



SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA-ROMAGNA  
Azienda Ospedaliero - Universitaria di Bologna



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITÀ DI BOLOGNA



mamazones

## PROJEKT DIPLOMPATIENTIN

mamazone  
Frauen und Forschung gegen Brustkrebs <sup>EO</sup>  
Donne e ricerca contro il tumore al seno <sup>ODV</sup>

### 14<sup>a</sup> Conferenza sul tumore al seno DIPLOMPATIENTIN<sup>®</sup>

„Paziente diplomata“ - un seminario per donne con e senza tumore al seno

**Sabato, 16 ottobre 2021, ore 9.00 - 14.00**

EURAC - Viale Druso 1, Bolzano

# Studio PONS – KRONOS Stato di avanzamento

Claudio Zamagni  
Direttore Oncologia Medica Addarii  
Policlinico S. Orsola-Malpighi  
Bologna



## 2014 Augsburg presentation



mamazones  
**PROJEKT**

**DIPLOMPATIENTIN**

Patientenkongress im Klinikum Augsburg

**INFORMIEREN ERKENNEN HANDELN**  
Eine Fortbildung von Frauen mit Brustkrebs für  
Frauen mit Brustkrebs und ihre Ärzte

# PONS-Nachsorgestudie – Wiedergutmachung einer alten italienischen Sünde

**KRONOS PONS-Study Italy- Making up for an old Italian fault**

# KRONOS PONS-S Italy

Submission to Ethical Committee: June 19, 2014

Ethical Committee Approval : August 1, 2014

S.Orsola-Malpighi Director Authorization: August 13, 2014

Study activation: Oct 21, 2014

First pt enrolled October 23, 2014

# The Fault

## Impact of Follow-up Testing on Survival and Health-Related Quality of Life in Breast Cancer Patients

A Multicenter Randomized Controlled Trial

The GIVIO Investigators

*(JAMA. 1994;271:1587-1592)*

## Intensive Diagnostic Follow-up After Treatment of Primary Breast Cancer

A Randomized Trial

Marco Rosselli Del Turco, MD; Domenico Palli, MD; Angelo Cariddi, MD; Stefano Ciatto, MD; Paolo Pacini, MD;  
Vito Distante, MD; for the National Research Council Project on Breast Cancer Follow-up

*(JAMA. 1994;271:1593-1597)*

# Old Follow-up Italian Randomized Trials

**Control Arm (5 y)**  
(both studies)

Physical Examination q3 mo.s y 1-2; q 6 mo.s y 3-5  
Mammox q 12 mo.s

**Experimental Arm (5 y)**  
FONCaM  
**1985-1986**

As control arm +  
Chest x-Ray and Bone scan q 6 mo.s

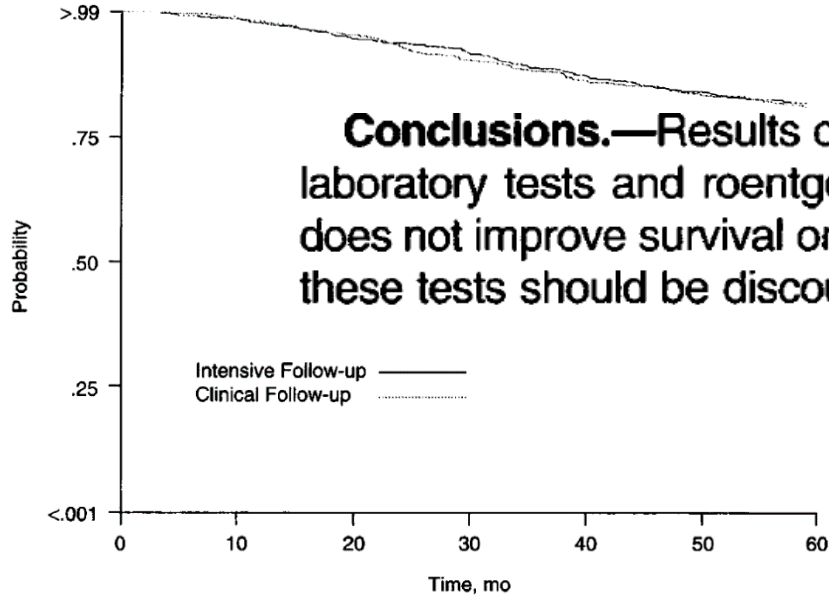
**Experimental Arm (5 y)**  
GIVIO  
**1986-1988**

As control arm +  
Chest x-Ray q 6 mo.s  
Liver US and Bone scan q 12 mo.s  
Blood tests\* q3 mo.s y 1-2 and q 6mo.s y 3-5

(\*Alkaline Phosphatase and  $\gamma$  glutamyltranspeptidase)

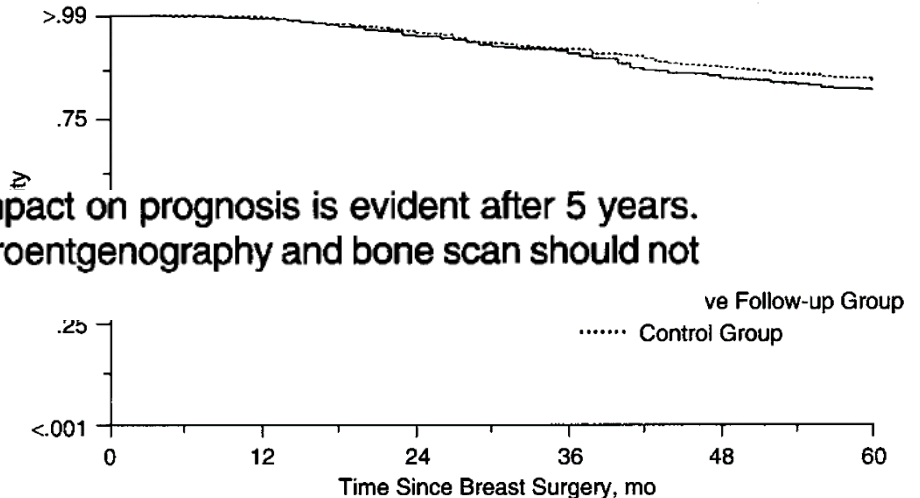
# Primary End-Point Overall Survival at 5 y in Both Trials

**Conclusions.**—Results of this trial support the view that a protocol of frequent laboratory tests and roentgenography after primary treatment for breast cancer does not improve survival or influence health-related quality of life. Routine use of these tests should be discouraged.



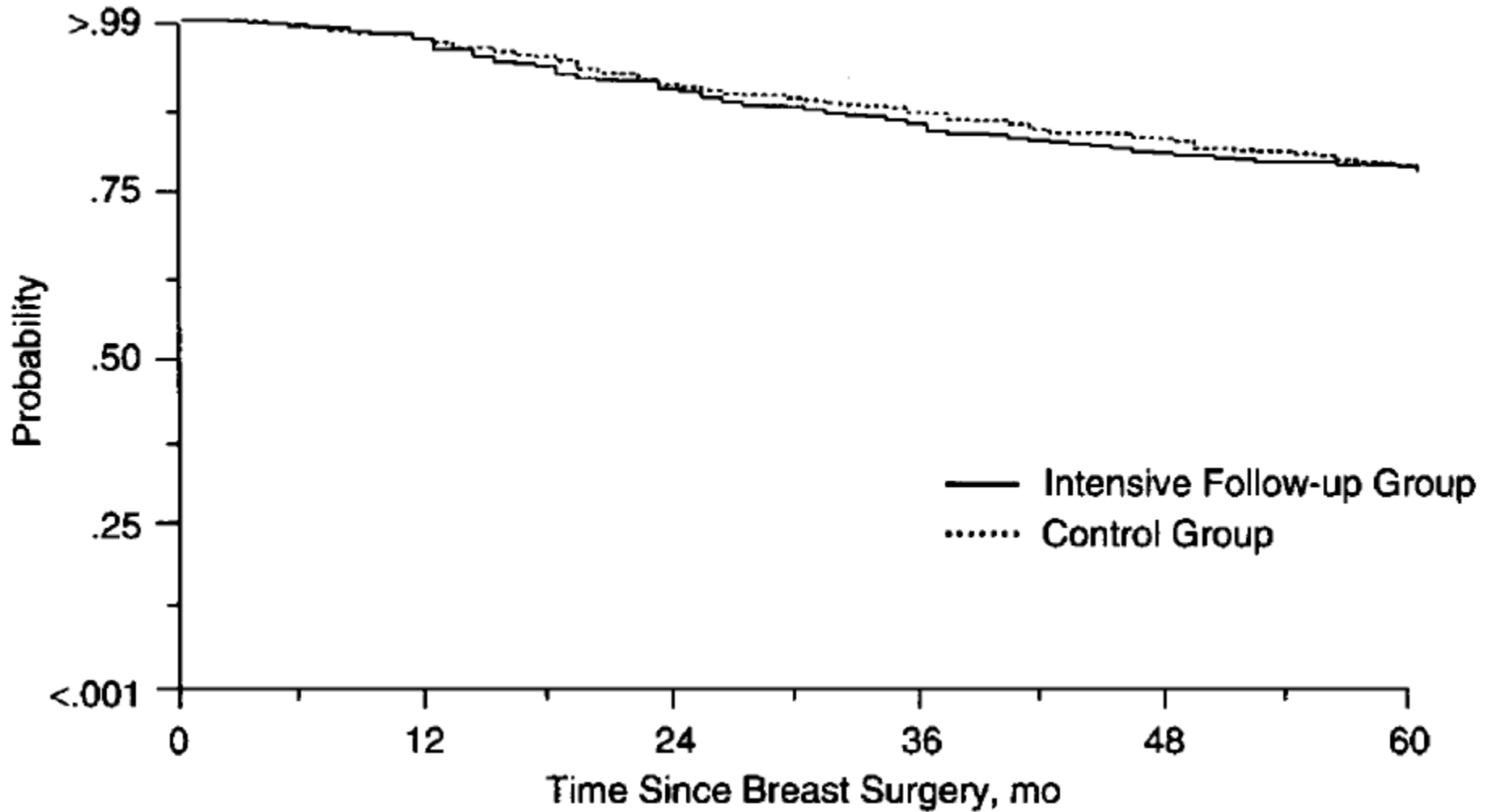
The GIVIO Investigators JAMA, 1994

No impact on prognosis is evident after 5 years. Periodic intensive follow-up with chest roentgenography and bone scan should not be recommended as a routine policy.



