

# Breast Cancer Treatment: New Developments and New Decisions

**Hyman B. Muss, MD**

**Lineberger Comprehensive  
Cancer Center  
University of North Carolina**



UNC

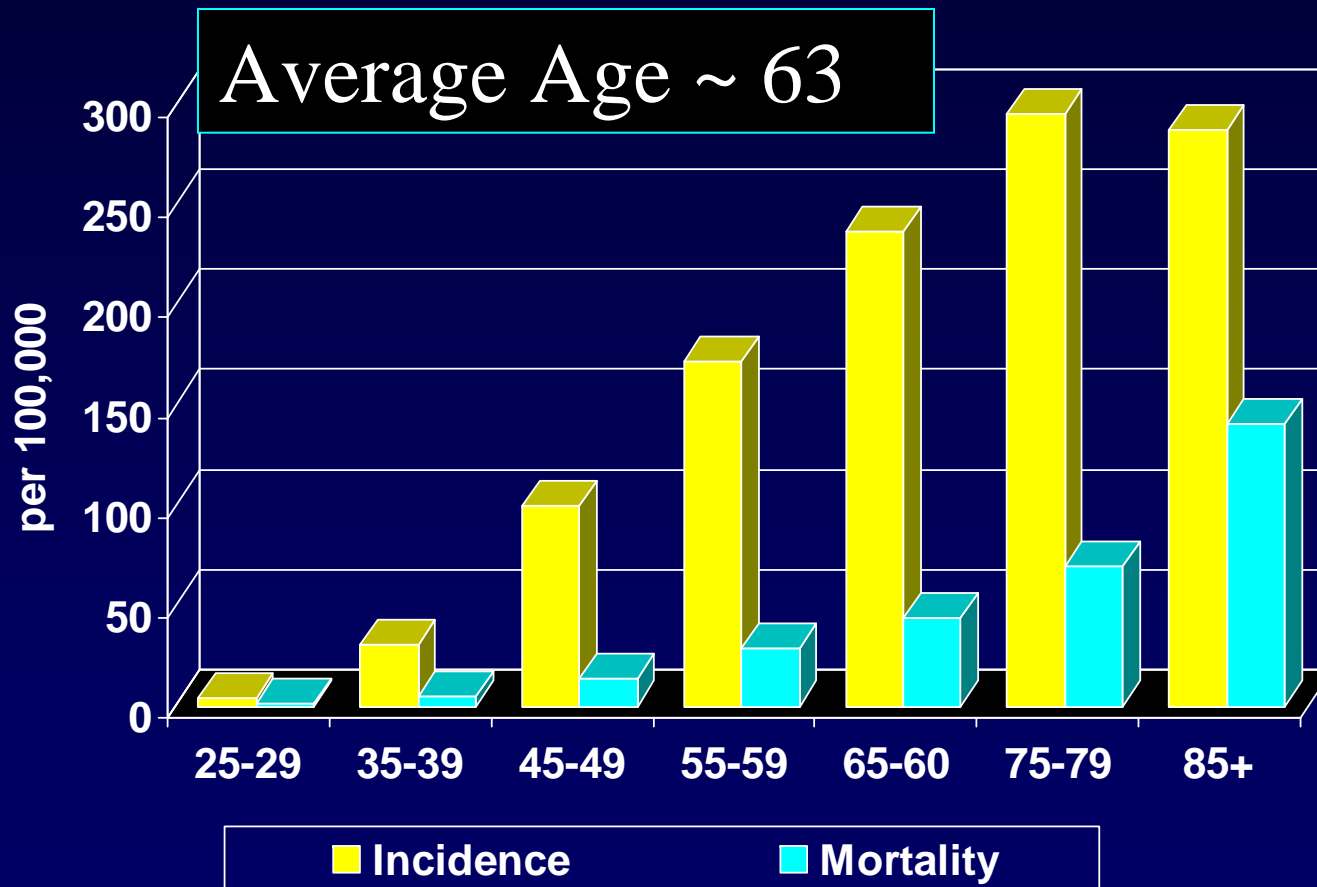
LINEBERGER COMPREHENSIVE  
CANCER CENTER  
NC CANCER HOSPITAL

# Treatment Issues

- Types of breast cancer
- Staging and biology
- Basics of therapy
  - Surgical oncology
  - Radiation oncology
  - Medical oncology
- The “team” approach

# Breast Cancer and Age

## United States SEER 1997-2001



# Types of Breast Cancer

- Ductal carcinoma *in situ* (DCIS)
  - Noninvasive breast cancer
  - Rarely spreads (1-2%)
- Invasive breast cancer
  - Risk of spread varies by stage/biology

# Tumor Stage: the Basics

- Based on size, node status and spread
  - The TNM system
- Stages I, II, III – non-metastatic (local or regional) and curable
  - e.g. – breast, axillary lymph node.
- Stage IV – metastatic
  - growth anywhere else
  - e.g. - bone, lymph node, local area, lung or pleura, liver, brain, ovary.

