



# Immune Conjugates in Breast Cancer

Hannah Linden MD FACP

# **“Prediction #1: “The era of HER2 is almost over.”**

We will always have patients relapsing with HER2-positive disease, and this will require novel therapies. But from a public health standpoint, I believe HER2 is almost over.”

*George Sledge MD ASCO Past President, ASCO post reporting of ASCO Breast Symposium 2013*



# **“Why your preferred targeted drugs may become unaffordable:**

Optimal duration, [of Trastuzumab], is poorly defined... both in Advanced and Early disease... with a significant economic impact in the adjuvant setting where the drug is arbitrarily given for 1 year”

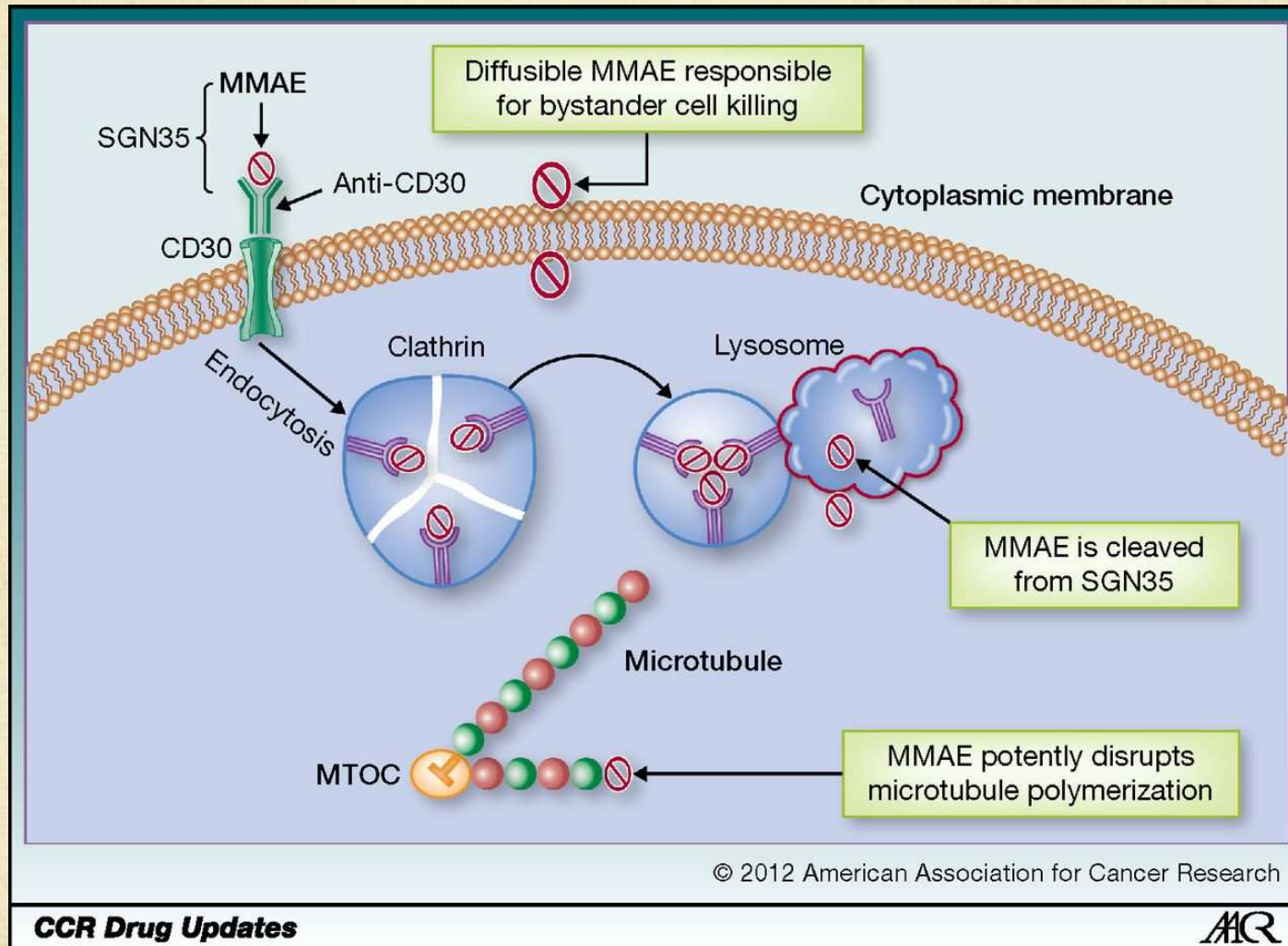
*Martine J Piccart* President European Society for Medical Oncology (ESMO) [Cancer Res.](#) 2013 Oct 1;73(19):5849-51

# Outline

- Immune Conjugates in solid tumors
- Context in Breast Cancer
- Recent data
- Pending data
- Unanswered questions
- Future directions



# Mechanism of action of Brentuximab Vedotin.



Deng C et al. Clin Cancer Res  
2013;19:22-27

# Brentuximab vedotin (SGN-35)

FDA approved indications

*profoundly changes how we manage CD30-positive lymphoproliferative malignancies*

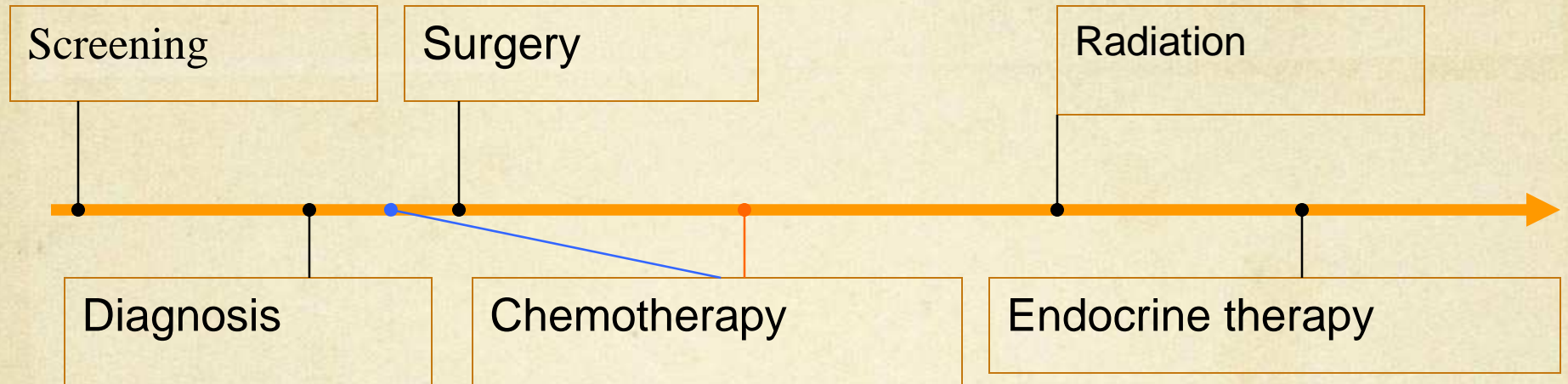
- 1. Relapsed Hodgkin lymphoma
  - Post autologous stem-cell transplantation (ASCT),
  - or after two multidrug regimens in patients with Hodgkin lymphoma who are not candidates for ASCT; and
- 2. patients with systemic anaplastic large cell lymphoma (ALCL) who failed at least one prior multidrug chemotherapy regimen.
- Markedly high response rates for a single agent, exceeding 70% and 80% for Hodgkin lymphoma and ALCL, respectively.
- Complete response rate was equally as impressive, at 34% and 57% for Hodgkin lymphoma and ALCL, respectively



# TDM-1, trastuzumab emtansine

- A potent, low toxicity “targeted” therapy for HER2 positive breast cancer
  - And probably other HER2 positive tumors
  - Promising data in gastric cancer
- Effective alone, and in synergy with other chemo and immune therapies
- Currently FDA approved for salvage treatment of HER2 positive breast cancer which has progressed on trastuzumab, and following taxane, anthracycline exposure
- Testing in earlier lines of therapy is underway to determine optimal timing, sequencing, synergies.

# Diagnosis and Treatment



Neoadjuvant,

Adjuvant,

Preventative

Exam,  
Mammography  
(Screening and  
Diagnostic)  
Genetic testing?  
MRI

Lumpectomy or  
Mastectomy;  
Sentinel Node  
Biopsy +/- Axillary  
Node dissection  
Reconstruction



# Breast Cancer Staging



- High risk

- 0

- I

- II

- III

- IV

- Atypical Ductal (or Lobular )  
Hyperplasia, Lobular Carcinoma in situ

- Ductal Carcinoma in Situ (DCIS)

- No Lymph node involvement

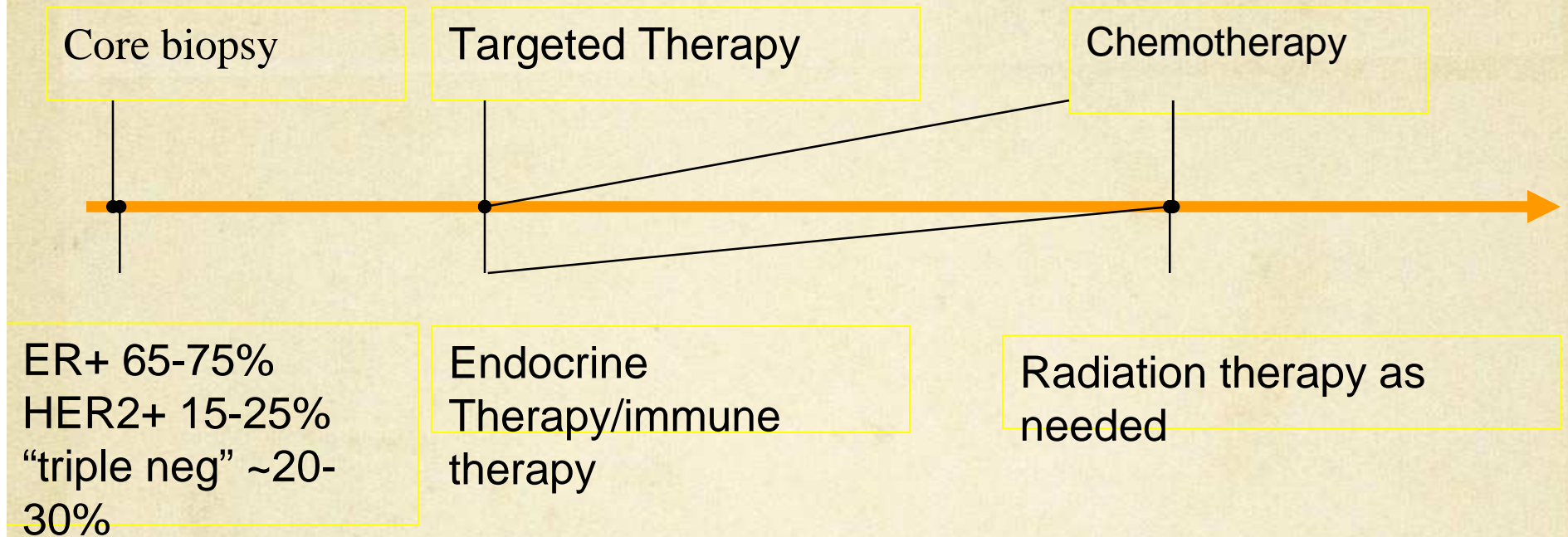
- >2cm

- Lymph node involvement

- Very large Tumor, Deep/fixed Nodes, or  
Skin involved

- Cancer in sites other than Breast and  
Nodes, locally

## Stage IV Diagnosis and Treatment



*Heterogeneity,  
between primary tumor  
and metastatic biopsy  
is seen in ~ 15-20%*

