

# How Long Should We Treat Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer? Is Cure Possible?

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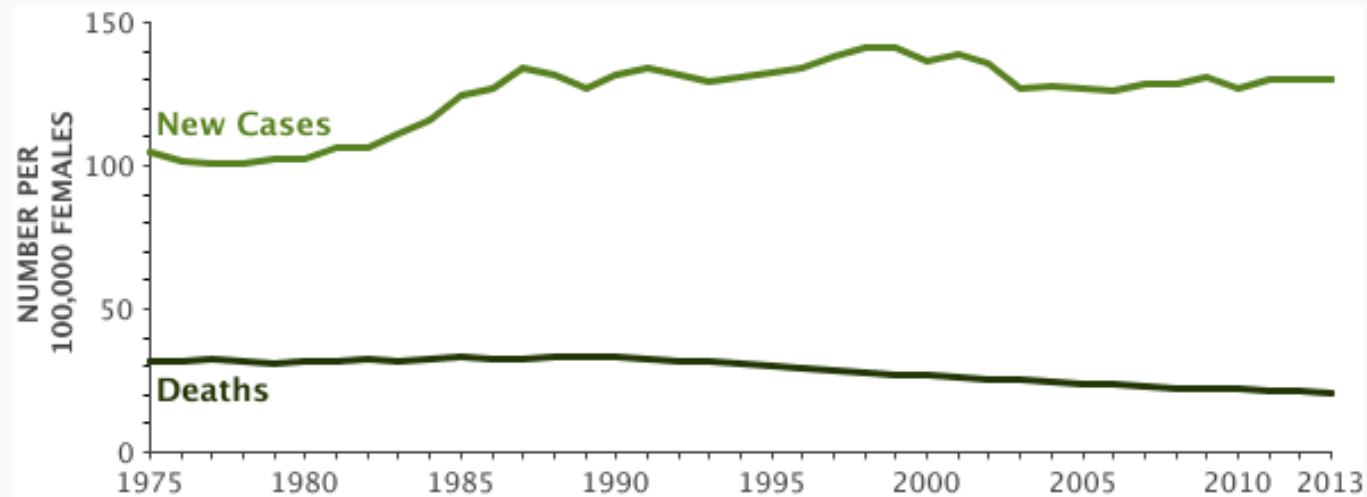
Medical Director, UNIMED Medical Institute, Hong Kong

# How Long Should We Treat Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer?



New Cases, Deaths and 5-Year Relative Survival

[View Data Table](#)



Year	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2004	2008
5-Year Relative Survival	75.2%	74.9%	78.4%	84.6%	86.8%	90.2%	89.9%	90.6%

SEER 9 Incidence & U.S. Mortality 1975-2013, All Races, Females. Rates are Age-Adjusted.

Death rates have been falling on average 1.9% each year

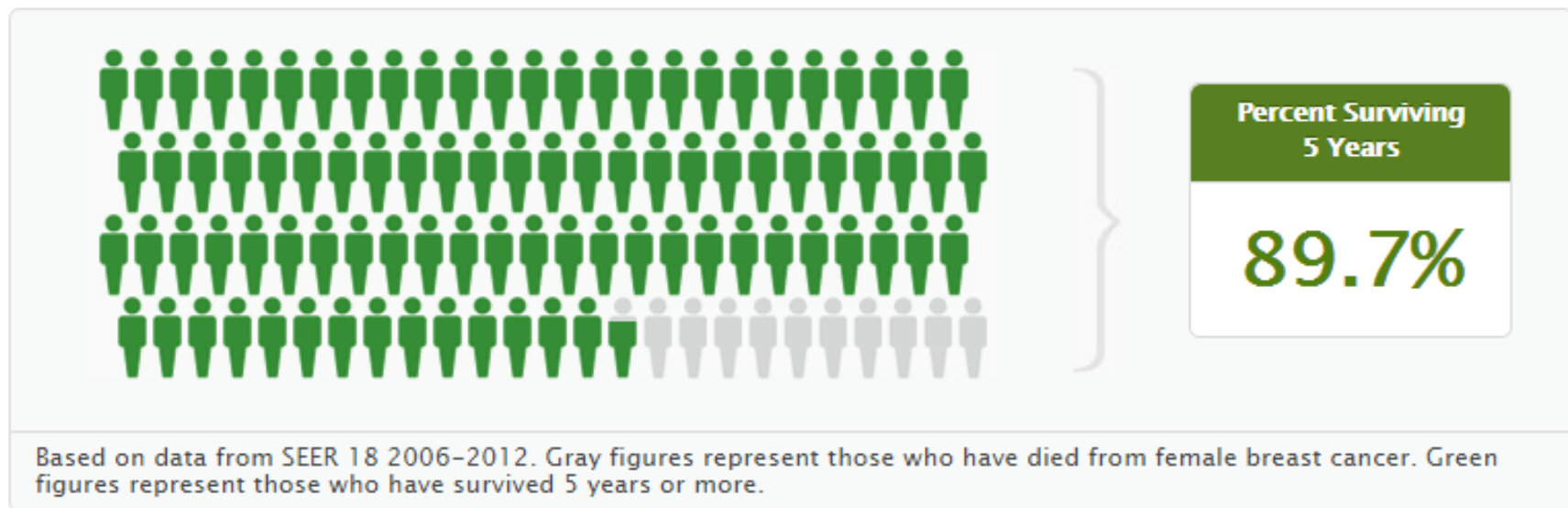


**NATIONAL CANCER INSTITUTE**

**Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results Program**

› How Many People Survive 5 Years Or More after Being Diagnosed with Female Breast Cancer?

Relative survival statistics compare the survival of patients diagnosed with cancer with the survival of people in the general population who are the same age, race, and sex and who have not been diagnosed with cancer. Because survival statistics are based on large groups of people, they cannot be used to predict exactly what will happen to an individual patient. No two patients are entirely alike, and treatment and responses to treatment can vary greatly.



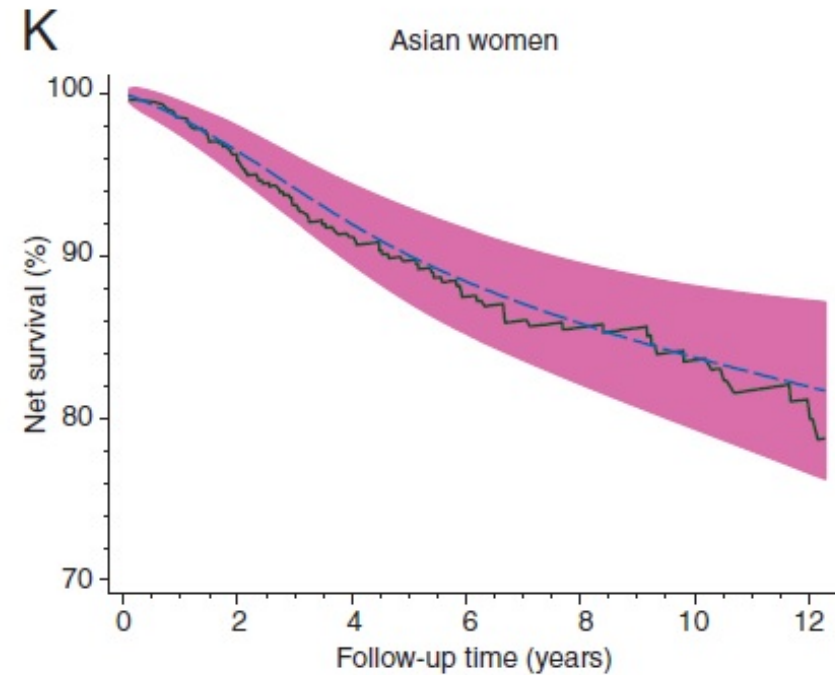
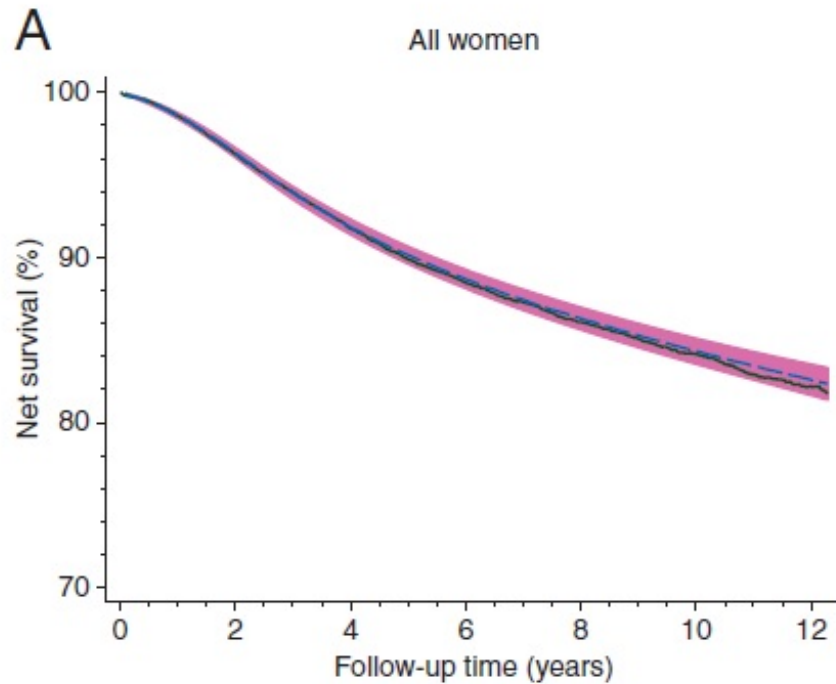
But, how about MBC?

# No 'cure' within 12 years of diagnosis among breast cancer patients who are diagnosed via mammographic screening: women diagnosed in the West Midlands region of England 1989–2011

L. M. Woods, M. Morris\* & B. Rachet

*Cancer Research UK Cancer Survival Group, Faculty of Epidemiology and Population Health, Department of Non-Communicable Disease Epidemiology, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, London, UK*

- Cancer registry data on 19 800 women aged 50–70, diagnosed with a **primary, invasive, non-metastatic breast cancer** between 1 April 1989 and 31 March 2011.
- Results: There was an overwhelming lack of evidence for 'cure'.



Even for non-MBC, there was a continuous decrease in net survival over time, with no obvious asymptotic tendency within 12 years of follow-up. Model-based analyses confirmed this observation.

The goals of treating MBC are to control tumor growth and prolong life while also maintaining quality of life

(The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation)

Hence, a balance between the treatment regimen and quality of life is needed

Disease control

=

Make cancer a chronic  
disease

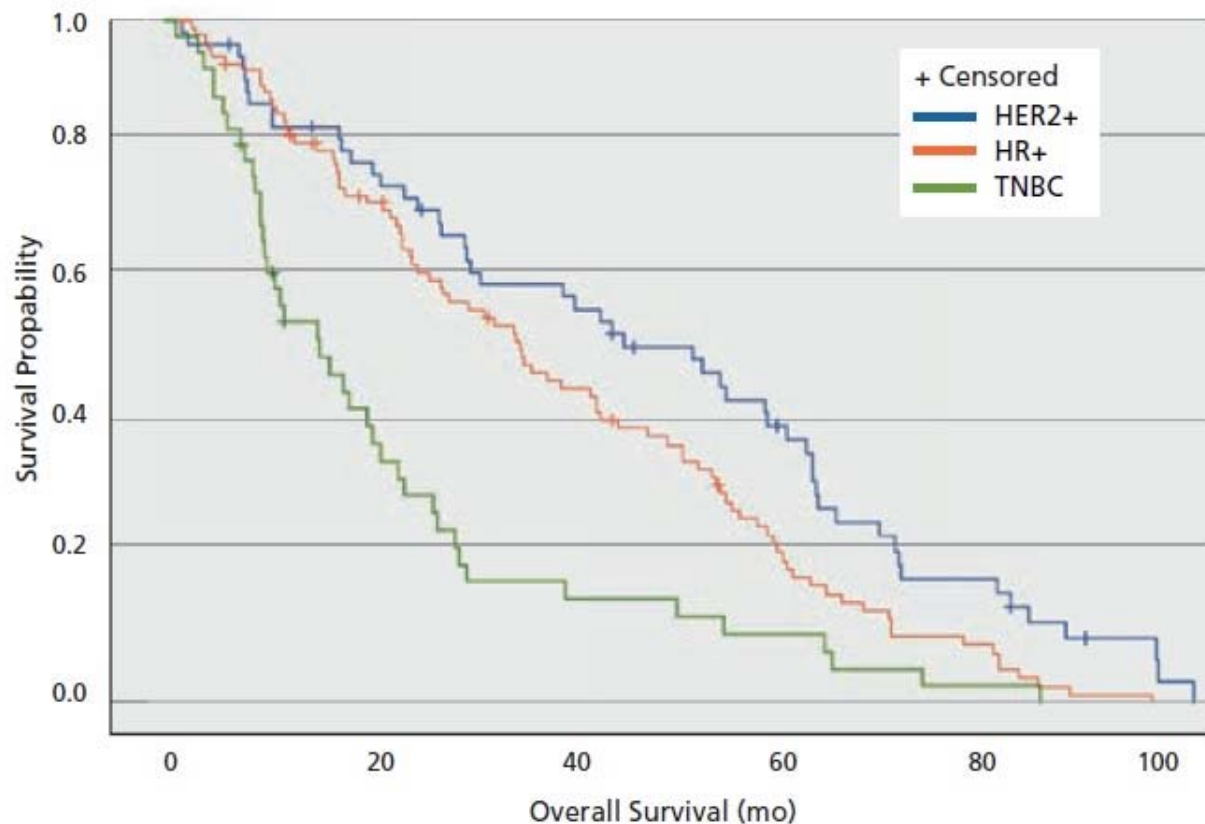


# Strategies

- Administering potent MTD treatments for a fixed period?
- Administering biological drugs together with cytotoxic regimens, continuously until progression occurs?
- Administering better tolerated regimens for prolonged time – metronomic strategy?

# Tumor subtypes influence survival

Data from MBC patients at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



Overall survival time was longest in patients with HER2-amplified disease, followed by HR+ and then TNBC disease (54 vs 36 vs 17 months, respectively;  $P < .0001$ )

# Calculating survival times for patients with MBC

Data from 15 trials with 4,798 patients

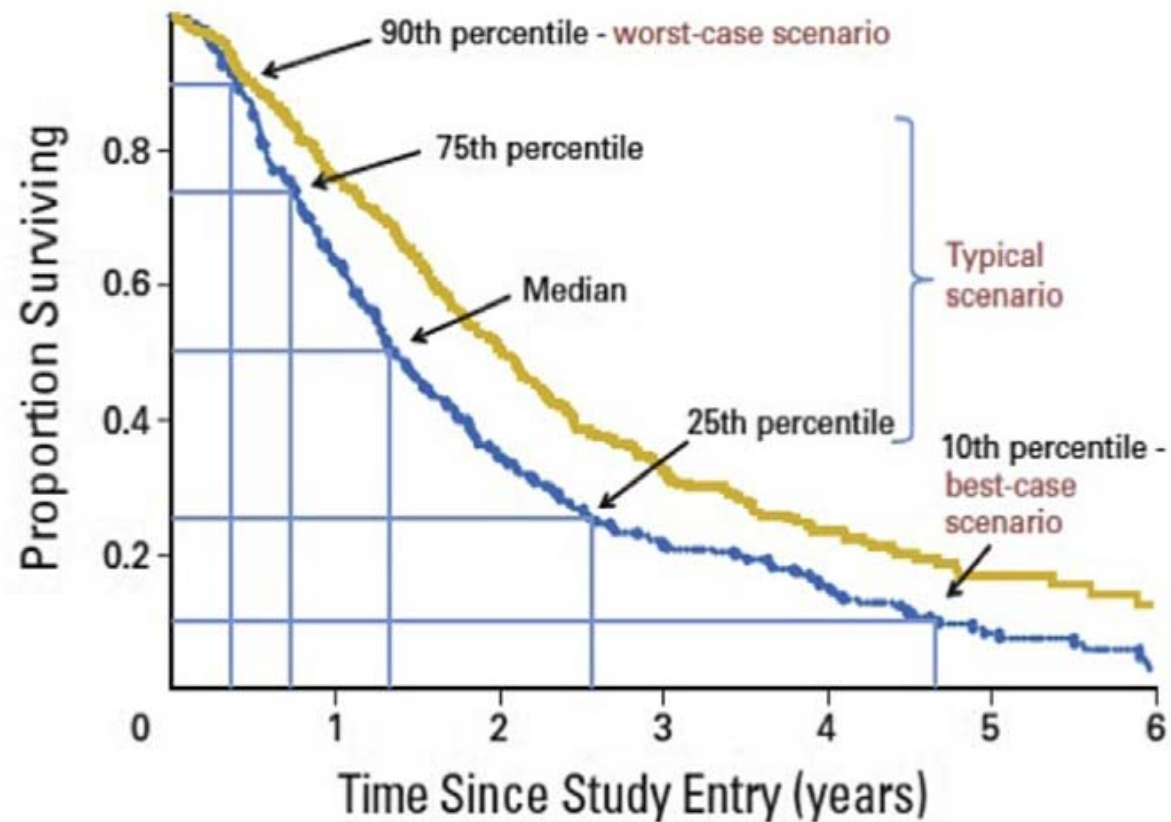
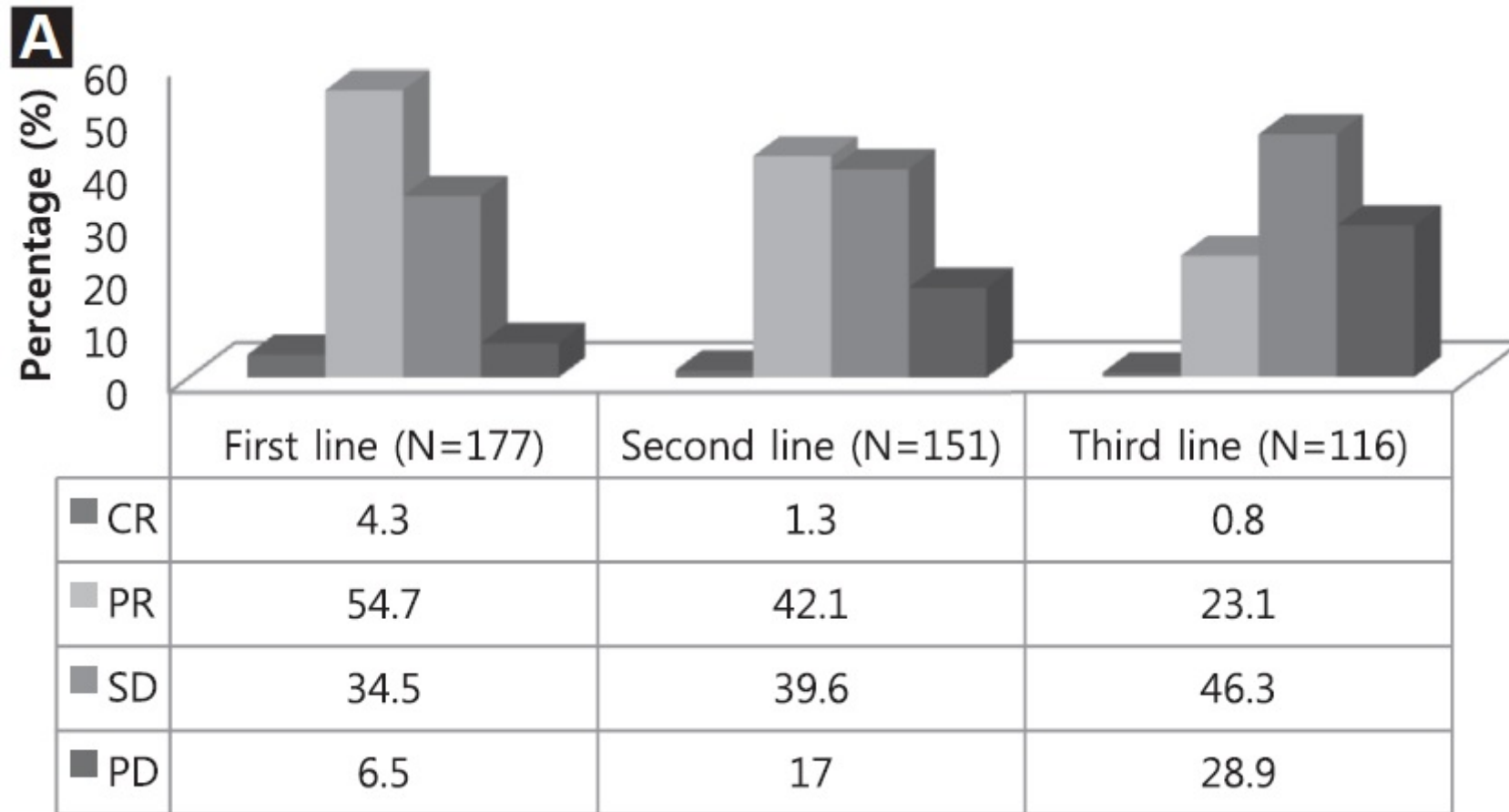


Fig. 1. Kaplan–Meier OS curve percentiles and their corresponding scenarios.

