



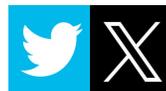
National Comprehensive  
Cancer Network®

*NCCN 2026 Breast Cancer Congress with Updates from the 2025 San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium*

# Phyllodes Tumors of the Breast: Challenges in Diagnosis and Treatment

**Laura H. Rosenberger, MD, MS**

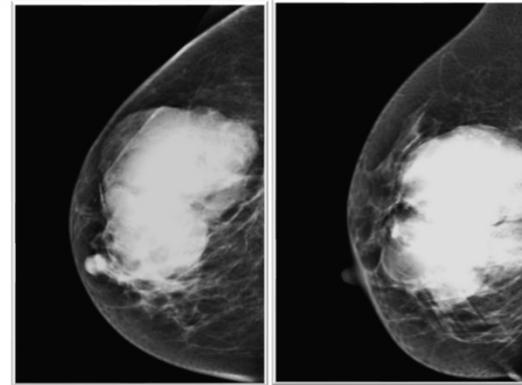
*Duke Cancer Institute*



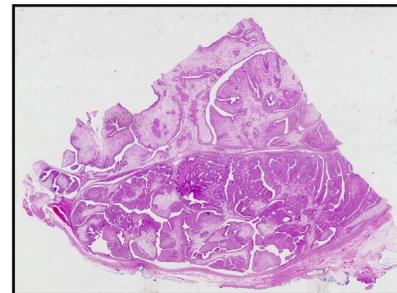
[Laura.Rosenberger@duke.edu](mailto:Laura.Rosenberger@duke.edu)  
[@RosenbergerMD](https://twitter.com/RosenbergerMD)

# Introduction: Phyllodes Tumors

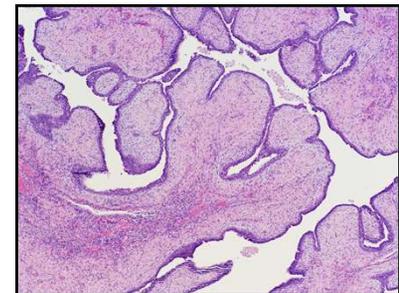
- First described by Johannes Müller, 1838 – “cystosarcoma phyllodes”
- **Rare fibroepithelial breast neoplasms**
- Annual incidence: **1-2 cases/100,000\***
- Median age is **40-45 years**
- Leaf-like architecture, cleft-like epithelial spaces, hypercellular stroma
- **Benign, Borderline, & Malignant** by scaled histopathologic features



66 F, 10.0cm borderline phyllodes  
Case Courtesy of Dr. LH Rosenberger



Whole mount, ultra-low power, **malignant**,  
micrograph courtesy of Dr. Rex Bentley



40x, **benign** phyllodes,  
micrograph courtesy of Dr. Rex Bentley

- Reimer G, Berlin, Germany, 1838.
- Rosen PP. Tumors of the Mammary Gland. Washington, DC: AFIP, 1993.
- Rosen PP. Rosen's Breast Path. Lippincott William Wilkins, NY, USA. 2001. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.

# World Health Organization Classification



COLLEGE of AMERICAN  
PATHOLOGISTS

Protocol for the Examination of Resection Specimens From  
Patients with Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast

[https://documents.cap.org/protocols/Breast.Phyllodes\\_1.1.0.1.REL\\_CAPCP.pdf](https://documents.cap.org/protocols/Breast.Phyllodes_1.1.0.1.REL_CAPCP.pdf)

	Histologic feature	Benign	Borderline	Malignant
1.	Stromal cellularity	Mild	Moderate	Marked
2.	Stromal atypia	Mild or none	Mild or moderate	Marked
3.	Stromal overgrowth	Absent	Absent or very focal	Present
4.	Mitotic rate	≤4 mitoses per 10 HPFs or <2.5 mitoses per mm <sup>2</sup>	5 - 9 mitoses per 10 HPFs or 2.5 - 5 mitoses/mm <sup>2</sup>	≥10 mitoses per 10 HPFs or ≥5 mitoses/mm <sup>2</sup>
5.	Tumor border	Circumscribed	Usually circumscribed but may be focally infiltrative	Focally or extensively infiltrative (permeative)
+1	Malignant heterologous stromal elements	Absent	Absent	Sometimes present

HPF: High power field (40x objective and 10x eyepiece)

World Health Organization, Classification of Tumours,  
5<sup>th</sup> Ed, Volume 2: Breast Tumours. Lyon, 2019, 172-176.

# World Health Organization Classification



COLLEGE of AMERICAN  
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## Important Note

The American Joint Committee on Cancer (AJCC) eighth edition and the World Health Organization (WHO) recommend staging malignant phyllodes tumors according to guidelines established for soft tissue sarcomas – extremity and trunk. T category, N category and stage group assignments do not apply to benign or borderline tumors. An abbreviated stage group table that only applies to malignant phyllodes tumors is included in the Explanatory

## Authors

Stuart J. Schnitt, MD\*; Laura H. Ross  
FCAP; James L. Connolly, MD.

With guidance from the CAP Cancer

\* Denotes primary author.

## pT Category

\_\_\_ pT not assigned (cannot be determined based on available pathological information)

\_\_\_ pT0: No evidence of primary tumor

\_\_\_ pT1: Tumor 5 cm or less in greatest dimension

\_\_\_ pT2: Tumor more than 5 cm but not more than 10 cm

\_\_\_ pT3: Tumor more than 10 cm but not more than 15 cm

\_\_\_ pT4: Tumor more than 15 cm in greatest dimension

## AJCC Prognostic Stage Groups

T	N	M	Stage group	
T1	N0	M0	≤ 5cm	II
T2	N0	M0	>5cm - ≤10	IIIA ★
T3, T4	N0	M0	>10cm	IIIB
Any T	N1	M0		IV
Any T	Any N	M1		IV

World Health Organization, Classification of Tumors  
5<sup>th</sup> Ed, Volume 2: Breast Tumours. Lyon, 2019, 17

# Distribution of Phyllodes Subtypes

TABLE 1 Characteristics of the included studies

Study	Year	Time frame	Country	Age (years) <sup>c</sup>	Total patients (n)	Grade (n)		
						Benign	Borderline	Malignant
Yom et al.	2015	1989–2008	Korea	36.44	285	191	61	33
Narayanakar et al.	2015	2001–2012	India	38	162	95	29	38
Ng et al.	2015	NA	Singapore	43	97	57	29	11
Akrami et al.	2015	1999–2013	Iran	29	129	105	8	16
Xiao et al.	2015	1993–2012	China	NA	127	75	41	11
Ouyang et al.	2016	2005–2013	China	37.3	225	225	0	0
Borhani-Khomani et al. <sup>c</sup>	2016	1999–2014	Denmark	45.6	479	354	89	0
Ruvaicaba-Limon et al.	2016	2005–2015	Mexico	41.7	308	179	43	32
Moutte et al.	2016	2003–2013	France	37.9	76	67	9	0
Bellezza et al.	2016	1988–2009	Italy	42	62	40	13	9
Kim et al.	2016	2000–2010	Korea	40.1	194	153	27	16
Tremblay-LeMay et al. <sup>c</sup>	2017	1998–2010	Canada	44.4	114	81	20	13
Moo et al.	2017	2003–2013	USA	35	216	216	0	0
Matos et al.	2017	1976–2013	Brazil	45.9	52	30	11	11
Varghese et al.	2017	2005–2014	India	43	92	55	21	16
Wang et al.	2018	2014–2015	China	NA	54	33	11	10
Ganesh et al.	2018	1999–2017	Canada	48.9	79	9	17	53
Rodrigues et al.	2018	1999–2014	Canada	48	183	81	49	49
Choi et al.	2018	1981–2014	Korea	43	362	0	127	235
Co et al.	2018	1998–2014	Hong Kong	44	469	281	124	64
Zhou et al.	2018	2002–2013	China	41	404	168	184	52
Chng et al.	2018	2006–2015	Singapore	37.7	240	196	27	17
Slodkowska et al.	2018	1994–2012	Canada	NA	94	45	28	21
Sevinc	2018	1994–2017	Turkey	40.6	122	108	14	0

**Singapore National Series  
N=605**

- Benign **72.7%**
- Borderline **18.4%**
- Malignant **8.9%**

**United States Multi-Center  
N=550**

- Benign **68.9%**
- Borderline **19.6%**
- Malignant **10.5%**

**Benign: 70 %**  
**Borderline: 20 %**  
**Malignant: 10 %**

\*Meta-analysis including benign- or malignant-only series

**Benign 64%**  
**Borderline 20%**  
**Malignant 16%**

Lu, et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2019; 26:1263-1275.  
 Tan, et al. J Clin Pathol. 2012; 65:69-76.  
 Rosenberger, et al. J Clin Oncol, 2021; 39:178-189.

