

# Clinical impact

## Who really need adj Abemaciclib?



ALLEANZA  
CONTRO  
IL CANCRO



Aiom  
Associazione Italiana  
Oncologi Medici



RAO  
Associazione Italiana  
Radioterapia e Oncologia clinica



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12<sup>a</sup> EDIZIONE  
Progetto **CANOA**

# CARCINOMA MAMMARIO:

QUALI NOVITA' PER IL 2022?  
"Saper leggere" uno studio clinico per migliorare la pratica clinica

18-19 Marzo 2022  
Ospedaletto di Pescantina (VR)  
Park Hotel Villa Quaranta

Coordinatori scientifici:  
Stefania Cori



**Alberto Zambelli**

Humanitas University – Research Hospital  
Rozzano (Milan)

# Outline

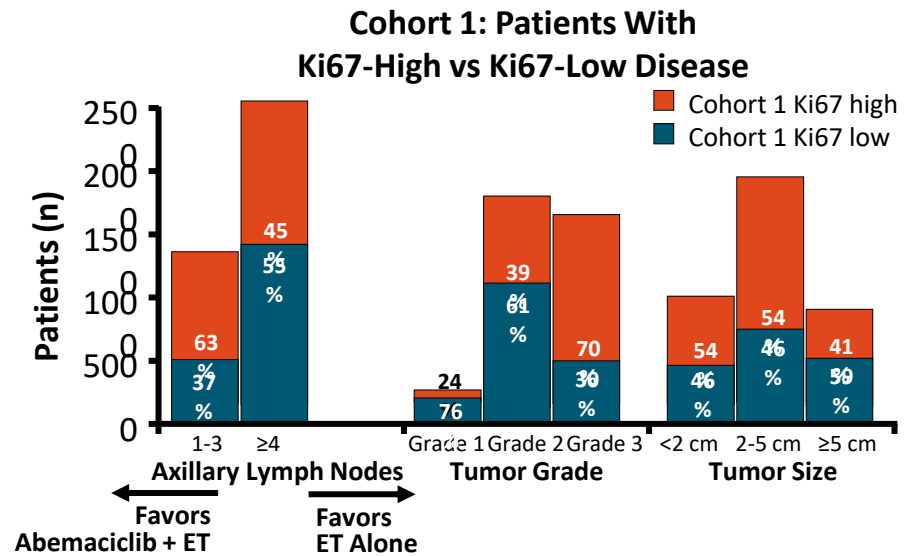
- Ki67>20%
- N+
- Genomic testing
- Chemo-refractory
- Follow up
- BRCA

# Adjuvant Abemaciclib for High-Risk HR+/HER- EBC: Approved by FDA

On October 12, 2021, based on the results of the phase III monarchE trial, the FDA approved abemaciclib with endocrine therapy (tamoxifen or an aromatase inhibitor) for the adjuvant treatment of adult patients with HR+/HER2-, node-positive early breast cancer at high risk of recurrence and a Ki67 score  $\geq 20\%$ , as determined by an FDA-approved test

# monarchE: Analysis of Patients With $\geq 4$ Axillary Lymph Nodes

- 55% of patients with  $\geq 4$  ALN on the monarchE trial had Ki67-low disease
- Despite a very high risk of recurrence, patients with  $\geq 4$  ALN would currently be excluded from treatment with abemaciclib



| iDFS                    | Abemaciclib + ET |        | ET Alone |        | HR (95% CI)      | Interaction P Value |
|-------------------------|------------------|--------|----------|--------|------------------|---------------------|
|                         | N                | Events | N        | Events |                  |                     |
| Overall                 | 2808             | 232    | 2829     | 333    | 0.70 (0.59-0.82) | .597                |
| Positive lymph nodes, n |                  |        |          |        |                  |                     |
| 1-3                     | 1118             | 75     | 1142     | 105    | 0.72 (0.54-0.97) |                     |
| 4-9                     | 1107             | 75     | 1126     | 126    | 0.61 (0.46-0.81) |                     |
| $\geq 10$               | 575              | 80     | 554      | 102    | 0.74 (0.55-0.99) |                     |

# monarchE: Ki67 Assay Scoring Algorithm

In the monarchE trial, trained pathologists assessed Ki67 expression as follows:

- Ki67 staining: defined by convincing and complete nuclear staining corresponding to tumor cell chromatin at  $\geq 1+$  grade intensity (using a 0-3+ scale)

$$\text{Ki67 Score (\%)} = \frac{\text{Ki67 staining viable invasive tumor cells, n}}{\text{Total staining and nonstaining viable invasive tumor cells, N}} \times 100$$

**Ki67 Score**  
**<20%**

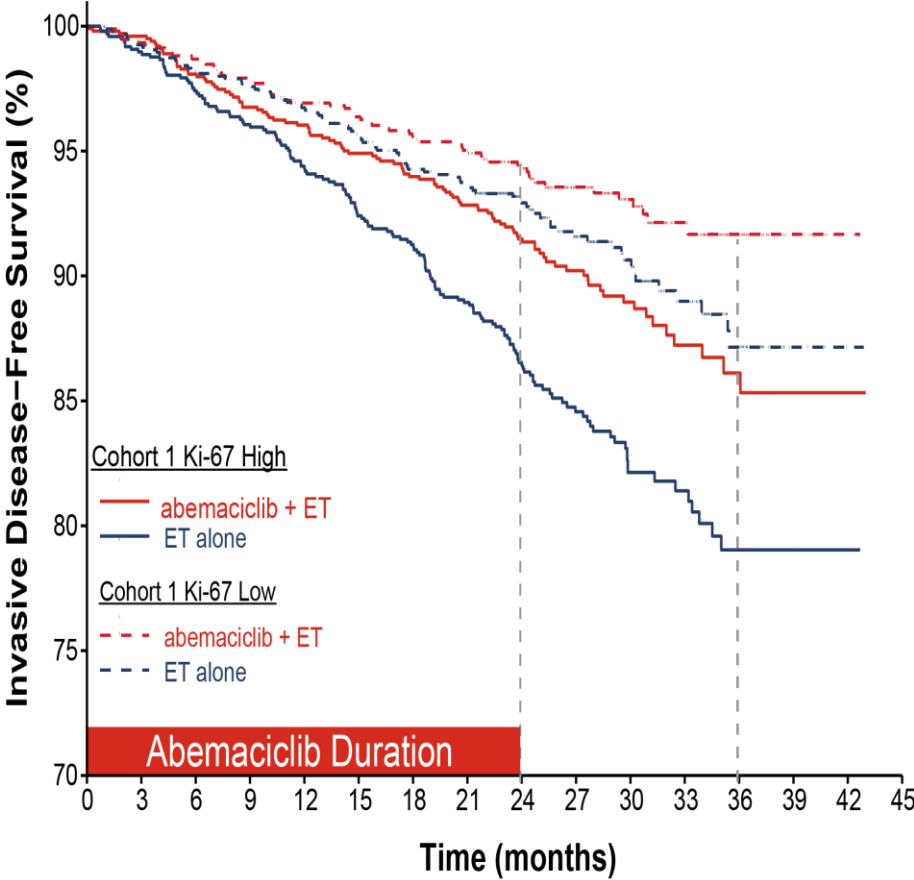
Ki67 Low

**Ki67 Score**  
 **$\geq 20\%$**

Ki67 High

2021 St Gallen Consensus Ki67 of at least 30% for recommending CT  
42% of the panelists (36% stated Ki67 threshold is not known)

