

# DBCG

## Det videnskabelige bidrag

Bent Ejlertsen

16<sup>th</sup> ACTA ONCOLOGICA SYMPOSIUM



# Forty years of landmark trials undertaken by the Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (DBCG) nationwide or in international collaboration

Bent Ejlerksen, Birgitte Vrou Offersen, Jens Overgaard, Peer Christiansen, Maj-Britt Jensen, Niels Kroman, Ann Søgaard Knoop & Henning Mouridsen

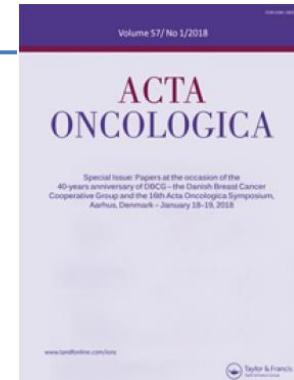
## ABSTRACT

**Background:** Over the past 40 years the Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (DBCG) has made significant contributions to improve outcome and to make treatment of patients with early breast cancer more tolerable through nationwide and international trials evaluating loco-regional and systemic treatments. These trials have been instrumental to establish standards for the treatment of early breast cancer.

**Methods:** The DBCG 82 trials had a global impact by documenting that the significant gain in loco-regional recurrence from postmastectomy radiation added to systemic therapy was associated with a reduction in distant recurrence and mortality in high-risk pre- and postmenopausal patients. The DBCG trials comparing breast conserving surgery and radiotherapy with mastectomy and more recently the trial of internal mammary node irradiation also had a major impact of practice. The trials initiated by the DBCG 40 years ago on tamoxifen and cyclophosphamide based chemotherapy became instrumental for the development of adjuvant systemic therapy not only due to their positive results but by sharing these important data with other members of the Early Breast Cancer Trialist' Collaborative Group (EBCTCG). Trials from the DBCG have also been important for highlighting the relative importance of anthracyclines and taxanes in the adjuvant setting. Furthermore, DBCG has made a major contribution to the development of aromatase inhibitors and targeted adjuvant treatment for human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 positive breast cancers.

**Results:** The substantial impact of these treatment improvements is illustrated by a 46.7% 10-year overall survival of early breast cancer patients treated in 1978–1987 compared to 71.5% for patients treated 2008–2012.

**Conclusions:** The trials conducted and implemented by the DBCG appear to have a major impact on the substantial survival improvements in breast cancer.



# Forty years of landmark trials undertaken by the Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group (DBCG) nationwide or in international collaboration

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Maj-Britt Jensen, Niels Kroman, Ann Søgaard Knoop & Henning Mouridsen



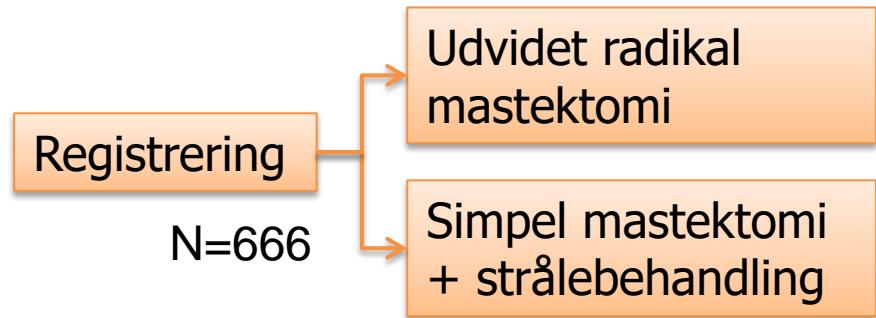
- DBCG's 40 års jubilæumsmøde
- 16<sup>th</sup> ACTA ONCOLOGICA SYMPOSIUM
- Kliniske forsøg udført af DBCG
  - Kirurgi
  - Strålebehandling
  - Endokrin behandling
  - HER2 rettet behandling
  - Kemoterapi
- Behandlingen af brystkræft er i fire successive dekader koblet til bedre overlevelse

Inden DBCG var der ingenting?

Eller var der?

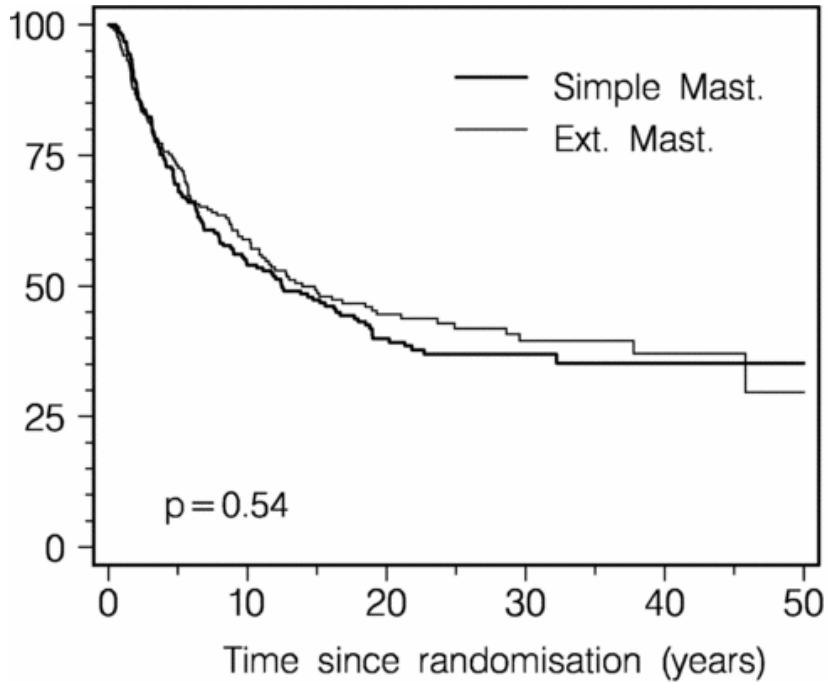
# Copenhagen Breast Cancer Trials

## Radikal vs simpel mastektomi



- Åbent randomiseret fase 3 forsøg
- Alle blev registreret når henvisningen var modtaget
- Åben fra november 1951 til udgangen af december 1957

## Cause\*-specific survival (%)



\*Breast cancer specific survival

# Locoregional treatment

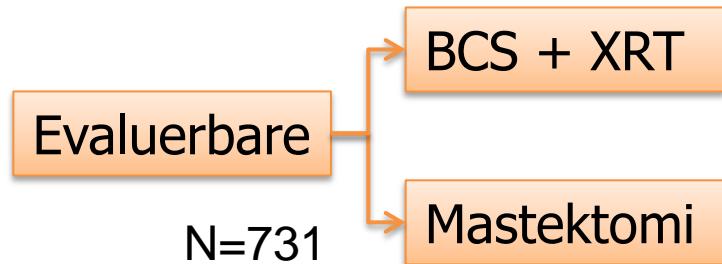
## 10 year disease-free and overall survival

Study	Regimens	N	DFS; 95% CI	OS; 95% CI
<b>CBCT 01</b> Johansen <sup>4</sup>	Radical mastectomy	334	*41% (34;47)	37% (32,42)
	Mastectomy + RT	332	*40% (33;46)	36% (31,41)
<b>DBCG 82B</b> Overgaard <sup>10</sup>	Mastectomy + RT	852	48% (45;52)	54% (51;58)
	Mastectomy	856	34% (30;37)	45% (42;48)
<b>DBCG 82C</b> Overgaard <sup>11</sup>	Mastectomy + RT	686	36% (32;40)	45% (41;49)
	Mastectomy	689	24% (21;28)	36% (33;40)
<b>DBCG 82TM</b> Blichert-Toft <sup>16</sup>	Lumpectomy + RT	381	60% (55;64)	73% (68;77)
	Mastectomy	350	61% (56,66)	71% (66;76)
<b>DBCG IMN</b> Thorsen <sup>31</sup>	IMN + RT	1492	#27% (25;30)	#76% (74;78)
	IMN (no RT)	1597	#30% (27;32)	#72% (70;75)

\*Analysis restricted to 425 patients with surgery at two certified institutions. # DFS and OS at 8 years follow-up. RT: radiotherapy; DFS: disease-free survival; OS: overall survival; CI: confidence interval.

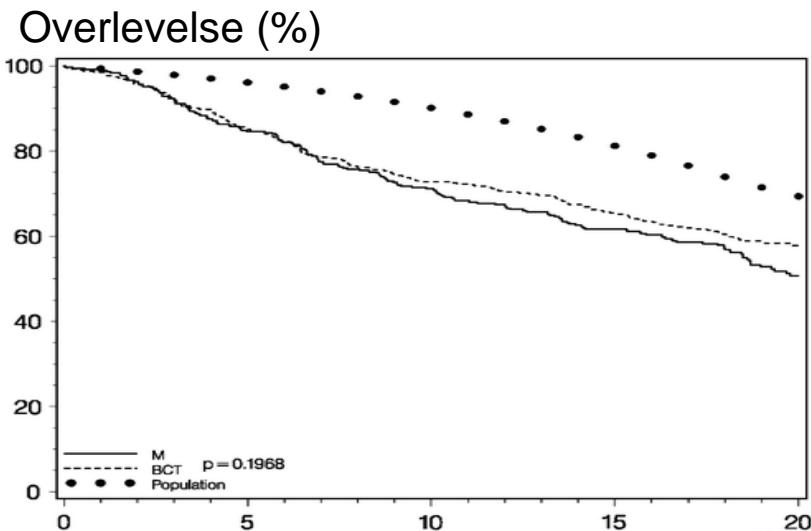
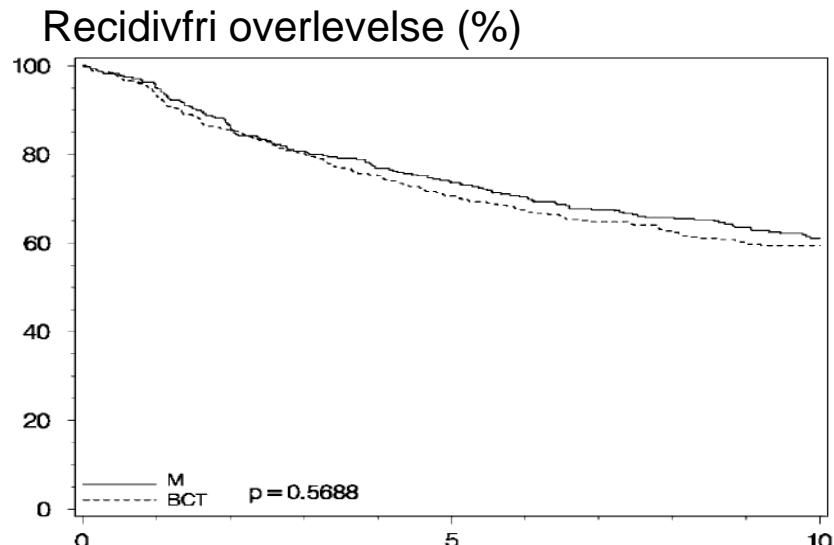
# DBCG 82TM; BCS vs mastectomy

