

# Breast Cancer Management in the Modern Era: Improving Outcomes and Increasing Complexities

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# Disclosures

- Aptitude Health
- NAPBC - site reviewer

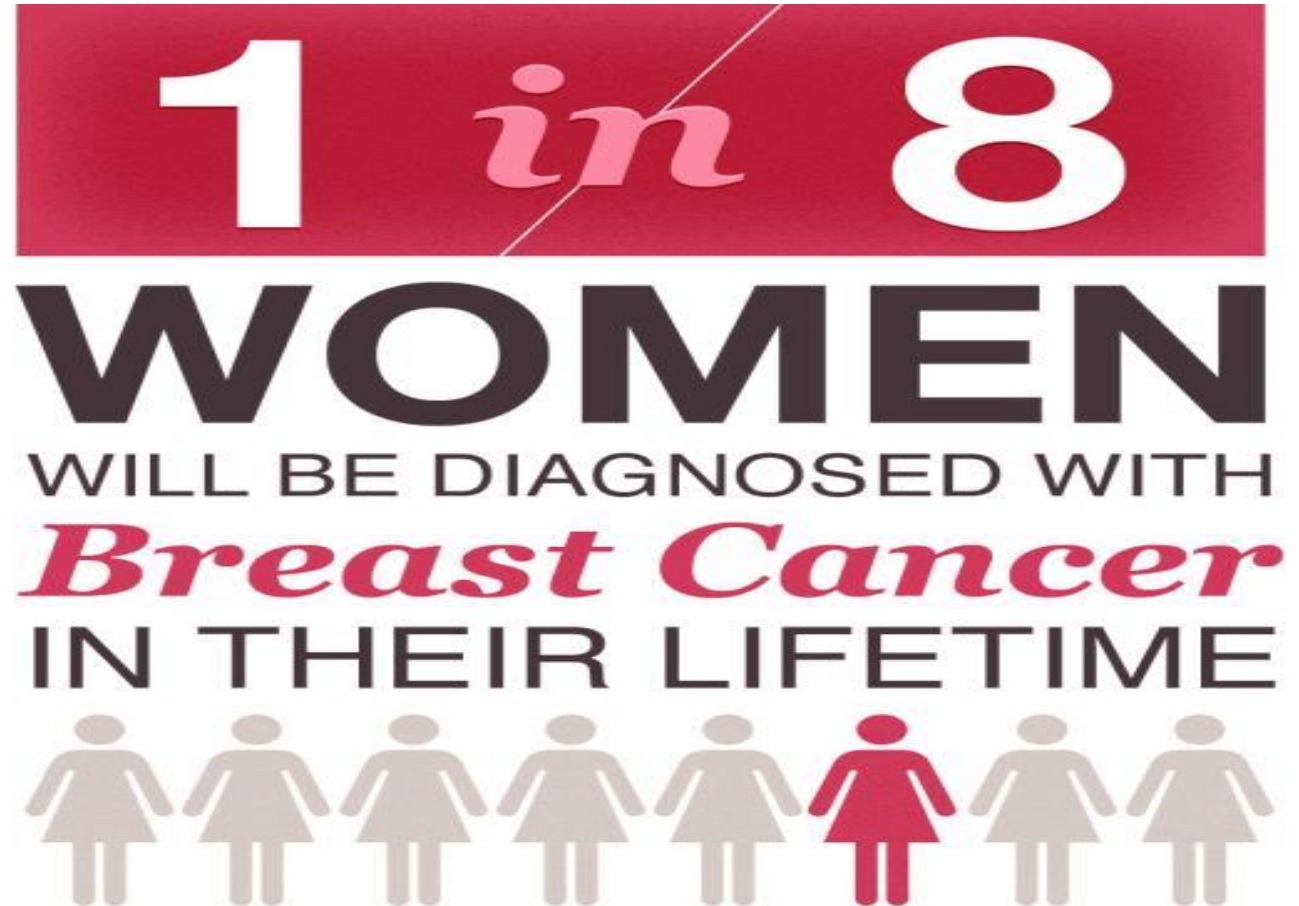
# Quick Facts on Breast Cancer

- Every 2 minutes in the U.S. - a woman is diagnosed with breast cancer.
- In 2022, over 280,000 women will be diagnosed with invasive breast cancer and over 60,000 women will be diagnosed with non-invasive breast cancer (DCIS)
- Every 13 minutes, a woman dies of breast cancer.
- About 2,800 **MEN** are expected to be diagnosed with the disease.



# Past vs. Present

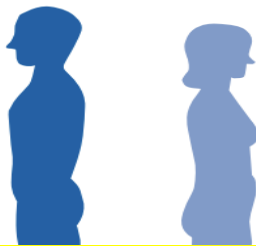
- In the 1970s, only 1 in 11 women were diagnosed with breast cancer.
- In 2022, it's 1 in 8 (more women are getting breast cancer)
- **Why?**
  - Living longer
  - Obesity
  - Less childbearing
  - Older age at firstborn child
  - Hormonal therapy use
  - Better detection methods



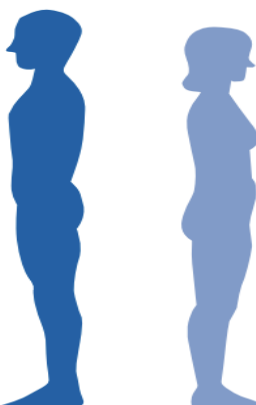
**Can we cure breast cancer?**



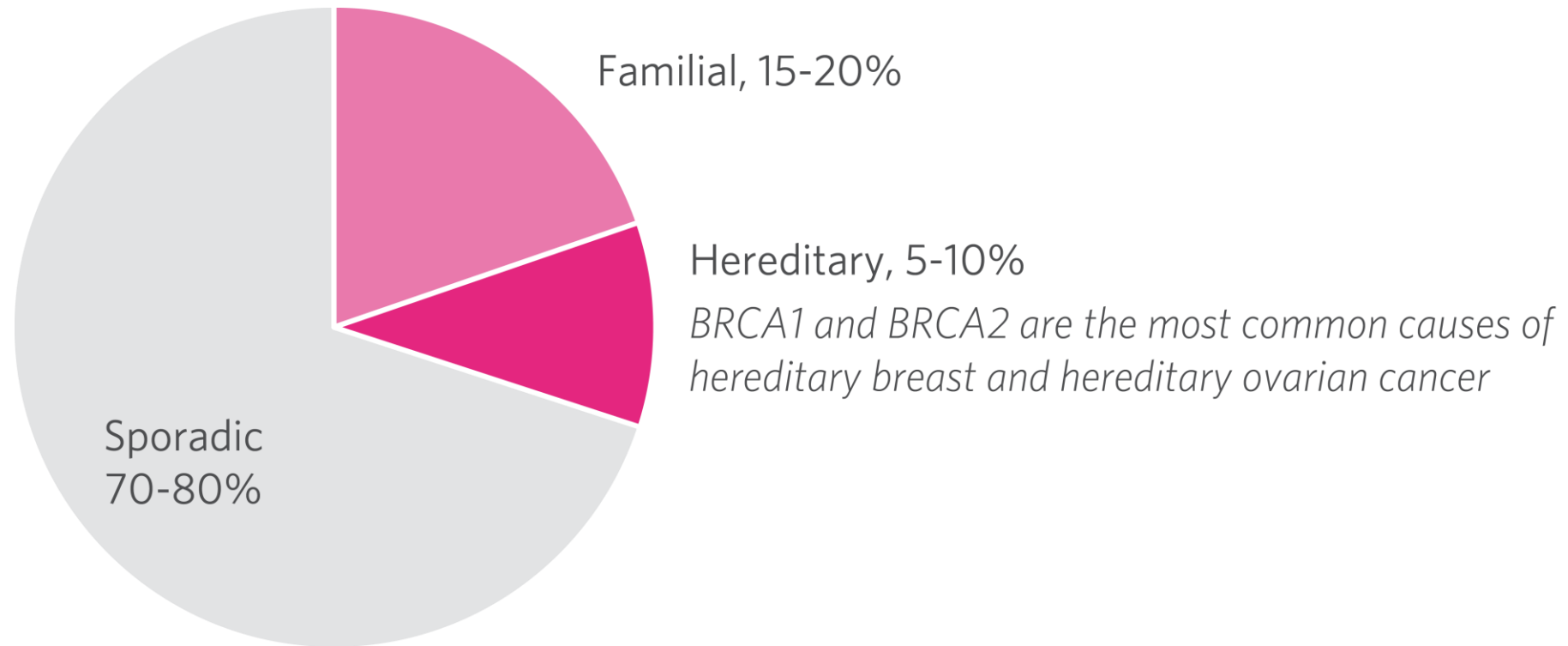
# 10 leading cancers in the US

	Male				Female		
Estimated New Cases	Prostate	164,690	19%		Breast	266,120	30%
	Lung & bronchus	121,680	14%		Lung & bronchus	112,350	13%
	Colon & rectum	75,610	9%		Colon & rectum	64,640	7%
	Urinary bladder	62,380	7%		Uterine corpus	63,230	7%
	Melanoma of the skin	55,150	6%		Thyroid	40,900	5%
	Kidney & renal pelvis	42,680	5%		Melanoma of the skin	36,120	4%
	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	41,730	5%		Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	32,950	4%

**We can cure 85% of all breast cancers**

	Male				Female		
Estimated Deaths	Lung & bronchus	83,550	26%		Lung & bronchus	70,500	25%
	Prostate	29,430	9%		Breast	40,920	14%
	Colon & rectum	27,390	8%		Colon & rectum	23,240	8%
	Pancreas	23,020	7%		Pancreas	21,310	7%
	Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	20,540	6%		Ovary	14,070	5%
	Leukemia	14,270	4%		Uterine corpus	11,350	4%
	Esophagus	12,850	4%		Leukemia	10,100	4%
	Urinary bladder	12,520	4%		Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	9,660	3%
	Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,510	4%		Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	8,400	3%
	Kidney & renal pelvis	10,010	3%		Brain & other nervous system	7,340	3%
	<b>All sites</b>	<b>323,630</b>	<b>100%</b>		<b>All sites</b>	<b>286,010</b>	<b>100%</b>

# What about family history?

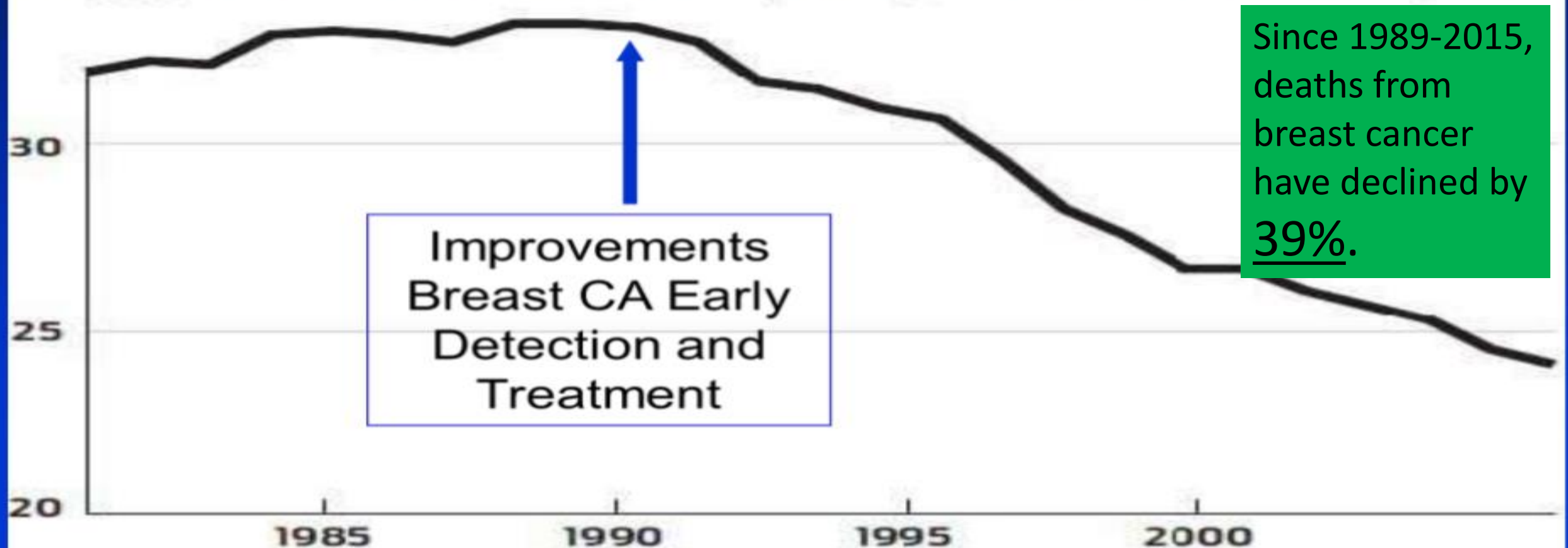




# **Good News: Overall Declining Breast Cancer Mortality Rates!**

## MORTALITY RATES ON A STEADY DECLINE

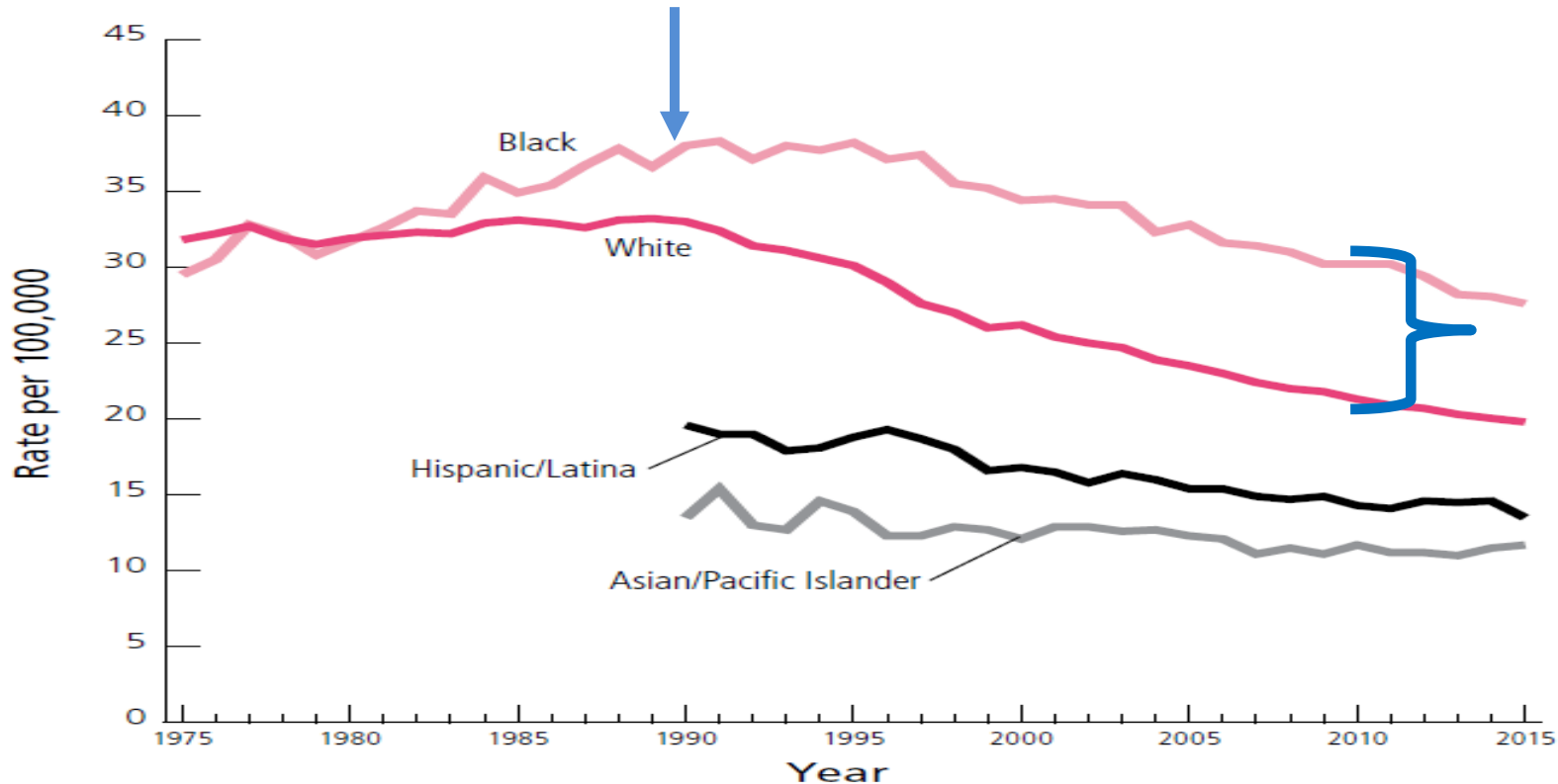
Up until about 1989, the breast cancer mortality rate had stayed mostly flat. But since then, the rate has dropped 27 percent, a dramatic decrease in deaths. This graph shows the number of deaths per 100,000 over the course of 25 years.