# Local & Distant Recurrence Rates

Pooled **local** recurrence rates:

**TABLE 2** Local recurrence (LR) rates

Grade of PTs	ES	95% CI
Overall PTs	0.12	0.10–0.14
Benign PTs	0.08	0.06–0.09
Border PTs	0.13	0.11–0.16
Malignant PTs	0.18	0.14–0.21

*ES* effect size, *CI* confidence interval

Benign: **8%**  
Borderline: **13%**  
Malignant: **18%**

Overall *pooled* recurrence = **14.9%**

★ **20%** upgrade with LR

- World J Surg. 2006; 30:1414-1421
- J Clin Oncol. 2021; 39:178-189
- J Clin Pathol. 2012; 65:69-76

# Local & Distant Recurrence Rates

Pooled **local** recurrence rates:

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Border PTs	0.13	0.11–0.16
Malignant PTs	0.18	0.14–0.21

*ES* effect size, *CI* confidence interval

Benign: 8%  
 Borderline: 13%  
 Malignant: 18%

Overall *pooled* recurrence = 14.9%

20% *upgrade* with LR

Pooled **distant** metastatic rates:

Benign	0.1%
Borderline	1.6%
Malignant	16.7%

~75% of metastases to the **lungs**  
 Other sites: **bone, brain, unusual**  
 Prognosis: **median OS = 7-15 months** ★



Reason, Rosenberger, BMJ Case Rep. 2024; 17(7): e258640.

- World J Surg. 2006; 30:1414-1421
- J Clin Oncol. 2021; 39:178-189
- J Clin Pathol. 2012; 65:69-76

- Tan, et al. Histopathology. 2016; 66(1):5-21
- Palassini, et al. Breast Ca Res Treat. Epub, Feb 2022.
- Mitus, et al. World J Surg. 2016; 40:323-328

## Case #1: Unusual Scar-Based Recurrence & *Upgrade*

41 year old

**Surgery:** “benign” excisional biopsy –  
(grew *rapidly* before excision)

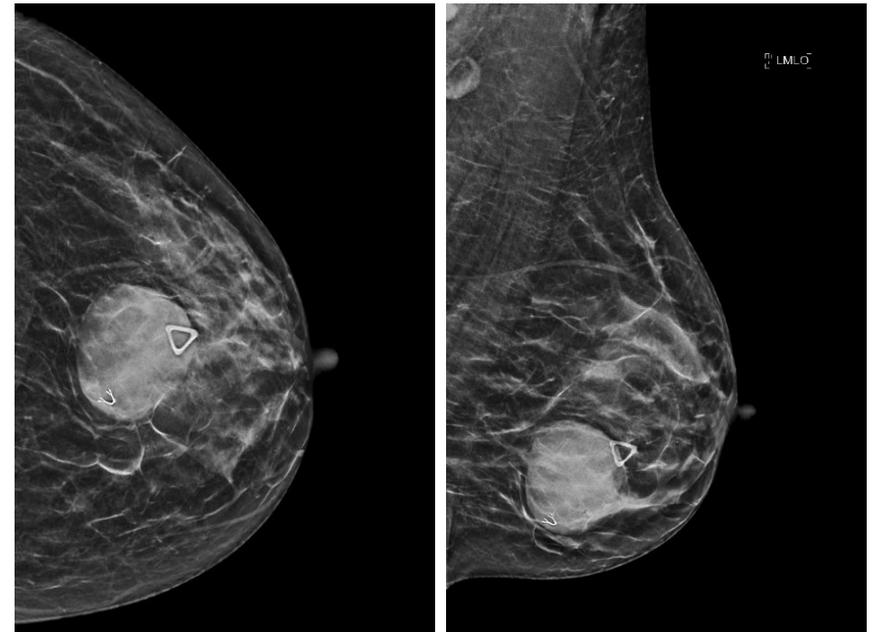
- fibroadenoma? benign phyllodes?

**3 years later:** enlarging mass, 4.0cm oval →  
*Rapid growth, x2 mo* → Surgical excision

**Surgery:** **BCS** 9.0cm **borderline phyllodes**

- **Stromal cellularity:** *not reported*
- **Stromal atypia:** Moderate
- **Stromal overgrowth:** **Present**
- **Histologic tumor border:** **Infiltrative, focal**
- **Mitoses:** **6** /10 hpf
- **Malignant heterologous elements:** *not reported*
- **Margins:** negative, *widths not reported*

- ***No adjuvant radiation***



## Case #1: Unusual Scar-Based Recurrence & *Upgrade*

---

18 months later – new rapidly enlarging scar-based lesion

**PATHOLOGY:** **3.5cm malignant phyllodes**

- **Stromal cellularity:** marked
- **Stromal atypia:** marked
- **Stromal overgrowth:** present
- **Histologic tumor border:** infiltrative, extensive
- **Mitoses:** **23** /10 hpf
- **Malignant heterologous elements:** not identified

***\*Histologic upgrade, Completion TM, No RT***

Case Courtesy of LH Rosenberger

# Factors Associated w/ Local Recurrence

Phyllodes **grade**, tumor **size**, surgical **margin status**

Pathologic features: stromal **atypia**, **stromal overgrowth**, **mitoses**, **necrosis**

## Positive Margins Matter

Significantly **increased** local recurrences:

- Chen (N=172) Ben Hassouna (N=106)
- Cheng (N=182) Belkacemi (N=443)
- Spitaleri (N=172) Spanheimer (N=125)
- Jang (N=164) Tan (N=605)
- Co (N=465) Jang (N=164)

## Positive Margins are OK

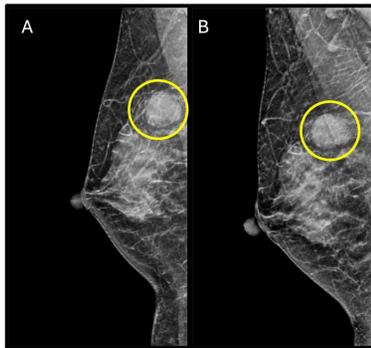
A negative margin **may not** be necessary

- Yom (N=285)
- Kim (N=193)
- Moo (N=246, *Benign only*)
- Lu (2019 Meta-analysis *Benign/BL only*)

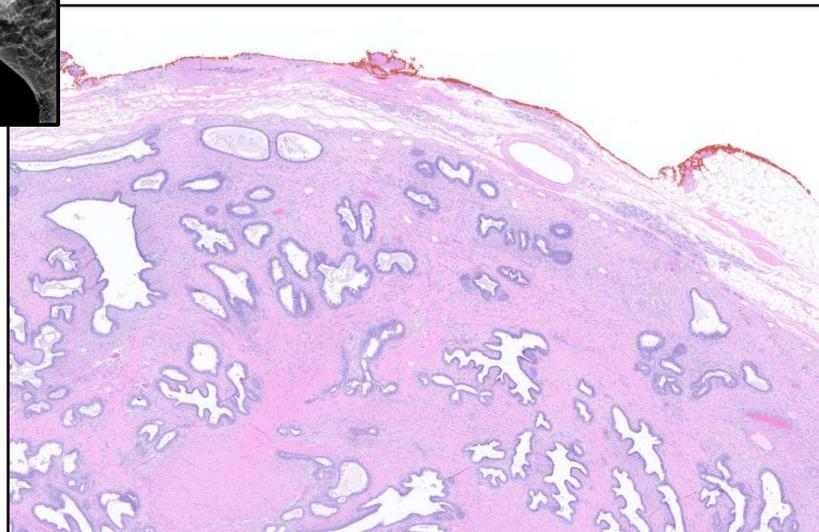
## Significant limitations

- Retrospective and small series
- Short follow up
- Few recurrence events
- Combined analyses (BPT, BLPT, MPT)

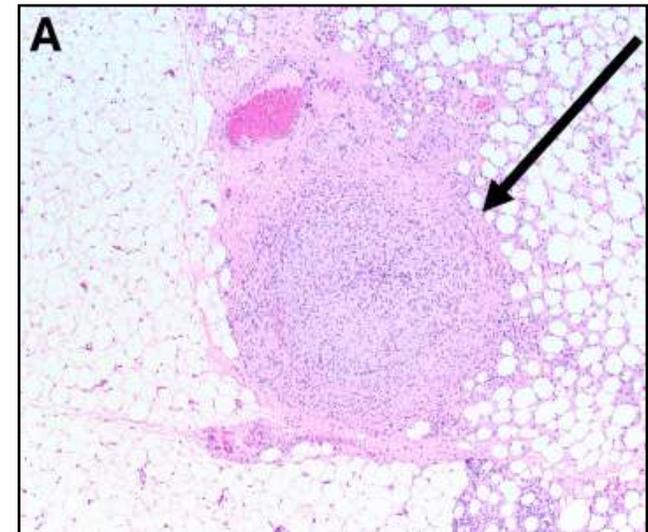
# Negative Margin *may not* be Negative



- Well-circumscribed borderline phyllodes tumor
- Returned to OR for wider margins
- Distinct ***satellite nodule*** identified in re-excision specimen



BLPT, well-circumscribed histologic tumor border



Reason, Rosenberger. Cureus, 2025; 17(3):e79890.

