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# **Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment for Elderly Patients**

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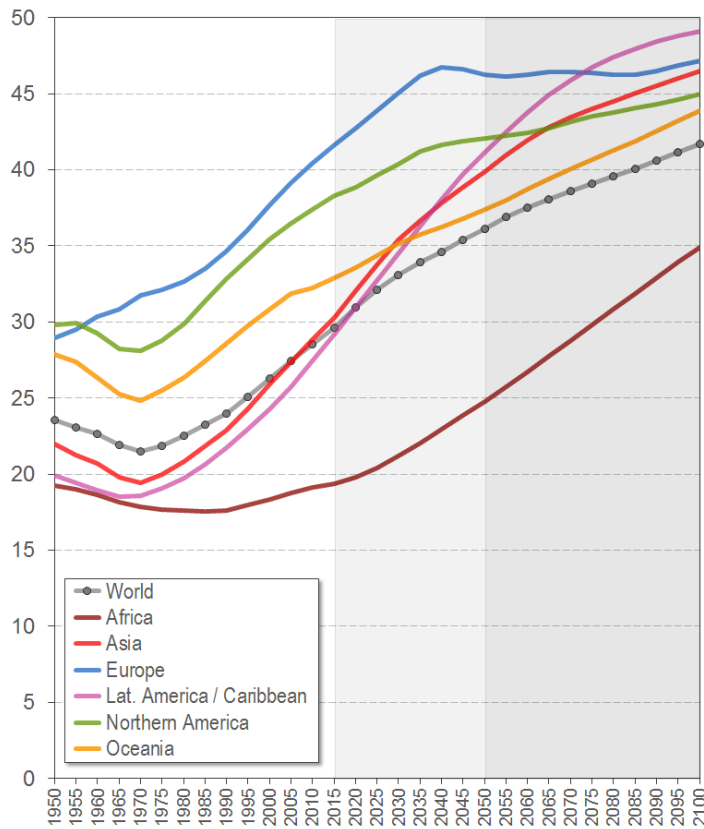
**Seoul National University Bundang Hospital**

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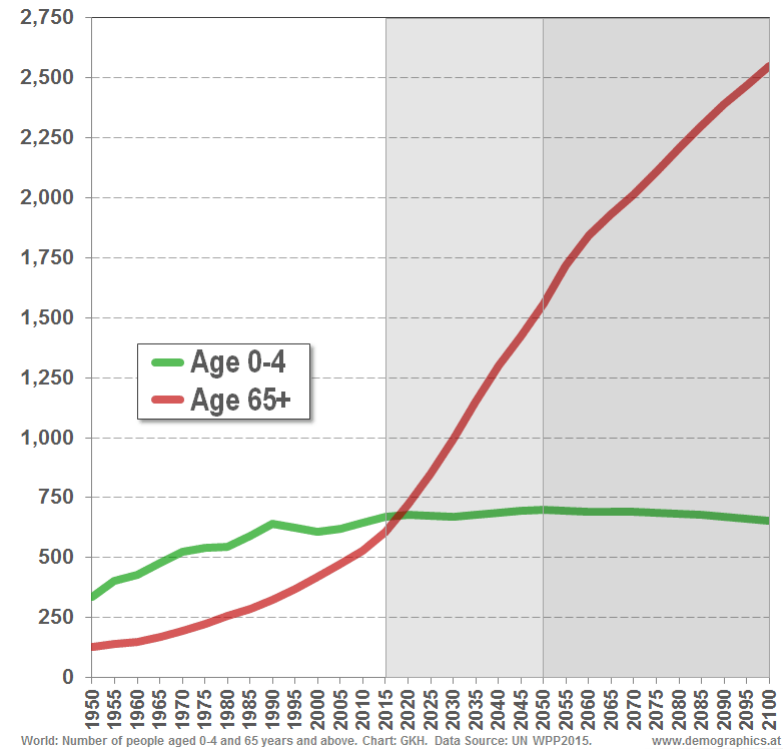
- Introduction on aging
  - Why do we need different approaches for older patients
- Geriatric assessment
  - Domains of GA
  - Clinical uses of GA in cancer
  - Screening tools
  - Application in oncology clinic
- Summary

# World population is aging

## Median age by major regions



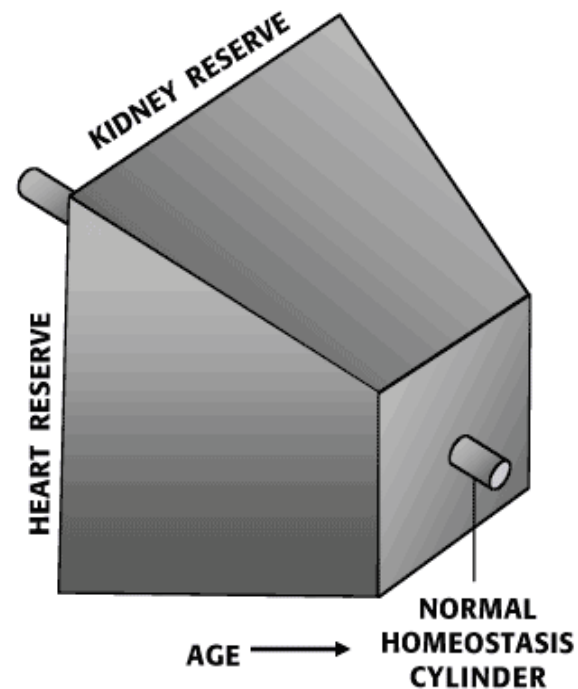
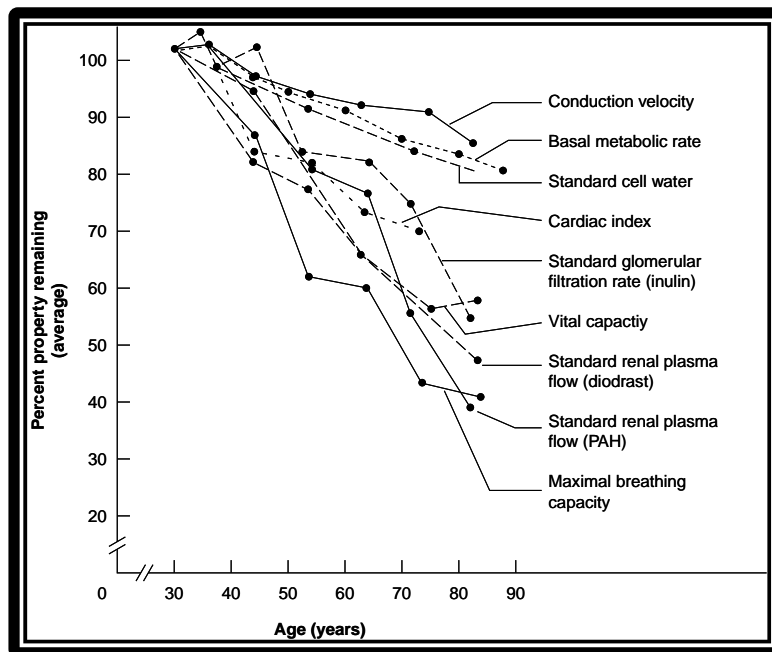
## World: population aged 0-4 and 65+



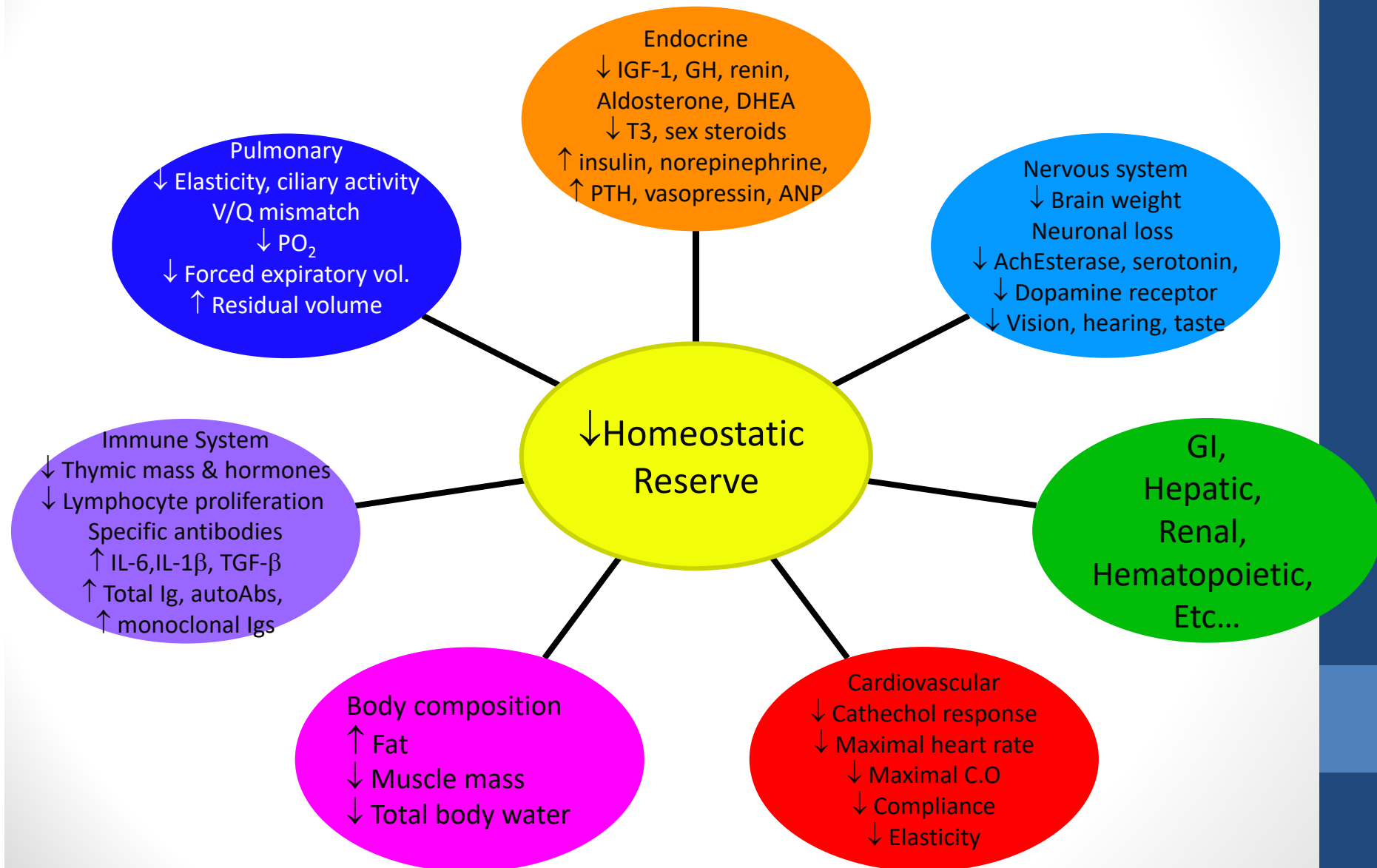
World: Number of people aged 0-4 and 65 years and above. Chart: GKH. Data Source: UN WPP2015. [www.demographics.at](http://www.demographics.at)

