

No evidence that protein truncating variants in *BRIP1* are associated with breast cancer risk: implications for gene panel testing

Douglas F Easton^{1,2}, Fabienne Lesueur³, Brennan Decker^{2,4}, Kyriaki Michailidou^{2,5}, Jun Li⁶, Jamie Allen², Craig Luccarini¹, Karen A Pooley², Mitul Shah¹, Manjeet K Bolla², Qin Wang², Joe Dennis², Jamil Ahmad⁷, Ella R Thompson^{8,9}, Francesca Damiola¹⁰, Maroulio Pertesi⁷, Catherine Voegelé⁷, Noura Mebirouk³, Nivonirina Robinot⁷, Geoffroy Durand⁷, Nathalie Forey⁷, Robert N Luben¹¹, Shahana Ahmed¹, Kristiina Aittomäki¹², Hoda Anton-Culver¹³, Volker Arndt¹⁴, Australian Ovarian Cancer Study Group¹⁵, Caroline Baynes¹, Matthias W Beckman¹⁶, Javier Benitez^{17,18}, David Van Den Berg¹⁹, William J Blot^{20,21}, Natalia V Bogdanova²², Stig E Bojesen²³⁻²⁵, Hermann Brenner^{14,26,27}, Jenny Chang-Claude^{28,29}, Kee Seng Chia³⁰, Ji-Yeob Choi^{31,32}, Don M. Conroy¹, Angela Cox³³, Simon S Cross³⁴, Kamila Czene³⁵, Hatf Darabi³⁵, Peter Devilee^{36,37}, Mikael Eriksson³⁵, Peter A Fasching^{16,38}, Jonine Figueroa^{39,40}, Henrik Flyger⁴¹, Florentia Fostira⁴², Montserrat García-Closas³⁹, Graham G Giles^{43,44}, Gord Glendon⁴⁵, Anna González-Neira¹⁷, Pascal Guénel^{46,47}, Christopher A Haiman¹⁹, Per Hall³⁵, Steven N. Hart⁴⁸, Mikael Hartman^{30,49}, Maartje J Hoening⁵⁰, Chia-Ni Hsiung⁵¹, Hidemi Ito⁵², Anna Jakubowska⁵³, Paul A James^{54,55}, Esther M John⁵⁶⁻⁵⁸, Nichola Johnson^{59,60}, Michael Jones⁶¹, Maria Kabisch⁶², Daehee Kang^{31,32,63}, kConFab Investigators⁶⁴, Veli-Matti Kosma⁶⁵⁻⁶⁷, Vessela Kristensen⁶⁸⁻⁷⁰, Diether Lambrechts^{71,72}, Na Li^{8,73}, Lifepool Investigators⁸, Annika Lindblom⁷⁴, Jirong Long²¹, Artitaya Lophatananon⁷⁵, Jan Lubinski⁵³, Arto Mannermaa⁶⁵⁻⁶⁷, Siranoush Manoukian⁷⁶, Sara Margolin⁷⁷, Keitaro Matsuo⁷⁸, Alfons Meindl⁷⁹, Gillian Mitchell^{9,55}, Kenneth Muir^{75,80}, NBCS Investigators⁸¹, Ines Nevelsteen⁸², Ans van den Ouweland⁸³, Paolo Peterlongo⁸⁴, Sze Yee Phuah^{85,86}, Katri Pylkäs^{87,88}, Simone M Rowley⁸, Suleeporn Sangrajang⁸⁹, Rita K Schmutzler⁹⁰⁻⁹², Chen-Yang Shen^{93,94}, Xiao-Ou Shu⁹⁵, Melissa C. Southey⁵⁴, Harald Surowy^{96,97}, Anthony Swerdlow^{60,61}, Soo H Teo^{85,86}, Rob A.E.M. Tollenaar⁹⁸, Ian Tomlinson⁹⁹, Diana Torres^{62,100}, Thérèse Truong^{46,47}, Celine Vachon⁴⁸, Senno Verhoef¹⁰¹, Michelle Wong-Brown¹⁰², Wei Zheng²¹, Ying Zheng¹⁰³, Heli Nevanlinna¹⁰⁴, Rodney J. Scott^{102,105}, Irene L Andrulis^{45,106}, Anna H Wu¹⁹, John L Hopper¹⁰⁷, Fergus J Couch¹⁰⁸, Robert Winqvist^{87,88}, Barbara Burwinkel^{96,97}, Elinor J Sawyer¹⁰⁹, Marjanka K Schmidt¹⁰¹, Anja Rudolph²⁸, Thilo Dörk¹¹⁰, Hiltrud Brauch^{26,111,112}, Ute Hamann⁶², Susan L Neuhausen¹¹³, Roger L Milne^{43,44}, Olivia Fletcher^{59,60}, Paul DP Pharoah^{1,2}, Ian G Campbell^{8,9,54}, Alison M Dunning¹, Florence Le Calvez-Kelm⁷, David E Goldgar^{114,115}, Sean V Tavtigian¹¹⁶ and Georgia Chenevix-Trench⁶

- 1 Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Oncology, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 2 Centre for Cancer Genetic Epidemiology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 3 Genetic Epidemiology of Cancer team, Inserm, U900, Institut Curie, Mines ParisTech, 26 rue d'Ulm, 75248 Paris, France.
- 4 Cancer Genetics and Comparative Genomics Section, National Human Genome Research Institute, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, MD, USA.
- 5 Department of Electron Microscopy/Molecular Pathology, The Cyprus Institute of Neurology and Genetics, Nicosia, Cyprus.
- 6 Department of Genetics, QIMR Berghofer Medical Research Institute, Brisbane, QLD 4006, Australia.
- 7 Genetic Cancer Susceptibility, International Agency for Research on Cancer, 150 cours Albert Thomas, 69372 Lyon, France.
- 8 Research Division, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, East Melbourne, Australia.
- 9 Sir Peter MacCallum Department of Oncology Cancer Centre, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia. .
- 10 Genetic of Breast Cancer Team, Cancer Research Center of Lyon, Centre Léon Bérard, 28 rue Laënnec, Lyon, France.

