

# The Role of Biomarkers in Early HER2+ Breast Cancer and the Management of Early HER2+ Breast Cancer in the Adjuvant Setting

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# Considerations in decision making for stage II- III HER2+ breast cancer

## ▶ **Stage II-III disease**

- ▶ What is the role of anthracyclines?
- ▶ Can we de-escalate following pCR to an abbreviated neoadjuvant regimen?
  - ▶ How abbreviated can that neoadjuvant regimen be?
- ▶ Biomarkers: which are promising and how should we use them?
- ▶ How should we escalate for those patients without pCR?

# Predictive markers and biomarkers at baseline for pCR

- Clinical: Stage
- ER positivity
- HER2 expression
  - Intrinsic subtype (HER2E); ERBB2 expression; HER2 heterogeneity
- TILs/immune activation
- PIK3CA mutations
- ctDNA
- Other expression profiles (HER2Dx)
- Imaging: MRI (TNBC) or MRI radiomics

# pCR rates are lower for ER+ HER2-Positive (vs ER-HER2+) after chemotherapy and dual HER2+-targeted Rx

Trial	pCR in ER+ HER2-Positive	pCR in ER-Negative HER2-Positive
NeoALTTO <sup>[a]</sup>	42%	61%
CALGB 40601 <sup>[b]</sup>	41%	79%
NSABP B-41 <sup>[c]</sup>	56%	73%
NeoSphere <sup>[d]</sup>	26%	63%
NOAH <sup>[e]</sup>	30%	51%
Kristine <sup>[f]</sup>	45%	60%
TRYPHAENA <sup>[g]</sup>	46%	65%
TRAIN-2 <sup>[h]</sup>	52%	86%

a. Baselga J, et al. Lancet 2012; 379: 633-640 ; b. Carey L, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2016;34:542-549 ; c. Robidoux A, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2013;14:1183-1192 (in THL arms) ; d. Gianni L, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2012;13:25-32; e. Gianni L, et al. Lancet. 2010;375:377-384; f. Hurvitz S, et al. Lancet Oncol. 2018;19:115-126; g. Schneeweiss A, et al. Ann Oncol. 2013;24:2278-2284; h. van Ramshorst et al. Lancet Oncol 2018; 19:P1 630-1640.

# HER2-enriched subtype (HER2E) has higher rate of pCR after HER2-based preoperative chemotherapy

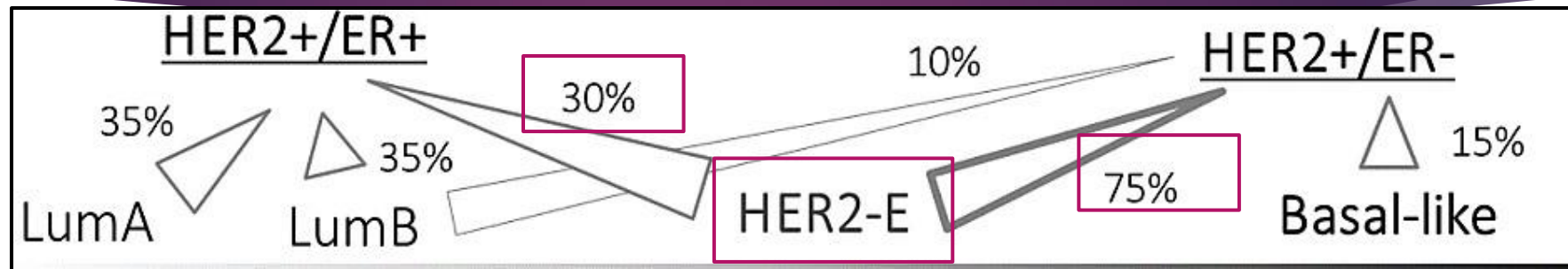
	<b>NOAH<sup>[a]</sup></b>	<b>Neo ALTO<sup>[b]</sup></b>	<b>CALGB 40601<sup>[c]</sup></b>	<b>CherLOB [d]</b>	<b>ICO+ CLINIC<sup>[e]</sup></b>	<b>OPTIHER<sup>[f]</sup></b>	<b>KRISTINE [g]</b>	<b>KRISTINE [g]</b>	<b>BERENICE [h]</b>
<b>Therapy</b>	AT +H	T +L/H/LH	T +L/H/LH	AT +L/H/LH	AT +H	AT +H+P	T-DM1 +P	DC +H+P	A T +H+P
<b>N</b>	63	254	265	64	154	58	183	171	294
<b>Variable</b>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>B</sub>	pCR <sub>B</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>	pCR <sub>BA</sub>
pCR in HER2E (mean, 63.9%)	52.9%	52.0%	65.8%	50.0%	63.4%	83.3%	62.2%	72.1%	74.2%
pCR in non-HER2E (mean, 29.3%)	34.5%	21.5%	31.1%	17.0%	26.2%	46.43%	26.9%	32.8%	26.9%
<b>P-value</b>	.014	< .001	< .001	.008	< .001	.003	< .001	< .001	< .001

slide courtesy of Lisa Carey MD

AT, anthracycline/taxane; C, carboplatin; D, docetaxel; H, herceptin; L, lapatinib; P, pertuzumab; T, paclitaxel. B, breast; A, axilla

a. Prat A, et al. Clin Cancer Res. 2014;20:511-521; b. Fumagalli D, et al. JAMA Oncol. 2017;3:227-234; c. Carey LA, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2016;34:542-549; d. Dieci MV, et al. Ann Oncol 2019;30:418-423. e. Pernas S, et al. Cancer Res. 2018;78(4 Suppl):P2-09-11; f. Gavilá J, et al. Cancer Res. 2018;78(4 Suppl):P2-09-04. g. Prat A, et al. Cancer Res. 2018;78(4 Suppl):PD3-06; h. Swain SM, Ann Oncol. 2018 ;29:646-653

# ER+ HER2+ breast cancer is less often HER2E

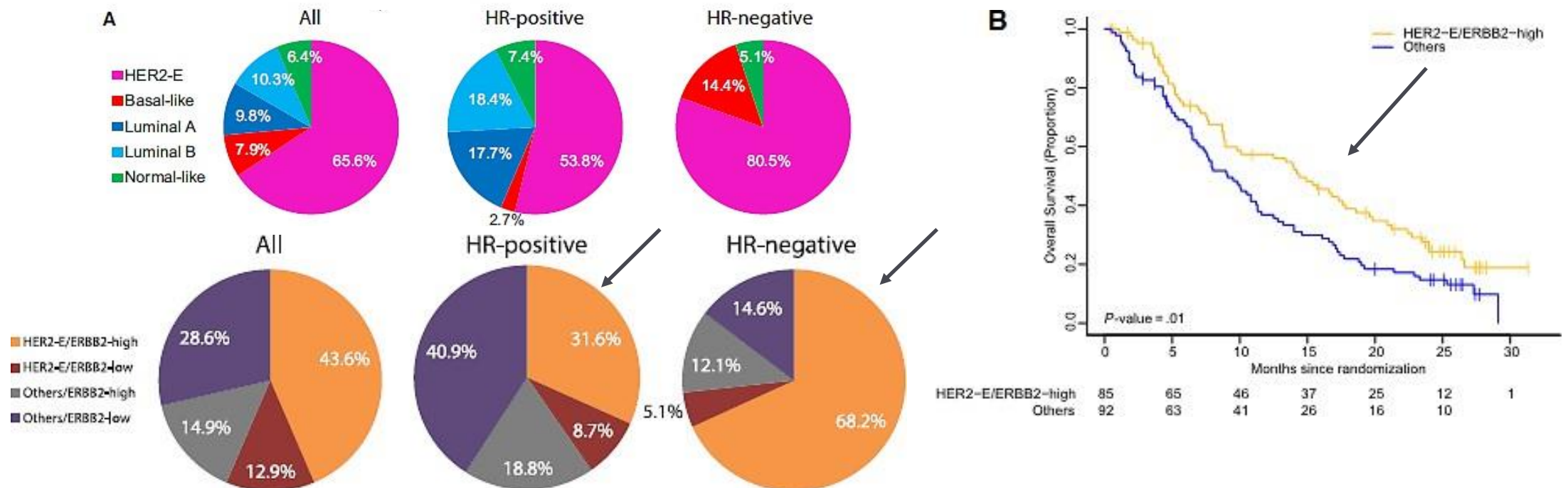


- HER2-E has highest activation of EGFR/HER2 signaling
- In a recent meta-analysis, the HER2-enriched subtype was significantly associated with pCR after HER2-targeted therapy, irrespective of ER status, with or without chemotherapy<sup>[b]</sup>
- 75% of ER-negative HER2-positive are HER2-E vs 30% of ER-positive
- HER-positive are HER2E <sup>[a]</sup>

# HER2E subtype plus high ERBB2 expression predicts response to anti-HER2 therapy

422 HER2-positive tumors

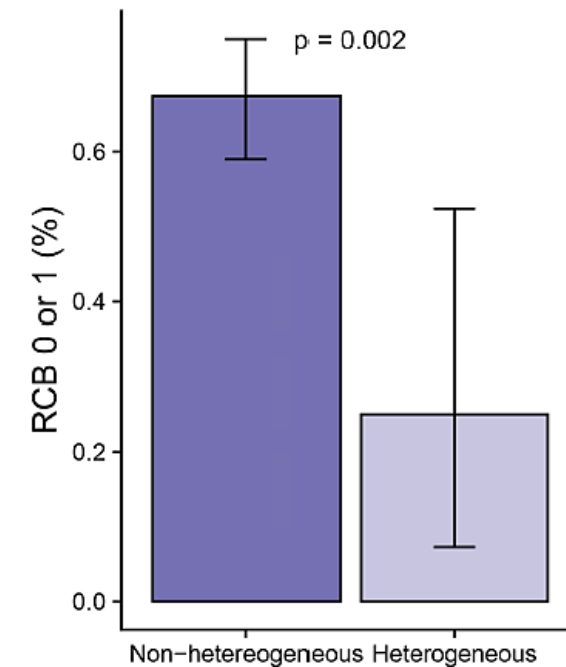
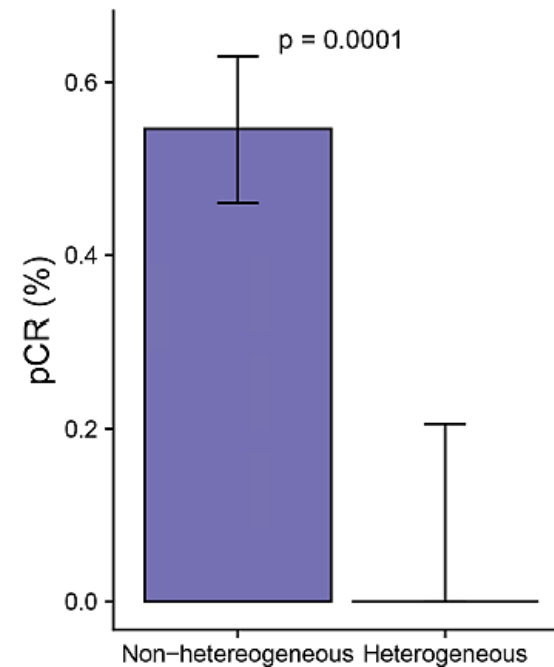
(TBCRC 006, TBCRC 023, SOLTI-PAMELA, PER-ELISA, EGF104090)