All Palliative

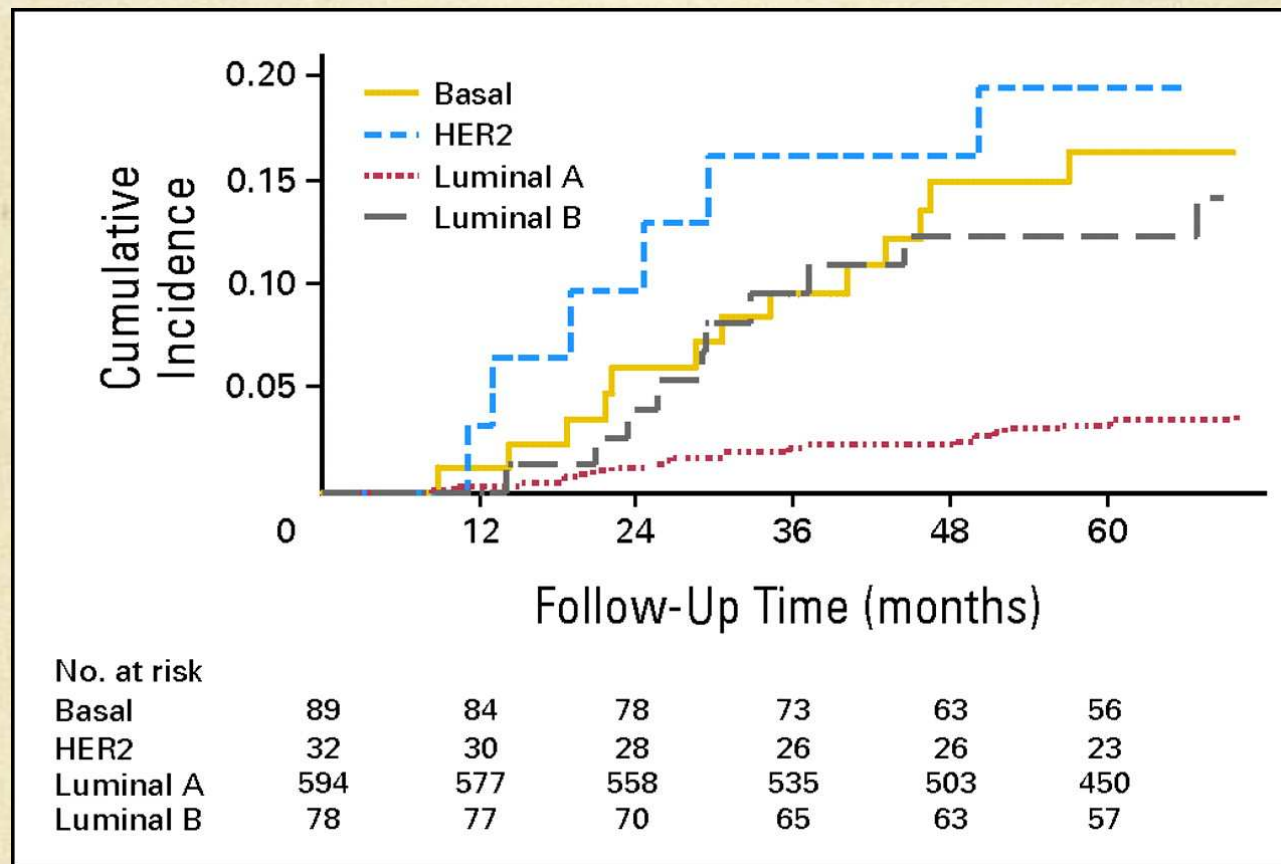
Can go through many lines of therapy

Surgery rarely indicated

Amir et al JCO 30, 6, 2012



# Phenotype predicts outcome prognostic and predictive



HER2+=ER, PR-

Basal=ER, PR, H2-

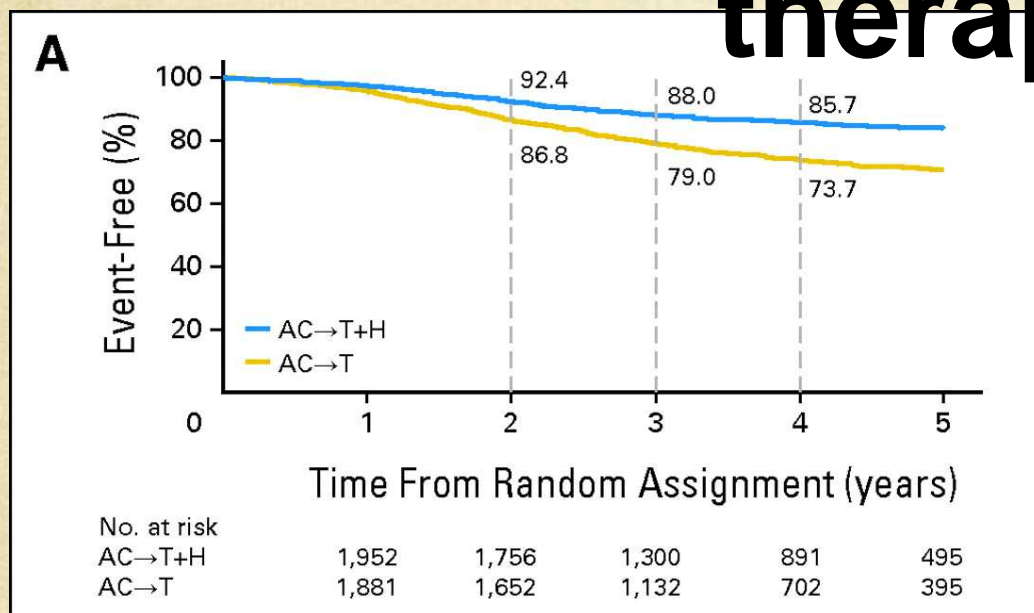
LumB=ER or PR+ H2+

LumA=ER+ H2-

Protein  
expression  
to roughly  
describe  
genomic  
profile

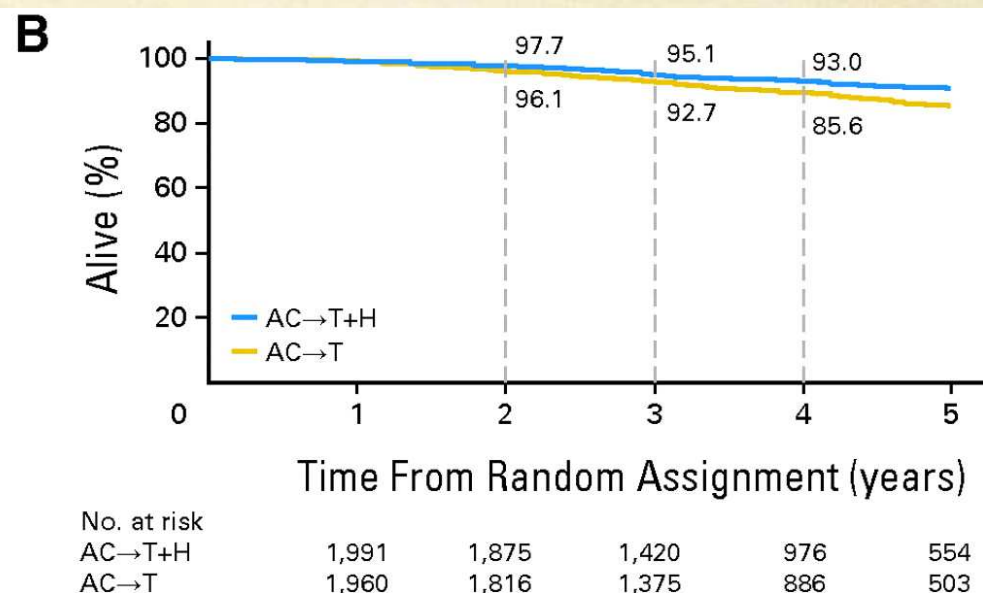
**Fig 2. Cumulative incidence of distant metastases by breast cancer subtype**  
**Observational series of patients undergoing radiation therapy at DFCC**  
**Pre-trastuzumab era**

# Durable benefit of Immune therapy



Kaplan-Meier estimates of (A) event-free survival and (B) overall survival.

