

# The Latest Research: Hormonal Therapies

Sameer Gupta, M.D., M.P.H

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Attending Physician, Hematology/Oncology  
Bryn Mawr Hospital

Clinical Assistant Professor, Jefferson Medical College

# Disclosures

- No Pertinent Financial Disclosures

# Objectives

- Discuss types of anti-estrogen therapies available after diagnosis of early stage breast cancer to reduce the risk of recurrence
- Latest research and recommended guidelines on the duration of therapy
- Side effect profiles and how to manage side effects to minimize impact on overall quality of life
- Compliance issues and common reasons (medical, practical and emotional) that effect this

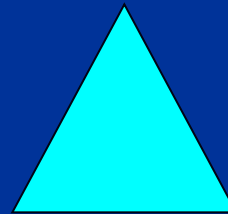
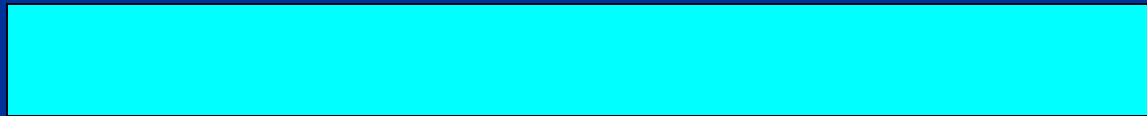
# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy

- Goal to eliminate or delay appearance of micrometastatic disease
  - Anti Estrogen therapy (ER positive)
  - Chemotherapy (Some ER positive, ER negative, Her-2/neu amplified)
  - Her-2/neu directed therapy (for Her-2/neu amplified disease)
- Current Strategies: Individualizing treatment to the cancer and the patient

# Adjuvant Systemic Therapy for Breast Cancer: Decision Making

**Risks: Adverse  
Events**

**Benefits: Risk  
Reduction**



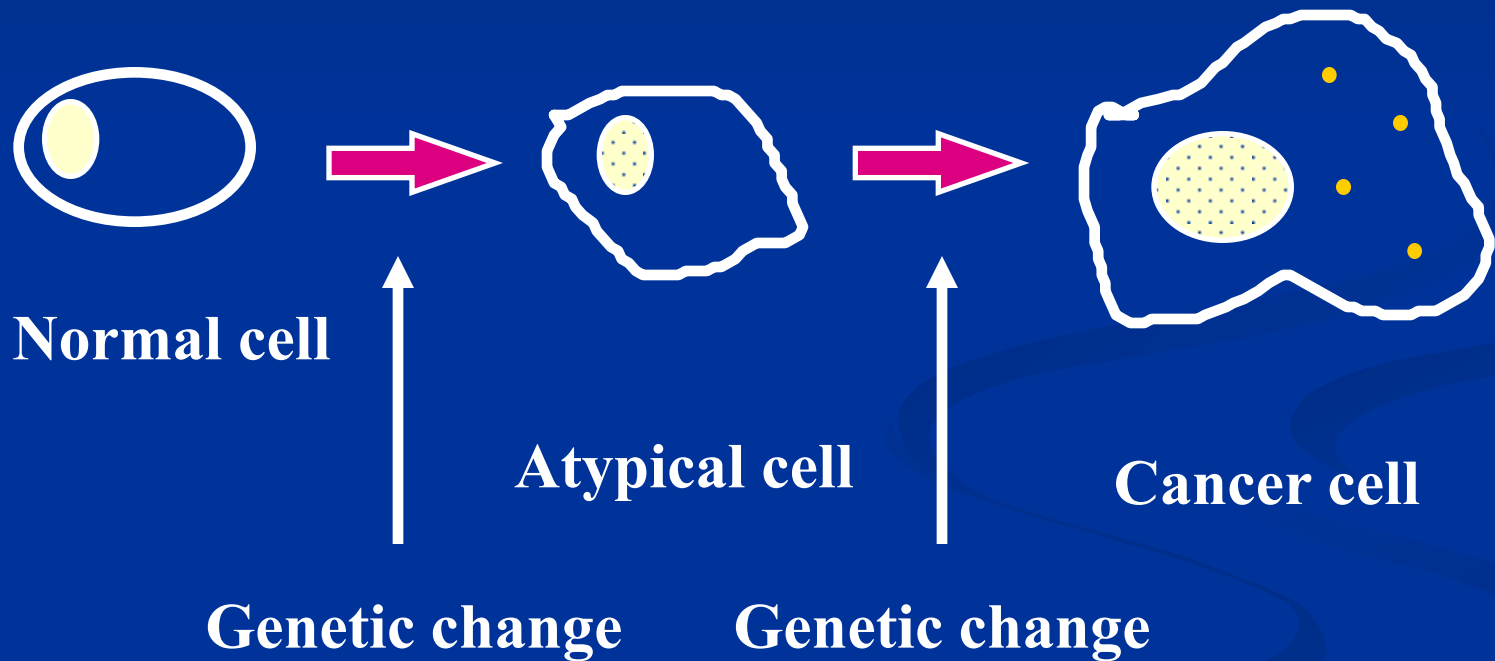
**Organ Function, Age,  
Co-morbidities**

**Prognostic &  
Predictive Factors**

# Adjuvant Systemic Treatment of Early Stage Breast Cancer

- **THE PAST** (2000 NCI Consensus Development Conference on Adjuvant Breast Cancer)
  - Chemotherapy should be offered to the majority of women with early stage breast cancer regardless of size, lymph node, menopausal or hormone receptor status
- **THE PRESENT AND FUTURE**
  - Individualizing estimates of recurrence risk and chemotherapy benefit using genomic/molecular profiling
  - Many patients don't need chemotherapy

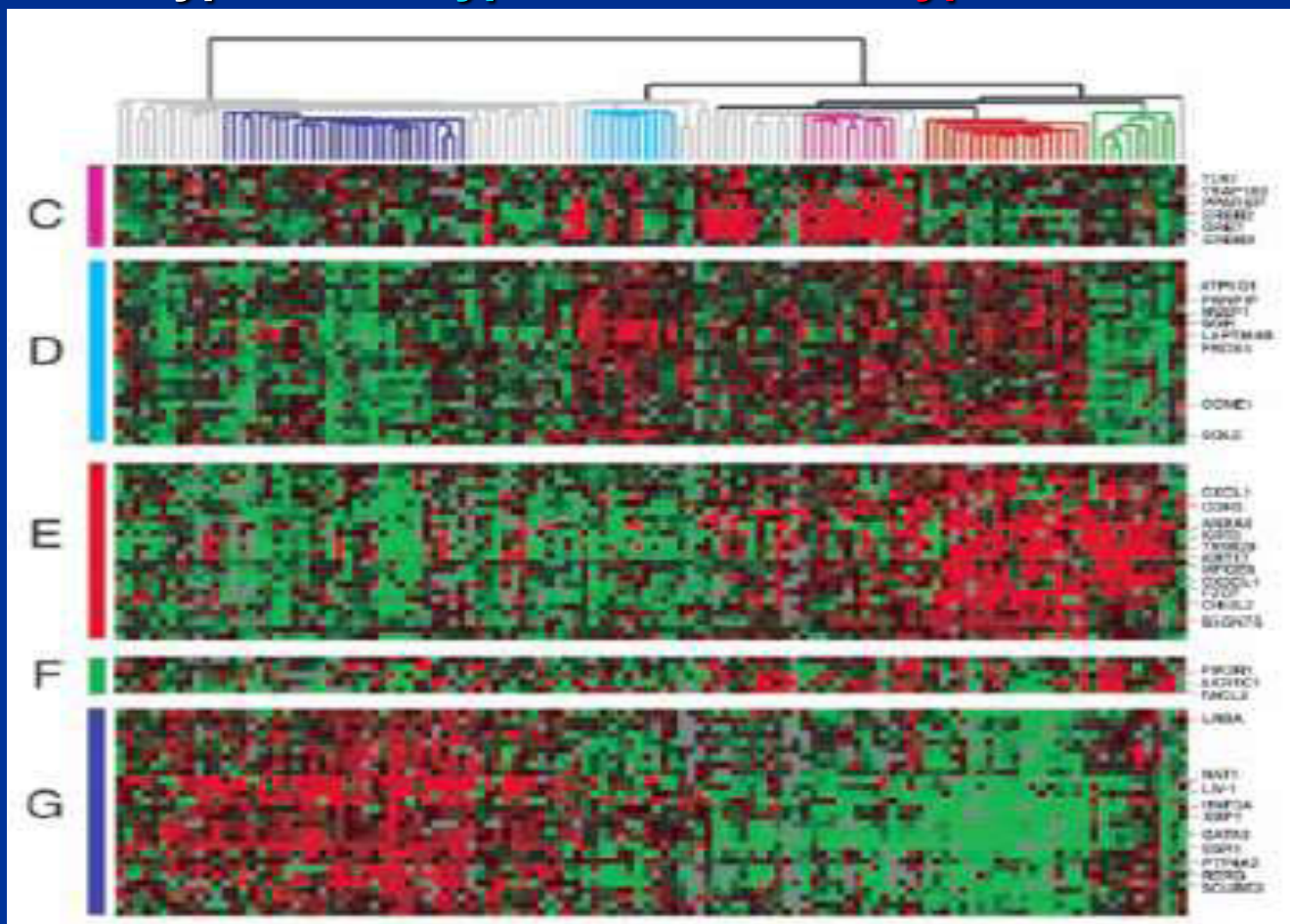
# The Genomic Era: Understanding the Genetic Changes in Each Individual Tumor



