



# Biomarkers in Oncology: from diagnosis to prognosis

January 22nd 2020

# OUTLINE OF THE TALK

- ✓ Definition of Biomarkers in oncology
- ✓ Diagnostic Tests
- ✓ Definition of Cancer Classification and Staging
- ✓ Histological Classification
- ✓ TNM Classification
- ✓ Grading
- ✓ Molecular Classification
- ✓ Examples: Breast Cancer  
Colorectal Cancer
- ✓ Treatment
- ✓ Conclusions

✓ Definition of Biomarkers in oncology

A **cancer biomarker** refers to a substance or process that is indicative of the presence of cancer in the body.

A biomarker may be a molecule secreted by a tumor or a specific response of the body to the presence of cancer.



CAMBRIDGE HEALTHTECH INSTITUTE'S 3<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
**BIOMARKERS & IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY**  
**WORLD CONGRESS 2017**  
 May 2 - 4, 2017  
 Philadelphia Marriott Downtown | Philadelphia, PA  
 The Leading Annual Meeting Where Big Pharma and Biotech Drive Innovation and  
 Collaboration in **Biomarkers, Diagnostics and Immunotherapy**

## International Conference on Biomarkers

March 11-12, 2019  
 London, UK

Theme - *Biomarkers: Heraldng a Better Future*

Biomarkers	Digital Biomarkers
Biomarkers in Oncology	Imaging Biomarkers
Biomarkers research in Neuro-Oncology	Biomarkers for Disorders
Biomarkers research in Immuno-Oncology	Biomarkers in Personalized Medicine
Cardiovascular Biomarkers	Biomarkers and Next Generation Sequencing
Biomarkers in Genomics	Biomarkers Advancements
Biomarkers in Proteomics	Applications of Biomarkers
Molecular and Genetic Biomarkers	
Biomarkers and Transcriptomics	
Drug Discovery and Development	
Biomarkers in Pharmacology	
Therapeutic Biomarkers	
Clinical Research and Clinical Trails	

<http://biomarkers.alliedacademies.com/>

2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on  
**Biomarkers and Clinical Research**  
 June 15-16, 2020 | Dubai, UAE  
 Theme: Awareness and Innovations of Biomarkers and Clinical Research  
 Biomarkers 2020

**Radiology and Oncology 2019**  
**Cancer Biomarkers and its targets**

Cambridge Healthtech Institute's 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual  
**Immuno-Oncology Biomarkers and Companion Dx**  
 Predicting Response and Guiding IO Trials and Patient Care  
 March 2-4, 2020 San Francisco, CA ▲ MOSCONE SOUTH CONVENTION CENTER

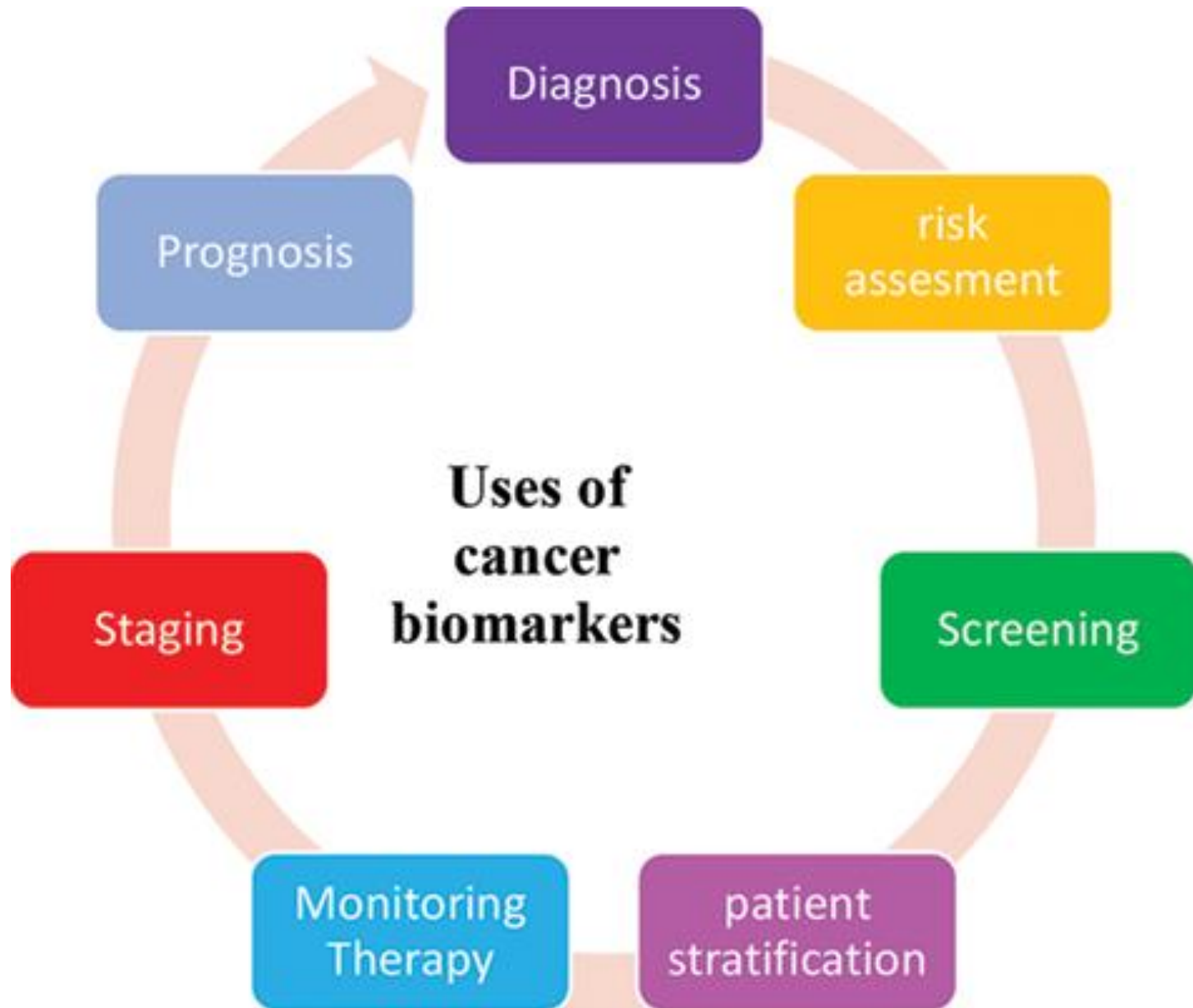
**BIOMARKERS & IMMUNO-ONCOLOGY**  
**WORLD CONGRESS 2018**  
 The Leading Annual Meeting Where Big Pharma and Biotech Drive Innovation and Collaboration in Biomarkers, Diagnostics and Immunotherapy

Biomarkers 2019  
**13<sup>th</sup> World Biomarkers and Clinical Research Conference**  
 August 22-23, 2019 | Vienna, Austria  
 Avail Special Discounts on Group Registrations  
<https://biomarkers.euroscicon.com/registration>

Cambridge Healthtech Institute's Inaugural  
**Translational Biomarkers in Immuno-Oncology**  
 29-30 NOVEMBER 2018  
 SHERATON LISBOA HOTEL & SPA | LISBON, PORTUGAL

Part of **WPC EUROPE** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual WORLD PRECLINICAL CONGRESS

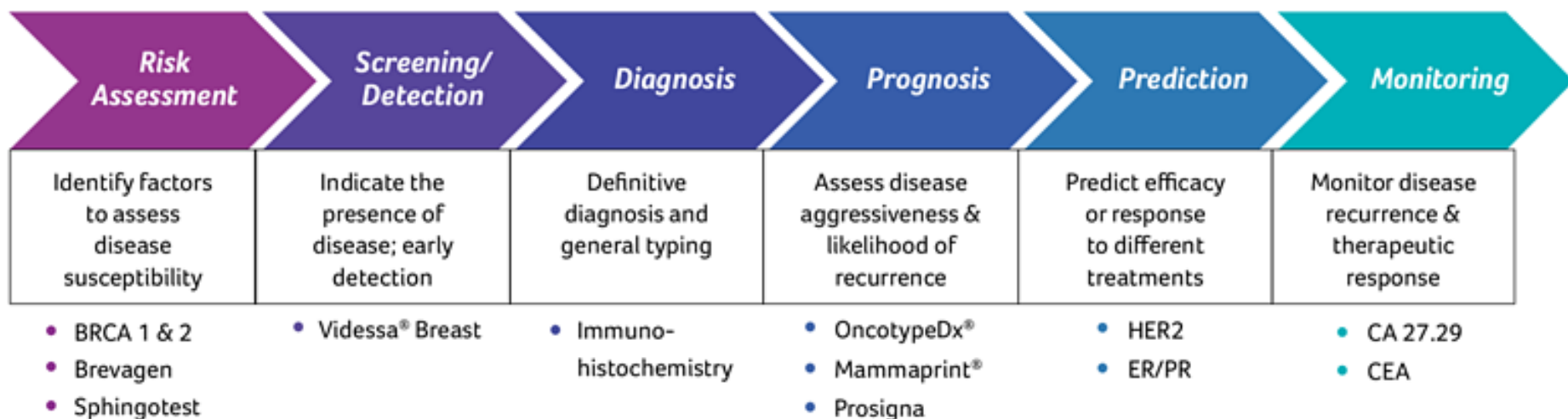
INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF ONCOLOGY AND BIOMARKERS  
**Hamburg 2018**  
 Nov. 24 - 27  
**45<sup>th</sup> ISOBM Congress**



***Biomarkers** allow physicians to classify patients by their probable disease risk, prognosis and/or response to treatment*

Insights into biomarkers analysis have resulted in scientists being able to understand **the diversity of lung cancer** better than ever before





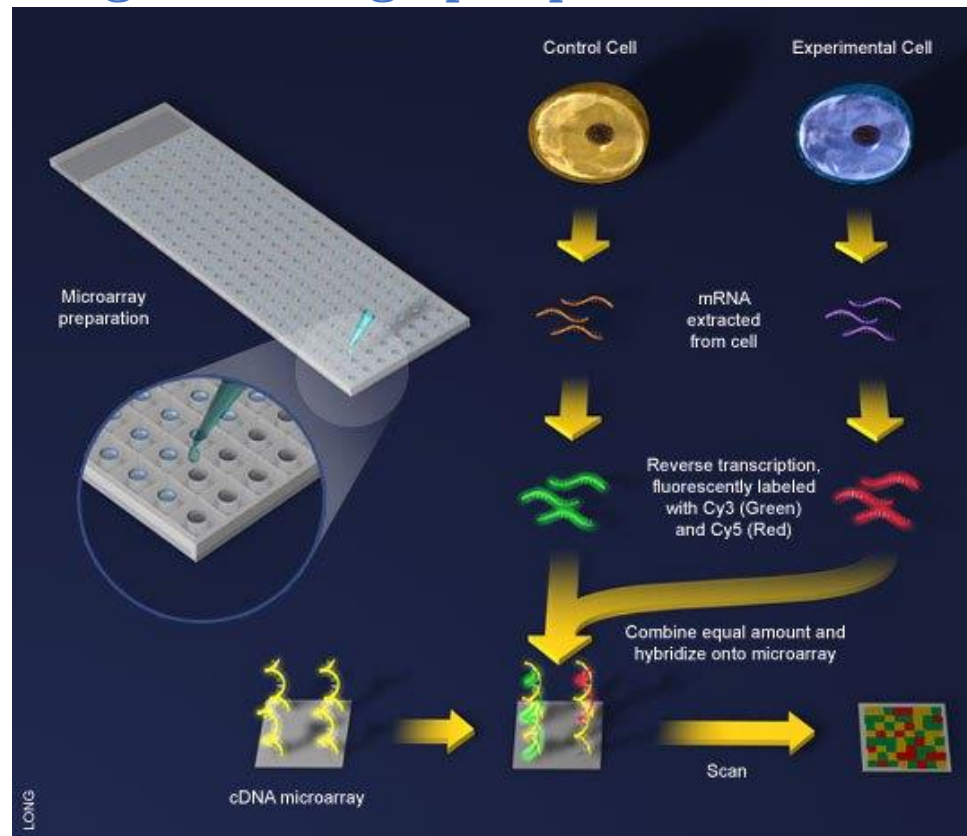


- ✓ Cancer is a genetic disease since it is due to alterations in patients' DNA.
- ✓ Deciphering the genetic changes is necessary to understand the disease.
- ✓ Unraveling the genetic bases of cancer allows us to design the best treatment protocols for each single patient.

✓ Diagnostic Tests

# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

- Identification of the presence/amount of a specific protein. It can be performed on blood samples (es. CEA, CA-125) and on tumour tissue (es. ER, HER2/Neu).
- Evaluation of the expression of a set of genes (microarray technology): diagnostic tests development, better classification, identification of new therapeutic targets, setting up of personalised treatments).



# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

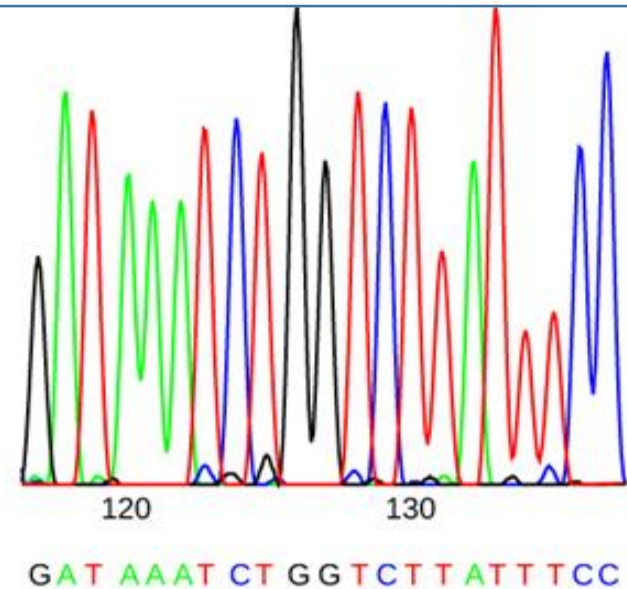
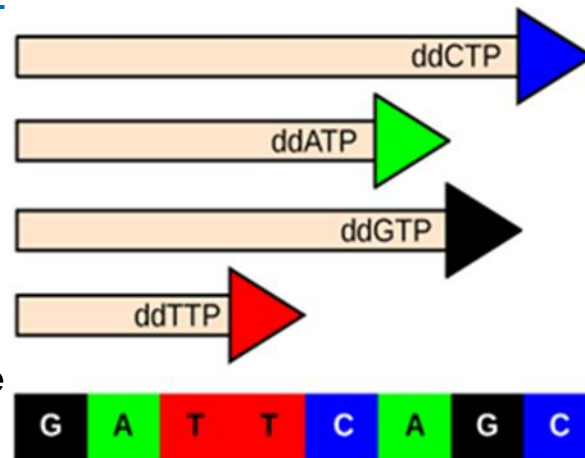
- Evaluation of mutations and epigenetic changes: gene sequencing (Sanger sequencing, Pyrosequencing, Next Generation Sequencing), Beaming.

