



13th Annual  
WCS™

# Sequencing Endocrine Therapy and Targeted Agents for the Treatment of Metastatic HR+/HER2- Breast Cancer

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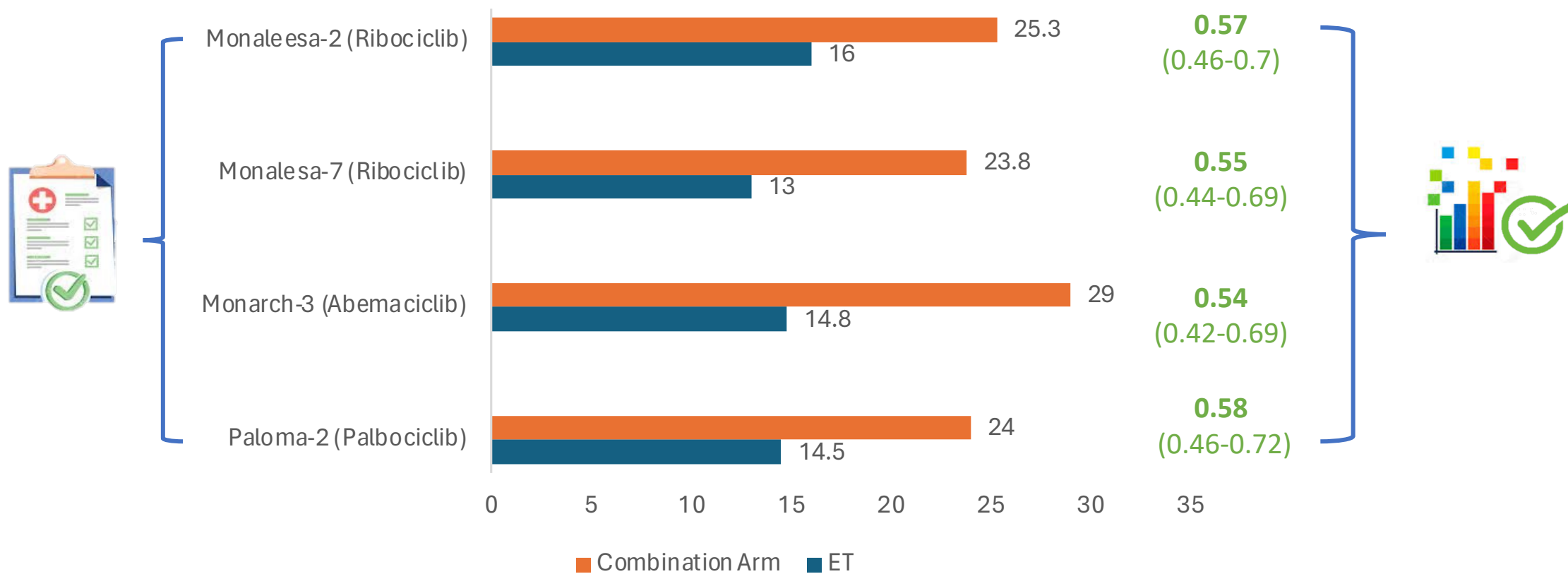
Director Hematology Oncology Section UPR School of  
Medicine

# Introduction

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- Endocrine therapy (ET) paired with cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor (CDK4/6i) is presently the accepted first-line therapy for most patients with hormone receptor (HR) positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor (HER2) negative advanced breast cancer.
- Nonetheless, resistance to ET and CDK4/6i is an inevitable outcome.
- The most effective treatment strategies following disease progression and their sequence are continually advancing in response to the rapidly shifting treatment landscape.

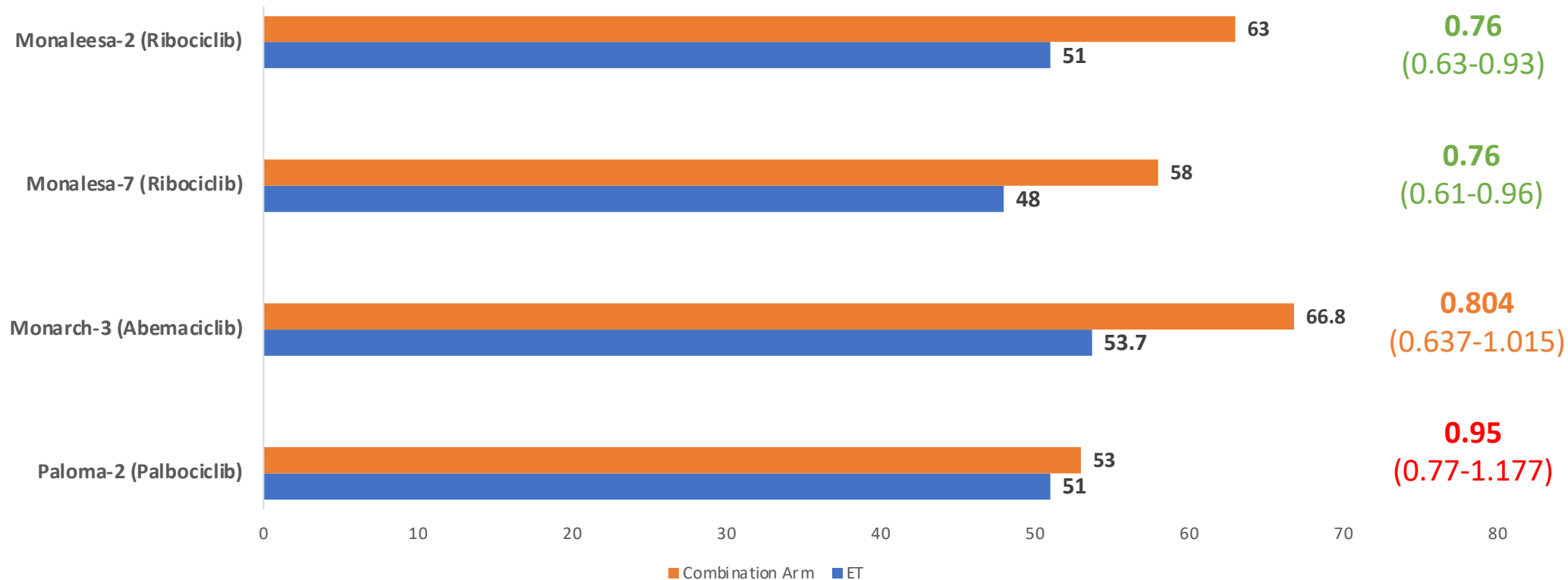
# Progression Free Survival 1st Line CDK4/6i



Hortobagyi GN NEJM 2016  
Hortobagyi GN NEJM 2022  
Tripathy D Lancet Oncol 2018  
Lu YS Clin Cancer Res 2022

Johnston NPJ Breast Cancer. 2019  
Johnston S, SABCS 2023  
Finn RS NEJM 2016  
Finn RS JCO 2022

# Overall Survival 1st Line CDK4/6i



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Which  
CDK4/6i to  
choose?



SYSTEMIC THERAPY FOR ER- AND/OR PR-POSITIVE  
RECURRENT UNRESECTABLE (LOCAL OR REGIONAL) OR STAGE IV (M1) DISEASE<sup>a</sup>

HER2-Negative and Postmenopausal or Premenopausal Receiving Ovarian Ablation or Suppression	
<p><b>Preferred Regimens</b></p> <p><b>First-Line Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aromatase inhibitor + CDK4/6 inhibitor<sup>b</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Aromatase inhibitor + ribociclib (category 1)<sup>c</sup></li> <li>▶ Aromatase inhibitor + abemaciclib</li> <li>▶ Aromatase inhibitor + palbociclib</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Fulvestrant<sup>d</sup> + CDK4/6 inhibitor<sup>b</sup> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Fulvestrant + ribociclib (category 1)<sup>e</sup></li> <li>▶ Fulvestrant + abemaciclib (category 1)<sup>e</sup></li> <li>▶ Fulvestrant + palbociclib</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Second- and Subsequent-Line Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fulvestrant + CDK4/6 inhibitor (abemaciclib, palbociclib, or ribociclib) if CKD4/6 inhibitor not previously used (category 1)<sup>f,9</sup></li> <li>• For <i>PIK3CA</i> or <i>AKT1</i> activating mutations or PTEN alterations, see targeted therapy options, see <a href="#">BINV-Q (6)</a><sup>h</sup></li> <li>• Everolimus + endocrine therapy (exemestane, fulvestrant, tamoxifen)<sup>i,j</sup></li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Recommended Regimens</b></p> <p><b>First- and/or Subsequent-Line Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Selective ER down-regulator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Fulvestrant<sup>k</sup></li> <li>▶ For <i>ESR1</i> mutated tumors, see <a href="#">BINV-Q (6)</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>• Selective ER down-regulator (fulvestrant) + non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor (anastrozole, letrozole) (category 1)<sup>k</sup></li> <li>• Non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Anastrozole</li> <li>▶ Letrozole</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Selective ER modulator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Tamoxifen</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Steroidal aromatase inactivator <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Exemestane</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Useful in Certain Circumstances</b></p> <p><b>Subsequent-Line Therapy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Megestrol acetate</li> <li>• Estradiol</li> <li>• Abemaciclib<sup>l</sup></li> <li>• Targeted therapy options, see <a href="#">BINV-Q (6)</a></li> </ul>

# Possible explanations for OS differences

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- Crossover
- Missing data: more patients in placebo arm than in combination arm were lost to follow up in Paloma-2 (21% vs 13%)
- Population differences
- Continuation of Palbociclib beyond progression
- True efficacy differences between the drugs