Testing the acquired genetic makeup of the tumor can lead to more effective treatment strategies

# Genomics of Breast Cancer: DNA Microarray and hierarchical clustering

Luminal Subtype A    Luminal Subtype B    HER-2+ Basal Subtype    Normal Breast-like



Subtypes vary with respect to:

- Likelihood of recurrence
- Sites of metastases
- Response to treatment



# Oncotype DX 21-Gene Recurrence Score (RS) Assay

16 Cancer and 5 Reference Genes From 3 Studies

## PROLIFERATION

Ki-67  
STK15  
Survivin  
Cyclin B1  
MYBL2

## ESTROGEN

ER  
PR  
Bcl2  
SCUBE2

$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{RS} = & + 0.47 \times \text{HER2 Group Score} \\
 & - 0.34 \times \text{ER Group Score} \\
 & + 1.04 \times \text{Proliferation Group Score} \\
 & + 0.10 \times \text{Invasion Group Score} \\
 & + 0.05 \times \text{CD68} \\
 & - 0.08 \times \text{GSTM1} \\
 & - 0.07 \times \text{BAG1}
 \end{aligned}$$

**GSTM1**

**BAG1**

## INVASION

Stromelysin 3  
Cathepsin L2

**CD68**

## REFERENCE

Beta-actin  
GAPDH  
RPLPO  
GUS  
TFRC

## HER2

GRB7  
HER2

<u>Category</u>	<u>RS (0-100)</u>
Low risk	RS <18
Int risk	RS ≥18 and <31
High risk	RS ≥31

# Trial Assigning Individualized Options for Treatment (TAILORx):

Phase III trial of chemoendocrine therapy versus endocrine therapy alone in hormone receptor-positive, HER2-negative, node-negative breast cancer and an intermediate prognosis 21-gene recurrence score



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ESTABLISHED IN 1812

NOVEMBER 19, 2015

VOL. 373 NO. 21

Prospective Validation of a 21-Gene Expression Assay  
in Breast Cancer

# Prospective Validation of a 21-Gene Expression Assay in Breast Cancer

- TAILORx: 10,253 eligible women enrolled
- 1626 women (15.9%) had a recurrence score of 0 to 10
  - Assigned to receive Anti Estrogen therapy alone
- 5 Year Data
  - Freedom from recurrence of breast cancer at a distant or local–regional site: 98.7%
  - Freedom from recurrence of breast cancer at a distant site: 99.3%
  - Overall Survival: 98.0%

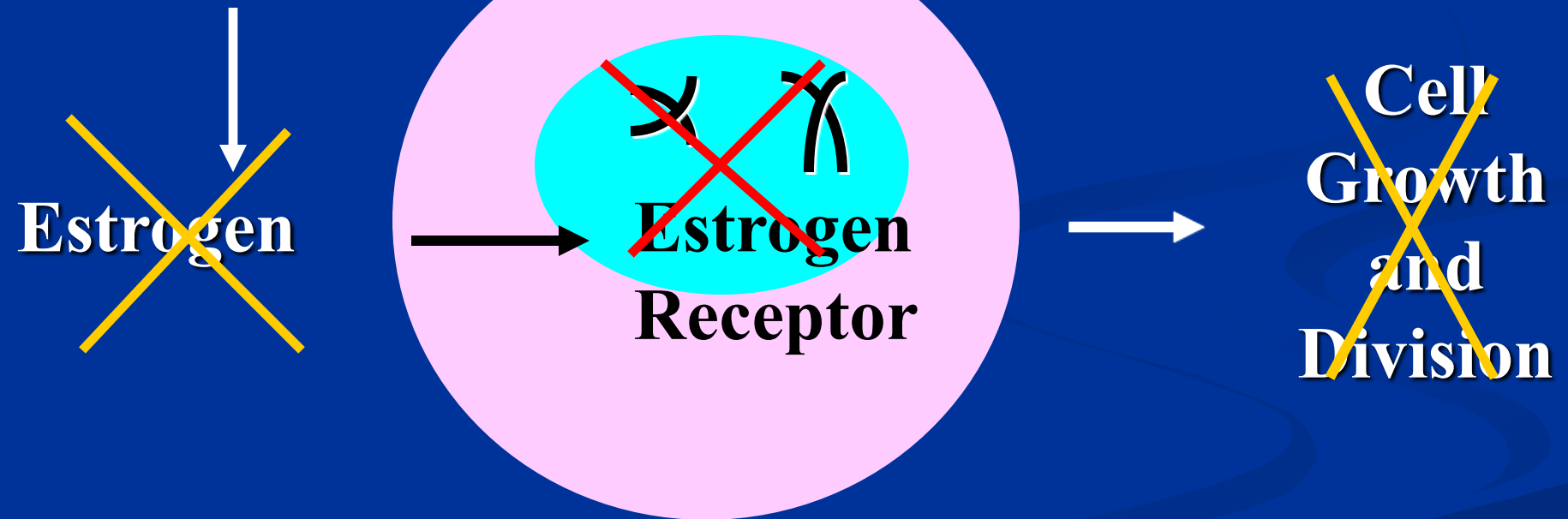
# Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy in Early Breast Cancer

- Selective Estrogen Receptor Modulators
  - Tamoxifen
- Aromatase inhibitors (postmenopausal)
  - Anastrozole (ARIMIDEX)
  - Letrozole (FEMARA)
  - Exemestane (AROMASIN)
- Medical or surgical ovarian suppression in some premenopausal patients

