

# Localized Therapy: Updates From a Surgery Perspective

**2023 SABCS Review**

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# Disclosures

- Founder and Minority Stock Owner – Elucent Medical
- Principal Investigator/No Salary Support – Perimeter Medical

Neither of these devices will be discussed or are relevant to the data presented

- Did not attend SABCS this year due to a foot surgery!

# Key Themes

- Benign Breast Disease and Cancer Risk
- Surgical Options for BRCA 1 mutation carriers
- The Axilla – every permutation!



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## Advancing Evidence of the Associations Between Specific Benign Breast Diagnoses and Future Breast Cancer Risk

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- Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium (BCSC)  
*“A collaborative network of breast imaging registries conducting research to assess and improve the delivery and quality of breast cancer screening and related patient outcomes in the United States”*

- **Proliferative changes without atypia**

- Papilloma or papillomatosis
- Usual ductal hyperplasia
- Radial scar
- Columnar cell hyperplasia
- Hyperplasia NOS, complex fibroadenoma, flat epithelial atypia, blunt duct adenosis

## Objectives

- Estimate the future risk of invasive breast cancer associated with specific BBD diagnoses typically combined into the broad category of **proliferative lesions without atypia (PWoA)**
- Evaluate whether these associations differ by breast density categories or by presence of calcifications

## Methods

### Study population

1. Women in the BCSC without prior history of breast cancer (follow-up started 6 months after each mammogram)
2. Age: 40-79 years
3. Period: 1996-2019
4. 5.3 million mammograms from 1.3 million women

### Statistical analysis

1. Cox proportional hazards model
2. Classification trees

# Results: Classification trees, dense breasts

PWoA diagnosis	Calcification	BI-RADS density <sup>c</sup>	% Women	5-year invasive cancer rate per 100		Risk Difference <sup>b</sup>
				Without specific PWoA diagnosis <sup>a</sup>	With specific PWoA diagnosis <sup>a</sup>	
<b>60 -79 years</b>						
Papillomas (multiple, single); radial scar	With or without	c,d	0.4%	3.66	4.52	↑
Usual ductal hyperplasia	With or without	c,d	1.3%	3.66	3.92	↕
Columnar cell hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	With or without	c,d	0.9%	3.66	3.01	↓
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis	With or without	c,d	97.5%	1.88	1.83	↓
<b>40-59 years</b>						
Papillomas (multiple, single); Usual Ductal Hyperplasia; Columnar cell hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	With calcifications	c,d	0.5%	2.02	2.58	↑
PWoA NOS	No calcifications	c,d	1.1%	2.02	2.08	↕
Usual ductal hyperplasia	No calcifications	c,d	0.5%	2.02	1.67	↓
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis; Radial Scar	With or without	d	15.7%	1.45	1.43	↓
Papillomas (multiple, single); Columnar cell hyperplasia	No calcifications	c,d	0.2%	2.02	1.22	↓
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis; Radial Scar	With or without	c	81.9%	1.13	1.12	↓

PWoA: Proliferative Lesions without Atypia

<sup>a</sup>5-year risk Low (<1.0) Average (1.0-1.66) Intermediate (1.67-2.49) High (2.5-3.99) Very high (≥4.0)

# Results: Classification trees, non-dense breasts

PWoA diagnosis	Calcification	BI-RADS density <sup>c</sup>	% Women	5-year invasive cancer rate per 100		Risk Difference <sup>b</sup>
				Without specific PWoA diagnosis <sup>a</sup>	With specific PWoA diagnosis <sup>a</sup>	
<b>60 -79 years</b>						
Papillomas (multiple, single); radial scar	With or without	b	0.3%	3.2	3.64	↑
Usual ductal hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	With or without	b	1.3%	3.2	3.13	↓
Papillomas (multiple, single); Usual Ductal Hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	With or without	a	0.2%	2.12	2.16	↑
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis; Columnar cell hyperplasia	With or without	b	81.1%	1.63	1.6	↓
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis; Radial Scar; Columnar cell hyperplasia	With or without	a	17.1%	1.06	1.05	↓
<b>40-59 years</b>						
Papillomas (multiple, single)	With or without	b	0.2%	1.57	2.04	↑
Usual ductal hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	With calcifications	b	0.3%	1.57	1.83	↑
Usual ductal hyperplasia; PWoA NOS	No calcifications	b	1.0%	1.57	1.42	↓
No prior biopsy; Papillomatosis; Radial Scar; Columnar cell hyperplasia	With or without	b	85.9%	0.9	0.89	↓
Any BBD or no prior biopsy	With or without	a	12.6%	0.45	0.45	—

- Women with a PWoA BBD diagnosis and calcifications had elevated risk for breast cancer in all levels of breast density
- Specific BBD diagnoses and the presence of calcifications can change a woman's predicted 5-year breast cancer risk compared to broad BBD categories alone
- **This information could be incorporated into risk prediction models to improve model accuracy**

<sup>a</sup>5-year risk Low (<1.0) Average (1.0-1.66) Intermediate (1.67-2.49) High (2.5-3.99) Very high (≥4.0)

Olivia Sattayapiwat, SABCS 2023

# Changes to our Practices?

- Consider risk discussion in women with non-proliferative biopsy results with calcifications; especially those with an additional family history of breast malignancy
- Emphasis in this population for annual mammograms as a “minimal” approach to screening (vs every other year)





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# Surgical Treatment of Women with Breast Cancer and a *BRCA1* Pathogenic Variant: An International Analysis of the Impact of Bilateral Mastectomy on Survival

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 Senior Scientist, Women's College Research Institute, Toronto, ON  
 Professor, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON



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- Objective: Risk of Contralateral breast cancer and breast cancer specific mortality by primary surgical therapy in women with BRCA 1 and Stage 1-3 breast cancer
- 2482 eligible individuals – 26 centers; 11 countries; retrospective chart review and patient questionnaire

1995-2021 (age 43) ER pos 25-27%	Mean or %	Follow – up (p <0.0001)	Tumor Size (cm) (<0.0001)	Node positive (p=0.03)
BCT	34% (852)	9.2 years	2.1 (0-20)	21.9
Mastectomy	46% (1141)	9.6 years	3.0 (0-40)	37.6
Bilateral Mastectomy	19.7% (489)	6.5 years	2.2 (0-27)	24.4



## Contralateral Breast Cancer

- 11.5% of participants diagnosed with contralateral breast cancer

Variable	BCT N=852	Unilateral mastectomy N=1141	Bilateral Mastectomy N=489	P-value
<b>Contralateral BC</b>				
No	760 (89.2)	1011 (88.6)	485 (99.2)	<0.0001
Yes	92 (10.8)	130 (11.4)	4 (0.8)	

## Breast Cancer Mortality

- 285 (11.5%) died of breast cancer

Variable	BCT N=852	Unilateral mastectomy N=1141	Bilateral Mastectomy N=489	P-value
<b>Died of BC</b>				
No	667 (78.3)	968 (84.8)	453 (92.6)	<0.0001
Yes	76 (6.9)	173 (15.2)	36 (7.4)	

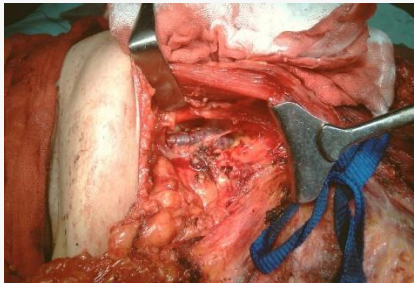
# Changes to our Practices?

