

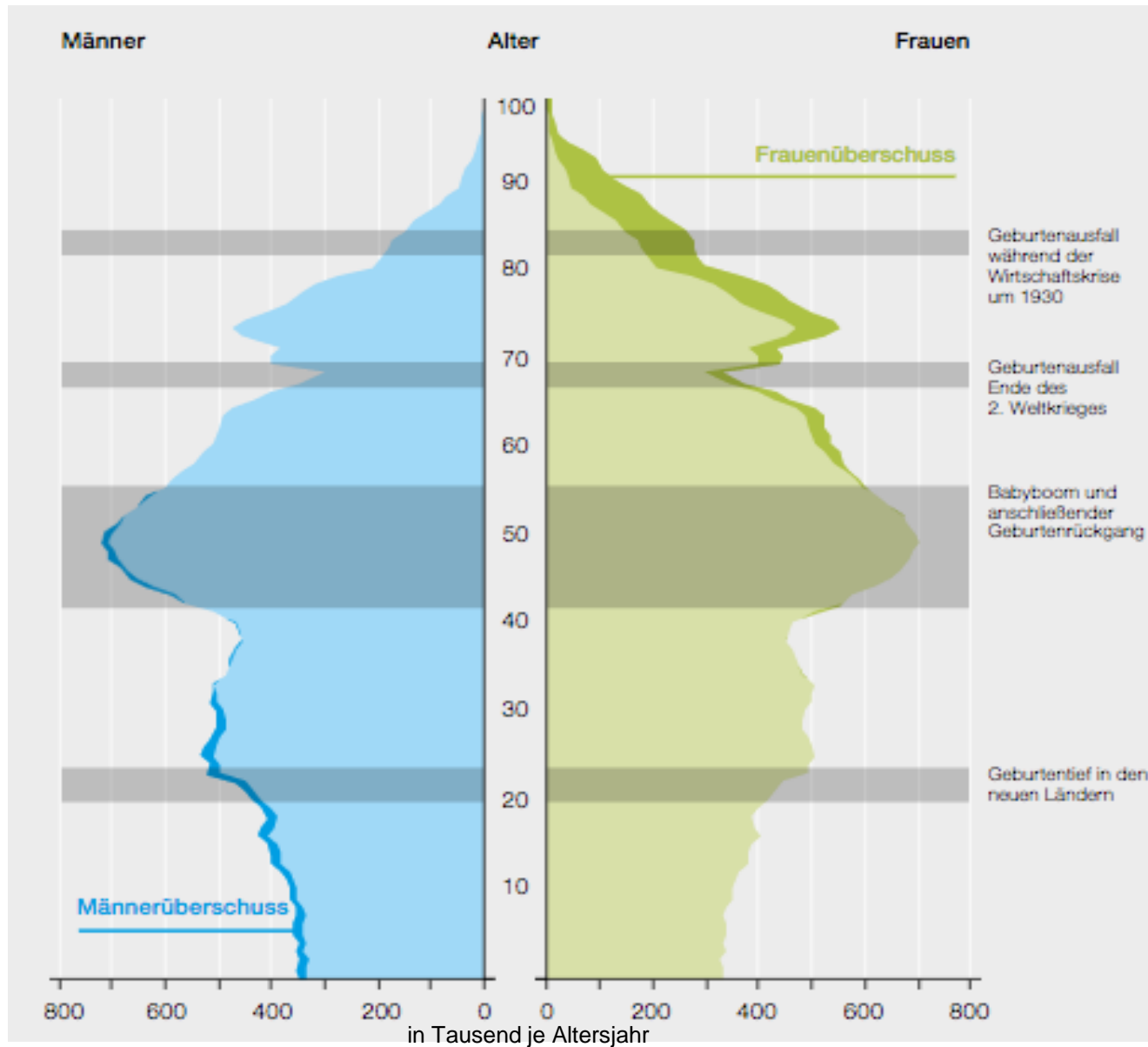
# **Cancer treatment in geriatric women - how to find the right balance**

**22. Japanese-German Symposium**  
**Japan Society for the Promotion of Science**  
**Ulm, 2017**

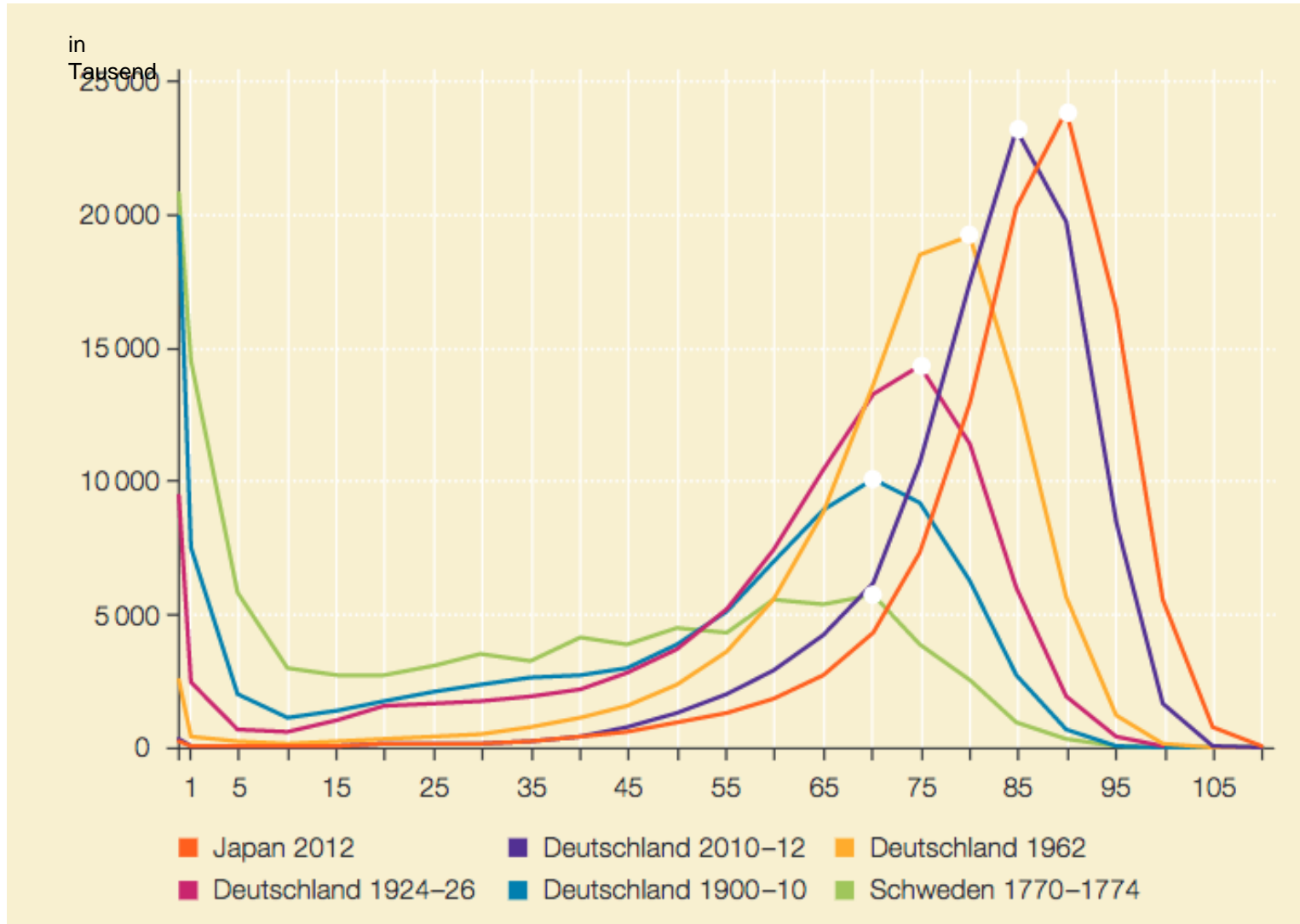
**W. Kuhn**  
**University Women's Hospital Bonn**



