

# Multidisciplinary Care of Early Breast Cancer: Implementing Primary Systemic Therapy

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# Disclosures

- Advisor/Consultant: AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Novartis, Seagen, Spectrum, Napo, Genentech, Foundation Medicine, Coherus, GSK
- Speaker Bureau: AstraZeneca, Merck, Seagen, Daiichi Sankyo, Novartis

1993:

50 year old woman  
with palpable breast  
mass

Imaging: 3 cm mass  
in Left breast

Biopsy: Invasive  
cancer, NOS, poorly  
differentiated

ER+ PR+ by LBA;

HER2 N/A; Ki-67 N/A

Total Mastectomy and axillary lymph node  
dissection:

Path: 4.2 x 4 cm IDC, 2/18 lymph nodes  
positive

Doxorubicin based adjuvant chemotherapy

Radiation x 5 weeks including all LNs + 1  
week boost to chest wall/scar

Tamoxifen for 5 years

# 1993 Outcome

## EFFICACY

- 30-40% chance of distant recurrence at 10 yrs

## TOXICITY

- 35-40% chance of clinical lymphedema
- 10-20% chance of chronic chest wall pain/fibrosis
- 1-5% chance of cardiac disease

2023:

50 year old woman  
with palpable breast  
mass

Imaging: Mammo +US:  
3 cm mass in Left  
breast, no palp LNs,  
sonographically neg  
MRI: borderline LNs, 4  
cm mass

US Biopsy: Invasive  
ductal ca, grade 3 ER+  
80% PR+ 10%;  
HER2 3+; Ki-67 30%

Neoadjuvant TCHP; Clinical complete response by  
exam and imaging

Partial Mastectomy + SLNB  
Path: pCR in breast and lymph nodes

Anti-HER2 Ab adjuvant therapy

Radiation to breast/level 1/2 lymph nodes 3 weeks

Aromatase inhibitor x 5 years

# Outcome change over 30 years

**1993**

## EFFICACY

- 30-40% chance of distant recurrence at 10 yrs

## TOXICITY

- 35-40% chance of clinical lymphedema
- 10-20% chance of chronic chest wall pain/fibrosis
- 1-5% chance of cardiac disease

**2023**

## EFFICACY

- 5-10% chance of distant recurrence at 10 yrs

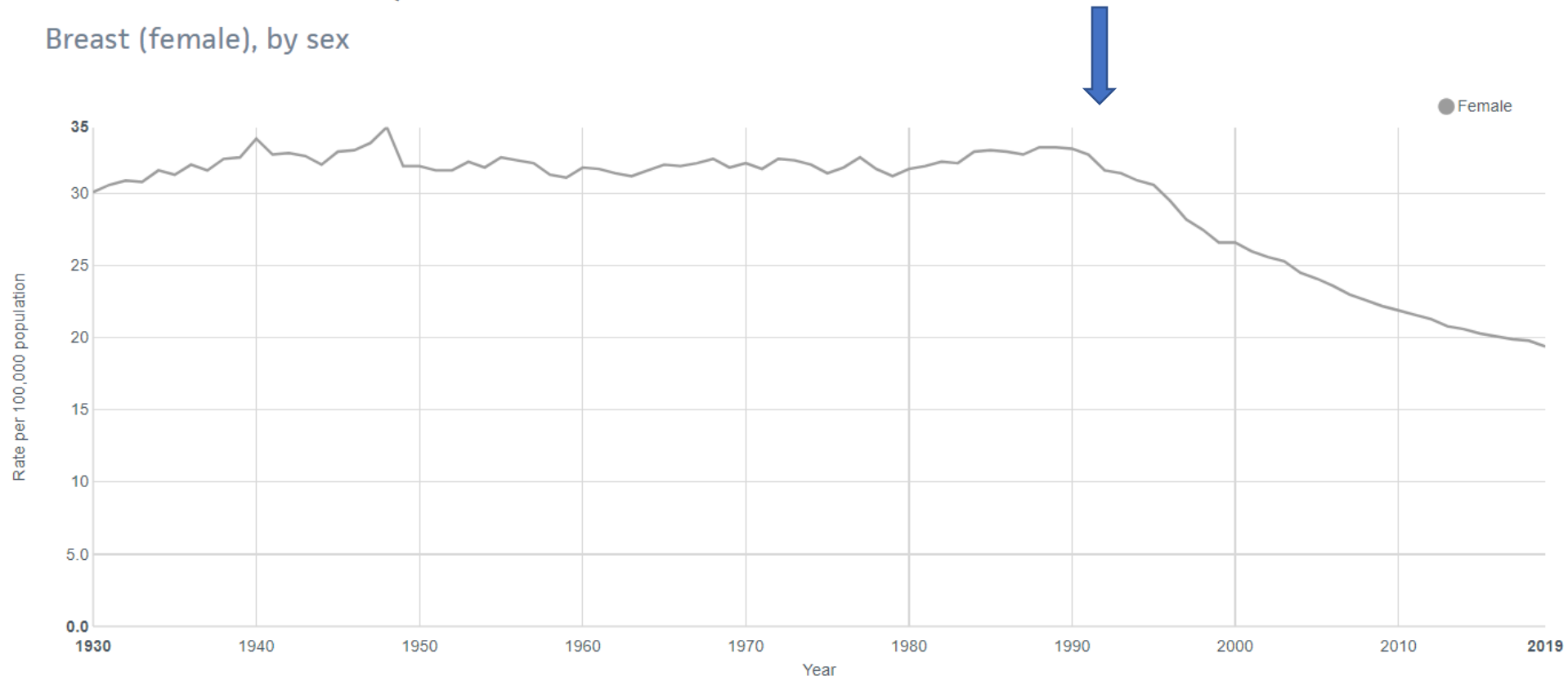
## TOXICITY

- 5-10% chance of clinical lymphedema
- 3-5% chance of chronic chest wall pain/fibrosis
- 1-3% chance of cardiac disease

Breast cancer death rates have decreased 40% in past 30 years...  
while interventions have reduced toxicity and side effects

### Trends in death rates, 1930-2019

Breast (female), by sex

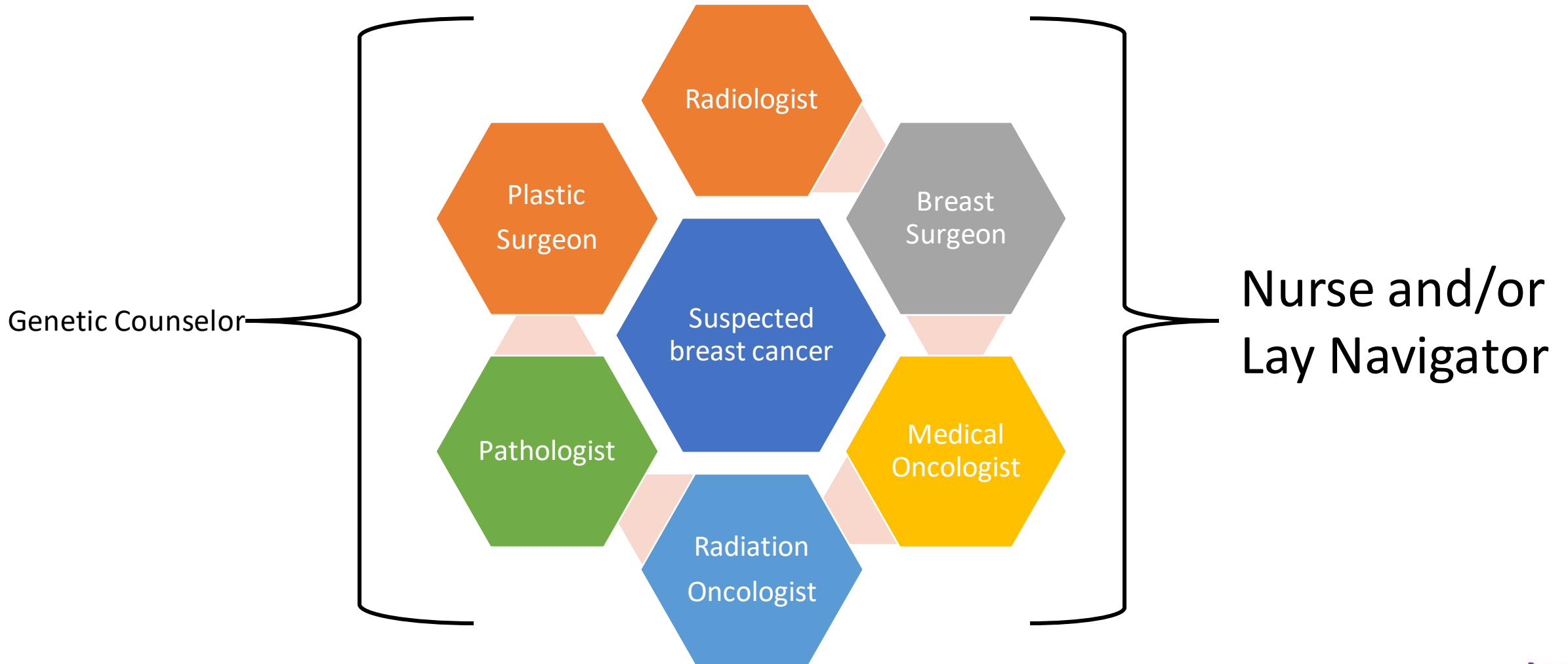


# What led to this dramatic improvement?

1. Better and more screening
2. Better surgery
3. Better radiation therapy
4. Better understanding of the biology
5. Better systemic therapy (adjuvant and neoadjuvant)
6. Better multidisciplinary care



# The multidisciplinary team for early breast cancer



# Why use Neoadjuvant Systemic Therapy?

## ➤ Traditional

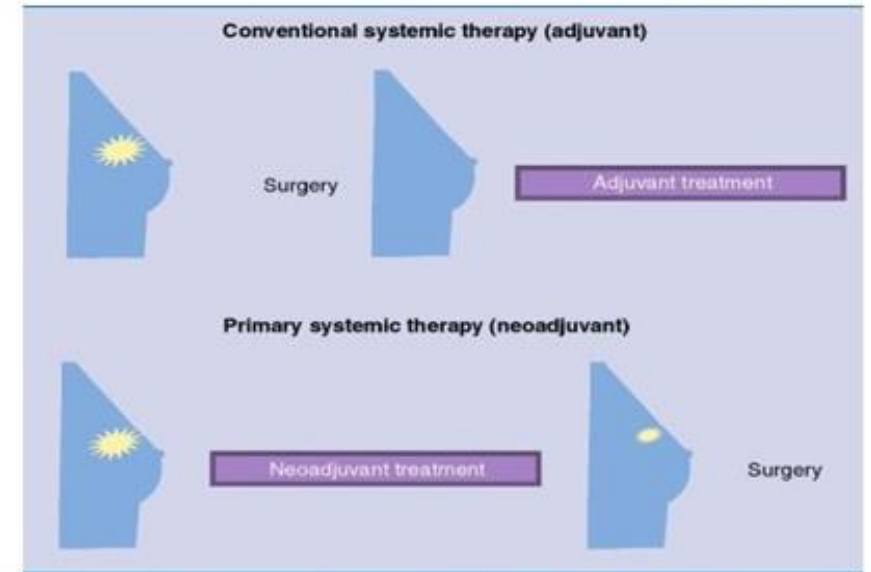
- Downstage disease, improve resectability and breast conservation
- Reduce extent of axillary surgery

## ➤ Contemporary

- Risk stratification to guide adjuvant therapy
- Provide long-term prognostic information
- Early assessment of novel agents/combinations

## ➤ Growing

- Response/resistance biomarkers to optimize patient selection for available therapies
- Pathological response-guided escalation and de-escalation clinical trials



