



# La squadra

*“L’importanza dei gruppi cooperatori”*



Riunione Annuale  
Trieste, 2019

Sabino De Placido



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI NAPOLI  
**FEDERICO II**

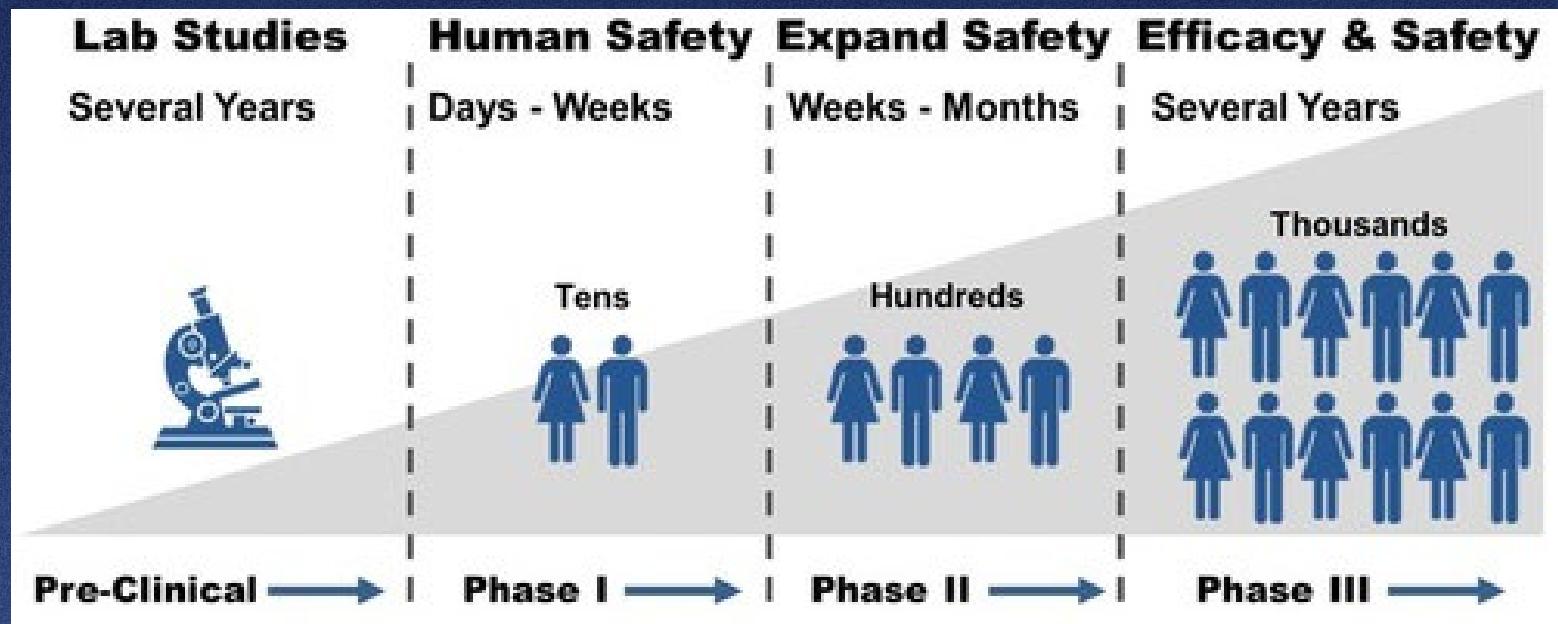




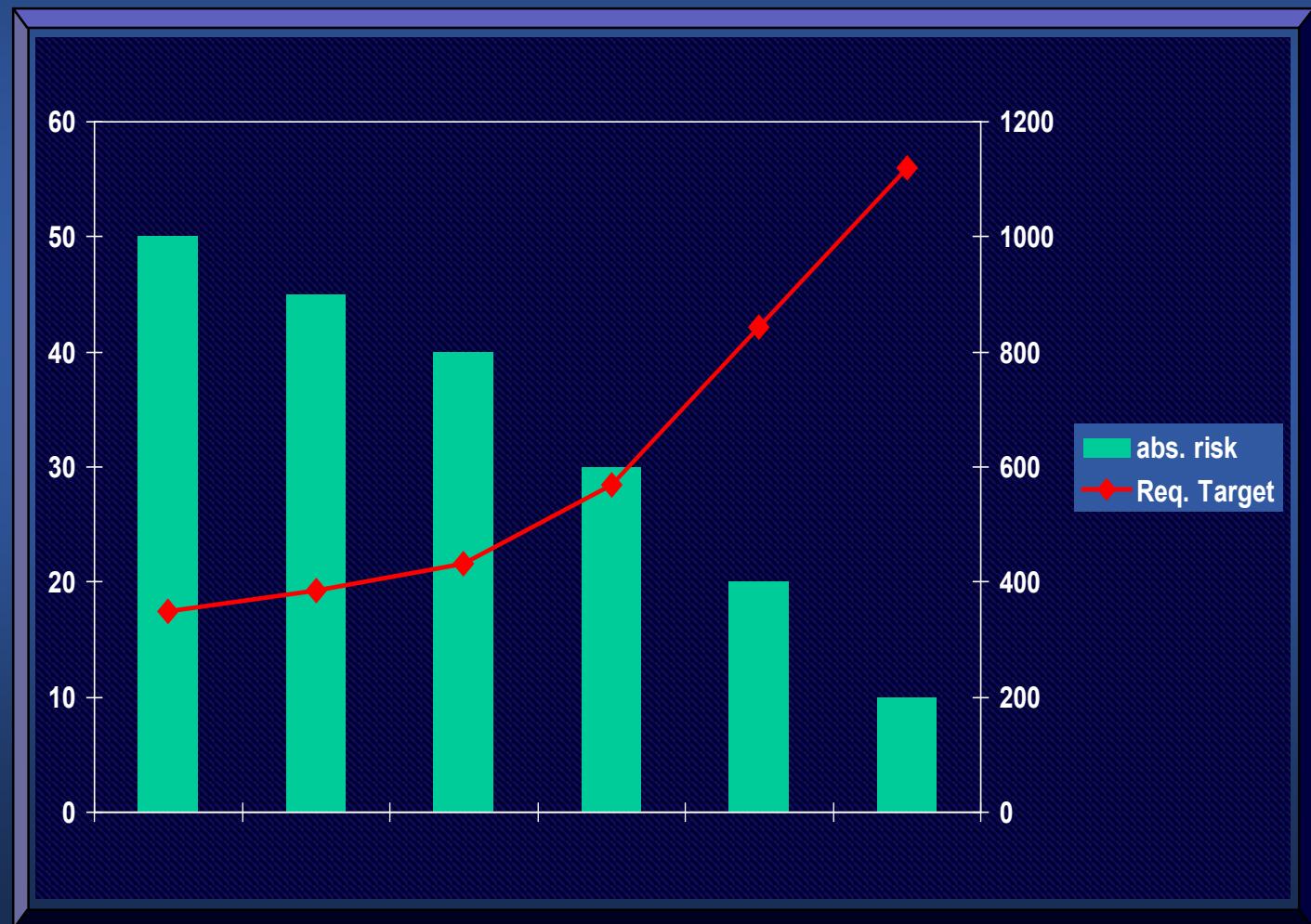
# Perchè la ricerca cooperativa ?