# Mortality has decreased over time

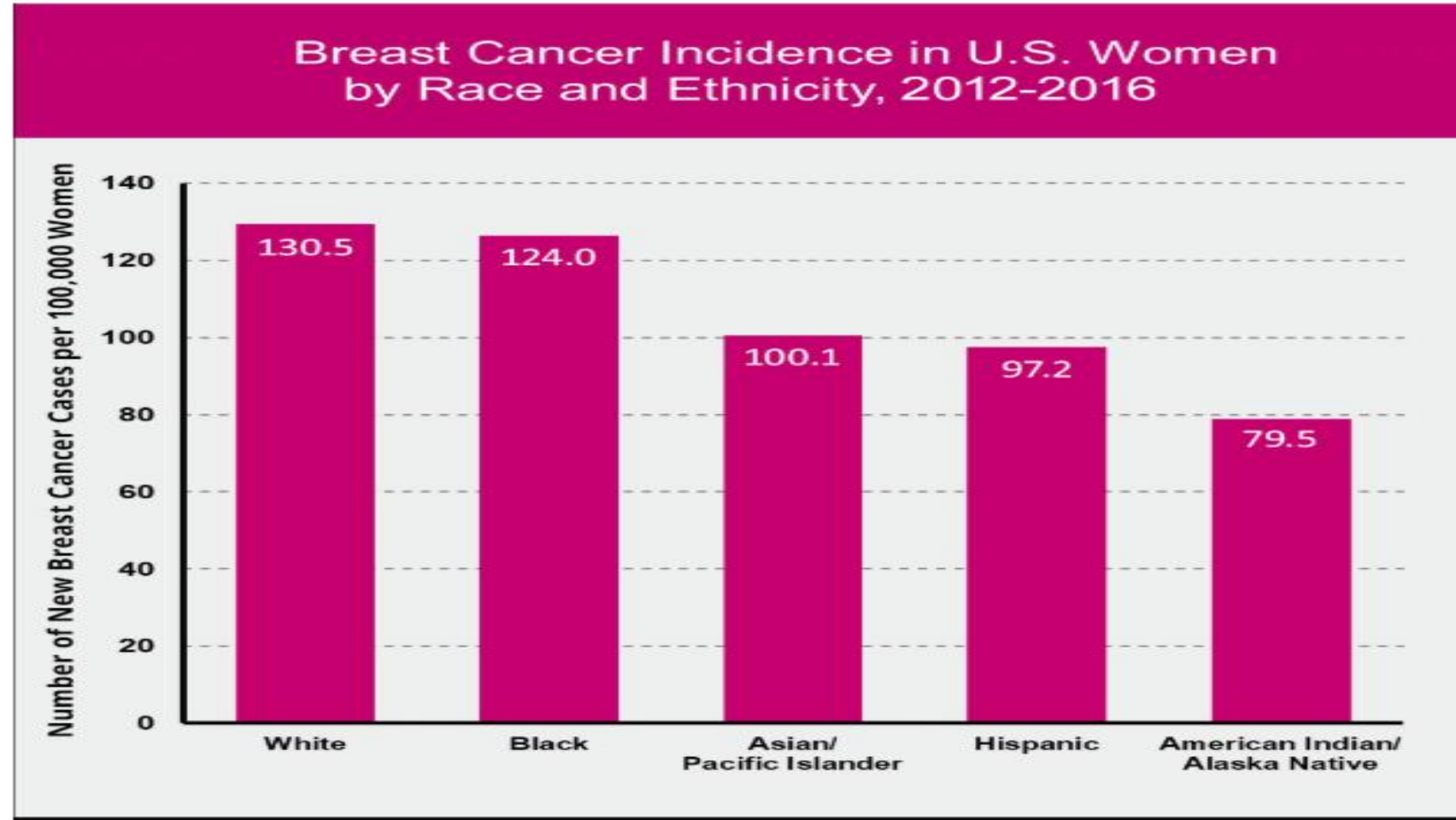
Figure 6b. Trends in Female Breast Cancer Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 1975-2015, US



White women have benefited most from lower death rates

# Disparities in Breast Cancer

- Affects white American women more often than African American women.



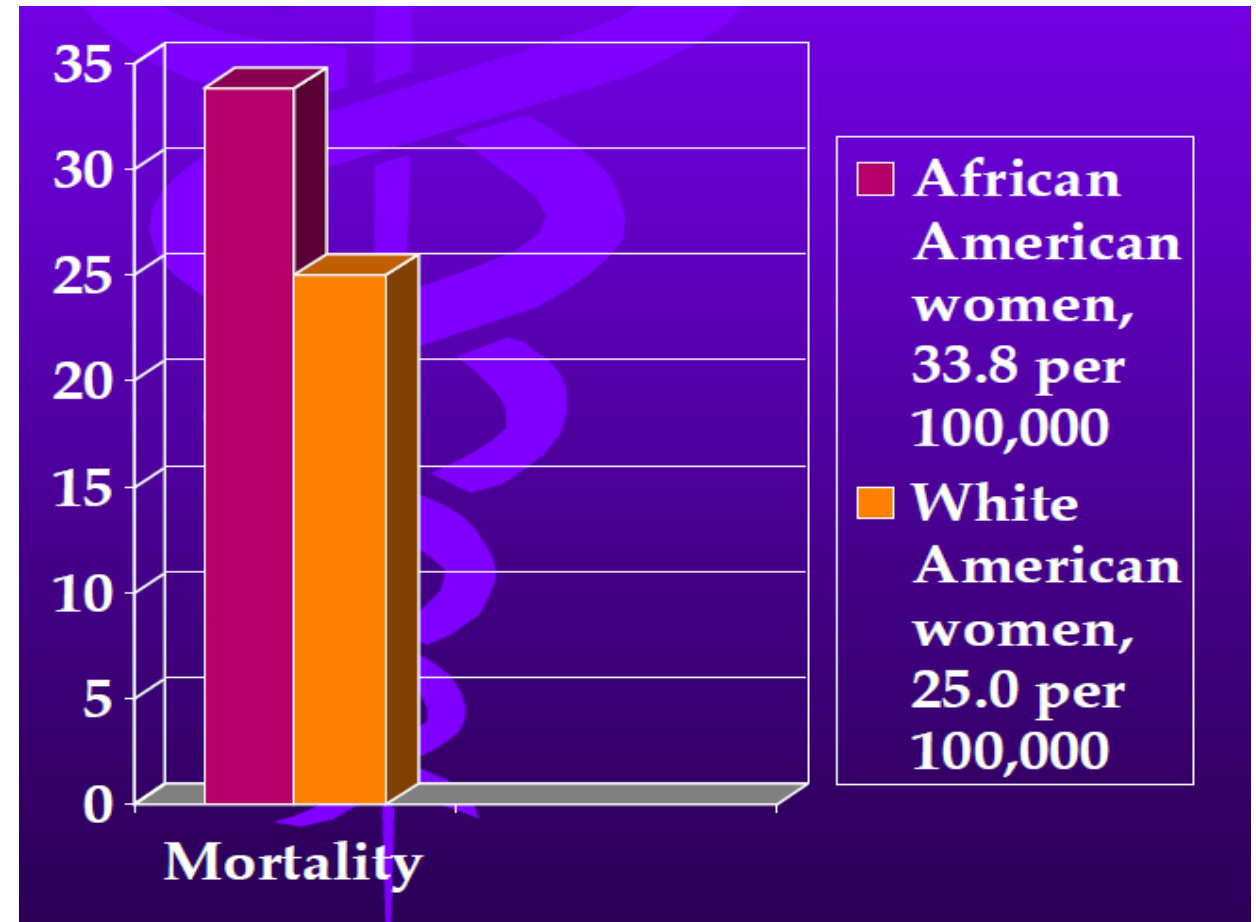
# Disparities in Breast Cancer

Race and ethnicity	Lifetime risk of breast cancer
White	13%
Black	12%
Asian/Pacific Islander	11%
Hispanic	10%
American Indian/Alaska Native	8%



# Disparities in Breast Cancer

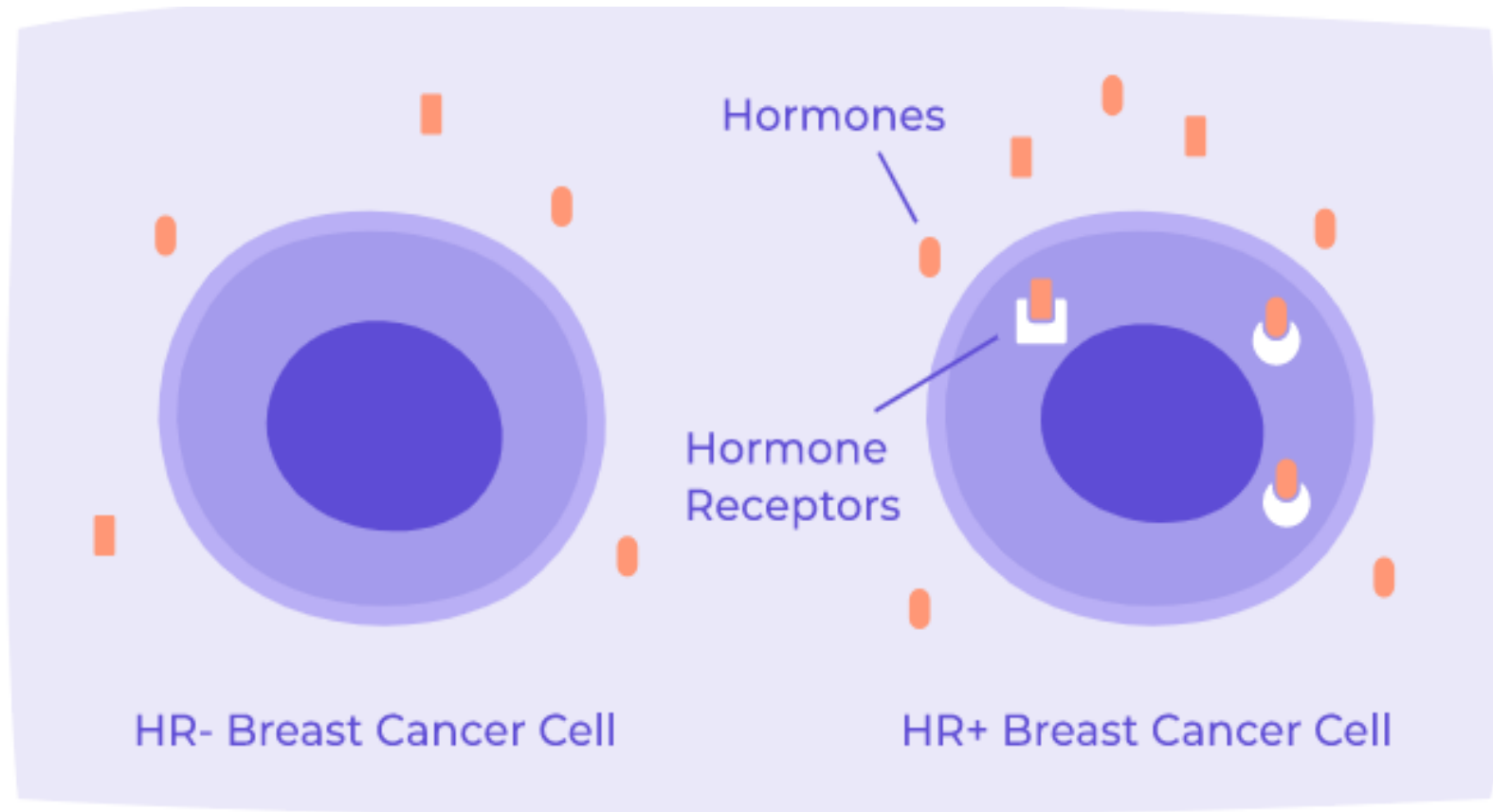
- The death rate for African American women is much higher than that of White American.



# Burden of Cancer in AA Women vs. White Women

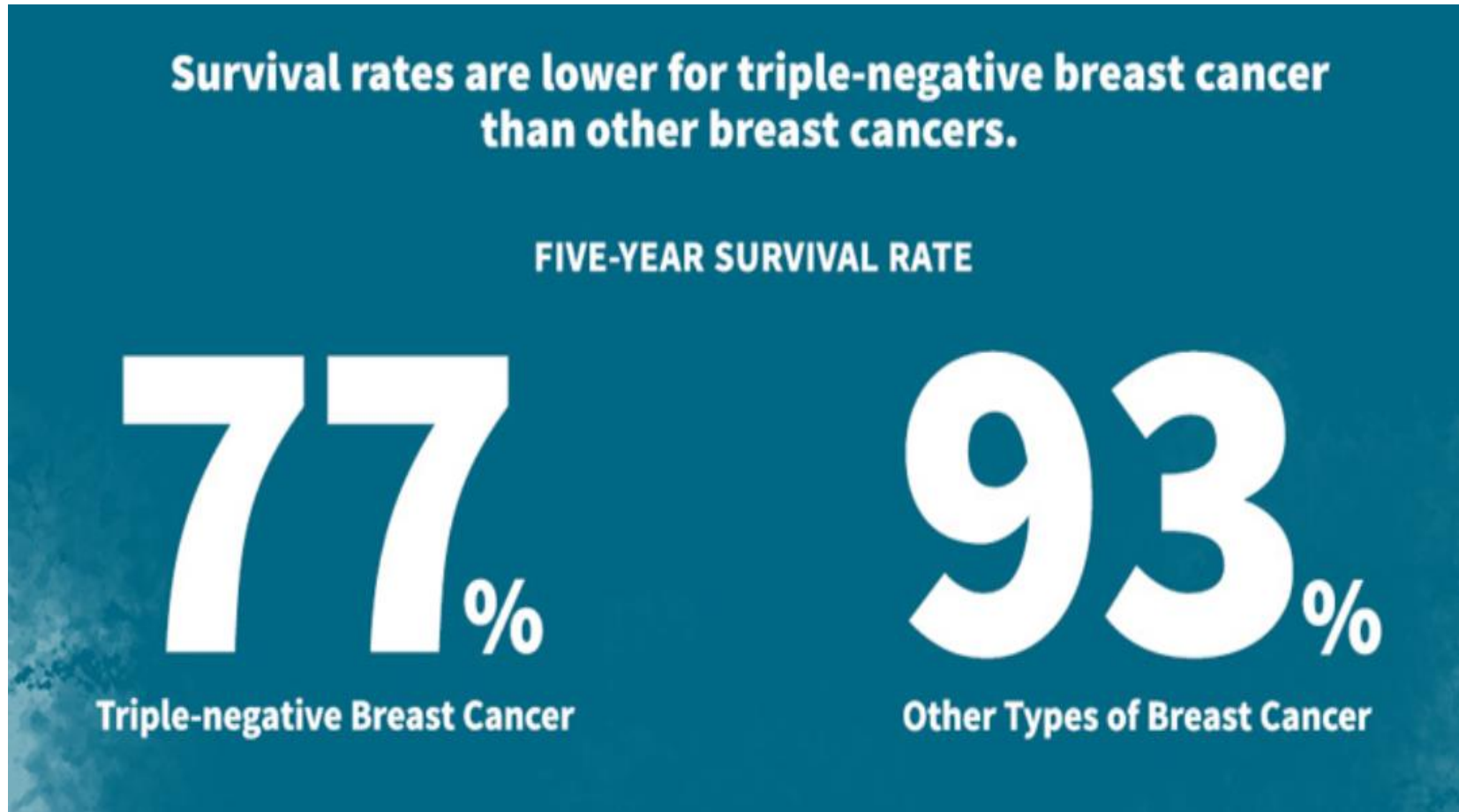
- Higher mortality rate
- More advanced stage distribution
- Younger age distribution (40% AA pts <50 years old vs. 20% white pts <50 years old)
- Increased risk of bad tumor features
- Higher incidence of male breast cancer
- Socioeconomic Disparities
- Tumor biology
- Genetics
- Lifestyle & Reproductive Experiences
- Environmental exposures
- Diet/Nutrition