# Aging = (homeostenosis)

- Progressive decline of stress tolerance due to restriction in the functional reserve of multiple organ systems.



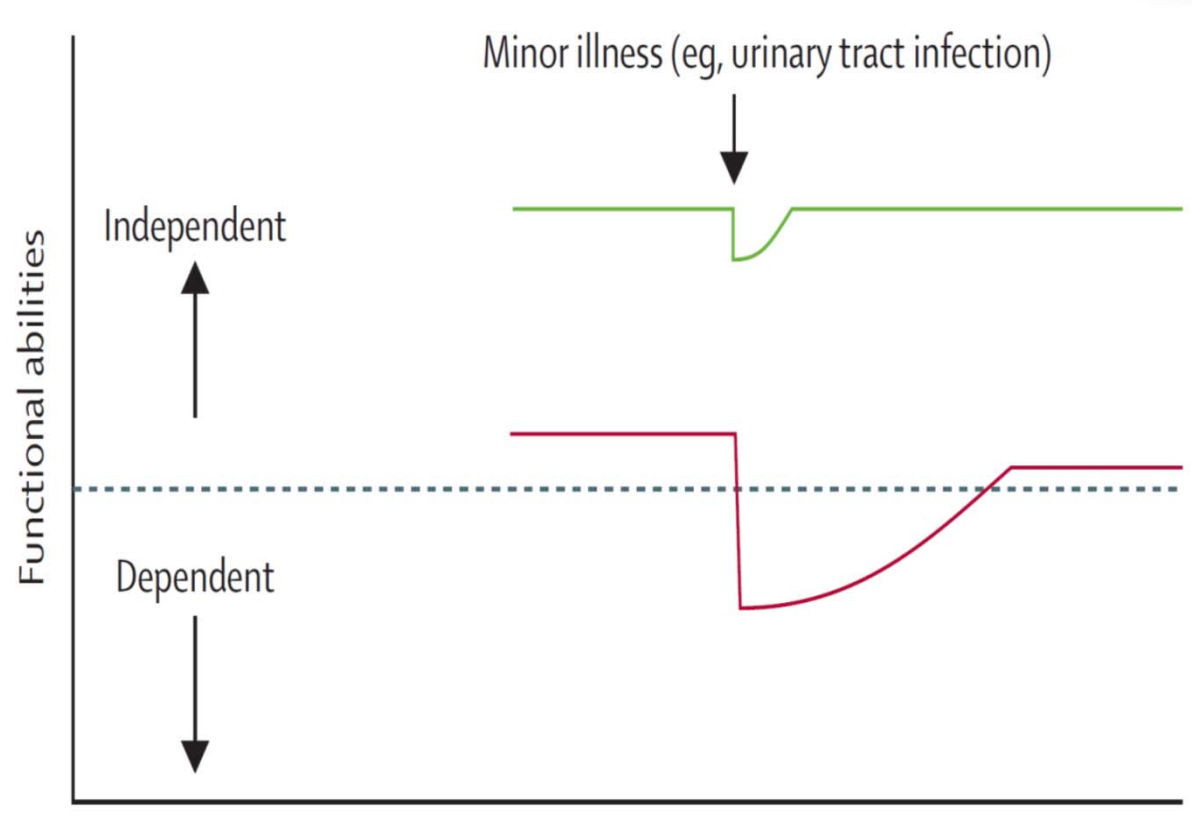
# Physiology of aging



# What's different about older patients

- Disease presentation: atypical
  - Vague, atypical symptom
  - Change in eating/sleeping/toileting habit, fever may represent development of new illness
- Decreased physiologic reserve → develop symptoms at an earlier stage of their disease
  - Heart failure by mild hyperthyroidism, urinary retention by mild BPH
  - Drug side effects can occur at low dose
- Multiple pathology, polypharmacy
- Non-medical factors influence course of disease

# Vulnerability of frail older patients



# Where is the patient? – determine phase of aging (biological age)



Little limitation in activity  
Independent

Severe limitations with no significant recovery of functional reserve

Frailty phenotype by Cardiovascular Health Study

- Unintentional weight loss (10 pounds = 4.5kg, or 5% of body weight loss/year)
- Self-reported exhaustion
- Weakness (grip strength in the lowest 20%)
- Slow gait speed
- Low physical activity

Frailty  $\geq 3$ , pre-frail: 1-2, non-fit



# Geriatric assessment

- Multi-dimensional, interdisciplinary evaluation tool used primarily by geriatricians to evaluate elderly patients' functional and global health status
  - Focused on defining the “physiologic age” of the patient identifying those at greatest risk of hospitalization and functional decline
  - Identify and manage age-related problems

# Domains of GA

- Comorbidity
- Functional status
- Physical performance
- Nutritional status
- Polypharmacy
- Social support
- Cognition
- Psychological status
- CCI, CIRS-G
- ADL, IADL
- Timed Up and Go, grip strength
- BMI, MNA, unintentional wt loss
- Use of inappropriate medications (Beers criteria), No of medications
- Medical outcomes survey
- MMSE, MCA, BOMC, Mini-Cog
- GDS, Hospitalized Anxiety and Depression Scale, Distress thermometer

# Functional Status

- Activities of daily living (ADLs)
  - Bathing
  - Dressing
  - Toileting
  - Transferring
  - Continence
  - Feeding

Basic self-care skills  
required to  
maintain  
independence in  
the home

# Assistance with ADLs

- Predictive of
  - Prolonged hospital stay
  - Worsening of function in the hospital
  - Greater home care use
  - Nursing home placement
  - Death
  
- Assistance in  $\geq 1$  ADL : average life expectancy of  $< 3$  yrs

# Functional Status

- Instrumental activity of daily living (IADLs)
  - Ability to use telephone
  - Shopping
  - Food preparation
  - Housekeeping
  - Laundry
  - Mode of transportation
  - Ability to take own medications
  - Ability to handle finances

Higher order of  
function required  
to maintain  
independence in  
the community

# Needs for functional assistance → future institutionalization and mortality

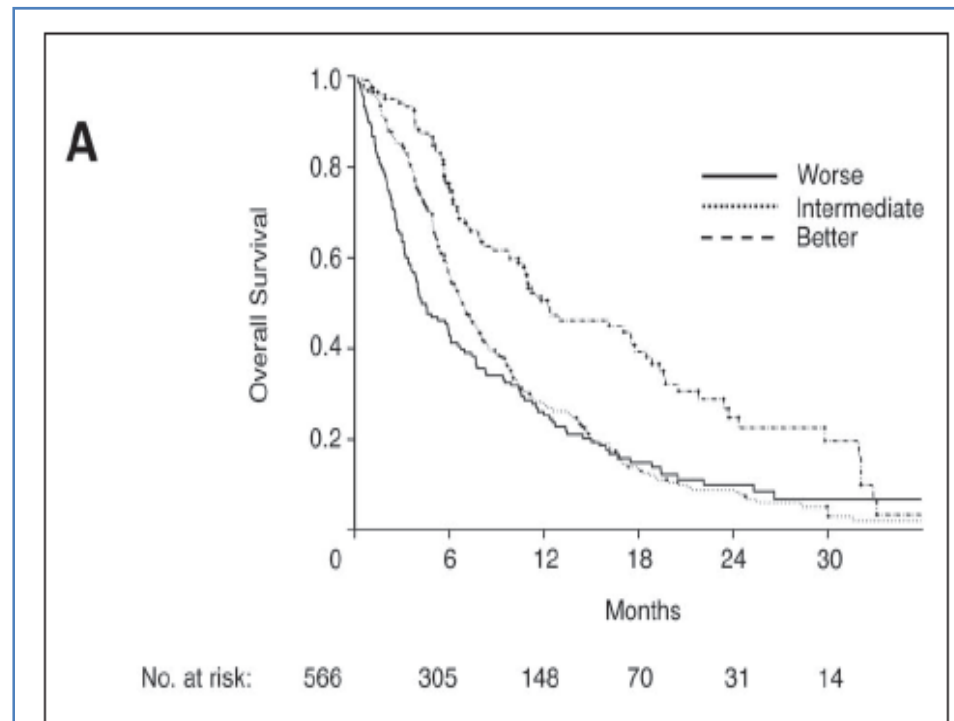
Follow up (1990)