# Che cos'è un Trial Clinico?

- **Definizione**: studio farmacologico, biomedico o salute-correlato sull'uomo, che segue dei protocolli predefiniti.
- **Scopo**: rispondere ad una domanda scientifica e verificare che una nuova terapia/procedura sia sicura, efficace e migliore di quella normalmente impiegata e correntemente somministrata.
- **Le fasi della ricerca clinica:**



# Role of cooperative groups in clinical research



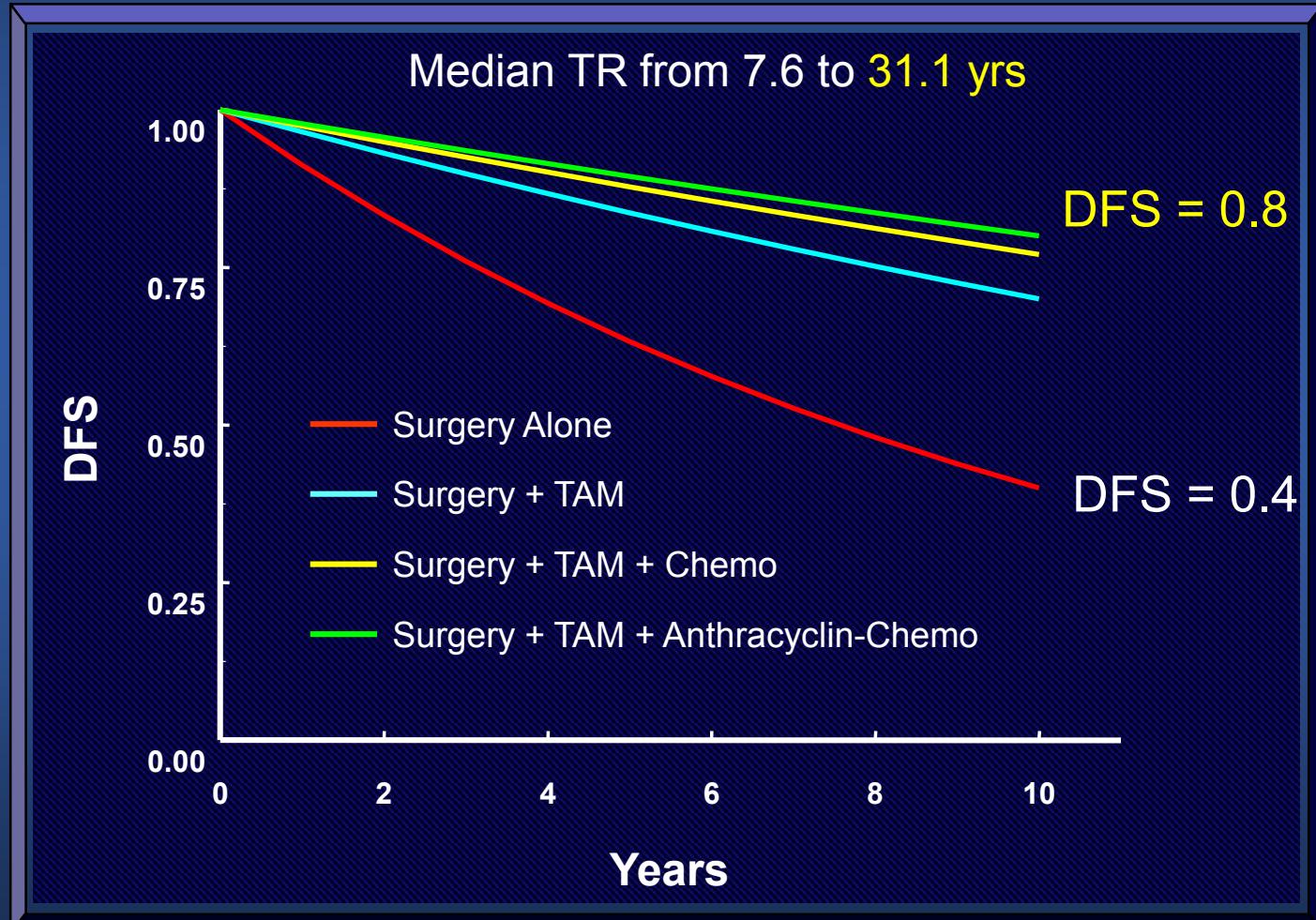


## Adjuvant Therapy State of the Art

*“Treatment evolution yield additional proportional reduction in relapse rate ”*

# Adjuvant Therapy Effect Simulation

## DFS, patient N+, ER+, <50aa



*Estimates from EBCTCG Overview; Exponential Survival*

# The New England Journal of Medicine

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Volume 332

APRIL 6, 1995

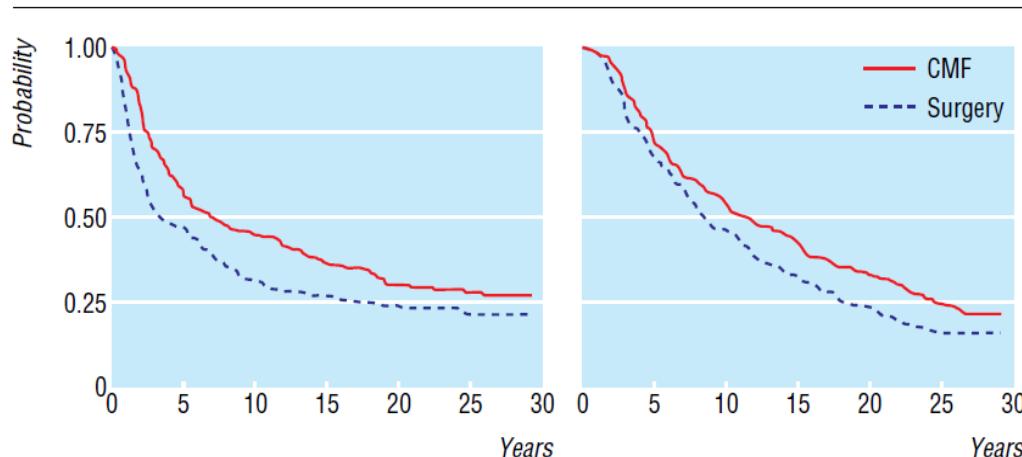
Number 14

## ADJUVANT CYCLOPHOSPHAMIDE, METHOTREXATE, AND FLUOROURACIL IN NODE- POSITIVE BREAST CANCER

### The Results of 20 Years of Follow-up

GIANNI BONADONNA, M.D., PINUCCIA VALAGUSSA, B.S., ANGELA MOLITERNI, M.D., MILVIA ZAMBETTI, M.D.,  
AND CRISTINA BRAMBILLA, M.D.

# CMF vs Surgery



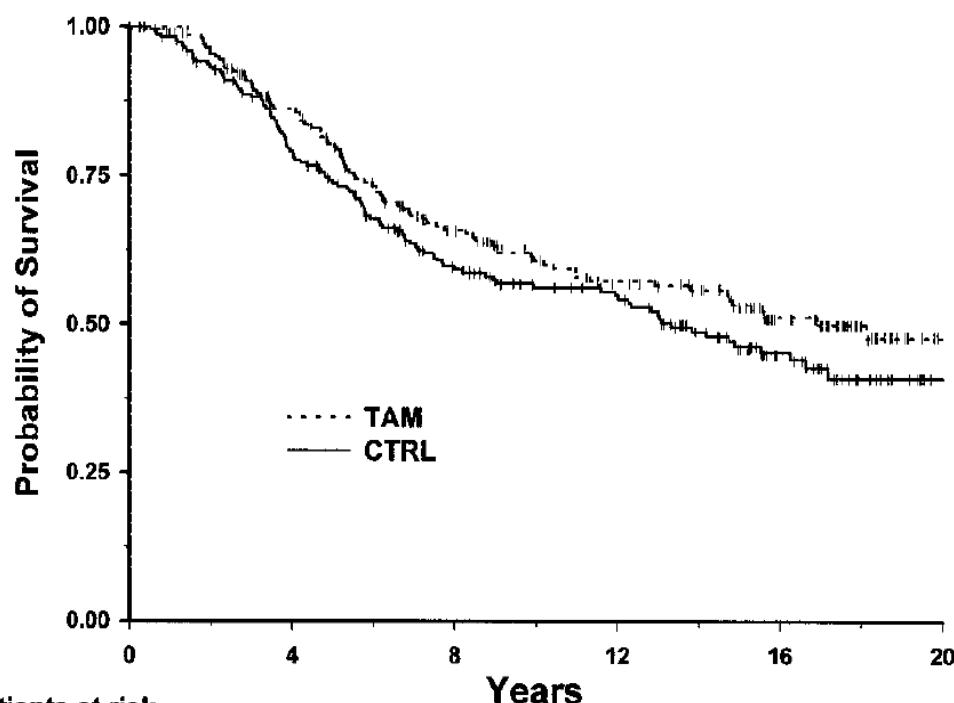
**Fig 1** Treatment outcome in the first randomised CMF study after a median observation of 28.5 years. Left: Relapse free survival after surgery alone (179 patients) v CMF (207 patients). Univariate analysis: hazard ratio 0.71 (95% confidence interval 0.56 to 0.91; P=0.005). Right: Overall survival after surgery alone (179 patients) v CMF (207 patients). Univariate analysis: hazard ratio 0.79 (0.63 to 0.98; P=0.04)

**Bonadonna et al.**

# Twenty-year Results of the Naples GUN Randomized Trial: Predictive Factors of Adjuvant Tamoxifen Efficacy in Early Breast Cancer<sup>1</sup>

Sabino De Placido, Michelino De Laurentiis,  
Chiara Carlomagno, Ciro Gallo, Franco Perrone,  
Stefano Pepe, Angela Ruggiero, Alfredo Marinelli,  
Clorindo Pagliarulo, Luigi Panico,  
Guido Pettinato, Giuseppe Petrella, and  
Angelo Raffaele Bianco<sup>2</sup>

Cattedra di Oncologia Medica, Dipartimento di Endocrinologia ed



Patients at risk						
TAM	206	163	109	81	45	4
CTRL	227	165	108	84	37	2

Fig. 2 Survival curves of TAM-treated versus control (CTRL) patients.