- 11 Clinical Gerontology, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, UK.
- 12 Department of Clinical Genetics, University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki, Finland.
- 13 Department of Epidemiology, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA, USA.
- 14 Division of Clinical Epidemiology and Aging Research, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany.
- 15 Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Australia.
- 16 Department of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, University Hospital Erlangen, Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg, Comprehensive Cancer Center Erlangen-EMN, Erlangen, Germany.
- 17 Human Cancer Genetics Program, Spanish National Cancer Research Centre, Madrid, Spain.
- 18 Centro de Investigación en Red de Enfermedades Raras (CIBERER), Valencia, Spain.
- 19 Department of Preventive Medicine, Keck School of Medicine, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA 90033, USA.
- 20 International Epidemiology Institute, Rockville, MD, USA.
- 21 Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN, USA.
- 22 Department of Radiation Oncology, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany.
- 23 Copenhagen General Population Study, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark.
- 24 Department of Clinical Biochemistry, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark.
- 25 Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark.
- 26 German Cancer Consortium (DKTK), German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany.
- 27 Division of Preventive Oncology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ) and National Center for Tumor Diseases (NCT), Heidelberg, Germany.
- 28 Division of Cancer Epidemiology, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany.
- 29 University Cancer Center Hamburg (UCCH), University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf, Hamburg, Germany.
- 30 Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, National University of Singapore and National University Health System, Singapore.
- 31 Cancer Research Institute, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea.
- 32 Department of Biomedical Sciences, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul, Korea.
- 33 Sheffield Cancer Research, Department of Oncology, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.
- 34 Academic Unit of Pathology, Department of Neuroscience, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, UK.
- 35 Department of Medical Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
- 36 Department of Human Genetics, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 37 Department of Pathology, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.
- 38 David Geffen School of Medicine, Department of Medicine Division of Hematology and Oncology, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, USA.
- 39 Division of Cancer Epidemiology and Genetics, National Cancer Institute, Bethesda, MD, USA.
- 40 Usher Institute of Population Health Sciences and Informatics, The University of Edinburgh Medical School, Edinburgh, UK.
- 41 Department of Breast Surgery, Herlev and Gentofte Hospital, Copenhagen University Hospital, Herlev, Denmark.
- 42 Molecular Diagnostics Laboratory, INRASTES, National Centre for Scientific Research "Demokritos", Athens, Greece.
- 43 Cancer Epidemiology Centre, Cancer Council Victoria, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
- 44 Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Melbourne School of Population and Global Health, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.

45 Lunenfeld-Tanenbaum Research Institute of Mount Sinai Hospital, Toronto, ON, Canada.
46 University Paris-Sud, UMRS 1018, Villejuif, France.
47 Inserm, CESP Center for research in Epidemiology and Population Health, U1018, Cancer &
Environment Group, Villejuif, France.
48 Department of Health Sciences Research, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.
49 Department of Surgery, National University Health System, Singapore.
50 Department of Medical Oncology, Family Cancer Clinic, Erasmus University Medical Center,
Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
51 Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
52 Division of Epidemiology and Prevention, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, Nagoya, Aichi,
Japan.
53 Department of Genetics and Pathology, Pomeranian Medical University, Szczecin, Poland.
54 Department of Pathology, The University of Melbourne, Melbourne, Victoria 3010, Australia.
55 Familial Cancer Centre, Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre, Melbourne, Australia.
56 Department of Epidemiology, Cancer Prevention Institute of California, Fremont, CA, USA
57 Department of Health Research and Policy - Epidemiology, Stanford University School of Medicine,
Stanford, CA, USA.
58 Stanford Cancer Institute, Stanford University School of Medicine, Stanford, CA, USA.
59 Breakthrough Breast Cancer Research Centre, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK.
60 Division of Breast Cancer Research, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK.
61 Division of Genetics and Epidemiology, The Institute of Cancer Research, London, UK.
62 Molecular Genetics of Breast Cancer, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany.
63 Department of Preventive Medicine, Seoul National University College of Medicine, Seoul National
University, Seoul, Korea.
64 kConFab: Kathleen Cuningham Consortium for Research into Familial Breast Cancer – Peter
MacCallum Cancer Center, Melbourne, VIC 3000, Australia.
65 Institute of Clinical Medicine, Pathology and Forensic Medicine, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio,
Finland.
66 Imaging Center, Department of Clinical Pathology, Kuopio University Hospital, Kuopio, Finland.
67 Cancer Center of Eastern Finland, University of Eastern Finland, Kuopio, Finland.
68 Department of Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo University Hospital, Radiumhospitalet,
Oslo, Norway.
69 K.G. Jebsen Center for Breast Cancer Research, Institute of Clinical Medicine, Faculty of Medicine,
University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway.
70 Department of Clinical Molecular Biology (EpiGen), University of Oslo (UiO), Oslo, Norway.
71 Vesalius Research Center, VIB, Leuven, Belgium.
72 Laboratory for Translational Genetics, Department of Oncology, University of Leuven, Leuven,
Belgium.
73 Cancer Biology Research Center, Tongji Hospital, Tongji Medical College, Huazhong University of
Science and Technology, Wuhan, Hubei, China.
74 Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden.
75 Division of Health Sciences, Warwick Medical school, Warwick University, Coventry, UK.
76 Unit of Medical Genetics, Department of Preventive and Predictive Medicine, Fondazione IRCCS
(Istituto di Ricovero e Cura a Carattere Scientifico) Istituto Nazionale Tumori (INT), Milan, Italy.
77 Department of Oncology - Pathology, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm SE-17177, Sweden.
78 Division of Molecular Medicine, Aichi Cancer Center Research Institute, Nagoya, Japan.
79 Division of Gynaecology and Obstetrics, Technische Universität München, 81675 Munich, Germany
80 Institute of Population Health, University of Manchester, Manchester, UK.
81 Norwegian Breast Cancer Study, Department of Genetics, Institute for Cancer Research, Oslo
University Hospital Radiumhospitalet, Oslo, Norway

82 University Hospital Gashuisberg, Leuven, Belgium.
83 Department of Clinical Genetics, Erasmus University Medical Center, Rotterdam, The Netherlands.
84 IFOM, The FIRC (Italian Foundation for Cancer Research) Institute of Molecular Oncology, Milan, Italy.
85 Breast Cancer Research Unit, University Malaya Cancer Research Institute, University Malaya Medical Centre (UMMC), Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
86 Cancer Research Initiatives Foundation, Sime Darby Medical Centre, Subang Jaya, Malaysia.
87 Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumor Biology, Northern Finland Laboratory Centre NordLab, Oulu, Finland.
88 Laboratory of Cancer Genetics and Tumor Biology, Cancer Research and Translational Medicine, Biocenter Oulu, University of Oulu, Oulu, Finland.
89 National Cancer Institute, Bangkok, Thailand.
90 Center for Integrated Oncology (CIO), Medical Faculty, University Hospital Cologne, Germany.
91 Center for Hereditary Breast and Ovarian Cancer, Medical Faculty, University Hospital Cologne, Germany.
92 Center for Molecular Medicine Cologne (CMMC), University of Cologne, Germany.
93 School of Public Health, China Medical University, Taichung, Taiwan.
94 Taiwan Biobank, Institute of Biomedical Sciences, Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan.
95 Division of Epidemiology, Department of Medicine, Vanderbilt Epidemiology Center, Vanderbilt-Ingram Cancer Center, Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, Nashville, TN 37203, USA.
96 Molecular Epidemiology Group, German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ), Heidelberg, Germany
97 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany.
98 Department of Surgery, Leiden University Medical Center, Leiden, The Netherlands.
99 Wellcome Trust Centre for Human Genetics and Oxford Biomedical Research Centre, University of Oxford, UK.
100 Institute of Human Genetics, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana, Bogota, 12362, Colombia.
101 Netherlands Cancer Institute, Antoni van Leeuwenhoek hospital, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.
102 Division of Genetics, Hunter Area Pathology Service, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW, Australia.
103 Shanghai Municipal Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Shanghai, China.
104 Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Helsinki and Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki, Finland.
105 Division of Molecular Medicine, Pathology North, John Hunter Hospital, Newcastle, NSW 2305, Australia.
106 Department of Molecular Genetics, University of Toronto, ON, Canada.
107 Centre for Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Melbourne, Melbourne, VIC, Australia.
108 Department of Laboratory Medicine and Pathology, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA.
109 Research Oncology, Division of Cancer Studies, King's College London, Guy's Hospital, London, UK.
110 Gynaecology Research Unit, Hannover Medical School, Hannover, Germany.
111 Dr. Margarete Fischer-Bosch-Institute of Clinical Pharmacology, Stuttgart, Germany.
112 University of Tübingen, Tübingen, Germany.
113 Department of Population Sciences, Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, Duarte, CA, USA.
114 Department of Dermatology, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.
115 Cancer Control and Population Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Institute, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.
116 Department of Oncological Sciences, Huntsman Cancer Institute, University of Utah School of Medicine, Salt Lake City, UT, USA.

