



Progetto CANOA

# CARCINOMA MAMMARIO: QUALI NOVITA' PER IL 2024?

"Saper leggere" uno studio clinico per migliorare la pratica clinica



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Verona, 22-23 Marzo 2024  
Hotel Leon d'Oro

Immunoterapia e carcinoma  
mammario:  
quali evidenze dalla letteratura?

Quali indicazioni  
per la pratica clinica?

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Istituto Europeo di Oncologia  
Milano



# Declaration of Interests

Emilia Montagna

Institutional financial interests with commercial entities:

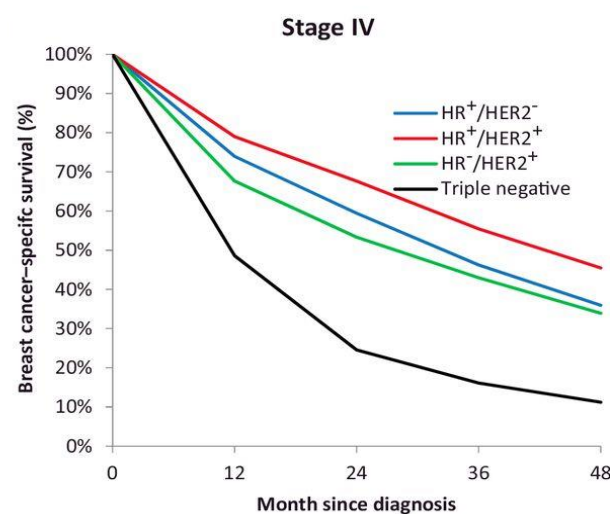
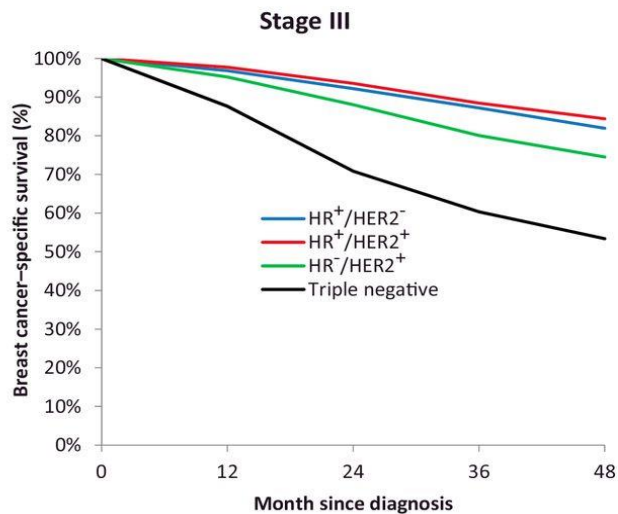
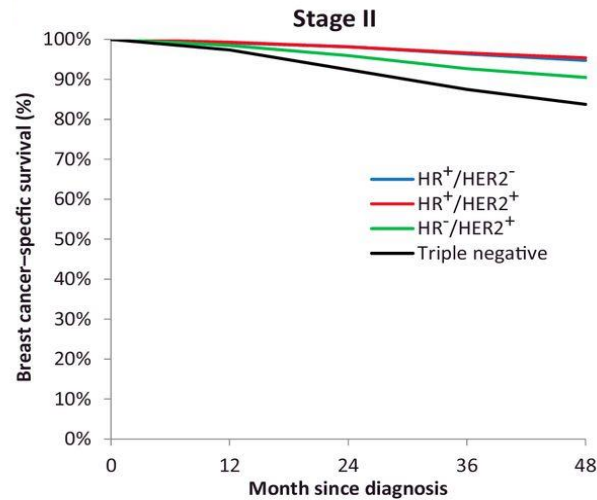
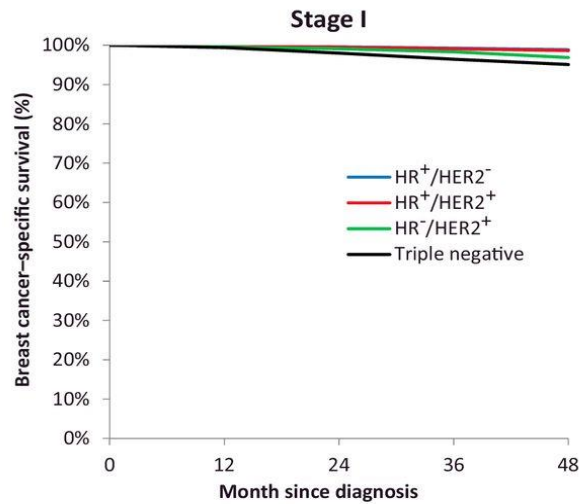
- Novartis
- Pierre fabre
  
- **No personal financial interests with any commercial entity**

# Agenda

- Evidenze nel tumore mammario TN



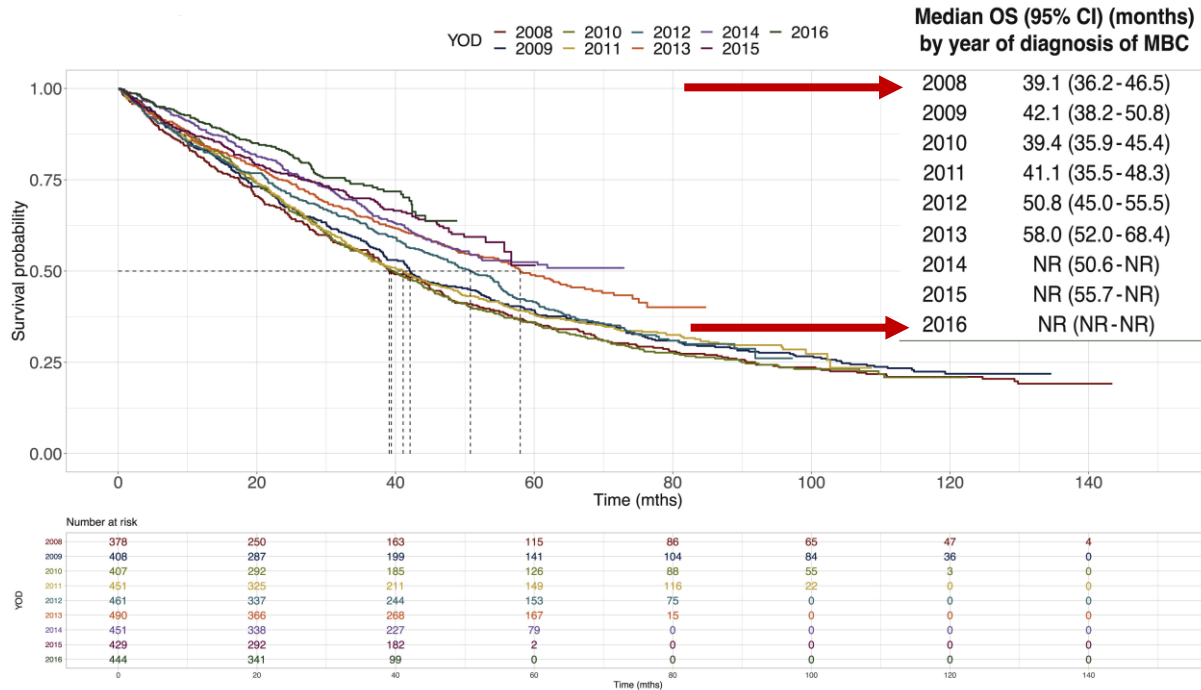
# TNBC IS THE MOST LETHAL BREAST CANCER SUBTYPE



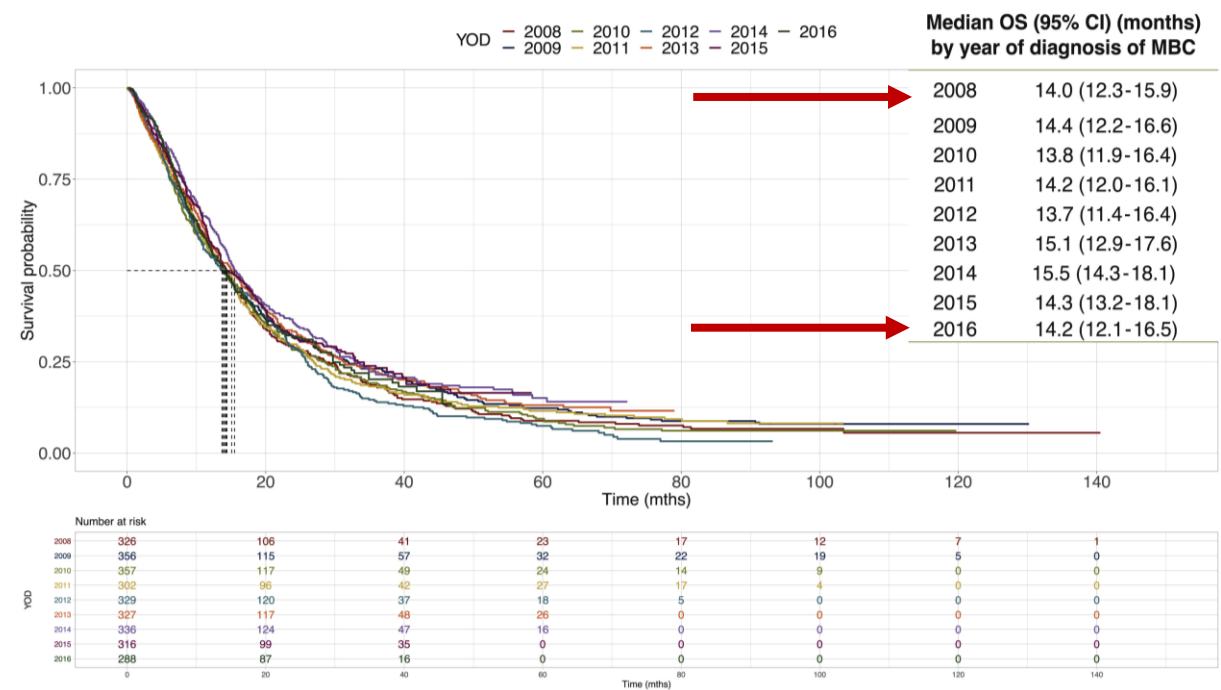
- Breast cancer-specific survival is significantly worse in TNBC compared to other subtypes
- This is much more evident in stage III and IV diseases

# No major survival improvements for tnbc in the last decade

## Overall survival - HER2+



## Overall survival - TNBC



Median overall survival of TNBC from the onset of metastasis is <18 months

Few years ago...

## Current Treatment Options for Metastatic TNBC

- Sequential single-agent chemotherapy is the preferred approach for most pts with metastatic TNBC
  - Combination chemotherapy can be used for pts requiring more rapid response but does not improve OS

Taxanes	Anthracyclines	Antimetabolites	Other Microtubule Inhibitors	Platinum Agents
⑩ Paclitaxel ⑩ Nab-paclitaxel ⑩ Docetaxel	⑩ Doxorubicin ⑩ Pegylated liposomal doxorubicin ⑩ Epirubicin	⑩ Capecitabine ⑩ Gemcitabine	⑩ Vinorelbine ⑩ Eribulin ⑩ Ixabepilone	⑩ Carboplatin ⑩ Cisplatin

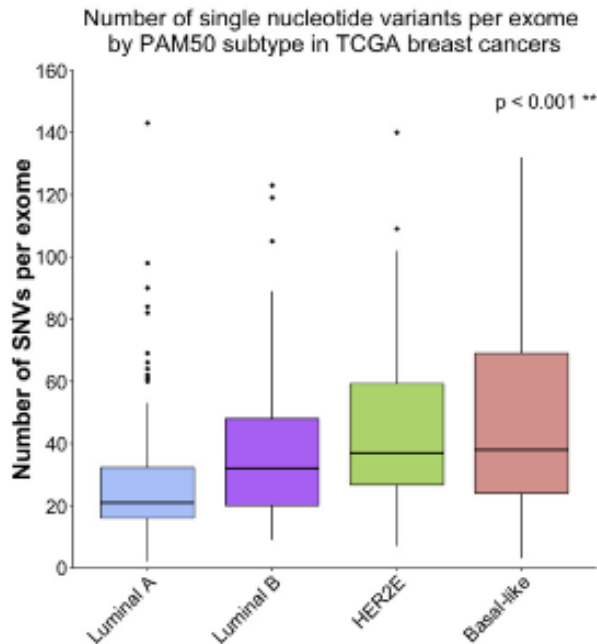
- Patients should generally remain on a regimen until best response, disease progression, or significant toxicity

# Historical outcomes in metastatic triple negative breast cancer

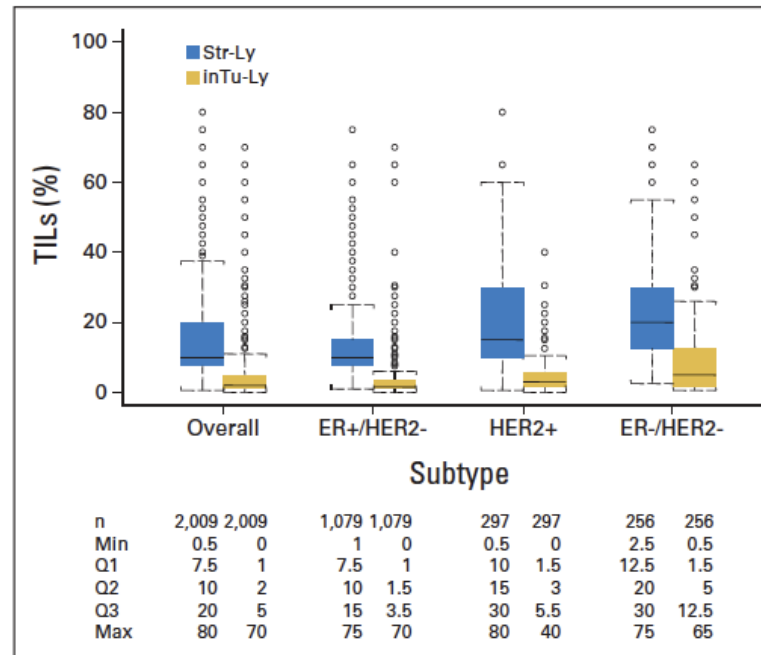
	<b>ORR (%)</b>	<b>PFS (mo)</b>	<b>OS (mo)</b>
<b>Single agent chemotherapy</b>			
1L	10.0-28.0	3.5-5.4	9.9-17.5
2L	6.0-18.0	2.7-3.4	9.2-15.2
<b>Combination chemotherapy</b>			
1L	14.8-64.3	4.8-9.0	13.9-24.2
2L+	27.0 <sup>1</sup> -60.0	2.9-7.0	8.1-16.5

