

# bjcclub

breast  
Journal  
club

**L'IMPORTANZA DELLA RICERCA IN ONCOLOGIA**

**7-8 MARZO 2025  
NAPOLI**

Hotel Royal Continental  
Via Partenope, 38





# BJClub AWARDS

## Best paper internazionale

Intro e place in therapy  
best paper internazionale



### ORIGINAL ARTICLE

**A phase III trial of adjuvant ribociclib plus endocrine therapy versus endocrine therapy alone in patients with HR-positive/HER2-negative early breast cancer: final invasive disease-free survival results from the NATALEE trial**

G. N. Hortobagyi<sup>1\*</sup>, A. Lacko<sup>2</sup>, J. Sohn<sup>3</sup>, F. Cruz<sup>4</sup>, M. Ruiz Borrego<sup>5</sup>, A. Manikhas<sup>6</sup>, Y. Hee Park<sup>7</sup>, D. Stroyakovskiy<sup>8</sup>, D. A. Yardley<sup>9</sup>, C.-S. Huang<sup>10</sup>, P. A. Fasching<sup>11</sup>, J. Crown<sup>12</sup>, A. Bardia<sup>13</sup>, S. Chia<sup>14</sup>, S.-A. Im<sup>15</sup>, M. Martin<sup>16</sup>, S. Loi<sup>17</sup>, B. Xu<sup>18</sup>, S. Hurvitz<sup>19</sup>, C. Barrios<sup>20</sup>, M. Untch<sup>21</sup>, R. Moroos<sup>22</sup>, F. Visco<sup>23</sup>, F. Parnizari<sup>24</sup>, J. P. Zarate<sup>25</sup>, Z. Li<sup>25</sup>, S. Waters<sup>26</sup>, A. Chakravarty<sup>25</sup> & D. Slamon<sup>13</sup>

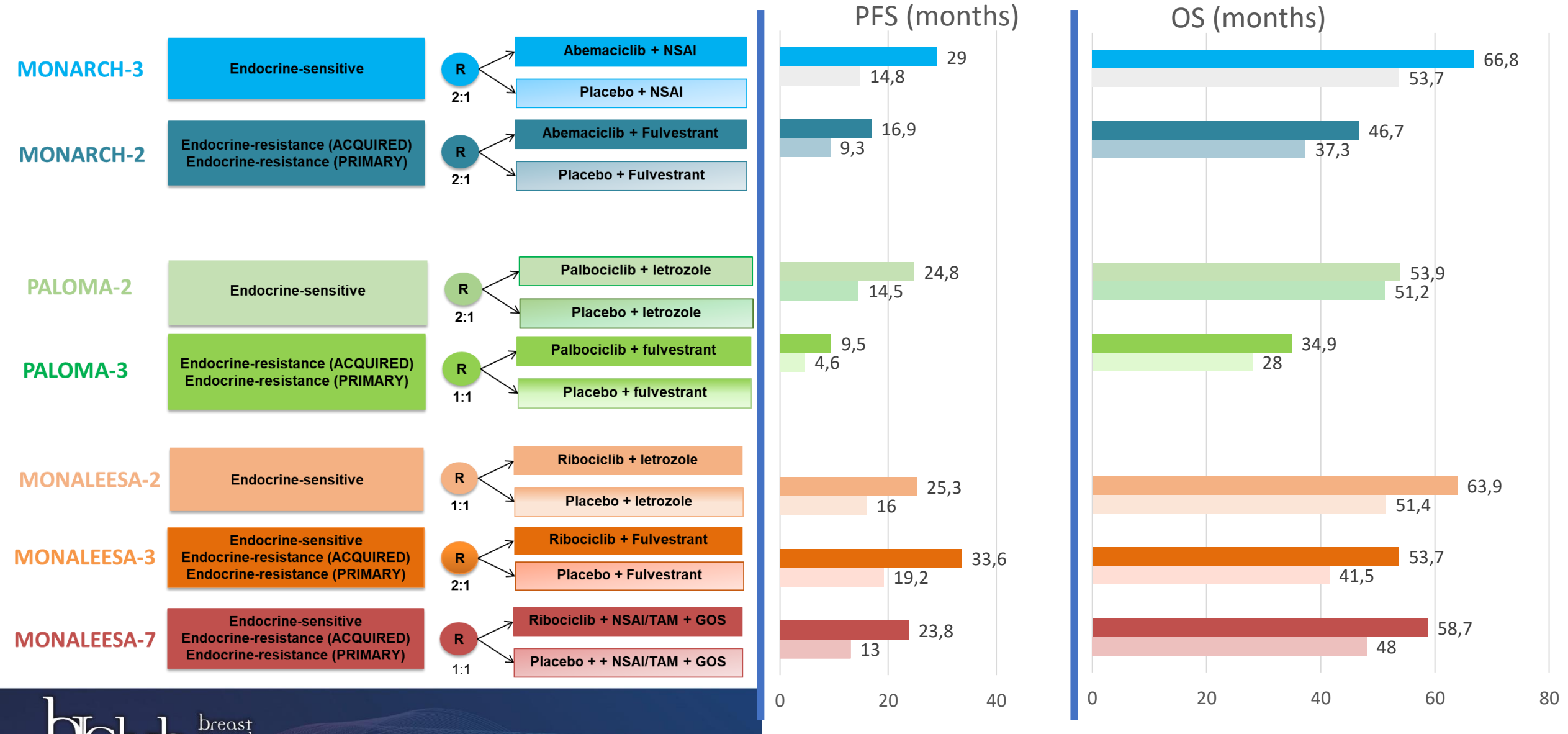
# Disclosures

Consultancy/Advisory Board:

Novartis, Eli Lilly, Pfizer, AstraZeneca, Roche, Daiichi Sankyo, Seagen, Eisai, MSD, Gilead, Menarini/Stemline, Exact Science, Agendia, Takeda, Helsinn



