



### BRCA2 Breakthrough

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The BRCA2 gene is often linked to inherited cases of breast and ovarian cancers, but efforts to understand its exact role have been hampered because the gene's protein has been difficult to purify. Scientists now have overcome this challenge. In addition, they showed that the BRCA2 protein, instead of acting directly to fix damaged DNA, recruits and activates another repair protein called RAD51. Having the purified protein could help reveal how BRCA2 defects trigger cancer and point to new treatments.

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**Caption:** A purified protein could help reveal how BRCA2 gene defects trigger breast and ovarian cancers.