



# Metastatic breast cancer

# Different Names



- Advanced
- Metastatic
- Secondaries
- Stage 4 [IV]
- Distant recurrence

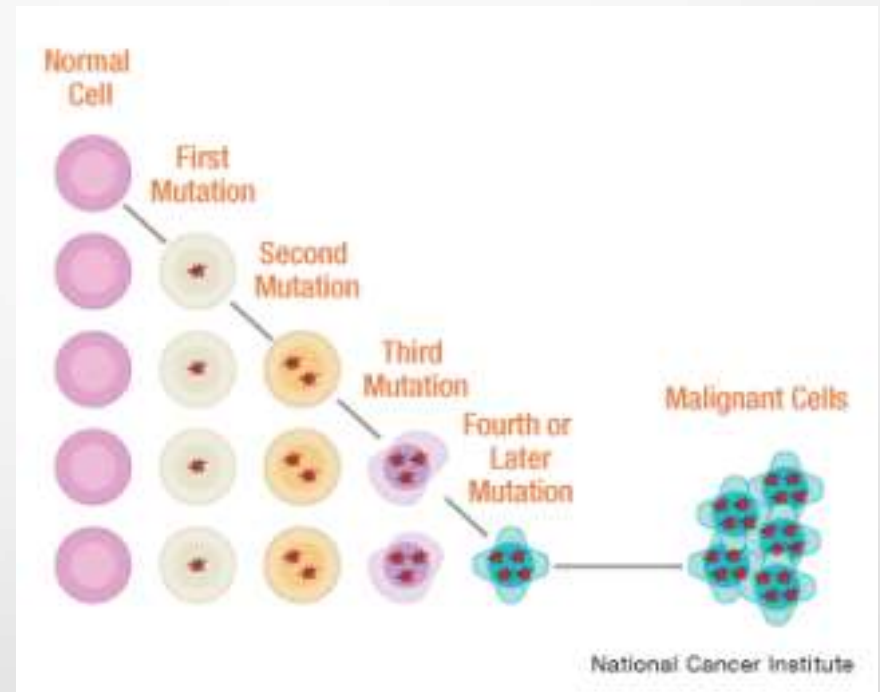
# What does secondary breast cancer mean?

When breast cancer cells spread beyond the breast to other part(s) of the body (it's made up of the same cells as the breast cancer).

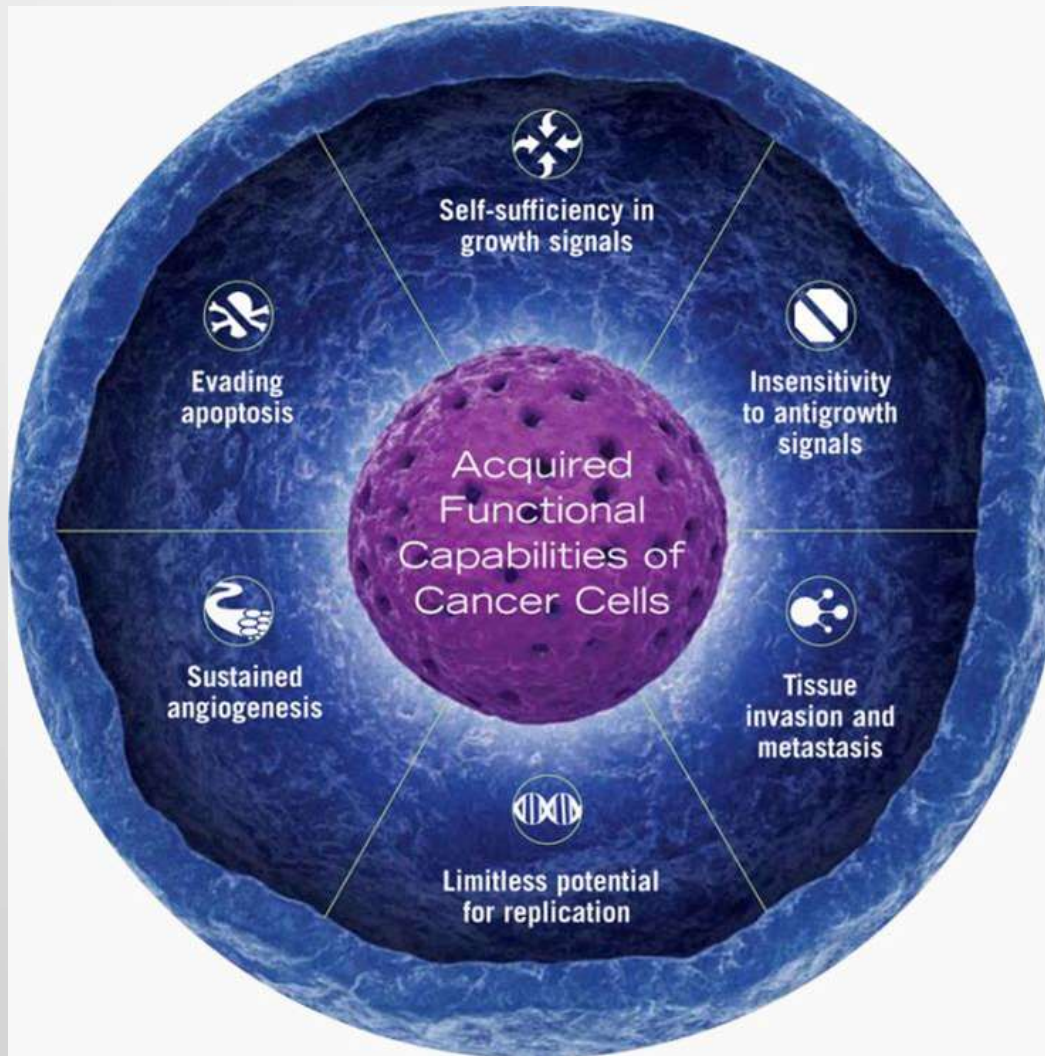


# Cancer is a genetic disease

- The transition from a normal cell to a cancer is driven by changes to a cell's DNA, also known as mutations. -- Mutations can accumulate over many years before a cell becomes a cancer.