# CDK4/6i in metastatic setting: transformative



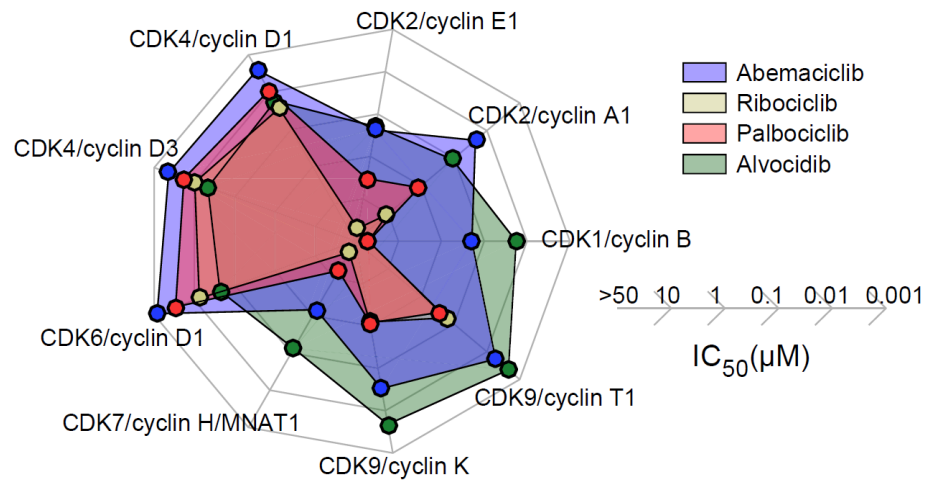
# CDK4/6 inhibitors in high-risk HR+/HER2- EBC

	PENELOPE-B	PALLAS	MonarchE	NATALEE
<b>Sponsor/Collaborator</b>	GBG	ABCSG/AFT	Eli Lilly/NSABP	TRIO/Novartis
<b>CDK 4/6 Inhibitor</b>	Palbociclib	Palbociclib	Abemaciclib	Ribociclib
<b>Sample Size</b>	1250	5600	5637	5000
<b>Design</b>	Phase 3 randomized placebo-controlled	Phase 3 randomized open label	Phase 3 randomized open label	Phase 3 (non) randomized open label
<b>Patient population</b>	High-risk	Stage II-III	High-risk	Stage II-III
<b>Duration of Combination Therapy</b>	1 year <b>125mg/m<sup>2</sup> d 1-21 q28</b> (13 cycles) ET at least 5 years	2 years <b>125mg/m<sup>2</sup> d 1-21 q28</b> (26 cycles) at least 5 years ET total	2 years <b>150mg cont.</b> (26 cycles) at least 5 years ET total	<b>400mg day 1-21 q28</b> 3 years; At least 5 years ET
<b>Primary Endpoint</b>	iDFS	iDFS	iDFS	iDFS
<b>First results reported</b>	December 2020	September 2020	September 2020	December 2025

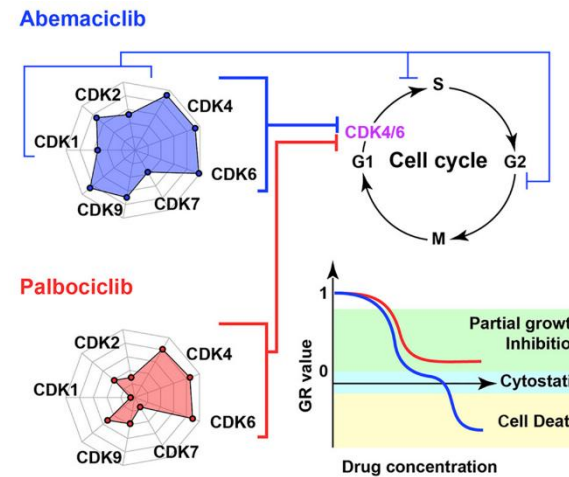
# CDK4/6i not an homogenous class of compounds

