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The clinician's perspective

Gabe Sonke
Medical Oncologist
g.sonke@nki.nl

CDDF / EORTC Multi-stakeholder workshop – 5 October 2026

Disclosures

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Member of the Dutch Medicines Evaluation Board

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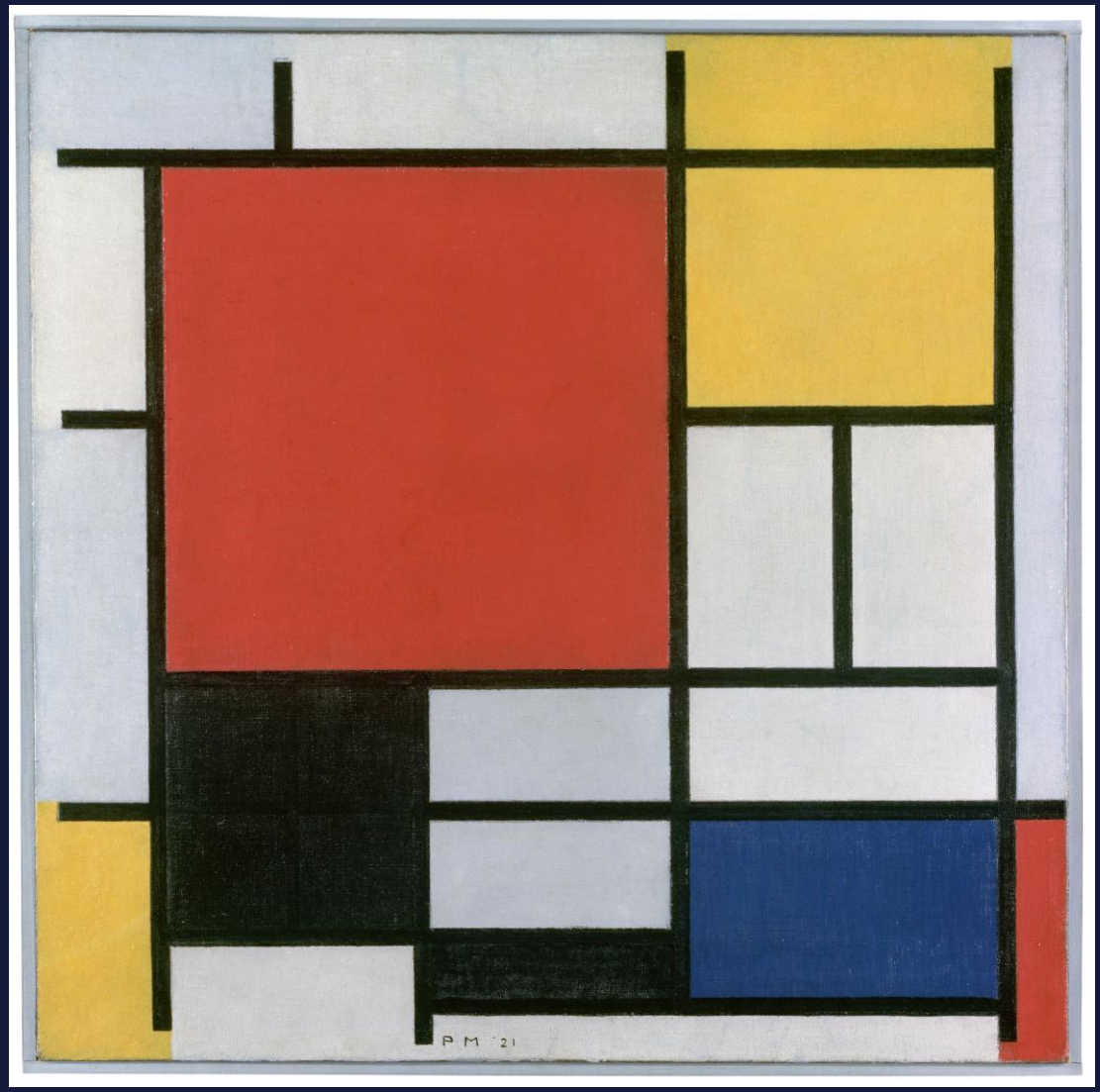

Piet Mondriaan - Composition with Large Red Plane, Yellow, Black, Grey and Blue (1921)

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The questions patients ask

Will this treatment help me live longer?