- Bilateral mastectomy was not significantly associated with reduction in mortality compared to BCT (HR 0.83)
- Women with BRCA 1 and bilateral mastectomy have a lower risk of contralateral breast cancer
- Women in this study with unilateral mastectomy had greater node positive disease and larger tumor size
  - Bilateral Mastectomy patients had greater BSO rates (64.6% vs 58.3 and 50.6%)
  - BCT patients had greater use of chemotherapy (84.5% vs 76.9% (UM) vs 47.1% (BM))
- Further study is needed to determine
  - Benefit of oophorectomy
  - Comparison with modern therapy - Olaparib

# Evolution of Axillary Surgery

1960-1980s

ALND



1990s

SLNB for  
cN0



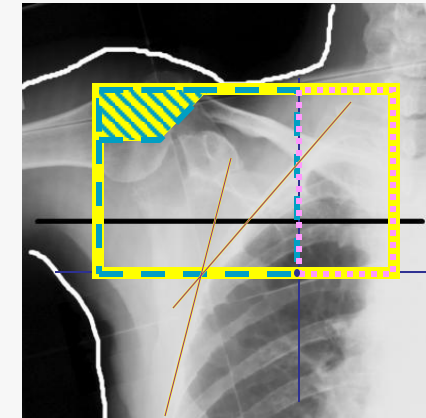
2000s

SLNB ± RT  
for 1-2+ SLN



2010s

SLNB for cN1  
after NAC



*Adapted from T King, MD; M Morrow MD  
and E Mittendorf, MD*

# EBCTCG Overview of Axillary Management in Early Breast Cancer GS02-05

Mannu GS et al. SABCS 2023



## History of Axillary Treatment Trials

Year	Randomised trials	Era
1950s - 1990s	More vs Less axillary treatment	Pre-SLNB era
1970s - 1990s	Axillary dissection vs Axillary radiotherapy	
1990s - 2010s	More vs Less axillary treatment	SLNB era
2000s - 2010s	Axillary dissection vs Axillary radiotherapy	
2012+	SLNB vs No SLNB	Post-SLNB era



Mannu GS et al. SABCS 2023

Thanks to 20,285 women randomised  
1000 collaborating trialists and our funders

### EBCTCG Collaborating Trialists



*(Note: The text below contains a dense list of names of collaborating trialists and institutions, such as Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Brigham Cancer Center, etc.)*

Outcome data for the following trial was provided by NHS Digital, or its predecessors: 19588 Addenbrooke's trial



# Comparisons of Axillary Treatment

	Comparison more vs. less	Trials	Women
<b><u>Pre-SLNB era (1958-1995)</u></b>			
AD vs no AD	Yes	4	1558
AD vs no AD*	Yes	1	773
Axillary/SCF RT vs no axillary/SCF RT	Yes	2	652
More vs less surgery to axilla	Yes	1	161
More vs less surgery to axilla*	Yes	3	4516
Axillary/SCF RT + AD vs Axillary/SCF RT *	Yes	1	233
AD vs axillary/SCF RT*	No	3	460
<b><u>SLNB era (1998-2004)</u></b>			
SLNB+AS/AD vs SLNB: (cN0/sN-)	Yes	10	8010
SLNB+AD vs SLNB: (sN+)	Yes	3	2023
AD vs Axillary RT: (sN+)	No	2	1899
<b>Total</b>		<b>30<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>20285</b>

\*confounded by extent of breast surgery

AD: axillary dissection, AS: axillary sampling, SCF: supraclavicular fossa, SLNB: sentinel lymph node biopsy, RT: radiotherapy

†3 trials contributes to two comparisons. Data for ~1000 women from 5 trials not available.