## Radikal vs simpel mastektomi



- Åbent randomiseret fase 3 forsøg
- Randomisation før samtykke efter Zelen's princip.
- Åben fra januar 1983 til udgangen af marts 1989

Blichert-Toft et al. Acta Oncol 2008;47:672

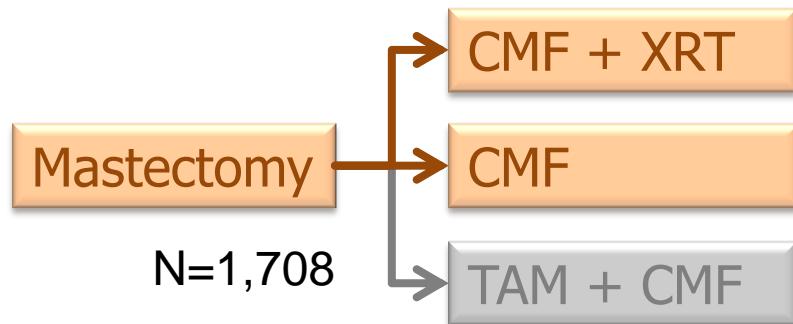




# POSTOPERATIVE RADIOTHERAPY IN HIGH-RISK PREMENOPAUSAL WOMEN WITH BREAST CANCER WHO RECEIVE ADJUVANT CHEMOTHERAPY

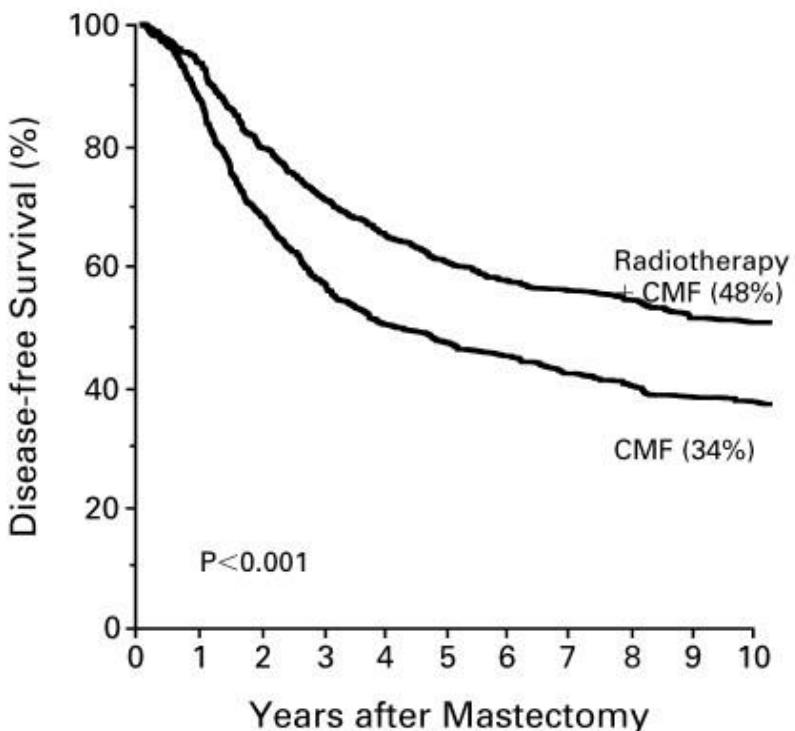
MARIE OVERGAARD, M.D., PER S. HANSEN, M.D., JENS OVERGAARD, M.D., CARSTEN ROSE, M.D., MICHAEL ANDERSSON, M.D., FLEMMING BACH, M.D., MOGENS KJAER, M.D., CARL C. GADEBERG, M.D., HENNING T. MOURIDSEN, M.D., MAJ-BRITT JENSEN, M.Sc., AND KARIN ZEDELER, M.Sc., FOR THE DANISH BREAST CANCER COOPERATIVE GROUP 82b TRIAL

## 82B: præmenopausal



- Højrisiko, dvs. N+, T>5 cm og/eller invasion i hud eller fascie.
- Total mastektomi med partiel aksildissektion.
- CMF (600, 40, 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>).

Overgaard et al. NEJM 1997;337:949

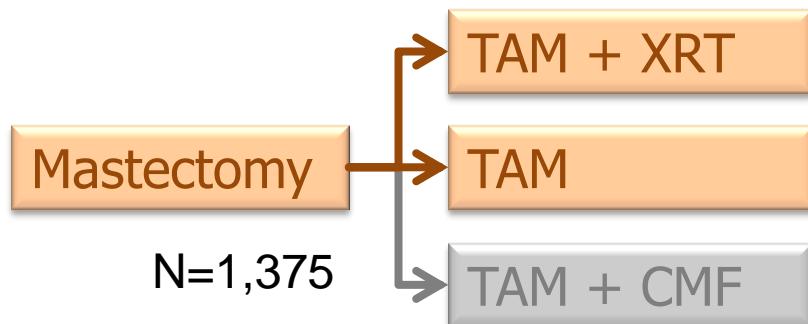


Radiotherapy + CMF	852	643	505	429	308	102
CMF	856	537	382	327	216	74

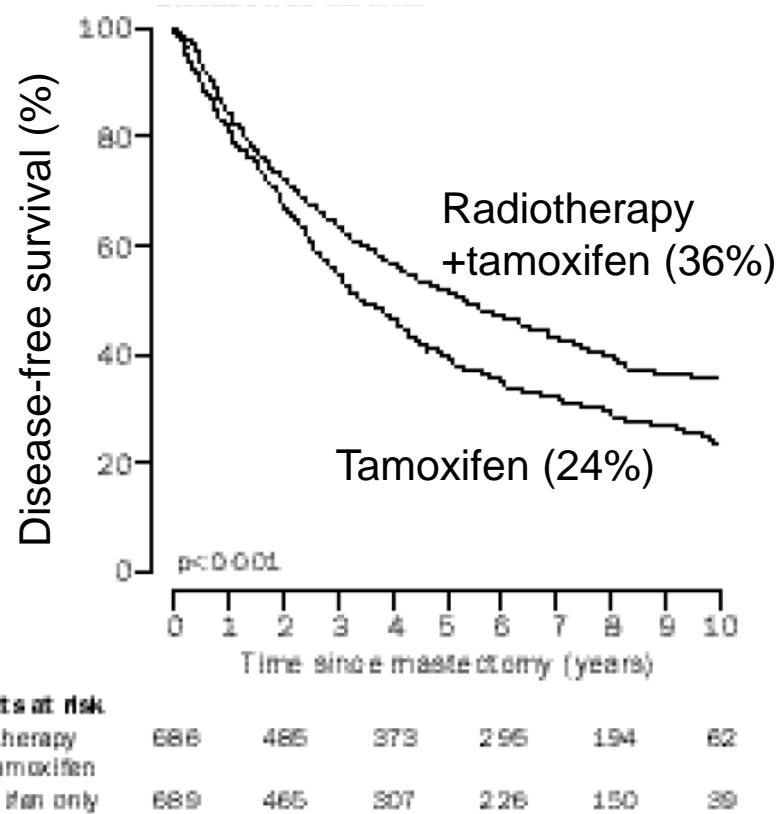
# Postoperative radiotherapy in high-risk postmenopausal breast cancer patients given adjuvant tamoxifen: Danish Breast Cancer Cooperative Group 82c randomised trial

*Marie Overgaard, Maj-Britt Jensen, Jens Overgaard, Per S Hansen, Carsten Rose, Michael Andersson, Claus Kamby, Mogens Kjær, Carl C Gadeberg, Birgitte Bruun Rasmussen, Mogens Blichert-Toft, Henning T Mouridsen*

## 82C: postmenopausal



- Højrisiko, dvs. N+, T>5 cm og/eller invasion i hud eller fascie.
- Total mastektomi med partiel aksildissektion.
- Tamoxifen 30 mg dag. i 1 år.



# DBCG-IMN: A Population-Based Cohort Study on the Effect of Internal Mammary Node Irradiation in Early Node-Positive Breast Cancer

*Lise Bech Jellesmark Thorsen, Birgitte Vrou Offersen, Hella Danø, Martin Berg, Ingelise Jensen, Anders Navrsted Pedersen, Sune Jürg Zimmermann, Hans-Jürgen Brodersen, Marie Overgaard, and Jens Overgaard*

**Concern** of radiation-induced heart disease led to a different strategy for including the internal mammary nodes (IMN) in loco-regional RT after left and right sided breast cancer.

In patients who received loco-regional RT

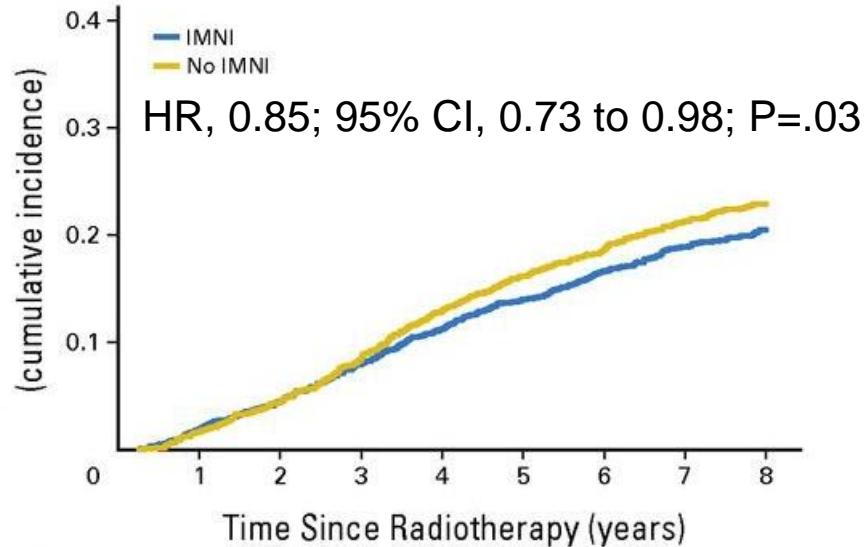
- INM was included in the RT fields following right sided bc
  - INM was not included in the RT fields following right sided bc
- The IMN target generally included the nodes in caudal direction to the intercostal space (IC) IV (cranial border of the 5<sup>th</sup> rib).