*Corresponding author – G. Chenevix-Trench, Dept of Genetics and Computational Biology, QIMR Berghofer, c/o Locked Bag 2000, RBH Post Office, Herston, QLD 4029; georgiaT@qimr.edu.au

Abstract

Background

BRCA1 interacting protein C-terminal helicase 1 (*BRIP1*) is one of the Fanconi Anaemia Complementation (FANC) group family of DNA repair proteins. Biallelic mutations in *BRIP1* are responsible for FANC group J, and previous studies have also suggested that rare protein truncating variants in *BRIP1* are associated with an increased risk of breast cancer. These studies have led to inclusion of *BRIP1* on targeted sequencing panels for breast cancer risk prediction.

Methods

We evaluated a truncating variant, p.Arg798Ter (rs137852986), and 10 missense variants of *BRIP1*, in 48,144 cases and 43,607 controls of European origin, drawn from 41 studies participating in the Breast Cancer Association Consortium. Additionally, we sequenced the coding regions of *BRIP1* in 13,213 cases and 5,242 controls from the UK, 1,313 cases and 1,123 controls from three population-based studies as part of the Breast Cancer Family Registry, and 1,853 familial cases and 2,001 controls from Australia.

Results

The rare truncating allele of rs137852986 was observed in 23 cases and 18 controls in Europeans in BCAC (OR 1.09, 95% CI 0.58-2.03, P = 0.79). Truncating variants were found in the sequencing studies in 34 cases (0.21%) and 19 controls (0.23%) (combined OR 0.90, 95% CI 0.48-1.70, P=0.75).

Conclusions

These results suggest that truncating variants in *BRIP1*, and in particular p.Arg798Ter, are not associated with a substantial increase in breast cancer risk. Such observations have important implications for the reporting of results from breast cancer screening panels.

Keywords

BRIP1 gene, mutation, breast cancer

Introduction

Susceptibility to breast cancer is known to be mediated through a very large number of genetic variants conferring a wide range of disease risks relative to population incidence rates¹. These variants include rare mutations in high-penetrance genes (4-fold or higher risk), notably *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*, mutations in genes conferring more moderate risks of breast cancer (2- to 4-fold higher risks), and approximately 100 common susceptibility variants (SNPs) conferring modest risks of the disease (typically 1.1-1.2 fold). Clinical genetic testing for breast cancer has largely focussed on the high-risk genes. However, with the increasing use of high-throughput sequencing, genetic testing is being extended to larger panels of genes, including those in the “moderate risk” category².

The known genes in the moderate risk category encode proteins involved in DNA repair. One of the genes involved in DNA repair that has been proposed as a breast cancer susceptibility gene is *BRIP1*. *BRIP1*

(BRCA1-interacting protein 1, also known as *BACH1*) encodes a helicase-like protein that was identified via its direct binding to the BRCA1 BRCT domains, and is known to contribute to DNA repair via homologous recombination^{3,4}. *BRIP1* was shown to be the likely causative gene for Fanconi Anaemia complementation group J through positional cloning and the identification of germline mutations in nine families from two studies^{4,5}. The most common truncating mutation identified was c.2392C>T (p.Arg798Ter) in exon 17. Analysis of a cell line from a patient homozygous for this mutation showed complete absence of the full length BRIP1 protein⁴. p.Arg798Ter has been found in patients from diverse populations, suggesting that it is either a relatively ancient founder mutation or is recurrent.

Given the role of *BRCA1* and other genes involved in DNA repair in susceptibility to breast and other cancers, it seems reasonable to speculate that germline mutations of *BRIP1* might also predispose to breast cancer. Seal et al⁶ screened the coding sequence of 1,212 women with breast cancer having a family history of disease and 2,012 controls. They identified mutations predicted to lead to a truncated protein in nine cases versus two in controls: an estimated relative risk of breast cancer, after adjustment for oversampling of cases with a family history, of 2.0 (95%CI 1.2-3.2, P=0.012). The most common mutation was p.Arg798Ter, accounting for five of the mutations in cases and one in controls.

Since the Seal et al⁶ paper, several other studies have identified *BRIP1* variants through screening of breast cancer cases for specific mutations⁷⁻¹², but no large-scale case-control mutation screening studies have been reported. To evaluate more definitively the evidence that *BRIP1* is a breast cancer susceptibility gene, we genotyped the p.Arg798Ter variant and 10 missense variants, in more than 48,000 cases and 43,000 controls in studies participating in the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC). Additionally, we screened the entire coding sequence of *BRIP1* in three large case-control studies comprising more than 16,000 cases and 8,000 controls.

Methods

Breast Cancer Association Consortium

Breast cancer cases and controls were drawn from 52 studies participating in the Breast Cancer Association Consortium (BCAC). The analysis was restricted to 48,143 cases and 43,608 controls from 41 studies in populations of European origin (comprising ~87% of the dataset) since the sample sizes for Asian and African-American women were too small for separate analysis. The truncating variant p.Arg798Ter and ten missense variants in *BRIP1* (Table 1) were genotyped using iCOGS, a custom array of ~200,000 variants¹³. Genotypes were subject to standard quality control procedures as described previously¹³.