Rosselli del Turco M et al JAMA, 1994

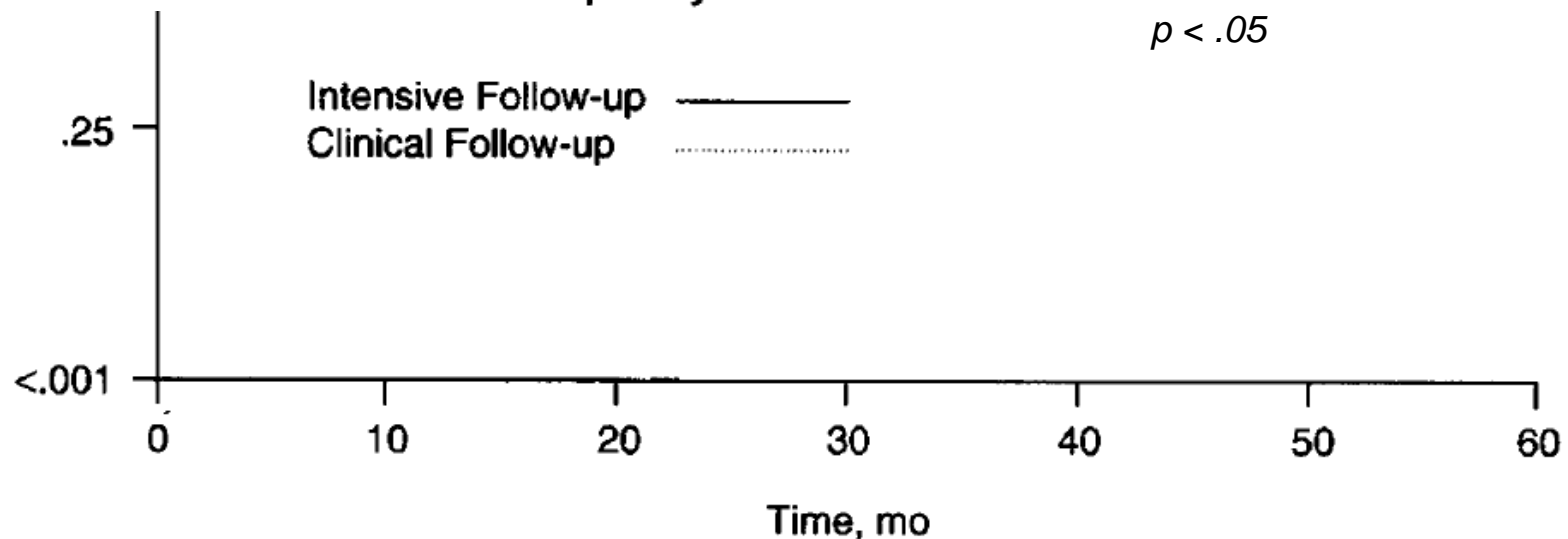
# Time to Distant Metastasis by Follow-up Regimen



## Distant Relapse-free Survival by Randomization group



**Conclusions.**—Periodic chest roentgenography and bone scan allow earlier detection of distant metastases, but anticipated diagnosis appears to be the only effect of intensive follow-up, and no impact on prognosis is evident after 5 years. Periodic intensive follow-up with chest roentgenography and bone scan should not be recommended as a routine policy.





## Follow-up strategies for women treated for early breast cancer (Review)

Rojas MPMP, Telaro E, Moschetti I, Coe L, Fossati R, Liberati A, Rosselli MDT



### Authors' conclusions

This updated review of RCTs conducted almost 20 years ago suggest that follow-up programs based on regular physical examinations and yearly mammography alone are as effective as more intensive approaches based on regular performance of laboratory and instrumental tests in terms of timeliness of recurrence detection, overall survival and quality of life.

# Asymptomatic Breast Cancer Patients Follow-up Guidelines in 2017

(23 years after the publication of the Italian Follow-up Trials)

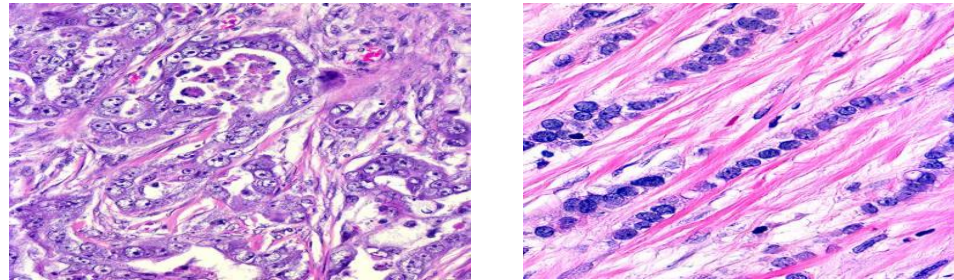
Visit /PE

Mammography

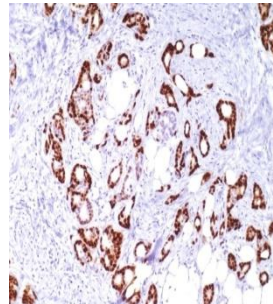
Other  
imaging  
and serum  
tumor  
markers

<b>ESMO</b>	Every 3-6 mo.s (y 1-3) 6-12 mo.s (y 4-5 y) <i>then annually</i>	12 mo.s	no
<b>ASCO</b>	Every 3-6 mo.s (y 1-3) 6-12 mo.s (y 4-5 y) <i>then annually</i>	12 mo.s	no
<b>NCCN</b>	Every 4-6 mo.s ( y 1-5) then annually	12 mo.s	no
<b>AIOM</b>	Every 3-6 mo.s ( y 1-5) then annually	12 mo.s	no

# Breast Cancer Classification in the 2 Old Italian Trials



invasive carcinoma

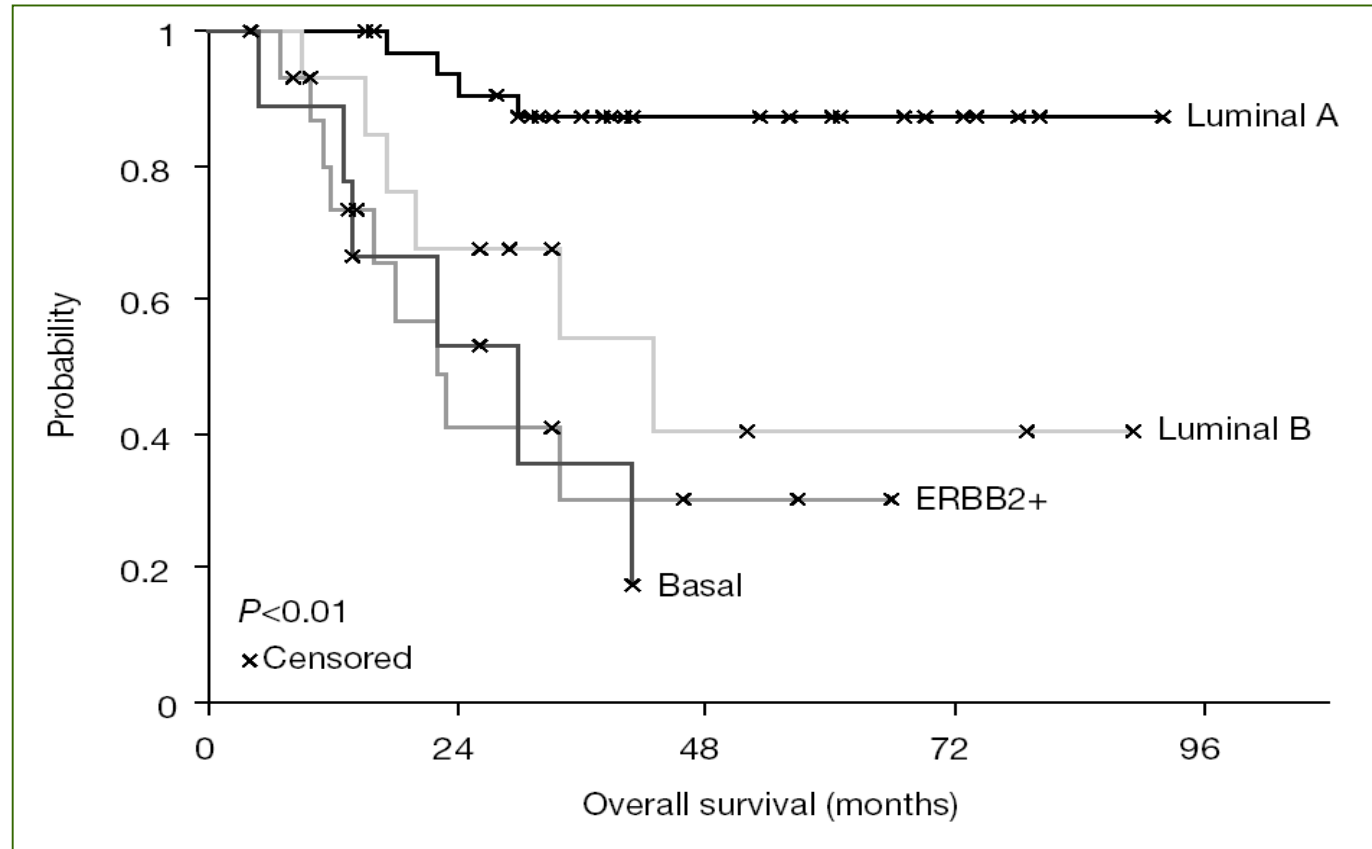
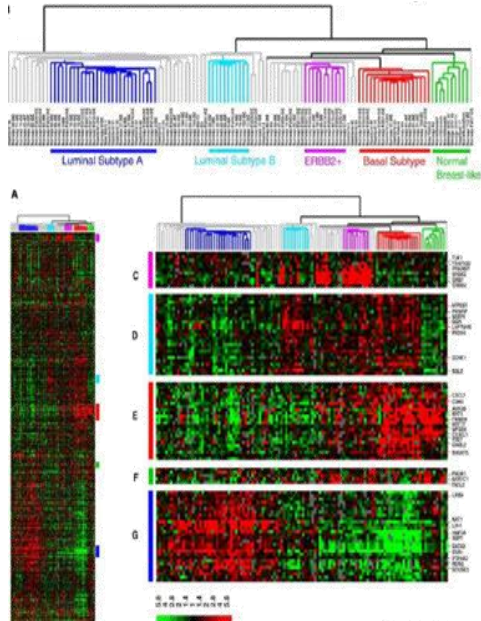