# Estrogen and Breast Cancer

Aromatase  
inhibitors, ovarian  
suppression

SERMS, SERDS



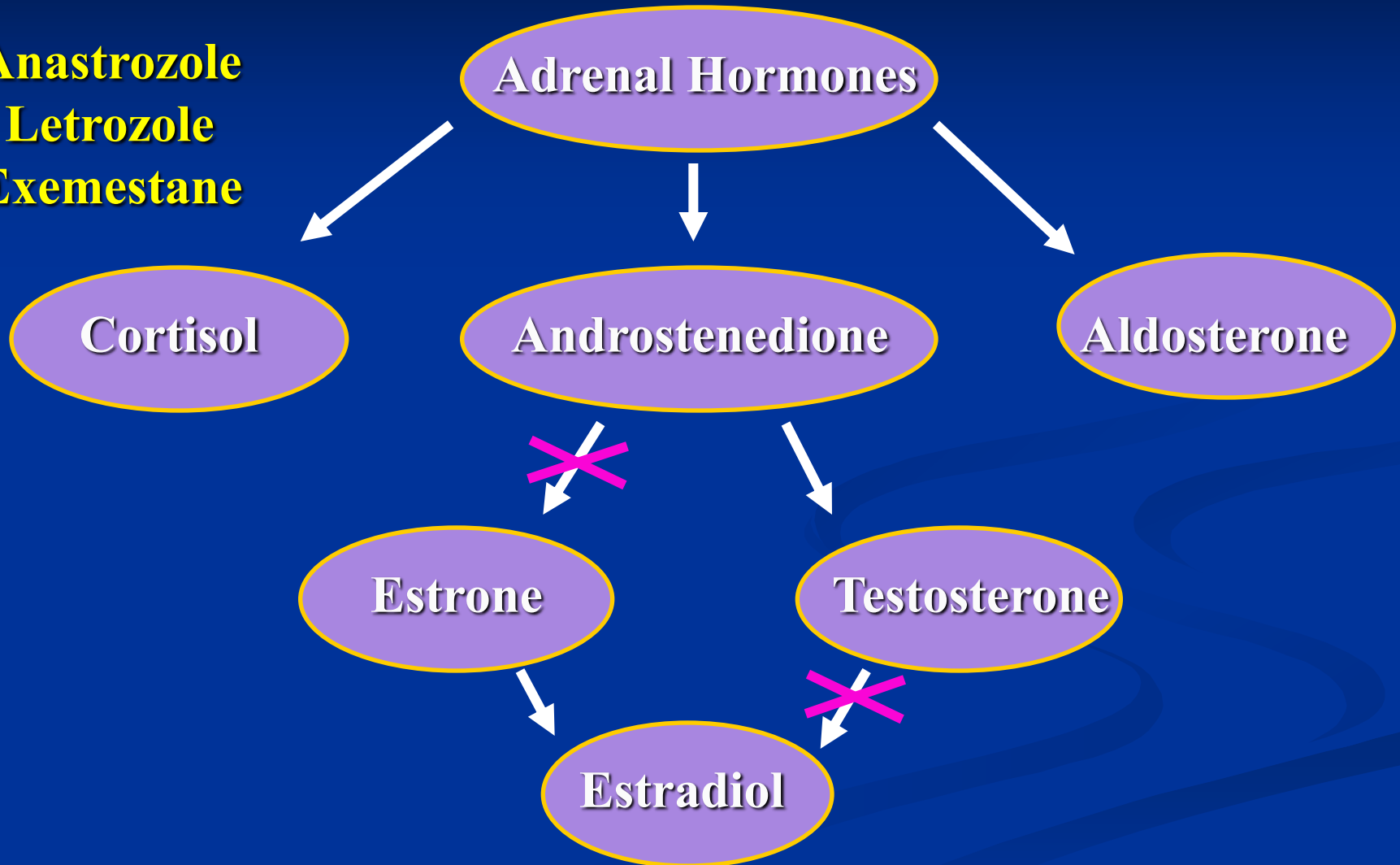
~~Estrogen~~

~~Estrogen  
Receptor~~

~~Cell  
Growth  
and  
Division~~

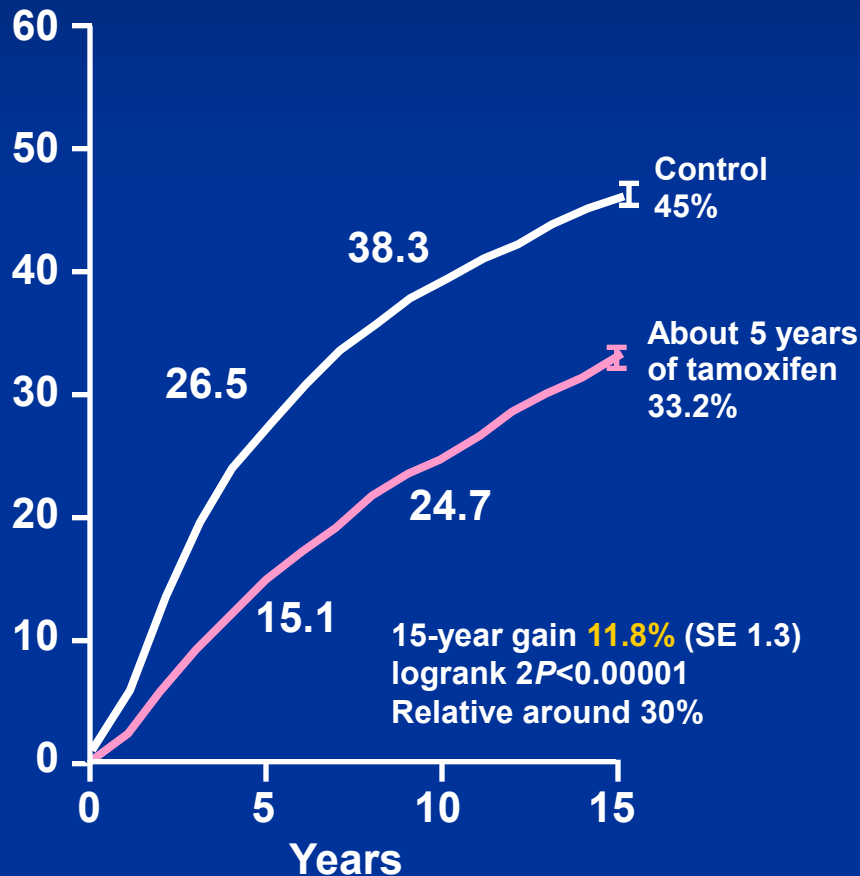
# Aromatase Inhibitors

**Anastrozole**  
**Letrozole**  
**Exemestane**

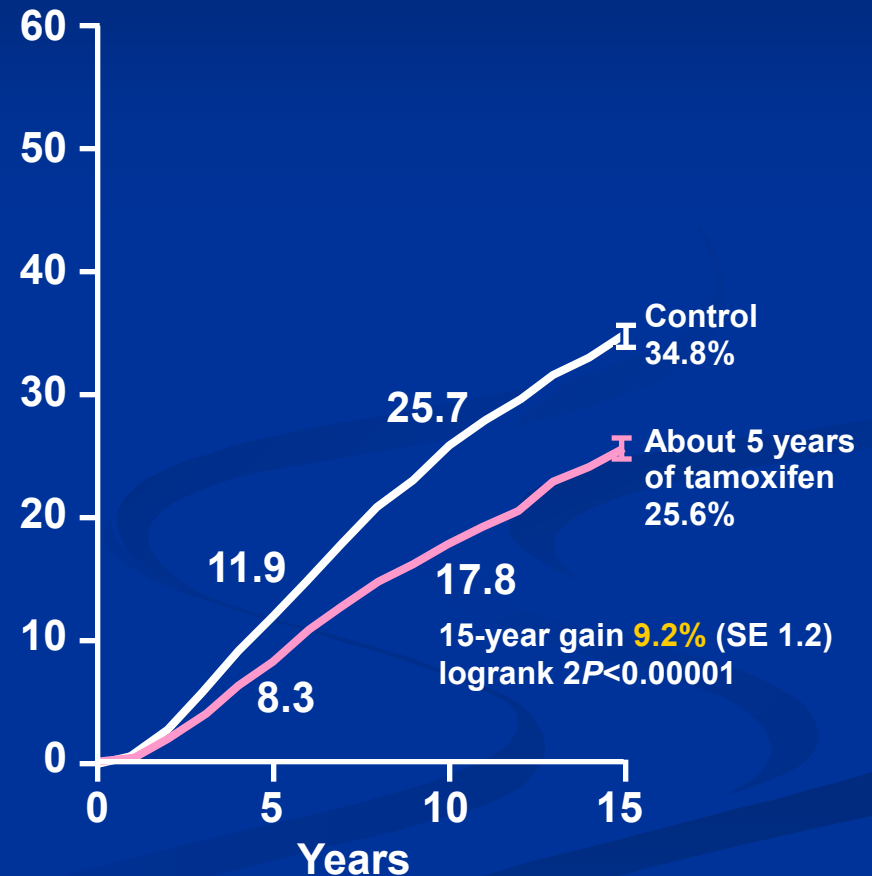


# Tamoxifen: Efficacy Data (15 Year)

Recurrence (%)