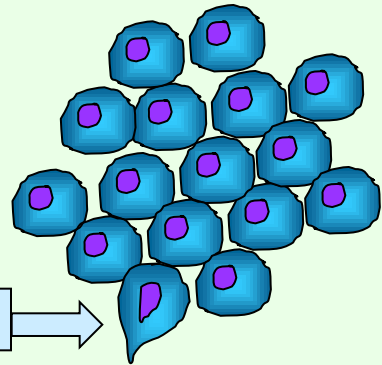


# Cancer is a genetic disease

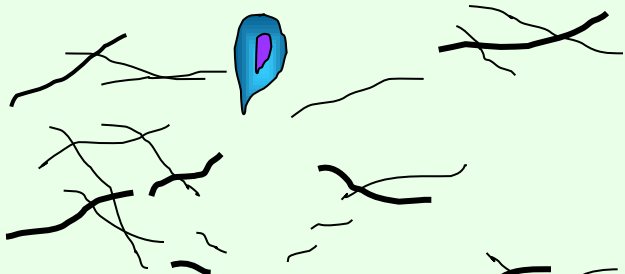


# How does breast cancer spread?

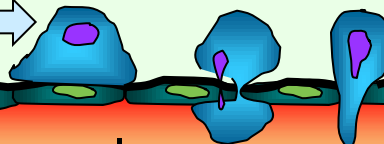
A: Primary tumour



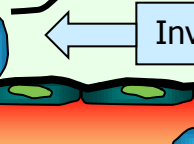
Migration



Attachment



Invasion

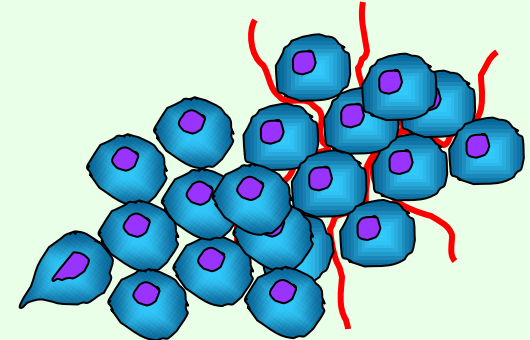


Blood vessel

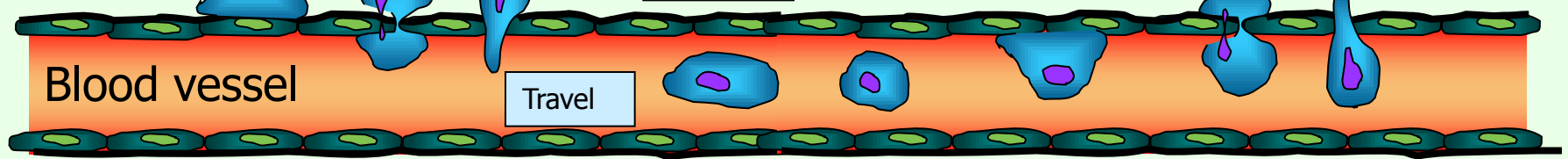
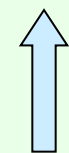
Travel



