**Lay Description of Important Outcomes**

Survivin is a protein found in many cancers including breast cancer. This protein is often associated with cancer that grows and spreads quickly and does not respond to treatment, leading to worse outcomes. Many research studies have investigated the role of survivin in cancer cells. However, none have looked at the relationship of survivin with the patient’s race and their immune response to the cancer. Our research indicates that survivin levels are higher in Black patients with breast cancer. We also show that the survivin is associated with poor immune response to breast cancer in hormone positive and hormone negative breast cancer, and across all tumor stages. These findings were presented at the recent San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium in 2023, and a recent paper was published by us, confirming the association of high survivin levels to tumors in Black women. We predict that these findings contribute to the poor outcomes seen in Black patients with advanced and metastatic breast cancer.

A thorough understanding of the role of survivin and the immune response in Black patients with breast cancer will allow us to design a clinical study using new treatment strategies, such as immunotherapies that target survivin and the immune system in breast cancer.

Immunotherapy is a rapidly growing treatment option in breast cancer. It has shown promise in treating breast cancers lacking targeted therapies, like triple negative breast cancer. However, Black patients are underrepresented in immunotherapy clinical studies. This has led to gaps in our knowledge about the breast cancer immune response in Black patients.

This is the largest study of its kind to investigate the role of survivin in association with the immune response in Black patients with breast cancer. The results of this study will provide critical information to support future studies for new immunotherapy treatments in Black patients with breast cancer. The goal is to improve clinical outcomes in Black patients and to reduce health disparities in breast cancer.