In GIVIO Trial only  
(and Unknown in 22%)

ER

# Breast Cancer Classification

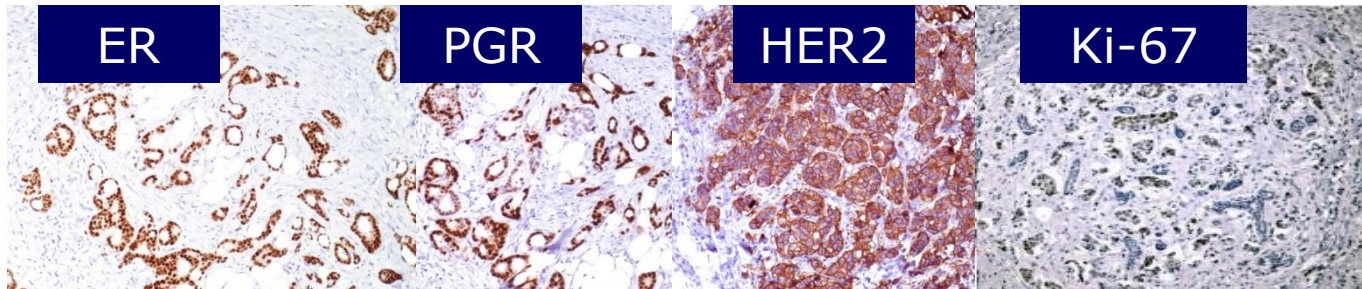
## "Breast Tumor Intrinsic" Subtype Classification



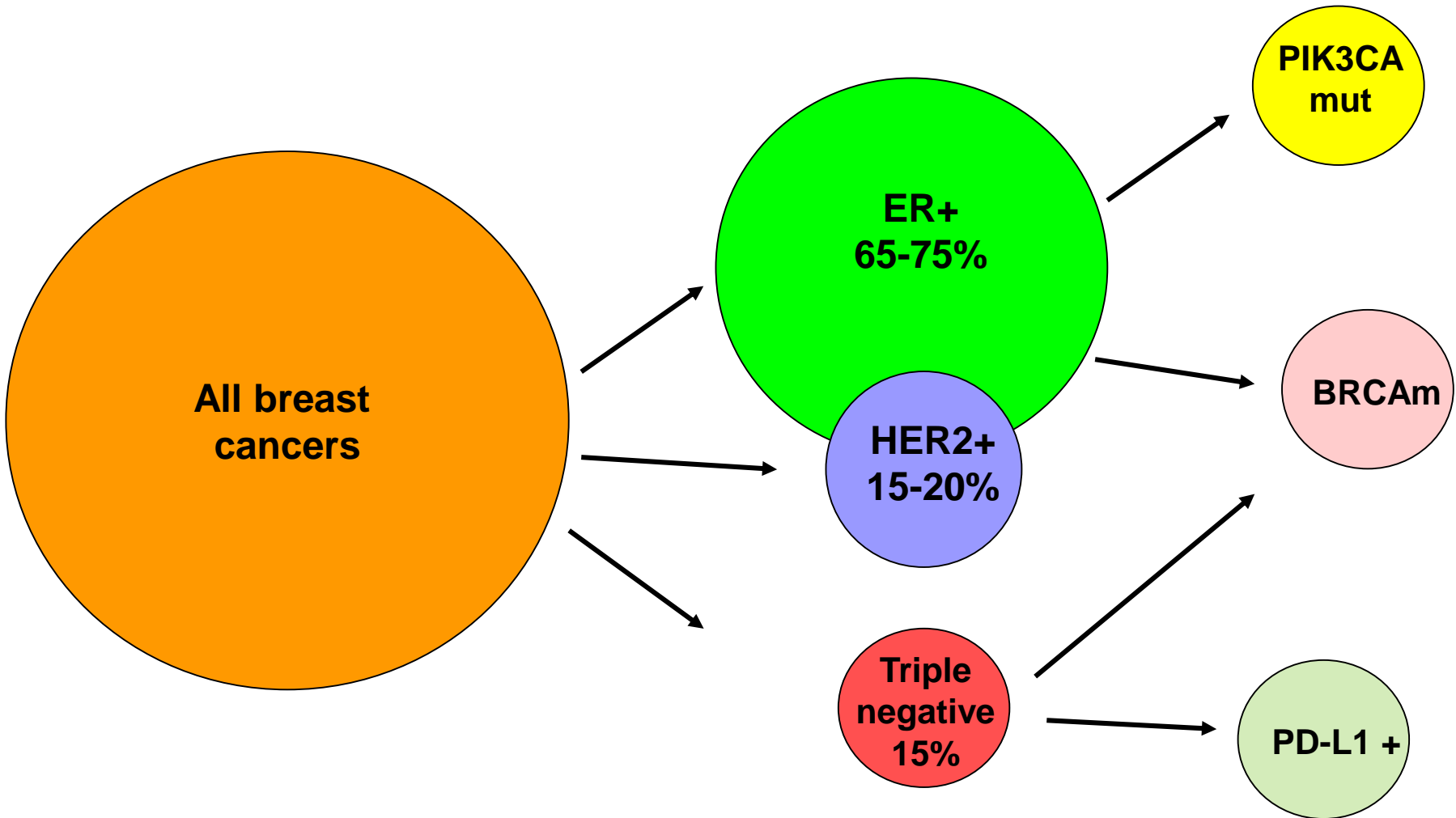
1. Luminal A
2. Luminal B
3. Normal breast-like
4. HER2
5. Basal-like

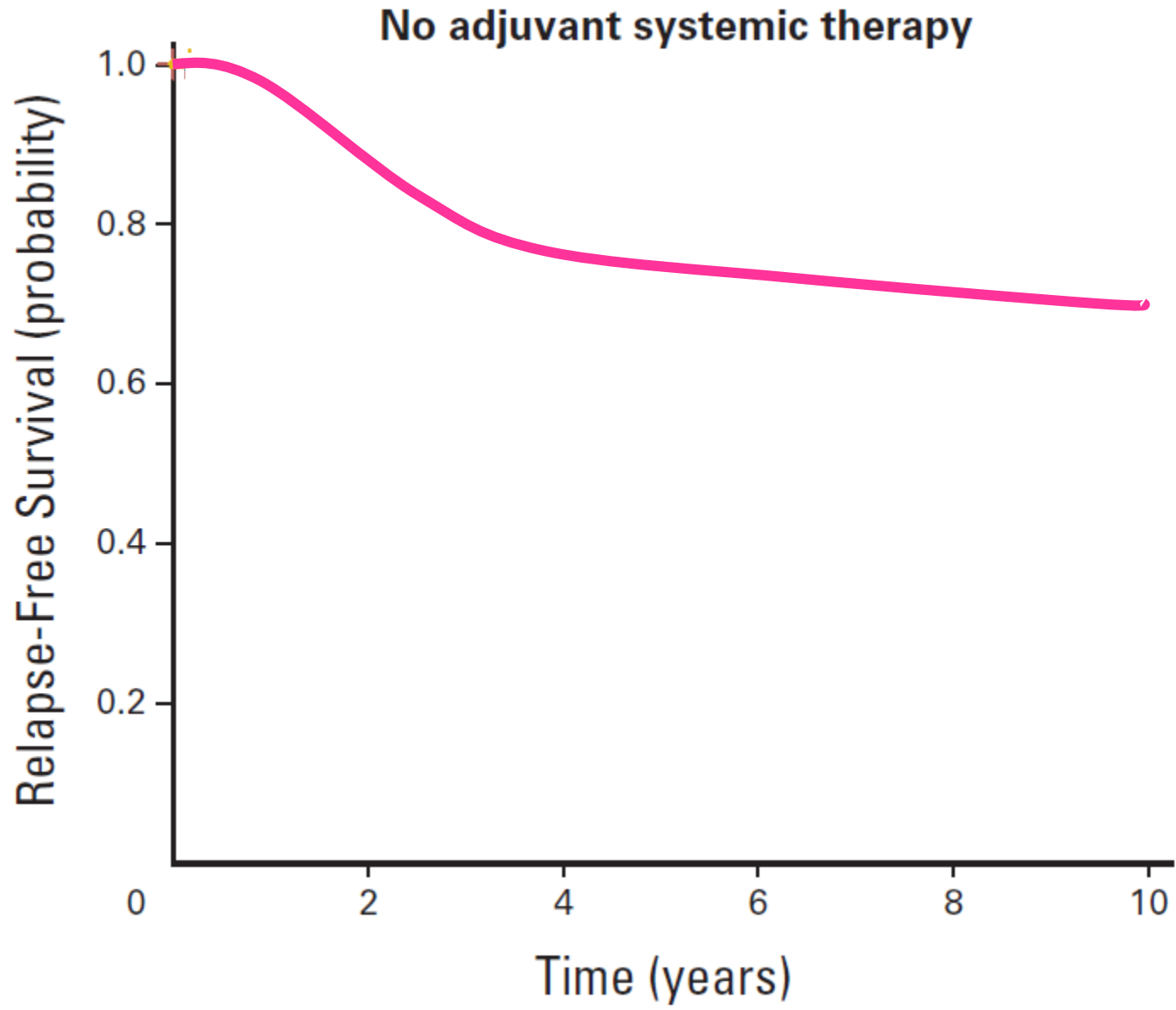
Sorlie T et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2001  
 Sorlie T, et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2003  
 Sotiriou C et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci USA 2003  
 Hu Z et al. BMC Genom 2006

Molecular subtype «like»	ER	PgR	HER2	Ki67
Luminal A	+	+	-	Low
Luminal B	+	+/-	-	High
Luminal/HER2	+	+/-	+	any
HER2 «enriched»	-	-	+	any
Triple Negative	-	-	-	any