**Joint Analysis of Data From NCCTG N9831 and NSABP B-31**



JOURNAL of CLINICAL ONCOLOGY ASCO

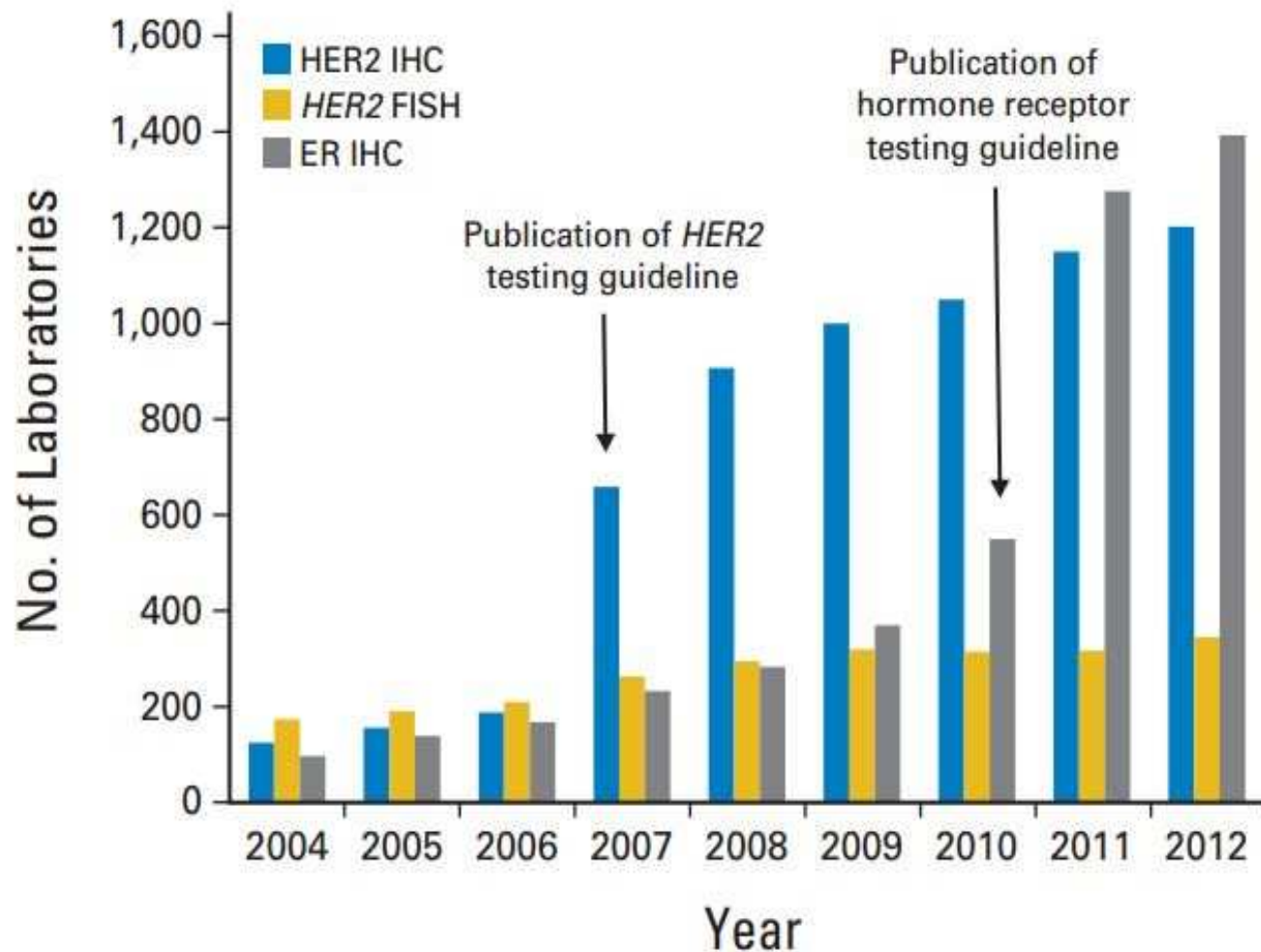
Perez E A et al. JCO 2011;29:3366-3373

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# HER2 directed therapy

- Requires expression of HER2
  - by the tumor at the time of therapy
  - *Biopsy to confirm phenotype of metastasis is indicated*
- Many 'targeted agents'
  - Trastuzumab,
  - Pertuzumab
  - TKIs e.g. lapatinib
- Difficult to test all sequences, synergies
  - Chemotherapy synergy with trastuzumab is PROVEN to be ongoing
  - Continued immune therapy *with* chemotherapy is indicated
    - The ability to give chemo with trastuzumab, nth line, delayed approval of TDM-1
- Like lymphoma, less *may* be better



No. of laboratories

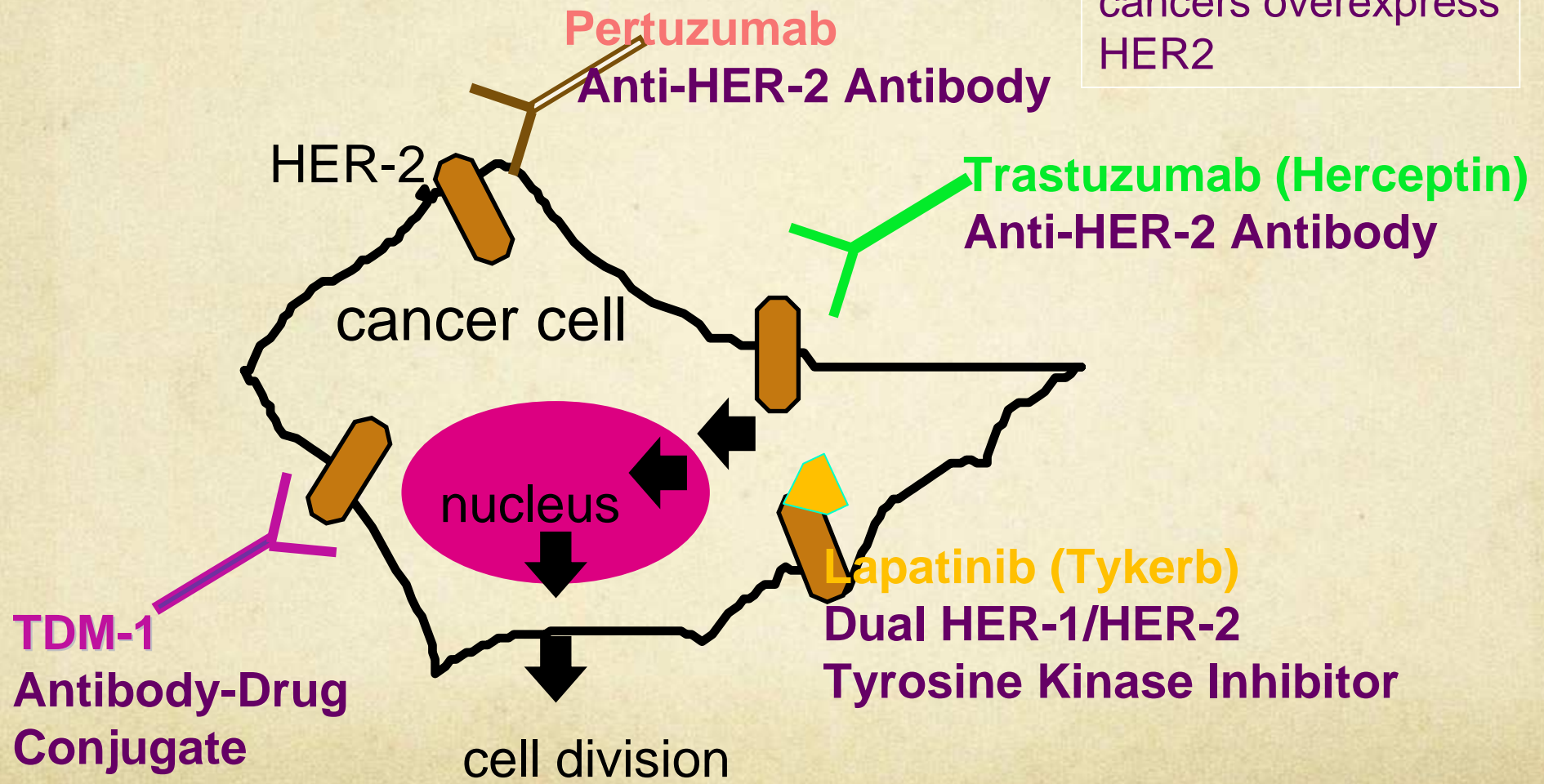
HER2 IHC	125	156	188	659	907	1,000	1,050	1,150	1,202
HER2 FISH	174	191	210	263	295	320	315	317	345
ER IHC	97	139	168	233	283	370	550	1,276	1,393

Krop I, Winer EP. Trastuzumab emtansine: a novel antibody-drug conjugate for HER2-positive breast cancer. Clin Cancer Res. Published OnlineFirst October 17,



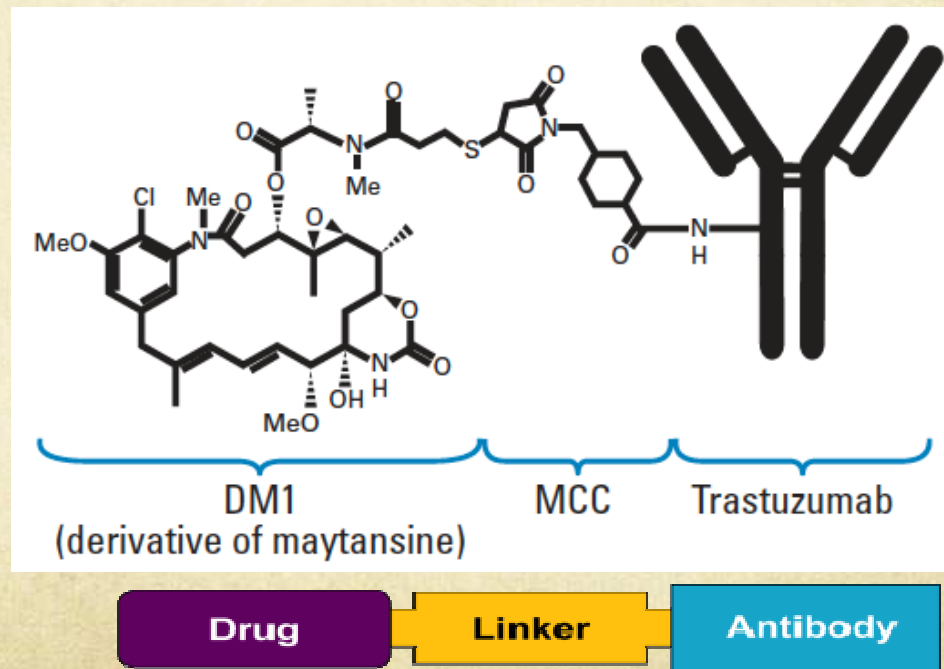
# Four FDA-Approved Drugs with HER-2 as a Target