Baseline:  
functional  
status (1984)

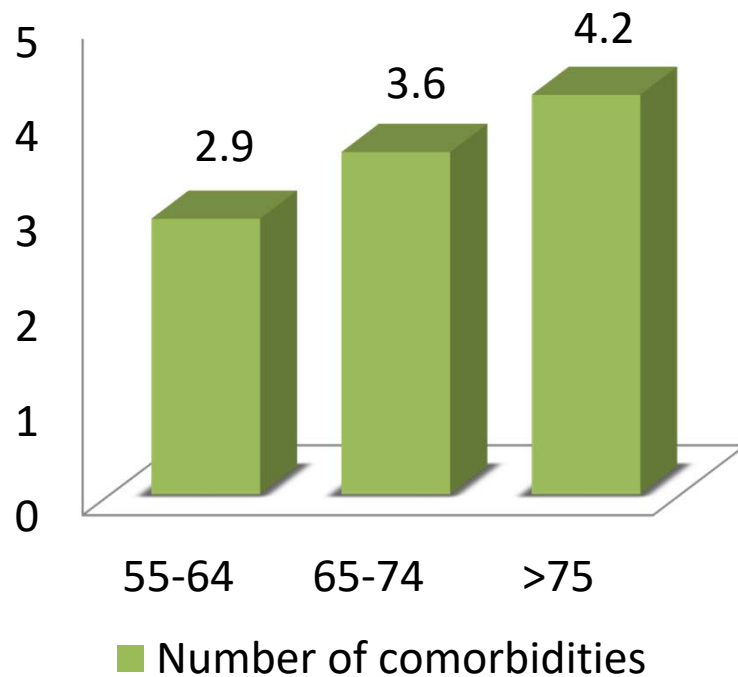
N=7527 Age 70+	Odds Ratio	
	Risk of institutionalization (95% CI)	Risk of Mortality (95% CI)
IADL assistance	6.7 (4.6-9.6)	6.6 (5.1-8.6)
ADL assistance (moderate)	9.8 (6.8-14.0)	8.6 (6.6-11.0)
ADL assistance (severe)	17.0 (9.1-32.0)	30.0 (18.0-

# Assistance with IADLs

- Better baseline IADL ( $p=0.04$ ) significantly associated with better survival



# Comorbidity



- Concurrent, independent health condition
- Increases with age
- Increase all cause mortality
  - $\geq 3$  comorbidities associated with lower survival in cancer patients
- Increase the risk of complications
- Modify cancer behavior
- Mask symptoms with subsequent delays in cancer diagnosis
- Cancer treatment may worsen comorbidities or increase the frequency of drug interactions



# Effect of comorbidity on survival in early breast cancer

	Number of comorbid illnesses			
	0	1	2	≥ 3
No. of patients	483	288	124	41
Mean age (y)	60	65	69	70
Breast cancer/other	4.1	1.7	0.8	0.3

Satariano WA et al. *Ann Intern Med* 1994;120:104-110

**Table 3.** Cause of Death According to Age Group\*

	Age, y				Total
	55-64	65-74	75-84	≥85	
Breast cancer	48 (75.0)	33 (58.9)	38 (44.7)	16 (27.6)	135 (51.3)
Other cancer	4 (6.2)	6 (10.7)	9 (10.6)	3 (5.2)	22 (8.4)
Heart disease	4 (6.2)	4 (7.1)	18 (21.2)	19 (32.8)	45 (17.1)
Cerebrovascular disease	0	1 (1.8)	4 (4.7)	8 (13.8)	13 (4.9)
Digestive system	1 (1.6)	1 (1.8)	3 (3.5)	4 (6.9)	9 (3.4)
Alzheimer disease/dementia	1 (1.6)	0	4 (4.7)	2 (3.4)	7 (2.7)
Pneumonia	0	0	2 (2.4)	3 (5.2)	5 (1.9)
COPD/other respiratory	1 (1.6)	2 (3.6)	1 (1.2)	1 (1.7)	5 (1.9)
Other	5 (7.8)	4 (7.1)	2 (2.4)	2 (3.4)	13 (4.9)
Unknown	0	5 (8.9)	4 (4.7)	0	9 (3.4)
<b>Total No. of Deaths</b>	<b>64</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>263</b>
<b>Total No. of Patients</b>	<b>622</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>427</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>1800</b>

Yancik R et al, *JAMA* 2001;285:885-92

# Cognitive function

- By age 85, 37% of all people have some sign of Alzheimer's disease
- Evaluate before starting treatment!
  - Ability to follow complex directions
  - Ability to take medications on schedule
  - Ability to recognize toxicity and seek help
  - Family member to help
- Mini-mental status exam (MMSE), Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA), Mini-Cog

# Polypharmacy



- Age-related changes in PK and PD
  - Absorption: Change in gastric motility and bowel transit time
  - Distribution
    - Decrease in lean body mass & total body water ( $\downarrow$  Volume of distribution of water soluble drugs, with higher blood levels)
    - Increase in body fat ( $\uparrow$  Vd of fat soluble drugs with increased half life)
    - Decrease in serum binding proteins, albumin (elevation of free-drug level even with the decreased total drug concentration)
  - Metabolism
    - Reduced liver mass & hepatic blood flow; reduced enzyme activity of P450 system
  - Elimination
    - Reduced renal blood flow and renal mass- decreased elimination
- Multiple comorbidities and multiple medications

# Polypharmacy

- PIMs (Potentially Inappropriate Medications)
  - Consensus guideline known as Beers criteria (1995, updated in 2015) : drug lists particularly problematic for older patients
  - Examples of PIMs: 1<sup>st</sup> generation antihistamines, ticlopidine, peripheral alpha-1 blockers, digoxin, nifedipine, amitriptyline, nortriptyline, paroxetine, benzodiazepines, megestrol, PPIs (> 8 weeks unless for high risk patients), etc
- Prevalence of polypharmacy and PIM in older patients with newly diagnosed cancer: 80% & 41%
  - Lead to adverse drug events and increased morbidity
- Adherence also an important factor in the success or failure of treatment

# Clinical uses of CGA in cancer

- Uncover multiple geriatric problems not detected by routine history & physical examination, lead to targeted interventions, follow up on symptoms
- Predicts outcome
  - Survival
  - Postoperative complications
  - Chemotherapy-related toxicity
- Select appropriate treatment
  - May affect cancer treatment in more than 50% of older patients

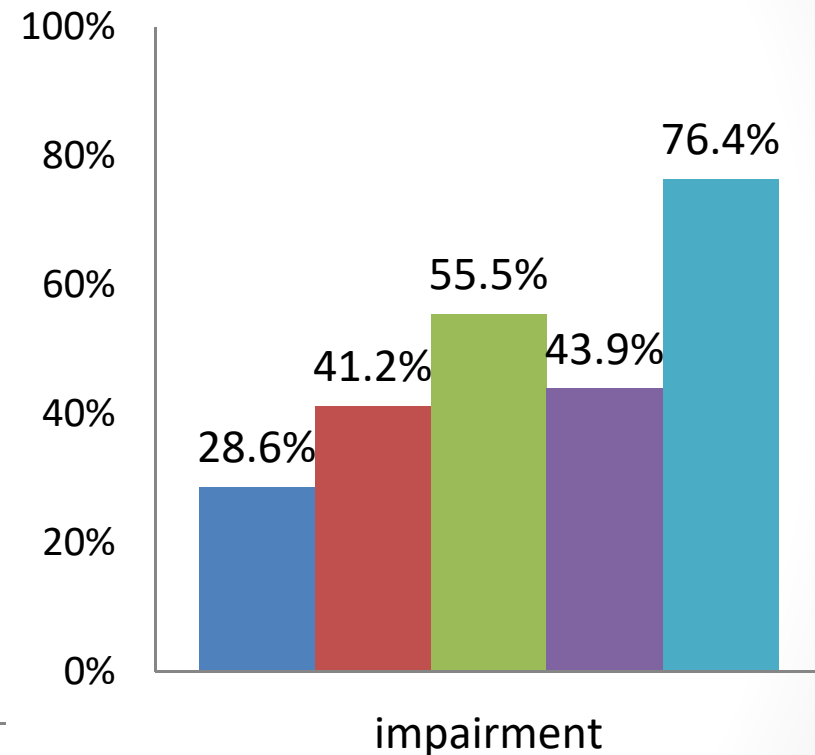
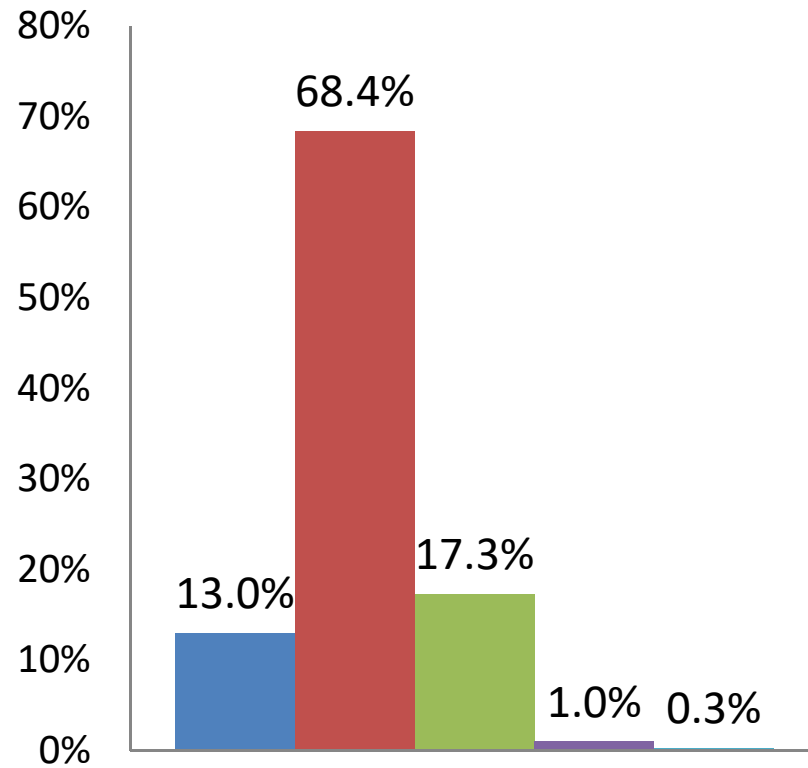
# Uncover multiple problems of elderly

