

# Advancing Breast Cancer Treatment: Genomics and the Future of Precision Oncology

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Provincial Health Services Authority

# Disclosures

Advisory board: Astra Zeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Knight Therapeutics, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Seagen, TerSera

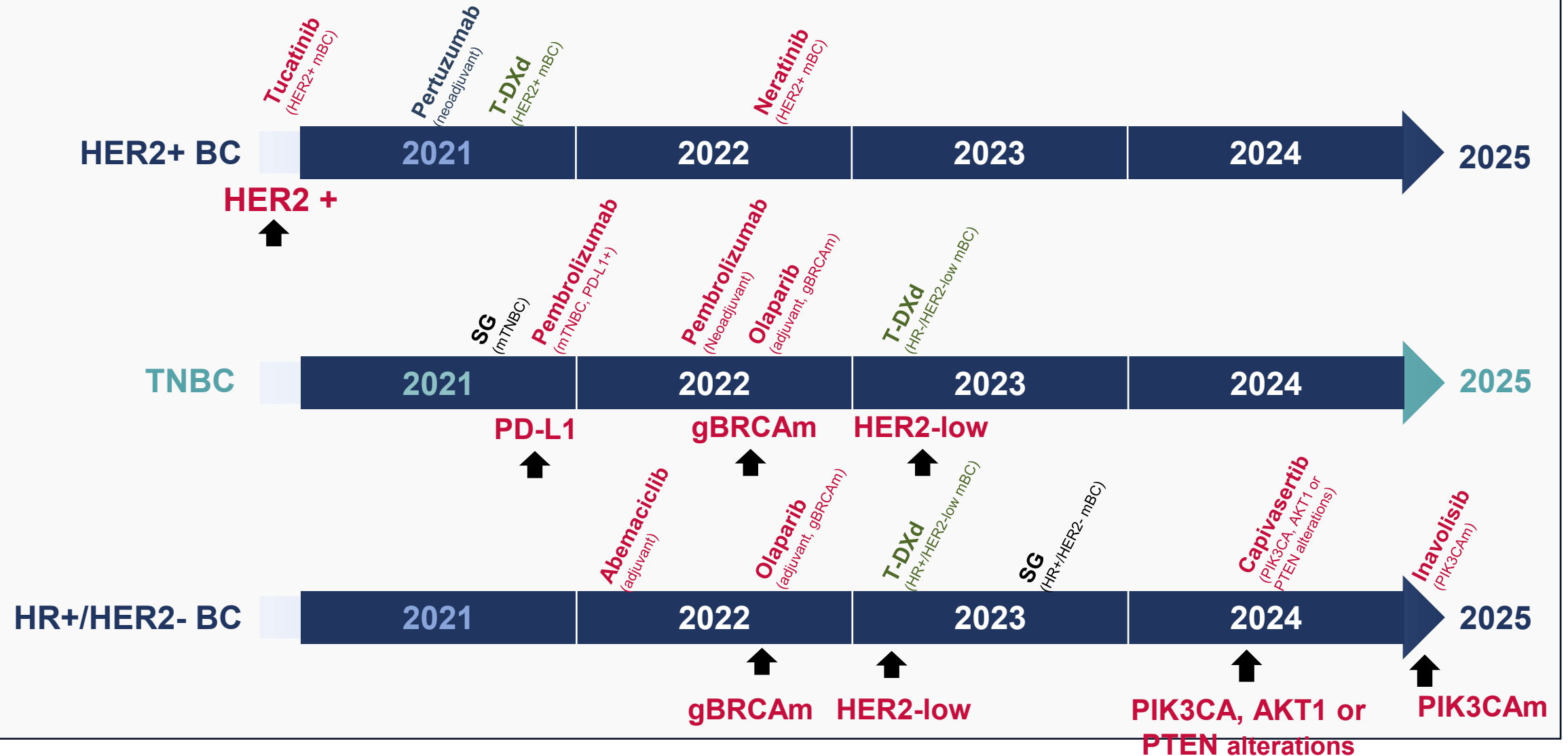
Speaker's Honoraria: Astra Zeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly, Gilead, Merck, Knight Therapeutics, Merck, Novartis, Pfizer, Roche, Seagen, TerSera

Research funds (to institution): Abbvie, Astra Zeneca, Avon Foundation, CIHR, Eli Lilly, Exact Sciences, Gilead, Pfizer, Roche

# Objectives

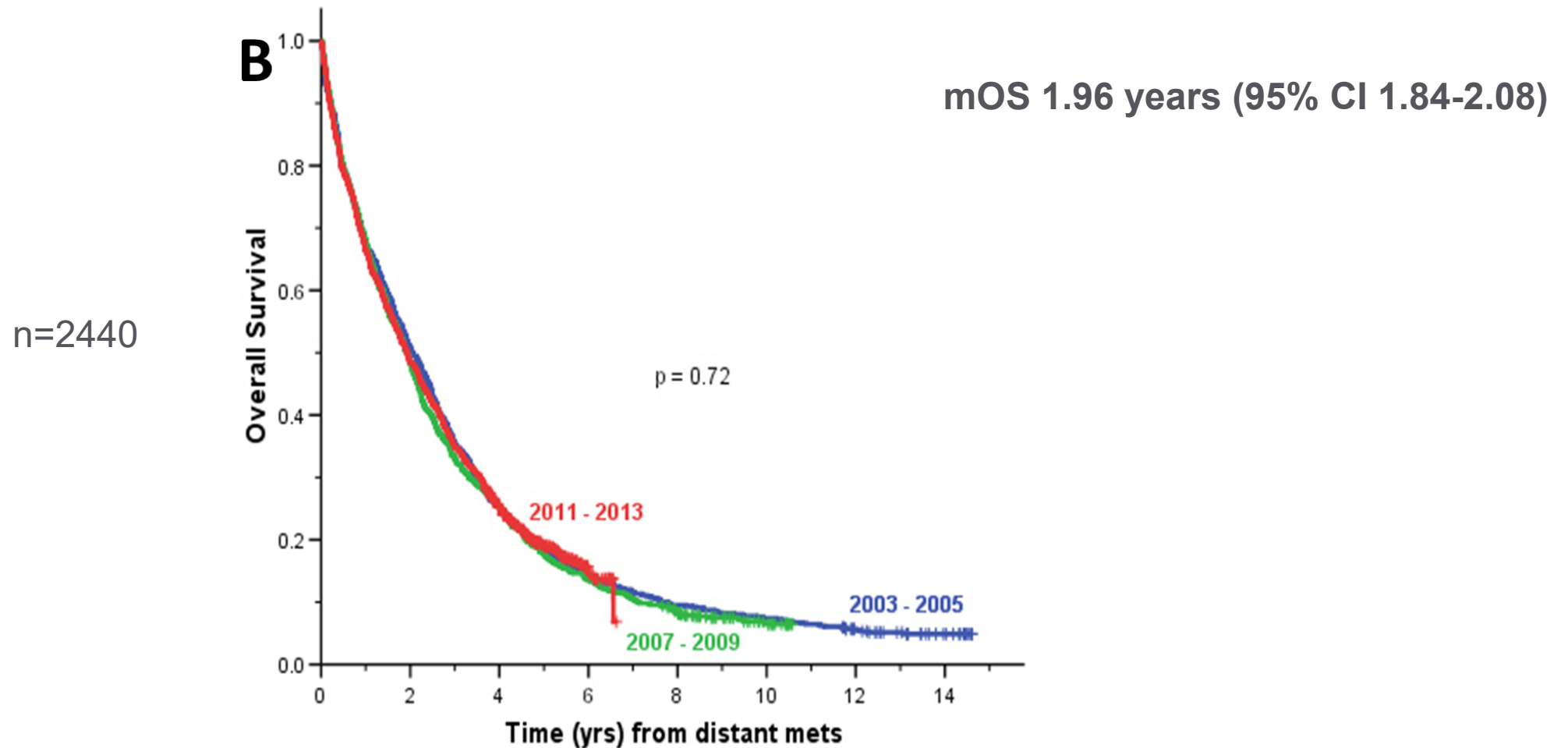
1. Explore how genomic profiling informs personalized treatment decisions in metastatic breast cancer.
2. Review emerging innovations in genomics and their potential to shape the future of precision oncology in breast cancer care.
3. Discuss the practical, clinical and ethical considerations of integrating genomics into routine oncology practice.

# 5 Years in Review - Health Canada Approvals



BC, breast cancer; gBRCAm, germline BRCA1/2-mutated; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; HR, hormone receptor; mBC, metastatic breast cancer; mTNBC, metastatic triple-negative breast cancer; PD-L1, programmed cell death ligand 1; T-DXd, trastuzumab deruxtecan; TNBC, triple-negative breast cancer.