B: Metastases

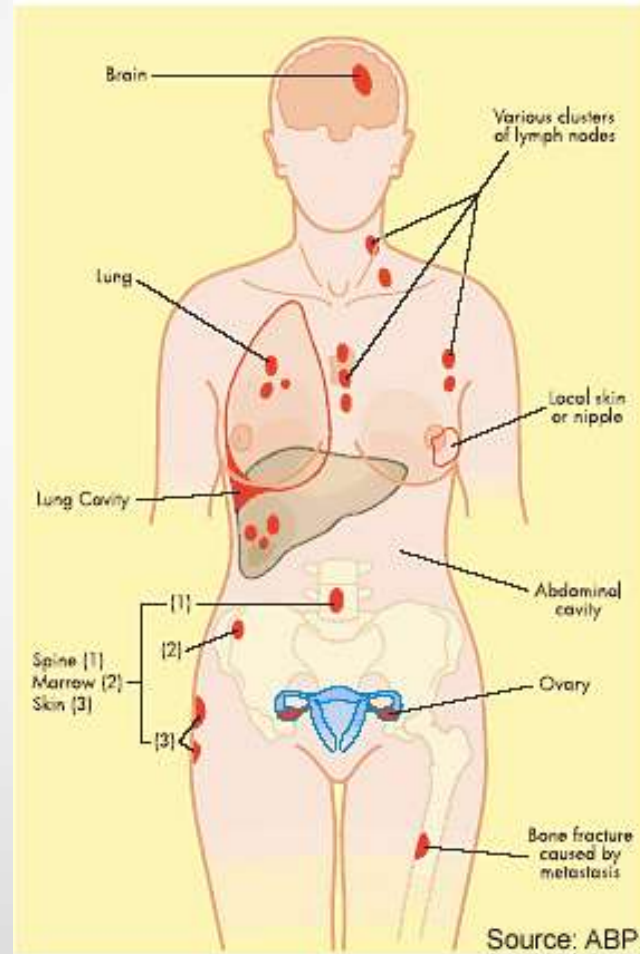


Finds new site

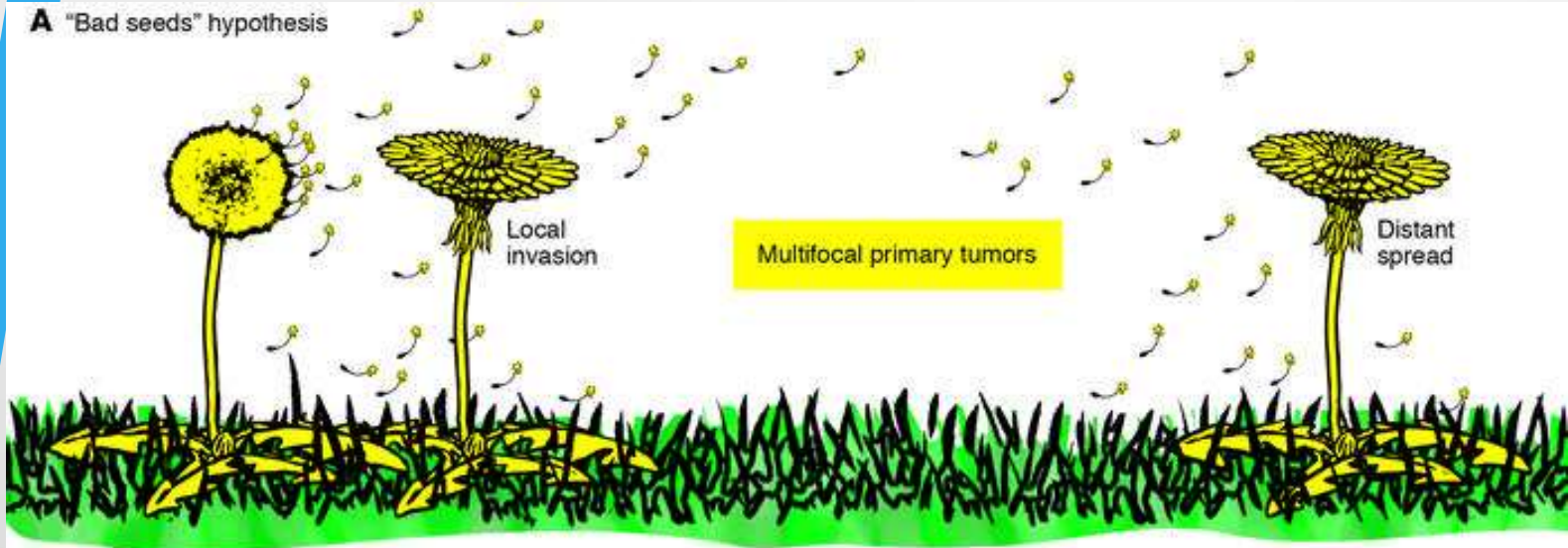


# Patterns of recurrence

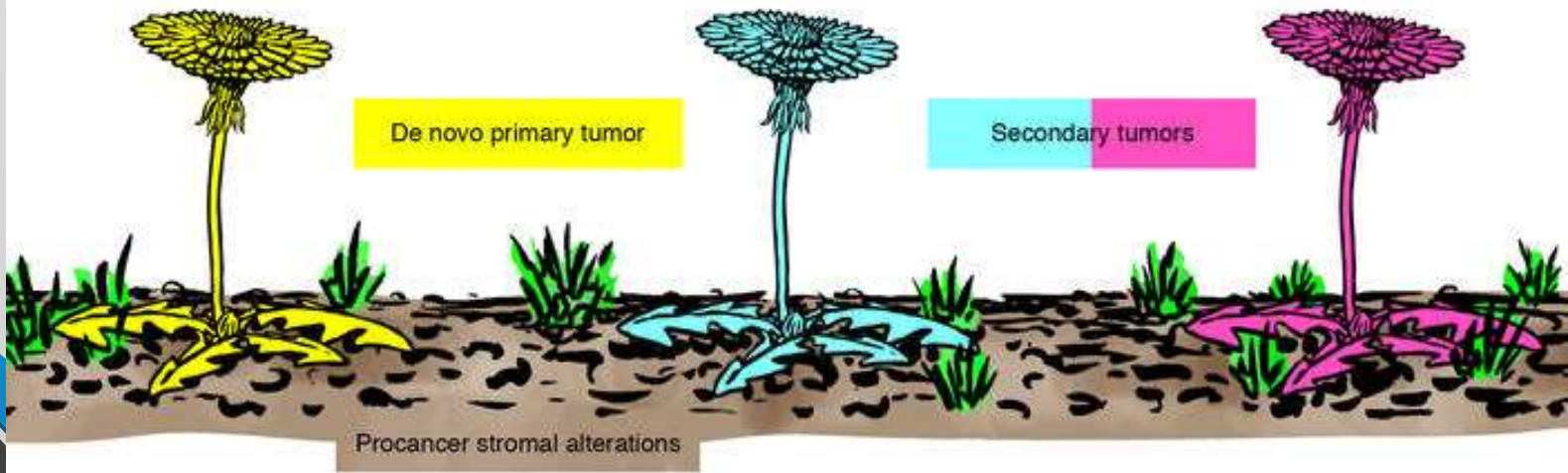
- Common sites
  - Bone
  - Liver
  - Lung
  - Brain
  - Lymph nodes
- Probably driven by biology
- Seed and Soil hypothesis
- Dormancy



**A** "Bad seeds" hypothesis



**B** "Bad soil" hypothesis





# A changing picture...

- More drugs & Increasing treatment options
- Accessibility
- Longer disease control
- Many people living very active lives
- Not curable but treatable
- Ongoing treatment ...always a 'patient'
- Treatment choices
- Living with uncertainty
- Funding issues/CDF
- Need for information and support to be 'easily' available

