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# Ergebnisse der Translationalen Forschung der GBG - Review of the year

**Prof. Dr. Volkmar Müller**  
**Klinik für Gynäkologie, Brustzentrum am UKE**  
**Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf**

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## Risk assessment after neoadjuvant chemotherapy in luminal breast cancer – a prospectively planned validation of gene expression based and clinical prognostic scores in 428 residual tumor samples from two neoadjuvant clinical trials

Abstract  
522

Carsten Denkert<sup>1</sup>, Karsten Weber<sup>2</sup>, Kristin Krappmann<sup>3</sup>, Jens Huober<sup>4</sup>, Frederik Marmé<sup>5</sup>, Christian Schem<sup>6</sup>, Knut Engels<sup>7</sup>, Berit Maria Pfltzner<sup>8</sup>, Sherko Kümmel<sup>9</sup>, Jenny Furlanetto<sup>2</sup>, Arndt Hartmann<sup>10</sup>, Silvia Darb-Esfahani<sup>8</sup>, Volkmar Müller<sup>11</sup>, Annette Staebler<sup>12</sup>, Keyur Mehta<sup>2</sup>, Gunter von Minckwitz<sup>2</sup>, Ralf Kronenwett<sup>3</sup>, Sibylle Loibl<sup>2</sup>

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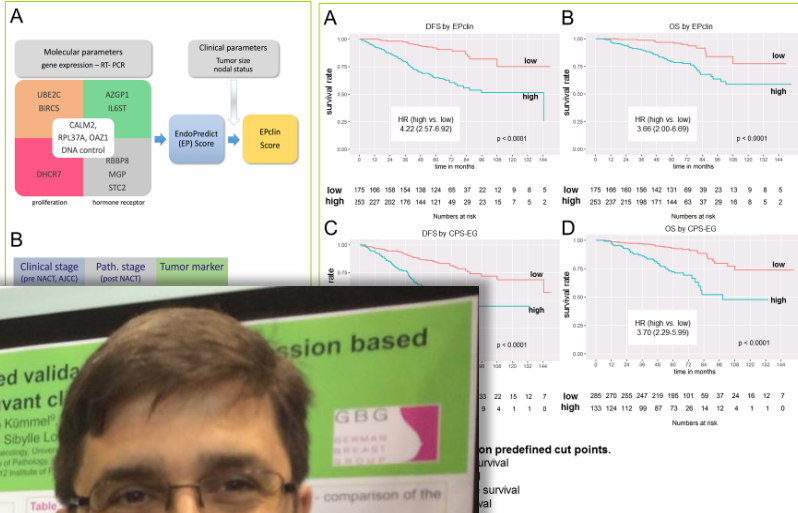


### Background

Gene expression assays are well-established prognostic tools for planning of adjuvant therapy in luminal breast cancer (BC). In the neoadjuvant setting, pCR is not an optimal prognostic factor in luminal BC, and additional parameters are needed.

#### Aims of the study:

- 1) Evaluation of the gene expression test EndoPredict (EP and EPclin) performed on residual tumor specimen after NACT for predicting prognosis in patients (pts) with ER+/HER2- BC who did not achieve a pCR and
- 2) Comparison of its prognostic power with the CPS-EG score



**Table 1:** Univariate and multivariate Cox regression - comparison of the continuous EP, EPclin and CPS-EG scores

Parameter	DFS		OS	
	HR (95% CI)	p-value	HR (95% CI)	p-value
<b>Univariate Cox regression</b>				
EP score	1.22 (1.16-1.29)	<0.0001	1.24 (1.16-1.33)	<0.0001
EPclin	2.16 (1.86-2.51)	<0.0001	2.28 (1.90-2.75)	<0.0001
CPS-EG	1.70 (1.43-2.02)	<0.0001	1.81 (1.47-2.24)	<0.0001
<b>EP score and CPS-EG score - combined bivariate Cox regression</b>				
EP score	1.20 (1.13-1.27)	<0.0001	1.22 (1.14-1.31)	<0.0001
CPS-EG	1.57 (1.32-1.86)	<0.0001	1.67 (1.35-2.06)	<0.0001
<b>EPclin and CPS-EG score - combined bivariate Cox regression</b>				
EPclin	2.09 (1.73-2.53)	<0.0001	2.16 (1.72-2.72)	<0.0001
CPS-EG	1.06 (0.85-1.31)	0.61	1.12 (0.86-1.46)	0.39

