

## ABOUT US

The ABC Global Alliance is a non-profit organisation, a multi-stakeholder platform for all those interested in collaborating on common projects related to advanced breast cancer around the world.

The ABC Global Alliance was established in 2016 as an initiative of the European School of Oncology and since 2019, it has been registered as a non-profit association in Portugal.

## OUR VISION

Our goal is to improve and extend the lives of women and men living with ABC in all countries worldwide and to fight for a cure.



### STAY IN TOUCH WITH US

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### ABC GLOBAL ALLIANCE

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**ADVANCED  
BREAST  
CANCER (ABC)**

Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC) comprises 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

 **2.3 m**

Breast cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in women world-wide, with **2.3 million** women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2020<sup>1</sup>



Breast cancer accounts for a **quarter** of all cancers in women<sup>1</sup>



While it is rare, Breast Cancer can also occur in **men**<sup>2</sup>  
**1%** of all breast cancer occurs in male patients<sup>2</sup>

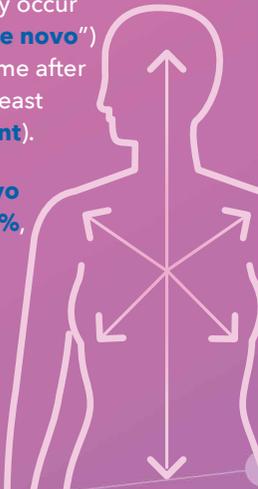
**Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) or 'ABC'** has spread to other parts of the body<sup>2</sup>



Metastatic disease may occur at diagnosis (called "**de novo**") or as a relapse sometime after a diagnosis of early breast cancer (called **recurrent**).

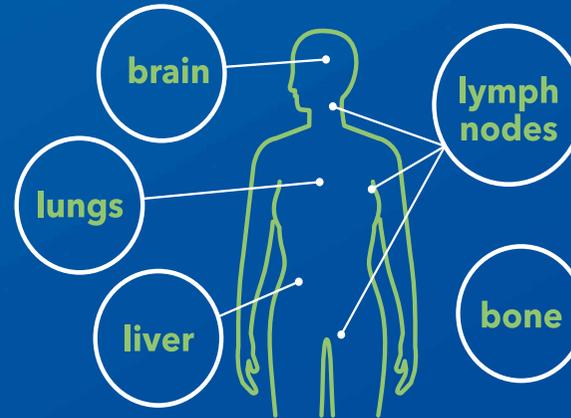
In the developed countries **de novo** ABC represents only **about 10-15%**, while in developing countries it reaches **60 or 80%** of new breast

**20-30%** of early breast cancer cases will relapse even with the best possible treatments<sup>3</sup>



## SYMPTOMS AND MANAGEMENT

The most common places for breast cancer to spread to are:<sup>4</sup>



Symptoms vary depending on where the cancer has spread<sup>5</sup>



Management is complex and involves systemic therapy (that goes through all the body) **including chemotherapy, endocrine therapy and targeted therapy**, as well as **radiotherapy and surgery**. Crucial to have a multi-disciplinary approach<sup>6</sup>

Although **treatable**, it remains an **incurable disease**. **New technologies and research** should help to accelerate advances in management<sup>7</sup>



## OUTCOMES

  
**700,000**

Over **700 000** people worldwide died from breast cancer in 2020, the majority of whom with advanced disease<sup>1</sup>



**142,000** women in Europe die from breast cancer every year.<sup>1</sup>

**2-3 years**

Median survival of all ABC subtypes is about **3 years**. For HER2+ and for ER+/HER-2 negative subtypes median survival is now reaching **5 years**.<sup>1,8</sup>



More needs to be done to reverse these trends

<sup>1</sup>. Globocan 2020, Available at <https://gco.iarc.fr/today/home> <sup>2</sup>. American Cancer Society. What are the Key Statistics About Breast Cancer in Men Available at <https://www.cancer.org/cancer/breast-cancer-in-men/about/key-statistics.html> <sup>3</sup>. Colleoni M, Sun Z, Price K, N, Karlsson P, Forbes J. F, Thurlimann B, Gianni L, Castiglione M, Gelber R. D, Coates A. S, Goldhirsch A. 2016. Annual Hazard Rates of Recurrence for Breast Cancer During 24 Years of Follow-Up: Results From the International Breast Cancer Study Group Trials I to V. Available at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4933127/> <sup>4</sup>. Cancer Research UK. Symptoms of Advanced Breast Cancer. Available at: [http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast\\_cancer/advanced/symptoms](http://www.cancerresearchuk.org/about-cancer/breast_cancer/advanced/symptoms) <sup>5</sup>. O'Shaughnessy J, Extending survival with

chemotherapy in metastatic breast cancer 2005; 10 (suppl3) 20-29 <sup>6</sup>. Global Status of Advanced/Metastatic Breast Cancer 2005e2015 Decade Report. Available at: [www.breastcancerrevision.com](http://www.breastcancerrevision.com) and [www.abc-lisbon.org](http://www.abc-lisbon.org) [Accessed 24 February 2017] <sup>7</sup>. International Agency for Research on Cancer. Breast cancer: estimated incidence, mortality and prevalence worldwide in 2012. Available at [http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact\\_sheets\\_cancer.aspx](http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx) <sup>8</sup>. F. Cardoso, et al. ESO-ESMO 5th International Consensus Guidelines for Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC 5). Published in Annals of Oncology (Annals of Oncology, volume 31, issue 12, September 2020, DOI:<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.annonc.2020.09.010>)