

# The Role of Pathologist in Quality Assurance of Cancer Biomarking

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# Home Town





20<sup>th</sup> February 2015  
Astronomical super-tide  
48 ft rise in water  
in just 4 hours



# Cardiff University

Founded in 1883

2015 Top five UK university for research excellence and impact

- 26,000 students, 6000 staff (12<sup>th</sup> largest)
- Member of the Russell Group

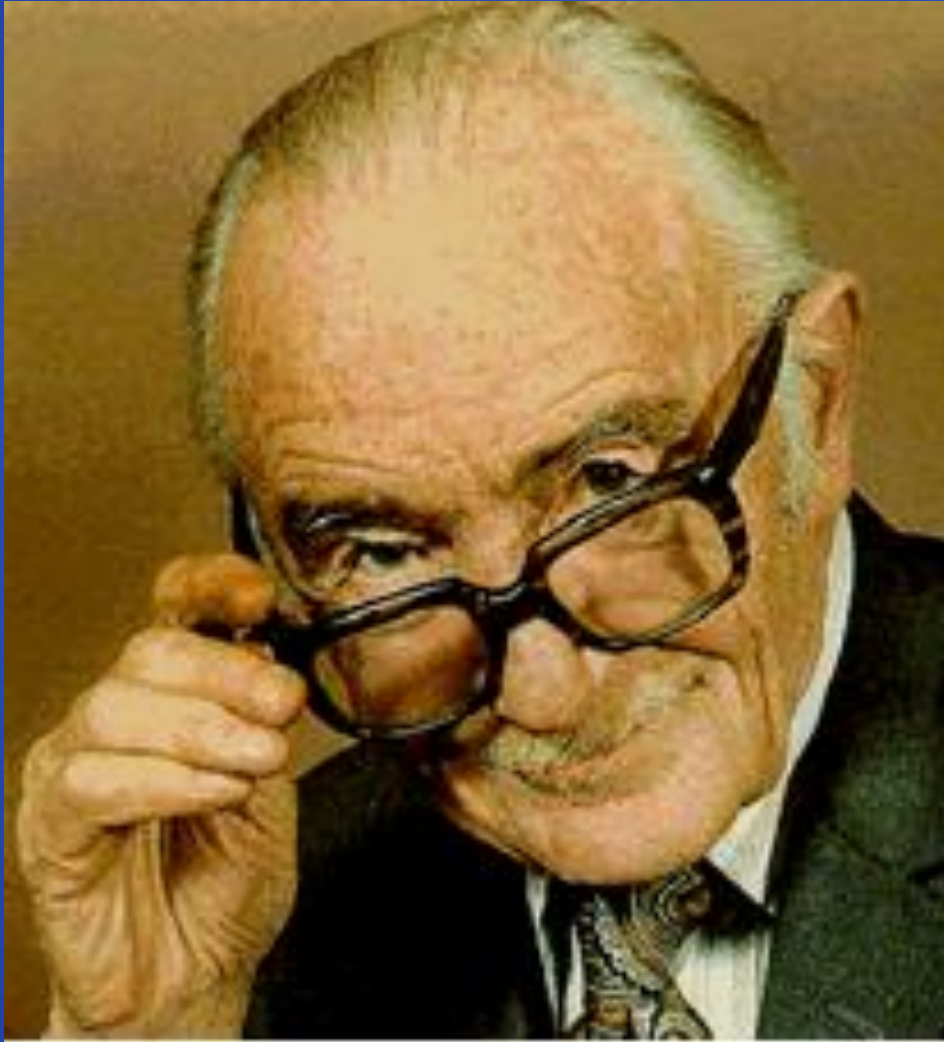


University Hospital of Wales

Medical School



University Main Building



**Archibald Leman Cochrane**

Born 12 January 1909

[Galashiels, Scotland](#)

Died 18 June 1988 (aged 79)

Nationality Scottish

Occupation [Physician](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie\\_Cochrane](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Archie_Cochrane)

Quality Assurance of Medical Evidence

# Brief Outline

- Reflections on the past
  - Previous home and institution
  - Path to a clinical academic career in pathology
- Role of a pathologist in diagnostic medicine
- Cancer biomarking
  - Role in diagnostic pathology
  - Quality assurance
- Conclusion & Discussion

# Career Path in Clinical Academic Pathology

- 2<sup>nd</sup> MB
  - Glasgow University, Scotland 2 years
- BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
  - Glasgow University, Scotland 2 years
- PhD in Immunology
  - Birmingham University, England 3 years
- MBChB
  - Birmingham University, England 4 years
- MRCPPath
  - Cardiff University, Wales 12 years

# Role of Pathology in Diagnostic Medicine

- Represent several different specialties
  - Cellular pathology, haematology, medical biochemistry & microbiology, clinical immunology
- Pathologists work in laboratories, in clinics and wards
- Millions of pathology tests /year
  - 14 tests for every man, woman and child in UK per year
- Many major advances depend on pathologists
  - Guidance to treatment of cancer & genetic disorders
  - ensuring safe blood transfusions
  - developing vaccines against infectious diseases
- Pathology is involved in 70% of all diagnoses and majority of the scientific advances made in Medicine



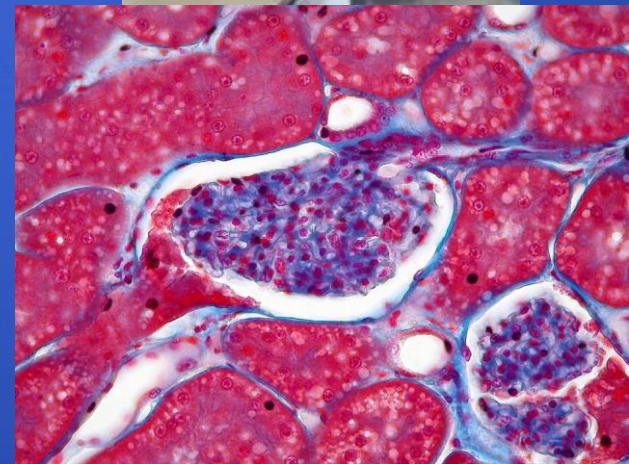
# Role of a Pathologist in Cancer Medicine

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- Diagnostic, prognostic & predictive analysis of disease as a guide for more precise & effective patient management
- Translational Research
- Quality assurance
  - Breast cancer as an example

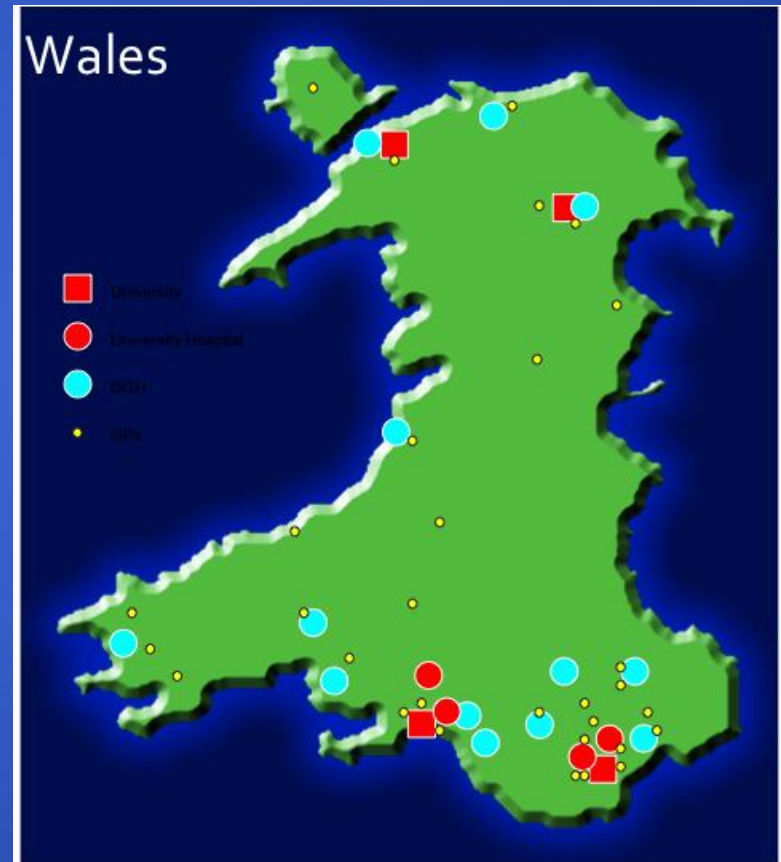
# Tissue Based Analysis of Cancer

- Core & excision biopsies
- Macroscopic examination
- Microscopic examination
- Molecular analysis
  - Immunohistochemistry
  - In situ hybridisation
  - Genomic analysis



# Breast Cancer Biomarking Workload: U.K. and Wales

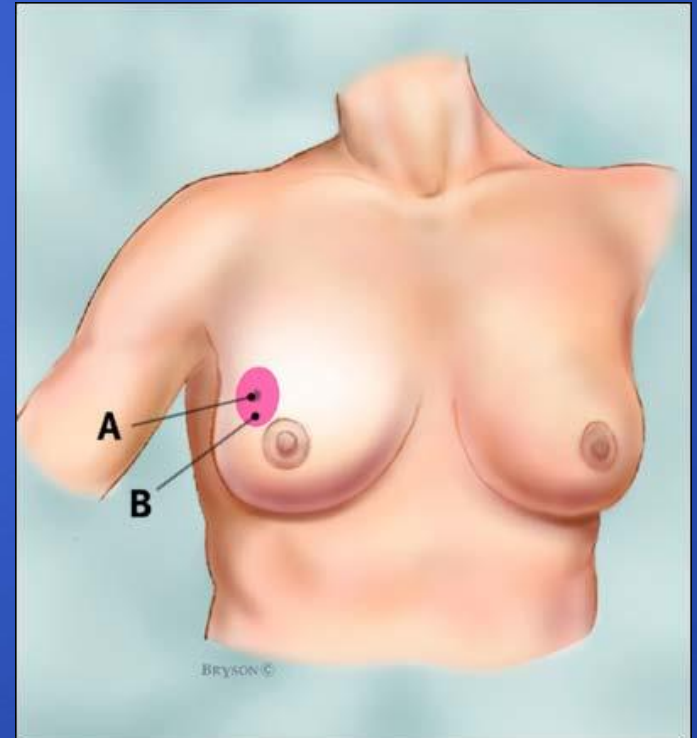
- UK
  - 50,000 new cases / year
- Wales
  - 2,500 new cases/year
- South East Wales Cancer Network
  - 1,500 new cases/year