Abemaciclib  $\neq$  Palbociclib  $\neq$  Ribociclib

Different kinases targeted and potency of inhibition



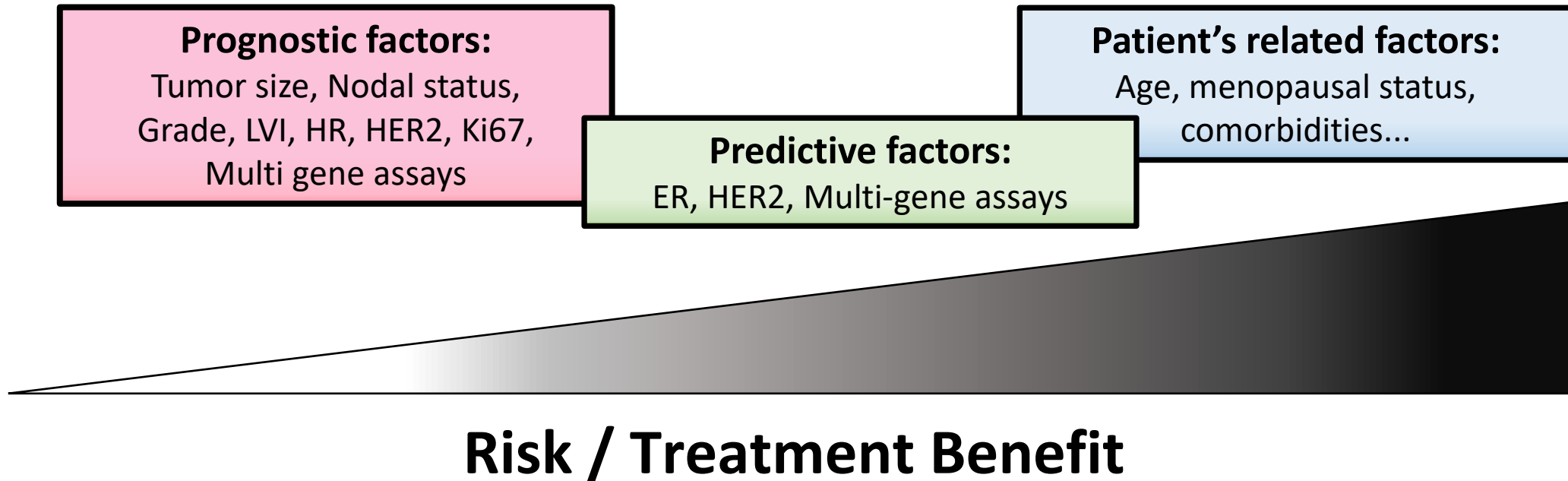
Administration modality



**Continuous**  
**VS**  
**Intermittent**

Hafner M Cell Chemical Biology 2019

# The decision-making process for ER+/HER2- EBC





# Risk, benefit and absolute benefit

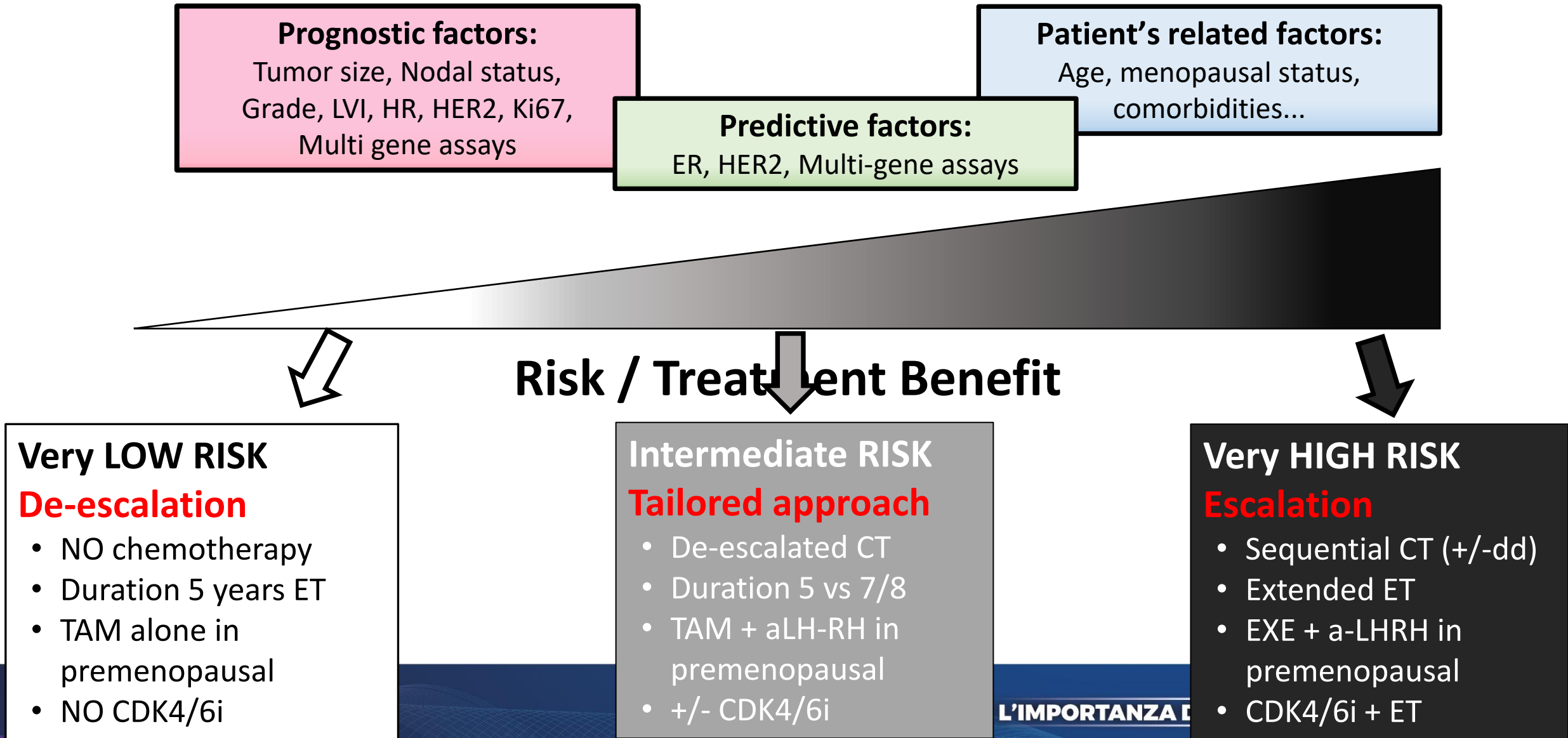
Risk

Absolute  
benefit

Benefit



# The decision-making process for ER+/HER2- EBC



# Unique therapeutic landscape

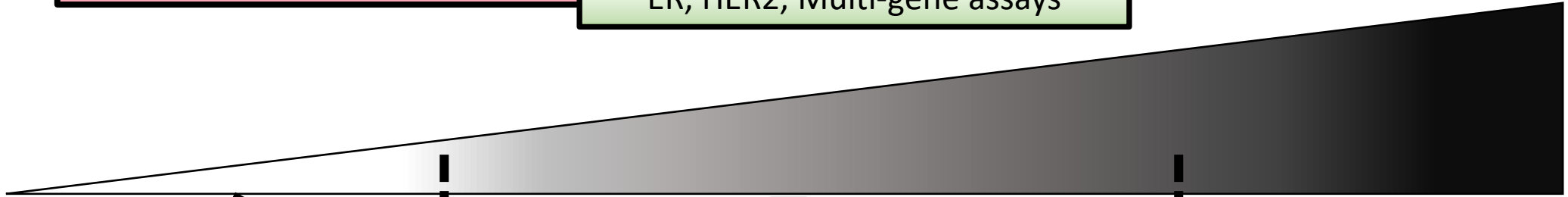


# The decision-making process for ER+/HER2- EBC

**Prognostic factors:**  
Tumor size, Nodal status,  
Grade, LVI, HR, HER2, Ki67,  
Multi gene assays

**Patient's related factors:**  
Age, menopausal status,  
comorbidities...

**Predictive factors:**  
ER, HER2, Multi-gene assays



**Risk / Treatment Benefit**

**Very LOW RISK**  
**De-escalation**

- NO chemotherapy
- Duration 5 years ET
- TAM alone in premenopausal
- NO CDK4/6i

**Intermediate RISK**  
**Tailored approach**

- De-escalated CT
- Duration 5 vs 7/8
- TAM + aLH-RH in premenopausal
- +/- CDK4/6i

**Very HIGH RISK**  
**Escalation**

- Sequential CT (+/-dd)
- Extended ET
- EXE + a-LHRH in premenopausal
- CDK4/6i + ET

