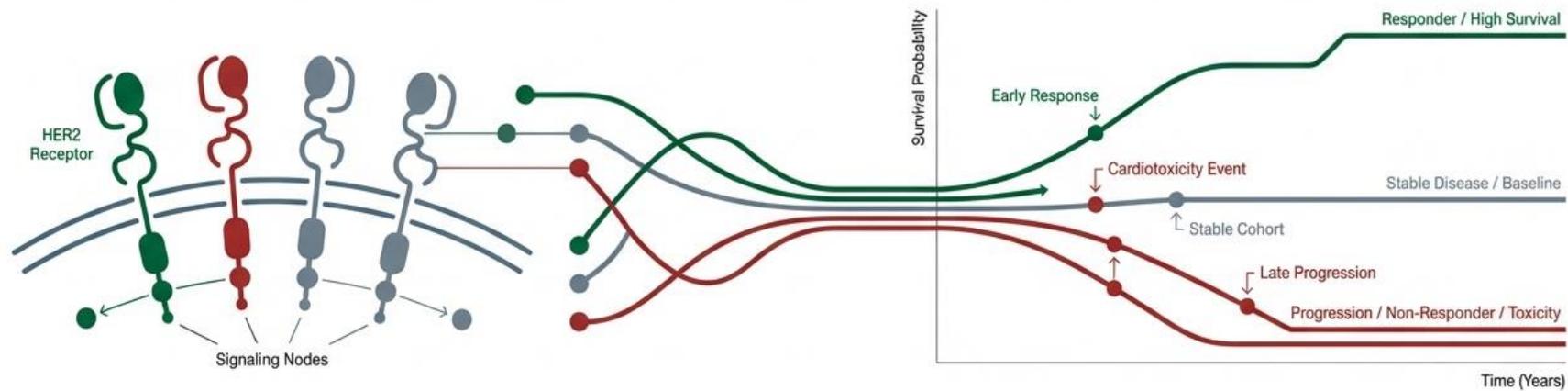


# **The HER2+ Continuum: Risk Stratification as the Foundation for Survival**

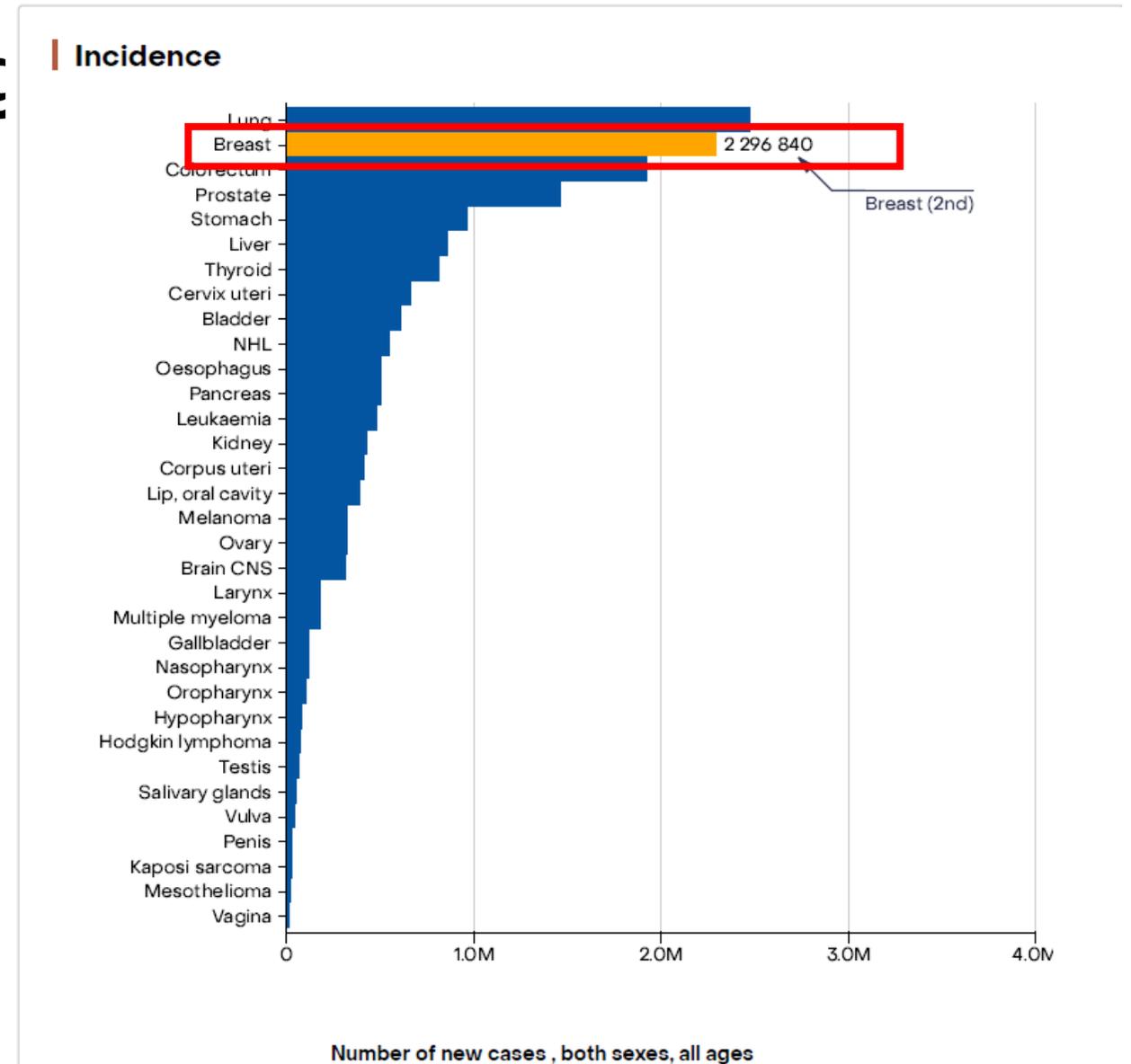
dr. Diana Paramita Sp.PD, K-HOM  
Siloam Hospital Lippo Village Tangerang

# The HER2+ Continuum: Risk Stratification as the Foundation for Survival

Biology, Patient Journey, and the Balance of Efficacy and Cardiotoxicity

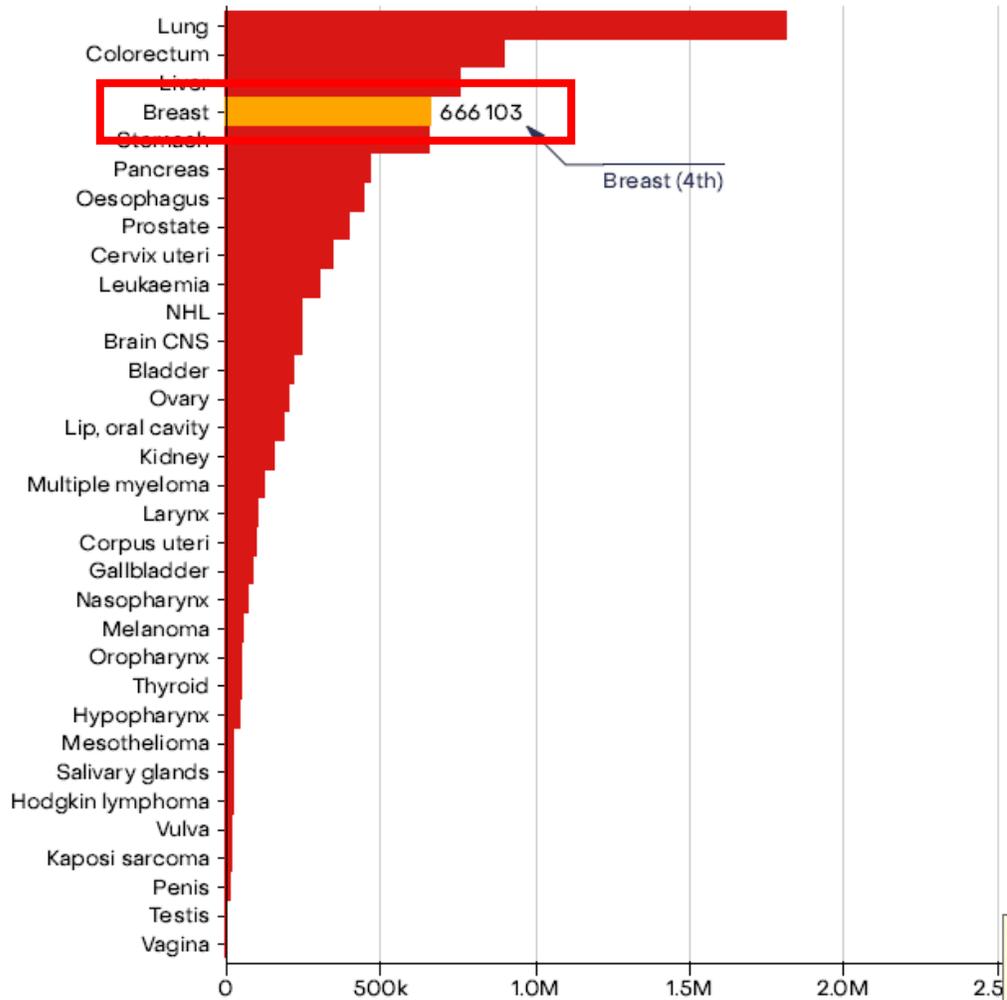


# Breast Cancer Epidemiology Globocan, 2022



# Breast Cancer Epidemiology Globocan, 2022

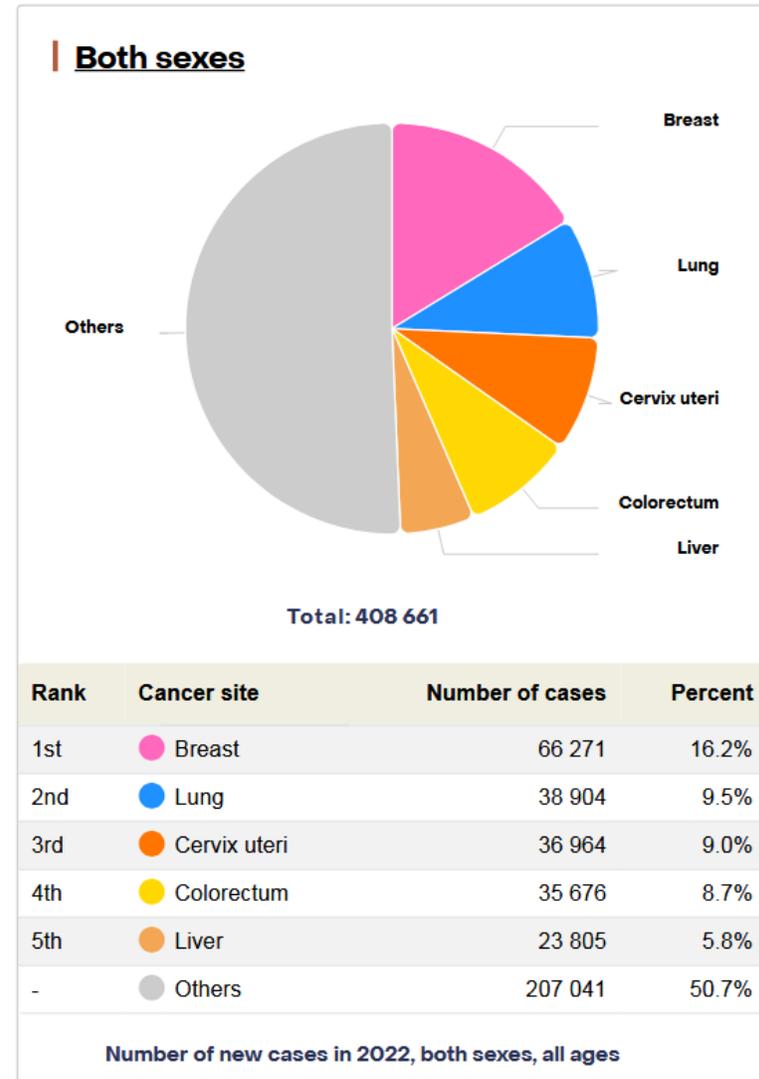
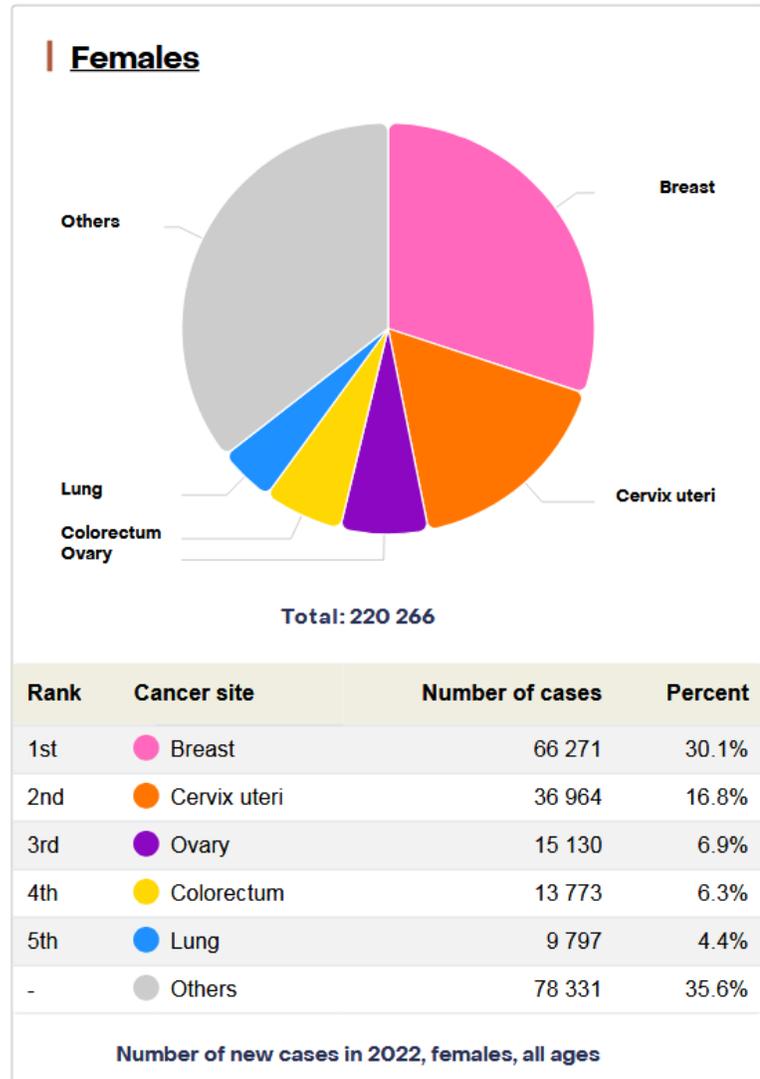
## Mortality