15-25% of breast cancers overexpress HER2

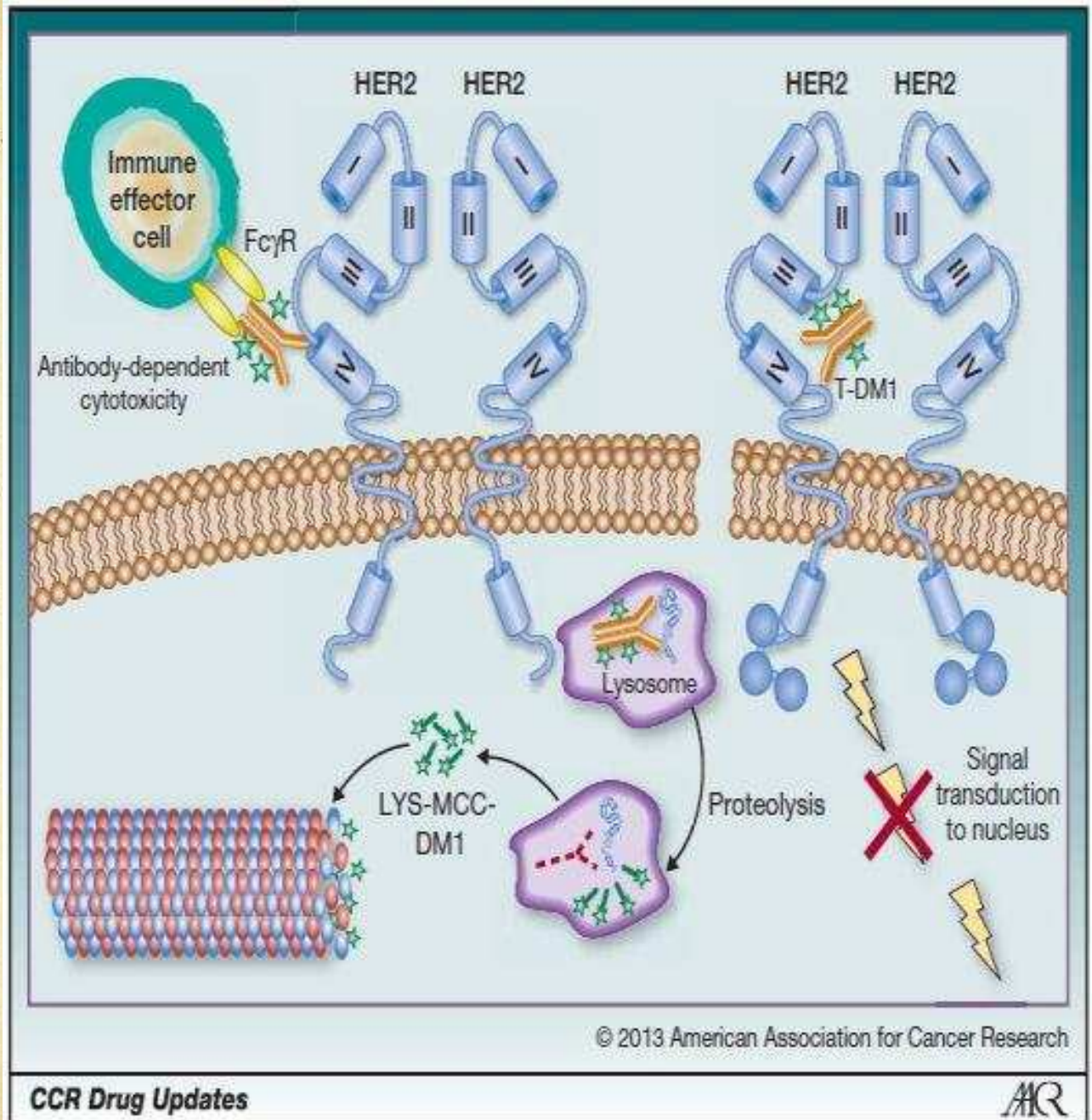
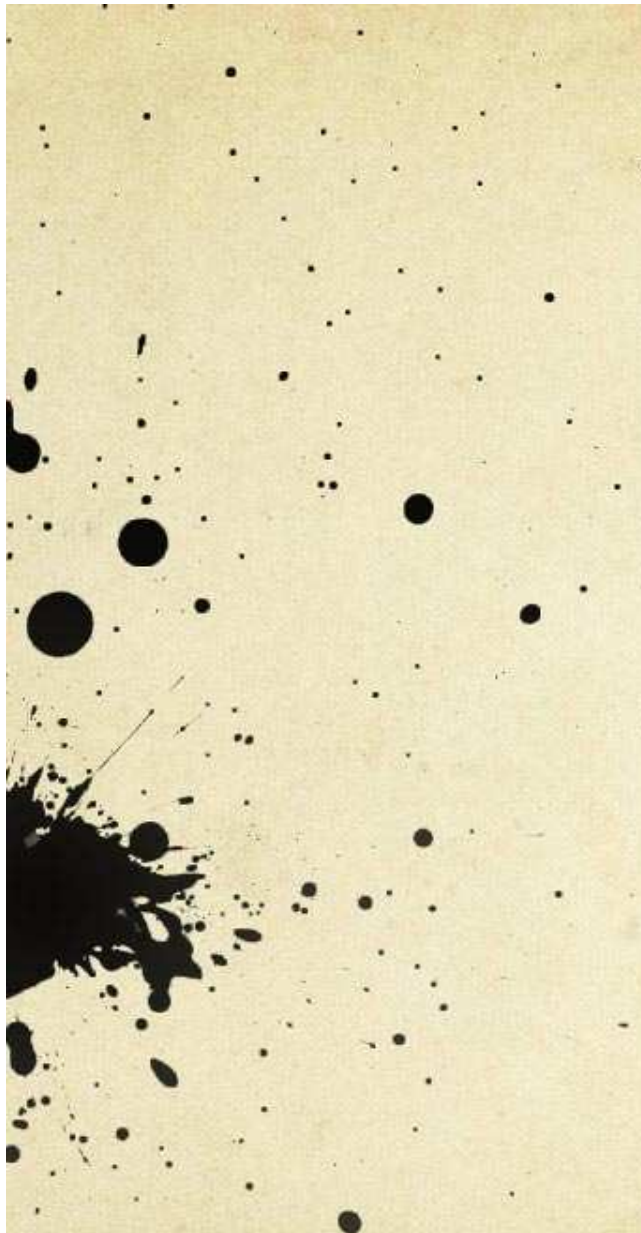


# Immunoconjugate/ADC

- TDM-1: Trastuzumab Emtansine
  - Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC)
  - Trastuzumab is linked to an antimicrotubule drug (maytansine or DM1) for a targeted and antineoplastic effect
  - Trastuzumab binds to HER2 cancer cells, is absorbed, and then releases DM1



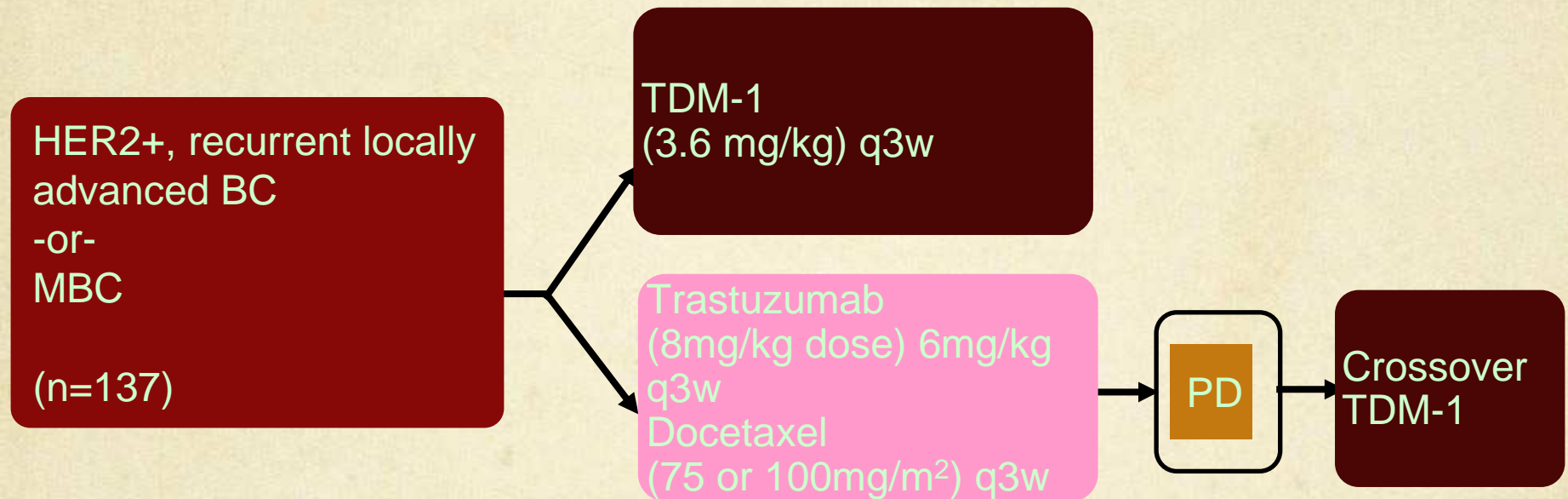




Krop I, Winer EP. Trastuzumab emtansine: a novel antibody-drug conjugate for HER2-positive breast cancer. Clin Cancer Res. Published OnlineFirst October 17, 2013