### Conclusions

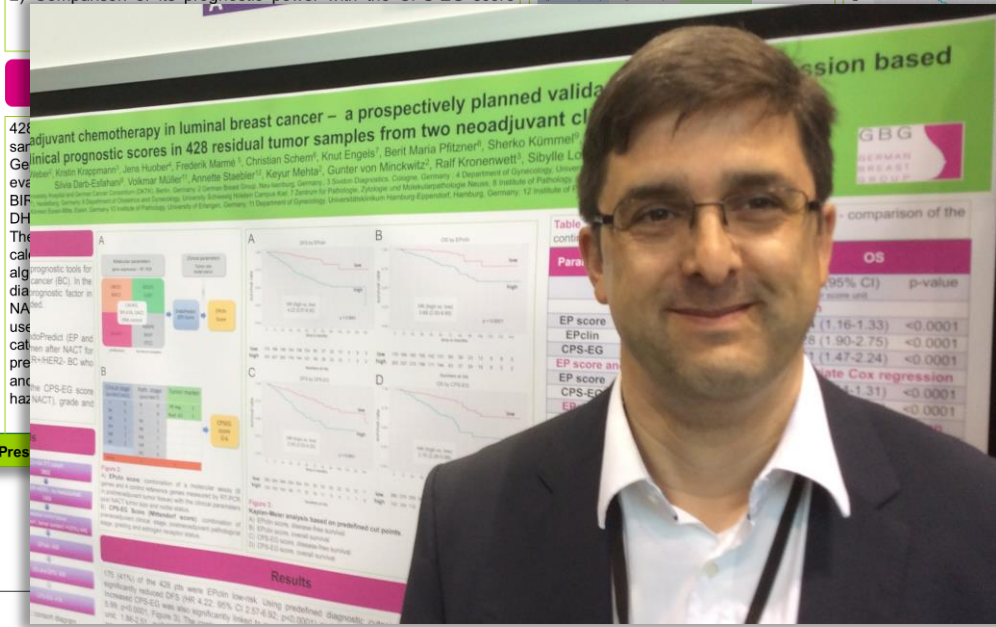
In this prospectively planned biomarker study we show that the information in the hybrid clinico-molecular EPclin score is also prognostic for DFS and OS after NACT. EPclin provides additional prognostic information to CPS-EG. This approach can be used to assess prognosis after NACT in the luminal non-pCR patient population, and select patients for post-NACT therapies, e.g. treatment with CDK4/6 inhibitors. An additional prospective validation is planned in the ongoing Penelope B trial.

### References

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This study has been funded by the Translational Oncology programme of the German Cancer Aid ("Deutsche Krebshilfe") within the Project TransLUMINAL-B.

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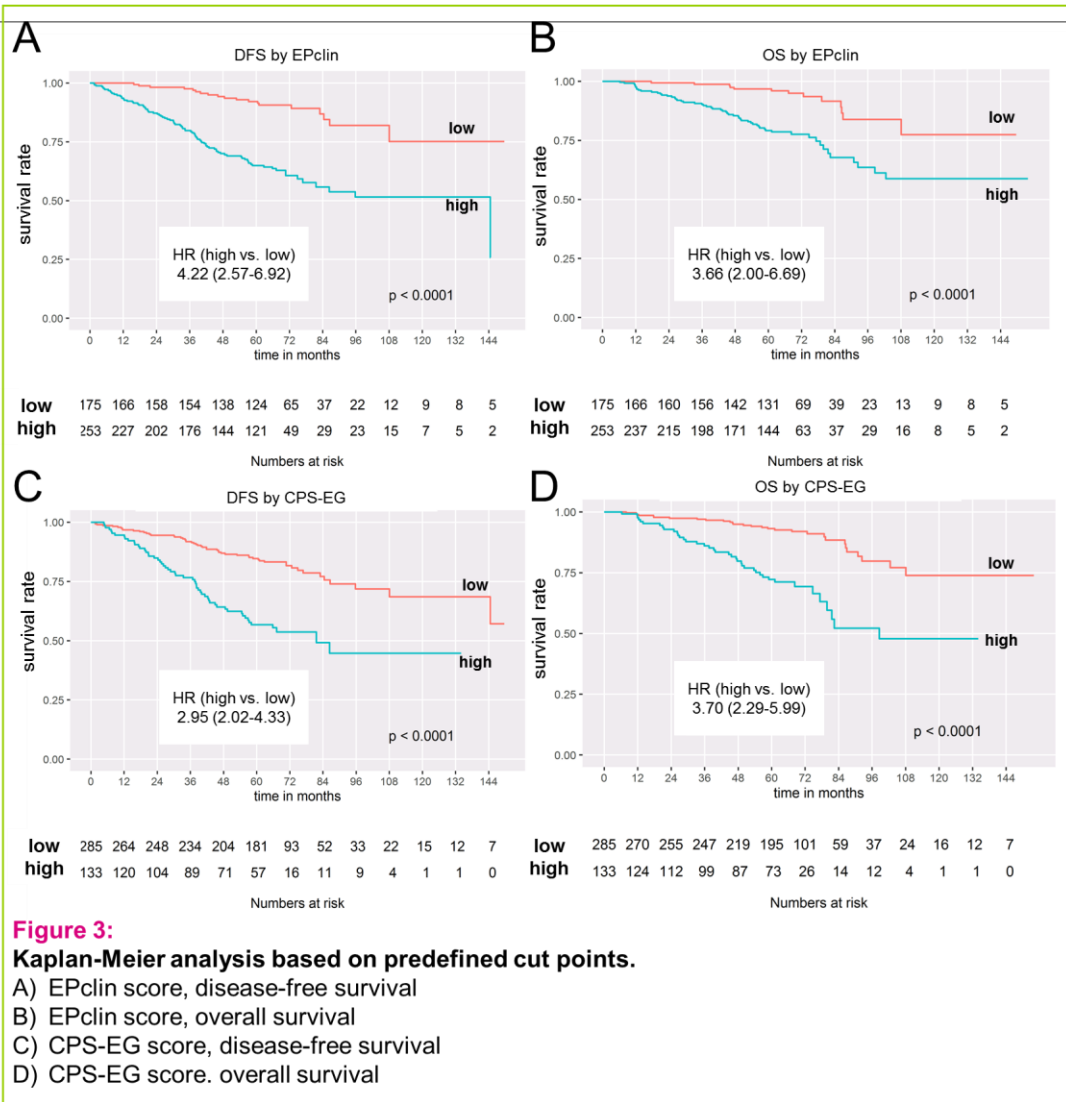


