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The **Liquid biopsy**  
Research Group

Carcinoma mammario metastatico: quali novità? - Roma, 11 ottobre 2024

# Liquid biopsy and breast cancer

What is the evidence?

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The Liquid Biopsy Research Group (LBRG)

Precision Medicine Academic Consortium (PMAC)

# Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

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**Stock and Other Ownership Interests:** None

**Honoraria:** None

**Consulting or Advisory Role:** AstraZeneca, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly, GlaxoSmithKline, Incyte, Novartis, Pfizer, Merck Sharp & Dohme, Menarini Stemline, Abbvie

**Expert Testimony:** None

**Research Funding:** Menarini Silicon Biosystems

**Patents, Royalties, Other Intellectual Property:** None

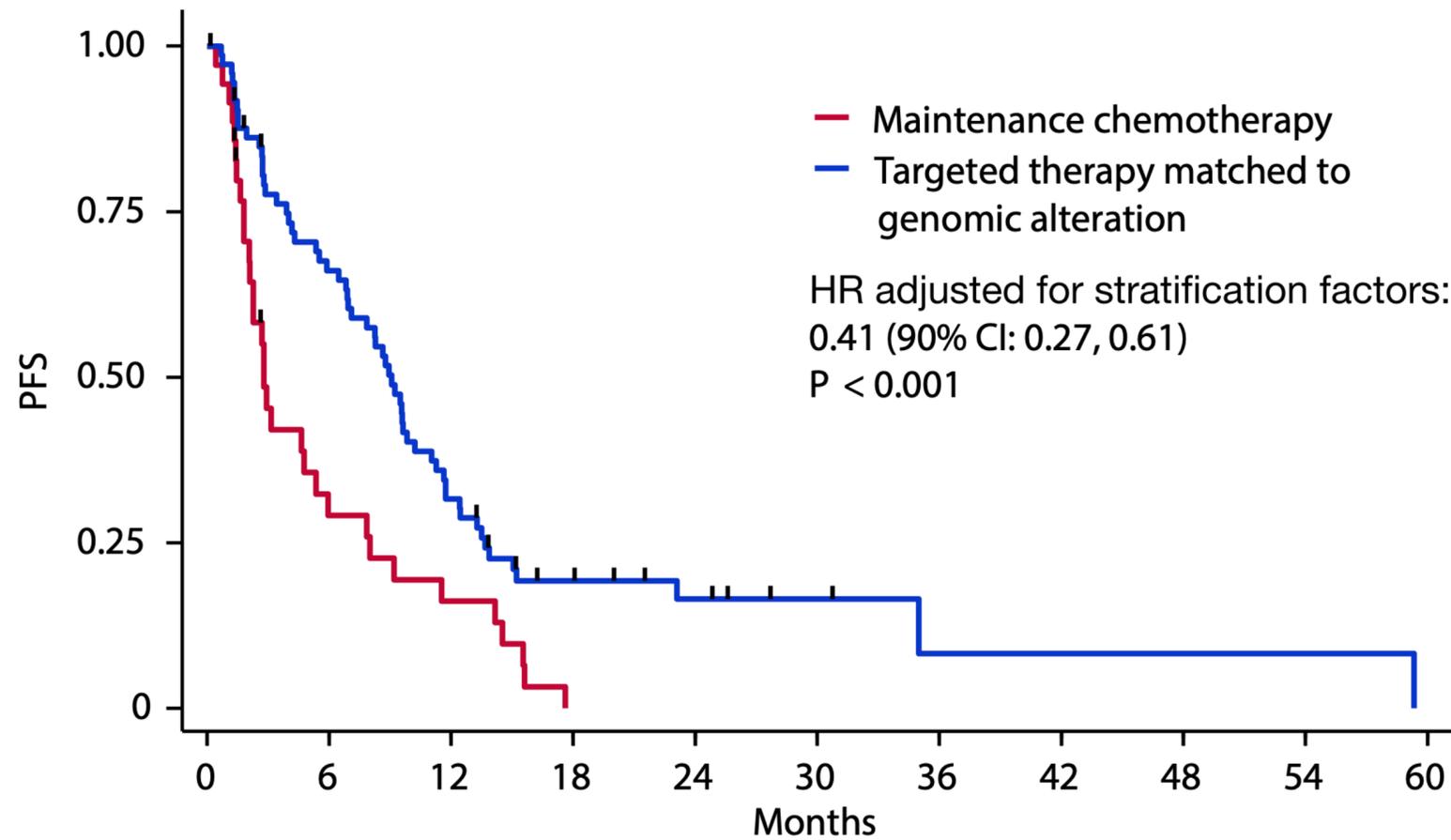
**Travel Expenses:** Menarini Stemline, Novartis

On the **last episode**

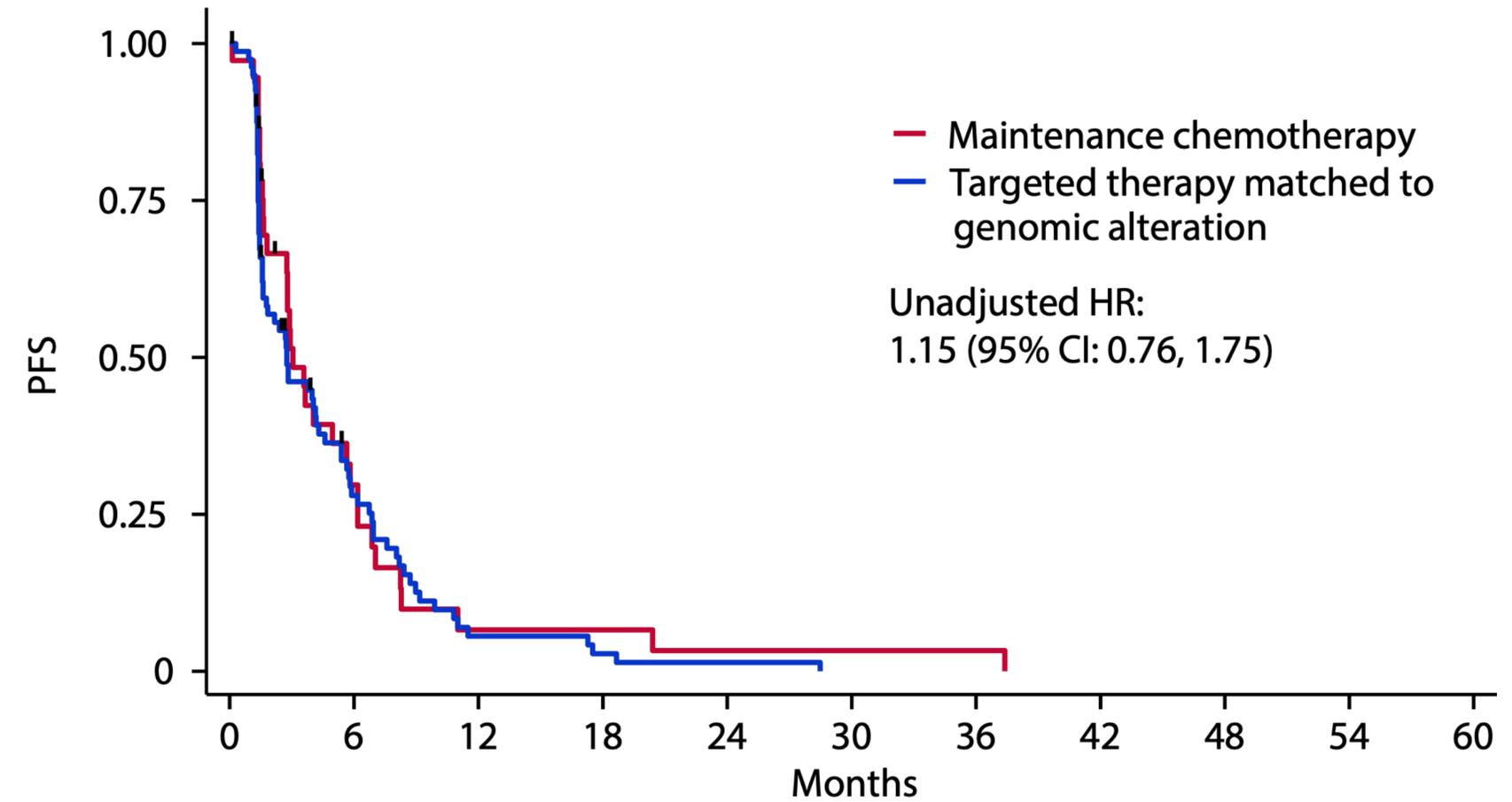
# On the last episode

■ ■ ■ PFS according to ESCAT classification

PFS in patients with ESCAT I/II genomic alterations (n = 115)

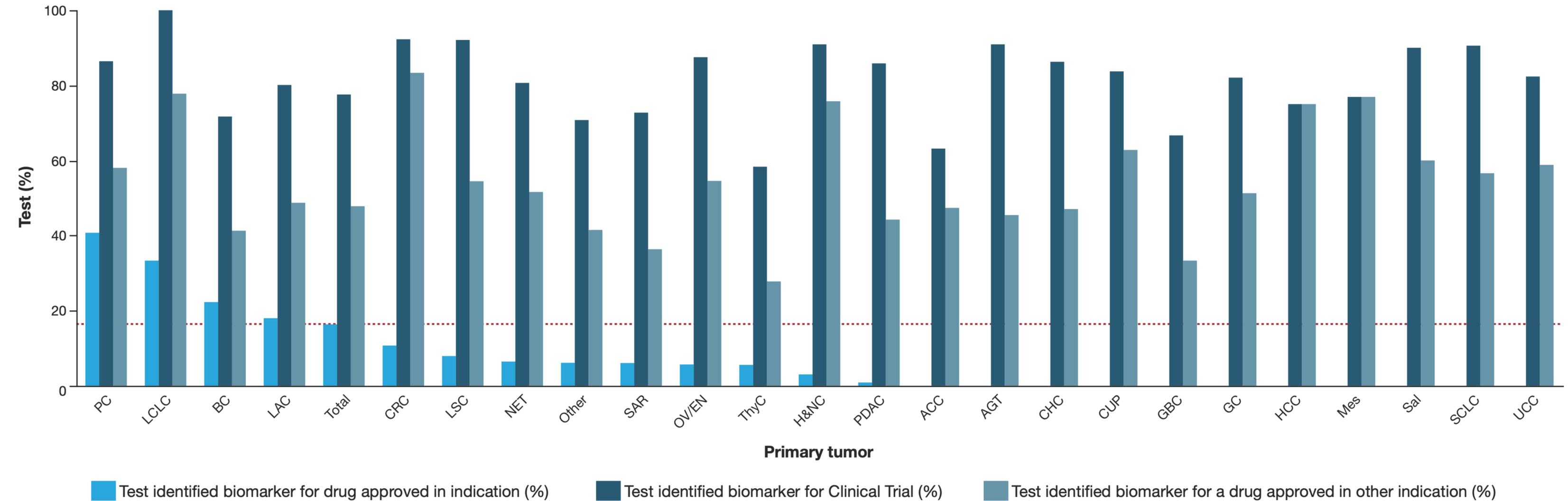


PFS in patients presenting genomic alteration beyond ESCAT I/II (n = 123)