Even if things look the same – they  
can be different

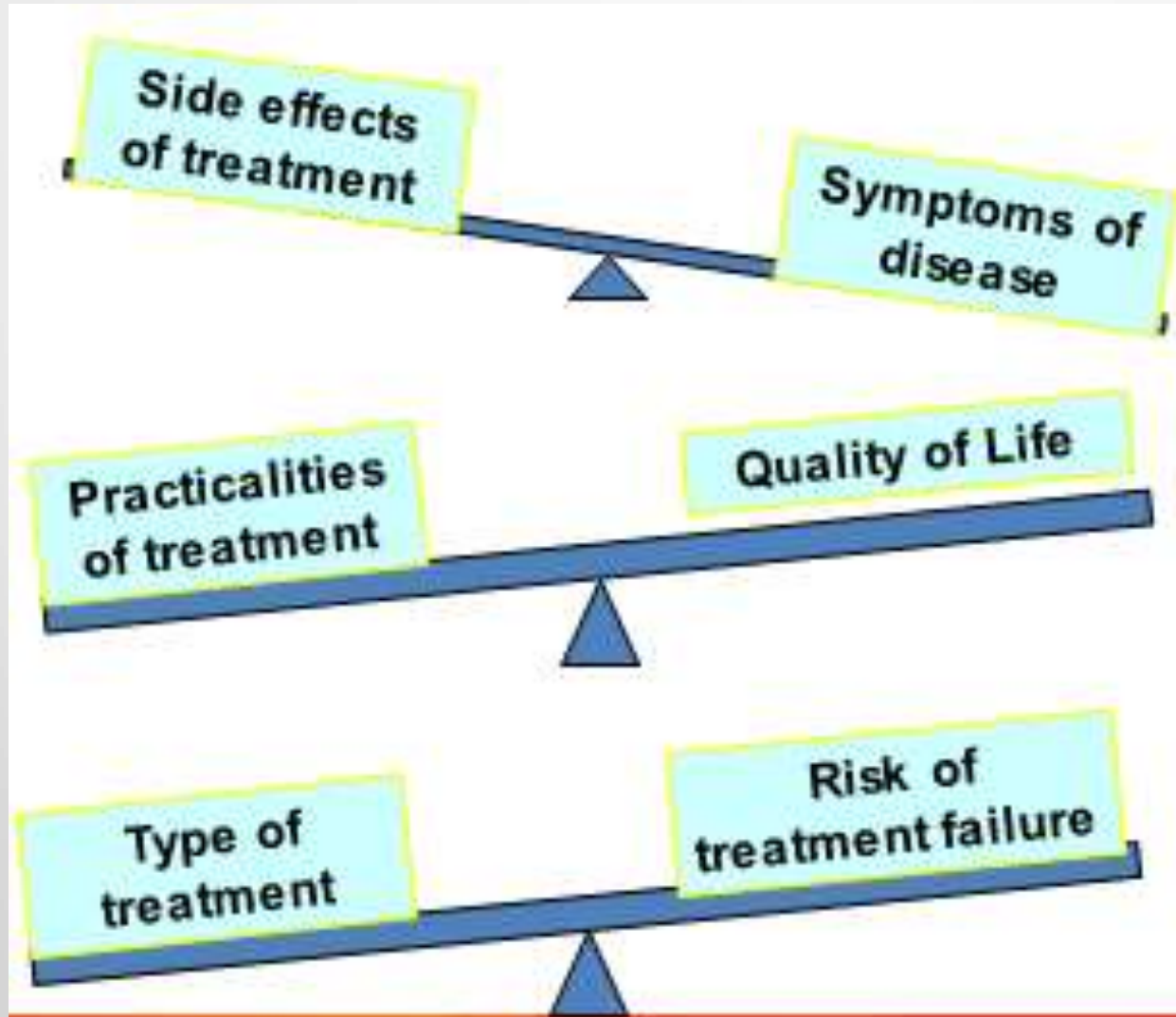


# Treatment guidance

- NICE Advanced Breast Cancer Guidelines (2009) and Update (2014)
- ESMO Advanced breast cancer guidelines (ABC2) (2014)
- 'From the time of diagnosis of ABC, patients should be offered appropriate psychosocial care, supportive care, and symptom-related interventions as a routine part of their care.'



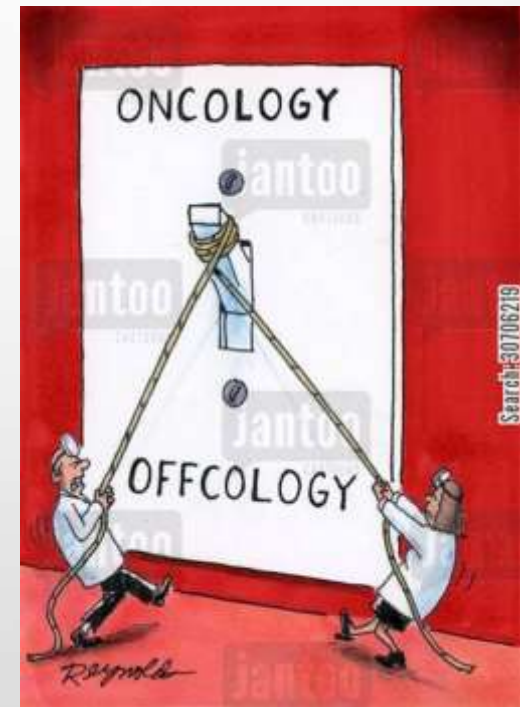
# A fine balance



# Aims of treatment

## Shared decision making

- Reducing growth of the cancer
- Delaying or preventing further spread
- Extend life expectancy
- Improving symptoms & quality of life
- 'Acceptable' side-effects
- Ideally spent some time off treatment





## Patient's biology

Age

Performance Status

Comorbidities

Menopausal status

Symptoms

Organ function

Choice

Presence or absence of  
hormone receptors/HER-2

Rate of progression

Disease-free interval

? Repeat biopsy






How long ago?  
Build up of toxic effects  
Drug resistance  
“Re-challenge”





Site(s)  
Extent/ size  
Pattern



the cancer  
anatomy

Patient

Biology

Tumour

Biology

Using all this information is a  
judgement not a science

Previous

Treatment

Tumour

Anatomy

# Hormone Therapy – guiding principles...

- Around 70% of all breast cancers are hormone receptor positive (ER+)
- The preferred option for hormone receptor-positive disease, unless there is disease needing a fast response
- Slower response
- Fewer side effects. Generally well tolerated
- If the cancer responds to one hormone drug it will often respond to another

# Hormone therapies

Anti-oestrogens-

Tamoxifen

Faslodex

Aromatase Inhibitors-

Anastrozole (Arimidex)

Letrozole (Femara)

Exemestane (Aromasin)

LHRH antagonists-

Goserelin (Zoladex)

Progestogens-

megestrol acetate



# Chemotherapy – guiding principles

- Triple negative breast cancer
- After progression on hormones
- If a rapid response needed
- Side effects... response rate versus toxicity
- not used continuously
- Single/ combination

