

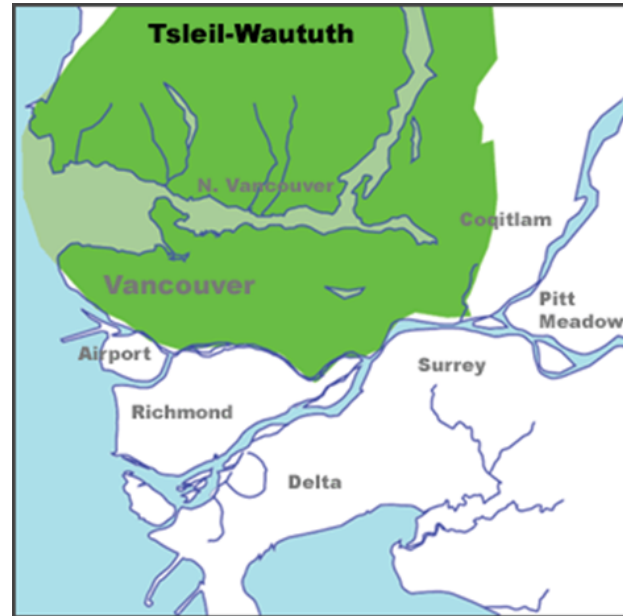
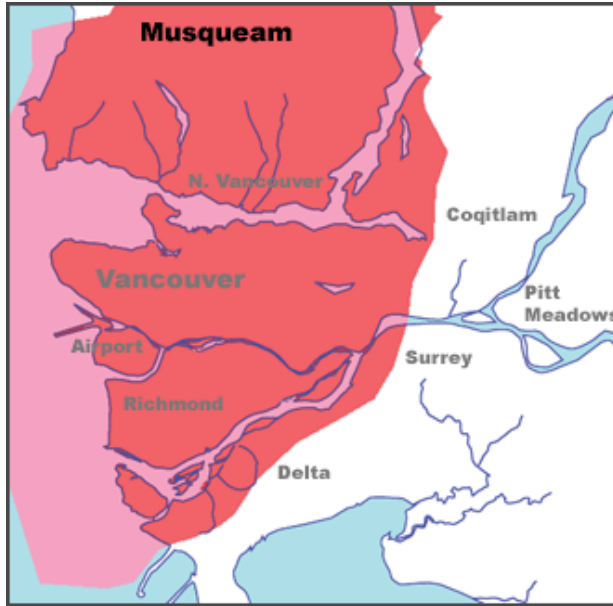
# Breast cancer update. Special populations breed special problems”.

Karen A Gelmon MD FRCPC  
Professor of Medicine, University of British Columbia  
Medical Oncologist, BC Cancer, Vancouver Cancer Centre  
Chair, UBC/BC Cancer Research Ethics Board  
Fellow, Canadian Academy of Health Sciences

I would like to acknowledge that I am speaking to you from the **land of the Coast Salish peoples—Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), Stó:lō and Səlílwəta/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) Nations.**

We would like to acknowledge that we are gathered today on the traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh peoples.

Source: [www.ijohomaps.net/na/canada/bc/vancouver/firstnations/firstnations.html](http://www.ijohomaps.net/na/canada/bc/vancouver/firstnations/firstnations.html)



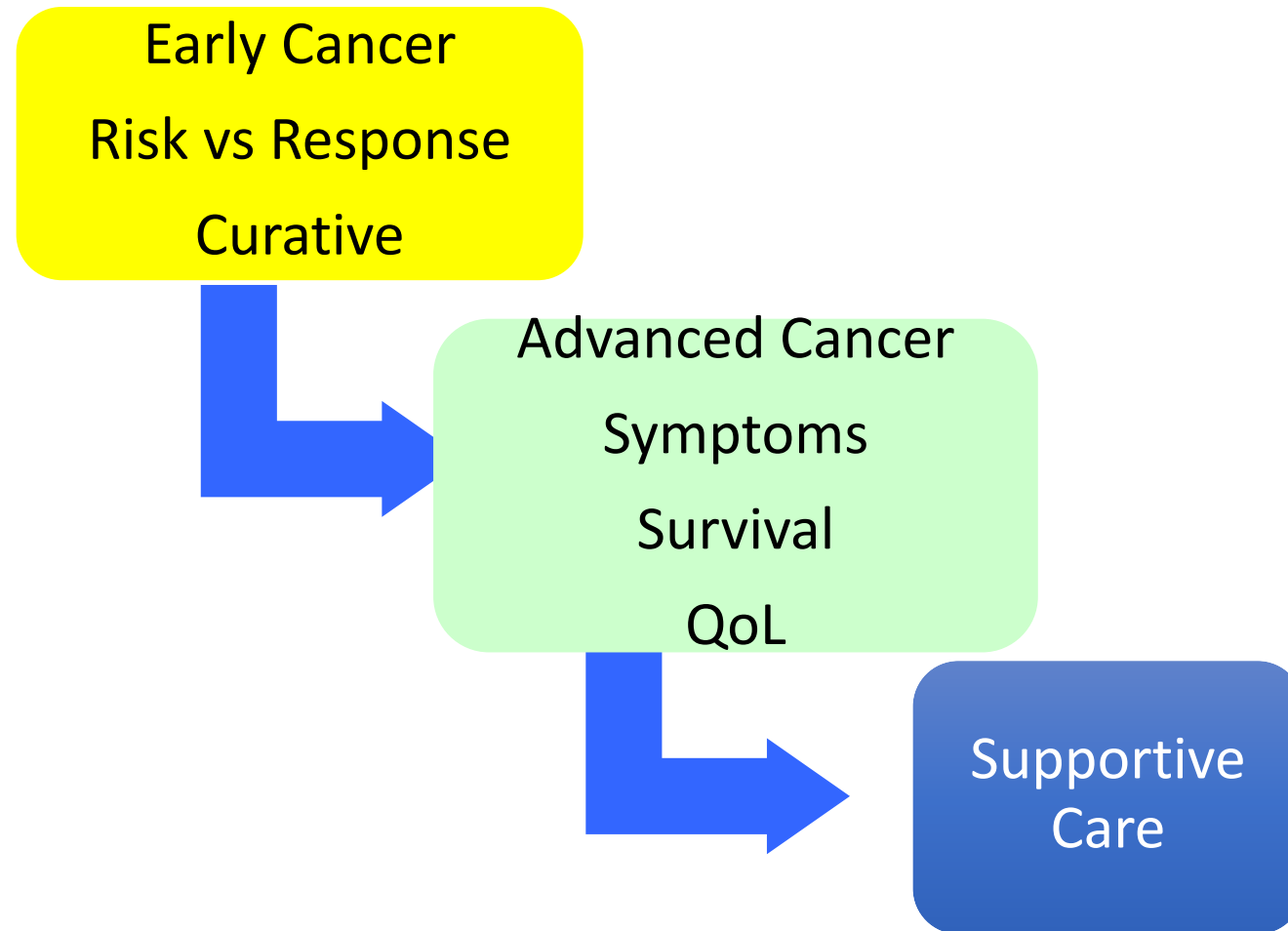
# Faculty /Presenter Disclosure

- Faculty : Karen Gelmon
- Relationships with financial sponsors
  - Any direct financial relationships including receipt of honoraria:
    - Novartis, AstraZeneca, Seagen, Merck
  - Membership on Advisory Boards or Speakers bureau
    - Pfizer, Novartis, Astra Zeneca, Lilly, Merck, Nanostring, Genomic Health, BMS, Roche, Mylan, Gilead, Ayala, Seagen
  - Research Funding
    - BMS, Pfizer, Novartis, Roche, AstraZeneca
  - Patents
    - None
  - Expert Testimony
    - Genentech

# Breast Cancer Populations

- Early vs Advanced Breast Cancer
- Long term survivors- chronic disease
- Young women with breast cancer – defined as younger than 40 or younger than 35
- Elderly women with breast cancer – competing comorbidities/risks
- Germline Mutations in breast cancer
- Pregnancy Associated Breast Cancer and Pregnancy after breast cancer
- Advanced Breast cancer and Pregnancy
- Male Breast Cancer
- Challenges with HR + breast cancer in trans patients

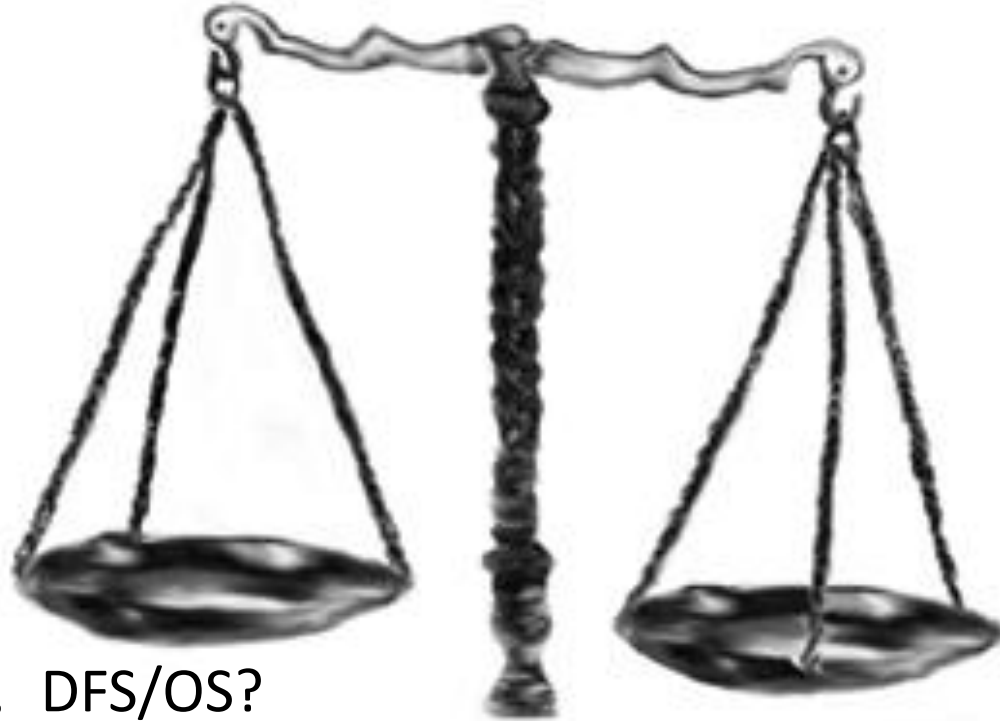
# Treatment Algorithms In Cancer Clinical Care



