

# Review of Cancer Therapy

think about: chemotherapy (chemotx) is driven by a balance in patient's experience of toxicities. This guy was very concerned with helping us remember to consider the patient's toxicities (as any good physician should) when evaluating treatment

Gerry Blobe, M.D., Ph.D.

In general, I thought this was a pretty advanced lecture: if your patient had a particular type of cancer, how would you treat them? We didn't discuss mechanisms at all (I added in info after-the-fact), only treatment plans...real oncologist work. He mostly went through each case merely musing about treatment plans.

# State of Cancer Therapy

- Able to cure 50% (75% for pediatric cancers)
- Able to cure ~90% of cancers which present early (Stage I/II)
  - surgery + adjuvant therapy (chemo/radiation)
- Able to cure a subset of other cancers with chemotherapy or combination therapy.
  - chemotherapy sensitive cancers
- Most cancers, once they have metastasized are incurable.
  - In these cases, the goal shifts to
    - prolonging survival
    - improve/maintain quality of life
  - Addition of targeted therapies and multi-modality therapy is changing this (i.e. metastatic colon cancer may be a curable disease)

# Treatment Options for Cancer

- **Surgery**

- **If detected early** (symptoms, i.e. bladder cancer), effective screening method (i.e. colon cancer) or detected incidentally (i.e. gallbladder)
- Treatment of choice for **localized solid tumors** (need good staging)
  - >90% 5 year survival
- **Side effects minimal** (bleeding, infection, wound healing)

- **Radiation**

- Acts by damaging DNA (cross-linking, DNA breaks)
- **Local therapy**, can be focused (gamma knife)
- Side effects are fatigue, N/V, local irritation

# Treatment Options for Cancer

- **Chemotherapy**

- Act by interfering with basic DNA→RNA→ protein pathway (generic)
- **Systemic** therapy with few “sanctuary” sites-CNS, testis
- can be administered orally, topically, IV, IP-peritoneum, IT-thecal sac
- Side effects target organs with high cell turnover
  - GI tract, BM, hair, reproductive organs
- Mechanisms usually **converge** to result in **cell cycle arrest** and **apoptosis**

- **Targeted Agents**

- Act by targeting a **specific pathway or protein**
- **Systemic** therapy
- Side effects are agent/pathway specific, **generally milder** than chemo

More Tx: why not combine them?

- 1) effective as single agents
- 2) different mechanisms of action
- 3) non-overlapping toxicity
- 4) intensive/intermittent schedule
- 5) multiple cycles

# Combination therapy

- Combination therapy used when 1 agent ineffective
  - use agents which are **effective as single agents**
  - **different mechanisms** of action (hope for **synergy**)
  - **non-overlapping dose-limiting toxicity**
  - **intensive**, but **intermittent scheduling** to allow time for recovery
  - Give **multiple cycles**

# Combination Therapy: Example



Agent	Toxicity	MOA	Resistance
Carboplatin	BM	DNA Cross-linking	Repair of damage
	Renal		Reduced uptake
			Increased GSH
Paclitaxel	BM	Microtubule stabilizer	Cell exprot (MDR)
	Neurotoxic		Structural alterations in tubulin
	Edema		
	Allergic Rxn		

Uses: NSC Lung, breast, ovarian , endometrial, bladder, H&N

Give paclitaxel, then platin (reduced myelosuppression) **order matters**

efficacy is the same for any order of administration, but the toxicity is what drives the administration

Neo-adjuvant: chemotx before surgery>>less invasive surgery  
Adjuvant: surgery before chemotx>>prevention of relapse (increases cure rate)

# Chemotherapy: Different Roles

- **Neo-adjuvant** chemotherapy (anal, breast, esophageal, laryngeal, NSC Lung, pancreatic)
  - use of chemotherapy (with or without irradiation) **prior to** potentially curative or palliative surgery
  - Used to allow **less invasive, less debilitating surgery** (preserve larynx, or anal sphincter), better delivery and perhaps better local control
- **Adjuvant** chemotherapy (breast, colon, NSC lung, gastric)
  - use of chemotherapy **following** eradication of primary tumor by surgery or irradiation
  - **prevention of relapse** due to micrometastases, **increases cure rate**
  - For colon cancer, this decreases risk of recurrence by ~1/3

often there are both of these aspects in real treatment plans: chemo, then surg, then more chemo

# Chemotherapy: Different Roles

- **Curative** chemotherapy
  - use of chemotherapy to **cure the individual** (Testicular cancer, choriocarcinoma, HD, NHL, AML, ALL, childhood cancers, breast cancer, colon cancer?)
  - **Usually very sensitive tumors (rapidly dividing)**
- **Palliative** chemotherapy
  - use of chemotherapy to **extend life** and **improve quality of life**
  - **Most common use** (breast, colon, ovarian, pancreatic, lung)



Toxicity--Nausea/Vomiting and pretty much always bone marrow; remember hair, GI tract, and repro organs

# Chemotherapy-Toxicity

- All cause **N/V**-action on both **CNS** and **small intestine**

remember Nadler's lecture for review these mechanisms act by 5-HT3, D2, NK1

- Most common-BM, mucositis, alopecia **also reproductive organs**

rapidly dividing cells

- Almost all cause **BM suppression**, only a few that don't/mild (bleomycin, cisplatin, methotrexate and vincristine)

we evaluate one's candidacy for chemotx by PERFORMANCE STATUS--this means evaluating one's cancer in the midst of many other (potentially debilitating) co-morbidities

pop quiz:  
name the  
NSC lung  
cancers



# NSC Lung Cancer: Case Presentation

non-small cell

- 72 yo retired railroad worker with h/o HTN and COPD, with 80 pack year history of tobacco use presents with a worsening cough and SOB, patient is able to care for himself and keeps a garden
- CXR reveals 5 cm mass in RUL with bilateral mediastinal LAN
- Initial work-up includes CBC and CT C/A/P reveals widely metastatic disease, with metastases to liver and bone
- What is his prognosis and what treatment should he receive?