L'IMPORTANZA E



Debate

ARGUMENT

Difference of Opinion

**Controversy**

*Contention*

DISAGREEMENT

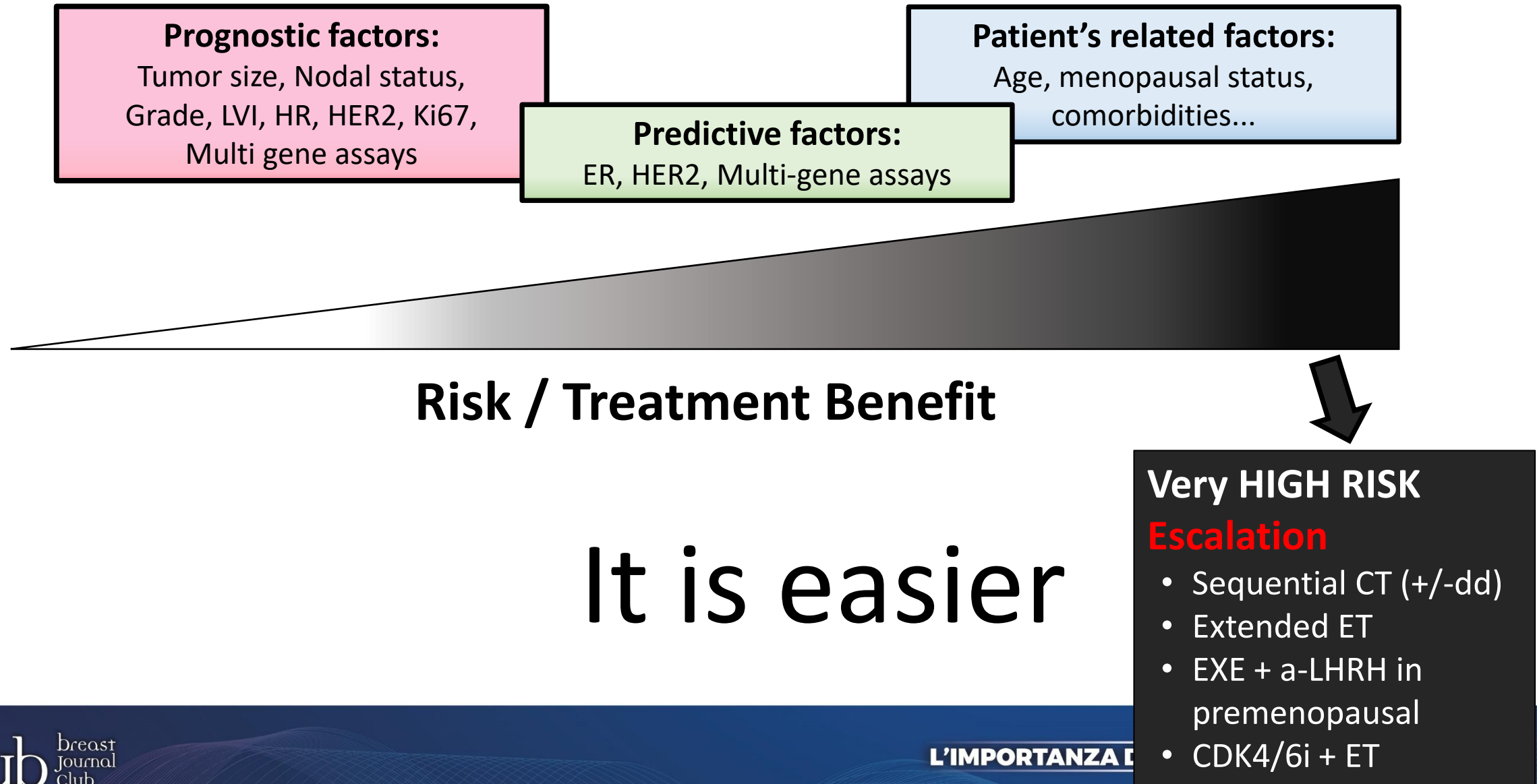
DISSENT

Public Dispute



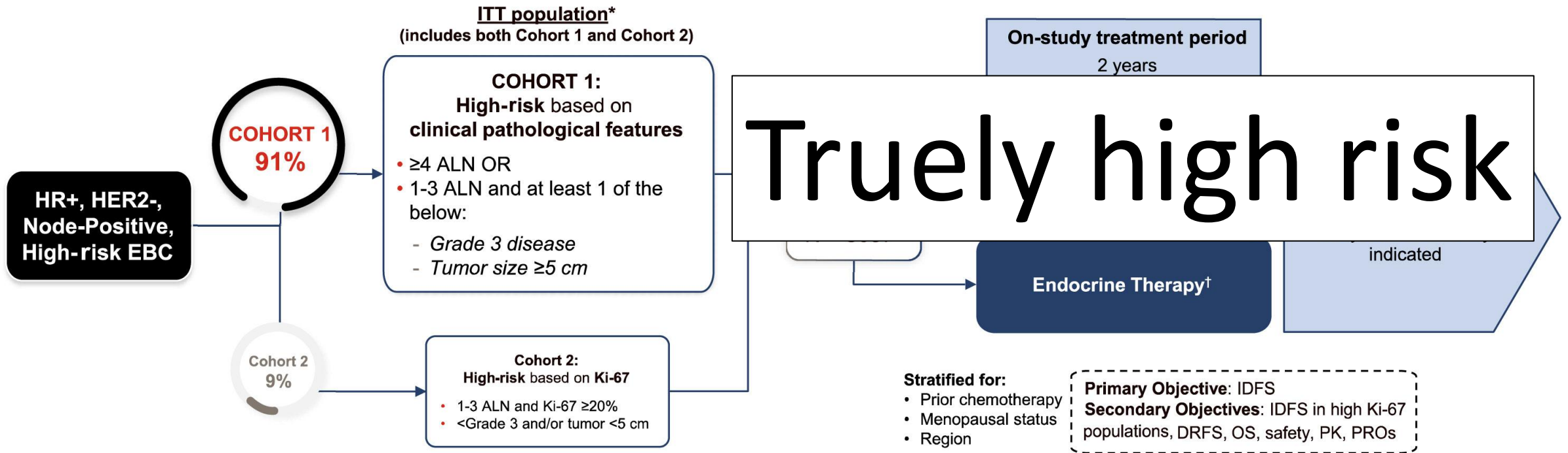


# The decision-making process for ER+/HER2- EBC





# monarchE Study Design (NCT03155997)

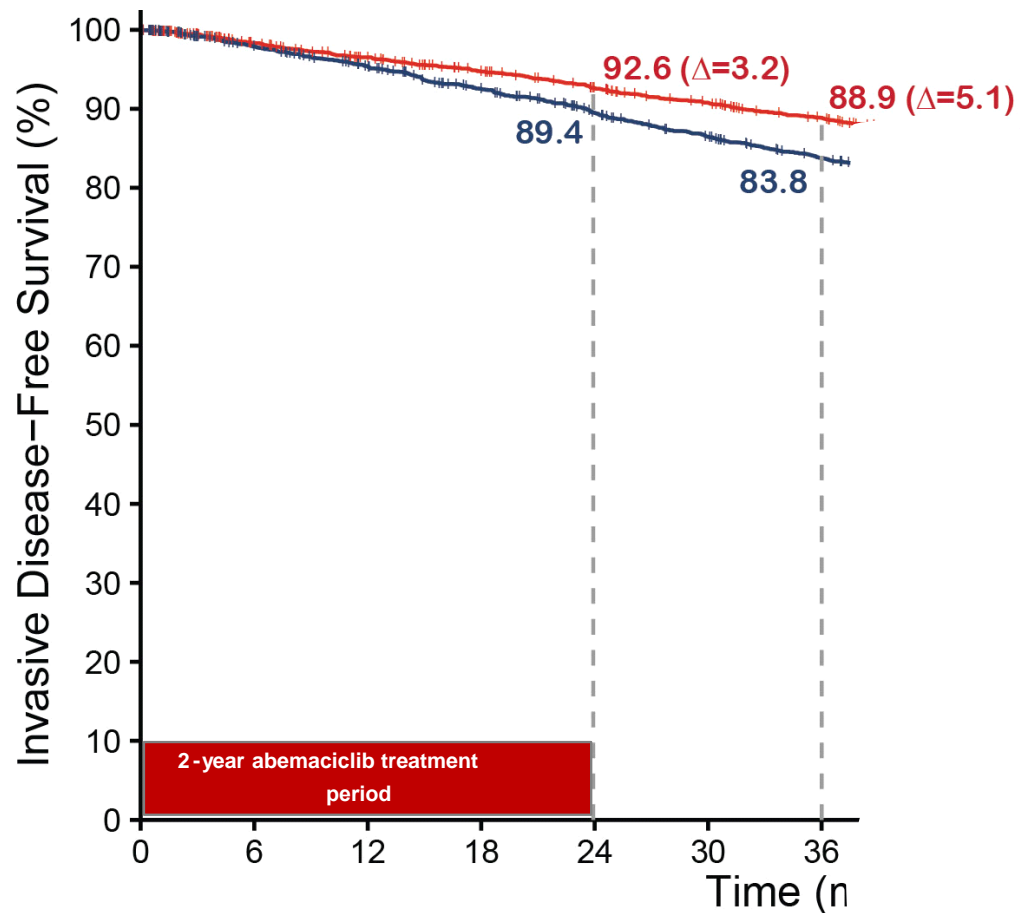


\*Recruitment from July 2017 to August 2019.

<sup>†</sup>Endocrine therapy of physician's choice [e.g., aromatase inhibitors, tamoxifen, GnRH agonist].

