



Medical Alert

• **A NEW STUDY** by the National Cancer Institute and the National Human Genome Research Institute has identified four primary subtypes of breast cancer, which could lead to more effective treatment for patients. Read these carefully so you can be better informed at your next doctor's visit. —by *Aisha I. Jefferson*

- 1 BASAL-LIKE:** Also known as Triple Negative Breast Cancer, this aggressive form is more common in **African-American** and younger women. It responds well to chemotherapy but has a high relapse rate. The study found genetic similarities between this subtype and ovarian cancer.
- 2 HER2-ENRICHED (HER2E):** This subtype is prone to early and frequent recurrence and could **spread to other areas** of the body. Beneficial results are found from combining chemotherapy with the drugs Herceptin and Pertuzumab.
- 3 LUMINAL A (LUMA):** This most common and least aggressive form is responsible for **42 to 59 percent** of all breast cancer cases. Extended treatment can improve patients' chances for long-term survival. Those with this subtype have fairly high survival rates.
- 4 LUMINAL B (LUMB):** This is one type that, unlike others, is more common in women under 50. It has a poor prognosis, and compared with Luminal A, patients face a **higher risk** of death.

Motherhood Miracle

• **HERE'S A SOBERING** medical fact for ladies in our community: Almost 20 percent of hysterectomies are performed on women between the ages of 34 to 44, and African-Americans have disproportionately higher rates of those surgeries. That's why a new procedure, recently performed in Europe, may offer hope.

Researchers at the University of Gothenburg

in Sweden conducted the world's first mother-to-daughter uterine transplant procedures, one on a woman who had her uterus removed because of cervical cancer and another born without a womb. But before you seek out this innovative operation, note that it will be rare— at least for now, according to Dr. Elizabeth A. Stewart, a Mayo Clinic OB-GYN. She points out the kind of surgical skill required to do transplant surgery is not available in every center.

"We tend to like high-tech solutions," Stewart says.

"But given the number of women with uterine fibroids in this country, researchers working toward better early intervention and prevention makes a whole lot more sense." —by *AJJ*