# Kann ein Genexpressionstest zusätzliche Informationen nach neoadjuvanter Chemotherapie bei Hormonrezeptor-positiven Patientinnen liefern?

## Aims of the study:

- 1) Evaluation of the gene expression test EndoPredict (EP and EPclin) performed on residual tumor specimen after NACT for predicting prognosis in patients (pts) with ER+/HER2- BC who did not achieve a pCR.
- 2) Comparison of its prognostic power with the CPS-EG score that combines tumor stage (pre- and post NACT), grade and ER status.

**Vergleich Endopredict am OP-Präparat mit dem CPS-EG Score**



**Figure 3:**  
**Kaplan-Meier analysis based on predefined cut points.**  
 A) EPclin score, disease-free survival  
 B) EPclin score, overall survival  
 C) CPS-EG score, disease-free survival  
 D) CPS-EG score, overall survival



- In this prospectively planned biomarker study we show that the information in the hybrid clinico-molecular EPclin score is also prognostic for DFS and OS after NACT.
- EPclin provides additional prognostic information to CPS-EG.
- This approach can be used to assess prognosis after NACT in the luminal non-pCR patient population, and select patients for post-NACT therapies, e.g. treatment with CDK4/6 inhibitors.

**Endopredict am OP-Präparat liefert zusätzliche Informationen zu CPS-EG Score -> wichtig für postneoadjuvante Studien**

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# Dezember: Auf nach San Antonio



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## Comparison of the mutational landscape of breast cancer during pregnancy and non-pregnant controls

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### Background

Breast cancer during pregnancy (BCP) is a rare coexistence and is associated with contradicting results about its biology and prognosis<sup>1,2</sup>. Little is known about the impact of pregnancy on breast cancer biology at the genomic level. Based mainly on classical immunohistochemistry and mutational analysis in one small dataset<sup>3,4</sup> it is believed that BCP during pregnancy is biologically not different from breast cancer diagnosed outside pregnancy.

The aim of the study is to compare the pattern of somatic mutations between pregnant and non-pregnant patients with breast cancer using a dataset of pregnant patients enrolled in BCP study and non-pregnant controls obtained from TCGA database.

### Materials and Methods

The BCP study (GBG 29; BIG 03-02) is a multicenter observational study for breast cancer during pregnancy. Formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) core biopsies taken before therapy were retrospectively analysed for somatic mutations using an Ion Torrent Proton/PGM sequencing platform (Figure 1). The samples were assayed on a custom designed Breast Cancer Panel (BCPv2)<sup>5</sup> that comprises 236 amplicons split into two primer pools and covers hotspot regions of 138 exons of 25 genes (Table 1). Raw data analyses were performed using the Ion Torrent Suite Software (version 4.4). Only non-synonymous mutations that have not been reported as being of germline origin were processed further. All statistical tests were by default 2-sided, significance level was set to  $\alpha=0.05$ .