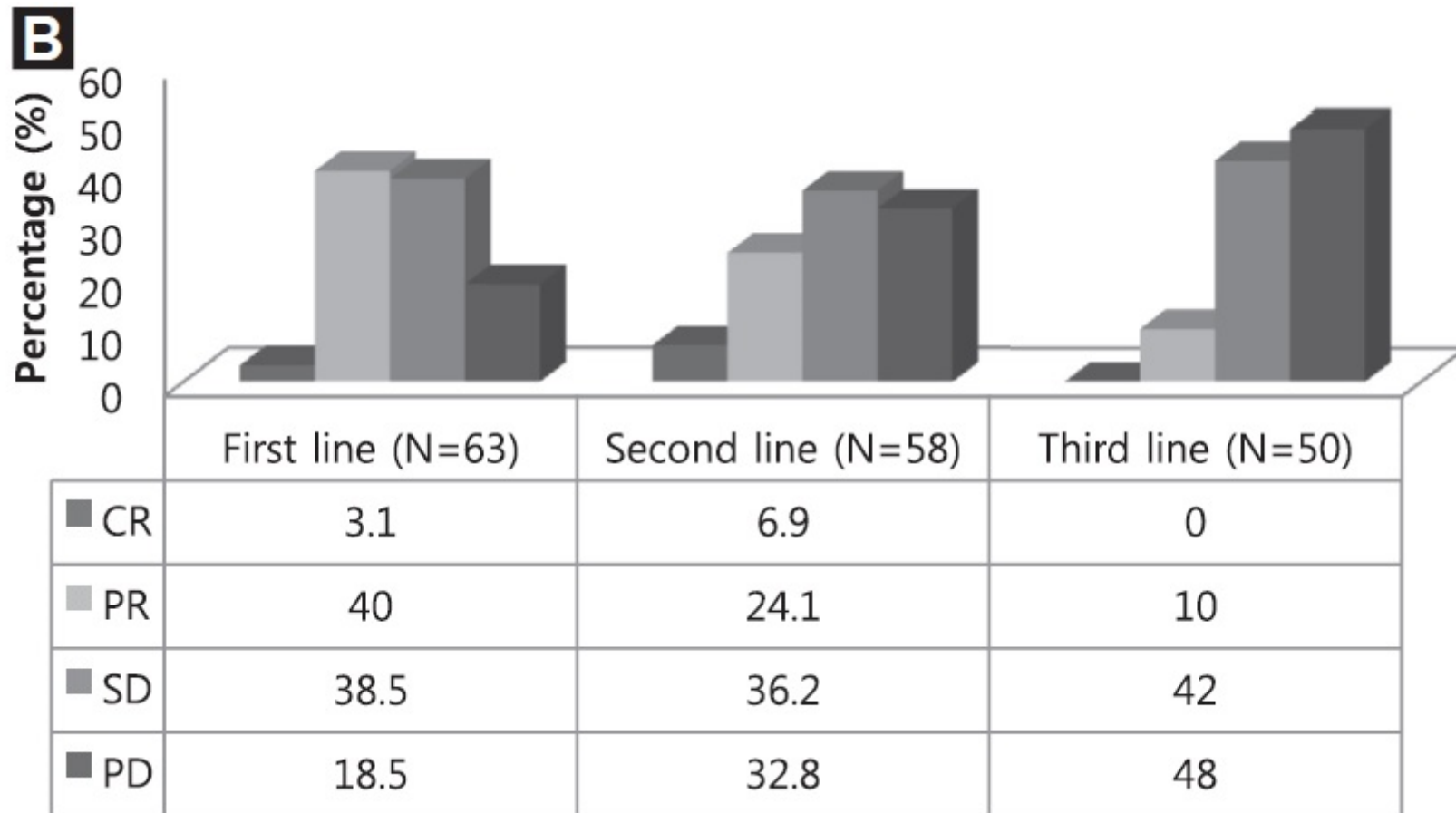
# Effects of subsequent CT on HR+ HER2- MBC patients

## Data from National Cancer Center Korea

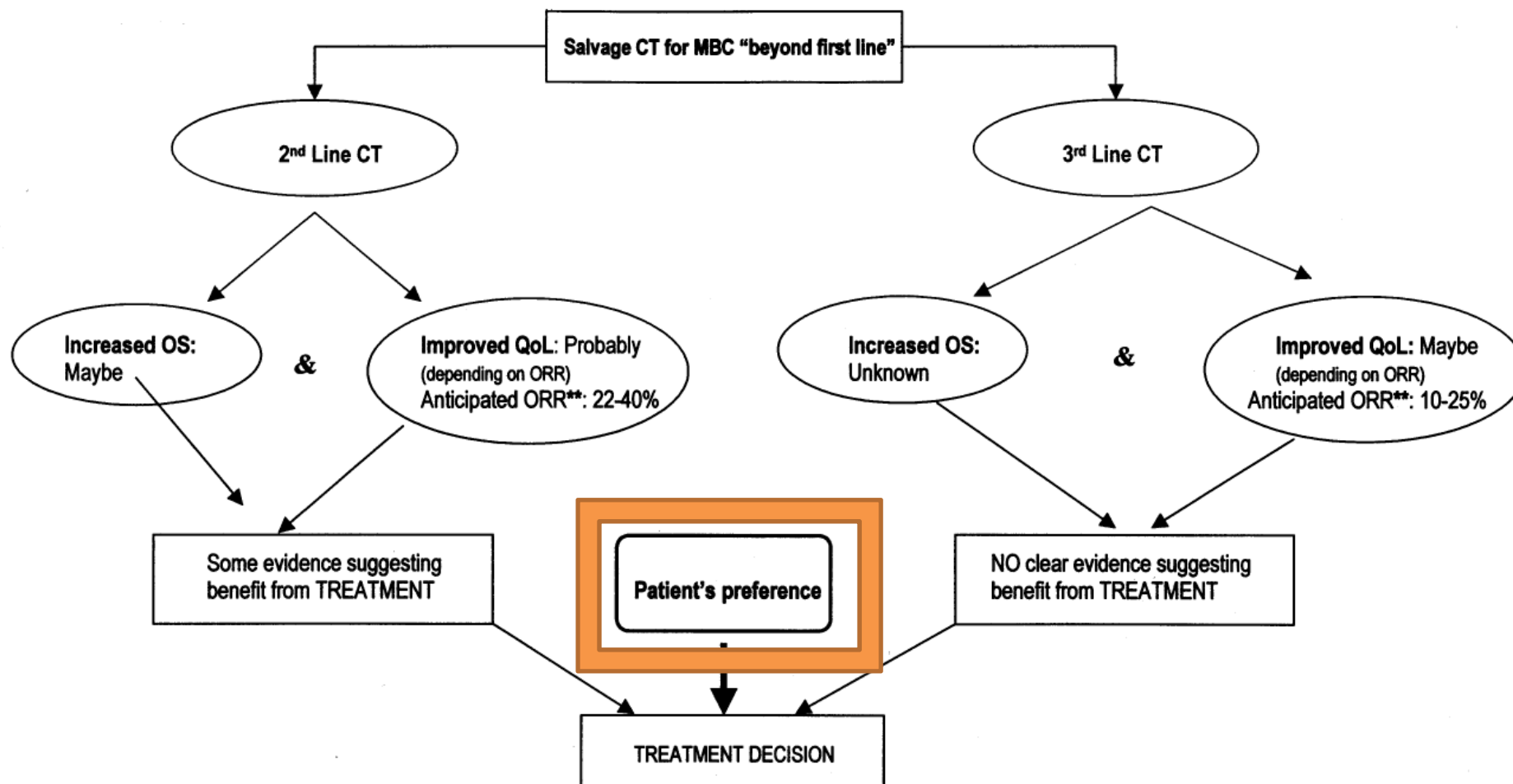


CR = complete response; PR = partial response; SD = stable disease; PD = progressive disease

## Effects of subsequent CT on HR- HER2- MBC patients Data from National Cancer Center Korea

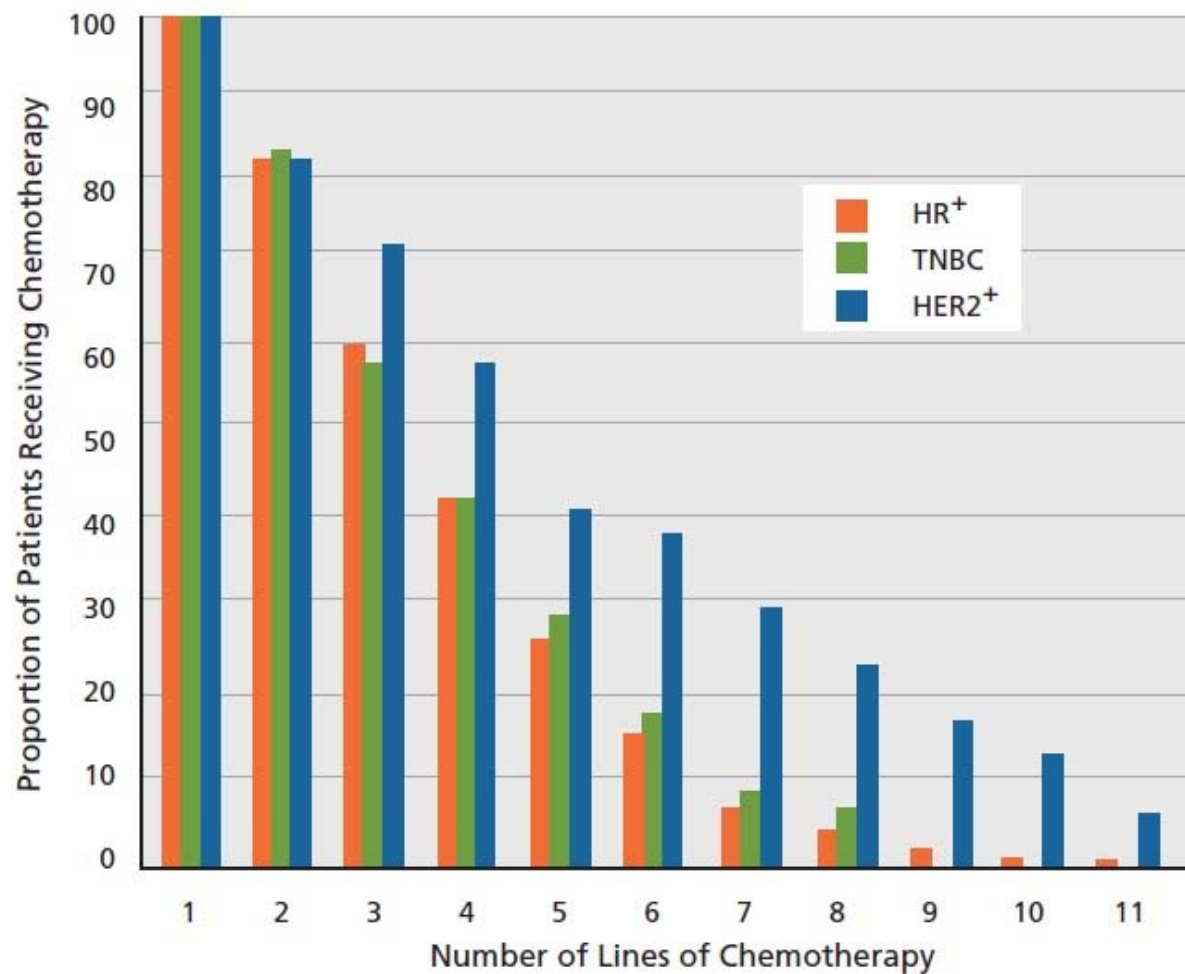


CR = complete response; PR = partial response; SD = stable disease; PD = progressive disease



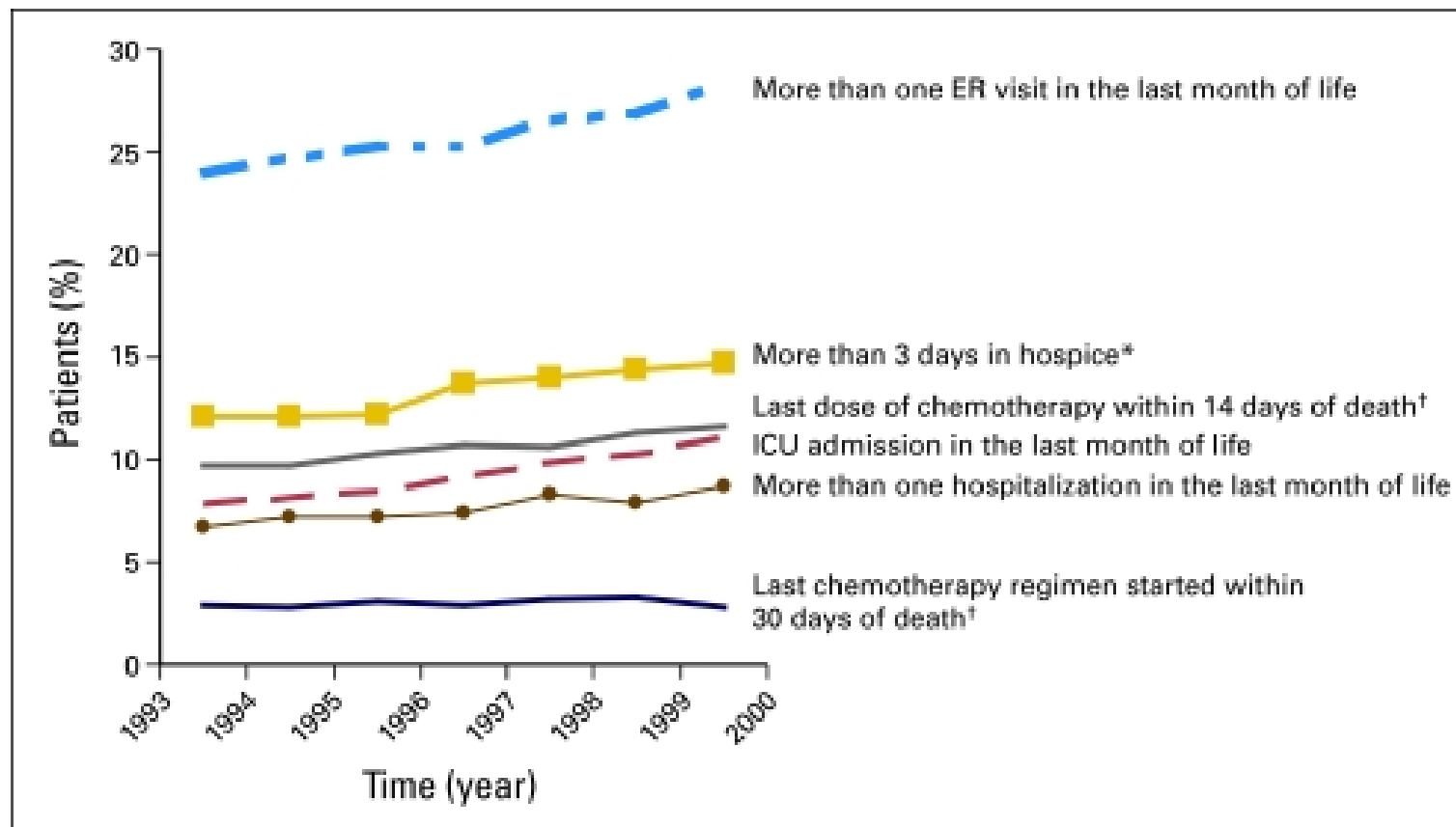
# Number of lines of chemotherapy by line and subtype