*\*Case series  
of N=10  
forthcoming*

# BENIGN Phyllodes Tumors



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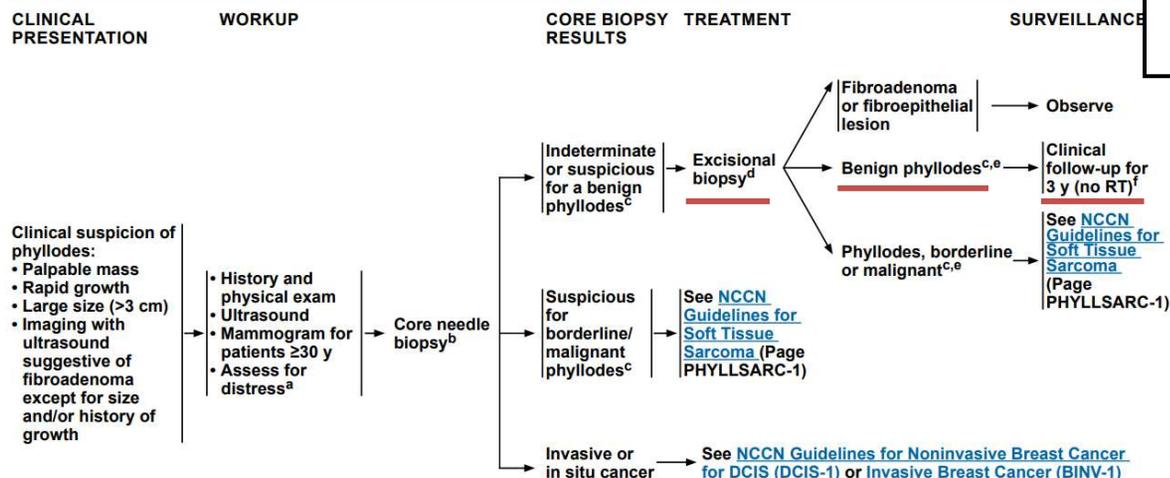
## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2026 Phyllodes Tumor

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NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®)

## Breast Cancer

Version 1.2026 — January 16, 2026



<sup>a</sup> Refer to the [NCCN Guidelines for Distress Management \(DIS-A\)](#) for the NCCN Distress Thermometer and Problem List, which includes social determinants of health.

<sup>b</sup> FNA or core biopsy may not distinguish a fibroadenoma from a phyllodes tumor in some cases. The sensitivity of core biopsy for the diagnosis of phyllodes tumor is greater than that of FNA biopsy, but neither core biopsy nor FNA biopsy can always differentiate phyllodes tumors from fibroadenomas. In cases with clinical suspicion for phyllodes tumor, excision of the lesion may be needed for definitive pathologic classification.

<sup>c</sup> Genetic counseling and testing if patient is at risk for hereditary cancer syndromes, particularly breast, ovarian, and pancreatic cancer.

<sup>d</sup> Excisional biopsy includes complete mass removal, but without the intent of obtaining surgical margins.

<sup>e</sup> The Panel endorses the College of American Pathologists Protocol for standardized pathology reporting for all phyllodes tumors ([https://documents.cap.org/protocols/Breast-Phyllodes\\_1.1.0.1.REL\\_CAPCP.pdf](https://documents.cap.org/protocols/Breast-Phyllodes_1.1.0.1.REL_CAPCP.pdf)).

<sup>f</sup> Adjuvant RT is not indicated for positive margins.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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PHYLL-1

- **Excisional biopsy includes complete removal, *without* an intent for surgical margins**
  - Complete excision
  - Capsule intact
  - No morcellation
- **Fully excised BPT**
  - Consider genetics
  - No routine re-excision
  - No radiation
- **Surveillance**
  - Variable recommendations\*
  - Consider tumor factors & shared decision-making

## **2023: Management of Benign Phyllodes Tumors: A Dutch Population-Based Retrospective Cohort Between 1989-2022.**

- **Intent:** margin controversy, benign phyllodes
- **Source:** Netherlands, **Dutch nationwide pathology databank** (Palga)
  - **National coverage** since 1991
  - All reports are digitally archived here
- **Years:** 1989 – 2022
- **N = 1908 benign phyllodes**
- Median time to LR, **31 months** (IQR, 15-61)
- Local recurrence rate, **6.2%** (N=119)
  - LR w/ *negative* margins, **4.0%**
  - LR w/ *positive* margins, **8.9%**
- **Multi-variable analysis**
  - No assoc w/ age, year, size, re-excisions
  - LR assoc w/ B/L status, **positive margin** (+ vs. -, **OR 2.4** (1.3 – 4.5,  $p = 0.006$ ))

### **RESULTS**

- Median age, **43 years** (IQR, 34 - 52)
- Median tumor size, **30 mm** (IQR, 19-40)
- 95% breast-conservation (25%,  $\geq 2$  operations)

### **Conclusions:**

- The LR rate for benign PT **remains low** (6.2%), even in cases of *positive* surgical margins (8.9%), **obviating the need for re-excision** in these patients.

**(positive margin okay) – supports the NCCN, UK, & Canadian national guidelines**

Van Olmen, Ann Surg Oncol. 2023; 30:8344-8352.

# Borderline & Malignant PT

## NCCN Clinical Practice Guidelines in Oncology (NCCN Guidelines®) Soft Tissue Sarcoma

Version 1.2026 — January 16, 2026

**NCCN** National Comprehensive Cancer Network®

**NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2026**  
**Borderline Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast**

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**WORKUP**

- Prior to the initiation of the treatment plan, all patients should be evaluated and treated by a multidisciplinary team with expertise and experience in phyllodes tumor
- H&P
  - ▶ Additional age- and risk-appropriate breast screening
- Consider breast MRI with and without contrast
  - ▶ Consider additional imaging (eg, CT) of the primary tumor as necessary for surgical planning. See [Principles of Imaging \(SARC-A\)](#)
- Core needle biopsy may not be sufficient to classify the tumor
- Genetic counseling and testing is recommended for breast<sup>a</sup> and sarcoma genes plus other inherited cancer genes consistent with family phenotype

**TREATMENT**

Surgery to obtain oncologically appropriate margins,<sup>b</sup> initial intent for 1 cm margin

- Negative margins → Consider adjuvant RT<sup>d</sup>
- Positive margins → Re-excision to obtain negative margins<sup>c</sup> → Consider adjuvant RT<sup>d</sup>

**FOLLOW-UP**

- H&P every 6 mo for 2 y, then annually through 5 y
  - ▶ Routine age- and risk-appropriate breast screening
- Breast/Chest wall MRI with and without contrast every 6 mo for 2 y, then annually through 5 y. See [Principles of Imaging \(SARC-A\)](#)
- ▶ Consider additional imaging (eg, US, CT, as clinically appropriate) of the primary tumor site to monitor for local recurrence

<sup>a</sup> For risk criteria, see [NCCN Guidelines for Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Breast, Ovarian, Pancreatic, and Prostate](#).  
<sup>b</sup> For borderline or malignant phyllodes tumors, wide excision means excision with the intention of obtaining surgical margins ≥1 cm. Narrow surgical margins associated with increased local recurrence risk, but are not an absolute indication for mastectomy when partial mastectomy fails to achieve a margin. Mastectomy may be needed to obtain these margins (considerations may include tumor and breast size).  
<sup>c</sup> Radiation therapy is not a substitute for negative margins and additional surgery should be pursued for positive margins.  
<sup>d</sup> Following adequate margin resection, adjuvant RT can be deferred. However adjuvant RT should be considered in the setting of increased risk of local recurrence (eg, mitoses >30/10 hpf, size >10 cm, malignant heterologous elements). Scenarios include (but are not limited to) multiple recurrent phyllodes, and margins due to chest wall with reduced local recurrence threshold. See [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(SARC-E\)](#) for dose recommendations.