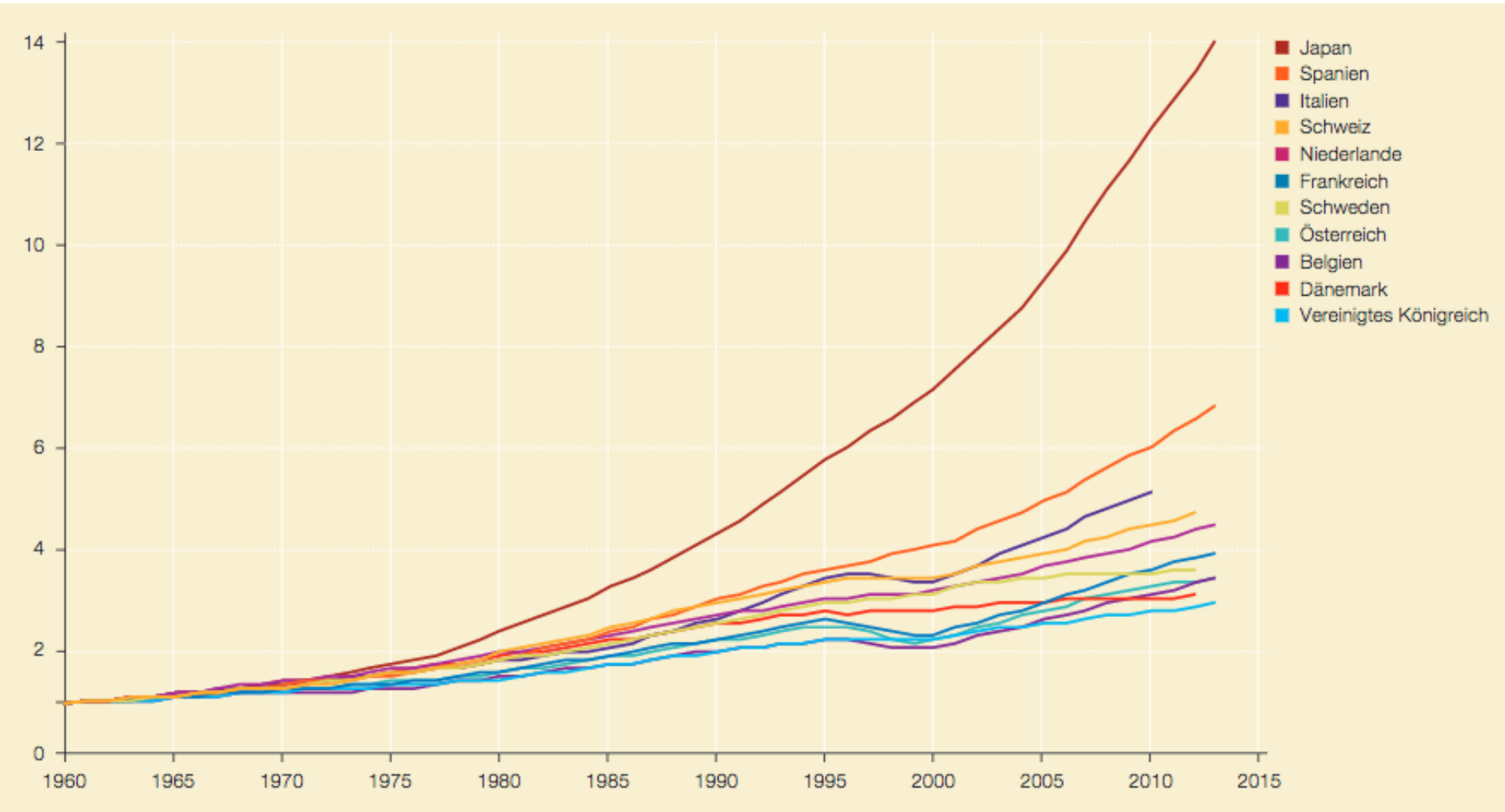
# Age development of German population 2014



