



Terapia medica neoadiuvante

Unit of Investigative Clinical Oncology (INCO)
Fondazione del Piemonte per l'Oncologia
Candiolo Cancer Institute (IRCCs)

Question number 1

- Chemotherapy before or after surgery: any difference in outcomes?

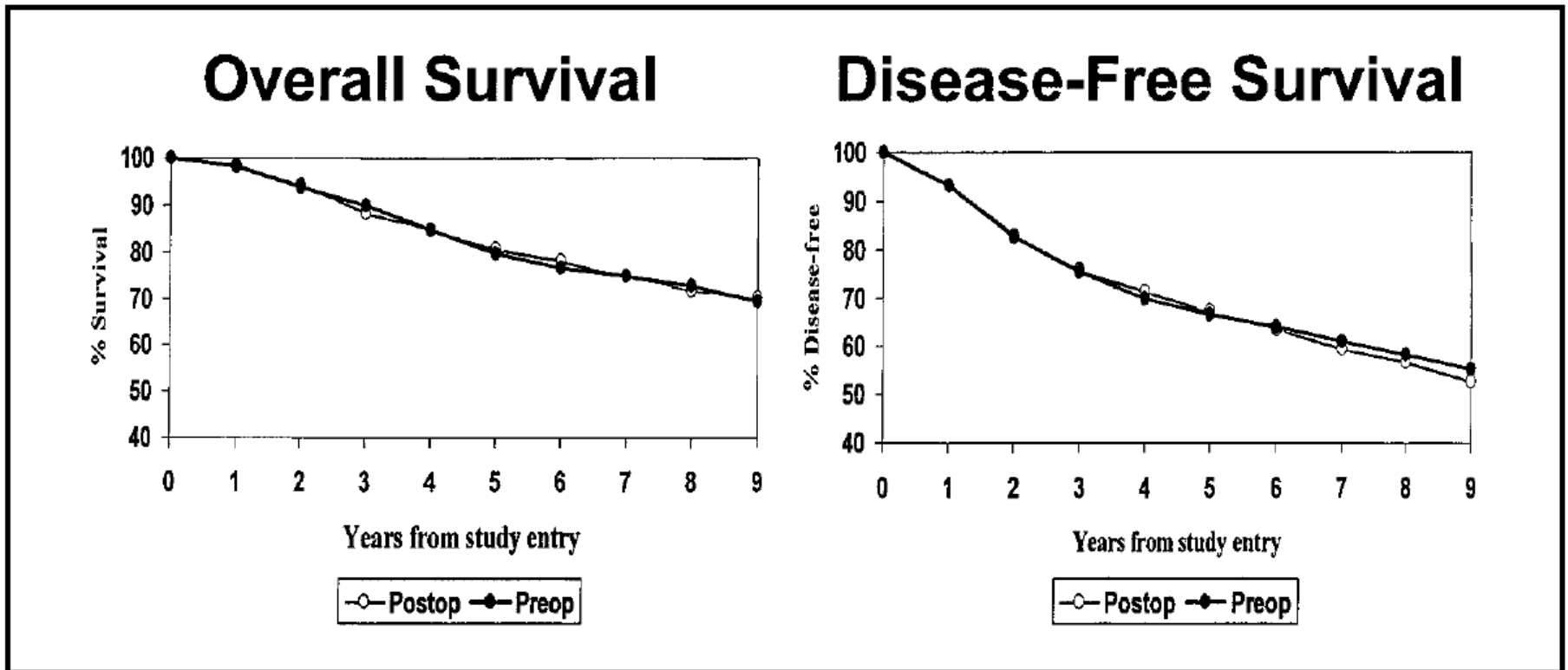
AC X 4 before or after surgery in patients with operable breast cancer: NSABP B-18

Table 1. Characteristics of Eligible Patients

Eligibility and Characteristics at Randomization	Treatment Group	
	Postoperative	Preoperative
Eligibility (no.)		
Randomized	763	760
Eligible	759	747
Characteristics (%)		
Age, years		
≤ 49	52	51
≥ 50	48	49
Nodal status (clinical)		
Negative	74	74
Positive	26	26
Breast cancer (clinical size, cm)		
≤ 2.0	27	29
2.1-5.0	59	58
≥ 5.1	13	13
Not reported	< 1	0

Fisher et al., J Clin Oncol 15; 2483, 1997

9-year follow-up of the NSABP B-18 study



Wolmark et al, *J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr* 30;96, 2001

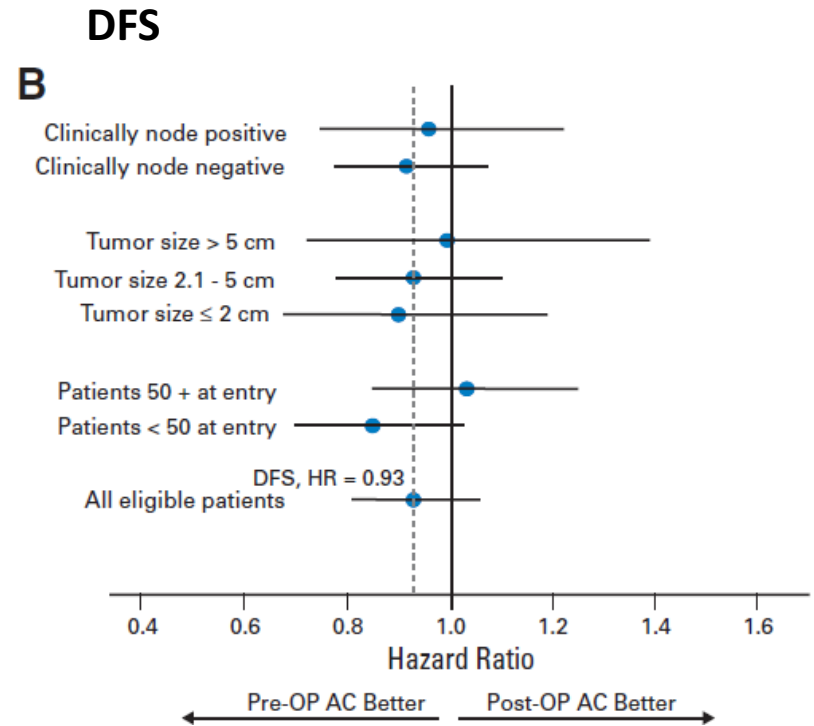
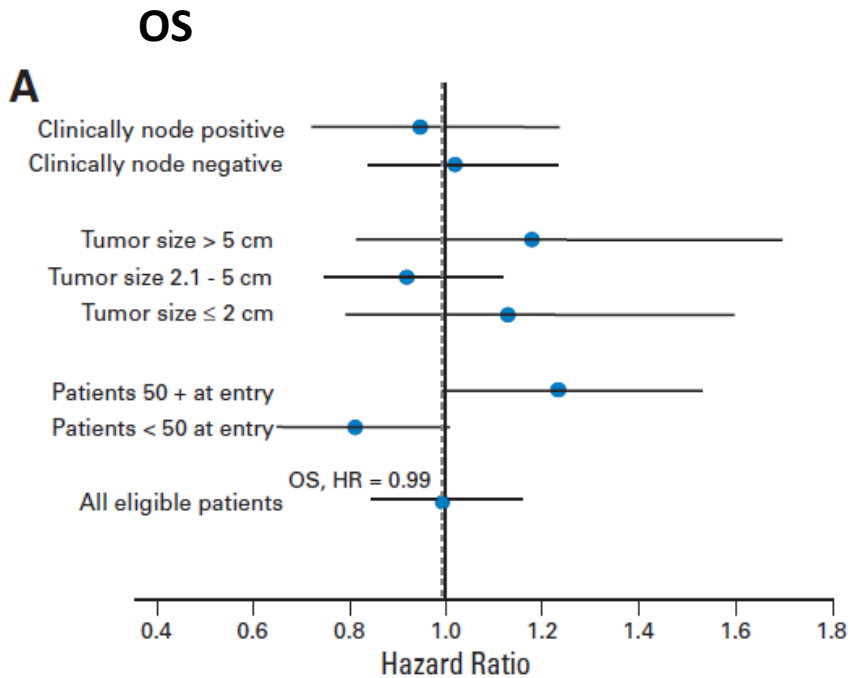


Ipsilateral Breast Cancer Recurrence according to treatment and co-variates

Clinical factor	Treatment group		
	Postoperative AC, % of patients with IBTR	Preoperative AC, % of patients with IBTR	Total, % of patients with IBTR
Age, y			
≤49	10.7	15.2	13.1
≥50	4.2	6.1	5.2
Clinical tumor size			
<3 cm	6.6	11.6	9.3
≥3 cm	8.3	10.1	9.3
Clinical and pathologic tumor response			
cCR*	N/A	9.8	
pCR	N/A	6.7	
pINV	N/A	11.5	
cPR	N/A	11.8	
cNR (cSD and cPD)	N/A	13.0	
Procedure after preoperative chemotherapy			
Lumpectomy vs. planned mastectomy	N/A	15.9	
Lumpectomy as planned	N/A	9.9	

Wolmark et al, *J Natl Cancer Inst Monogr* 30;96, 2001

Further update in 2008



Rastogi J Clin Oncol 26;778, 2008

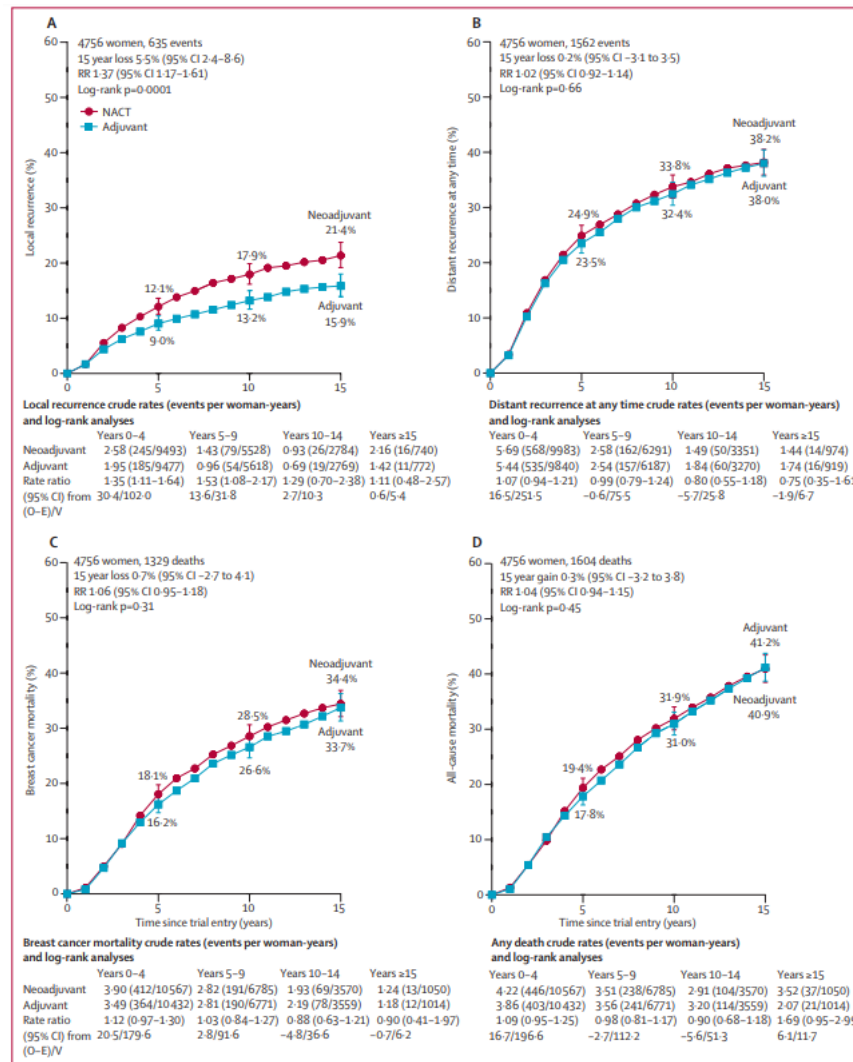


Patient-level meta-analysis

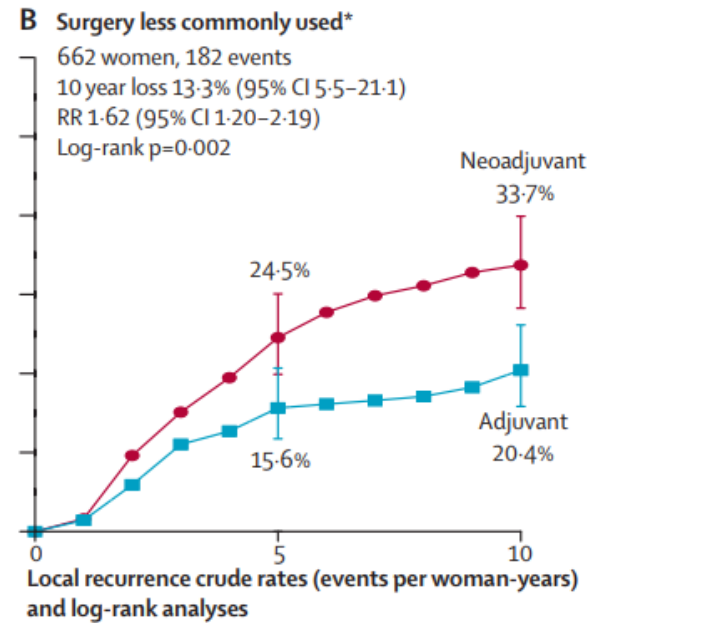
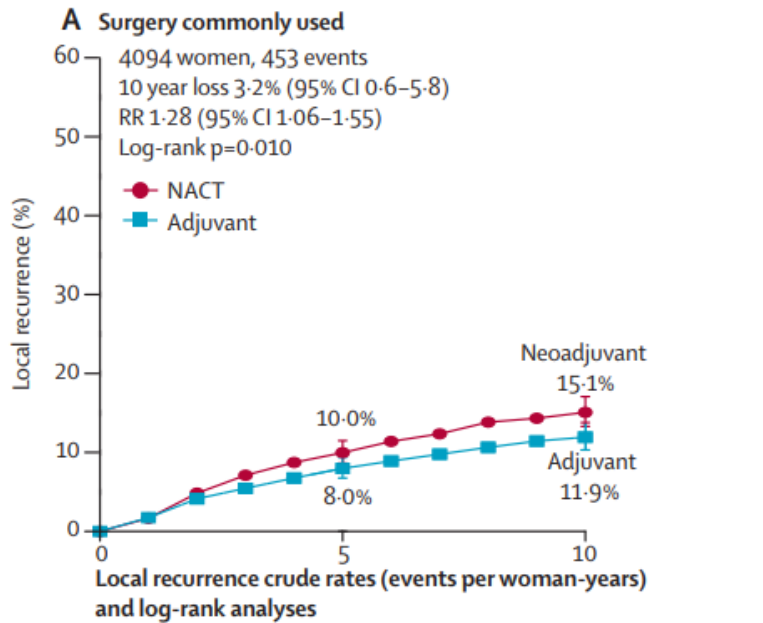
- ❑ Ten randomized trials of neoadj vs adj chemotherapy
- ❑ 4756 women randomized between 1983 and 2002
- ❑ Median follow-up 9y (IQR 5-14)
- ❑ Most patients treated with anthracycline/non taxane regimens
- ❑ Only one trial with anthracycline and taxane
- ❑ No trials included trastuzumab
- ❑ Some trials allowed omission of surgery in cCR patients