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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**NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2026**  
**Malignant Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast**

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**WORKUP**

- Prior to the initiation of the treatment plan, all patients should be evaluated and treated by a multidisciplinary team with expertise and experience in phyllodes tumor
- H&P
  - ▶ Additional age- and risk-appropriate breast screening
- CT chest (consider CT abdomen/pelvis) with contrast
- Breast MRI with and without contrast
- Consider additional imaging as clinically indicated<sup>a</sup>
- Core needle biopsy may not be sufficient to classify the tumor
- Genetic counseling and testing is recommended for breast<sup>a</sup> and sarcoma genes plus other inherited cancer genes consistent with family phenotype

**TREATMENT**

Localized resectable disease → Surgical resection (preferred), with 1 cm margin, expedite initial excision, without delay for staging scans or immediate breast-specific reconstruction due to extreme rapidity of growth and to obtain definitive final histopathologic diagnosis<sup>f</sup>

- Mastectomy<sup>b,i,j,k</sup> without axillary staging
- Breast conservation surgery with oncologically appropriate margins<sup>b,j</sup> without axillary staging

Negative margins → Adjuvant RT following breast conservation surgery<sup>f</sup>

Positive margins → Additional surgical resection to obtain negative margins<sup>c,j</sup> → Adjuvant RT following breast conservation surgery<sup>f</sup>

Unresectable primary disease → Options:
 

- Definitive RT<sup>g</sup>
- Systemic therapy<sup>h</sup>
- Best supportive care

Synchronous Stage IV disease → Follow-up [PHYL SARC-4](#)

**FOLLOW-UP**

- Adjuvant RT following breast conservation surgery<sup>f</sup>
- Consider adjuvant RT after mastectomy<sup>d,g</sup>
- Consider adjuvant systemic therapy<sup>h,i</sup>

Follow-up [PHYL SARC-3](#)

Note: All recommendations are category 2A unless otherwise indicated.

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PHYL SARC-2

## 2007: Malignant Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast: Local Control Rates with *Surgery Alone*.

- Pezner, 2007, USA
- IMPAC National Oncology Database:
  - N=**478 Malignant PT**, surgery *alone*
  - Median follow up = 64 months
- 5-year Local Recurrence:
  - **20.6%** for lumpectomy
  - **8.8%** for mastectomy

Tumor Size	Lumpectomy (N=169)	Mastectomy (N=207)
0 – 2 cm	9%	0
<b>2 – 5 cm</b>	<b>15%</b>	5%
5 – 10 cm	41%	12%
<b>10 – 20 cm</b>	No cases	<b>15%</b>

***A 15% risk of LR is an appropriate threshold to consider adjuvant XRT***

Pezner. Int J Rad Oncol Biol Phys. 2007; 71:710-713.

## 2020: Surgical Margins & Adjuvant Therapies in Malignant Phyllodes: A Multicenter Retrospective Study

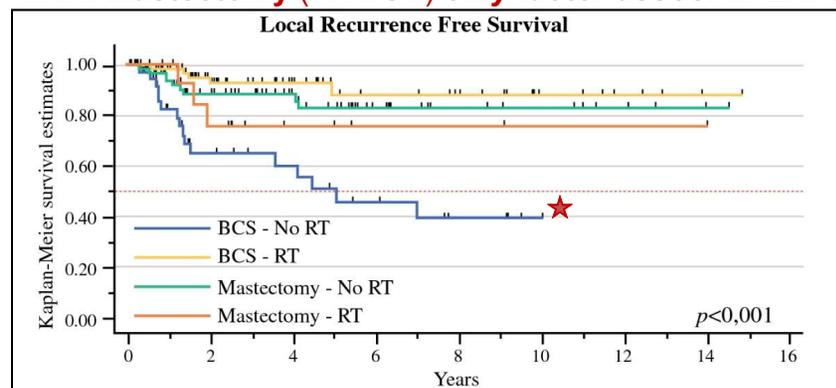
- Pezner, 2007, USA
- IMPAC National Oncology Database:
  - N=478 Malignant PT, surgery *alone*
  - Median follow up = 64 months
- 5-year Local Recurrence:
  - 20.6% for lumpectomy
  - 8.8% for mastectomy
- Neron, 2020, France
- French Sarcoma Group (13 sites)
  - Malignant phyllodes: N=212, size: **5.8cm**
- Surgery type: **73.3%** Mastectomy
- Adjuvant RT: **43.3%** (more freq. w/ mast)
- Local Recurrence: **16.6%** @ 50 months

**BCS w/out RT, assoc. w/ lowest LRFS ( $p < 0.001$ )**

**MVA: Mastectomy (vs. BCS) only factor assoc. w/ LRFS**

Tumor Size	Lumpectomy (N=169)	Mastectomy (N=207)
0 – 2 cm	9%	0
2 – 5 cm	15%	5%
5 – 10 cm	41%	12%
10 – 20 cm	No cases	15%

Pezner. Int J Rad Oncol Biol Phys. 2007; 71:710-713.



Neron. Ann Surg Oncol. 2020; 27:1818-1827.

## **2024: Real-World Data on Malignant & Borderline Phyllodes: A Population-Based Study of **921 Cases** in the Netherlands**

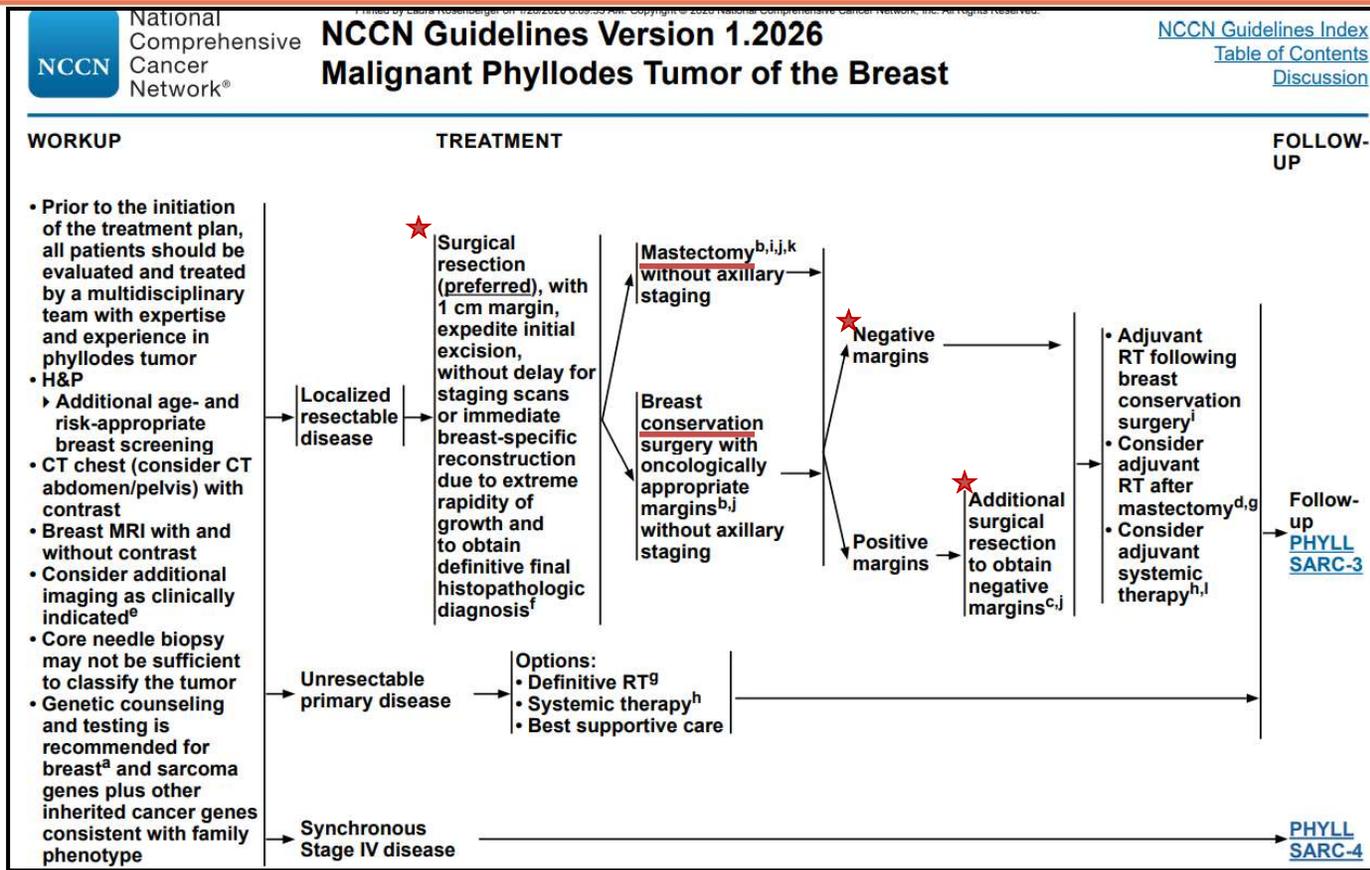
- **Source:** Netherlands, Dutch nationwide pathology databank (Palga)
    - National coverage since 1991
    - All reports are digitally archived here
  - **Years:** 1989 – 2020
  - **N = 921 (N = 452 BLPT, N = 469 MPT)**
- ### RESULTS
- Median age, **50 years (BLPT), 55 years (MPT)**
  - Median tumor size, **3.8cm (BLPT), 4.7cm\* (MPT)**
  - **Surgery:**
    - BLPT **18.6%** mastectomy
    - MPT **53.5%** mastectomy
  - **Adjuvant RT:** 2.9% BLPT, **14.7% MPT**
  - **Median follow-up:** 9.6 years
  - Local recurrence: BLPT: **9.3%**, MPT: **8.7%**
  - Metastases: BLPT: **0%**, MPT: **10.4%**
  - **MVA: risk factors assoc. w/ LR**
    - **Malignant** (vs. BLPT):  $p=0.01$
    - **Positive margin** (vs. 0-1, >1mm)  $p<0.001$
    - **Breast conservation** (vs. TM):  $p<0.001$
    - **Tumor Size** (>20 vs. 0-19mm):  $p<0.001$
    - Radiation (vs. no RT):  $p=0.46$
  - *No difference in 5-year LR w/ 0-1mm vs. >1mm*
    - *\*analyzed borderline/malignant together*