# Why TNBC is a target for immunotherapy

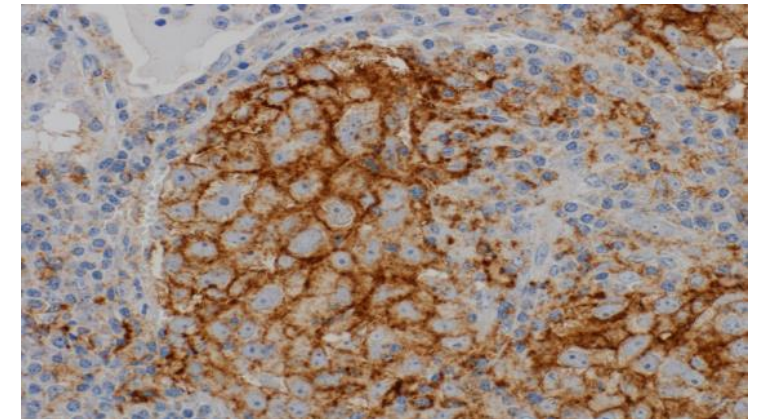
## High mutation burden



## T-cell infiltration



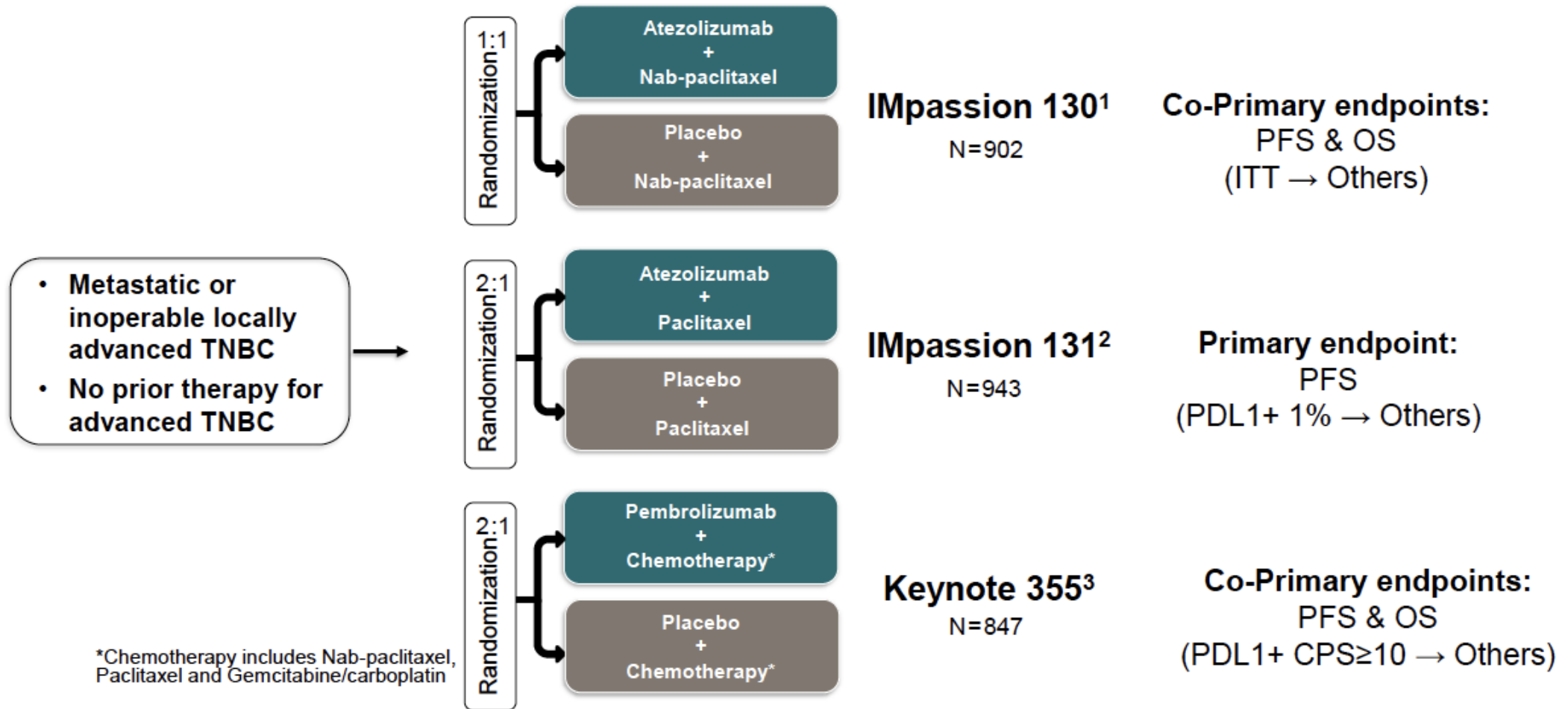
## PD-L1 expression



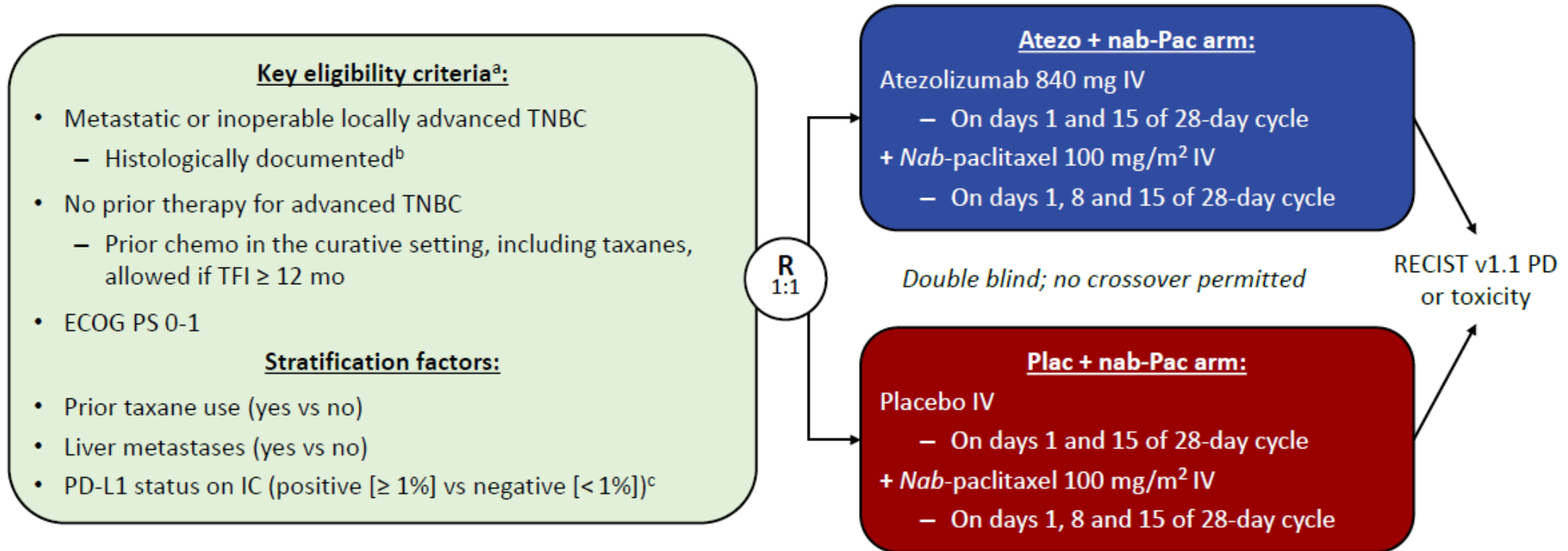
TCGA, Nature 2012  
 Luen, Breast 2016  
 Lehmann, J Clin Invest 2011  
 Cimino Matthews, Hum Pathol 2013  
 Loi, JCO 2013  
 Loi, Ann Oncol 2014  
 Chen and Mellman, Immunity 2013  
 Mittendorf, Cancer Immunol Res 2014



# Randomized phase III studies with chemotherapy plus PD1/PDL1 inhibitors IN 1<sup>st</sup> LINE TNBC



# IMpassion130 (Phase III) – Study Design (TNBC metastatic disease)

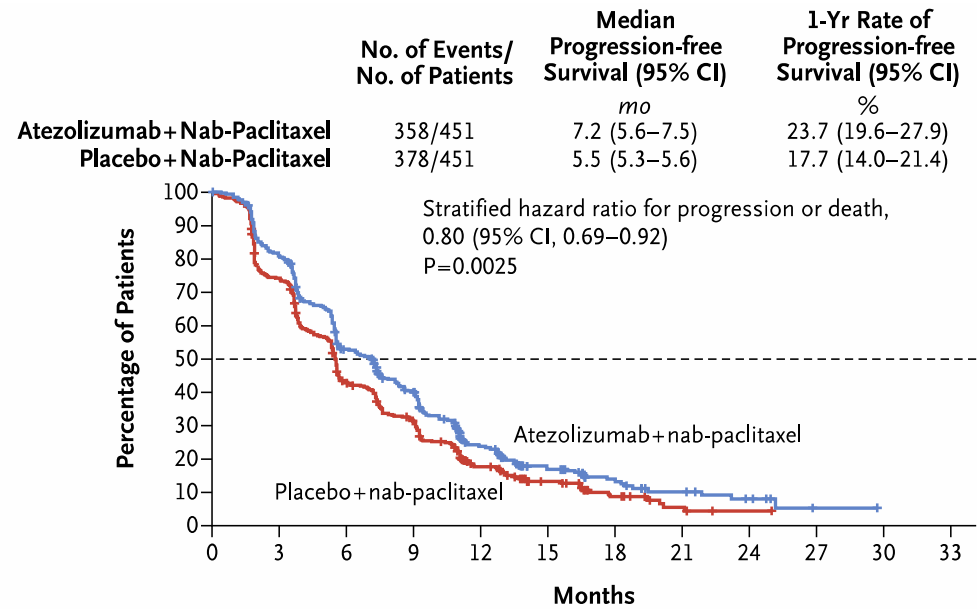


- Co-primary endpoints were PFS and OS in the ITT and PD-L1+ populations<sup>d</sup>.
- Key secondary efficacy endpoints (ORR and DOR) and safety were also evaluated.

IC, tumour-infiltrating immune cell; TFI, treatment-free interval. <sup>a</sup> ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02425891. <sup>b</sup> Locally evaluated per ASCO–College of American Pathologists (CAP) guidelines. <sup>c</sup> Centrally evaluated per VENTANA SP142 IHC assay (double blinded for PD-L1 status). <sup>d</sup> Radiological endpoints were investigator assessed (per RECIST v1.1).

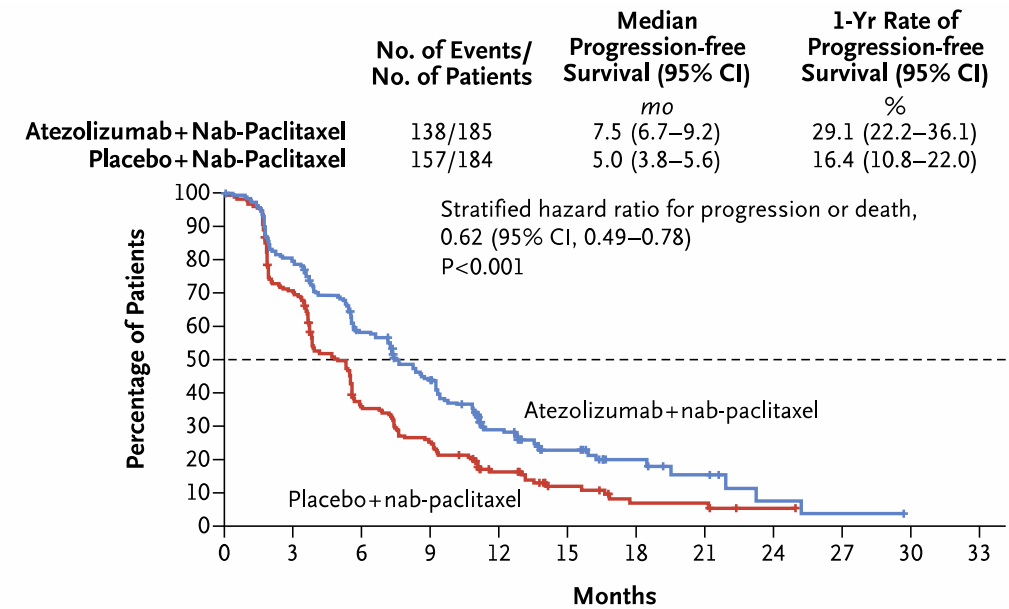
# IMPASSION130: progression-free survival

**ITT**



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
Atezolizumab+nab-paclitaxel	451	360	226	164	77	34	20	11	6	1	NE	NE
Placebo+nab-paclitaxel	451	327	183	130	57	29	13	5	1	NE	NE	NE

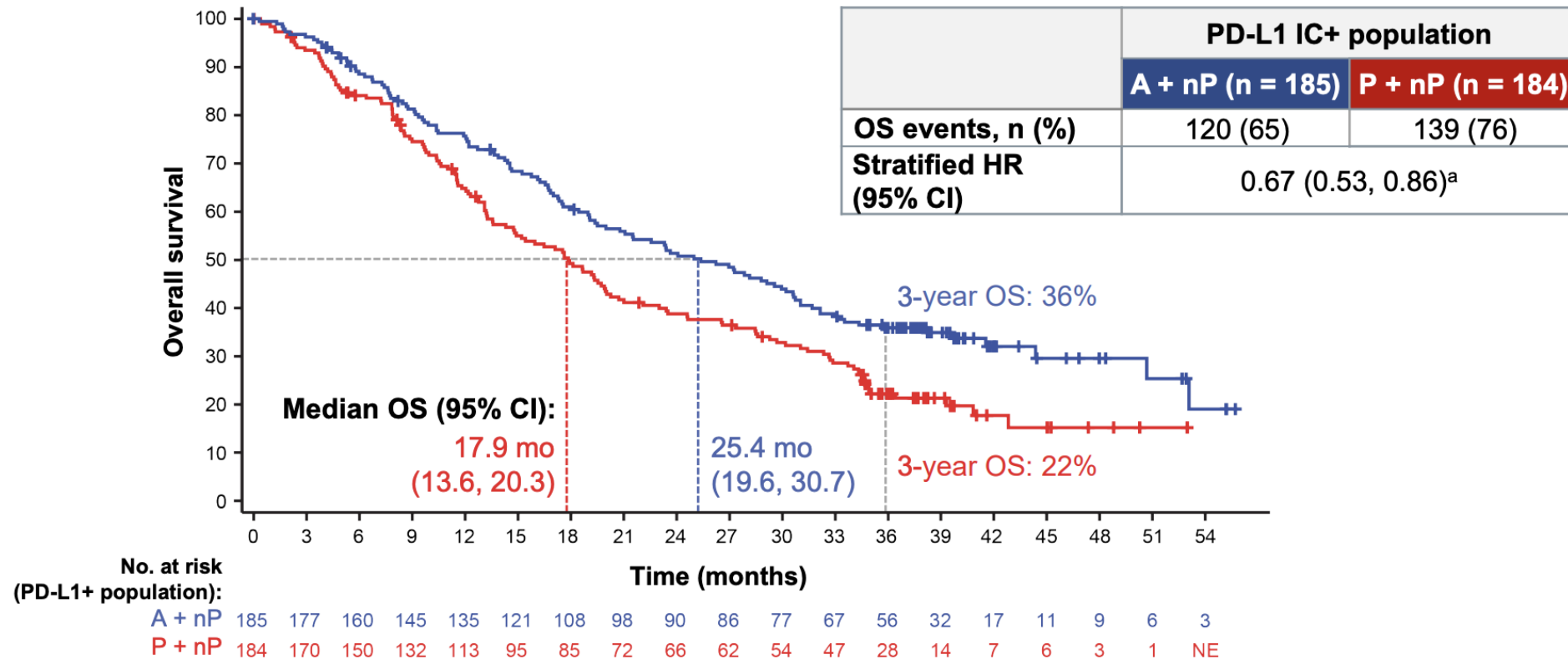
**PD-L1 >1%**



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33
Atezolizumab+nab-paclitaxel	185	146	104	75	38	19	10	6	2	1	NE	NE
Placebo+nab-paclitaxel	184	127	62	44	22	11	5	5	1	NE	NE	NE

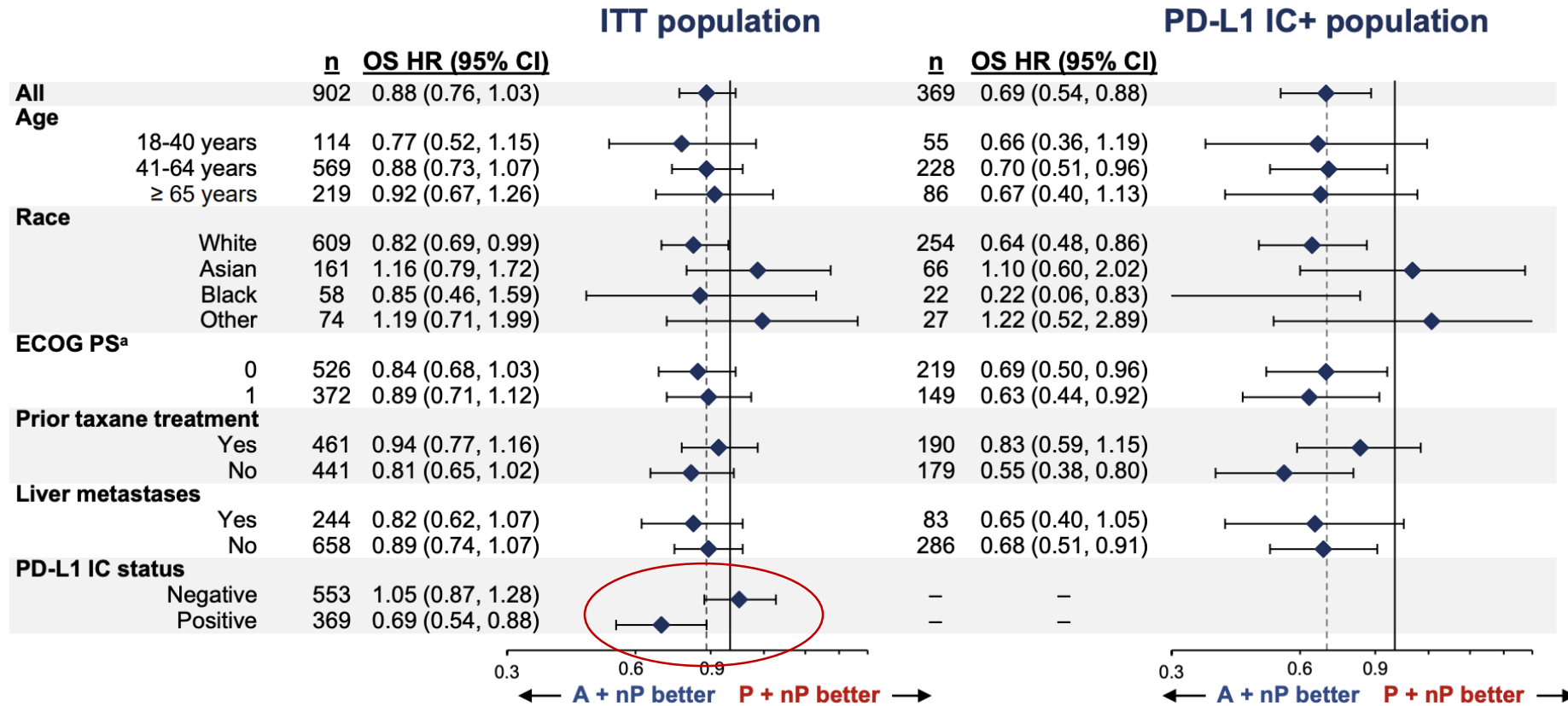
# IMpassion130 – Final OS analysis

## OS in the PD-L1 IC+ population



**+7.5-mo median OS improvement**

# IMpassion130 – Final OS analysis



## IMpassion130 – Safety

AEI, n (%) <sup>a</sup>	Plac + nab-Pac (n = 438)		Atezo + nab-Pac (n = 452)	
	Any Grade	Grade 3-4	Any Grade	Grade 3-4
Hepatitis (all)	62 (14.2%)	13 (3.0%)	69 (15.3%)	23 (5.1%)
Hepatitis (diagnosis)	7 (1.6%)	1 (0.2%)	10 (2.2%)	6 (1.3%)
Hepatitis (lab abnormalities)	58 (13.2%)	12 (2.7%)	62 (13.7%)	17 (3.8%)
Hypothyroidism	19 (4.3%)	0	78 (17.3%)	0
Hyperthyroidism	6 (1.4%)	0	20 (4.4%)	1 (0.2%)
Adrenal insufficiency	0	0	4 (0.9%)	1 (0.2%)
Pneumonitis	1 (0.2%)	0	14 (3.1%)	1 (0.2%)
Colitis	3 (0.7%)	1 (0.2%)	5 (1.1%)	1 (0.2%)
Pancreatitis*	0	0	2 (0.4%)	1 (0.2%)
Diabetes mellitus	2 (0.5%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)	1 (0.2%)
Other AEI (Rash)	114 (26.0%)	2 (0.5%)	154 (34.1%)	4 (0.9%)

