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## BRCA2 loss in Fanconi Anemia

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Fanconi Anemia (FA) is a recessive cancer susceptibility syndrome. Six FA genes have been cloned and encode proteins involved in a DNA-damage response pathway. In the June 13 *ScienceXpress*, Howlett *et al.* report the characterization of mutations in cells from the FA subtypes B and D1 (*ScienceXpress* 13 June 2002, DOI:10.1126/science.1073834). They discovered biallelic mutations in the *BRCA2* breast cancer susceptibility gene; the mutations create frameshifts resulting in truncated BRCA2 protein. Howlett *et al.* show that restoring *BRCA2* expression could rescue the phenotype of FA cells and restore resistance to DNA-damaging agents. The authors propose a model linking FA-associated genes to the regulation of a common DNA-damage response pathway.

## References

1. Fanconi anemia and DNA repair
2. Interaction of the Fanconi anemia proteins and *BRCA1* in a common pathway.
3. *ScienceXpress*, [<http://www.sciencexpress.org>]