# Age distribution of deceased and mean of normal lifespan of women in Germany, Sweden and Japan

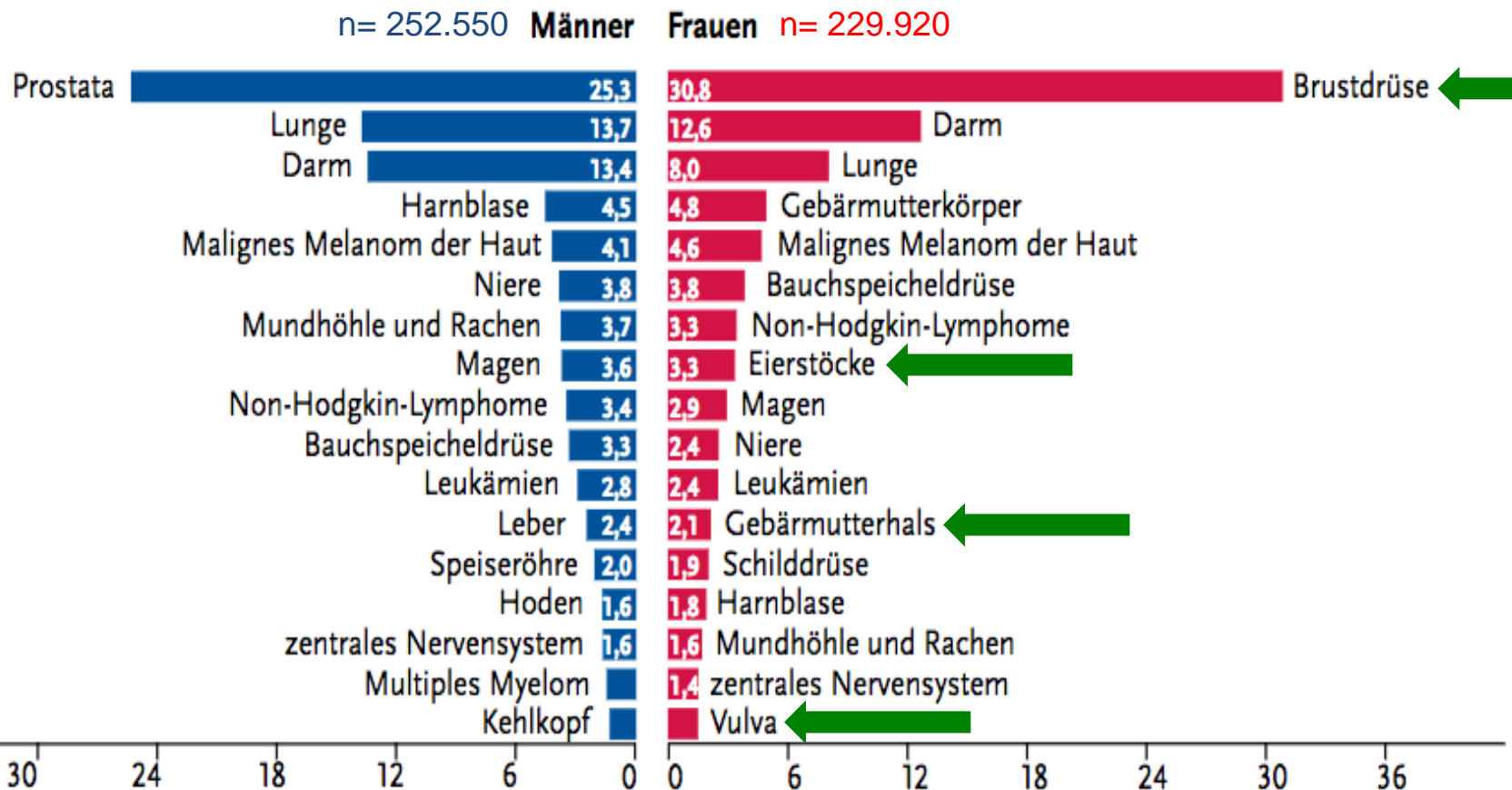


# Increase of persons aged 80 years and older for selected countries





# High incidence of gynecological malignancies

Percentage of the most common tumor lesions in all cancer cases in Germany 2012





# Ten leading Cancer Types in the United States 2016

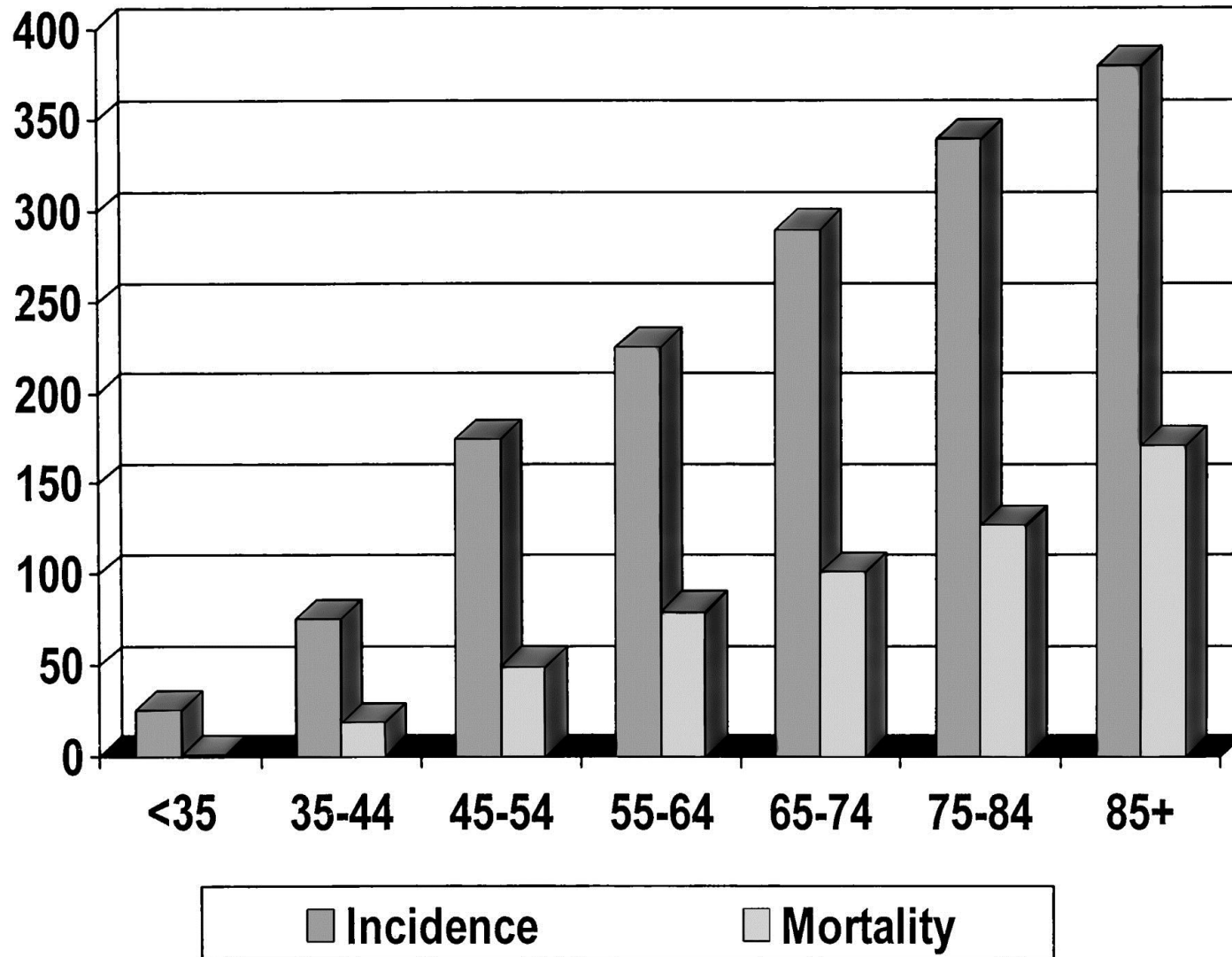
## Estimated New Cases

		Males		Females			
Prostate	180,890	21%			Breast	246,660	29%
Lung & bronchus	117,920	14%			Lung & bronchus	106,470	13%
Colon & rectum	70,820	8%			Colon & rectum	63,670	8%
Urinary bladder	58,950	7%			Uterine corpus	60,050	7%
Melanoma of the skin	46,870	6%			Thyroid	49,350	6%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	40,170	5%			Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	32,410	4%
Kidney & renal pelvis	39,650	5%			Melanoma of the skin	29,510	3%
Oral cavity & pharynx	34,780	4%			Leukemia	26,050	3%
Leukemia	34,090	4%			Pancreas	25,400	3%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	28,410	3%			Kidney & renal pelvis	23,050	3%
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>841,390</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>843,820</b>	<b>100%</b>		