- In 203 elderly patients with cancer..
  - Moderate correlation of ECOG PS with ADL ( $\rho = 0.51$ ) and IADL ( $\rho = 0.61$ ).

ECOG PS		ADL		IADL	
Score	% pts	Dependence level	% Pts	Dependence level	% Pts
0	30.5	Independent	78.8	Independent (>27)	43.8
1	52.7	Partial	19.2	Mild/moderate (14-27)	48.3
2	11.8	complete	2.0	Major (<14)	7.9
3	4.9				

*Extermann et al, J Clin Oncol 1998;16:1582-7*  
*Repetto L et al, J Clin Oncol 2002;20:494-50210*

# Prospective multicenter cohort undergoing 1<sup>st</sup> line palliative chemotherapy, KCSG PC 13-09



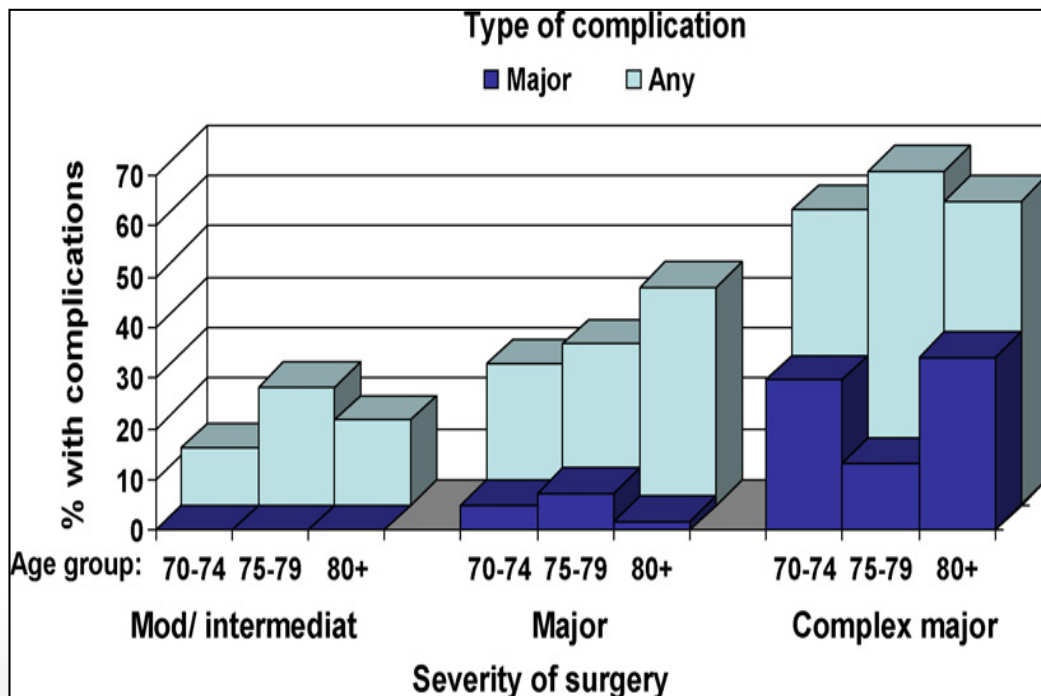
■ 0 ■ 1 ■ 2 ■ 3 ■ 4

■ ADL ■ IADL ■ MMSE ■ S-GDS ■ MNA

(n=300, median age 75)

# Prediction of post-surgical complication

- Preoperative Assessment of Cancer in the Elderly in 460 elderly receiving elective surgery ( $\geq 70$ )
  - CGA, assessment of fatigue (BFI), PS, ASA score



37.8% had at least one complication within 30 days after surgery

- Breast cancer (18.9%)
- GI cancer (59.9%)
- GU cancer (52.1%)

Complications were;  
 Wound infection (19.8%)  
 Respiratory morbidity (10.6%)  
 Nutritional problem (7.7%)  
 Cardiac failure (5.5%)



# Association between components of PACE with surgical complications

- 30-day morbidity (any and **major** complications)
  - Moderate-severe fatigue (RR=1.46, 95% CI=1/18-2.13)
  - Dependent IADL (RR=1.36, 95% CI=1.04-2.05)
  - Abnormal PS (RR=1.64, 95% CI=1.07-2.52)
  - **Abnormal ASA** (RR=1.96, 95% CI = 1.09-3.53)

- Hospital stay

Component of PACE	RR	95% CI
MMS abnormal (<24)	1.18	0.76-1.86
<b>ADL dependent (&gt;0)</b>	<b>2.01</b>	<b>1.37-2.93</b>
<b>IADL dependent (&lt;8)</b>	<b>1.58</b>	<b>1.11-2.24</b>
GDS depressed (>4)	1.30	0.91-1.85
BFI mod/severe fatigue (>3)	1.29	0.90-1.84
ASA abnormal ( $\geq 2$ )	0.85	0.60-1.20
<b>PS abnormal (&gt;1)</b>	<b>1.64</b>	<b>1.06-2.56</b>
Satariano's index (1)	1.23	0.85-1.78
Satariano's index (2+)	1.36	0.70-2.65

# Multidimensional Frailty Score for the Prediction of Postoperative Mortality Risk

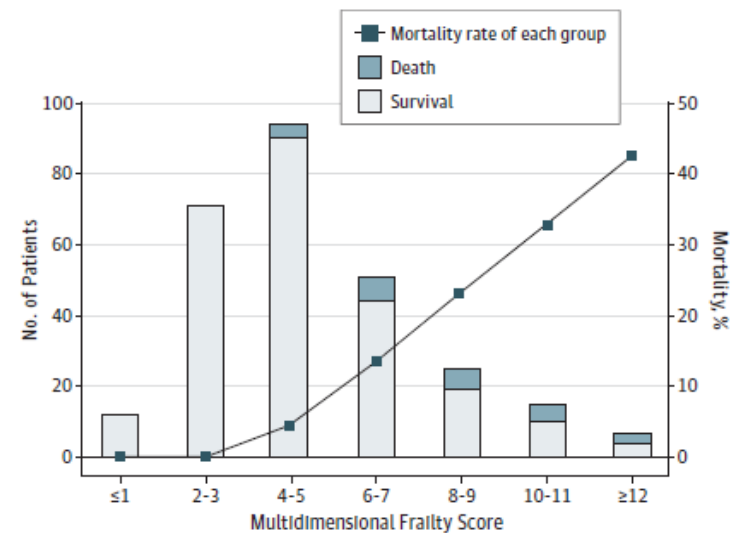
Sun-wook Kim, MD; Ho-Seong Han, MD, PhD; Hee-won Jung, MD; Kwang-il Kim, MD, PhD;  
Dae Wook Hwang, MD, PhD; Sung-Bum Kang, MD, PhD; Cheol-Ho Kim, MD, PhD

- 275 patients (≥ 65yrs)
- Outcome
  - 1-year all-cause mortality rate, Postop complications, Hospital stay, Nursing facility

