

BREAST CANCER: A STORY HALF TOLD

Exploring Potential Disconnects in the Workplace

ABOUT THE STUDY

Background

Currently, breast cancer is the most common invasive cancer in women, with an estimated 1.7 million new cases diagnosed each year worldwide. An estimated 150,000 to 250,000 people are living with metastatic breast cancer in the U.S., approximately half of whom are of working age. To better understand their experiences, Pfizer and Cancer and Careers commissioned a survey that examined the perspectives of working women with breast cancer, healthcare professionals and employers on the topic of breast cancer and the workplace.

Partnership

This survey was developed and analyzed hand-in-hand with a steering committee comprised of advocacy organizations, healthcare professionals and employers.

KEY RESEARCH FINDINGS*

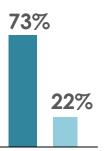
This research uncovered a desire to work among women with breast cancer, as well as a need for improved alignment between patient needs and support from employers and healthcare professionals.



77% of working women with breast cancer, including those with metastatic breast cancer (70%), feel that working aids their recovery, a view echoed by virtually all healthcare professionals (92%).

In fact, 56% of women surveyed **prefer to** work given their current health situation.

Aside from income (59%), the top reasons women want to work are to feel productive (41%), to feel personally fulfilled (38%) and for the desire to feel normal (29%).**



73% of employers report that **specific job modifications** (such as additional break times or temporary work accommodations) are available for all employees.

22% of women with breast cancer report awareness that these are/were available at their current or most recent job.

However, the majority of women surveyed had not talked to someone at work about job modifications (51%), legal rights (72%) or programs to help people cope (73%).



87% of oncologists and 92% of other HCPs agree that **they need more tools** to help women with breast cancer navigate their work environment.

While working women with breast cancer feel that healthcare professionals are generally helpful in discussing work life and cancer, nearly one in two said that their work life was not taken into account when treatment decisions were made.

METHODOLOGY*

- An online survey was conducted in June 2014. The sample included:
 - 1,002 female breast cancer patients and survivors age 18+ who have worked or looked for work since diagnosis; 189 (19%) of these patients had metastatic breast cancer
 - 102 employers in companies with 5+ employees in the U.S.
 - 100 oncologists and 100 oncology nurses and medical social workers who see breast cancer patients

Pfizer and Cancer and Careers commissioned a Harris Poll to conduct the survey

FOOTNOTES

** Respondents were asked to select up to three responses out of a total of nine options.



^{*} The HCPs and HR managers surveyed were not directly related to the patient respondents. The samples of patients, oncologists, and HR managers are weighted to help ensure that they are representative of their respective populations.

References

- 1. International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) and World Health Organization (WHO). GLOBOCAN 2012: Estimated cancer incidence, mortality and prevalence worldwide in 2012. Available at: http://globocan.iarc.fr/Pages/fact_sheets_cancer.aspx. Accessed October 14, 2014. 2. AdvancedBC.org. Silent voices: women with advanced (metastatic) breast cancer share their needs and preferences for information, support and practical service. Available at: http://www.advancedbc.org/node/26. Accessed on October 14, 2014.
- 3. KantarHealth, http://cancermpact.khapps.com Last updated 12/2013