

# SABCS Review

## Localized Therapy: Updates from a Surgery Perspective

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# Disclosures

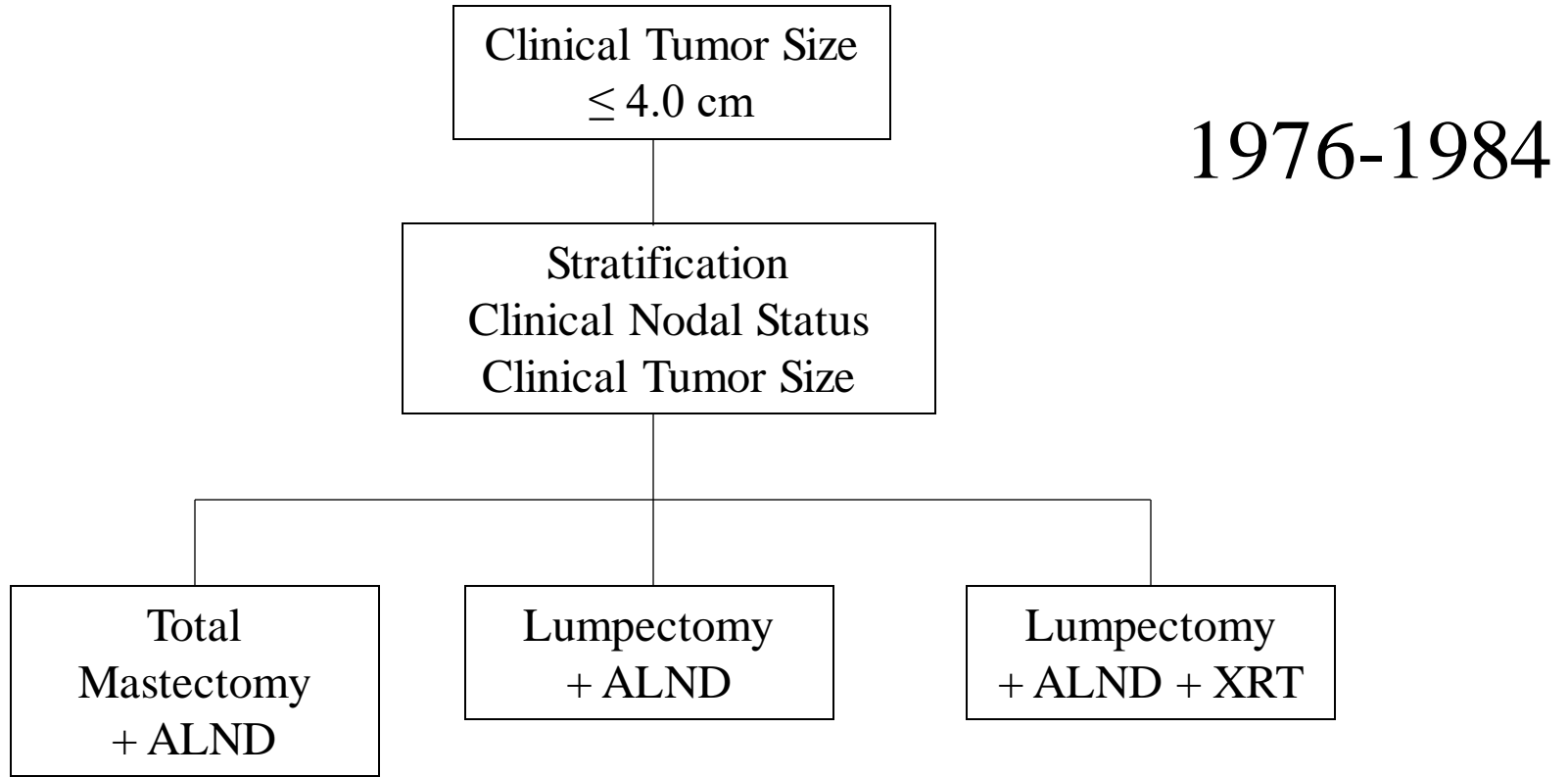
- Sponsored research agreement with prior institution, from Myriad Laboratories Inc. (Closed)
- Permissions have been obtained from Drs. Boughey and Montagna to present their slides from SABCS



# Breast Surgery Updates



# Breast conservation: NSABP B-06

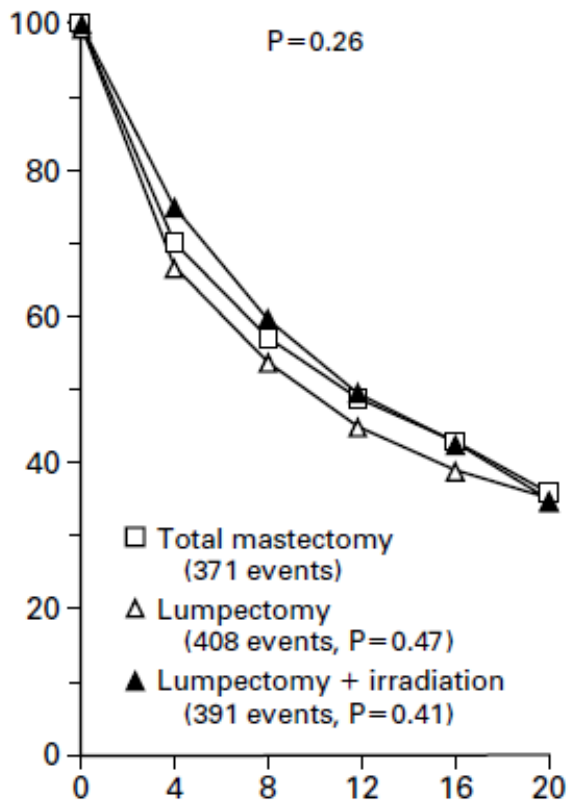


- All patients with histologically positive axillary lymph nodes received melphalan + 5-FU
- Total mastectomy performed in event of ipsilateral breast tumor recurrence

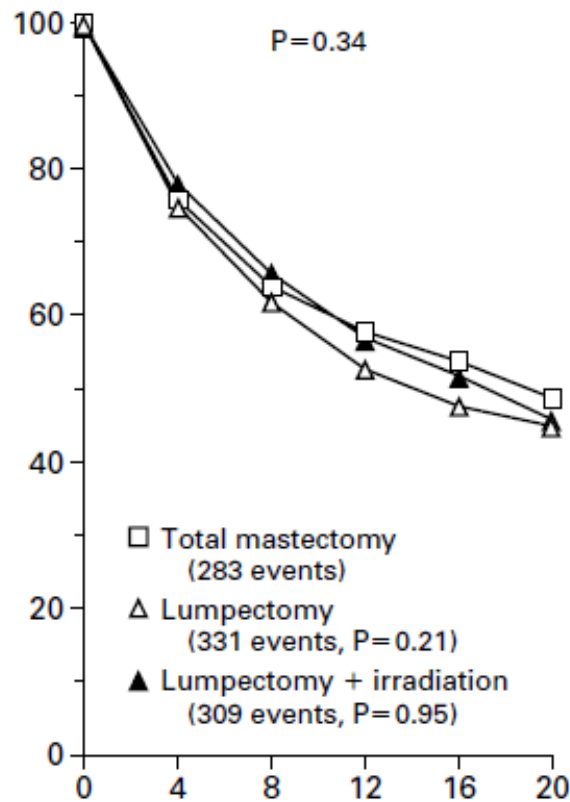


# Breast conservation: NSABP B-06

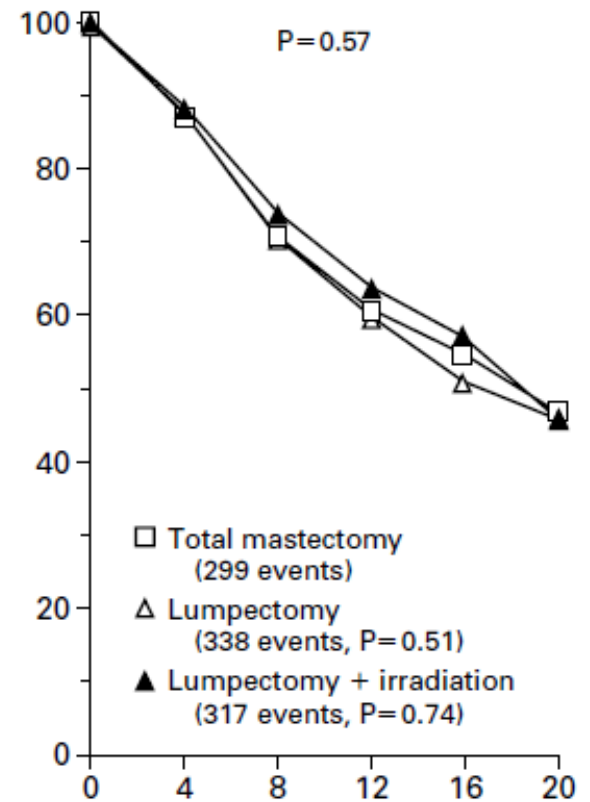
A Disease-free Survival



B Distant-Disease-free Survival



C Overall Survival



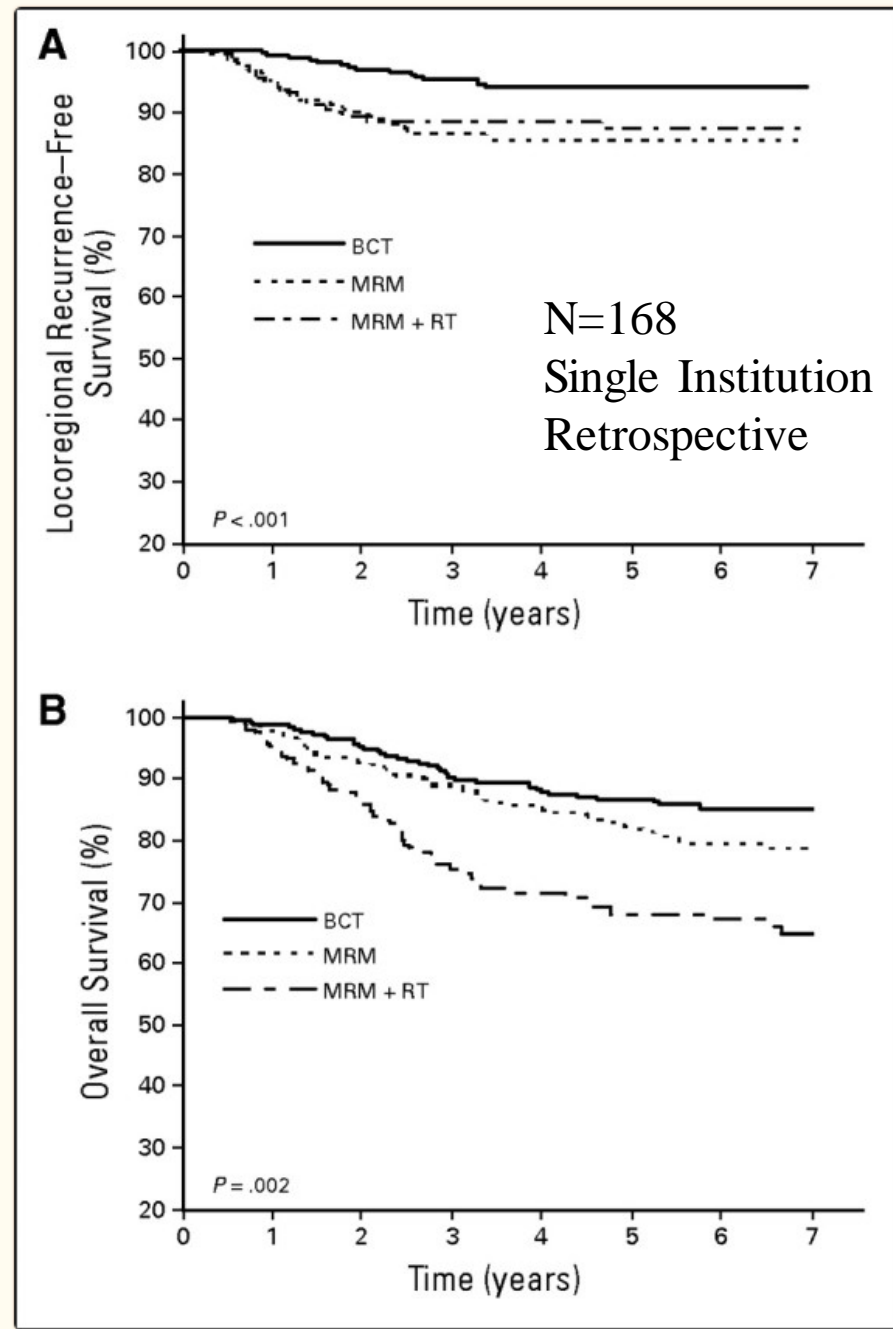
Years of Follow-up



# Breast conservation

- Superior to mastectomy?