Table 2. Composition of Multidimensional Frailty Score

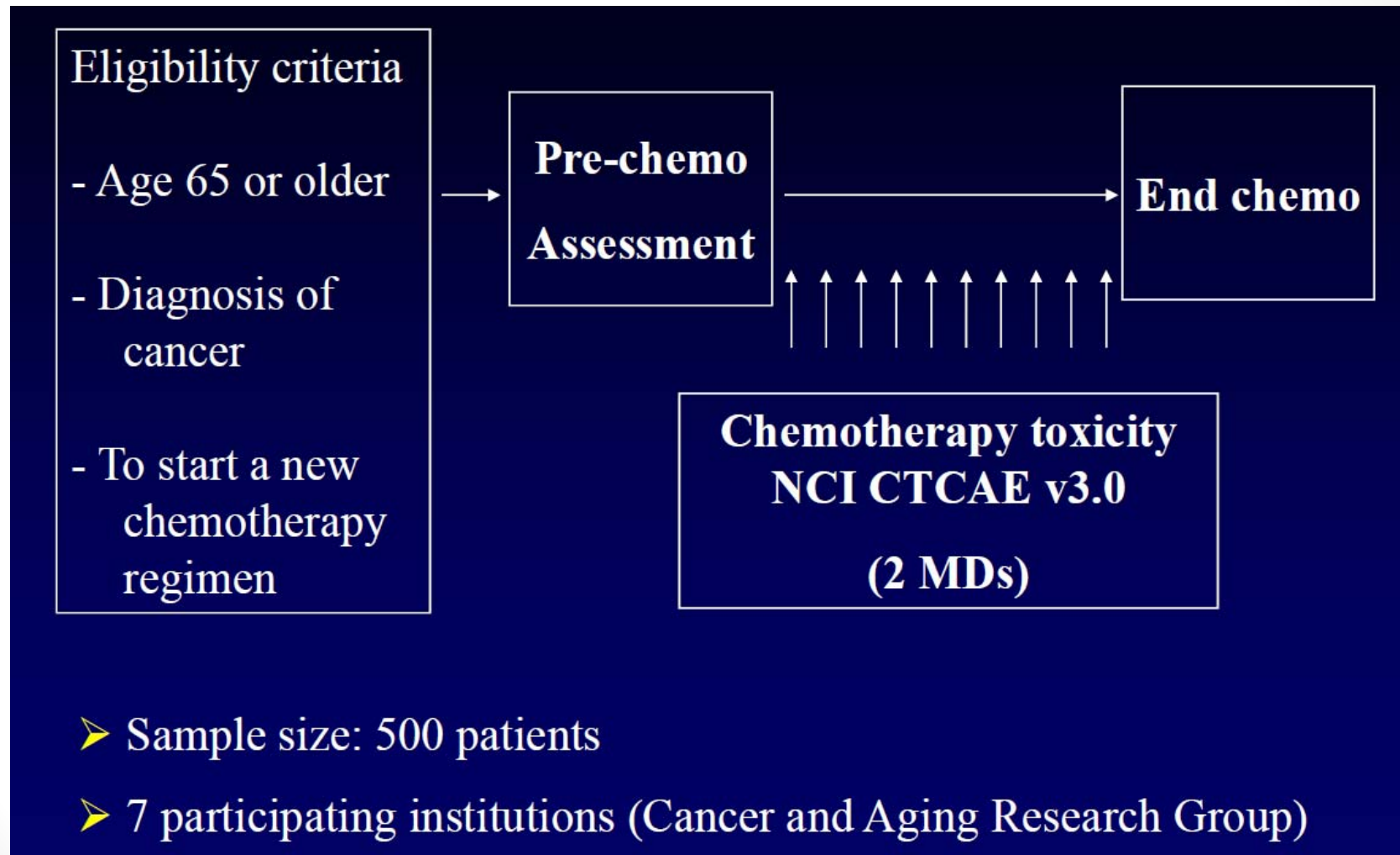
Item	Score		
	0	1	2
Malignant disease	Benign disease	Malignant disease	NA
Charlson Comorbidity Index	0	1-2	>2
Albumin, g/dL	>3.9	3.5-3.9	<3.5
ADLs (modified Barthel Index)	Independent	Partially dependent	Fully dependent
IADLs (Lawton and Brody Index)	Independent	Dependent	NA
Dementia (MMSE-KC)	Normal	Mild cognitive impairment	Dementia
Risk of delirium (Nu-DESC)	0-1	≥2	NA
MNA	Normal	Risk of malnutrition	Malnutrition
Midarm circumference, cm	>27.0	24.6-27.0	<24.6

Figure 3. Number of Patients and 1-Year All-Cause Mortality Rate by Multidimensional Frailty Score



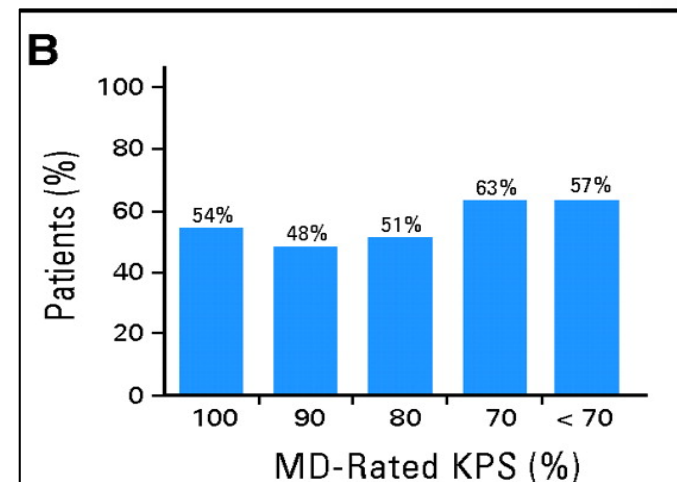
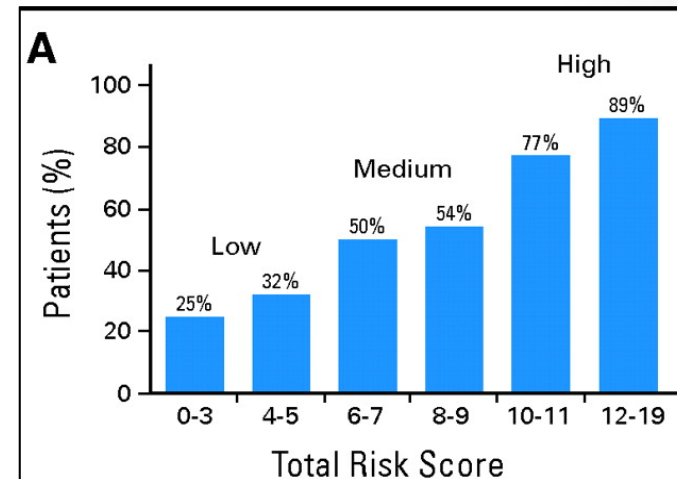
Bars represent numbers of patients (and deaths); black line, mortality rate. As scores increase, the occurrence of the primary outcome (death) increased, and the slope for mortality rates suddenly became steep for patients with scores of 5 or above.

# Prediction of chemotherapy toxicity



# Prediction of chemotherapy tolerance - risk prediction model incorporating CGA

Risk factors for Gr 3-5 toxicity	OR (95% CI)	Score
Age $\geq$ 72 vs $<$ 72	1.85 (1.22-2.82)	2
GI/GU cancer v other	2.13 (1.39-3.24)	2
Standard dose vs upfront dose reduction	2.13 (1.29-3.52)	2
Polychemotherapy vs monochemotherapy	1.69 (1.08-2.65)	2
Hb (M $<$ 11, F $<$ 10)	2.31 (1.15-4.64)	3
Ccr $<$ 34	2.46 (1.11-5.44)	3
1 or more falls /6 m	2.47 (1.43-4.27)	3
Hearing impairment	1.67 (1.04-2.69)	2
Limited in walking 1 block	1.71 (1.02-2.86)	2
Assistance with medication intake	1.50 (0.66-3.38)	1
Decreased social activity	1.36 (0.90-2.06)	1



*Hurria et al, JCO 2011*

# Prediction of chemotherapy toxicity : CARG & CRASH score

## CARG study

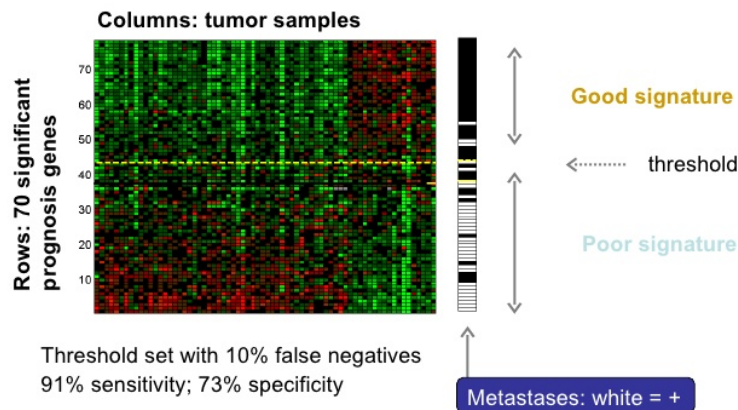
Age  $\geq 73$   
 GI or GU cancer  
 Standard dose  
 Polychemotherapy  
 Fall within past 6 months  
**Assistance in IADL**  
 Decreased social activity

## CRASH -heme

**IADL score**  
 Serum LDH  
 Diastolic BP  
 Serum albumin

## CRASH non-heme

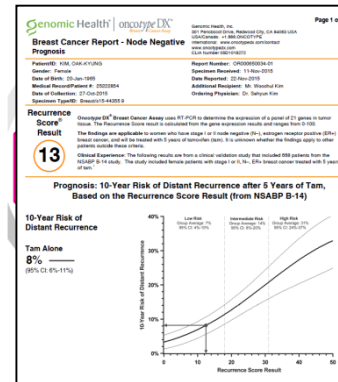
ECOG PS  
 Hemoglobin  
 CCr  
 Albumin  
 MMSE  
 MNA  
 Comorbidity



### BCI Predictive

Reports the individualized likelihood of benefit from extended endocrine therapy<sup>4</sup>

- Quantitative molecular assessment of estrogen signaling pathways
- Genes: HoxB13/IL17BR (H/I)
- Binary result (HIGH/LOW)

