Author’s response to reviews

Title: Preoperative genetic testing impacts surgical decision making in BRCA mutation carriers with breast cancer: A retrospective cohort analysis

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Author’s response to reviews:

We thank the reviewers for their comments. We agree with the changes suggested and have modified our manuscript accordingly. All changes made to the manuscript can be viewed under track changes.

Response to reviewer #1

Thank you for this comment. We would like to clarify that we calculated the time to results from the time of diagnosis of breast cancer, even if the testing took place much later. We did not specifically collect turnaround time for genetic testing. The typical turnaround time at our institution is 3 to 4 weeks. Hence, women who obtained their genetic results more than a year after diagnosis of their breast cancer most likely underwent genetic testing long after after their diagnosis of breast cancer. To clarify this for the readers and to avoid any confusion, we have added a section in the methodology and discussion of our manuscript to suggest that women underwent genetic testing at different timelines in relation to their breast cancer diagnosis and/or surgery. Figure 1 (previously figure 2) in the manuscript clarifies this as well.

We have also removed the word ‘gene’ after BRCA1/2 wherever applicable.

Response to reviewer #2:
Thank you for the comments. We have now added a new paragraph in the results section and added table 3 as per the reviewer’s comments. We also performed a multivariate analysis to evaluate for factors predicting bilateral mastectomy in addition to the knowledge of BRCA status. We have added a paragraph in the discussion section to discuss these findings.