# Symptomatic Diagnosis



# Clinical Diagnosis – Physical Examination



# Triple Assessment Confirmation



● Clinical

Radiological

Pathological

• Mammogram

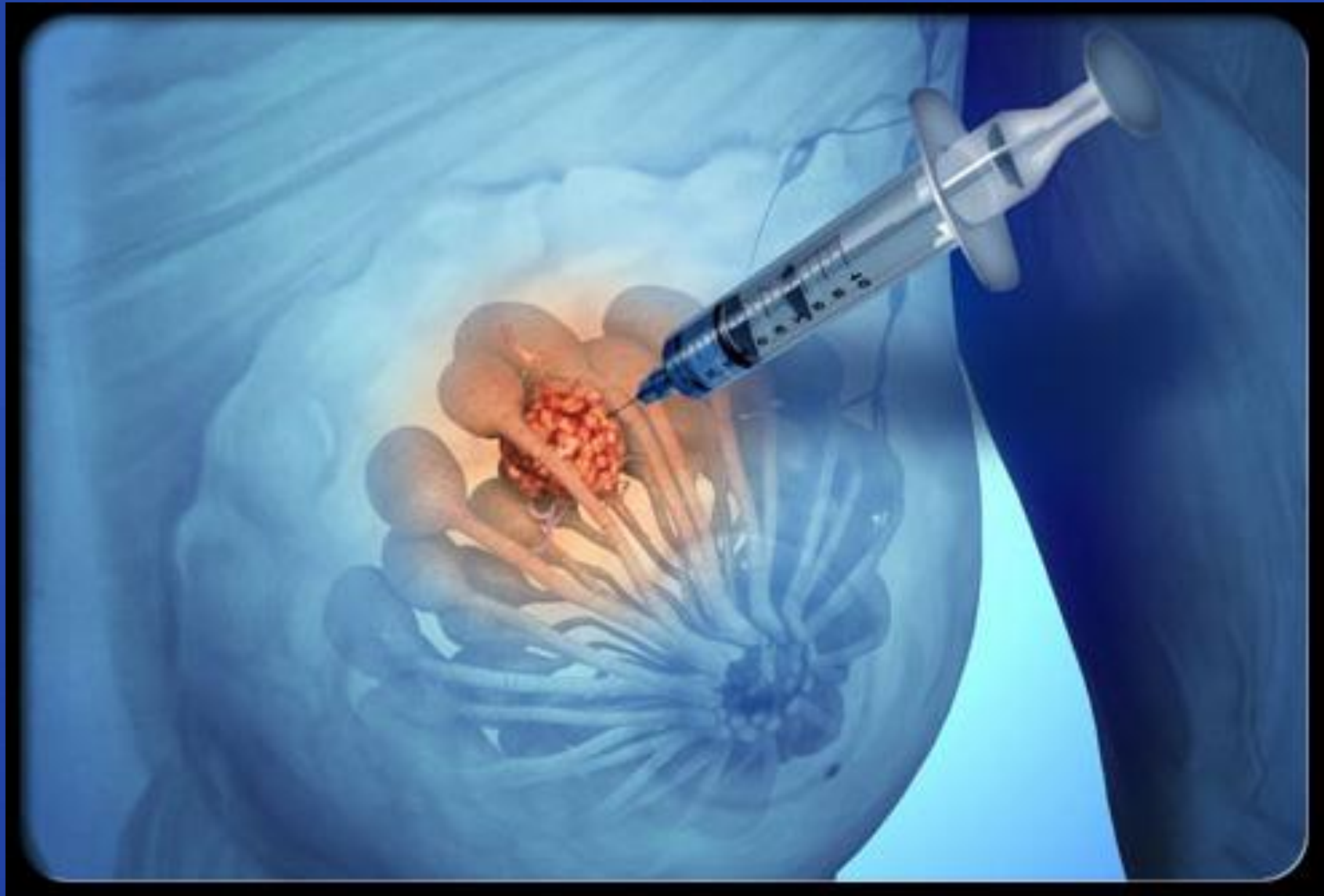
- FNAC

• U/S

- Core bx

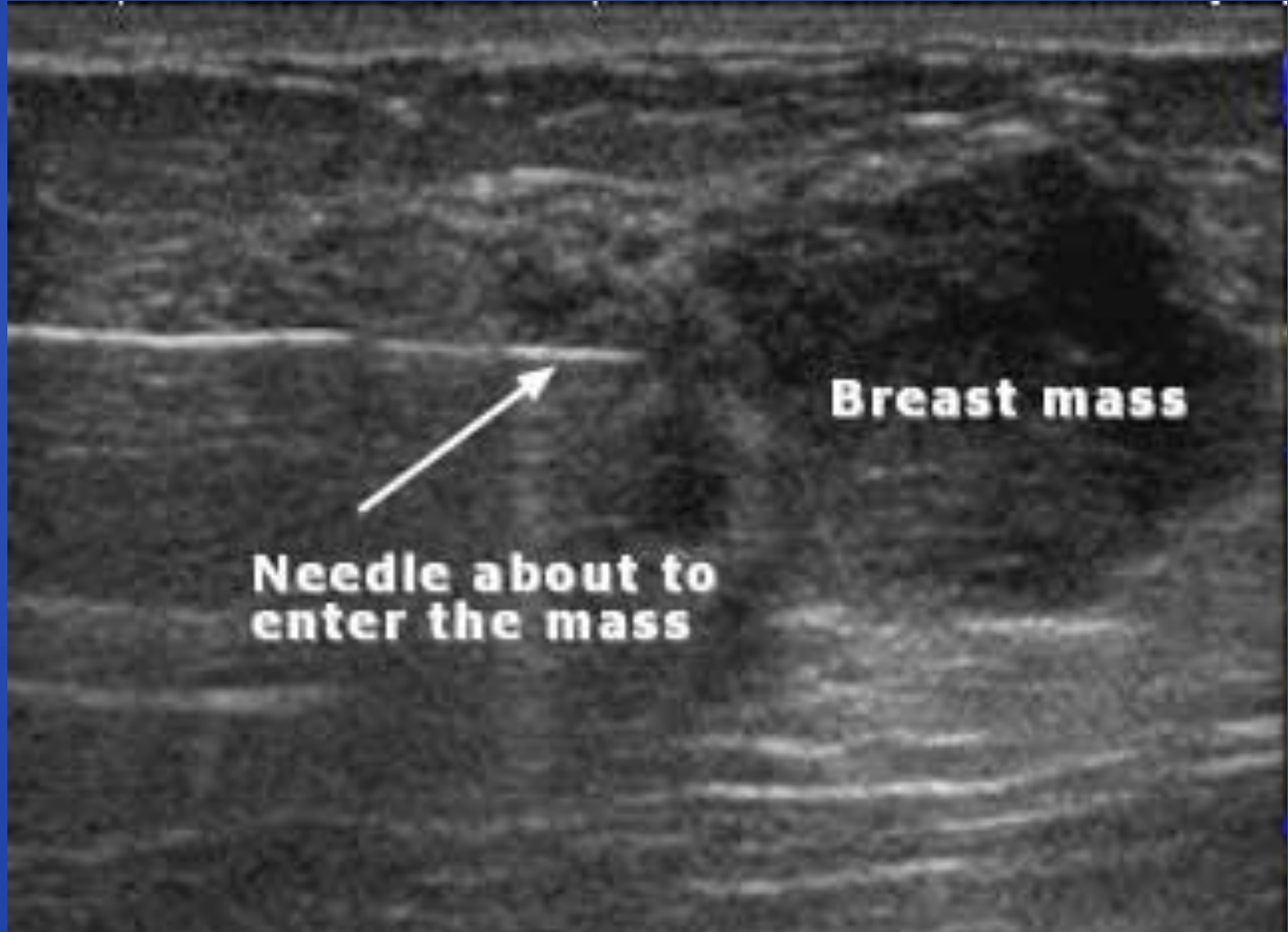
• MRI scan

- Excision bx



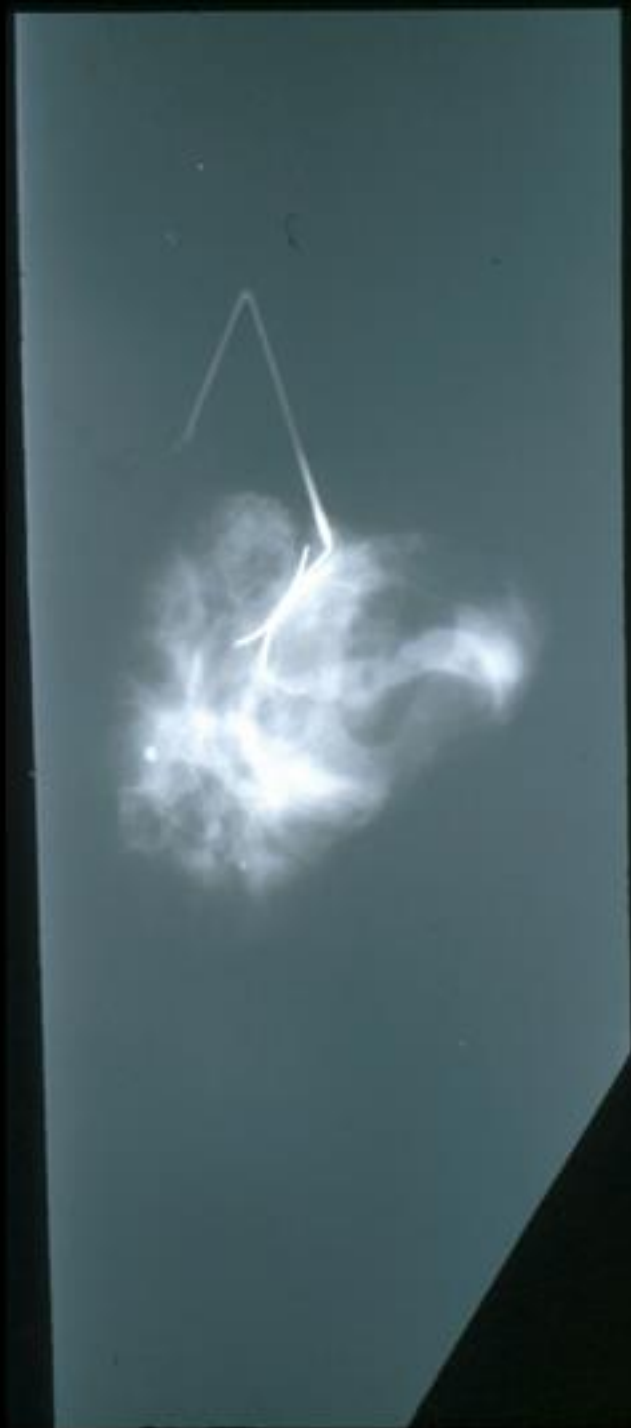


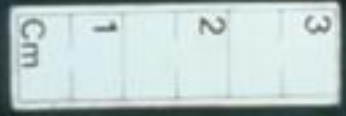
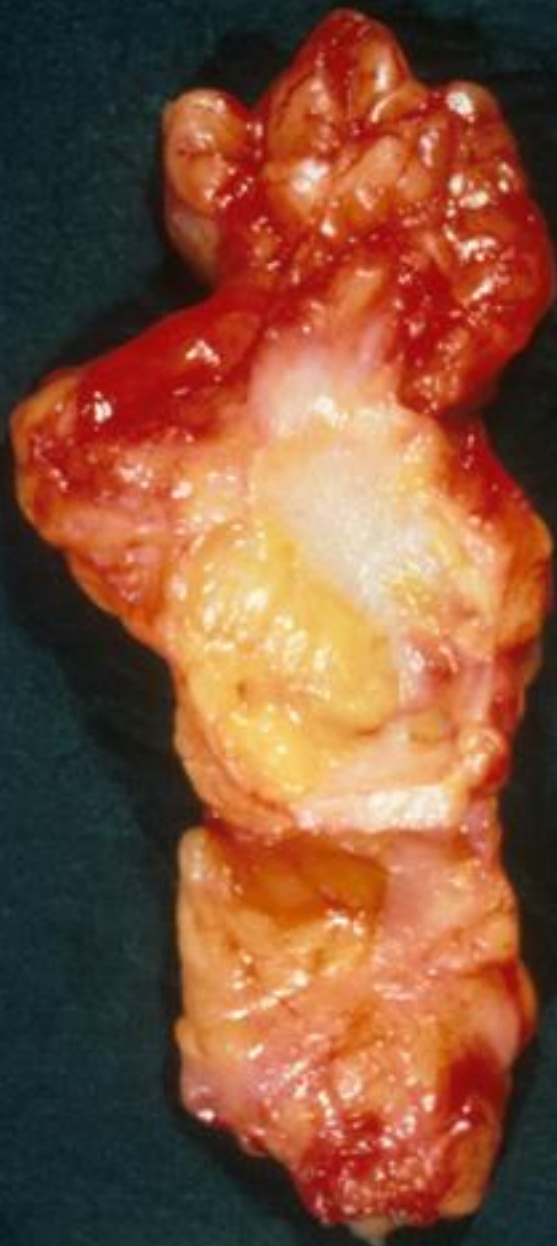




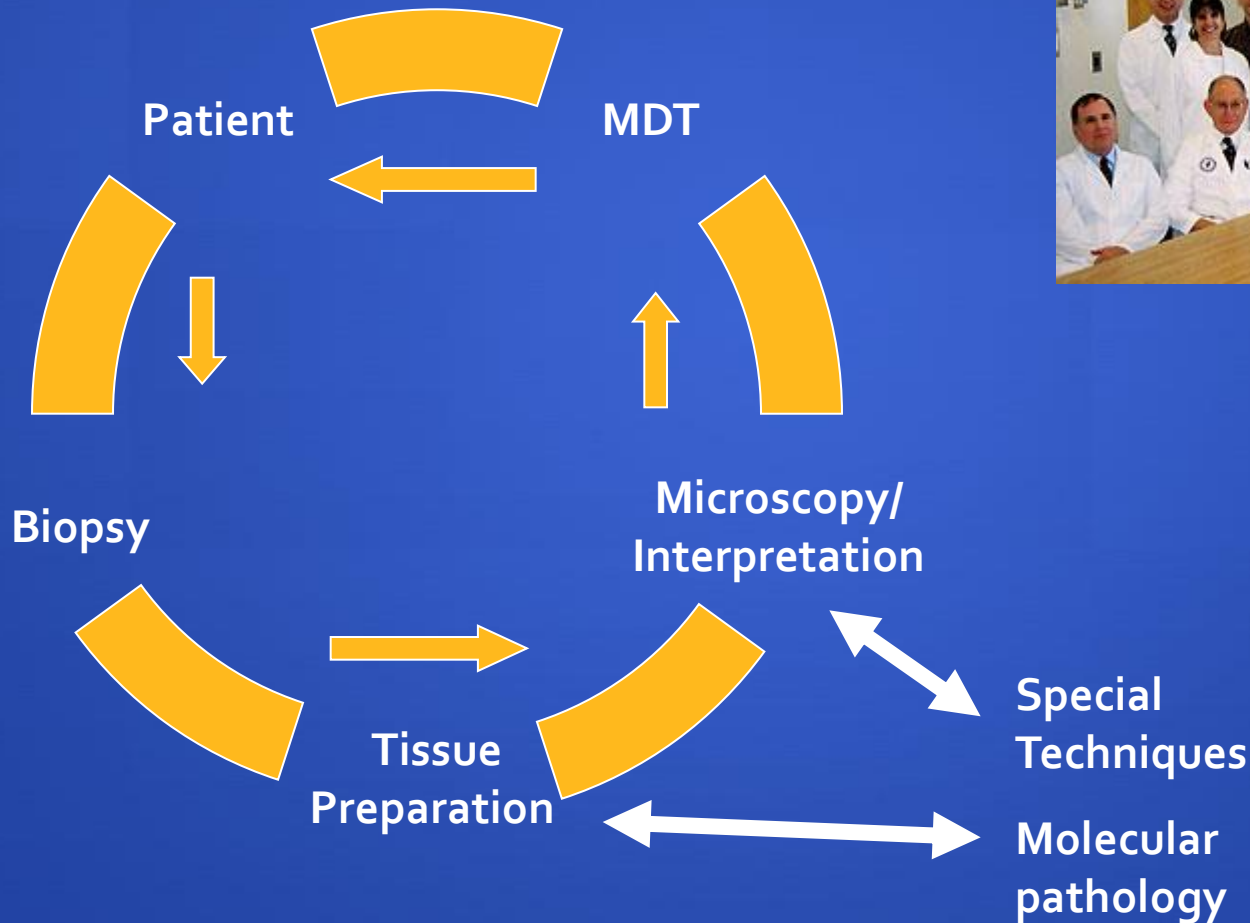
**Breast mass**

**Needle about to  
enter the mass**





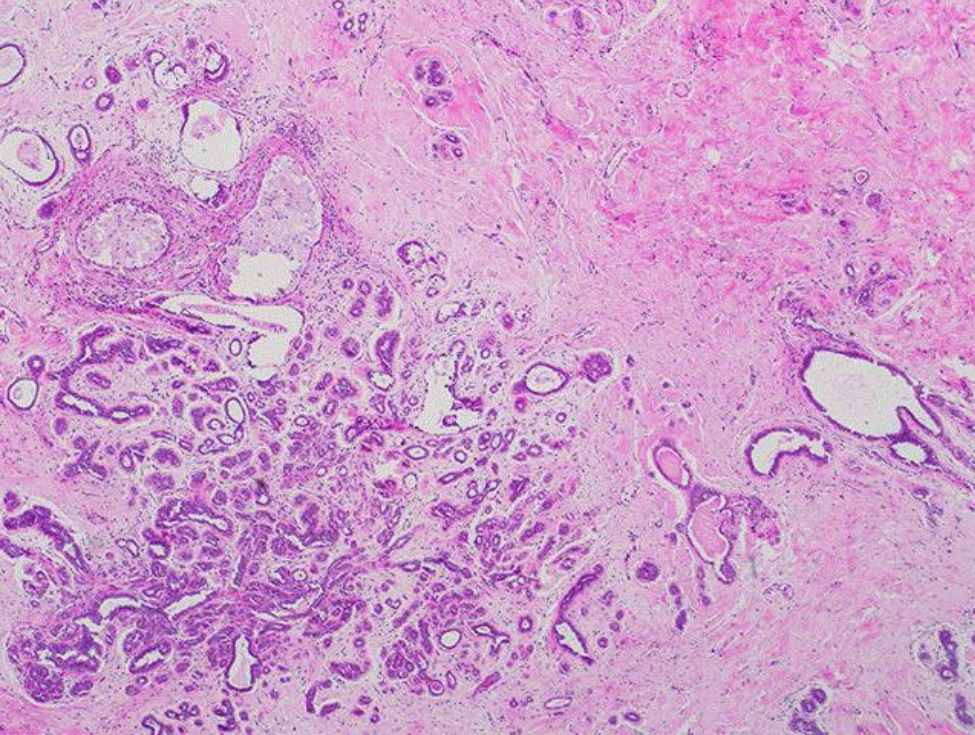
# Breast Cancer Diagnostic Process



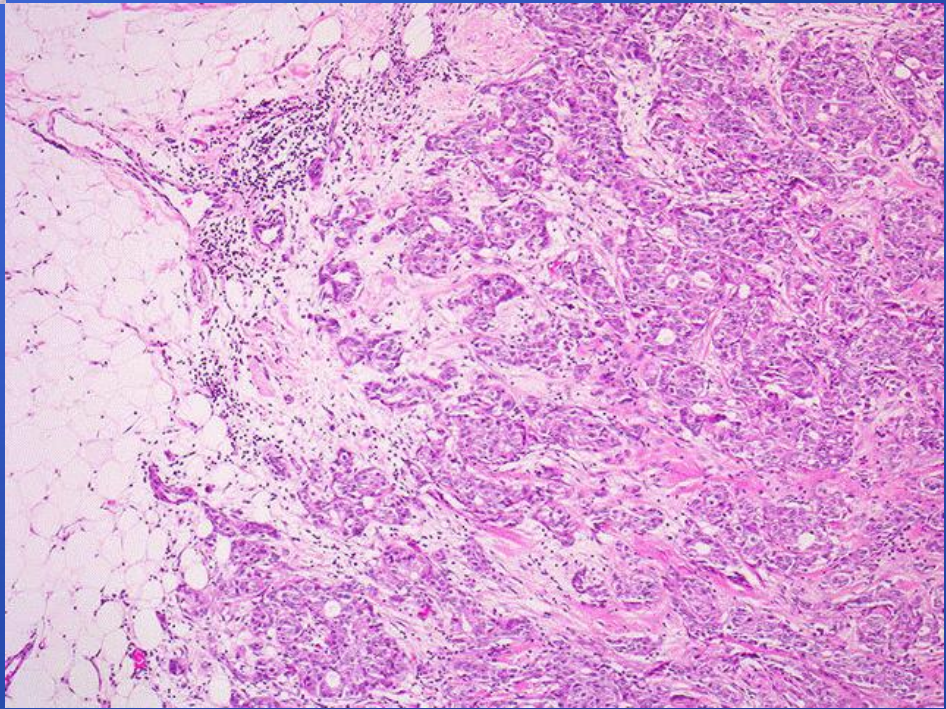
# Biopsy Processing & Analysis

Macroscopic examination  
Microscopic examination  
Immunocytochemistry  
Molecular analysis





Benign lesion

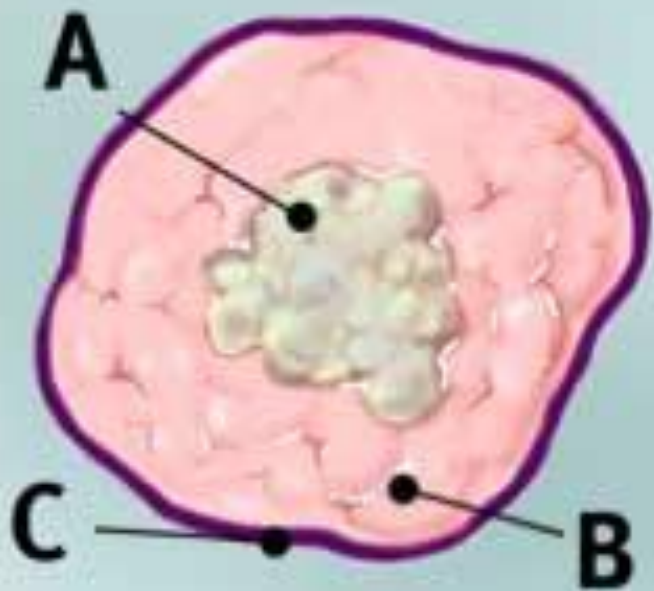


Malignant lesion

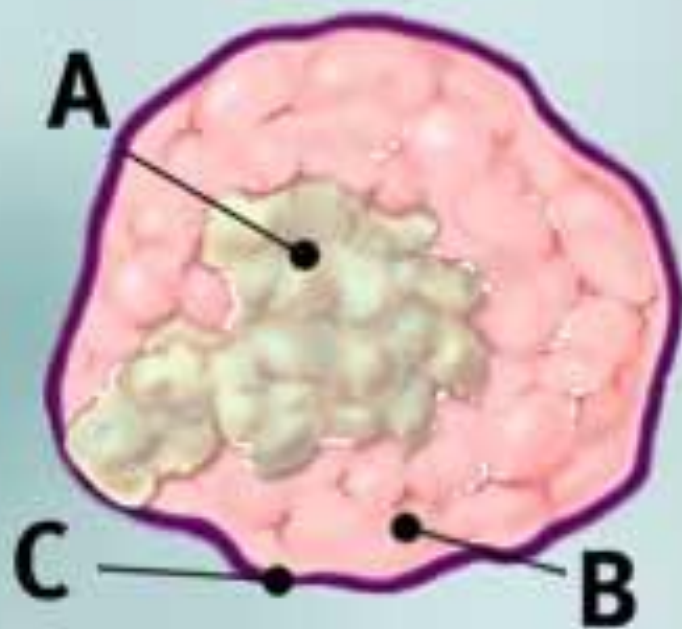
# Prognostic Typing of Breast Cancer

## Histopathology Minimum Data Set, UK

- Excision margins
- Tumour size
- Histological type
- Histological grade
- Lymph node stage
- Vascular invasion
- In situ component
- Hormone receptor status
- HER2 Status