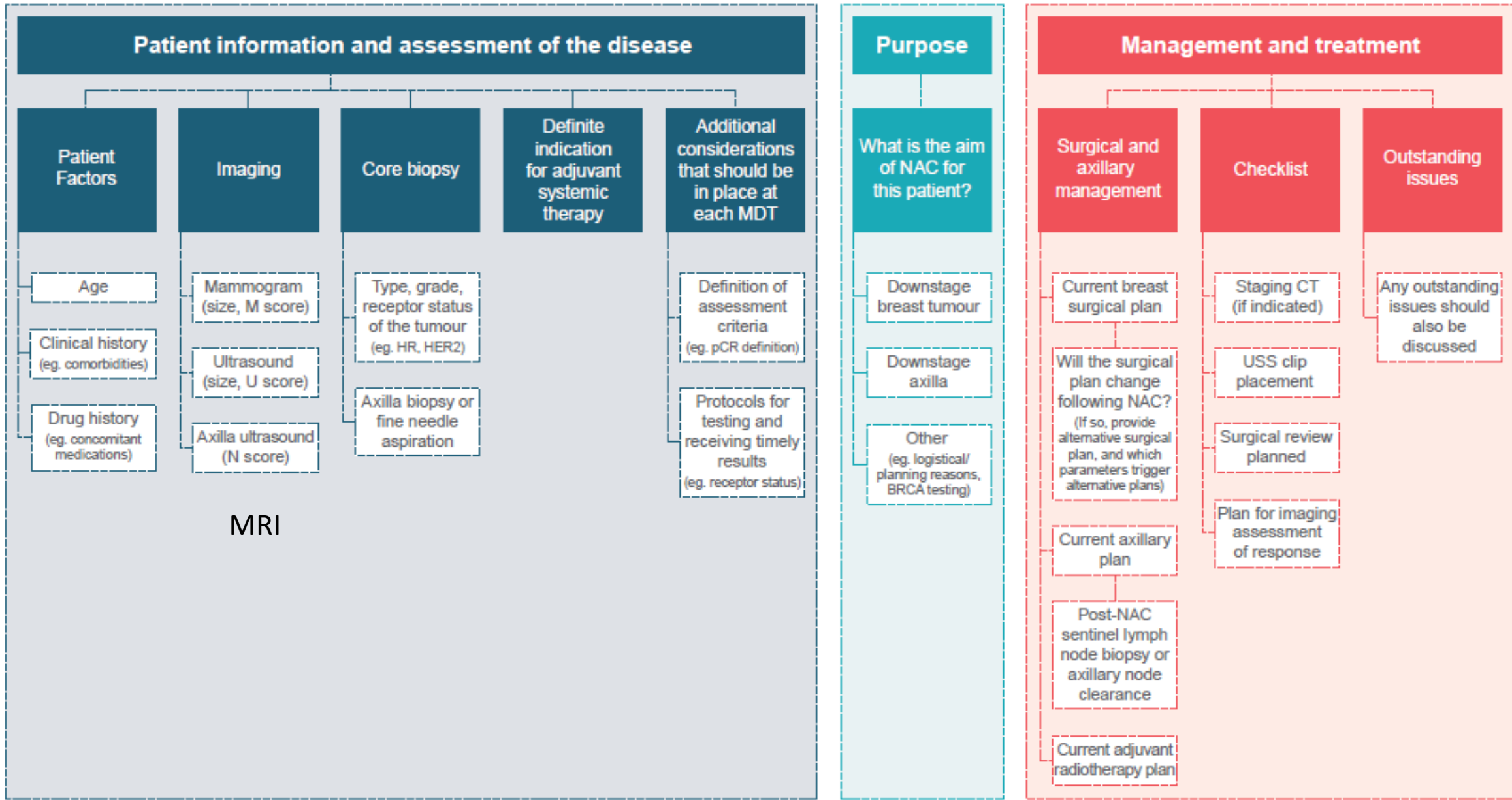
# Which EBC patients Should Be Considered for Preoperative Systemic Therapy for EBC?

**Patients with HER2+ EBC who have a tumor  $\geq 2$  cm (T2) diameter or who have node-positive disease **regardless of hormone receptor status** should receive neoadjuvant chemotherapy with the addition of trastuzumab/pertuzumab**

**Patients with TNBC who have a tumor  $\geq 2$  cm (T2) diameter or who have node-positive disease should receive neoadjuvant chemotherapy with the addition of pembrolizumab**

**Patients with HR+HER2- EBC who are high-risk by age, tumor size, nodal status, and grade should consider neoadjuvant chemotherapy**

# Information to be discussed with the MDT when selecting patients for neoadjuvant therapy



Critical Need:  
Coordination between the surgeon,  
medical oncologist and radiologist  
during neoadjuvant therapy

# Modern Principles of Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy

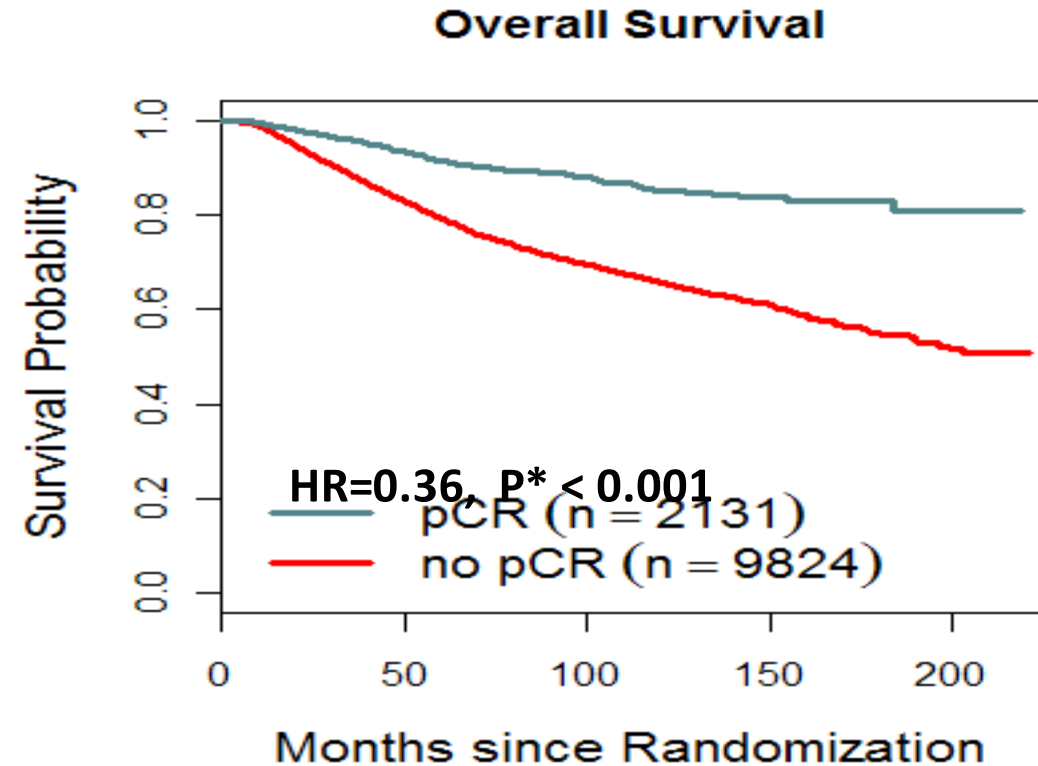
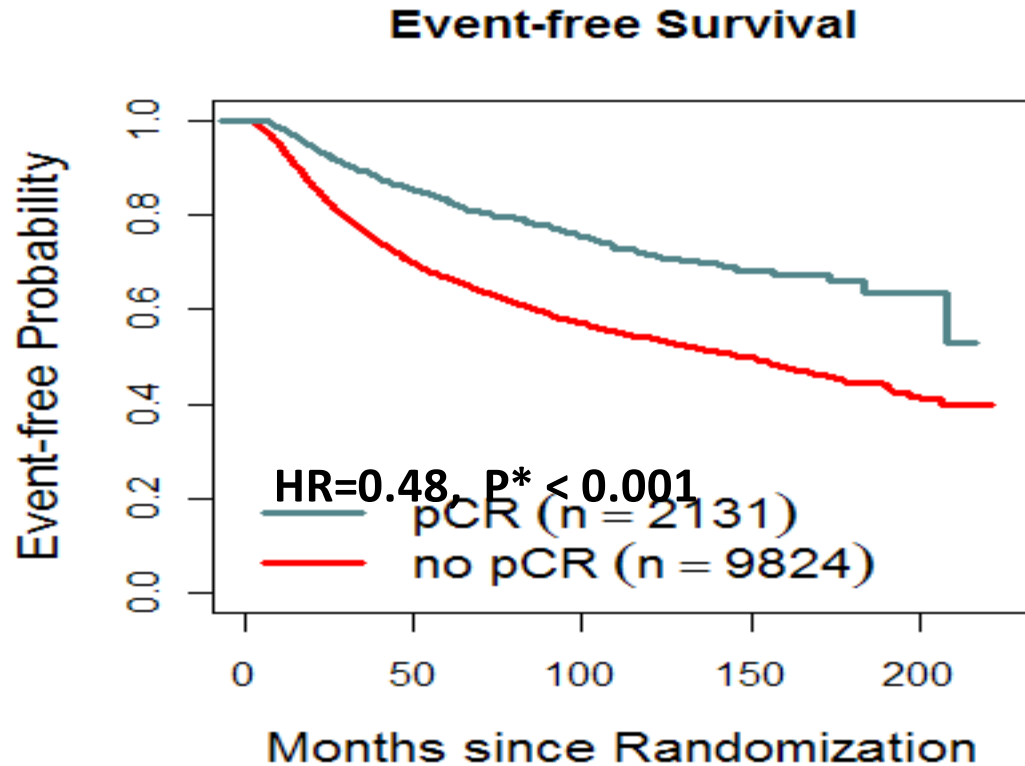
- Use the same chemotherapy before as would be used after
- Follow clinical response by examination and imaging
- Stop chemotherapy and proceed to surgery only if progression while on chemotherapy (<5%)
- Response guided chemotherapy for some?
- pCR is a surrogate for better long-term outcome on an individual patient basis

# Pathologic Complete Response (pCR)

## Primary goal of NACT in TNBC and HER2+ BC

- Definition: No invasive cancer in the breast or axillary lymph nodes (ypT0,ypN0)
  - Residual DCIS does not influence the definition
  - Caution: Multiple other definitions used in earlier studies
- Prognostic for long term outcome

# Association of pCR on EFS and OS

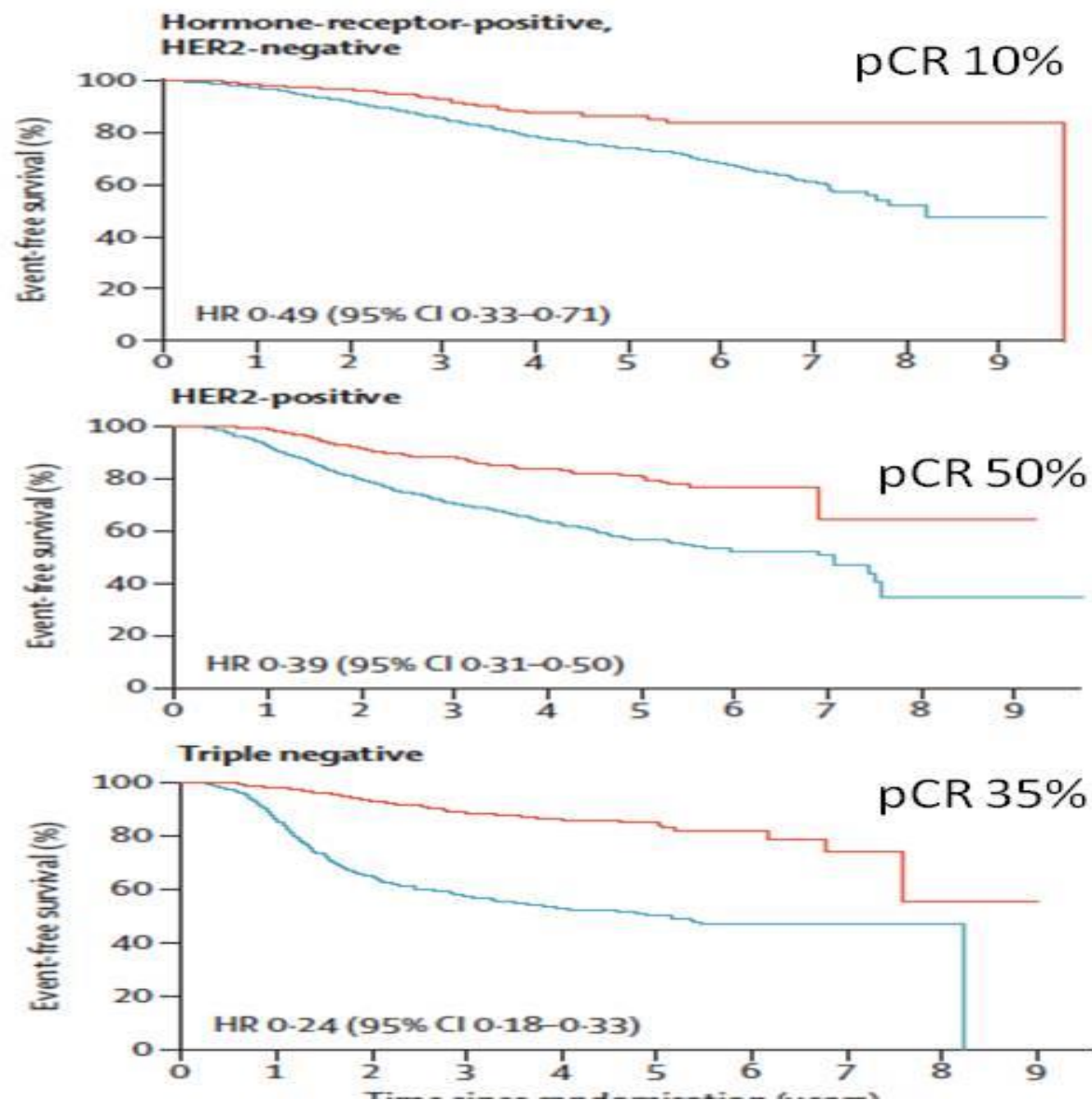


pCR=ypT0/is ypN0 \* Nominal p-value

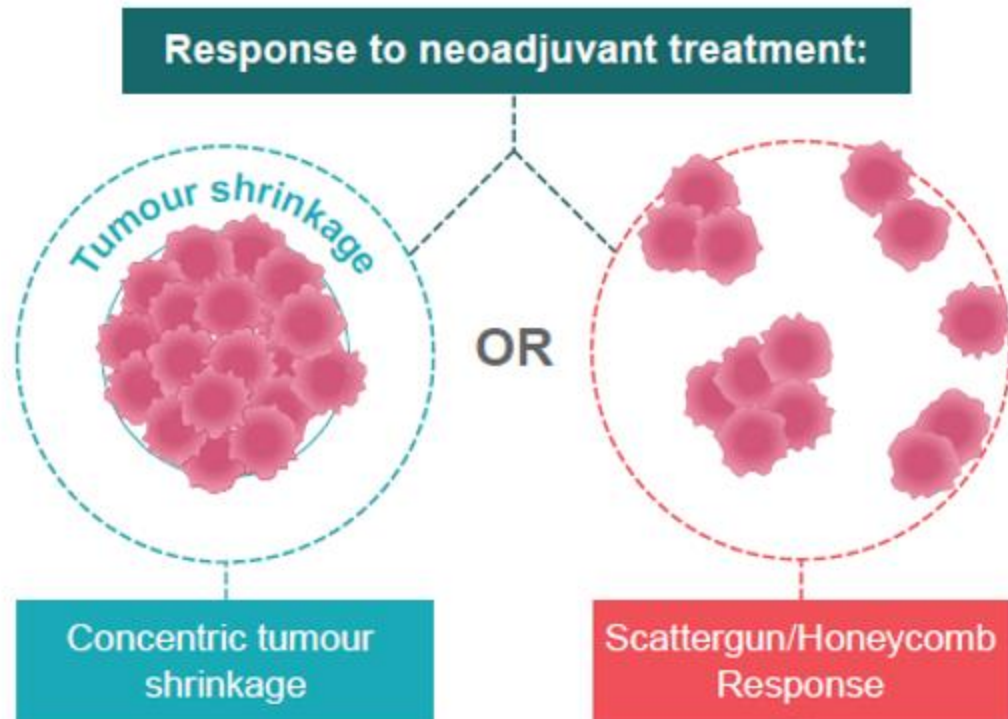


# What the CTNeoBC meta-analysis tells us about pCR

- **pCR is a reliable prognostic marker**
  - Individual patients with pCR have superior outcomes
- **Definition matters: Eradication of invasive cancer from breast + nodes sufficient**
  - Residual DCIS not prognostically important
- **Subtype matters: Magnitude of difference in outcome between pCR+ and no pCR differs between subgroups**