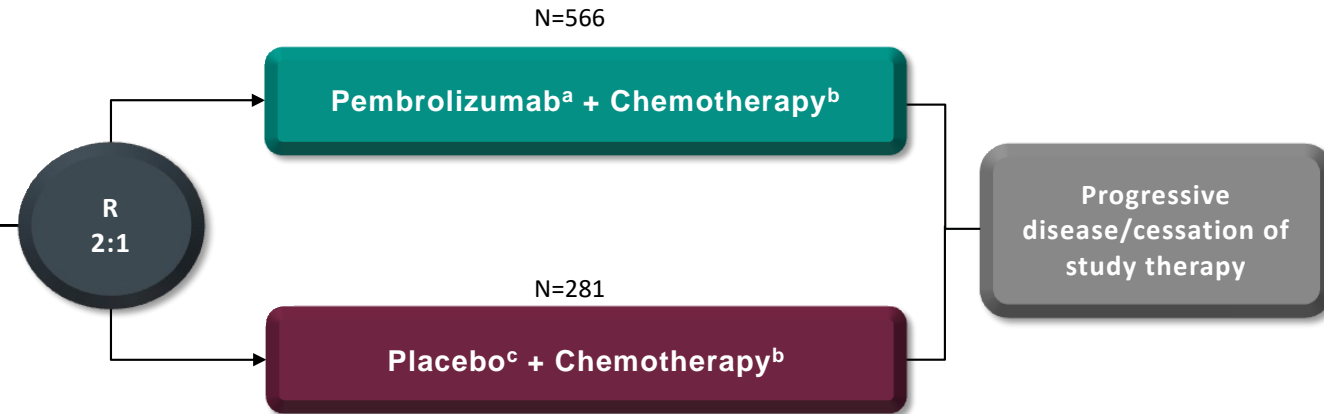
*There were no reported events of Guillian-Barre syndrome, Hypophysitis, Myasthenia Gravis or Myocarditis*

\*Enzyme elevations only

# Keynote-355: PEMBROLIZUMAB + CHEMOTHERAPY AS FIRST-LINE

## Key Eligibility Criteria

- Age  $\geq 18$  years
- Central determination of TNBC and PD-L1 expression
- Previously untreated locally recurrent inoperable or metastatic TNBC
- Completion of treatment with curative intent  $\geq 6$  months prior to first disease recurrence
- ECOG performance status 0 or 1
- Life expectancy  $\geq 12$  weeks from randomization
- Adequate organ function
- No systemic steroids
- No active CNS metastases
- No active autoimmune disease



## Stratification Factors:

- Chemotherapy on study (taxane vs gemcitabine/carboplatin)
- PD-L1 tumor expression (CPS  $\geq 1$  vs CPS  $< 1$ )
- Prior treatment with same class chemotherapy in the neoadjuvant or adjuvant setting (yes vs no)

## Endpoints:

- Primary: PFS and OS in patients with PD-L1+ tumors (CPS  $\geq 10$  and CPS  $\geq 1$ ) and in the ITT population
- Secondary: ORR, DOR, DCR, Safety in all treated patients

<sup>a</sup> Chemotherapy dosing regimens are as follows:  
Nab-paclitaxel 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on days 1, 8, and 15 every 28 days  
Paclitaxel 90 mg/m<sup>2</sup> IV on days 1, 8, and 15 every 28 days  
Gemcitabine 1000 mg/m<sup>2</sup>/carboplatin AUC 2 on days 1 and 8 every 21 days

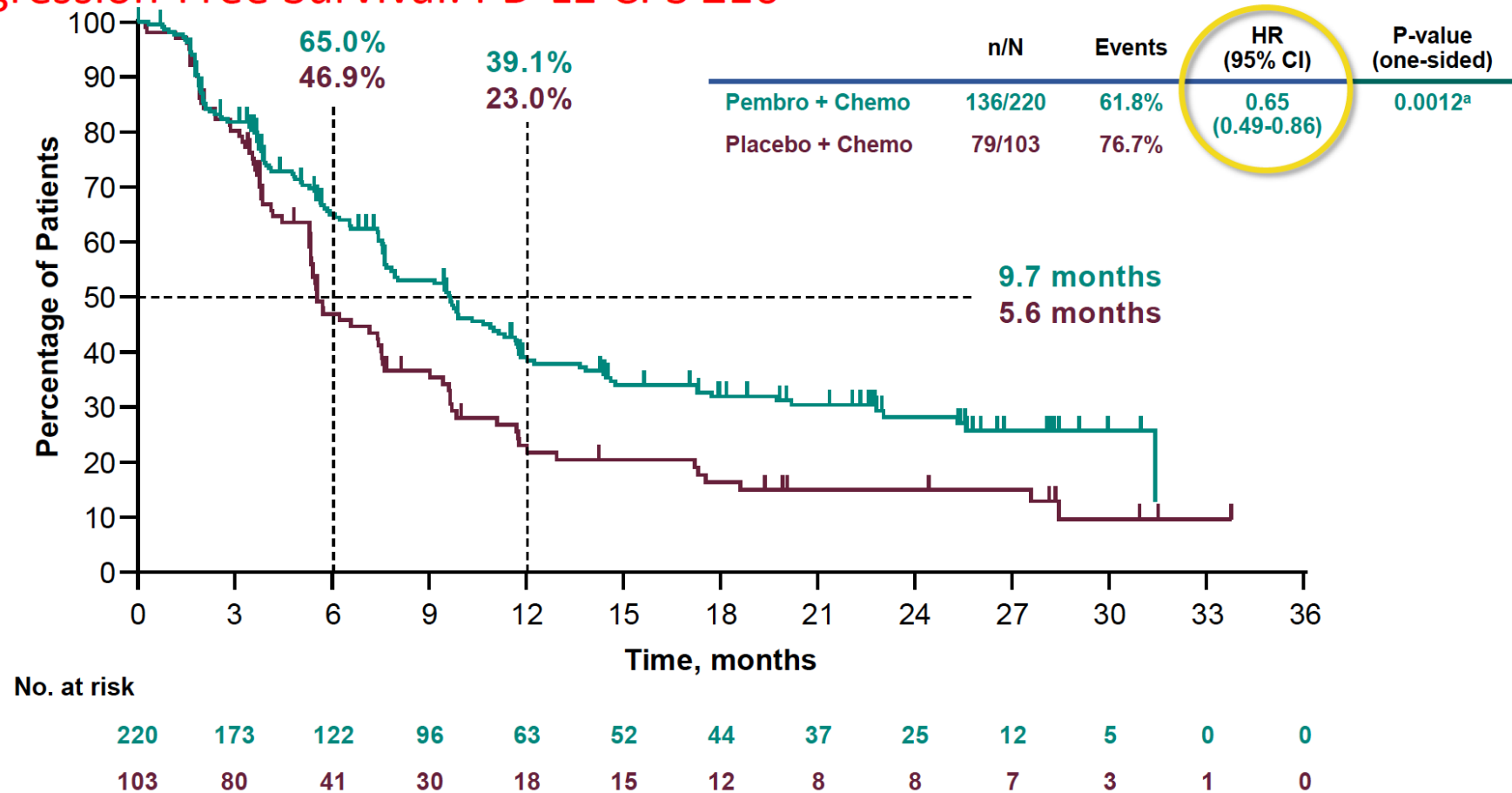
## KEYNOTE 355 – Study Population allocation

Characteristic, n (%)	All Subjects, N = 847	
	Pembro + Chemo N = 566	Placebo + Chemo N = 281
Age, median (range), yrs	53 (25-85)	53 (22-77)
ECOG PS 1	232 (41.0)	108 (38.4)
PD-L1–positive CPS ≥1	425 (75.1)	211 (75.1)
→ PD-L1–positive CPS ≥10	220 (38.9)	103 (36.7)
Chemotherapy on study		
Taxane	255 (45.1)	127 (45.2)
→ Gemcitabine/Carboplatin	311 (54.9)	154 (54.8)
Prior same-class chemotherapy		
Yes	124 (21.9)	62 (22.1)
No	442 (78.1)	219 (77.9)
Disease-free interval		
→ de novo metastasis	168 (29.7)	84 (29.9)
→ <12 months	125 (22.1)	50 (17.8)
≥12 months	270 (47.7)	147 (52.3)



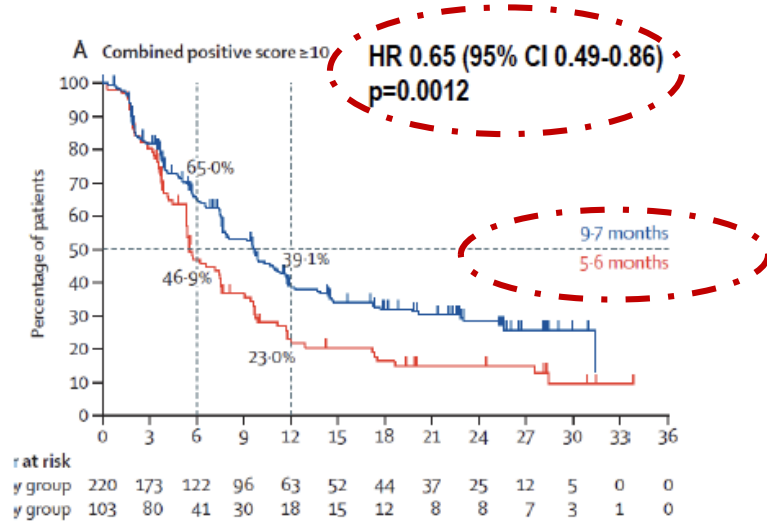
# KEYNOTE 355 - Outcomes

## Progression-Free Survival: PD-L1 CPS $\geq 10$



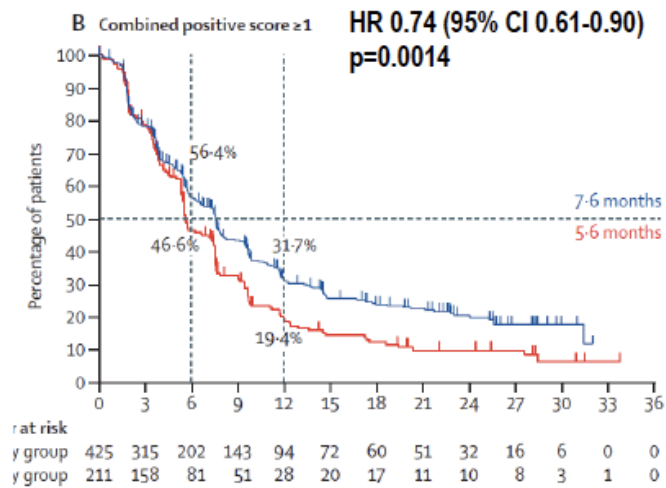
# Keynote-355: PROGRESSION-FREE SURVIVAL

## PD-L1 CPS ≥10



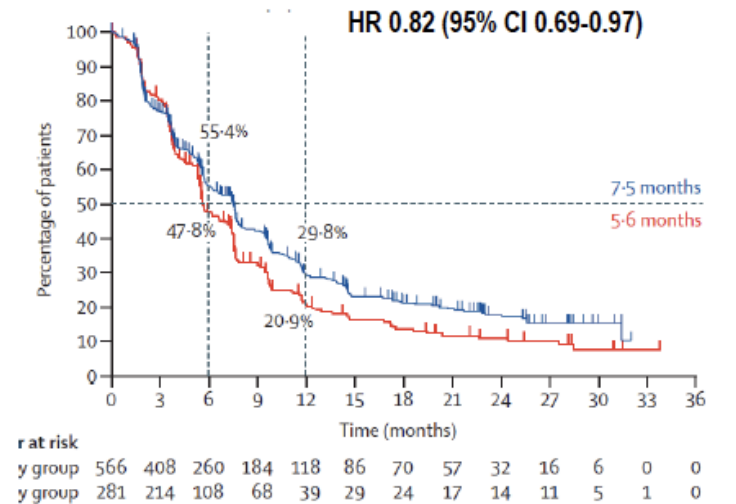
PFS superiority CPS  $\geq 10$   
boundary  $\alpha=0.00411$

## PD-L1 CPS $\geq 1$



PFS superiority CPS  $\geq 1$   
boundary  $\alpha=0.00111$  not met

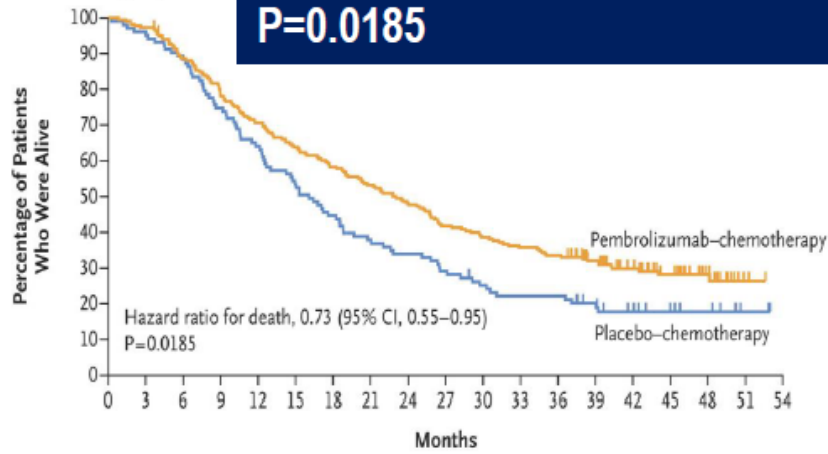
## ITT population



Significance not tested according to  
hierarchical statistical design

### CPS-10 Subgroup

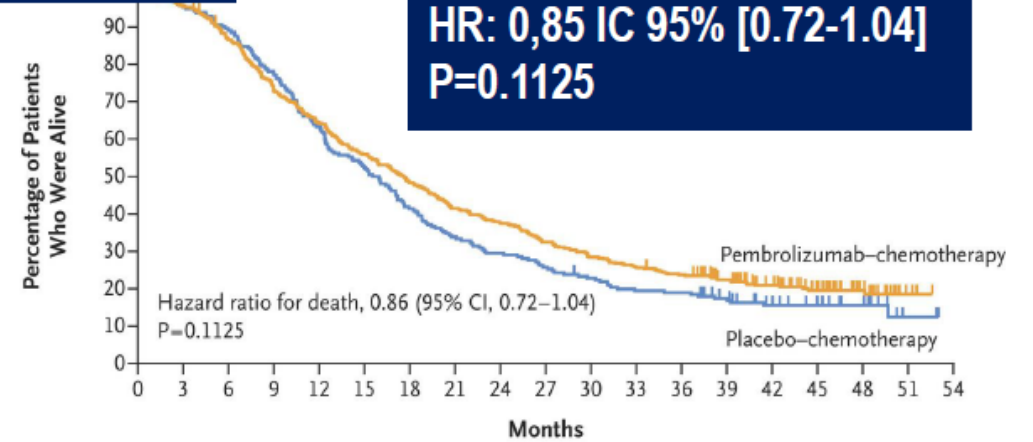
**OS: 23 vs 16.1 months**  
**HR: 0,73 IC 95% [0.55-0.95]**  
**P=0.0185**



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54
Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy	220	214	193	171	154	139	127	116	105	91	84	78	73	59	43	31	17	2	0
Placebo-chemotherapy	103	98	91	77	66	55	46	39	35	30	25	22	22	17	12	8	6	2	0

### CPS-1 Subgroup

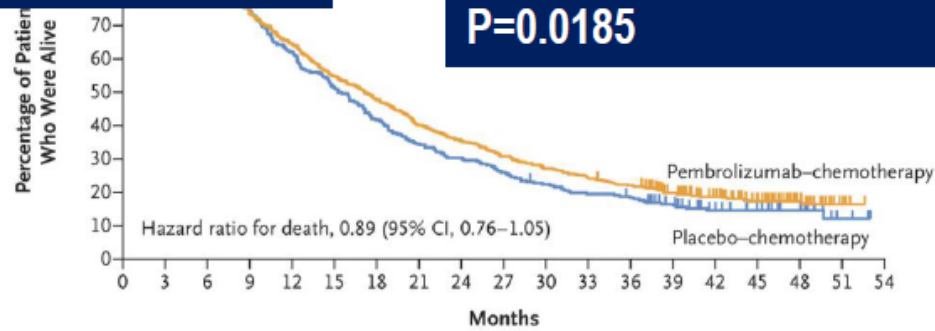
**OS: 17.6 vs 16 months**  
**HR: 0,85 IC 95% [0.72-1.04]**  
**P=0.1125**



