ADVANCED BREAST CANCER (ABC)

ADVANCED BREAST CANCER (ABC) COMPRISSES INOPERABLE LOCALLY ADVANCED BREAST CANCER (LABC) AND METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC). MBC IS ALSO KNOWN AS STAGE IV OR SECONDARY BREAST CANCER. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS DOCUMENT, WE USE THE TERM ADVANCED BREAST CANCER (ABC).

INCIDENCE

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women worldwide, with an estimated 1.7 million new cases diagnosed in 2012.2

While it is rare, breast cancer can also occur in men, 1% of all breast cancer occurs in male patients.3

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) or ABC has spread to other parts of the body.5

In developing countries, up to 80% of breast cancer cases are diagnosed at metastatic stage of disease.6

20-30% of early breast cancer cases will relapse even with the best possible treatments.8

SYMPTOMS AND MANAGEMENT

The most common places for breast cancer to spread to are:

- Brain
- Lymph nodes
- Lungs
- Liver
- Bone

Symptoms vary depending on where the cancer has spread.4

Management is complex and involves systemic therapy (that goes through all the body) including chemotherapy, endocrine therapy and biological therapy, as well as radiotherapy and surgery. Crucial to have a multi-disciplinary approach.10

Although treatable, it remains an incurable disease.9

New technologies and research should help to accelerate advances in treatment.15

OUTCOMES

Over half a million people worldwide died from breast cancer in 2015, majority of whom with advanced disease.10

92,600 women in the EU predicted to die from breast cancer in 2017.11

2-3yrs

Median survival of ABC is 2-3 years. Not changed significantly in decades, only by a few months.10

More needs to be done to reverse these trends.
The ABC Global Alliance, established by the European School of Oncology (ESO), is a multi-stakeholder platform for all those interested in collaborating in common projects relating to advanced breast cancer (ABC). The ABC Global Alliance was launched during the World Cancer Congress in Paris on 3 November 2016. It is a continuation of the work developed through the ABC International Consensus Conference created in 2011, responsible for the ESO-ESMO international consensus guidelines for the management of advanced breast cancer and its advocacy efforts.

Based on the findings of several global campaigns and studies and of the ‘Global Status of mBC Decade Report’, the ABC Global Charter was developed, together with the ABC community. This Charter is comprised of 10 concrete goals, achievable during the next decade, which aim to help change the future of ABC around the world and improve the lives of people living with this disease.

ABC GLOBAL CHARTER

1. HELP PATIENTS WITH ABC LIVE LONGER BY DOUBLING ABC MEDIAN OVERALL SURVIVAL BY 2025
2. ENHANCE OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT ABC BY INCREASING THE COLLECTION OF HIGH QUALITY DATA
3. IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF LIFE (QOL) OF PATIENTS WITH ABC
4. ENSURE THAT ALL PATIENTS WITH ABC RECEIVE THE BEST POSSIBLE TREATMENT AND CARE BY INCREASING AVAILABILITY OF AND ACCESS TO CARE FROM A MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM
5. IMPROVE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS (HCP) AND PATIENTS WITH ABC THROUGH THE PROVISION OF COMMUNICATION SKILLS TRAINING FOR HCPs
6. MEET THE INFORMATIONAL NEEDS OF PATIENTS WITH ABC BY USING EASY TO UNDERSTAND, ACCURATE AND UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION MATERIALS AND RESOURCES
7. ENSURE THAT PATIENTS WITH ABC ARE MADE AWARE OF AND ARE REFERRED TO NON-CLINICAL SUPPORT SERVICES
8. COUNTERACT THE STIGMA AND ISOLATION ASSOCIATED WITH LIVING WITH ABC BY INCREASING PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF THE CONDITION
9. ENSURE THAT PATIENTS WITH ABC HAVE ACCESS TO TREATMENT REGARDLESS OF THEIR ABILITY TO PAY
10. HELP PATIENTS WITH ABC CONTINUE TO WORK BY IMPLEMENTING LEGISLATION THAT PROTECTS THEIR RIGHT TO WORK AND ENSURES FLEXIBLE AND ACCOMMODATING WORKPLACE ENVIRONMENTS

More information about the ABC Global Alliance and its Charter can be found at www.abcglobalalliance.org.

The ABC Global Alliance is an ESO initiative also sponsored through unrestricted grants provided by:

Main sponsors: AstraZeneca, Bristol-Myers Squibb, Lilly Oncology, Novartis, Pfizer Oncology