Individual patient data meta-analysis



Increase in local recurrence also after excluding studies allowing surgery avoidance



Ipsilateral recurrence rates are not exactly equal in patients randomized to mastectomy vs BCS + RT

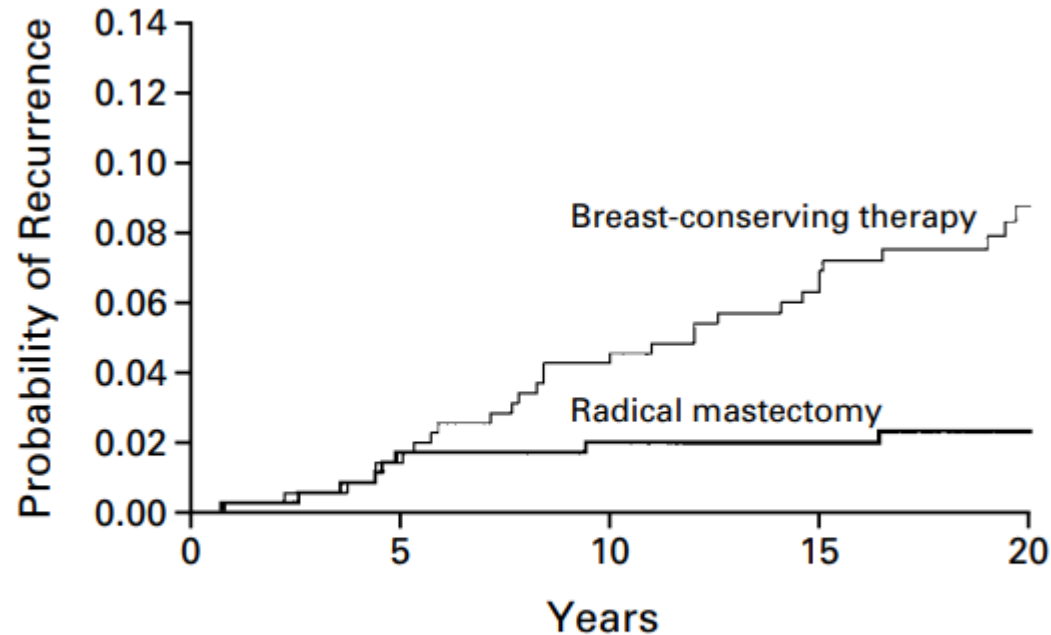
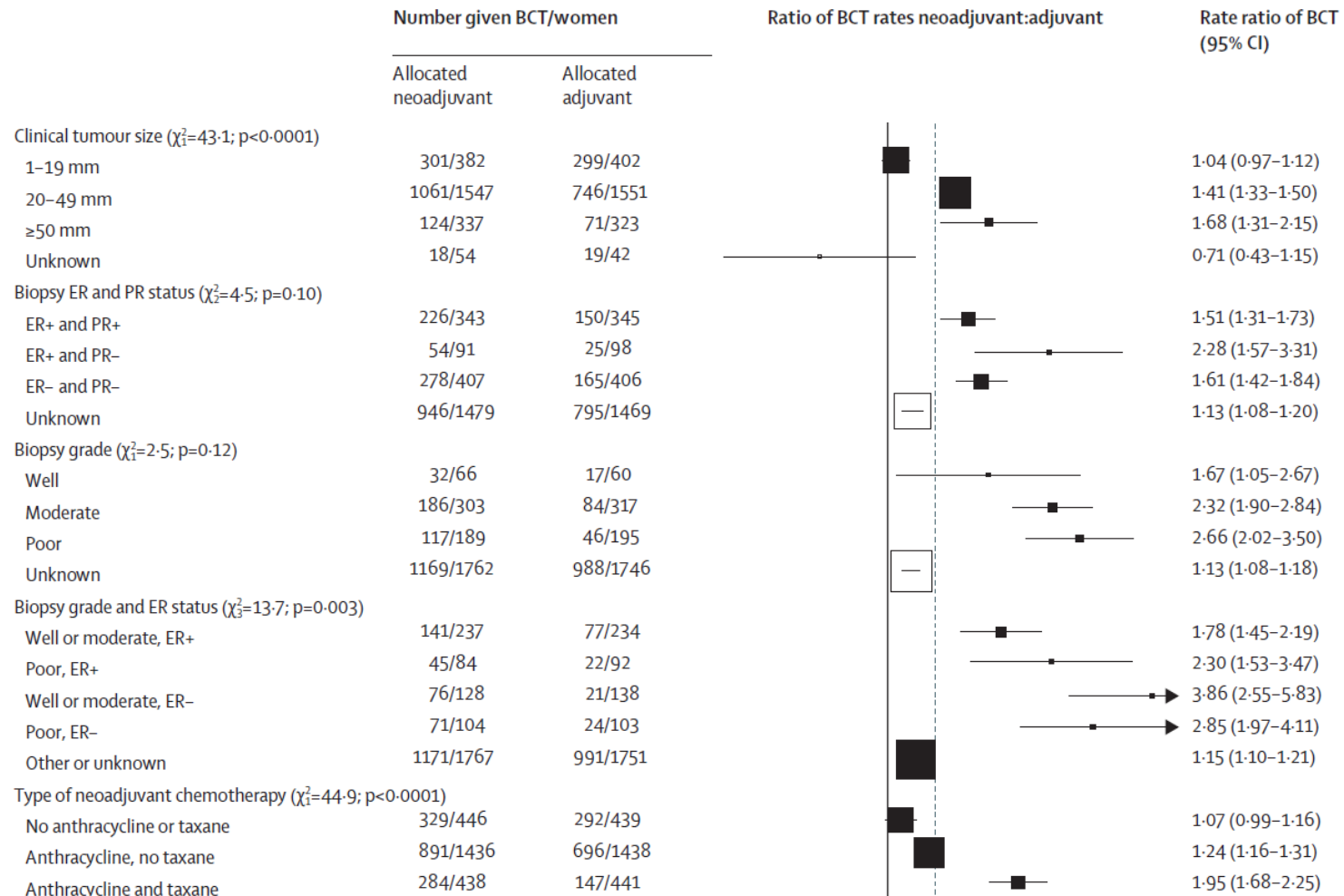


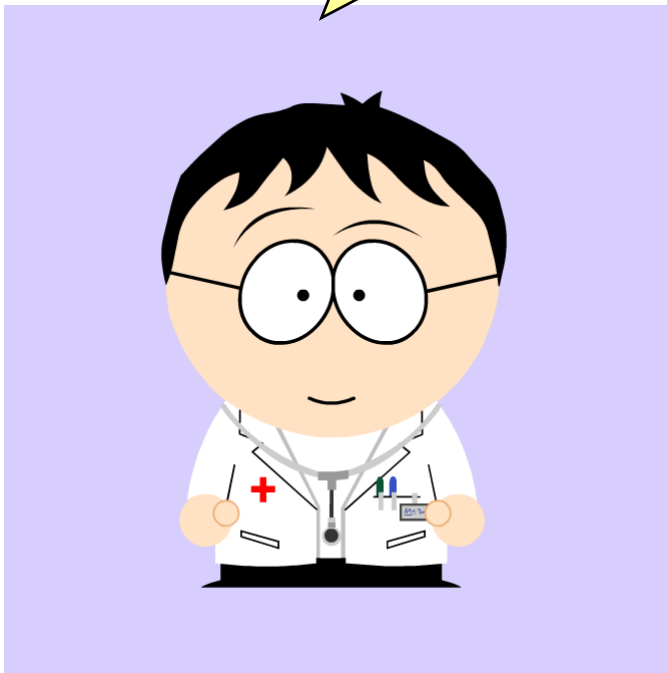
Figure 1. Crude Cumulative Incidence of Local Recurrences after Radical Mastectomy and Recurrences in the Same Breast after Breast-Conserving Therapy.

To what extent is BCS increased by the use of neoadjuvant chemotherapy in subgroups?



pCR; to what extent should we pursue it?

Great, you achieved pCR and this is a very good thing. You'll do just fine!



Does pCR predict better outcome compared with no-pCR?

Responder analysis (11955 patients, 12 clinical trials)

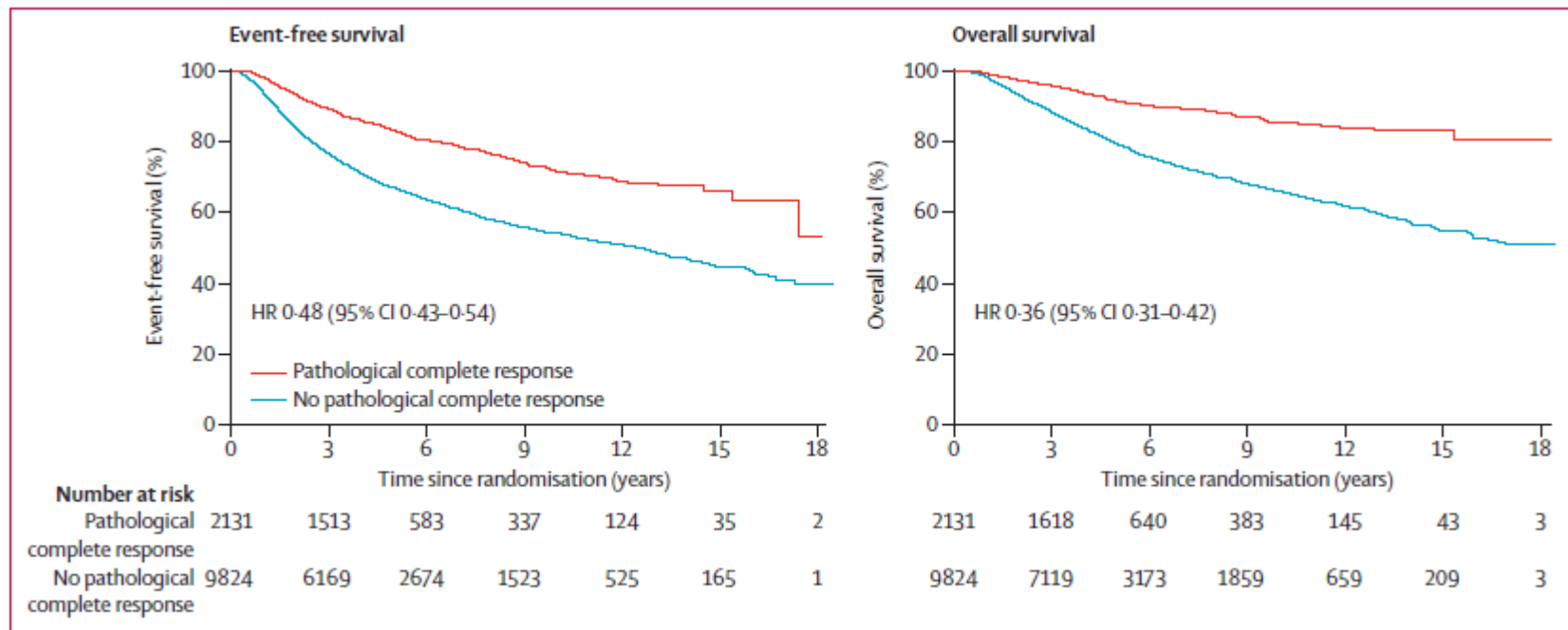


Figure 2: Associations between pathological complete response and event-free survival and overall survival

Which is the definition of pCR that best correlates with outcome?

Responder analysis (11955 patients, 12 clinical trials)

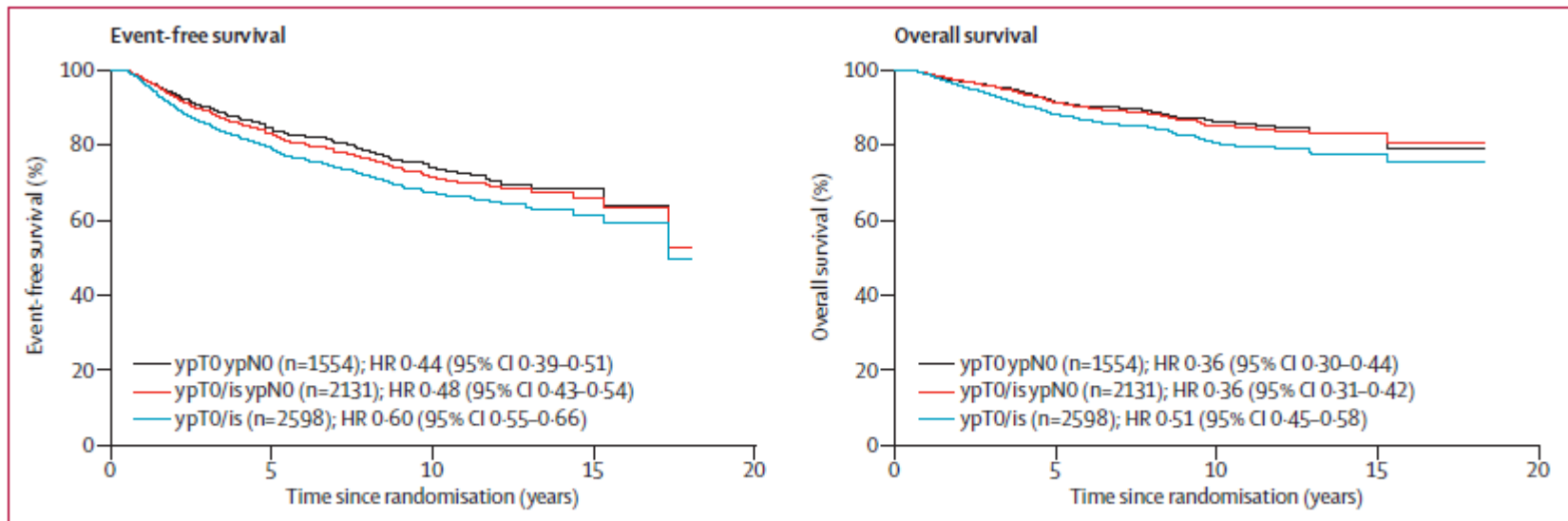


Figure 3: Associations between three definitions of pathological complete response and event-free survival and overall survival

Does pCR predict better outcome in different biologic subsets of breast cancer?