Mortality(%)



About 5 years of tamoxifen versus not in ER-positive (or ER-unknown) disease: 15-year probabilities of recurrence and of breast cancer mortality. 10,386 women: 20% ER-unknown, 30% node-positive. Error bars are  $\pm 1SE$

# Adjuvant Endocrine Therapy Trials

Type of Trial	Trial Design	Trial Name
Initial Adjuvant	Tamoxifen	ATAC (N = 9366)
	AI	BIG 1-98 (N = 6193)
Initial and Sequencing	Tamoxifen   AI	BIG 1-98 (N = 6193)
	Tamoxifen	
	AI   Tamoxifen	
	AI	
Sequencing	Tamoxifen   AI	ABCSG 8 (N = 3224)
	Tamoxifen	
Switching	2-3 Years Prior Tamoxifen   Tamoxifen	ARNO 95 (N = 979)
	AI	ITA (N = 488) IES (N = 4742)
Extended Adjuvant	5 Years Tamoxifen	MA.17 (N = 5157) ABCSG-6A (N = 856) NSABP B-33 (N=1598)
		AI
		Placebo

ABCSG = Austrian Breast and Colorectal Cancer Study Group; ARNO = Arimidex-Nolvadex; ATAC = Arimidex, Tamoxifen, Alone or in Combination; BIG = Breast International Group; IES = Intergroup Exemestane Study; ITA = Interguppo Tamoxifen Anastrozole.



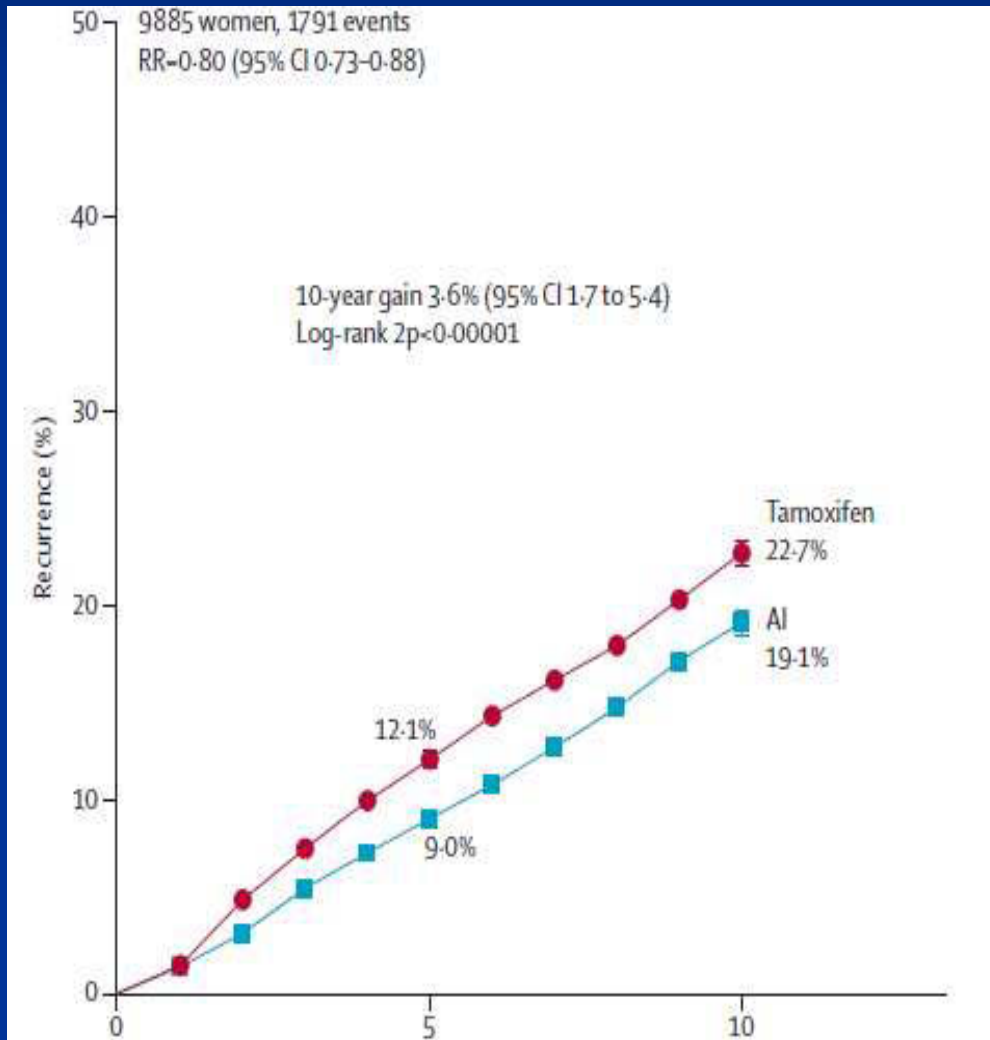
# Upfront Use of Aromatase Inhibitors vs. Tamoxifen

**ATAC Trial: 68 months follow-up:  
17% relative reduction in events for A vs T  
(3% absolute difference)  
No difference in overall survival**

**BIG 1-98 Trial: 26 months follow-up:  
19% relative reduction in events for L vs. T  
(3% absolute difference)  
No difference in overall survival**

# Aromatase inhibitors versus tamoxifen in early breast cancer: patient-level meta-analysis of the randomised trials

Early Breast Cancer Trialists' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG)\* *Lancet* 2015, >31000 in complete analysis



- 5 yr of AI's vs 5 yr of Tamoxifen
- Recurrence Risk Ratio favored AI's significantly in years 0-1, 2-4, and non significantly thereafter
- 10 yr Breast Cancer Mortality
  - 15% Proportional Improvement with AI's wrt Tamoxifen (12.1 vs 14.2%);
  - 40% proportional improvement wrt no Endocrine treatment

# Absolute Improvements in Freedom from Distant Recurrence with Adjuvant Endocrine Therapies for Premenopausal Women with HR+ HER2-negative Breast Cancer: Results from TEXT and SOFT

Meredith M. Regan, Prudence A. Francis, Olivia Pagani, Gini F. Fleming, Barbara A. Walley, Giuseppe Viale, Marco Colleoni, István Láng, Henry L. Gómez, Carlo Tondini, Graziella Pinotti, Angelo Di Leo, Alan S. Coates, Aron Goldhirsch, Richard D. Gelber, for the SOFT and TEXT Investigators and International Breast Cancer Study Group

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IBCSG

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# SOFT and TEXT Designs

Enrolled: Nov03 - Apr11

- Premenopausal HR+
- ≤12 wks after surgery
- Planned OFS
- No planned chemo (40%)  
OR planned chemo (60%)

- Premenopausal HR+
- ≤12 wks after surgery
- No chemo (47%)  
OR
- Remain premenopausal  
≤ 8 mos after chemo (53%)

R  
A  
N  
D  
O  
M  
I  
Z  
E

TEXT (n=2672)

→ Tamoxifen+OFS x 5y

→ Exemestane+OFS x 5y

R  
A  
N  
D  
O  
M  
I  
Z  
E

SOFT (n=3066)

