

# Antibody Drug Conjugate (ADC) nel carcinoma mammario: Target, risultati e prospettive future

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di Oncologia

# Disclosures

**Honoraria as a consultant, advisor or speaker:** Roche and Menarini/Stemline.

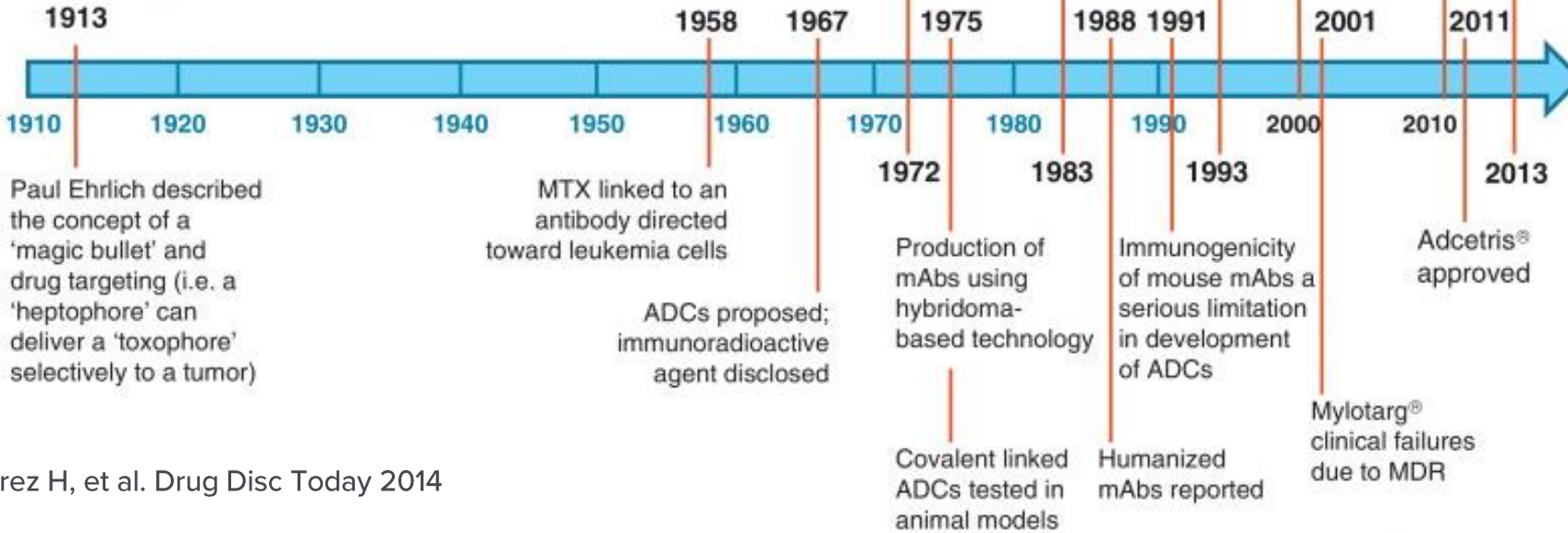
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# Outline

- **ADC drug development in breast cancer**
- **ADCs targets with clinical approval**
  - HER2
  - TROP2
- **Challenges and opportunities**

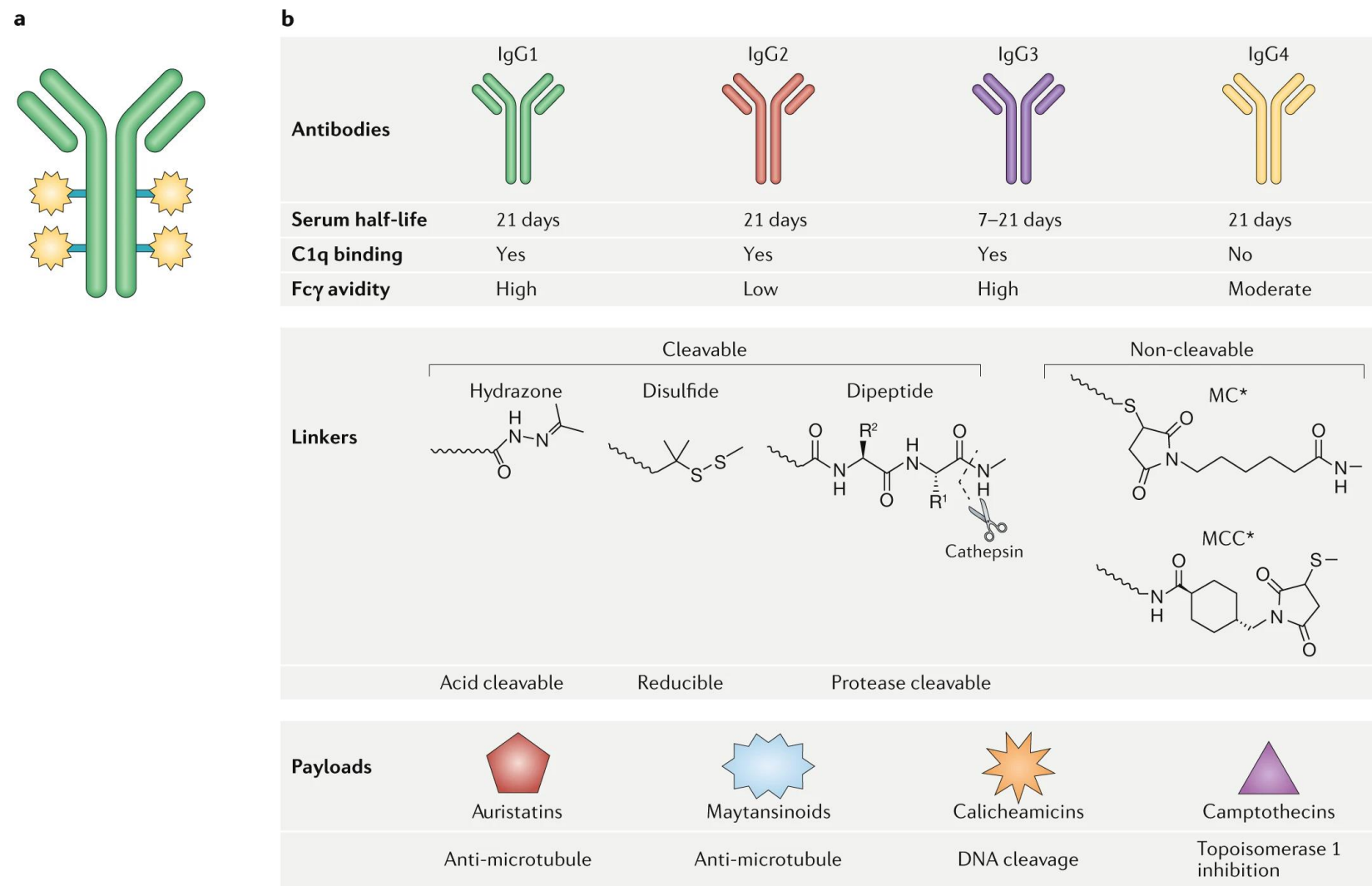
# Magic bullets for treating cancer



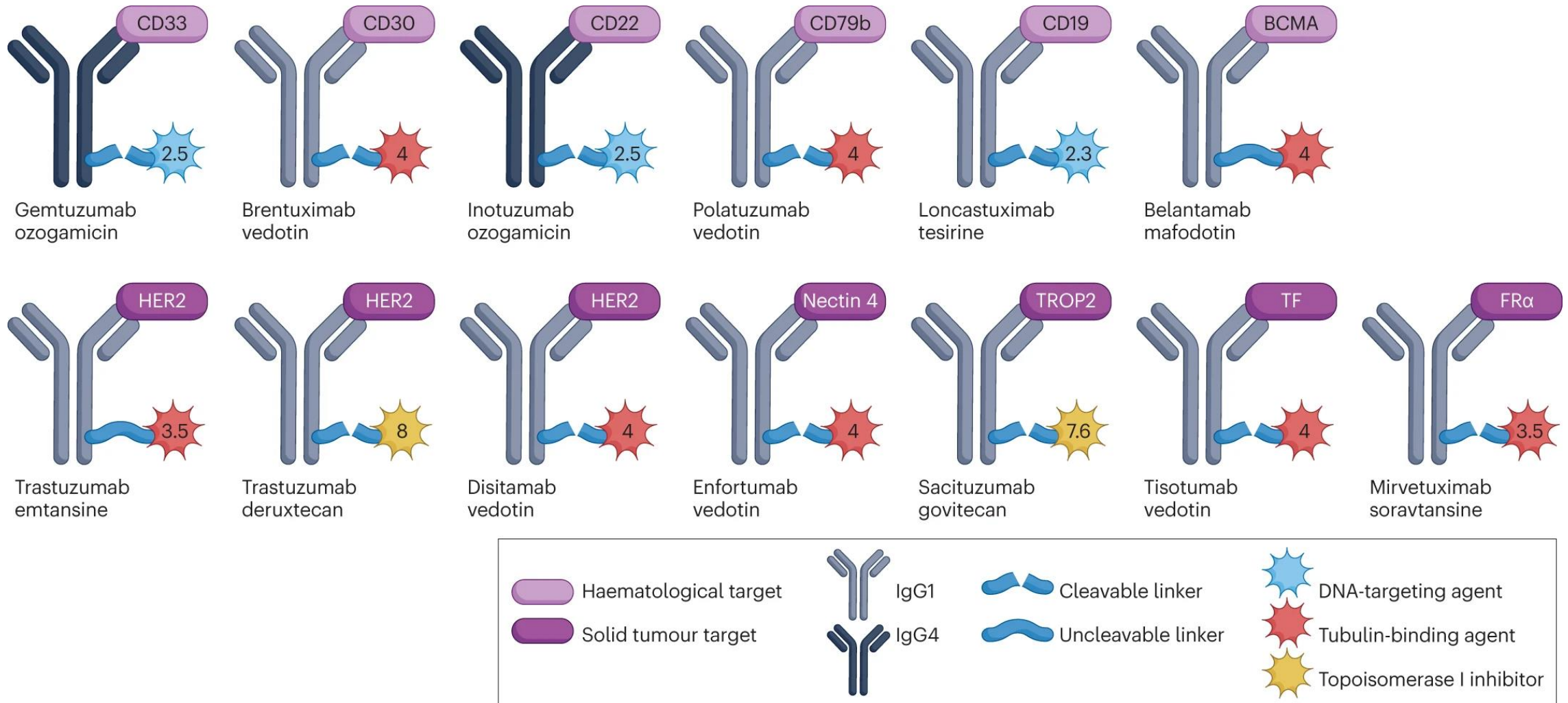
In **1913**, Paul Ehrlich described the concept of a “**magic bullet**” that could selectively deliver toxic molecules to tumor cells

100 years later (**2013**), the **first antibody-drug conjugate** was approved for the treatment of a solid tumor (T-DM1)

# Antibody–drug conjugate (ADC) as modular component



# Main characteristics of approved ADCs

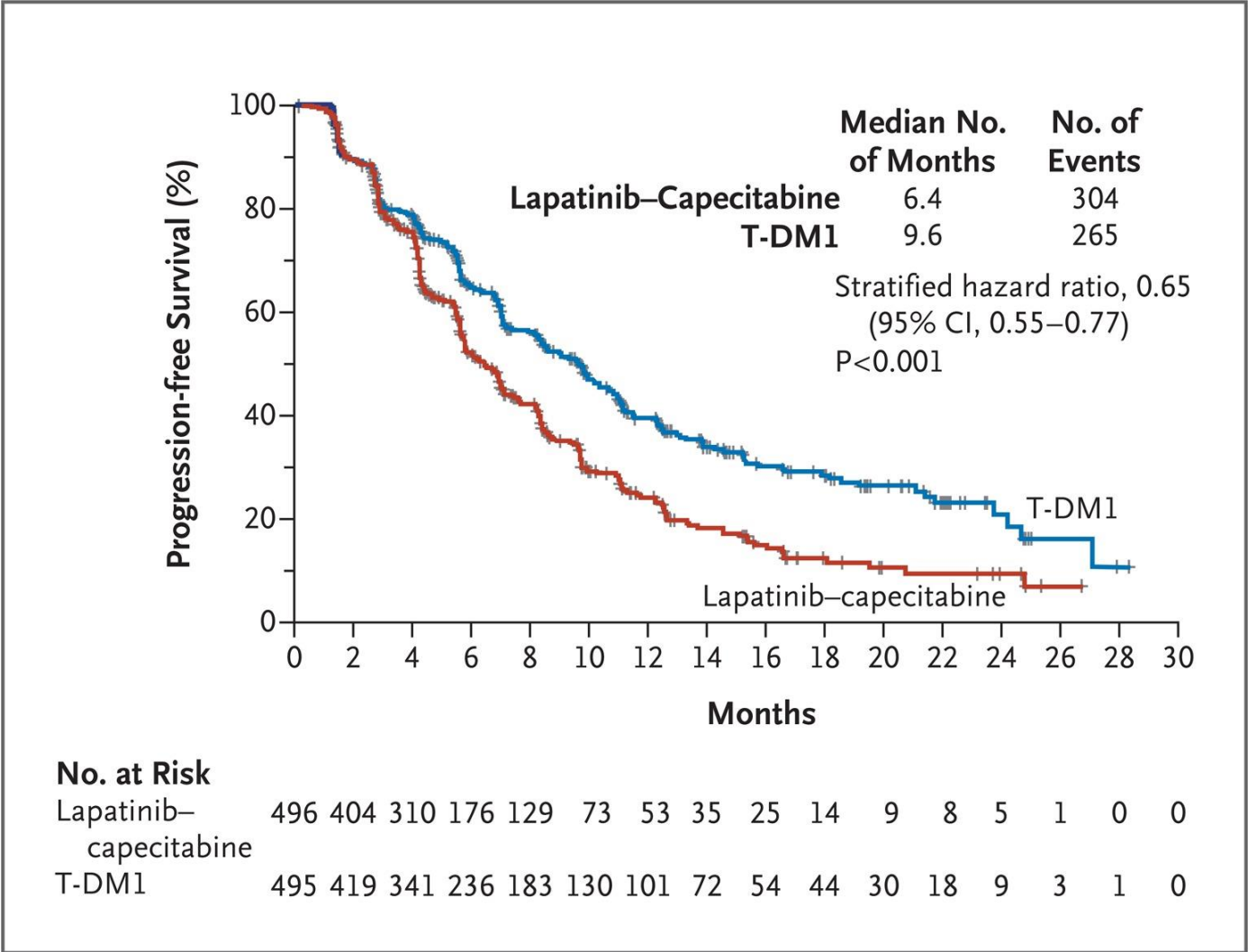


# T-DM1

## EMILIA TRIAL

It was granted approval by the FDA in 2013, after showing to improve PFS and OS in **HER2+** breast cancer in the **EMILIA** trial