## SANGER SEQUENCING

Evaluation of 200-300bp amplicons

Result= presence/absence

Variants determined by the operator





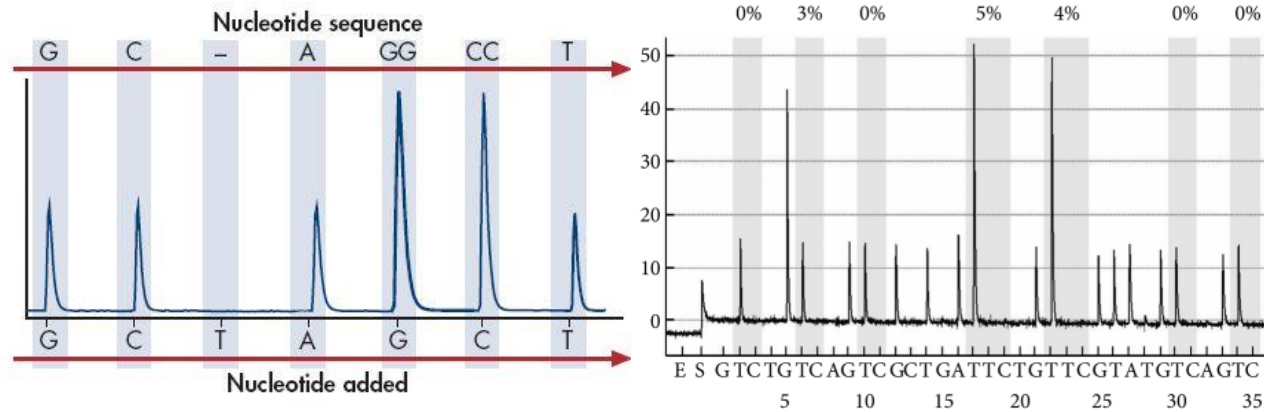
# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

## PYROSEQUENCING

Evaluation of 100-200bp amplicons

Result= percentage

Variants determined by the operator



# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

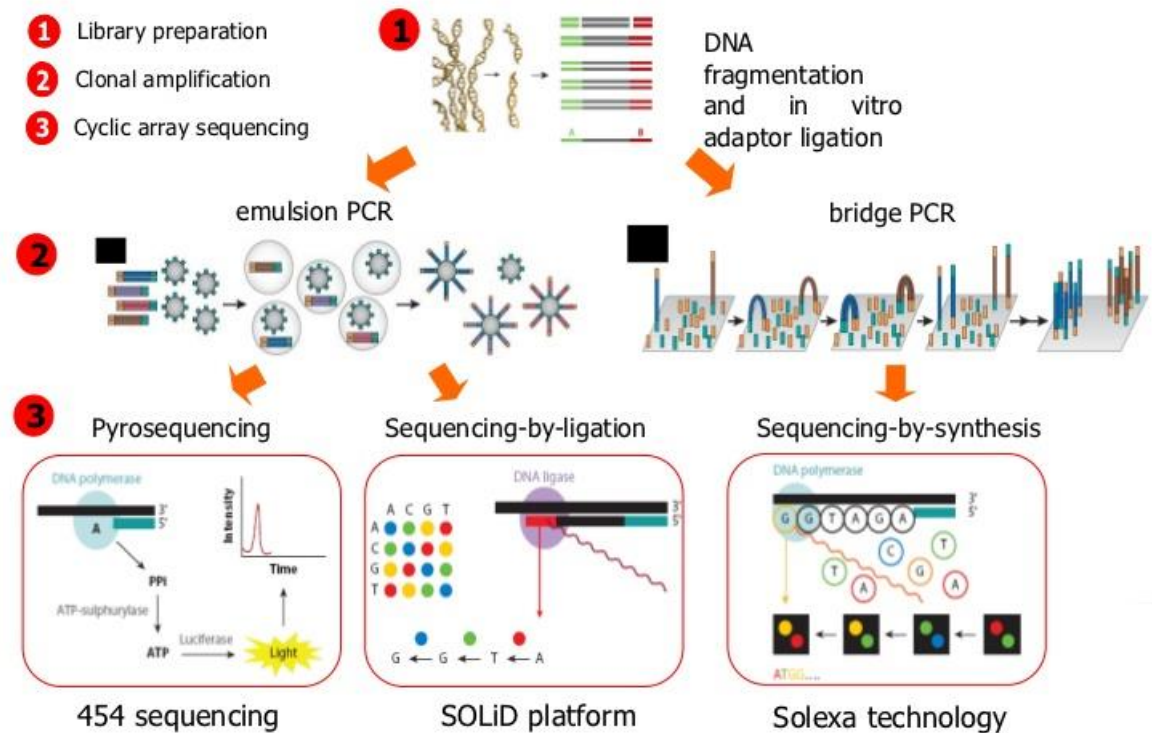
## NGS

Evaluation of the whole genome or exome

Selection of tumour-specific genes

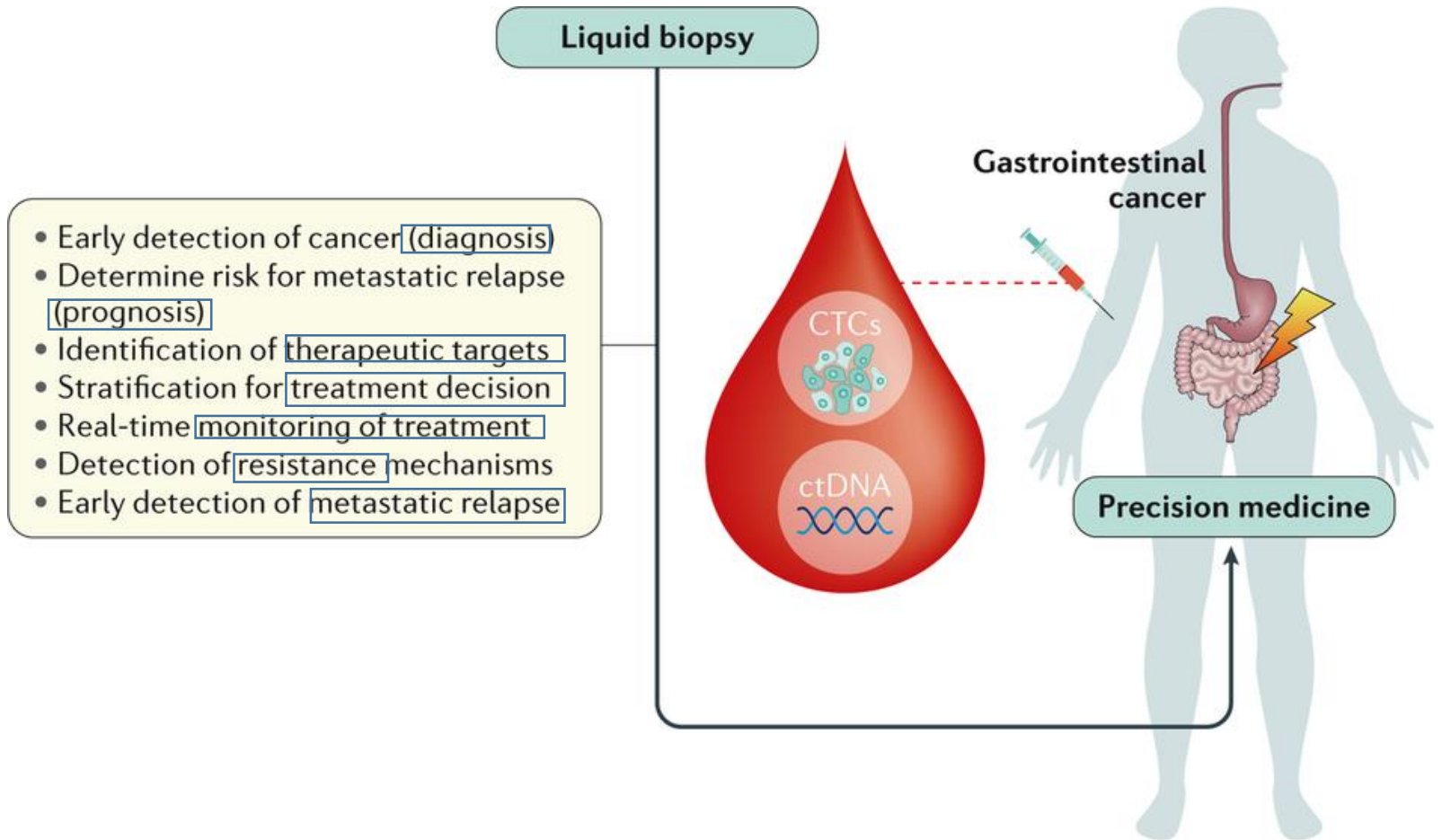
Result= percentage

Variants automatically determined in databases



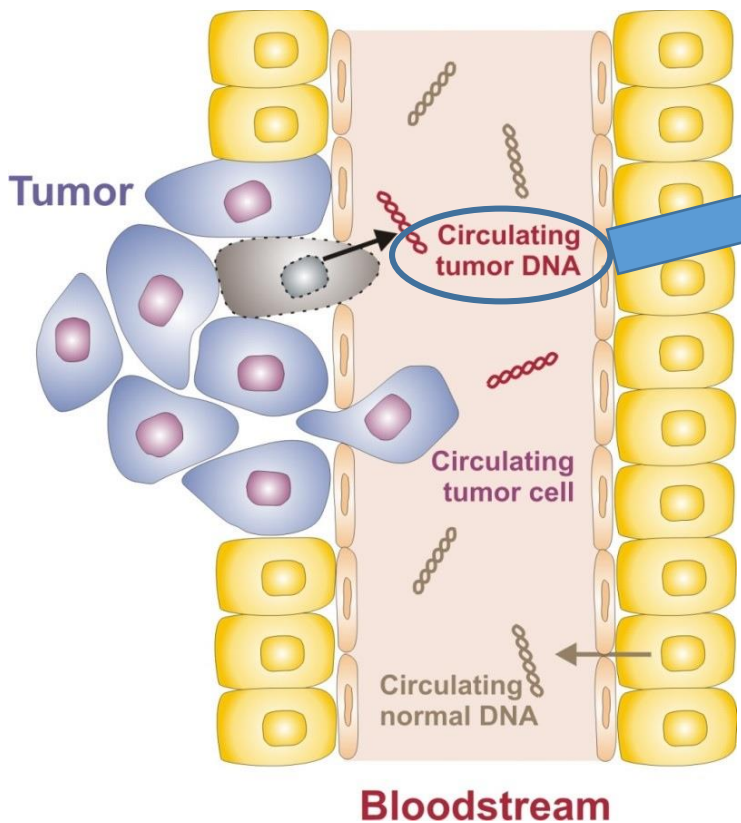
# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

## BEAMing (performed on cell-free tumour DNA)



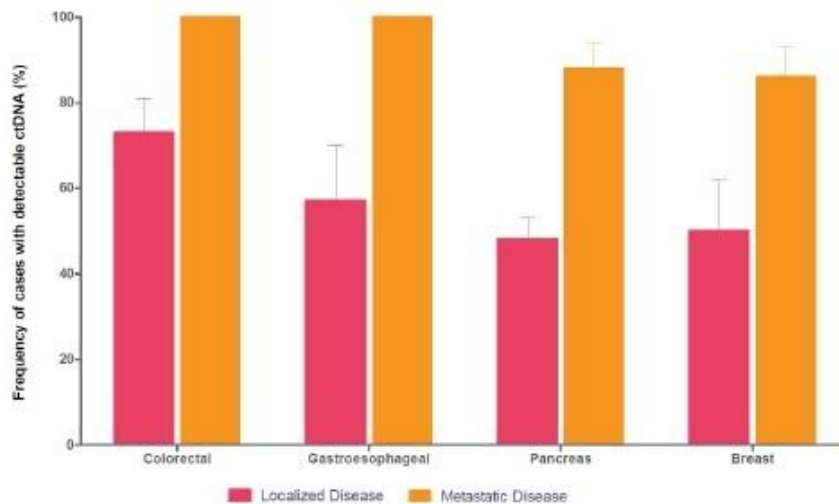
# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

## BEAMing (performed on cell-free tumour DNA)



- Released from necrotic and apoptotic tumour cells into the bloodstream
- Short half-life after surgery
- Small DNA fragments (<120 bp)
- Low concentration (0.01% of total circulating DNA)
- More frequent in metastatic patients

