



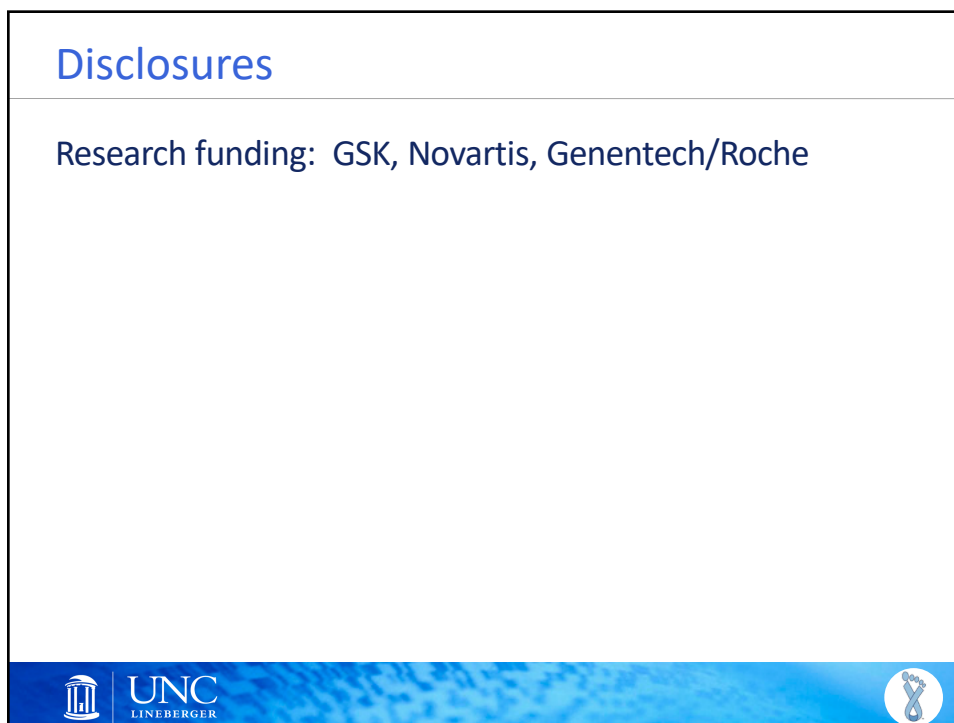
The slide features a blue background with a subtle pattern of white dots. In the top left corner is the UNC Lineberger logo, which includes a classical building icon and the text "UNC LINEBERGER". In the top right corner is the NCI CCC logo, which includes the text "NCI CCC" and "A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated by the National Cancer Institute". The title "Metastatic Breast Cancer" is centered in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below the title, the presenter's name and affiliation are listed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font.

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NCI CCC
A Comprehensive Cancer Center Designated by the National Cancer Institute

Metastatic Breast Cancer

LISA A. CAREY, MD
Jacobs Preyer Distinguished Professor of Breast Cancer Research
University of North Carolina
Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center




The slide has a white background with a blue header and footer. The header contains the word "Disclosures" in a blue, sans-serif font. The main body of the slide contains the text "Research funding: GSK, Novartis, Genentech/Roche" in a black, sans-serif font. The footer contains the UNC Lineberger logo on the left and a small circular logo on the right.

Disclosures

Research funding: GSK, Novartis, Genentech/Roche

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Epidemiology of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Approximately 40,000 deaths per year from breast cancer, but declining because of advances in HER2+ disease

Median survival 2-3 years, but highly variable

Prevalent population in U.S. ≈200,000 women

Any general oncologist by necessity is also a breast cancer specialist



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New Patients With Metastatic Breast Cancer in U.S.

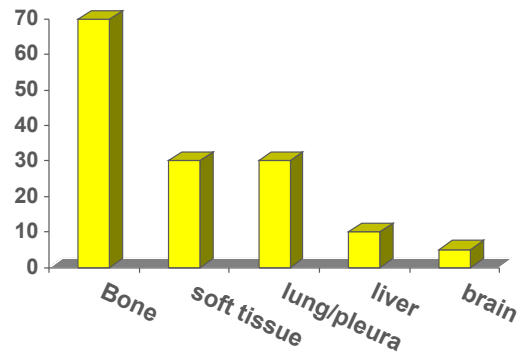
<u>Subtype</u>	<u>Percentage</u>
HER2+	~15-20% (↓ing)
Triple Neg	~ 15-20%
ER/PR+ and HER2-	~ 60-70%



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Metastatic Sites



Breast cancer tropisms differ by subtype
Bone more dominant in hormone receptor positive
Visceral and CNS in hormone receptor negative



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Heterogeneity of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Disease Characteristics

- Disease-free interval
- Sites and volume of disease
- Tempo of disease
- Prior therapy
- ER and PR status
- HER-2 status

Patient Characteristics

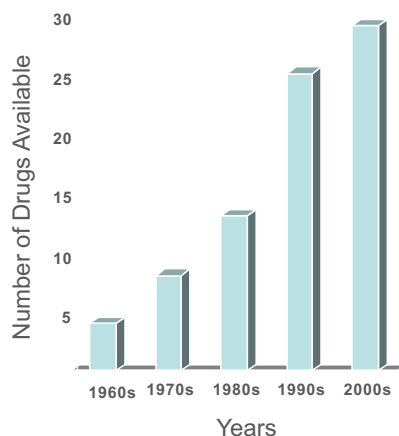
- Performance status
- Comorbidity
- Host factors
 - ? Immune response
 - ? Drug metabolism



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Growing Number of Therapies



1950s: Cyclophosphamide, methotrexate

1960s: 5-fluorouracil

1970s: Doxorubicin, tamoxifen

1980s: Mitoxantrone, megestrol acetate, goserelin, leuprolide

1990s: Paclitaxel, docetaxel, vinorelbine, trastuzumab, capecitabine, gemcitabine, epirubicin, toremifene, anastrozole, letrozole, exemestane

2000s: *nab*-paclitaxel, lapatinib, ixabepilone, eribulin, denosumab, everolimus, palbociclib, fulvestrant, T-DM1, pertuzumab, ribociclib...



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Metastatic Breast Cancer 2018

All therapy is palliative

Survival has increased

Survival depends mostly on tempo

- Biology of tumor is key

Goals of treatment

- Control of disease and symptoms
- Maximizing quality of life
- Minimize treatment toxicity

You can't improve on being asymptomatic!

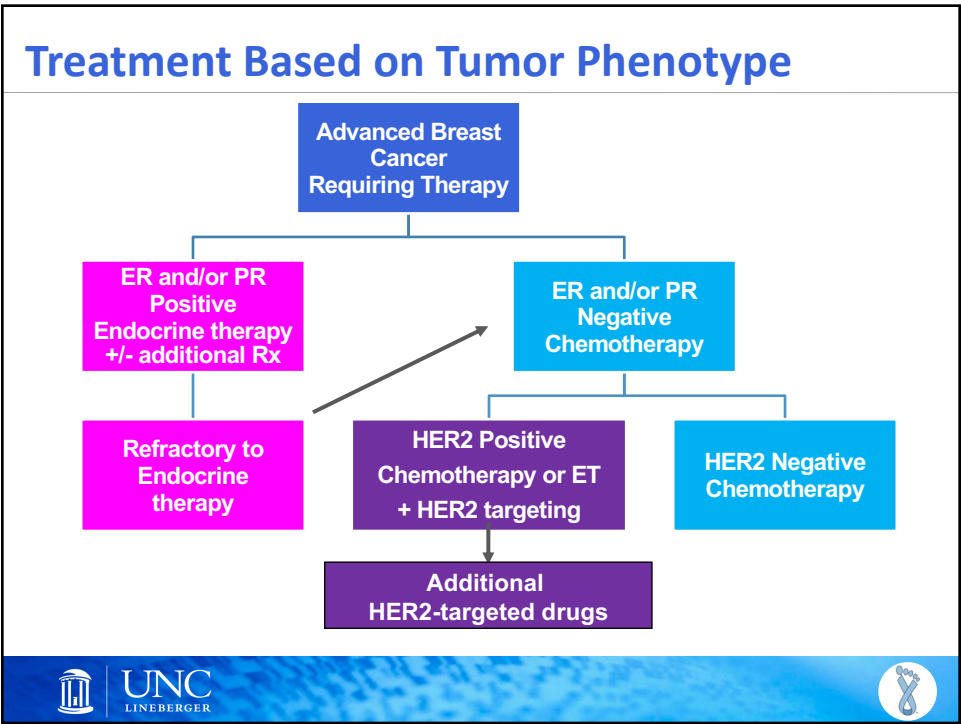


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Systemic Therapy for Metastatic Breast Cancer





ASCO/ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines

Chemotherapy and Targeted Therapy for Women With HER2–Negative (or unknown) ABC.

Systemic Therapy for Patients With Advanced Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2–Positive Breast Cancer.

Endocrine Therapy for Hormone Receptor Positive Metastatic Breast Cancer.

ESO-ESMO Consensus Conference Advanced Breast Cancer (ABC3)

ABC4 coming this fall!



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Partridge A et al, JCO 2014; Giordano S et al, JCO 2014;
Rugo H et al, JCO 2016; Cardoso F et al, Ann Oncol 2017



ASCO Guidelines: General Principles

HR+ HER2–

- Endocrine (usually) preferable to chemotherapy in 1st line
- Targeted agents added to ET (CDK4/6, mTOR, PI3K inhibitors)

Any HER2– receiving chemotherapy

- Single agent chemotherapy preferable to combination
 - Exception: symptomatic, immediately life-threatening
- Longer duration ↑ outcome but must be balanced against ↑ toxicity.
- No single optimal 1st or later chemotherapy
 - Factors: prior Rx, toxicity, performance status, comorbidity, patient preference.