Verma S, et al. NEJM 2012



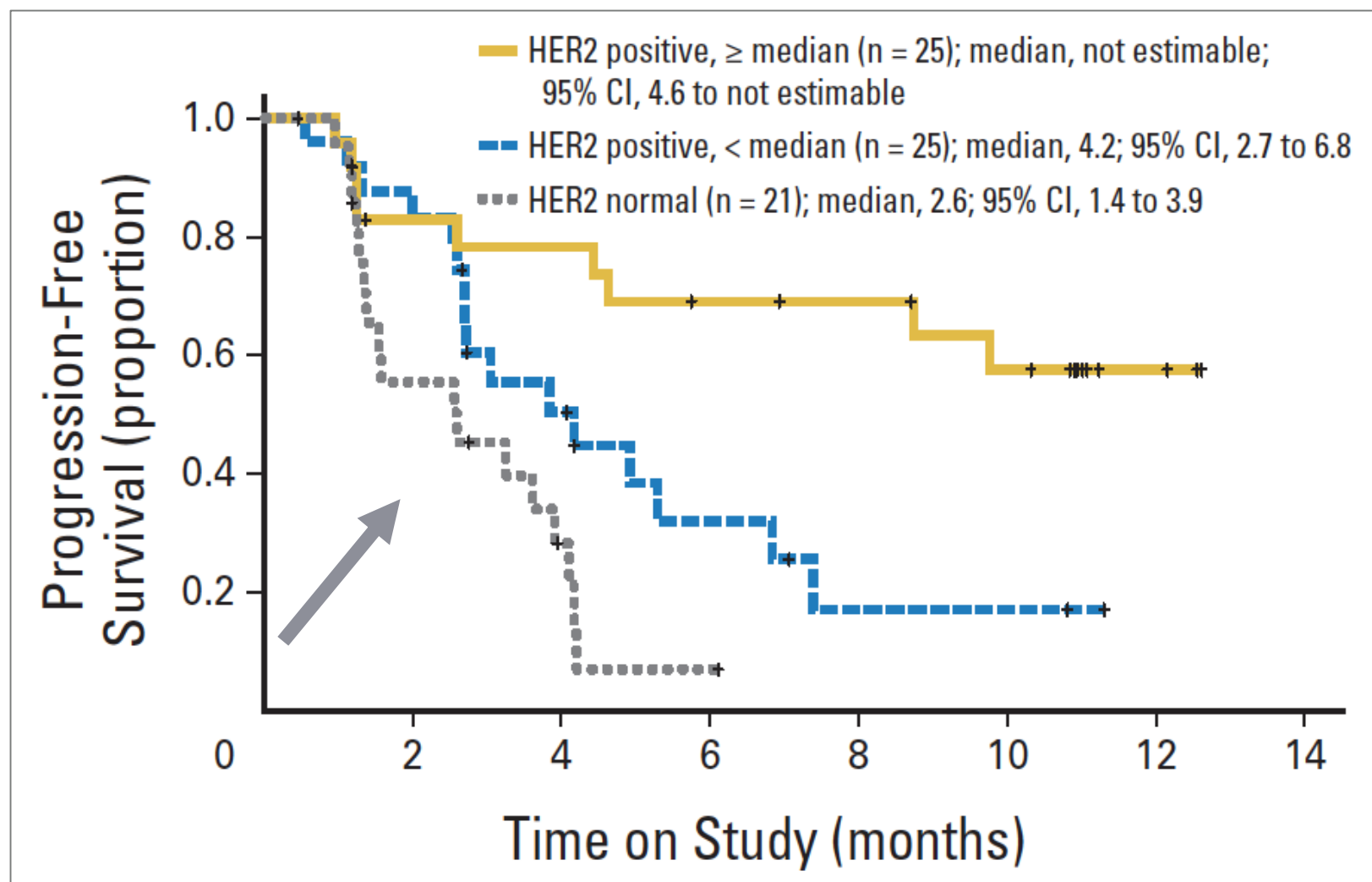


# T-DM1

## ACTIVITY IN HER2-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER

The activity of T-DM1 in HER2-negative breast cancer is however poor

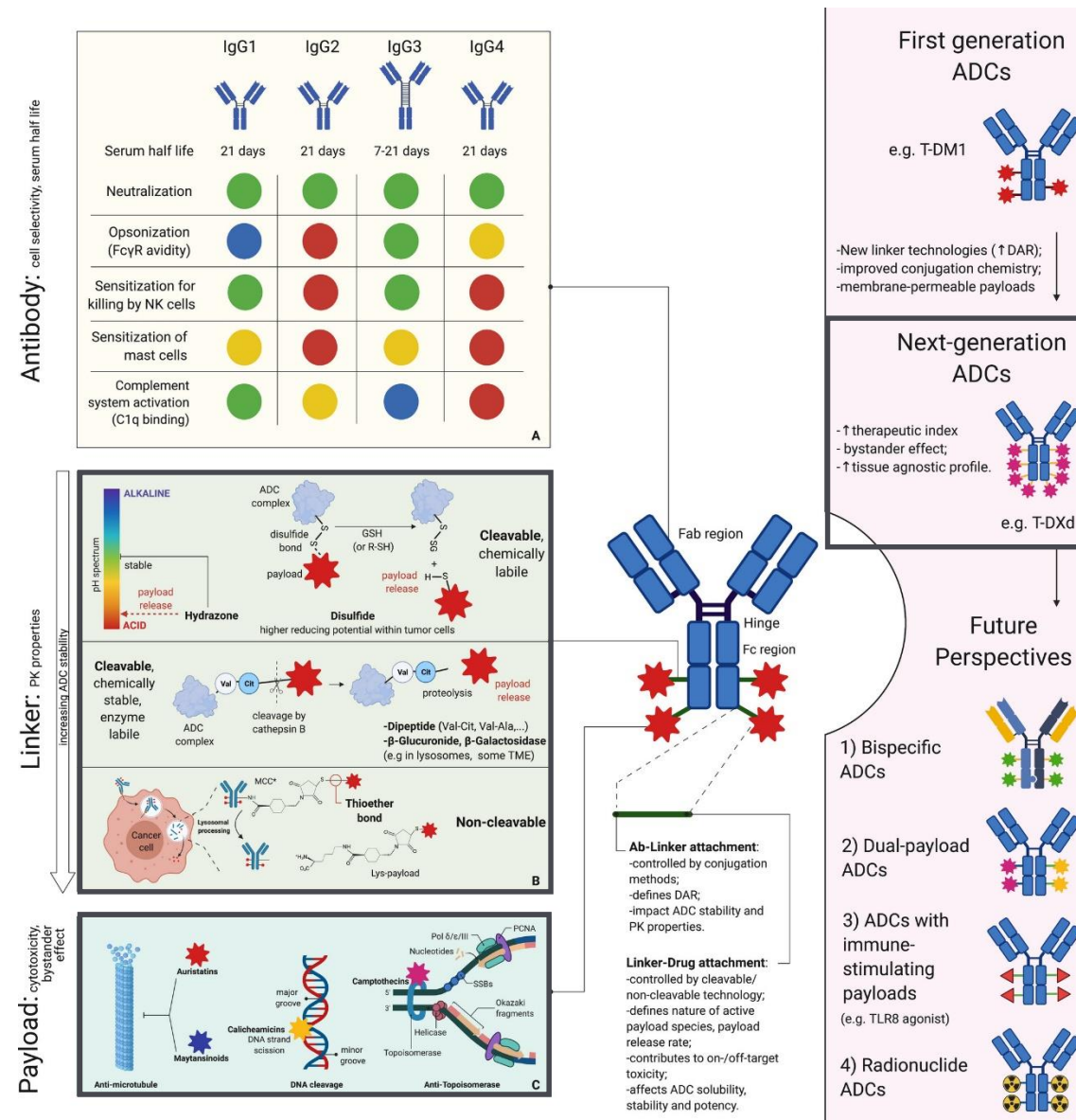
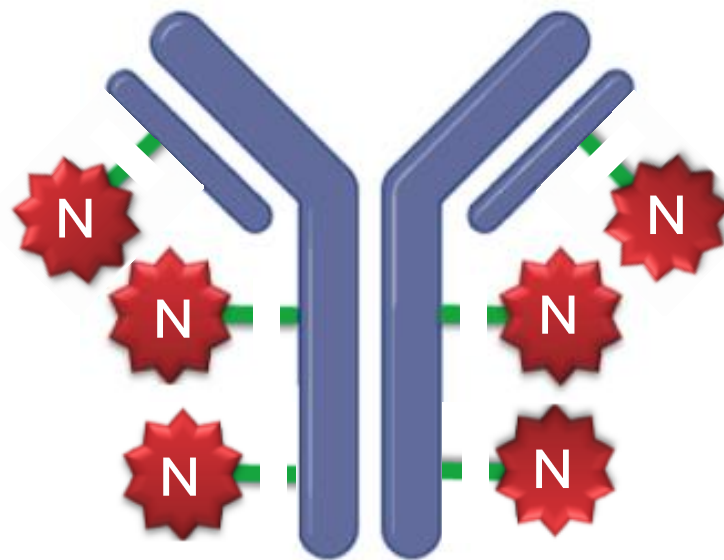
Among 21 HER2-negative MBC patients receiving T-DM1, only 1 achieved a response (**ORR 4.8%**) and the **median PFS was 2.6 months**





# Novel conjugates

Higher DAR  
Cleavable Linker  
Novel payloads

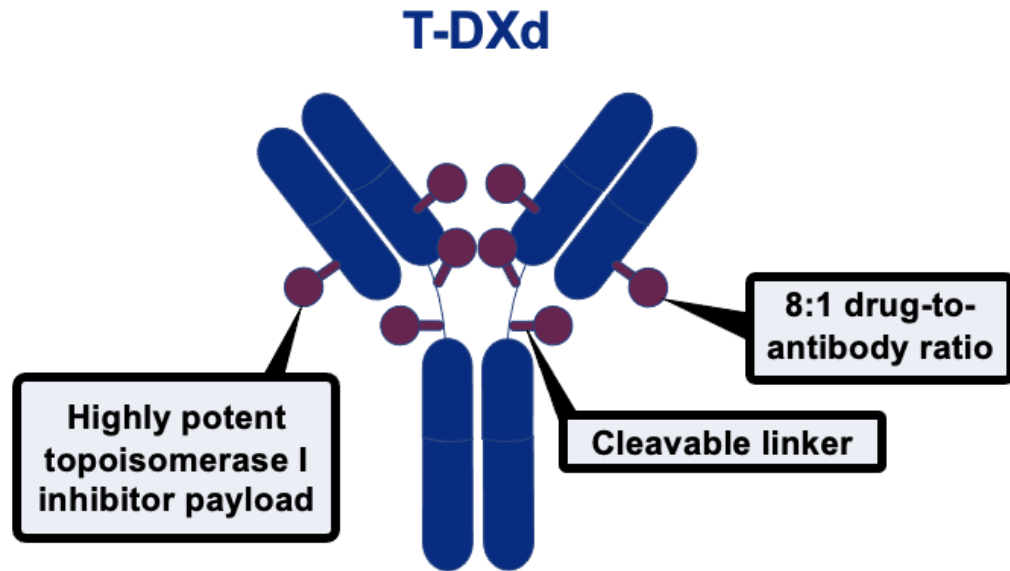


# Summary of Phase III clinical trials of novel ADCs in MBC

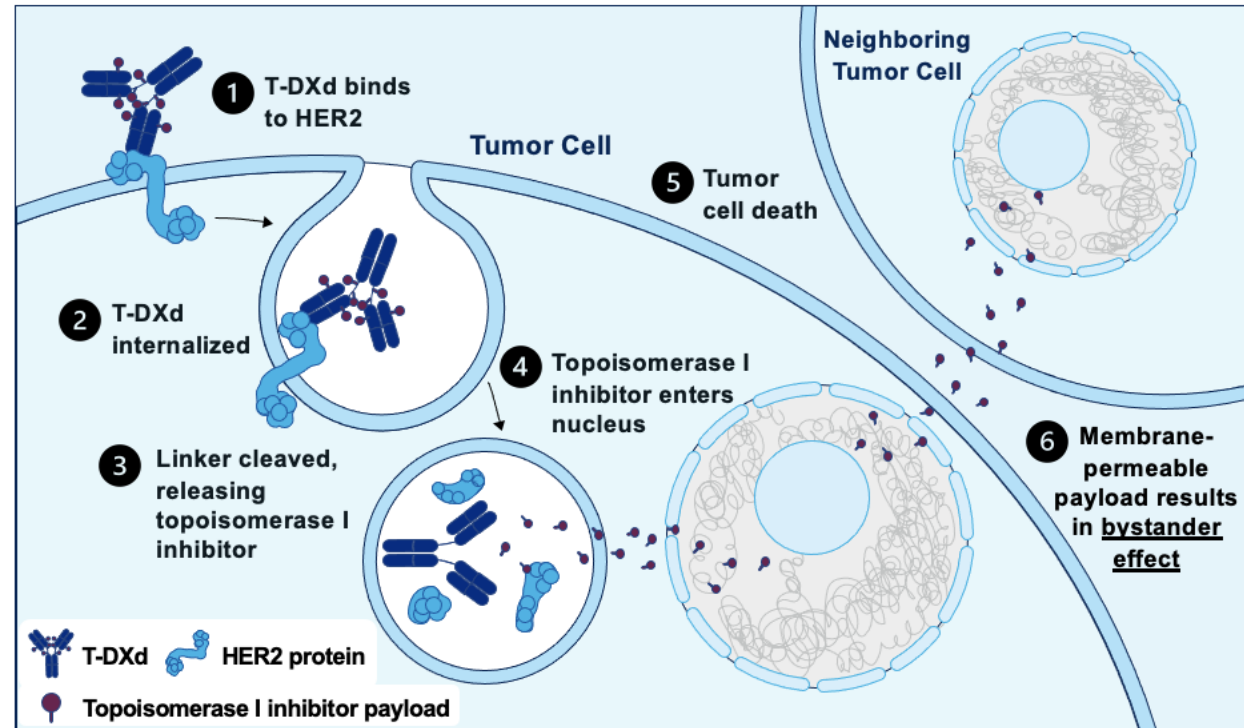
	T-DXd			Sacituzumab-govitecan		Dato-DXd
Target/Payload	HER2/ TOPO-1-inh			TROP2/ TOPO-1-inh		TROP2/ TOPO-1-inh
FDA Approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
EMA Approved	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
Study(s)	DB-03	DB-02	DB-04	ASCENT	TROPiCS-02	TROPION-Breast01
Subtype	HER2+	HER2+	HER2-low	TNBC	HR+/HER2-	HR+/HER2-
Setting	2° line	3° line	2-3° line	2-3° line	>=3° line	2-3° line
Control Arm	T-DM1	TPC	TPC	TPC	TPC	TPC
PFS (mo)	28.8 vs. 6.8	17.8 vs. 6.9	9.9 vs. 5.1	5.6 vs. 1.7	5.5 vs. 4.0	6.9 vs. 4.9
HR (95% CI)	0.33 (0.26-0.43)	0.36 (0.28-0.45)	0.50 (0.40-0.63)	0.41 (0.32-0.52)	0.66 (0.53-0.83)	0.63 (0.52-0.76)
<i>P</i>	<0.0001	<0.0001	<0.001	<0.001	0.0003	<0.0001
OS (mo)	Not reached	39.2 vs. 26.5	23.4 vs. 16.8	12.1 vs. 6.7	14.4 vs. 11.2	Not mature
HR (95% CI)	0.64 (0.47-0.87)	0.66 (0.50-0.86)	0.64 (0.49-0.84)	0.48 (0.38-0.59)	0.79 (0.65-0.96)	
<i>P</i>	0.0037	0.0021	0.001	p<0.001	0.02	

# T-DXd

## STRUCTURE AND MECHANISM OF ACTION



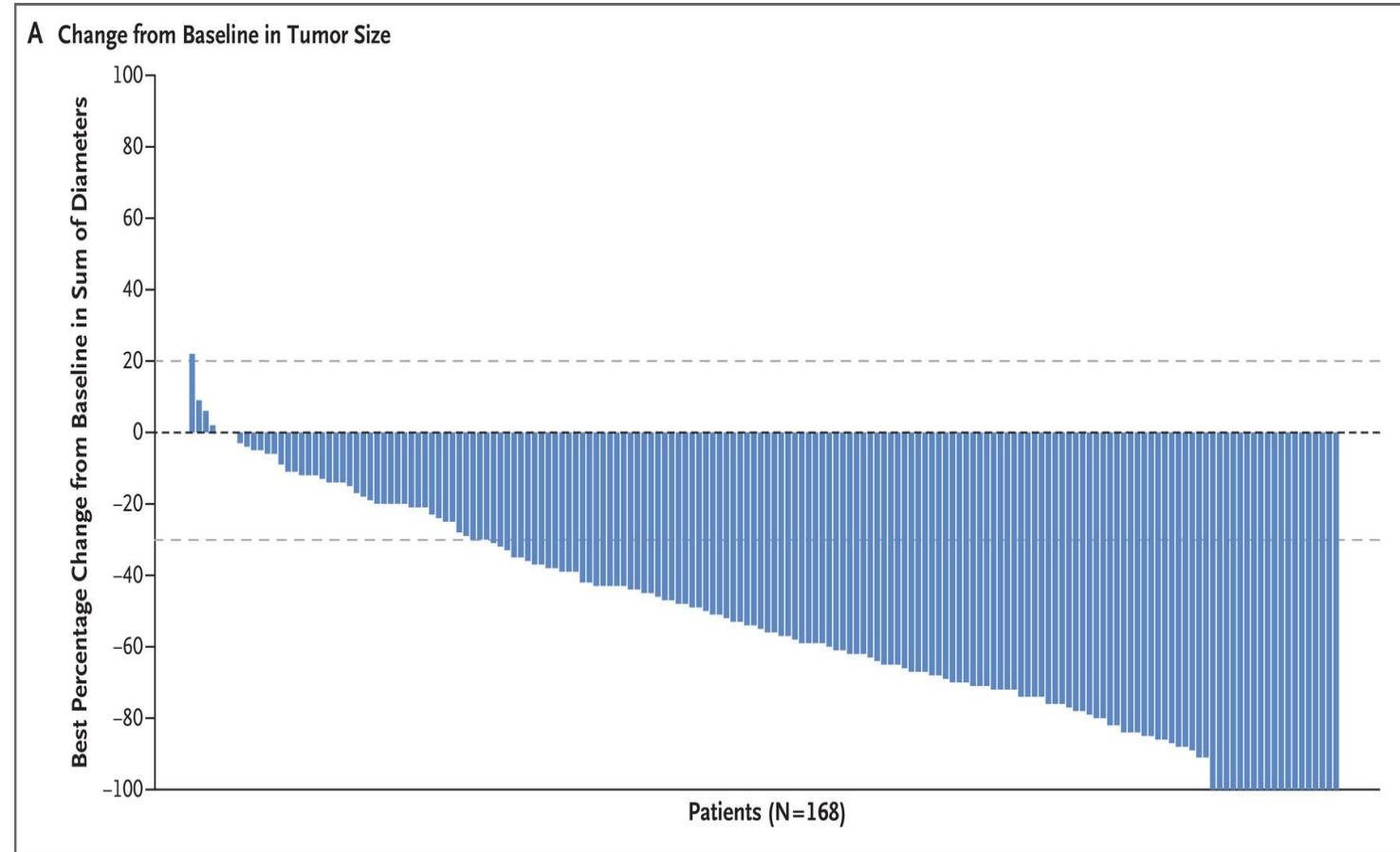
Internalization of T-DXd leads to release of the DXd payload and subsequent cell death in the target tumor cell and neighboring tumor cells through the bystander effect



