Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar

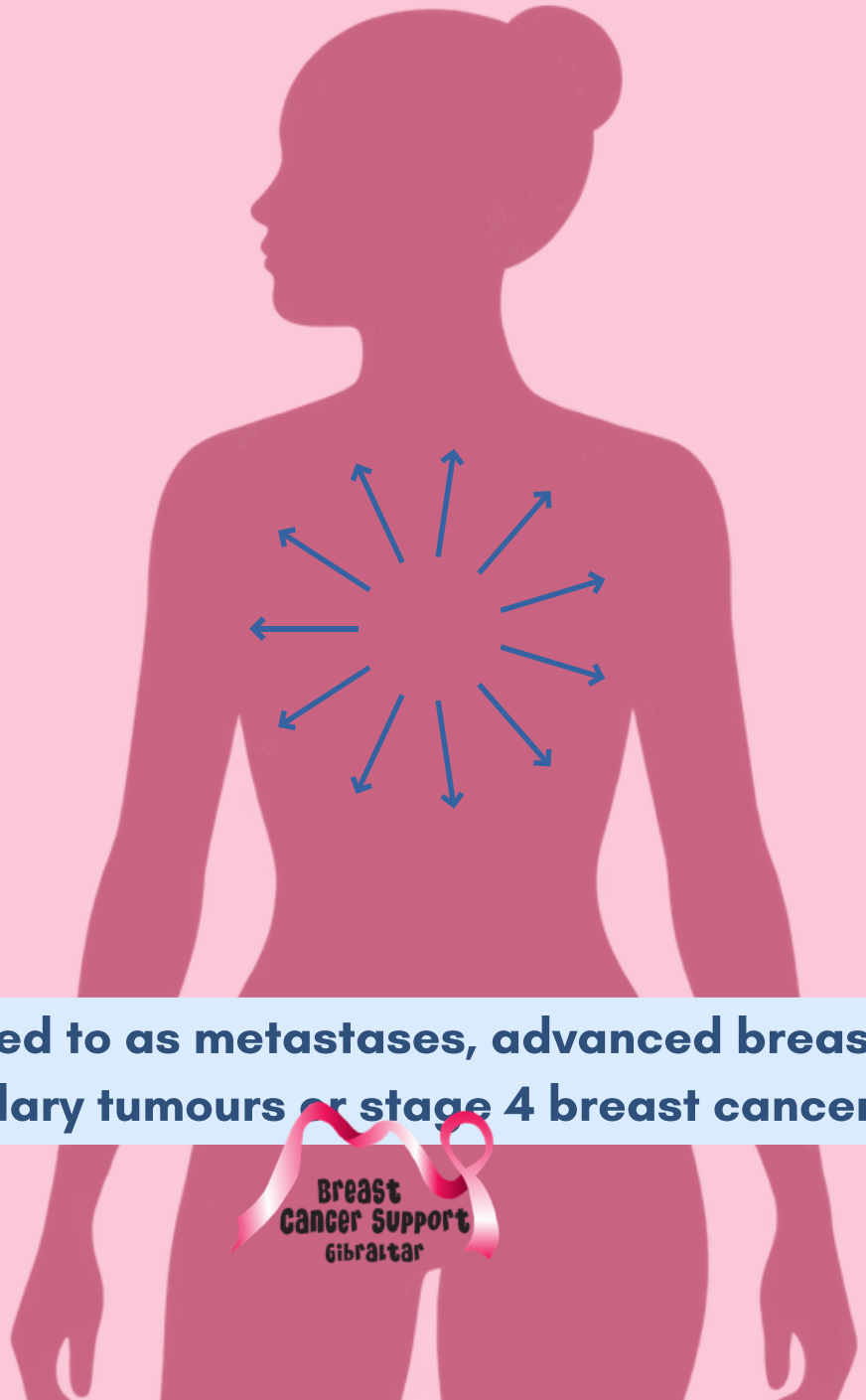
SECONDARY BREAST CANCER

What is it, and what should you know?

WHAT IS SECONDARY BREAST CANCER?

It occurs when breast cancer cells spread from the first (primary) tumour in the breast. This may happen through the lymphatic or blood system to other parts of the body.