# On the last episode

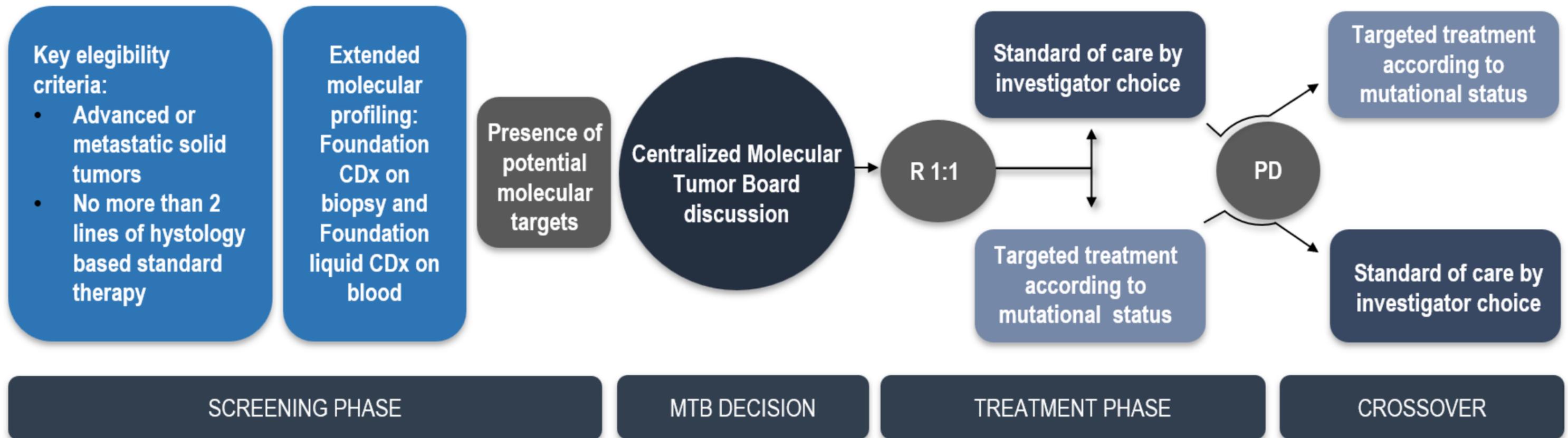
Incidence of detectable alterations



But it goes even **further**

# But it goes even further

The Rome trial from histology to target



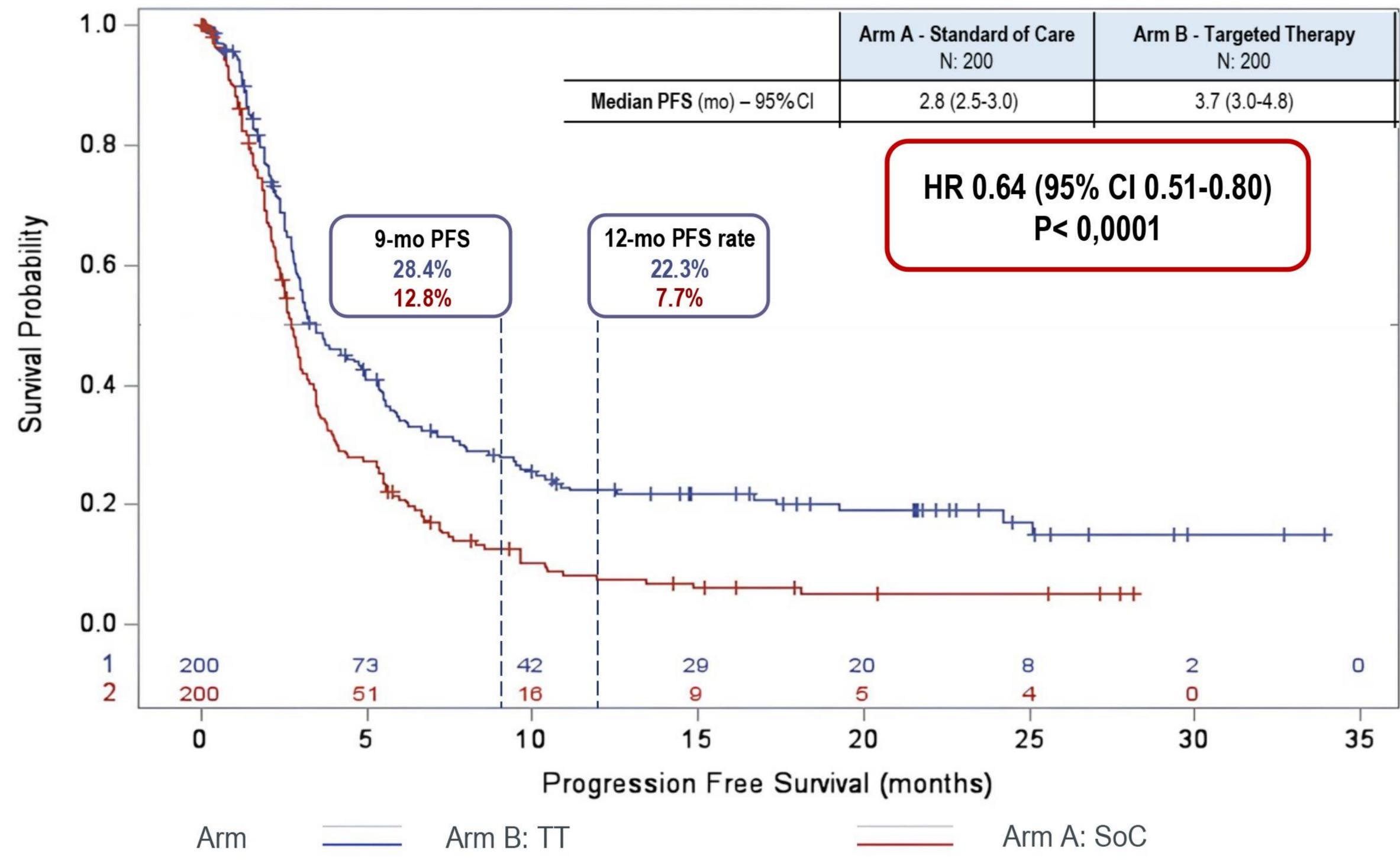
## ROME (NCT04591431)

A Randomized, Multi-basket, Phase 2, Multicenter Trial. Following MTB discussion, pts bearing at least one targetable alteration were randomized 1:1 to TT at MTB choice or SoC at investigator choice

**Primary Endpoint:** ORR **Secondary Endpoint:** PFS, TTF, TTNT, safety profile ,OS

# The Rome trial

Secondary endpoint: PFS in ITT population



# Should we follow the *PIK3CA* north star?

INAVO120

## Key eligibility criteria

### Enrichment of patients with poor prognosis:

- *PIK3CA*-mutated, HR+, HER2- ABC by central ctDNA\* or local tissue/ctDNA test
- Measurable disease
- Progression during/within 12 months of adjuvant ET completion
- No prior therapy for ABC
- Fasting glucose <126 mg/dL and HbA<sub>1c</sub> <6.0%

N=325

R  
1:1

Inavolisib (9 mg QD PO)  
+ palbociclib (125 mg PO QD D1–D21)  
+ fulvestrant (500 mg C1D1/15 and Q4W)\*\*

Placebo (PO QD)  
+ palbociclib (125 mg PO QD D1–D21)  
+ fulvestrant (500 mg C1D1/15 and Q4W)\*\*

Until PD  
or toxicity

SURVIVAL  
FOLLOW-UP

Enrolment period: December 2019 to September 2023

## Stratification factors:

- Visceral Disease (Yes vs. No)
- Endocrine Resistance (Primary vs. Secondary)<sup>†</sup>
- Region (North America/Western Europe; Asia; Other)

## Endpoints

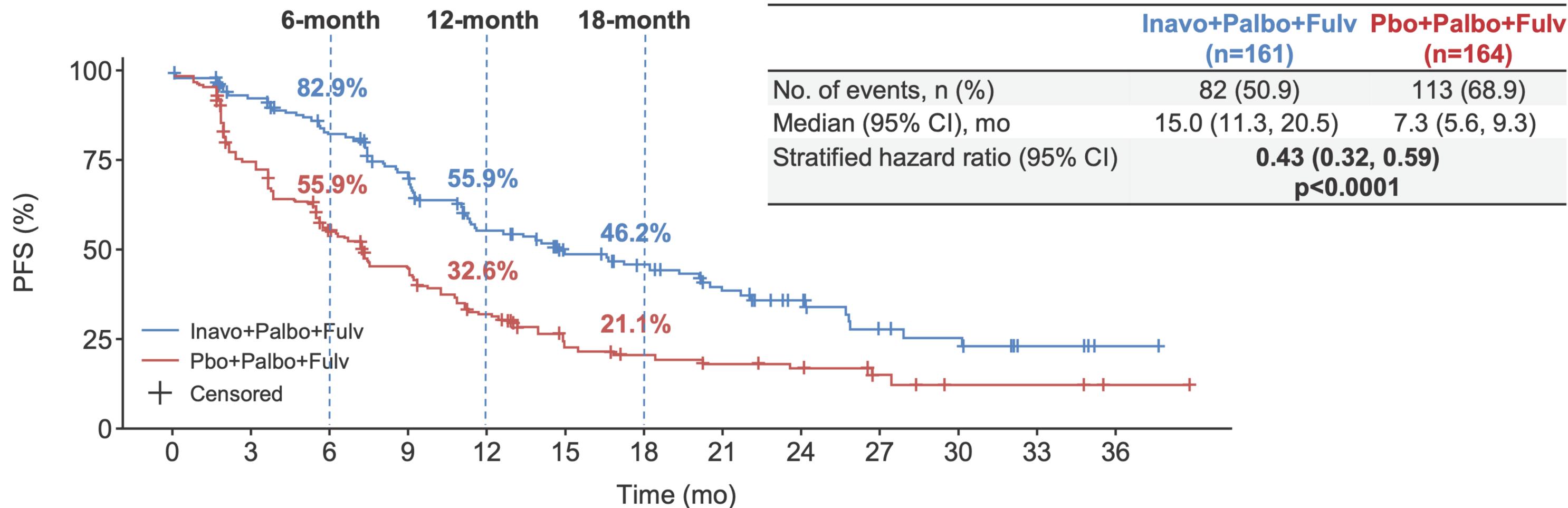
- Primary: PFS by Investigator
- Secondary: OS<sup>‡</sup>, ORR, BOR, CBR, DOR, PROs

Primary endpoint (investigator-assessed PFS)

Key secondary endpoint (OS)

# INAVO120

Primary endpoint: PFS (investigator-assessed)



Patients at risk:

Inavo+Palbo+Fulv  
Pbo+Palbo+Fulv

|     |     |     |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |    |   |   |
|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|---|
| 161 | 134 | 111 | 92 | 66 | 48 | 41 | 31 | 22 | 13 | 11 | 5 | 1 |
| 164 | 113 | 77  | 59 | 40 | 23 | 19 | 16 | 12 | 6  | 3  | 3 | 1 |

Median follow-up:  
**21.3 months**

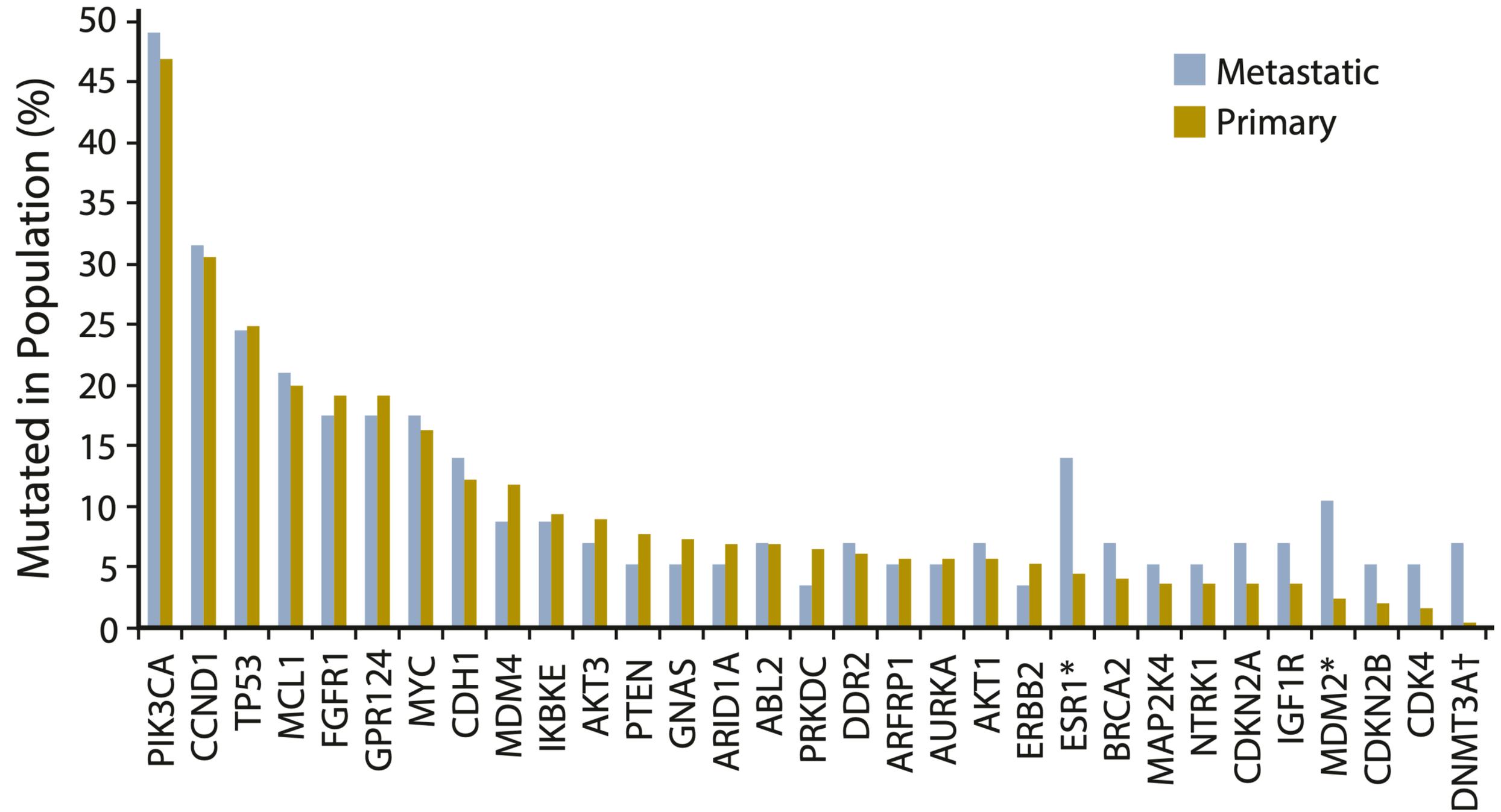
CCOD: 29th September 2023

CI, confidence interval; Fulv, fulvestrant; Inavo, inavolisib; mo, months; Palbo, palbociclib; Pbo, placebo; PFS, progression-free survival.