BCT	1		
MRM	3.44	2.04 to 5.80	< .001
MRM + RT	0.72	0.36 to 1.43	.34



# Overall survival following breast conserving surgery and adjuvant radiotherapy compared with mastectomy for early stage breast cancer: A systematic review and meta-analysis

KK Rajan<sup>1,2</sup>, K Fairhurst<sup>1,4</sup>, B Birkbeck<sup>1</sup>, R Wilson<sup>1</sup>, J Savovic<sup>1</sup>, C Holcombe<sup>3</sup> and S Potter<sup>1,4</sup>

1) Bristol Medical School, University of Bristol, Bristol, UK 2) University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, Bristol, UK 3) Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Trust, Liverpool, UK 4) North Bristol NHS Trust, Bristol, UK



## Results

- **Thirty-seven studies** reported overall survival in **1,321,291 patients** (729,789 undergoing BCS+RT and 591,502 undergoing mastectomy). The pooled hazard ratio was **0.73 (95% confidence interval (CI) 0.65– 0.81, p<0.001, I<sup>2</sup> 97.6%)** demonstrating improved overall survival for patients undergoing BCS+RT compared with those receiving mastectomy.
- **Nine studies with triple negative breast cancer** results showed a hazard ratio of 0.76 (95% CI 0.67 – 0.87, p<0.001, I<sup>2</sup> 29.3%).
- **Nineteen studies** comparing BCT+RT to **mastectomy without radiotherapy** showed hazard ratio of 0.69 (95% CI 0.64 – 0.74, p<0.001, I<sup>2</sup> 71.8%).
- **Ten studies** including patients **less than 50 year old** showed a hazard ratio of 0.88 (95% CI 0.77 – 1.01, p=0.073, I<sup>2</sup> 52.4%).



# Pathologic complete response and breast-conserving surgery are associated with improved prognosis in patients with early-stage triple-negative breast cancer treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy

David Krug<sup>1</sup>, Valentina Vladimirova<sup>2</sup>, Michael Untch<sup>3</sup>, Thorsten Kühn<sup>4</sup>, Andreas Schneeweiss<sup>5</sup>, Carsten Denkert<sup>6</sup>, Beyhan Ataseven<sup>7</sup>, Christine Solbach<sup>8</sup>, Bernd Gerber<sup>9</sup>, Hans Tesch<sup>10</sup>, Michael Golatta<sup>11</sup>, Sabine Seiler<sup>2</sup>, Jörg Heil<sup>11</sup>, Valentina Nekljudova<sup>2</sup>, Sibylle Loibl<sup>2</sup>

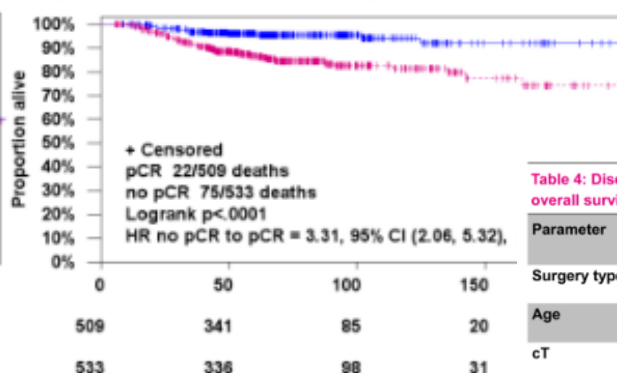
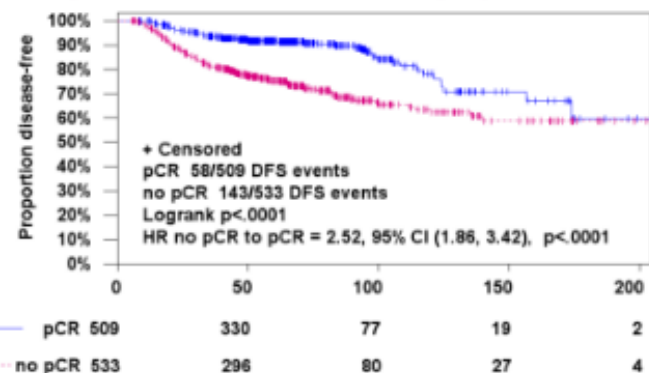
PD15-06

<sup>1</sup>Department of Radiation Oncology, University Hospital Schleswig-Holstein, Kiel, Germany, <sup>2</sup>German Breast Group, Neu-Isenburg, Germany, <sup>3</sup>Helios Klinikum Berlin-Buch, Germany, <sup>4</sup>Department of Gynecology, Klinikum Esslingen, Esslingen, Germany, <sup>5</sup>Nationales Centrum für Tumorerkrankungen, Universitätsklinikum und Deutsches Krebsforschungszentrum, Heidelberg, Germany, <sup>6</sup>Institut für Pathologie UKGM-Universitätsklinikum Marburg, Germany, <sup>7</sup>Kliniken-Essen-Mitte, Germany, <sup>8</sup>Universität Klinikum Frankfurt, Frankfurt am Main, Germany.



**Fig. 1a** Disease-free survival according to pCR-status

**Fig. 1b** Overall survival according to pCR-status

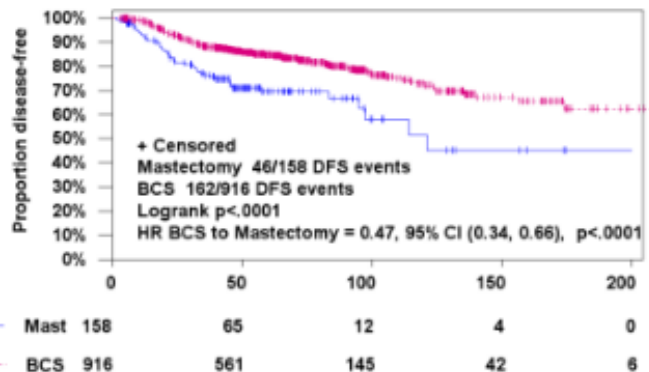


**Table 4: Disease-free survival + overall survival**

Parameter	Category	Multivariate Cox-regression analysis - DFS		Multivariate Cox-regression analysis - OS	
		Hazard ratio (95%CI)	P-value	Hazard ratio (95%CI)	P-value
Surgery type	BCS mastectomy	0.51 (0.36-0.72)	<0.001	0.43 (0.27-0.68)	<0.001
Age	≤50 >50	1.03 (0.77-1.37)	0.855	1.01 (0.67-1.53)	0.948
cT	cT1 cT2	0.71 (0.50-1.01)	0.058	0.76 (0.46-1.28)	0.306
pCR (landmark)	no pCR pCR	2.43 (1.78-3.31)	<0.001	3.15 (1.94-5.10)	<0.001

**Fig. 2a** Disease-free survival according to surgery

**Fig. 2b** Overall survival according to surgery



## Conclusions

In this retrospective analysis from the GBG meta-database, treatment response, e.g. pCR, was the main determinant of locoregional recurrence in patients with early stage TNBC treated with NACT, while type of surgery had no impact. BCS was associated with improved DFS and OS compared to mastectomy, which may reflect favorable patient selection.



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# Interpretation

- BCT is not superior, but certainly equal in contemporary practice
- Radiation improves survival for TNBC



# Breast conservation for multiple ipsilateral tumors



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



# **Impact of Breast Conservation Therapy on Local Recurrence in Patients with Multiple Ipsilateral Breast Cancer – Results from ACOSOG Z11102 (Alliance)**

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Judy C. Boughey, Kari M. Rosenkranz, Karla V. Ballman, Linda McCall, Bruce G. Haffty, Laurie W. Cuttino, Charlotte D. Kubicky, H. Carisa Le-Petross, Armando E. Giuliano, Kimberly J. Van Zee, Kelly K. Hunt, Olwen M. Hahn, Lisa A. Carey, Ann H. Partridge



# Background - MIBC

- Increased diagnosis of multiple ipsilateral breast cancer (MIBC)
  - Improved imaging, increased use of breast MRI
- Historical, retrospective studies showing high rates of local regional recurrence with BCT

Primary Author of Study	Surgical Years	Number of Patients (n)	Median Follow-up (Months)	Number of Recurrences	Outcome
Leopold	1968-1981	10	64	4	NA
Kurtz	1975-1983	61	71	15	NA
Wilson	Prior to 12/1988	13	71	3	6-year LRR: 25%

Many surgeons recommend mastectomy



# **Z11102 - Prospective single arm phase II trial to evaluate breast conservation in women with two or three lesions in the breast**