# Response to NACT is heterogeneous

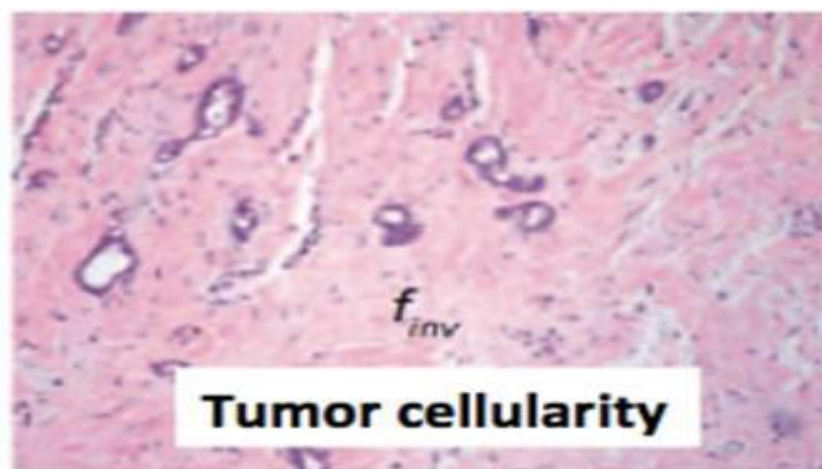
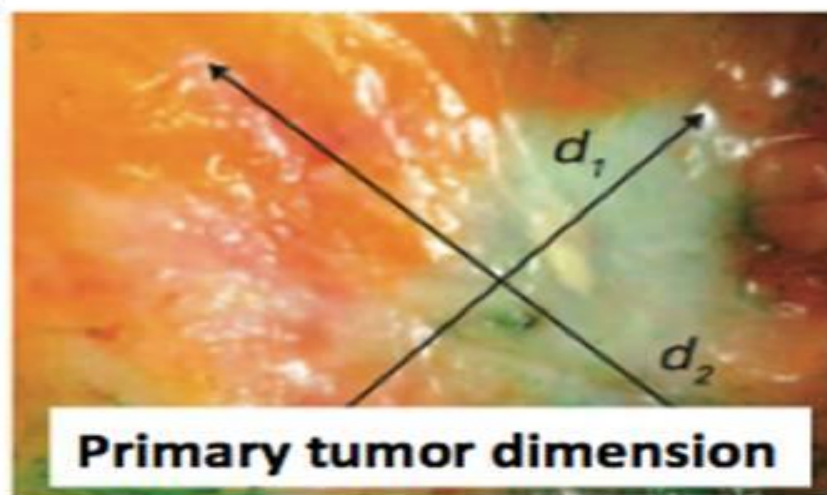


Traditional staging by TNM after NACT  
(yp T, yp N)  
doesn't represent prognosis well

Can we do better to sort patients  
who need additional therapy?

# Residual Cancer Burden (RCB) as an alternative neoadjuvant biomarker

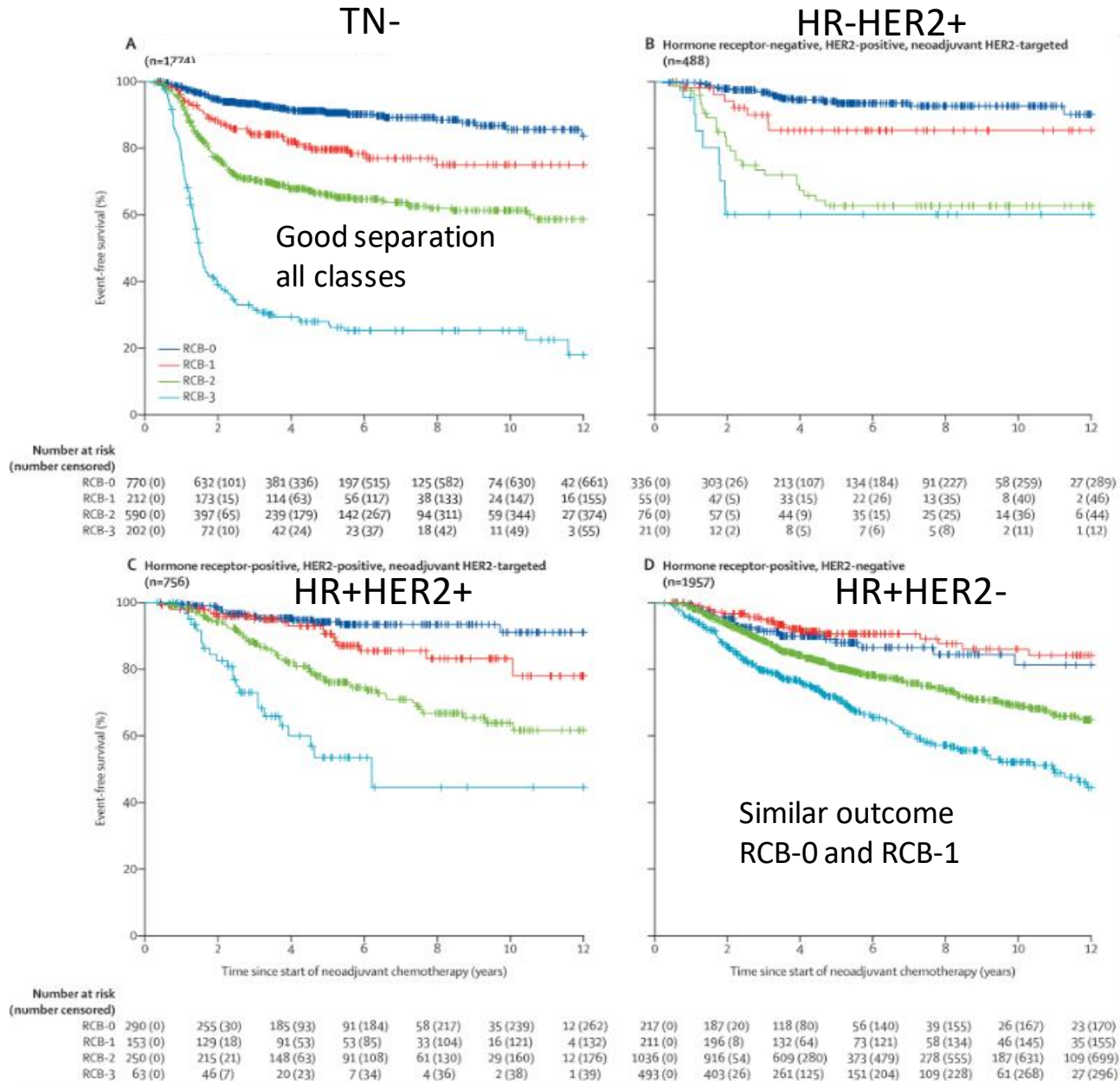
Method to quantify residual disease ranging from pathological complete response to extensive residual disease.



## Highly reproducible:

- Concordance correlation coefficient = 0.931 (0.908–0.949).
- Overall accuracy = 0.989.
- Kappa coefficient for overall agreement = 0.583 (0.539–0.626).

# RCB in 5161 patients: Prognosis varies by subtype



# Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy for TNBC

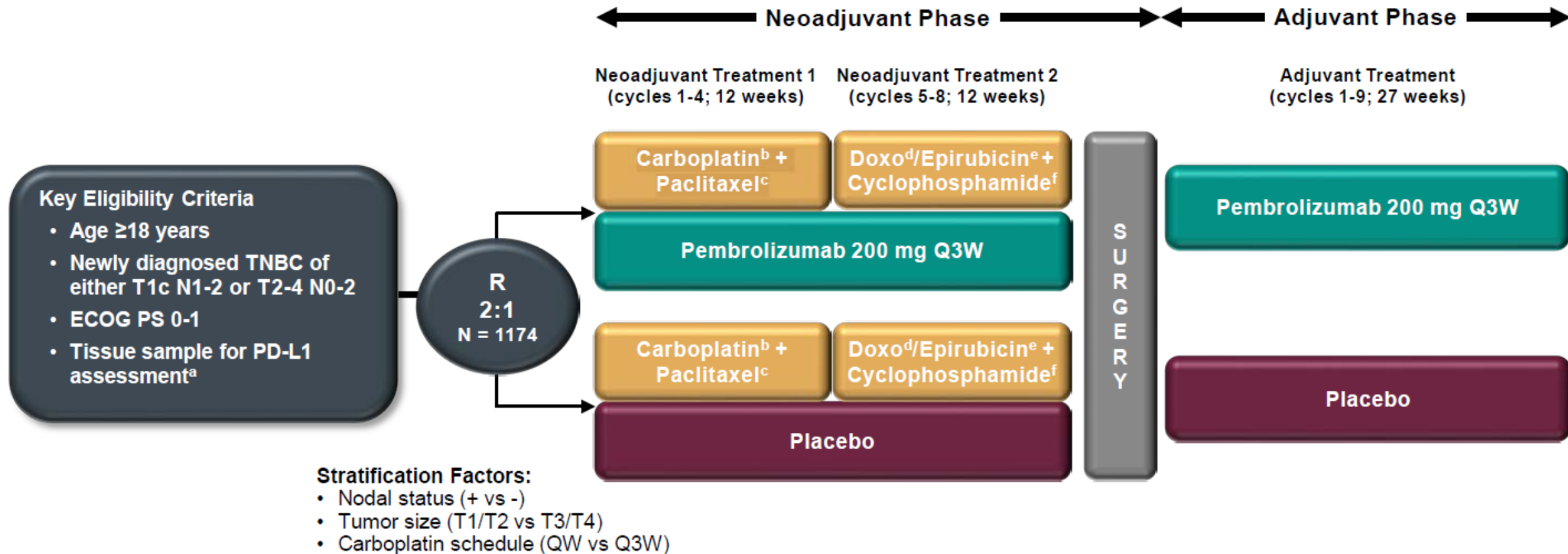
## No targeted therapies available

- Anthracycline and Taxanes give best response
- Dose density
- Addition of carboplatin improves pCR and EFS

## Recent advances

- TNBC is more immune-activated ( increased TILs); implications for Immune therapy

# KEYNOTE-522 Study Design (NCT03036488)

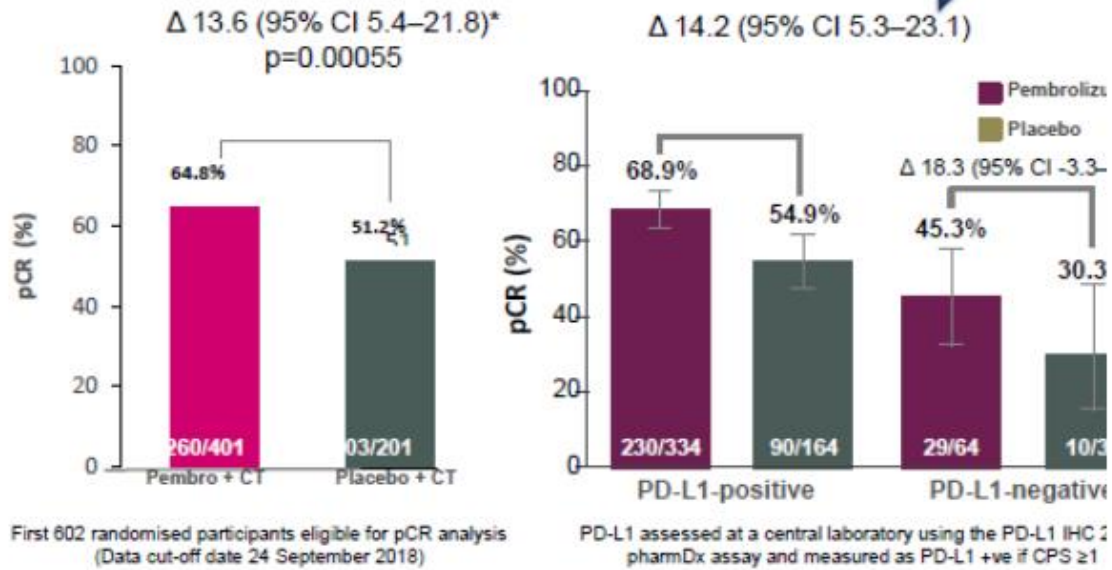


**Neoadjuvant phase:** starts from the first neoadjuvant treatment and ends after definitive surgery (post treatment included)