Mannu GS et al. SABCS 2023  
Mittendorf SABCS update Brigham

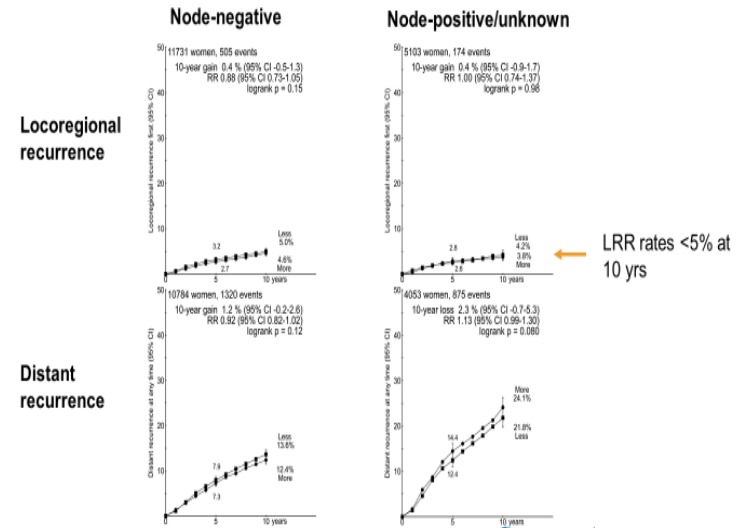
# More vs Less Axillary Treatment: LRR

Treatment era and comparison (n trials)	Events/Woman-years		More events		Ratio of annual event rates More : Less	Rate Ratio (95% CI)
	Allocated More	Allocated Less	Logrank O-E	Variance of O-E		
<b>(a) Pre-SLNB era (1958-1995)</b>						
AD vs no AD (n=4)	41/4466 (0.9%/y)	38/4512 (0.8%/y)	1.5	18.4		1.09 (0.69-1.72)
AD vs no AD* (n=1)	35/4044 (0.9%/y)	49/3753 (1.3%/y)	-7.3	20.3		0.70 (0.45-1.08)
Axi/SCF RT vs no axi/SCF RT (n=2)	25/3089 (0.8%/y)	26/3073 (0.8%/y)	2.6	11.7		1.25 (0.71-2.23)
More vs less surgery to axi (n=1)	1/1149 (0.1%/y)	6/1426 (0.4%/y)	-2.0	1.7		0.32 (0.07-1.42)
More vs less surgery to axi* (n=3)	45/19725 (0.2%/y)	43/19256 (0.2%/y)	3.9	19.9		1.22 (0.78-1.89)
Axi/SCF RT + AD vs Axi/SCF RT * (n=1)	7/1203 (0.6%/y)	15/1210 (1.2%/y)	-3.5	5.4		0.52 (0.22-1.21)
<b>■ (a) Subtotal</b>	<b>154/ 33676 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>177/ 33230 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>-4.8</b>	<b>77.2</b>		<b>0.94 (0.75-1.17) p = 0.59</b>
<b>(b) SLNB era (1998-2004)</b>						
SLNB+AS/AD vs SLNB (cN0/sN-) (n=10)	126/28773 (0.4%/y)	143/28932 (0.5%/y)	-10.6	64.5		0.85 (0.66-1.08)
SLNB+AD vs SLNB (sN+) (n=3)	39/7822 (0.5%/y)	40/7997 (0.5%/y)	-0.2	19.4		0.99 (0.63-1.54)
<b>■ (b) Subtotal</b>	<b>165/ 36595 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>183/ 36929 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>-10.8</b>	<b>83.8</b>		<b>0.88 (0.71-1.09) p = 0.24</b>
<b>■ Total</b>	<b>319/ 70271 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>360/ 70159 (0.5%/y)</b>	<b>-15.6</b>	<b>161.1</b>		<b>0.91 (0.78-1.06) p = 0.22</b>

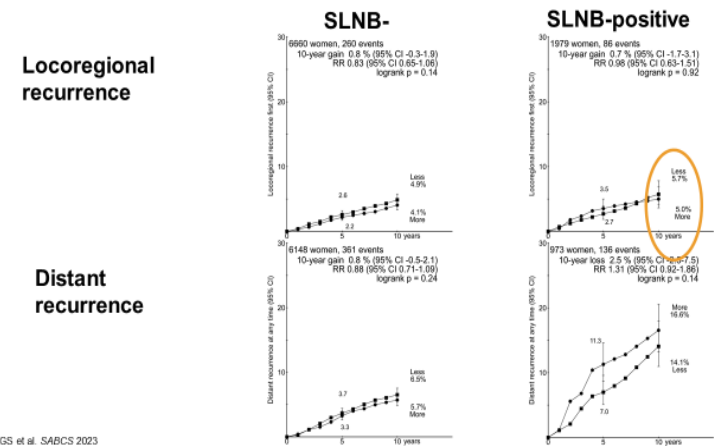
95% or  95% confidence intervals

Difference between treatment effects in 2 subtotals:  $\chi^2_1 = 0.2$ ;  $p = 0.67$   
 Heterogeneity within subtotals:  $\chi^2_6 = 8.7$ ;  $p = 0.19$   
 Heterogeneity between 8 trials:  $\chi^2_7 = 8.9$ ;  $p = 0.26$

## More vs Less Axillary Treatment by Nodal Status

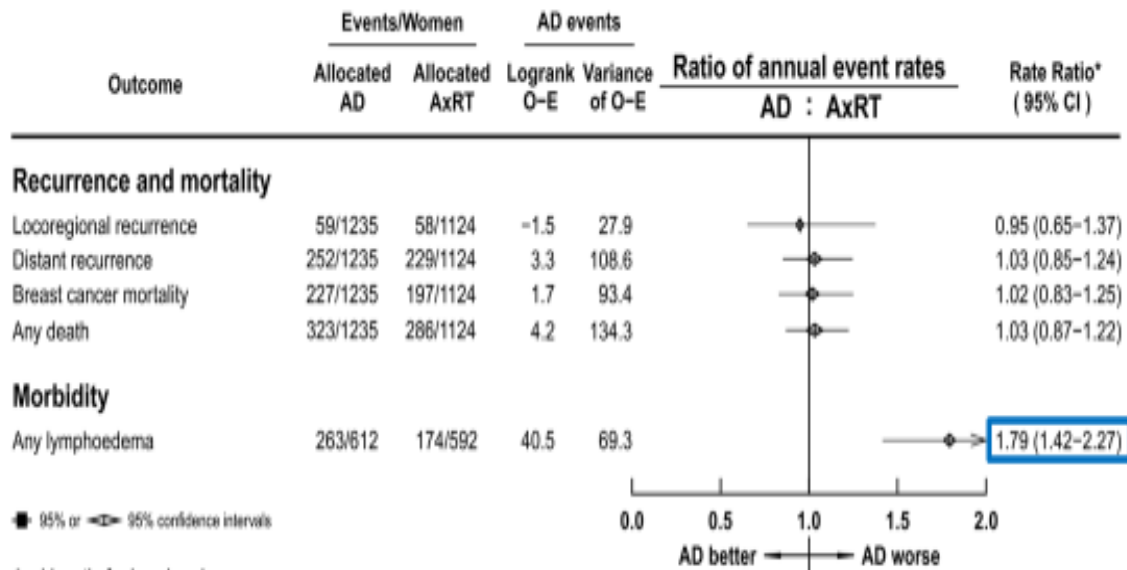


## More vs Less Axillary Treatment by Nodal Status in SLNB Trials



## Axillary dissection vs Axillary radiotherapy

### Summary of outcomes



## Conclusions

- Risk of LRR is low ( $\approx 5\%$  at 10 years)
- Axillary recurrences are rare ( $\approx 1\%$ )
- No oncologic benefit to more surgery
- More surgery significantly  $\uparrow$  risk of lymphedema





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# Recurrence-free survival following sentinel node-positive breast cancer without completion axillary lymph node dissection – first results from the international randomized SENOMAC trial