## **Inclusion Criteria**

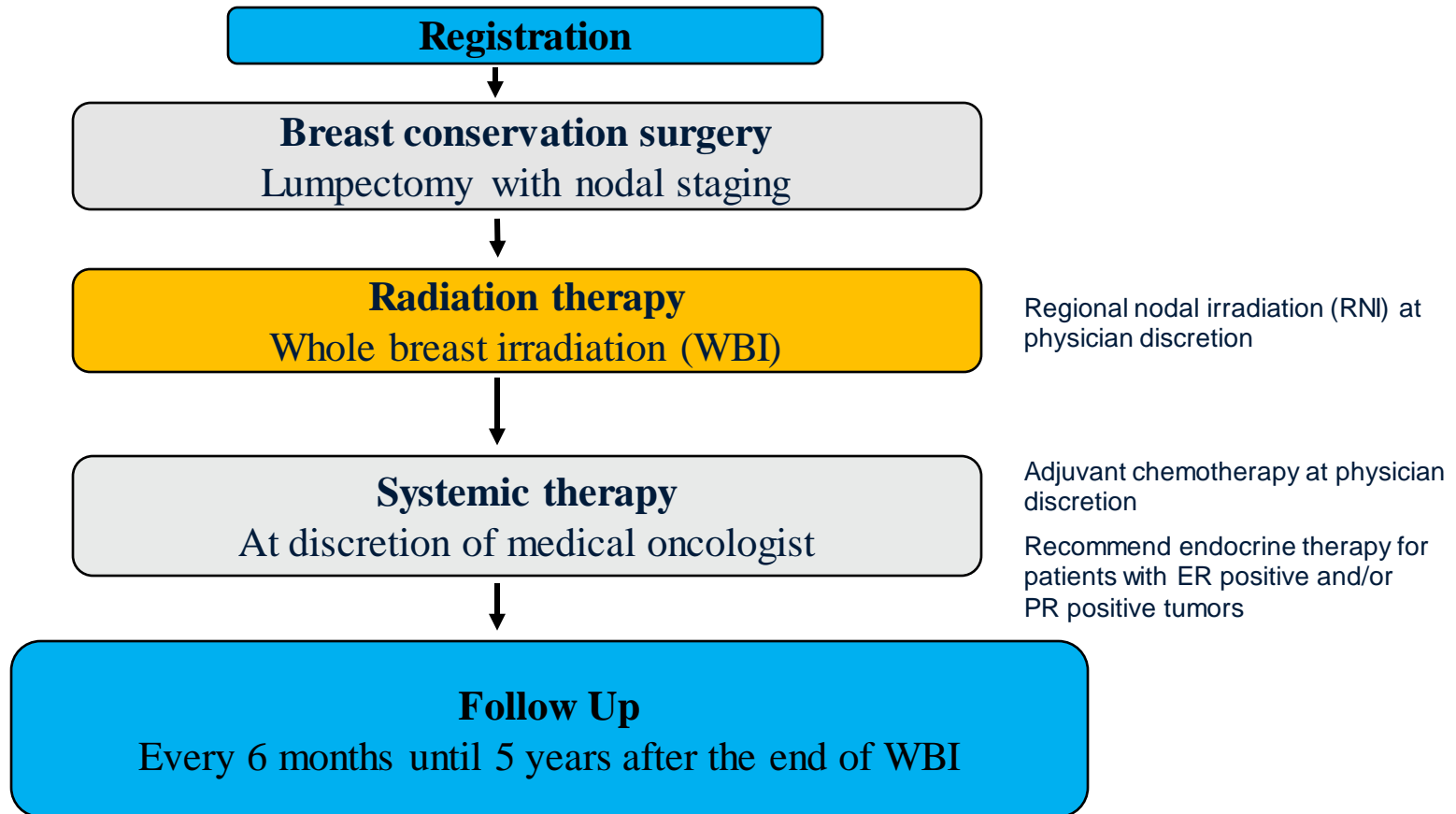
- Women age  $\geq 40$
- 2 or 3 foci of breast cancer
- At least one foci of invasive disease
- $\geq 2$  cm normal tissue between lesions
- No more than 2 quadrants with disease
- cN0 or cN1 disease

## **Exclusion Criteria**

- Focus of disease  $>5$ cm on imaging
- Bilateral breast cancer
- Prior ipsilateral breast cancer
- Known BRCA 1/2 mutations
- Neoadjuvant therapy
- Men



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# Z11102 Secondary Objectives

- Rate of conversion to mastectomy

  - 7.1% (14 patients converted due to positive margins)

  - 67.6% achieved margin-negative excision in a single operation

- Cosmetic outcome

  - PRO - good or excellent in 70.6% at 2 years

- Adherence to protocol directed radiation

  - Increasing radiation boost volume associated with acute dermatitis, but not associated with worse overall cosmesis

Rosenkranz et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2018 Oct;25(10):2858-2866

Rosenkranz et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2020 Nov;27(12):4650-4661

Cuttino et al. Int J Radiat Oncol Biol Phys. 2022 Mar 1;112(3):636-642



# Z11102 Primary Objective

To assess the local recurrence (LR) rate with breast conservation in patients with multiple ipsilateral breast cancer (MIBC)

Acceptable 5-year LR rate for BCT was defined as  
less than 8%





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270 total patients enrolled

July 2012 - August 2016  
78 sites enrolled patients

66 not evaluable for primary endpoint

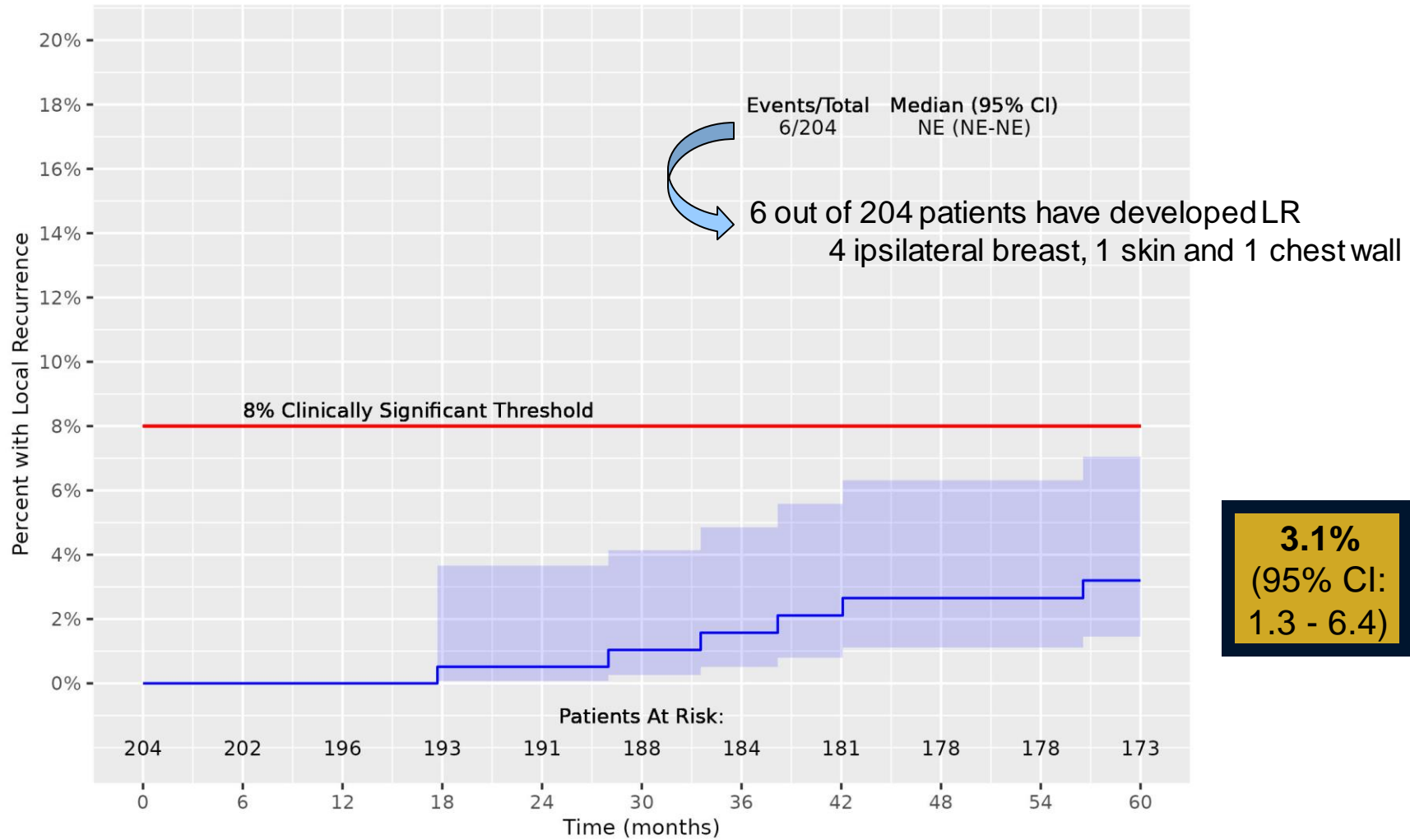
34 ineligible  
14 converted to mastectomy  
2 unable to achieve negative margins  
16 withdrew consent prior to first follow up

- Amended in 2015 to:
- Allow enrollment of patients without MRI
  - Allow post-surgical enrollment of patients with BCS for MIBC

204 patients evaluable for primary endpoint



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# Breast MRI

- Initially required, 2015 amended to allow patients without MRI
- 189 patients (92.6%) had MRI, 15 patients (7.4%) no MRI
- Local Recurrence
  - 3/189 with MRI and 3/15 without MRI

	Estimated 5-year LR (95% CI)	HR (95% CI)	P value
Breast MRI (n=189)	1.7 (0.6 – 5.2)	1.00 (ref)	0.002
No Breast MRI (n=15)	22.6 (7.9 – 55.1)	13.5 (2.7 – 66.9)	



# Endocrine Therapy

- 195 patients with at least 1 ER+ lesion

Characteristic	Estimated 5-year LR (95%CI)	# of patients with local recurrence	HR (95% CI)	P value
Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy (n=175)	1.9 (1.0 – 5.6)	3	1.0 (ref)	0.025
No Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy (n=20)	12.5 (3.3 – 41.5)	2	7.7 (1.3 – 46.3)	

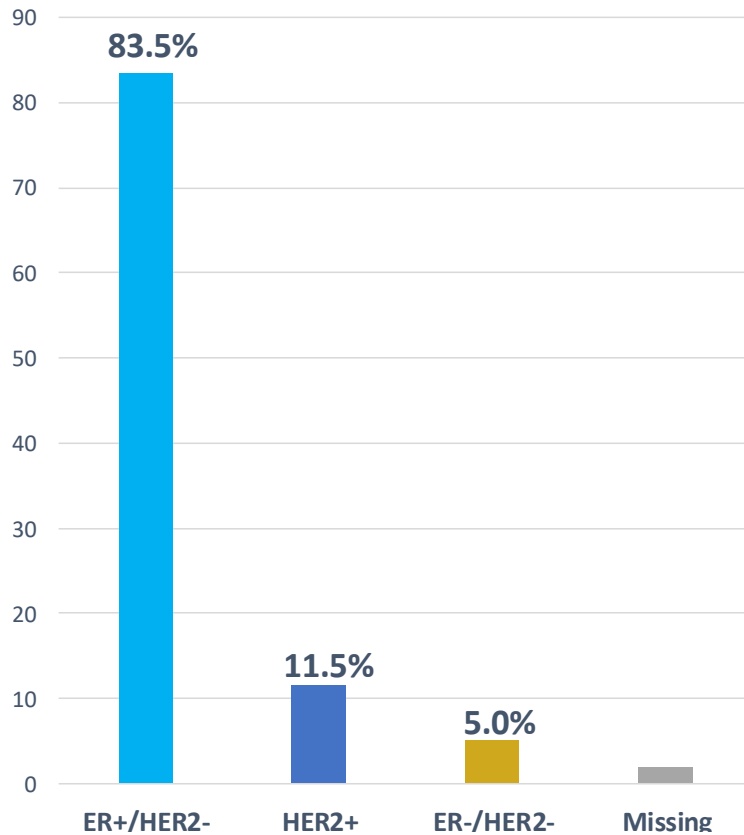


# Conclusions

- Multiple ipsilateral lumpectomy (followed by whole breast radiation plus boosts to the lumpectomy cavities) is reasonable



# Tumor Biology



## LR by tumor biology

Tumor biology	LR	5-yr est LR	95% CI
ER+/HER2-	4/167	2.6%	1.0-6.8
HER2+	0/23	NE	NE
ER-/HER2-	1/10	10.0%	1.5-52.7

\*1 of the events was in a patient missing tumor biology information



# Potential application?

## DAPHNe

- 97 patients treated with neoadjuvant THP
  - 92 without additional pre-operative therapy
- Patients and providers accepted a de-escalated regimen without additional cytotoxic therapy if pCR was achieved
  
- BCT rates among the 92 treated with THP alone



# DAPHNe

<b>Characteristic</b>	<b>N= 53</b>
<b>Potential for tumor downsizing and BCT</b>	28(52.8%)
<b>Tumor to breast size ratio</b>	24(45.2%)
<b>Nipple retraction</b>	2(3.8%)
<b>Tumor location</b>	2(3.8%)
<b>Contraindication to BCT</b>	25(47.2%)
<b>Multifocal/multicentric disease</b>	16(30.2%)
<b>Extensive calcifications</b>	7(13.2%)
<b>Contraindication to radiation</b>	2(3.8%)





