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Diagnosis and Treatment of Patients with early and advanced Breast Cancer

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer



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CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer

- **Versions 2003-2023:**
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- **Version 2024:**
Maass / Witzel

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer



- **Breast cancer is the 2nd most common cause of CNS metastases.**
- **In metastatic breast cancer patients:**
 - **Parenchymal CNS metastases:** ~ 30–40%
 - **Leptomeningeal CNS metastases:** ~ 5–16%
- **Increasing incidence (up to 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).**

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9. Valiente, M. et al. The evolving landscape of brain metastasis. Trends Cancer 2018; 4, 176–196.

10. Kuksis M, Gao Y, Tran W et al.: The incidence of brain metastases among patients with metastatic breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis *Neuro Oncol.* 2021 Jun 1;23(6):894-904.

 Incidence of Brain Metastases among Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer – Meta-Analysis of 25 Trials between 2010-2020				
Subtype	No patients	Incidence per patient-year	Pooled cumulative incidence	Median follow-up (months)
HER2 positive (all)	5971	13% 95% CI: 0.22–0.38	31%	31
HR- / HER2 positive	2092	13% 95% CI: 0.08–0.20	-	-
HR+ / HER2 positive	3480	8% 95% CI: 0.05–0.13	-	-
HR- / HER2 negative	4102	13% 95% CI: 0.09–0.20	32% 95% CI: 0.19–0.49	33
HR+ / HER2 negative	14656	5% 95% CI: 0.03–0.08	15% 95% CI: 0.078–0.27	33

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Kuksis M, Gao Y, Tran W et al. Neuro Oncol. 2021 Jun 1;23(6):894-904

1. Kuksis M, Gao Y, Tran W et al.: The incidence of brain metastases among patients with metastatic breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis Neuro Oncol. 2021 Jun 1;23(6):894-904

CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer Tumour biology

- **Primary Tumor:**
 - Negative hormone receptor 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)
 - Inflammatory breast cancer
- **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 = 10.4%**
- **There is no evidence for a survival benefit of BM-screening in asymptomatic BC-patients.**

Risk factors (see also references slide CNS incidence)

1. Pivot X, Manikhas A, Zurawski B et al.: Cerebel (egf111438): A phase III, randomized, open-label study of lapatinib plus capecitabine versus trastuzumab plus capecitabine in patients with human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-positive metastatic breast cancer. J Clin Oncol 2015;33:1564-1573.
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Brain metastases (BM) are more likely to be estrogen receptor negative, and overexpress HER2 or EGFR

1. Kuksis M, Gao Y, Tran W et al.: The incidence of brain metastases among patients with metastatic breast cancer: a systematic review and meta-analysis Neuro Oncol. 2021 Jun 1;23(6):894-904.
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Molekulare Diskordanz Primärtumor – Metastase:

1. Hulsbergen AFC, Claes A, Kavouridis VK, et al. Subtype switching in breast cancer brain metastases: a multicenter analysis. Neuro Oncol. 2020 Aug 17;22(8):1173-1181.
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There is no evidence for BM-screening in asymptomatic BC-patients

1. Niwinska A, Tacikowska M, Murawska M: The effect of early detection of occult brain metastases in HER2-positive breast cancer patients on survival and cause of death. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys 2010, 77:1134-1139.



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Updated Breast-GPA (Graded Prognostic Assessment) Worksheet to Estimate Survival from Brain Metastases (BM)

Prognostic Factor	0	0.5	1	1.5	Score
KPS	≤ 60	70-80	90-100	n/a	
Subtype	Basal	LumA	n/a	HER2 or LumB	
Age, years	≥ 60	< 60	n/a	n/a	
ECM	present	absent	n/a	n/a	
No of BM	≥ 2	1	n/a	n/a	
					Sum total

Median survival by Breast-GPA:
Breast-GPA 0–1.0 = 6 months
Breast-GPA 1.5–2.0 = 13 months
Breast-GPA 2.5–3.0 = 24 months
Breast-GPA 3.5–4.0 = 36 months

Subtype: Basal: triple negative; LumA: ER / PR positive, HER2 negative; LumB: triple positive; HER2: ER / PR positive
 Spreduto PW et al. JCO 2020; extracranial metastases BM: brain metastases

Breast-GPA

1. Riecke K, Müller V, Weide R et al.: Predicting Prognosis of Breast Cancer Patients with Brain Metastases in the BMBC Registry- Comparison of Three Different GPA Prognostic Scores. Cancers (Basel). 2021 Feb 17;13(4):844.
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Prognostic Factors for Survival

1. Castaneda CA, Flores R, Rojas KY et al.: Prognostic factors for patients with newly diagnosed brain metastasis from breast cancer. CNS Oncol 2015;4:137-145.
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cancer receiving radiotherapy of the brain." J Cancer Res Clin Oncol 142(1): 325-332.