# Clinical Implications... How to choose

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## Palbociclib



Elderly with multiple comorbidities



Compliance with intermittent dosing



Need to change dose if side effects

## Ribociclib



Multiple capsules, but easier titration if side effects



Cardiac Dysfunction  
Electrolyte Imbalances



Compliance with intermittent dosing

## Abemaciclib



Better compliance with Continuous Dosing



History of Colitis  
IBS



Twice a day

# Head to Head Prospective Comparison: *Harmonia trial*

## Key eligibility criteria

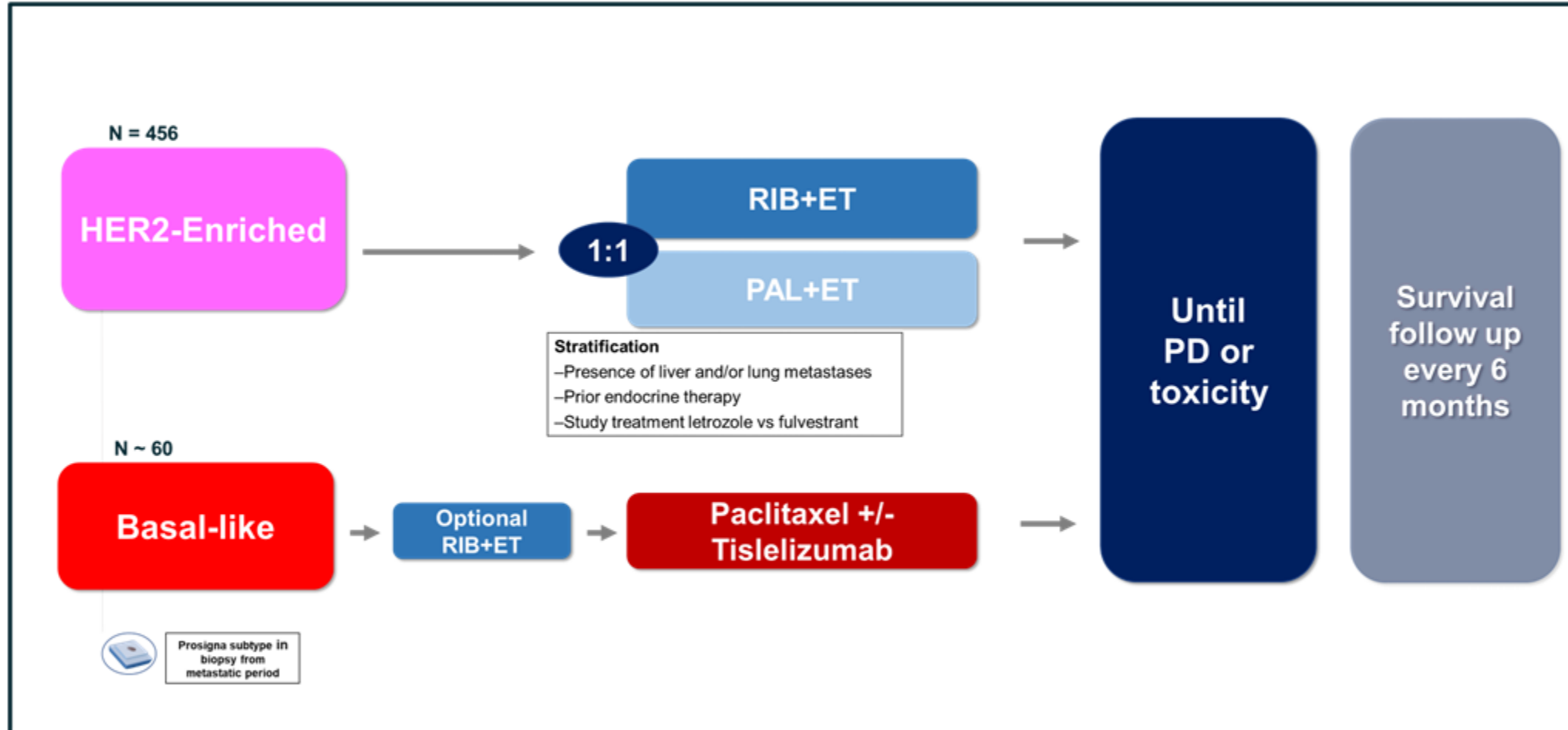
Pre/Post menopausal or male patients

Advanced/metastatic HR+/HER2-negative Breast Cancer

ER IHC < 95%

≤ 1 prior endocrine therapy for metastatic breast cancer

No prior CT for metastatic breast cancer





# Should ALL patient be started on CDK4/6i?

## SONIA Trial: Study Design

- Patients with HR+/HER2- MBC
- No prior tx in MBC setting
- Neoadjuvant Tx allowed if DFS >12 mo after nonsteroidal AI
- No visceral crisis (N = 1050)