# Intratatumoral HER2 heterogeneity is associated with less response to anti-HER2 therapy

## Neoadjuvant T-DM1 + pertuzumab

- Heterogeneity defined as:
  - HER2-positive (FISH) in > 5% to < 50% tumor cells or
  - An area of tumor that was HER2-negative
- 10% (16/157) tumors had HER2 heterogeneity
- 81% of tumors (N = 13) with heterogeneity were
  - ER+
  - pCR:
    - 0% for heterogeneous tumors
    - 55% for tumors without HER2 heterogeneity<sup>[a]</sup>





# Higher TILs Predict for pCR in HER2-Positive Breast Cancer

**Various meta-analyses of neoadjuvant randomized studies investigating TIL in HER2-positive breast cancer**<sup>[a,b]</sup>

- High baseline TIL are associated with increased probability of pCR
- No interaction with various anti-HER2 therapy
- No interaction with the chemotherapy backbone (anthracyclines or not)

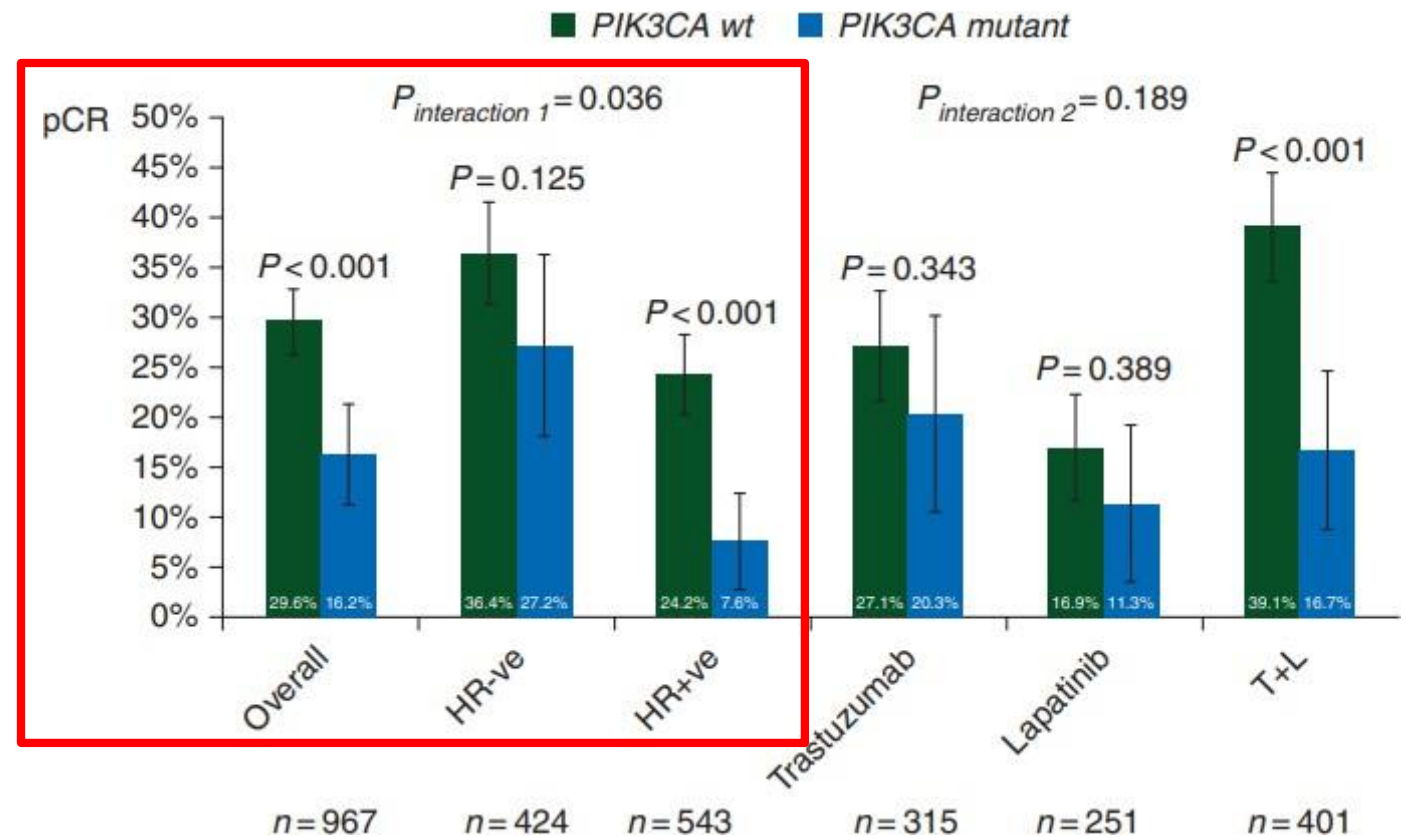
**NeoALTO and CALGB 40601: immune signatures predicted for pCR** <sup>[c, d]</sup>

**However, relationship of TILs & pCR not as consistent as with TNBC**

- Some trials did not find improved pCR with ↑ TILs: Tryphena; NeoSphere, GeparSepto <sup>[e,f,g,h]</sup>

# PIK3CA mutations are associated with lower pCR

- Overall ~22% of HER2-positive BC have a PIK3CA mutation<sup>[a]</sup>
- In pooled analysis of 5 RCT using taxane, trastuzumab and lapatinib, PIK3CA mutation predicted for lower pCR, mainly among ER-positive HER2-positive<sup>[b]</sup>

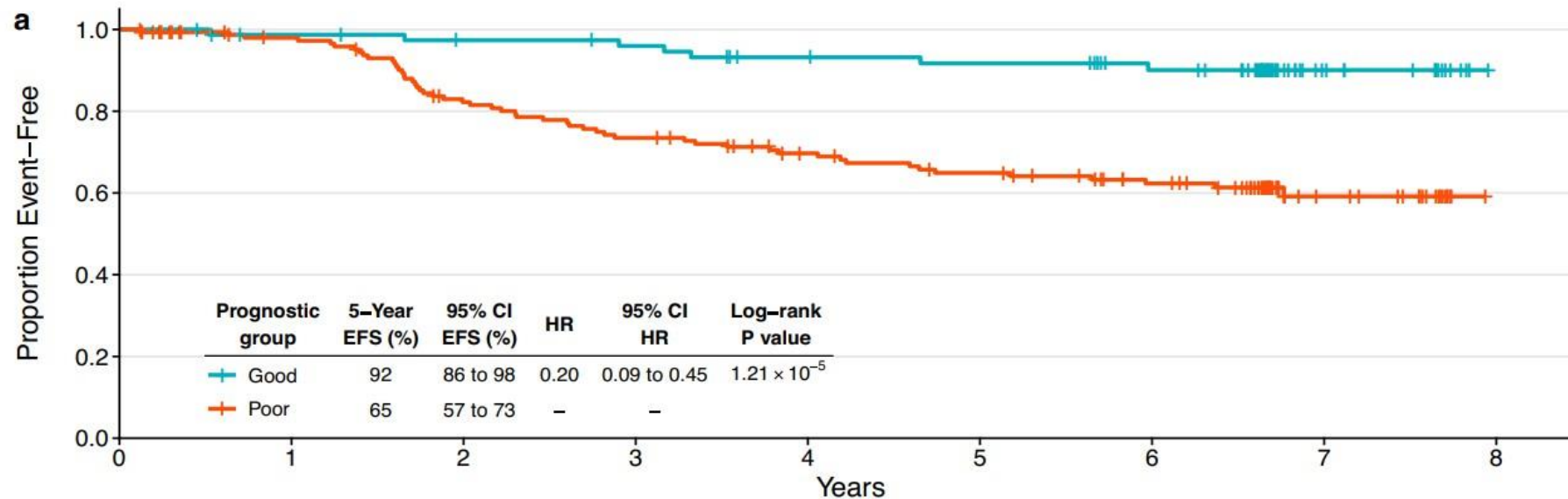


# ER-Positive HER2-Positive: Why Lower pCR?

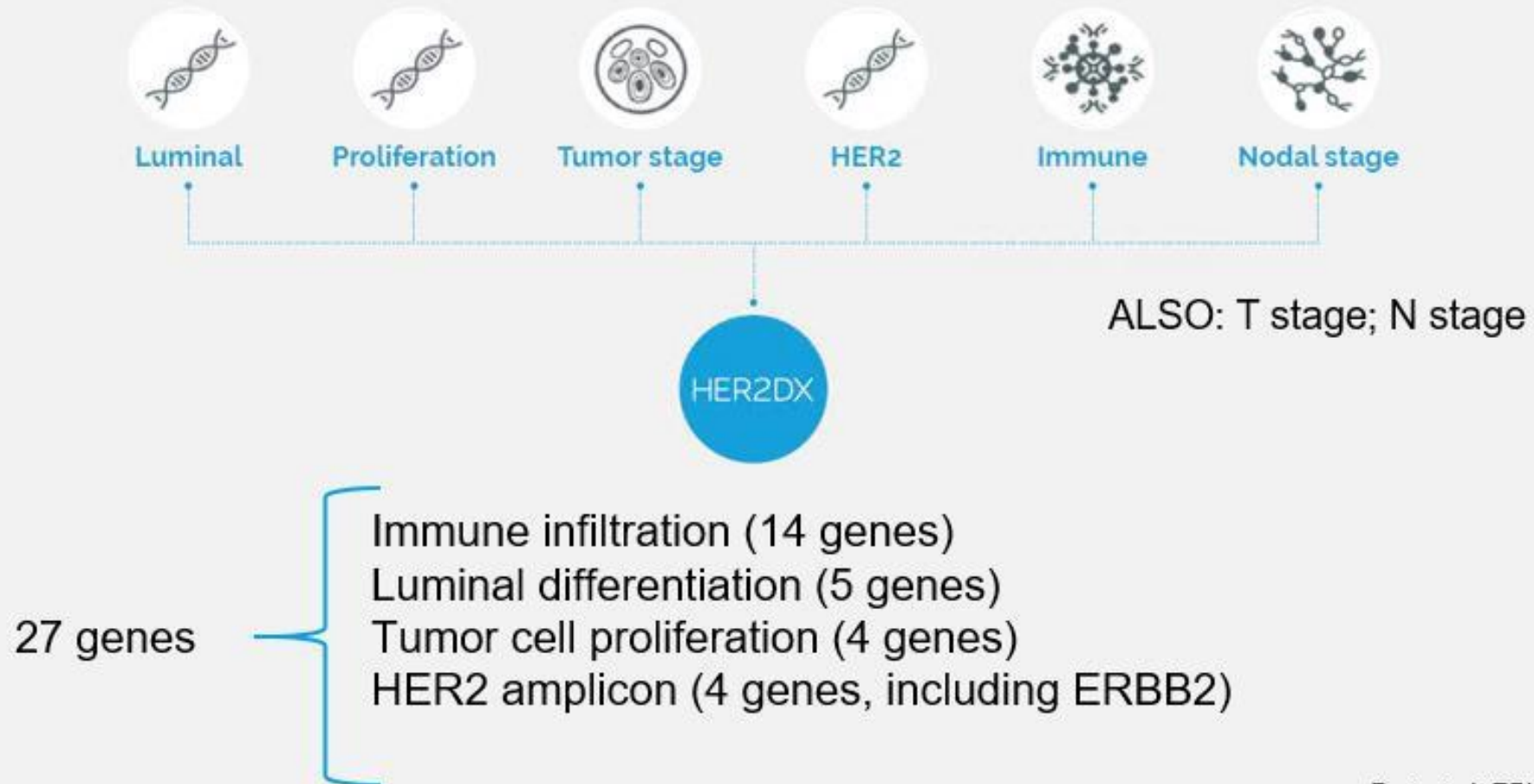
- Less often HER2E
- Lower TILs/ immune activation
- More HER2 heterogeneity
- More often PIK3CA mutated
- But despite lower pCR compared with ER-negative HER2-positive tumors, the HR-positive HER2-positive tumors have better outcomes