Data from MBC patients at Dana-Farber Cancer Institute



## Avoid Cancer Overtreatment

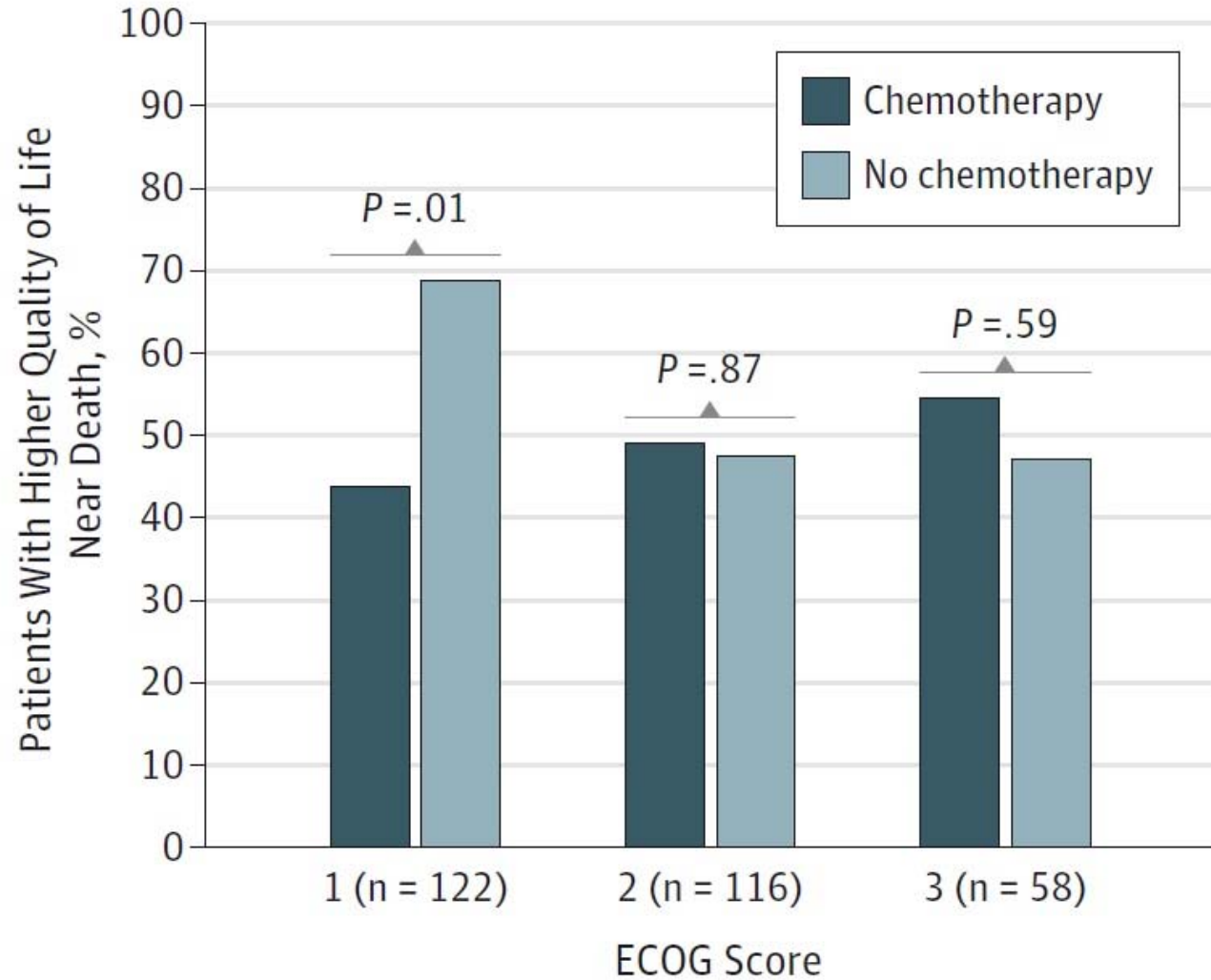
ASCO Quality Oncology Practice Initiative: CT cessation in the last 2 weeks of life to improve clinical practice



McNiff KK, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2008;26(23):3832-7; Earle CC, et al. J Clin Oncol 2008;26:3860–3866.

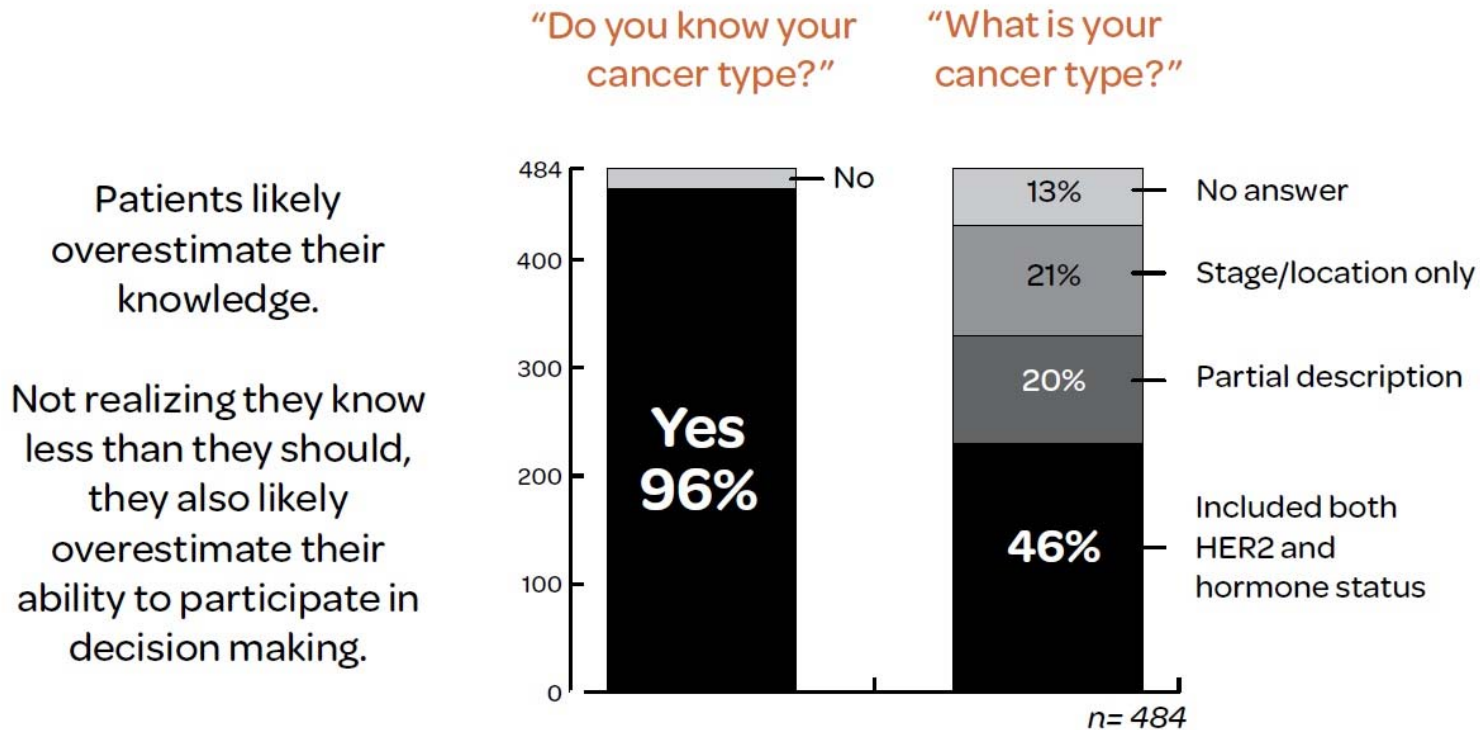


# QOL near death can be harmed by CT use near death



# MBCalliance's survey on 500 MBC patients

Patients may not have enough knowledge about their disease



33%

felt they don't have enough knowledge to participate in decision making

58%

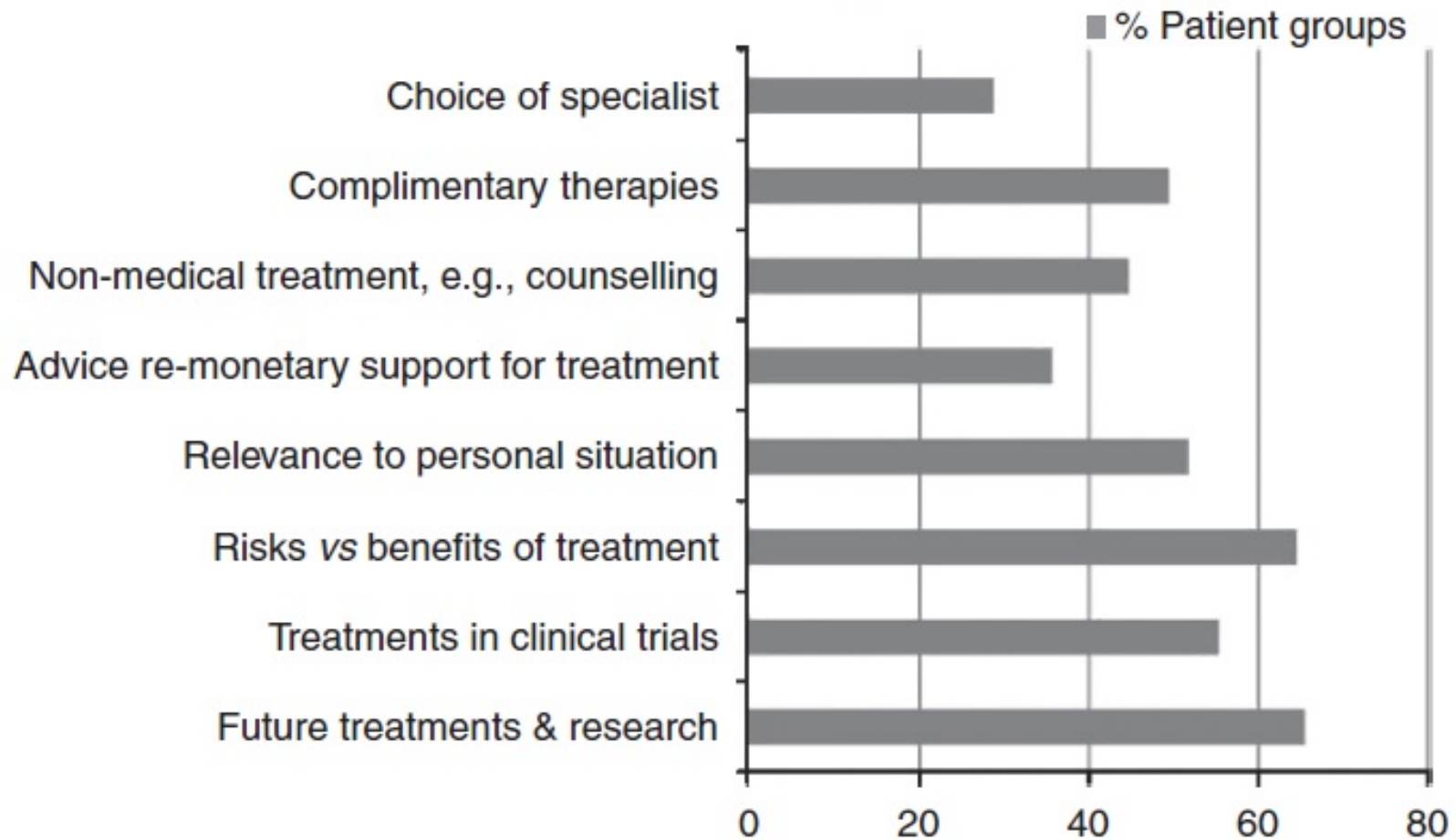
felt rushed and that starting treatment was urgent;  
24% got a second opinion;  
38% did not research prior to starting treatment

71%

did not recall goals and hobbies as part of pretreatment discussions

# Treatment information needs of patients living with metastatic breast cancer

Data from pan-European patient survey

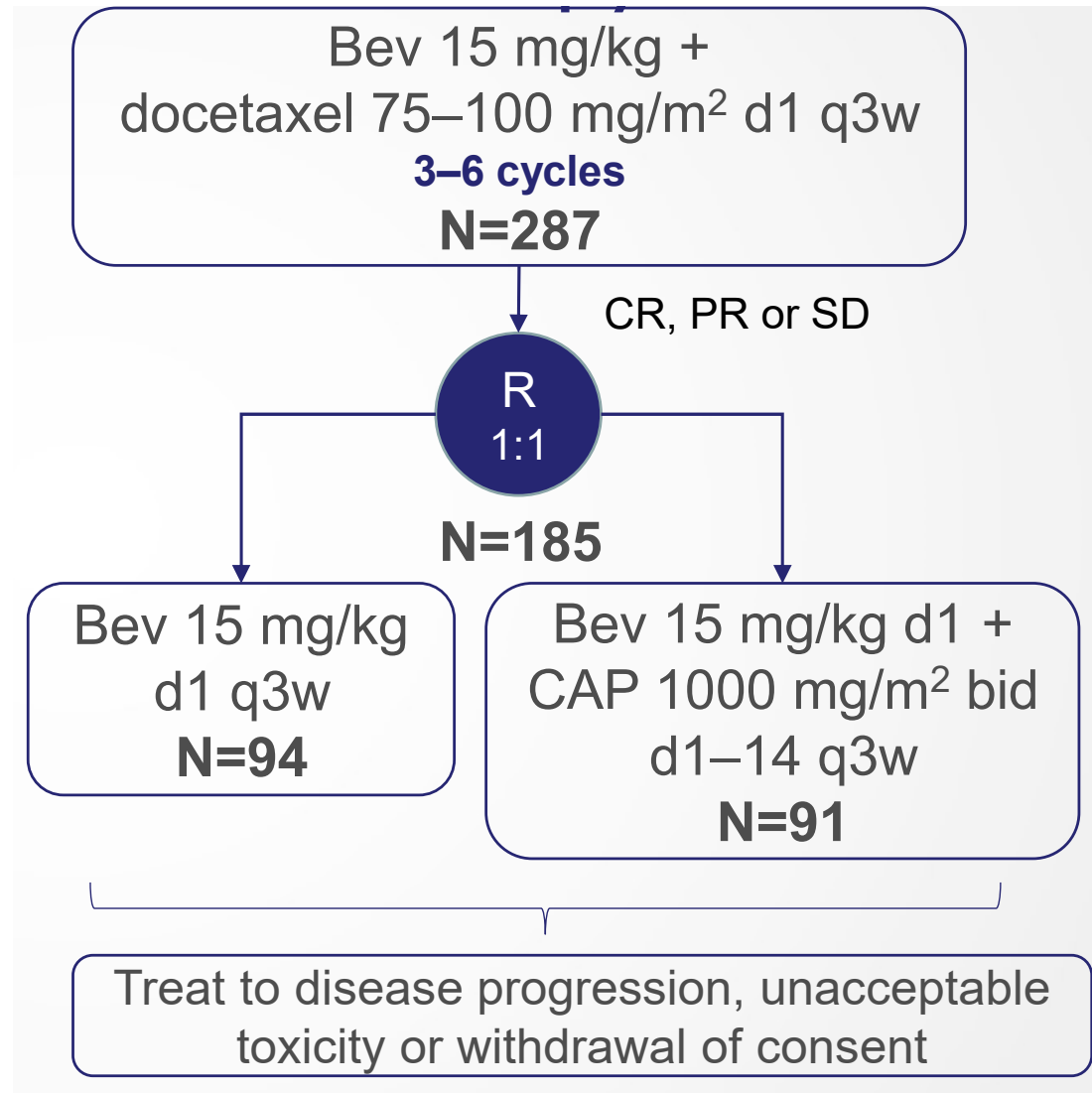


# MTD regimens for a fixed period

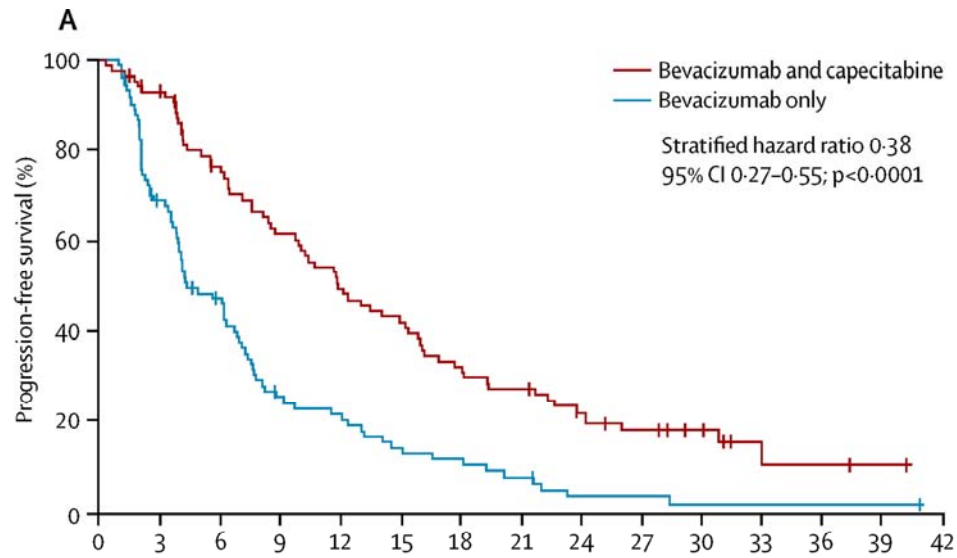
- Taxane – based therapy, preferably as single-agents, are usually considered as first-line treatments of choice in HER2-negative MBC
- Prolongation of taxane exposure until disease progression is unrealistic because of cumulative toxic effects

# IMELDA: Evaluation of prolonged treatment with maintenance chemotherapy

- Open-label, randomised study
- Women with HER2-negative metastatic breast cancer
- No previous chemotherapy for metastatic breast cancer
- Stratification factors:
  - Oestrogen receptor status (positive vs. negative)
  - Visceral metastases (present vs. absent)
  - Response status (SD vs. response vs. non-measurable disease)
  - LDH concentration ( $\leq 1.5$  vs.  $> 1.5 \times \text{ULN}$ )