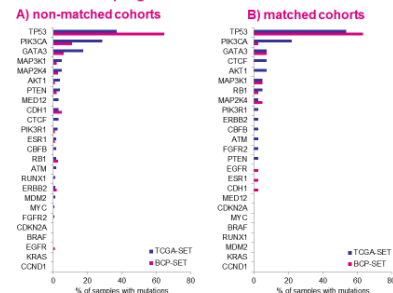
Table 2. Clinical characteristics in BCP vs. non-pregnant controls

Parameter	Category	non-matched		matched	
		BCP-cohort	TCGA-cohort	BCP-cohort	TCGA-cohort
Age, years	median	34	40	37	38
	min-max	26-43	26-45	28-43	26-45
	Tumor size	T1-2 17 (17.2%)	23 (15.0%)	4 (9.8%)	7 (17.1%)
Nodal status	negative	48 (49.5%)	61 (39.6%)	23 (57.5%)	14 (34.1%)
	positive	49 (50.5%)	93 (60.4%)	17 (42.5%)	27 (65.9%)
Grading*	G1-2	30 (30.3%)	52 (49.5%)	12 (29.3%)	12 (29.3%)
	G3	69 (69.7%)	53 (50.5%)	29 (70.7%)	29 (70.7%)
	HR*	positive	43 (43.4%)	104 (72.2%)	21 (51.2%)
HER2*	negative	56 (56.6%)	40 (27.8%)	20 (48.8%)	20 (48.8%)
	positive	13 (13.1%)	24 (16.2%)	1 (2.4%)	1 (2.4%)
	negative	86 (86.9%)	124 (83.8%)	40 (97.6%)	40 (97.6%)

\*Numbers in matched BCP-set vs TCGA-set are identical by definition of the matching

### Results

Figure 2. Mutation patterns overall in BCP vs. non-pregnant controls



- Comparison of the mutational patterns between BCP and non-pregnant controls (TCGA cohort) before any matching showed overall 102 mutations (average 1.03 mutations per samples) in BCP dataset vs. 195 (average 1.27 mutations per sample) in the TCGA. The most frequent somatic mutations for both cohorts were detected in *TP53* (65% vs. 37%), *PIK3CA* (11% vs. 29%) and *GATA3* (6% vs. 18%; Figure 2).
- Exact matching (1:1) in BCP and TCGA cohorts was performed based on age (26-30 vs. 31-35 vs. 36-40 vs. 41-45), HR (positive vs. negative), HER2 (positive vs. negative) and grading (G1/2 vs. G3) and yielded 41 patients from both datasets (Table 2).
- In the matched cohorts BCP patients had significantly less frequently N+ tumors as compared to non-pregnant controls ( $p=0.046$ ) with no significant difference for *TP53* ( $p=0.502$ ) and *GATA3* ( $p=1.000$ ) mutational status whereas *PIK3CA* mutations were detected in only 2.4% of the pregnant patients vs. 22.0% of the non-pregnant controls ( $p=0.015$ ; Figure 2). Within HR subgroups, overall *TP53* was the most frequently mutated gene with higher mutational rate in HR-negative subgroup (52.4% vs. 75.0% for BCP; 23.8% vs. 85.0% for TCGA control; Figure 3).

### Conclusions

Overall the mutational landscape does not seem to be different between pregnant patients and non-pregnant controls. The imbalances in *PIK3CA* mutational rate after matching might be explained by a remaining bias caused by differences in sensitivity or specificity of methods used to detect mutations or differences in variables not used for matching. Further comparisons using other datasets, looking into gene expression patterns are currently conducted.

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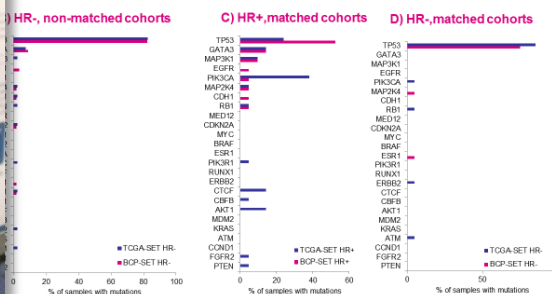
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**Table 1.** Genes: GATA3, PTEN, FGFR2, CCND1, ATM, KRAS, MDM2, RB1, AKT1, CBR3, CTCF, CDH1, TP53, MAP2K4, ERBB2, RUNX1, PIK3CA, MAP3K1, PIK3R1, EGFR, BRAF, CDKN2A, MED12, 25 Genes

**Materials and Methods**

The BCP study (GBG 29; BIG 03-02) is a multicenter observational study for breast cancer during pregnancy. Formalin-fixed paraffin embedded (FFPE) core biopsies taken before therapy were retrospectively analysed for somatic mutations using an Ion Torrent Proton/PGM sequencing platform (Figure 1). The samples were assayed on a custom designed Breast Cancer Panel (BCPv2)<sup>5</sup> that comprises 236 amplicons split into two primer pools and covers hotspot regions of 138 exons of 25 genes (Table 1). Raw data analyses were performed using the Ion Torrent Suite Software (version 4.4). Only non-synonymous mutations that have not been reported as being of germline origin were processed further. All statistical tests were by default 2-sided, significance level was set to  $\alpha=0.05$ .