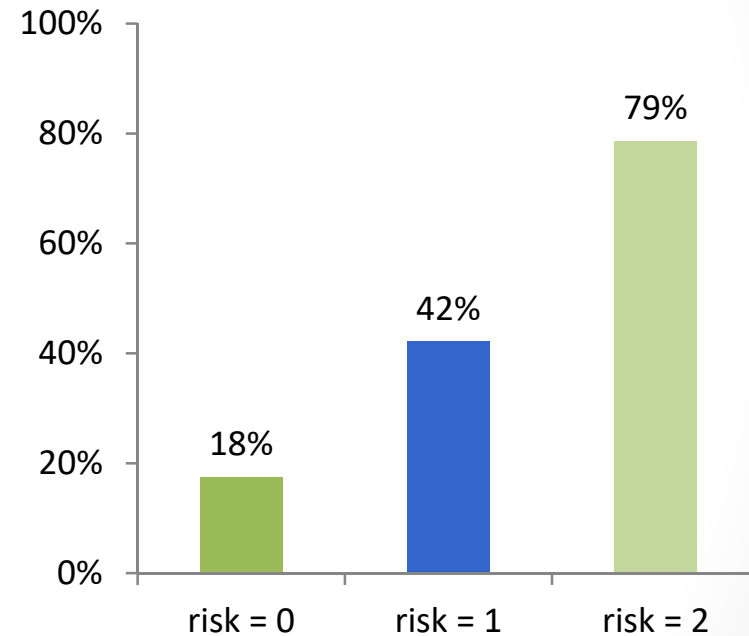
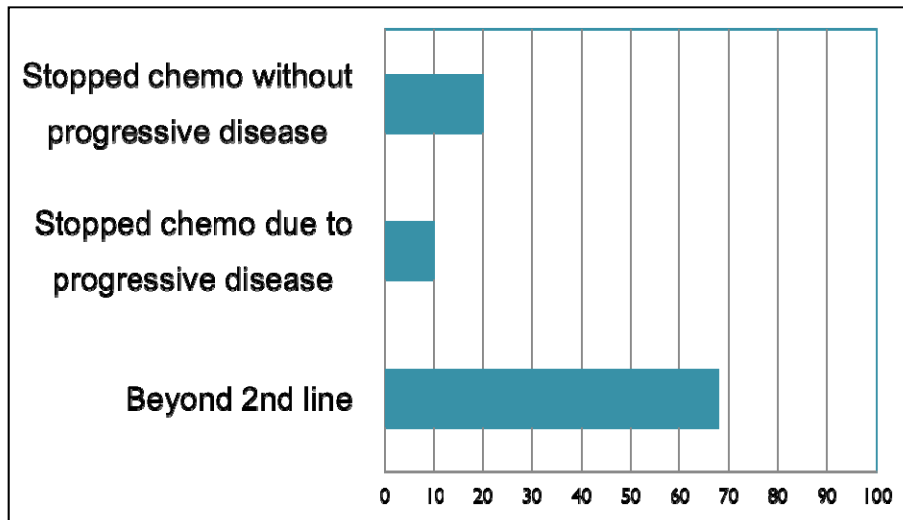


### BCI Prognostic

Reports the individualized risk of late distant recurrence of breast cancer (Years 5 - 10)<sup>2,3,\*</sup>

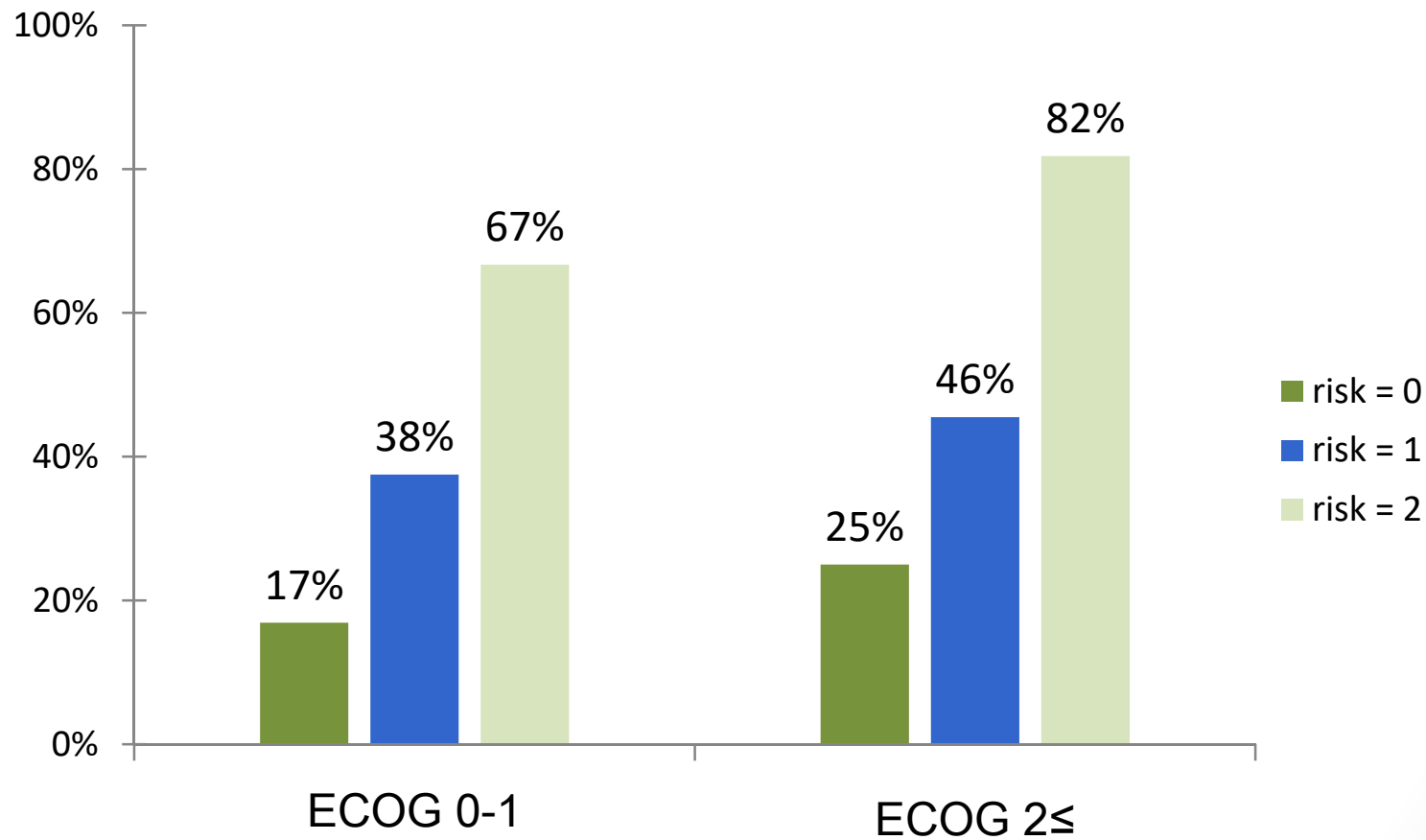
- Algorithmic combination of Molecular Grade Index (MGI: proliferation) and HoxB13/IL17BR: estrogen signaling pathway
- Genes: BUB1B, CENPA, NEK2, RACGAP1, RRM2, H/I
- Numerical result reported on a continuous curve (delineated by HIGH/LOW risk categories)