# Tumor Staging/Biology = Prognosis

- Distant metastases (M) – trump all else if present, otherwise:
- Tumor size (T)
- Axillary node involvement (N)
- Histology
- Tumor Grade
- Hormone Receptors: Estrogen Progesterone
- HER-2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor) status: gene amplified or not

# 10 Year Survival by Stage Surgery Only

<u>Stage</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Definition</u>	<u>10 yr Survival</u>
0	20	In situ	98%
1	50	No nodes	60-95%
2	20	Positive nodes	10-60%
3	5	Large tumor	5-60%
4	5	Metastatic	5-10%

# Treatment: Surgery

- Modified radical mastectomy
  - Breast, pectoral fascia, lower axillary lymph nodes

OR

- Breast conservation
  - Lumpectomy with nodal assessment
  - Radiation therapy



# MASTECTOMY

**1 IN 8**

**YOUR CHANCES OF  
GETTING BREAST CANCER**

*Breast Cancer  
Striking Younger  
Than Ever*

**YOUR BREASTS:  
NOT JUST  
FOR LOOKS**

**BREAST  
CANCER  
EPIDEMIC:  
What's Behind It?**

**PROFILE  
OF A  
KILLER**

**BREAST  
CANCER QUIZ:  
Are You At Risk?**

More information and resources for what you're doing about breast cancer? [www.breastcancerfund.org](http://www.breastcancerfund.org)



