

US007993835B1

(12) United States Patent Scholl et al.

(54) BRCA2 MUTATIONS AND USE THEREOF

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(*) Notice: Subject to any disclaimer, the term of this

patent is extended or adjusted under 35 U.S.C. 154(b) by 239 days.

(21) Appl. No.: 12/116,853

(22) Filed: May 7, 2008

Related U.S. Application Data

- (60) Provisional application No. 60/917,581, filed on May 11, 2007, now abandoned.
- (51) Int. Cl. C12Q 1/68 (2006.01) C12P 19/34 (2006.01) C07H 21/02 (2006.01) C07H 21/04 (2006.01)

(10) Patent No.:

US 7,993,835 B1

(45) **Date of Patent:**

Aug. 9, 2011

(52) **U.S. Cl.** **435/6**; 435/91.2; 536/23.5; 536/24.31

(56) References Cited

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(57) ABSTRACT

Genetic variants in the BRCA2 gene are disclosed which are useful as diagnosis biomarkers.

7 Claims, No Drawings

^{*} cited by examiner

BRCA2 MUTATIONS AND USE THEREOF

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED U.S. APPLICATIONS

This application claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application Ser. No. 60/917,581 filed on May 11, 2007, the entire content of which being incorporated herein by reference.

SEQUENCE LISTING

The instant application was filed without a formal Sequence Listing. A formal Sequence Listing in computer readable form has therefore been submitted electronically as a text file. This text file, which is named "3021-01-2U_2008-08-04_SEQ_LIST_(TXT)_ST25_BLC-BGJ.txt", was created on Aug. 4, 2008, and is 43,849 bytes in size. Its contents are incorporated by reference herein in their entirety.

FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention generally relates to molecular genetics, particularly to the identification of genetic variants that are associated with diseases, and methods of using the identified ²⁵ variants

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Breast cancer susceptibility gene 2 (BRCA2) is a tumor suppressor gene identified on the basis of its genetic linkage to familial breast cancers. Mutations of the BRCA2 gene in humans are associated with predisposition to breast. In fact, BRCA1 and BRCA2 mutations are responsible for the majority of familial breast cancer. Inherited mutations in the 35 BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes account for approximately 7-10% of all breast cancer cases. Women with BRCA mutations have a lifetime risk of breast cancer between 56-87%, and a lifetime risk of ovarian cancer between 27-44%. In addition, mutations in BRCA2 gene have also been linked to various 40 other tumors including, e.g., pancreatic cancer.

A large number of deleterious mutations in BRCA2 gene have been discovered. Genetic testing on patients to determine the presence or absence of such deleterious mutations has proven to be an effective approach in detecting predispositions to breast and ovarian cancers. Genetic testing is now commonly accepted as the most accurate method for diagnosing hereditary breast cancer and ovarian risk.

As deleterious mutations in BRCA2 are associated with predisposition to cancers, particularly breast cancer and ovarian cancer, it is desirable to identify additional naturally existing deleterious mutations in the BRCA2 gene, which may serve as valuable diagnostic markers. However, a large number of genetic variants in BRCA2 gene have been found and the number continues to increase. Many of these variants are misense changes, inframe insertion or deletions, or intron/exon junction changes. Often, it is difficult to understand the effect of such variants, and they are typically reported as "uncertain variants" after genetic testing. There is great need in the art to reclassify such uncertain variants and determine 60 whether they are deleterious mutations or merely clinically insignificant rare polymorphisms.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is based on the discovery of a number of genetic variants in the human BRCA2 gene and their

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clinical effect. The genetic variants are summarized in Table 1 below. The genetic variants are useful in detecting the presence or absence of a predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, as well as in diagnosing and prognosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, and determining drug response and efficacy in patients.

Accordingly, in a first aspect of the present invention, an isolated human BRCA2 gene is provided containing at least one of the newly discovered genetic variants as summarized in Table 1 below. The present invention also provides isolated nucleic acids having a contiguous span of at least 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 25 or 30, or at least 50 nucleotides of a human nucleic acid sequence, wherein the contiguous span encompasses and contains a nucleotide variant selected from those in Table 1.

DNA microchips or microarrays are also provided comprising an isolated human gene or an isolated oligonucleotide according to the present invention.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, an 20 isolated human protein or a fragment thereof is provided having a novel amino acid variant corresponding to a nucleotide variant in Table 1.

The present invention also provides an isolated antibody specifically immunoreactive with a human protein variant of the present invention.

In accordance with yet another aspect of the present invention, a method is provided for genotyping an individual by determining whether the individual has a nucleotide variant or an amino acid variant provided in accordance with the present invention. The individual can be a person without cancer or having been diagnosed of cancer, particularly breast or ovarian cancer.

In addition, a method is also provided for detecting in an individual the presence or absence of a predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, comprising genotyping the individual to determine the genotype at the variant locations discovered according to the present invention, particularly whether the individual has a nucleotide variant or an amino acid variant provided in accordance with the present invention, and determining the presence or absence of a predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers based on the correlation between the variants and BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers discovered according to the present invention.

The present invention also provides a method for diagnosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual. The method comprises genotyping the individual to determine the genotype at the variant locations discovered according to the present invention, particularly whether the individual has a nucleotide variant or an amino acid variant provided in accordance with the present invention, and making a diagnosis of BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers based on the correlation between the variants and BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers discovered according to the present invention.

In yet another aspect, the present invention provides a method of treating or delaying the onset of BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers comprising identifying an individual having a nucleotide variant according to the present invention, and treating the individual with a suitable drug effective in treating or delaying the onset of BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers

In yet another aspect, the invention provides a method of predicting an individual's response to therapeutic treatment.

This method may involve: (i) detecting in the individual the presence or absence of a genetic variant in one or more of the branch points of the present invention; and (ii) determining the individual's response to treatment based on the presence or absence of the genetic variant. The presence of a genetic variant in an individual may be determined by the methods described herein as well as those well known in the art. The method may be used to determine efficacy of various forms of drugs including, but not limited to, chemotherapeutics and inhibitors of the DNA damage repair pathway.

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, a detection kit is also provided for genotyping in an individual for the genotypes at the variant loci according to the present invention as summarized in Table 1. In a specific embodiment, the kit is used in predicting a predisposition to BRCA2-associ- 15 ated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual. In another specific embodiment, the kit is used in diagnosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual. The kit may include, in a carrier or confined compartment, any nucleic acid probes or 20 primers, or antibodies useful for detecting the nucleotide variants or amino acid variants of the present invention as described above. The kit can also include other reagents such as DNA polymerase, buffers, nucleotides and others that can be used in the method of detecting the variants according to 25 this invention. In addition, the kit preferably also contains instructions for using the kit.

The foregoing and other advantages and features of the invention, and the manner in which the same are accomplished, will become more readily apparent upon consideration of the following detailed description of the invention taken in conjunction with the accompanying examples and drawings, which illustrate preferred and exemplary embodiments

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION

1. Definitions

The terms "genetic variant," "nucleotide variant" and 40 "mutations" are used herein interchangeably to refer to changes or alterations to the reference human genomic DNA or cDNA sequences at a particular locus, including, but not limited to, nucleotide base deletions, insertions, inversions, and substitutions in the coding and non-coding regions. Deletions may be of a single nucleotide base, a portion or a region of the nucleotide sequence of the gene, or of the entire gene sequence. Insertions may be of one or more nucleotide bases. The "genetic variant" or "nucleotide variants" may occur in transcriptional regulatory regions, untranslated regions of 50 mRNA, exons, introns, or exon/intron junctions. The "genetic variant" or "nucleotide variants" may or may not result in stop codons, frame shifts, deletions of amino acids, altered gene transcript splice forms or altered amino acid sequence.

The term "allele" or "gene allele" is used herein to refer 55 generally to a naturally occurring gene having a reference sequence or a gene containing a specific nucleotide variant.

As used herein, "haplotype" is a combination of genetic (nucleotide) variants in a region of an mRNA or a genomic DNA on a chromosome found in an individual. Thus, a haplotype includes a number of genetically linked polymorphic variants which are typically inherited together as a unit.

As used herein, the term "amino acid variant" is used to refer to an amino acid change to a reference human BRCA1 protein sequence resulting from "genetic variants" or "nucleotide variants" to the reference human gene encoding the reference BRCA1 protein. The term "amino acid variant" is

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intended to encompass not only single amino acid substitutions, but also amino acid deletions, insertions, and other significant changes of amino acid sequence in the reference BRCA1 protein.

The term "genotype" as used herein means the nucleotide characters at a particular nucleotide variant marker (or locus) in either one allele or both alleles of a gene (or a particular chromosome region). With respect to a particular nucleotide position of a gene of interest, the nucleotide(s) at that locus or equivalent thereof in one or both alleles form the genotype of the gene at that locus. A genotype can be homozygous or heterozygous. Accordingly, "genotyping" means determining the genotype, that is, the nucleotide(s) at a particular gene locus. Genotyping can also be done by determining the amino acid variant at a particular position of a protein which can be used to deduce the corresponding nucleotide variant(s).

As used herein, the term "BRCA2 nucleic acid" means a nucleic acid molecule the nucleotide sequence of which is uniquely found in an BRCA2 gene. That is, a "BRCA2 nucleic acid" is either an BRCA2 genomic DNA or mRNA/cDNA, having a naturally existing nucleotide sequence encoding a naturally existing BRCA2 protein (wild-type or mutant form).

The term "locus" refers to a specific position or site in a gene sequence or protein. Thus, there may be one or more contiguous nucleotides in a particular gene locus, or one or more amino acids at a particular locus in a polypeptide. Moreover, "locus" may also be used to refer to a particular position in a gene where one or more nucleotides have been deleted, inserted, or inverted.

As used herein, the terms "polypeptide," "protein," and "peptide" are used interchangeably to refer to an amino acid chain in which the amino acid residues are linked by covalent peptide bonds. The amino acid chain can be of any length of at least two amino acids, including full-length proteins. Unless otherwise specified, the terms "polypeptide," "protein," and "peptide" also encompass various modified forms thereof, including but not limited to glycosylated forms, phosphorylated forms, etc.

The terms "primer", "probe," and "oligonucleotide" are used herein interchangeably to refer to a relatively short nucleic acid fragment or sequence. They can be DNA, RNA, or a hybrid thereof, or chemically modified analog or derivatives thereof. Typically, they are single-stranded. However, they can also be double-stranded having two complementing strands which can be separated apart by denaturation. In specific embodiments, the oligonucleotides can have a length of from about 8 nucleotides to about 200 nucleotides, or from about 12 nucleotides to about 100 nucleotides, or from about 18 to about 50 nucleotides. They can be labeled with detectable markers or modified in any conventional manners for various molecular biological applications.

The term "isolated" when used in reference to nucleic acids (e.g., genomic DNAs, cDNAs, mRNAs, or fragments thereof) is intended to mean that a nucleic acid molecule is present in a form that is substantially separated from other naturally occurring nucleic acids that are normally associated with the molecule. Specifically, since a naturally existing chromosome (or a viral equivalent thereof) includes a long nucleic acid sequence, an "isolated nucleic acid" as used herein means a nucleic acid molecule having only a portion of the nucleic acid sequence in the chromosome but not one or more other portions present on the same chromosome. More specifically, an "isolated nucleic acid" typically includes no more than 25 kb naturally occurring nucleic acid sequences which immediately flank the nucleic acid in the naturally existing chromosome (or a viral equivalent thereof). However, it is

noted that an "isolated nucleic acid" as used herein is distinct from a clone in a conventional library such as genomic DNA library and cDNA library in that the clone in a library is still in admixture with almost all the other nucleic acids of a chromosome or cell. Thus, an "isolated nucleic acid" as used 5 herein also should be substantially separated from other naturally occurring nucleic acids that are on a different chromosome of the same organism. Specifically, an "isolated nucleic acid" means a composition in which the specified nucleic acid molecule is significantly enriched so as to constitute at least 10 10% of the total nucleic acids in the composition.

An "isolated nucleic acid" can be a hybrid nucleic acid having the specified nucleic acid molecule covalently linked to one or more nucleic acid molecules that are not the nucleic acids naturally flanking the specified nucleic acid. For 15 example, an isolated nucleic acid can be in a vector. In addition, the specified nucleic acid may have a nucleotide sequence that is identical to a naturally occurring nucleic acid or a modified form or mutein thereof having one or more inversion, and the like.

An isolated nucleic acid can be prepared from a recombinant host cell (in which the nucleic acids have been recombinantly amplified and/or expressed), or can be a chemically synthesized nucleic acid having a naturally occurring nucle- 25 otide sequence or an artificially modified form thereof.

The term "isolated polypeptide" as used herein is defined as a polypeptide molecule that is present in a form other than that found in nature. Thus, an isolated polypeptide can be a non-naturally occurring polypeptide. For example, an "iso-30 lated polypeptide" can be a "hybrid polypeptide." An "isolated polypeptide" can also be a polypeptide derived from a naturally occurring polypeptide by additions or deletions or substitutions of amino acids. An isolated polypeptide can also be a "purified polypeptide" which is used herein to mean a 35 composition or preparation in which the specified polypeptide molecule is significantly enriched so as to constitute at least 10% of the total protein content in the composition. A "purified polypeptide" can be obtained from natural or recombinant host cells by standard purification techniques, or 40 by chemically synthesis, as will be apparent to skilled arti-

The terms "hybrid protein," "hybrid polypeptide," "hybrid peptide," "fusion protein," "fusion polypeptide," and "fusion peptide" are used herein interchangeably to mean a non- 45 naturally occurring polypeptide or isolated polypeptide having a specified polypeptide molecule covalently linked to one or more other polypeptide molecules that do not link to the specified polypeptide in nature. Thus, a "hybrid protein" may be two naturally occurring proteins or fragments thereof 50 linked together by a covalent linkage. A "hybrid protein" may also be a protein formed by covalently linking two artificial polypeptides together. Typically but not necessarily, the two or more polypeptide molecules are linked or "fused" together by a peptide bond forming a single non-branched polypeptide 55 widely used measure of LD: chain.

The term "high stringency hybridization conditions," when used in connection with nucleic acid hybridization, means hybridization conducted overnight at 42 degrees C. in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5×SSC (750 mM NaCl, 75 60 mM sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.6, 5× Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ ml denatured and sheared salmon sperm DNA, with hybridization filters washed in 0.1×SSC at about 65° C. The term "moderate stringency hybridization conditions," when used 65 in connection with nucleic acid hybridization, means hybridization conducted overnight at 37 degrees C. in a solution

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containing 50% formamide, 5×SSC (750 mM NaCl, 75 mM sodium citrate), 50 mM sodium phosphate, pH 7.6, 5× Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured and sheared salmon sperm DNA, with hybridization filters washed in 1×SSC at about 50° C. It is noted that many other hybridization methods, solutions and temperatures can be used to achieve comparable stringent hybridization conditions as will be apparent to skilled artisans.

