

THE TRIPLE-NEGATIVE PARADIGM IN A PAKISTANI FEMALE COHORT OF BREAST CANCER

Pathologic complete response and survival after neo-adjuvant chemotherapy

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THE TAKE-HOME

pCR occurred in 32% of patients and identified a group with markedly superior 5-year DFS and OS

WHY THIS STUDY?

- TNBC is an aggressive breast cancer subtype with high recurrence risk.
- Evidence from Pakistan is limited.
- We evaluated pCR after NACT and its relationship with long-term survival.

STUDY DESIGN

- **Design** Retrospective cohort
- **Setting** SKMCH&RC, Lahore
- **Period** Jan 2015 – Dec 2020
- **Population** Women ≥18 years with TNBC receiving NACT followed by definitive breast surgery
- **pCR** ypT0/Tis ypN0

COHORT PROFILE

Patients	100
Age, mean ± SD	43.2 ± 9.3 y
Premenopausal	64%
Clinical stage II	65%
Histological grade III	79%
Ki-67, mean ± SD	59.3 ± 22.4%
Platinum-containing NACT	48%
NACT completed	76%
Breast-conserving surgery	66%
Adjuvant radiotherapy	96%
96% were M0 at diagnosis; IDC NOS accounted for 98%	

CONCLUSION

In this Pakistani TNBC cohort, pCR after NACT was strongly associated with superior 5-year DFS and OS.