Stratified by CDK4/6i, visceral disease, prior (neo)adjuvant endocrine therapy

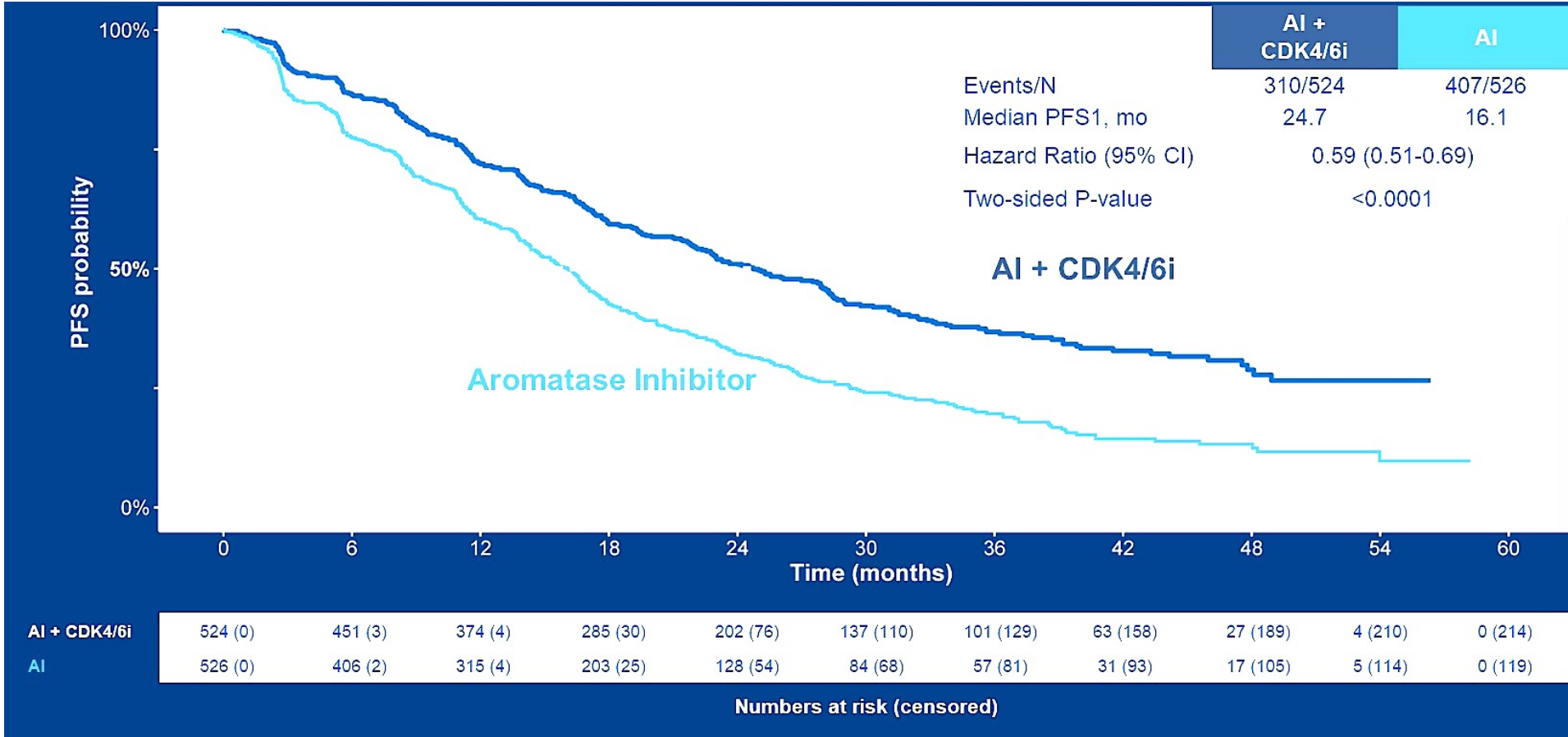


PFS2

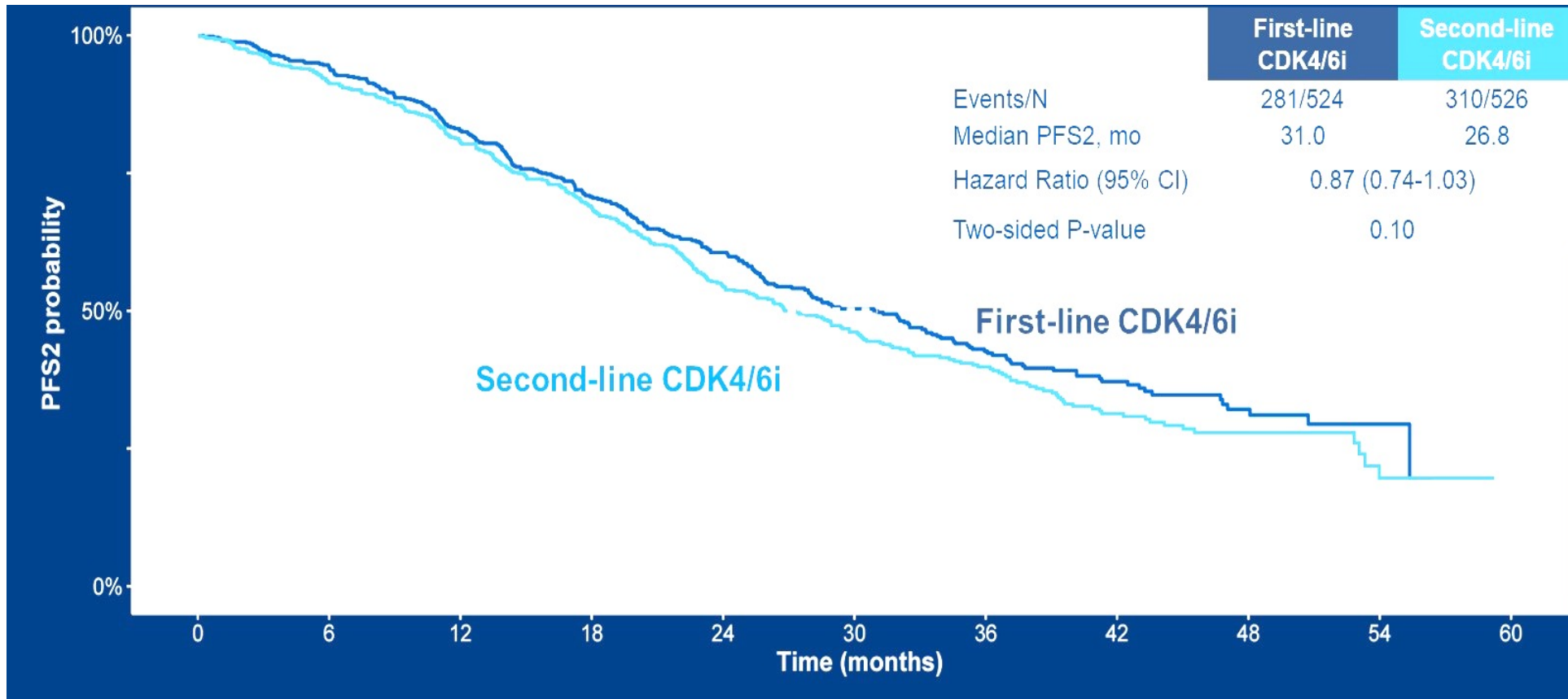
Tumor assessments performed Q12W

**Primary endpoint:** PFS2 (time from randomization to second disease progression or death)

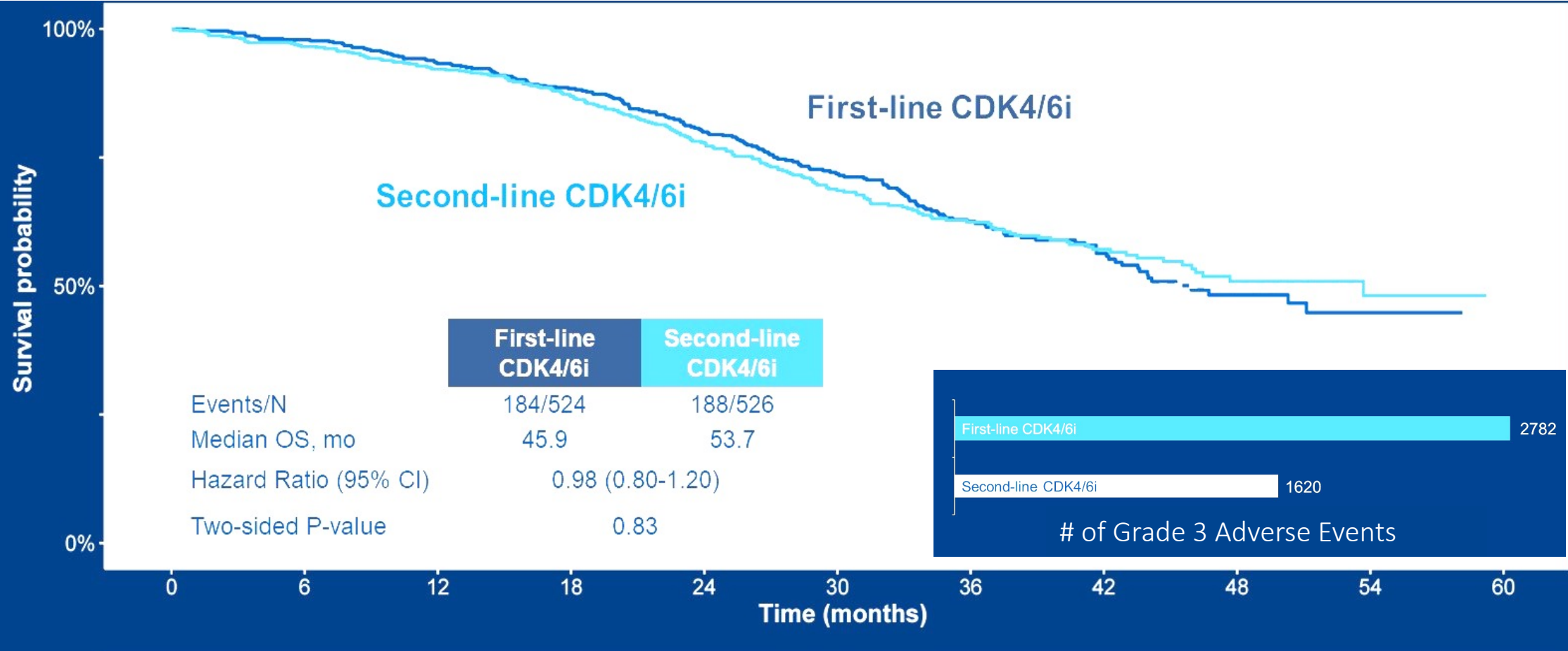
# Progression Free Survival First Line



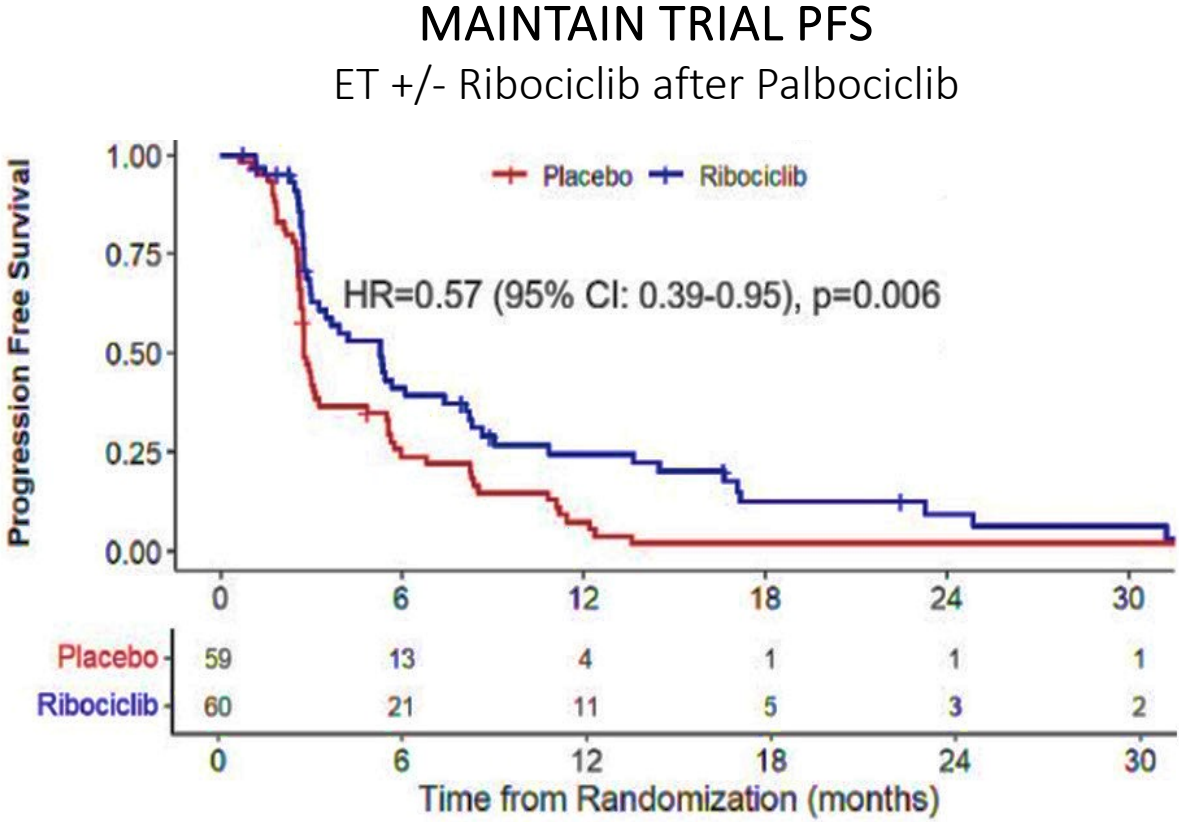
# Primary Endpoint: PFS2



# Overall Survival



# The Switch Game Upon Progression...



Kalinsky JCO 2023

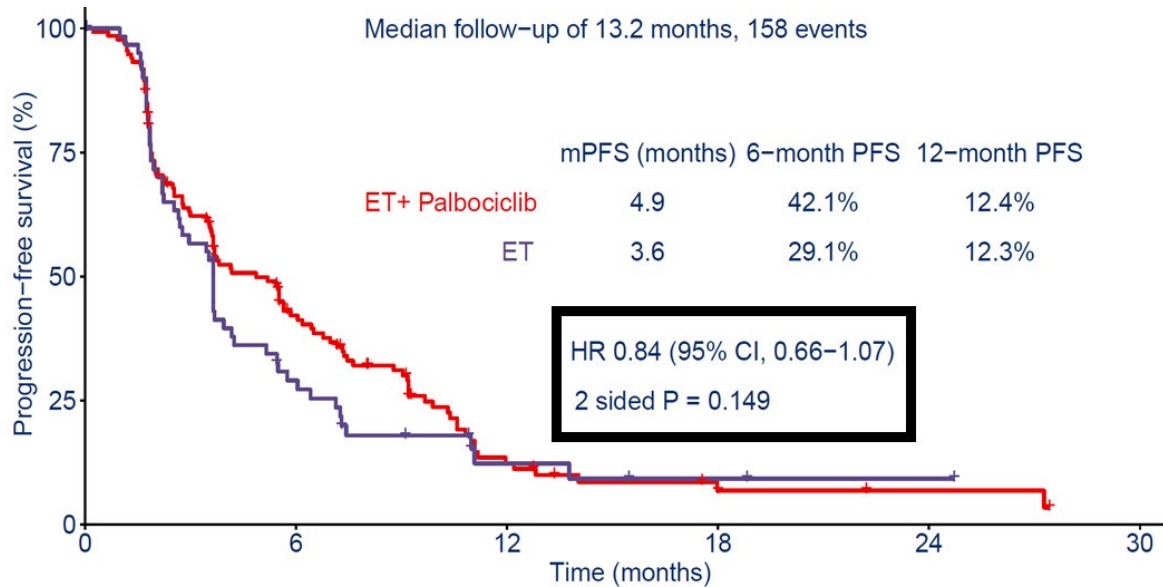
Significant benefit of CDK4/6i switch  
Palbo → Ribo