# 1<sup>st</sup> line MBC: TDM-1 vs Docetaxel + Trastuzumab

Randomized 1:1, phase II, international, open-label trial

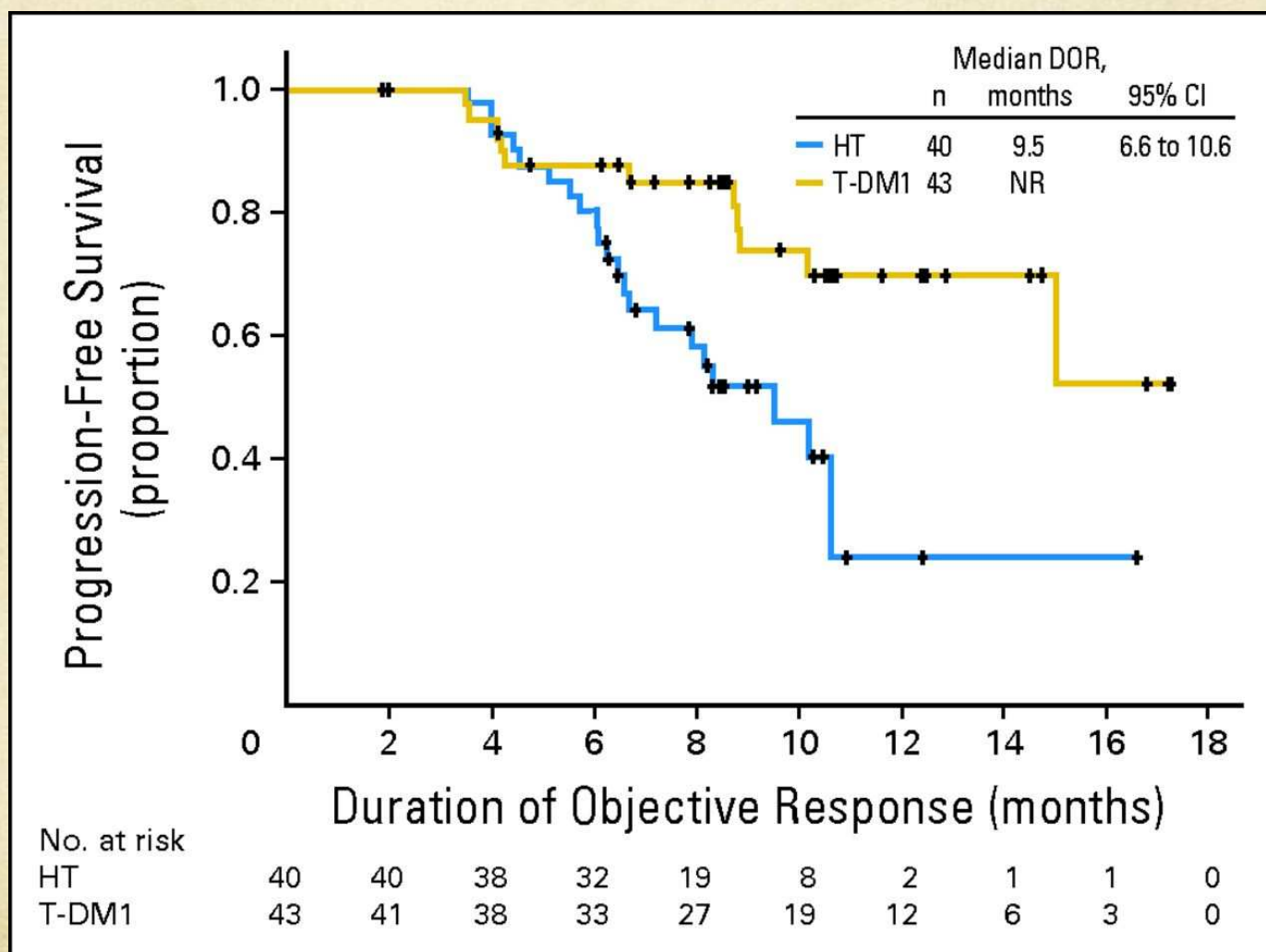


- Primary end points
  - PFS by Investigator
  - Safety
- Secondary end points
  - ORR, clinical benefit
  - OS
  - QOL, symptom control

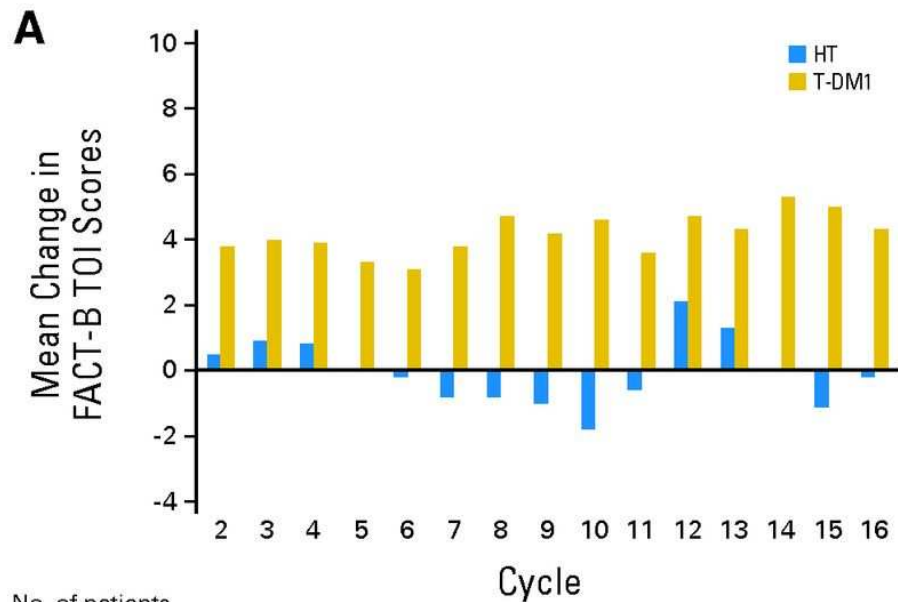
Perez EA, et al. Abstr LBA3. ESMO 2010  
Hurvitz S, et al. ESMO 2011



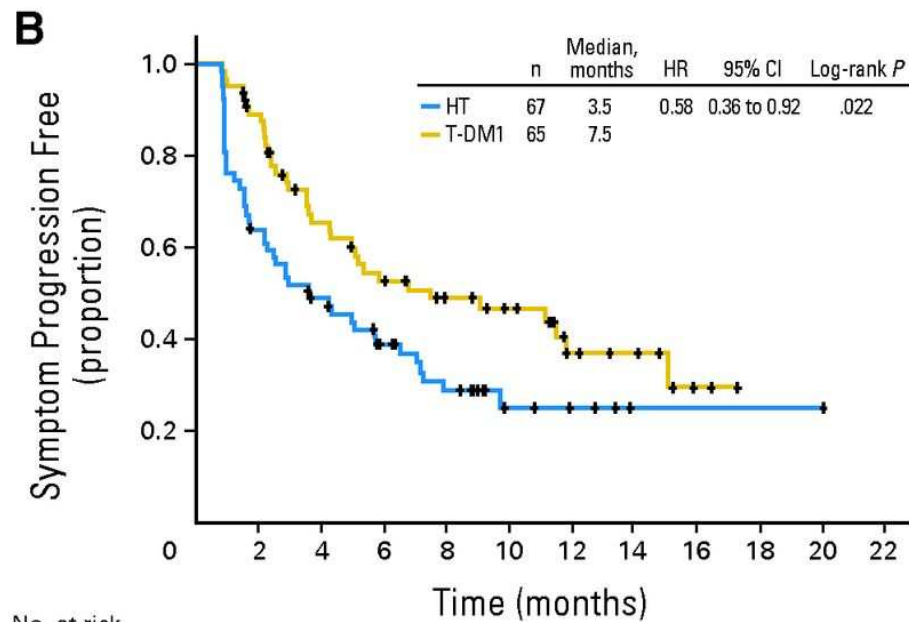
# Kaplan-Meier estimates of duration of response (DOR) by investigator.



Hurvitz S A et al. JCO 2013;31:1157-1163



No. of patients																
HT	63	64	63	58	59	58	53	49	46	41	35	29	28	24	23	
T-DM1	62	62	58	54	51	48	47	47	43	42	39	36	36	36	34	



No. at risk											
HT	67	42	31	21	14	6	4	1	1	1	0
T-DM1	65	55	37	29	23	19	9	7	2	0	0

**(A) Mean change in Functional Assessment of Cancer Therapy-Breast (FACT-B) Trial Outcome Index (TOI) scores from baseline.**

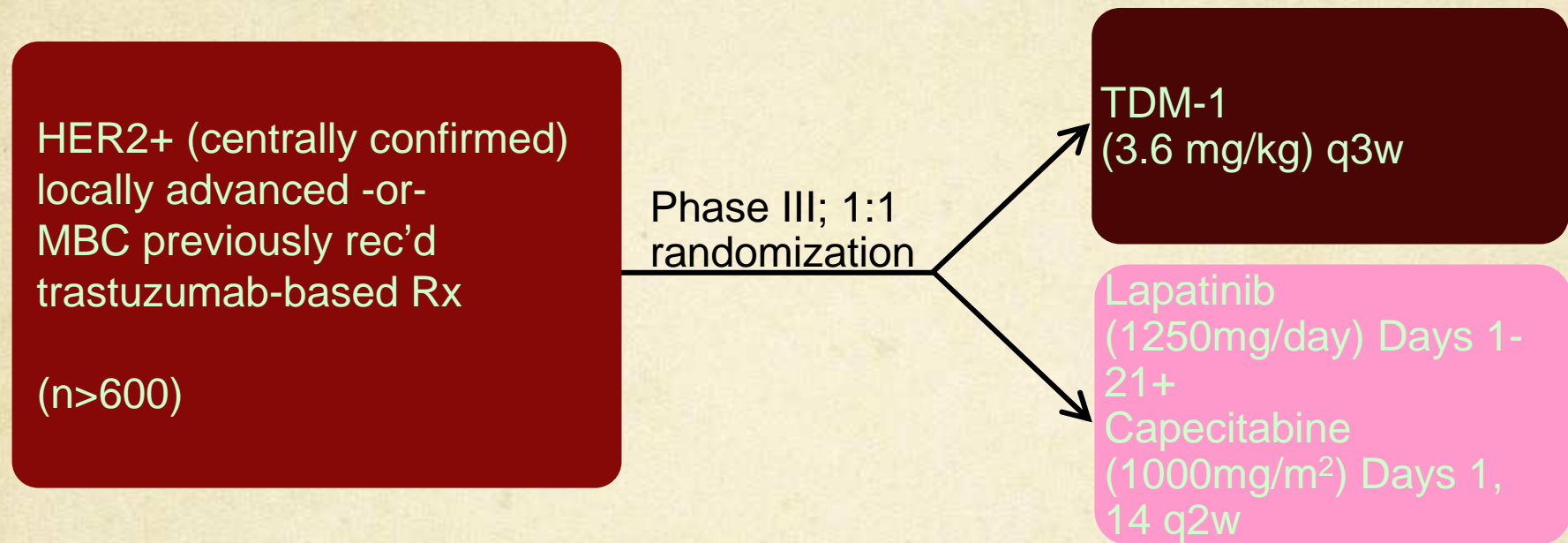
Hurvitz S A et al. JCO 2013;31:1157-1163

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# Refractory: TDM-1 vs. Capecitabine + Lapatinib in HER2+ MBC (EMILIA)

## Press Release March 30, 2012: Positive for PFS



### Key inclusion criteria

- Prior treatment to include taxane and trastuzumab in adjuvant, locally advanced, or metastatic setting
- Documented progression of disease during or after treatment for advanced/metastatic disease or within 6 months of completing adjuvant therapy