When should we test? It **depends**

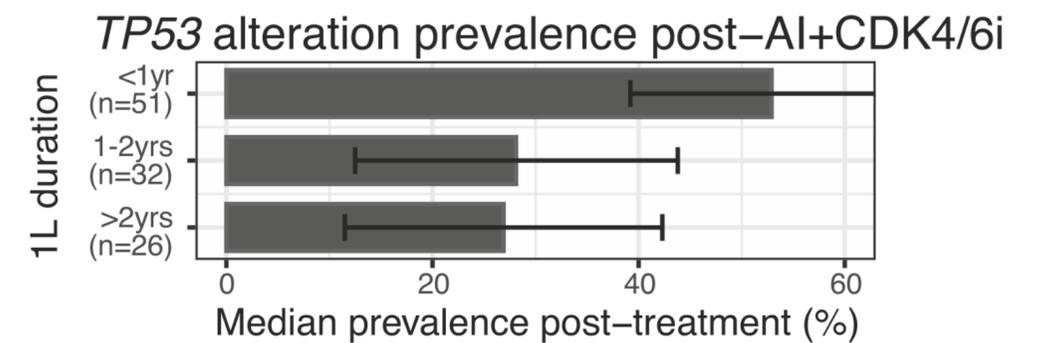
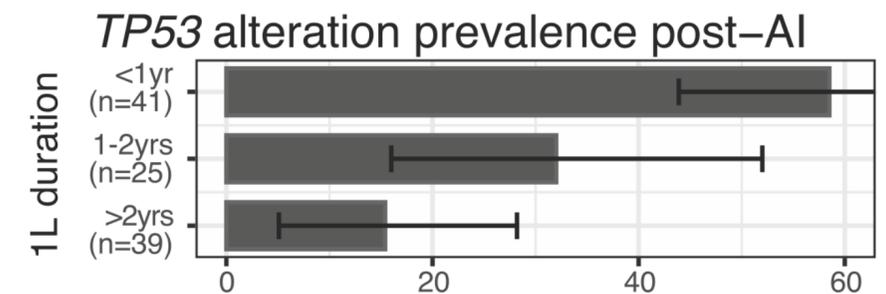
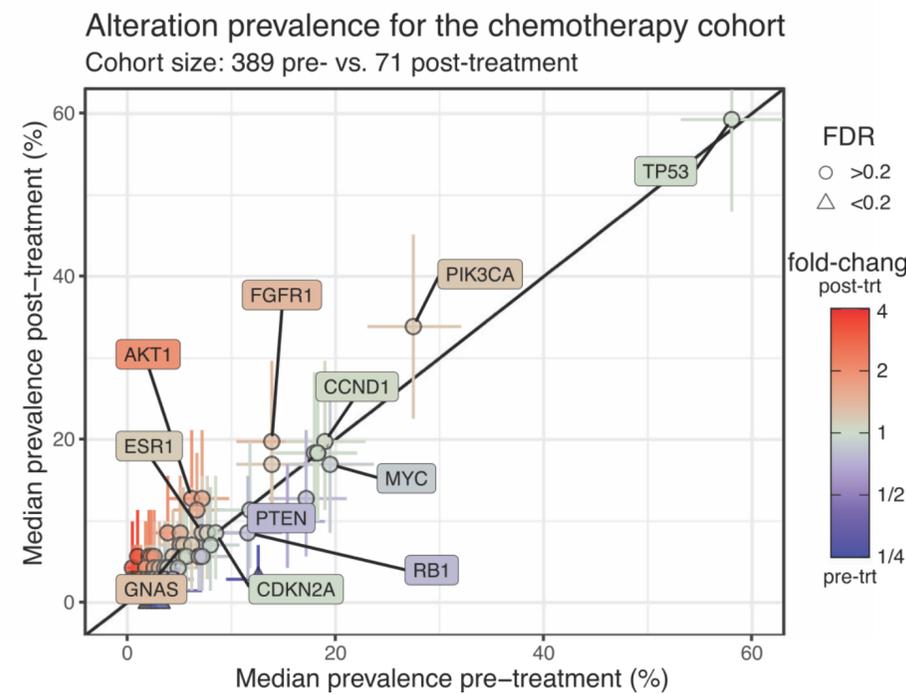
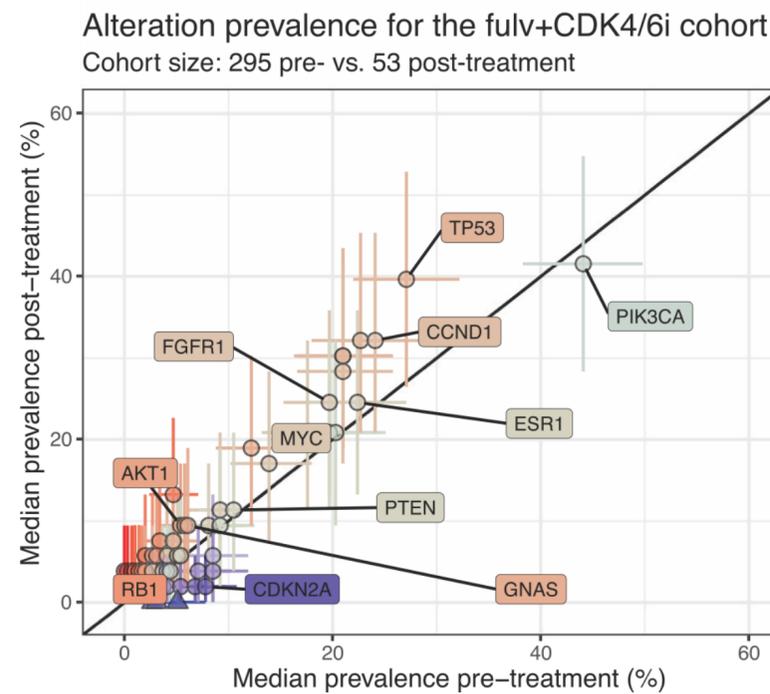
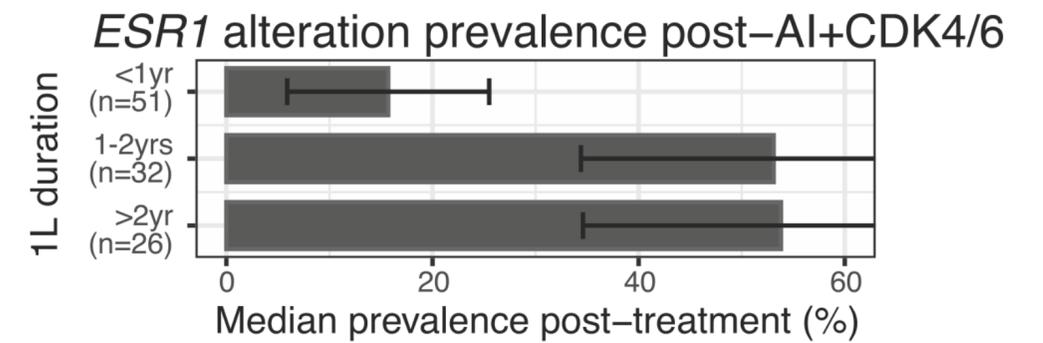
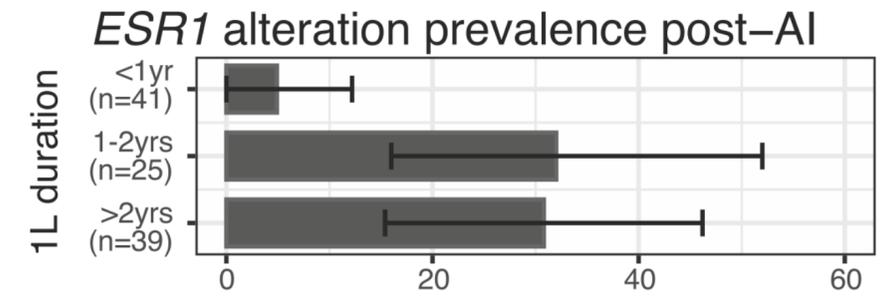
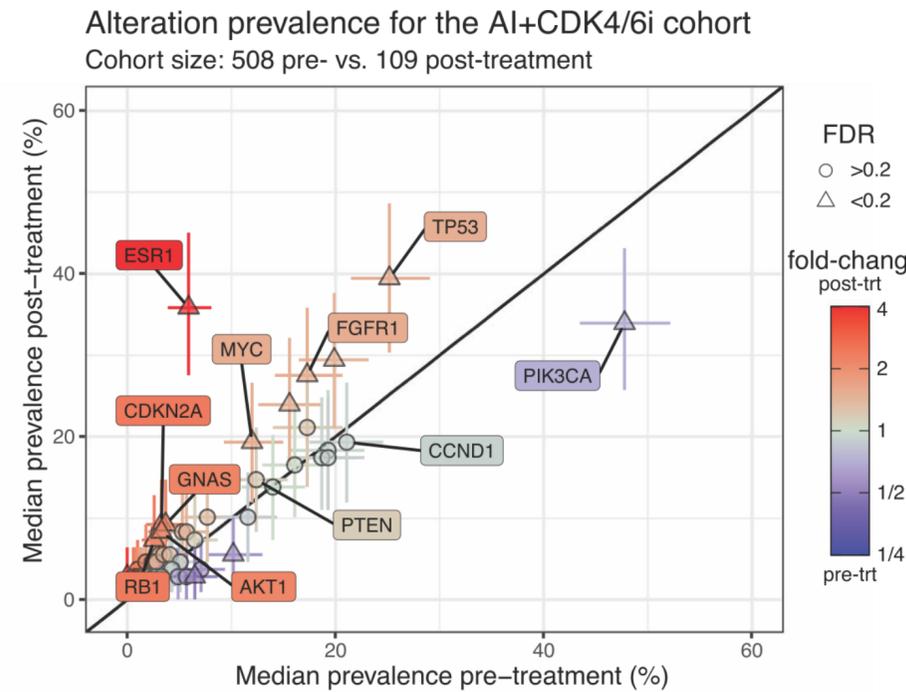
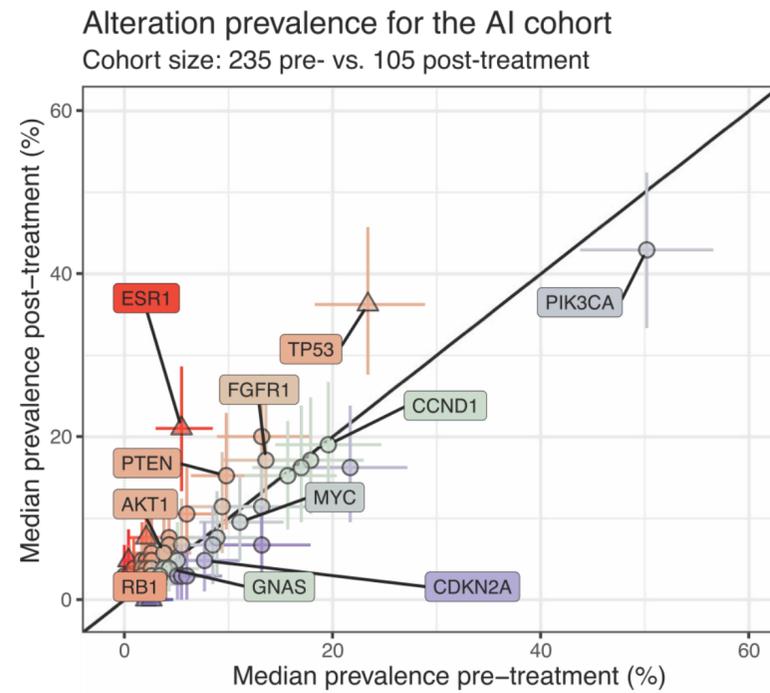
# What's the onset of these alterations?