# Potential misleading interpretation IDFS benefit

**Δ 5.1%?**

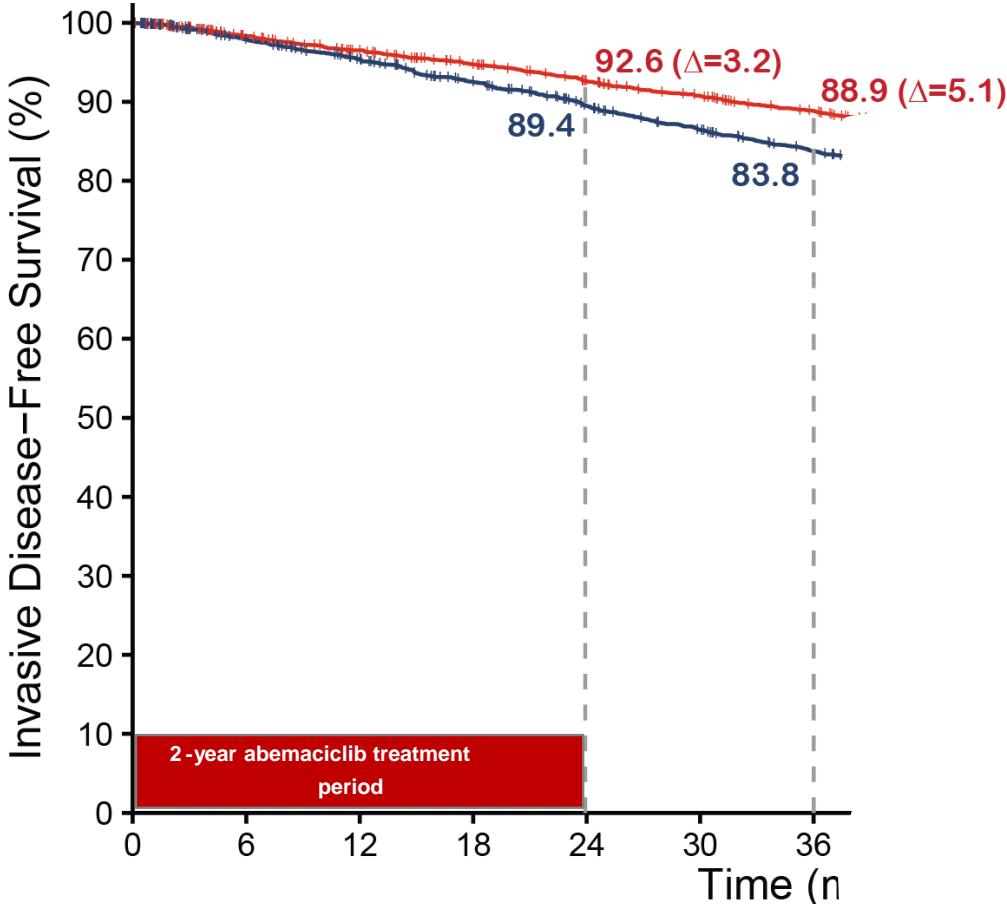


Number of IDFS events	
Abemaciclib + ET	ET Alone
382	553
HR (95% CI): 0.670 (0.588, 0.764)	
Nominal p <0.001	

	0	6	12	18	24	30	36
Abemaciclib + ET	2555	2387	2322	2256	2189	2129	2068
ET alone	2565	2405	2328	2236	2143	2059	1979

# Potential misleading interpretation IDFS benefit

$\Delta$  5.1%?