# Clinicopathologic and immune factors combined predict:

- HER2 Event score (cN stage, ER, breast pCR, sTILs, immune scores: B cell receptor)
- Developed in NeoALTO, validated in CALGB 40601
- 5 yr EFS: Good prognostic group 93% vs poor prognostic group 75%



# HER2Dx combines gene expression and clinical data:



Prat et al. [EBioMedicine](#) 2022

# HER2Dx algorithm produces a 1) pCR score & 2) a risk score

Test Report v1.1  
Report Date: August 25, 2021

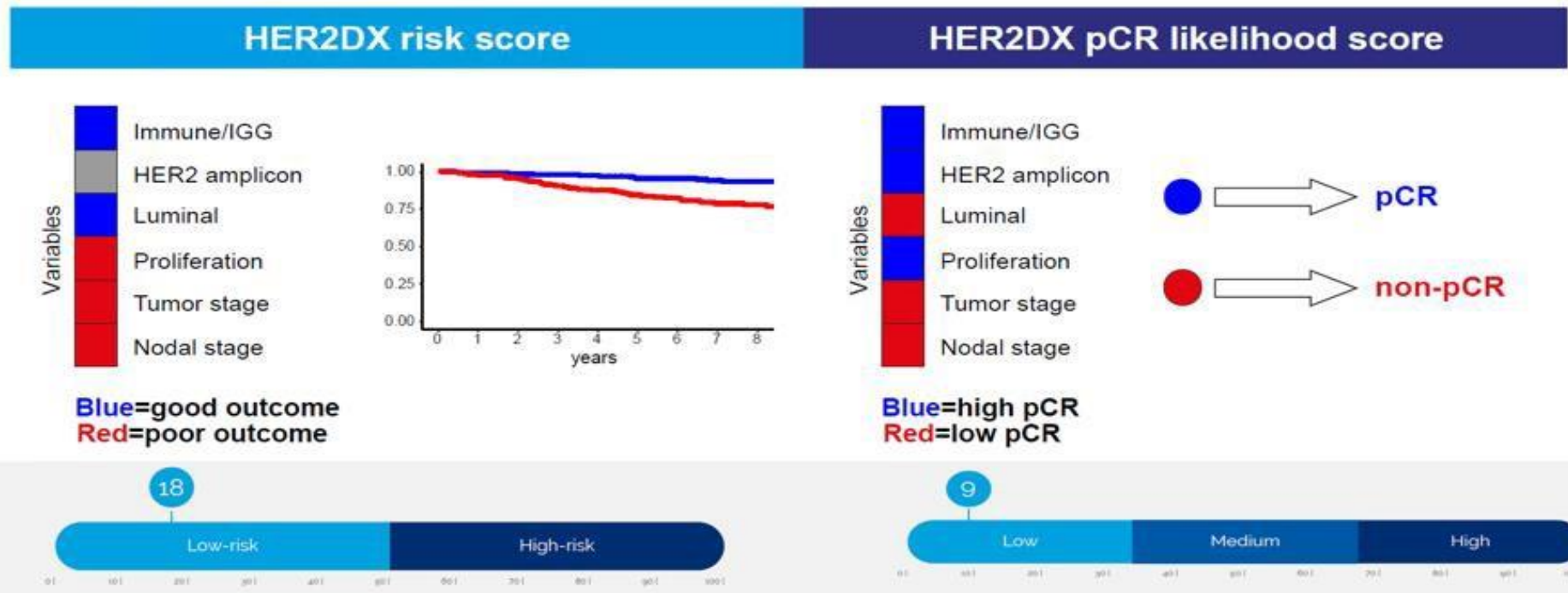
Patient ID: B21-06780-A6  
Sample external ID:

Tumor stage:  T1  T2  T3  T4  
Nodal stage:  N0  N1  N2-3

## SUMMARY

HER2DX	RELAPSE RISK	pCR LIKELIHOOD SCORE	ERBB2 EXPRESSION
Score	18	9	25
Result	Low	Low	Low
Description	94% disease-free survival at 7-years when treated with chemotherapy and trastuzumab	23% pCR rate when treated with trastuzumab-based chemotherapy	Similar expression as in HER2-negative disease

# HER2Dx pCR and risk score



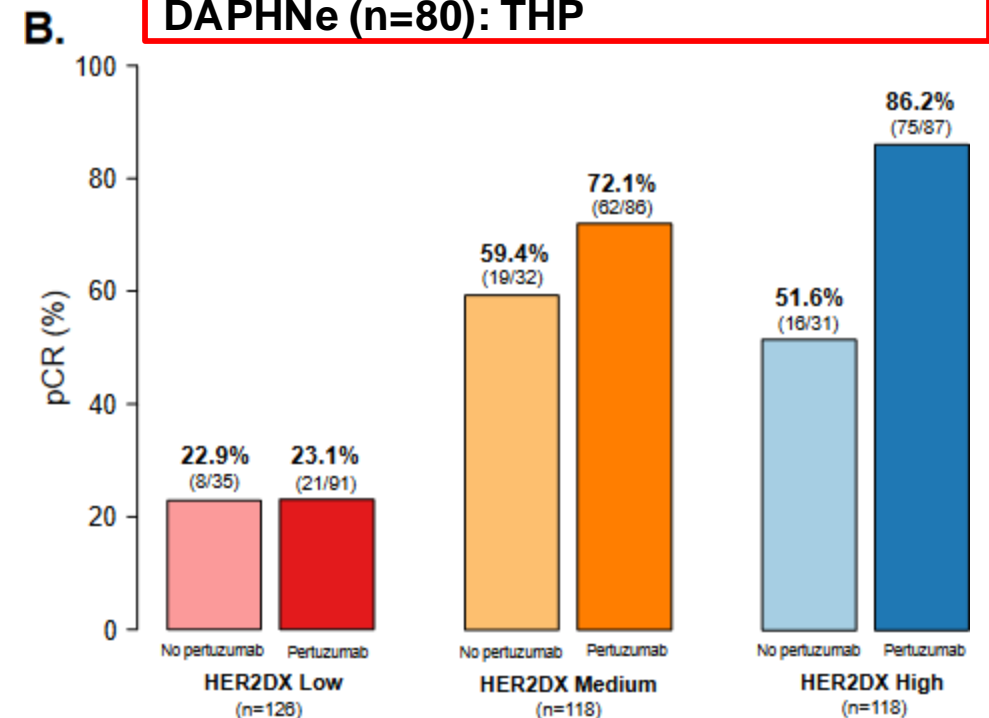
Correlation coefficient between both scores: -0.19

Prat et al. EBioMedicine 2022

# HER2Dx pCR score: likelihood of pCR and pertuzumab benefit

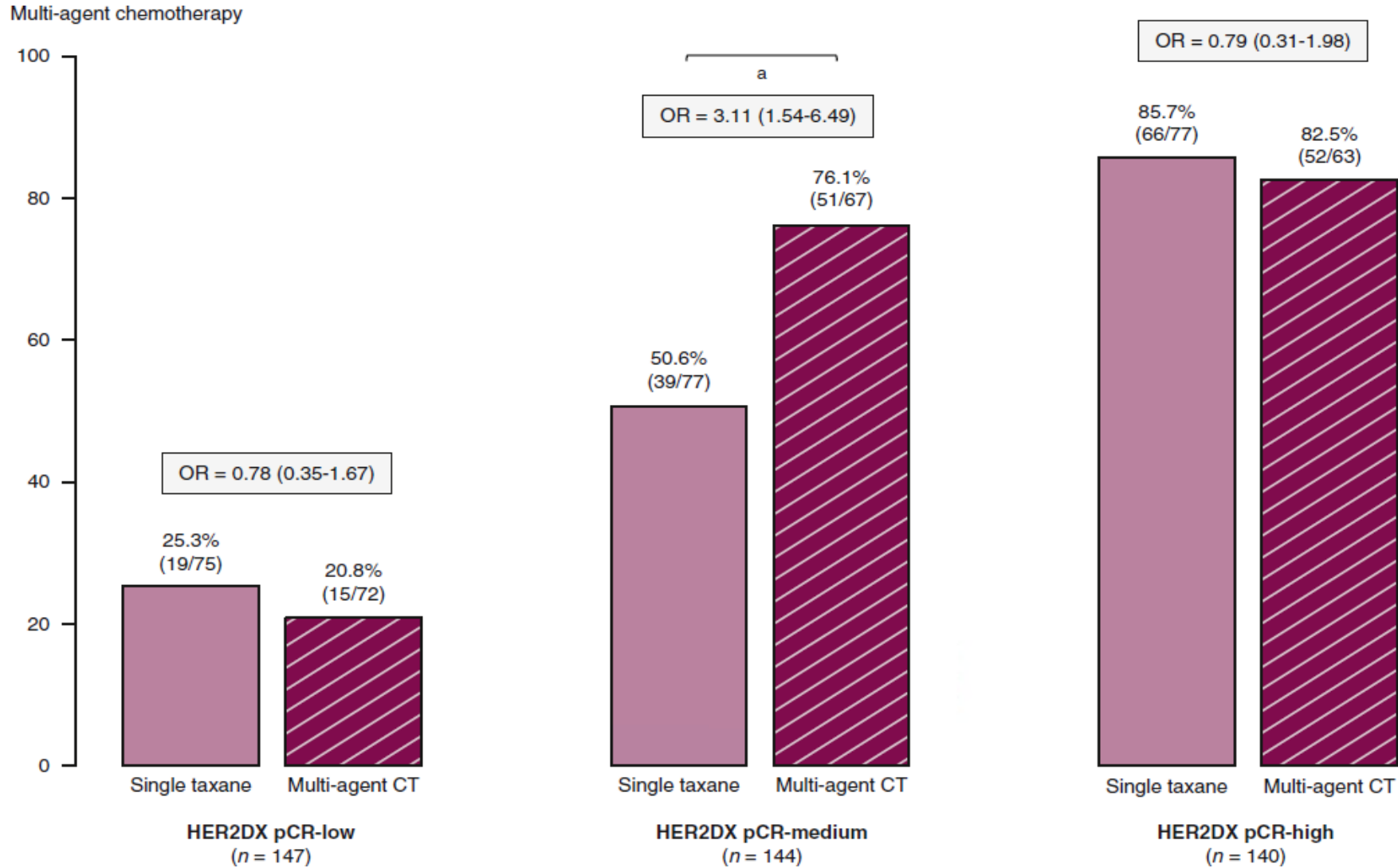
Group	Patients, No.	OR (95% CI)
<b>Low</b>		
GOM	53 →	0.88 (0.25-3.02)
I-SPY2	42	0.81 (0.11-6.08)
Overall	95	0.86 (0.30-2.46)
Heterogeneity: $I^2 = 0\%$ , $P = .95$		
<b>Medium</b>		
GOM	54 →	2.06 (0.61-6.94)
I-SPY2	42	4.05 (0.53-30.92)
Overall	96	2.46 (0.87-6.98)
Heterogeneity: $I^2 = 0\%$ , $P = .58$		
<b>High</b>		
GOM	48 →	4.00 (0.97-16.46)
I-SPY2	43	7.59 (1.63-35.41)
Overall	91	5.36 (1.89-15.20)
Heterogeneity: $I^2 = 0\%$ , $P = .55$		