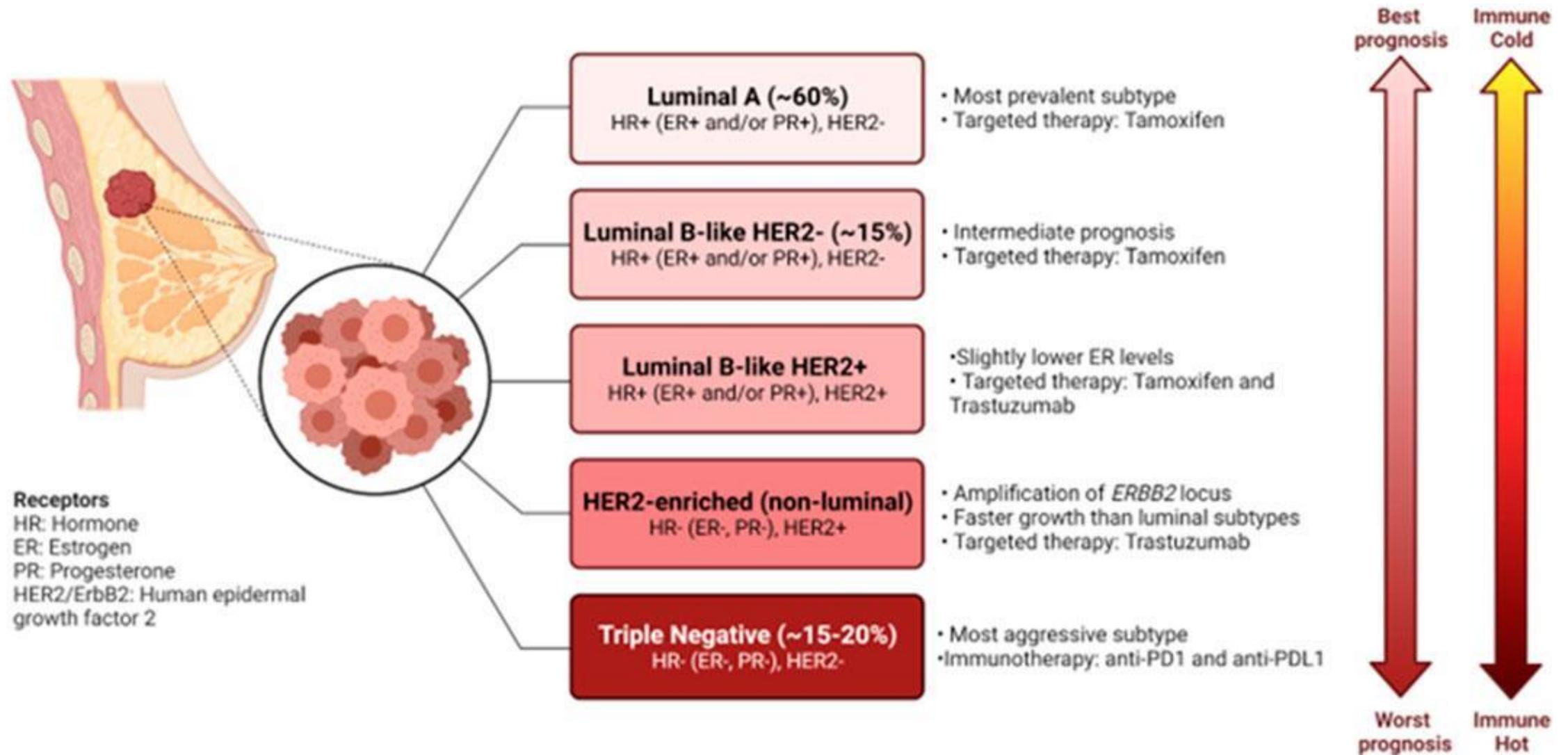
[https://gco.iarc.who.int/keys=key&group=rt\\_by=value1&population=alues\\_position=out&](https://gco.iarc.who.int/keys=key&group=rt_by=value1&population=alues_position=out&)

Number of deaths , both sexes, all ages

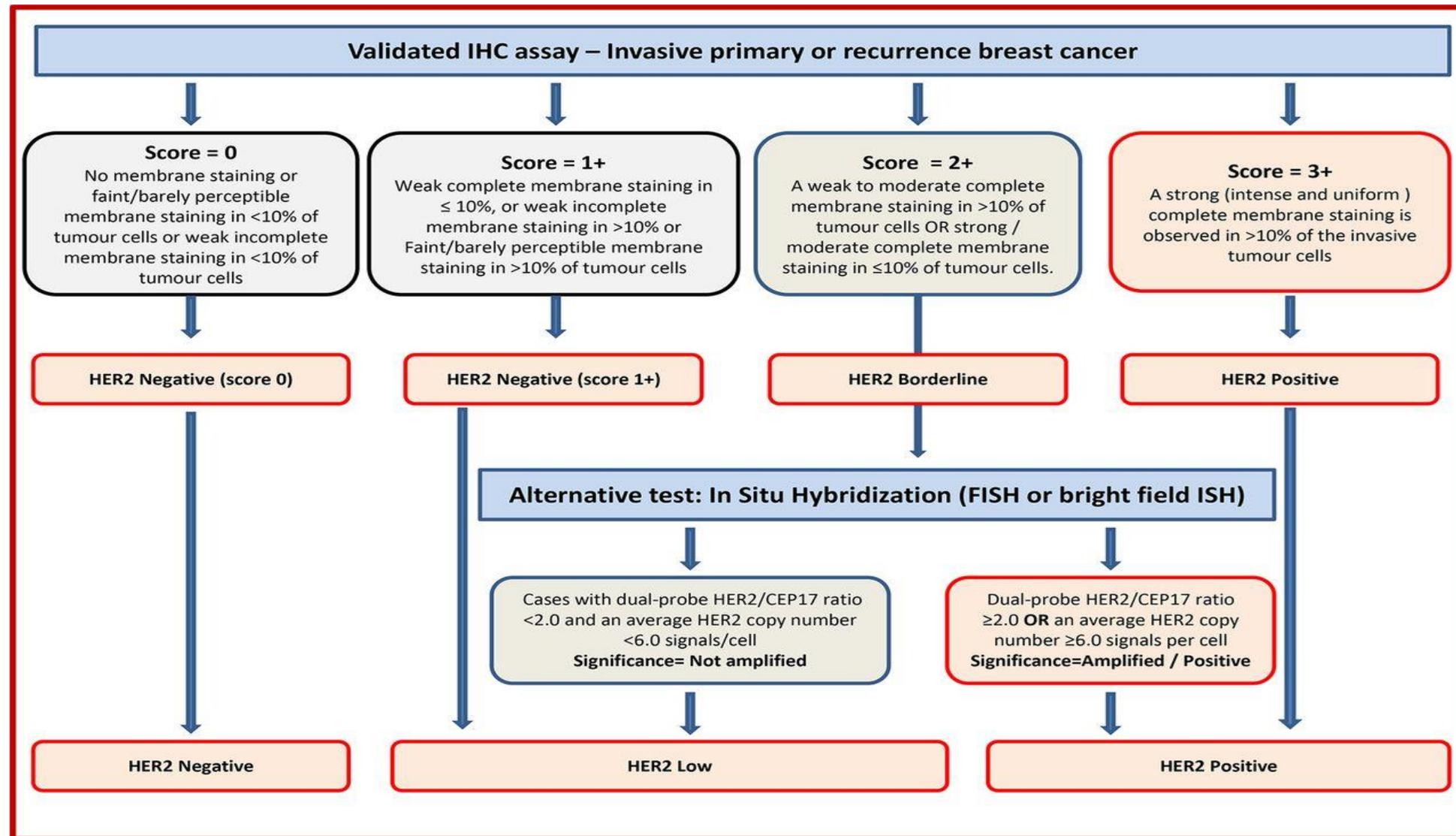
# Breast Cancer Epidemiology in Indonesia Globocan, 2022



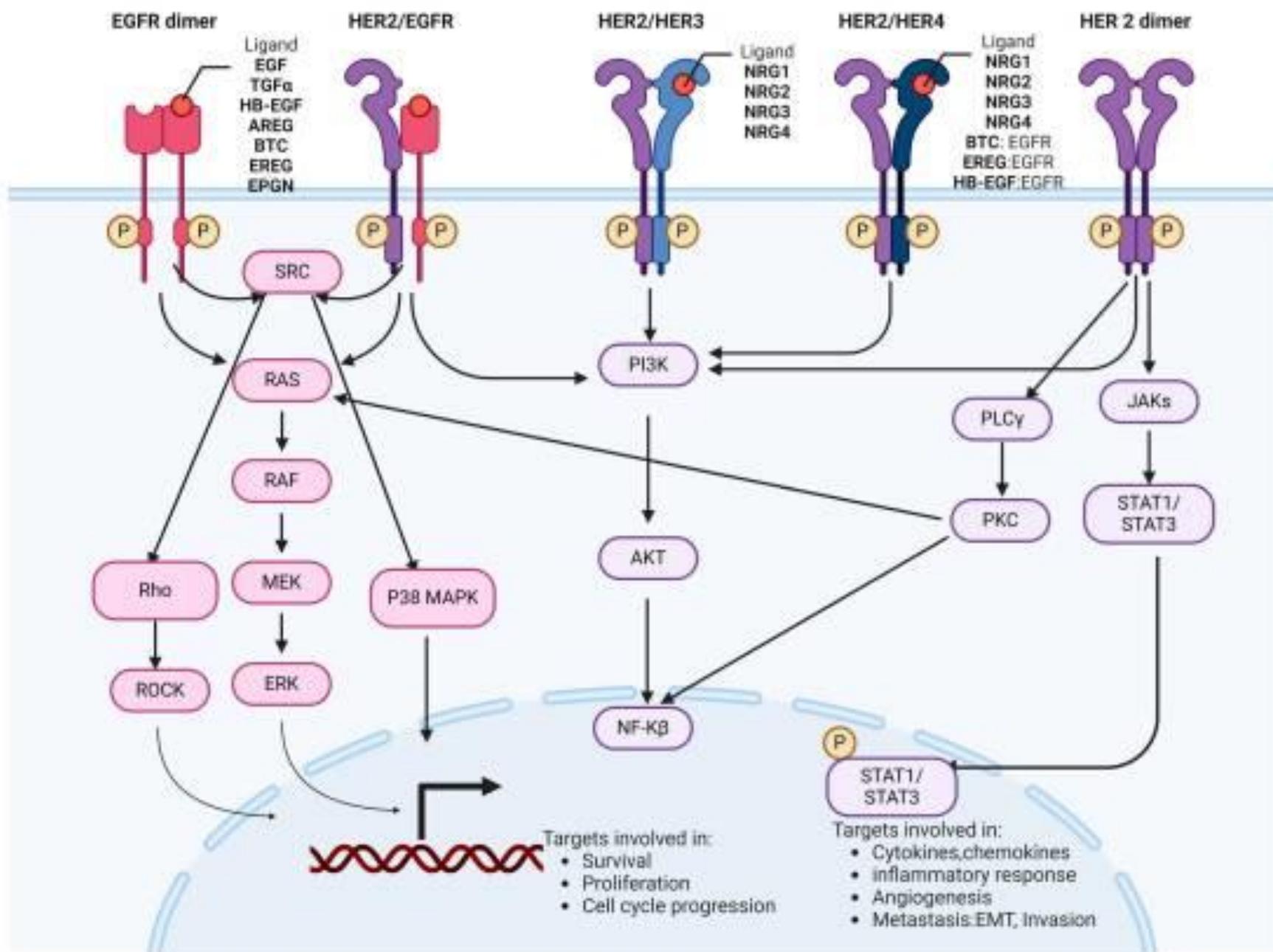
# Molecular Subtype of Breast Cancer



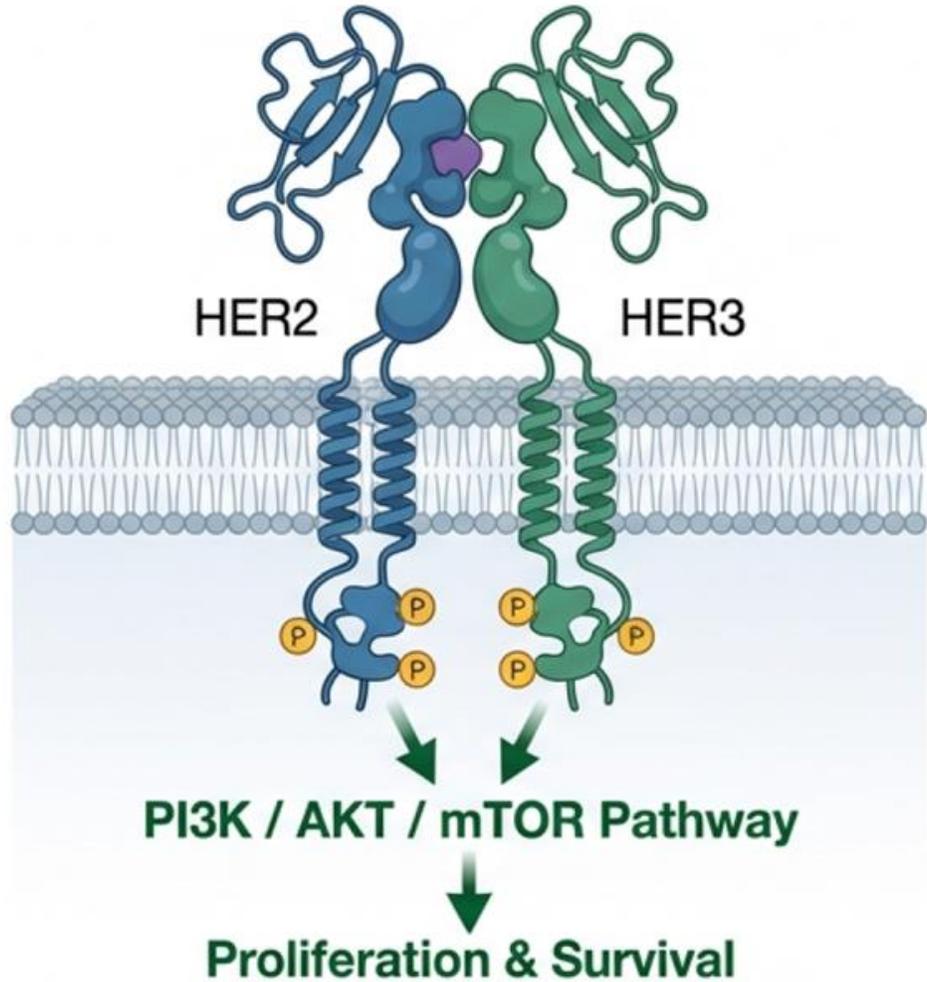
# Algorithms to Determine HER2 Status



# HER2 Signaling Pathway



# The Biological Driver: HER2 Amplification and Signaling Heterogeneity



## **Mechanism of Aggression:**

HER2 amplification drives tumor biology through enhanced cell proliferation and survival signaling pathways. It acts as a potent prognostic marker for aggressive disease outcomes.