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54
Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy	425	406	365	308	271	236	204	175	159	137	120	108	99	80	60	38	21	3	0
Placebo-chemotherapy	211	200	187	163	133	110	87	71	62	54	47	40	39	30	21	15	10	2	0

### Intention to treat Population

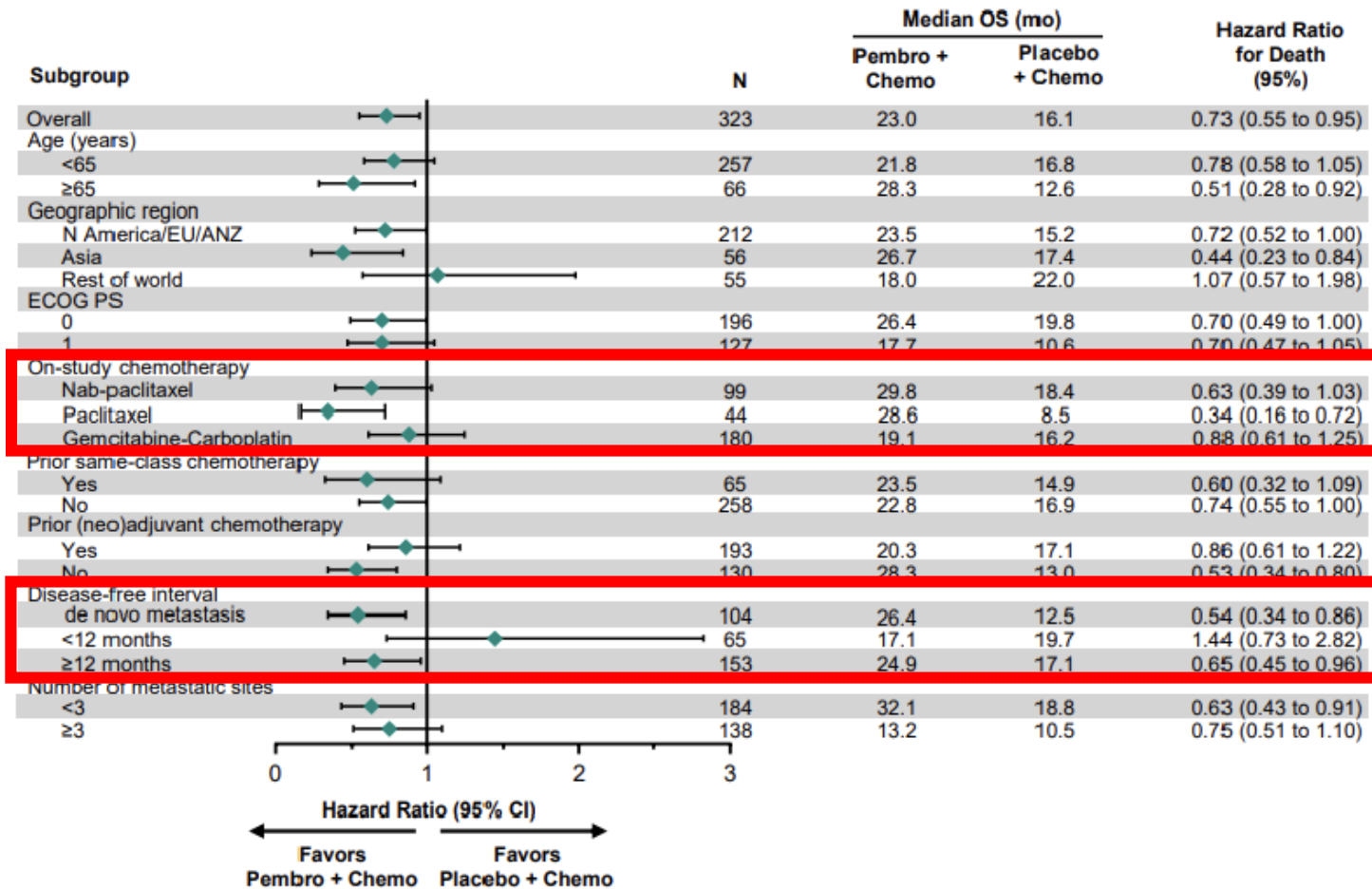
**OS: 17.2 vs 15.5 months**  
**HR: 0,789 IC 95% [0.76-1.05]**  
**P=0.0185**



No. at Risk	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36	39	42	45	48	51	54
Pembrolizumab-chemotherapy	566	539	486	415	363	309	269	226	200	174	153	137	124	94	69	42	22	4	0
Placebo-chemotherapy	281	267	246	209	174	144	117	97	85	73	62	54	50	38	25	18	12	3	0

[Cortes et al, 2022]

# Keynote-355: OVERALL SURVIVAL IN SUBGROUPS CPS $\geq 10$



# Agenda

- Evidenze nel tumore mammario TN
- Indicazioni nella pratica clinica nel TN

# IMMUNOTHERAPY

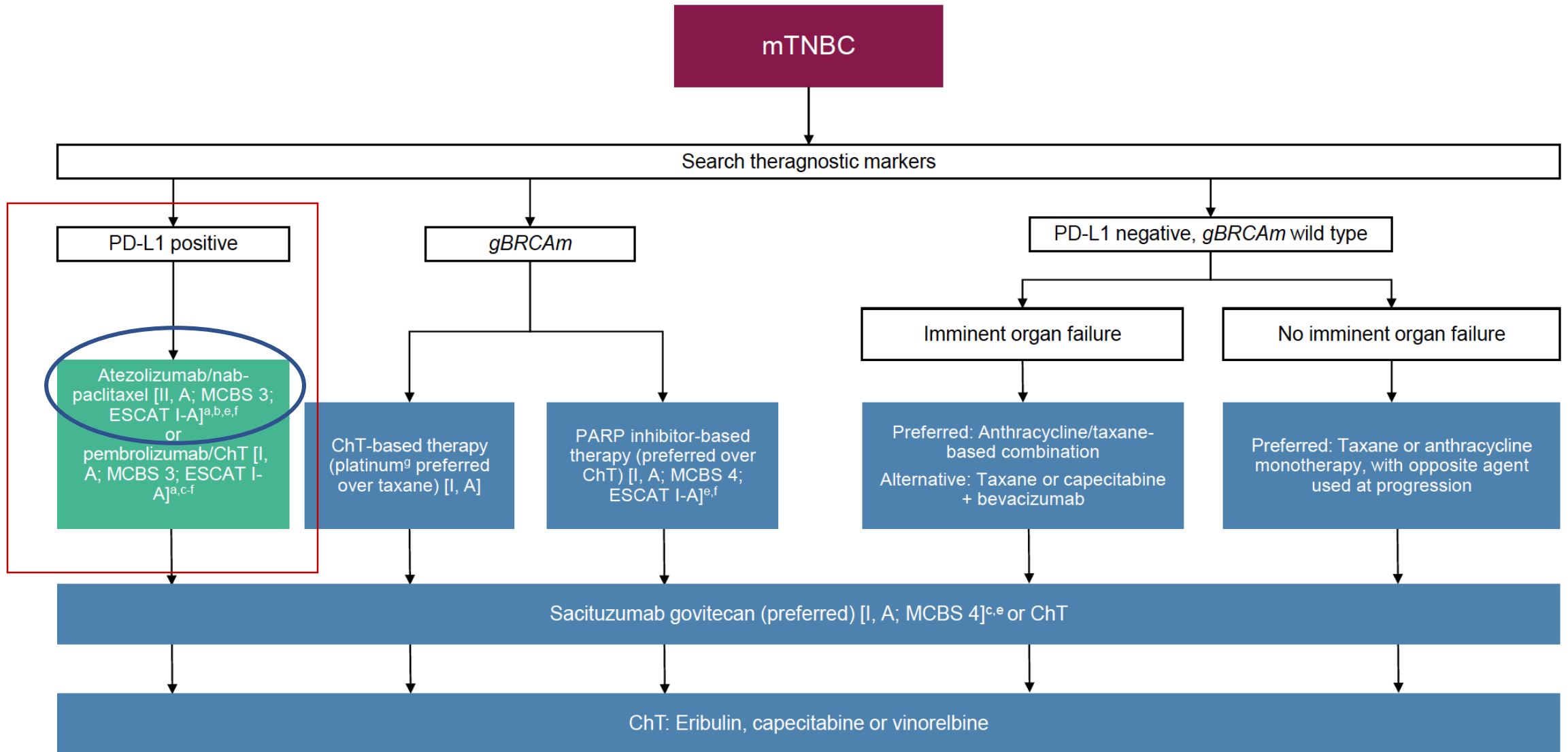
PEMBROLIZUMAB

KEYNOTE 355  
(First line treatment with Pembrolizumab-CT  
in advanced and mTNBC)

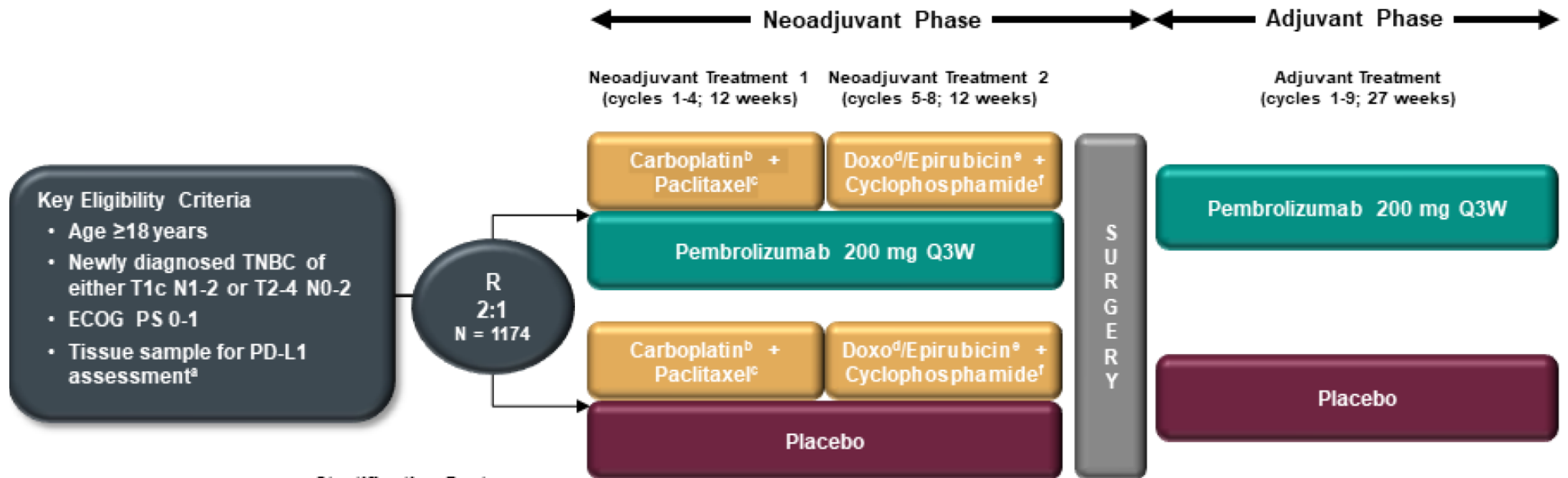
ATEZOLIZUMAB

IM PASSION 130  
(First line treatment with Atezoluzimab-Nab  
Paclitaxel in mTNBC)

# METASTATIC BREAST CANCER - TNBC



# KEYNOTE 522 – Study DESIGN



**Stratification Factors:**

- Nodal status (+ vs -)
- Tumor size (T1/T2 vs T3/T4)
- Carboplatin schedule (QW vs Q3W)

Schmidt, ESMO virtual plenary, 2021

No T1a-T1b; No T1cN0; No T4d (inflammatory)



# Summary of Analysis Populations

1174 patients randomized 2:1 from Mar 2017 to Sep 2018

## Pembro + Chemo/Pembro

- 784 allocated
- 778 (99.2%) started Carboplatin/Paclitaxel
- 726 (92.6%) started AC or EC
- 768 (98.0%) had documented surgery<sup>a</sup>
- 588 (75.0%) started adjuvant treatment

## Analysis Populations

- ITT: N = 784
- Safety-evaluable: N = 783<sup>b</sup>

## Placebo + Chemo/Placebo

- 390 allocated
- 389 (99.7%) started Carboplatin/Paclitaxel
- 369 (94.6%) started AC or EC
- 381 (97.7%) had documented surgery<sup>a</sup>
- 331 (84.9%) started adjuvant treatment

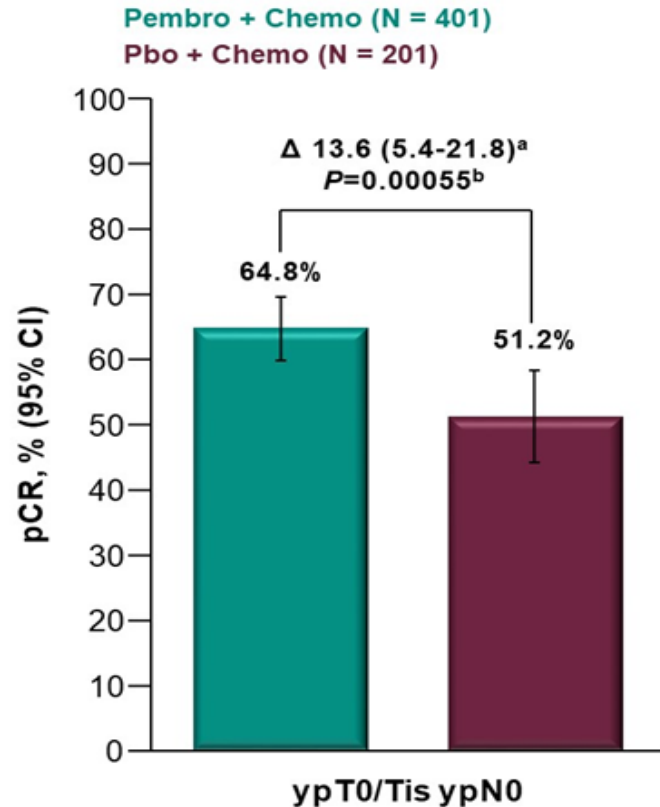
## Analysis Populations

- ITT: N = 390
- Safety-evaluable: N = 389<sup>b</sup>

Median (range) follow-up<sup>c</sup>: 63.1 mo (53.9-72.0)

# Primary Analyses of KEYNOTE-522

## pCR at IA1<sup>1</sup>

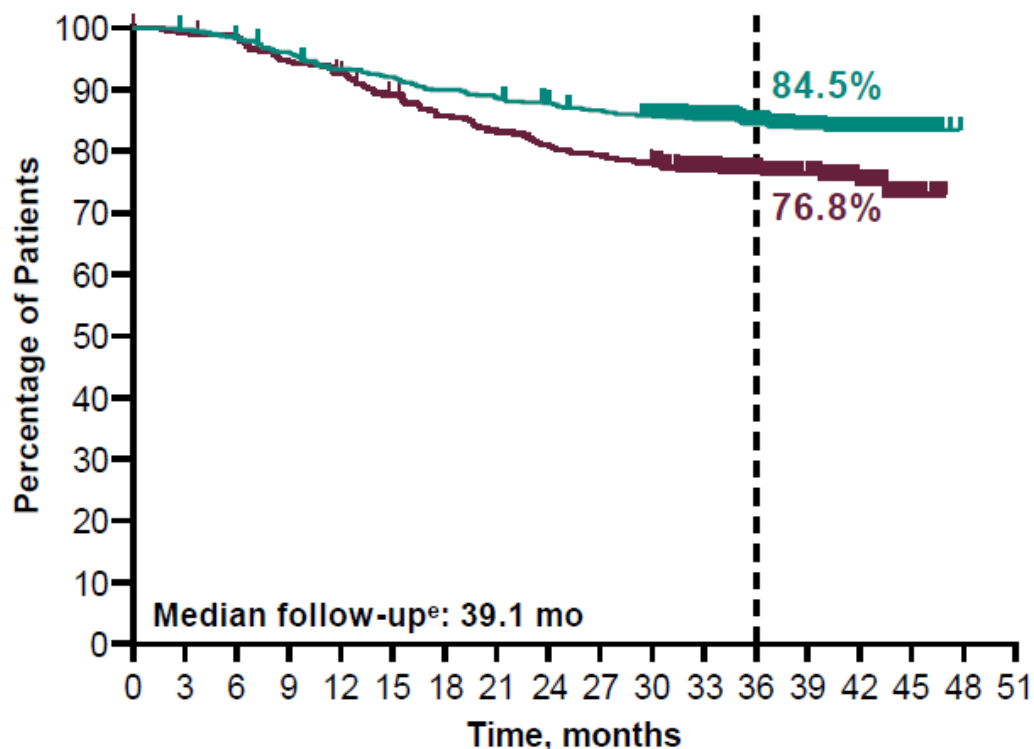


Neoadjuvant chemo plus pembrolizumab resulted in a significantly and clinically meaningful increase in pCR of 13,6 percentage points

1. Schmid P, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2020;382:810-21. 2. Schmid P, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2022;386:556-67. <sup>a</sup>Estimated treatment difference based on Miettinen & Nurminen method stratified by randomization stratification factors. <sup>b</sup>Prespecified *P*-value boundary for significance of 0.003 was crossed; data cutoff date: September 24, 2018. <sup>c</sup>Hazard ratio (CI) analyzed based on a Cox regression model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. <sup>d</sup>Prespecified *P*-value boundary of 0.00517 was crossed. <sup>e</sup>Defined as the time from randomization to the data cutoff date of March 23, 2021.