# Survival for patients with metastatic ER+ breast cancer in British Columbia (2003-2013)



# Unmet needs for the HR+ population

## Current treatment landscape and outcomes: mPFS\*



\*Based on data from Phase 3 registrational studies only

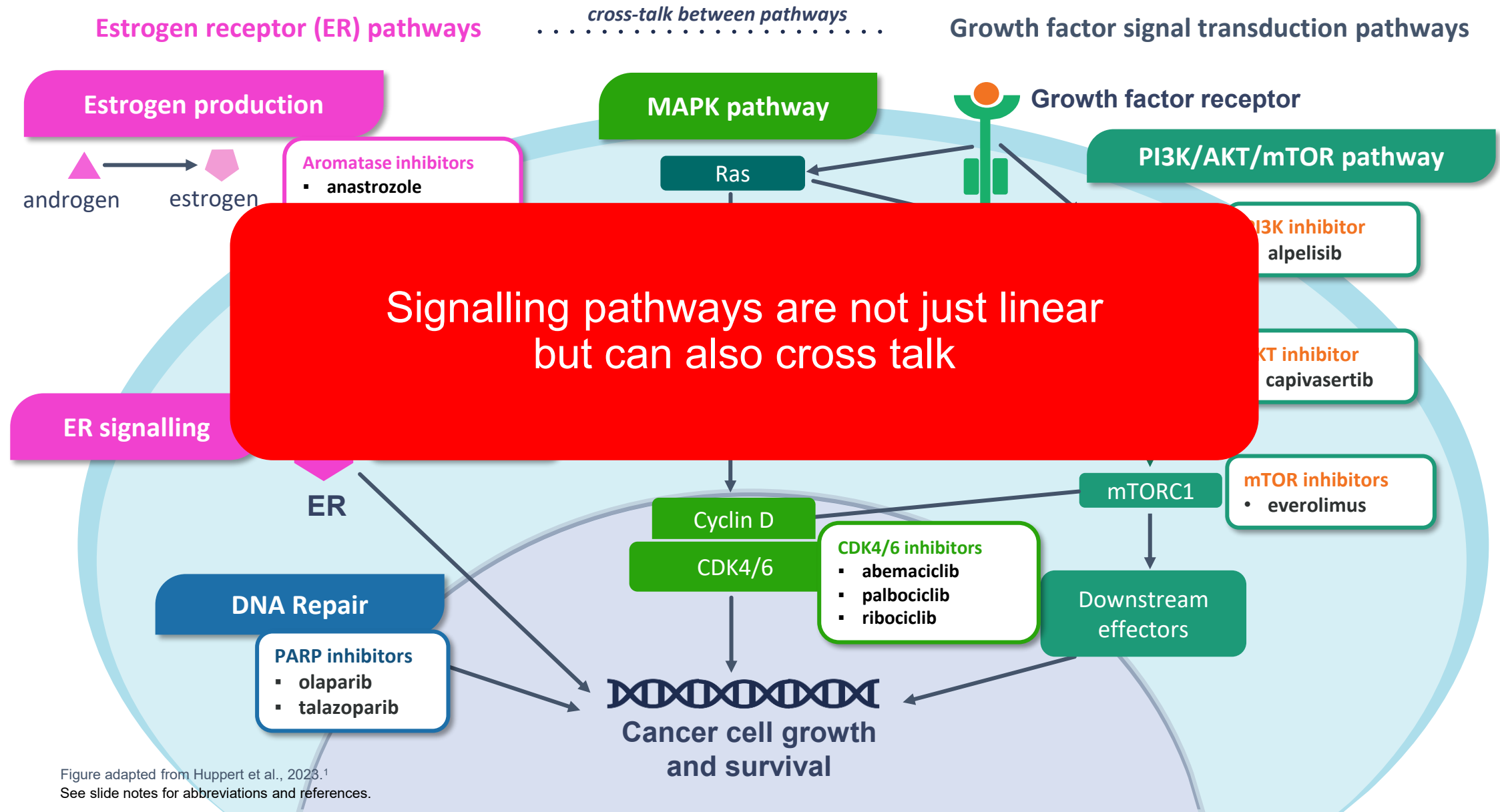
CDK4/6i, cyclin dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; CT, chemotherapy; ET, endocrine therapy; HER2, human epidermal receptor 2; mBC, metastatic breast cancer; mo, month; mPFS, median progression-free survival.

1. Finn RS, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2016;375:1925–1936; 2. Hortobagyi GN, et al. *Ann Oncol*. 2018;29:1541–1547; 3. Johnston S, et al. *NPJ Breast Cancer*. 2019;5:5; 4. Turner NC, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;388:2058–2070 (suppl. appendix);

5. Bidard FC, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2022;40:3246–3256; 6. O'Shaughnessy J, et al. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021;4:e214103; 7. O'Shaughnessy J, et al. *Cancer Res*. 2021;81(Suppl. 4):Abstract GS4-01; 8. Robert NJ, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2011;29:1252–1260;

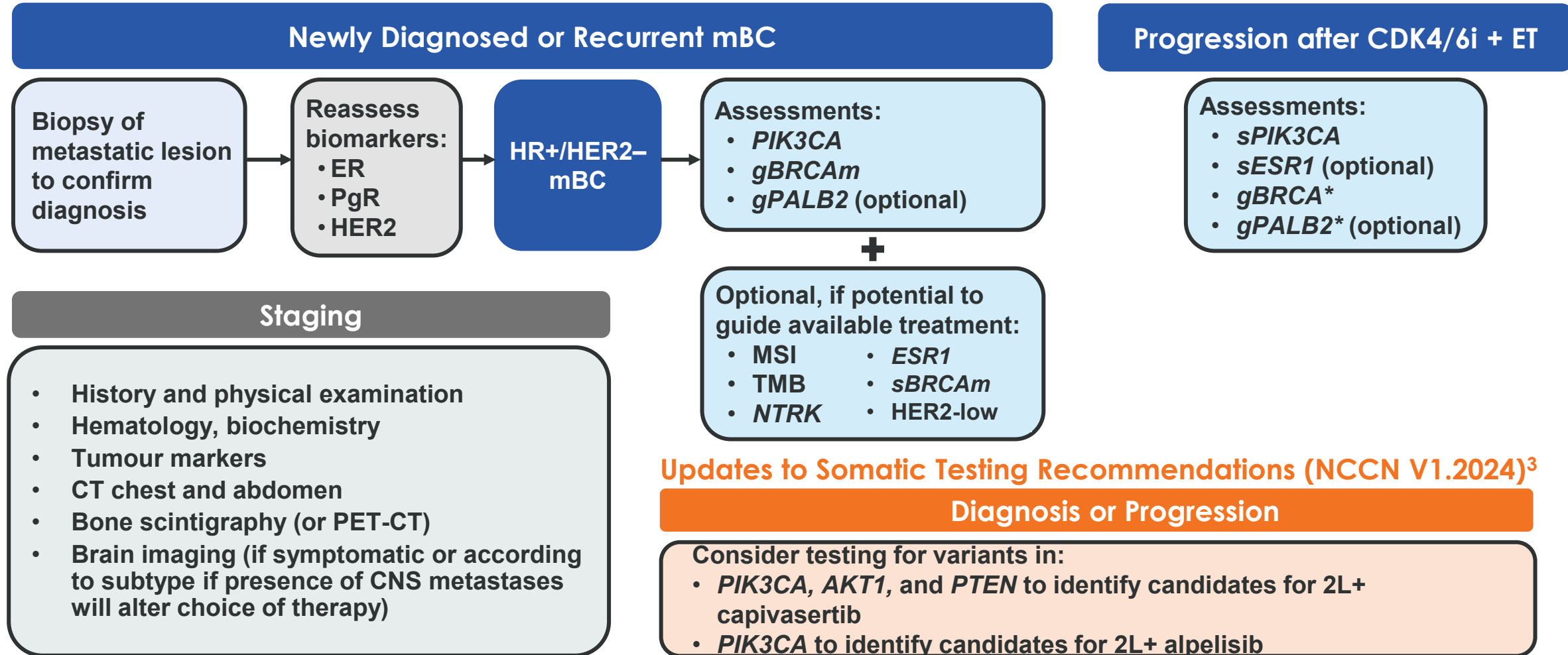
9. Modi S, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2022;387:9–20

# Dominant Pathways in HR+ HER2- Breast Cancer



# Diagnostic Work-up and Staging of HR+/HER2– mBC

## ESMO Clinical Practice Guidelines 2023



Adapted from Gennari A, et al. and the ESMO Metastatic Breast Cancer Living Guideline v1.1. See slide notes for abbreviations.

\* If not assessed previously.

1. Gennari A, et al. Ann Oncol. 2. ESMO Metastatic Breast Cancer Living Guideline | ESMO. May 2023. 3. National Comprehensive Cancer Network®. NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®). Breast Cancer. Version 1.2024. Published online Jan. 25, 2024.



# Mutation diagnostics in MBC:

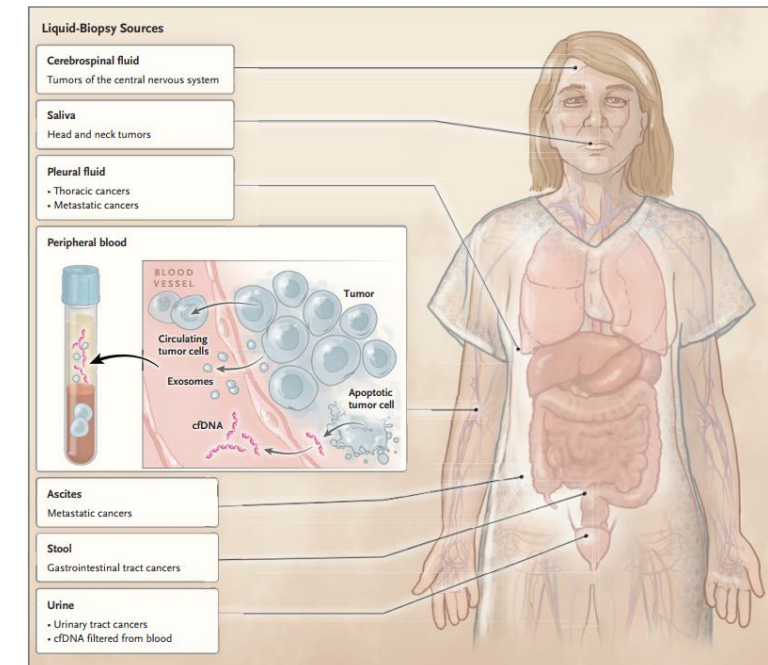
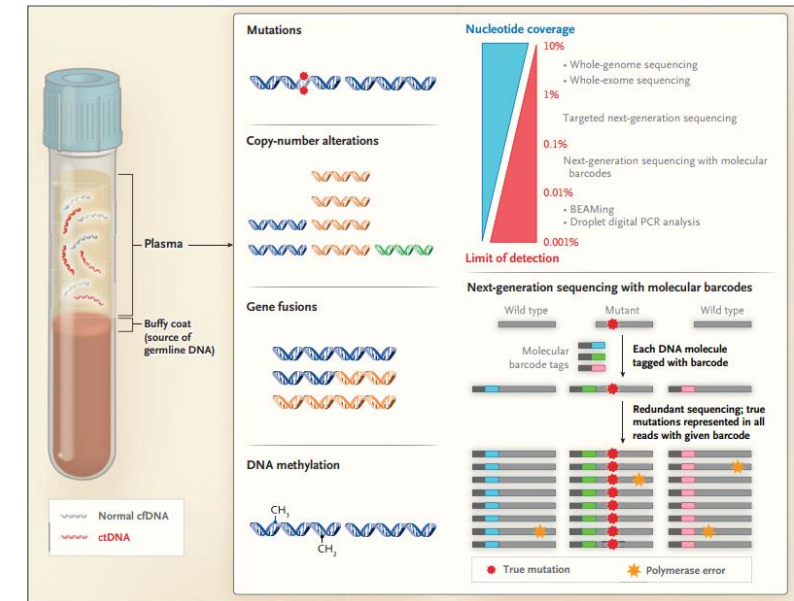
## “Precision medicine” for targeted therapies

Altered genes	Therapeutic relevance	Gene region	Material	Oxford		
				LOE	GR	AGO
BRCA1/2	Olaparib			1b	A	++
	Olaparib			2b	B	+
PALB2	Olaparib			2b	B	+
PIK3CA	Alpelisib		Plasma	1b	A	++
AKT1, PTEN, PI3KCA	Capivasertib		Plasma	1b	A	+
ESR1	Resistance against AI	Exons 4, 7 and 8	Metastases, plasma	2b	B	+
	Response to elacestrant		Metastases, plasma	1b	B	++
NTRK gene fusion	Larotrectinib, entrectinib	Fusion- and splice variants	Tumor tissue, particularly secretory breast cancer	2a	B	+
MSI	Pembrolizumab	Microsatellite-instability	Tissue	2a	B	+

- There are now various predictive biomarkers in breast cancer
- Testing SHOULD BE standard in breast cancer
- Testing historically tied to drug funding in Canada