DBCG assessed the effect of internal mammary node irradiation (IMNI) in patients with early stage node-positive breast cancer.

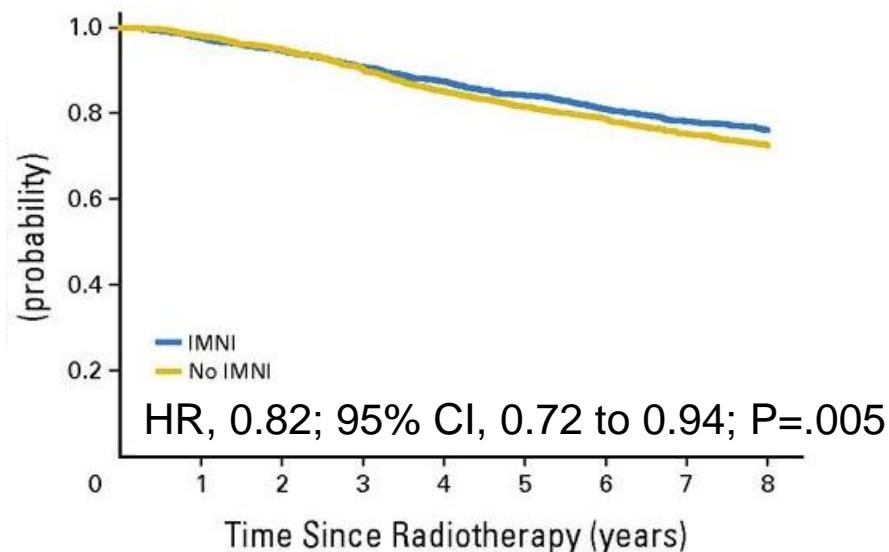
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## Breast Cancer Mortality



## Overall Survival



	1,492	1,410	1,301	1,205	783
IMNI	1,492	1,410	1,301	1,205	783
No IMNI	1,597	1,410	1,301	1,205	791

1,492	1,410	1,301	1,205	783
1,597	1,410	1,301	1,205	791

# Adjuvant endocrine treatment

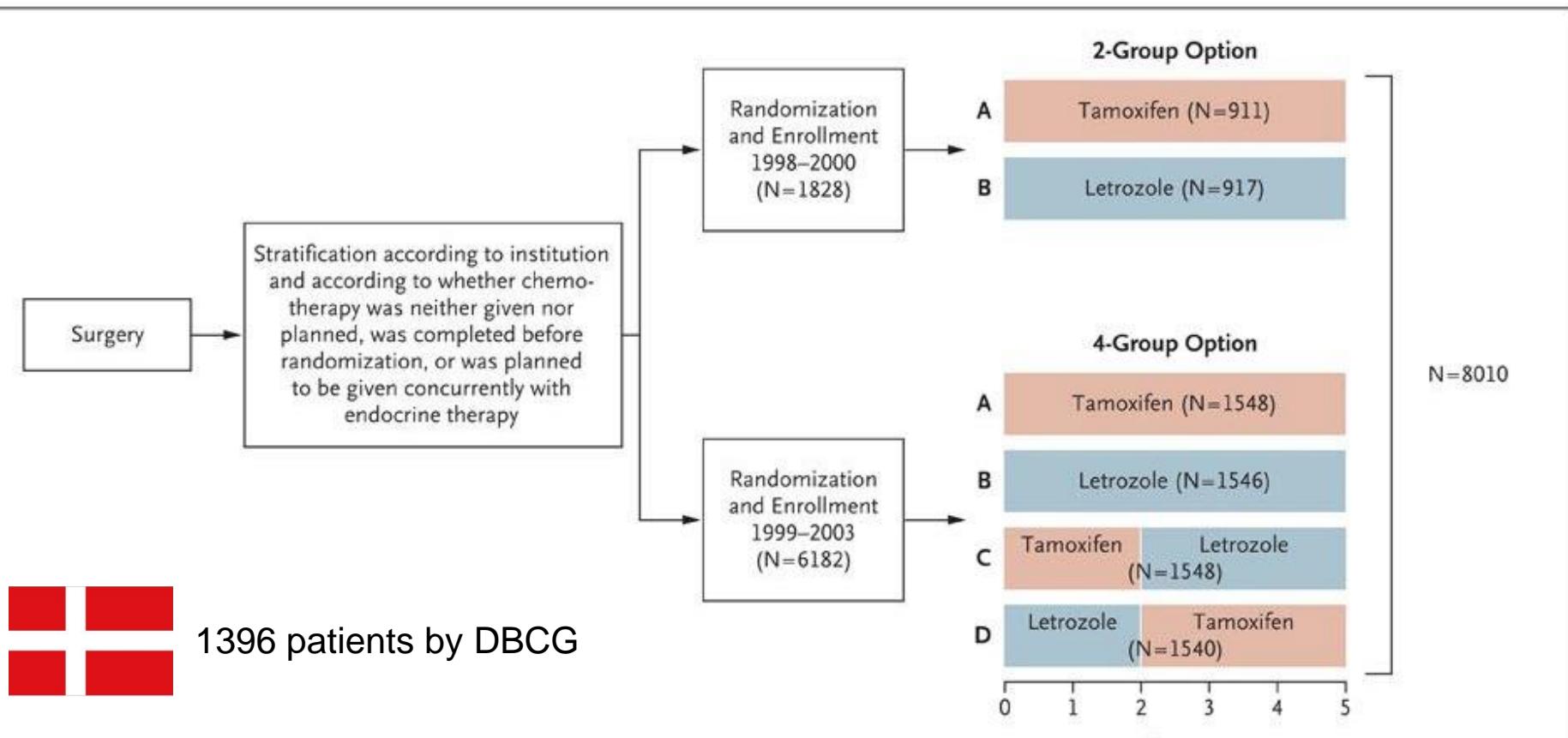
Study	Regimens	N	DFS; 95% CI	OS; 95% CI
<b>CBCT 02</b> Jensen <sup>51</sup>	Tamoxifen	164	0.74; 0.53-1.05	0.79; 0.63-0.99
	Placebo	153		
<b>DBCG 77C</b> Knoop <sup>52</sup>	Tamoxifen	868	0.87; 0.77-0.98	0.83; 0.73-0.94‡
	Control	848		
<b>DBCG 82B</b> Andersson <sup>56</sup>	CMF+Tamoxifen	320	0.93; 0.76-1.15	1.05; 0.85-1.30
	CMF	314		
<b>DBCG 89C</b> Andersen <sup>54</sup>	TAM 1 year	554	1.04; 0.89-1.22 1.11; 0.94-1.30	0.99; 0.85-1.15 1.05; 0.90-1.23
	TAM 2 years	535		
	TAM→Megace	526		
<b>IES / 89CX</b> Bliss <sup>73</sup>	Tamoxifen	615	0.84; 0.71-0.99	0.79; 0.66-0.94
	Exemestane	584		
<b>BIG 1-98</b> Mouridsen <sup>70</sup>	Tamoxifen	2459	0.86; 0.78-0.96	0.87; 0.77-0.999
	Letrozole	2463		
	TAM→Letrozole#	1548	1.07; 0.92-1.25 1.06; 0.91-1.23	1.10; 0.90-1.33 0.97; 0.80-1.19
	Letrozole→TAM#	1540		
<b>FACE</b> Smith <sup>76</sup>	Anastrozole	2075	0.93; 0.80-1.07	0.98; 0.82-1.17
	Letrozole	2061		
<b>SOLE</b> Colleoni <sup>78</sup>	Cont. letrozole	2441	1.08; 0.93-1.26	0.85; 0.68-1.07
	With breaks	2443		

DFS: disease-free survival; OS: overall survival; CI: confidence interval; TAM: tamoxifen; #: total duration of 5 years  
NA: non-available; NS: non-significant. #: versus letrozole; ‡breast cancer mortality

*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

# Letrozole Therapy Alone or in Sequence with Tamoxifen in Women with Breast Cancer

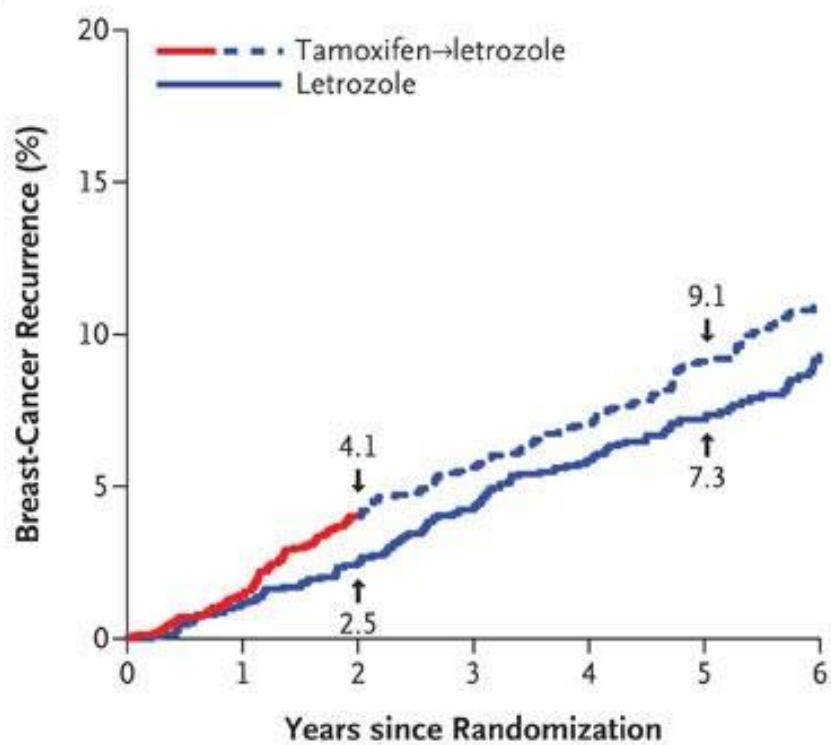
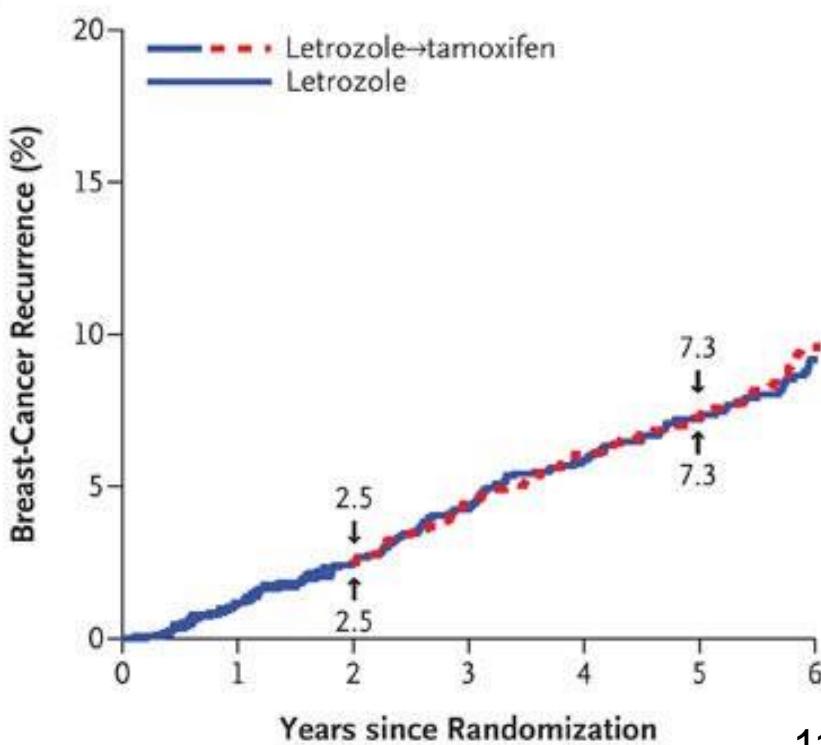
The BIG 1-98 Collaborative Group\*



