

Trials in Real Life: Not Black and White, But Grey All Over

Panelist: Margaret Loniewska

Rethink Breast Cancer, Patient Key Collaborator,
MBC Patient Advisory Board

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INTRODUCTION

Pregnant with Stage 4
Breast Cancer

2019

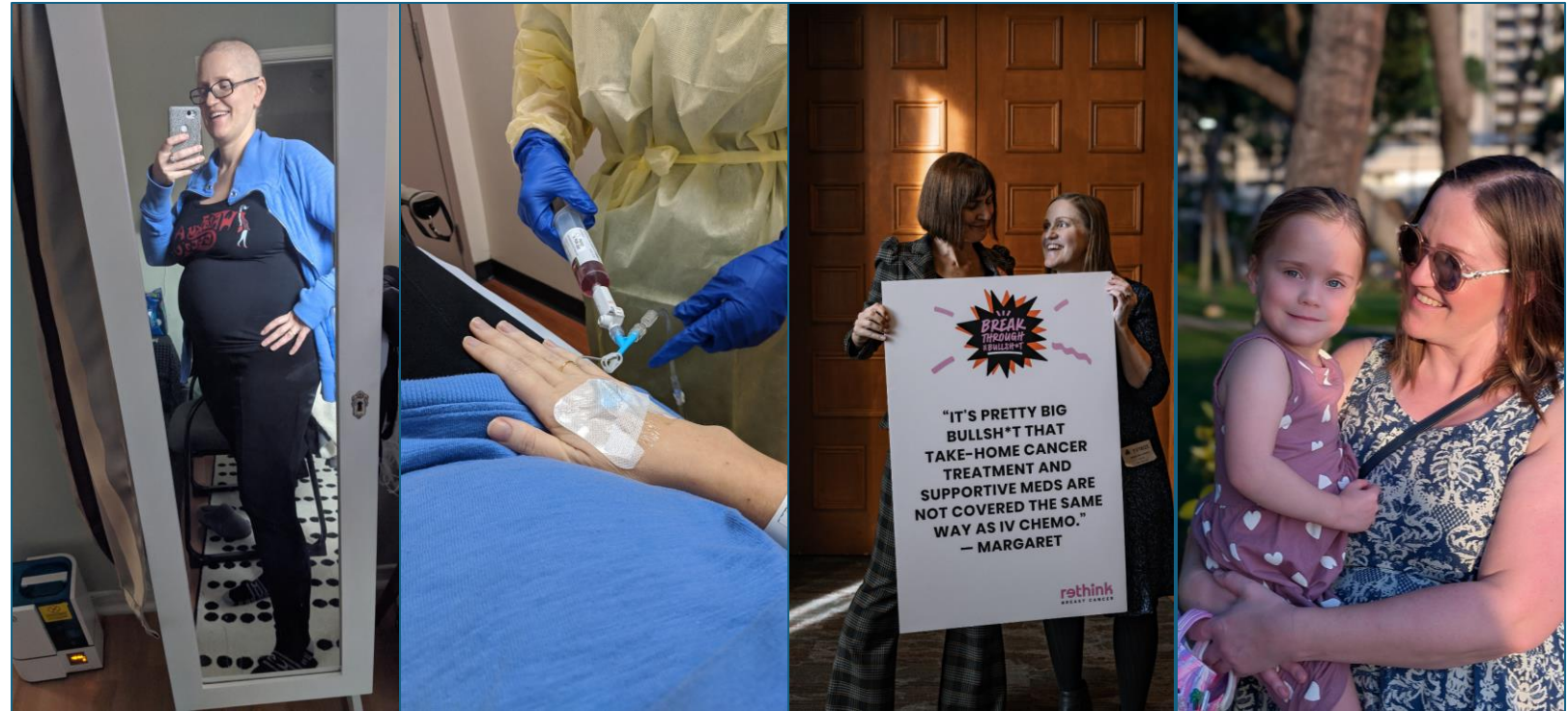
Receiving chemo while
pregnant

Joining Rethink as a
member of the MBC
Patient Advisory Board

2020

Living with MBC

Researcher
diagnosed with
Metastatic Breast
Cancer (MBC) while
pregnant in 2019 at
the age of 40.

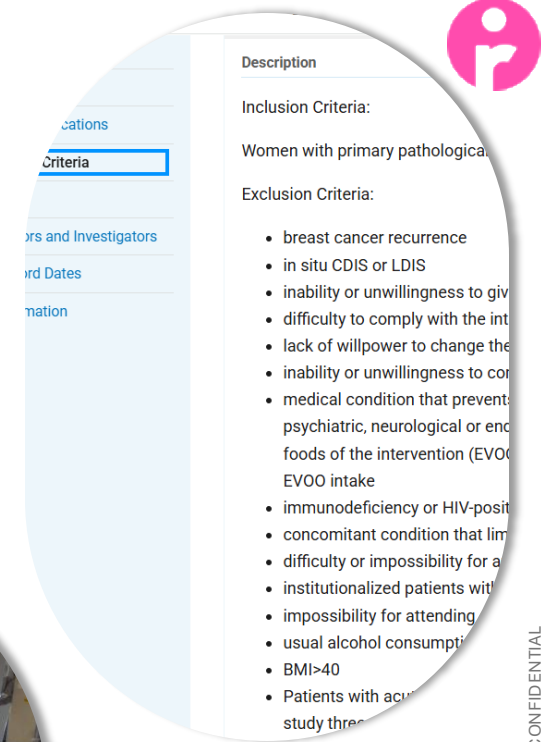


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Margaret Loniewska

Clinical Trials and Exclusions

- Cancer stage often excludes patients from clinical trials especially stage 4 or terminal
- Other conditions like pregnancy and diseases are also common exclusions
- Trials tend to recruit a small sub-population of patients which end up not being representative
- Exclusions often are unnecessary scientifically





Clinical Trials Position Paper

Rethink collaborated with MBC patients to encourage the clinical trials community to re-evaluate the long-standing practices to exclude metastatic patients from clinical trials

- **Inclusion in trial design:** Engaging trained patients early in the process.
- **Relevance:** Designing trials that align with the current treatment landscape.
- **Accessibility:** Using plain language and removing unnecessary barriers to participation.
- **Representation:** Ensuring diversity in age, race, gender, and lived experience.
- **Recruitment:** Putting patient priorities at the center of trial outreach and engagement.
- **Clinical trial access:** Considering people as individuals with a spectrum of needs and abilities.



1. <https://ctontario.ca/rethink-breast-cancers-statement-on-metastatic-breast-cancer-and-clinical-trials/>
2. <https://rethinkbreastcancer.com/articles/metastatic-breast-cancer-clinical-trials>