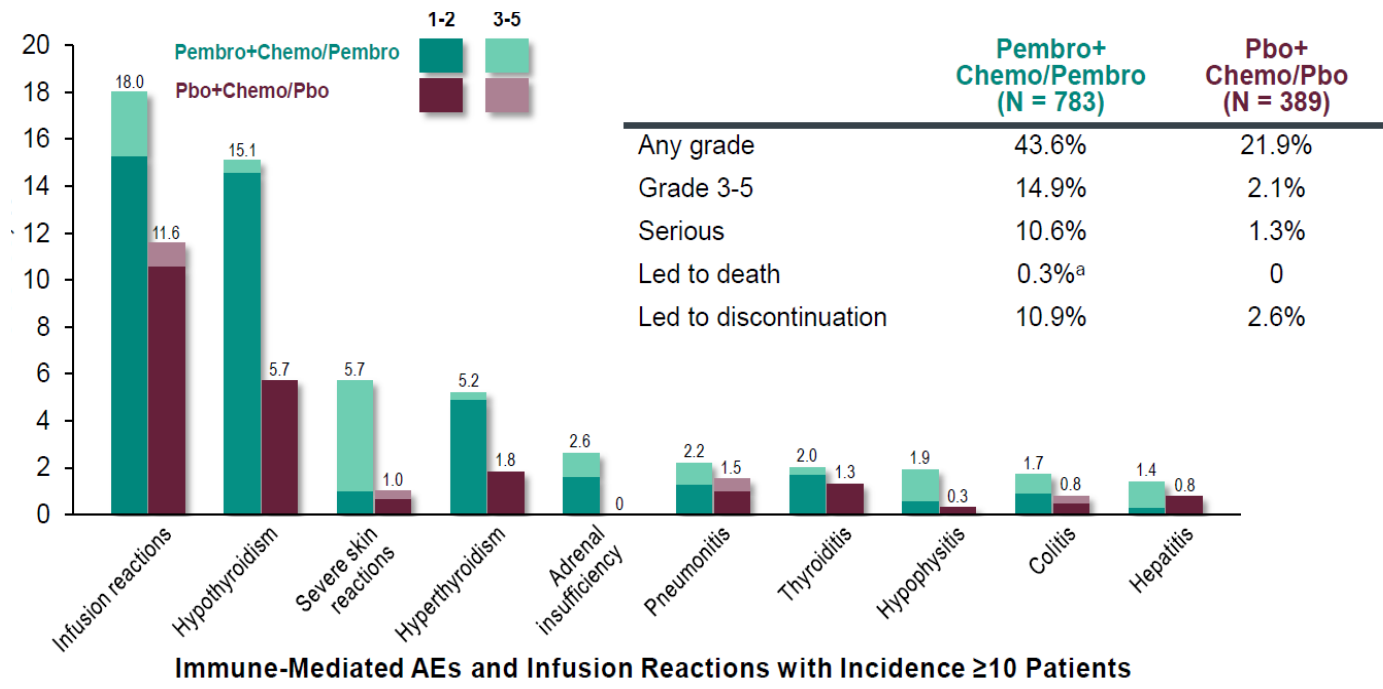
**Adjuvant phase:** starts from the first adjuvant treatment and includes radiation therapy as indicated (post treatment included)

# KN-522 Response and Toxicity

PD-L1 testing in eTNBC not necessary



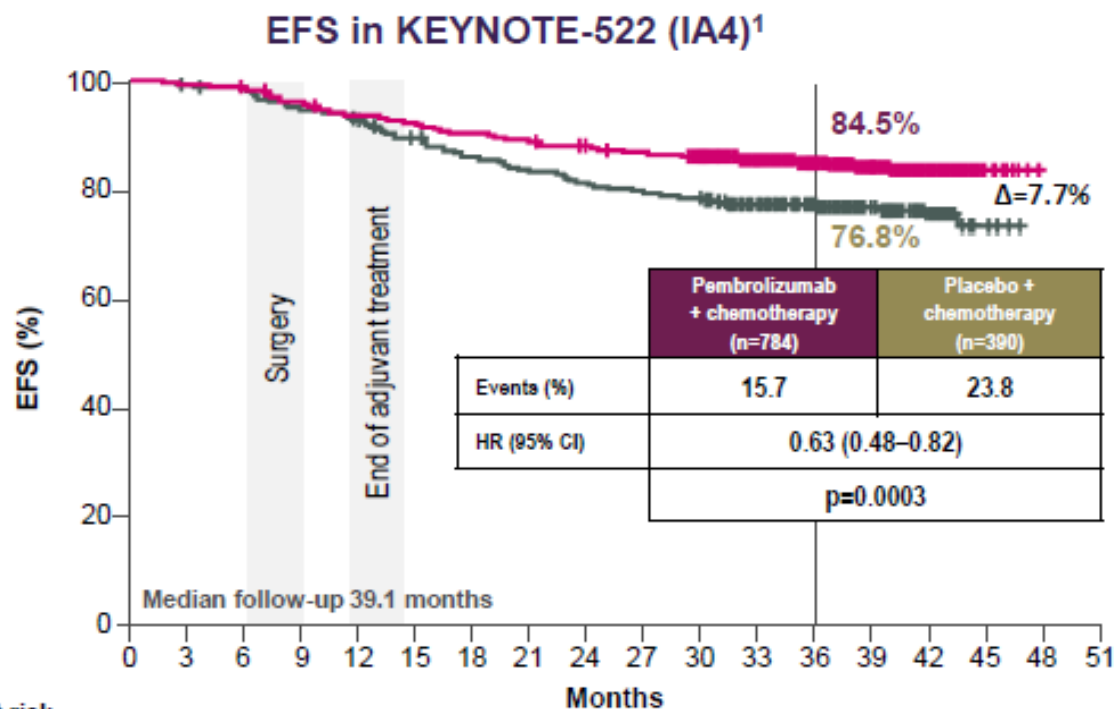
The most common any grade AEs in the pembrolizumab arm were nausea (63%), alopecia (60%) and anaemia (55%)<sup>1</sup>



# KEYNOTE-522: EFS at IA4

## KEYNOTE-522<sup>1</sup> (IA4)

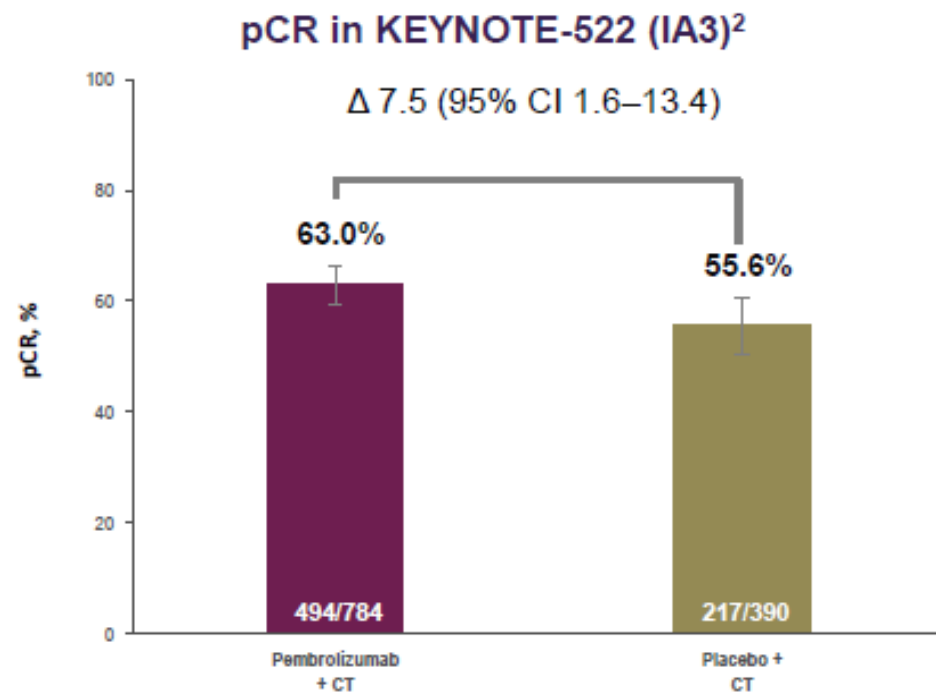
Pembrolizumab + CT vs placebo + CT in early TNBC



	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51
Pembrolizumab + CT	784	781	769	751	728	718	702	692	681	671	652	551	433	303	165	28	0	0
Placebo + CT	390	386	382	368	358	342	328	319	310	304	297	250	195	140	83	17	0	0

## KEYNOTE-522 (IA3)<sup>\*2</sup>

Pembrolizumab + CT vs placebo + CT in early TNBC



All 1174 participants in ITT  
(Data cut-off date 23 March 2020, median follow-up 26 months)

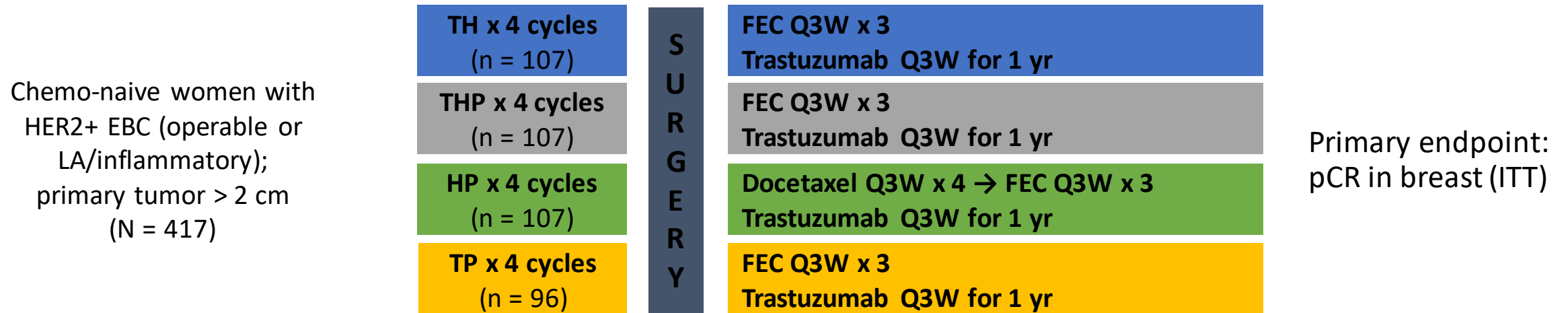


# Neoadjuvant Therapy for HER2+ disease

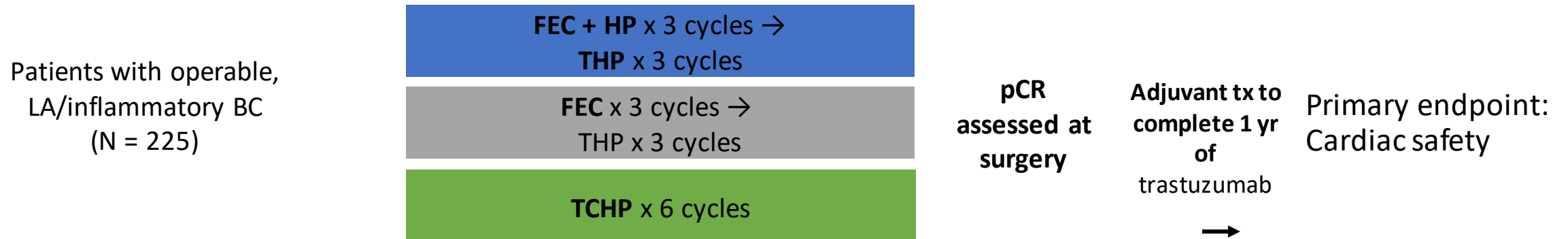
- Anthracycline + taxane based chemotherapy
- Trastuzumab added significantly
- Pertuzumab added benefit (pCR and EFS) to chemo + trastuzumab
- Non-anthracycline regimens give equal results to anthracycline with less cardiac toxicity

