

WHAT IS MBC?

Metastatic Breast Cancer – or MBC – is cancer that has spread outside the breast to another part of the body, such as the liver, brain, bones or lungs. It is also known as Stage IV and is the most advanced stage of breast cancer.ⁱ

Recently, female breast cancer surpassed lung cancer as the most commonly diagnosed cancer in the world,ⁱⁱ and was estimated to be responsible for 685,000 deaths in 2020.ⁱⁱⁱ While MBC is currently incurable, there are treatments that are intended to delay progression or worsening of the cancer and prolong survival.

TYPES OF BREAST CANCER

About **two out of every three** cases of breast cancer are hormone receptor-positive (**HR+**), meaning the cancer is fueled by the hormones estrogen or progesterone. HR+ breast cancers can be classified as estrogen receptor-positive (ER+) and/or progesterone receptor-positive (PR+).^{iv} It is the most common type of breast cancer diagnosed today.^v

Other common types include:^{vi}

- Hormone receptor-negative (HR-)
 - » Estrogen receptor-negative (ER-)
 - » Progesterone receptor-negative (PR-)
- Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-positive (HER2+)
- Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative (HER2-)

Breast cancers can have a combination of these types, such as HR+, HER2- or HR-, HER2+.

Some breast cancers do not express estrogen receptor, progesterone receptor or human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, which is called triple negative breast cancer.^{vi}

GLOBAL BURDEN OF MBC

The burden of MBC continues to rise in developing regions such as Africa largely because of the:^{vii}



GROWING AND AGING POPULATION

UPTAKE IN CANCER-CAUSING BEHAVIORS IN ECONOMICALLY DEVELOPING COUNTRIES



Breast cancer incidence rates are highest in Australia/New Zealand, Northern and Western Europe (e.g., UK, Sweden, Finland and Denmark), Southern Europe (e.g., Italy) and North America.^{viii}

Of the 685,000 female breast cancer deaths globally, a majority are due to metastatic disease.^{ii,ix}

UNMET NEEDS IN MBC

TREATMENT GAPS

Over the years, healthcare providers have noted significant unmet needs in metastatic breast cancer, and the community has voiced its collective desire for new treatment options.^x

According to a survey by the advocacy group MBC Alliance, patients expressed frustration over the “trial-and-error nature” of MBC treatment.^{xi}

They also want less toxicity and biomarkers that will predict the benefits of their treatments.^{xii}

ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

Breast cancer incidence is increasing most rapidly in low-to-middle income countries, which are not equipped to handle the rising incidence rates and increased mortality. In these countries, women are commonly diagnosed with advanced stage cancer at first presentation.^{xiii}

Currently, 62% of metastatic breast cancer deaths occur in low-to-middle income countries.^{xiii}

RECOGNITION & SUPPORT

An MBC diagnosis is a very different experience than an early stage breast cancer diagnosis. While early stage breast cancer is often a story of hope, recent surveys of women living with MBC found that over 85% do not feel included in the “pink ribbon” breast cancer initiatives, underscoring the need for more recognition and support for those in later stages of illness.^{xiii}

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