
13 Facts about Metastatic Breast Cancer

- 1.** No one dies from breast cancer that remains in the breast. Metastasis occurs when cancerous cells travel to a vital organ and that is what threatens life.
- 2.** Metastasis refers to the spread of cancer to different parts of the body, typically the bones, liver, lungs and brain.
- 3.** An estimated 155,000 Americans are currently living with metastatic breast cancer.(also called Stage IV breast cancer) Metastatic breast cancer accounts for approximately 40,000 deaths annually in the U.S.
- 4.** Treatment for metastatic breast cancer is lifelong and focuses on control of the disease and quality of life.
- 5.** About 6% of people are Stage IV from their initial diagnosis.
- 6.** Early detection does not guarantee a cure. Metastatic breast cancer can occur 5, 10 or 15 years after a person's original diagnosis and successful treatment checkups and annual mammograms.
- 7.** 20% to 30% of people initially diagnosed with early stage disease will develop metastatic breast cancer.
- 8.** Young people, as well as men, can be diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer.
- 9.** Like early stage breast cancer, there are different types of metastatic breast cancer.
- 10.** Treatment choices are guided by breast cancer type, location and extent of metastasis in the body, previous treatments and other factors.
- 11.** Metastatic breast cancer is not an automatic death sentence. Although most people will ultimately die of their disease, some will live for many years.
- 12.** There are no definitive prognostic statistics for metastatic breast cancer. Every patient and their disease is unique.
- 13.** To learn more about National Metastatic Breast Cancer Awareness Day on October 13 and to access resources specifically for people living with metastatic breast cancer and their caregivers, visit www.mbcn.org.