# How Can We Assess Molecular Alterations?

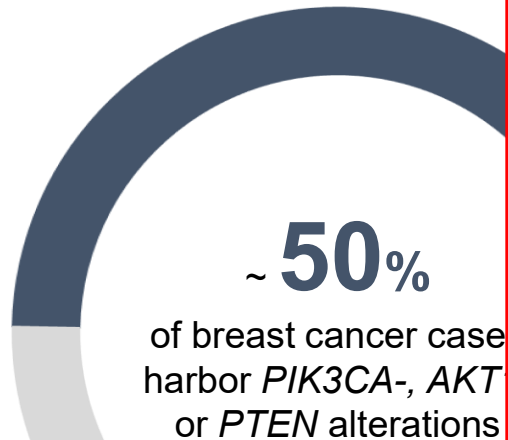
- Can assess
  - Tumor-tissue
  - “liquid-biopsy” such as changes in blood
    - ctDNA: circulating tumor DNA: part of DNA derived from tumors
- Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS): high-throughput sequencing platform
  - Multiple different platforms
    - Such as Illumina, IonTorrent
  - Can use different panels (few genes to hundreds of genes, whole exomes, whole genome) on tissue/other specimens.
    - FoundationOne<sup>®</sup>, Oncomine – many panels, TSO 500
- ddPCR: checking for specific mutations in a gene via PCR



# Early Events - PI3K signaling pathway alterations

## PI3K pathway alterations

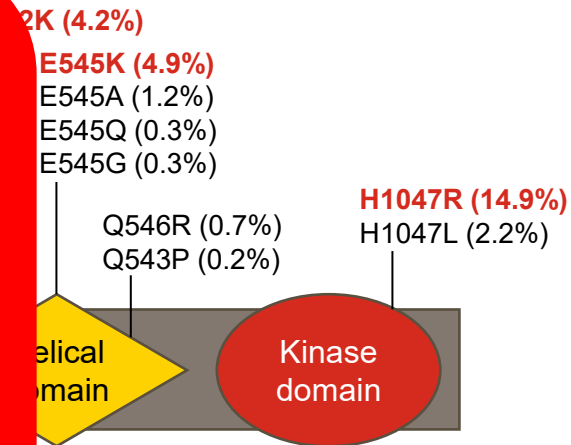
All, composite (N=19,784)



## P1K3CA and PTEN mutations

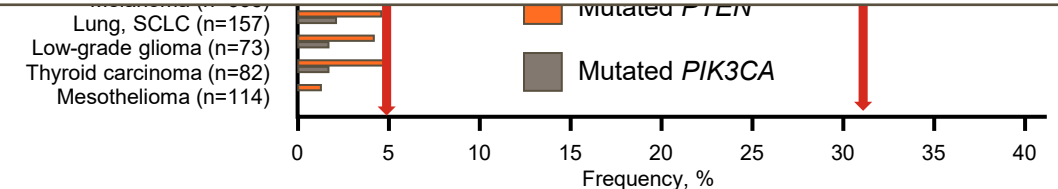
All, composite (N=19,784)

*PIK3CA* mutations mainly occur in luminal and HER2+ tumors



- ❓ There are many different testing methods available
- ❓ The advantages and disadvantages of the respective assays need to be precisely balanced
  - Sensitivity
  - Cost
  - Turnaround time

qPCR, NGS



# CAPItello-291: Capivasertib + fulvestrant in HR+, HER2- ABC

## Objective

- To analyze the efficacy and safety of administering capivasertib in combination with fulvestrant vs placebo + fulvestrant in patients with HR+, HER2- locally advanced (inoperable) or metastatic BC

### Key inclusion criteria

- HR+, HER2- ABC
- Men and pre/postmenopausal women
- PD with prior AI<sup>a</sup> or recurrence at ≤12 mo of EOT with adjuvant AI
- ET (≤2 lines) and CT (≤1 line)<sup>a</sup>
- Prior exposure to CDK4/6i<sup>b</sup> allowed
- No prior SERD, mTORi, PI3Ki or AKTi
- FFPE sample from primary/recurrent tumor (N=708)

R  
1:  
1

**Capivasertib 400 mg BID 4 days on/3 days off + fulvestrant 500 mg C1 D1, 15 then q4w**  
(n=355)

### Stratification

- Prior CDK4/6i
- Presence of liver metastases
- Geographical region

**Placebo + fulvestrant 500 mg C1 D1, 15 then q4w**  
(n=353)

### Primary endpoint

- ♦ PFS (investigator assessed; overall and AKT pathway-altered tumors)

### Secondary endpoints

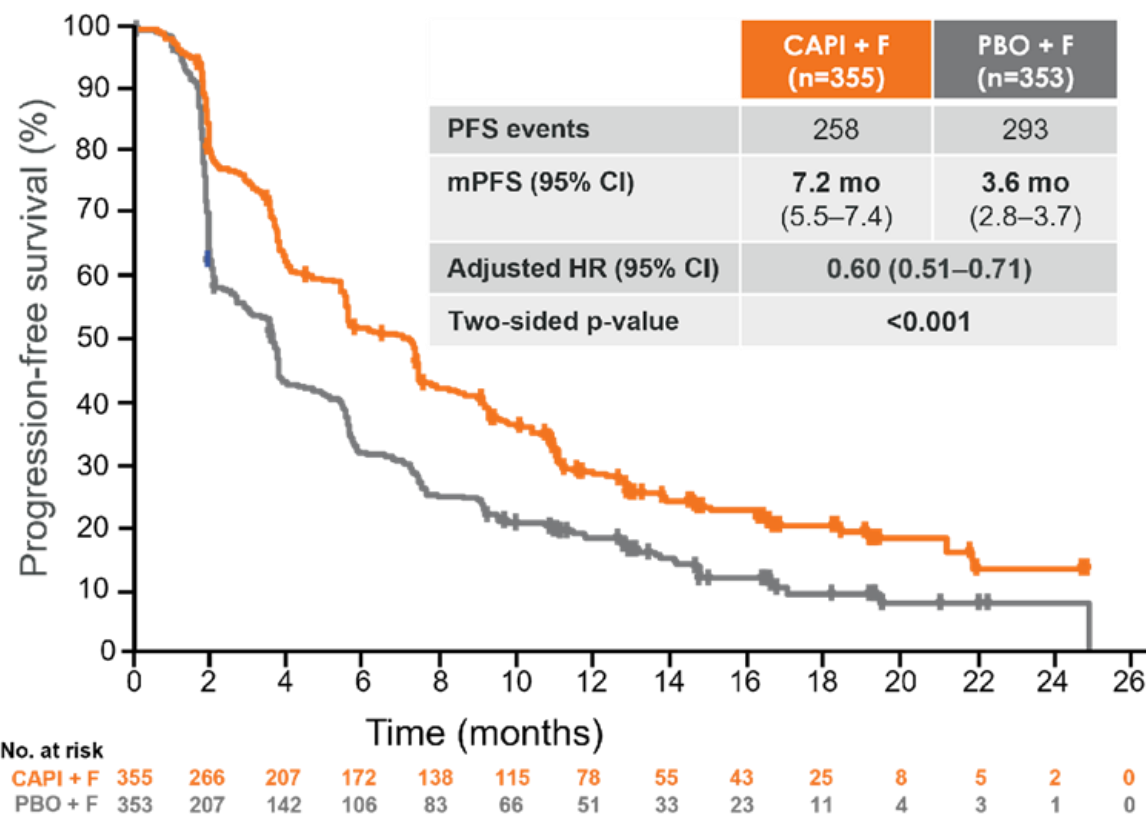
- ♦ OS, ORR (overall and AKT pathway-altered tumors)

<sup>a</sup>In the ABC setting. <sup>b</sup>Requirement of ≥51%.

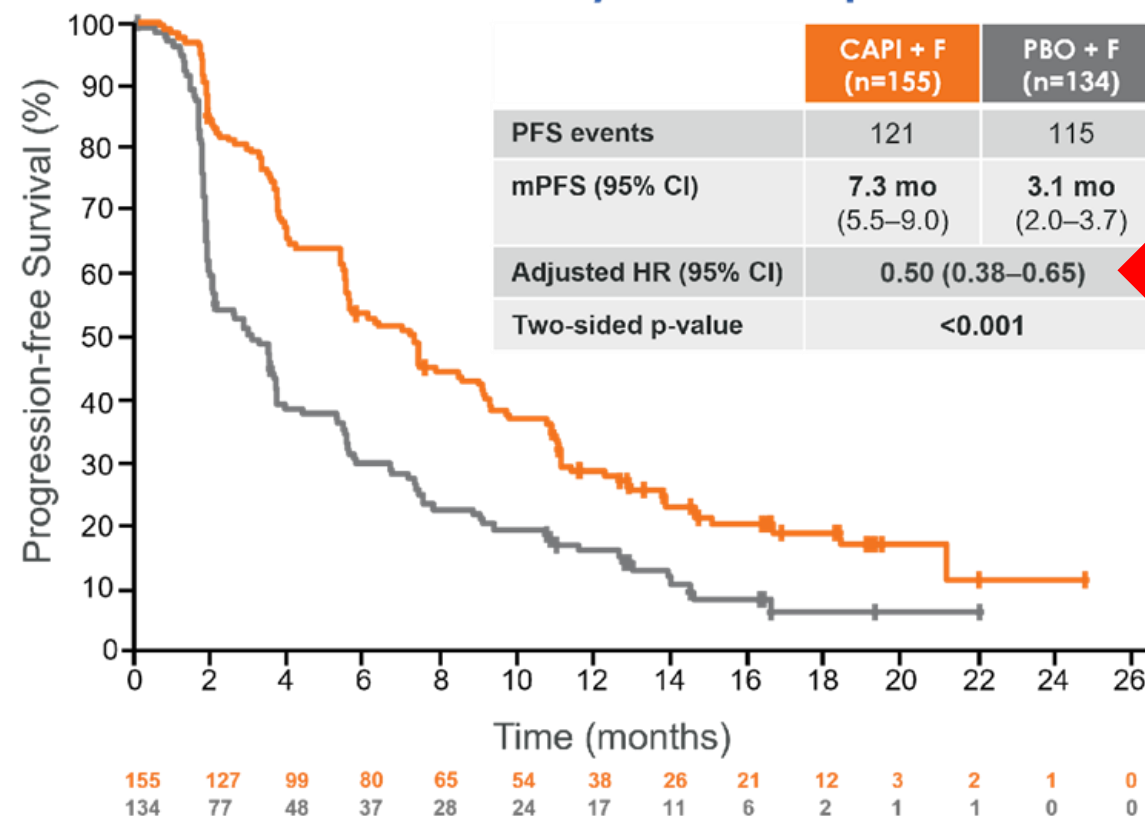
1. Turner NC, et al. SABCS 2022. Abstract GS3-04. 2. Turner NC, et al. N Engl J Med. 2023;388(22):2058-2070.