Negative Margins

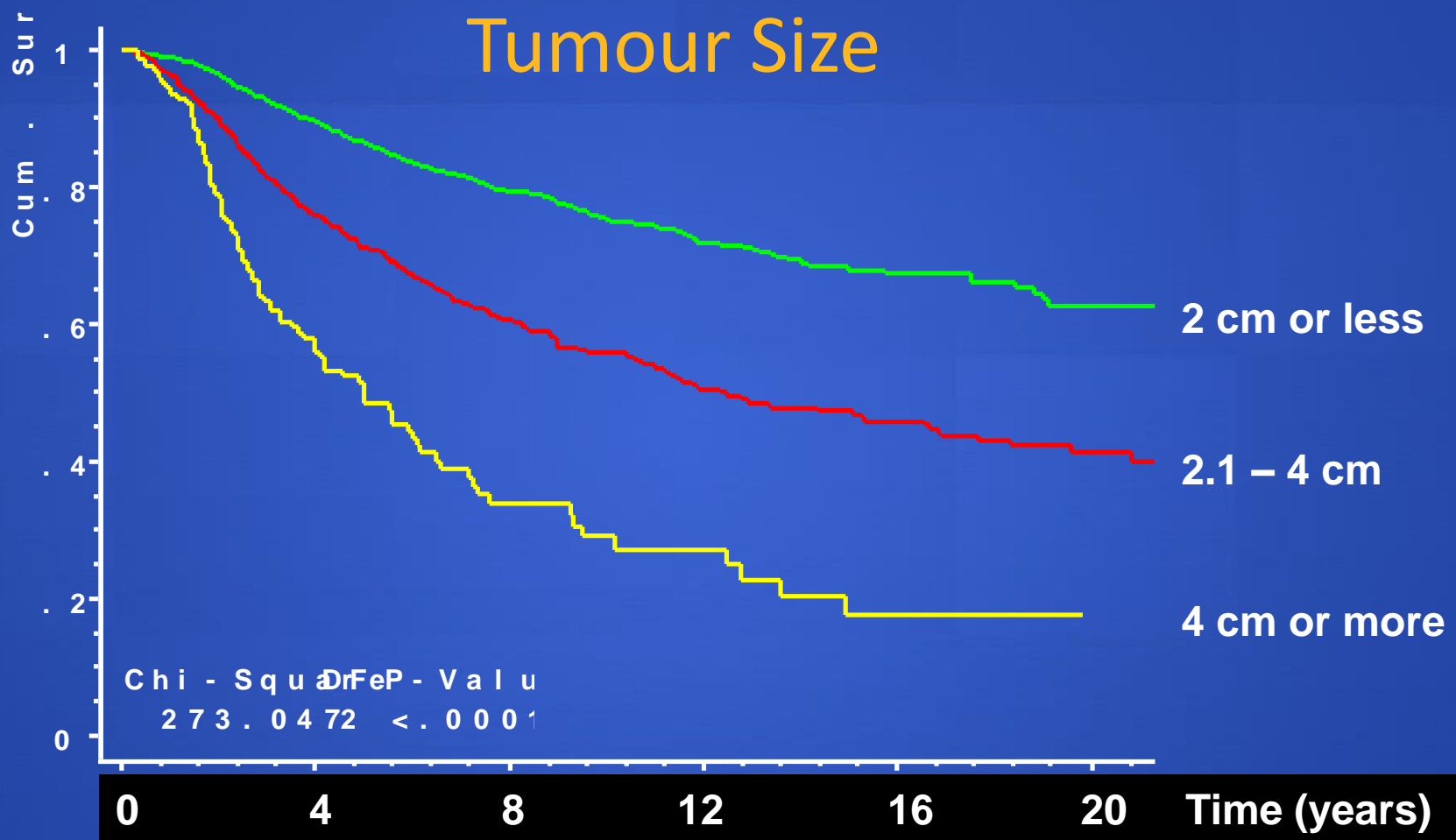


Positive Margins



# Nottingham Tenovus Primary Breast Cancer Study

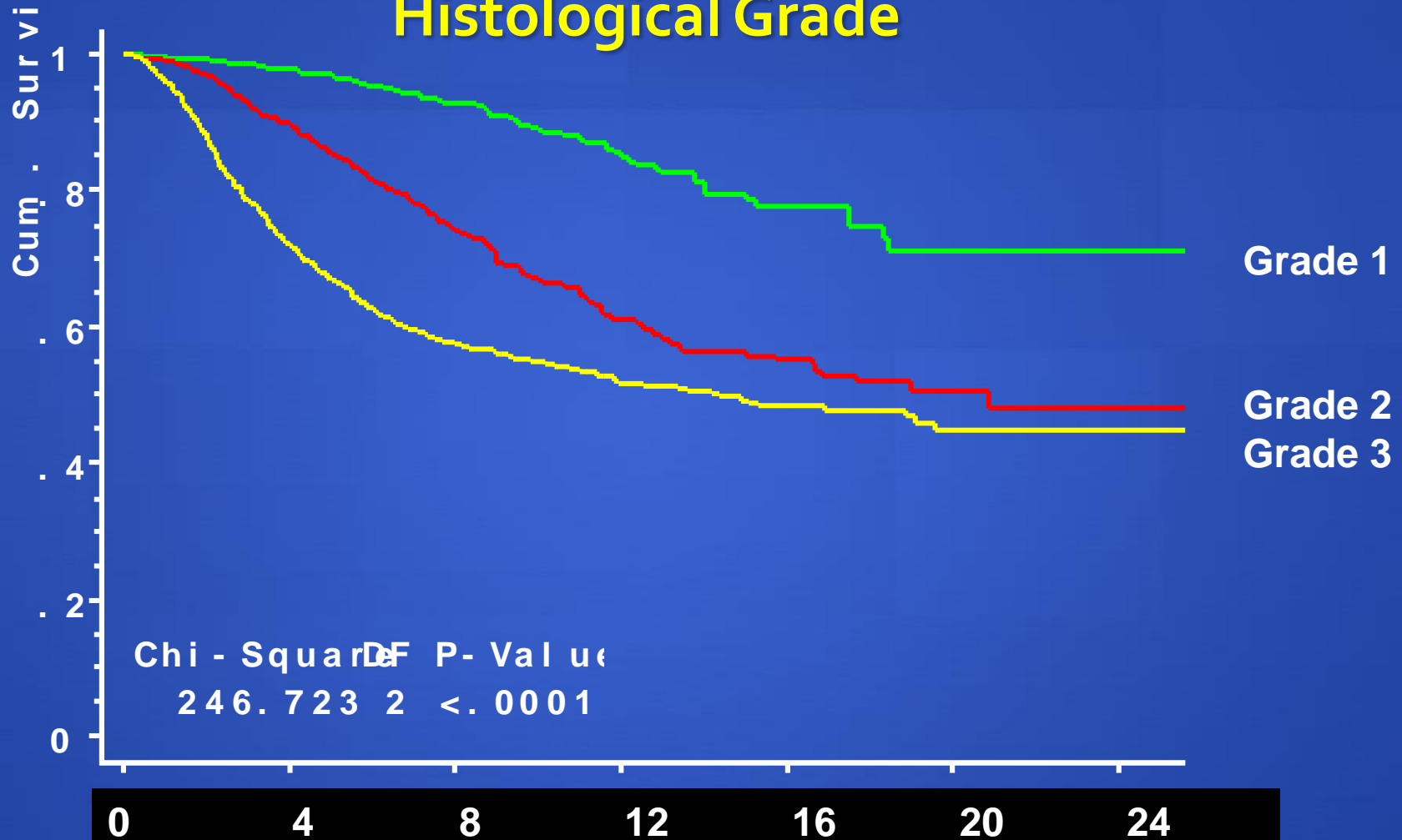
## Tumour Size



Time (years)	0	4	8	12	16	20
2cm or less	2225		750		163	
2.1 - 4cm	1339		391		90	
More than 4cm	168		26		3	

# Nottingham Tenovus Primary Breast Cancer Study

## Histological Grade

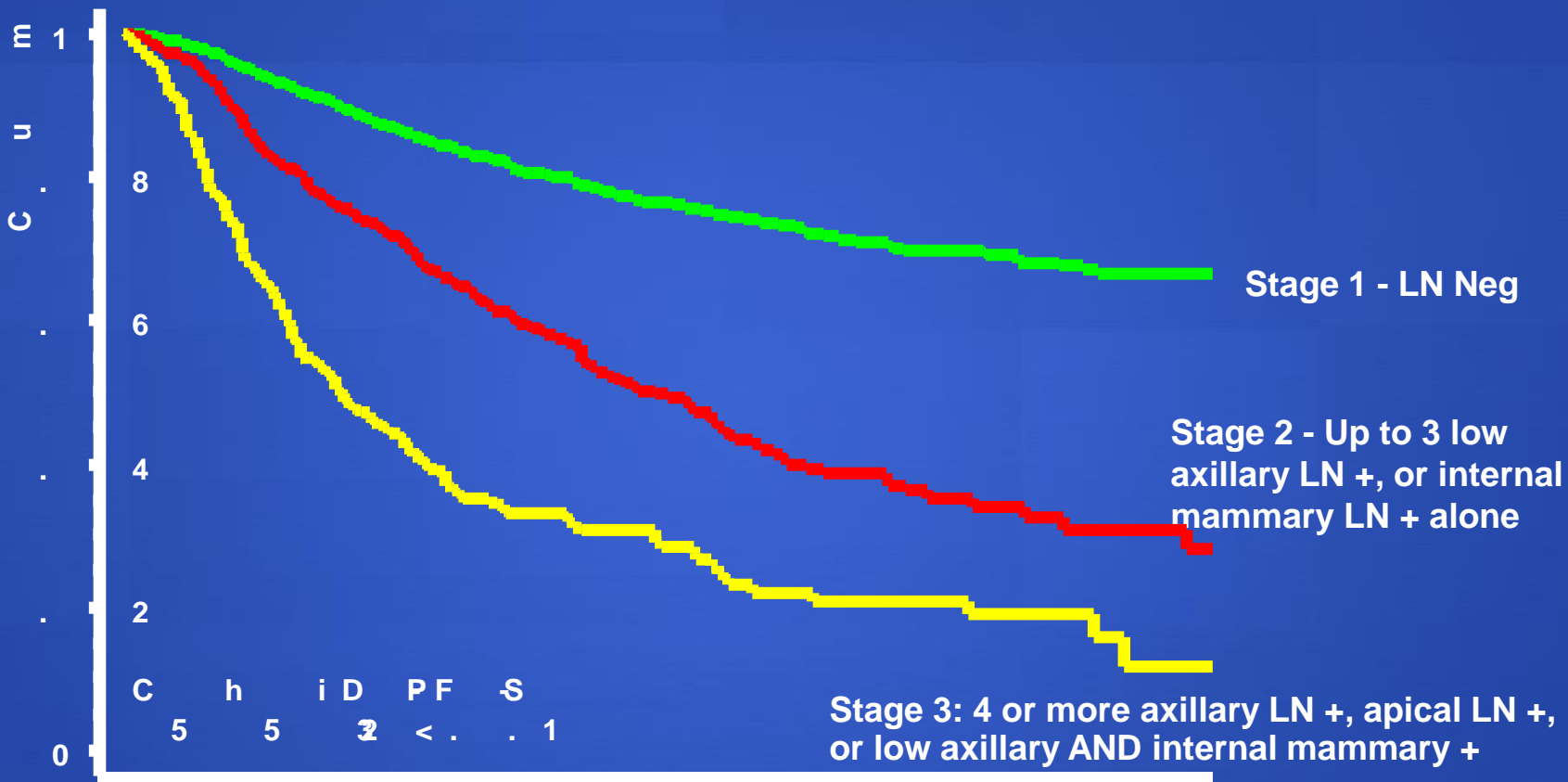


	0	4	8	12	16	20	24	
	712		342		76			Grade 1
	1289		403		82			Grade 2
	1717		414		96			Grade 3

**Time (years)**

# Nottingham Tenovus Primary Breast Cancer Study

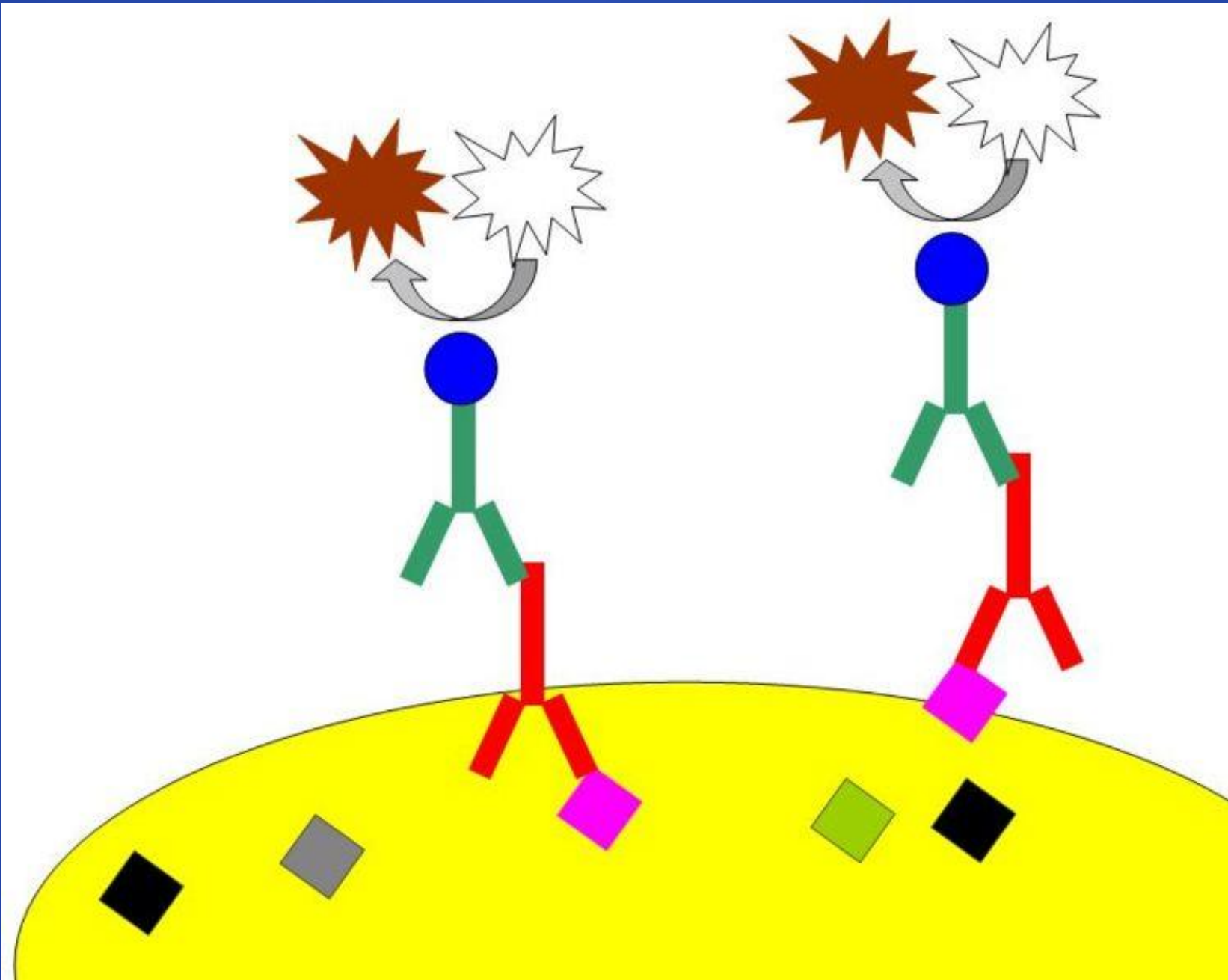
## Lymph Node Stage



Time (years)	0	4	8	12	16	20
Stage 1	2360		909		207	
Stage 2	973		192		34	
Stage 3	385		56		13	

# Predictive Analysis

- Immunohistochemistry
  - ER & HER<sub>2</sub>
- In Situ Hybridisation
  - HER<sub>2</sub> FISH
- Genomic Analysis
  - 21 gene OncoTypeDx assay

