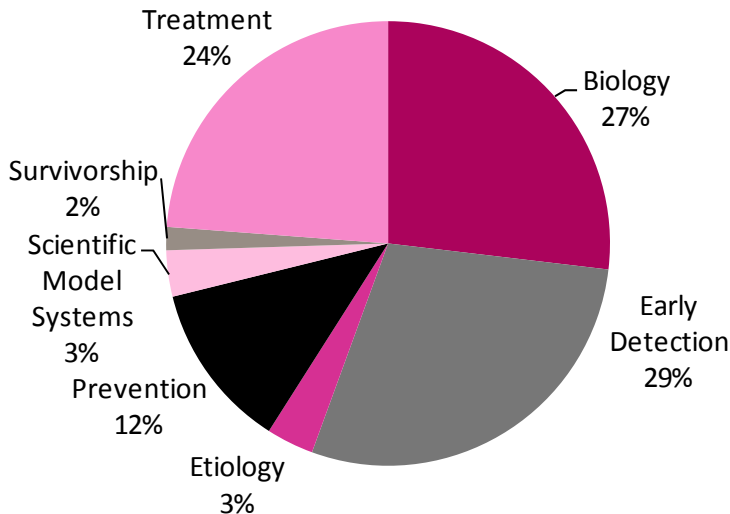


HER2 Research Saves Lives

HER2-positive breast cancer (HER2+) is a subtype of breast cancer that **makes too much HER2**. HER2 normally helps a healthy breast cell grow and divide. But in about 25% of breast cancers, the HER2 gene doesn't work correctly and makes too many copies of itself. HER2+ breast cancers tend to grow faster and are more likely to spread. However, therapies that specifically target HER2, such as Herceptin®(trastuzumab), are very effective. Research has shown that Herceptin has **reduced breast cancer recurrence** by as much as **40%**.

In spite of these advances, some HER2+ breast cancers do not respond to these therapies or become resistant. Komen is dedicated to finding new strategies for treating HER2+ breast cancer and indentifying which women are most likely to respond to them.

Total Investment In HER2 Research



Susan G. Komen has invested nearly **\$53 million** in over **130 grants** focused on the causes, prevention, and treatment of HER2+ breast cancer.

More Than Research

These research investments reflect only part of our commitment to women with HER2+ breast cancer. Komen also provides [educational materials](#), Affiliate programs nationwide and the 1-877-GO-KOMEN helpline.

[Bonnie Olson](#) shares her experience with HER2+ breast cancer.

What We're Investigating

Komen-funded researchers are:

- Developing and testing new drugs that target HER2, including gene therapy and vaccines
- Identifying new drug combinations that are more effective against HER2+ breast cancer and testing them in clinical trials
- Identifying biological markers that can be used to predict which women will respond or become resistant to HER2 therapies
- Testing new ways to prevent the development of HER2+ breast cancer including chemoprevention and dietary approaches such as flaxseed



What We've Learned

Komen-funded research has helped us to understand that:

- Adding a drug called a PI3K inhibitor to Herceptin treatment can kill cancer cells that have become resistant to Herceptin treatment alone
- Combinations of vaccines and other immunotherapies that use the body's own immune system may be able to improve survival for women with advanced HER2+ breast cancer
- A simple blood test that measures specific biological markers may be used to predict who will respond or become resistant to Herceptin treatment



The Susan G. Komen for the Cure® promise is to save lives and end breast cancer forever.