<sup>1</sup>Expansion of the US mammogram screening programme informs... In the future, computers will need to be given the capacity of additional knowledge in the programmes, regarding key principles of prevention, availability of effective treatments, and for opportunities for genetic diagnosis. Endocrinological and radiological studies.<sup>2</sup>

# **GIM3-FATA**

## **First Adjuvant Trial on All aromatase inhibitors in early breast cancer**

**A phase III study comparing anastrozole, letrozole and exemestane,  
upfront (for 5 years) or sequentially (for 3 years after 2 years of tamoxifen),  
as adjuvant treatment of postmenopausal patients  
with endocrine-responsive breast cancer**

S.De Placido, C.Gallo, M.De Laurentiis, G.Bisagni, G.Arpinò, M.G.Sarobba, F.Riccardi,  
A.Russo, L.Del Mastro, A.A.Cogoni, F.Cognetti, S.Gori, A.Frassoldati, D.Amoroso,  
L.Laudadio, L.Moscetti, F.Montemurro, F.Nuzzo, P.Carlini and F.Perrone  
on behalf of the GIM Investigators.

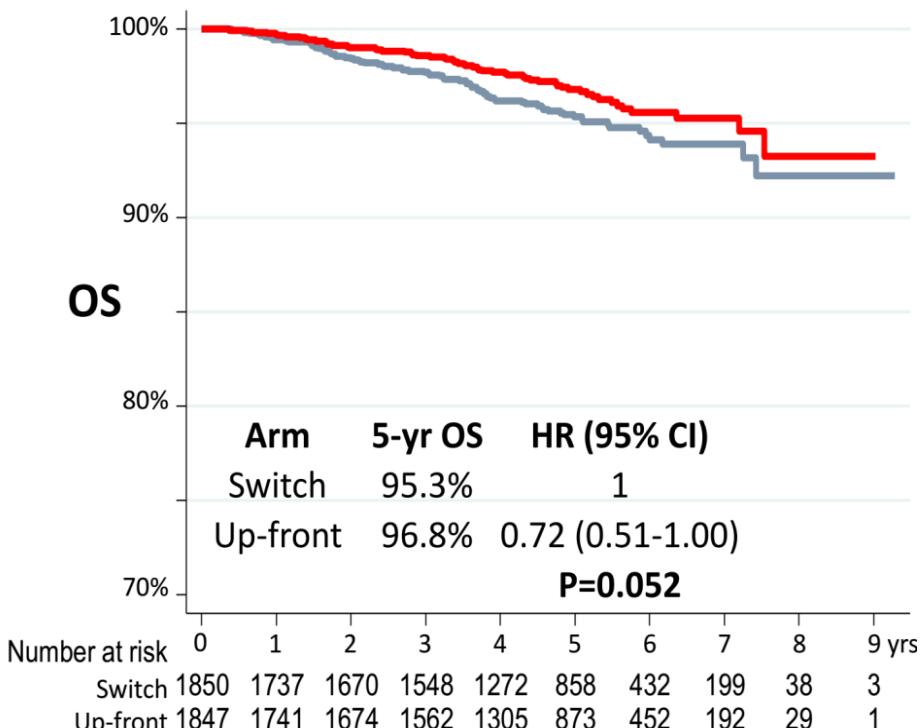
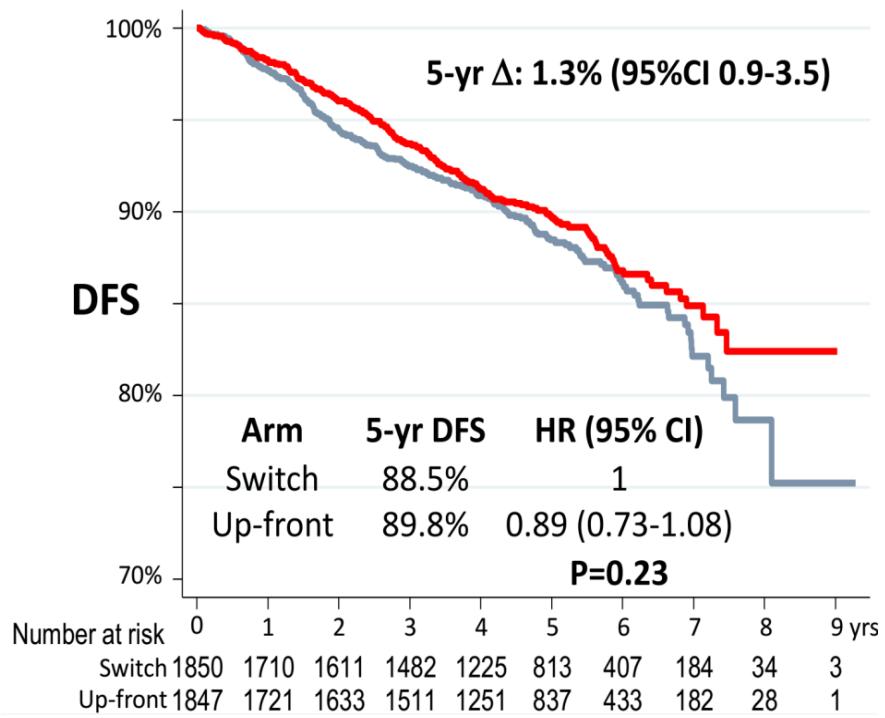


EUDRACT number: 2006 – 004018 - 42



AIFA code: FARM5K3MEE

# Schedule comparison



— Switch — Upfront

Adjusted by ER status, HER2 status, Nodal status and Previous Chemotherapy

# Perchè è importante partecipare ad un Trial Clinico oncologico?

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- Sviluppo di nuove strategie terapeutiche che possono incrementare gli outcome clinici dei pazienti oncologici
- Una maggiore partecipazione si traduce in una più veloce ed efficiente conduzione dello studio clinico
- I trial clinici rappresentano una opportunità per i pazienti di accedere a trattamenti innovativi