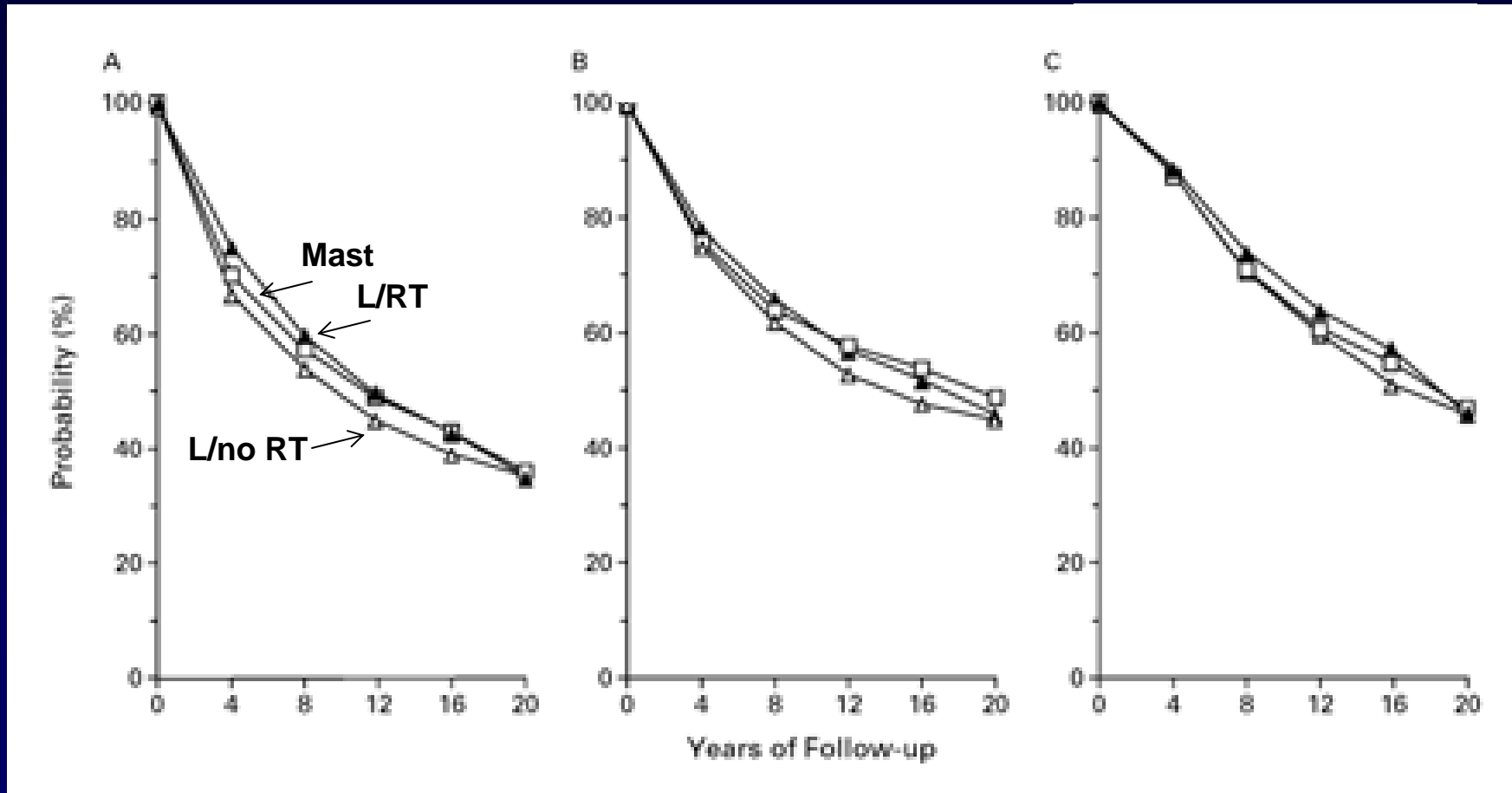


# Breast Conservation = Mastectomy (conservation is lumpectomy/radiation (L/RT))

% Disease-free

% Without Mets

% Alive



Squares = mast., triangles=L/no RT, dark triangles = L/RT  
*Fisher B et al. NEJM 2002*

# Radiation Therapy

- Lumpectomy
  - alone - 30% recur, most same area
  - Radiation standard of care
    - Less than 10% recur in breast
- Mastectomy – controversial role
  - large tumors, many + lymph nodes
- Palliation
  - Bone, CNS, some other mets

# Systemic Therapy

- Chemotherapy (numerous)
- Hormone therapy (block, lower estrogen)
  - Tamoxifen, oophorectomy, aromatase inhibitors, etc.
- Bisphosphonates for bone mets
- Biologic therapy
  - Trastuzumab (Herceptin) – anti HER-2 antibody
  - Lapatinib (Tykerb) – anti HER-2 small molecule
  - Bevacizumab (Avastin) – anti VEGF antibody

# Adjuvant Therapy

The use of chemotherapy, hormone therapy and/or radiation therapy either before or after surgery. The aim is to destroy microscopic metastases that may be present and if left untreated will eventually lead to relapse.

# Systemic Therapy: Adjuvant

- **At diagnosis – reduces recurrence (25-50%) and improves survival**
- **Known options:**
  - **Chemotherapy**
  - **Hormone therapy (if ER or PR +)**
  - **Anti HER2 drug trastuzumab (if HER2 +)**
  - **Combinations of these**
- **Considered in all but smallest Stage I tumors**

# Adjuvant Therapy: Proportional Reduction

Assume 100 pts, "Cure" 30%, 10 yr follow

Primary Tumor (Mo)	10 yr Survival No Rx	10 yr Survival Rx	Lives saved
1 cm, N-	90%	93%	3
2 cm, 10+ LN	20%	44%	24

Math: 90% cure without Rx means 10% will not survive. 30% of 10% is 3% or three lives saved of 100 pts treated.



