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Study Finds Significant Financial Burden in Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer

Data presented at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Identifies Patient Challenges

SAN ANTONIO – (Dec. 11, 2014) – Data presented by the Cancer Support Community’s Research and Training Institute at the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium today shows that people with metastatic (advanced) breast cancer have many concerns regarding the cost of cancer care.

The study found that 40 to 50 percent of patients with metastatic breast cancer worry about out of pocket actual costs for care, including co-pays for treatment, medical appointments and diagnostic tests.

Often not considered in the conversation about the cost of care, the study also found that there are high collateral costs incurred by the patient, unrelated to medical expenses, such as gas and parking when traveling to medical appointments.

Furthermore, people with metastatic breast cancer are making significant trade-off decisions that have an impact on quality of life. For example:

- 54 percent have foregone vacations, celebrations and social events
- 43 percent have cut grocery expenses
- 41 percent have depleted their savings accounts

Some of these trade-off decisions may impact the outcome of their care. Nine percent of the respondents said that they choose a treatment that is not as effective, but costs less.

“These findings document the complexities of the cancer patient experience. They also raise our awareness to the fact that the financial burdens and trade-offs are multi-faceted and the impact to the patient across each of these attributes should be considered when doing treatment planning and making policy decisions,” said Kim Thiboldeaux, president and CEO of the Cancer Support Community.

The full poster can be accessed [here](#).

The data was collected from 496 patients with metastatic breast cancer in the [Cancer Experience Registry](#), a research initiative with the goal of collecting, analyzing and sharing information about the experience and needs of patients and their families throughout the cancer journey. The Cancer Experience Registry currently has more than 7,400 members, and nearly 1,000 are part of the Cancer Experience Registry: Metastatic Breast Cancer.

The Cancer Experience Registry: Metastatic Breast Cancer is made possible thanks to support from Celgene Corporation.

About the Cancer Support Community

The mission of the Cancer Support Community (CSC) is to ensure that all people impacted by cancer are empowered by knowledge, strengthened by action and sustained by community. In 2009, The Wellness Community and Gilda's Club joined forces to become the Cancer Support Community. The combined organization, with more than 50 years of collective experience, provides the highest quality social and emotional support for people impacted by cancer through a network of 50 licensed Affiliates, more than 120 satellite locations and vibrant online and telephone communities, touching more than one million people each year.

Backed by evidence that the best cancer care includes social and emotional support, the Cancer Support Community offers these services free of charge to men, women and children with any type or stage of cancer, and to their loved ones. As the largest professionally led nonprofit network of cancer support worldwide, the Cancer Support Community delivers a comprehensive menu of personalized and essential services including support groups, educational workshops, exercise, art and nutrition classes and social activities for the entire family. Through cutting-edge psychosocial, behavioral and survivorship research, the Cancer Support Community's Research and Training Institute is helping CSC change the future of cancer care through education and training. The Cancer Support Community's Cancer Policy Institute ensures that the voices of 13.7 million cancer survivors and their families are heard in the nation's capital and state and local legislatures across the country. In 2013, the CSC network delivered nearly \$48 million in free services to patients and families. The Cancer Support Community is advancing the innovations that are becoming the standard in complete cancer care. For more information, please visit www.cancersupportcommunity.org

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