HER2+

- HER2-directed Rx is mainstay
- First-line taxane + trastuzumab + pertuzumab, 2nd line T-DM1
- HR+ HER2+ may consider ET + HER2-Rx or ET alone in selected cases



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Partridge A et al, JCO 2014; Rugo H et al, JCO 2016



Endocrine Therapy Options

- Premenopausal
 - Tamoxifen
 - Oophorectomy (OA)/LHRH agonist (OS)
 - OA/OS + the postmenopausal options
- Postmenopausal
 - Nonsteroidal aromatase inhibitor (AI*)
 - AI plus palbo-, abema- or ribociclib
 - Fulvestrant
 - Fulvestrant + palbo/abema/ribociclib
 - Fulvestrant + alpelisib (PIK3CAmt)
 - Steroidal AI
 - Steroidal AI + everolimus
 - Tamoxifen
 - Estradiol

*Nonsteroidal AI = letrozole, anastrozole; Steroidal AI = exemestane



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Ovarian Suppression (or Ablation) in MBC

161 pts. with ER+ and MBC

- Tamoxifen
- Buserelin
- Combination

Median f/u 7.3 years
76% of patients DOD

	RR	PFS	OS	5-yr OS
Tamoxifen	28%	5.6m	2.9y	18%
Buserelin	34%	6.3m	2.5y	14%
Combination	48%	9.7m	3.7y	34%
P-value	0.11	0.03	0.01	

Klijn JGM et al, JNCI 2000

OS/OA is itself therapeutic, and opens door for highly effective postmenopausal drugs. Standard of care.



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AI vs Tamoxifen: 1st Line Postmenopausal

	Anastrozole	Letrozole	Exemestane
N	353	907	371
CR+PR	21% vs 17%	30% vs 20%	45% vs 30%
CR+PR+SD	59% vs 46%	49% vs 38%	--
TTP (mo)	11.1 vs 5.6	9.4 vs 6.0	9.9 vs 5.8

AI at least as good as tamoxifen
Anastrozole = Letrozole = Exemestane
Limited data including CDK4/6i or mTORi



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Nabholtz JM et al, JCO 2000; Mouridsen H et al, JCO 2003;
Paridaens RJ et al, JCO 2008



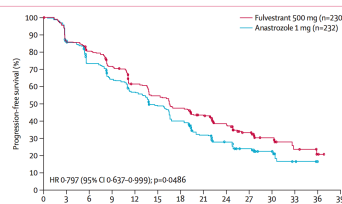
Fulvestrant vs AI: 1st Line

FALCON study: Phase III trial

	Fulvestrant	Anastrozole	P-value
CR+ PR	46%	45%	NS
CBR	78%	74%	NS
PFS*	17m	14m	0.049

ET-naïve!

OS 5.5m improvement in phase II FIRST trial



Robertson JFR et al, Lancet 2016

Fulvestrant as single agent => AI in 1st line endocrine Rx

Considerations:

1. Prior adjuvant AI (if anything) should augment difference
2. CDK 4/6i trials usually AI 1st line, fulvestrant later



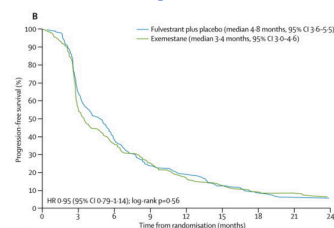
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2nd Line Endocrine Rx (after NSAI)

SoFEA: Phase III trial fulvestrant
vs exemestane
(no difference)

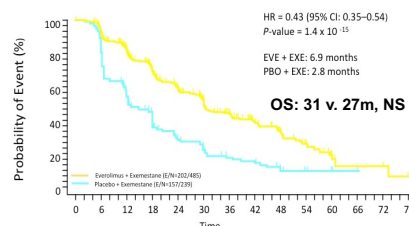
If NSAI/CDK4/6i used 1st, either
fulvestrant or exemestane next is ok



However, if you're going to use exemestane...

BOLERO-2: Phase III trial
exemestane + everolimus
(mTOR inhibitor) in 2nd line

Everolimus added to exemestane
improves PFS but not OS
(AE- stomatitis, anemia, ↑ glc, pneumonitis)



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Johnston S et al, Lancet Oncol 2013; Baselga J et al, NEJM 2011;
Piccart M et al, Ann Oncol 2014



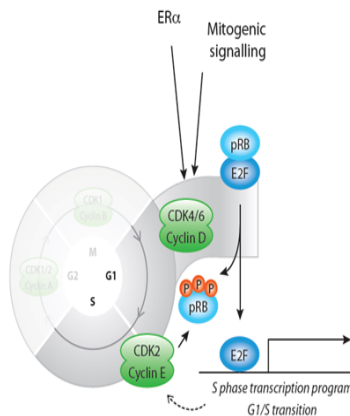
Cyclin Dependent Kinase 4/6 Inhibitors

Role in HR+ breast cancer

- Growth of HR+ BC depends on cyclin D1, a transcriptional target of ER
- Cyclin D1 activates CDK 4/6 causing G1-S phase transition and cell cycle entry

3 drugs approved for HR+ HER2- MBC
with similar efficacy.

- Palbociclib (ANC major toxicity)
- Abemaciclib (GI major toxicity)
- Ribociclib (QTc = EKG monitoring)

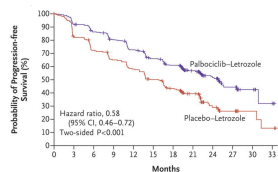


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Palbociclib Trials in HR+ Disease

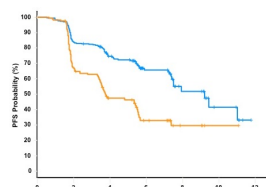
PALOMA-2: Phase III letrozole \pm palbo in 1st line HR+/HER2-



PFS: 25m vs 14m, $p < 0.001$
(OS in PALOMA1 phase II: 37m vs 33m, ns)
AE: ANC (66% grade 3+, febrile 2%)*
FDA approved 2015:
Letrozole + palbo in 1st line

**WBC
monitoring
with these
drugs**

PALOMA-3: Phase III fulvestrant \pm palbo in 2nd+ line HR+/HER2-



PFS: 9m vs 4m, $p < 0.0001$
(OS immature)
Accelerated FDA approval 2016:
Fulvestrant + palbo in pretreated (no prior palbo)

Key AE: neutropenia, infections, anemia (needs monitoring ET doesn't)



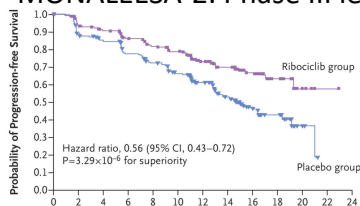
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Finn R et al, NEJM 2016; Finn R et al ASCO 2017;
Turner N et al, NEJM 2016



Ribociclib Trials in HR+ Disease

MONALEESA-2: Phase III letrozole \pm ribo in 1st line



PFS: NR vs 15m, $p < 0.001$
Grade 3+ AE: ANC (63%, febrile 2%), LFT 11%. QTc \uparrow 3%*
FDA approved 2016:
Letrozole + ribo in 1st line

**Monitor serial
ECG and drugs**

MONALEESA-3: Phase III fulvestrant \pm ribo in 1-2nd+ line
 Not yet reported

FDA approval 2016: Letrozole + ribo in 1st line
How much will QTc matter?
HR 0.56 ribo, HR 0.55 palbo vs letrozole alone



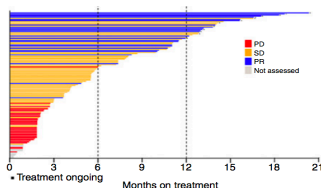
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Hortobagyi G et al, NEJM 2016



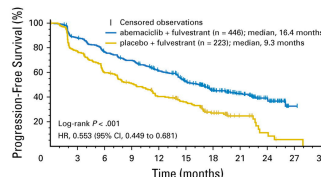
Abemaciclib Trials in HR+ HER2- Disease

MONARCH-1: Single agent abemaciclib in 2nd+ line



RR 15-20% (unusual in single agent CDK4/6i)
Toxicity differs: diarrhea grade 3+ 20% > ANC ↓

MONARCH-2: Phase III fulvestrant ± abema in 2st line



PFS: 16m vs 9m, HR 0.55, p<0.001

MONARCH-3: Phase III NSAI ± abema 1st line
– PFS HR 0.54
(81% diarrhea, 41% neutropenia)

Not yet approved.

FDA review likely in 2018 alone and combined with fulvestrant



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Dickler M et al, Clin Cancer Res 2017; Sledge G et al, JCO 2017;
di Leo A et al, ESMO 2017



Alpelisib Added to Fulvestrant in PreRx

Men or postmenopausal women, with HR+, HER2- ABC

- Recurrence/progression on/after prior AI
- Identified PIK3CA status (in archival or fresh tumor tissue)
- Measurable disease or ≥1 predominantly lytic bone lesion
- ECOG performance status ≤1 (N=572)

PIK3CA-mutant cohort (n=341)

1:1, stratified by presence of liver/lung metastases and prior CDK4/6 inhibitor treatment

PIK3CA-non-mutant cohort (n=231)