always take note  
of co-morbidities

lymphadenopathy

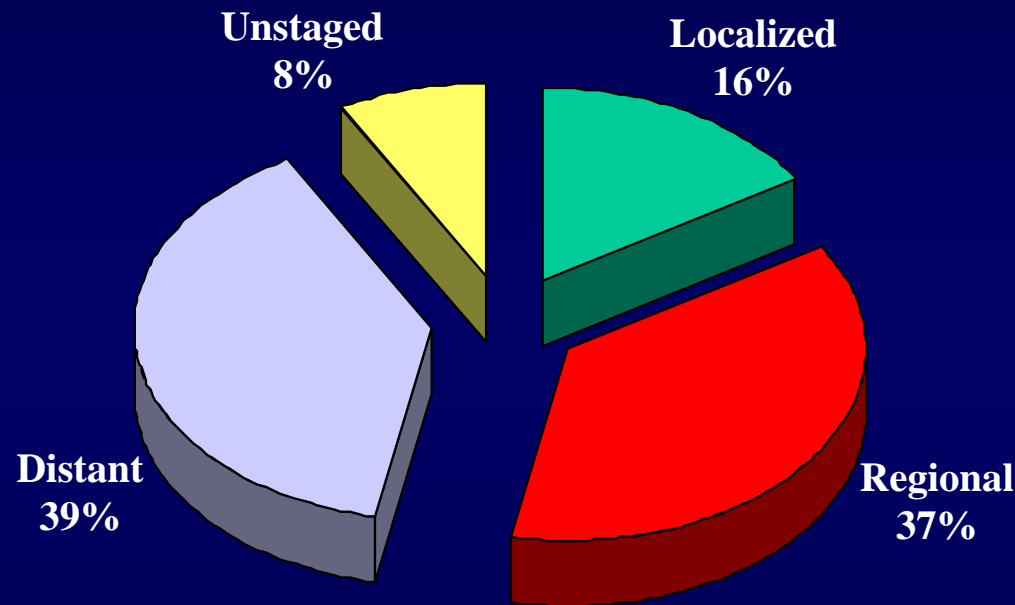
chest abdomen pelvis

he has metastatic lung cancer

poor screening technology to catch lung cancer in general--we catch it too late

# Most NSCLC Is Diagnosed at Advanced Stages

## Extent of Disease at Diagnosis



- 55% of patients present with stage IIB or stage IV disease

most cancers are diagnosed in advanced stage

Stage III = spread to LNs  
Stage IV = spread to other organs

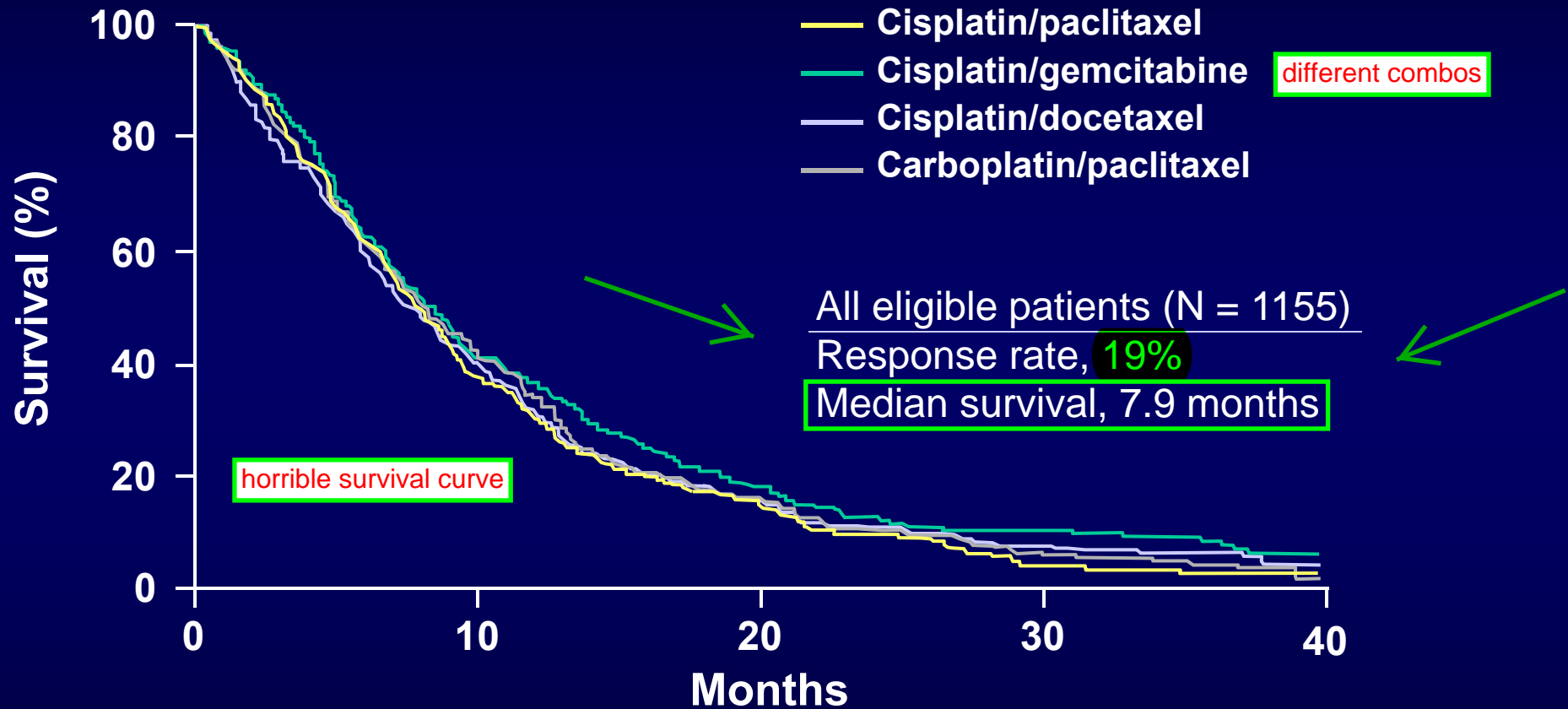
- ~5–6 months median survival for untreated stage IIB/IV NSCLC
- ~15% 5-year survival rate with standard therapy



lung cancer

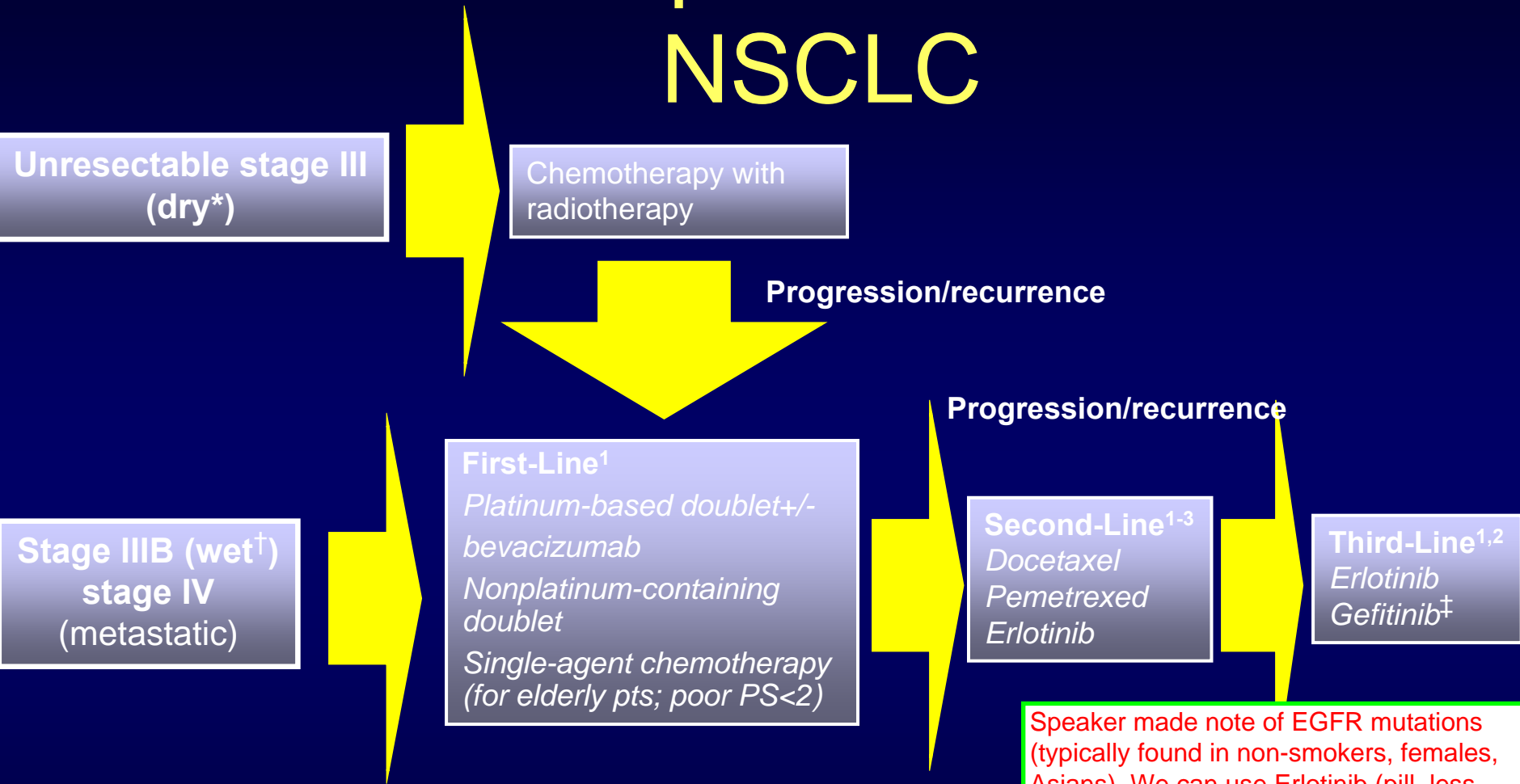
# ECOG 1594:

## Alternative Doublets, Similar Outcomes



he just talked about different therapies in a general sort of way

# Treatment Options for Advanced NSCLC



\*“Dry” refers to the absence of pericardial or pleural effusion.

<sup>†</sup>“Wet” refers to the presence of pericardial and/or pleural effusion.

<sup>‡</sup>Gefitinib is currently indicated only for patients who are currently benefiting or have previously benefited from gefitinib therapy.<sup>3</sup>

1. Pfister et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2004;22:330–353; 2. Tarceva® (erlotinib) prescribing information. South San Francisco, Calif: Genentech; 2005

3. US Food and Drug Administration. *Gefitinib (Marketed as Iressa) Information*. Available at: <http://www.fda.gov/cder/drug/infopage/gefitinib/default.htm>.

Accessed August 28, 2006.

# NSC Lung Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of **5 year survival 15%**
- Role for **palliative therapy**: Increases median overall survival
- Options include **platin** (cisplatin or carboplatin) **with taxane** (paclitaxel or docetaxel) **or gemcitabine with targeted therapy** against VEGF-bevacizumab for 6 months
  - Need to consider the patients **prognosis** from **COPD** keep in mind co-morbidities (COPD, HTN)
  - **Need to consider histological subtype**-if squamous cell-not a candidate for bevacizumab (increased risk of hemoptosis, pulmonary hemorrhage) bevacizumab precludes good wound healing...bleeding troubles during therapy  
interesting limitation to bevacizumab....

# Impact of Treatment on Metastatic NSCLCa

- Median Survival
  - BSC "best supportive care" 4.0 months
  - Single agent chemo 6.0 months
  - Doublet chemo 8.0 months
  - Doublet chemo+targeted (bevacizumab) 12.0 months

more treatment = longer survival

bevacizumab cannot be used in what type of lung cancer:



# Colon Cancer: Case Presentation

- 70 yo retired banker with h/o DM, HTN, diagnosed with non-obstructing colon cancer (ascending colon) on a screening colonoscopy
- Initial work-up includes CBC, LFTs, CEA and CT C/A/P reveals no metastatic disease, CEA=5
- Undergoes hemicolectomy-pathology reveals **Stage IIIB colon cancer (3/12 lymph nodes positive, tumor invades through the serosa)**
- What is his prognosis and what treatment should he receive, if any?

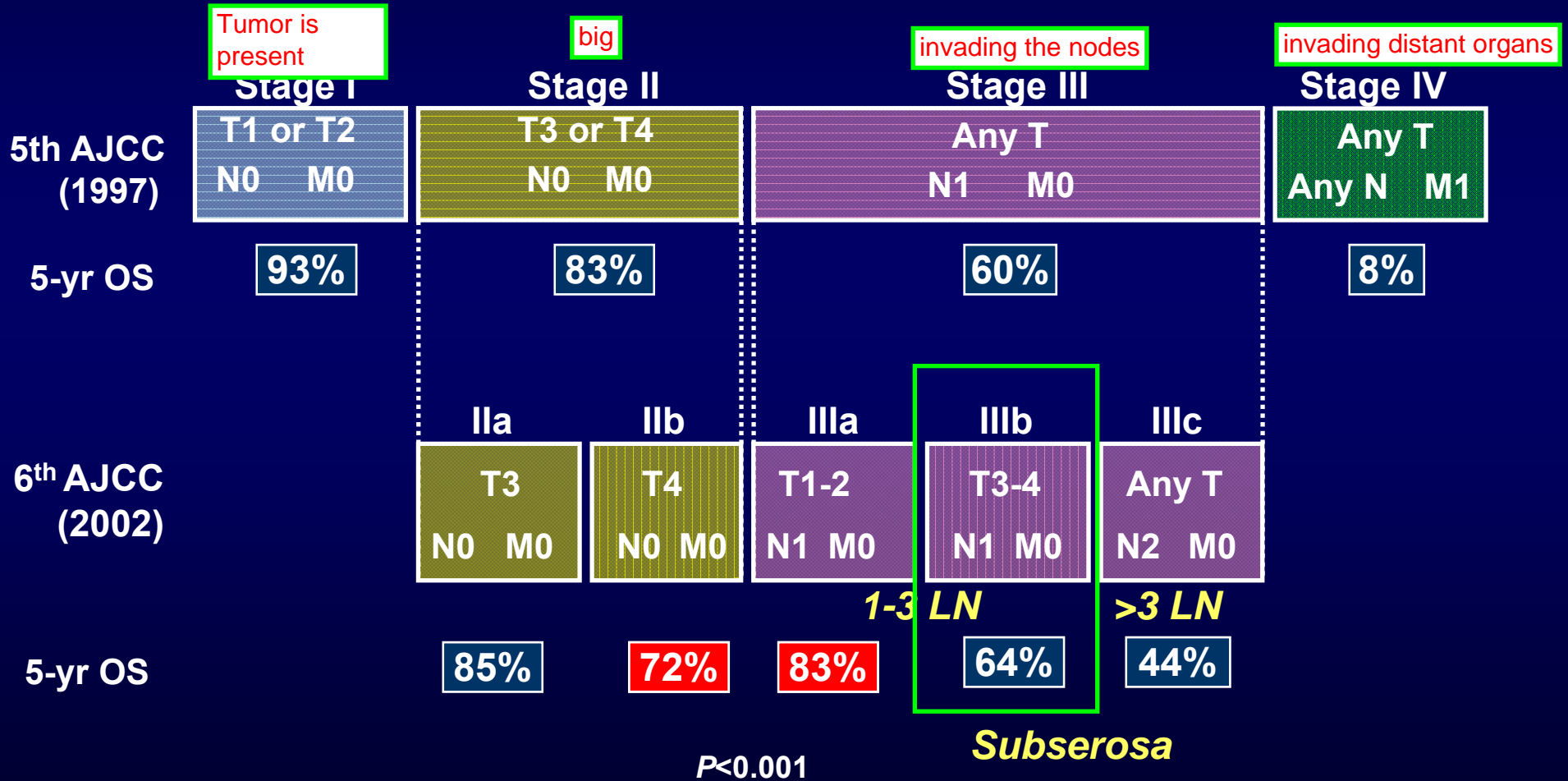


# 5-year colon cancer survival by stage

## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> edition AJCC system

Staging:  
 T=Tumor (1-4)  
 N=Nodes (0-2)  
 M=Metastases (0-1)

