; information giving, consent
329 and true uptake; VUS management; and subsequent uptake of screening and prevention
330 interventions. These outcomes could potentially be very different when apriori consent is sought for
331 genetic testing for specific clinically actionable gene mutations, compared to vague/less-informed/un-
332 informed consent related to imprecisely defined secondary outcomes in post-hoc research studies.

333 **3.4. A potential strategy for chronic disease prevention**

334 According to the US Centres for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC), 50% US adults have ≥ 1 and
335 25% US adults have ≥ 2 chronic health conditions and the latter accounts for $>90\%$ Medicare
336 expenditure. CDC suggests that chronic diseases and injuries contributed to 2.7 million deaths in
337 2015.[82] Corresponding treatment costs and resulting lost productivity amounted to \$1.3 trillion. In
338 England chronic conditions account for 50% of GP appointments, 64% outpatient appointments, 70%
339 inpatient bed days, and 70% of the total health and care spend.[83] The increasing prevalence of
340 long-term/chronic conditions is the biggest challenge facing the UK National Health Service
341 (NHS)[83] and many other health systems. Addressing this is critical to put health systems in a better
342 position to remain viable for the future. The Milken Institute (a non-profit, nonpartisan economic
343 think tank) have projected that by 2023 if we improved prevention, the US could avoid 40 million
344 cases of chronic disease, cut treatment costs by \$220 billion, and increase GDP by \$900 billion.[84]
345 According to the CDC commissioned National Vitals Statistics Reports the top five causes of deaths
346 from chronic disease in 2015 were: 1) heart disease 2) cancer 3) lung disease 4) accidents 5) strokes.[82]
347 Many of these can be prevented. WHO estimates that by 2030 the number of deaths due to heart
348 disease, cancer, lung disease, accidents and strokes would rise by 24%, 37%, 32%, 14% and 29% in the
349 Americas and by 23%, 45%, 41%, 23% and 28% worldwide respectively.[85] As validated disease
350 specific models for risk prediction improve or develop and evolve, they can be used for population
351 stratification to target the proportion of the population at highest risk of chronic disease. A prime
352 example is cardiovascular disease. Testing for familial hypercholesterolemia could be added to any
353 other genetic testing strategy. In addition going forward complex models incorporating
354 epidemiological, lifestyle and single nucleotide polymorphism (SNP) data may reach broad mass
355 based clinical applicability for population stratification and targeted primary prevention. A future
356 population testing programme could target other diseases in addition to cancer. Implementing a new

357 comprehensive population testing strategy can herald a paradigm change in approach which
358 shifts/nudges the needle of healthcare towards prevention.

359

360 Addressing the increasing burden of chronic disease poses a major challenge for the future.
361 Different organizations at times give conflicting recommendations which in turn can be exacerbated
362 by the advocacy positions of special interest groups, leading to uncertainty amongst clinicians and
363 inconsistent implementation. Clinicians due to increasing time pressures and employers/payers
364 struggling with accelerating health care costs may question the value of some preventive
365 interventions. Insurance coverage for individual preventive services, especially new technologies, is
366 inconsistent.[86,87] Public messages conveyed are often inconsistent and increasingly coloured by
367 commercial self-interest. Racial and ethnic minorities, socio-economically deprived and other
368 underserved populations have a higher burden of chronic disease and need special attention to reach
369 their full health potential.[88] To this end, it is vital to also address social determinants of health,
370 including economic, social, and geographic factors that influence the health of populations and
371 contribute to chronic diseases and injury.

372

373 **3.5. Population Risk Stratification: beyond high penetrance genes**

374 Newer risk prediction models incorporating validated SNPs (as a polygenic risk score) and
375 epidemiological/clinical factors have improved the precision on individualised risk prediction. This
376 allows division of the population into risk strata, such that the highest risk strata have a significant
377 higher risk relative to the lower strata, enabling a) targeted risk stratified screening and/or b) targeted
378 prevention for the higher risk strata, as long as the risks of individuals in these strata lie above a well-
379 defined threshold of clinical utility (benefit and effectiveness). It may also identify a low-risk stratum
380 who may benefit for less intense or no screening. This can be useful for making both individualised
381 risk based decisions and population-based screening or prevention programmes. For example,
382 models have been developed for breast, prostate and ovarian cancer. The Predicting the Risk of
383 Cancer At Screening (PROCAS) study (UKCRN-ID 8080) showed that the addition of SNPs and
384 mammographic breast density to the Tyrer-Cuzick model improves BC risk prediction and could be
385 used for risk stratified screening in general-population women taking part in a national (NHS) Breast
386 Screening Programme.[89] This was associated with lower- anxiety but slightly higher cancer worry
387 than comparison women, with no consistent effect on intention to change behaviour, considerable
388 variation in understanding of test results but high overall satisfaction.[90] The PROMISE Feasibility
389 Study is evaluating the acceptability and feasibility of undertaking a study to stratify an unselected
390 general population on the basis of their predicted lifetime OC-risk as well as offer risk management
391 options of screening and prevention. The population is stratified into low (<5% OC-risk), intermediate
392 (5-10% OC-risk) and high (>10% OC-risk) risk groups, using a model incorporating SNP based
393 polygenic-risk score, *BRCA1/BRCA2/RAD51C/RAD51D/BIP1* mutations and epidemiological data.
394 Personalised SNP based profiles are also being used for melanoma risk stratification. The SOMBRA
395 (Skin health Online for Melanoma: Better Risk Assessment) RCT, investigates personalised SNP
396 testing for melanoma risk versus un-tested controls,[91] in terms of short-term sun protection/self-
397 examination, communication, beliefs, test comprehension/recall, satisfaction and cancer related
398 distress following testing.[91] An Australian pilot RCT (ACTRN12615000356561), evaluated the