# Chemotherapy

- **Anthracyclines**

Damage and disrupt the manufacture of DNA eg Doxorubicin, Epirubicin

- **Microtubule Inhibitors**

Interfere with cell division eg Taxanes, eribulin, vinorelbine

- **Antimetabolites**

Bind to DNA eg 5FU, capecitabine, MTX

- **Alkylating Agents -** Damage DNA by adding a chemical to it eg carboplatin, cyclophosphamide

# Sequencing chemotherapy

- 'In the absence of medical contraindications or patient concerns, anthracycline- or taxane-based regimens, preferably as a single agent, would usually be considered as first-line for HER-2-negative MBC'
- 'Other treatments are available and effective, such as capecitabine and vinorelbine particularly if avoiding alopecia is a priority for the patient.'
- 'Duration of each regimen and the number of regimens should be tailored to each individual patient.'

# Targetted Therapies

- **Drugs which block the growth and spread of cancer by interfering with specific molecules involved in tumour growth and progression**
- **Include drugs which interfere with:**
  - cell growth signalling
  - tumour blood vessel development
  - trigger specific cancer cell death
  - stimulate the immune system
  - deliver toxic drugs selectively to cancer cells.

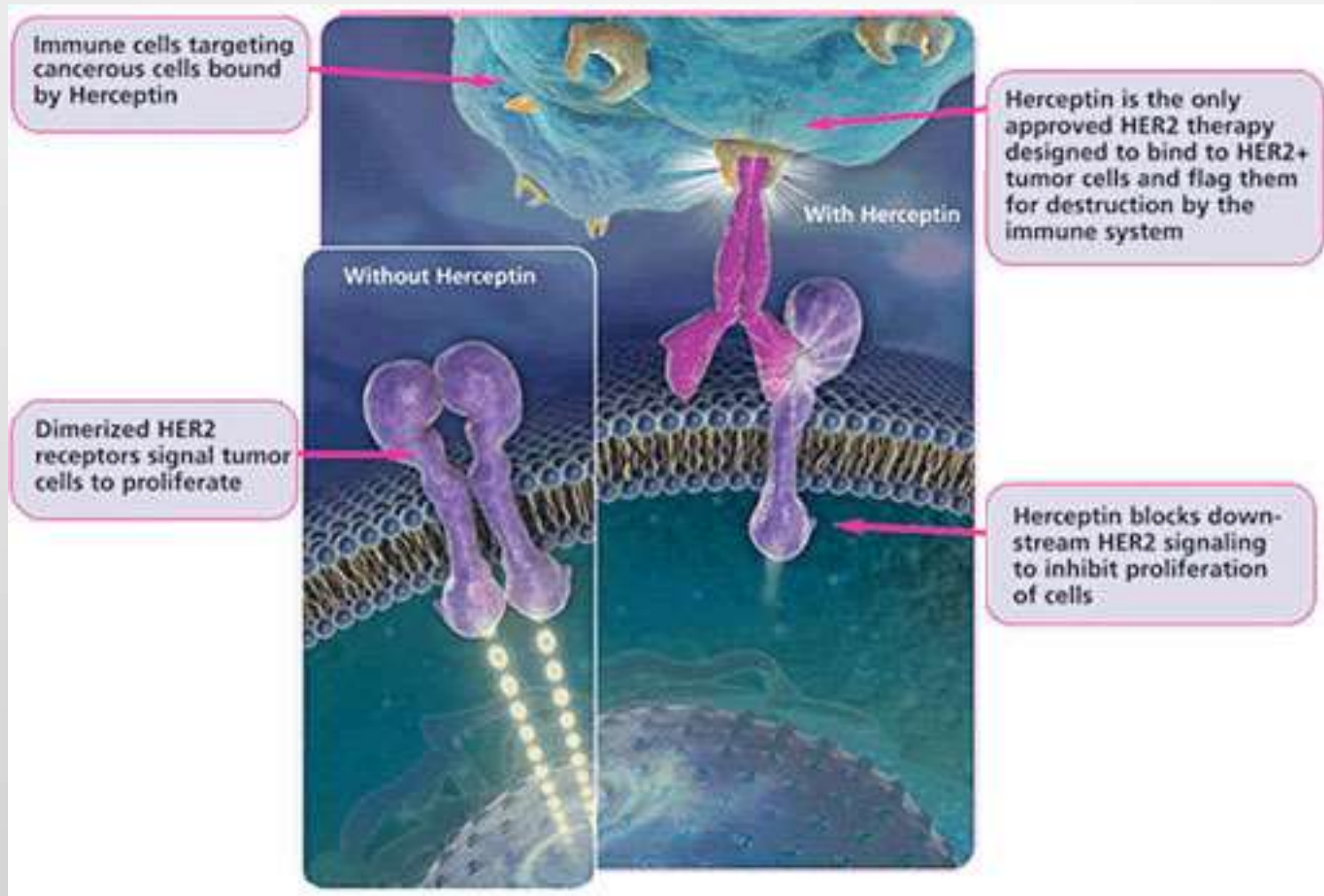




# Targetted therapies

- Most commonly used are anti-HER2 agents – herceptin, perjeta, kadcyla
- Other targets include MTOR eg Afinitor.
- Generally well tolerated, but can have side-effects