### HR status in BCP vs. non-pregnant controls



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- **The aim of the study is to compare the pattern of somatic mutations between pregnant and non-pregnant patients with breast cancer using a dataset of pregnant patients enrolled in BCP study and non-pregnant controls obtained from TCGA database**

**Gibt es genetische Unterschiede im Tumor zwischen Mammakarzinomen innerhalb und außerhalb der Schwangerschaft?**



- **Conclusion: Overall the mutational landscape does not seem to be different between pregnant patients and no-pregnant controls**

**Nein!**



# Neoadjuvante Therapie



# HRD-Defizit als prädiktiver Faktor für das Ansprechen aus Carboplatin?

## Homologous recombination deficiency (HRD) score as a measure to predict the effect of carboplatin on survival in the neoadjuvant phase II GeparSixto trial in triple-negative early breast cancer

Gunter von Minckwitz<sup>1</sup>, Kirsten Timms<sup>2</sup>, Michael Untch<sup>3</sup>, Eric Hahnen<sup>4</sup>, Peter A. Fasching<sup>5</sup>, Andreas Schneeweiss<sup>6</sup>, Christoph T. Salat<sup>7</sup>, Mahdi Rezaei<sup>8</sup>, Jens U. Blohmer<sup>9</sup>, Dirk M. Zahm<sup>10</sup>, Christian Jackisch<sup>11</sup>, Bernd Gerber<sup>12</sup>, Peter Klare<sup>13</sup>, Sherko Kümmel<sup>14</sup>, Stefan Paepke<sup>15</sup>, Rita Schmutzler<sup>4</sup>, Suzanna Chau<sup>1</sup>, Julia Reid<sup>2</sup>, Valentina Nekljudova<sup>1</sup>, Karsten E. Weber<sup>1</sup>, Sibylle Loibl<sup>1,16</sup> for the GBG/AGO-B study groups

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### Background & Aim

Homologous recombination-deficient (HRD) tumors have lost the ability to repair double-stranded DNA breaks, resulting in increased susceptibility to DNA-damaging drugs such as platinum agents. Genomic instability and a high frequency of *gBRCA1* and *gBRCA2* mutations are commonly associated with triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC)<sup>1</sup>. Addition of carboplatin to anthracycline/taxane-based neoadjuvant chemotherapy has been shown to increase pathological complete response (pCR; ypT0 ypN0) rates in patients with TNBC in two large phase II studies (GeparSixto<sup>2</sup> and CALGB 40603<sup>3</sup>). Patients with HRD tumors and those with a *gBRCA*, had in general a higher pCR rate with and without carboplatin<sup>1</sup>. Patients with pCR had in general a better prognosis, irrespective of the *gBRCA* status.

To determine whether HRD can predict the effect of carboplatin on survival in TNBC subgroup from GeparSixto trial, we

### Results

Figure 1. Study design for the TNBC subgroup

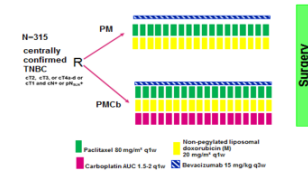
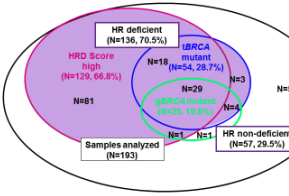


Figure 3. EFS by HR-deficiency & according to treatment

A) by HRD status B) by HRD in PM arm



Figure 2. Overlap of HRD & BRCA mutations



C) by HRD in PMCb arm

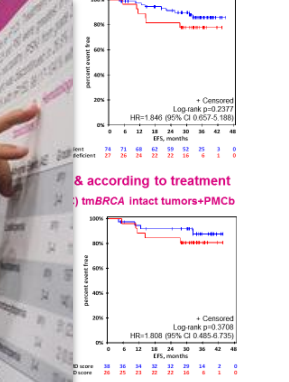
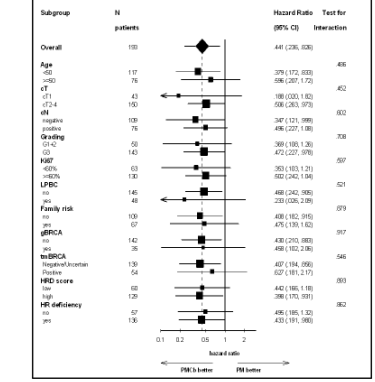


