

# NAVIGATING BREAST CANCER RISK OF RECURRENCE

## EARLY BREAST CANCER

Early breast cancer is found in the breast or nearby lymph nodes and has not spread to other parts of the body.<sup>1</sup> While getting a breast cancer diagnosis can be scary, early breast cancer is treatable and does not return for most people.<sup>2</sup> However, there are factors that might increase the risk of recurrence.<sup>2,3</sup>

Understanding risk factors and what they mean is critical.

This knowledge will help you have more informed conversations with your healthcare team about your treatment plan.



## BREAKING DOWN RISK OF BREAST CANCER RECURRENCE

Here are factors that your doctor may look at to determine risk of recurrence:



### TUMOR SIZE

How big is the tumor?



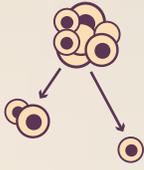
### TUMOR GRADE

How do the cancer cells appear?



### ESTROGEN RECEPTOR (ER) AND HUMAN EPIDERMAL GROWTH FACTOR RECEPTOR 2 (HER2) STATUS

Are these receptors present on the tumor?



### TUMOR SPREAD

Has the cancer moved within or beyond the breast to nearby lymph nodes?



### TUMOR STAGE

Where does the cancer fall on the scale from 0 to III?



### RAPIDLY PROLIFERATING CELLS

How quickly are the cancer cells growing?



## CONTINUE TO LEARN ABOUT THE RISK OF BREAST CANCER RECURRENCE

It is important to remember that it is not your fault if the cancer returns. There are many factors that can lead to a recurrence, which scientists and researchers are still uncovering. Talk to your healthcare team about the type of breast cancer you have been diagnosed with and its risk of recurrence.

### REFERENCES

1. Breastcancer.org. Breast Cancer Stages. <https://www.breastcancer.org/symptoms/diagnosis/staging>. Accessed February 2, 2022.
2. Györfy B, Hatzis C, Sanft T, et al. Multigene prognostic tests in breast cancer: past, present, future. *Breast Cancer Res.* 2015;17(1):11.
3. Dang CM and Giuliano AE. Local recurrence risk factors in women treated with BCT for early-stage breast cancer. *Oncology.* 2011;25(10):895-896.