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# Letrozole Therapy Alone or in Sequence with Tamoxifen in Women with Breast Cancer

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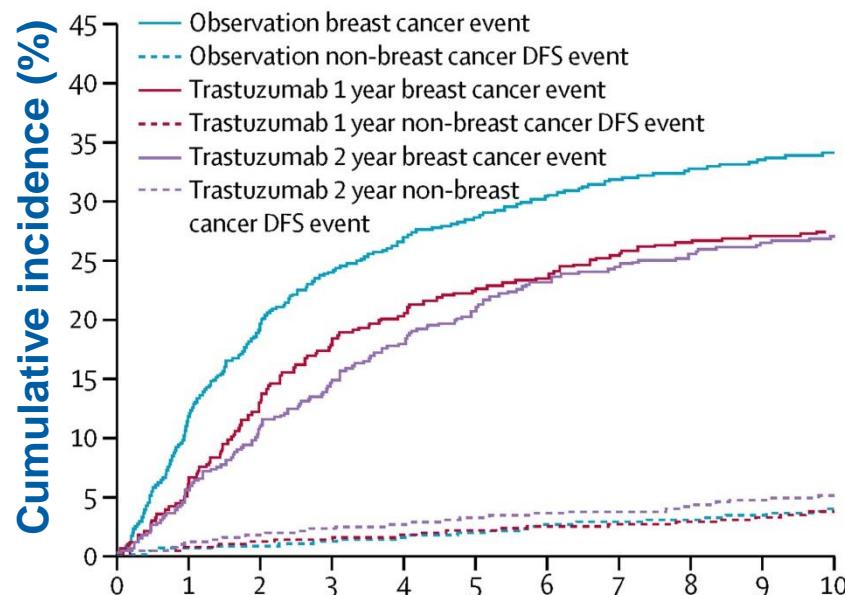
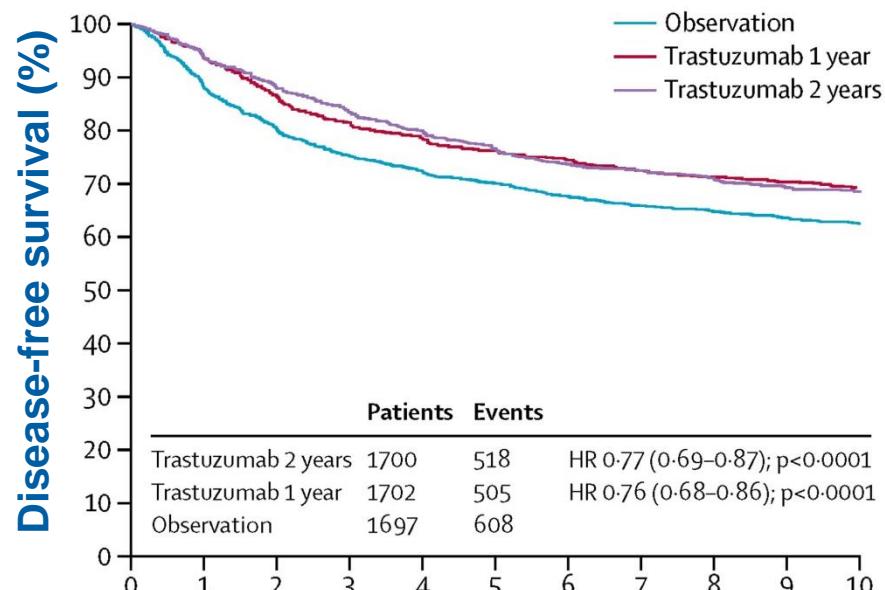
**A****B**

# Adjuvant HER2 targeted treatment

<b>Study</b>	<b>Regimens</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>DFS; 95% CI</b>	<b>OS; 95% CI</b>
<b>HERA</b> Cameron <sup>83</sup>	Trastuzumab 2 yr	1700	0.77; 0.69-0.87	NA
	Trastuzumab 1 yr	1702	0.76; 0.68-0.86	0.74; 0.64-0.86
	Control	1697		
<b>ALTTO</b> Piccart <sup>84</sup>	Lapatinib + T	2093	0.84; 0.70-1.02	0.80; 0.62-1.03
	T → lapatinib	2091	0.96; 0.80-1.15	0.91; 0.71-1.16
	Lapatinib	2100	1.34; 1.13-1.60	1.36; 1.09-1.72
	Trastuzumab	2097		
<b>APHINITY</b> Minckwitz <sup>85</sup>	Pertuzumab	2400	0.81; 0.66-1.00	0.89; 0.66-1.21
	Control	2404		
<b>ExteNet</b>	Neratinib	1420	0.67; 0.50-0.91	NA
Chan <sup>86</sup>	Control	1420		

DFS: disease-free survival; OS: overall survival; CI: confidence interval; NA: non-available; NS: non-significant.

# 11 years' follow-up of trastuzumab after adjuvant chemotherapy in HER2-positive early breast cancer: final analysis of the HERceptin Adjuvant (HERA) trial



Number at risk											
Observation	1697	1438	1296	1201	1140	1095	1038	990	946	911	831
Trastuzumab	1702	1552	1413	1319	1265	1213	1179	1131	1099	1069	996
1 year											
Trastuzumab	1700	1553	1442	1361	1291	1222	1156	1125	1087	1045	965
2 years											

1697	1438	1296	1201	1140	1095	1038	990	946	911	831
1702	1552	1413	1319	1265	1213	1179	1131	1099	1069	996
1700	1553	1442	1361	1291	1222	1156	1125	1087	1045	965

# Adjuvant chemotherapy

<b>Study</b>	<b>Regimens</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>DFS; 95% CI</b>	<b>OS; 95% CI</b>
<b>DBCG 77B</b>	Ctx	181	0.62; 0.46-0.83	0.70; 0.52-0.95
Ejlertsen <sup>89</sup>	Oral CMF	193	0.70; 0.53-0.93	0.70; 0.52-0.94
	Control	187		
<b>DBCG 77B</b>	Ctx	424	0.95; 0.77-1.16	1.09; 0.92-1.29
Ejlertsen <sup>89</sup>	Oral CMF	423		
<b>DBCG 82C</b>	TAM+ CMF	709	0.82; 0.71-0.93	0.95; 0.85-1.08
Ejlertsen <sup>93</sup>	TAM	736		
<b>DBCG 89D</b>	CEF	615	0.84; 0.71-0.99	0.79; 0.66-0.94
Ejlertsen <sup>95</sup>	CMF	584		
<b>DBCG READ</b>	EC→D	1001	1.00; 0.78-1.28	1.15; 0.83-1.59
Ejlertsen <sup>101</sup>	DC	1011		
<b>BIG 2-98</b>	4A→3CMF	481	0.81; 0.67-0.99	0.85; 0.67-1.11
Oakman <sup>103</sup>	3A→3D→4CMF	960		
	4AC→4CMF	487	1.02; 0.84-1.23	0.96; 0.76-1.21
	4AD→4CMF	959		

DFS: disease-free survival; OS: overall survival; CI: confidence interval; NA: non-available; NS: non-significant. Ctx: oral cyclophosphamide; C: cyclophosphamide; F: fluorouracil; M: methotrexate; A: doxorubicin; E: epirubicin; D: docetaxel TAM: tamoxifen.