Will this treatment make me live better?

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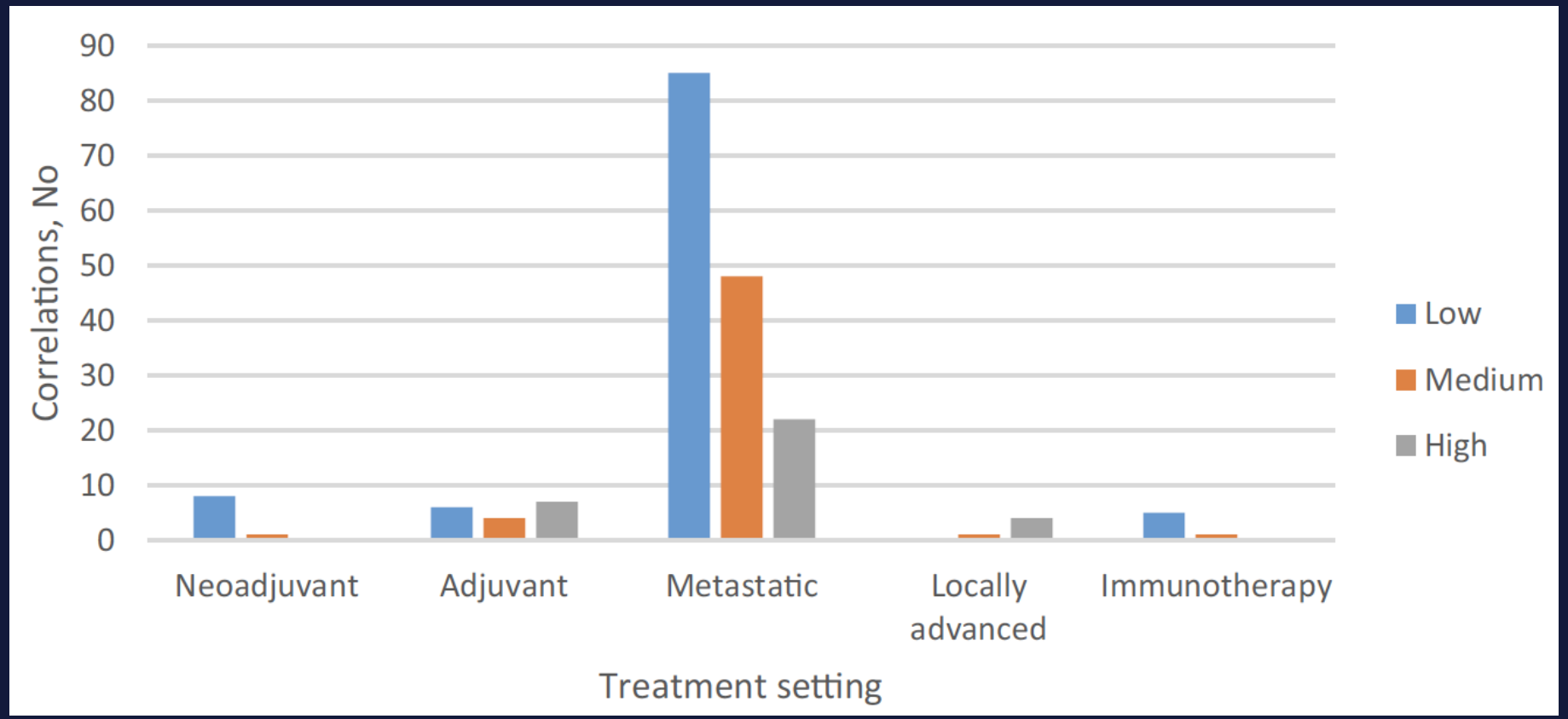
Surrogates accelerate access, not certainty

correlation between surrogate endpoints and overall survival



Meta-analysis of 78 studies

Salam et al. Eur J Cancer 2019
Chen et al. JAMA Int Med 2019

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*Patients want **timely access** to new cancer therapies, but they expect investigators to identify **therapies that offer real benefits***