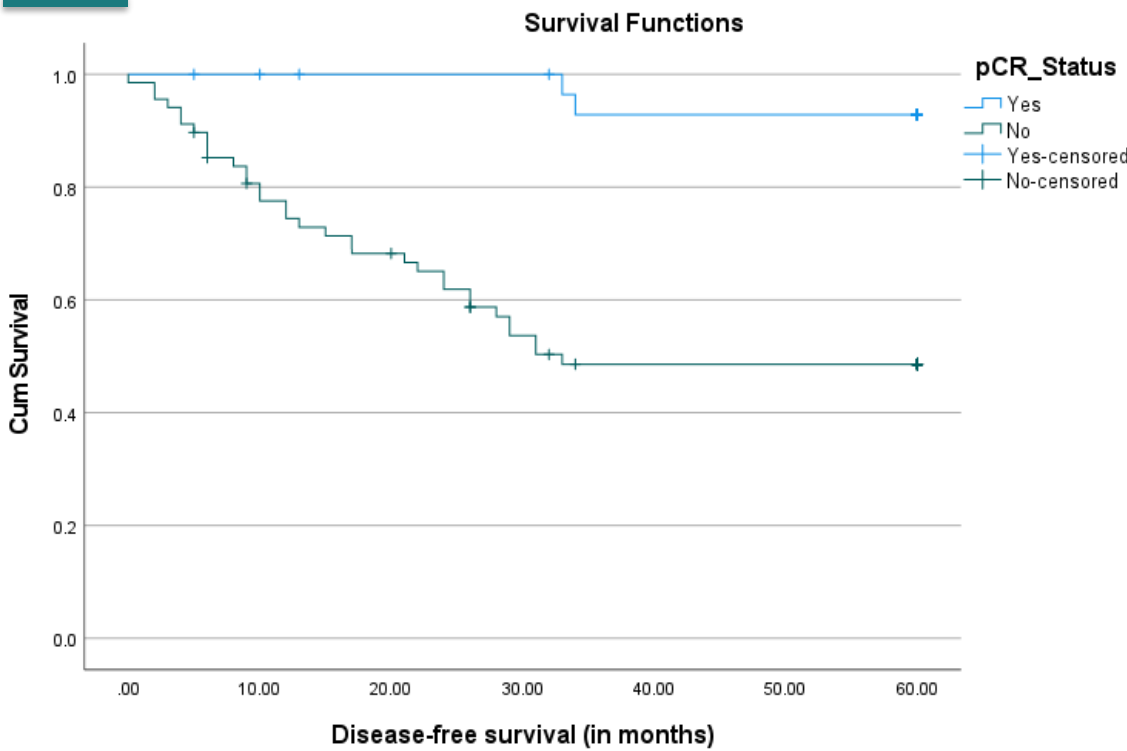
PRIMARY ENDPOINT

32%
pCR rate

68%
Residual disease

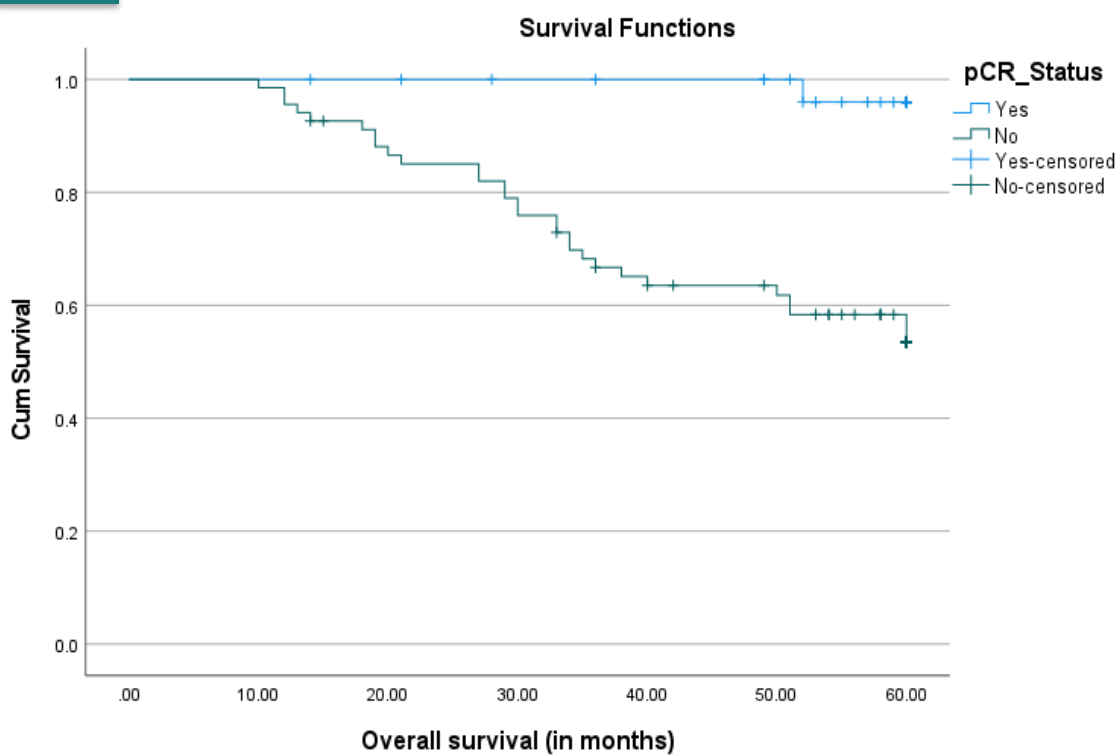
32 / 100
Patients achieved y pT0/Tis ypN0

FIVE-YEAR DISEASE-FREE SURVIVAL



pCR 92.9% vs residual disease 48.6%
log-rank p < 0.001

FIVE-YEAR OVERALL SURVIVAL



pCR 96.0% vs residual disease 53.5%
log-rank p < 0.001

pCR PREDICTORS

Variable	OR	P Value
Age 40–50 vs >50	0.27	0.033
Grade II vs III	0.17	0.024
Ki-67	1.01	0.276
Platinum used	1.62	0.259

Only age 40–50 and histological grade were statistically significant

THE KEY METRICS

32%
pCR

92.9%
5-year DFS with pCR

48.6%
5-year DFS without pCR

96.0%
5-year OS with pCR

53.5%
5-year OS without pCR

RECURRENCE

35%
Any recurrence

19 / 35
54.3% had distant recurrence

INTERPRETATION

- pCR identifies a subgroup with substantially better long-term outcomes.
- Grade III tumors had greater odds of pCR than Grade II tumors.
- No significant association was observed with Ki-67, clinical stage, taxane use, platinum use, or chemotherapy completion.