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Single / Solitary Brain Metastasis and Oligo-Brain Metastases*

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
Local therapy alone: SRS (< 2-3 cm) oder SRT (>2-4 cm)	1b	B	++
Single / Solitary Metastasis:	1b	B	++
Resection (if indicated) + irradiation of the tumor bed (without WBRT)			
Oligo-Brain Metastases:	1b	B	++
Resection (if indicated) + irradiation of the tumor bed and SRS or SRT of unresected metastases (without WBRT)			
WBRT + Boost (SRS, SRT) or resection + WBRT	2a	B	+
WBRT alone	2b	B	+
Patients with reduced general condition and limited life expectancy			
Hippocampal-sparing** (if prognosis is favourable)	1b	B	+

* Oligometastases or limited tumour volume refers to ≤ 4 brain metastases or cumulative tumour volume < 15 ml in 5-10 brain metastases
** Metastases in hippocampus excluded
SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery (single session), SRT = stereotactic RT (fractionated); WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy

1. Belderbos JSA, De Ruyscher DKM, De Jaeger K et al.: Phase 3 Randomized Trial of Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation With or Without Hippocampus Avoidance in SCLC (NCT01780675). J Thorac Oncol. 2021 May;16(5):840-849.
2. Brown PD, Jaeckle K, Ballman KV et al.: Effect of Radiosurgery Alone vs Radiosurgery With Whole Brain Radiation Therapy on Cognitive Function in Patients With 1 to 3 Brain Metastases JAMA 2016 Jul 26;316(4): 401-409.
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8. Halasz, L. M., H. Uno, M. Hughes et al.: Comparative effectiveness of stereotactic radiosurgery versus whole-brain radiation therapy for patients with brain metastases from breast or non-small cell lung cancer. Cancer 2016 122(13): 2091-2100.

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Single / Solitary Brain Metastasis and Oligo-Brain Metastases*

- **Local therapy (surgery, SRS, SRT) depends on localization, size, number of metastases, previous therapy, Karnofsky-Performance-Scale, prognosis.**
- **WBRT in addition to SRS/SRT improves intracranial control, but does not improve duration of functional independence and overall survival.**
- **WBRT impairs neurocognitive function.**
- **In case of limited* number of brain metastases, SRS / SRT are preferred.**
- **Postoperative radiotherapy:**
 - Single/solitary brain metastasis (resection cavity < 5 cm): SRS v. WBRT no difference in overall survival.**
 - Oligo-brain metastases: SRS of surgical cavity and SRS of unresected metastases v. WBRT no difference in overall survival.**

* Oligometastases or limited tumour volume refers to ≤ 4 brain metastases or cumulative tumour volume < 15 ml in 5-10 brain metastases
**Metastases in Hippocampus excluded
SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery (single session), SRT = stereotactic RT (fractionated); WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy

1. Belderbos JSA, De Ruyscher DKM, De Jaeger K et al.: Phase 3 Randomized Trial of Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation With or Without Hippocampus Avoidance in SCLC (NCT01780675). *J Thorac Oncol.* 2021 May;16(5):840-849
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10. Kayama T, Sato S, Sakurada K et al: Effects of Surgery With Salvage Stereotactic Radiosurgery Versus Surgery With Whole-Brain Radiation Therapy in Patients With One to Four Brain Metastases (JCOG0504): A Phase III, Noninferiority, Randomized Controlled Trial. *J Clin Oncol.* 2018 Jun 20;JCO2018786186. doi: 10.1200/JCO.2018.78.6186.
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Radiation necrosis (RN) after stereotactic radiotherapy

Incidence and imaging characteristics

- RN should be considered in case of suspected progression of previously irradiated brain metastases as differential diagnosis
- Increase in contrast enhancement on MRI/CT, edema present, typically appearing 6-18 months after RT, progressive course without adequate treatment, correlation with radiotherapy plan is essential
- Additional imaging (i.e. FET-PET, CT/MRI perfusion) may be considered.
- Incidence 5-10% after SRS/SRT, approx. half of the patients are symptomatic