For the purpose of comparing two different nucleic acid or polypeptide sequences, one sequence (test sequence) may be described to be a specific "percentage identical to" another sequence (comparison sequence) in the present disclosure. In this respect, the percentage identity is determined by the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 90:5873-5877 (1993), which is incorporated into various BLAST programs. Specifically, the percentage identity is determined by the "BLAST 2 Sequences" tool, which is available at NCBI's website. See Tatusova and Madden, FEMS Microbiol. Lett., 174(2):247-250 (1999). For pairwise mutations such as nucleotide substitution, deletion/insertion, 20 DNA-DNA comparison, the BLASTN 2.1.2 program is used with default parameters (Match: 1; Mismatch: -2; Open gap: 5 penalties; extension gap: 2 penalties; gap x_dropoff: 50; expect: 10; and word size: 11, with filter). For pairwise protein-protein sequence comparison, the BLASTP 2.1.2 program is employed using default parameters (Matrix: BLO-SUM62; gap open: 11; gap extension: 1; x_dropoff: 15; expect: 10.0; and wordsize: 3, with filter). Percent identity of two sequences is calculated by aligning a test sequence with a comparison sequence using BLAST 2.1.2., determining the number of amino acids or nucleotides in the aligned test sequence that are identical to amino acids or nucleotides in the same position of the comparison sequence, and dividing the number of identical amino acids or nucleotides by the number of amino acids or nucleotides in the comparison sequence. When BLAST 2.1.2 is used to compare two sequences, it aligns the sequences and yields the percent identity over defined, aligned regions. If the two sequences are aligned across their entire length, the percent identity yielded by the BLAST 2.1.1 is the percent identity of the two sequences. If BLAST 2.1.2 does not align the two sequences over their entire length, then the number of identical amino acids or nucleotides in the unaligned regions of the test sequence and comparison sequence is considered to be zero and the percent identity is calculated by adding the number of identical amino acids or nucleotides in the aligned regions and dividing that number by the length of the comparison sequence.

> As used herein the term "linkage disequilibrium," or "LD," means that there is interdependence between alleles at loci closely positioned within a genome. More precisely, LD means that the probability to find allele A at locus 1 depends on whether allele B is present at locus 2. Complete LD means that alleles A and B are always found together. Pitchard and Przeworski, Am. J. Hum. Genet., 69:1-4 (2001) teaches a

$r^2 = (P(AB) - P(A)P(B))^2 / P(A)P(a)P(B)P(b),$

where A and a are two alleles at locus 1, B and b are two alleles at locus 2, and P(X) is the probability of X.

If LD is absent, then P(AB)=P(A)P(B), and, therefore, r²=0. In contrast, in the case of complete disequilibrium, P(AB)=P(A)=P(B), and, therefore, $r^2=1$. In the case of partial LD, r^2 is between 0 and 1, and high values of r^2 correspond to strong LD. If allele A of locus 1 is associated with a disease, and there is a strong LD between locus 1 and locus 2, so that P(AB)>P(A)P(B), then allele B is associated with the disease too. To define strong LD, a threshold of $r^2 > 0.8$ is usually used.

See Carlson et al, *Nat. Genet.*, 33(4):518-21 (2003). This threshold has been applied in identifying additional variants that are in LD with the disease, disorder or phenotype-associated SNP of the instant invention.

Thus, when a second nucleotide variant is said herein to be 5 in linkage disequilibrium, or LD, with a first nucleotide variant, it is meant that a second variant is closely dependent upon a first variant, with a r^{2} value of at least 0.8, as calculated by the formula above. Thus, the term "LD variants" as used herein means variants that are in linkage disequilibrium with 10 an r^{2} value of at least 0.8.

The term "reference sequence" refers to a polynucleotide or polypeptide sequence known in the art, including those disclosed in publicly accessible databases, e.g., GenBank, or a newly identified gene sequence, used simply as a reference 15 with respect to the nucleotide variants provided in the present invention. The nucleotide or amino acid sequence in a reference sequence is contrasted to the alleles disclosed in the present invention having newly discovered nucleotide or amino acid variants. Smith and coworkers described the com- 20 plete genomic sequence of a 117 kilobase region of human DNA containing the BRCA2 gene, and deposited the nucleotide sequence of the genomic DNA in the GenBank under the Accession Number Z74739 and Z73359 (Smith et al., Genome Res., 6:1029-1049 (1996)). This nucleotide 25 sequence (referred to as Z74739 and Z73359) is used herein as a reference sequence for identifying the polymorphic positions of the large rearrangements of the present invention.

The nucleotide and amino acid sequences in GenBank Accession No. U43746 are used as the reference sequences ³⁰ for BRCA2 cDNA and proteins, respectively.

2. Nucleotide and Amino Acid Variants

In accordance with the present invention, analysis of the 35 nucleotide sequence of genomic DNA corresponding to the BRCA2 genes of specific human patients has led to the discovery of a number of mutant BRCA2 alleles and characterization of the effect of such variants. A previously known genomic sequence of the BRCA2 gene is disclosed in the 40 GenBank under the Accession Nos. Z74739 (exons 2-24) and Z73359 (exons 25-27). A complete cDNA sequence of the BRCA2 gene and the amino acid sequence of the BRCA2 polypeptide encoded by the cDNA sequence are set forth in the GenBank under the Accession No. U43746. The cDNA 45 sequence is used herein as the reference sequence for identifying the positions of the nucleotide variants of the present invention in exons. The cDNA sequence and the genomic sequence are used in conjunction to identify the variant positions in introns. In addition, the amino acid sequence in Gen- 50 Bank Accession No. U43746 is used as a reference sequence for identifying the amino acid variants of the present inven-

The positions are assigned by aligning the variant allele sequences to the above-identified cDNA and/or genomic reference sequences, with the starting nucleotide (nucleotide +1) being the A in the start codon ATG in the reference cDNA sequence. The positions in an intron or intervening sequence (IVS) are assigned relative to the exon immediately preceding or following the intron. Thus, for example, IVS3+31C>T 60 means a nucleotide variant T (in contrast to C in the reference sequence) at the 31st nucleotide position counting from the first nucleotide of the intron (or IVS) 3 immediately following the exon immediately preceding the intron, i.e., exon 3. IVS6-29C>A means a nucleotide polymorphism of A (in 65 contrast to C in the reference sequence) at the 29th nucleotide position counting in the downstream to upstream direction

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from the intronic nucleotide immediately preceding exon 7. In other words, positive numbers start from the G of the donor site invariant GT, while negative numbers start from the G of the acceptor site invariant AG. The amino acid substitutions caused by the nucleotide variants are also identified according to conventional practice. For example, A160V means the amino acid variant at position 160 is V in contrast to A in the reference sequence.

The genetic variants are summarized in Tables 1-2 below. Exemplary sequences spanning the genetic variants in the table are provided in Table 3 below.

TABLE 1

	Deleterious BRCA2 Variants						
Exon	Variant	Effect	cDNA Position	Original Base	Deleted/ Inserted/ New Base	SEQ ID NO	
3	473delAA	deleterious	473	A	AA	1	
3	Q66X	deleterious	424	C	T	2	
3	E97X	deleterious	517	G	T	3	
3	389delA	deleterious	389	A	A	4	
4	570delTA	deleterious	570	T	TA	5	
4 5	638ins8 699delG	deleterious	638	C G	G	6 7	
5	697delAA	deleterious deleterious	699 697	A	AA	8	
6	719delT	deleterious	719	T	T	9	
7	750delT	deleterious	750	Ť	Ť	10	
7	762delA	deleterious	762	Ā	Ā	11	
10	2121delT	deleterious	2,121	T	T	12	
10	1756delGA	deleterious	1,756	G	GA	13	
10	2074delT	deleterious	2,074	T	T	14	
10	1074delCA	deleterious	1,074	C	CA	15	
10	2027del6	deleterious	2,027	A		16	
10	1994insA	deleterious	1,994	A	A	17	
10	1187insT	deleterious	1,187	T	T	18	
10	L583X	deleterious	1,976	T	A	19	
10	S424X	deleterious	1,499	С	G	20	
10	1536delGA	deleterious	1,536	G	GA	21	
10 10	Q407X 1836delTG	deleterious	1,447 1,836	C T	T TG	22 23	
10	S611X	deleterious deleterious	2,060	Ċ	G	23 24	
10	S273X	deleterious	1,046	Ċ	A	25	
11	6239del7	deleterious	6,239	A	2 1	26	
11	O1295X	deleterious	4,111	Ĉ	T	27	
11	6625insT	deleterious	6,625	T	T	28	
11	2403insA	deleterious	2,403	A	A	29	
11	K1638X	deleterious	5,140	A	T	30	
11	Y1672X	deleterious	5,244	C	G	31	
11	6677delAA	deleterious	6,677	A	AA	32	
11	7044delAA	deleterious	7,044	A	AA	33	
11	3551delA	deleterious	3,551	A	A	34	
11	4688delAA	deleterious	4,688	A	AA	35	
11 11	3458ins5 5562del7	deleterious	3,458	T T		36 37	
11	X1290ins	deleterious deleterious	5,562 4,096	T	AAT	38	
11	(4096ins3)	defeterious	7,090	1	AAI	36	
11	4951delG	deleterious	4,951	G	G	39	
11	5469insTA	deleterious	5,469	Č	TA	40	
11	K757X	deleterious	2,497	A	T	41	
11	K1531X	deleterious	4,819	A	T	42	
11	6708delA	deleterious	6,708	A	A	43	
11	4633del5	deleterious	4,633	G		44	
11	6662del8	deleterious	6,662	A	_	45	
11	S648X	deleterious	2,171	С	G	46	
11	3948delGT	deleterious	3,948	G	GT	47	
11	5859delC	deleterious	5,859	C	C	48	
11 11	6088delA 3060del4	deleterious deleterious	6,088 3,060	A A	A AAAA	49 50	
11	C717X	deleterious	2,379	T	AAAA	51	
11	3421delA	deleterious	3,421	Â	A	52	
11	3586delG	deleterious	3,586	G	G	53	
11	5435delAA	deleterious	5,435	Ā	AA	54	
11	3237delCA	deleterious	3,237	С	CA	55	
11	5419delC	deleterious	5,419	C	C	56	
11	3305delA	deleterious	3,305	A	A	57	
11	S1385X	deleterious	4,382	С	G	58	