# Treatment of Early Breast Cancer is Estimating the Risk of Relapse and Response to Treatment

## Prognostic Features

What is the risk of relapse?. DFS/OS?  
How to Decrease relapse to improve survival  
HOW aggressive = **BIOLOGY**  
HOW much cancer = **ARCHITECTURE**  
(size and nodes)



## Predictive Factors

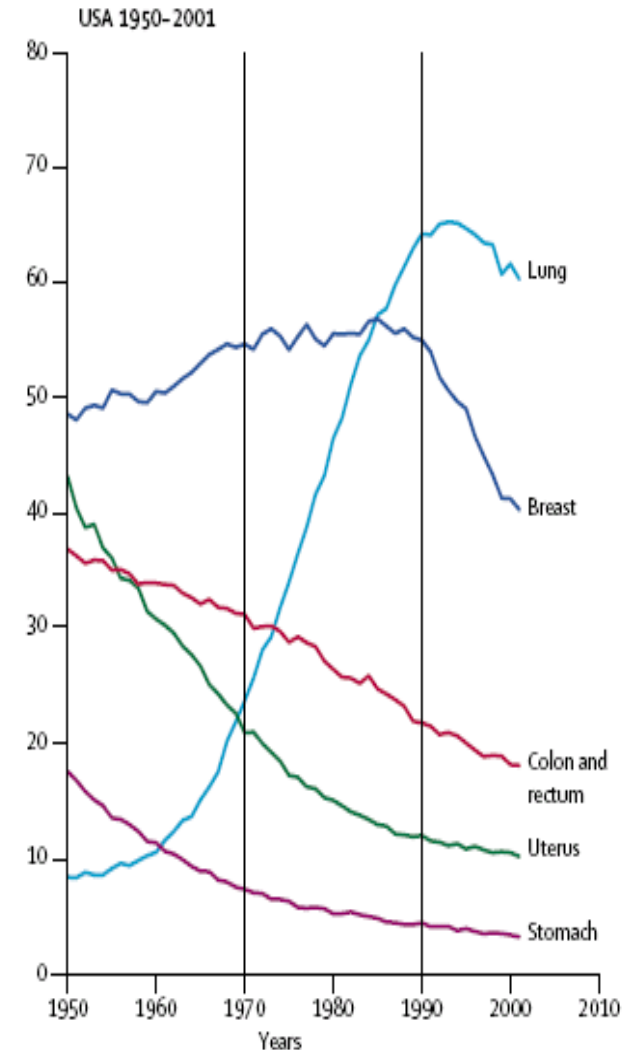
Will the tumour respond?

- Endocrine Rx?
- Chemotherapy
- Anti HER Rx
- IO
- PARPi
- Other treatments?

# Stage distribution at presentation

Stage	Definition	% Patients
I	T1N0	50
IIA	T0N1 T1N1 T2N0	30
IIB	T2N1 T3N0	
IIIA	T0N2 T1N2 T2N2	
IIIB	T4Nany	15
IIIC	TanyN3	
IV	TanyNanyM1	5

- More than *3 million breast cancer survivors* in the US
- 5-year survival exceeds 90% for early stage patients
- Continued improvements in survival expected



Trends in standardized death rates

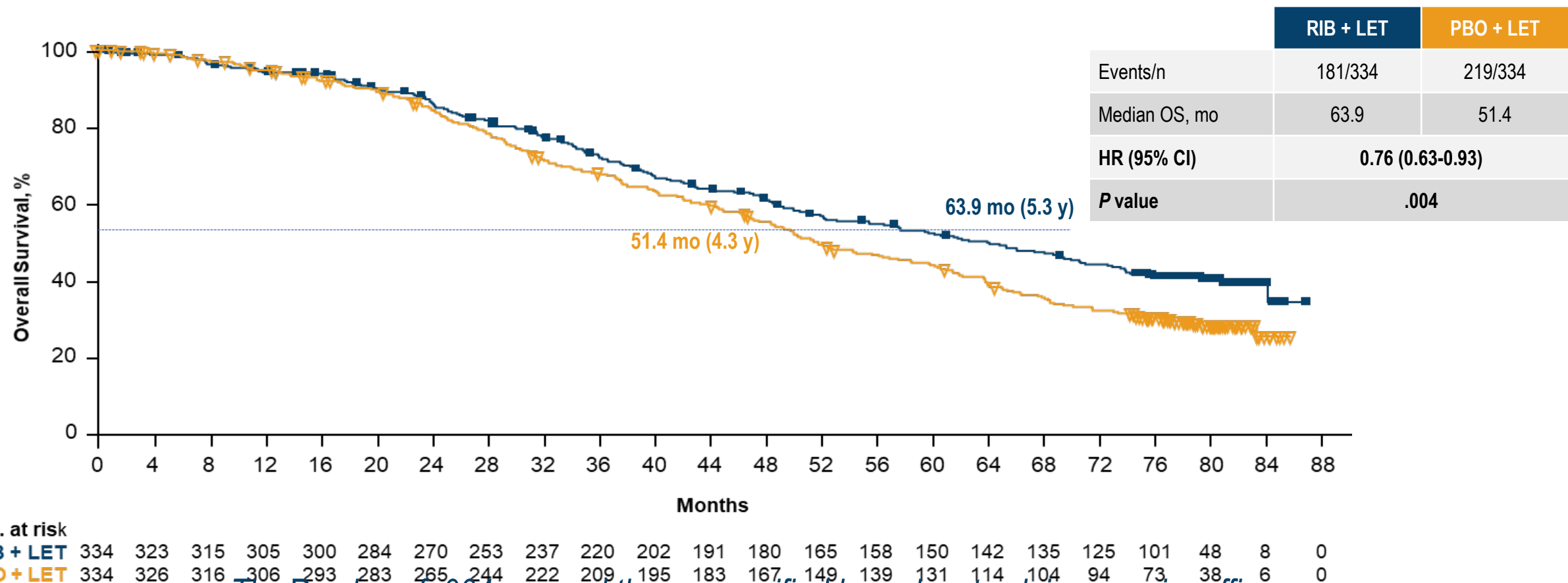


# Advanced or Metastatic Breast Cancer

- INCURABLE and goals are to decrease symptoms, maintain good quality of life, improve survival
- Previous median survival was 18 – 24 months
- ER+ cancers – treatment with AI and CDK4/6 inhibitors
- HER2 positive cancers –new agents
- Triple negative cancers – most aggressive, Chemo plus Immunotherapy
- In the last 2 decades we have finally seen treatments that do improve survival. Persons with advanced cancer are living longer and better but this has implications for the patients/family/caregivers
- Is this 'chronic' disease but is that a poor term for cancer and how do we distinguish these cancers to counsel our patients

# Ribociclib achieved statistically significant OS benefit in ML-2

Improvement in median OS was 12.5 months with ribociclib plus letrozole



*The P value of .004 crossed the prespecified boundary to claim superior efficacy*



Gabriel N. Hortobagyi

Content of this presentation is copyrighted and responsibility of the author. Permission is required for re-use.

HR, hazard ratio; ML-2, MONALEESA-2; LET, letrozole; OS, overall survival; PBO, placebo; RIB, ribociclib.