# Ki-67 as a prognostic marker in Cohort 1



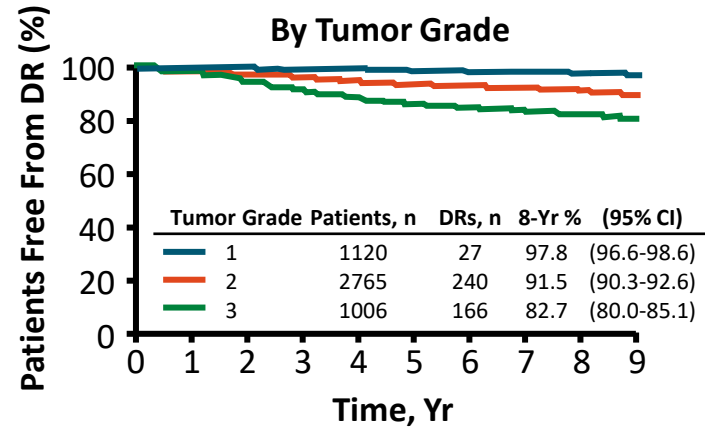
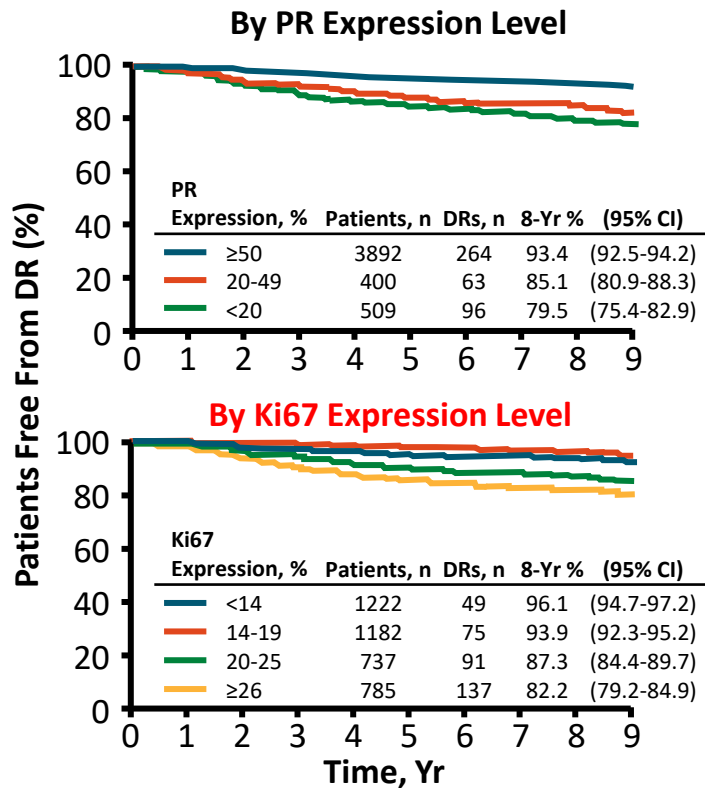
|                                      | Abemaciclib + ET | ET alone | HR (95% CI)    |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|----------|----------------|
| <b>Cohort 1 Ki-67 High, N = 2003</b> |                  |          |                |
| Patients, N                          | 1017             | 986      | 0.626          |
| Events, n                            | 104              | 158      | (0.488, 0.803) |
| 3-Year Rates                         | 86.1%            | 79.0%    |                |
| <b>Cohort 1 Ki-67 Low, N = 1914</b>  |                  |          |                |
| Patients, N                          | 946              | 968      | 0.704          |
| Events, n                            | 62               | 86       | (0.506, 0.979) |
| 3-Year Rates                         | 91.7%            | 87.2%    |                |

Ki-67 is prognostic

Ki-67 is not predictive of abemaciclib benefit

**As expected, high Ki-67 index was prognostic of worse outcome. However, abemaciclib benefit was consistent regardless of Ki-67 index.**

# Prognostic Factors for Premenopausal ER+ Patients: SOFT/TEXT Trials



# **Adjuvant Abemaciclib for High-Risk HR+/HER- EBC: Approved by FDA**

**On October 12, 2021, based on the results of the phase III monarchE trial, the FDA approved abemaciclib with endocrine therapy (tamoxifen or an aromatase inhibitor)**

**ASCO and NCCN guideline panels endorse adjuvant Abemaciclib for the whole monarchE ITT population of recurrence and a Ki67 score  $\geq 20\%$ , as determined by an FDA-approved test**

**In February 24, 2022 the CHMP of EMA adopted a positive opinion for marketing authorization of adjuvant Abemaciclib for the whole monarchE ITT population**



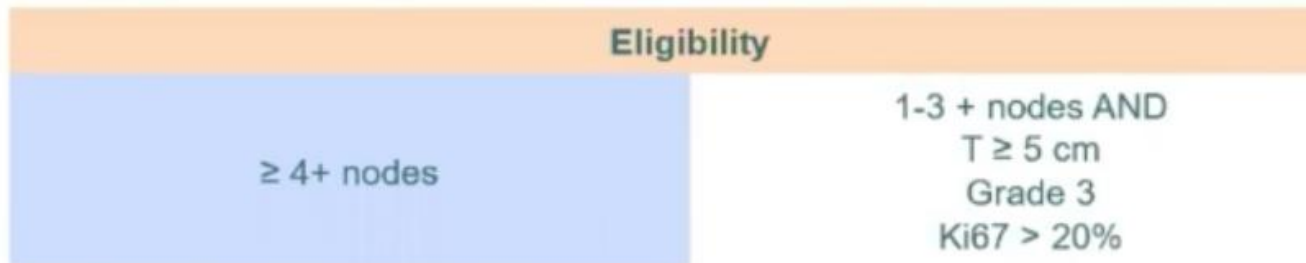
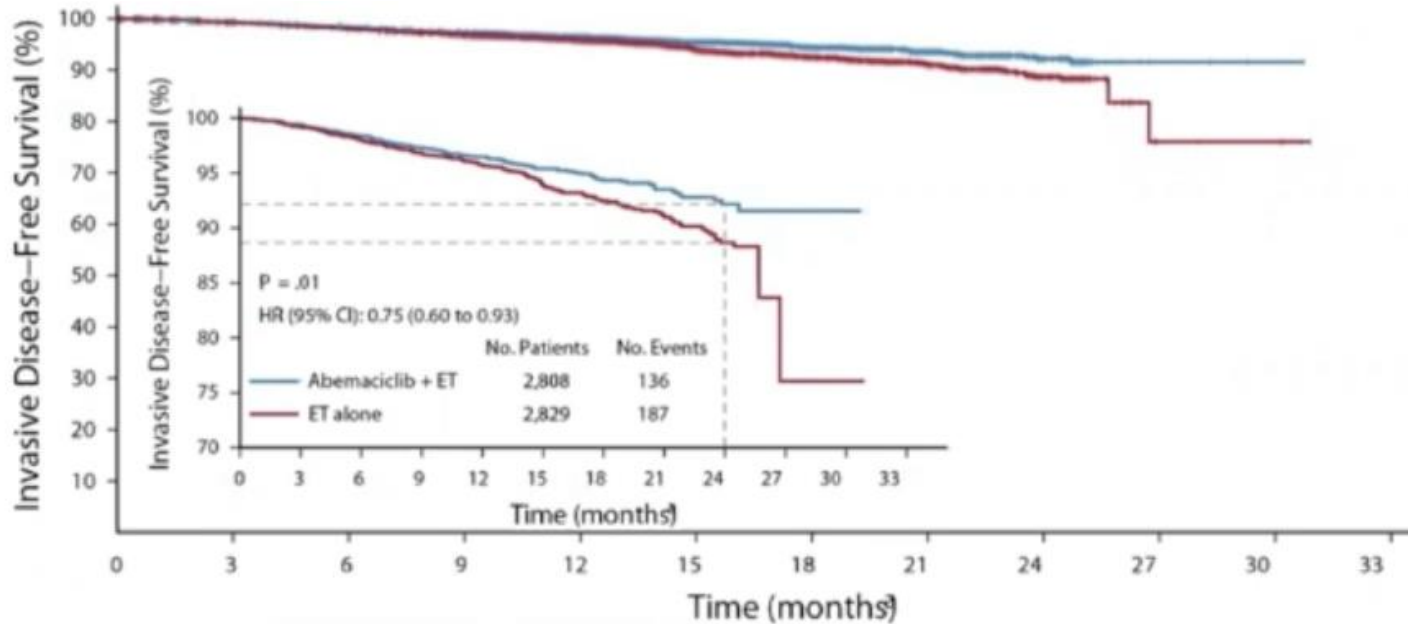
# N+