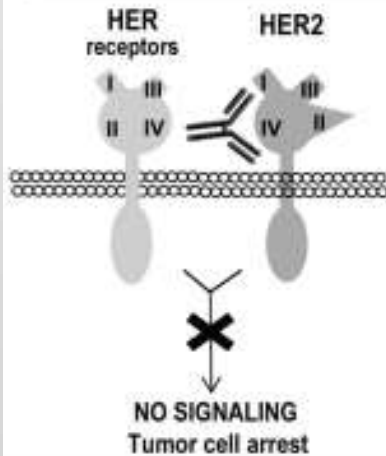
# Herceptin



# Pertuzumab

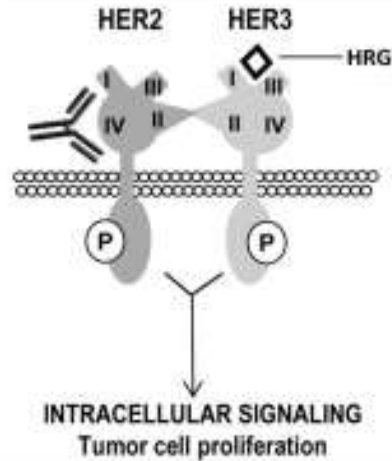
## TUMOR SENSITIVITY

**TRASTUZUMAB ALONE**  
DISRUPTION OF LIGAND-  
INDEPENDENT HETERODIMERS OR  
HOMODIMERS



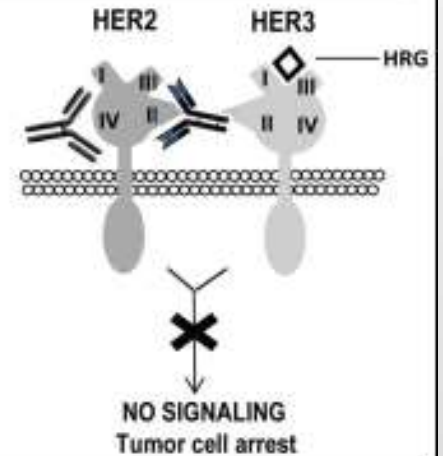
## TUMOR RESISTANCE

**TRASTUZUMAB ALONE**  
LIGAND-INDUCED  
HETERODIMERS

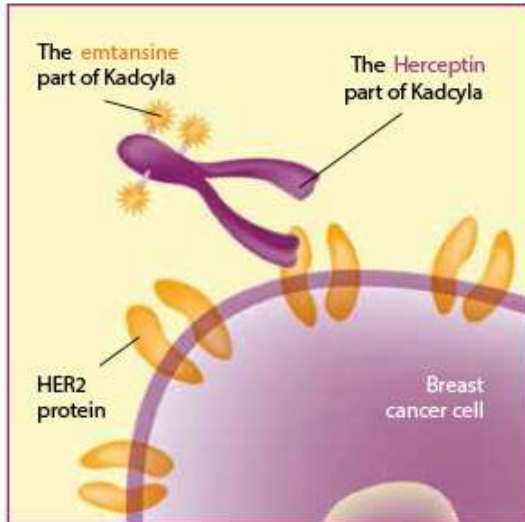


## OVERCOMING RESISTANCE

**TRASTUZUMAB-PERTUZUMAB**  
COMPLEMENTARY  
ACTION



# Trastuzumab emtansine (kadcyla/TDM-1)

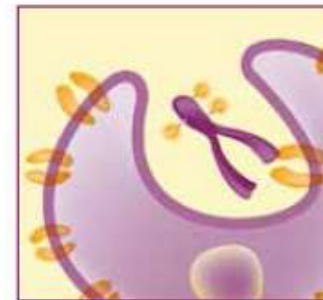


## Step 1.

During treatment, Kadcyła attaches to HER2 proteins on HER2-positive breast cancer cells. This tells the cancer cells to stop growing and signals the body's immune system to destroy these cells.

## Step 2.

Next, Kadcyła goes inside the cancer cells.



## Step 3.

Inside the cancer cell the Herceptin part breaks up, releasing the chemotherapy emtansine.



## Step 4.

The chemotherapy emtansine attaches to structures inside the cancer cell that help it grow. This stops the cancer cell's ability to grow and divide, eventually leading to cancer cell death.

# Overcoming Hormone Resistance

The **ER pathway** plays a primary role in the development of HR+ breast cancer<sup>1,2</sup>

Initial therapies target the ER pathway<sup>2</sup>

## Endocrine Monotherapy

(SERM, AI, ERD)

Regardless of which class is used, endocrine monotherapies target only the ER pathway<sup>4</sup>

## CDK4/6 Inhibitor

Inhibits key downstream kinases in the ER pathway<sup>5</sup>

- Targeted combination therapies were more efficacious than their endocrine monotherapy comparators<sup>6,8</sup>

As demonstrated in in vitro/in vivo studies.

In advanced disease, **multiple pathways** drive disease progression<sup>7-12</sup>

There is a need to address escape pathways with subsequent therapy<sup>9</sup>

## mTOR Inhibitor

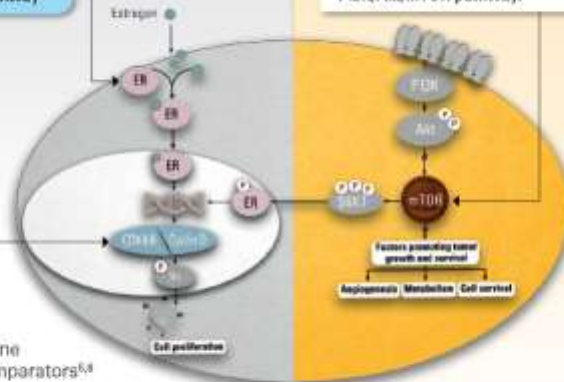
Inhibits a primary escape mechanism<sup>4,11</sup>

Up to 70%

of breast cancer cases have mutations in the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway.<sup>11</sup>

