



## Metastatic Breast Cancer

Breast cancer that spreads outside the breast to other parts of the body is called metastatic breast cancer (also called stage IV or advanced breast cancer). Although metastatic breast cancer cannot be cured, it can be treated. Today, women are living longer with metastatic breast cancer. As research continues and treatment improves, so does survival. Answers to the questions below may help you talk openly with your doctor about what treatments are best for you and about quality of life issues.

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**Q:** Where else in my body has the breast cancer been found?

**A:**

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**Q:** What is my prognosis (chances for survival)? What is my cancer sub-type? What does that mean to me?

**A:**

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**Q:** What additional tests (such as a biopsy) will I need and how often? Why? Are there any risks with any of the tests?

**A:**

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**Q:** What are my treatment options? Which options do you suggest for me and why?

**A:**

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**Q:** How long do I have to make a treatment decision?

**A:**

**Q:** What are the possible side effects of this treatment(s)? How long will they last?

**A:**

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**Q:** Are there clinical trials I should consider? If so, how can I learn more?

**A:**

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**Q:** What lifestyle changes will I have to make? Will I have a “new normal”? If so, what might that be?

**A:**

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**Q:** Should I expect to have any pain? How can I manage my pain? Will you refer me to a pain specialist?

**A:**

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**Q:** Where can I find a metastatic breast cancer support group? What support is available for my family?

**A:**

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**Q:** If treatment needs to end, who will guide me on this decision? Who will help me with end-of-life care?

**A:**



For more information on breast health or breast cancer, please call our breast care helpline (1-877-465-6636) or visit our website. Susan G. Komen does not provide medical advice.

**[www.komen.org](http://www.komen.org) 1-877 GO KOMEN**