

Oncology for the General Practitioner

Sheynaz Bassa



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Topics

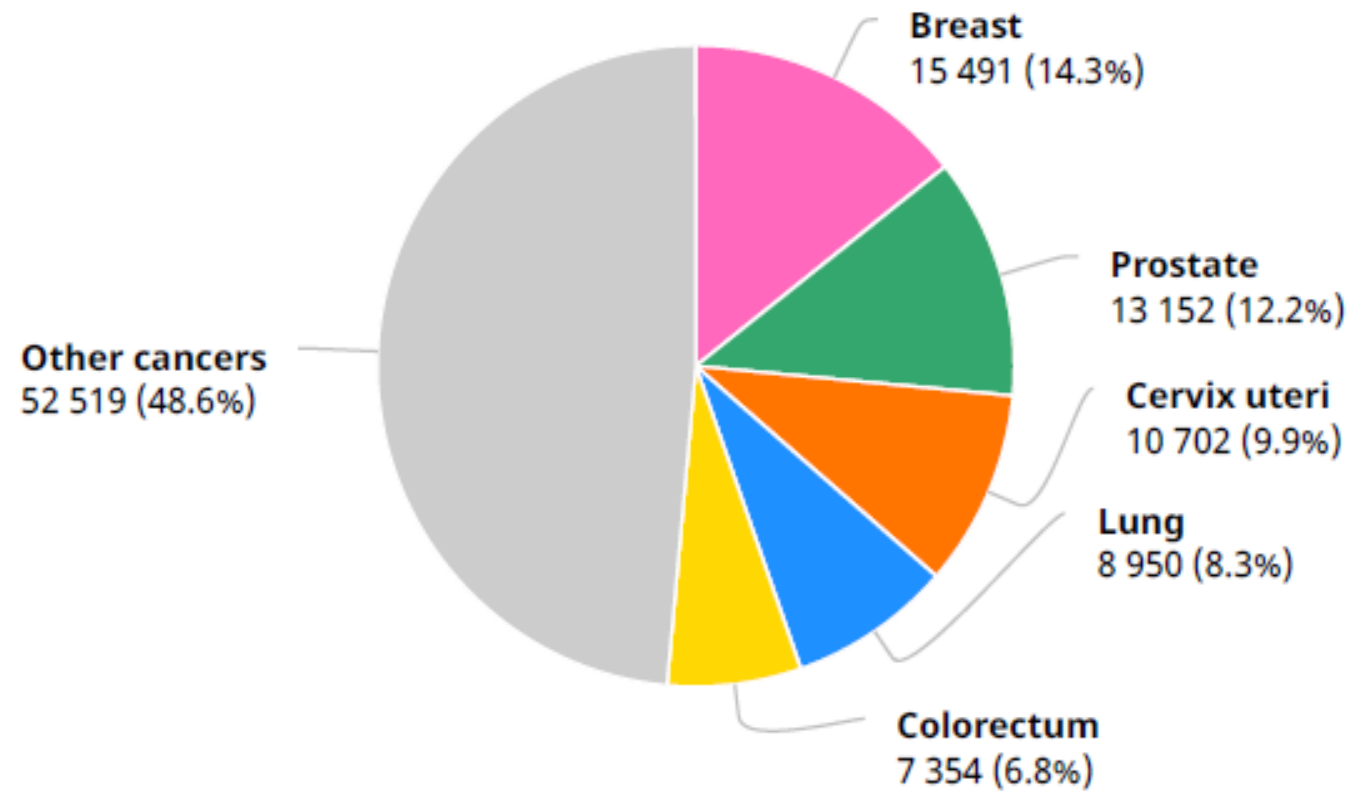
Non surgical modalities and treatments

- Cancer in South Africa
- Diagnostic imaging modalities and rationale
- Systemic therapies
 - Cancer genomics and role in guiding treatment
 - Targeted therapies
 - Immunotherapies
- Radiotherapy
 - Modalities
 - Improvements of technology

Topics

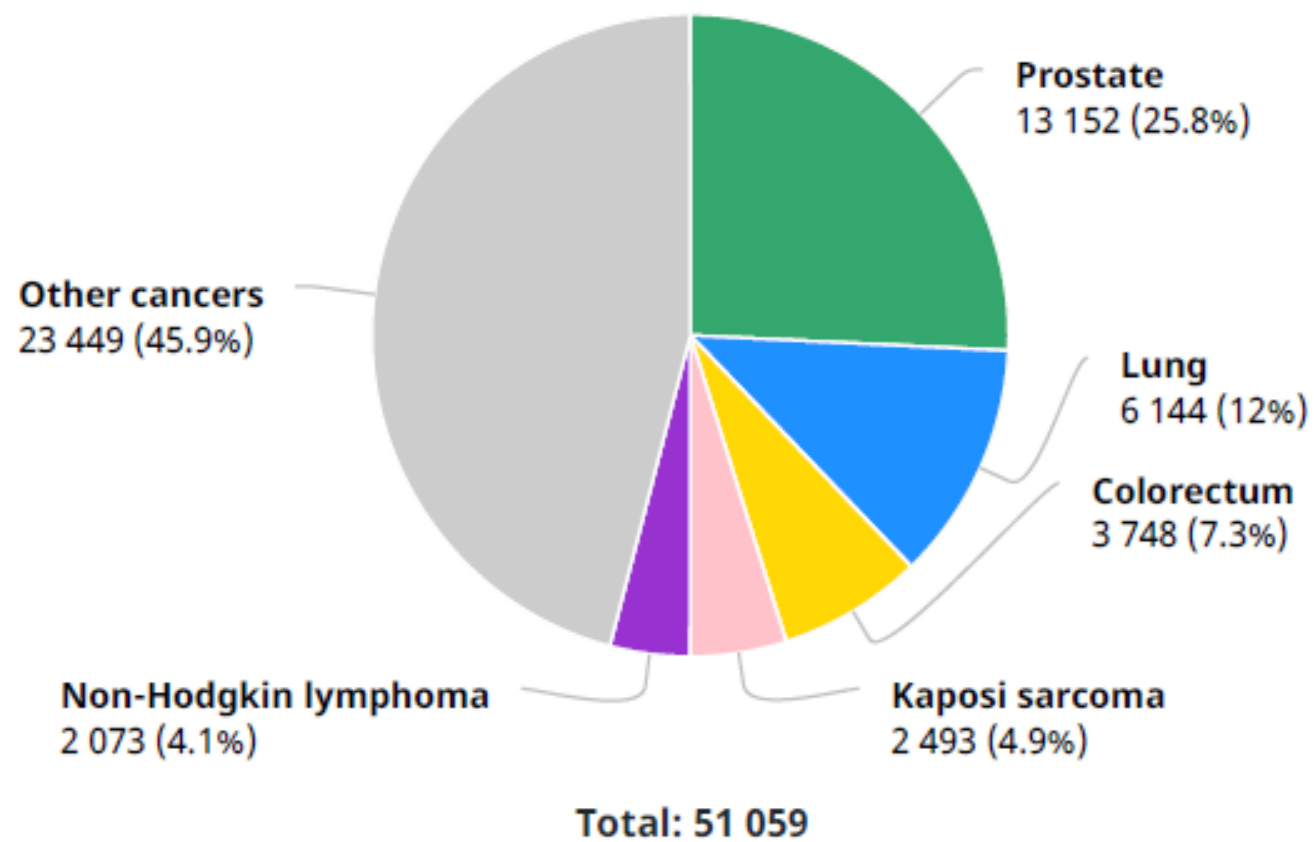
- Treatment approaches in common cancers
 - Breast cancer
 - Cervical cancer
 - Prostate cancer
 - Lung cancer
 - Colorectal cancer
 - Oligometastatic disease
- Oncological emergencies

Number of new cases in 2020, both sexes, all ages

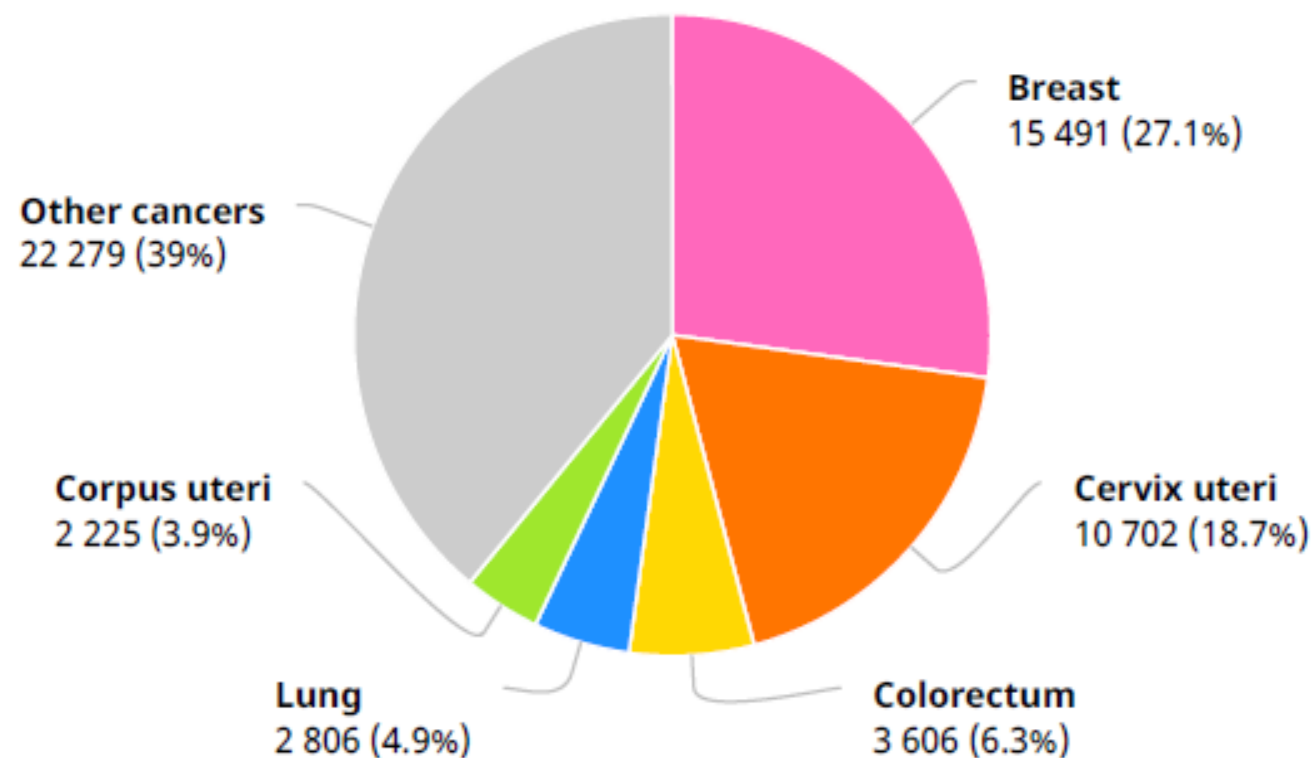


Total: 108 168

Number of new cases in 2020, males, all ages



Number of new cases in 2020, females, all ages



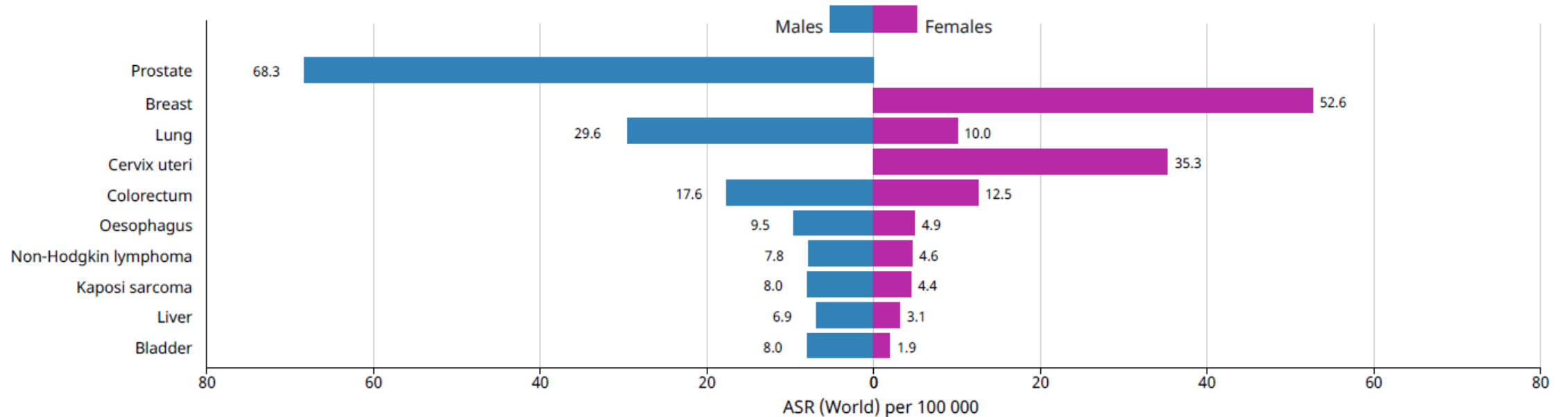
Incidence, Mortality and Prevalence by cancer site

Cancer	New cases				Deaths				5-year prevalence (all ages)	
	Number	Rank	(%)	Cum.risk	Number	Rank	(%)	Cum.risk	Number	Prop. (per 100 000)
Breast	15 491	1	14.3	5.60	4 664	3	8.2	1.74	47 818	158.90
Prostate	13 152	2	12.2	7.87	3 896	4	6.9	2.27	39 863	136.44
Cervix uteri	10 702	3	9.9	3.58	5 870	2	10.3	2.10	26 486	88.01
Lung	8 950	4	8.3	2.21	7 730	1	13.6	1.94	9 709	16.37
Kaposi sarcoma	3 984	5	3.7	0.50	723	17	1.3	0.09	11 010	18.56
Colon	3 657	6	3.4	0.86	2 053	7	3.6	0.47	8 293	13.98
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	3 500	7	3.2	0.58	1 797	9	3.2	0.32	9 630	16.24

Incidence and mortality rate

Age standardised rates

Age-standardized (World) incidence rates per sex, top 10 cancers



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Management principles



**physical
exam**



biopsy



x-ray



**CT and
MRI**



**radionuclide
bone scan**



PET scan





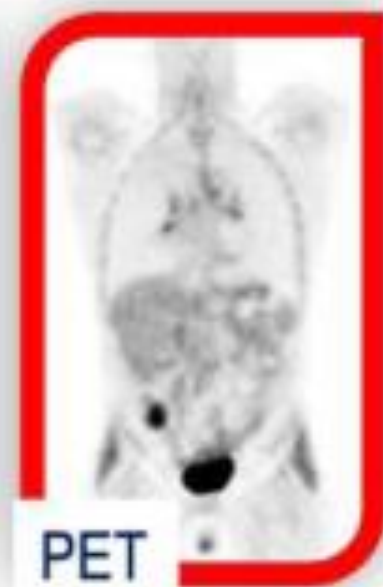
X-ray



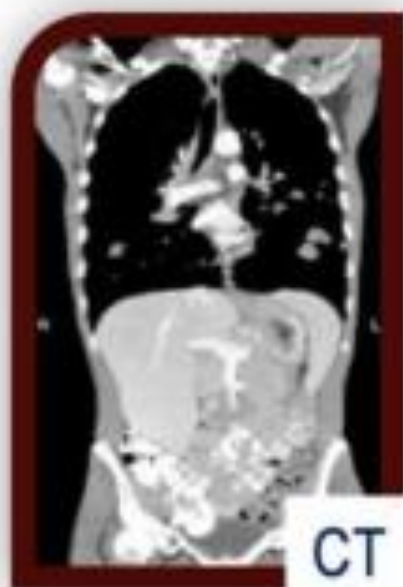
US



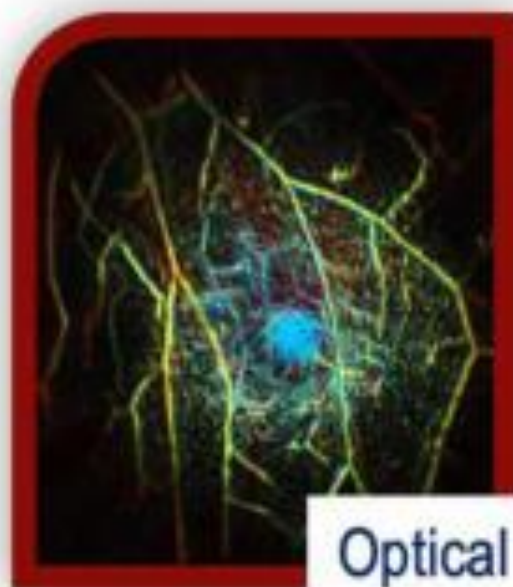
Scinti



PET



CT



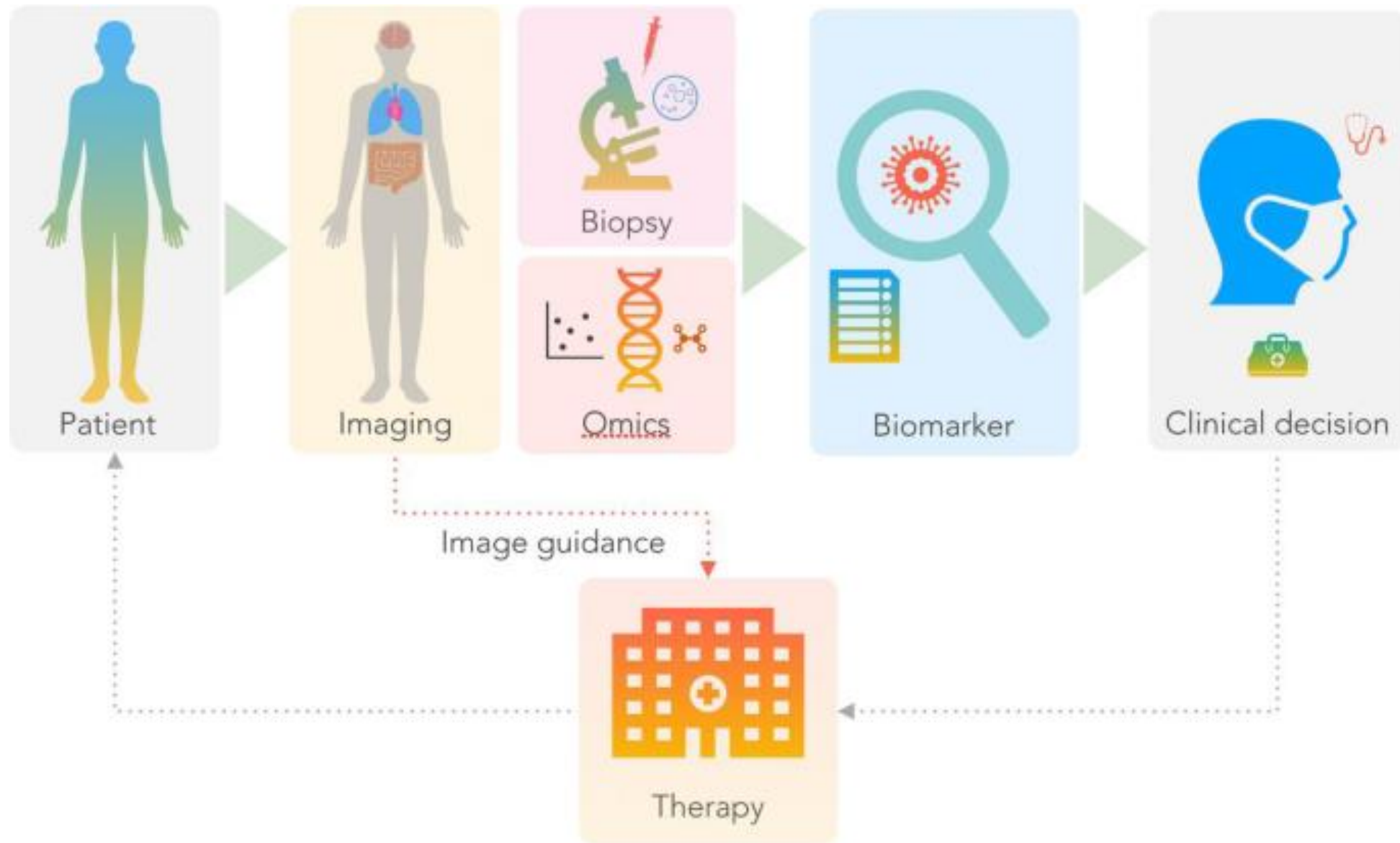
Optical

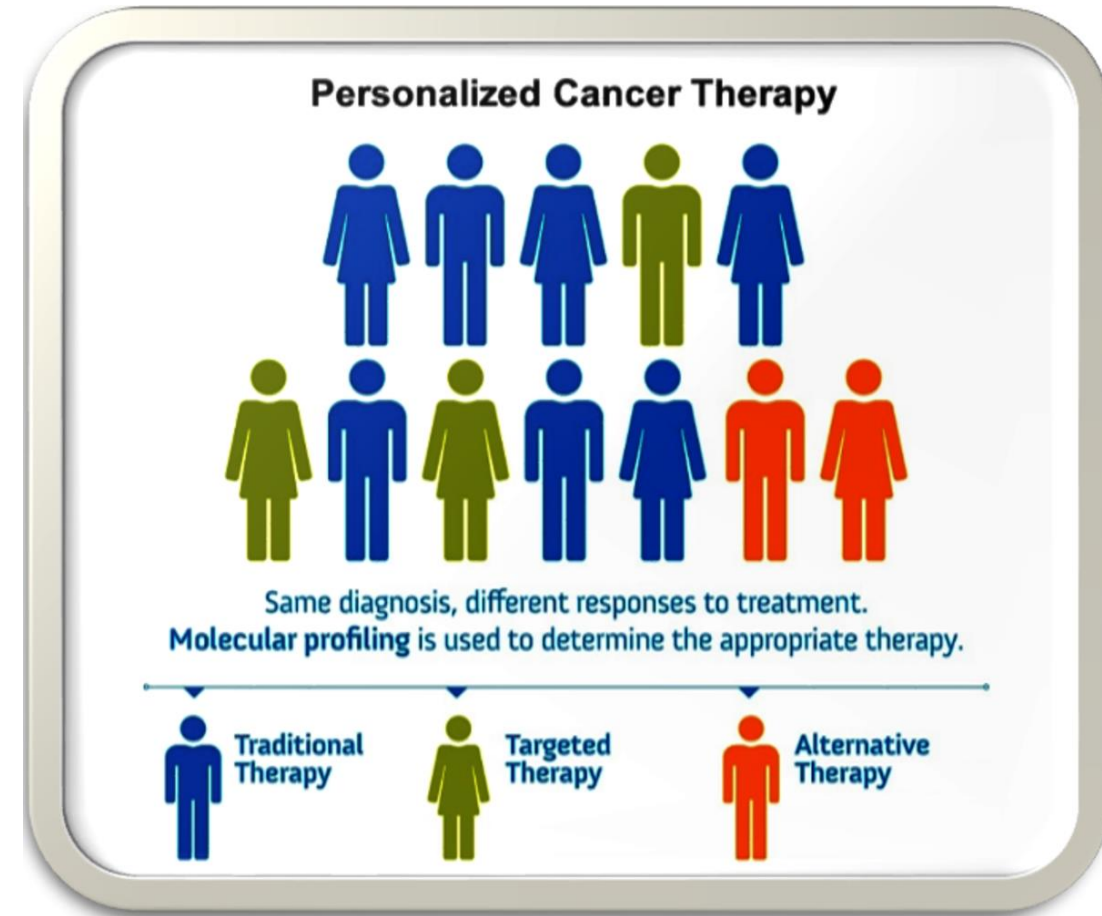
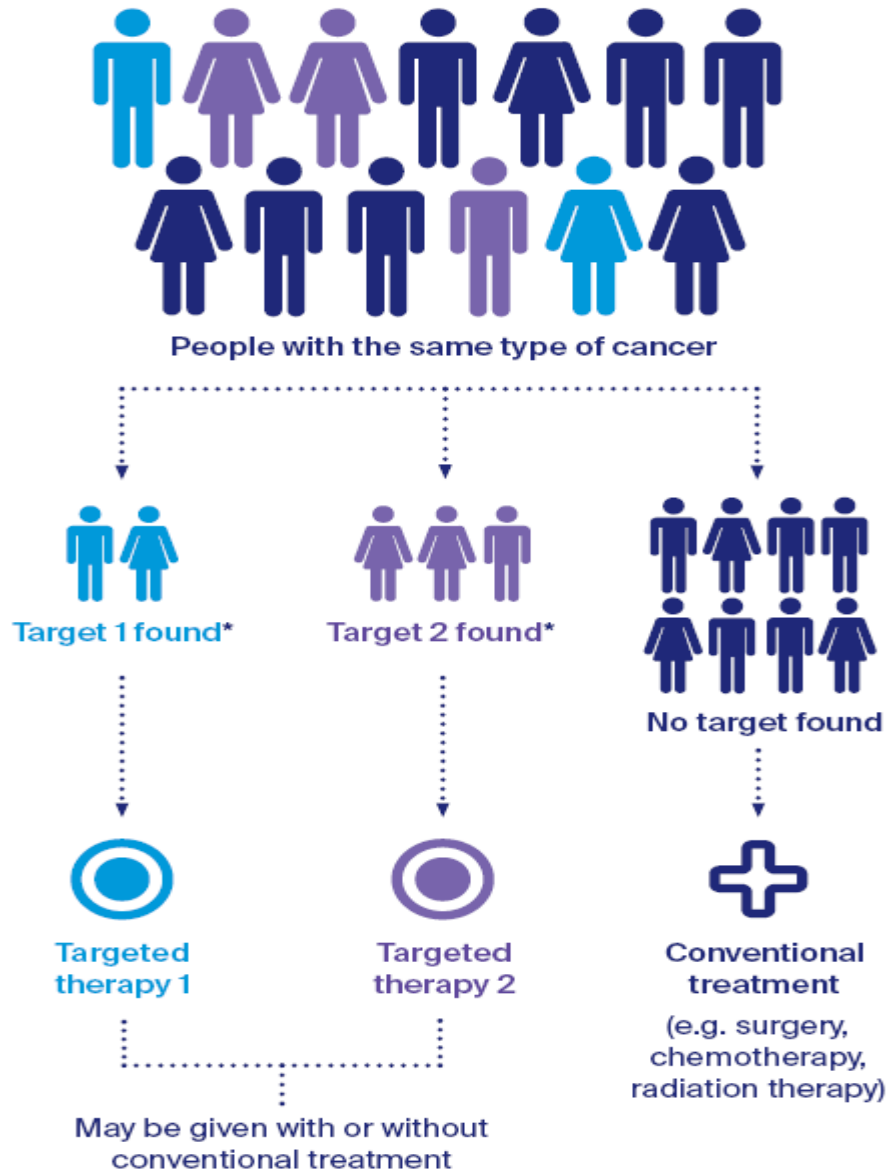