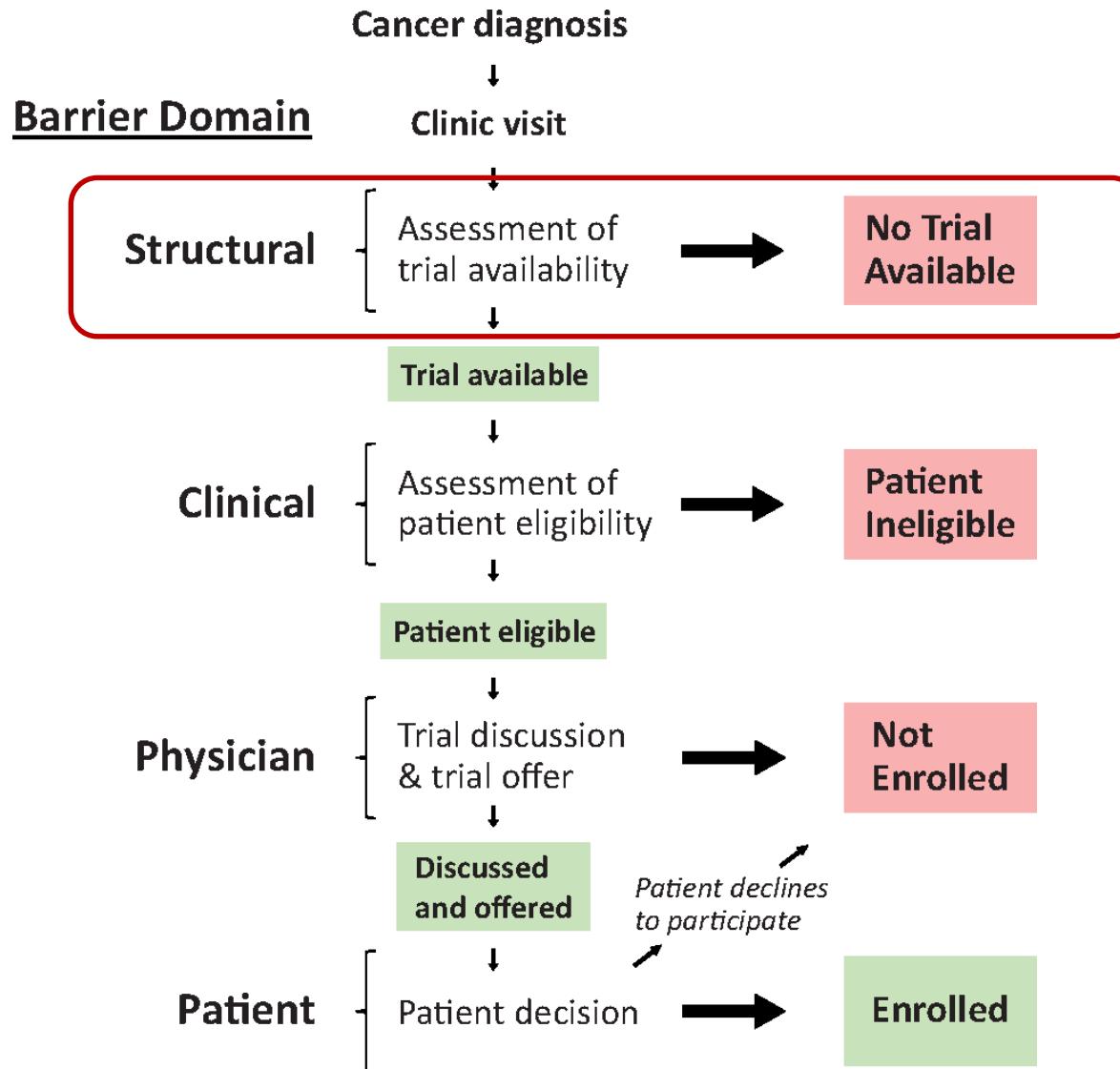
# Quanti pazienti oncologici partecipano ai trial clinici?

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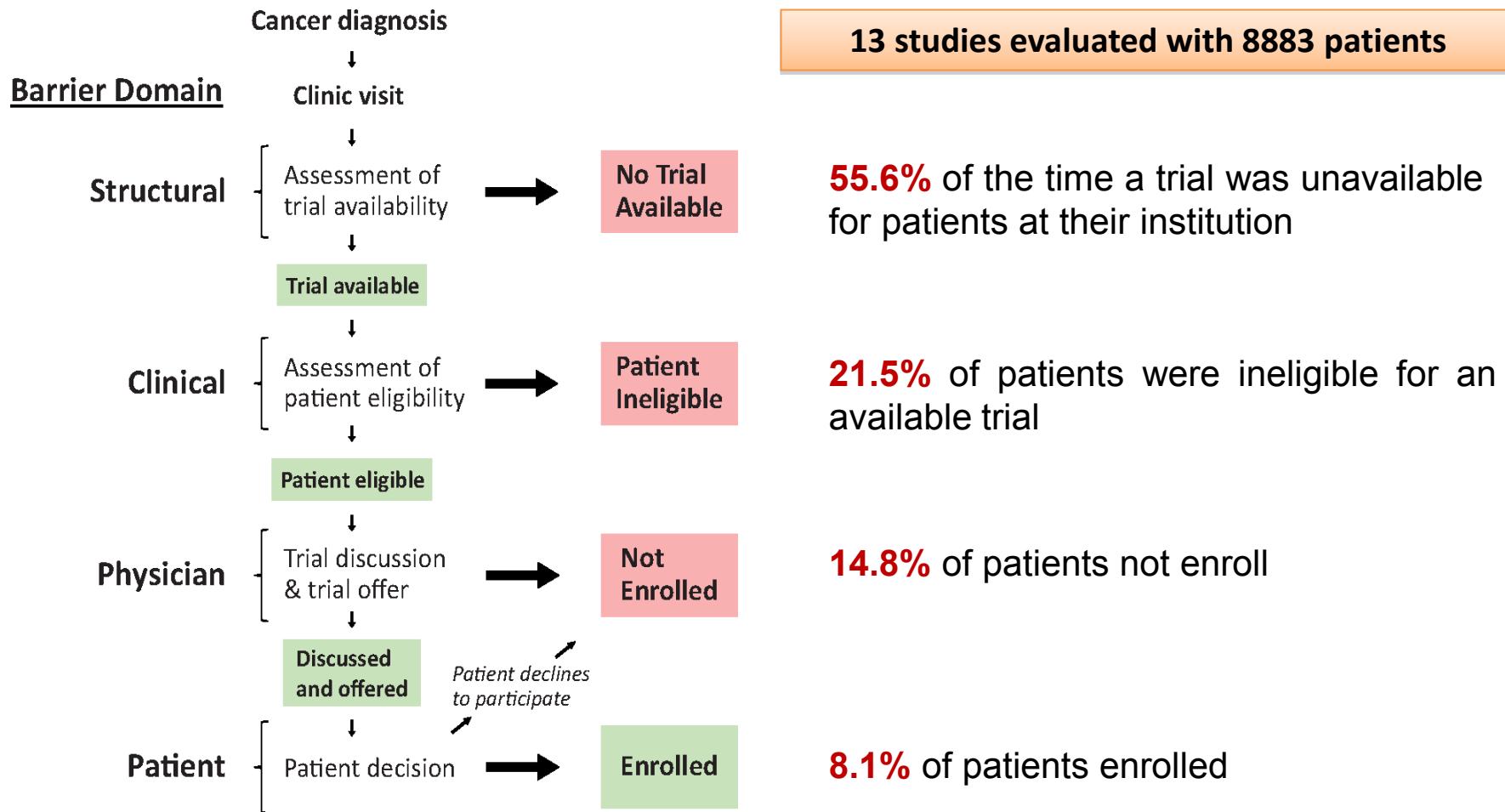
- $\approx 1/20$  pazienti adulti oncologici è arruolato in trial clinici ( $<5\%$ )
- $>70\%$  è propenso o molto favorevole a partecipare ad un trial clinico



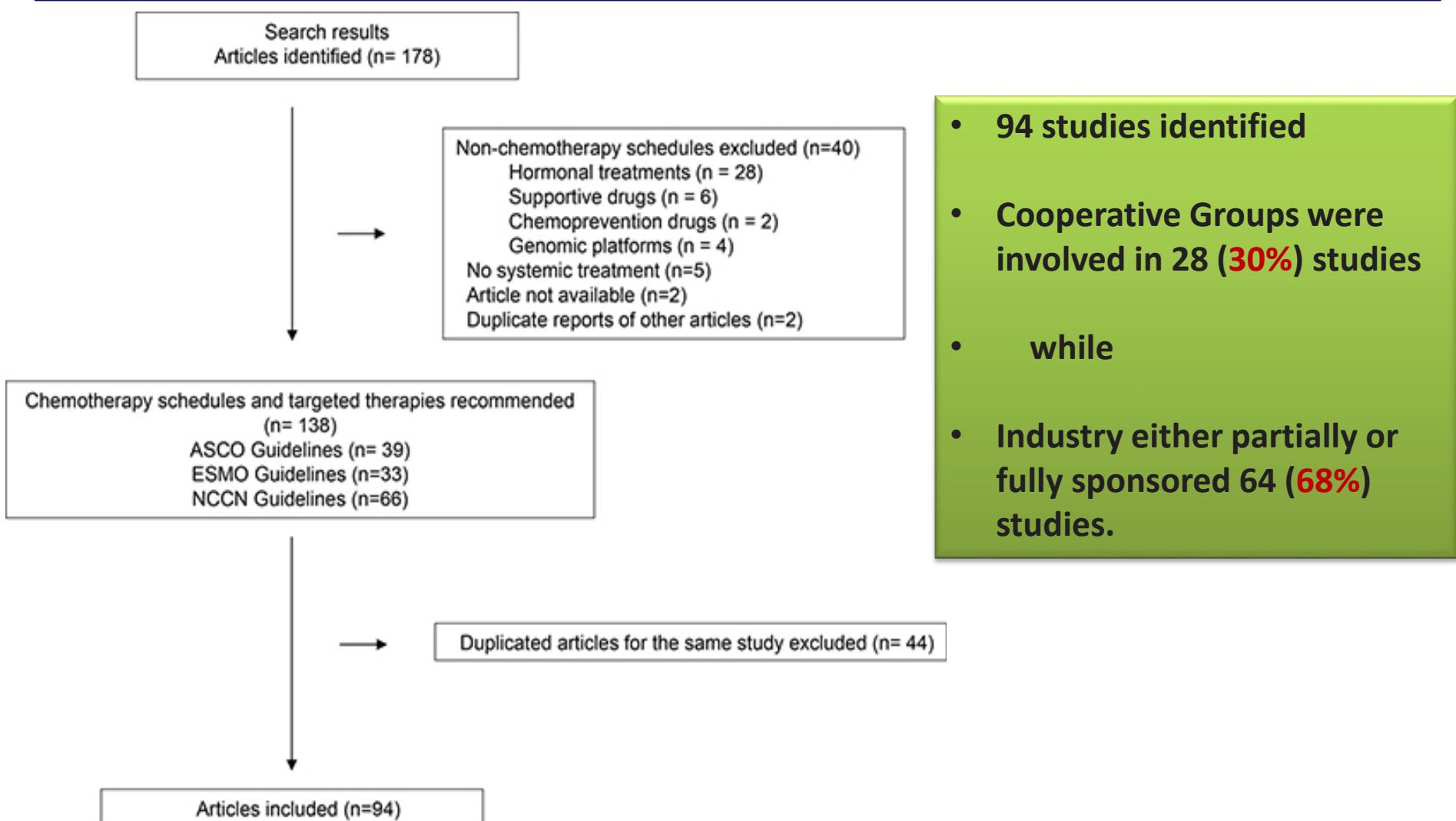
# Decision-making framework dei trial clinicli



# Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of the Magnitude of Structural, Clinical, and Physician and Patient Barriers to Cancer Clinical Trial Participation



# Role of cooperative groups and funding source in clinical trials supporting guidelines for systemic therapy of breast cancer



# Role of cooperative groups and funding source in clinical trials supporting guidelines for systemic therapy of breast cancer

	n (%)	Cooperative Groups (%)	Non-Cooperative Groups (%)	P value
<b>Number</b>	<b>85 (100%)</b>	<b>28 (40%)</b>	<b>57 (60%)</b>	
<b>Number of study subjects</b>				
Mean ± SD	670 ± 1248	1416 ± 2020	384.46 ± 493.94	0.015
Median (range)	292 (22–8381)	448 (77–8381)	284 (28–3384)	
<b>Number of study centres</b>				
Multiple	76 (89%)	28 (100%)	48 (84%)	0.027
Single	9 (11%)	0 (0%)	9 (16%)	
<b>Number of countries of study conduct</b>				
Multiple	48 (56%)	12 (43%)	36 (63%)	0.07
Single	37 (44%)	16 (57%)	21 (37%)	
<b>Type of design</b>				
Randomized	66 (78%)	26 (93%)	40 (70%)	0.018
Single Arm	19 (22%)	2 (7%)	17 (30%)	
<b>Type of study</b>				
Phase III	55 (69%)	25 (93%)	30 (57%)	< 0.0001
Phase II	25 (31%)	2 (7%)	23 (43%)	
<b>Clinical setting</b>				
Metastatic	63 (74%)	14 (50%)	49 (86%)	< 0.0001
Neo/adjuvant	22 (26%)	14 (50%)	8 (14%)	

# Role of cooperative groups and funding source in clinical trials supporting guidelines for systemic therapy of breast cancer

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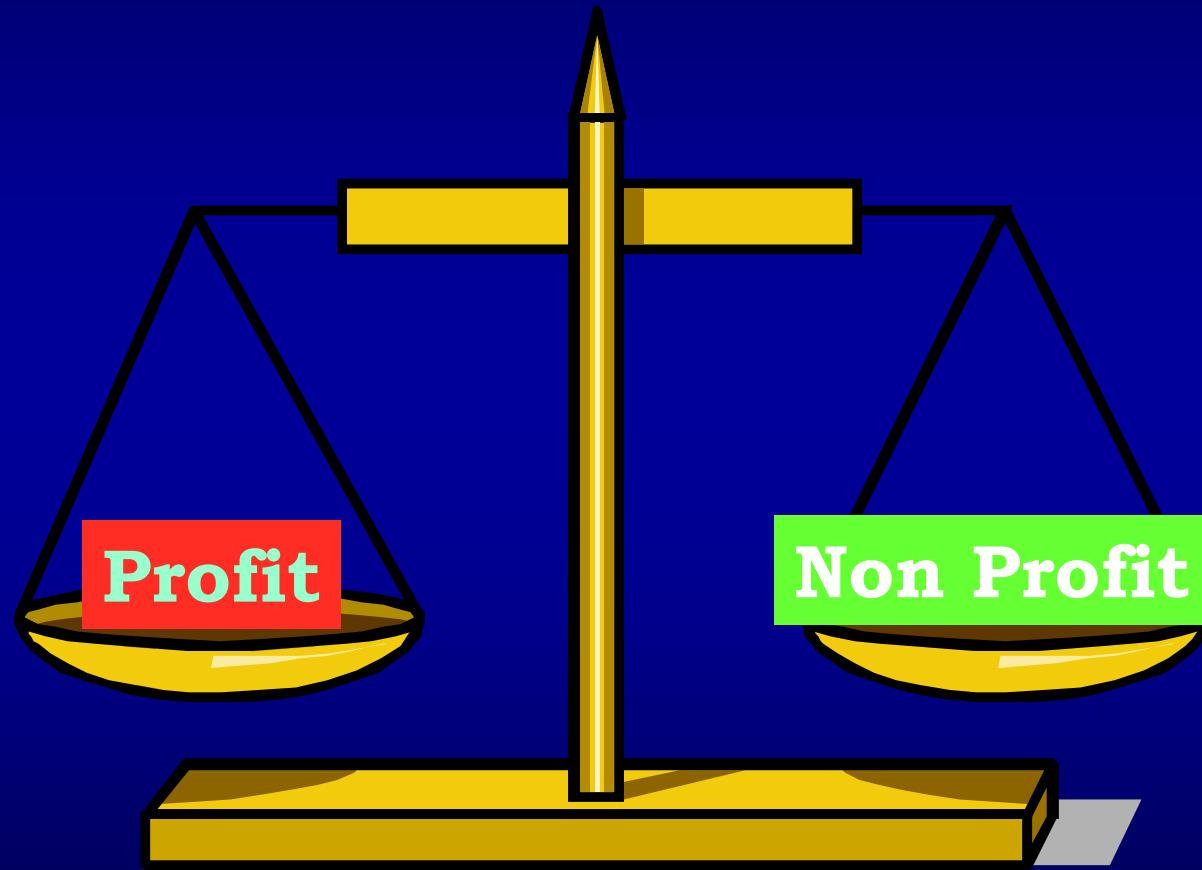
Industry funding was associated with higher likelihood of positive outcomes favoring the sponsored experimental arm ( $p = 0.013$ )