For the purpose of this analysis we manually recalled the genotypes for *BRIP1* p.Arg798Ter using the cluster plot of normalised intensities (Figure 1). The experiment included a positive control previously identified as a carrier of the mutant allele through sequencing of a series of prostate cancer cases. This individual was genotyped correctly as a variant carrier. We further confirmed the genotypes through comparison with data from two re-sequencing experiments conducted in SEARCH and the Breast Cancer Family Registry (BCFR), for which individuals were also genotyped using iCOGS (see below). Thirteen individuals in the former study and two in the latter study were identified as carrying the variant allele at p.Arg798Ter; genotypes determined by the two methods were 100% concordant.

SEARCH study

Subjects: Cases were drawn from SEARCH, a population-based study of breast cancer in the region covered by the Eastern Cancer Registration and Information Centre (ECRIC), United Kingdom¹⁴. SEARCH recruited patients diagnosed with invasive breast cancer before the age of 55 years since 1991 and still alive at the start of the study in 1996 (prevalent cases; median age, 48 years), together with all those diagnosed before 70 years of age between 1996 and 2014. The study was approved by the Cambridgeshire Research Ethics Committee. The present analysis is based on data from 13,824 case participants. Controls were drawn from the EPIC-Norfolk study, a population-based cohort study of diet and health women attending GP practices, frequency matched to cases by age and geographic region (2003-present)¹⁴, and women attending breast screening as part of the National Health Service Breast Screening Program (NHSBSP) participating in the Sisters in Breast Screening (SIBS) study¹⁵. The final analyses were based on 13,213 cases and 5,242 controls that passed QC filters (see below).

Mutation screening: Target enrichment was accomplished using the 48.48 Fluidigm Access Array system. This approach employed multiplexed microfluidic PCR reactions to first amplify targeted regions and then ligate one of 1,536 unique barcodes and sequencing adapters. To cover the 19 protein-coding exons and associated splice junctions of *BRIP1*, we designed 45 PCR amplicons that were 133-199 base-pairs (bp) in length, which together produced unique coverage of 3,750 bp, as part of a larger multiplex panel involving ~500 amplicons. The amplicon designs covered 100% of the targeted regions. Fourteen 1,536-sample sequencing libraries were produced according to the manufacturer's protocol (Fluidigm, San Francisco, CA, US) and assayed with the KAPA library quantification kit with specific probes for the ends of the adapters (KapaBiosystems, Boston, MA, US). Libraries were sequenced in paired end mode on the Illumina HiSeq 2000 and CASAVA was used to construct demultiplexed sequence files, according to the manufacturers' protocols (Illumina Inc., San Diego, CA, US). Cutadapt version 1.5 was used to remove primer sequences from both ends of each read, and untrimmed reads were discarded¹⁶. Reads were aligned to the hg19 human genome reference sequence using BWA-MEM version 0.7¹⁷, and GATK version 3.3-0-g37228af was used for base quality score recalibration and indel realignment, and for deriving quality and depth metrics¹⁸. *BRIP1* was segmented into intervals of 2-7 exons, and the GATK UnifiedGenotyper was used to perform SNP and indel discovery and genotyping across all samples simultaneously, according to GATK Best Practices recommendations¹⁹. The samples had a median coverage of 446.4, and a median of 97.47% of the targeted region (coding exons within 6 bp of flanking sequence) covered in each sample. In initial filtering, variants with >20% missing data were removed, and samples with no genotype at >20% of remaining positions were also excluded. Genotypes with depth <20 or genotype quality <13 were re-coded as no genotype. GATK was used to recalculate variant-level metrics without these failed samples and low-confidence genotypes, and positions genotyped in >95% of samples and with quality by depth between 3.0 and 25.0 were retained for further analysis. The remaining variants were annotated with CADD version 1.2²⁰, and 40 truncating and predicted damaging missense variants were selected for Sanger sequencing. Of these 39 (positive predictive value 97.5%) variants were successfully confirmed.

iCOGS data were available for 13,133 individuals that were also sequenced. Six rare coding variants (MAF<1%) were polymorphic in the iCOGS data. Of the 357 rare allele carriers identified by iCOGS, the sequencing identified 355 (99.4%), although for two of the variants (p.Val193Ile and p.Arg173Ser), 13/111 and 17/138 of individuals called heterozygotes by iCOGS genotyping were called rare allele homozygotes by

sequencing, reflecting bias in PCR amplification. One common coding polymorphism (rs4986764, p.Ser919Pro) was concordant in 99.9% of samples.

BCFR study

Subjects: Eligible participants included women ascertained by population-based sampling by the Australia, Northern California, and Ontario sites of the BCFR between 1995 and 2005²¹. For the present study, the selection criteria for cases (n = 1,313) were diagnosis of breast cancer at < 45 years of age and self-reported race/ethnicity, plus grandparents' country of origin information consistent with Caucasian, East Asian, Hispanic/Latino, or African American racial/ethnic heritage. The controls (n = 1,123) were frequency-matched to the cases within each center by racial/ethnic group, with age at selection not more than 10 years older or younger than the age at diagnosis of the cases ascertained at the same center. The design of this study has been described in detail previously²²⁻²⁷. Recruitment and genetic studies were approved by the Ethics Committee of the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC; Lyon, France), the University of Utah IRB, and the local IRBs of the BCFR centers from which samples were received. Written informed consent was obtained from each participant.

Mutation screening: Mutation screening was carried out using 30ng of whole-genome amplified (WGA) DNA and covered the 19 coding exons of *BRIP1* (NM_032043.2). The laboratory process has been described in detail for our recent studies of *ATM*²², *CHEK2*²³, *XRCC2*²⁴, *RAD51*²⁵, *RINT1*²⁶ and *MRN* genes²⁷. The semi-automated approach relies on mutation scanning by high-resolution melt curve (HRM) analysis followed by direct Sanger sequencing of the individual samples for which an aberrant melt curve profile is indicative of the presence of a sequence variant. In our previous work, we showed, by comparing the results with those obtained with Sanger sequencing²⁸, that the HRM technique showed high sensitivity and specificity (1.0, and 0.8, respectively, for amplicons of <400 bp) for mutation screening. All rare exonic variants, plus intronic variants that fell within 20bp of a splice acceptor site or 8bp of a splice donor site were independently re-amplified from the two WGA reaction products to confirm the presence of the variant using direct Sanger sequencing. Primer and HRM probe sequences are available from the authors upon request.

Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre study

Subjects: The familial cohort included 1,853 index individuals with personal and family histories of breast cancer who were previously assessed at Familial Cancer Centres in Victoria and New South Wales. A total of 979 cases were obtained from the 'Variants in Practice' (ViP) study which recruited via the combined Familial Cancer Centers (FCCs) in Melbourne, Australia²⁹, and 874 through the Hunter Area Pathology Service, Newcastle, Australia. All index cases were previously screened through their clinical genetics services and found to be negative for mutations in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2*. Large deletions and duplications in *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* were included in the mutational analysis as determined by multiplex ligation-dependent probe amplification (MLPA) analysis. The 2,001 female controls were accessed through *Lifepool* (www.lifepool.org) which is a cohort of women attending population mammography screening program in Victoria, Australia. Controls were aged 40 years and above (mean age 64) and were cancer-free at time of blood collection. This study was approved by the Hunter New England Human Research Ethics Committee and the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre Human Research Ethics Committee.