Table 1. Multivariate model for EFS

Predictor	Value	HR	95% CI	p-value
HRD	yes vs. no	0.632	0.333-1.201	0.1662
Arm	PMCb vs. PM	0.478	0.253-0.905	0.0202
age	≥ 50 vs. <50	0.576	0.282-1.139	0.1052
cT	cT2-4 vs. cT1	2.507	0.880-7.144	0.0538
cN	N+ vs. N0	2.483	1.301-4.740	0.0048
Grading	G3 vs. G1-2	1.088	0.535-2.214	0.8151
Ki67	≥ 60% vs. <60%	1.208	0.578-2.523	0.6116
LPBC	yes vs. no	0.376	0.146-0.967	0.0231

Figure 5. Univariate model for EFS overall & in subgroups



- After median follow-up of 34.3 months for EFS, 43 events have been reported.
- Overall, patients with HR-deficient tumors showed a better EFS than HR-non-deficient ones (p=0.0526, Figure 3).
- Patients with HRD high score and *BRCA* intact tumors had better but not statistically significant EFS rates as compared to HR-non-deficient patients (p=0.2223, Figure 4).
- HR-deficiency did not predict the effect of carboplatin on EFS (Figure 5).
- The multivariate analysis revealed that the therapy (p=0.0202), clinical nodal status before treatment (p=0.0048), and lymphocyte predominant breast cancer (LPBC; p=0.0231) but not HRD (p=0.1662) were independent significant prognostic factors for EFS (Table 1).

### Conclusions

Within the GeparSixto study the HR-deficiency (either HRD score high or *BRCA* mutation) was in general associated with a higher pCR rate and an improved EFS. The effect on EFS of adding carboplatin could not be predicted by the HRD score in this underpowered study. However, the results can help to understand the role of HR-deficiency and the value of the HRD score in TNBC especially in patients without *BRCA* mutation. Nodal status and LPBC remained the strongest prognostic factors along with Carboplatin therapy.

### References

1. von Minckwitz G, Hahnen E, Fasching PA, et al. Pathological complete response (pCR) rates after carboplatin-containing neoadjuvant chemotherapy in patients with germline BRCA (*gBRCA*) mutation and triple-negative breast cancer (TNBC): Results from GeparSixto (ASCO 2014).
2. von Minckwitz G, Schneeweiss A, Loibl S, et al. Neoadjuvant carboplatin in patients with triple-negative and HER2-positive early breast cancer (GeparSixto; GBG 66): a randomised phase 2 trial. *Lancet Oncol*. 2014;15(7):747-56.
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- To determine whether HRD can predict the effect of carboplatin on survival in TNBC subgroup from GeparSixto trial, we correlated the HRD status to the event free survival (EFS).

**Kann ein Defizit in der homologen DNA-Reparatur (HRD) ein besseres Ansprechen auf Carboplatin vorhersagen?**



## HRD in Geparsixto: Schlussfolgerung

- Within the GeparSixto study the HR-deficiency (either HRD score high or *BRCA* mutation) was in general associated with a higher pCR rate and an improved EFS.
- The effect on EFS of adding carboplatin could not be predicted by the HRD score in this underpowered study.
- However, the results can help to understand the role of HR-deficiency and the value of the HRD score in TNBC especially in patients without *BRCA* mutation.

**Defizit in der homologen DNA-Reparatur (hoher HRD-Score oder BRCA-Mutation) höhere pCR-Rate und besseres Rezidivfreies Überleben, aber bessere Wirksamkeit von Carbo lässt sich nicht vorhersagen**



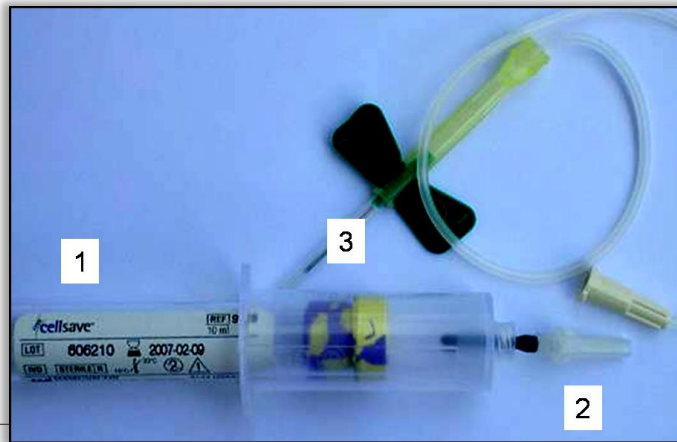
# Rolle zirkulierender Tumorzellen bei neoadjuvanter Therapie