→ Tamoxifen x 5y

→ Tamoxifen+OFS x 5y

→ Exemestane+OFS x 5y

Current Follow-up

Median follow-up 9 years

Median follow-up 8 years

OFS=ovarian function suppression

# Characteristics by Cohort (HR+/HER2-)

## TEXT

## SOFT

**Chemo-  
therapy**

N=1276	Age<40	30%
	LN+	69%
	T-size>2cm	52%
	PgR<50%	23%
	Grade 3	30%
	Ki-67≥20%	42%

N=1271	Age<40	49%
	LN+	58%
	T-size>2cm	46%
	PgR<50%	38%
	Grade 3	28%
	Ki-67≥20%	35%

**No  
Chemo-  
therapy**

N=991	Age<40	16%
	LN+	21%
	T-size>2cm	20%
	PgR<50%	13%
	Grade 3	15%
	Ki-67≥20%	27%

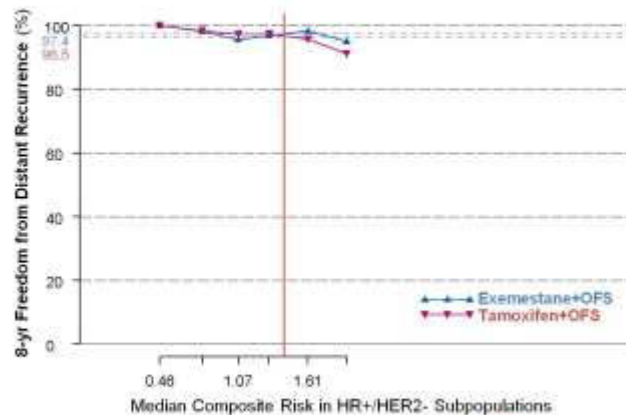
N=1353	Age<40	9%
	LN+	9%
	T-size>2cm	13%
	PgR<50%	9%
	Grade 3	9%
	Ki-67≥20%	19%



# Composite Risk and STEPP Analysis

- Combined standard clinico-pathologic features into a single value for each patient – a continuous, composite measure of recurrence risk “composite risk”  
*(Regan et al, JCO 2016)*
  - age (5-yr groups), nodal status (0, 1-3,  $\geq 4$ ), T size ( $\leq 2$ ,  $> 2$  cm),
  - ER (<50%,  $\geq 50\%$ ), PgR (<20%, 20-49%,  $\geq 50\%$ ), tumor grade, Ki-67 (<14%, 14-19%, 20-25%,  $\geq 26\%$ ) *[centrally-assessed]*
- Determined “composite risk” from a Cox model for DRFI
  - stratified by 4 cohorts and treatment assignment
- Analyzed by Subpopulation Treatment Effect Pattern Plot (STEPP)

## STEPP of 8-yr Freedom from Distant Recurrence: TEXT No Chemotherapy



In the cohort, 8-yr %:  
97.4% E+OFS  
96.5% T+OFS

<1% E+OFS vs T+OFS,  
avg. improvement

Improvement ranged  
**2.5% to 4%** at higher  
composite risks above  
overall median

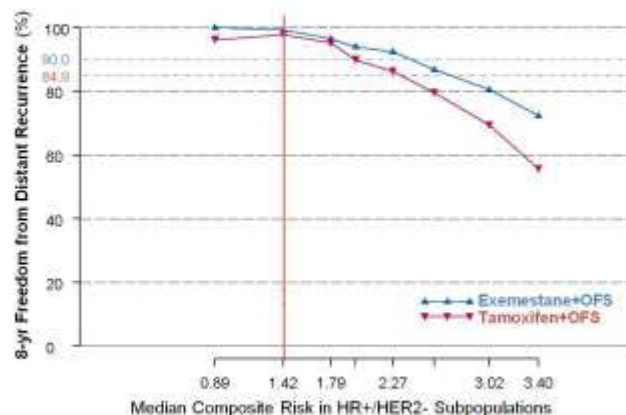
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## STEPP of 8-yr Freedom from Distant Recurrence: TEXT Chemotherapy



In the cohort, 8-yr %:  
90.0% E+OFS  
84.9% T+OFS

**5.1%** E+OFS vs T+OFS,  
avg. improvement

Improvement increases  
with increasing  
composite risk, to **15%**  
at highest composite  
risks

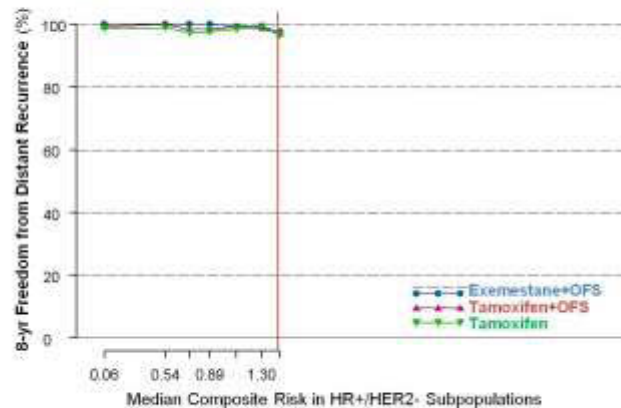
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## STEPP of 8-yr Freedom from Distant Recurrence: SOFT No Chemotherapy



In the cohort, 8-yr %:  
 99.3% E+OFS  
 98.3% T+OFS  
 98.0% T

1.3% E+OFS vs T,  
 avg. improvement  
 ranged 1 to 2.5%

<1% avg. improvement  
 T+OFS vs T

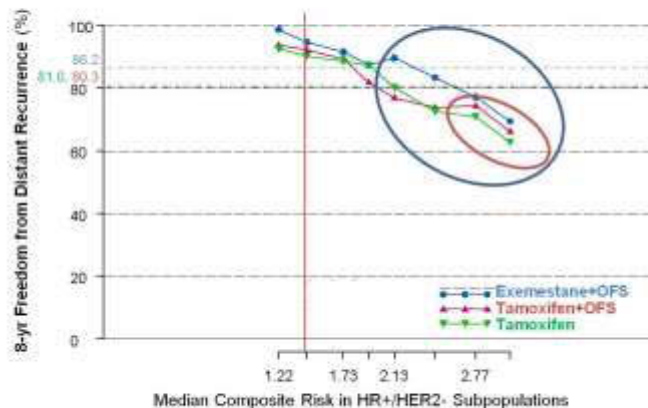
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## STEPP of 8-yr Freedom from Distant Recurrence: SOFT Prior Chemotherapy



In the cohort, 8-yr %:  
 86.2% E+OFS  
 80.3% T+OFS  
 81.0% T

5.2% E+OFS vs T,  
 avg. improvement;  
 max 10% for higher  
 composite risks

T+OFS vs T,  
 max 3.5% at highest  
 composite risks

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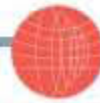
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# Conclusions

Among premenopausal women in SOFT & TEXT with HR+/HER2-cancers, magnitude of **absolute improvement in 8-yr freedom from distant recurrence** varied widely according to *risk of recurrence*:

- Those at higher risk may experience 10-15% improvement with E+OFS vs T+OFS or T alone
- Improvement with E+OFS may be 4-5% for patients at intermediate risk, most of whom also received chemotherapy
- For those at low risk, potential benefit of escalating endocrine therapy from T-alone may be minimal, as >97% of these women were without distant recurrence at 8 years



# Extending Duration of Therapy

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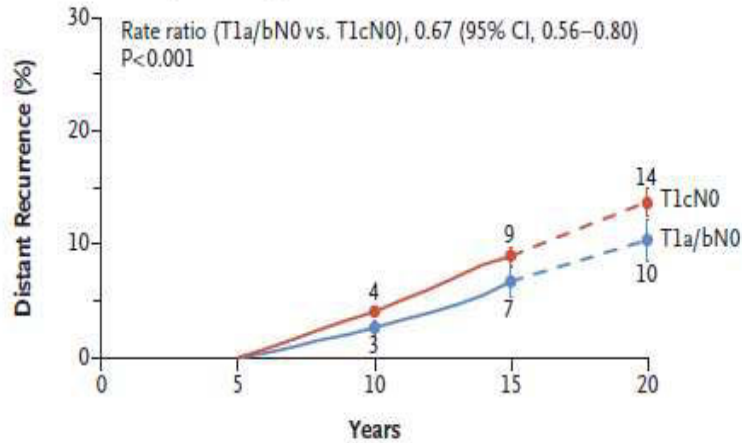
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## 20-Year Risks of Breast-Cancer Recurrence after Stopping Endocrine Therapy at 5 Years