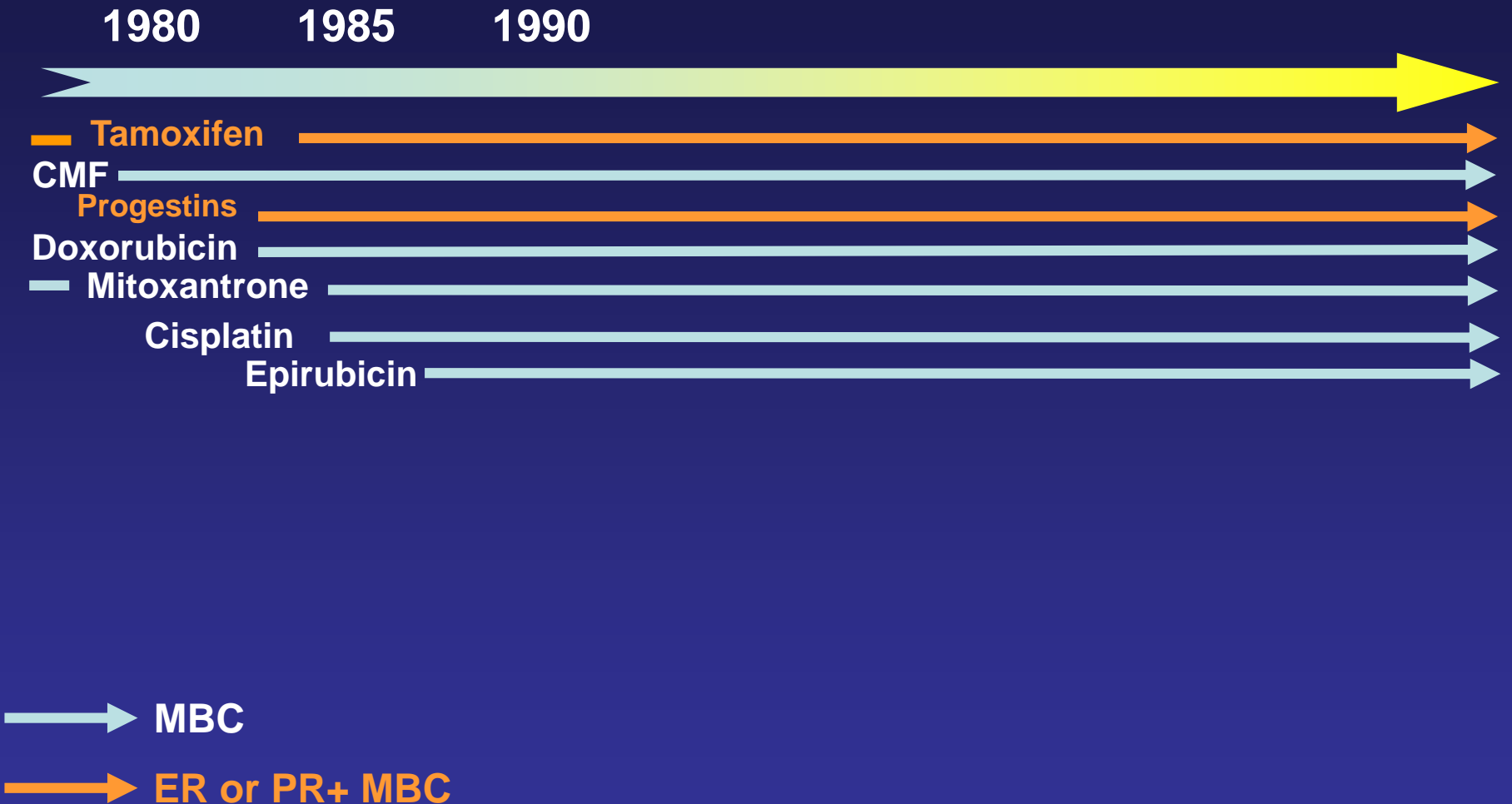


# Breast cancer subtypes ready for clinical decision-making





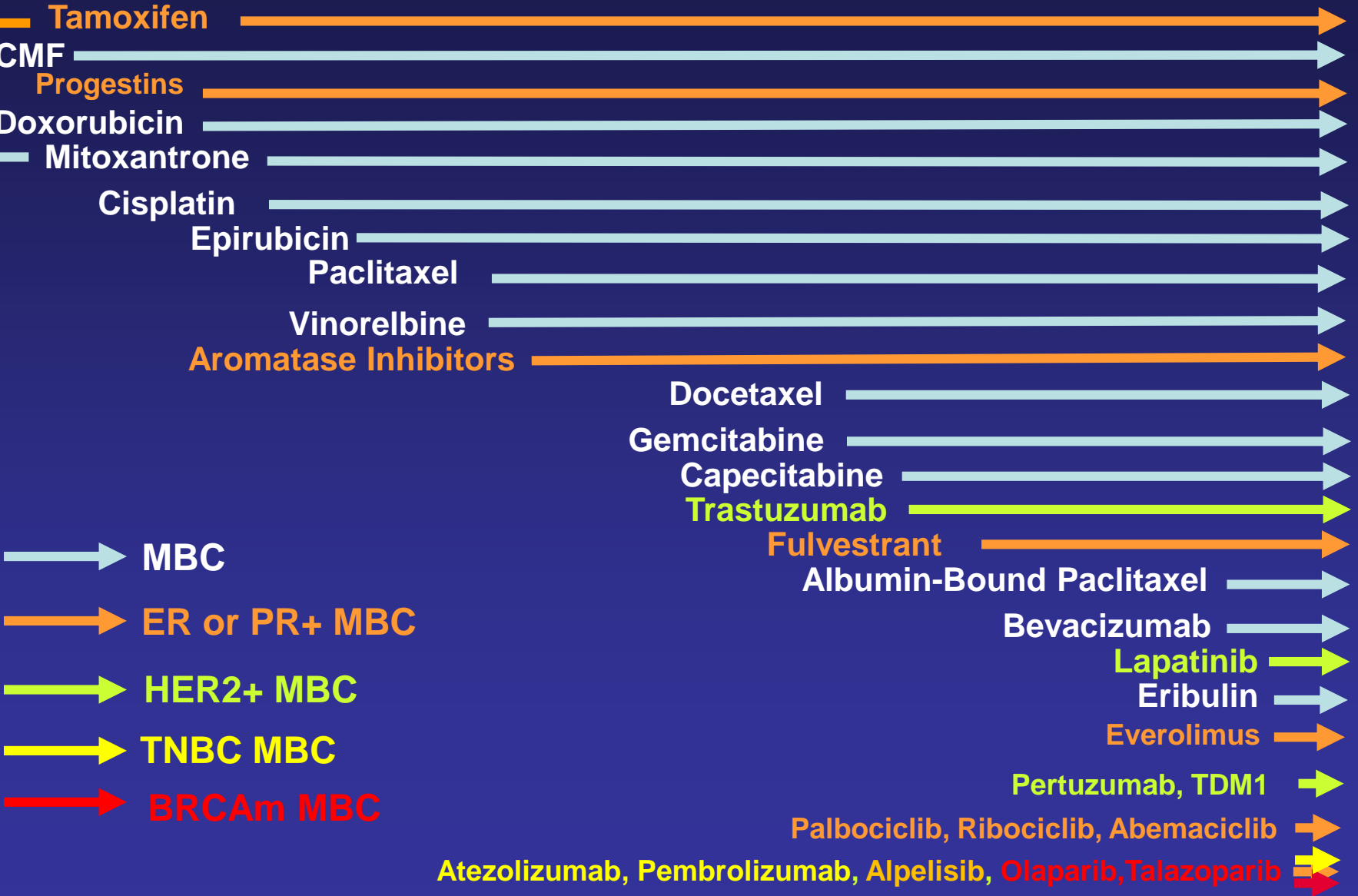
# Progress in Systemic Treatment of MBC





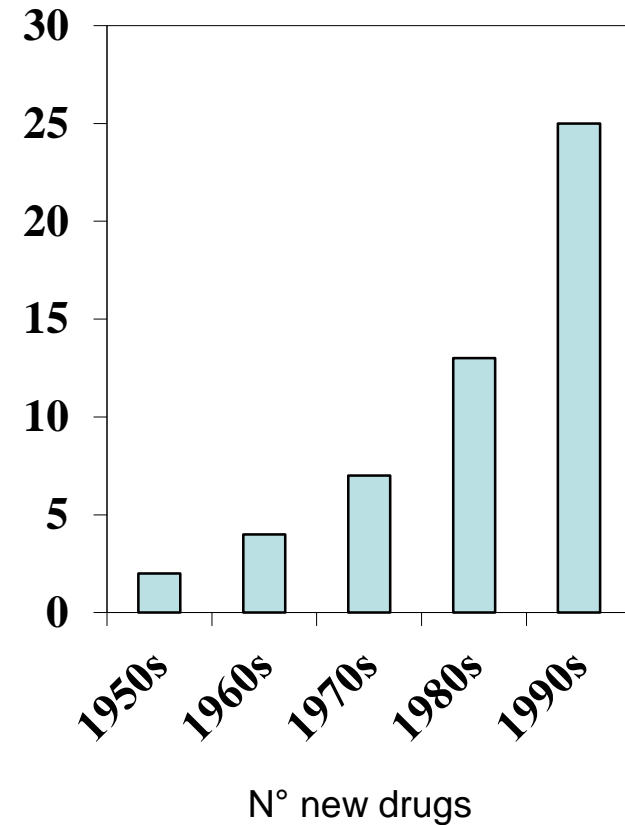
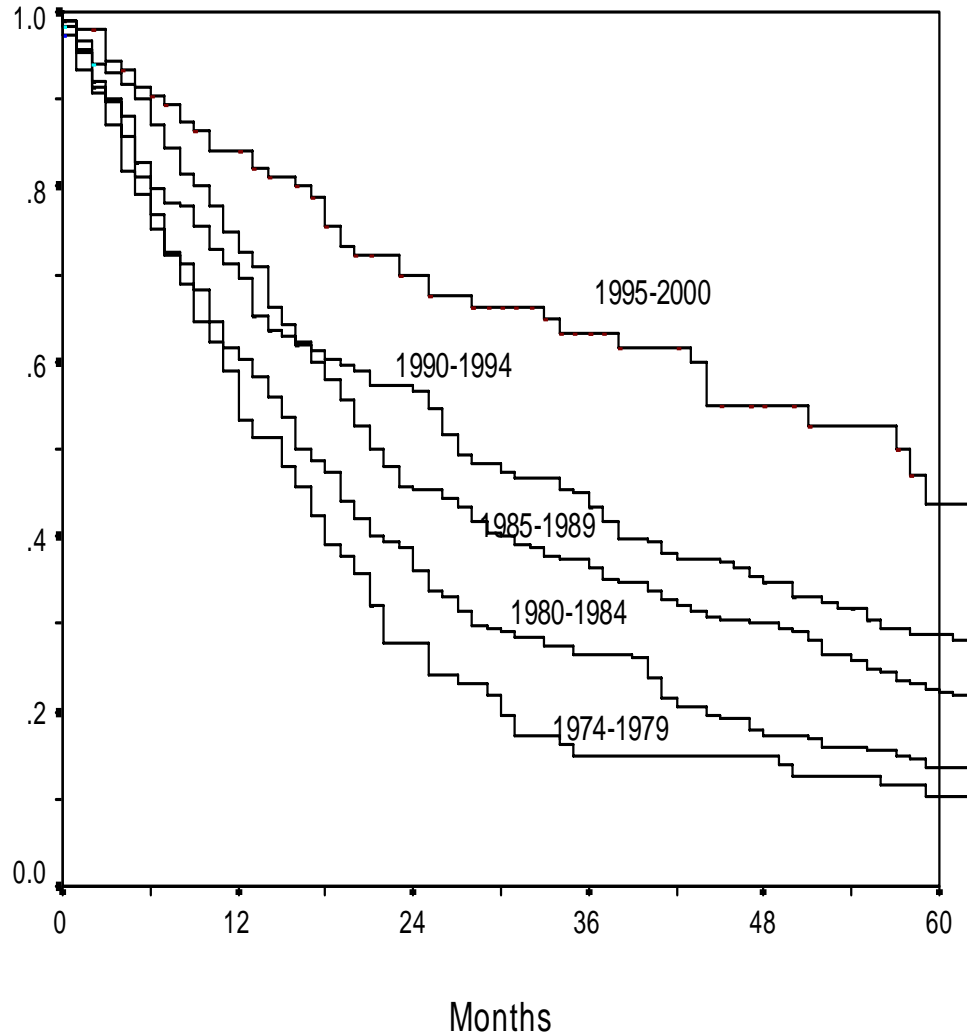
# Progress in Systemic Treatment of MBC