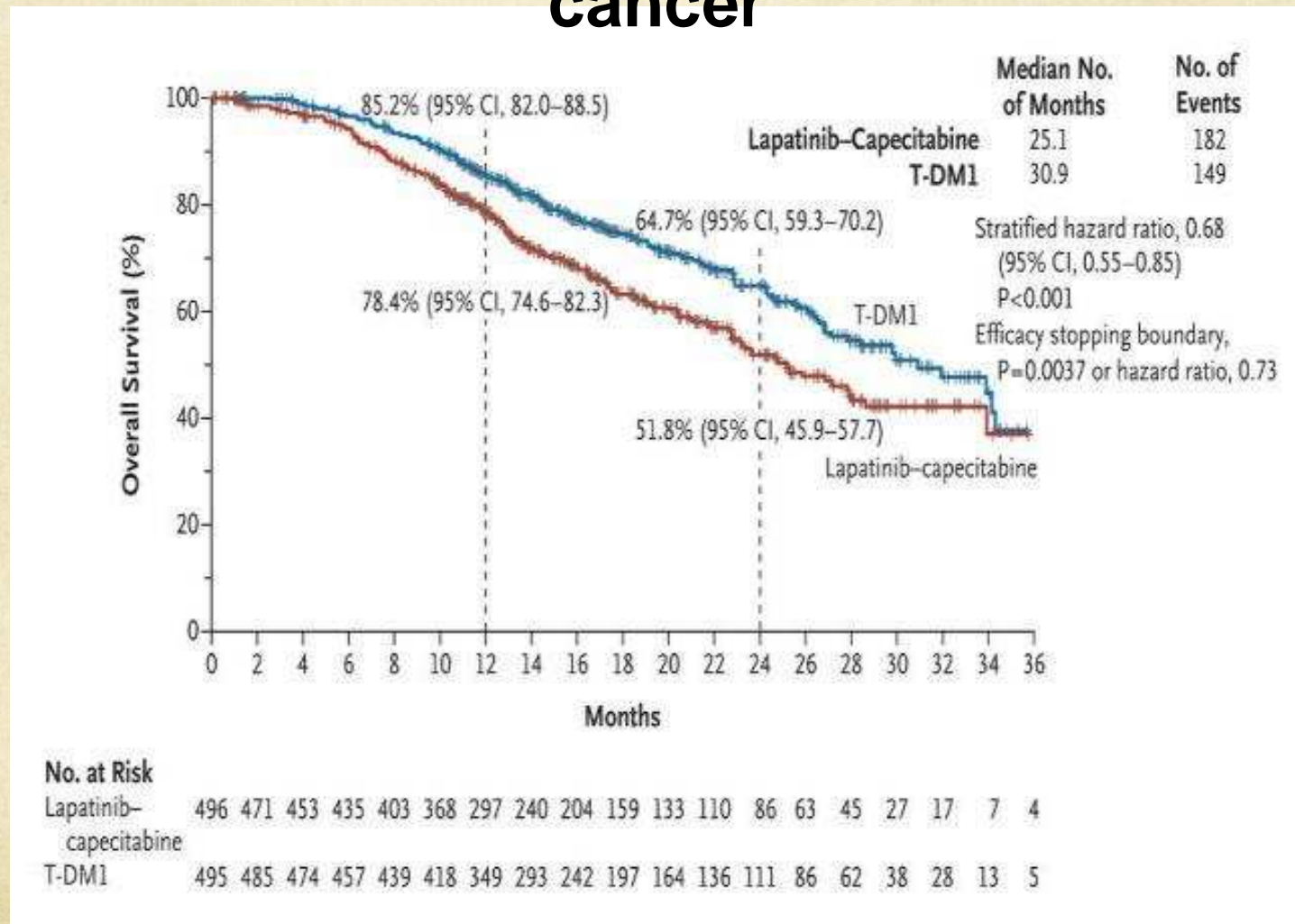
### Primary end points

- Overall Survival
- PFS by IRF
- Safety

### Secondary end point

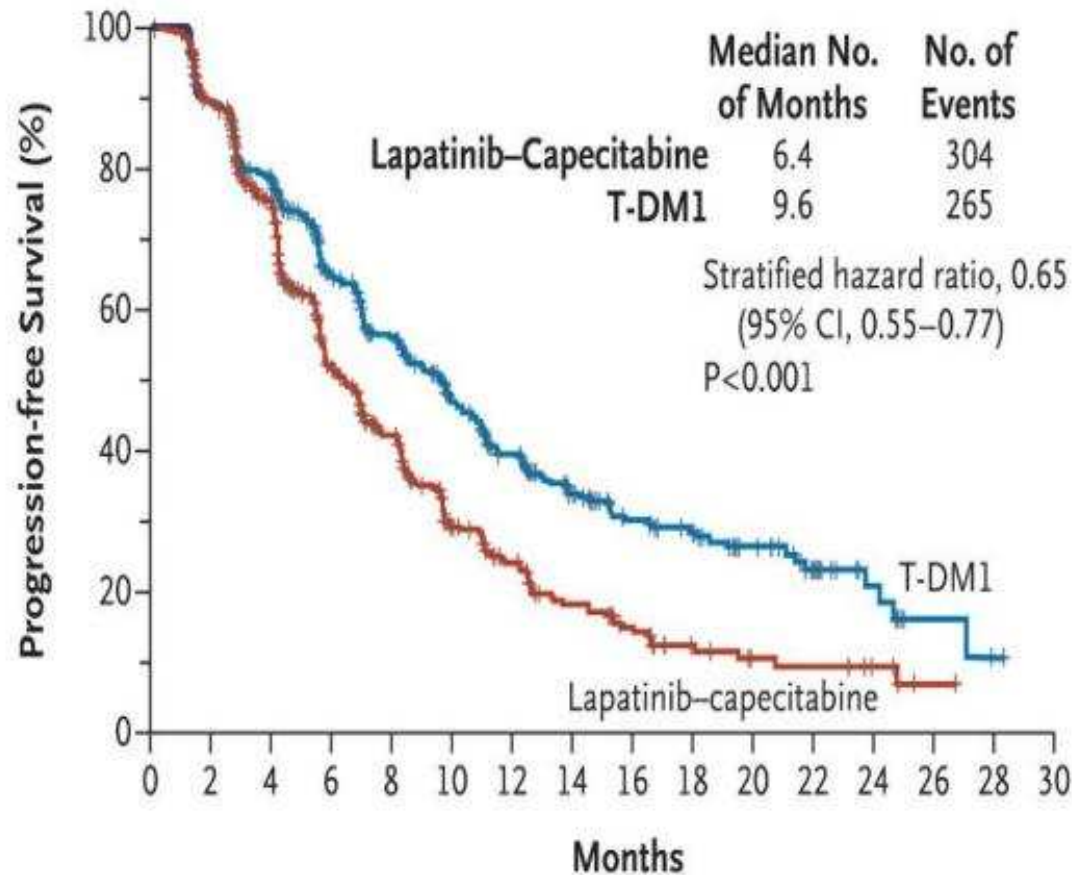
- Quality of life

# Overall Survival Favors TDM-1 over Standard Therapy in salvage treatment of metastatic breast cancer



Verma S et al, NEJM 367:1783-1791, 2012





#### No. at Risk

Lapatinib- capecitabine	496	404	310	176	129	73	53	35	25	14	9	8	5	1	0	0
T-DM1	495	419	341	236	183	130	101	72	54	44	30	18	9	3	1	0

Progression  
Free survival  
also superior for  
TDM-1

Verma S et al, NEJM 367:1783-1791, 2012

TDM-1 (ado-trastuzumab  
emtansine) FDA approved  
March, 2013

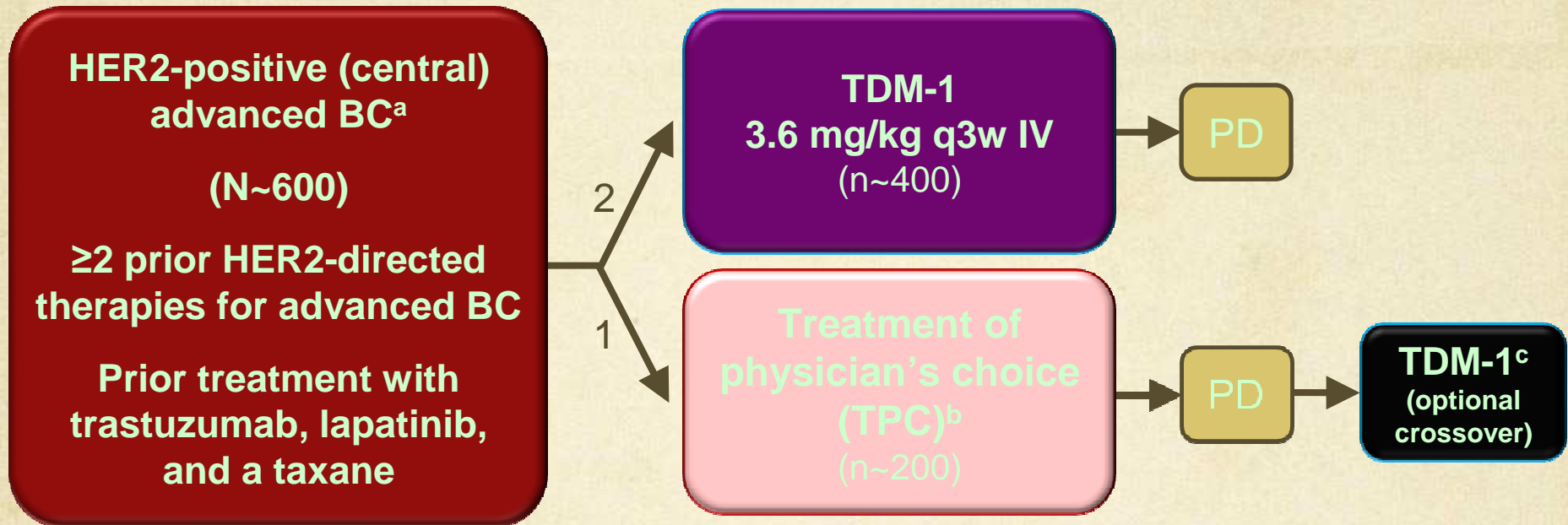
# EMELIA: Adverse Events

**Table 2.** Adverse Events of Any Grade Occurring in  $\geq 25\%$  and/or Grade  $\geq 3$  Occurring in  $\geq 5\%$  of Patients in Either Treatment Group

Adverse Event	All Grade				Grade $\geq 3^*$			
	HT (n = 66) <sup>†</sup>		T-DM1 (n = 69) <sup>†‡</sup>		HT (n = 66) <sup>†</sup>		T-DM1 (n = 69) <sup>†‡</sup>	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
<b>Hematologic</b>								
Neutropenia§	<b>43</b>	<b>65.2</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>62.1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5.8</b>
Thrombocytopenia§	<b>4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27.5</b>	<b>2</b>	3.0	<b>5</b>	7.2
Leukopenia§	17	25.8	7	10.1	<b>16</b>	<b>24.2</b>	<b>0</b>	
Febrile neutropenia	9	13.6	0		9	13.6	0	
Anemia	18	27.3	9	13.0	3	4.5	2	2.9
<b>Nonhematologic</b>								
Alopecia	<b>44</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4.3</b>	—		—	
Fatigue	30	45.5	34	49.3	3	4.5	3	4.3
Nausea	29	43.9	34	49.3	0		2	2.9
Diarrhea	<b>30</b>	<b>45.5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15.9</b>	2	3.0	0	
Peripheral edema	<b>29</b>	<b>43.9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10.1</b>	4	6.1	0	
Increased AST	<b>4</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>43.5</b>	0		6	8.7
Pyrexia	15	22.7	28	40.6	1	1.5	0	



# TH3RESA Study Schema



○ **Stratification factors:** World region, number of prior regimens for advanced BC,<sup>d</sup> presence of visceral disease

○ **Co-primary endpoints:** PFS by investigator and OS

○ **Key secondary endpoints:** ORR by investigator and safety

<sup>a</sup>Advanced BC includes MBC and unresectable locally advanced/recurrent BC.