119,363 patients with colon cancer in the SEER<sup>1</sup> US registry (1991-2000)



1. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results registry; 2 O'Connell et al, J Natl Cancer Inst 2004, 96: 1420-25

# MOSAIC Trial: 6 year update

Disease Free Survival (%)	5-fluorouracil + leucovorin	oxaliplatin + 5-FU + Leucovorin	P Value
	5-FU/LV (n=1123)	FOLFOX-4 (n=1123)	
Stage II	81.3%	85.1%	
Stage III	61%	69.7%	
Grade III Neuropathy (1mo)	0%	12.4%	
Neuropathy (1 yr f/u)	0%	1.1%	
Overall Survival			
Stage III (6 years)	68.3%	72.9%	<0.05
All patients (4 years)	70.4%	76.2%	0.008
All patients (3 years)	72.9%	78.2%	0.002

# Colon Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival **64%** (if more than 3 nodes involved drops to 44%)
- Role for Adjuvant therapy: Increases chances of survival at 5 years, with ~ 25% relative reduction in mortality

remember when we talked about irinotecan, cetuximab, bevacizumab in our PIP session this week...?

- Options include **oxaliplatin** with **infusional 5-FU** (FOLFOX) for 6 months or capecitabine or bolus 5-FU
  - Need to consider the **patients prognosis** from **diabetes, HTN**
  - Need to consider whether any **neuropathy will be exacerbated**
- Interestingly, although **targeted therapy** (against VEGF-bevacizumab, EGFR-cetuximab) have role in metastatic disease, **no effect in adjuvant setting**, Why? **hmmm...unknown**

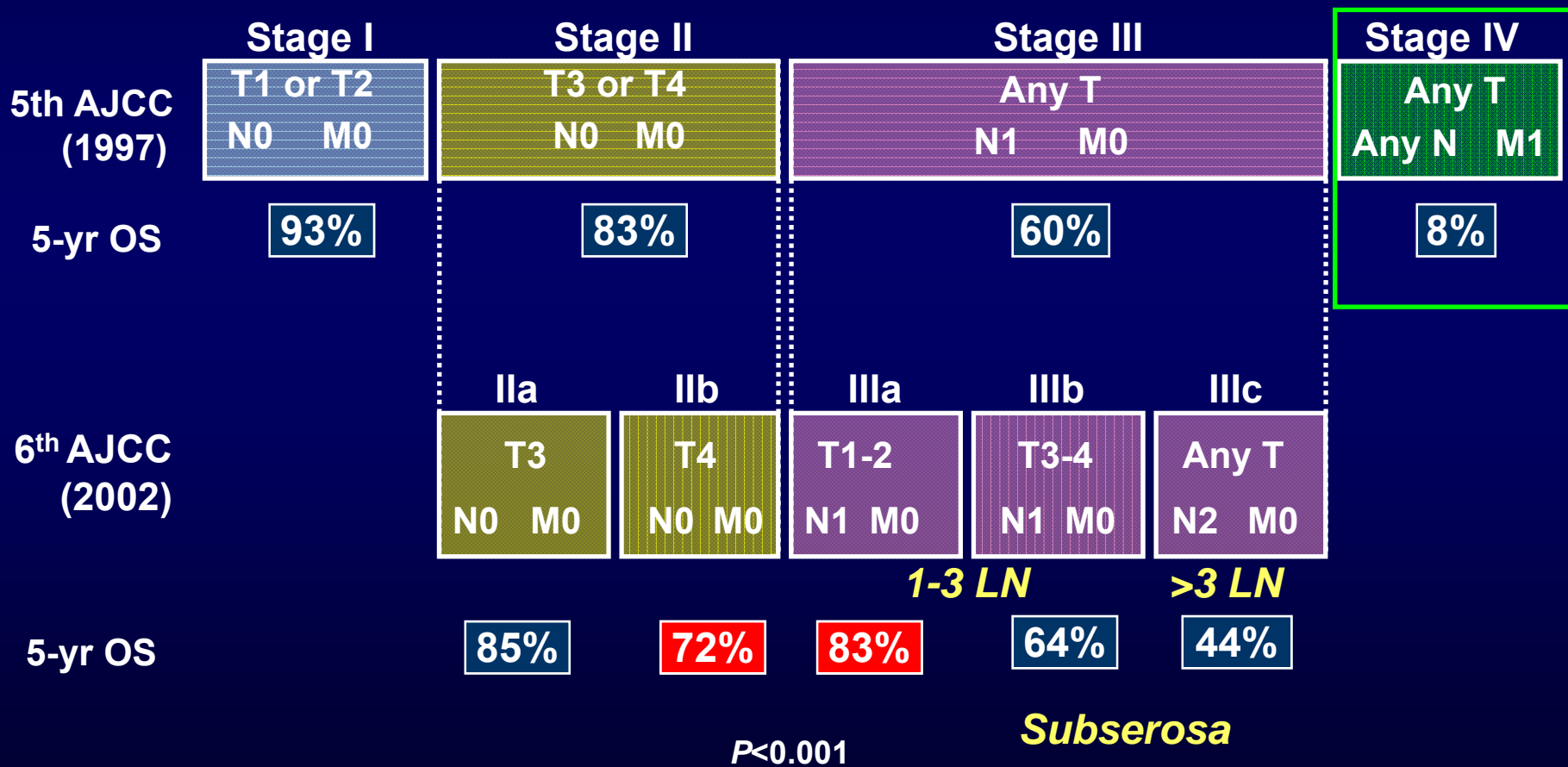
# Colon Cancer: Case Presentation

- 58 yo construction worker with no sign. PMH presents with rectal bleeding of 1 months duration
- Diagnosed with **non-obstructing colon cancer** (transverse colon) on colonoscopy
- Initial work-up includes CBC, LFTs, CEA and CT C/A/P reveals 2 metastatic lesions in right lobe of liver, CEA=11
- What is his prognosis and what treatment should he receive?