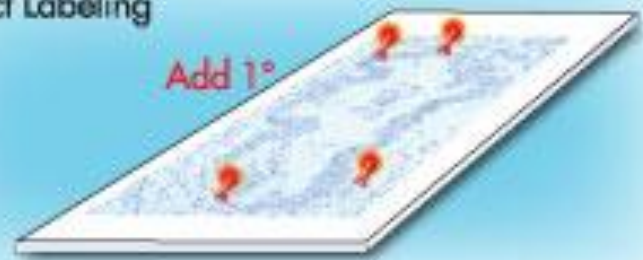


# Immunohistochemistry Process



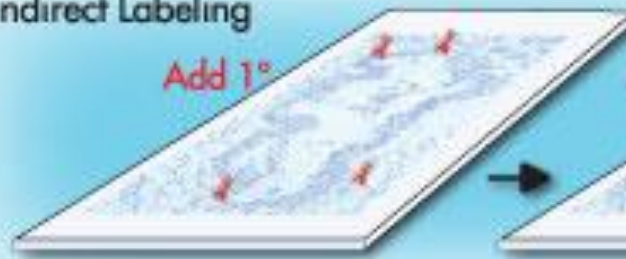
Direct Labeling

Add 1°

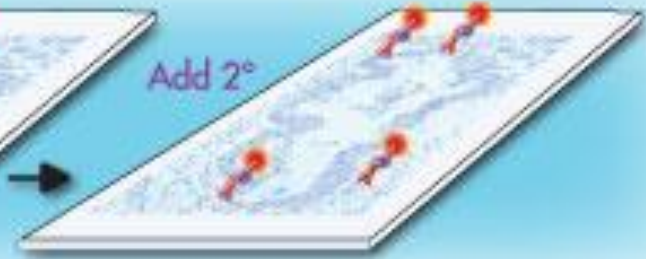


Indirect Labeling

Add 1°



Add 2°

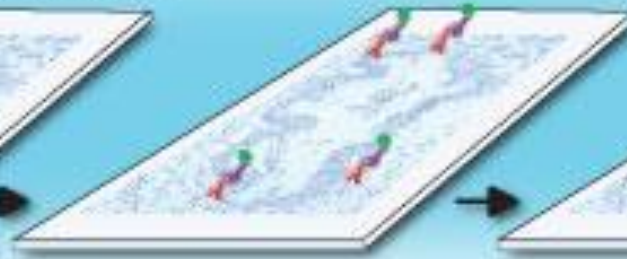


Indirect Labeling with Signal Amplification

Add 1°



Add biotinylated 2° Ab



Add amplifying streptavidin



Immunohistochemistry



In Situ Hybridisation



Microscopic Assessment

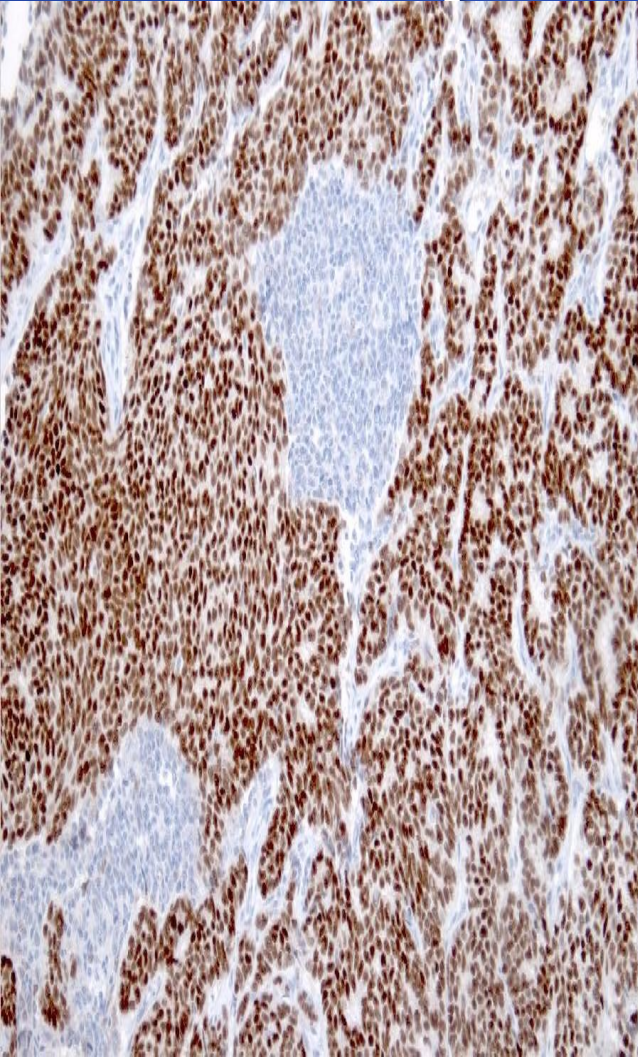


Reporting of Results

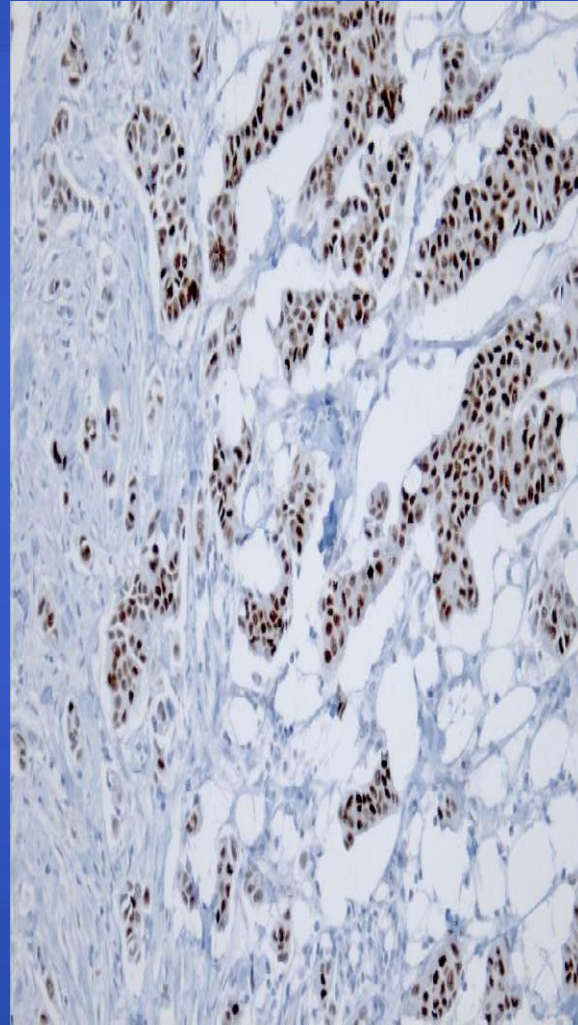


ER

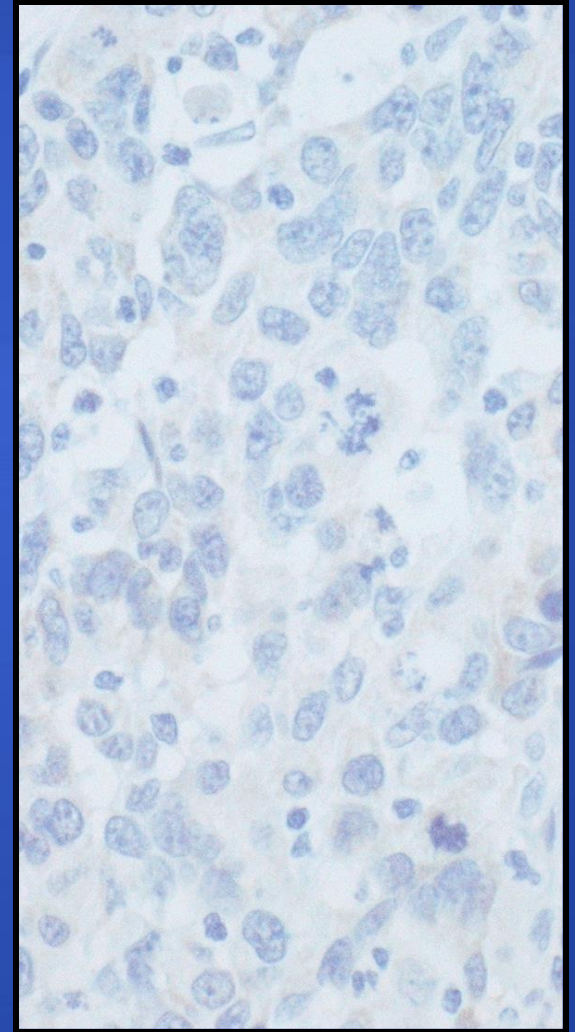
Strong



Medium



Neg





## ER BY IHC IN BREAST CANCER

Patients receiving any endocrine therapy (n = 777)

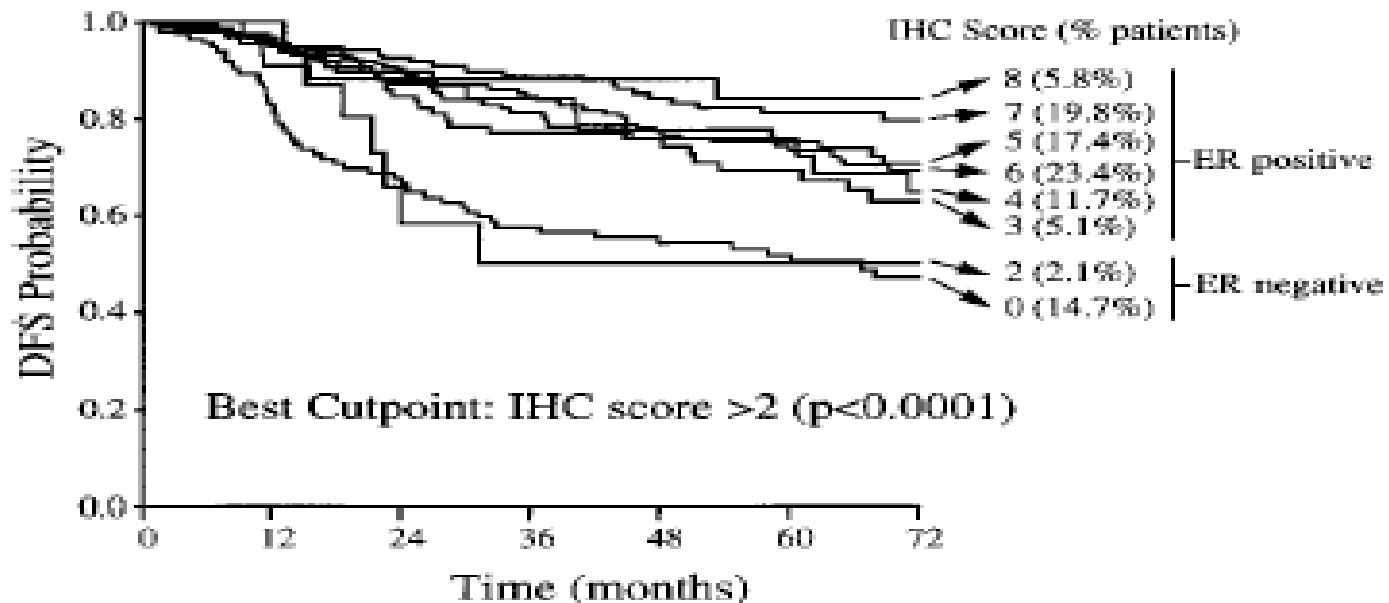
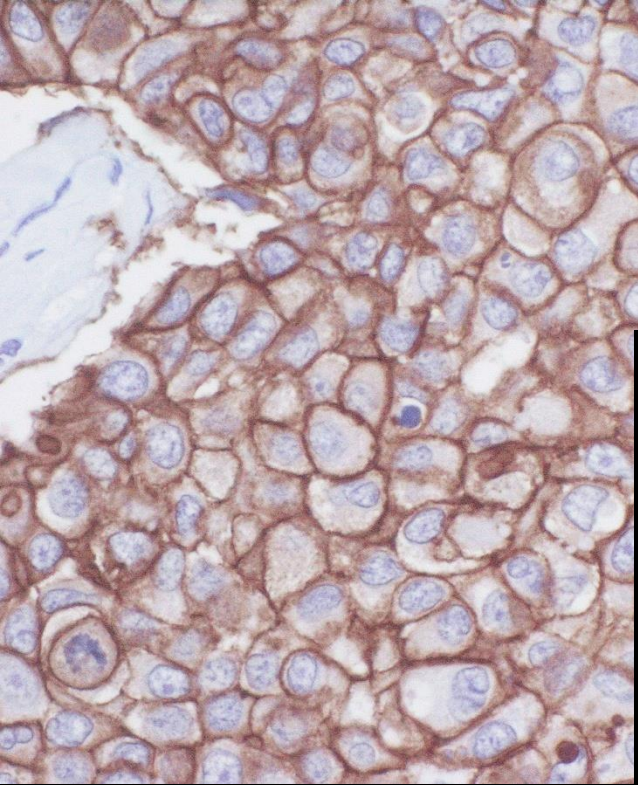
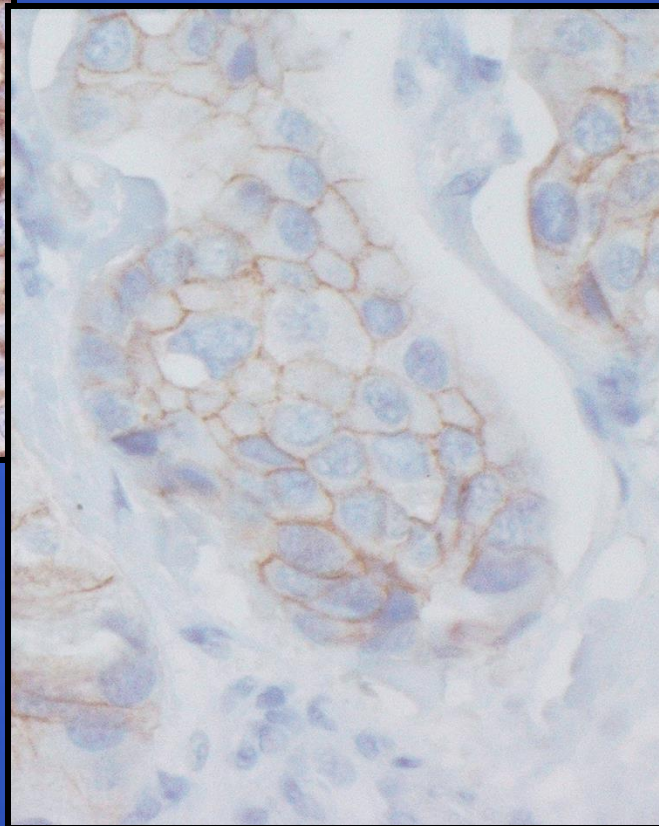


Fig 2. Univariate DFS curves for all possible total IHC scores in patients receiving any adjuvant endocrine therapy (almost always tamoxifen). An IHC score  $> 2$  was the optimal cut point for predicting significantly improved outcome ( $P < .0001$ ), and this value was used to define ER positivity throughout the study.

