

Direct to patient genetic testing - could we solve some cancer problems on population level?

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Approximately 3,500 women develop ovarian cancer in Poland. Approximately 13% of these women develop the disease due to carrying recurrent BRCA1 gene mutations, which are detectable using simple and inexpensive genetic tests. About half of carriers have a negative family history and can only be diagnosed through population-based screening. Due to the small number of clinical geneticists, the availability of standard genetic consultations and testing is limited, while laboratory capacity is sufficient to conduct mass testing. Direct-to-patient genetic testing may be a solution to these limitations. In collaboration with an molecular genetic company and IT company, a digital application, "Wellysa," was developed (available on the Google Play store). This application allows users to collect basic information necessary for cancer risk assessment, collect genetic test material, send it to the laboratory, automatically generate results, and, if necessary, conduct a genetic consultation.