ER+, HER2-

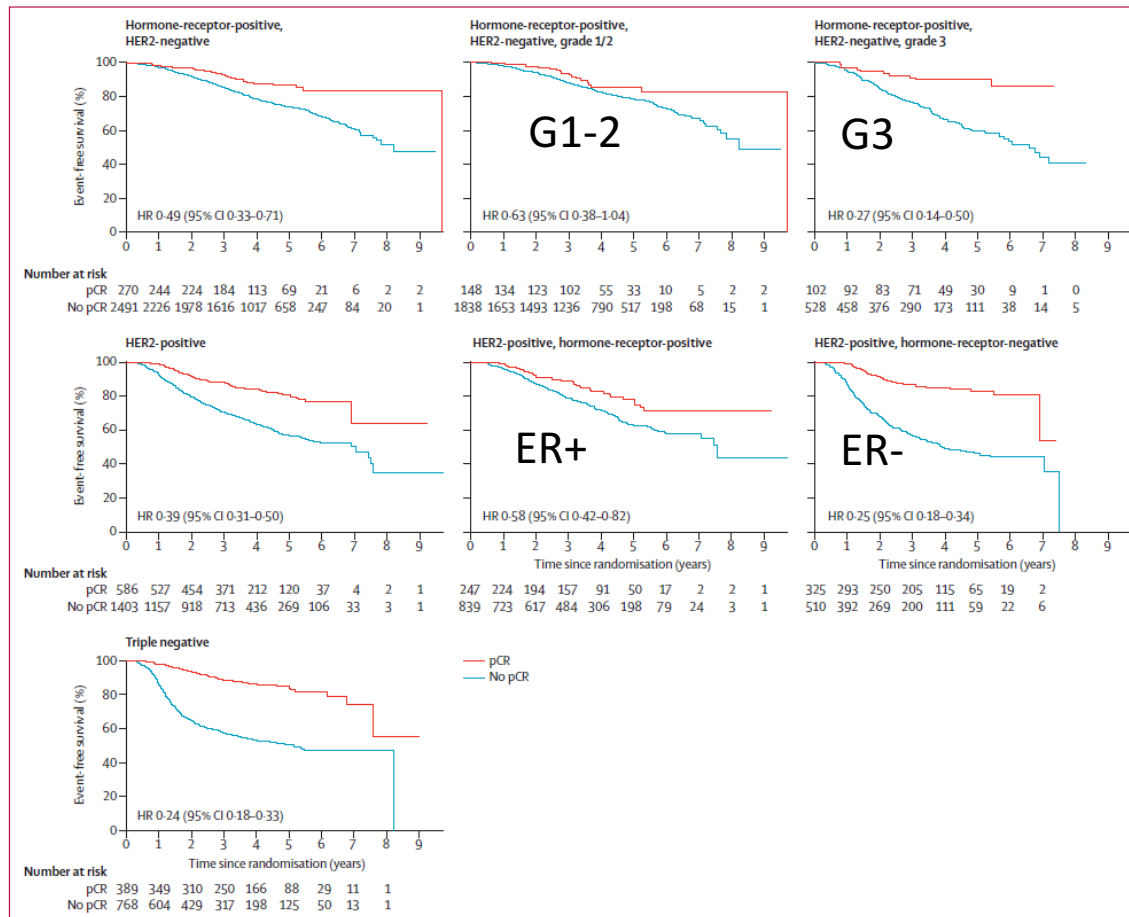


Figure 5: Association between pCR and event-free survival, by breast cancer subtype

Cortazar e al, Lancet 384; 164, 2014

pCR occurs, overall in a minority of breast cancer patients

	Non-evaluable patients		Patients with pCR (evaluable patients)	Patients with no pCR (evaluable patients)	pCR rate (evaluable patients) (%)	Odds Ratios (99% CI) ^a
	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>	<i>N</i>		
Luminal A-like	515	19	37	459	(7.5)	1.00
Luminal B-like (HER2 negative)	154	7	22	125	(15.0)	2.18 (1.04; 4.58)
Luminal B-like (HER2 positive)	237	7	51	179	(22.2)	3.54 (1.94; 6.45)
HER2 positive (non-luminal)	128	10	43	75	(36.4)	7.11 (3.67; 13.8)
Triple negative	255	34	69	152	(31.2)	5.63 (3.16; 10.0)
Total	1289	77	222	990	(18.3)	(<i>P</i> < 0.001^b)

26% with THP

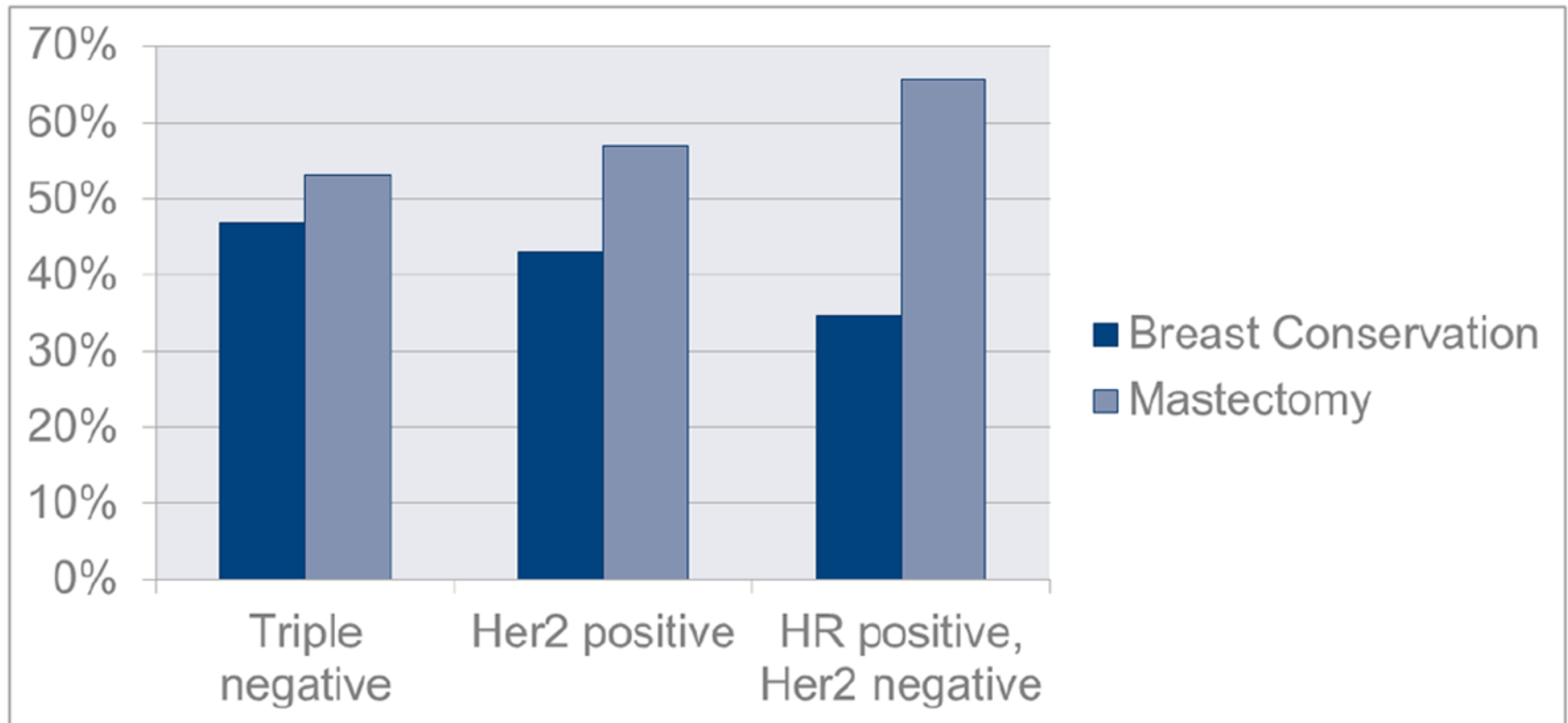
62% with THP

54% with carbo

26%
Overall

EORTC 10994/BIG 1-00 phase III trial

Does pCR predict for increased BCS probability?



ACSOG Z1071

Boughey, Ann Surg 260;608, 2014

Meta-analysis of the relationship between pCR rate and probability of BCS

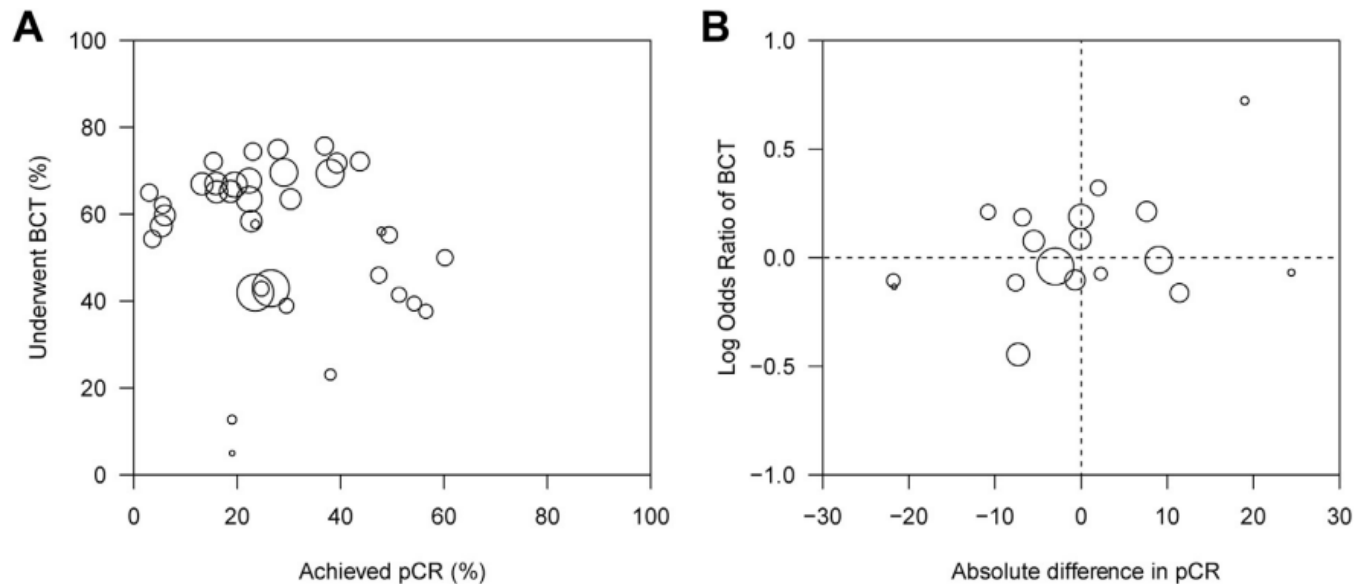
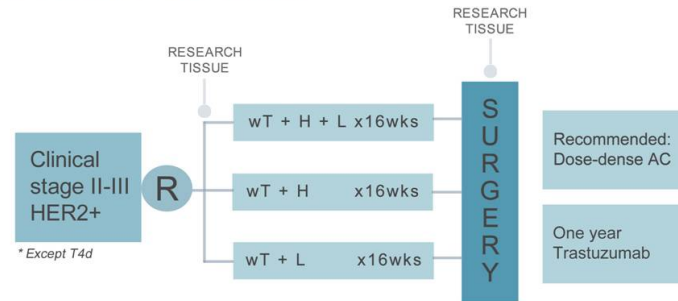


Fig. 3. (A) Scatterplot of the reported rate of patients who achieved pCR versus the rate who underwent breast-conserving therapy per study treatment arm. (B) Scatterplot of the absolute difference in pCR between arms and the log odds of BCT between arms in 18 pairwise contrasts of multi-arm trials. Point sizes are drawn proportional to number of patients in the paired arms. No statistically significant association was observed. pCR, pathological complete response.