*but*

*this relationship was not seen for CG-sponsored trials ( $p = 0.53$ ).*

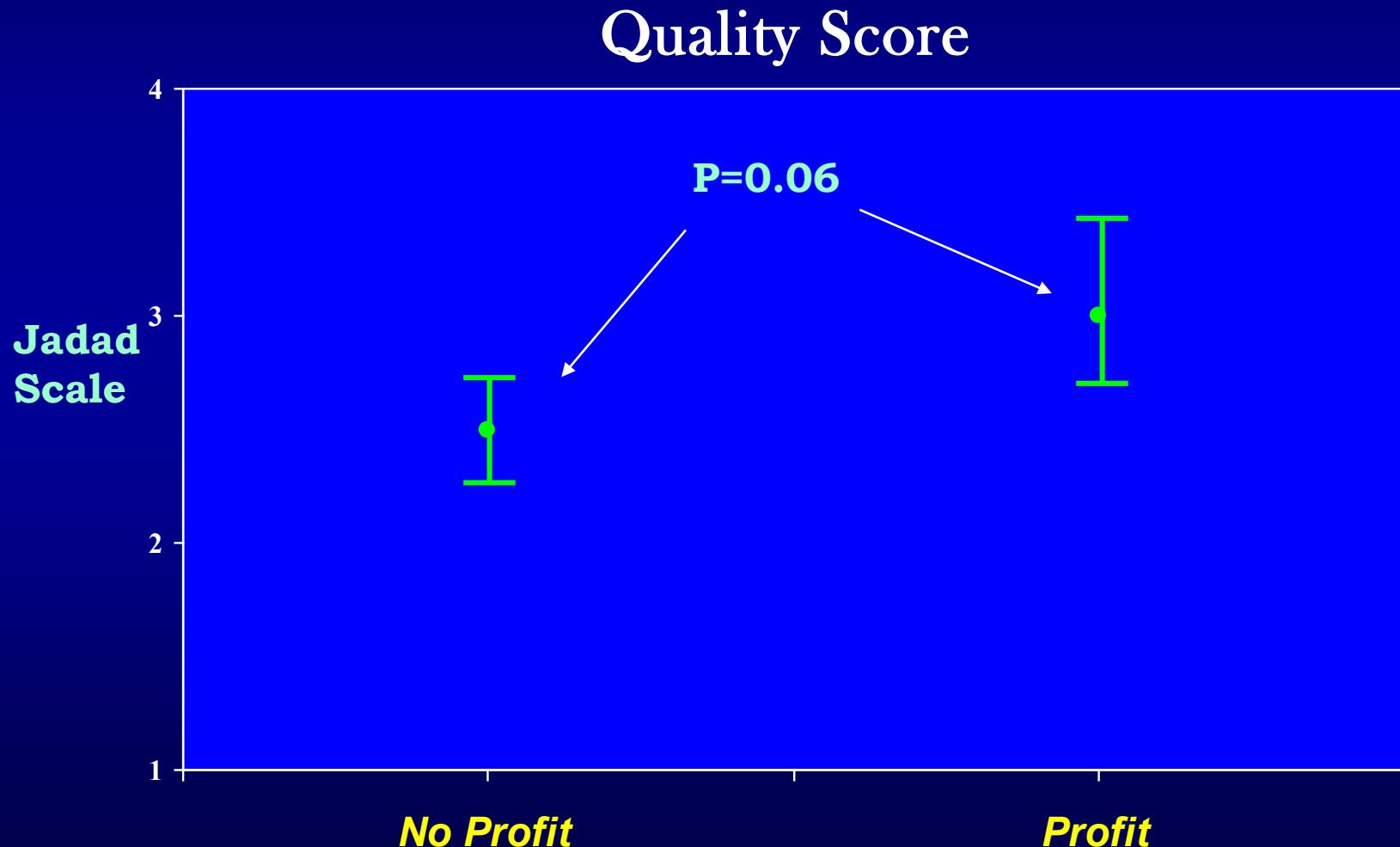
Industry funding, but not CG-based funding, was associated with higher likelihood of positive outcomes in clinical studies supporting guidelines for systemic therapy.

# La Qualità delle Sperimentazioni



# RCT for Multiple Myeloma

Djulbegovic B, et al: The Lancet, 356: 635-638, 2000



# **The Uncertainty Principle**

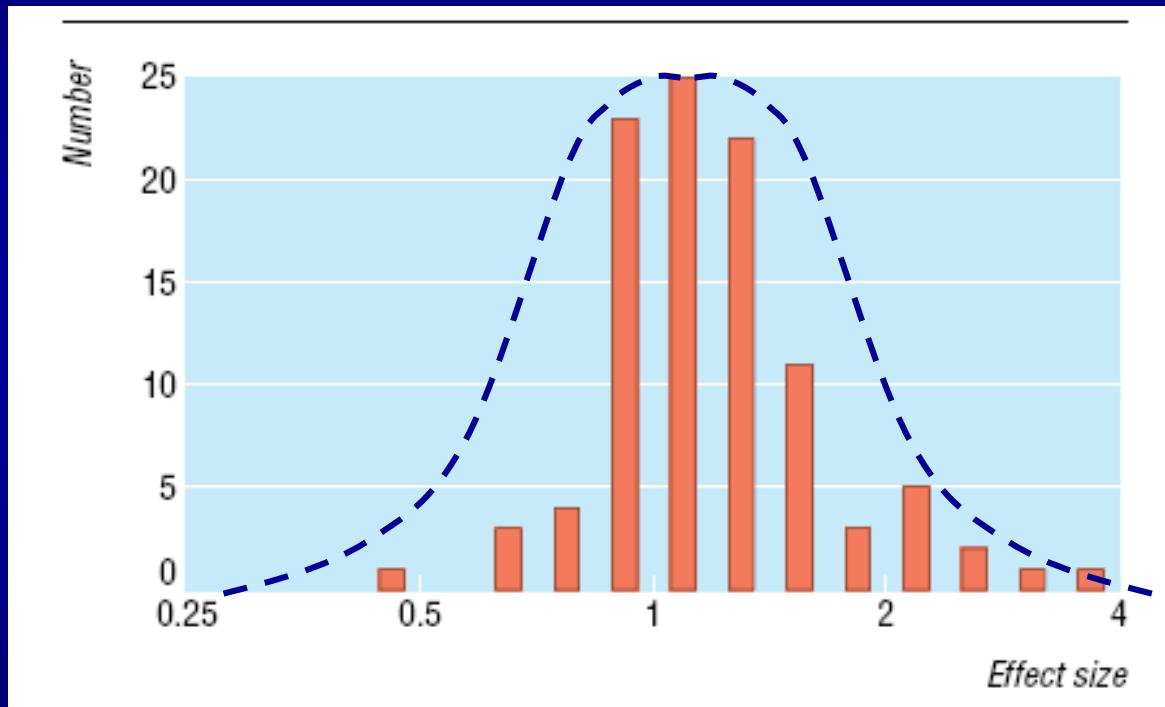
## **“Treatment Equipoise” o “Equal Bet”**

**Una Sperimentazione Clinica Randomizzata che non segue questo principio è:**

- **Metodologicamente Scorretta**
- **Eticamente Scorretta**

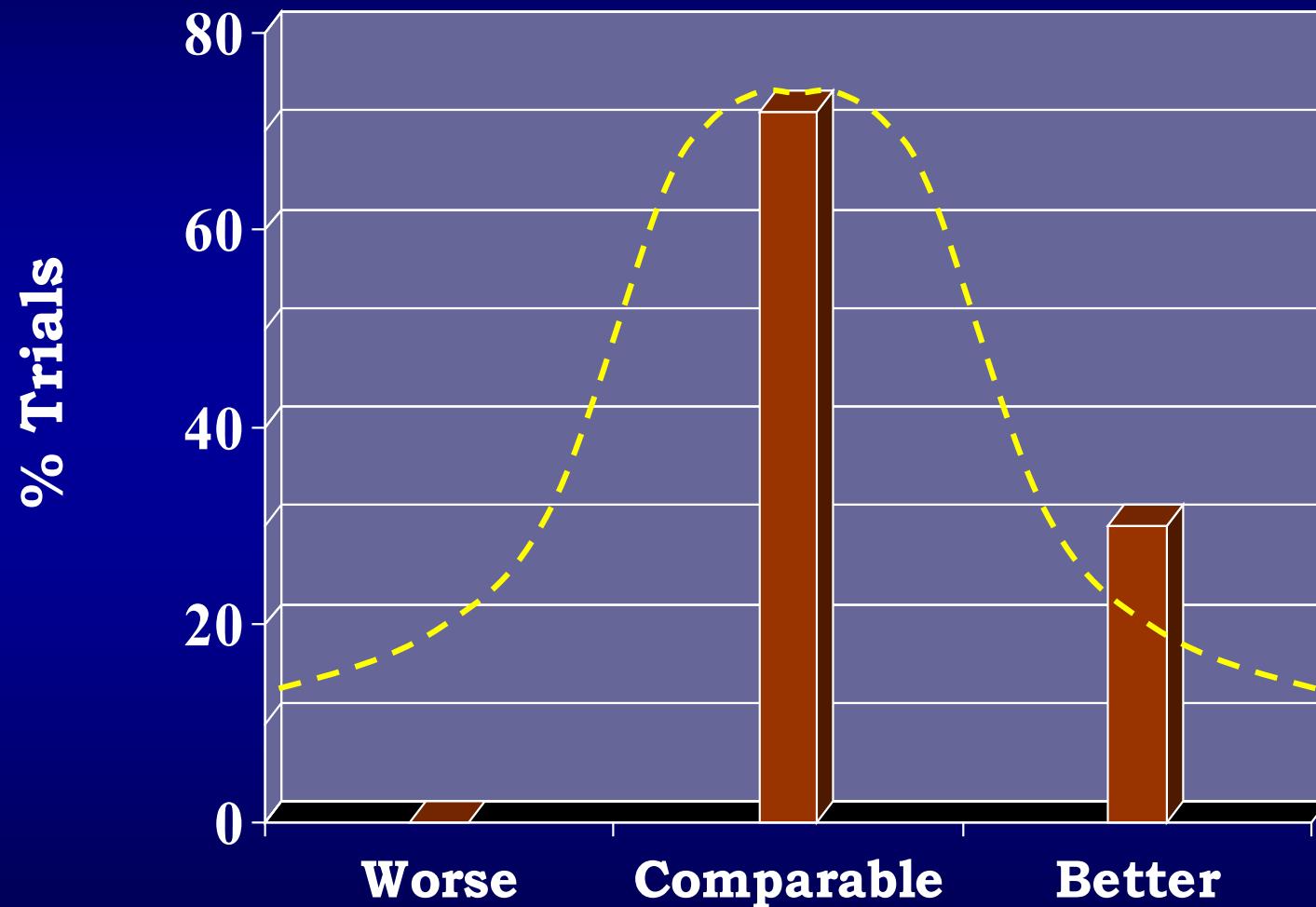
# ECOG/CALGB ‘No Profit’ Trials Satisfaction of Uncertainty Principle