TABLE 1-continued

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TABLE 1-continued

		TABLE 1	i -contin	ueu						TABLE 1	-contin	ueu			
Deleterious BRCA2 Variants									Deleterious B	RCA2 V	ariants				
Exon	Variant	Effect	cDNA Position	Original Base	Deleted/ Inserted/ New Base	SEQ ID NO	5	Exon	Variant	Effect	cDNA Position	Orig Ba:		Deleted/ Inserted/ New Base	SEQ ID NO
11 11	Y2222X 6070ins8	deleterious deleterious	6,894 6,070	C G	G	59 60									
11	6662delA	deleterious	6,662	A	A	61			IVS18+2T>C	deleterious	8,559	t		C	131
11	6415del11	deleterious	6,415	G		62	10	20	IVS19-1G>A	deleterious	8,716	g		A	132
11	2886delTG	deleterious	2,886	T	TG	63									
11	6319insA	deleterious deleterious	6,319	A	A	64									
11 11	5344del4 4994delC	deleterious	5,344 4,994	A C	AATA C	65 66				ТАЕ	BLE 2				
11	5667insT	deleterious	5,667	T	T	67				IAI	DLE Z				
11	6616del5	deleterious	6,616	T		68	15			Polymorphic	BRCA2 V	√ariant			
11	5897del5	deleterious	5,897	T		69									
11 11	4637del5 6287del4	deleterious deleterious	4,637 6,287	T A	AACA	70 71								Deleted/	ano
11	G1712X	deleterious	5,362	G	Т	72		Exon			a.D	NA	Orig- inal	- Inserted/ New	SEQ ID
11	7044del5	deleterious	7,044	A		73			Variant	Effect		ition	Base		NO
11	6310del5	deleterious	6,310	G		74	20								
11	L1053X	deleterious	3,386	T	G	75	20	2	IVS1-14C>T	polymorph		190	С	T	133
11 11	5008delA 6910insG	deleterious deleterious	5,008 6,910	A G	A G	76 77		2	IVS1-10T>C N60S	polymorph		190 407	t	C G	134
11	6886del5	deleterious	6,886	G	· ·	78		4	IVS3-19del8	polymorph polymorph		545	A a	G	135 136
11	3073delT	deleterious	3,073	T	T	79		10	S489C	polymorph		,694	Č	G	137
11	2482del4	deleterious	2,482	G	GACT	80		10	K513R	polymorph		,766	Α	G	138
13	7230delC	deleterious	7,230	C	С	81	25	10	A487E	polymorph		,688	С	A	139
14	7570delAA	deleterious	7,570	A	AA T	82 83		10	Q347R	polymorph		,268	A	G	140
14 14	Q2345X 7614delC	deleterious deleterious	7,261 7,614	C C	Ċ	84		11 11	F2058C G1529R	polymorph		,401 ,813	T G	G A	141 142
14	Q2435X	deleterious	7,531	Č	T	85		11	I1929V	polymorph polymorph		,013	A	G	143
14	Q2456X	deleterious	7,594	Č	Ť	86		11	L1904V	polymorph		,938	Ĉ	G	144
14	E2420X	deleterious	7,486	G	T	87	30	11	S2152Y	polymorph		,683	Ċ	Ā	145
15	Q2501X	deleterious	7,729	C	T	88		11	L929S	polymorph		,014	T	C	146
15	7777ins8	deleterious	7,777	A	т	89		11	N9871	polymorph		,188	A	T	147
15 16	7794insT 7932insT	deleterious deleterious	7,794 7,932	T T	T T	90 91		11 11	R2108H H2074N	polymorph		,551 ,448	G C	A A	148 149
16	E2598X	deleterious	8,020	G	T	92		11	Q1396R	polymorph polymorph		,446	A	G	150
16	E2599X	deleterious	8,023	G	T	93	35	11	V2138F	polymorph		,640	G	T	151
16	7895insAA	deleterious	7,895	A	AA	94	33	11	K1690N	polymorph		,298	A	C	152
16	7884del4	deleterious	7,884	T	TAAC	95		11	M1149V	polymorph		,673	A	G	153
16 16	8009insA Q2580X	deleterious deleterious	8,009 7,966	A C	A T	96 97		11	C1365Y	polymorph		,322	G	A	154
17	W2626X	deleterious	8,106	G	A	98		11 11	N900D I1349T	polymorph polymorph		,926 ,274	A T	G C	155 156
18	8276insT	deleterious	8,276	Č	T	99		11	Y1313C	polymorph		,166	A	G	157
18	8513delC	deleterious	8,513	C	C	100	40	12	D2312V	polymorph		,163	A	T	158
18	8281delA	deleterious	8,281	A	A	101		14	Q2384K	polymorph		,378	С	A	159
18	8292delCT	deleterious deleterious	8,292	C	CT T	102		15	IVS14-14T>G	polymorph		,664	t	G	160
19 19	R2799X W2788X	deleterious	8,623 8,591	A G	A A	103 104		16 22	IVS15-15del4 IVS21-18T>C	polymorph		,846 ,983	g	GTTT C	161 162
21	Q2899X	deleterious	8,923	Č	T	105		24	IVS23-18T>C	polymorph polymorph		,346	t t	Ċ	163
22	W2970X	deleterious	9,137	G	Ā	106	45	24	K3059E	polymorph		,403	A	Ğ	164
22	9045del4	deleterious	9,045	G	GAAA	107		25	IVS25+9A>C	polymorph		,729	a	С	165
22	9079insGG	deleterious	9,079	G	GG	108		26	P3194Q	polymorph		,809	C	A	166
22 23	S2984X 9225delGT	deleterious deleterious	9,179 9,225	C G	G GT	109 110		27	N3329S F3362L	polymorph		,214 ,312	A	G C	167
23	9288delT	deleterious	9,288	T	T	111		27 27	L3352V	polymorph polymorph		,282	T C	G	168 169
23	L2996X	deleterious	9,215	Ť	Â	112	50	27	S3396N	polymorph		,415	G	A	170
23	9324ins19	deleterious	9,324	A		113		27	K3416T	polymorph		,475	A	C	171
23	S2994X	deleterious	9,209	C	G	114		27	I3418M	polymorph	ism 10	,482	С	G	172
23	W2990X	deleterious	9,198	G	A	115		10	S384F	polymorph		,379	С	T	173
23	9193delA	deleterious	9,193	A	A	116		10	S326R I505T	polymorph		,206	C T	A	174 175
24	E3043X 9455delG	deleterious	9,355	G	T G	117		10 10	D596H	polymorph polymorph		,742 ,014	G	C C	176
24 25	9455delG 9489ins7	deleterious deleterious	9,455 9,489	G T	G	118 119	55	10	E462G	polymorph		,613	A	G	177
25	9645ins4	deleterious	9,469	T	ATTT	120		11	D935N	polymorph	ism 3	,031	G	A	178
25	IVS25+1insG	deleterious	9,729	Ğ	G	121		11	H2116R	polymorph		,575	A	G	179
25	S3094X	deleterious	9,509	Ċ	G	122		11	T1414M	polymorph		,469	C	Т	180
25	9637insA	deleterious	9,637	A	A	123		11 11	C1290Y N986S	polymorph polymorph		,097 ,185	G A	A G	181 182
25	9641 ins T	deleterious	9,641	T	T	124	60	11	G1771D	polymorph		,183 ,540	G	A	183
25	9604delC	deleterious	9,604	С	С	125		11	D1902N	polymorph		,932	G	A	184
25	9558insT	deleterious	9,558	T	T	126		14	N2436I	polymorph	ism 7	,535	\mathbf{A}	T	185
6	K172N	deleterious	744	G	T	127		15	T2515I	polymorph		,772	С	T	186
	(744G>T) 900del33	deleterious	900	T		128		18	A2717S	polymorph		,377	G	T	187
R		dereterrous	200	1				18	D2665G	polymorph		,222	A	G	188
8 12	IVS12+1G>A	deleterious	7,165	g	A	129	65	20	E2856A	polymorph	ism 🤉	,795	A	С	189

	Polymorphic BRO	CA2 Varian	ıt		
Exon No. Variant	Effect	cDNA Position	Orig- inal Base	Deleted/ Inserted/ New Base	SEQ ID NO
22 K2950N 23 T3013I	polymorphism polymorphism	9,078 9,266	G C	T T	191 192

The genetic variants are indicated in Tables 1-2 by their positions and nucleotide and/or amino acid changes. The nucleotide sequences surrounding each of the genetic variants are provided in SEQ ID NOs:1-192 as indicated in Tables 1-2 above. However, it is noted that the nucleotide variants of the present invention are by no means limited to be only in the context of the sequences in the sequence listings or the particular position referred to herein. Rather, it is recognized that GenBank sequences may contain unrecognized sequence 20 errors only to be corrected at a later date, and additional gene variants may be discovered in the future. The present invention encompasses nucleotide variants as referred to in Tables 1-2 irrespective of such sequence contexts. Indeed, even if the GenBank entries referred to herein are changed based on 25 either error corrections or additional variants discovered, skilled artisans apprised of the present disclosure would still be able to determine or analyze the nucleotide variants of the present invention in the new sequence contexts.

3. Isolated Nucleic Acids

Accordingly, the present invention provides an isolated BRCA2 nucleic acid containing at least one of the newly discovered nucleotide variants as summarized in Tables 1-2. The term "BRCA2 nucleic acid" is inclusive and may be in the form of either double-stranded or single-stranded nucleic acids, and a single strand can be either of the two complenaturally existing genomic DNA, mRNA or cDNA. In one embodiment, the isolated BRCA2 nucleic acid has a nucleotide sequence according to SEQ ID NO:1-192 containing one or more exonic nucleotide variants of Table 1, or the complement thereof.

The present invention also provides an isolated nucleic acid, naturally occurring or artificial, having a nucleotide sequence that is at least 95%, preferably at least 97% and more preferably at least 99% identical to one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192 except for containing one or more nucleotide 50 variants of Tables 1-2 and/or one or more LD variants thereof in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof.

Also encompassed are isolated nucleic acids obtainable by: (a) providing a human genomic library;

- (b) screening the genomic library using a probe having a nucleotide sequence according to any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192: and
- (c) producing a genomic DNA comprising a contiguous span of at least 30 nucleotides of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, wherein the genomic DNA thus produced contains one or more of the variants of the present invention in Tables 1-2 and/or one or more LD variants in Tables 1-2.

The present invention also includes isolated nucleic acids obtainable by:

(i) providing a cDNA library using human mRNA from a human tissue, e.g., blood;

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- (ii) screening the cDNA library using a probe having a nucleotide sequence according to any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192;
- (iii) producing a cDNA DNA comprising a contiguous span of at least 30 nucleotides of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, wherein the cDNA thus produced contains one or more of the nucleotide variants of the present invention in Tables 1-2 and/or one or more LD variants in Tables 1-2.

The present invention also encompasses an isolated nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of a region of a genomic DNA or cDNA or mRNA, wherein the region contains one or more nucleotide variants as provided in Tables 1-2 above, or an LD variant in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. Such regions can be isolated and analyzed to efficiently detect the nucleotide variants of the present invention. Also, such regions can also be isolated and used as probes or primers in detection of the nucleotide variants of the present invention and other uses as will be clear from the descriptions

Thus, in one embodiment, the isolated nucleic acid comprises a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 70 or 100 nucleotide residues of a human nucleic acid, the contiguous span containing one or more nucleotide variants of Tables 1-2, and/or one or more LD variant in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In specific embodiments, the isolated nucleic acids are oligonucleotides having a contiguous span of from about 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25 to about 30, 40 or 50, preferably from about 21 to about 30 nucleotide residues, of any 30 human nucleic acid, said contiguous span containing one or more nucleotide variants of Tables 1-2.

In one embodiment, the isolated nucleic acid comprises a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 70 or 100 nucleotide residues of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, containing one or more nucleotide variants of Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In specific embodiments, the isolated nucleic acid comprises a nucleotide sequence according to any one of SEQ ID NOs: 1-192, or the complements thereof. In preferred embodimenting strands. The isolated BRCA2 nucleic acid can be 40 ments, the isolated nucleic acids are oligonucleotides having a contiguous span of from about 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25 to about 30, 40 or 50, preferably from about 21 to about 30 nucleotide residues, of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192 and containing one or more nucleotide variants selected from those in Tables 1-2, or the complements thereof. The complements of the isolated nucleic acids are also encompassed by the present invention.

In preferred embodiments, an isolated oligonucleotide of the present invention is specific to an allele ("allele-specific") containing one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in the present invention, or the complement thereof. That is, the isolated oligonucleotide is capable of selectively hybridizing, under high stringency conditions generally recognized in the art, to a genomic or cDNA or mRNA containing one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Tables 1-2, but not to a genomic or cDNA or mRNA having an alternative nucleotide variant at the same locus or loci. Such oligonucleotides will be useful in a hybridization-based method for detecting the nucleotide variants of the present invention as described in details below. An ordinarily skilled artisan would recognize various stringent conditions which enable the oligonucleotides of the present invention to differentiate between different alleles at the same variant locus. For example, the hybridization can be conducted overnight in a solution containing 50% formamide, 5×SSC, pH7.6, 5× Denhardt's solution, 10% dextran sulfate, and 20 microgram/ml denatured, sheared salmon sperm DNA. The hybridization filters can be

washed in 0.1×SSC at about 65° C. Alternatively, typical PCR conditions employed in the art with an annealing temperature of about 55° C. can also be used.

In the isolated oligonucleotides containing a nucleotide variant according to the present invention, the nucleotide variant (or the complement thereof) can be located in any position. In one embodiment, a nucleotide variant (or the complement thereof) is at the 5' or 3' end of the oligonucleotides. In a more preferred embodiment, an oligonucleotide contains only one nucleotide variant from Tables 1-2 (or the complement thereof) according to the present invention, which is located at the 3' end of the oligonucleotide. In another embodiment, a nucleotide variant (or the complement thereof) of the present invention is located within no greater than four (4), preferably no greater than three (3), and more preferably no greater than two (2) nucleotides of the center of the oligonucleotide of the present invention. In more preferred embodiment, a nucleotide variant (or the complement thereof) is located at the center or within one (1) nucleotide of 20 the center of the oligonucleotide. For purposes of defining the location of a nucleotide variant in an oligonucleotide, the center nucleotide of an oligonucleotide with an odd number of nucleotides is considered to be the center. For an oligonucleotide with an even number of nucleotides, the bond 25 between the two center nucleotides is considered to be the center.

In other embodiments of the present invention, isolated nucleic acids are provided which encode a contiguous span of at least 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16 or 17 amino acids 30 of a protein wherein said contiguous span contains at least one amino acid variant in Tables 1-2 according to the present invention.

The oligonucleotides of the present invention can have a detectable marker selected from, e.g., radioisotopes, fluores-scent compounds, enzymes, or enzyme co-factors operably linked to the oligonucleotide. The oligonucleotides of the present invention can be useful in genotyping as will be apparent from the description below.

In addition, the present invention also provides nucleic acid 40 microchips or microarray incorporating one or more variant genomic DNA or cDNA or mRNA or an oligonucleotide according to the present invention. The microchips will allow rapid genotyping and/or haplotyping in a large scale efficiently. The microchips are also useful in determining quantitatively or qualitatively the expression of particularly variant alleles.

As is known in the art, in microchips, a large number of different nucleic acid probes are attached or immobilized in an array on a solid support, e.g., a silicon chip or glass slide. 50 Target nucleic acid sequences to be analyzed can be contacted with the immobilized oligonucleotide probes on the microchip. See Lipshutz et al., Biotechniques, 19:442-447 (1995); Chee et al., Science, 274:610-614 (1996); Kozal et al., Nat. Med. 2:753-759 (1996); Hacia et al., Nat. Genet., 14:441-447 55 (1996); Saiki et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:6230-6234 (1989); Gingeras et al., Genome Res., 8:435-448 (1998). The microchip technologies combined with computerized analysis tools allow large-scale high throughput screening. See, e.g., U.S. Pat. No. 5,925,525 to Fodor et al; Wilgenbus et al., 60 J. Mol. Med., 77:761-786 (1999); Graber et al., Curr. Opin. Biotechnol., 9:14-18 (1998); Hacia et al., Nat. Genet., 14:441-447 (1996); Shoemaker et al., Nat. Genet., 14:450-456 (1996); DeRisi et al., Nat. Genet., 14:457-460 (1996); Chee et al., Nat. Genet., 14:610-614 (1996); Lockhart et al., 65 Nat. Genet., 14:675-680 (1996); Drobyshev et al., Gene, 188: 45-52 (1997).

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In a preferred embodiment, a DNA microchip is provided having a plurality of from 2 to 2000 oligonucleotides, or from 5 to 2000, or from 10 to 2000, or from 25 or 50 to 80, 91, 100, 200, or 500 or 1000 oligonucleotides. In this preferred embodiment, each microchip includes at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 or 50, or at least 70, 80, 90 or 100 variant-containing oligonucleotides of the present invention each containing one different nucleotide variant selected from those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In specific embodiments, each of the variant-containing oligonucleotides comprises a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 70 or 100 nucleotide residues of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, and each contains one different nucleotide variant of those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In preferred embodiments, each variant-containing oligonucleotide has a contiguous span of from about 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25 to about 30, 40 or 50, preferably from about 21 to about 30, 40, 50 or 60 nucleotide residues, of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, containing one nucleotide variant selected from those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof.

The DNA microchip can be useful in detecting predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, diagnosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, and selecting treatment or prevention regimens.

4. Genotyping

The present invention also provides a method for genotyping by determining whether an individual has one or more of the nucleotide variants or amino acid variants of the present invention. The individual to be genotyped can be normal or without cancer. The individual can genotyped can be one diagnosed of cancer, particularly breast or ovarian cancer. Genotyping or mutation detection in individuals diagnosed of cancer is useful in determining whether the cancer is BRCA2-associated hereditary cancer.

Similarly, a method for haplotyping is also provided, i.e., to identify LD variants. Haplotyping can be done by any methods known in the art. For example, only one copy of a genomic region can be isolated from an individual and the nucleotide at each of the variant positions is determined. Alternatively, an allele specific PCR or a similar method can be used to amplify only one copy of a genomic region of interest in an individual, and the nucleotide variants at the variant positions of the present invention are determined. The Clark method known in the art can also be employed for haplotyping. A high throughput molecular haplotyping method is also disclosed in Tost et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 30(19):e96 (2002), which is incorporated herein by reference.