399 feasibility and acceptability of communicating personalised SNP derived polygenic-risk scores for
400 melanoma to the public, and its preliminary impact on health behaviour and psychosocial outcomes
401 in 118 individuals.[92] Participants were randomised to intervention (personalised booklet & genetic
402 counselling presenting melanoma polygenic risk) and control (non-personalised educational
403 materials) arms.[92] Results showed no significant difference in behavioural effects, skin cancer
404 related worry or psychological distress at 3 months.[92] A lot more research is needed to evaluate
405 risk model based stratified screening and prevention, including implementation studies evaluating
406 clinical effectiveness, impact, cost-effectiveness, health behaviour, psychology, ethical and social
407 consequences.

408 4. Conclusions

409 Our healthcare structure is currently focused predominantly towards improving diagnosis &
410 treatment of disease rather than illness prevention. The current clinical model for genetic testing is
411 based on FH and serial referral through healthcare services. It requires people to develop cancer
412 before identifying unaffected individuals in the family to target prevention. This process is inefficient,
413 resource intense and misses a large proportion of individuals/mutation carriers at risk. Population
414 testing can overcome these limitations. The ability to test populations on a large scale is now
415 available, testing costs are falling and the acceptability/awareness of testing is rising. Population-
416 based *BRCA* testing in the Jewish population has been extensively evaluated and found to be
417 acceptable, feasible, clinically effective, safe, associated with high satisfaction rates and cost-effective.
418 There are not many medical interventions that have the potential to save both lives and monies, but
419 *BRCA*-testing in the Jewish population is one of them. Available data support change in guidelines
420 to population based *BRCA* testing in the Jewish community.

421 Ongoing studies are evaluating population based genetic testing for CSGs in the general
422 population. Initial analysis suggest this approach is potentially cost-effective for a panel of BC and
423 OC gene mutations. The increasing appreciation and recognition of complexities of tumour
424 heterogeneity, tumour evolution and resistant mutations associated with metastatic disease has
425 moderated the initial anticipated impact of precision oncology driven drug therapy based
426 approaches. Population-testing for established cancer-genes can provide an impetus to increase
427 carrier detection-rates to maximise prevention and reduce cancer burden. A cancer prevention
428 population-based genetic testing programme can serve as an important model, with programme
429 outputs subsequently informing potential applicability and development of programmes for other
430 chronic diseases.

431 While population testing holds great promise, several challenges need to be addressed along the
432 way for this to materialise. To maximise the impact of population testing a future multi-gene and/or
433 multi-disease panel testing approach/strategy needs to ensure: A) Clinical utility: Net clinical benefit
434 on disease outcome taking into account benefits and harms of the intervention. B) Equal access:
435 Ensuring equal access to disease prevention initiatives for all communities regardless of ethnicity,
436 socio-economic background or gender, etc. C) Broadening research: For effective prevention and
437 eradicating chronic disease it is critical to prioritise high quality research into disease prevention.
438 There needs to be rebalancing of research funding from diagnosis/treatment towards prevention. For
439 e.g., only 5% UK research funding goes into prevention.[93] The impact of panel germline population

440 testing needs to be better understood and evaluated. D) Robust implementation pathways: these need
441 to be context and health-system/population specific. E) Cost-effectiveness: Sustainable prevention
442 strategies, need to be underpinned by evidence-based approaches that are economically viable and
443 maximise the number of years lived in health. Policy makers and funders need to be educated about
444 the significant cost savings that result from modest increases in prevention funding and potential
445 savings & increased productivity that can result from employers/insurers/health funders promoting
446 prevention. F) Consistent coherent messaging: Public messages need to be consistent, not be
447 biased/swayed by commercial/vested interests, need to increase health professional and public
448 awareness, and pay special attention to minority, socio-economically deprived and underserved
449 populations or others with higher burden of disease.

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455 **Author contributions:**

456 Literature search: FG, RM

457 Preparation of tables and figures: FG, RM

458 Initial draft of manuscript: RM

459 Manuscript writing and approval: RM, FG

460

461 **Funding:**

462 This work received no external funding.

463

464 **Acknowledgements:**

465 The study is supported by researchers at the Barts Cancer Research UK Centre for Excellence, Queen

466 Mary University of London (C16420/A18066).

467

468 **Conflict of Interest Statement**

469 RM declares research funding from The Eve Appeal and Cancer Research UK into population testing

470 and from Barts & the London Charity and Rosetrees Trust outside this work, as well as an honorarium

471 for grant review from Israel National Institute for Health Policy Research. FG declares no conflict of

472 interest.

473 **Ethics Approval Statement**

474 This is a review of the published literature. Hence, no ethics approval was needed.

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