### Conclusions:

- **Consider mastectomy for MPT**
- **Positive margins impact LR**
- However narrow negative margins were not associated with higher risk of LR\*.

Bartels. Eur J Cancer. Apr:201;113924, Epub 2024 Feb

# What are the **SURGICAL** options?



## Should we deliver **adjuvant radiation therapy**?

- Gnerlich, 2014, USA
  - NCDB, 1998-2009
  - Malignant PT only
  - **N=3,120** (57% BCS, 42% mastectomy)
  - 14% received RT, assoc. 50+ years, >10cm size
  - Overall LR; **14%**
  - In adjusted models: **RT reduced risk of LR (HR 0.53, p=0.037)**
- Bartels, 2024, Netherlands
  - Dutch national study
  - **N=921** (452 BLPT + 469 MPT)
  - 9% received RT (15% MPT)
  - In subgroup analysis, **RT after BCS for MPT had improved LRR of 5% vs. **19%** w/out RT**
  - **\*RT did not hold statistical significance in MVA**
- Chao, 2019, China
  - Systematic review & meta-analysis
  - 17 studies (8 BLPT+MPT, 9 MPT)
  - **N=696**
  - Pooled LR rates:
    - **Surgery +RT = 8%**
    - Surgery alone = **19%**

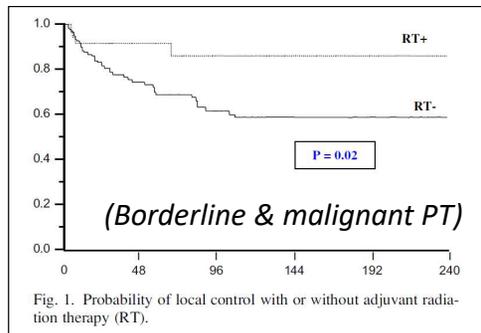
Gnerlich. Ann Surg Oncol. 2014; 21:1222-1230.

Bartels. Eur J Cancer. Apr:201:113924, Epub 2024, Feb.

Chao. BMC Cancer. 2019; 19:372-378.

# Should we deliver **adjuvant radiation therapy**?

- Belkacemi, 2008, France
- Rare Cancer Network, 1971-2003
- Retrospective, N=80 BLPT, N=79 MPT
- Mastectomy **15%**, Adjuvant RT **9%**
- LR **28%\*** for MPT



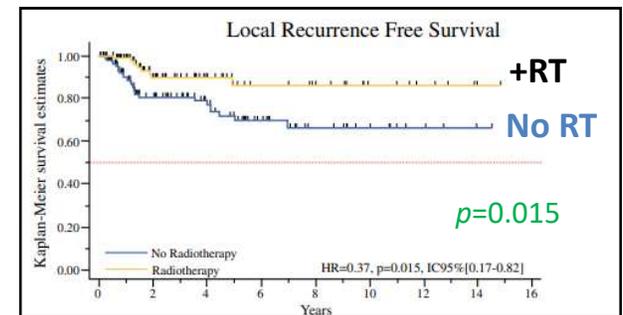
- **Adjuvant RT improved LC (14% vs. 41%), RT held in MVA**

Belkacemi, et al. Int J Rad Onc Bio Phys. 2008; 70:492.

- Barth, 2009, USA
- Prospective, multicenter, adjuvant RT
- **N=46**, all BCS, all neg margins, *no tumor on ink*
  - BLPT, n=16
  - MPT, n=30
- Age = 49 years, **size = 3.8cm\***
- Margin width, most 1-4mm
- **RT: 5040 cGy + 1000 cGy boost**
- Results: @ 56 months follow up, **No cases developed LR**

Barth, et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2009; 16:2288-2294.

- Neron, 2020, France
- French Sarcoma Group (13 sites)
  - N=212 MPT, **size: 5.8cm**
- Surgery: BCS: 26.7%, **Mast: 73.3%**
- Adjuvant RT: 43.3% (more w/ mast)
- Recurrence: **16.6%** (local) @50 mo.



**Adjuvant RT improved LRFS**

**\*RT did not hold in MVA**

Neron. Ann Surg Oncol. 2020; 27:1818-1827.

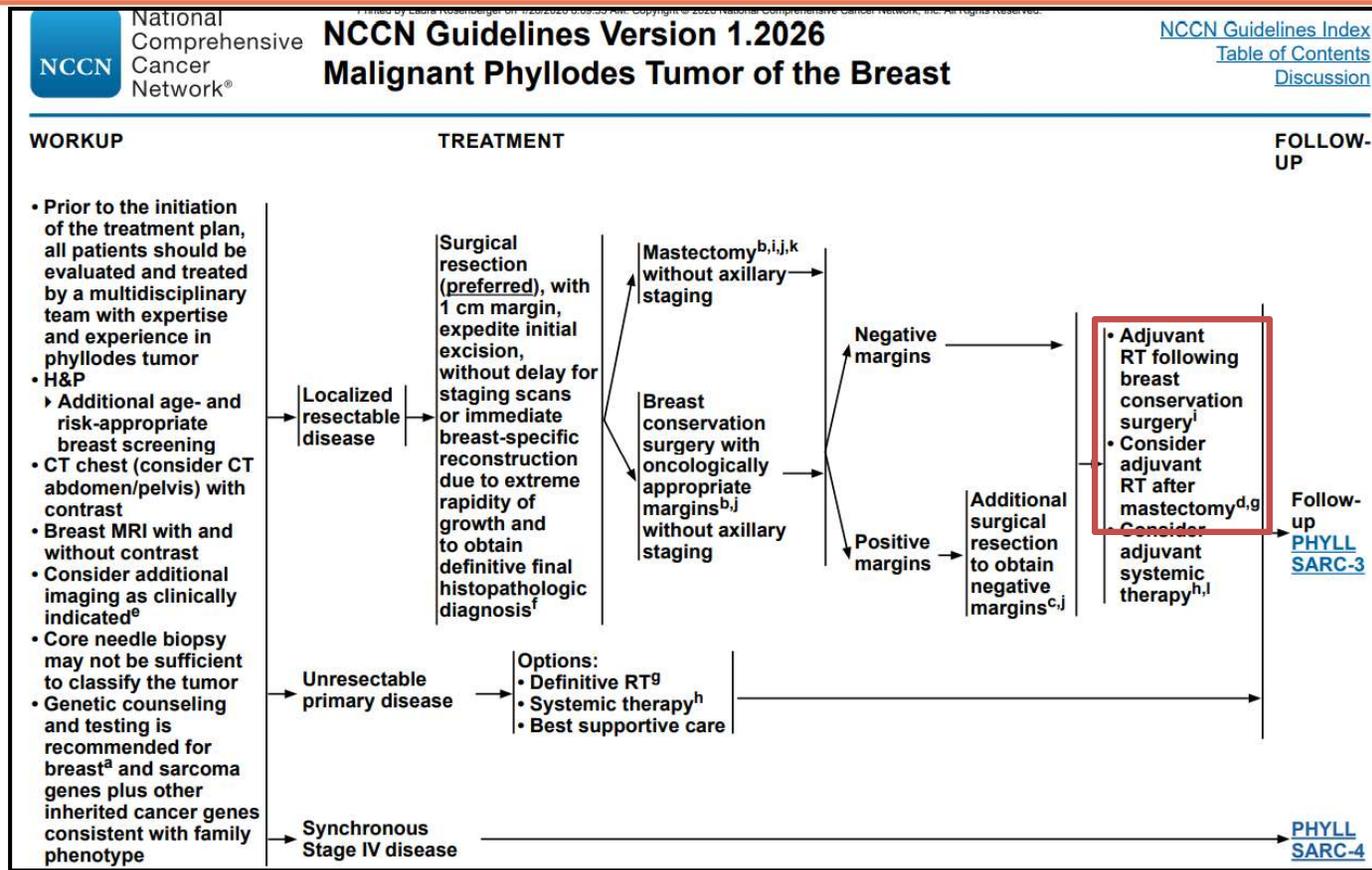
## Should we deliver **adjuvant radiation therapy**?

