

Research Saves Lives

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is an advanced stage (stage IV) of breast cancer where tumor cells have **spread** to other parts of the body, such as the bones, liver, lungs or brain. Most breast cancer deaths are a result of metastasis.

In the 1970s, only 10% of women survived 5 years after a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. Today, because of research and the discovery of new and more effective treatments, this has increased to as much as 40%, according to some studies. But, treatment for metastatic breast cancer is not effective for everyone, in part, because we do not know what causes cancer cells to spread.

Komen is dedicated to understanding why metastasis occurs and how to stop it, and has invested more than

15% of its total research funding in metastatic breast cancer research.

In addition to research, Komen is a member of the [Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Alliance](#) — 29 organizations working to unify efforts to improve the lives and outcomes for those living with MBC.



Read the stories of women living with MBC, like Julie Zaverl, in our Chronicles of Hope series. <http://sgk.mn/1qZ2bSV>



Learn more about metastatic breast cancer <http://sgk.mn/1wKF0fE>

Our Research Investment

More than **\$133 million** in over **350 research grants** and **35 clinical trials** focused on metastatic breast cancer

What We're Investigating



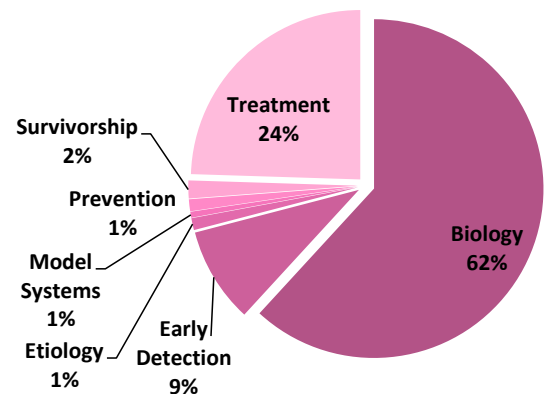
Identifying the genes and processes that cause breast cancer cells to metastasize



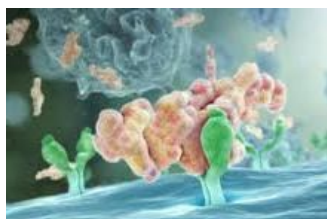
Developing and testing new therapies to both prevent and treat metastatic breast cancer



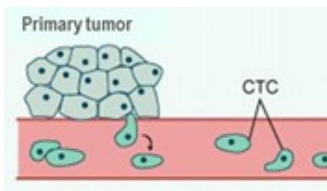
Discovering new methods for predicting or detecting metastasis using urine or blood tests or body scans



Topic Area of Investment



Read more about the development of Lymphoseek in our Stories of Discovery series. <http://sgk.mn/1hXCYWa>

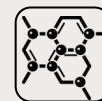


Read more about circulating tumor cells (CTC) as a biomarker and drug target for MBC in our Science Buzz series. <http://sgk.mn/1eDruid>

What We've Learned from Komen-funded research



Lymphoseek, a novel FDA approved imaging method, can be used to detect whether breast cancer has spread to the lymph nodes



A molecule that reduces the stiffness and density of breast tissue, by blocking formation of collagen fibers, may be used to prevent tumor cells from invading and metastasizing to other tissues



The presence of certain types of circulating tumor cells (CTC) may be used as a biomarker to predict who is at high risk for metastasis and may serve a drug target to prevent MBC



Learn more about breast cancer



More Komen-funded Research Stories



Get Involved & Support Komen Research