# 5-year colon cancer survival by stage

## 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> edition AJCC system

119,363 patients with colon cancer in the SEER<sup>1</sup> US registry (1991-2000)



1. Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results registry; 2 O'Connell et al, J Natl Cancer Inst 2004, 96: 1420-25

hepatic resection brings 5 yr Overall Survival from 8% up to >35%

# Hepatic resection

this translates to ~95%  
certainty of cure

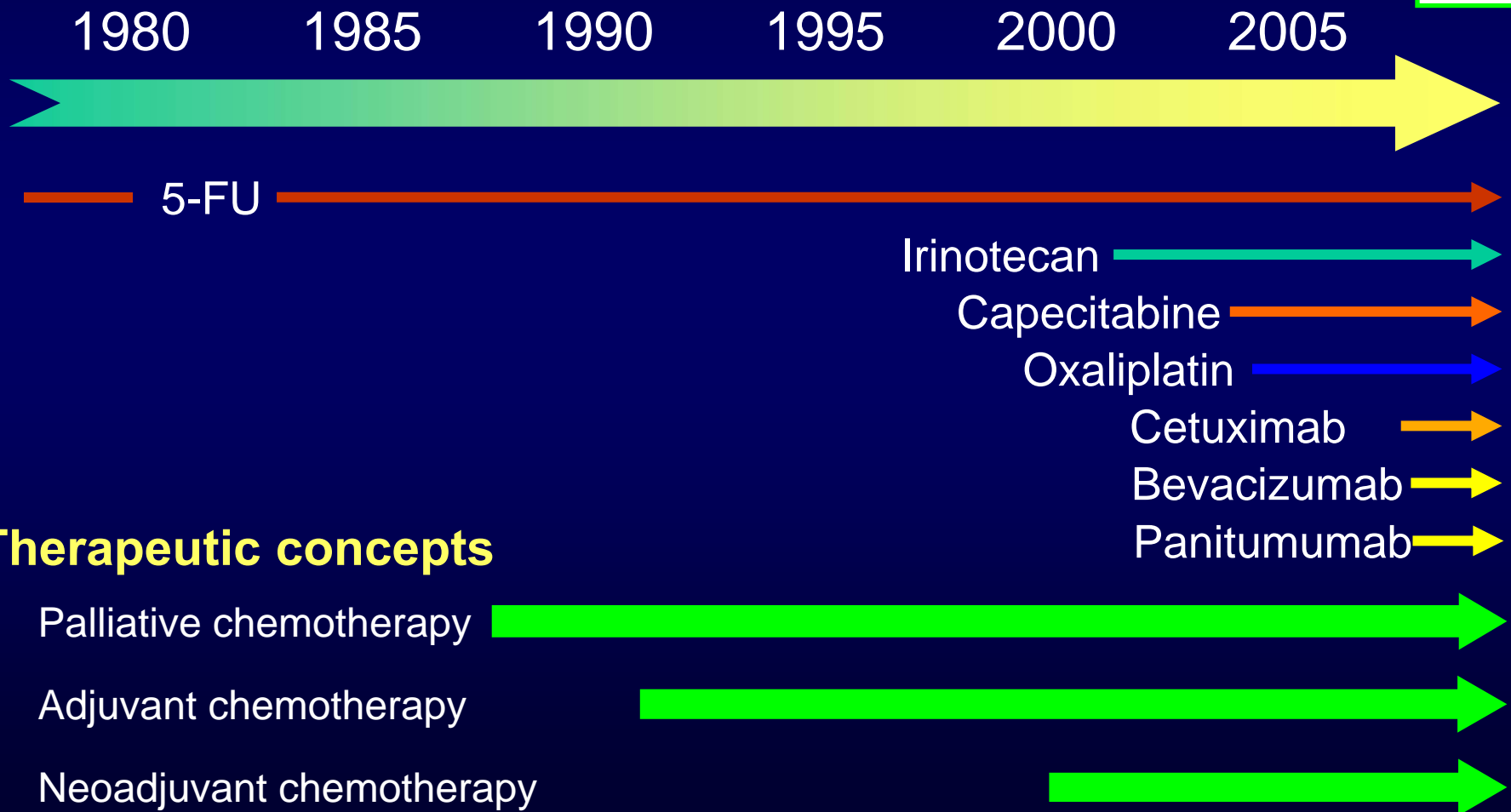
R0 resection	Patients	Median survival (mo)	5 year OS (%)
Scheele	473	44	41
Fong	895	45	37
Meta-analysis			
S	140	47	41
S + 5-FU	138	61	53
Kemeny			
S + 5-FU	82	58	48
S + HAI/5-FU	74	68	56
OPTIMOX 1			
FOLFOX + S	98	32	36

# Colon Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival 8%, but if receives neo-adjuvant chemotherapy and able to **resect primary and both metastatic lesions** in liver-goes up to **35-50%**
- Options include **oxaliplatin** with infusional 5-FU (**FOLFOX**) or **irinotecan** with infusional 5-FU (**FOLFIRI**) plus targeted therapy against VEGF-**bevacizumab** until best response 2-3 months, then surgical resection, followed by 3-4 months of same as an adjuvant **neo-adjuvant therapy, then adjuvant therapy**
- What if he had widely metastatic disease (not resectable)?

for widely metastatic disease (nonresectable)

# Integrating Therapy: Treatment of Colorectal Cancer



not included in lecture, but I thought you might be interested in the mechanisms...





data data data: treatments work, but not superbly

# Efficacy of Chemotherapy in First-Line CRC: Phase III Trial Results

overall survival

Trial	Regimen	RR (%)	Median PFS or TTP (mo)	Median OS (mo)
Saltz	5-FU/LV	21	4.3	12.6
	IFL	39*	7.0†	14.8
Douillard	5-FU/LV (ci)	22	4.4	14.1
	FOLFIRI	35†	6.7*	17.4
de Gramont	5-FU/LV	22	6.2	14.7
	FOLFOX4	51*	9.0*	16.2
N9741 Goldberg	IFL	31	6.9†	15*
	IROX	35	6.5*	17.4
	FOLFOX4	45	8.7	19.5

\*  $P \leq 0.001$ .

†  $P < 0.01$ .

Saltz et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2000;343:905; Douillard et al. *Lancet*. 2000;355:1041;  
de Gramont et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2000;18:2938; Goldberg et al. *J Clin Oncol*. 2004;22:23.

PFS: progression free survival  
TTP: time to progression  
OS: overall survival  
RR: response rate

# Phase III TREE-2 Trial in First-Line MCRC: Efficacy and Safety

	Percent of Patients		
	mFOLFOX6 + bevacizumab (n=71)	bFOL + bevacizumab (n=70)	CAPEOX + bevacizumab (n=72)
CR	6	5	3
PR	47	37	45
SD	39	31	32
PD	6 (28)	13 (29)	9 (14)
ORR	53 (43)	41 (22)	48 (35)
TTP	9.9 (8.7)	9.3 (5.9)	10.3(5.9)
mOS	26 (19.2)	20.7 (17.9)	27 (17.2)

# Impact of Treatment on Metastatic Colon Cancer

- Median Survival

- BSC 6.0 months
- 5-FU 12.0 months
- 5-FU+irinotecan/oxali 24.0 months
- 5-FU+irinotecan/oxali  
+targeted (bev, cetuximab) ~30.0 months

using our full arsenal (chemotx and targeted therapies)

choose between irinotecan and oxaliplatin based on PATIENT'S TOXICITIES

we are beginning to better know the biology of the tumor to predict greater efficiency or increased toxicity

examples are for 5-FU (DPD), irinotecan (UGT1A1) and erbitux (Ras)

# Individualizing Cancer Therapy

- Exposure to **5-FU**  
Do they have a dihydropyrimidine dehydrogenase (**DPD**) **deficiency?** Affects 1-3% of population.  
DPD is the initial/rate-limiting enzyme in 5FU metabolism.  
Results in **severe/fatal diarrhea, mucositis, neutropenia**
- Exposure to **irinotecan**  
Do they have UDP-glucuronosyltransferase 1A1 (**UGT1A1**) **polymorphisms?**  
SN-38 is conjugated and detoxified by UGT1A1  
**Specific polymorphisms** (UGT1A1\*27) predict **increased toxicity**
- Exposure to **erbitux**  
Do they have a **Ras** mutation? If so, won't respond.