Surgery Type	Margin Size	<u>BENIGN</u>	<u>BORDERLINE</u>	<u>MALIGNANT</u>
BCS	Any	No RT	Maybe RT*	<u>YES RT</u>
Mastectomy	Wide Margin Small Tumor	No RT	No RT	Probably RT*
	Less Wide Margin Large Tumor			<u>YES RT</u>

\*High-risk features (mitoses >30/10hpf, size >8-10.0cm, presence of malignant heterology elements), locally recurrent, chest wall proximity, morbid surgical salvage

\*Table modified from **Dr. Andrew Bishop**, MDACC

# Should we deliver **adjuvant radiation therapy**?



# Should we deliver **adjuvant radiation therapy**?



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## NCCN Guidelines Version 1.2026 Malignant Phyllodes Tumor of the Breast

[NCCN Guidelines Index](#)  
[Table of Contents](#)  
[Discussion](#)

### FOOTNOTES

<sup>a</sup> For risk criteria, see [NCCN Guidelines for Genetic/Familial High-Risk Assessment: Breast, Ovarian, Pancreatic, and Prostate](#).

<sup>b</sup> For borderline or malignant phyllodes tumors, wide excision means excision with the intention of obtaining surgical margins  $\geq 1$  cm. Narrow surgical margins are associated with increased local recurrence risk, but are not an absolute indication for mastectomy when partial mastectomy fails to achieve a margin width  $\geq 1$  cm. *Mastectomy may be needed to obtain these margins (considerations may include tumor and breast size).*

<sup>c</sup> Radiation therapy is not a substitute for negative margins and additional surgery should be pursued for positive margins.

<sup>d</sup> Following adequate margin resection, adjuvant RT can be deferred. However adjuvant RT should be considered in the setting of increased risk of local recurrence (eg, mitoses  $>30/10$  hpf, size  $>10$  cm, malignant heterologous elements). Scenarios include (but are not limited to) multiple recurrent phyllodes, and surgically narrow margins due to chest wall with reduced local recurrence threshold. See [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(SARC-E\)](#) for dose recommendations.

<sup>e</sup> Given propensity for lung/bone/visceral metastases, consider additional imaging with whole body FDG-PET/CT to evaluate metastatic disease, bone scan, or brain MRI as clinically indicated (Parkes A, et al. Breast Cancer Res Treat 2021;186:871-882; Mitú JW, et al. World J Surg 2016;40:323-328). See [Principles of Imaging \(SARC-A\)](#).

<sup>f</sup> Consider preoperative RT in marginally unresectable disease or when anticipated narrow margins despite radical resection. Effort should be made to expedite the initiation of preoperative RT when recommended by the multidisciplinary team as delays may impact outcomes in this rapidly growing tumor. Surgical re-evaluation should occur during and immediately after preoperative RT to reassess resectability.

<sup>g</sup> [Principles of Radiation Therapy \(SARC-E\)](#).

<sup>h</sup> [Systemic Therapy Agents and Regimens with Activity in Soft Tissue Sarcoma Subtypes and Aggressive Soft Tissue Neoplasms \(SARC-G\)](#).

<sup>i</sup> Data indicate that local recurrence is less likely to occur with mastectomy than breast conservation surgery. If patient has undergone breast conservation surgery, adjuvant RT is recommended regardless of margin status. Neron M, et al. Ann Surg Oncol 2020;27:1818-1827; Bartles SAL, et al. Eur J Cancer 2024;201:113924.

<sup>j</sup> [Principles of Surgery \(SARC-D\)](#).

<sup>k</sup> Due to high rates of local recurrence with narrow or positive margins, attempts at nipple or skin sparing approach in close proximity to the tumor to facilitate reconstruction is discouraged. The goal should be to obtain widely negative margins even if that requires resection of extensive amounts of skin.

<sup>l</sup> Consider systemic therapy if high risk for occult metastatic disease or high-risk features (eg, mitoses  $>30/10$  hpf, size  $>10$  cm, malignant heterologous elements). Use of systemic therapy should be discussed with a multidisciplinary team with expertise and experience in phyllodes tumor and considered after careful discussion with surgeon.

## Case #2: **Marginal Failure** s/p Resection and Radiation

56 year old

- 6 mo enlarging breast mass, filled breast
- **SURGERY:** MRM
  - **Malignant phyllodes, 27.3cm**
    - **Stromal Cellularity:** Marked
    - **Stromal Atypia:** Marked
    - **Stromal Overgrowth:** Present
    - **Mitoses:** **39** / 10 hpf
    - **Histologic border:** Infiltrative
    - **Malignant heterologous features:** no
    - 0/10 axillary LNs, margins
    - Margins: negative, >5mm
- **RADIATION:**
  - 16-wk *delay* – *wound break down*
  - **50 +10 Gy** (scar boost), 30 Fx

## Case #2: **Marginal Failure** s/p Resection and Radiation

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- **RADIATION:**

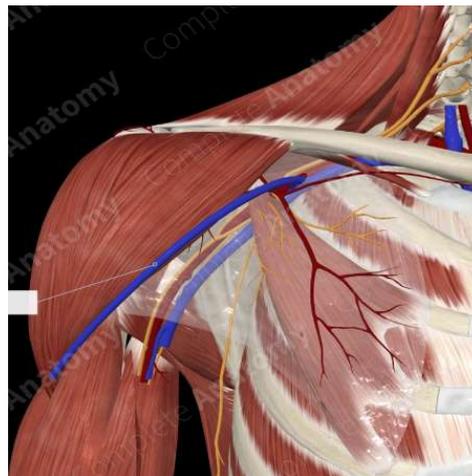
- 16-wk *delay* – *wound break down*
  - **50 +10 Gy** (scar boost), 30 Fx

- 9-month interval – **recurrent chest wall mass**
- Split-thickness skin graft
- Latissimus myocutaneous flap
- Abdominal advancement flap
  
- No evidence of metastases
- **\*Challenging locoregional problem**

## Case #2: **Marginal Failure** s/p Resection and Radiation

**Radiation: IMRT:** 5200 cGy in 40 Fx (BID)

**Surgery:** Right radical resection of tumor



[www.elsevier.com/resources/anatomy](http://www.elsevier.com/resources/anatomy)

## Case #2: **Marginal Failure** s/p Resection and Radiation

Radiation: IMRT: 5200 cGy in 40 Fx (BID)

Surgery: Right radical resection of tumor

Pre-treatment

Post-operative

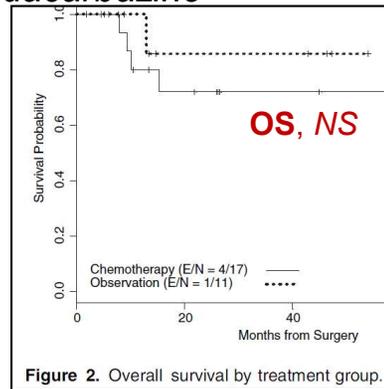
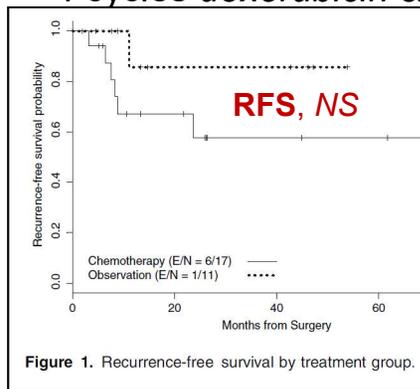
### Final Pathology:

