### Histopathology and molecular pathology of cancer

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Budapest, 9/27/18.



## Pathology

#### • EU

- Autopsy
- Surgical pathology/histopathology
- Cytopathology
- Molecular pathology
- US
  - AP Anatomic pathology
    - Autopsy
    - Surgical pathology/histopathology
    - Cytopathology
  - CP Clinical pathology
    - Chemistry
    - Microbiology
    - Transfusion
    - Molecular pathology



PLATE I. (A) The many interactions of pathology with clinical and basic sciences. (B) The many interactions of surgical pathology with clinical and research disciplines. (C) Microscope. Front cover from *Common objects of the microscope*, by Revered J. G. Wood, 1864. (B) Hitschemical stains. Bottless of histochemical stains currently used in a modern surgical pathology laboratory. (F) Leaves of logwood. Hematoxylin is derived from the heartwood of the logwood tree (*Macmutosylin campechicaum*). (Reprinted from Dan Skean, http://www.abion.edu/biolic/abiomedu/biol/abiomedu/biol/

Advances in Anatomic Pathology, Vol. 8, No. 1, January, 2001

#### Pathologic diagnostics at NIO



■ 2014 ■ 2015 ■ 2016

Patologic diagnostics:	2014	2015	2016
Surgical pathology:	14763	12210	15788
IHC:	21941	27759	27707
Molecular pathology:	1683	1554	1752
Molecular pathology, breast FISH:	222	287	322
Consultation:	565	578	689
Cervix cytology:	10278	10278	8661
Aspiration cytology:	4423	4202	3752
Immuncytochemistry:	246	220	175
Autopsies:	96	74	94
No autopsy performed:	150	201	195

### **Overview**

- The pathologic diagnosis is morphologically based
  - Ancillary studies: IHC/MP
- Aim: to provide appropriate information to the clinican treating the patient
  - Treatment design and effectiveness (predictive markers)
    - Surgery
    - Radiation therapy
    - Drugs
      - Traditional chemotherapy
      - Targeted therapy
  - Prognostic markers: TNM Stage

### **Diagnostic methods**

Preoperative

- Citology
- Biopsy (Histology Surgical Pathology)

#### • Intraoperative

- Frozen Section (FS)
- Citology
- Provide fresh tissue for additional/ancillary studies
- Postoperative
  - Resected specimens' histological examination
  - Ancillary studies (IHC, MP)
- Post mortem
  - Autopsy





Staging

Dx

### Role of pathology in oncology



Pao W et al. Clin Cancer Res 2009;15:5317-5322



# General process of pathological laboratory examinations

- 1. Specimen arrives, fixation
- 2. Macroscopic examination
- 3. Embedding
- 4. Sectioning, HE staining
- 5. Medical review
- 6. Immunohistochemistry
- 7. Preparing histological report
- 8. Molecular pathology
  - 8/1. Sample selection
  - 8/2. DNA isolation
  - 8/3. PCR, sequencing, FISH
  - 8/4. Preparing molecular pathological report

### Role of pathology in oncology



Pao W et al. Clin Cancer Res 2009;15:5317-5322



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### **Macroscopic examination**







#### **Macroscopic examination**



## Cutting sections of the blocks (FFPE)





### **HE staining**



### "Traditional" histologic parameters

- Diagnosis: What is the tissue/cell of origin, what is the phenotype?
  - Dignity: Benign or malignant
  - Basic malignant tumor categories
    - Carcinoma
    - Sarcoma
    - Lymphoma
    - Melanoma
    - Germ cell
- Tumor size
- Histological grade
  - Differentiation specialized function
    - How similar is to the cell/tissue of origin
    - Well proved grading systems
      - Breast: Nottingham Prognostic Index
      - Prostate: Gleason's score
- Vascular invasion
- Perineural invasion
- Margins
- Lymph node status
- pTNM: sum of the most important parameters



#### Squamous cell carcinoma, types Head and neck

**Conventional, NOS (a)** 

Basaloid (b)