**GOM (n=155): TCHP vs TCH**  
**ISPY2 (n=127): TH vs THP vs T-DM1+P**  
**DAPHNe (n=80): THP**





# HER2Dx pCR score and benefit of multi-agent chemotherapy



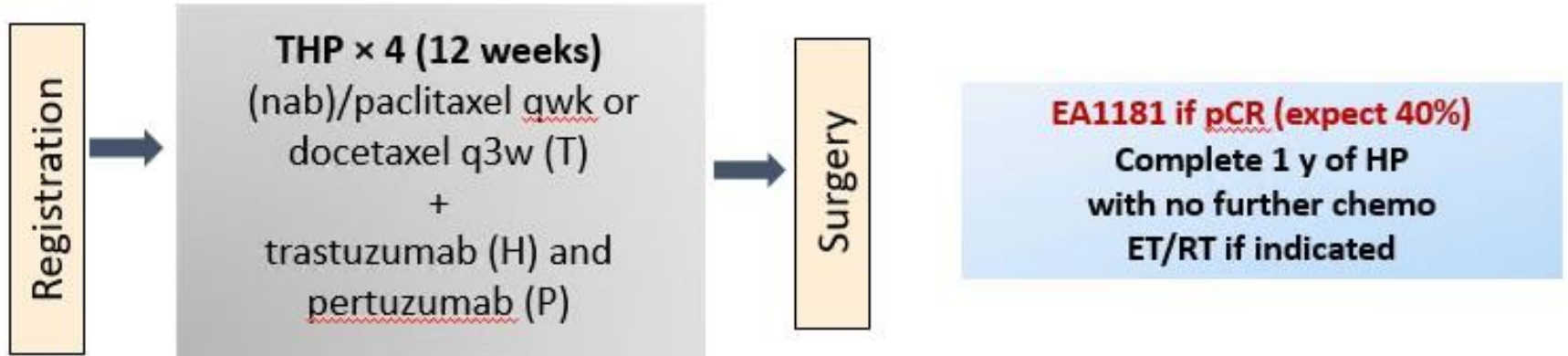
# EA1181: CompassHER2 pCR HER2Dx is a secondary objective

## Eligibility

- HER2+ BC
- T>2 cm or N+

N = 2152

Enrollment completed



Overall PI: Tung

Tissue block collection

Blood collection for ctDNA, CTCs at several timepoints

## Co-primary Objectives; in patients with pCR:

ER-positive HER2-positive: 3y RFS > 92% (3y RFS  $H_0 = 92%$ ,  $H_1 \geq 95%$ )

ER-negative HER2-positive: 3y RFS > 92% (3y RFS  $H_0 = 92%$ ,  $H_1 \geq 95%$ )

# Clinical validation of HER2DX risk score in stage 1 HER2+ disease

Adjuvant paclitaxel and trastuzumab for node-negative, HER2-positive breast cancer: final 10-year analysis of the open-label, single-arm, phase 2 **APT trial**

*Sara M Tolaney, Paolo Tarantino, Noah Graham, Nabihah Tayob, Laia Parè, Guillermo Villacampa, Chau T Dang, Denise A Yardley, Beverly Moy, P Kelly Marcom, Kathy S Albain, Hope S Rugo, Matthew J Ellis, Iuliana Shapira, Antonio C Wolff, Lisa A Carey, Romualdo Barroso-Sousa, Patricia Villagrasa, Michelle DeMeo, Molly DiLullo, Jorge Gomez Tejeda Zanudo, Jakob Weiss, Nikhil Wagle, Ann H Partridge, Adrienne G Waks, Clifford A Hudis, Ian E Krop, Harold J Burstein, Aleix Prat, Eric P Winer*

**N=284 HER2DX**

Relapse-free interval

**HER2DX low-risk and high-risk**

**10-year 97.1% vs 90.0%**

**p=0.030**

Tolaney et al. Lancet Oncol 2023

original reports

Adjuvant Trastuzumab Emtansine Versus Paclitaxel in Combination With Trastuzumab for Stage I HER2-Positive Breast Cancer (**Atempt**): A Randomized Clinical Trial

*Sara M. Tolaney, MD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Nabihah Tayob, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Chau Dang, MD<sup>3</sup>; Denise A. Yardley, MD<sup>4</sup>; Steven J. Isakoff, MD, PhD<sup>5</sup>; Vicente Valero, MD<sup>6</sup>; Meredith Faggen, MD<sup>1</sup>; Therese Mulvey, MD<sup>3</sup>; Ron Bose, MD, PhD<sup>7</sup>; Jiani Hu, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Douglas Weckstein, MD<sup>1</sup>; Antonio C. Wolff, MD<sup>8</sup>; Katherine Reeder-Hayes, MD, MBA, MSc<sup>9</sup>; Hope S. Rugo, MD<sup>10</sup>; Bhuvaneshwari Ramaswamy, MD<sup>11</sup>; Dan Zuckerman, MD<sup>12</sup>; Lowell Hart, MD<sup>13</sup>; Vijayakrishna K. Gadi, MD, PhD<sup>14</sup>; Michael Constantine, MD<sup>1</sup>; Kit Cheng, MD<sup>15</sup>; Frederick Briccetti, MD<sup>1</sup>; Bryan Schneider, MD<sup>16</sup>; Audrey Merrill Garrett, MD<sup>17</sup>; Kelly Marcom, MD<sup>18</sup>; Kathy Albain, MD<sup>19</sup>; Patricia DeFusco, MD<sup>20</sup>; Nadine Tung, MD<sup>21</sup>; Blair Ardman, MD<sup>22</sup>; Rita Nanda, MD<sup>23</sup>; Rachel C. Jankowitz, MD<sup>24</sup>; Mothaffar Rimawi, MD<sup>25</sup>; Vandana Abramson, MD<sup>26</sup>; Paula R. Pohlmann, MD, PhD, MSc<sup>27</sup>; Catherine Van Poznak, MD<sup>28</sup>; Andres Forero-Torres, MD<sup>29</sup>; Minetta Liu, MD<sup>30</sup>; Kathryn Ruddy, MD<sup>30</sup>; Yue Zheng, MSc<sup>1</sup>; Shoshana M. Rosenberg, ScD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Richard D. Gelber, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Lorenzo Trippa, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; William Barry, PhD<sup>1</sup>; Michelle DeMeo, BS<sup>1</sup>; Harold Burstein, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>; Ann Partridge, MD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Eric P. Winer, MD<sup>1,2</sup>; and Ian Krop, MD, PhD<sup>1,2</sup>*

**N=187 HER2DX**

Relapse-free interval

**HER2DX low-risk and high-risk**

**5-year 98.1% vs 81.8%**

**p=0.010**

Tarantino et al. JCO 2024



Slide courtesy of Aleix Prat

# Considerations in decision making for stage II- III HER2+ breast cancer

## ▶ **Stage II-III disease**

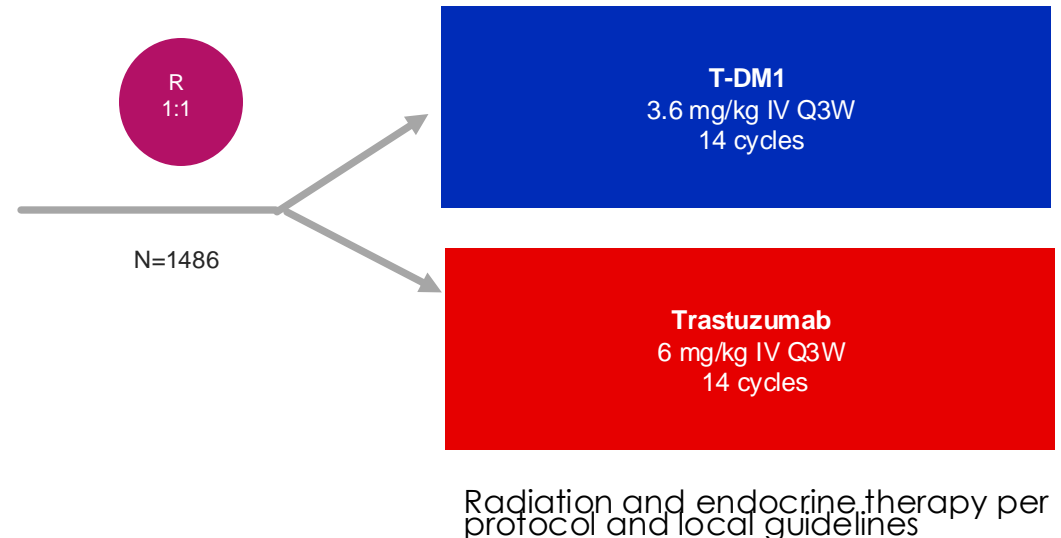
- ▶ What is the role of anthracyclines?
- ▶ Can we de-escalate following pCR to an abbreviated neoadjuvant regimen?
  - ▶ How abbreviated can that neoadjuvant regimen be?
- ▶ Biomarkers: which are promising and how should we use them?
- ▶ How should we escalate for those patients without pCR?