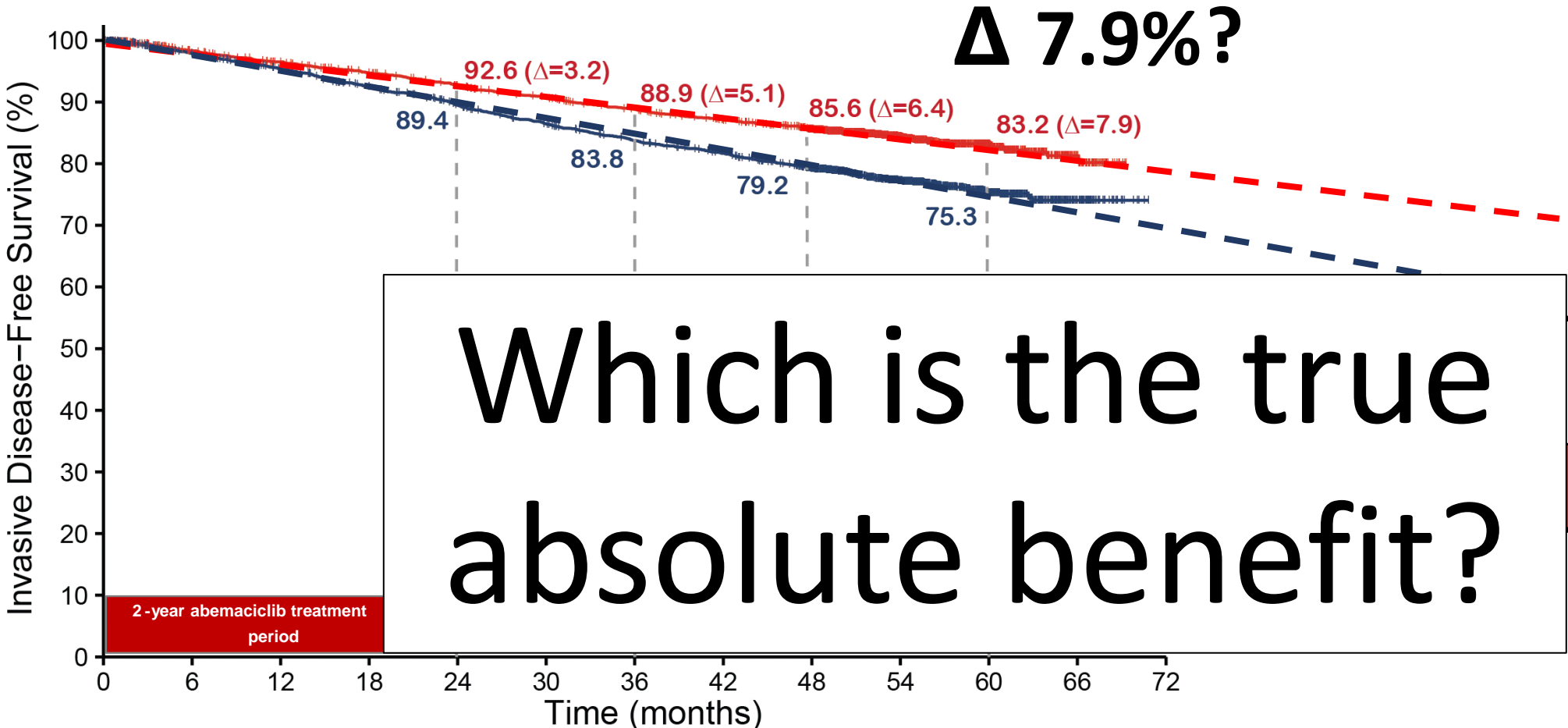
Number of IDFS events	
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Number at risk

Abemaciclib + ET	2555	2387	2322	2256	2189	2129	2068
ET alone	2565	2405	2328	2236	2143	2059	1979



# Increasing IDFS benefit



Which is the true absolute benefit?

Number at risk






Abemaciclib + ET	2555	2387	2322	2256	2189	2129	2068	2006	1913	1111	490	74	0
ET alone	2565	2405	2328	2236	2143	2059	1979	1915	1795	1056	473	67	0

# CDK4/6i in node negative: misleading interpretation

ASCO Rapid Recommendations



## Optimal Adjuvant Chemotherapy and Targeted Therapy for Early Breast Cancer—Cyclin-Dependent Kinase 4 and 6 Inhibitors: ASCO Guideline Rapid Recommendation Update

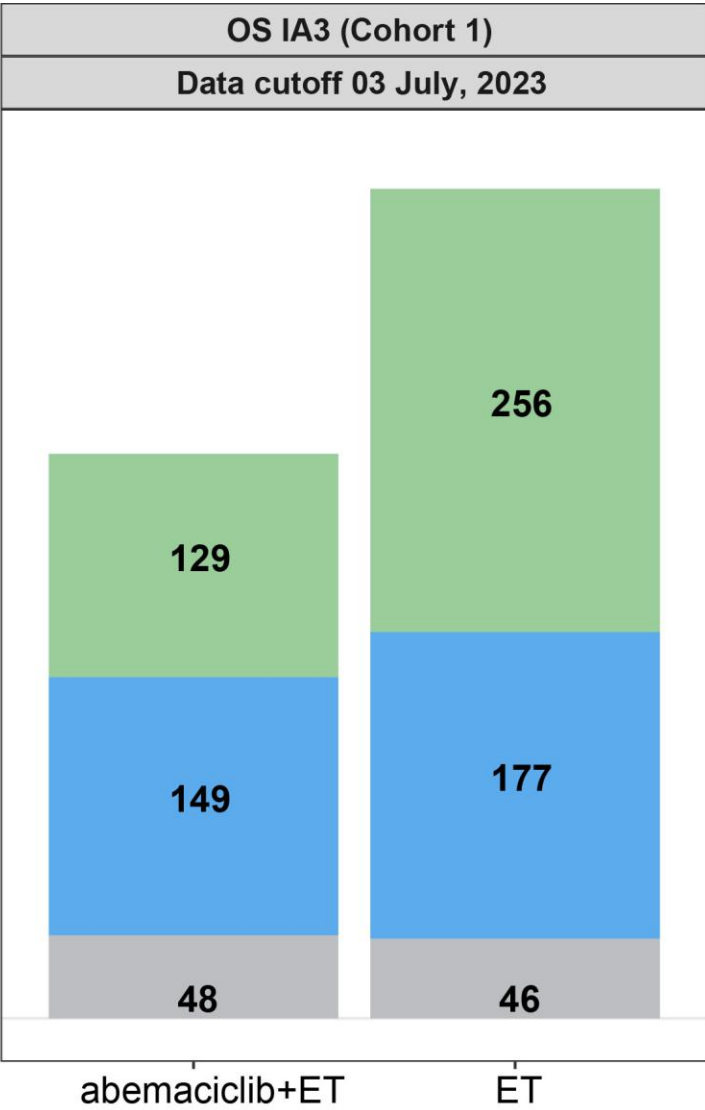
Rachel A. Freedman, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup> ; Jennifer L. Caswell-Jin, MD<sup>2</sup> ; Michael Hassett, MD, MPH<sup>1</sup> ; Mark R. Somerfield, PhD<sup>3</sup> ; and Sharon H. Giordano, MD, MPH<sup>4</sup> , for the Optimal Adjuvant Chemotherapy and Targeted Therapy for Early Breast Cancer Guideline Expert Panel