Verrucous (c)



#### Survival and Histology/HPV status n=136



Szentirmay Z. et al, Cancer and Metastasis Reviews 24: 19-34, 2005

### Differentiation – Histological grade Lung adenocarcinoma



High grade

Low grade

### 100 resected primary lung adenocarcinoma Survival and grade



Motoi et al., Am. J. Surg. Pathol. 2008;32(6):810-27

### Histological grade Breast cancer

### Tumor grade 1-3:

Tubule formation + Nuclear grade + Mitotic count



Grade I (well differentiated)



Grade III (poorly differentiated)

## Histological grade and distant failure in breast cancer n=1081



From: Role of the Surgical Pathologist in the Diagnosis and Management of the Cancer Patient



Holland-Frei Cancer Medicine. 6th edition. Kufe DW, Pollock RE, Weichselbaum RR, et al., editors. Hamilton (ON): <u>BC Decker</u>; 2003.

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NCBI Bookshelf A service of the National Library of Medicine National Institutes of Health

### Nottingham Prognostic Index

Size+Grade +LN status

#### Nottingham Prognostic Index: (0,2×0,9)+1+1= 2,18

Excellent prognostic group

## **Prognostic value of NPI**

Group	NPI	10 yr survival
Excellent	2.02-2.4	96%
Good	2.41-3.4	93%
Moderate 1	3.41-4.4	81%
Moderate 2	4.41-5.4	74%
Poor	5.41-6.4	55%
Very poor	6.41-6.8	38%

### Vascular invasion in CRC

#### Lymphovascular invasion

 Associated with local lymph node metastasis

#### Venous invasion

- 11%-89,5% prevalnec
- Associated with tumor recurrence (mainly through hematogenous metastais) and decreased survival
- May be missed on HE
  - Elasticus rostfestés (orcein, van Gieson)



### Vascular invasion in CRC

#### Lymphovascular invasion

 Associated with local lymph node metastasis

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  - Elastic stain (orcein, van Gieson)



### Venous invasion as prognostic factor in CRC n=229 pT3, pT4 CRC



### Venous invasion as prognostic factor in CRC n=191 pT3 CRC



FIGURE 4. Kaplan-Meier estimates of survival (the pT3 group).

Sato et al AJSP 2010;34:454-462

## Gastrointestinal stromal tumor (GIST)

- Clinico-pathological prognostic factors
  - Localization
  - Size
  - Mitotic count



### **GIST**, localization and survial. No = 76



Dr. Szentirmay Zoltán

### STANFORD SCHOOL OF MEDICINE Surgical Pathology Criteria

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This Site Only Stanford Medical Sites

SEARCH ►

Stanford Medicine » School of Medicine » Departments » Surgical Pathology Criteria » GIST Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor



SURGICAL PATHOLOGY

#### Gastrointestinal Stromal Tumor (GIST)

#### Grading / Staging / Report

**Diagnostic Criteria** 

CRITERIA

#### Multiple/Hereditary/Pediatri

#### Supplemental Studies

Molecular Genetic Studies

Grading/Staging/Report

**Differential Diagnosis** 

Clinical

Bibliography

Printable Version

#### GENERAL LINKS

Surgical Pathology Criteria Home

Diseases and Disorders By Section

Keyword Search

Abbreviations

Stanford Pathology Department

To Submit a Specimen for Review:

For Physicians

For Patients

Grading /	Staging / Re	pon	
Grading			
Risk for Metast	asis/Progressive I	Disease	
	Stomach	Duadanum	

	Stomach	Duodenum	Jejunum & lleum	Rectum
≤5 mits/50 hpf				
≤2cm	0 none	0 none	0 none	0 none
>2cm ≤5cm	very low	low	low	low
>5cm ≤10cm	low	high	moderate	high
>10cm	moderate	high	high	high
>5 mits/50 hpf				
≤2cm	few cases	no cases	few cases	high
>2cm ≤5cm	moderate	high	high	high
>5cm ≤10cm	high	high	high	high
>10cm	high	high	high	high

