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SONORA QUEST BEGINS HEREDITARY CANCER GENE TESTING

Sonora Quest Laboratories is launching hereditary cancer gene testing to help patients make appropriate lifestyle changes to reduce their risk of developing the disease.

Nearly 1.7 million new cancer cases are expected to be diagnosed in 2018, and as many as 10 percent of those cancers will be the result of an inherited gene mutation, said Christina Noble, chief growth officer for Sonora Quest.

The new tests feature a 34-gene panel called MYvantage, which includes several genes not widely tested.

Certain mutations may heighten an individual's likelihood of developing breast, ovarian, endometrial and other cancers, Noble said.

One new test within that panel is the BRCAvantage, which tests for genes associated with BRCA-related breast and ovarian cancer syndrome. The cost of that test is \$2,495, but could be



PROVIDED BY SONORA QUEST LABORATORIES

Manhal Adam, medical lab scientist for Sonora Quest Laboratories, prepares samples for a variety of laboratory tests on a Cabas c 701 chemistry analyzer.

covered by insurance.

After actress Angelina Jolie underwent a double mastectomy based on her positive BRCA test, women clamoured for the test. A

study by researchers at Harvard Medical School found a 64 percent increase in women ordering the BRCA test two weeks after Jolie's announcement.