Jana de Boniface, M.D., Ph.D., Associate Professor

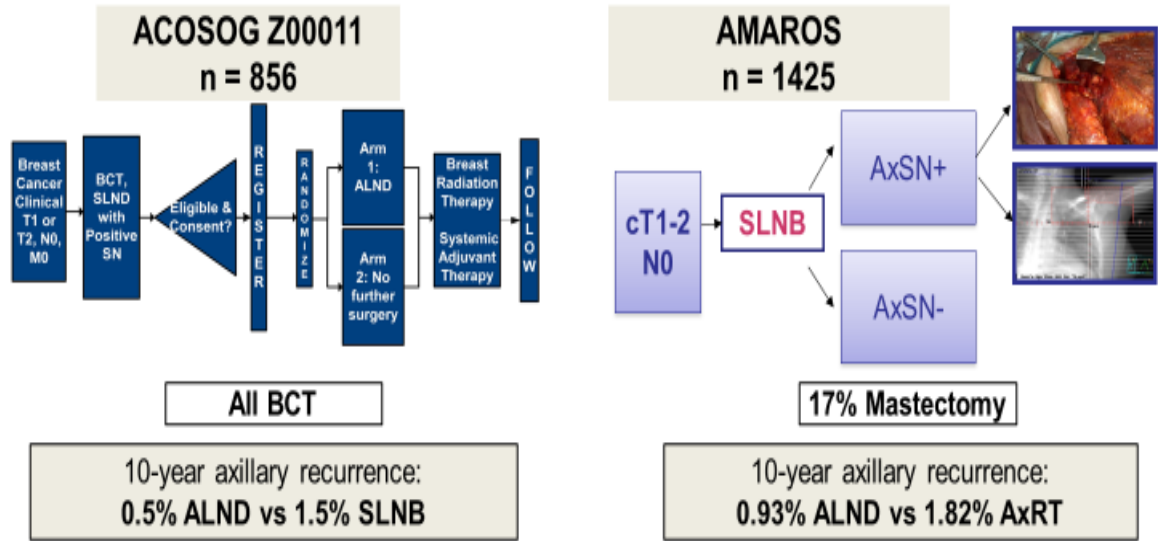
Department of Molecular Medicine and Surgery, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Breast Unit, Capio St. Göran's Hospital, Stockholm Sweden



Karolinska  
Institutet

# SLNB Nodal RT for Limited Nodal Metastasis

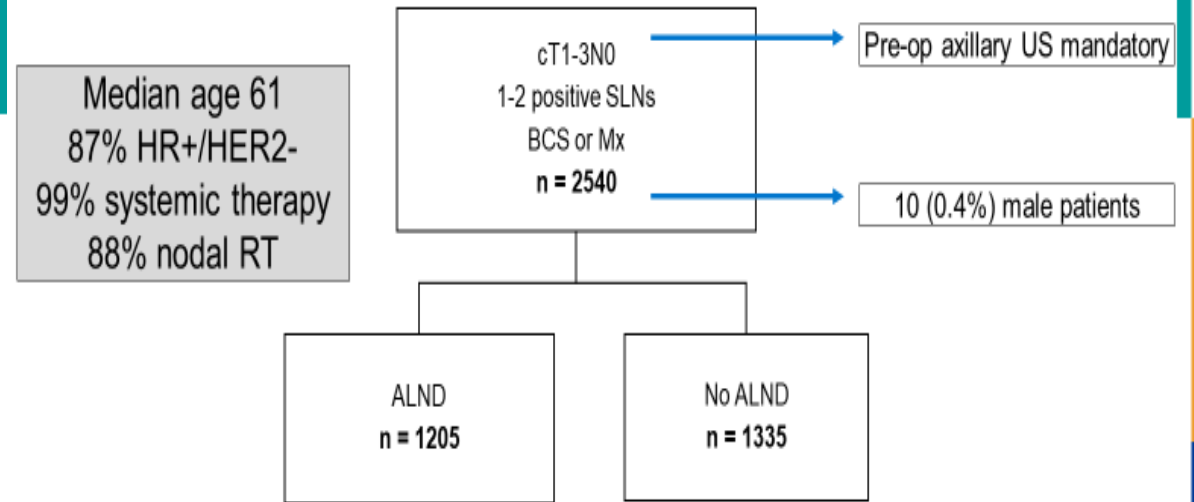


Criticisms of trials related to statistical power, low-risk patient population, uncertain radiotherapy fields, and small number of mastectomy patients

Giuliano A et al. *Ann Surg*, 2010;264:413-420  
Bartels SAL et al. *J Clin Oncol*, 2023;41:2159-2165

Slide courtesy A. Barrio MD

# SENOMAC

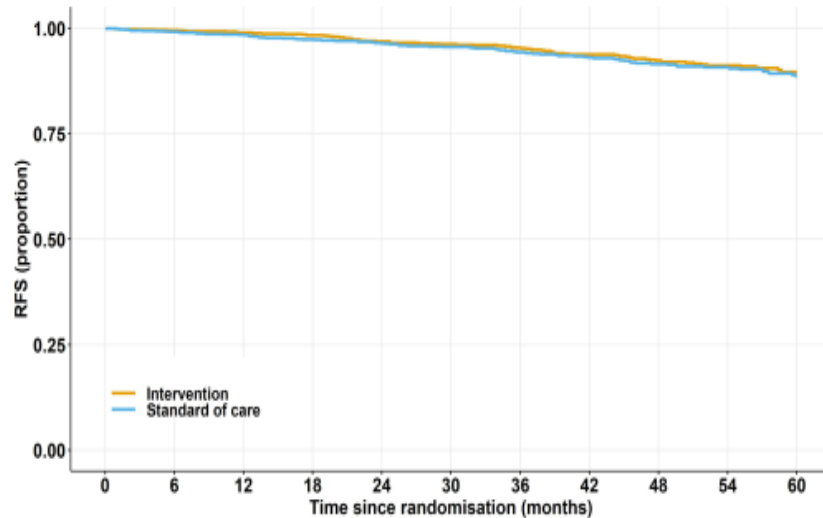


- 1:1 randomized non-inferiority trial
- Primary endpoint: OS
  - Non-inferiority margin 2.5% (HR upper limit of CI below 1.44)
- Secondary endpoint: RFS

deBoniface J et al. *SABCS* 2023

Note – 34.3% had microscopic ENE; 36% were mastectomy

# Recurrence-Free Survival



Number at risk

Time (months)	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
Intervention	1335	1276	1069	832	577	307					
Standard of care	1205	1159	1009	772	544	274					



deBoniface J et al. SABCS 2023

## Conclusion

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- SLN biopsy alone non-inferior to axillary dissection
  - High proportion of nodal irradiation & systemic treatment
- Clinically relevant subgroups well represented
  - Mastectomy
  - Patients aged  $\geq 65$  years
  - Larger tumors
- Next step is to evaluate omission of nodal RT in the ongoing randomized T-REX trial

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## The OPBC05/EUBREAST-14R/ICARO study Are nodal isolated tumor cells (ITCs) after neoadjuvant chemotherapy an indication for axillary dissection?