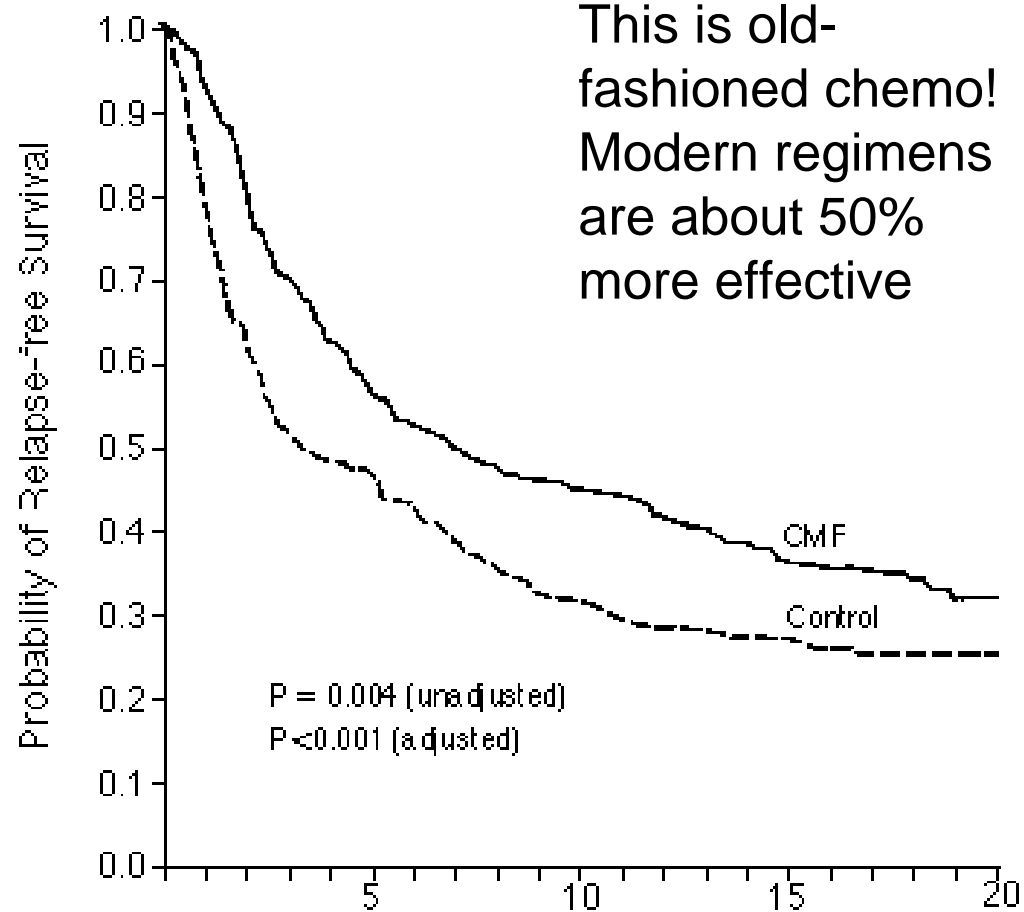
# Selecting Adjuvant Therapy

- Size, grade and lymph node status
- Hormone Receptors
  - Estrogen and Progesterone Receptors
  - Positive in 60% of patients
  - If not present, hormone Rx does not work
- HER-2
  - Positive in 20% of patients
  - If negative Herceptin does not work