1980 1985 1990 1995 2000 2005 2010 2017 2021



- MBC
- ER or PR+ MBC
- HER2+ MBC
- TNBC MBC
- BRCAm MBC

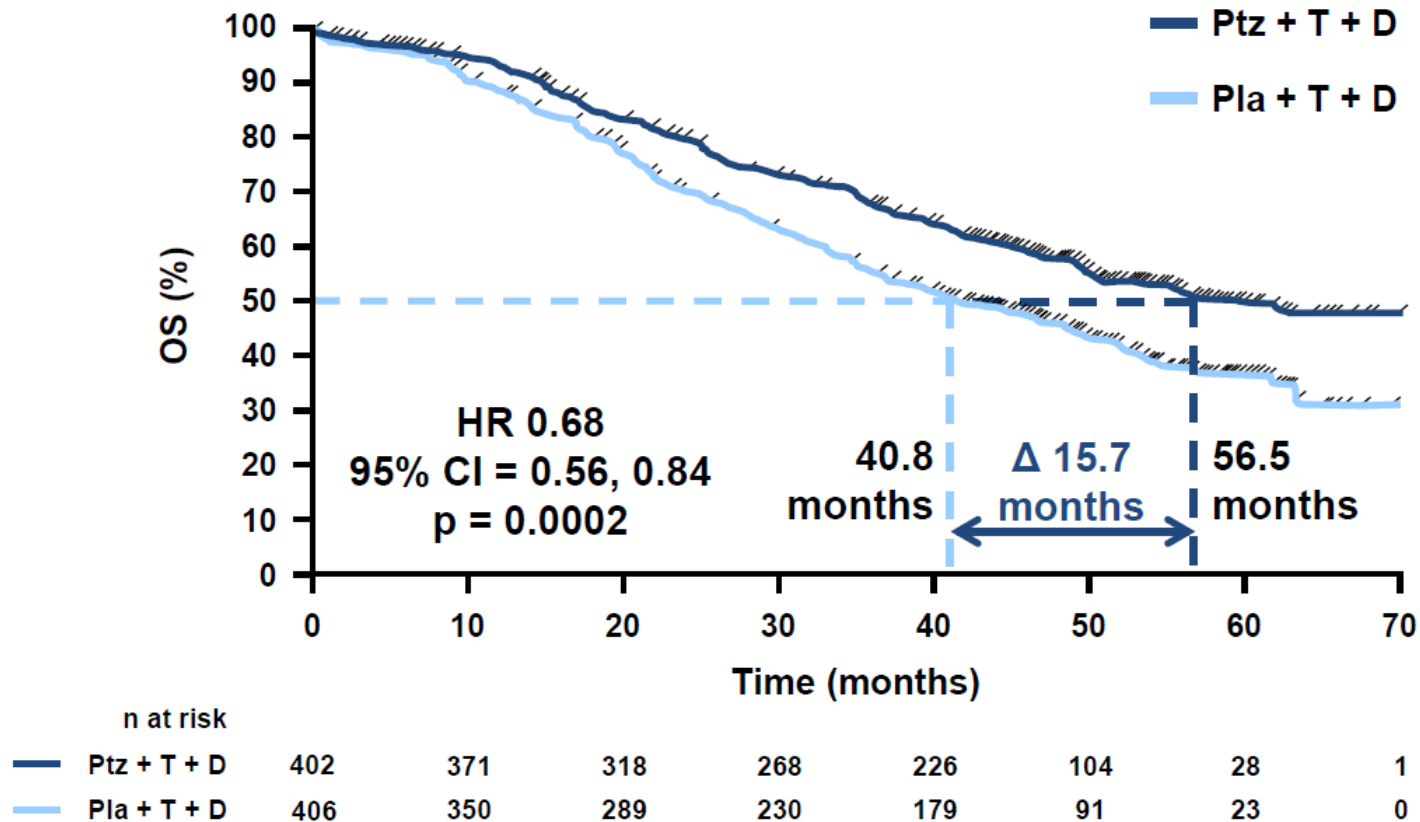
# Survival of Patients with Metastatic Breast Cancer 1974 - 2000



Giordano SH, et al, *Cancer* 100:44-52, 2004

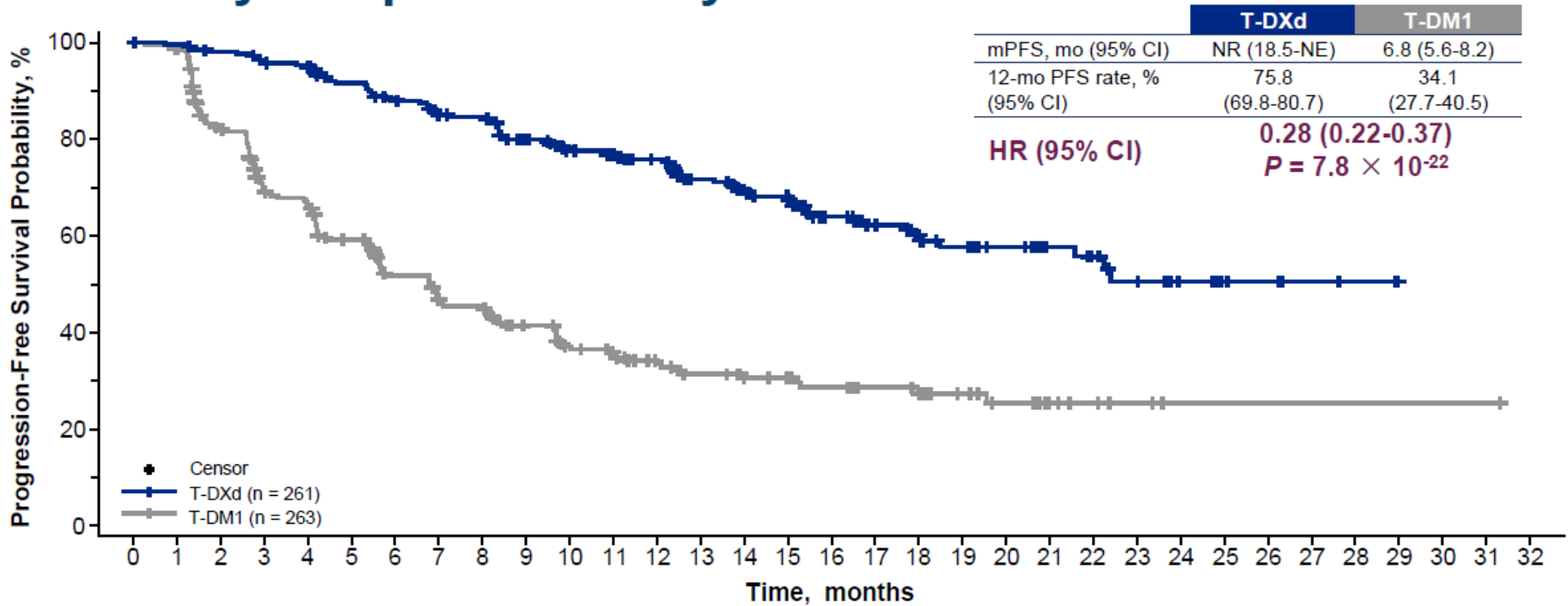
# Final OS Analysis

Median follow-up 50 months (range 0–70 months)



ITT population. Stratified by geographic region and neo/adjuvant chemotherapy.  
CI, confidence interval; Pla, placebo; Ptz, pertuzumab.