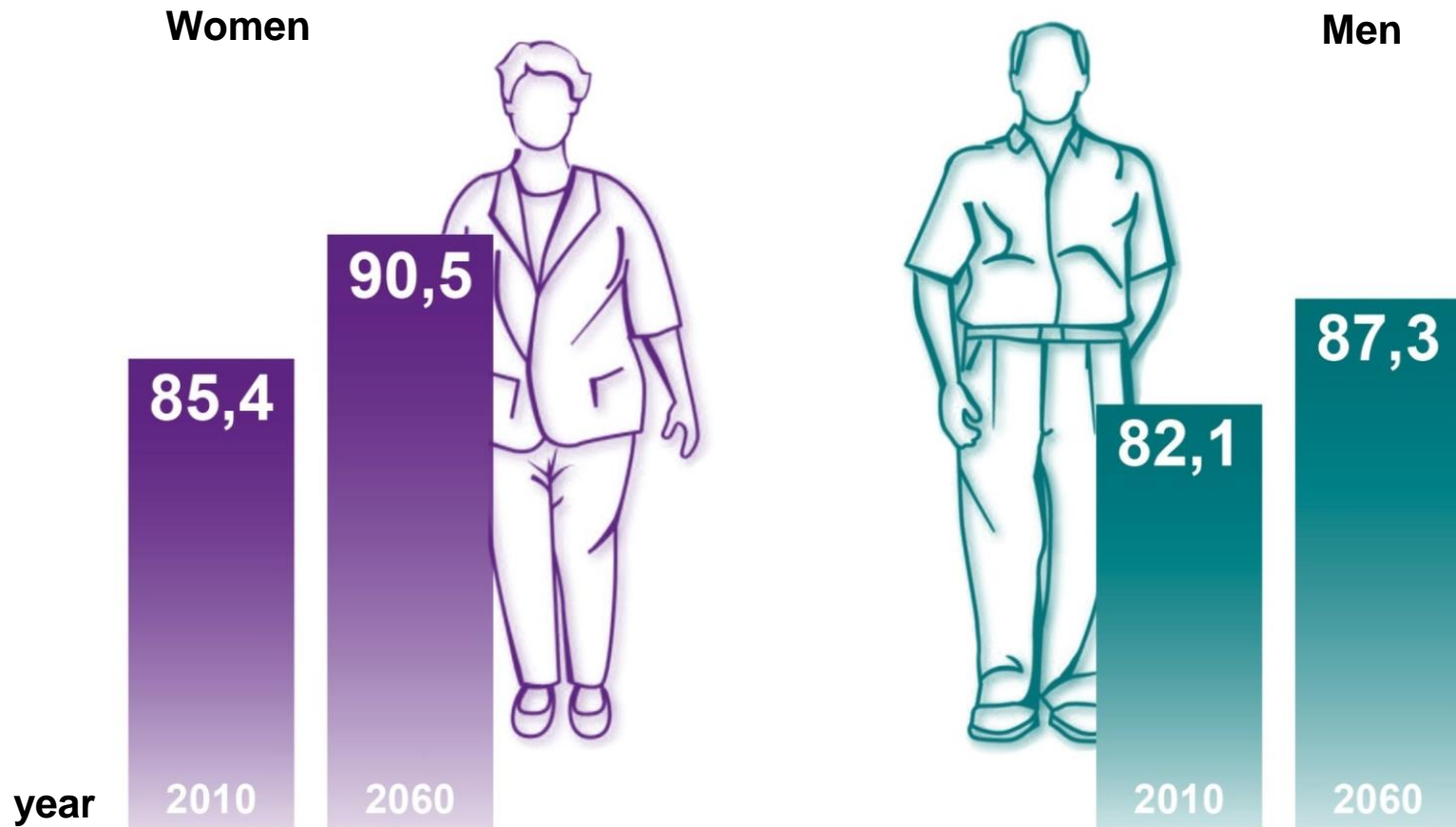
## Estimated Deaths

		Males		Females			
Lung & bronchus	85,920	27%			Lung & bronchus	72,160	26%
Prostate	26,120	8%			Breast	40,450	14%
Colon & rectum	26,020	8%			Colon & rectum	23,170	8%
Pancreas	21,450	7%			Pancreas	20,330	7%
Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	18,280	6%			Ovary	14,240	5%
Leukemia	14,130	4%			Uterine corpus	10,470	4%
Esophagus	12,720	4%			Leukemia	10,270	4%
Urinary bladder	11,820	4%			Liver & intrahepatic bile duct	8,890	3%
Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	11,520	4%			Non-Hodgkin lymphoma	8,630	3%
Brain & other nervous system	9,440	3%			Brain & other nervous system	6,610	2%
<b>All Sites</b>	<b>314,290</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>All Sites</b>	<b>281,400</b>	<b>100%</b>		

# Age-related incidence and mortality of malignant diseases



# Mean life expectancy of 65-year-old patients



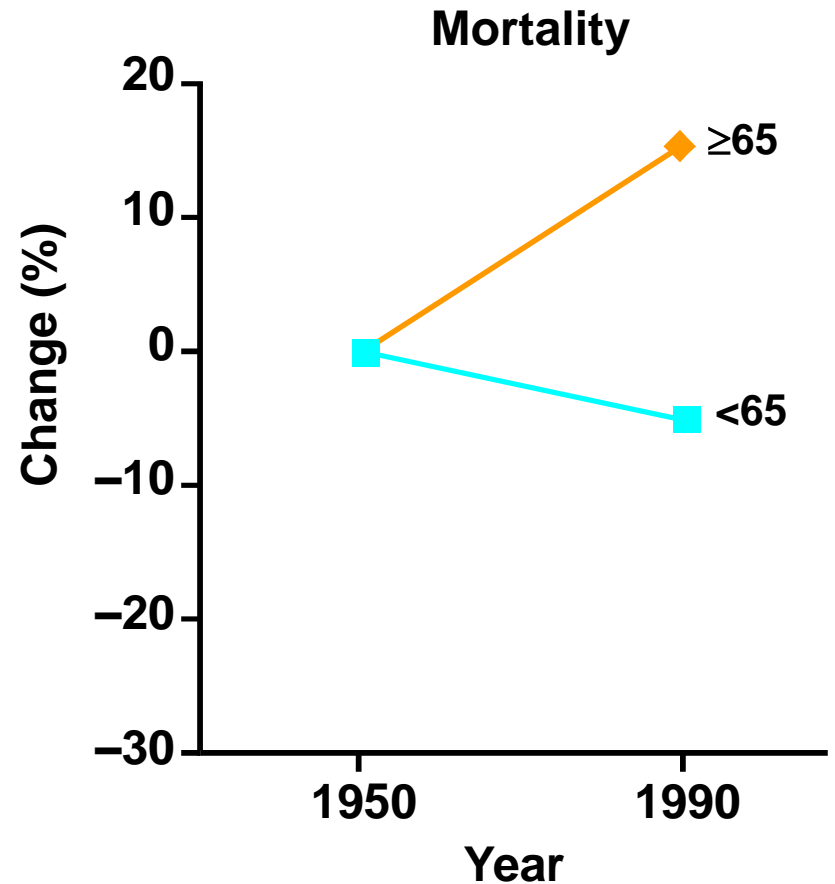
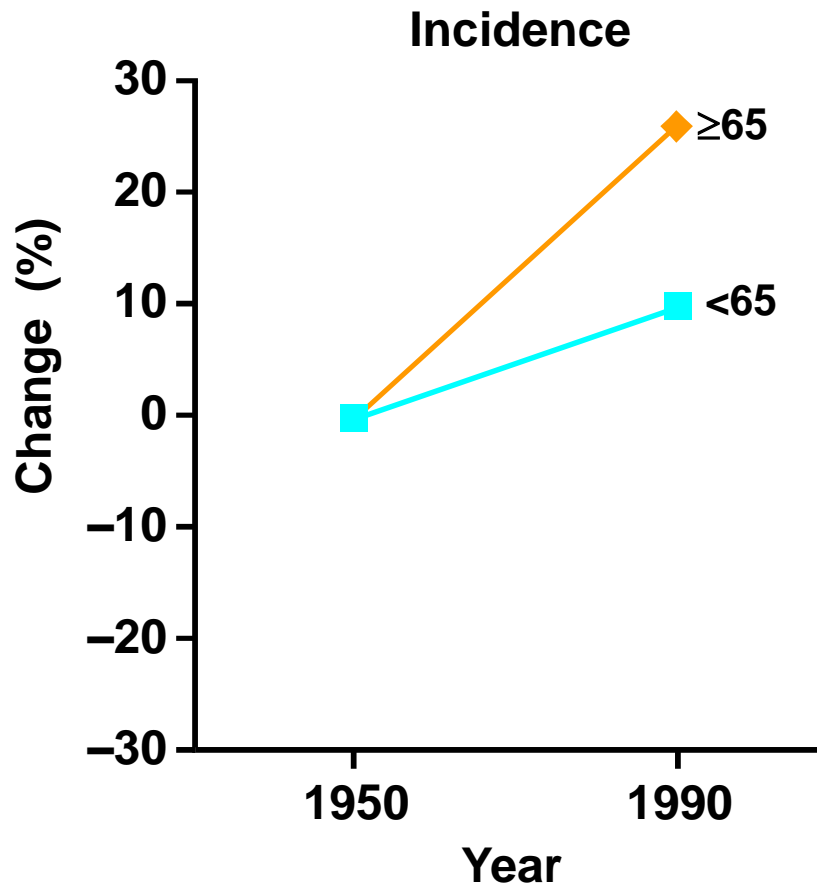
# Life expectancy in elderly patients with comorbidities