 The translational side of the BOLERO trial



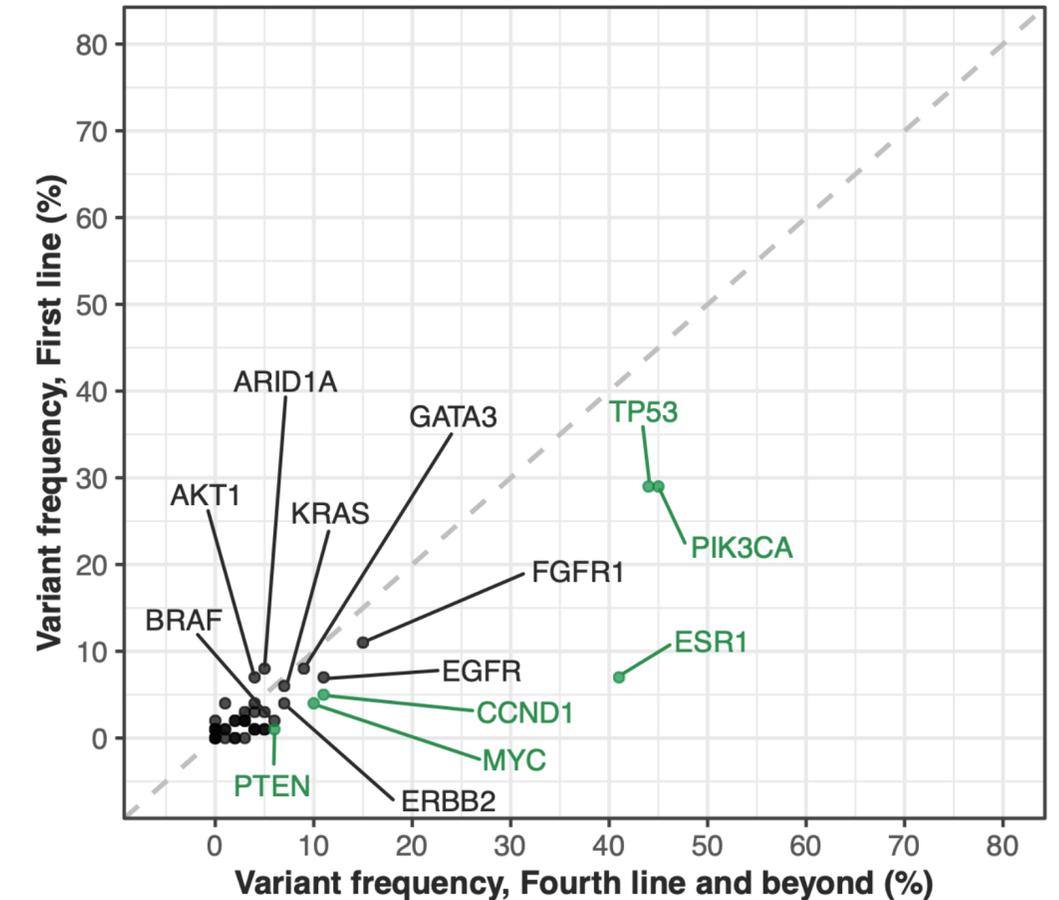
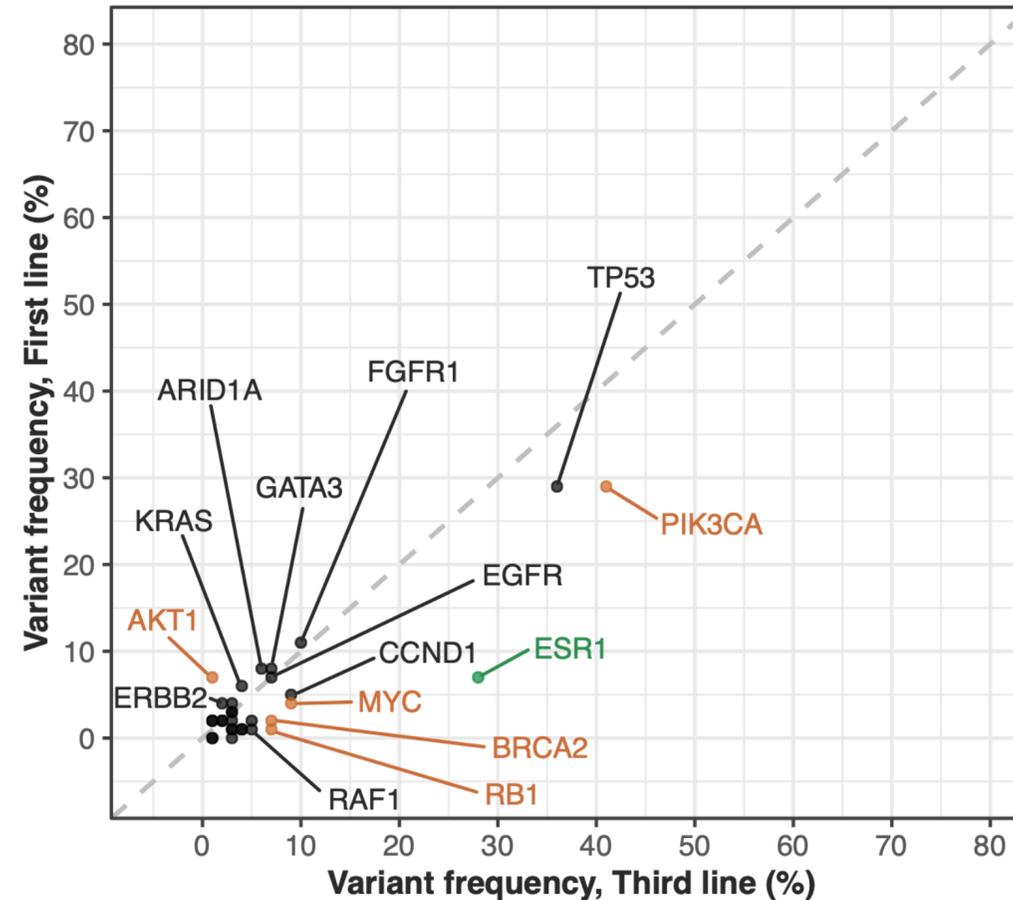
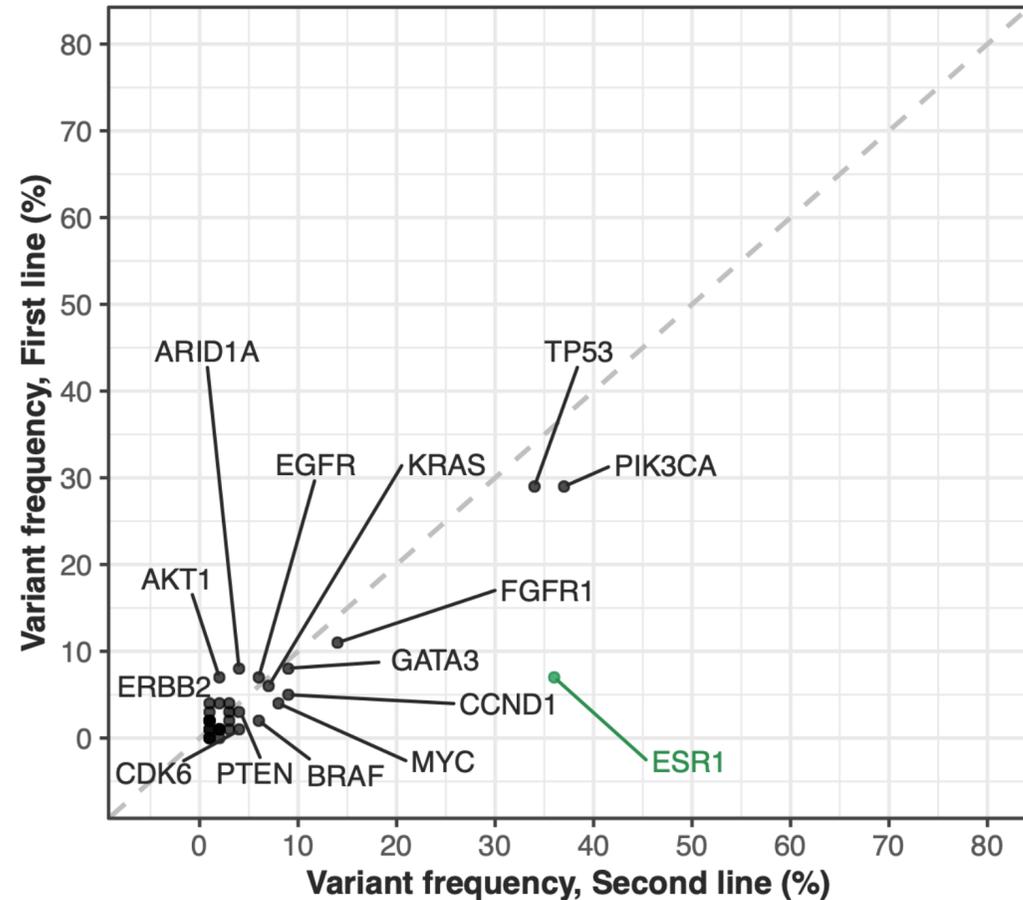
# When should we test? It depends

Does treatment impact on tumor evolution?



# Does treatment impact on tumor evolution?

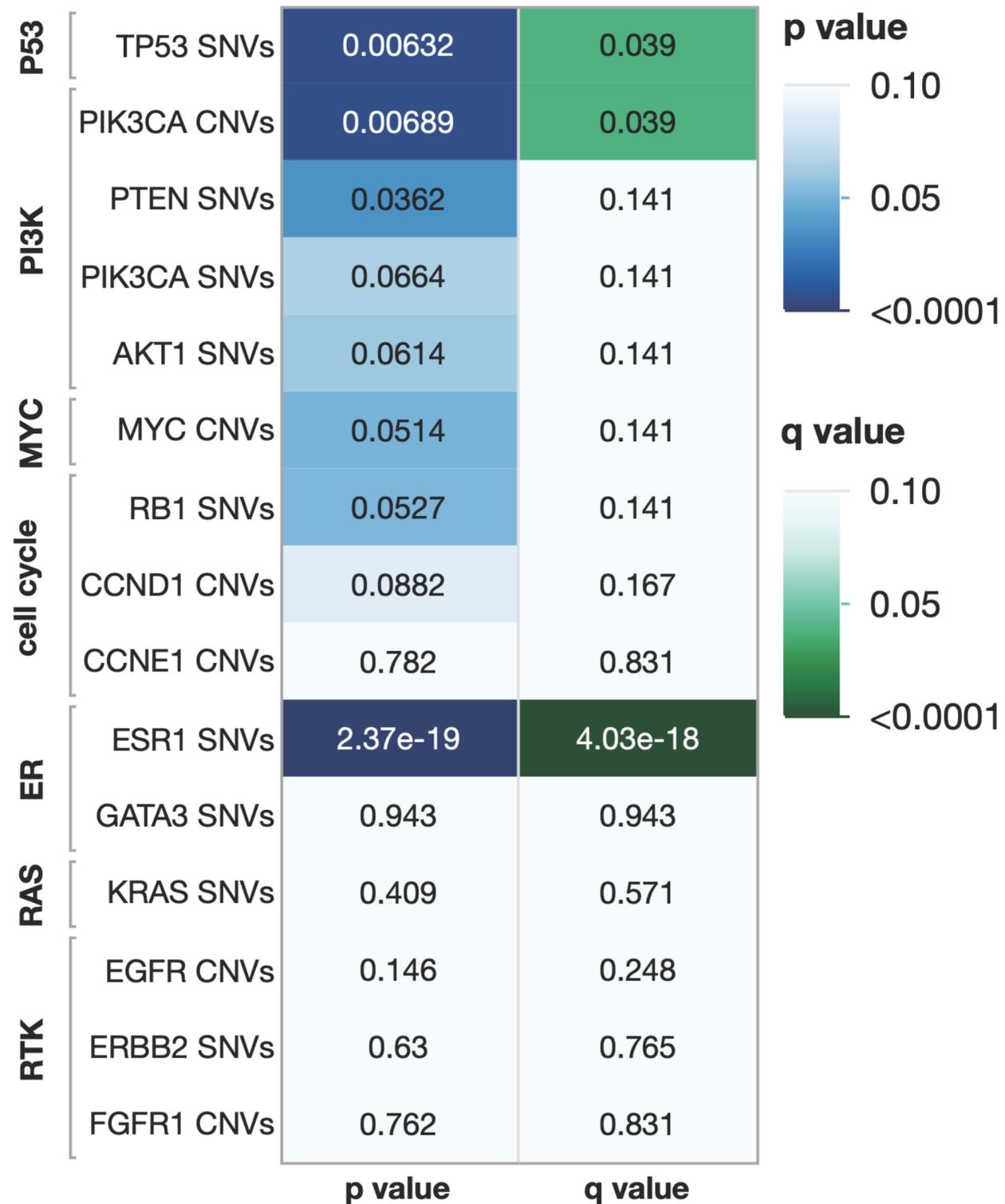
 The PMAC real world biomarker database



The study analyzed a retrospective cohort of 909 patients with ER pos, HER2 neg MBC within a large multi-center academic consortium

# Looking at the big picture: top detectable mutations

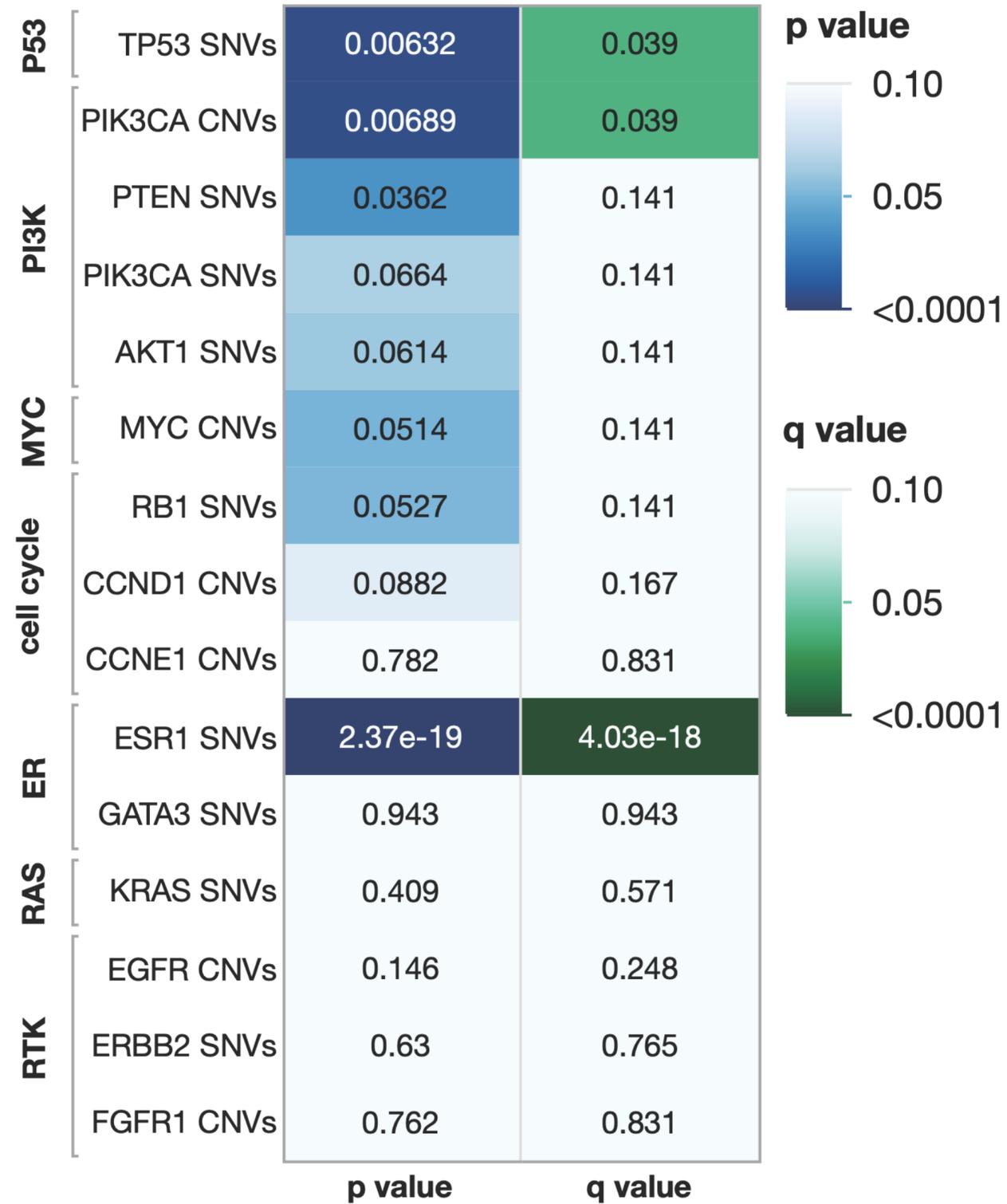
Genes significantly changing across lines and their predictors



| ESR1 SNVs            | OR   | P value           |
|----------------------|------|-------------------|
| High MAF             | 2.12 | <u>&lt; 0.001</u> |
| Visceral involvement | 1.23 | 0.320             |
| bone involvement     | 3.08 | <u>&lt; 0.001</u> |
| Lines of therapy     |      |                   |
| 2                    | 3.16 | <u>0.004</u>      |
| 3                    | 1.57 | 0.310             |
| 4                    | 2.46 | 0.064             |
| Previous CT          | 0.80 | 0.430             |
| Previous ET          | 3.02 | <u>0.014</u>      |
| Previous CDK4/6i     | 1.75 | <u>0.022</u>      |
| Previous mTORi       | 1.22 | 0.451             |
| Previous PI3Ki       | 1.75 | 0.129             |

