Treatment of HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer - advances and challenges

Brief Synopsis:

- Multiple HER2-targeted strategies are now available for patients with HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer, and these have substantially prolonged overall survival compared to the pre-trastuzumab era.
- Despite these advances, resistance frequently arises, and most patients will ultimately die of their metastatic disease.
- Up to half of patients with HER2+ metastatic breast cancer will develop brain metastases. Developing better CNS treatment and prevention strategies is crucial to achieve further gains for patients.
- As we look ahead to the future, we can ask, given multiple highly active regimens, are we ready to consider whether we are ready to aim for cure of HER2+ metastatic breast cancer?