Combined analysis of the CALGB C40601 and C40603

C40601: Schema

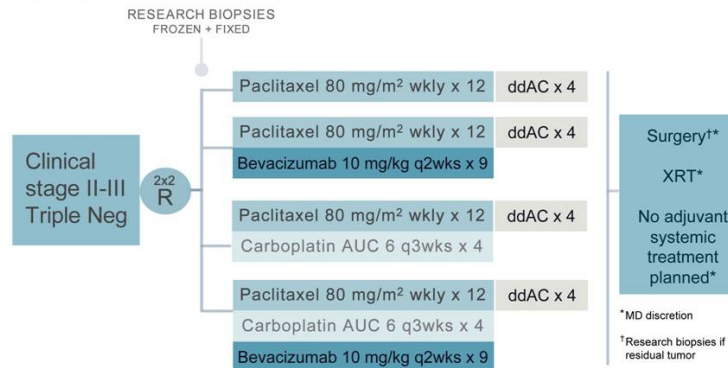


*wT = weekly paclitaxel, H = trastuzumab, L = lapatinib
 Primary endpoint: pCR breast (*ASCO 2013)

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PRESENTED AT: ASCO Annual Meeting 15

C40603: Schema



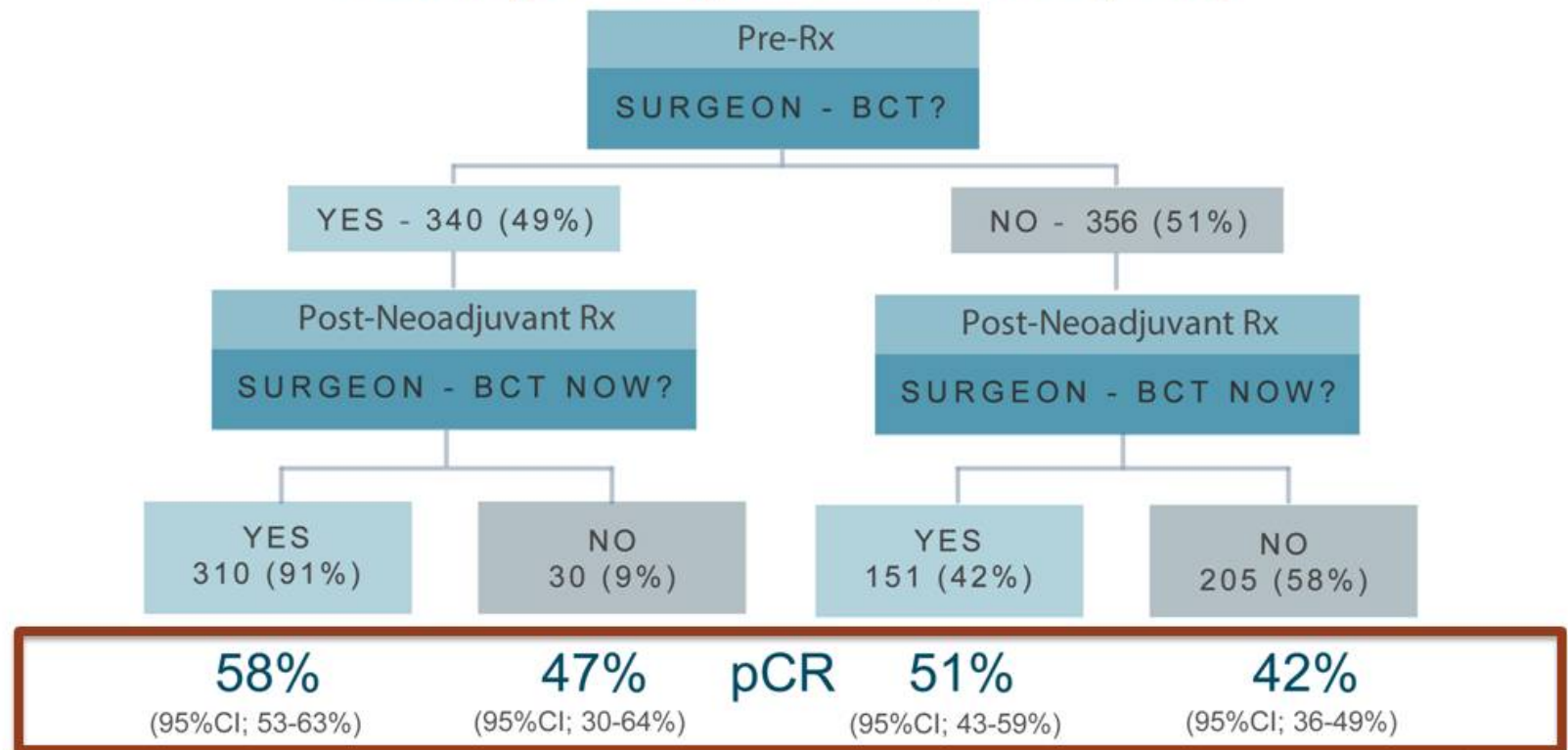
Primary endpoint: pCR breast (*SABC 2013)

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PRESENTED AT: ASCO Annual Meeting 15

Combined analysis: pCR and BCS-feasibility

Pathologic Complete Response (pCR)



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PRESENTED AT: ASCO Annual Meeting 2015

What should be «state of the art» adjuvant chemotherapy in the current clinical practice?

❑ Luminal B tumors

- EC (either q21d or q14d) x 4 followed by qw paclitaxel

❑ HER2 positive tumors

- EC (either q21d or q14d) x 4 followed by qw paclitaxel X 12 + Trastuzumab (and pertuzumab)*
- Docetaxel-Carboplatinum + trastuzumab x 6 (and pertuzumab)*

❑ TNBC (regardless of BRCA status)

- dd EC followed by qw paclitaxel 12 +/- carboplatinum (either AUC 6 q 3 wk or AUC 2 weekly**)

*When available

**No published studies are available with the weekly carboplatinum schedule

Dose dense chemotherapy: the Meta-analysis

Dose-dense (2-weekly) vs standard (3-weekly)

- Same chemotherapy drugs and doses: 7 trials, n=10,004
- Some differences in chemotherapy: 5 trials, n=5,508

Sequential (3-weekly) vs concurrent (3-weekly)

- Same drugs in each group: 5 trials, n=9,644
- Some differences in drugs used: 1 trial, n=1,384

Sequential (2-weekly) vs concurrent (3-weekly)

- Some differences in drugs used: 6 trials, n=6,532

Mod. da [Gray R, et al. SABCS 2017. Abstract GS1-01](#)

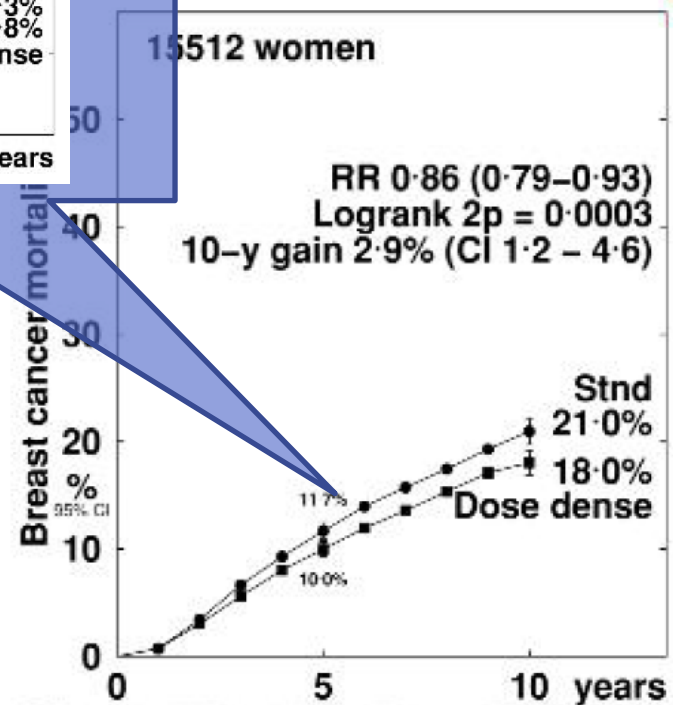
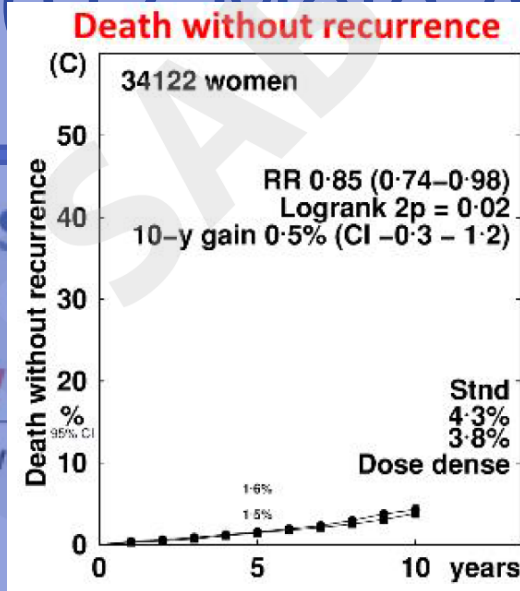
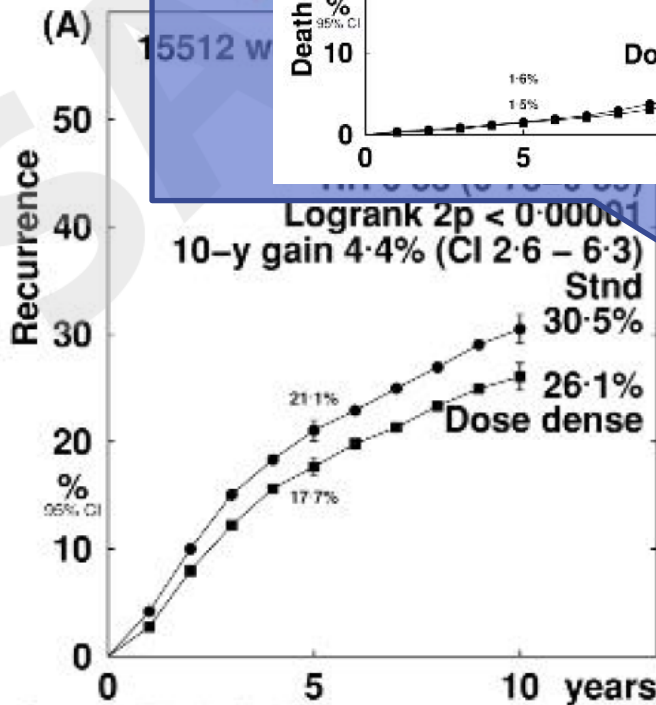
2017 Meta-Analysis

2-weekly vs
(including the 5

adjuvant chemotherapy: all trials
therapy differed between arms)

Any

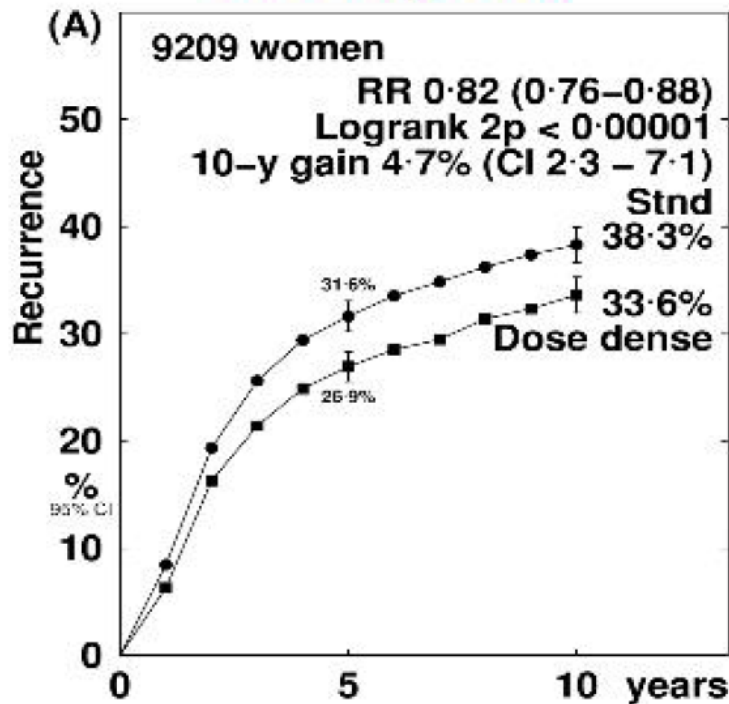
Breast Cancer Mortality



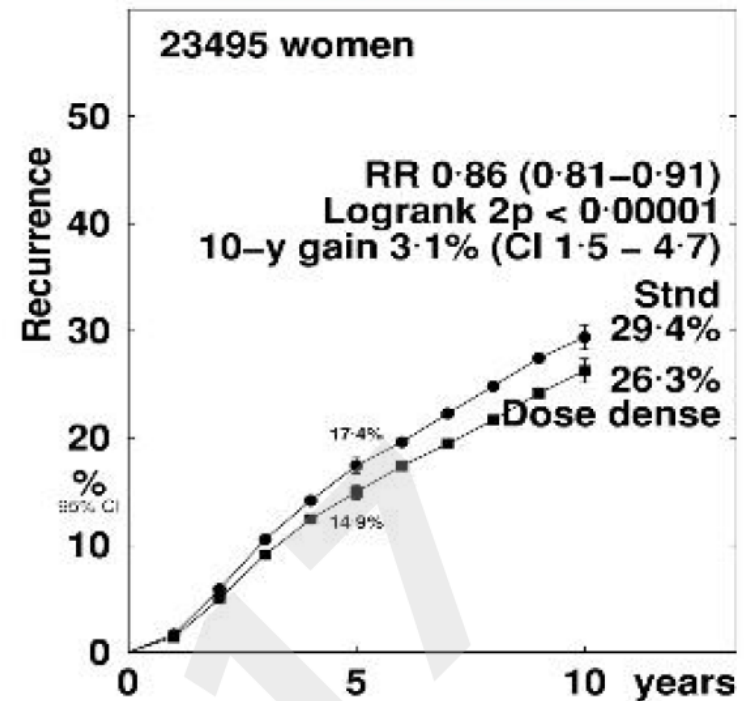
No differences according to ER status

Pooled Analysis: recurrence by ER status

ER- Negative



ER - Positive

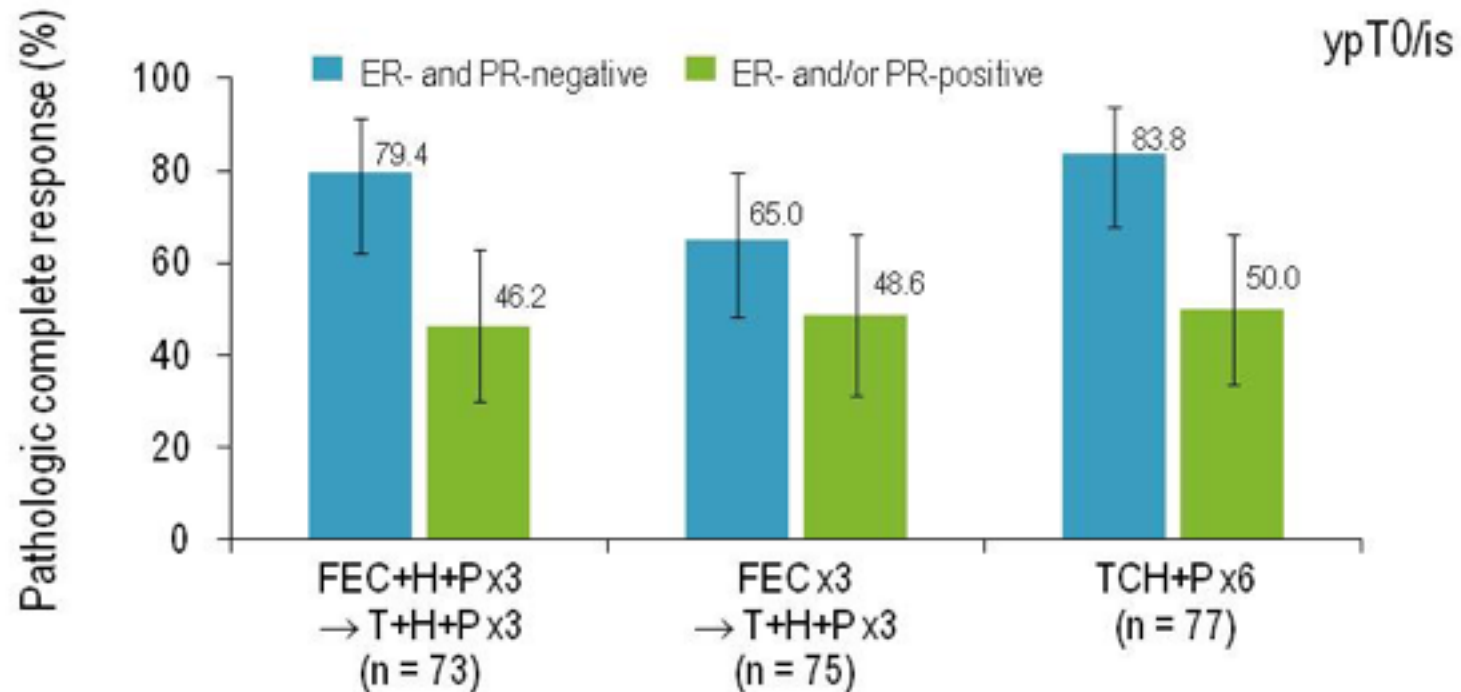


Is there an “optimal” or “preferred” dose-dense regimen for high-risk patients?

