

Ready to start planning your care? Call us at [800-525-2225](tel:800-525-2225) to make an appointment.

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Memorial Sloan Kettering
Cancer Center

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Whether you would benefit from adjuvant systemic therapy and which type best suits your condition depends on such factors as:

the presence or absence of cancer cells in your lymph nodes

the size of your tumor

your menopausal status

whether your tumor contains hormone receptors or overproduces certain proteins, such as HER2/neu

whether you have a high recurrence score on [OncotypeDx® testing](#), which analyzes the activity of a group of genes that can influence how cancer might behave or respond to different treatments

We may also recommend that you take part in a [breast cancer clinical trial](#), which may give you access to new therapies that are not yet readily available.

Request an Appointment

Call [646-497-9064](tel:646-497-9064)

Available Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. (Eastern time)

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Treatment of Metastatic Disease

Breast Cancer Doctors

MSK physicians, nurses and other healthcare professionals are experts in breast cancer surgery, reconstruction, radiation oncology and more.

Women with metastatic breast cancer may receive various systemic therapies to control the disease. These include chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, biologics, immunotherapies, other targeted agents, or combinations of these.

The choice of treatments depends on certain characteristics of your [breast cancer tumor type](#), such as hormone receptors, HER2/neu status, and the location of the disease.

[Chemotherapy](#)

There are a large number of chemotherapy drugs that work in many different ways. In a very general sense, these drugs can help you fight breast cancer by interrupting the growth and spread of cancer cells. Each of them works in a somewhat different fashion and their dose, schedule, and use, either alone or in combinations, can lead to different levels of effectiveness.

[Hormone Therapy](#)

Since some breast cancers rely on estrogen and other hormones to fuel their growth, medicines that block or stop this can potentially keep these tumors from growing.

[Targeted Therapy](#)

A current focus of breast cancer research is to find drugs that work by targeting specific molecules involved in breast cancer development, growth, and spread. Early success in this area includes several drugs that target HER2, but there are a growing number of agents and targets that show promise. Many of them are only available within formal clinical trials, though an increasing number have been approved for routine use. The optimal timing and use of these drugs is still being studied.

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