Risk factors

- Increasing diameter of treated metastases, previous irradiation (whole-brain radiotherapy or previous stereotactic radiotherapy to the same lesion), SRS for metastases >3 cm (prefer SRT), association with concurrent systemic treatment equivocal

Management (in close coordination with treating radiation oncologist)

- Follow-up with MRI is warranted in asymptomatic cases with uncritical size and location
- In symptomatic patients and/or critical size/location, interdisciplinary management is essential. Options include dexamethasone, bevacizumab (off label), and surgery.

Adapted from Bernhardt et al. Strahlenther Onkol 2022. 198: 971-883.

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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**
- **Comparable local control for SRS/SRT vs. surgery + postoperative RT**

* stereotactic radiotherapy should be preferred if possible

1. Cardoso F, Paluch-Shimon S, Senkus E et al.: 5th ESO-ESMO international consensus guidelines for advanced breast cancer (ABC 5). Ann Oncol. 2020 Dec;31(12):1623-1649.
2. Kocher M, Soffiatti R, Abacioglu U et al.: Adjuvant whole-brain radiotherapy versus observation after radiosurgery or surgical resection of one to three cerebral metastases: results of the EORTC 22952-26001 study. J Clin Oncol. 2011;29:134-41.
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Multiple Brain Metastases if Stereotactic Radiotherapy is not indicated

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ WBRT (supportive steroids¹)	1a	A	++
▪ Hippocampal-sparing radiotherapy² (if prognosis is favourable)	1b	B	+
▪ Corticosteroids alone¹	3a	B	+/-
▪ Systemic therapy alone	3a	D	+/-
▪ For newly diagnosed or progressive asymptomatic brain metastases (only for HER2 breast cancer)³	2b	C	+
▪ Radiochemotherapy for intracerebral control	3b	C	-
▪ WBRT in case of recurrence⁴	4	C	+/-

¹adapted to symptoms; ²metastases in hippocampus excluded; ³only if regimens with proven clinical activity in active brain metastases are used; ⁴can 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

SRS = stereotactic radiosurgery; SRT = stereotactic radiotherapy (fractionated); WBRT = whole brain radiotherapy

1. Brown PD, Gondi V, Pugh S et al.:Hippocampal Avoidance During Whole-Brain Radiotherapy Plus Memantine for Patients With Brain Metastases: Phase III Trial NRG Oncology CC00.J Clin Oncol 2020 Apr 1; 38(10): 1019–1029.
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5. Krop IE, Lin NU, Blackwell K et al.: Trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1) versus lapatinib plus capecitabine in patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer and central nervous system metastases: a retrospective, exploratory analysis in EMILIA. Ann Oncol. 2015; 26(1):113-9. doi: 10.1093/annonc/mdu486.
6. Rodríguez de Dios N, Couñago F, Murcia-Mejía M et al.:Randomized Phase III Trial of Prophylactic Cranial Irradiation With or Without Hippocampal Avoidance for Small-Cell Lung Cancer (PREMER): A GICOR-GOECF-SEOR Study. J Clin Oncol. 2021 Oct 1;39(28):3118-3127.
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alone compared to whole brain radiation therapy plus radiosurgery. J Neurooncol 2015;121:583-590.

Systemic treatment alone for pts with newly diagnosed or progressive asymptomatic brain metastases

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Symptomatic Therapy of Brain Metastases

- **Anticonvulsants only if symptoms of seizures**
- **Glucocorticoids only if symptoms and / or mass effect (Dexamethasone with best evidence)**
- **For patients with bad prognosis and reduced physical common conditions best supportive care is an option**

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
	3a	C	+
	3a	C	++
	5	D	+

Anticonvulsants

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Clinical Classification of Brain Metastases

Stable brain metastases (definition: RECIST / RANO):

stabilization after treatment of brain metastases.