# Challenges of Long-Term Toxicity

- Chronic toxicity with systemic therapies
  - Neuropathy
  - Bone loss
  - Cognitive changes
  - Cardiac
- Long term toxicity of WBRT
  - Cognitive changes are becoming more apparent and more significant with long term survival
- Toxicity of SBRT
  - Radionecrosis increased with SBRT and long term followup of many patients
- Toxicity of bisphosphonates
  - Atypical Fractures

- Fear of progression symptoms/  
pain
- Funding/economic/costs
- Interpersonal relationships  
with family/friends
- Care issues/normalization of  
other health
- Long term relationships with  
oncologist/other health care  
providers
- Figuring out how to live as a  
*healthy* person vs a *patient*  
with advanced cancer
- Existential issues



# Cancer Communication Study

Sally Thorne et al, CCSRI Funding

- Decade of study
  - Different tumour sites, conditions about cancer communication
  - Total study - 600 subjects
  - Longitudinal study – 250
  - Interpretive Description which is an Applied qualitative approach
- Trends and patterns of communication
- Discovery of a New Species
  - Chronic metastatic
  - Identified themselves as having different communication issues
- People defining themselves as chronic metastatic
- Secondary analysis of the study
- Specific issues were highlighted by this group

Thorne SE, Oliffe JL, Oglov V, Gelmon K; Qual Health Researc, 2013, DOI:  
10.1177/1049732313483926

# Challenges of Care

- Myopic focus on the cancer issue
- What about other health issues? ‘the rest of the person’
- Screening for other health issues – is it appropriate?
- We may be dismissive of other issues as we are so ‘proud’ of the cancer success
- Giving time to the other needs of long term survivors – Who are the best health care providers?
- Gratitude and dread, gratitude for what has happened but dread for when it will no longer be possible
- Exhaustion of care by both the patient and the health care provider

# Survivorship – what is it

- Survivorship: **state of being a survivor**
- Survivor: **anyone diagnosed with cancer**. Survivorship starts at the time of disease diagnosis and continues throughout the rest of the patient's life. Family caregivers and friends are also considered survivors
- Cancer survivorship has **three distinct phases**: living through, with and beyond cancer
- Cancer survivorship emphasizes success in treatment but creates its own issues
- Health care professionals need to be aware of the needs of this group

# Ms DK

- 1999 at age 52, mass in breast, Diagnosed with a 2.3 cm infiltrating ductal carcinoma, ER+, PR-, GR 3
- Staging – metastases in liver and bone
- Paclitaxel and trastuzumab
- Trastuzumab continued after 6 cycles of paclitaxel with good PR in liver, started on letrozole with trastuzumab
- 2004 – noticed change in her speech, solitary brain metastases resected – ER+, PR-, HER2+, WBRT
- April 2018 while on trastuzumab, exemestane, and intermittent bone modifying agents developed progressive bone mets – T-DMI – hemorrhage in brain
- Changed to pertuzumab /trastuzumab/ exemestane which she remains on
- *Working, writing a history, participating as the lay rep on grants,*
- *Children married and enjoying being a grandmother which she did not expect*
- ***Bothered by cognitive difficulties, concerned about health care issues such as screening, cholesterol, heart risk, Changes in health care professionals as they retire***



## Ms JD

- Presented at age 36, single mother with an ER+, PR+, HER2 negative 2cm, 1/5 node positive tumor treated with FEC, followed by radiation, tamoxifen
- 5 months after starting the tamoxifen, relapse in multiple lung nodules – biopsy confirms same pathology in lungs
- Started on study of biweekly paclitaxel in 1992
- Started on anastrozole after the study
- Remains in a CR in 2021 and on anastrozole
- *Difficulties with jobs as she tells people she has had advanced cancer. Husband died of lung cancer just weeks before her recurrence leaving her with huge debts.*
- *Difficulties with long terms significant neuropathy*

## Ms WD

- 2005 at age 32 presented with TNBC with 23 nodes positive, treated with dose dense AC/paclitaxel
- 1 year later, summer of 2006 relapse in celiac nodes with small liver metastases, biopsy proven – treated with capecitabine and some local RT to celiac area
- Progression in early 2007 in nodes and liver
- Treated with cisplatin/gemcitabine to CR
- No further chemotherapy since October 2007
- *Since diagnosis has gone to a professional school but during school did not know if she would be well or not and continuing*
- *Isolating experience –*

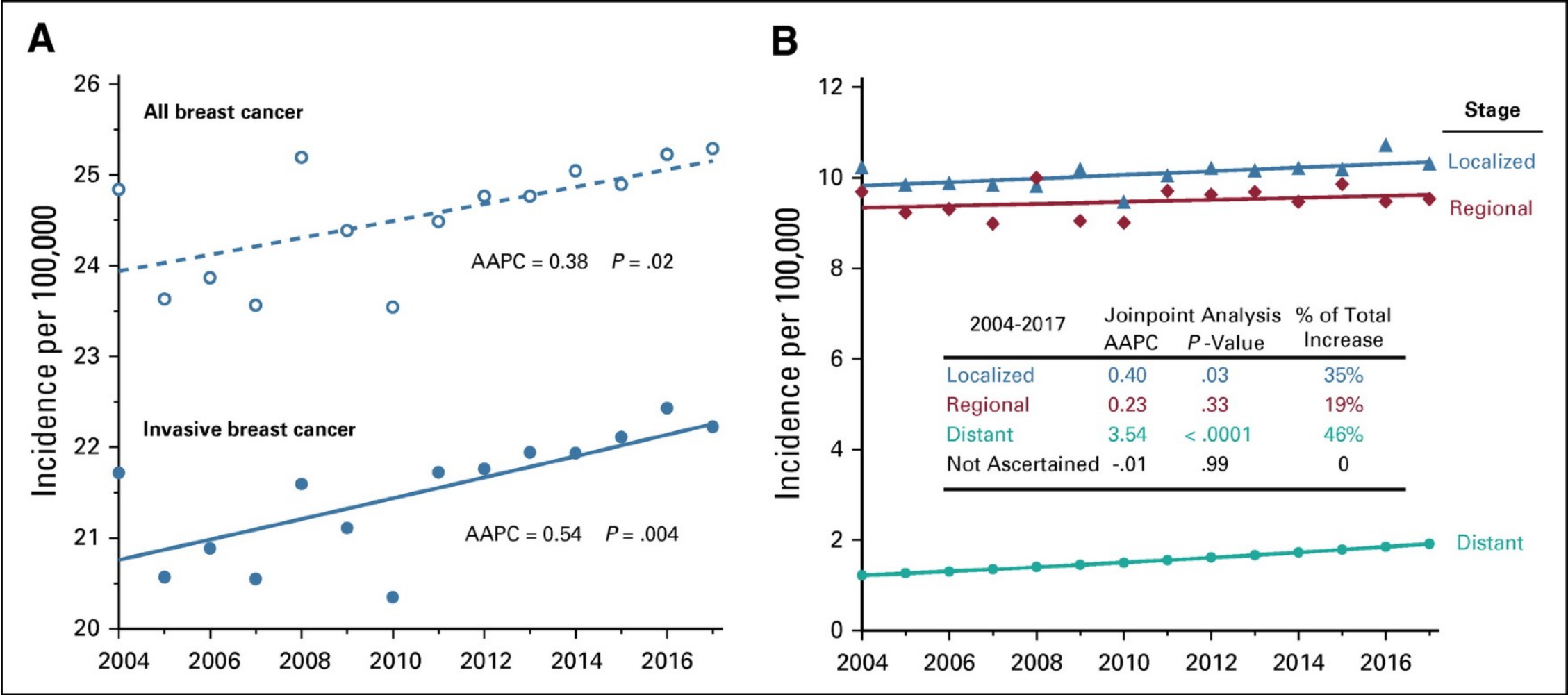
# Is Breast Cancer in Young Women Different?

- Up to 70% of cancers in young women are ER+ but young women consistently have worse outcomes
- More frequently diagnosed at Stages III and IV
- Early data 2000 Lancet – IBCSG - 3700 women regarding CT PLUS HT
  - Relapse and death occurred earlier
  - 10 year disease-free survival of 35% (SE 3) versus 47% (1) (hazard ratio 1.41 [95% CI 1.22-1.62],  $p < 0.001$ )
  - Overall survival of 49% (3) versus 62% (1) (1.50 [1.28-1.77],  $p < 0.001$ )..
- More recent data suggesting a more aggressive phenotype in young women
  - higher Ki67, greater number HER2+, methylation

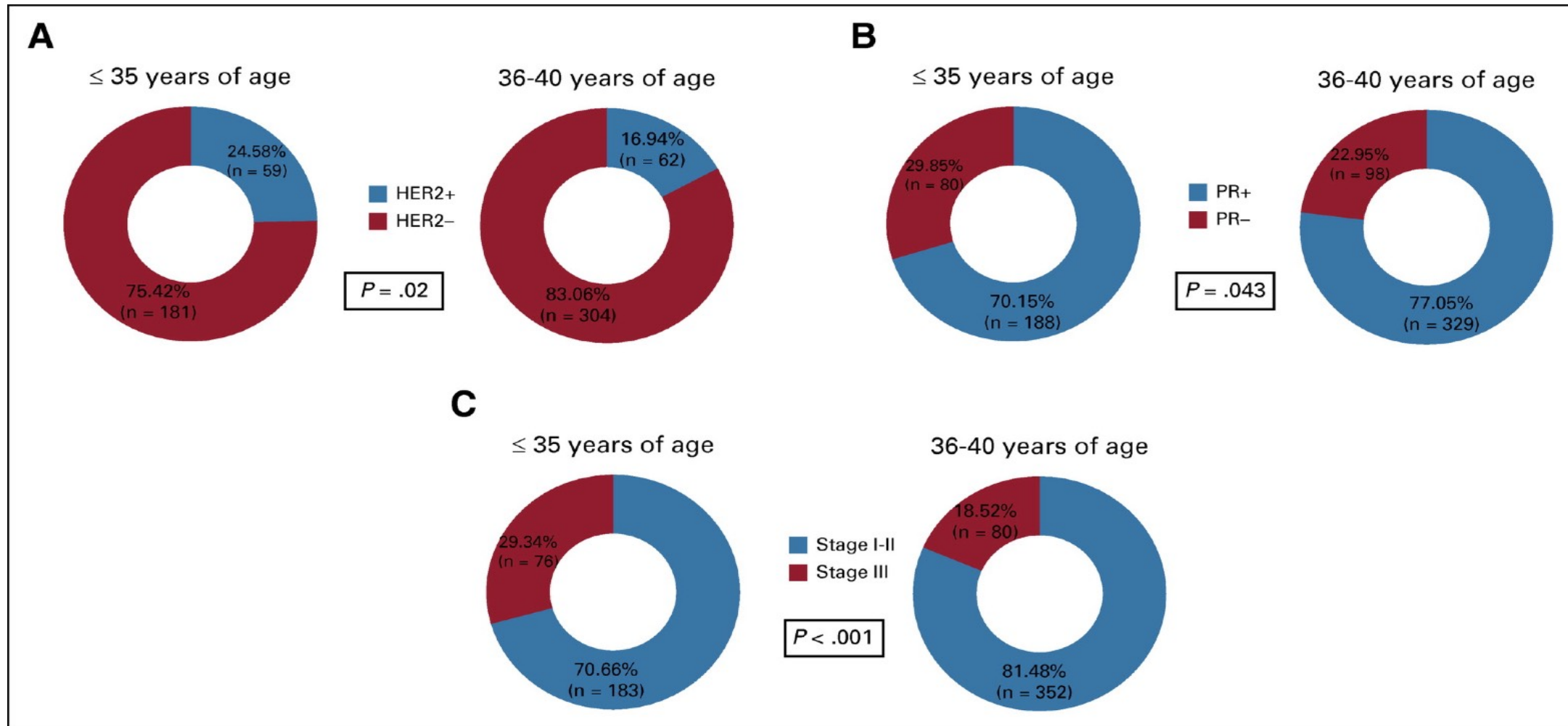
. Annual Incidence of Breast Cancer in Women, age 15-39, 2004-2017, SEER18,

