



Types of Breast Cancer

There are different types of breast cancer, so they must be classified in order to determine which type of treatment would be best. The presence or absence of estrogen receptors (ER+/ER-), progesterone receptors (PR+/PR-) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2) (HER2+/HER2-) help determine the type of breast cancer.

- Luminal A: Most common type representing about 40% of diagnoses. Tumors are usually ER+ and/or PR+, HER2-, slowing-growing, less aggressive and associated with a favorable short-term prognosis.
- Luminal B: Represents approximately 10-20% of diagnoses. Similar to Luminal A, but are either HER+ or have high proliferation rates, meaning a higher number of the cells are actively dividing.
- Basal-Like(Triple Negative): Represents approximately 10-20% of diagnoses and are also known as triple negative because these cancers are ER-, PR- and HER2-. It is more common in African American women, younger (premenopausal) women and those with the BRCA1 gene mutation.
- HER2 Enriched: Approximately 10% of diagnoses. These cancers produce an excess of HER2, a protein that promotes growth and are ER- and PR-. They grow and spread more aggressively, similar to the basal-like tumors. However, they can be treated through targeted therapy.