Mutation screening: Cases and controls were screened for germline mutations in all 19 exons of *BRIP1* on the HiSeq 2500 System (Illumina) using the Haloplex target enrichment system (Agilent) as described previously³⁰.

Paired-end sequence reads were aligned to the human genome (hg19 assembly) using the BWA-MEM software³¹. Base quality score recalibration and indel realignment was performed using the GATK software. Single nucleotide variants (SNVs) and indels were identified using the GATK Unified Genotyper and Variant Quality Score Recalibration^{18 19}. Variants were annotated with information from Ensembl release 62. The average percentage of bases covered at a depth of $\geq 10x$ was 94.8% for cases and 96.1% for controls with all samples having at least 85% of bases sequenced at a depth of $\geq 10x$.

All truncating variants in *BRIP1* were validated by Sanger sequencing, as were any missense SNPs with a CADD score over 10 that had not been previously reported in any databases. Previously reported SNPs were only validated in selected cases if the variant calling was unclear (quality score < 150 or not identified in bidirectional reads).

Statistical Analysis

Association between each of the variants in *BRIP1* and breast cancer risk was assessed in BCAC using logistic regression, with adjustment for study and seven principal components for women of European ancestry derived from genotypes of SNPs on the iCOGS array, as previously described¹³. For the three targeted sequencing studies, we carried out burden analyses, which evaluated the risk associated with carrying any one of a set of likely deleterious variants, since the variants were too rare to be analysed individually, and this is directly relevant to the potential clinical application of the findings of this study. We considered two sets of variants: those predicted to result in a truncated protein product; and missense substitutions with a CADD score > 20 . Odds ratios (OR) and 95% confidence intervals (CI) were calculated for each of the three individual studies (SEARCH, BCFR and Peter MacCallum) and combined with those for BCAC/iCOGS using fixed effects meta-analysis. Heterogeneity in the odds ratio among studies was assessed using a standard heterogeneity chi-squared test and I^2 statistic.

The BCAC dataset partially overlapped with SEARCH and two of the BCFR studies (ABCFS and OFBCR). Since p.Arg798Ter failed the minimum coverage threshold in SEARCH, for simplicity we excluded the p.Arg798Ter variant, and two other missense variants (rs4988345 and rs28997569) that were genotyped on the iCOGS from both the SEARCH and BCFR sequencing data (but retained them in the BCAC dataset) when combining the results across all datasets. This resulted in an overlap in the (non-carrier) datasets between the BCAC, and the SEARCH and BCFR sequencing datasets, but the resulting bias in the combined odds ratio would be negligible since the variants are all extremely rare. The most probable haplotypes for markers across the *BRIP1* region were generated using SHAPEIT v2³².

Nonsense-mediated mRNA decay (NMD) analysis of BRIP1 p.Arg798Ter

To investigate whether the protein truncating mutation p.Arg798Ter triggers nonsense mediated decay, we treated lymphoblastoid cell lines from a heterozygous carrier and wildtype controls with 10 mg/ml cycloheximide for five hours. We extracted total RNA and DNA from treated and untreated cells with the AllPrep DNA/RNA Micro kit (QIAGEN Inc.), and then prepared cDNA with the QuantiTect Reverse Transcription Kit (QIAGEN Inc.). PCR Primers for DNA and cDNA analysis can be provided on request. The experiment was carried out in triplicate.

Results

Truncating variants

In analyses restricted to women of European ancestry the mutant allele was observed in 23 of 47,654 cases (0.050%) and 18 of 43,172 controls (0.04%) (OR 1.09, 95% CI 0.58-2.013, $P = 0.79$) (Table 2). Consistent results were obtained when analyses were restricted to women with known invasive breast cancer (OR 0.95, 95% CI 0.49-1.83). When the analysis was restricted to studies without oversampling of cases with a family history and/or bilaterality, the results were very similar to those for the whole dataset (OR 1.09, 95% CI 0.56-2.09, $P = 0.81$).

In the SEARCH, BCFR and Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre studies we identified 34 truncating variants in cases (0.21%) and 19 in controls (0.23%) (combined OR 0.90, 95% CI 0.48-1.70, $P=0.75$) (Table 2 and Supplementary Tables 1-3). The carrier frequency in controls was similar to that observed in exome sequencing data from 60,706 individuals in the Exome Aggregation Consortium (<http://exac.broadinstitute.org/>:0.21%). There was no evidence of heterogeneity in the OR among studies ($P=0.49$, $I^2=0.0$). After elimination of the overlaps between BCAC and the SEARCH and BCFR datasets, the combined OR across all four studies for identified *BRIP1* truncating variants was 0.98 (95% CI 0.62-1.54, $P=0.93$) (Table 2).

There was weak evidence of an increased risk of estrogen receptor (ER) negative breast cancer for p.Arg798Ter carriers in BCAC (OR 2.25, 95% CI 0.93-5.46, $P=0.07$), but no evidence of an association with truncating variants in SEARCH (0.53, 95% CI 0.06-2.34, $P=0.054$; combined OR 1.71, 95% CI 0.77-3.80, $P=0.19$) (Table 3). There was also weak evidence of an association with triple (ER/PR/HER2) negative disease in BCAC (OR 3.62, 95% CI 0.99-13.2, $P=0.05$) but not in SEARCH (combined OR 2.71, 95% CI 0.84-8.74, $P = 0.10$); however, these analyses were based on only four and one triple negative case carrying the variant in BCAC and SEARCH, respectively. There was no evidence for an association with ER-positive disease in either dataset (combined OR 0.61, 95% CI 0.33-1.13, $P=0.12$).

Nonsense mediated decay

We performed Sanger sequencing on both cDNA and DNA of cycloheximide-treated and untreated wildtype and p.Arg798Ter lymphoblastoid cell lines (Figure 2). Sequencing chromatograms showed that the rare, truncating allele was much less abundant than the wildtype allele in cDNA from untreated cells, but not in the treated cells, consistent with the inhibition of nonsense mediated decay with cycloheximide.

Missense variants

We considered missense variants with a CADD score >20 as the most likely deleterious variants. There was no evidence for association between carrying one of these missense variants, as a set, with breast cancer risk in the combined dataset (OR 1.08, 95% CI 0.95-1.24, $P=0.25$; Table 4), though there was some weak evidence of association in the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre study. One variant, p.Arg173Ser, accounted for the majority of carriers of likely deleterious variants in the sequencing studies; it was also genotyped in BCAC and showed no evidence of association (combined OR 1.07, 95% CI 0.93-1.23, $P=0.35$). None of the other missense variants genotyped in BCAC showed evidence for association (Table 1).