- Ki67>20%
- N+
- Genomic testing
- Chemo-refractory
- Follow up
- BRCA

# monarchE N+

|                                 |                | Abemaciclib + ET<br>N=2808, % | ET Alone<br>N=2829, % |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Age                             | Median (range) | 51 (23-89)                    | 51 (22-86)            |
| Age categories                  | <65 years      | 84.4                          | 85.4                  |
| Gender                          | Female         | 99.3                          | 99.5                  |
| Menopausal Status <sup>1</sup>  | Premenopausal  | 43.5                          | 43.5                  |
|                                 | Postmenopausal | 56.5                          | 56.5                  |
| Prior Chemotherapy <sup>1</sup> | Neoadjuvant    | 37.0                          | 37.0                  |
|                                 | Adjuvant       | 58.5                          | 58.2                  |
|                                 | None           | 4.5                           | 4.7                   |
| Baseline ECOG PS                | 0              | 85.7                          | 83.8                  |
| Pathologic Tumor Size           | <2 cm          | 27.8                          | 27.1                  |
|                                 | 2 - 5 cm       | 48.9                          | 50.2                  |
|                                 | ≥5 cm          | 21.6                          | 21.6                  |
| Number of Positive Lymph Nodes  | 1-3            | 39.8                          | 40.4                  |
|                                 | ≥4             | 59.9                          | 59.6                  |
| Histological Grade              | Grade 1        | 7.4                           | 7.6                   |
|                                 | Grade 2        | 49.0                          | 49.3                  |
|                                 | Grade 3        | 38.7                          | 37.6                  |
| Central Ki-67                   | <20%           | 33.9                          | 34.4                  |
|                                 | ≥20%           | 44.9                          | 43.6                  |
|                                 | Unavailable    | 21.1                          | 21.8                  |

# monarchE target population



Lower prevalence

Higher prevalence

# N+ varies according with HR/HER2

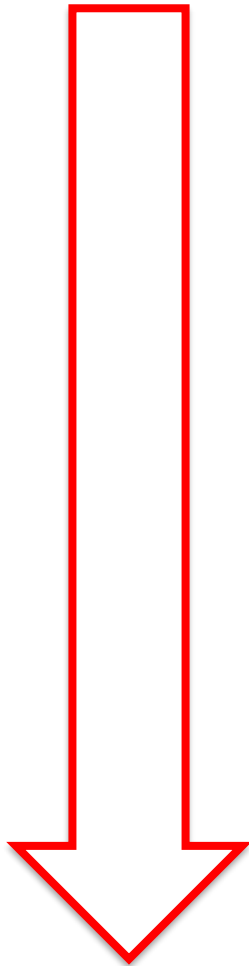
MSKCC 1998-2010 N 11.496

|             | HR+/HER2-  | HR+ HER2+ | HR-/HER2+ | TN         |
|-------------|------------|-----------|-----------|------------|
| N (%)       | 8440 (73%) | 915 (8%)  | 621 (5%)  | 1520 (13%) |
| Mean T size | 1.6 cm     | 1.6 cm    | 1.7 cm    | 1.7 cm     |
| N+          | 25%        | 32%       | 36%       | 28%        |
| N+ > 4      | 9%         | 16%       | 22%       | 13%        |

# The risk of pN+ in cN0 & neg US

|            | SOUND   | INSEMA |
|------------|---------|--------|
| N          | 146     | 1001   |
| Median Age | 82%>50y | 61y    |
| HR+        | 88%     | 97%    |
| G3         | -       | 5%     |
| SN macro   | 8.6%    | 14%    |
| N+>3       | 0.5%    | 1.3%   |

# Can we omit ALND in eBC ?



1970: ALND

1990: SN for N0

2000: SN + RT for N+

2011: SN+ w/o ALND

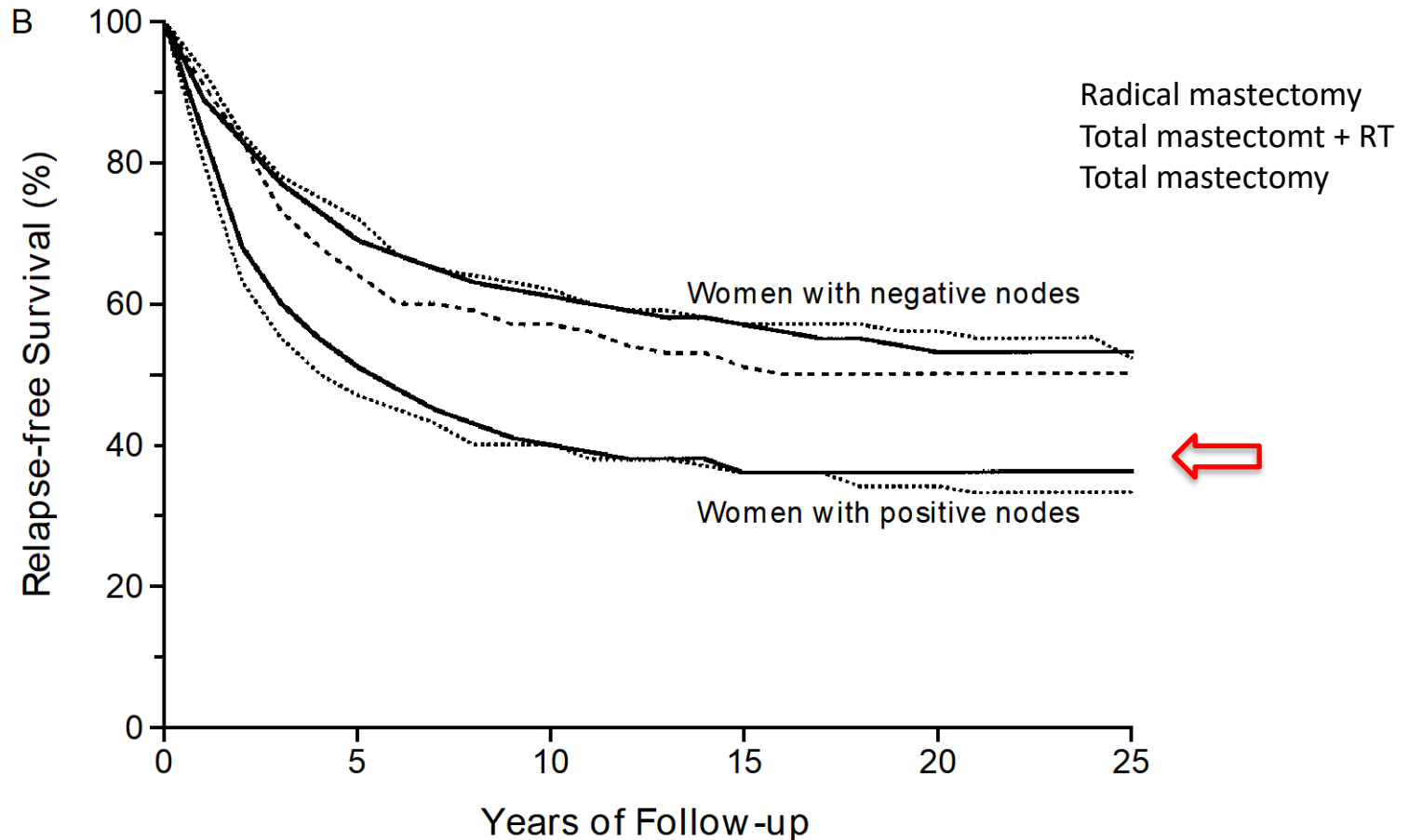
2022: ALND omission ?