# Pivotal Studies on Neoadjuvant Trastuzumab/Pertuzumab for Patients With HER2+ EBC

## Open-Label Phase II NeoSphere Study: Neoadjuvant Trastuzumab/Pertuzumab<sup>[1]</sup>

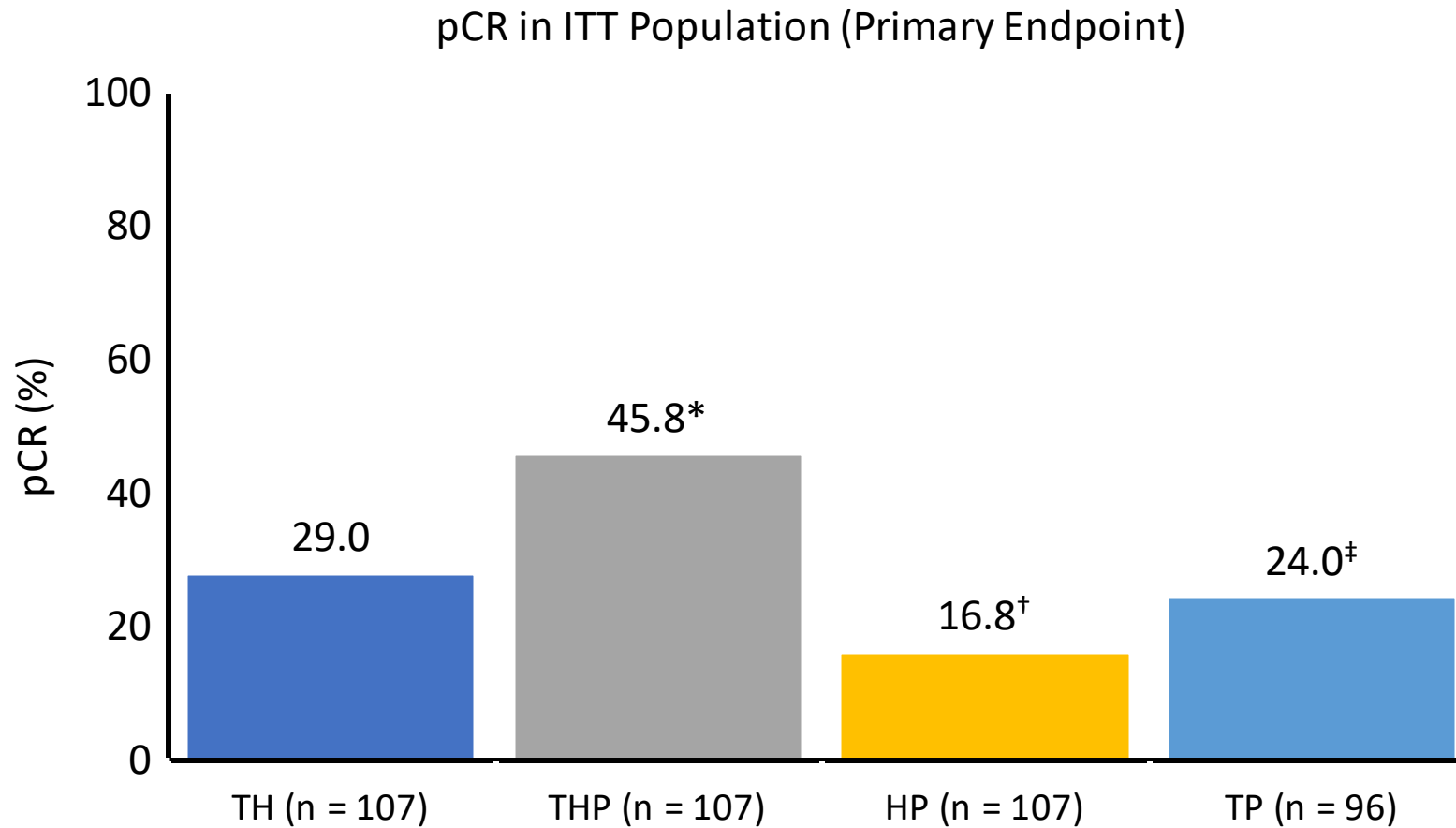


## Phase II TRYPHAENA Cardiac Safety Study: Dual HER2 Targeting ± Anthracycline Tx<sup>[2]</sup>



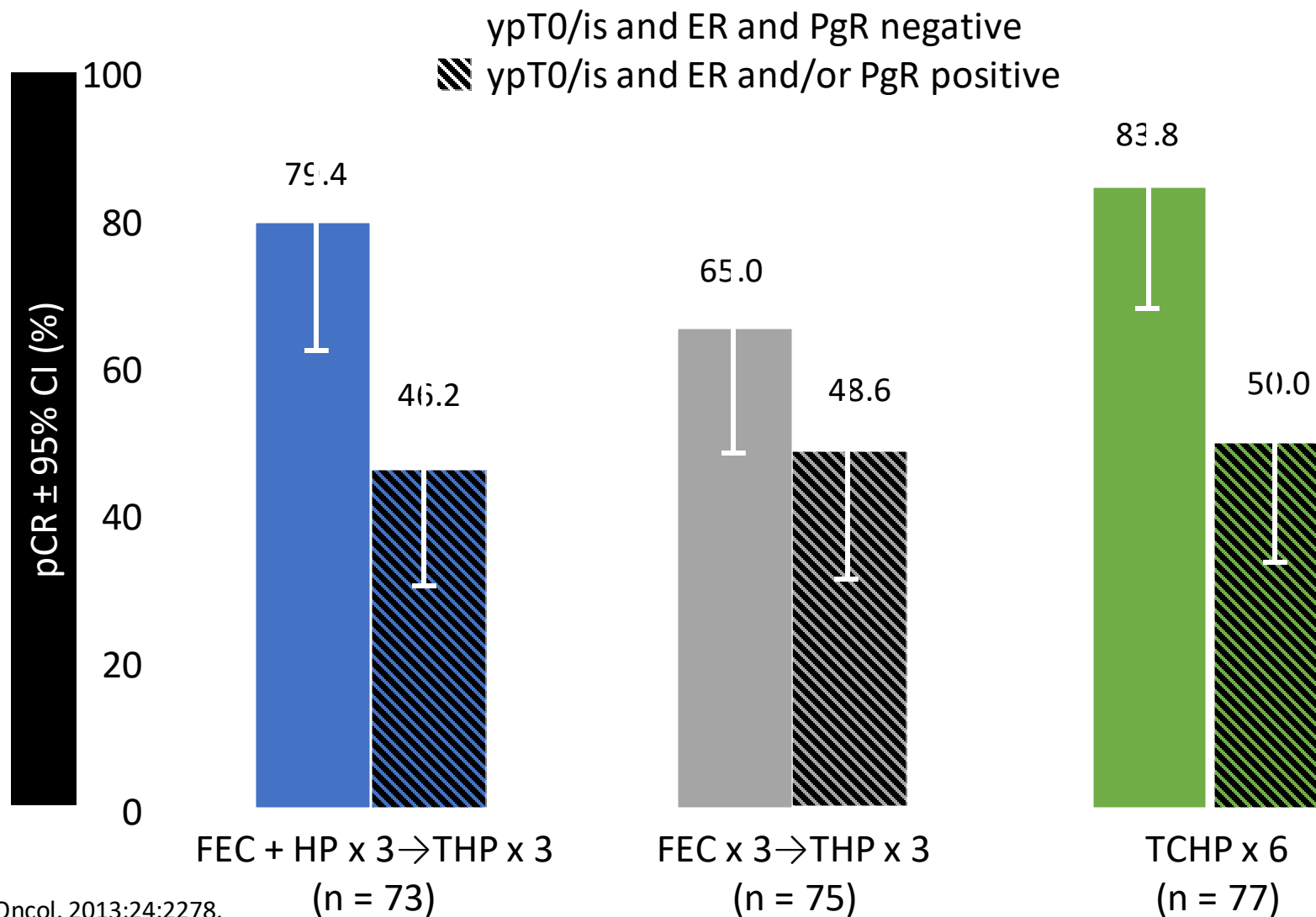
1. Gianni. Lancet Oncol. 2012;13:25. 2. Schneeweiss. Ann Oncol. 2013;24:2278.

# NeoSphere: Neoadjuvant Trastuzumab/Pertuzumab + CT Increases pCR Rates



*P* values vs TH: \**P* = .0141;  
†*P* = .0198; ‡*P* = .003.

# TRYPHAENA: pCR (ypT0/is) by ER/PgR Status



# What to do about locoregional therapy after primary systemic therapy?

- Breast conservation vs. mastectomy?
- ALND vs. post-neoadjuvant SLNB?
- Radiation to RNIs or not?  
Post mastectomy RT?

# Approach to Lumpectomy After Neoadjuvant Therapy

- Remove any suspicious clinical or radiologic findings
- Generous sample of “normal” breast tissue
- It is **NOT** necessary to remove the entire volume of tissue initially occupied by tumor

# Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy After Neoadjuvant Therapy A Practical Approach

- Clinically node negative
  - SLN biopsy after NAC
  - Intraoperative Frozen Section of SLN
  - cALND for failed mapping
  - cALND for any positive LN including micrometastatic disease
  - Radiation tx decisions made with combination of pre-tx factors and final path status (nodes, breast)

# MDACC Experience

## Clipping the node for SLN after NAC

- Clipped node +/- SLN to reflect the status of the nodal basin in all-comers undergoing NAC

	N	Node +	pCR (%)	FNR (%)
Clipped node	191	120	37%	4.2% (95%CI 1.4-9.5)
SLN	118	74	37%	10.1% (95%CI 4.2-19.8)
SLN + clipped node	118	74	37%	1.4% (95%CI 0.03-7.3)

Also noted clipped node was not a SLN in 23% of pts  
 —→ *“Targeted Axillary Dissection”*



# Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy After Neoadjuvant Therapy

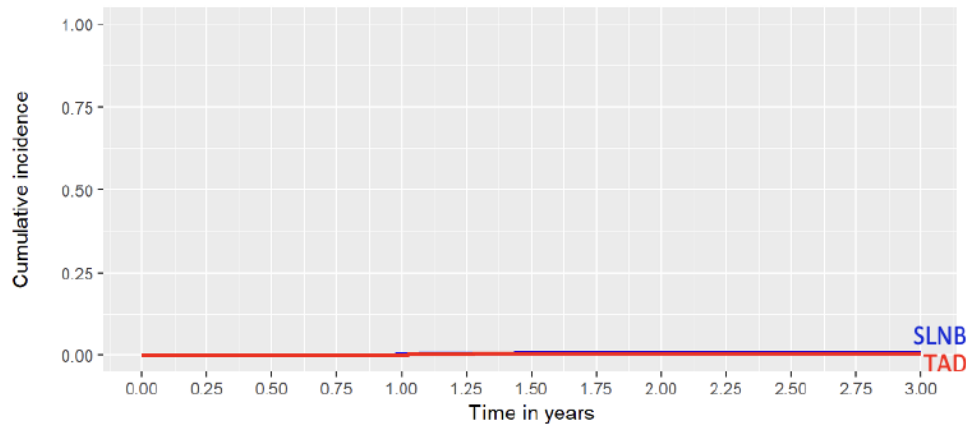
- Clinically node positive (N1) converts to node negative
    - SLN biopsy after NAC w/ dual mapping agents
    - If node not clipped, remove at least 3 SLN,
    - If node clipped, clipped node + SLNs
  - Intraoperative frozen section of all nodes removed
  - cALND for
    - failed mapping
    - fewer than 3 SLN (or failure to retrieve clipped node)
    - any positive LN including micrometastatic disease/ITCs (*unless on trial*)
- To reduce FNR

# Observational Trial of TAD vs. SLNB after NACT in cN+ pts

N= 1144

3 years median f/u

**3-year rate of any axillary recurrence TAD vs SLNB  
(0.5% vs 0.8%, p = 0.55)**

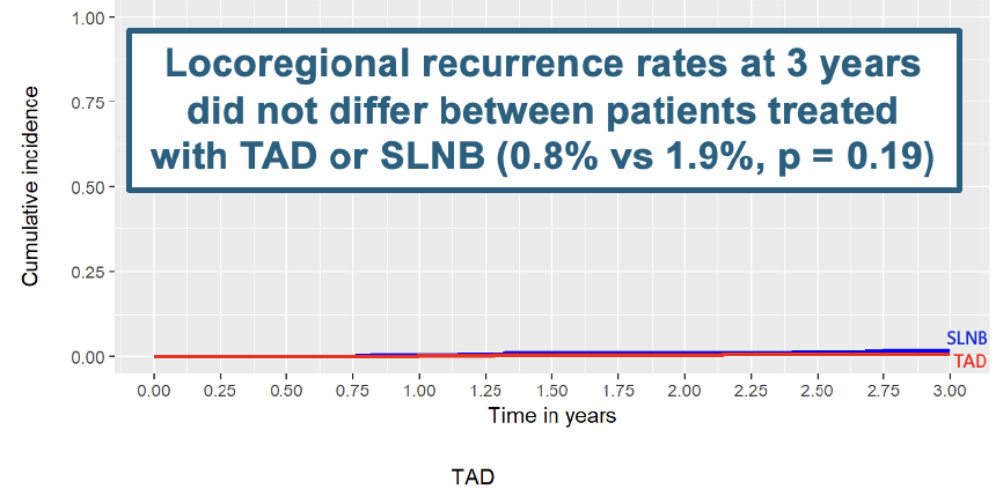


Number at risk

Strata	666	664	660	653	641	615	600	572	540	511	481	448	420
—	478	477	471	462	439	401	366	336	308	271	250	230	213

Overall cumulative incidence

- 3 year – **0.65%** (0.29-1.3)
- 5 year – 1.0% (0.49-2.0)



