

RESPONSE TO NEOADJUVANT CHEMOTHERPY IN LUMINAL BREAST CANCER: IMPACT OF LUMINAL SUBTYPE ON TREATMENT RESPONSE

B. Rehman¹, H.Zaka², H.Khan³

Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Surgical Oncology, Peshawar, Pakistan.

OBJECTIVE

- Luminal breast cancers are typically less responsive to NACT despite biological heterogeneity.
- Hormone receptor expression and Ki-67 may affect treatment response.
- We assessed pathological response to NACT across luminal subtypes and its association with tumour biology.

METHODS

- Retrospective review of **91 patients** with hormone receptor-positive breast cancer treated with **neoadjuvant chemotherapy (NACT)** over 2 years.
- Patients were classified into three luminal subgroups based on hormone receptor expression and proliferative activity:
- Luminal A:** ER and PR >50% with Ki-67 <20%
- Luminal B:** ER <20%, low/absent PR, and/or Ki-67 >20%
- HR-high/Ki-67-high:** ER and PR >50% with Ki-67 >20%
- Pathological response was categorized as:
- pCR:** pathological complete response
- Good response:** >60% tumour reduction
- Poor response:** <60% tumour reduction
- Stable disease**
- Disease progression**
- Nodal pCR** rates were also evaluated across subgroups.

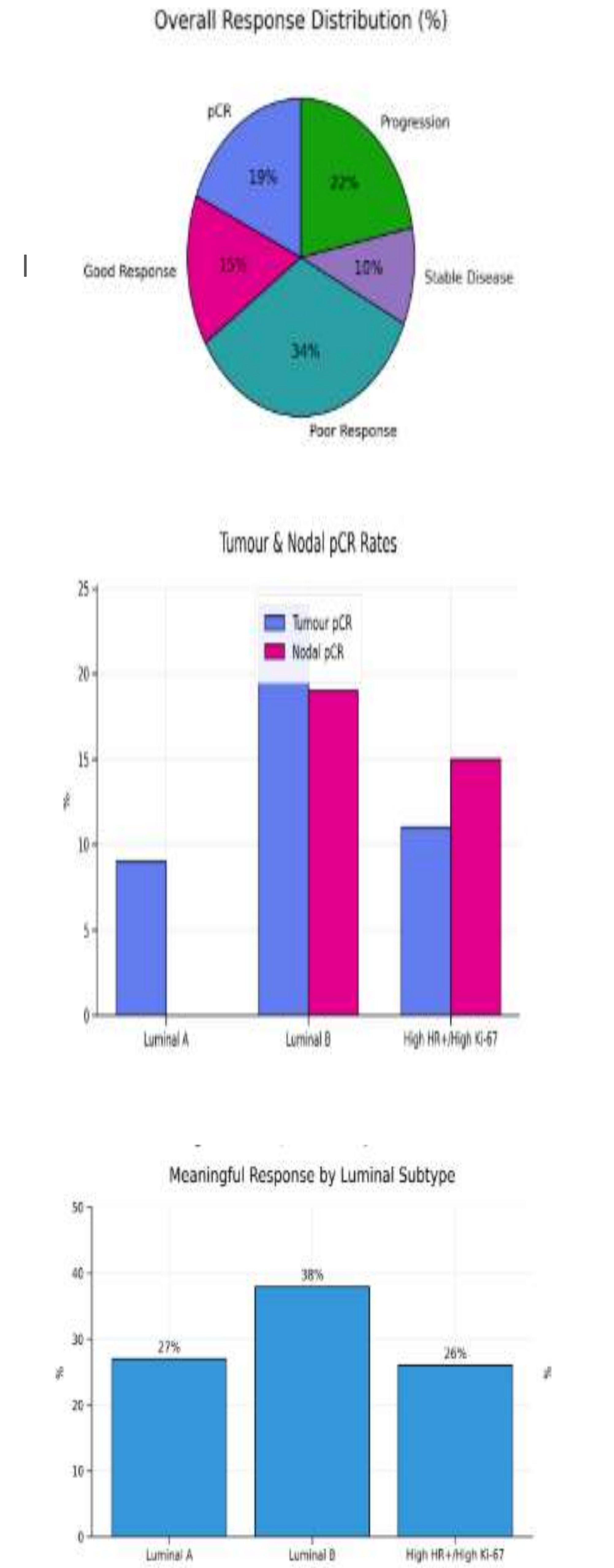
RESULTS

- Overall (n=91):** Tumour pCR in 18% (17/91), good response in 15% (14/91), poor response in 34% (31/91), stable disease in 10% (9/91), and progression in 22% (20/91). Only 34% (31/91) achieved a meaningful response (pCR or >60% tumour reduction).
- Luminal A (n=22):** pCR 9% (2/22), good response 18% (4/22), **meaningful response 27% (6/22); poor response/stable disease/progression in 73% overall.** No nodal pCR was observed.
- Luminal B (n=42):** pCR 24% (10/42), good response 14% (6/42), **meaningful response 38% (16/42); poor response/stable disease/progression in 62%.** Nodal pCR: 19% (8/42).
- High HR-positive/High Ki-67 (n=27):** pCR 11% (3/27), good response 15% (4/27), **meaningful response 26% (7/27); poor response/stable disease/progression in 74%.** Nodal pCR: 15% (4/27).
- Key finding: **Luminal B tumours exhibited the highest chemosensitivity**, with superior tumour pCR, meaningful response, and nodal pCR rates compared with other luminal subgroups

RESULTS

Luminal Sub types	Meaningful Response	Poor Response/stable disease
Luminal A	27% (6/22)	73% (16/22)
Luminal B	38% (16/42)	62 (26/42)
High HR Positive/Hig h Ki 67 index	26% (7/27)	74% (20/27)

RESULTS



CONCLUSION

- Overall NACT response was modest**, with only one-third achieving pCR.
- Luminal B showed the greatest chemosensitivity** (tumour pCR 24%, nodal pCR 19%).
- Luminal A had the poorest response**,
- Response differed by luminal subtype**, supporting alternative neoadjuvant strategies.