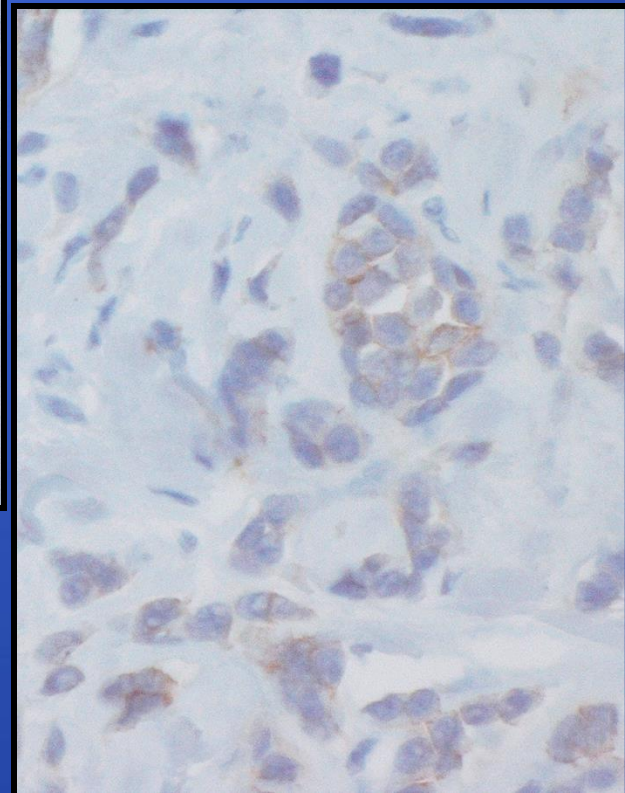


HER2 Positive

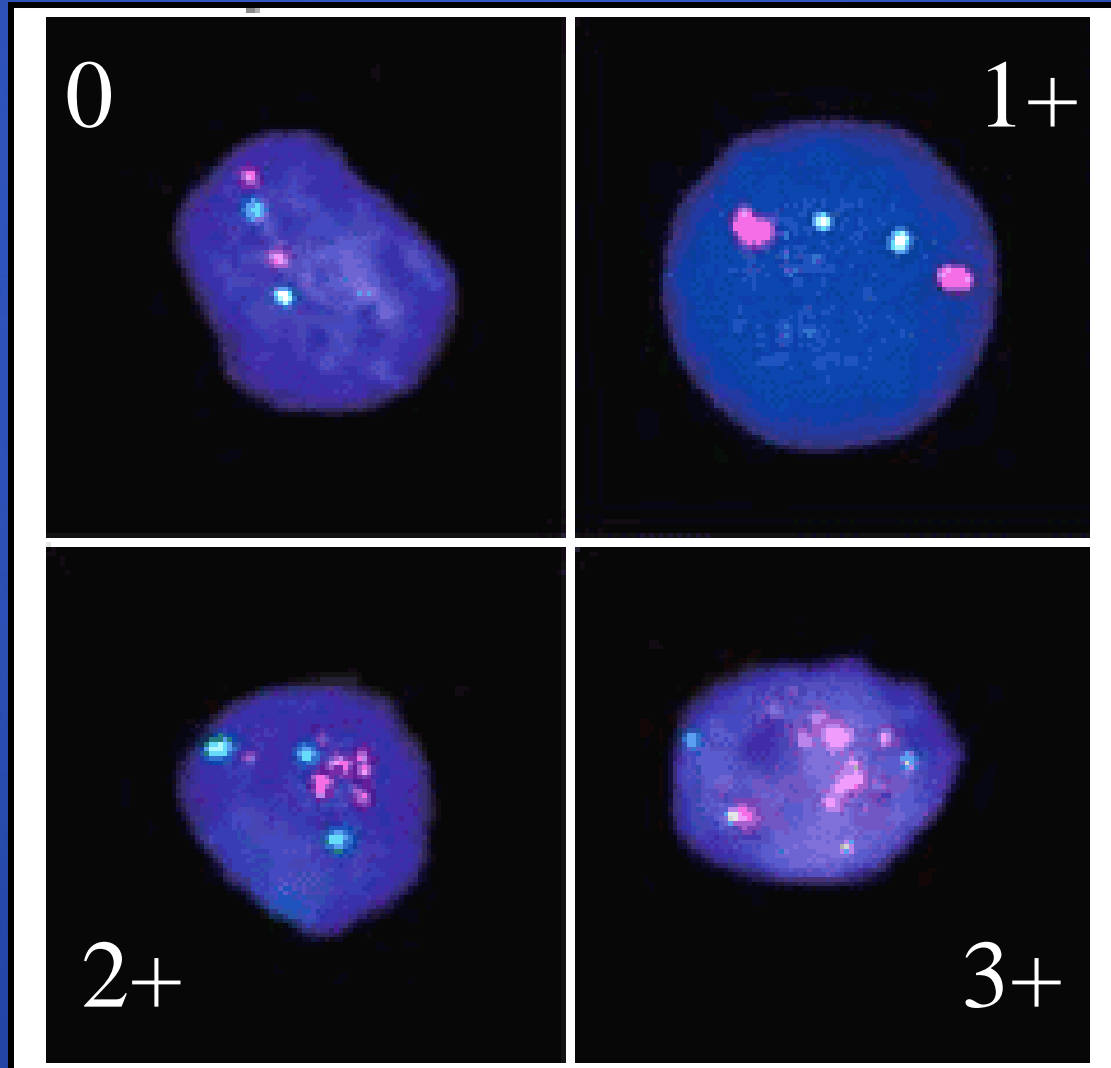


HER2 Negative

HER2 Negative



# FISH for HER2

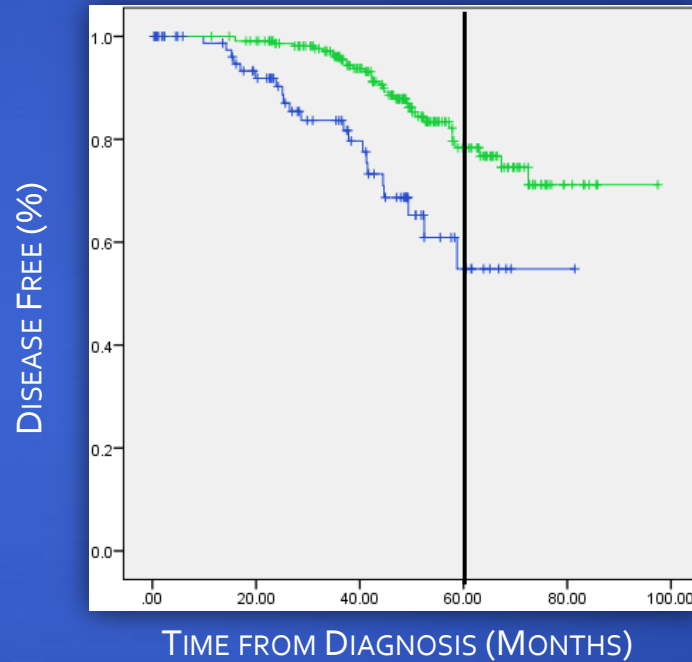
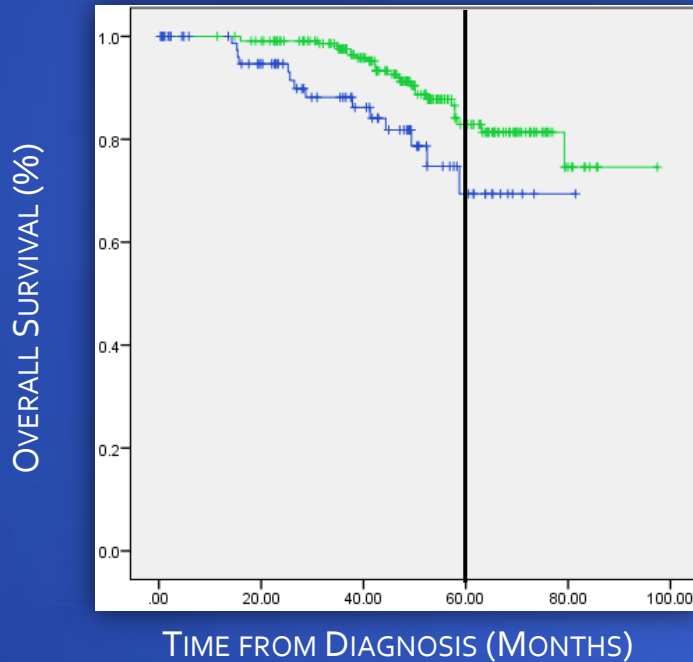


# Response to Herceptin of HER2+ Cancer

## Cardiff Data: 2005-2008

Overall Survival from Diagnosis

Time to Recurrence from Diagnosis



# Oncotype DX<sup>®</sup> 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

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

GSTM1

BAG1

## INVASION

Stromelysin 3  
Cathepsin L2

CD68

## REFERENCE

Beta-actin  
GAPDH  
RPLPO  
GUS  
TFRC

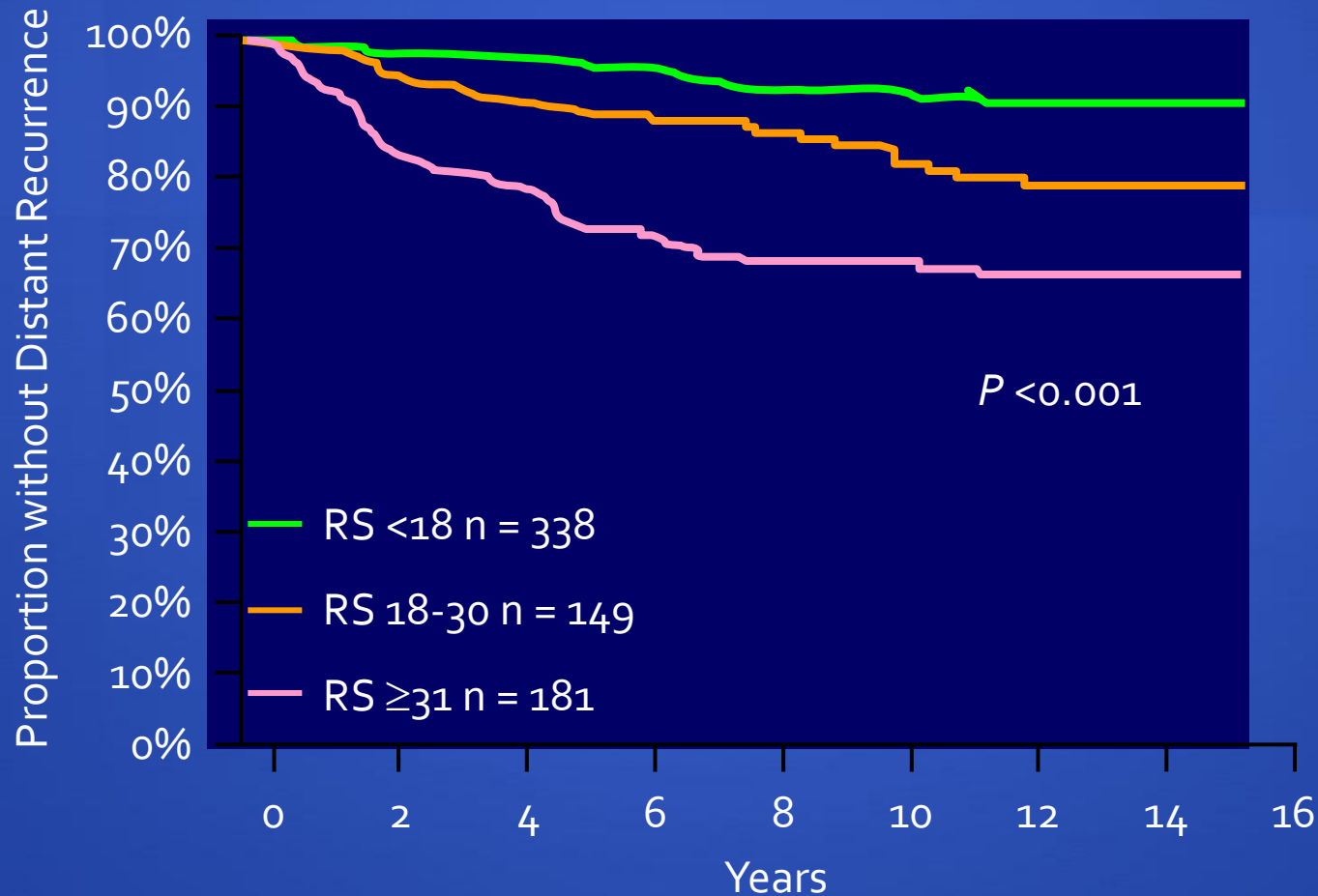
## HER2

GRB7  
HER2

Category	RS (0 -100)
Low risk	RS <18
Int risk	RS 18 - 30
High risk	RS ≥ 31

# Oncotype DX<sup>®</sup> Clinical Validation: B-14 Results – Distant Recurrence

Distant Recurrence for the three distinct cohorts identified





# Quality Assurance of Diagnostic & Prognostic Cancer Biomarking

- Tumour size
- Histological type
- Histological grade
- Lymph node stage
- Vascular invasion
- Excision margins
- In situ component
- **Analysis performed and results reported by pathologists**



# Quality Assurance of Diagnostic & Prognostic Cancer Biomarking: Probable Error Rate

Susan G. Komen for the Cure White Paper: June 2006

- While it is exceedingly difficult to determine the incidence of incorrect breast cancer diagnoses in the United States, our consultants estimate that **the error rate could be as high as 2% to 4%.**
- If accurate, as many as 5,000 to 10,000 patients diagnosed with invasive or in-situ breast cancer each year may have been misdiagnosed and inappropriately treated (Appendix II).
- More than 90,000 people currently living with breast cancer may, in fact, be living (or dying) with an incorrect diagnosis (Appendix II).

# Quality Assurance of Diagnostic & Prognostic Cancer Biomarking

- Training in Pathology (Doctors & Biomedical Scientists)
  - Undergraduate
  - Postgraduate
    - General
    - Sub-specialist
- Continual Professional Development
- External Quality assurance
- Audit

# Quality Assurance of Predictive Breast Cancer Analysis

- **Hormone Receptor**
- **HER2 Receptor**
  - **Performed by biomedical scientists in hospital or private pathology laboratories**
  - **Results interpreted and reported by senior biomedical scientists and/or sub-specialist pathologists**

# Unrecognised Error Rate

- **Hormone Receptor**
- **An official inquiry convened in July 2007**
  - **In Newfoundland and Labrador over 2,000 originally ER-negative cases were retested in another laboratory in Ontario, and nearly 40% were found to be ER-positive**

# Wall Street Journal – Jan 4 2008

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- “We all make the assumption that every test is done well. It turns out that it’s not a correct assumption”
  - Lee Newcomer, a senior cancer doctor

# An Admission by an Expert

- “While far from being scientific, the false-negative rate of IHC testing for both receptors in my consulting practice over the past 10 years is about 30%, which is similar to that of other experienced consulting pathologists I have spoken with on this issue”
- *D. Craig Allred. Commentary: Hormone Receptor Testing in Breast Cancer: A Distress Signal from Canada. The Oncologist 13: 1134-1136, 2008*



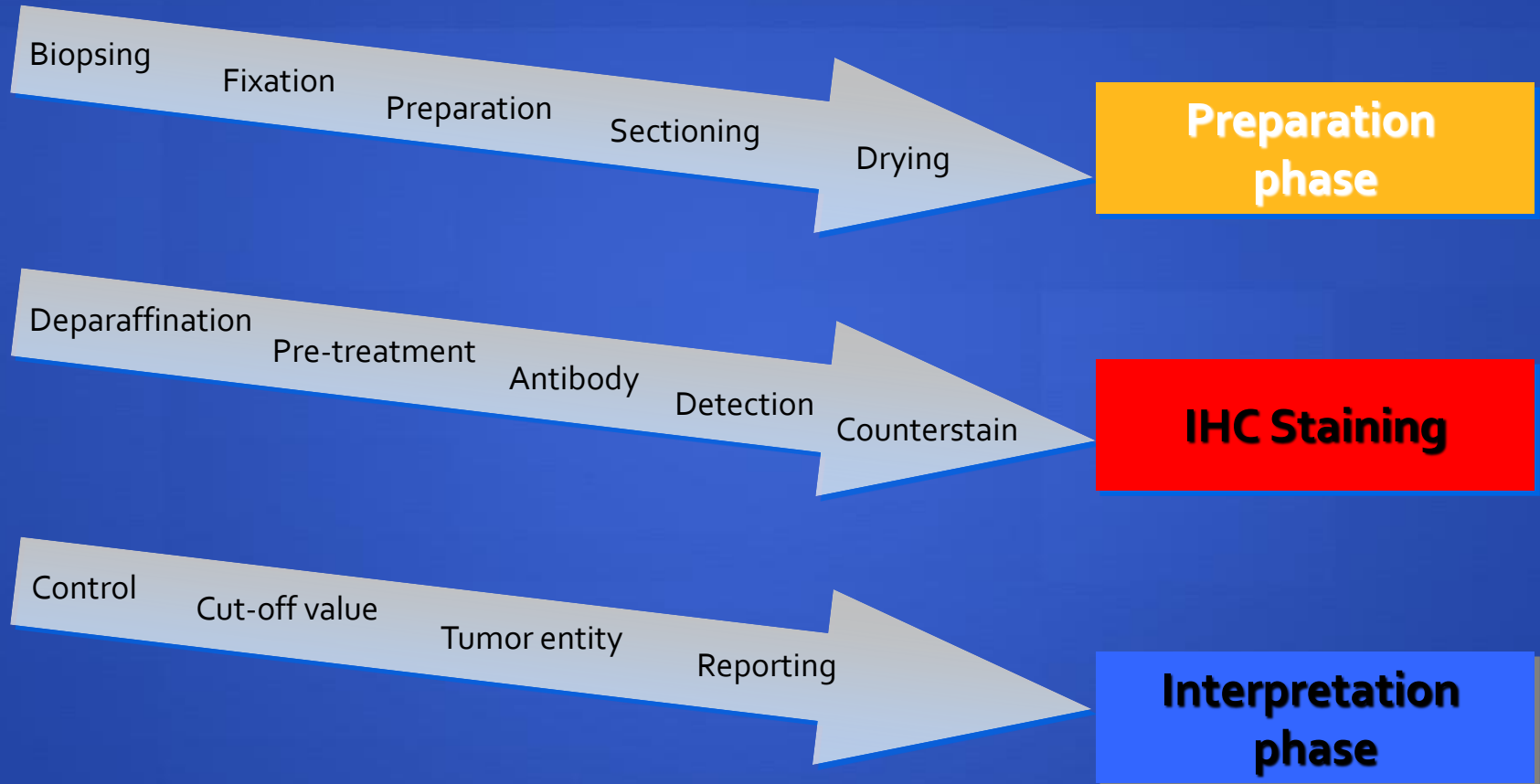
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**How Can We Improve Quality of  
Predictive Biomarking of Breast Cancer ?**