Thus, additional variant(s) (LD variants) that are in linkage disequilibrium with the nucleotide variants and/or haplotypes of the present invention can be identified by a haplotyping method known in the art, as will be apparent to a skilled artisan in the field of genetics and haplotying. The additional variants that are in linkage disequilibrium with a nucleotide variant in Tables 1-2 can also be useful in the various applications as described below.

For purposes of genotyping and haplotyping, both genomic DNA and mRNA/cDNA can be used, and both are herein referred to generically as "gene."

Numerous techniques for detecting nucleotide variants are known in the art and can all be used for the method of this invention. The techniques can be protein-based or DNAbased. In either case, the techniques used must be sufficiently sensitive so as to accurately detect the small nucleotide or

amino acid variations. Very often, a probe is utilized which is labeled with a detectable marker. Unless otherwise specified in a particular technique described below, any suitable marker known in the art can be used, including but not limited to, radioactive isotopes, fluorescent compounds, biotin which is 5 detectable using strepavidin, enzymes (e.g., alkaline phosphatase), substrates of an enzyme, ligands and antibodies, etc. See Jablonski et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 14:6115-6128 (1986); Nguyen et al., *Biotechniques*, 13:116-123 (1992); Rigby et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 113:237-251 (1977).

In a DNA-based detection method, target DNA sample, i.e., a sample containing a genomic region of interest, or the corresponding cDNA or mRNA must be obtained from the individual to be tested. Any tissue or cell sample containing the relevant genomic DNA, mRNA, or cDNA or a portion 15 thereof can be used. For this purpose, a tissue sample containing cell nucleus and thus genomic DNA can be obtained from the individual. Blood samples can also be useful except that only white blood cells and other lymphocytes have cell nucleus, while red blood cells are anucleate and contain only 20 mRNA. Nevertheless, mRNA is also useful as it can be analyzed for the presence of nucleotide variants in its sequence or serve as template for cDNA synthesis. The tissue or cell samples can be analyzed directly without much processing. Alternatively, nucleic acids including the target sequence can 25 be extracted, purified, and/or amplified before they are subject to the various detecting procedures discussed below. Other than tissue or cell samples, cDNAs or genomic DNAs from a cDNA or genomic DNA library constructed using a tissue or cell sample obtained from the individual to be tested 30 are also useful.

To determine the presence or absence of a particular nucleotide variant, one technique is simply sequencing the target genomic DNA or cDNA, particularly the region encompassing the nucleotide variant locus to be detected. Various sequencing techniques are generally known and widely used in the art including the Sanger method and Gilbert chemical method. The newly developed pyrosequencing method monitors DNA synthesis in real time using a luminometric detection system. Pyrosequencing has been shown to be effective in analyzing genetic polymorphisms such as single-nucleotide polymorphisms and thus can also be used in the present invention. See Nordstrom et al., *Biotechnol. Appl. Biochem.*, 31(2):107-112 (2000); Ahmadian et al., *Anal. Biochem.*, 280: 103-110 (2000).

Alternatively, the restriction fragment length polymorphism (RFLP) and AFLP method may also prove to be useful techniques. In particular, if a nucleotide variant in the target nucleic acid region results in the elimination or creation of a restriction enzyme recognition site, then digestion of the target DNA with that particular restriction enzyme will generate an altered restriction fragment length pattern. Thus, a detected RFLP or AFLP will indicate the presence of a particular nucleotide variant.

Another useful approach is the single-stranded conformation polymorphism assay (SSCA), which is based on the altered mobility of a single-stranded target DNA spanning the nucleotide variant of interest. A single nucleotide change in the target sequence can result in different intramolecular base pairing pattern, and thus different secondary structure of the single-stranded DNA, which can be detected in a non-denaturing gel. See Orita et al., *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA*, 86:2776-2770 (1989). Denaturing gel-based techniques such as clamped denaturing gel electrophoresis (CDGE) and denaturing gradient gel electrophoresis (DGGE) detect differences in migration rates of mutant sequences as compared to wild-type sequences in denaturing gel. See Miller et al., *Bio*-

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techniques, 5:1016-24 (1999); Sheffield et al., Am. J. Hum, Genet., 49:699-706 (1991); Wartell et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 18:2699-2705 (1990); and Sheffield et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:232-236 (1989). In addition, the double-strand conformation analysis (DSCA) can also be useful in the present invention. See Arguello et al., Nat. Genet., 18:192-194 (1998).

The presence or absence of a nucleotide variant at a particular locus in a genomic region of an individual can also be detected using the amplification refractory mutation system (ARMS) technique. See e.g., European Patent No. 0,332,435; Newton et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 17:2503-2515 (1989); Fox et al., Br. J. Cancer, 77:1267-1274 (1998); Robertson et al., Eur. Respir. J., 12:477-482 (1998). In the ARMS method, a primer is synthesized matching the nucleotide sequence immediately 5' upstream from the locus being tested except that the 3'-end nucleotide which corresponds to the nucleotide at the locus is a predetermined nucleotide. For example, the 3'-end nucleotide can be the same as that in the mutated locus. The primer can be of any suitable length so long as it hybridizes to the target DNA under stringent conditions only when its 3'-end nucleotide matches the nucleotide at the locus being tested. Preferably the primer has at least 12 nucleotides, more preferably from about 18 to 50 nucleotides. If the individual tested has a mutation at the locus and the nucleotide therein matches the 3'-end nucleotide of the primer, then the primer can be further extended upon hybridizing to the target DNA template, and the primer can initiate a PCR amplification reaction in conjunction with another suitable PCR primer. In contrast, if the nucleotide at the locus is of wild type, then primer extension cannot be achieved. Various forms of ARMS techniques developed in the past few years can be used. See e.g., Gibson et al., Clin. Chem. 43:1336-1341

Similar to the ARMS technique is the mini sequencing or single nucleotide primer extension method, which is based on the incorporation of a single nucleotide. An oligonucleotide primer matching the nucleotide sequence immediately 5' to the locus being tested is hybridized to the target DNA or mRNA in the presence of labeled dideoxyribonucleotides. A labeled nucleotide is incorporated or linked to the primer only when the dideoxyribonucleotides matches the nucleotide at the variant locus being detected. Thus, the identity of the nucleotide at the variant locus can be revealed based on the detection label attached to the incorporated dideoxyribonucleotides. See Syvanen et al., *Genomics*, 8:684-692 (1990); Shumaker et al., *Hum. Mutat.*, 7:346-354 (1996); Chen et al., *Genome Res.*, 10:549-547 (2000).

Another set of techniques useful in the present invention is the so-called "oligonucleotide ligation assay" (OLA) in which differentiation between a wild-type locus and a mutation is based on the ability of two oligonucleotides to anneal adjacent to each other on the target DNA molecule allowing the two oligonucleotides joined together by a DNA ligase. See Landergren et al., Science, 241:1077-1080 (1988); Chen et al, Genome Res., 8:549-556 (1998); Iannone et al., Cytometry, 39:131-140 (2000). Thus, for example, to detect a singlenucleotide mutation at a particular locus in a genomic region, two oligonucleotides can be synthesized, one having the genomic sequence just 5' upstream from the locus with its 3' end nucleotide being identical to the nucleotide in the variant locus, the other having a nucleotide sequence matching the genomic sequence immediately 3' downstream from the variant locus. The oligonucleotides can be labeled for the purpose of detection. Upon hybridizing to the target nucleic acid under a stringent condition, the two oligonucleotides are subject to ligation in the presence of a suitable ligase. The ligation

of the two oligonucleotides would indicate that the target DNA has a nucleotide variant at the locus being detected.

Detection of small genetic variations can also be accomplished by a variety of hybridization-based approaches. Allele-specific oligonucleotides are most useful. See Conner 5 et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 80:278-282 (1983); Saiki et al, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 86:6230-6234 (1989). Oligonucleotide probes (allele-specific) hybridizing specifically to an allele having a particular nucleotide variant at a particular locus but not to other alleles can be designed by methods known in the art. The probes can have a length of, e.g., from 10 to about 50 nucleotide bases. The target DNA and the oligonucleotide probe can be contacted with each other under conditions sufficiently stringent such that the nucleotide variant can be distinguished from the alternative variant/allele at 15 the same locus based on the presence or absence of hybridization. The probe can be labeled to provide detection signals. Alternatively, the allele-specific oligonucleotide probe can be used as a PCR amplification primer in an "allele-specific PCR" and the presence or absence of a PCR product of the 20 expected length would indicate the presence or absence of a particular nucleotide variant.

Other useful hybridization-based techniques allow two single-stranded nucleic acids annealed together even in the presence of mismatch due to nucleotide substitution, inser- 25 tion or deletion. The mismatch can then be detected using various techniques. For example, the annealed duplexes can be subject to electrophoresis. The mismatched duplexes can be detected based on their electrophoretic mobility that is different from the perfectly matched duplexes. See Cariello, 30 Human Genetics, 42:726 (1988). Alternatively, in a RNase protection assay, a RNA probe can be prepared spanning the nucleotide variant site to be detected and having a detection marker. See Giunta et al., Diagn. Mol. Path., 5:265-270 (1996); Finkelstein et al., Genomics, 7:167-172 (1990); Kin- 35 szler et al., Science 251:1366-1370 (1991). The RNA probe can be hybridized to the target DNA or mRNA forming a heteroduplex that is then subject to the ribonuclease RNase A digestion. RNase A digests the RNA probe in the heteroduplex only at the site of mismatch. The digestion can be deter- 40 mined on a denaturing electrophoresis gel based on size variations. In addition, mismatches can also be detected by chemical cleavage methods known in the art. See e.g., Roberts et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 25:3377-3378 (1997)

In the mutS assay, a probe can be prepared matching the 45 human nucleic acid sequence surrounding the locus at which the presence or absence of a nucleotide variant is to be detected, except that a predetermined nucleotide is used at the variant locus. Upon annealing the probe to the target DNA to form a duplex, the *E. coli* mutS protein is contacted with the 50 duplex. Since the mutS protein binds only to heteroduplex sequences containing a nucleotide mismatch, the binding of the mutS protein will be indicative of the presence of a mutation. See Modrich et al., *Ann. Rev. Genet.*, 25:229-253 (1991).

A great variety of improvements and variations have been 55 developed in the art on the basis of the above-described basic techniques, and can all be useful in detecting mutations or nucleotide variants in the present invention. For example, the "sunrise probes" or "molecular beacons" utilize the fluorescence resonance energy transfer (FRET) property and give 60 rise to high sensitivity. See Wolf et al., *Proc. Nat. Acad. Sci. USA*, 85:8790-8794 (1988). Typically, a probe spanning the nucleotide locus to be detected are designed into a hairpin-shaped structure and labeled with a quenching fluorophore at one end and a reporter fluorophore at the other end. In its 65 natural state, the fluorescence from the reporter fluorophore is quenched by the quenching fluorophore due to the proximity

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of one fluorophore to the other. Upon hybridization of the probe to the target DNA, the 5' end is separated apart from the 3'-end and thus fluorescence signal is regenerated. See Nazarenko et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 25:2516-2521 (1997); Rychlik et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 17:8543-8551 (1989); Sharkey et al., *Bio/Technology* 12:506-509 (1994); Tyagi et al., *Nat. Biotechnol.*, 14:303-308 (1996); Tyagi et al., *Nat. Biotechnol.*, 16:49-53 (1998). The homo-tag assisted non-dimer system (HANDS) can be used in combination with the molecular beacon methods to suppress primer-dimer accumulation. See Brownie et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 25:3235-3241 (1997).

Dye-labeled oligonucleotide ligation assay is a FRETbased method, which combines the OLA assay and PCR. See Chen et al., Genome Res. 8:549-556 (1998). TagMan is another FRET-based method for detecting nucleotide variants. A TaqMan probe can be oligonucleotides designed to have the nucleotide sequence of the human nucleic acid spanning the variant locus of interest and to differentially hybridize with different alleles. The two ends of the probe are labeled with a quenching fluorophore and a reporter fluorophore, respectively. The TagMan probe is incorporated into a PCR reaction for the amplification of a target nucleic acid region containing the locus of interest using Taq polymerase. As Taq polymerase exhibits 5'-3' exonuclease activity but has no 3'-5' exonuclease activity, if the TaqMan probe is annealed to the target DNA template, the 5'-end of the TaqMan probe will be degraded by Taq polymerase during the PCR reaction thus separating the reporting fluorophore from the quenching fluorophore and releasing fluorescence signals. See Holland et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 88:7276-7280 (1991); Kalinina et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 25:1999-2004 (1997); Whitcombe et al., Clin. Chem., 44:918-923 (1998).

In addition, the detection in the present invention can also employ a chemiluminescence-based technique. For example, an oligonucleotide probe can be designed to hybridize to either the wild-type or a variant locus but not both. The probe is labeled with a highly chemiluminescent acridinium ester. Hydrolysis of the acridinium ester destroys chemiluminescence. The hybridization of the probe to the target DNA prevents the hydrolysis of the acridinium ester. Therefore, the presence or absence of a particular mutation in the target DNA is determined by measuring chemiluminescence changes. See Nelson et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 24:4998-5003 (1996).

The detection of genetic variation in accordance with the present invention can also be based on the "base excision sequence scanning" (BESS) technique. The BESS method is a PCR-based mutation scanning method. BESS T-Scan and BESS G-Tracker are generated which are analogous to T and G ladders of dideoxy sequencing. Mutations are detected by comparing the sequence of normal and mutant DNA. See, e.g., Hawkins et al., *Electrophoresis*, 20:1171-1176 (1999).

Another useful technique that is gaining increased popularity is mass spectrometry. See Graber et al., *Curr. Opin. Biotechnol.*, 9:14-18 (1998). For example, in the primer oligo base extension (PROBETM) method, a target nucleic acid is immobilized to a solid-phase support. A primer is annealed to the target immediately 5' upstream from the locus to be analyzed. Primer extension is carried out in the presence of a selected mixture of deoxyribonucleotides and dideoxyribonucleotides. The resulting mixture of newly extended primers is then analyzed by MALDI-TOF. See e.g., Monforte et al., *Nat. Med.*, 3:360-362 (1997).

In addition, the microchip or microarray technologies are also applicable to the detection method of the present invention as will be apparent to a skilled artisan in view of this disclosure. For example, to genotype an individual, genomic

DNA isolated from the individual can be prepared and hybridized to a DNA microchip of the present invention as described above in Section 3, and the genotypes at a plurality of loci can be determined.