# CAPItello-291: Progression-free Survival

## Overall Population



## AKT Pathway-altered Population



### PFS by subgroup in the overall population: CDK4/6i use

Prior CDK4/6i (n=496)	HR, 0.59 (95% CI, 0.48–0.72)
CDK4/6-naïve (n=212)	HR, 0.64 (95% CI, 0.45–0.90)

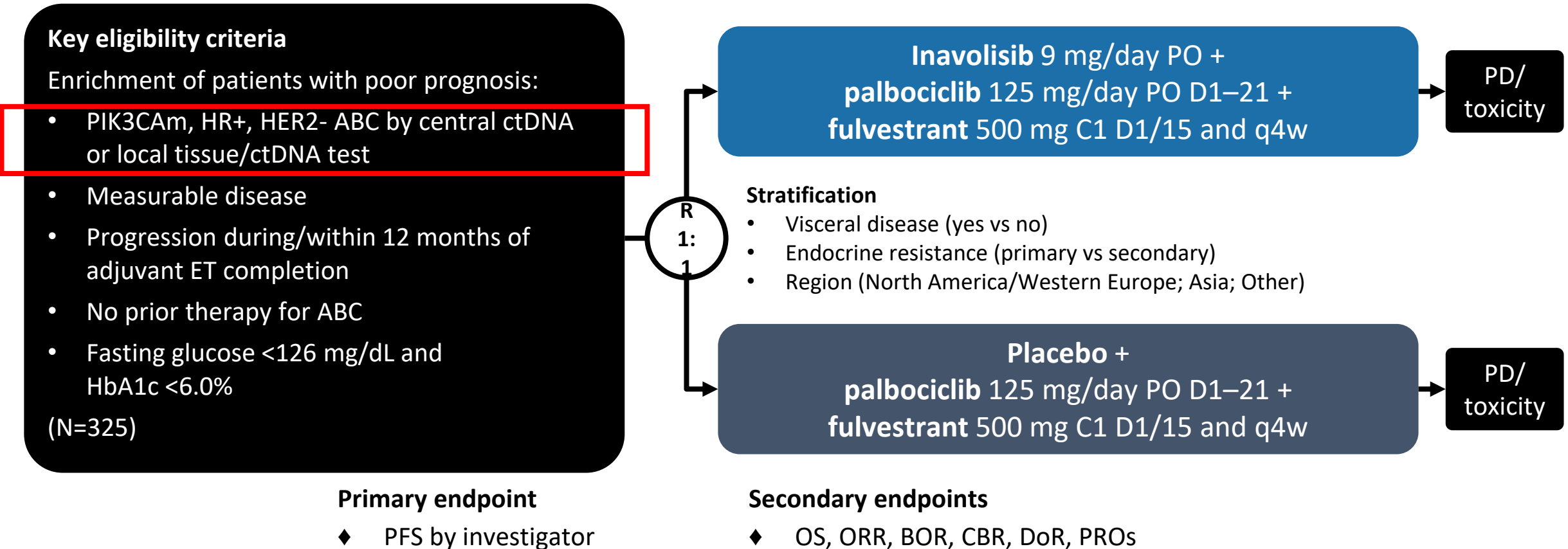
Tick marks indicate censored data. HR was estimated using the Cox proportional hazard model stratified by the presence of liver metastases, prior use of CDK4/6 inhibitor, and geographic region. CAPI, capivasertib; F, fulvestrant. See speaker notes for full abbreviations; mPFS, median progression-free survival; PBO, placebo.

1. Turner NC, et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2023;388:2058-2070. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2214131.

# INAVO120: Inavolisib + palbociclib + fulvestrant in HR+, HER2-, PIK3CAm ABC

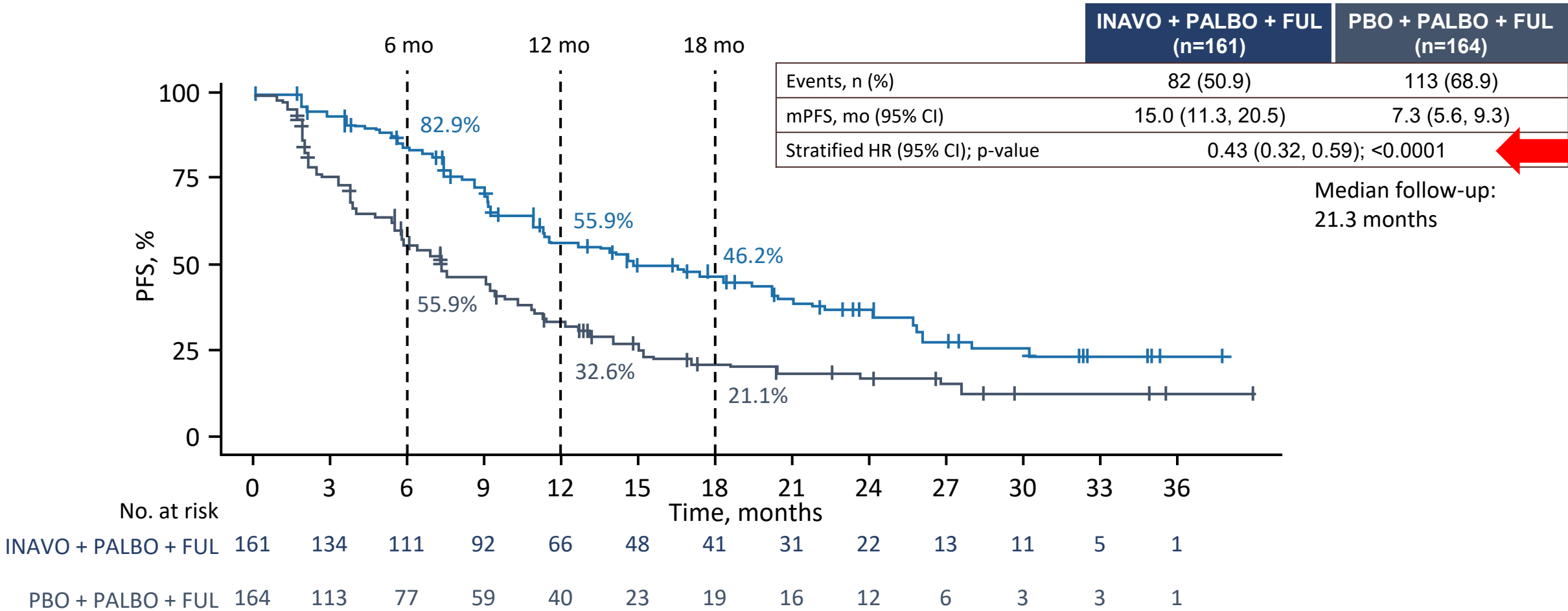
## Objective

- To evaluate the efficacy and safety of inavolisib + palbociclib + fulvestrant in patients with PIK3CAm, HR+, HER2- ABC in the Phase 3 INAVO120 study



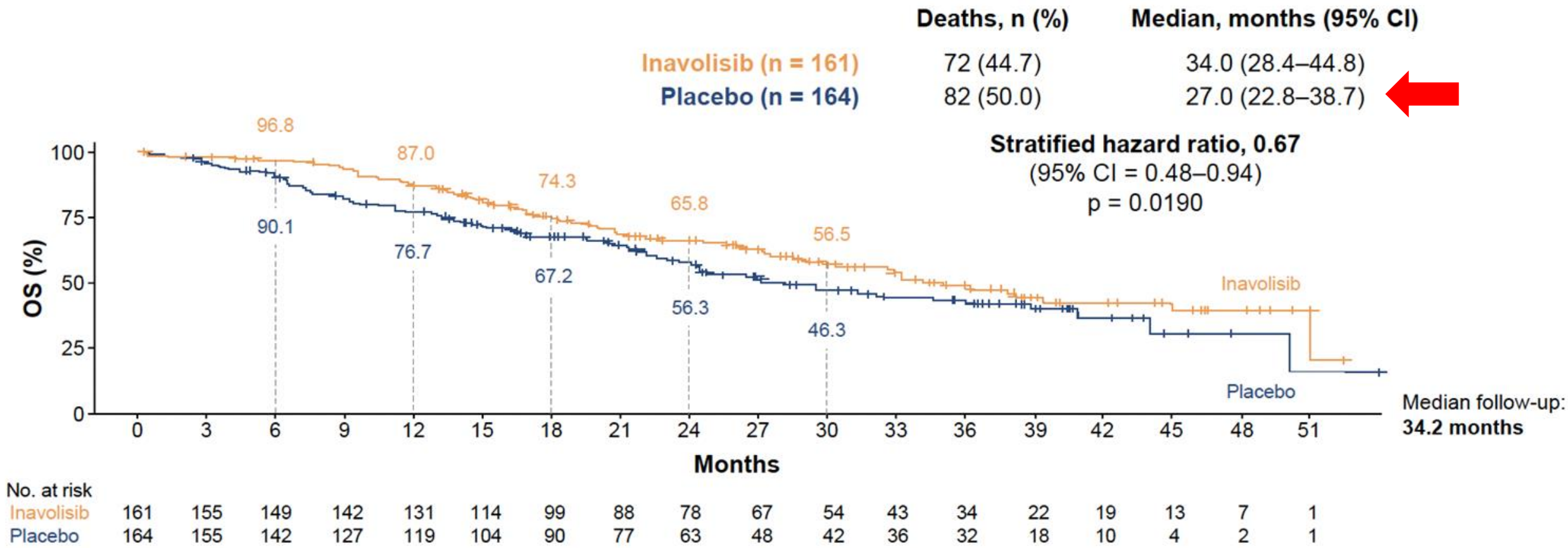
# INAVO120: Inavolisib + palbociclib + fulvestrant in HR+, HER2-, PIK3CAm ABC

Progression-free survival (investigator assessed)