Figure 1

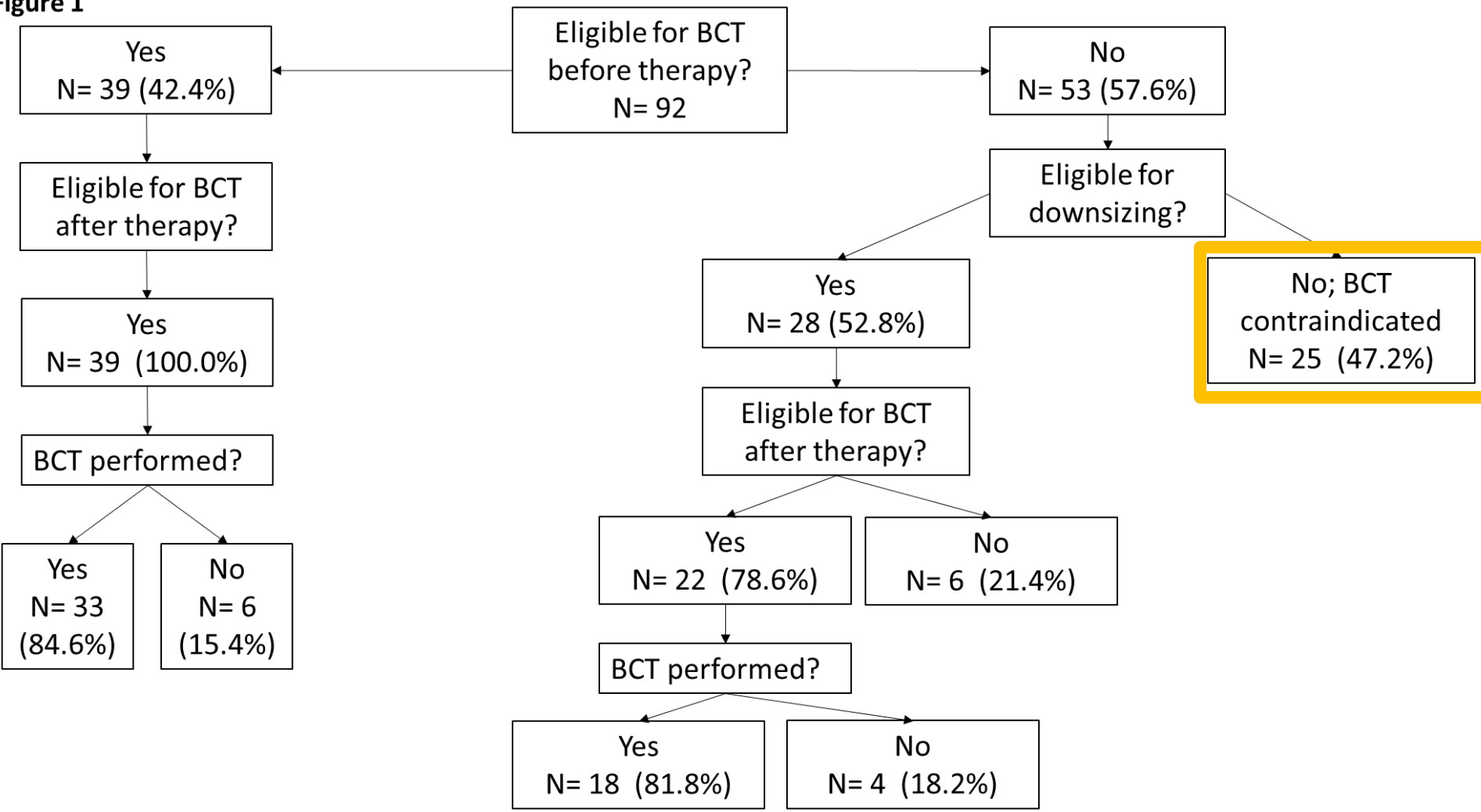
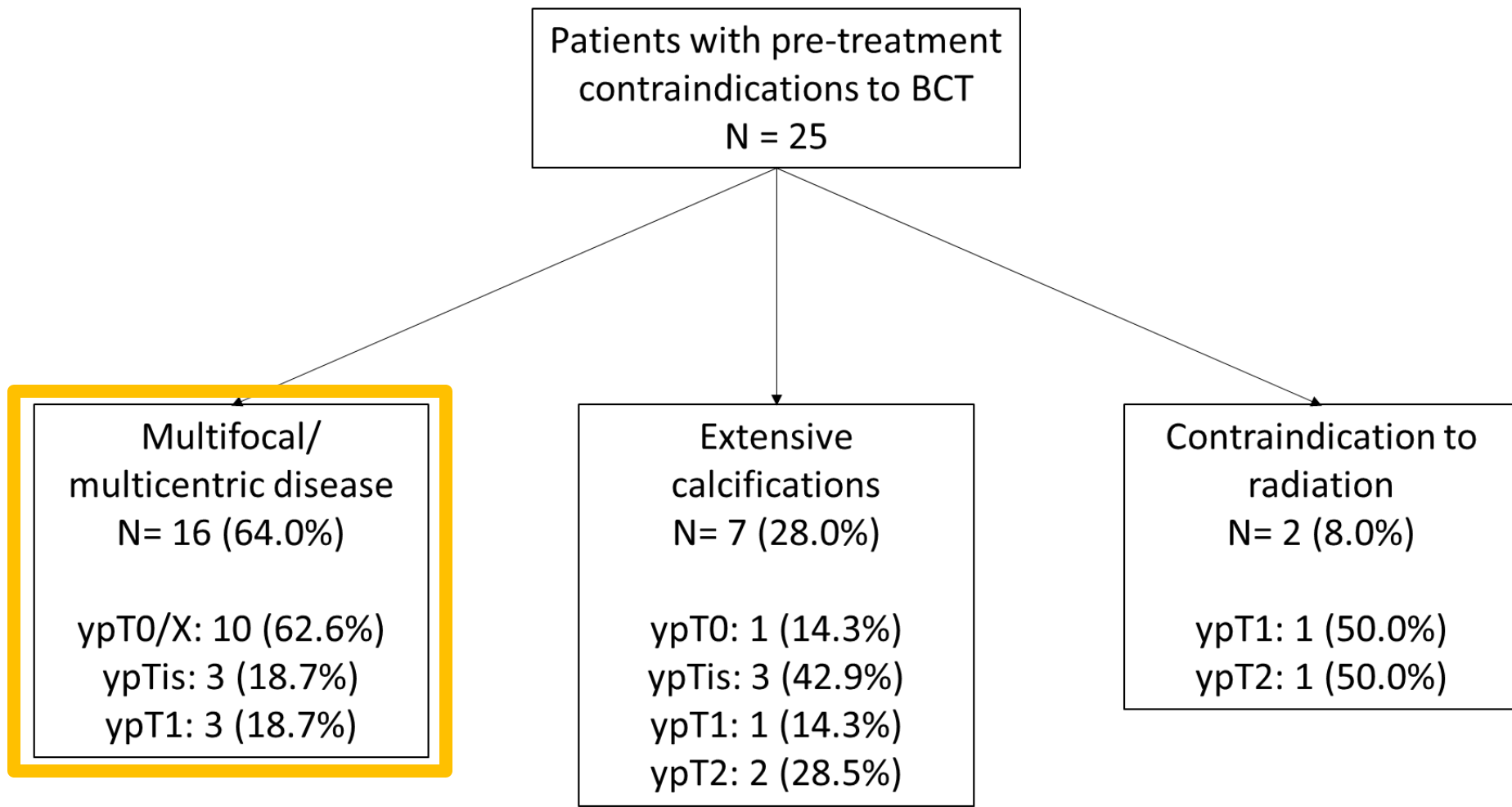


Figure 2



# Implications

- THP alone does not seem to negatively impact BCT



- Although Z11102 was upfront surgery setting (NAC-treated patients excluded), may consider multiple lumpectomy for patients with multifocal tumors and high pCR rates





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# Axillary Surgery Updates



# Axillary surgery after NAC

## Historical Perspective

- NAC can downstage the axilla
- NSABP B-18 and B-27

> 80% nodal  
clinical response  
rate

> 40% nodal  
pathologic  
complete  
response rate



# NSABP B-27

- Some patients SLNB → ALND
- Identification of sentinel node: 84.8%
- FN rate 10.7% (15/70)
- Several large clinical trials subsequently examined SLNB for patients who presented with cN1 disease but converted to cN0 after NAC

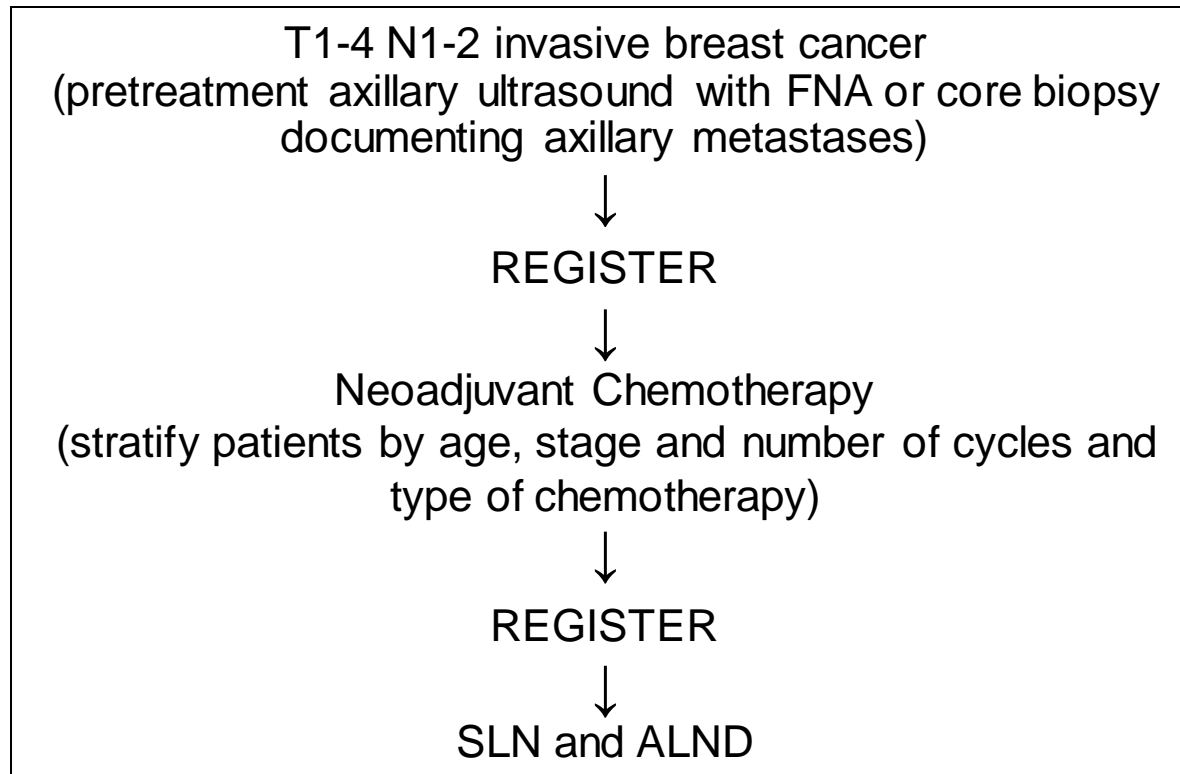
**Table 3.** Status of Sentinel Nodes and Nonsentinel Nodes in Patients Who Underwent Sentinel Node Biopsy Followed by Axillary Node Dissection (n = 343)

	Nonsentinel Nodes (status)		
	Positive	Negative	All
Sentinel nodes (status)			
Positive	55	70	125
Negative	15*	203	218
Total	70	273	343

\*False-negative rate, 10.7% (15/140; 95% CI, 5.6% to 15.8%); overall accuracy, 95.6% (328/343; 95% CI, 95.6% to 97.8%); negative predictive value, 93.1% (203/218; 95% CI, 89.8% to 96.5%); positive predictive value, 100% (by definition).



