



SHARSHERET

Sharsheret Co-Authors New Study Highlighting the Power of Peer Support and Genetic Education for Ashkenazi Jewish Women at Risk for Breast Cancer

Contact: Jordana Altman, Director of Marketing and Communications

Telephone: 866.474.2774

Email: jaltman@sharsheret.org

New York, NY (October 27, 2025) – Sharsheret, the only Jewish not-for-profit organization dedicated to addressing the needs of women and families of all Jewish backgrounds facing breast cancer and ovarian cancer in the US and Israel, recently co-authored a scientific article published in the Journal of Genetic Counseling titled “Genetic education and peer support among Ashkenazi Jewish women in the United States at risk for and surviving with breast cancer.”

The study underscores the engagement and outcomes of high-risk Ashkenazi Jewish women participating in community-based organization (CBO)-led peer support and genetic education programming. It provides insights to help design resources that support informed decision-making about cancer risk management while enhancing psychological coping with hereditary breast and ovarian cancer (HBOC) prevention and treatment options.

By integrating peer support with genetic education, CBOs can develop a more comprehensive, accessible, and culturally responsive care model tailored to this population’s unique informational and emotional needs. The study highlights how patient navigation (PN) further strengthens the effectiveness of CBOs by addressing both medical and psychosocial challenges faced by women navigating their cancer risk or survivorship.

The Jewish Breast Cancer and Ovarian Cancer Community

866.474.2774 | sharsheret.org | info@sharsheret.org
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“Expanding and strengthening these programs is vital—not only to support individual well-being but also to promote community-wide health equity by closing gaps in access to essential services such as cancer risk assessment and psychosocial support,” said Adina Fleischmann, Chief Services Officer at Sharsheret and a co-author on the paper. “This research reinforces what we see every day at Sharsheret: when women have access to peer support and education rooted in cultural understanding, they feel empowered to take control of their health and make informed, confident decisions.”

This work was conducted in collaboration between Sharsheret and the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center under cooperative agreements U58DP005408 and U58DP007915 and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This work was also supported in part by the Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center core grant P30CA051008 from the National Cancer Institute at the National Institutes of Health. The study was co-authored by researchers and experts, including Talia Zamir, Muriel R. Statman, Marcelo M. Sleiman Jr., Duye Liu, Adina Fleischmann, Elana Silber, and Kenneth P. Tercyak, representing an important collaboration between academia and community-based organizations.

Click to read more of the article: <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/jgc4.70121>

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ABOUT SHARSHERET

Sharsheret, Hebrew for chain, an international cancer organization with offices in the Midwest, Southeast, Northeast, West, and Israel, serves 275,000 women, families, healthcare professionals, community leaders, and students in all 50 states. Sharsheret

improves the lives of Jewish women and families living with or at increased genetic risk for breast cancer or ovarian cancer through personalized support and saves lives through educational outreach.

While our expertise is in young women and Jewish families as related to breast cancer and ovarian cancer, Sharsheret programs serve all women and men.

As a premier organization for psychosocial support, Sharsheret is a member of the Federal Advisory Committee on Breast Cancer in Young Women, works closely with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and participates in psychosocial research studies and evaluations with major cancer centers, including Georgetown University Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center. Sharsheret is accredited by the Better Business Bureau and has earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator for ten consecutive years.

What We Do

One-on-one support for women and their families touched by breast cancer and ovarian cancer (all free, confidential, and convenient), featuring:

- Online 24/7 Live Chat
- Mental Health Professionals
- Genetic Counselor
- Peer Support
- Customized Beauty Kits
- Busy Boxes for Children
- Specialized Programming for Women Living with Metastatic Cancer
- Financial Subsidies for Non-Medical Services
- Men's Educational Resources

Education and Outreach for women, men, families, and community and medical professionals:

- Healthcare Webinars
- College Campus Programming
- Community Educational Seminars
- Cultural Competency Trainings
- Comprehensive Resource Booklet Series
- Community Action for Women and Men of all Ages
- B'nai Mitzvah Projects
- Team Sharsheret Races and Walks
- Young Professionals Circle
- Teal and Pink Shabbat

- Local Volunteer Opportunities

For more information and to get involved today, visit us online at www.sharsheret.org or call us at 866-474-2774. Follow and tag us on Instagram @sharsheretofficial

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