# INAVO120 key secondary endpoint: OS



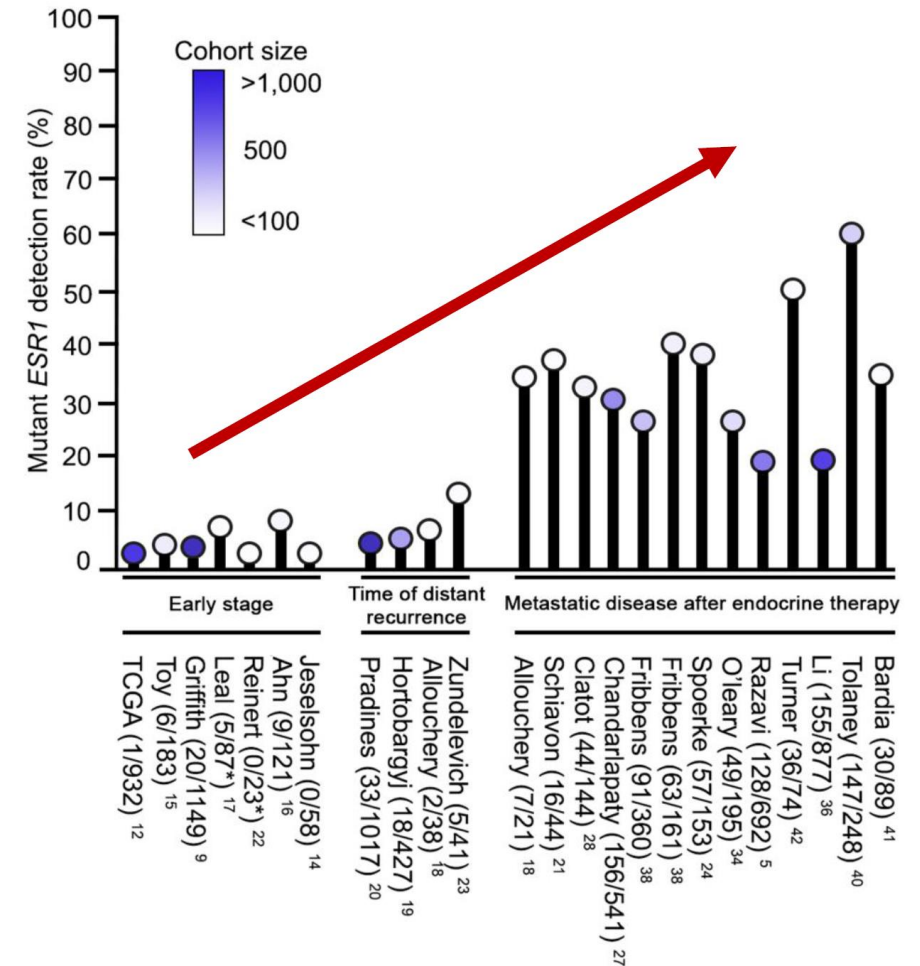
Improvement in median OS: 7 months. The prespecified boundary for statistical significance (p < 0.0469) was crossed

Data cutoff: November 15, 2024.  
CI, confidence interval; OS, overall survival. © Copyright 2025.

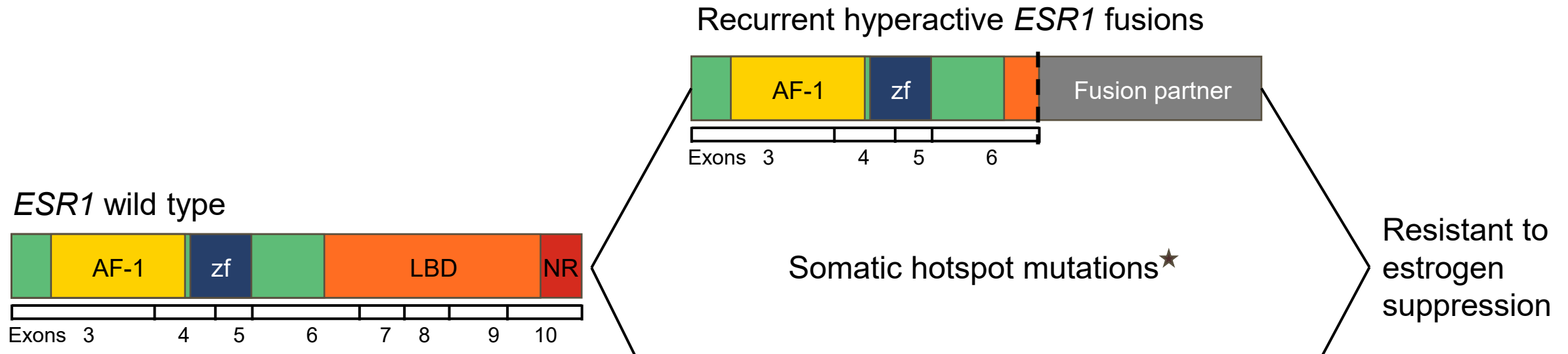


# Acquired Resistance - ESR1 mutations

- Rare in **primary** tumors (**0–3%**)
  - Relatively common in **metastatic** endocrine therapy-resistant breast cancer (**6–55%**)
  - Prevalence depends on
    - Detection sensitivity
    - Prior endocrine therapy exposure
      - 5-10% at the time of diagnosis of metastatic disease
      - As high as 55% with multiple lines of endocrine therapy.
- Suggests selection of mutated clones through treatment
- Best to test upon progression of disease rather than primary or at diagnosis sample.



# ESR1 alterations



- ❓ In breast cancer, different alterations can be found
- ❓ More than one alteration = worse prognosis
- ❓ *ESR1* testing material: liquid biopsy

AF-1, activation function-1; LBD, ligand-binding domain; NR, nuclear receptor C-terminal; zf, zinc factor.

1. Piscuoglio S, et al. Ann Oncol. 2018;29(4):787-789. 2. <https://www.fda.gov/drugs/resources-information-approved-drugs/fda-approves-elacestrant-er-positive-her2-negative-esr1-mutated-advanced-or-metastatic-breast-cancer>. 3. Liao H, et al. Front Oncol. 2020;10:587671. 4. Fachinformation Orserdu Sept. 2023. 5. Bidard FC, et al. J Clin Oncol. 2022;40(28):3246-3256.

# ctDNA testing in PADA-1 and EMERALD clinical trials

Clinical trial	EMERALD <sup>1</sup>	PADA-1 <sup>1</sup>	EMBER-3 <sup>2</sup>
SERD	Elacestrant	Fulvestrant	Imlunestrant
Assay	Guardant360 <sup>®</sup> CDx	Custom assay	Guardant360 <sup>®</sup> CDx
Platform	NGS	ddPCR	NGS
Reportable range	ESR1 missense mutations between codons 310 and 547	Hotspot codons 380, 536, 537 and 538	ESR1 missense mutations between codons 310 and 547
Multiplex analysis	Yes	Yes	Yes
LOD, %	0.3–1.1	0.0001	0.3–1.1

1. Venetis K, et al. Cancer Treat Rev. 2023;121:102642. 2. Jhaveri K, et al. N Engl J Med. 2024; doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2410858.

# ESR1 ctDNA testing – Methods

PCR-based techniques		NGS-based techniques	
Real-time quantitative (qPCR)			linked target analysis, with deep sequencing, barcoding, and detection
Droplet digital PCR (ddPCR)			performance targeted strategies
Beads, Emulsion, Amplicon and Magnetics (BEAMing)	complex workflow	deep sequencing (CAPP-Seq)	
		Safe sequencing system (Safe-Seq)	

- Key Considerations:
- ❓ NGS allows broader genomic analysis, suitable for multiple oncogene targets
  - ❓ PCR-based methods may be preferable based on cost, availability, and expertise

# ESR1 mutations detected through NGS or ddPCR

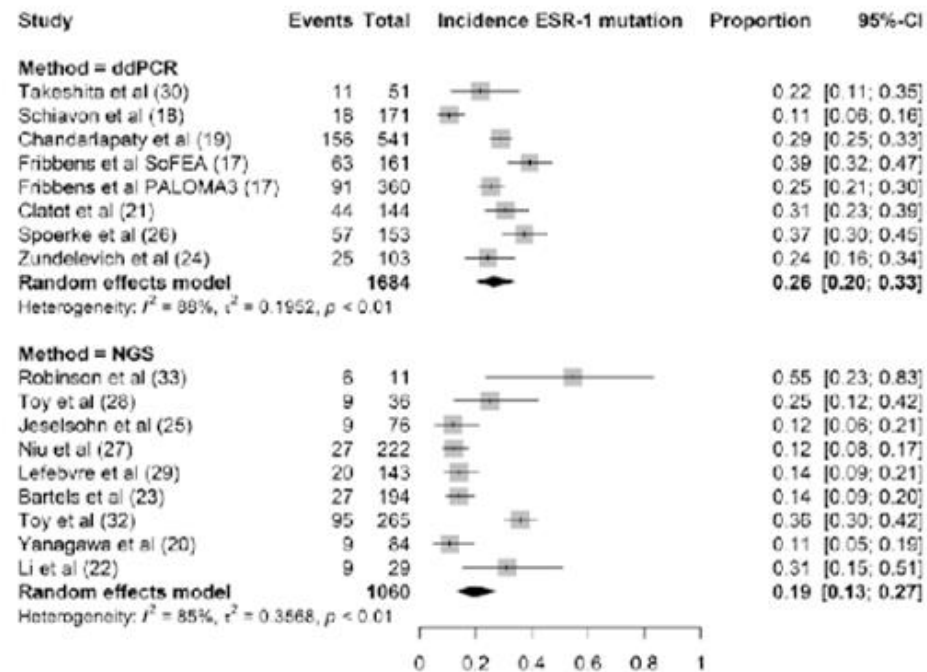
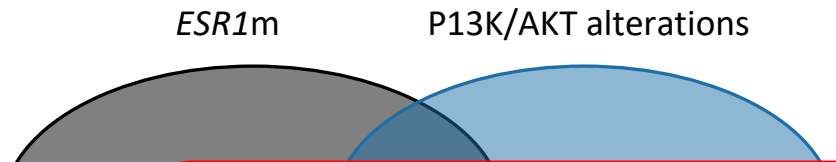


FIGURE 4

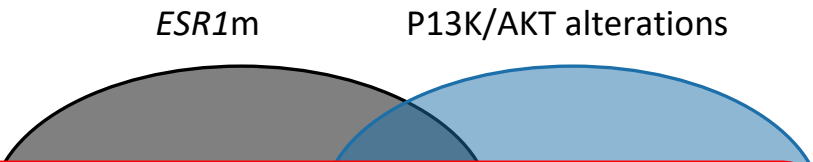
Forest plot of the comparison of the proportion of ESR1 mutation using NGS versus ddPCR techniques. Grey boxes indicate the proportion of ESR1 mutations in each study, with a horizontal line representing the 95% CI. Overall proportion and 95% CI in NGS and ddPCR subgroup is displayed with a black diamond. We found no significant difference in ESR1 mutation incidence between the two techniques ( $P=0.15$ ).