# EFS

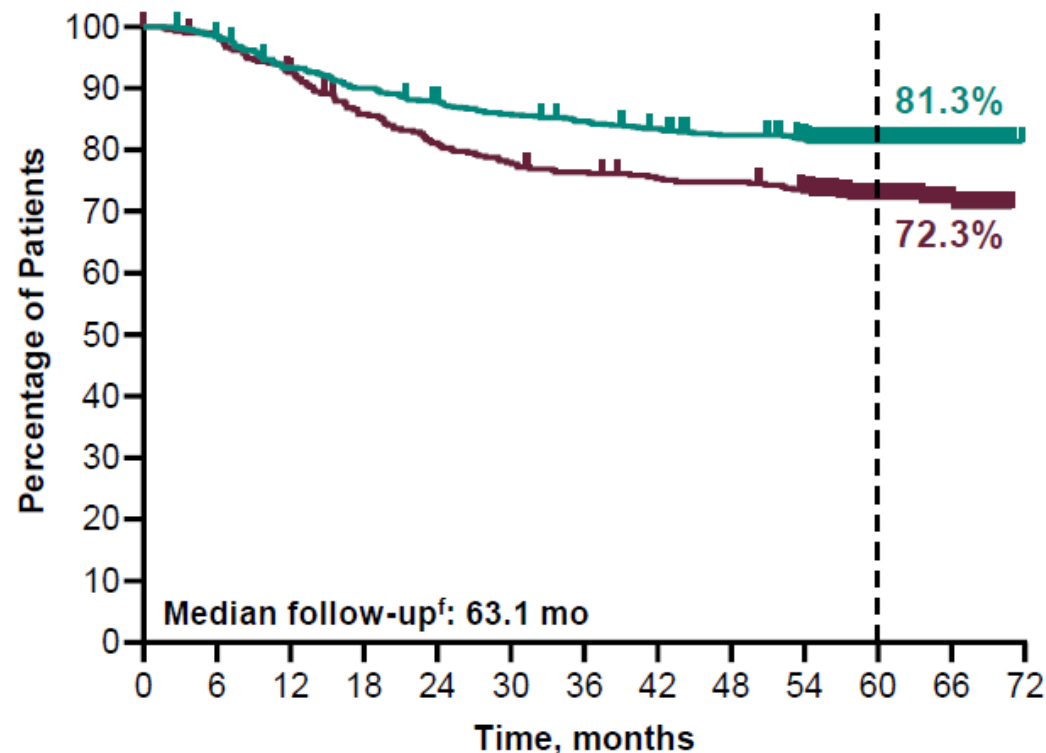
IA4 <sup>a</sup>	Events	HR (95% CI)	P-value
Pembro + Chemo/Pembro	15.7%	0.63 <sup>c</sup> (0.48-0.82)	0.00031 <sup>d</sup>
Placebo + Chemo/Placebo	23.8%		



No. at risk

784	781	769	751	728	718	702	692	681	671	652	551	433	303	165	28	0	0
390	386	382	368	358	342	328	319	310	304	297	250	195	140	83	17	0	0

IA6 <sup>b</sup>	Events	HR (95% CI)
Pembro + Chemo/Pembro	18.5%	0.63 <sup>c</sup> (0.49-0.81)
Placebo + Chemo/Placebo	27.7%	



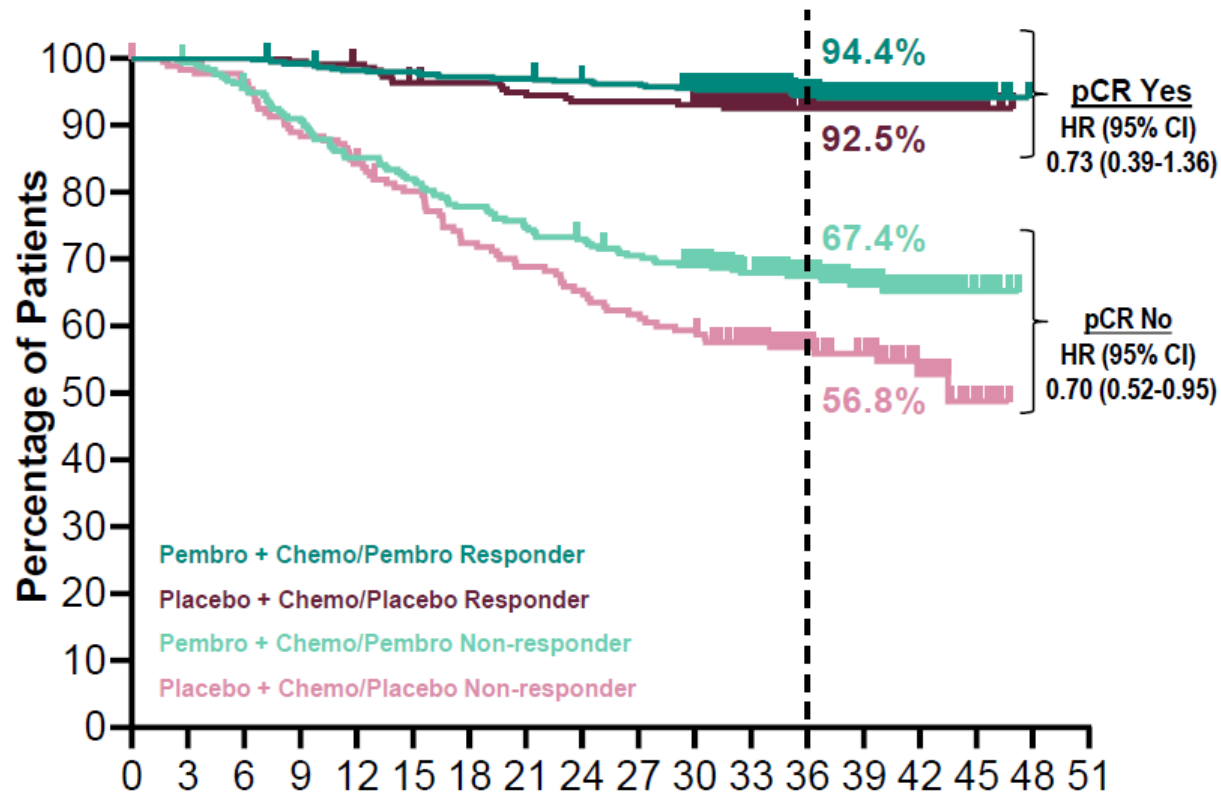
No. at risk

784	769	728	702	681	665	654	643	631	612	411	162	0
390	382	358	329	311	299	292	286	284	274	189	79	0

<sup>a</sup>The 4th prespecified interim analysis of EFS was calendar-driven planned to occur ~48 months after the first participant was randomized. <sup>b</sup>The 6th prespecified interim analysis of EFS was calendar-driven planned to occur ~72 months after the first participant was randomized. <sup>c</sup>Hazard ratio (CI) analyzed based on a Cox regression model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors. <sup>d</sup>Prespecified P-value boundary of 0.00517 was crossed. <sup>e</sup>Defined as the time from randomization to the data cutoff date of March 23, 2021. <sup>f</sup>Defined as the time from randomization to the data cutoff date of March 23, 2023.

# EFS by pCR (ypT0/Tis ypN0)

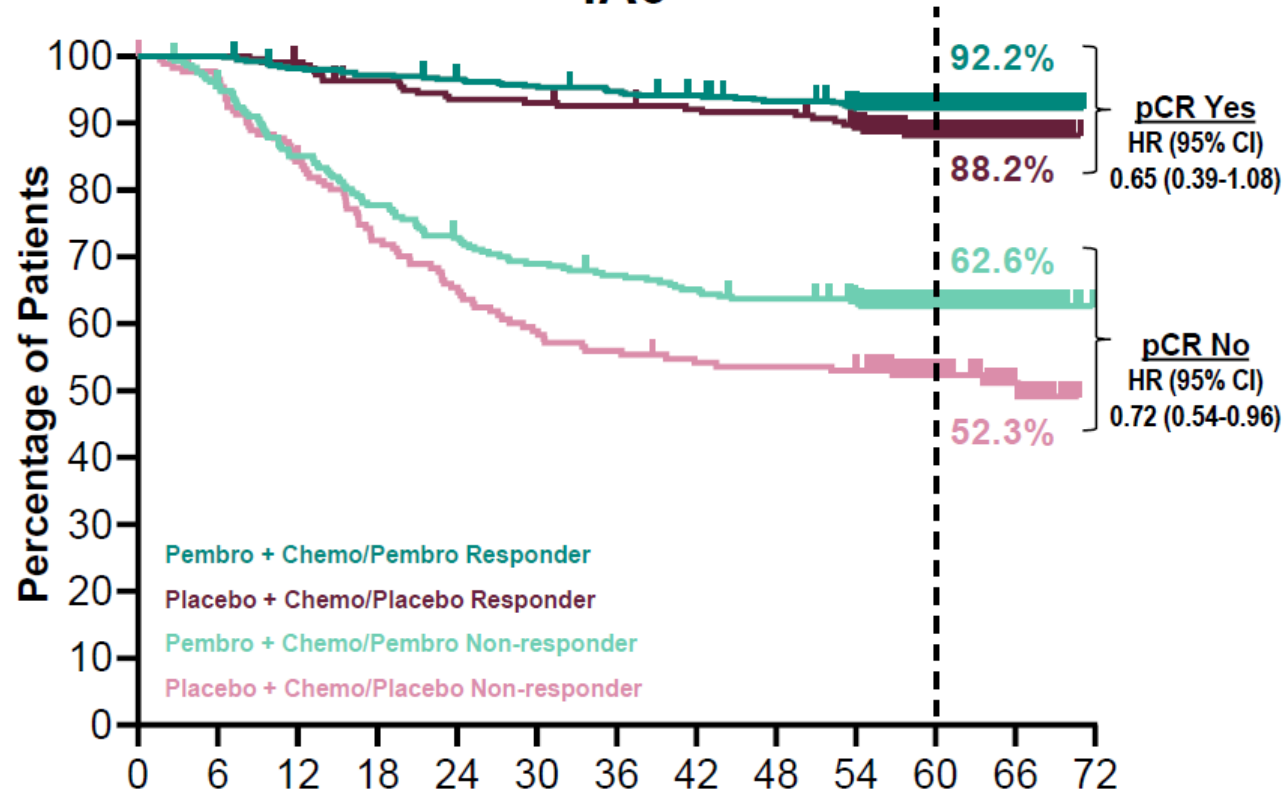
## IA4



No. at risk	Time, months																
494	494	494	489	483	482	478	477	472	470	460	387	307	220	122	18	0	0
217	217	217	216	214	207	206	203	200	200	197	165	130	87	56	9	0	0
290	287	275	262	245	236	224	215	209	201	192	164	126	83	43	10	0	0
173	169	165	152	144	135	122	116	110	104	100	85	65	53	27	8	0	0

Data cutoff date: March 23, 2021.

## IA6

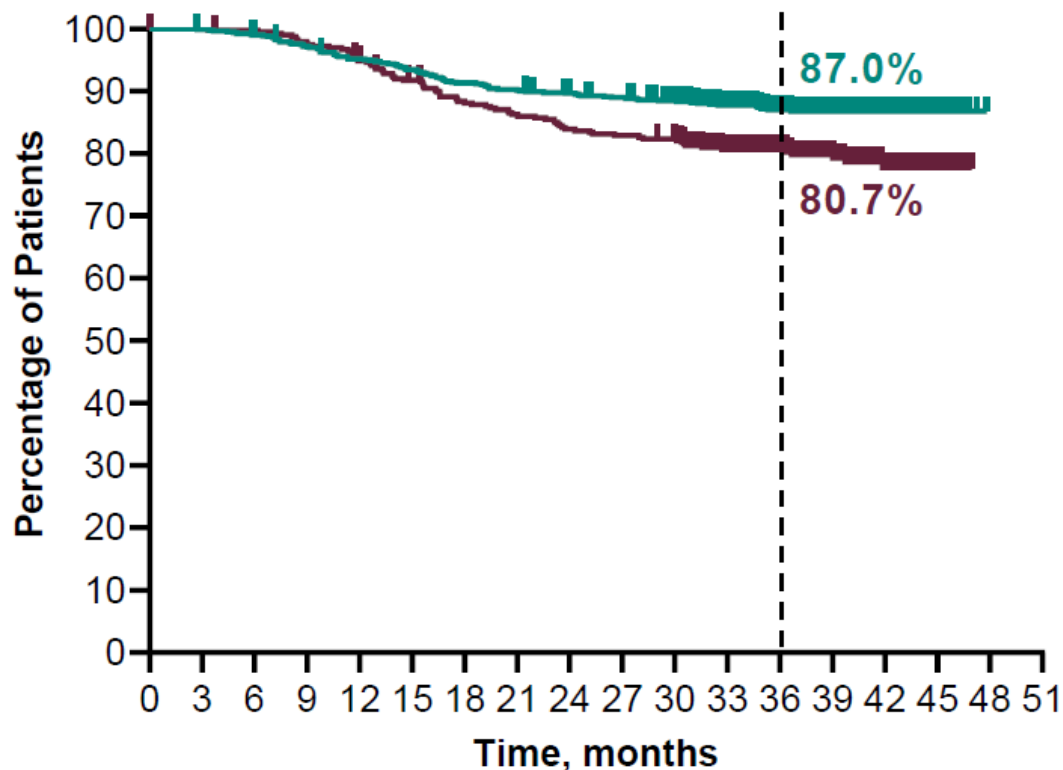


No. at risk	Time, months													
495	495	484	479	473	468	463	458	451	439	295	120	0	0	0
217	217	214	206	200	199	197	195	194	185	130	53	0	0	0
289	274	244	223	208	197	191	185	180	173	116	42	0	0	0
173	165	144	123	111	100	95	91	90	89	59	26	0	0	0

Data cutoff date: March 23, 2023.

# Distant Progression-Free or Distant Recurrence-Free Survival

IA4	Events	HR (95% CI)
Pembro + Chemo/Pembro	12.8%	0.61 <sup>a</sup> (0.46-0.82)
Placebo + Chemo/Placebo	20.3%	

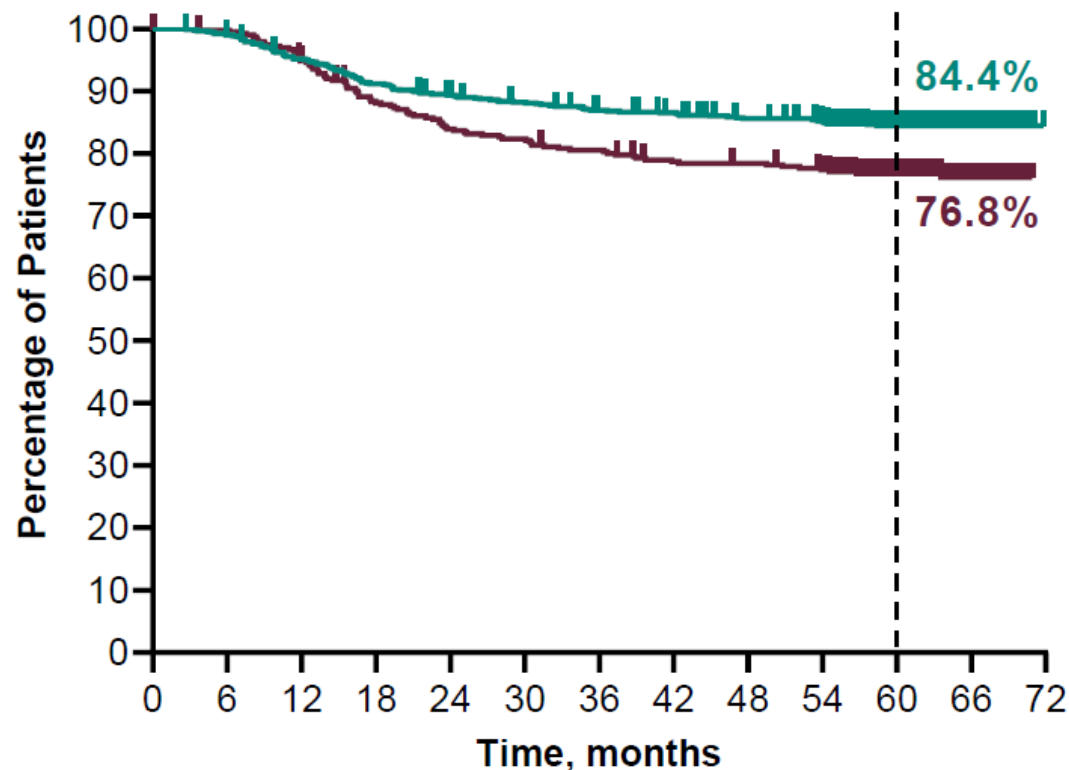


No. at risk

784	782	773	758	741	728	711	702	692	685	663	561	439	308	167	29	0	0
390	389	387	379	367	352	337	330	321	317	312	259	202	143	84	17	0	0

Data cutoff date: March 23, 2021.