# Adjuvant treatment of HER2+ early breast cancer

- ▶ KATHERINE trial
- ▶ ShortHER trial
- ▶ ExteNET
- ▶ CompassHER2 RD (*actively recruiting*)
- ▶ DESTINY-Breast 05 (*active, not recruiting*)

# KATHERINE: Study design

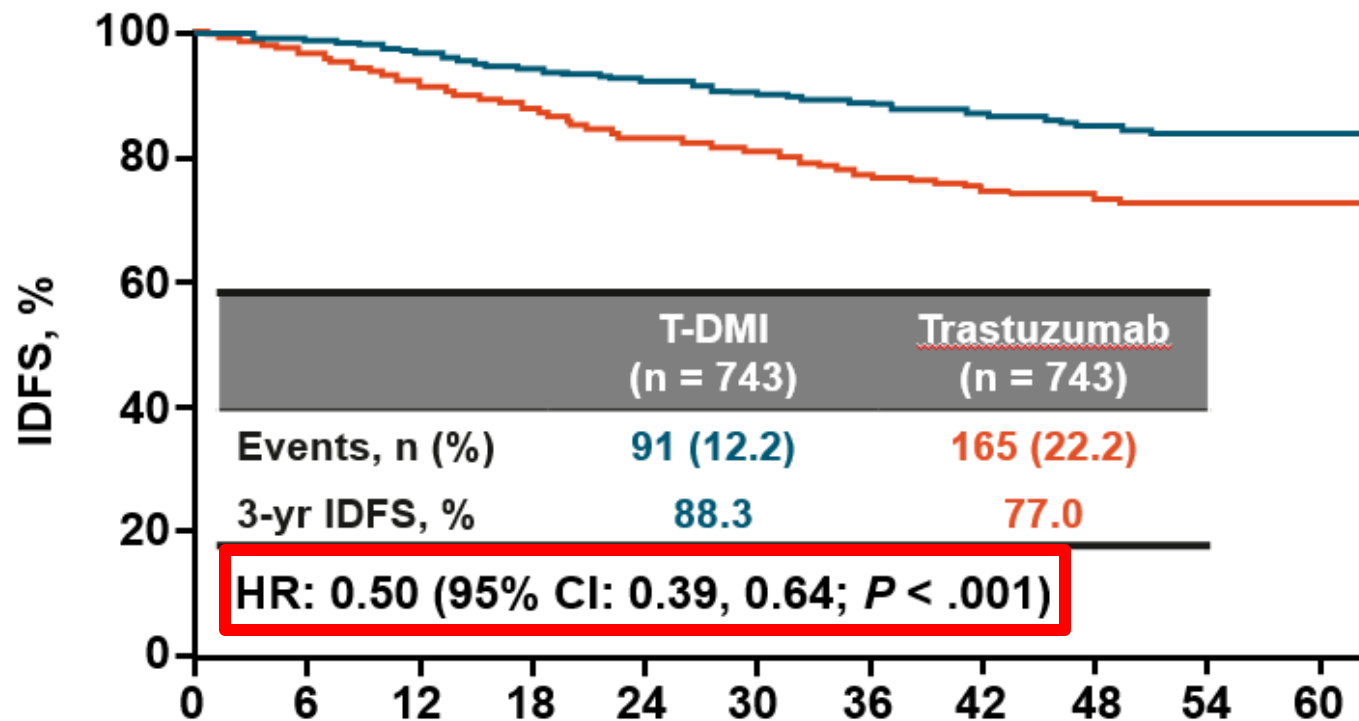
- cT1-4/N0-3/M0 at presentation (cT1 a-b/N0 excluded)
- Centrally confirmed HER2-positive breast cancer
- Neoadjuvant therapy must have consisted of
  - Minimum of 6 cycles of chemotherapy
    - Minimum of 9 weeks of taxane
    - Anthracyclines and alkylating agents allowed
    - All chemotherapy prior to surgery
  - Minimum of 9 weeks of trastuzumab
    - Second HER2-targeted agent allowed
- Residual invasive tumor in breast or axillary nodes
- Randomization within 12 weeks of surgery



## Stratification factors:

- Clinical presentation: Inoperable (stage cT4 or cN2-3) vs operable (stages cT1-3N0-1)
- Hormone receptor: ER or PR positive vs ER negative and PR negative/unknown
- Preoperative therapy: Trastuzumab vs trastuzumab plus other HER2-targeted therapy
- Pathological nodal status after neoadjuvant therapy: Positive vs negative/not done

# KATHERINE: 3 yr iDFS significantly improved with T-DM1



Patients at Risk, n

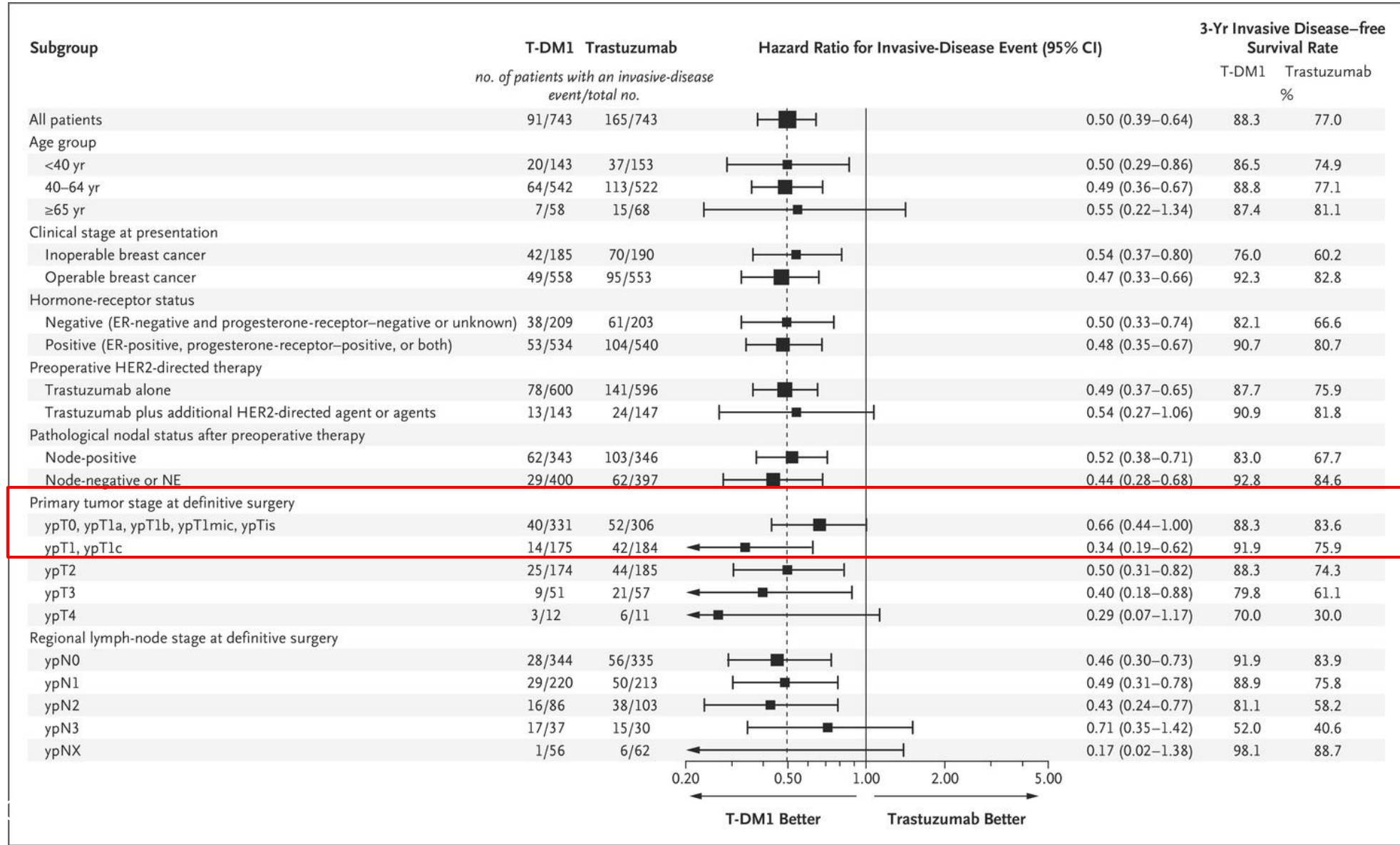
	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
<b>T-DM1</b>	743	707	681	658	633	561	409	255	142	44	4
<b>Trastuzumab</b>	743	676	635	594	555	501	342	220	119	38	4

Mo Since Randomization

First IDFS Event, %	T-DM1	T
Any	12.2	22.2
Distant recurrence	10.5*	15.9 <sup>†</sup>
Locoregional recurrence	1.1	4.6
Contralateral breast cancer	0.4	1.3
Death without prior event	0.3	0.4

**CNS events: \*5.9% vs <sup>†</sup>4.3%.**

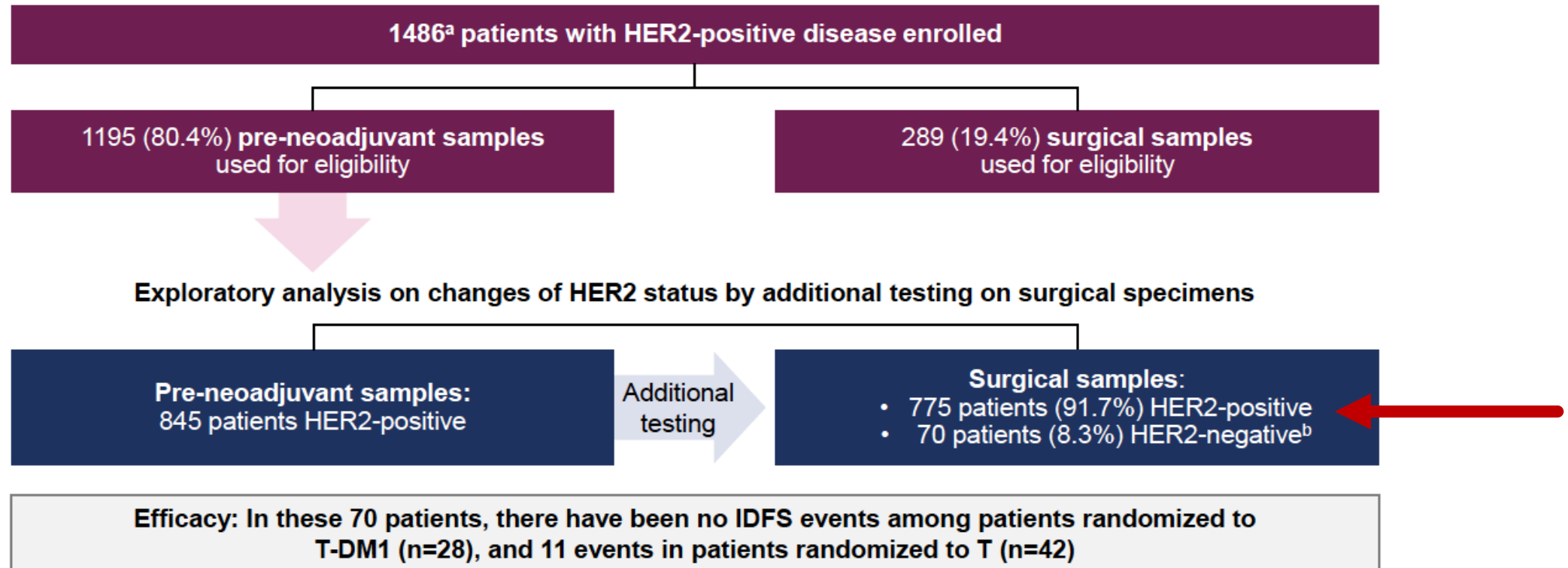
# KATHERINE: even patients with small amounts of residual tumor benefit