## Projektvorschlag 2005

Monitoring of tumor cells in the blood of breast cancer patients treated with neoadjuvant chemotherapy:  
Examining a potential surrogate marker for clinical response to therapy



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Hamburg-Eppendorf





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Universitätsklinikum  
Hamburg-Eppendorf

Published OnlineFirst April 20, 2010; DOI: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-09-2042

*Imaging, Diagnosis, Prognosis*

**Clinical  
Cancer  
Research**

### **Detection and HER2 Expression of Circulating Tumor Cells: Prospective Monitoring in Breast Cancer Patients Treated in the Neoadjuvant GeparQuattro Trial**

Sabine Riethdorf<sup>1</sup>, Volkmar Müller<sup>2</sup>, Liling Zhang<sup>1</sup>, Thomas Rau<sup>3</sup>, Sibylle Loibl<sup>4,5</sup>, Martina Komor<sup>4</sup>, Marc Roller<sup>4</sup>, Jens Huober<sup>6</sup>, Tanja Fehm<sup>6</sup>, Iris Schrader<sup>7</sup>, Jörn Hilfrich<sup>7</sup>, Frank Holms<sup>8</sup>, Hans Teichgraber<sup>8</sup>, Holger Eidtmann<sup>10</sup>, Michael Untch<sup>11</sup>, Gunter von Minckwitz<sup>4</sup>, and Klaus Pantel<sup>1</sup>

**Erste Publikation 2010**

# Rolle zirkulierender Tumorzellen bei neoadjuvanter Therapie

San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium – December 6-10, 2016



## International **ME**ta-analysis of circulating tumor cell detection in early breast cancer pts treated by **NEO**adjuvant chemotherapy (IMENEO study)

**FC Bidard\***, S Michiels, V Mueller, S Riethdorf, LJ Esserman, A Lucci, B N  
R Gisbert-Criado, S Sleijfer, M Toi, JA Garcia-Saenz, A Hartkopf, D Gener  
J Smerage, L Muinelo, J Stebbing, P Viens, M Magbanua, CS Hall, O Eng  
J Vidal-Martínez, W Onstenk, N Fujisawa, E Diaz-Rubio, FA Taran, MR C  
M Ignatiadis, C Proudhon, D Wolf, J Bowman Bauldry, E Borgen, R Naga  
J Kraan, M Maestro, SY Brucker, K Weber, F Reyat, D Amara, MG Karhad  
H Tokiniwa, A Llombart-Cussac, K d'Hollander, P Cottu, JW Park, S Loibl,

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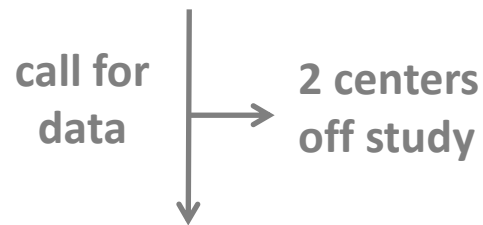


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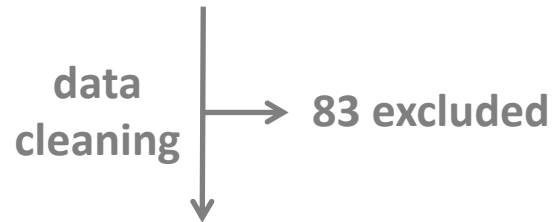
# Data collection