# The Switch Game Upon Progression

## PALMIRA TRIAL PFS

ET +/- Palbociclib after Palbociclib

Median follow-up of 13.2 months, 158 events

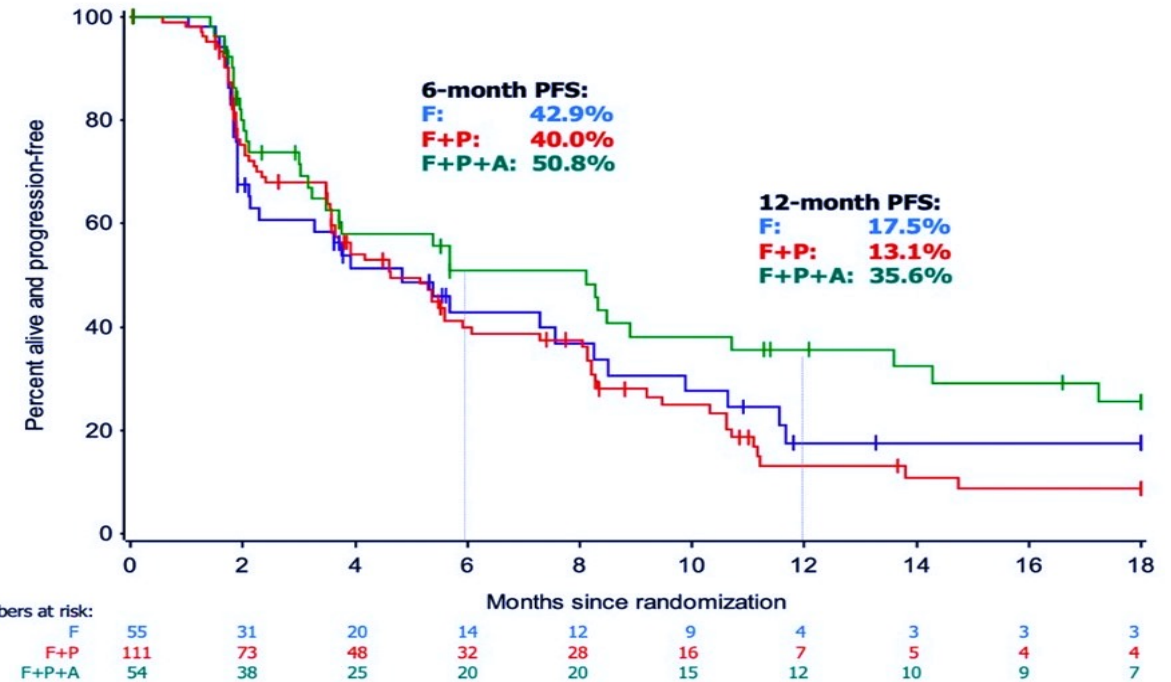


Patients at risk, n(%)	0	6	12	18	24	30
ET+Palbociclib 136 (100)	136	47 (35)	11 (8)	4 (3)	2 (1)	0 (0)
ET 62 (100)	62	16 (26)	4 (6)	2 (3)	1 (2)	0 (0)

Llombart-Cussac ASCO 2023

## PACE TRIAL PFS

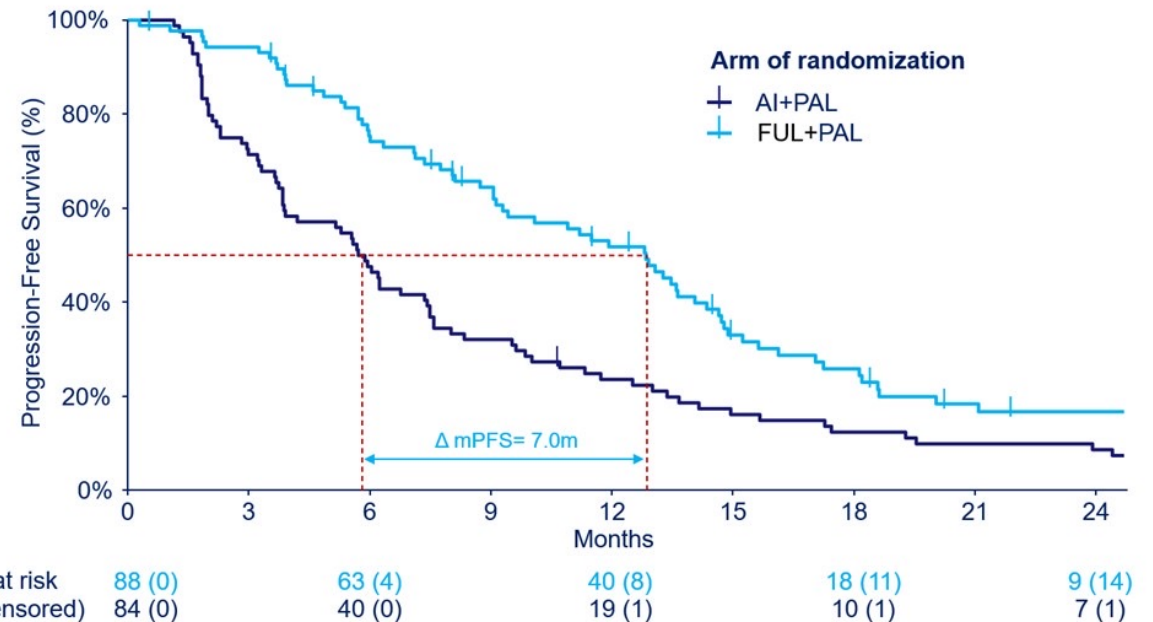
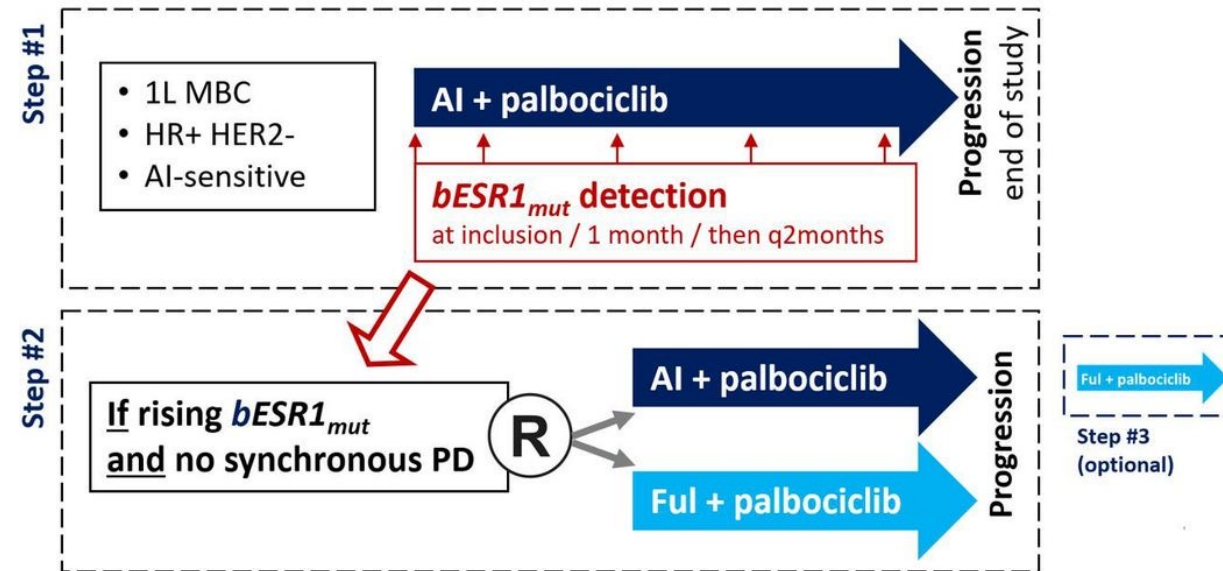
Fulvestrant +/- Palbociclib after Palbociclib