# T-DXd (DESTINY Breast 01)

## ACTIVITY IN HER2+ BREAST CANCER – LATE LINES

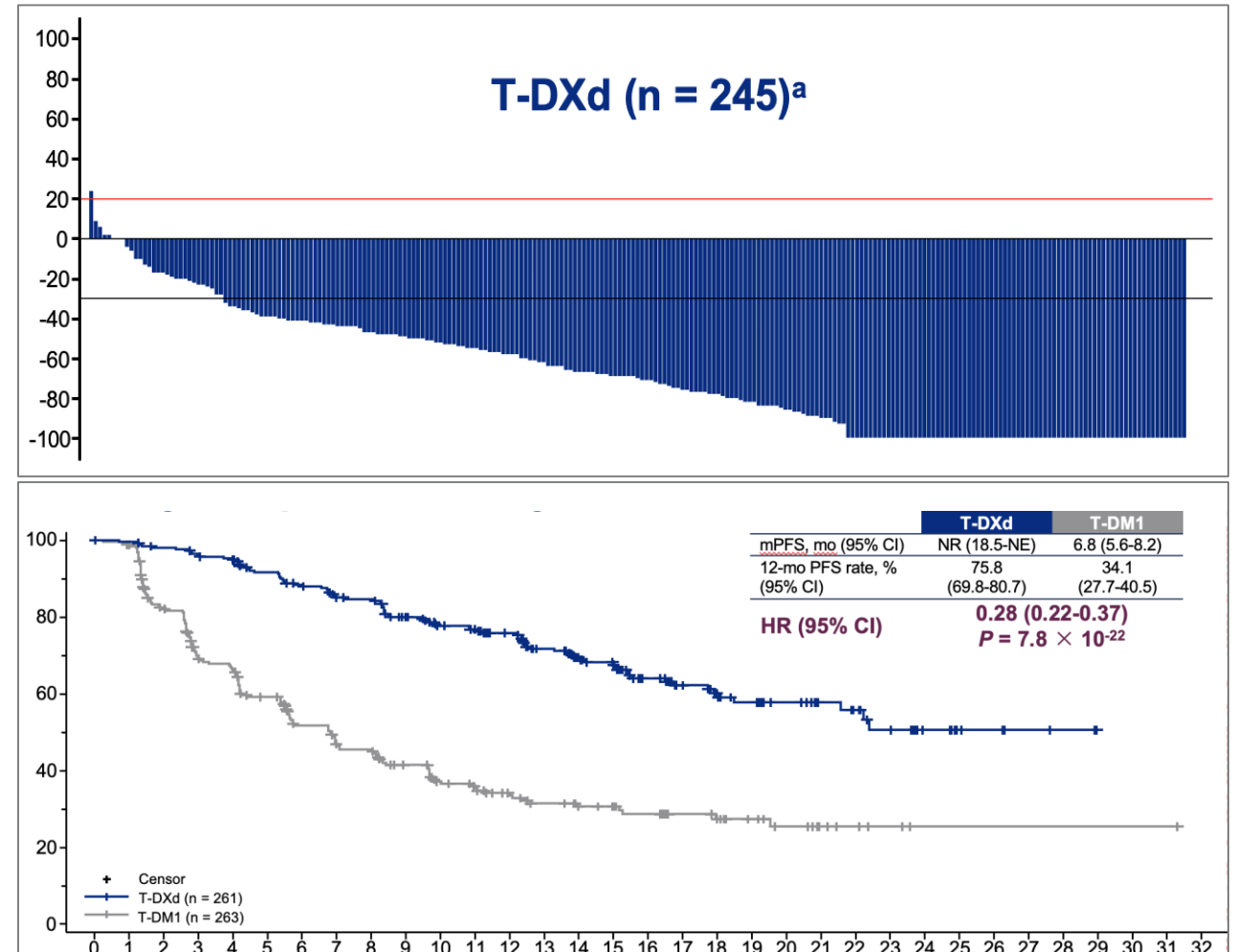
**Approved by the FDA in 2019** for the treatment of **HER2+ MBC** based on the unprecedented activity observed in the DESTINY-Breast01 phase 2 trial



# T-DXd (DESTINY Breast 03)

## ACTIVITY IN HER2+ BREAST CANCER – SECOND LINE

Subsequently approved for the **second line** treatment of **HER2+** metastatic breast cancer, after showing to outperform T-DM1 in DESTINY-Breast03 phase 3 trial



# T-DXd (J101)

## ACTIVITY IN HER2-LOW MBC

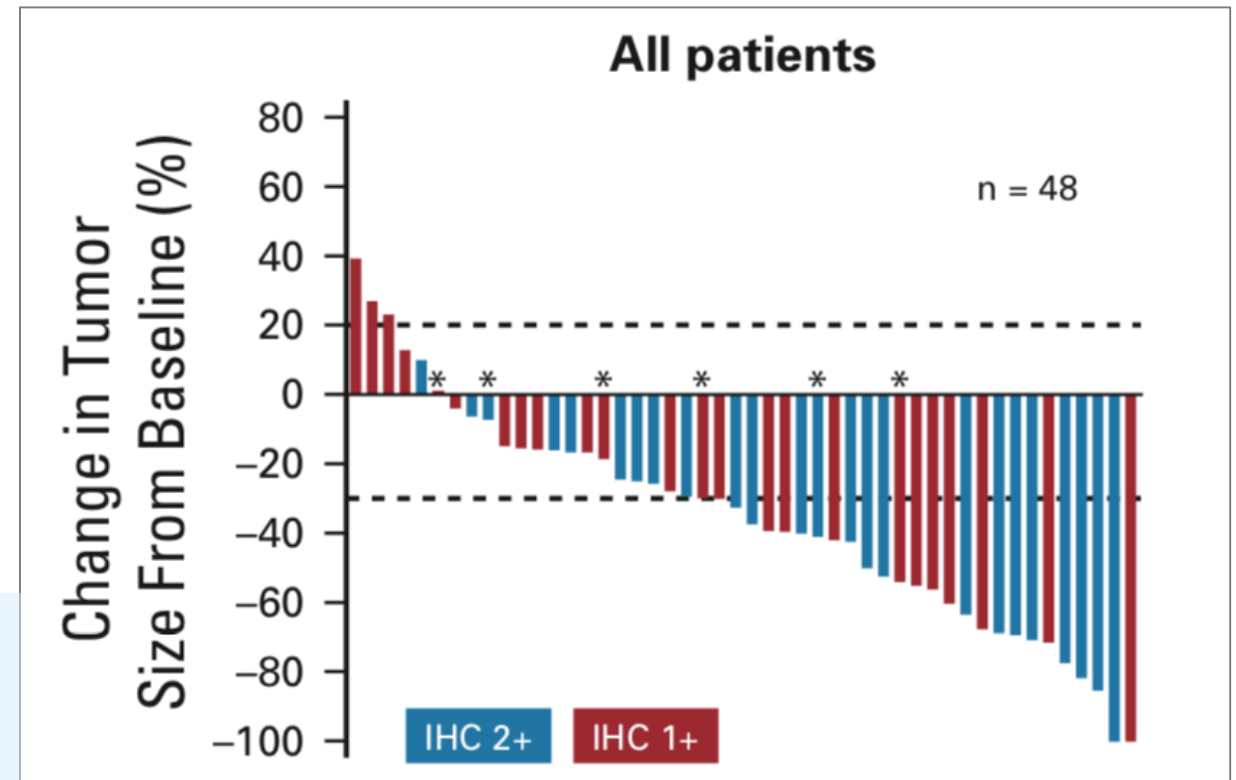
First presented at ASCO 2018, results from a Phase 1b study of trastuzumab deruxtecan (T-DXd) suggested activity in **HER2-low MBC**

Among 54 highly pre-treated (median 7.5) mBC patients with HER2 **IHC 1+ or 2+/FISH-**:

ORR 37%

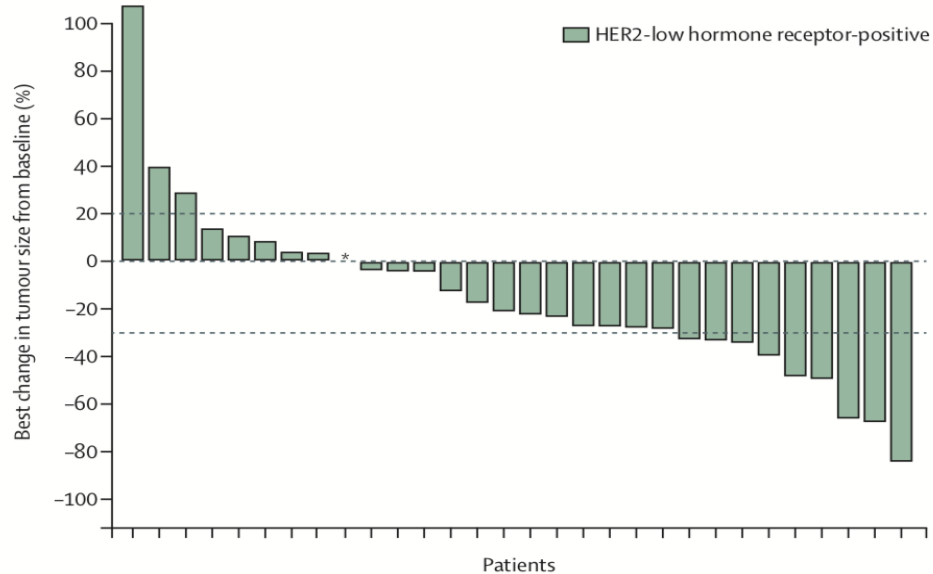
mPFS 11 months

Common Grade  $\geq 3$  TEAEs included decreases in neutrophil, platelet, and WBC counts; anaemia; hypokalaemia; AST increase; decreased appetite; and diarrhoea



# Other active ADCs in HER2-low

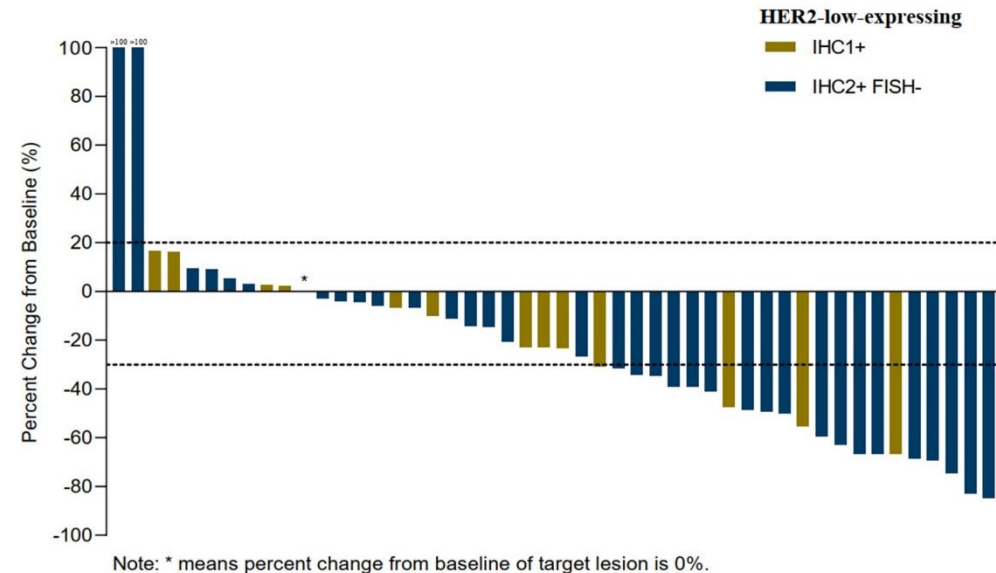
## Trastuzumab duocarmazine (SYD985)<sup>1</sup>



**49 HER2-low mBC patients: ORR 32%, mPFS 4 mo**

Grade 1–4 TRAEs were fatigue (33%), conjunctivitis (31%), and dry eye (31%). Most patients (71%) had at least one ocular AE, with Grade 3 events reported in 7% of patients

## Disitamab Vedotin (RC48-ADC)<sup>2</sup>



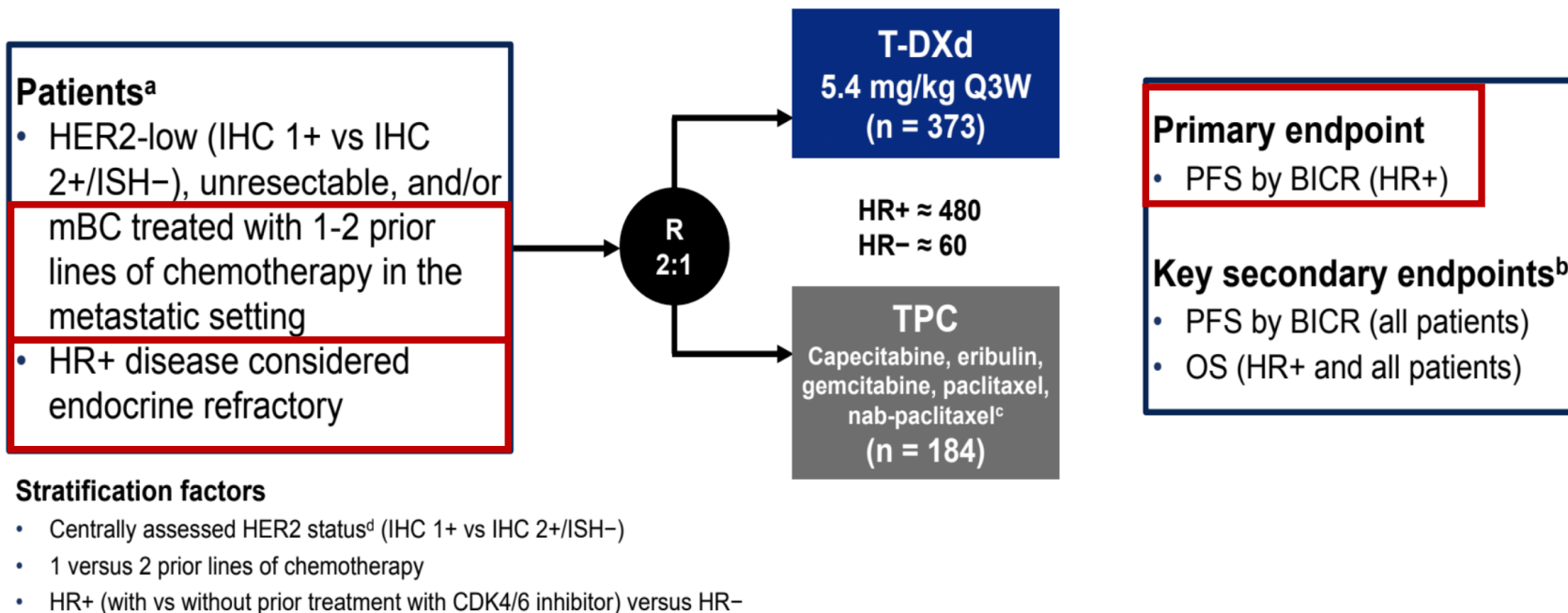
**48 HER2-low mBC patients: ORR 40%, mPFS 5.7 mo**

Grade  $\geq 3$  TRAEs occurred in 45.8% of patients. The most common Grade  $\geq 3$  TRAEs were neutrophil count decrease (16.9%) and  $\gamma$ -GT increase (12.7%)



# DESTINY Breast 04

**DESTINY-Breast04**  
**Phase 3 trial** initiated  
to confirm the benefit  
of targeting HER2-low  
expression in mBC



# DESTINY Breast 04 - Population

60% HER2 1+, 40% HER2 2+ /ISH-

90% HR+ (n=499), 10% TNBC (n=58)