Large intestine tumors are rare, risk appears similar to jejunum&ileum Esophageal tumors are too rare to develop criteria

With wide field microscope view (5mmsq), count 25 fields with same cutoff of 5 as above Based on Miettinen and Lasota 2006

#### Progressive Disease or Death Risk Groups

Group	Approximate Progression Incidence
0 None	0
Very low	<2%
Low	<5%
Moderate	10-30%
High	>50%



#### Figure 4.

4 cm GIST in stomach, MI<5/50 NNL

#### Nomogram predicting 2 and 5-year recurrence-free survival in patients with resected primary GIST. Points are assigned based on tumor size, mitotic index, and site by drawing an upward vertical line to the "Points" bar. Based on the sum of the points generated, a downward vertical line is drawn from the "Total Points" line to calculate 2 and 5-year RFS. From Gold JS, Gonen M, Gutierrez A, et al. Development and validation of a prognostic nomogram for recurrence-free survival after complete surgical resection of localized primary gastrointestinal stromal tumor: a retrospective analysis. Lancet Oncol 2009; 10:1045–1052; with permission.

10 cm GIST in small intestine, MI>5/50 NNL

#### 5 year recurrence free survival: 90%

#### 5 year recurrence free survival: <10%

### "Traditional" histologic parameters

- Diagnosis: What is the tissue/cell of origin, what is the phenotype?
  - Dignity: Benign or malignant
  - Basic malignant tumor categories
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    - Sarcoma
    - Lymphoma
    - Melanoma
    - Germ cell
- Tumor size
- Histological grade
  - Differentiation specialized function
    - How similar is to the cell/tissue of origin
    - Well proved grading systems
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- Perineural invasion
- Margins
- Lymph node status
- pTNM: sum of the most important parameters





- Components: T, N, M.
  - Tumor size
  - Lymph node status
  - Distant metastais
- Categories: T1a, ...; N0, ...; M1a, ...
- Descriptors: Parameters that define categories





Electronically Signed Out

### TNM v5,v6, v7 and v8 6,5 cm-es lung carcinoma

- UICC 5th ed. 1997 \_ pT2
- UICC 6th ed. 2002 \_ pT2
- UICC 7th ed. 2009 \_ pT2b





## Stage groups and survival, lung cancer

	NO	N1	N2	N3	M1a any N	M1b any N	M1c any N
T1a	IA1	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IVA	IVA	IVB
T1b	IA2	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IVA	IVA	IVB
T1c	IA3	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IVA	IVA	IVB
T2a	IB	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IVA	IVA	IVB
T2b	IIA	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IVA	IVA	IVB
Т3	IIB	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC	IVA	IVA	IVB
T4	IIIA	IIIA	IIIB	IIIC	IVA	IVA	IVB



Goldstraw P et al. Thorac Oncol 2016; 11:39-51

#### Stage and therapy in NSCLC

Stage	Т	N	M	Surgery	Irrad.	Chemo.
I/A1,2,3	T1a,b,c	N0	MO	+	- (vagy: + !)	-
I/B	T2a	N0	MO	+	- (vagy: + !)	-
II/A	T2b	NO	MO	+	- (vagy: + !)	+
II/B	T1a-2b	N1	MO	+	-	+
	ТЗ	NO	MO	+	+/-	+
III/A	T1a-2b	N2	MO	+	+	+
-	ТЗ	N1	MO	+/-	+/-	+
	T4	N0 – N1	MO	+/-	+/-	+
III/B	T1a-2b	N3	MO	-	+	+
	Т3-4	N2	MO	+/-	+	+
III/C	T3-4	N3	MO	-	+	+
IV/A	T1- 4	N1- 3	M1a,b	-	+/-	+
IV/B	T1-4	N1-3	M1c	-	-	+

# Types of histological/surgical pathology report

- (a) descriptive (narrative),
- (b) standardised (synoptic, form-based),
- (c) structured (electronic, machine-readable XML – extensible markup language).
# CRC slides and narrative report 1993



Anyag (localisatio): 11.25.