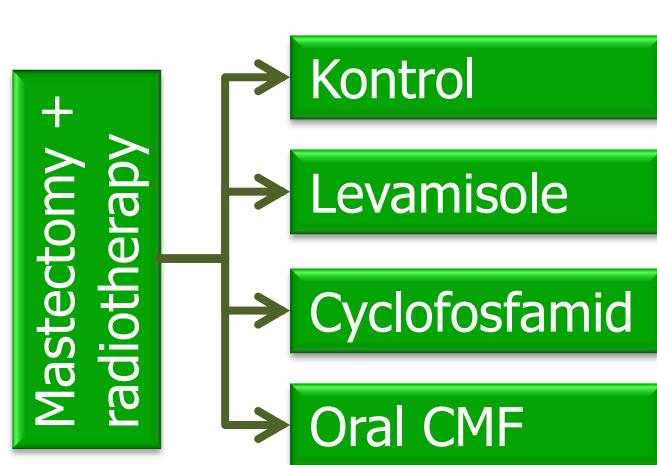
# Baggrund; adjuverende kemoterapi

- Biologien
  - I 1950'er blev der beskrevet cirkulerende tumorceller efter mastektomi.
  - I 1971 beskrev Skipper at tidlig, men ikke sen, kemoterapi kunne give komplet tumorsvind.
- Perioperativ kemoterapi
  - Fisher et al. 1968; thiothepa i NSABP-B01
  - Nissen-Meyer et al. 1971; enkeltstof cyclofosfamid
- Adjuverende kemoterapi
  - Bonadonna et al. 1976; CMF i første Milano trial

# DBCG 77B

## Patienter

- Præmenopausale
- Mastektomi og RT
- Ingen fjernmetastaser
- Højrisiko
  - Lymfeknude positive
  - Tumor > 5 cm
  - Invasion i hud /fascie



Levamisol 5 mg/kg 2 dage ugentlig\*  
Oral cyclofosfamid 130mg/m<sup>2</sup> dag 1-14\*  
CMF: Oral cyclofosfamid 80mg/m<sup>2</sup> dag 1-14; methotrexat 30mg/m<sup>2</sup> iv. dag 1+8; og 5-fluorouracil 500mg/m<sup>2</sup> iv. d. 1+8\*

\*every 4 weeks for 48 weeks

**1979      1981      1983**

107 187

Tidlig effektanalyse

112

Lukkes pga. bivirkninger

108 181 424

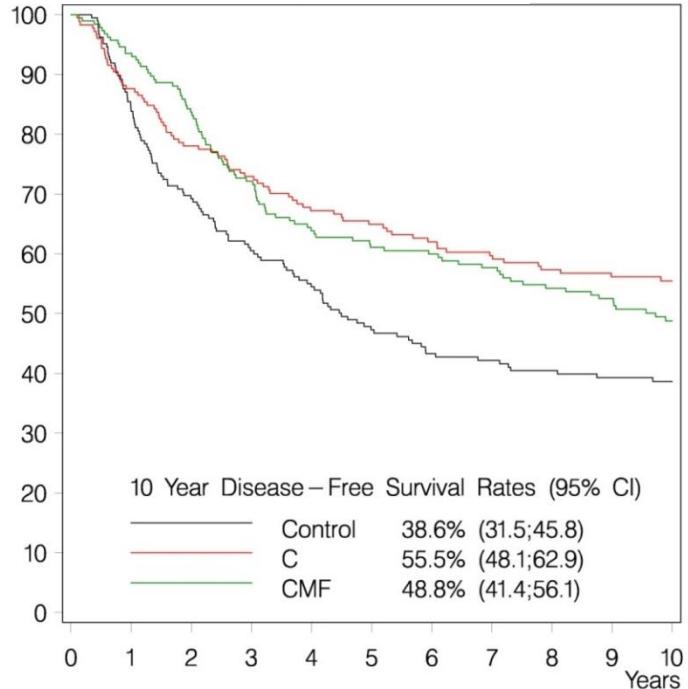
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Cancer (2010) 116, 2081-2089

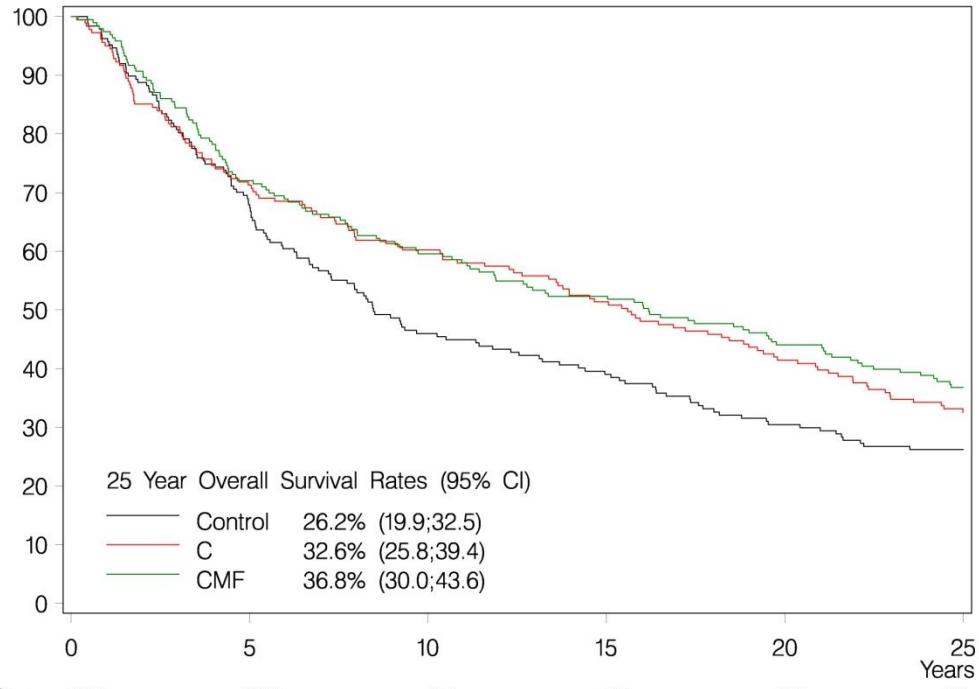
# Cyclophosphamide, Methotrexate, and Fluorouracil; Oral Cyclophosphamide; Levamisole; or No Adjuvant Therapy for Patients With High-Risk, Premenopausal Breast Cancer



Disease-Free Survival (%)

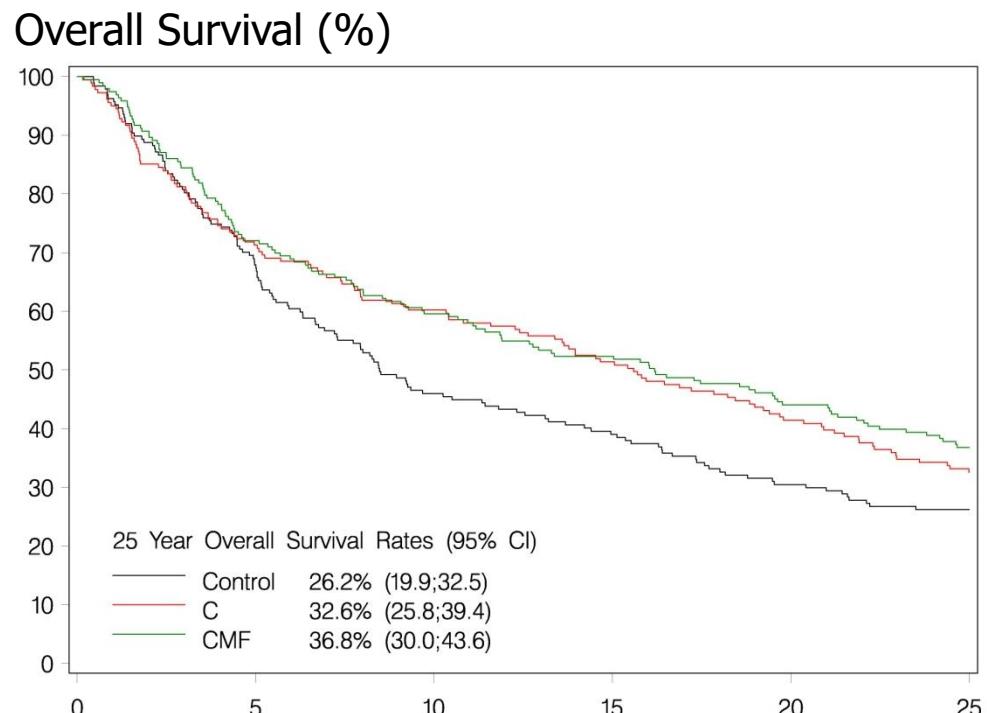
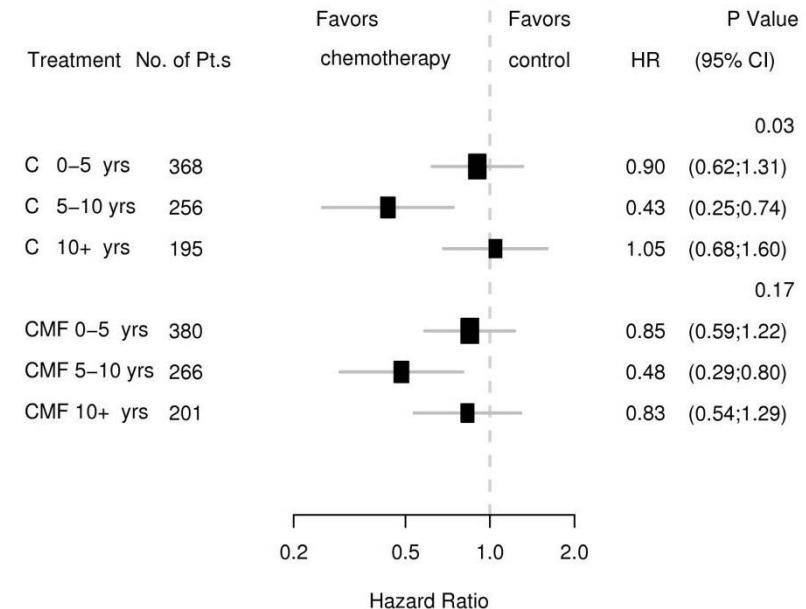


Overall Survival (%)



Cancer (2010) 116, 2081-2089

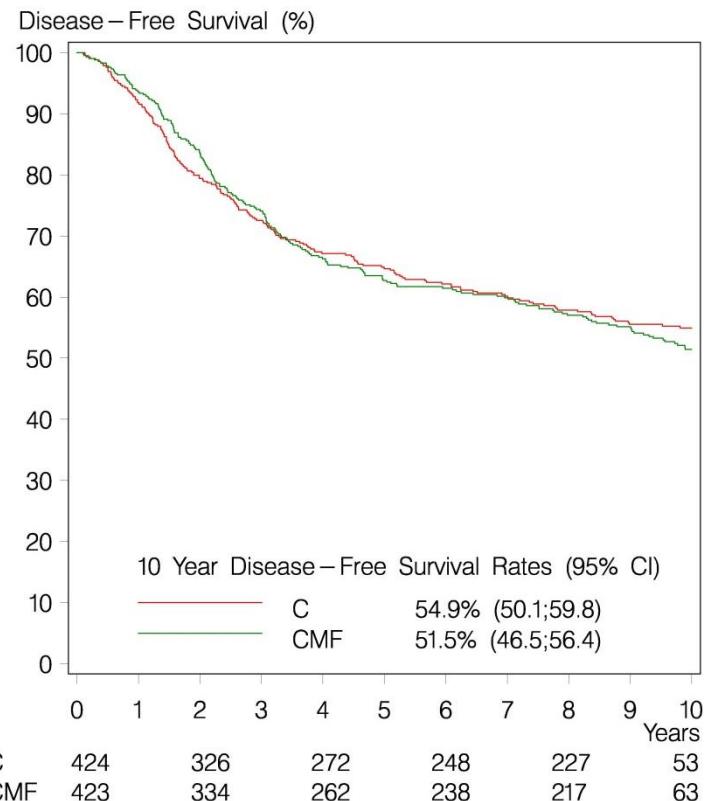
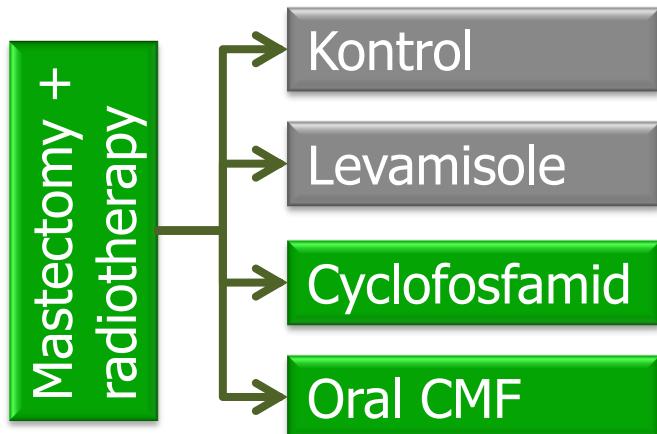
# Cyclophosphamide, Methotrexate, and Fluorouracil; Oral Cyclophosphamide; Levamisole; or No Adjuvant Therapy for Patients With High-Risk, Premenopausal Breast Cancer