# How stable are *PTEN* and *AKT1*?

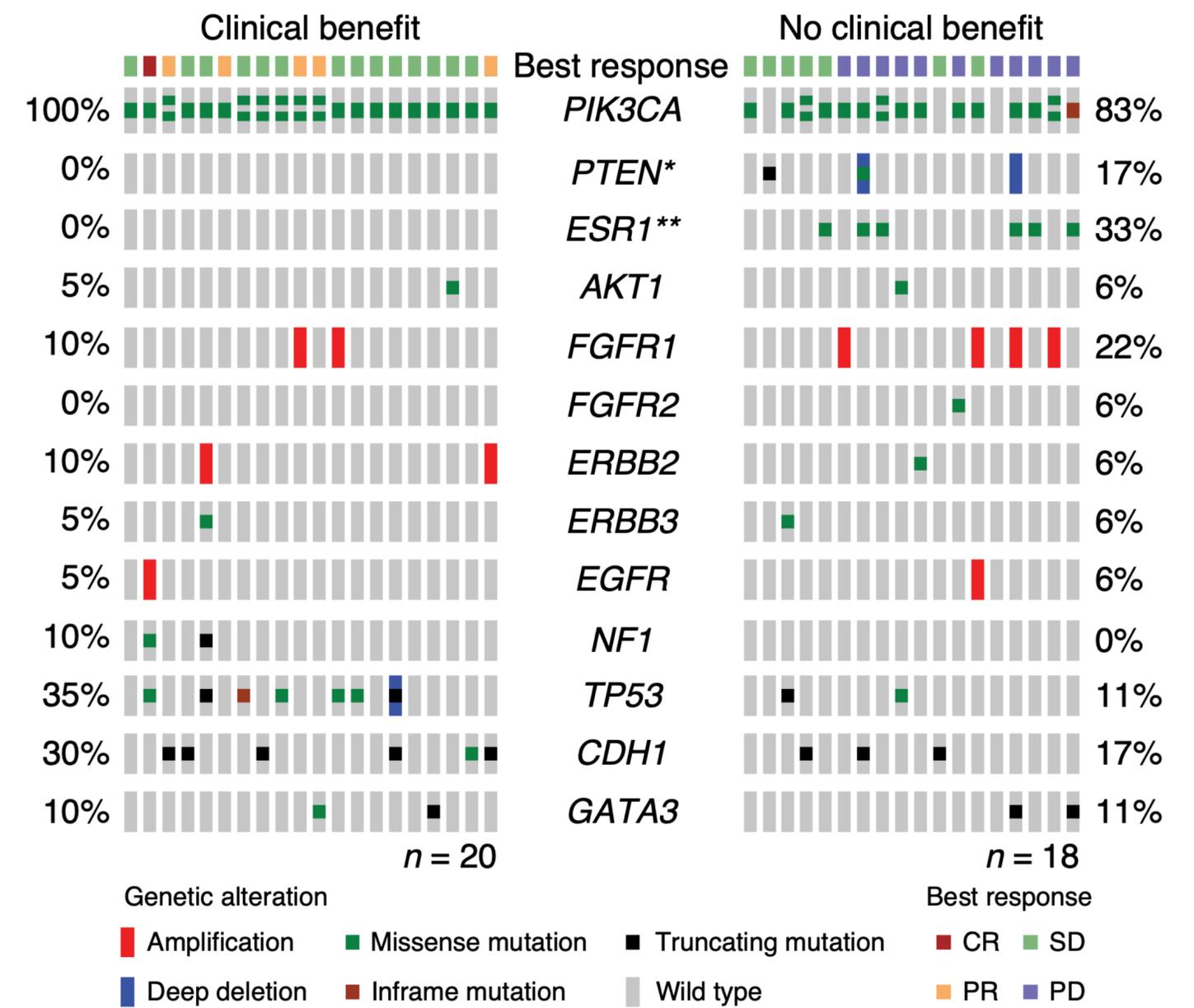
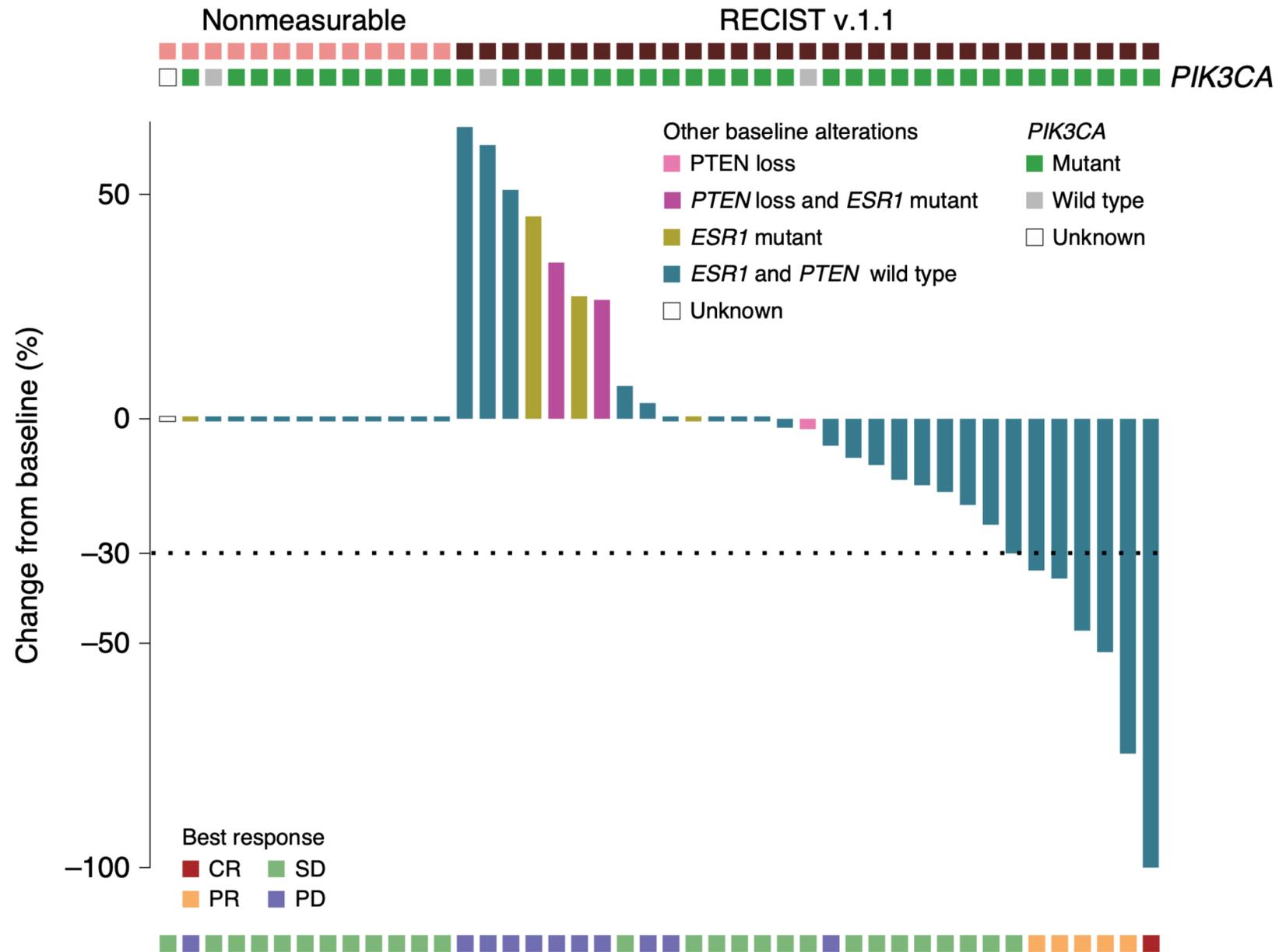
Genes significantly changing across lines and their predictors



| PTEN SNVs        | OR   | P value      |
|------------------|------|--------------|
| High MAF         | 3.64 | <u>0.005</u> |
|                  |      |              |
| Histotype        |      |              |
| ILC              | 4.73 | <u>0.001</u> |
|                  |      |              |
| Lines of therapy |      |              |
| 2                | 2.10 | 0.357        |
| 3                | 1.85 | 0.506        |
| 4                | 2.55 | 0.244        |
|                  |      |              |
| Previous CDK4/6i | 1.30 | 0.627        |
| Previous PI3Ki   | 3.68 | <u>0.049</u> |

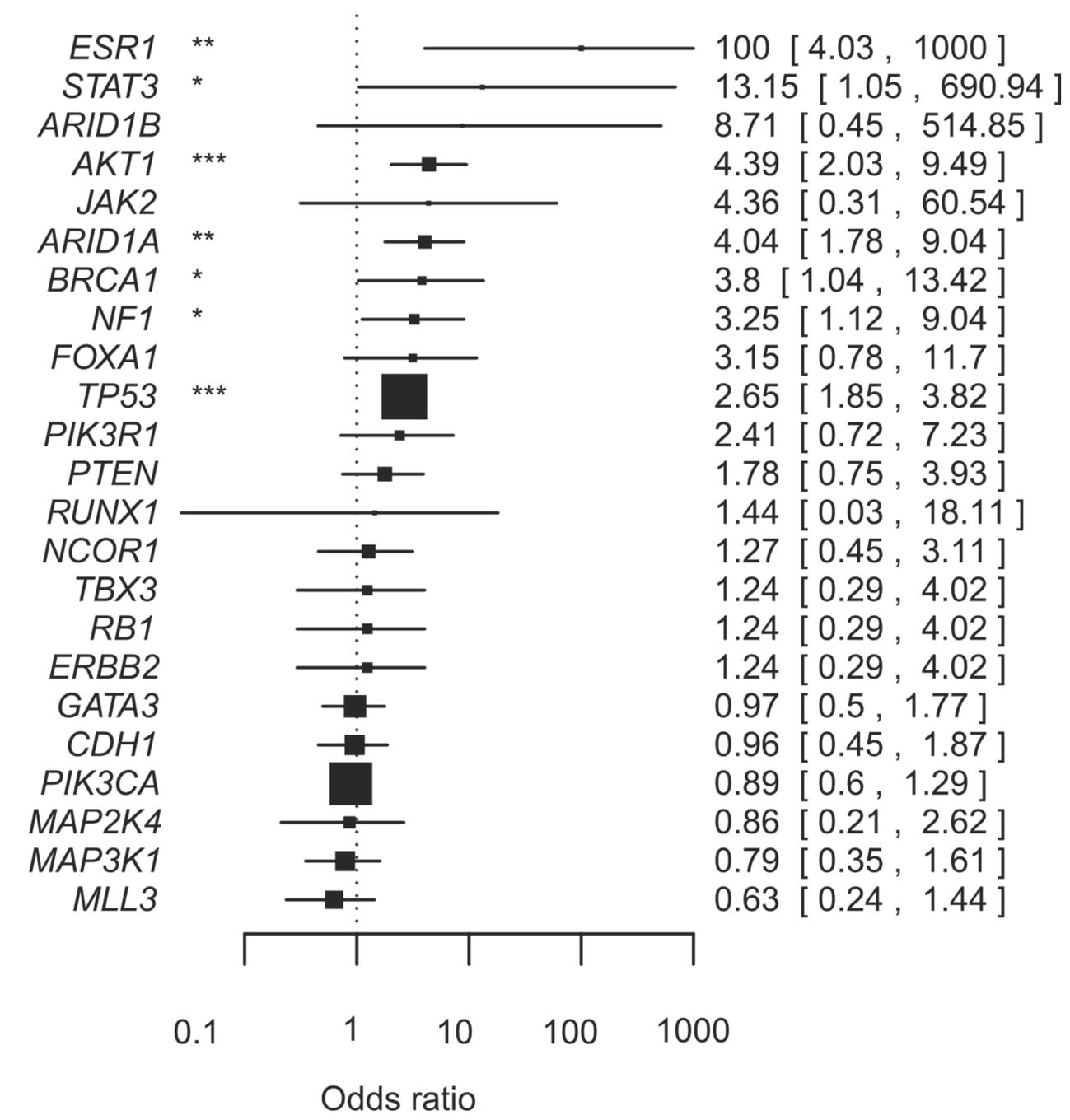
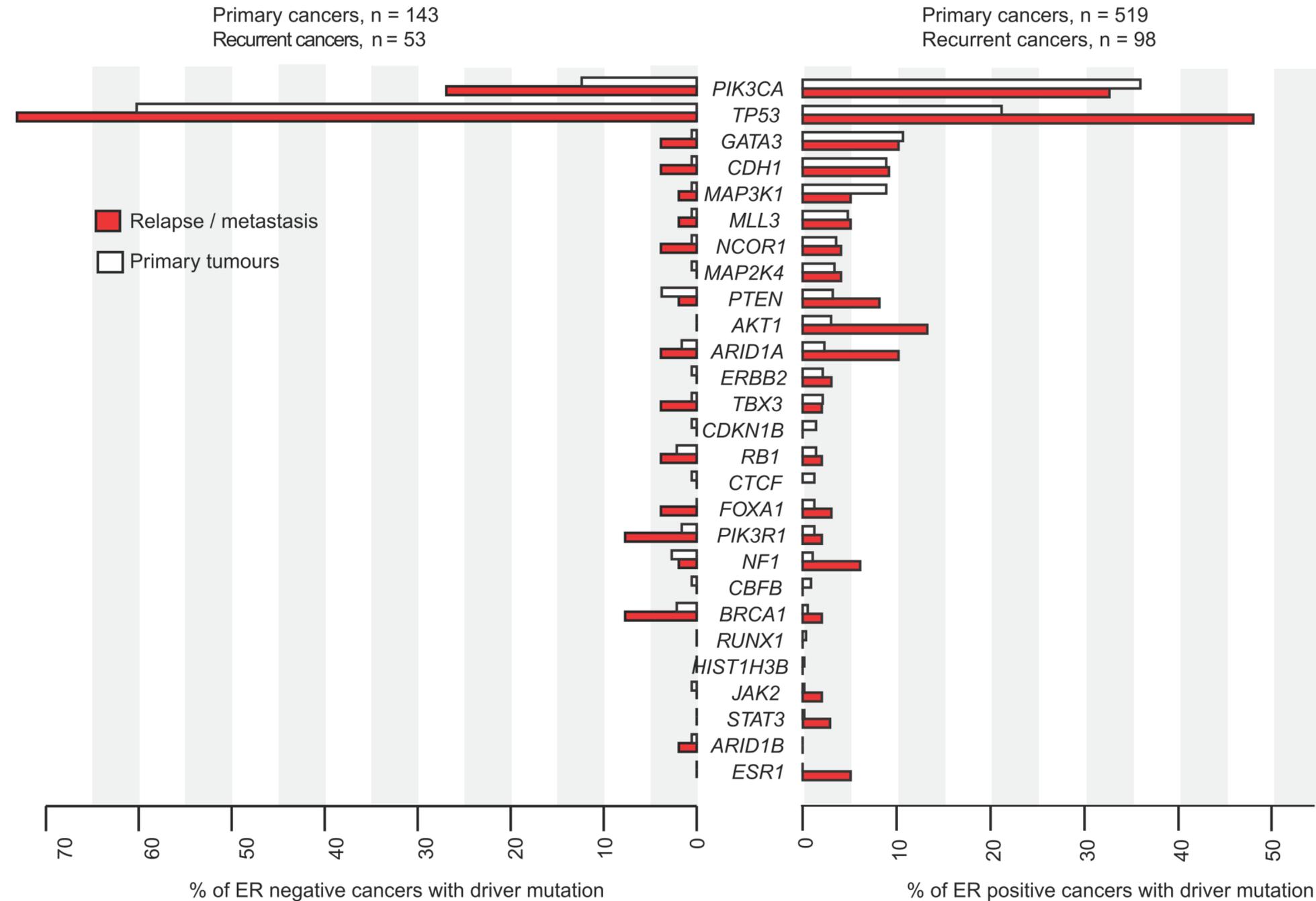
# How stable are *PTEN* and *AKT1*?

