

NAoPri & NAoMe Glossary of Terms

Word/Phrase	Definition	Audit
Adjuvant treatment	Cancer treatment, such as chemotherapy, endocrine therapy or radiotherapy, given after surgery.	NAoPri
Axillary node clearance/ dissection	This describes surgery to remove the majority of lymph nodes in the armpit. Also known as an axillary node dissection.	NAoPri
Bilateral breast cancer	Breast cancer which, when diagnosed, was found in both breasts.	Both
Biopsy	A procedure to remove a small sample of the cancer. It is important for making a diagnosis.	Both
Breast Conserving Surgery (BCS)	Surgery to remove the breast cancer without removing all of the breast. Also known as a 'lumpectomy' or 'wide local excision' (WLE).	NAoPri
Breast reconstruction surgery	Surgery which aims to create a breast shape after mastectomy.	NAoPri
Chemotherapy	Treatment with drugs that kill cancer cells. This is a type of systemic anti-cancer therapy.	Both
Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)	A highly experienced nurse who plays a crucial role in supporting patients throughout their diagnosis, treatment, and follow-up care for breast cancer.	NAoPri
Comorbidity	A coexisting medical condition that is unrelated to breast cancer.	Both
Cancer Outcomes and Services Data set (COSD)	The COSD sets out the data that NHS England must record for all cancer patients. For more information, visit https://digital.nhs.uk/ndrs/data/data-sets/cosd	Both
Cyclin dependant kinase 4/6 inhibitors (CDK4/6 inhibitors)	Drugs that work to prevent the growth of cancer cells. They are used in combination with endocrine therapy to treat oestrogen receptor positive MBC.	NAoMe
Delayed reconstruction	Breast reconstruction surgery performed after a mastectomy as a separate surgery.	NAoPri
De-novo metastatic breast cancer	Breast cancer where the spread of disease to other parts of the body can be seen at the time of the initial breast cancer diagnosis.	NAoMe
Early Invasive Breast Cancer (EIBC)	Invasive breast cancer stages 1–3A.	NAoPri

Endocrine therapy	Drug therapy used to treat oestrogen and or progesterone receptor positive breast cancer. It is a type of systemic anti-cancer therapy (SACT). Also known as 'hormone therapy'. This stops oestrogen from helping the cancer to grow.	Both
First line treatment	The initial treatment or set of treatments given to a person with metastatic breast cancer.	NAoMe
Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor-2 (HER2)	A protein found on the surface of some breast cancer cells which helps them to grow.	Both
Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor (HER2) status	A description of the level of HER2 seen in a breast cancer. A breast cancer that has a higher-than-normal level of HER2 is described as HER2 positive. HER2 status helps determine whether specific systemic anti-cancer therapies known as anti-HER2 drug treatments can be used.	Both
Immediate reconstruction	Breast reconstruction surgery performed during the same surgery as a mastectomy.	NAoPri
Invasive breast cancer	This is when cancerous cells have spread into breast tissue beyond the original breast duct or glands.	NAoPri
Mastectomy	Surgery to remove the whole breast.	NAoPri
Metastatic Breast Cancer (MBC)	Breast cancer that has spread beyond the breast and nearby lymph nodes to other parts of the body such as the bones, lungs, liver or brain. Also called advanced breast cancer, secondary breast cancer or stage 4 breast cancer.	NAoMe
Metastatic breast clinical nurse specialist	A person whose main role is to provide direct support and care to patients with MBC. They work within a multiprofessional team.	NAoMe
Multidisciplinary team (MDT)	The team of specialists who deliver breast cancer care are known as a multidisciplinary team.	Both
Neoadjuvant treatment	Systemic anticancer therapy (SACT) given before surgery.	NAoPri
Non-invasive breast cancer	This is when cancerous cells are only in the ducts or lobules of the breast and haven't spread to surrounding breast tissue. The most common type of non-invasive breast cancer is called ductal carcinoma in-situ (DCIS).	NAoPri
Oestrogen Receptor (ER)	A protein found on the surface of cancer cells that the hormone oestrogen binds (sticks) to.	Both
Oestrogen Receptor (ER) Status	A description of the level of oestrogen receptors seen in a breast cancer. Breast cancers which are ER positive are sensitive to oestrogen and can be treated with endocrine therapy.	Both
Performance status	A fitness assessment tool (scored 0-5) used to measure how disease(s) impacts a person's ability to manage activities of daily living.	Both
Primary breast cancer	Breast cancer which, when diagnosed, was found only in the breast or nearby lymph nodes.	NAoPri

Progesterone Receptor (PR)	A protein found on the surface of cancer cells that the hormone progesterone binds (sticks) to.	Both
Progesterone Receptor (PR) status	A description of the level of progesterone receptors seen in a breast cancer. Breast cancers which are PR positive are sensitive to progesterone and can be treated with endocrine therapy.	Both
Radiotherapy	High energy X-rays used to kill cancer cells. It is used in primary breast cancer after surgery as a part of local treatment. For example, post-mastectomy radiotherapy (PMRT) is radiotherapy given to the chest wall following a mastectomy. Radiotherapy is used in Metastatic breast cancer to treat localised metastatic disease, for example a bone metastasis.	Both
Recurrent metastatic breast cancer	Breast cancer where the spread of disease to other parts of the body is found at some point after the initial diagnosis and treatment of a primary breast cancer.	NAoMe
Second line treatment	The treatments given after the initial (first line) treatment.	NAoMe
Sentinel lymph node	The first lymph node which shows spread from a cancer.	NAoPri
Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapy (SACT)	These are drug treatments for cancer which aim to treat the whole body. For example, chemotherapy and endocrine therapy.	Both
Triple Diagnostic Assessment (TDA)	An assessment which includes breast physical examination, scans and biopsies (as needed) during a single visit to get a quick breast cancer diagnosis. Some people need more complex diagnostic investigations, which would happen at a different time.	NAoPri
Triple negative breast cancer	Breast cancer that is ER negative, PR negative and HER2-negative.	Both
Visceral metastases	Where cancer has spread (metastasised) to the internal organs such as the liver or lungs.	NAoMe