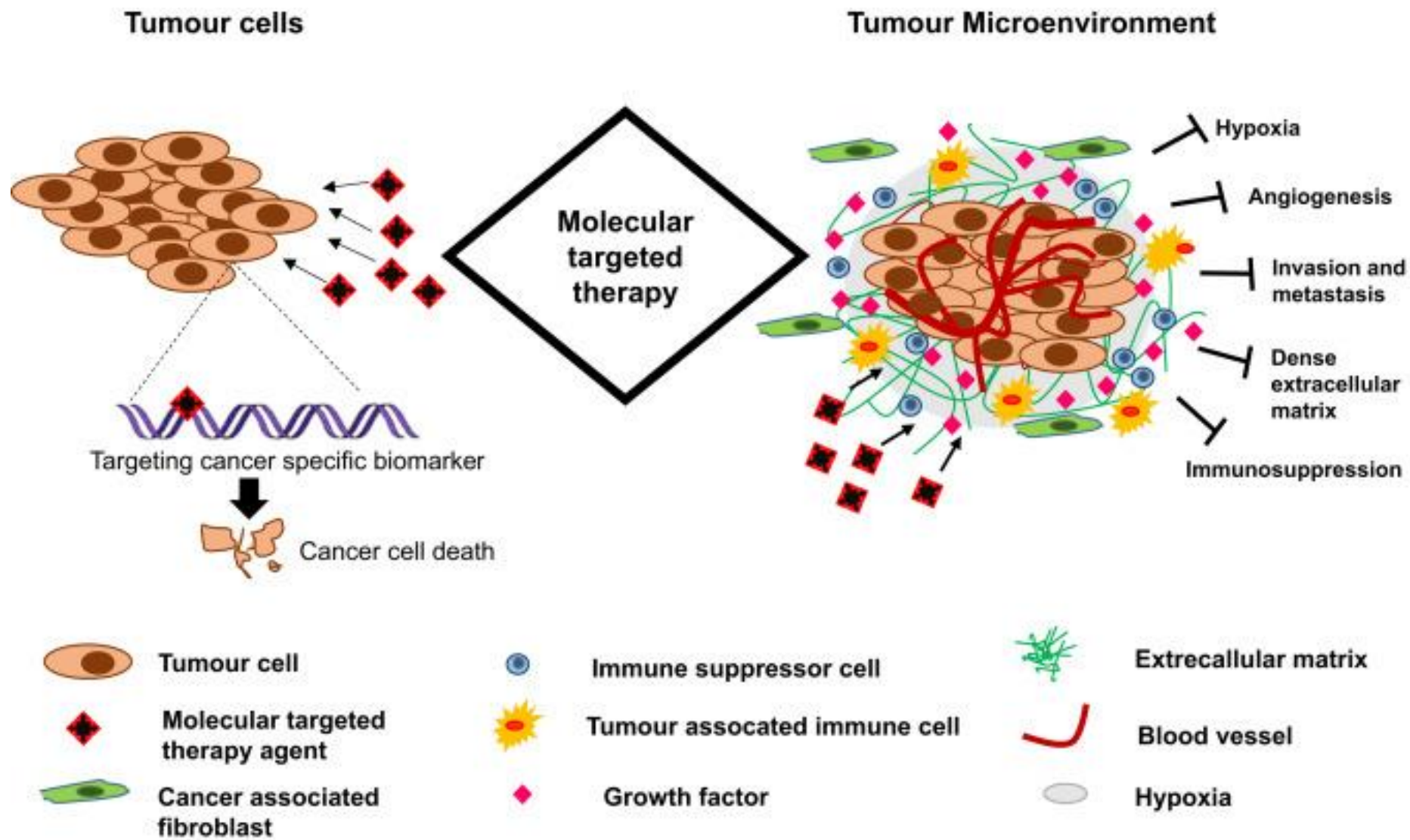
MRI

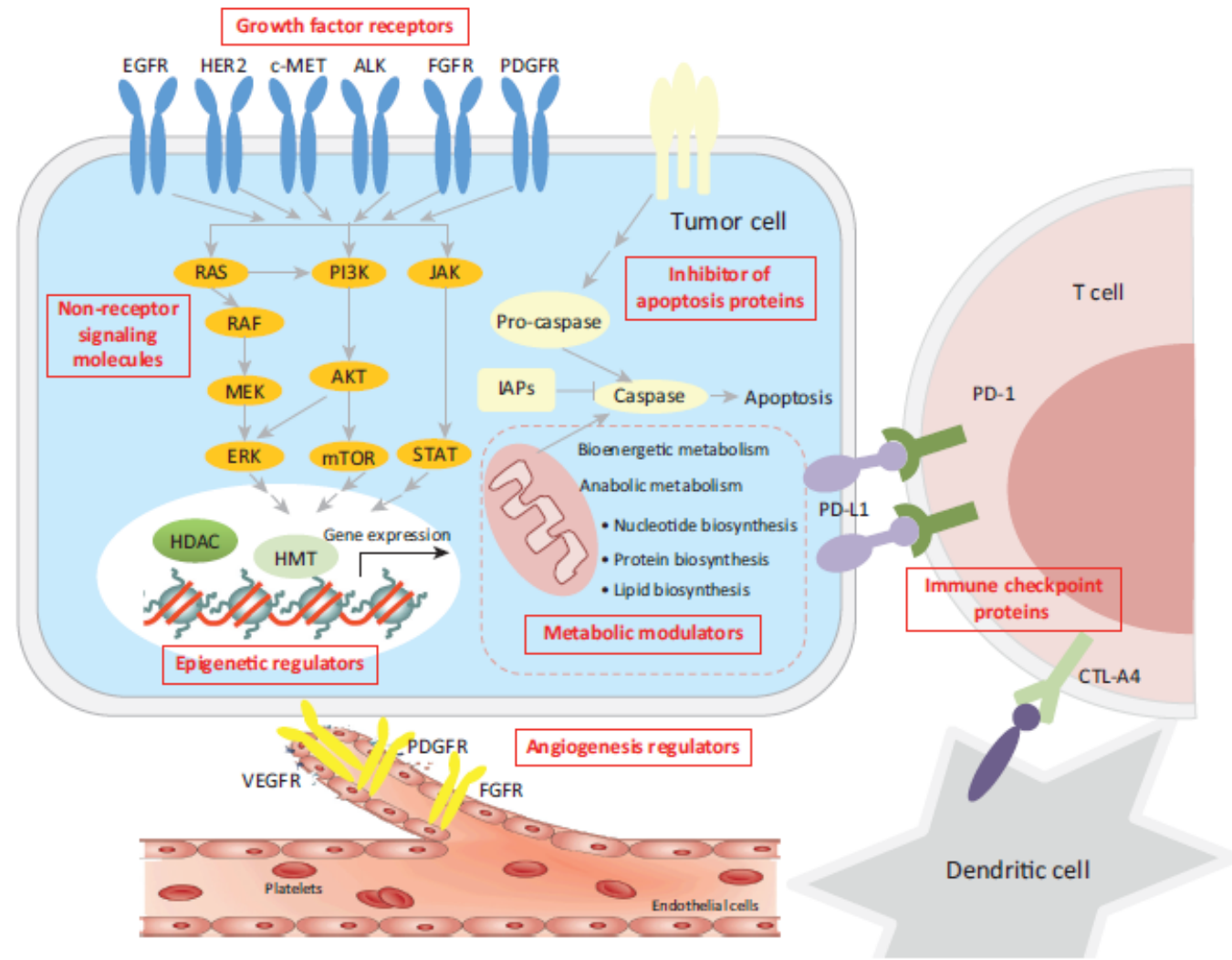


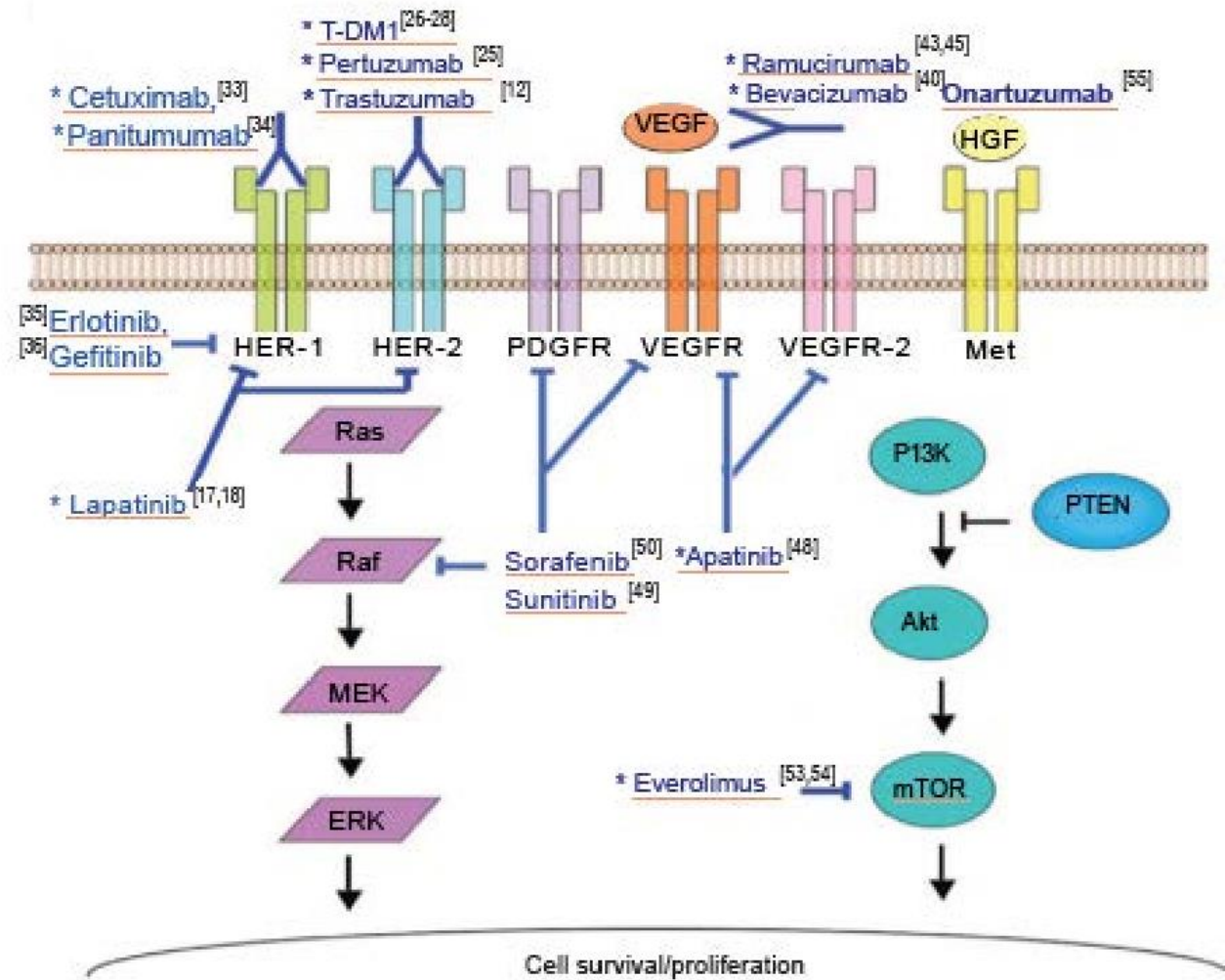
SPECT

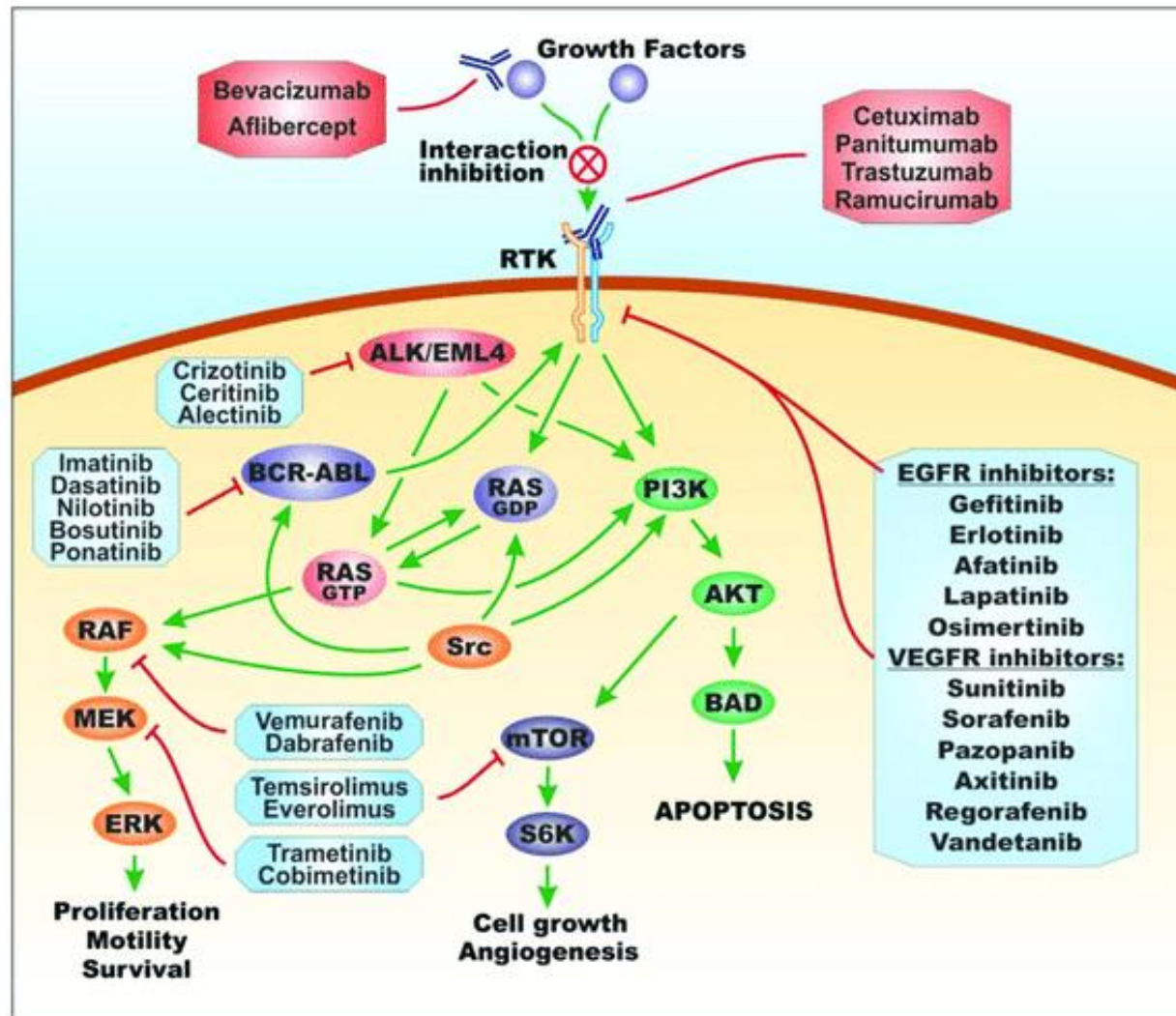












MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS IN ONCOLOGY

HEREDITARY CANCER SYNDROMES

ASSAYS

- RECURRENT MUTATIONS (PCR)
- SINGLE-GENE ANALYSIS (SANGER SEQUENCING, MLPA)
- MULTIGENE PANELS (NGS)
- WHOLE EXOME SEQUENCING

CANCER PATIENTS

- RISK OF 2ND MALIGNANCY
- CHOICE OF TREATMENT

HEALTHY PEOPLE

- IDENTIFICATION OF SUBJECTS AT-RISK

PREDICTIVE MARKERS

ASSAYS

- DNA
- RNA
- PROTEINS
- CELLS
- TISSUE SLICES
- PDXs

MOLECULAR TARGETS

- HER2
- EGFR-MUT
- BRAF-MUT
- ALK
- ROS

TUMOR PHENOTYPES

- MSI-H
- BRCAness
- MUTATION BURDEN

CIRCULATING TUMOR FRAGMENTS

ASSAYS

- CTCs
- ctDNA
- RNA
- PROTEINS

CANCER PATIENTS

- CONTROL OF TUMOR ERADICATION
- MONITORING OF TUMOR BURDEN
- CHOICE OF THERAPY

HEALTHY PEOPLE

- EARLY DIAGNOSIS

CARCINOMAS OF UNKNOWN PRIMARY

ASSAYS

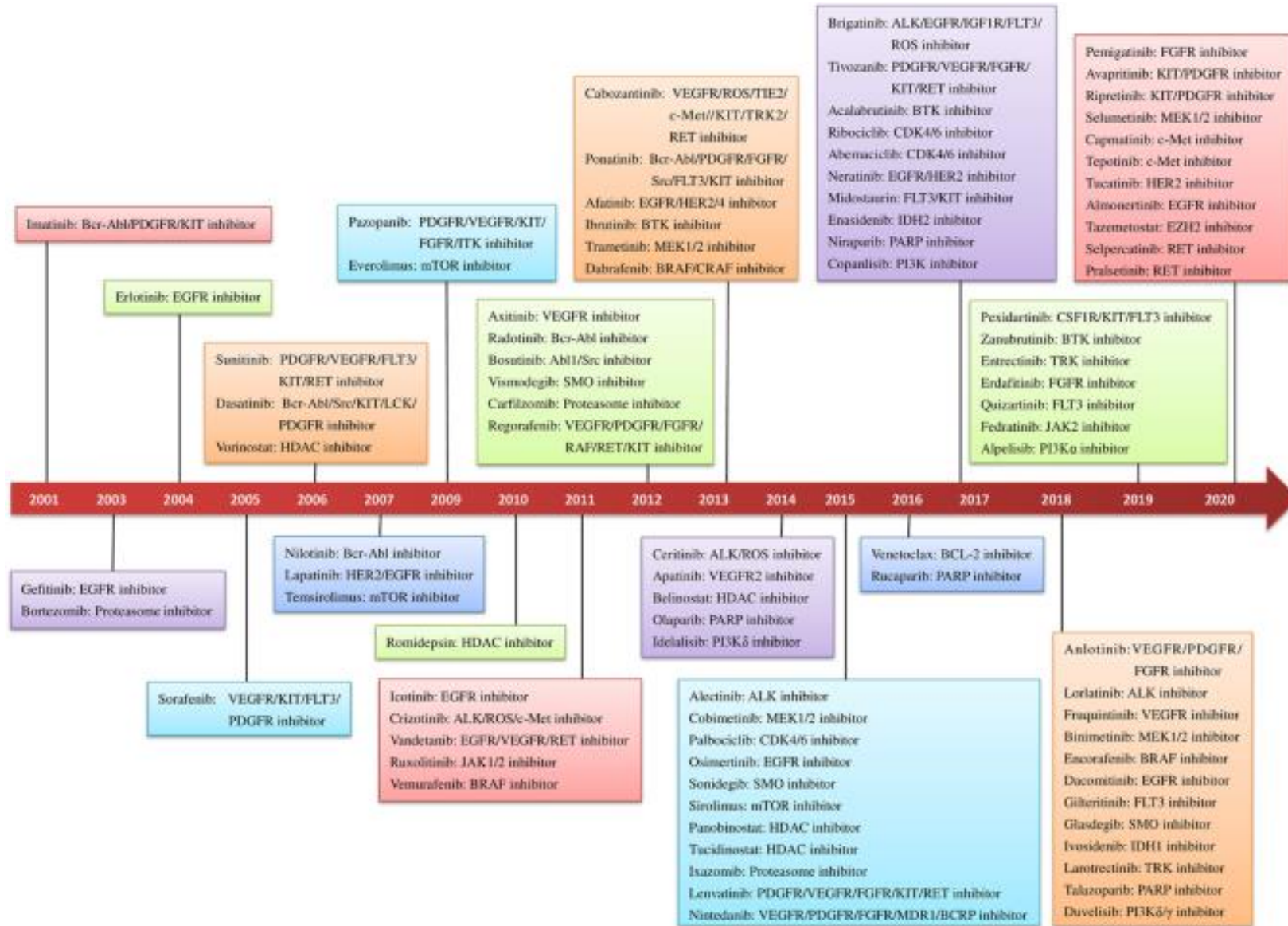
- SINGLE MARKERS
- INTEGRATIVE ASSAYS

TISSUE-SPECIFIC MARKERS

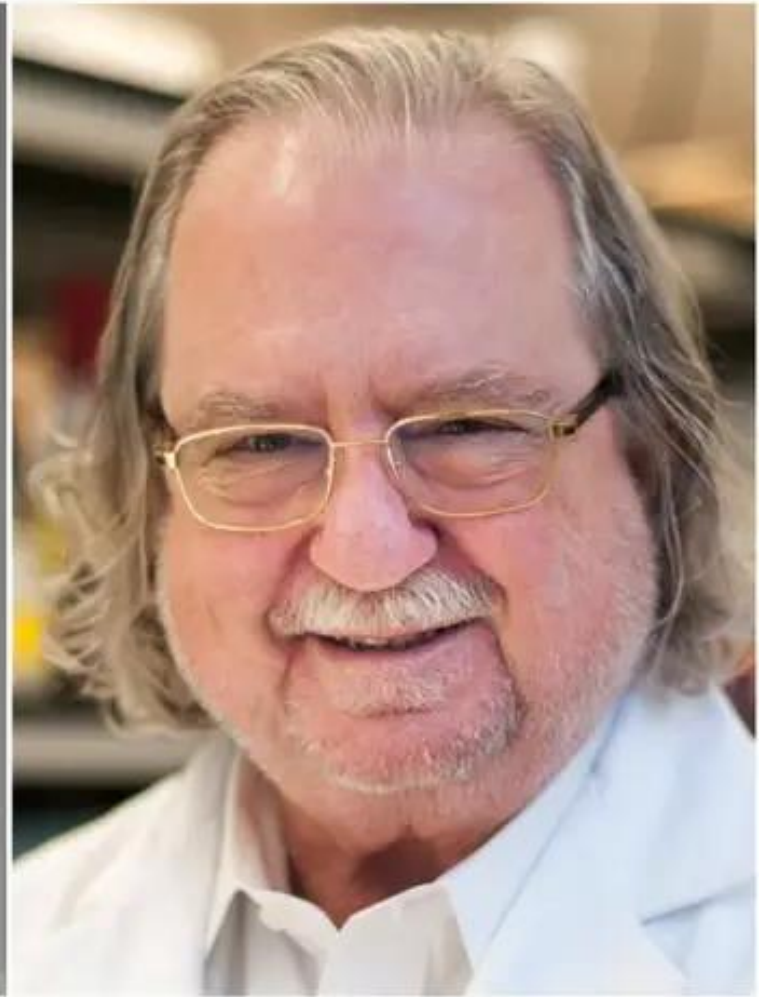
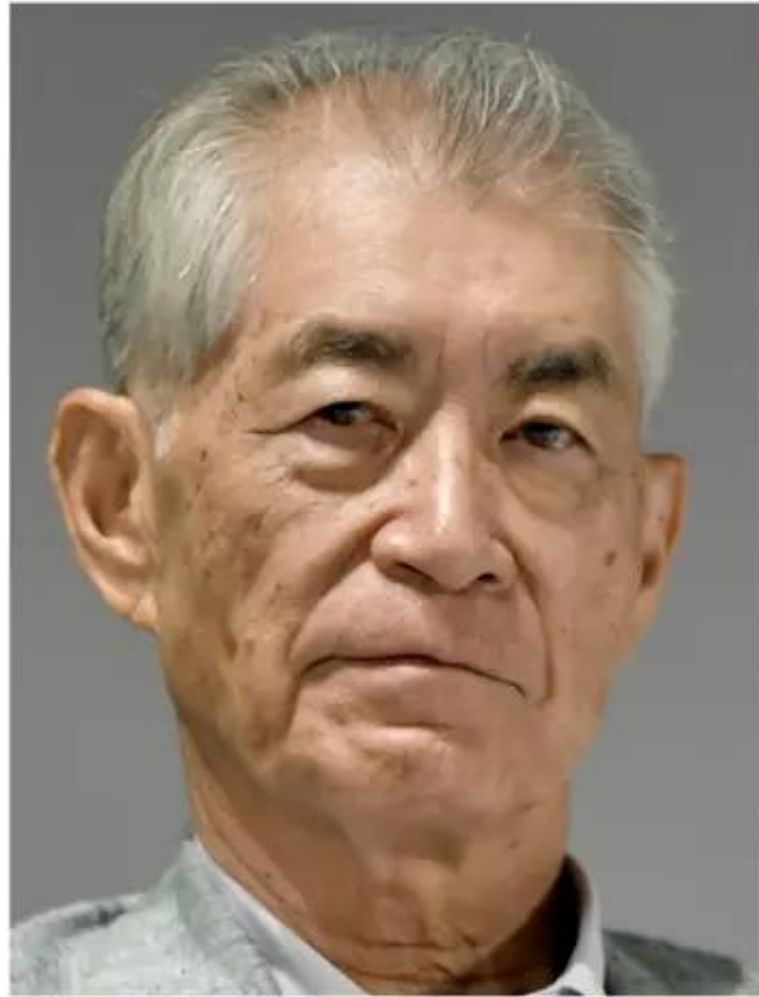
- RNA
- PROTEINS

TUMOR-SPECIFIC MARKERS

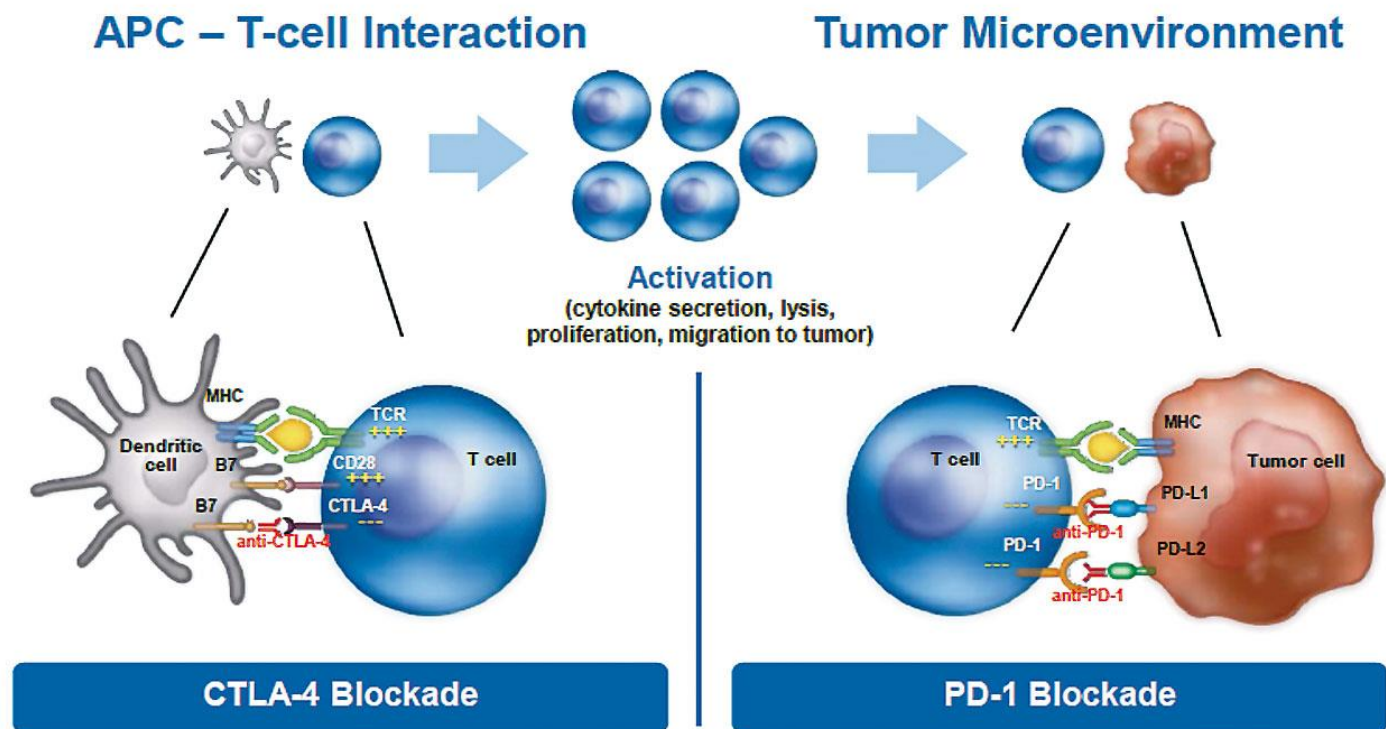
- POINT MUTATIONS
- GENE REARRANGEMENTS
- COPY NUMBER VARIATIONS



**Tasuku
Honjo &
James
Allison**



Immunotherapy



Immunotherapy

INTERFERON ALPHA 2B

1996

adjuvant treatment of melanoma

cytokine

effects on immune modulation, anti-proliferation as well as anti-angiogenesis.

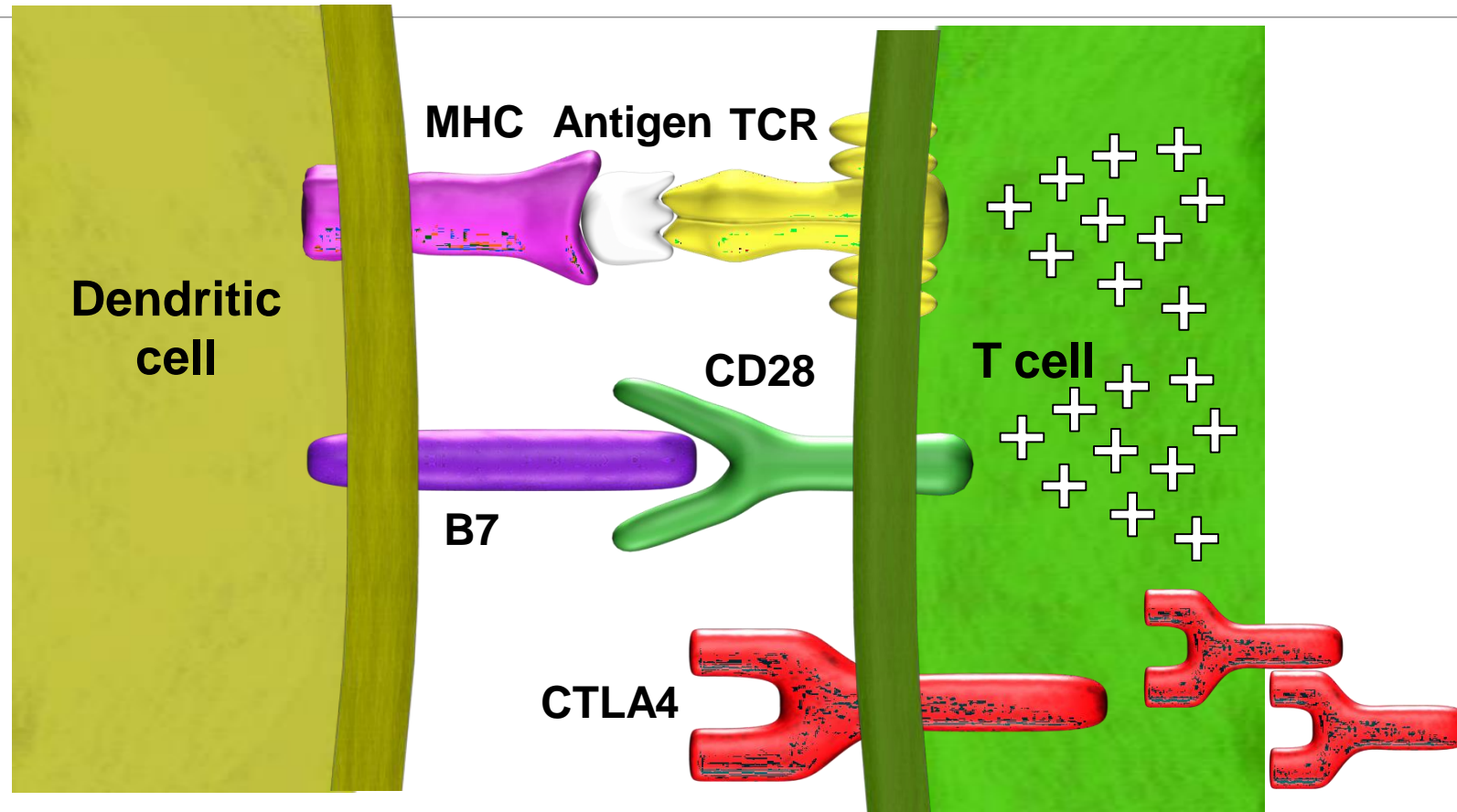
significant toxicity which resulted in many patients not completing the full course of treatment.

INTERLEUKIN 2

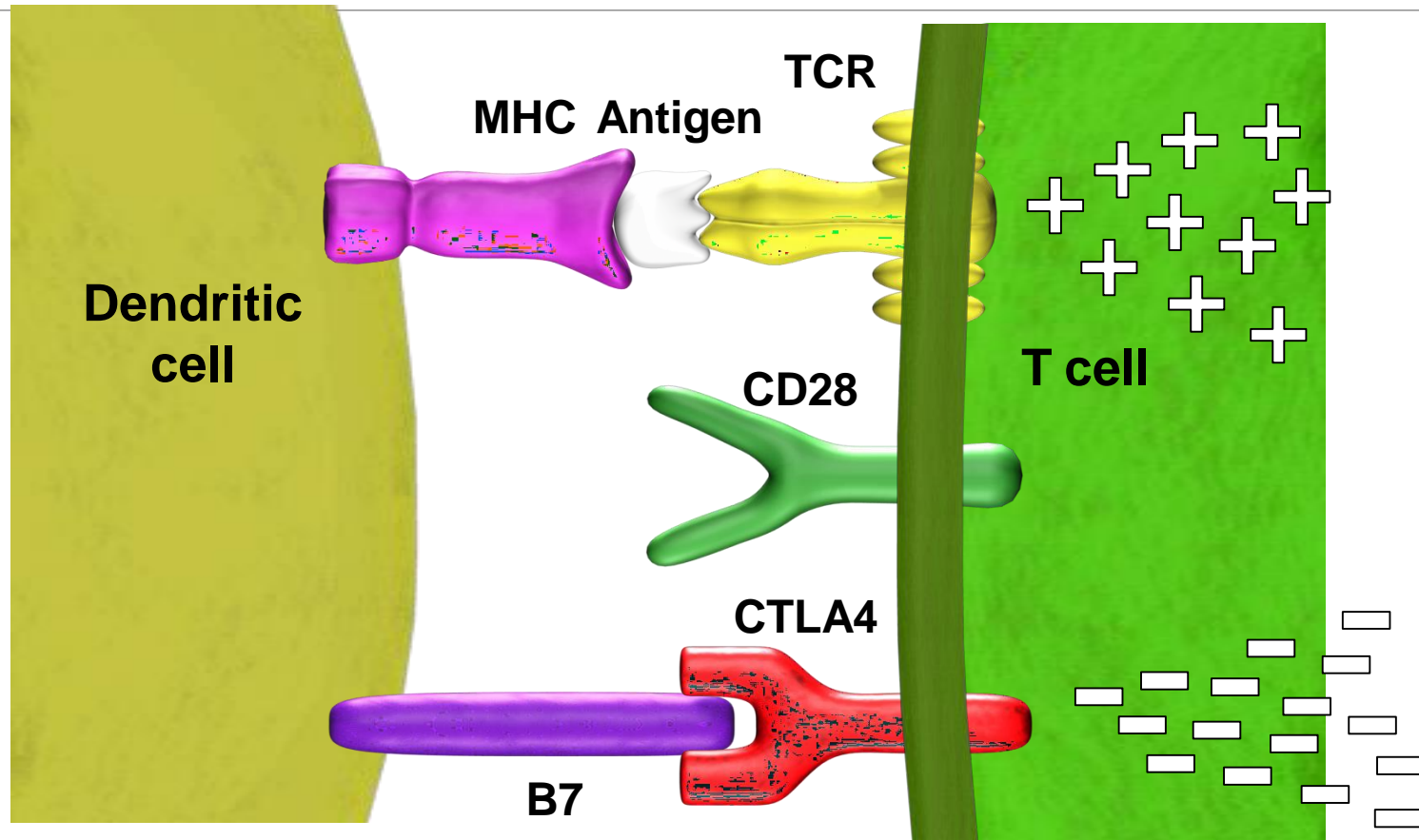
metastatic disease

There has been considerable progress since then.