Speaker: **Giacomo Montagna, MD, MPH**  
Breast Service, Department of Surgery, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

Giacomo Montagna MD, MPH, Alison Laws MD, MPH, Massimo Ferrucci PhD, PhD, Mary M. Hudis MD, MS, Susie K. Kim MD, Sung Gwe Ahn MD, PhD, Mariacarla Androschi PhD, Suleyman Bademir MD, Hakan Babaligu MD, Nora Balint-Lahar MD, Maggie Baraj-Feluchovsk MD PhD, Daniela Bevilacqua MD, PhD, Andrea V. Sarno MD, Ryan Beato MD, Jean-François Boiceau MD, MSc, Judy Boughey MD, Marissa Boyle MD, Flavia Vidal Caetano MD, MSc, Daniela Cozzo MD, Fabio Corral MD, Angeline Crown MD, Elio de Bree MD, PhD, Mariadel Mar Vernal-Tomas MD, Christine Deuschmann MD, Emilia J. Diago MD, Anna Diabich MD, Claire Eden MD, Ruth Elter MD, Emanuela Esposto MD, PhD, Giuseppina Fajana MD, MPH, Pratiksa Fick MD, Florian Finkel MD, Maghan R. Flanagan MD, Demario Gentile MD, Doreta D. Gentile MD, Marie Goldschmidt MSc, Mehmet Ali Gulcelik MD, Carole Hevry MD, MPH, Martin Heindinger MD, Jörg Heit MD, PhD, Justyna Jelinska MD, PhD, Güldeniz Karadeniz Cakmak MD, PhD, Susan Keeney MD, Nataša Kravčič MD, Henry M. Kuerer MD, PhD, Thorsten Kühn MD, PhD, Sherko Kümmel MD PhD, Cornelia Leo MD, Julie Leitch MD, Francesco Miarolo MD, David Murawski MD, PhD, Tracy Ann Moo MD, Teri Hill S. Meneses MD, Valentina Nektarova PhD, Lisa A. Newman MD MPH, Denise Passari MD, PhD, Jessica M. Pezant MD, Andrei Perhac MD, PhD, Mariasa Pilevaska MD, Nina Pitar MD, Natalia Pondono MD, PhD, Florina Poulakaki MD, PhD, Anna Rami, Fabian Rader MD, Nicolajocco MD PhD, Jan-Min Ryoo MD, PhD, Praya R. Schreiber MD, Alexandra Schick MSc, Emily L. Siegel MD, Colin Simonsen MD, Christian Singer MD, PhD, Leonardo Soares MD, PhD, Varadharan Sivillmesu, MBS, DPH, Chiraphong Tawach MD, PhD, Ekaterini Christina Tampakaki MD, PhD, Athanasios Tampakaki MD, PhD, Maria Konstantinos Tsoulfas MD, PhD, M. Umrit Ugurlu MD, Chan Unas MD, Cleo Urbani MD, PhD, Astrid Batty Van den Broeke MD, Aroniek van Hest MSc, Glenn Verlaauwen MD, Doreen Vorburger MD, Fredrik Wamborg, Anna Weiss MD, Azim D. Williams MD, MSc, Karsten Wimmer MD, PhD, Stephanie M Wong MD, MPH, Steven G. Woodward MD, Tae-Kyung Robyn Yoo MD, Jennifer Q. Zhang MD, Firdos M. Zaidin MD, Tari King MD, Hasan Karanik MD, Neilhan Cabo MD, Marie-Jeanne Vrancken Taelens MD, PhD, Monica Morrow MD, Walter P. Weber, MD

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## Study Population

### Inclusion criteria

- T1-4 N0-3 BC patients
- Surgery after NAC with detection of ITCs [ypN0(i+)] at frozen section or final pathology
- SLNB performed with dual-tracer mapping or TAD or MARI for N+ and with single tracer for N0
- Detection of ITCs by H&E or IHC

### Exclusion criteria

- No SLNB/TAD
- Inflammatory breast cancer
- Stage IV
- NET
- Detection by OSNA (quantitative measurement of target mRNA) due to lack of standardized cut-off



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## Residual Isolated Tumor Cells

- Residual isolated tumor cells (ITCs) are found in ~1.5% of patients undergoing neoadjuvant chemotherapy
- Data on the likelihood of finding additional positive lymph nodes in patients with residual ITCs are scarce, and the benefit of ALND is unclear

	ACOSOG Z1071	SN FNAC	MSKCC	OVERALL
ITCs	4/11	4/7	1/6	9/24 (37.5%)

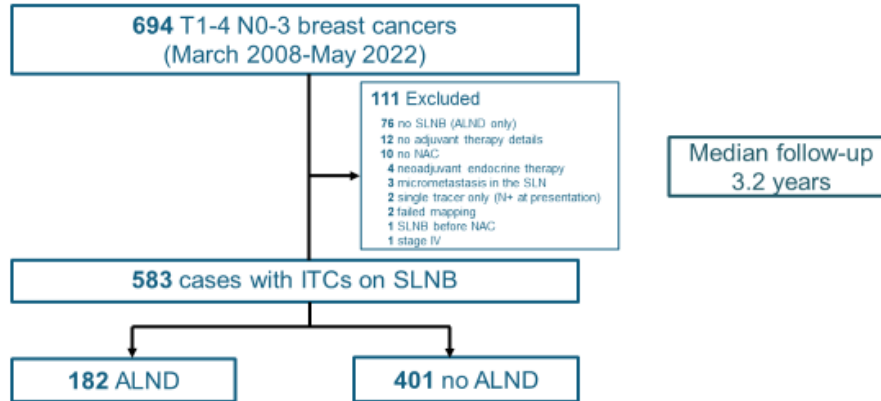
- As a consequence, surgical management of the axilla in these patients is not standardized