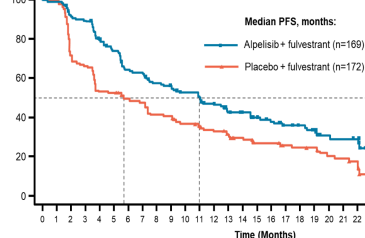
ALP 300 mg QD PO + FUL 500 mg IM* n=169

PBO + FUL 500 mg IM* n=172

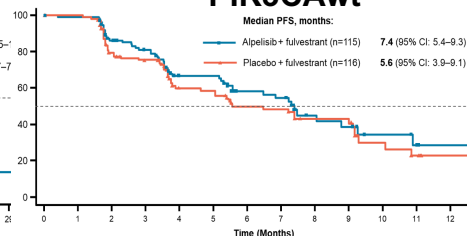
ALP 300 mg QD PO + FUL 500 mg IM* n=115

PBO + FUL 500 mg IM* n=116

PIK3CAmt



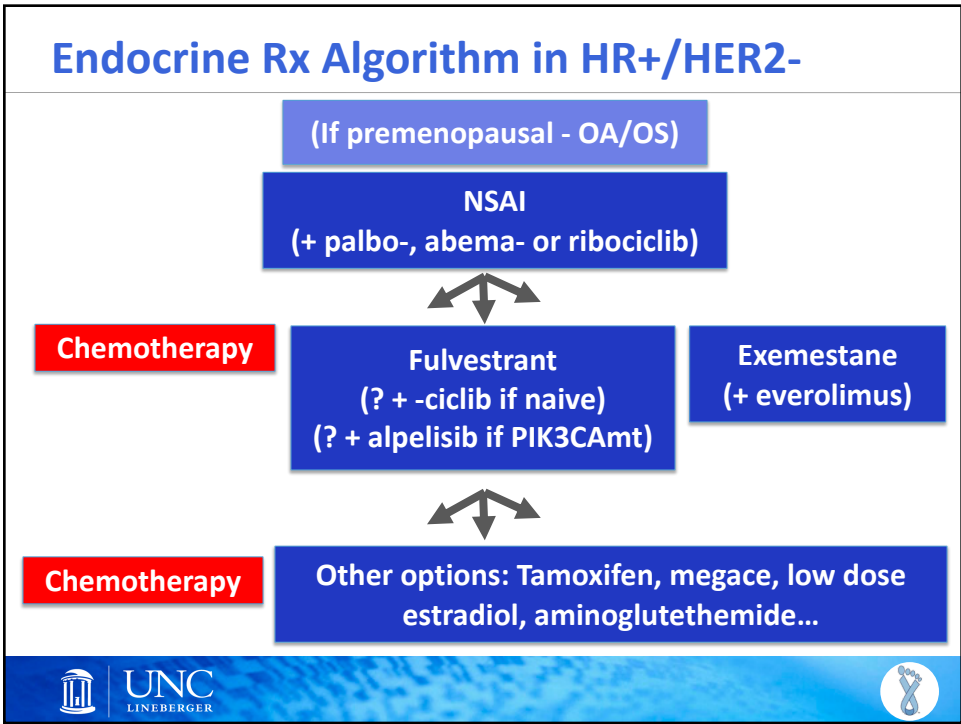
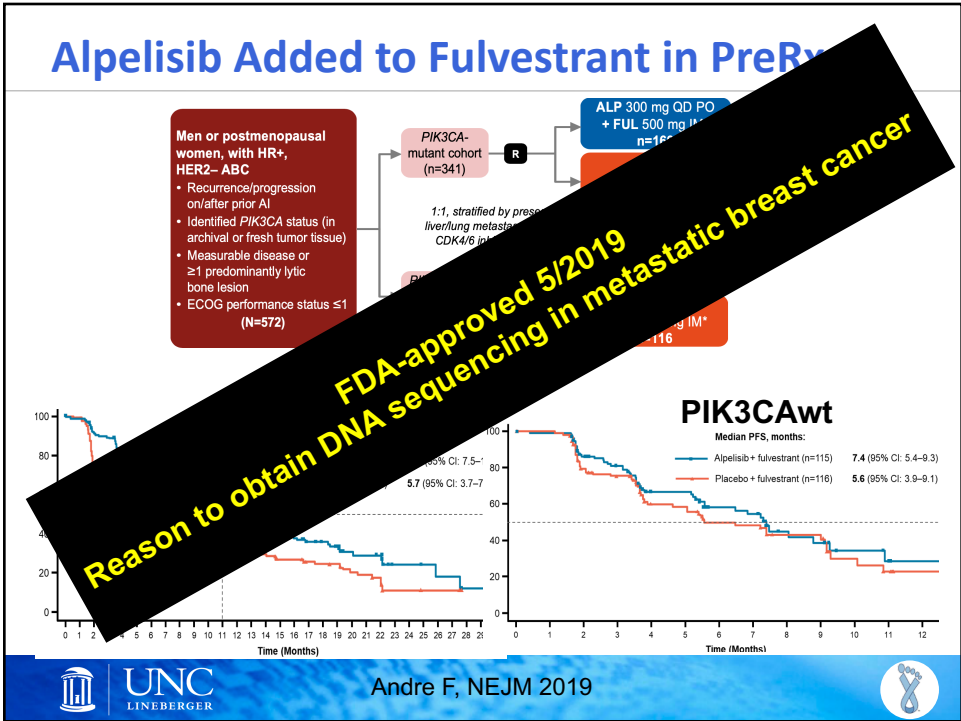
PIK3CAwt

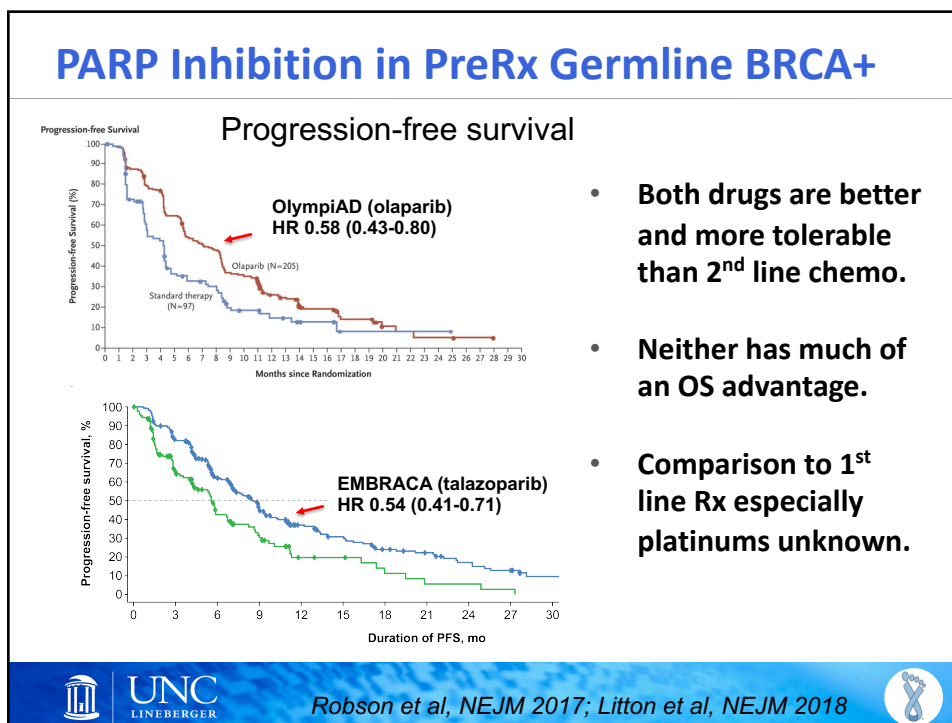
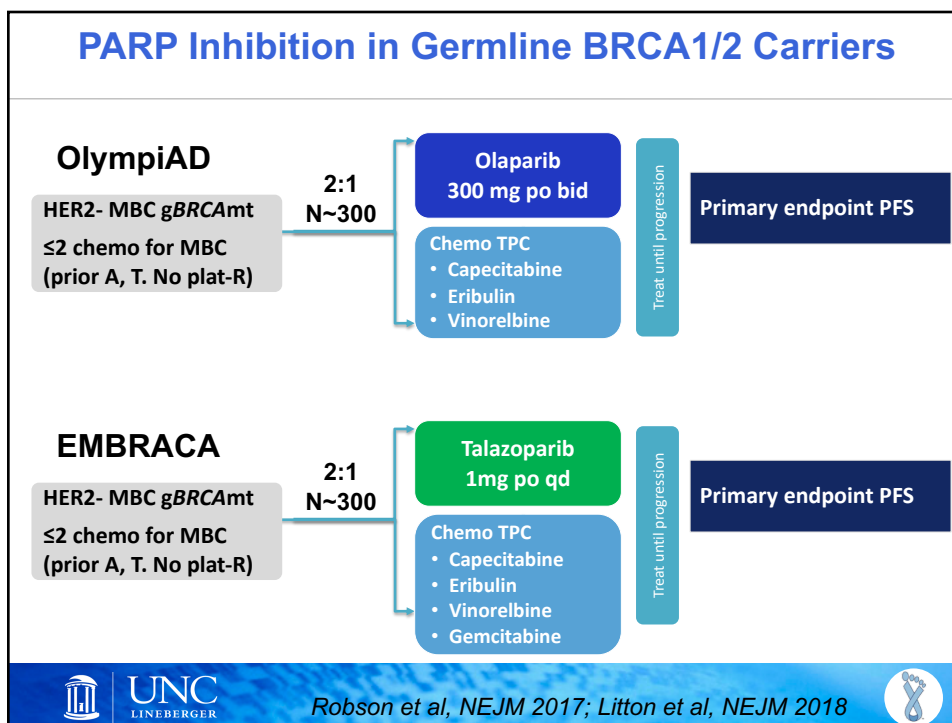


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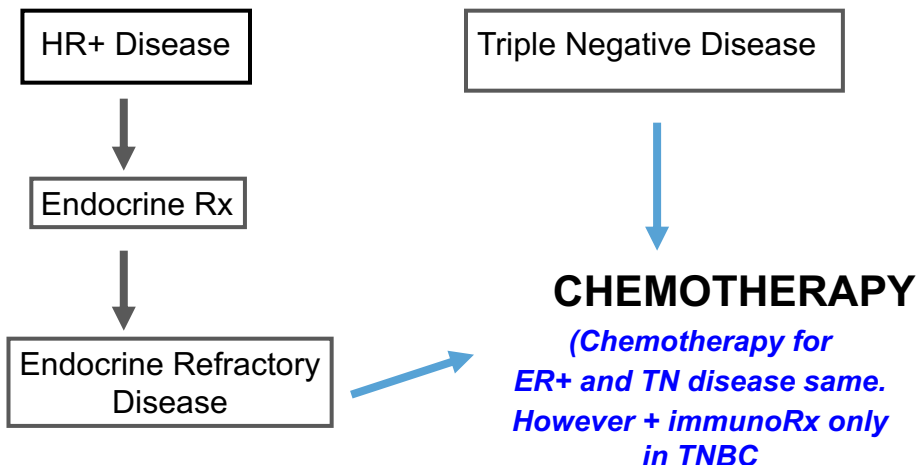
Andre F, NEJM 2019







Chemotherapy in HER2- Breast Cancer



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MBC Chemotherapy: Wide Options

Anthracycline

- Doxorubicin
- Epirubicin
- Liposomal doxorubicin

Taxanes

- Paclitaxel
- Docetaxel
- Nab-paclitaxel

Vinca alkaloids

- Vinorelbine

Other anti-tubule

- Eribulin

Antimetabolites

- Methotrexate
- 5-FU
- Capecitabine
- Gemcitabine

Alkylating agents

- Cyclophosphamide
- Platinum agents

Epothilones

- Ixabepilone



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Combination vs Single Agent Chemotherapy

	Combination	Single Agent
Higher RR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Longer TTP (initial)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Survival	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
QOL		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Easier to customize		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Less "wasted" toxicity		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Single agent preferred unless response is important



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Is There a Standard 1st Line Agent?