IA6	Events	HR (95% CI)
Pembro + Chemo/Pembro	15.3%	0.64 <sup>a</sup> (0.49-0.84)
Placebo + Chemo/Placebo	23.1%	



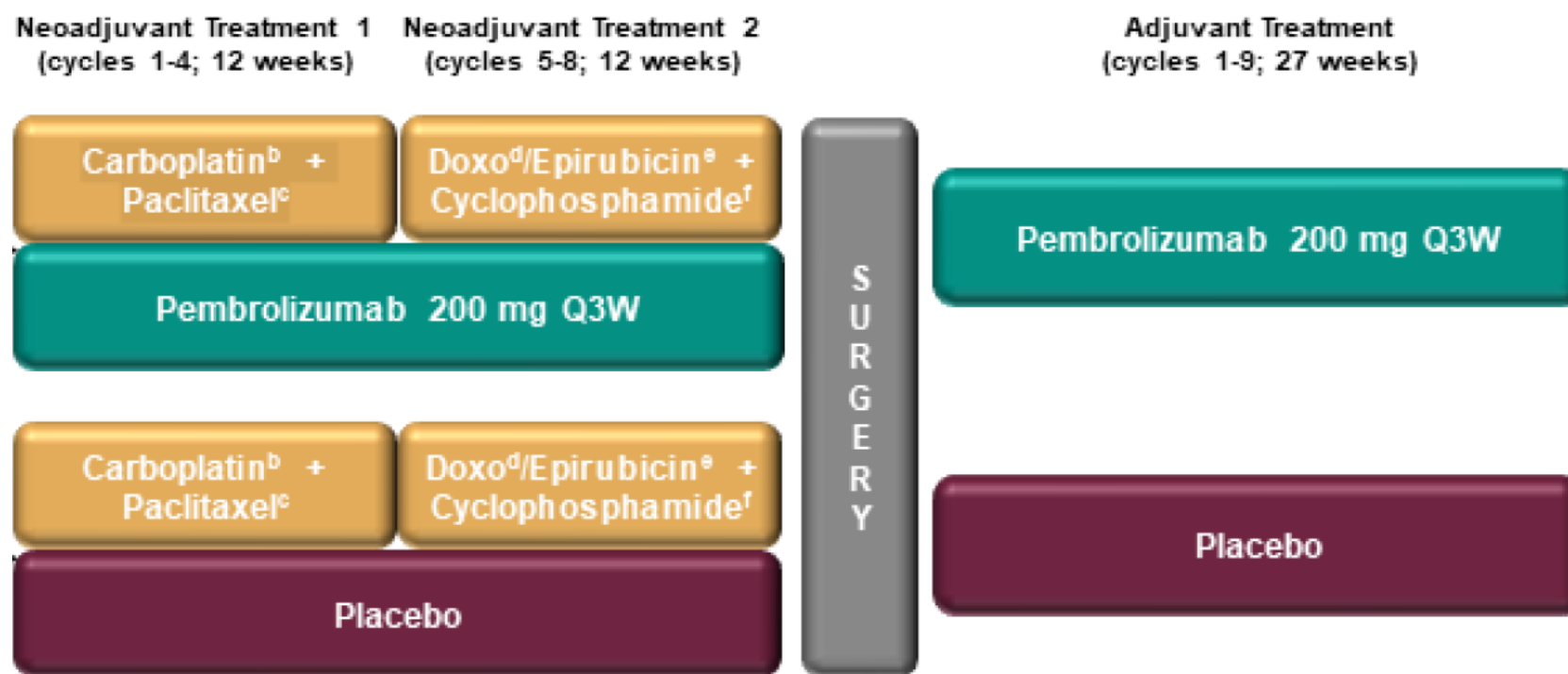
No. at risk

784	774	742	711	692	681	667	659	645	626	416	164	0
390	387	367	338	322	316	308	298	295	287	195	82	0

Data cutoff date: March 23, 2023.

<sup>a</sup>Hazard ratio (CI) analyzed based on a Cox regression model with treatment as a covariate stratified by the randomization stratification factors.

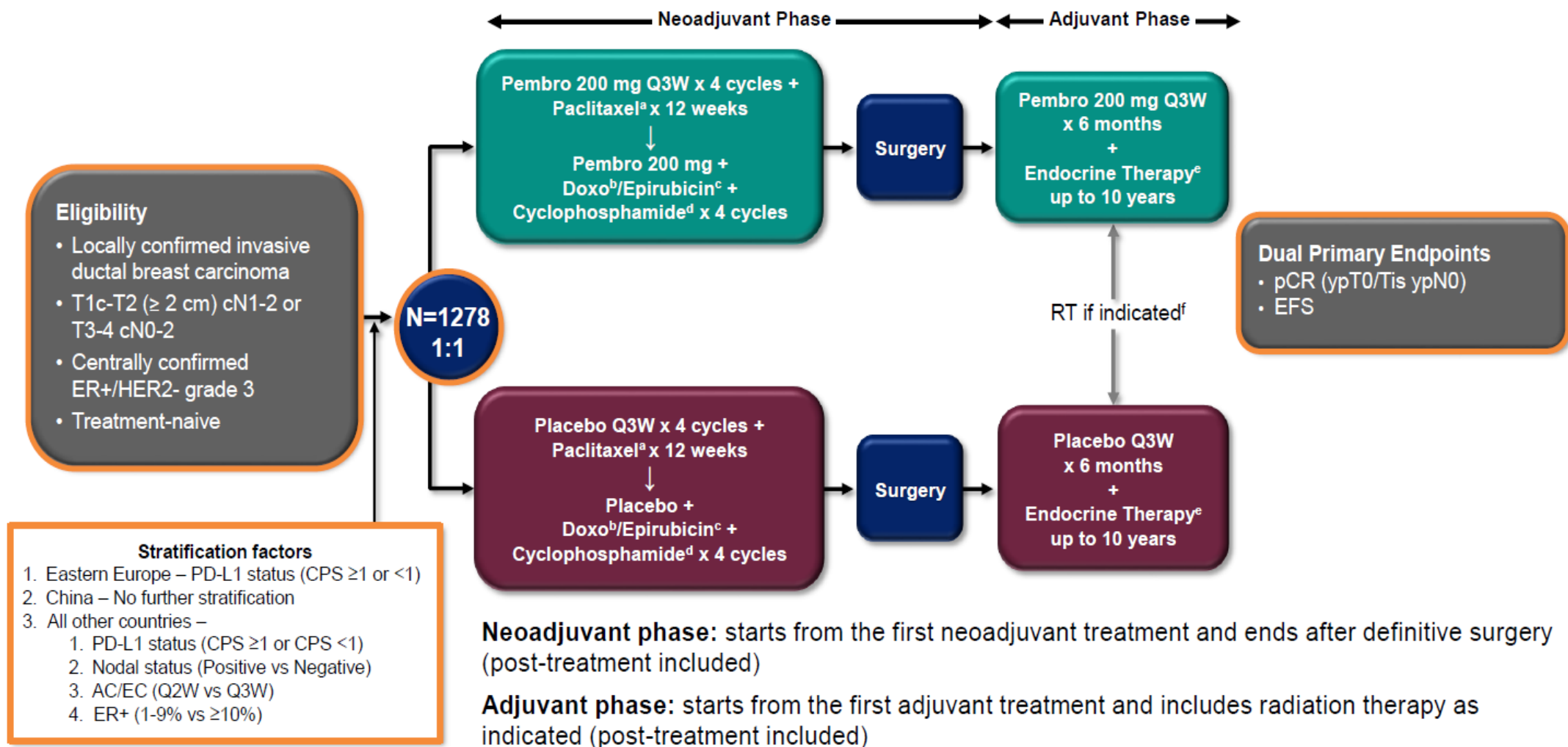
- These results provide further support for pembro plus platinum-containing neoadjuvant chemo followed by adjuvant pembro after surgery, regardless of the pCR outcome, as a standard-of-care treatment regimen for patients with high-risk, early-stage TNBC



# Agenda

- Evidenze nel tumore mammario TN
- Indicazioni nella pratica clinica nel TN
- Evidenze nel tumore mammario luminale

# KEYNOTE-756 Study Design (NCT03725059)



<sup>a</sup>Paclitaxel dose was 80 mg/m<sup>2</sup> QW. <sup>b</sup>Doxorubicin dose was 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W. <sup>c</sup>Epirubicin dose was 100 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W. <sup>d</sup>Cyclophosphamide dose was 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> Q3W or Q2W.

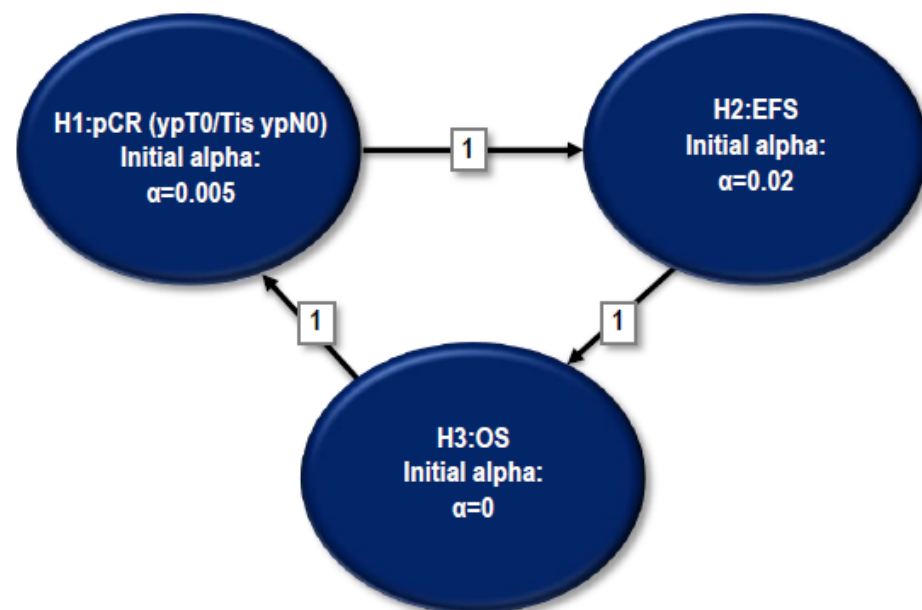
<sup>e</sup>Endocrine therapy was administered according to institution guidelines. <sup>f</sup>Radiation therapy (concurrent or sequential) was administered according to institution guidelines.



# Study Endpoints

- Primary Endpoints
  - pCR (ypT0/Tis ypN0)<sup>a</sup> assessed by the local pathologist at the time of definitive surgery in the ITT population
  - Event-free survival (EFS)<sup>b</sup> assessed by the investigator in the ITT population
- Secondary Endpoints
  - pCR as per alternative definitions (ypT0 ypN0 and ypT0/Tis)<sup>a</sup>
  - Overall survival (OS)<sup>c</sup>
  - pCR<sup>a</sup>, EFS<sup>b</sup> and OS<sup>c</sup> in the PD-L1<sup>d</sup> CPS  $\geq 1$  population
  - Safety in all treated patients

Multiplicity:



Prespecified analysis plan allows alpha passing from successful endpoint(s) to other(s)

<sup>a</sup>Participants without pCR data for any reason or who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy not specified in the protocol were counted as non-pCR. <sup>b</sup>To be presented at a later date. <sup>c</sup>Tested only when EFS succeeds; to be presented at a later date. <sup>d</sup>PD-L1 assessed at a central laboratory using PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx and measured using the combined positive score (CPS; number of PD-L1-positive tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages divided by total number of tumor cells x 100).

# Baseline Characteristics, ITT Population

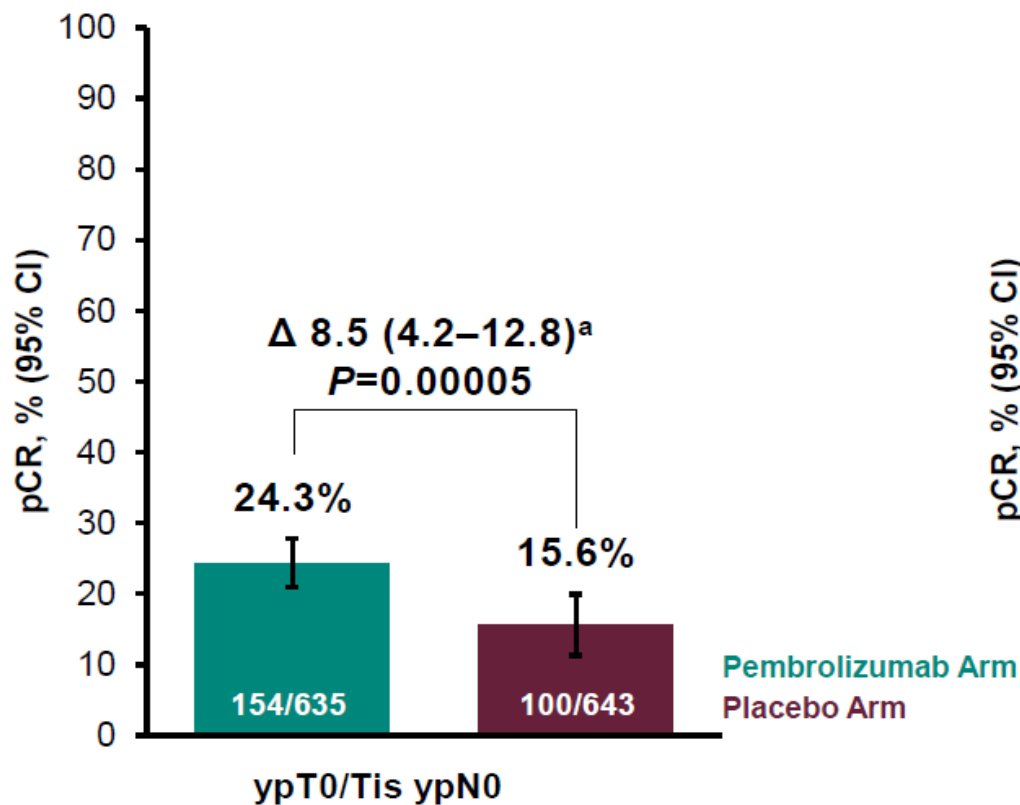
Characteristic, n (%)	All Participants <sup>a</sup> , N = 1278	
	Pembrolizumab Arm N = 635	Placebo Arm N = 643
Age, median (range), yrs	49 (24-82)	49 (19-78)
ECOG PS 1	65 (10.2)	55 (8.6)
PD-L1 <sup>b</sup> CPS ≥1	482 (75.9)	489 (76.0)
Anthracycline schedule		
Q3W	415 (65.4)	425 (66.1)
Q2W	183 (28.8)	187 (29.1)
Not started	37 (5.8)	31 (4.8)
Tumor size		
T1/T2	402 (63.3)	413 (64.2)
T3/T4	233 (36.7)	230 (35.8)
Nodal involvement		
Positive	570 (89.8)	582 (90.5)
Negative	65 (10.2)	61 (9.5)
ER positivity ≥10%	601 (94.6)	600 (93.3)

**AII GRADE 3**

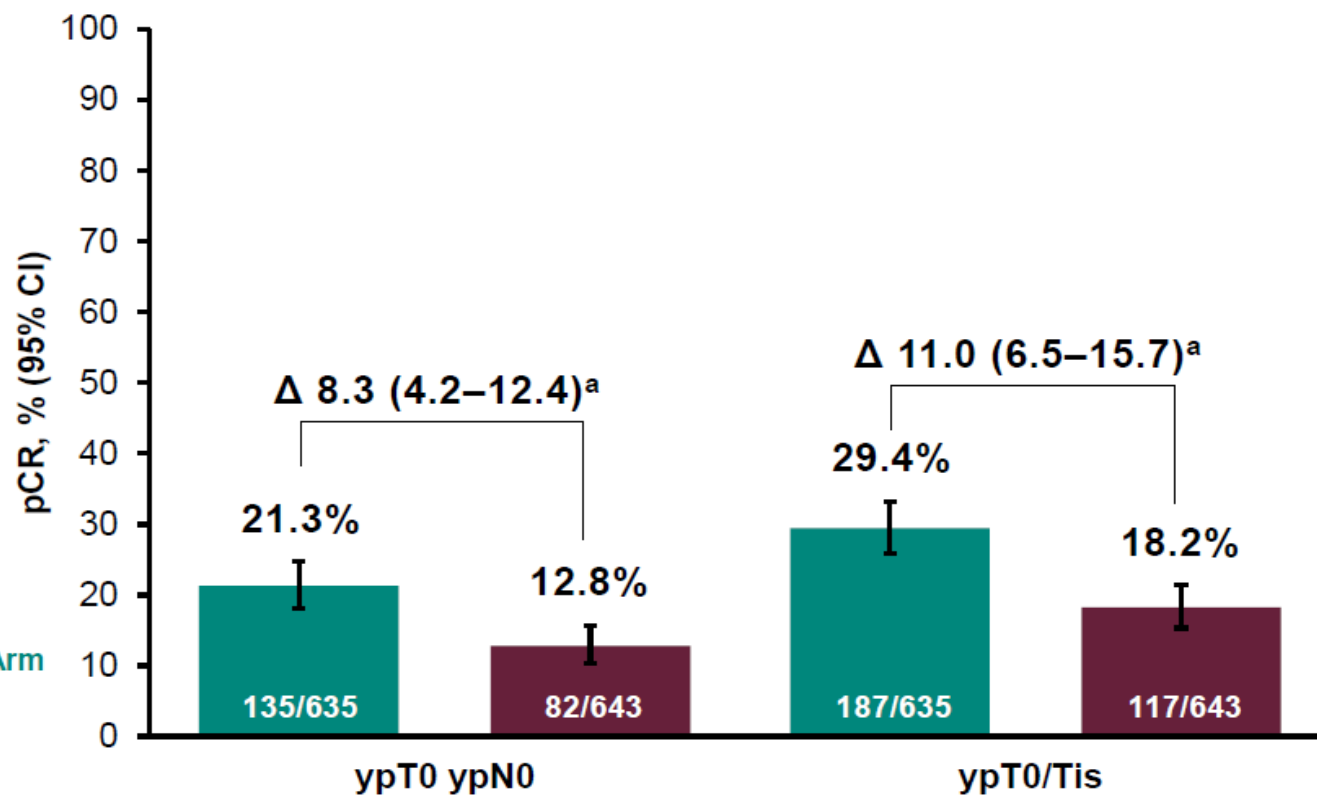
<sup>a</sup>All participants had centrally confirmed grade 3 disease. <sup>b</sup>PD-L1 assessed at a central laboratory using the PD-L1 IHC 22C3 pharmDx assay and measured using the combined positive score (CPS; number of PD-L1–positive tumor cells, lymphocytes, and macrophages divided by total number of tumor cells x 100). Data cutoff date: May 25, 2023.