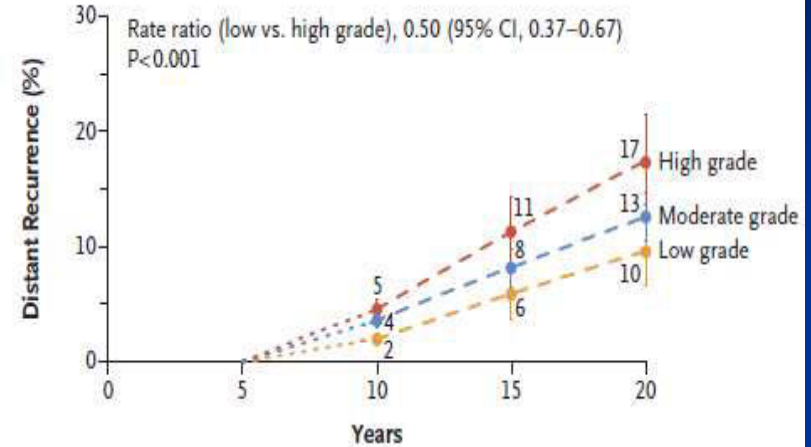
- Meta-analysis, 88 trials, 62,923 patients, ER positive
- Patients that are disease free at 5 years

# Extending Duration of Therapy

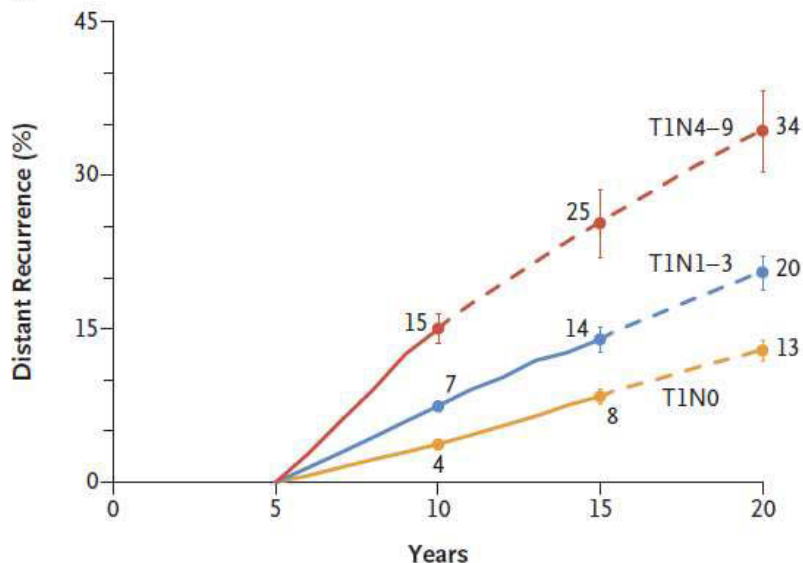
**A Risk of Distant Recurrence, According to Tumor Size**



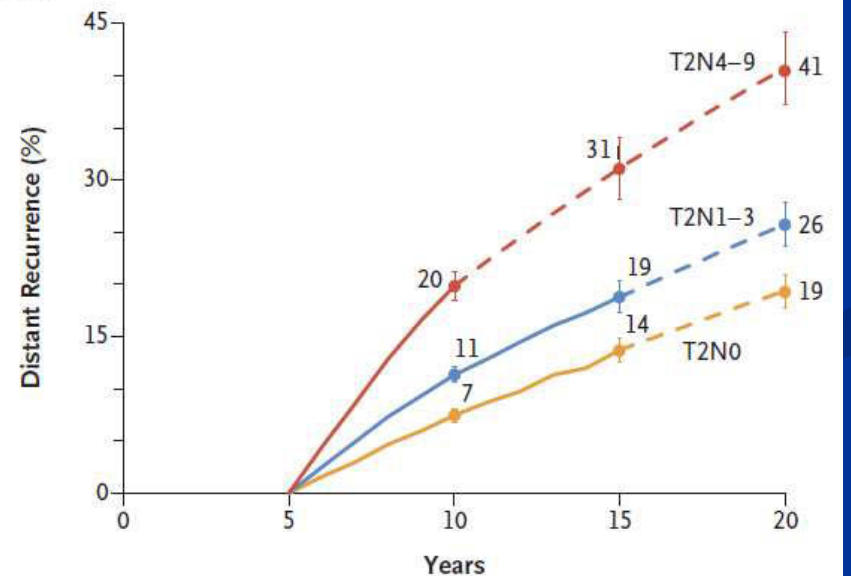
**C Risk of Distant Recurrence, According to Tumor Grade**