- Minimal residual malignant phyllodes tumor
- Margins are negative
- **Rare foci of spindle cell proliferation**
- **Treatment effect is extensive (>98%)**

6-month follow-up

# Should we give adjuvant systemic therapy?

- Morales-Vasquez, 2007, Mexico
- Single institution, *non-randomized*, prospective
- **N=27**, non-metastatic\*, all had surgery
- 4 cycles *doxorubicin & dacarbazine*

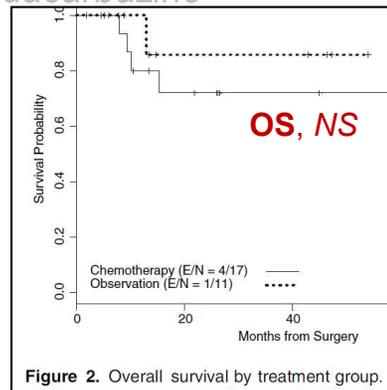
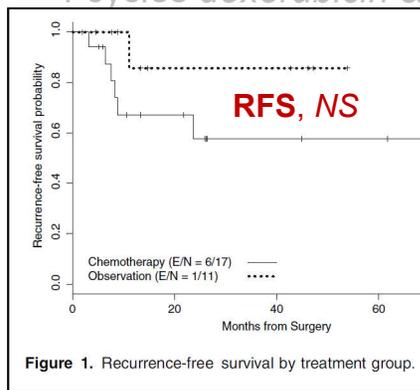


- Adjuvant chemotherapy **did not** impact RFS or OS
  - Median follow up, *15 months*
  - Median tumor size; **13.0cm** (130mm), CXR to r/o mets

Morales-Vasquez, et al. Breast J. 2007;13(6):551-6.

# Should we give adjuvant systemic therapy?

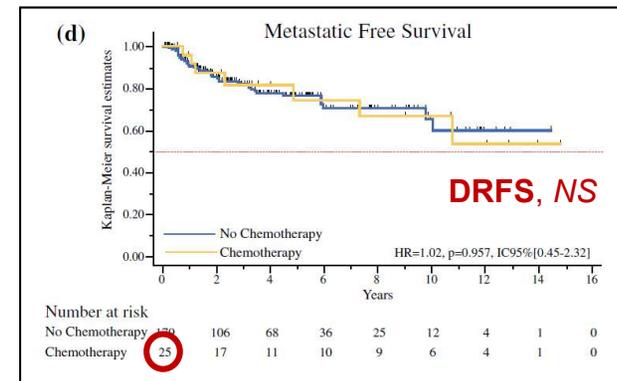
- Morales-Vasquez, 2007, Mexico
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  - Median tumor size; **13.0cm** (130mm), CXR to r/o mets
  - Median follow up, **15 months**

Morales-Vasquez, et al. Breast J. 2007;13(6):551-6.

- Neron, 2020, France
- French sarcoma group – retrospective
- Non-metastatic, all underwent surgery
- **11% had adjuvant chemo**, most 6 cycles doxorubicin/ifosfamide

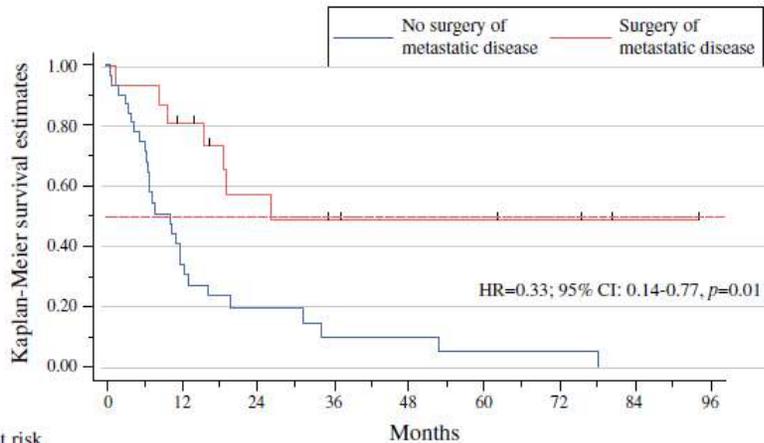


- Adjuvant chemotherapy *did not* improve metastatic free survival. \*significant selection bias

Neron, et al. Ann Surg Oncol. 2020; 27:1818-1827.

# Systemic therapy in metastatic disease

- Neron, 2020, France
- 10 centers, retrospective, 2000-2016
- Time-to-mets = 10.3 mo, OS = 11.5 mo
- **N=51**, alkylating agents ↑OS vs. anthracycline
- **Surgery for Mets ↑OS in MVA, HR=0.33, p=0.01**



- Palassini, 2022, Italy
- 15 centers, retrospective, 1999-2019
- Systemic therapy in advanced MPT
- **N=56**, 96% were metastatic
- Median # of regimens per patient = 2

Regimen	ORR	mPFS
★ Anthracycline/Ifosfamide (n=27)	44.4%	5.7 mo
High-dose Ifos* (n=16)	18.8%	3.4 mo
Tyrosine-kinase inh (n=6)	16.7%	3.4 mo
Anthracycline-single (n=12)	16.7%	3.2 mo
Gemcitabine-based (n=17)	0%	2.1 mo
Trabectedin (n=13)	8.3%	1.8 mo

Palassini. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2022; 192:603-610.

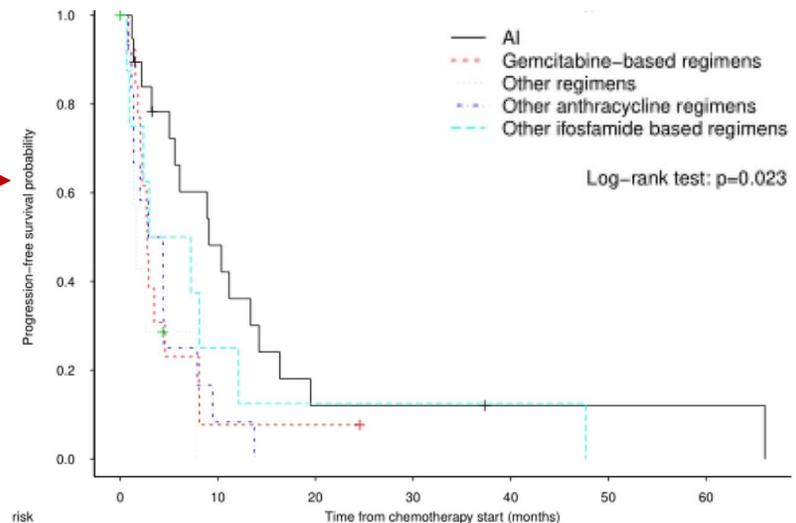
# Systemic therapy in metastatic disease

- Parkes, 2021, USA, MDACC
- **N=50 metastatic** MPT (all prior MPT, no BLPT)
- \**Adjuvant* chemo for index tumor, n=4/50
  - Time to mets w/ Adj Tx: **41.0** months
  - Time to mets w/out Adj: **17.1** months
- Median # of regimens per patient = 2

- Median OS for all 50 mMPT = 10.7 mo
- Median OS for 31 w/ chemo = 15.3 mo
- Median OS for 1<sup>st</sup> line Adria/Ifos = 22.4 mo ★

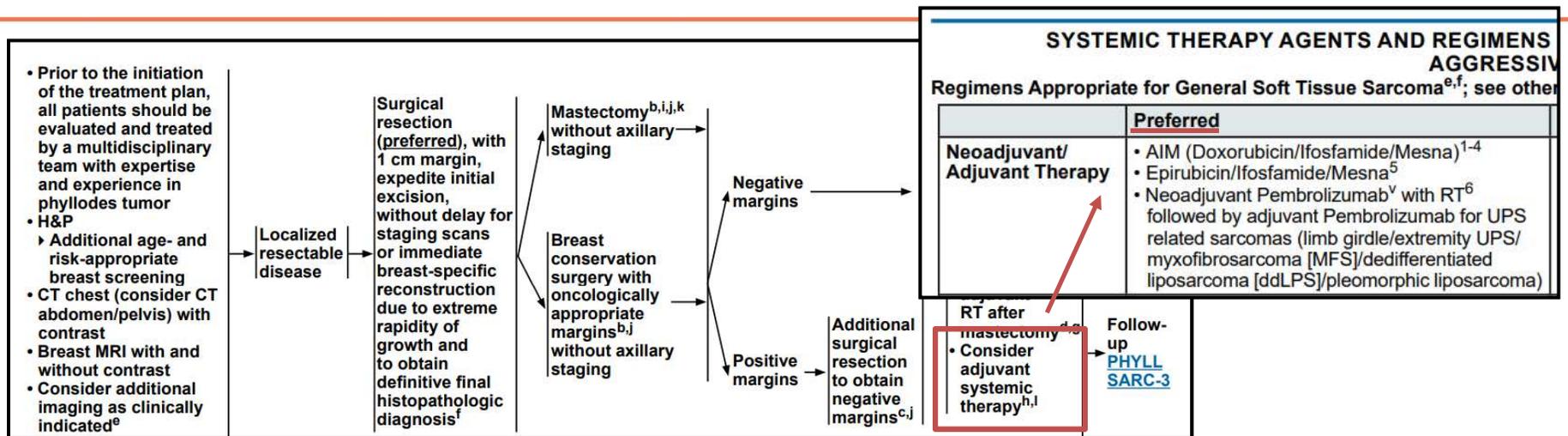
Regimen	ORR	mPFS
★ AI (n=18)	56%	9.1 mo
I-based (n=4)	50%	5.1 mo
A-based (n=12)	42%	3.65 mo
G-based (n=9)	33%	2.8 mo
Other (n=8)	17%	1.67 mo

## PFS curves by chemotherapy regimen



Parkes. Breast Cancer Res Treat. 2021; 186:871-882.