Mayer SABCS 2022

No PFS benefit in ET switch and  
keeping same CDK4/6i  
Palbo → Palbo

# Early Switch → Biomarker Driven: PADA Trial



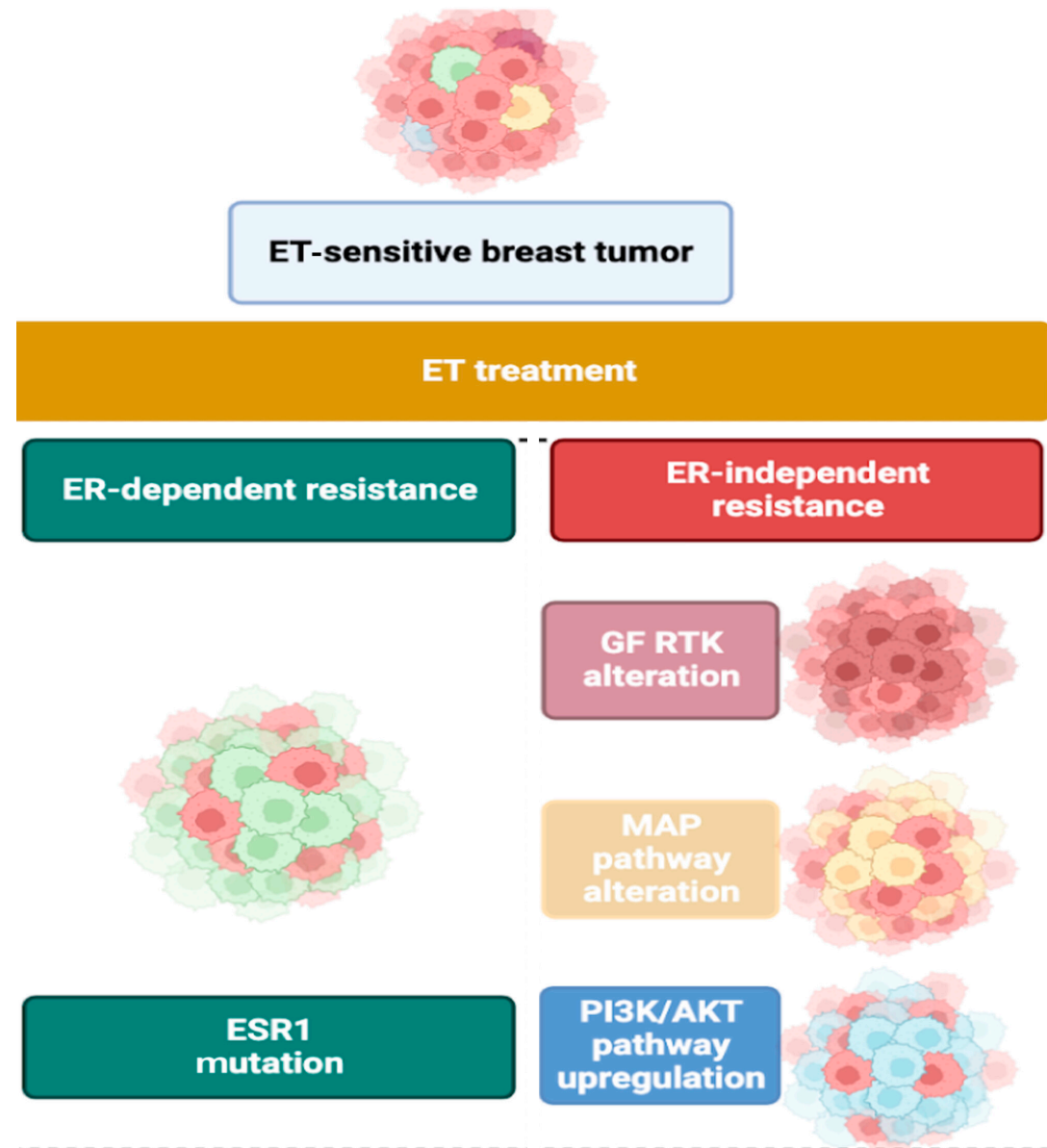
## Updated Results: PFS1

**FUL+PAL mPFS: 12.8 months, 95%CI [9.3;14.7]**

**AI+PAL mPFS: 5.8 months, 95%CI [3.9;7.5]**

**PFS HR= 0.54 [0.38;0.75]**

# ET Resistance Mechanisms





# EMERALD Trial

MBC with 1-2L ET, prior CDK4/6  $\leq$  1 Ctx

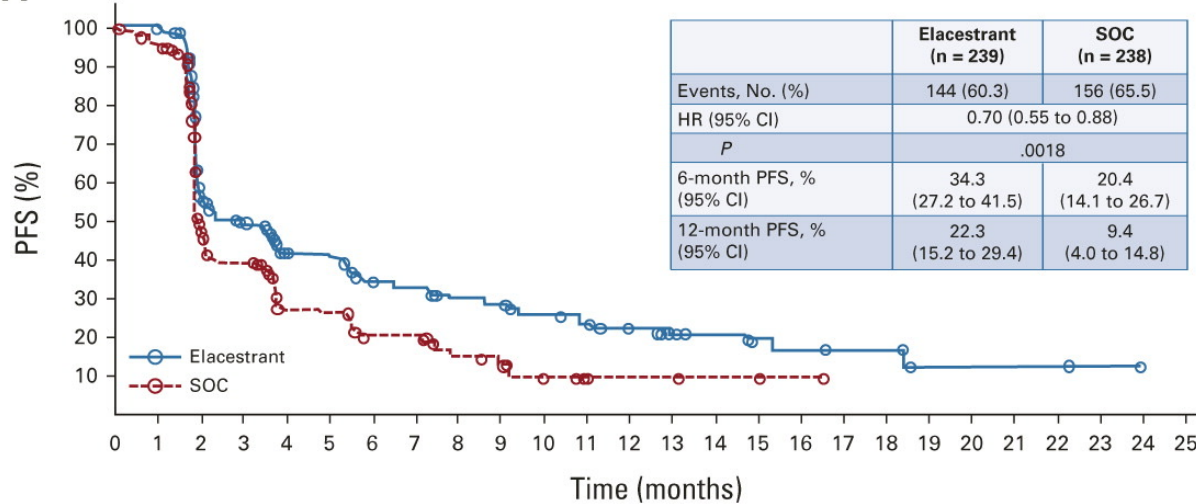
Elacestrant

Investigator's choice :  
-AI, Fulvestrant

Endpoint	Elacestrant	Standard of Care	HR (95% CI)	p value
All patients	(n = 239)	(n = 238)		
Median PFS	2.79 months	1.91 months	0.697 (0.552-0.880)	.0018
Patients with <i>mESR1</i> -positive	(n = 115)	(n = 113)		
Median PFS	3.78 months	1.87 months	0.546 (0.387-0.768)	.0005

Significant PFS improvement versus SOC both in the overall population and in patients with *ESR1*

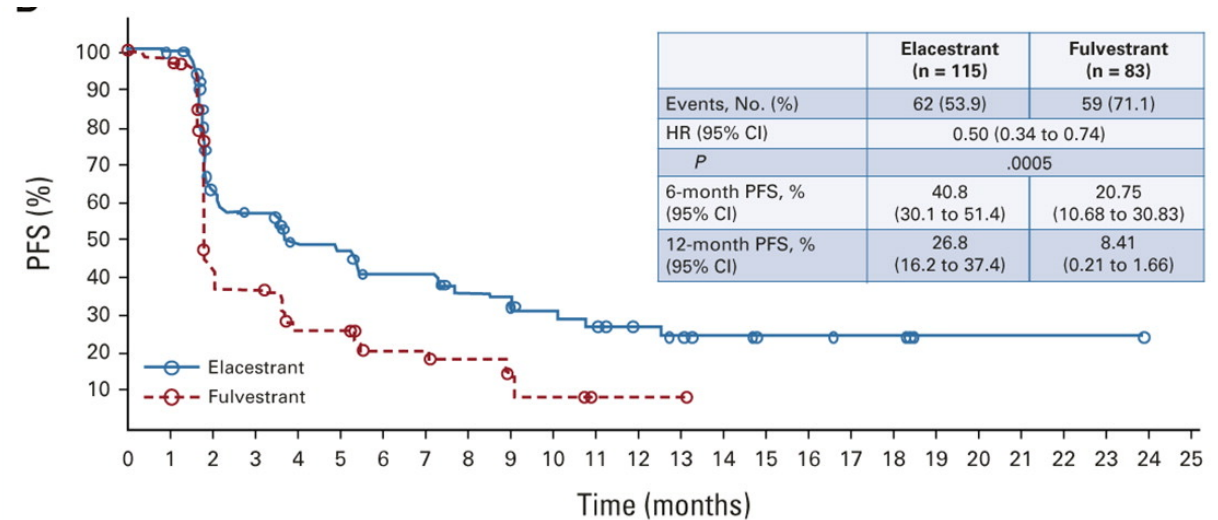
## PFS in all patients vs SOC



No. at risk:

	239	223	106	89	60	57	42	40	34	33	27	24	19	13	11	8	7	6	6	2	2	2	2	1	0	
Elacestrant	239	223	106	89	60	57	42	40	34	33	27	24	19	13	11	8	7	6	6	2	2	2	2	1	0	
SOC	238	206	84	68	39	38	25	25	16	15	7	4	3	3	2	2	1	0								

## PFS in ESR1 + vs Fulvestrant



No. at risk:

	115	54	35	26	21	16	11	7	5	4	1	1	0
Elacestrant	115	54	35	26	21	16	11	7	5	4	1	1	0
Fulvestrant	83	29	16	10	8	3	1	0					