# KATHERINE: even patients with HER2-negative residual tumor may benefit

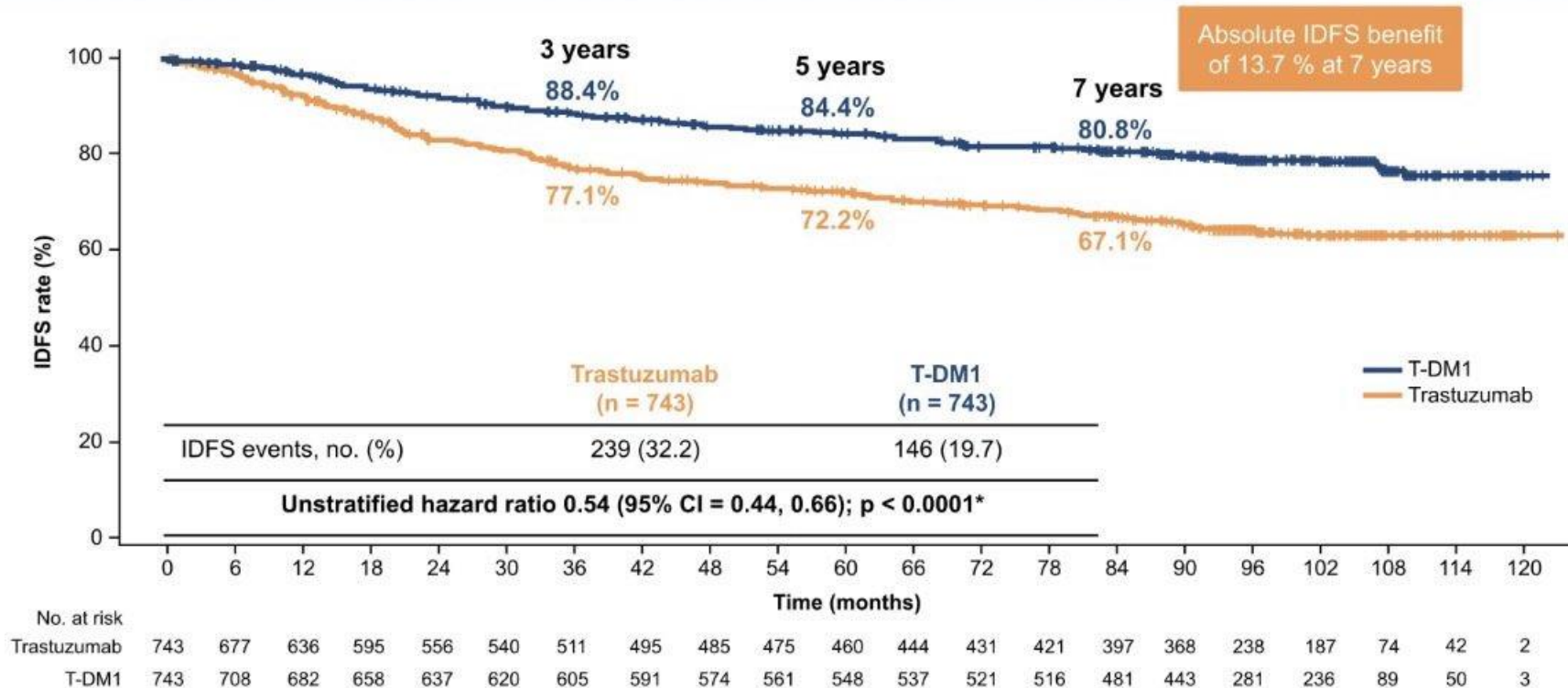
## PATIENTS WITH HER2-NEGATIVE DISEASE AT SURGERY



**SUPPORTS THE USE OF ADJUVANT T-DM1 EVEN IF RESIDUAL DISEASE IS HER2-NEGATIVE**

# KATHERINE trial long term follow up

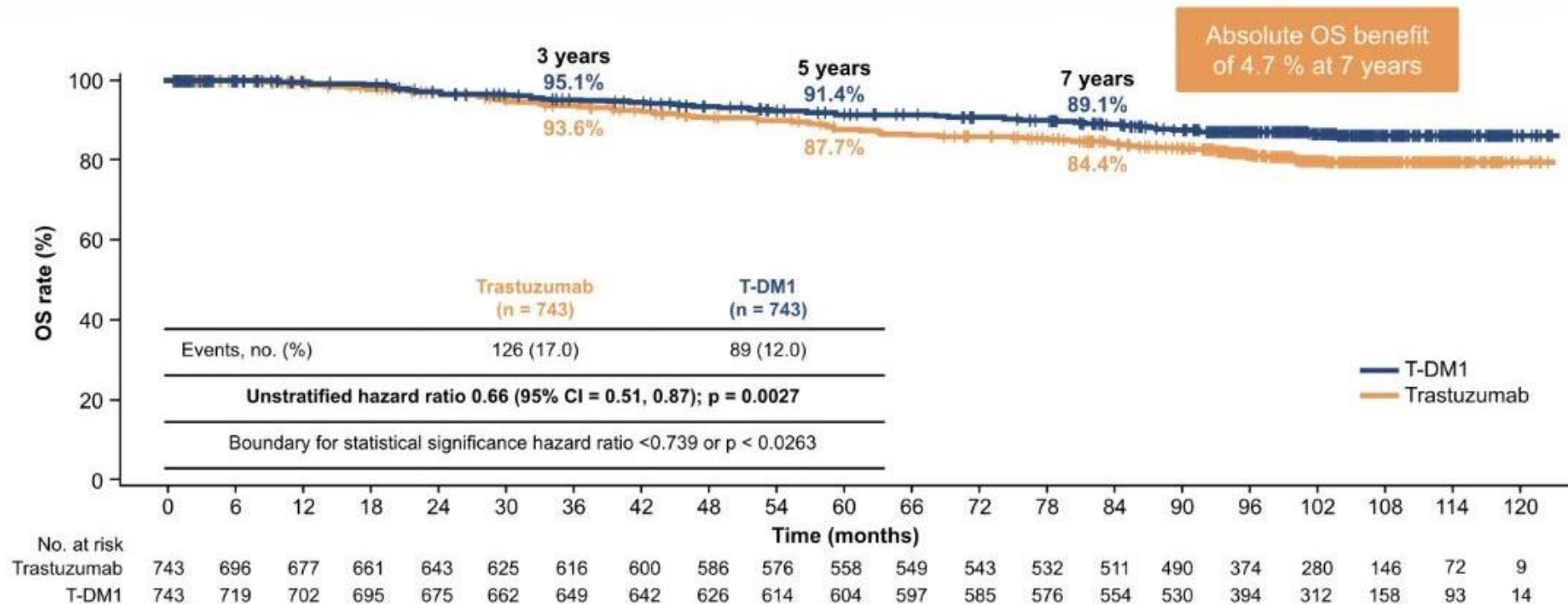
## KATHERINE IDFS final analysis; median follow-up 8.4 years (101 months)



\* p-value for IDFS is now exploratory given the statistical significance was established at the primary analysis.  
CI, confidence interval; IDFS, invasive disease-free survival; T-DM1, ado-trastuzumab emtansine.

# KATHERINE trial long term follow up

**KATHERINE 2nd OS interim analysis; median follow-up 8.4 years (101 months)**



**Significant reduction in risk of death by 34% with T-DM1**

# ShortHER2 trial: Evaluating the length of trastuzumab therapy in adjuvant setting

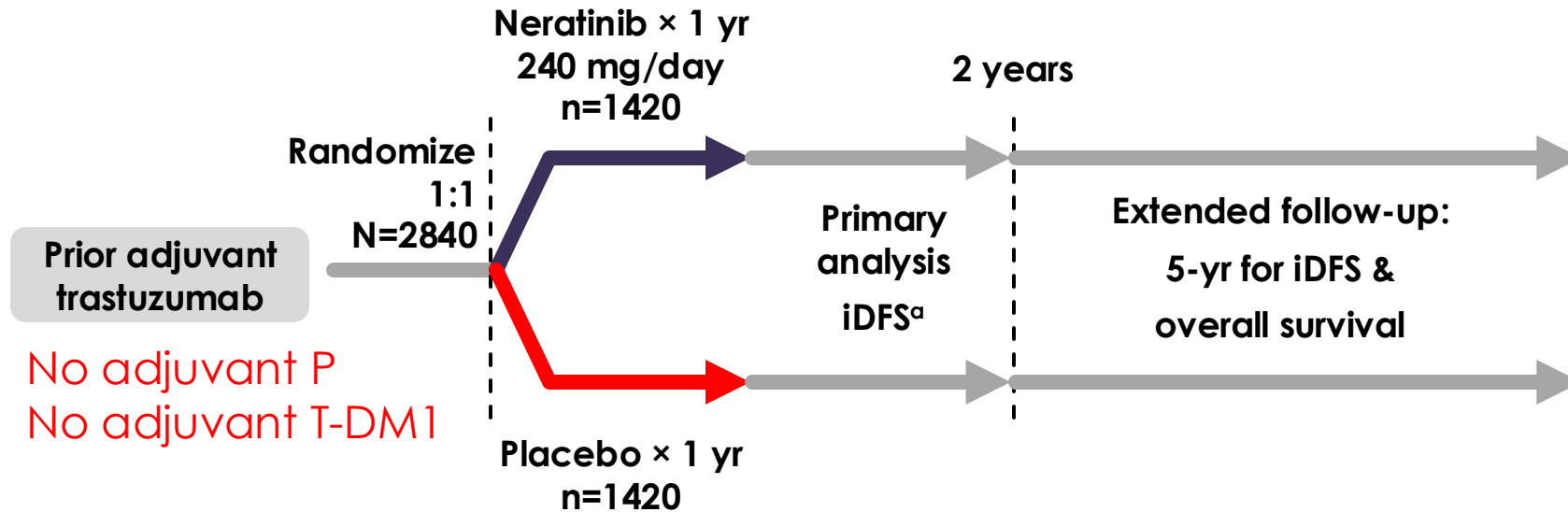
- ▶ Phase III non-inferiority trial comparing 9 weeks (short arm) vs 1 year (long arm) of adjuvant trastuzumab combined with chemotherapy in HER2+ early breast cancer
- ▶ Patient characteristics (1254 HER2+ early breast cancer patients stratified)
  - ▶ Median age 55
  - ▶ 54% node negative, 30% 1-3 positive nodes, 16% with 4 or more positive nodes
- ▶ First primary endpoint: disease free survival (2017 ASCO)
  - ▶ Non-inferiority could not be claimed, HR 1.13 (90% CI 0.89-1.42)