# Should we give adjuvant systemic therapy?



<sup>h</sup> Principles of Radiation Therapy (SARC-L).

<sup>h</sup> Systemic Therapy Agents and Regimens with Activity in Soft Tissue Sarcoma Subtypes and Aggressive Soft Tissue Neoplasms (SARC-G).

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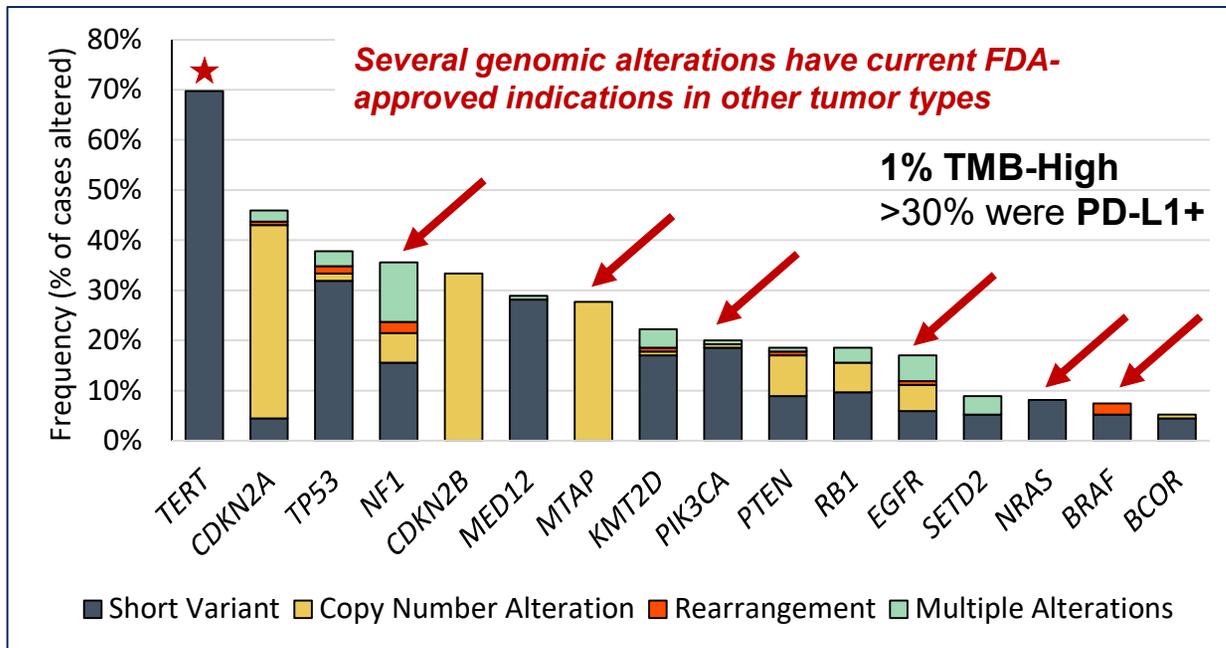
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# Genomic Landscape of Malignant PT

- Rosenberger, 2024, USA, collaborative data share

Frequency of *Genomic Alterations* identified in **135 cases**

Gene	Mutations in Phyllodes Cohort (N=135)	Mutations in Phyllodes Cohort (%)
<b>TERT*</b>	76	69.7%
<b>CDKN2A</b>	62	45.9%
<b>TP53</b>	51	37.8%
<b>NF1</b>	48	35.6%
<b>CDKN2B</b>	45	33.3%
<b>MED12</b>	39	28.9%
<b>MTAP**</b>	18	27.7%
<b>KMT2D</b>	30	22.2%
<b>PIK3CA</b>	27	20.0%
<b>PTEN</b>	25	18.5%
<b>RB1</b>	25	18.5%
<b>EGFR</b>	23	17.0%



\* N=109 in Phyllodes Cohort

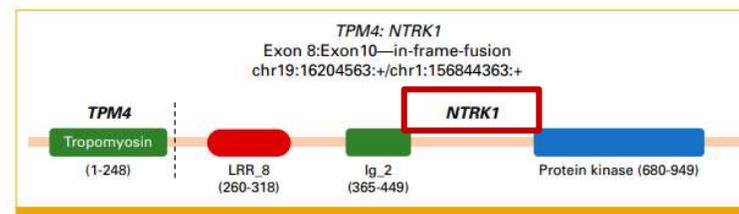
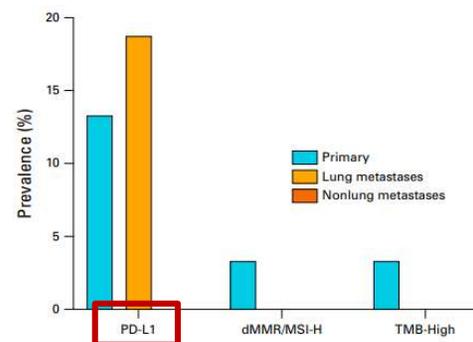
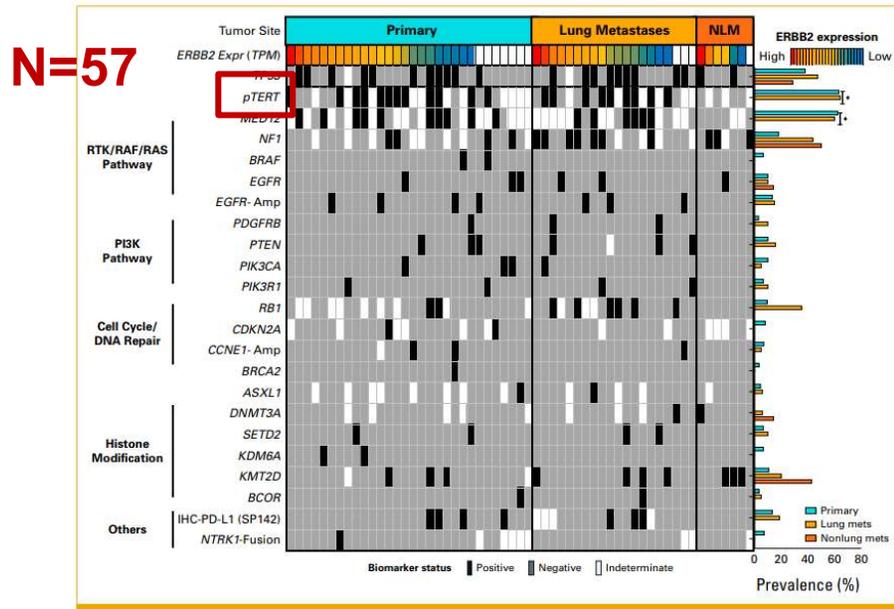
\*\* N=65 in Phyllodes Cohort

Rosenberger. Oncologist. 2024; 29:1024-1031.

# Genomic Landscape of Malignant PT

- Bansal, 2024, USA, collaborative data share

Frequency of *Genomic Alterations* identified in **57 cases**



**FIG 4. TPM4:NTRK1 fusion event in phyllodes tumor.** One patient presented with an *NTRK1* pathogenic fusion and was treated for 16 months with larotrectinib. The diagram shows the representative structure of *TPM4:NTRK1* fusion with amino acid residues noted. Ig\_2, immunoglobulin-like domain; LRR\_8, leucine-rich repeat.

Bansal, Rosenberger. JCO Precis Oncol. 2024, Dec;8:e2400289



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[Education.nccn.org](https://www.education.nccn.org) – CE Portal