WHO kód: 29000, 29070 Fagyasztásos szövettani vizsgálat, dg.:

D cm hosszágú colon részlet. Középén 5 cm legnagyobb Ø-jü felhányt málü kifekélyesedés van. Az egyik resctios vonaltól 3, a másiktól 3,5 cm-re keződik az elváltozás- A metszlapon a bélfal kissé megwstagodott, úgytünik tumorosan infiltralt. A környező zsirszövetben db borsnyi és kisebb nyirokcsomó van.. A vastagbéllel összefüggő 1520 cm nagyságú cspplesz részletben gócos elváltozás nincs.

#### Szövettani leírás: 1993.11.29./CSL

A preparátumban a vastagbél szöveti szerkezete csak a széli részeken ismerhető fel. A preparátum közepén a lumenbe domborodó és a bélfalat teljesen infiltráló daganat látható. A tumor váltoźzatos alakú és nagyságú mirigy-szerű lumeneket, hilyenként cribriform mintázatot alkot. A daganatsejtek az atypia, polymorphia minden jelét mutató, de viszonylag jól differenciált magas, illetve köbös, hengerhám jellegű sejtek duzzadt magvakkal, melyek prominens nucleolust tartalmaznak, és köztük számos osztódó alak előfordul. Nyák secretio csak elvétve látható. A stromában közepes fokú lymphocytás, plasmasejtes infiltratio van. A vizsgált nyirokcsomókban daganatszövet nincs.

Dg.: Adenocarcinoma tubulare coli Dukes B, Grade I.

## Reporting on cancer specimens

#### Standardized reporting

- Guidelines
  - College of American Pathologists (www.cap.org)
  - Association of the Directors of Anatomic
    Pathology (www.adasp.org)
  - Royal College of Pathologists (www.rcpath.org)
  - Ackerman's Surgical Pathology Book MSKCC (Elsevier, 10th Ed. 2011)
  - Stanford School of Medicine (www.surgpathcriteria.stanford.edu)
  - NIO
  - 3rd Breast Cancer Consensus Conference, Kecskemét 2016
- The report should include those parameters the are
  - necessary to determine the stage of the disease
  - required to make therapeutic decisions
  - of prognostic and/or predictive significance



OFESSIONAL PUBLISHING HUNGARY K

#### CRC Guideline NIO

**Resection type** Tumor type **Histological grade Tumor localization Pre-existing polyp Tumor size** Local invasion Serosal surface Vascular invasion **Perineural invasion Tumor budding Surgical margins** Polyps distant from the carcinoma Lymph node status pTNM stage **Modified Astler-Coller stage Other/notes** 

# Pathological processing of a rectal adenocarcinoma resection surgical specimen and standardised report.



#### **Ecc-electronic cancer checklist**



Arch Pathol Lab Med—Vol 139, May 2015

# Pathologists are "Diagnostic Oncologists"

- Anatomical pathologists are society's diagnostic oncologists Activities cut across the entire cancer care continuum from prevention/screening to diagnosis to prognosis/prediction to disease monitoring
- At least 60% of the average pathologist's time relates to cancer related activities
- In Canada more pathologist FTEs are devoted to the cancer system than medical oncologists or radiation oncologists
- Information collected by pathologists is utilized by downstream users (including oncologists, cancer registrars, system planners, etc) to impact patient outcomes

J. Srigley. Presentation at 27th ECP Congress, Belgrade, 2015



# Role of pathology in oncology



Pao W et al. Clin Cancer Res 2009;15:5317-5322



#### Practical use of molecular pathology

- **1. Ancillary study to support/make the diagnosis**
- 2. Define genetic abnormalities associated with prognosis or predtictive for effectivness of therapy
  - Targeted therapy

# Diagnostic methods in molecular pathology

- Immunohistochemistry
  - Detection of proteins
- In situ hybridisation
  - Longer DNA sequencies, translocations, amplification
- PCR-based methods
  - Smaller abnormalities, mutations of DNA
- Sequencing
- NGS next generation sequencing
  - Sensitive method, simultaneous testing of several genes from the samples of multiple patients.