## *life expectancy in years*

---

Age (y)	Healthy women	Women with serious comorbidity
65	20.0	9.7
70	16.2	8.6
75	12.8	7.4
80	9.8	6.9
85	7.2	4.5
90	5.2	
95	3.7	
100	2.6	

# Incidence and mortality of malignant diseases



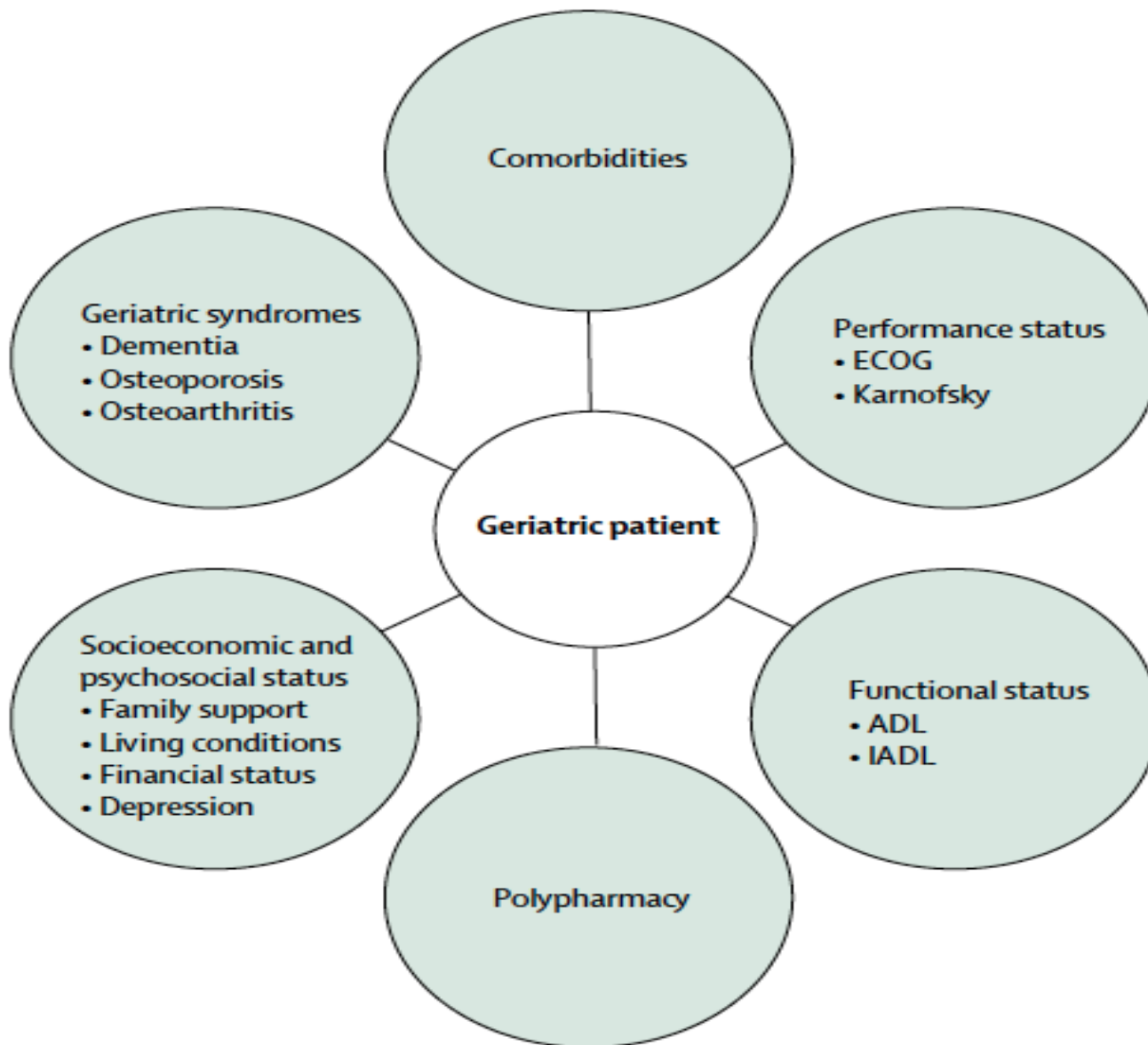
# Therapy of elderly patients



Two 90 years old women



# Special features in the therapy of elderly patients



# The physiological aging process

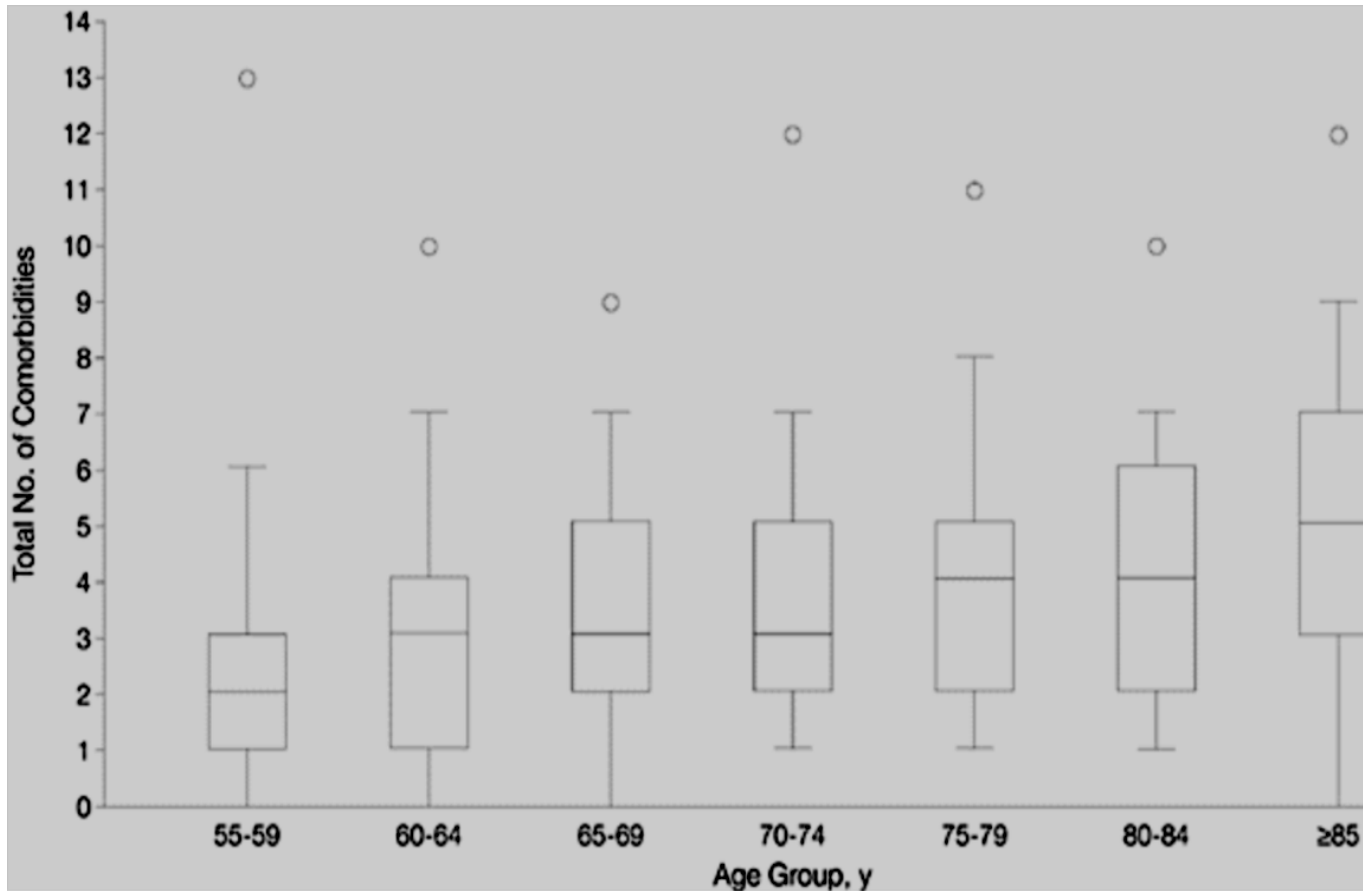
Physiologic Change	Consequence of Chemotherapy
Slow Repair of DNA Damage	Prolonged Toxicity
Reduced stem-cell mass and hematopoiesis	Slow recovery of blood and mucosal cells
Reduced functional reserve of organ systems	Risk of organ failure with additional tissue loss
Reduced gastrointestinal absorptive surface, gastric motility, and gastric secretion	Reduced absorption
Reduced fat-free mass	Altered drug distribution
Greater Anemia	Increased levels of circulating drug
Decreased liver mass	Reduced drug metabolism
Decreased nephron mass	Reduced drug excretion