PTEN as a resistance factor



# How stable are *PTEN* and *AKT1*?

Driver Landscapes of 163 Recurrent and 705 Primary Breast Cancers



Is there a **line-specific** mutational profile?

# Let's ask machine learning

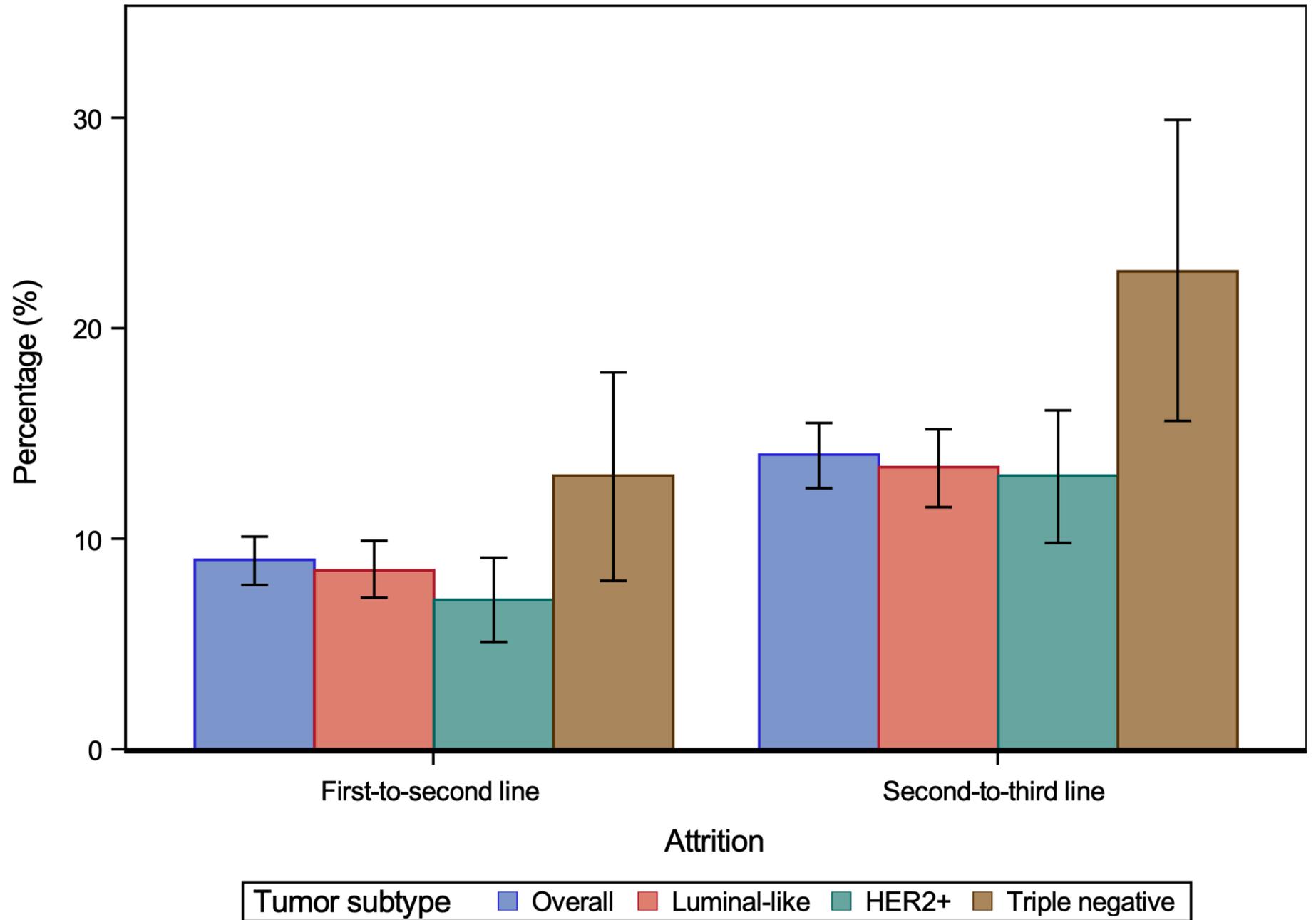
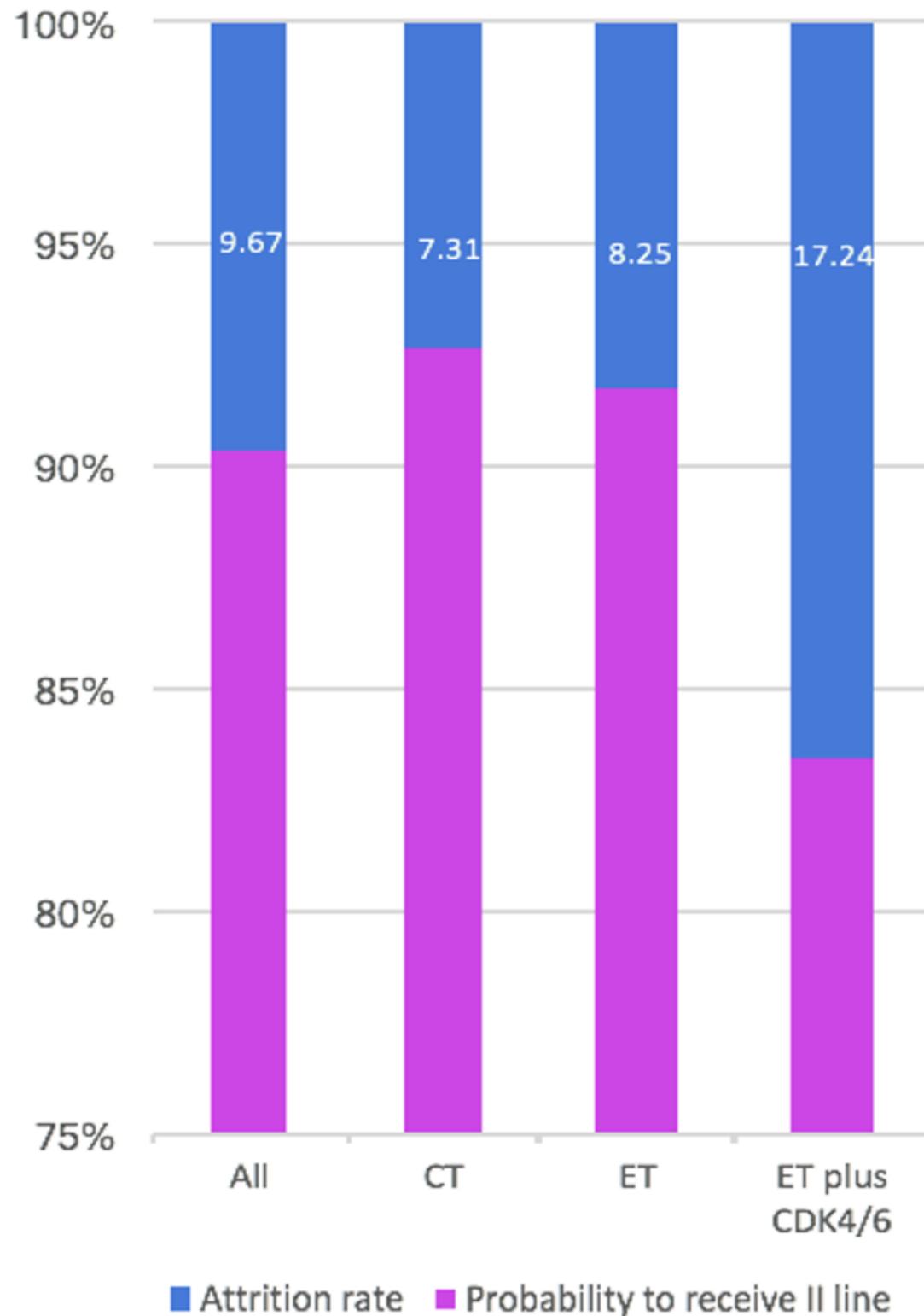
Top 5 gene alterations across the 3 best performing models

| 2nd Line (RFE + RF) |            | 3rd Line (XGBoost) |            | ≥4th Line (ANOVA + RF) |            |
|---------------------|------------|--------------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| Feature             | Importance | Feature            | Importance | Feature                | Importance |
| ESR1 SNV            | 0.3856     | ESR1 SNV           | 0.1647     | ESR1 SNV               | 0.4437     |
| CDH1 SNV            | 0.0703     | AKT1 SNV           | 0.0800     | TP53 SNV               | 0.1041     |
| TP53 SNV            | 0.0534     | CCND1 CNV          | 0.0708     | PIK3CA SNV             | 0.0904     |
| ERBB2 SNV           | 0.0424     | ERBB2 SNV          | 0.0708     | MYC CNV                | 0.0791     |
| AKT1 SNV            | 0.0416     | PTEN SNV           | 0.0705     | PIK3CA CNV             | 0.0659     |