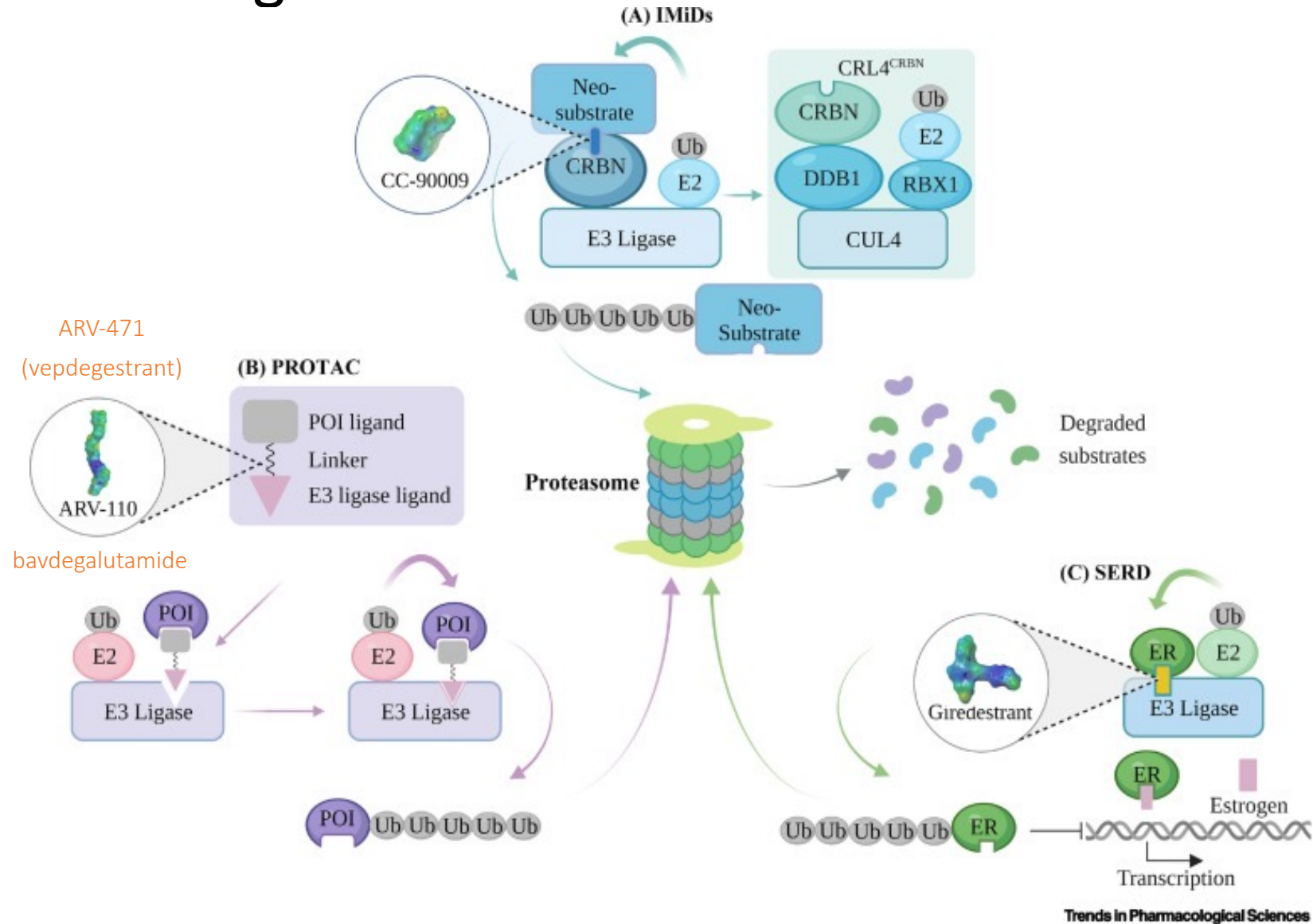
# Ongoing Trials Oral SERDS

Trial	Oral SERD	Phase	N	ET line	Investigational Arm	Comparator Arm	Primary Endpoint	ClinicalTrials.gov
AMEERA-3	Amcenestrant	II	367 <sup>b</sup>	1-2	Amcenestrant 400mg	Physician's choice ET (Fulvestrant, AI, Tamoxifen)	PFS	NCT04059484
AMEERA-5	Amcenestrant	III	1068 <sup>b</sup>	I	Amcenestrant 200mg + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	Letrozole + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	PFS	NCT04478266
persevERA	Giredestrant	III	978	I	Giredestrant 30mg + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	Letrozole + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	PFS	NCT04546009
SERENA-4	Camizestrant	III	1342	I	Camizestrant 75mg + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	Anastrozole + Palbociclib <sup>a</sup>	PFS	NCT04711252
SERENA-6	Camizestrant	III	302	I (ESR1 <sup>mut</sup> ctDNA)	Camizestrant 75mg + Palbociclib/Abemaciclib <sup>a</sup>	AI (letrozole/anastrozole) + Palbociclib/Abemaciclib <sup>a</sup>	PFS	NCT04964934
EMBER-3	Imlunestrant	III	800	2 (prior AI alone or with CDK4/6i)	Imlunestrant 400mg vs Imlunestrant + Abemaciclib <sup>a</sup>	Physician's choice ET (fulvestrant/exemestane) <sup>a</sup>	PFS	NCT04975308
SERENA-2	Camizestrant	II	240 <sup>b</sup>	2	Camizestrant 75/150/300mg	Fulvestrant	PFS	NCT04214288
EMERALD	Elacestrant	III	477 <sup>b</sup>	2-3, post CDK4/6i	Elacestrant 400mg	Physician's choice ET (Fulvestrant/AI)	PFS in all patients and in ESR1 <sup>mut</sup>	NCT03778931
acelERA	Giredestrant	II	303 <sup>b</sup>	2-3	Giredestrant 30mg	Physician's choice ET (Fulvestrant/AI)	PFS	NCT04576455

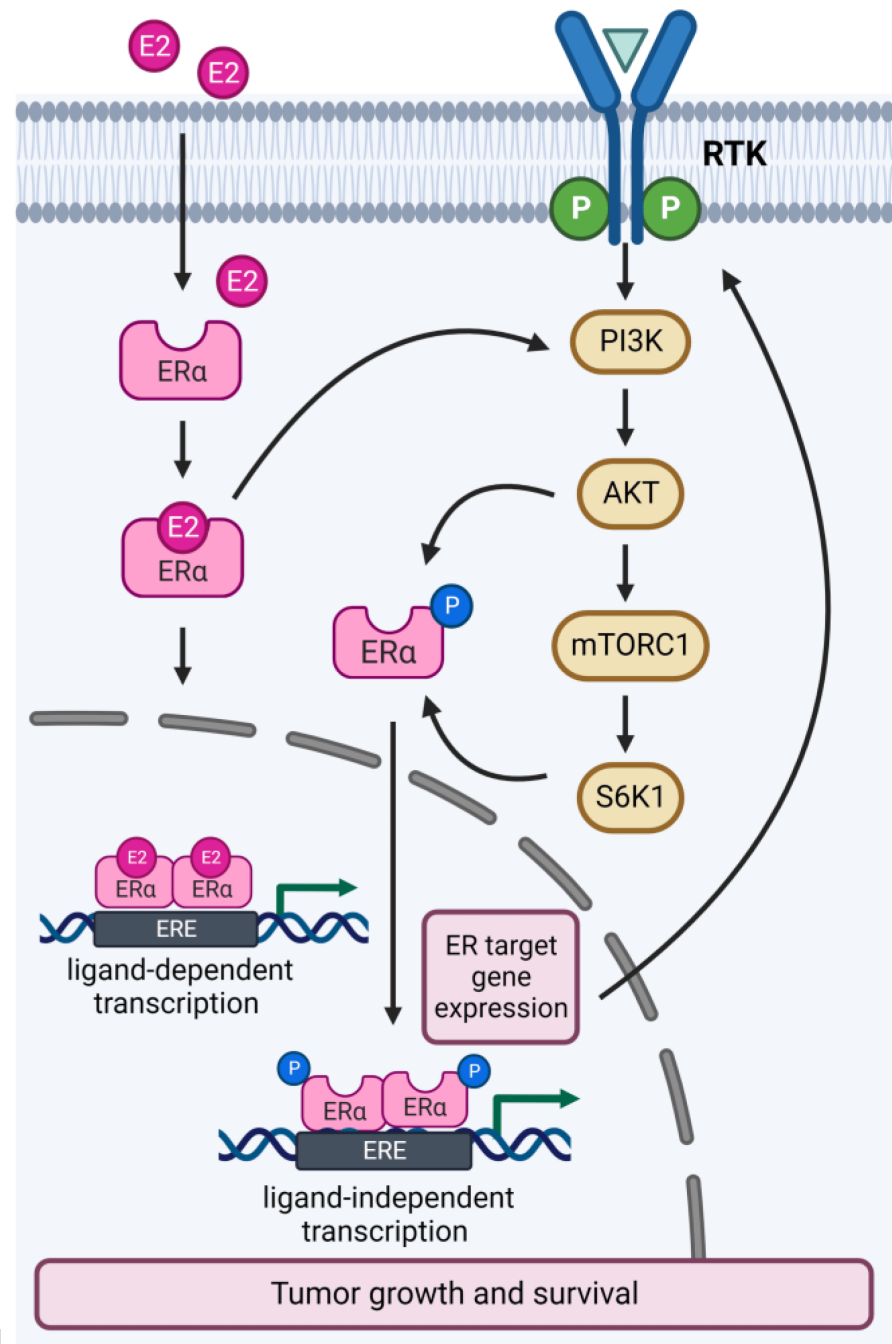
**Notes:** <sup>a</sup>Also with luteinizing hormone releasing hormone agonist if premenopausal (or male in EMBER-3). <sup>b</sup>Recruitment completed.

**Abbreviations:** AI, aromatase inhibitor; ET, endocrine therapy; N, target enrolment; PFS, progression free survival; SERD, selective estrogen

# Targeted Protein Degradation



# PI3K/AKT/mTOR pathway

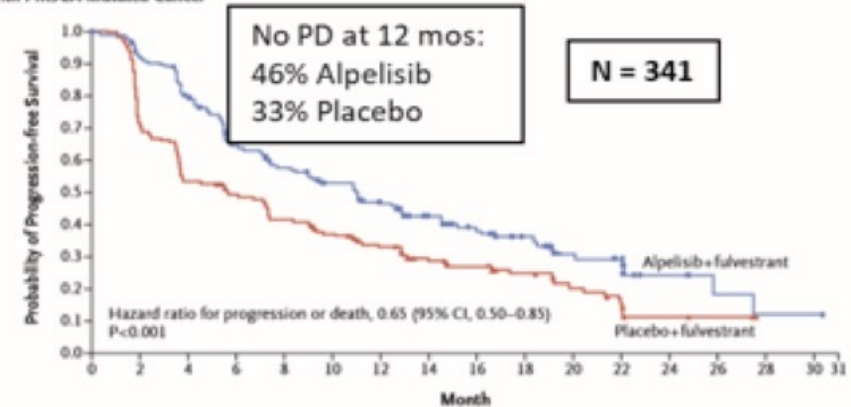


# Solar Trial: PIK3CA Mutated HR positive Alpelisib + Fulvestrant

- Key points:
  - ~60% were PIK3CA mutant
- **mPFS (median follow-up: 20 mo)**
  - 11.0 mo (95% CI: 7.5, 14.5) in the alpelisib–fulvestrant arm
  - 5.7 mo (95% CI: 3.7, 7.4) in the placebo–fulvestrant group
  - HR for progression or death, 0.65; 95% CI: 0.50, 0.85;  $P < 0.001$
  - Blinded independent review: 11.1 vs 3.7 mo
- **mPFS: Non mutant**
  - 7.4 mo in the alpelisib–fulvestrant group
  - 5.6 mo in the placebo–fulvestrant group
  - HR for progression or death, 0.85; 95% CI: 0.58, 1.25

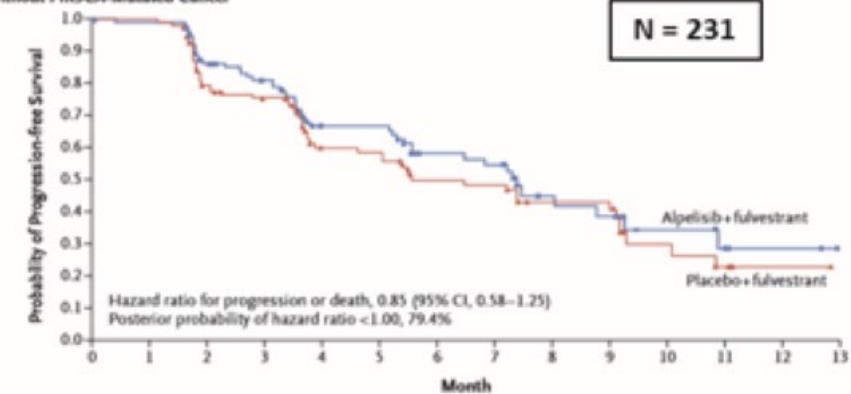
Andre F, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;380:1929-1940.