(A) All and invasive breast cancer.

(B) Invasive breast cancer by stage



# Distribution of HER2, PR, Stage < and > 35 years of age

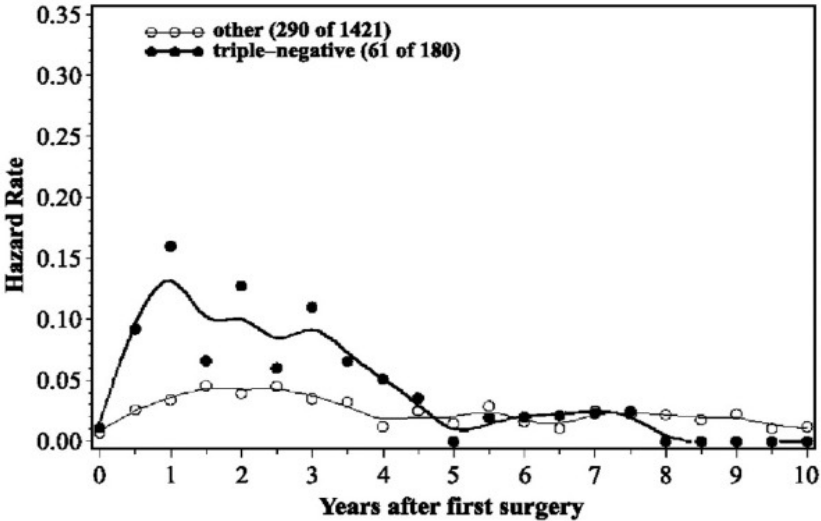


# Young Women and Treatment

- **Hormone Positive Early breast cancer**
  - Benefit of ovarian suppression plus oral tamoxifen/exemestane
  - Use of genomic testing to determine benefit of adding chemotherapy
    - Confounding issues of age, menopausal status, adequate hormone therapy
- Issues of QoL, sexual issues, duration of therapy
- Fertility – storing of eggs/embryo/use of GNRH to avoid infertility
- **Advanced breast cancer –**
  - Many trials did not include premenopausal women
  - Need for ovarian suppression for AIs, fulvestrant, other SERDs
- **Increased incidence of germline mutations**
  - early testing may change therapy
- **PsychoSocial Needs**
  - Greater anxiety, depression, impact on economic/job/family situation

# Historical Studies of TNBC which is more common in young women

Risk of relapse over time



- Relapse pattern:
  - Higher risk, early timing
  - Sites of involvement differ from luminal:
  - CNS involved in up to 25-46%
  - Bone, lung,

Sites involved	N	Bone	Soft Tissue	Viscera
TNBC	79	13%	13%	74%
ER+	123	39%	7%	54%
HER2+	78	7%	12%	81%

## Ms BJ

- 33 years old, late October 2019 presented 8 weeks pregnant
- 4.5 cm GR3, ER/PR/HER2-, mass in L breast, positive nodes Staging negative
- Maternal Aunt with premenopausal breast cancer, another maternal aunt died of ovarian cancer, Invitae 84 gene screen negative
- Initial response to chemo but then tumour grew
- Urgent Surgery in second week of April 2020 (COVID time) with a mastectomy and immediate reconstruction
- Pathology – 2.2 cm Gr 3, ER/PR/HER2 - infiltrating ductal with 22/24 nodes positive
- Post operative local regional radiation and capecitabine
- End of October 2020 – nodes in contralateral neck. Biopsy shows metastatic disease ER/PR/HER-, CT PET shows bilateral neck, mediastinal, and hilar nodes
- Enrolled on compassionate access Atezo/Abraxane
- Nodes decreased, Neuropathy increased and panic problems



## Ms BJ

- Mid February 2021 – CT/PET showed new bone mets, liver mets, pleural disease, and increase in mediastinal nodes
- Small brain mets – received SBRT and started on bisphosphonates
- Received 3 cycles of sacituzumab. She has less pain and feeling better, nodes are no longer palpable but imaging showed progression
- Treated with eribulin x 3 cycles with progression
- Progressive brain mets – Whole Brain RT
- Sequencing of tumour shows evidence of overexpression of AR (androgen receptor) and of
- Started on enzalutamide
- Died 23 months after her diagnosis

# Elderly Persons with Breast Cancer

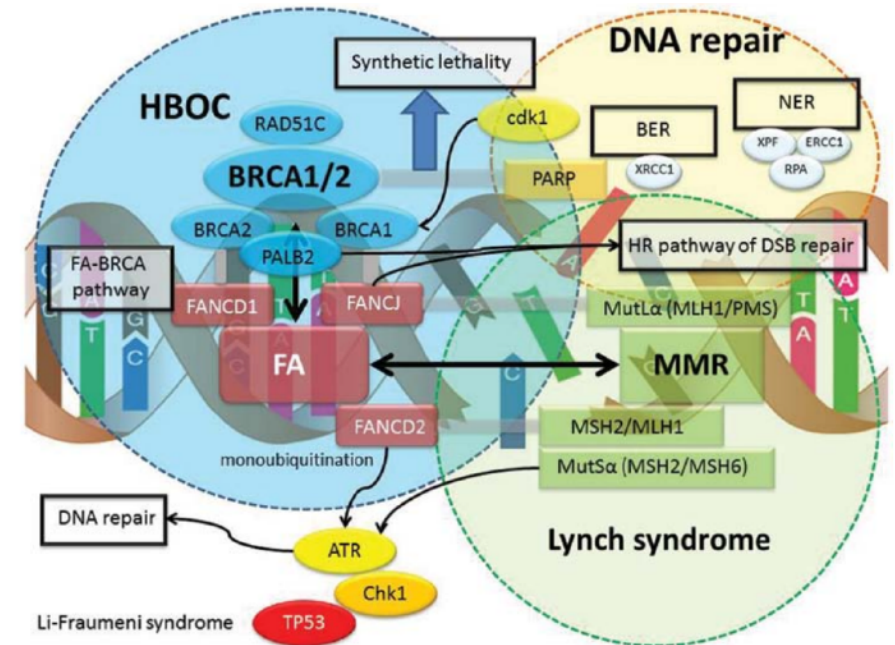
- Risk of breast cancer increases with age , Generally luminal (ER+)
- 20% of women are currently diagnosed over age 75
- Cases will double by 2030 in US due to aging population
  - persons 70 – 84 rising to 35% of women diagnosed (24% in 2011)
  - women 50 -69 will decrease to 44 % 55% in 2011)
- Functional age and comorbidities must be considered
- No evidence of lesser effect with treatment but increased toxicity
  - Chemo toxicity calculator, Geriatric assessment tool
- Surveillance mammography- guidelines for women > 75 published 2021
  - Individualized and continue surveillance if life expectancy > 10 years
  - Discussion about life expectancy of 5 – 10 years, individualize
- Multidisciplinary care

Hurria et al JCO 2011

Freedman et al JAMA Oncol 2021

# Hereditary Breast & Ovarian Cancer Syndromes

- **BRCA1 /2**
- **Li Fraumeni Syndrome**
- **p53** mutation
- **PTEN/Cowden Syndrome**
- **ATM** mutation
- **Lynch Syndrome**
- **MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, EPCAM** and **PMS2** mutations
- **RAD51** mutation
- **BRIP1** mutation
- **PALB2** mutation
- **CHEK2** mutation
- **STK11** mutation
- **(Peutz-Jeghers Syndrome)**
- **CDH1** mutation