Letter of intent

**#2,000 potentially eligible pts  
from 18 centers**



**2,239 pts data received**



**2,156 individual patients**

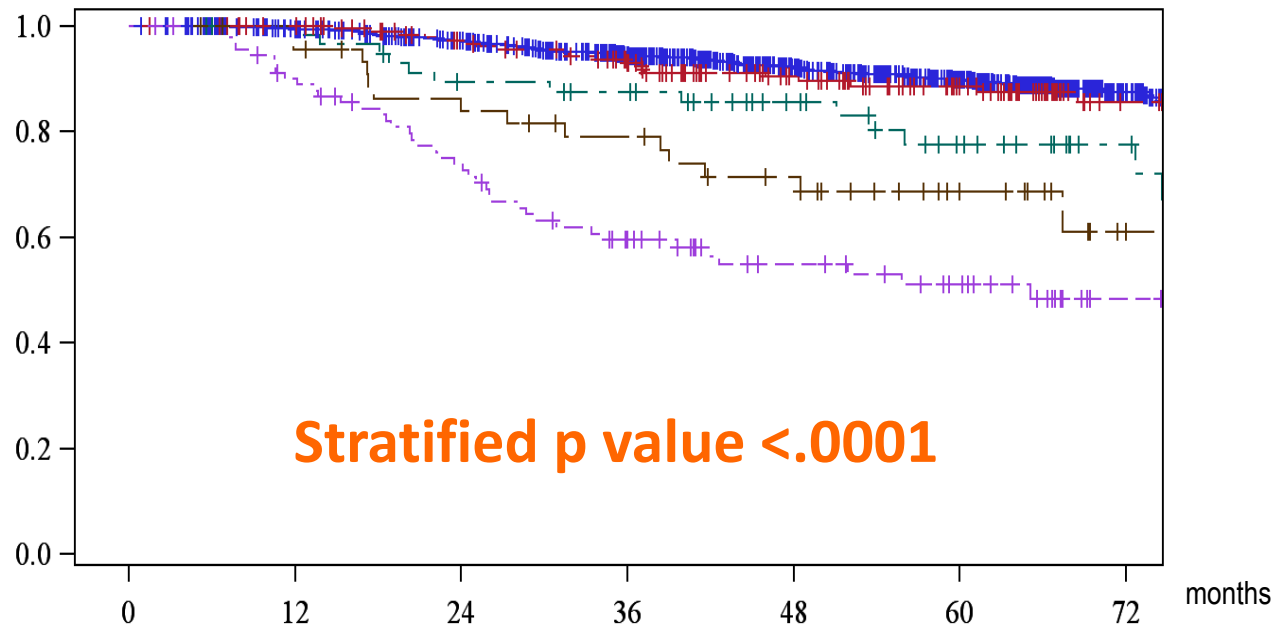
**21 studies**

**16 centers**



**746 Patientinnen aus GBG-Studien!**

# CTC before NCT & Overall Survival



**Kürzeres Gesamtüberleben bei Nachweis von Tumorzellen im Blut vor neoadjuvanter Chemotherapie**

	N pts	% events	Hazard Ratio
<b>0 CTC</b>	1175	9.8%	1
<b>1 CTC</b>	199	10.6%	1.09 [0.65-1.69]
<b>2 CTC</b>	59	23.7%	<b>2.63</b> [1.42-4.54]
<b>3-4 CTC</b>	47	29.8%	<b>3.84</b> [2.08-6.66]
<b>≥ 5 CTC</b>	93	46.2%	<b>6.25</b> [4.34-9.09]

# Overall clinical validity (single point; $\geq 2$ CTC)

## Multivariate analyses

Time point	OS		DDFS		LRFI	
	HR	p	HR	p	HR	p
CTC at baseline <i>(landmark analysis)</i>	<b>4.19</b> [2.97-5.88]	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	<b>3.79</b> [2.84-5.03]	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	<b>3.20</b> [1.93-5.19]	<b>&lt;.0001</b>
CTC [-5;0]w before surgery <i>(landmark analysis)</i>	<b>2.56</b> [1.45-4.23]	<b>.0020</b>	<b>2.69</b> [1.67-4.12]	<b>&lt;.0001</b>	<b>1.05</b> [0.32-2.55]	<b>.92</b>

**Nachweis von Tumorzellen im Blut vor neoadjuvanter Chemotherapie  
unabhängiger und zusätzlicher Prognosefaktor**

# Evaluation of tumor-infiltrating lymphocytes (TILs) as predictive and prognostic biomarker in different subtypes of breast cancer treated with neoadjuvant therapy - a metaanalysis of 3771 patients

Carsten Denkert, Gunter von Minckwitz, Silvia Darb-Esfahani, Barbara Ingold-Heppner, Frederick Klauschen, Jenny Furlanetto, Berit Pfitzner, Jens Huober, Wolfgang Schmitt, Jens-Uwe Blohmer, Sherko Kümmel, Knut Engels, Bianca Lederer, Andreas Schneeweiss, Arndt Hartmann, Christian Jackisch, Michael Untch, Claus Hanusch, Karsten Weber, Sibylle Loibl







- Auch im letzten Jahr starke Präsenz translationaler Forschung der GBG auf internationalen Kongressen

## Verdienst vieler Beteiligten:

- Ärzte
- Pflege
- Studienteams
- Patientinnen

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HERZLICHEN  
DANK!

GBG Subboard Translationale Forschung

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