Localized (Stages I to III) vs Metastatic (Stage IV) Disease



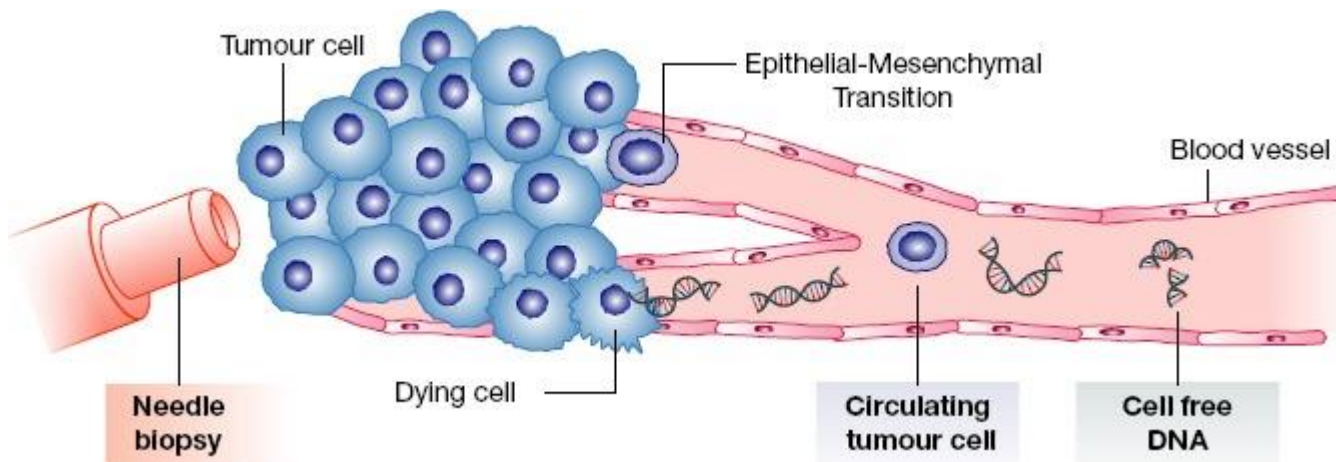
Detectable levels of ctDNA present in 49-78% of patients with localized tumors

Detectable levels of ctDNA present in 86-100% of patients with metastatic tumors



# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

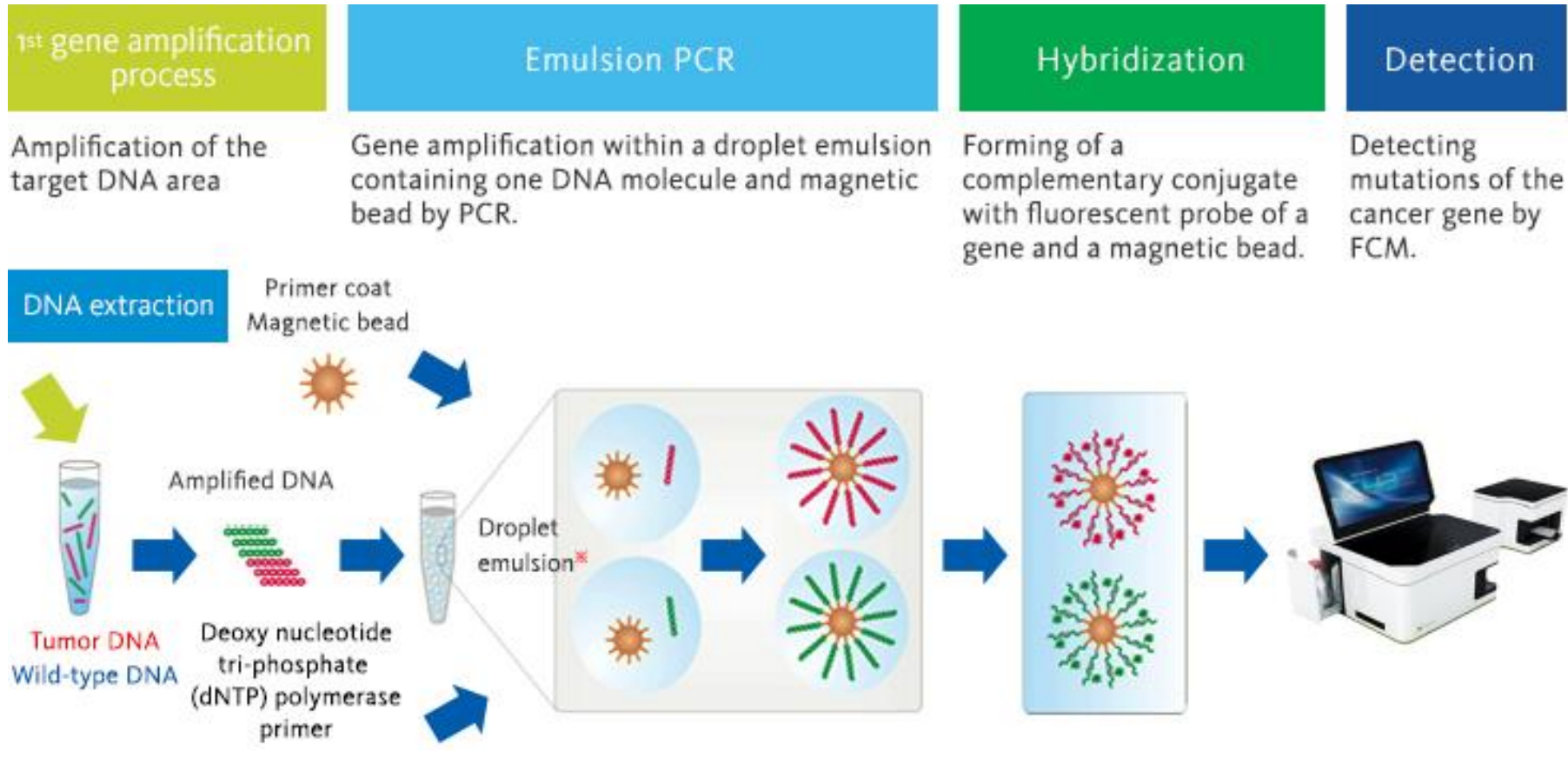
## BEAMing (performed on cell-free tumour DNA)



	Biopsy	CTC	cfDNA
Invasive	+	-	-
All patients eligible	-	+	+
Instrumentation required	+	+	-
WGA required	-	+	+/-
RNA profiling	+	+	-
Research applicability	+++	++	+
Biomarker applicability	-	++	+++

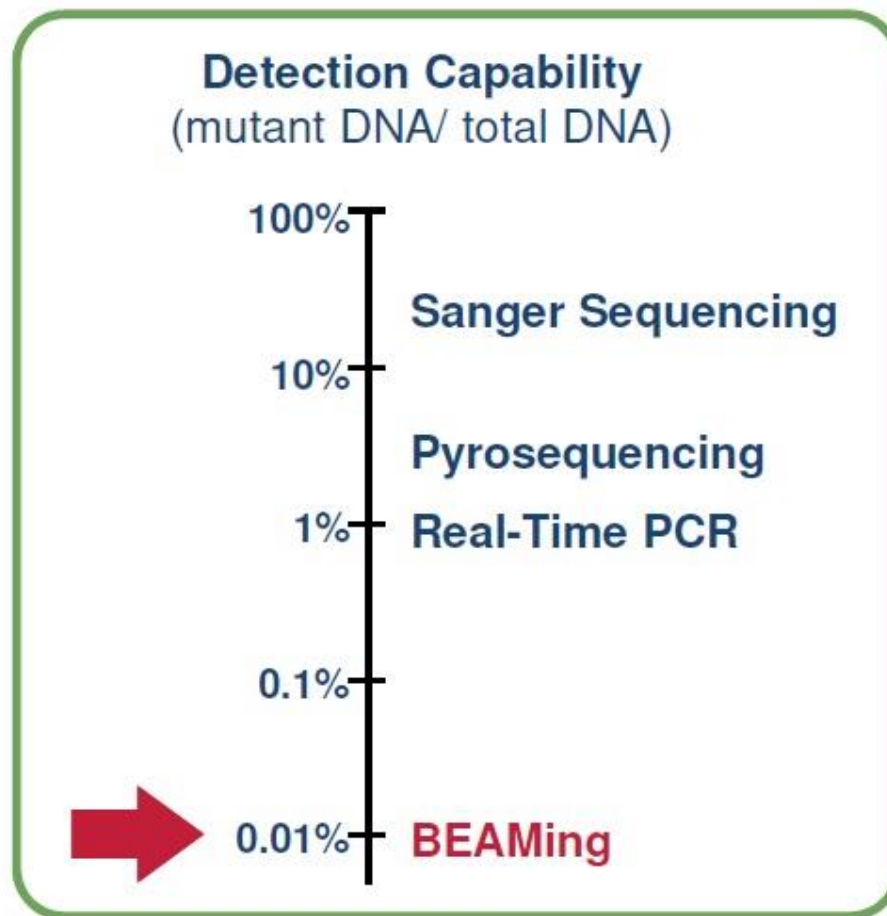
# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

## BEAMing (performed on cell-free tumour DNA)



# DIAGNOSTIC TESTS

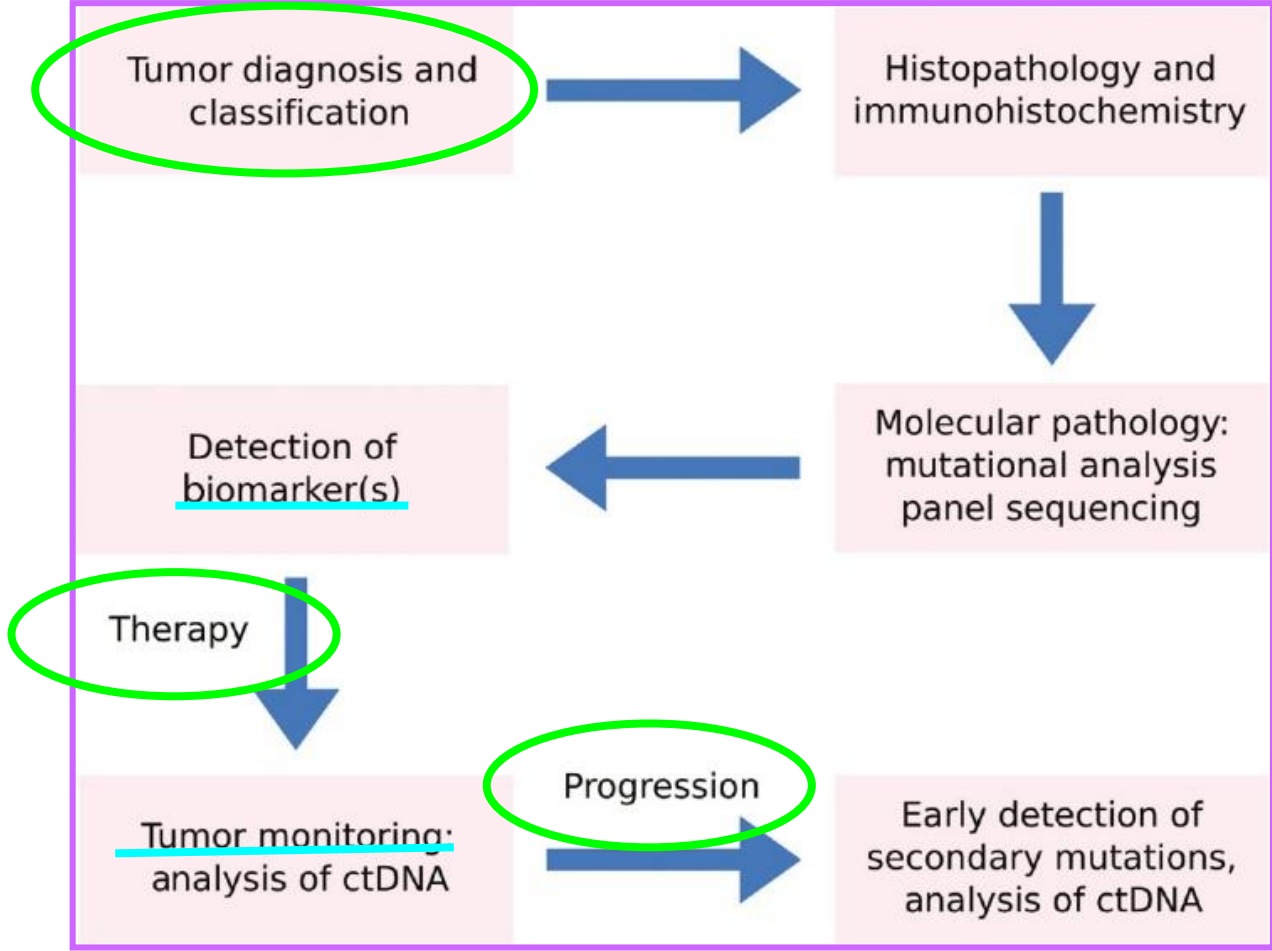
BEAMing (performed on cell-free tumour DNA)



✓ Definition of Cancer Classification and Staging



DISEASE CLASSIFICATION is central to understand the bases of the diseases, make diagnosis and assign treatment.



Cancer nomenclature is based on:

1. Localization (breast cancer, lung cancer.....)

1. Within each organ-specific major type several subgroups are defined, taking into account cell type, histological grades and MOLECULAR MARKERS

✓ **Histological Classification**



Neoplasia

# Neoplasms Nomenclature:

Oma - Tumour  
 Carcin-oma – Hard Tumour  
 Sarc-oma - Soft Tumour

## Cell of Origin

## Benign

## Malignant

- Gland. Epithelium • Adenoma -
- Lining. Epithelium • Papilloma -

Adenocarcinoma  
 Squamous cell ca.