# ALND historical beliefs

- Survival benefit
- Loco-regional disease control
- Staging/Adj Rx indication

# ALND does not improve BC survival

NSABP B04



No differences among the 2 groups of pN+ pts receiving or not ALND



# ALND historical beliefs

- Survival benefit
- Loco-regional disease control
- Staging/Adj Rx indication

# Rate of LRR w/o ALND

## IBCSG 10-93

N 473 pts; median Age 74 (eligible >60y and cN0)

42% T>2cm

80% ER+, all received TAM

45% mastectomy, 33% BCS + RT, 23% BCS

**cN0, median follow up 6.6y**

### Axillary First Events

ALND n = 239 (28% N+)

2 (1%)

No ALND n = 239

6 (3%)

p=NS

# ALND historical beliefs

- Survival benefit
- Loco-regional disease control
- Staging/Adj Rx indication

# Is ALND necessary for the choice of optimal adjuvant RX?

## HR+/HER2-

(NCCN 2020/St Gallen 2021)

| T1ab N0 | T1c N0               | N+1-3 nodes          | N+>3 nodes |
|---------|----------------------|----------------------|------------|
| ET      | ET/CT (genomic test) | ET/CT (genomic test) | ET/CT      |

Menopausal status matters

# Genomic testing

- Ki67>20%
- N+
- Genomic testing
- Chemo-refractory
- Follow up
- BRCA

# The role of ALND according to RxPONDER in pre-menop

- Nodal mets indicate the need for CT regardless of RS (sufficit SLNB pN0 vs pN1)

Axillary staging with SLNB is crucial

No strict need for ALND

# The role of ALND according to RxPONDER in post-menop

- 37% of pts SLB+ only. No trend for CT benefit as number of nodes involved increased (1 vs 2-3)

Axillary staging with SLNB is crucial  
Unfavorable risk/benefit ratio for ALND

# The role of ALND according to monarchE

- In pts at higher risk of additional pos nodes not meeting criteria for 1-3N+ (T>5cm, G3, Ki67>20%)

Then, ALND can be selectively performed





# Regione Lombardia

## LA GIUNTA

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DELIBERAZIONE N° XI / 1986

Seduta del 23/07/2019

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Per le paz HR+/HER2- a rischio intermedio per le quali il clinico potrebbe porre una indicazione a chemioterapia adiuvante.

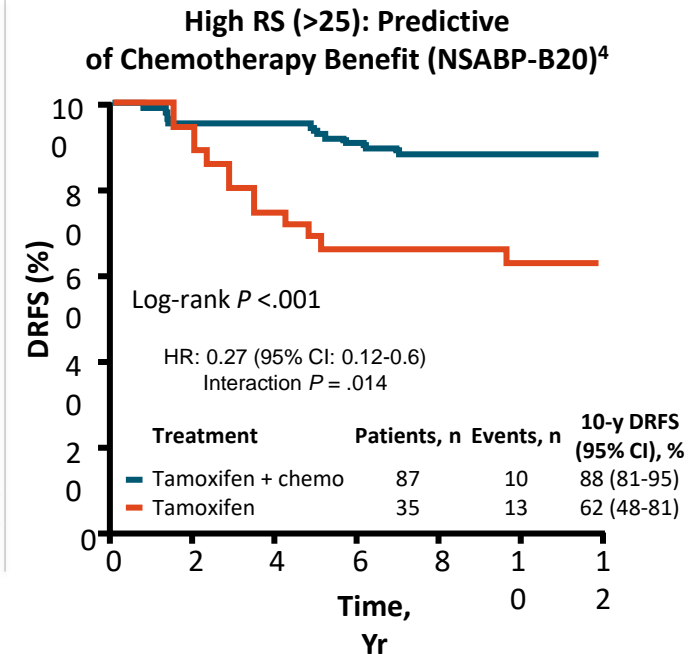
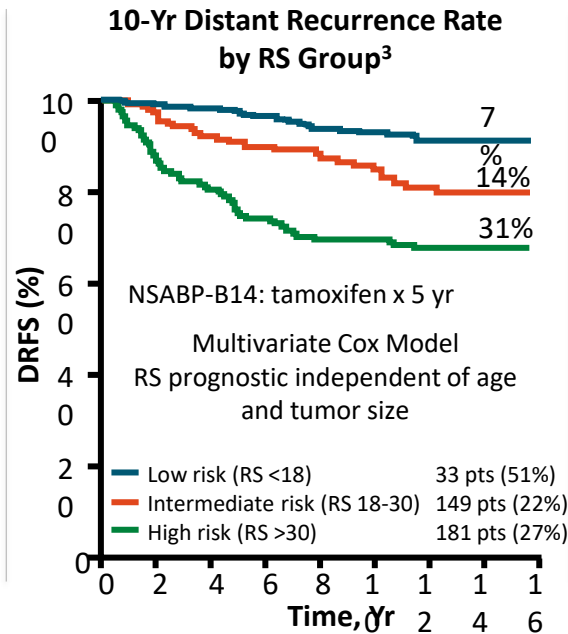
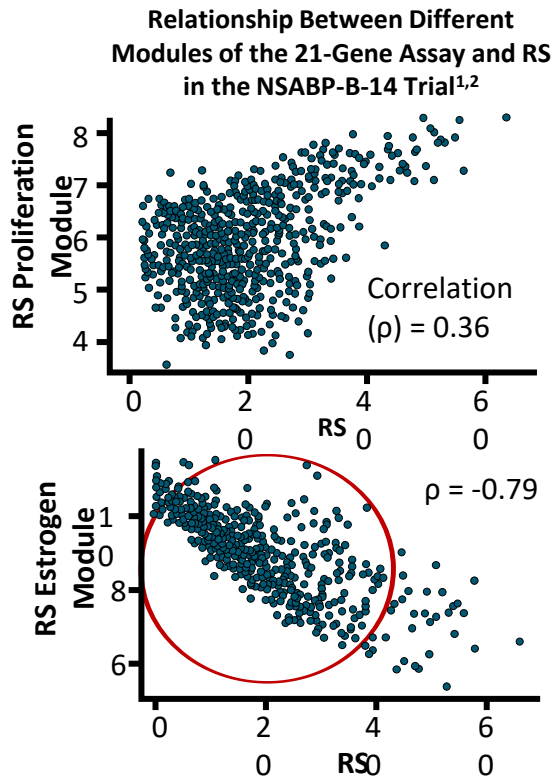
Vengono, pertanto, escluse dalla possibilità di effettuare il test gratuitamente tutte le pazienti a basso rischio, per le quali è indicata la sola ormonoterapia, e ad alto rischio per le quali è indicata l'associazione ormonoterapia- chemioterapia.

Le pazienti a basso e ad alto rischio sono definite in base alle caratteristiche descritte nella tabella seguente:

| <b>Basso rischio: almeno 4 delle seguenti caratteristiche</b> | <b>Alto rischio: almeno 4 delle seguenti caratteristiche</b> |
|---|--|
| G1  | G3   |
| T1 (a-b)  | T3-4   |
| Ki 67<15%   | Ki 67>30%  |
| ER>80%  | ER<30%   |
| N 0   | N positivo   |

La stima delle pazienti lombarde che usufruiranno della prestazione è pari a circa 1500 pazienti/anno con possibile riduzione in circa il 50%-75% dei casi del ricorso a chemioterapia.