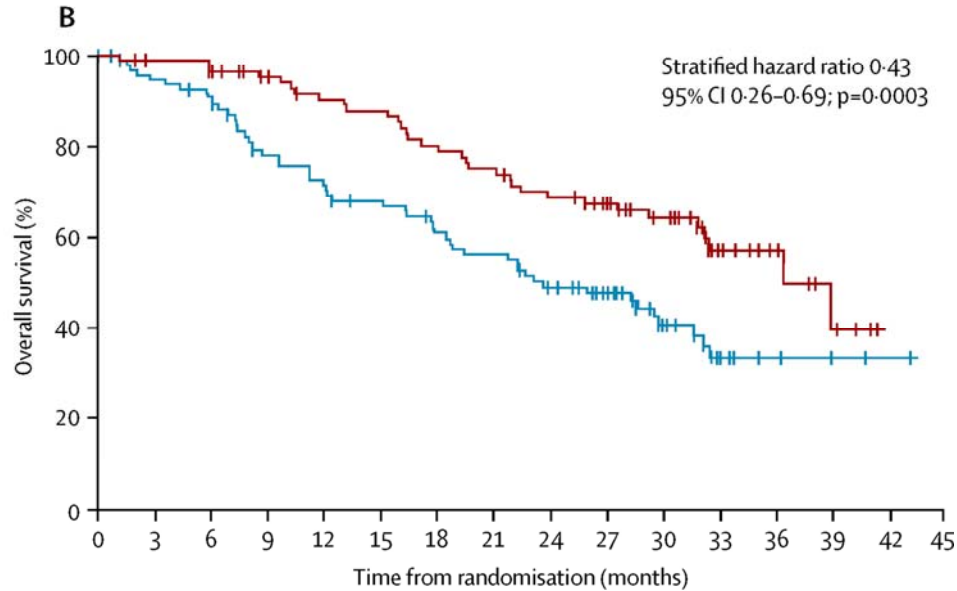


# PFS



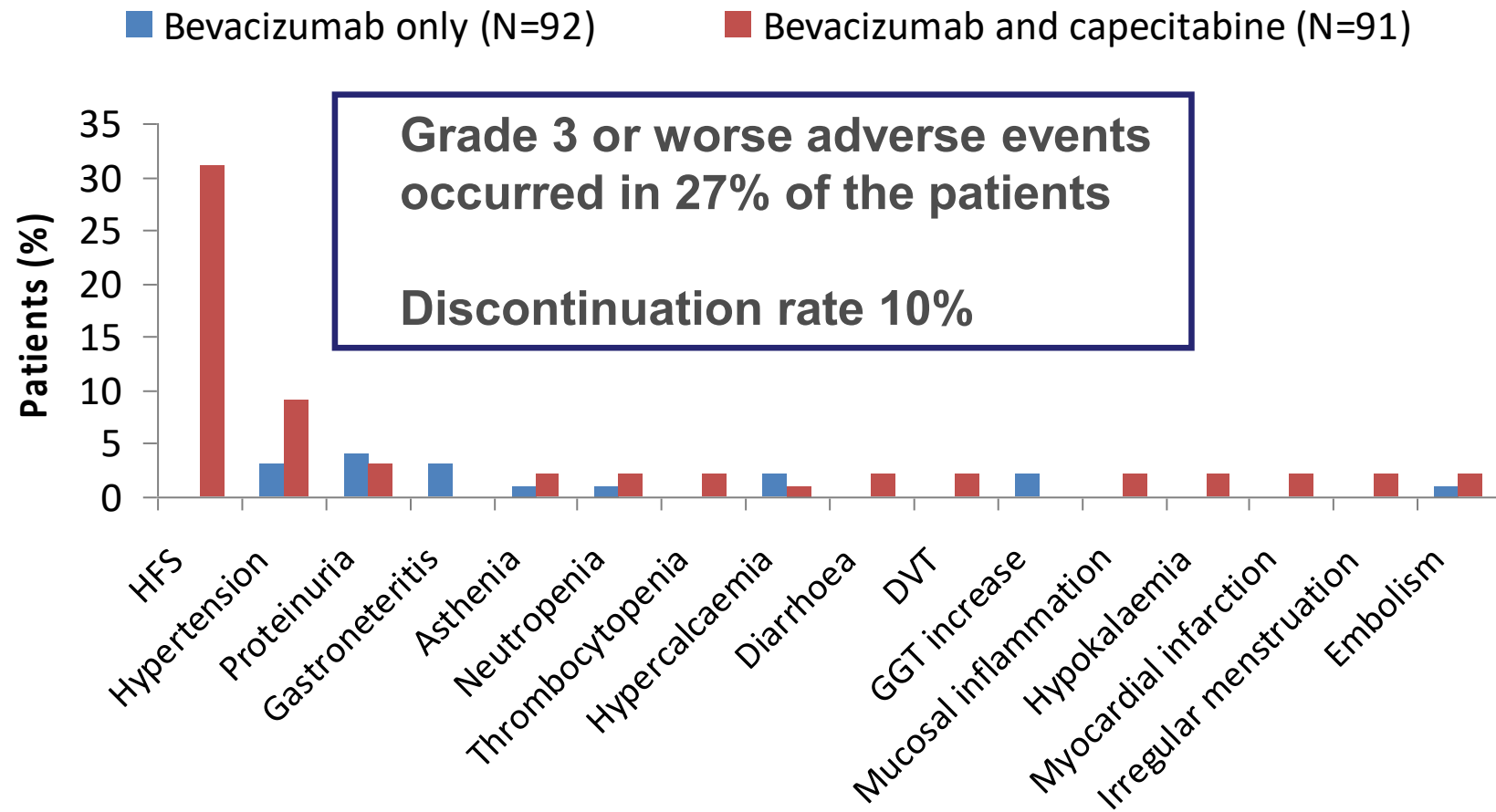
Number at risk		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42
Bevacizumab and capecitabine		91	80	62	50	40	34	26	22	16	12	8	2	2	1	0
Bevacizumab only		94	60	40	20	17	11	9	6	2	2	1	1	1	1	0

# OS



Number at risk		0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45
Bevacizumab and capecitabine		91	87	84	78	72	70	64	60	54	47	36	21	10	4	0	0
Bevacizumab only		94	89	84	70	64	59	52	48	41	34	21	12	5	3	1	0

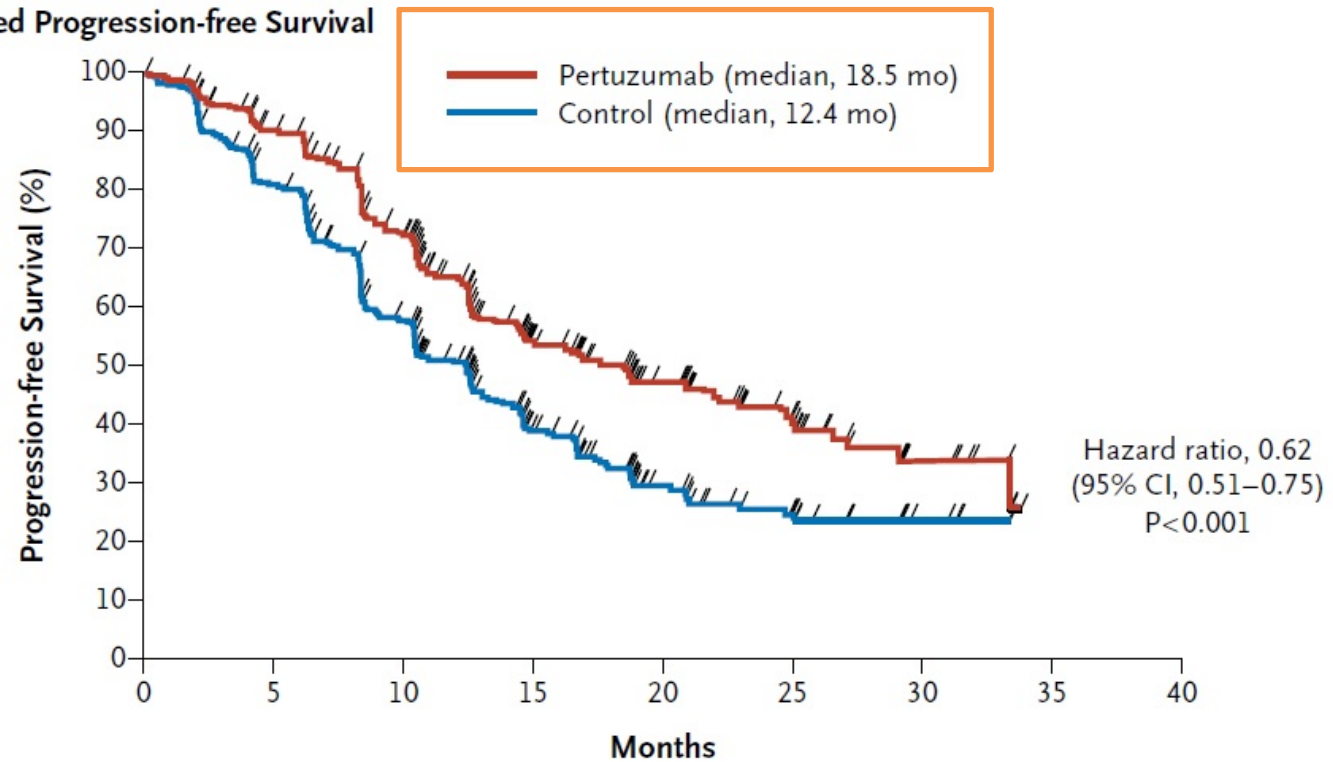
# Adverse Events



# CLEOPATRA trial

Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab, and Docetaxel in HER2+ MBC

## A Independently Assessed Progression-free Survival



### No. at Risk

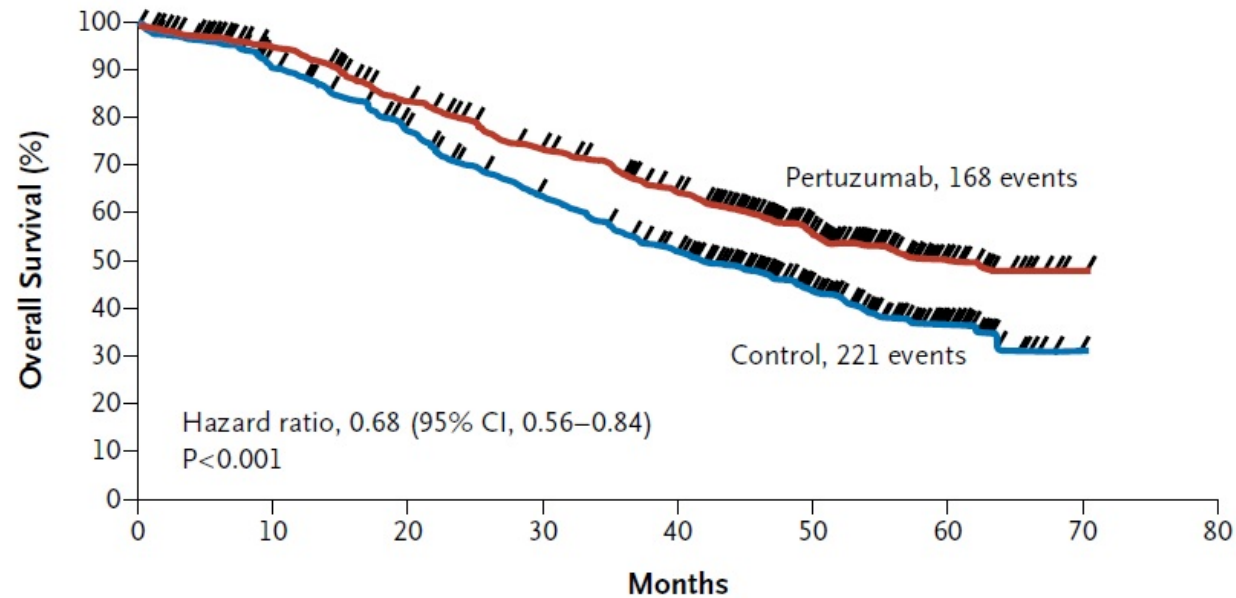
Pertuzumab	402	345	267	139	83	32	10	0	0
Control	406	311	209	93	42	17	7	0	0



# CLEOPATRA trial

Pertuzumab, Trastuzumab, and Docetaxel in HER2+ MBC

## A Overall Survival



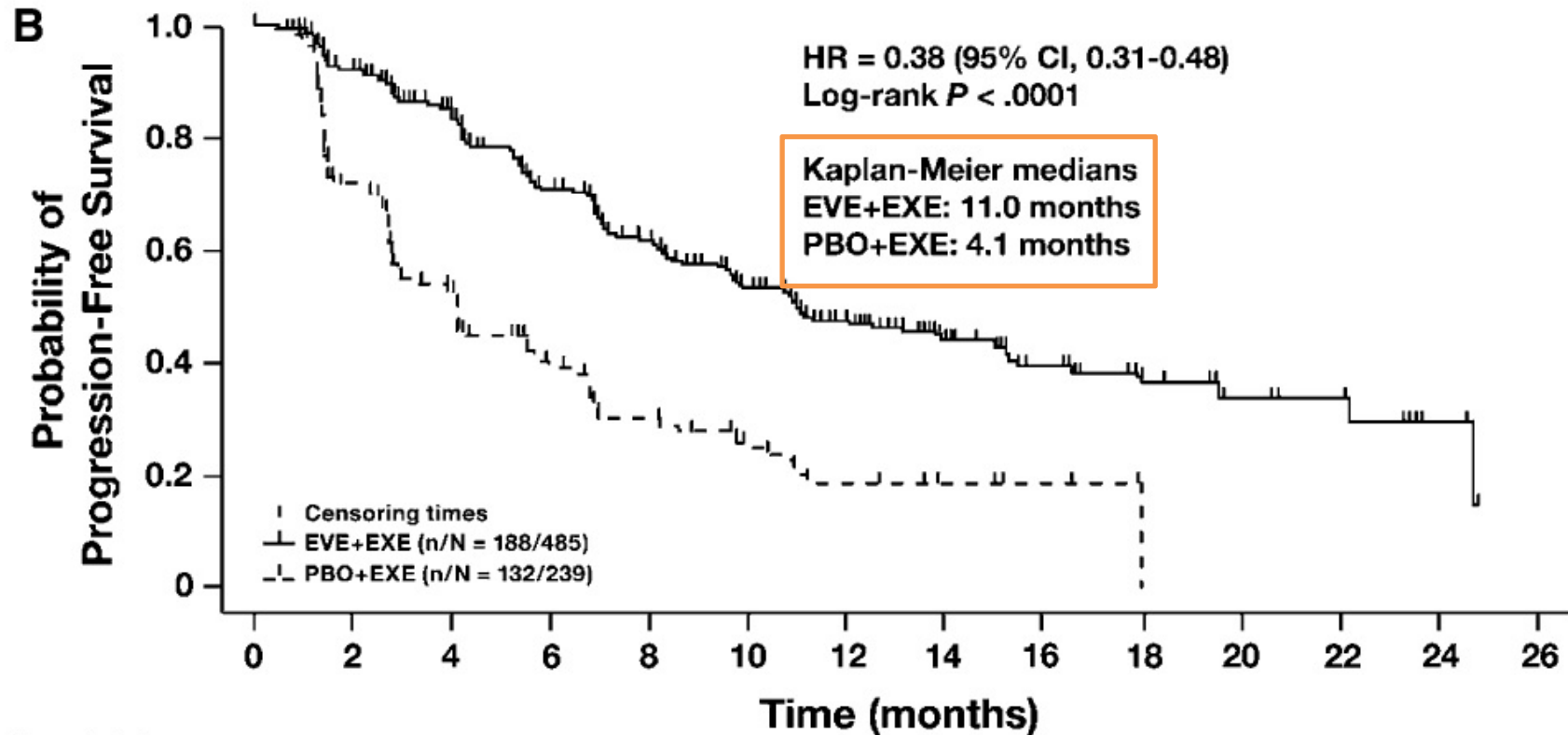
### No. at Risk

Pertuzumab	402	371	318	268	226	104	28	1	0
Control	406	350	289	230	179	91	23	0	0

Median OS was **15.7 months longer** in the pertuzumab group (56.5 vs. 40.8 months)

# BOLERO-2 trial

Everolimus Plus Exemestane in Postmenopausal HR+ Advanced BC

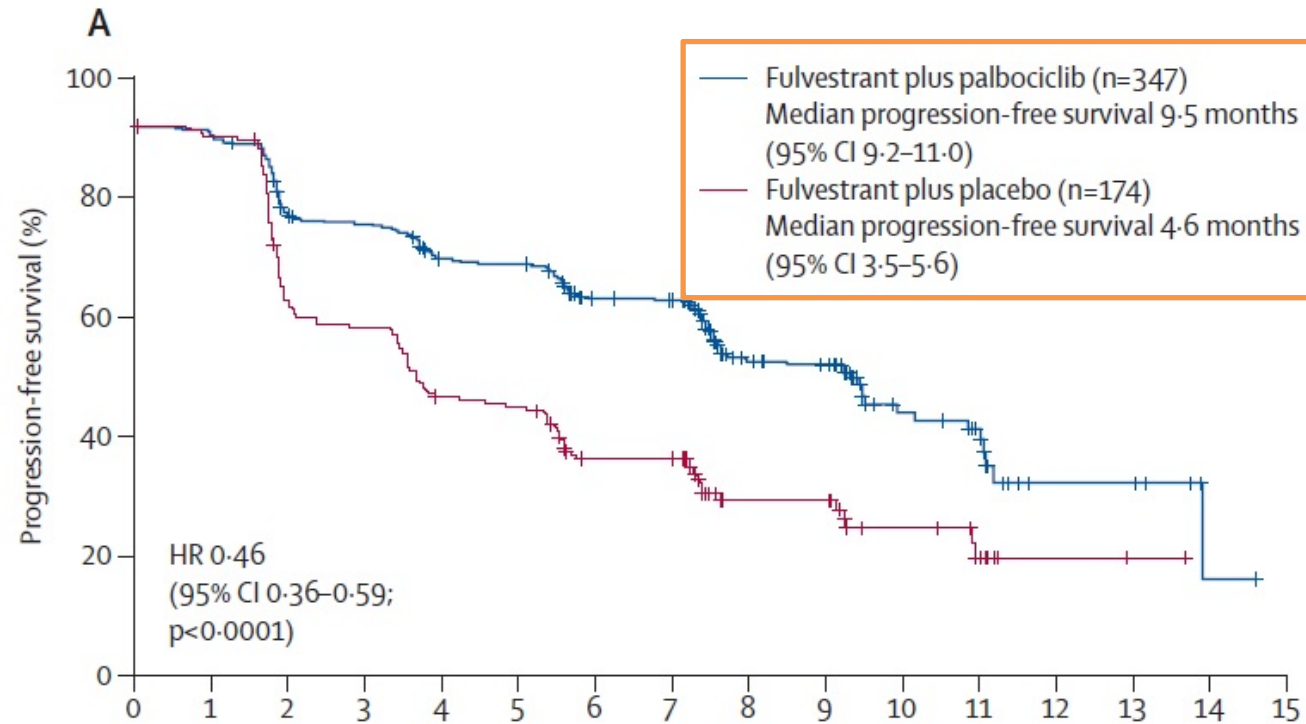


No. at risk

EVE+EXE	485	389	309	221	175	130	86	56	37	19	12	10	3	0
PBO+EXE	239	132	82	48	33	21	13	8	5	0	0	0	0	0

# PALOMA-3 trial

Fulvestrant plus palbociclib in HR+ HER2- MBC that progressed on previous endocrine therapy