## **The Continuum of Biology:**

HER2 status is dynamic. Heterogeneity exists in expression levels and crosstalk with ER signaling pathways (HR+/HER2+ vs. HR-/HER2+), influencing the continuum from early breast cancer (EBC) to metastatic recurrence.

## **Predictive Utility:**

Overexpression serves as the primary predictive marker for response to targeted monoclonal antibodies (trastuzumab, pertuzumab) and tyrosine kinase inhibitors.

# The Paradigm Shift: From Operability to Biological Intelligence

## Historical Paradigm

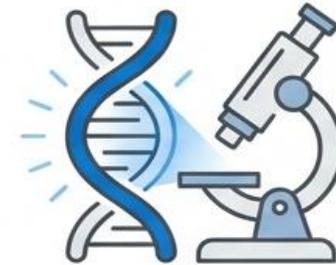


Goal: Shrinkage for Operability

Focus: Local Control

Neoadjuvant Therapy reserved for inoperable/advanced cases.

## Current Standard: Pan-Asian ESMO 2024



Goal: Biological Risk Stratification

Focus: Long-term Survival

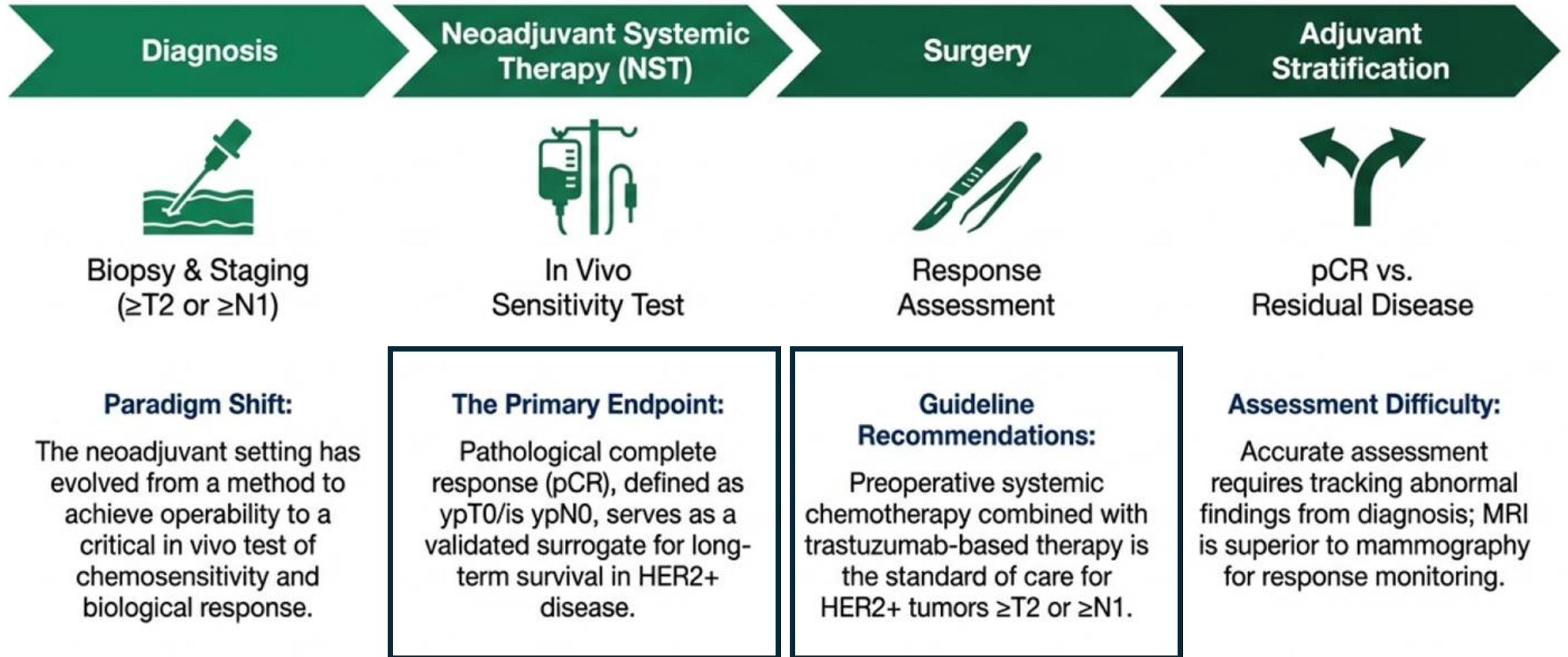
Neoadjuvant Therapy is an **ethical obligation** for high-risk patients (T>2cm or Node+).



Patients with intermediate to high-risk HER2-positive disease ( $\geq T2$  and/or lymph-node positive) **must** receive neoadjuvant treatment to stratify long-term survival.

— Adapted from Pan-Asian ESMO Consensus Guidelines.

# Neoadjuvant Therapy as an In Vivo Stratification Tool

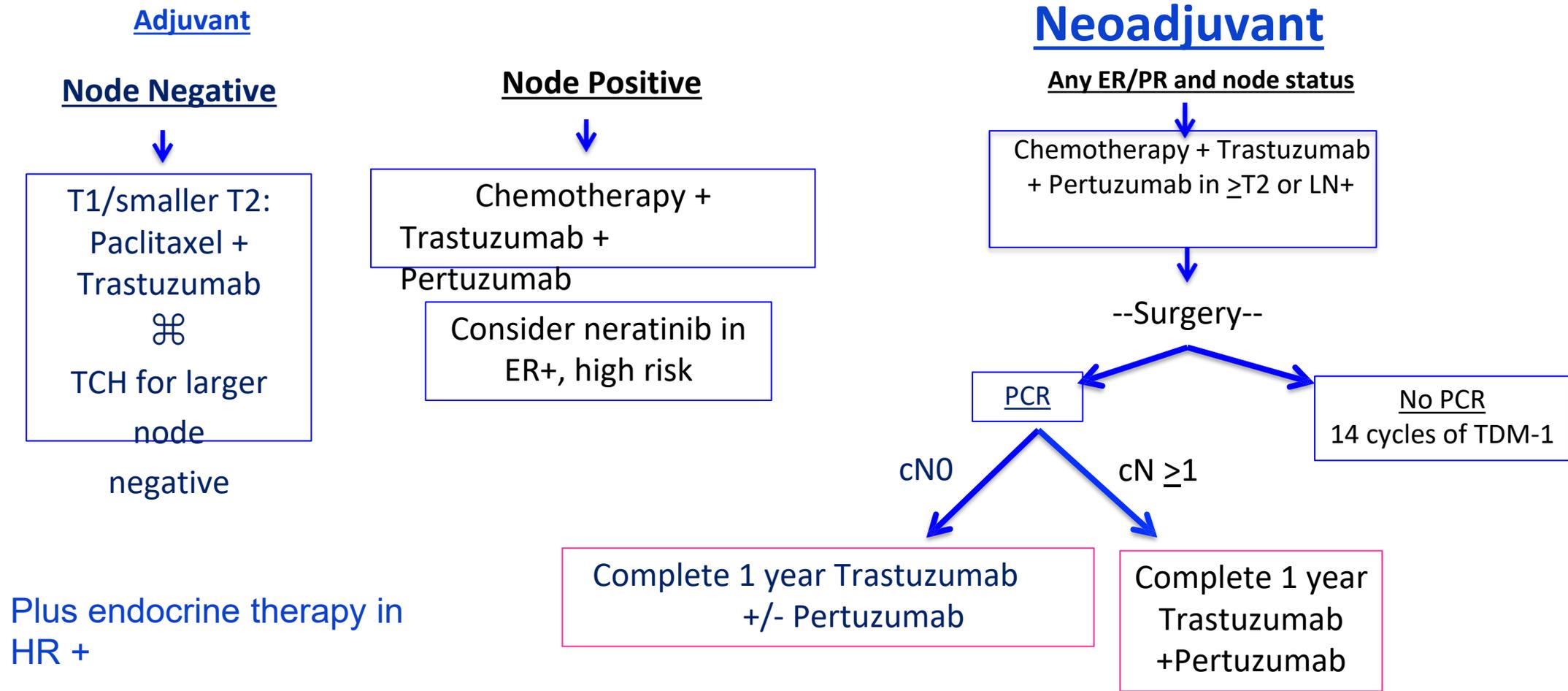


# HER2 RISK STRATIFICATION AND THERAPY

## HER2 Risk Stratification and Therapy (2026 Guidelines)

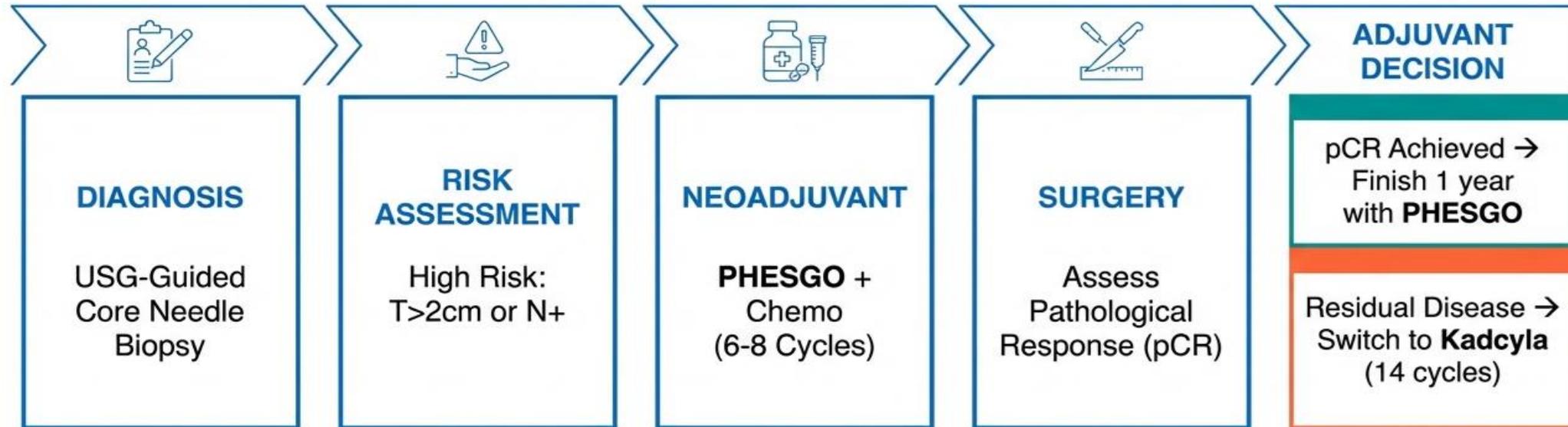
Risk Category	Clinical Profile	Primary Therapy Strategy
Low Risk	Small tumors (<2 cm), Node-negative (T1a-b N0)	<b>De-escalation:</b> Upfront surgery followed by less-intensive chemotherapy (e.g., paclitaxel) and trastuzumab.
Intermediate Risk	T2 (>2 cm) or Node-positive (N1)	<b>Neoadjuvant-First:</b> Preferred to assess pathologic response and tailor subsequent adjuvant therapy.
High Risk	Large tumors (>5 cm), N2/N3 (4+ nodes), or residual disease after neoadjuvant therapy	<b>Escalation:</b> Dual HER2 blockade (trastuzumab + pertuzumab) and consideration of adjuvant T-DM1 if residual disease exists.

# Escalation and De-escalation in HER2+ Early Stage Breast Cancer: Neoadjuvant Therapy for all But Very Small Cancers



# The 2026 Integrated HER2+ Algorithm

Roche Indonesia Protocol



Adapted from Pan-Asian ESMO 2024 Guidelines & NCCN v5.2025.