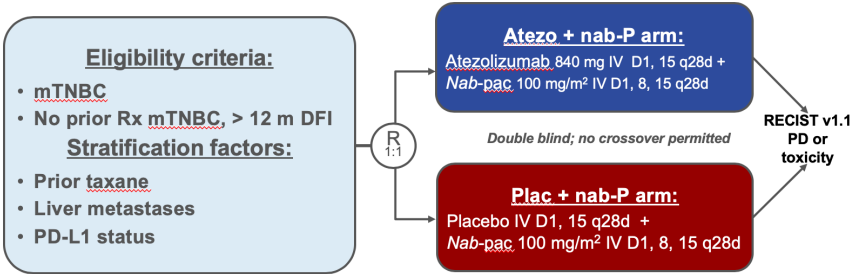
- Anthracyclines and taxanes 1st line agents; may be less appealing in relapse soon post adjuvant Rx
- No evidence that sequence of therapies affects OS or QOL
- Response more influenced by line of therapy than specific agent
- Treatment decisions often individualized to patient
- NCCN/ASCO guidelines generally avoid specific recommendations first-line agents



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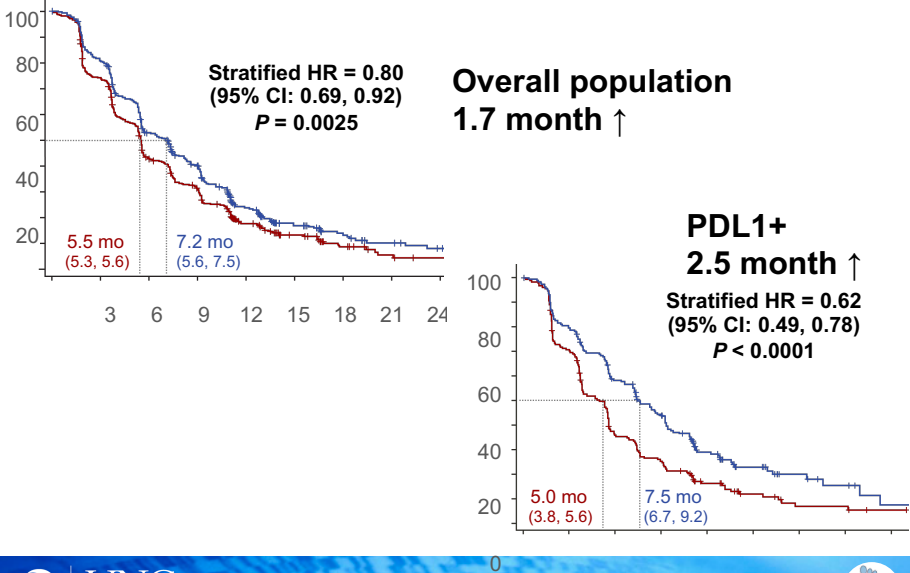
Immunotherapy in TNBC



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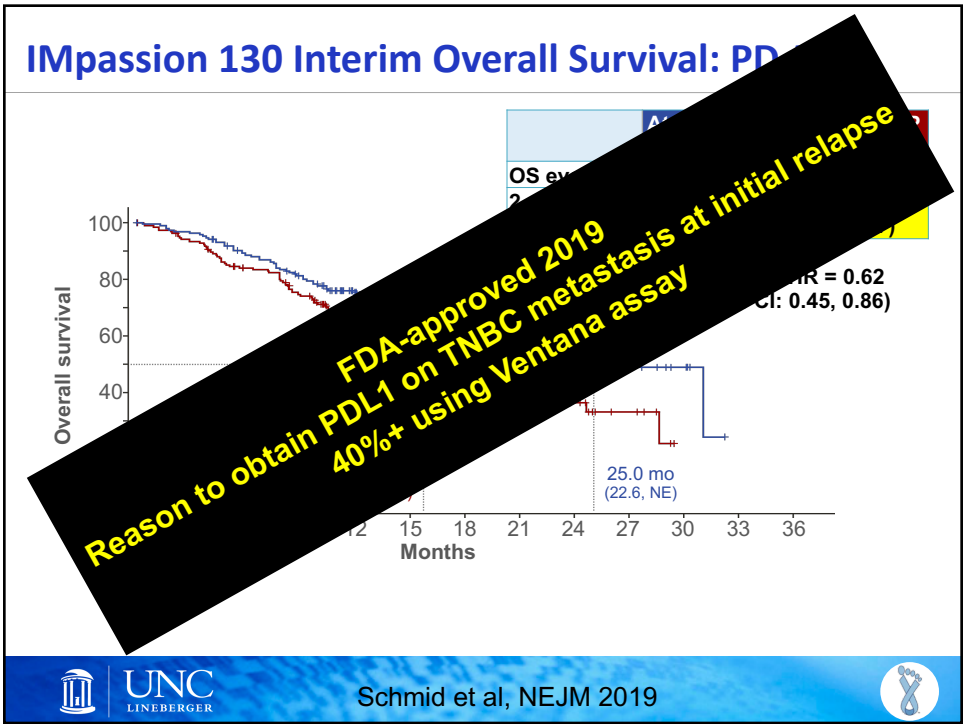
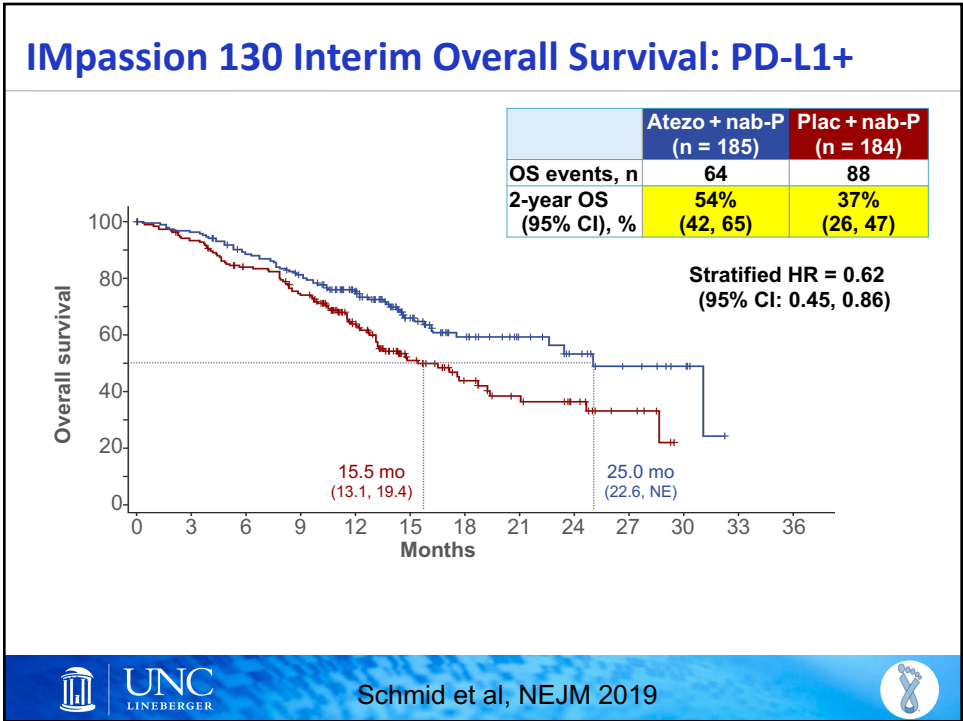
IMpassion 130: Progression-Free Survival (ITT)



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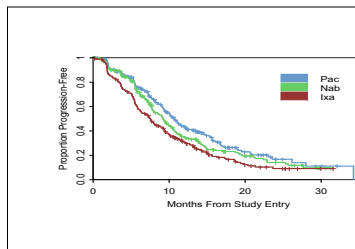
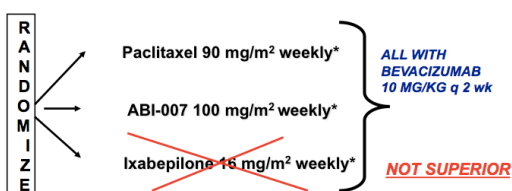
Schmid et al, NEJM 2019





1st Line Chemotherapy Otherwise

CALGB 40502: Phase III trial of 3 antitubule drugs in 1st line



Results of 40502:

- Paclitaxel > ixabepilone
- Paclitaxel least toxic

Meta-analysis first-line trials

- Taxane > anthracycline

REASONABLE: single agent weekly taxane (paclitaxel, nab-paclitaxel, docetaxel) unless recent adjuvant taxane. Platinums ok 1st line in triple negative.



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Rugo H et al, JCO 2015; Piccart-Gebhart MJ et al, JCO 2008



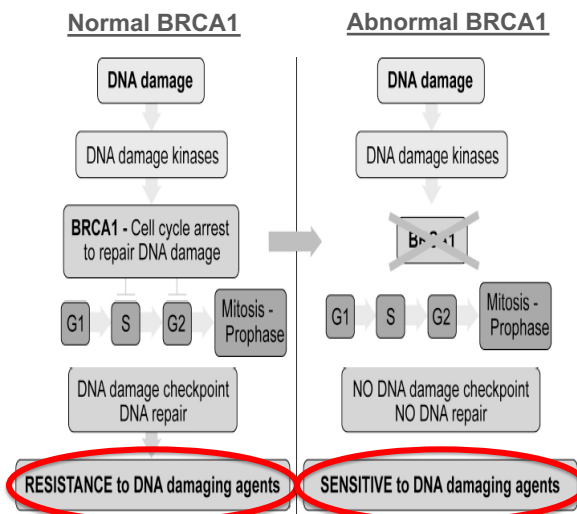
Direct DNA Damaging Agents in TNBC

BRCA-associated cancer is usually TNBC (basal-like)

BRCA + and BRCA – TNBC have many shared characteristics.