**T1 Stage**



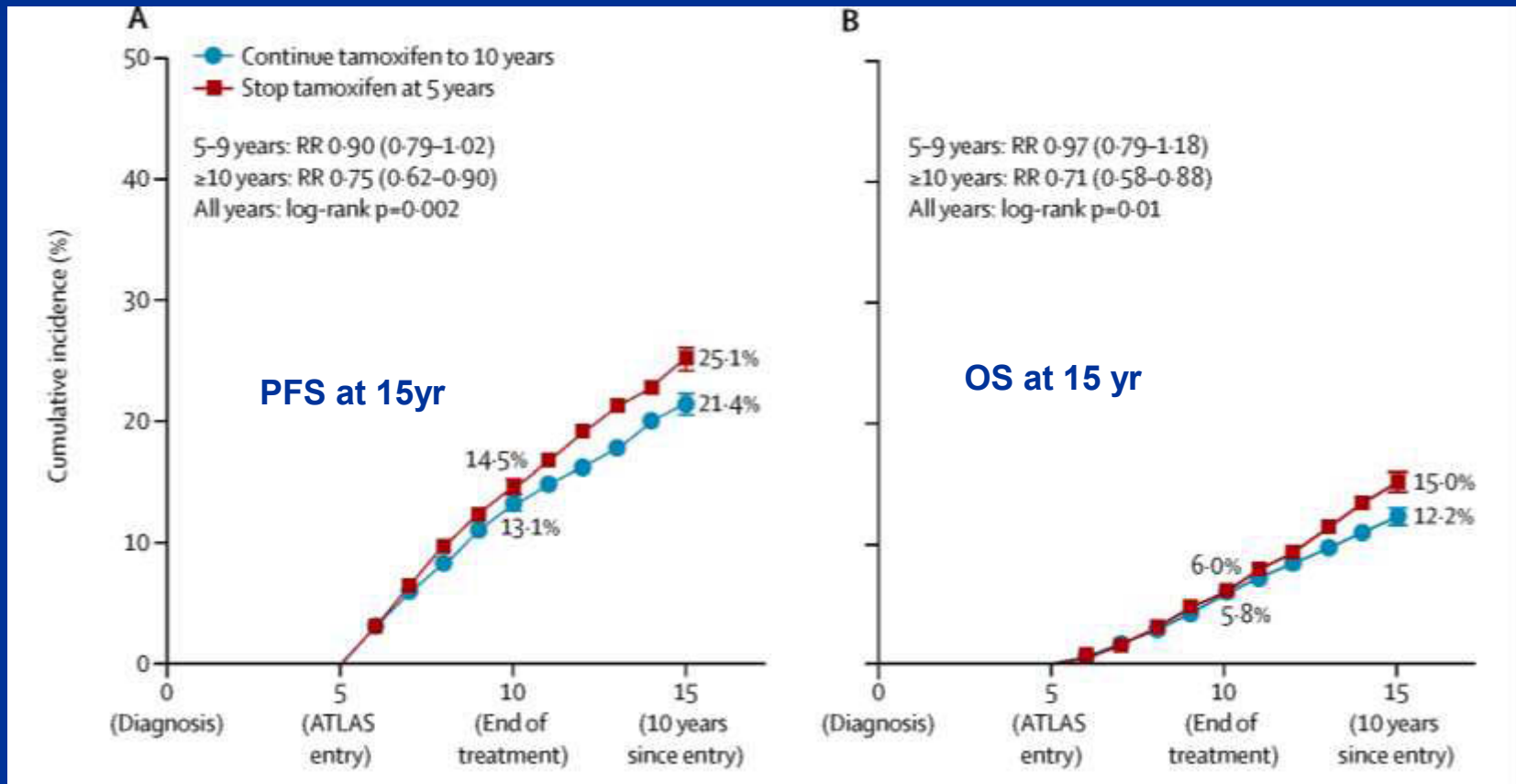
**T2 Stage**



# Extending Duration of Endocrine Therapy

ATLAS Trial (Adjuvant Tamoxifen, Longer Against Shorter)

5 vs 10 year of Tamoxifen, 6846 patients, ER positive



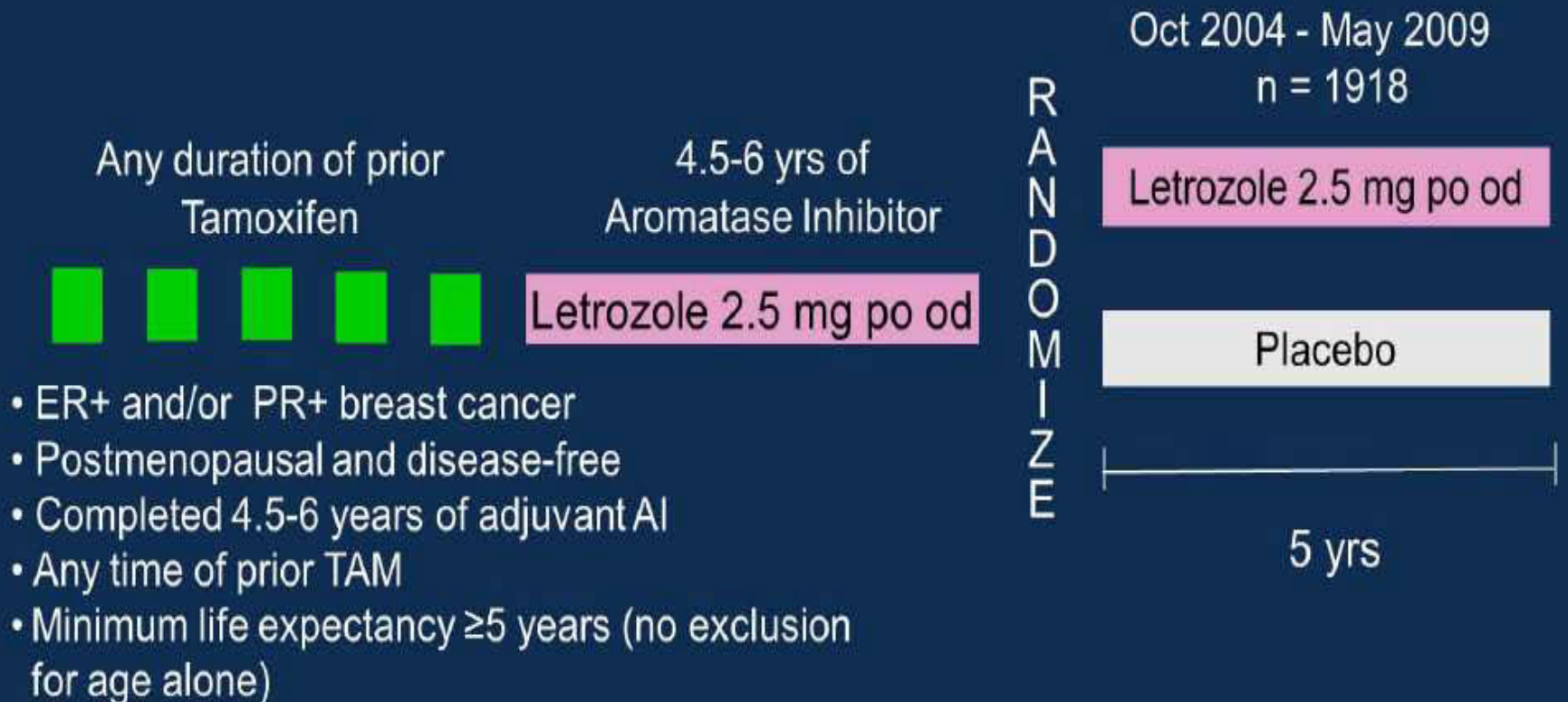
# Extending Duration of Endocrine Therapy

**aTTom Trial** (adjuvant Tamoxifen Treatment offers more)

- 5 yr versus 10 years of Tamoxifen, 6,953 patients
- Time dependent improvement in recurrence and breast cancer related mortality
  - RR 0.75 for PFS after year 9
  - RR 0.86 for Breast Cancer related mortality after year 9
- At Year 15
  - Absolute reduction of recurrence was 4%
  - Absolute reduction of breast cancer mortality was 2%