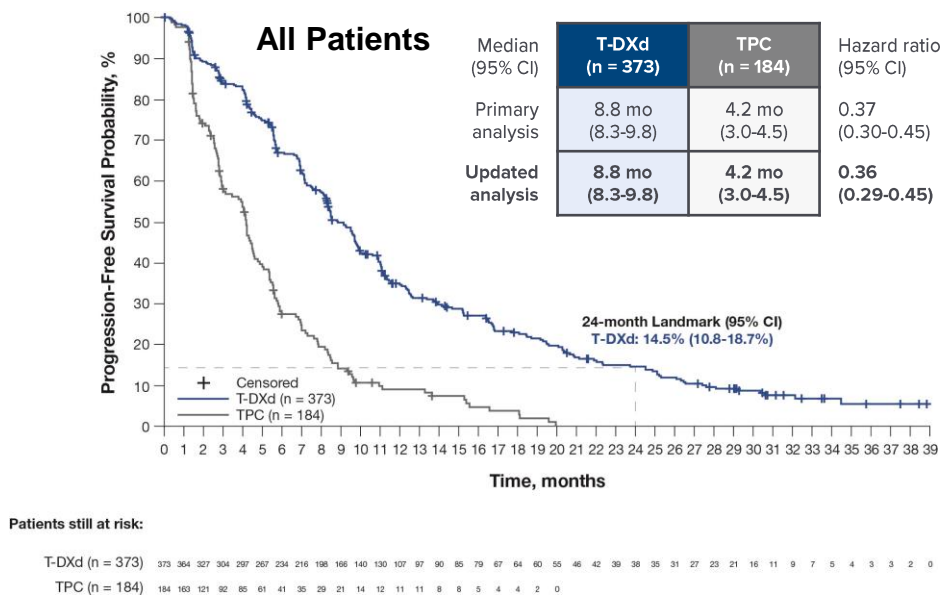
Median of 2 prior lines of ET and 1 chemo

70% of HR+ received prior CDK4/6 inh

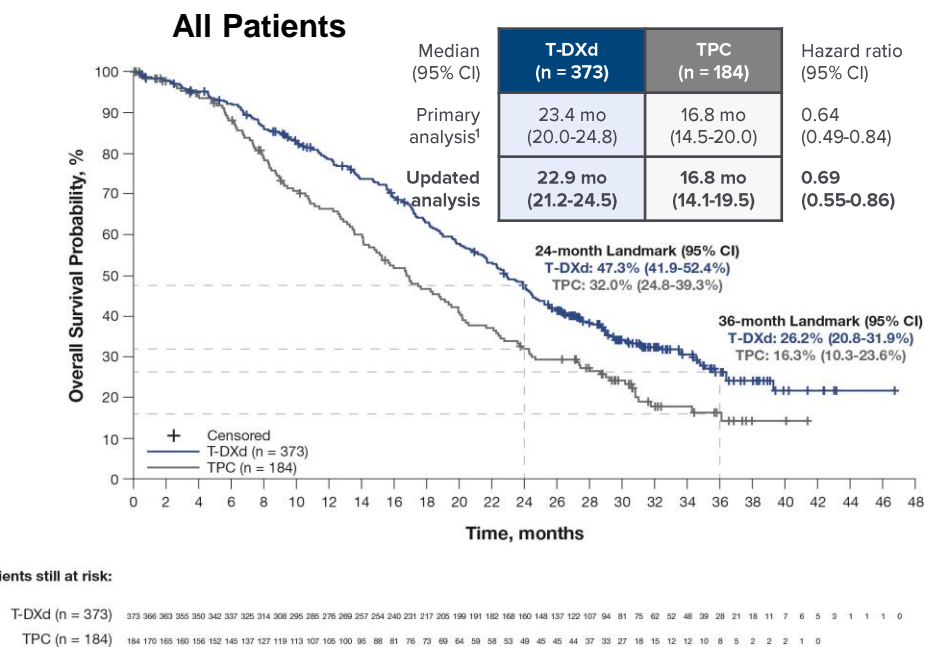
	Hormone receptor–positive		All patients	
	T-DXd (n = 331)	TPC (n = 163)	T-DXd (n = 373)	TPC (n = 184)
Age, median (range), years	57 (32-80)	56 (28-80)	58 (32-80)	56 (28-80)
Female, n (%)	329 (99)	163 (100)	371 (99)	184 (100)
Region, n (%)				
Europe + Israel	149 (45)	73 (45)	166 (45)	85 (46)
Asia	128 (39)	60 (37)	147 (39)	66 (36)
North America	54 (16)	30 (18)	60 (16)	33 (18)
HER2 status (IHC), n (%)				
1+	193 (58)	95 (58)	215 (58)	106 (58)
2+/ISH–	138 (42)	68 (42)	158 (42)	78 (42)
ECOG performance status, %				
0	187 (56)	95 (58)	200 (54)	105 (57)
1	144 (44)	68 (42)	173 (46)	79 (43)
Hormone receptor <sup>a</sup> , n (%)				
Positive	328 (99)	162 (99)	333 (89)	166 (90)
Negative	3 (1)	1 (1)	40 (11)	18 (10)
Brain metastases at baseline, n (%)	18 (5)	7 (4)	24 (6)	8 (4)
Liver metastases at baseline, n (%)	247 (75)	116 (71)	266 (71)	123 (67)
Lung metastases at baseline, n (%)	98 (30)	58 (36)	120 (32)	63 (34)
Lines of systemic therapy (metastatic setting)				
Number of lines, median (range)	3 (1-9)	3 (1-8)	3 (1-9)	3 (1-8)
Number of lines, n (%)				
1	23 (7)	14 (9)	39 (10)	19 (10)
2	85 (26)	41 (25)	100 (27)	53 (29)
≥3	223 (67)	108 (66)	234 (63)	112 (61)
Lines of chemotherapy (metastatic setting)				
Number of lines, median (range)	1 (0-3)	1 (0-2)	1 (0-3)	1 (0-2)
Number of lines, n (%)				
0	1 (0.3)	1 (0.6)	1 (0.3)	1 (0.5)
1	203 (61.3)	93 (57.1)	221 (59.2)	100 (54.3)
2	124 (37.5)	69 (42.3)	145 (38.9)	83 (45.1)
≥3	3 (0.9)	0	6 (1.6)	0
Lines of endocrine therapy (metastatic setting)				
Number of lines, median (range)	2 (0-7)	2 (0-6)	2 (0-7)	2 (0-6)
Number of lines, n (%)				
0	28 (8)	17 (10)	60 (16)	34 (18)
1	105 (32)	49 (30)	108 (29)	51 (28)
2	110 (33)	53 (33)	115 (31)	54 (29)
≥3	88 (27)	44 (27)	90 (24)	45 (24)
Prior targeted cancer therapy, n (%)				
Targeted therapy	259 (78)	132 (81)	279 (75)	140 (76)
CDK4/6 inhibitor	233 (70)	115 (71)	239 (64)	119 (65)

# DESTINY Breast 04 – PFS and OS (ESMO 2023 Update)

## Progression-Free Survival

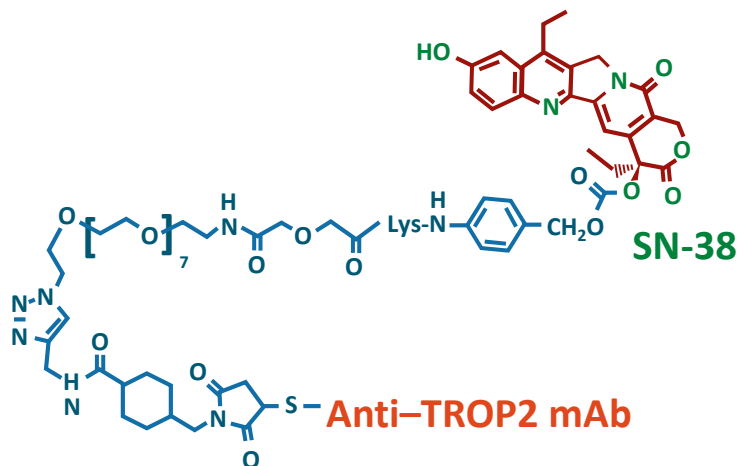


## Overall Survival



**Results from the 32-month median follow-up for DESTINY-Breast04 confirm the sustained clinically meaningful improvement for T-DXd vs TPC previously demonstrated in HER2-low (IHC 1+, IHC 2+/ISH-) mBC, regardless of HR status**

# Sacituzumab Govitecan

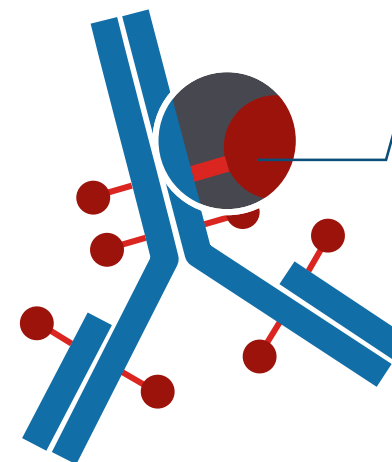


## Humanized Anti-TROP2 Antibody

- Targets TROP2, an antigen expressed in many epithelial cancers
- Antibody type: hRS7 IgG1k

## SN-38 Payload Payload (Topoisomerase I Inhibitor)

- Delivers up to 136-fold more SN-38 to tumors than parent compound irinotecan
- Unique chemistry improves solubility, selectively delivers SN-38 to tumor



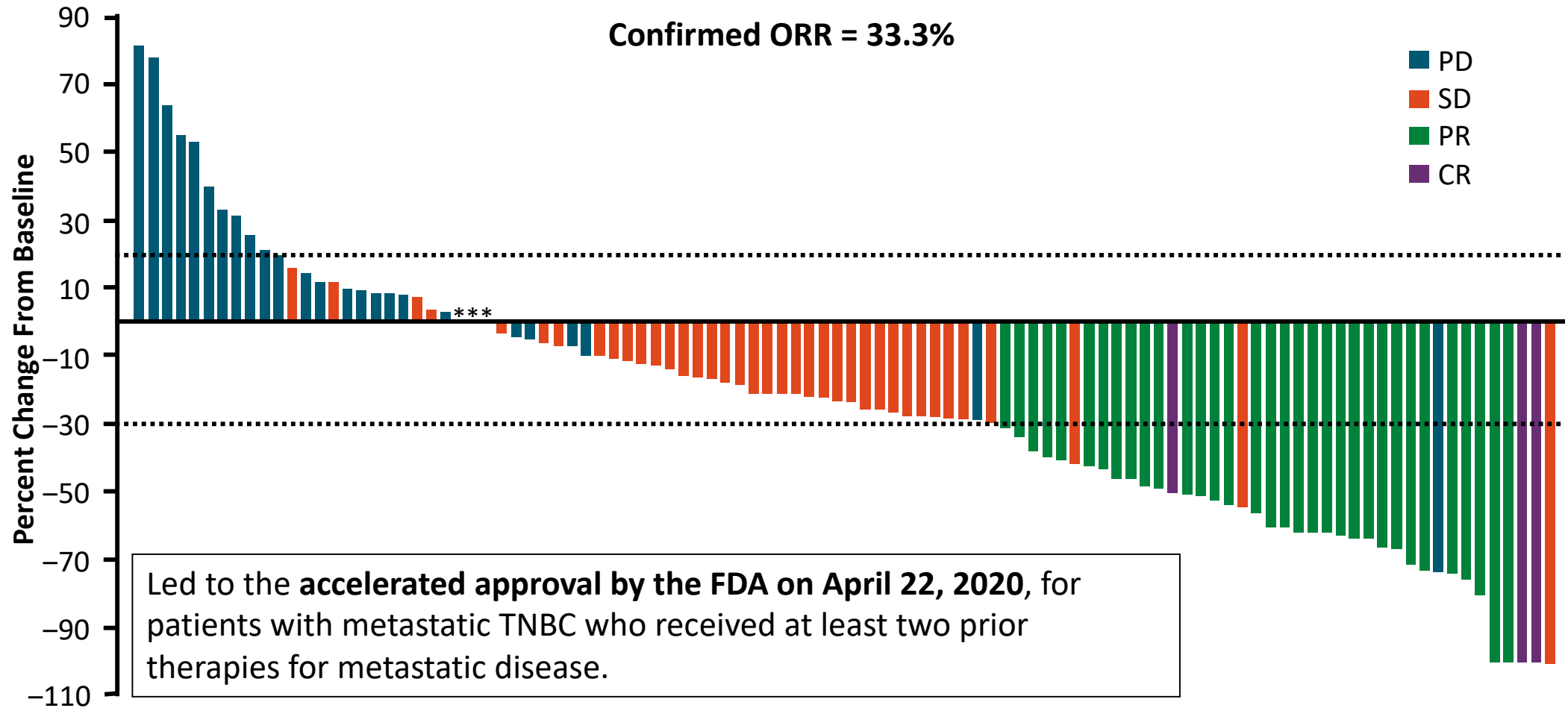
## Linker for SN-38

- High drug-to-antibody ratio (7.6:1)
- pH-sensitive linker for rapid release of payload at or inside tumor

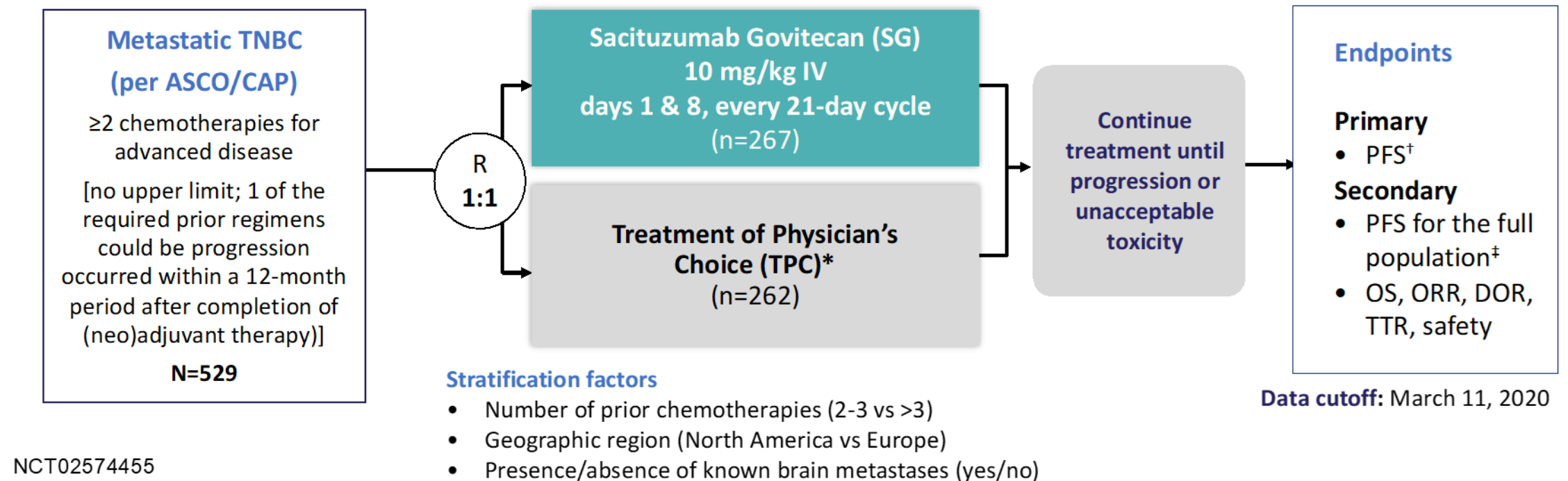
Goldenberg. Oncotarget. 2015;6:22496. Khoury. ASCO 2019. Abstr e14651.  
Ambrogi. PLoS One. 2014;9:e96993. Vidula. ASCO 2017. Abstr 1075.  
Sacituzumab govitecan PI. Tagawa. ASCO 2019. Abstr TPS3153.  
Bardia. JCO. 2017;35:2141. Goldenberg. MAbs. 2019;11:987.  
Sharkey. Clin Cancer Res. 2015;21:5131.