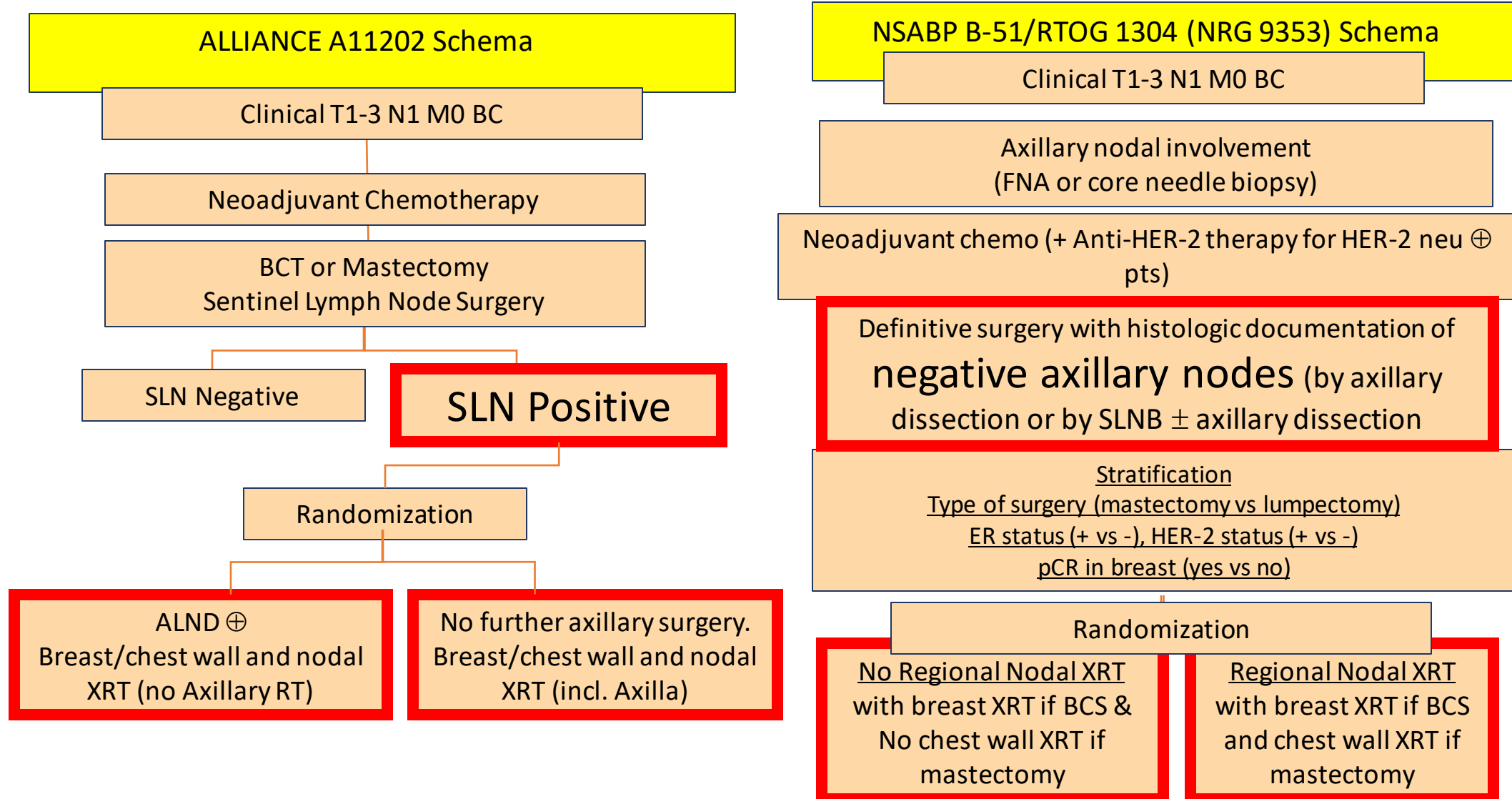
Number at risk

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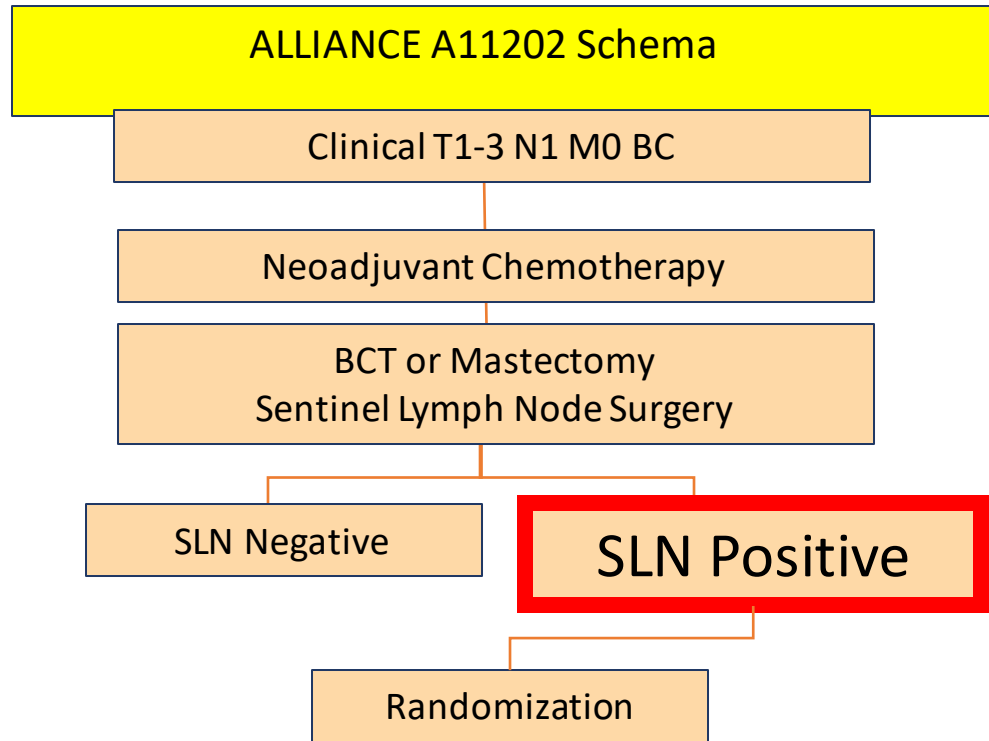
Overall cumulative incidence

- 3 year – **1.5%** (0.83-2.4)
- 5 year – 2.7% (1.6-4.1)

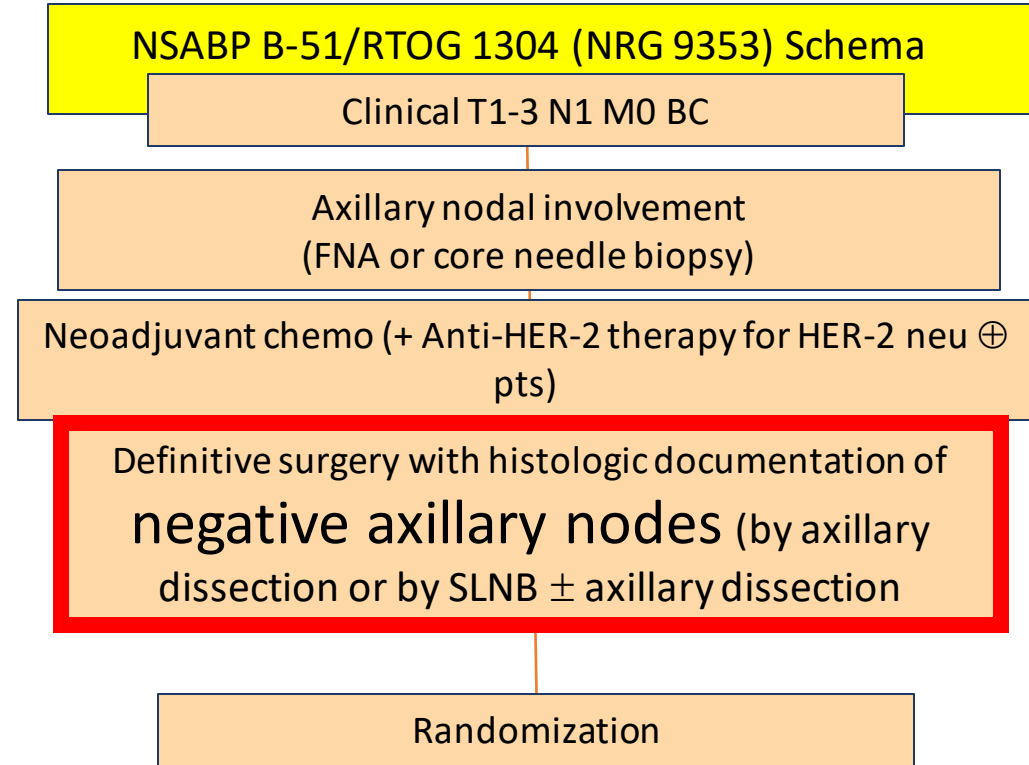
# Post NAC Trials of Axillary Management



# Post NAC Trials of Axillary Management



Can axillary RT  
replace ALND ?



Can response to NAC be used to  
select patients who do not need  
PMRT or extended nodal RT?

# Adjuvant therapy after neoadjuvant therapy: For non-pCR patients

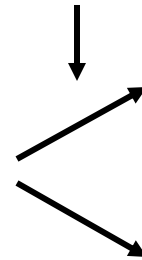
- HER2+: Additional anti-HER2 therapy (T-DM1)
- TNBC: Continue Pembro if by KN-522 +/-capecitabine
- HR+HER2-: Endocrine therapy + abemaciclib
- BRCA 1/2+: Olaparib

# KATHERINE: Trastuzumab Emtansine vs Trastuzumab as Adjuvant Therapy for HER2+ EBC

- International, randomized, open-label phase III study

*Stratified by clinical stage, HR status, single vs dual neoadjuvant HER2-targeted therapy, pathologic nodal status after neoadjuvant therapy*

Patients with HER2+ EBC (cT1-4/N0-3/M0) **who had residual invasive disease in breast or axillary nodes** after neoadjuvant chemotherapy plus HER2-targeted therapy\* at surgery  
(N = 1486)



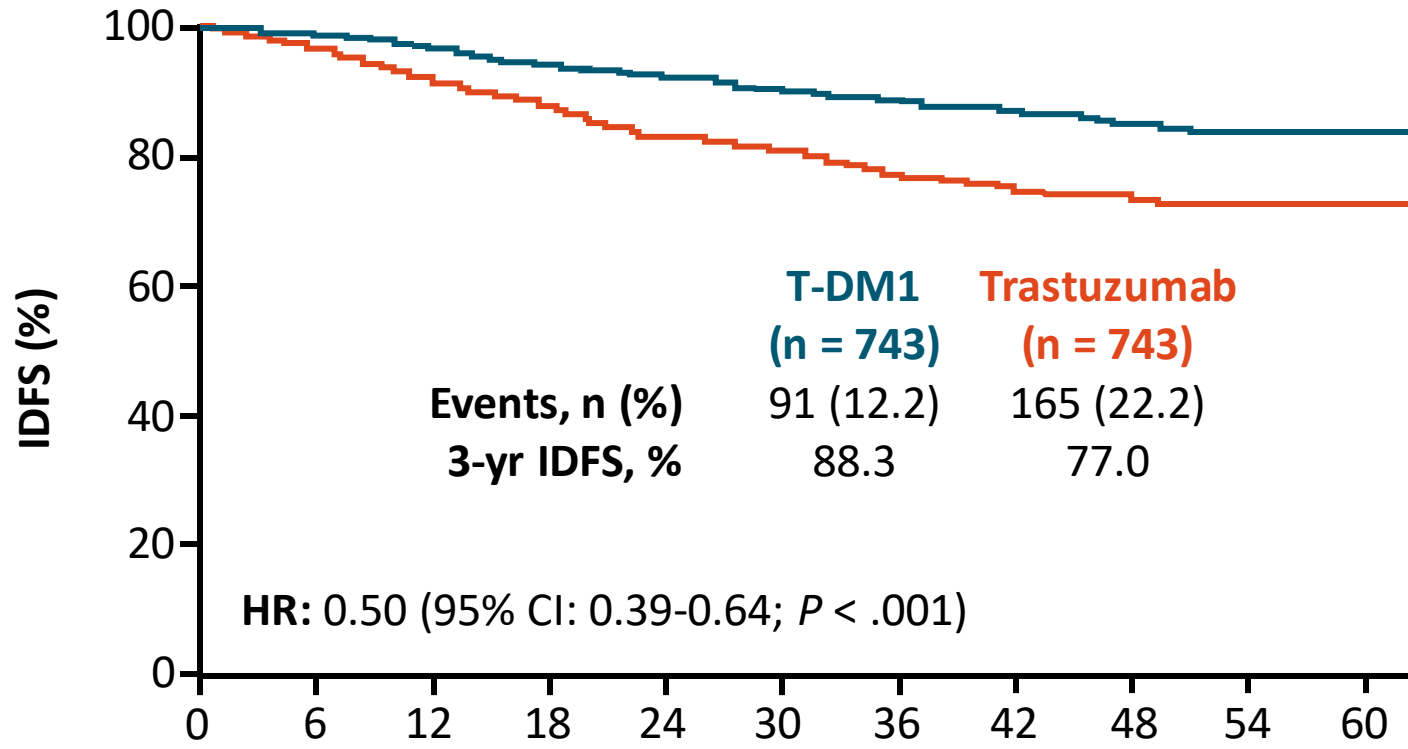
**T-DM1<sup>†</sup> 3.6 mg/kg IV Q3W x 14 cycles**  
(n = 743)

**Trastuzumab 6 mg/kg IV Q3W x 14 cycles**  
(n = 743)

Randomization occurred within 12 wks of surgery; **radiotherapy and/or endocrine therapy given per local standards**. \*Minimum of 9 wks taxane and trastuzumab. <sup>†</sup>Patients who d/c T-DM1 for toxicity allowed to switch to trastuzumab to complete 14 cycles.