A Cohort with PIK3CA-Mutated Cancer



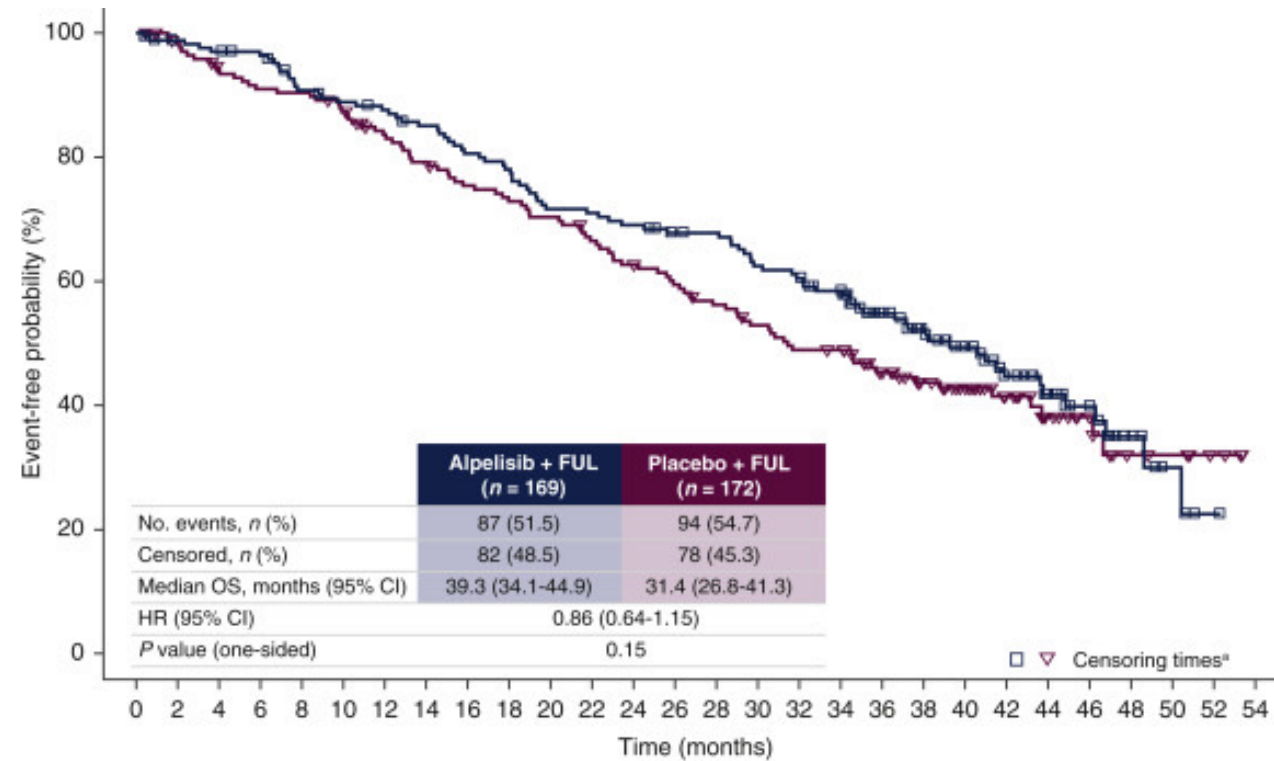
No. at Risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	31
Alpelisib+fulvestrant	169	145	123	97	85	75	62	50	39	30	17	14	5	3	1	1	0
Placebo+fulvestrant	172	120	89	80	67	58	48	37	29	20	14	9	3	2	0	0	0

B Cohort without PIK3CA-Mutated Cancer



No. at Risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Alpelisib+fulvestrant	115	110	86	76	48	48	31	29	14	12	7	5	3	0
Placebo+fulvestrant	116	110	79	72	43	42	31	30	20	20	8	5	1	0

# Final OS in Solar Trial

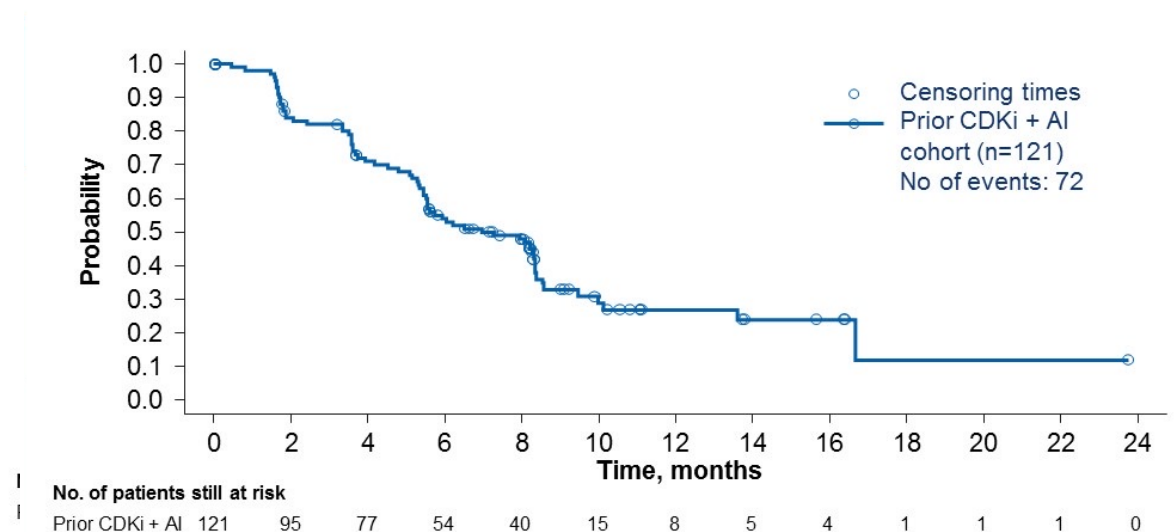


Number of patients  
still at risk

	0	2	4	6	8	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24	26	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54
<b>Alpelisib + FUL</b>	169	162	159	156	145	141	138	133	126	122	112	111	108	103	102	94	91	85	68	56	47	35	26	19	9	4	1	0
<b>Placebo + FUL</b>	172	164	155	150	149	143	133	126	119	115	111	104	98	92	86	80	74	73	60	49	42	29	20	13	7	6	3	0

# Bylive Trial: Alpelisib+ Fulvestrant After Prior CDK4/6i

Endpoint	Prior CDKi + AI (Cohort A) (n=121)
<b>Primary endpoint:</b> Patients who were alive without disease progression at 6 mo	<b>50.4%</b> (n=61; 95% CI, 41.2-59.6)
<b>Secondary endpoint:</b> Median PFS	<b>7.3 mo</b> [n=72 (59.5%) with event]; 95% CI, 5.6-8.3)



In SOLAR-1, 44.4% of patients in the *PIK3CA*-mutant cohort with prior CDKi treated with alpelisib plus fulvestrant were alive without disease progression at 6 months

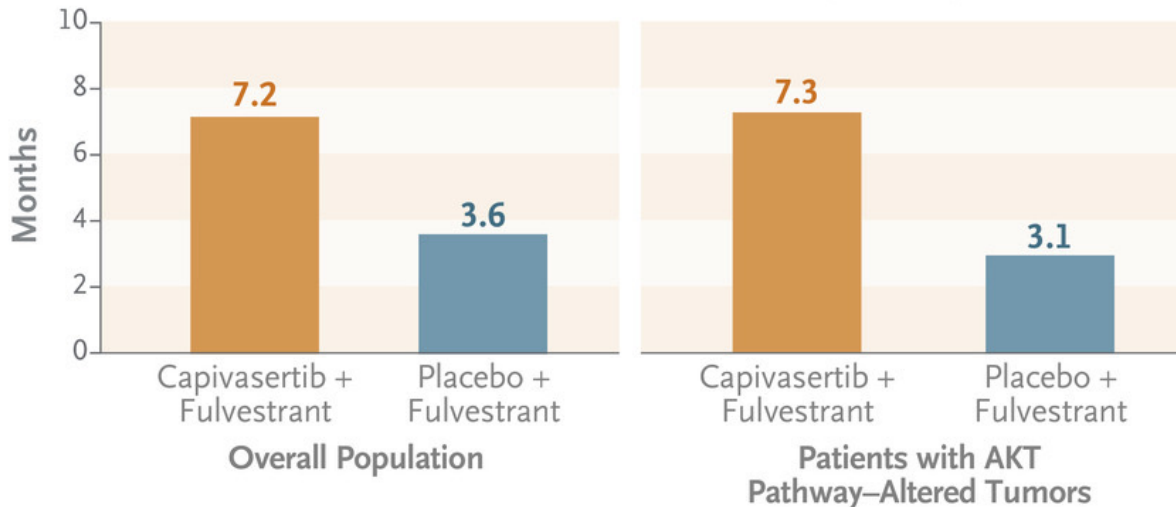
# AKT Pathway: CAPItello-291-Cavasertib

Phase 3, randomized, double-blind trial, pre-, peri-, and postmenopausal women and men with HR+ HER-2neg, ABC who have relapse or disease progression during or after tx with an AI, with or without previous (CDK4/6) inhibitor