Stable brain metastases (definition: DESTINY-BREAST03):

stable brain metastases \geq 2 weeks after whole brain radiotherapy, asymptomatic, no requirement of corticosteroid or anticonvulsant therapy

Active brain metastases (definition: HER2Climb):

locally pretreated brain metastases with progressive disease or newly diagnosed brain metastases not needing immediate local therapy

or

untreated brain metastases not needing immediate local therapy

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Systemic Therapy of Brain Metastases

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ Interdisciplinary treatment planning (tumor board)	5	D	++
▪ Systemic therapy alone as primary treatment	3a	D	+/-
▪ For newly diagnosed or progressive asymptomatic brain metastases (only for HER2-positive breast cancer)*	2b	C	+
▪ Continuation of the current systemic therapy if first diagnosis of brain metastasis and stable extracranial disease**	2c	C	+

* only if regimens with proven clinical activity in active brain metastases are used

** only in case of adequate local treatment of brain metastases

1. Cardoso F, Paluch-Shimon S, Senkus E et al. . 5th ESO-ESMO international consensus guidelines for advanced breast cancer (ABC 5). Ann Oncol. 2020 Dec;31(12):1623-1649. doi: 10.1016/j.annonc.2020.09.010. Epub 2020 Sep 23. PMID: 32979513; PMCID: PMC7510449.
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Systemic treatment alone for pts with newly diagnosed or progressive asymptomatic brain metastases

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Systemic Therapy of Brain Metastases: HER2 positive

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ Tucatinib + Trastuzumab + Capecitabine*	2b	B	+
▪ Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan**	2b	B	+
▪ Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan*	2b	C	+/-
▪ T-DM1 **	2b	B	+/-
▪ Lapatinib + Capecitabine*	2b	B	+/-
▪ Neratinib + Capecitabine*	2b	B	+/-
▪ Neratinib + Paclitaxel**	2b	B	+/-
▪ High-dose Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab*	2b	C	-

* efficacy demonstrated in active and stable brain metastases based on trial inclusion criteria
** efficacy demonstrated in stable asymptomatic brain metastases based on trial inclusion criteria

Tucatinib + Trastuzumab + Capecitabin:

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Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab:

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Clinical trials including HER2 positive patients with brain metastases

Trial	Phase	N**	Brain metastases	Combination	IC-ORR
HER2Climb ^{1,2*}	II	291	Stable + active	Tucatinib+Trastuzumab+Capecitabine	47%
HER2Climb02 ³	III	204	Stable + active	Tucatinib + T-DM1	42%
DESTINY-B03 ⁴	III	36	Stable	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	64%
TUXEDO-1 ⁵	II	15	Active	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	73%
DEBBRAH ⁶	II	21	Stable + active	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	46.2% (active) 66.7% (all patients)
KAMILLA ⁷	III	398	Stable	T-DM1	21%
LANDSCAPE ⁸	II	45	Active	Lapatinib + Capecitabine	66%
NALA ⁹	III	161	Stable	Neratinib + Capecitabine	23%
TBCRC-022 ¹⁰	II	49	Active	Neratinib + Capecitabine	49% (Lapatinib-naive) 33% (prior Lapatinib)
PATRICIA ¹¹	II	39	Active	Pertuzumab + high dose Trastuzumab	11%
NEFERT-T ¹²	II	29	Asymptomatic	Paclitaxel + Neratinib	Not reported; CNS incidence [↓]

*reference list

Adapted from O'Brian B et al. SABCS 2022

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Leptomeningeal Carcinomatosis: Therapy

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

Review:

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MTX high dose

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Trastuzumab intrathecal.

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Intrathecal administration of Trastuzumab

	Kumthekar PU et al. ¹	Oberkamp F et al. ²
Type of study	Multicenter, Phase Ib/II	Multicenter, Phase Ib/II
N	34	19
Trastuzumab delivery	80 mg intrathecally twice weekly	150 mg intrathecally weekly
CBR	69.2% (PR: 19.2%, SD 50%)	
Median PFS	-	5.9 months
Median OS	8.3 months	7.9 months

¹Kumthekar PU et al. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022, ²Oberkamp F et al. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022

1. Kumthekar PU, Avram MJ, Lassman AB, et al. A Phase I/II Study of Intrathecal Trastuzumab in HER-2 Positive Cancer with Leptomeningeal Metastases: Safety, Efficacy, and Cerebrospinal Fluid Pharmacokinetics. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022;noac195. doi: 10.1093/neuonc/noac195. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35948282.
2. Oberkamp F, Gutierrez M, Trabelsi Grati O et al. Phase II study of intrathecal administration of trastuzumab in patients with HER2-positive breast cancer with leptomeningeal metastasis. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022 Jul 22;noac180. doi: 10.1093/neuonc/noac180. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 35868630.