# Risk factor of stopping further treatment after 1<sup>st</sup> line chemotherapy, SNUBH (n =98, aged ≥ 65)



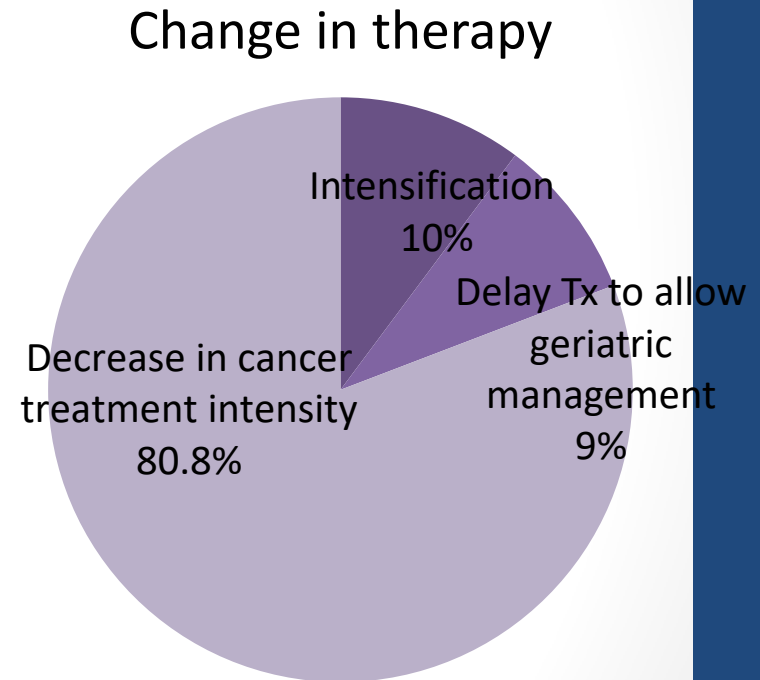
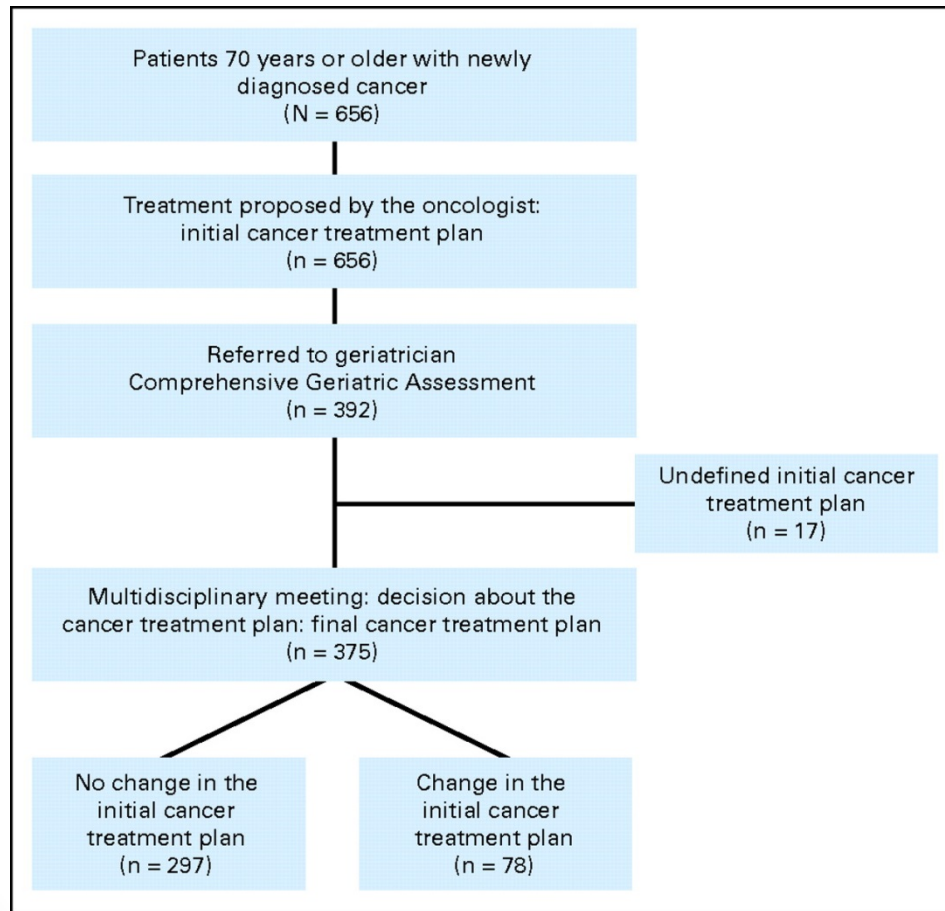
	OR	95% CI	P
<b>MNA</b>			
Non-malnutrition	1.00	-	-
Malnutrition (<17)	5.03	1.50-16.87	0.009
<b>IADL</b>			
Independent	1.00	-	-
Dependent	3.06	1.03-9.12	0.045

# The frequency of stopping further treatment according to number of risk factors (malnutrition, dependent IADL)





# ELCAPA study – can CGA change treatment plan?





# GA in oncology clinics

- US NCCN guideline & SIOG recommended some form of GA to help cancer specialists determine the best treatment for their older patients
- Several barriers to GA
  - Time consuming
  - Lack of trained staff
  - Lack of consensus / standardization of GA
  - Poor financial rewarding by health insurance
  - Not necessary in all elderly patients with cancer
  - Can geriatric assessment interventions lead to survival benefit in cancer patients?

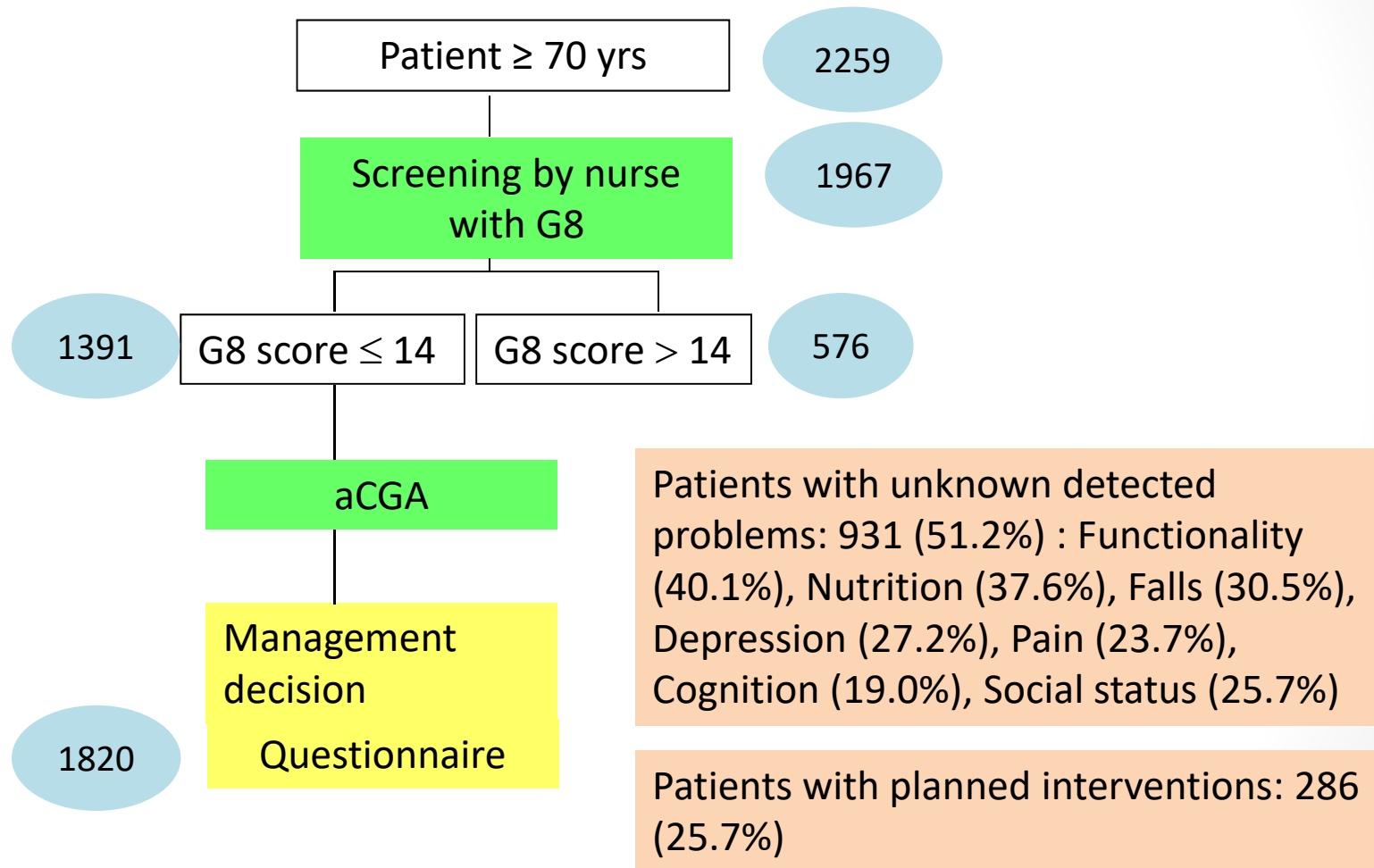
# Screening tools

Tool	Developed for	Items	Abnormal	Time (min)
G8	Oncology pts	8	≤ 14	5
VES-13	General older pop	13	≥ 3	5
fTRST	Older pts at ED	5	≥ 2	2
GFI	General older pop	15	≥ 4	NR
SOF	General older pop	3	≥ 2	NR
Karnofsky PS	Oncology pts	1	≤ 80	1
ECOG PS	Oncology pts	1	≥ 1	1
Fried	General older population	5	≥ 3	NR
Barber	General older population	9	≥ 1	NR
ISAR	Older pts at ED	6	≥ 3	NR
OGS	Oncology pts	10	≥ 1	NR
aCGA	Oncology pts	15	≥ 1	5
Gerhematolim	Hematology pts	27	NR	NR
SAOP2	Oncology pts	15	≥ 1	NR
PPT	General older population	7	≤ 20	5
Handgrip	General older population	NA	NA	NA