CTLA4 Receptors Are Up-Regulated Following T-Cell Activation



CTLA4 Negatively Modulates T-Cell Activation



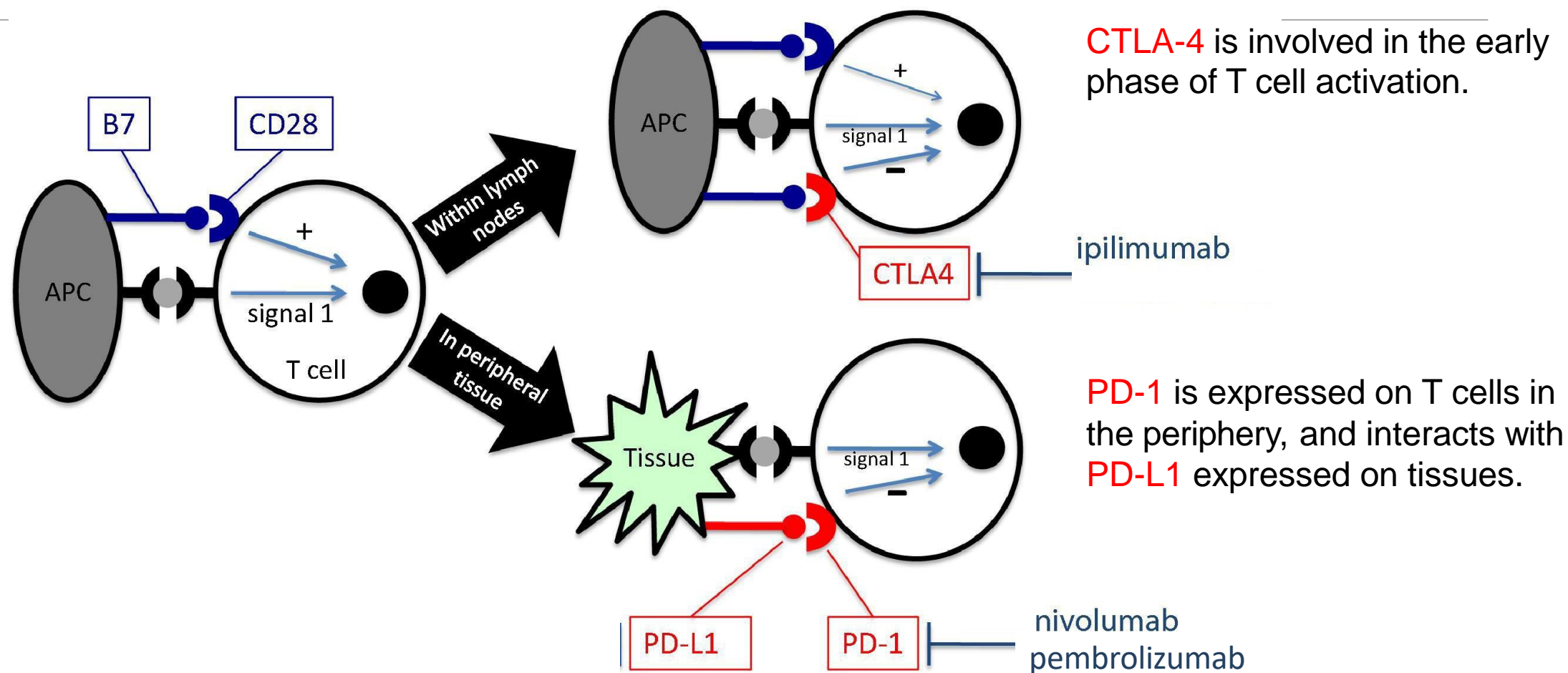
CTLA4 binds B7 with greater affinity than does CD28 and sends a negative signal to the T cell.

T cell regulation

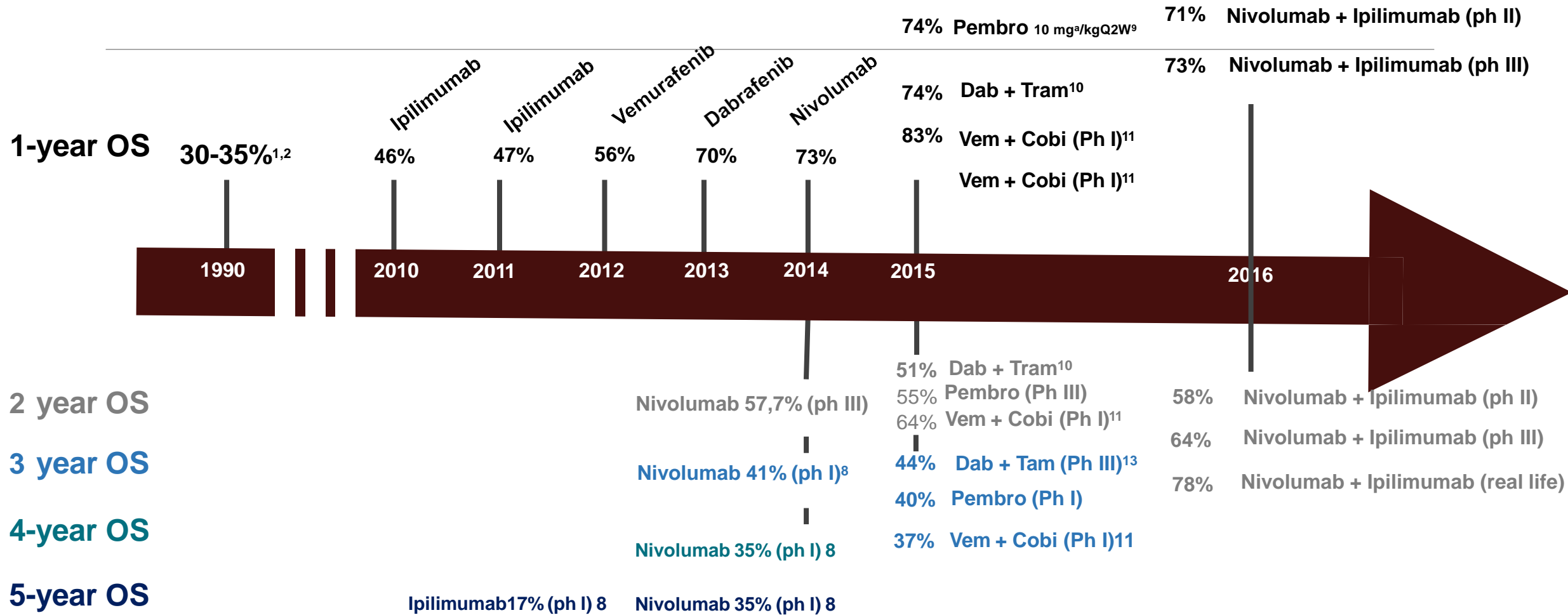
T cell activation and inhibition relies upon co-stimulatory (+) or inhibitory signals (-) to prevent widespread autoimmunity

Activation

Inactivation



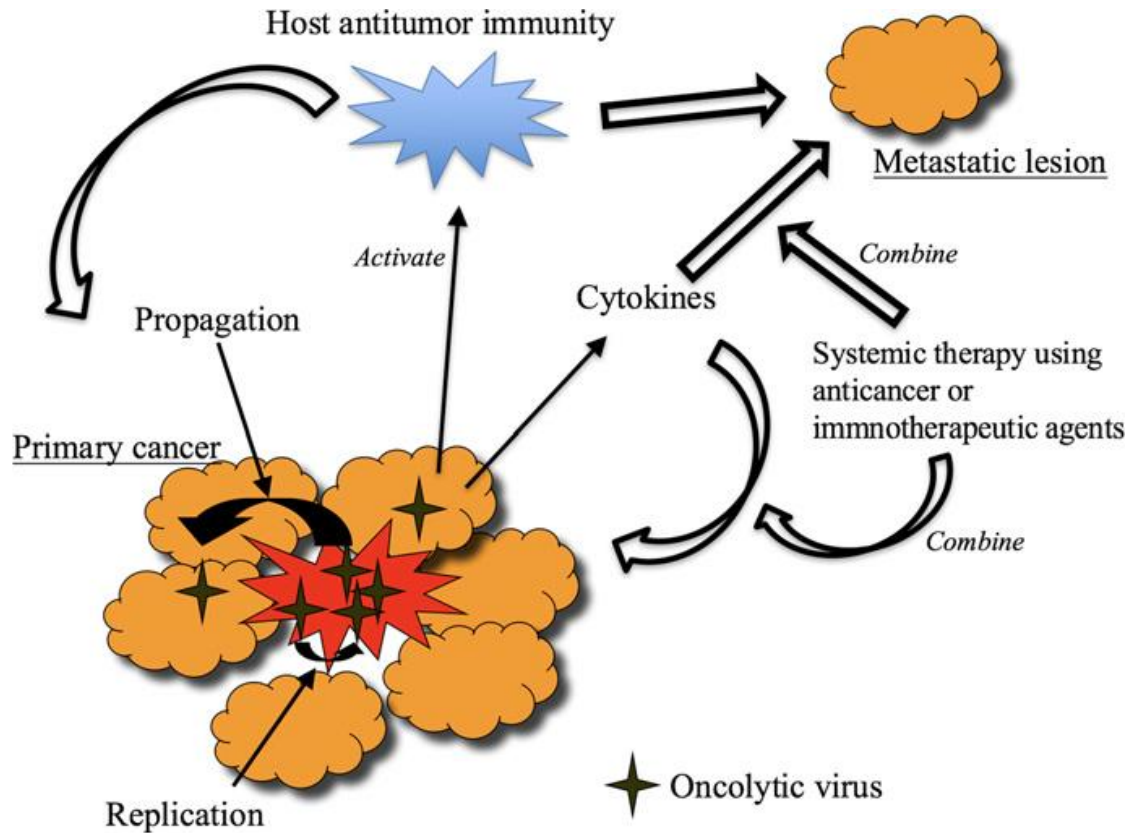
OS in Melanoma



1. SmPC COTELLIC Cobimetinib EMA. 2. SmPC MEKINIST Trametinib EMA. 3. SmPC OPDIVO Nivolumab EMA. 4. SmPC TAFINLAR Dabrafenib EMA. 5. SmPC YERVOY Ipilimumab EMA. 6. SmPC ZELBORAF Vemurafenib EMA.

Oncolytic viruses

Oncolytic viruses



- Preferential infection and replication in tumour cells, the initiation of tumour cell lysis
- Induction of innate and adaptive anti-tumour immunity.
- Genetically engineered to reduce pathogenicity and increase immunogenicity resulting in minimally toxic therapeutic agents: neurotropic gene, immunogenic gene, integrates GM-CSF gene

Oncolytic Virus Therapy

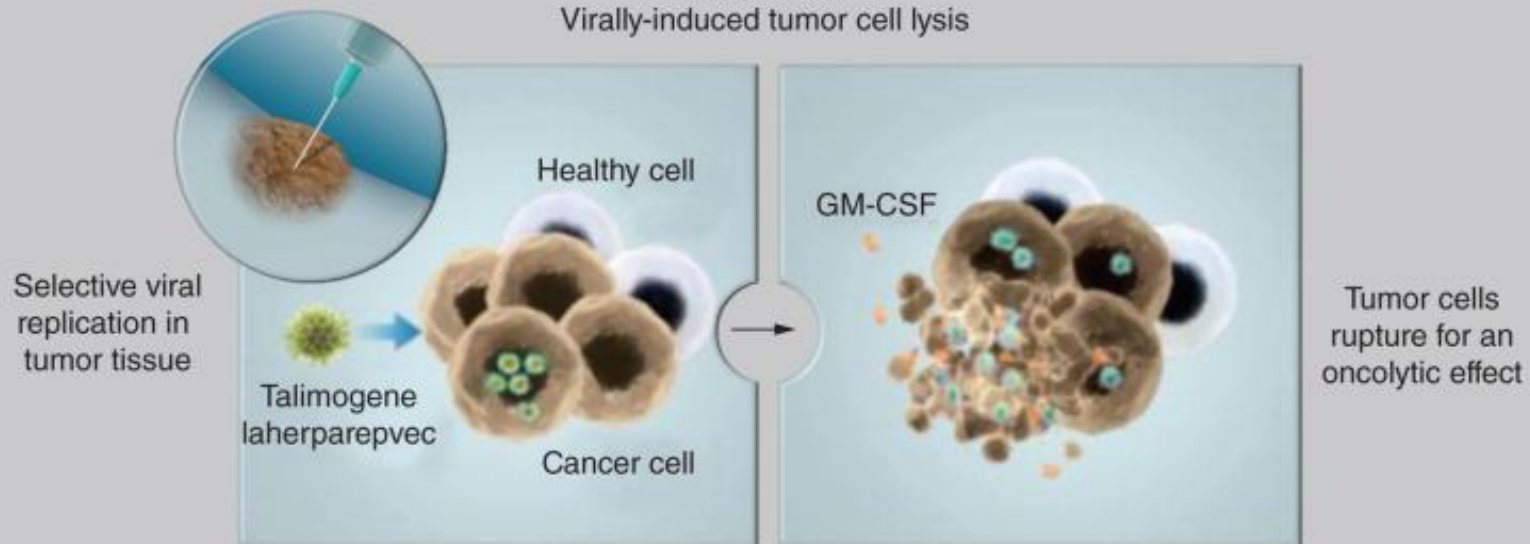
- **Talimogene laherparepvec** is the **first approved oncolytic virus therapy** (US, EU, and Australia)
- Indicated (as monotherapy) for the treatment of adults with **unresectable melanoma** that is regionally or distantly metastatic (Stage **IIIB**, **IIIC** and **IV M1a**) with no bone, brain, lung or other visceral disease¹

Talimogene laherparepvec

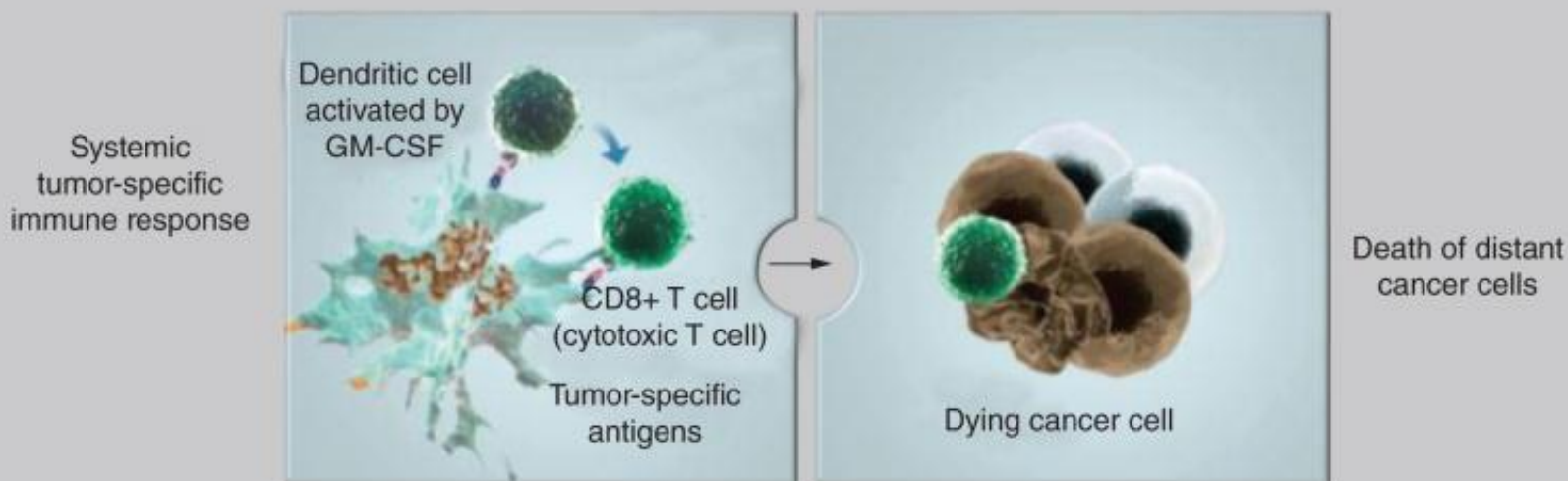
- is a herpes simplex virus type-1–derived oncolytic immunotherapy designed to selectively replicate in tumors, produce GM-CSF, and enhance local and systemic antitumor immune responses¹

Amgen. Imlygic[®]
Summary of
Product
Characteristics.
Section 4.1.

Local effect
Virally-induced tumor cell lysis



Systemic effect
Tumor-specific immune response

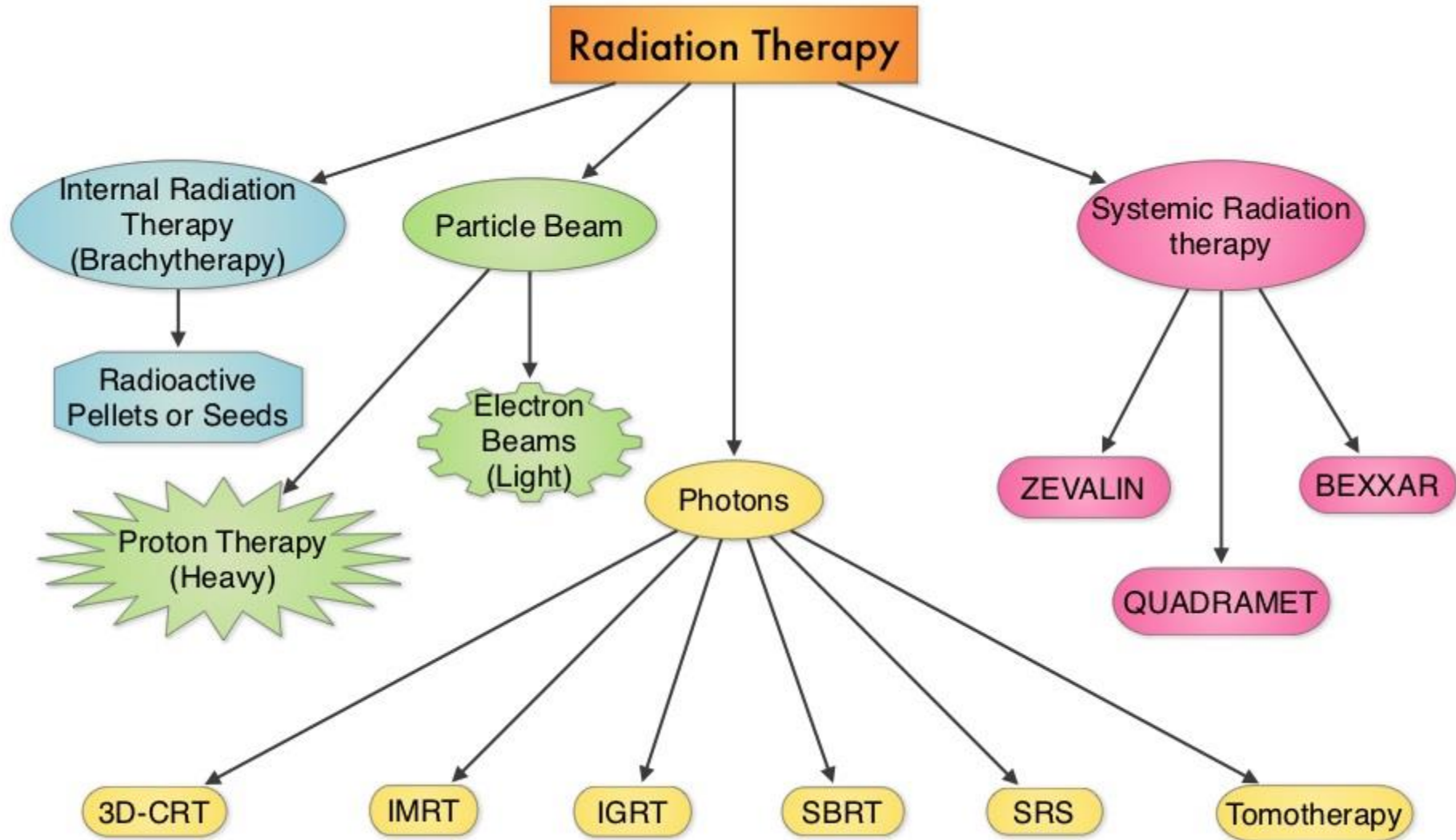


Proposed mechanism of action for talimogene laherparepvec

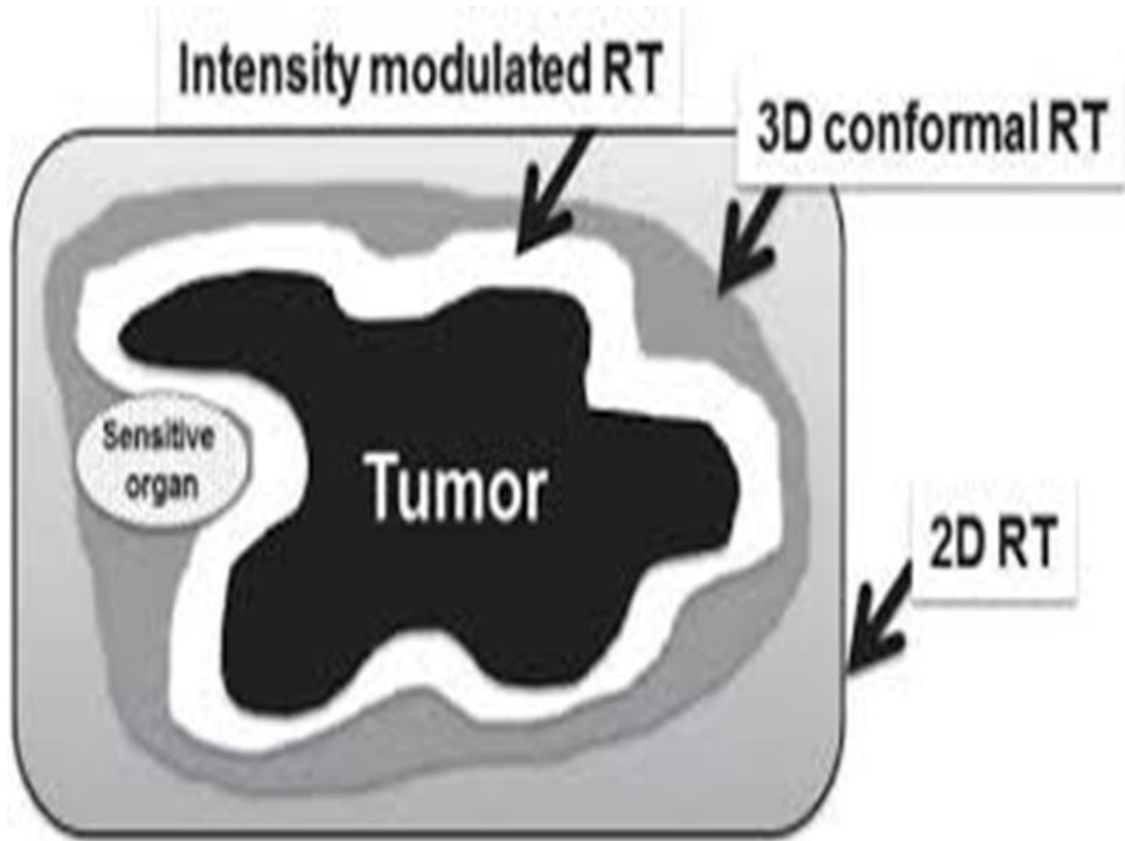
- Johnson DB, Puzanov I, Kelley C. Talimogene laherparepvec (T-VEC) for the treatment of advanced melanoma. *Immunotherapy*. 2015 Jul; 7(6): 611–619.

RADIOTHERAPY





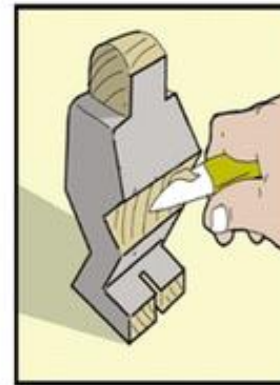
Techniques



Conventional



3D – Conformal



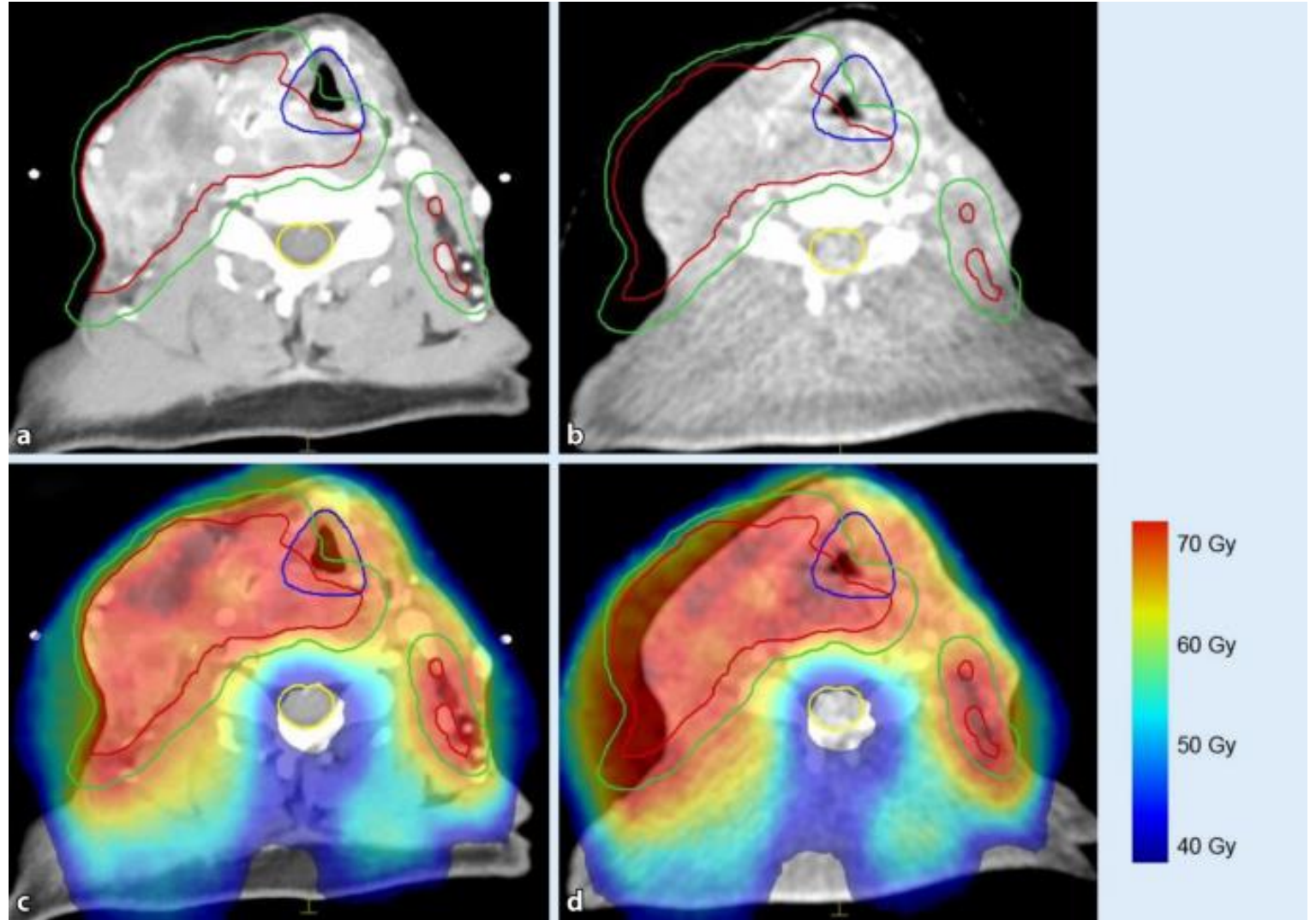
2D – Conforr

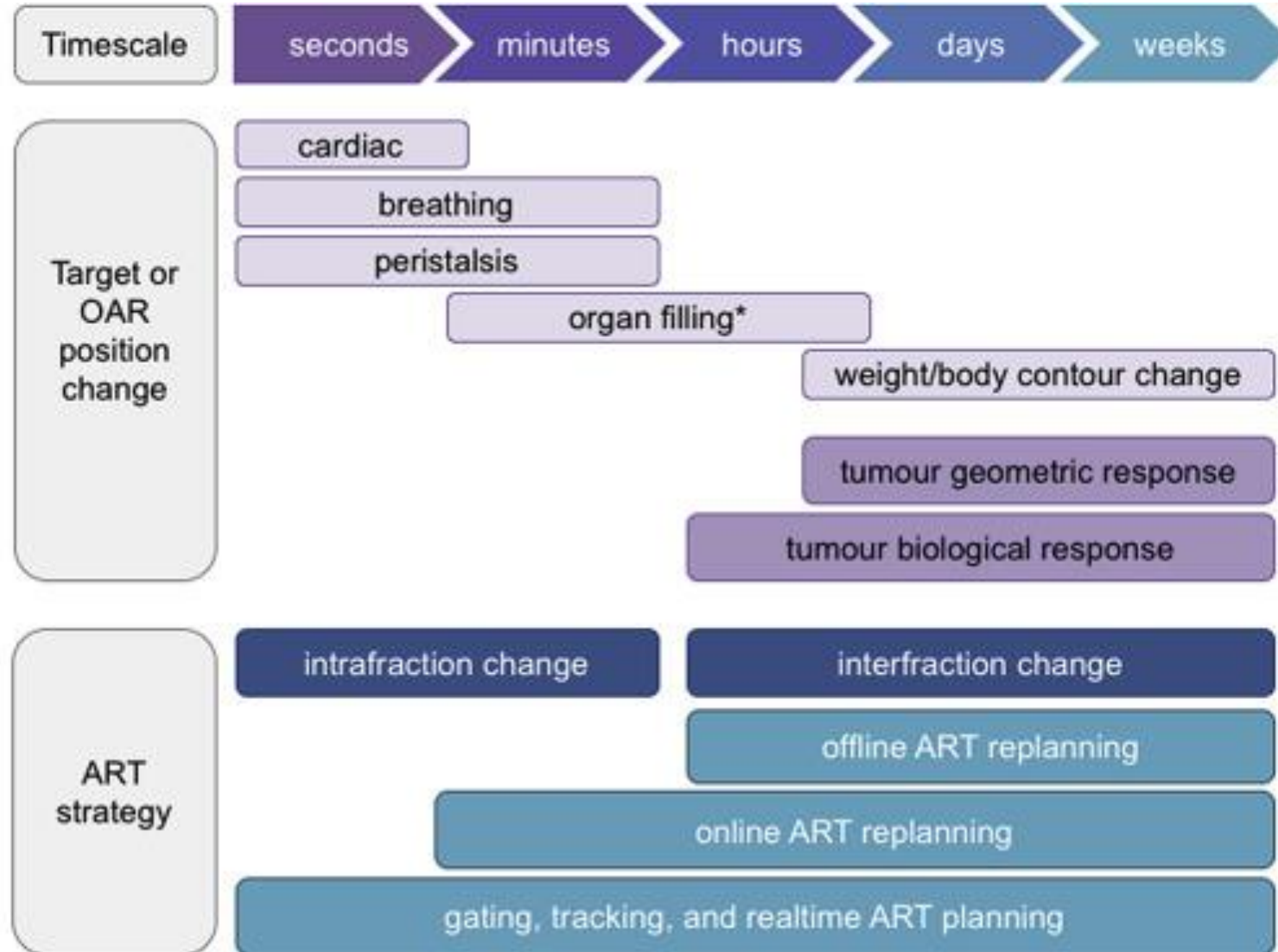


IMRT



Image guided RT





* Organs subject to filling and deformation including bladder, rectum, cervix, and stomach etc