- |                   |               |                  |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------|
| • Fibroblast      | • Fibroma -   | Fibrosarcoma     |
| • Osteoblast      | • Osteoma -   | Osteosarcoma     |
| • Chondrocyte     | • Chondroma   | Chondrosarcoma   |
| • Lipocyte        | • Lipoma      | Liposarcoma      |
| • Smooth muscle   | • Leiomyoma   | Leiomyosarcoma   |
| • Skeletal muscle | • Rhabdomyoma | Rhabdomyosarcoma |



*Neoplasia*

## Nomenclature: exceptions

---

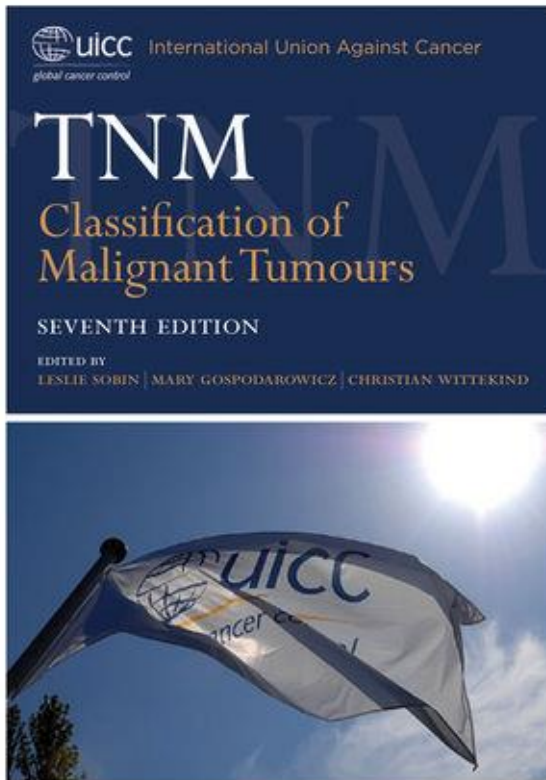
- **Teratoma** – Tumour of Germ cell – multiple tissues. Benign (mature) or malignant (immature)
- **Melanoma** (**Melano-carcinoma**) – Malignancy of melanocytes.
- **Seminoma** (**Seminal carcinoma**) – carcinoma of Testes.
- **Leukemia** – white blood – Ca. of Haemopoietic stem cells.
- **Lymphoma** (**Lymphosarcoma**) – Malignancy of lymphocytes.
- **Mixed Tumours**: Both epithelial & connective tissue components. Pleomorphic adenoma (Salivary gland) & **Carcinosarcoma** (breast/uterus)

What is a Granuloma, Hamartoma & Choristoma?

✓ **TNM Classification**



## TNM Classification and Staging



1. To aid the clinician in the planning of treatment
2. To give some indication of prognosis
3. To assist in evaluation of the results of treatment
4. To facilitate the exchange of information between treatment centres
5. To contribute to the continuing investigation of human cancer
6. To support cancer control activities

## The General Rules of the TNM System

The TNM system for describing the anatomical extent of disease is based on the assessment of three components:

T – The extent of the primary tumour

N – The absence or presence and extent of regional lymph node metastasis

M – The absence or presence of distant metastasis

The addition of numbers to these three components indicates the extent of the malignant disease, thus:

T0, T1, T2, T3, T4      N0, N1, N2, N3      M0, M1

## cTNM (CLINICAL)

Essential to **select and evaluate therapeutic options**  
Defined before treatment  
Based on **evidences** aquired by clinical examination, imaging, endoscopy, biopsy....



## pTNM (PATHOLOGICAL)

Assessed after surgery  
Essential to guide **adjuvant therapy**  
Provides data useful for **prognosis** estimation



## G (HISTOPATHOLOGICAL GRADING)



## TNM STAGING

**Tumor grade:** description of a tumor based on how abnormal the tumor cells and the tumor tissue look under a microscope.

It is an indicator of how quickly a tumor is likely to grow and spread.

If a grading system for a tumor type is not specified, the following system is generally used:

**GX:** Grade cannot be assessed (undetermined grade)

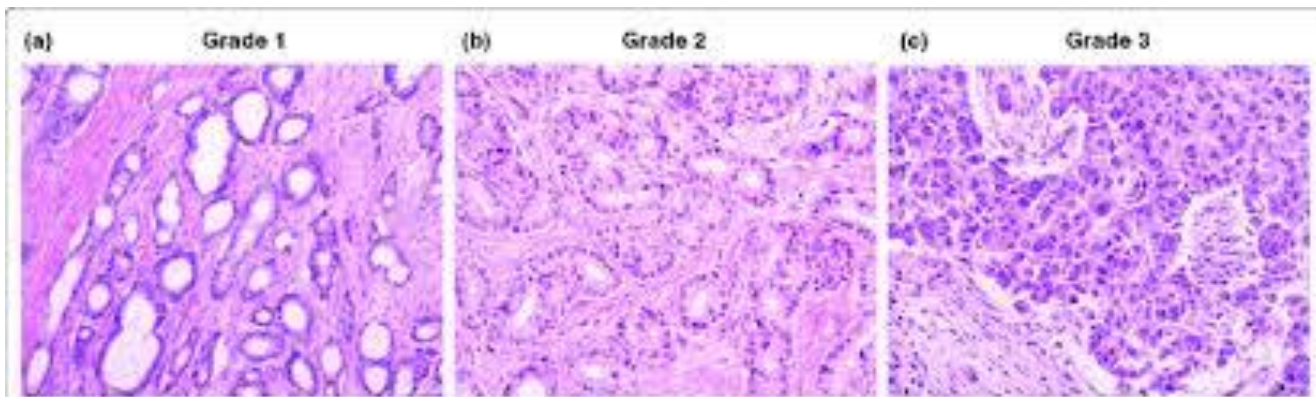
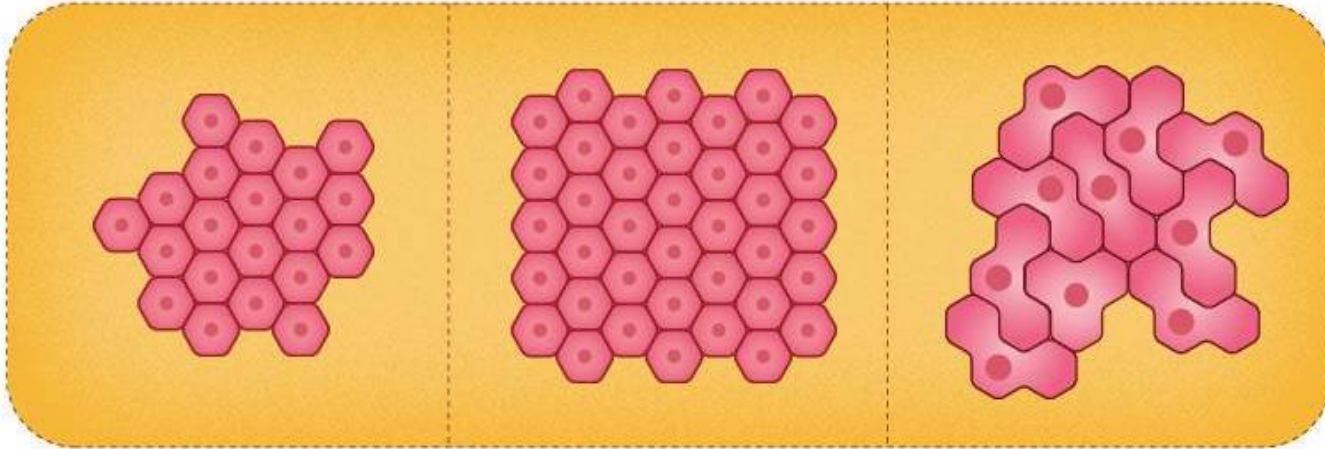
**G1:** Well differentiated (low grade)

**G2:** Moderately differentiated (intermediate grade)

**G3:** Poorly differentiated (high grade)

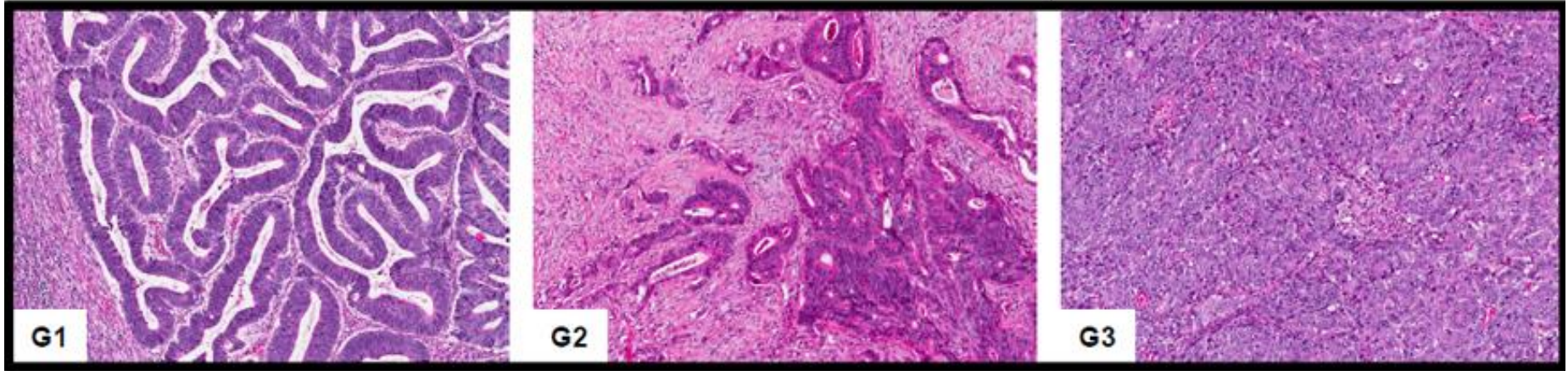
**G4:** Undifferentiated (high grade)

# Example: breast cancer





# Example: colorectal cancer





✓ Molecular Classification

# BIOMOLECULAR STAGING

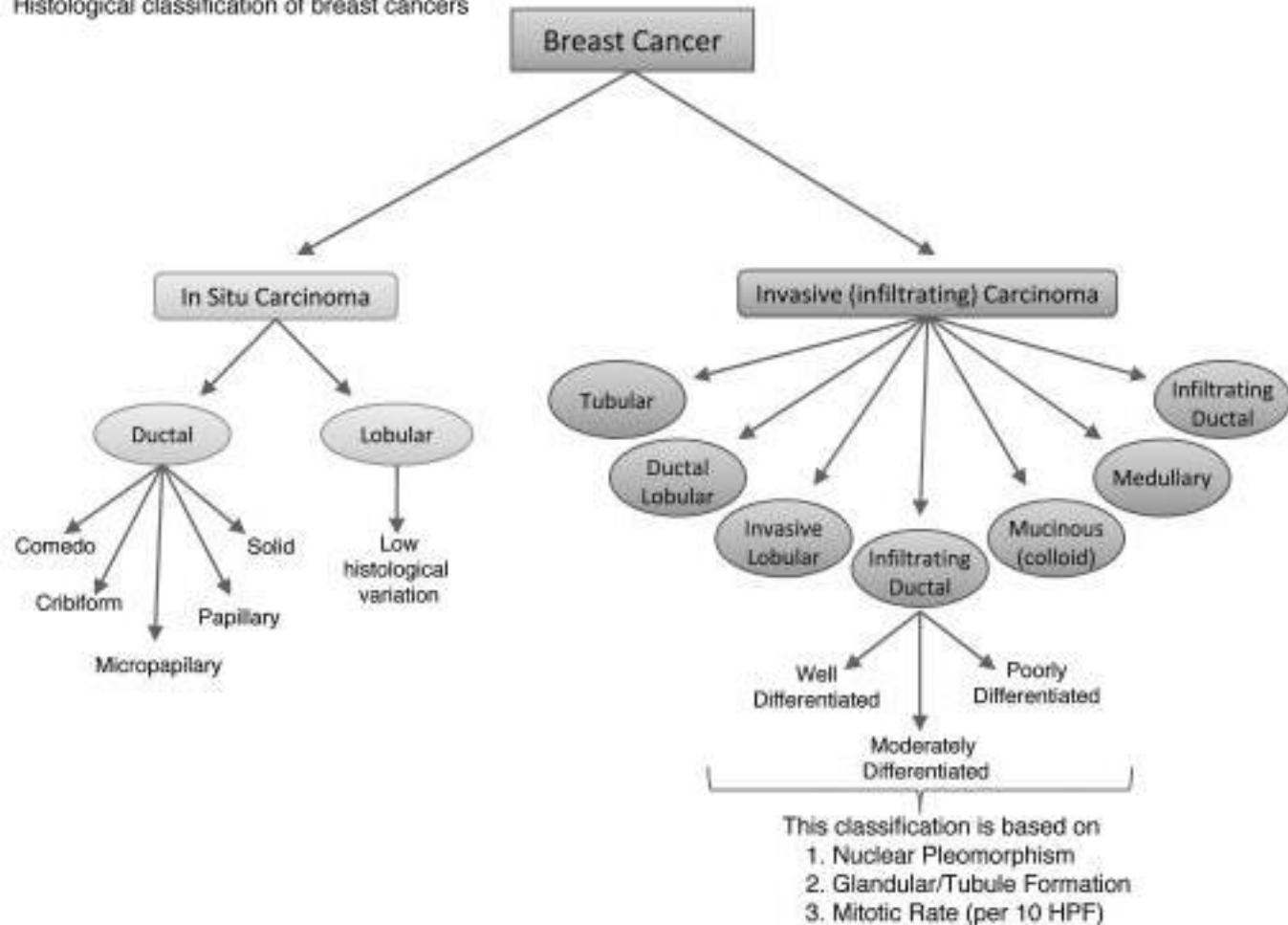
- Identification of tumour markers involved in different processes that lead to tumour progression.
- Better patients' stratification into TNM staging-defined risk groups.
- Potentially applicable to: primary tumour, lymphnodes, bone marrow, serum.
- Useful for: early diagnosis, prognosis estimation, occult metastases identification, predictive markers for chemotherapy resistance or response.
- Panels of biomarkers depending on the tumour type.