(reference: Repetto. Supportive Oncology. 1(S2), 2003)



# Problems of comorbidities in elderly patients

**Comorbidities have a significant impact on the prognosis !**



Liver disease

COPD

Depression

Thrombosis

Heart disease

Renal insufficiency

Diabetes mellitus, ...

# Problems and consequences in the treatment of elderly patients

**too defensive -> missed chance of cure**

**too aggressive -> therapy-related morbidity and mortality**



**CORRECT ASSESSMENT IS INDISPENSABLE**

# Instruments for a multidimensional assessment of older cancer patients

Pallis AG et al., Eur J Cancer. 2010

**Table 1 – Instruments used for functional assessment.**

Scale
Activities of Daily Life (ADL) (Katz scale <sup>25</sup> )
Instrumental Activities of Daily Life (IADL) <sup>31</sup>
'Timed Up and Go' <sup>34</sup>
'6-min walk test' <sup>35</sup>

**Table 3 – Tools for assessment of cognitive status.**

Scale
Mini Mental State Examination <sup>61</sup>
Blessed Dementia Rating Scale <sup>62</sup>
Short Portable Mental Status Questionnaire <sup>63</sup>
Mini-Cog instrument <sup>65</sup>

**Table 2 – Tools used for comorbidity assessment in older cancer patients.**

Scale	Description
Charlson Comorbidity Index (CCI) <sup>50</sup>	A weight into account the severity of disease; considers usually prognosis
Cumulative Illness Rating Scale-Geriatric (CIRS-G) <sup>51</sup>	Classification of organ systems according to grades of severity (no probability of recovery)
The Adult Comorbidity Evaluation (ACE-27) <sup>41</sup>	

assesses orientation, memory, attention, calculation and language  
 Combination of two simple cognitive tasks (three-item memory and clock drawing)

**Table 5 – Nutrition assessment.**

Scale
Mini-Nutritional Assessment Questionnaire
Exists in 2 parts: a screening part and a more extensive part in case screening were positive.
– Scoring for the screening part:
– Range 0–14
– Interpretation score
– 12 or more: no risk
– 11 or less: risk of malnutrition

**Table 4 – The Geriatric Depression Scale.**

Scale
Geriatric Depression Scale (GDS)
Evaluation of risk of depression. Several versions available (GDS 30, 15, 4 item)
Interpretation of results:
Scoring system for the GDS 15-item
– Range 0–15
– Interpretation scores
• 0–5: no depression
• 6–15: possible depression

# GeriAPP™

Smartphone – APP for a quick and easy assessment before therapy



# Clinical trials

Elderly patients are under-represented in clinical trials!

## Reasons:

- complex management because of comorbidities
- low rate of consent
- cognitive deficiency
- age restriction for recruitment



→ the biological age should be relevant

→ need for sufficient inclusion and exclusion  
age-independent criteria in clinical trials

# Some clinical trials

**ONKOLOGIE**

Editorial

Onkologie 2012;35:73-74  
DOI: [10.1159/000336980](https://doi.org/10.1159/000336980)

Published online: February 20, 2012

---

## Clinical Trials in Elderly Ovarian Cancer Patients – Does It Make Sense?

Walther Kuhn

*Ann Oncol.* 2007 Feb;18(2):282-7. Epub 2006 Nov 2.

**Feasibility, toxicity and quality of life of first-line chemotherapy with platinum/paclitaxel in elderly patients aged  $\geq 70$  years with advanced ovarian cancer--a study by the AGO OVAR Germany.**

Hilpert F<sup>1</sup>, du Bois A, Greimel ER, Hedderich J, Krause G, Venhoff L, Loibl S, Pfisterer J.

original article

*Annals of Oncology* 22: 2417-2423, 2011  
doi:10.1093/annonc/mdr001  
Published online 14 March 2011

## Ovarian cancer in elderly patients: carboplatin and pegylated liposomal doxorubicin versus carboplatin and paclitaxel in late relapse: a Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup (GCIg) CALYPSO sub-study

J. E. Kurtz<sup>1\*</sup>, M. C. Kaminsky<sup>2</sup>, A. Floquet<sup>3</sup>, A. S. Veillard<sup>4</sup>, R. Kimmig<sup>5</sup>, A. Dorum<sup>6</sup>, L. Elit<sup>7</sup>, M. Buck<sup>8</sup>, E. Petru<sup>9</sup>, N. Reed<sup>10</sup>, G. Scambia<sup>11</sup>, N. Varsellona<sup>12</sup>, C. Brown<sup>4</sup> & E. Pujade-Lauraine<sup>13</sup> on behalf of Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup

# Key questions before cancer treatment

- > Curative or palliative treatment ?
- > Impact of cancer on quality of life/survival
- > Impact of cancer treatment on quality of life/survival

## Goals

- > Maintenance of quality of life
- > Reducing toxicity
- > Dose modification concerning liver, kidney and heart function
- > Proper and prophylactic treatment of side effects

# Classification of patients in oncology

<b>Group 1 ‘Fit’</b>	<b>Group 2 ‘Compromised’</b>	<b>Group 3 ‘Frail’</b>
<b>‘Go go’</b> standard therapy	<b>‘Slow go’</b> special protocol	<b>‘No go’</b> palliative care