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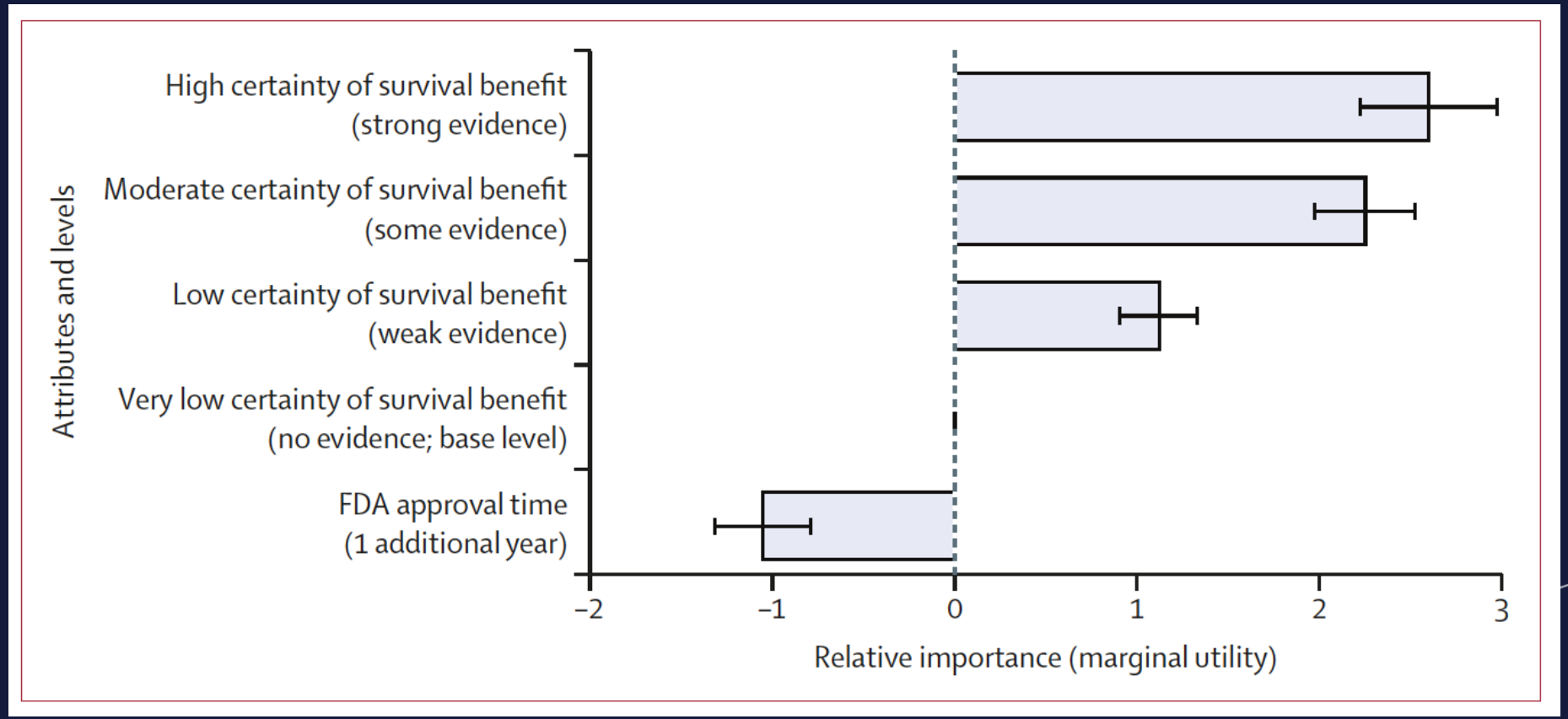
Preferences for speed of access versus certainty of the survival benefit of new cancer drugs: a discrete choice experiment

Robin Forrest, Mylene Lagarde, Ajay Aggarwal, Huseyin Naci

Lancet Oncol 2024

Published Online
November 18, 2024
https://doi.org/10.1016/
S1470-2045(24)00596-5

See Online/Comment
https://doi.org/10.1016/
S1470-2045(24)00654-5



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The questions patients (should) ask

Will this treatment help me live longer?

Will this treatment make me live better?

What is the optimal duration and sequence of treatments to help me live longer and better?