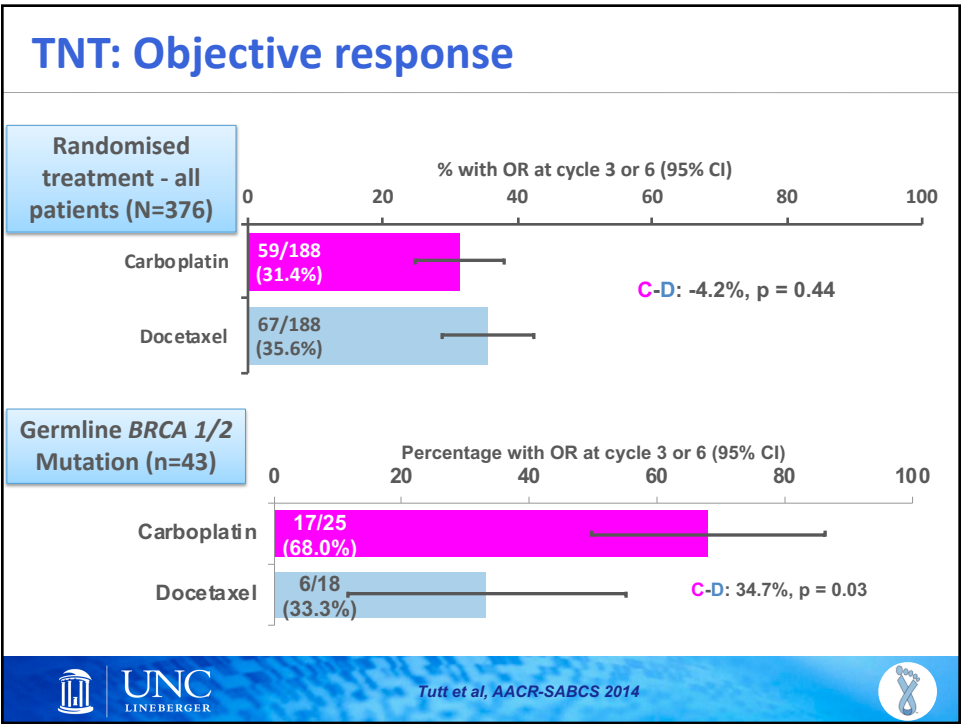
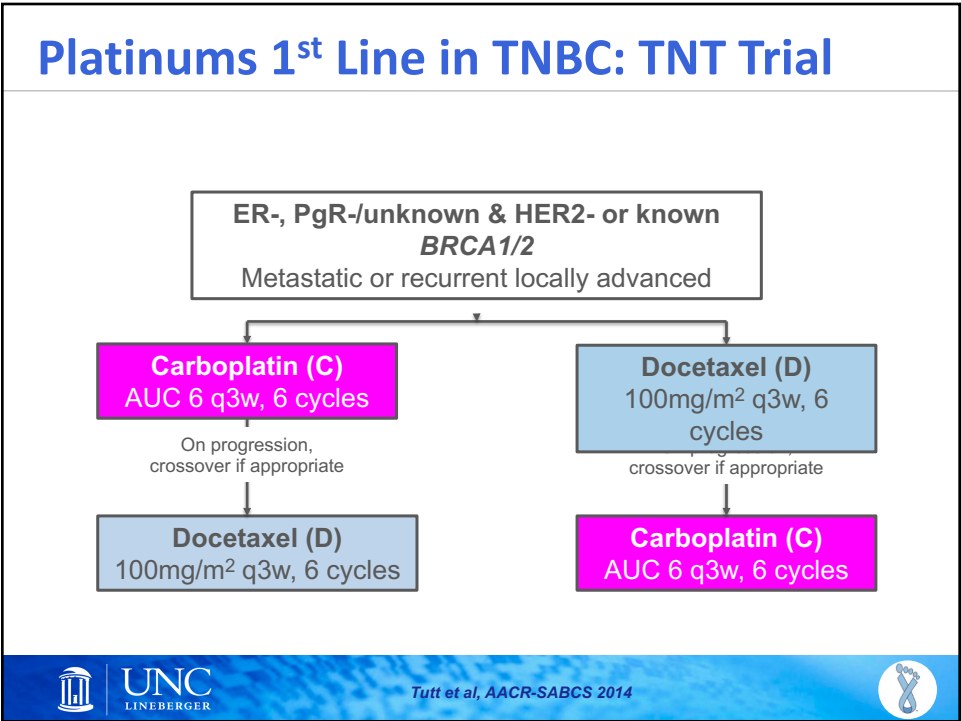
Is this therapeutically meaningful?

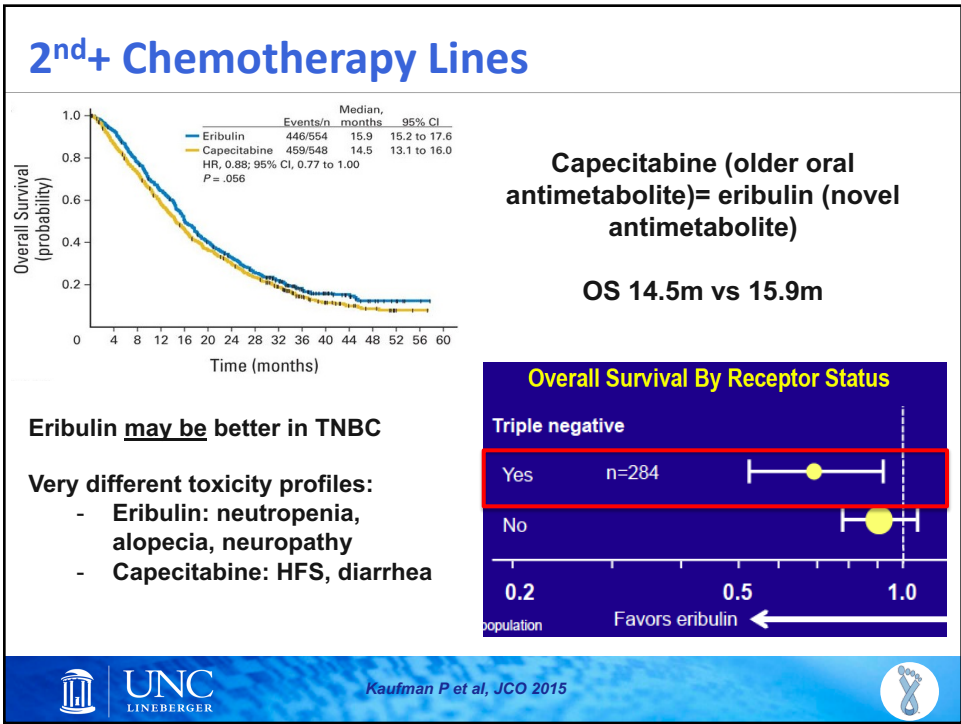
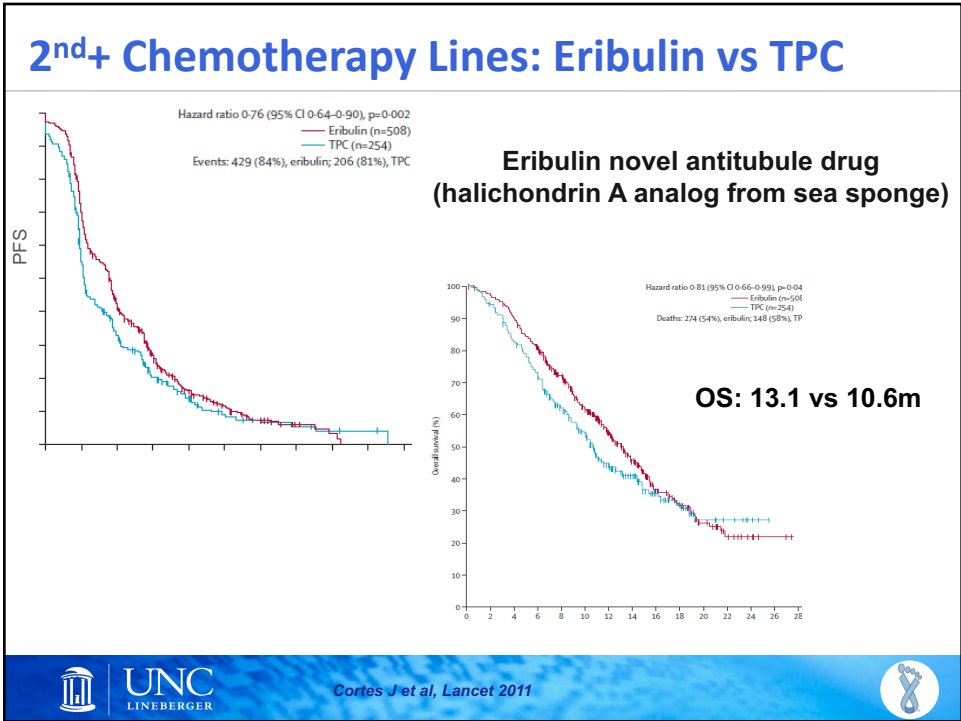
Classic DNA-damaging agents = platinum, ionizing radiation




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Toxicity is a Key Feature to Consider