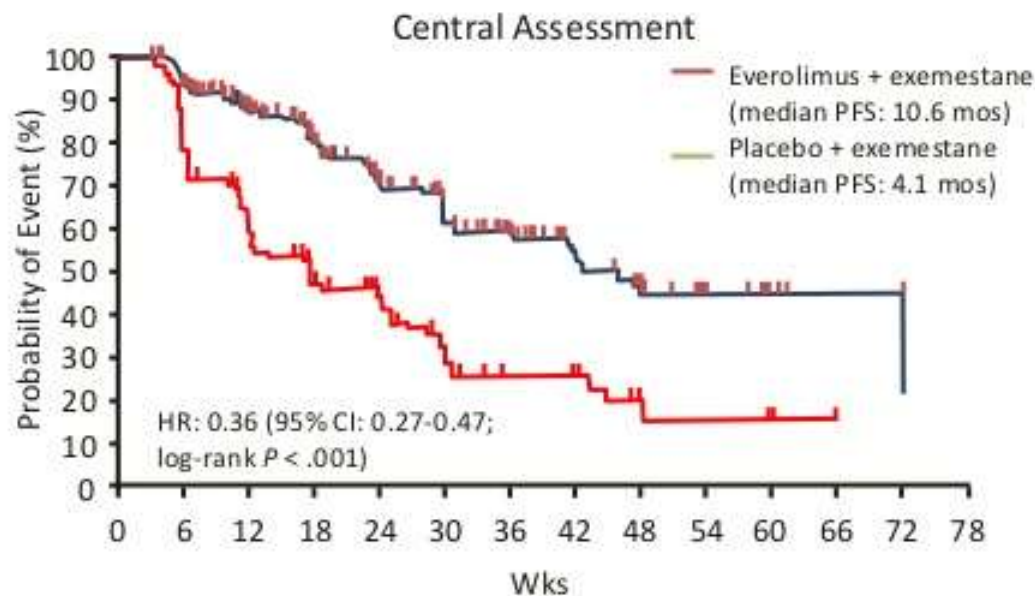
Hyperactivation of the PI3K/Akt/mTOR pathway may contribute to endocrine resistance.<sup>12,14</sup>

Inhibition of the mTOR pathway may restore sensitivity to hormone therapy.<sup>15</sup>



Only **AFINITOR** plus exemestane offers synergistic dual inhibition of the ER and mTOR pathways<sup>8</sup>

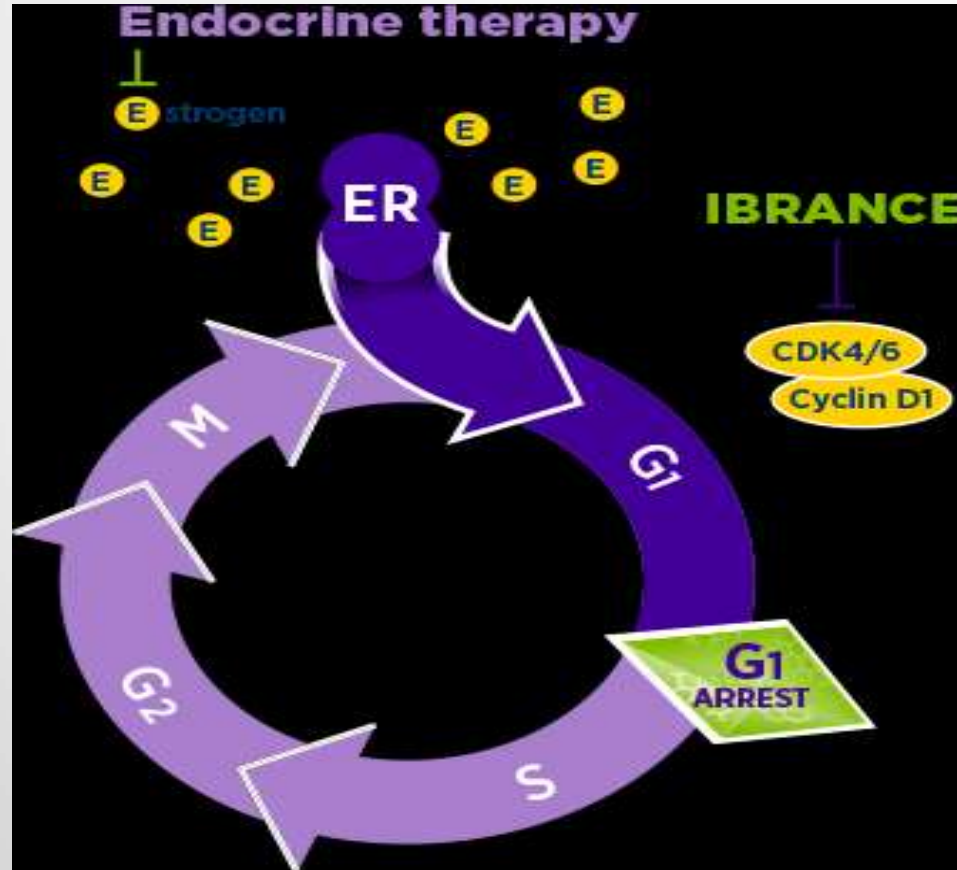
# BOLERO-2: Everolimus + Exemestane Improves PFS in HR+ MBC