# Pertuzumab-trastuzumab across neoadjuvant and adjuvant settings improves EFS<sup>1</sup>

- A pooled analysis\* from 5 neoadjuvant studies (n=1763) evaluated outcomes with respect to single versus dual HER2 targeting in neoadjuvant and adjuvant settings.
- Amongst those who achieved pCR, patients treated with pertuzumab-trastuzumab in both settings had the highest 4-year EFS rate compared with those who switched from pertuzumab-trastuzumab to receive adjuvant trastuzumab therapy alone (95% vs 90%).<sup>1</sup>

## 4-year EFS in patients with pCR<sup>1</sup>

	Trastuzumab -> Trastuzumab (n=236)	Pertuzumab-trastuzumab -> Trastuzumab (n=185)	Pertuzumab-trastuzumab -> Pertuzumab-trastuzumab (n=352)
Patients remaining at risk, n	179	155	219
4-year event-free survival rate, % (95% CI)	<b>86</b> (81–89)	<b>90</b> (85–94)	<b>95</b> (92–97)

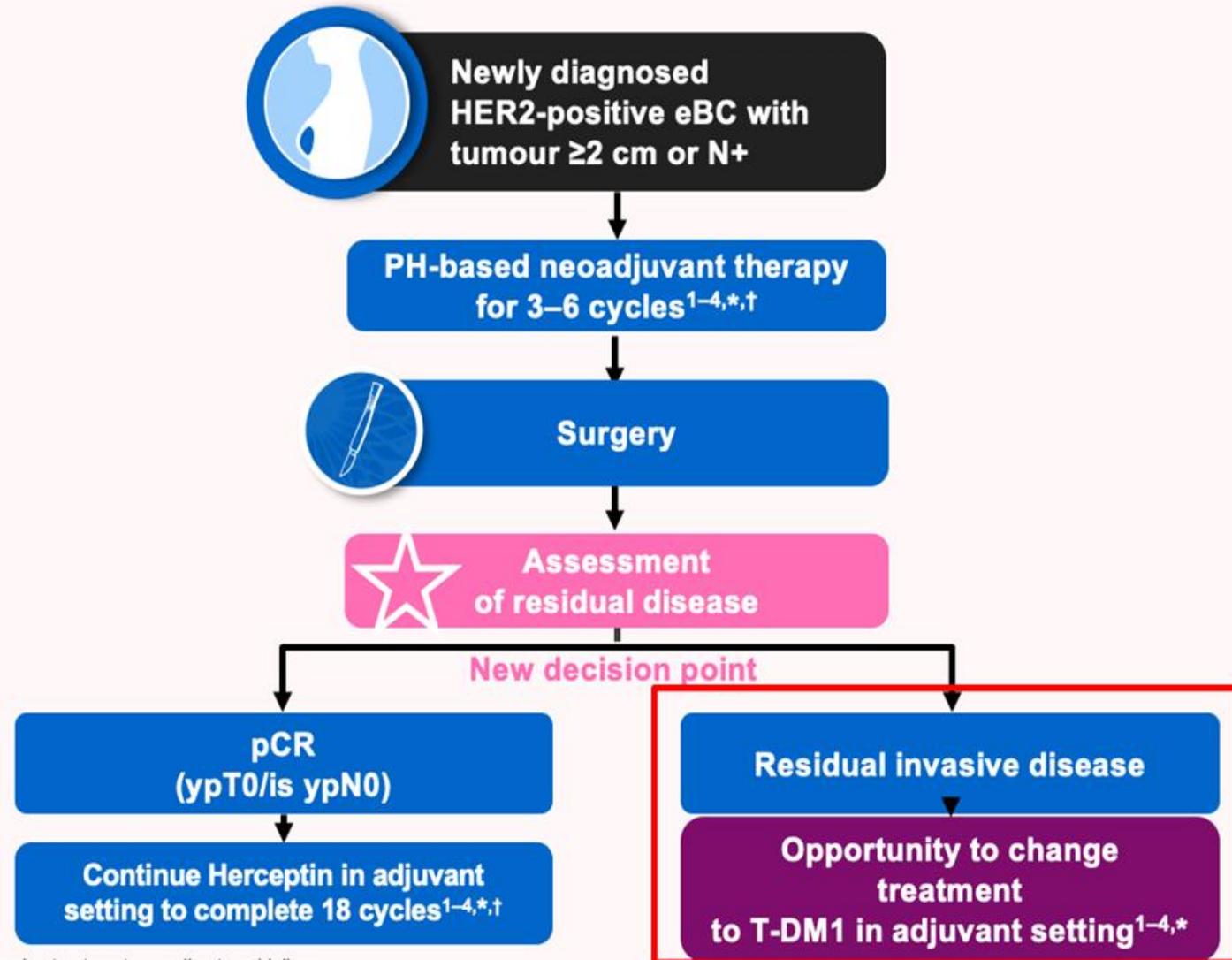
Adapted from Swain SM, Macharia H, Cortes J, et al. *Cancers (Basel)* 2022.<sup>1</sup>

\*Refer to the appendix for further details of this pooled analysis.

Abbreviations: CI, confidence interval; EFS, event-free survival; H, trastuzumab; pCR, pathological complete response; PH, pertuzumab-trastuzumab.

Reference: 1. Swain SM, Macharia H, Cortes J, et al. Event-Free Survival in Patients with Early HER2-Positive Breast Cancer with a Pathological Complete Response after HER2-Targeted Therapy: A Pooled Analysis. *Cancers (Basel)* 2022;14(20):5051.

# Assessment of residual disease after surgery is a new decision point for adapting adjuvant therapy



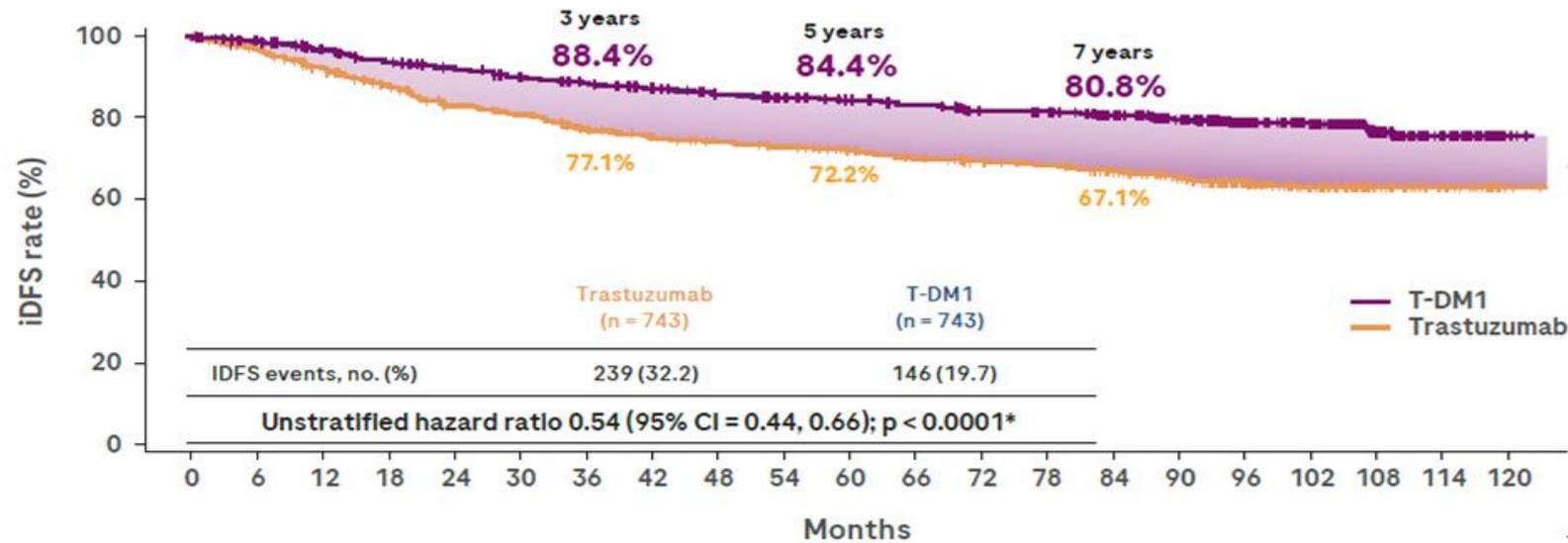
\* Including loco-regional radiotherapy and adjuvant endocrine treatment according to guidelines.

† AGO and ESMO guidelines: (neo)adjuvant PH is only recommended for the treatment of patients with node-positive disease.

eBC, early breast cancer; N+, node-positive; pCR, pathological complete response; PH, pertuzumab–trastuzumab.

KATHERINE IDFS FINAL ANALYSIS:  
KADCYLA reduced the risk of recurrence by 46% compared with Herceptin<sup>1,2</sup>

Final IDFS in the intention to treat (ITT) population at median follow up 8.4 years



Δ 7 years IDFS  
**13.7%**

IDFS events, no. (%)      239 (32.2)      146 (19.7)

**Unstratified hazard ratio 0.54 (95% CI = 0.44, 0.66); p < 0.0001\***

	0	6	12	18	24	30	36	42	48	54	60	66	72	78	84	90	96	102	108	114	120
Trastuzumab	743	677	636	595	556	540	511	495	485	475	460	444	431	421	397	368	238	187	74	42	2
T-DM1	743	708	682	658	637	620	605	591	574	561	548	537	521	516	481	443	281	236	89	50	3



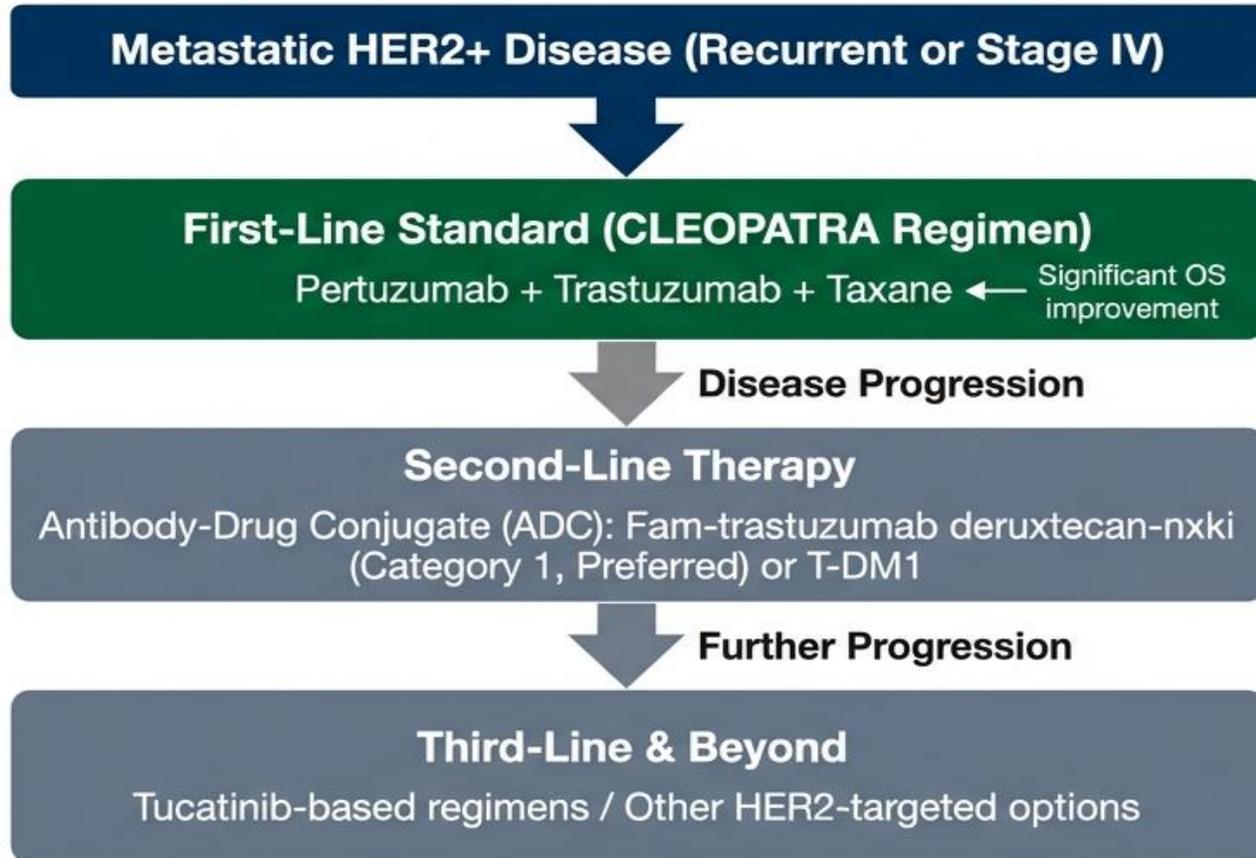
reduction in the risk of recurrence

HR=0.54; 95% CI: 0.44-0.66;  
P<0.0001

\* p-value for IDFS is now exploratory given the statistical significance was established at the primary analysis.  
CI, confidence interval; IDFS, invasive disease-free survival; T-DM1, ado-trastuzumab emtansine.

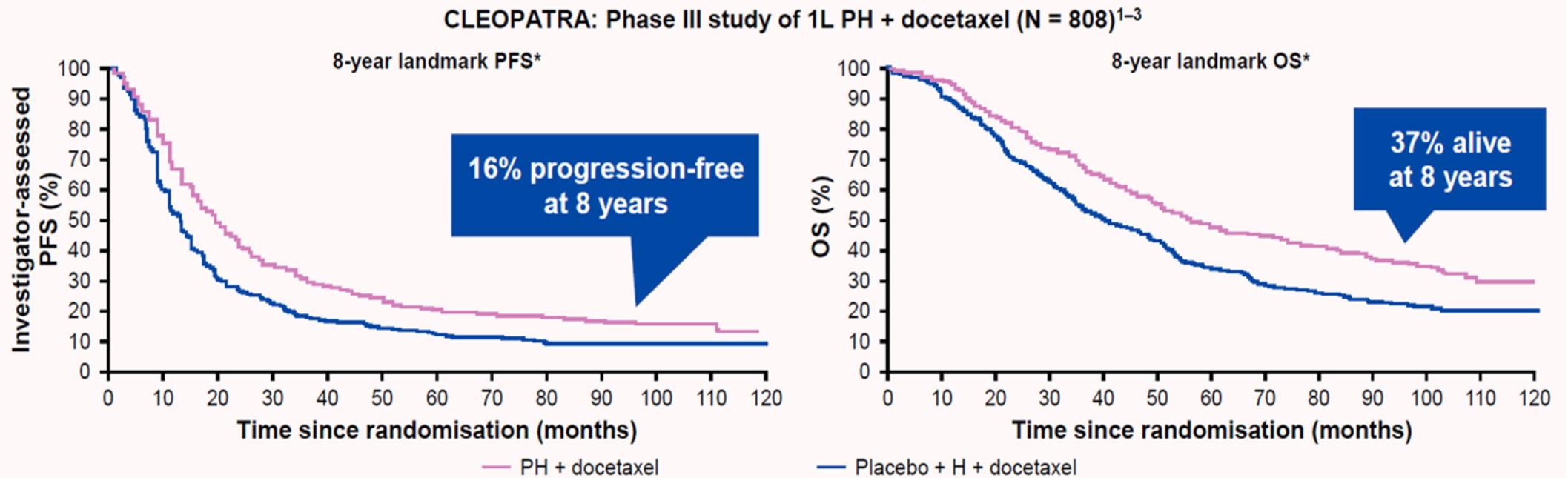
1. von Minckwitz G, et al. Trastuzumab Emtansine for Residual Invasive HER2-Positive Breast Cancer. N Engl J Med. 2019 Feb 14;380(7):617-628. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa1814017 ; 2. Loibl S, et al. Phase III study of adjuvant ado-trastuzumab emtansine vs trastuzumab for residual invasive HER2-positive early breast cancer after neoadjuvant chemotherapy and HER2-targeted therapy: KATHERINE final IDFS and updated OS analysis. SABCS 2023. (Abstract GS03-12; oral presentation)

# The Continuum to Metastatic Disease: Standards of Suppression



- **Continuum of Suppression:** Continued suppression of the HER2 pathway is beneficial even after disease progression; therapy should be maintained until unacceptable toxicity.
- **CNS Involvement:** Local therapy is prioritized for brain metastases, integrated with systemic HER2-targeted options like tucatinib.