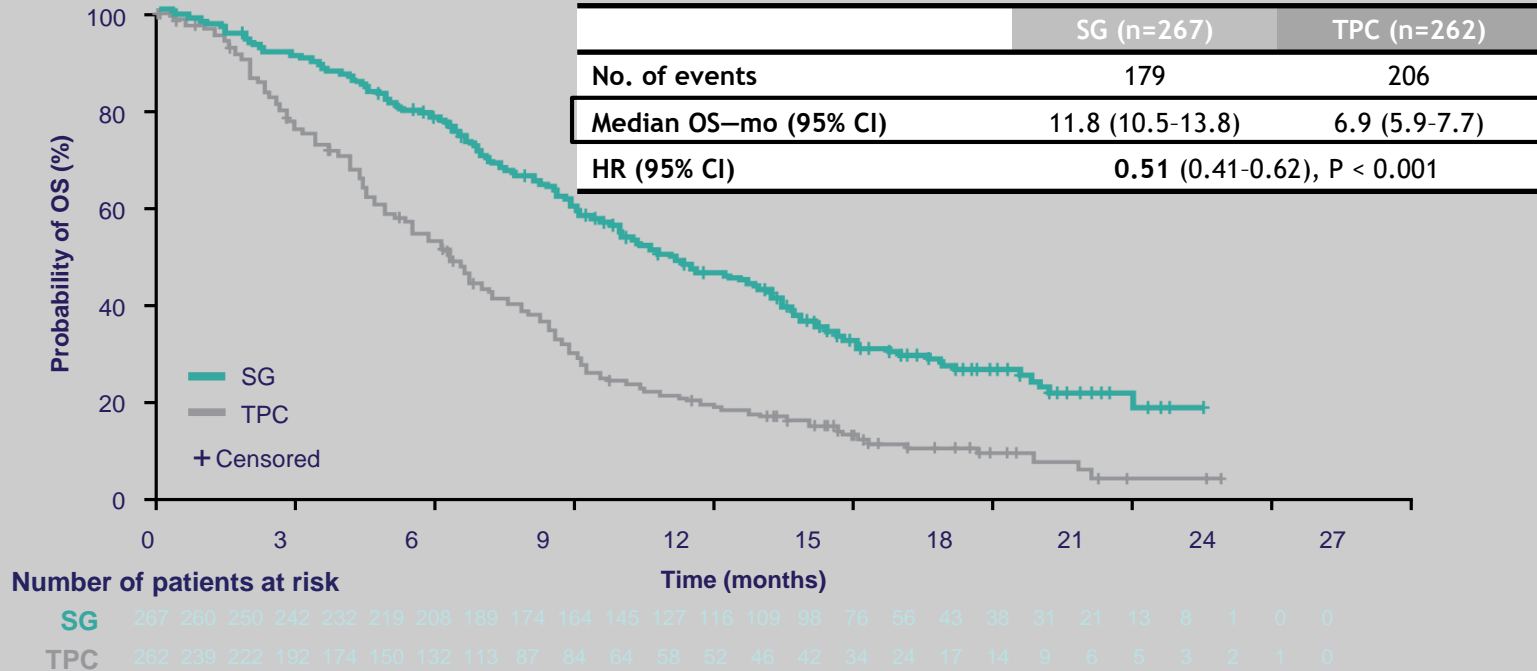
# Primary Endpoint: PFS by BICR



**Patients Still at Risk:**

T-DXd (261)	261	256	250	244	240	224	214	202	200	183	168	164	150	132	112	105	79	64	53	45	36	29	25	19	10	6	5	3	2	0		
T-DM1 (263)	263	252	200	163	155	132	108	96	93	78	65	60	51	43	37	34	29	23	21	16	12	8	6	4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0

# ASCENT: Overall Survival (Full Population)<sup>1</sup>



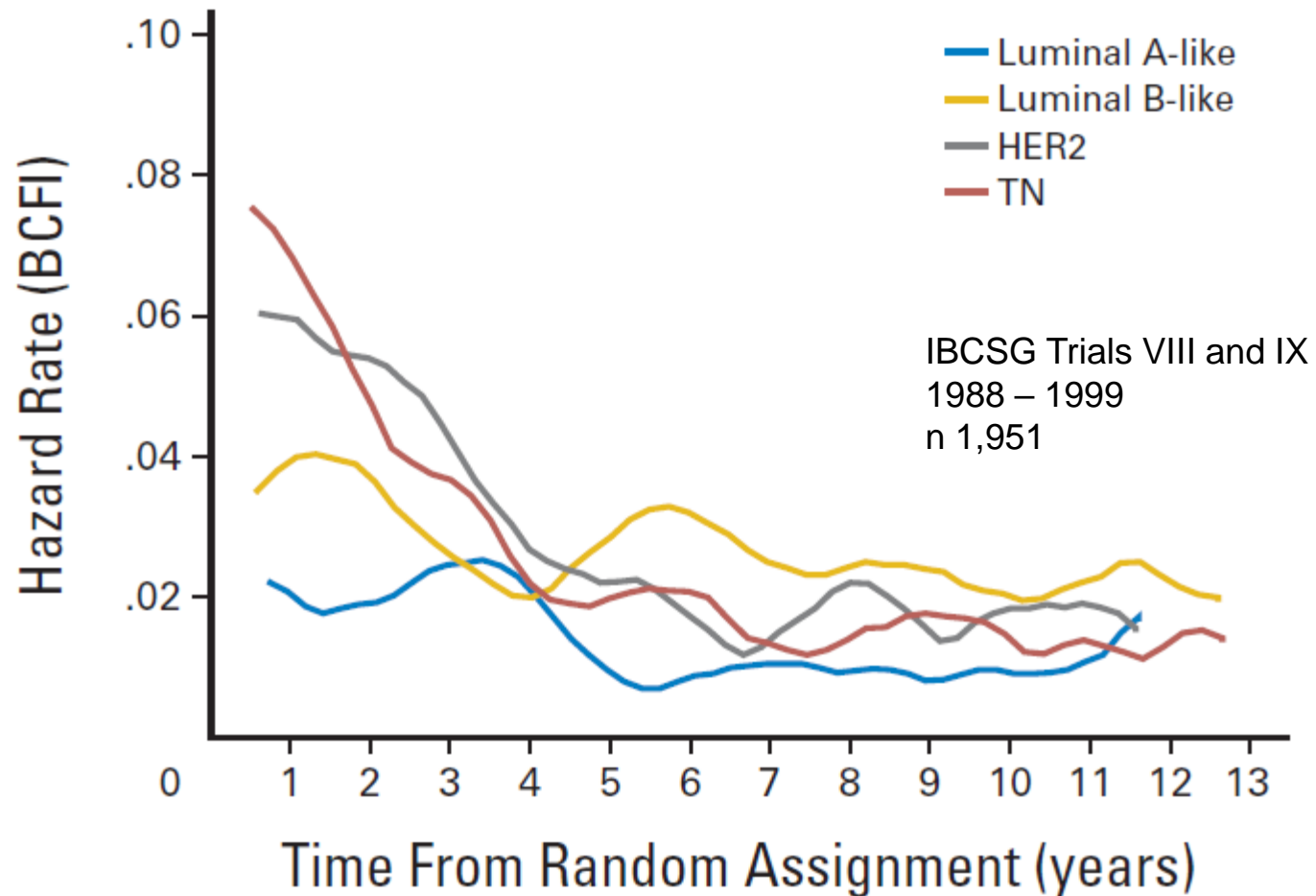
**SG demonstrated a significant OS benefit as compared with chemotherapy (TPC) in the full trial population of patients (with and without brain metastasis).<sup>1</sup>**

- Bardia A, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;384(16):1529-1541.

# My Interpretation of the Old Italian Trials

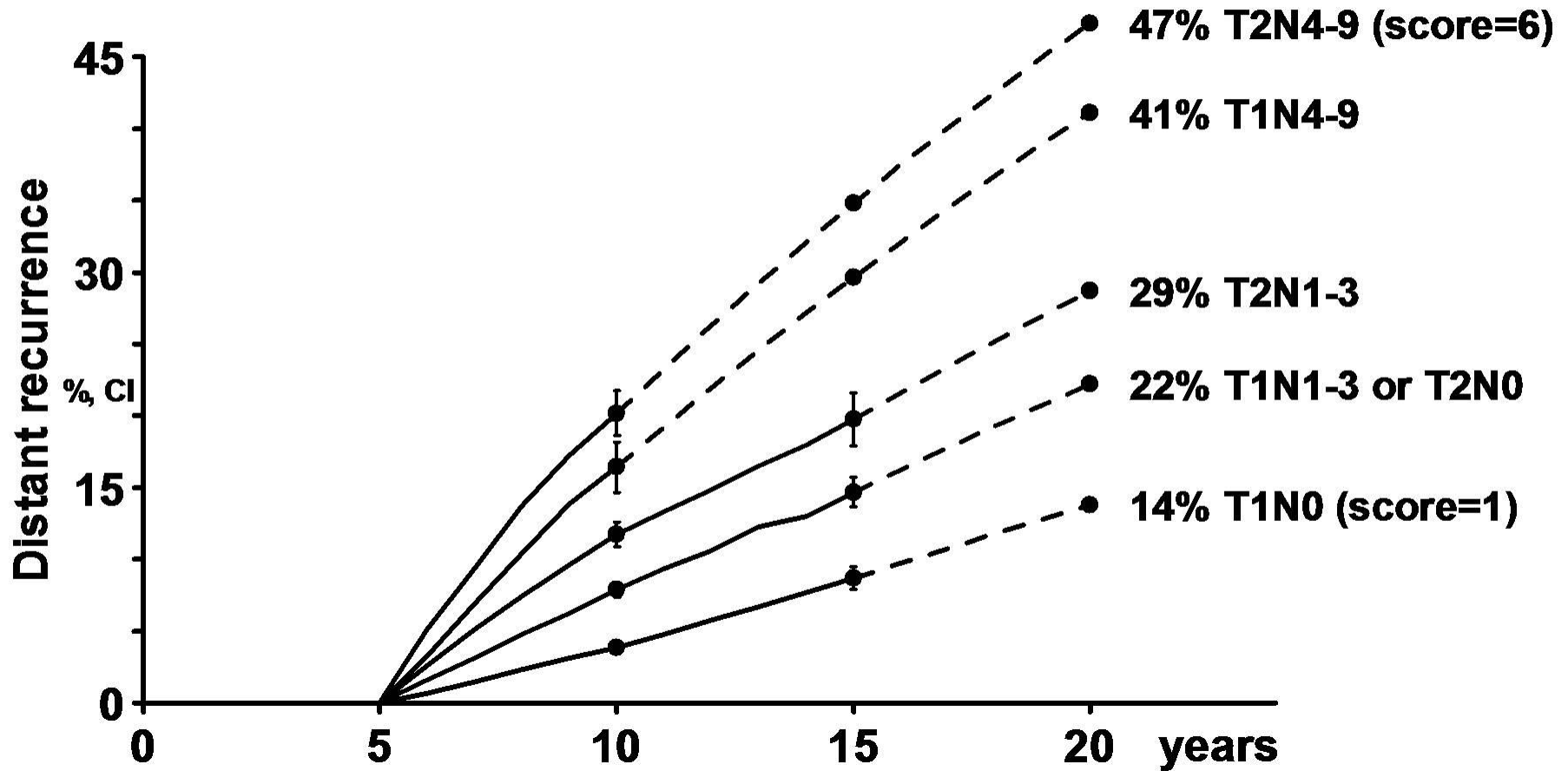
- The follow-up performed with Chest x-ray, Bone scan (and liver US) performed every 6-12 mo.s did not improve overall survival in the therapeutic contest (local and systemic treatments) of the 80s / early 90s
- Chest x-ray and Bone scan repeated every 6 mo.s can anticipate the diagnosis of asymptomatic distant relapses

## Hazard Rate of recurrence over time by BC subtype



## Effect of additive “T+N score” (range 1-6)

Score: 1/ 2 for T1/ T2, plus 0/ 1/ 4 for N0/ N1-3/ N4-9





## Follow-up strategies for women treated for early breast cancer (Review)

Rojas MPMB, Telaro E, Moschetti I, Coe L, Fossati R, Liberati A, Rosselli MDT



The current controversy stems from different views about the applicability of the results of these “old” trials to the current clinical practice. This would call for new RCTs testing different follow-up strategies using current treatments as baseline but it is unclear whether anyone wants to embark on this endeavour. The evidence from RCTs summarized here must, however, be interpreted with caution bearing in mind that studies were conducted almost two decades ago when some interventions currently used in the advanced setting, were not available.