# Standardization?

*4.8 million ways of doing the same thing....*



$3^{14} = 4.8$  mio procedures (assuming 3 choices in 14 steps)

# Optimisation of Methodology

- Pre-analytical
  - Tissue fixation
  - Antigen retrieval
- Analytical
  - Primary antibody specificity & sensitivity
  - Secondary detection system amplification
- Post-analytical
  - Interpretation & objective scoring & reporting

# Challenges to Optimisation of Pre-Analytical Factors

- Quality of tissue preservation
  - Variable delay in fixation
  - Variable quality of fixative
  - Variable penetration of fixative
  - Variable duration of fixation
- Quality of tissue sample
  - Core biopsy vs resection specimen
- Quality of tissue sections
  - Variable and uneven section thickness
  - Variable drying temperature
  - Variable length of storage

# Recommended Solutions

- **Standardisation of Tissue Preservation**
  - **Avoidance of delay in fixation (<30 min)**
  - **Use of appropriate fixative**
    - **4% buffered formalin (pH control)**
  - **Adequate penetration of fixative**
    - **Tissue slicing (5-10 mm)**
  - **Adequate duration of fixation**
    - **6-48h at room temperature**

# Challenges to Optimisation of Analytical Factors

- ▶ **Plethora of Analytical Reagents**
  - ▶ Primary antibodies
  - ▶ Secondary Detection Agents & Systems
- ▶ **Variety of Antigen Retrieval Methods**
  - ▶ Types of antigen retrieval reagents
    - ▶ High pH, Low pH
  - ▶ Modes of antigen retrieval
    - ▶ Microwave ovens, pressure cookers, water baths, auto-stainer platforms

**Table 1** Primary antibody (ER).

Antibody details	<i>N</i>	% (> 10/20)
Biocarta CM 093C (clone 6F11)	1	100
Dakocytomation M7047 ER (clone 1D5)	63	65
Incomplete data	11	36
Lab vision RM 91015 (clone SP1)	31	58
Novocastra NCL-ER 6F11 ER (clone 6F11)	125	77
Neomarkers RM 9101 (clone SP1)	29	76
Microm RM 9101 (clone SP1)	1	100
Ventana 760-2132 ER (clone 6F11)	26	73
Vector VP E614 (clone 6F11)	34	92
Zymed 08 1149 (Clone 1D5)	3	33

**Table 2** Pre-treatment (antigen retrieval).

Pre-treatment	<i>N</i>	%
Incomplete data	12	50
Microwave oven	64	72
Other	1	100
Pressure cooker inside microwave oven	38	74
Pressure cooker	128	77
Water bath, 95–98 °C	24	42
Decloaking chamber	4	75
LabVision pre-treatment module	2	100
Vision Biosystems Protease K	1	100
Vision Biosystems+ER 1	3	67
Vision Biosystems+ER 2	3	100
Vision Biosystems+Dako S3307 buffer	1	0
Ventana benchmark XT	2	100
Ventana benchmark	41	73

**Table 3** Detection system.

Type, supplier and product code	N	%
Biocare STUHRP700L10	1	100
Biogenex LP000-UL	11	91
Biogenex HK 519-06 K HRP	3	100
Biogenex QD420	1	0
Biogenex QD430	5	80
BiocarterBCA HP504 US	1	100
Chemicom HP 1000	2	100
Dakocytomation ChemMate L.St.Av/HRP K5001	51	75
Dakocytomation ChemMate L.St.Av/alk phos K5005	2	50
Dakocytomation ChemMate	52	79
Envision K5007 DAB		
Dakocytomation Duet St. ABC K0492	4	75
Dakocytomation Envision	28	71
K0675		
Dakocytomation St.ABC/HRP	4	75
K0377		
Incomplete data	22	45
Others	5	40
LabVision TS 125 HR	13	54
Vector Elite ABC PK6100	3	100
Vector Elite ABC PK6102	1	0
Vector Elite Universal ABC PK6200	19	89
Vector Elite ABC PK7200	11	64
Ventana iView System	52	69
Ventana basic System 250-2001	16	75
Vision Biosystems D59404	1	100
Vision Biosystems D59713	10	70
Power Vision DPVP999 HRP	1	0
Zymed 85 9043	1	0
Zymed 87 8143	1	100

**Table 4** Chromogen.

Chromogen and supplier	N	%
Biogenex HK-153-5 K DAB	10	90
Biogenex HK-124-9 K DAB	6	100
Biogenex QD430 DAB	3	67
Dakocytomation K3466 DAB	5	80
Dakocytomation K3468 DAB	26	77
Dakocytomation K3465 DAB	4	75
Dakocytomation K5001 DAB	51	75
Dakocytomation K5005 Alk Phos	1	0
Dakocytomation S3000 DAB	1	100
Dakocytomation K5007 DAB	53	79
Dakocytomation Envision	21	62
HD Supplies -4170 DAB	4	75
Other	12	67
Incomplete data	21	48
LabVision TS 125 HR	7	57
Merck New Fuchsin	1	100
Sigma D5637 DAB	7	43
Sigma D5905 DAB	3	67
Vector SK4100 DAB	2	100
Ventana DAB	67	72
Vision Biosystems DAB	10	70
Zymed kits DAB	2	50

**Table 6** Primary antibody (HER-2/neu).

Antibody details	N	%
Amenarini MU 1344 UC (Clone CB11)	2	0
Biogenex MS 730p	1	0
Dakocytomation HerCep Kit K5204	39	92
Dakocytomation HerCep Kit K5205	12	83
Dakocytomation HerCep Kit K5206	10	100
Dakocytomation HerCep Kit K5207	22	82
Dakocytomation A0485 Cerb B2 (Polyclonal)	36	53
Neomarkers RM 9103 (Clone SP3)	1	0
Novocastra NCL-CB11 (Clone CB11)	15	47
Incomplete data	12	83
Ventana 760 2694 CB11(Pathway)	14	64
Zymed 28 003 or 18-107	4	75

**Table 7** Pre-treatment (antigen retrieval).

Pre-treatment	N	%
Water bath, 95–98 °C for 40 min with 20 min cooling	92	85
Incomplete data	13	92
Microwave oven	18	33
Other	1	100
Pressure cooker	19	58
Biocarta Decloaker	1	0
None	2	0
Vision Biosystems ER1	2	50
Ventana Benchmark XT	9	67
Ventana Benchmark	11	64



**Table 8** Detection system.

Type, supplier and product code	N	%
Biogenex Super Sensitive Multi link/HRP LP000-UL	1	100
Biogenex HK519-06 K HRP	1	0
Dakocytomation HerCep Test K5204	40	90
Dakocytomation HerCep Test K5205	9	100
Dakocytomation HerCep Test K5206	10	100
Dakocytomation HerCep Test K5207	21	76
Dakocytomation ChemMate L.St.Av/HRP K5001	9	11
Dakocytomation Envision Plus	8	75
Dakocytomation ChemMate Envision K5007	21	76
Dakocytomation K5005	1	100
Dakocytomation LSAB Kit/HRP K0675	1	100
Dakocytomation K0690	1	100
Incomplete data	17	65
LabVision TA125ML	5	20
Others	2	100
Power Vision DPVB999	2	100
Vector Elite Universal ABC PK6200	2	50
Vector PK7200 (ready to use)	1	0
Ventana IView System	14	64
Ventana PATHWAY	14	64
Vision Biosystems	3	33
Zymed 87 8143	1	100

# Recommended Solutions

- **Use of High Quality Kit Based Reagents**
  - Highest specificity primary antibodies
  - Highest sensitivity secondary detection systems
- **Use of Standardised Antigen Retrieval Platforms**
  - Reliable consistent quality reproducible antigen retrieval
- **Use of semi-automation (e.g. Dako PT-Link) or full automation (e.g. Ventana Benchmark)**

# Use of clinically validated assay systems

- HercepTest and HER2 FISH pharmDx was used in clinical trials for use of Herceptin in breast cancer.
- 5+ million tests performed worldwide since launch in 1998
- HercepTest has also been used in gastric cancer clinical trial (ToGA)



3+ HercepTest result

# Challenges to Optimisation of Post- Analytical Factors

- Variation in approach to microscopic examination
  - Use of different objective lens power
  - 'hot' spot vs random vs total tumour area analysis
- Variation in method of scoring
  - H-Score vs Quick Score
- Variation in thresholds for negative results
  - <1% vs <10%; Allred 0-1 vs 0-2

# Recommended Solutions: I

- Use of Optimised Protocols
  - Microscopic examination
  - Interpretation
  - Scoring
  - Reporting
- Evidence based consensus guidelines for scoring
- Clinically validated thresholds for reporting positive and negative results

# Recommended Solutions: II

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**Frequent Effective Evaluation of the  
Performance via Participation in  
External Quality Assurance Schemes**

# Participation in External Quality Assurance Scheme: UK National External Quality Assurance Scheme (UKNEQAS)

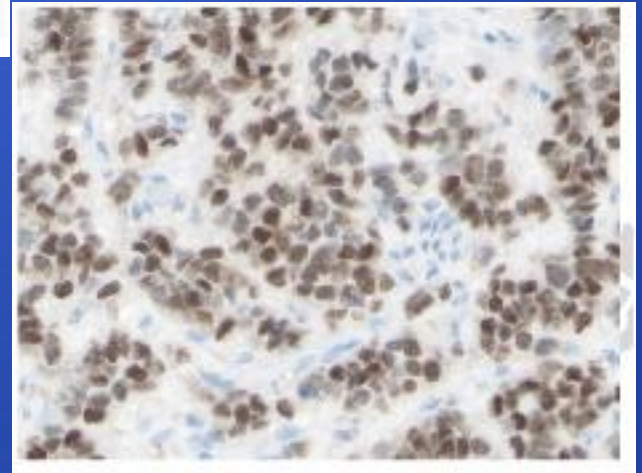
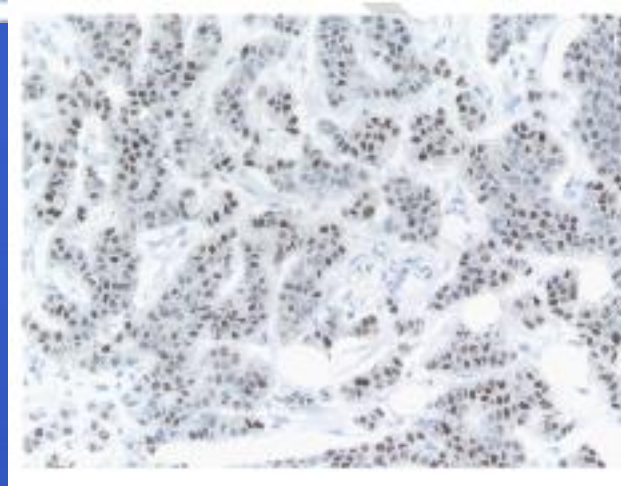
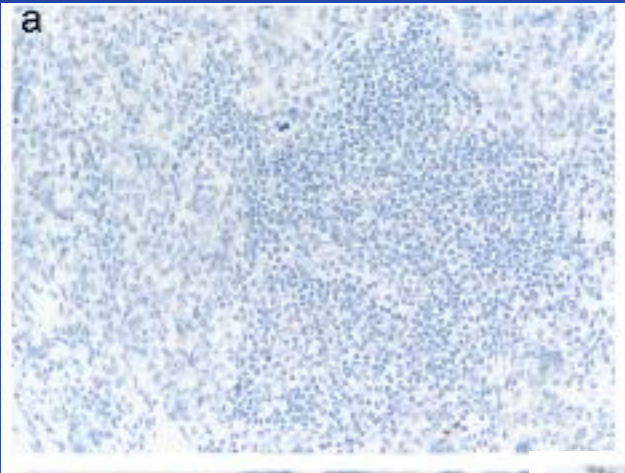


## Headquarters in London

- >5000 Slides per run
- 4 Weeks of assessments
- 1-2 days depending on module
- 4 assessors & 1 driver

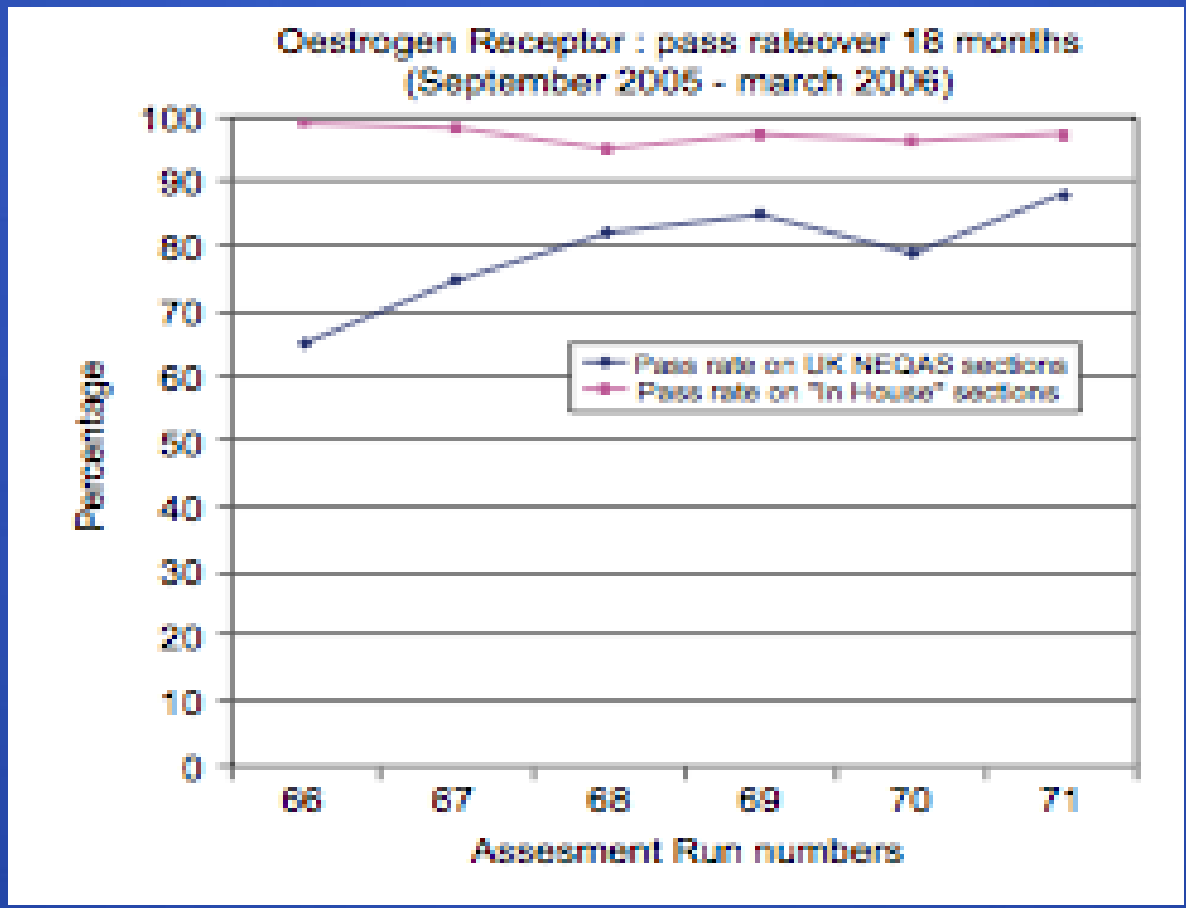


# UKNEQAS Tissue Section Controls for ER

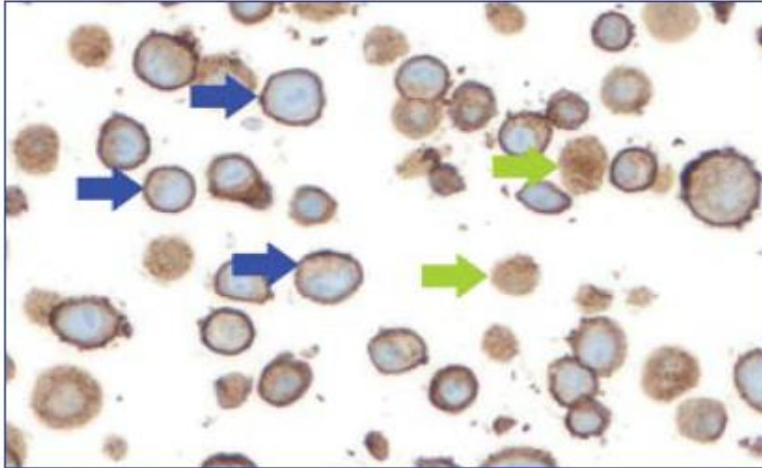




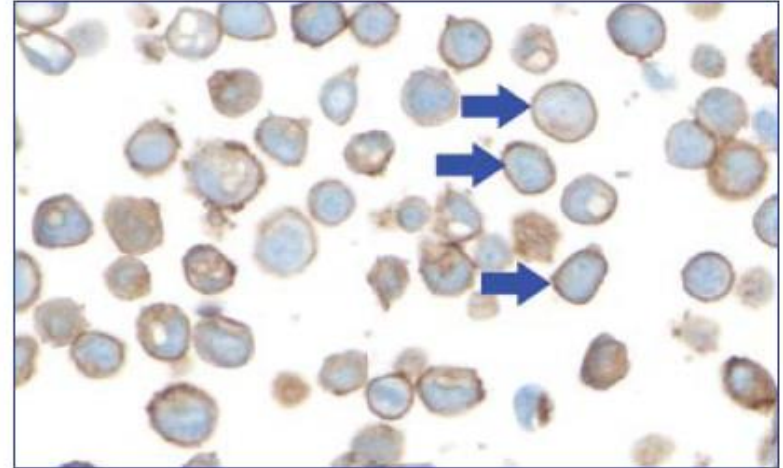
# Improvement in Performance on External Control Samples