↓ alopecia

- Capecitabine
- Vinorelbine
- Carboplatin




↓ neuropathy

- Capecitabine
- Anthracyclines
- Gemcitabine




↓ IVs

- Capecitabine




↓ GI symptoms

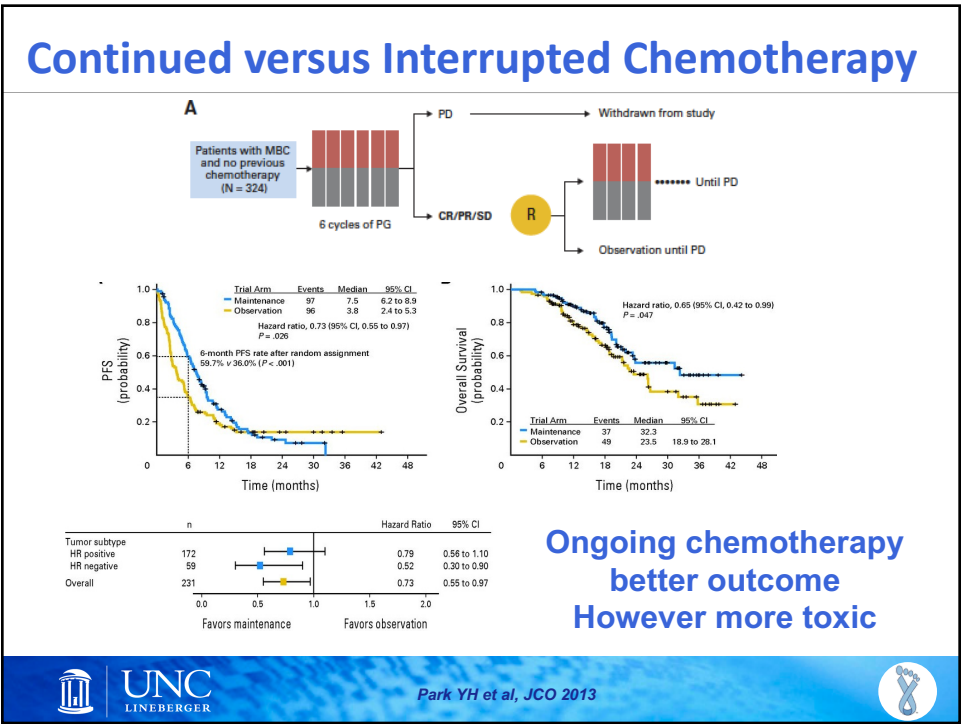
- Taxanes
- Gemcitabine



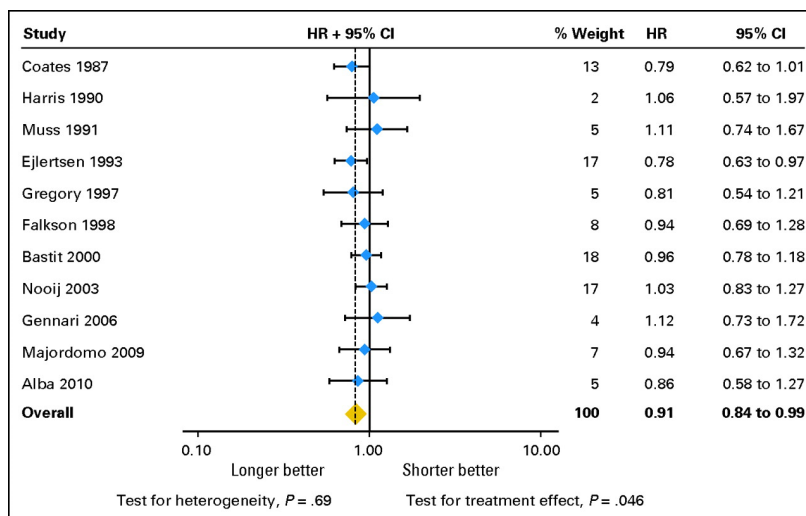
↓ myelosuppression

- Taxanes
- Capecitabine





Meta-Analysis Chemotherapy Duration: Survival



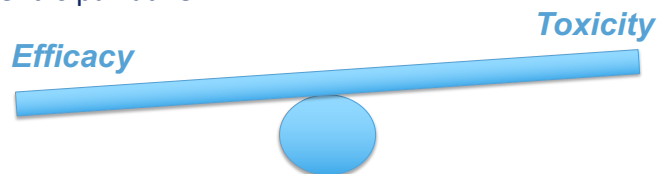
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Gennari A et al, JCO 2011



General Principles of Chemotherapy

All treatment is palliative

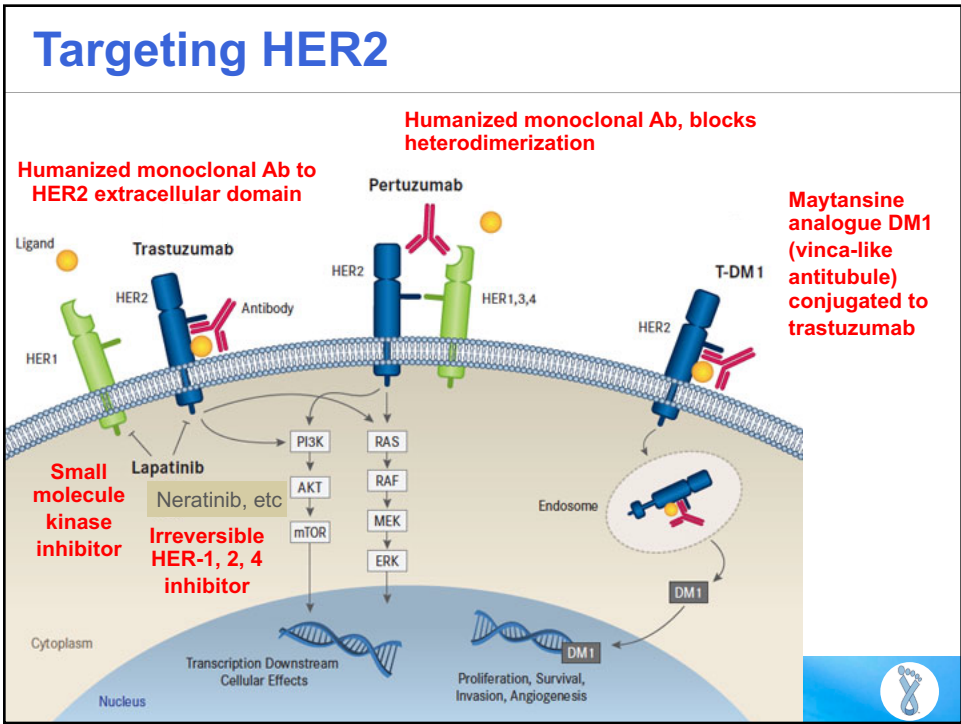
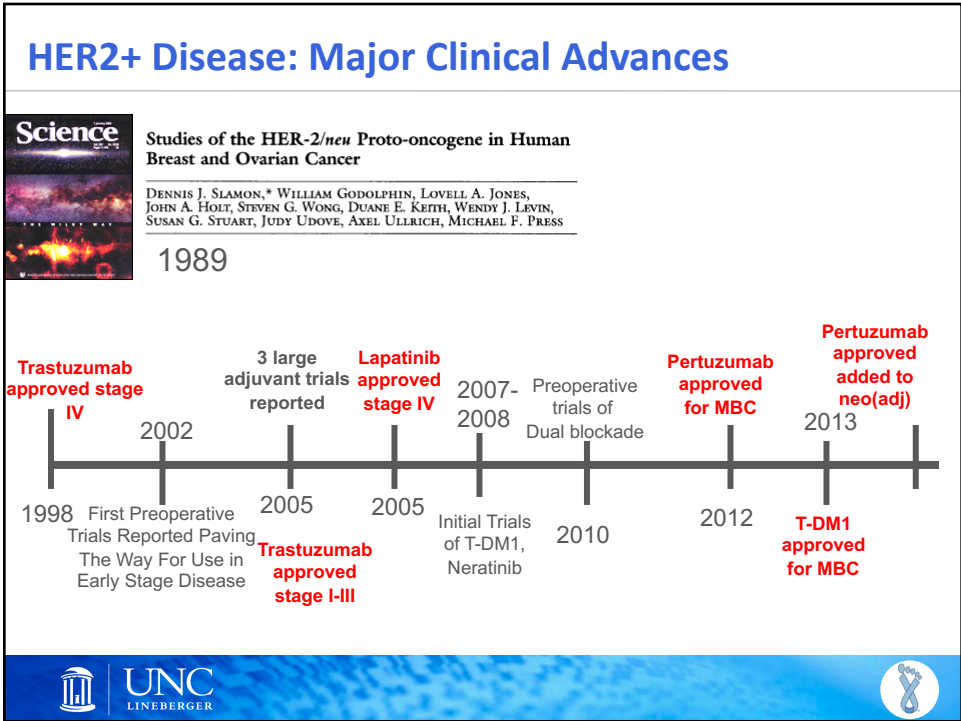


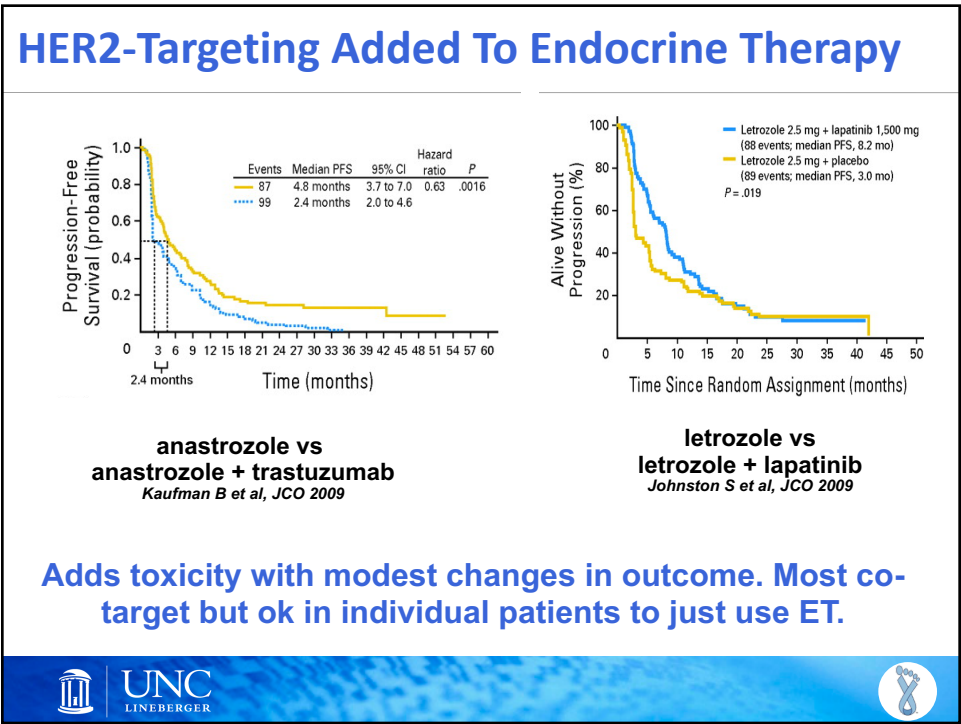
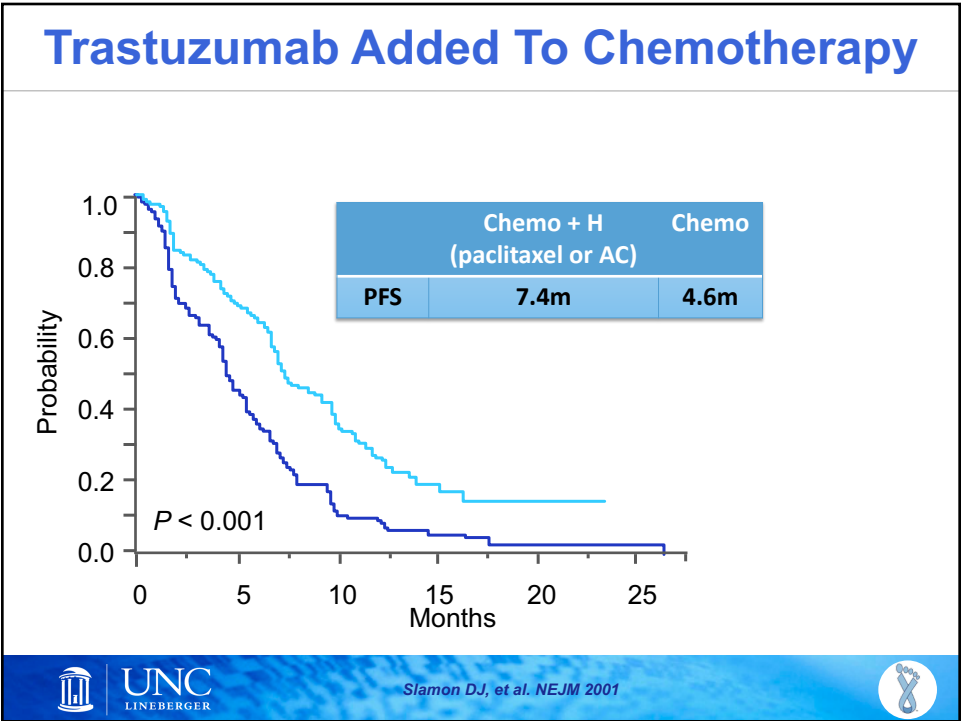
- **TNBC and endocrine-resistant HR+**
 - HER2 different principles
 - TNBC – initial Rx nab-paclitaxel if PDL1+ and giving immunotherapy
- **Single agent > polychemotherapy**
 - (unless symptomatic or rapidly progressive)
- **First-line: Taxane (unless recently Rx adjuvantly)**
 - Platinum in TNBC
- **Later-line: Many choices**
 - Eribulin, capecitabine, platinum
 - Anthracyclines (if did not receive adjuvantly – cannot give twice)