- ❑ q3wAC X 4 → q3wPacli X 4 > q3w AC X 4
 - NSABP B-28 and CALGB 9344
- ❑ ddA(E)C X 4 → ddPacli X 4 > q3wA(E)C X 4 → q3wPacli X 4
 - C9741, GIM2
- ❑ q3wAC X 4 → wPacli X 12 > q3wAC X 4 → q3wPacli X 4
 - E1119

q2wAC or EC X 4 → wPaclitaxel X 12

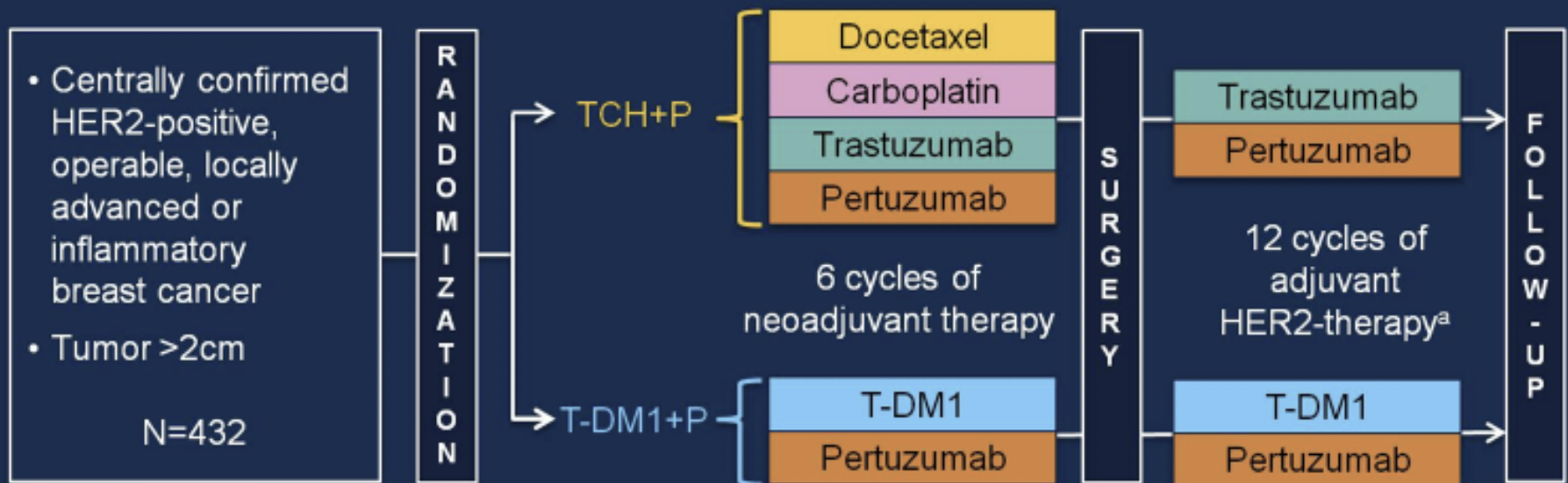
HER2-positive disease; the TRYPHAENA study



ER, estrogen receptor; FEC, 5-fluorouracil, epirubicin, cyclophosphamide; H, trastuzumab; P, pertuzumab; PR, progesterone receptor; T, docetaxel; TCH, docetaxel/carboplatin/trastuzumab

Schneeweiss et al. *Ann Oncol* 2013;24:2278-84

What about T-DM1 with pertuzumab?



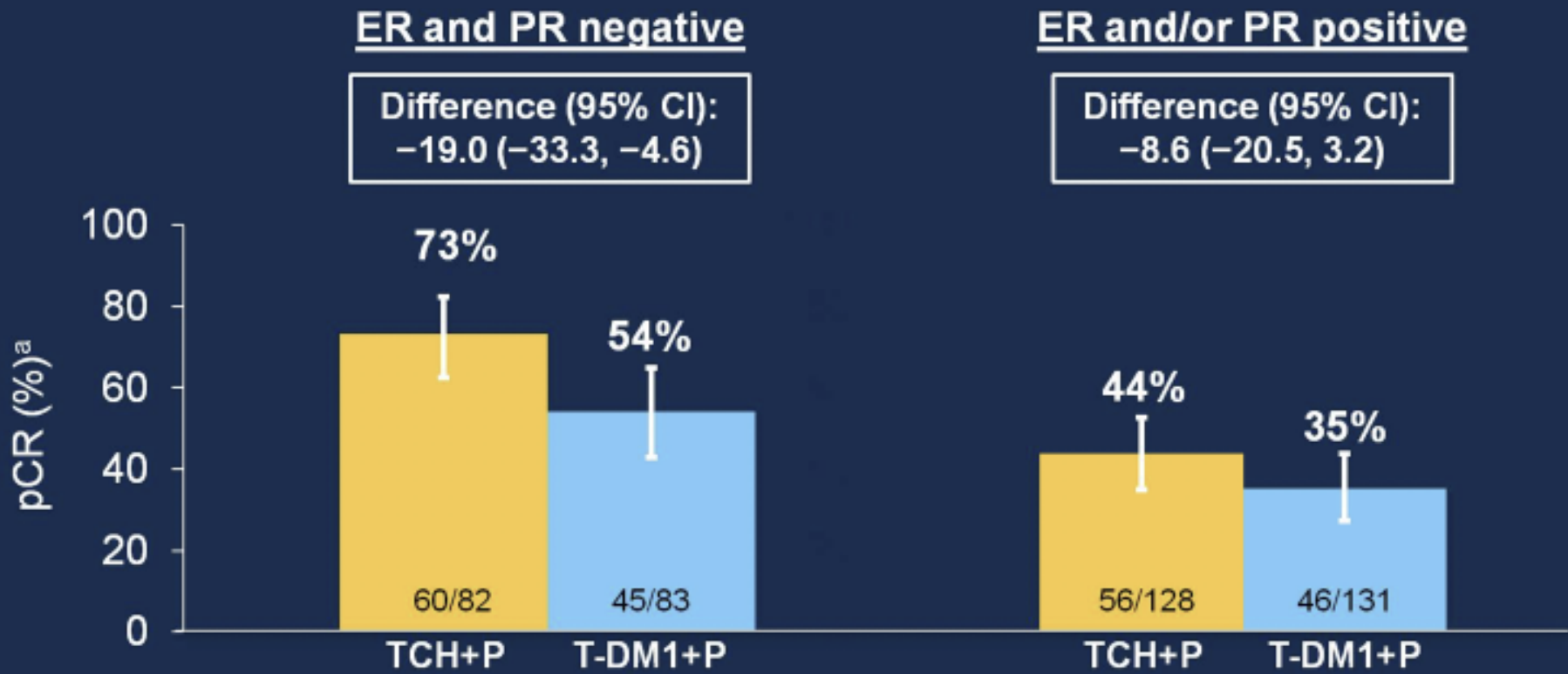
Primary endpoint: pCR by local assessment (ypT0/is, ypN0)

- **Stratification factors:** local HR status, geographic location, and clinical stage at presentation

KRISTINE

Investigative Clinical Oncology

pCR rates

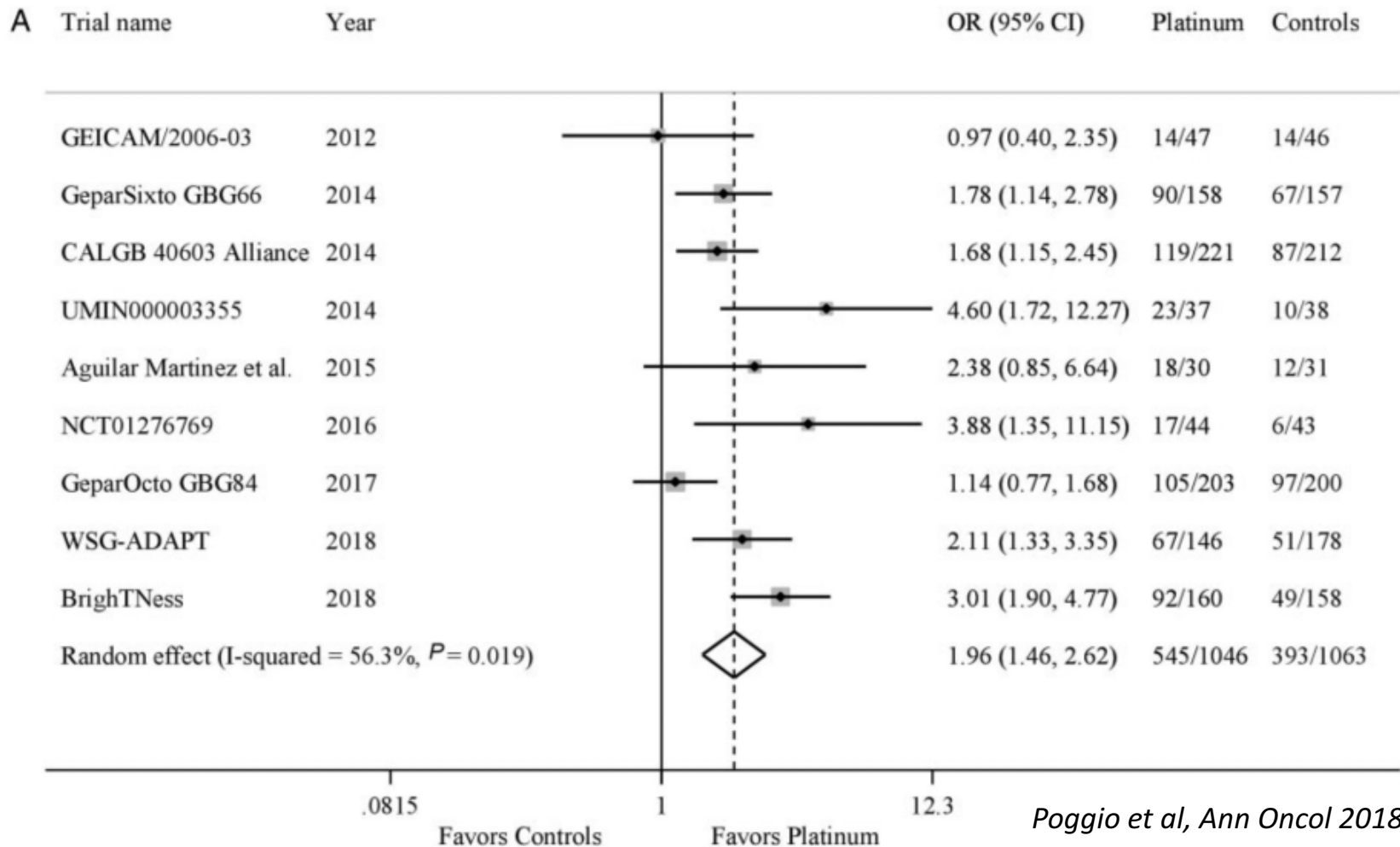


What about TNBC and carboplatin?