BCa is largely responsive to hormonal therapy; this is good because hormonal therapy generally has milder toxicity when compared to chemotx

# Breast Cancer: Case Presentation

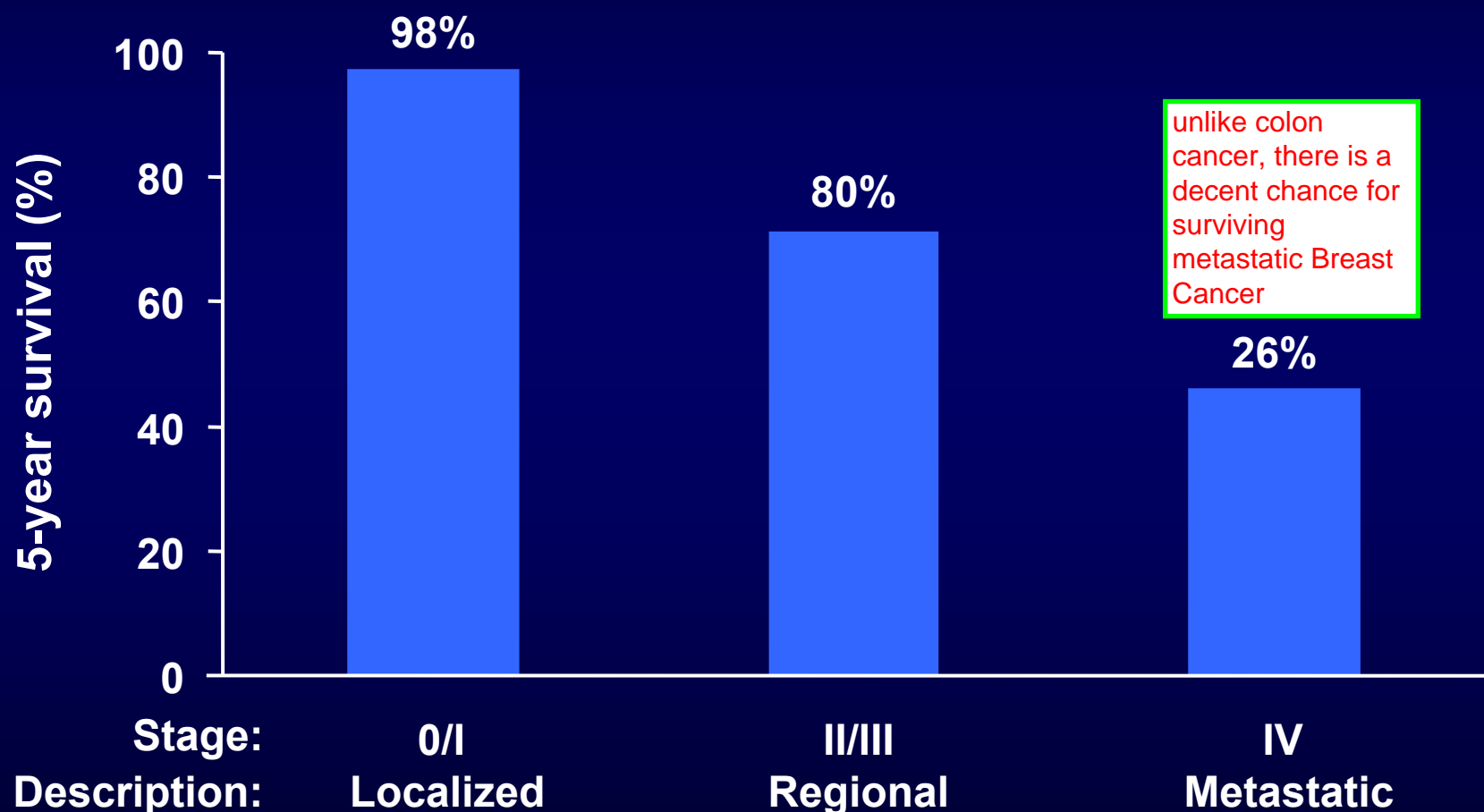
- 55 yo postal worker, postmenopausal, with no PMH has a lump on her left breast on self-examination, mammography reveals mass with suspicious calcifications

MUGA-nuclear medicine study that detects heart function (studies ejection fraction)

- Patient undergoes a lumpectomy and sentinel lymph node biopsy with pathology demonstrating a 1.2-cm, estrogen receptor-positive, progesterone receptor-positive, HER2-2+positive (by IHC) tumor. Surgical margins are negative, and 1 of 4 LN is positive for disease. Fluorescence in situ hybridization analysis confirms HER2-positive disease.
- A **MUGA** scan reveals normal ejection fraction, CT C/A/P reveals no metastatic disease
- What is her prognosis and what treatment should she receive, if any?

would want to consider heart function when thinking of using Herceptin or anthracyclines (doxorubicin) to gather a baseline before (toxic) treatment

# Breast Cancer: 5-Year Survival by Stage



# on Tumor Characteristics

## HER2-Positive MBC

- Anti-HER2 monoclonal antibody: **trastuzumab**

## ER/PgR-Positive MBC

- Aromatase inhibitors: **letrozole, anastrozole, exemestane** primarily post-menopausal
- Antiestrogens: **tamoxifen, toremifene** primarily pre-menopausal
- Progestin: megestrol acetate
- Fulvestrant estrogen-receptor antagonist used when disease progresses after prior hormonal therapy
- LHRH agonists e.g. goserelin

on

# Tumor Characteristics (cont'd)

## Other Types of MBC (ie, HER2-Negative, ER/PgR-Negative)

- Chemotherapy

aka "triple negative" BCa

- **Anthracyclines:** doxorubicin, pegylated doxorubicin, epirubicin cardiac toxicity
- **Taxanes:** docetaxel, *nab*-paclitaxel, albumin-paclitaxel
- **Antimetabolites:** 5-fluorouracil, capecitabine, gemcitabine
- Others: vinorelbine, cyclophosphamide, carboplatin
- Combination of chemotherapeutic agents

in general, for breast cancer, we use sequential single-agent therapy to balance toxicities when treating metastatic disease (not combo therapy as for other cancers)

more mechanisms (see if you remember the ones from before):