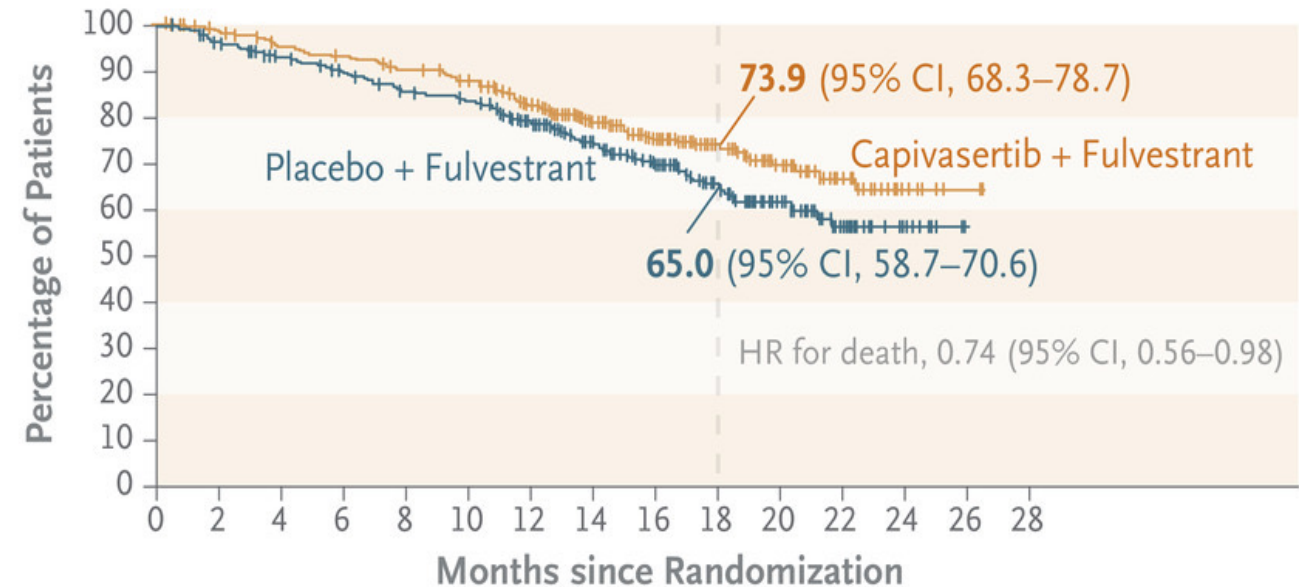
## Median Progression-free Survival

HR for disease progression or death, 0.60 (95% CI, 0.51–0.71);  $P < 0.001$

HR for disease progression or death, 0.50 (0.38–0.65);  $P < 0.001$



## Overall Survival



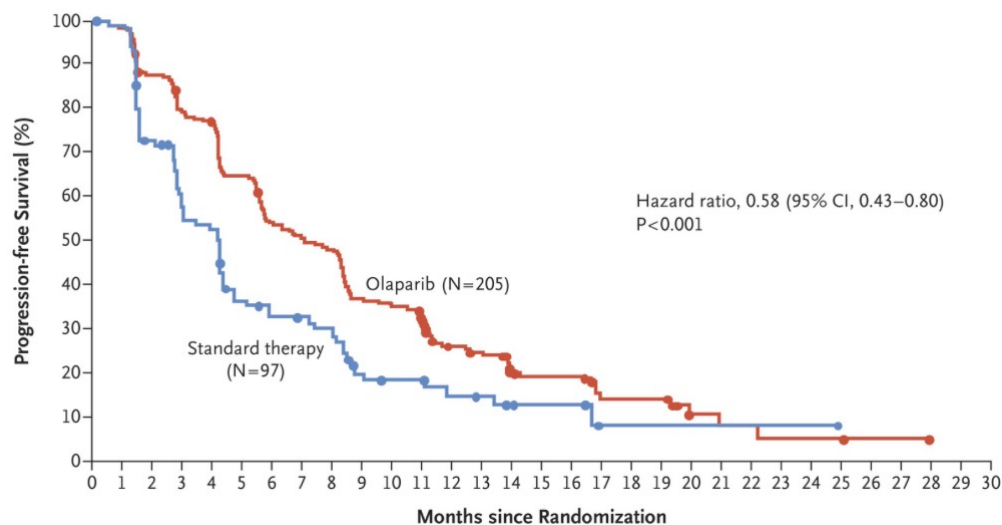


# BRCA1/2

- Olaparib or Talazoparib (PARP inhibitor)
  - Approved for germline BRCA mutant HR+/HER2- MBC
- **OlympiAD1**: mPFS 7.0 mo with Olaparib vs 4.2 mo with TPC (HR 0.58, P <0.0009)
- **EMBRACA2**: mPFS 8.6 mo with Talazoparib vs 5.6 mo with TPC (HR 0.54, P <0.001)

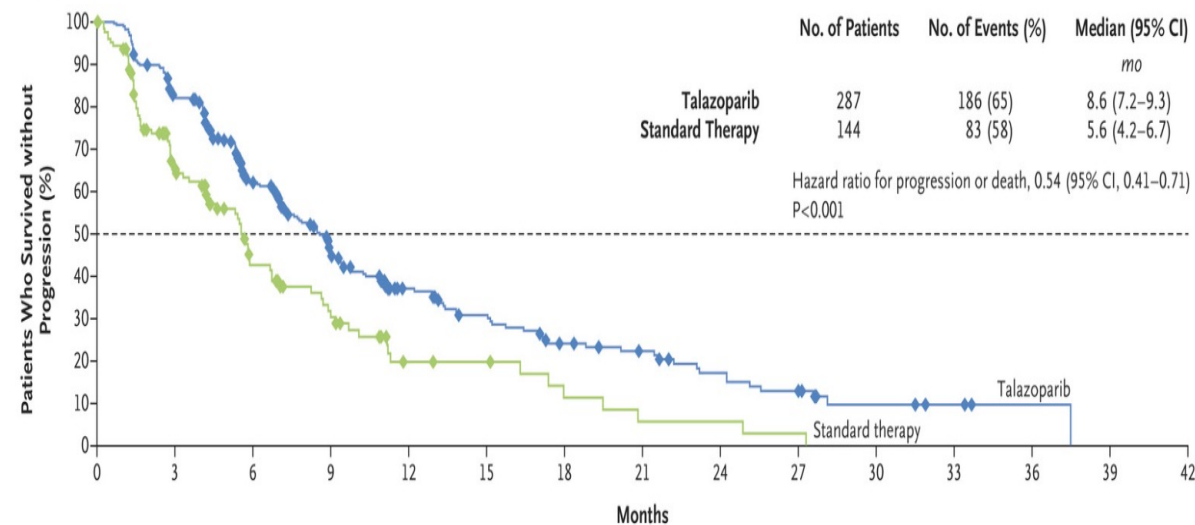
Germline testing should be done in all patients with MBC to determine eligibility to PARPi therapy

### OlympiAD1 PFS



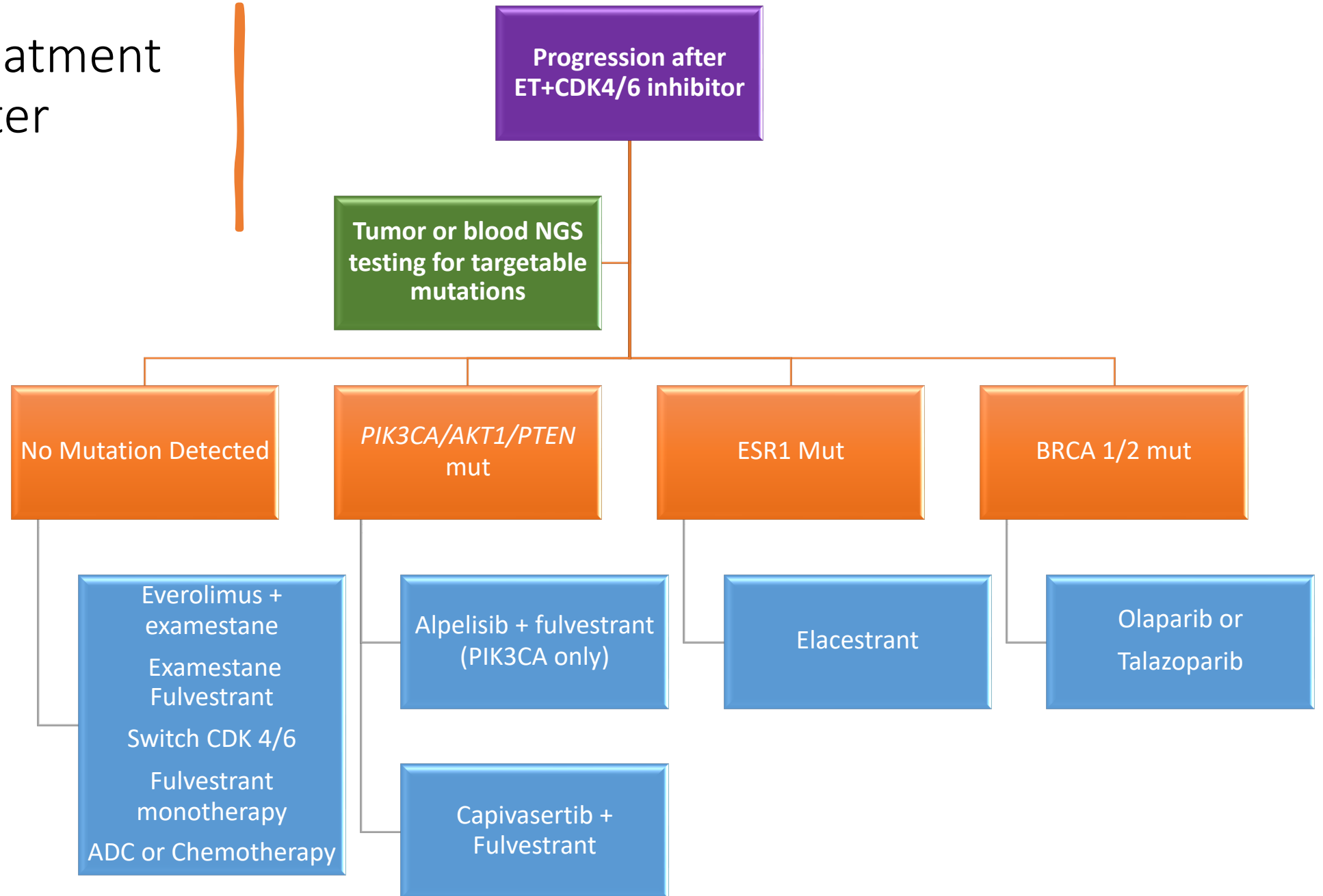
Robson M et al N Engl J Med 2017

### EMBRACA PFS



Litton JK et al N Engl J Med 2018

# Proposed treatment strategies after CDK4/6i



# Summary

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## First-Line Preference:

CDK4/6i +ET is the preferred 1<sup>st</sup> line treatment approach.

Patient comorbidities, can guide the selection of the CDK4/6 agent.

However, strategic consideration should be given to certain patients who may potentially defer initiation of this combination.



## Switching Strategies:

The efficacy of switching strategies may not universally benefit all patients, with limited observed improvement. In cases where switching is warranted, adjustment of both ET and CDKi is advisable for better outcomes.



## Molecular Testing Guidance:

Molecular testing conducted upon disease progression holds promise in providing tailored guidance for the sequential administration of therapies, thereby optimizing treatment strategies.



## Enhancements to Endocrine Therapy Backbone:

Advancements in the ET backbone, such as the integration of oral SERDs, PROTACs, and other innovative modalities, present opportunities for improving therapeutic efficacy and patient outcomes.