

Metastasis Research Saves Lives

Metastatic breast cancer (MBC) is an advanced stage (stage IV) of breast cancer where tumor cells have **spread** to other parts of the body, such as the bones, liver, lungs, or brain. Most breast cancer deaths are a result of metastasis.

In the 1970s, only 10% of women survived 5 years after a diagnosis of metastatic breast cancer. Today, because of research and the discovery of new and more effective treatments, this has more than doubled. But, treatment for metastatic breast cancer is not effective for everyone, in part, because we do not know what causes cancer cells to spread. Komen is dedicated to understanding why metastasis occurs and how to stop it.

What We're Investigating

Komen-funded researchers are:

- Identifying the genes and processes that cause breast cancer cells to metastasize
- Developing and testing new therapies to both prevent and treat metastatic breast cancer
- Discovering new methods for predicting or detecting metastasis using urine or blood tests or body scans

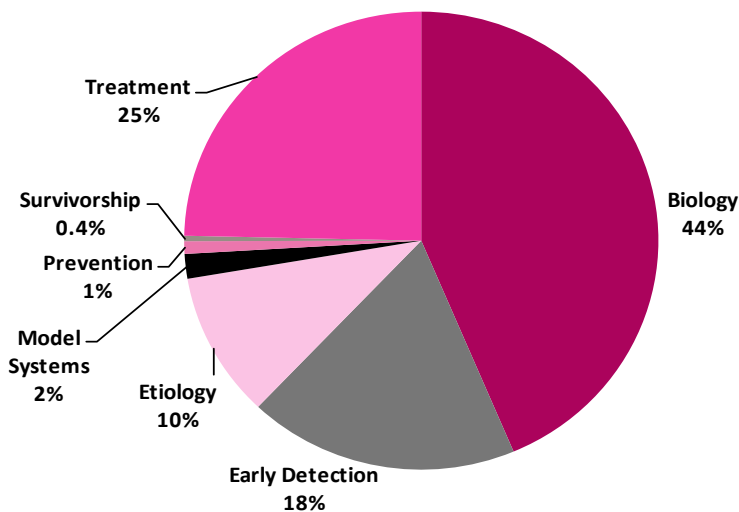


What We've Learned

Komen-funded research has helped us to understand that:

- Lymphoseek, a novel FDA approved imaging method, can be used to detect whether breast cancer has spread to the lymph nodes, allowing better disease staging and reducing surgical complications
- Metformin, a commonly used diabetes drug, may also help improve the survival of overweight and obese postmenopausal women with MBC when used with chemotherapy
- A novel treatment strategy that uses a vaccine and the body's own immune system to attack cancer cells appears to stop metastatic cancer cells from growing

Investment In Metastasis Research 2006-2012



Susan G. Komen has invested over **\$80 million** since **2006** in over **170 grants** focused on **metastasis**.

More Than Research

These research investments reflect only part of our commitment to people living with MBC. In 2012, Komen held its first Roundtable to address the needs of those living with MBC. Komen also provides [educational materials](#), [conference support](#) and Affiliate funded grants across the nation. Read about women living with MBC in our [Chronicles of Hope Series](#) on the Research and Scientific Programs page on [komen.org](#).



Women living with MBC participate in the Susan G. Komen for the Cure Metastatic Roundtable, January, 2012

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® promise is to save lives and end breast cancer forever.