# Breast Cancer



# HISTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

Histological classification of breast cancers

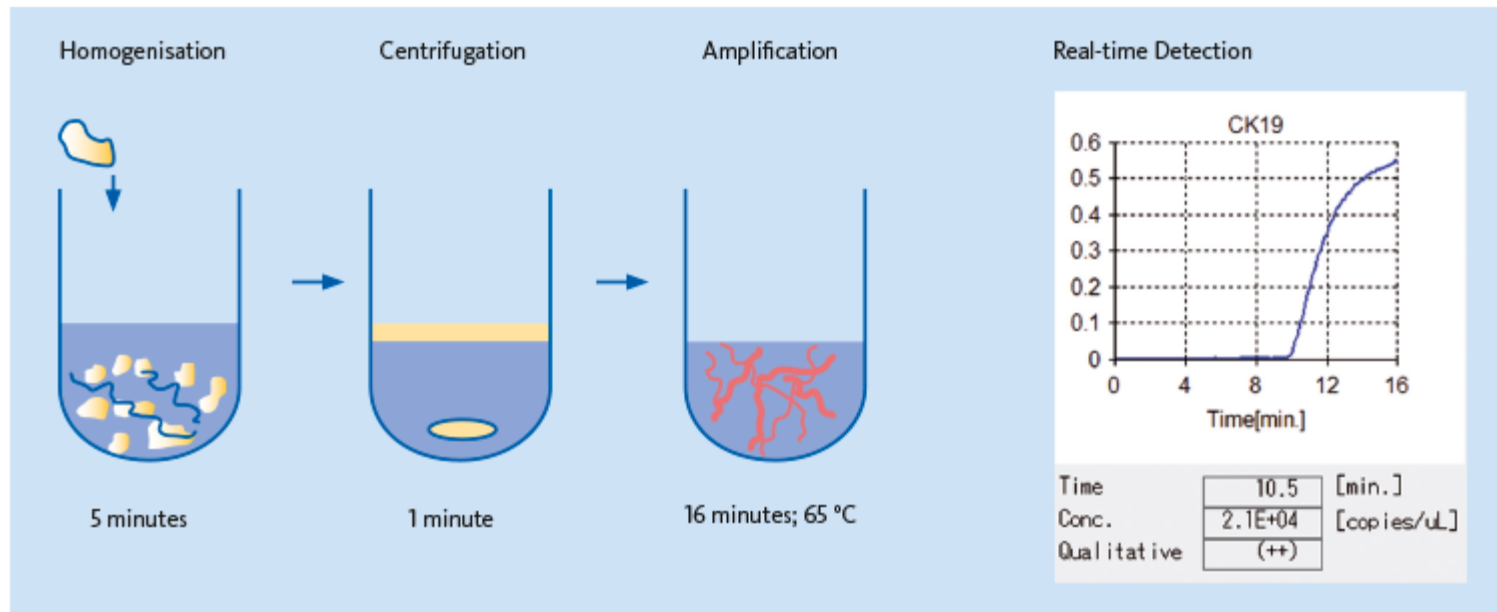


# TNM CLASSIFICATION

ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS			
Stage 0	Tis	N0	M0
Stage IA	T1*	N0	M0
Stage IB	T0	N1mi	M0
	T1*	N1mi	M0
Stage IIA	T0	N1**	M0
	T1*	N1**	M0
	T2	N0	M0
Stage IIB	T2	N1	M0
	T3	N0	M0
Stage IIIA	T0	N2	M0
	T1*	N2	M0
	T2	N2	M0
	T3	N1	M0
	T3	N2	M0
Stage IIIB	T4	N0	M0
	T4	N1	M0
	T4	N2	M0
Stage IIIC	Any T	N3	M0
Stage IV	Any T	Any N	M1



The **One-Step Nucleic acid Amplification (OSNA)** assay is a molecular procedure that can identify deposits of breast cancer cells in the sentinel lymph node.





**Conventional method of pathological diagnosis**

Diagnosis of lymph node metastasis: Qualitative analysis by pathologists



Only analyze a part of tissue

However, from now on...

**Molecular pathological diagnosis by the OSNA method**

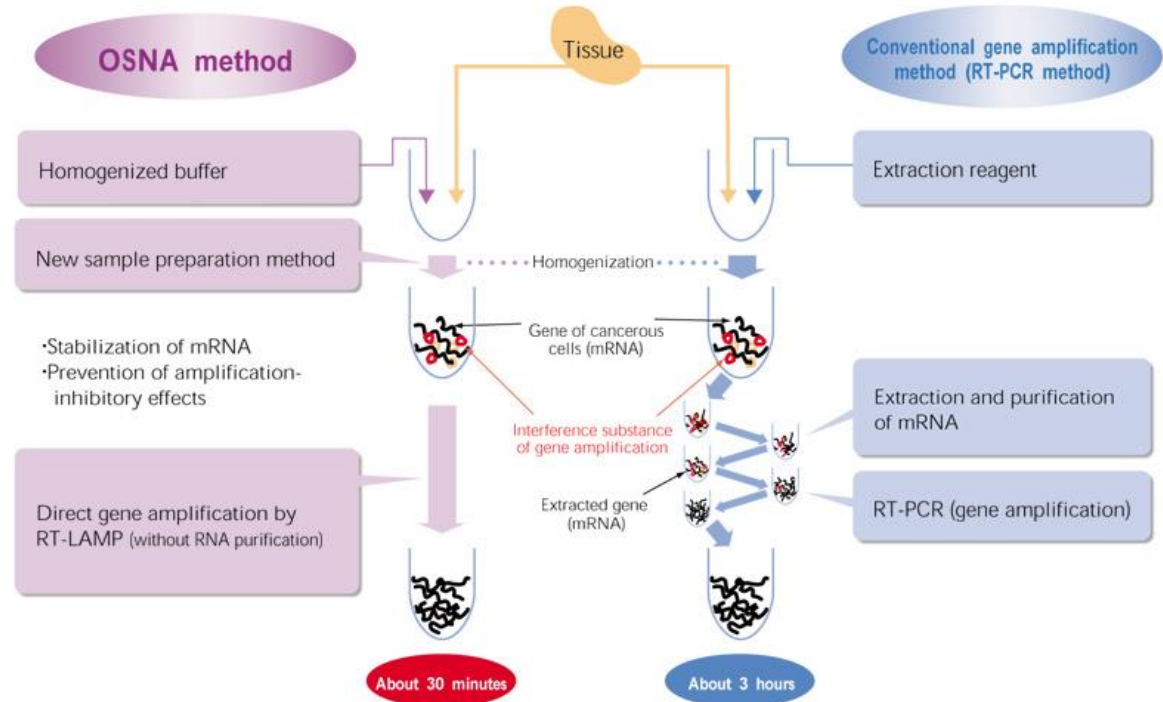


Gene amplification analyzer

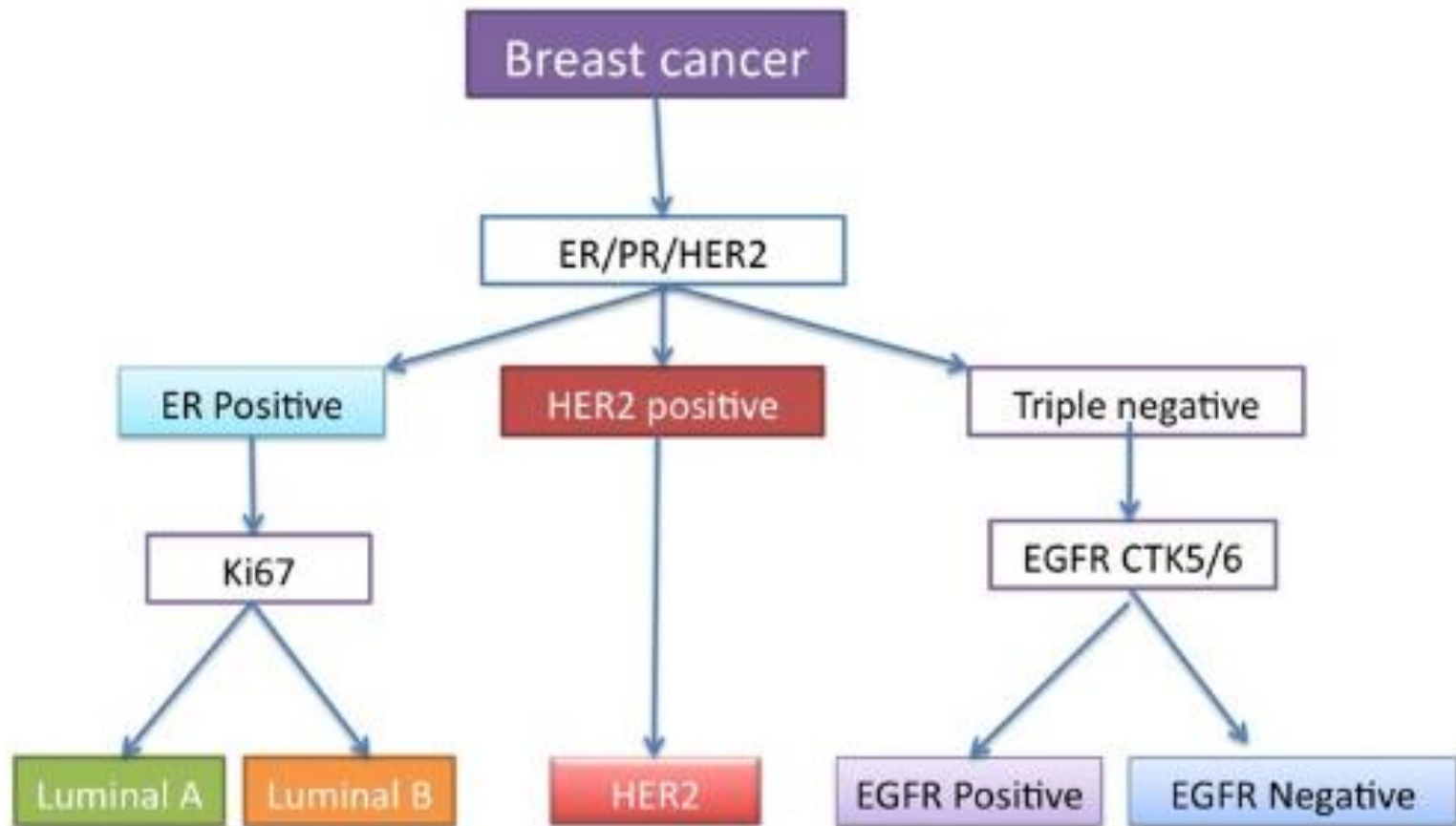
Analyze whole part of tissue

Analyze lymph node metastasis within 30 minutes

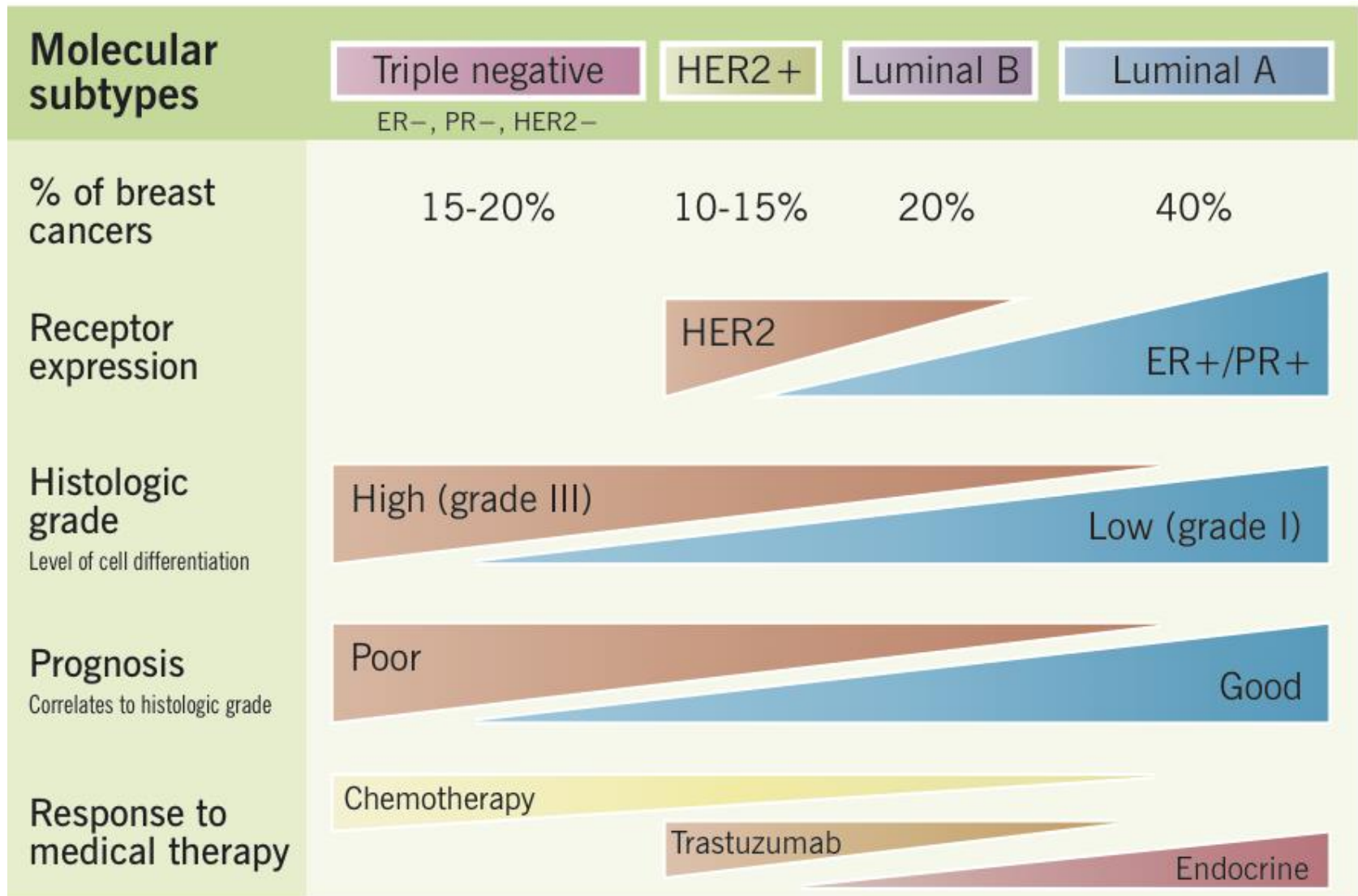
**OSNA method**



# MOLECULAR CLASSIFICATION



# MOLECULAR CLASSIFICATION



Triple negative tumours respond best to chemotherapy, similar to other aggressive cancers.

Luminal A tumours respond best to endocrine therapy, e.g. antiestrogen or aromatase inhibitor.