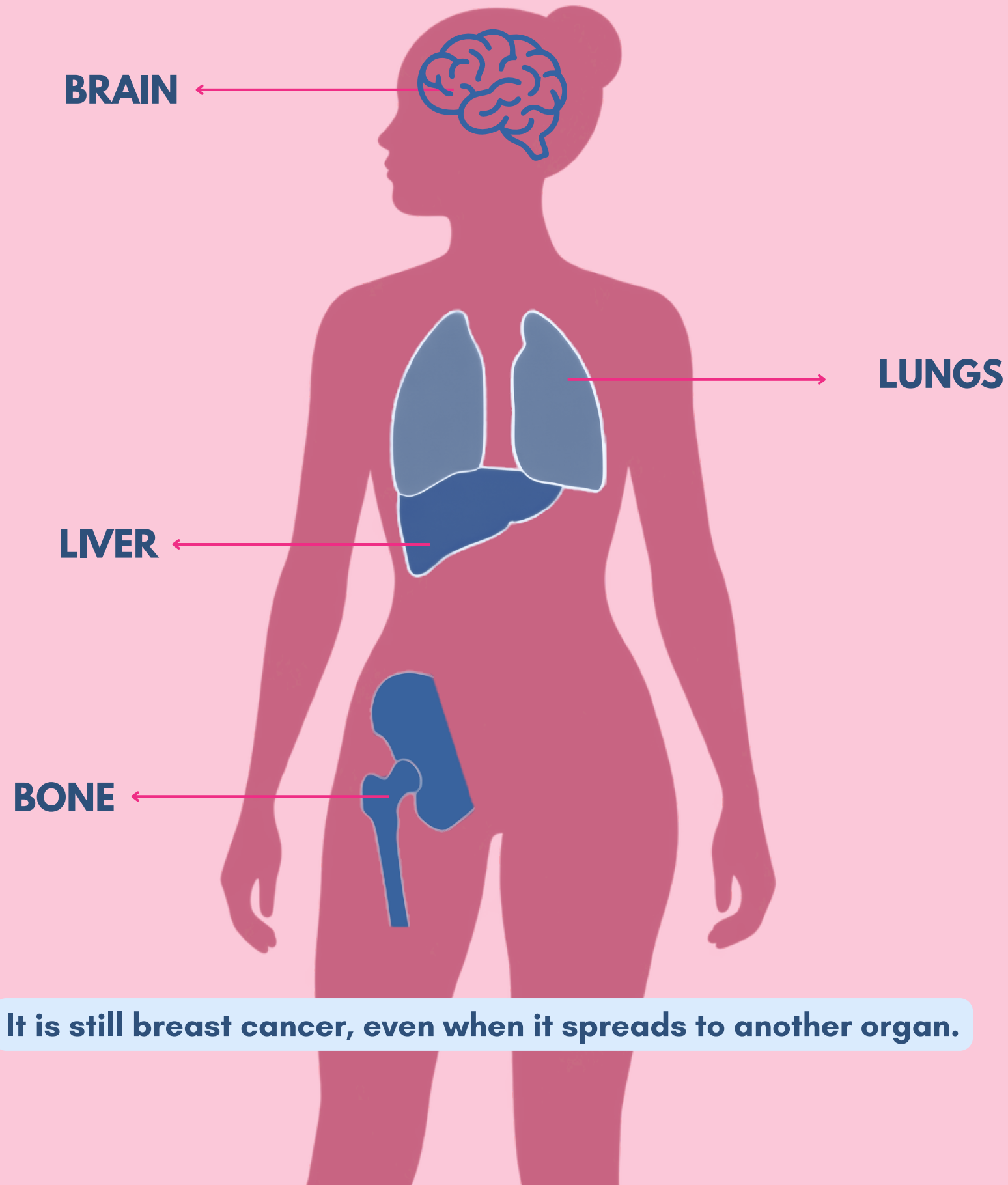
It usually occurs some time after the primary breast cancer but is sometimes diagnosed at the same time, or on rare occassions, before the primary breast cancer has been diagnosed.



It is also referred to as metastases, advanced breast cancer, secondary tumours or stage 4 breast cancer.

IT AFFECTS DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE BODY

Secondary breast cancer most commonly spreads to the:



It is still breast cancer, even when it spreads to another organ.

Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar

THE SYMPTOMS CAN VARY

Depending on where the cancer has spread to, symptoms may inculde:

PERSISTENT BONE PAIN





BREATHLESSNESS OR PERSISTENT COUGH



PERSISTENT HEADACHES OR CHANGES IN VISION



YELLOWING OF THE SKIN OR EYES



These symptoms can have other causes, too. Seek medical advice about new, persistent or unexplained changes.

Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar

THE SYMPTOMS CAN VARY

There are treatments available that can help control the cancer, manage symptoms and maintain quality of life.