# ShortHER trial, 10 year follow up

Subgroups (n)	10 year OS			10 year DFS		
	Long arm	Short arm	Hazard ratio (90% CI)	Long arm	Short arm	Hazard ratio (90% CI)
ITT (1254)	89%	88%	HR 1.06 (0.86-1.31)	77%	78%	HR 1.15 (0.85-1.56)
NO (672)	81%	85%	0.74 (0.54-1.04)	89%	95%	0.57 (0.33-0.99)
N 1-3 (383)	77%	79%	1.11 (0.76-1.64)	92%	89%	1.37 (0.77-2.44)
N > 4(198)	63%	53%	1.84 (1.24-2.75)	84%	64%	1.87 (1.11-3.14)

- ▶ At 9 years, 248 DFS events and 116 deaths reported
- ▶ 1 year of trastuzumab remains SOC for HER2 early breast cancer at the 10 year follow up

# ExteNET study: Adding neratinib



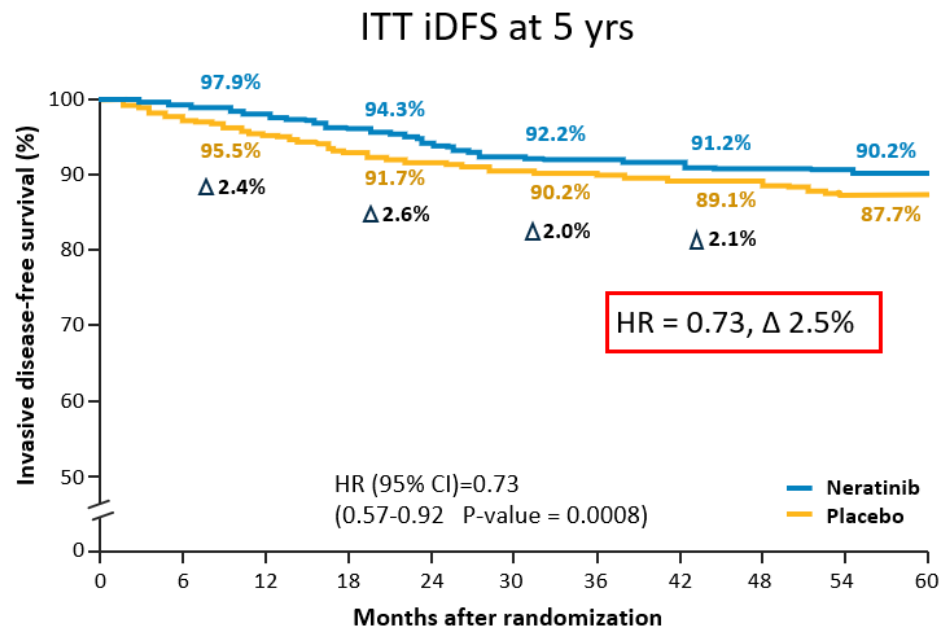
**Primary endpoint:** invasive disease-free survival (iDFS)<sup>a</sup>

**Secondary endpoints:** overall survival, DFS-DCIS, distant DFS, time to distant recurrence, CNS metastases, safety,

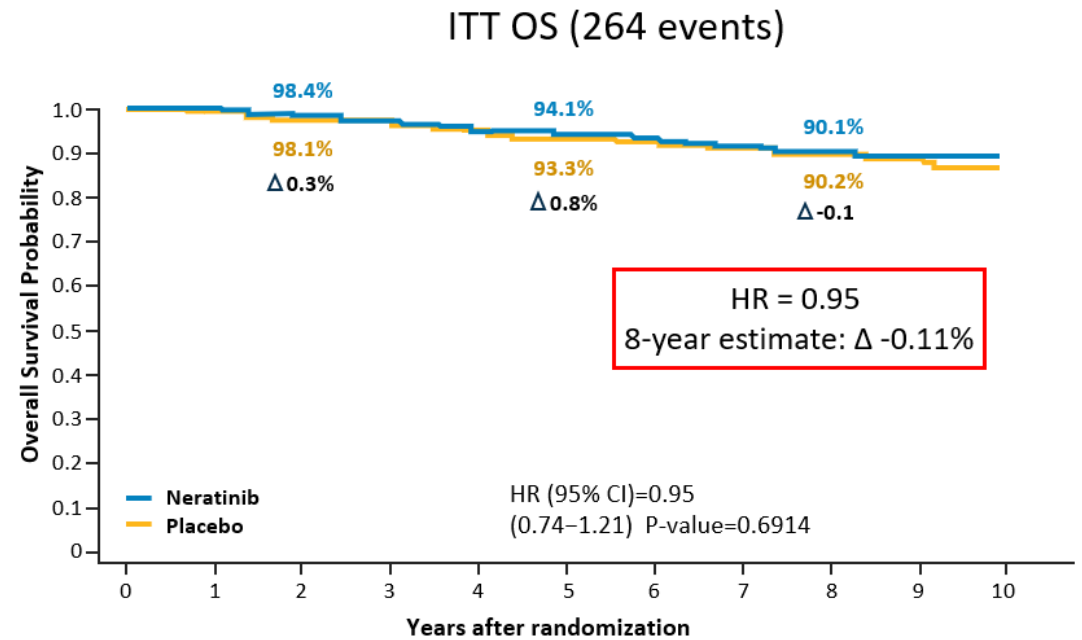
**Stratification:** nodes 0, 1-3 vs 4+, ER/PR status, concurrent vs sequential trastuzumab

**Study blinded:** Until primary analysis; OS remains blinded

# ExteNET: iDFS and OS for ITT Population (N=2,840)



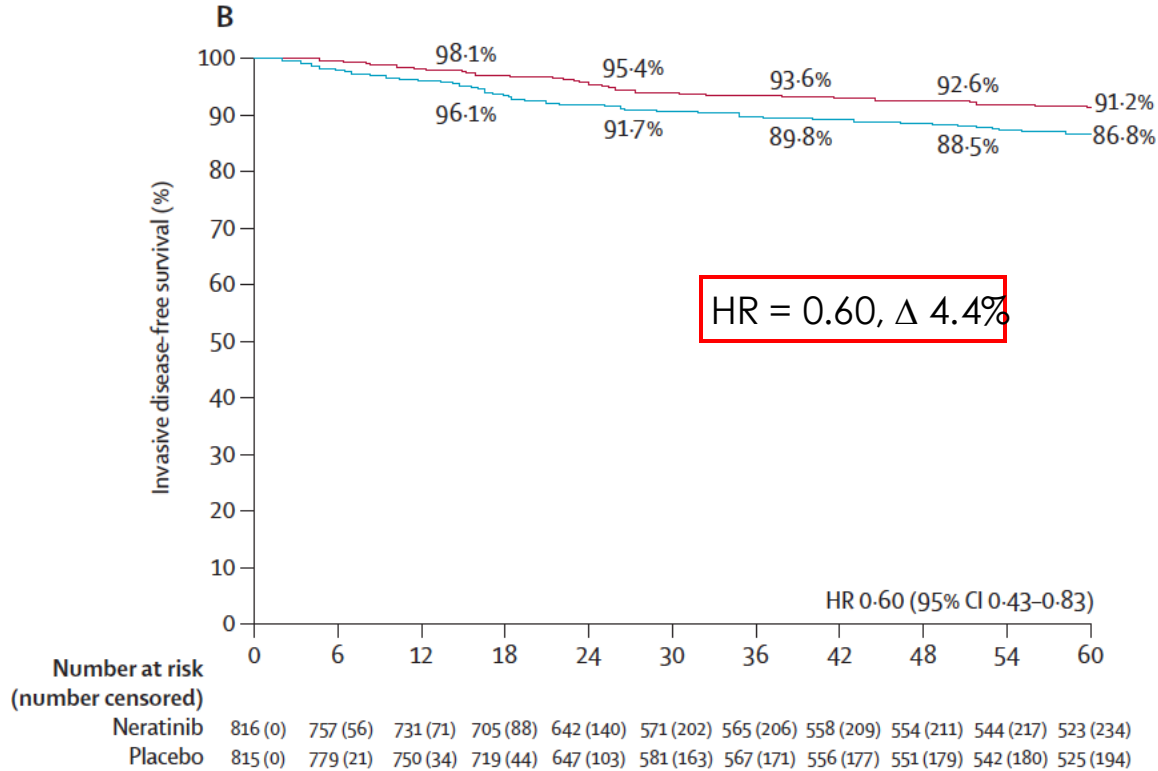
No. at risk	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
Neratinib	1420	1316	1272	1225	1106	978	965	949	938	920	885
Placebo	1420	1354	1298	1248	1142	1029	1011	991	978	958	927