Con.	187	127	86	73	57	49
C	181	129	109	93	75	59
CMF	193	139	115	101	85	71

Cancer (2010) 116, 2081-2089

# Cyclophosphamide, Methotrexate, and Fluorouracil; Oral Cyclophosphamide; Levamisole; or No Adjuvant Therapy for Patients With High-Risk, Premenopausal Breast Cancer



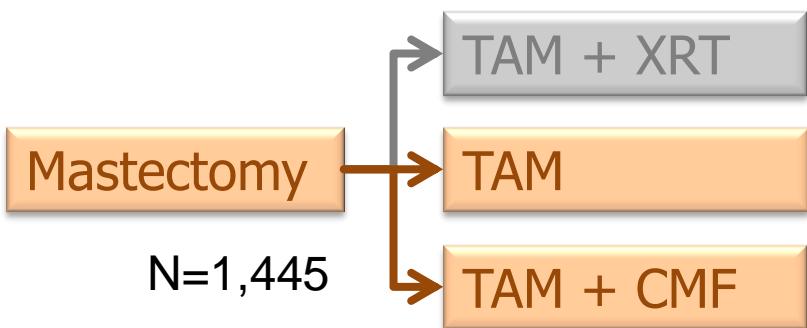


ELSEVIER

One year of adjuvant tamoxifen with chemotherapy and tamoxifen in postmenopausal patients with stage II breast cancer



## 82C: postmenopausal



C : cyclophosphamide 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 \*  
M: methotrexate 40 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 \*  
F: 5-fluorouracil 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup> day 1 \*

\*every 4 weeks for 9 cycles

- Højrisiko, dvs. N+, T>5 cm og/eller invasion i hud eller fascie.
- Total mastektomi med partiel aksildissektion.
- Tamoxifen 30 mg dag. i 1 år.

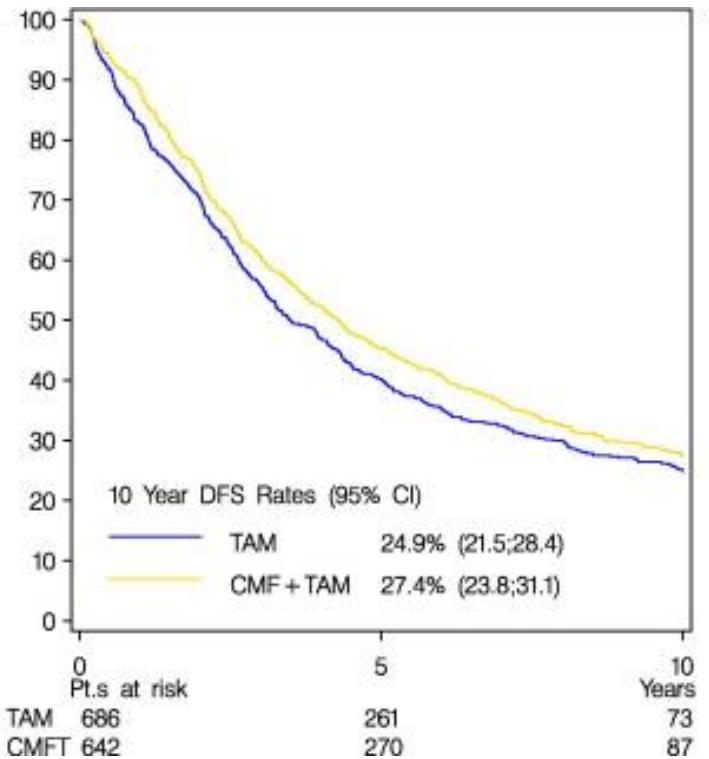


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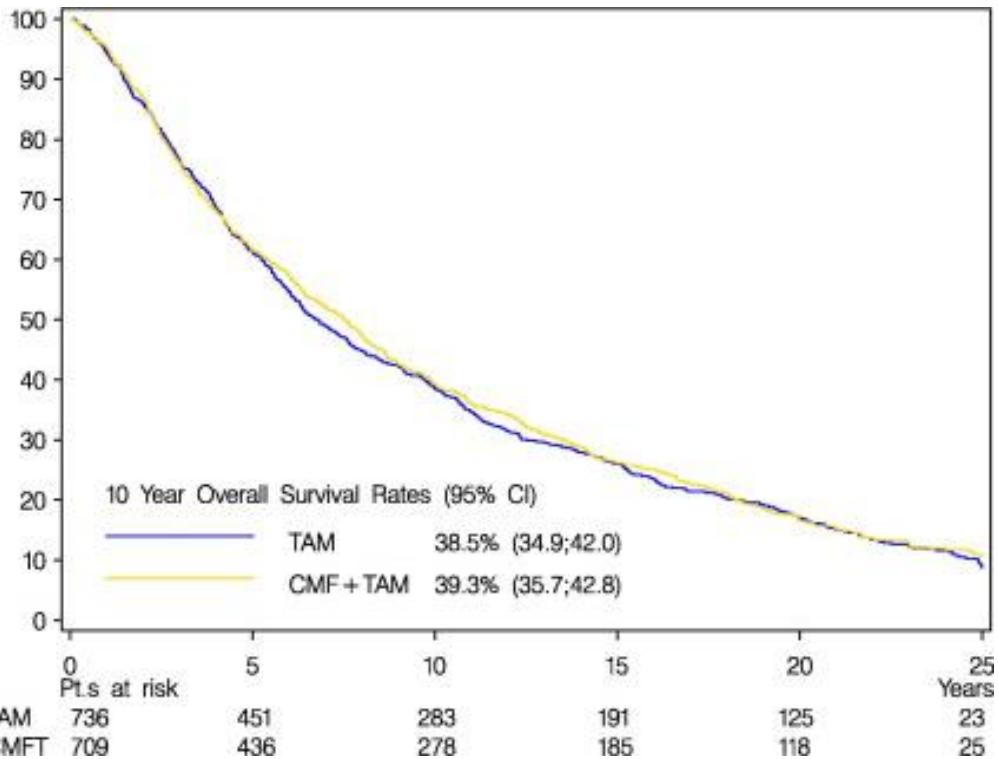
EJC  
EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF CANCER

## One year of adjuvant tamoxifen with chemotherapy and tamoxifen in postmenopausal patients with stage II breast cancer

Disease-Free Survival (%)



Overall Survival (%)





## Improved outcome for substituting methotrexate with epirubicin: Results from a randomised comparison of CMF versus CEF in patients with primary breast cancer

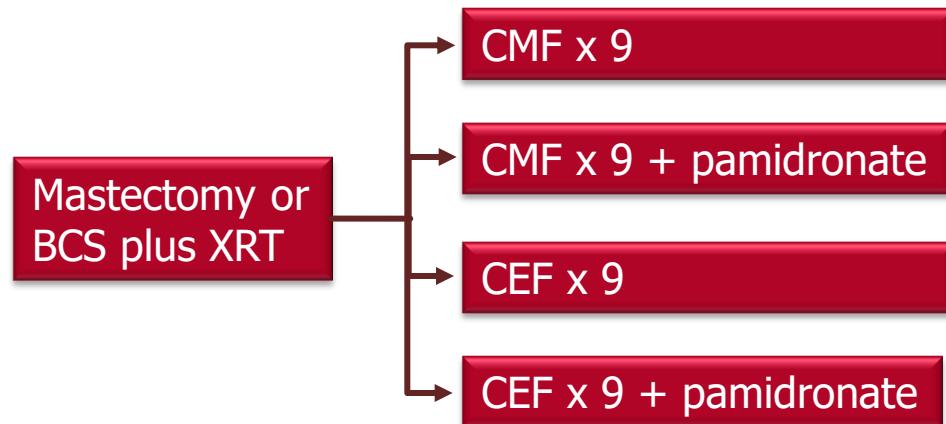
Bent Ejlersen, Henning T. Mouridsen, Maj-Britt Jensen, Jørn Andersen, Søren Cold, Per Edlund, Marianne Ewertz, Brita B.Jensen, Claus Kamby, Bo Nordenskjold, Jonas Bergh.



## DBCG 89D Trial Schema

### Patient selection

- A. Premenopausal, high risk, node negative
- B. Premenopausal, node positive, ER-/PgR negative or unknown
- C. Postmenopausal, node positive, ER-/PgR negative





## Improved outcome for substituting methotrexate with epirubicin: Results from a randomised comparison of CMF versus CEF in patients with primary breast cancer

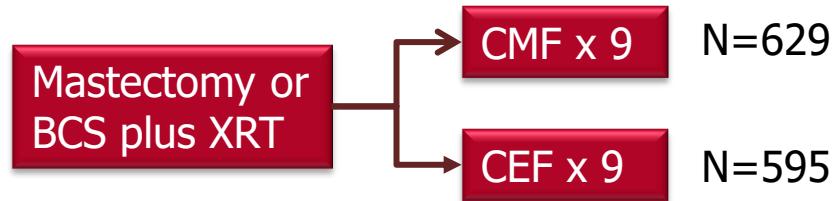
Bent Ejlersen, Henning T. Mouridsen, Maj-Britt Jensen, Jørn Andersen, Søren Cold, Per Edlund, Marianne Ewertz, Brita B.Jensen, Claus Kamby, Bo Nordenskjold, Jonas Bergh.