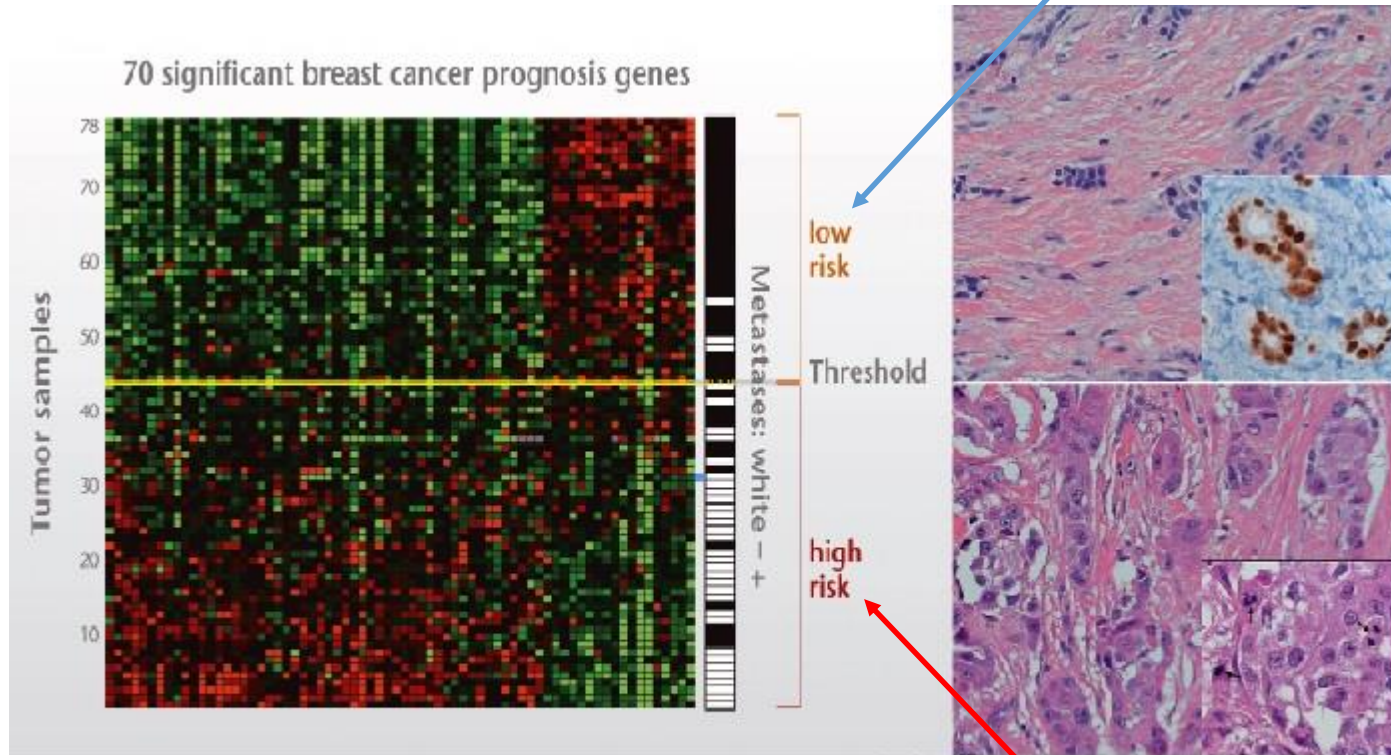


# MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS TESTS

## MAMMAPRINT®

Stage 1 and 2 Breast Cancer, node negative

10% chance of recurrence within 10 years with no treatment



29% chance of recurrence within 10 years with no treatment

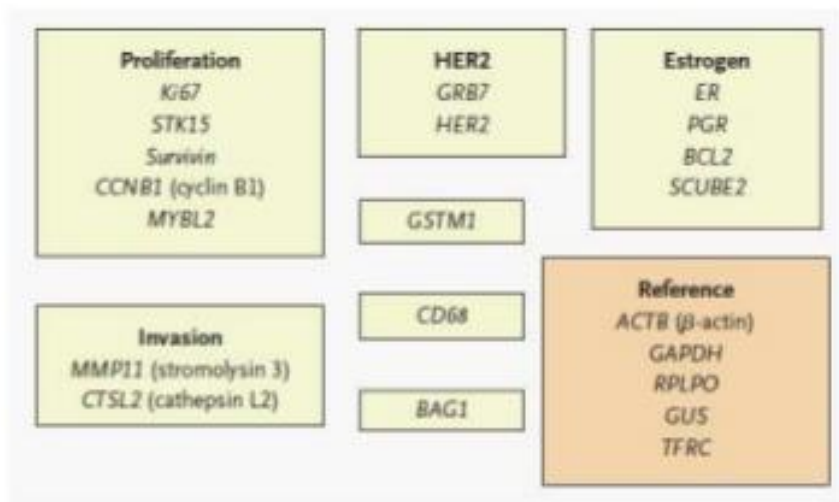




# MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS TESTS

## ONCOTYPE DX®

Stage 1 and 2 Breast Cancer, node negative, ER+; expression of 21 genes (16 genes known to be related with breast cancer and 5 reference genes)



- Quantifies the standard pathologic characterization
- Complex algorithm that adds the HER2, proliferation, and invasion scores, and subtracts the estrogen score in a weighted fashion

- Reported as a Recurrence Score (RS)
- $RS < 18$  = low risk
- $18 \leq RS < 31$  = intermediate risk
- $RS \geq 31$  = high risk



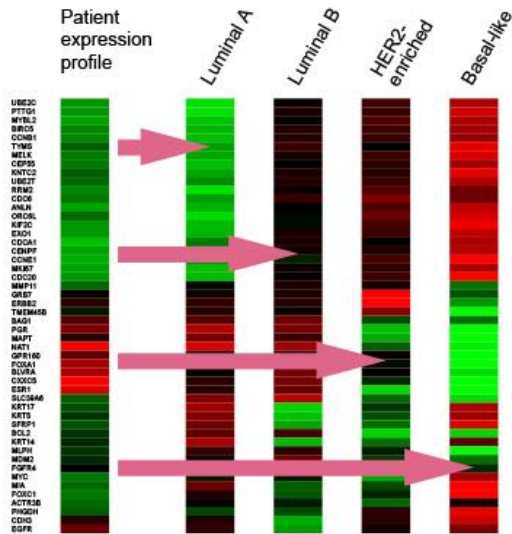
# MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS TESTS

## PROSIGNA®

The end result is the Risk of Recurrence (ROR, 0-100) estimating the risk of relapse within 10 years.

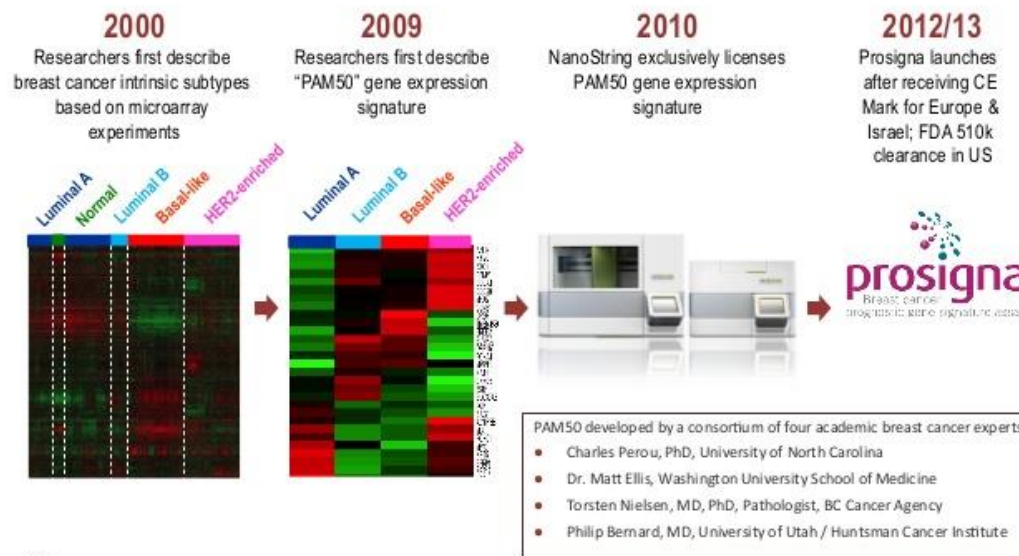
ROR is calculated taking into account the PAM50 gene signature, intrinsic subtype, tumour size, nodal status, and proliferation score.

Compare patient profile to intrinsic subtypes<sup>5,6</sup>



Adapted from Nielsen T et al, 2013, and Gnant M et al, 2012.

### Development of Prosigna™ is Based on PAM50 Gene Signature



- PAM50 developed by a consortium of four academic breast cancer experts
- Charles Perou, PhD, University of North Carolina
  - Dr. Matt Ellis, Washington University School of Medicine
  - Torsten Nielsen, MD, PhD, Pathologist, BC Cancer Agency
  - Philip Bernard, MD, University of Utah / Huntsman Cancer Institute

<sup>12</sup>Source: Molecular portraits of breast cancer. Nature. 2000 May 25;.  
Source: Supervised Risk Predictor of Breast Cancer Based on Intrinsic Subtypes, JCO.2009





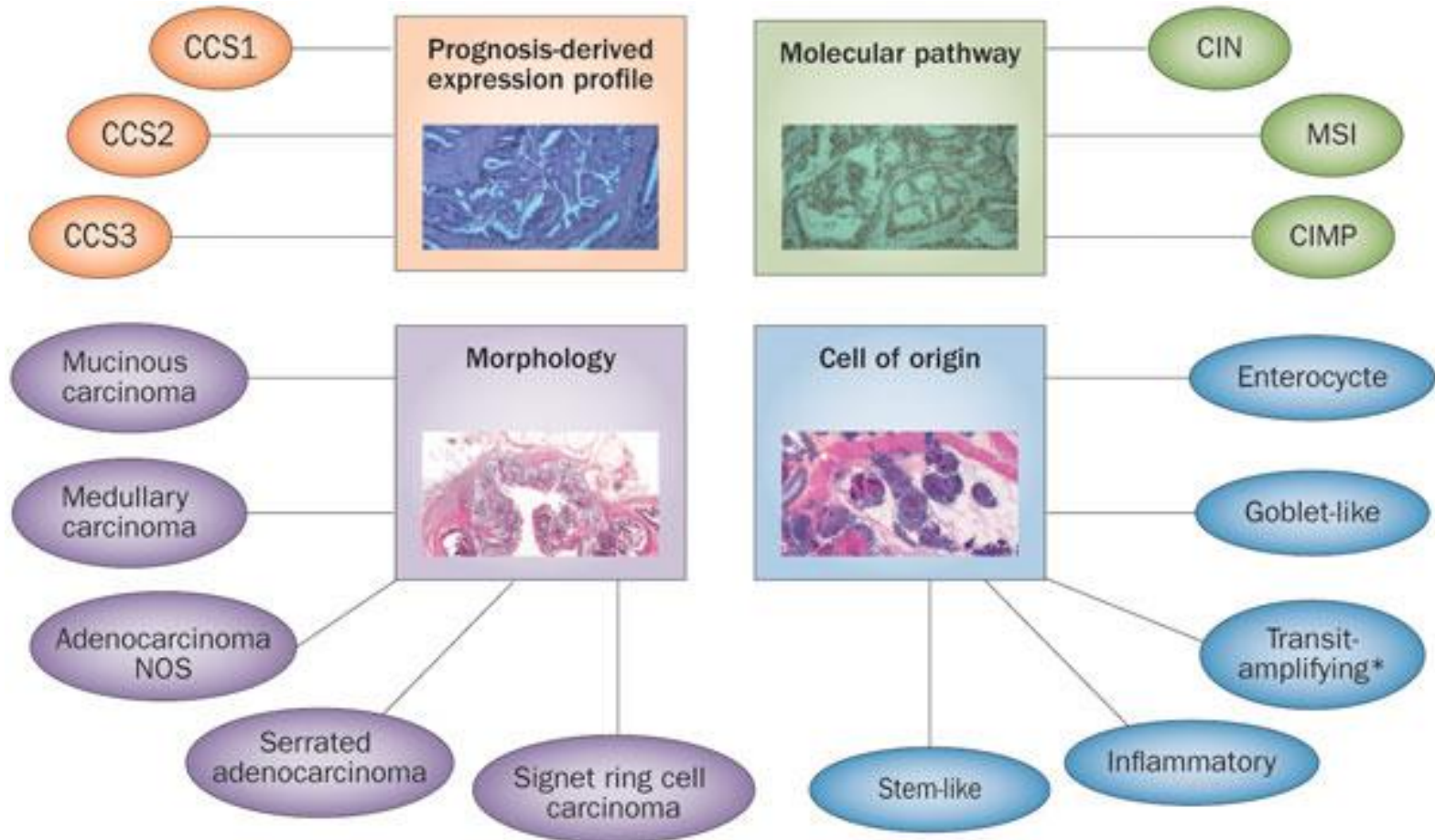
# Colorectal Cancer

# HISTOLOGICAL CLASSIFICATION

- **Adenocarcinoma (85%)**
- **Mucinous adenocarcinoma (10%)**
- **Signet-ring cell carcinoma**
- **Medullary carcinoma**
- **Undifferentiated carcinoma**
- **Small cell carcinoma**
- **Adenosquamous carcinoma**
- **Squamous carcinoma**



# CLASSIFICATION



# TNM CLASSIFICATION

## Colorectal Cancer

ANATOMIC STAGE/PROGNOSTIC GROUPS					
Stage	T	N	M	Dukes*	MAC*
0	Tis	N0	M0	—	—
I	T1	N0	M0	A	A
	T2	N0	M0	A	B1
IIA	T3	N0	M0	B	B2
IIB	T4a	N0	M0	B	B2
IIC	T4b	N0	M0	B	B3
IIIA	T1–T2	N1/N1c	M0	C	C1
	T1	N2a	M0	C	C1
IIIB	T3–T4a	N1/N1c	M0	C	C2
	T2–T3	N2a	M0	C	C1/C2
	T1–T2	N2b	M0	C	C1
IIIC	T4a	N2a	M0	C	C2
	T3–T4a	N2b	M0	C	C2
	T4b	N1–N2	M0	C	C3
IVA	Any T	Any N	M1a	—	—
IVB	Any T	Any N	M1b	—	—