#### Practical use of molecular pathology

- Ancillary study to support/make the diagnosis
  - Detection of protein/geneteic abnormalities specific for a tumor type
    - Immunohistochemistry tumor type specific protein expression
      - Breast cancer: ER, GATA3
      - Colon adenocarcinoma: CDX2
      - Lung adenocarcinoma: TTF1, Napsin-A
    - In situ hybridisation, RT-PCR, sequencing tumor type specifc genetic abnormalities
      - Translocations in sarcomas and lymphomas
        - » Ewing sarcoma: t(11;22)  $\rightarrow$  EWS-FLI1
        - » Synovial sarcoma:  $t(X;18) \rightarrow SYT-SSX1$
        - » Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma: t(1;3)  $\rightarrow$  WWTR1-CAMTA1

# Lung adenocarcinoma core biopsy



## Lung tumors, HE



#### Breast carcinoma

Lung metastasis of Breast carcinoma

Lung metastasis of colon adenocarcinoma

#### Primary lung adenocarcinoma

#### Primary lung adenocarcinoma

#### Primary lung adenocarcinoma



Small cell lung carcinoma



#### Immunhistochemistry in rare lung tumors



#### Immunohistochemistry



Epithelial markers



Vascular markers

### Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma

- Malignant vascular tumor, with realtively indolent behavior
- Soft tissue, bone, skin, lung and other parenchymal organs
- *Rare tumor,* wide age range, various anatomical locations, multifocality
  - Differential diagnosis is wide

#### Epithelioid hemangioendothelioma Fusion genes

- 1. t(1;3)  $\rightarrow$  WWTR1-CAMTA1 (majority)
  - WWTR1 (TAZ): transcription co-activator
  - CAMTA1: calmodulin-binding transcription activator
- 2. t(11;X)  $\rightarrow$  **YAP1-TFE3** (very rare)
  - YAP1: transcription co-activator
  - TFE3: transcription factor
- Detection:
  - RT-PCR
  - FISH
  - Immunhistochemistry



WHO 2015



AJSP.2015;39:132-139



www.pathologyoutlines.com

#### Practical use of molecular pathology

Define genetic abnormalities that are associated with prognosis or predictive for effectiveness of therapy

- Targeted therapy

Tumour type	Gene	Abnormality	Drug/
			indication
Lung	EGFR	mutation	EGFR TKI
adenocarcinoma			sensitivity
	RAS	mutation	EGFR TKI
			resistance
	ALK	translocation	Crizotinib sensitivity
	ROS1	translocation	Crizotinib sensitivity
Colon	KRAS	mutation	Anti-EGFR resistance
adenocarcinoma	NRAS	mutation	Anti-EGFR resistance
	BRAF	mutation	Negative prognostic factor
Melanoma	BRAF	mutation	Vemurafenib sensitivity
Breast carcinoma	ERBB2 (HER2)	amplification	Trastuzumab, Lapatinib sensitivity

# Epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) gene mutations in lung adenocarcinomas

- Lynch, Paez, *Pao* 2004
  - Somatic mutations of EGFR gene in exons 18-21-ben in lung NSCLC correlate with response to EGFR tirosine kinase inhibitor (TKI) therapy(erlotinib, gefitinb)
    - Female
    - Adenocarcinoma
    - Non-smokers

# MAKING ADVANCES AGAINST LUNG CANCER

News APRIL 2005 MEMORIAL SLOAN-KE

> Collaborative Team Translates Basic Discoveries into Innovations that Improve Patient Care PAGE 6