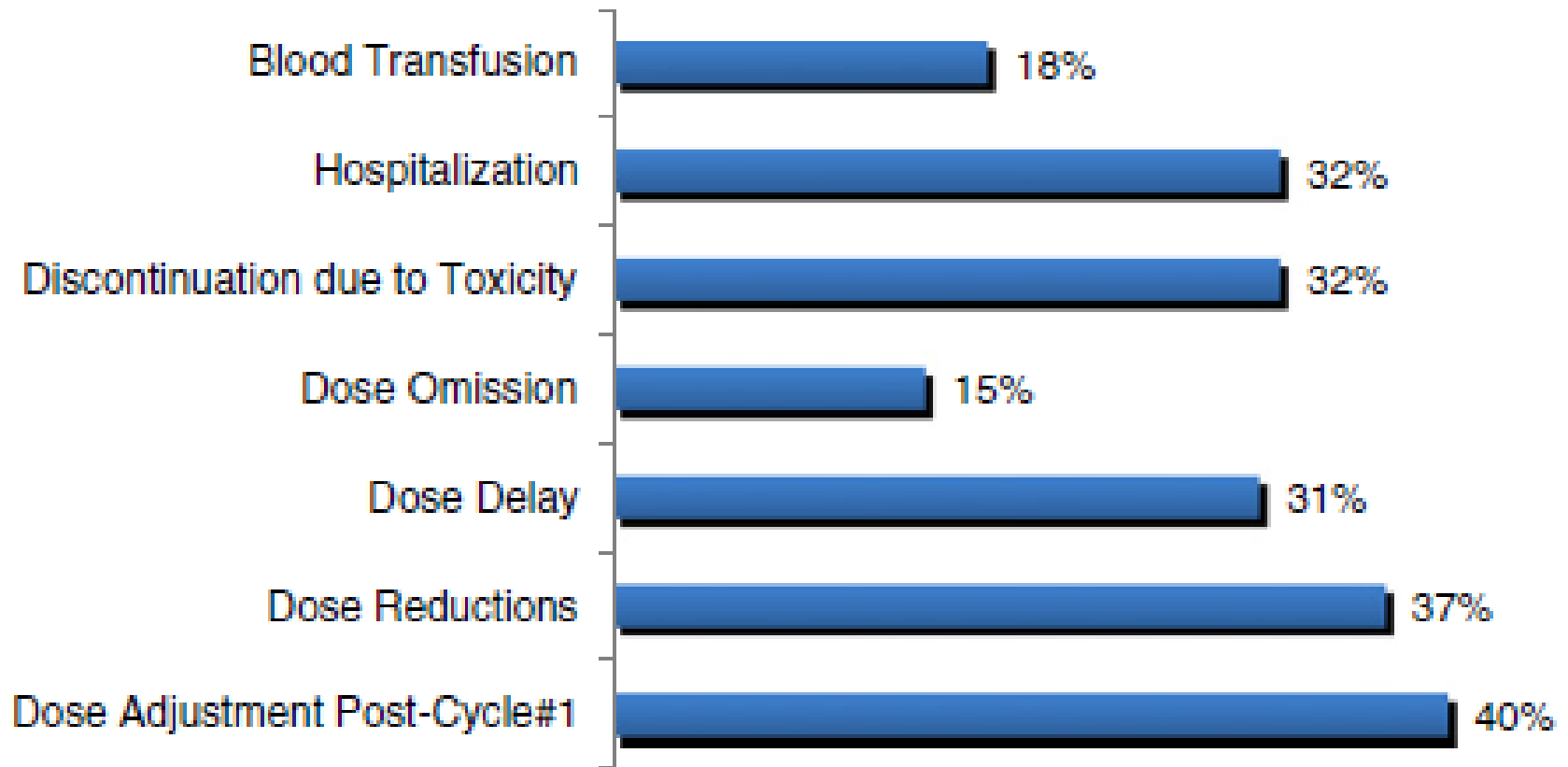
The table is structured as follows:

- Group 1 ‘Fit’:** organ funktion ↑, clinical status ↑, life expectancy ↑, comorbidities ↓, toxicity risik ↓. Associated with **‘Go go’** and **standard therapy**.
- Group 2 ‘Compromised’:** organ funktion ↓, clinical status ↓, life expectancy →, comorbidities ↑, toxicity risik ↑. Associated with **‘Slow go’** and **special protocol**.
- Group 3 ‘Frail’:** organ funktion ↓ ↓, clinical status ↓ ↓, life expectancy ↓ ↓, comorbidities ↑ ↑, toxicity risik ↑ ↑. Associated with **‘No go’** and **palliative care**.

# Preoperative assessment of elderly patients

- Sufficient preoperative assessment is indispensable (Medication ?, comorbidities ?, ...)
- Early anesthesiological assessment for elective interventions
  - > for an accurate assessment of the anesthesiological risk, additional examinations are necessary like cardiac ultrasound or lung pulmonary function tests
- Stabilization / improvement of the patient's status for reducing perioperative morbidity

# Complications in geriatric patients under chemotherapy



# Elderly patients receive chemotherapy rarer

**Table 4. Chemotherapy Status of 12,316 Ovarian Cancer Patients for Different Age Groups\***

Chemotherapy	Age groups		
	< 60 (n = 5,410)	60-79 (n = 5,792)	≥ 80 (n = 1,114)
Yes	64.9	72.0	42.0
No	31.9	23.2	48.8
Unknown/refusal	3.2	4.7	9.2

n = number of patients.

\* Values given represent the percentage of patients in the various age groups in which chemotherapy was or was not administered, or chemotherapy was refused by the patient, or if chemotherapy administration was unknown.

# Elderly patients often undergo incomplete surgery

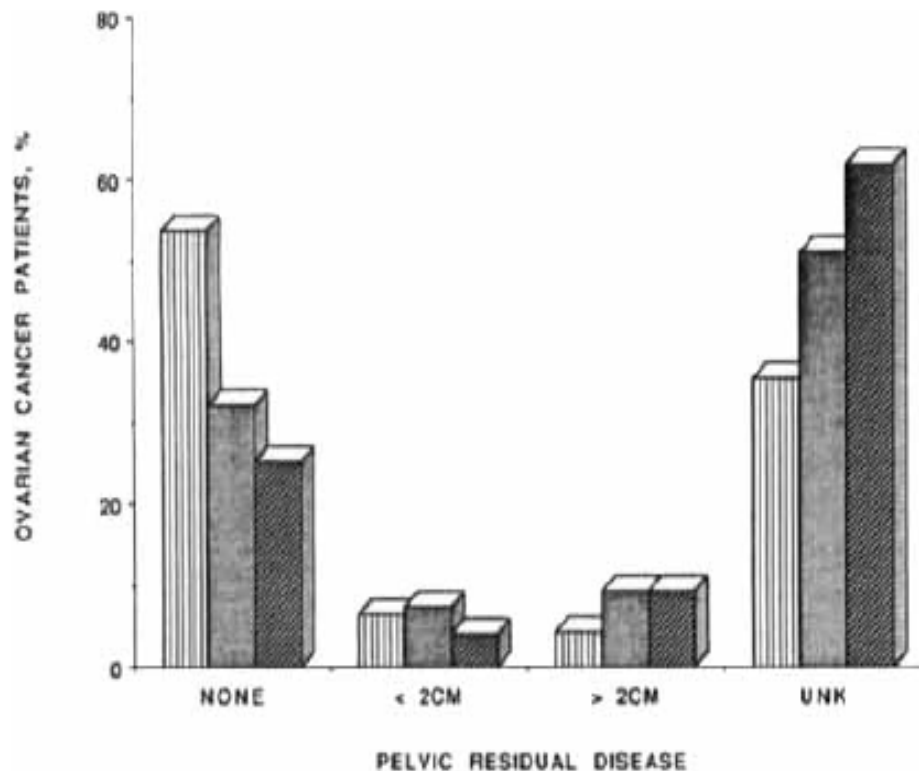


Figure 3. Residual disease in the pelvis of 12,316 ovarian cancer patients as a function of age. ▨: < 60 years old; ▤: 60-79 years old; ▥: > 80 years old.

