

BIOSIMILARS

Top 10 Facts You Need to Know

Biologic drugs or “biologics” have been game-changers for treating many types of disease, including breast cancer. Biosimilars are drugs that are “highly similar” to an existing biologic drug. Here are a few facts about biosimilars.

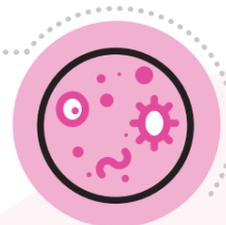
01 Biologics are Not New

- ▶ Biologics have been around since the early 1900s.
- ▶ Common biologics include vaccines and insulin.



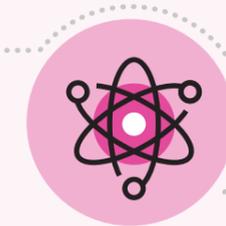
02 Biologics are Alive

- ▶ Biologics are made in or from living things.
- ▶ They can come from things such as yeast, bacteria, plant or animal cells.



03 Biologics are Complex

- ▶ The manufacturing process for biologics can take years to complete.
- ▶ Hundreds of critical tests may be completed during the manufacturing process.



04 Biologics Offer Targeted Treatment for Breast Cancer

- ▶ Trastuzumab (known as Herceptin®) is a commonly prescribed targeted treatment for HER2-positive breast cancer.
- ▶ Herceptin is used to help slow or stop the cancer cells from growing.



05 Biosimilars are Not Generics

- ▶ Generic drugs are chemical copies of an original brand-named drug.
- ▶ Biosimilars are “highly similar” or “generic-like” to an original biologic drug. Because biologics are made in or from living things, exact replicas are not possible.



06 Biosimilars are Safe and Effective

- ▶ Biosimilars must be FDA-approved.
- ▶ There's no “clinically meaningful” difference in safety, purity or potency (strength).



07 Biosimilars for Breast Cancer are in Market

- ▶ The FDA has approved several biosimilars for Herceptin.
- ▶ Biosimilars are currently an option used in supportive care to manage side effects from cancer treatment.



08 Biosimilars May Provide More Options

- ▶ The availability of biosimilars may provide more options for health care teams.



09 Biosimilars May Reduce Costs

- ▶ Due to the complex manufacturing process required, biosimilars are costly to produce.
- ▶ Over time, biosimilars may lower the cost of health care as competition increases.



10 Communication is Important

- ▶ Ask your doctor the names of the medications you are taking.
- ▶ Ask your doctor any questions you may have about your treatment.