Over the past few decades, much progress has been made with dual HER-2 targeted therapy in the 1L setting for patients with HER 2+ mBC



- Significant PFS and OS improvements with PH + docetaxel followed by maintenance PH;\*,1,2 benefit was sustained after a median follow-up of ~100 months<sup>3</sup>
- Despite the unprecedented survival rates in CLEOPATRA, patients with mBC eventually experience disease progression

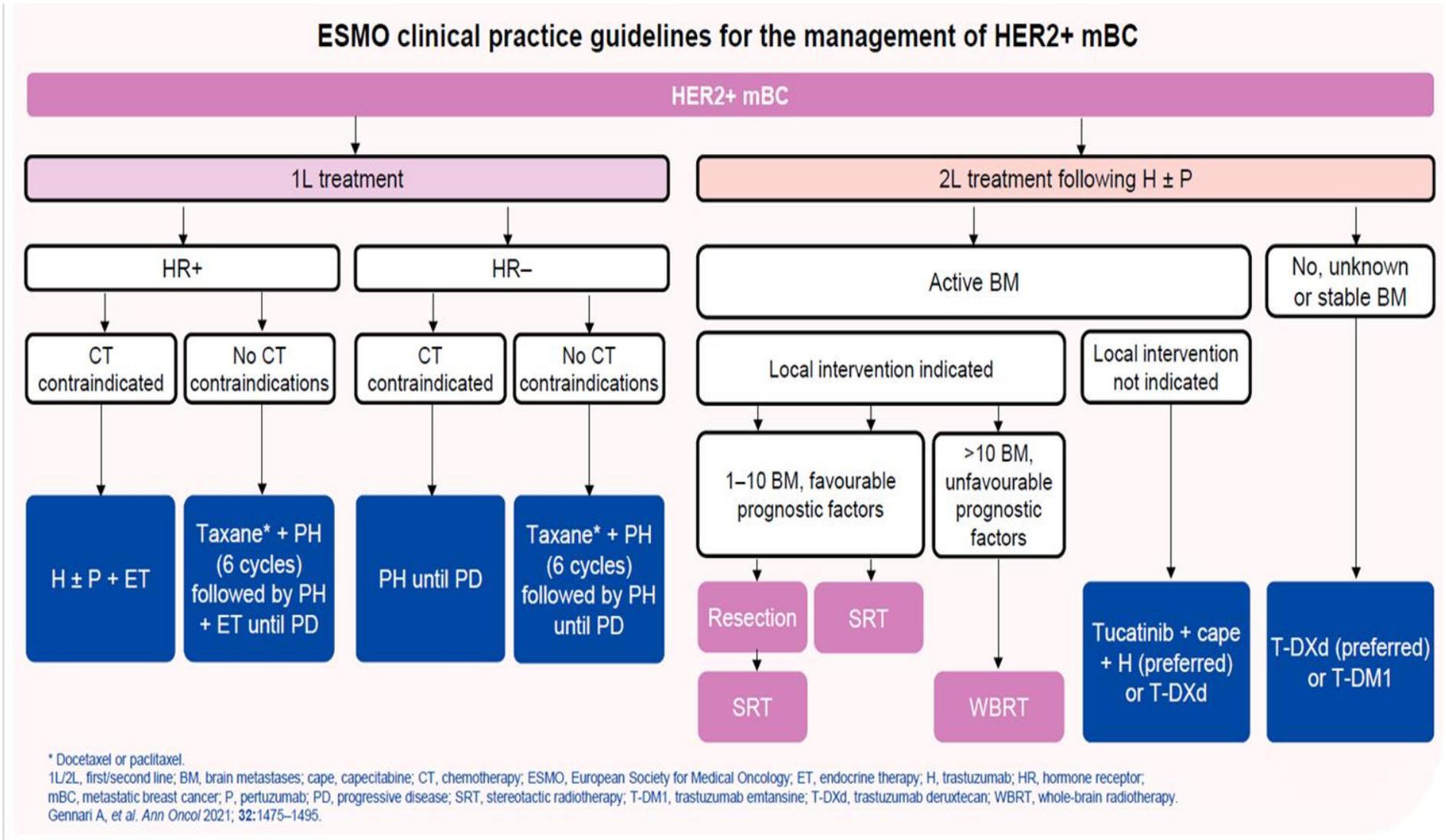


\* Significance reached at the primary analysis (median PFS: 18.5 months vs. 12.4 months; hazard ratio 0.62,  $p < 0.001$ ) and final OS analysis (median OS: 56.5 months vs. 40.8 months; hazard ratio 0.68,  $p < 0.001$ ), respectively.<sup>1,2</sup>

1L, first line; H, trastuzumab; mBC, metastatic breast cancer; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PH, pertuzumab + trastuzumab.

1. Baselga J, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2012; **366**:109–119; 2. Swain SM, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015; **372**:724–734; 3. Swain SM, et al. *Lancet Oncol* 2020; **21**:519–530.

# Current guidelines consider clinical risk factors and HR status for treatment decision-making in HER2+ mBC



# 1 in 4 patients with eBC continue to grapple with unmet needs<sup>1,2</sup>

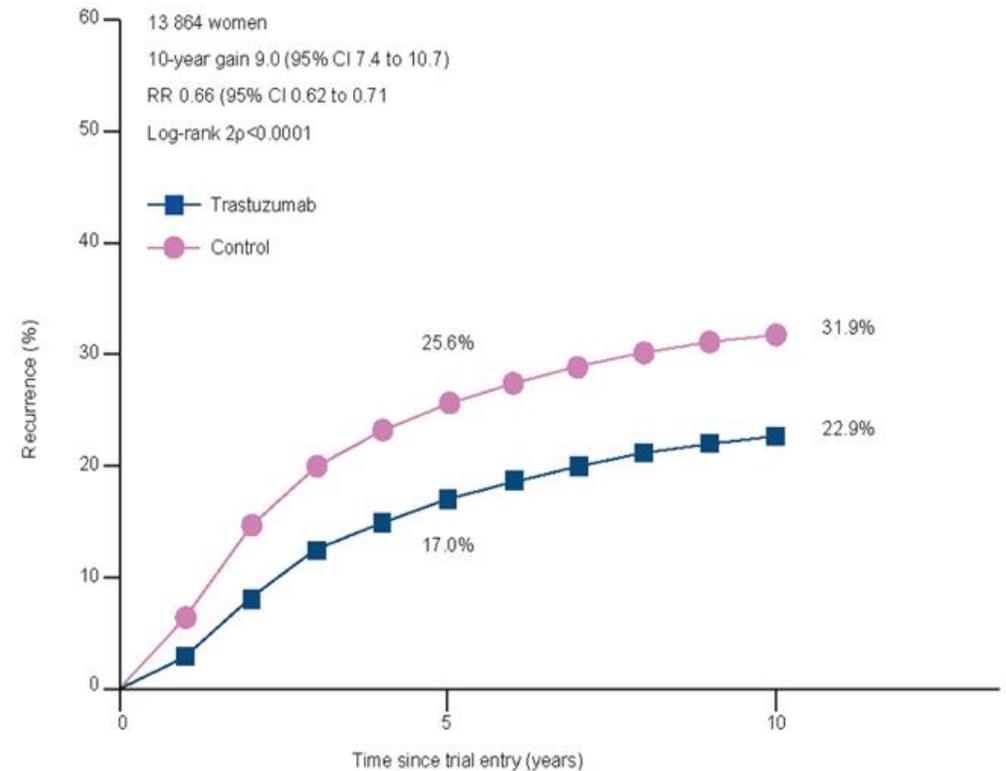
- Recurrence-free survival is the goal of treatment in eBC.<sup>1</sup>
- **However, 1 in 4 patients with HER2+ eBC experience recurrence or death within 10 years despite trastuzumab-based adjuvant therapy.<sup>2</sup>**

**67% of first-line HER2+ mBC are recurrent patients after prior treatment in eBC<sup>3</sup>**

Abbreviations: eBC, early breast cancer; HER2+, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 positive; RR, rate ratio; SoC, standard of care.

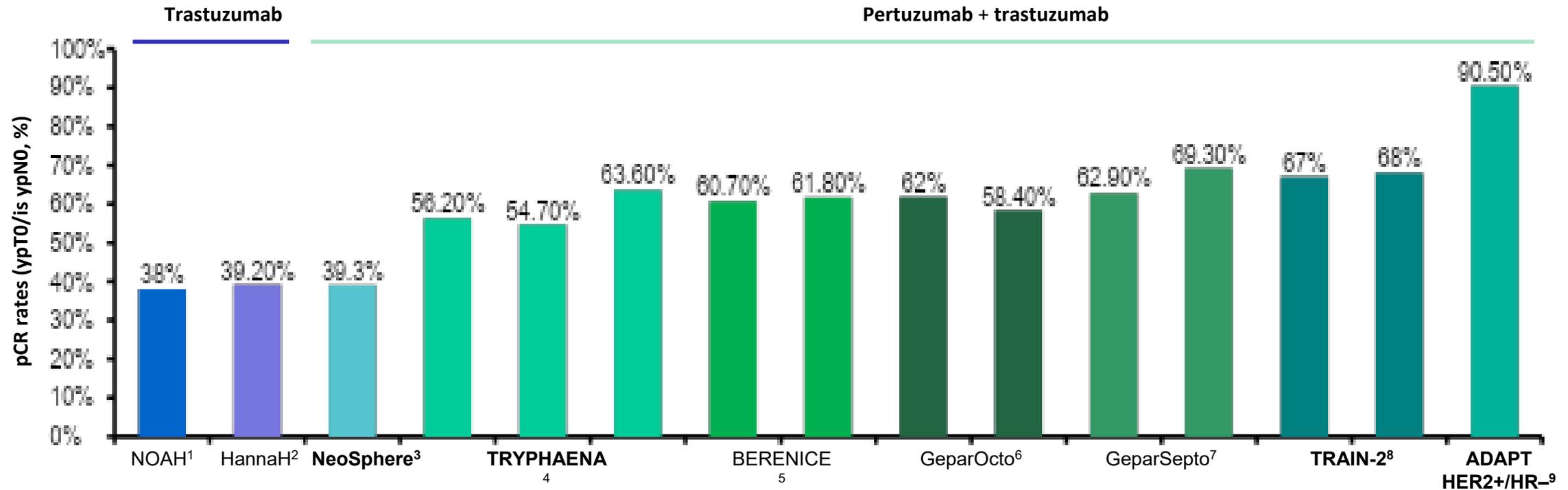
References: 1. Moja L, Tagliabue L, Balduzzi S, et al. Trastuzumab containing regimens for early breast cancer (Review). *Cochrane Database Syst Rev.* 2012;2012:CD006243. 2. Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative group. Trastuzumab for early-stage, HER2-positive breast cancer: a meta-analysis of 13 864 women in seven randomised trials. *Lancet Oncol.* 2021;22(8):1139-1150. 3. Yardley DA, Kaufman PA, Brufsky A, et al. Treatment patterns and clinical outcomes for patients with de novo versus recurrent HER2-positive metastatic breast cancer. *Breast Cancer Res Treat.* 2014;145(3):725-734.

Effect of trastuzumab versus control on disease recurrence<sup>2</sup>



Adapted from Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group. *Lancet Oncol.* 2021.<sup>2</sup>

# Studies of neoadjuvant PHESGO + chemotherapy showed consistently higher pCR rates compared to trastuzumab + chemotherapy



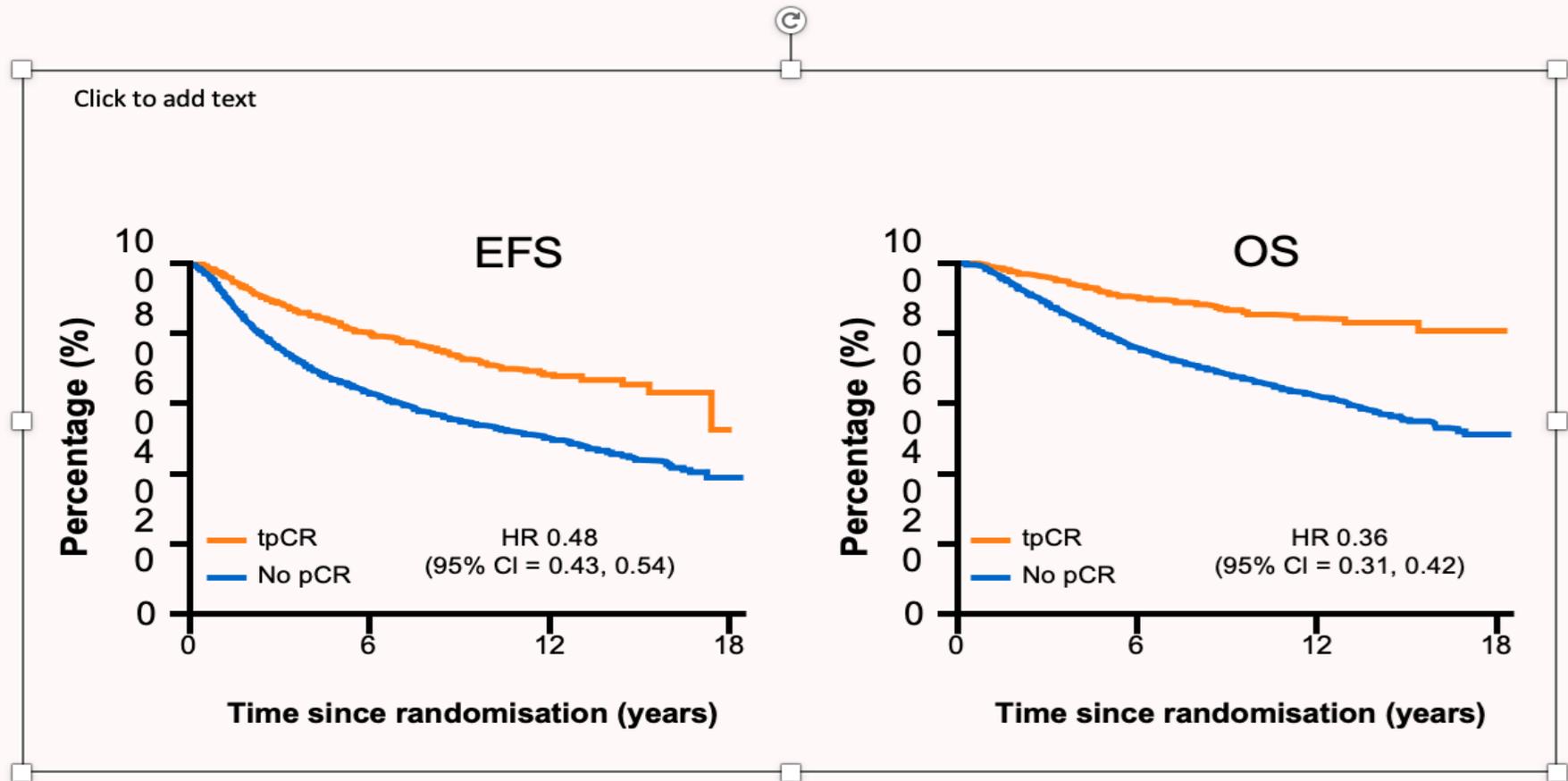
Phase	III <sup>1</sup>	III <sup>2</sup>	II <sup>3</sup>	II <sup>4</sup>			II <sup>5</sup>		III <sup>6</sup>		III <sup>7</sup>		III <sup>8</sup>		II <sup>9</sup>
n*	117	260	107	73	75	77	201	199	192	190	197	199	212	206	42
Regimen	AT+H – T+H – CMF+H	Doc+H – FEC+H	Doc/PH	FEC-Doc/PH	FEC-Doc/PH	Cb/Doc/PH	FEC-Doc/PH	ddAC-Pac/PH	E-TC/PH	Pac/NPLD/Cb/PH	Pac-EC/PH	nabPac-EC/PH	FEC-Pac/Cb/PH	Pac/Cb/PH	Pac weekly/PH
Duration of anti-HER2 therapy	33 weeks	24 weeks	12 weeks	18 weeks	9 weeks	18 weeks	18 weeks	20 weeks	12 weeks	18 weeks	24 weeks		27 weeks		12 weeks

\* n-values represent number of patients in particular treatment arm.