**Bystander effect:** In acidic tumor microenvironment, SN-38 is released from anti-TROP2 antibody, diffuses into neighboring cells

# Phase I/II IMMU-132-01 Trial of Sacituzumab Govitecan in TNBC



# Phase III ASCENT: Sacituzumab Govitecan vs CT in Relapsed/Refractory Metastatic TNBC



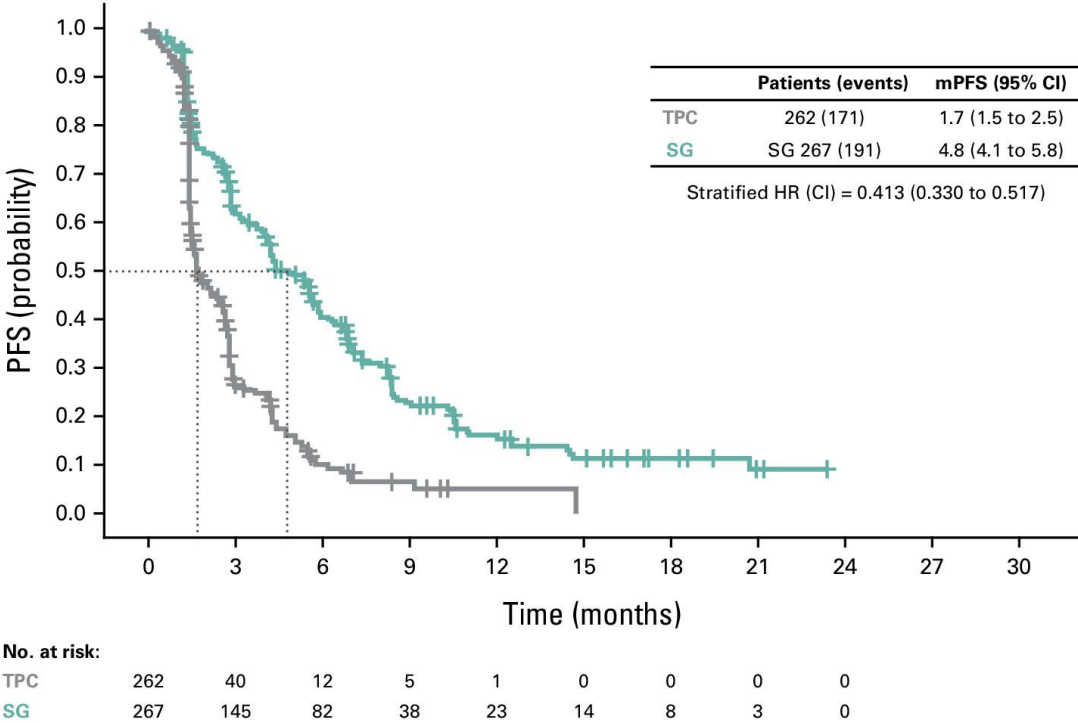
## Demographics:

TPC: 53% eribulin, 20% vinorelbine, 15% gemcitabine, 13% capecitabine; 70% TN at initial diagnosis  
Median prior regimens 4 (2-17); ~88% with visceral disease

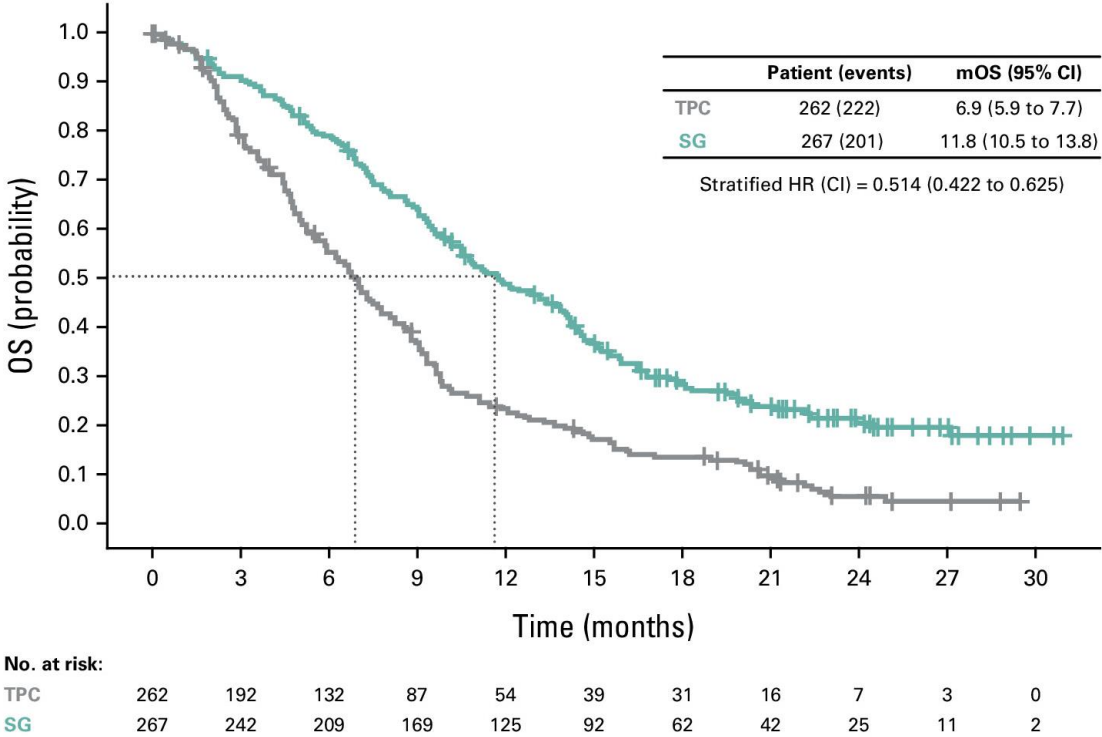
**ASCENT was halted early due to compelling evidence of efficacy per unanimous DSMC recommendation.**

# ASCENT: PFS and OS Among Patients w/o Brain Metastases (Final Analysis)

## PFS



## OS

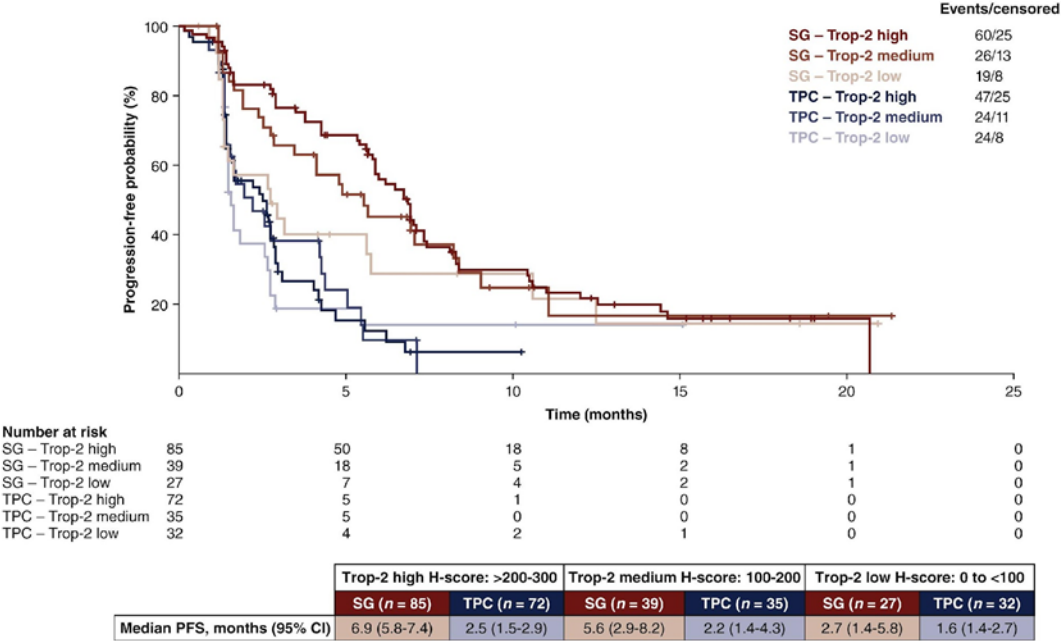




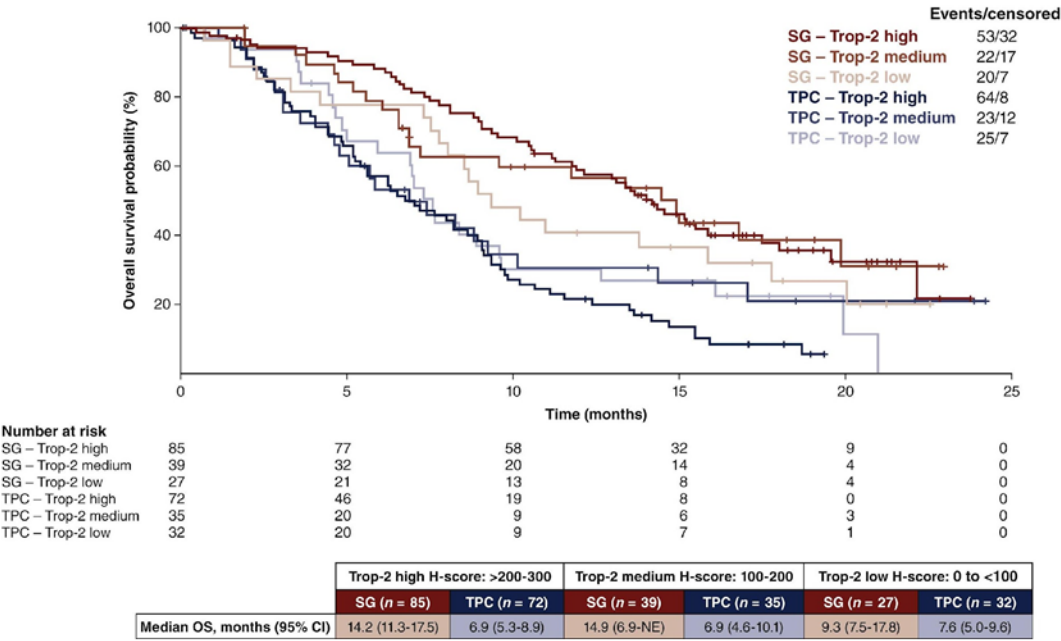
# Is TROP2 Expression Associated With Outcomes?

## An Analysis From ASCENT Study of Sacituzumab Govitecan

### PFS

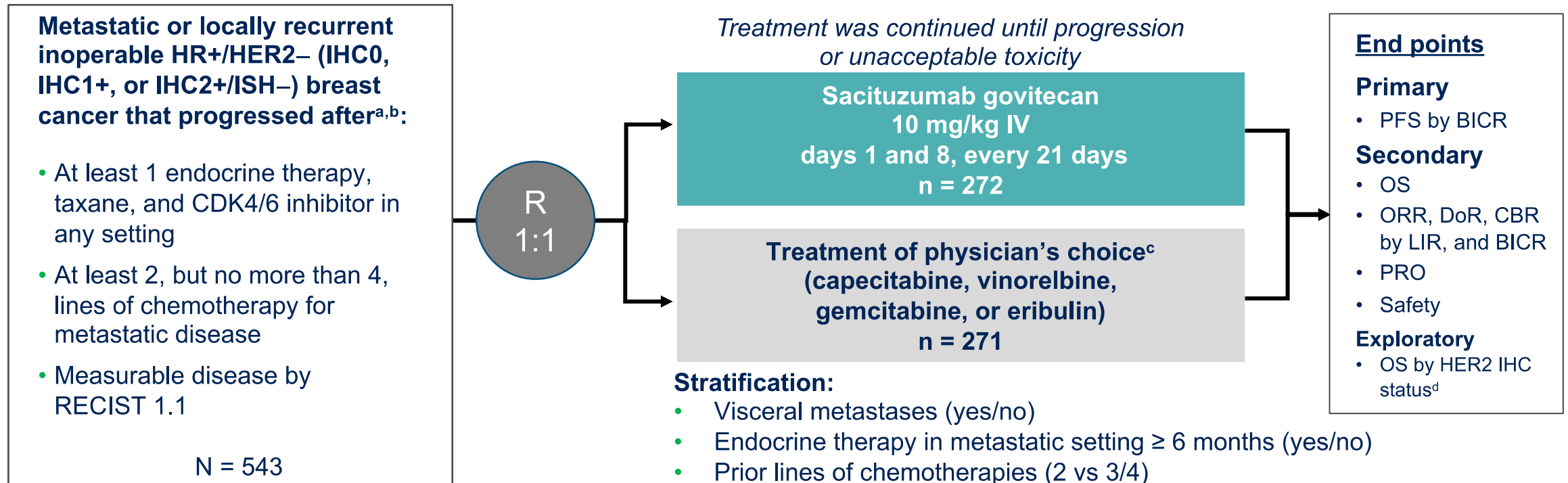


### OS



No predictive role for Trop-2 expression  
(too few patients in the Trop-2 low group to make a definitive conclusion)

# TROPiCS-02 trial: Expanding the benefit of Sacituzumab Govitecan to the HR+ disease



ASCO/CAP, American Society of Clinical Oncology/College of American Pathologists; BICR, blinded independent central review; CBR, clinical benefit rate; CDK, cyclin-dependent kinase; DoR, duration of response; HER2–, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative; HR+, hormonal receptor-positive; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, in situ hybridization; IV, intravenously; LIR, local investigator review; ORR, objective response rate; OS, overall survival; PFS, progression-free survival; PRO, patient-reported outcomes; R, randomized; RECIST, Response Evaluation Criteria in Solid Tumors.

<sup>a</sup>ClinicalTrials.gov. NCT03901339. <sup>b</sup>Disease histology based on the ASCO/CAP criteria. <sup>c</sup>Single-agent standard-of-care treatment of physician's choice was specified prior to randomization by the investigator. <sup>d</sup>HER2-low was defined as IHC score of 1+, or score of 2+ with negative ISH result; HER2 IHC0 was defined as IHC score of 0.

1. Rugo HS, et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2022;40:3365-3376.

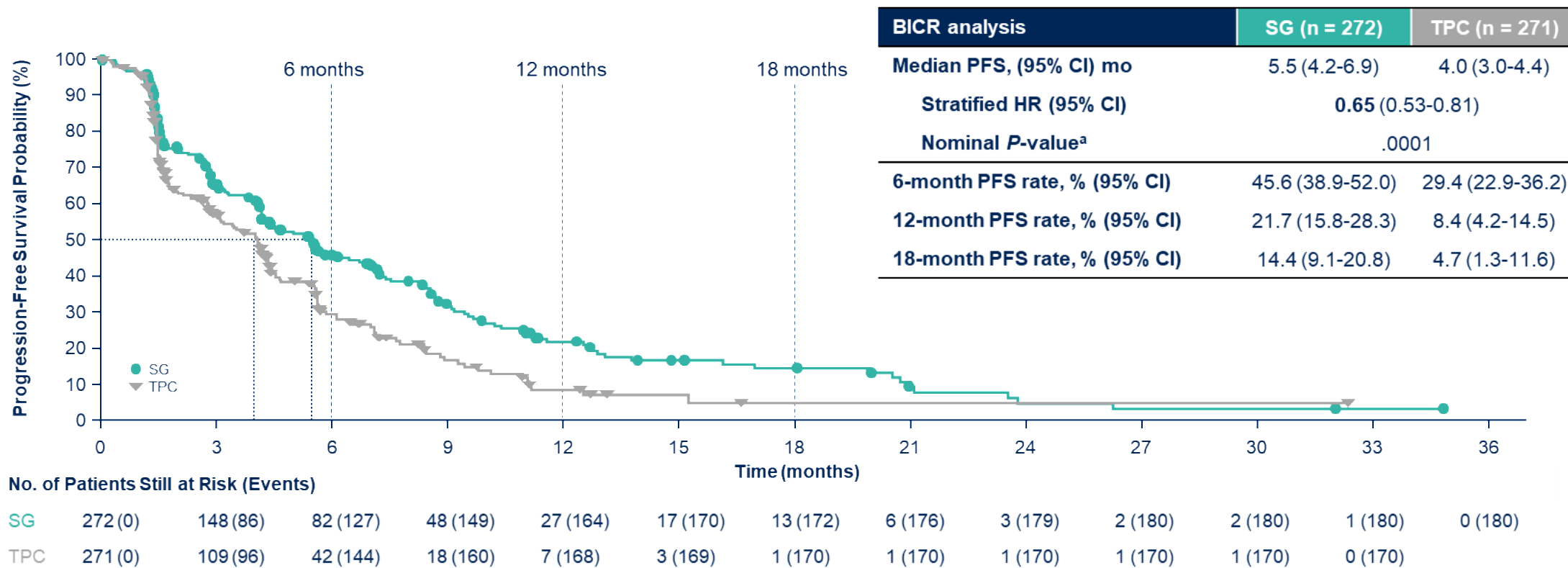
# TROPiCS02 - Population

	SG (n=272)	TPC (n=271)
Female, n (%)	270 (99)	268 (99)
Median age, y (range)	57 (29-86)	55 (27-78)
<65 y, n (%)	199 (73)	204 (75)
≥65 y, n (%)	73 (27)	67 (25)
Race or ethnic group, n (%)		
White	184 (68)	178 (66)
Black	8 (3)	13 (5)
Asian	11 (4)	5 (2)
Other <sup>a</sup> / Not reported <sup>b</sup>	69 (25)	75 (28)
ECOG PS, n (%)		
0	116 (43)	126 (46)
1	156 (57)	145 (54)
Visceral metastases at baseline, n (%)	259 (95)	258 (95)
Liver metastases, <sup>c</sup> n (%)	229 (84)	237 (87)
De novo metastatic breast cancer, n (%)	78 (29)	60 (22)

	SG (n=272)	TPC (n=271)
Median time from initial metastatic diagnosis to randomization, mo (range)	48.5 (1.2- 243.8)	46.6 (3.0- 248.8)
Prior chemotherapy in (neo)adjuvant setting, n (%)	173 (64)	184 (68)
Prior endocrine therapy use in the metastatic setting ≥6 mo, n (%)	235 (86)	234 (86)
Prior CDK4/6 inhibitor use, n (%)		
≤12 months	161 (59)	166 (61)
>12 months	106 (39)	102 (38)
Unknown	5 (2)	3 (1)
Median prior chemotherapy regimens in the metastatic setting, n (range) <sup>d</sup>	3 (0-8)	3 (1-5)