# Breast Cancer: Case Presentation


- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival **80%**, but if receives **adjuvant** chemotherapy **and targeted** therapy, increases to **>90%**
- Treatment includes chemotherapy (doxorubicin and cyclophosphamide) followed by docetaxel and trastuzumab (targeting Her-2)
  - need to **repeat MUGA** to follow **cardiac status** (Why?)
- Needs to receive **XRT** for **local** control
- Finally-needs to receive adjuvant hormonal therapy- choices are **tamoxifen** or an **aromatase inhibitor** (causes bone density loss-can minimize with oral bisphosphonate, calcium, Vit D and weight bearing exercise)

cardiac toxicity, especially from doxorubicin and trastuzumab

x-ray therapy

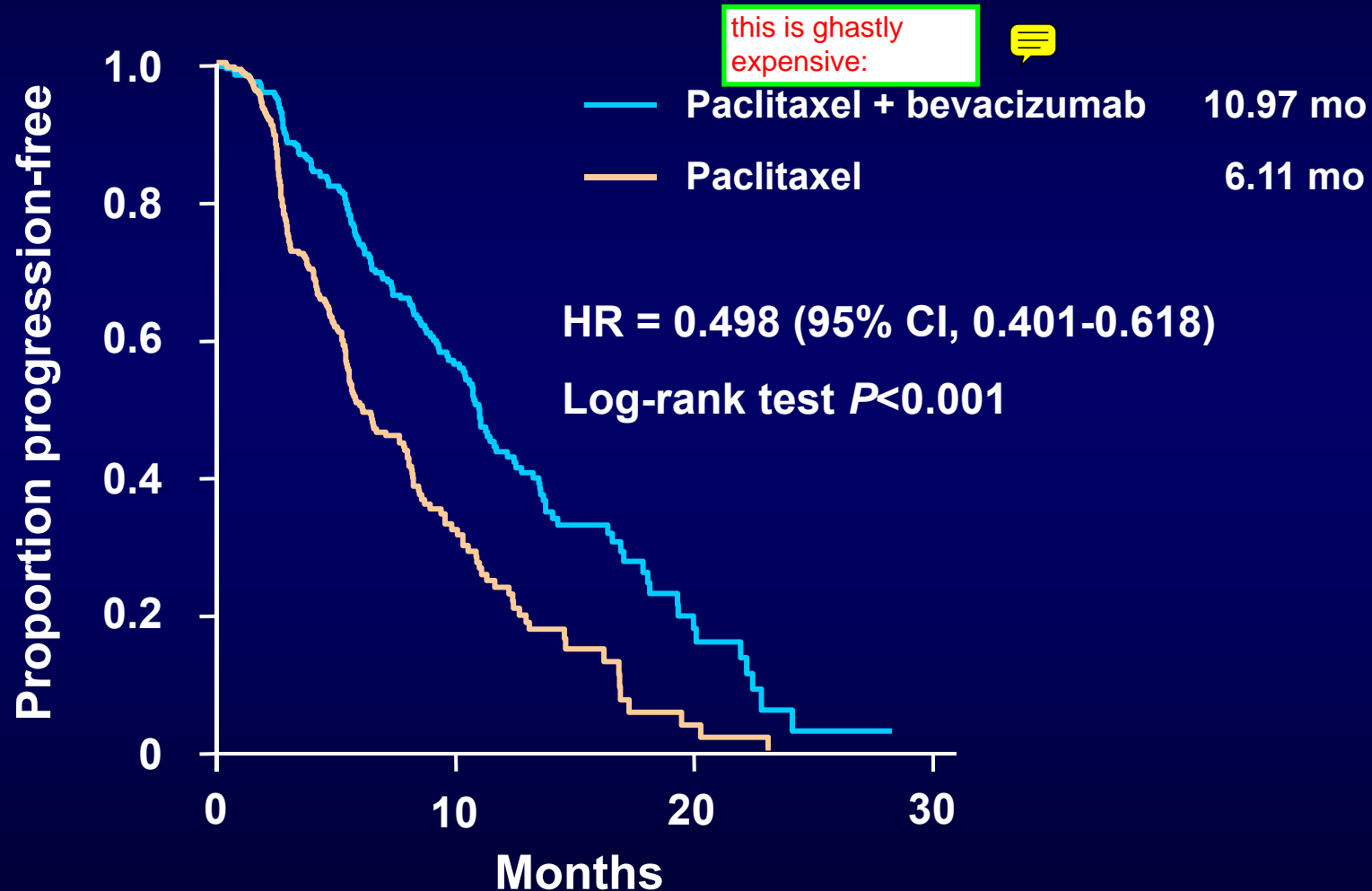
clots, loss of bone mineral density--problem for post-menopausal women to begin with

# Breast Cancer: Case Presentation

- 46 yo legal assistant, premenopausal, notes right breast mass, mammography reveals 7 X 8 cm mass with calcifications, bx reveals **ER-/PR-/Her2- tumor**. Pt gets **neoadj** chemo (ECF) followed by **mastectomy** and axillary node dissection (3/12 LN positive), chest wall **XRT** and **adjuvant** chemo docetaxel for 4 months.  

- **Then followed closely** for 4 years, presents with palpable **supraclavicular mass**-bx reveals triple negative breast cancer. Imaging reveals multiple lung nodules.
- What is her prognosis and what treatment should she receive?