As is apparent from the above survey of the suitable detec- 5 tion techniques, it may or may not be necessary to amplify the target DNA, i.e., the genomic region of interest, or the corresponding cDNA or mRNA to increase the number of target DNA molecule, depending on the detection techniques used. For example, most PCR-based techniques combine the 10 amplification of a portion of the target and the detection of the mutations. PCR amplification is well known in the art and is disclosed in U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,683,195 and 4,800,159, both which are incorporated herein by reference. For non-PCRbased detection techniques, if necessary, the amplification 15 can be achieved by, e.g., in vivo plasmid multiplication, or by purifying the target DNA from a large amount of tissue or cell samples. See generally, Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989. However, even with 20 scarce samples, many sensitive techniques have been developed in which small genetic variations such as single-nucleotide substitutions can be detected without having to amplify the target DNA in the sample. For example, techniques have been developed that amplify the signal as opposed to the 25 target DNA by, e.g., employing branched DNA or dendrimers that can hybridize to the target DNA. The branched or dendrimer DNAs provide multiple hybridization sites for hybridization probes to attach thereto thus amplifying the detection signals. See Detmer et al., J. Clin. Microbiol., 34:901-907 30 (1996); Collins et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 25:2979-2984 (1997); Horn et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 25:4835-4841 (1997); Horn et al., Nucleic Acids Res., 25:4842-4849 (1997); Nilsen et al., J. Theor. Biol., 187:273-284 (1997).

In yet another technique for detecting single nucleotide 35 variations, the Invader® assay utilizes a novel linear signal amplification technology that improves upon the long turnaround times required of the typical PCR DNA sequencedbased analysis. See Cooksey et al., Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy 44:1296-1301 (2000). This assay is based on 40 cleavage of a unique secondary structure formed between two overlapping oligonucleotides that hybridize to the target sequence of interest to form a "flap." Each "flap" then generates thousands of signals per hour. Thus, the results of this technique can be easily read, and the methods do not require 45 exponential amplification of the DNA target. The Invader® system utilizes two short DNA probes, which are hybridized to a DNA target. The structure formed by the hybridization event is recognized by a special cleavase enzyme that cuts one of the probes to release a short DNA "flap." Each released 50 "flap" then binds to a fluorescently-labeled probe to form another cleavage structure. When the cleavase enzyme cuts the labeled probe, the probe emits a detectable fluorescence signal. See e.g. Lyamichev et al., Nat. Biotechnol., 17:292-296 (1999).

The rolling circle method is another method that avoids exponential amplification. Lizardi et al., *Nature Genetics*, 19:225-232 (1998) (which is incorporated herein by reference). For example, SniperTM, a commercial embodiment of this method, is a sensitive, high-throughput SNP scoring system designed for the accurate fluorescent detection of specific variants. For each nucleotide variant, two linear, allele-specific probes are designed. The two allele-specific probes are identical with the exception of the 3'-base, which is varied to complement the variant site. In the first stage of the assay, 65 target DNA is denatured and then hybridized with a pair of single, allele-specific, open-circle oligonucleotide probes.

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When the 3'-base exactly complements the target DNA, ligation of the probe will preferentially occur. Subsequent detection of the circularized oligonucleotide probes is by rolling circle amplification, whereupon the amplified probe products are detected by fluorescence. See Clark and Pickering, *Life Science News* 6, 2000, *Amersham Pharmacia Biotech* (2000).

A number of other techniques that avoid amplification all together include, e.g., surface-enhanced resonance Raman scattering (SERRS), fluorescence correlation spectroscopy, and single-molecule electrophoresis. In SERRS, a chromophore-nucleic acid conjugate is absorbed onto colloidal silver and is irradiated with laser light at a resonant frequency of the chromophore. See Graham et al., Anal. Chem., 69:4703-4707 (1997). The fluorescence correlation spectroscopy is based on the spatio-temporal correlations among fluctuating light signals and trapping single molecules in an electric field. See Eigen et al., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA, 91:5740-5747 (1994). In single-molecule electrophoresis, the electrophoretic velocity of a fluorescently tagged nucleic acid is determined by measuring the time required for the molecule to travel a predetermined distance between two laser beams. See Castro et al., Anal. Chem., 67:3181-3186

In addition, the allele-specific oligonucleotides (ASO) can also be used in in situ hybridization using tissues or cells as samples. The oligonucleotide probes which can hybridize differentially with the wild-type gene sequence or the gene sequence harboring a mutation may be labeled with radioactive isotopes, fluorescence, or other detectable markers. In situ hybridization techniques are well known in the art and their adaptation to the present invention for detecting the presence or absence of a nucleotide variant in a genomic region of a particular individual should be apparent to a skilled artisan apprised of this disclosure.

Protein-based detection techniques may also prove to be useful, especially when the nucleotide variant causes amino acid substitutions or deletions or insertions or frameshift that affect the protein primary, secondary or tertiary structure. To detect the amino acid variations, protein sequencing techniques may be used. For example, a protein or fragment thereof can be synthesized by recombinant expression using an encoding cDNA fragment isolated from an individual to be tested. Preferably, a cDNA fragment of no more than 100 to 150 base pairs encompassing the polymorphic locus to be determined is used. The amino acid sequence of the peptide can then be determined by conventional protein sequencing methods. Alternatively, the recently developed HPLC-microscopy tandem mass spectrometry technique can be used for determining the amino acid sequence variations. In this technique, proteolytic digestion is performed on a protein, and the resulting peptide mixture is separated by reversedphase chromatographic separation. Tandem mass spectrometry is then performed and the data collected therefrom is analyzed. See Gatlin et al., *Anal. Chem.*, 72:757-763 (2000).

Other useful protein-based detection techniques include immunoaffinity assays based on antibodies selectively immunoreactive with mutant proteins according to the present invention. The method for producing such antibodies is described above in detail. Antibodies can be used to immunoprecipitate specific proteins from solution samples or to immunoblot proteins separated by, e.g., polyacrylamide gels. Immunocytochemical methods can also be used in detecting specific protein polymorphisms in tissues or cells. Other well-known antibody-based techniques can also be used including, e.g., enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA), radio-immunoassay (RIA), immunoradiometric assays (IRMA) and immunoenzymatic assays (IEMA), including sandwich

assays using monoclonal or polyclonal antibodies. See e.g., U.S. Pat. Nos. 4,376,110 and 4,486,530, both of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Accordingly, the presence or absence of a nucleotide variant or amino acid variant in an individual can be determined 5 using any of the detection methods described above.

The present invention also provides a kit for genotyping, i.e., determining the presence or absence of one or more of the nucleotide or amino acid variants of present invention in the genomic DNA, or cDNA or mRNA in a sample obtained from a patient. The kit may include a carrier for the various components of the kit. The carrier can be a container or support, in the form of, e.g., bag, box, tube, rack, and is optionally compartmentalized. The carrier may define an enclosed confinement for safety purposes during shipment and storage. The kit also includes various components useful in detecting nucleotide or amino acid variants discovered in accordance with the present invention using the above-discussed detection techniques.

In one embodiment, the detection kit includes one or more 20 oligonucleotides useful in detecting one or more of the nucleotide variants in Tables 1-2, or an LD variant thereof. The oligonucleotides can be in one or more compartments or containers in the kit. In a preferred embodiment, the kit has a plurality of from 2 to 2000 oligonucleotides, or from 5 to 25 2000, or from 10 to 2000, or from 25 or 50 to 500, 1000, 1500 or 2000 oligonucleotides. In this preferred embodiment, each kit includes at least 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, 15, 20, 25, 30, 40 or 50, or at least 70, 80, 90 or 100 variant-containing oligonucleotides of the present invention each containing one 30 different nucleotide variant selected from those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In specific embodiments, each of the variant-containing oligonucleotides comprises a contiguous span of at least 12, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 40, 50, 70 or 100 nucleotide residues of any 35 one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, and each contains one different nucleotide variant of those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof. In preferred embodiments, each variant-containing oligonucleotide has a contiguous span of from about 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23 or 25 to about 30, 40 or 50, preferably from 40 about 21 to about 30, 40, 50 or 60 nucleotide residues, of any one of SEQ ID NOs:1-192, containing one nucleotide variant selected from those in Tables 1-2, or the complement thereof.

In the kit of the present invention having oligonucleotides, the oligonucleotides can be affixed to a solid support, e.g., 45 incorporated in a microchip or microarray included in the kit. In other words, microchips and microarrays according to the present invention described above in Section 3 can be included in the kit.

Preferably, the oligonucleotides are allele-specific, i.e., are 50 designed such that they hybridize only to a human nucleic acid of a particular allele, i.e., containing a particular nucleotide variant (versus the alternative variant at the same locus) discovered in accordance with the present invention, under stringent conditions. Thus, the oligonucleotides can be used 55 in mutation-detecting techniques such as allele-specific oligonucleotides (ASO), allele-specific PCR, TaqMan, chemiluminescence-based techniques, molecular beacons, and improvements or derivatives thereof, e.g., microchip technologies. The oligonucleotides in this embodiment prefer- 60 ably have a nucleotide sequence that matches a nucleotide sequence of a variant allele containing a nucleotide variant to be detected. The length of the oligonucleotides in accordance with this embodiment of the invention can vary depending on its nucleotide sequence and the hybridization conditions 65 employed in the detection procedure. Preferably, the oligonucleotides contain from about 10 nucleotides to about 100

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nucleotides, more preferably from about 15 to about 75 nucleotides, e.g., a contiguous span of 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25 to 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 nucleotide residues of a nucleic acid one or more of the residues being a nucleotide variant of the present invention, i.e., selected from Tables 1-2 or an LD variant thereof. Under some conditions, a length of 18 to 30 may be optimum. In any event, the oligonucleotides should be designed such that it can be used in distinguishing one nucleotide variant from another at a particular locus under predetermined stringent hybridization conditions. Preferably, a nucleotide variant is located at the center or within one (1) nucleotide of the center of the oligonucleotides, or at the 3' or 5' end of the oligonucleotides. The hybridization of an oligonucleotide with a nucleic acid and the optimization of the length and hybridization conditions should be apparent to a person of skill in the art. See generally, Sambrook et al., Molecular Cloning: A Laboratory Manual, 2nd ed., Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, N.Y., 1989. Notably, the oligonucleotides in accordance with this embodiment are also useful in mismatch-based detection techniques described above, such as electrophoretic mobility shift assay, RNase protection assay, mutS assay, etc.

In another embodiment of this invention, the kit includes one or more oligonucleotides suitable for use in detecting techniques such as ARMS, oligonucleotide ligation assay (OLA), and the like. The oligonucleotides in this embodiment include a human nucleic acid sequence of about 10 to about 100 nucleotides, preferably from about 15 to about 75 nucleotides, e.g., contiguous span of 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25 to 21, 22, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28, 29 or 30 nucleotide residues immediately 5' upstream from the nucleotide variant to be analyzed. The 3' end nucleotide in such oligonucleotides is a nucleotide variant in accordance with this invention.

The oligonucleotides in the detection kit can be labeled with any suitable detection marker including but not limited to, radioactive isotopes, fluorephores, biotin, enzymes (e.g., alkaline phosphatase), enzyme substrates, ligands and antibodies, etc. See Jablonski et al., *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 14:6115-6128 (1986); Nguyen et al., *Biotechniques*, 13:116-123 (1992); Rigby et al., *J. Mol. Biol.*, 113:237-251 (1977). Alternatively, the oligonucleotides included in the kit are not labeled, and instead, one or more markers are provided in the kit so that users may label the oligonucleotides at the time of

In another embodiment of the invention, the detection kit contains one or more antibodies selectively immunoreactive with certain protein variants containing specific amino acid variants discovered in the present invention. Methods for producing and using such antibodies have been described above in detail.

Various other components useful in the detection techniques may also be included in the detection kit of this invention. Examples of such components include, but are not limited to, Taq polymerase, deoxyribonucleotides, dideoxyribonucleotides other primers suitable for the amplification of a target DNA sequence, RNase A, mutS protein, and the like. In addition, the detection kit preferably includes instructions on using the kit for detecting nucleotide variants in human samples.

5. Use of Genotyping in Diagnosis Applications

As indicated above, specific alleles of the variants presented in Tables 1-2 have been found in the human BRCA2 gene. Thus, the deleterious variants are useful in predicting an enhanced risk or a predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual.

The non-deleterious polymorphisms are also useful in that once they are detected in an individual's BRCA2 gene in the absence of any other deleterious mutations, then the individual is BRCA2 wild-type. That is, the individual does not have any BRCA2 mutation, and does not have a BRCA2- sosociated predisposition to cancer.

Thus, in one aspect, the present invention encompasses a method for predicting or detecting susceptibility to BRCA2associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual, which comprises the step of genotyping the individual to determine the individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention. In specific embodiments, the method for detecting a predisposition or an increased likelihood of developing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual comprises determining the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are 20 associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof. Thus, if one or more of the nucleotide variants in Table 1 associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers are detected, or one or more 25 LD variants thereof are detected in the individual, then it can be reasonably predicted that the individual is at an increased risk of developing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers. If a variant in Table 2 is detected, then if the patient has no other deleterious BRCA2 mutations, 30 then the patient does not have a BRCA2-conferred predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

In one embodiment, the method of detecting a predisposition is applied in organ or tissue transplants. For example, 35 before transplantation, the method of the present invention is applied to determine if the donor has a predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

In another aspect, the present invention encompasses a 40 method for diagnosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers in an individual or assessing the likelihood that an individual having BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, which comprises the step of genotyping the individual to determine the 45 individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention. In specific embodiments, the method for diagnosing BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast 50 and ovarian cancers in an individual or assessing the likelihood that an individual having BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, comprises determining the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-55 associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof. Thus, if one or more of the nucleotide variants in Table 1 associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers are detected, or one or more LD variants thereof are detected in 60 the individual, then it can be reasonably predicted that the individual has BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or that there is an increased likelihood that the individual has BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

If a variant in Table 2 is detected, and if the patient has no other deleterious BRCA2 mutations, then the patient does not

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have an increased likelihood of having a BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

In yet another aspect, the present invention encompasses a method for identifying individuals who might benefit from prophylactic treatment for BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, which comprises the step of genotyping the individual to determine the individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention. In specific embodiments, the method comprises determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof. Thus, if one or more of the nucleotide variants in Table 1 associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers are detected, or one or more LD variants thereof are detected in the individual, then it can be reasonably predicted that the individual might benefit from prophylactic treatment for BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers. If a variant in Table 2 is detected, and if the patient has no other deleterious BRCA2 mutations, then the patient does not have a BRCA2-conferred predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

In yet another aspect, the present invention encompasses a method for identifying candidate individuals for a clinical trial or research testing, which comprises the step of genotyping the individual to determine the individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention. In specific embodiments, the method comprises determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof. Thus, if one or more of the nucleotide variants in Table 1 associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers are detected, or one or more LD variants thereof are detected in the individual, then this fact is considered in deciding whether to include in the individual in the clinical trial or research testing. Thus, in one embodiment, a method is provided comprising determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, and including or excluding the individual when the individual in a particular clinical trial or research testing. The clinical trials or tests can be a trial or test for a diagnostic product or method, or a testing for a therapeutic or prophylactic product or method, or a test for researching diseases or disorders that are typically seen associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or more prevalent in BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers patients.