# Prospective Validation of the 21-Gene RS Assay for Prognosis and Prediction: Level 1B Evidence in ER+/Node- EBC

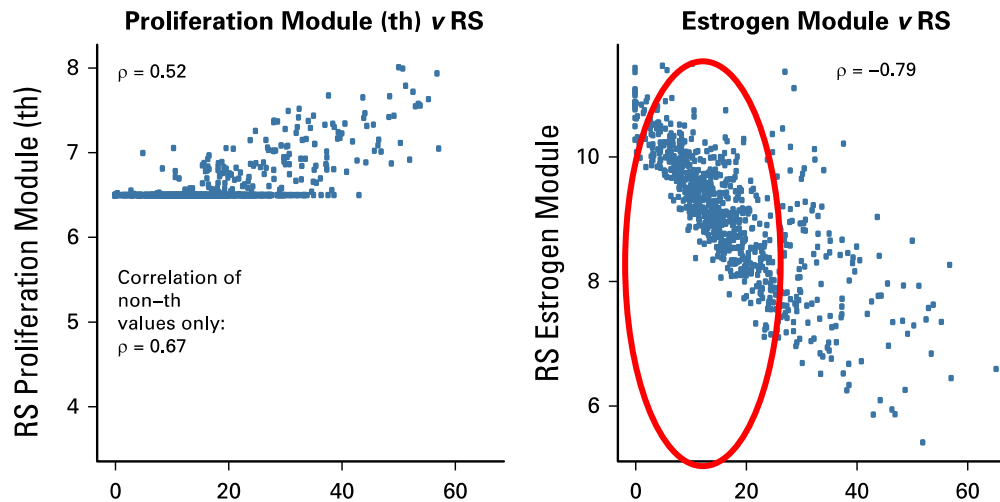


1. Paik. ASCO 2005. Abstr 510. 2. Buus. JCO. 2021;39:126. 3. Paik. NEJM. 2004;351:2817.

2. 4. Geyer. NPJ Breast Cancer. 2018;4:37.

# RS gene module

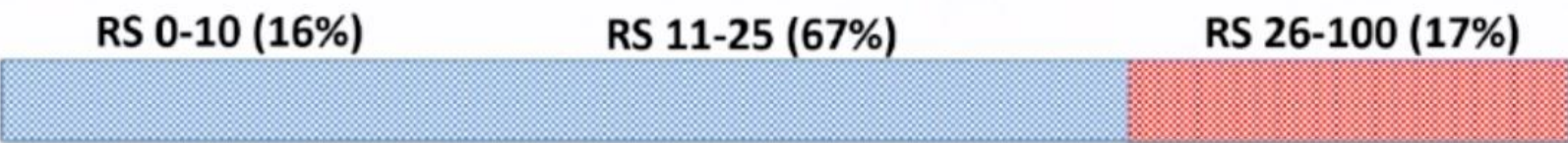
The prevalence of ER module in case of RS low while a prevalence of proliferation module in case of high RS



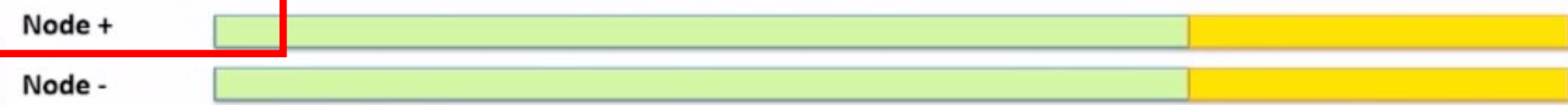
The score from the proliferation module is thresholded

# 21-gene RS assay clinical practice implication

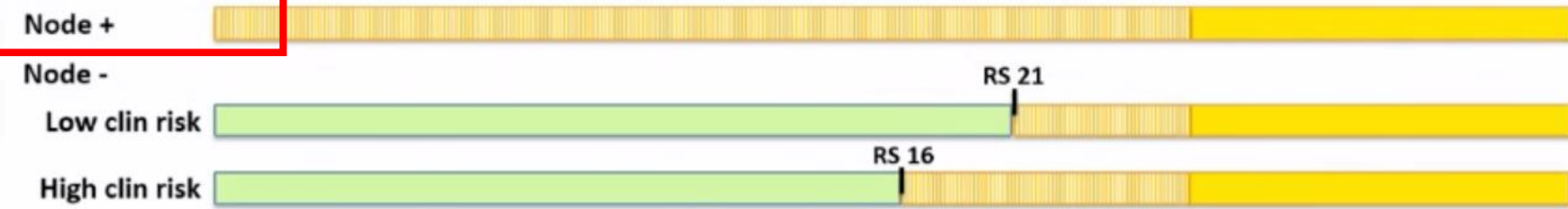
Adjuvant chemotherapy decision making in "luminal BC" with up to 3 positive nodes  
 What will I do on Monday ?



**Postmenopausal**



**Premenopausal**



Endocrine therapy

Chemotherapy

Chemotherapy (discuss OFS + AI as an alternative)



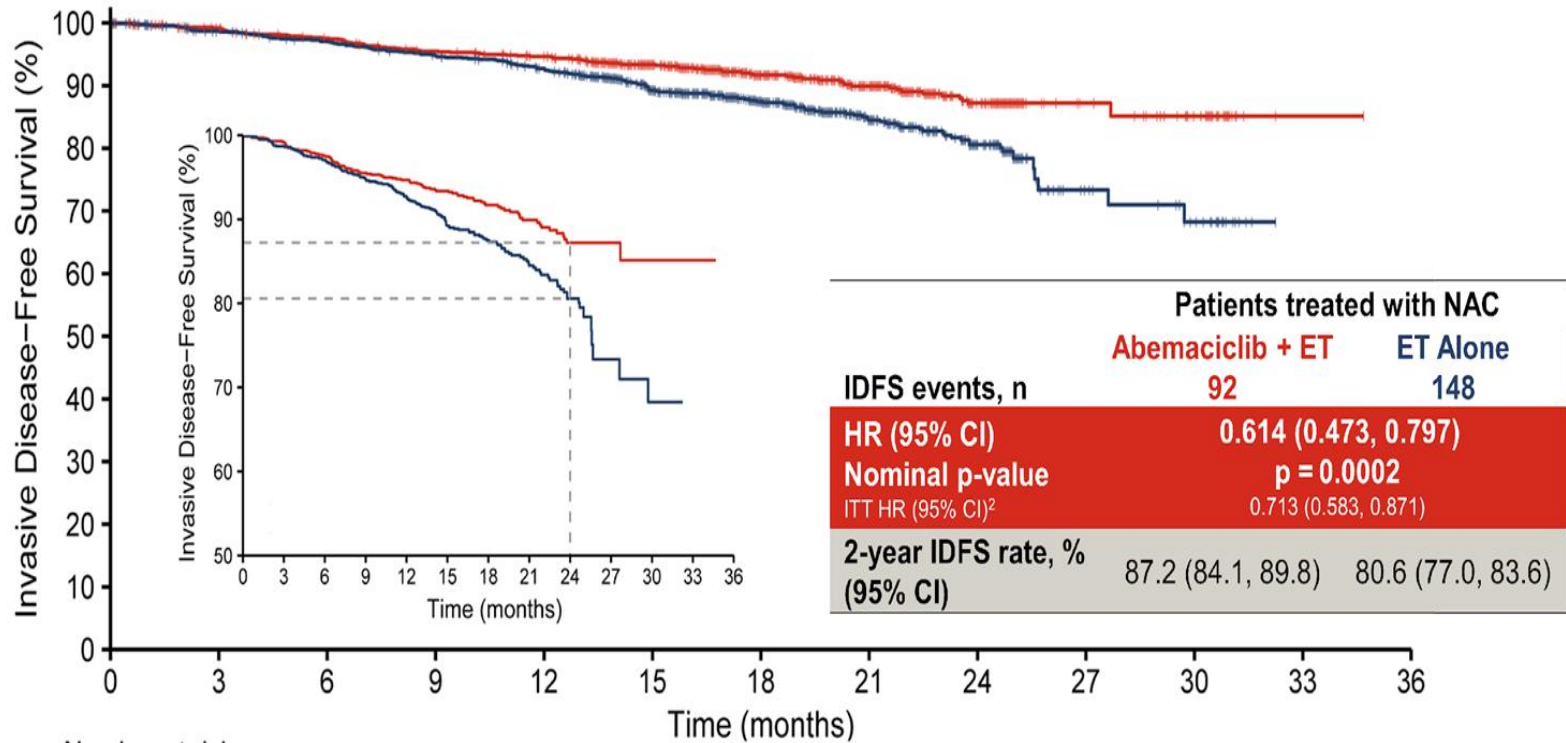
# CT refractory

- Ki67>20%
- N+
- Genomic testing
- Chemo-refractory
- Follow up
- BRCA

# Baseline Characteristics

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# IDFS in Patients Who Received NAC