bevacizumab adds marginal success

# Phase III Trial of Paclitaxel ± Bevacizumab as First-Line Therapy in MBC: Progression-Free Survival

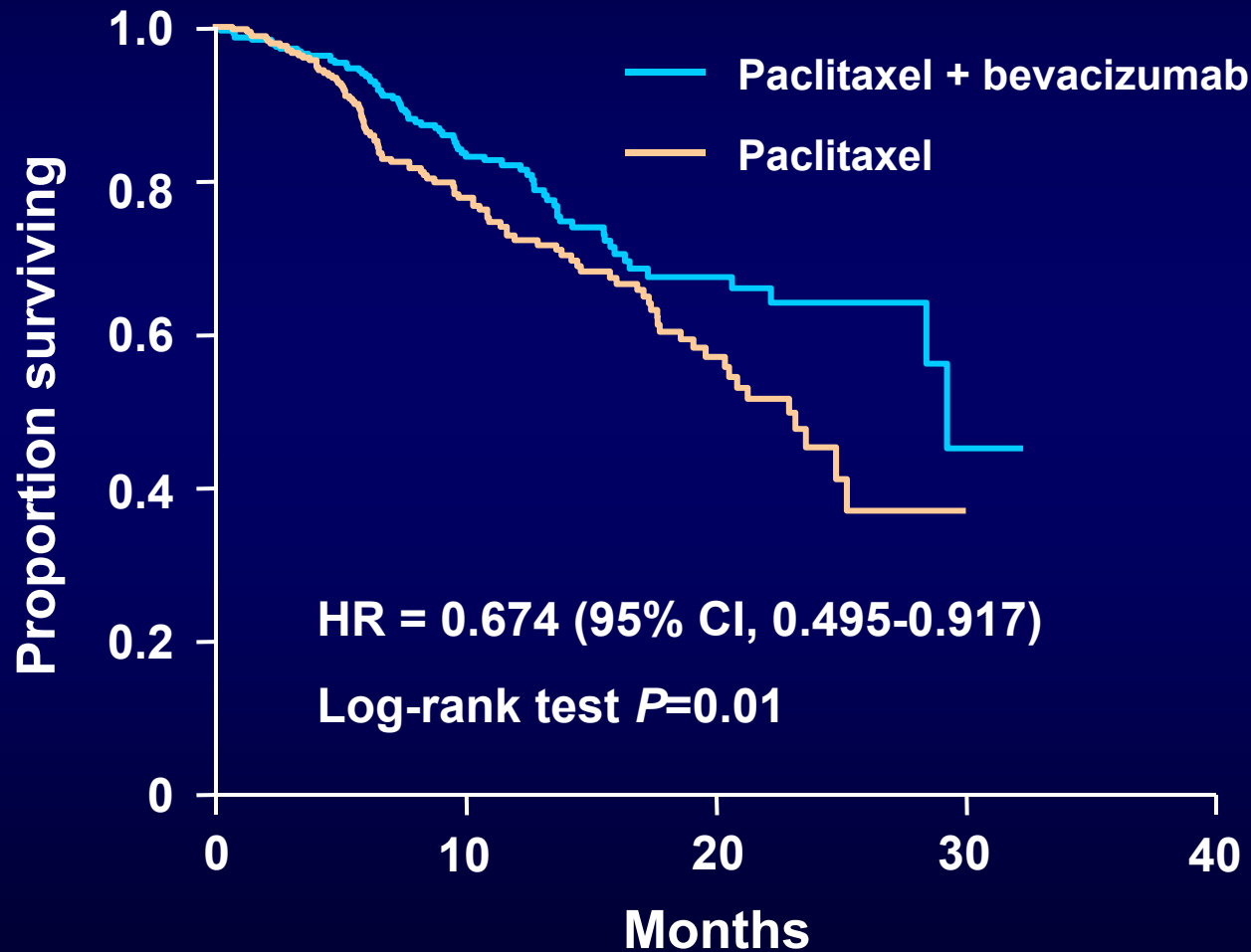


CI = confidence interval.

Miller et al. Presentation at ASCO, 2005.

bevacizumab adds marginal success


# Phase III Trial of Paclitaxel ± Bevacizumab as First-Line Therapy in MBC: Overall Survival



# Breast Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival 25%, but **palliative chemotherapy can increase mOS**
- Treatment options includes chemotherapy (taxane) plus bevacizumab, capecitabine, cisplatin and navelbine  
which is vinorelbine
- Goal is for **palliation** and **symptomatic** control
- What if patient was ER+ and Her2+?

# Breast Cancer: Case Presentation

- What if patient was **ER+** and **Her2+?**
- In this case **hormonal therapy** would have been a good first choice (**aromatase inhibitor**) name the aromatase inhibitors: 
- Then when refractory to hormonal therapy, can go on to target Her2 with **trastuzumab** and **combine** this chemo (**paclitaxel**).
- Other options down the line include **capecitabine** and **lapatinib** (targets Her2 and Her1)

# Impact of Treatment on Metastatic Breast Cancer

- Median Survival
  - BSC 12.0 months
  - Single agent chemo 18.0 months
  - Doublet chemo 22.0 months
  - Doublet chemo+targeted (trastuzumab) 30.0 months

# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- 56 yo tollbooth worker presents with urinary hesitancy, urology w/u reveals increased PVR, DRE reveals left sided prostate nodule, PSA= 8 ng/mL, bx reveals Gleason Grade 8 prostate CA in 4/6 cores
- Initial work-up includes MRI which reveals **large lesion in left prostate** and possible extracapsular invasion.
- What is his prognosis and what treatment should he receive?

Gleason grading scheme goes to a max of 10



# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival **100%**

local treatments for CURE

- Treatment options includes **radiation** (either external beam or brachytherapy) or **surgery** (radical prostatectomy)

internal localized radiation source

- Goal is **cure**

- As there is a question of extracapsular invasion, he has a large prostate, and urinary sx's-recommendation would be for surgery.

- Should he receive any adjuvant therapy?

# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- Should he receive any adjuvant therapy? no known role for adjuvant therapy
  - No, there is no evidence that this improves outcome or survival.
  - Clinical trial would be appropriate
- After close follow-up for 3 years, patient's **PSA begins to rise,** from <0.1 to 1.2 to 3.1 ng/ml over 3 months cancer recurrence
- Bone scan and CT A/P, and transrectal bx of prostatic fossa all negative for malignancy. Patient asymptomatic. but all the scans are negative?
- What treatment should he receive now?

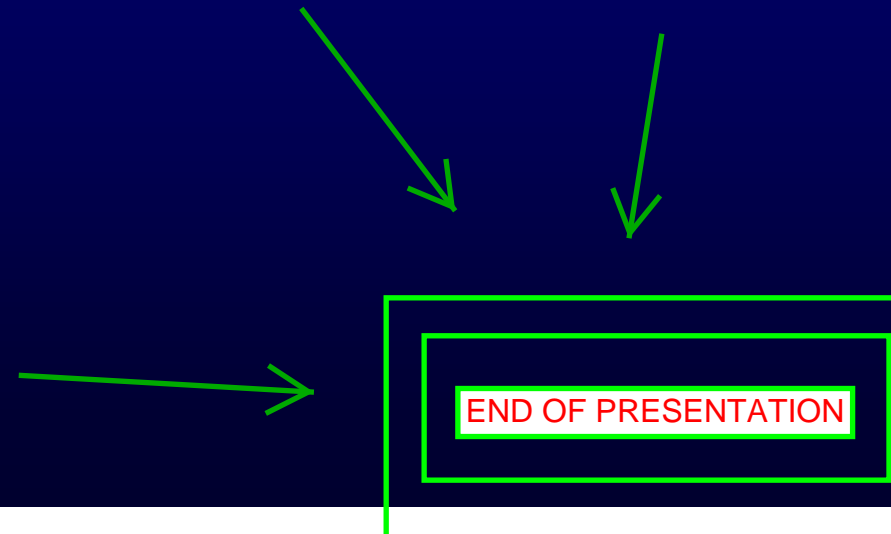
treat prostate cancer recurrence with hormonal therapy, like leuprolide

# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- What treatment should he receive now?
  - **Hormonal therapy** (GnRH agonist)-drops PSA to undetectable

e.g. leuprolide

fairly easy to tolerate



# Prostate Cancer Case Presentation

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- 79 yo with 5 yr ho metastatic prostate cancer being treated with anti-androgen and GnRH agonist presents with increasing lower back pain.
- X-rays reveal sclerotic lesions in thoracic and lumbar spine, bone scan reveals spine disease and disease in right sacrum.
- What is his prognosis and what treatment should he receive?

# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- Prognosis- chance of 5 year survival 30%
- Treatment-should first get MRI to r/o cord compression, this is ruled out (if not needs XRT to the area)
- Treatment options include discontinuing antiandrogen (can often cause a response) and placing on the bisphosphonate zoledronic acid to reduce skeletal complications
- Goal is palliation
- Patient responds for 3 months with decreased pain, but then re-develops pain-CT reveals pelvic LAN, bone scan-new lesions
- What should we do now?

# Prostate Cancer: Case Presentation

- What should we do now?
  - Chemotherapy with docetaxel and prednisone or extramustine
    - Improves survival for HRPC
  - Other choices down the line include retreatment with docetaxel and prednisone or extramustine or mitoxantrone and prednisone

# Summary

- Cancer treatment becoming more complicated, less toxic, more effective
- While surgery, radiation and chemotherapy remain the backbone, targeted agents are increasingly carving their niche
- Better preclinical models are needed to understand how these treatment options can be combined
- New paradigms are needed to demonstrate the activity of these agents (old measures don't work for targeted agents)
- Patient selection may be critical to identifying appropriate patients for these agents
  - Matching patients with the appropriate agents for their tumor type is the future