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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

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# CNS Metastases in Breast Cancer



- **Breast cancer is the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](http://www.gbg.de)).**

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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.

 <b>Incidence of Brain Metastases among Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer – Meta-Analysis of 25 Trials between 2010-2020</b>				
Subtype	No patients	Incidence per patient-year	Pooled cumulative incidence	Median follow-up (months)
<b>HER2 positive (all)</b>	5971	13% 95% CI: 0.22–0.38	31%	31
<b>HR- / HER2 positive</b>	2092	13% 95% CI: 0.08–0.20	-	-
<b>HR+ / HER2 positive</b>	3480	8% 95% CI: 0.05–0.13	-	-
<b>HR- / HER2 negative</b>	4102	13% 95% CI: 0.09–0.20	32% 95% CI: 0.19–0.49	33
<b>HR+ / HER2 negative</b>	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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3. Kaidar-Person O, Meattini I, Jain P et al.: Discrepancies between biomarkers of primary breast cancer and subsequent brain metastases: An international multicenter study. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2018. Jan;167(2):479-483

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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

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

**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, HER2 positive; ECM: 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.
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4. 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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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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## 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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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.

9. Hartgerink D, Bruynzeel A, Eekers D et al. A Dutch phase III randomized multicenter trial: whole brain radiotherapy versus stereotactic radiotherapy for 4-10 brain metastases. *Neurooncol Adv.* 2021;3(1):vdab021.
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.

1. Bernhardt D, König L, Grosu A, et al.: Expert Panel of the German Society of Radiation Oncology (DEGRO). DEGRO practical guideline for central nervous system radiation necrosis part 1: classification and a multistep approach for diagnosis. Strahlenther Onkol. 2022 Oct;198(10):873-883. doi: 10.1007/s00066-022-01994-3. Epub 2022 Aug 29. PMID: 36038669; PMCID: PMC9515024.
2. Bernhardt D, König L, Grosu et al.: Expert Panel of the German Society of Radiation Oncology (DEGRO). DEGRO practical guideline for central nervous system radiation necrosis part 2: treatment. Strahlenther Onkol. 2022 Nov;198(11):971-980. doi: 10.1007/s00066-022-01973-8. Epub 2022 Aug 29. PMID: 36038670; PMCID: PMC9581806.



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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
▪ <b>WBRT (supportive steroids<sup>1</sup>)</b>	<b>1a</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>++</b>
▪ <b>Hippocampal-sparing radiotherapy<sup>2</sup> (if prognosis is favourable)</b>	<b>1b</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+</b>
▪ <b>Corticosteroids alone<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>3a</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>Systemic therapy alone</b>	<b>3a</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>+/-</b>
▪ <b>For newly diagnosed or progressive asymptomatic brain metastases (only for HER2 breast cancer)<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>2b</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>+</b>
▪ <b>Radiochemotherapy for intracerebral control</b>	<b>3b</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>-</b>
▪ <b>WBRT in case of recurrence<sup>4</sup></b>	<b>4</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>+/-</b>

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

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

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#### Re-Radiation recurrence

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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

1. Lobos-Urbina D, Kittsteiner-Manubens L, Pena J: Is primary prevention with antiepileptic drugs effective in brain tumors or brain metastases? Medwave 2017;17:e6871.
2. Soffiatti R, Abacioglu U, Baumert B et al.: Diagnosis and treatment of brain metastases from solid tumors: Guidelines from the european association of neuro-oncology (eano). Neuro Oncol 2017;19:162-174.

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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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5. Hurvitz SA. A Pooled Analysis of Trastuzumab Deruxtecan (T-DXd) in Patients (pts) With HER2-Positive (HER2+) Metastatic Breast Cancer (mBC) With Brain Metastases (BMs) from DESTINY-Breast (DB) -01, -02, and -03. ESMO 2023

## Systemic Therapy of Brain Metastases

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

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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
▪ <b>Tucatinib + Trastuzumab + Capecitabine*</b>	2b	B	+
▪ <b>Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan**</b>	2b	B	+
▪ <b>Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan*</b>	2b	C	+/-
▪ <b>T-DM1 **</b>	2b	B	+/-
▪ <b>Lapatinib + Capecitabine*</b>	2b	B	+/-
▪ <b>Neratinib + Capecitabine*</b>	2b	B	+/-
▪ <b>Neratinib + Paclitaxel**</b>	2b	B	+/-
▪ <b>High-dose Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab*</b>	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:

1. Curigliano G, Mueller V, Borges V, et al. Tucatinib versus placebo added to trastuzumab and capecitabine for patients with pretreated HER2+ metastatic breast cancer with and without brain metastases (HER2CLIMB): final overall survival analysis. Ann Oncol. 2022 Mar;33(3):321-329.
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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 <sup>1,2*</sup>	II	291	Stable + active	Tucatinib+Trastuzumab+Capecitabine	47%
HER2Climb02 <sup>3</sup>	III	204	Stable + active	Tucatinib + T-DM1	42%
DESTINY-B03 <sup>4</sup>	III	36	Stable	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	64%
TUXEDO-1 <sup>5</sup>	II	15	Active	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	73%
DEBBRAH <sup>6</sup>	II	21	Stable + active	Trastuzumab-Deruxtecan	46.2% (active) 66.7% (all patients)
KAMILLA <sup>7</sup>	III	398	Stable	T-DM1	21%
LANDSCAPE <sup>8</sup>	II	45	Active	Lapatinib + Capecitabine	66%
NALA <sup>9</sup>	III	161	Stable	Neratinib + Capecitabine	23%
TBCRC-022 <sup>10</sup>	II	49	Active	Neratinib + Capecitabine	49% (Lapatinib-naive) 33% (prior Lapatinib)
PATRICIA <sup>11</sup>	II	39	Active	Pertuzumab + high dose Trastuzumab	11%
NEFERT-T <sup>12</sup>	II	29	Asymptomatic	Paclitaxel + Neratinib	Not reported; CNS incidence <sup>↓</sup>

\*reference list

Adapted from O'Brian B et al. SABCS 2022

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## Leptomeningeal Carcinomatosis: Therapy

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

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#### MTX high dose

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## Intrathecal administration of Trastuzumab

	Kumthekar PU et al. <sup>1</sup>	Oberkampf F et al. <sup>2</sup>
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

<sup>1</sup>Kumthekar PU et al. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022, <sup>2</sup>Oberkampf F et al. *Neuro Oncol.* 2022

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