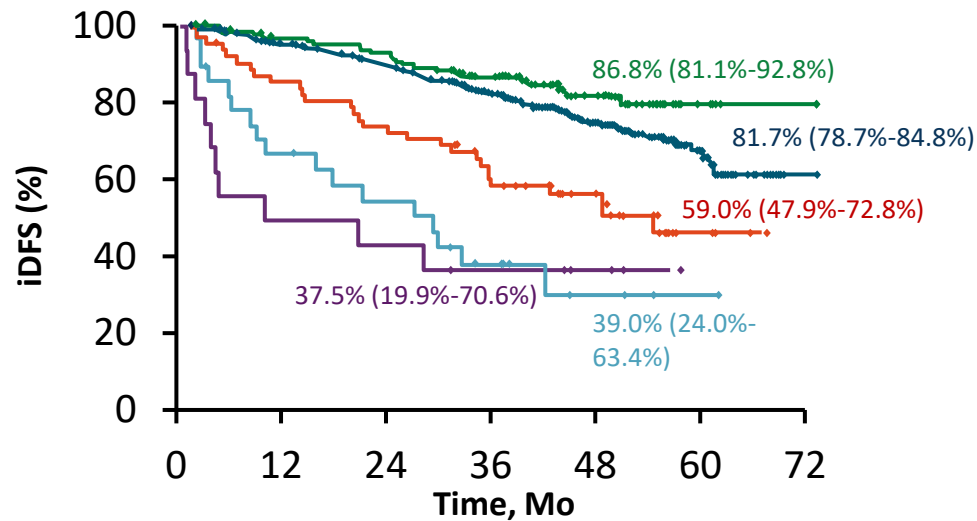


|                | 0    | 3   | 6   | 9   | 12  | 15  | 18  | 21  | 24  | 27 | 30 | 33 | 36 |
|----------------|------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Abemaciclib+ET | 1025 | 976 | 948 | 922 | 904 | 728 | 500 | 347 | 203 | 43 | 29 | 1  | 0  |
| ET Alone       | 1031 | 971 | 948 | 923 | 891 | 717 | 499 | 334 | 194 | 33 | 23 | 0  | 0  |

**Clinically meaningful improvement in IDFS – 38.6% reduction in the risk of developing an IDFS event**  
**Two-year IDFS rates were 87.2% in the abemaciclib + ET arm and 80.6% in the ET arm – 6.6% difference**

<sup>2</sup>Rastogi P. et al. SABCS 2020; presentation number GS1-01

# PENELOPE-B: iDFS by Absolute Intrinsic Molecular Subtyping



- Gene expression data:  
906 of 1250 patients (72%)
  - 663 LumA
  - 64 LumB
  - 135 NormL
  - 16 BasalL and 28 HER2E