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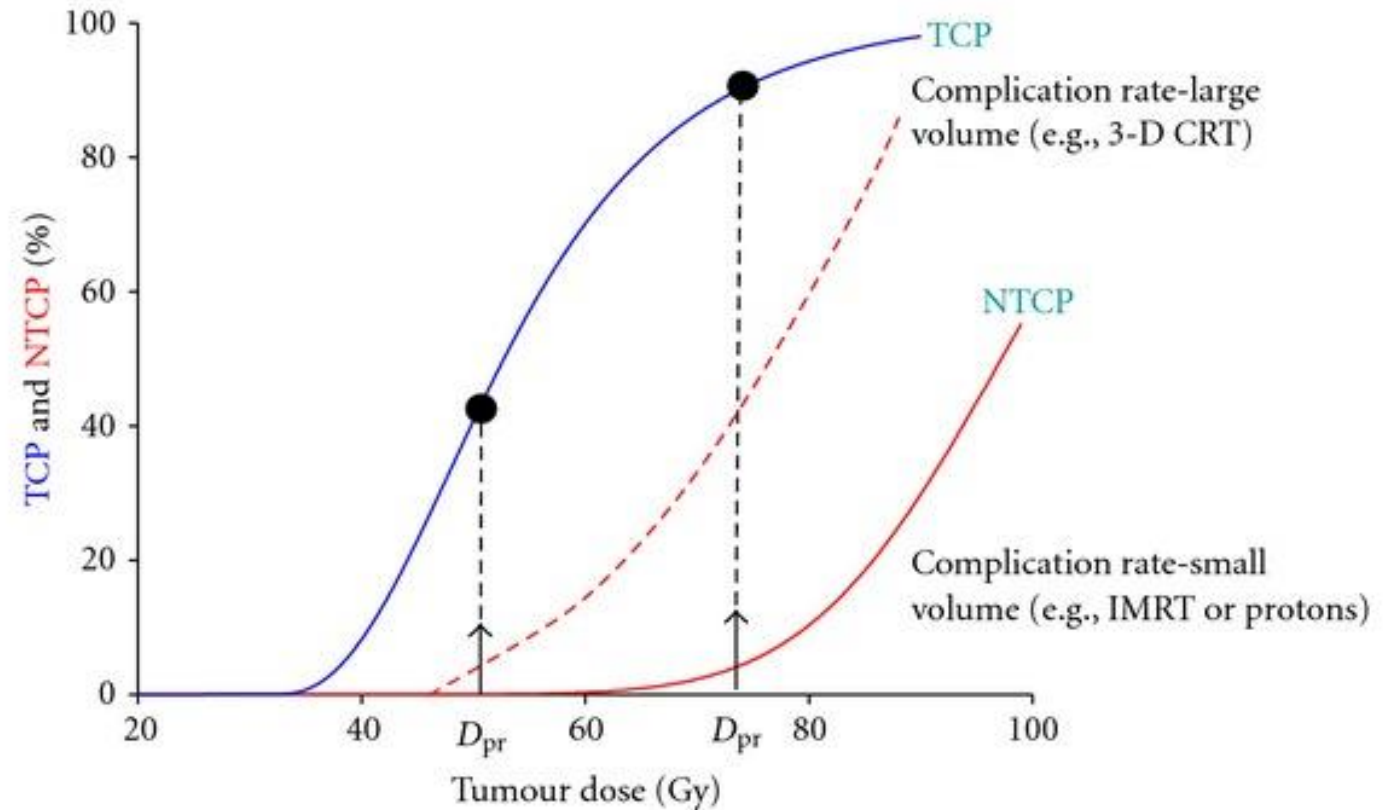
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AIM

Escalate dose of radiotherapy

Reduce dose to healthy tissues

Decreased toxicity
increase tumor control



Radiotherapy

Cure of localised disease

Definitive

Adjuvant

Salvage

Palliation of extensive disease

Limited metastatic disease: Metastases directed therapies

Brachytherapy: close to or within the tumor



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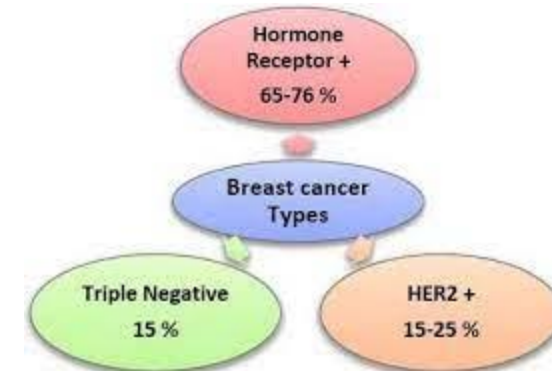
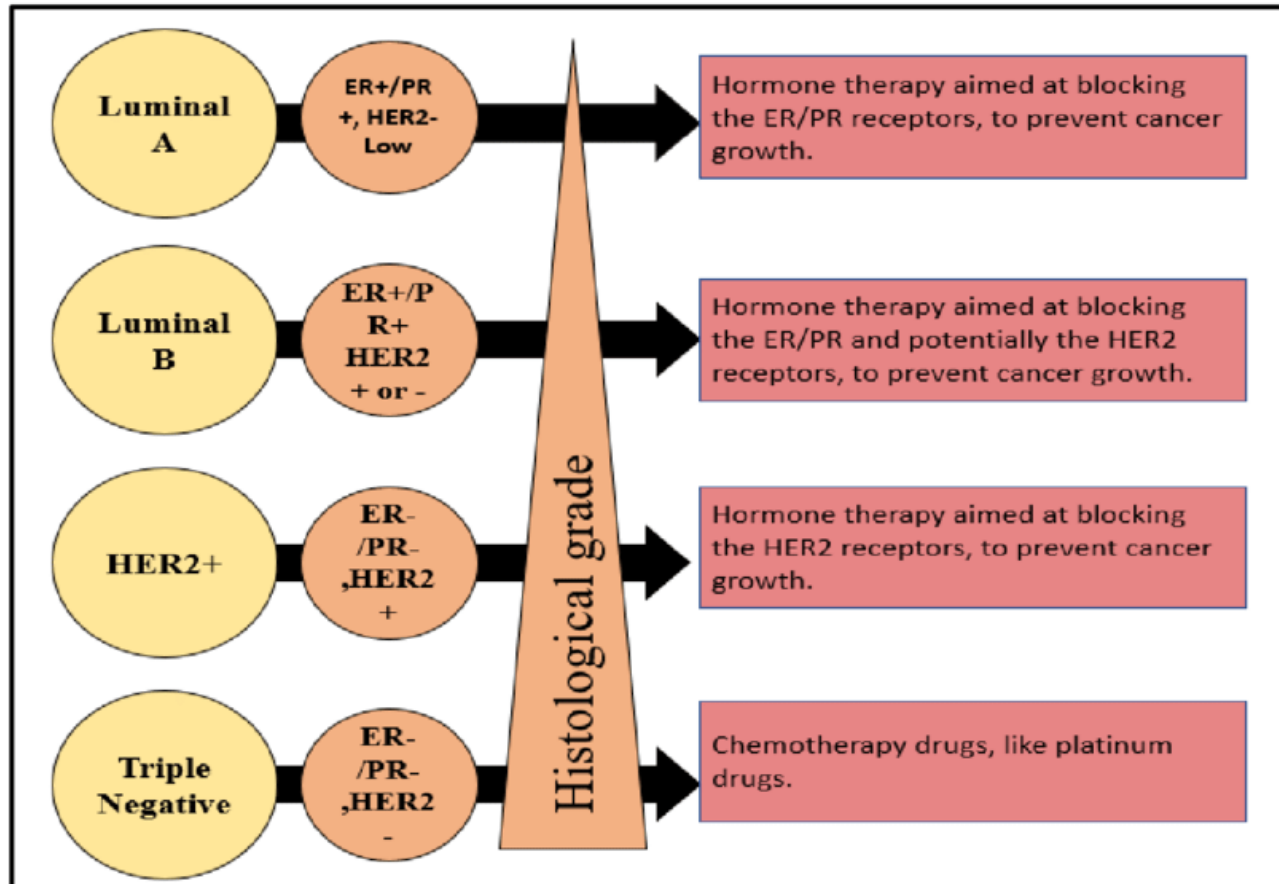
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Breast cancer



Breast cancer



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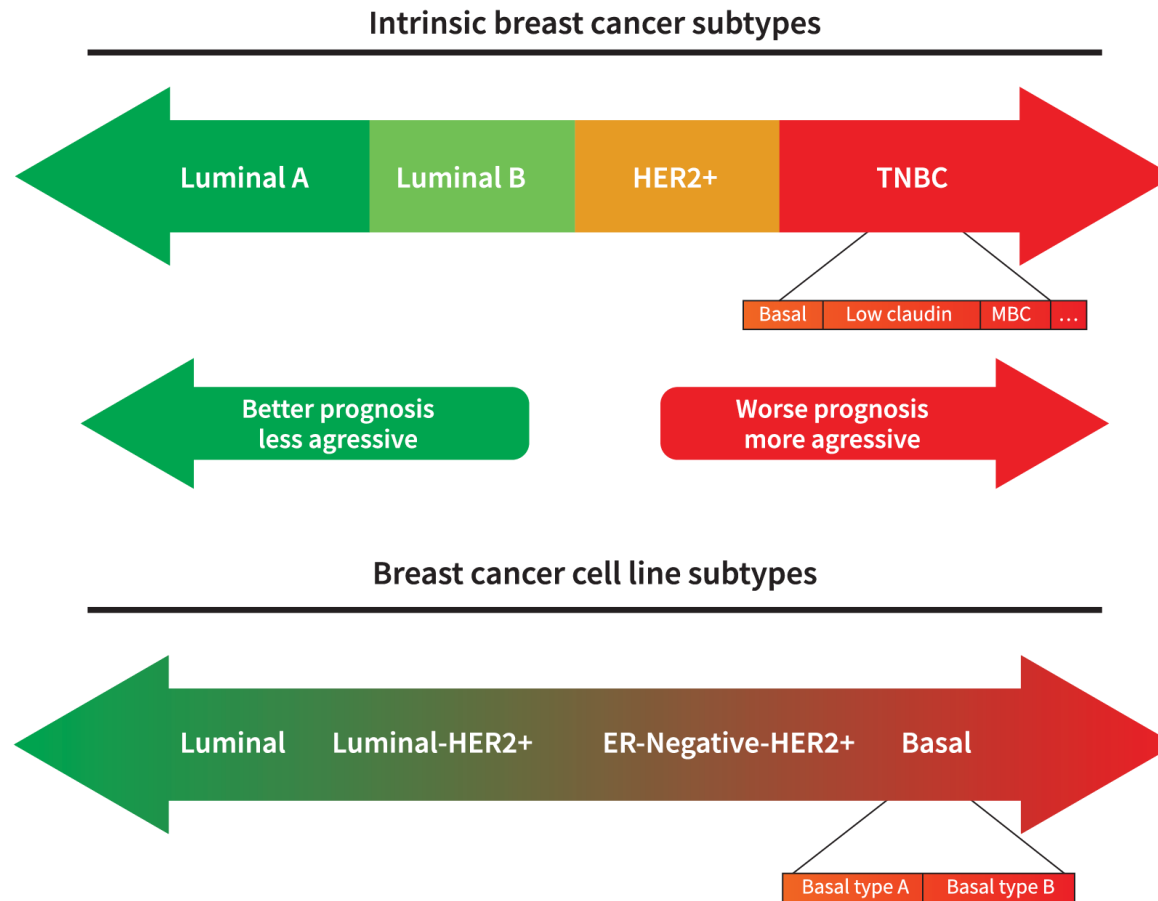
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Subtypes



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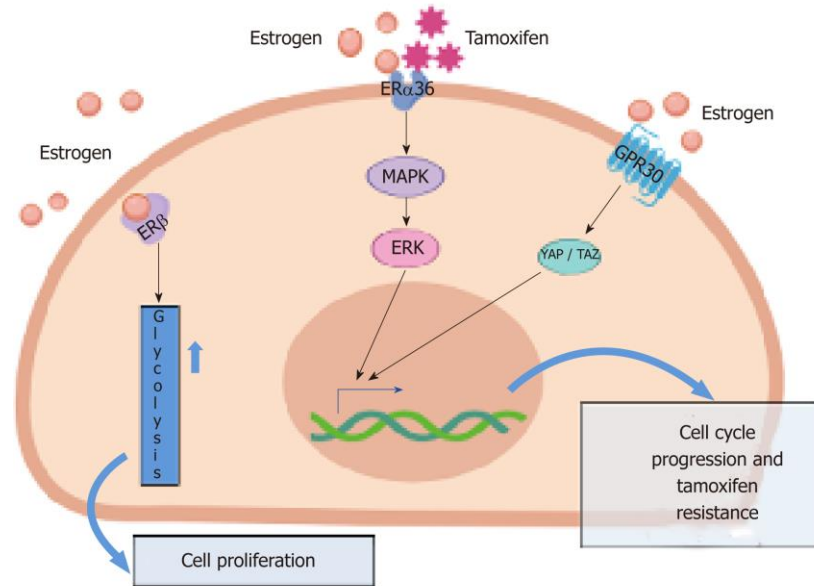
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Estrogen positive, Endocrine sensitive



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Tamoxifen

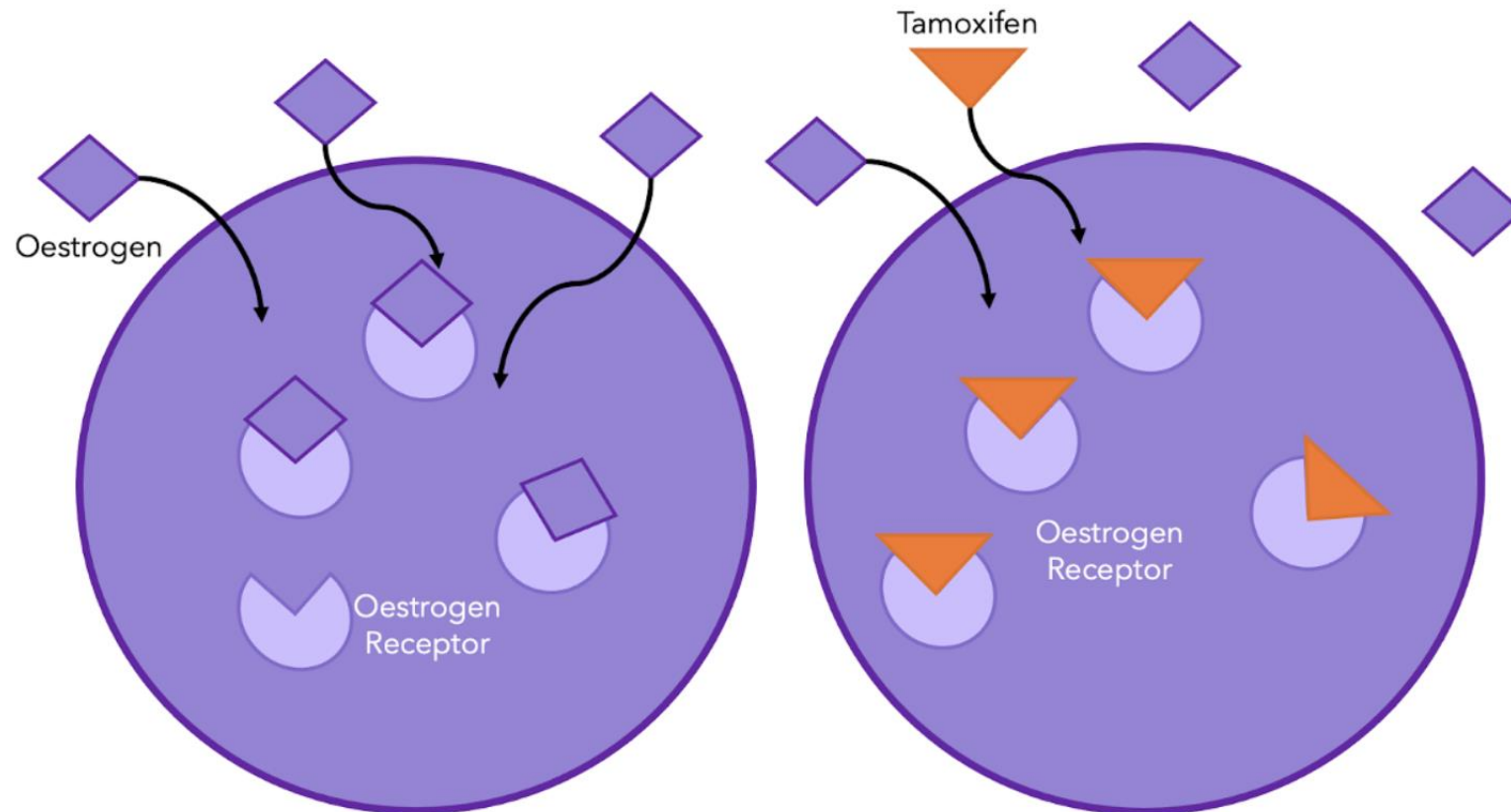


Figure 1: Tamoxifen binds to the oestrogen receptors, preventing oestrogen from binding to them. This blocks oestrogen from being able to promote cell growth.



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Aromatase Inhibitor

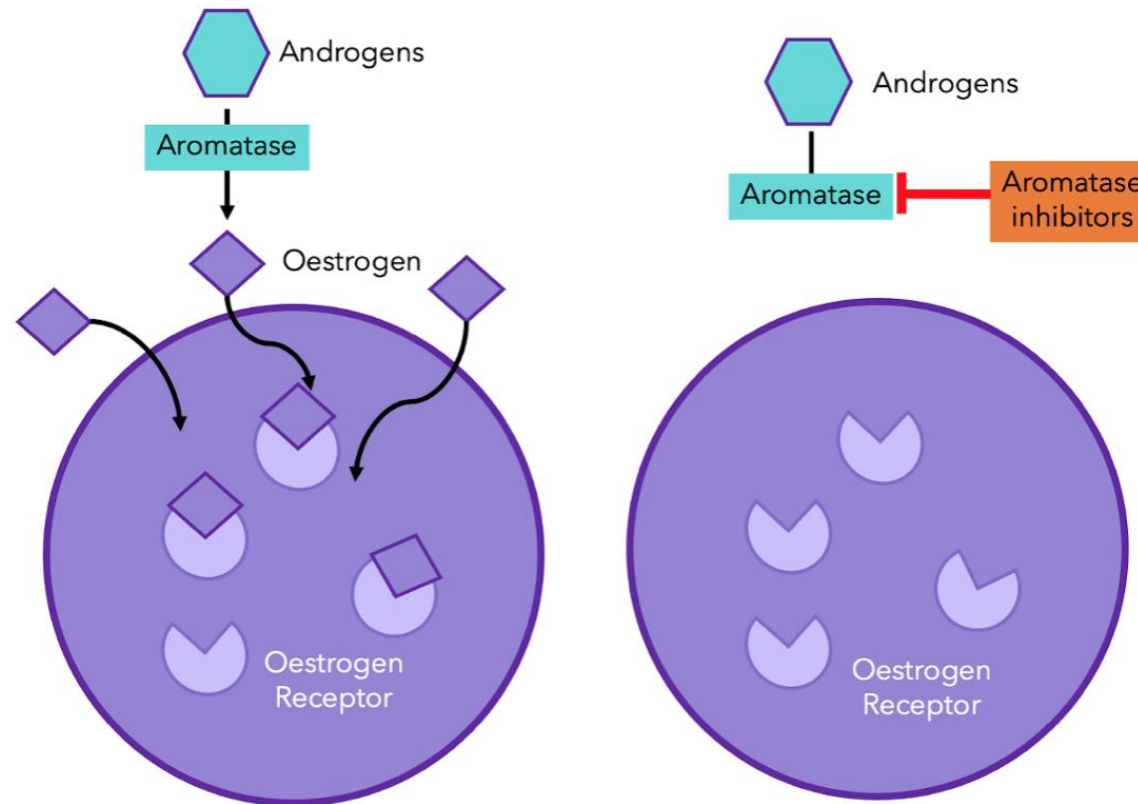


Figure 2: Aromatase inhibitors prevent the enzyme aromatase from working. This stops oestrogen production in the body and therefore there is no oestrogen available to promote cancer cell growth.



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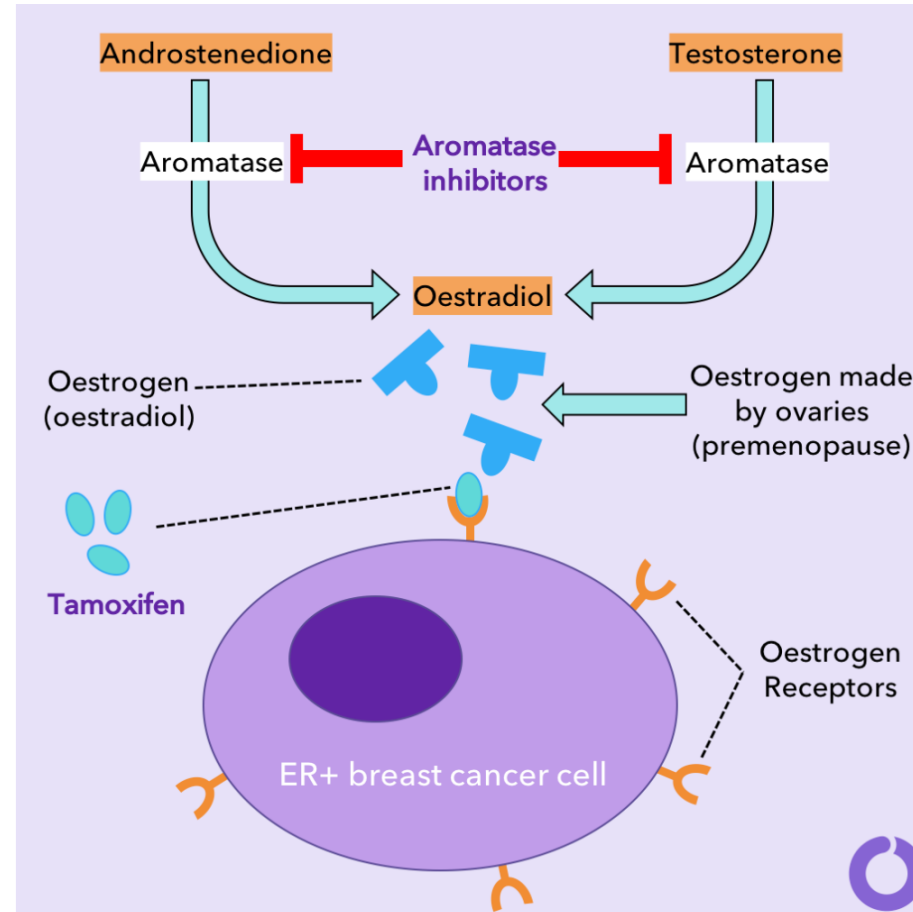
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Aromatase Inhibitors



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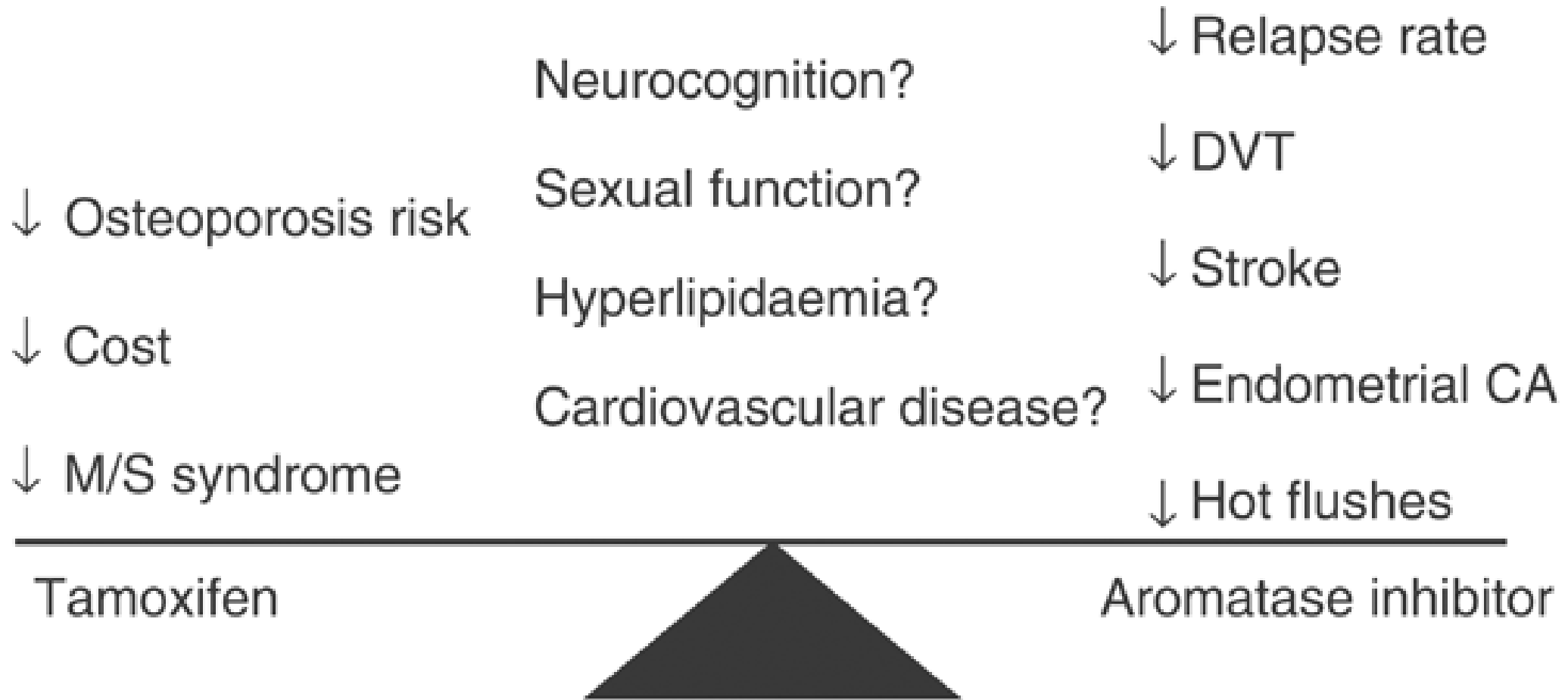
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Tamoxifen vs AI



Tamoxifen

Aromatase inhibitor

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Outcomes

Clinical Outcomes	<u>5 vs 10 years Tamoxifen</u>	<u>5 Tamoxifen + 5 AI *</u>
Return of cancer at 10 years	~ 20% (5-yr tamoxifen) ~ 18% (10-yr tamoxifen)	~ 23% (5-yr tamoxifen) ~ 19% (5 tamoxifen+5 AI)
Difference 10 yr vs 5 yr	~ 2 %	~ 4 %
Serious side-effects	~ 2% **	~ 5% ***

* AI = aromatase inhibitor

** For added 5-yr of tamoxifen; endometrial cancer 1.5% more (3%-1.5%), embolism, 1% more.

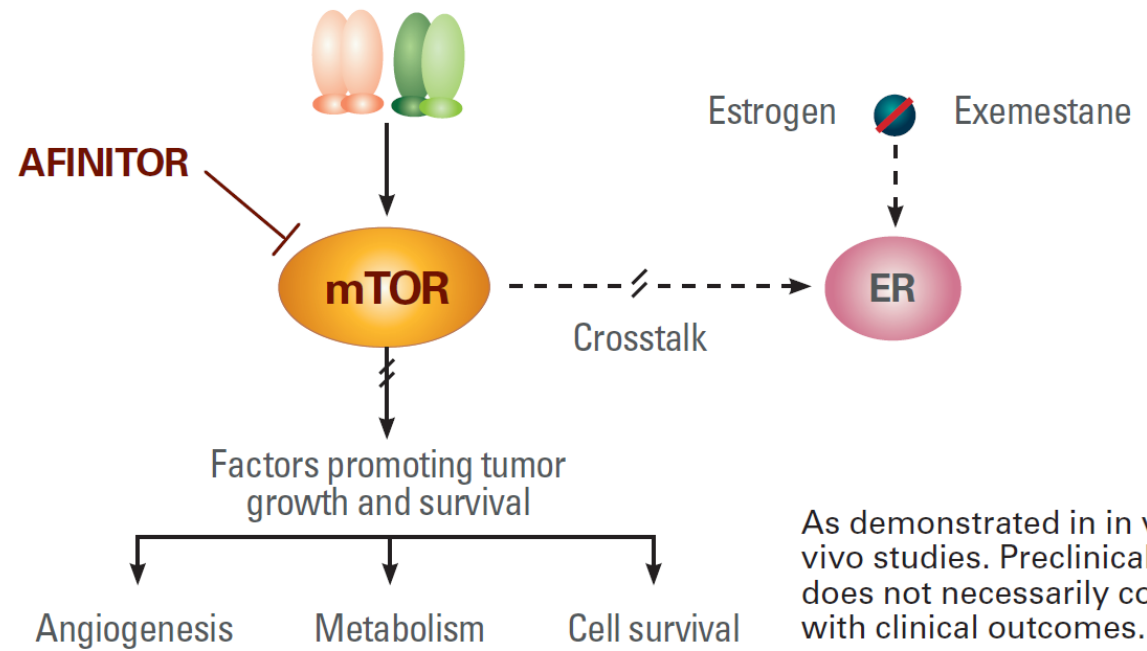
*** For added 5-years of AI, 5% more fracture (14%-9%).