Table 3. The Effect of Age on the Success of Cytoreduction Surgery\*

Tumor debulking (%)	Age groups (yr)		
	< 60 (n = 5,410)	60-79 (n = 5,792)	≥ 80 (n = 1,114)
< 25	16.4	17.5	20.1
25-74	1.3	2.1	2.1
75-99	9.1	9.8	6.8
100	34.6	19.7	14.9
Unknown	38.6	50.9	56.1

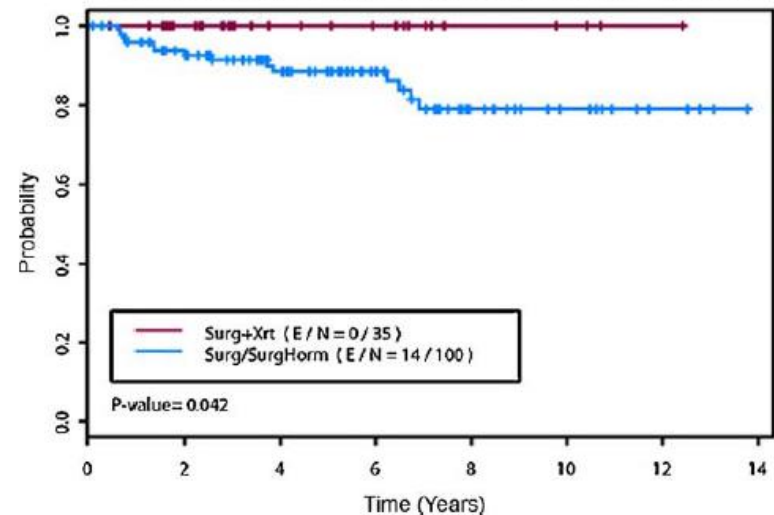
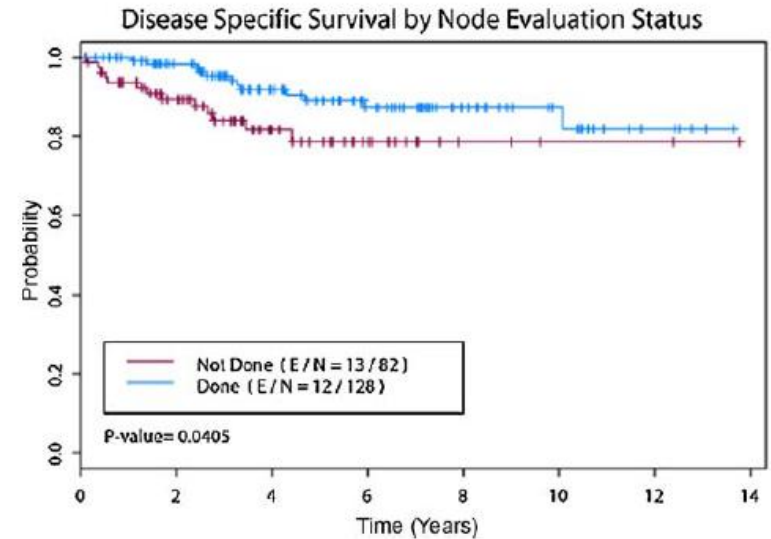
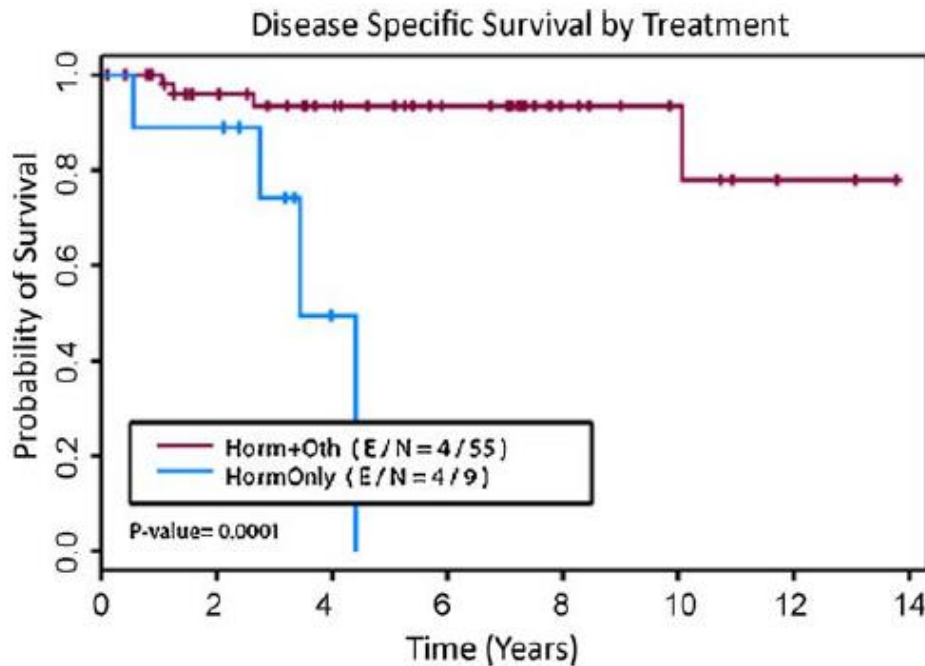
n = number of patients.

\* Values represent the percentage of patients debulked in the various age groups and cytoreduction amounts. Chi-square analysis revealed statistically significant differences ( $P < 0.00001$ ).

# Consequences of insufficient therapy in elderly patients

## The effect of under-treatment of breast cancer in women 80 years of age and older

Barbara L. Van Leeuwen<sup>a,\*</sup>, K.M. Rosenkranz<sup>b,1</sup>, L. Lei Feng<sup>c,2</sup>, I. Bedrosian<sup>c,2</sup>, K. Hartmann<sup>c,2</sup>, K.K. Hunt<sup>c,2</sup>, H.M. Kuerer<sup>c,2</sup>, M. Ross<sup>c,2</sup>, S.E. Singletary<sup>c,2</sup>, Gildy V. Babiera<sup>c,2</sup>, the Department of Surgical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center<sup>3</sup>





# Summary I



## Elderly patients are “different” !!!

- > Life expectancy and the number of older people in good condition is increasing.
- > Watch your patients carefully!
- > Detailed communication with your patient is important.
- > Careful recommendation of therapy regime concerning comorbidities.
- > Interdisciplinary support.
- > Regular „check“ of clinical status, eating habits, new medications, cognitive function ...
- > Close contact with relatives.



# Summary II



**Age alone should not decide on therapy recommendation !!!**

- > Geriatric assessment should be performed before every treatment recommendation
- > Radical surgery and modern cytostatic regimens are treatment options.
- > Prospective, oncological trials should not have any age limitation.
- > The oncological treatment of elderly patients is demanding and requires considerable expertise.
- > Therapy monitoring should be conducted more closely than in younger patients.

Thank you for your attention