Distribution of p.Arg798Ter by population

Among European populations, there was substantial variation in the frequency of the p.Arg798Ter allele by country ($P<.0001$); the carrier frequency was approximately 0.1% in the UK, Ireland and Australia, but virtually

absent elsewhere in Europe. Forty-one of the 42 carriers shared a common haplotype of 21 markers across 150kb (Supplementary Figure 1, Supplementary Table 4). In addition, we observed two occurrences among 12,893 women of Asian ancestry, both from a Malaysian study (MYBRCA) and both carrying the common haplotype in Europeans, and two occurrences among 2,048 African-American women, one of which carried the founder European haplotype. These results suggest that the variant has arisen multiple times but that the majority of the carriers of p.Arg798Ter in Europeans have a common ancestral origin.

Discussion

BRIP1 is included on many cancer gene sequencing panels, and has been generally regarded as a “moderate risk” breast cancer susceptibility gene, together with other genes, including *ATM*, *CHEK2* and *PALB2*². The evidence that deleterious mutations in these latter three genes confer an increased breast cancer risk is unequivocal, supported by large case-control, kin-cohort and segregation studies^{22,33-37}. In the case of *BRIP1*, however, it is notable that no large systematic studies have been published since the original study by Seal et al⁶ (Supplementary Table 1), although clear evidence of an association between truncating mutations and ovarian cancer risk has emerged^{38,39}. We sought to evaluate the evidence that protein truncating mutations in *BRIP1* are associated with breast cancer, taking advantage of the large body of data generated as part of the iCOGS genotyping array. This allowed us to genotype one such variant, p.Arg798Ter, shown to be relatively frequent in previous studies, in more than 48,000 cases and 43,000 controls of European origin. In addition, we sequenced the coding region of *BRIP1* in more than 16,000 cases and 8,000 controls, predominantly of European origin, from three studies. We found no evidence of an association with breast cancer risk either for p.Arg798Ter, or for carrying any truncating variant in the gene. The upper 95% confidence limit (1.54) excludes a twofold risk of breast cancer, often taken as a lower threshold for a moderate-risk allele².

We found weak evidence of an association between p.Arg798Ter and ER-negative disease and triple negative disease in BCAC, but not for truncating variants in the combined analysis. A recent study found eight *BRIP1* truncating variants in 1,853 triple negative breast cancer cases, slightly higher than the frequency observed in our sequence analysis⁴⁰. Assuming that there is association for triple negative breast cancer, a sample size of ~1400 triple negative cases, that is approximately 3 fold larger than the current dataset, would be required to exclude an odds ratio of 3 (upper 95% CI), assuming a large control set. Thus, while an association of this magnitude may exist for triple negative disease, this should be resolvable by larger studies.

It remains possible that some subset variants in *BRIP1* do confer more substantial risks of breast cancer. p.Arg798Ter is a classic protein truncating mutation, which we showed undergoes nonsense mediated decay. Rare homozygotes, with complete loss of the BRIP1 protein, are associated with Fanconi Anaemia⁴. Although the results from the sequence analyses found no other truncating variants of comparable frequency to p.Arg798Ter, additional founder mutations might exist at similar or greater frequency in other European or non-European populations. We also found no evidence of association for missense variants, defined as potentially deleterious by CADD score; again the upper 95% confidence limit in this analysis exclude a two-fold risk, though it remains possible that individual missense variants might confer a more substantial risk, as occurs in *ATM*⁴¹⁻⁴³.

It also remains possible that truncating (or missense) variants are associated with a smaller (less than two-fold) risk of breast cancer (perhaps with a higher relative risk for certain disease subtypes). However, in this case even larger studies would be required to establish the association and to provide reliable risk estimates.

Moreover, this would place such variants in the same category as common risk SNPs and other modest risk variants, such as *CHEK2* p.Ile157Thr and *BRCA2* p.Lys3326Ter. If this were the case, the clinical implications would be quite different from those of established susceptibility genes, since the risks conferred by the variant would only be substantial if combined with other risk factors.

These results highlight the importance of very large systematic studies to estimate disease risks associated with genetic variants. We conclude that there is no clear evidence for an association between protein truncating variants in *BRIP1* and breast cancer risk. While *BRIP1* screening might have utility for ovarian cancer risk prediction, in combination with other risk factors³⁹, such variants should not be used for breast cancer risk prediction.

Legends

Figure 1. Cluster plot for genotype intensities for rs137852986 on the iCOGS array. Normalised intensities for the variant and wild-type allele for each individual are given by the X and Y co-ordinates, respectively. Individuals called as p.Arg798Ter carriers are indicated by green dots and non-carriers by blue dots. The red dot indicates a positive control individual known to carry the variant from prior sequencing.

Figure 2. Sequencing of cDNA from a cycloheximide-treated and untreated lymphoblastoid cell line from a *BRIP1* p.Arg798Ter carrier. Forward sequence of a) cDNA from cycloheximide-treated lymphoblastoid cell line, (b) cDNA from the untreated lymphoblastoid cell line and c) DNA sequence from the same cell line.

Supplementary Figure 1. Most probable haplotypes of markers across the *BRIP1* region, for carriers of the p.Arg798Arg variant, based on 36 markers genotyped on iCOGS. p.Arg798Ter is marker 15; a list of the markers used is given in Supplementary Table 1. 44 carriers share a common haplotype consisting of 21 markers across a 150kb interval (with the exception of one discrepant genotype for marker 12, rs11871134); for these individuals the shared haplotype is shown. Two carriers do not share the consensus haplotype – for these individuals both haplotypes (at the bottom of the figure) are given. Green indicates allele 1 and red indicates allele 2. Haplotypes from individuals of Asian and African-American ancestry, respectively, are highlighted as green and yellow respectively; the remaining haplotypes are from individuals of European ancestry.

Supplementary Table 1. Published studies of *BRIP1* mutation screening in breast/ovarian cancer families.

