

Meet Joanne Clarke, from Newry, who has the inherited BRCA2 mutant gene, her husband Aidie and daughters Anna (13) and Ellen (10).

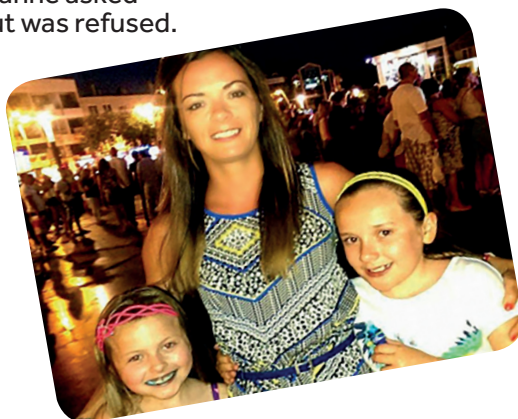
Joanne bravely opted to have a double mastectomy, which dramatically lowered her chance of getting breast cancer, after she tested positive for the gene.

"My mother was adopted so she had no idea what her family medical history was. She had three breast cancer diagnoses at the ages of 51, 55 and 64. The third time, unfortunately, it had spread to her liver," Joanne says.

When her mother passed away Joanne asked to be tested for the rogue gene but was refused.

"I wouldn't give up asking. I don't know what made me, but both my genetics counsellor and I pushed for mum's blood to be tested. A year later, it proved to be positive for the damaged BRCA2 gene.

"Then I was tested and I found out I also had BRCA2. If I hadn't found out, my daughters wouldn't be eligible for testing either, which doesn't bear thinking about."



Choosing preventative surgery, Joanne adds: *"It wasn't a difficult decision to make – not after seeing how my mum fought the disease for so long. If she'd known that she had the faulty gene she would probably still be here."*

Joanne says she made the decision to have preventative surgery for her family – she didn't want them to see her going through cancer treatment and wanted to be here to support them as they grow up.

"My daughters are still young and may have a similar decision to make – there's a 50% chance they have inherited the BRCA gene - but I'm hopeful that by the time they are older they'll have much better options available to them, thanks to the research being funded by Cancer Focus NI."

Joanne hopes scientific developments will mean a brighter future for Anna and Ellen and many other local people. Our pioneering research is so important for the generations to come - **thank you for your support.**

Thank you for having a
PINK
NIGHT IN!

**The difference your
donation will make...**

All the **PINK** money you raise and donate will go towards research being carried out into the BRCA mutant gene at Queen's University Belfast (QUB) by Dr Kienan Savage and his team, funded by Cancer Focus NI.

Progress is being made in understanding BRCA and tests are being conducted to find new and better ways of detecting, treating and preventing cancer in people who carry mutations in BRCA.

Your donation helps us fund this pioneering research. £200 funds a half a day of research and each donation brings us closer to the breakthrough which could mean that many women will no longer have to choose drastic surgery to reduce their risk of developing breast cancer.

For more information please contact:

T: 028 9066 3281

E: fundraising@cancerfocusni.org

W: www.cancerfocusni.org

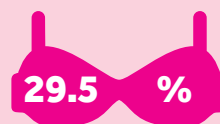
If you have any questions about cancer please call our free Nurse Line **T: 0800 783 3339**



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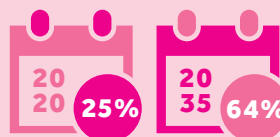
BREAST CANCER

29.5% OF ALL FEMALE CANCERS
IS BREAST CANCER



1333 WOMEN

ON AVERAGE DIAGNOSED EVERY YEAR
IN NI AND 310 LOSE THEIR LIVES



BY 2020

THERE WILL BE A 25%
INCREASE IN THE NUMBER OF
BREAST CANCER CASES IN
WOMEN IN NI, AND 64% BY 2035



£200 WILL FUND

HALF A DAY'S WORK
BY OUR RESEARCHERS