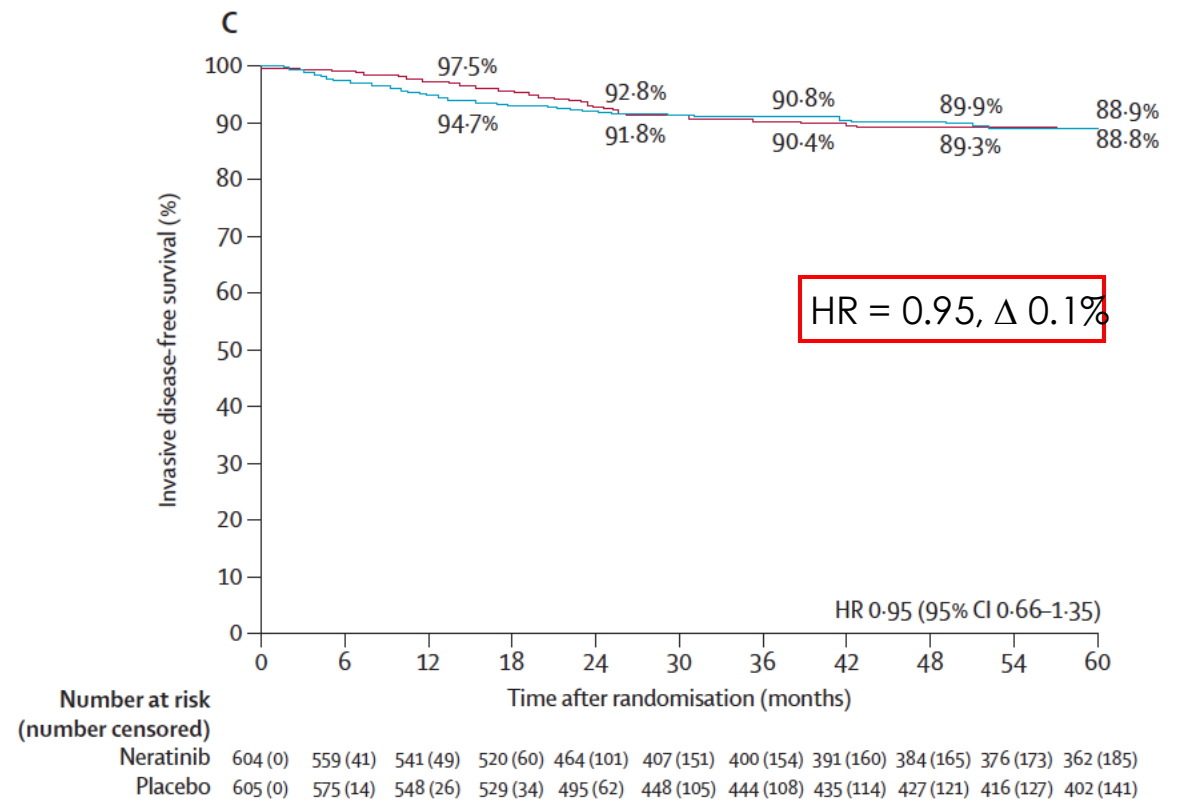
No. at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Neratinib	1420	1364	1309	1213	1118	1168	1123	1041	746	218	0
Placebo	1420	1384	1341	1249	1223	1199	1166	1086	796	221	0

# ExteNET: iDFS by HR status

## HR+ iDFS at 5 yrs



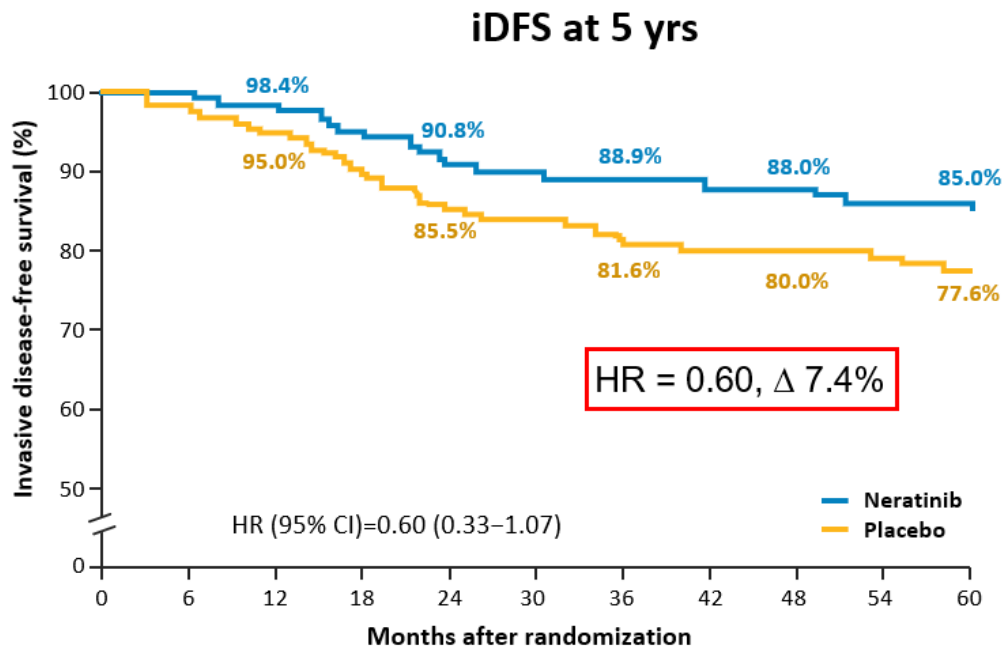
## HR- iDFS at 5 yrs



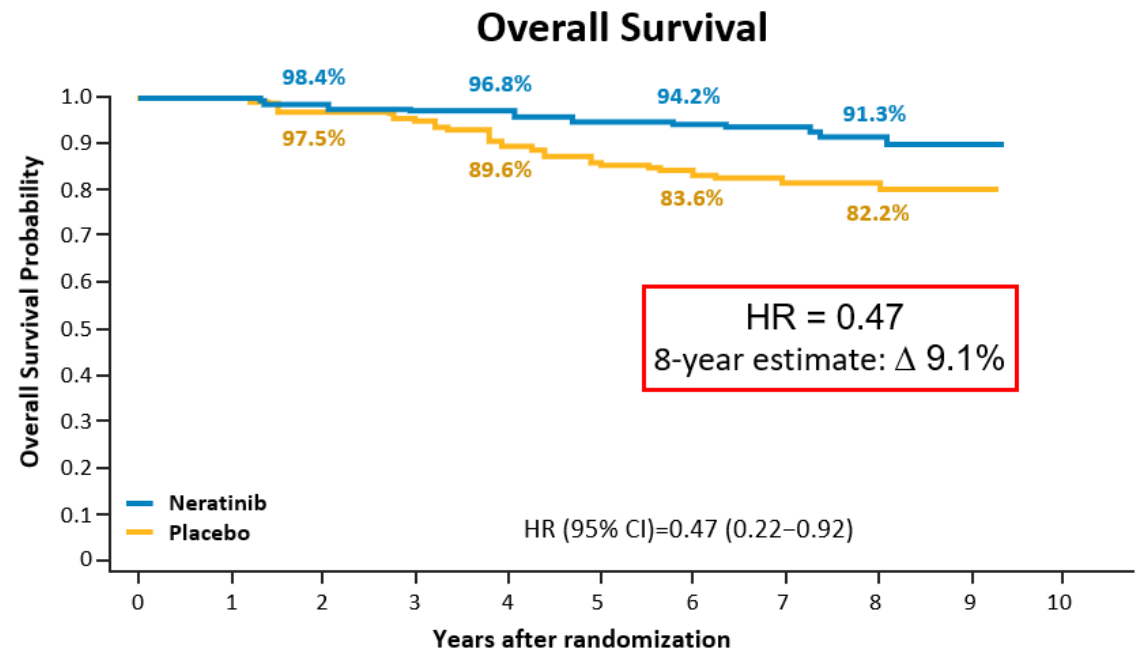


# ExteNET: Greater benefit among non-pCR, HR+, <1 yr from adjuvant trastuzumab patients (N=295)

*\*subgroup analysis*



No. at risk		0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60
Neratinib	131	126	121	113	100	94	93	91	91	88	84	
Placebo	164	159	151	143	125	107	103	99	99	98	94	

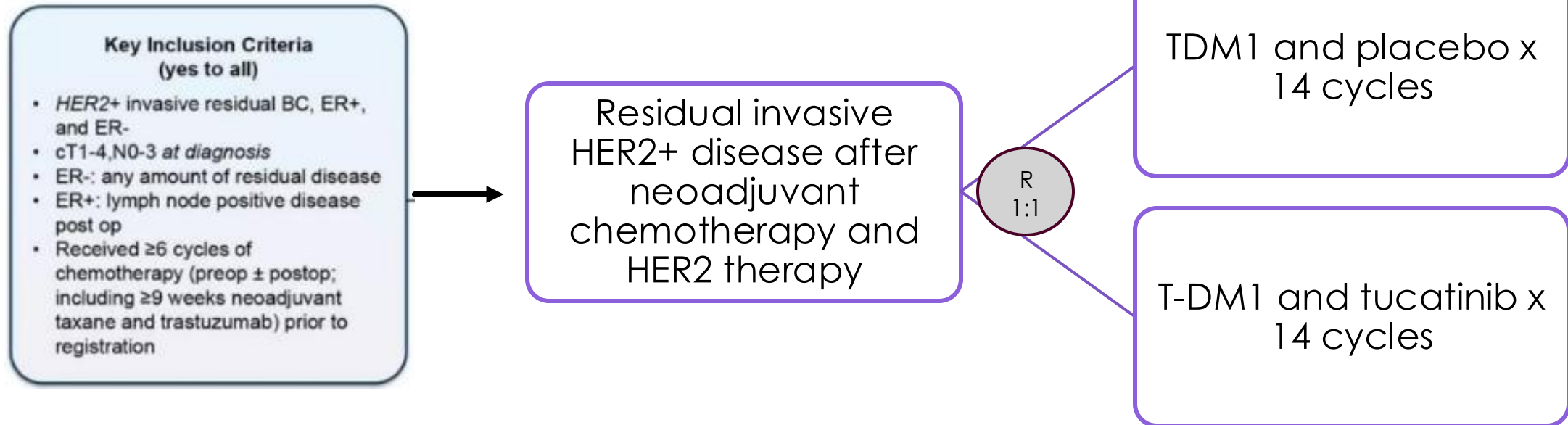


No. at risk		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Neratinib	131	126	121	116	113	110	106	100	60	14	0	
Placebo	164	161	156	143	135	129	123	115	65	12	0	

# A011801 CompassHER RD: An Escalation Trial

- ▶ CompassHER2 EA1181: Neoadjuvant de-escalation of THP in stage II-III HER2+ early breast cancer
- ▶ CompassHER2 A011801: **Escalation trial, HER2+ residual disease after neoadjuvant therapy**
  - ▶ Trial actively recruiting, NCT04457596

# A011801 CompassHER2 RD



Primary objective: iDFS HER2+

# DESTINY-Breast 05

Phase III, multicenter, randomized, open label, active-controlled study of trastuzumab deruxtecan vs trastuzumab emtansine in patients with high risk HER2+ breast cancer with residual disease in breast or axilla following NACT

\*high risk defined based on inoperable cancer at disease presentation or operable with positive node status after NACT

## Patients

- High risk HER2+ early breast cancer w/ residual disease after NACT and preoperative HER2 therapy

R  
1:1

## 800 patients received:

T-Dxd 5.4 mg/kg q3w x 14 cycles

## 800 patients received:

T-DM1 3.6 mg/kg q3w x 14 cycles

Primary efficacy outcome: iDFS

## Stratification:

- Operative status at presentation
- Tumor hormone receptor status
- Post-neo-adjuvant therapy pathologic nodal status
- HER2 targeted neo-adjuvant therapy approach (single vs double)

Thank you!