

Advocacy Slide Deck Series 2 Understanding How Metastatic Breast Cancer is Treated “Cheat Sheet”

This cheat sheet is intended to draw your attention to points within the presentation slides. Additional information and more detailed support for selected slides follows.

Please use these links and the information they supply to support you — consider using them as you are preparing your presentation since they will allow you to address issues that you consider most important to your audience and will make answering any questions easier.

All sources listed have information that is extensive and reputable. Please take some time to look at the documents as you plan your presentation.

You can also visit mbcalliance.org for additional support, if needed.

Slide 4: MBC Not One Disease

- Subtypes of breast cancer

Source: [Subtypes and Mutation Status | Find Your Voice](#)

Source: [HER2-Low Breast Cancer Explained | BCRF](#)

- Early-stage diagnoses by subtype

Source: <https://blog.dana-farber.org/insight/2018/06/common-subtypes-breast-cancer/>

Determining what causes an individual cancer to grow and spread guides treatment choices. Breast cancer is a complex disease; subtypes, such as TNBC, ER+, HER2-low and HER2+ help simplify conversations but specifics about one person’s cancer may combine subtypes, genetic drivers, mutations, and biomarkers.

Slide 5: MBC Treatment Goals

People will often say the MBC is incurable but is treatable. This statement reflects advances in available anti-cancer drugs and other therapies that are used to control the disease for as long as possible. Each person with an MBC diagnosis needs an individualized plan that addresses both controlling growth or progression and maintaining quality of life.

More in-depth sources:

https://www.nccn.org/patients/guidelines/content/PDF/stage_iv_breast-patient.pdf

<https://www.cancer.net/cancer-types/breast-cancer-metastatic/types-treatment>

Slide 6: MBC Treatment Options

This chart of treatment options, adapted from the National Comprehensive Cancer Network, reflects common and current treatment choices for MBC. It is important to note that ongoing research can affect decisions.

Slide 7: Testing Matters in MBC

Source: <https://www.lbbc.org/news>

[Consistent Common Cancer Testing Terms](#)

Testing is crucial for people with MBC. Both genetic and biomarker testing can open new treatment paths in terms of targeted therapies and clinical trials. Talk to your team about these options and with your insurer about coverage.

Genetic Testing for an inherited mutation and **Genetic Testing for inherited cancer risk** describe testing for inherited mutations.

Biomarker Testing is a method of looking for mutations, genes, or proteins within the cancer itself and refers to testing for somatic (acquired) mutations and other biomarkers. Hereditary mutations are present in all cells of your body. Somatic mutations are only found in the tumor cells. Somatic means that the mutation isn't hereditary but is acquired. Acquired mutations can happen for no clear or known reason and through environmental factors, such as exposure to certain chemicals.

Slide 8: Treatment Decisions: Learning More

Community is important when faced with MBC. The member organizations of Metastatic Breast Cancer Alliance have multiple resources for support. The website mbcalliance.org can help you locate what you need.

Slide 9: What About Clinical Trials

Clinical trials are an option for people diagnosed with MBC. Treatment trials typically have inclusion and exclusion guidelines that narrow who is eligible, limited locations, and associated barriers. Organizations and efforts within the MBCA are working to address these issues.

The MBC Alliance's patient experience registry at mbconnect.org can help you locate treatment and quality of life trials based on your specific needs and interests.

Additional sources of clinical trial information can be found by searching "clinical trials" on mbcalliance.org. Clinical trial databases are available at breastcancertrials.org, clinicaltrials.gov, and through research institutions and organizations. Whenwetrial.org links to several options for clinical trial searches, including one specific to triple negative breast cancer.