DOI <https://doi.org/10.1200/JCO.24.00886>

The Panel believes that adjuvant CDK4/6 inhibitor therapy may not provide meaningful clinical benefit to all patients who would have been eligible for the available trials, especially the lower-risk patients who were included in the NATALEE trial. For example, for most patients with node-negative disease, the risks of ribociclib may outweigh the benefits, with the exception of some patients with the highest risk, node-negative disease. However, the Panel acknowledges that there are insufficient data to specify which subgroups of patients do or do not warrant therapy. The Panel thus recommends considering the benefits, risks, costs, and preferences for each individual patient when deciding whether to recommend therapy.

**Caveat:  
before ESMO 2024**

# Half patients with Metastatic Disease with abemaciclib



**Survival Status**

- Alive with metastatic disease
- Deaths due to BC
- Deaths not related to BC

OS?



# Efficacy Outcomes by Ki-67 Index in Cohort 1

	Cohort 1 Ki-67 High		Cohort 1 Ki-67 Low	
	Abemaciclib + ET n=1017	ET n= 986	Abemaciclib + ET n=946	ET n=968
<b>IDFS</b>				
Number of events, n				171
HR (95% CI)				0.839 (0.622, 1.12)
Nominal p-value				p=0.001
5-year IDFS rate, % (95% CI)				80.2 (77.2, 82.9)
<b>DRFS</b>				
Number of events, n				143
HR (95% CI)				0.861 (0.612, 1.2)
Nominal p-value				p=0.002
5-year DRFS rate, % (95% CI)	83.4 (80.7, 85.8)	75.2 (72.1, 78.0)	88.6 (86.1, 90.7)	83.5 (80.7, 86.0)
<b>OS (immature)</b>				
Number of events, n	92	121	56	62
HR (95% CI)	0.717 (0.546, 0.941)		0.911 (0.633, 1.309)	
Nominal p-value	p=0.016		p=0.613	

These compounds  
(will) improve OS

OXFORD



*JNCI: Journal of the National Cancer Institute*, 2024, 00(0), 1–9

<https://doi.org/10.1093/jnci/djae241>

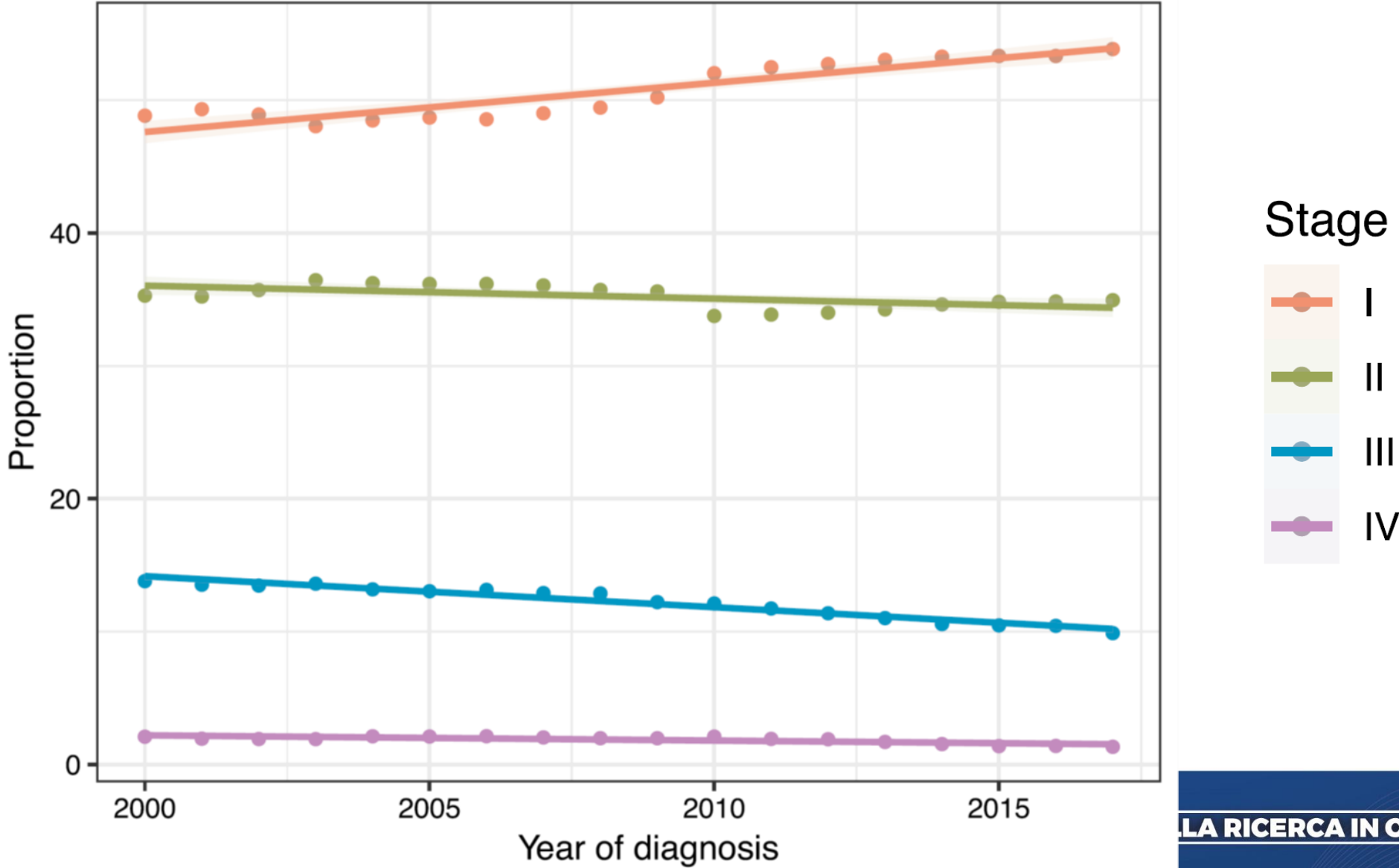
Advance Access Publication Date: September 30, 2024