# Different Types of Breast Cancer





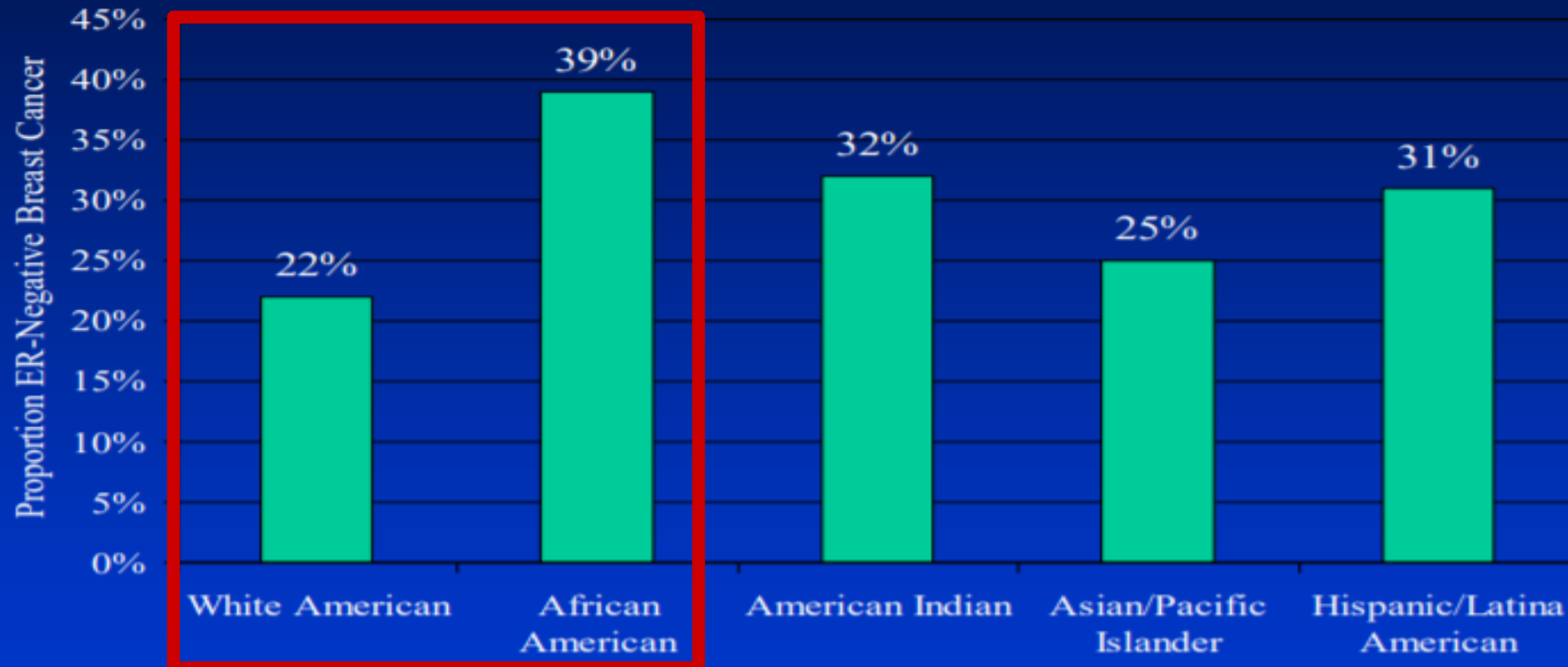
# Triple negative breast cancer



- More likely to spread
- More likely to recur
- Requires chemotherapy
- Fewer treatment options



# Disparities in Breast Tumor Biology: ER-Negative Breast Cancer in the U.S.



*Li et al; SEER Data, 1992-98  
Arch Int Med 2003*

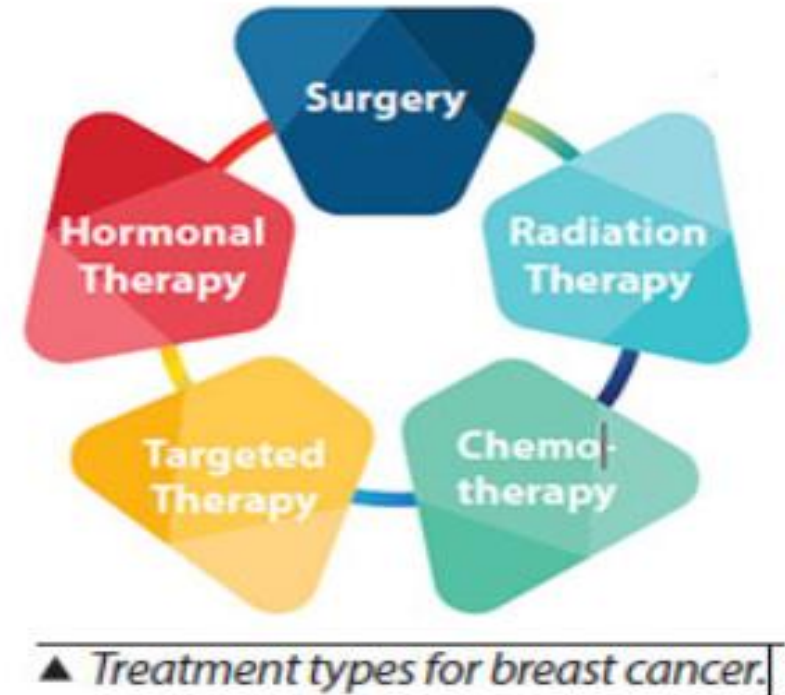
# Do Women Obtain their Mammograms?

	Percentage of women 40 and older who had a mammogram in the past 2 years in 2015 (most recent data available)
Black	69%
White	65%
Hispanic	61%
American Indian/Alaska Native	60%
Asian	59%



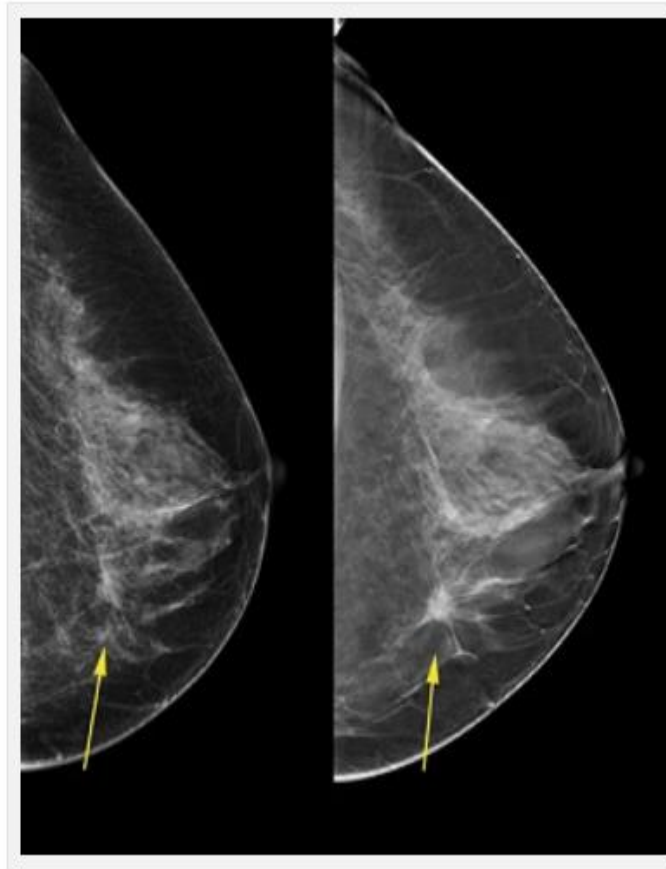
# Delays to follow-up care

- Some findings have shown Black/African-American women may have more delays in follow-up after an abnormal mammogram than white women.
- Longer delays = worse outcomes

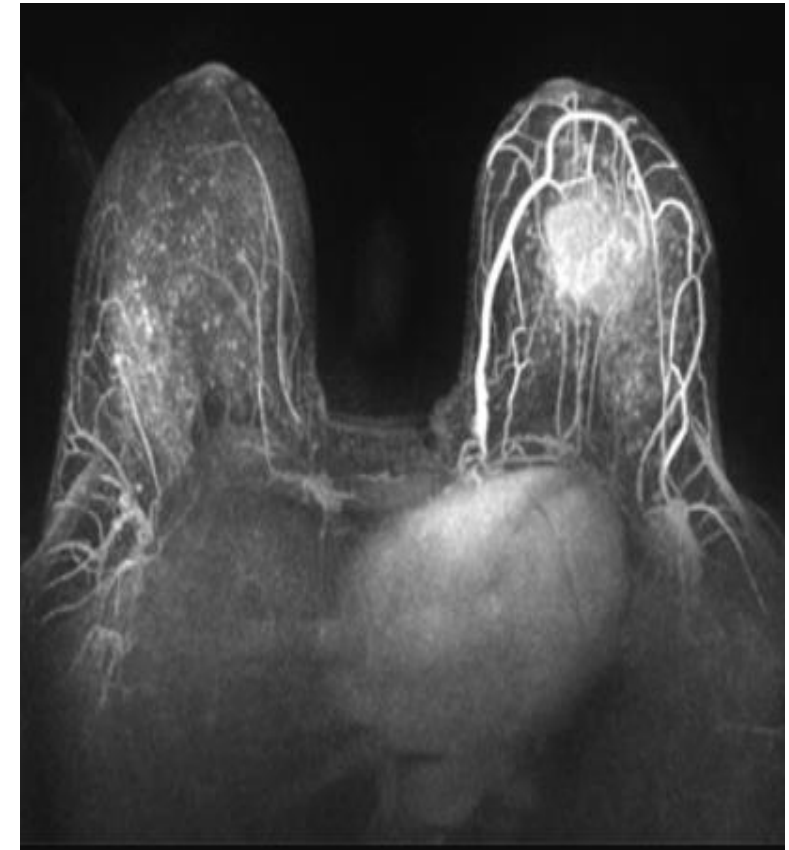


# Why has mortality decreased?

- Improved screening/surveillance - earlier detection
- Use of digital 2D and 3D mammograms
- Rising rates of mammogram screening



**2D vs. 3D  
mammogram**

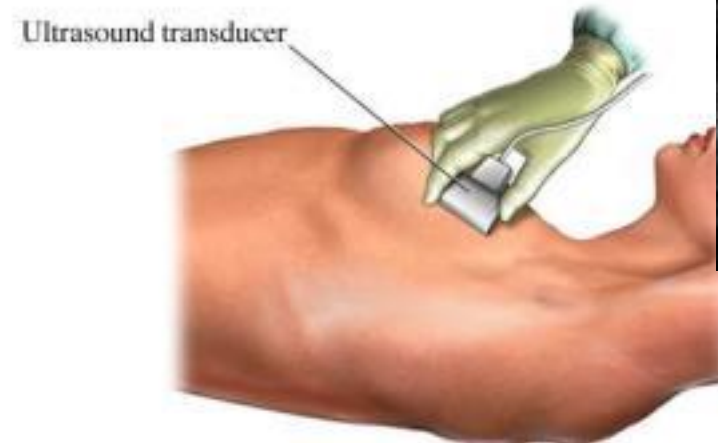
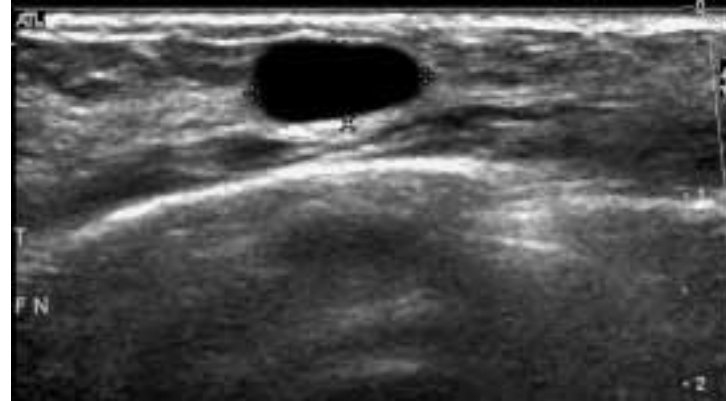


**MRI**



# Breast Ultrasound

- No radiation
- Solid versus cystic structures
- Noninvasive

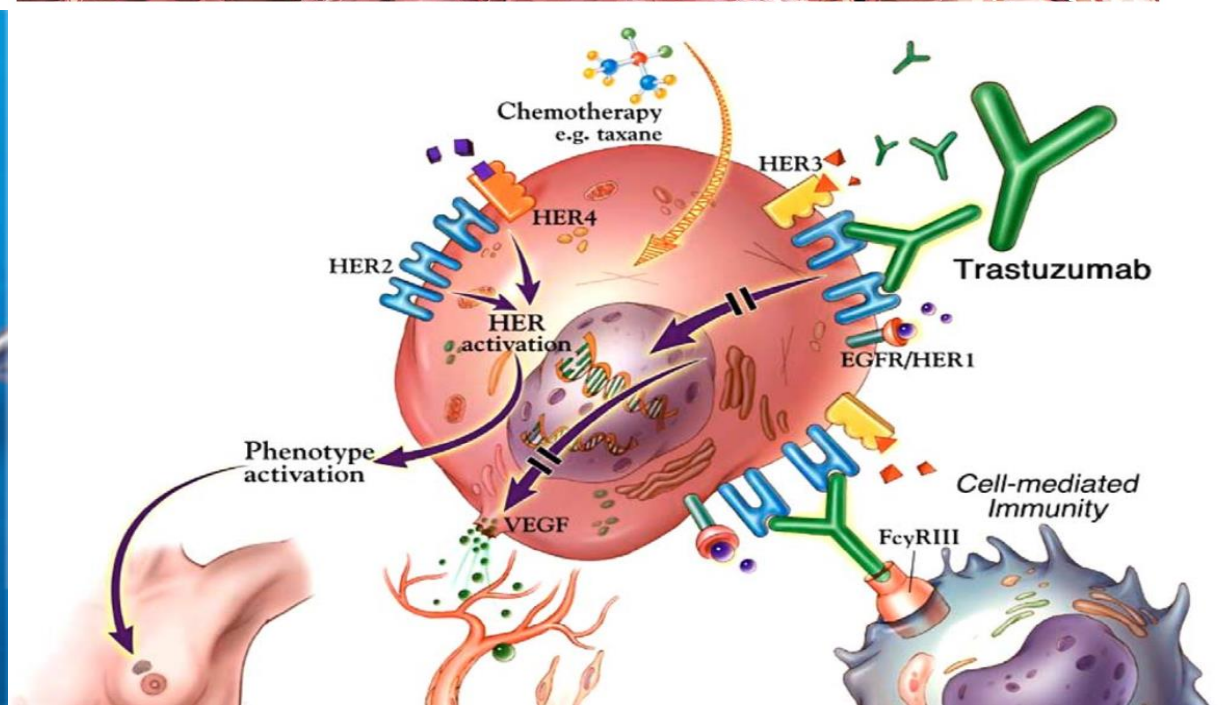
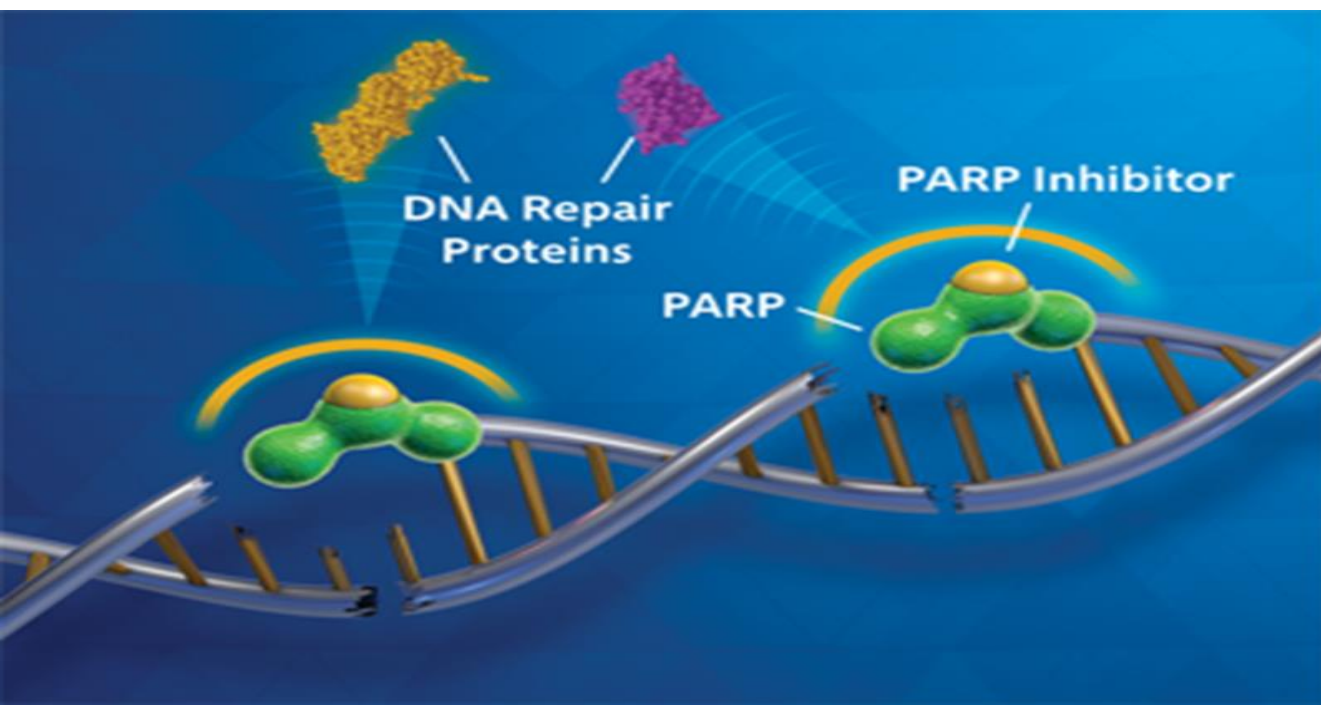
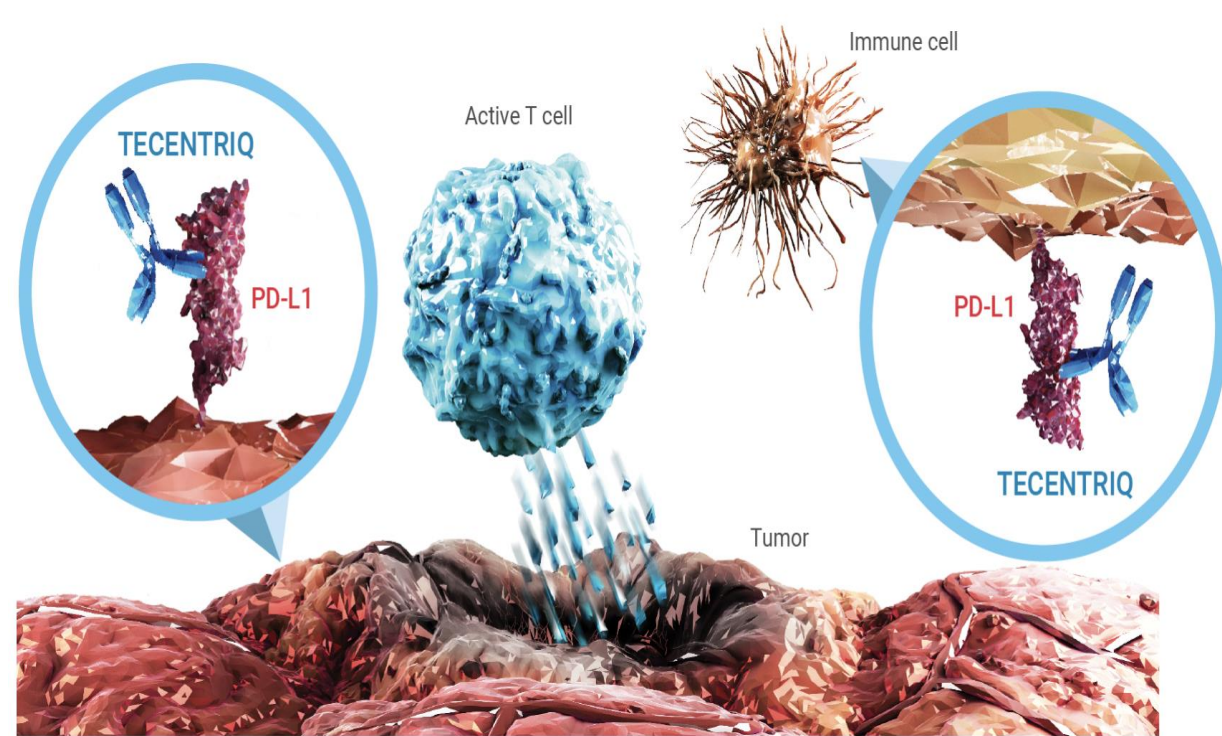
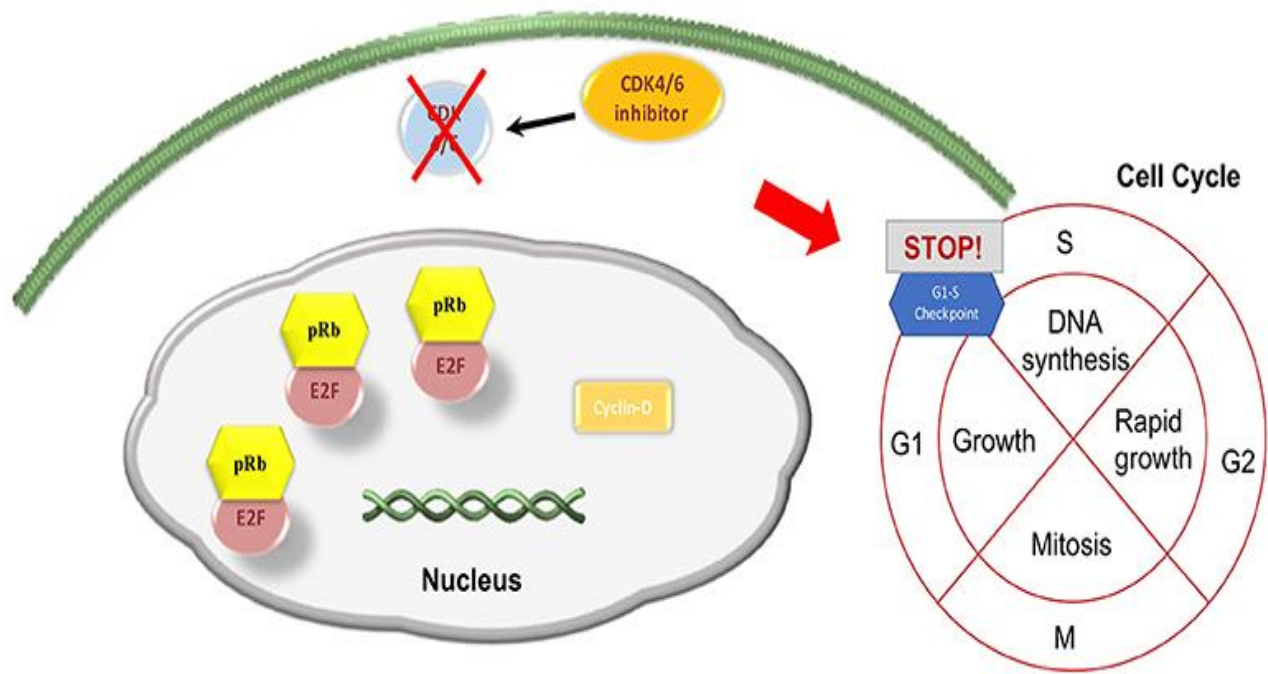




