

Drugs for treating breast cancer in women are effective and well tolerated in men

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	Men (n=149)	Women (n=16552)	p
Mean age (SD) (years) Median age (range) (years)	68.1y (11.2) 69y (44-90)	60.6y (13.8) 61y (19-99)	<0.0001
Histological Subtypes : - HR+/HER2- - Triple Negative - HER2+ - missing	105 (78.4%) 6 (4.5%) 23 (17.1%) 15	9815 (65.6%) 2315 (15.4%) 2840 (19%) 1582	p= 0.0019 p= 0.0005 p=0.62
Metastatic de novo	49 (32.9%)	4754 (28.7%)	p=0.26

There is growing evidence that drugs approved for the treatment of breast cancer in women are also effective and well tolerated in men, according to the largest real-life study yet to investigate treatment and outcomes in men with breast cancer and two further studies to be reported at ESMO 2018. Credit: © European Society for Medical Oncology

There is growing evidence that drugs approved for the treatment of breast cancer in women are also effective and well tolerated in men, according to the largest real-life study yet to investigate treatment and outcomes in men with breast cancer and two further studies to be reported at ESMO 2018 (2,3).

Approximately one in every 100 cases of [breast](#) cancer (1%) occurs in men. However, there have been few prospective studies in men, and clinical trials of breast cancer treatments have often excluded men so treatment recommendations are largely extrapolated from the results of

clinical trials in women.

To learn more about the treatment of breast cancer in men researchers analysed clinical data collected by the Epidemiological Strategy and Medical Economics Metastatic Breast Cancer (ESME MBC) platform between January 2008 and December 2014. This national database collects real-life data from 18 French Comprehensive Cancer Centers for all patients newly diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer starting at least one treatment.

Researchers retrieved the data for men with metastatic breast cancer included in the database and compared their treatment and outcome with those in women. They found 149 men from the total of 16,701 patients (0.89%). The men were slightly older than the women (mean age 68.1 years vs 60.6 years, p

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