# ACOSOG Z1071





# ACOSOG Z1071

## SLN identification rate

<b>Patients</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>SLN identified</b>	<b>SLN identification rate (%)</b>	<b>CI</b>
All patients	689	639	92.7	90.5 - 94.6
cN1	651	605	92.9	90.7 - 94.8
cN2	38	34	89.5	75.2 - 97.1



# ACOSOG Z1071

## False negative rate (FNR)

FNR among patients with cN1 disease and at least 2 SLNs examined

$$\text{FNR} = \frac{\text{\# pts SLN - / ALND +}}{\text{Total \# pts SLN + or ALND +}}$$

310 patients had residual nodal disease

39 of these patients had negative SLNs

$$\text{FNR} = 12.6\%$$



# SLNB for patients who presented with cN1 disease but converted to cN0 after NAC

	<b>Identification rate</b>	<b>False negative rate</b>
NSABP B-27, 2005	85%	10.7%
GANEA 1, 2009	81.5%	15%
ACOSOG Z1071, 2013	92.9%	12.6%
SENTINA (Arm C), 2013	80.1%	14.2%
SN FNAC, 2015	87.6%	9.6%

- Largely negative trials!
- FNR >10%



# 10% FNR

- Somewhat arbitrary acceptable cutoff
  - B-32 = 10%
- Only SN FNAC (with IHC) met this cutoff
  - 8.4% overall population
- Community was committed to decreasing morbidity and adopting SLNB in this setting



# ACOSOG Z1071

## Technical factors

	310 patients	p Value
Mapping Agent		
Blue dye only	2/9 (22.2%)	p=0.05
Radiolabeled colloid only	10/50 (20.0%)	
Both blue dye and radiolabeled colloid	27/251 (10.8%)	
Number of SLN Examined		
2	19/90 (21.1%)	p=0.007
≥3	20/220 (9.1%)	
Clinical T Stage		
T0, Tis, T1, T2	32/225 (14.2%)	p=0.18
T3, T4	7/85 (8.2%)	



<b>Method</b>	<b>Study</b>	<b>FNR</b>
Mapping agent	Z1071	Single 20.3% Dual 10.8%
	SENTINA	Single 16% Dual 8.6%
	SN FNAC	Single 16% Dual 5.2%
Number of lymph nodes obtained	Z1071	2 nodes 21.1% 3 or more 9.1%
	SENTINA	1 node 24.3% 2 nodes 18.5% 3 or more 7.3%
	SN FNAC	1 node 18.2% 2 nodes 4.9%
Pathologic Evaluation	Z1071	H&E 11.3% IHC 8.7%
	SN FNAC	H&E 13.3% IHC 8.4%
Localization/ identification of the clipped node	Z1071	6.8%



Study	Years	N	Median Follow-up	Axillary recurrence	Distant recurrence	Special notes
<b>Milan</b>	2000-2010	70	61 months	0	12.8% (absolute)	-No tracer requirement
		123	9.2 years	2 (1.6%)	10.6% (absolute)	-Required only 1 SLN obtained -74.3% had < 3 SLNs obtained
<b>Mayo</b>	2009-2019	159	34 months	1 (0.6%)	NR	-Required only 1 SLN obtained
<b>McGill</b>	2013-2018	60	36 months	0	13.7% (5-yr)	-Required dual tracer -Median of 4 SLNs obtained
<b>MSKCC</b>	2013-2019	234	40 months	1 (0.4%)	6.1% (4-yr)	-Required dual tracer -At least 3 SLNs obtained in all patients

N= patients who presented with pretreatment cN1 disease, were pN0 and treated with SLNB alone



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# AXILLARY RECURRENCE IS RARE IN PATIENTS UNDERGOING SENTINEL LYMPH NODE BIOPSY FOLLOWING NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY IN INITIALLY CLINICALLY NODE-POSITIVE BREAST CANCER: EARLY RESULTS OF THE NEOSENTITURK-TRIAL/MF18-03

N Cabiroglu<sup>1</sup>, H Karanlık<sup>1</sup>, MA Gulcolik<sup>1</sup>, A Igc<sup>1</sup>, M Mualimanoglu<sup>1</sup>, HB Koçar<sup>2</sup>, C Uras<sup>3</sup>, GG Akgul<sup>4</sup>, M Tukenmez<sup>5</sup>, S Bademler<sup>6</sup>, S Ilgun<sup>7</sup>, DC Trablus<sup>8</sup>, GK Çakmak<sup>9</sup>, A Dag<sup>10</sup>, N Yildirim<sup>11</sup>, B Zengel<sup>12</sup>, ES Oran<sup>13</sup>, K Senol<sup>14</sup>, S Emiroglu<sup>15</sup>, U Ugurlu<sup>16</sup>, H Karaz<sup>17</sup>, B Cigaz<sup>18</sup>, YE Ersoy<sup>19</sup>, I Joran<sup>20</sup>, A Celik<sup>21</sup>, E Dilgeç<sup>22</sup>, Y Bolukbasli<sup>23</sup>, N Karaman<sup>24</sup>, G Basaran<sup>25</sup>, B Yigit<sup>26</sup>, A Soyder<sup>27</sup>, AK Polat<sup>28</sup>, G Sakman<sup>29</sup>, S Ozbas<sup>30</sup>, A Altinok<sup>31</sup>, E Ozkurt<sup>32</sup>, S Gokoz<sup>33</sup>, G Ercan<sup>34</sup>, B Celik<sup>35</sup>, L Zor<sup>36</sup>, A Akcan<sup>37</sup>, E Baran<sup>38</sup>, IA Ozemir<sup>39</sup>, L Yeniyaz<sup>40</sup>, Z Utkan<sup>41</sup>, L Dogan<sup>42</sup>, M Dogan<sup>43</sup>, M Validedoglu<sup>44</sup>, F Calikoglu<sup>45</sup>, B Ozcinar<sup>46</sup>, A Kebudi<sup>47</sup>, K Atahan<sup>48</sup>, V Valtiyeva<sup>49</sup>, S Yormaz<sup>50</sup>, F Eroglu<sup>51</sup>, A Sevinc<sup>52</sup>, C Aric<sup>53</sup>, E Varol<sup>54</sup>, HG Killo<sup>55</sup>, O Agcaoglu<sup>56</sup>, B Goktepe<sup>57</sup>, S Ergun<sup>58</sup>, P Alakbarova<sup>59</sup>, T Yildirim<sup>60</sup>, B Mollaveloglu<sup>61</sup>, B Killo<sup>62</sup>, E Arkan<sup>63</sup>, M Akinci<sup>64</sup>, S Aksoy<sup>65</sup>, FL Balci<sup>66</sup>, S Onder<sup>67</sup>, A Soran<sup>68</sup>, A Ayoliner<sup>69</sup>, K Ibig<sup>70</sup>, and V Ozmen<sup>71</sup>

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Breast Health Working Group International

**Table 2. Axillary (AR) and locoregional recurrences (LRR)**

	All (n=2390)	SLNB (n=1433)	ALND (n=957)		SLNB (-) (n=1032)	SLNB (+) (n=401)		ALND (-) (n=160)	ALND (+) (n=797)	
	n(%)	n(%)	n(%)	P*	n(%)	n(%)	P*	n(%)	n(%)	P*
<b>AR</b>				0.45			0.564			0.520
Yes	7(0.3)	3(0.2)	4(0.4)		3(0.3)	0(0)		1(0.6)	3(0.4)	
No	2383 (99.7)	1430 (99.8)	953 (99.6)		1029 (99.7)	401 (100)		159 (99.4)	794 (99.6)	
<b>LRR</b>				0.18			0.999			0.179
Yes	15(0.6)	6(0.4)	9(0.9)		6(0.5)	1(0.2)		3(1.9)	6(0.8)	
No	2375 (99.4)	1427 (99.6)	948 (99.1)		1027 (99.5)	400 (99.8)		157 (98.1)	791 (99.2)	
<b>LR after BCT*</b>				0.999			0.459			0.999
Yes	14 (1.2)	9 (1.1)	5 (1.3)		8 (1.4)	1( 0.5)		1 (1.4)	4 (1.2)	
No	1181 (98.8)	789 (98.9)	392 (98.7)		583 (98.6)	206 (99.5)		69 (98.6)	323 (98.8)	
<b>LR after MST</b>				0.403			0.999			0.366
Yes	13(1.1)	5(0.8)	8(1.4)		4(0.9)	1(0.5)		0(0)	8(1.7)	
No	1182 (98.9)	630 (99.2)	552 (98.6)		437 (99.1)	193 (99.5)		90 (100)	462 (98.2)	

Axillary recurrences (AR) were seen at a median of 12 months IQR (25, 75) (range, 12-27) months after the surgery.

Of 7 cases with AR, 4 had synchronous local recurrences in breast (n=3) or mastectomy (n=1), and 3 of them also had lung (n=2) or liver/bone (n=1) metastases in addition to AR.

All patients (except 1 case: luminal-B HER2-) with AR were found to have HER2(+) or TNBC.

All cases had residual invasive cancer in the breast surgical specimen.



# Long Term Outcome in Patients with Nodal-Positive Breast Cancer Treated with Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy Alone After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy

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## Results

1. 902 patients with clinically stage N1 (cN1) cancer treated with NAC and turned cN0 were identified
2. 477 (52.9%) patients achieved complete pathological response in the axilla (ypN0), while the remaining 425 (47.1%) patients still have metastasis in the axillary lymph nodes. 133 (14.7%) patients had ypN0i or ypN1mi disease.
3. In the ypN0 cohort, most patients underwent SLNB only (n=314, 65.8%), while about one-third of the cohort had ALND (n=163, 34.2%). (Table 1)
4. Clinical and histopathological features were comparable between these 2 groups, except for clinical T staging (cT). (Table 1) We noted that significantly more patients in the ALND group had T3-4 tumour as compared to the SLNB group.
5. In the SLNB only group, median number of SLN and non SLN harvested were both 2, but the range were 1-7 and 0-8 respectively. In the ALND group, median number of total lymph node was 11 (range 2-35).
6. At a median follow up of 65 months, ARR was 3.2% in the SLNB only group and 1.8% in the ALND group (p=0.398). (Table 2)
7. DFS and OS were significantly worse in patients with ALND as compared to patients with SLNB alone (p=0.010 & 0.031 respectively). (Figure 1)
8. Due to the uneven distribution of patients based on cT stage between SLNB and ALND group, we did a subgroup analysis and showed that in the cT1-2 subgroup (n=377), there was no statistically significant difference in DFS and OS (p=0.239 and 0.669 respectively) between SLNB and ALND group. (Figure 2)
9. In the ypN0i and ypN1mi cohort, at a median follow up of 66 months, ARR was 12.1% in the SLNB group and 4.0% in the ALND group (p=0.095). (Table 2)
10. There was no significant difference in DFS and OS between the SLNB and ALND group (p=0.475 and 0.254). (Figure 4)



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# Ways to optimize SLNB after NAC



# “TAD”

- Targeted Axillary Dissection (TAD)
- Retrieving the clipped lymph node and performing SLNB
- Clipped node is not the SLN 23% of the time
- Only factor associated with clipped node NOT retrieved as a SLN was  $\geq 4$  abnormal nodes on ultrasound (41% of the time vs 17% of the time if 1-3 nodes abnormal,  $P=.004$ )
- No difference by tumor subtype – sample size issue ?