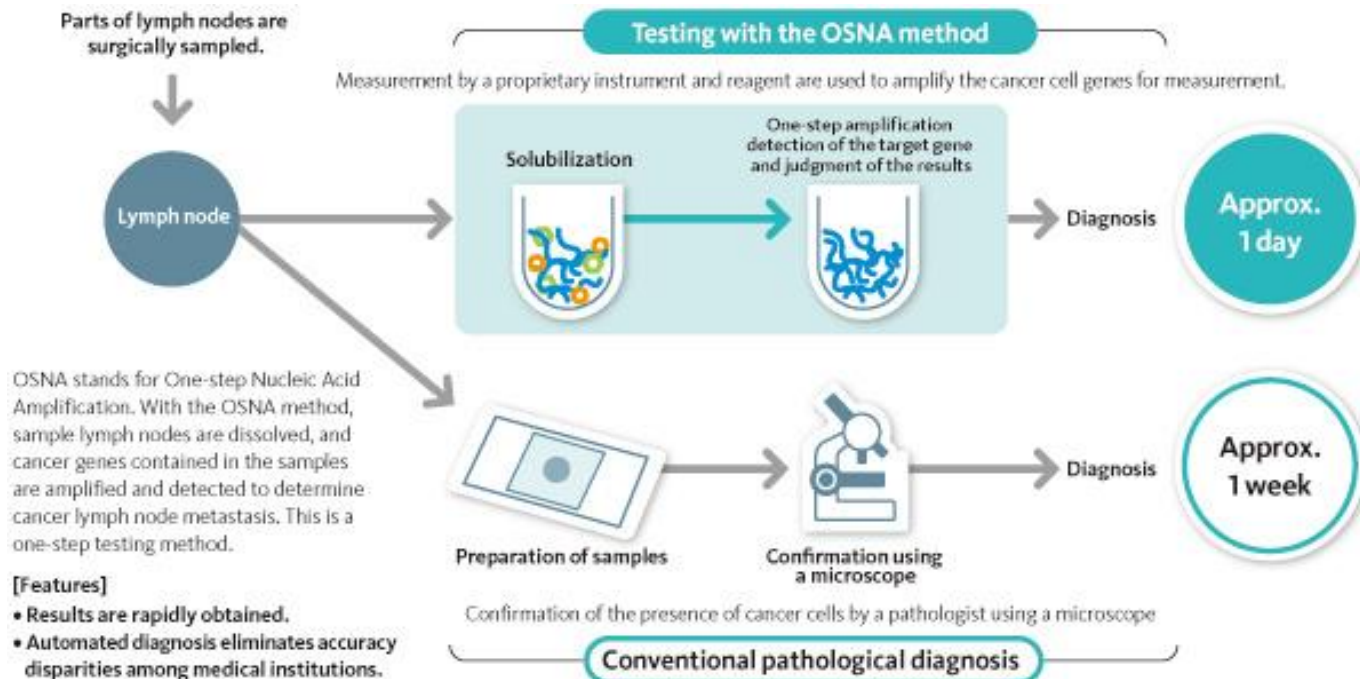
NOTE: cTNM is the clinical classification, pTNM is the pathologic classification. The y prefix is used for those cancers that are classified after neoadjuvant pretreatment (for example, ypTNM). Patients who have a complete pathologic response are ypT0N0cM0 that may be similar to Stage Group 0 or I. The r prefix is to be used for those cancers that have recurred after a disease-free interval (rTNM).  
 \* Dukes B is a composite of better (T3 N0 M0) and worse (T4 N0 M0) prognostic groups, as is Dukes C (any TN1 M0 and Any T N2 M0). MAC is the modified Astler-Coller classification.



Up to 30% of all patients classified in stage II suffer from local recurrence or distant metastases within 5 years of undergoing surgery, leading to significantly poorer survival rates.

These patients are classified in a lower lymph node status (false-negative rates up to 24%), which impacts on the decisions made concerning their further therapy options.

**OSNA<sup>®</sup>** allows the investigation of the entire lymph node and its results are comparable with ultra-staging (IHC). Studies have shown that a lymph node analysis of pN0 patients with OSNA<sup>®</sup> yielded an upstaging rate of approximately 26%, compared with the standard histological test method. These patients' therapies could thus be adjusted accordingly.



OSNA stands for One-step Nucleic Acid Amplification. With the OSNA method, sample lymph nodes are dissolved, and cancer genes contained in the samples are amplified and detected to determine cancer lymph node metastasis. This is a one-step testing method.

**[Features]**

- Results are rapidly obtained.
- Automated diagnosis eliminates accuracy disparities among medical institutions.





# MOLECULAR CLASSIFICATION

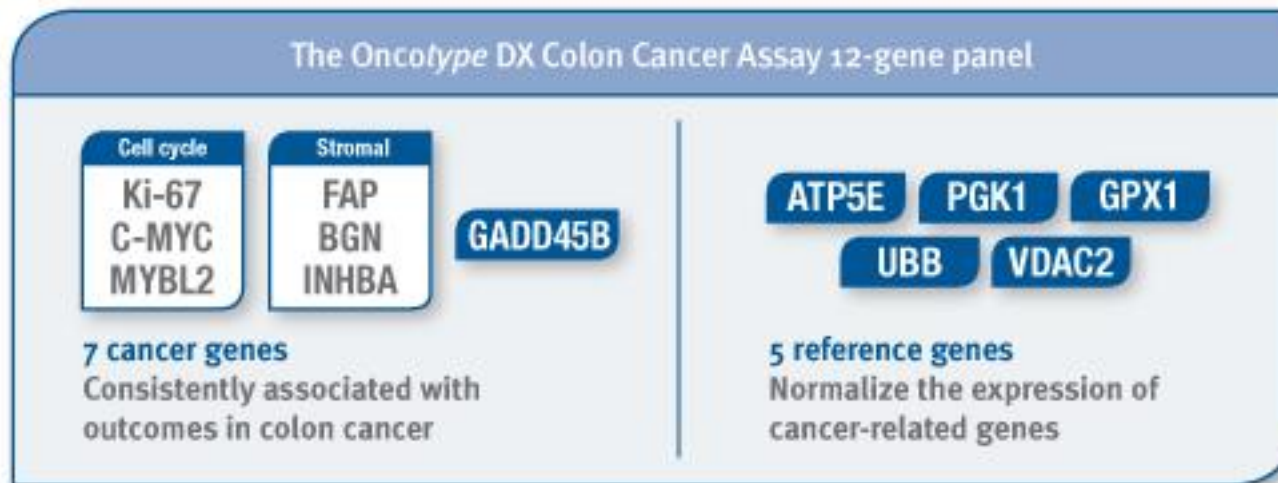
- *k-ras* mutations
- *P53* mutations
- LOH 17p (*p53*)
- LOH 18q (*dcc*)
- Microsatellite instability (*MMR*)
- DNA methylation
- Altered expression of *TGF $\beta$*
- *Apc* mutation/loss



# MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS TESTS

## ONCOTYPE DX COLON®

Stage 2 Colon Cancer; expression of 12 genes  
(7 genes known to be related with colon cancer and 5 reference genes)



The end result of the testing is a Recurrence Score (0-100) indicating the risk of recurrence in the three years after surgery.

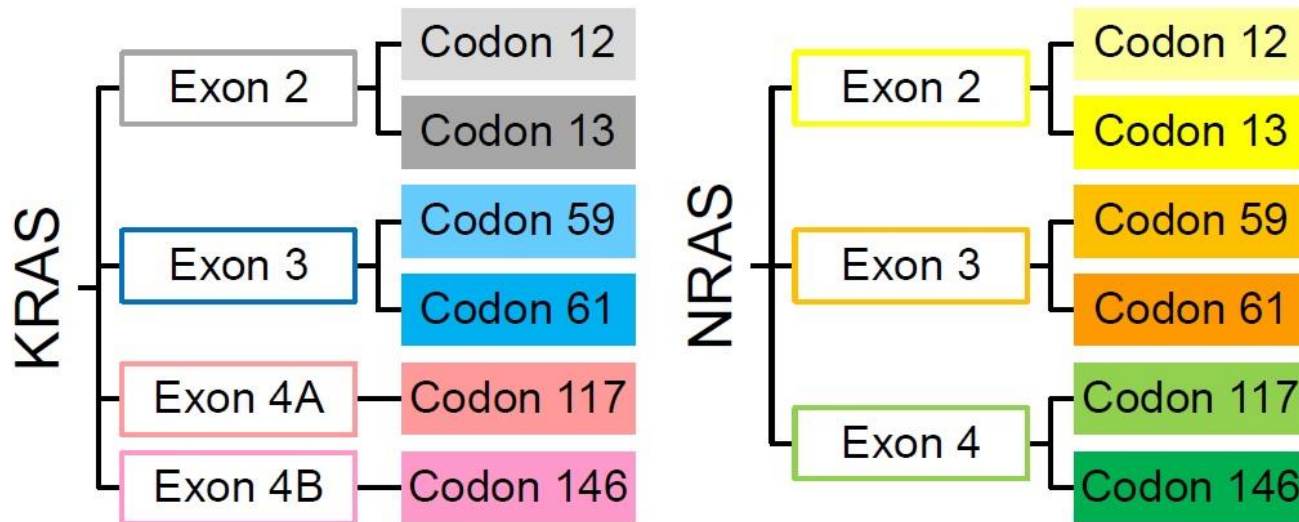
The test has been validated but it's not currently included in standard clinical practice.



# MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTICS TESTS

## ONCOBEAM™ RAS CRC ASSAY

Stage 4 Colon Cancer; evaluation of *K*- and *N-RAS* mutations in specific codons

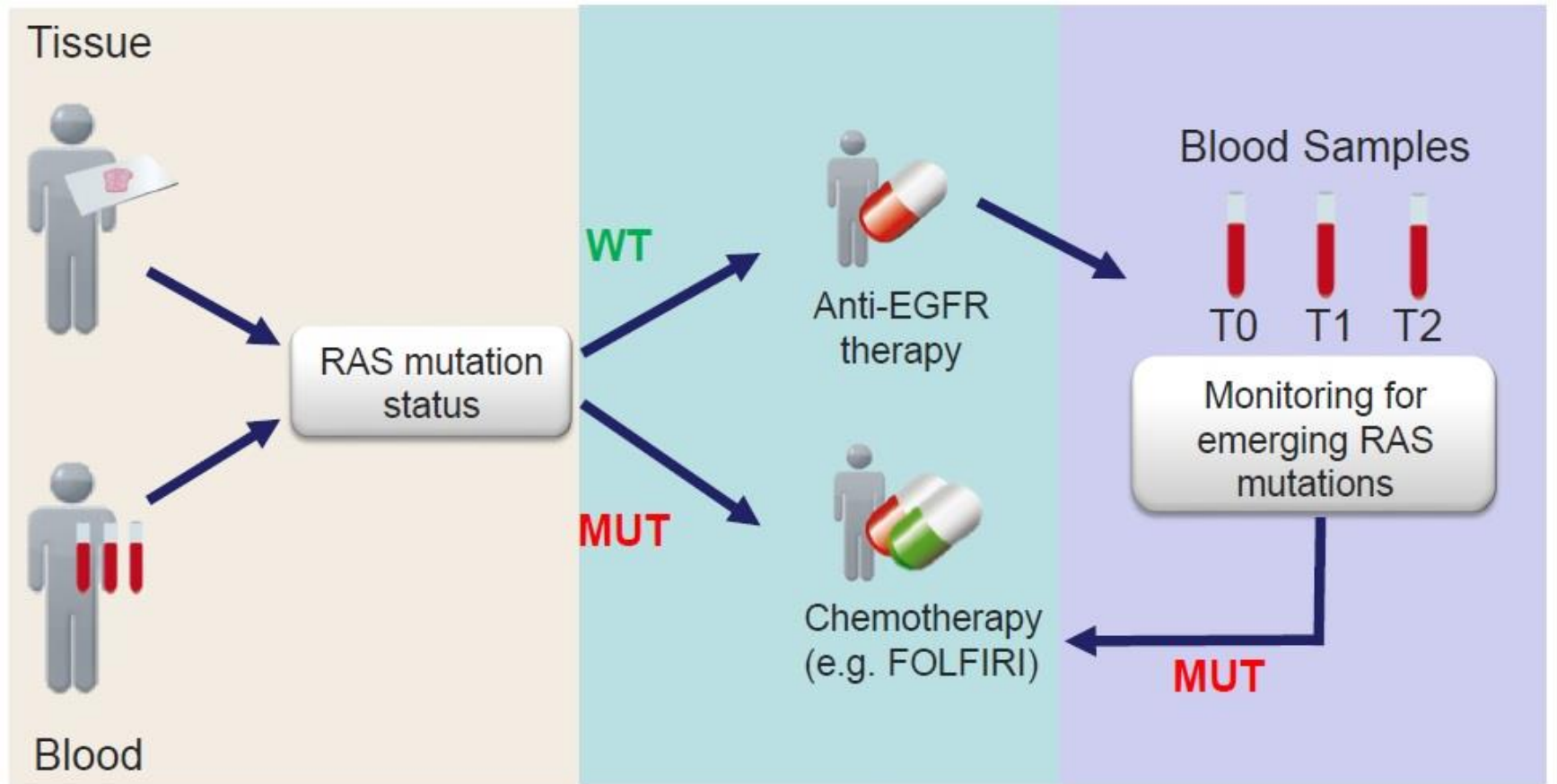


The end result of the testing is the mutational status of *K*- and *N-RAS* in plasma (ctDNA).

The test has been validated but it's not included in standard clinical practice yet.