# Pathological Complete Response at IA1

## Primary Endpoint



## Secondary Endpoints: Other pCR Definitions



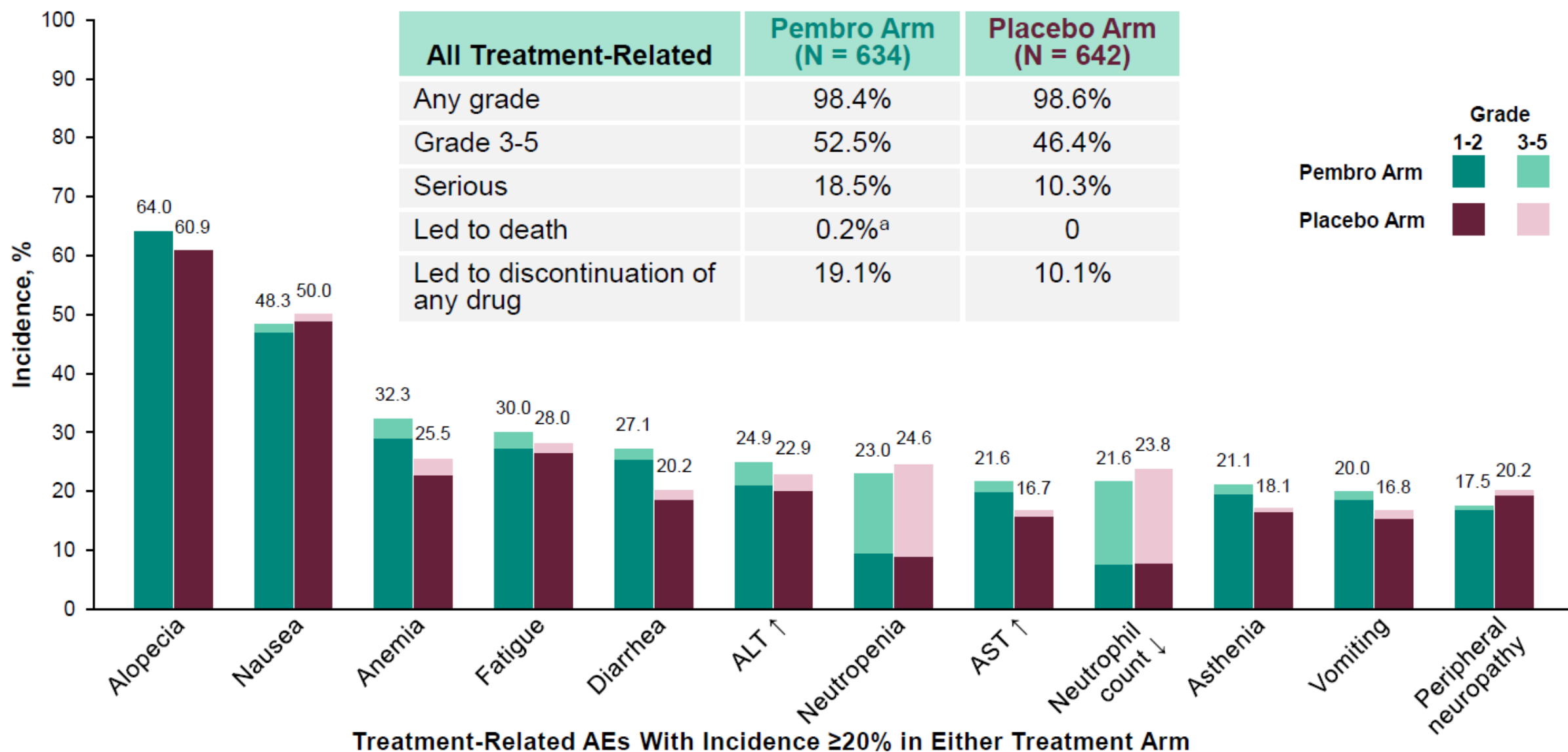
<sup>a</sup>Estimated treatment difference based on Miettinen & Nurminen method stratified by the analysis randomization stratification factors. Data cutoff date: May 25, 2023.

# News from EBCC



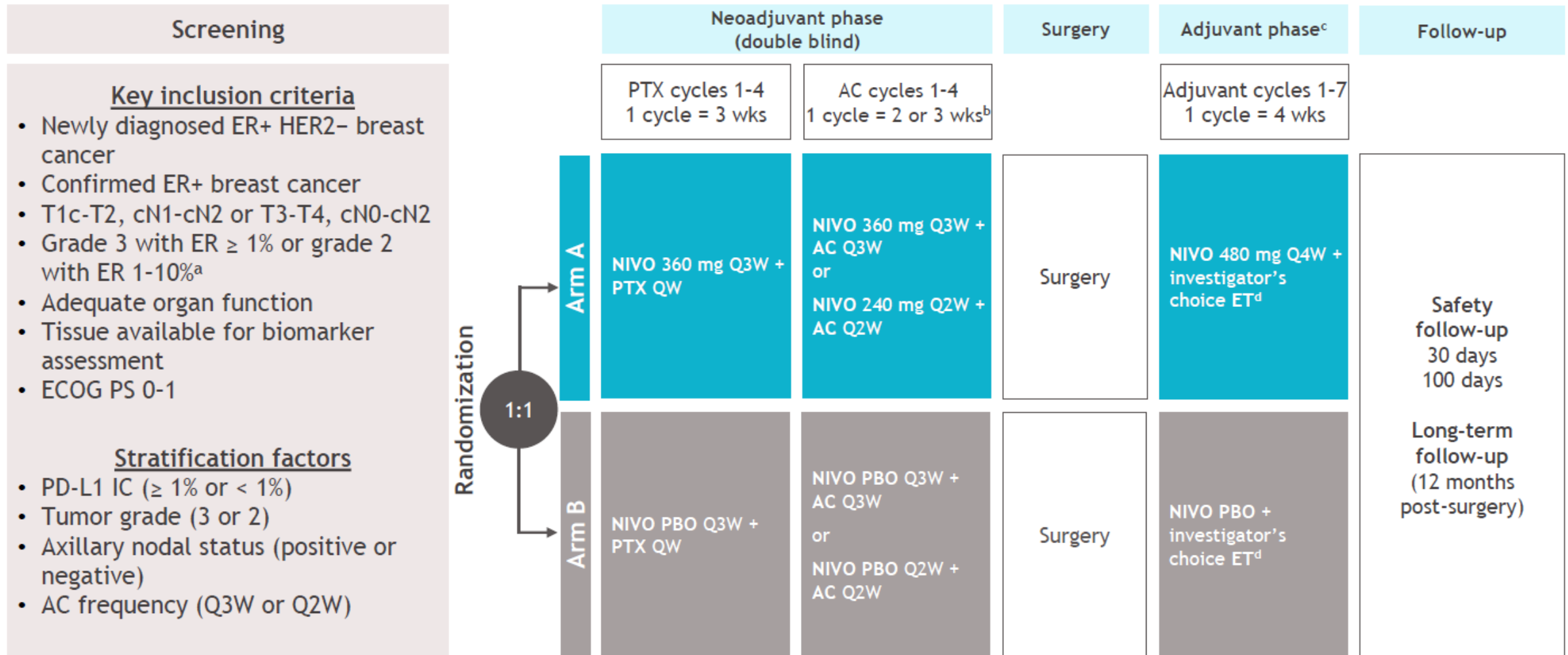
- pCR rates occurred regardless of the patients' age or menopausal status. In patients younger than 50 years old, the pCR rate was 23.8% in those on pembrolizumab compared to 16.9% for those receiving placebo, and was 24.7% versus 14.2% respectively in those aged 50 or older.
- In pre-menopausal women, the pCR rate was 23.4% versus 16.1% (57 out of 353) respectively, and in post-menopausal women, it was 24.8% versus 14.6%, respectively.

# Treatment-Related AEs in Neoadjuvant Phase



<sup>a</sup>1 patient from acute myocardial infarction, considered related to QT. Data cutoff date: May 25, 2023.

# CA209-7FL study design



<sup>a</sup>Grade was determined locally by investigator. <sup>b</sup>Investigator's choice: anthracycline dosing frequency of Q2W or Q3W for AC cycles determined by the investigator. <sup>c</sup>After protocol amendment 3, the study was unblinded in the adjuvant phase. Participants in arm B will not receive NIVO PBO. <sup>d</sup>Available ET agents included tamoxifen, letrozole, anastrozole, and exemestane.

AC, anthracycline + cyclophosphamide; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; EFS, event-free survival; ER+, estrogen receptor-positive; ET, endocrine therapy; HER2-, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2-negative; IC, immune cell; N, lymph node involvement; NIVO, nivolumab; PBO, placebo; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; PTX, paclitaxel; QXW, every X weeks; T, size and extent of primary tumor; wk, week.

# Patient baseline characteristics in mITT population (n = 510)

- Of 830 patients screened, 521 were randomized in total and 510 were randomized in the primary efficacy population (mITT)

	Arm A: NIVO + NACT, n = 257	Arm B: PBO + NACT, n = 253
Median age, years (range)	50 (24-78)	51 (23-79)
ECOG PS, n (%)		
0	221 (86)	222 (88)
1	36 (14)	31 (12)
Tumor grade, <sup>a</sup> n (%)		
Grade 2	6 (2)	1 (< 1)
Grade 3	251 (98)	252 (> 99)
Stage <sup>b</sup> (TNM classification <sup>1</sup> ), n (%)		
Stage II	135 (53)	138 (55)
Stage III	118 (46)	105 (42)
Not assigned/reported	4 (2)	7 (3)
PD-L1, <sup>c</sup> n (%)		
< 1%	169 (66)	169 (67)
≥ 1%	88 (34)	84 (33)
Axillary nodal status, n (%)		
Positive	205 (80)	201 (79)
Negative	52 (20)	52 (21)
AC dose-frequency chemotherapy regimen, n (%)		
Q2W	132 (51)	134 (53)
Q3W	125 (49)	119 (47)

<sup>a</sup>Locally assessed. <sup>b</sup>Arm B included 1 patient with stage I disease and 2 patients with stage IV disease. <sup>c</sup>PD-L1-expressing tumor-infiltrating IC as percentage of tumor area using the VENTANA SP142 assay, per central assessment. AC, anthracycline + cyclophosphamide; ECOG PS, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group performance status; IC, immune cell; mITT, modified intent-to-treat; NACT, neoadjuvant chemotherapy; NIVO, nivolumab; PBO, placebo; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; QXW, every X weeks; TNM, TNM staging system (T, size and extent of primary tumor; N, extent of spread to the lymph nodes; M, presence of metastasis). 1. AJCC Cancer Staging Manual; 8th edition, 3rd printing, Amin MB, Edge SB, Greene FL, et al (Eds), Springer, Chicago 2018.

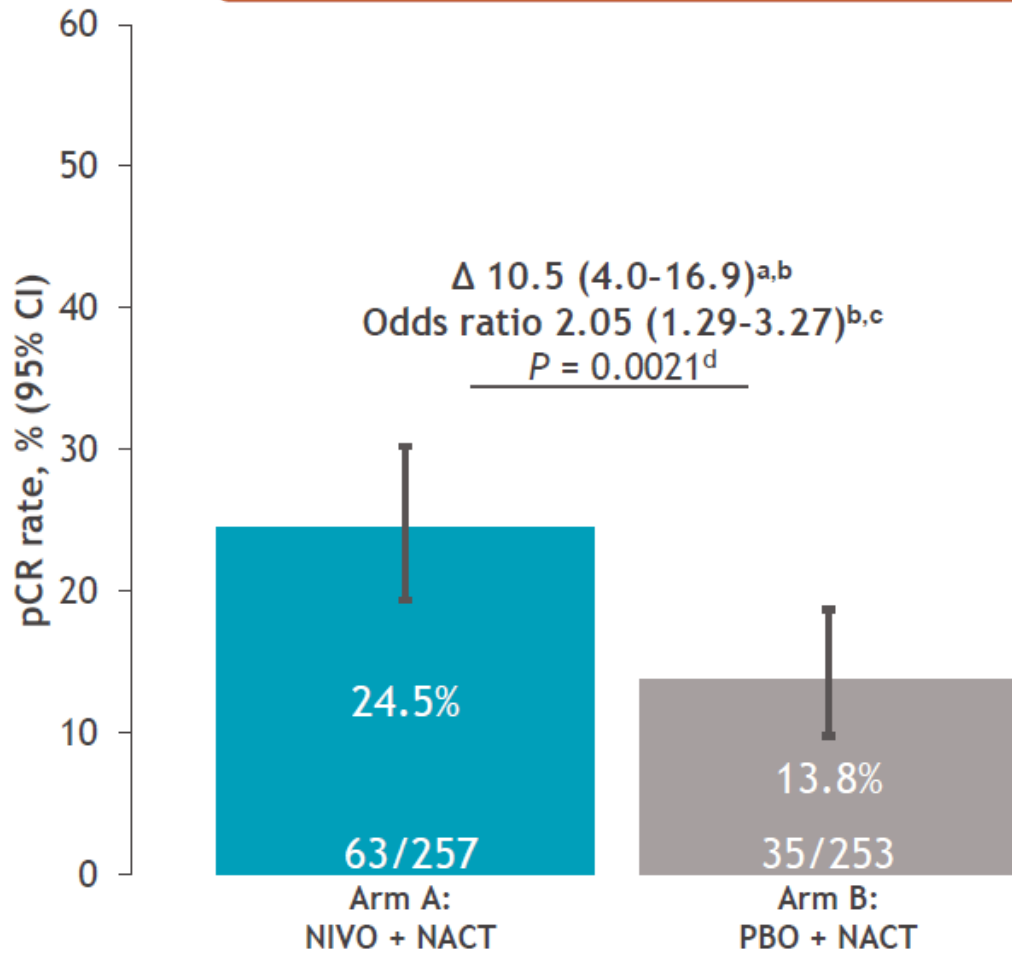
## Key changes and protocol amendments

- The treatment landscape changed in Oct 2021 with approval of adjuvant abemaciclib in high-risk primary ER+ HER2- breast cancer
- This was expected to result in a high rate of withdrawals due to safety concerns with combining CDK4/6 inhibitor with anti-PD-1, putting the co-primary EFS endpoint at risk<sup>1-3</sup>
- In April 2022, a protocol amendment resulted in:
  - The primary endpoint of the trial to focus solely on pCR and new enrollment ceased after 521 patients randomized
    - The primary efficacy population was modified (mITT) to include 510<sup>a</sup> patients enrolled across 221 sites in 31 countries from November 2019 to April 2022
  - pCR in the PD-L1+ population was evaluated as a secondary endpoint
  - EFS was changed from primary to exploratory endpoint; follow up was reduced to 1 year post surgery and adjuvant component became open label
- The safety population included all randomized patients who received  $\geq 1$  dose (n = 517)