Article

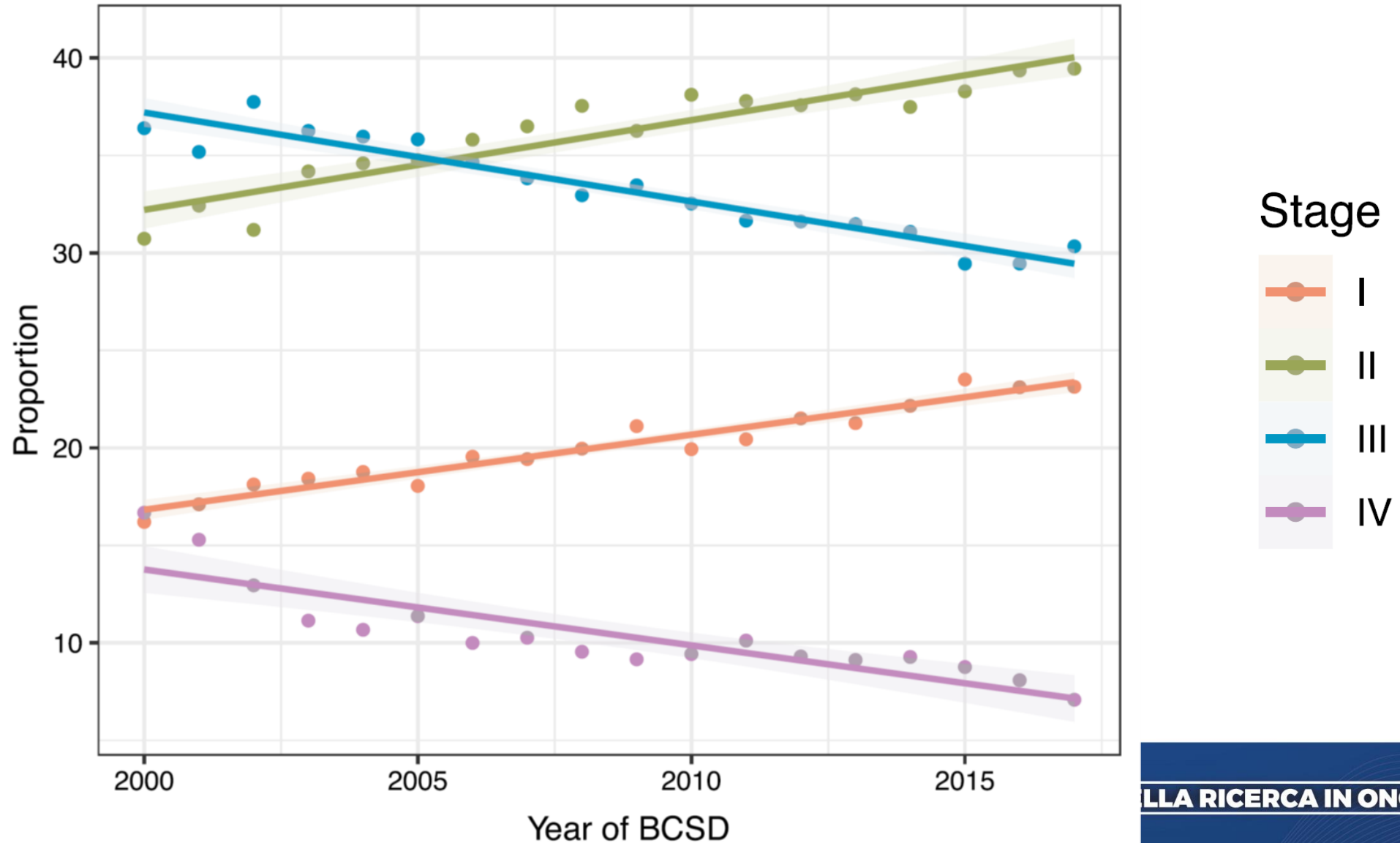
# Trends in breast cancer–specific death by clinical stage at diagnoses between 2000 and 2017

Michal Marczyk , PhD<sup>1,2</sup>, Adriana Kahn, MD<sup>2</sup>, Andrea Silber, MD<sup>2</sup>, Mariya Rosenblit, MD<sup>2</sup>, Michael P. Digiovanna, MD, PhD<sup>2</sup>, Maryam Lustberg, MD<sup>2</sup>, Lajos Pusztai , MD, DPhil<sup>2,\*</sup>

# Temporal trends in stage at diagnosis



# Temporal trends in stage contribution to annual breast cancer-specific death





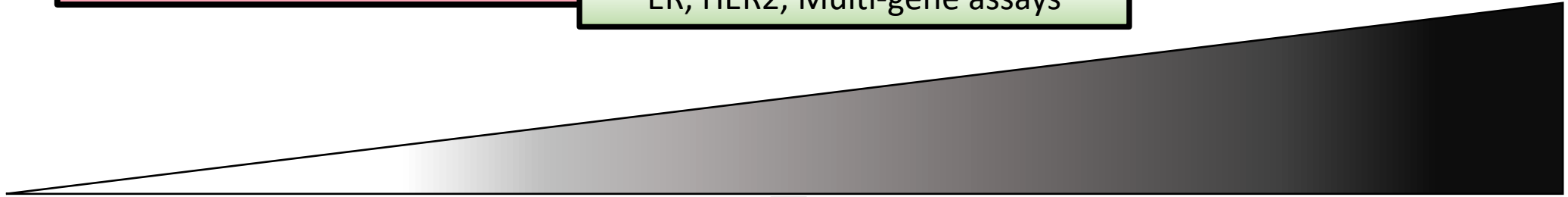
**Conclusions:** Patients with stage I and II breast... account for more than 60% of current breast cancer–specific death. **To further reduce breast cancer death, strategies are needed to identify and treat patients with stage I and II disease who remain at risk for recurrence.**

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**Risk / Treatment Benefit**

**ESMO** GOOD SCIENCE BETTER MEDICINE BEST PRACTICE

**ANNALS OF ONCOLOGY** BRINGING INNOVATION IN ONCOLOGY

**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

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**Intermediate RISK**  
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The tremendous progress in breast cancer is due to “incrementalism”



***Incrementalism***

A believing that huge advancement can be also achieved with subsequent change by degrees