- Primary endpoint: IDFS
- Secondary endpoints: distant recurrence-free survival, OS, safety

# KATHERINE: IDFS

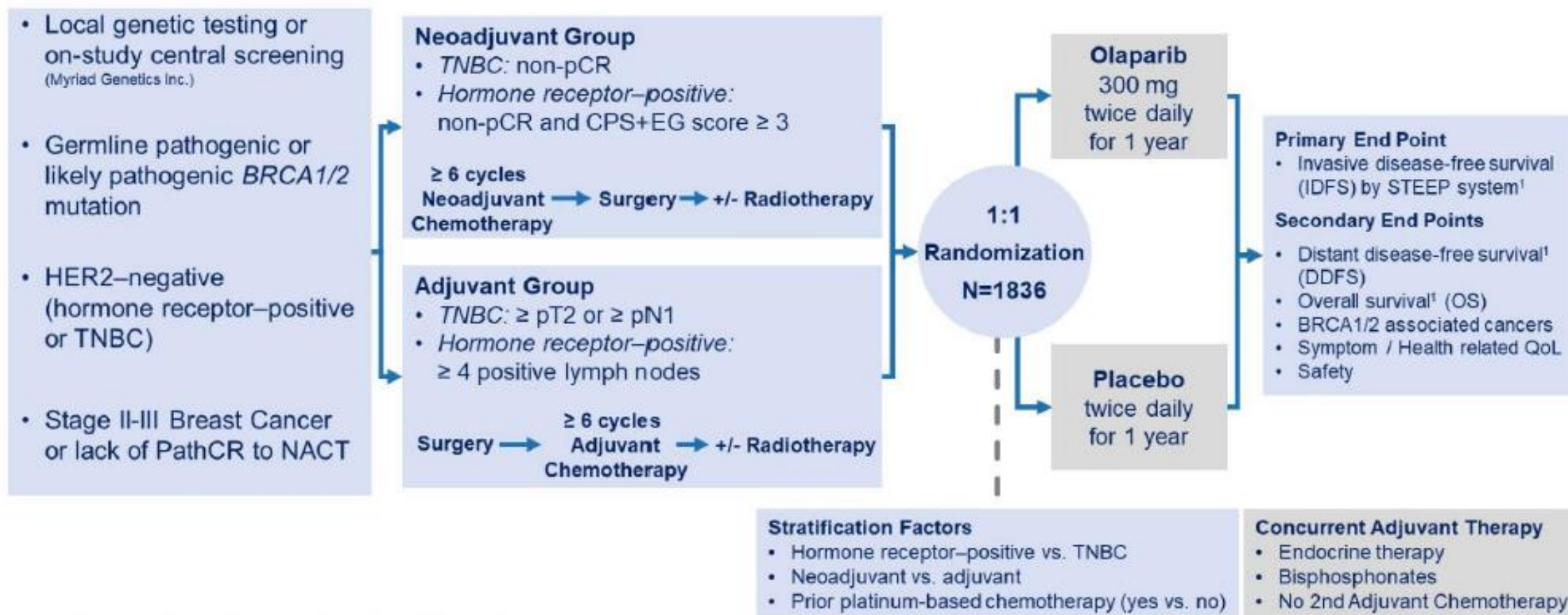


<b>First IDFS Event, %</b>	<b>T-DM1</b>	<b>T</b>
Any	12.2	22.2
Distant recurrence	10.5*	15.9 <sup>†</sup>
Locoregional recurrence	1.1	4.6
Contralateral breast cancer	0.4	1.3
Death without prior event	0.3	0.4

CNS events: \*5.9% vs <sup>†</sup>4.3%.

	<b>Patients at Risk, n</b>										
	<b>Mos Since Randomization</b>										
	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
<b>T-DM1</b>	743	707	681	658	633	561	409	255	142	44	4
<b>Trastuzumab</b>	743	676	635	594	555	501	342	220	119	38	4

# OlympiA: Trial schema



Hormone receptor +ve defined as ER and/or PgR positive (IHC staining  $\geq 1\%$ )

Triple Negative defined as ER and PgR negative (IHC staining  $< 1\%$ )

<sup>1</sup>Hudis CA, J Clin Oncol 2007

Presented By: Andrew Tutt MB ChB PhD FMedSci  
The Institute of Cancer Research and Kings College London

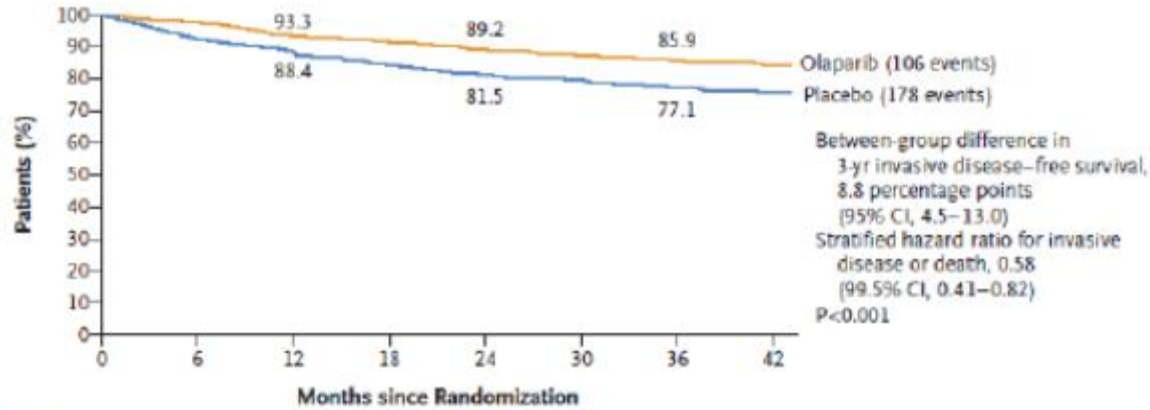
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# OlympiA: Results

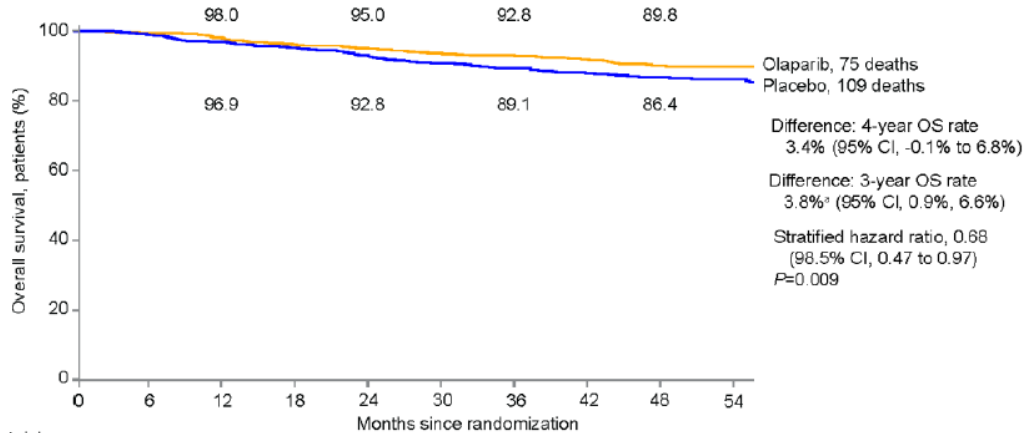
**A Invasive Disease-free Survival**



No. at Risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42
Olaparib	921	820	737	607	477	361	276	183
Placebo	915	807	732	585	452	353	256	173

8.8% absolute Improvement At 3 years

- All HER 2- patients with less than pCR to NACT should be tested for BRCA 1/2 germline mutations



No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54
Olaparib	921	862	844	809	773	672	560	437	335	228
Placebo	915	868	843	808	752	647	530	423	333	218

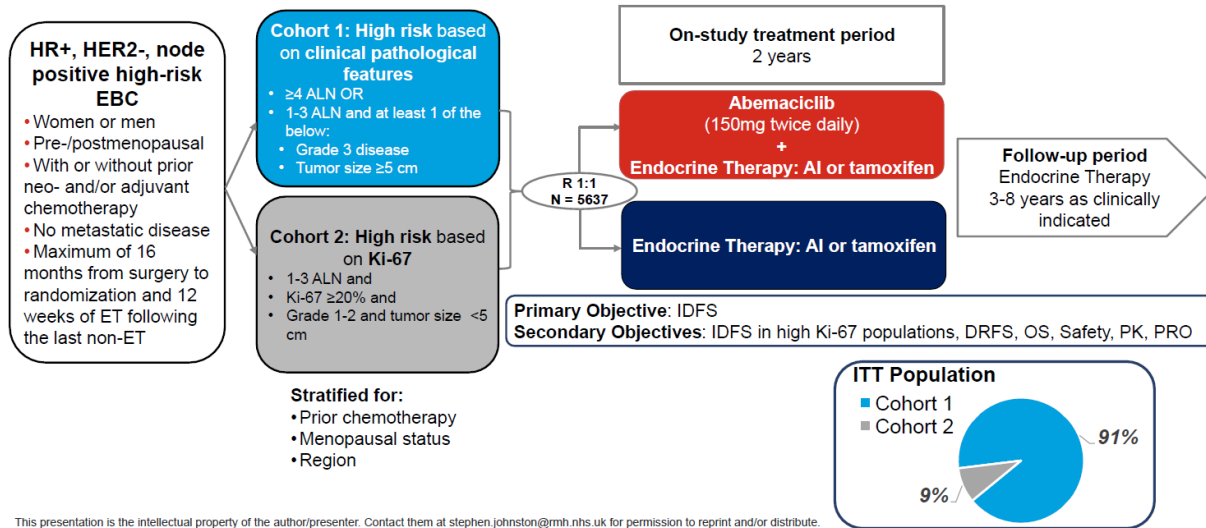
3.4% absolute improvement at 4 years

- Combinations of IO/Olaparib, Olaparib/endocrine are feasible

# MonarchE Update: Adjuvant Abemaciclib after NACT/adjuvant for high-risk HR+HER2-

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, December 6-10, 2022

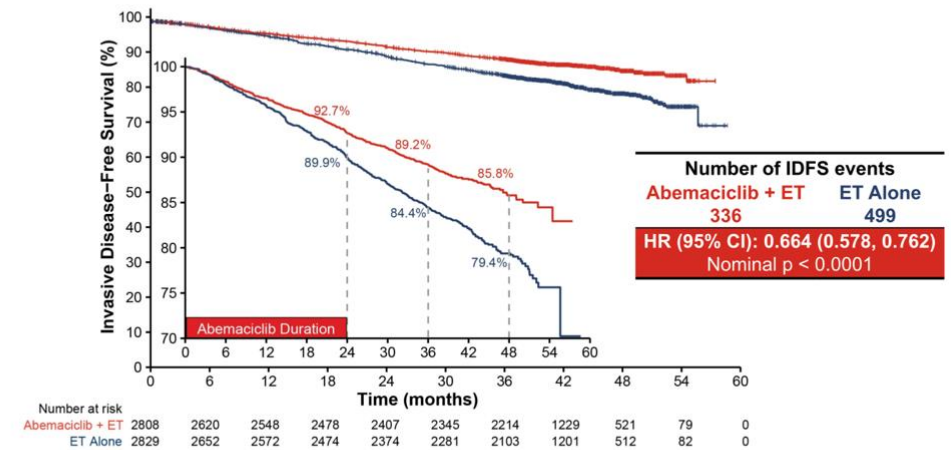
## monarchE Study Design (NCT03155997)



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San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, December 6-10, 2022

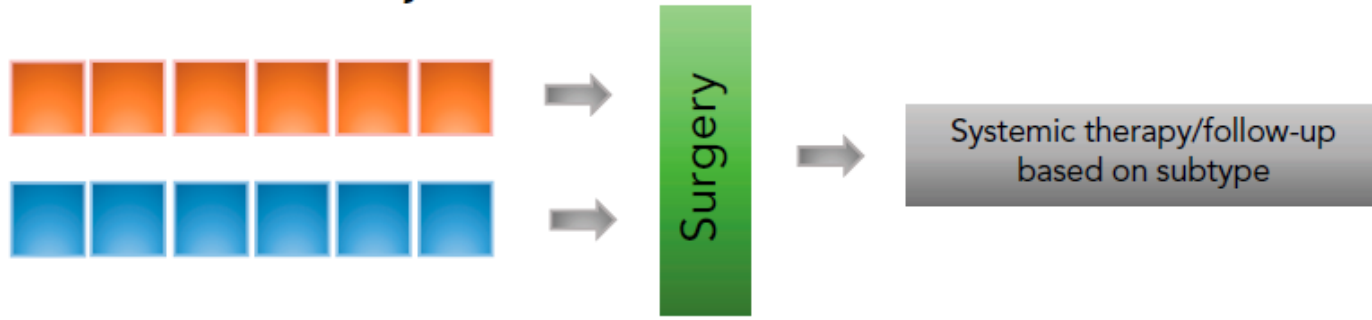
## IDFS Benefit in ITT Persists Beyond Completion of Abemaciclib