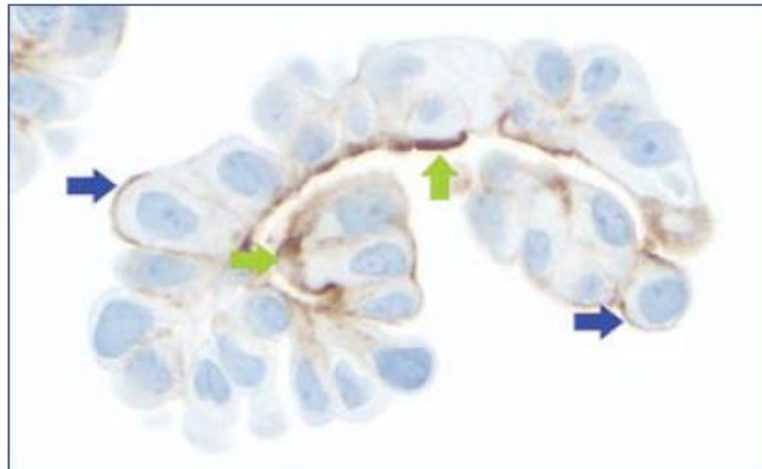
## UK NEQAS HER-2 CELL LINES



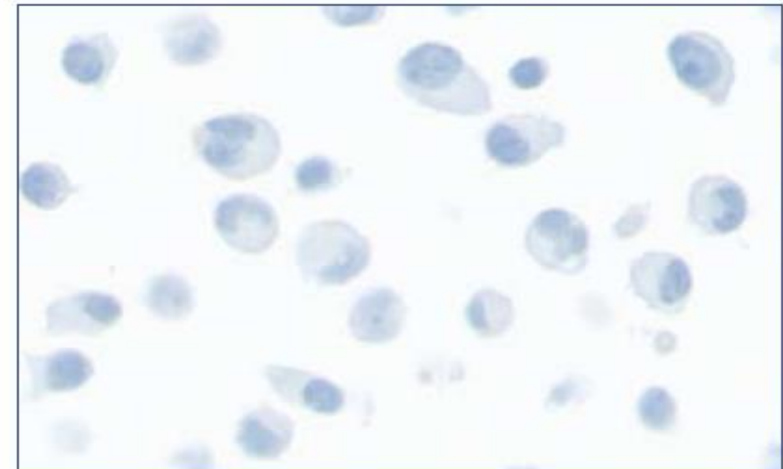
**Plate 14.** UK NEQAS-ICC cell line SK-BR3 (3+).



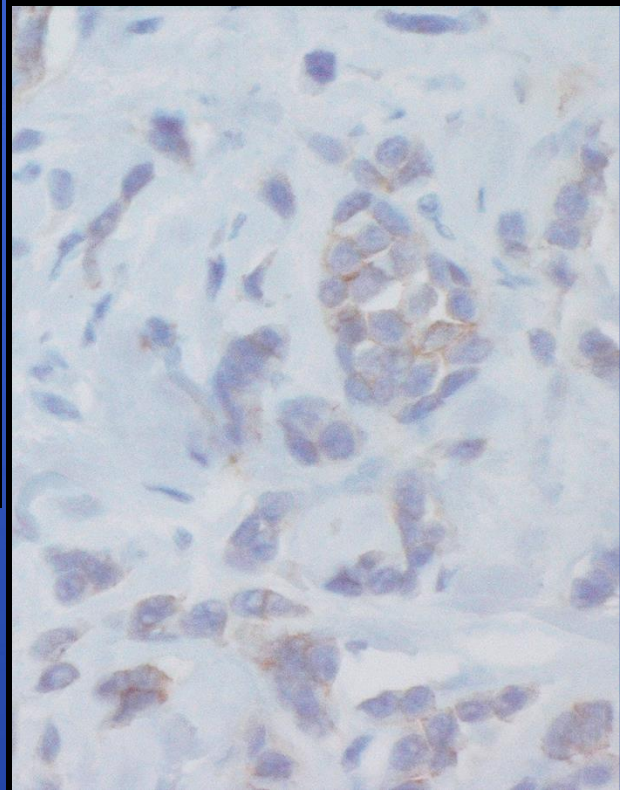
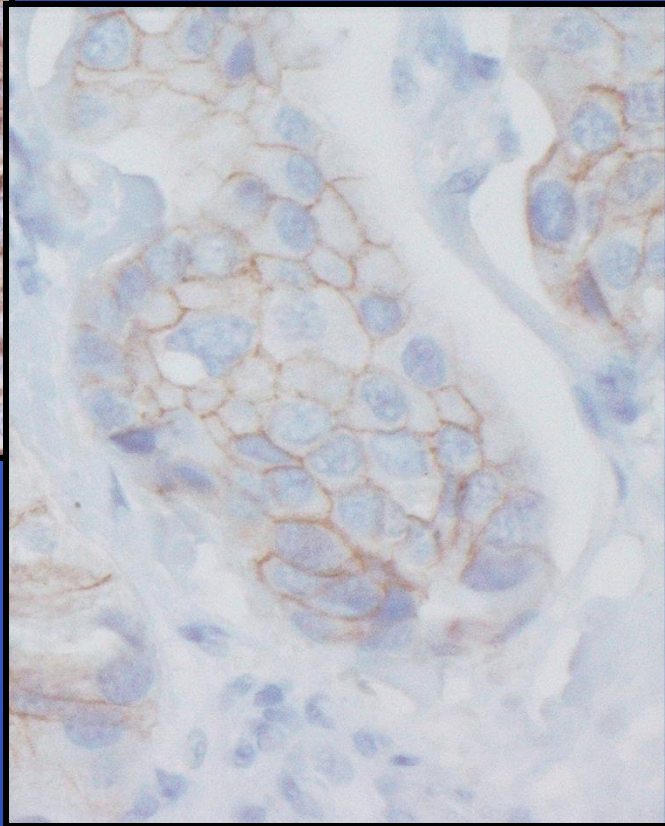
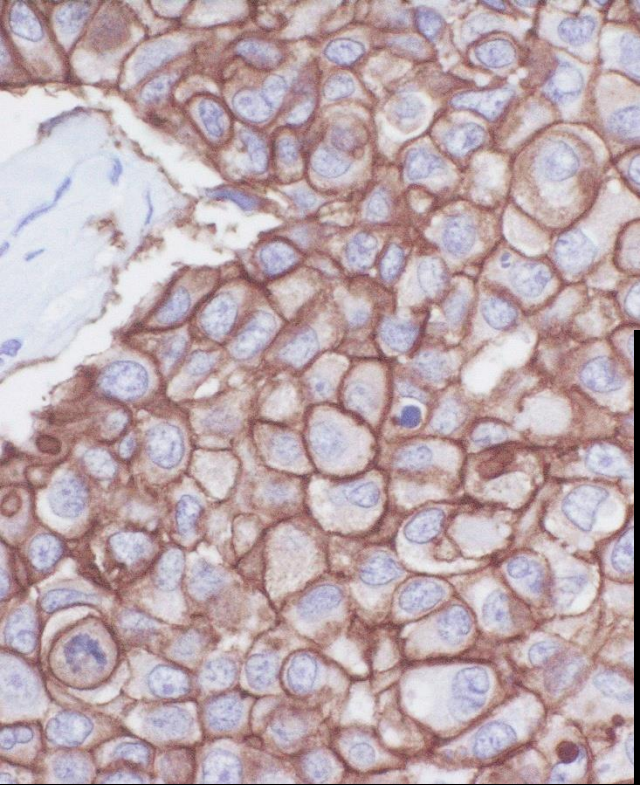
**Plate 15.** UK NEQAS-ICC cell line MDA-MB-453 (2+).



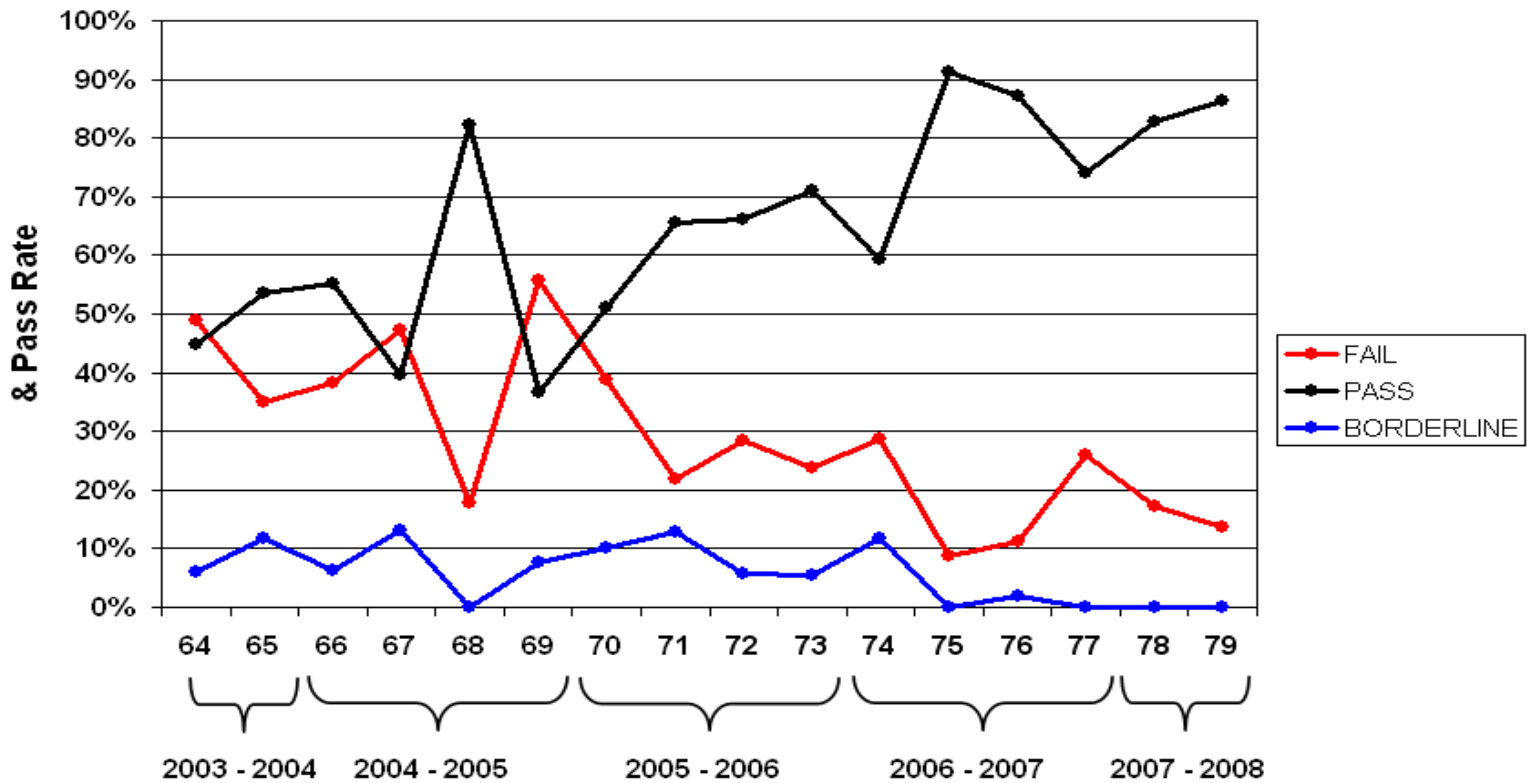
**Plate 16.** UK NEQAS-ICC cell line MDA-MB-175 (1+).