# Clipping and ensuring the clipped, biopsy-proven lymph node is removed with SLNB provides the lowest FNR

	<b>Study</b>	<b>FNR</b>
Localization/ identification of the clipped node	ACOSOG Z1071	6.8% (95% CI 1.9%-16.5%)
	MARI*	7% (95% CI 2%-16%)
	TAD@	2% (95% CI 0.05%-10.7%)
	RISAS@	3.5% (95% CI 1.38%-7.16%)

\*included removing the clipped node only @included removing the clipped node and performing SLNB



# Debate around “TAD”

- Without a doubt, TAD is the most accurate way to determine nodal status after NAC (provides the lower FNR)

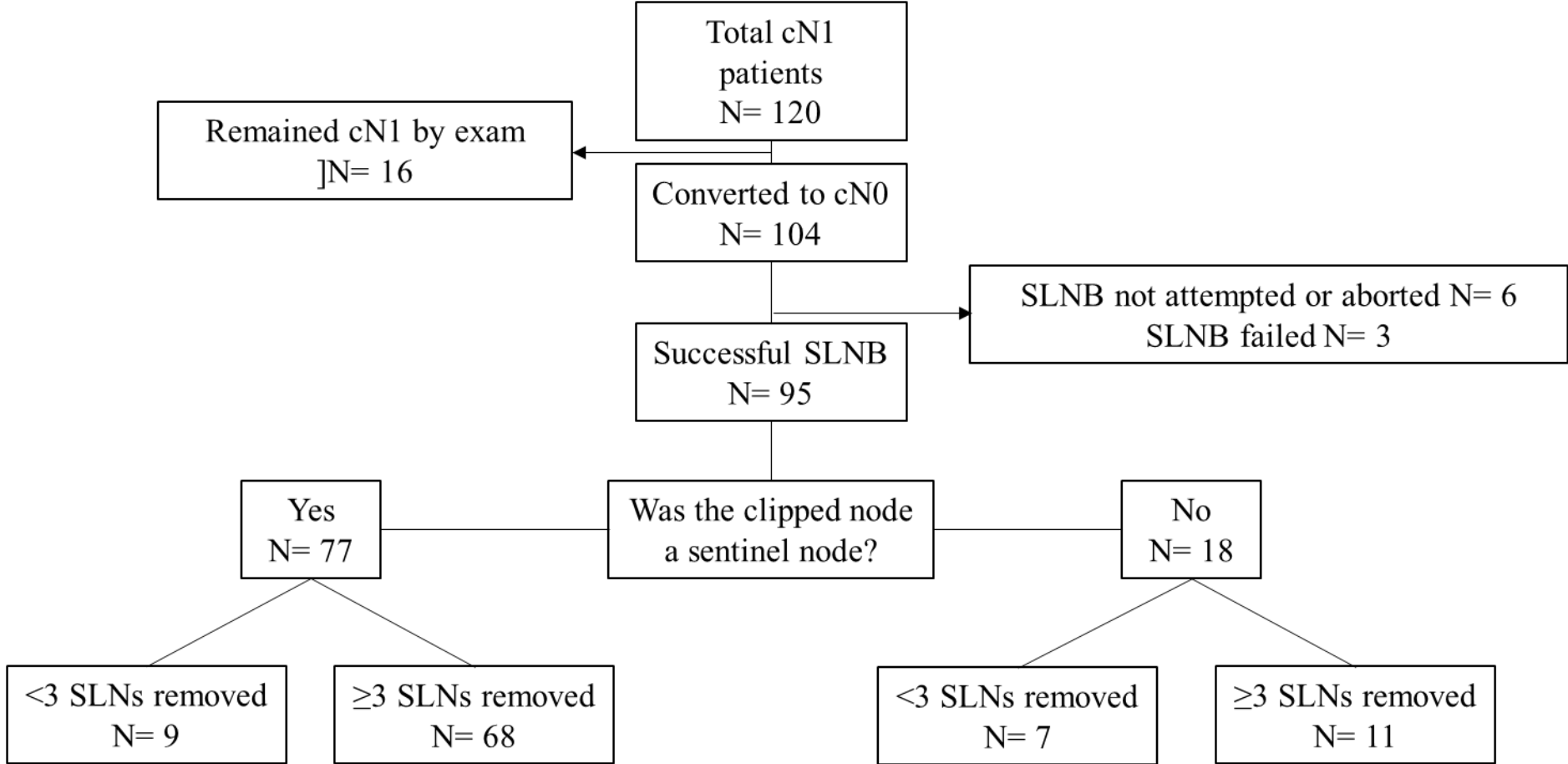


- But what FNR corresponds to a change in management? What FNR is needed for acceptable or better oncological outcomes???



# DFCI Experience





Clipped node was a non-sentinel lymph node 19% of the time

1 patient cLN was positive while all other SLNs were negative  
2 patients cLN were negative while other SLNs were positive





# DFCI Experience

- cLN was a non-SLN 19% of the time overall
- Only once did the cLN pathology change management
- HR+ patient – ALND, but radiation and systemic therapy recommendations did not change



# Debate around “TAD”

- Without a doubt, TAD is the most accurate way to determine nodal status after NAC (provides the lower FNR)



- But what FNR corresponds to a change in management? What FNR is needed for acceptable or better oncological outcomes???



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



## The OPBC-04/EUBREAST-06/OMA Study

Oncological Outcomes Following Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy (SLNB) or Targeted Axillary Dissection (TAD) in Breast Cancer Patients Downstaging From Node Positive To Node Negative with Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy

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# Study Population

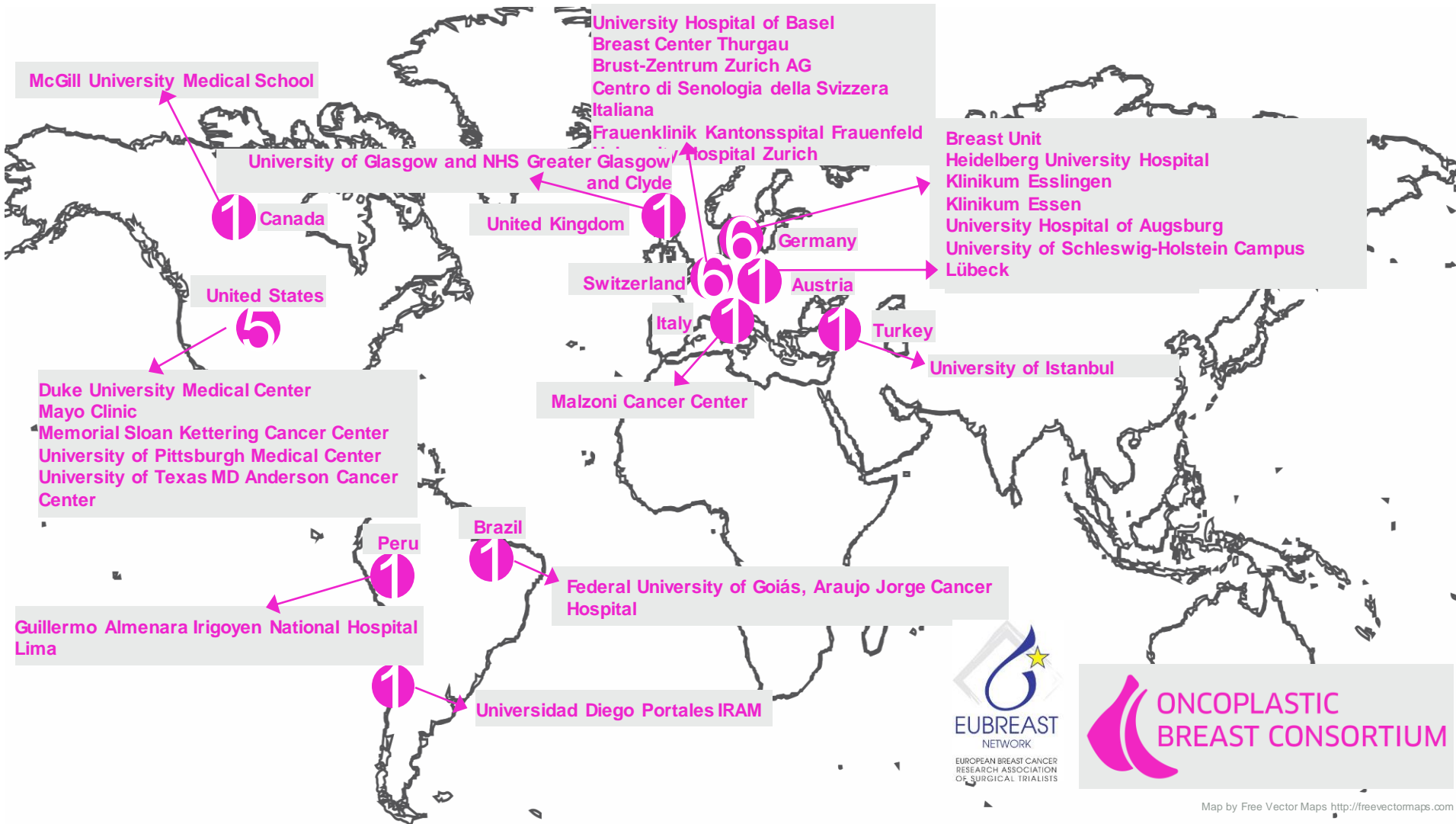
## Inclusion criteria

- T1-4
- Biopsy-proven nodal metastases (N1-3)
- Nodal pathologic complete response (pCR)
- SLNB performed with dual-tracer mapping or
- TAD (image-guided localization of the sampled node in combination with the SLNB procedure with or without dual mapping)
- A minimum of 10 cases per institution

## Exclusion criteria

- ALND
- Inflammatory breast cancer
- Stage IV
- < 1-year follow-up





Map by Free Vector Maps <http://freevectormaps.com>

# Flow Diagram

1282 T1-4 biopsy-proven N1-3 breast cancers (April 2013-December 2020)

138 Excluded

- 63 Follow-up < 1 year
- 4 Had ALND
- 1 Inflammatory breast cancer
- 1 Stage IV
- 2 Unknown adjuvant therapy
- 16 not biopsy proven N+
- 50 non-consecutive

