

## 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 today, it can be treated. Treatment focuses on length and quality of life. Today, some 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 any quality of life issues you are facing.

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Q: Where in my body has the breast cancer spread?

A:

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Q: What is my prognosis (chances for survival)?

A:

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Q: What tests will I need and how often? Why? Are there risks with any of these 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 can join? If so, how do I learn more?

A:

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Q: What lifestyle changes will I have to make?

A:

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Q: Will I have any pain? If so, how can I manage it? Will you refer me to a pain specialist? What other things should I expect?

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 I choose to end treatment, who will help care for me after that?

A:

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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.

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