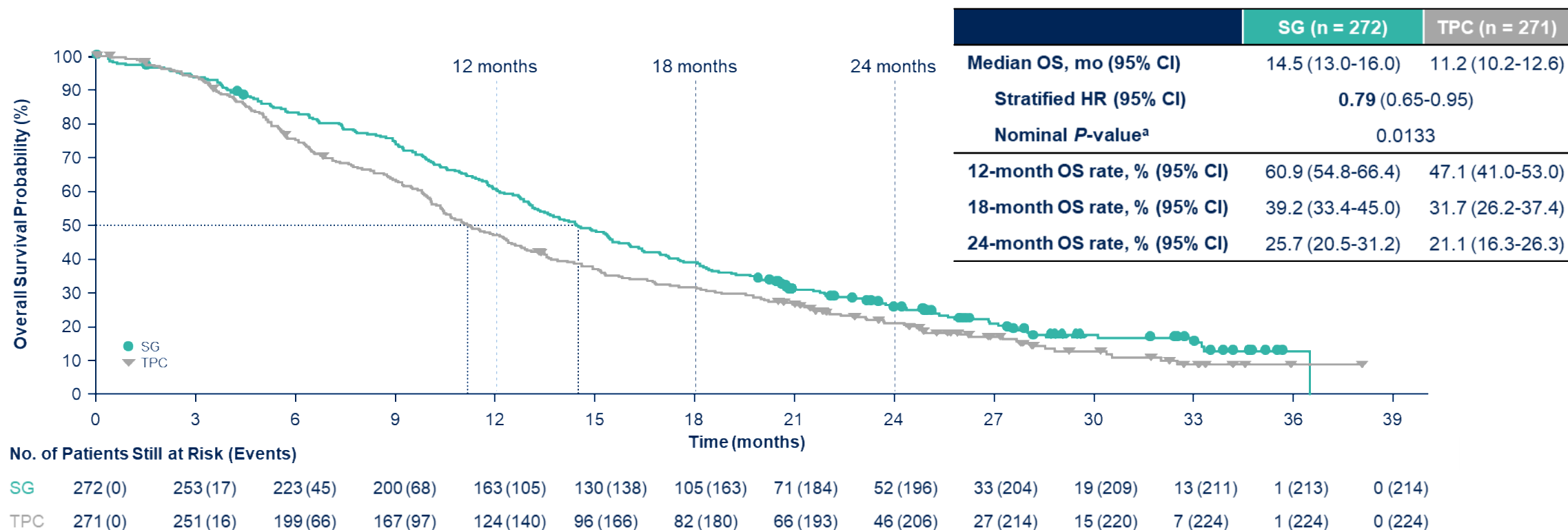
All patients had prior CDK4/6 inhibitors and  
a median of 3 prior chemotherapies

# TROPiCS02 - PFS



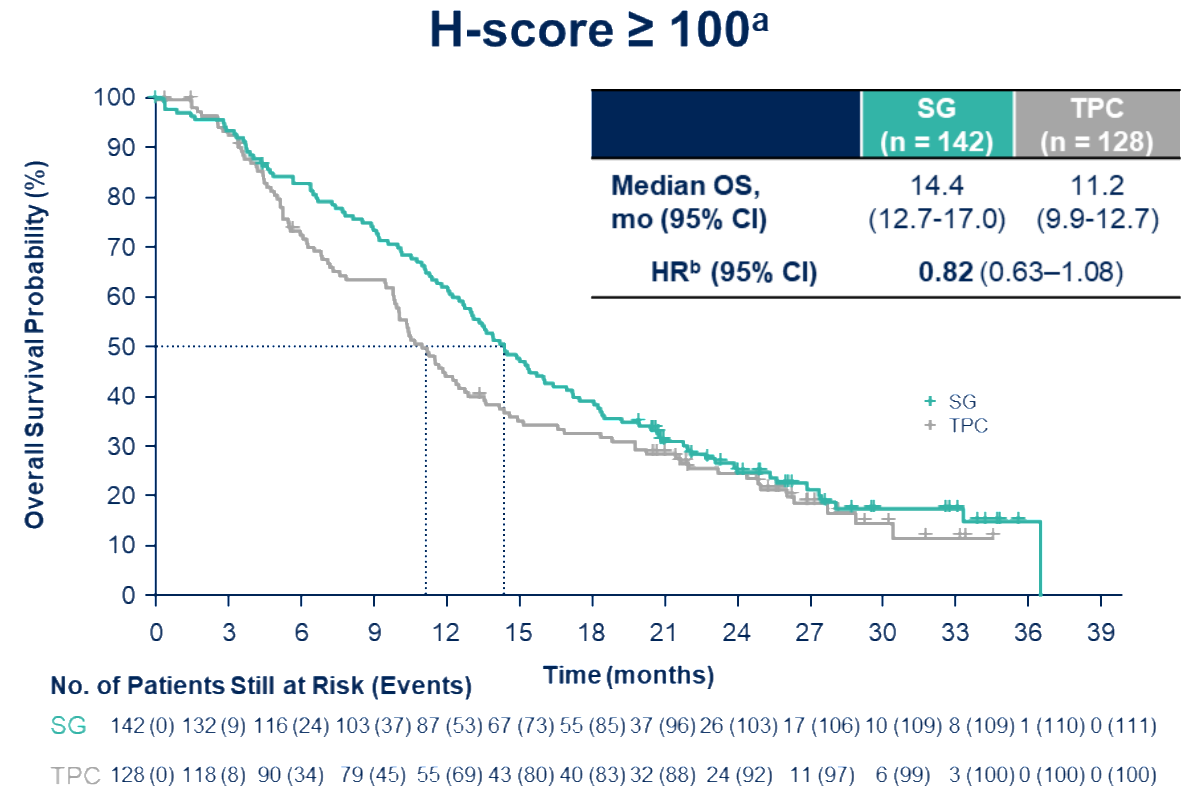
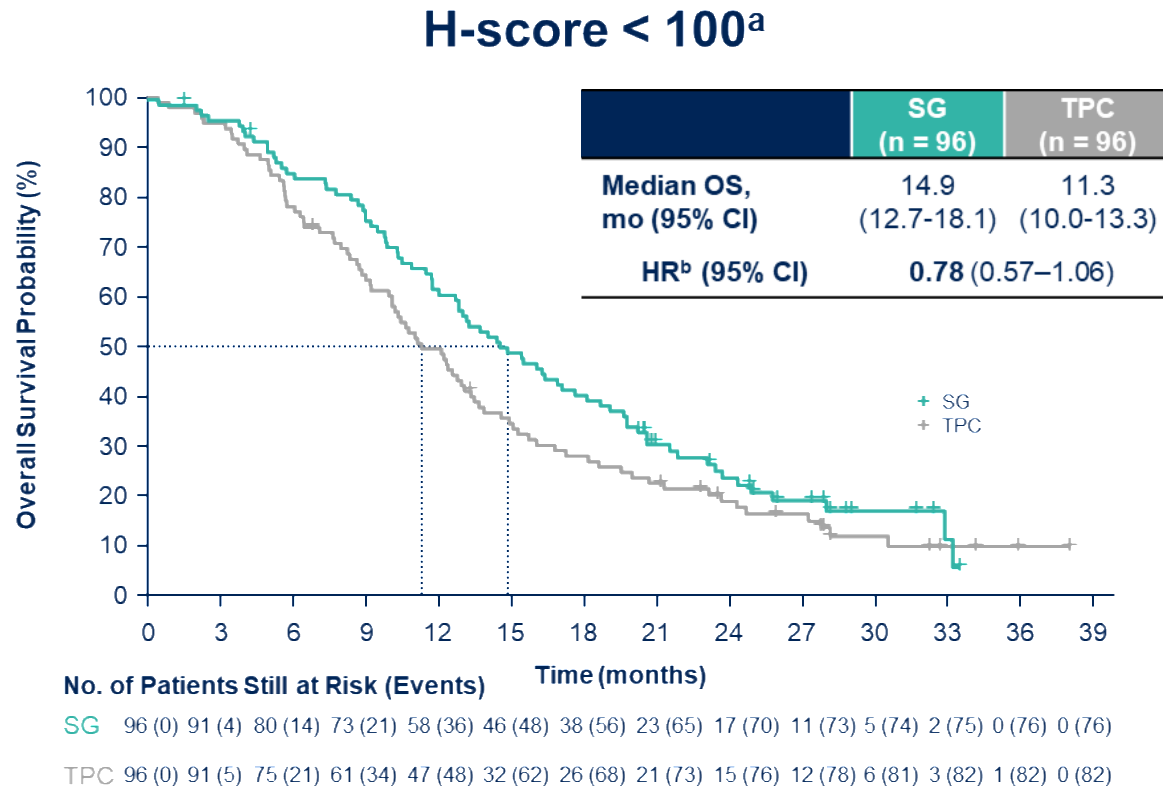
SG continued to demonstrate improvement in PFS vs TPC at longer follow-up, with 35% reduction in risk of disease progression or death, and a higher proportion of patients remained alive and progression-free at each landmark

# TROPiCS02 - OS



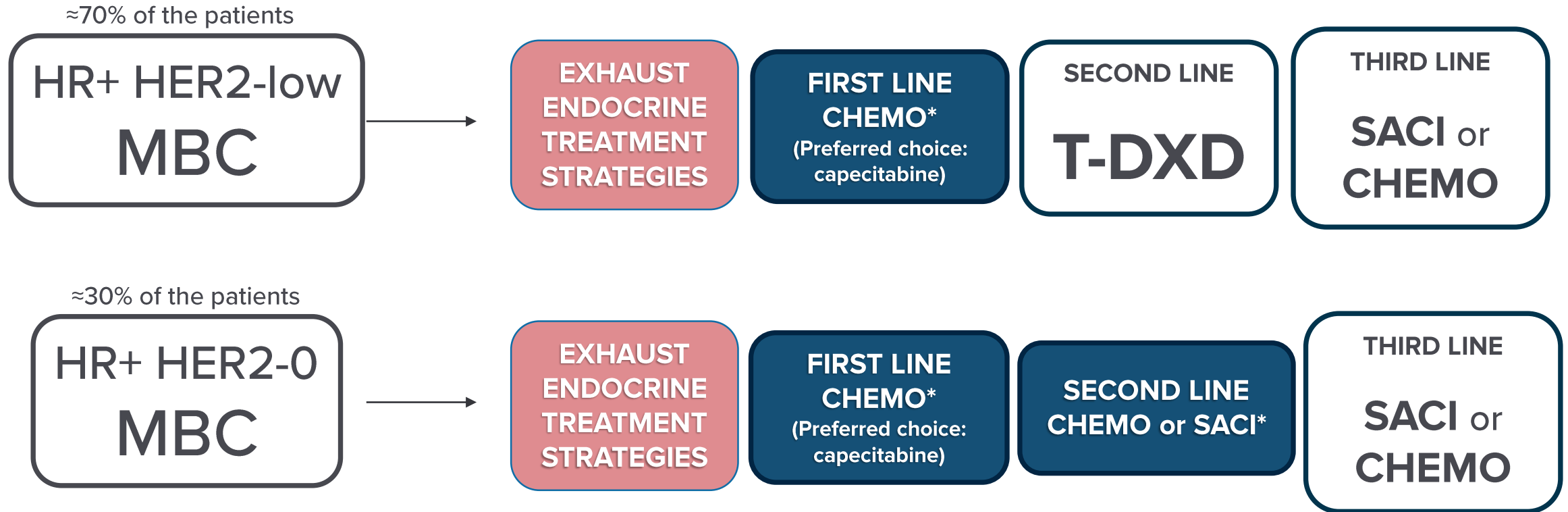
SG continued to demonstrate improvement in OS vs TPC at longer follow-up, with 21% reduction in risk of death and a higher proportion of patients remaining alive at each landmark

# TROPiCS02 – OS by Trop2 expression



OS benefit was observed with SG over TPC in the H-score < 100 and the H-score ≥ 100 groups with longer follow-up, consistent with a previous analysis<sup>1</sup>

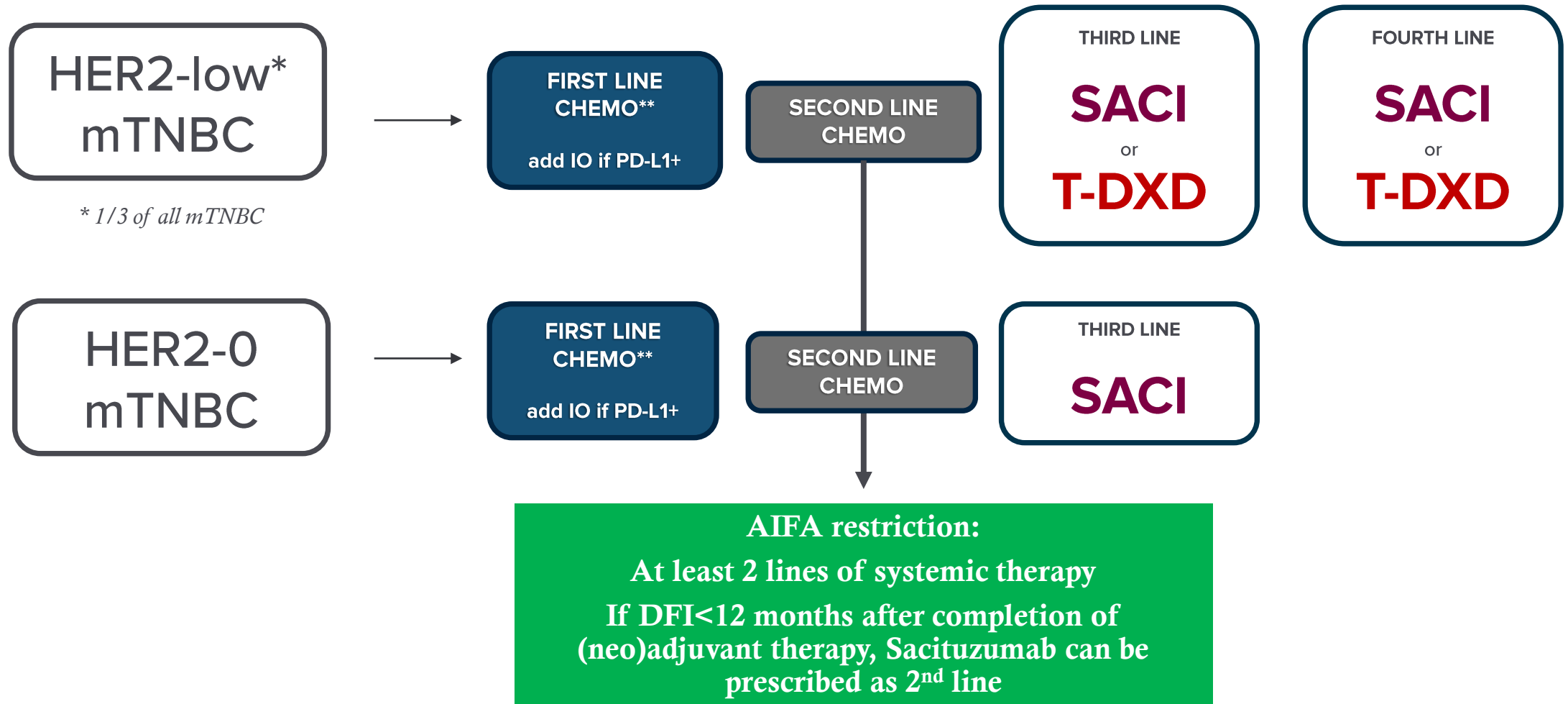
# Treatment of HR+ MBC with ADCs



\*PARP inhibitors can be considered in the first through third line setting for BRCAm patients



# Treatment of mTNBC with ADCs



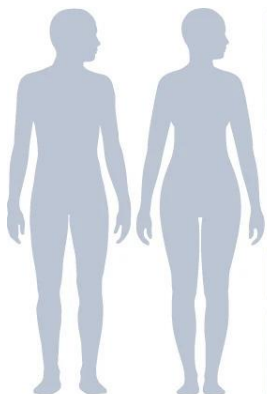
\*\*PARP inhibitors can be considered in the first through third line setting for BRCAm patients

# Remaining challenges and opportunities

- 1) Improving the toxicity profile of ADCs
- 2) Sequencing challenges
- 3) Exploring new ADC targets and designs