1144 consecutive cases included

666 SLNB

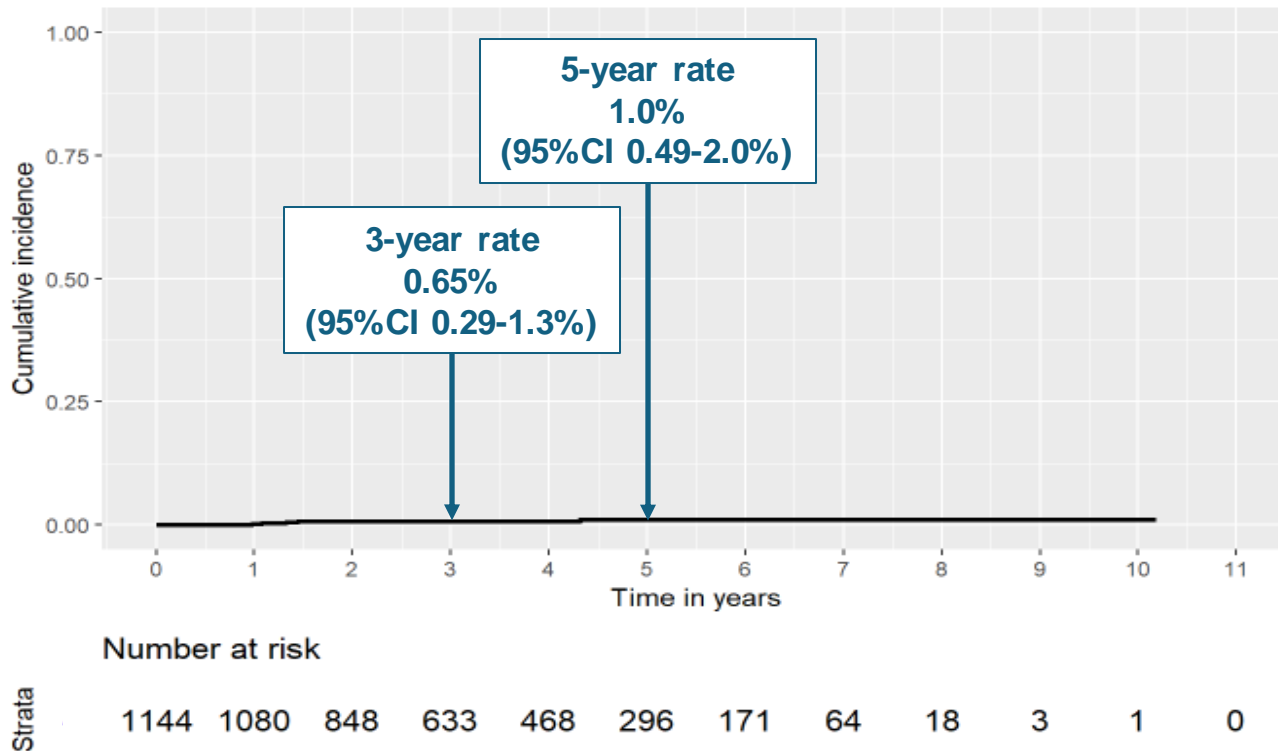
- Dual-tracer mapping: 666 (100%)
- Clip placement: 150/666 (23%)
- Clipped node removed (without localization): 129/150 (86%)
- Median follow-up: 4.2 years

478 TAD

- Dual-tracer mapping: not required (78%)
- Clipped node removed: 466/478 (99%)
- Localization technique
  - Radioactive seed: 343/478 (72%)
  - Wire: 115/478 (24%)
  - Ultrasound: 11/478 (2.3%)
  - Other (Magseed, tattoo and wire, seed and wire): 9/478 (1.9%)
- Median follow-up: 2.7 years

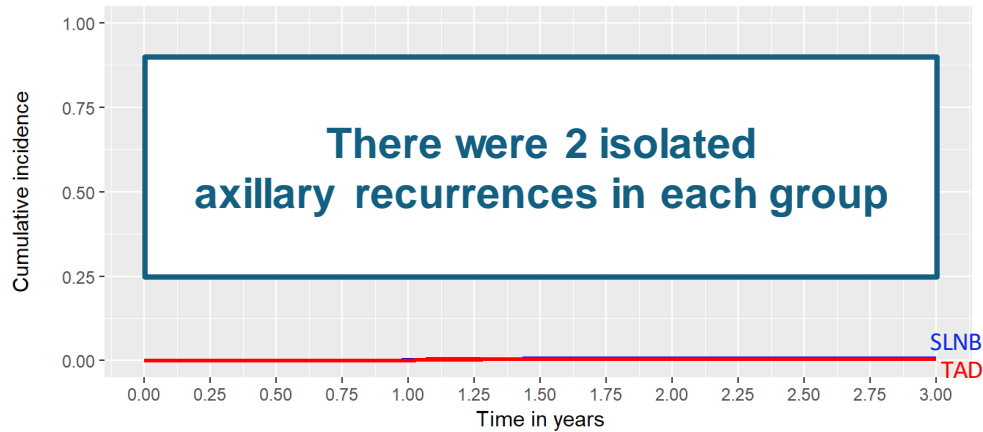


# Any Axillary Recurrence



# Any Axillary Recurrence (TAD vs SLNB)

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

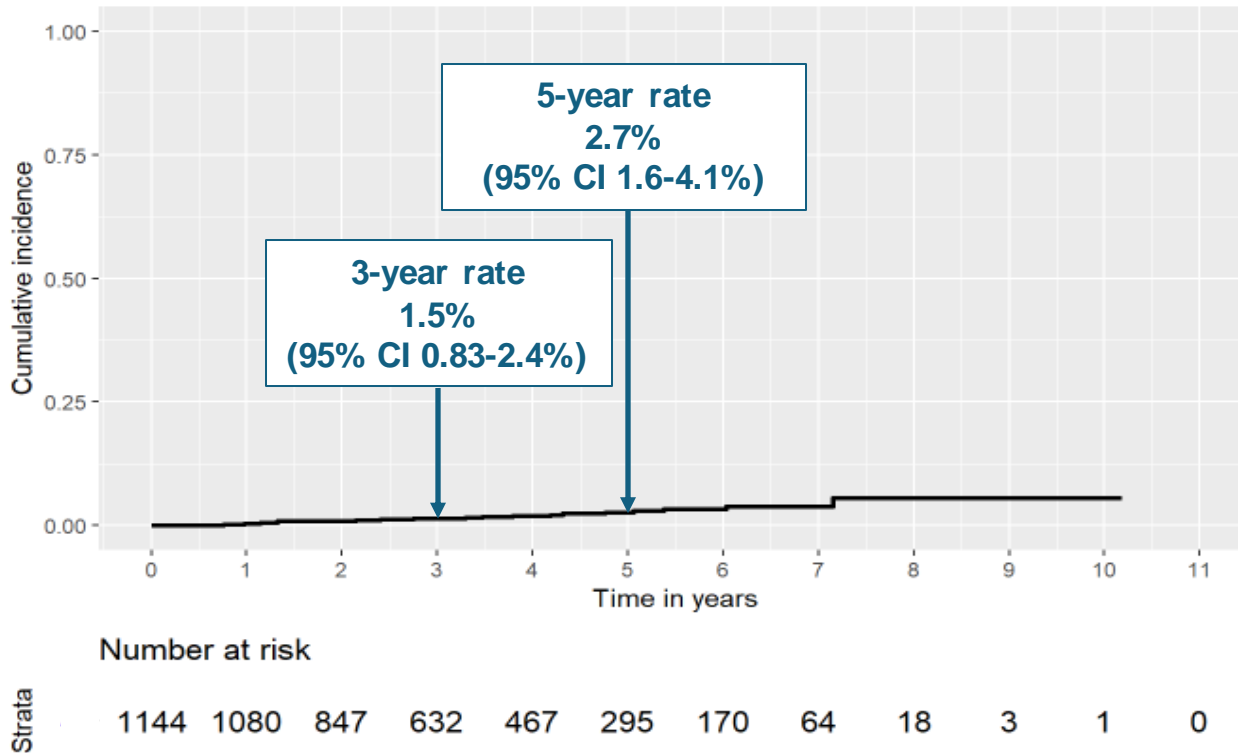


Number at risk

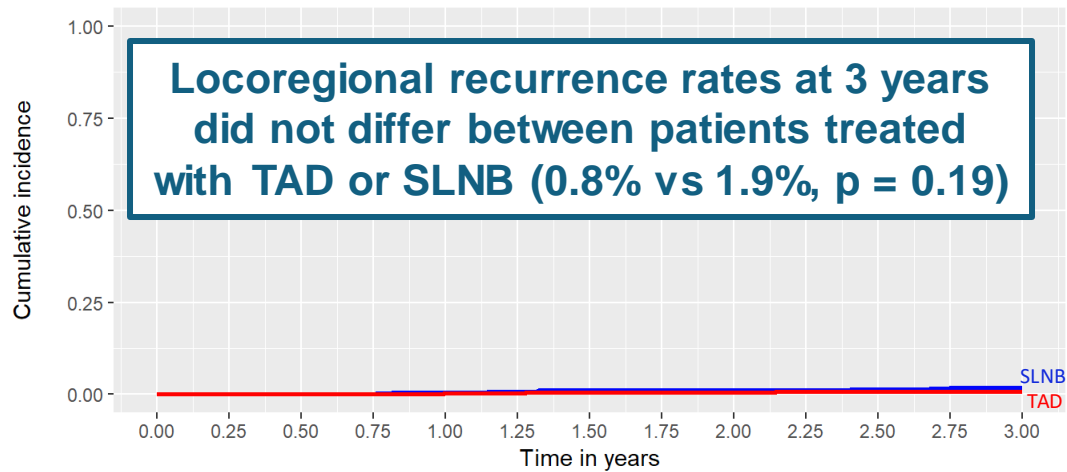
Strata	■	666	664	660	653	641	615	600	572	540	511	481	448	420
	■	478	477	471	462	439	401	366	336	308	271	250	230	213



# Locoregional Recurrence



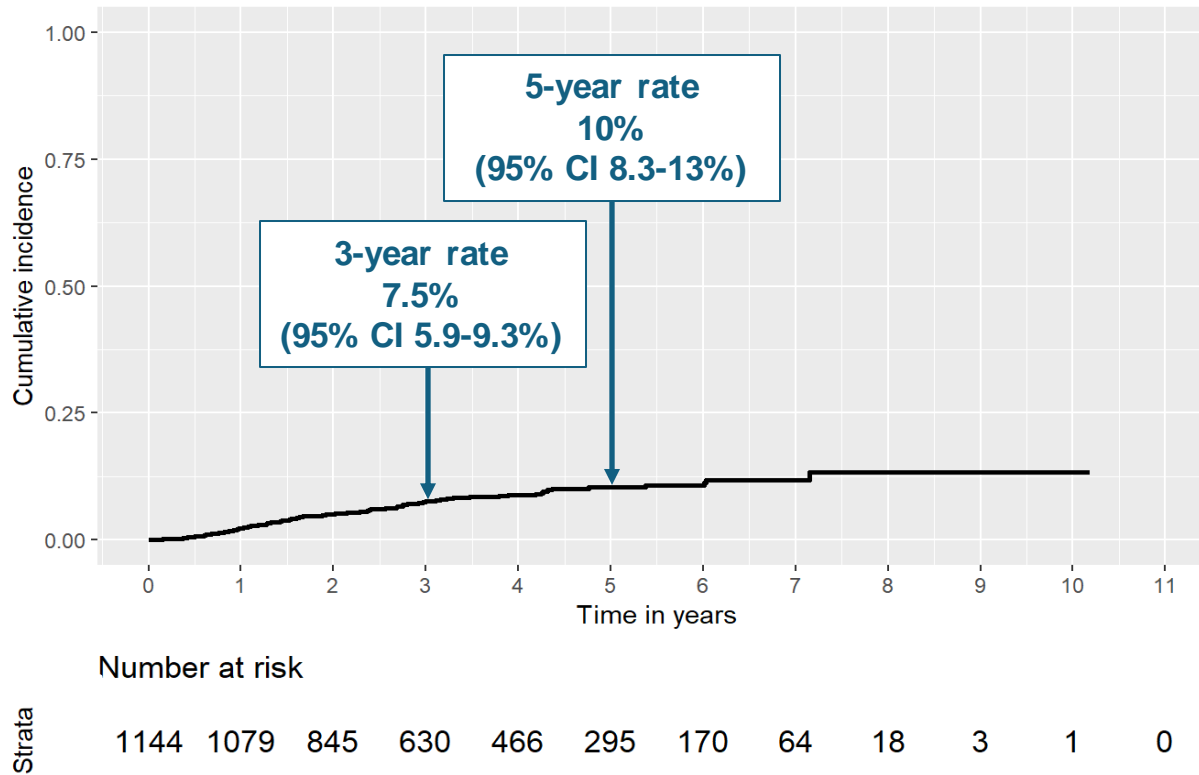
# Locoregional Recurrence (TAD vs SLNB)