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Contributions

DFE co-ordinated the BCAC project, performed statistical analysis and drafted the manuscript, CL and AMD co-ordinated the targeted sequencing in SEARCH and genotyping in BCAC, BD and JA performed bioinformatics analysis of the SEARCH sequencing data, KAP assisted in the validation of SEARCH sequencing data, KM performed statistical analysis of the BCAC data, MKB and QW provided data management support for the BCAC, MS provided data management support for SEARCH, PDPP co-ordinated SEARCH, FLC-K: experimental design, coordination and supervision of the *BRIP1* mutation screening for the BCFR study and interpretation of data, NR,GD,NF performed *BRIP1* mutation screening for the BCFR study, JA, FD and MP performed *BRIP1* mutation screening and contributed to interpretation of data for the BCFR study, CV managed *BRIP1* mutation screening data for the BCFR study, NM performed Sanger confirmation of rare *BRIP1* variants in the BCFR study, FL contributed to the study design and analysis of the data for the BCFR study, and to the writing of the manuscript, ERT and IGC performed *BRIP1* mutation screening and contributed to interpretation of data for the Peter MacCallum study, SVT and DEG responsible for overall study design for BCFR, contributed to data analysis, and helped to draft the manuscript, JL performed the NMD analysis, GC-T helped coordinate the study and draft the manuscript. JD, RNL, SA, KA, HA-C, VA, AOCS, CB, MWB, JB, DB, WJB, NVB, SEB, A-LB-D, HB, JC-C, KSC, J-YC, DMC, AC, SSC, KC, HD, PD, ME, PAF, JF, HF, FF, MG-C, GGG, GG, AG-N, PG, CAH, PH, SNH, MH, MJH, C-NH, HI, AJ, PAJ, EJ, NJ, MJ, MK, DK, KCF, V-MK, VK, DL, NL, LI, AL, JiLo, ArLo, JaLu, AM, SM, SaMa, KM, AM, GM, KM, IN, AO, PP, SYP, KP, SMR, SS, RKS, C-YS, X-OS, MCS, HS, AS, SHT, RAEMT, IT, DT, TT, CV, SV, MW-B, WZ, YZ, HN, RJS, ILA, AHW, JLH, FJC, RW, BB, EJS, MKS, AR, TD, HB, UH, SLN, RLM, OF provided DNA samples and/or phenotypic data. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

Conflict of Interest Statement

The following authors have conflicts of interest to declare.

GM reports grants from Cancer Australia during the conduct of the study; personal fees from AstraZeneca outside the submitted work. AS reports grants from Breast Cancer Now (previously Breakthrough Breast Cancer) during the conduct of the study. SVT reports grants from US National Cancer Institute during the conduct of the study and is an inventor on most of the key BRCA1 and BRCA2 patents. The claims in these patents that constrained commercial genetic testing by entities other than Myriad Genetics have been overturned, expired, or abandoned. MWB reports grants from ELAN Found during the conduct of the study. DEG has US Patent Nos. 5747282; 5710001; 5837942; 6033857 with royalties paid by Myriad Genetics. CV reports grants from NCI during the conduct of the study. PAF reports grants and/or personal fees from Amgen, Novartis, Biomarin, Roche, Pfizer, GSK, TEVA and Genomic Health, outside the submitted work. RNL reports grants from Medical Research Council and Cancer Research UK during the conduct of the study.

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Table 1 Summary of missense variants tested for association with breast cancer risk in BCAC.

rs number	Position ¹	Substitution	Protein alteration	CADD ²	Polyphen	SIFT	MAF ³	OR (95%CI)	<i>P</i> -value
rs4988345	59924572	c.517C>T	p.Arg173Ser	20.8	Probably damaging	Deleterious	0.0043	1.05 (0.91-1.21)	0.49
rs4988346	59924512	c.577G>A	p.Val193Ile	0.342	Benign	Tolerated	0.0044	1.11 (0.97-1.28)	0.13
rs4988347	59924505	c.584T>C	p.Leu195Pro	0.578	Benign	Tolerated	0.0022	1.13 (0.93-1.37)	0.23
rs28997569	59885956	c.790C>T	p.Arg264Trp	16.72	Probably Damaging	Deleterious	0.0011	1.01 (0.76-1.34)	0.96
rs28997570	59885856	c.890A>G	p.Lys297Arg	8.669	Benign	Tolerated	0.0016	1.06 (0.84-1.34)	0.60
rs4988350	59861668	c.1591T>G	p.Phe531Val	23.8	Probably Damaging	Tolerated	0		
rs4988349	59861640	c.1619A>T	p.Gln540Leu	16.61	Possibly Damaging	Tolerated	0		
rs137852986	59793412	c.2392C>T	p.Arg798Ter	39	-	-	0.00021	1.09 (0.58-2.03)	0.79
rs28904918	59770797	c.2569A>G	p.Ile857Val	18.50	Probably Damaging	Tolerated	6x10 ⁻⁵	0.87 (0.21--3.66)	0.85
rs4986764	59763347	c.2755T>C	p.Ser919Pro	4.321	Benign	Deleterious	0.42	1.00 (0.98-1.01)	0.66
rs4988356	59763298	c.2804T>G	p.Val935Gly	1.149	Benign	Deleterious	2x10 ⁻⁵	0.44 (0.039-5.00)	0.510

¹ hg19 (build 37) position

²Combined Annotation Dependent Depletion scores²⁰

³MAF = Minor Allele Frequency

Table 2. Association between protein truncating variants in *BRIP1* and breast cancer risk

Study	Case Carriers/Total (%)	Control Carriers/Total (%)	OR (95%CI)	P-value
BCAC	23/47,654 (0.05%)	18/43,172 (0.04%)	1.09 (0.58-2.03)	0.79
SEARCH	24/13,213 (0.18%)	13/5,242 (0.25%)	0.73 (0.36-1.57)	0.36
BCFR	4/1,313 (0.30%)	2/1,123 (0.27%)	1.71 (0.24-19.0)	0.69
PeterMac	6/1,853 (0.38%)	4/2,001 (0.20%)	1.62 (0.38-7.82)	0.45
COMBINED			0.98 (0.62-1.54)	0.93

Table 3. Association between protein truncating variants in *BRIP1* and breast cancer risk by subtype

	ER-positive			ER-negative			Triple Negative		
Study	Carrier/Total (%)	OR (95%CI)	P-value	Carrier/Total (%)	OR (95%CI)	P-value	Carrier/Total (%)	OR (95%CI)	P-value
BCAC	4/27,680 (0.01%)	0.38 (0.13-1.15)	0.09	8/7,707 (0.10%)	2.25 (0.93-5.46)	0.07	4/2,983 (0.13%)	3.62 (0.99-13.2)	0.05
SEARCH	14/7,391 (0.19%)	0.76 (0.36-1.63)	0.56	2/1,521 (0.13%)	0.53 (0.06-2.34)	0.54	1/551 (0.18%)	0.73 (0.02-4.89)	1.0
Combined		0.61 (0.33-1.13)	0.12		1.71 (0.77-3.80)	0.19		2.71 (0.84-8.74)	0.10

Table 4. Association between missense variants in *BRIP1* with CADD score >20 and breast cancer risk.