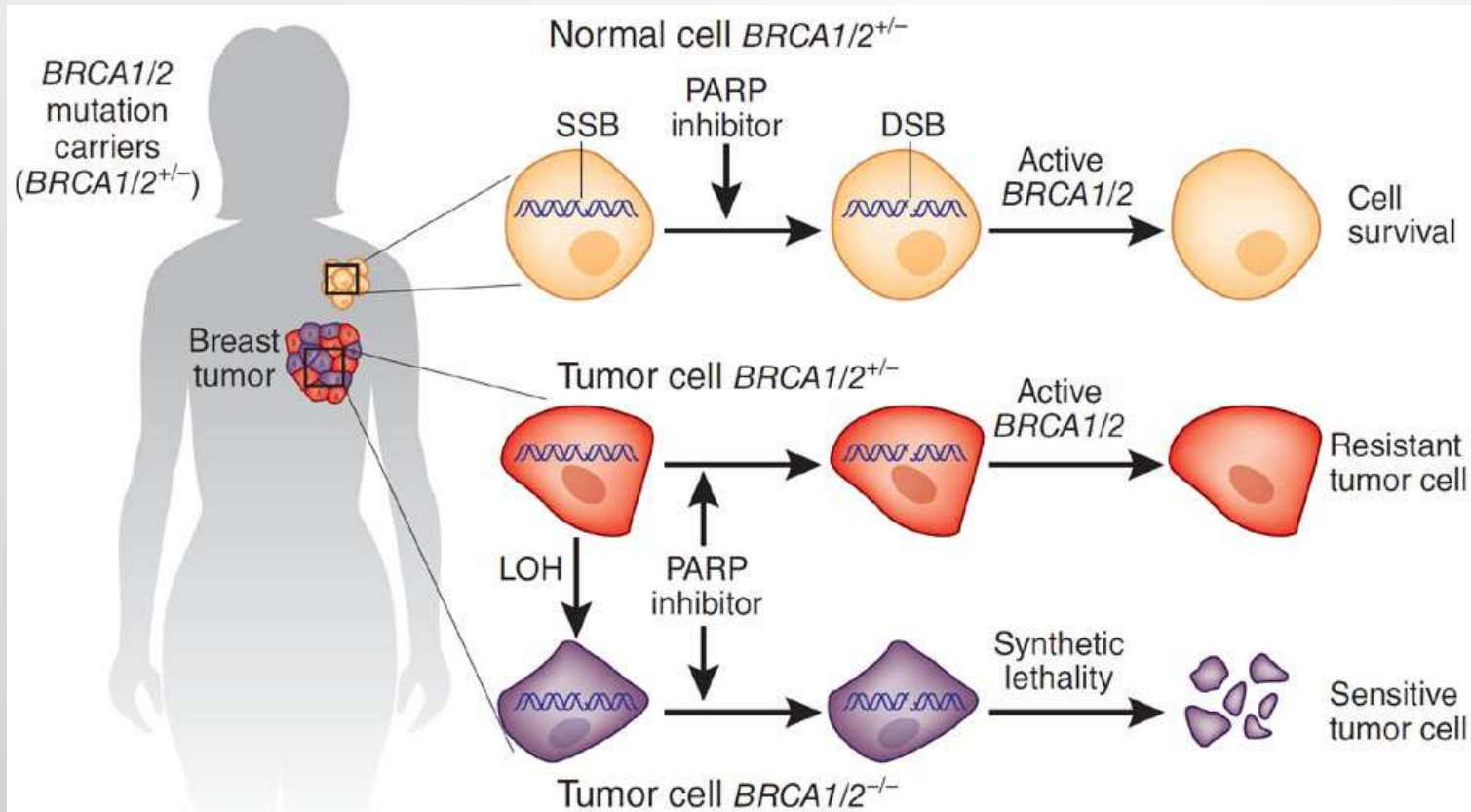
Everolimus	485	385	281	201	132	102	67	43	28	18	9	3	2	0
Placebo	239	168	94	55	33	20	11	11	6	3	3	1	0	0

Baselga J, et al. N Engl J Med. 2012;366:520-529.

# Palbociclib



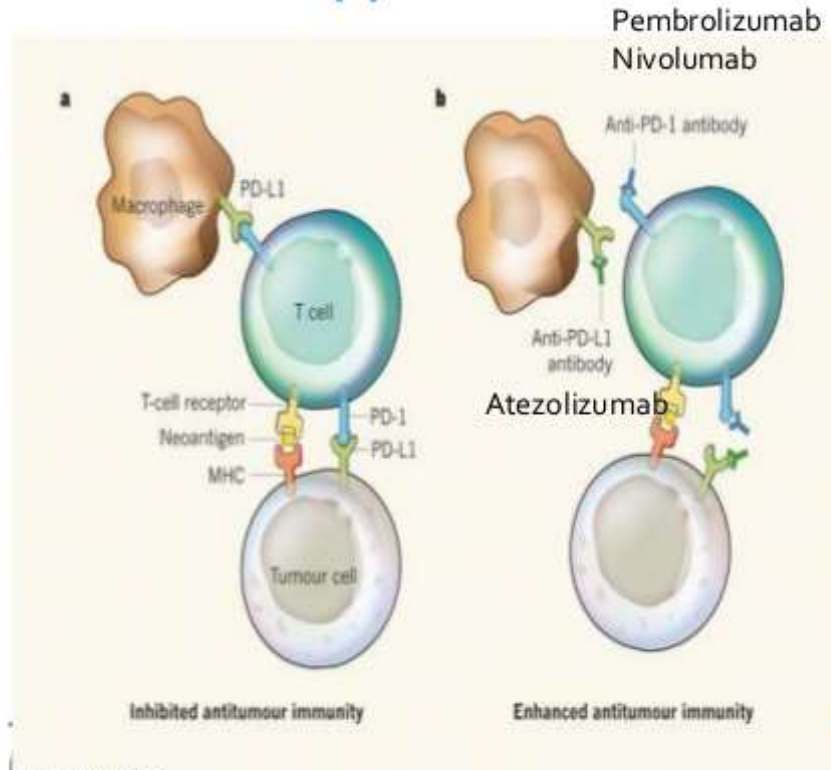
# Triple Negative Cancers





# Triple Negative Cancers

## Immunotherapy rationale



- Normal part of immune regulation
- Antibodies that block the PD-1 pathway can reactivate T-cell activity and proliferation
- Leading to enhanced antitumour immunity

Wolchok & Chan  
Nature 2014

# Bone metastases

Skeletal problems impact on daily life

Pain

Risk of Fracture

Spinal Cord Compression

Hypercalcaemia

Report symptoms to hotline



# Anti-resorptive agents

- Reduce bony destruction
- Pain relief
- Reduce risk of skeletal events
- Prevent hypercalcaemia
  
- Pain flare
- Hypocalcaemia
- Teeth/jaw problems

# Radiotherapy

- A localised treatment
- Palliative treatment of bony secondaries
- Control locally advanced disease
- Short course



# Patient support



# What does the future hold?

- Tailored treatment
- Treatments to overcome hormone resistance eg CDK5/6 - palbociclib
- Better anti-HER2 therapies
- Immunotherapies eg PDL-1 directed therapies
- Improvements in supportive care

# Summary

- We need to tailor treatment to the patient as well as their disease
- There are a wide range of treatments, but responses and outcomes vary
- Information and psychological support is available
- We want to help the patients live with their disease and with their treatment!