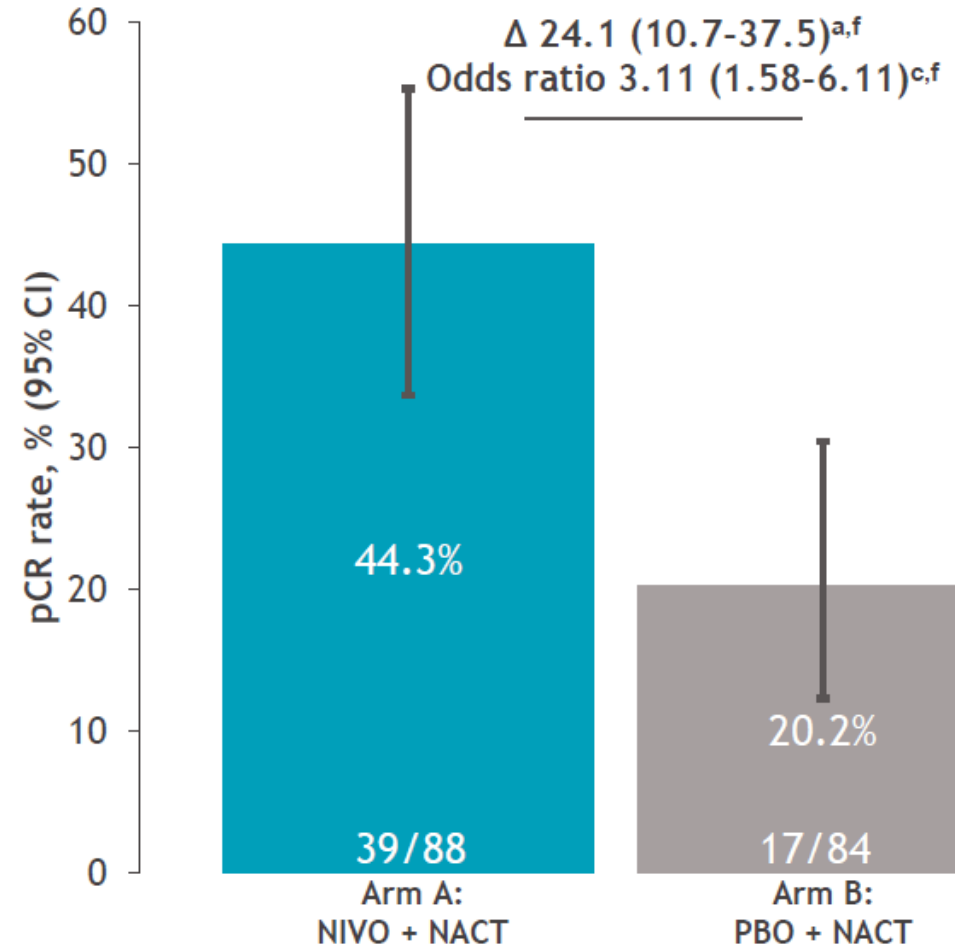


# pCR rate in mITT population and by PD-L1 IC $\geq 1\%$

## mITT population (primary endpoint)

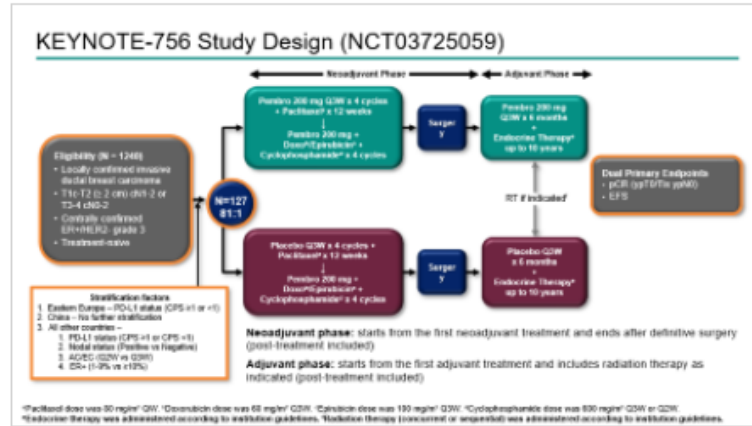


## PD-L1 IC $\geq 1\%$ <sup>e</sup> (secondary endpoint)

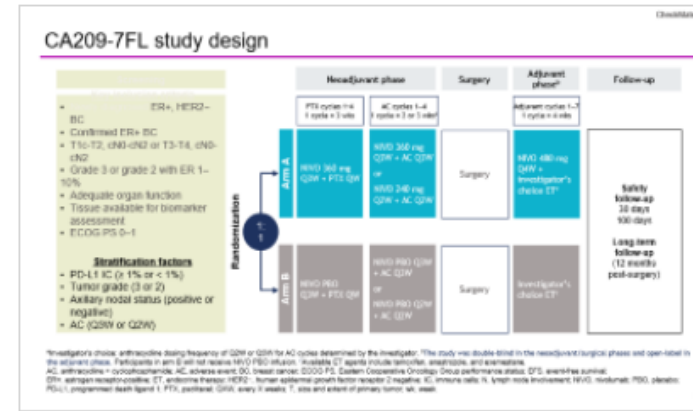


<sup>a</sup>Strata-adjusted difference in pCR (arm A-arm B) based on Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel method of weighting. <sup>b</sup>Stratified by PD-L1 by SP142 (< 1% vs  $\geq 1\%$ ) and AC dose-frequency chemotherapy regimen (Q2W vs Q3W) per IRT. <sup>c</sup>Strata-adjusted odds ratio (arm A over arm B) using Mantel-Haenszel method. <sup>d</sup>Two-sided  $P$  value from stratified Cochran-Mantel-Haenszel test. <sup>e</sup>PD-L1 ICs and PD-L1-expressing tumor-infiltrating ICs as percentage of tumor area using the VENTANA SP142 assay. <sup>f</sup>Stratified by AC dose-frequency chemotherapy regimen. AC, anthracycline + cyclophosphamide; CI, confidence interval; IC, immune cell; IRT, interactive response technology; mITT, modified intent-to-treat; NACT, neoadjuvant chemotherapy; NIVO, nivolumab; PBO, placebo; pCR, pathological complete response; PD-L1, programmed death ligand 1; QXW, every X weeks.

# Neo-Adjuvant Trials IO + CT for ER+ HER2- Early Breast Cancer



Cardoso F et al, LBA21, ESMO 2023



Loi S et al, LBA20, ESMO 2023

## Similar Trial Designs:

- both placebo controlled RCTs assessing PD1 inhibitors in combination with same NACT regimen in ER+ HER2- EBC
- different PD1 inhibitors (pembrolizumab, nivolumab)

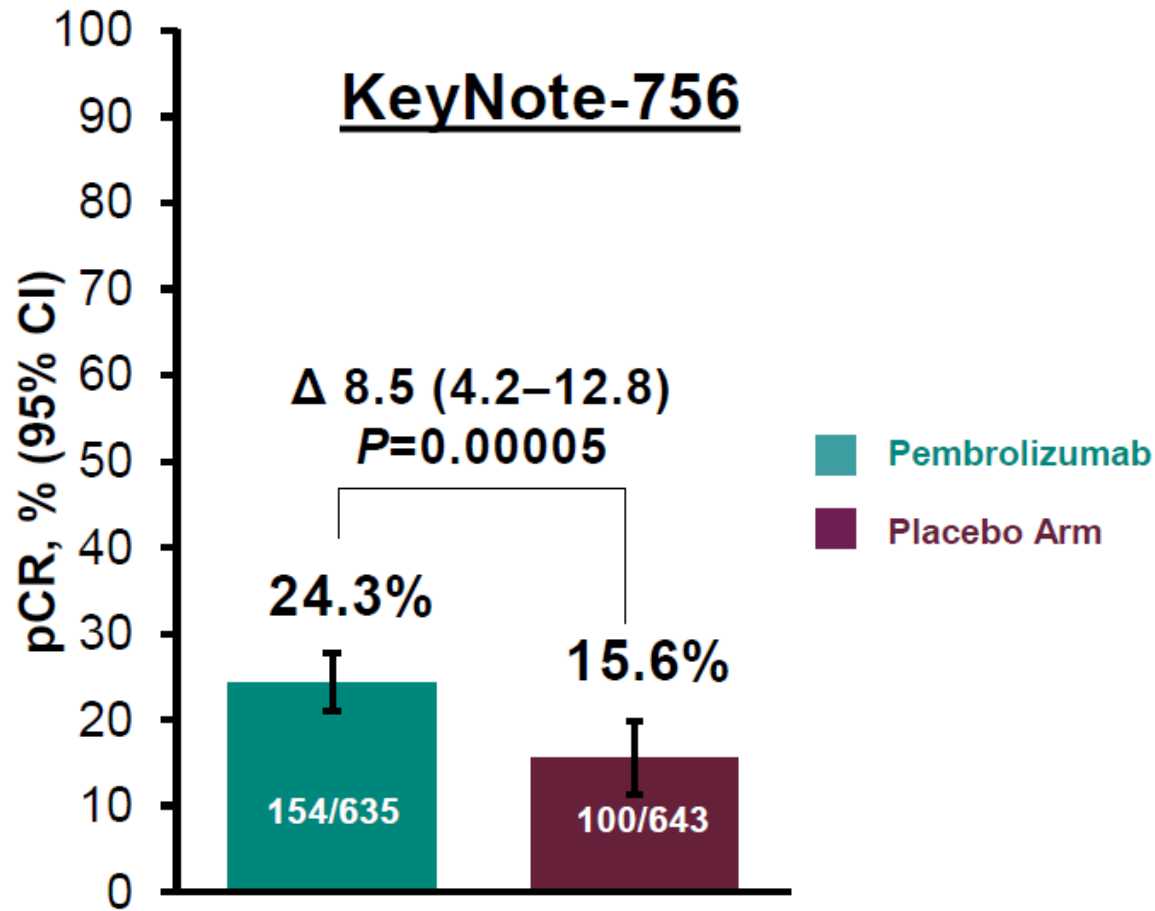
## Eligible Patients:

- slight differences in populations
- All Gr 3, T1c-T2 / N1-2 or T3/T4 N0-2 in KeyNote-756
- Gr 2/3, T1c-T2 / N0-2 or T3/T4 N0-2 in CheckMate-7FL

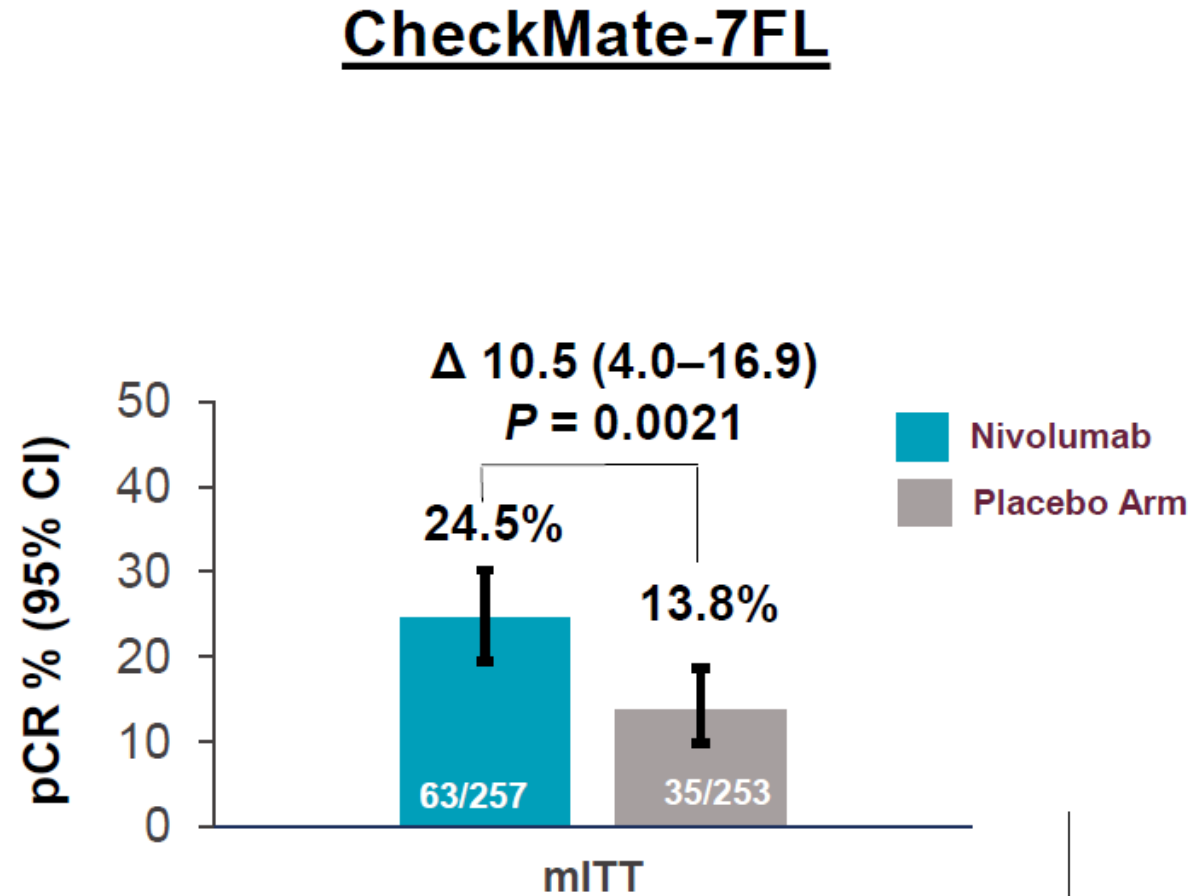
## Similar Stratification Factors:

- Nodal Status, AC/EC 2w/3w schedule, PD-L1 status (but different assays used)

# Pathological Complete Response (ypT0/Tis ypN0)



Cardoso F et al, LBA21, ESMO 2023



Loi S et al, LBA20, ESMO 2023

# Adverse Events with Neo-Adjuvant Immunotherapy in ER+ HER2- EBC

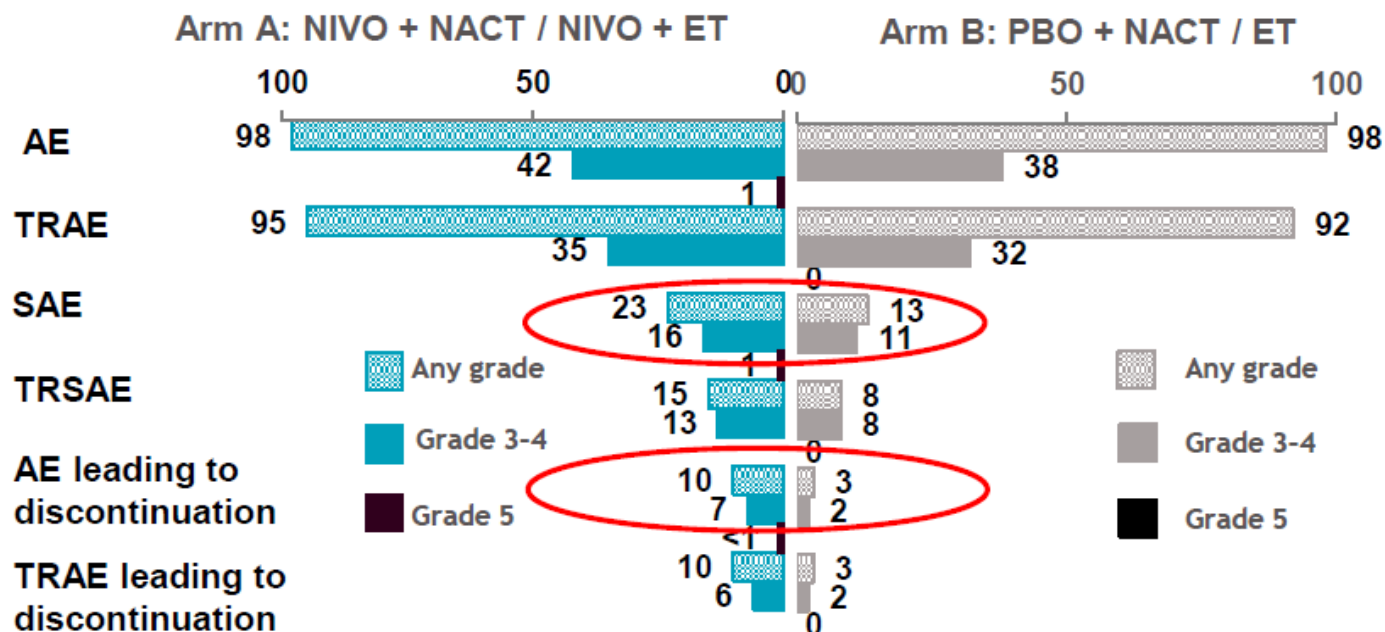
## KeyNote-756

All Treatment-Related	Pembro Arm (N = 634)	Placebo Arm (N = 642)
Any grade	98.4%	98.6%
Grade 3-5	52.5%	46.4%
Serious	18.5%	10.3%
Led to death	0.2% <sup>a</sup>	0
Led to discontinuation of any drug	19.1%	10.1%

1 death in PEMBRO arm due to acute myocardial infarct (QT related)

Cardoso F et al, LBA21, ESMO 2023

## CheckMate-7FL



2 deaths in NIVO arm due to pneumonitis, hepatitis

Loi S et al, LBA20, ESMO 2023

# Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy for ER+ HER2- Early Breast Cancer

## A New Paradigm ?

### Can Neoadjuvant Immunotherapy improve pCR rates in ER+ HER2- EBC ?

- Yes, significant improvement in pCR seen in 2 separate studies of PD1 inhibitors, albeit rates still only 24%
- Unclear if this will translate into improved EFS

### Are there subgroups of ER+ HER2- EBC who benefit most ?

- Almost certainly – higher grade, luminal B, & possibly PD-L1 positive (assay dependent)
- Need to better evaluate if genomic & immune signatures can further define those with most to gain


### Are the added toxicities worth it ?

- Added toxicities well known and important in “risk / benefit” decision making of “whom to treat”

# Conclusioni

- Immunoterapia non indicata per tutti i tumori mammari
- Vantaggio in sopravvivenza nei pazienti con tumore mammario metastatico TN PDL 1 positivo
- Aumento della probabilità di pCR e migliore EFS nei tumori mammari TN stadio iniziale indipendentemente dall'espressione di PDL1
- Domande sull'utilizzo dell'immunoterapia in pazienti suscettibili anche ad altre terapia (es capecitabina? Olaparib?)
- Tanti quesiti sull'utilizzo della immunoterapia nei tumori luminali-> no modifica la nostra attitudine

- GRAZIE MILLE!!!!



Progetto CANOA

# CARCINOMA MAMMARIO:

QUALI NOVITA' PER IL 2024?

*"Saper leggere" uno studio clinico per migliorare la pratica clinica*

Coordinatori scientifici:  
Stefania Gori  
Giovanni L. Pappagallo



Verona, 22-23 Marzo 2024  
Hotel Leon d'Oro