1. Gianni L, et al. Lancet 2010; 2. Ismael G, et al. Lancet Oncol 2012; 3. Gianni L, et al. Lancet Oncol 2012; 4. Schneeweiss A, et al. Ann Oncol 2013; 5. Swain SM, et al. Ann Oncol 2018; 6. Schneeweiss A, et al. Eur J Cancer 2018 (incl. suppl. info.); 7. Loibl S, et al. Ann Oncol 2017; 8. van Ramshorst MS, et al. Lancet Oncol 2018; 9. Nitz JA, et al. Ann Oncol 2017.

# Achieving pCR improves long-term efficacy

*Patients who achieved tpCR had longer EFS and OS than patients with residual cancer*

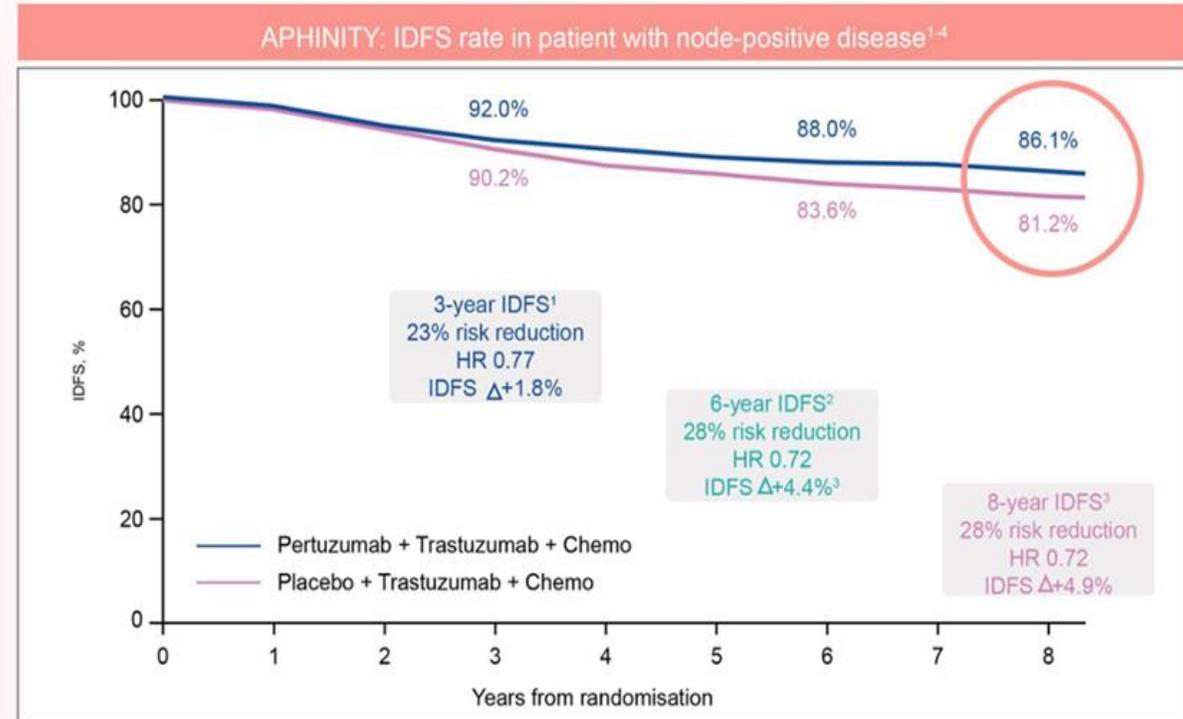


**tpCR: total pathological complete response**

# Patients with node-positive eBC are the ideal candidates for pertuzumab-trastuzumab<sup>1-4</sup>

- Subgroup analysis from the 8.4-year follow-up of the APHINITY trial\* demonstrated:

**Patients with node-positive eBC continued to derive benefit, with a 28% reduction in the risk of recurrence or death with pertuzumab + trastuzumab + chemo compared to placebo + trastuzumab + chemo.<sup>3,4</sup>**



Adapted from Loibl S, et al. ESMO Virtual Plenary. July 2022.<sup>3</sup>

\*Refer to the appendix for the APHINITY trial design.

Abbreviations: chemo, chemotherapy; eBC, early breast cancer; HR, hazard ratio; IDFS, invasive disease-free survival

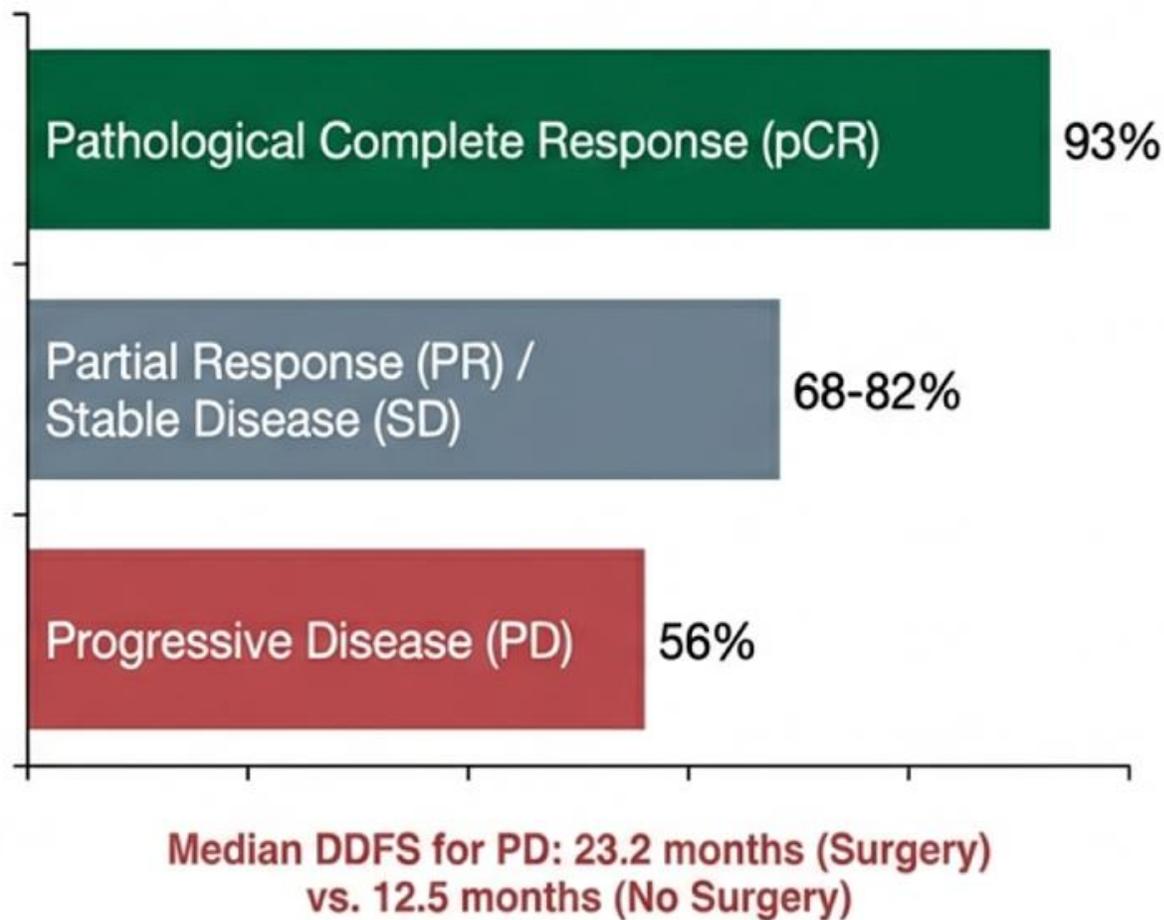
References: 1. von Minckwitz G, Procter M, de Azambuja E, et al. Adjuvant Pertuzumab and Trastuzumab in Early HER2-Positive Breast Cancer. *N Engl J Med*. 2017;377(2):122-131. 2. Piccart M, Procter M, Fumagalli D, et al. Adjuvant Pertuzumab and Trastuzumab in Early HER2-Positive Breast Cancer in the APHINITY Trial: 6 Years' Follow-Up. *J Clin Oncol*. 2021;39(13):1448-1457. 3. Loibl S, Jassem J, Sonnenblick A, et al. Updated results of APHINITY at 8.4 years median follow up. Presented at ESMO Virtual Plenary. July 14-15, 2022. 4. Loibl S, Jassem J, Sonnenblick A, et al. VP6-2022: Adjuvant pertuzumab and trastuzumab in patients with early HER-2 positive breast cancer in APHINITY: 8.4 years' follow-up. *Ann Oncol*. 2022;33(9):P986-987.

# The High-Risk Inflection Point: In-Breast Disease Progression (PD)

**Incidence & Impact:** In-breast PD occurs in 1.6% to 5% of patients during NST. It is a potent predictor of poor outcomes.

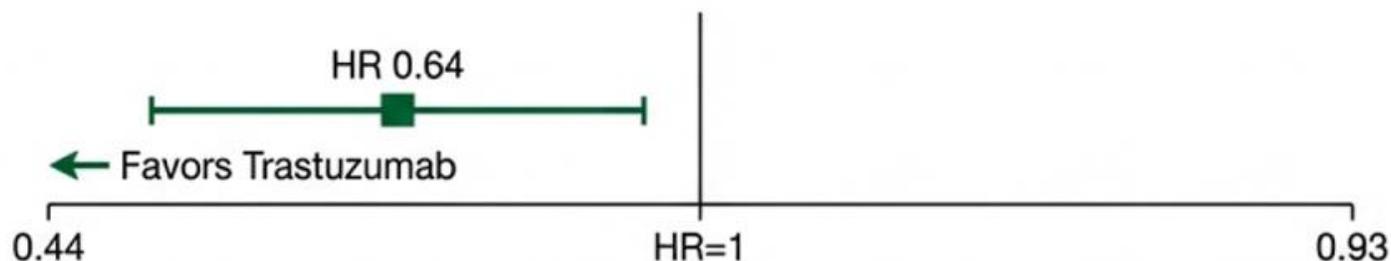
**Biological Predisposition:** While TNBC carries the highest risk, HER2+ patients with PD face high risks of distant recurrence. Post-NST grade and ypT3-4 status are strong predictors of poor DRFS.

**Immediate Action Required:** Direct surgery is statistically associated with better outcomes for operable PD patients compared to switching systemic regimens.



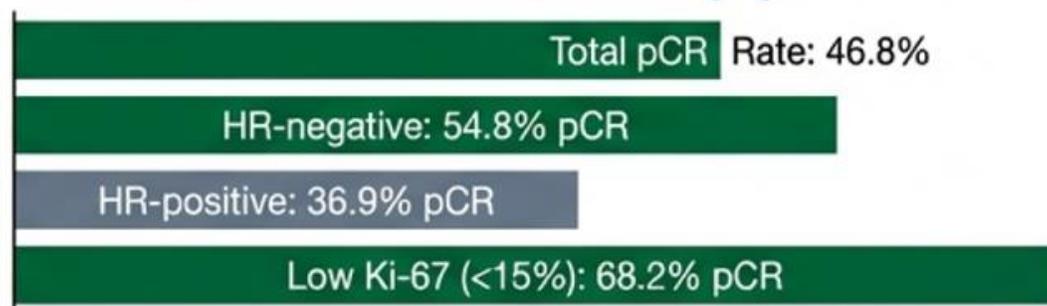
# Maximizing Response: Evidence for Dual Blockade

