Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer

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Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

- **Versions 2003–2019:**
  Bischoff / Diel / Fehm / Friedrich / Gerber / Huober / Loibl / Lück / Maass / Müller / Nitz / Jackisch / Jonat / Junkermann / Rody / Schütz / Solbach / Stickeler / Witzel

- **Version 2020:**
  Bauerfeind / Ditsch

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer

- **Breast cancer is the 2nd most common cause of CNS metastases**
- **At autopsy:**
  - **Parenchymal CNS metastases: ~ 30–40%**
  - **Leptomeningeal CNS metastases: ~ 5–16%**
- **Increasing incidence (10 % ⇨ 40 %)**
- **Increasing incidence due to**
  - **More effective treatment of extra-cerebral sites with improved prognosis**
  - **Increasing use of MRI for diagnostic evaluation**
- **Lack of specific knowledge about treatment of brain metastases in breast cancer since most studies are not breast cancer specific. Therefore, participation in the German registry study is recommended (www.gbg.de)**

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer
Tumour biology

- **Primary Tumor:**
  - **Negative hormonereceptor status (basal-like cell type / triple-negative)**
  - **High grade, high Ki-67 index**
  - **HER2 and/or EGFR (HER1) overexpression**
  - **Molecular subtype (Luminal B, HER2 positive, triple-negative)**
- **Brain metastases are more likely estrogen receptor negative and overexpress HER2 and/or EGFR**
- **Discordance of molecular subtype between primary tumor and brain metastases: for ER= 16,7%, for PR = 25,2% and Her2 neu = 10,4%**
- **There is no evidence for BM-screening in asymptomatic BC-patients**

Diagnosis-specific Graded Prognostic Assessment (DS-GPA) Worksheet to Estimate Survival from Brain Metastases (BM) by Diagnosis

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

	0	0.5	1	1.5	2	**Score**
Prognostic Factor						
KPS	≤ 50	60	70-80	90-100	n/a	____
Subtype	Basal	n/a	LumA	HER2	LumB	____
Age, years	> 60	< 60	n/a	n/a	n/a	____
Sum total						____

Median survival by GPA:

DS-GPA 0-1.0 = 3.4 months
DS-GPA 1.5-2.0 = 7.7 months
DS-GPA 2.5-3.0 = 15.1 months
DS-GPA 3.5-4.0 = 25.3 months;

DS-GPA confirmed as prognostic factor

Subtype: Basal: triple negative; LumA: ER/PR positive, HER2 negative; LumB: triple positive; HER2: ER/PR negative, HER2 positive

Sperduto PW et al, JCO 2012; Nagtegaal SHJ et al, Radiother Oncol 2019

WBRT-30-BC – zur Abschätzung des Risikos von Hirnmetastasen

Characteristic	6-month OS rate (%)	Scoring points
Karnofsky performance score		
<70%	**8**	**1**
70%	**32**	**3**
>70%	**72**	**7**
Time between 1.diagnosis of breast cancer and WBRT		
≤33 months	**29**	**3**
≥34 months	**38**	**4**
Extra-cerebral metastatic disease		
No	**53**	**5**
Yes	**28**	**3**

- **Based on 170 patients**
- **WBRT: whole brain radiotherapy alone**
- **(30 Gy in 30 sessions)**

Prognostic group	OS at 6 months (%)
6-9 points	8
10-12 points	41
13-15 points	68
16 points	100

Regarding the PPV to identify patients who will live 6 months or longer after WBRT, the WBRT-30-BC (100%) was superior to both DS-GPA (74%) and Rades-Score (68%).

Janssen S et al, Radiol Oncol, 2019

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

Single / Solitary Brain Metastasis

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
Local therapy alone: SRS (≤ 4 cm) o. FSRT or resection	2b	B	++
Resection + irradiation of the tumor bed (without WBRT)	1b	B	++
WBRT + Boost (SRS, FSRT) or resection + WBRT	2a	B	+
WBRT alone **Patients with reduced general condition and limited life expectancy**	2b	B	+
Hippocampal-sparing	2b	C	+/-

- **WBRT in addition to SRS/FSRT or tumor resection improves local control and symptoms, but has no survival benefit. WBRT impairs neurocognitive function.**

SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery (single session), FSRT = fractionated stereotactic RT; WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy,

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

Oligo-Brain Metastases

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
Local therapy alone: SRS (≤ 4 cm) or FSRT	2b	B	++
WBRT + Boost (SRS, FSRT)	2a	B	++
WBRT alone Patients with reduced general condition and limited life expectancy	2b	B	+
Hippocampal-sparing	2b	C	+/-

- Maximal number of metastases treated by SRS depends on localization, size, and additional, factors e.g. number of metastases, pre-treatment, Karnofsky.Index
- WBRT in addition to SRS/FSRT improves local control and symptoms, but has no survival benefit. Additional WBRT seems to impair neurocognitive function
- In case of limited number of brain metastases, SRS/FSRT are preferred

SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery (single session), FSRT = fractionated stereotactic RT; WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy,

NCCTG N0574 (Alliance): A Phase III Randomized Trial of Whole Brain Radiation Therapy (WBRT) in Addition to Radiosurgery (SRS) in Patients with 1 to 3 Brain Metastases

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

Study design:

Patients with 1-3 brain metastases, each < 3 cm by contrast MRI, were randomized to SRS alone or SRS + WBRT and underwent cognitive testing before and after treatment. The primary endpoint was cognitive progression (CP) defined as decline > 1 SD from baseline in any of the 6 cognitive tests at 3 months. Time to CP was estimated using cumulative incidence adjusting for survival as a competing risk.*

Conclusion:

Decline in cognitive function, specifically immediate recall, memory and verbal fluency, was more frequent with the addition of WBRT to SRS. Adjuvant WBRT did not improve OS despite better brain control. Initial treatment with SRS and close monitoring is recommended to better preserve cognitive function in patients with newly diagnosed brain metastases that are amenable to SRS.

* **Remark: No hippocampus-sparing was applied**

Brown A, Asher AL, Ballman K, Farace E, Cerhan J, Anderson K, et al. JAMA. 2016 Jul 26;316(4):401-9. doi: 10.1001/jama.2016.9839

Adjuvant Whole-brain Radiotherapy Versus Observation After Radiosurgery or Surgical Resection of One to Three Cerebral Metastases: Results of the EORTC 22952- 26001 Study

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

2-year relapse rate after whole-brain radiotherapy (WBRT) versus observation after surgical resection or radiosurgery				
	after surgical resection (n=160)		after radiosurgery (n=199)	
	WBRT	observation	WBRT	observation
Local recurrence	27%	59% (p<0.001)	19%	31% (p=0.040)
New lesions	23%	42% (p=0.008)	33%	48% (p=0.023)

- **Only 12% of the patients had brain metastases from breast cancer.**
- **Overall survival was similar in the WBRT and observation arms (median, 10.9 vs. 10.7 months, respectively; P = .89).**
- **Intracranial progression caused death in 44% patients in the OBS arm and in 28% patients in the WBRT arm.**

Kocher M. J Clin Oncol 2011, 29:134-141

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

Possible Factors for Decision Making Neurosurgery versus Stereotactic Radiosurgery

Factors in favor of neurosurgery:

- **Histological verification e.g. after a long recurrence-free interval**
- **Need for immediate decompression, life-threatening symptoms**
- **Tumor size not allowing stereotactic radiotherapy**

Factors in favor of primary radiotherapy:

- **Tumor location poorly amenable to surgery**
- **More than four lesions**

Multiple Brain Metastases
if Stereotactic Radiotherapy is not indicated

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

	Oxford LoE	GR	AGO
▪ WBRT (supportive steroids*)	1a	A	++
▪ Hippocampal-sparing radiotherapy	2b	C	+/-
▪ Corticosteroids alone*	3a	B	+/-
▪ Radiochemotherapy for intracerebral control	3b	C	-
▪ WBRT in case of recurrence**	4	C	+/-

SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery
FSRT = fractionated stereotactic radiotherapy
WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy

* adapted to symptoms
** can be discussed depending on time-interval from first radiation, prior dose, and localization if local therapy (surgery, SRS, FSRT) is not indicated and / or possible
WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy

Systemic and Symptomatic Therapy of Brain Metastases*

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ Continuation of the current systemic therapy if first diagnosis of brain metastasis and stable extracranial disease	2c	C	+
▪ Lapatinib + Capecitabine as initial treatment (HER2 pos. disease)	2b	B	+/-
▪ Chemotherapy alone as primary treatment	3a	D	-
▪ Anticonvulsants only if symptoms of seizures	3a	C	+
▪ Glucocorticoids only if symptoms and / or mass effect (Dexamethasone with best evidence)	3a	C	++
▪ For patients with bad prognosis and reduced physical common conditions best supportive care is an option	5	D	+

Guidelines Breast
Version 2020.1

Leptomeningeal Carcinomatosis: Local Therapy

	Oxford LoE	Oxford GR	AGO
Intrathecal or ventricular therapy			
▪ MTX 10–15 mg 2–3x/ week (+/- folinic acid rescue)	2b	B	+
▪ Liposomal cytarabine 50 mg, q 2w*	3b	C	+
▪ Thiothepa	3b	C	+/-
▪ Steroids	4	D	+/-
▪ Trastuzumab (HER2 pos. disease)	4	C	+/-
Systemic therapy	3b	B	+
Radiotherapy			
▪ Focal (bulky disease)	4	D	+
▪ WBRT	4	D	+
▪ Neuroaxis (disseminated spinal lesions)	4	D	+/-

Due to poor prognosis, consider best supportive care, especially in patients with poor performance status

* Currently not available