Clinical Outcomes	<u>Aromatase (switch) (A)</u>	<u>Tamoxifen (B)</u>	Difference (A-B)
Die within 10 years	9% (9/100)	10% (10/100)	~1% (1/100 less)
Endometrial cancer within 10 years	0.4%	1%	~1% (less)
Bone fracture within 10 years	16% **	12%	~4% (more)

**Other side effects: 40-50% have bone/muscle pain, and menopausal symptoms may worsen.

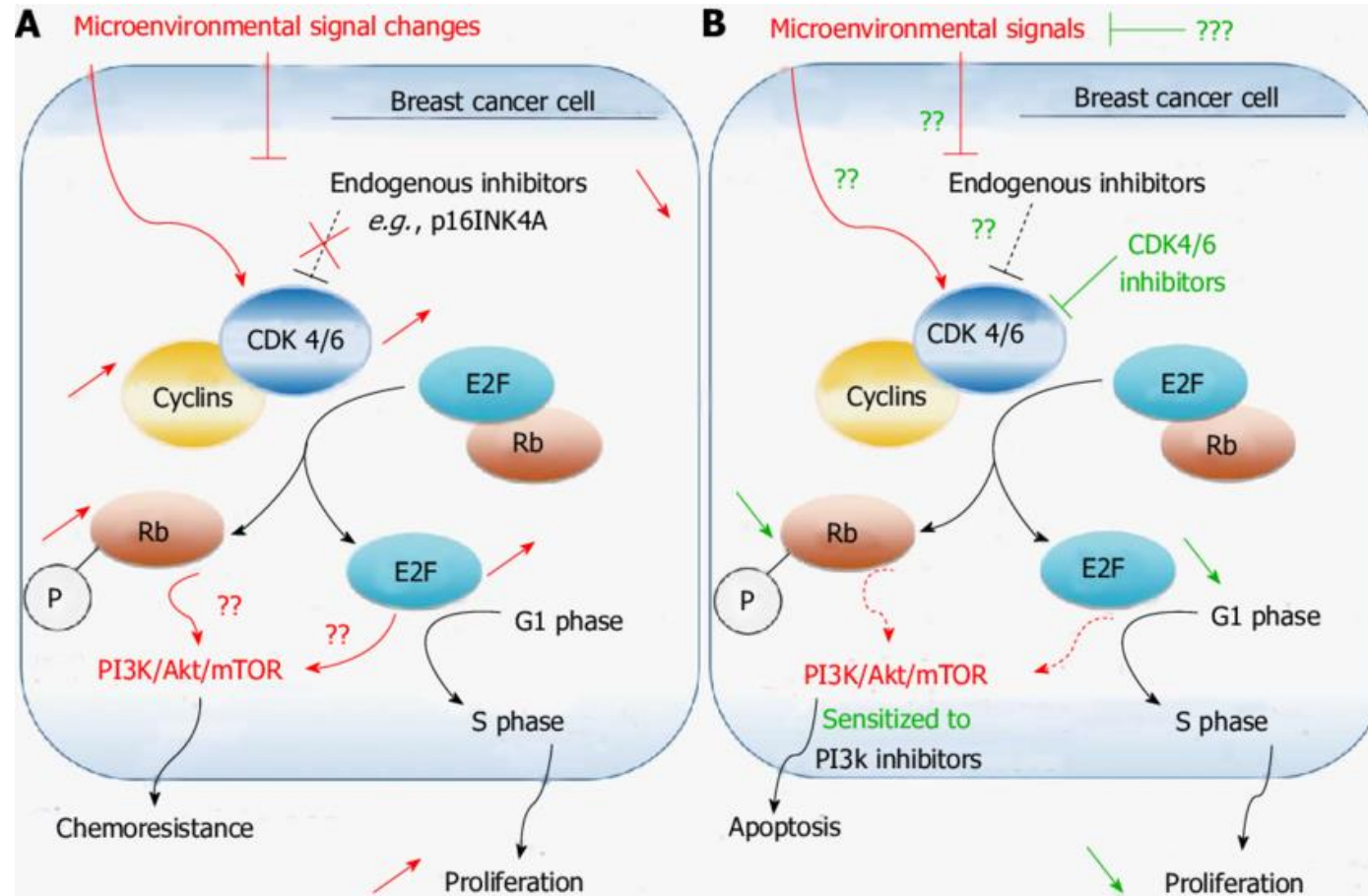
Targeted agents for ER + disease

In HR+, HER2-negative advanced breast cancer, AFINITOR plus exemestane offers synergistic dual inhibition of mTOR and ER pathways^{1,4-7}



As demonstrated in in vitro/in vivo studies. Preclinical activity does not necessarily correlate with clinical outcomes.

CDK4/6 inhibitors



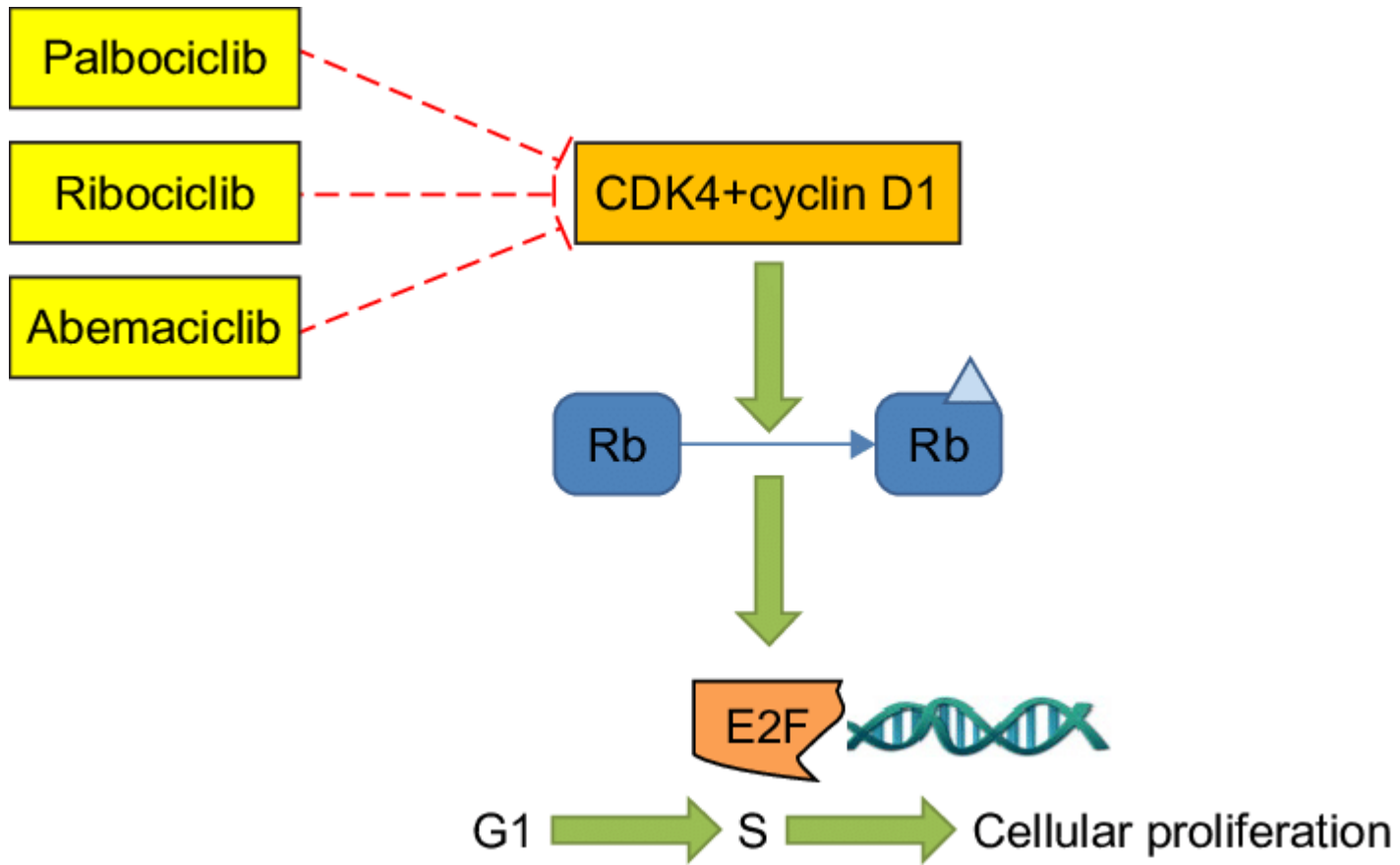
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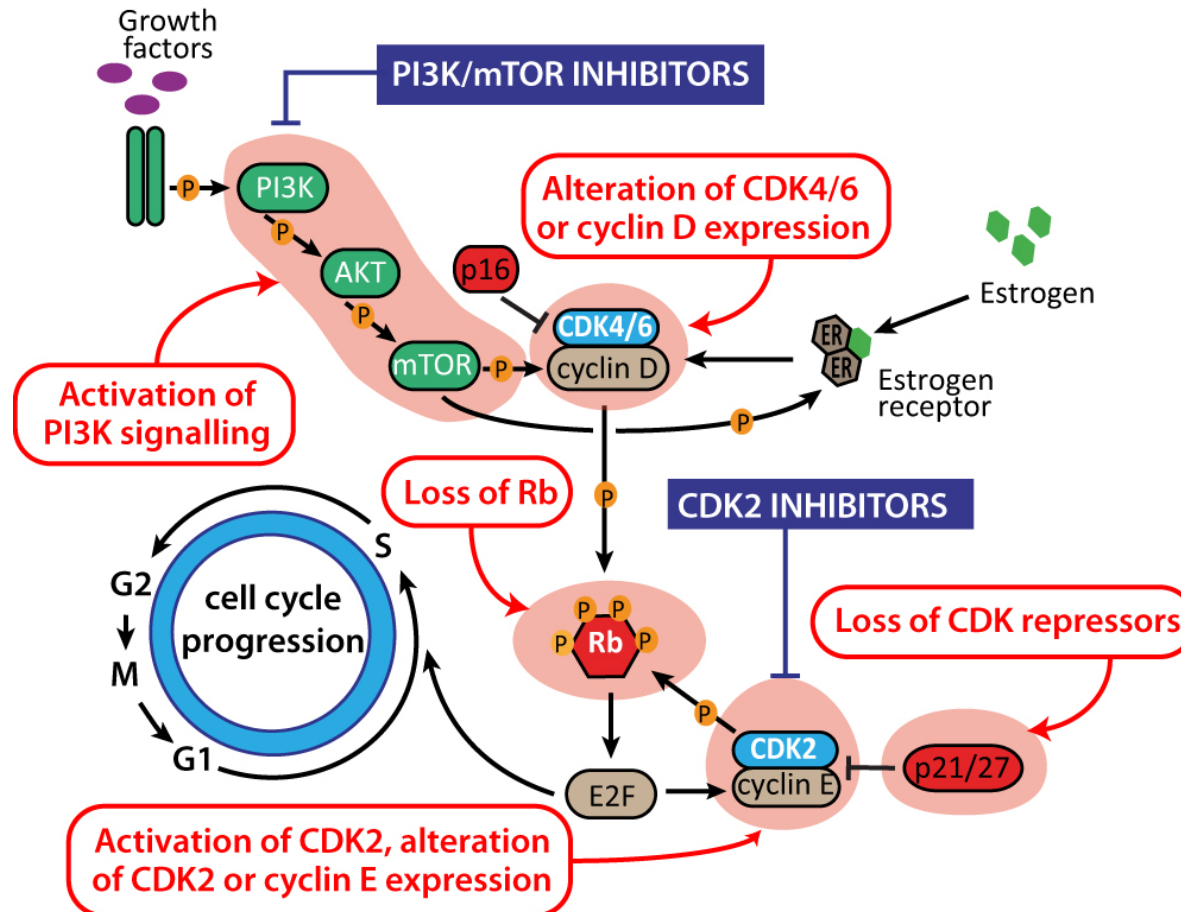
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PI3K inhibitors



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Review Article | [Published: 14 June 2021](#)

PI3K inhibitors are finally coming of age

[Bart Vanhaesebroeck](#) , [Matthew W. D. Perry](#), [Jennifer R. Brown](#), [Fabrice André](#) & [Klaus Okkenhaug](#)

[Nature Reviews Drug Discovery](#) **20**, 741–769 (2021) | [Cite this article](#)



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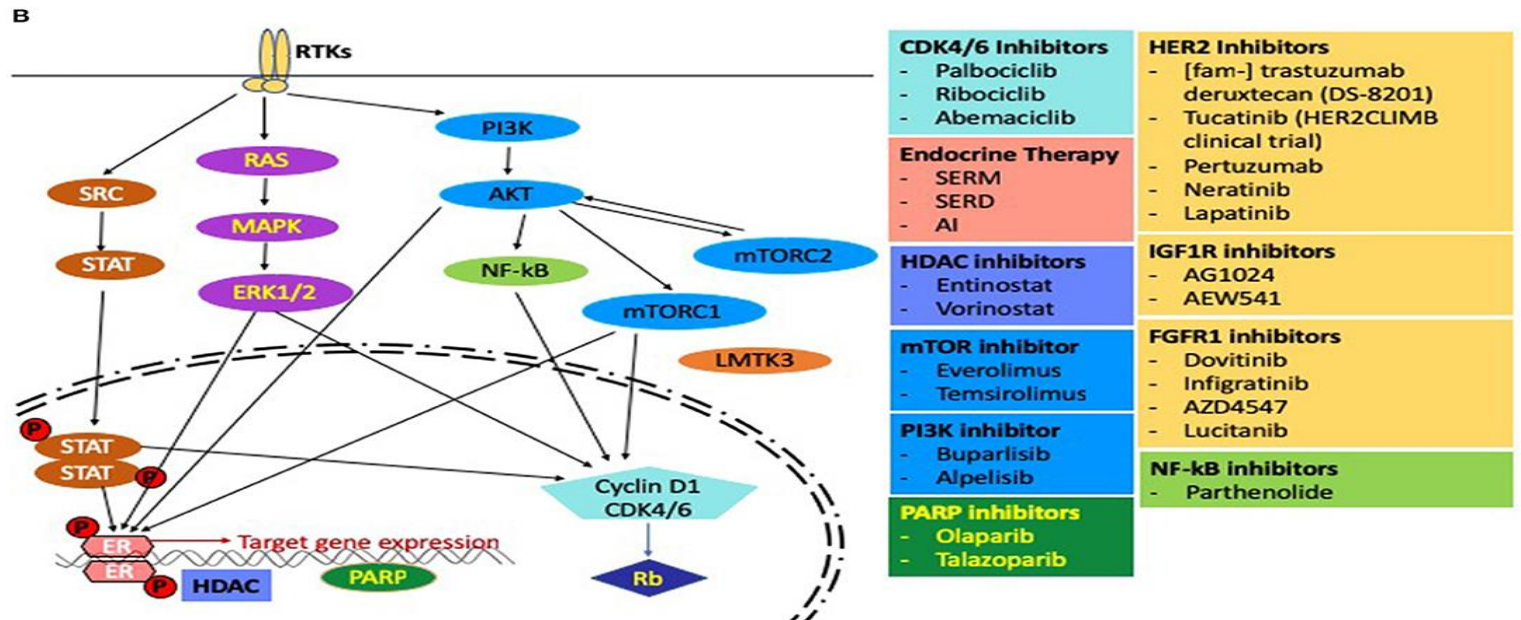
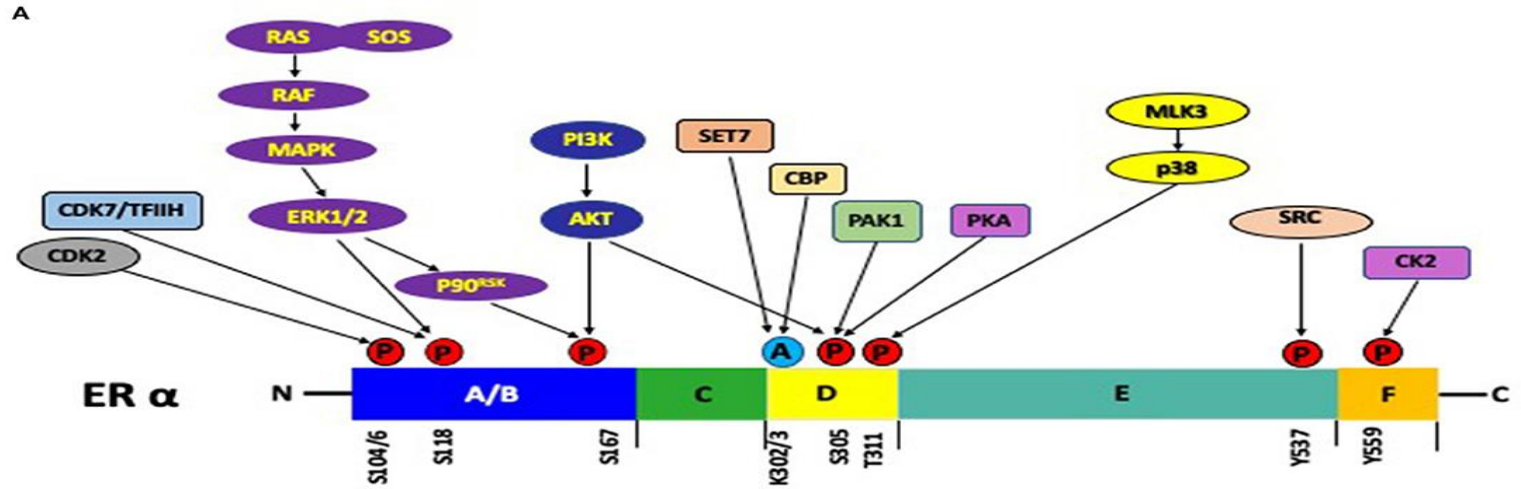
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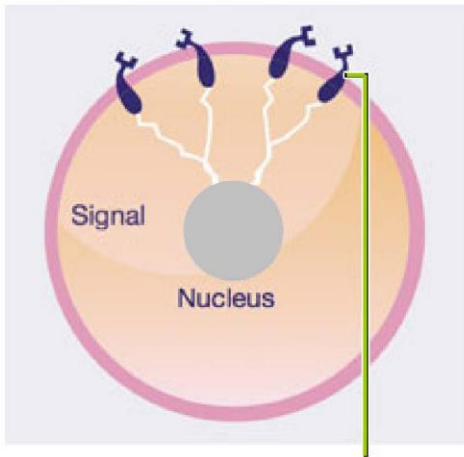
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CDK4/6 inhibitors



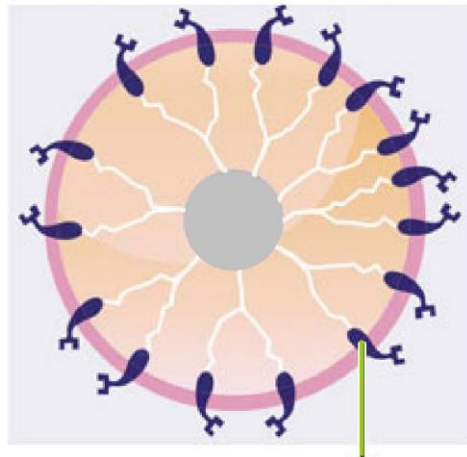
HER 2+

Normal Breast Cell



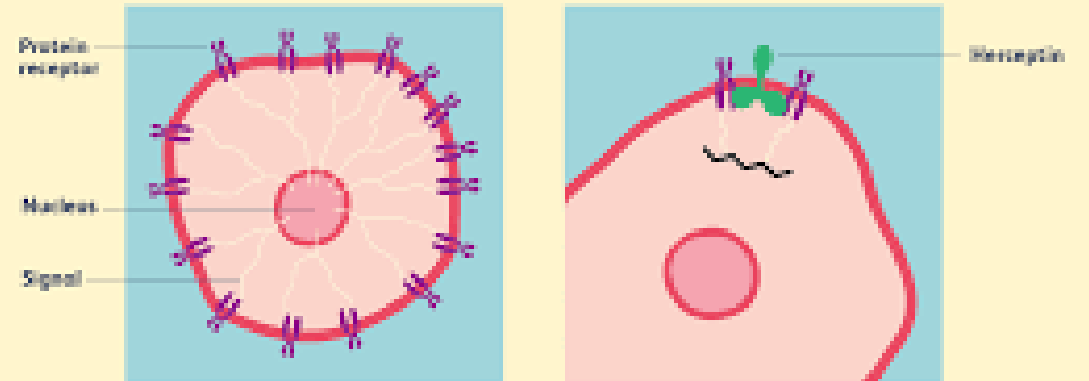
Normal amount of HER2 receptors tells cells to grow and divide

Abnormal Breast Cancer Cell



Overproduction of HER2 receptors tells cells to grow and divide to quickly eventually lead to cancer.

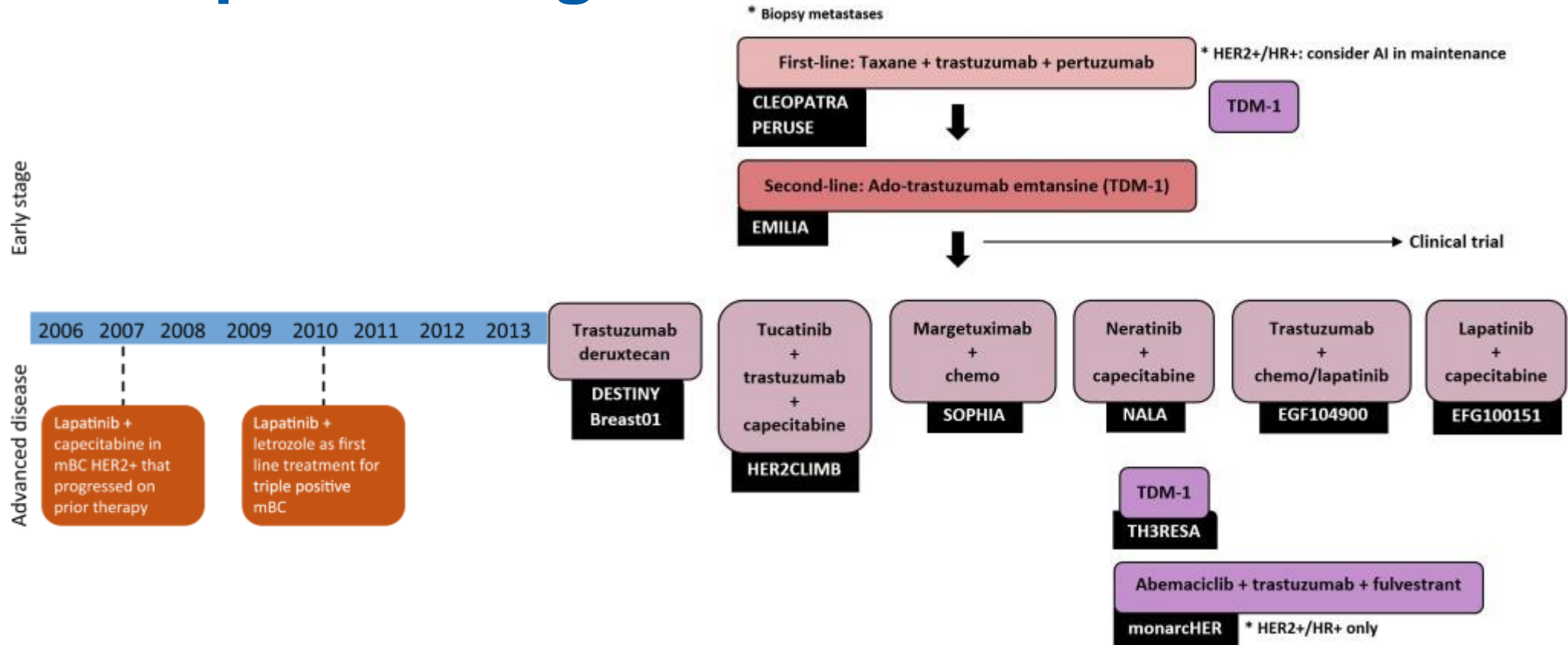
How Herceptin Works



Too much HER2 generates too many protein receptors, signalling for cancer cells to divide and multiply

Herceptin works to block receptors and stop signal responsible for cancer cell growth and division

HER 2 positive agents



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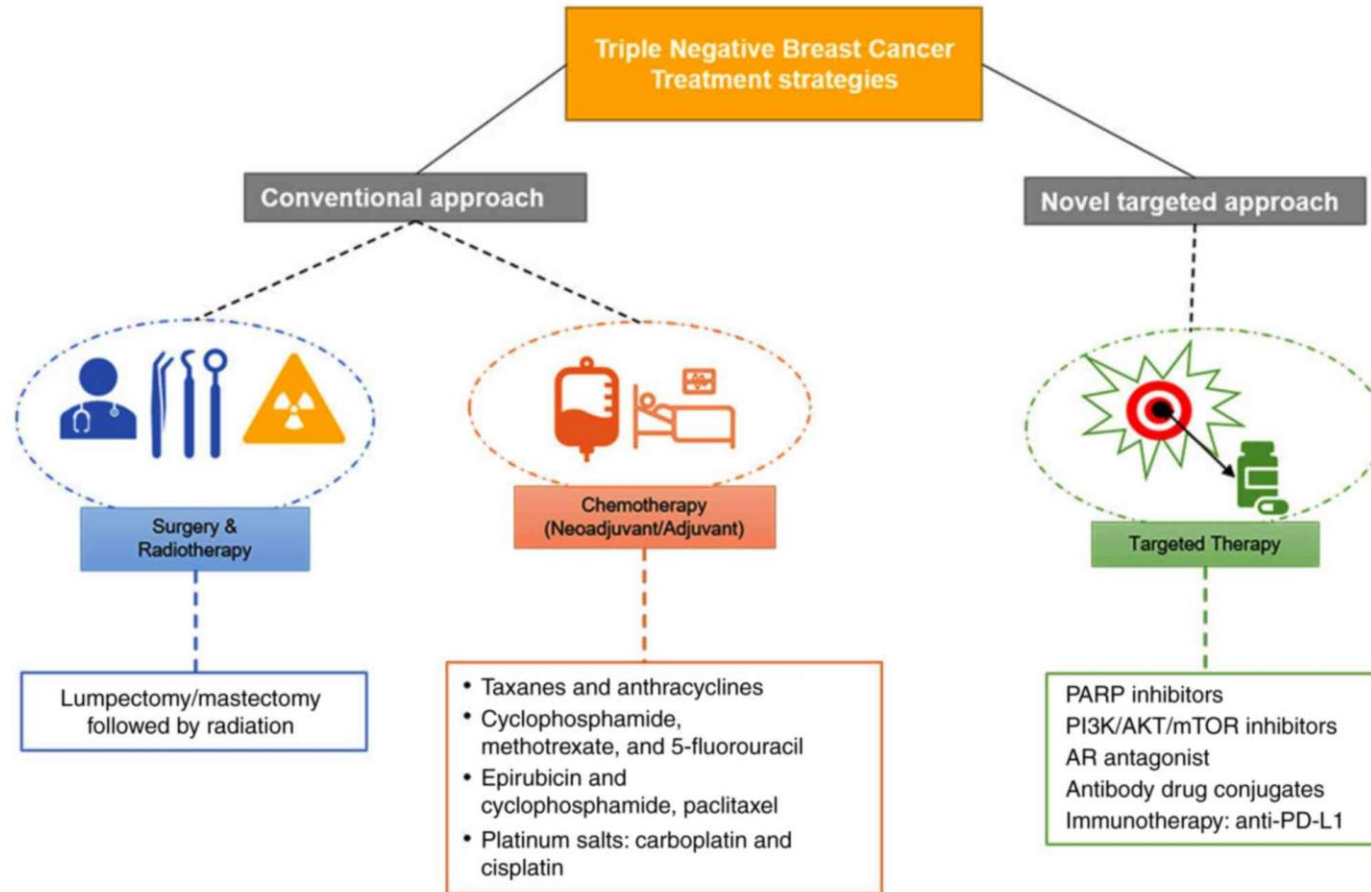
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Triple negative breast cancer



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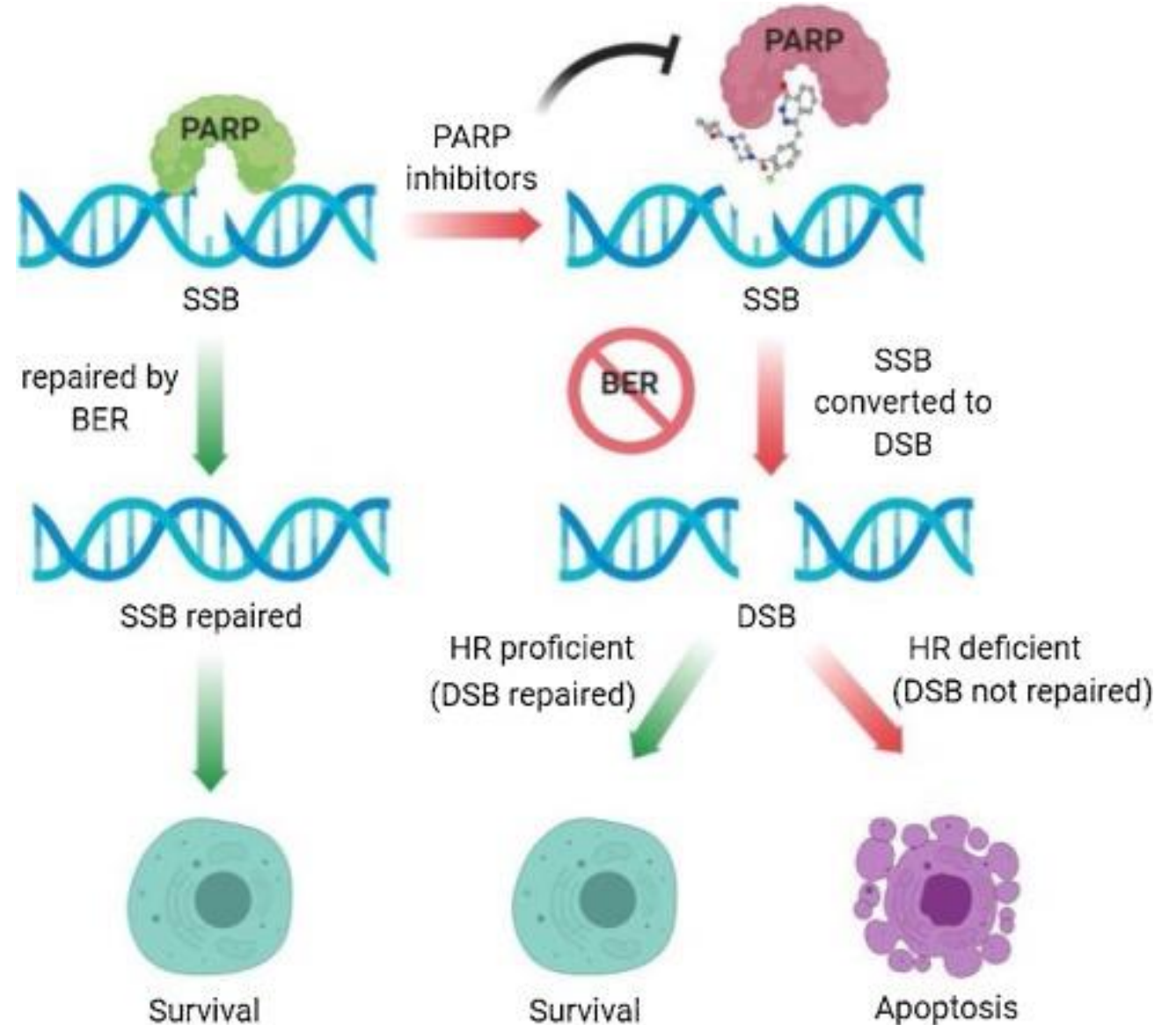
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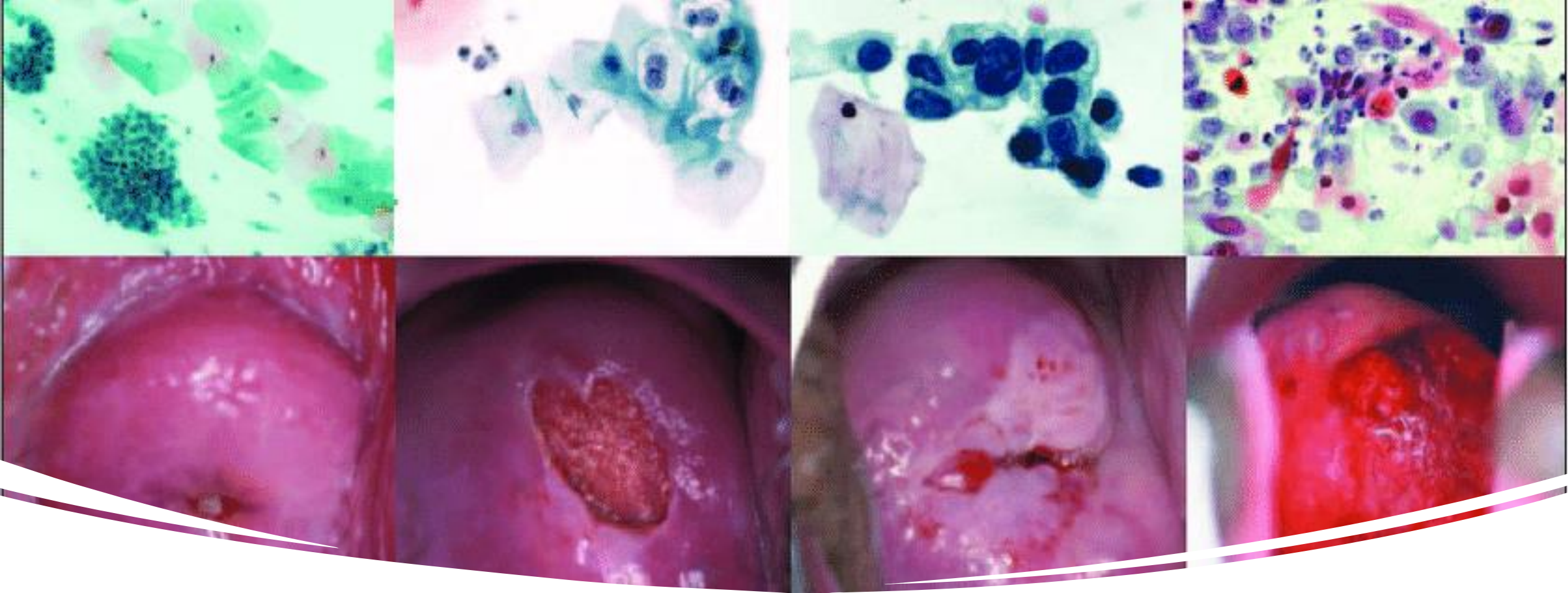
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PARP inhibitors