In yet another aspect, the present invention encompasses a method for determining the drug response of an individual under a medical treatment or prevention, e.g., administered with a therapeutic or prophylactic drug or another substance. The method comprises placing the individual under the medical treatment or prevention, genotyping the individual to determine the individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention, and determining the

effect of the medical treatment or prevention on the individual, and optionally comparing or correlating the genotype and the effect. In specific embodiments, the method comprises determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that 5 are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, determining the effect of the treatment or prevention regimen the individual is undergoing, and optionally comparing or correlating the genotype and the effect. In other specific embodiments, the method is used for determining the drug response of an individual under a treatment or prevention for BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers or a disease or disorder typically associated with or prevalent in BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast 15 and ovarian cancers patients. The method comprises placing the individual under a treatment or prevention for BRCA2associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, genotyping the individual to determine the individual's genotypes at one or more of the loci identified in the present 20 invention, or another locus at which the genotype is in linkage disequilibrium with one of the variants of the present invention, and determining the effect of the treatment or prevention regimen the individual is undergoing, and optionally comparing or correlating the genotype and the effect. If a variant in 25 Table 2 is detected, then if the patient has no other deleterious BRCA2 mutations, then the patient does not have a BRCA2conferred predisposition to BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers.

In yet another aspect of the present invention, a method is 30 provided for treating a patient with a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment regimen, or for determining whether a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment regimen should be used on an individual, comprising determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as 35 disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, and correlating the genotype with a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment regimen. In one embodiment, the method comprises determining in an indi- 40 vidual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, and correlating the genotype with a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment 45 regimen, wherein when the individual has one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, then the therapeutic or prophylactic treatment regimen is used. In another 50 embodiment, the method comprises determining in an individual the presence or absence of one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, and correlating 55 the genotype with a therapeutic or prophylactic treatment regimen, wherein when the individual has one or more nucleotide variants as disclosed in Table 1 that are associated with BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, or one or more LD variants thereof, then the thera- 60 peutic or prophylactic treatment regimen is not used.

Typically, once genotype at a variant locus or the presence or absence of a particular nucleotide variant or an amino acid variant resulting from a nucleotide variant of the present invention is determined or the disease diagnosis or prognosis 65 correlating to the genotype is made, physicians or genetic counselors or patients or other researchers may be informed

of the result. Specifically the result can be cast in a transmittable form that can be communicated or transmitted to other researchers or physicians or genetic counselors or patients. Such a form can vary and can be tangible or intangible. The result with regard to the presence or absence of a particular nucleotide variant of the present invention in the individual tested can be embodied in descriptive statements, diagrams, photographs, charts, images or any other visual forms. For example, images of gel electrophoresis of PCR products can be used in explaining the results. Diagrams showing where a variant occurs in an individual genome are also useful in indicating the testing results. The statements and visual forms can be recorded on a tangible media such as papers, computer readable media such as floppy disks, compact disks, etc., or on an intangible media, e.g., an electronic media in the form of email or website on internet or intranet. In addition, the result with regard to the presence or absence of a nucleotide variant or amino acid variant of the present invention in the individual tested can also be recorded in a sound form and transmitted through any suitable media, e.g., analog or digital cable lines, fiber optic cables, etc., via telephone, facsimile, wireless mobile phone, internet phone and the like.

Thus, the information and data on a test result can be produced anywhere in the world and transmitted to a different location. For example, when a genotyping assay is conducted offshore, the information and data on a test result may be generated and cast in a transmittable form as described above. The test result in a transmittable form thus can be imported into the U.S. Accordingly, the present invention also encompasses a method for producing a transmittable form of information on a genotype of an individual. The method comprises the steps of (1) determining the presence or absence of a nucleotide variant according to the present invention in the genome of the individual; and (2) embodying the result of the determining step in a transmittable form. The transmittable form is the product of the production method.

In some embodiments of the above aspects, whenever appropriate, the individual identified as having a predisposition to, or having, BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers, can be treated with a suitable treatment regimen to treat or alleviate the symptoms of, or delaying the onset of BRCA2-associated cancer, particularly breast and ovarian cancers. Any treatment or prophylactic regimens known in the art presently or in the future can all be used. Thus, the present invention further provides a method for preventing, slowing the onset, and/or treating cancer in an individual. This method can include, for example, (i) detecting, in an individual, the presence of a genetic variant in the BRCA2 gene in Tables 1-2; and (ii) determining a therapy to treat, prevent, or slow the progression of cancer in the individual based on the presence or absence of one or more of the genetic variants. The method may further include administering a therapeutic to treat, delay the onset of, or slow the progression of, cancer to the individual.

Detection of a mutation in one or more of the BRCA2 mutations in an individual is useful in determining a therapy to treat, prevent, or slow the progression of cancer, especially breast cancer and ovarian cancer. Treatments useful in the prevention or delay the onset of BRCA2-associated cancers include, but are not limited to, increased surveillance for cancer and preventative treatments such as prophylactic surgeries and/or drug therapy.

In one aspect, a suitable treatment may include increased surveillance of an individual to detect the development of breast cancer using mammography and/or other imaging devices. Surveillance screening for the detection of breast cancer in an individual having a mutation of the present

invention can be performed in a number of ways. For example, the currently recommended breast cancer surveillance in BRCA2 carriers includes breast self-examination, bi-annual clinical examinations and annual screens using mammography. See Brekelmans, et al., *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 5 19:924-930 (2001).

A mammogram is a low dose x-ray of the breast commonly used as a screening tool to detect breast cancer in women. Specifically, the breast is exposed to radiation to produce an image of the internal tissue which is typically recorded on 10 film. The image is formed as the x-rays pass through or are absorbed by breast tissue. See, Gizvold, J. J., *Mayo Clin. Proc.*, 65(1):56-66 (1990). To overcome limitations of the film-screen mammography technique, the digital or full-field digital mammography (FFDM) may be used. FFDM replaces 15 x-ray film with solid-state detectors which convert x-rays to electrical signals to produce an image. See Kuzmiak, et al., *Med. Phys.*, 32(10):3144-50 (2005).

Another method used to detect carcinomas is magnetic resonance imaging (MRI). This technique utilizes a powerful 20 magnetic field and radio waves to create and image of the breast tissue. Subsequent to positioning the individual, a radio wave is sequentially turned on and off. An image is recorded from energy reflected back (or echoed) by the body. See Kacher, et al., Radiol. Clin. North Am., 42(5):947-962 25 (2004). The CP BREAST COIL by SIEMENS is a recent advance is MRI for breast cancer which allows for bilateral breast imaging and increased tissue differentiation. A contrast media such as Gadolinium DPTA may be used to increase the observable difference in dense tissue, such as that caused by scarring, and carcinoma. See Stack, et al., Radiology, 174: 491-494 (1990). MRI provides several advantages over other means of imagining techniques including improved staging and treatment planning, increased evaluation of augmented breasts, better detection and improved screening. See Goscin, 35 et al., Cancer Control., 8(5):399-406 (2001).

Positron emission tomography (PET) imaging can be used in obtaining both anatomical and metabolic information. A positron-emitting radionuclide is injected into the body of the individual being tested. Examples of suitable radionuclides 40 are 2-[F18]fluoro-2-deoxy-D-glucose (FDG), Sestamibi Tc99m, Tl 201 and Cyanocobalamin Co 57, to name a few. See Weir, et al., *Breast J.*, 11(3):204-209 (2005); Alonso, et al., *Anticancer Res.*, 17(3B):1661-5 (1997). The radionuclides accumulate in varying levels according to tissue type. 45 Subsequently, emission of positrons from the accumulated radionuclides can be recorded by PET scanners to create an image. This technique is particularly useful in characterizing indeterminate palpable masses and detecting auxillary masses. See Benard, et al., *Breast Cancer Res.*, 7(4):153-162 50 (2005).

Ultrasound (US) or sonography is a technique utilizing high-frequency sound waves to form an image of internal tissue. Although this method has traditionally been used to evaluate tumor abnormal breast tissue discovered during 55 physical examination or mammography, its use as first means of detection in high risk individuals is increasing. The predominant use of US is in the differentiation of cystic and solid masses in the breast. Recently US has been demonstrated as an accurate means of classifying solid masses in the breast as 60 benign or malignant. See Stavros, et al., *Radiology*, 196:123-134 (1995).

Mammary ductoscope is yet another technique that may be used to monitor an individual for development of breast cancer. This technique allows for direct visualization of the milk 65 duct lumen and lobule, where most breast carcinomas and pre-cancers originate. A fiberoptic micro-endoscope (such as

MASTASCOPE from Lifeline Techonlogies) is inserted through the ductal opening of the breast. Magnified images of the mammary ductal epithelium are conveyed to and viewed on a monitor. The endoscopes may be a microcatherter further allowing for ductal lavage testing in combination with ductoscope imaging. See Mokbel, et al., *Eur. J. Sur. Oncol.*, 31(1):3-8 (2005).

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Another technique useful in the surveillance of individuals having a predisposition to BRCA2 associated cancers is the ductal lavage. Cancerous and pre-cancerous cells are identified by collecting and examining cells from the milk ducts. The purpose is to obtain cells surrounding those undergoing malignant transformation, thereby providing a means for detection prior to development of a discernable mass. See Dua, et al., *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 24(7):1209-16 (2006).

Techniques such as electrical impedance scanning and light scanning (or transillumination) are advantageous in the breast cancer surveillance as they provide a less invasive and more cost effective means of detecting cancerous and precancerous cells without the use of radiation. Different tissue types have different electrical impedance levels. Cancerous breast tissue has much lower electrical impedance than healthy tissue, thus, electrical impedance scanning is yet another means of breast cancer surveillance. A small electrical current is passed through the body using an electrode. As the current travels through the body, an electrical impedance scanning device, such as the T-SCAN 2000 from TransScan Medical, Inc., is used to measure the amount of current carried by different tissues. A tissue having lower electrical impedance (i.e. a better conductor of electric current) such as cancerous breast tissue appears as a bright white spot on the computer generated image. See Hope, et al., Breast Cancer Res., 6(2):69-74 (2004).

The premise of the light scanning technique is the light absorption characteristics of the breast tissue. Because cancerous tissue has an increased blood supply, it absorbs light near the infrared range as opposed to normal tissue which absorbs light near the blue range. See *Health Technol. Assess Rep.*, 2(10):1-7 (1988); U.S. Pat. No. 4,945,239.

In another aspect, the treatment includes surveillance of ovarian cancer in an individual having a genetic variation in one or more of the genetic variants of the present invention. Ovarian cancer surveillance may be performed in a number of ways known in the art. For example, the surveillance for ovarian cancer may be performed by transvaginal ultrasound (TVUS). As described above, an image is created using ultrasound by measuring the reflection of high-frequency sound waves from tissues. The TVUS may be used to detect ovarian cancer in ovaries, uterus, cervix and fallopian tubes. See Modugno, et al., *Gynecol. Oncol.*, 91(1):15-31 (2003).

Another means of conducting ovarian cancer surveillance in an individual is the determination of cancer antigen-125 (CA-125) levels in the blood. CA-125 is a protein found to be elevated in epithelial ovarian cancer. Elevated CA-125 levels have preceded clinical detection of recurring ovarian cancer by at least 3 months in most cases. See Bast, et al., *Int. J. Biol. Markers*, 13(4):179-187 (1998).

In yet another aspect, the method is useful in determining a preventive treatment for an individual having a genetic variation in one or more of the BRCA2 variants of the present invention prior to the onset of cancer. For example, the preventive treatment may include drug therapy involving chemotherapeutics, hormone replacement therapy and/or hormone therapy. In a specific example, a preventative treatment may include an estrogen receptor modulator or an aromatase inhibitor useful to prevent or slow the development of cancer.

Estrogen is a well-known factor in the stimulation of breast carcinoma. Evidence shows that there may be some interaction between BRCA2 and estrogen. See Noruzinia, et al., *Cancer*, 104(8):1567-74 (2005). Furthermore, it has recently been shown that BRCA2 associated cancers may be estrogen sensitive. See Bramley, et al., *Br. J. Cancer.*, 94(7):1021-8 (2006)

Thus, a drug that blocks or modifies the effects of estrogen may be used to prevent the development of cancer. For example, selective estrogen receptor modulators (SERMs) 10 such as tamoxifen (NOLVADEX®), raloxifene (EVISTA®), lasofoxifene and/or letrozole (FEMERA®) may be administered to an individual having an increased risk of breast cancer. SERMs are anti-estrogen compounds that act as estrogen agonists and antagonists by interacting with estrogen receptors. Anti-estrogen therapy has been shown to reduce the risk of cancer recurrence in BRCA2 mutation carriers. See Bramley, et al., *Br. J. Cancer.*, 94(7):1021-8 (2006).

Local estrogen synthesis through the activity of aromatase has also been implicated in the stimulation of cancer growth. 20 Drugs such as letrozole, anastrozole, and vorozole (nonsteroidal, type II) and exemestane (steroidal, type I), function by inhibiting aromatase activity, thereby blocking production of cancer causing estrogen. See Goss, et al., *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 19(3):884-891 (2001). Aromatase inhibitors may be used as a 25 primary treatment or in combination with other drugs such as SERMs. Recently, aromatase inhibitors have been shown to be more effective and less toxic than tamoxifen in advanced disease and in the neoadjuvant and adjuvant setting. See Goss, et al., *Best. Pract. Res. Clin. Endocrinol. Metab.*, 18(1): 30 113-30 (2004).