Key members of the team (clockwise from upper left): MSKCC President Harold Varmus, medical oncologist and molecular biologist William Pao, medical oncologist Vincent Miller. EGFR signaling pathway alteration in lung adenocarcinoma



EGFR signaling pathway alteration in lung adenocarcinoma



# EGFR mutations in lung adenocarcinoma

- Patients with EGFR mutations and treated with TKI show longer survival
- Resistance to TKI therapy
  - Primary:
    - KRAS exon 2 mutations (exclusive with az EGFR mutations)
    - Braf, ErbB2
  - Secondary:
    - EGFR e20 (T790M)
    - Met amplification



#### Main genetic abnormalities in lung cancer

Gene abnormality	SCLC (%)	ACA (%)	SCC (%)
Mutation			
BRAF	0	< 5	0
EGFR Caucasian	< 1	10-20	< 1
Asian	< 5	35-45	< 5
ERBB2/HER2	0	< 5	0
KRAS Caucasian	< 1	15-35	< 5
Asian	< 1	5-10	< 5
РІКЗСА	< 5	< 5	5-15
RB	> 90	5-15	5-15
ТР53	> 90	30-40	50-80
Amplification			
EGFR	< 1	5-10	10
ERBB2/HER2	< 1	< 5	< 1
MET	< 1	< 5	< 5
MYC	20-30	5-10	5-10
FGFR1	< 1	< 5	15-25
Rearrangement			
ALK	0	5	< 1
RET	0	1-2	0
ROS1	0	1-2	0
NTRK1	0	< 1	0
NRG1	0	< 1	0

# Targetable signaling pathways in nonsquamous NSCLC



#### ALK és ROS1 gene rearrangements in lung adenocarcinoma

- EML4 (enichoderm microtubule-associated proteinlike 4) 2p21 and ALK (anaplastic lymphoma kinase) 2p23 genes fusion
- 5% of lung adenocarcinomas
  - Younger age, non smoker
  - Signet ring cell, solid, solid, cribriform
- ALK inhibitor (crizotinib) threapy effective
- Detection
  - RT-PCR (fresh sample), sequencing
  - FISH (gold standard, at least 50-100 cells)
  - IHC (screening or diagnostic with validated antibodies)

- Reactive oxygen species 1 ROS1 gén
- Tyrozine kinase receptor protein, similar to ALK
- 1-2% of lung adenocarcinomas (ROS1-CD74 fusion most often)
  - Non smoker females
  - No correlations with histological types
- ROS1 gátló (crizotinib) terápiára reagál
- Detetction:
  - RT-PCR (fresh sample), sequencing
  - FISH (gold standard, at least 50-100 cells)
  - IHC (screening or diagnostic with validated antibodies)







#### Immunotherapy PD1-PDL1 inhibition in NSCLCs



#### Biomarker: PDL1 expression - IHC







#### **Colorectal cancer molecular classification**







Arch Pathol Lab Med 2011

# Colon adenocarcinoma

- Before anti-EGFR therapy: testing KRAS and NRAS genes exon 2, codons 12, 13; exon 3, codons 59, 61; and exon 4, codons 117, 146. Mutation of the RAS gene indicates resistance against anti-EGFR therapy.
  - 50% of colon adenocarcinomas carries RAS mutation
- Testing for BRAF exon 15 mutation. The presence of mutation is a negative prognostic factor; tumours carrying this type of mutation exhibit rather unfavorable biological behavior. BRAF mutation may also indicate sporadic (non-hereditary) microsatellite instability.
  - 10-15% of colon adenocarcinomas carries BRAF mutation
- Microsatellite instability testing may be done by testing DNA repair enzyme proteins, MLH1, MSH2, MSH6, PMS2 testing, or microsatellite markers. Recent studies reveal that tumors with microsatellite instability react favorably to immunotherapy.

#### Molecular basis of anti-EGFR therapy in CRC



KRAS mutation: EGFR independent signal pathway activation



## **MSI detection with IHC**



Sporadic CRC MLH1 protein loss indicating MSI

hMLH1

Sensitivity 70-100%, Specifcity 98-100%.