# Optimizing the toxicity profile of ADCs

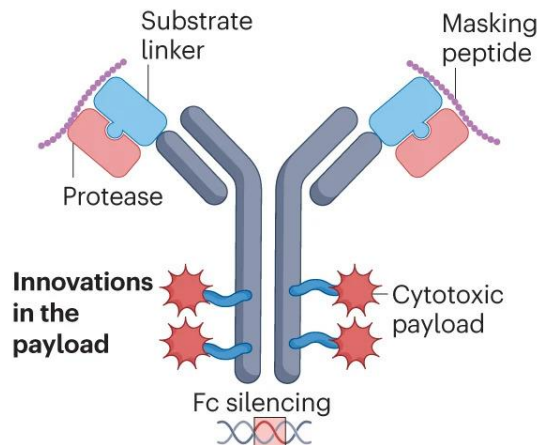
## a Dose-optimization strategies



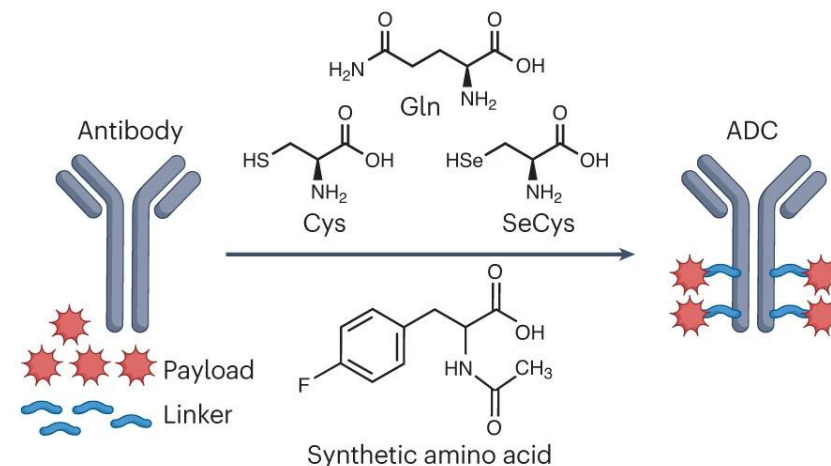
- Treatment duration capping
- Fractionated dosing
- Treatment response-guided dose adjustments
- Dose capping
- Randomized dose-finding studies

## b Drug engineering

### Innovations in the antibody moiety

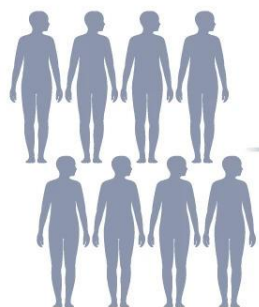


### Site-specific conjugation

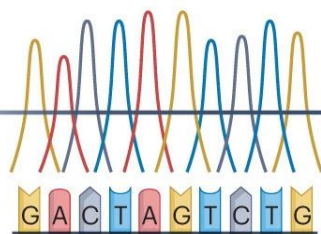


## c Pharmacogenomics

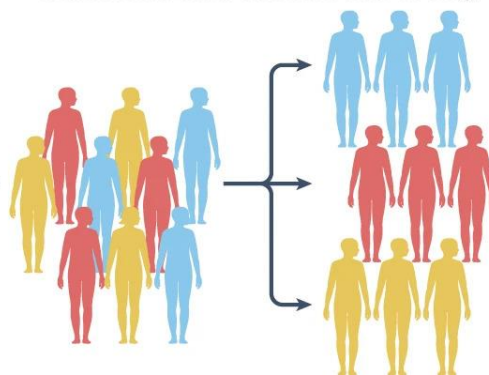
### Unselected population



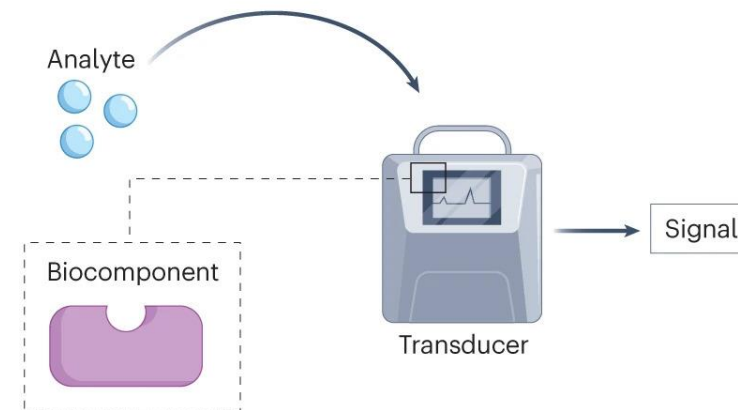
### Pharmacogenomic profiling



### Individualized treatment and dosing



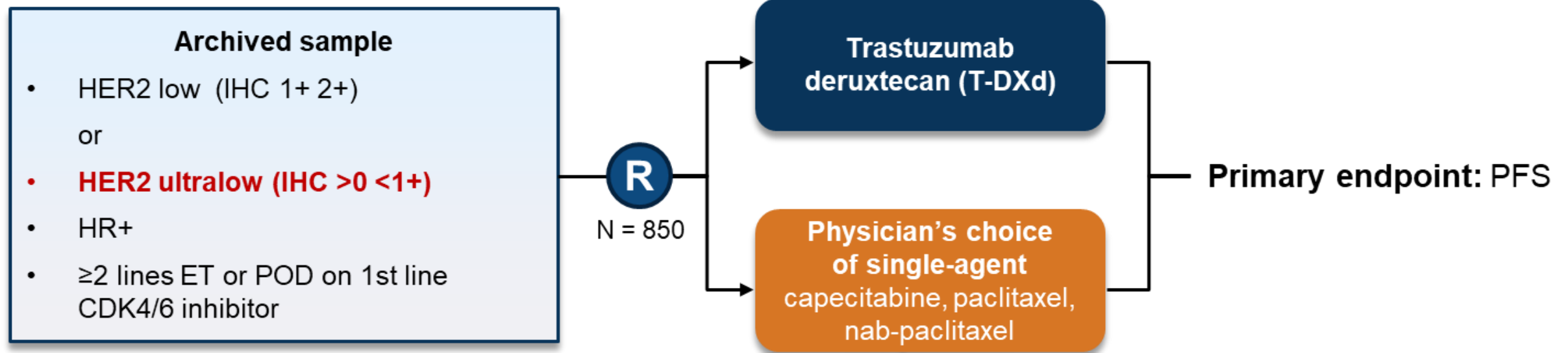
## d Diagnostic tools



# Remaining challenges and opportunities

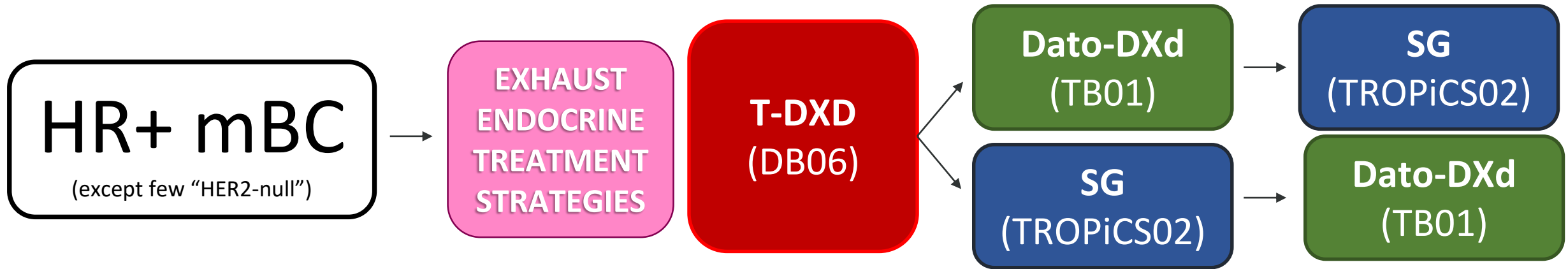
- 1) Improving the toxicity profile of ADCs
- 2) Sequencing challenges
- 3) Exploring new ADC targets and designs

# DESTINY-Breast06 may take T-DXd to the 1L and expand its use to some HER2-0 patients



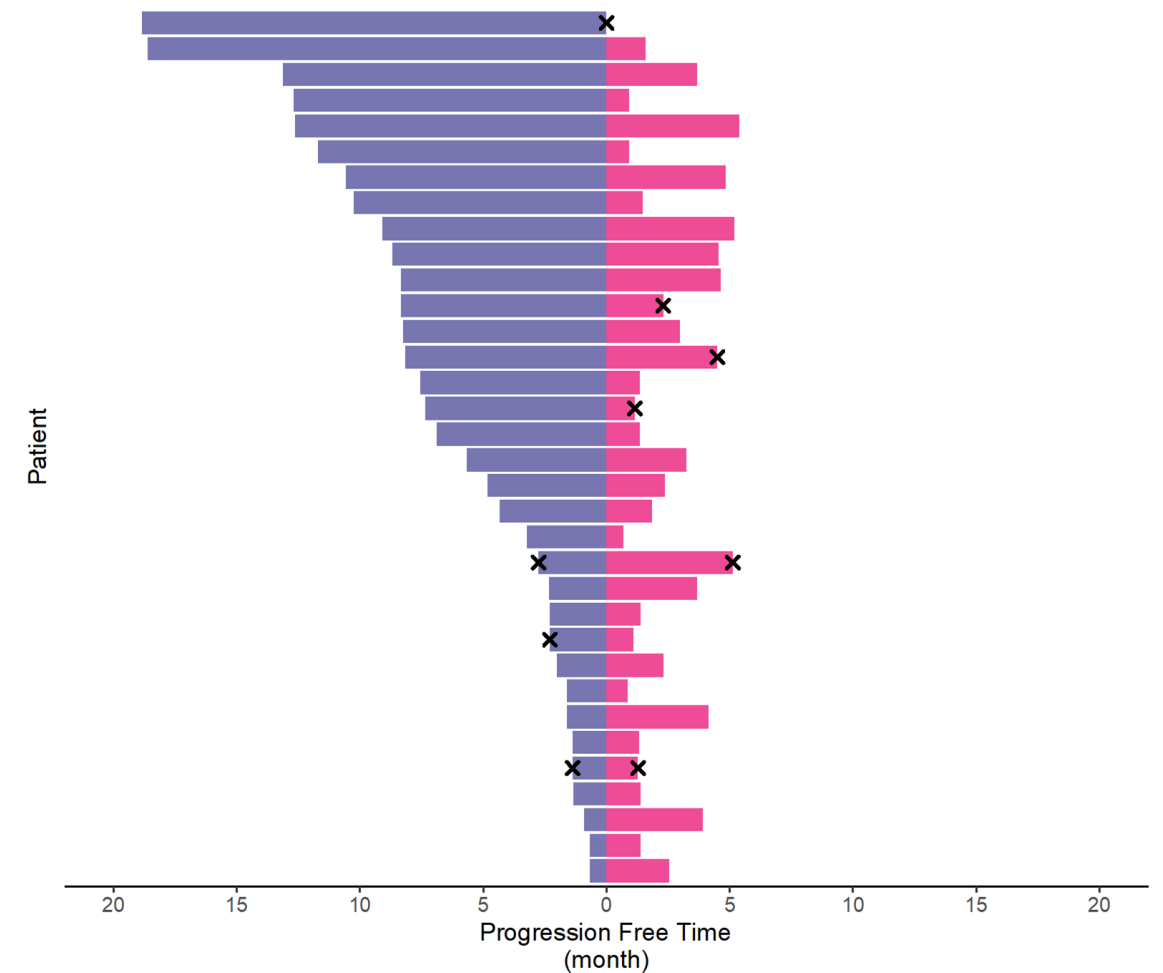
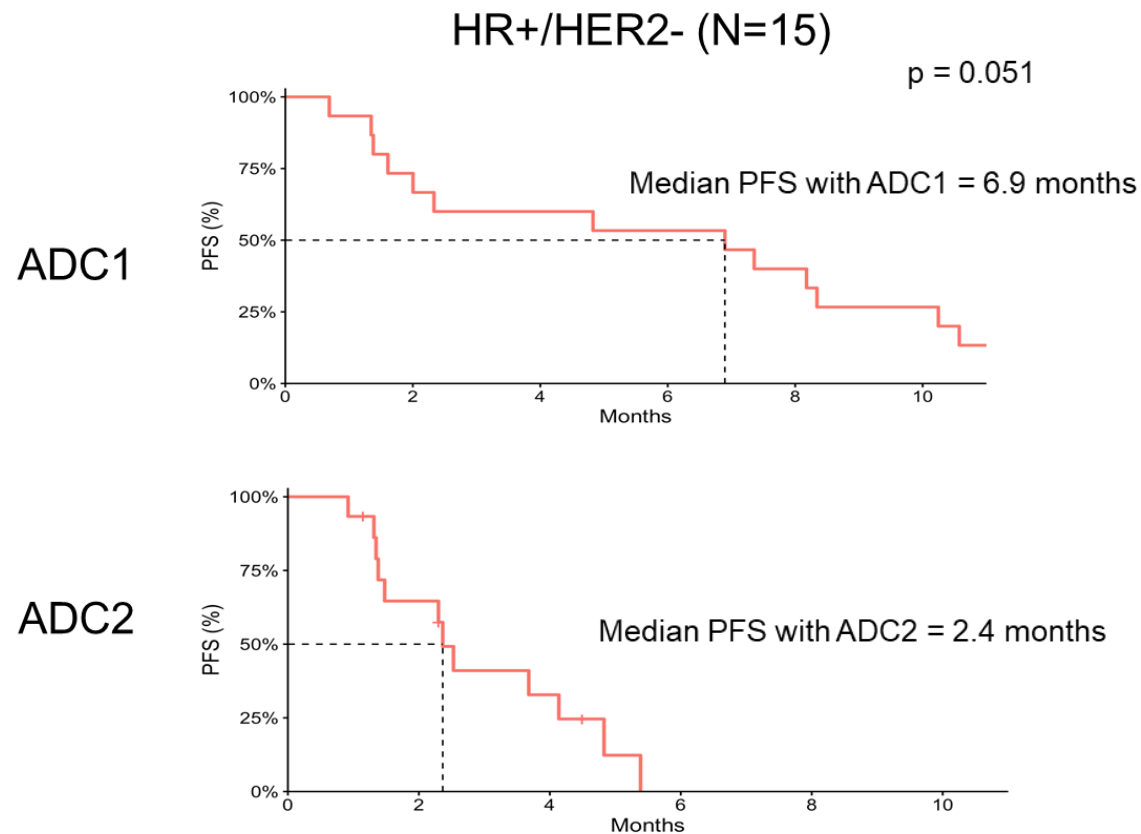
- **Key differences with DESTINY-Breast04:** includes IHC 0+ (“ultralow”), larger (N = 850), restricted to HR+ disease, and includes chemo-naïve patients

# Assuming DB06 reads out positive



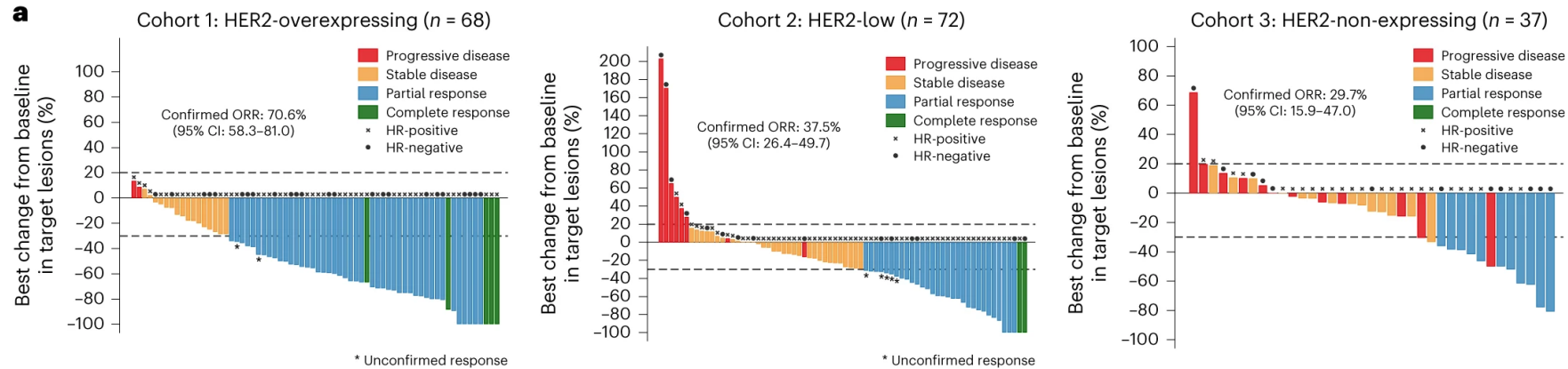
# TOP01 ADC sequencing dilemma

Real world experience from MGH, including 15 patients with HR+ MBC receiving multiple ADCs