## DBCG 89D Trial Schema

### Patient selection

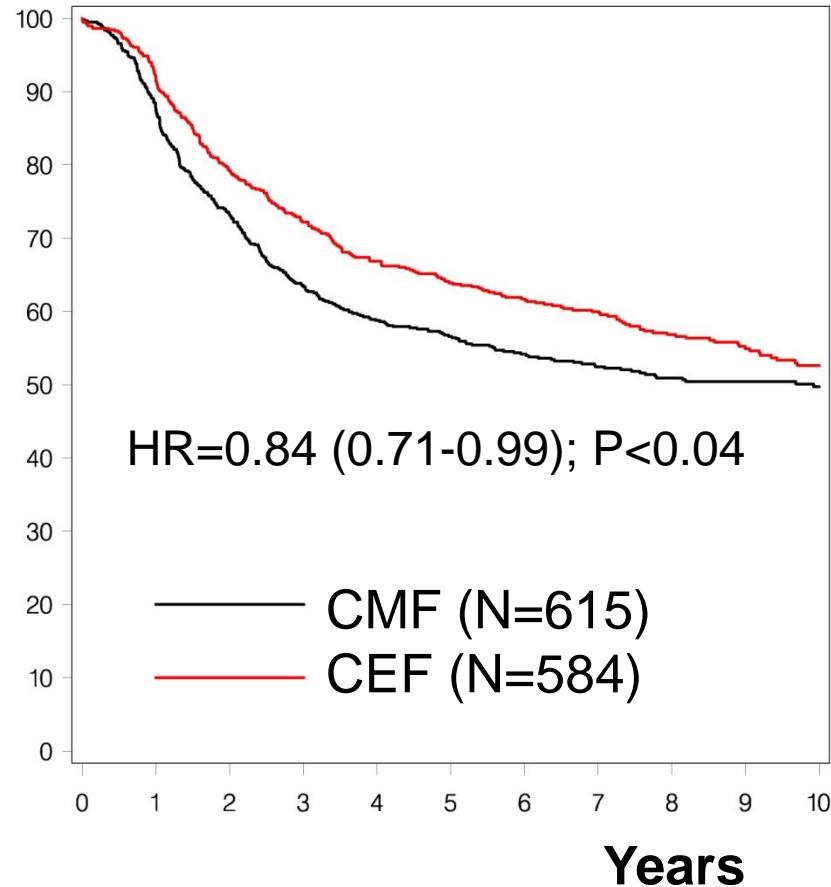
- A. Premenopausal, high risk, node negative
- B. Premenopausal, node positive, ER-/PgR negative or unknown
- C. Postmenopausal, node positive, ER-/PgR negative



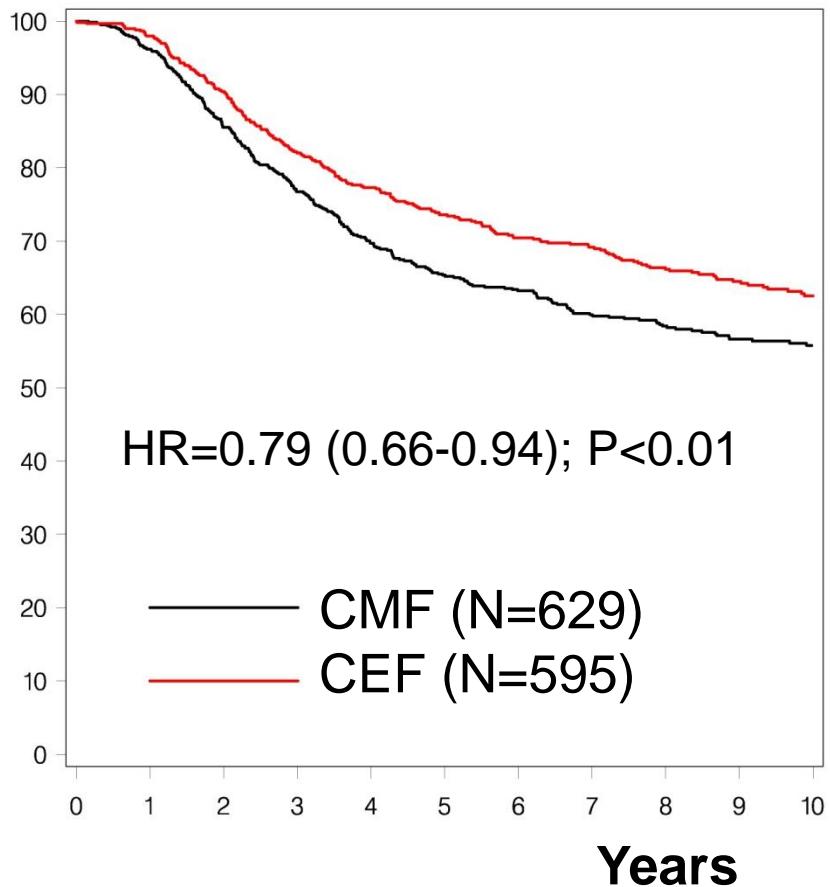
C: cyclophosphamide 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
F: 5-fluorouracil 600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
M: methotrexate 40 mg/m<sup>2</sup>  
E: epirubicin 60 mg/m<sup>2</sup>

# DBCG 89D Main Trial Results

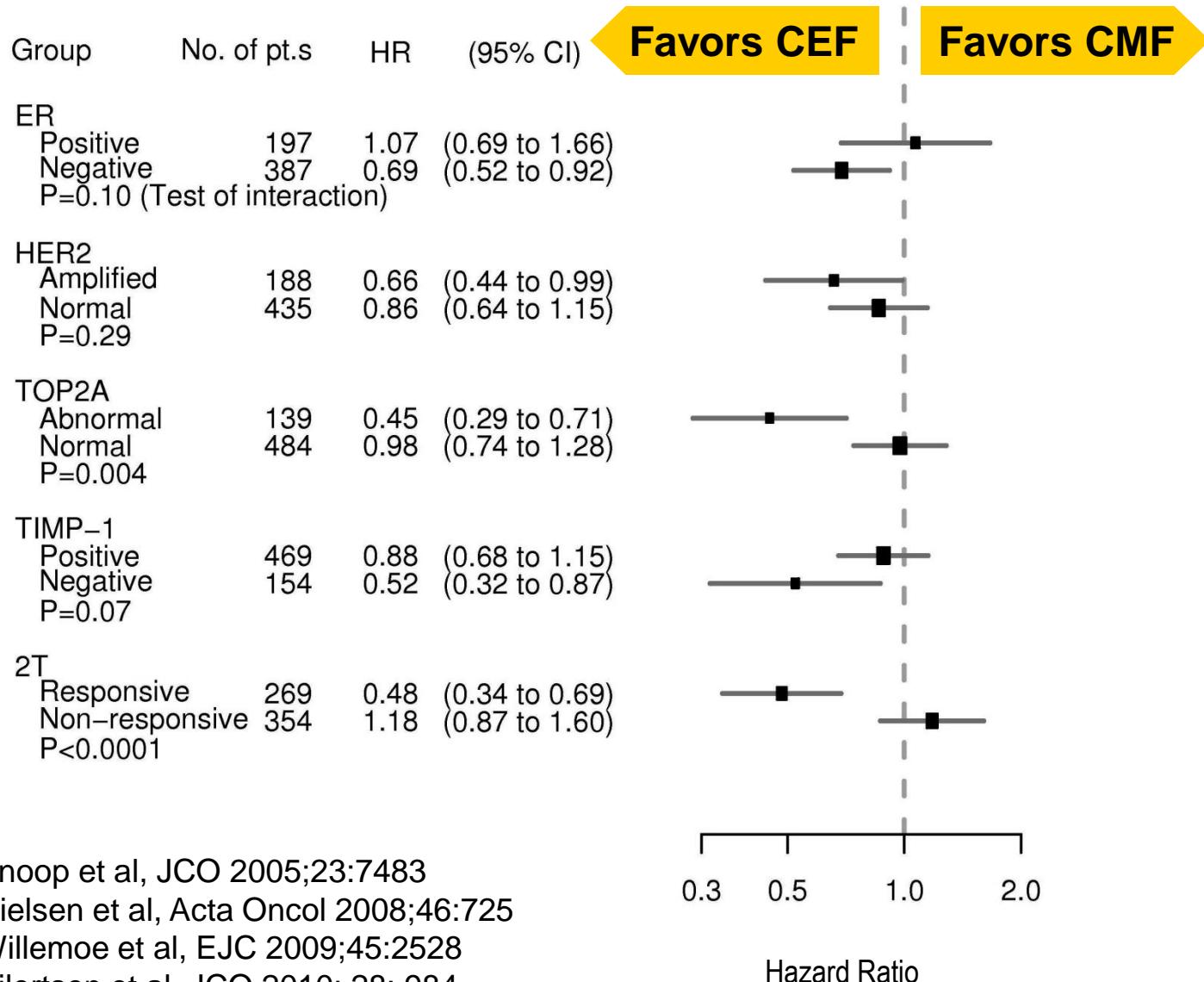
## Disease-Free Survival (%)



## Overall Survival (%)



# Invasive Disease-Free Survival



## READ

Adjuvant Cyclophosphamide and Docetaxel With or Without Epirubicin for Early *TOP2A*-Normal Breast Cancer: DBCG 07-READ, an Open-Label, Phase III, Randomized TrialSelection Criteria

Invasive breast cancer

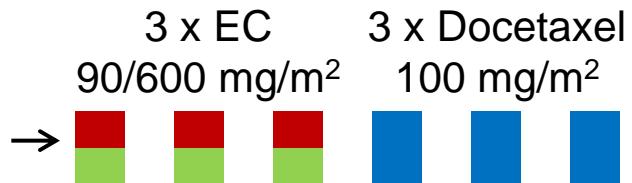
Comorbidity index &lt; 3

High risk

1. Node positive
2. High risk node neg.

- Age < 39
- ER < 10% positive
- HER2+
- T size > 2 cm
- Grade 2 or 3 IDC

→ *Altered TOP2A*  
Ratio < 0.8 or  $\geq 2.0$



# Design

## Adjuvant Cyclophosphamide and Docetaxel With or Without Epirubicin for Early *TOP2A*-Normal Breast Cancer: DBCG 07-READ, an Open-Label, Phase III, Randomized Trial

### Selection Criteria

Invasive breast cancer

Comorbidity index < 3

High risk

1. Node positive
2. High risk node neg.
  - Age < 39
  - ER < 10% positive
  - HER2+
  - T size > 2 cm
  - Grade 2 or 3 IDC