**Timing** is crucial

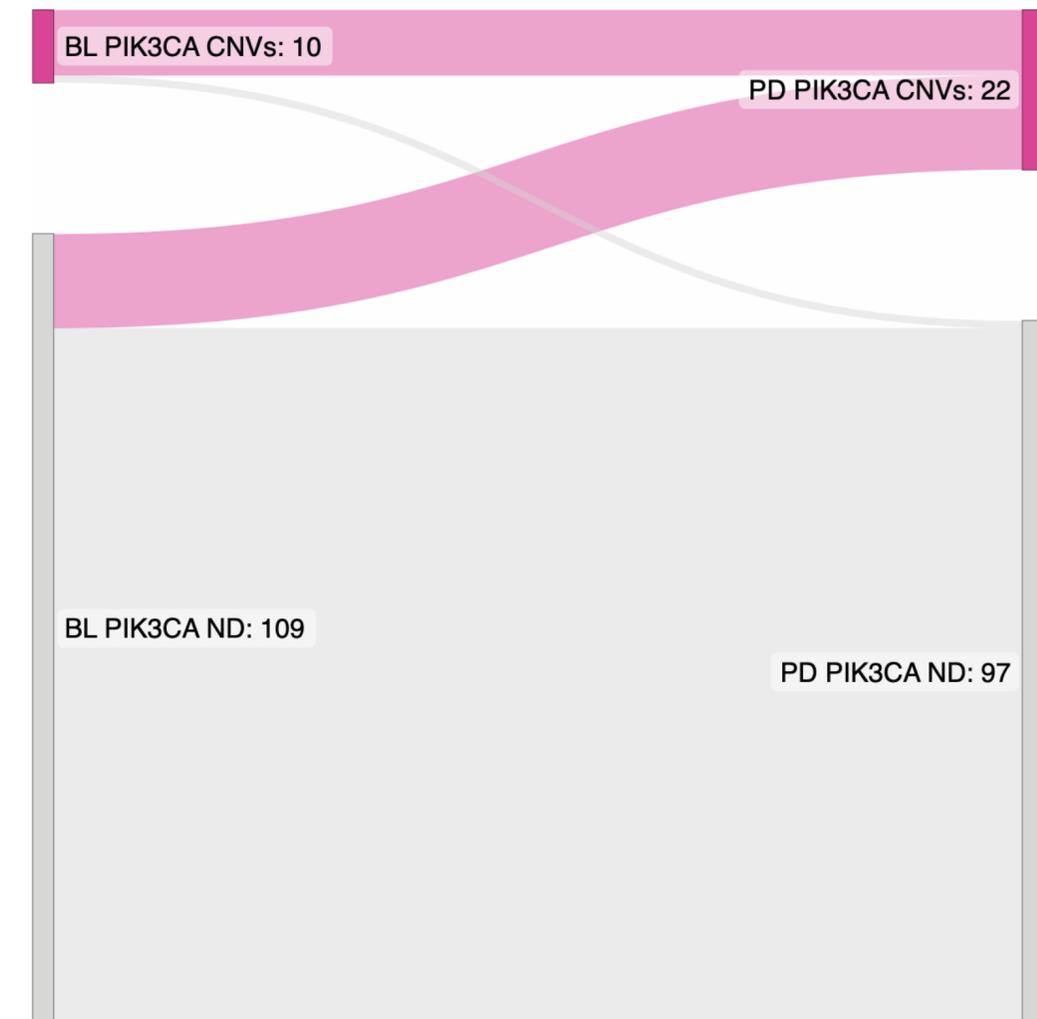
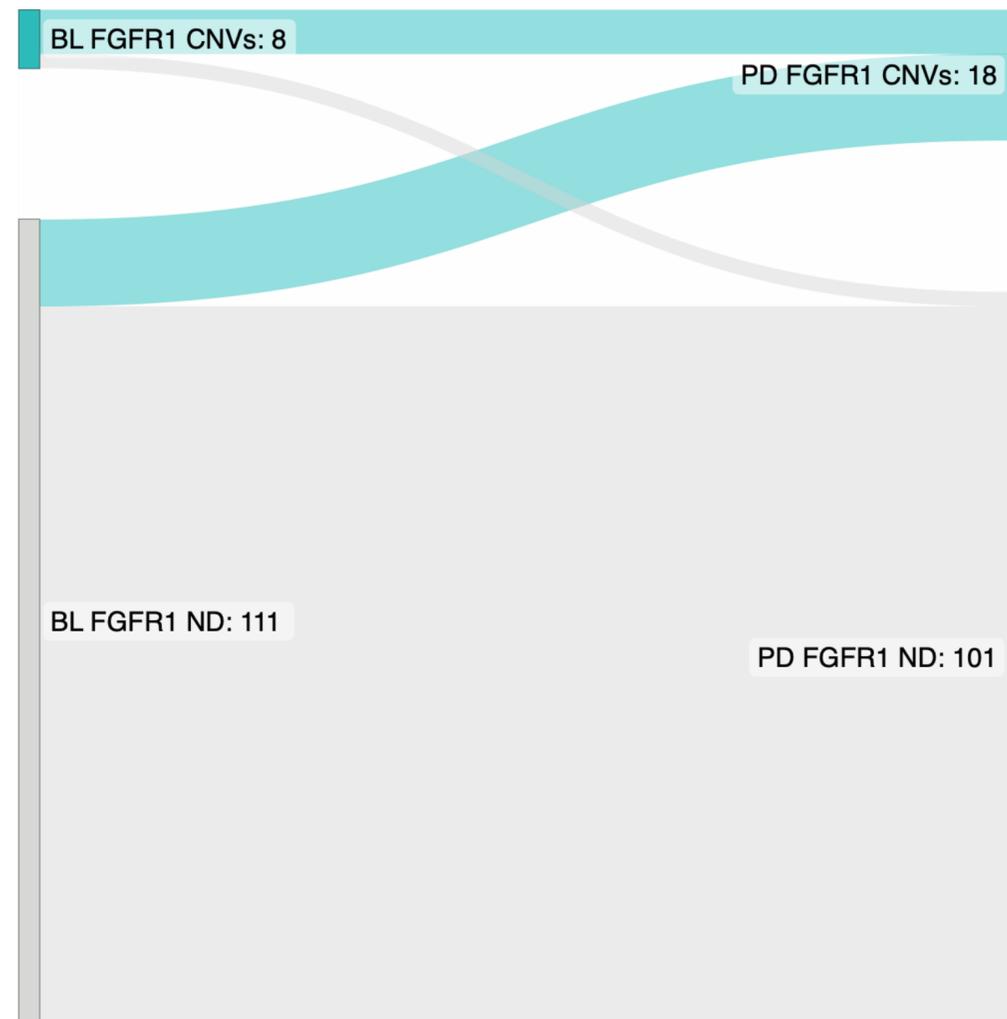
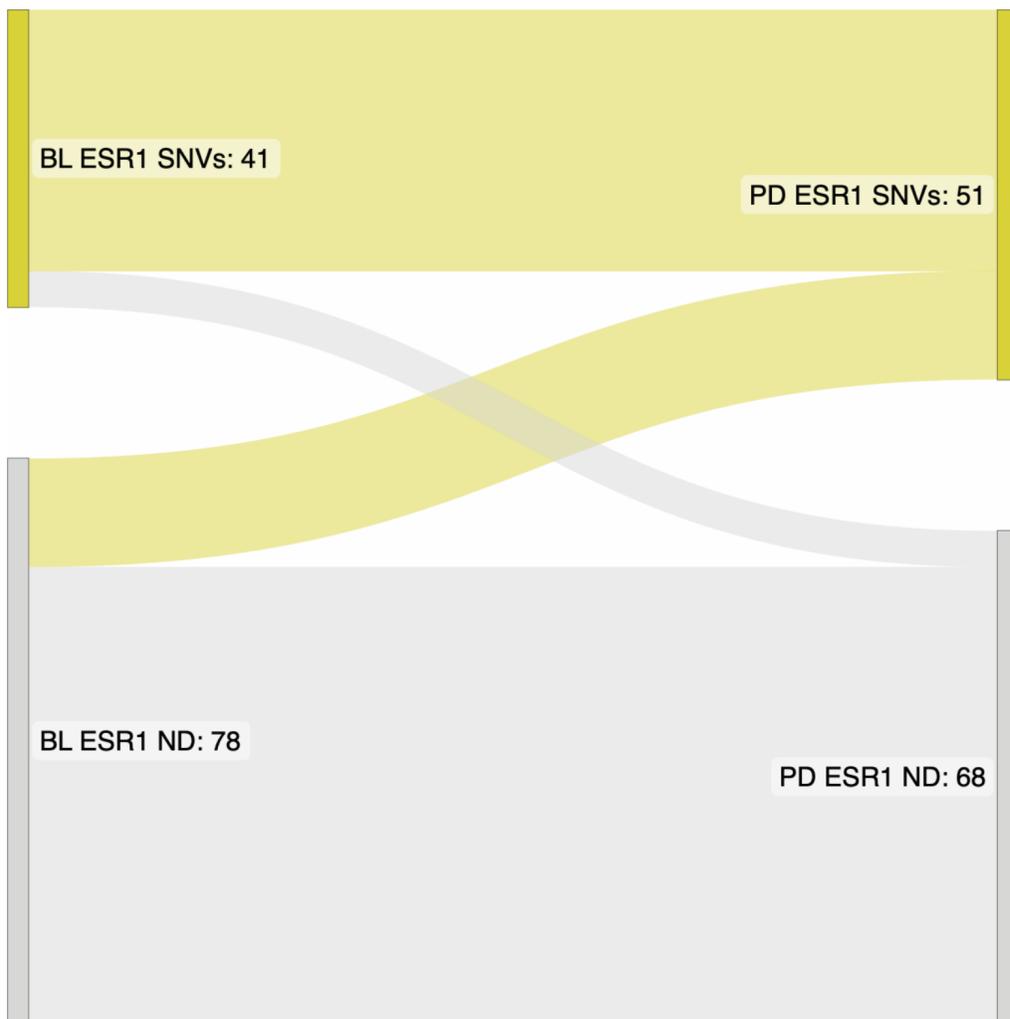
# Why timing is crucial

Life is in 4D: resistance monitoring vs attrition rate



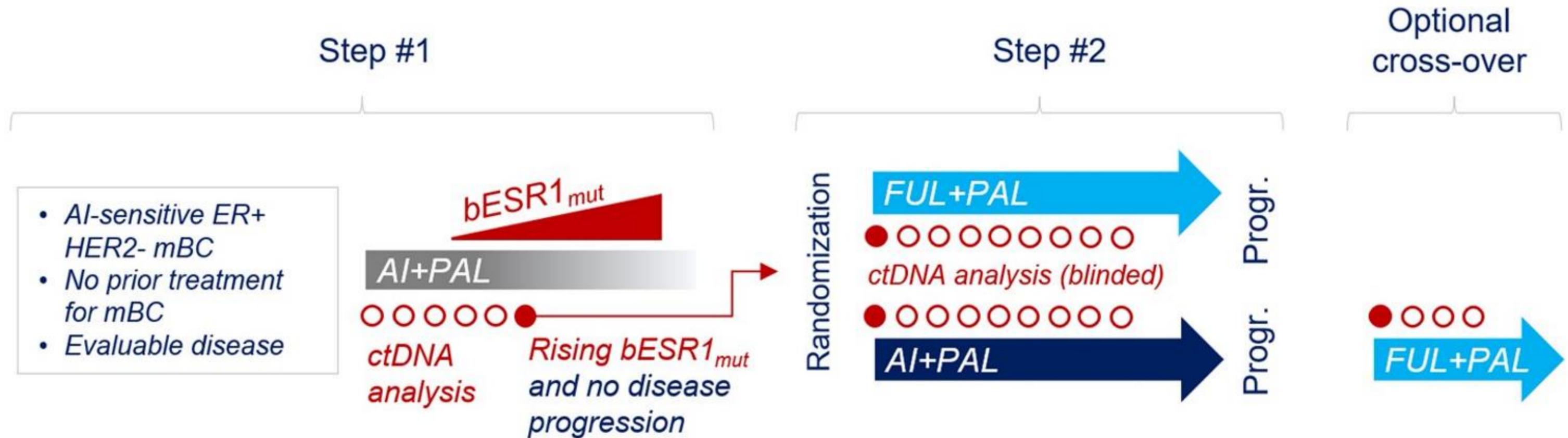
# Why timing is crucial

Paired samples subgroup analysis



# Why timing is crucial

Dynamically test and decide: the PADA-1 study



## PADA-1

Phase 3 trial to evaluate the utility of monitoring the onset of ESR1mut in cell-free DNA of patients receiving AI - Palbociclib in first line.

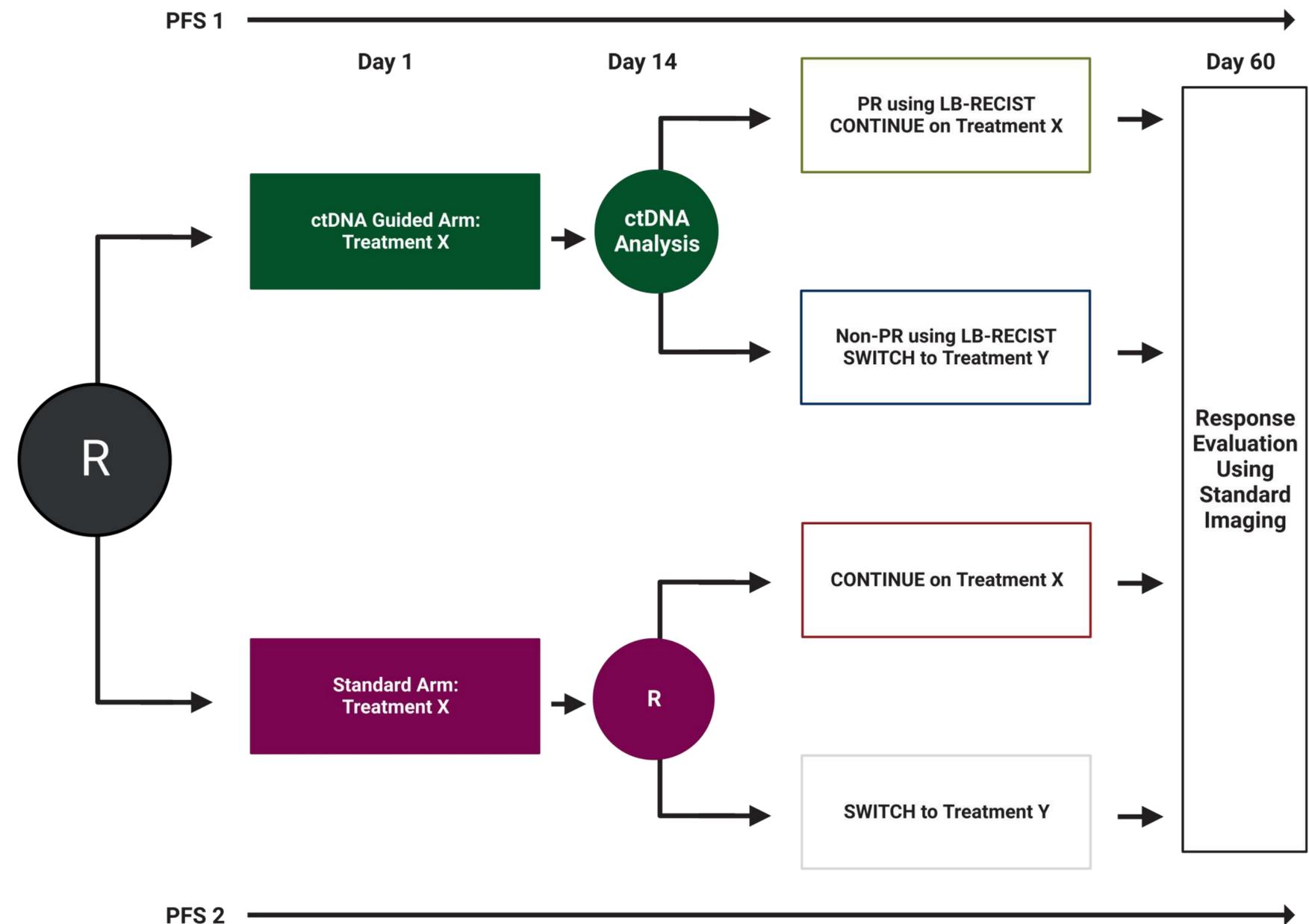
Included pts had no prior therapy for MBC and no overt resistance to AI.