# Why has mortality decreased?

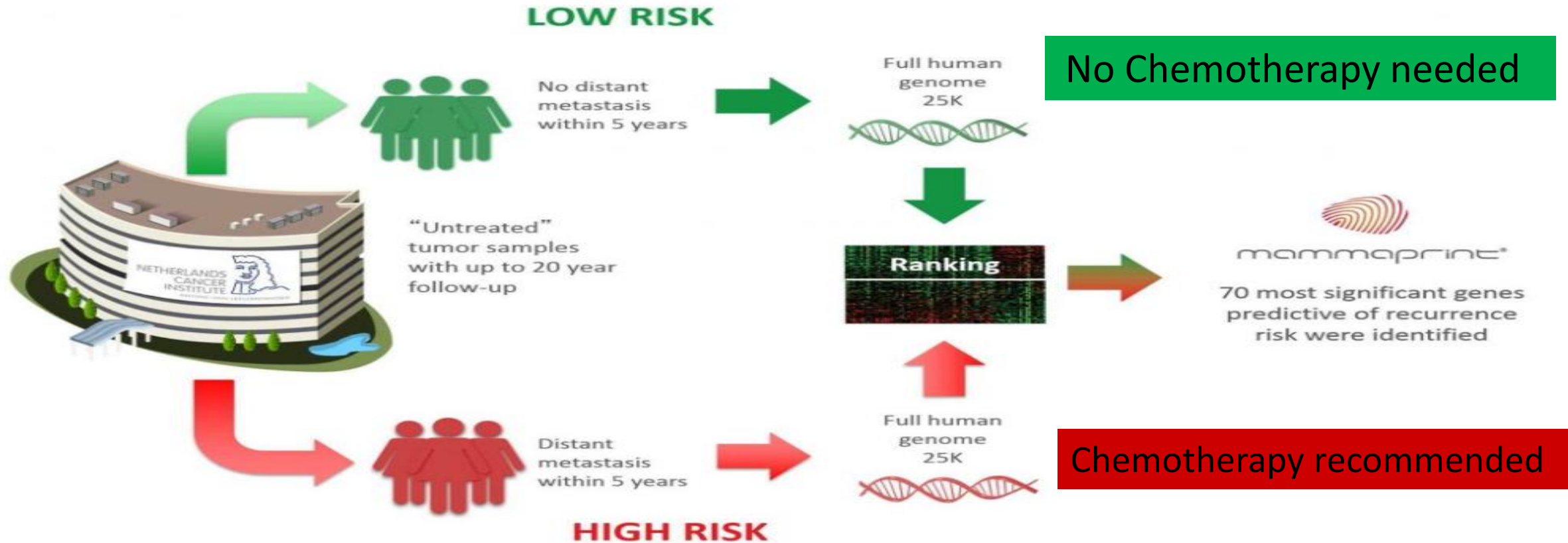
- Improved systemic treatments
  - Advanced 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> generation chemotherapy regimens
  - Targeted treatment (smart drugs)
  - Immunotherapy (uses your own body's immune system)







# Most patients do NOT need chemo



# Breast Cancer 5 year survival

- Stage 0 or stage I: 100%
- Stage II: 93%
- Stage III: 72%
- Stage IV: 22%

Earlier detection = better survival

Earlier detection = smaller tumors = less treatment needed

# Risk factors patients can't control



- Being female
- Getting older
- Family history of breast cancer
- Personal history of breast cancer
- Race
- Exposure to estrogen



# Risk factors patients CAN control




- Weight
- Diet
- Exercise
- Alcohol
- Smoking
- Exposure to exogenous estrogen
- Pregnancy and breastfeeding
- Stress and Anxiety







	USPSTF	ACP	ACS	ASBrS	ACR	NCCN	ACOG
<b>Start</b>	50	50	45	40	40	40	40
<b>Rate</b>	Biennial	Biennial	Annual 45-55 then	Annual	Annual	Annual	Annual
<b>Self or Clinical Breast Exam</b>	BSE CBE Insu evic						May be ed -3 yrs age 9 nual age
<b>Stop</b>	75	LE ≥ 10 yrs	LE ≥ 10 yrs	LE ≥ 10 yrs	LE ≥ 5-7 yrs	Indiv.	Indiv.



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# Women should start screening for breast cancer at age 40 instead of 50, health task force says in draft recommendation


 By [Jacqueline Howard, CNN](#)  
 Published 11:00 AM EDT, Tue May 9, 2023

# 40 vs 50

**1 in 6**

breast cancers are detected  
in women ages 40-49



**Table 1. Estimated New Female Breast Cancer Cases and Deaths by Age, US, 2017**

Age	In Situ Cases		Invasive Cases		Deaths	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
<40	1,610	3%	11,160	4%	990	2%
<b>40-49</b>	<b>12,440</b>	<b>20%</b>	<b>36,920</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>3,480</b>	<b>9%</b>
50-59	17,680	28%	58,620	23%	7,590	19%
60-69	17,550	28%	68,070	27%	9,420	23%
70-79	10,370	16%	47,860	19%	8,220	20%
80+	3,760	6%	30,080	12%	10,910	27%
<b>All ages</b>	<b>63,410</b>		<b>252,710</b>		<b>40,610</b>	

Estimates are rounded to the nearest 10. Percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

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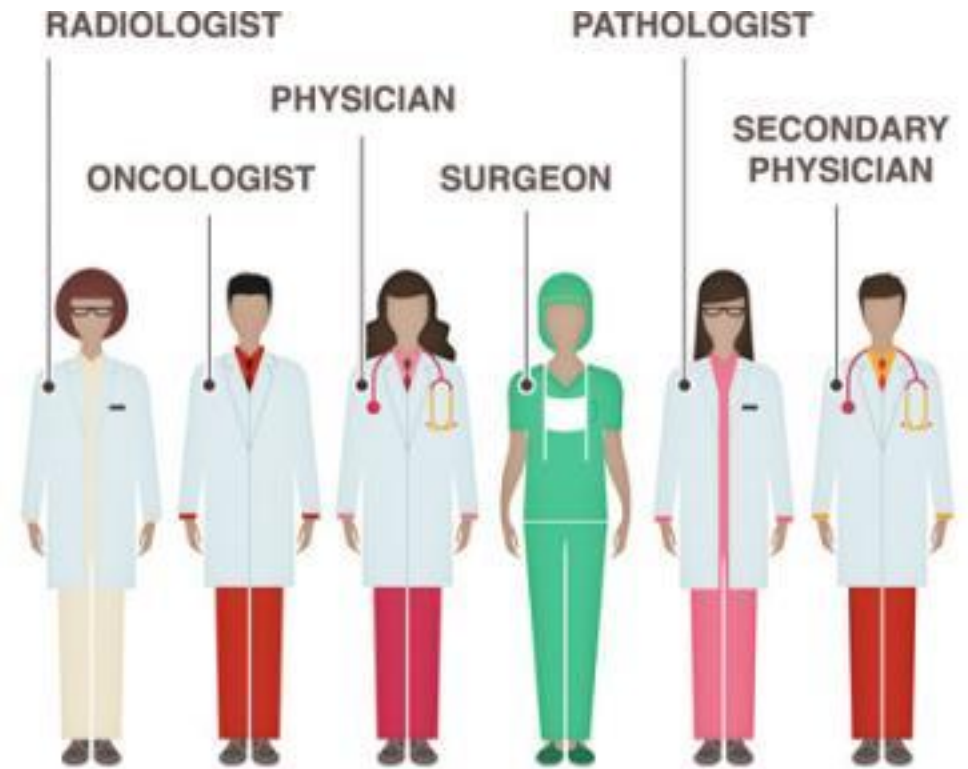
# 40 vs. 50

- Although number of lives saved is smaller compared to age 50 and above, ~40% of years of life saved by mammography are among women in their 40s.
- Typically more aggressive, less indolent cancers in this age range.
- More genetic mutations found in this age range.



# Multidisciplinary Team Approach

- **Breast Surgeon**
- Medical Oncology
- Radiation Oncology
- Plastic Surgeon
- Breast Imagers/Radiologist
- Pathologist
- Dedicated ARNP, RN, LPN, MAs
- Nurse Navigator
- Social Worker
- Multidisciplinary Tumor Board
- Complementary Medicine



- NSABP B04 (1971-1985) - allowed women to avoid radical (Halsted) mastectomy.
- Milan group (1970s) - adding chemotherapy regimen CMF reduces breast cancer recurrence.
- NSABP B06 (1976-1984) - allowed women to keep their breasts safely (lumpectomy) by adding radiation.
- NSABP B14/P-1/B24 - adding Tamoxifen reduces subsequent breast cancer by 50%.
- NSABP B32 (1999-2004) - avoided axillary dissection safely (reduce lymphedema).

- ACOSOG Z11 (2004-2011) - avoided axillary dissection despite cancer spreading to the lymph nodes (reduce lymphedema).
- CALGB 9343 (1994-1999)/PRIME II (2015) - avoid radiation in older women who undergo lumpectomy.
- NSABP B31/HERA (2000-2005) - addition of Herceptin to HER-2 positive breast cancers reduced a second cancer/death by 50%.
- TAILOR Rx (2015)/MINDACT (2016) - using genomic data to reduced chemotherapy use by 70%. Era of personalized medicine has begun.
- RxPonder (2021) - using genomic data to safely avoid chemotherapy in ER+ breast cancer in women with 1-3 metastatic axillary lymph nodes.