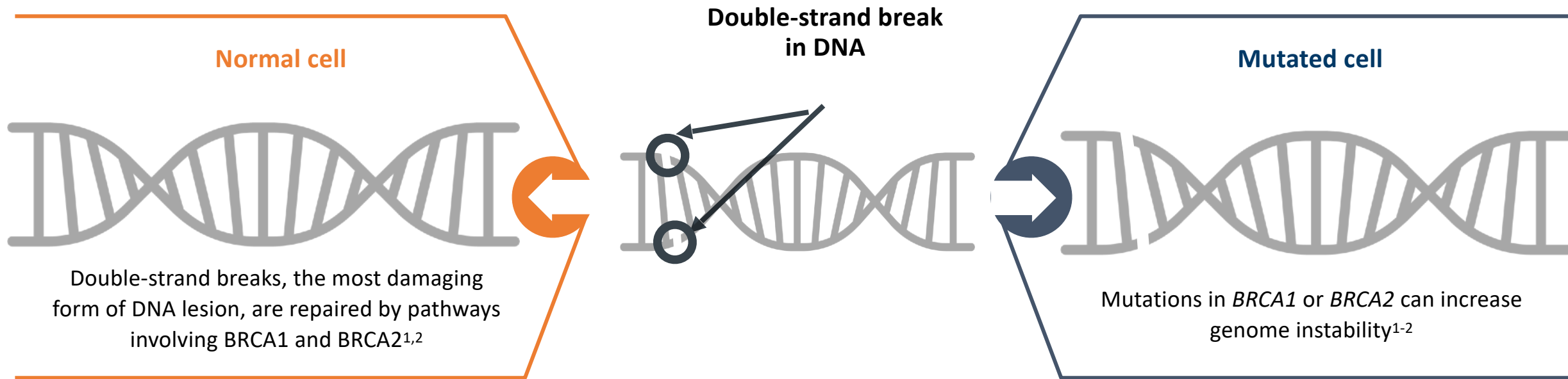


Kobayashi H et al, Oncol Rep, 2013

Clinical implications for prevention and screening not well understood for all these mutations.....

# BRCA1 and BRCA2 proteins are key components in DNA damage repair<sup>1,2</sup>

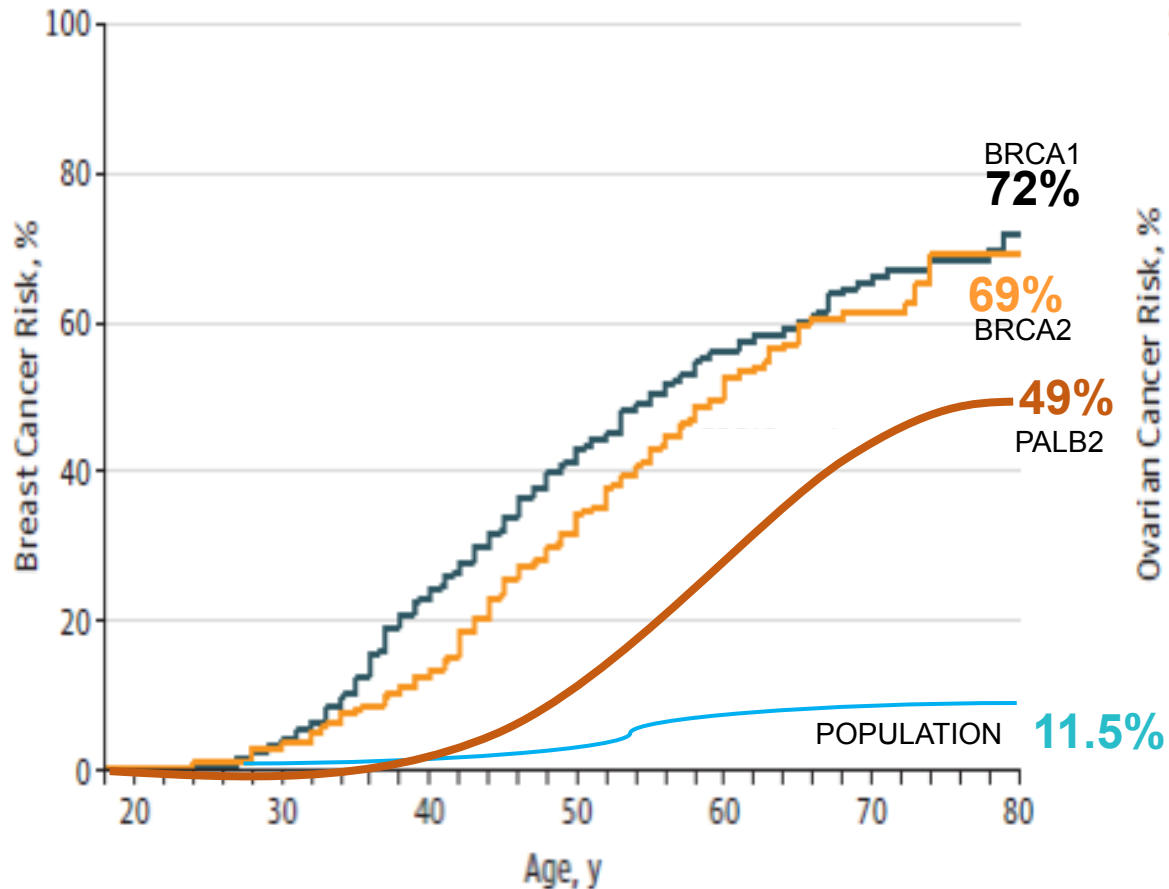
DNA damage is a constantly occurring event<sup>1,2</sup>



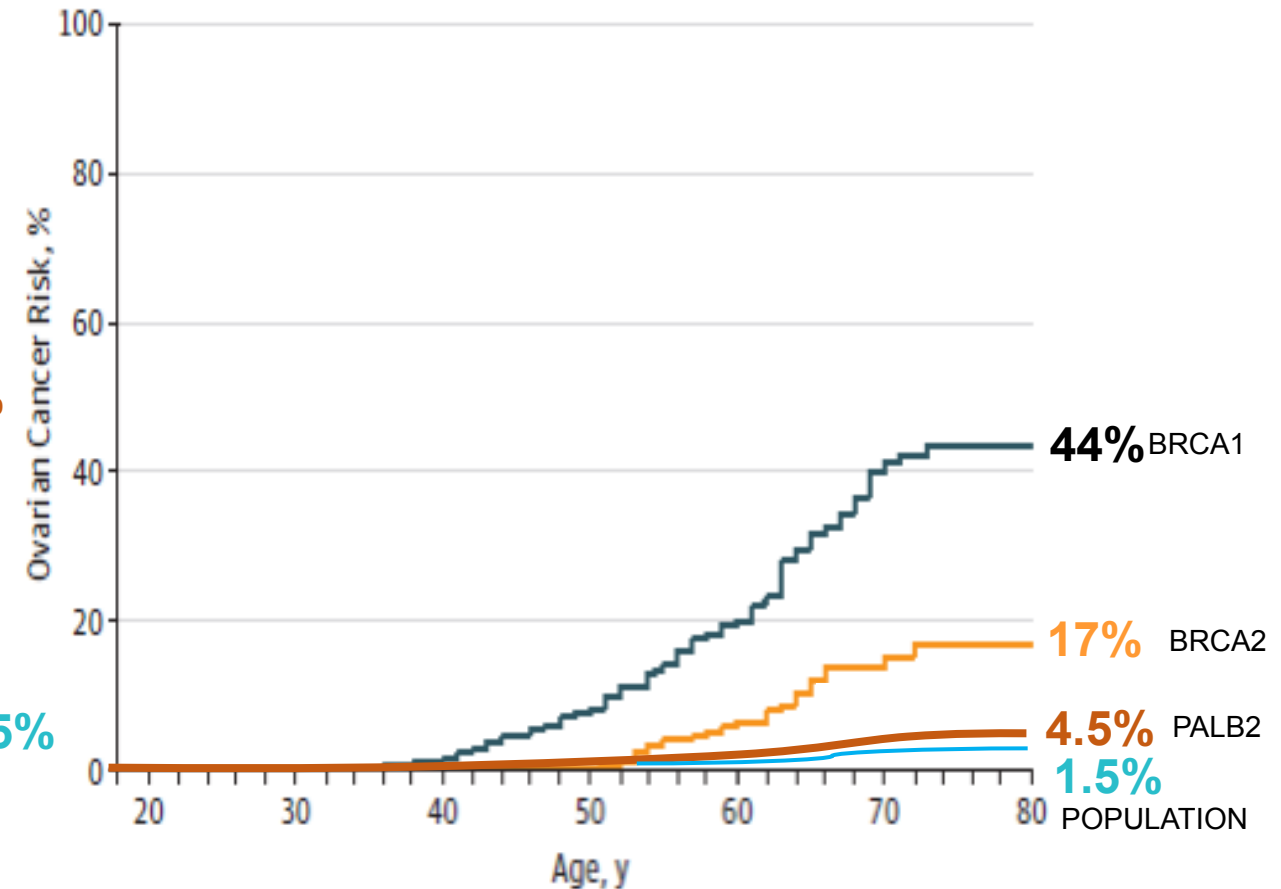
- **Mutations in BRCA genes can increase the risk of developing BC<sup>1-2</sup>**
- **The risk of developing BC by 80 years old among those harbouring mutations in *BRCA1* or *BRCA2* is 72% and 69%, respectively<sup>3</sup>**

# Cancer susceptibility genes: *BRCA1*, *BRCA2*, *PALB2*

Cumulative risk of first breast cancer among *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation carriers