But how much is **too much**?

# But how much is too much?

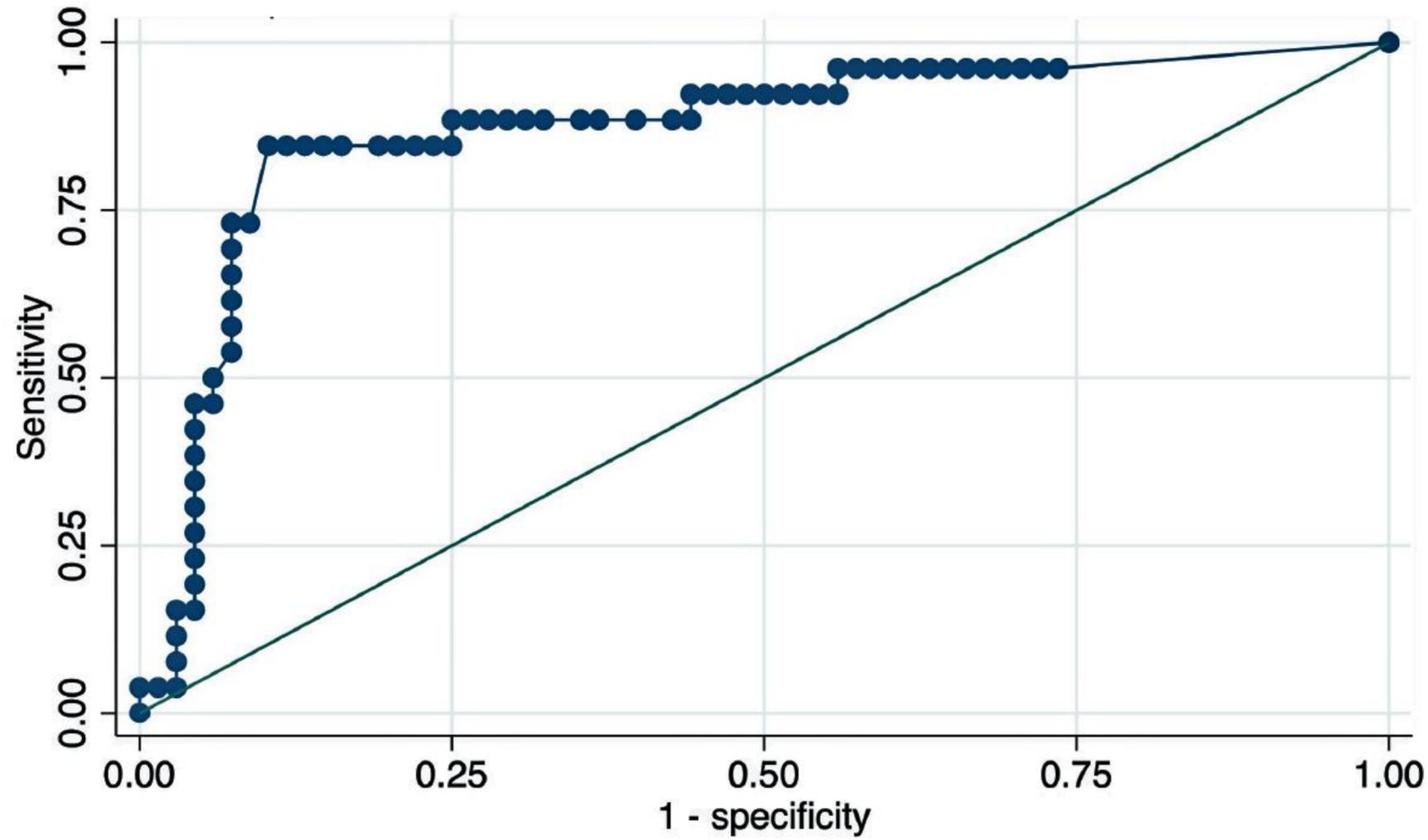
One step in the right direction: LB-RECIST

| Criteria                              | Group                             | Definition   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| <b>Qualitative response criteria</b>  | Group 1 (G1; D-D)                 | Patients with detectable ctDNA which remains detectable after therapy          |
|                                       | Group 2 (G2; D-U)                 | Patients with detectable ctDNA which becomes undetectable after therapy        |
|                                       | Group 3 (G3; U-D)                 | Patients with undetectable ctDNA which becomes detectable after therapy        |
|                                       | Group 4 (G4; U-U)                 | Patients with undetectable ctDNA which remains undetectable after therapy      |
| <b>Quantitative response criteria</b> | ctDNA complete response (CCR)     | ctDNA clearance after initial detectability                                    |
|                                       | ctDNA partial response (CPR)      | Decrease of >10% in variant allele frequency                                   |
|                                       | ctDNA stable disease (CSD)        | No increase or up to 10% increase or decrease in variant allele frequency      |
|                                       | ctDNA progressive disease (CPD)   | Increase of >10% in variant allele frequency or <i>de novo</i> ctDNA detection |
|                                       | ctDNA nonmeasurable disease (CND) | Undetectable ctDNA before and after treatment                                  |



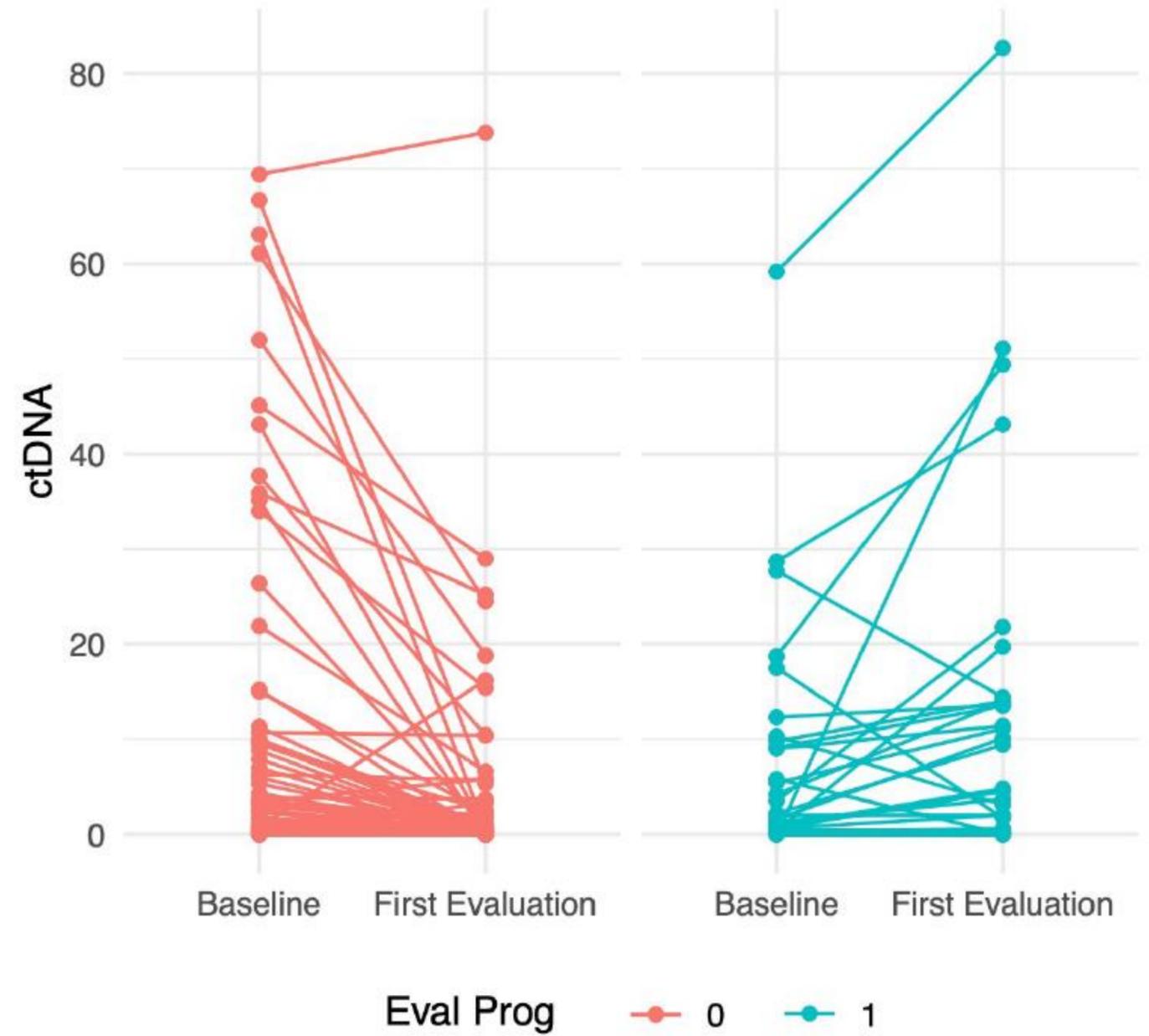
# One step in the right direction?

Updated PFS results - primary endpoint



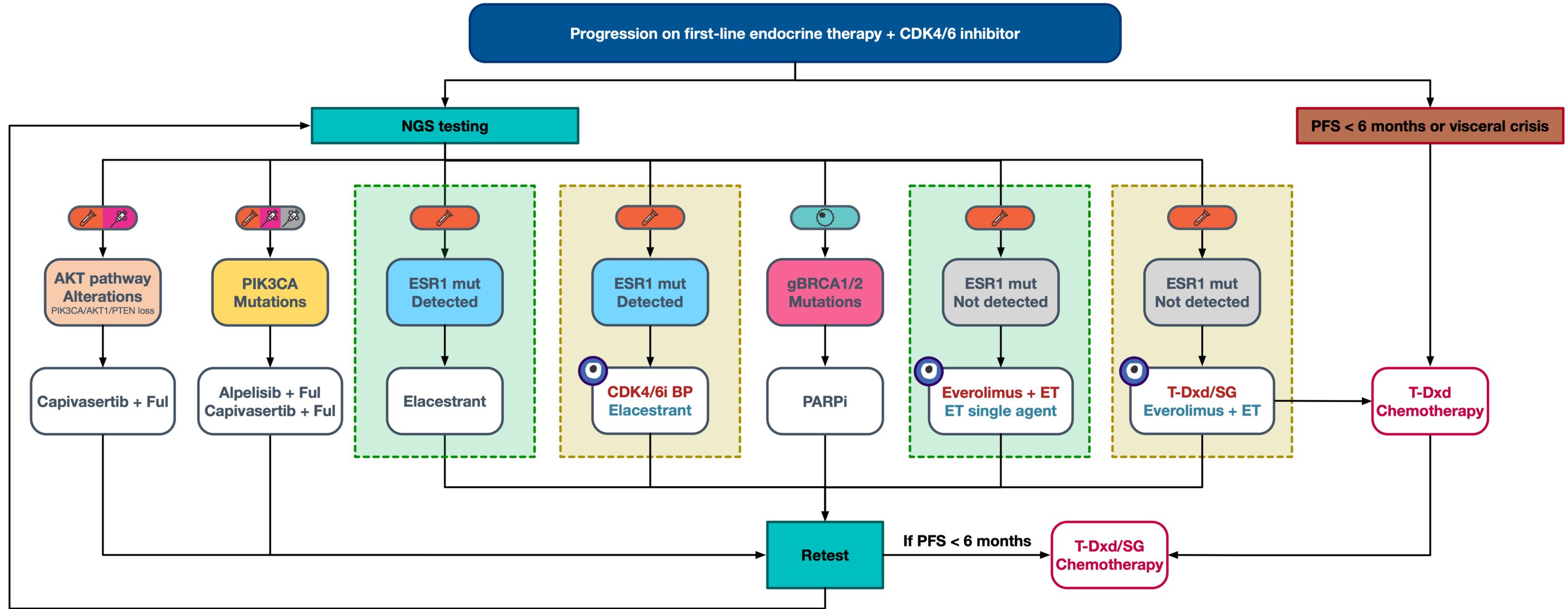
Area under ROC curve = 0.8716

Optimal cutpoint = -1.32  
AUC at cutpoint = 0.872  
Sensitivity at cutpoint = 0.846  
Specificity at cutpoint = 0.897



# Why testing just once?

In a world of multiple options, you need multiple testing



Liquid biopsy  
 Updated tissue biopsy  
 Archival tissue biopsy  
 Germline  
 CTC enumeration

Stage IV<sub>indolent</sub> (<5 CTCs)  
 Stage IV<sub>aggressive</sub> (≥5 CTCs)

PFS1 ≤ 12 months  
 PFS1 > 12 months

# Wrapping up

What is the evidence?

1

## Attention should be payed

NGS will be increasingly recommended as new, mutation driven, drugs will be introduced in the clinic  
Extended panels should be used in clinical trials only or in Molecular Tumor Boards

2

## Biology is ever-changing and its evolution is not neglected to a single line

Tissue biopsy can guarantee a higher DNA yield, but can't address spatial and temporal heterogeneity  
Several gene alterations can be selected during treatments (e.g. *ESR1*, *PTEN*)

3

## Liquid biopsy is not a one-shot diagnostic

Time is crucial, since attrition rate is an aspect we should consider  
We should focus not just on targetable alterations but also on those that can assist treatment monitoring



Scan to **Link**

# Thank you



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