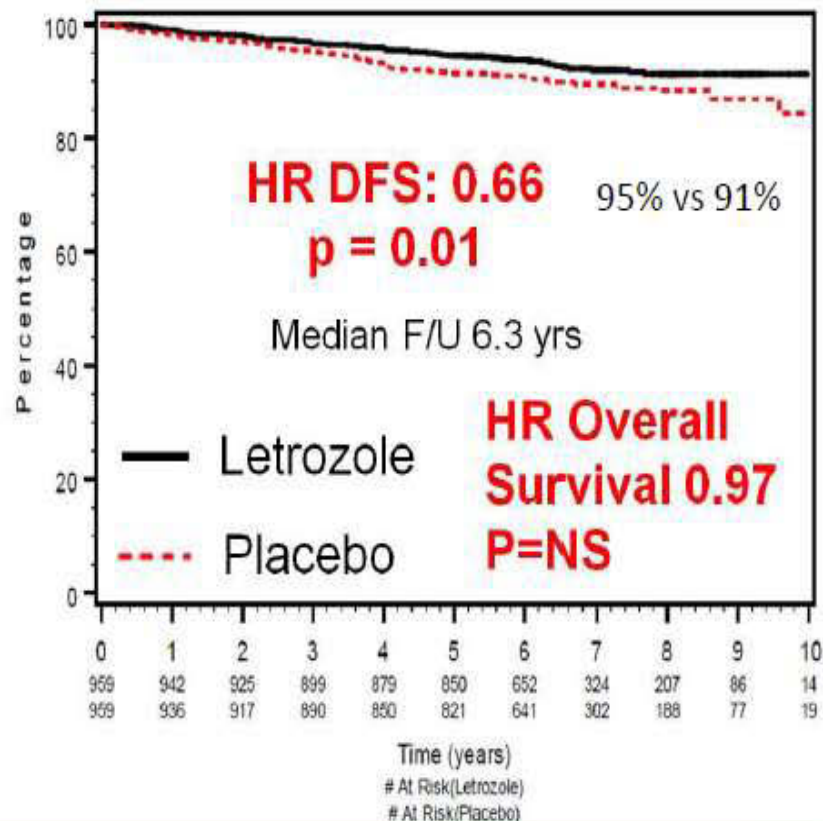
# MA.17R Trial Schema and Design

AI x 5 yrs - Following Prior 5 years of AI - preceded or not by Tamoxifen

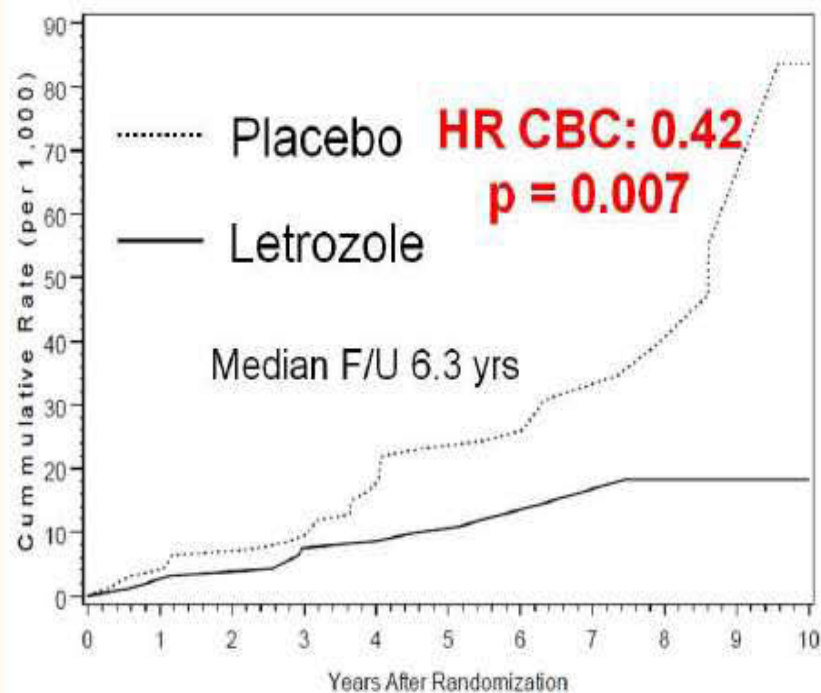


# MA.17R – Improved Outcomes with Letrozole for 10 Years over 5 years

## Disease-Free Survival



## Contralateral Breast Cancer



### SUMMARY STATISTICS:

Observed events for Letrozole: 13 ( 1%)  
Observed events for Placebo: 31 ( 3%)

# Extending Duration of Endocrine Therapy

## ■ NSABP B42 (SABCS 2016)

- 5 vs 10 years of AI
- No improvement in OS
- 28% reduction in cumulative risk of disease recurrence
- 29% reduction in recurrence/new cancer in opposite breast

## ■ ABCSG 16 (SABCS 2017)

- 7 vs 10 year of AI (2 vs 5 after initial 5 years)
- 3,484 postmenopausal women
- At 6/2016 cutoff, DFS was 78% in both arms
- No Difference in OS, contralateral new breast cancer



# Extending Duration of Endocrine Therapy



## Extend AI therapy beyond 5 yrs

- Good initial tolerance to AI
- Excellent bone health
- Young age
- Higher risk disease by clinical/pathologic features, including high grade, node positive
- Higher risk by genomic testing
- Patient preferences



## Stop AI therapy at 5 yrs

- Difficult tolerance to AI's (i.e. poor bone health, musculoskeletal symptoms)
- Lower risk by clinical/pathologic features
- Lower risk by genomic testing
- Patient preferences

# Side Effects-Tamoxifen

- Most people do not experience all of the side effects listed
- Often predictable in terms of their onset and duration
- Almost always reversible and go away after treatment is stopped
- Multiple options to help minimize or prevent side effects
- No relationship between the presence or severity of side effects and the effectiveness of the medication

# Side Effects-Tamoxifen

- Hot flashes
- Swelling (fluid retention in feet, ankles, or hands)
- Loss of libido
- Nausea
- Menstrual irregularities
- Vaginal bleeding
- Weight Gain (esp younger patients)
- Mood changes (anxiety and/or depression)

# Side Effects-Tamoxifen

- Rare but Serious
  - Blood Clots (Deep Venous Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolus)
  - Development of Uterine cancer
    - Uterine cancer related mortality 1.1% (10yr group) vs 0.6% (5 yr group)
    - Every endometrial cancer death that occurs as a side effect of long-term tamoxifen, 30 deaths from breast cancer are prevented

# Side Effects-AI's

- Hot Flashes
- Muscle/Joint pain
- Decreased energy
- Mood disturbances, Depression and Insomnia (Trouble sleeping)
- Osteoporosis (Weak bones) and Fractures
- Vaginal Dryness

# Side Effects-AI's

- Rash
- Headache
- Peripheral edema and lymphedema (fluid build-up)
- Dyspnea (difficulty breathing)
- Increased cough
- High blood pressure
- Stomach upset, Sore throat, Cough
- Nausea and Vomiting
- Cardiovascular Events

# Side Effects-AI's

- 3 options (Anastrozole, Letrozole, Exemestane)
- Stopping and Switching first option
  - Same S/E on Paper—individual response and tolerance of a drug for one person is VERY different from another person

# Integrative Oncology and S/E

- Use of complementary and integrative therapies in collaboration with conventional oncology care
- Complementary therapies include
  - meditation
  - yoga
  - natural products
- Society for Integrative Oncology (SIO) Guidelines now Endorsed by ASCO also
  - Concern when complementary therapy is not disclosed or used instead of conventional effective therapies



# Clinical Practice Guidelines on the Evidence-Based Use of Integrative Therapies During and After Breast Cancer Treatment

Heather Greenlee, ND, PhD, MPH<sup>1,2</sup>; Melissa J. DuPont-Reyes, MPH, MPhil<sup>3</sup>; Lynda G. Balneaves, RN, PhD<sup>4</sup>; Linda E. Carlson, PhD<sup>5</sup>; Misha R. Cohen, OMD, LAc<sup>6,7</sup>; Gary Deng, MD, PhD<sup>8</sup>; Jillian A. Johnson, PhD<sup>9</sup>; Matthew Mumber, MD<sup>10</sup>; Dugald Seely, ND, MSc<sup>11,12</sup>; Suzanna M. Zick, ND, MPH<sup>13,14</sup>; Lindsay M. Boyce, MLIS<sup>15</sup>; Debu Tripathy, MD<sup>16</sup>

# Society for Integrative Oncology Recommendations

- Anxiety/Stress Reduction: Music therapy, meditation, stress management, and yoga
  - Depression/mood disorders: Meditation, relaxation, yoga, massage, and music therapy
  - QOL: Meditation and yoga
  - CINV: Acupressure and acupuncture
- 
- Lack of strong evidence for the use of ingested dietary supplements to manage breast cancer treatment-related adverse effects

# Acupuncture

- Meta-analysis of Five trials involving 181 patients
  - Breast. 2017 Jun;33:132-138
- Significant pain reduction was observed after 6-8 weeks of acupuncture treatment
  - Significant decrease in the BPI worst pain score and WOMAC Index

# Additional Options to help with S/E

## ■ Bone Loss

- Exercise, Calcium/ Vit D
- Prolia or Bisphosphate

## ■ Hot Flashes

- SSRI for Hot Flashes
- Relizen (64 patient trial)
- Black Cohosh

# Additional Options to help with S/E

## ■ Arthralgias

### ■ Exercise ([J Clin Oncol](#). 2015 Apr 1; 33(10): 1104–1111)

- Improvement in Worst pain, Pain severity and interference

### ■ Vitamin D (data not conclusive but tried anyway)

### ■ Glucosamine with chondroitin

(<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23111941>)

# Conclusions

- Antiestrogen therapy is the cornerstone of systemic therapy for ER/PR positive breast carcinoma
- Significant effect on improving disease relapse/recurrence and Overall Survival
- Late relapses remain a challenge in this disease subset; longer duration of antiestrogen therapy and upfront use of AI's may be beneficial in the correct patient subset
- All drugs have their side effects that need to be balance against the absolute benefit
- Pharmaceutical and Non pharmaceutical options are available to improve tolerability to these drugs
  - extremely important to focus on QOL given extended duration use recommendation for these drugs

**Thank you!**