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Adds toxicity with modest changes in outcome. Most co-target but ok in individual patients to just use ET.

HER2-Targeting: The First Generation

Post-trastuzumab progression, ongoing HER2-targeting works

- Lapatinib
- TDM1
- Trastuzumab!

Multiple chemotherapy partners for HER2-targeting

- Platinums, vinorelbine, gemcitabine, capecitabine
- What is optimal?

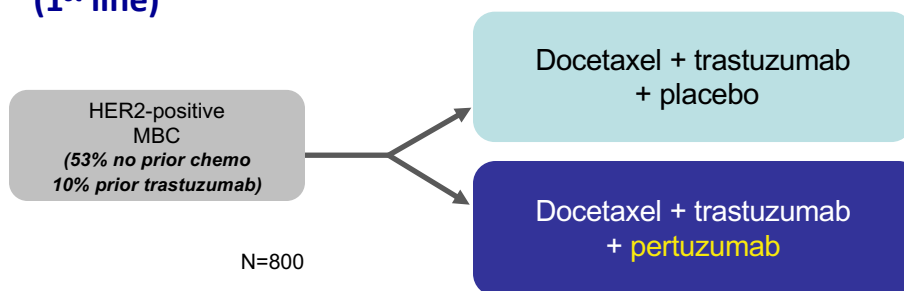
ER+ HER2+ disease benefits from dual targeting

- AI + either trastuzumab or lapatinib
- Ok to omit HER2-targeting in strongly ER+, indolent, asymptomatic.

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Pertuzumab

CLEOPATRA: Phase III trial of addition of pertuzumab (1st line)



End points

- PFS and OS
- quality of life
- biomarker analysis

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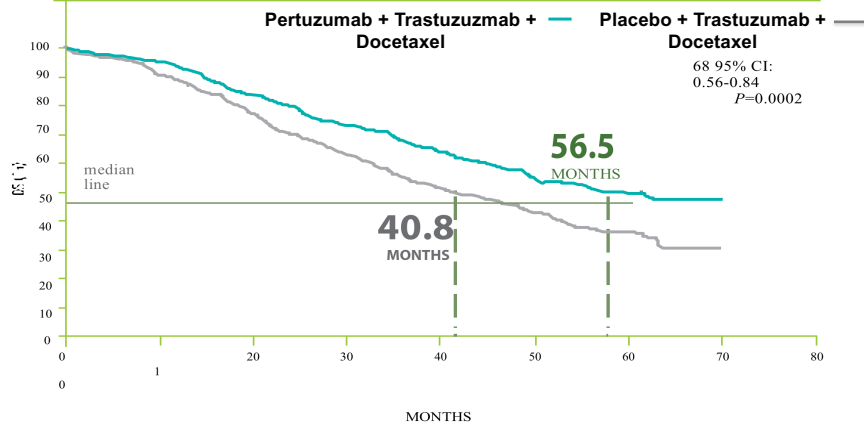
Baselga J et al. NEJM 2012



CLEOPATRA: Overall Survival

PFS 18.5 vs 12.4m, $p < 0.0001$

15.7 months improvement in median OS in the final analysis
(secondary endpoint)²



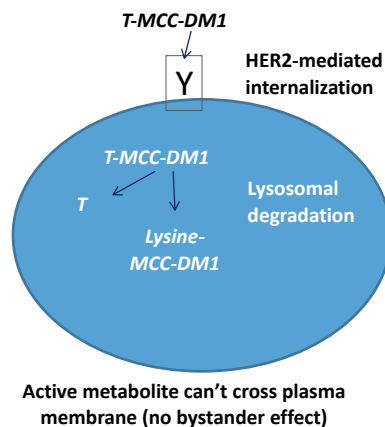
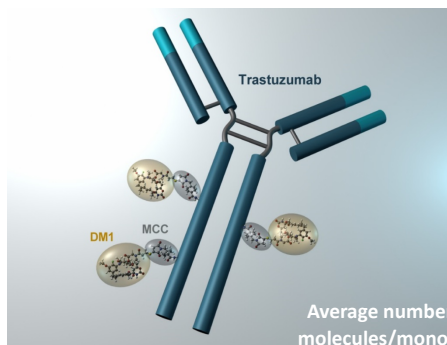
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Baselga J et al, NEJM 2012; Swain S et al, NEJM 2015



Trastuzumab-emtansine (T-DM1), HER2 Antibody-Drug Conjugate

- Maytansine analogue DM1 (antitubule akin to vincas) conjugated to trastuzumab – similar to gemtuzumab (Myelotarg)
- Will it allow omission of separate cytotoxic?

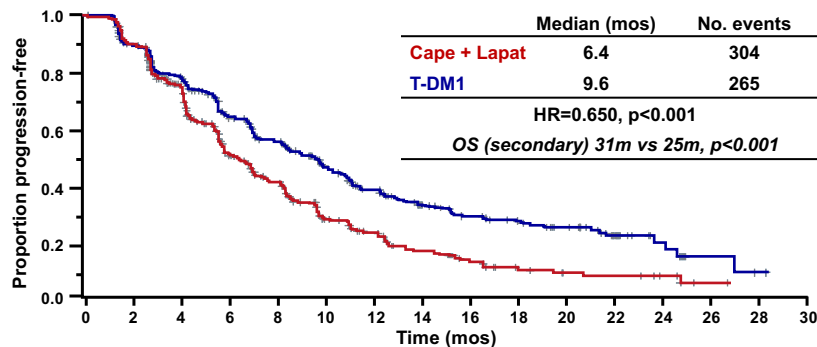


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EMILIA: Phase III Trial T-DM1 versus XL

Pre-treated setting



Toxicity better (and different) with T-DM1: grade 3+ 57% vs 41%
T-DM1 – thrombocytopenia, LFT↑
XL – N/V, hand-foot syndrome

Win-Win



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Verma S et al, NEJM 2012



Next Generation of HER2-Targeting

Trial	Line	Regimens	PFS	OS
CLEOPATRA	1	TH + Pert	19 v. 12m (HR 0.69*)	56 v. 41m (HR 0.68*)
MARIANNE ^{&}	1	TH v. TDM1 v. TDM1+P	ns	-
NEfERTT ^{&}	1	TH v. TN	17 v. 17m (ns)	?fewer CNS with TN?
BOLERO-1	1	TH + Eve	15 v. 14m	-
EMILIA	2	TDM1 v. XL	10 v. 6m (HR 0.65*)	31 vs 29m (HR 0.68*)
BOLERO-3	2	VH + Eve	7 v. 6m (HR 0.78*)	-
TH3RESA	3+	TDM1 v. MD choice	6 v. 3m (HR 0.53)	HR 0.55 (interim)

* significant

T=taxane; N=neratinib; V=vinorelbine; E=everolimus



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Baseiga J et al, NEJM'12; Swain S et al, NEJM'15;
Hurvitz S et al, Lancet Oncol'15; Verma S et al, NEJM'12;
Andre F et al, Lancet Oncol'14; Krop IE et al, Lancet Oncol'14



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Oncogene Addiction:

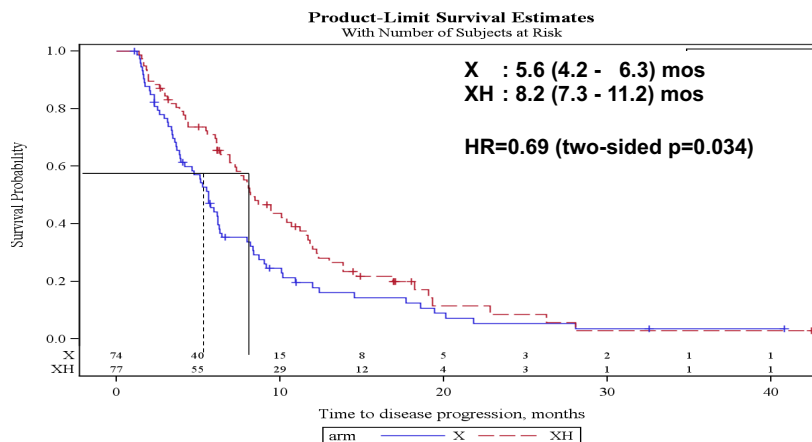
HER2 is Still a Relevant Target After Progression on Trastuzumab



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Capecitabine ± Trastuzumab: Time To Progression (after prior trastuzumab)



ORR 48% vs 27%, p=0.0011



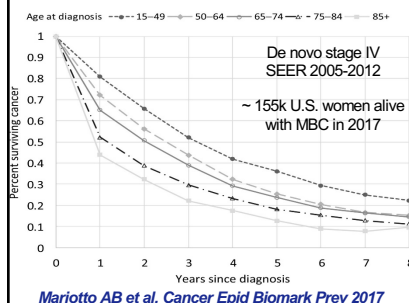
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von Minckwitz G et al, JCO 2009



Summary: Metastatic Options for HER2+

Line of therapy	Regimen Options	
	<i>Chemotherapy-based</i>	<i>Endocrine therapy-based</i>
First	Taxane + trast + pert	AI + lapatinib or trastuzumab
Second	T-DM1	Fulvestrant + lapatinib or trastuzumab
Third	Capecitabine + lapatinib	
Later	Other drugs + trastuzumab	



Median survival increasing
Multiple drug choices

How do we treat most thoughtfully?