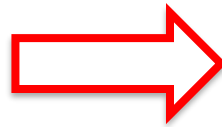


# Chemorefractory

Not to add but to replace



+

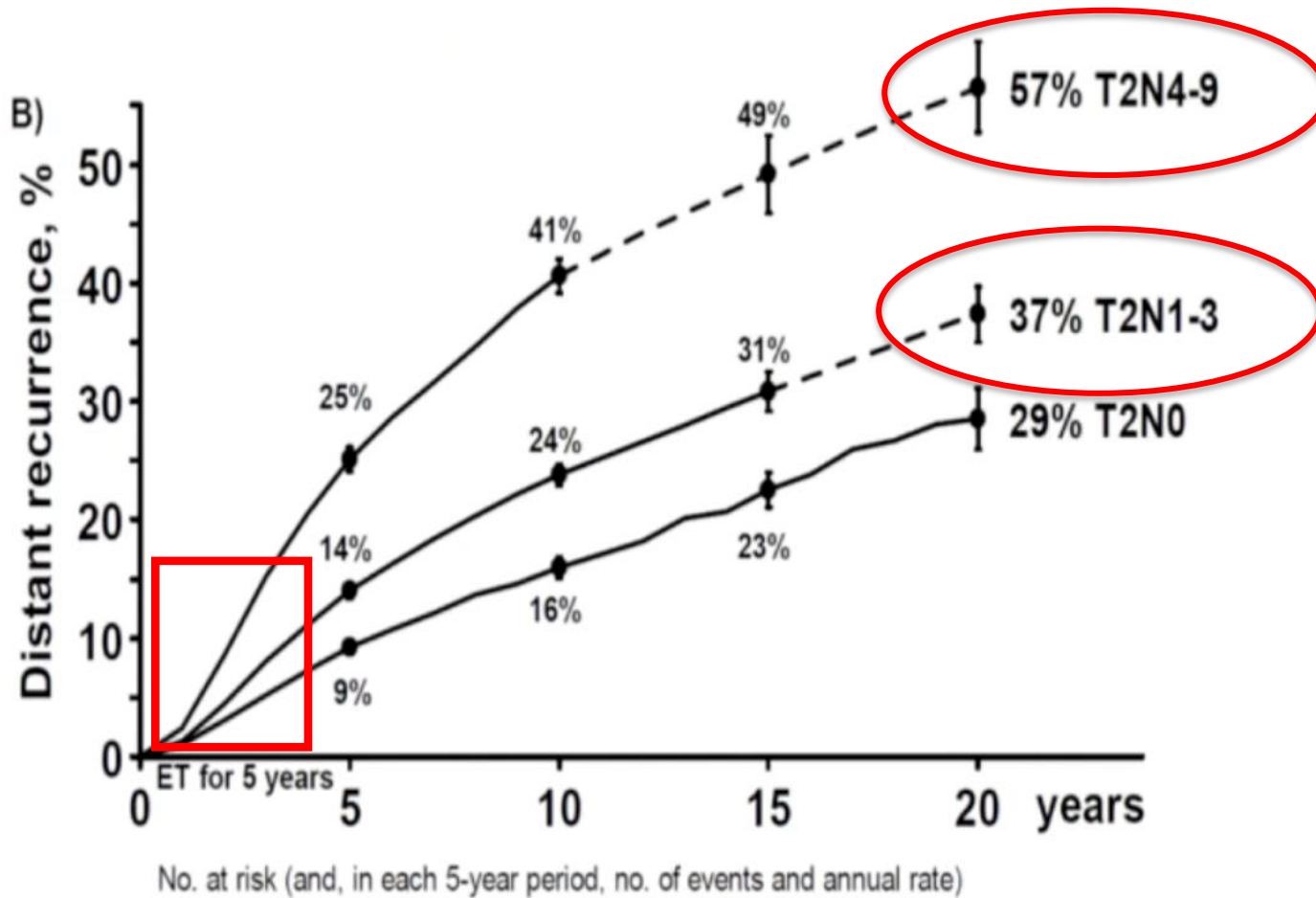


The real challenge has not yet begun

# FU

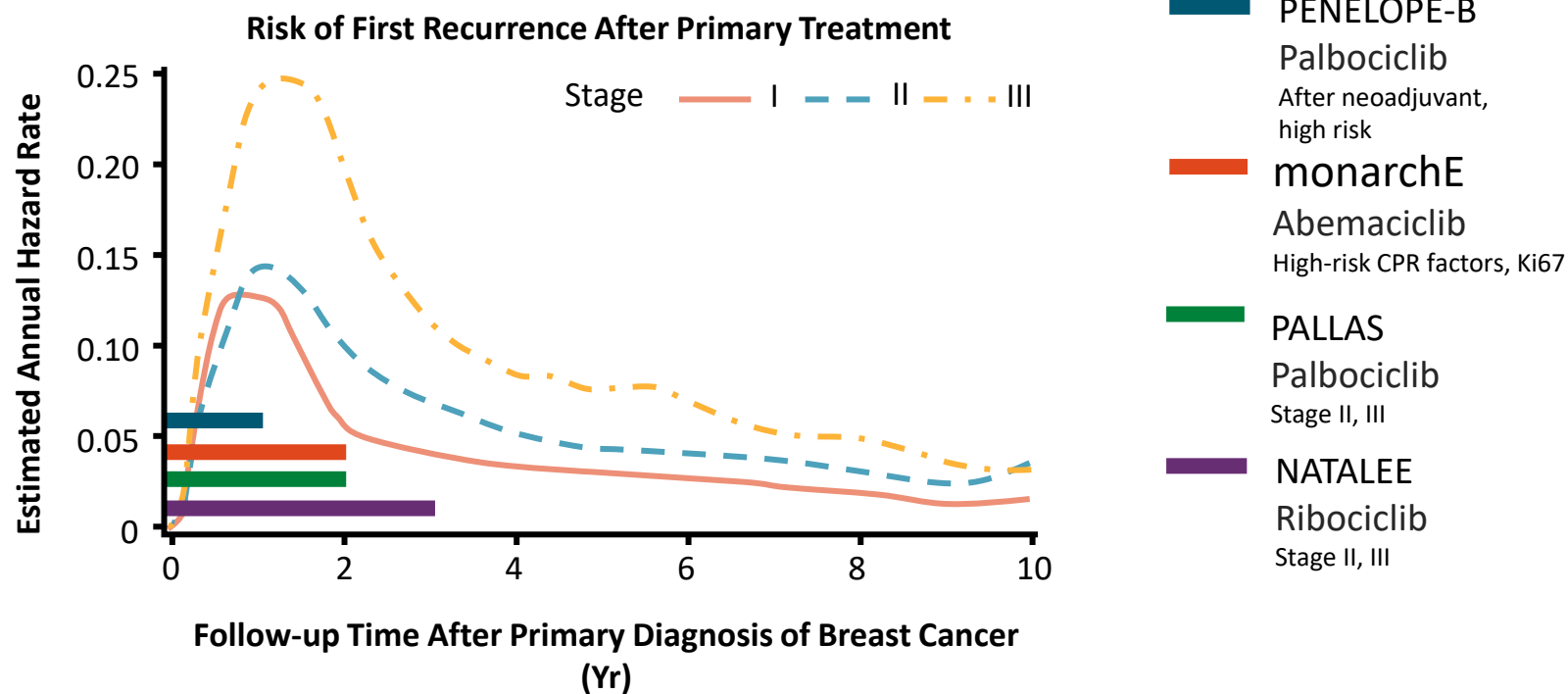
- Ki67>20%
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# Follow Up



Does the treatment duration matter?

# Abemaciclib in the context

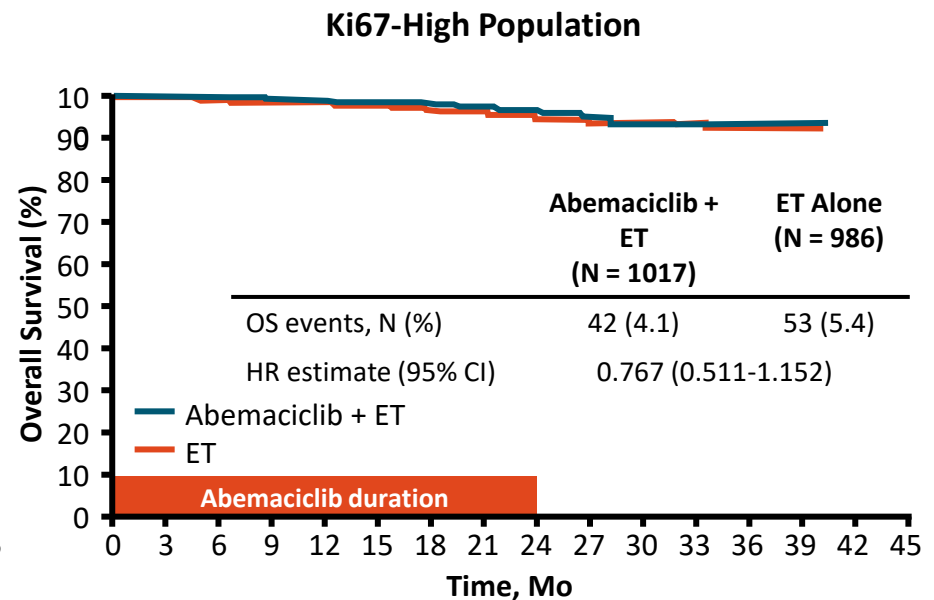
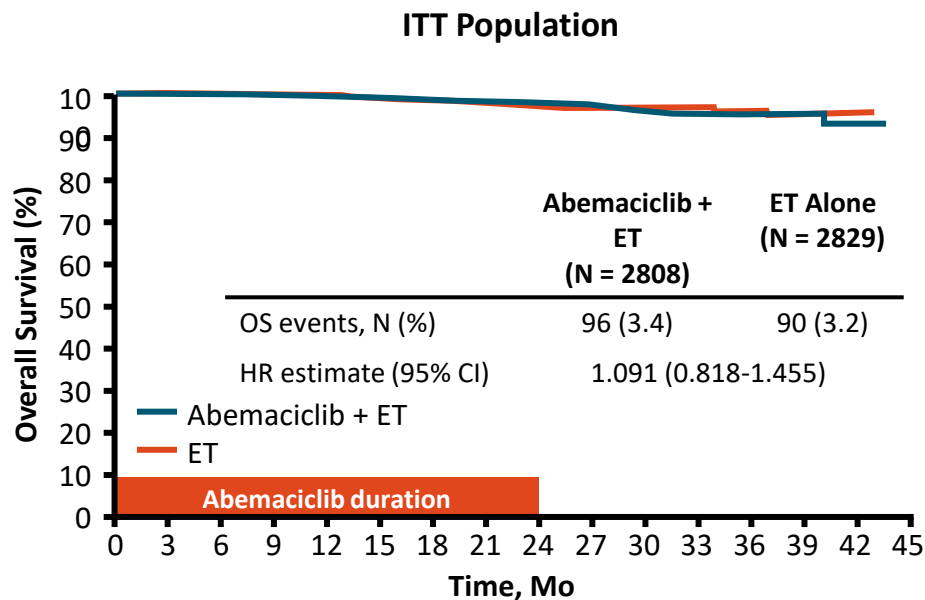


# monarchE: Abemaciclib Treatment Effect Over Time

| Analysis Landmark | iDFS (Events)  |              |                     | DRFS (Events)  |              |                     |
|-------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|----------------|--------------|---------------------|
|                   | Abema + ET (n) | ET Alone (n) | HR (95% CI)         | Abema + ET (n) | ET Alone (n) | HR (95% CI)         |
| Yr 0-1            | 93             | 116          | 0.795 (0.589-1.033) | 67             | 91           | 0.732 (0.520-0.987) |
| Yr 1-2            | 98             | 146          | 0.681 (0.523-0.869) | 85             | 129          | 0.675 (0.507-0.875) |
| Yr 2→             | 41             | 71           | 0.596 (0.397-0.855) | 39             | 58           | 0.692 (0.448-1.032) |

- From Yr 1 to Yr 2: iDFS and DRFS increased in the magnitude of effect size
- Yr 2 and beyond: maintained treatment benefit