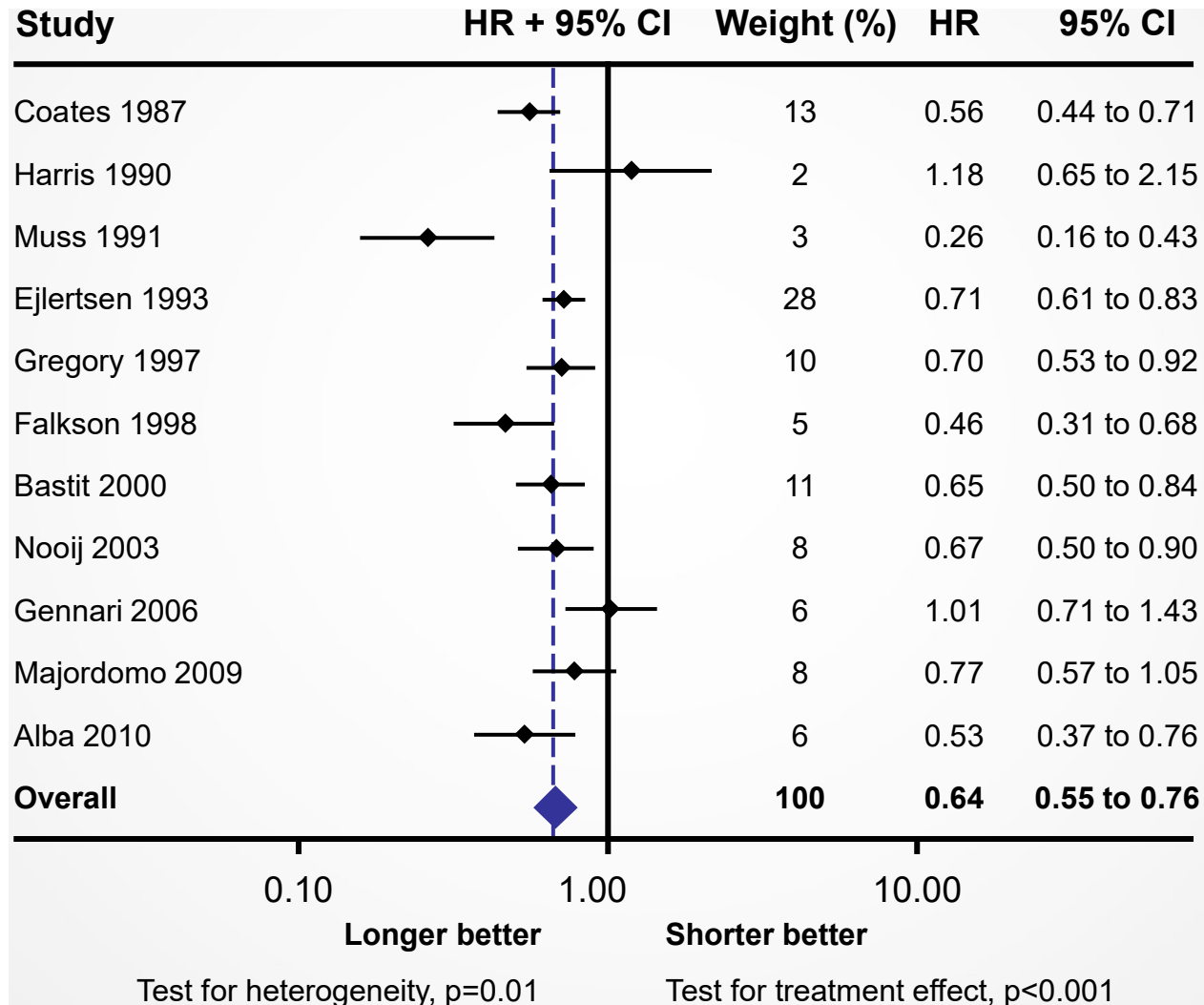
Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Fulvestrant plus palbociclib	347	333	281	273	247	244	202	197	91	85	32	23	7	7	1	0
Fulvestrant plus placebo	174	165	112	105	83	80	59	58	22	22	13	7	2	1	0	0

**FIXED  
PERIOD  
OF  
TREATME  
NT**

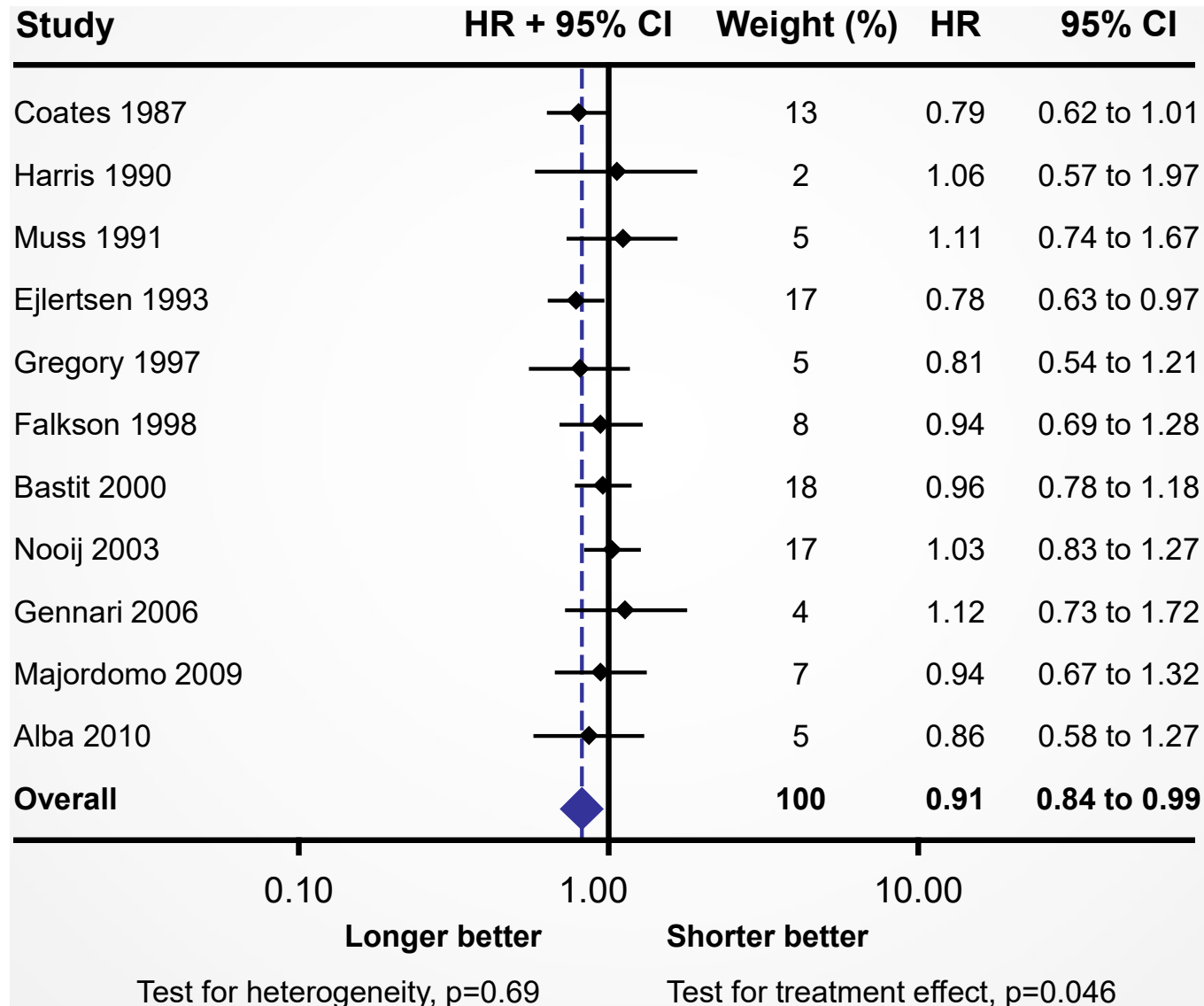


**PROLONGED  
TREATMENT  
(MAINTENANC  
E STRATEGY)**

# Duration of treatment and PFS



# Duration of treatment and OS

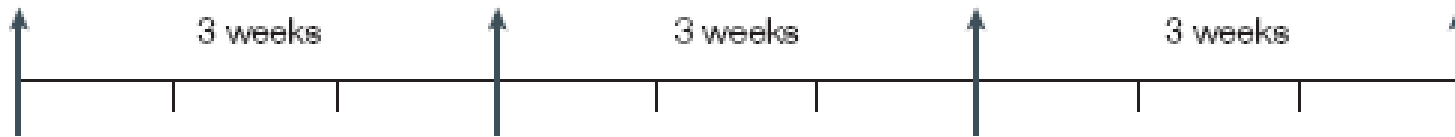


# Ideal Drugs for Prolonged Treatment

- Effective single agents
- Proven clinical activity in MBC setting
- Preferably oral, to avoid prolonged hospitalization
- Preferably no cumulative side effects
- Allows QOL preservation

# Metronomic Approach

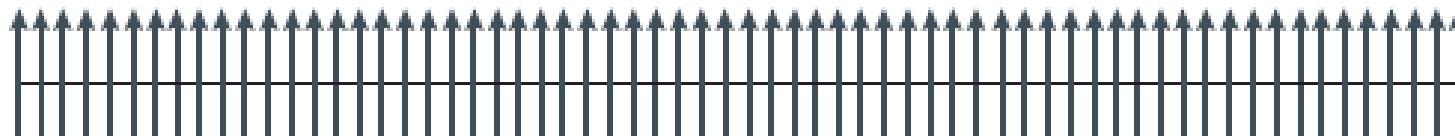
**a** MTD pulsatile chemotherapy (every 3 weeks)



**b** Metronomic chemotherapy – lower dose on a weekly basis



**c** Metronomic chemotherapy – lower dose on a daily basis





# Metronomic chemotherapy with oral vinorelbine (mVNR) and capecitabine (mCAPE) in advanced HER2-negative breast cancer patients: is it a way to optimize disease control? Final results of the VICTOR-2 study

M. E. Cazzaniga<sup>1</sup> · L. Cortesi<sup>2</sup> · A. Ferzi<sup>3</sup> · L. Scaltriti<sup>4</sup> · F. Cicchiello<sup>1</sup> ·  
M. Ciccarese<sup>5</sup> · S. Della Torre<sup>6</sup> · F. Villa<sup>7</sup> · M. Giordano<sup>8</sup> · C. Verusio<sup>9</sup> ·  
M. Nicolini<sup>10</sup> · A. R. Gambaro<sup>11</sup> · L. Zanolenzi<sup>12</sup> · E. Biraghi<sup>13</sup> · L. Legramandi<sup>14</sup> ·  
E. Rulli<sup>14</sup> · On behalf of VICTOR Study Group

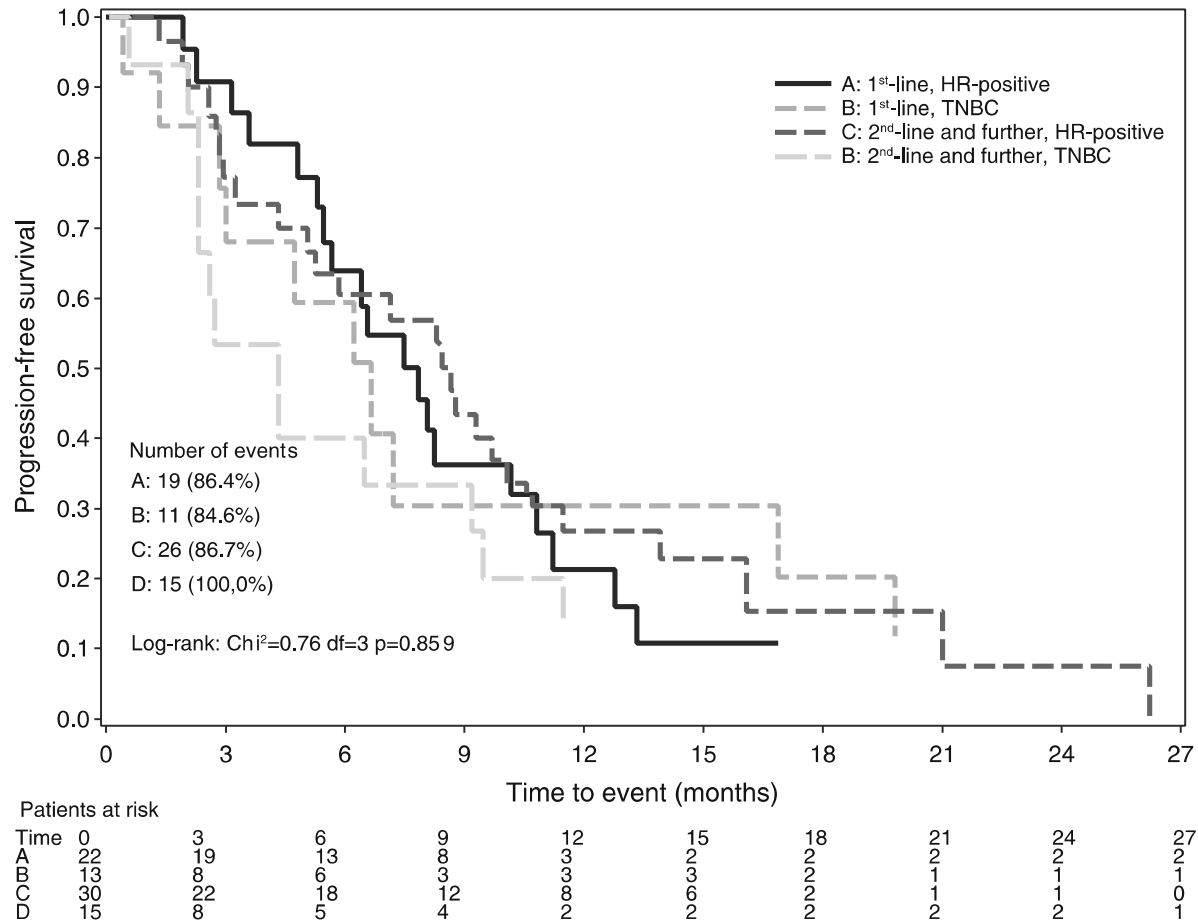
Breast Cancer Res Treat (2016) 160:501–509

Oral VNR 40 mg on Days 1, 3 and 5 per week  
+  
Capecitabine 500 mg tid continuously



Disease  
progression

Objective response rate (ORR)	First-line (Group 1) N = 31	Second-line (Group 2) N = 43	Overall N = 74
Responders (CR + PR): n (%)	11 (35.5)	11 (25.6)	22 (29.7)
[95 % CI]	[19.2–54.6]	[13.5–41.2]	[19.7–41.5]
Disease control rate (DCR)			
Responders (CR + PR + SD): n (%)	23 (74.2)	29 (67.4)	52 (70.3)
[95 % CI]	[55.4–88.1]	[51.5–80.9]	[58.5–80.3]



# Other possible agents

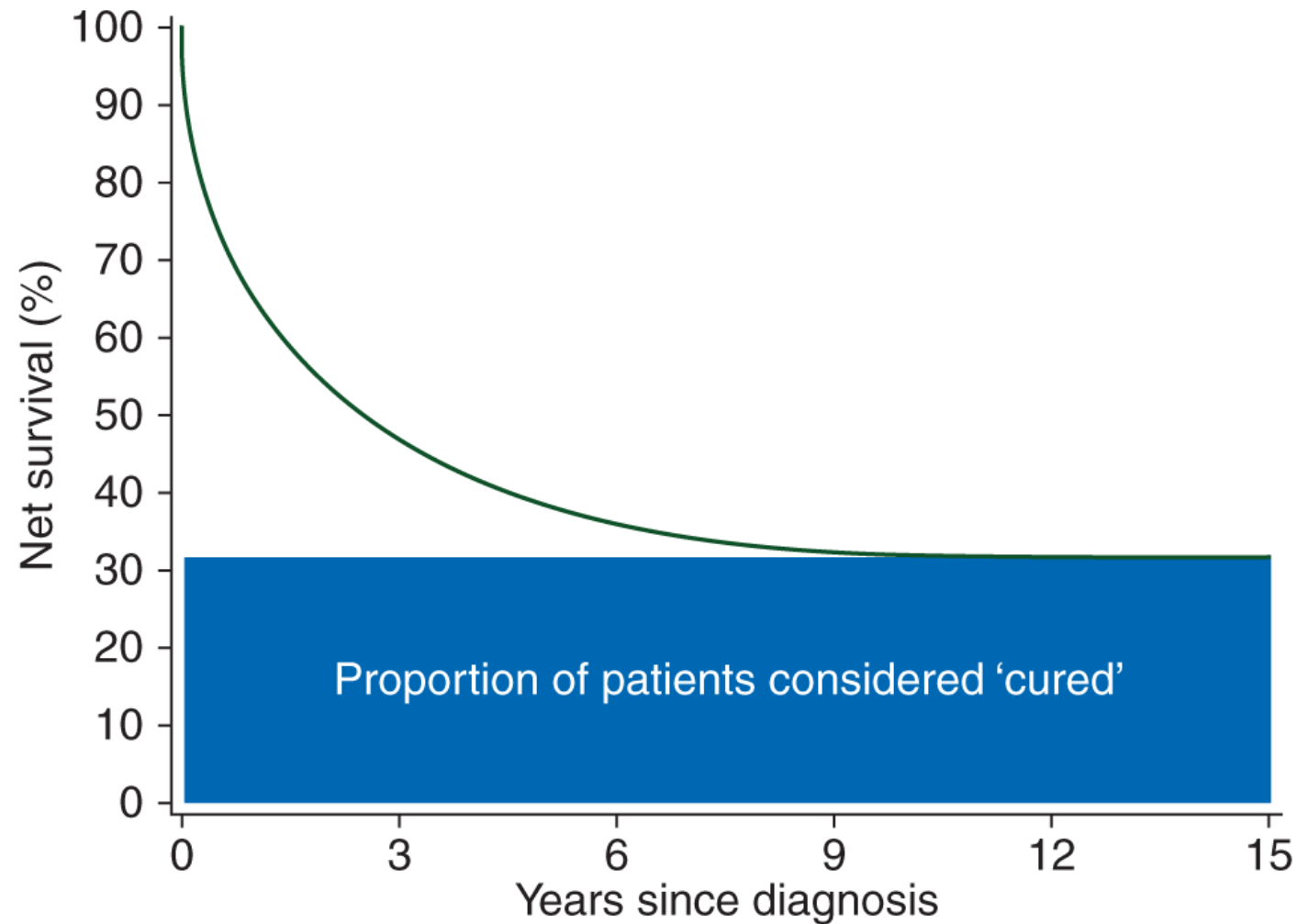
- Oral chemotherapy +/- hormonal treatment
  - Tegafur
  - YS1
  - Cyclophosphamide
  - Methotrexate ...
- Oral small TKI
  - Lapatinib
  - Neratinib
  - Afatinib
  - Sutent ...