BMJ. 2004 Jun 19;328(7454):1463. Epub 2004 May 26



Distribution of effect sizes among ECOG and CALGB randomised controlled trials, 1981-95. Effect sizes >1 favour experimental treatment; effect sizes <1 favour standard treatment

# *Efficacy Outcome of Manufacturer-Associated vs Comparison Drug (NSAID)*



# Effect of funding source on Trial Outcome

*136 RCT for Multiple Myeloma*



Djulbegovic B, et al: The Uncertainty Principle and industry-sponsored research  
The Lancet, 356: 635-638, 2000

# The Uncertainty Principle Violation

## Possible Causes

- Trial Design
  - Inadequate standard
  - Inadequate methodology
- Data Analysis
  - Inadequate End-Points
  - Inadequate Population
- Publication
  - Selective publication
  - Delayed publication
  - Ghost writing / Emphatic writing

# Gruppo Italiano Mammella

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- Anno di fondazione: 2002
- Oncologi fondatori:
  - Marco Venturini
  - Francesco Cognetti
  - Sabino De Placido
- Sponsor studi GIM:
  - *Consorzio ONCOTECH è un consorzio pubblico-privato dedicato alla ricerca clinica, alla formazione, alla divulgazione e comunicazione scientifica ed all'informatica medica in campo oncologico, costituendo una realtà unica in Italia per struttura, ampiezza di aree d'interesse e rilevanze di progetti in corso.*



# CLINICAL TRIALS condotti dal GIM



TRIAL	TYPE OF STUDY	ACCRUAL TIME	N°PATIENTS	STATUS
<b>GIM1</b>	Fase III Adiuвante CT, N-	2003 - 2010	1.636	COMPLETED
<b>GIM2</b>	Fase III Adiuвante CT, N+	2003 - 2006	2.091	COMPLETED
<b>GIM3 - FATA</b>	Fase III Adiuвante HT, postmenopausa	2007 – 2012	3.707	COMPLETED
<b>GIM4 - LEAD</b>	Fase III Adiuвante HT, postmenopausa	2005 - 2010	2.056	COMPLETED
<b>GIM5 - CYPLEC</b>	Traslazionale , HT postmenopausa	2005 – 2008	488	COMPLETED
<b>GIM6 - PROMISE</b>	Fase III Conservazione della fertilità	2003 – 2008	282	COMPLETED
<b>GIM7 - DOT</b>	Fase III, Terapia mirata su malattia metastatica	2008 –2011	31	EARLY STOP
<b>GIM8 - OVER</b>	Fase III, HT + terapia mirata su malattia metastatica	2008 - 2013	348	COMPLETED
<b>GIM9 – NEO-ADIXERN</b>	Fase II, neoadjuvante	2008 –2010	47	COMPLETED
<b>GIM10 - CONSENT</b>	Fase III, adiuвante, postmenopausa	2013 – 2019	1.014	COMPLETED
<b>GIM11 - BERGI</b>	Fase II, II° linea, Her2 -, pz. mts Bevacizumab + Eribulina	2014 – 2016	61	COMPLETED
<b>GIM15 - NEPA</b>	Fase II, adiuвante, CT Terapia di supporto con Netupitant + CT	2016 – 2016	150	COMPLETED
<b>GIM18 - FUMANCE</b>	Fase III, randomizzato, Her2 -, postmenopausa, terapia di mantenimento dopo 1° linea di CT con Faslodex	2016 – 2017	12	EARLY STOP

# Ongoing CLINICAL TRIALS

TRIAL	TYPE OF STUDY	ACCRUAL START	PLANNED/ ACTUAL ACCRUAL
PREFER 1	Osservazionale, prospettico sulla preservazione della fertilità nelle pazienti ca mammario invasivo	29/11/2012	Non definito da protocollo/402
PREFER 2	Osservazionale, prospettico sul trattamento ca mammario in gravidanza e sul follow-up delle donne che hanno avuto una gravidanza dopo trattamento ca mammario	25/03/2014	Non definito da protocollo/70
GIM12 – TYPHER	Fase II, randomizzato, Her2 +, mts Lapatinib + Trastuzumab vs Trastuzumab + CT	26/02/2015	154 / 59
GIM13 - AMBRA	Osservazionale, mts, Her2 – Osserva la 1° linea di CT e successive	06/05/2015	1.500 / 921
GIM14 - BIO-META	Osservazionale, mts Osserva la durata e il n° di linee di OT, ter. Biol. e CT	Nov. 2015	2.500 / 2361
GIM16 - FEVEX	Fase III, randomizzato, ca localmente avanzato/mts, ER,Pgr+, Her2 - , pz. già trattate con IA Fulvestrant →Everolimus + Exemestane Exemestane + Everolimus→Fulvestrant	16/12/2015	745 / 142
GIM19 - STAR	Osservazionale, ca mammario adiuvante, neoadiuvante e mts, Er, Pgr +. Pz che hanno assunto IA generico e brandes	11/05/2016	2.144 / 929
GIM20 – CitoHer2	Osservazionale, prospettico, neoplasia mammaria metastatica HER2- positiva, per analisi del profilo citochinomico in pz. che ricevono T-DM1	18/07/2018	132 / 16

# Ongoing CLINICAL TRIALS

TRIAL	TYPE OF STUDY	ACCRUAL START	PLANNED/ ACTUAL ACCRUAL
<b>NEOGENE</b>	Test genomici mirati ad identificare mutazioni "actionable" in pazienti con tumore della mammella recettori ormonali negativi/her2 positivo o triplo negativo: fattibilità e perfezionamento (delle tecniche.) Studio osservazionale prospettico retrospettivo	04/11/2018	200 / 16
<b>GIM21 – LiqERBcept</b>	Interventistico, non farmacologico, neoplasia mammaria metastatica HER2- positiva, su biopsia liquida per intercettazione di traiettorie mutazionali in pz. che ricevono T-DM1	07/11/2018	45 / 13
<b>GIM22 – ERICA</b>	Fase II, randomizzato, carcinoma mammario metastatico. Seconda linea di eribulina seguita da capecitabina oppure sequenza inversa	30/07/2018	150 / 22
<b>GIM23 – POSTER</b>	Osservazionale prospettico sul trattamento ormonale adiuvante delle pz. con ca mammario operato in premenopausa con recettori ormonali positivi	Ott. 2019 (stima primo paziente)	STARTUP
<b>GIM24 – PALBO-PB</b>	Fase II, ca localmente avanzato/mts, HR+, Her2 –con Palbociclib+Fulvestrant in pz. pre e post menopausa progredite ad un trattamento con terapia ormonale + un inibitore CDK4/6	Ott. 2019 (stima primo paziente)	STARTUP
<b>GIM25 - CAPT</b>	Fase II, ca mammario, Atezolizumab+Carboplatin+Paclitaxel in 1° linea mts, PD-L1 triplo negativo	Dic. 2019 (stima primo paziente)	STARTUP