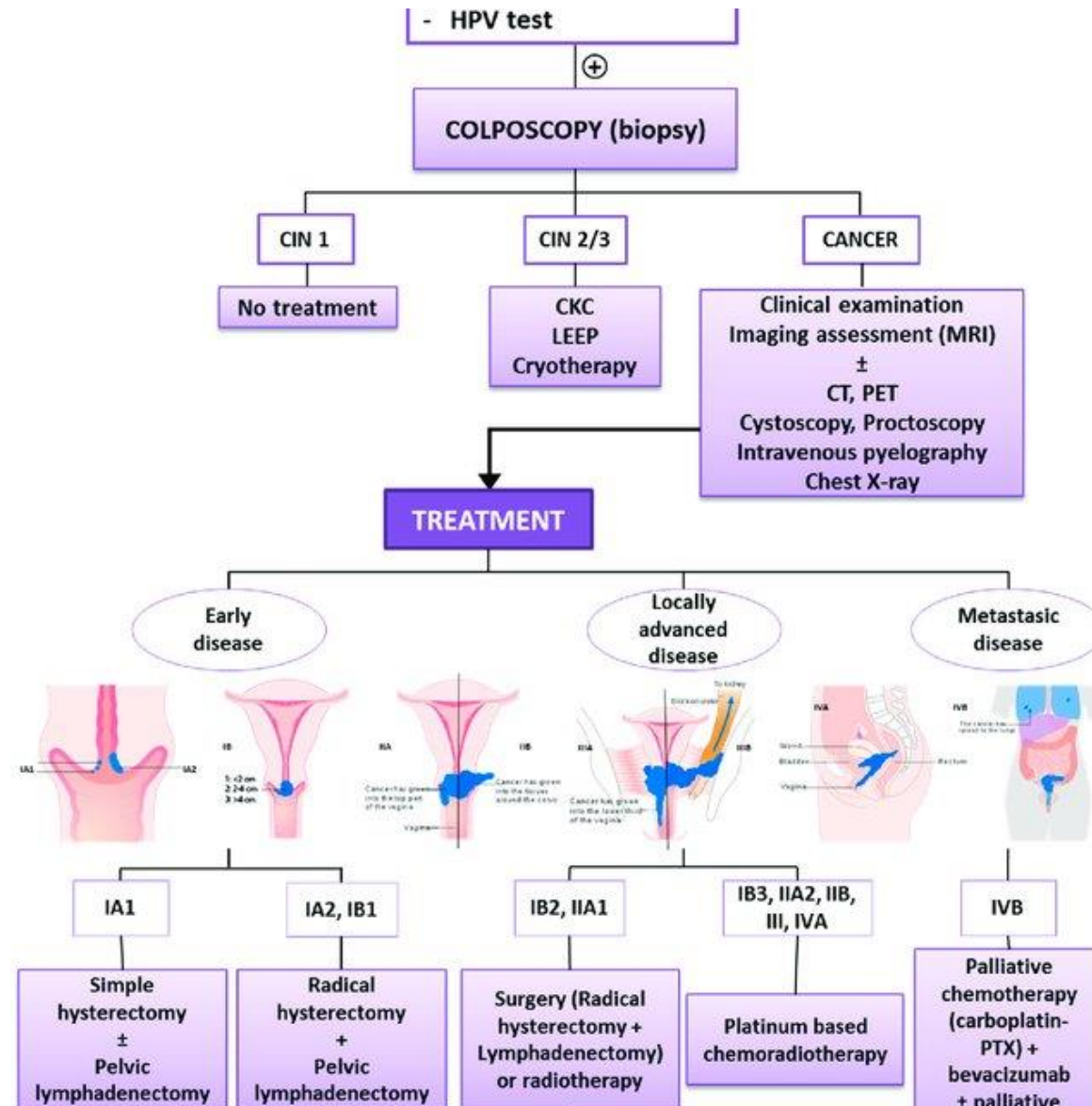




Cervical cancer



Cervical cancer



Prostate cancer

LOCALISED

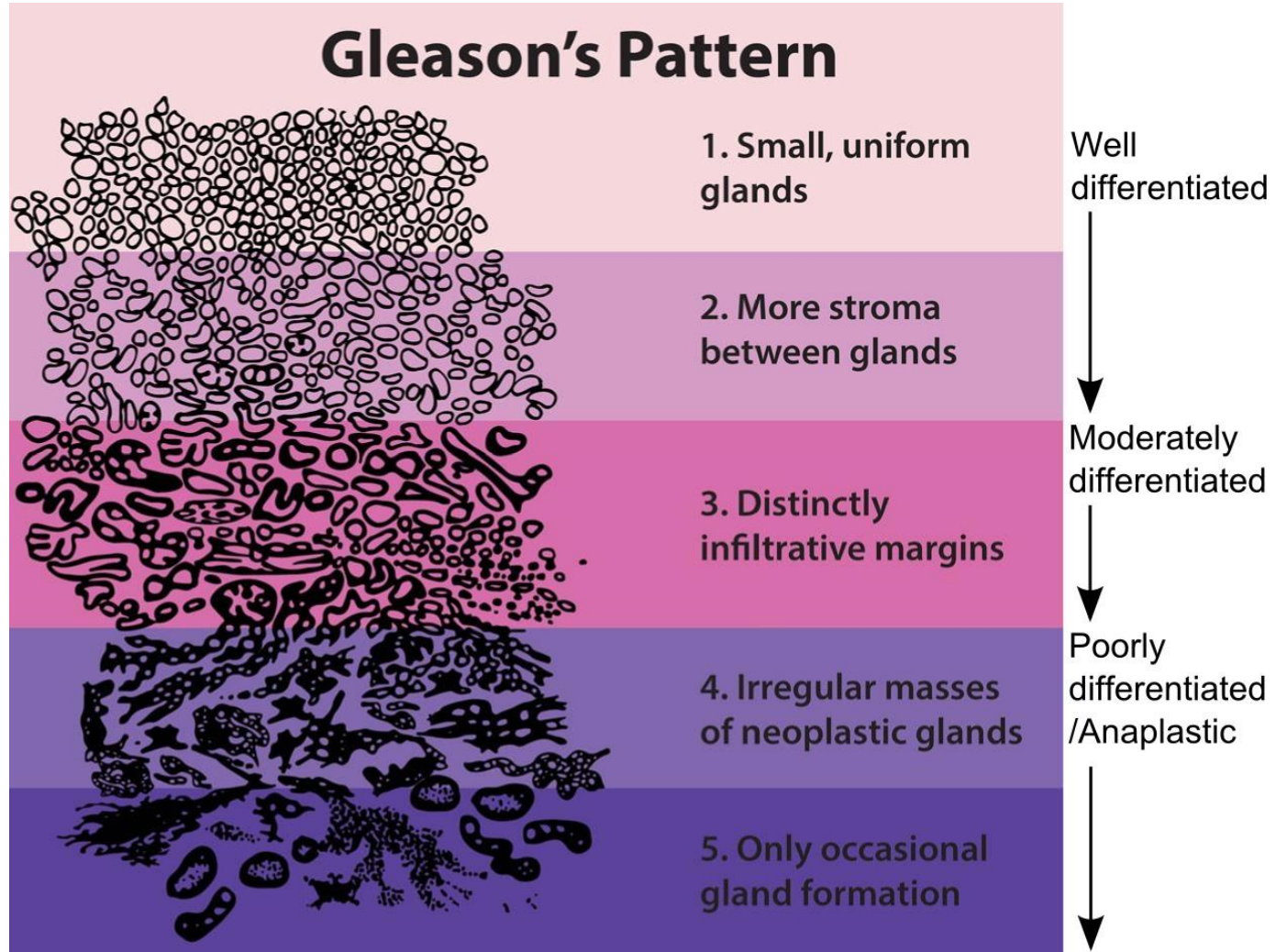
METASTATIC

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D'Amico 1998 Risk Stratification

Risk Group	Biopsy	PSA	Stage (1992 AJCC)	Estimated 5 year recurrence risk
Low	≤ Gleason 6	≤10	T1c, T2a	<25%
Intermediate	Gleason 7	>10, ≤20	T2b	25-50%
High	≥ Gleason 8	>20	T2c	>50%



- Accurate
- Simpler
- Grade 1

ISUP Prostate Cancer Grade Groups

Grade group	Gleason score	Gleason pattern
1	≤6	≤3+3
2	7	3+4
3	7	4+3
4	8	4+4, 3+5, 5+3
5	9 or 10	4+5, 5+4, or 5+5

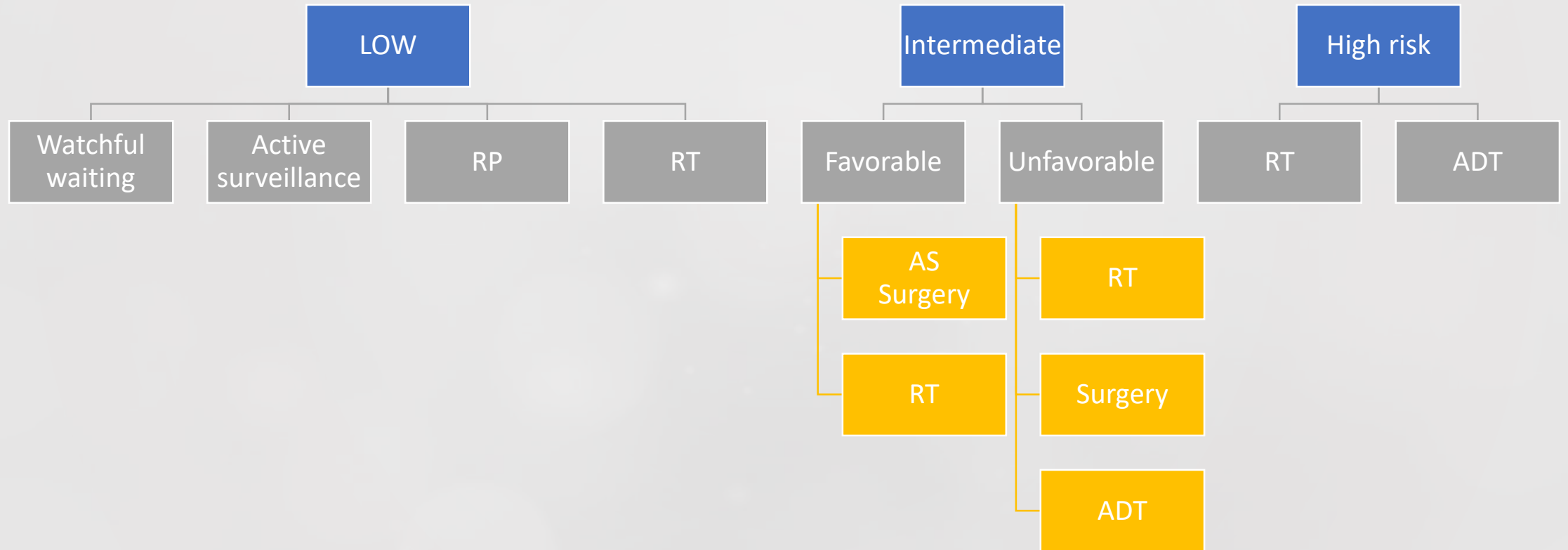
Localised
disease

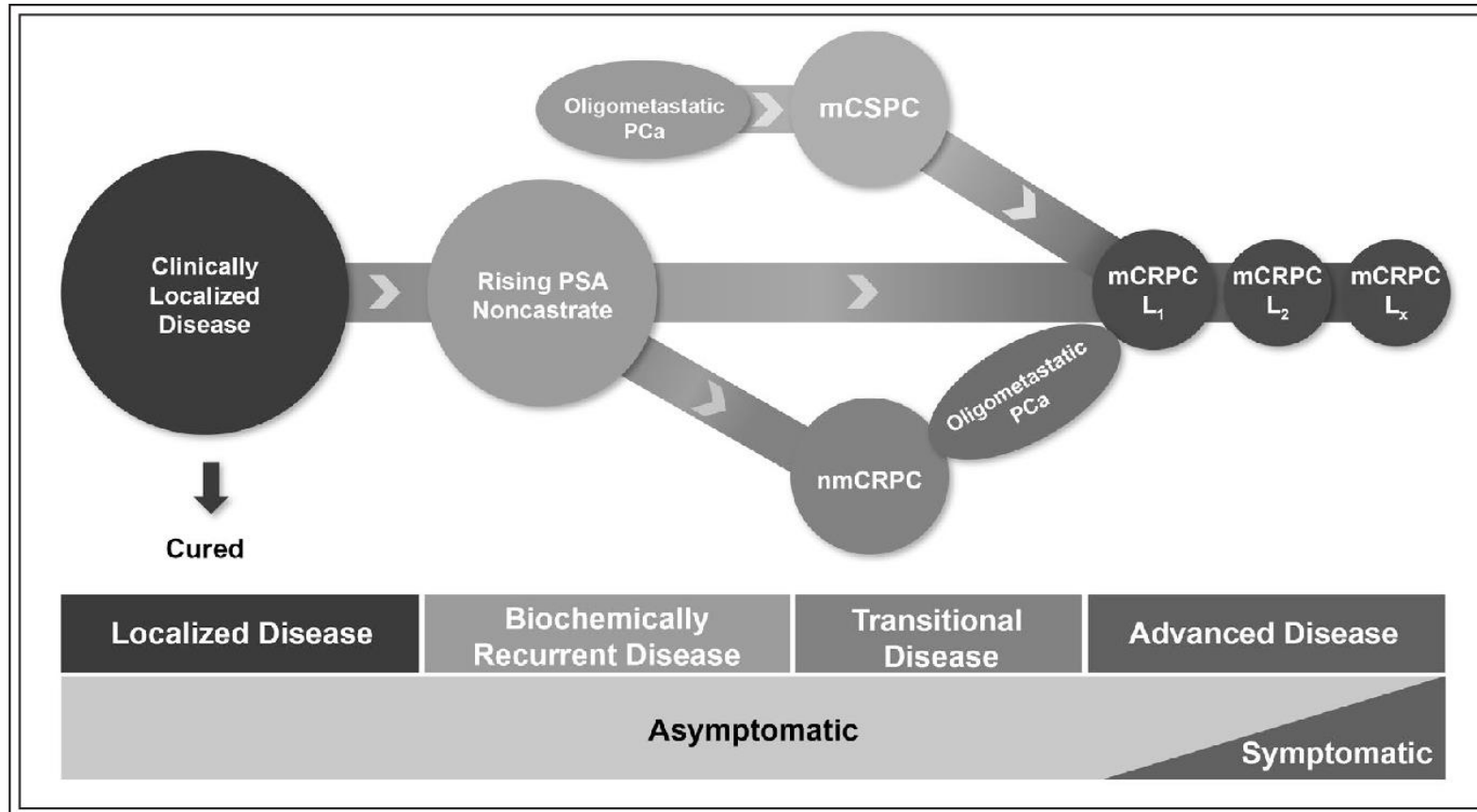
Table 1: National Comprehensive Cancer Network Risk Stratification of Prostate Cancer

Clinical and Pathologic Features	Very Low or Low Risk	Intermediate Risk	High or Very High Risk
T stage	T1-T2a	T2b-T2c	T3a-T4
PSA (ng/mL)	<10	10–20	>20
Biopsy GS (GG)	≤6 (GG1)	7 (GG2 or 3)	8–10 (GG4 or 5)

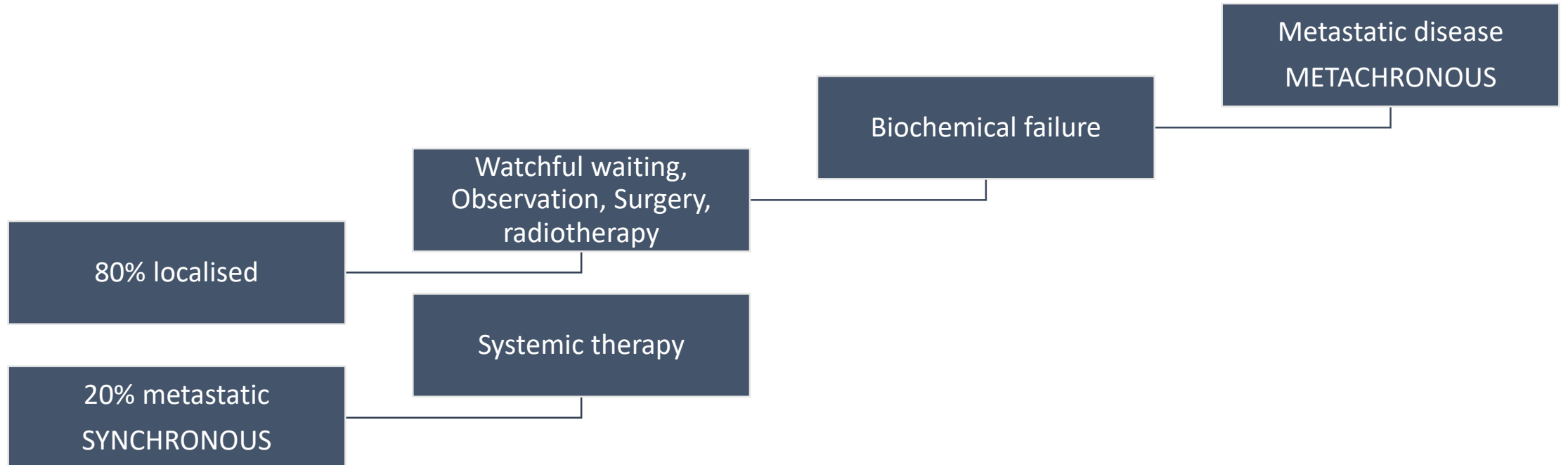
Note.—GG = grade group, GS = Gleason score, PSA = prostate-specific antigen.

Management localised disease





Synchronous vs Metachronous



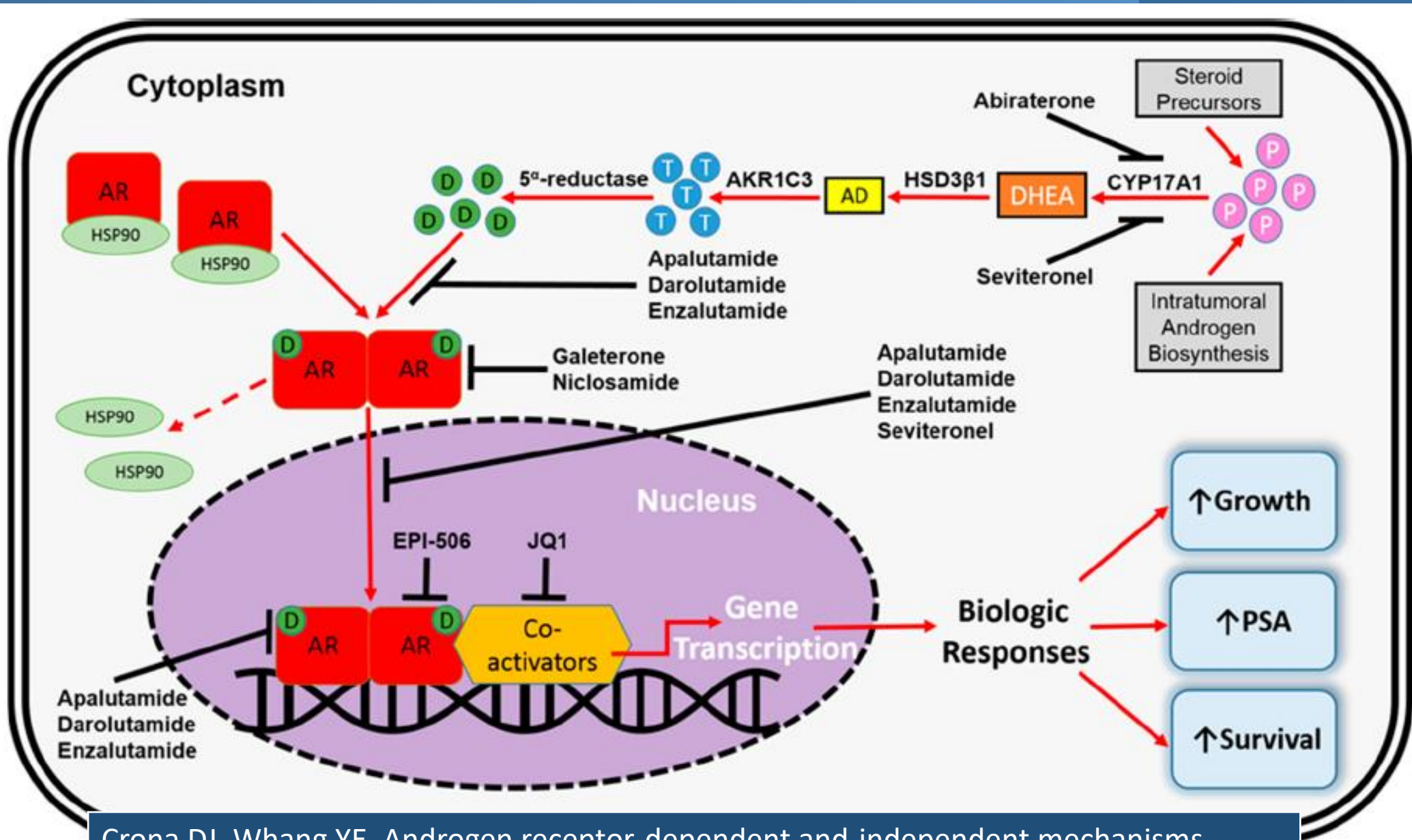
Principles

ADT

Early introduction of systemic therapy

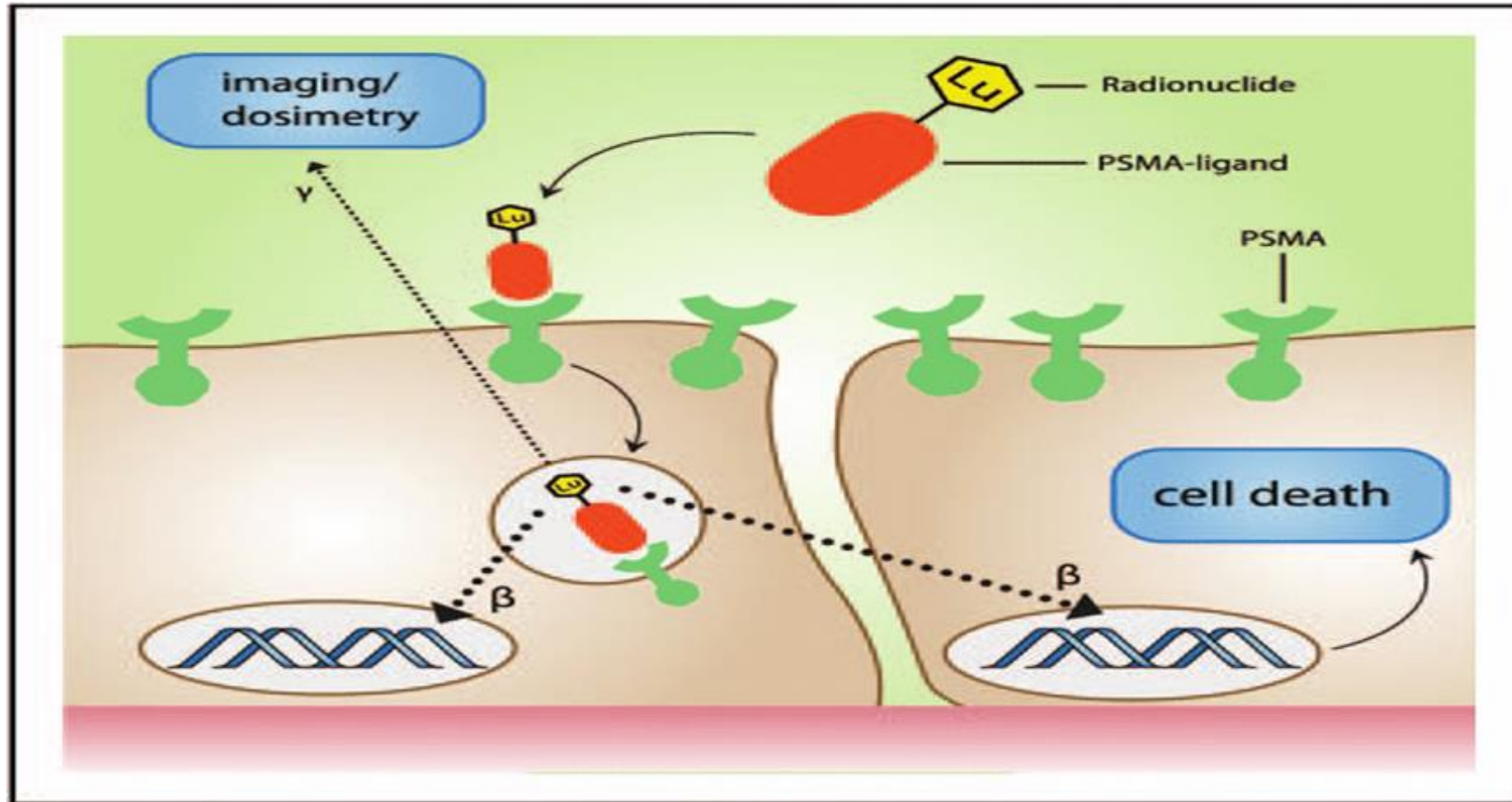
Chemotherapy

Androgen receptor targeted therapies



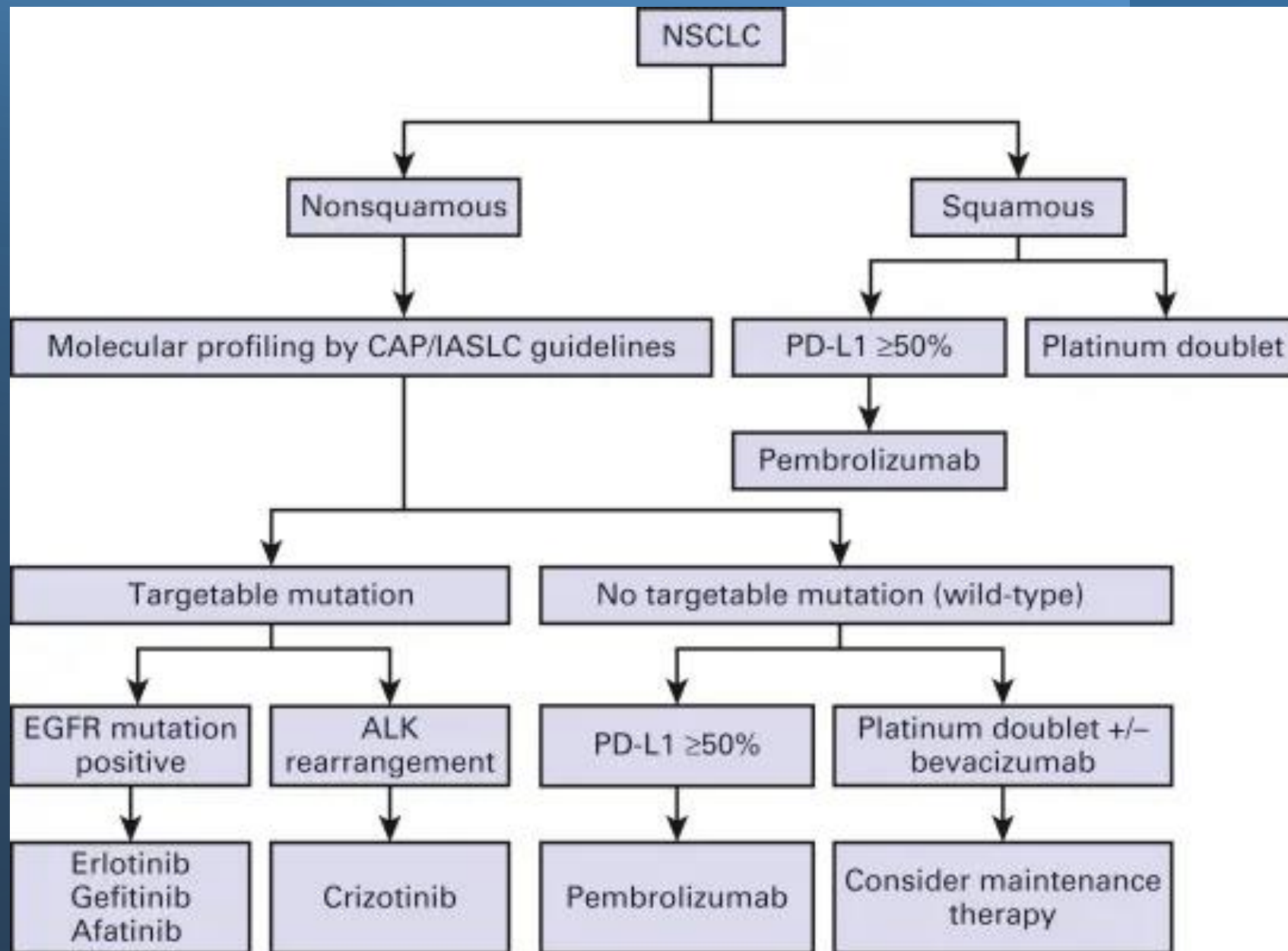
Crona DJ, Whang YE. Androgen receptor-dependent and-independent mechanisms involved in prostate cancer therapy resistance. *Cancers*. 2017 Jun;9(6):67.