Trial	N randomized	pCR Chemo alone	pCR Chemo+Carboplatin
CALGB 40603	218	39%	49%
GeparSixto	315	37.9%	58.7%
GEICAM 2006-03	94	35%	30%

Sikow et al, SABCS 2013, abstr S5-01
Von Minckwitz et al, ASCO 2013, abstr 1004
Alba et al, Breast Cancer Res Treat 136;487, 2012

Meta-analysis



Poggio et al, Ann Oncol 2018

TNBC: addition of carboplatinum



Therapy in TNBC subgroup

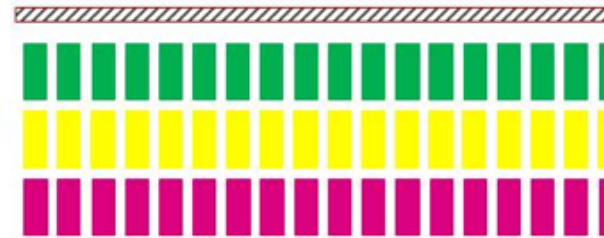
N=315
centrally
confirmed
TNBC

R

PM



PMCb



Surgery

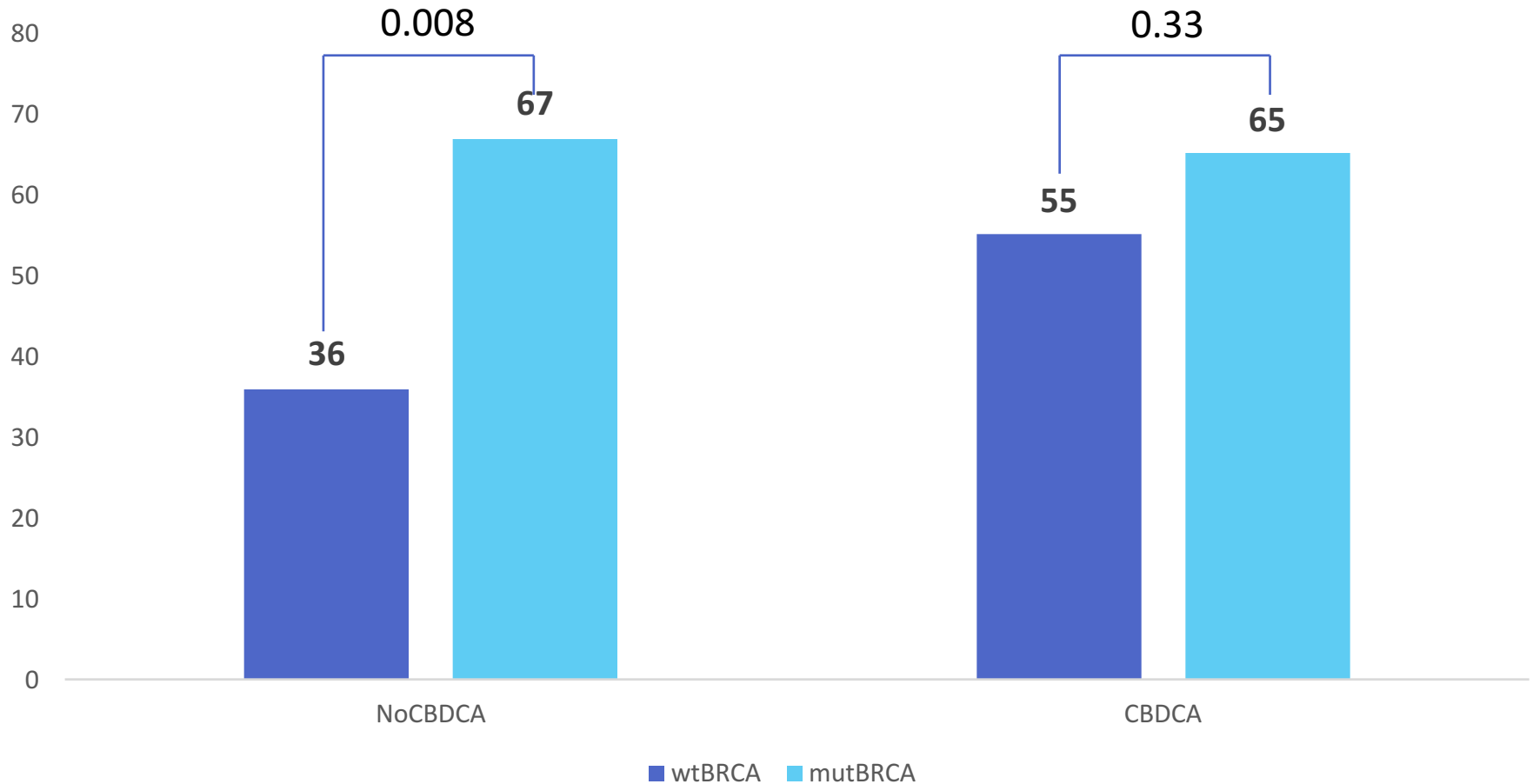
Paclitaxel 80 mg/m² q1w

Non-pegylated liposomal doxorubicin 20 mg/m² q1w

Carboplatin AUC 1.5-2* q1w

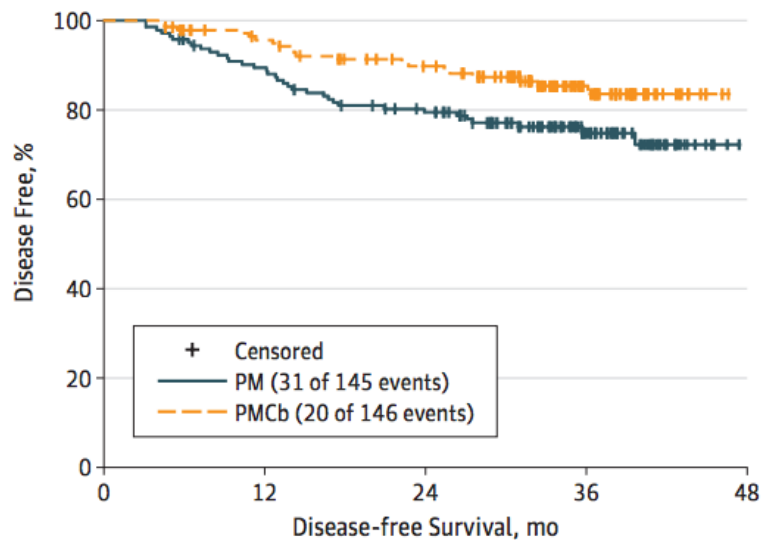
TNBC: Bevacizumab 15 mg/kg q3w

Benefit of Carboplatinum according to BRCA status; pCR (ypT0/ypN0)



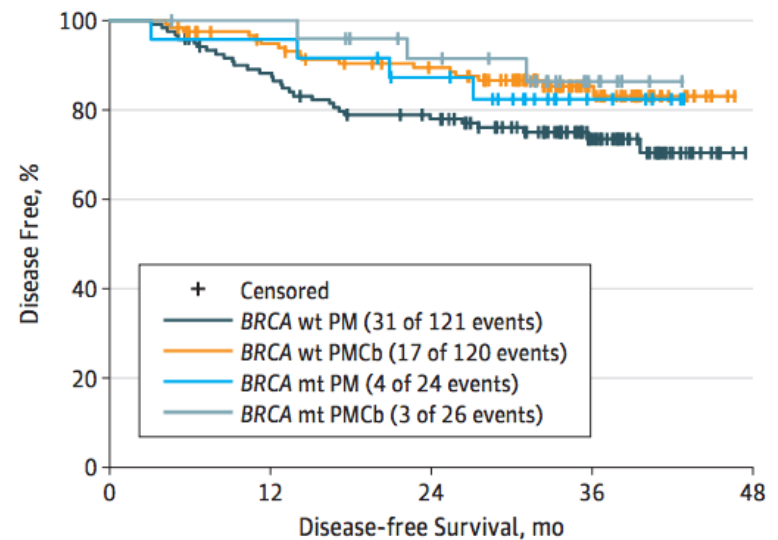
Benefit of Carboplatinum according to BRCA status

A By treatment arm



No. at risk	0	12	24	36	48
PM	145	127	107	49	0
PMCb	146	132	115	47	0

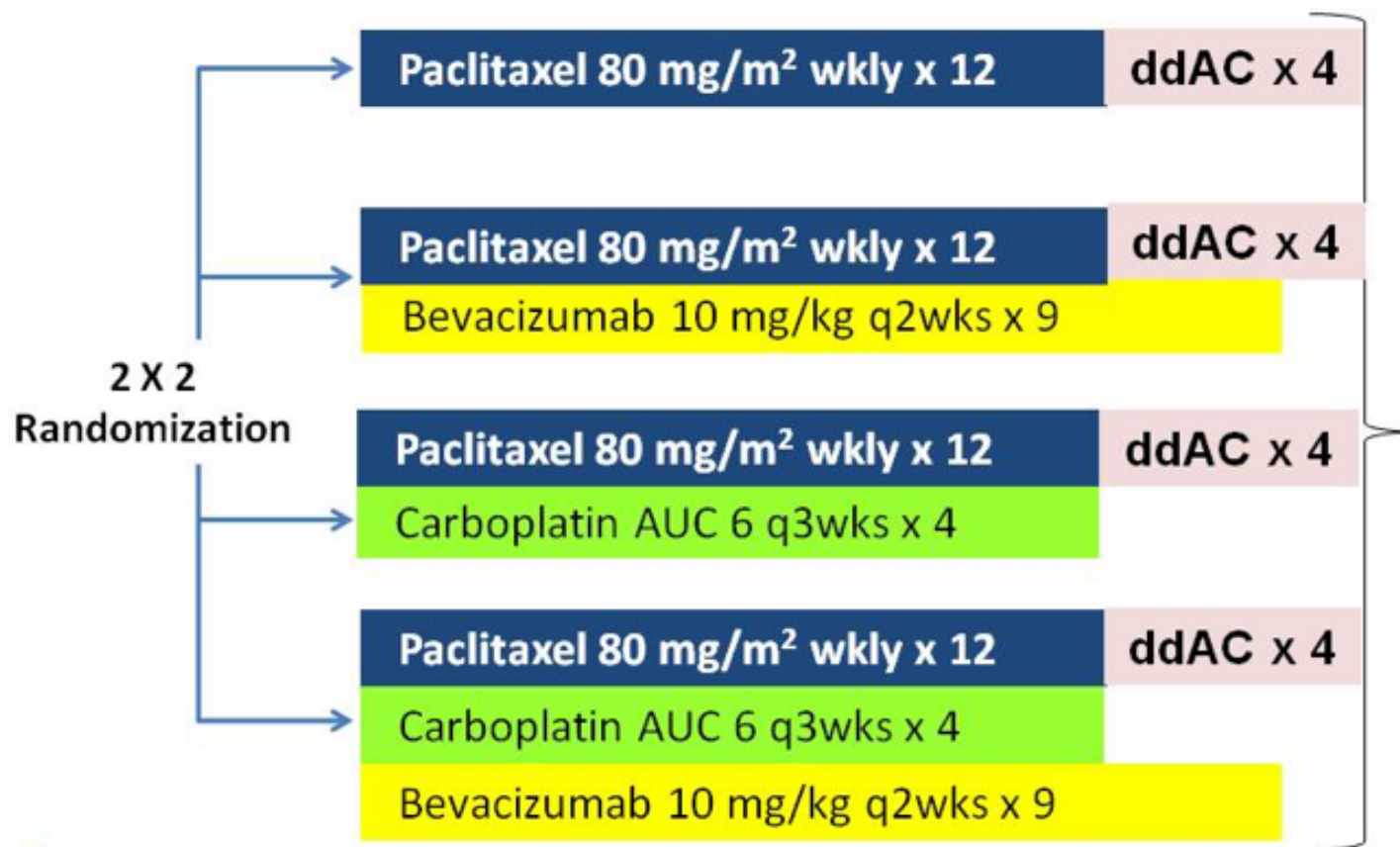
B By mutation status and treatment arm



No. at risk	0	12	24	36	48
BRCA wt PM	121	104	88	43	0
BRCA wt PMCb	120	107	95	40	0
BRCA mt PM	24	23	19	6	0
BRCA mt PMCb	26	25	20	7	0

A, Disease-free survival by treatment arm. B, Disease-free survival by *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation status and treatment arm. mt Indicates mutant; PM, paclitaxel and myocet; PMCb, paclitaxel, myocet, and carboplatin; and wt, wild-type.

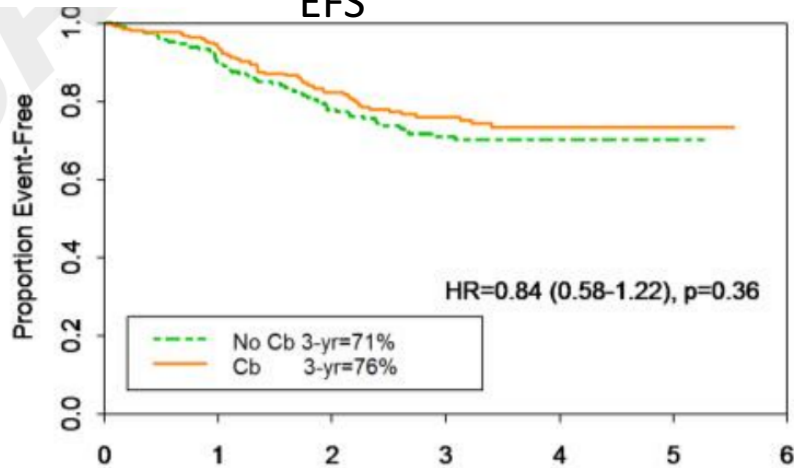
CALGB 40603



Sikov et al SABCS 2015

EFS and OS analysis

EFS

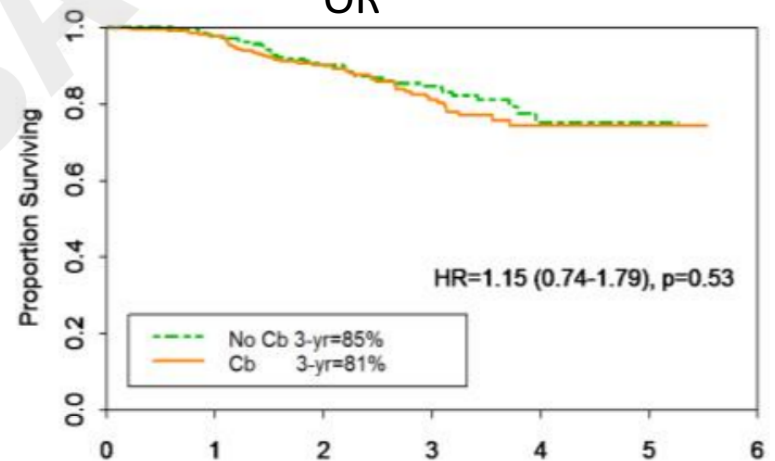


Number at Risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
No Cb	218	185	145	94	31	2	0
Cb	225	202	162	101	37	2	0

Years from Study Entry

OR



Number at Risk

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6
No Cb	218	202	169	111	31	2	0
Cb	225	210	179	110	39	2	0

Years from Study Entry

Sikov et al SABCS 2015

Who are «pathology-wise» the optimal candidates to neoadjuvant chemotherapy?

Tumor size ≥ 2.5 cm



Screening
Consent

Assess Eligibility

Patient is Eligible
& Randomized

Treatment
Consent,
Patient On Study

Is Patient Eligible?

(based on stratifying biomarkers)

	MammaPrint Low		MammaPrint High	
	HR+	HR-	HR+	HR-
HER2+	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible
HER2-	Not Eligible*	Eligible	Eligible	Eligible

*May be eligible to participate in Low-Risk Registry Trial (supplement 1)

Could we tailor treatment based on early evaluation of response?