# I risultati del GIM

- Centri partecipanti: 100
- Arruolamento pazienti
  - 16.874 pazienti (dal 2002 al 2019)
  - 1.055 pazienti/anno
  - 168,8 pazienti/centro



# I risultati del GIM

**Fluorouracil and dose-dense chemotherapy in adjuvant treatment of patients with early-stage breast cancer: an open-label, 2 × 2 factorial, randomised phase 3 trial**

**GIM2**

*Lucia Del Mastro\*, Sabino De Placido\*, Paolo Bruzzì, Michele De Laurentiis, Corrado Boni, Giovanna Cavazzini, Antonio Durando, Anna Turlelli, Cecilia Nistico, Enrichetta Valle, Ornella Garrone, Fabio Puglisi, Filippo Montemurro, Sandro Barni, Andrea Ardizzone, Teresa Gamucci, Giuseppe Colantuono, Mario Giuliano, Adriano Gravina, Paola Papaldo, Claudia Bighi, Giancarlo Bisagni, Valeria Forestier, Francesco Cognetti, for the Gruppo Italiano Mammella (GIM) Investigators†*

**Adjuvant anastrozole versus exemestane versus letrozole, upfront or after 2 years of tamoxifen, in endocrine-sensitive breast cancer (FATA-GIM3): a randomised, phase 3 trial**

**GIM3**

*Sabino De Placido\*, Ciro Gallo\*, Michelino De Laurentiis, Giancarlo Bisagni, Grazia Arpino, Maria Giuseppa Sarobba, Ferdinando Riccardi, Antonio Russo, Lucia Del Mastro, Alessio Aligi Cogoni, Francesco Cognetti, Stefania Gori, Jennifer Foglietta, Antonio Frassoldati, Domenico Amoroso, Lucio Laudadio, Luca Moscetti, Filippo Montemurro, Claudio Verusio, Antonio Bernardo, Vito Lorusso, Adriano Gravina, Gabriella Moretti, Rossella Lauria, Antonella Lai, Carmen Mocerino, Sergio Rizzo, Francesco Nuzzo, Paolo Carlini, Francesco Perrone\*, on behalf of the GIM Investigators†*

# I risultati del GIM

## Effect of the Gonadotropin-Releasing Hormone Analogue Triptorelin on the Occurrence of Chemotherapy-Induced Early Menopause in Premenopausal Women With Breast Cancer A Randomized Trial

JAMA. 2011;306(3):269-276

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Monica Giordano, MD

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Ornella Garrone, MD

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Paolo Pronzato, MD

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Claudia Bighin, MD

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Alessia Levaggi, MD

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Sara Giraudi, MD

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Nicola Cresti, MD

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Emanuela Magnolfi, MD

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Tiziana Scotto, MD

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Carlo Vecchio, MD

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Marco Venturini, MD

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**GIM6**

**Original Investigation**

## Ovarian Suppression With Triptorelin During Adjuvant Breast Cancer Chemotherapy and Long-term Ovarian Function, Pregnancies, and Disease-Free Survival A Randomized Clinical Trial

Matteo Lambertini, MD; Luca Boni, MD; Andrea Michelotti, MD; Teresa Gamucci, MD; Tiziana Scotto, MD; Stefania Gori, MD; Monica Giordano, MD; Ornella Garrone, MD; Alessia Levaggi, MD; Francesca Poggio, MD; Sara Giraudi, MD; Claudia Bighin, MD; Carlo Vecchio, MD; Mario Roberto Sertoli, MD; Paolo Pronzato, MD; Lucia Del Mastro, MD; for the GIM Study Group

# L'impatto sulla pratica clinica

Selection of Optimal Adjuvant Chemotherapy Regimens for Human Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor 2 (HER2) -Negative and Adjuvant Targeted Therapy for HER2-Positive Breast Cancers: An American Society of Clinical Oncology Guideline Adaptation of the Cancer Care Ontario Clinical Practice Guideline

Neelima Denduluri, Mark R. Somerfield, Andrea Eisen, Jamie N. Holloway, Arti Hurria, Tari A. King, Gary H. Lyman, Ann H. Partridge, Melinda L. Telli, Maureen E. Trudeau, and Antonio C. Wolff

J Clin Oncol 34:2416-2427. © 2016

## ***Acceptable Adjuvant Chemotherapy Regimens for Patients With Higher-Risk Early Breast Cancer***

These adjuvant chemotherapy regimens can be used for patients with early breast cancer:

- Fluorouracil-epirubicin-cyclophosphamide × 3 → docetaxel × 3 (superior to fluorouracil-epirubicin-cyclophosphamide × 6)
- Doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide × 4 → docetaxel × 4 (superior to doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide × 4)
- Docetaxel-doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide × 6 (superior to fluorouracil-doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide × 6)
- Doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide × 4 → paclitaxel administered once per week
- Dose-dense doxorubicin-cyclophosphamide → paclitaxel administered once every 2 weeks
- Dose-dense epirubicin 90mg/m<sup>2</sup>, cyclophosphamide 600mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 2 weeks 4 cycles → paclitaxel 175mg/m<sup>2</sup> every 2 weeks for 4 cycles



# L'impatto sulla pratica clinica

## Tailoring therapies—improving the management of early breast cancer: St Gallen International Expert Consensus on the Primary Therapy of Early Breast Cancer 2015

Young women LHRH agonist therapy during chemotherapy proved effective to protect against premature ovarian failure and preserve fertility in young women with ER-negative breast cancer undergoing chemotherapy [5, 112].



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

### **NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2016 Invasive Breast Cancer**

#### FERTILITY AND BIRTH CONTROL

- Randomized trials have shown that ovarian suppression with GnRH agonist therapy administered during adjuvant chemotherapy in premenopausal women with ER-negative tumors may preserve ovarian function and diminish the likelihood of chemotherapy-induced amenorrhea.

## Fertility Preservation in Patients With Cancer: ASCO Clinical Practice Guideline Update

Kutluk Oktay, Brittany E. Harvey, Ann H. Partridge, Gwendolyn P. Quinn, Joyce Reinecke, Hugh S. Taylor, W. Hamish Wallace, Erica T. Wang, and Alison W. Loren

*J Clin Oncol* 36. © 2018.

**Recommendation 3.5 (updated).** Ovarian suppression: There is conflicting evidence to recommend GnRHa and other means of ovarian suppression for fertility preservation. The Panel recognizes that, when proven fertility preservation methods such as oocyte, embryo, or ovarian tissue cryopreservation are not feasible, and in the setting of young women with breast cancer, GnRHa may be offered to patients in the hope of reducing the likelihood of chemotherapy-induced ovarian insufficiency. However, GnRHa should not be used in place of proven fertility preservation methods.

# Conclusioni

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# The cancer clinical research landscape is rapidly changing .....



- The cancer clinical research landscape is rapidly changing, and all Independent Research Centers need to urgently adapt in order to offer patients effective and affordable cancer care
- Clinical and translational research are the backbone in establishing scientific advances as novel treatments and advancing progress to the benefit of patients.
- Effective treatment of cancer remains one of the biggest medical challenges in the world, due to the large diversity in the spectrum of mutations in individual cancer patients.
- To tackle this problem, cancer research will need to be performed at a larger scale than is currently possible within single cancer institutes.

# The cancer clinical research landscape is rapidly changing .....



**The prerequisites for joint translational and clinical research programs are very demanding.**

**These require:**

- 1. The creation of a virtual single ‘e-hospital’ and a powerful translational platform that integrates all patient files using a common software platform that federates the databases from each of the centres.**
- 2. Intercompatible clinical molecular profiling laboratories with a robust underlying computational biology pipeline.**
- 3. Standardised functional and molecular imaging.**

# The cancer clinical research landscape is rapidly changing .....



These require:

4. Commonly agreed SOPs for liquid and tissue biopsy procurement, storage and processing, for molecular diagnostics, 'omics', functional genetics, immunemonitoring etc.
5. Big Data analysis
6. A culture of data collection and data storage that provides complete longitudinal data sets to allow for: effective data sharing and common database building, and to achieve a level of completeness of data that is required for conducting innovative outcome research.