# monarchE: Preliminary Overall Survival Results

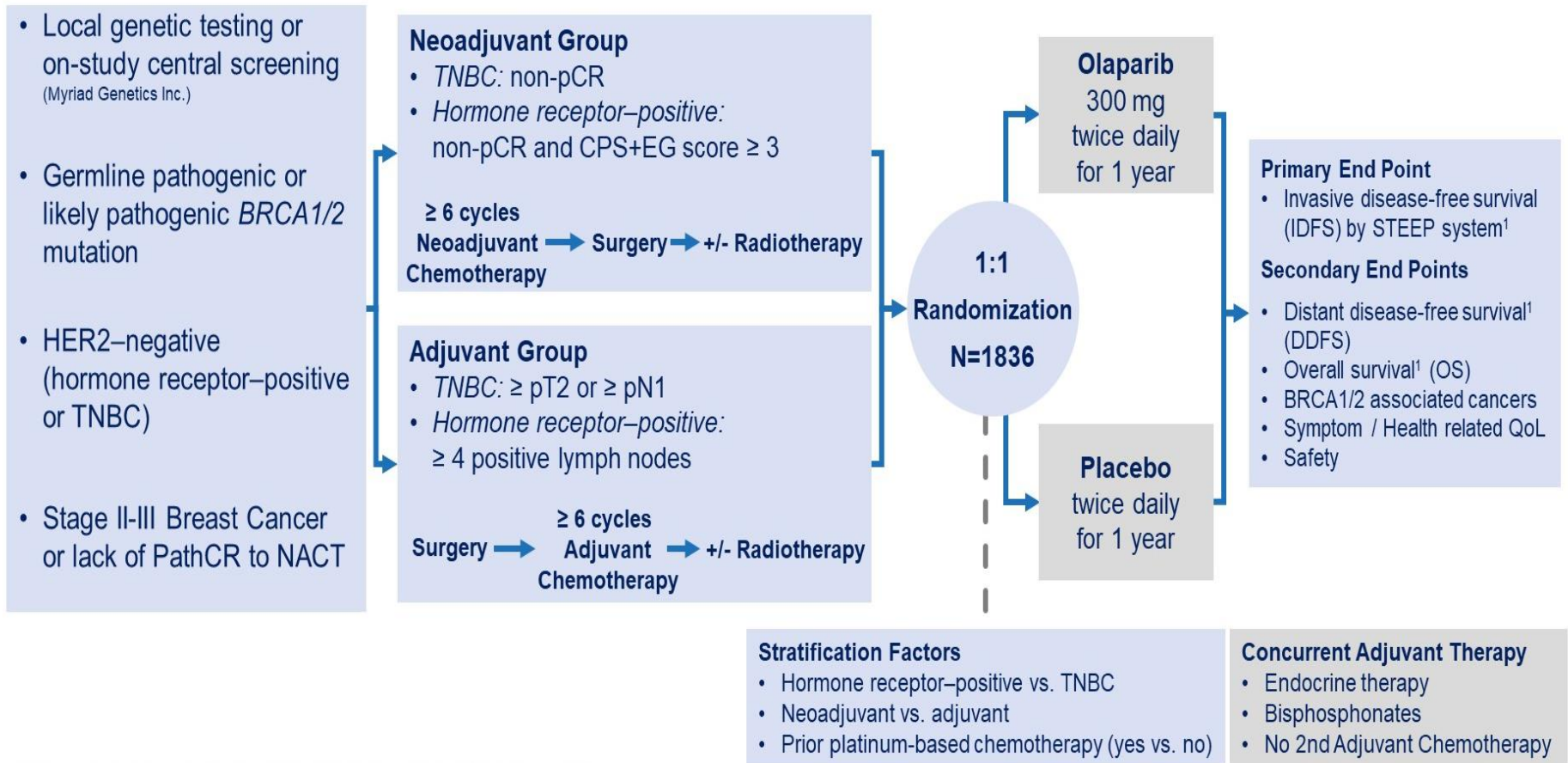


- Death rate was similar in both treatment arms: 3.4% vs 3.2%

# BRCA

- Ki67>20%
- N+
- Genomic testing
- Chemo-refractory
- Follow up
- BRCA

# OlympiA trial design



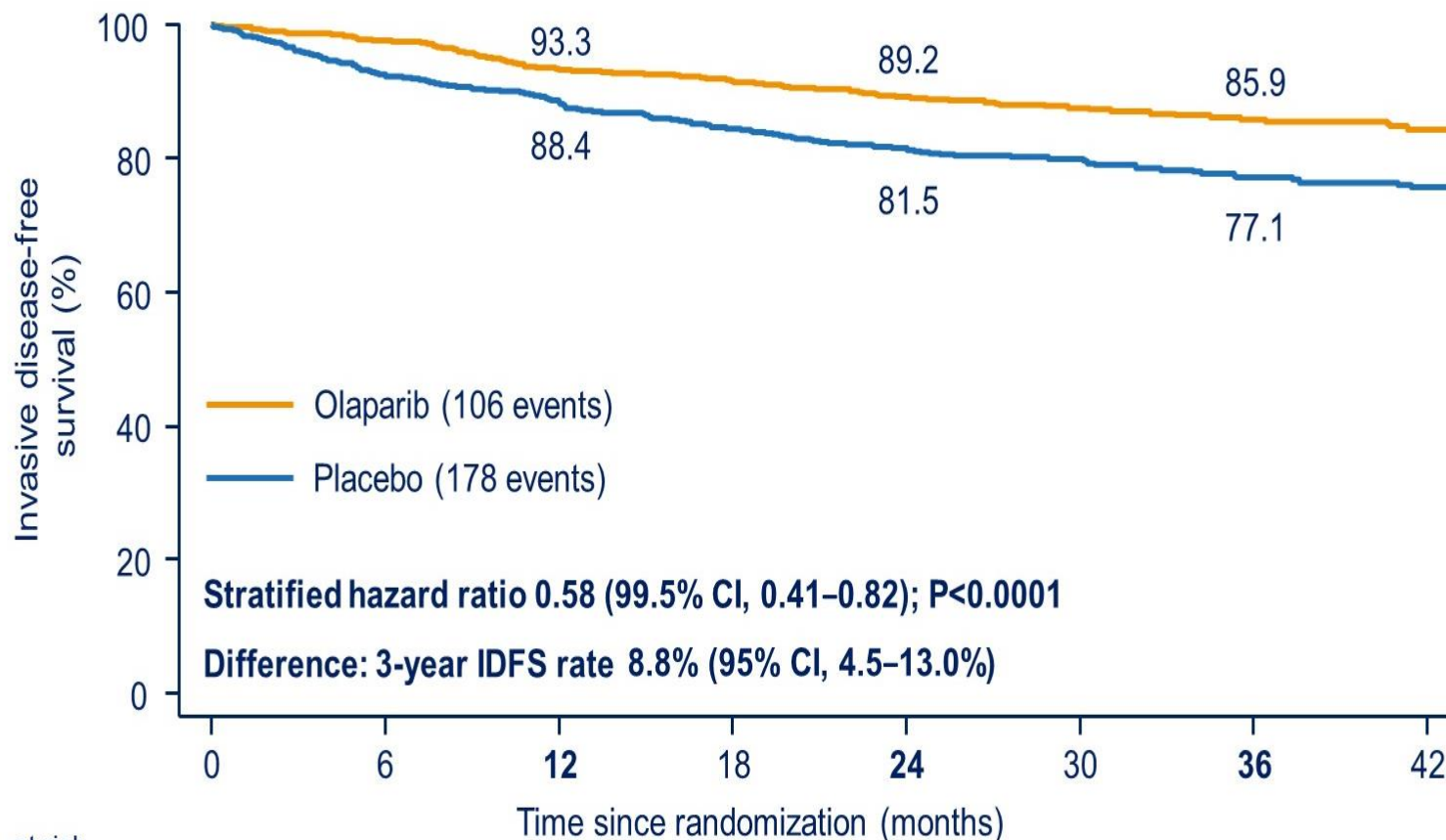
Hormone receptor +ve defined as ER and/or PgR positive (IHC staining  $\geq 1\%$ )

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

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



# OlympiA results



No. at risk

|          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
|----------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Olaparib | 921 | 820 | 737 | 607 | 477 | 361 | 276 | 183 |
| Placebo  | 915 | 807 | 732 | 585 | 452 | 353 | 256 | 173 |