→ *Altered TOP2A*  
Ratio < 0.8 or  $\geq 2.0$   
N=835

3 x EC  
90/600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



3 x Docetaxel  
100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



→ *Normal TOP2A*  
Ratio 0.8-1.9  
N=2,012

3 x EC  
90/600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



3 x Docetaxel  
100 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



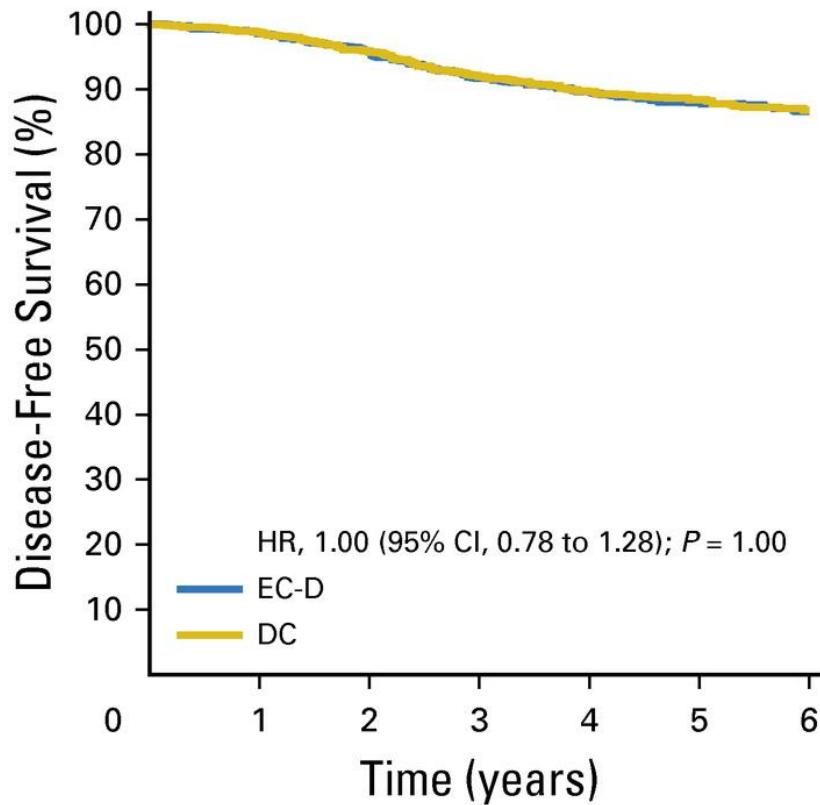
6 x DC  
75/600 mg/m<sup>2</sup>



7,086 were eligible and 5,153 were screened for *TOP2A*

# READ; results

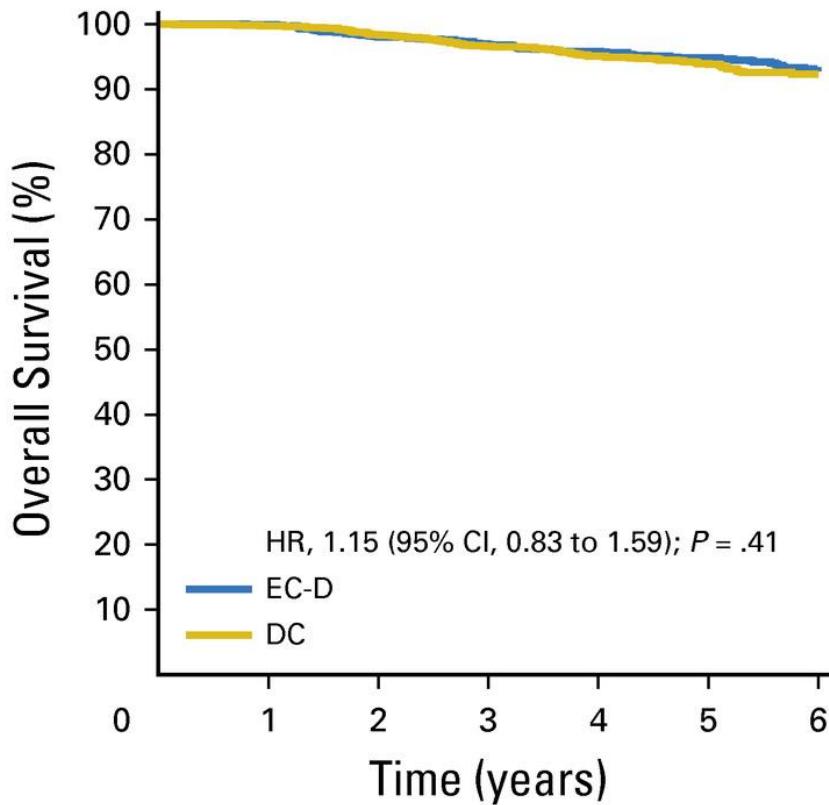
## DFS



No. of Patients at Risk

1,001	949	818	357
1,011	957	820	361

## OS



No. of Patients at Risk

1,001	980	905	435
1,011	993	902	437

# EBCTCG meta-analyser

Cycle	Included	Comparisons	Women	Publications
1 <sup>st</sup>	Trials before 1985	Tamoxifen	16,500	NEJM 1988;319:1681
	Follow-up to 1985	Chemotherapy	13,000	
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Trials before 1985	Tamoxifen	30,000	Lancet 1992;339:71
	Follow-up to 1990	Chemotherapy	11,000	
		Ovarian ablation	3,000	
		Immunotherapy	6,300	
		Local therapy	28,500	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trials before 1990	Endocrine	67,000	Lancet 1998;352:930
	Follow-up to 1995	Radiotherapy	20,000	
4 <sup>th</sup>	Trials before 1995	Tam 1-2 vs 5 yr	18,000	Lancet 2005;365:1687
	Follow-up to 2000	Locoregional	42,000	Lancet 2005;366:2087

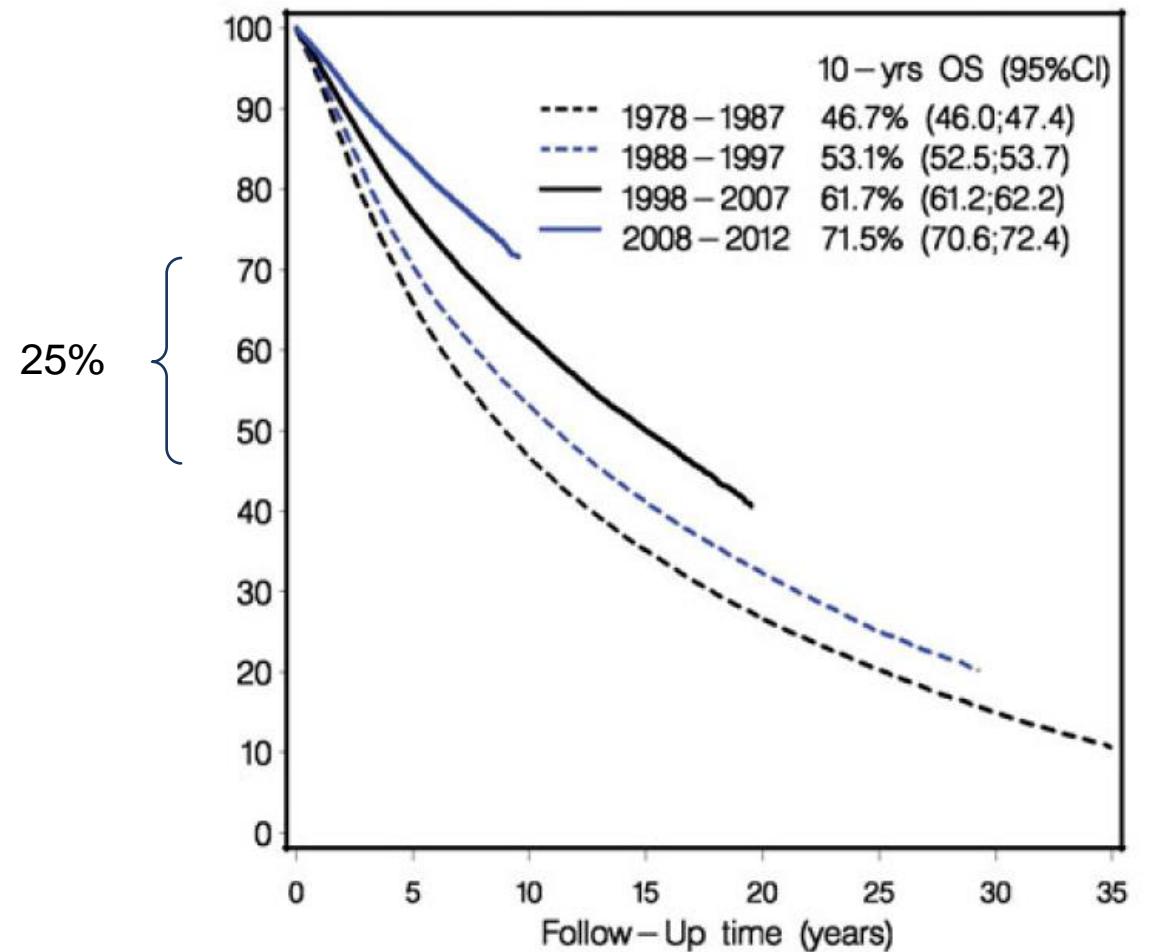
# DBCG



Period	1978 – 1987	1988 – 1997	1998 – 2007	2008 – 2015
<b>Endocrine therapy</b>				
Premenopausal	None		Tamoxifen 5-yr	Tamoxifen 10-yr
Postmenopausal	Trial only	Tamoxifen 1-yr	Tamoxifen 5-yr	AI or AI->TAM 5-yr
<b>Anti-HER2 therapy</b>	None	None	Trial only	Trastuzumab 1-yr
<b>Chemotherapy</b>				
Premenopausal	Trial only	CMF or CEF	CEF	EC->taxane
Postmenopausal	None	CMF in ER negative	CEF in ER negative	EC->taxane

AI: aromatase inhibitor; C: cyclophosphamide; M: methotrexate; E: epirubicin; F: fluorouracil

# Overall survival; all patients



1978 – 1987	20794	13699	9696	7289	5522	4212	2989	916
1988 – 1997	28537	20084	15107	11669	18847	2973		
1998 – 2007	35990	27674	21455	7921				
2008 – 2012	23427	18540						

N= 108.748



16<sup>th</sup> ACTA ONCOLOGICA SYMPOSIUM