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AHARA

as high as reasonably achievable

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ALARA

as low as reasonably achievable

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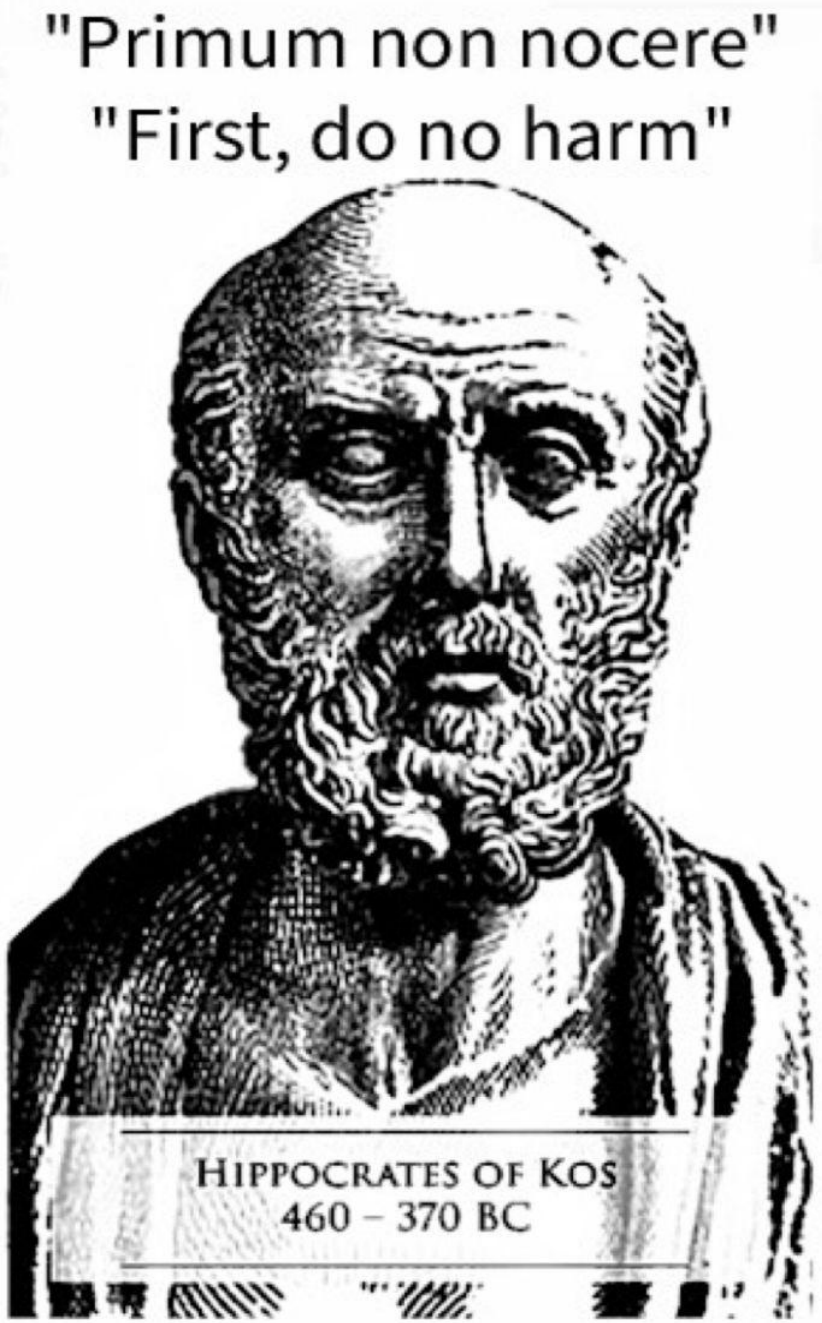
The delivery of good medical care is