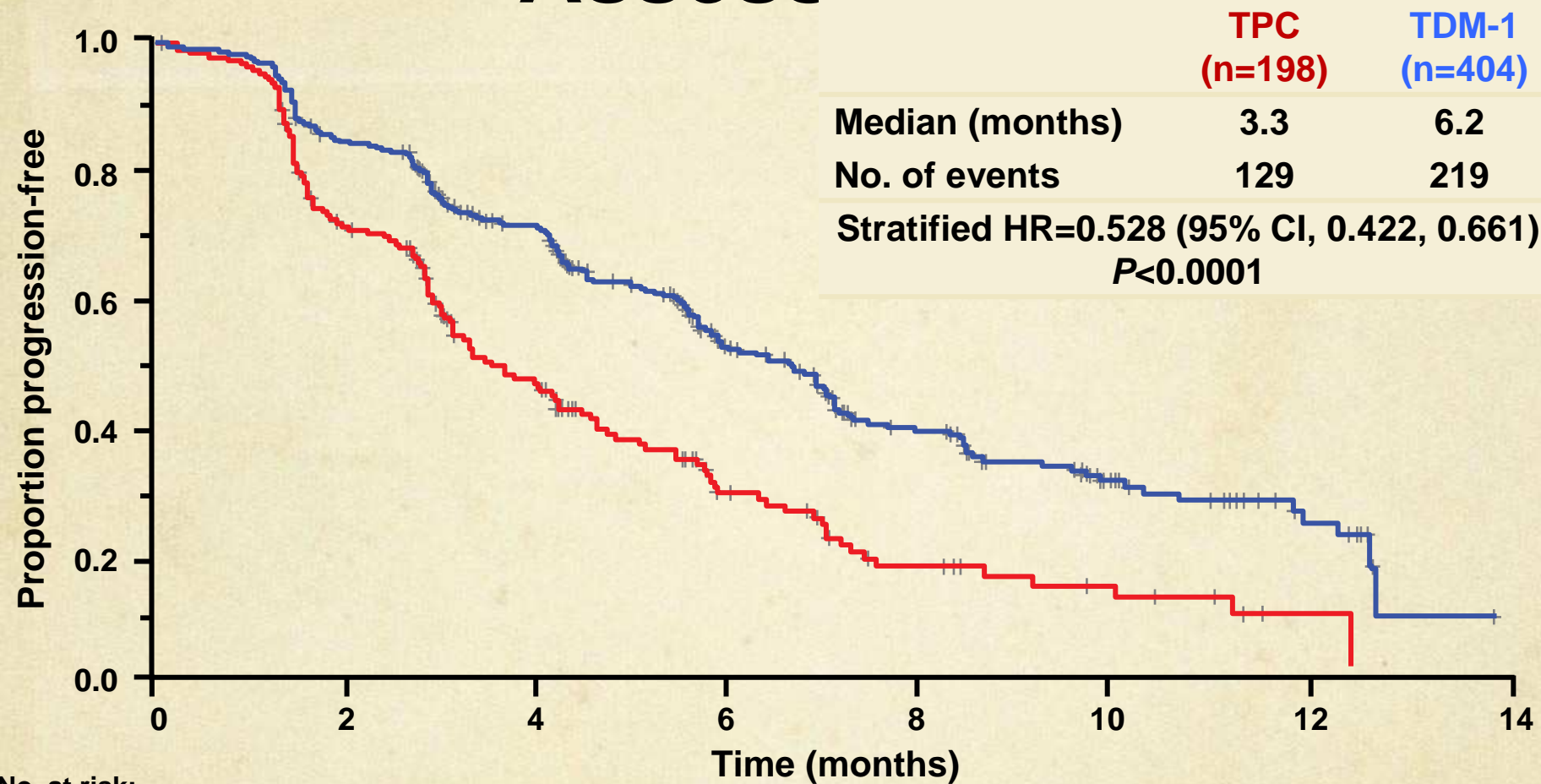
<sup>b</sup>TPC could have been single-agent chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, or HER2-directed therapy, or a combination of a HER2-directed therapy with a chemotherapy, hormonal therapy, or other HER2-directed therapy.

<sup>c</sup>Study amended Sep 2012 (following EMILIA 2nd interim OS results) to allow patients in the TPC arm to receive TDM-1 after documented PD.

<sup>d</sup>Excluding single-agent hormonal therapy.

BC, breast cancer; IV, intravenous; ORR, objective response rate; PD, progressive disease; q3w, every 3 weeks.

# PFS by Investigator Assessment



No. at risk:

TPC	198	120	62	28	13	6	1	0
TDM-1	404	334	241	114	66	27	12	0

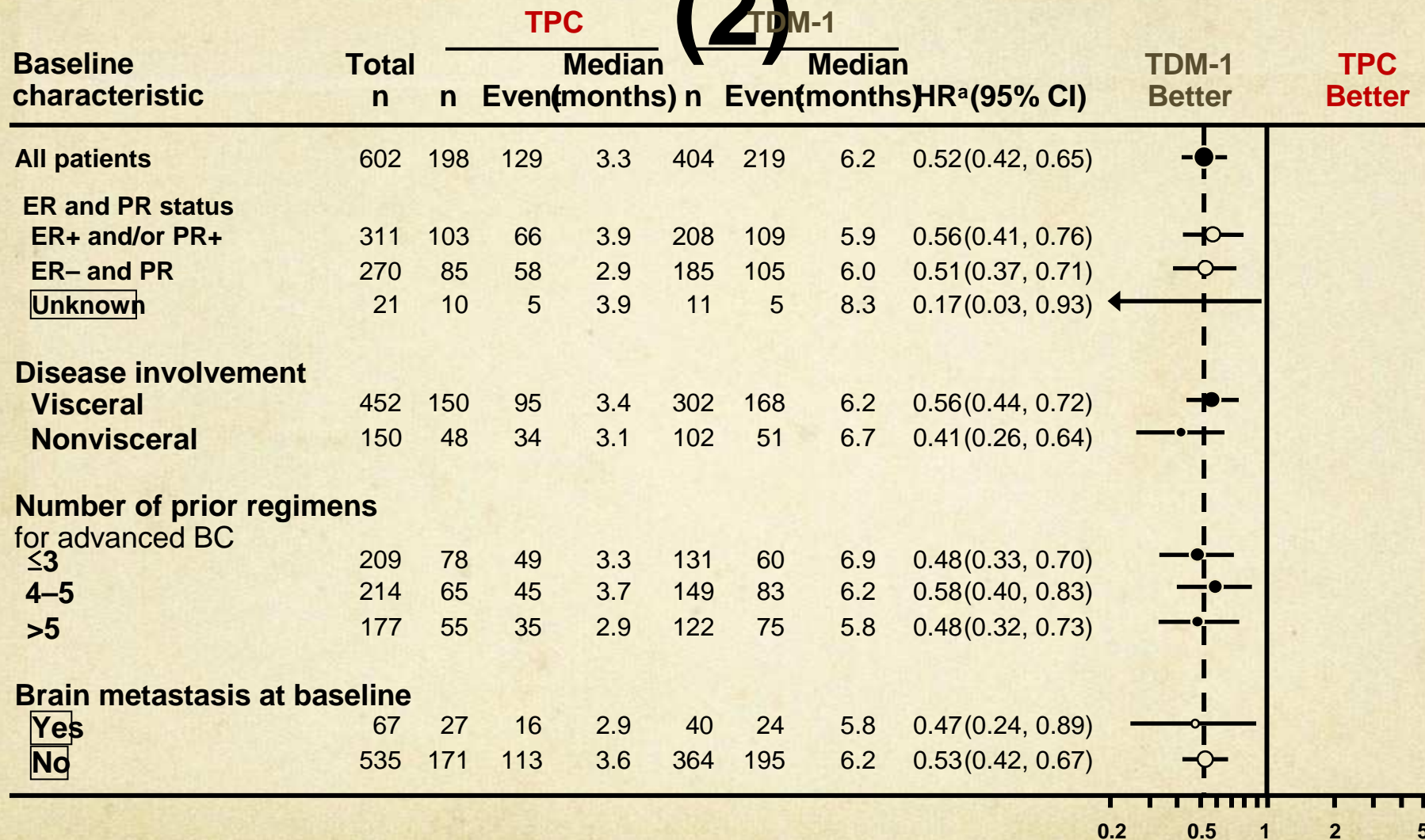
Median follow-up: TPC, 6.5 months; TDM-1, 7.2 months.  
Unstratified HR=0.521 ( $P<0.0001$ ).