# Long Term Impact of Adjuvant Chemo

34% reduction  
in relapse risk

26% reduction  
in risk of death

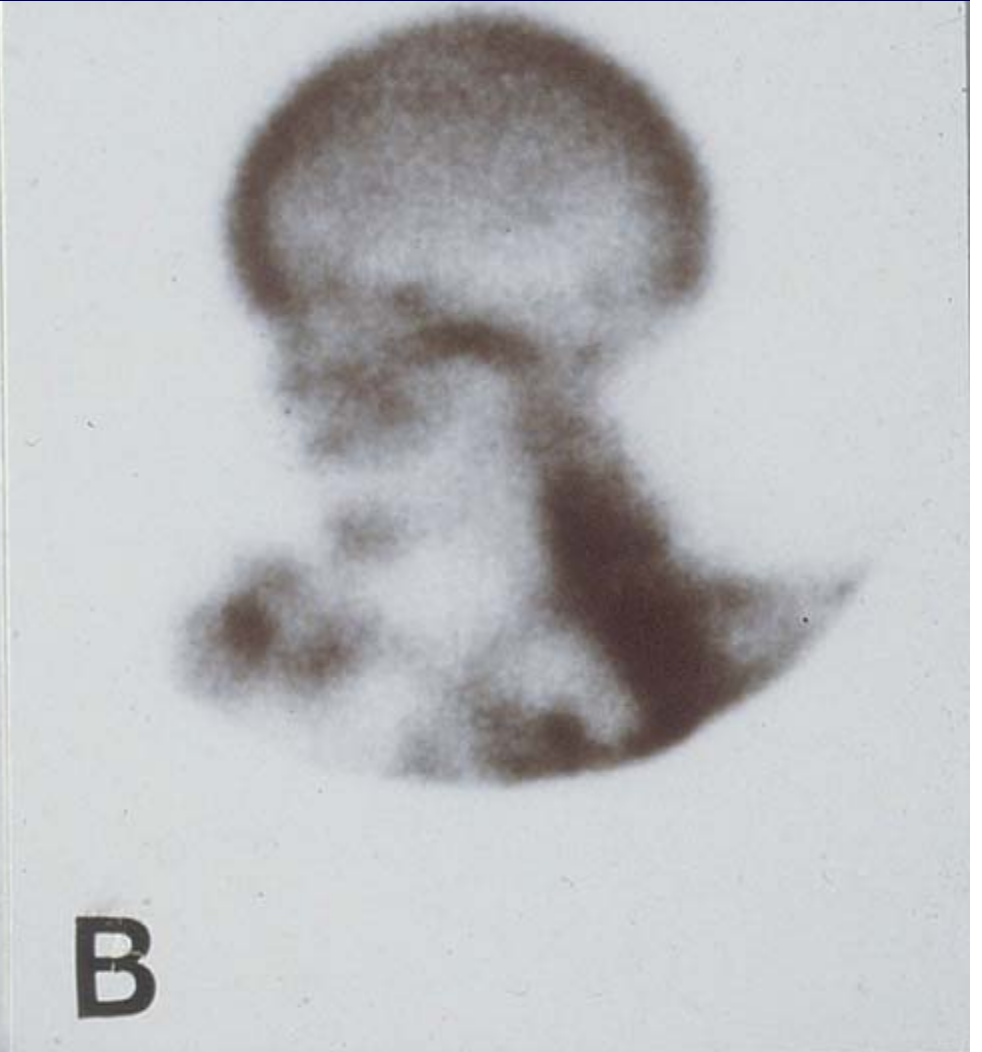


*Bonadonna G et al. NEJM 1995*

# Metastatic Disease

- All therapy is palliative
- Median survival depends on tempo not Rx
  - Median is 24 month for all patients
  - About 20% live 5 years and some 20 years
- Goal of Treatment
  - Control of disease and symptoms
  - Maximizing quality of life
- Endocrine Rx → Chemotherapy
  - Single sequential Rx best for most

# Bone Metastases: Response



# Rx Preference vs Added Survival

McQuellon et al, J Clin Oncol 13:858 '95

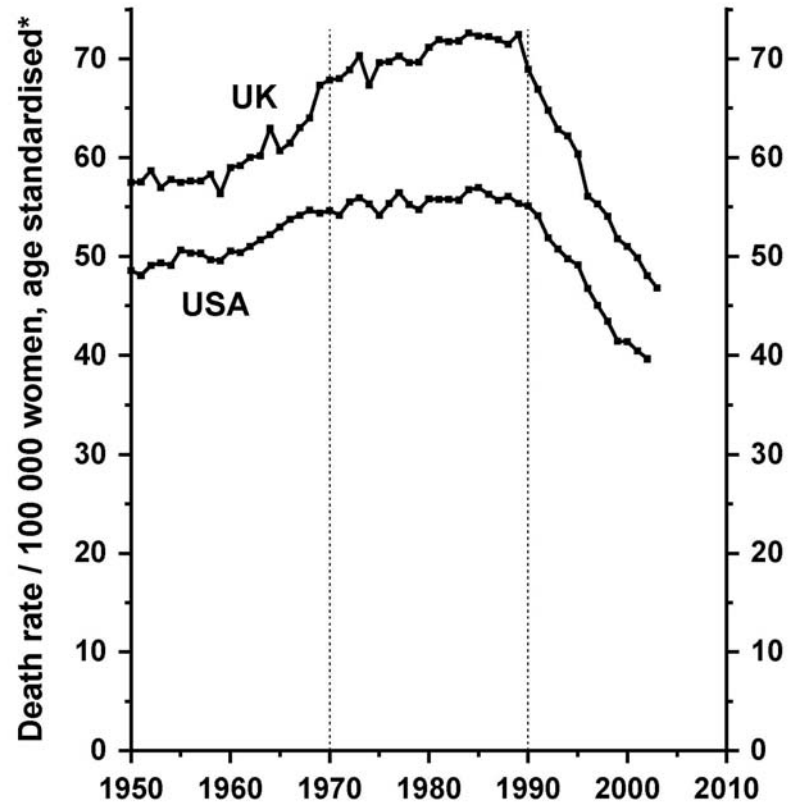
% of patients who would elect Rx for:

	<u>1 mth</u>	<u>6 mth</u>	<u>1 yr</u>	<u>5 yr</u>
std chemo	18	44	63	91
phase II	17	33	57	87
hormonal Rx	61	82	93	98
high-dose	9	34	64	100

# “Team” Approach

- Multidisciplinary Clinic
  - Face to face, videoconference
- The Team – facilitated by “navigator”
  - Surgery
  - Radiation Oncology
  - Medical Oncology
  - Pathology
  - Genetics
  - Support Program

**UK and USA 1950–2003/2: Females  
Breast cancer mortality at ages 35–69**



\*Mean of annual rates in the seven component 5-year age groups

Source: WHO mortality & UN population estimates

# Summary

- Treatment is complicated and costly
- Team approach best
- Many decisions along the way
  - Lumpectomy vs Mastectomy
  - Radiation
  - Systemic Therapy (Chemo, Endocrine)
- Follow-up essential
- Survivorship issues -lifelong management





Thank You !