Wong SM et al. ASO 2019  
Bunstein HJ et al. Ann Onc 2021

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## Flow Diagram



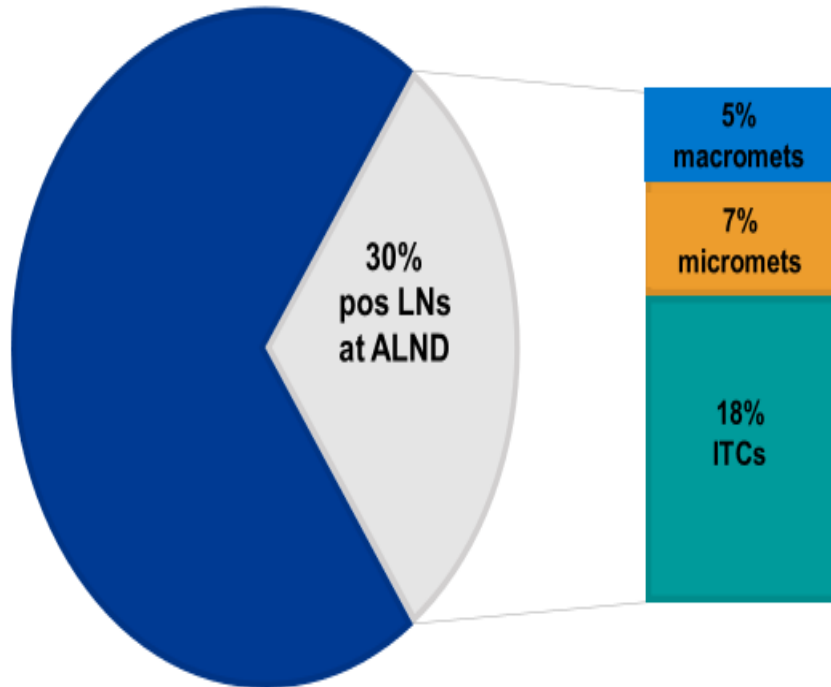
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Data were collected in 62 centers, in 18 countries  
The majority of centers are within the oncoplastic breast consortium and the EUBREAST networks



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# Additional Positive Nodes



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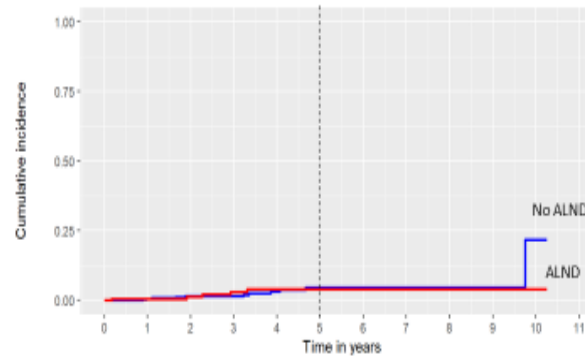


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# Axillary Recurrence

Isolated or Combined with Local and Distant Recurrence

5-year rate of any axillary recurrence  
no ALND vs ALND  
(4.6% vs 4.1%, p = 0.8)

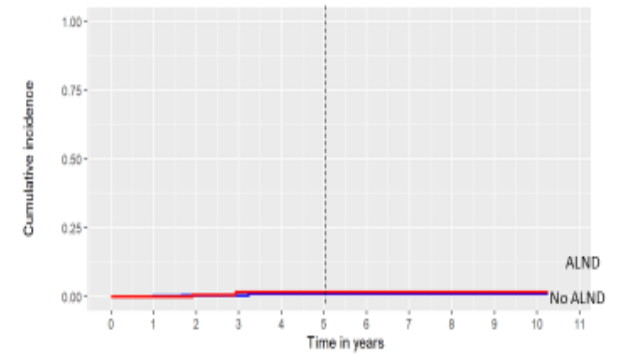


Number at risk

Strata	No ALND	401	349	266	187	131	73	45	21	10	6	3	3
ALND	182	165	126	95	67	49	36	19	13	10	5	3	3

Isolated

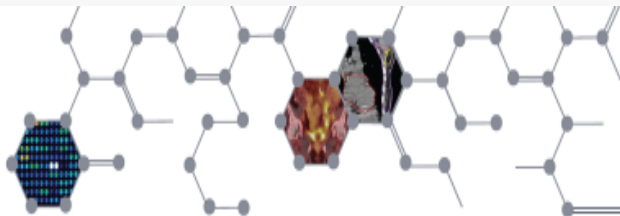
5-year rate of isolated axillary recurrence  
no ALND vs ALND  
(1.1% vs 1.7%, p = 0.7)



Number at risk

Strata	No ALND	401	349	266	187	131	73	45	21	10	6	3	3
ALND	182	165	126	95	67	49	36	19	13	10	5	3	3



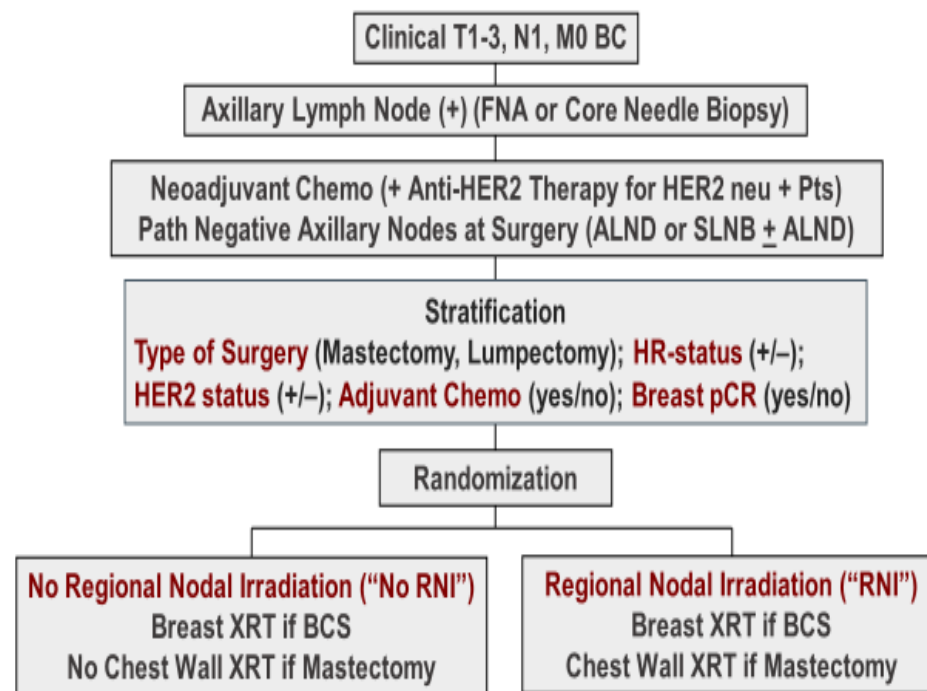


# Loco-regional Irradiation in Patients with Biopsy-proven Axillary Node Involvement at Presentation Who Become Pathologically Node-negative After Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy: Primary Outcomes of NRG Oncology/NSABP B-51/RTOG 1304

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\*These authors contributed equally.