Is Cure Possible?

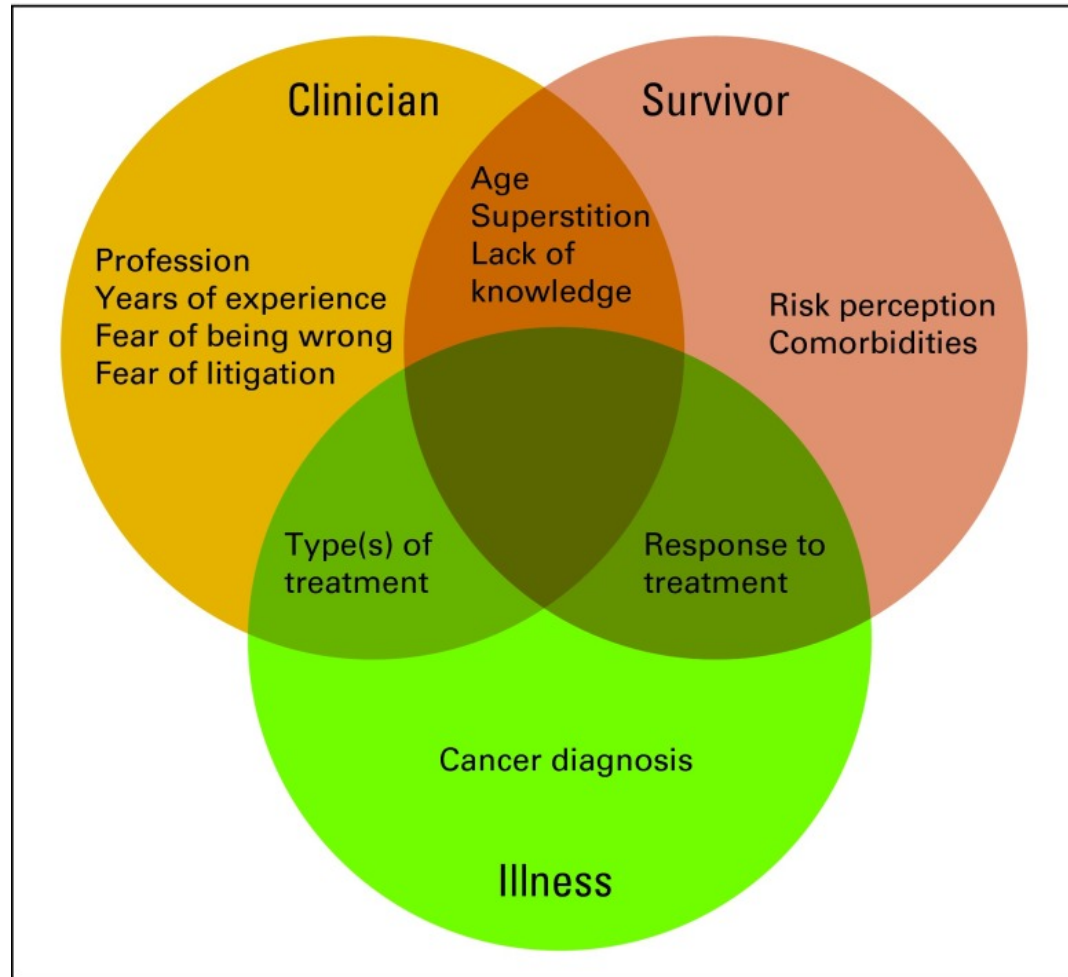
We've come a long way to improve  
MBC survival

But, is it possible to “cure”?  
Or maybe we are overtreating them?

## Cure: disease free survival for 10-20 years or more?



# Why is it so hard to define cure?



## Table 1. Lines of Evidence Suggesting Metastatic Breast Cancer Is Curable

Adjuvant therapy cures micrometastasis

Adjuvant therapy after isolated local-regional recurrence improves survival

Chemotherapy for overt metastatic disease produces long-term survivors

Exceptional responders with novel agents

Treatment of low-volume metastatic disease with surgery and radiation produces long-term survivors



# **International Guidelines for Management of Metastatic Breast Cancer: Can Metastatic Breast Cancer Be Cured?**

Olivia Pagani, Elzbieta Senkus, William Wood, Marco Colleoni, Tanja Cufer, Stella Kyriakides, Alberto Costa, Eric P. Winer, Fatima Cardoso, on behalf of the ESO–MBC Task Force

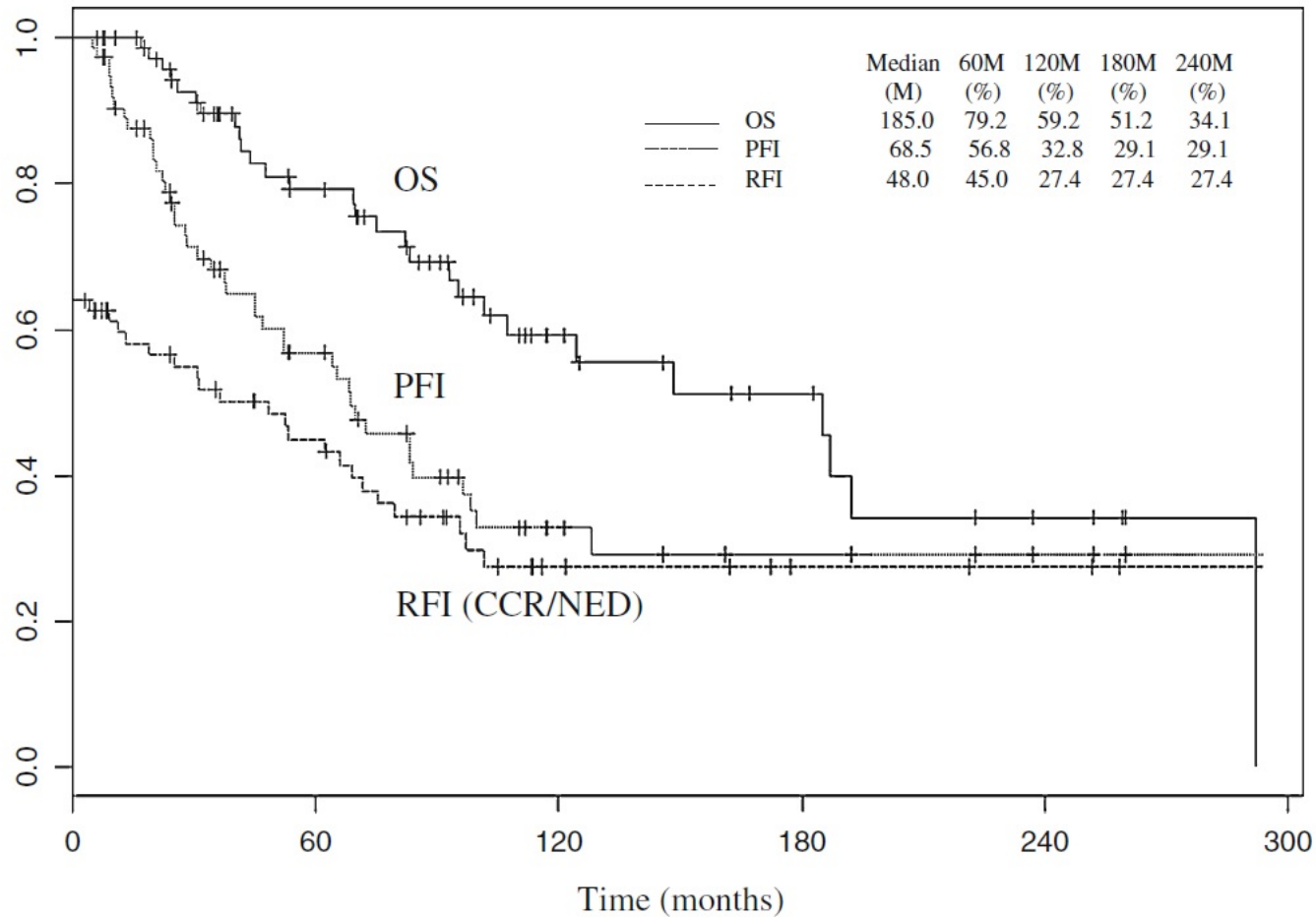
Pagani O, et al. J Natl Cancer Inst. 2010; 102(7): 456–463.

## **Possible clinical cure of metastatic breast cancer: lessons from our 30-year experience with oligometastatic breast cancer patients and literature review**

**Tadashi Kobayashi · Tamotsu Ichiba · Toshikazu Sakuyama · Yasuhiro Arakawa · Eijiroh Nagasaki · Keisuke Aiba · Hiroko Nogi · Kazumi Kawase · Hiroshi Takeyama · Yasuo Toriumi · Ken Uchida · Masao Kobayashi · Chihiro Kanehira · Masafumi Suzuki · Naomi Ando · Kazuhiko Natori · Yasunobu Kuraishi**

Kobayashi T, et al. Breast Cancer. 2012;19(3):218-37.

# OMBC as a distinct subgroup with possible clinical cure

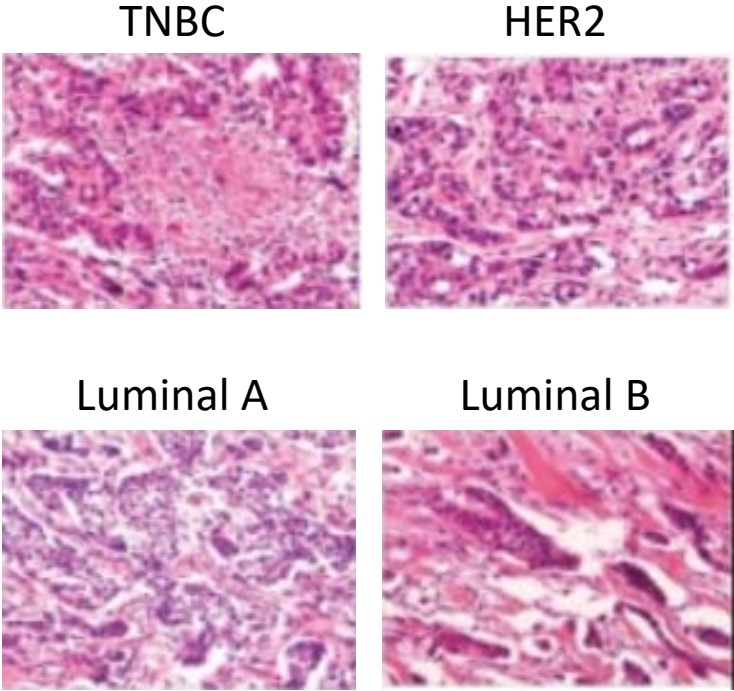


CCR: continuing complete response, M: months, NED: no evidence of clinical disease, OMBC: oligometastatic breast cancer, OS: overall survival, PFI: progression-free interval, RFI: relapse-free interval, y: year

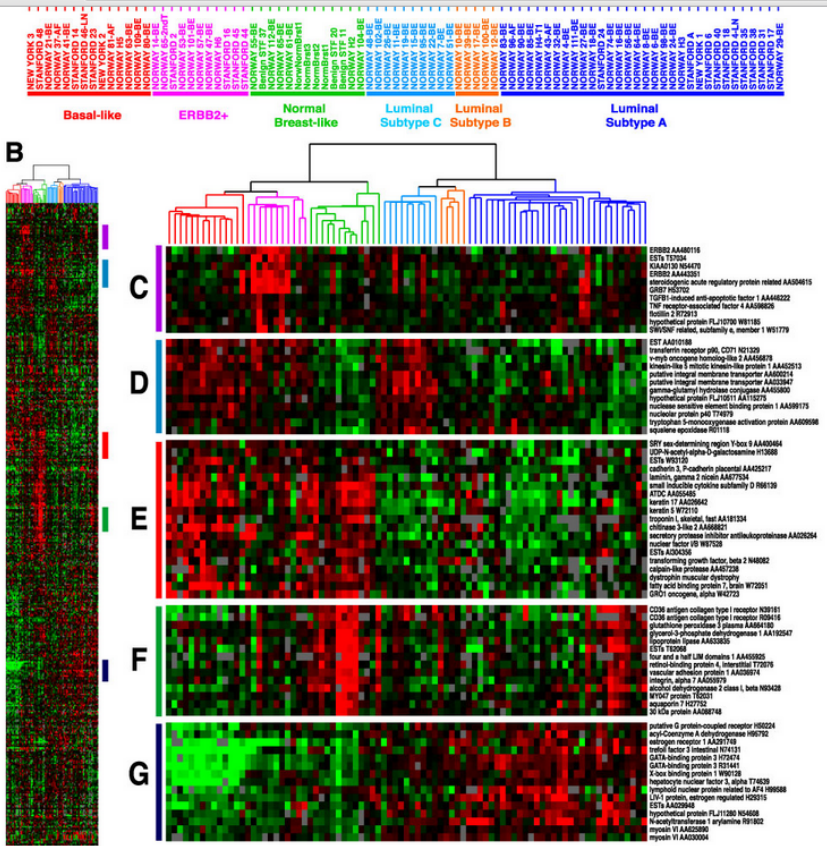
# Heterogeneity of breast cancer



## Intrinsic subtype by IHC



## Intrinsic subtype – molecular level



Perou C, Sorlie T, Eisen M et al. Nature 2000  
 Perou C, Parker J, Prat A, Ellis M, Bernard P. Lancet Oncol 2010

## Targeted therapy for HER2+ breast cancer

- 20-25% of breast cancers are classified as HER2+
- HER2 overexpression or amplification impacts significantly the prognosis of patients with T1a-bNOMO

**Table 3.** Multivariate analyses in 714 patients with pT1a-bNOMO breast cancer.

	Variables	HR (95% CI) <sup>1</sup>	P-value
OS	HER2 status <sup>2</sup>	3.891 (1.583–9.565)	0.0031
	HR status <sup>2</sup>		0.3453
	SBR		0.2392
DFS	HER2 status <sup>2</sup>	3.571 (1.802–7.080)	0.0003
	SBR		0.2773
LRFS	HER2 status <sup>2</sup>	5.851 (1.551–22.077)	0.0091
MFS	HER2 status <sup>2</sup>	4.105 (1.886–8.936)	0.0004
	Age (>50 vs. ≤50)	3.420 (1.053–11.110)	0.0408
	SBR		0.0510

1. Li SG, et al. Biomed Rep. 2013 ;1(4): 499–505. 2. Rouanet P, et al. Cancer Med. 2014;3(1):134–142.

# HER2 status of circulating tumor cells (CTCs)

- A total of 254 patients with metastatic breast cancer from nine German university breast cancer centers were enrolled in this prospective study
- HER2-positive CTCs can be detected in a relevant number of patients with HER2 negative primary tumors

**Table 5** HER2 status of CTCs determined by the assays and correlation with primary tumor HER2 status

	No. (%)				P value
	Total	HER2 status of the primary tumor			
		Negative	Positive	Unknown	
<i>CellSearch assay</i>					
CTC positive <sup>a</sup>	122	76	31	15	0.02 <sup>c</sup> ( $\kappa = 0.226$ )
HER2 negative	72 (59)	51 (67)	13 (42)	8 (53)	
HER2 positive	50 (41)	25 (33)	18 (58)	7 (47)	
<i>AdnaTest BreastCancer</i>					
CTC positive <sup>b</sup>	90	57	22	11	0.51 <sup>c</sup> ( $\kappa = -0.068$ )
HER2 negative	48 (53)	29 (51)	13 (59)	6 (54)	
HER2 positive	42 (47)	28 (49)	9 (41)	5 (45)	

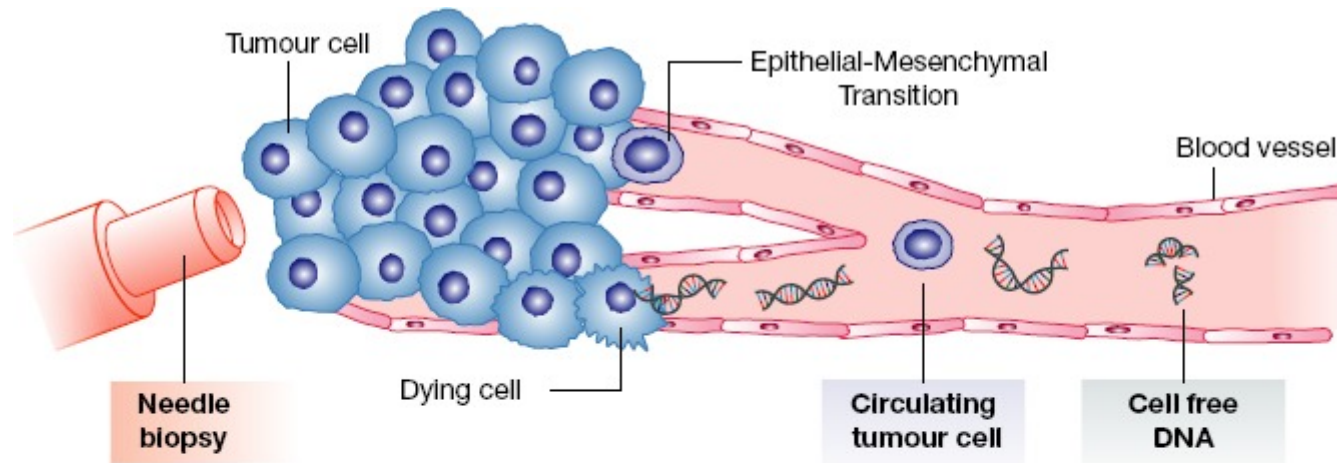
<sup>a</sup> HER2 positive if at least one cell is strongly stained for HER2 (3+)

