

# WHAT'S YOUR SUBTYPE?

Information for your  
Breast Cancer Journey

*Brought to you by*



# What's your subtype?

Although breast cancer is often talked about as one disease, there are different types of breast cancer. These different types of breast cancer are also called **subtypes**.<sup>1</sup>

**These subtypes are different from each other in several important ways:**

- Certain people may be more likely to get one subtype over another<sup>2</sup>
- Some subtypes may grow more aggressively than others<sup>2</sup>
- Some treatments only work for certain subtypes<sup>3</sup>

Treatment for breast cancer depends on a variety of factors, including the subtype.<sup>2</sup> Having this information could make a difference for treatment options throughout your journey with breast cancer.<sup>2,4</sup>

**Your subtype helps your doctor personalize your treatment journey<sup>3</sup>**

Some treatments only work for certain subtypes<sup>3</sup>

# Getting Tested Before Your Surgery

- You and your doctor should discuss your breast cancer subtype before surgery
- Knowing your subtype can help your doctor make decisions about your care<sup>2,4</sup>

**To find out your subtype, your doctor will need to collect a small piece, or biopsy, of your tumour. They may take this biopsy using a needle, or using a skin incision.<sup>5</sup> This tumour sample can be used to find out your subtype.**

Knowing your subtype can help your doctor create a treatment plan that is best for you.<sup>2,4</sup>

## Here's What to Do...

- 1** Talk with your doctor
- 2** Schedule a breast biopsy
- 3** Discuss your results, including your subtype
- 4** Consider your treatment options with your doctor

*Your doctor will need to collect a small sample of your tumour<sup>5</sup>*



# What Are The Breast Cancer Subtypes?

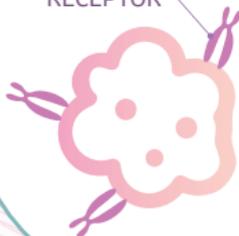
## How Does Subtype Help Determine Treatment?

Breast cancer subtype is determined by 3 types of proteins, called receptors, that may be found in breast cancer cells. These receptors are usually referred to using abbreviations like ER, PR and HER2 (see below). Knowing the receptors that your breast cancer has can help determine your treatment plan.<sup>4,6</sup>

### Hormone Receptor-Positive (HR+) Breast Cancer

- **HR+** means that the cancer cells have either **oestrogen (ER)** or **progesterone (PR)** receptors or both<sup>3</sup>
- HR+ cancers tend to **grow more slowly** than those that are hormone receptor-negative<sup>3</sup>

HORMONE RECEPTOR



### Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2-Positive (HER2+) Breast Cancer

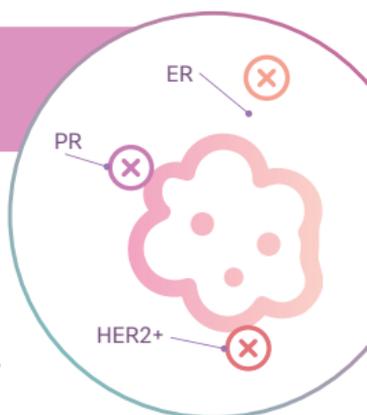
- **HER2+** means that the cancer cells **produce too much of a protein called HER2**, which can help the cancer grow<sup>3</sup>
- These cancers can **grow more quickly** than HER2-negative (HER2-) breast cancer<sup>3</sup>

HER2 GENE EXPRESSION<sup>3</sup>



## Triple-Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC)

- TNBC does not have ER, PR and also doesn't make enough HER2<sup>3</sup>
- TNBC grow and spread faster than most other types of breast cancer<sup>3</sup>



~80%

About 80%\* of breast cancers are HR+<sup>7</sup>

- Treatment with **hormonal therapy**, also called endocrine therapy, can block the growth of the cancer<sup>4</sup>

~15%  
to 20%

About 15% to 20%\* of breast cancers are HER2+<sup>3</sup>

- There are treatments that can **shut down the HER2 protein** and can **slow the growth** of the cancer<sup>4</sup>

~10%  
to 15%

About 10% to 15%\* of breast cancers are TNBC<sup>6</sup>

- Because TNBC lacks hormone receptors and excess HER2 receptors, **hormonal therapies and HER2 treatments are not used**<sup>3</sup>
- However, TNBC can be **sensitive to other treatments**<sup>3</sup>

\* Prevalence rates are based on breast cancer rates reported in the United States from 2017 to 2021 in the National Cancer Institute (NCI) Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program (SEER) registry.<sup>7</sup>