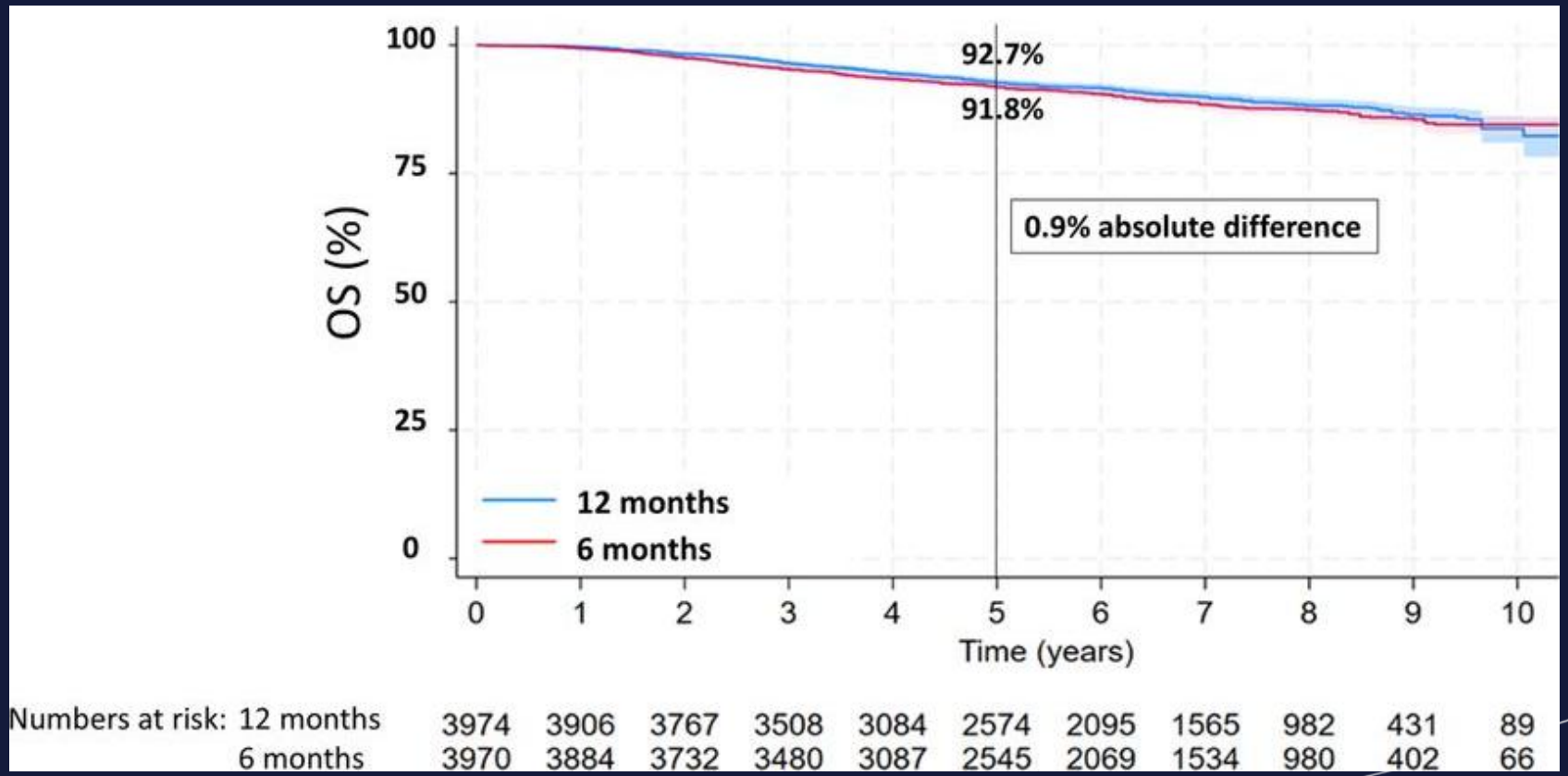
<u>to do as much nothing as possible</u>

Samuel Shem - The House of God (1978)



6 versus 12 months adjuvant trastuzumab

Individual Patient Data Meta Analysis



Earl et al. BMJ Oncol 2025

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nature cancer

Analysis

https://doi.org/10.1038/s43018-023-00667-z

Additivity predicts the efficacy of most approved combination therapies for advanced cancer

Received: 12 April 2023

Accepted: 11 October 2023

Published online: 16 November 2023

Haeun Hwangbo[1,2], Sarah C. Patterson[1], Andy Dai[3], Deborah Plana[4] & Adam C. Palmer[1]