**The real mistake is  
not to conduct new  
clinical trials on  
breast cancer  
follow-up**

# KRONOS STUDY

*Patient-Oriented KRONOS Study - Italy*  
**PONS-S Italy**

**Three-monthly dynamic evaluation of CEA and CA 15.3 vs usual practice in the follow-up of early breast cancer patients: a randomized study (KRONOS Study)**

# KRONOS PONS-S Italy

The study is conducted in two distinct parallel cohorts:

- **Cohort 1:** patients enrolled at the beginning of the follow-up after the conclusion of primary treatment (surgery +/- adjuvant chemotherapy +/- radiotherapy).
- **Cohort 2:** patients that have concluded without relapse the first 5 years of follow-up.

**All patients will be followed-up (at least) until 10 years from surgery.**

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

- Histologically confirmed stage I-III breast cancer
- Adequate surgery of breast and axilla
- No evidence of distant metastases

↓  
**Randomized 1:1**

**Stratification by**  
Nodal Status  
ER status  
HER2 status

### ARM A (control):

Imaging studies and serum markers performed according to local practice

### ARM B (experimental):

Serum CEA and CA 15.3 every 3 months



Critical Δ  
(CEA + 100% and/or CA 15.3 + 75%)



Imaging (PET/CT scan)

No imaging allowed in asymptomatic patients in the absence of critical CEA and/or CA 15.3 increase

# Treat also if asymptomatic!!!

Note: The standard of care (i.e. physical examination every 6 months, yearly mammography and appropriate imaging studies in symptomatic patients) will be applied to both arms.

# KRONOS PONS-S Italy

## Primary objective:

to verify if the experimental arm can anticipate by at least 6 months the diagnosis of breast cancer metastases compared to the control arm (usual follow-up practice).

## Secondary objectives:

- to evaluate the Positive Predictive Value (PPV) and the Negative Predictive Value (NPV) of CEA and CA15.3 dynamic changes in the diagnosis of breast cancer metastases;
- to compare the number of imaging procedures performed in the 2 arms
- to compare the QoL in the 2 arms (GAD-7 and PO-Bado-BK modified)

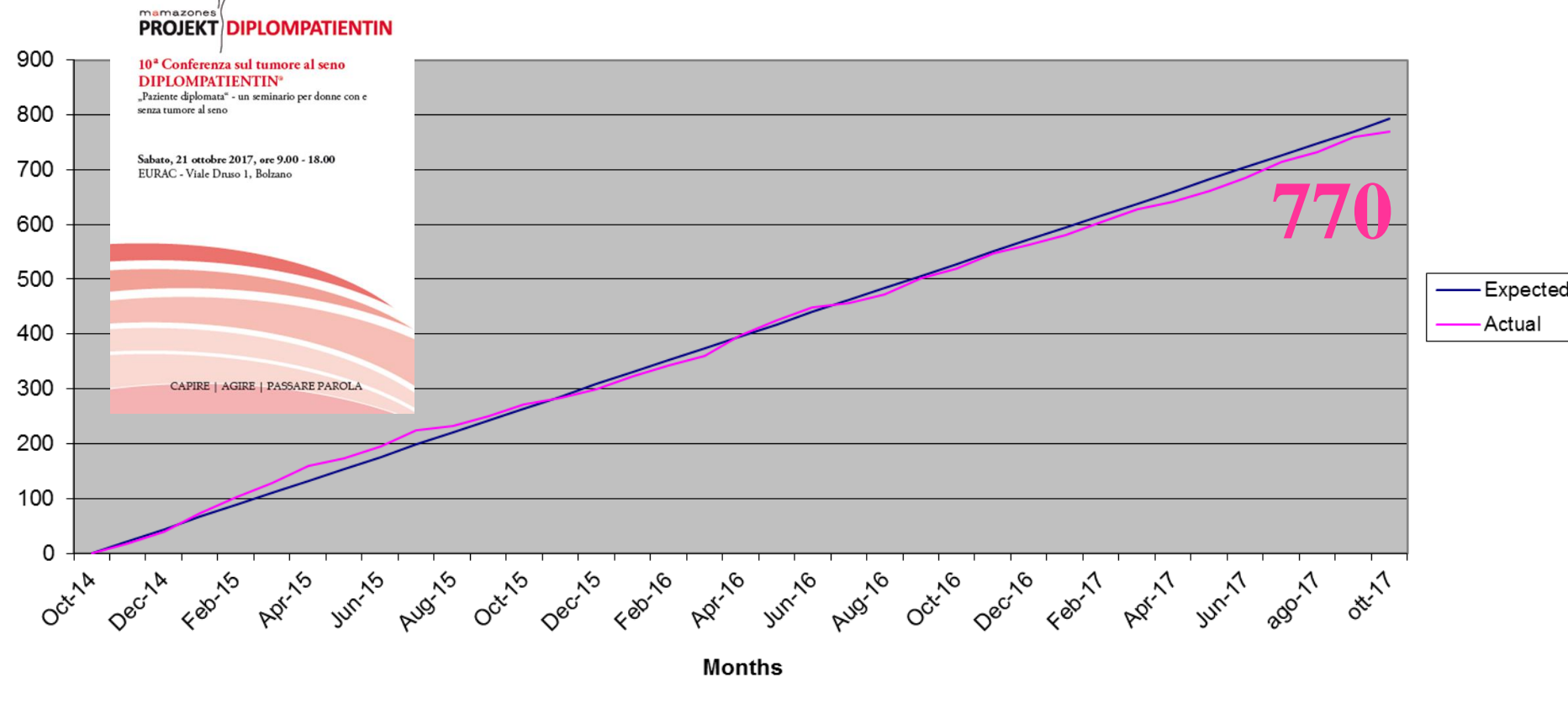
**If the primary end-point of the trial will be met, the study will continue with the same design and the same eligibility criteria,** to evaluate if the dynamic monitoring of CEA and CA 15.3 (experimental arm) can prolong of at least 3 months the overall survival compared to the control arm. In order to avoid the confounding effect of earlier diagnosis of metastases on the survival time, survival will be calculated from breast cancer diagnosis to death.

**Before starting the second phase III of the trial, a new submission to the Ethical Committee will be done.**

# KRONOS PONS-S Italy



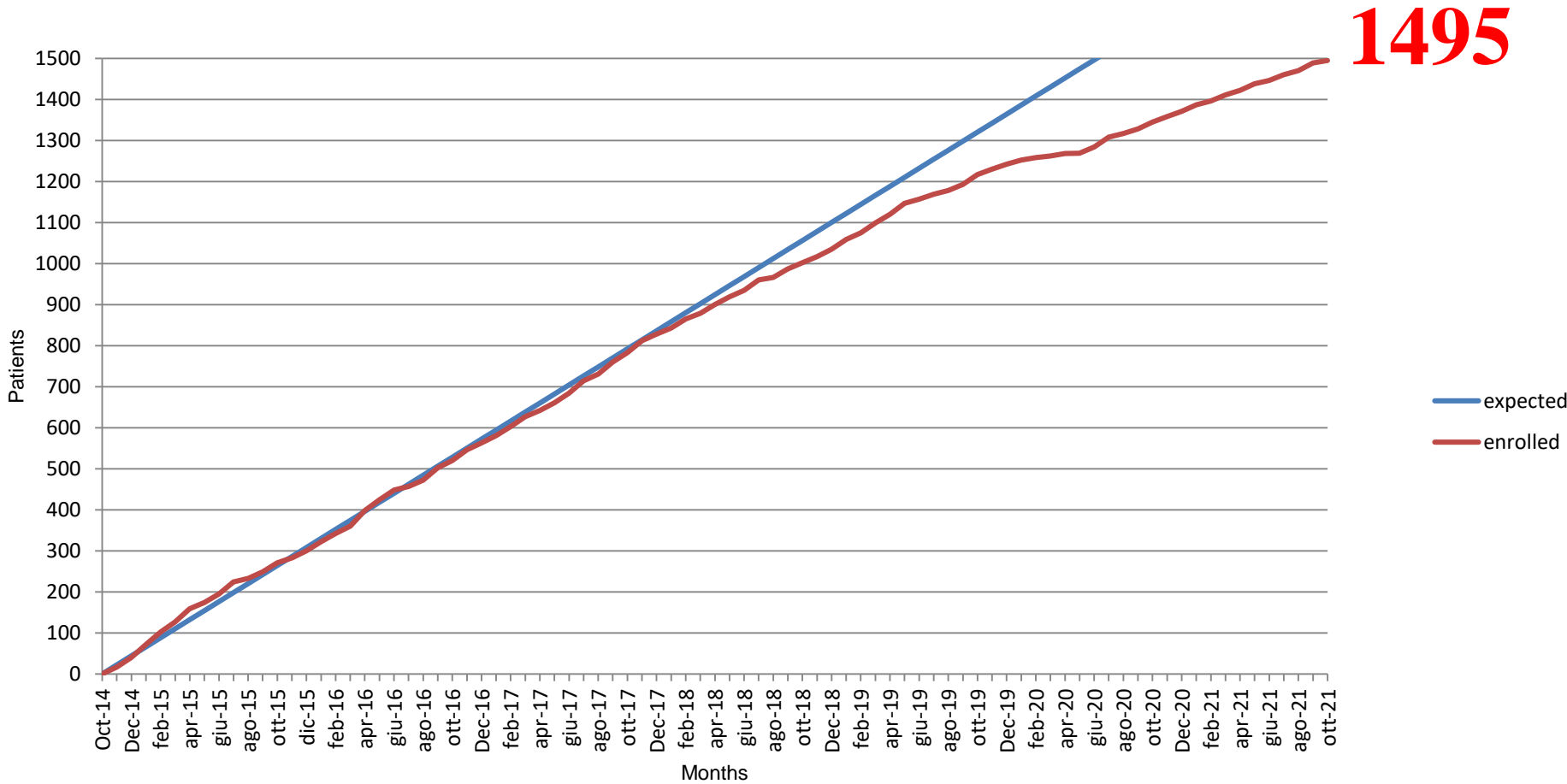
"KRONOS Study - Enrollment update (12 Oct 2017)"