Other methods of preventing and treating individuals may include hormones including administering birth control pills such as progesterone antagonists (e.g., RU-486), hormone replacement therapy and/or hormone therapy.

In another example, preventative therapy may include prophylactic surgery such as preventative mastectomy (i.e. prophylactic or risk-reducing mastectomy). Preventative mastectomy is the removal of healthy breast tissue performed to prevent or reduce the risk of breast cancer in an individual 40 having a mutation in the BRCA2 gene. Removal or both breasts has been shown to reduce the risk of breast cancer in women by 90-95%. See Ribbeck, et al., *J. Clin. Oncol.*, 22:1055-1062 (2004).

Prophylactic surgery to prevent the development of cancers associated with BRCA2 mutation may also involve surgical removal of the ovaries (i.e. oophorectomy), fallopian tubes and/or hysterectomy. Oophorectomy involves the removal of either one or both ovaries to end secretion of estrogen, which simulates cancer development. This procedure is especially effective in pre-menopausal. To preserve fertility in younger women and/or those with a lesser risk of developing cancer, it may be preferable to perform a fertility-saving or fertility sparing surgery such as a partial or unilateral oopherectomy. See Ribbeck, et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 346:1616-1622 (2002). 55

A bilateral salpingo-oophorectomy, removal of both the ovaries and may also be performed to decrease the risk of BRCA2 associated cancers. See Kauff, et al., *N. Engl. J. Med.*, 346:1609-1615 (2002).

In another aspect, the treatment may be used to slow cancer 60 progression in an individual diagnosed with cancer and having a genetic variant of the present invention. Suitable treatments may include lumpectomy, mastectomy, radiation therapy, chemotherapy and hormone therapy.

The presence of a genetic variant in an individual can 65 indicate a variation, such as an increase or decrease, in response to drugs such as chemotherapeutics. The presence of

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a genetic variant in an individual can also indicate a variation, such as an increase or decrease, in the toxicity of a treatment, including chemotherapy treatment. The ability to predict an individual's response to various forms of treatment may be useful in the determination and administration of therapeutic treatment. Specifically, the detection of one or more of the genetic variants of the present invention may be used to effectively prescribe drugs and determine appropriate dosages of drugs.

As is known in the art, BRCA2 is a tumor suppressor gene with an important role in cellular pathways such as DNA repair. Genetic mutations in the BRCA2 gene have been shown to be associated with cancer. Cancers, such as those linked to BRCA2-gene mutation, are treated with chemotherapeutic drugs which function by inducing DNA damage.

Genetic variants such as those disclosed in the present invention (see Table 1), are thought to cause aberrant DNA splicing leading to decreased gene expression and gene function. Accordingly, an individual having a genetic variant may have decreased BRCA2 expression and function. Thus, the presence of a genetic variant in one or more of the BRCA2 variants of the present invention may result in the loss of BRCA2 function, resulting in altered sensitivity to drugs such as DNA damaging drugs, spindle pole inhibitors and inhibitors of the DNA damage repair pathway. Methods of determining response to chemotherapeutics in an individual having a genetic variant of the present invention are described herein.

In one aspect, a patient having a deleterious mutation in a BRCA2 gene is more responsive to and is therefore treated with a DNA damaging agent such as an alkylating agent, a topoisomerase I or II, a platinum-based compound. For example alkylating agents may include, but are not limited to, cyclosporamide, nitrogen mustards, ethylenimes, alkylsulfonates, triazenes, piperazines, nitrosureas, busulfan, carboplatin, chlorambucil, cyclophosphamide, dacarbazine, ifosmechlorethamine hydrochloride, melphalan, procarbazine, thiotepa, and uracil mustard. Topoisomerase inhibitors may include, but are not limited to, topotecan (HY-**CAMTIN®** from GlaxoSmithKline), irinotecan (CAMPTO® from Pfizer), doxorubicin, epirubicin (EL-LENCE® from Pfizer), etoposide (VEPESID® from Bristol Meyers Squibb) and mitoxantrone. Platinum-based compounds may include, but are not limited to, cisplatin, oxaliplatin, tetraplatin and carboplatin. Antineoplastic compounds, may include, but are not limited to, trastuzumab, and paclitaxel.

In yet another aspect, loss of BRCA2 function is associated with resistance to spindle pole poisons including, but not limited to, abraxane, docetaxel, vinorelbine and paclitaxel (TAXOL). Spindle pole poisons lead to cell arrest and apoptosis by binding β-tubulin and stabilizing microtubules during mitosis. As such, these poisons are typically effective as chemotherapeutics in the treatment of cancer. However, the BRCA2 gene has been shown to be required for the induction of apoptosis in response to spindle poisons. See Kennedy, et al., *J. Natl. Cancer Inst.*, 96(22):1659-68 (2004). Loss of BRCA2 function may result in an increased resistance to spindle pole poisons. In other words, spindle pole poisons may be less desirable in the treatment of cancers associated with BRCA2 alteration.

In another aspect, the drug is an inhibitor of a pathway of signals and effectors that regulate the repair of DNA damage. The drug may be an inhibitor of the base excision repair (BER) pathway such as poly (ADP-ribose) polymerase (PARP). BRCA2 dysfunction has been demonstrated to dramatically increase cell sensitivity to enzymatic inhibition by

PARP. This, in turn, increases chromosomal instability and cellular apoptosis. In other words, the presence of a BRCA2 genetic variant may result in increased drug response to inhibitors of the DNA damage repair pathways. See Farmer, et al., *Nature*, 434(7035):917-21 (2005). Mechanism based approaches such as PARP treatment in individuals diagnosed with BRCA2 associated cancers, is a less toxic and more specific therapy. See Wang, et al., *Genes Dev.*, 11, 2347-2358 (1997).

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In another aspect, the invention provides a treatment including a compound which has a differential effect in subjects having one or more genetic variants of the present invention. This treatment is preferentially effective to treat a subject having the particular genetic variant. In another aspect, the composition is adapted to be preferentially effective based on the unit dosage, presence of additional active components, complexing of the compound with stabilizing components, or inclusion of components enhancing delivery or slowing excretion of the compound.

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TABLE 3

	Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations
SEQ	
NO	Sequence
1	acaaaggaaaccatcttataatcagctggcttcaactccaataatattcagagcaagggctgactctgccgctgtaccaatctcctgtaaaagaatta
2	${\tt aatctgaacataaaaacaacaactactatttaaaactccaTaaaggaaaccatcttataatcagctggcttcaactccaataatattcaa}$
3	${\tt tattcaaagagcaagggctgactctgccgctgtaccaatctcctgtaaaaTaattagataaattcaaattagacttaggtaagtaatgcaatatggtaga}$
4	aga agctccaccctata attctga acctgcaga agaatctga accataa aacaacaattacga accaa acctattta aaactccacaa aggaa accatct
5	$\verb tcactgaattattgtactgtttcaggaaggaatgttcccaatagtagacaaaagtcttcgcacagtgaaaactaaaatggatcaagcagatgatgttt \\$
6	gaaaactaaaatggatcaagcagatgatgtttcctgtccacttctaaattXXXXXXXCttgtcttagtgaaaggtatgatgaagctattatattaaaaatatttaaat
7	$\verb tttagtcctgttgttctaca atgtacacatgtacaccacacacacacagagata atcaggtatgattacacacatgctttttattcttagaatactagaaatgcttttattcttagaatactagaaatgcttttattcttagaataccacacaca$
8	attttagtcctgttgttctacaatgtacacatgtaacaccacaaagagatgtcaggtatgattaaaaacaatgctttttattcttagaatactagaaa
9	${\tt aaaacttaacaattttcccctttttttacccccagtggtatgtgggagttgtttcatacaccaaagtttgtgaaggtaaatattctacctggtttattt}$
10	${\tt atcagggcatttctataaaaaaataaactattttctttcctcccagggtcgcagacaccaaaacatatttctgaaagtctaggagctgaggtggatcctg}$
11	${\tt taaactattttctttcctcccagggtcgtcagacccaaacatatttctgaaagtctaggagctgaggtggatcctgat}$
12	aactgttcagcccagtttgaagcaaatgcttttgaagcaccacttacattgcaaatgctgattcaggtacctctgtctttttttt
13	cagtggcttcttcatttcagggtatcaaaaagtctatattcagaataagaatcacctaaagagactttcaatgcaagtttttcaggtcatatgactga
14	cttataaaaggaaaaaaataccgaaagaccaaaaatcagaactaattaacgttcagcccagtttgaagcaaatgcttttgaagcaccacttacatttgc
15	tttggaaaaacatcagggaattcatttaaagtaaatagctgcaaagaccattggaaagtcaatgccaaatgtcctagaagatgaagtatatgaaacag
16	gaaaaagaaaacaaataagtttatttatgctatacatgatgaaacatcttgaaaaaaaa
17	agctttgaagaatgcaggtttaatatccactttgaaaaagaaaacaaataAagtttatttatgctatacatgatgaaacatcttataaaggaaaaaaa ata
18	tgaagaagatagtttttcattatgtttttctaaatgtagaacaaaaatcTtacaaaaagtaagaactagcaagactaggaaaaaaattttccatgaa gca
19	caccacacaga attet g tagettt g aagaat g caggtt taatatee actt Agaaaaagaaa acaa aataag ttt attt at get atacat g at g aaacatet
20	gatggagaaaatacccctattgcatatttcttcatgtgaccaaaatattt Gagaaaaagacctattagacacagagaacaaaagaaagaattttctt
21	gaccaaaatatttcagaaaaagacctattagacacagagaacaaaagaaaaagattttcttacttcagagaattctttgccacgtatttctagcctac
22	$\verb"ctttggcctgtgaatggtctcaactaaccctttcaggtctaaatggagccTagatggagaaaatacccctattgcatatttcttcatgtgaccaaaatat$
23	$\tt ttttcaggtcatatgactgatccaaactttaaaaaagaaactgaagcctcaaagtggactggaaatacatac$
24	${\sf acatgatgaaacatcttataaaggaaaaaaaataccgaaagaccaaaaatGagaactaattaactgttcagcccagtttgaagcaaatgcttttgaagca}$
25	${\tt tgtgcttctgttttatactttaacaggatttggaaaaacatcagggaattAatttaaagtaaatagctgcaaagaccacattggaaagtcaatgccaaat}$
26	ggtatcagatgcttcattacaaaaacgcaagacaagtgttttctgaaatagtaccaagcaag
27	ataatgataaaactgtaagtgaaaaaaataataaatgccaactgatattaTaaaataatattgaaatgactactggcacttttgttgaagaaattactga
28	actgtgtaaactcagaaatggaaaaacctgcagtaaagaatttaaattaTtcaaataacttaaatgttgaaggtggttcttcagaaaataatcactc tat

TABLE 3-continued

	Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations
SEQ ID NO	Sequence
29	ctgtcatgcctgcaggaaggacagtgtgaaaatgatccaaaaagcaaaaaAagtttcagatataaaagaagaggtcttggctgcagcatgtcacccag tac
30	$\tt gtagacaaactgaaaatctcaaaaacatcaaaaagtatctttttgaaagttTaagtacatgaaaaatgtagaaaaagaaacagcaaaaagtcctgcaacttg$
31	a caa at cag t c c c c t t at t cag t cat t gaa a at t cag c c t t a g c t t t t t a Gac a a g t t g t a g t a g a a a a a c t t c t g t g a g t cag a c t t c a t t a c t t g a a g a c t c a t t a c t t g a a g a c t c a t t a c t t g a a g a c t c a t t a c t t g a a g a c a a c t c a t t a c t t g a a g a c a a c t c a c t c a c a c a c a c a
32	aaataacttaaatgttgaaggtggttcttcagaaaataatcactctattagtttctccatatctctctc
33	tgtcccgaaaatgaggaaatggttttgtcaaattcaagaattggaaaaaggaggagagccccttatcttagtgggtaagtgttcatttttacctttcg
34	attttccaagcaggattttaattcaaaccataatttaacacctagccaaaggcagaaattacagaactttctactatattagaagaatcaggaagtcag
35	aagaaagaacaaaatggacattctaagttatgaggaaacagacatagttacacaaaatactgaaagaaa
36	caagcct cagt caat taatact g tatct g cacat t tacagag tagt g tag XXXXX t t g t t t c t g at t g taaaaa t ag t catataa acccct cagat g t t t t t c c
37	tatctctcaaaaaataaacttgattctggtattgagccagtattgaagaagatcaaaaaaacactagtttttccaaagtaatatccaatgtaa
38	$\verb ttaagatagaaaatcataatgataaaactgtaagtgaaaaaaataataaaAATtgccaactgatattacaaaataatattgaaatgactactggcacttttgt $
39	gttttagccatcaatgggcaaagaccctaaagtacagagaggcctgtaaaaccttgaattagcatgtgagaccattgagatcacagctgccccaaagtg
40	${\tt catctctccgaaaaacaagatacttatttaagtaacagtagcatgtctaaTAcagctattcctaccattctgatgaggtatataatgattcaggatactct}$
41	cagtacaacattcaaaagtggaatacagtgatactgactttcaatcccagTaaagtcttttatatgatcatgaaaatgccagcactcttattttaactcc
42	${\tt aaaagatcaaagaacctactctgttgggttttcatacagctagcgggaaaTaagttaaaattgcaaaggaatcttttggacaaagtgaaaaacctttttgaaaaagatgaaaaaccttttttgaaaaagatgaaaaaaccttttttgaaaaagatgaaaaagatgaaaaaaccttttttgaaaaagatgaaaaaaaccttttttgaaaaagatgaaaaaaaccttttttgaaaaagatgaaaaaaaa$
43	gaaaataatcactctattaaagtttctccatatctctctc
44	agaaaccagaagaattgcataacttttccttaaattctgaattacattctaagaaaga
45	agaatttaaattatcaaataacttaaatgttgaaggtggttcttcagaaatctattaaagtttctccatatctctctc
46	${\tt tgtgtttttatgtttatggtttattgcattcttctgtgaaaagaagctgttGacagaatgattctgaagaaccaactttgtccttaactagctcttttggg$
47	ggcacaaaactgaatgtttctactgaagctctgcaaaaagctgtgaaactttagtgatattgagaatattagtgaggaaacttctgcagaggtacatc
48	aaagtgaaagacatatttacagacagtttcagtaaagtaattaaggaaaaaacgagaataaatcaaaaaatttgccaaacgaaaattatggcaggttgtt
49	ctggattggagaaagtttctaaaaatatcaccttgtgatgttagtttggaacttcagatatatgtaaatgtagtatagggaagcttcataagtcagtc
50	gttttatatggagacacaggtgataaacaagcaacccaagtgtcaattaagatttggtttatgttcttgcagaggagaacaaaaatagtgtaaagc
51	$\verb tttattaccccagaagctgattctctgtcatgcctgcaggaagga$
52	taaataccttggcattagataatcaaaagaaactgagcaagcctcagtcattaatactgtatctgcacatttacagagtagtgtagttgtttctgattg
53	taacacctagccaaaaggcagaaattacagaactttctactatattagaaaatcaggaagtcagtttgaatttactcagtttagaaaaccaagctacat
54	$\verb tcaaacagtactatagctgaaaatgacaaaaatcatctctccgaaaaacgatacttatttaagtaacagtagcatgtctaacagctattcctaccat $
55	a at gatta cat gaaca a at ggg cag gac to ttag gtc caatt to a a at cag tt tt gg ag gt ag ctt cag a acag ctt caa at caa gct ct
56	atttgtatgaaaataattcaaacagtactatagctgaaaatgacaaaaatatctctcccgaaaaacaagatacttatttaagtaacagtagcatgtctaa
57	cagaacagcttcaaataaggaaatcaagctctctgaacataacattaagagagcaaaatgttcttcaaagatattgaagaacaatatcctactagttta
58	atctggccagtttatgaaggagggaaacactcagattaaagaagatttgt Gagatttaactttttttggaagttgcgaaagctcaagaagcatgtcatggt
59	${\tt aaaacaaatatagaagtttgttctacttactccaaagattcagaaaactaGtttgaaacagaagcagtagaaattgctaaagcttttatggaagatgatg}$
60	aacataaccaaaatatgtctggattggagaaagtttctaaaatatcacctXXXXXXXtgtgatgttagtttggaaacttcagatatatgtaaatgtagt atagggaa
61	agaatttaaattatcaaataacttaaatgttgaaggtggttetteagaaataateaetetattaaagttteteeatatetetete
62	catataatgtggtaaattcatctgctttctctggatttagtacagcaagtttccattttagaaagttccttacacaaagttaagggagt

