

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:^{vii}

- 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.^{viii}

U.S. MBC RATES

Approximately **170,000 women** in the U.S. are estimated to be living with MBC.^{viii}

Approximately **12.9%** of women will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some point during their lifetime.^{ix}

In the U.S. (2010-2016), the 5-year survival rate is **28%** for women with metastatic breast cancer, compared to **99%** at the local stage and **86%** at the regional stage.^x

Between **20-30%** of patients initially diagnosed with earlier stages of breast cancer eventually develop recurrent advanced or metastatic disease.^{xi}

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.^{xii}

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

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

ECONOMIC DISPARITIES

While the rates of new cases per 100,000 persons is similar across all races and ethnicities, Black women who are diagnosed with breast cancer are more likely to be diagnosed with late stage breast cancer and die from the disease than Hispanic women or white women.^{x, xiv}

Women with low income or education levels have a more advanced breast cancer stage at diagnosis compared to women at higher income and/or education levels.^{xv}

Women who do not have health insurance are almost four times as likely to be diagnosed with advanced breast cancer compared to women with health insurance.^{xvi}

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.^{xvii}

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