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## What we learned: Individuals with metastatic invasive lobular carcinoma (mILC) often present de novo, and mILC's metastatic sites can be challenging to detect/monitor

## Background

- Invasive lobular carcinoma (ILC), representing 15% of breast cancer diagnoses in the US annually, is a relatively common but understudied breast cancer subtype
- ILC has some distinct characteristics including: 1) ILC typically does not form in lumps and is harder to detect with standard imaging; 2) ILC sometimes recurs later than breast cancer of no special type (NST, including invasive ductal breast cancer); and 3) ILC sometimes metastasizes to unique parts of the body
- Members of the Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance's (LBCA's) community have expressed frustration at the lack of sensitivity in imaging or laboratory techniques for detecting ILC and metastatic ILC, and in monitoring mILC progression
- Members of the LBCA community are concerned about the lack of access to clinical trials for patients with mILC, who are often excluded because it can be hard to observe measurable changes in mILC
- LBCA shares ILC issues and these survey results in keeping with the advocacy organization's commitment to raising awareness of the distinct, often troubling aspects of ILC, and to promoting the need for research on all ILC stages

# **Objective**

Conduct a survey of LBCA community members with mILC about their experiences with diagnosis, treatment, and surveillance of mILC. Survey questions included:

- Were metastases diagnosed as de novo (DN) or as a distant recurrence (DR)?
- Where were the sites of metastases?
- How was the metastatic disease diagnosed and what surveillance modalities were used?
- What was patient experience with ongoing surveillance and diagnostic testing?
- Were individuals participating in or had they ever participated in a clinical trial?

## Methods and Cohort

- Online, anonymous survey conducted in June 2022 recruitment via newsletter, website, sister organizations, and social media
- 241 individual respondents submitted complete responses
- 77% of respondents were from the US and Canada
- Respondents reported having lived with metastatic ILC for between 1 and 30 years, with average of 3.9 years for DN mILC, and 3.3 years for DR mILC
- Average number of years to distant recurrence among respondents with DR was 5.5 years, with a maximum number of years to recurrence reported as 22 years

# Lobular Breast Cancer Alliance Inc. Survey of Individuals with Metastatic Invasive Lobular Carcinoma



## 47% OF RESPONDENTS REPORTED METASTATIC PROGRESSION IMAGING IS OFTEN CHALLENGING WITH METASTATIC ILC 36% of individuals with de novo mILC reported progression 48% of respondents stated their mILC was an unexpected % Diagnosed with mILC • 54% of individuals with distant recurrence reported progression or an incidental finding during another medical procedure as Distant Recurrence • 36% of respondents reported that at least one imaging vs. De Novo 14% REPORTED A CHANGE IN STATUS IN ONE OR MORE RECEPTOR modality failed to visualize one or more of their • For example, ER+/-, PR+/-, and/or HER2+/metastatic sites at initial diagnosis of mILC • 54% of respondents with bone metastases and 19% of Discussion 41%, those with GI metastases indicated their metastases had De novo not been visualized by standard imaging modalities 59%, • Surveyed individuals confirmed the perception that mILC can occur in Distant PATIENT EXPERIENCE FINDINGS unique locations and be difficult to diagnose, that mILC may be challenging Recurrence • 58% of respondents reported feeling that non-oncologists to monitor, and standard surveillance methods may fail to visualize it caring for them (primarily PCPs, radiologists, and • Low clinical trial participation may be the result of limited access to trials gastroenterologists) needed to be better informed about for patients with mILC because treatment response can be hard to measure • A large % of respondents reported their mILC diagnoses were unexpected or incidental findings during another medical procedure participated in a clinical trial Next Steps Sites Reported of Metastatic ILC Disease at Diagnosis • The large number of women who reported having been diagnosed de novo 75% indicates that ILC remains difficult to detect early with routine screening and suggests that more sensitive ILC detection methods are needed • Further study is warranted regarding receptor status change over time 59% • Study is also warranted to compare rates of progression in individuals diagnosed with DR mILC vs. those diagnosed with DN mILC • Educational materials about the unique aspects of ILC should be developed and disseminated to clinicians • New methods to determine treatment response in individuals with mILC should be developed to increase opportunities for clinical trial enrollment 16% 14% 11% 10% 9% Acknowledgements • LBCA thanks all survey respondents for sharing their experiences, and all GI (including to stomach, Bone Liver Unusual BC metastatic volunteers and LBCA Scientific Advisory Board members who contributed to sites (including colon, bowel, genitourinary, eye, skin)

- Only 28 respondents reported they were in or had



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## Results

% of Distant recurrence diagnosed at this site

- the design and synthesis of the survey and results



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