# Partial mastectomy

Negative margins

Radiation

# Mastectomy

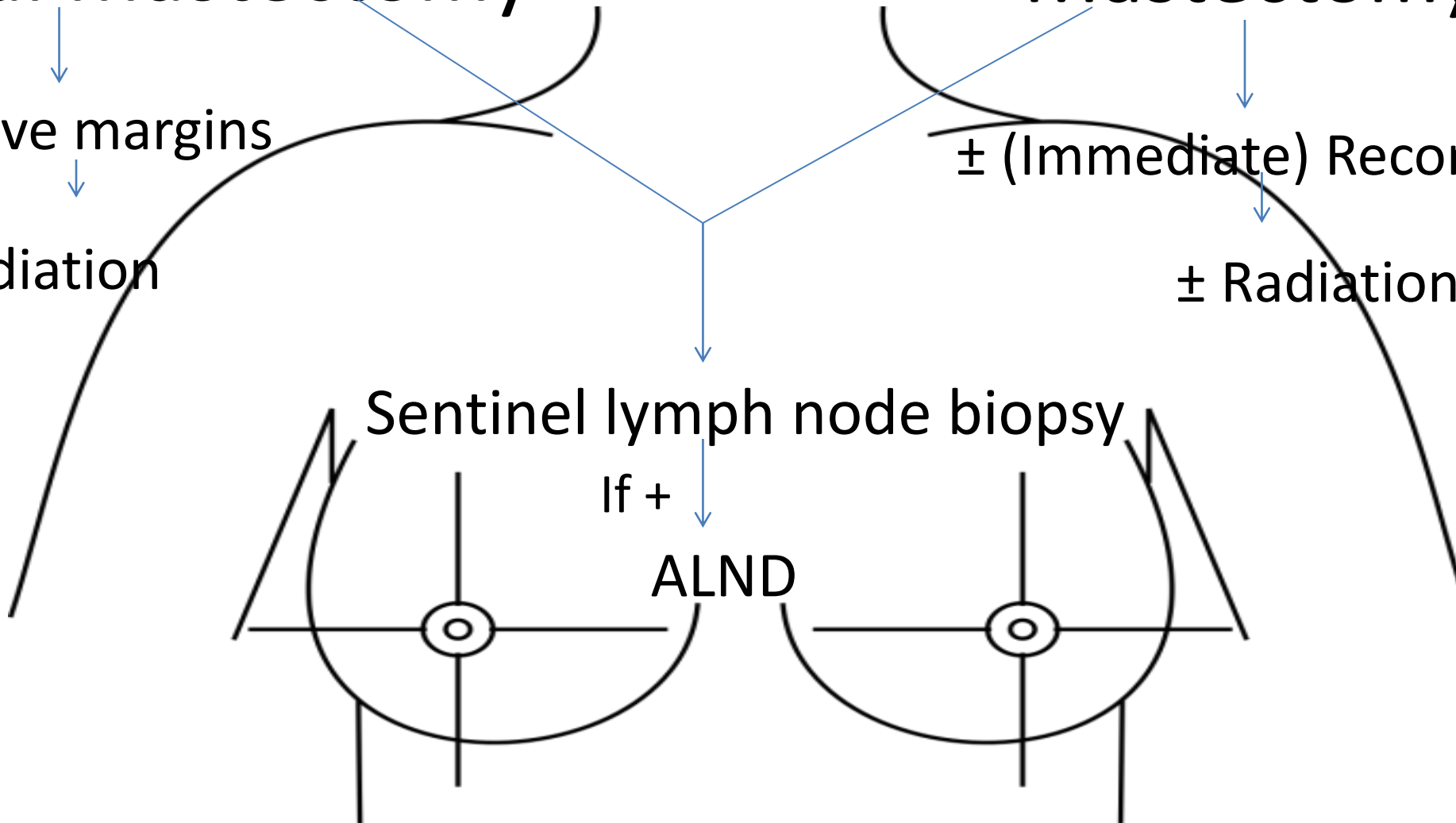
± (Immediate) Reconstruction

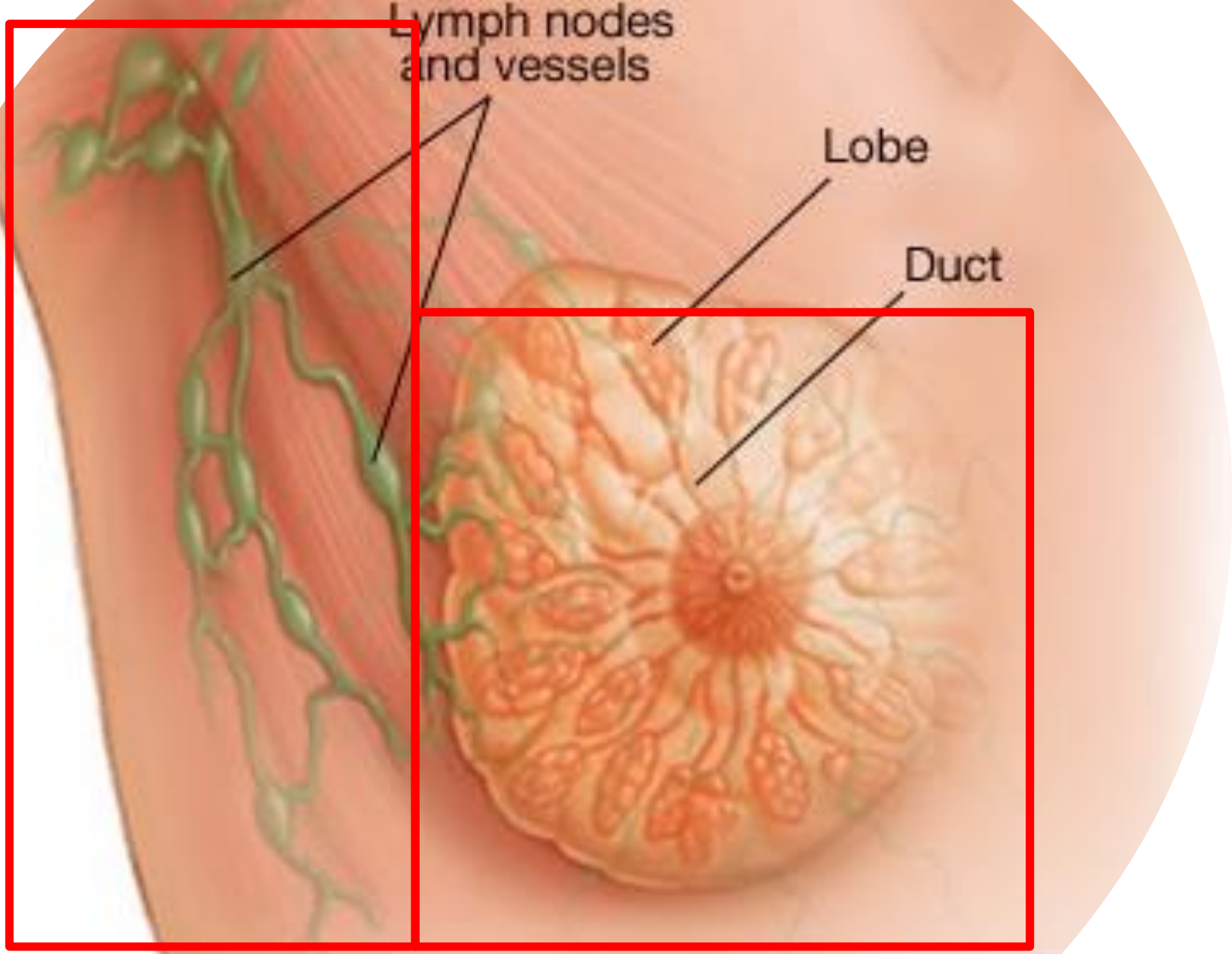
± Radiation

Sentinel lymph node biopsy

If +

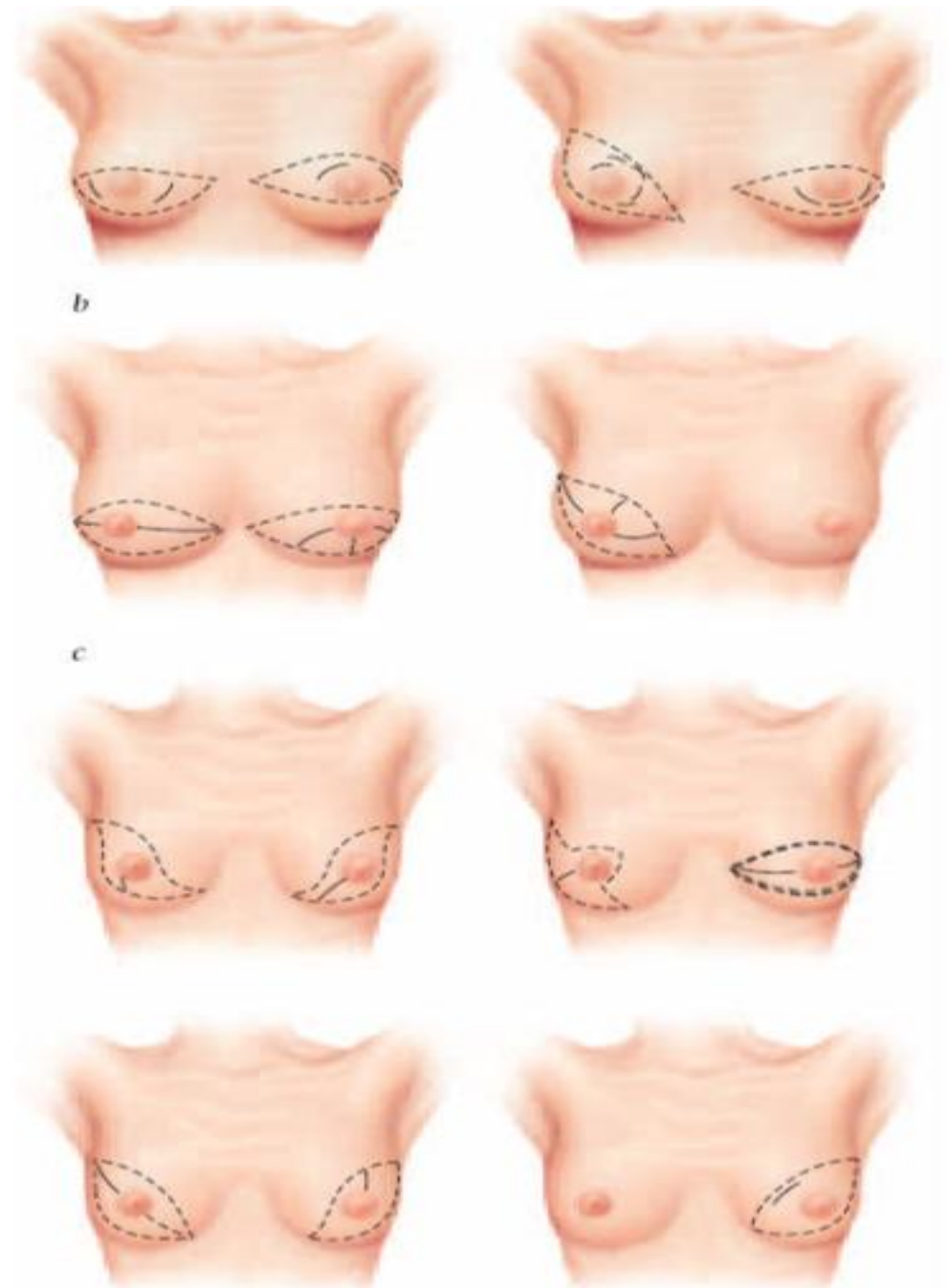
ALND



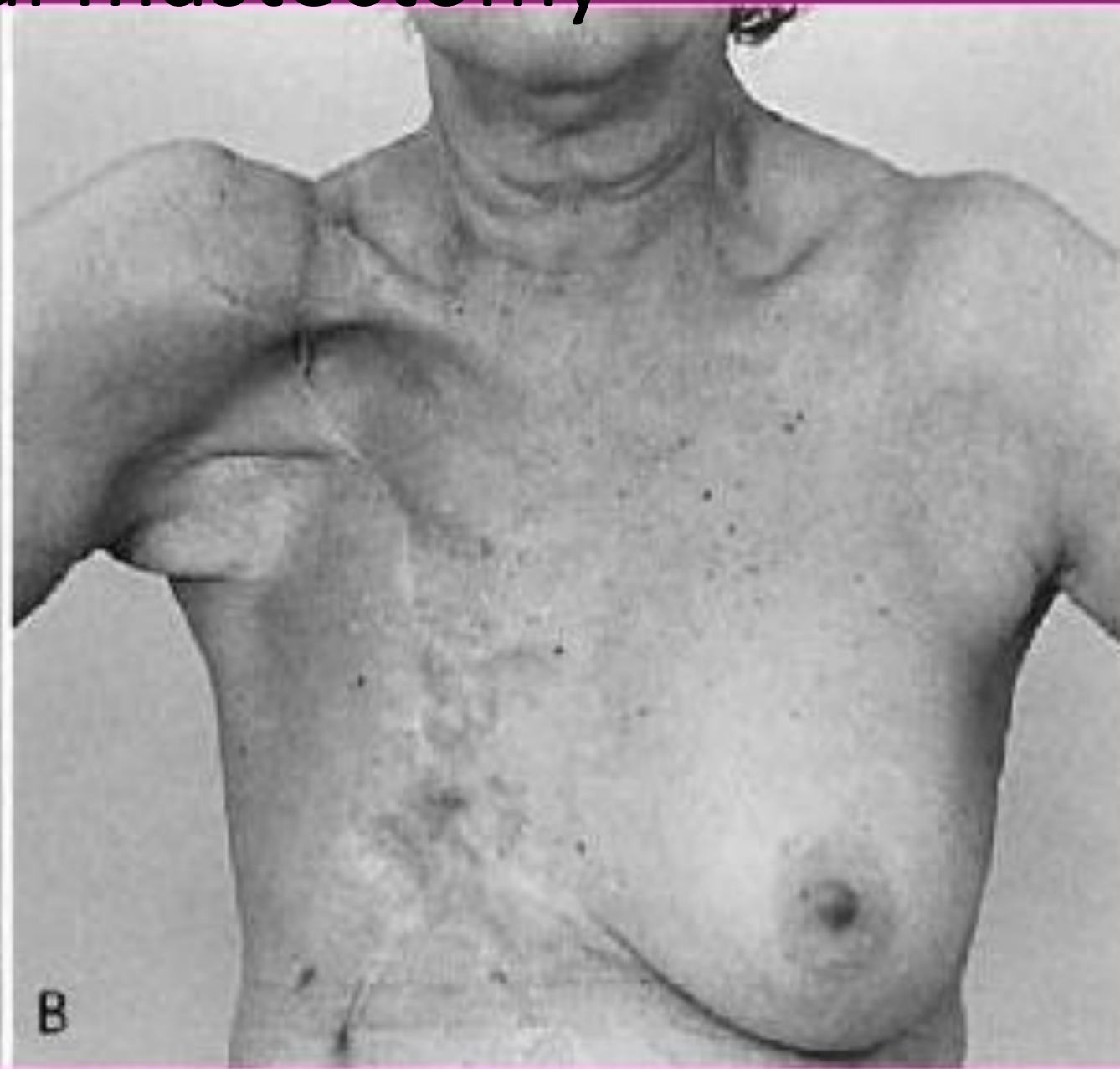


# Mastectomies

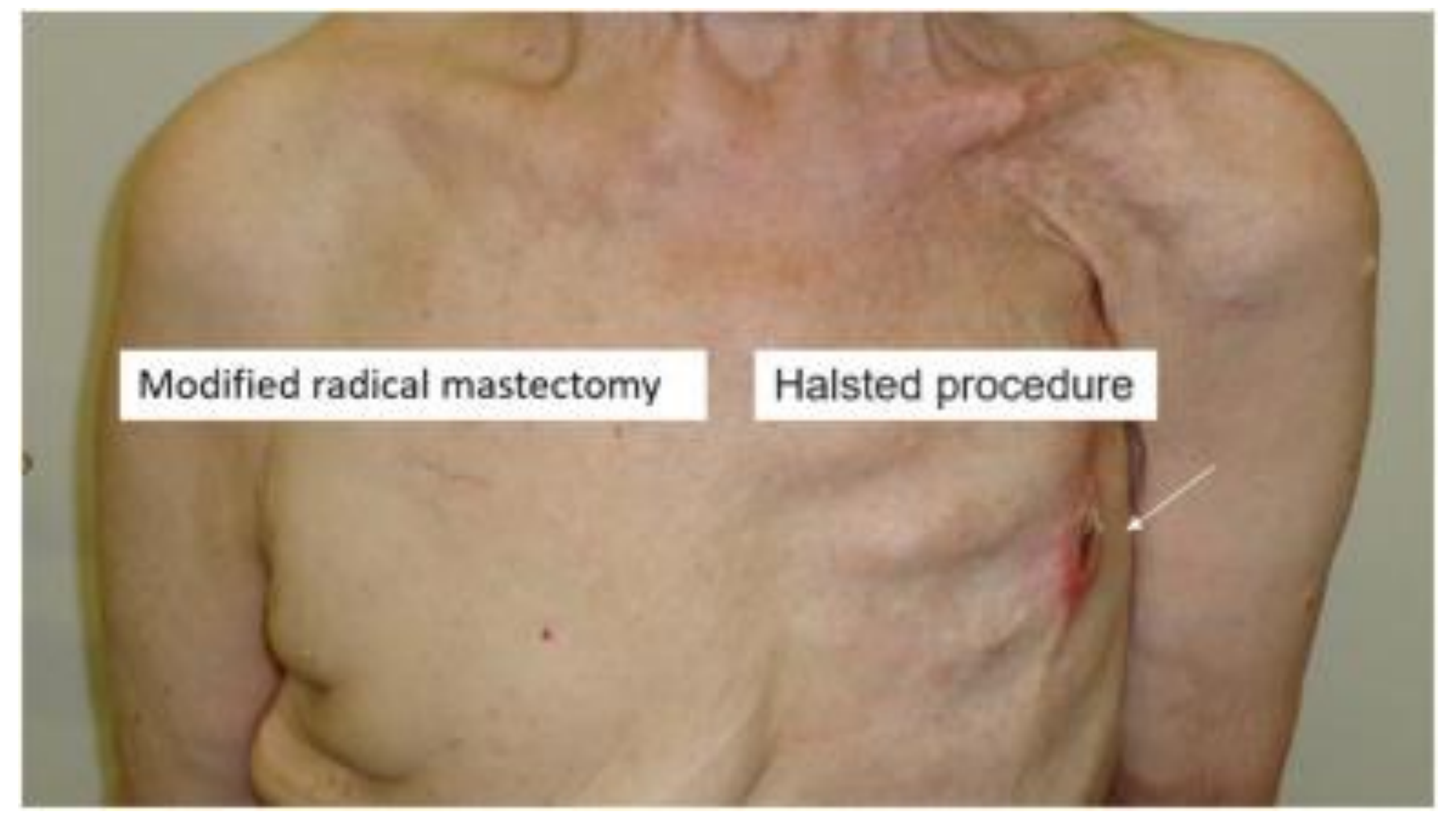
- Indications:
  - Multi-centric
  - Large tumor/small breast
  - Diffuse malignant appearing calcifications
  - Hx of radiation
  - Pregnancy
  - Persistently positive margins
  - Patient choice
  - Prophylaxis