Cumulative risk of ovarian cancer among *BRCA1* and *BRCA2* mutation carriers

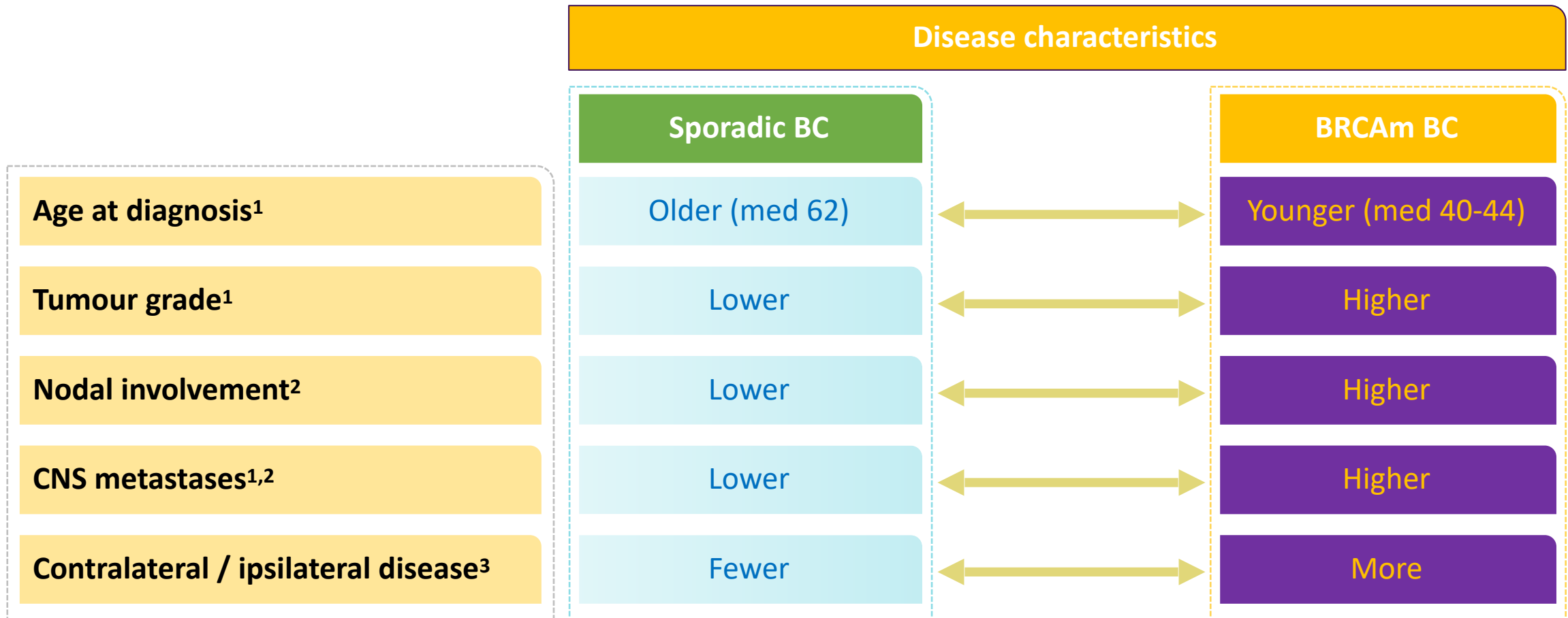


BRCA=Breast Cancer gene; PALB2=partner and localiser of *BRCA2*; y=year.

1. Kuchenbaecker KB, et al, *JAMA*. 2017;317(23):2402-2416; 2. Antoniou AC, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2014;371(17):497-506; 3. Personal communication with Clare Turnbull. October 2021.

# Patients with BRCAm BC have distinct tumour characteristics compared with the sporadic population<sup>1</sup>

- BRCAm BC is characterised by a more aggressive phenotype than sporadic disease<sup>1-3</sup>



# A higher proportion of patients with TNBC have BRCA mutations than those with HR-positive disease

~24%

of TNBC patients have BRCA mutations



gBRCAm sBRCAm

~9%

of HR-positive patients have BRCA mutations



However, because of the higher incidence of HR-positive cancer, there are more patients with BRCA mutations in this subtype

Estimated prevalence of BRCAm within  
unselected BC patients by receptor subtype



BC = breast cancer; BRCA = *BRCA1* and/or *BRCA2*; *BRCA1* = breast cancer gene 1; *BRCA2* = breast cancer gene 2; BRCAm = BRCA mutation; HER2=human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HR-positive=hormone receptor-positive; TNBC=triple negative breast cancer.

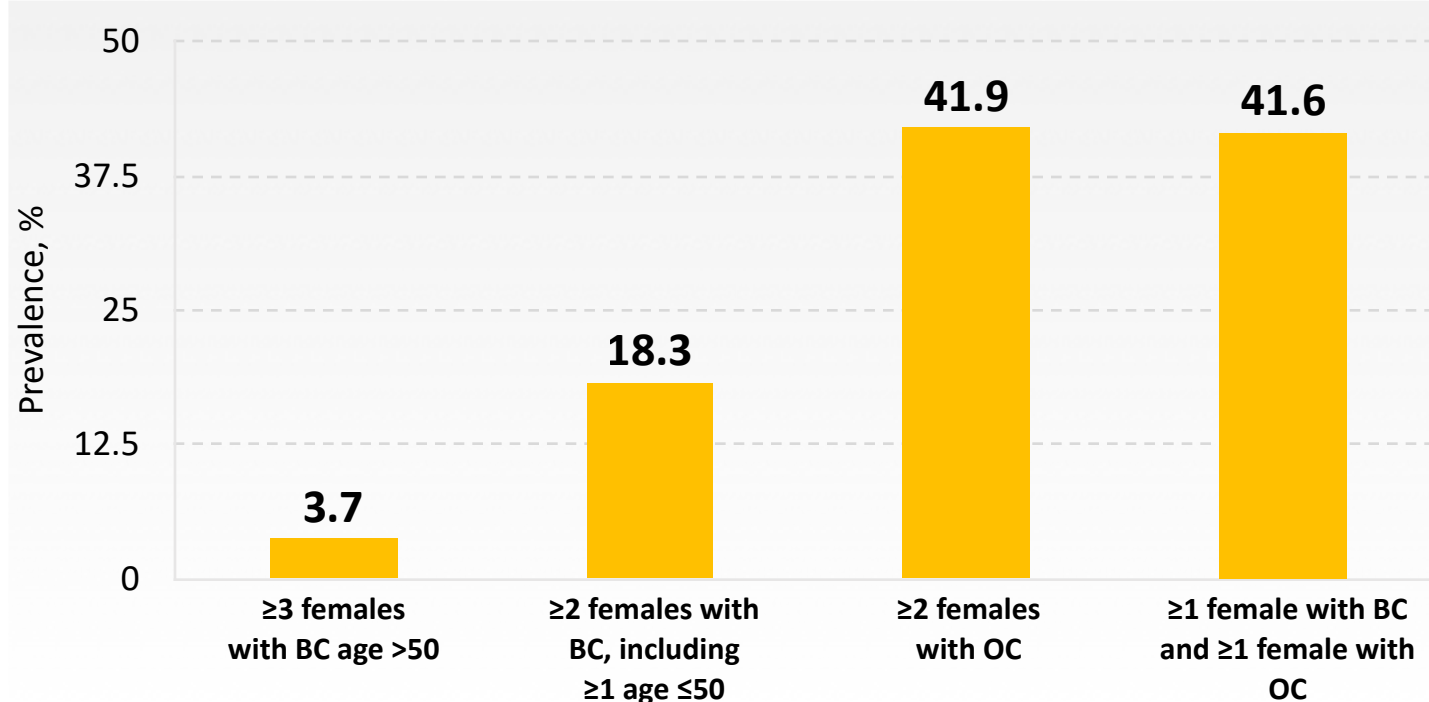
Winter C, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2016;27:1532–1538: Supplementary Appendix.



# Family history alone does not identify all patients with BRCA mutations<sup>1</sup>

**>5%**  
of patients with  
BC have a BRCAm<sup>1</sup>

***BRCAm prevalence is higher in patients with a family history of breast or ovarian cancers<sup>2</sup>***



**62%**  
of BC patients with a  
BRCAm were reported to  
occur without  
a family history of ovarian  
or  
breast cancer<sup>a</sup>  
(57/92)<sup>3</sup>

<sup>a</sup>Note that the Swedish Breast Cancer Group criteria for recommending *BRCA1/2* testing also includes young age at onset, male breast cancer, and multiple tumours.

BC = breast cancer; BRCAm = BRCA mutation; BRCA = *BRCA1* and/or *BRCA2*; *BRCA1* = breast cancer gene 1; *BRCA2* = breast cancer gene 2; OC = ovarian cancer.

