Each year more than one million women are diagnosed with breast cancer globally and over $50,000 will die from the disease. 60% of patients are diagnosed with early stage BC. 33% of patients are diagnosed at the locally advanced stage. 5% of patients are diagnosed with advanced or metastatic BC. Prognosis becomes progressively worse as the stage of breast cancer becomes more advanced and the disease spreads. Approximately 98% of patients will survive for 5 years if they have early stage BC. Around 84% of patients with locally advanced BC will survive for 5 years. Roughly 24% of advanced or metastatic BC patients will survive for 5 years.  

**Diagnosis**

Early stage (I)
The tumour is no larger than two cm and has not spread to the lymph nodes.

Locally advanced (II & III)
The tumour is between two and five cm in size and may have spread to the lymph nodes under the arm or surrounding breast tissue.

Advanced or metastatic (IV)
Tumour(s) have spread to other organs in the body e.g. lungs, liver or bone. This is sometimes referred to as advanced or metastatic cancer.

**Prognosis & Survival**

- Approximately 98% of patients will survive for 5 years if they have early stage BC.
- Around 84% of patients with locally advanced BC will survive for 5 years.
- Roughly 24% of advanced or metastatic BC patients will survive for 5 years.

**Treatment**

- Treatment for locally advanced is usually chemotherapy or hormone therapy (after surgery).
- Radiation may be administered as adjuvant therapy (after surgery).

- Neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment options for advanced or metastatic BC usually involves systemic treatment regimens e.g. hormone therapy, chemotherapy or targeted therapies.