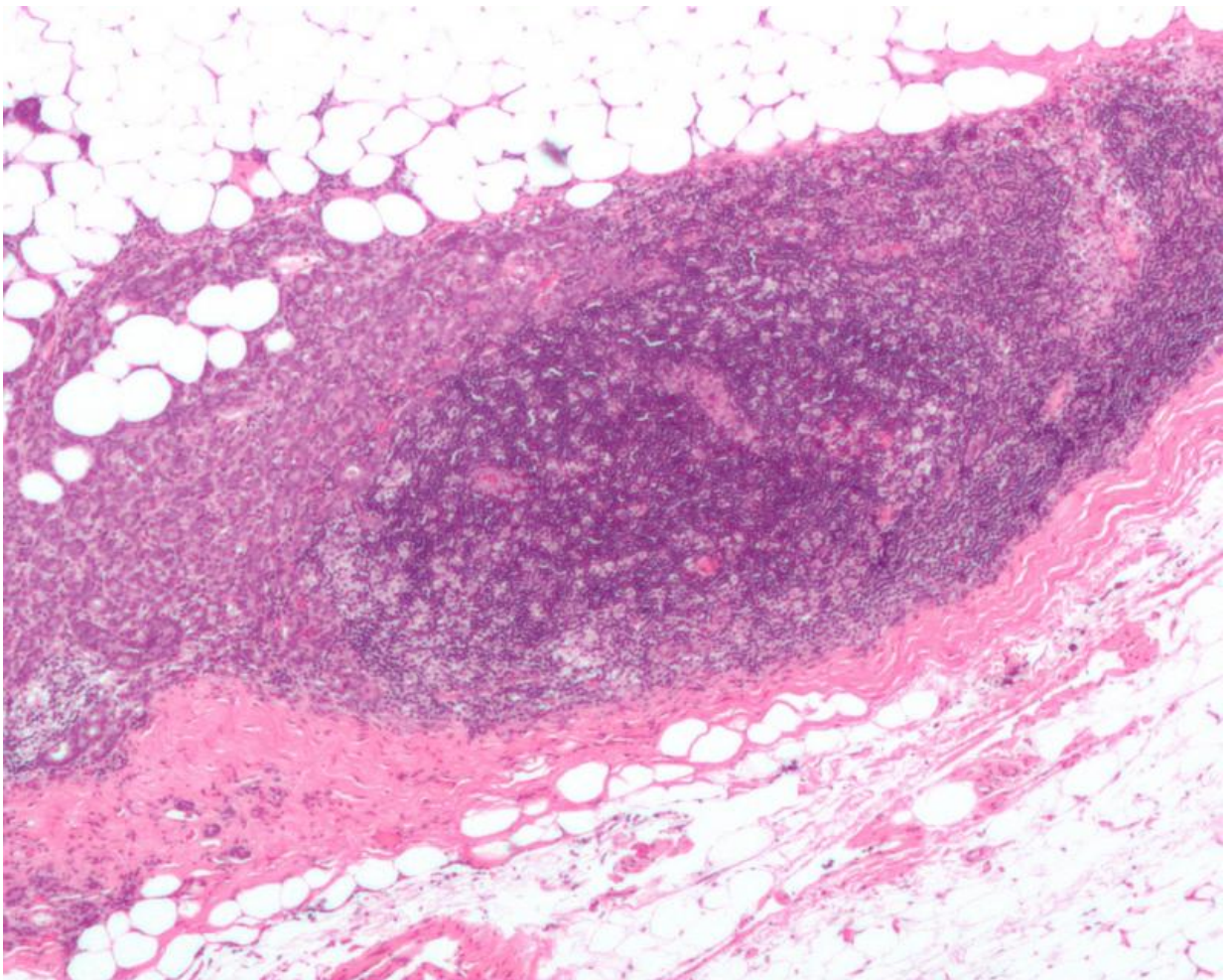


Systemic treatment for brain metastasis in HER2-positive advanced breast cancer

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Micrograph showing a lymph node invaded by ductal breast carcinoma, with extension of the tumour beyond the lymph node. Credit: Nephron/Wikipedia

A new editorial paper titled "Systemic treatment for brain metastasis in HER2- positive advanced breast cancer: what have we learned so far?" has been published in *Oncotarget*.

In their new editorial, researchers Marta Vaz Batista, José Perez-Gracia, Inês Eiriz, Maria Gion, Antonio Llombart, Sofia Braga, and Javier Cortés from Medica Scientia Innovation Research (MEDSIR) and Hospital Professor Doutor Fernando Fonseca discuss [new drugs](#) available for [breast cancer](#) (BC) patients with brain metastasis (BM). The better survival of Human Epidermal growth factor receptor-type 2 positive (HER2+) BC patients unmasked the biological predilection of this BC subtype for development of BM.

Indeed, [central nervous system](#) (CNS) is a frequent metastatic site for HER2+ advanced BC patients. Over the last years, new therapeutic strategies targeting the HER2 protein have been introduced for systemic treatment of HER2+ BC—either [tyrosine kinase inhibitors](#), monoclonal antibodies, or antibody-drug conjugates. Patients with BMs have a poorer outcome, compared with patients without BMs, but their prognosis is also improving with the introduction of new anti HER2+—targeted therapies.

"Our group has been working in the DEBBRAH trial, using trastuzumab deruxtecan for different settings of CNS involvement: stable or progressing BM and/or leptomeningeal carcinomatosis," the researchers explain.

The team included patients with HER2+ and HER2-low BC. Activity of trastuzumab-deruxtecan in patients with HER2+ BC and untreated or progressing after local therapy BMs also has been shown in another phase II trial.

"The final results are yet to be reported, but so far, we observed

intracranial responses in HER2+ BC patients," the research paper notes.

More information: Marta Vaz Batista et al, Systemic treatment for brain metastasis in HER2- positive advanced breast cancer: what have we learned so far?, *Oncotarget* (2023). [DOI: 10.18632/oncotarget.28435](https://doi.org/10.18632/oncotarget.28435)

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