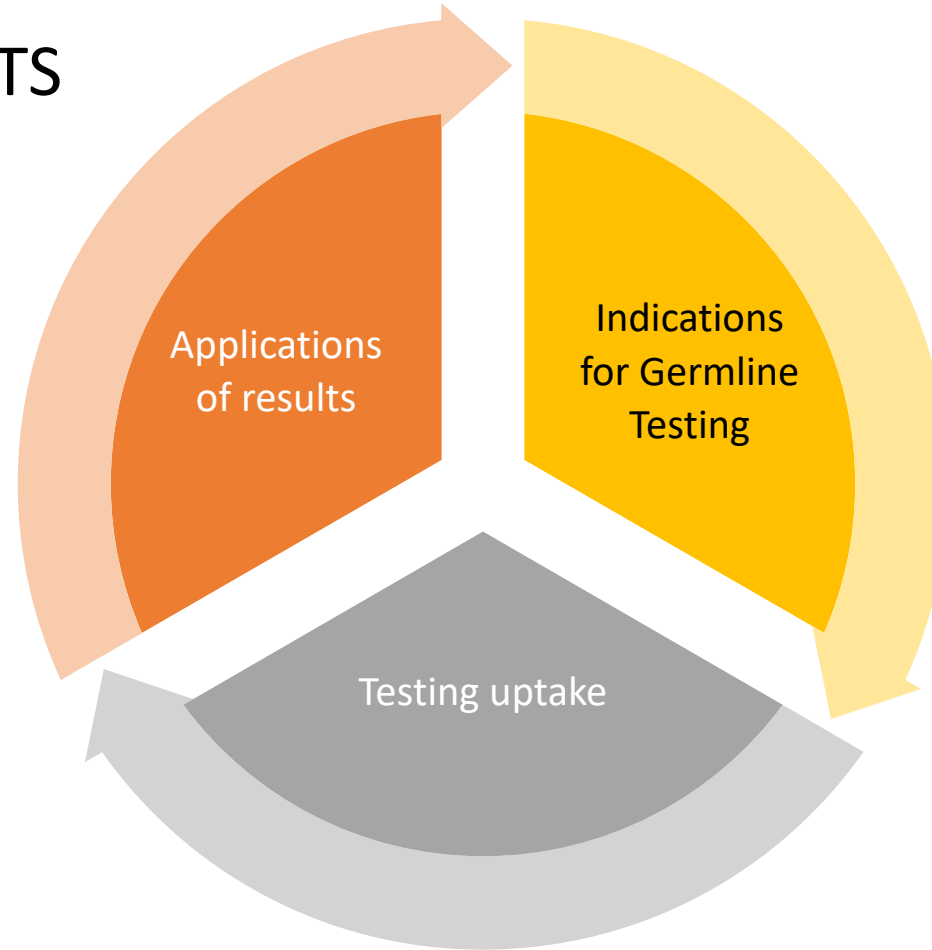
1. Winter C, et al. *Ann Oncol.* 2016;27:1532–1538. 2. Kast K, et al. *J Med Genet.* 2016;53(7):465–471. 3. Li J, et al. *Int J Cancer.* 2019;144(5):1195–1204.

# Key Components of TESTING

## APPLICATION OF RESULTS

For Early Breast Cancer  
Surgery  
Adjuvant Rx

For Advanced Breast  
Cancer  
Chemotherapy  
PARPi



## INDICATIONS FOR TESTING

To identify carriers for optimal  
treatment and to identify  
unaffected carriers

## TESTING UPTAKE

Oncologists need to  
**ORDER** the TESTING  
Patients need to  
**UNDERSTAND** the TEST  
Systems need to  
**FUND** the TESTING

# When to test?

*Testing IMPACTS care and should ideally be done early*

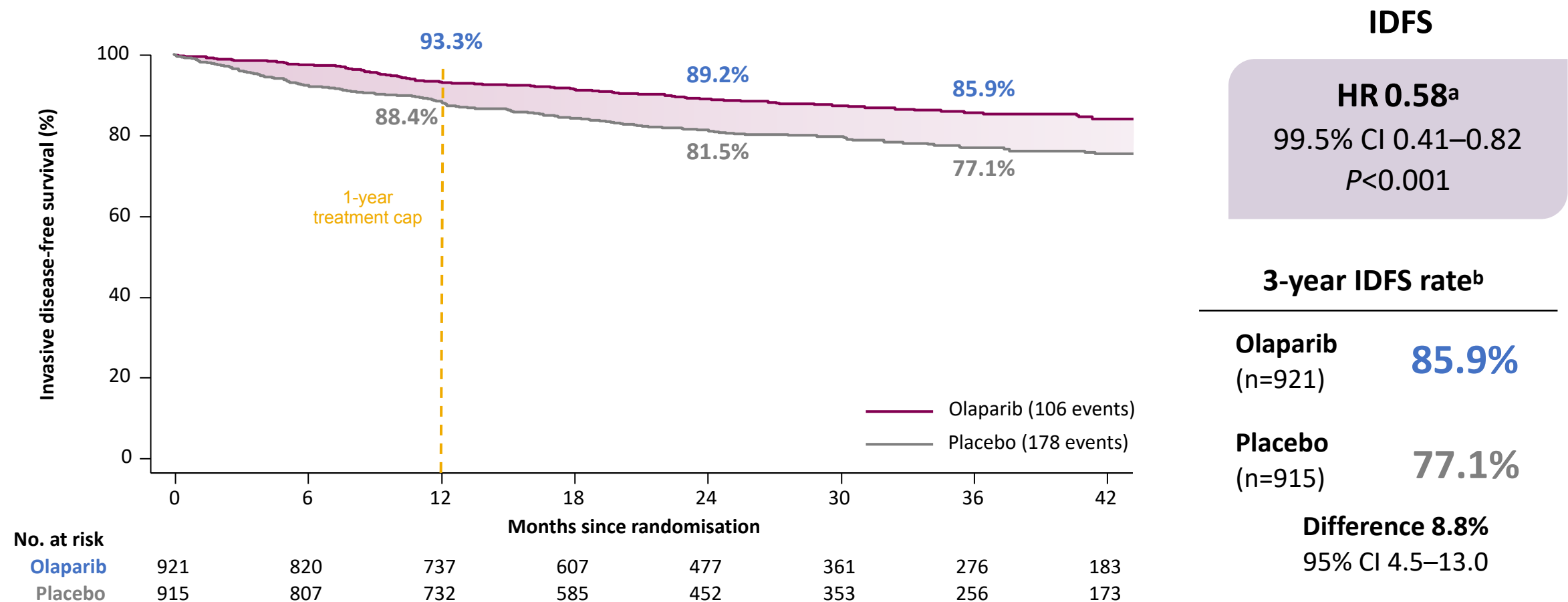
- **Early breast cancer**

- May have impact on local and systemic treatment decisions – IMPROVE CARE
- Ideally test early to improve care
- Testing in 2021 should be panel testing
- With new data for impact in neoadjuvant or adjuvant treatment upfront tumour testing should become standard
- Tumour testing at diagnosis would provide a more rationale approach that could be then confirmed as germline or somatic mutations

- **Advanced Breast Cancer**

- May have impact on treatment decisions
- Role of platinum agents
- Role of PARPi
- Enrollment in clinical trials

# OlympiA: Primary end point of invasive disease-free survival (ITT) in Early High Risk Breast Cancer- Olaparib vs Placebo



<sup>a</sup>Stratified Cox proportional hazards model; 99.5% CIs are shown for the HR because *p*<0.005 was required to indicate statistical significance for this end point. <sup>b</sup>Kaplan–Meier estimates. CI = confidence interval; HR = hazard ratio; IDFS = invasive disease-free survival; ITT = intent to treat. Tutt A, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2021;384(25):2394-2405.

36

# Some of the Issues for Persons Getting Screening for Germline Mutations

- Cancer Prevention Issues

- Risk reducing surgery
- Chemoprevention
- Lifestyle intervention
- Screening for early detection:
  - ✓ Breast & Ovarian cancer
  - ?? Pancreatic cancer, prostate cancer