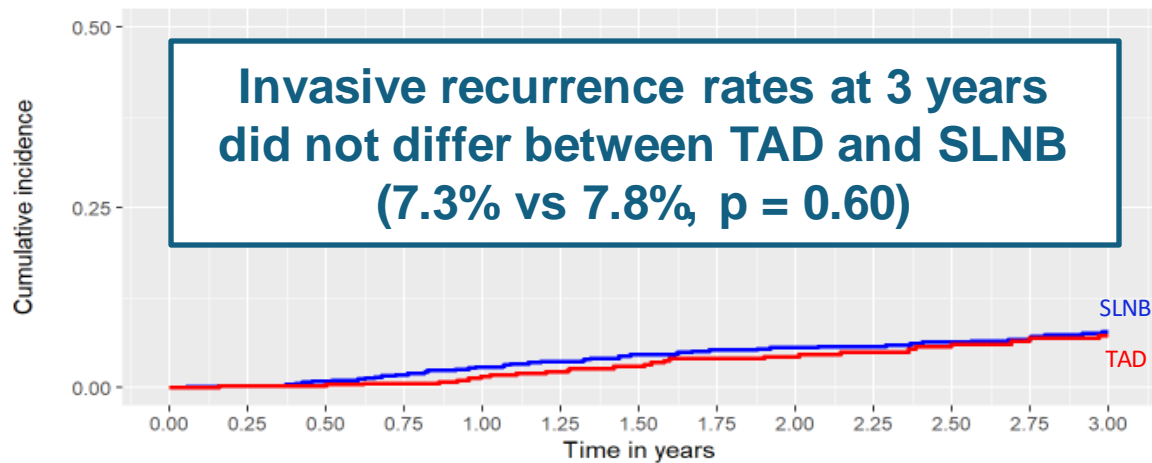
TAD

		Number at risk												
Strata		0	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00
■	SLNB	666	664	660	653	641	614	599	571	539	510	480	447	419
■	TAD	478	477	471	462	439	401	366	336	308	271	250	230	213

# Any Invasive Recurrence (Locoregional or Distant)



# Any Invasive Recurrence (TAD vs SLNB)



Number at risk

Strata	0.00	0.25	0.50	0.75	1.00	1.25	1.50	1.75	2.00	2.25	2.50	2.75	3.00
SLNB	666	664	660	653	641	613	598	570	537	508	479	446	418
TAD	478	477	471	462	438	400	365	336	308	271	249	229	212

# Other ways to optimize SLNB after NAC



# Incorporation of Repeated Core Needle Biopsy and Targeted Fine Needle Aspiration to Optimize Axillary Surgery After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy in Node-positive Breast Cancer: A Prospective Feasibility Study

Si-Yu Wu, Jian-Wei Li, Ying Zhang, Na Hu, Guang-Yu Liu

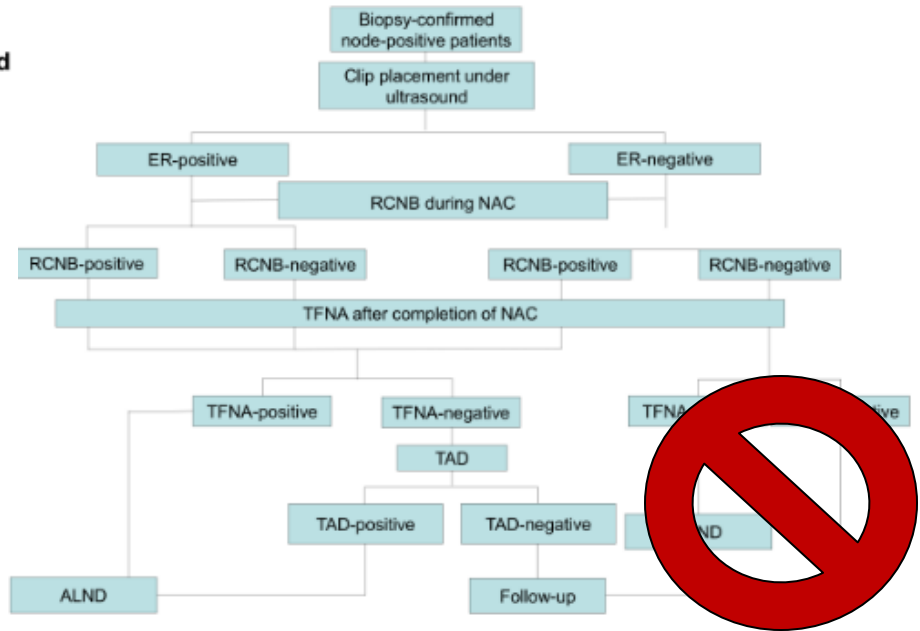
Department of Breast Surgery & Department of Ultrasound, Fudan University Shanghai Cancer Centre, contacting e-mail address: [drwu1187343296@163.com](mailto:drwu1187343296@163.com) (Siyu Wu)



Figure 1. A proposed algorithm applying RCNB and TFNA to tailor axillary surgery among patients with biopsy-confirmed node-positive patients in our study.

Table 2. Diagnostic Accuracy of Repeated Core Needle Biopsy in Breast, Targeted Fine Needle Aspiration and the Combination (N = 87)

	RCNB alone	TFNA alone	Combination
<b>% (95%CI)</b>			
<b>Accuracy</b>	63.2% (52.9-73.6)	74.7% (65.4-84.0)	63.2% (52.9-73.6)
<b>Sensitivity</b>	60.9% (74.0-95.6)	54.3% (39.4-69.3)	95.7% (89.5-100.0)
<b>Specificity</b>	39.0% (23.4-54.6)	97.6% (92.6-100.0)	39.0% (23.4-54.6)
<b>NPV</b>	69.6% (49.2-89.9)	65.6% (53.3-77.8)	88.9% (72.8-100.0)
<b>PPV</b>	60.9% (48.7-73.2)	96.2% (88.2-100.0)	68.8% (57.1-80.4)



## CONCLUSIONS

Combination of RCNB and TFNA allows for an accurate assessment of nodal response after NAC. These results may facilitate reliable identification of suitable candidates for de-escalation or elimination in axillary surgery.



# Implications

- Forthcoming systemic therapy de-escalation trials, SOC algorithms
- Consider re-biopsy if suspicious lymph nodes after NAC
  - If positive, consider additional therapy



# Tailoring therapy

- Overall goal
    - Omission of ALND
  - AND
  - Safe de-escalation of cytotoxic therapies, then escalate if poor response
- 
- Systemic therapy is often dependent on surgical findings





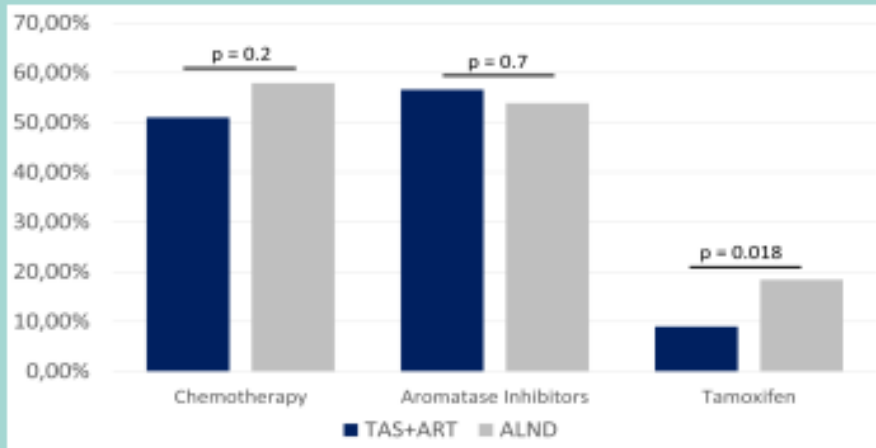
# Axillary dissection to determine nodal burden

to inform systemic therapy recommendations in patients with clinically node-positive breast cancer:

## Pre-planned substudy of TAXIS (OPBC-03, SAKK 23/16, IBCSG 57-18, ABCSG-53, GBG 101)

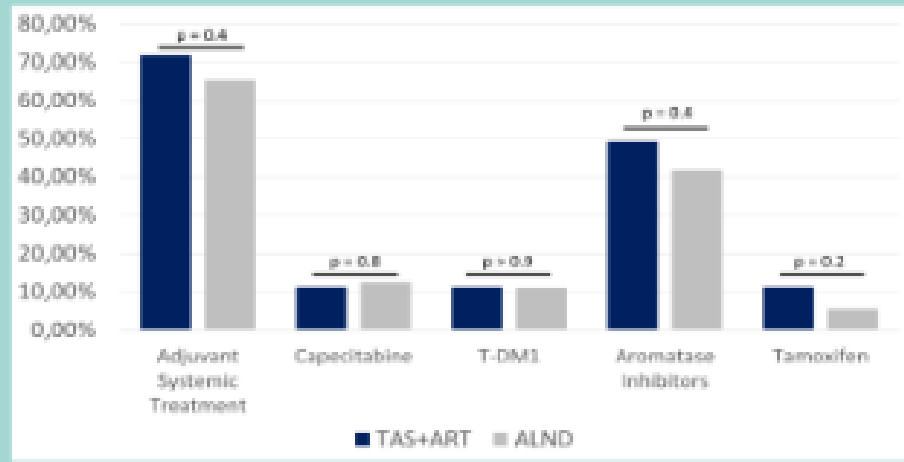
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- “Axillary node debulking”, followed by RNI vs ALND+RNI
- N=297 upfront surgery patients; N=143 NAC



**Figure 2.** Adjuvant systemic therapy in HR+ / Her2 - patients with upfront surgery using TAS and ART compared to ALND

TAS – tailored axillary surgery; ART – axillary radiotherapy; ALND – axillary lymph node dissection  
 HR – hormone receptor; Her2 – human epidermal growth factor receptor 2



**Figure 3.** Adjuvant systemic therapy after neoadjuvant systemic treatment using TAS and ART compared to ALND

TAS – tailored axillary surgery; ART – axillary radiotherapy; ALND – axillary lymph node dissection

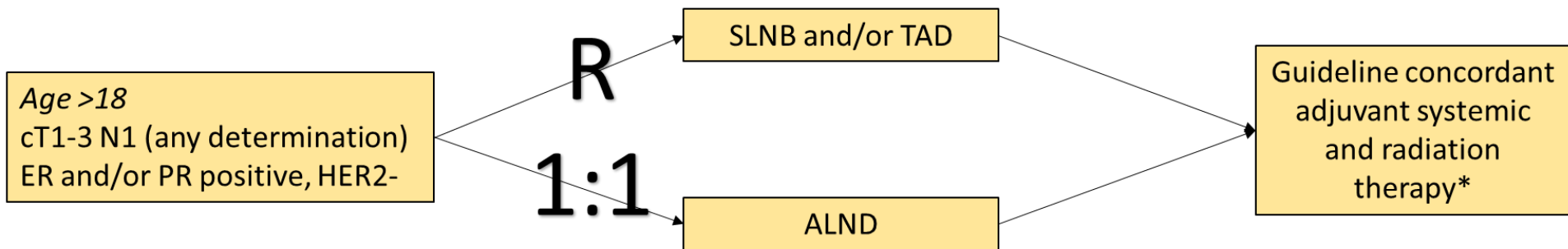
### DISCUSSION

- Both, in patients with neoadjuvant systemic treatment and those with upfront surgery, significantly more positive lymph nodes were removed by axillary lymph node dissection compared to tailored axillary surgery.
- However, this did not have a relevant impact on rate and type of adjuvant systemic therapy.



# Implications

- Further clinical trials testing omission of ALND (upfront surgery setting)



Thank you!

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