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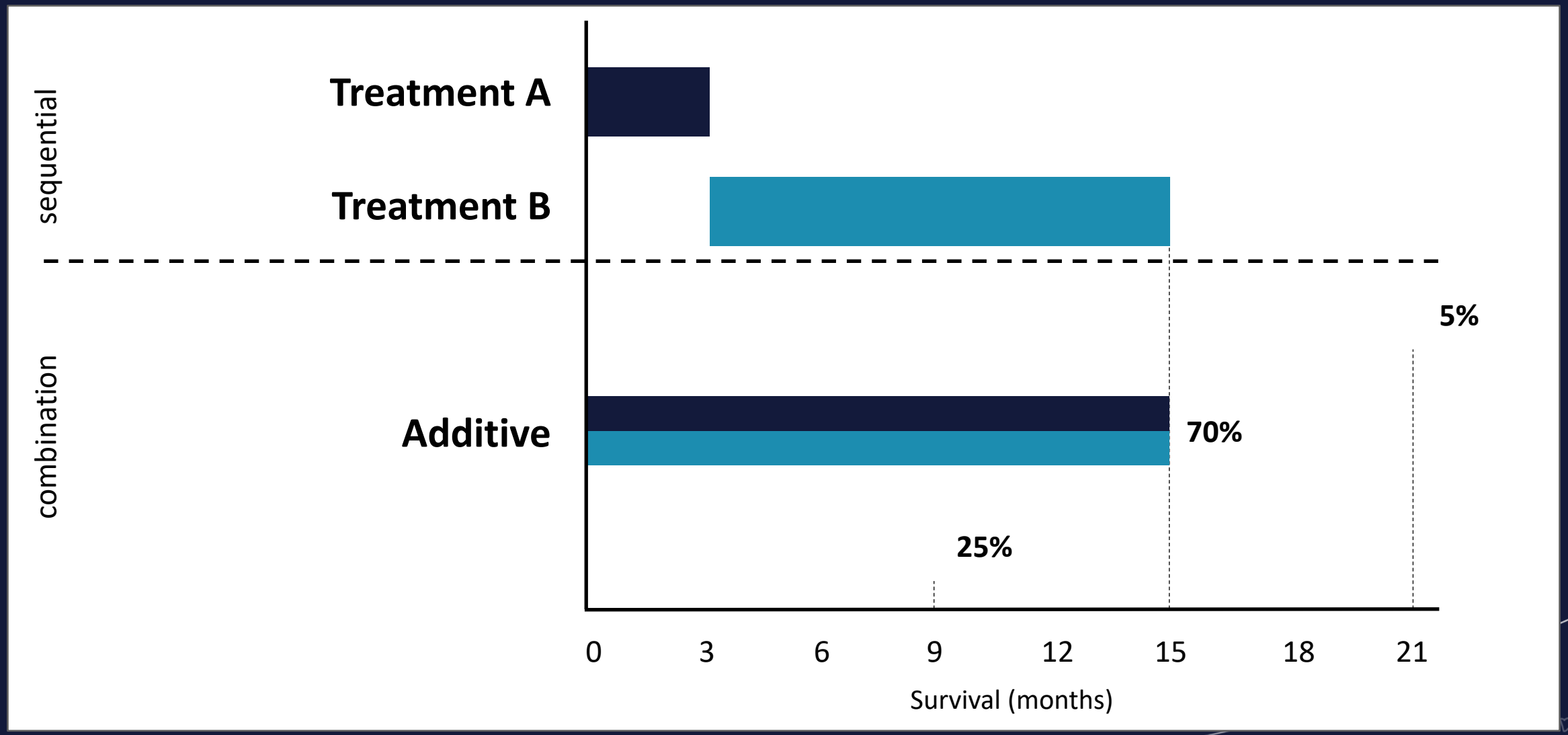

Hwangbo et al. Nat Cancer 2023; 4: 1693

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Early vs deferred use of CDK4/6 inhibition in advanced breast cancer (SONIA)

- **Does not improve progression-free survival**
- **Does not improve overall survival**
- **Does not improve quality of life**

- **Extends time on CDK4/6i by 16.5 months**
- **Increases incidence of grade ≥3 toxicity by 74%**
- **Increases drug cost per patient by ± €27,000 → €80 million / yr**

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Sonke et al. Nature 2024; 636: 474 - 480



€7 million investment

€ 26 million return

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Conclusions

- Regulatory framework tends to priorize speed
- Pivotal trials minimize the risk of a negative result (AHARA)
- Patients and health care systems bear the uncertainty and toxicity

