

BIOSIMILARS

Top 10 Facts You Need to Know

Biologic drugs or “biologics” have been game-changers for treating many types of disease, including breast cancer. There will soon be new alternatives to these biologic drugs known as biosimilars. Biosimilars are drugs that are “highly similar” to an existing biologic drug. Here are a few facts about biosimilars.

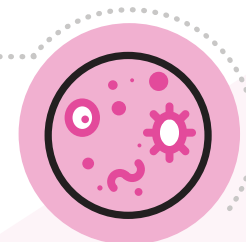
01 Biologics are Not New

- ▶ Biologics have been around since the early 1900s.
- ▶ Common biologics include vaccines and insulin.



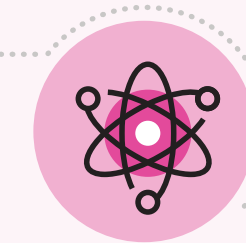
02 Biologics are Alive

- ▶ Biologics are made in or from living things.
- ▶ They can come from things such as yeast, bacteria, plant or animal cells.



03 Biologics are Complex

- ▶ The manufacturing process for biologics can take years to complete.
- ▶ Hundreds of critical tests may be completed during the manufacturing process.



04 Biologics Offer Targeted Treatment for Breast Cancer

- ▶ Trastuzumab (known as Herceptin®) is a commonly prescribed targeted treatment for HER2-positive breast cancer.
- ▶ Herceptin is used to help slow or stop the cancer cells from growing.



05 Biosimilars are Not Generics

- ▶ Generic drugs are chemical copies of an original brand-named drug.
- ▶ Biosimilars are “highly similar” or “generic-like” to an original biologic drug. Because biologics are made in or from living things, exact replicas are not possible.



06 Biosimilars are Safe and Effective

- ▶ Biosimilars must be FDA-approved.
- ▶ There's no “clinically meaningful” difference in safety, purity or potency (strength).



07 Biosimilars for Breast Cancer Treatment are Coming

- ▶ The FDA has approved several biosimilars for Herceptin.
- ▶ With the patent for Herceptin expiring, biosimilars for Herceptin will enter the market.



08 Biosimilars May Provide More Options

- ▶ The availability of biosimilars may provide more options for health care teams.
- ▶ Biosimilars are currently an option used in supportive care to manage side effects from cancer treatment.



09 Biosimilars May Reduce Costs

- ▶ Due to the complex manufacturing process required, biosimilars are costly to produce.
- ▶ Over time, biosimilars may lower the cost of health care as competition increases.



10 Communication is Important

- ▶ Ask your doctor the names of the medications you are taking.
- ▶ Ask your doctor any questions you may have about your treatment.