# Halsted radical mastectomy







Modified radical mastectomy

Halsted procedure



# Lymphedema

*Stage 1*



*Stage 2*



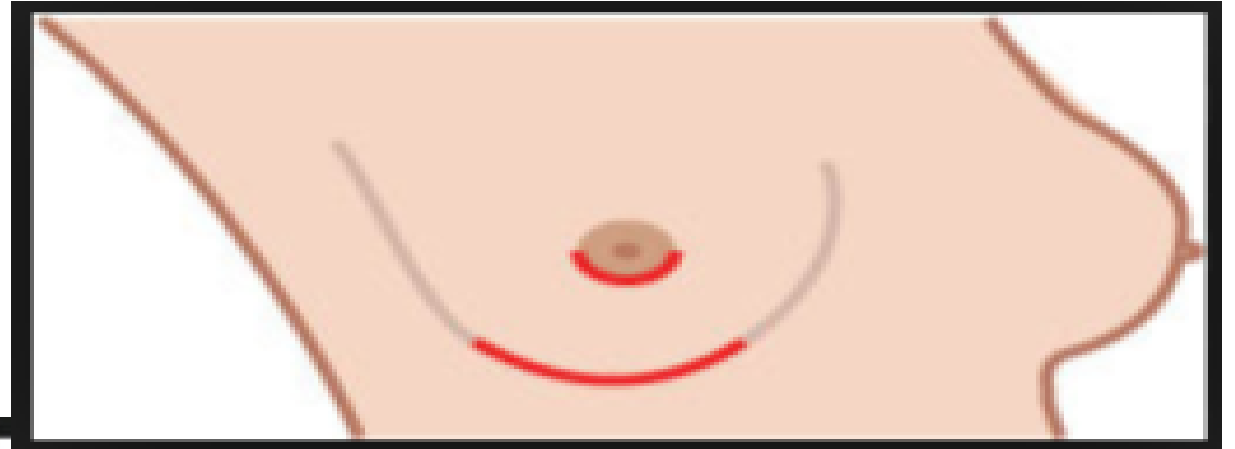
*Stage 3*



*Stage 4*

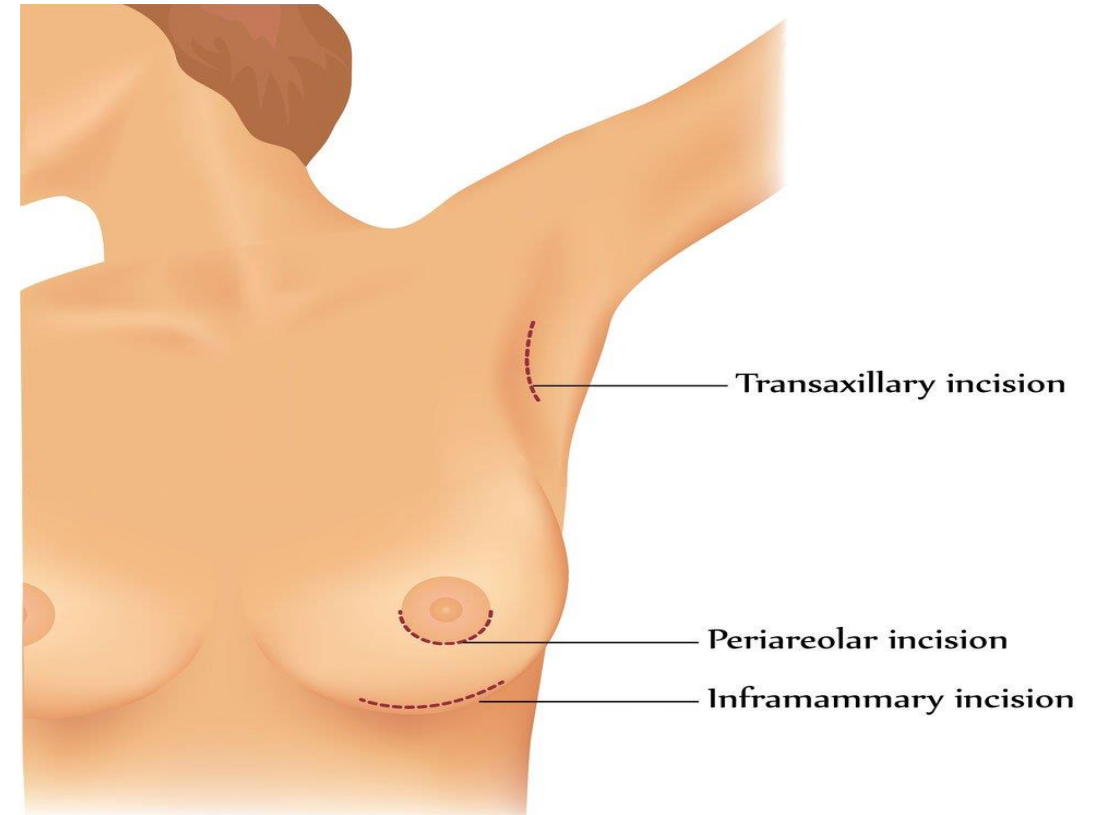


# Nipple sparing



# What is Oncoplastic Surgery?

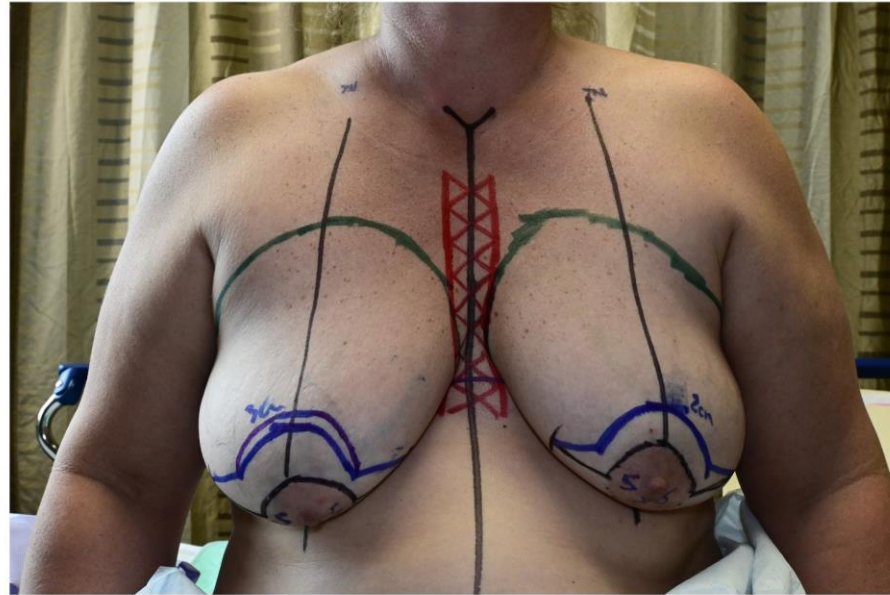
- Incisions limited to:
  - IMF, peri-areolar, axillary
- Balancing procedure on the opposite breast, with Plastic Surgeon
- Lumpectomies:
  - Tissue rearrangement
- Mastectomies:
  - Nipple- or skin-sparing
- Oncologically safe









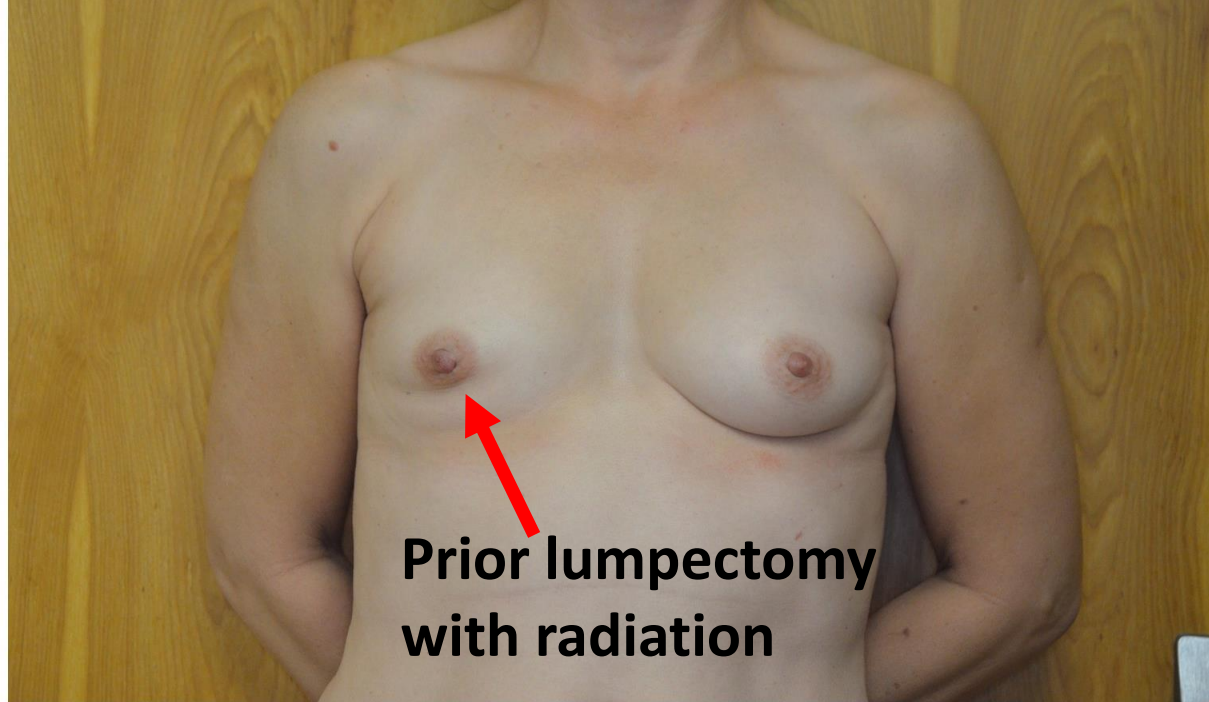


**Single-staged  
nipple-sparing  
mastectomy with  
silicone implants**





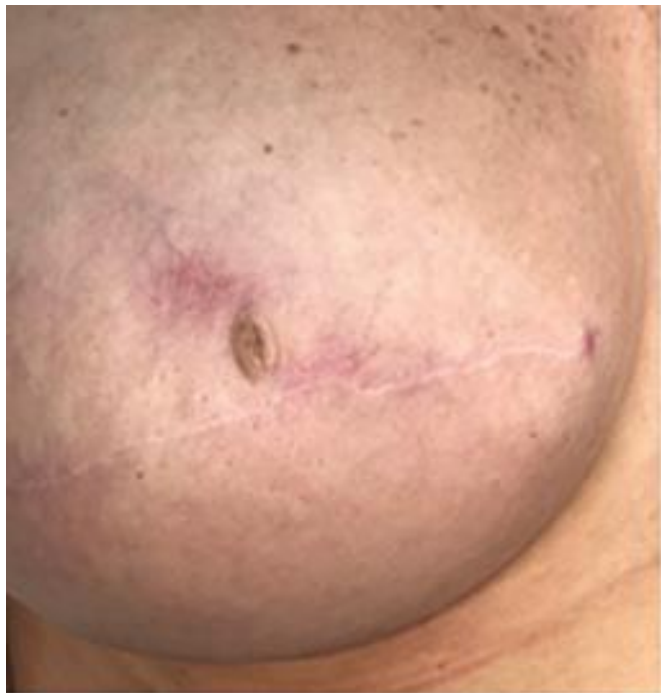
**Two-staged reduction  
mammaplasty to  
nipple-sparing  
mastectomy with  
implants**





Oncoplastic reduction with radiation





**Skin-sparing  
mastectomy  
with implants  
and 3-D  
nipple  
tattooing**





Pre-op

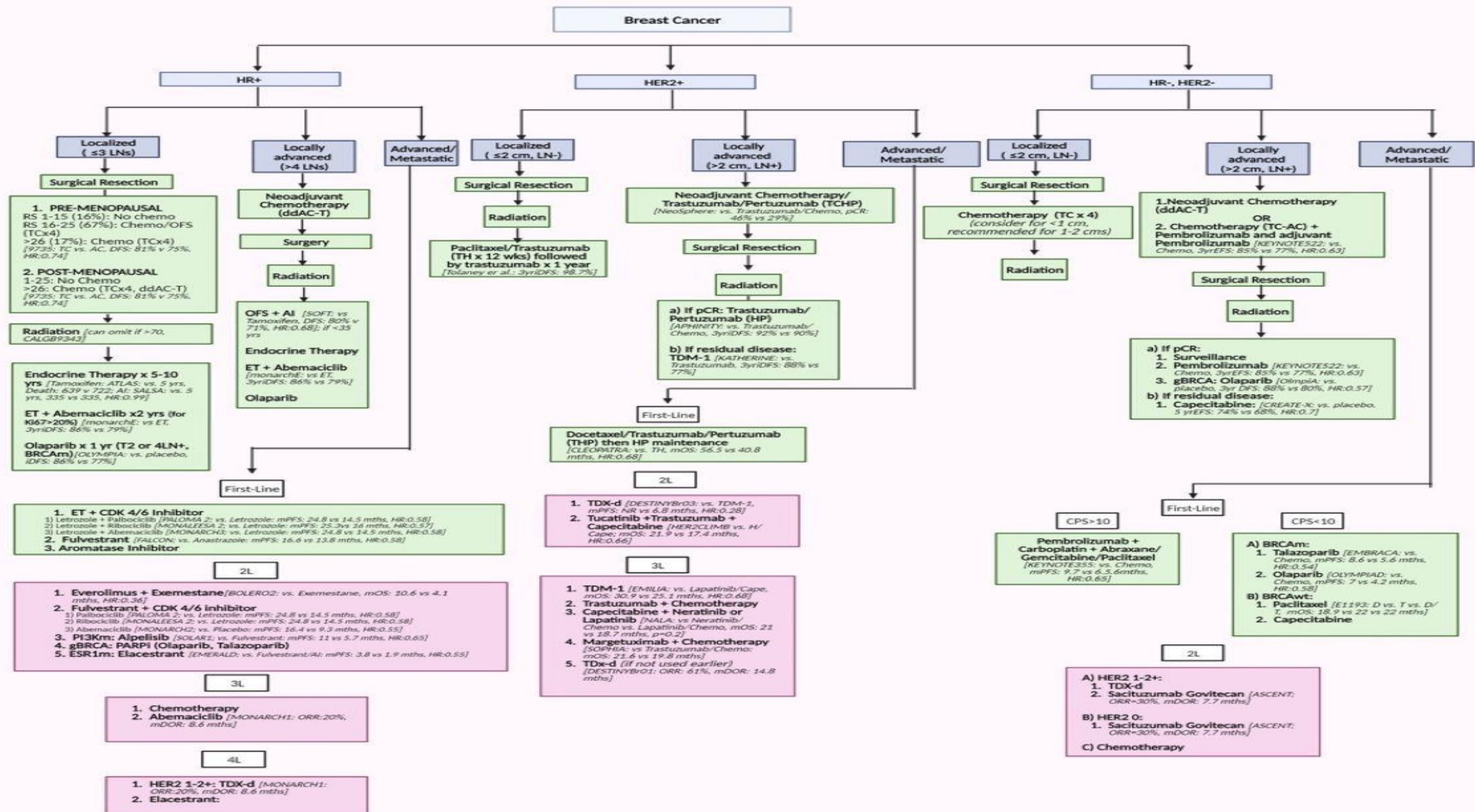


6 month Post-op



**Are all breast cancers treated similarly?**

**NO!**



# The biology of breast cancer: receptors

## Hormone Receptors:

- Estrogen Receptor
  - Negative <1%
  - Weakly positive 1-10%
  - Positive >10%
- Progesterone Receptor
- HER2/neu Receptor
  - If equivocal, sent for FISH analysis
- Ki67
  - Proliferation marker (<10%, 10-20%, or >20%)

## Grade:

Degree of differentiation, how much it looks like normal tissue

Grade 1: low, well differentiated

Grade 2: intermediate, moderately differentiated

Grade 3: high, poorly differentiated

# Who gets Neoadjuvant therapy?

- Patient who want lumpectomy but have large tumors
- HER2+ tumors >2cm *OR* positive nodes
- Triple negative tumors (>2cm and/or positive nodes)
- ER+ tumors >2cm *OR* positive nodes - use genomic data
  - especially premenopausal women
- Locally Advanced Disease (T4, N2)
- Patients enrolled in clinical trials





# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy

- Chemotherapy:
  - Triple negative breast cancer
  - HER-2 positive breast cancer
  - Estrogen positive breast cancer with genomic testing (Oncotype DX or Mammaprint)
- Hormonal/Endocrine Therapy:
  - Indications: ER/PR+ cancers (DCIS and invasive), high risk lesions
  - Duration: 5-10yrs (Tamoxifen, Aromatase inhibitors, Raloxifene)



# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy - CDK 4/6 inhibitors

**Table 1. Summary of FDA-Approved CDK Inhibitors**

Agent	Dosing	Drug Interaction	Notable Toxicities
Palbociclib (Ibrance)	125 mg po once daily for 21 days in a 28-day cycle with food	CYP3A4 substrate	Neutropenia, leukopenia, fatigue, nausea, infection, headache, ILD
Ribociclib (Kisqali)	600 mg po daily for 21 days in a 28-day cycle with or without food	CYP3A4 substrate	Neutropenia, leukopenia, fatigue, nausea, infection, headache, ILD, arthralgia, QTc prolongation, hepatotoxicity
Abemaciclib (Verzenio)	150 mg or 200 mg po bid with or without food	CYP3A4, Pgp, BCRP substrate	Neutropenia, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, headache, diarrhea, dysgeusia, ILD