<sup>b</sup> HER2 positive if a HER2 transcript has been detected

<sup>c</sup> Excluding those with unknown HER2 status



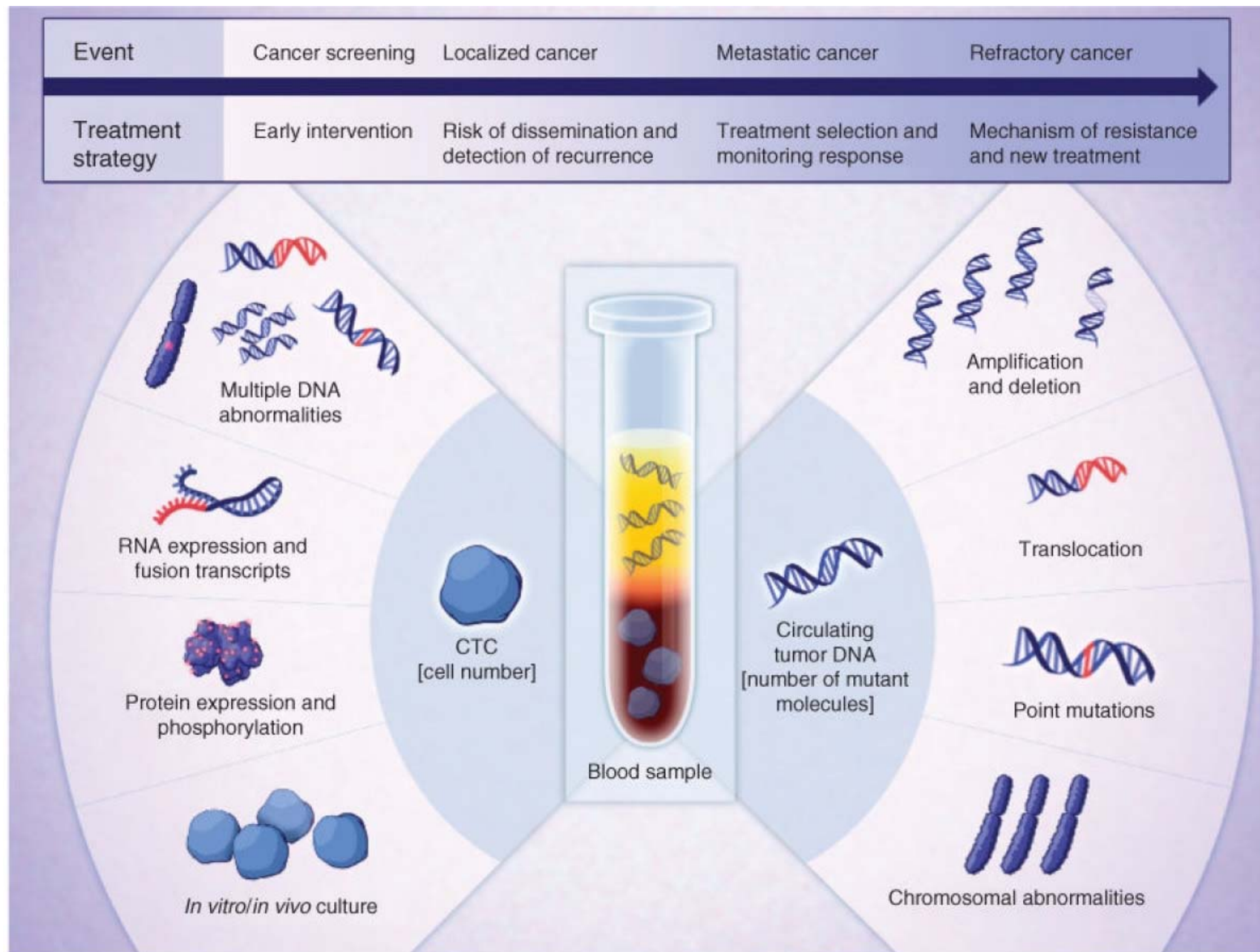
# Tumour tissue biopsy, circulating tumour cell analysis, and cell-free DNA



	Biopsy	CTC	cfDNA
<b>Invasive</b>	+	-	-
<b>All patients eligible</b>	-	+	+
<b>Instrumentation required</b>	+	+	-
<b>WGA required</b>	-	+	+/-
<b>RNA profiling</b>	+	+	-
<b>Research applicability</b>	+++	++	+
<b>Biomarker applicability</b>	-	++	+++

WGA, whole-genome amplification

Wyatt AW, Gleave ME. EMBO Mol Med. 2015;7(7):878-94.

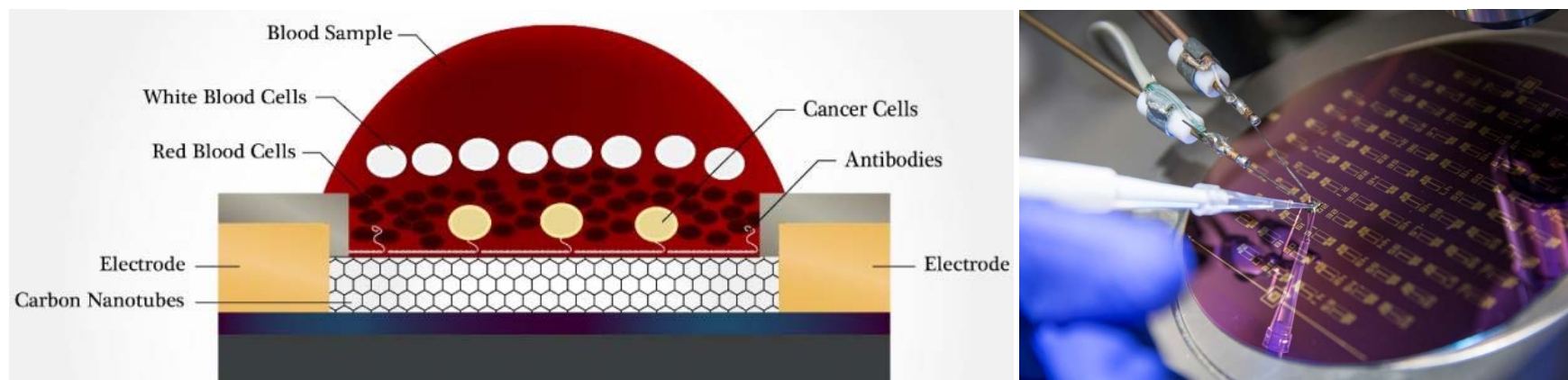


# WPI Researchers Build “Liquid Biopsy” Chip that Detects Metastatic Cancer Cells in a Drop of Blood

*More effective than existing microfluidic devices, the breakthrough technology paves the way for clinical development of simple blood tests for many cancers.*

December 15, 2016

A chip developed by mechanical engineers at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) can trap and identify metastatic cancer cells in a small amount of blood drawn from a cancer patient. The breakthrough technology uses a simple mechanical method that has been shown to be more effective in trapping cancer cells than the microfluidic approach employed in many existing devices.

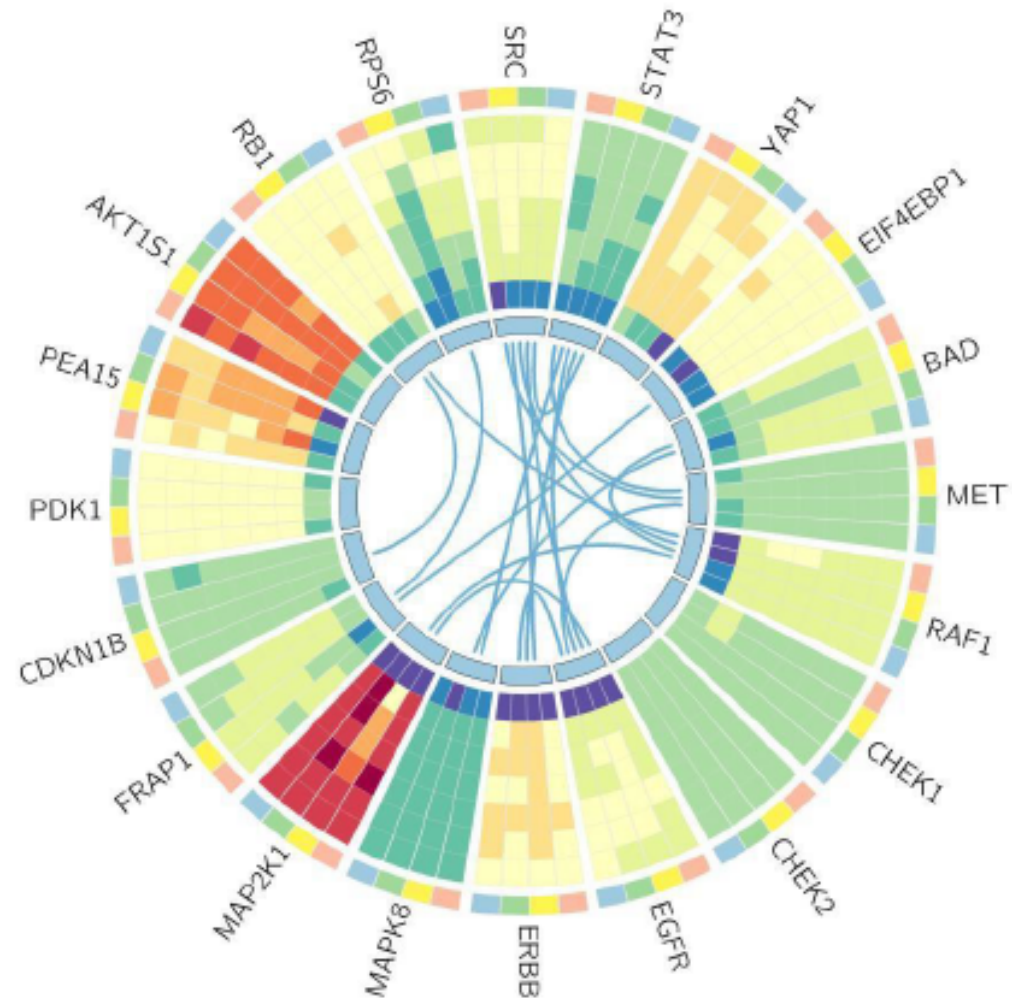


<https://www.wpi.edu/news/wpi-researchers-build-liquid-biopsy-chip-detects-metastatic-cancer-cells-drop-blood>



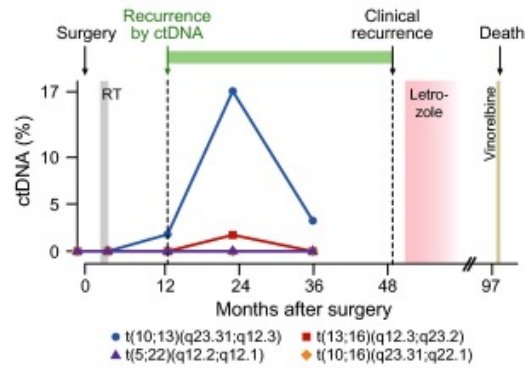
# BioWheel for Visualizing the Big Data of Breast Cancer

- BioWheel showed connections between proteins and their expression levels as represented in colors that changed from light green (for no expression) to dark red (for high expression) as time progressed from the inside to the outside of the wheel.
- Shifting connections between proteins on the inner ring are seen in the center.

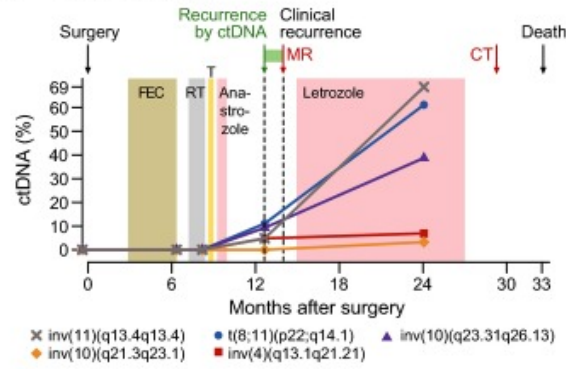


**Figure 3.** Mock-up of BioWheel visualization tool.

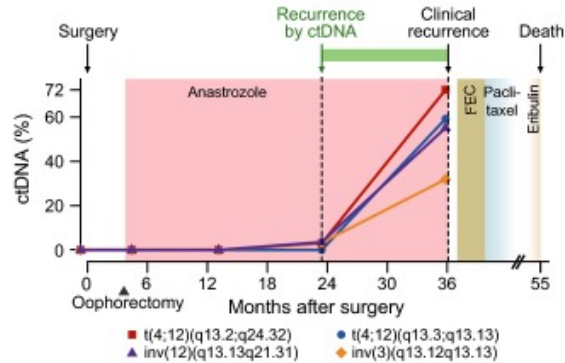
**A Patient EM5**



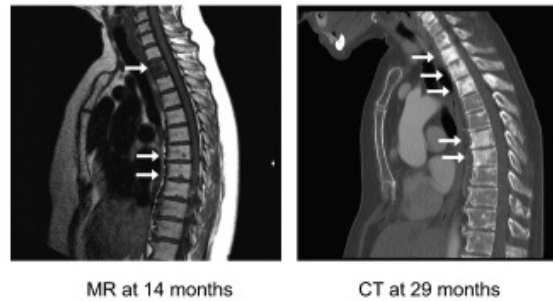
**B Patient EM11**



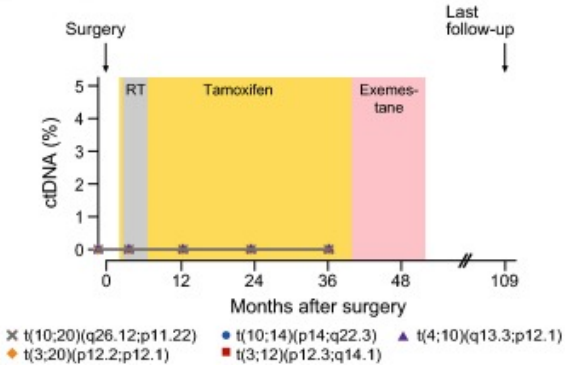
**C Patient EM9**



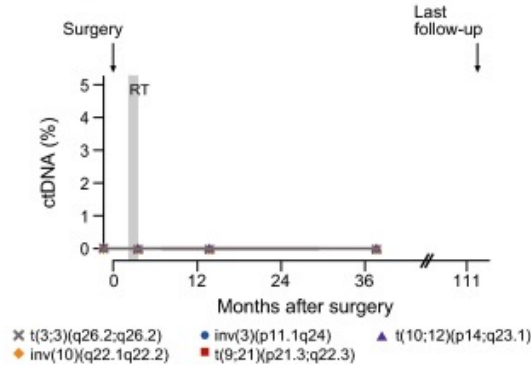
**D Patient EM11**



**E Patient DF1**



**F Patient DF4**



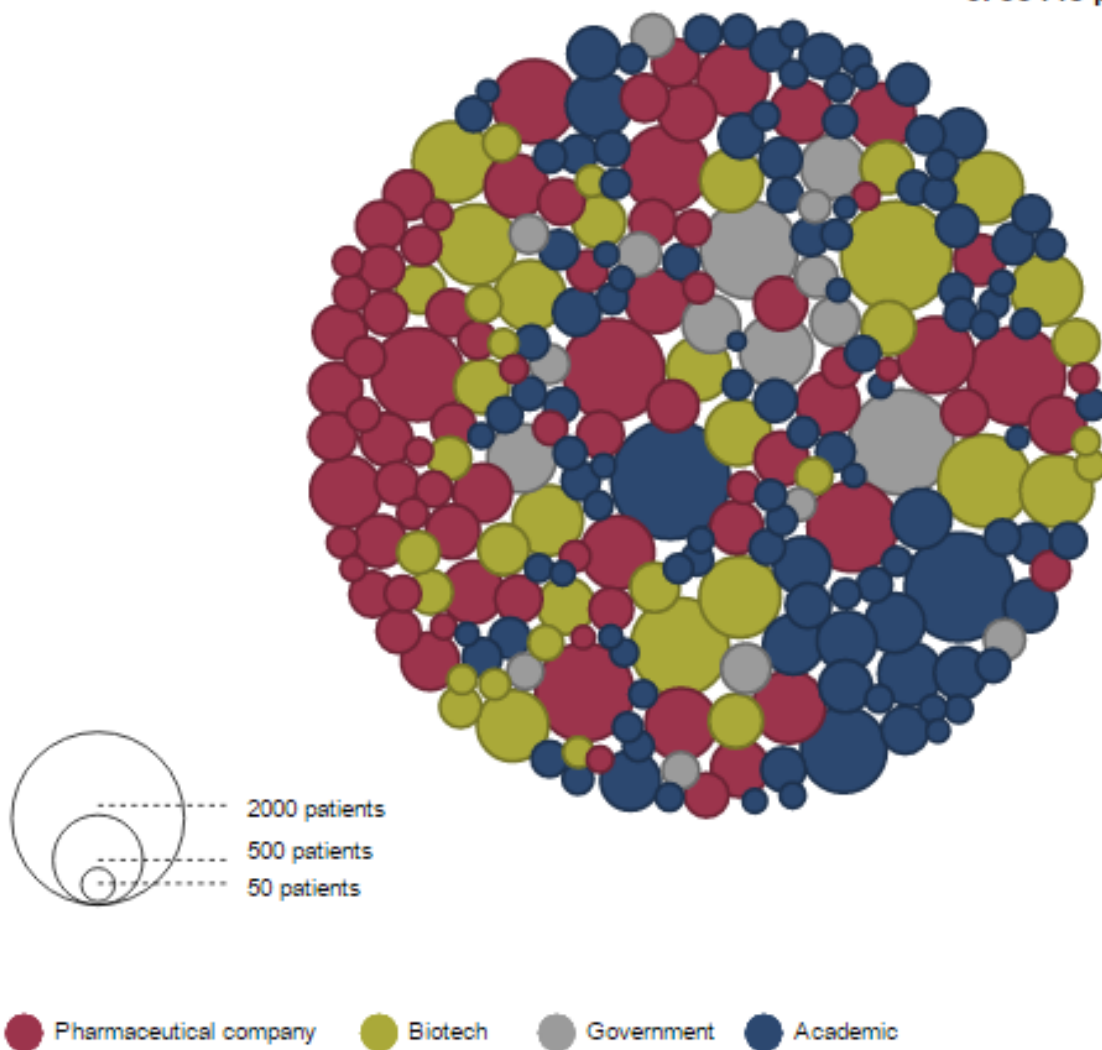
Serial monitoring of circulating tumor DNA in patients with primary breast cancer for detection of occult metastatic disease

Gene	Alteration	Frequency (%)	Candidate drug
ERBB2	Amplification/Mutations	>10	Her2 inhibitor
FGF3	Amplification	5-10	FGFR inhibitor
FGFR1	Amplification	5-10	FGFR inhibitor
FGFR2	Amplification	1-5	FGFR inhibitor
IGF1R	Amplification	1-5	IGFR inhibitor
EGFR	Amplification	1-5	EGFR inhibitor
PIK3CA	Amplification/Mutations	>10	PI3K inhibitor
PIK3R1	Mutations	1-5	Not Known
PTEN	Mutations/Deletions	5-10	AKT inhibitor
AKT1	Amplification/Mutations	1-5	AKT inhibitor
AKT2	Amplification	1-5	AKT inhibitor
AKT3	Amplification	1-5	AKT inhibitor
INPP4B	Deletions	1-5	AKT inhibitor
CCND1	Amplifications	>10	CDK4 inhibitor
Rb	Mutations/Deletions	5-10	Resistance to CDK4 inhibitor