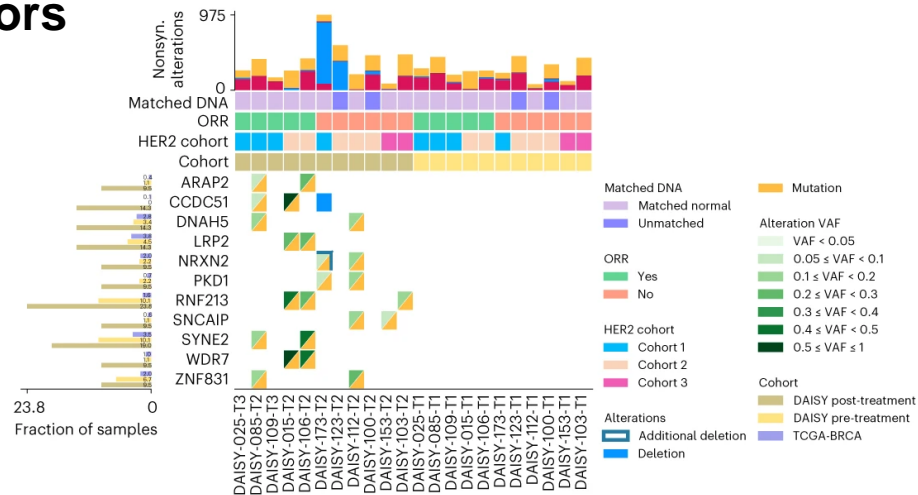




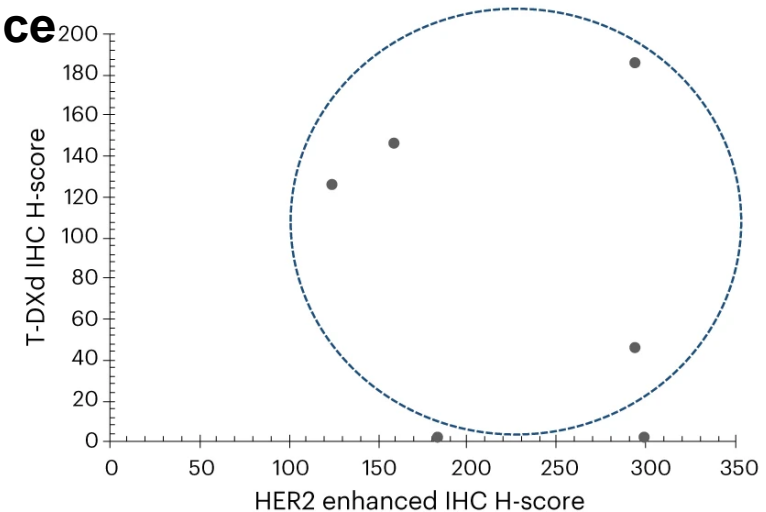
# DAISY trial: translational science like this needed to inform effective ADC development



## Acquired genomic alterations in T-DXd-resistant tumors



## 65% → decreased HER2 tumor expression after resistance



# Remaining challenges and opportunities

- 1) Improving the toxicity profile of ADCs
- 2) Sequencing challenges
- 3) Exploring new ADC targets and designs

**HER3**

**NECTIN4**

**FR $\alpha$**

**MESOTHELIN**

**MUC1**

**LIV1**

**B7H4**

**CEACAM**

**CD166**

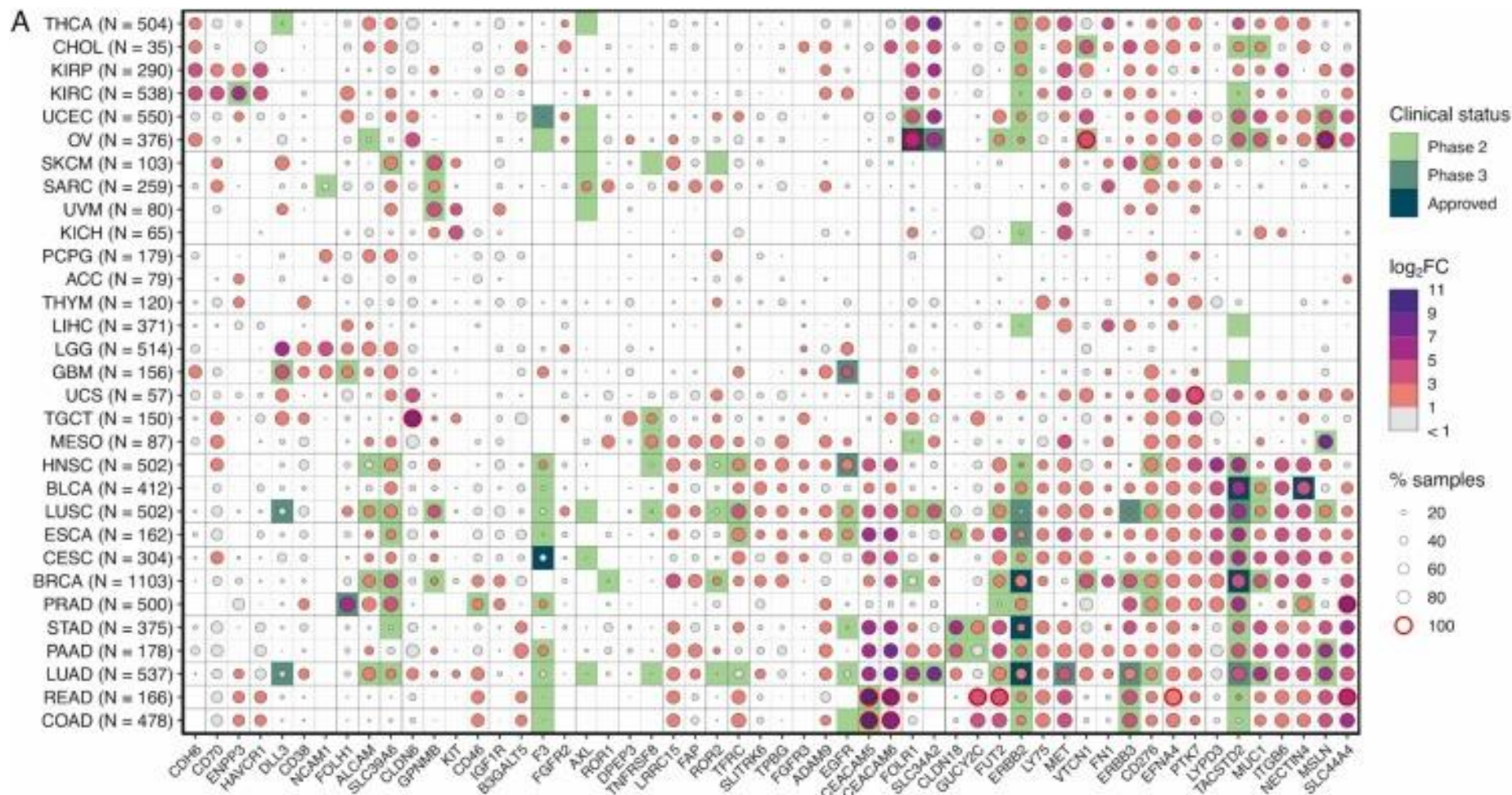
**CD71**

**What other target  
on the horizon?**

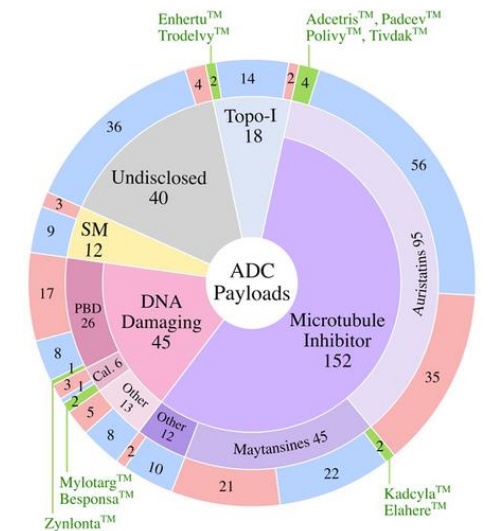
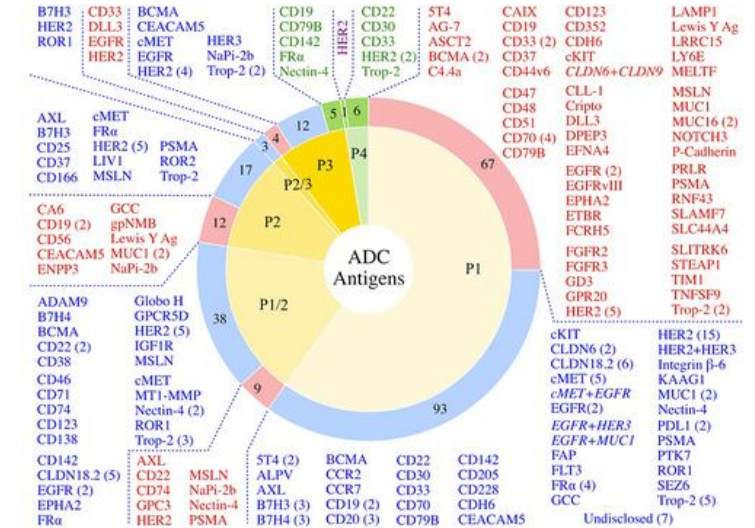
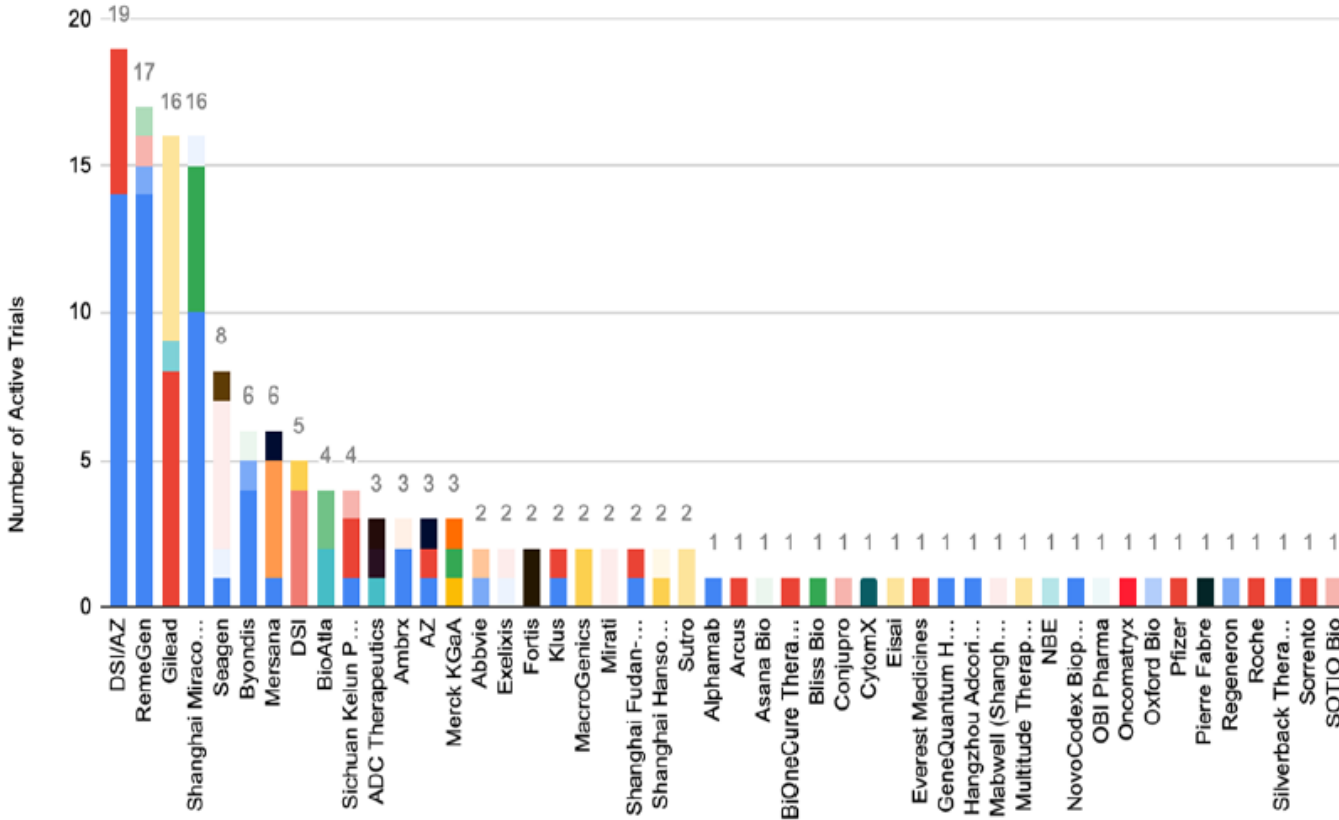
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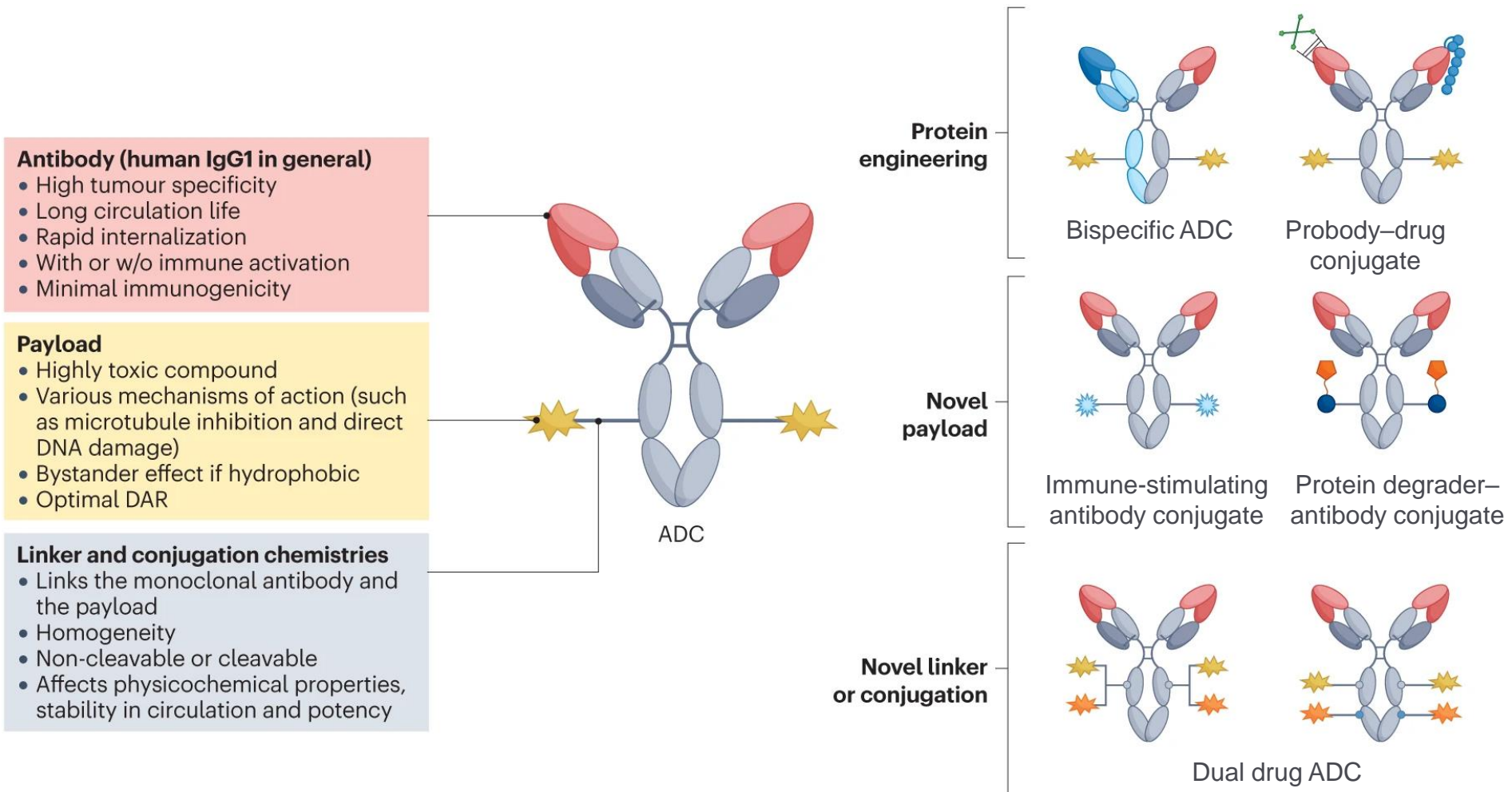
# Antibody-drug conjugate (ADC) targets across solid tumors



# Biomarkers needed because of future innovation: an avalanche of ADCs is coming



# Exploring the next generation of antibody–drug conjugates





# Take-Home Messages

- After revolutionizing the treatment of HER2+, ADCs have reached TNBC and HR+ disease, with **2 ADCs now included in treatment guidelines**
- Novel ADCs are clearly **more active than traditional chemotherapy**, although **the toxicity profile is not always improved**
- The demonstration that ADCs > chemo may have huge repercussions for the **treatment of early-stage breast cancer (many trials ongoing)**
- **A broad array of promising ADCs is on the horizon**, including innovative constructs based on bispecific antibodies, or ADCs delivering dual payloads, immunotherapy payloads and radionuclides
- Together with the development of novel ADCs, we **desperately need to identify biomarkers** to predict their efficacy and inform treatment sequencing