## Study Schema



FNA: Fine Needle Aspiration; ALND: Axillary Lymph Node Dissection; SLNB: Sentinel Lymph Node Biopsy; XRT: Radiation; BCS: Breast Conserving Surgery

## Baseline Characteristics (1)

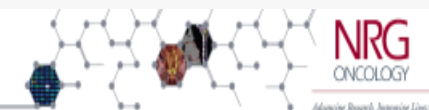


Characteristic		No RNI (%) n=821	RNI (%) n=820
Age	Median	52 years	52 years
	≤ 49 yrs	40	41
	50-59 yrs	32	33
	≥ 60 yrs	28	26
Race	Asian	8	6
	Black/African American	17	18
	White	69	69
	Unknown/Other	6	6
Ethnicity	Hispanic or Latino	14	14
	Not Hispanic or Latino	83	82
	Unknown	3	3
Clinical Tumor Size	T1	21	21
	T2	59	61
	T3	20	18

Dec 5-9, 2023 

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## Baseline Characteristics (2)

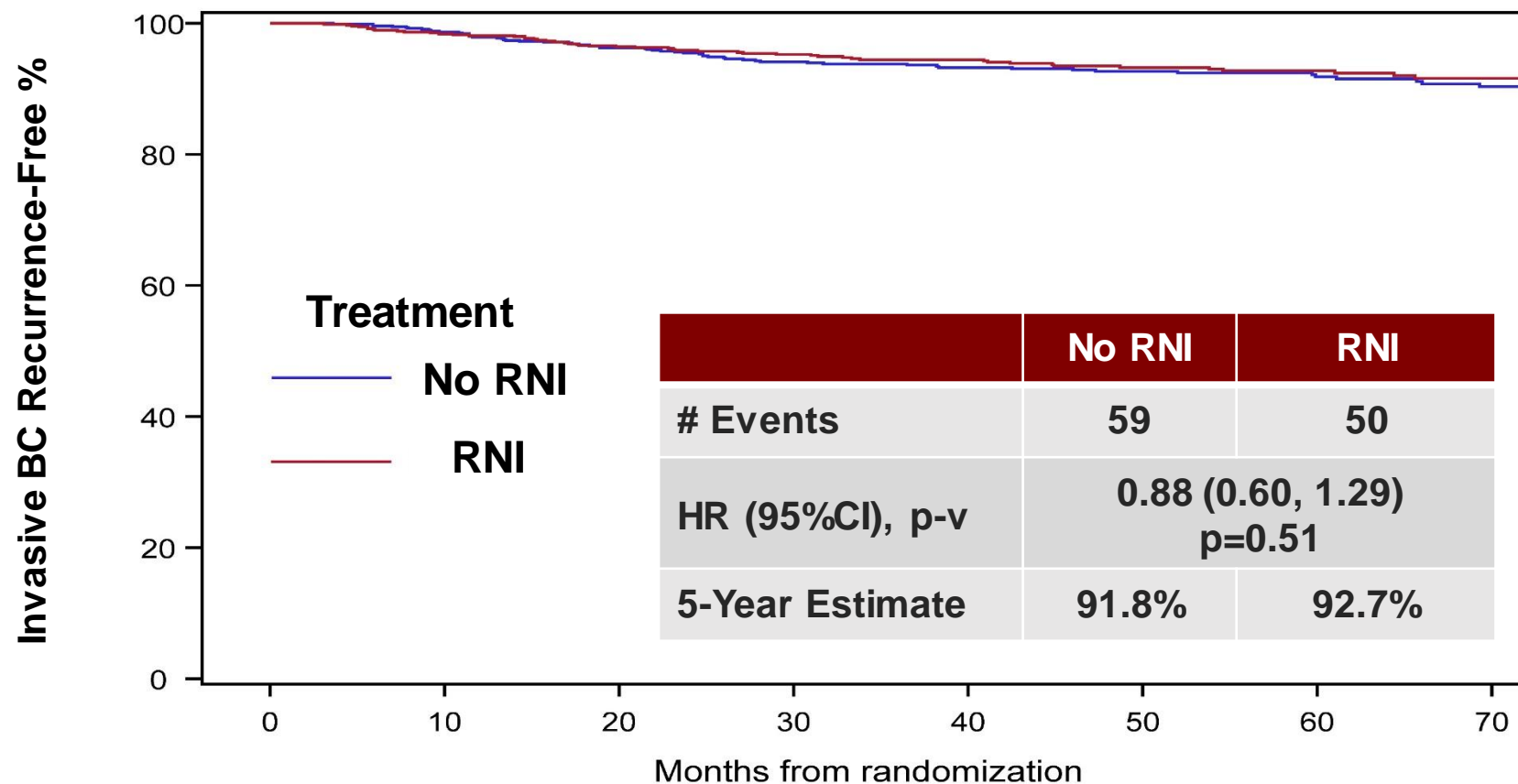


Characteristic		No RNI (%) n=821	RNI (%) n=820
Tumor Subtype	Triple-negative	21	23
	ER+ and/or PR+/HER2-	22	20
	ER- and PR-/HER2+	25	24
	ER+ and/or PR+/HER2+	31	33
Breast Surgery	Lumpectomy	58	58
	Mastectomy	42	42
Axillary Surgery	SLNB	55	56
	ALND (+/-SLNB)	45	44
pCR in Breast	No	22	21
	Yes	78	79
Adjuvant Chemotherapy	No	100	99
	Yes	<1	1

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## Invasive Breast Cancer Recurrence-free Interval (IBCRFI)