*BCRP: breast cancer resistance protein; CDK: cyclin-dependent kinase; ILD: interstitial lung disease; Pgp: P-glycoprotein. Source: References 6, 8.*



**Table 2. Summary of Phase III Clinical Trials of CDK4/6 Inhibitors**

Study and Population	Treatment Arms	Median Follow-Up Duration	PFS (95% CI)	OS	ORR <sup>a</sup>
PALOMA-2: First-line for postmenopausal women (N = 666)	Palbociclib + letrozole vs. placebo + letrozole	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		23 mo	24.8 mo (2.1-NR) vs. 14.5 mo (12.9-17.1); HzR, 0.58 (0.46-0.72); P <.001	—	42.1% (37.5-46.9) vs. 34.7% (28.4-41.3); P = .06
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		38 mo	27.6 mo (22.4-30.3) vs. 14.5 mo (12.3-17.1); HzR, 0.563 (0.461-0.687); P <.0001	—	—
PALOMA-3: Second-line for pre-, peri-, or postmenopausal women who relapsed or progressed on ET (N = 521)	Palbociclib + fulvestrant vs. placebo + fulvestrant	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		5.6 mo	9.2 mo (7.5-NR) vs. 3.8 mo (3.5-5.5); HzR, 0.42 (0.32-0.56); P <.001	—	10.4% (7.4-14.1) vs. 6.3% (3.2-11.0); P = 0.16
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		8.9 mo	9.5 mo (9.2-11.0) vs. 4.6 mo (3.5-5.6); HzR, 0.46; (0.36-0.59); P <.0001	—	25% (19.6-30.2) vs. 11% (6.2-17.3)
MONALEESA-2: First-line for postmenopausal women (N = 668)	Ribociclib + letrozole vs. placebo + letrozole	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		15.3 mo	After 18 mo: 63.0% (54.6-70.3) vs. 42.2% (34.8-49.5) <sup>b</sup>	—	52.7% (46.6-58.9) vs. 37.1% (31.1-43.2); P <.001
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		26.4 mo	25.3 mo (23.0-30.3) vs. 16.0 mo (13.4-18.2); HzR, 0.568 (0.457-0.704); P = .000000963	—	54.5% vs. 38.8%; P = .000254

(Continued)

**Table 2. Summary of Phase III Clinical Trials of CDK4/6 Inhibitors (Cont.)**

Study and Population	Treatment Arms	Median Follow-Up Duration	PFS (95% CI)	OS	ORR <sup>a</sup>
MONALEESA-3: 1st- or 2nd-line for postmenopausal women who progressed on ET (N = 726)	Ribociclib + fulvestrant vs. placebo + fulvestrant	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		20.5 mo	20.5 mo (19.5-23.5) vs. 12.8 mo (10.9-16.3); HzR, 0.593 (0.480-0.732); P <.001	—	40.9% vs. 28.7%; P = .003
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		42 mo	33.6 mo (27.1-41.3) vs. 19.2 mo (14.9-23.6)	57.8% (52.0-63.2) vs. 45.9% (36.9-54.5); HzR, 0.72 (0.57-0.92); P = .00455	—
MONALEESA-7: 1st-line for pre- or peri-menopausal women (N = 672)	Ribociclib + ET + goserelin vs. placebo + ET + goserelin	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		19.2 mo (IQR, 16.2-23.2)	23.8 mo (19.2-NR) vs. 13.0 mo (11.0-16.4); HzR, 0.55 (0.44-0.69); P <.0001	—	51% (45.0-57.0) vs. 36% (31.0-42.0); P = .00032
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		34.6 mo	—	70.2% (63.5-76.0) vs. 46.0% (32.0-58.9); HzR, 0.71 (0.54-0.95); P = .00973	—
MONARCH-2: 2nd-line for pre-, peri-, or postmenopausal women who progressed on ET (N = 669)	Abemaciclib + fulvestrant vs. placebo + fulvestrant	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		19.5 mo	16.4 mo vs. 9.3 mo; HzR, 0.553 (0.449-0.681); P <.001	—	48.1% (42.6-53.6) vs. 21.3% (15.1-27.6); P <.001
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		47.7 mo	16.9 mo vs. 9.3 mo; HzR, 0.536 (0.445-0.645); P <.001	46.7 mo vs. 37.3 mo; HzR, 0.757 (0.606-0.945); P = .01	—
MONARCH-3: 1st-line for postmenopausal women (N = 493)	Abemaciclib + ET vs. placebo + ET	<b>Initial Report</b>			
		17.8 mo	NR vs. 14.7 mo; HzR, 0.54 (0.41-0.72); P = .00021	—	59.2% (53.3-65.1) vs. 43.8% (35.5-52.4); P = .004
		<b>Extended Follow-up</b>			
		26.7 mo	28.2 mo vs. 14.8 mo; HzR, 0.54 (0.41-0.70); P = .000002	—	61.0% (55.2-66.9) vs. 45.5% (37.0-53.9); P = .003

<sup>a</sup> Measurable disease population. <sup>b</sup> Rate of locally assessed PFS. <sup>c</sup> Estimated OS at 42 mo. CDK: cyclin-dependent kinase; ET: endocrine therapy; HzR: hazard ratio; IQR: interquartile range; NR: not reached; ORR: overall response rate; OS: overall survival; PFS: progression-free survival. Source: References 10-25.



# Side effects of CDK 4/6 inhibitors

Table 3. Adverse Events Associated With CDK4/6 Inhibitors

Adverse Event	Palbociclib		Ribociclib		Abemaciclib	
	All grades <sup>a</sup>	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All grades <sup>a</sup>	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>	All grades <sup>a</sup>	Grades 3-4 <sup>a</sup>
Neutropenia	78.8-84.1	62.0-69.9	69.6-77.3	53.4-63.5	41.3-49.7	21.1-29.7
Leukopenia	39.0-60.0	24.8-38.3	28.4-34.9	14.1-21.3	20.8-33.1	7.6-11.1
Fatigue	37.4-44.1	1.8-2.6	23.6-41.3	1.2-3.0	39.9-42.9	1.8-4.1
Nausea	29.0-37.2	0.0-0.6	31.6-53.3	0.6-2.4	38.5-49.2	0.9-2.7
Infection	25.2 <sup>b</sup> -62.6	0.3 <sup>c</sup> -7.4	26.0 <sup>d</sup> -57.8	1.0 <sup>d</sup> -7.7	28.6 <sup>b</sup> -42.6	0.9 <sup>b</sup> -6.6
Anemia	24.1-31.6	2.6-5.8	17.2-22.4	1.2-3.9	28.4-34.7	5.8-9.0
Headache	21.2-28.7	0.2-0.9	21.5-26.9	0.0-0.3	15.6-24.0	0.6-0.9
Diarrhea	19.2-28.4	0.0-1.4	20.3-38.3	0.6-2.4	81.3-87.1	9.5-14.5
Constipation	16.8-22.0	0.0-0.5	16.4-27.8	0.0	13.6-17.4	0.6-0.7
Asthenia	16.9-18.0	2.3-2.7	12.8	0.6	NR	NR
Thrombocytopenia	15.5-25.5	1.6-2.9	5.5-9.3	0.6-1.0	15.6-17.5	3.4
Alopecia	14.8-33.6	NA	18.6-34.4	NA	15.6-27.5	NA
Vomiting	14.5-21.7	0.3-0.9	19.1-33.5	1.4-3.6	25.9-30.3	0.9-1.5
Rash	14.5-19.8	0.6-0.9	13.1-22.2	0.3-1.5	11.1-15.3	0.9-1.1
Nasopharyngitis	14.0	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR
Arthralgia	13.0-37.6	0.3-0.9	24.0-33.2	0.6-0.9	11.6-17.4	0.0-0.7
Decreased appetite	12.8-17.4	0.7-1.2	9.0-20.7	0.2-1.5	26.3-28.8	1.1-1.5
Blood creatinine elevation	NR	NR	NR	NR	11.8-20.5	0.9-2.1
Stomatitis	11.6-31.5	0.2-1.1	10.1	0.6	15.2-17.5	0.4-0.5
Fall	11.3	0.7	NR	NR	NR	NR
Dyspnea	10.7-16.4	0.3-1.4	1.2-6.3	1.2	10.9-12.0	2.7
Pyrexia	10.7-13.6	0.0-0.3	15.2	0.6	10.9-13.4	0.7
Peripheral edema	10.4-12.8	0.0	5.7	0.3	11.6-14.1	0.0
Myalgia	10.1-14.2	0.0-0.2	10.1	0.0	NR	NR
Dysgeusia	10.1-11.6	0.0-0.3	NR	NR	17.9-18.6	NR
Muscle spasms	10.1	0.0	NR	NR	NR	NR
Abdominal pain	7.2-13.3	0.6-1.4	10.1	0.6	29.1-37.2	1.2-3.2
Musculoskeletal pain	7.2-12.5	0.2-0.3	NR	NR	NR	NR
AST elevation	4.3-11.6	2.6-3.2	11.9-36.7	3.6-5.7	12.2-16.8	2.3-3.7
ALT elevation	3.8-12.6	1.7-2.7	12.8-47.6	5.4-9.3	13.4-17.4	4.1-6.4
Pneumonia	0.9	0.3	0.9	0.3-1.9	NR	NR
QT prolongation	0.0	0.3	2.7-12.5	1.2-1.8	NR	NR
VTEs	NR	NR	NR	NR	6.1	0.0
ILD	NR	NR	0.3-1.2	0.0-0.2	NR	NR
≥1 dose reduction for AE	36.0-54.2	NR	33.1-54.5	NR	43.4-46.5	NR
Discontinuation for AE	2.6-12.2	NR	3.6-8.1	NR	9.5-19.6	NR

<sup>a</sup> Percentage. <sup>b</sup> Includes URTI and urinary tract infection. <sup>c</sup> Includes URTI. <sup>d</sup> Includes URTI and viral URTI. AE: adverse event; ALT: alanine aminotransferase; AST: aspartate aminotransferase; CDK: cyclin-dependent kinase; ILD: interstitial lung disease; NA: not applicable; NR: not reported; URTI: upper respiratory tract infection; VTE: venous thromboembolic event. Source: References 10-25.





# Immunotherapy – Keynote 522

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

RESEARCH SUMMARY

## Pembrolizumab plus Chemotherapy in Advanced Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

Cortes J et al. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2202809

### CLINICAL PROBLEM

In an interim analysis in the KEYNOTE-355 trial, pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy resulted in longer progression-free survival than chemotherapy alone among patients with advanced triple-negative breast cancer whose tumors expressed a programmed death ligand 1 (PD-L1) combined positive score (CPS); the number of PD-L1-staining tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages, divided by the total number of viable tumor cells, multiplied by 100 of 10 or more. Results from the final analysis of overall survival are needed.

### CLINICAL TRIAL

**Design:** The international phase 3, double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled KEYNOTE-355 trial examined the efficacy and safety of pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy among patients with previously untreated, locally recurrent inoperable or metastatic triple-negative breast cancer.

**Intervention:** 947 patients were assigned in a 2:1 ratio to receive pembrolizumab (200 mg every 3 weeks for up to 35 infusions) plus chemotherapy or placebo plus chemotherapy. Primary end points included overall survival among patients whose tumors expressed PD-L1 with a CPS of 10 or more (CPS-10 subgroup), among those whose tumors expressed PD-L1 with a CPS of 1 or more (CPS-1 subgroup), and in the intention-to-treat population.

### RESULTS

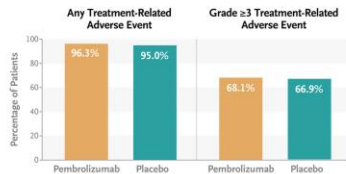
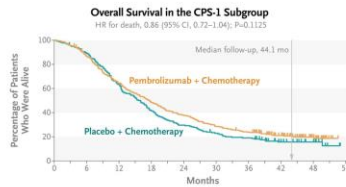
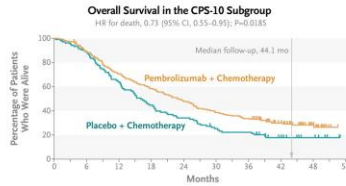
**Efficacy:** Overall survival was significantly longer with pembrolizumab-chemotherapy than with chemotherapy alone in the CPS-10 subgroup. In the CPS-1 subgroup, the between-group difference was not significant; significance was not assessed in the intention-to-treat population.

**Safety:** The incidence of any adverse event related to the trial regimen was similar in the two trial groups: anemia, neutropenia, and nausea were most common. The incidence of adverse events of grade 3, 4, or 5 was also similar in the two groups.

### LIMITATIONS AND REMAINING QUESTIONS

• The benefit of pembrolizumab was observed with both paclitaxel-based and nanoparticle albumin-bound paclitaxel-based chemotherapy, but the small number of patients who received paclitaxel precludes firm conclusions.

Links: Full Article | NEJM Quick Take | Editorial



### CONCLUSIONS

Among patients with previously untreated advanced triple-negative breast cancer and PD-L1 expression scores of 10 or more, pembrolizumab plus chemotherapy resulted in longer overall survival than chemotherapy alone, and no new safety signals emerged.

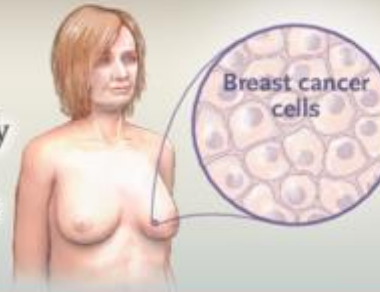
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The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

## Pembrolizumab for Triple-Negative Breast Cancer

RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PHASE 3 TRIAL

1174 Patients with previously untreated triple-negative breast cancer



Neoadjuvant Pembrolizumab + chemotherapy, followed by surgery and adjuvant pembrolizumab

(N=784)

Neoadjuvant Placebo + chemotherapy, followed by surgery and adjuvant placebo

(N=390)

Pathological complete response at time of surgery

64.8%

Difference, 13.6 percentage points; 95% CI, 5.4–21.8; P<0.001

51.2%

Event-free survival

91.3%

(95% CI, 88.8–93.3)

HR for an event or death, 0.63; 95% CI, 0.43–0.93

85.3%

(95% CI, 80.3–89.1)

Grade ≥3 adverse events

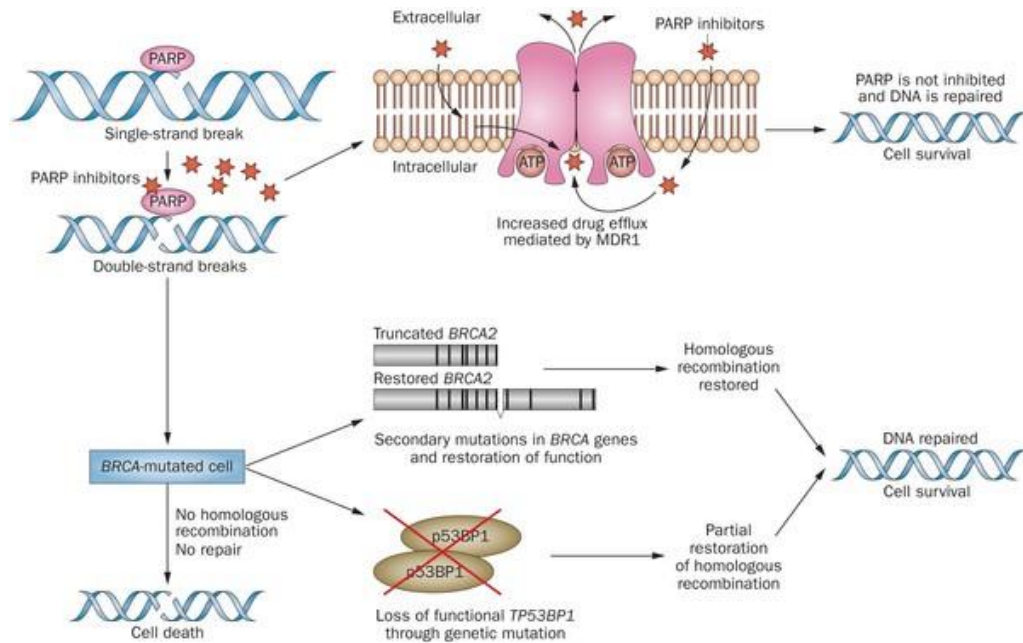
76.8%

72.2%

P. Schmid et al. 10.1056/NEJMoa1910549

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# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy

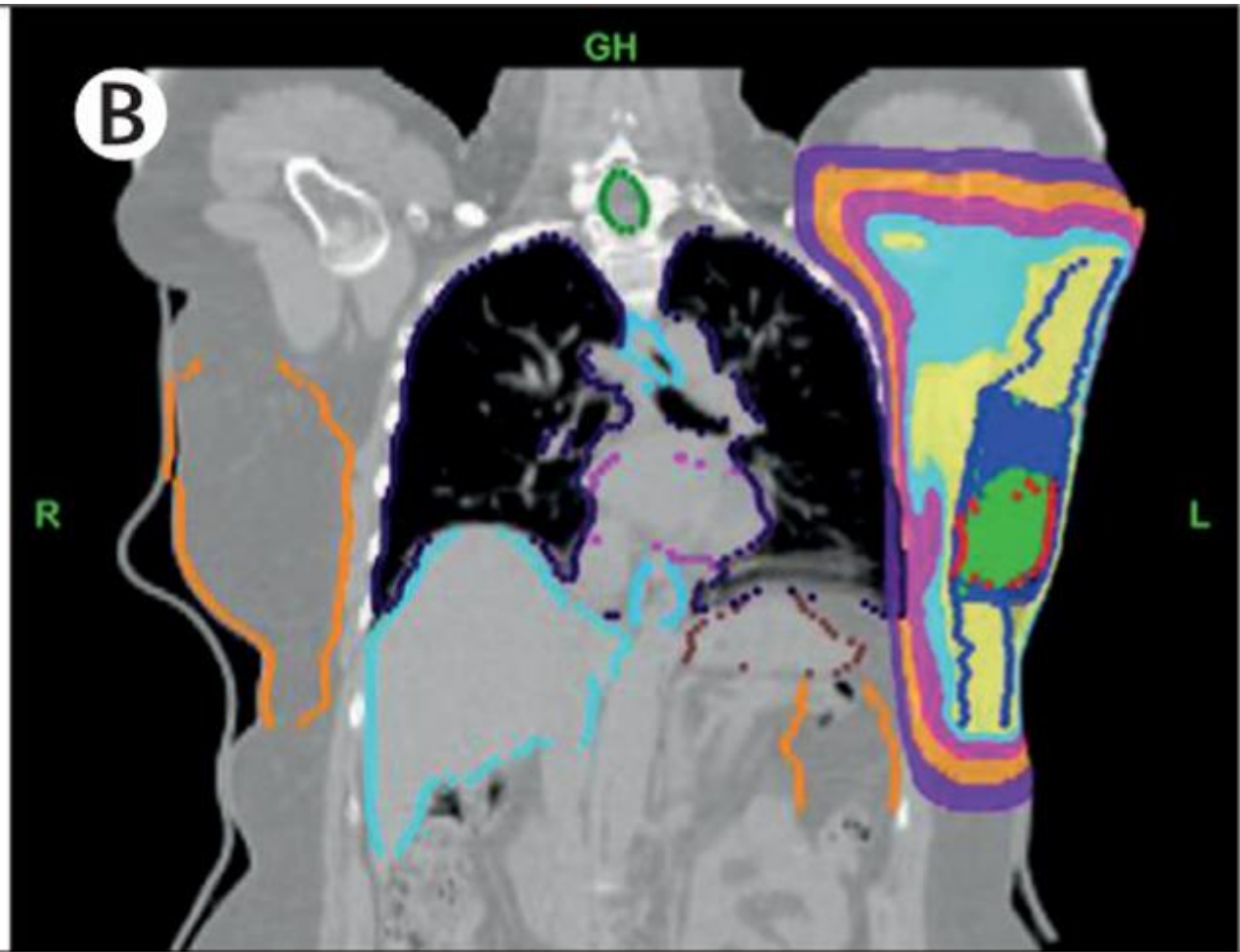


# Adjuvant Radiation Therapy



- Painless
- Hypofractionation protocol (3-4 weeks)
- Standard protocol with nodal disease (6 weeks)
- Side effects: fatigue, burn that resolves w/treatment
- **Component of BCT**
- Post-mastectomy radiation therapy=PMRT
  - Indications: T3 (> 5cm),  $\geq 4$  nodes, close or + margins
  - Newest consensus statement: T1-T2 cancer with 1-3 positive nodes may benefit from radiation after mastectomy

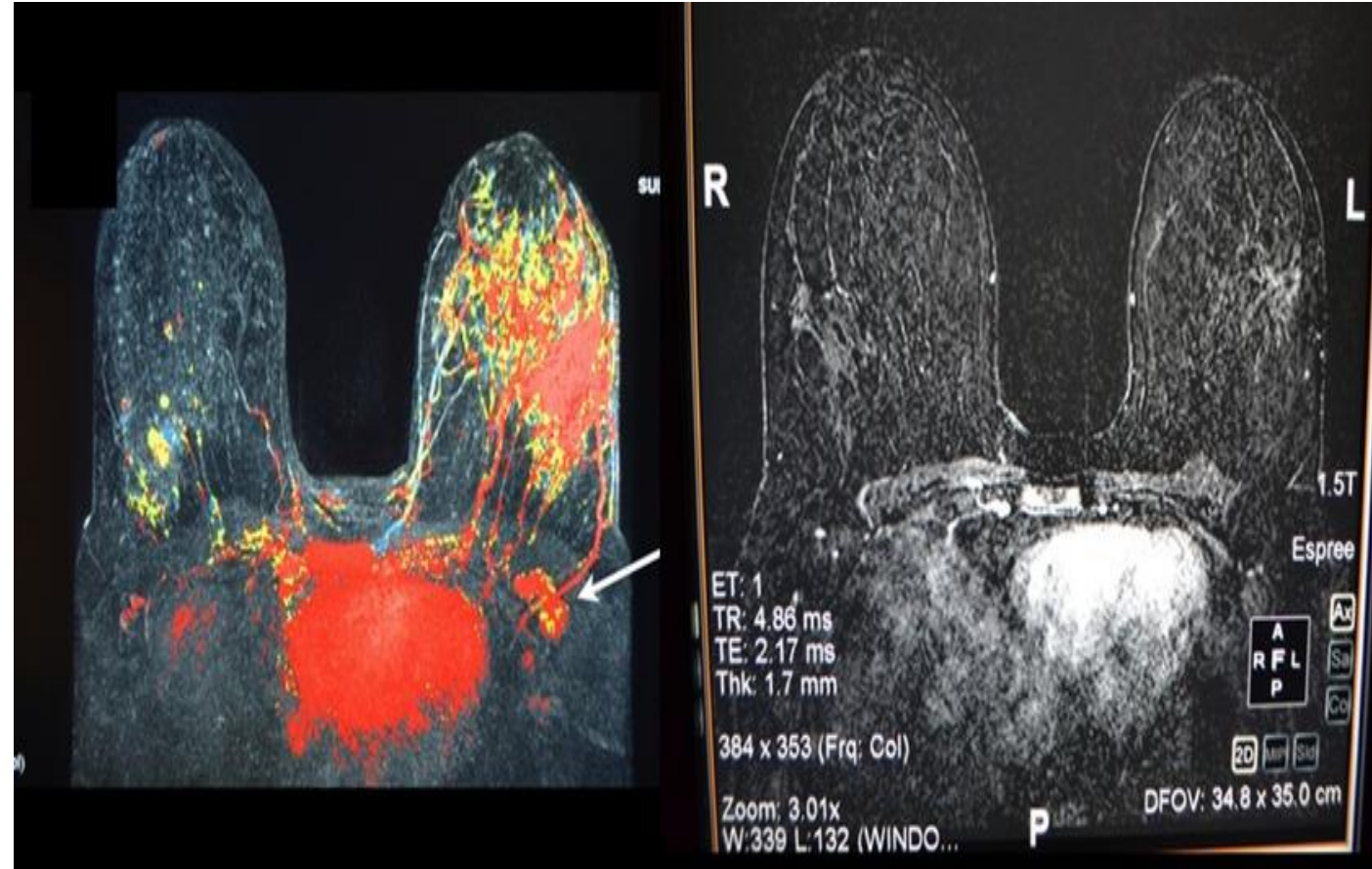






# Future Directions

- Alliance A11202/NSABP B51 - ongoing trial...can we avoid axillary dissection despite metastatic lymph nodes after neoadjuvant chemotherapy?
- NRG B005 - awaiting results...can we avoid surgery altogether in patients who are exceptional responders after neoadjuvant chemotherapy?
- COMET/LORD/LORIS - ongoing trial...avoiding surgery on patients with DCIS



 **intact**

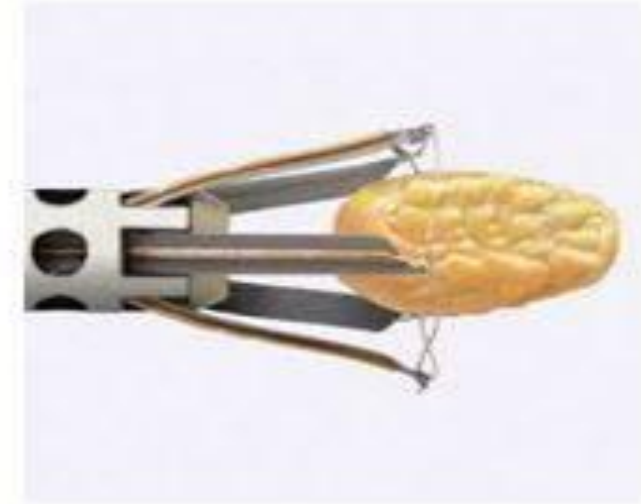
Intact BLES



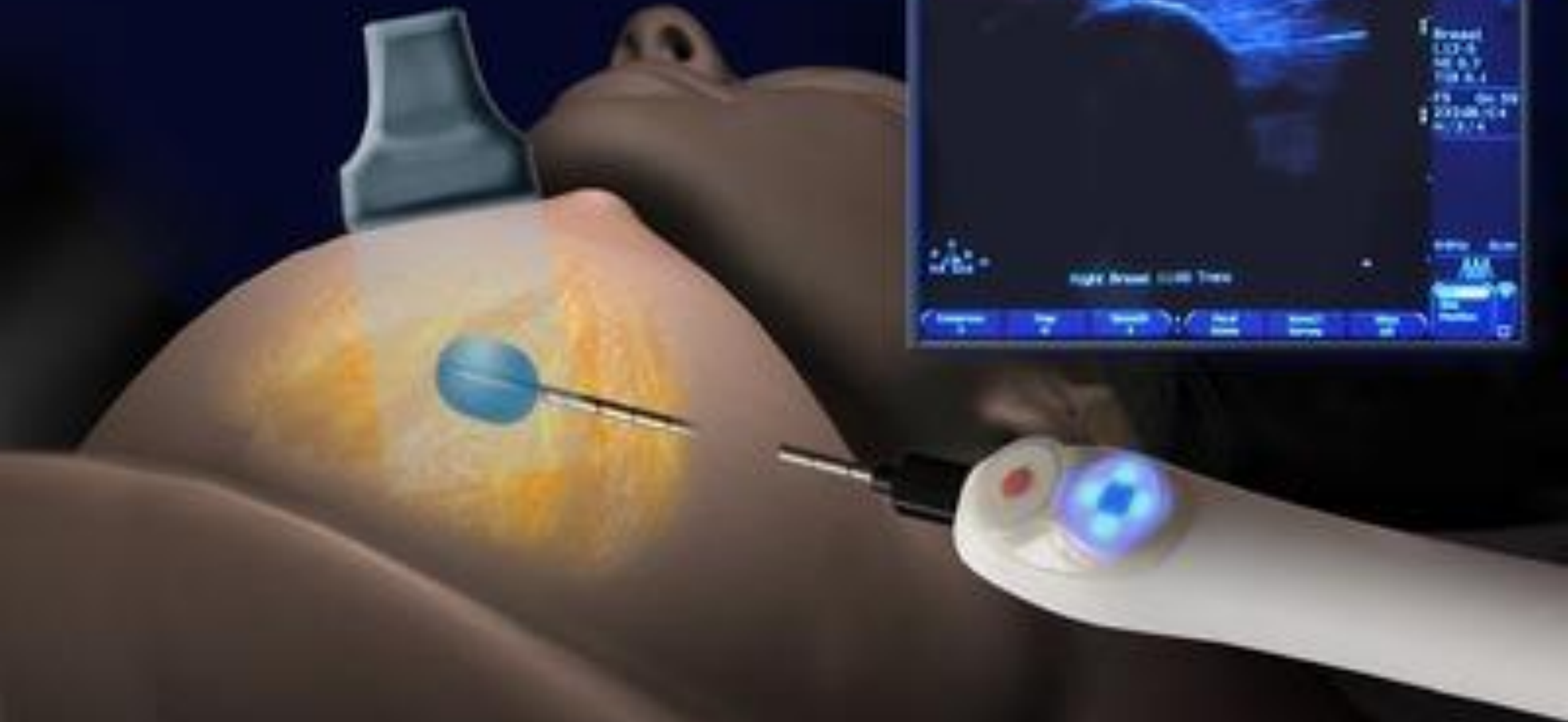
1. Targeting



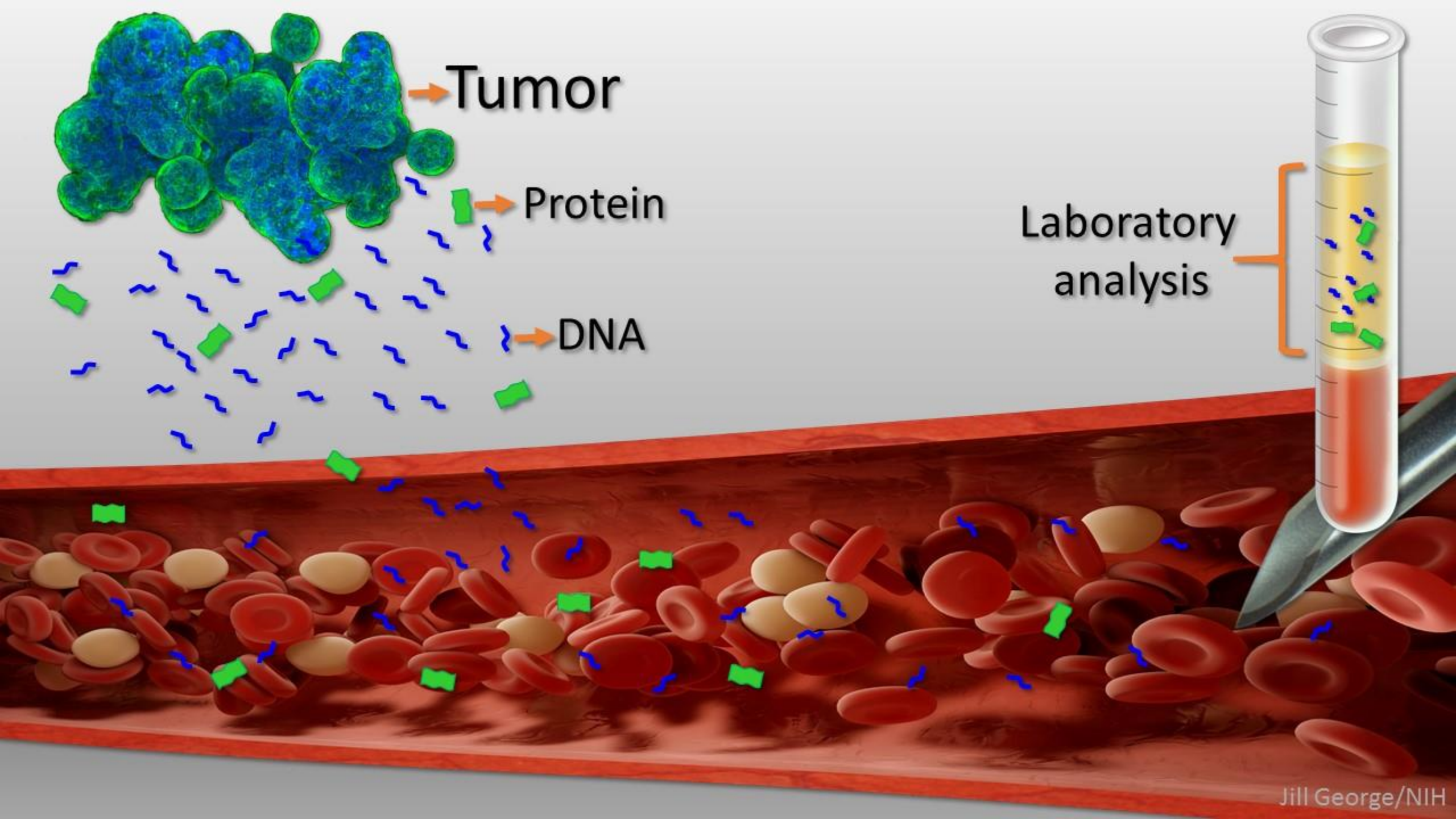
2. Cut and Capture



# Cryotherapy







**Tumor**

**Protein**

**DNA**

**Laboratory  
analysis**



# Vaccines

On December 21, 2020, the FDA approved an investigational drug application for a triple-negative breast cancer vaccine.



# Conclusions

- Improved breast cancer detection and treatments have led to improved outcomes.
- Biology of breast cancer is the primary driver of treatments and outcomes.
- Novel drugs and innovations have led to better overall survival and quality of life.
- Traditional dogmas continue to be challenged with results from clinical trials.

CLEAR AS MUD!