Theranostics

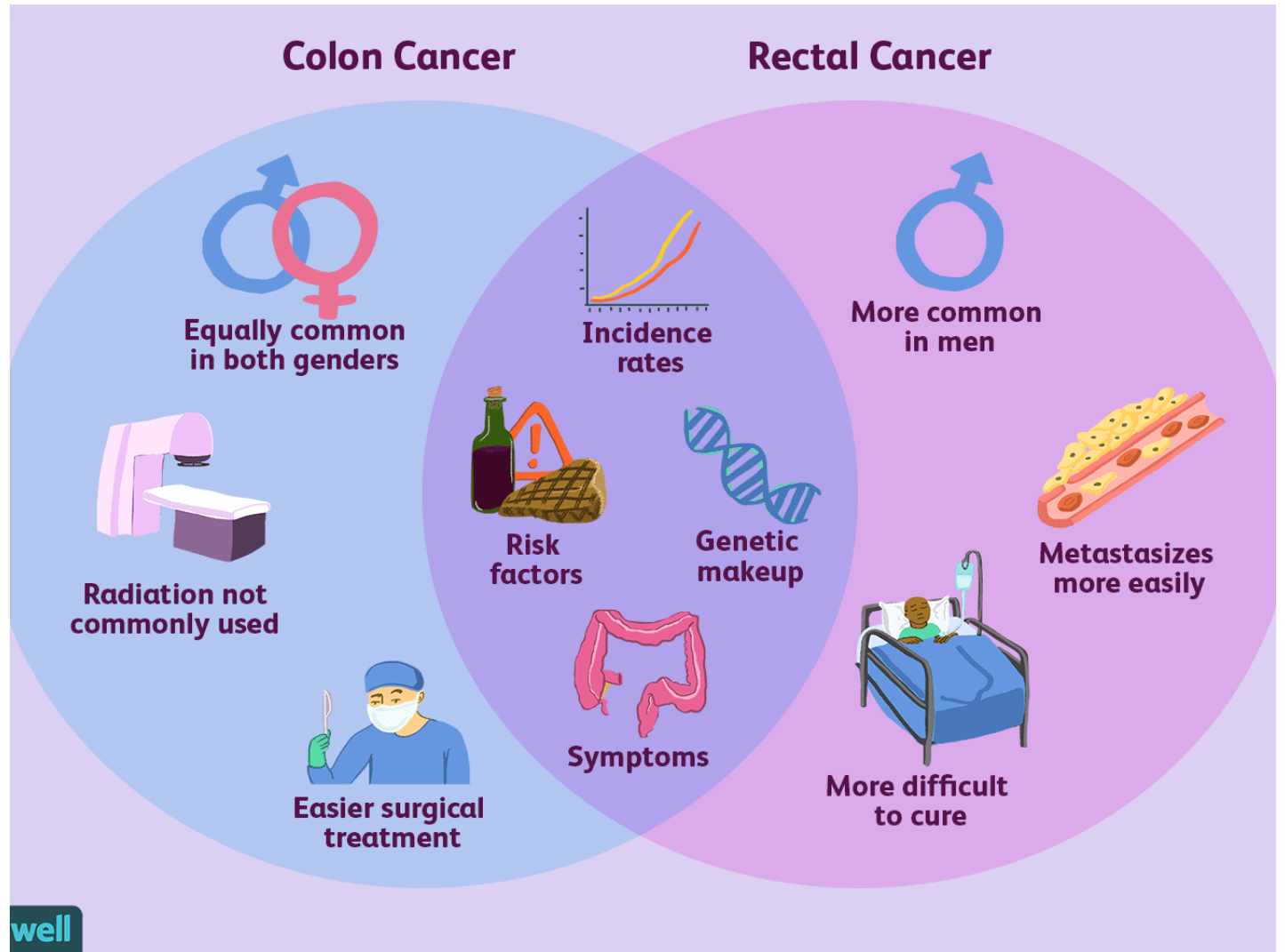


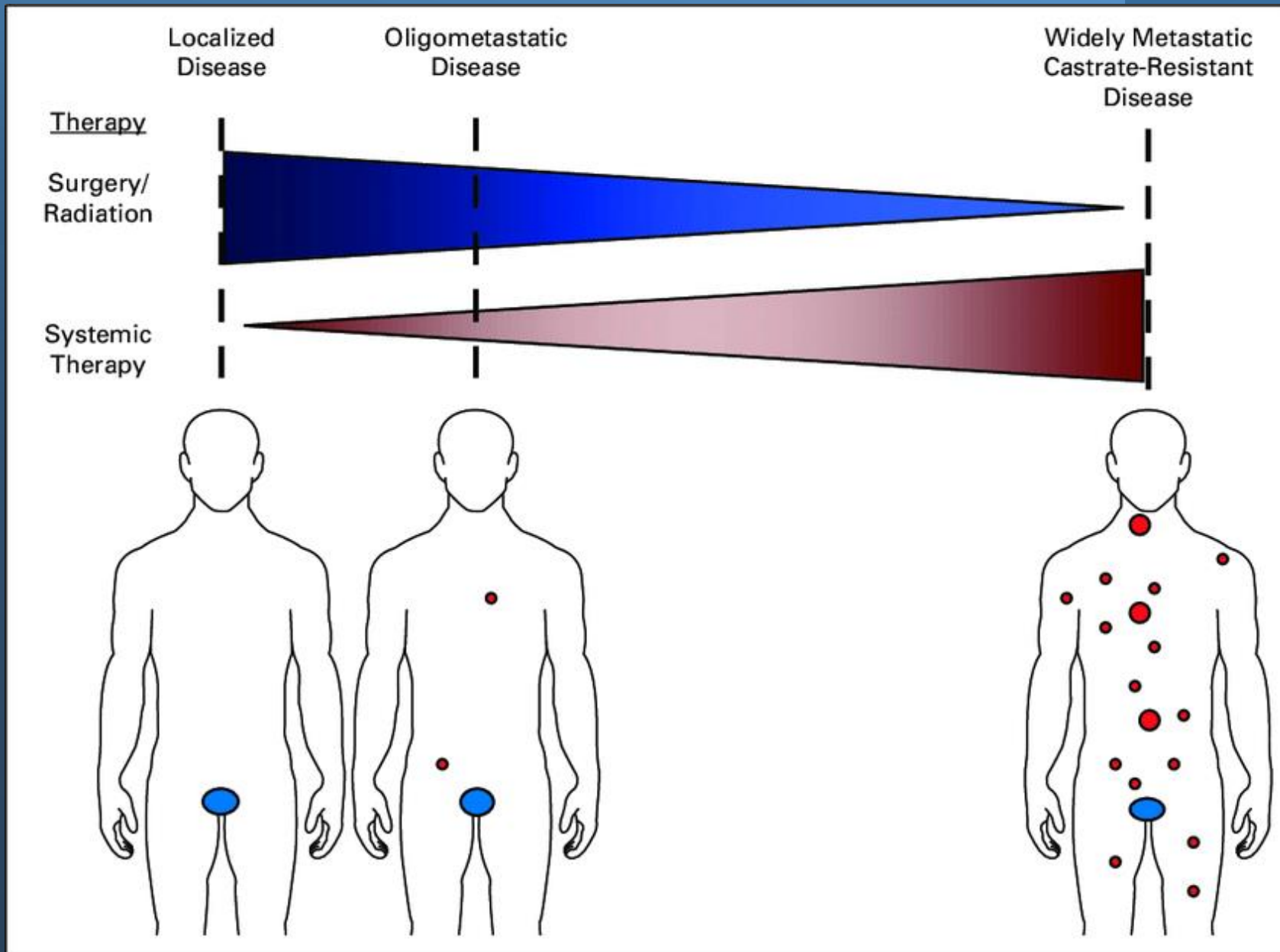
Lung cancer



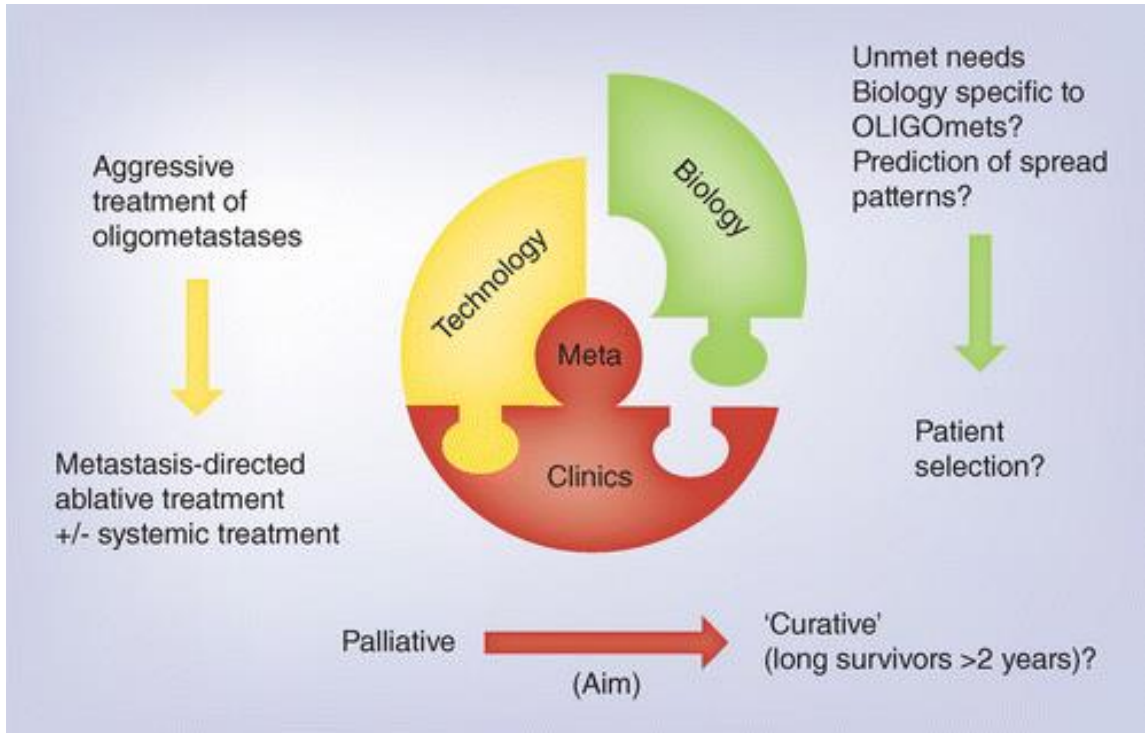


COLORECTAL Cancer

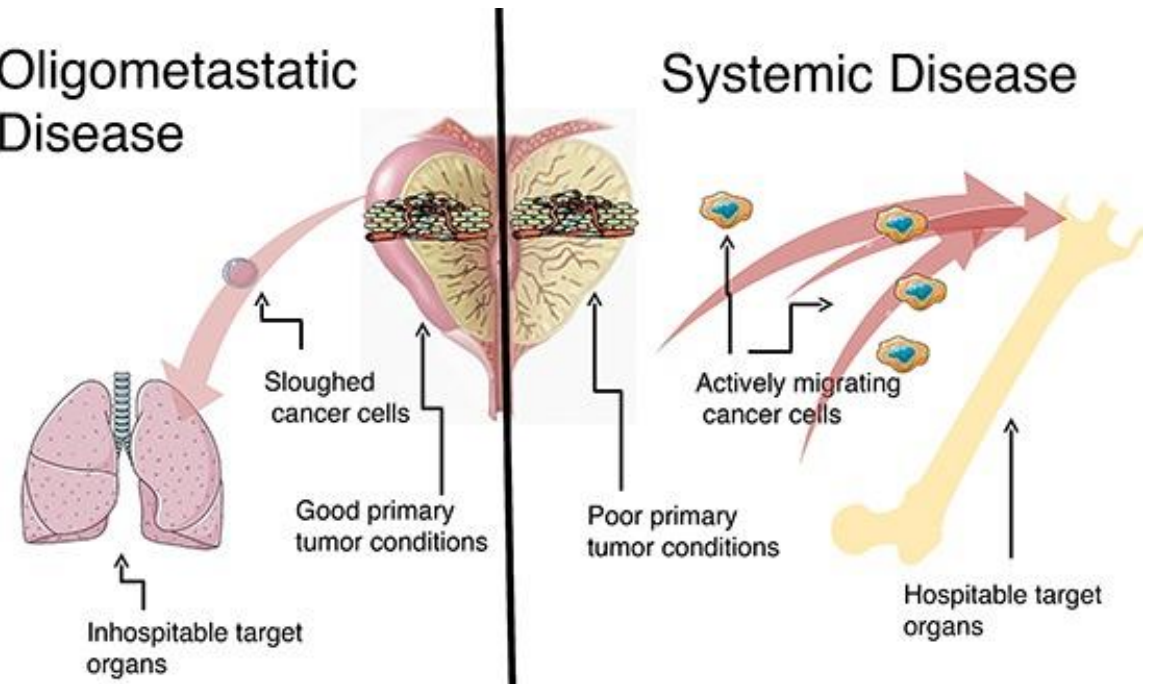




Oligometastatic disease



Oligometastatic Disease



Oncological emergencies

Metabolic: Tumor Lysis syndrome,
Hypercalcaemia

Haematological: Neutropaenia,
Thrombosis

Structural: SVC syndrome,
malignant spinal cord compression

Treatment related: Chemotherapy,
Radiotherapy

Metabolic: Tumor lysis

Diagnosis and management: ACKD 2021

Risk factors

- Large tumor burden
- High lysis potential;
- Intensity of CT
- Inc LDH
- Pre existing kidney disease
- ↓ BP
- Volume depletion
- Nephrotoxin exposure
- Decreased urine pH

Lab diagnosis within 2-24hrs

Cairo Bishop definition

- ↑Phosphorous >1.45mmol/L
- ↑Potassium >6mmol/L
- ↓Calcium <1.75mmol/L or <25% dec from baseline
- ↑Uric acid >476umol/L or >25% inc from baseline

Clinical diagnosis

- At least one of the following
- ↑Cr ≥ 1.5ULN
- Arrhythmia
- Seizures

Management

- Aggressive IV hydration
- Maintain urine outflow
- Medical management of metabolic abn
- Uric acid therapy: Allopurinol, rasburicase
- HD for refractory hyperkalaemia or symptomatic hypocalcaemia

Hypercalcaemia of malignancy

10-30%

Breast, myeloma, lung, head and neck, cervical cancer

Causes: Humoral, bone invasion

Humoral: 80%: PTH Related hormone, increase D3 (80%)

Lytic bone lesions: 20%

Rare: Immobilisation, medication

Presentation



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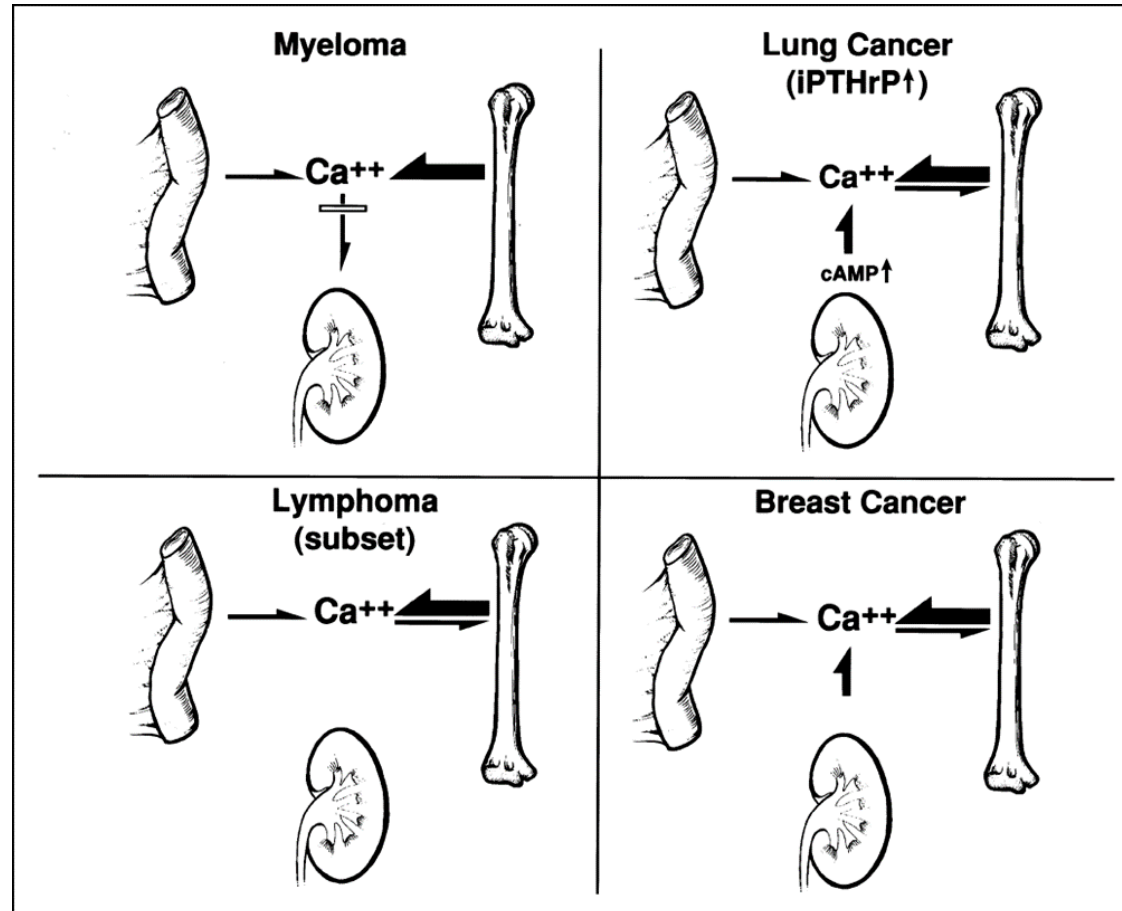
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Pathophysiology of hypercalcaemia



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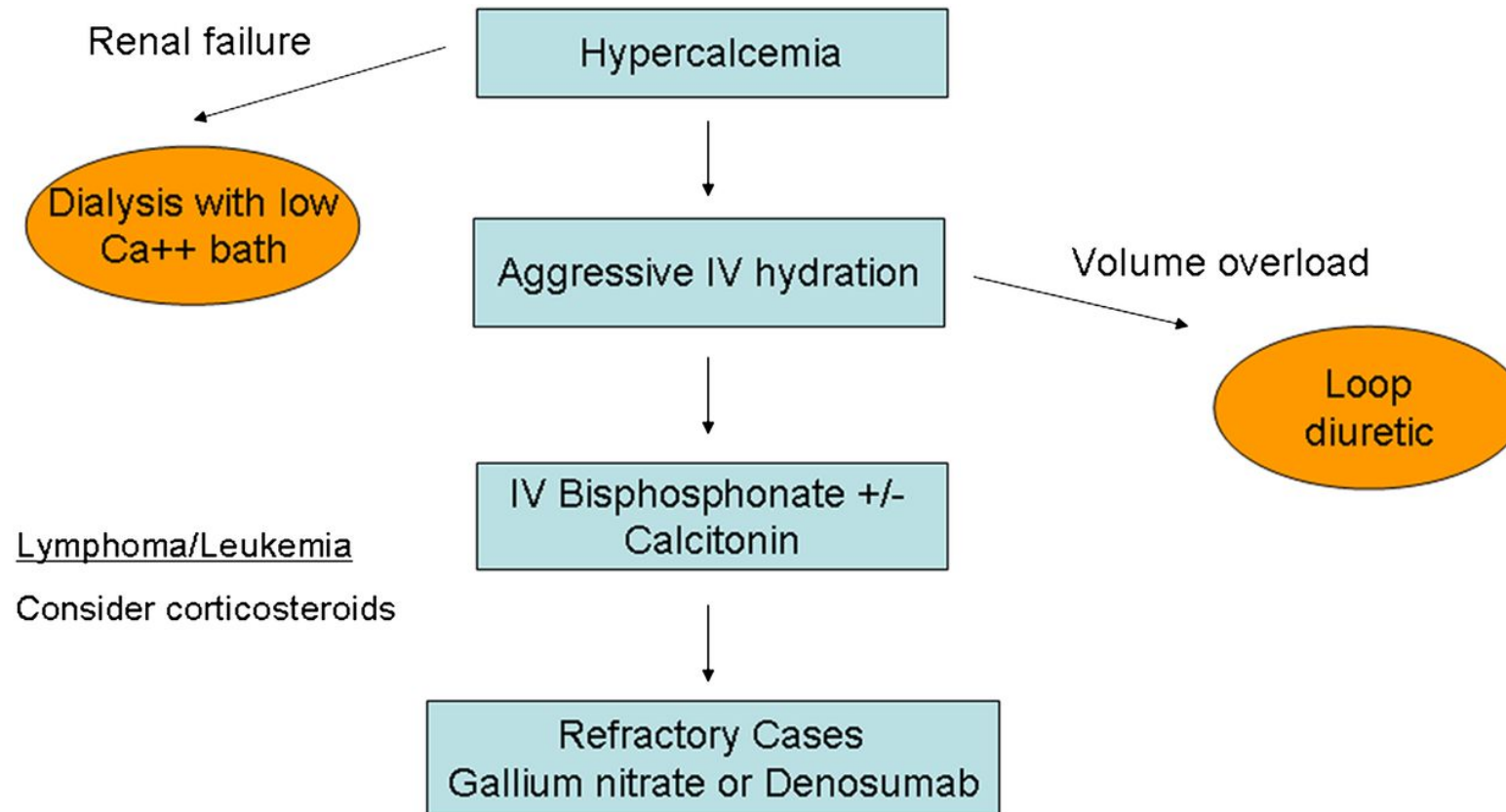
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Symptoms



Treatment



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Febrile neutropaenia

- One of the common oncological emergencies
- Single axillary/oral temperature of 38.5°C **or**
- Higher or a sustained temperature of 38°C or higher for one hour
- **And** an absolute neutrophil count (ANC) less than 500 cells per mm³ or an expected decrease of ANC to less than 500 cells per mm³ in the next 48 hours
- Early intervention is beneficial
- Prompt referral is required
- *In absence of neutropaenia: consider UTI, soft tissue infections*
- *Beware of opportunistic infections*

Thrombosis

- Trousseau in 1865
- Virchows triad: stasis, increased coagulability, endothelial damage
- Mechanism may be direct or indirect
 - Venous
 - Arterial
 - DIC

Aetiology

Arterial

- Typically endothelial damage
- Drugs
 - Platinum-based agents(cisplatin),
 - Vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF) inhibitors (bevacizumab)
 - VEGF tyrosine kinase receptor inhibitors (sorafenib/sunitinib/pazopanib)
- Hypertension, vascular abnormalities, atherosclerosis



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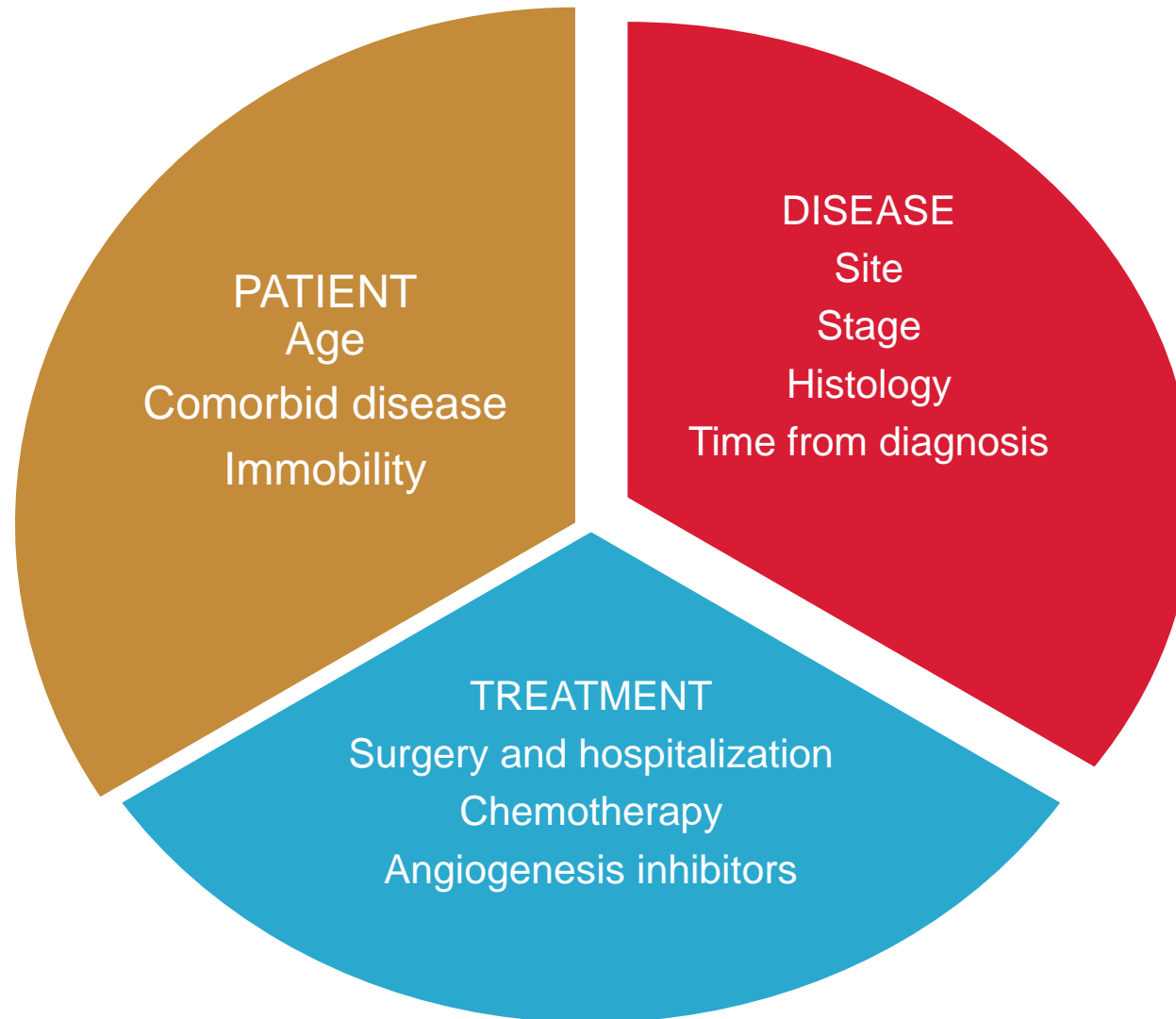
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VTE

VTE

- 5-7 x more common in cancer patient
- DVT and pulmonary emboli
- 3X more fatal
- Presence at diagnosis(most often) associated with worse prognosis
- 0.5% per annum

Risk factors



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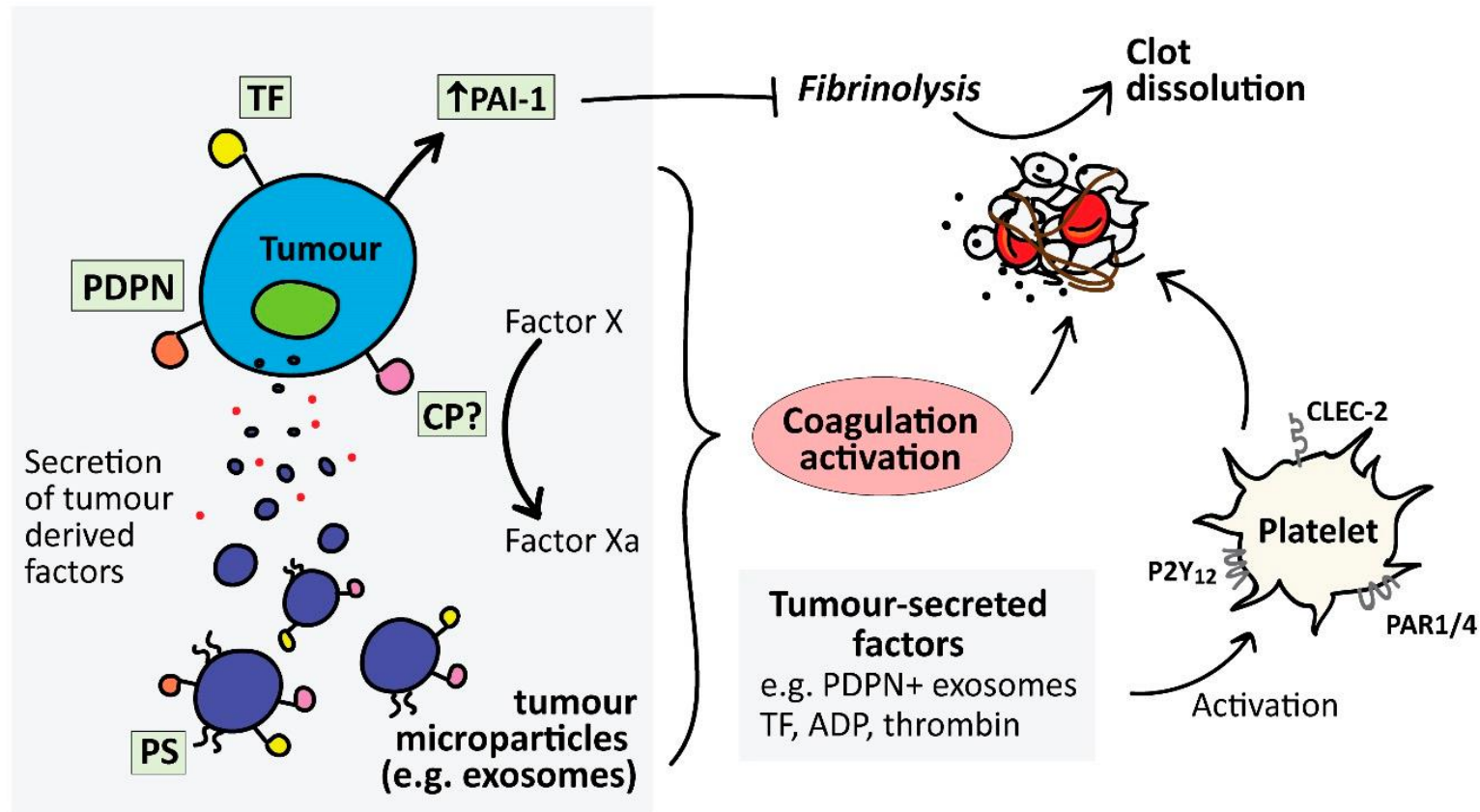
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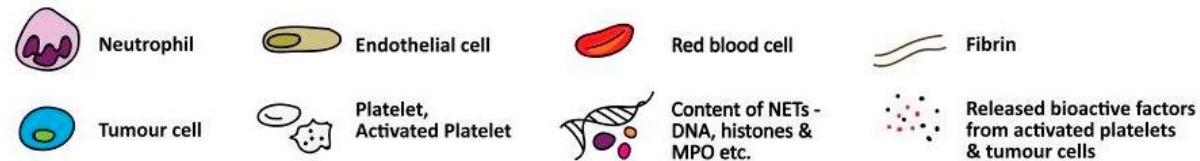
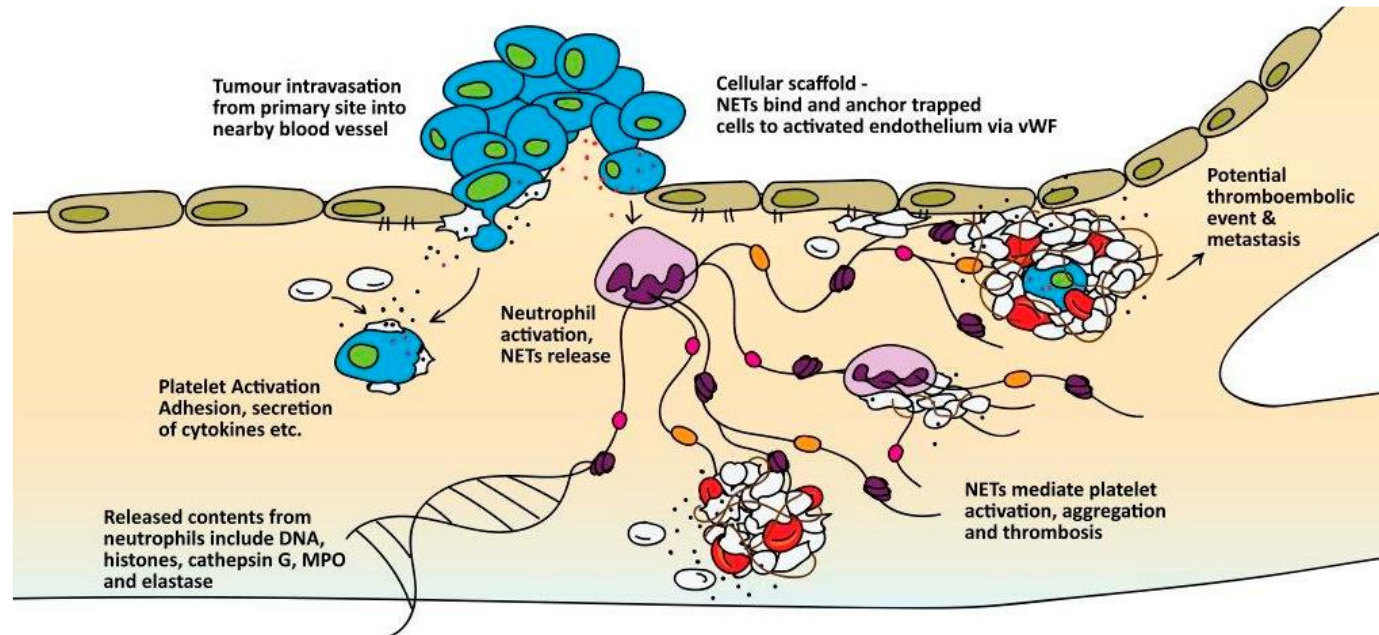
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Mechanism: direct