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Conclusions

- Regulatory framework tends to priorize speed
- Pivotal trials minimize the risk of a negative result (AHARA)
- Patients and health care systems bear the uncertainty and toxicity

- Adress the gap between regulatory and clinical needs
- Optimization trials should be integral part of drug development
- All stakeholders share responsibility to generate this evidence

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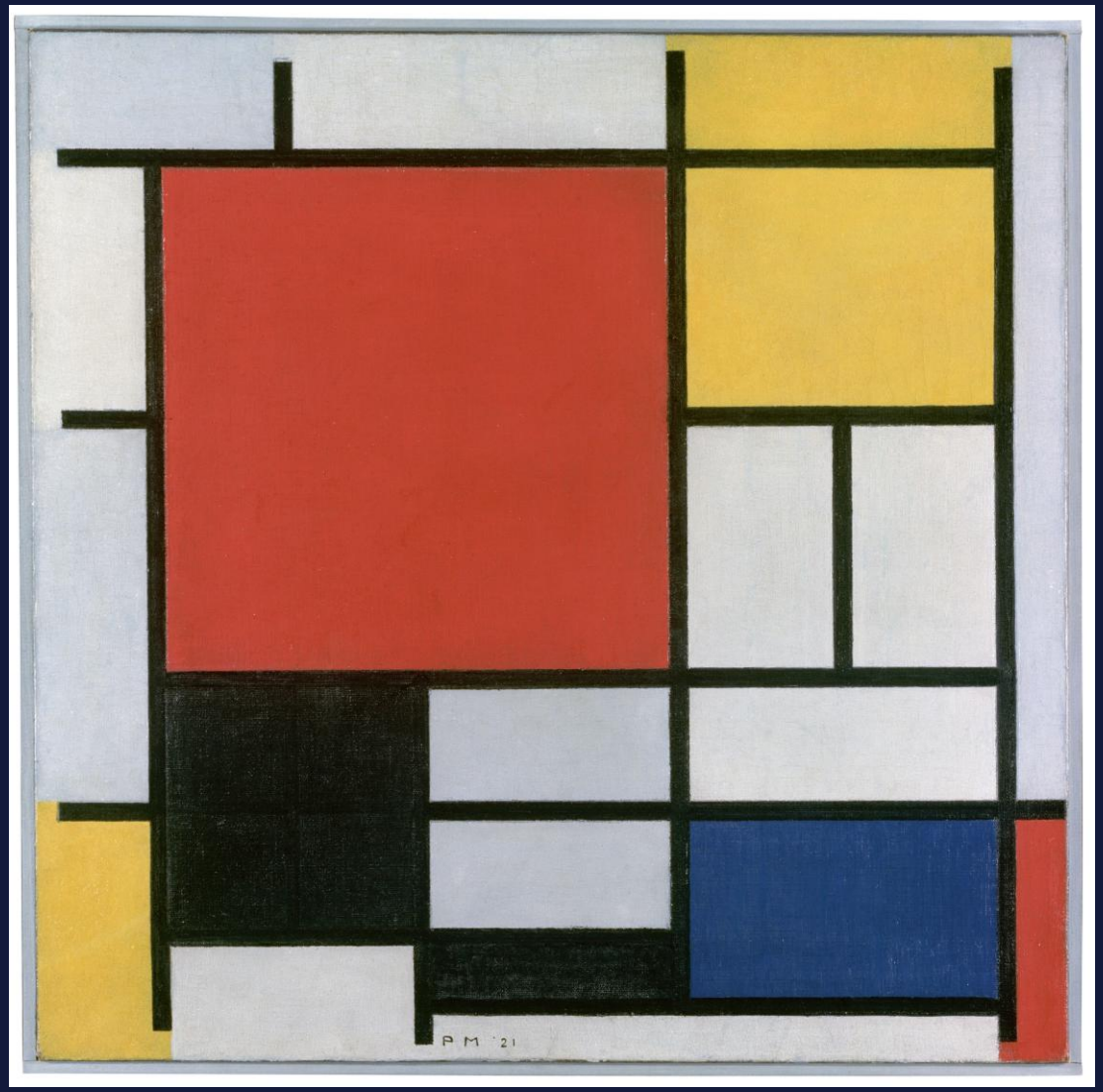

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