# Co-alterations *ESR1* and PI3K/AKT pathway mutations

*ESR1*m and P13K/AKT pathway alterations co-occurrence in 1L (n=2154)

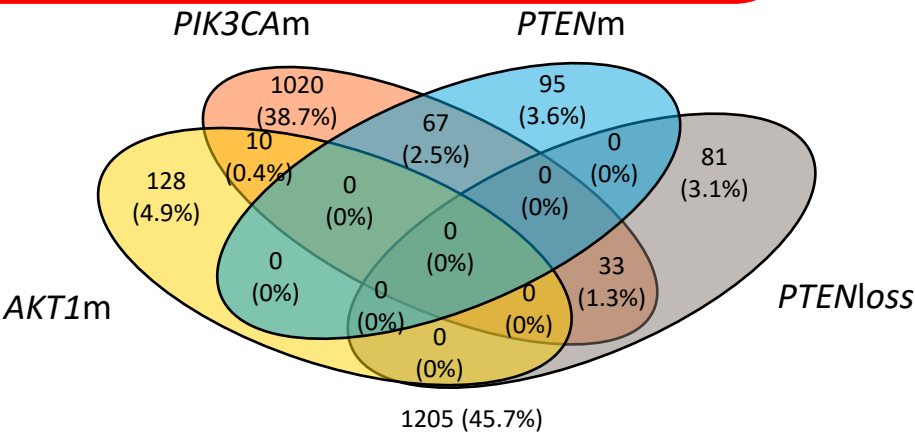
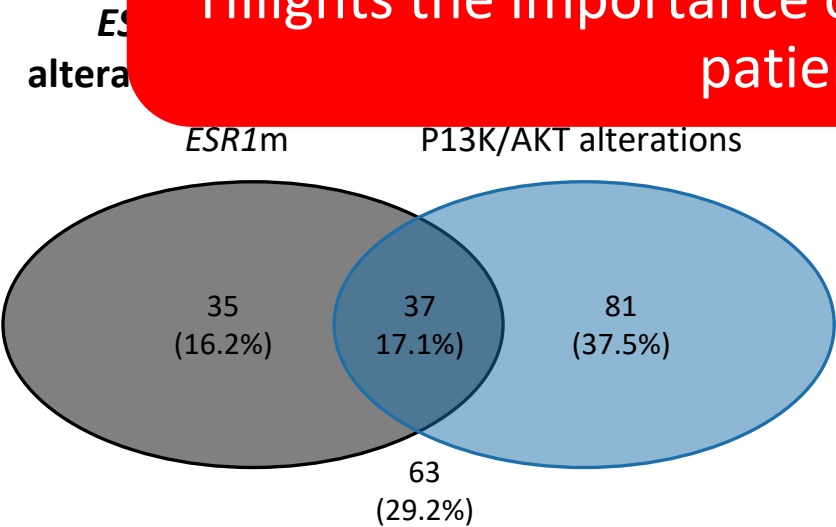


*ESR1*m and P13K/AKT pathway alterations co-occurrence in 2L (n=269)



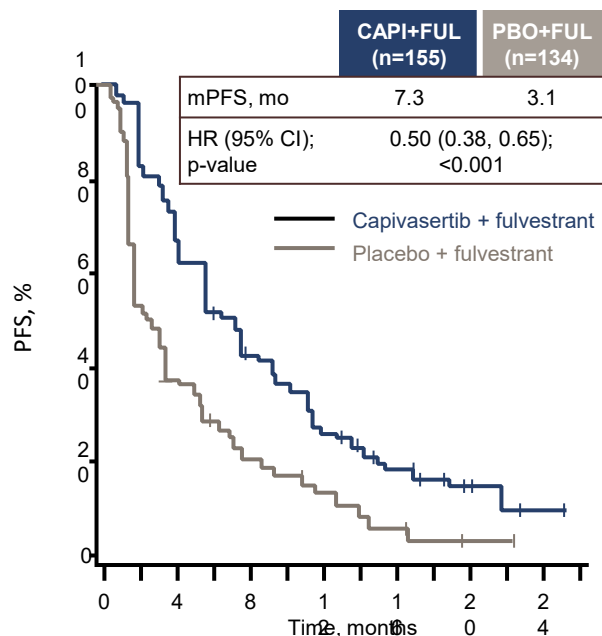
There are many combinations of different mutations in these two signaling pathways alone

Highlights the importance of choosing the right drug for the right patient at the right time

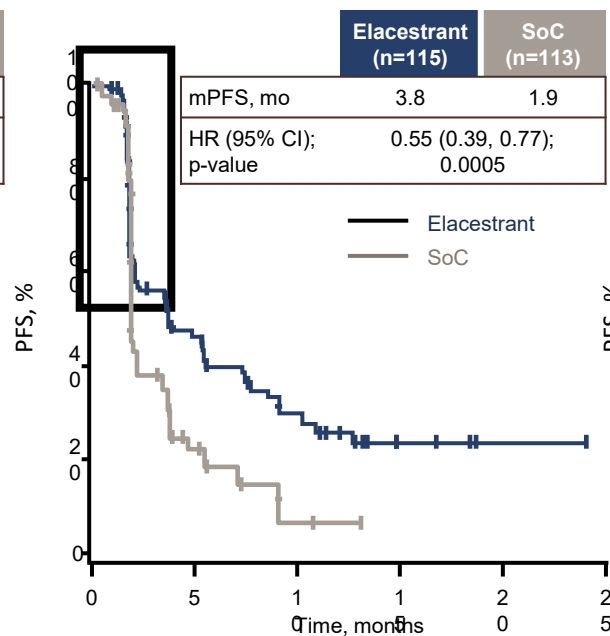


# Significant proportion do not respond to endocrine therapy

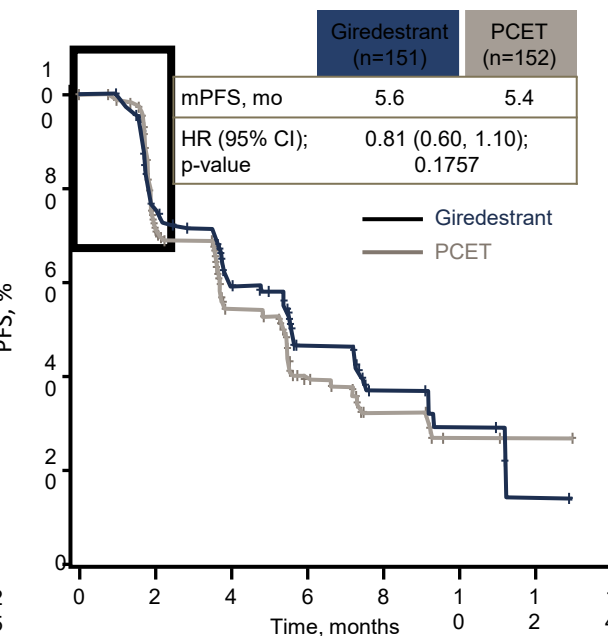
**CAPItello-291**



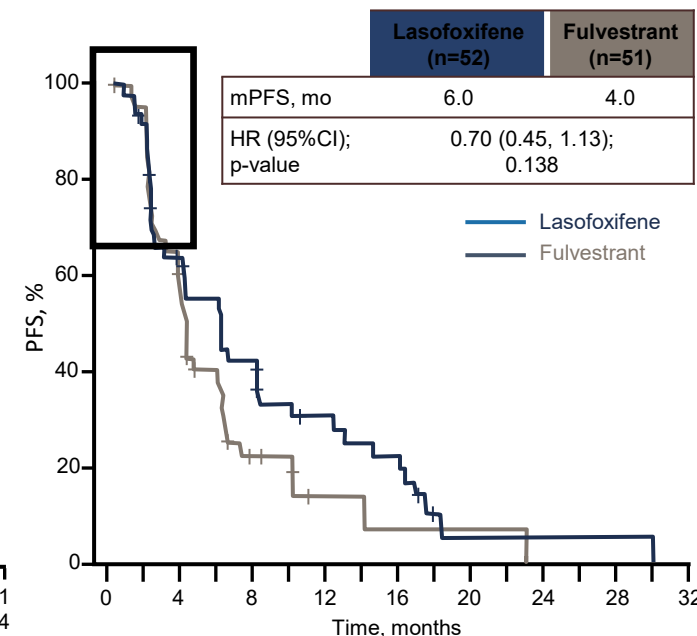
**EMERALD**



**aceIERA**

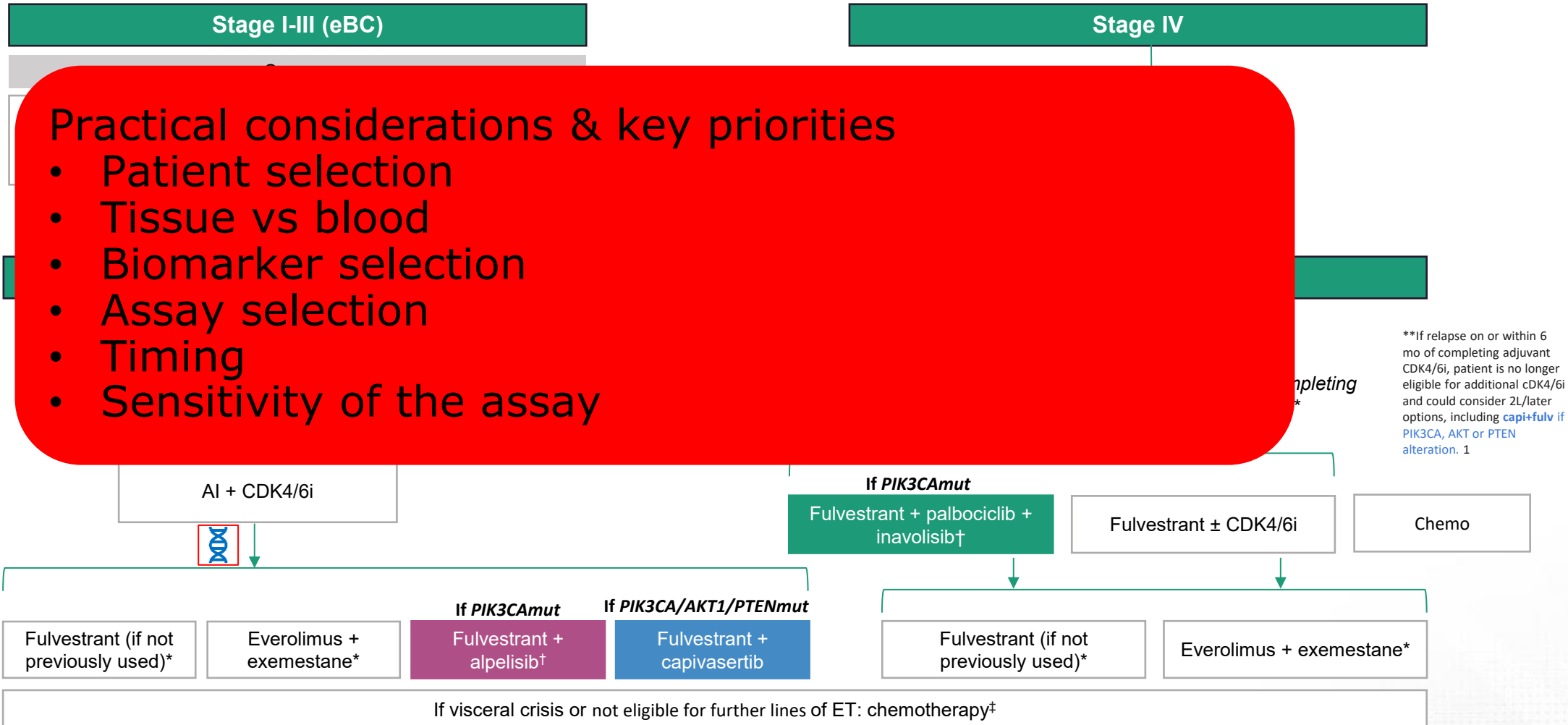


**ELAINE**



- There will be considerable intracellular cross talk between the ER dependent and ER independent pathways of resistance
- Polyclonal resistance is a clinical challenge
- Tumors harboring ESR1 mutations may have subclones harboring concurrent genomic alterations that could mediate ER pathway independent resistance

# Place of PI3K-Pathway Inhibitors in the Current Treatment Landscape for HR+, HER2- Breast Cancer<sup>1-2</sup>



\*Only funded in some provinces; †Not funded; ‡Chemotherapy might be the first choice if visceral crisis is suspected; after adequate response, other choices considered.