## NOAH Trial (Chemo + Trastuzumab vs. Chemo Alone)



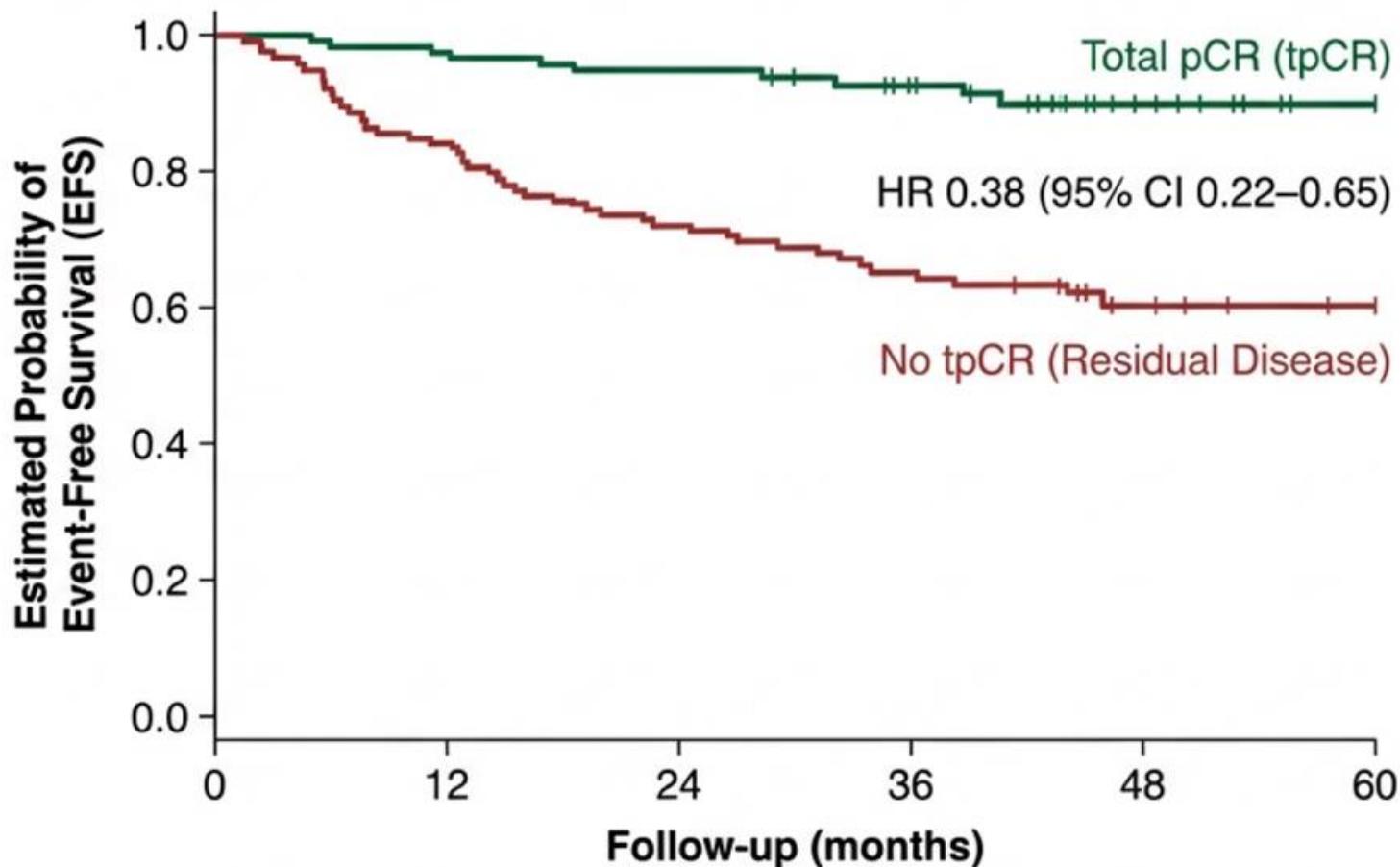
- **NOAH Efficacy:** Neoadjuvant chemotherapy with trastuzumab significantly improves event-free survival (EFS) compared to chemotherapy alone.

## PEONY Real-World Study (Dual Blockade + Chemo)



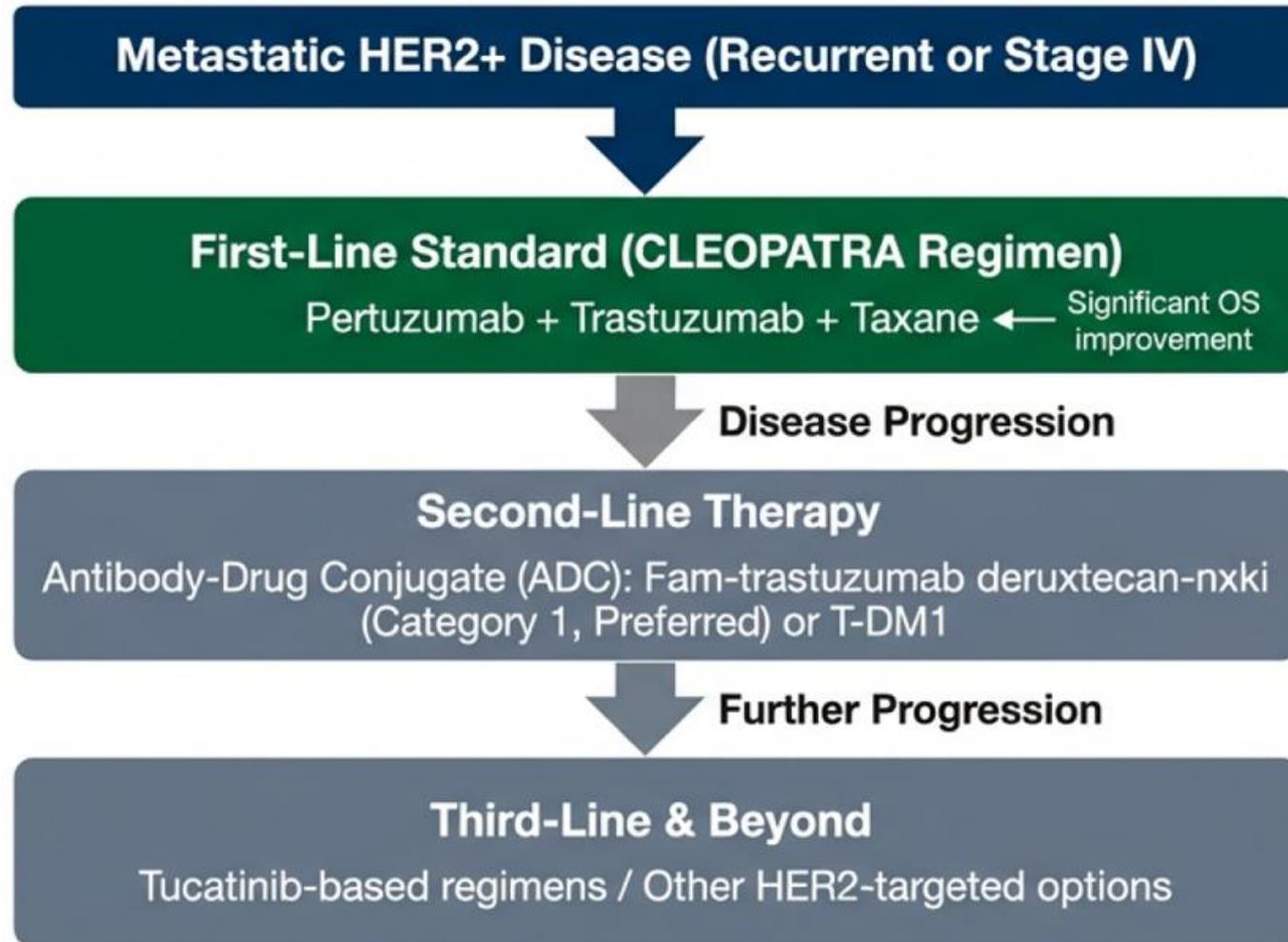
- **Real-World Dual Blockade:** Addition of pertuzumab to trastuzumab and chemotherapy validated in routine practice (PEONY study).
- **Predictive Factors:** HR-negative status and Low Ki-67 (<15%) are independent predictors of achieving pCR.

# Validating the Surrogate: pCR as a Predictor of Long-Term Survival



- **HannaH Phase III Data:** Achieving tpCR is associated with a >60% reduction in the risk of an EFS event compared to patients with residual disease.
- **Administration Consistency:** The survival benefit is consistent regardless of administration route (Intravenous vs. Subcutaneous).
- **Long-Term Impact:** 3-year EFS rates are significantly higher in patients achieving tpCR, reinforcing pCR as a robust early surrogate for survival.

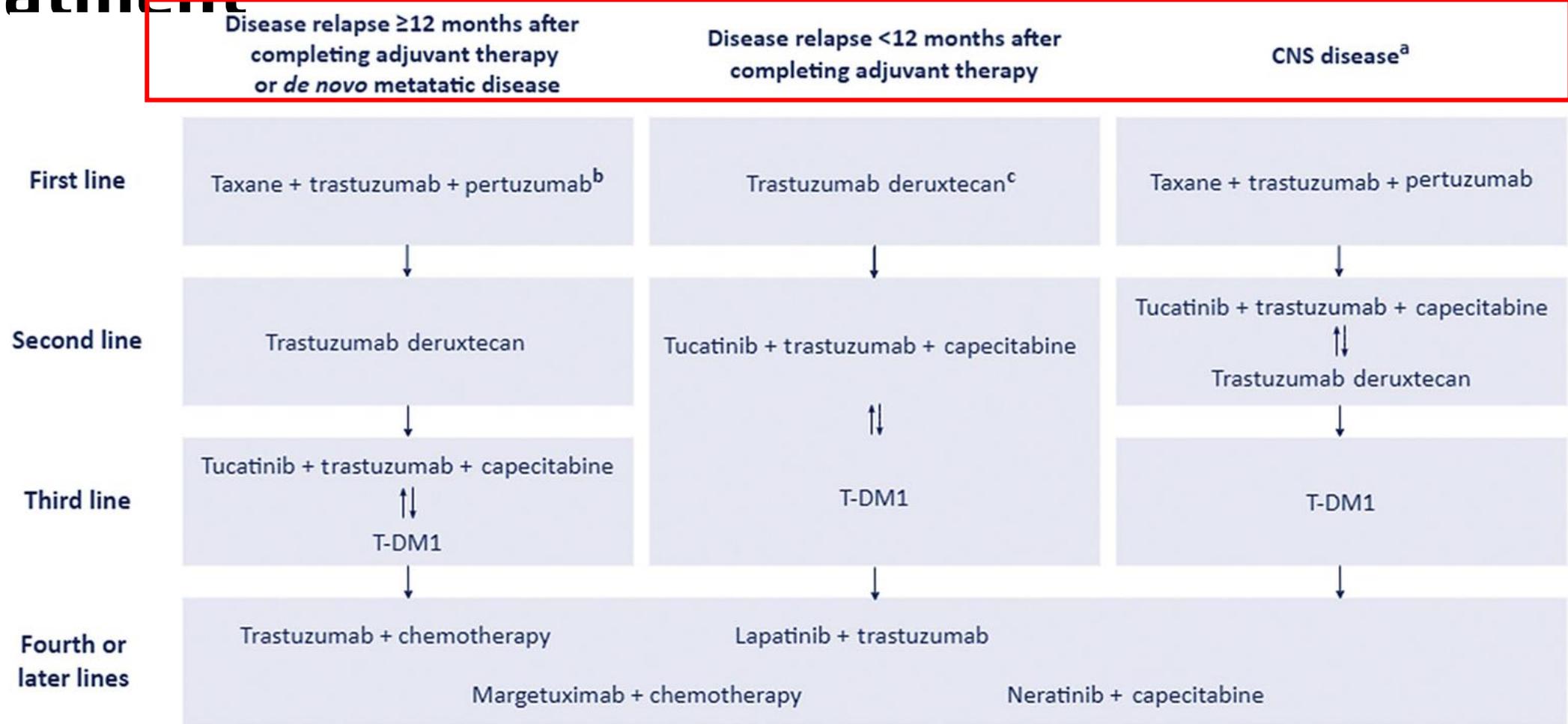
# The Continuum to Metastatic Disease: Standards of Suppression



- **Continuum of Suppression:** Continued suppression of the HER2 pathway is beneficial even after disease progression; therapy should be maintained until unacceptable toxicity.

- **CNS Involvement:** Local therapy is prioritized for brain metastases, integrated with systemic HER2-targeted options like tucatinib.

# Metastatic HER2-Positive Breast Cancer Treatment



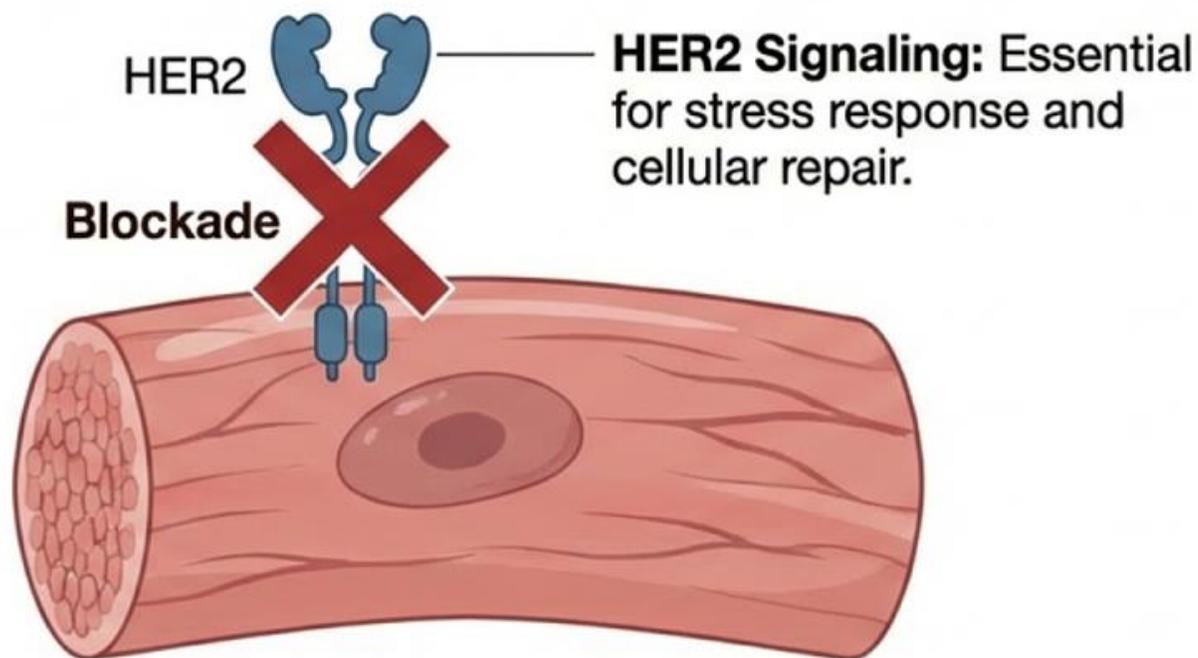
a. Proposed sequence of systemic therapies. Combination with local therapy might be necessary.

b. Trastuzumab ± Pertuzumab (+ endocrine therapy if HR-positive) may be considered in patients with contraindications to chemotherapy.

c. For patients with treatment-free interval between 6 and 12 months after exposure to pertuzumab-free adjuvant regimens THP can be considered as first-line option.

# Cardiotoxicity: The Competing Risk in HER2 Blockade

## Mechanism of Interference



Inhibition prevents repair, leading to Type II Cardiotoxicity (Reversible).

## NOAH Trial Safety Profile

- **LVEF Declines:** Observed in subset of patients.
- **Incidence:** Symptomatic heart failure is relatively low.
- **Reversibility:** Unlike anthracycline-induced damage (Type I, permanent), trastuzumab toxicity is often reversible upon discontinuation.
- **Monitoring Baseline:** Patients with baseline LVEF <55% generally excluded from pivotal trials.