TABLE 3-continued

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Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations

SEO TD NO Sequence atttcaaaaataactqtcaatccaqactctqaaqaacttttctcaqacaaaqaataattttqtcttccaaqtaqctaatqaaaqqaataatcttqctt tatgtttaaaagtaacgaacattcagaccagctcacaagagaagaaaatAactgctatacgtactccagaacatttaatatcccaaaaaggcttttcata 64 65 66 ctgtaaagaccttgaattagcatgtgagaccattgagatcacagctgcccaaagtgtaaagaaatgcagaattctctcaataatgataaaaaccttgtt qcaaatqcatacccacaaactqtaaaatqaaqatatttqcqttqaqqaactqtqactaqctcttcaccctqcaaaaataaaaatqcaqccattaaattqt 67 acccaqaqcactqtqtaaactcaqaaatqqaaaaaacctqcaqtaaaqaaattatcaaataacttaaatqttqaaqqtqqttcttcaqaaaataa 68 a atta aggaaaacaacgagaataaatcaaaaatttgccaaacgaaaattaggttgttacgaggcattggatgattcagaggatattcttcataac69 accaqaaqaattqcataacttttccttaaattctqaattacattctqacaaaqaacaaaatqqacattctaaqttatqaqqaaacaqacataqtt 70 agaagatagtaccaagcaagtcttttccaaagtattgtttaaaagtaacgttcagaccagctcacaagagaagaaaatactgctatacgtactcca 71 aaqqaatatttqatqqtcaaccaqaaaqaataaatactqcaqattatqtaTqaaattatttqtatqaaaataattcaaacaqtactataqctqaaaatqa 72 73 74 tttccaaaqtattqtttaaaaqtaacqaacattcaqaccaqctcacaaqaaaatactqctatacqtactccaqaacatttaatatcccaaaaaqq aca at at cotact agttt agctt tgtgtt tga aat tgta aat acctt tgg cat Gagata at caa aaga aact gag caag cot cagt caat taat act gt at ct accept a consideration of the consideration75 76 77 taa 78 ${\tt acacaggtgataaacaagcaacccaagtgtcaattaaaaaagatttggttatgttcttgcagaggagaacaaaaatagtgtaaagcagcatataaaaaat$ 79 80 $\verb|ctgcagcatgtcacccagtacaacattcaaaagtggaatacagtgatactttcaatcccagaaaagtcttttatatgatcatgaaaatgccagcac||$ 81 acaqacaaaaqcaaaacattqatqqacatqqctctqatqataqtaaaaatqattaatqacaatqaqattcatcaqtttaacaaaaacaactccaatca 82 83 $\verb|cttatatattttctccccattgcagcacaactaaggaacgtcaagagataTagaatccaaattttaccgcacctggtcaagaatttctgtctaaatctca||$ 84 85 gagttgaacagtgtgttaggaatattaacttggaggaaaacagacaaaagTaaaacattgatggacatggctctgatgatagtaaaaataagattaatga ${\tt gacatggctctgatgatagtaaaaataagattaatgacaatgagattcatTagtttaacaaaaacaactccaatcaagcagcagctgtaactttcacaaa$ 86 ${\tt ccaaaqtctttqttccaccttttaaaactaaatcacattttcacaqaqttTaacaqtqttqttaqqaatattaacttqqaqqaaaaacaqacaaaaqcaaaa$ 87 88 qqcaacqcqtctttccacaqccaqqcaqtctqtatcttqcaaaaacatccXXXXXXXactctqcctcqaatctctctqaaaqcaqcaqtaqqaqqccaa 89 attccctc cagccaggcagtctgtatcttgcaaaaacatccactctgcctcgaatctcTtctgaaagcagcagtaggaggccaagttccctcttgcgtgttctcataaa90 ${\tt attaacagcaaaaatgcagagtcttttcagtttcacactgaagattatttTtggtaaggaaagtttatggactggaaaaggaatacagttggctgatggt$ 91 tggctgatggtggatggctcataccctccaatgatggaaaggctggaaaaTaagaattttataggtactctatgcaaaaagattgtgtqttaacttttat $\tt ctgatggtggatggctcataccctccaatgatggaaaggctggaaaagaaTaattttataggtactctatgcaaaaagattgtgtttaacttttatgta$ 93 $\tt gctgtatacgtatggcgtttctaaacattgcataaaaattaacagcaaaaAAatgcagagtcttttcagtttcacactgaagattattttggtaag$ gaaagt 95 tattttqtqtaqctqtatacqtatqqcqtttctaaacattqcataaaaataqcaaaaatqcaqaqtcttttcaqtttcacactqaaqattattttq aggaatacagttggctgatggttggatggctcataccctccaatgatggaaAaggcttggaaaagaagaattttatataggtactctatgcaaaaagattgtgtq

Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations

TABLE 3-continued

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TABLE 3-continued

Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations SEQ TD Sequence NO qatattetettaqattttaaetaatatqtaatataaaataattqttteetCqqcacaataaaqatcqaaqattqtttatqcatcatqtttetttaqaqe tectgatgeetgtacaeetettgaageeeeagaatetettatgttaaaggCaaattaatttgeaetettggtaaaaateagteattgatteagttaaatt131 132 133 tacctcaqtcacataataaqqaatqcatccctqtqtaaqtqcattttqqtTttctqtttttqcaqacttatttaccaaqcattqqaqqaatatcqtaqqta tcaqtcacataataaqqaatqcatccctqtqtaaqtqcattttqqtcttcCqtttttqcaqacttatttaccaaqcattqqaqqaatatcqtaqqtaaaaa 134 ttctqaacctqcaqaaqaatctqaacataaaaacaactacqaaccaaGcctatttaaaactccacaaaqqaaaccatcttataatcaqctqqcttca 135 136 cacttccaaaqaatqcaaatttataatccaqaqtatatacattctcactqXXXXXXXaattattqtactqtttcaqqaaqqaatqttcccaataqtaqa cataaaaa 137 $\tt gcatcttgaatctcatacagactgcattcttgcagtaaagcaggcaatatGtggaacttctccagtggcttcttcatttcagggtatcaaaaagtctata$ ttcatttcaqqqtatcaaaaaqtctatattcaqaataaqaqaatcacctaGaqaqactttcaatqcaaqtttttcaqqtcatatqactqatccaaacttt 138 139 140 aaaaatttttccatgaagcaaacgctgatgaatgtgaaaaatctaaaaaccGagtgaaagaaaaatactcatttgtatctgaagtggaaccaaatgatact141 142 143 144 145 146 147 $\verb|tttaaaatcggacatctccttgaatatagataaaataccagaaaaaaataTtgattacatgaacaaatgggcaggactcttaggtccaatttcaaatcac||$ 148 tette a cetatte acctaegte taga caa a atgtate a a a a atteete Atgtt gata agaga a acceaga geaet g taga a acteaga a atgga a a a atgeaga a atgga a a atgga a atg149 gatttagtacagcaagttggaaagcaagtttccattttagaaagttccttaAacaaagttaagggagtgttagaggaatttgatttaatcagaactgagcaagttagattagattagattagatttaga150 gattaaagaagatttgtcagatttaactttttttggaagttgcgaaagctcGagaagcatgtcatggtaatacttcaaataaagaacagttaactgctact aaatqqaaaaaacctqcaqtaaaqaatttaaattatcaaataacttaaatTttqaaqqtqqttcttcaqaaaataatcactctattaaaqtttctccata151 152 a acca aget a catattg caga agagta catttg aagtg cetgaa aaccag Gtgaet at ett aaagaccaettet gaggaatge agagtg etgatette aacca aget acatatett aaagaccaettet gaggaatge agagtg etgatette accaaget acatatet gaggaatge agagtg etgatette accaaget acc154 155 $\verb|tctcagacaatgagaataattttgtcttccaagtagctaatgaaaggaatGatcttgctttaggaaatactaaggaacttcatgaaacagacttgacttg|$ 156 taacttaqaatttqatqqcaqtqattcaaqtaaaaatqatactqtttqtaCtcataaaqatqaaacqqacttqctatttactqatcaqcacaacatatqt 157 158 qataataqaaaatcaaqaaaatccttaaaqqcttcaaaaaqcactccaqTtqqtaaaattaqctttttatttatatctqttctccctctataqqtatqq 159 ctttqqaaaaatcttcaaqcaatttaqcaqtttcaqqacatccattttatAaaqtttctqctacaaqaaatqaaaaaatqaqacacttqattactacaqq $\verb|ctggccaggggttgtgctttttaaatttcaattttatttttgctaagtatGtattctttgatagatttaattacaagtcttcagaatgccagagatatac||$ 160 161 ttt attgtgtgtatacatgtttactttaaattgtttttcttttttgtgtgtattttgtgtagctgtatacgtatggcgtttctaaacattgcataaato tag ttaca a tag at gga act tt tt ttg tt ctg at tg ctt tt tat tcca a Cat ctt a a at gg tca cag gg ttat tt cag tg a ag ag cag tta ag ag cct tt a cag tg a cag transfer of the contract of the cag transfer of the contract of the contract162 163 164 165

Sequences Surrounding the BRCA2 Mutations

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41

TABLE 3-continued

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All publications and patent applications mentioned in the specification are indicative of the level of those skilled in the art to which this invention pertains. All publications and patent applications are herein incorporated by reference to the same extent as if each individual publication or patent application was specifically and individually indicated to be incorporated by reference.

Although the foregoing invention has been described in some detail by way of illustration and example for purposes of clarity of understanding, it will be obvious that certain changes and modifications may be practiced within the scope of the appended claims.

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ctacctggtt tatttttatg acttagtaat tgagaatttg	100
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attgcta	67
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<212> TYPE: DNA
<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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aagtggaaag caagtttcca ttttagaaag ttccttacac	100
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ataaccaaaa tatgtctgga ttggagaaag tttctaaaat	100
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gttcttcaga aaataatcac tctattaaag tttctccata

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ctacaagaaa tgaaaaaatg agacacttga ttactacagg	100
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atagatttaa ttacaagtct tcagaatgcc agagatatac	100
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gctgtatacg tatggcgttt ctaaacattg cataaa	96
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ttctgtaggt ttcagatgaa attttatttc agatttacca	100
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atcaccaca attitggtat tittctatti tgacagicca	100
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ctgtacttca gggccgtaca ctgctcaaat cattcctggt	100
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tcttttggaa agtaattcaa tagctgacga agaacttgca	100
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gttcaacagg agaaaaacaa tttatatctg tcagtgaatc 100

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cagtacggaa gaatgtgaga aaaataagca ggacacaatt 100

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ctcagaaatg gaaaaaacct gcagtaaaga atttaaatta	100
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tataaaagat tttgagactt ctgatacatt ttttcagact	100
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agtattgaag aatgttgaag atcaaaaaaa cactagtttt	100
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aacttacaga tgggtggtat gctgttaagg cccagttaga	100
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aagatcggct ataaaaaaga taatggaaag ggatgacaca	100
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aaagagacta gaagccttat tcactaaaat tcaggaggaa	100
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tatacatatt tcgcaatgaa agagaggaag aaaaggaagc	100
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100

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<211> LENGTH: 100
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<213> ORGANISM: Homo sapiens
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taaaagtaaa tctgaaagag ctaacataca gttagcagcg 100

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method for detecting a mutation in a BRCA2 allele comprising:
 - analyzing a BRCA2 nucleic acid from a sample obtained 15 from a human subject; and
 - detecting a mutation in said nucleic acid wherein said mutation results in the deletion of five nucleotides beginning at position 4,633 of a BRCA2 cDNA.
- 2. The method of claim 1 comprising sequencing said 20 nucleic acid.
 - 3. A method of genotyping, comprising:
 - obtaining a tissue sample or cells from a human patient identified as, or suspected of, having an increased predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer; and
 - detecting in said tissue sample or cells a deletion of five nucleotides in a BRCA2 allele beginning at the cDNA position of 4,633.

- **4**. The method of claim **3** comprising amplifying a nucleic acid comprising SEQ ID NO:44.
- **5**. A method for detecting a mutation in a BRCA2 allele comprising:
- analyzing a nucleic acid from a tissue sample or cells obtained from a human subject; and
- detecting in said nucleic acid a mutation resulting in a BRCA2 allele comprising SEQ ID NO:44.
- 6. The method of claim 5 wherein said tissue sample or cells were obtained from a patient identified as, or suspected of, having an increased predisposition to breast and ovarian cancer.
- 7. The method of claim $\bf 5$ comprising hybridizing a probe to said BRCA2 allele.

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