# KRONOS PONS-S Italy

Enrollment State



1495



# KRONOS PONS-S Italy



## Enrollment Status at 15<sup>th</sup> October 2021

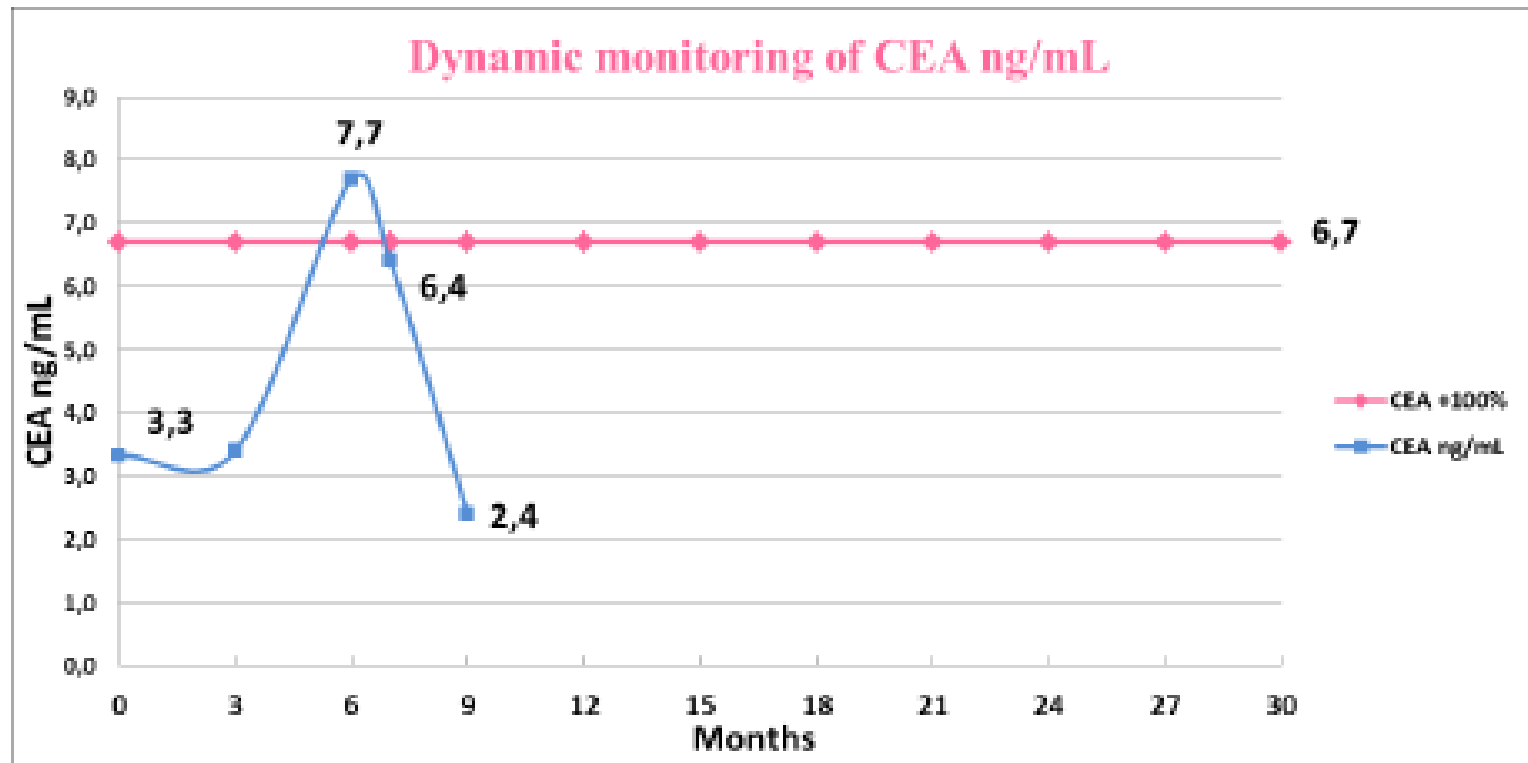
Total number of patients enrolled: **1495**

**Cohort 1: 1036** patients

**Cohort 2: 459** patients

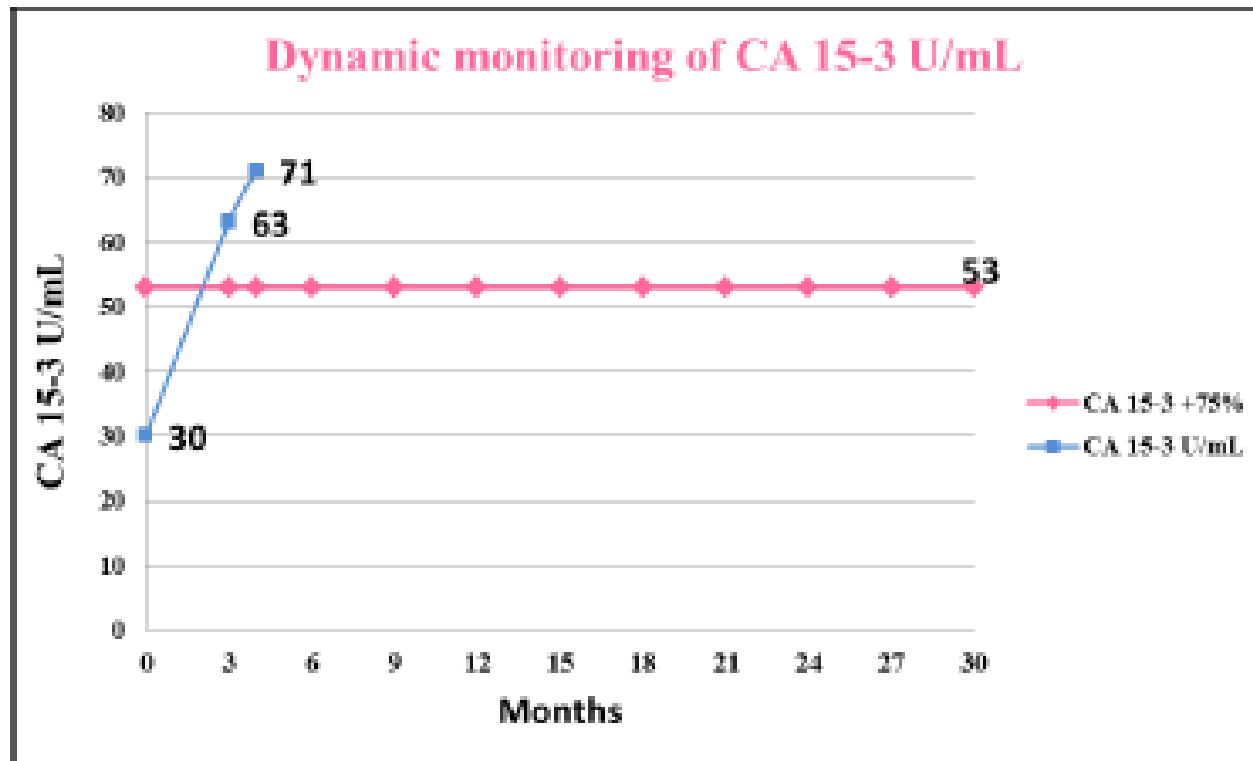
# Example #1

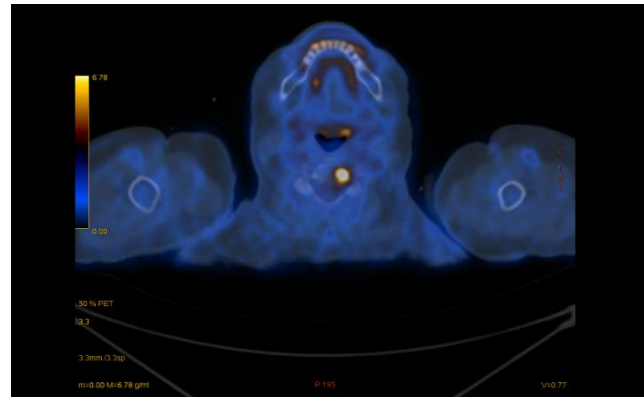
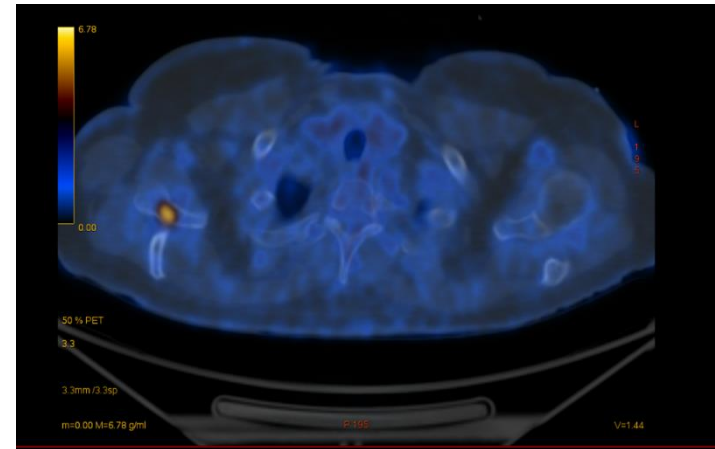
	Basal value	Critical value*	3 months	6 months	6 months repeated	9 months
<b>CEA ng/mL</b>	3,333	<b>6,7</b>	3,4	<b>7,7</b>	<b>6,4</b>	2,4
<b>CA 15-3 U/mL</b>	9	16	7	7	6	6



## Example # 2

	Basal value	Critical value*	3 months	3 months repeated
<b>CEA ng/mL</b>	1.5	3	2.1	2
<b>CA 15-3 U/mL</b>	30	53	63	71





**First-line therapy: Letrozole + Zoledronic Acid**

# Events update October 15, 2021: **107(7%)**

Event	Control arm N 748	Exp. Arm N 747
Distant mets	26	34
Locoregional	2	9
New cancer (excluded breast)	16	14
Other causes	2	4
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>61</b>

**ma**ny thanks for support



**ma**mazone



„  
**Wer kämpft, kann verlieren,  
Wer nicht kämpft, hat schon verloren**

**Bertolt Brecht**