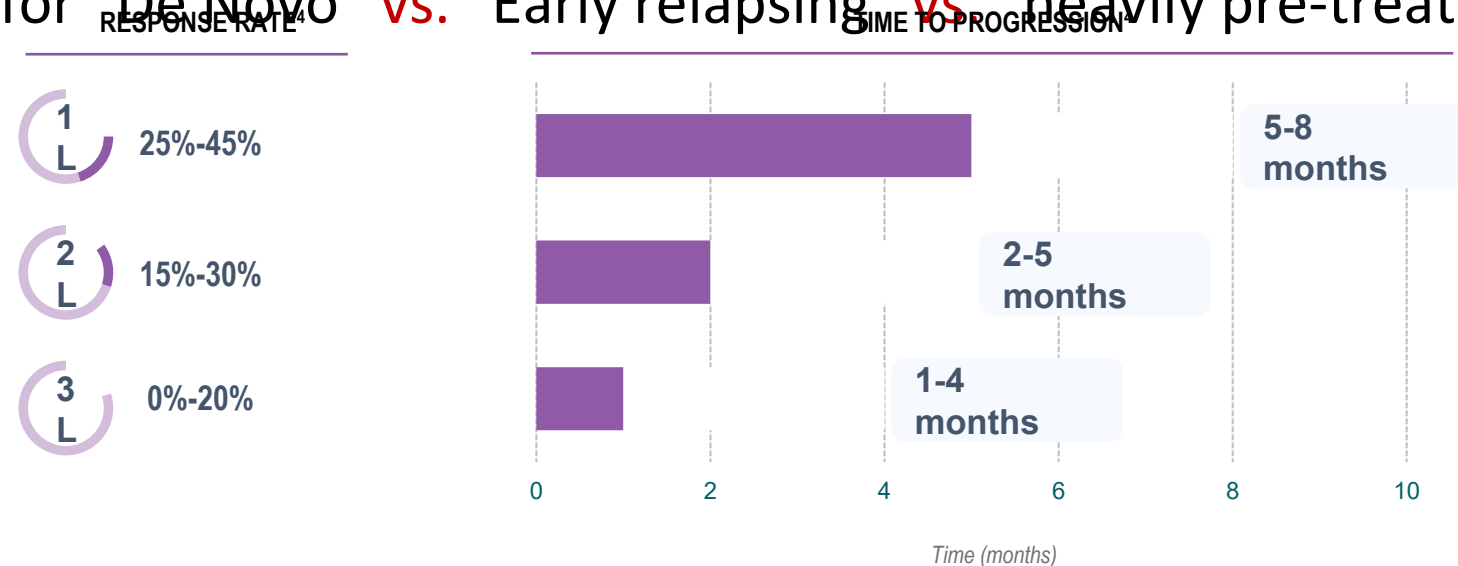
1L: first line; 2L: second line; AI: aromatase inhibitor; AKT: protein kinase B; BRCAmut: breast cancer gene (BRCA1, BRCA2) mutation; CDK4/6i: cyclin dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; CT: chemotherapy; eBC: early breast cancer; ET: endocrine therapy; mBC: metastatic breast cancer; PIK3CA: phosphatidylinositol-4,5-bisphosphate 3-kinase catalytic subunit alpha; PTEN: phosphatase and tensin homolog.

1. CADTH Provisional Funding Algorithm. HR+, HER2- Breast Cancer. December 2024; 2. Jerzak et al. Curr Oncol. 2023;30:5425-47.



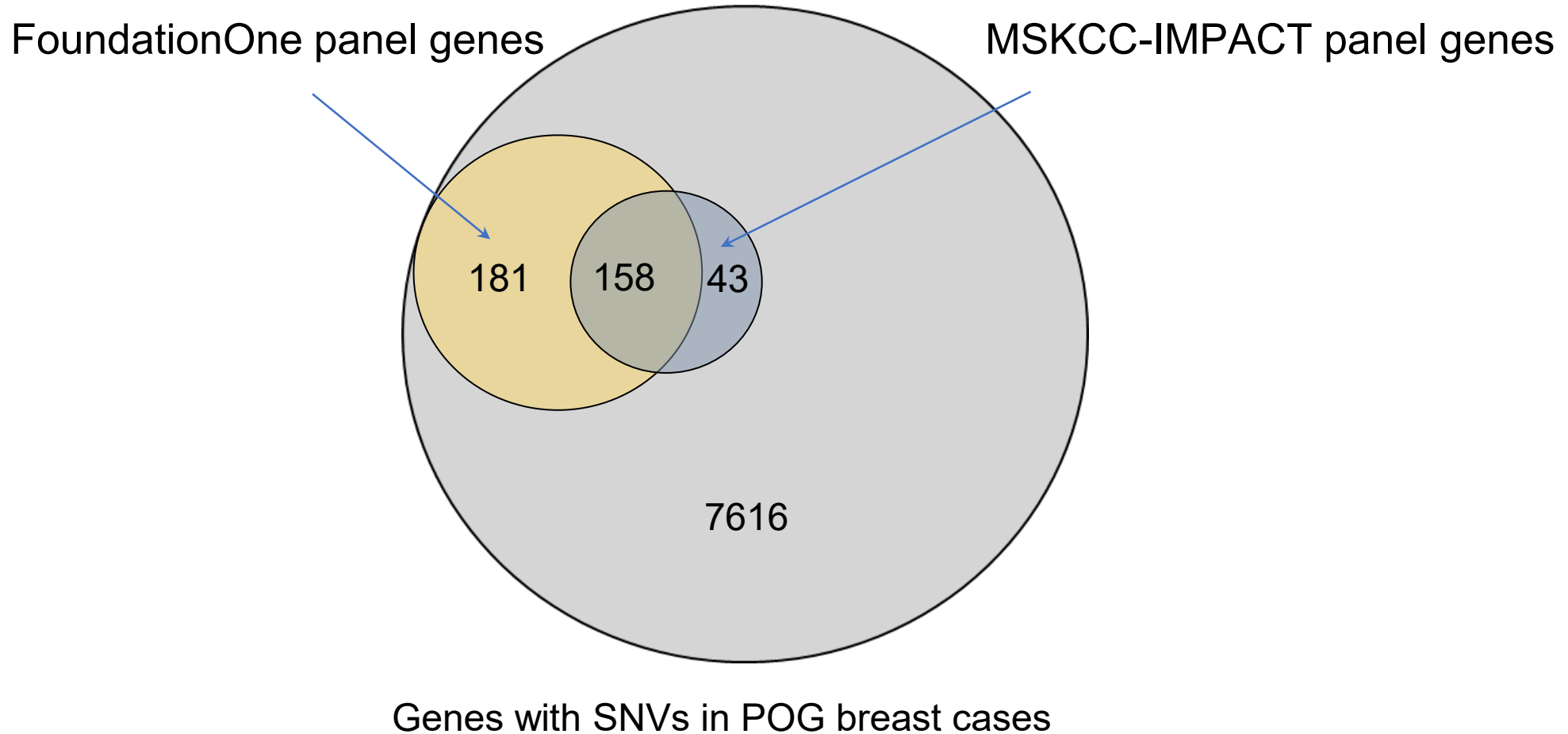
# Triple Negative Breast Cancer (TNBC) – An Unmet Need

- For metastatic TNBC, current chemotherapeutic options are administered as rapid consecutive lines and are associated with poor long-term disease control and toxicities<sup>1-3</sup>
- Duration of treatment, response rates, and time to progression all diminish as line of chemotherapy increases<sup>4</sup>
- Variable course for “De Novo” vs. “Early relapsing” vs. “heavily pre-treated first-line”

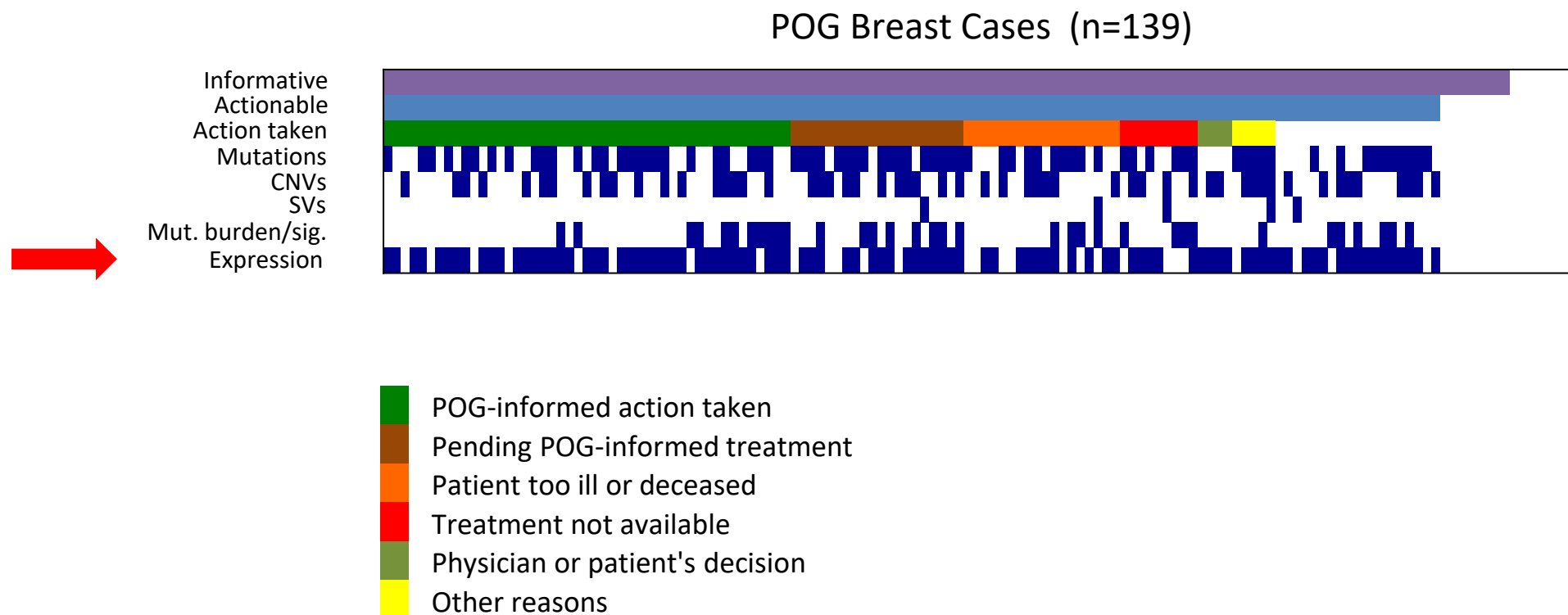


# Personalized Oncogenomics Program in BC

## Whole Genome vs Gene Panels in Breast Cancer (n=139)



# RNA/DNA support for Actionable Findings



# MRD monitoring can detect recurrence prior to radiological detection

- MRD detection is strongly associated with disease recurrence<sup>1</sup>
- Might allow for identification of individuals at highest risk of metastatic recurrence, for whom escalated therapies may have the greatest potential benefit<sup>2</sup>
- Recurrence can be detected in the blood by MRD  $\geq 7$  months before it is radiologically evident<sup>2,3</sup>