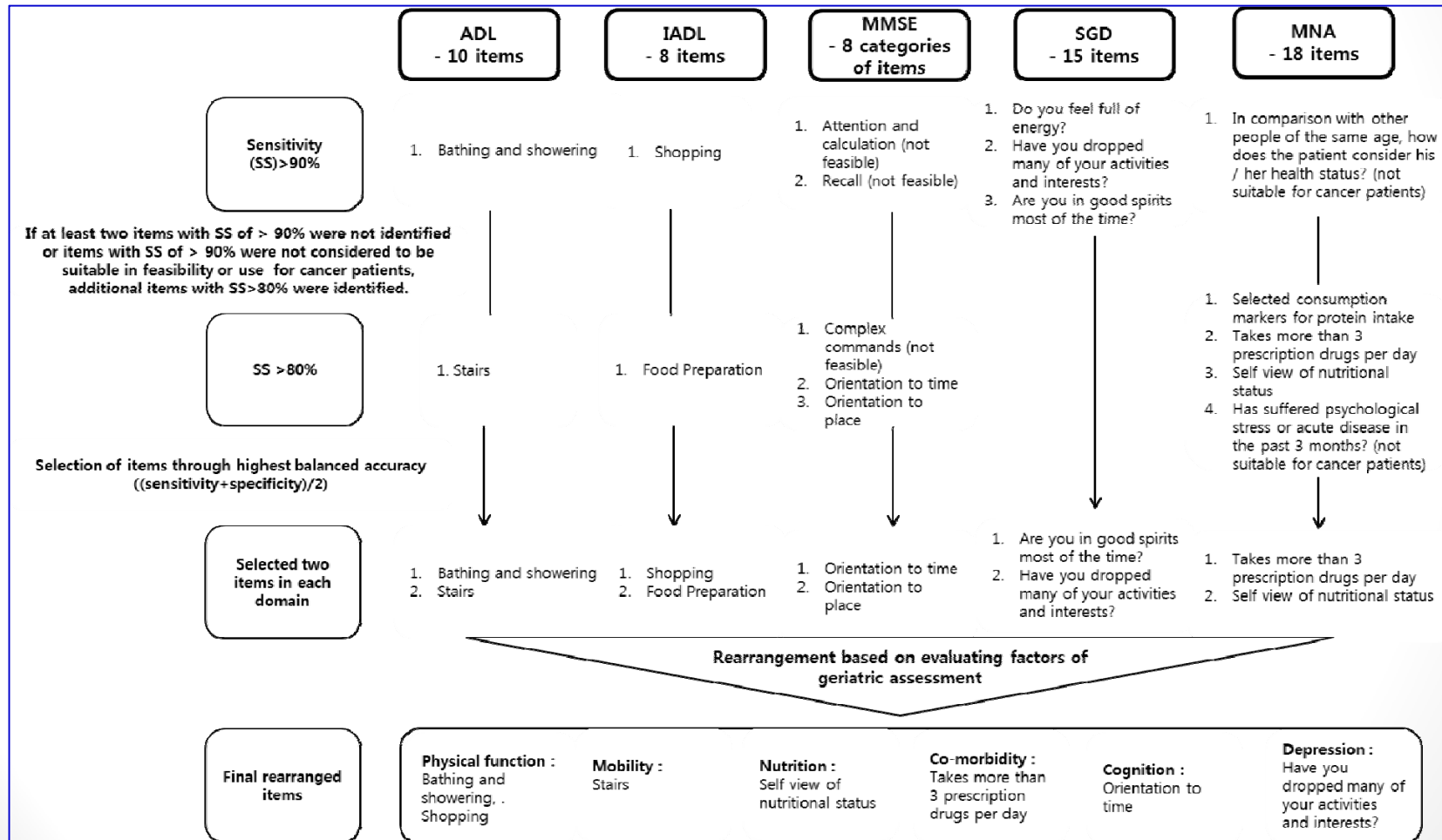
G8 (geriatric 8), VES-13(vulnerable elders' survey-13), fTRST (Flemish version of the Triage Risk Screening Tool), GFI ( groningen frailty index), SOF (study of osteoporotic fractures), ISAR (Identification of Seniors at Risk), OGS (Onco Geriatric screening tool), aCGA (abbreviated CGA), SAOP (Senior Adult Oncology Program), PPT (Physical Performance Testing), ED (emergency department)

SIOG 2013

# Systematic geriatric screening and assessment study



# Development of Screening tool : KG-7 Geriatric Assessment cohort (n=1284)

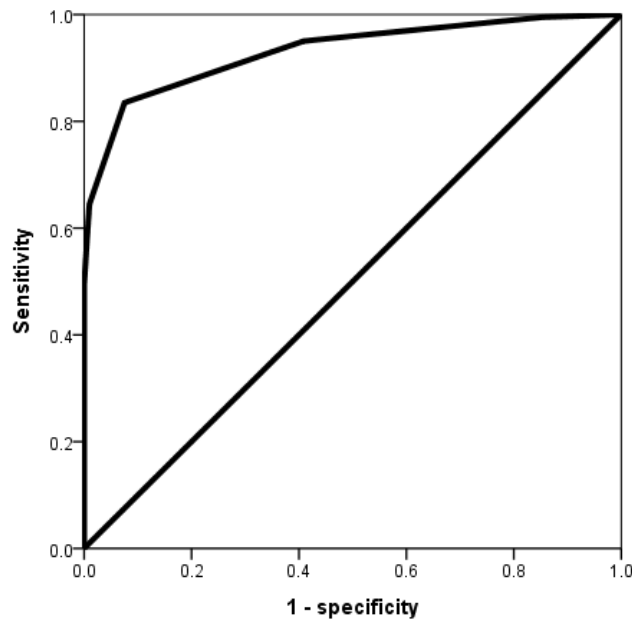


# KG-7 (KCSG Geriatric Score-7)

1. Can you take a shower or bath without help?
2. Can you ascend the stairs without help?
3. Can you take care of all shopping needs independently?
4. How is the self-view of your nutritional status?
5. Do you take more than 3 prescription drugs per day?
6. What year, month and day is this?
7. Have you dropped many of your activities and interests?

Total points (    )/7 points

# Validation of KG-7 in retrospective (n=99) & prospective cohort (n=300)



AUC 0.930, (95% confidence interval, 0.916-0.945),  $p < 0.001$ ,

- The cut-off value was decided at  $\leq 5$  points, with AUC 0.930

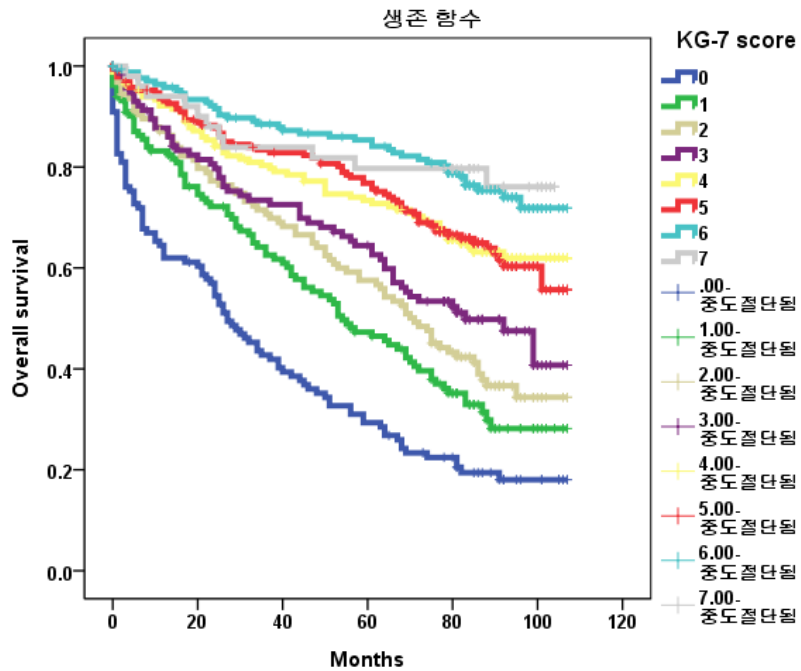
Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
95.0%	59.2%	85.3%	82.6%

- In the retrospective validation cohort, the AUC was 0.82 (95% CI 0.73–0.90)

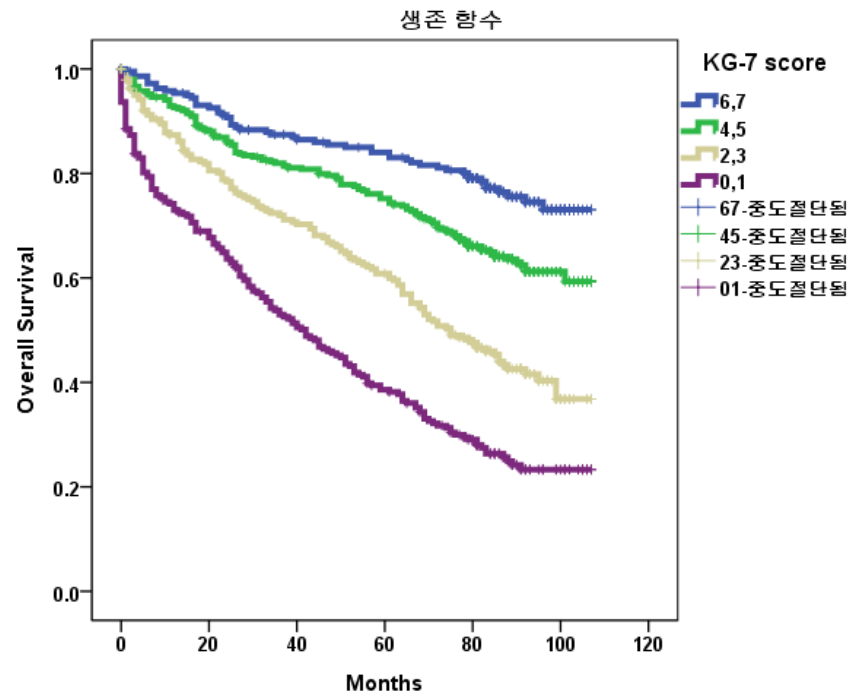
Sensitivity	Specificity	PPV	NPV
89.5%	48.6%	77.3%	75.0%

- Prospective validation cohort (n=300) – ASCO 2017

# Overall Survival according to KG-7, development cohort



P<0.001



P<0.001

Prospective validation study /biomarker substudy – ASCO 2017

# Take home message

- Cancer is disease of aging
- Older patients have
  - Decreased organ function and stress tolerance
  - Competing cause of mortality (comorbidity)
  - Different tolerance to treatment
- Comprehensive geriatric assessment
  - Predicts survival, post-treatment complication
  - Uncover health problems of elderly, leading to intervention
  - Change in treatment selection
- Consideration of geriatric factors is essential in treatment decision : GA and focused intervention



# Acknowledgement



Korean Cancer Study Group Geriatric  
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Geriatric Oncology Team