ESMO 2013



# PFS Subgroup Analyses

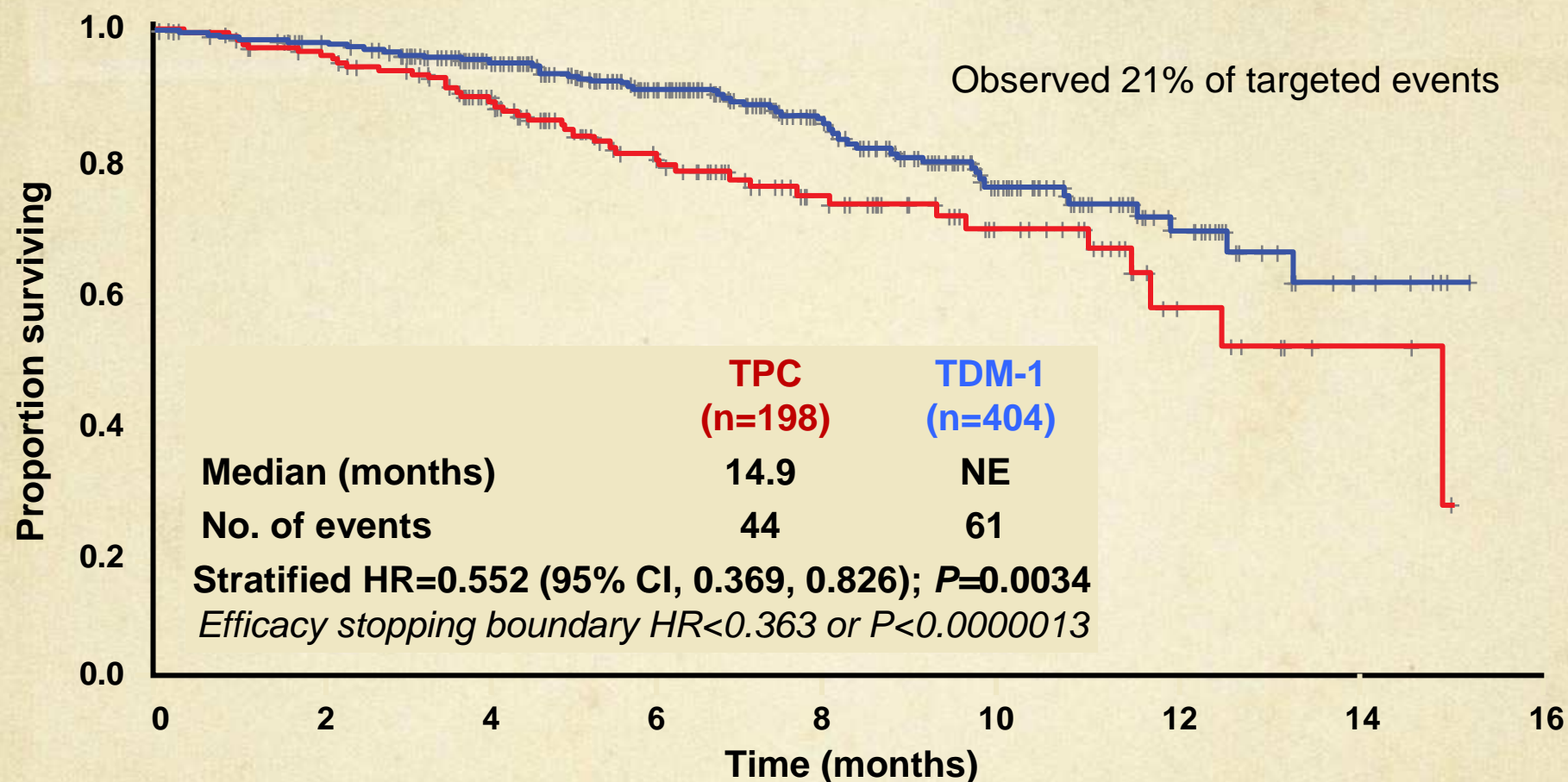
## (2)



ESMO 2013

<sup>a</sup> Unstratified HR.

# First Interim OS Analysis



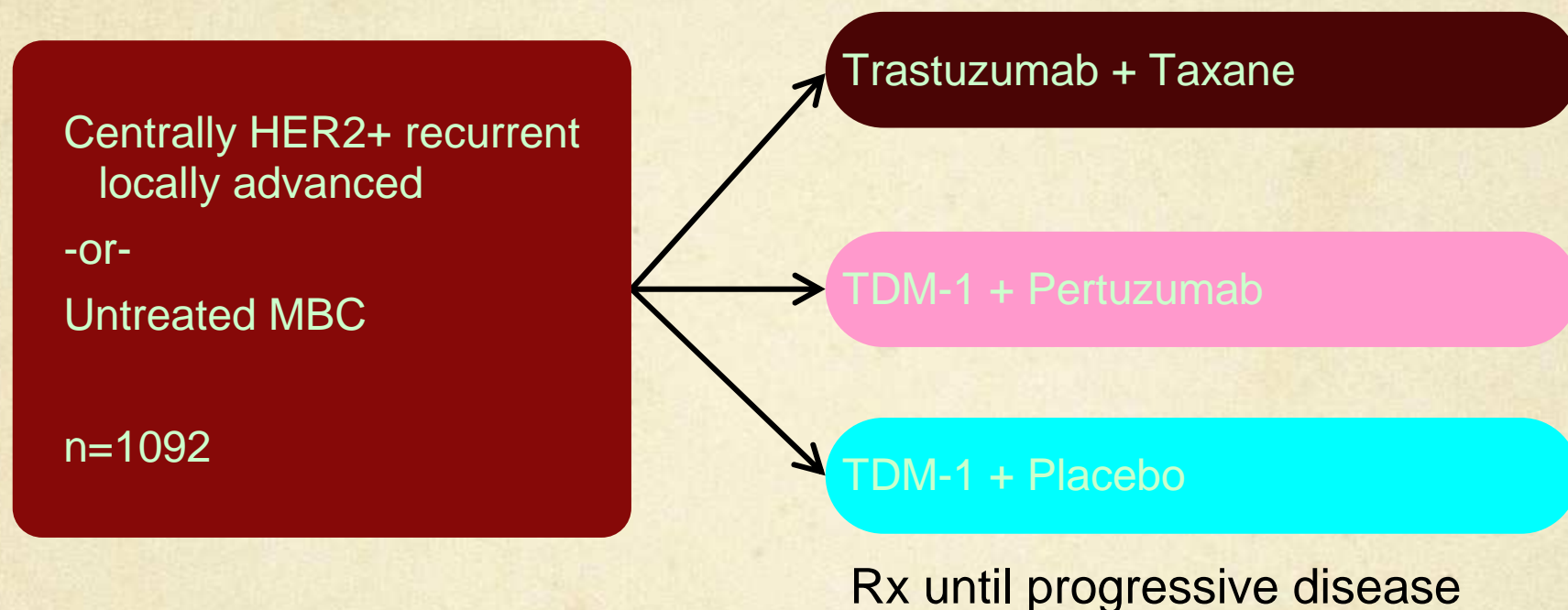
TPC	198	169	125	80	51	30	9	3	0
TDM-1	404	381	316	207	127	65	30	7	0

44 patients in the TPC arm received crossover TDM-1 treatment after documented progression.  
 Unstratified HR=0.57 ( $P=0.004$ ).

ESMO 2013



# MARIANNE Phase III Study: 1<sup>st</sup>-Line HER2+ MBC Closed to Accrual



- Stratification factors

- World region
- Prior neo/adjuvant trastuzumab
- Visceral disease

- Primary end points

- Overall Survival
- PFS by IRF
- Safety

- Secondary end points

- PFS by Investigator
- Biomarkers

# Summary

- TDM-1 is an effective therapy in metastatic breast cancer
  - Outstanding therapeutic index,
  - Displaces lapatinib
- Precise role is under study, but all trials reported look promising
  - Proven in advanced, salvage setting, following exposure to standard toxic regimens
  - Promising “first line”
  - Under testing in adjuvant/neoadjuvant
- Role in gastric cancer also looks promising



# Summary II

- Questions remain about “how little” we can give to HER2 positive patients
  - Synergy of trastuzumab/lapatinib given with endocrine therapy
  - What is ideal therapy for “triple positive” tumors? (ER, PR, HER2 all positive)
  - Can other synergistic agents displace standard cytotoxic therapy
  - This challenge is similar to curable lymphomas, testicular ca
- Unclear how effective TDM-1 will be in some patients
  - with loss of HER2 neu expression,
  - or with significant heterogeneity of HER2 expression
  - Or with poor tolerance for therapy
  - Cardiac or other issues which precluded from study of

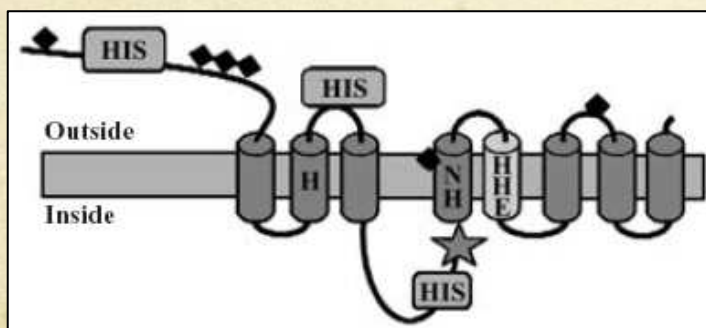
# Promising future agents in breast cancer

- Novel targets
- Immune targets
- Old – established targets with refined precision
- In various solid tumors

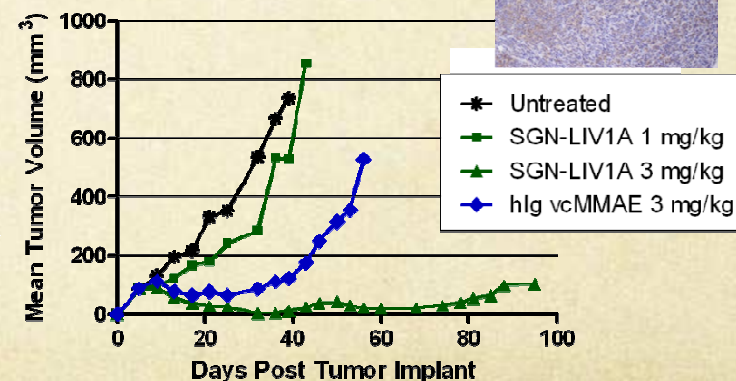


# SGN-LIV1A: anti-LIV1-vc-MMAE

- LIV-1 (SLC39A6) is overexpressed in breast, prostate, ovarian, endometrial cancers and melanoma<sup>1</sup>
- Estrogen-inducible gene
- May function as zinc transporter and have metalloproteinase activity
- Preclinical data demonstrate significant tumor shrinkage in all models compared to non-binding control ADC



Taylor et al, Biochem J (2003) 375, 51-59



SCID mice were implanted subcutaneously with MCG-7 cells. Once tumors were ~100mm<sup>3</sup>, treatment with SGN-LIV1A or control was initiated and repeated q4dx4.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Sussman D, et al. AACR 2013

# The toxicity of TDM-1 (trastuzumab emtansine)

is

- Similar to that of single agent chemotherapy
- Similar to potent immune therapy
- Low and manageable, with a minority of patients experiencing increases in transaminases or thrombocytopenia
- Minimal with steroid premedication
- Managed with hospitalization for first dose for supportive medications.



# HER2 expression is

- Seen in many solid tumors, a common oncogene which when over-expressed drives proliferation
- Necessary for effectiveness of TDM-1
- Easily measured by routine testing in Breast, Lung and Colon cancers
- Appreciated in nearly half of slow growing breast cancers
- Not routinely tested

# **TDM-1, trastuzumab emtansine, is effective in**

- All patients with aggressive breast cancer, eg stage III, inflammatory tumors
- HER2 positive (early ) stage 0 breast cancer, DCIS
- HLA A2 positive patients
- Patients with breast and gastric cancers which over-express HER2
- Patients who have not been exposed to trastuzumab