



“Care partners such as family members and friends support patients with breast cancer (early stage or advanced). They play a critical role — all too often invisible — in their care and assume responsibilities, like care coordination, medication management, emotional support, and advocacy. However, health systems often fail to acknowledge them, and we miss the opportunity to help them “help us” to help their loved ones. Our “Sharing in Care” project facilitates their access to information, aligns goals and improves communication with the care team, with the ultimate goal to improve outcomes and the quality of care.”

-Antonio Wolff, MD

Involving Family to Improve Communication in Breast Cancer Care

STUDY TITLE: [Involving Family to Improve Communication in Breast Cancer Care](#)

TRIAL NUMBER: NCT03283553

FOCUS: [Quality of Life/Supportive Care](#)

WHAT HAPPENS IN THIS STUDY?

The study will see if a program to strengthen communication among people with breast cancer, their family members, and health care providers is beneficial. The communication program seeks to clarify expectations regarding family involvement in care, improve patient and family access to timely information about patient health, and encourage open [communication with health care providers](#). The study will compare communication with doctors, understanding of patients’ cancer, confidence in managing patients’ care, and satisfaction with care between those patients-family members who receive the study’s communication program and patients-family members who receive routine oncology care.

This is a [randomized](#) trial, which means that neither the physician nor the participant choose the intervention group. Instead, participants will be assigned by chance to either take part in the study’s communication program or receive routine medical oncology care.

ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?

This study is no longer recruiting new participants. To see more information on this study, visit [clinicaltrials.gov](#).

WHAT WILL THIS MEAN FOR PATIENTS?

Most patients with breast cancer receive help from family, and lack of communication can leave families without adequate information, prevent open conversations, cause unnecessary anxiety and lessen the quality of cancer care. This study will provide the opportunity for some patients and their family members to participate in a communication program intended to improve patient, family and doctor communication. If the study shows this communication program is beneficial, it could mean similar programs might become a standard part of breast cancer care in the future.

Participants will contribute to cancer research that may one day help improve the care for others with breast cancer.

WHO DO I CONTACT ABOUT THIS STUDY?

LEAD TRIAL PI AND TRIAL LOCATION:

Antonio Wolff, MD, Johns Hopkins Kimmel Cancer Center, Baltimore, Maryland, United States.

This study was done in a collaboration with Jennifer Wolff, PhD, Department of Health Policy and Management, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

KOMEN CONNECTION

Antonio Wolff, MD, the Principal Investigator (PI) of this study, is a [Komen Scholar](#) from Johns Hopkins University. Dr. Wolff’s research interests include new treatment strategies, the development of prognostic and predictive biomarkers (tissue, blood and imaging), and how to improve the survivorship experience of breast cancer patients and their caregivers. He promotes the implementation of research findings in clinical practice, survivorship, and quality of care for breast cancer patients.

BREAST CANCER CLINICAL TRIAL INFORMATION HELPLINE

Call our clinical trial information helpline at 1-877 GO KOMEN (1-877-465-6636) or email at clinicaltrialinfo@komen.org to talk with a trained specialist. Our caring and trained staff provide support and education about clinical trials to help people gain a better understanding of clinical trials.

This information is being provided for education purposes only and does not contain all information related to this clinical study. The study status and eligibility criteria may change. If you are interested in learning if this study is right for you, please reach out to the study coordinator or your doctor for more information.