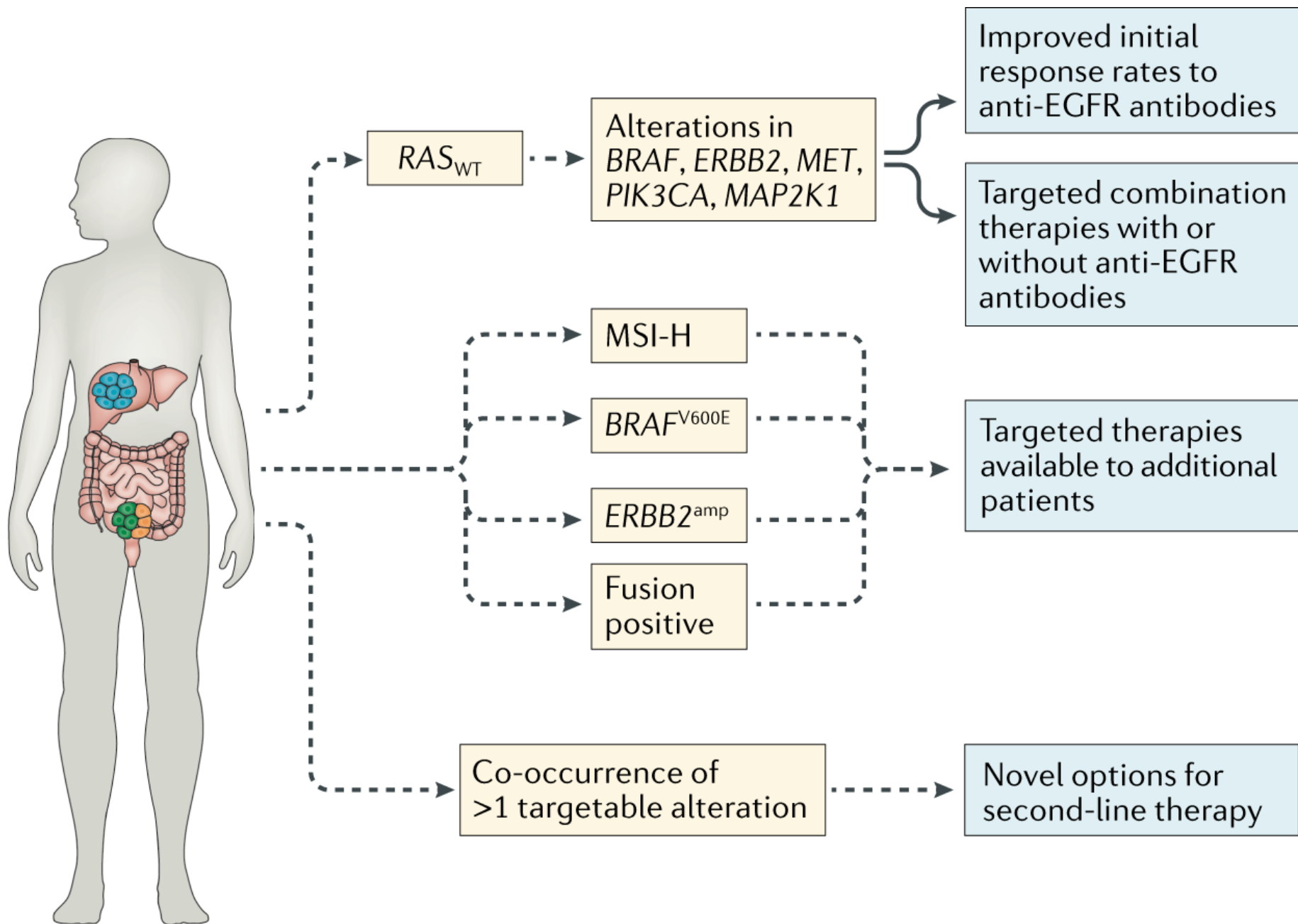


✓ Treatment

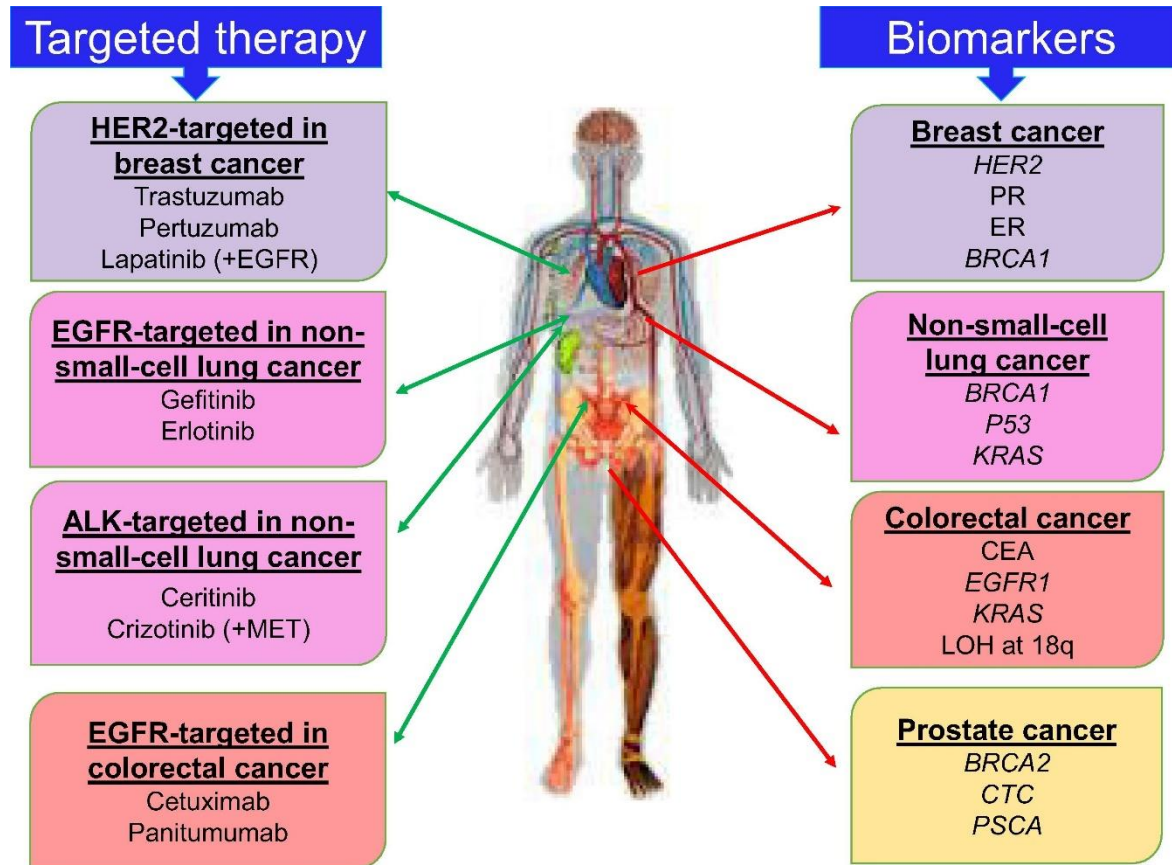


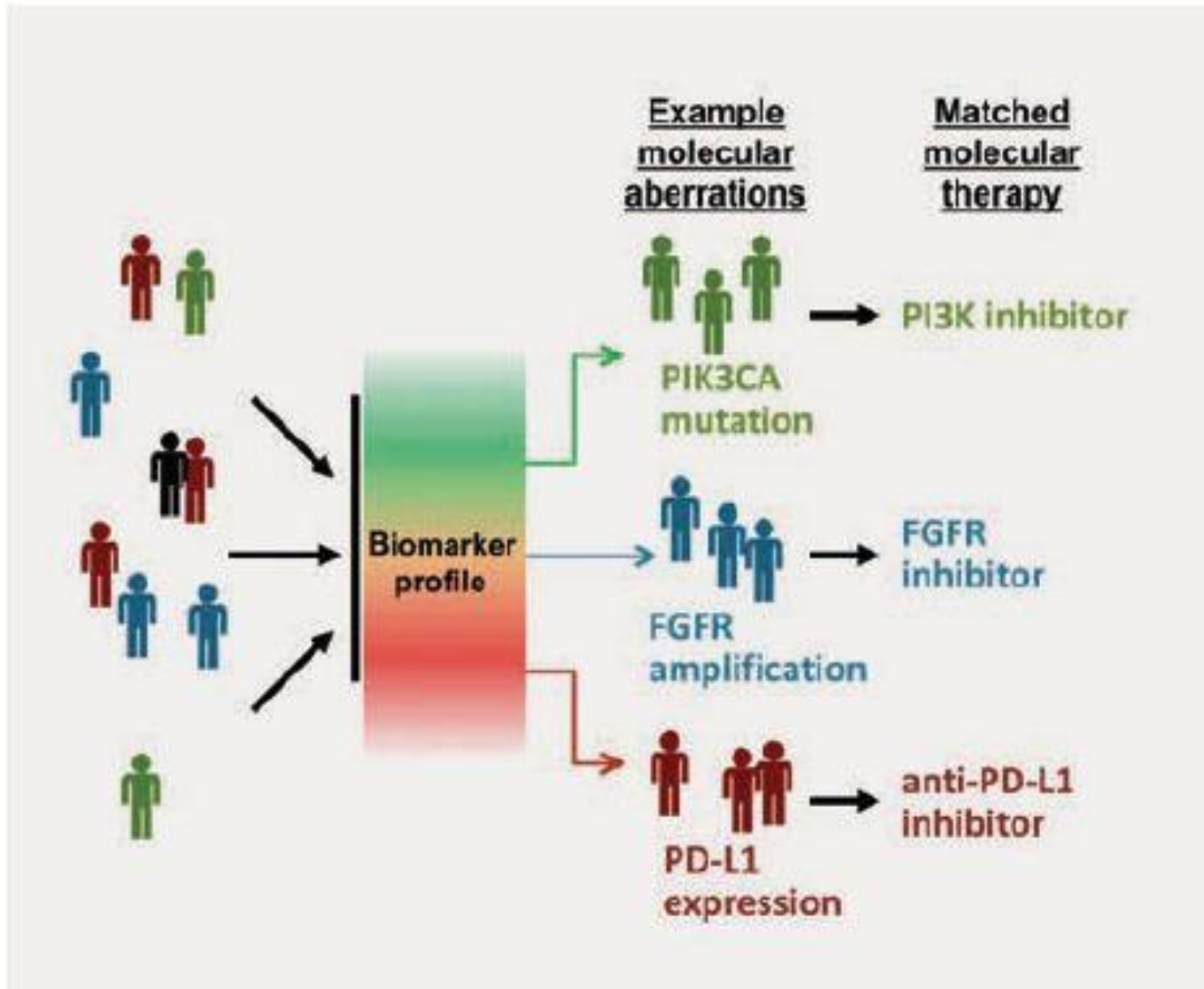
Example: Blood-based RAS testing for colorectal cancer

# Treatment



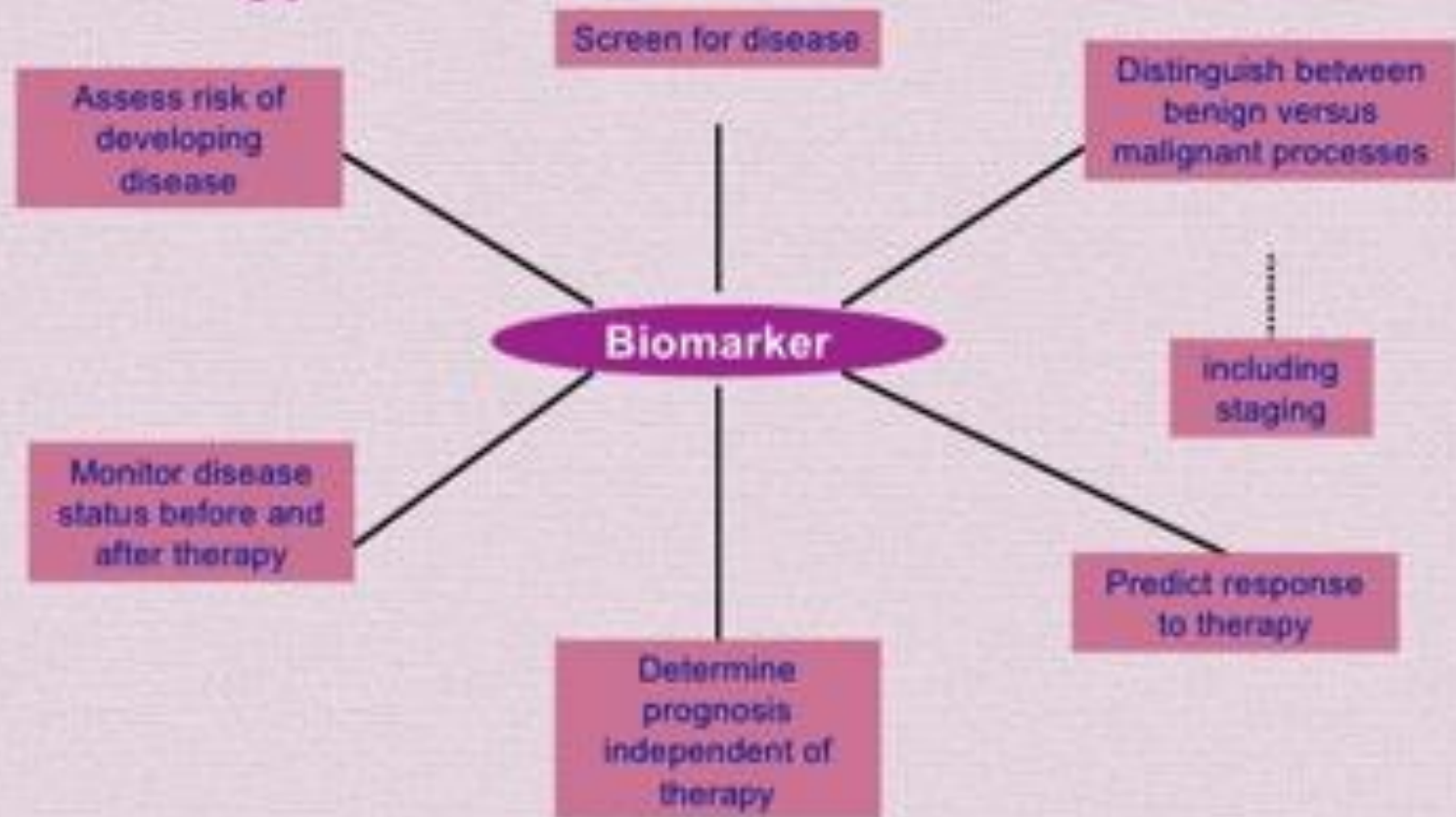






✓ Conclusions

# Potential uses for biomarkers in oncology



**Not sure if thank you for your  
attention**



**or thank you for not  
sleeping during the presentation**

quickmeme.com



**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**

**PLEASE DONT ASK  
TOUGH QUESTIONS**

2012 © Dood4U/1816