# Stratifying Cardiac Risk: Patient and Treatment Factors

## Body Weight



### Body Weight

Higher frequency of cardiac adverse events in patients within the highest body weight quartiles (>79 kg), seen in both SC and IV administration (HannaH study).

## Anthracycline Exposure



### Anthracycline Exposure

Regimens containing anthracyclines carry higher baseline risk. Must NEVER be administered concurrently with trastuzumab; sequential administration is mandatory.

## Formulation Safety



### Formulation Safety

Subcutaneous trastuzumab shows a consistent cardiac safety profile to intravenous formulation. No new safety signals in long-term follow-up.

[4] Jackisch C, et al. *Eur J Cancer*. 2016;62:62-75.

[5] NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Breast Cancer. Version 2.2024.

# Criteria for Minimizing Cardiotoxicity: Selection and Surveillance

## Baseline Assessment



### Baseline Assessment

Mandatory LVEF assessment (Echo/MUGA).

**Eligibility:** LVEF  $\geq$ 50-55%.

**Exclusion:** History of significant cardiac disease/CHF.

## Surveillance During Therapy



✓ **Green Light:**  
Stable LVEF.

! **Yellow Light:**  
Asymptomatic dysfunction -> Increase monitoring to every 4 weeks.

Assess LVEF every 3 months.

## Real-World Evidence



### Real-World Evidence

PEONY Study Data:  
**Only 7.8% experienced cardiac function decrease.**

**No cases of LVEF decline  $>$ 10%.**



# Monitoring after Cardiotoxic Therapy (e.g. Anthracyclines, anti-HER2, Immuno-oncology)

---

## After anthracyclines / Trastuzumab:

- ECG and echocardiography:
  - 6, 12, 24 months and yearly up to 5 years after therapy
  - after 5th year, every 5 years and if patient is symptomatic
- If cardiovascular risk factors:
  - blood pressure at least yearly
  - lipids and HbA1c in serum yearly
- Modify risk factors if possible:
  - nicotine, body weight, bmi
- Education about individual risk profile and lifestyle

## Risk factors:

radiotherapy of left breast, nicotine, hypertonus, diabetes mell., dyslipidaemia, adiposity, age > 60, cardiac diseases: reduced ejection fraction, post- myocardial infarction status ,  $\geq$  moderate heart defects

# Side Effects According to Organ Systems

## Cardiotoxicity as Long-term Side Effect

	Oxford		
	LoE	GR	AGO
▪ <u>Equivalent cardiotoxicity of doxorubicin and epirubicin at recommended dose levels (450–500 and 900–1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup> cum. dose, resp.)</u>	2b	B	
▪ Liposome encapsulated anthracyclines (doxorubicin) induce less cardiotoxicity	1b	B	
▪ Anthracycline- or trastuzumab-associated cardiotoxicity may occur earlier/more frequently: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Elderly patients, obesity, hypertension, hypercholesterinemia, pre-existing cardiac disease (incl. borderline LVEF), diabetes mellitus</li> </ul>	2b	B	
▪ Monitoring of cardiac function: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Standardized echocardiography (LVEF or SF in %)</li> <li>▪ ECG (QT-interval)               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Troponin I as marker of cardiac toxicity</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	3b	C	+
	1a	A	+
	2b	B	+/-
▪ Betablocker-prohylaxis during anthracycline therapy	2a	B	+/-

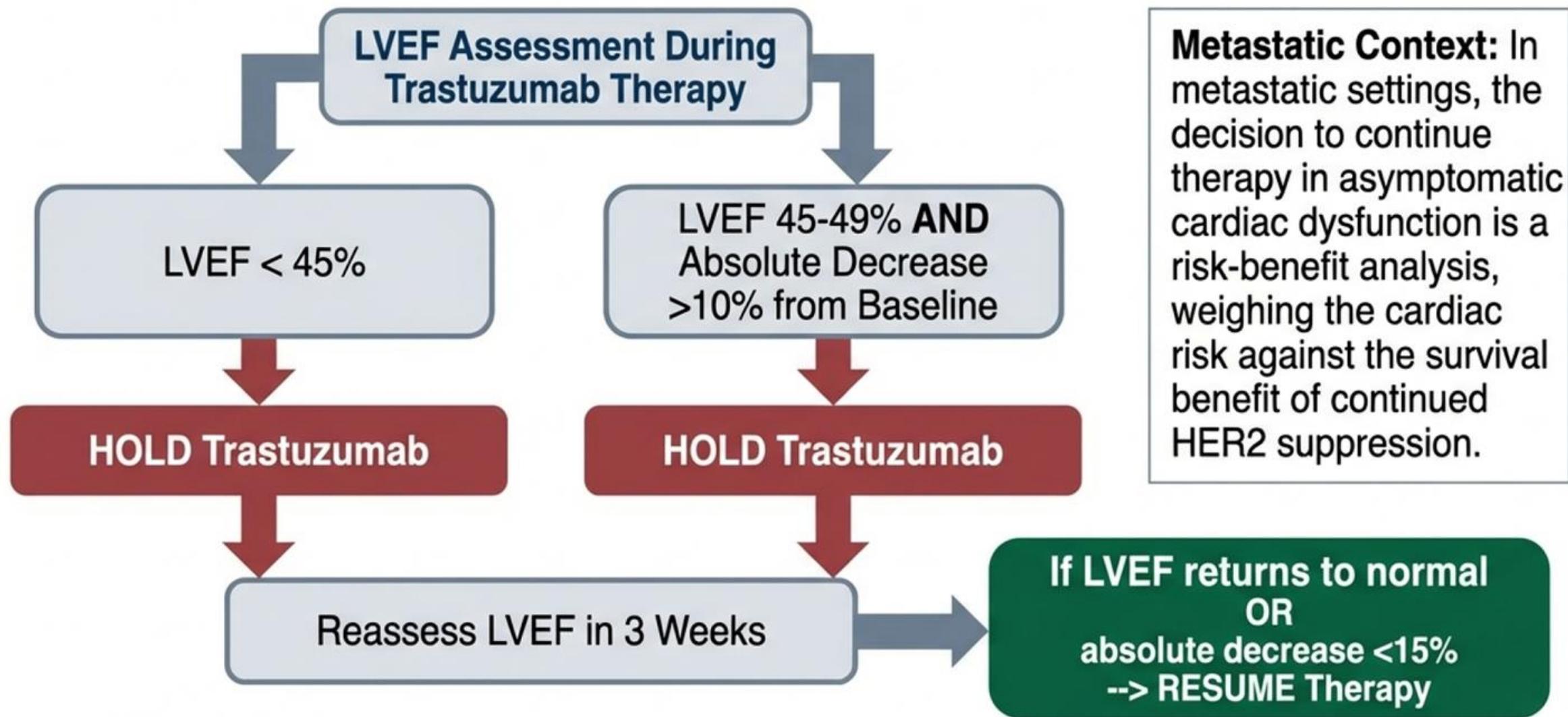
# Regimen Selection: Balancing Efficacy and Cardiac Safety

Non-Anthracycline Regimens (Preferred)	Anthracycline-Containing Regimens
<b>Example:</b> TCHP (Docetaxel / Carboplatin / Trastuzumab / Pertuzumab)	<b>Example:</b> AC followed by T + Trastuzumab
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>NCCN</b> Preferred for neoadjuvant/adjuvant setting.</li><li>• Minimizes cardiac risk while maintaining dual blockade efficacy.</li><li>• <b>PEONY</b> Study: <b>Low rates of Grade 3-4 cardiac events.</b></li><li>• Ideal for patients with lower baseline LVEF or cardiac risk factors.</li></ul> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Higher baseline risk of cardiotoxicity.</b></li><li>• Risk of leukemia and <b>permanent heart damage (Type I toxicity).</b></li><li>• Strict requirement for <b>SEQUENTIAL</b> administration (<b>never concurrent</b>).</li></ul> 

[2] Zhou J, et al. Ann Transl Med. 2022;10(24):1387.

[5] NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Breast Cancer. Version 2.2024.

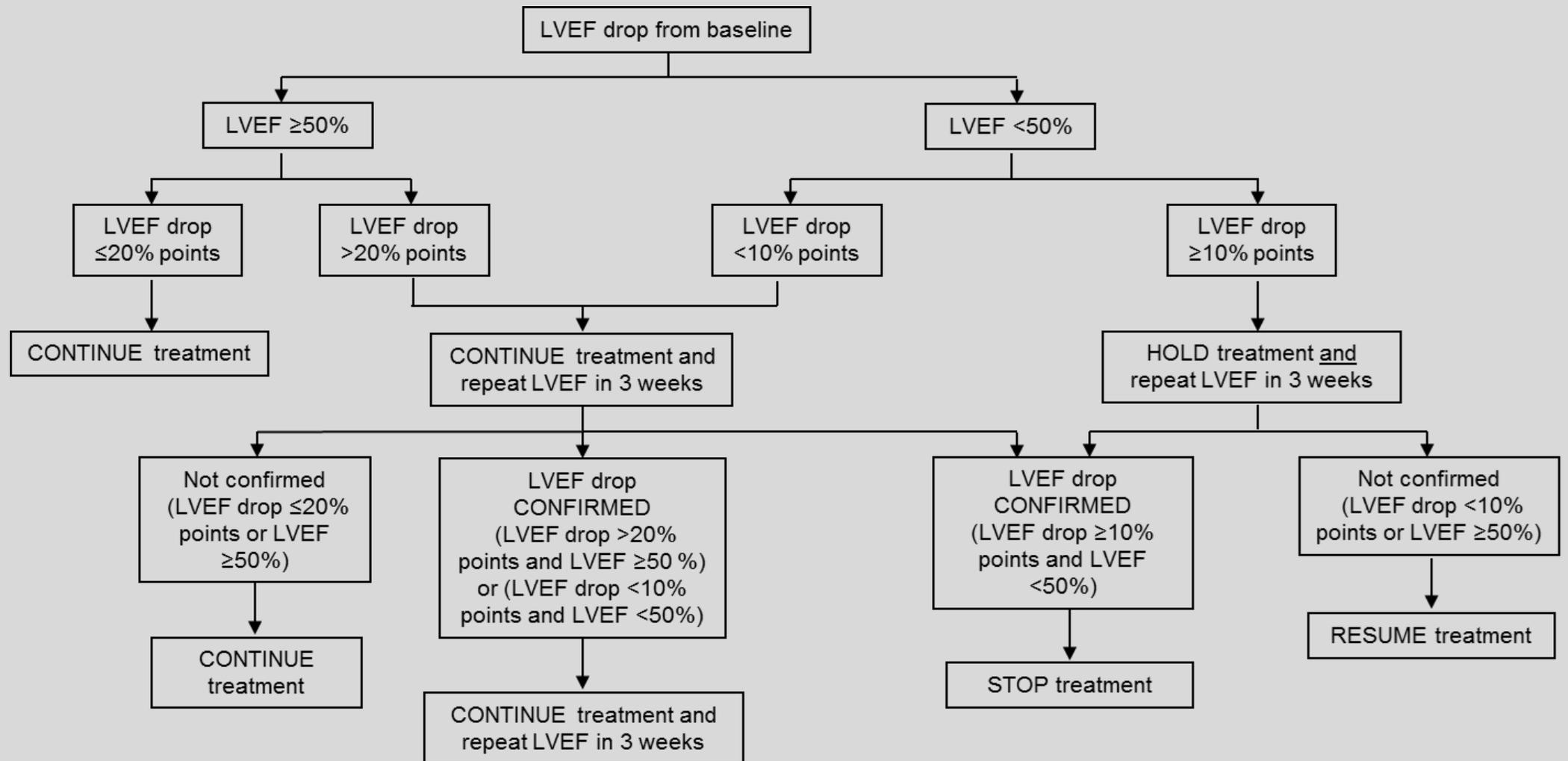
# Management Algorithm for LVEF Decline



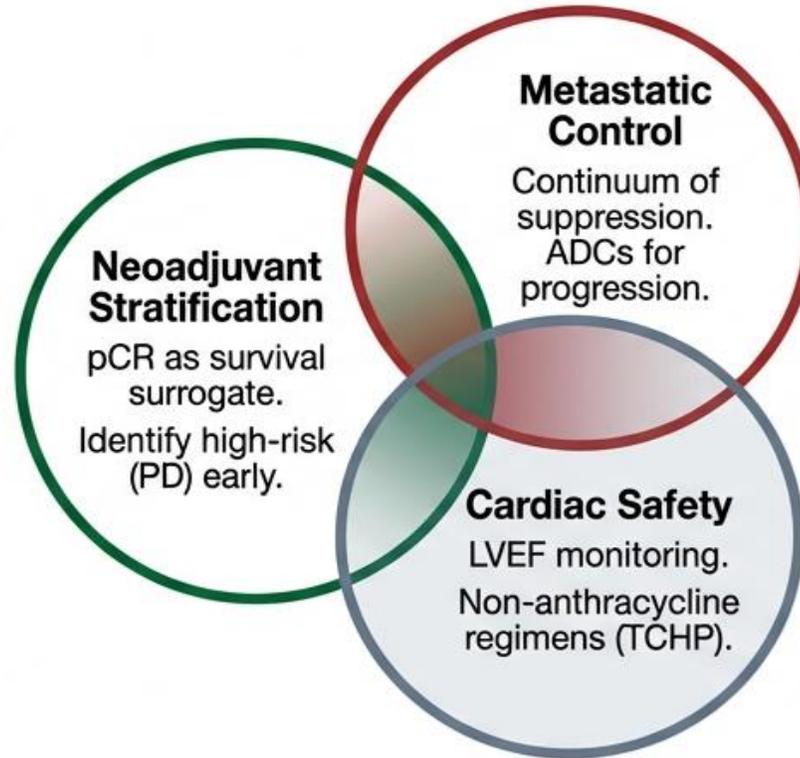
[1] Gianni L, et al. Lancet. 2010;375:377-84.

[5] NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology: Breast Cancer. Version 2.2024.

# Side Effects of Trastuzumab / Pertuzumab: Algorithm in Case of Cardiac Toxicity



# Summary: Integrating Biology, Risk, and Survival



- **The Continuum:** HER2+ management is dynamic; **neoadjuvant response** dictates adjuvant strategy.
- **Risk Stratification:** Early identification of **non-responders** allows for escalation (surgery/ADCs) to improve DDFS.
- **Safety Foundation:** Strict protocols ensure survival benefits of **dual blockade** are not compromised by **cardiotoxicity**.



**TERIMA  
KASIH**

thank  
you