Targetable genomic alterations in breast cancer

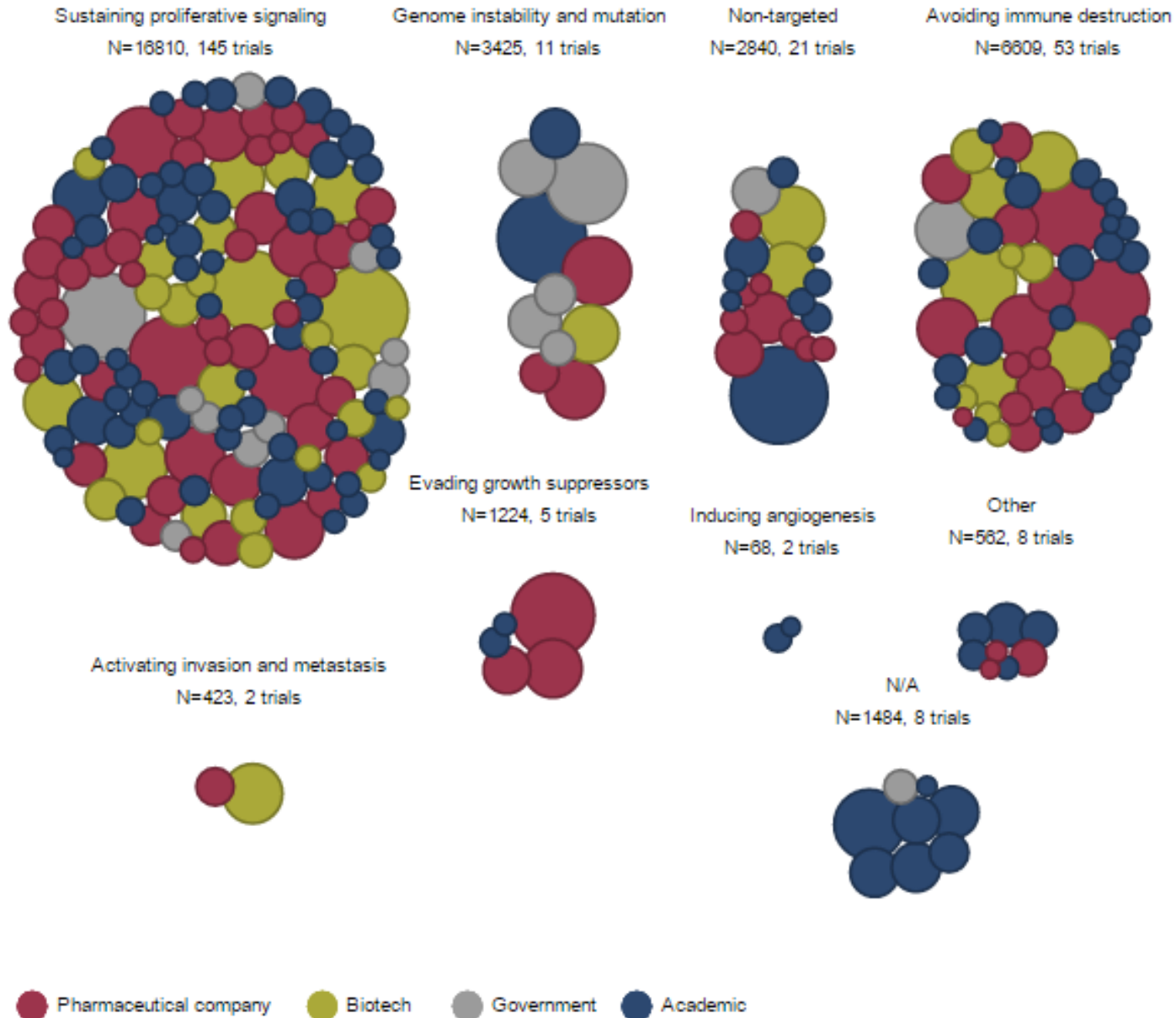
All trials on MBC as of Dec 2016

255 clinical trials in Metastatic Breast Cancer  
with a targeted total sample size  
of 33445 patients.



<http://www.mbcalliance.org/clinical-trials-in-metastatic-breast-cancer>

# Trials categorized by hallmarks of cancer



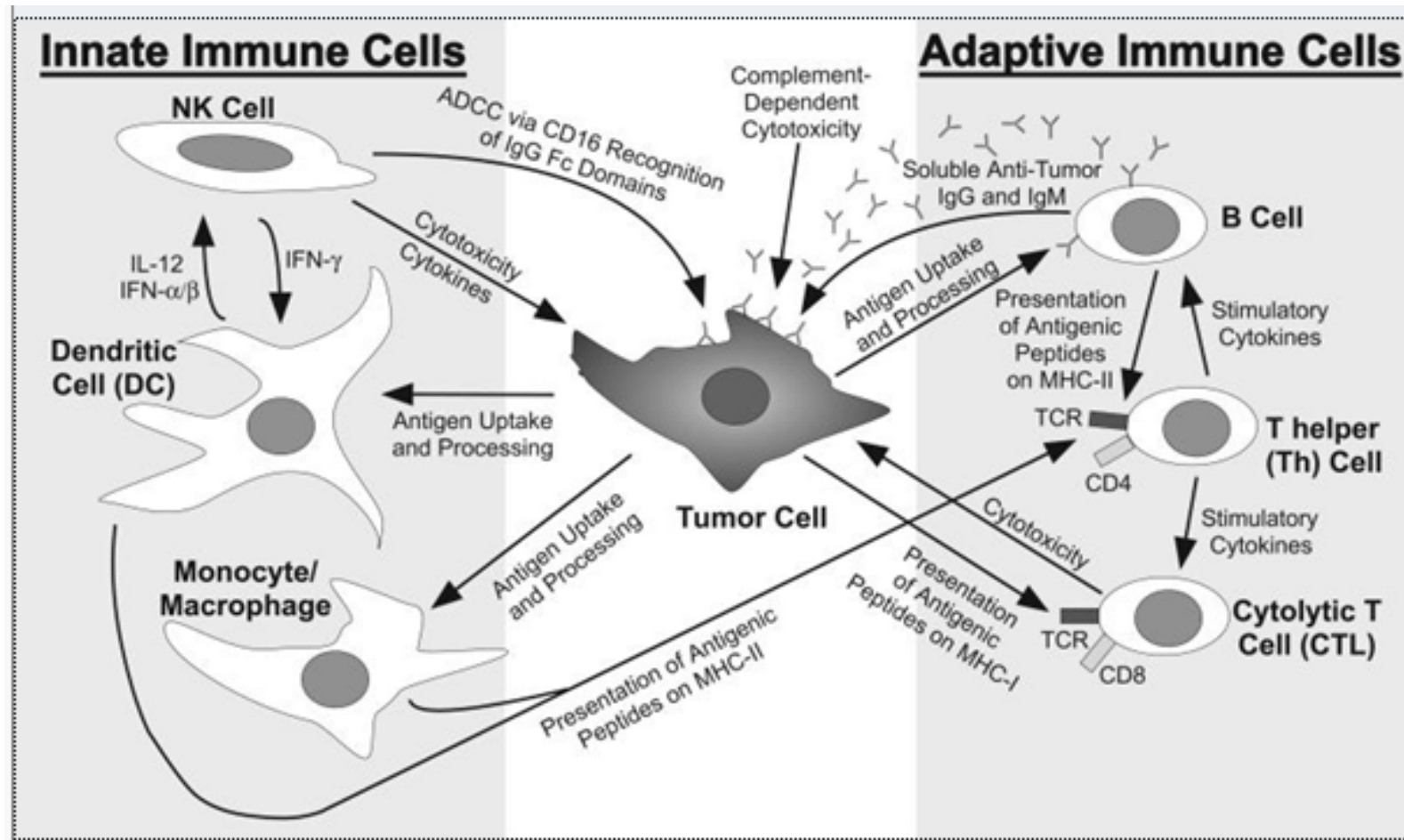
## Examples of genotype-driven clinical trials in breast cancer

Trial	Phase (N)	Compound	Molecular mechanism of action of experimental drug	Type of disease	Molecular aberration
NCT01219699	I (200)	BYL719	PI3K $\alpha$ Inhibitor	Solid tumours and ER-positive MBC	<i>PIK3CA</i> mutations
NCT01589861 (PIKHER2)	I/II (106)	BKM120	Pan-PI3K Inhibitor	HER2-amplified MBC	PTEN loss and/or <i>PIK3CA</i> mutations
NCT01277757	II (40)	MK2206	AKT Inhibitor	MBC	<i>AKT</i> mutations and/or <i>PIK3CA</i> mutations and/or PTEN loss
NCT01202591 (GLOW)	I/II (900)	AZD4547	FGFR Inhibitor	ER-positive MBC	<i>FGFR1</i> amplification
NCT02053636 (FINESSE)	II (123)	Lucitanib	FGFR Inhibitor	ER-positive MBC	<i>FGFR1</i> amplification
NCT01670877	II (29)	Neratinib	Irreversible EGFR/HER2 inhibitor	HER2 non-amplified MBC	<i>ERBB2</i> mutations

EGFR, epidermal growth factor receptor 2; ER, oestrogen receptor; FGFR, fibroblast growth factor receptor; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; MBC, metastatic breast cancer; PI3K, phosphatidylinositide 3-kinase; PTEN, phosphatase and tensin homologue.



# Immune Response to Tumors

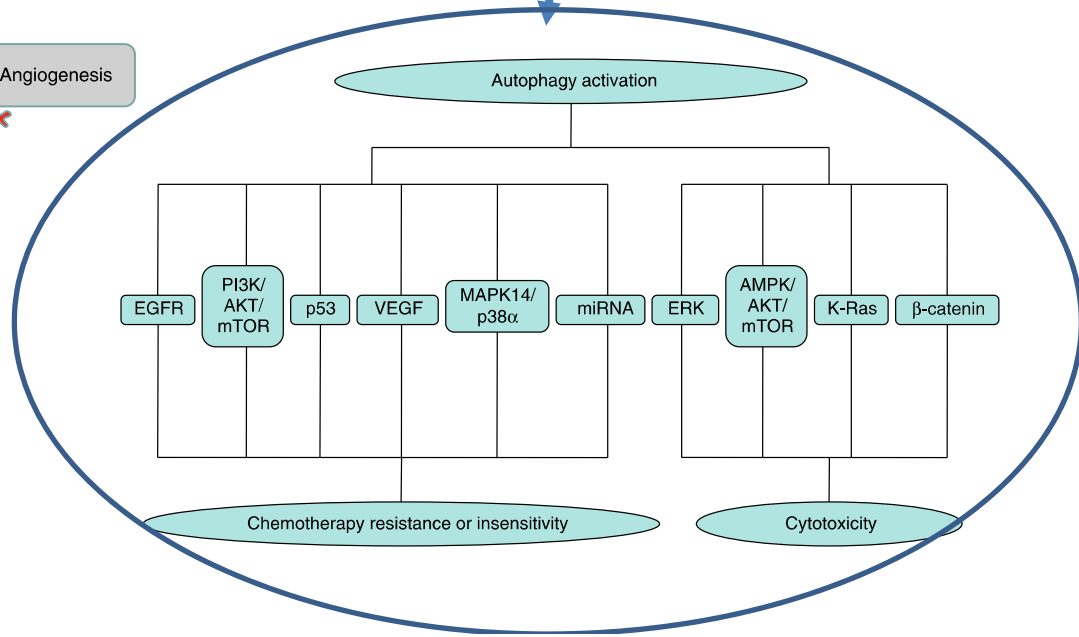
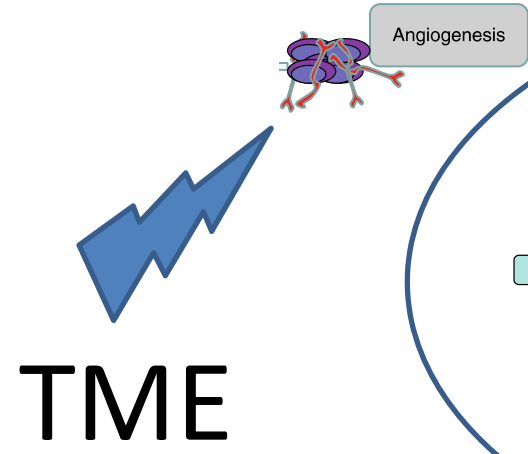
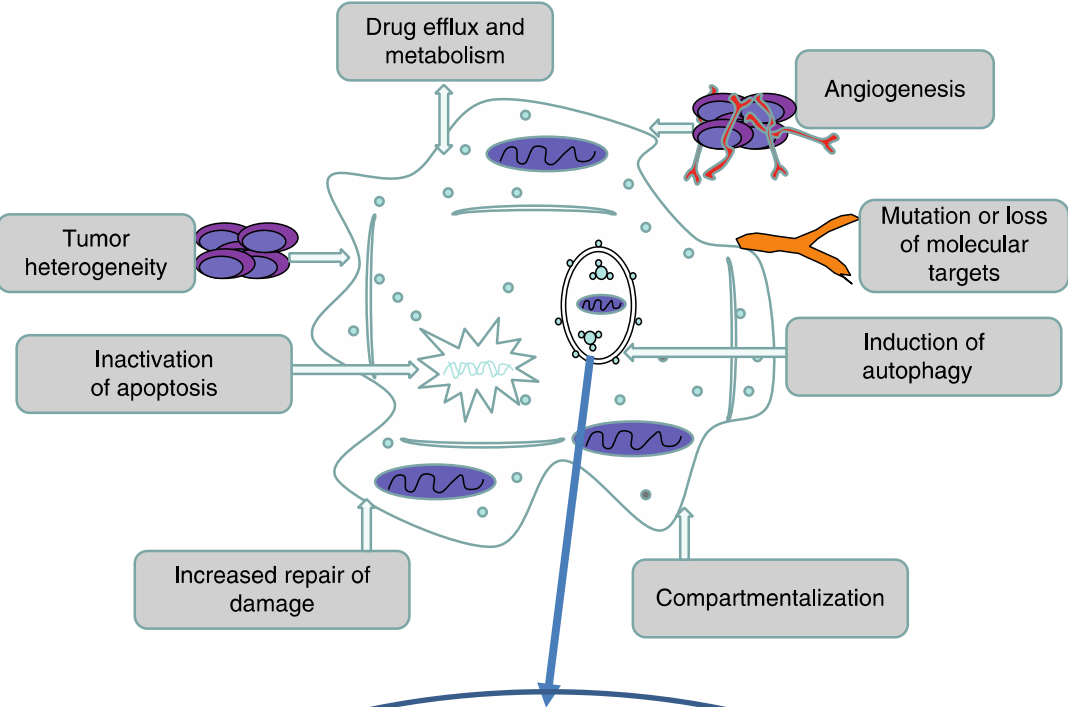
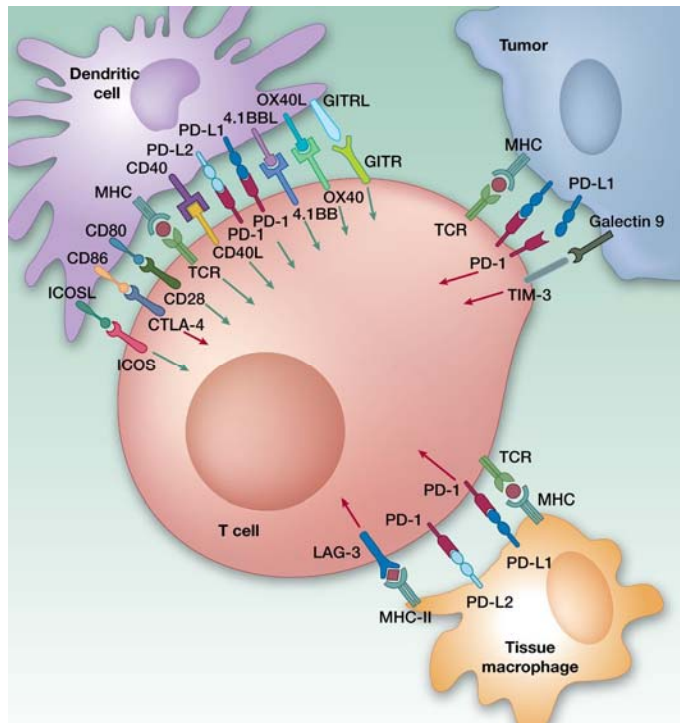


Major cells of the innate and adaptive immune systems and their functions in response to a tumor cell.

# Types of immunotherapy

- Passive immunotherapy:
  - Administration of monoclonal antibodies which target either tumor-specific or over-expressed antigens
- Active immunotherapies:
  - Cytokines- IL-2 / IFNs / TNF $\alpha$
  - Cancer vaccines
  - Cell-based therapies
  - Tumor-specific CTL
  - Tumor-derived APC
  - DC priming







**13<sup>TH</sup> Annual  
Conference  
of the  
Organisation for Oncology and  
Translational Research  
(OOTR)**

**Theme :** Clinical Trials, Tumor Microenvironment,  
Biomarkers and Liquid Biopsies  
in Cancer Research

**Date :** June 9-10, 2017

**Venue :** Charles K Kao Auditorium,  
Science Park, Hong Kong

## FREE FOR STUDENTS

### Scientific Programme

Biomarkers  
Genetic markers for DCIS  
Multi-gene expression assays  
Liquid biopsy: transformation in cancer care  
Translational research in oncology  
The role of tumor microenvironment in cancer progression  
Implementation in clinical trials  
Innovations in biopharmaceuticals

### Conference Chairmen

Louis WC Chow, Hong Kong      Masakazu Toi, Japan  
Executive Director, OOTR      President, OOTR

### Distinguished Guest

Yan Sun, China  
Academician, Chinese Academy of Engineering

### Confirmed Faculty Members (in alphabetical order)

Bao-San Han, China	Hironobu Sasano, Japan	Stephen Fox, Australia
Bruce Mann, Australia	Jun Jiang, China	Takayuki Ueno, Japan
Chiun-Sheng Huang, Taiwan	Li Fu, China	Won-Shik Han, Korea
Er-Wei Song, China	Nadir Arber, Israel	Xi-Chun Hu, China
Gary MK Tse, Hong Kong	Peter Dubsy, Austria	Xiao-Ming Xie, China
Giuseppe Viale, Italy	Seigo Nakamura, Japan	Yong-Sheng Wang, China
Guo-Jun Zhang, China	Stefan Glück, USA	Jin Zhang, China

### REMINDER

Early bird registration: until April 10, 2017

#### CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

Selected abstracts will be published in the special issue of  
**Chinese Journal of Cancer Research**

For more information,  
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谢谢

**Thank You**