STUDY	Case Carriers/Total (%)	Control Carriers/Total (%)	OR (95%CI)	P-value
BCAC	429/47,666 (0.90%)	370/43,176 (0.86%)	1.06 (0.92-1.22)	0.43
SEARCH	276/13,213(2.1%)	107/5,242 (2.0%)	1.06 (0.85-1.32)	0.66
BCFR	0/1,313 (0%)	1/1,123 (0.09%)	-	
PeterMac	40/1,853 (2.2%)	28/2,001 (1.4%)	1.68 (1.02-2.82)	0.03
COMBINED			1.08 (0.95-1.24)	0.25

Supplementary Table 1. Published studies of *BRIP1* mutation screening in breast/ovarian cancer families

Authors/Title	Source country / Ethnicity	Study design	Mutation detection method	Selection of cases	Number of cases screened for <i>BRIP1</i> mutations	Number of heterozygous cases	Number of controls screened for <i>BRIP1</i> mutations	Number of heterozygous controls	Comment
Rutter et al Hum Mutat. 2003 Aug;22(2):121-8.	USA	Candidate gene approach	DHPLC and Sanger sequencing	HBOC families + early onset BC cases (<35 y.o)	79	8	30	4	
Lewis et al Breast Cancer Res. 2005;7(6):R1005-16.	Australian	Candidate gene approach; mutation screening of familial BC cases and genotyping of 2 specific missense p.P47A and p.M299I.	DHPLC and Sanger sequencing	Multiple-case BC families (KConFab)	75 families screened for entire coding sequence + 253 index cases screened for exons 3 and 7	1 frameshift, 4 missense	(genotyped only for variants found in cases)	1 missense	
Vahteristo et al BMC Cancer. 2006 Jan 24;6:19.	Finnish	Candidate gene approach; mutation screening of familial BC cases and genotyping of 2 specific missense p.Val93Ile and the SNP ser919Pro.	CSGE	BC families negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i>	43	1 rare missense (Val93Ile)	183 (only genotyped for p.Val93Ile)	0	p.Val93Ile identified in 1 family then genotyped in 346 additional BC cases and in 183 controls
Seal et al Nat Genet. 2006 Nov;38(11):1239-41.	UK	Candidate gene approach with focus on LOF variants; case-control mutation screening study	CSGE	HBOC families	1,212	9	2,081	2	RR 2.0 (95%CI 1.2-3.2)
Guénard et al . J Hum Genet. 2008;53(7):579-91.	French Canadian	Candidate gene approach; likely deleterious variants subsequently genotyped in 73 controls	Sanger sequencing	HBOC families negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i>	96	0	0	N/A	
De Nicolo et al Clin Cancer Res. 2008 Jul 15;14(14):4672-80.	Italian	Candidate gene approach in BC families	Sanger sequencing	HBOC families negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i> and <i>CHEK2</i> 1100delC	49	1 LOF	0	N/A	

Kurian et al J Clin Oncol. 2014 Jul 1;32(19):2001-9.	USA	Multi-gene panel testing of 42 genes	Agilent SureSelect, MiSeq	HBOC cases (NCCN guidelines)	198 HBOC cases including 174 BC cases, of whom 141 tested negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i>	0 LOF, 8 missense	0		N/A
Castéra et al Eur J Hum Genet. 2014 Nov;22(11):1305-13.	French	Multi-gene panel testing ; 3 different capture design (16 genes, 21 genes, 27 genes) , all including <i>BRIP1</i>	Agilent SureSelect, Illumina GAllx	Consecutive HBOC cases referred to Cancer Genetics Clinics for <i>BRCA1/2</i> testing	708	0	0		N/A
Li et al J Med Genet. 2015 Nov 3. pii: jmedgenet-2015-103452. doi: 10.1136/jmedgenet-2015-103452.	Australian	Multi-gene panel testing of 17 genes; potentially relevant variants genotyped in other family members.	Agilent Target Enrichment kit, Axeq technologies	660 cases from multiple-case BC families (KConFab)	660	9 LOF, 7 missense	-	-	RR 0.47 (95%CI 0.15-1.18) ; HR>1.56 excluded
Aloraifi et al Cancer Genet. 2015 Sep;208(9):455-63.	Multi-ethnic: 10 mutation screening studies on <i>BRIP1</i> ; only 2 studies detected LOF variants.	Meta-analysis on 6 genes performed on studies with high-risk BC cases with matched controls	DHPLC, CSGE, Sanger sequencing	Early onset (<50 yo) or familial BC cases	1,287	10	2,174	2	
Hirotsu et al Mol Genet Genomic Med. 2015 Sep;3(5):459-66.	Japanese	Multi-gene panel testing of 25 DNA repair genes	Ion AmpliSeq, Ion Proton, Life Technologies	155 breast or ovarian cancer cases (94% with family history of BC), including 144 cases negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i>	144	0	0		N/A
Rajkumar et al Asian Pac J Cancer Prev. 2015;16(13):5211-7.	Indian	Multi-gene panel testing of 30 genes	TruSeq Enrichment kit, Illumina HiScan SQ	Family history of BC or early onset cases (<35 yo)	91	0	0		N/A
Lincoln et al . J Mol Diagn. 2015 Sep;17(5):533-44.	USA	Multi-gene panel testing of 29 genes	Agilent SureSelect, MiSeq or HiSeq2500	HBOC cases (NCCN guidelines)	735	1	0		N/A
Aloraifi et al FEBS J. 2015 Sep;282(17):3424-37.	Irish	Multi-gene panel testing of 312 genes.	TruSeq Enrichment kit, Illumina HiSeq	Familal BC cases negative for <i>BRCA1/2</i>	104	0	101	0	
Maxwell et al Genet Med. 2015 Aug;17(8):630-8.	USA	Multi-gene panel testing of 22 genes	Agilent SureSelect, sequencer?	<i>BRCA1/2</i> negative patients with early onset BC (<40 yo)	278	1	0		N/A

Cybulski et al. Clin Genet. 2015 Oct;88(4):366-70.	Polish	Whole exome sequencing and evaluation of 12 genes	Agilent SureSelect human exome kit v4, HiSeq2000	Familial cases negative for <i>BRCA1</i> , <i>CHEK2</i> and <i>NBS1</i> Polish founder mutation	144	1	0	N/A
Tung et al Cancer. 2015 Jan 1;121(1):25-33.	Multi-ethnic, Ashkenazi pop.	Multi-gene panel testing of 25 genes	RainDance Thunderstorm emulsion PCR, HiSeq2500	Negative <i>BRCA1/2</i> cases tested at Myriad	1781 (multi-ethnic pop) + 377 Ashkenazi Jews	7	0	N/A
Couch et al J Clin Oncol. 2015 Feb 1;33(4):304-11.	12 studies, population from USA, Germany,UK, Finland, Greece	Multi-gene panel testing of 17 genes	Agilent custom capture, HiSeq	TNBC cases unselected for family history of BC or OC	1,824	8	0	N/A

rs137852986 - BCAC QC samples - iCOGs