Mariotto AB et al, Cancer Epid Biomark Prev 2017



Treatment Approach HER2+ MBC in 2018

First Line: Taxane + Trastuzumab + Pertuzumab

*Who Should Receive
Endocrine
Therapy Upfront?*

*ET + HER2-targeting
ET alone*

Second Line: TDM-1

Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Line:

Capecitabine + Lapatinib

Capecitabine + Trastuzumab

Vinorelbine + Trastuzumab

Lapatinib + Trastuzumab

Other chemotherapy + Trastuzumab

Endocrine Therapy + Trastuzumab



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Local Therapy for Metastatic / Recurrent Breast Cancer



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Local Therapy of Metastatic Breast Cancer

Role of surgery or radiation

- Regional recurrence – e.g. chest wall lesion, regional LN – curative intent R
- Distant disease – e.g. isolated pulmonary nodule, hepatic met – **not standard, used for symptomatic relief**
- Local Rx of oligometastatic disease – controversial – **not standard**

Exception #1: symptomatic or locally threatening disease

Exception #2: brain metastases

- Survival advantage associated with local therapy
 - Surgery
 - Radiosurgery
 - Coordinated multidisciplinary management is key



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When Else to Consider Local Therapy

Disease is truly localized

Local symptoms are present and low chance of palliation with systemic rx

Impending localized complication (spinal cord compression, fracture)



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Breast Surgery in Metastatic Disease

Multiple retrospective, a few prospective studies – remains controversial

Patients who undergo breast surgery typically live longer than those who do not – but many uncontrolled variables

Underlying hypothesis is the breast serves as a site of ongoing tumor cell dissemination

Recently completed randomized trial in U.S.

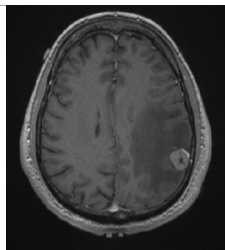
RECOMMENDATION: option but not standard. Consider if local complications exist or oligometastatic.



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Diagnosis of Brain Metastases



Presentation

- Headaches, seizures, neurologic deficit
- More found incidentally
- Routine screening not recommended
- 4x more common in HER2+ (often isolated) and TNBC (usually with progression elsewhere)

MRI best diagnostic test, CT next choice

- 50% multiple, 50% 1-3 lesions



11% false + if single lesion (*Patchell RA et al, NEJM 1990*)

- DDx: Primary brain tumors, infections, infarcts, MS, hemorrhage

Rx:

- 1-3 metastases: SRS or surgery then consideration of whole brain RT (may defer in good prognosis patients)
- multiple intraparenchymal = WBRT, then systemic Rx
- Leptomeningeal – poor px = consider craniospinal RT, IT Rx

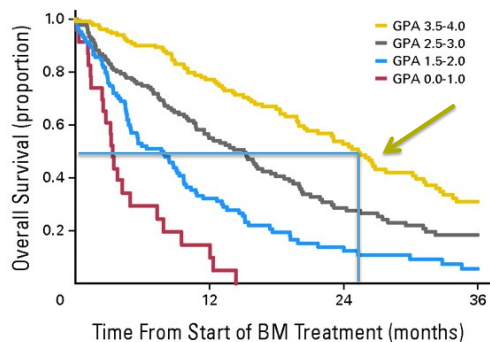


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Brain Metastasis: Heterogeneous Prognosis

Prognostic Factor	GPA Scoring Criteria					Patient Score
	0	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	
KPS	≤ 50	60	70-80	90-100	n/a	—
Subtype	Basal	n/a	LumA	HER2	LumB	—
Age, years	≥ 60	< 60	n/a	n/a	n/a	—
Sum total						—



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Sperduto PW et al, JCO 2012



Drugs with Reported CNS Activity

CMF
CAF
Cisplatin
Carboplatin
Capecitabine
Temozolomide
Irinotecan
High dose methotrexate

In HER2+: lapatinib (and newer small molecule TKI) maybe trastuzumab.

No systemic standard of care, Rx is individualized.



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Skeletal Morbidity from Bone Metastases in Advanced Cancer

Skeletal Related Events (SREs)

Pathologic Fracture



Radiotherapy to Bone



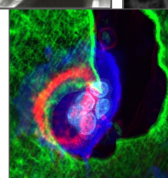
Surgery to Bone



Spinal Cord Compression



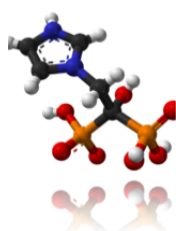
Hypercalcemia



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Bone-targeted Agents



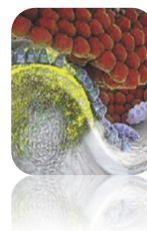
Bisphosphonates

Zoledronic acid
Clodronate
Pamidronate
Ibandronate



RANK Ligand inhibitor

Denosumab



Little data, not standard

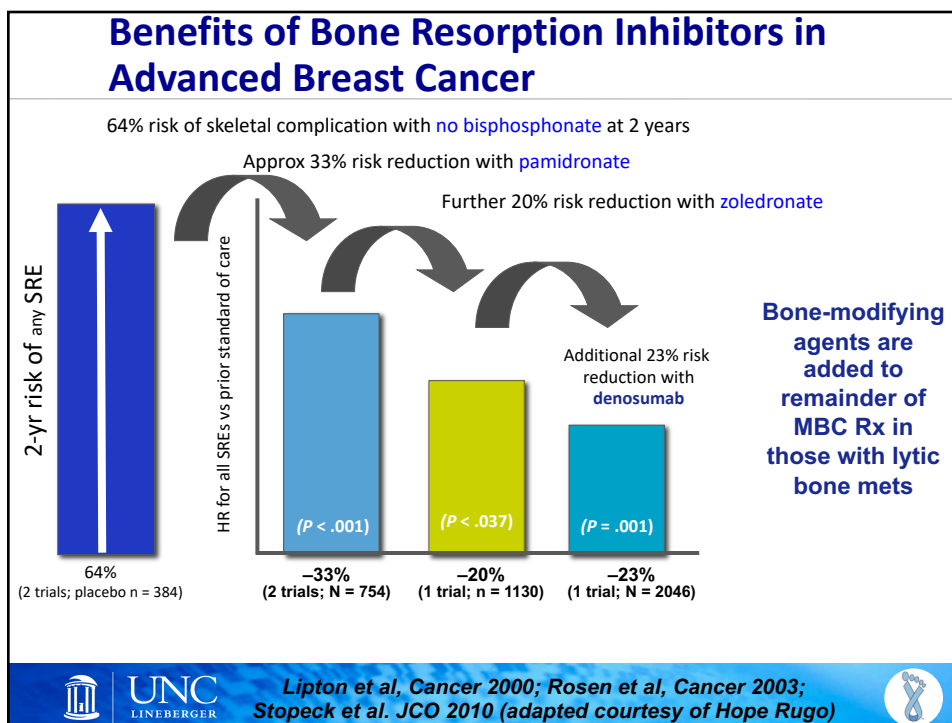
Radiopharmaceuticals

Radium-223
Strontium-89
Samarium-153



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Treatment of MBC: Where Now?

Major progress in MBC management:

- Multiple HR- and HER2-targeted options
- Immunotherapy in some TNBC
- PARP inhibition mainstay in germline carriers.

Chemotherapy still primary or key for many – optimize!

- Consider entire menu of Rx, toxicity, and patient preference.

Involve Palliative Care / Symptom Management colleagues early.

Goals of therapy in MBC:

1. Disease control
2. Quality of life



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Thank you!



Questions



Question 1

Which of the following regimens represent acceptable first-line treatment for a postmenopausal women with hormone receptor positive breast cancer?

- A. Letrozole
- B. Anastrozole
- C. Exemestane
- D. Low dose estradiol
- E. Megesterol acetate
- F. Tamoxifen



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Choices

- 1) A only
- 2) A, B, and C
- 3) All of the above
- 4) A, B, C, F



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Question 1: Explanation

Answer = 4

The aromatase inhibitors (letrozole, anastrozole, and exemestane) represent appropriate first-line drugs. A CDK4/6 inhibitor (palbociclib, ribociclib, abemaciclib) can be added in first-line with the nonsteroidal AI (letrozole, anastrozole).

Fulvestrant, an ER downregulator, is at least as effective as AI in the first-line but has only been combined with CDK4/6 inhibitors in pretreated setting.

Tamoxifen is an acceptable alternative, generally in those who have already received AI and fulvestrant.

Neither low dose estradiol nor megestrol acetate are appropriate first-line treatments as each has more toxicity and is likely less effective than the other options.



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Question 2

When chemotherapy is administered in the first- or second-line setting, combination therapy should usually be used.

A. True

B. False



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Question 2: Explanation

False. Although combination chemotherapy is associated with higher response rates and longer time to progression than single agents, combination therapy does not improve survival when cross-over is allowed and has greater toxicity.

Combination therapy is appropriate for symptomatic disease or impending visceral crisis, when higher response rate is desired.

Either combination therapy or single agent treatment represents appropriate clinical care, and the approach can be individualized to the patient's disease status and preferences.



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Question 3

In a patient progressing on antiHER2 therapy with trastuzumab, subsequent treatments should also include antiHER2 therapy.

- A. True
- B. False



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Question 3: Explanation

Unlike most cancer treatments, randomized controlled trials suggest benefit from continuing anti-HER2 therapy after disease progression on trastuzumab.

This has been seen in studies with regimens including trastuzumab, lapatinib, pertuzumab, and trastuzumab emtansine (T-DM1).



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