#### MSI testing in colon adenocarcinomas



### **Breast cancer**

Her2 – amplification IHC, FISH

Trastuzumab therapy

- Other IHC
  - ER - PR - Ho

Hormone therapy

– Ki-67 : prognosis


#### Well differentiated hormone positive breast carcinoma with equivocal Her2 expression



# Her2- FISH amplified



Surgical pathology number: OOI, 7434/15 Histological diagnosis: Right breast, UIQ, invasive ductal carcinoma, Her2: 2+

#### Testing methods:

Her2 immunohistochemistry : clone 4B5 (Ventana, Pathway), with external 3+ positive and 0, negative controls.
Fluorescent in situ hybridization: ZytoLight, Spec HER2/CEN 17 Dual Color Probe Kit with internal negatív control.
Photo documentation number: breast FISH: 186-15
Results:
Her2 immunohistochemistry: 2+
FISH: 50 invasive tumor cells examined repeatedly: amplified abs Her2 gene copy number: 10,5 abs Cen17 gene copy number: 0,9

Her2/Cen17 ratio: 11,6

Diagnosis: By immunhistochemistry the tumor is Her2: 2+; overexpression equivocal, with repeated FISH test gene amplification is present.

## Breast cancer molecular classfication



Sorlie, 2001

### Molecular subtypes IHC



	Molecular subtype		
	Luminal	HER2	Basal
Gene expression pattern	High expression of hormone receptors and associated genes (luminal A>luminal B)	High expression of HER2 and other genes in amplicon Low expression of ER and associated genes	High expression of basal epithelial genes, basal cytokeratins Low expression of ER and associated genes Low expression of HER2
Clinical features	~70% of invasive breast cancers ER/PR positive Luminal B tend to be higher histological grade than luminal A Some overexpress HER2 (luminal B)	~15% of invasive breast cancers ER/PR negative More likely to be high grade and node positive	~15% of invasive breast cancers Most ER/PR/HER2 negative ('triple negative') <i>BRCA1</i> dysfunction (germline, sporadic) Particularly common in African- American women
Treatment response and outcome	Respond to endocrine therapy (but response to tamoxifen and aromatase inhibitors may be different for luminal A and luminal B) Response to chemotherapy variable (greater in luminal B than in luminal A) Prognosis better for luminal A than luminal B	Respond to trastuzumab (Herceptin) Respond to anthracycline- based chemotherapy Generally poor prognosis	No response to endocrine therapy or trastuzumab (Herceptin) Appear to be sensitive to platinum-based chemotherapy and PARP inhibitors Generally poor prognosis (but not uniformly poor)

 $Table \ 1 \ {\rm Major \ molecular \ subtypes \ of \ breast \ cancer \ determined \ by \ gene \ expression \ profiling.}$ 

## **Oncotype DX® 21-Gene** Recurrence Score (RS) Assay

16 Cancer and 5 Reference Genes



Paik et al. N Engl J Med. 2004;351:2817-2826.

## Summary

- The purpose of pathological diagnostics is **to provide oncologists with information** about the tumor they are treating.
- Pathological diagnosis is essential for determining **the prognosis of the tumor** and the **necessity of treatment**, the **selection** of appropriate **therapeutic modalities**, and the expected effectiveness of the therapy.
- Tumour diagnosis is based on morphology.
- For the majority of solid tumors, the **most important prognostic factor is the stage of the tumor.**
- Modern histological reports also contain other prognostic and predictive factors in a clearly structured form.
- Molecular diagnostic methods have become increasingly important in addition to conventional histopathological/surgical pathological diagnostics. This is true for both establishing diagnosis and identifying gene/protein abnormalities that may serve as targets for targeted therapies, which continue to gain prevalence.
- Information collected by pathologists is used by many different specialists (including oncologists, cancer registrars, and system planners) in order to improve patient survival results.