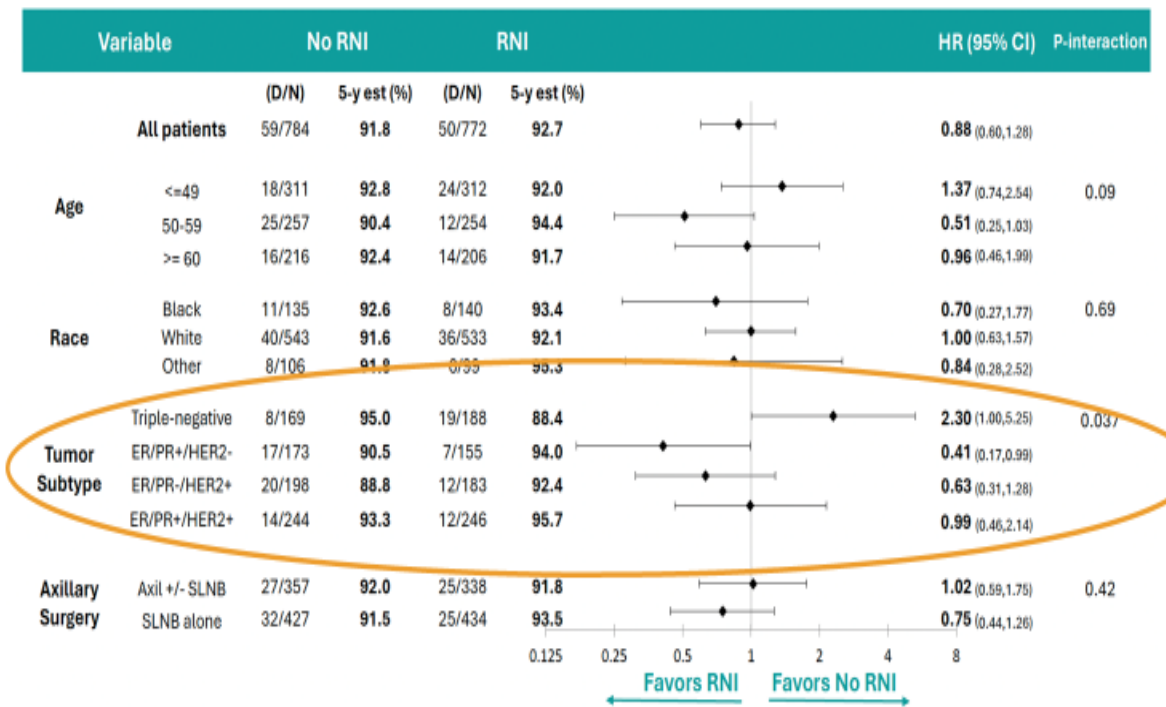
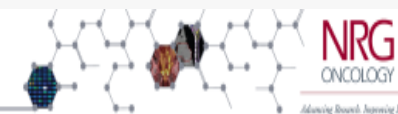


	0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70
<b>No RNI</b>	784	756	700	610	508	386	309	215
<b>RNI</b>	772	724	682	605	498	389	294	200



# IBCRFI – Exploratory Subgroup Analysis

## Conclusions



- In patients who present with biopsy-proven axillary node involvement (cN+) and convert their axillary nodes to ypN0 after NAC, CWI+RNI after mastectomy, or WBI+RNI after lumpectomy, did not improve the 5-year IBCRFI, LRRFI, DRFI, DFS, or OS
- These findings suggest that downstaging involved axillary nodes with neoadjuvant chemotherapy can optimize adjuvant radiotherapy use without adversely affecting oncologic outcomes
- Follow-up of patients for long-term outcomes continues

# What Can We Change in our Practices?

- **EBCTCG** – for clinically node negative patients with sentinel node positive disease an axillary dissection is not needed. The risk of local regional and axillary recurrence is at or below 5% and an axillary dissection provides only an increase in lymphedema risk
- **SENOMAC** – ALND should not be considered standard in individuals with cT1-3N0 patients with 1-2 positive sentinel nodes (even with microscopic ENE) having a primary lumpectomy or mastectomy ( with anticipation that most will get PMRT)
- **ICARO** – Routine ALND not indicated for SLN positive ITCs post Neoadjuvant Chemotherapy
- **B-51** - Patients experiencing pCR (to include pN0i+) after Neoadjuvant chemotherapy have an excellent prognosis  $\pm$  RT and supports NO further surgery for these patients

# Key perspectives from the Masters

**No method detects axillary metastases as effective as axillary surgery!**

**Sentinel Node Biopsy is not for all patients but is essential for some.**

## Nodal Status and Adjuvant Therapies

- Nodal status usually does not influence systemic therapy for:

Age > 50 cN0 T1,T2 ER(+)HER2(-)

Women with serious comorbidities

- Nodal staging (SNB) usually influences therapy for other subtypes.

## Axillary Staging (SNB) is Necessary

- Premenopausal women
- HER2(+) cN0 ≤3cm
- All subtypes post NAC (even cN0!)

Add: Triple negative breast cancer

*Giuliano; SABCS; clinical controversies;*  
12/7/2023

# Key perspectives from the Masters



DECEMBER 5-9, 2023 | @SABCSsanAntonio



## Are We Ready to Stop Staging the Axilla?

Monica Morrow, MD  
Chief, Breast Surgery Service  
Anne Burnett Windfohr Chair of Clinical Oncology  
Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center

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San Antonio Breast Cancer Sympos

## SOUND Trial

cT1N0 cancer  
Negative axillary US

R  
A  
N  
D  
O  
M  
I  
Z  
E

No axillary surgery  
n = 736

SLNB  
n = 727

81% ≥ 50 years of age  
Median 60 years  
78% ductal cancer  
50% T1c  
93% ER+, 93% HER2-

14% positive SLNs  
9% macrometastases  
0.6% > 3 positive nodes

Gentilini O, JAMA Oncol 2023 (epub)

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Morrow, SABCS; clinical controversies; 12/7/2023

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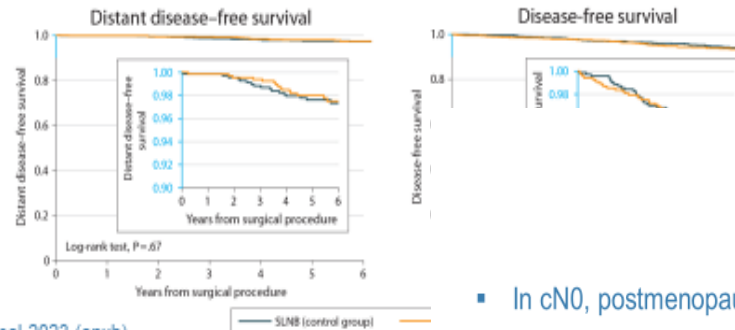
San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium®, December 5-9, 2023

## SOUND Trial

Median follow-up: 5.7 years

	No Axillary Surgery	SLNB	p value
Axillary recurrence	0.4%	0.4%	p = NS
Locoregional recurrence	1.6%	1.7%	p = NS
5 year DDFS	98%	97.7%	p = NS

Primary Endpoint: Non-Inferiority 5 year DDFS  
HR 0.84; 90% CI 0.45-1.54 p = 0.024



Gentilini O, JAMA Oncol 2023 (epub)

## Conclusions

- In cN0, postmenopausal patients with HR+/HER2- cancers, axillary staging:
  - Adds morbidity
  - Does not provide a survival benefit
  - Is not needed for local control
  - Influences systemic therapy decisions in a very small minority of patients

For those having BCS, axillary staging can be safely eliminated, but we need to determine if the RT tradeoffs in those < 70 years of age make this the least morbid approach

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# When NOT to place an incision in the axilla?

Clinical n0 patients

- post-menopausal (NOT peri-menopausal)
- cT1/2
- Estrogen positive; HER 2 negative
- ? Grade of cancer – i.e., should no SLN be done in Grade 3

# Thank you and Questions ?