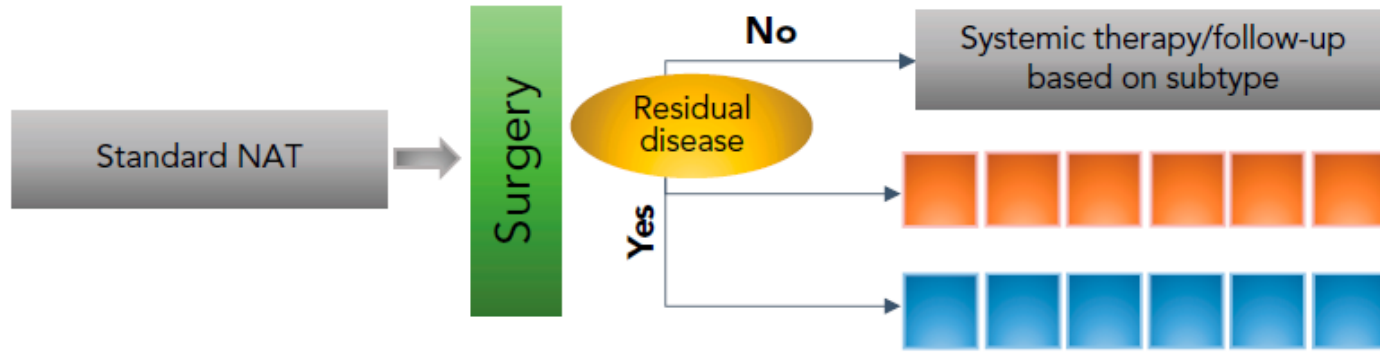
33.6% reduction in the risk of developing an IDFS event with an increase in absolute benefit in IDFS 4-year rates (6.4%) compared to 2- and 3-year IDFS rates (2.8% and 4.8% respectively)

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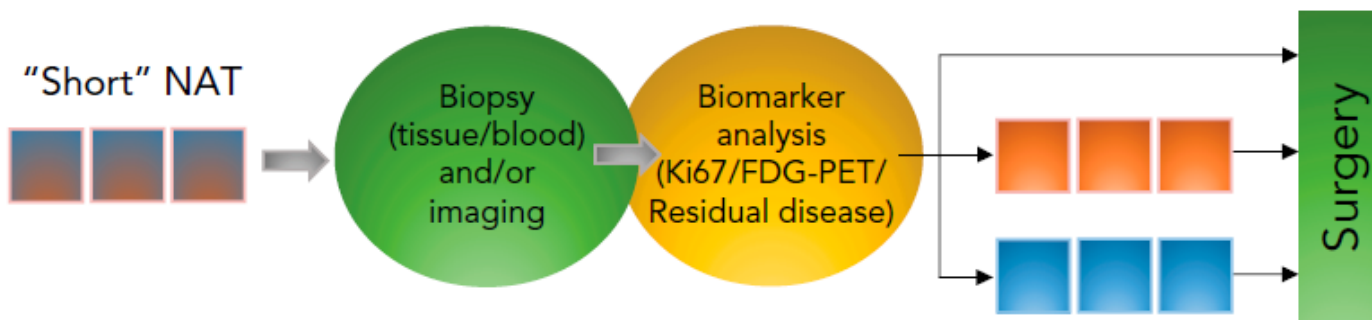
### A. Traditional neoadjuvant trials



### B. Postneoadjuvant/Residual disease trials (postsurgical adaptation)



### C. Adaptive neoadjuvant trials (presurgical adaptation)



#### Potential Benefits

- Downstaging of breast and axilla; reduced extent of surgery
- Prognostic information (RCB/pCR)

#### Potential Limitations

- One-size-fits-all
- Overtreatment (neoadjuvant)
- Undertreatment (postneoadjuvant)

- Improved prognosis for highest-risk patients (treatment escalation)

- One-size-fits-all (neoadjuvant)
- Overtreatment (postneoadjuvant)
- Increased toxicity and cost

- Reduced toxicity for lower-risk patients (treatment de-escalation)
- Predictive information
- Biomarker evaluation

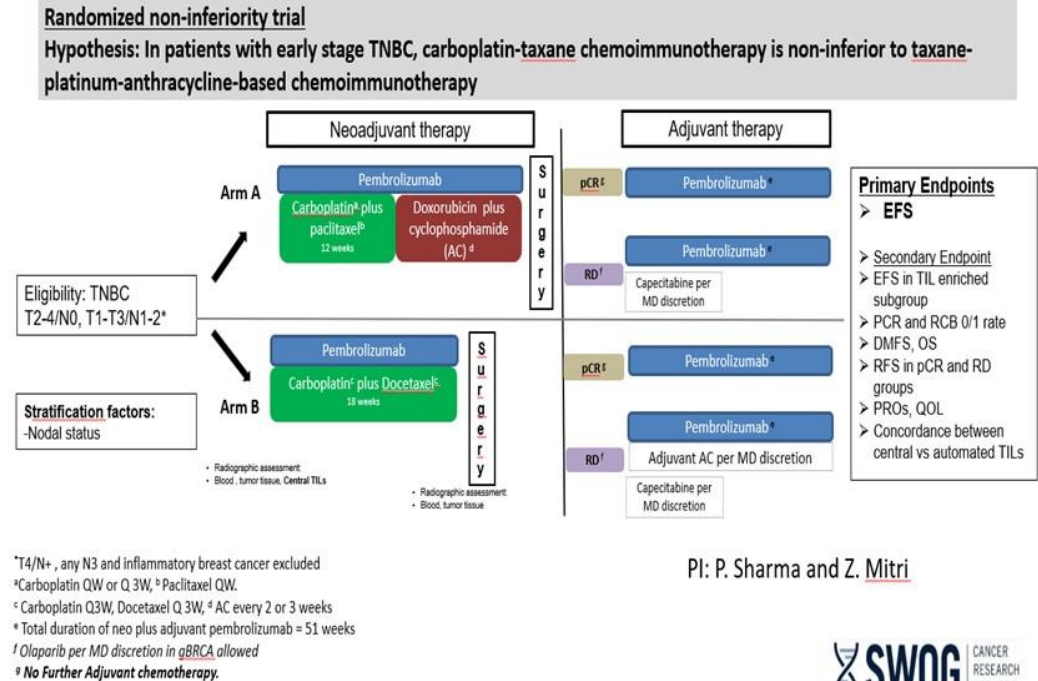
- Undertreatment (neoadjuvant)
- Increased complexity

# Neoadjuvant chemo-immunotherapy for TNBC

## Treatment optimization

- Treatment de-escalation: Do all patients need 4-drug poly-chemotherapy when immunotherapy is part of neoadjuvant systemic therapy?
  - I-SPY 2.2: Ongoing arms assessing novel agents/combinations to allow early de-escalation
  - Chemotherapy de-escalation: S2212 (SCARLET)
- Treatment escalation: Early identification of patients unlikely to achieve optimal response with standard neoadjuvant treatment
  - Tissue, Imaging +/- Machine learning/AI, Circulating biomarkers (ctDNA)
  - Neoadjuvant testing of novel more effective therapies
- Preferential immunotherapy response biomarkers

### Shorter anthracycline-free Chemoimmunotherapy Adapted to pathological Response in Early TNBC (SCARLET)

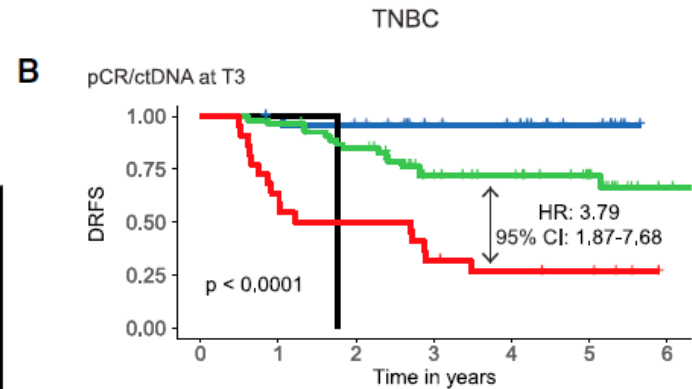
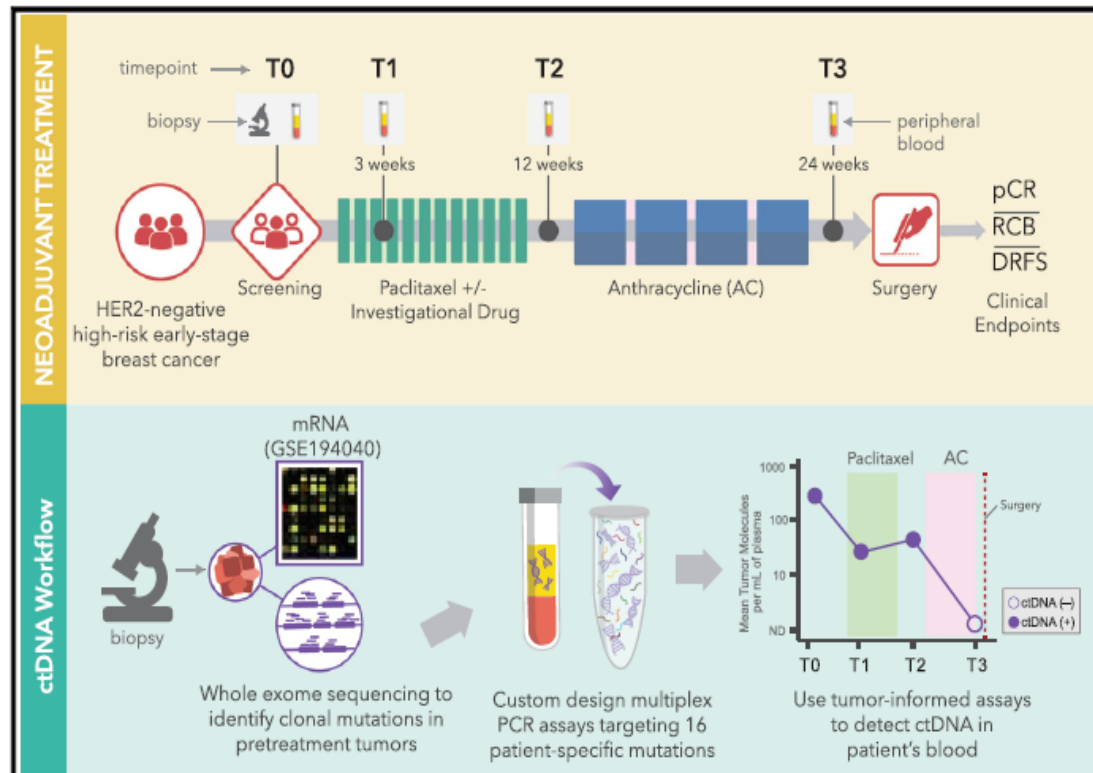


*“True optimization is the revolutionary contribution of modern research to decision processes.”*

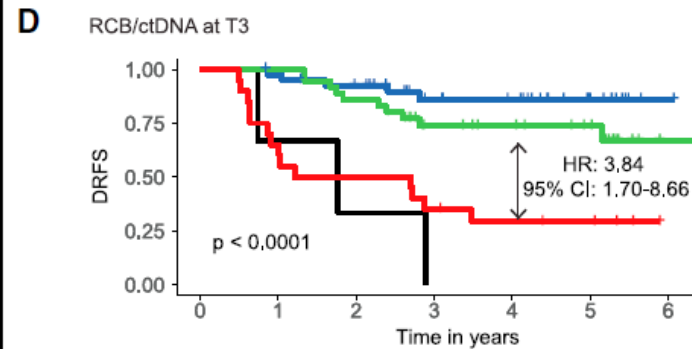
George Dantzig

# Improving Neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy through sequential ctDNA

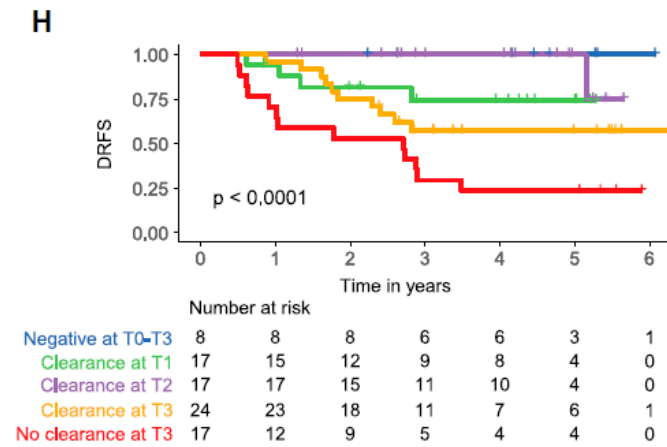
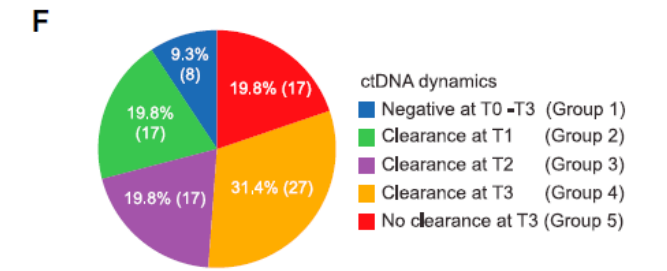
## I-SPY2 Samples



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
pCR_ctDNA-	25	24	22	15	13	7	0
pCR_ctDNA+	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
No pCR ctDNA-	54	52	44	28	23	15	2
No pCR ctDNA+	22	14	11	7	5	4	0



	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
RCB 0/I ctDNA-	41	39	35	23	20	10	1
RCB 0/I ctDNA+	3	2	1	0	0	0	0
RCB III/III ctDNA-	36	36	30	19	16	12	1
RCB III/III ctDNA+	20	13	10	7	5	4	0



# Conclusions

- Treatment for early-stage breast cancer has evolved substantially and improves survival with less toxicity
- Multidisciplinary planning before treatment essential for best outcomes
- Primary systemic therapy indicated for many TNBC and HER2+ cancers
- pCR is a reliable surrogate marker for outcome
- Less than pCR requires systemic adjuvant therapy based on biomarkers
- Local therapy is modified based on treatment response
- New approaches (IO, ADCs) will continue to improve outcomes

THANK YOU!

**Renown**  
William N. Pannington  
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