Mechanism: Indirect



Management

Patient education

Assess risk, surveillance

Prophylaxis for 4 weeks if undergoing major abdominal surgery: LMWH superior to warfarin

Edoxaban (Lixiana) was non-inferior to subcutaneous dalteparin

Rivaroxaban (Xarelto) was associated with low VTE recurrence but higher clinically relevant non major bleeding

Beware drug i

Structural: SVC syndrome

- Gradual compression of the superior vena cava where it enters the right atrium, leading to edema and retrograde flow.
- Lung cancer, lymphoma, breast cancer



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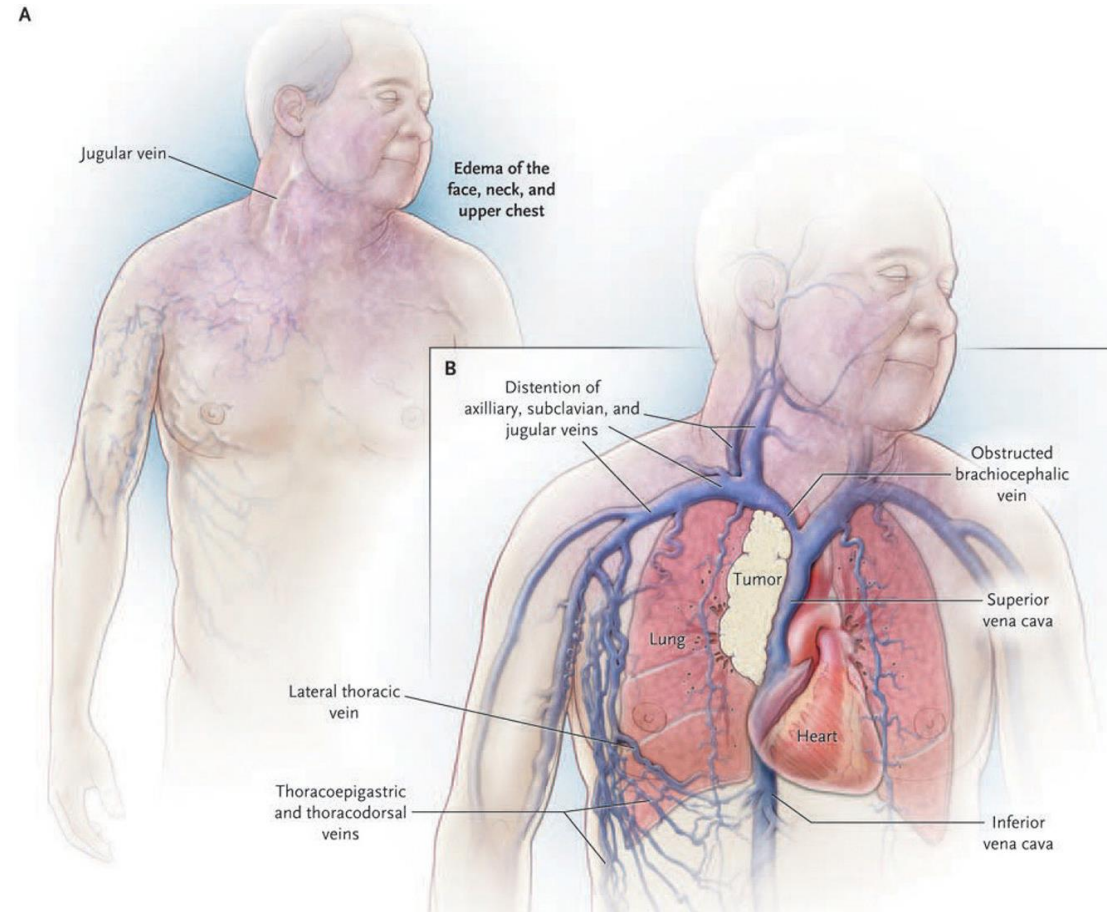
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Symptoms

N Engl J Med. 2007; 356(18): 1863.

Facial odemea
Cough
Dyspnoea
Pain
Plethora
Swelling of arm
Collateral veins



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Treatment SVC

Oxygen,
elevate bed,
Lasix

Steroids

Radiotherapy

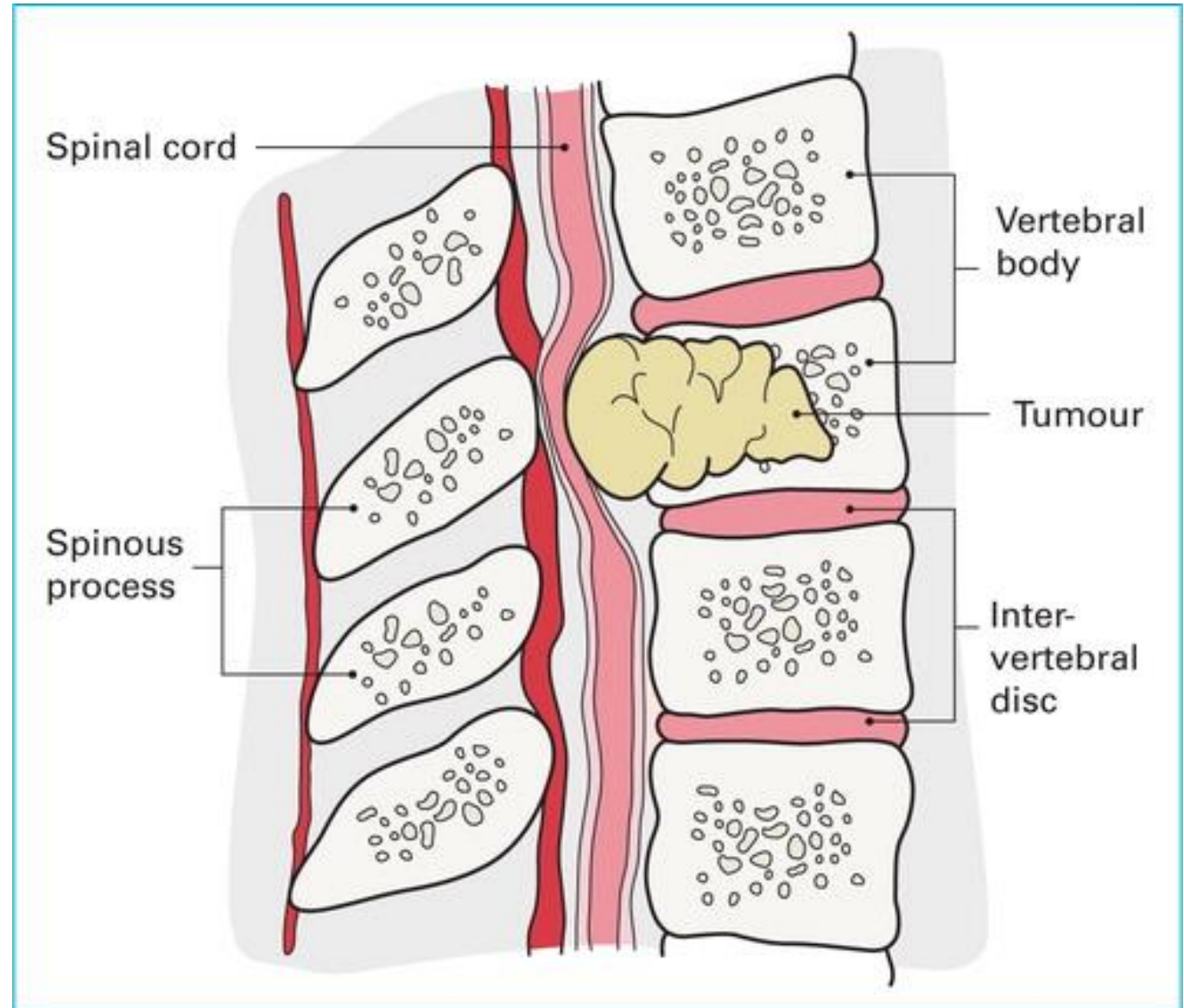
Chemotherapy

Stenting

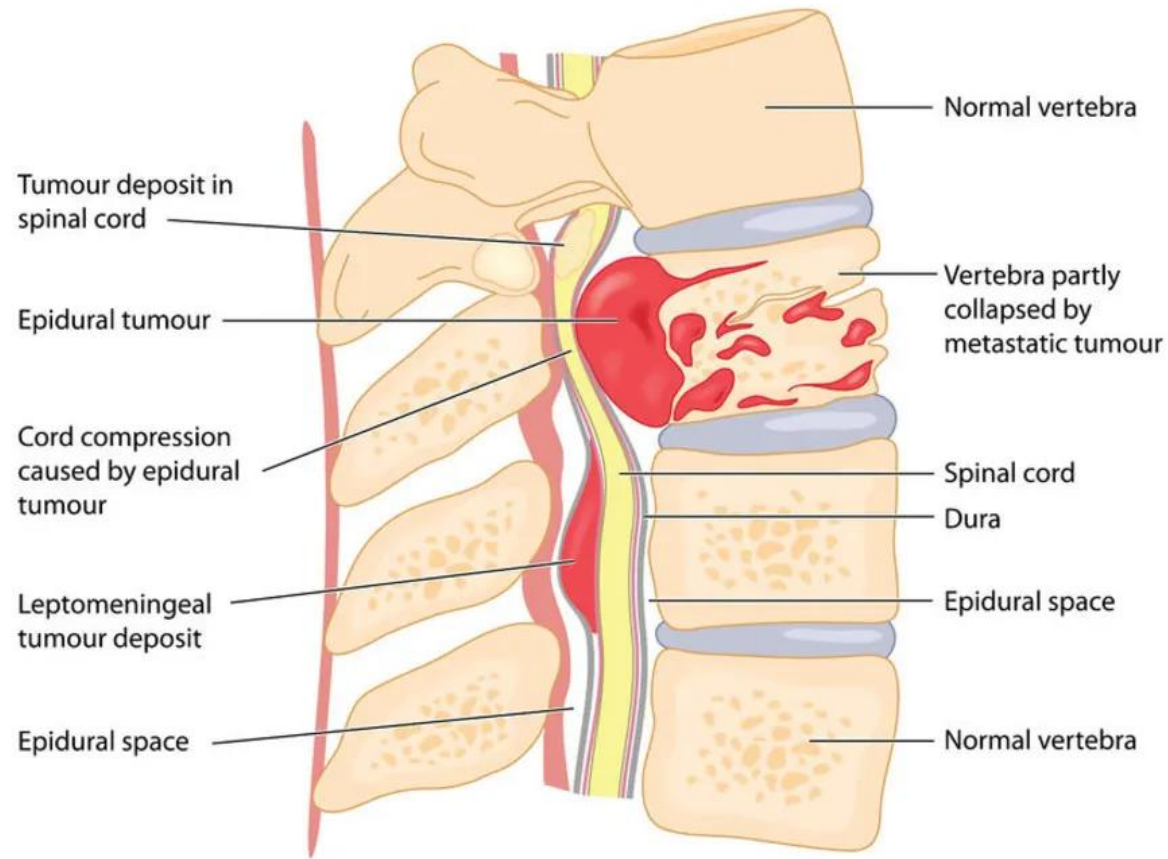
Outcome and
prognosis

Malignant spinal cord compression

- Emergency
- Pain, progressive neurological decline
- Treatment within 24 hrs of onset better chance of reversal
- 2.5% to 5%
- Usually lung, prostate, or breast cancer
- First manifestation of systemic cancer in 20% to 34%
- Myeloma 10%



Mechanism



<https://www.spineuniverse.com/resource-center/spinal-fractures/cancer-spinal-fractures>



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Presentation

- Thoracic spine----lumbosacral ---cervical
- Back pain: 85-90%, worse at nite, vasalva
- Motor weakness: 35% to 75%
- Sensory deficits: sensory level
- Bowel or bladder dysfunction: late



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Management

MRI

- Gold standard
- Sensitivity 93% specificity 97%
- Whole spine: 20% to 35%
- CT myelogram



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Management: Steroids

- Dexamethasone
- Duration
- Wean off
- Caution



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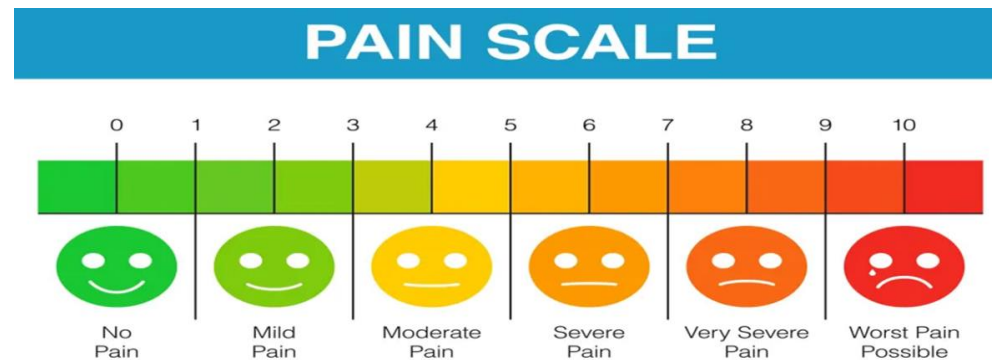
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Management: Pain control

Opioids	
Morphine*	
Immediate release	7.5-15 mg orally every 3 hours as needed or 2-4 mg intravenously every 2 hours as needed
Sustained release†	15 mg orally every 8-12 hours
Oxycodone*	
Immediate release	5-10 mg orally every 3 hours as needed
Sustained release†	10 mg orally every 8-12 hours
Hydromorphone*	
Immediate release	2-4 mg orally every 3 hours as needed or 0.4-0.8 mg intravenously every 2 hours as needed
Fentanyl*	
Sustained release†	12 µg/h transdermally every 72 hours

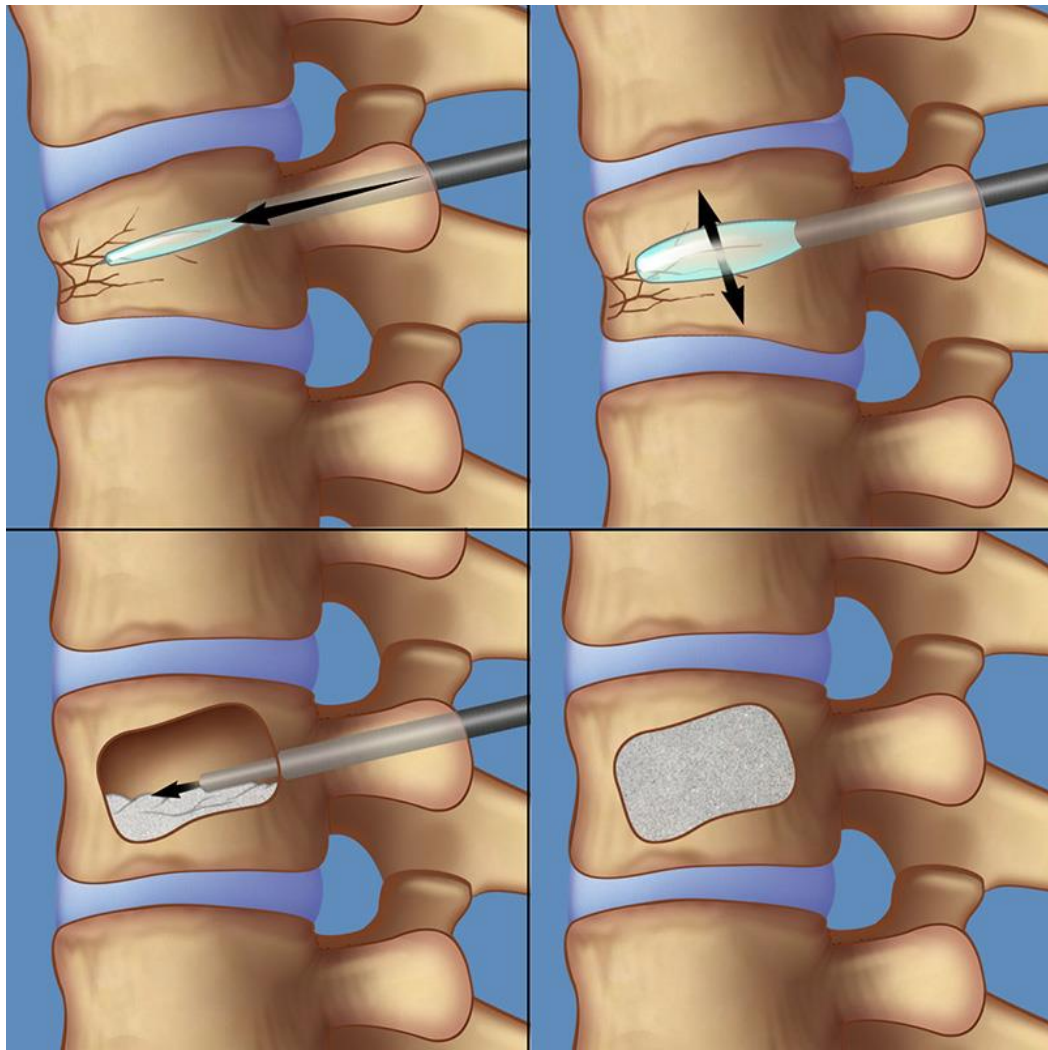
Bone pain adjuvants	
Zoledronic acid‡	4 mg intravenously every 3-4 weeks
Pamidronate‡	90 mg intravenously every 3-4 weeks
Acetaminophen§	1,000 mg orally every 8 hours
Bowel regimen medications	
Senna	1-2 tablets twice daily
Polyethylene glycol	17 g one to two times daily
Bisacodyl suppository	Daily as needed



Neuropathic pain adjuvants	
Dexamethasone	10 mg orally or intravenous load, then 4-6 mg orally or intravenously every 6 hours
Gabapentin*	100 mg orally twice daily; 300 mg at bedtime
Pregabalin*	75 mg orally twice daily
Amitriptyline	10-25 mg orally at bedtime
Nortriptyline	10-25 mg orally at bedtime

Surgery

- Spinal stability, presence of neurologic deficits, and patient prognosis.
- Immediate and sustained pain relief and improved quality of life
- Minimally invasive decompressions to highly sophisticated, individualized techniques that consider the location and extent
- Surgical decompression with instrumented fusion
- Vertebroplasty and kyphoplasty
- The Spine Instability Neoplastic Score, with 95.7% sensitivity and 79.5% specificity for predicting spinal stability, can help to determine the need for surgical intervention



SINS score and Modified Bauer score

Spine Instability Neoplastic Score (SINS)

SINS Component	Description	Score
Location	Junctional (Occ-C2, C7-T2, T11-L1, L5-S1)	3
	Mobile (C3-6, L2-4)	2
	Semirigid (T3-10)	1
	Rigid (S2-5)	0
Pain	Yes*	3
	Occasional non-mechanical pain	1
	No	0
Bone Lesion	Lytic	2
	Mixed	1
	Blastic	0
Alignment	Subluxation / translation	4
	De novo deformity	2
	Normal	0
Vertebral Body	>50% collapse	3
	<50% collapse	2
	No collapse with >50% VB involved	1
	None of above	0
Posterolateral Involvement	Bilateral	3
	Unilateral	1

Tallied Score from 6 components

Stable	Potentially Unstable	Unstable
0-6	7-12	13-18

Fisher CG, et al. A novel classification system for spinal instability in neoplastic disease: an evidence-based approach and expert consensus from the Spine Oncology Study Group. *Spine* 35(22):E1221-9, 2010

Modified Bauer scoring system		
	Total score	Median OS (months)
(1) no visceral metastases +0	0-1	4.8
(2) solitary skeletal metastasis +1		
(3) no lung cancer +1	2	18.2
(4) primary tumor: breast, kidney +1	3-4	28.4

(1) – (4): one point each if applicable

RT vs Surgery and RT



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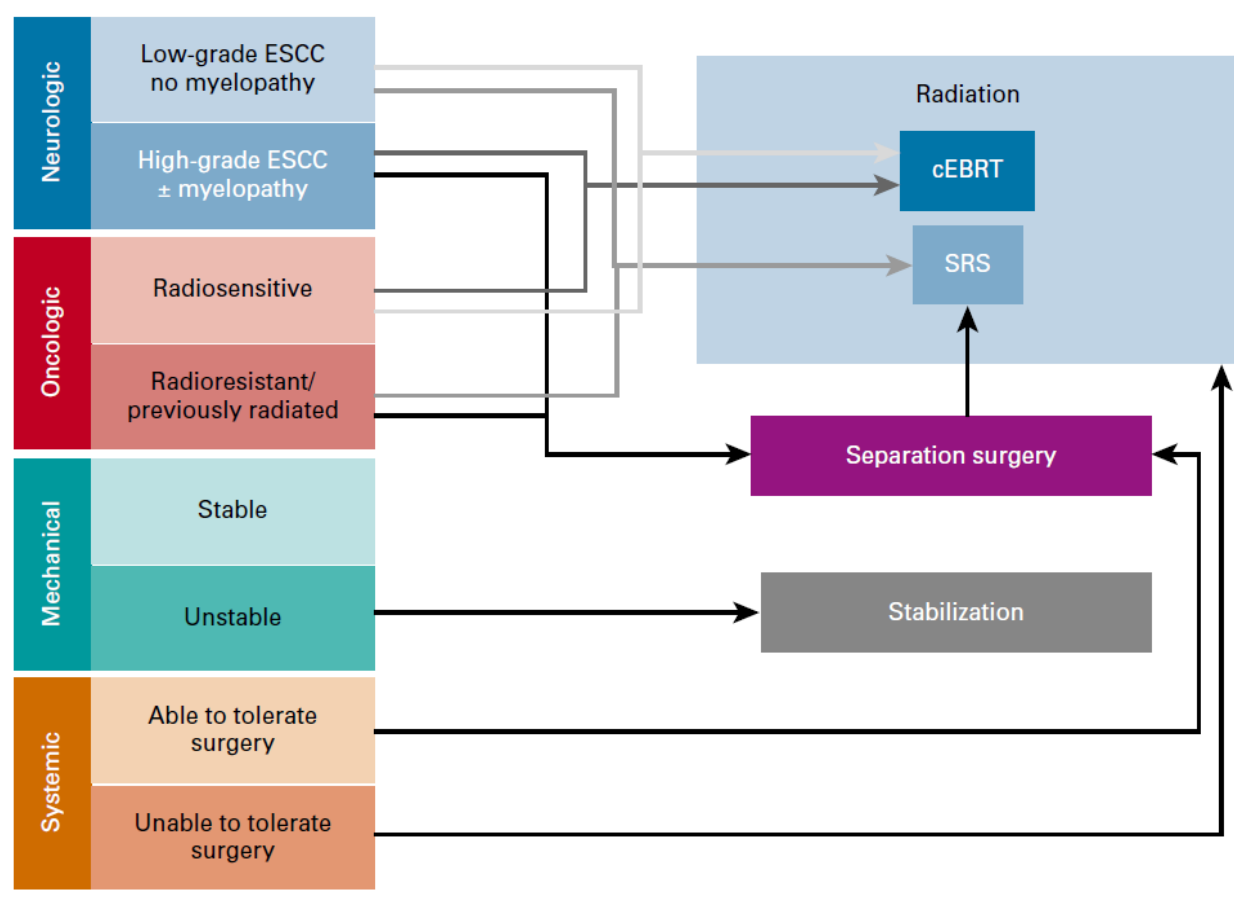
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Treatment



J Clin Oncol 35:2419-2427, 2017



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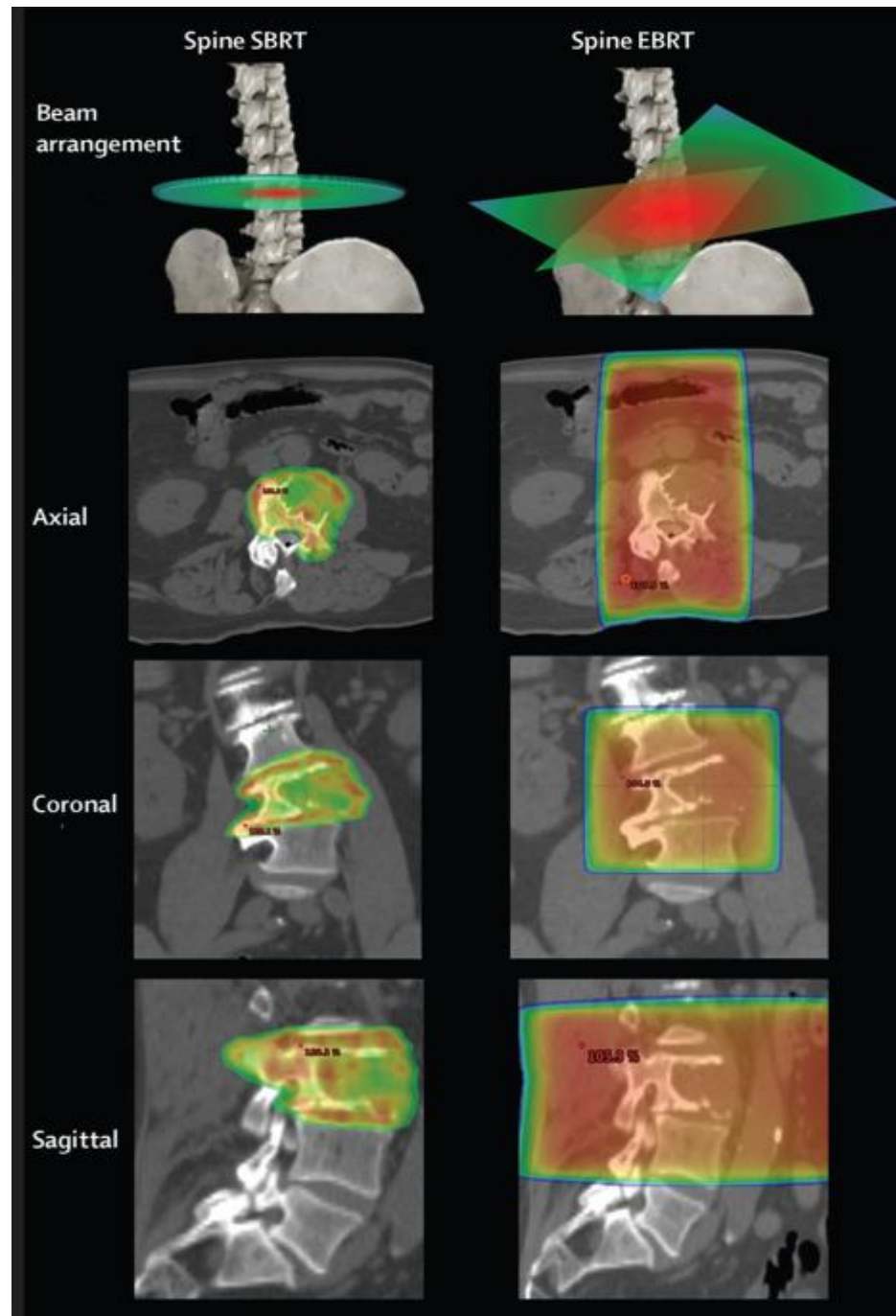
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Radiotherapy

- External beam RT
- SBRT



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Rehabilitation

- During acute hospitalization
- Bowel and bladder dysfunction
- Pressure sores
- Transition from acute environment
- Psychosocial factors



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**IF PEOPLE SMOKE WEED BECAUSE 'PEOPLE
CLAIM' CANNABIS OIL CURES CANCER**



**DOES THAT MEAN I SHOULD SMOKE BROCCOLI
BECAUSE PEOPLE CLAIM BROCCOLI FIGHTS
CANCER ?**

CBD oil

What is CBD oil, and how does it differ from marijuana and hemp?

Less THC than a typical, CBD is not a psychoactive agent

Is there any truth to the claims that CBD oil can cure cancer?

Right now, no. There is no evidence that CBD oil can cure cancer.

What, if anything, can CBD oil do to alleviate the symptoms of cancer or the side effects of cancer treatment?

It's hard to say if CBD oil can alleviate cancer symptoms or [cancer treatment side effects](#), because the studies are pretty mixed and even fewer are standardized.

There have been reports that cannabinoids like THC and CBD may be helpful for [nausea](#) and vomiting and [anorexia](#), as well as [neuropathy](#), anxiety, [depression](#) and [insomnia](#).



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Have any CBD-oil derived products been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to treat cancer, its symptoms, or the side effects caused by its treatment?

No.

Have any products using CBD-oil been approved by the FDA to treat anything?

Yes. Epidiolex.

What are the dangers of using CBD oil?

Quality, cleanliness and regulation are the biggest concerns.

There have been some reports of people getting infections after using CBD and cannabis products. This is especially concerning for immunocompromised patients, who are already susceptible to bacterial and fungal infections.

Does CBD oil have any side effects?

CBD oil can adversely affect liver function. In fact, this is on the warning label for Epidiolex.

And in lab studies, CBD has been shown to inhibit certain enzymes responsible for the metabolism of drugs, such as CYP2D6 and CYP3A4. This can affect how drugs work and affect our bodies, either by reducing their efficiency or making them more dangerous. This includes [chemotherapy](#) and other medications.

What's the most important thing cancer patients should know about CBD oil?

There's still a lot to learn.



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Conclusion

- Cancer treatment is very complex
- GP has an important role to play
- MDT management is important

"I'm the surgeon. I think I'll decide who I offer surgery to"



The END



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