Treatment tailoring based on clinical predictors of pCR

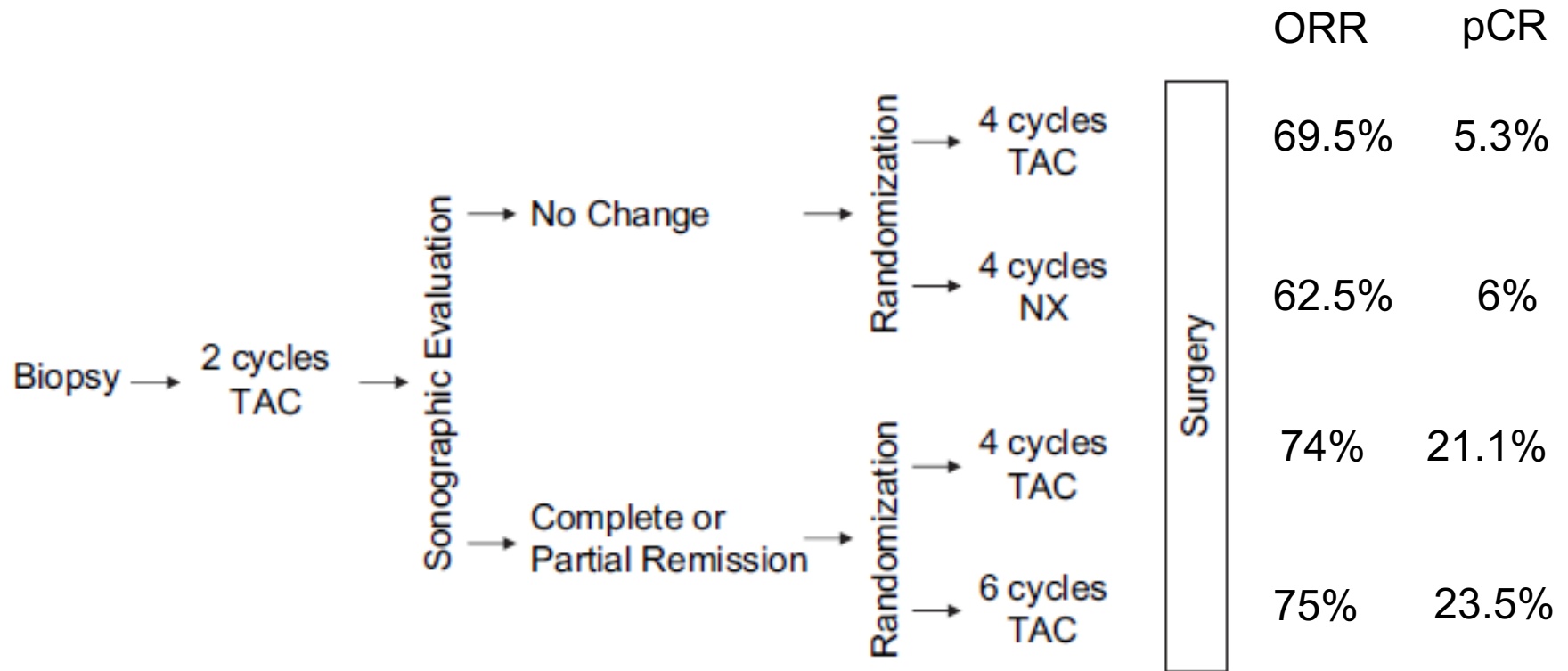
Trial	Initial Regimen	Evaluation of response	Salvage Regimen vs Conventional	pCR in Switch	BCS rates
TAX301	CVAP X 4	UICC (calliper)	Docetaxel x 4	2%	-
			-	-	-
GeparTrio	TAC x 2	Ultrasonography	NX x 4	6.0%	59.8%
			TAC x 4	5.3%	57.3%
GeparQuinto	EC x 4	Imaging (US, MRI, Mammo)	wP x 12 +Everolimus	3.6%	54.4%
			wP x 12	5.6%	61.9%

J Clin Oncol 2002; 20, 1456
 J Natl Cancer Inst 2008; 100;542
 Eur J Cancer 2013; 49; 2284

CVAP; cyclophosphamide, Vincristine, Doxorubicin, Prednisone
 TAC; docetaxel, doxorubicin, cyclophosphamide
 NX; vinorelbine, capecitabine
 wP; weekly paclitaxel



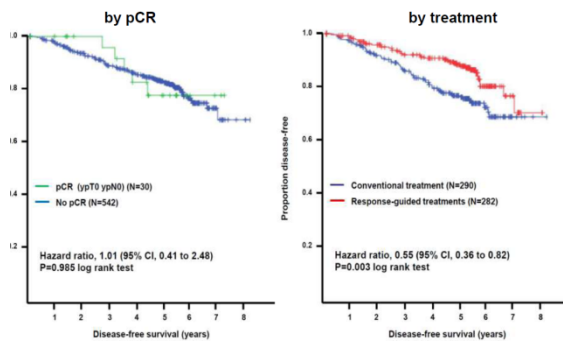
Adaptive chemotherapy according to response to the initial 2 cycles of neoadjuvant chemotherapy



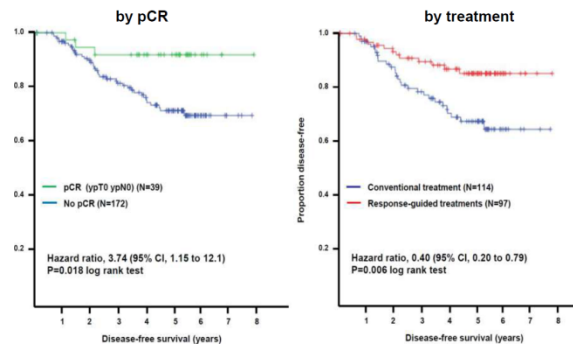
Von Minckwitz et al, JNCI 2008

Response-guided chemotherapy effective in some subgroups of breast cancer patients

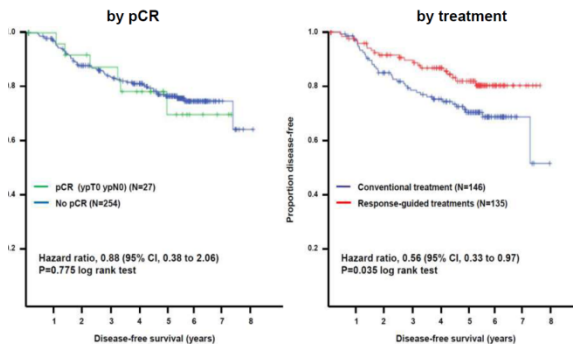
DFS in Luminal A tumors



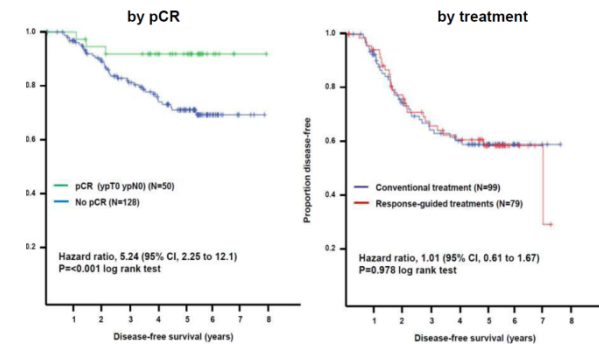
DFS in Luminal B (HER2-)



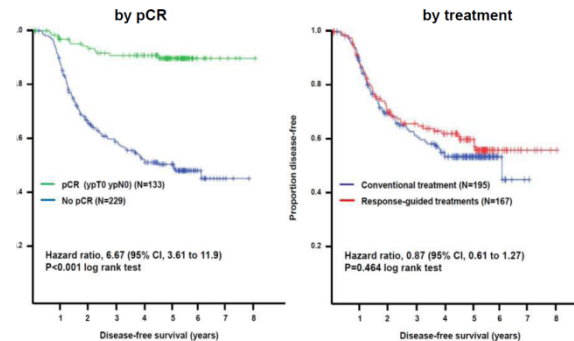
DFS in Luminal B (HER2+) tumors



DFS in HER2+(non-luminal) tumors

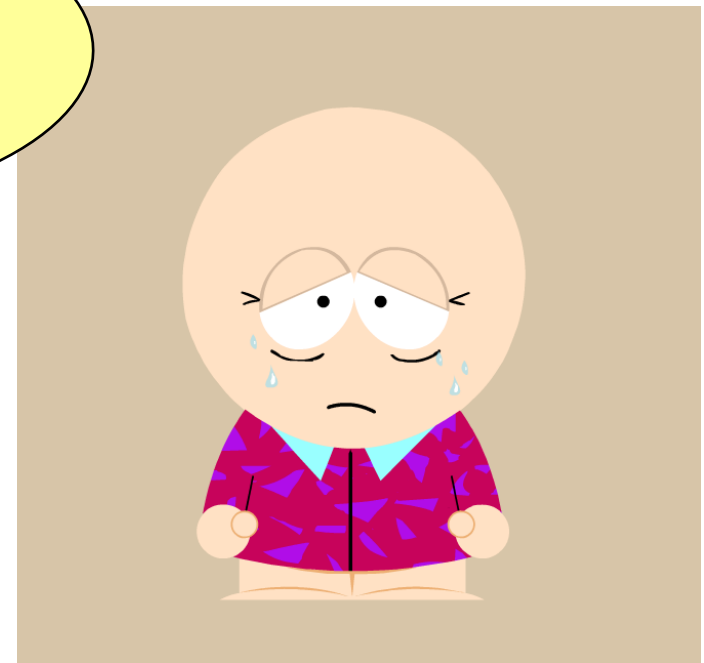
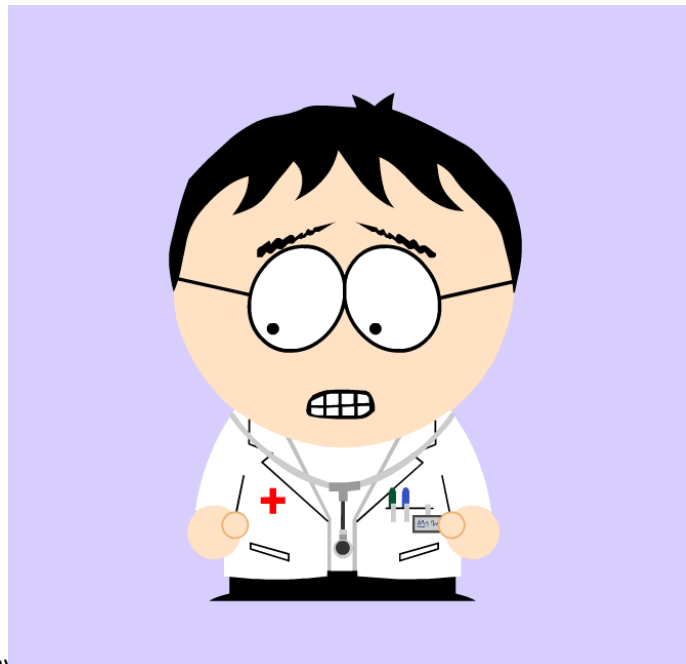


DFS in Triple Negative Tumors



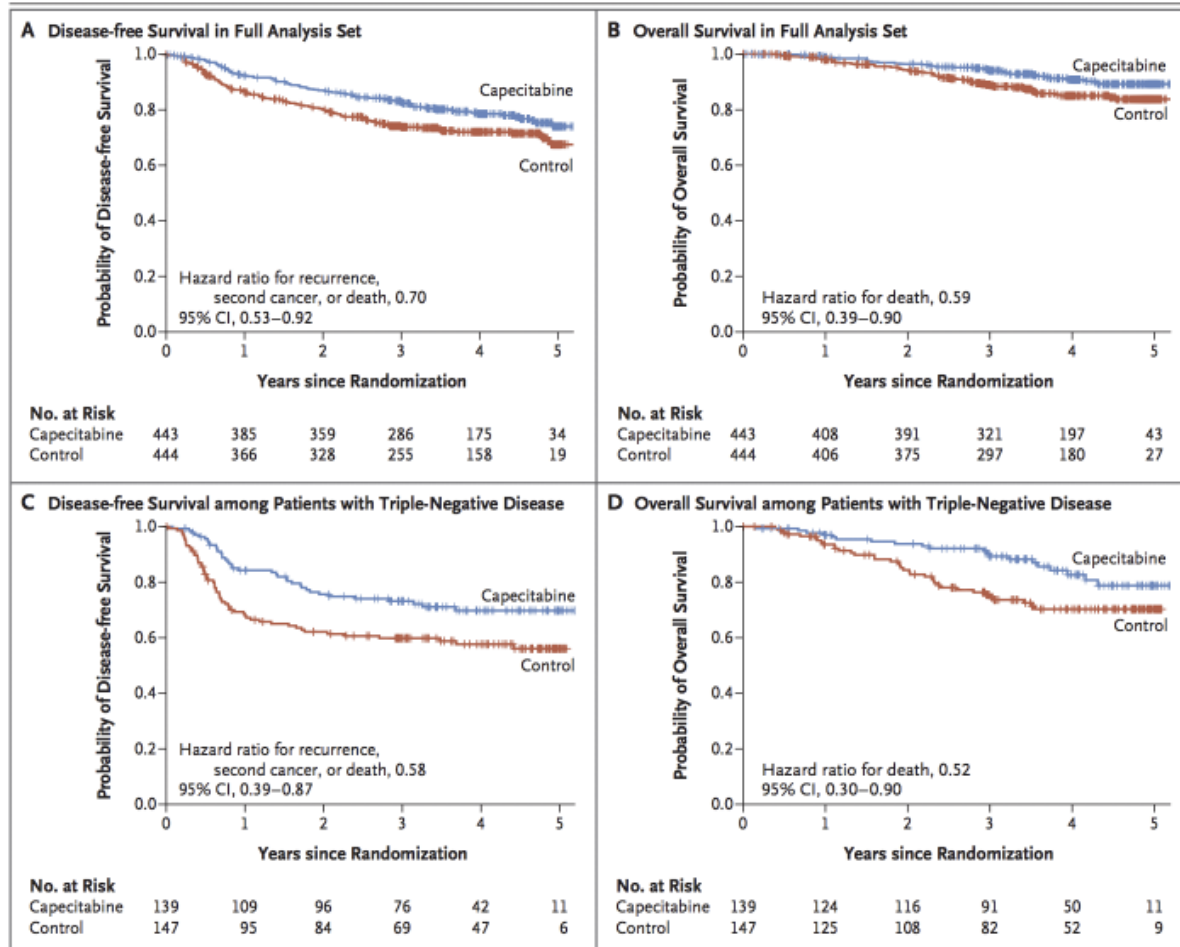
How could we deal with failure to achieve pCR?

Well, ehm, your tumor shrank...but, just a little bit, buth..ehm, no pCR and, ...well, I will see!