**Plate 17.** UK NEQAS-ICC cell line MDA-MB-231 (0).

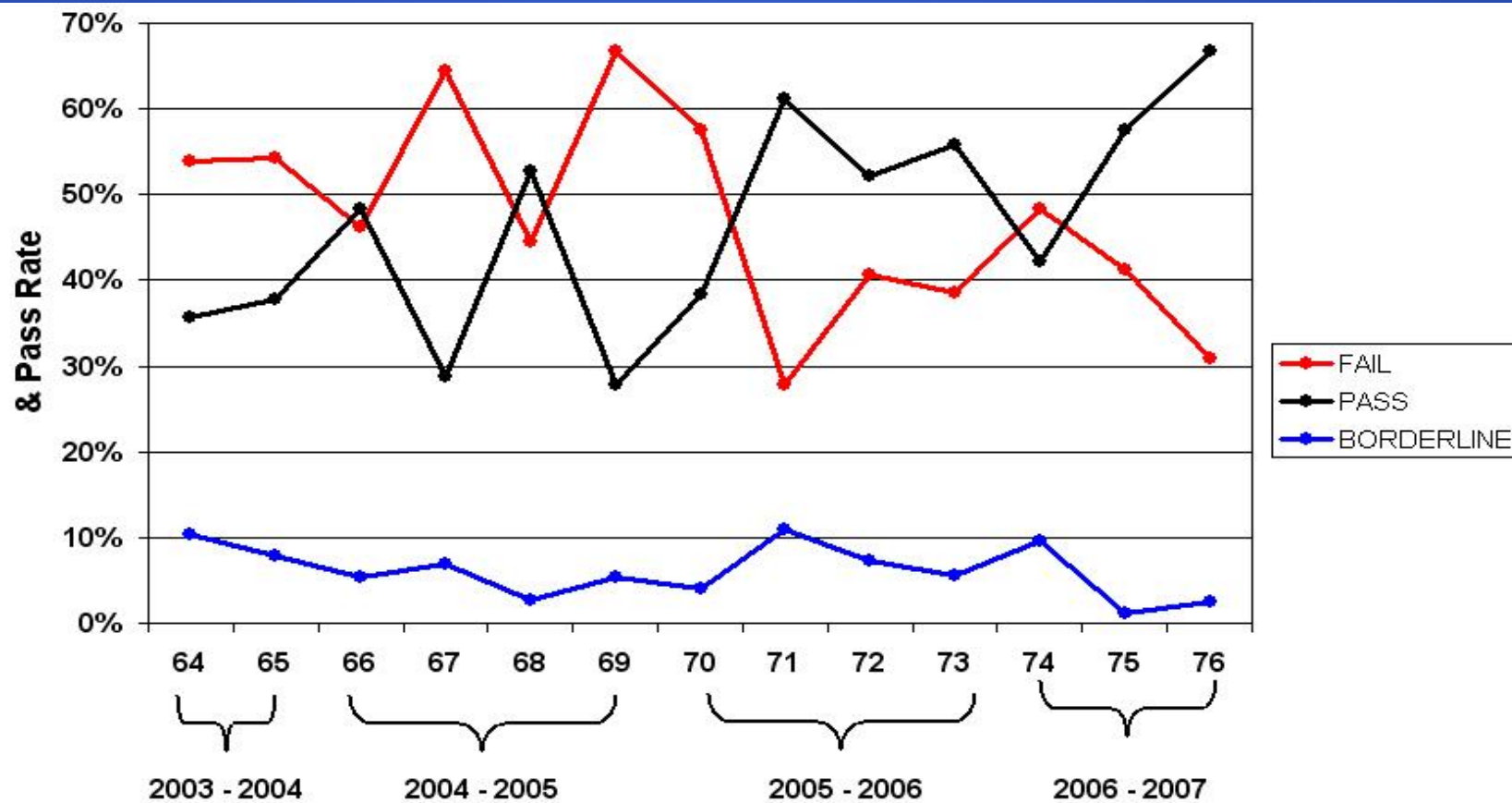


## UK NEQAS Updated HER-2 Pass Rates: Data From UK only (2003- present)

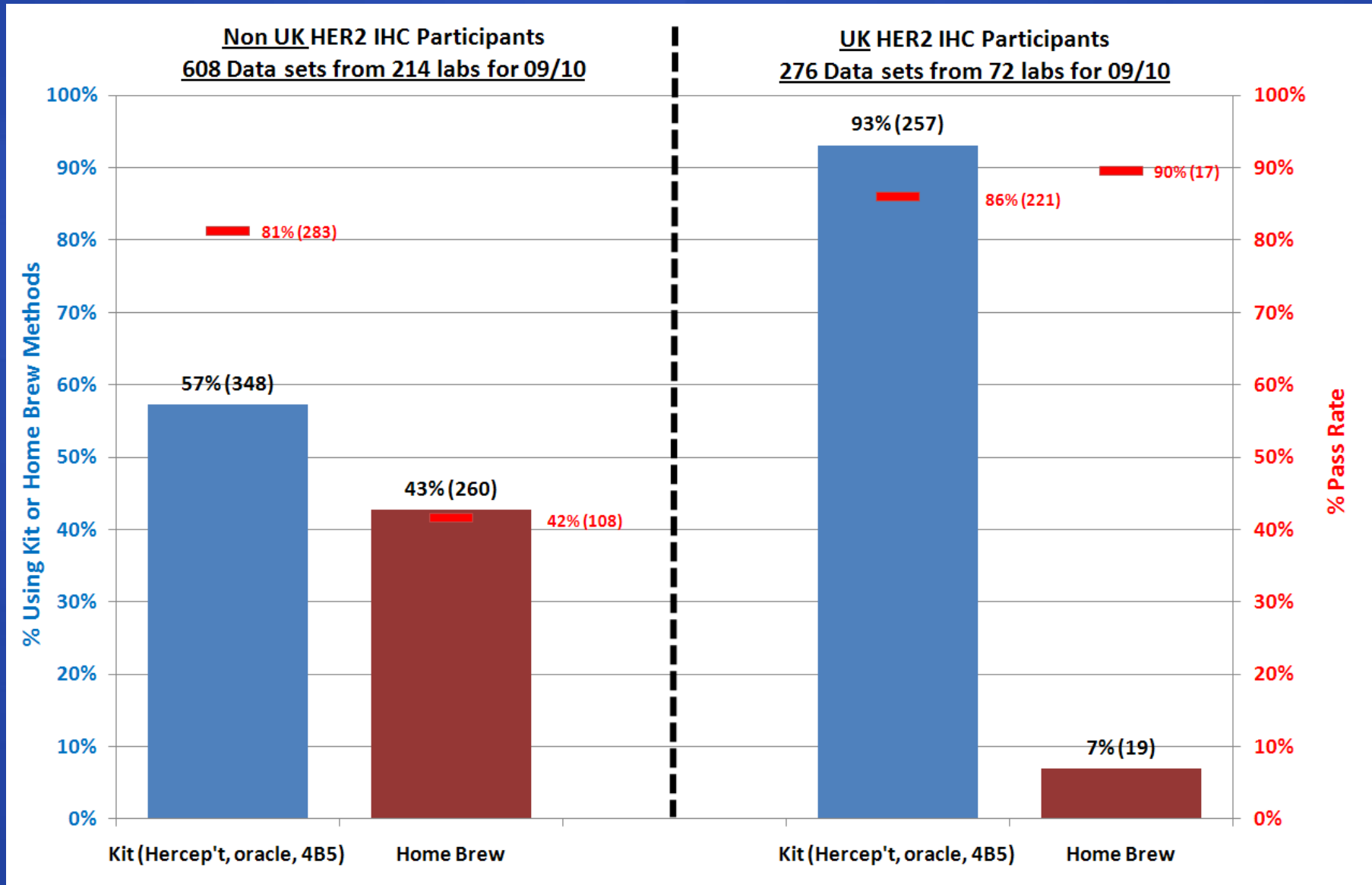


- UK labs have to pass the NEQAS assessments to be accredited (CPA)

## HER-2 Assessment Pass Rates: Data From 36 countries - UK & Overseas



# Standardised Kit or Home Brew Method?



# Conclusion

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- **Quality of analytical performance can be improved through:**
  - **Use of recommended optimised kit based reagents and methods**
  - **Regular participation in External Quality Assurance Schemes**





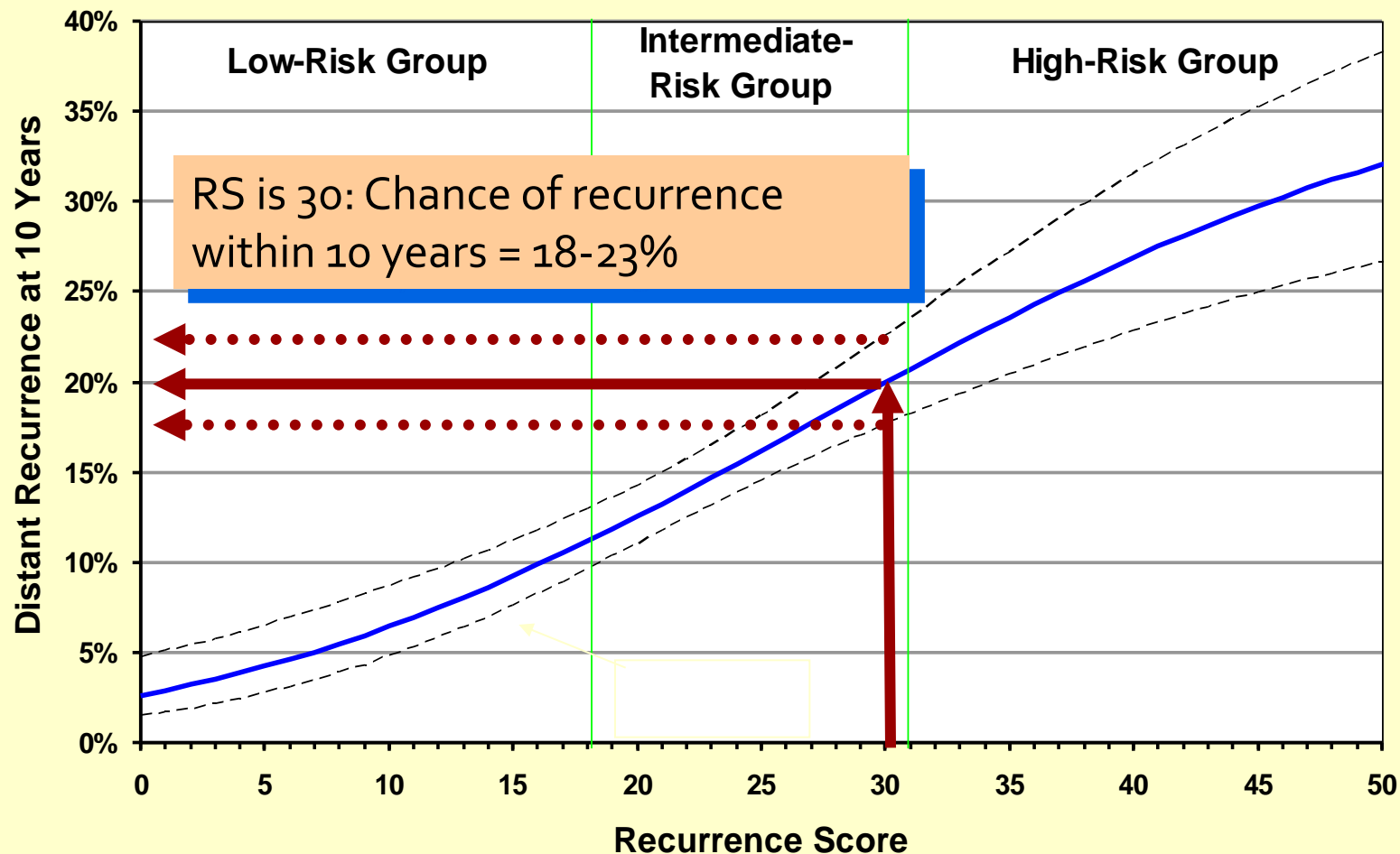
Рахмет / Rakh-met

Спасибо / Spasibo

Thank You

Bharat.jasani@nu.edu.kz

# Oncotype DX<sup>®</sup> Clinical Validation: RS as Continuous Predictor



# Adjuvant! for Breast Cancer (Version 8.0)

## Patient Information

Age:

Comorbidity:

ER Status:

Tumor Grade:

Tumor Size:

Positive Nodes:

Calculate For:

10 Year Risk:

## Adjuvant Therapy Effectiveness

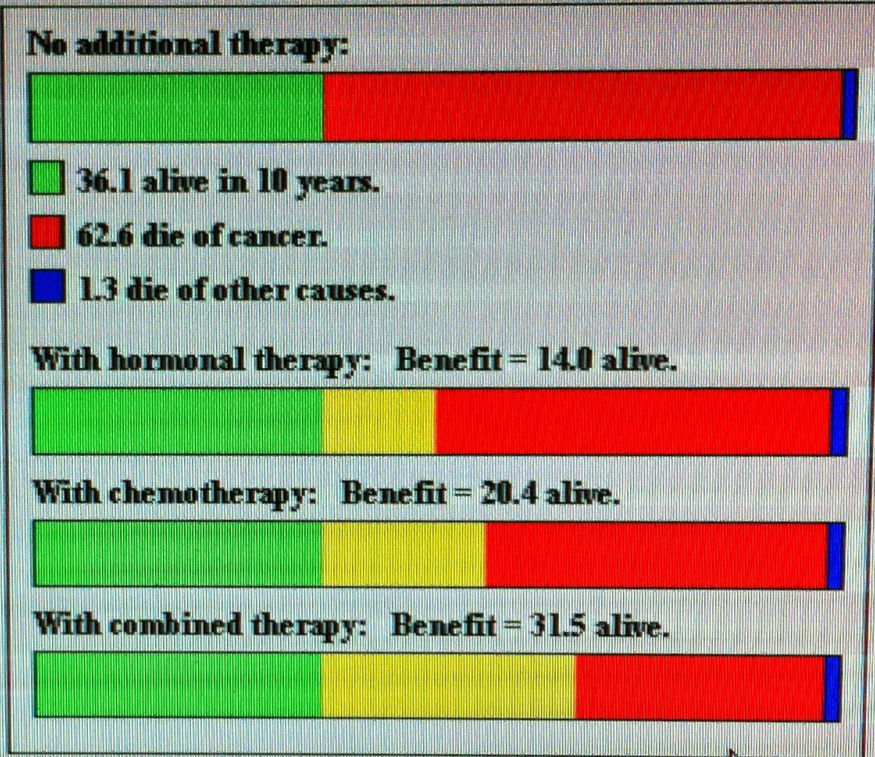
Horm:

Chemo:

Hormonal Therapy:

Chemotherapy:

Combined Therapy:



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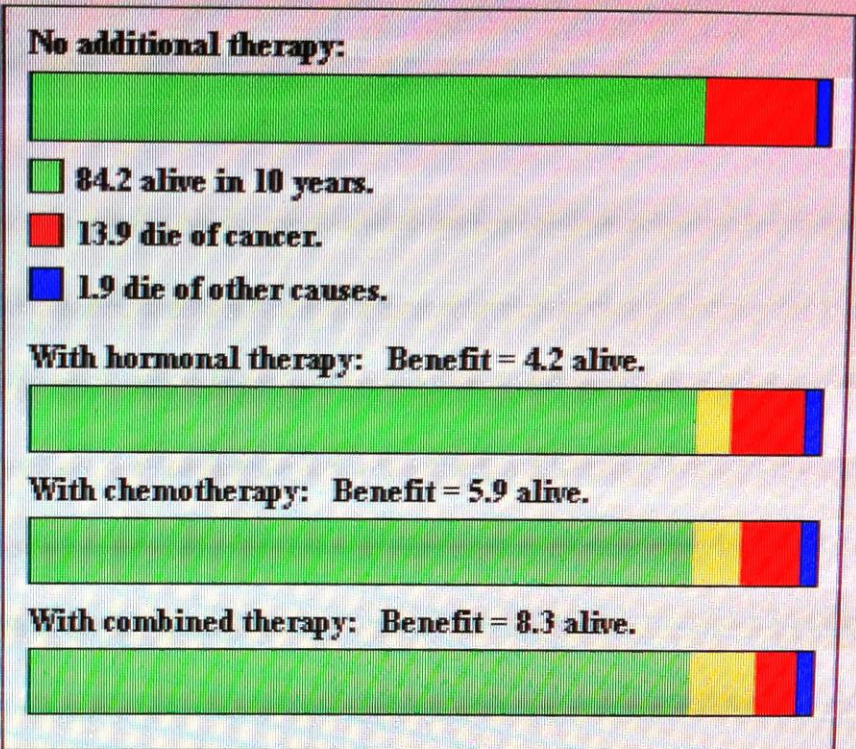
Horm:

Chemo:

Hormonal Therapy:

Chemotherapy:

Combined Therapy:



[Print Results PDF](#)

[Access Help and Clinical Evidence](#)

[Images for Consultations](#)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (Breast Cancer)

Age: 61    General Health: Good

Estrogen Receptor Status: Positive    Histologic Grade: 2

Tumor Size: 0.1 - 1.0 cm    Nodes Involved: 0

Chemotherapy Regimen: CMF-Like (Overview 2000)

Decision: No Additional Therapy



 88 out of 100 women are alive in 10 years.

 3 out of 100 women die because of cancer.

 9 out of 100 women die of other causes.

Decision: Hormonal Therapy



 1 out of 100 women are alive because of therapy.

Decision: Chemotherapy



 Less than 1 out of 100 women are alive because of therapy.

Decision: Combined Therapy



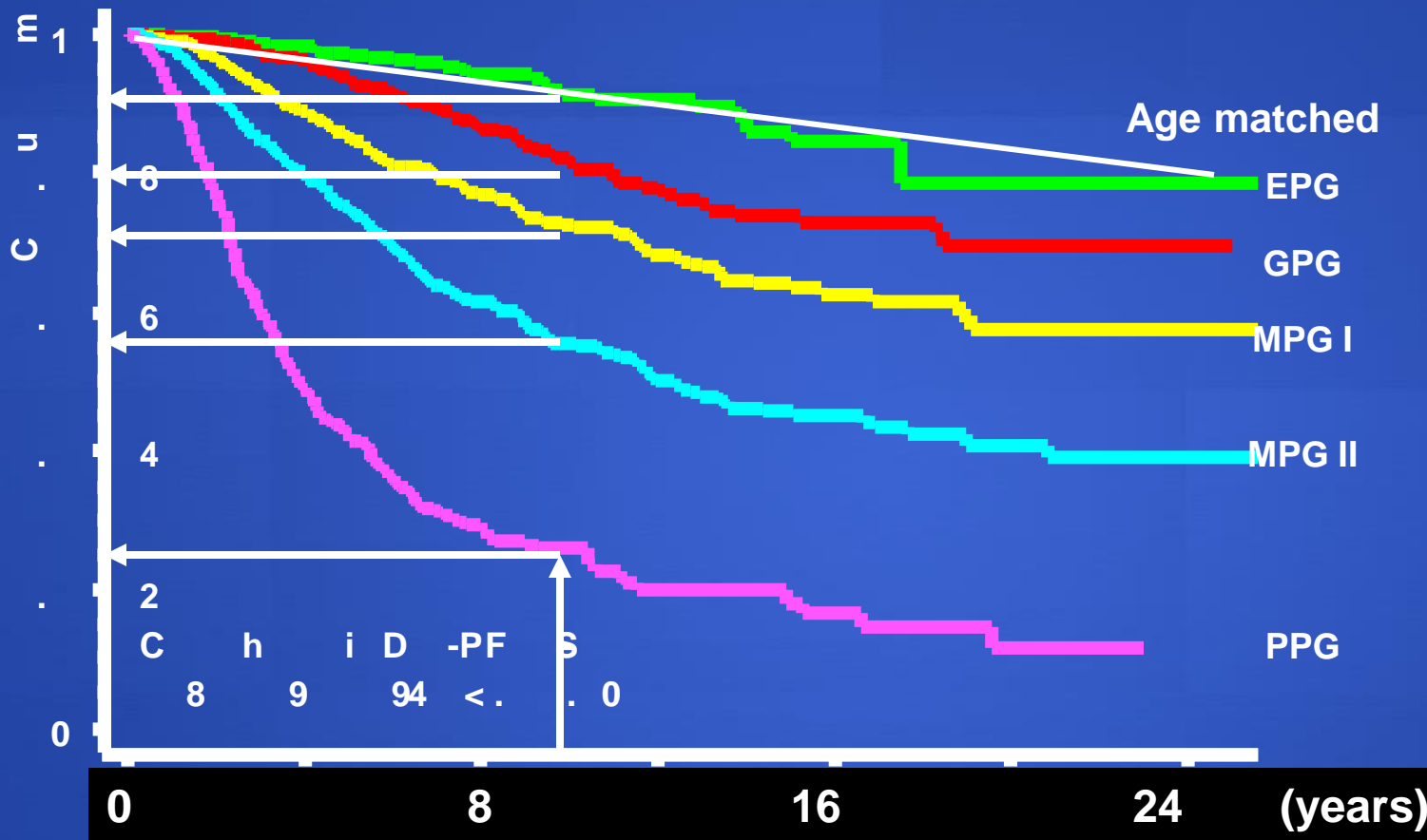
 1 out of 100 women are alive because of therapy.

# Nottingham Prognostic Index

$$\begin{aligned} \text{NPI} = & \quad 0.2 \times \text{size (cm)} \\ & + \text{lymph node stage (1, 2, 3)} \\ & + \text{grade (1, 2, 3)} \end{aligned}$$

# Nottingham Primary Breast Cancer Study

## Nottingham Prognostic Index



0	8	16	24	(years)
475	223	46	T	EPG I
744	289	69		GPG
1001	339	68		MPG I
891	241	61		MPG II
590	57	9		PPG