Treatments include:

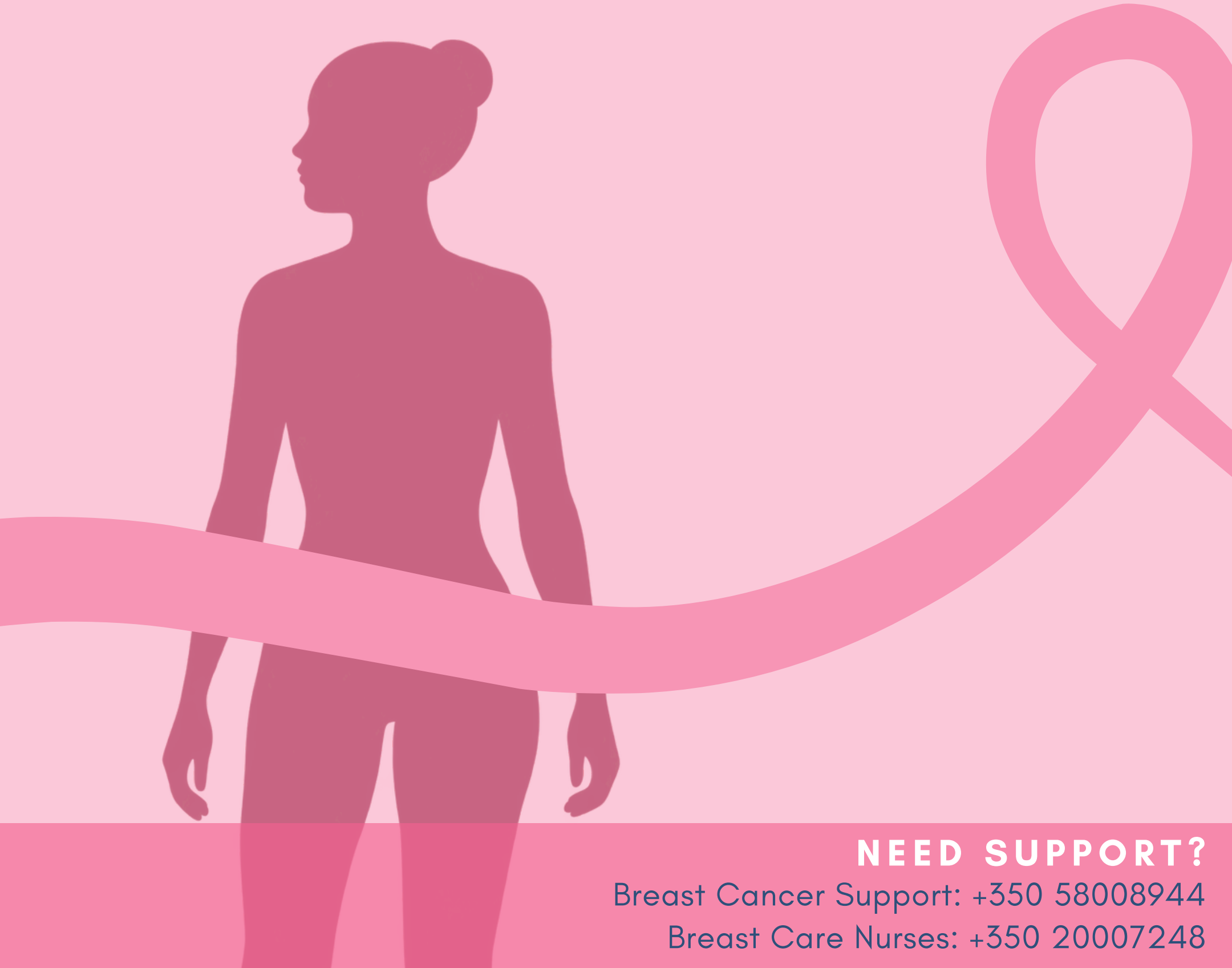
- **Hormone (Endocrine) Therapy**
- **Chemotherapy**
- **Immunotherapy**
- **Radiotherapy**
- **Bone-Strengthening Medications**
- **Surgery or Procedures**

Every person's experience is different, and support is available throughout the journey

YOU DON'T HAVE TO FACE IT ALONE

If you or someone you love is living with secondary breast cancer, support matters.

Breast Cancer Support Gibraltar is here for you.



NEED SUPPORT?

Breast Cancer Support: +350 58008944

Breast Care Nurses: +350 20007248