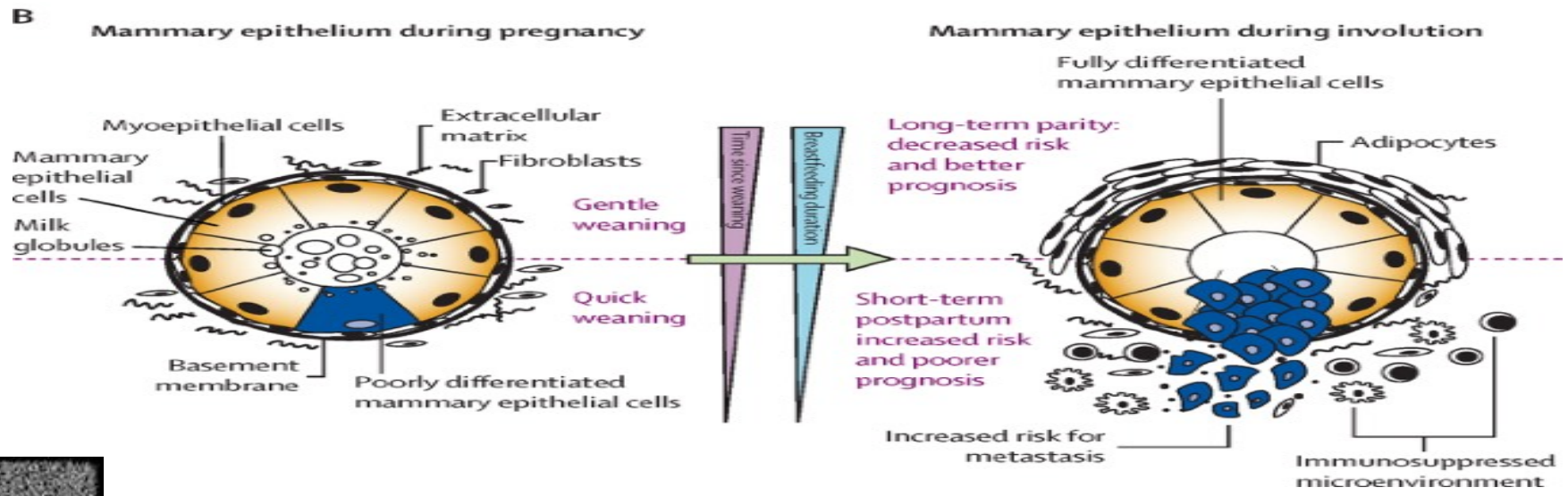
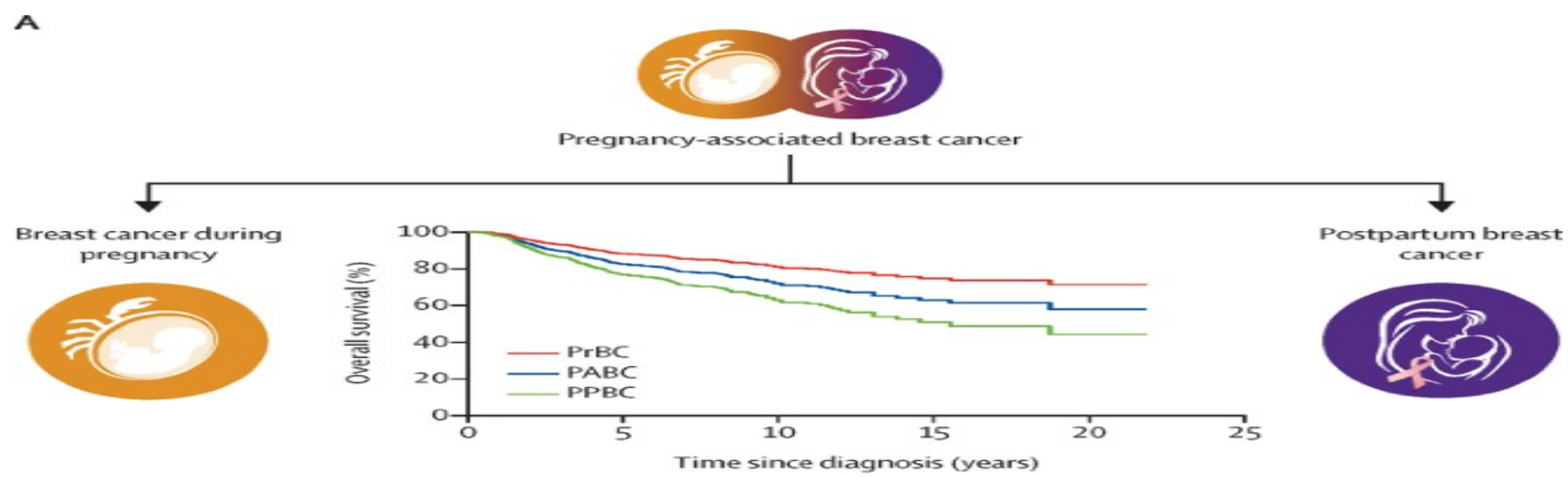
- Reproductive issues

- Timing of RRSO (risk reducing oophorectomy)
  - For BRCA1 – between 35-40
  - For BRCA2 – 40-45
- Fertility preservation
- Understanding the clinical significance of reduced ovarian reserve in *BRCA* carriers
- PGD – pre-implantation genetic diagnosis
- Premature menopause – impact on sexual health, bone health, quality of life
- Understanding the hormonal axis & breast cancer in *BRCA* carriers:
  - Role of oophorectomy in ↓ BC risk & mortality
  - HRT in healthy & affected *BRCA* carriers

# Pregnancy Associated Breast Cancer

- During pregnancy (PrBC) or within 1 (2) years of delivery (PPBC)
  - Pr BC 4% of breast cancer in women younger than 45 years
  - Is this the correct definition – Lancet Oncology – June 2021
  - Postpartum period is 5 – 10 years after birth and has 35-55% of cases of bc in women < 45
  - Incidence of PABC is increasing with increasing maternal age
- Associated with worse outcomes in some series but controversial
  - If PABC reviewed same but if divided into PrBC and PPBC differences compared to general cohort especially if PPBC is considered 5 – 10 years
  - Breast involution in the presence of subclinical disease increases metastatic potential
  - Stage, worse for those in PPBC rather than Pr BC

# Pregnancy Associated Breast Cancer



# Treatment of Pregnancy Breast Cancer (PrBC)

- Median age is 33
  - Treatment needs to be multidisciplinary
  - No evidence of consistent neonatal long term issues except often premature delivery
  - Large series from Netherlands suggested increased TNBC (38.3% vs 22.0%) and fewer hormone positive (37.9% vs 67.3%) (1)
  - Modified diagnostic workup
- Treatment depends on timing of diagnosis
  - Early 1<sup>st</sup> trimester – conception to 4 weeks – avoid treatment
  - 1<sup>st</sup> trimester
    - 1-2% risk of miscarriage with surgery
    - High risk of severe fetal abnormalities and miscarriage with RT, chemo and hormone therapy, no good data with anti HER2
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester
    - Avoid radiation, chemotherapy may cause growth restriction and myelosuppression but can be given
    - Most Data with AC but also data with paclitaxel
    - Anti HER2 – reports of oligohydramnios/anhydramnios
    - Insufficient data with hormone therapy
    - Immunotherapy – increased risk of stillbirth, premature delivery, infant mortality (3)
  - Avoid bisphosphonates, AntiVEGF, PARPi
  - Deliver patient as soon as safe for baby
  - Surgery can be done at any stage of pregnancy
    - Series of BCS done during pregnancy including 1<sup>st</sup> trimester with good outcomes (2)
  - Avoid radiation, radioactive scans- unless necessary and then shielded

1. Suelmann et al, Br Ca Resear and TR, 2021
2. Blundo et al, Front Oncol 2021
3. Tesarova et al, Jour of Personalized Med - 2020



# Pregnancy **AFTER** a Diagnosis of Breast Cancer

- No data to suggest worse prognosis but studies are small and often from a single centre
- Also with longer definition of PPBC we need to re-evaluate older studies
- POSITIVE study – international study of 500 ER+ women who enrolled in the study, stopped their endocrine therapy after 18 – 30 months and tried to have a pregnancy. If no pregnancy after 2 years went back on HT. If a pregnancy went back on after delivery to complete 5 – 10 years
- Outcomes pending but DSMC has not voiced any concerns
- Outcomes – Recurrence, OS, rate of successful pregnancy, QoL

# Pregnancy During Advanced Breast Cancer

- Young women with advanced breast cancer are increasingly needing to discuss options for pregnancy
- Issues:
  - Advanced breast cancer(ABC) is not curable
  - Survival is variable but shortened
  - Treatment is usually continuous for ABC so treatment either DURING pregnancy or a treatment HOLIDAY
  - Respect for autonomy of patients

# Male Breast Cancer

- 1 % of breast cancer
- 10% of male breast cancers have a germline mutations most commonly BRCA2
- Over 95 % are ER+
- Treated the same as female breast cancer in terms of surgery, radiation, chemotherapy, tamoxifen
- Confusing data on AI – efficacy less well demonstrated, questions of castration or not
- Data on other drugs such as CDK4/6 is equivalent
- Mammogram follow-up if enough breast tissue

# Breast Cancer in Transgender Patients

- Generally small studies but Dutch study of 3289 persons with median duration of hormone therapy of 15 – 18 years
  - Risk for trans women > than for cisgender men but lower than cis women
  - Risk for trans men < than for cisgender women, especially with mastectomy
  - Supplemental hormone therapy appears to cause a lower risk than HRT in ciswomen
- Usually presents as a lump
- Supplemental hormonal therapy may need to be stopped if there are concerns about interference with therapy
- Psychological, physical impact, body image impact
- Labelling of patients may be damaging
- Mammograms for women or men with residual breast tissue
- Screening should be offered to transgender individuals according to local guidelines considering individual anatomy and risk factors

# Mr. GL

- Presented at age 61 in December 2018 with mass in right breast with skin involvement and palpable nodes
- History of Rheumatoid arthritis since 1998
- Transitioned in early 2000s
- Biopsy showed ER 8/8, PR 4/8, HER2 negative infiltrating breast cancer T4, N1 – started on chemotherapy AC (Adriamycin/cyclo)
- Staging showed diffuse bone mets
- After 6 doses of AC started on palbociclib and letrozole
- TOXICITY with brain fog
- After 14 months progressions
- Found to have PI3K mutation and started on study of Apelisib/Faslodex
- Increasing brain fog and fatigue - apelisib stopped
- After 12 month progression – started on capecitabine

# Mr GL

- Issues
- Forgot he had breasts – ignored breast mass
- Pain in back – assumed it was his rheumatoid arthritis
- When he started on treatment for advanced incurable breast cancer his testosterone was stopped due to concerns about interference with his treatment
- Issues with labelling in cancer environment
- When he progressed and started on capecitabine chemotherapy issue of restarting testosterone for body image/Quality of Life

# Pearls

- Cancer does not discriminate
  - EVERYONE can get it, including your healthiest patients
  - Germline mutations are important but only for a minority of persons
  - Survival improves with early diagnosis so a level of suspicion is necessary
- Special groups need to be acknowledged
  - Treatment protocols may need to be modified
  - Outcomes may vary/ QoL and psychological needs vary
  - Support – individual/groups may feel very isolated
- Disparities continue to exist in access to therapies and treatment during therapy
  - Geographic, psycho/social, socio economic
  - Many groups do not feel safe with the health system and avoid it
- Impact of new therapies on these groups needs to be assessed
  - Data on response and outcomes need to be considered
  - Enrollment of special groups in clinical trials is necessary

*Thank you for your attention*