After learning  
your subtype, discuss next  
steps with your doctor

WOMEN'S CANCER

# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

**References:** 1. AlFakheh A, Brezden-Masley C. Overcoming endocrine resistance in hormone receptor-positive breast cancer. *Curr Oncol*. 2018;25(Suppl 1):S18-S27. 2. World Health Organization. Breast Cancer Fact Sheet. 13 March 2024. Available from <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/breast-cancer>. [Accessed 21 September 2024]. 3. American Cancer Society. Understanding a Breast Cancer Diagnosis. Available from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8580.00.pdf> [Accessed 21 September 2024]. 4. Mayo Clinic. Breast cancer types: What your type means. 6 December 2022. Available from <https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/breast-cancer/in-depth/breast-cancer/art-20045654> [Accessed 21 September 2024]. 5. American Cancer Society. Breast Cancer Early Detection and Diagnosis. Available from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8579.00.pdf> [Accessed 21 September 2024]. 6. American Cancer Society. About Breast Cancer. Available from <https://www.cancer.org/content/dam/CRC/PDF/Public/8577.00.pdf> [Accessed 21 September 2024]. 7. National Cancer Institute. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program. Cancer Stat Facts: Female Breast Cancer Subtypes. 2017-2022. Available from <https://seer.cancer.gov/statfacts/html/breast-subtypes.html> [Accessed 21 September 2024]



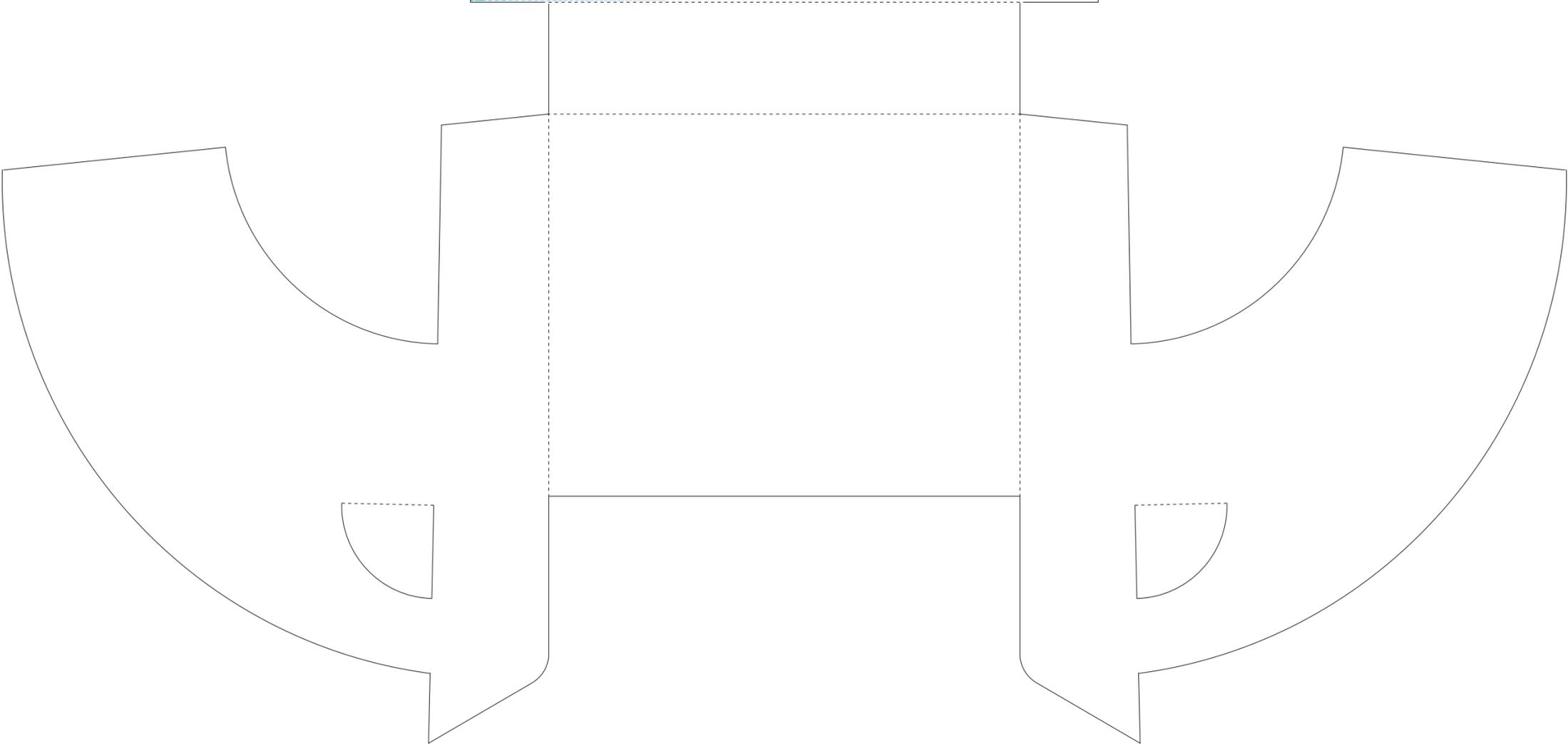
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PATIENT INFORMATION

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