## Current and Potential Uses of ctDNA in EBC<sup>4</sup>

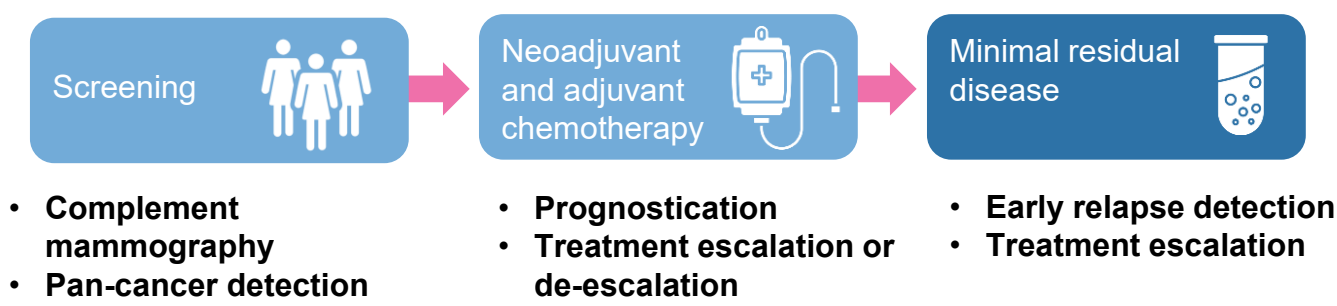
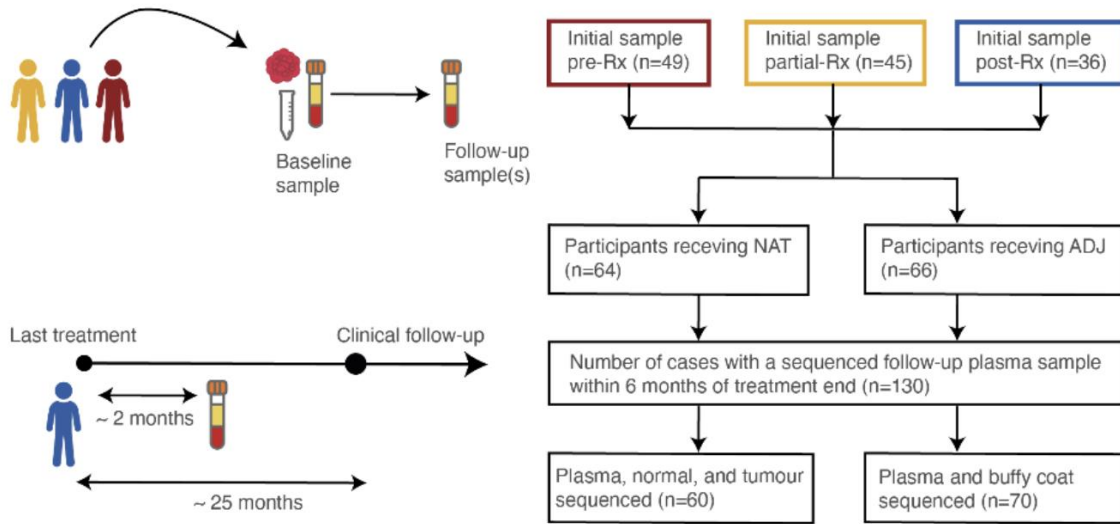


Figure adapted from Panet et al with permission.<sup>4</sup>

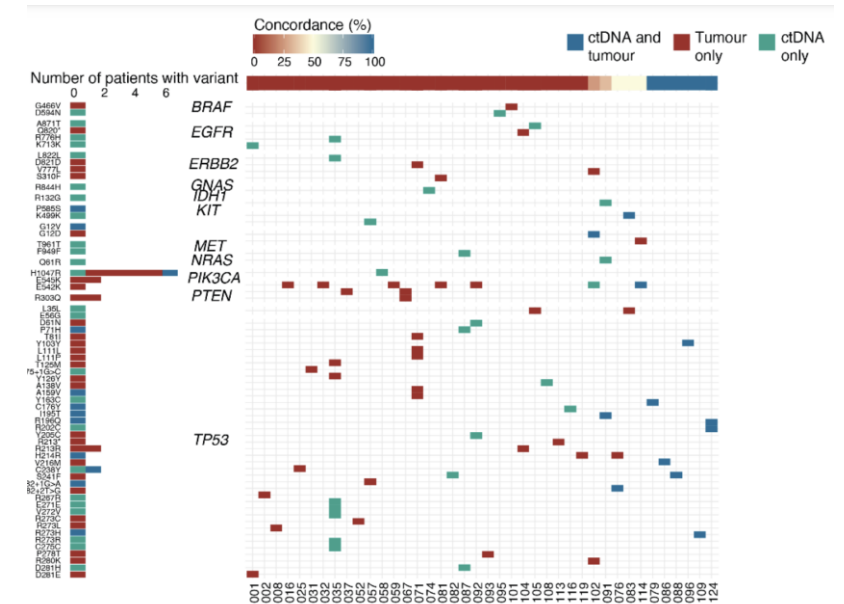
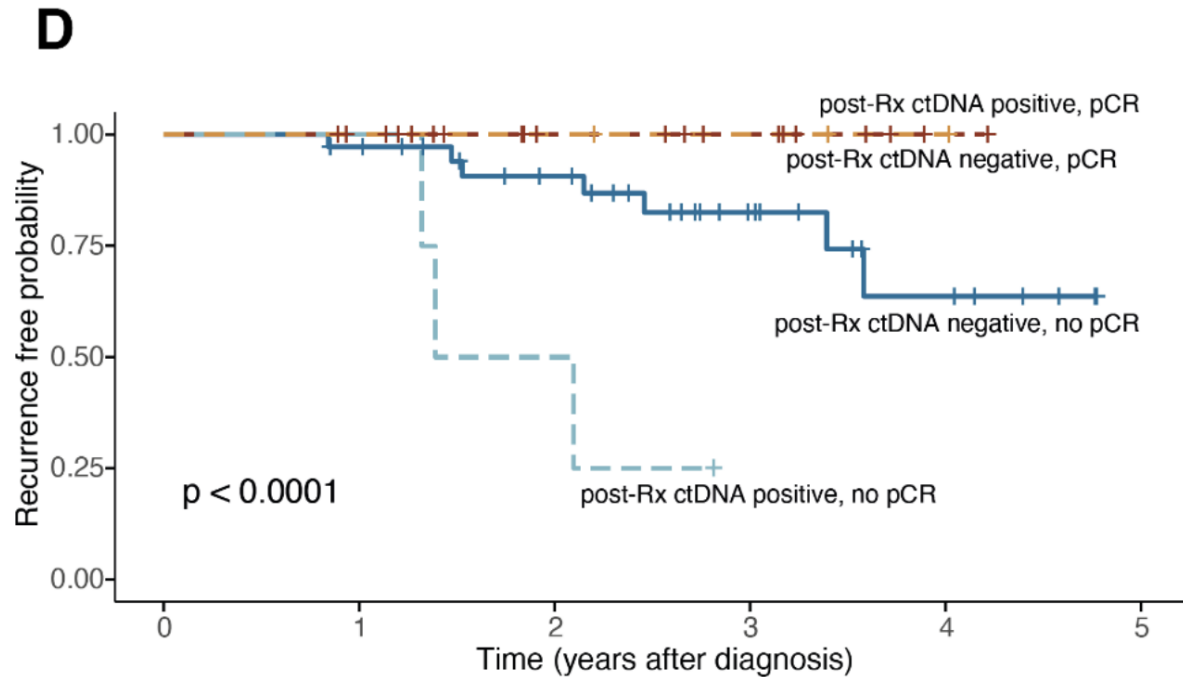
Trial	Treatment
ZEST (phase 3) <sup>5</sup>	Niraparib in patients with ctDNA+, BRCA-mutated BC or TNBC
c-TRAK-TN (phase 2) <sup>6</sup>	Pembrolizumab in patients with ctDNA+ TNBC
LEADER (phase 2) <sup>7</sup>	Ribociclib in patients with ER+ disease
KAN-HER2 MRD (phase 2) <sup>8</sup>	Neratinib + ado-trastuzumab emtansine in patients with HER2+ MRD
DARE (phase 2) <sup>9</sup>	Adjuvant SOC or palbociclib + fulvestrant in patients with ER+ HER2– disease

BC, breast cancer; ctDNA, circulating tumor DNA; EBC, early breast cancer; ER, endocrine receptor; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; MRD, minimal residual disease; SOC, standard of care; TNBC, triple-negative breast cancer.  
**References:** 1. Medford AJ et al. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2023;29(22):4540-4548. 2. Cescon DW et al. *Front Oncol.* 2022;11:667397. 3. Spring LM et al. *npj Breast Cancer.* 2025;11:2. 4. Panet F et al. *npj Breast Cancer.* 2024;10:50. 5. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT04915755. Accessed March 3, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT04915755> 6. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT03145961. Accessed March 3, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT03145961> 7. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT03285412. Accessed March 3, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT03285412> 8. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT05388149. Accessed March 3, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT05388149> 9. Clinicaltrials.gov. NCT04567420. Accessed March 3, 2025. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/study/NCT04567420>

# ctDNA in Early Stage TNBC



- Added value for response monitoring and prognosis in TNBC
- 7.7% had detectable residual disease with a hotspot panel
- positive ctDNA within 7 months of treatment completion were at risk of reduced progression free survival



# Even with precision medicine & novel therapeutics on the horizon, challenges remain

- Equitable access to broad scale testing
- Overcoming drug resistance
- Optimizing and personalizing therapeutics
  - There is no reliable blood-based monitoring after curative intent therapy
  - Radiographic evaluation is performed only in response to symptoms

Exploring new targeted treatment options, improving drug delivery, combining drug classes and earlier implementation of effective screening strategies are potential future research directions for breast cancer

# Questions



Provincial Health Services Authority