Additional variables impacting these results include level of education, socioeconomic status, and importantly, the perceived incurability of ovarian and breast cancer. It has been suggested that the failure of physicians to discuss and endorse surgical interventions might be perceived by women as an indirect recommendation against this therapeutic option.16

**CONCLUSION**

It is clear that a myriad of factors may influence patient uptake of risk-reducing surgeries. It is likely that gaps in the knowledge base of patients have adversely impacted the adoption of life saving strategies that might benefit BRCA1/2 carriers. Additional educational efforts should be directed towards French-Canadian, Bahamian, Ashkenazi Jewish, and other ethnic groups known to have a high risk of carrying a BRCA mutation.13,14 Physicians should involve BRCA1/2 mutation positive patients in the psychologically-sensitive and patient centered decision-making process intended to inform carriers of the pros and cons of cancer risk-reduction options, including prophylactic oophorectomy and prophylactic bilateral mastectomy. ■

**REVIEWED BY DR. KEVIN ZBUK**

Dr. Zbuk is an Associate Professor in the Department of Oncology at McMaster University. His areas of interest include cancer genetics and the molecular classification of gastrointestinal polyposis syndromes. Dr. Zbuk’s oncology practice focuses on gastrointestinal malignancies.

---


---