Understanding Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC) and the Hormone Connection

1. **What is MBC?**
   MBC IS WHEN BREAST CANCER CELLS have spread to other parts of the body outside the breast and is most commonly found in the lungs, liver and bones.

2. **How can hormones influence MBC?**
   Breast cancer can be hormone driven and the progression can be directly related to the types of hormones (estrogen or progesterone) present.

   **75% OF BREAST CANCERS ARE HORMONE RECEPTOR POSITIVE** meaning their growth is fueled by female hormones—
   EITHER Estrogen or Progesterone.
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3 What is HER2 and triple negative?

HER2 (HUMAN EPIDERMAL GROWTH RECEPTOR 2) is a PROTEIN that acts as a receptor on the surface of a cancer cell. When HER2 proteins are too high it can stimulate cancer growth.

About 20% of cancers have too much of this protein and are considered HER2+.

TRIPLE NEGATIVE MBC OCCURS WHEN the tumor tests negative for estrogen and progesterone and HER2 protein. In this case, cancer growth is not supported by hormones nor by the presence of too many HER2 proteins.

About 10%-20% of breast cancers are found to be TRIPLE NEGATIVE.

4 Why is it important to know my tumor’s hormone receptor status and HER2 status?

Knowing your tumor’s hormone receptor status and HER2 status is critical to working with your doctor to identify the appropriate course of treatment.

It may be important to re-biopsy the tumor periodically because it could change over time.

5 What can I do with this information?

Talk to your medical team to determine what your tumor’s hormone receptor status means for your MBC treatment journey.

Possible metastatic breast cancer treatment options to discuss with your medical team:

- HORMONE THERAPY
- CHEMOTHERAPY
- LOCAL TREATMENT (surgery, radiation)
- CLINICAL TRIALS

Visit LifeBeyondPink.com for more information about metastatic breast cancer.