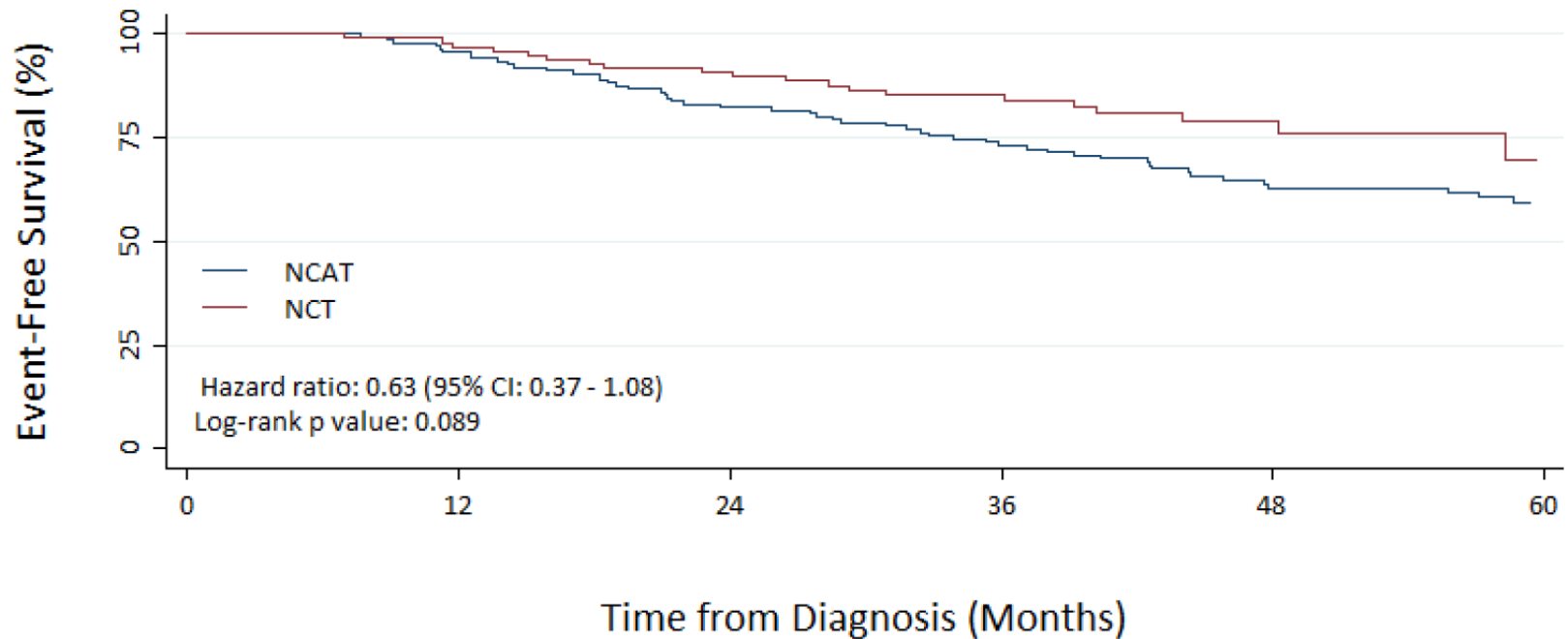


On average:
8-9 out of 10 pts with ER positive disease
5-7 out of 10 patients with triple negative disease
4-5 out of 10 patients with HER2 positive disease

Adjuvant capecitabine in patients with residual disease after NACT



Prognosis of patients receiving NACT and neoadjuvant vs adjuvant trastuzumab



Effect confined to patients with ER- tumors.

Earlier initiation of trastuzumab is associated with better prognosis

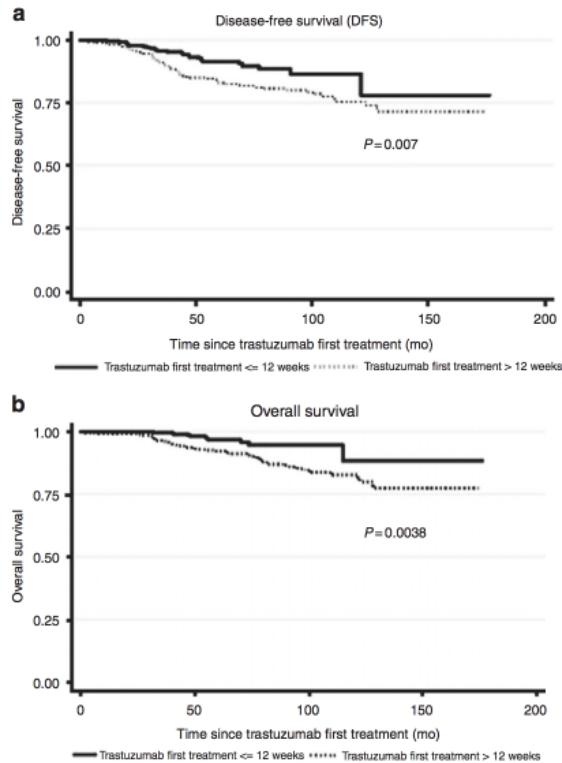


Fig. 3 DFS (a) and OS (b) of patients with a TTT (time to first trastuzumab) ≤ 12 weeks (N = 247) compared with those with TTT > 12 weeks (N = 244)

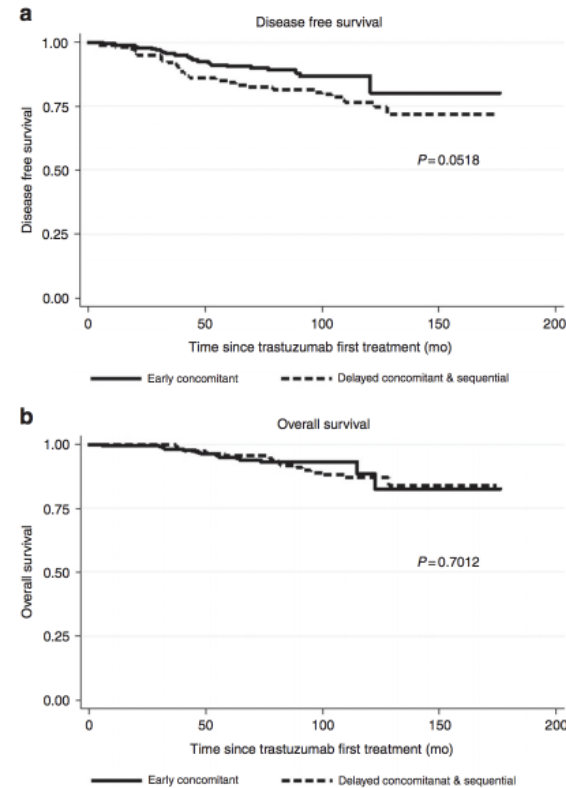
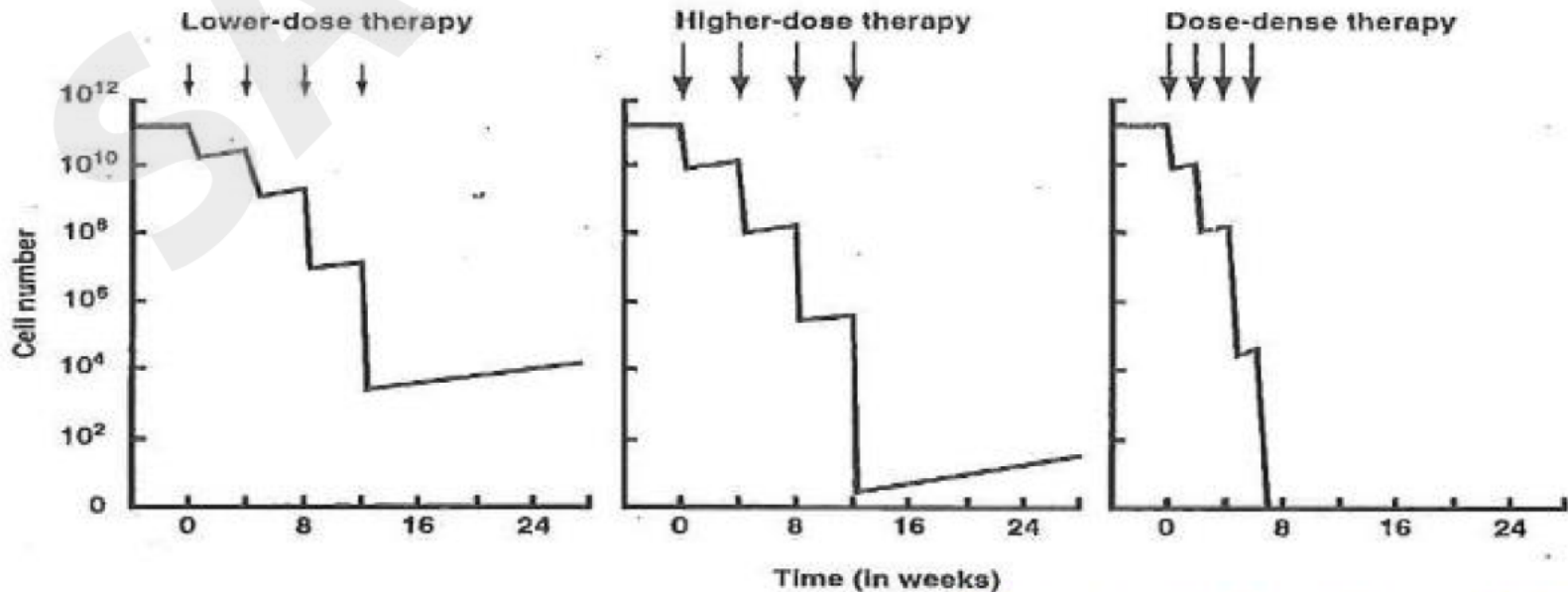


Fig. 4 DFS (a) and OS (b) of patients treated with *early concomitant* regimens (e.g., TCH and "TCH-like") compared with those treated with *delayed concomitant* (e.g., AC-TH) and *sequential* regimens. TCH (Docetaxel/Carboplatin/Trastuzumab), AC-TH (Doxorubicin/Cyclophosphamide-Docetaxel/Trastuzumab)

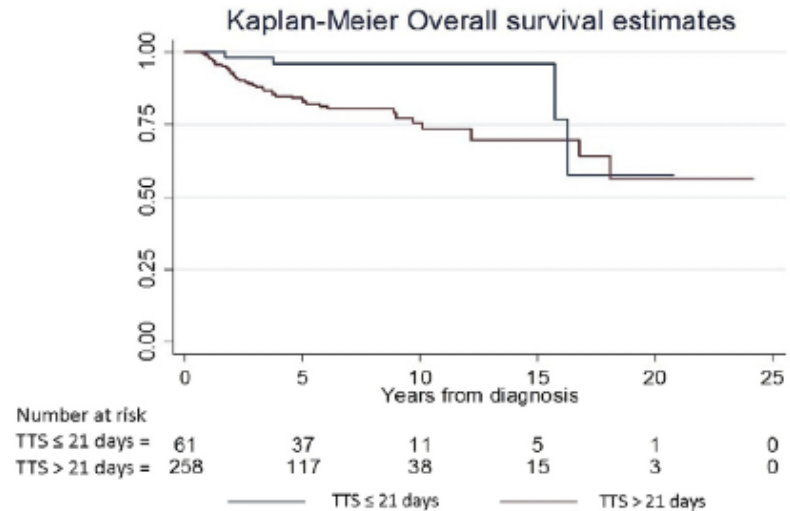
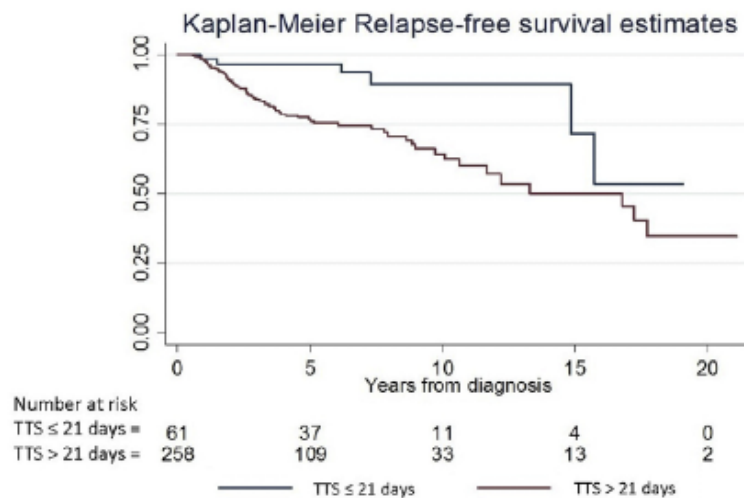
Dose-dense chemotherapy

Models of tumour cyto-reduction and regrowth following conventional, dose-escalated and dose-dense chemotherapy*



* Norton L. Sem Oncol 1997

Timing of surgery after completion of neoadjuvant chemotherapy and outcomes



Univariate analysis and survival estimates for Relapse Free Survival according to TTS and known prognostic factors.

	Relapse Free Survival			HR	95% CI	p
	5-Years estimate (95% CI)	10-Years estimate (95% CI)	15-Years estimate (95% CI)			
TTS						
TTS ≤ 21 days	0.96 (0.86–0.99)	0.89 (0.72–0.96)	0.71 (0.27–0.91)	1	1.35–7.17	0.008
TTS > 21 days	0.76 (0.70–0.81)	0.64 (0.54–0.72)	0.50 (0.36–0.62)	3.11		
BC subtypes						
Hormone-receptor positive	0.83 (0.75–0.88)	0.66 (0.54–0.76)	0.53 (0.38–0.67)	1		
HER2 positive	0.78 (0.67–0.85)	0.73 (0.61–0.82)	0.73 (0.61–0.82)	1.20	0.70–2.04	0.5
TNBC	0.78 (0.64–0.86)	0.78 (0.64–0.86)	0.46 (0.13–0.74)	1.11	0.60–2.02	0.7
Clinical stage						
I	0.83 (0.27–0.97)	0.83 (0.27–0.97)	0.83 (0.27–0.97)	1		
II	0.83 (0.77–0.88)	0.69 (0.59–0.77)	0.62 (0.48–0.74)	1.59	0.21–11.06	0.6
III	0.69 (0.56–0.79)	0.64 (0.49–0.75)	0.30 (0.09–0.54)	3.19	0.42–23.77	0.2
pCR						
Yes	0.92 (0.81–0.97)	0.92 (0.81–0.97)	0.92 (0.81–0.97)	1	0.09–0.71	0.009
No	0.77 (0.71–0.82)	0.64 (0.55–0.72)	0.49 (0.36–0.61)	0.25		