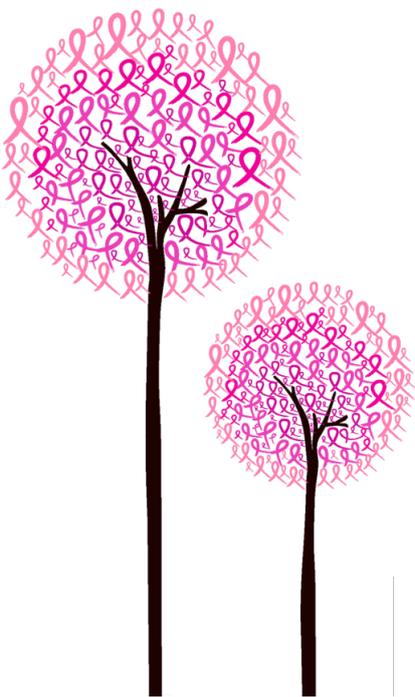


Sydney Oncology Patient Information Pack



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Introduction to Sydney Oncology

Dear Patient,

Being diagnosed with breast cancer will probably come as a shock to you and your loved ones. It is a challenge that faces approximately 1 in 10 women, and can affect any person, female and male. It is however, treatable and there has been significant progress made in patient outcomes. For patients with early stage breast cancer, it is potentially curable with the right treatments. While advanced breast cancer is not a curable disease, many patients can now expect to live for many years with breast cancer with the right treatments. The majority of treatments available today were not around 20 years ago, highlighting the rapid advances made in cancer care stemming from research.

As your medical oncologist, I will help you navigate your treatment journey, offering you the most up to date, evidence-based treatment options. I see my public patients at ***The Kinghorn Cancer Centre***, and private patients at ***St Vincent's Clinic*** and the ***Double Bay Breast Clinic***. Should you require chemotherapy, this will be administered at the Nelune Chemotherapy Suite at the Kinghorn Cancer Centre.

I am an academic medical oncologist specialising in breast cancer, and I work closely with the ***Multidisciplinary Breast Cancer Team*** comprising expert specialists based at St Vincent's Hospital. These include Breast Surgeons, Radiation Oncologists, Reconstructive Surgeons and Geneticists. Supporting our team are our Breast Cancer coordinators, Clinical Psychologists, Exercise Physiologists and Dieticians. We will work closely with your local General Practitioner through the course of your therapy.

I also head the ***Connie Johnson Breast Cancer Research Group*** at the ***Garvan Institute of Medical Research***, comprising a team of 10 talented young scientists, whose research is solely focussed on improving the outcomes for patients with breast cancer.

Research underpins medical progress, and patients are vital to this endeavour. At Sydney Oncology & St Vincent's Hospital, we invite our patients to partner with us in our research.

Some patients do so by donating their tissue for research. You are invited to participate in ***Project Share***, whereby tissues in excess of diagnostic requirements are donated to the laboratory for research purposes. Others have funded our research through generous donations.

Clinical trials are scientific studies in which new treatments – drugs, diagnostic procedures, and other therapies – are tested in patients to determine if they are safe and effective.

We also have a large suite of *Clinical trials* in which some patients are eligible to participate in. Such trials help us answer questions about new cancer therapies, including: what diseases should they be used for? What doses of new drugs are safe and most effective? And which patients can benefit the most from them? Nearly all cancer drugs in use today were tested and made available to patients through clinical trials. Clinical trials are necessary to constantly improve the standards of care for the next generation of breast cancer patients. Similarly, patients who have previously participated in trials have helped define the current treatment paradigms that you will be treated with.

You will be given a file with the following information that will hopefully assist you on your treatment journey. You are not alone in this, and we are here to help you.

- 🔗 My brief biography
- 🔗 Management of breast cancer in general
- 🔗 General chemotherapy advice, portacaths and scalp cooling
- 🔗 Patient information sheets on your recommended treatment
- 🔗 List of ancillary services
- 🔗 Recommended websites
- 🔗 Contact details
- 🔗 A personalised treatment plan

My wish for you is to have the best outcomes possible, and for you to leave the worrying about treatment to our team. I wish you and your loved ones well in your breast cancer treatment journey.

Yours sincerely,

Elgene

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