

# WHAT ARE PATIENTS EXPECTING?

A PATIENT'S TESTIMONIAL

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COCIR VIRTUAL SESSION  
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# DIAGNOSIS

Fall 2018

by routine screening

Invasive Ductal Carcinoma, Grade 3

Luminal B

Hormone Sensitive

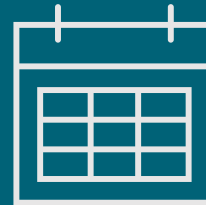
Her2 Positive

Ki-67: 80%

1.2 cm

## THANKS TO THE BELGIAN SCREENING PROGRAMME!

- every other year/on prescription
- mammogram



# Access to the best treatment preferentially in Belgium

In which hospital to be treated?

Which surgery for tumour and lymph nodes?

Which adjuvant chemotherapy?

Supportive care?

Which chemotherapy ?

How many radiotherapy sessions and in which position?

**If I wanted to make informed treatment decisions, I needed help**

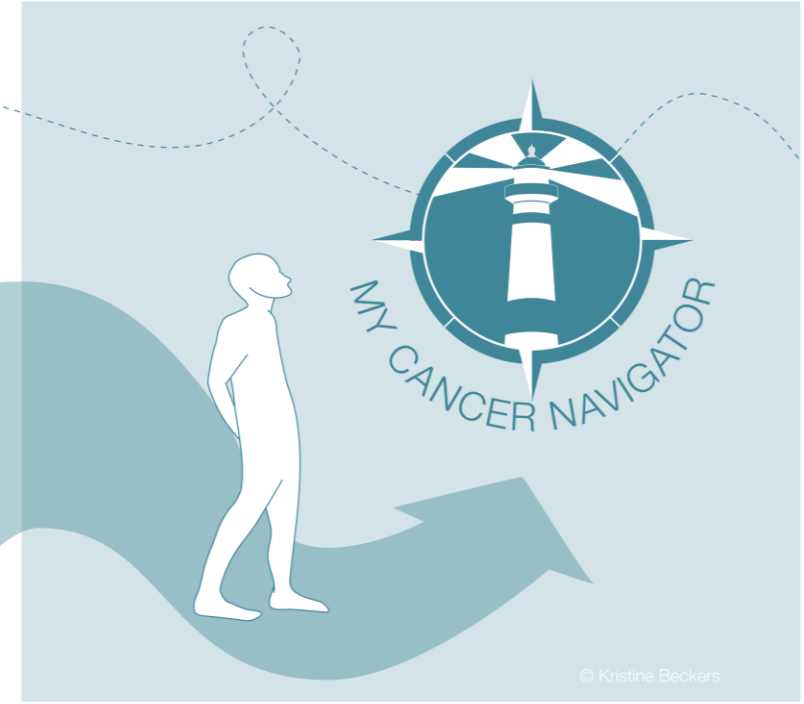
# MY CANCER NAVIGATOR to the rescue: personalized information



1. *Do you have cancer and feel lost?*



2. *Do you need clear information about your treatment?*



3. *My Cancer Navigator helps you find your way*

# WHERE TO BE TREATED

- Screening often in hospital close to home



comfortable to **stay** in the local hospital for **treatment**



BUT treatment at **large-volume hospitals** is associated with **improved survival** for breast cancer patients<sup>a</sup>

- In Belgium, a **Royal Decree**<sup>b</sup> defines which centres are recognized as “breast clinics”:

Coordinating centre - treats 125 patients/year

Satellite centre - treats 60 patients/year

Every surgeon operates on min. 50 new cases/year

Min. 2 surgeons/gynaecologists employed 0.8FTE

**HOWEVER, BREAST CANCER PATIENTS  
ARE NOT PROTECTED BY THIS AS  
EVERY HOSPITAL IS STILL ALLOWED TO  
TREAT BC PATIENTS!<sup>c</sup>**

# RADIOTHERAPY REGIMEN

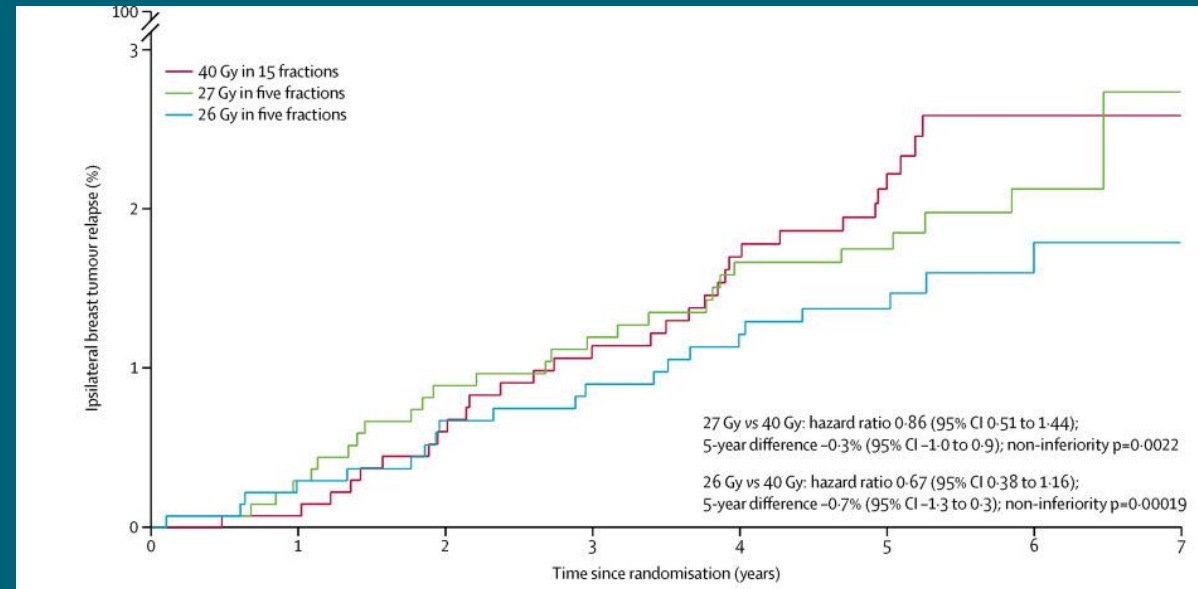
5 or 15 fractions?

FAST-FORWARD TRIAL  
(Burns et al. 2020. The Lancet)



26 Gy in five fractions over 1 week is

- ✓ non-inferior to the standard of 40 Gy in 15 fractions over 3 weeks for local tumour control,
- ✓ safe in terms of normal tissue effects up to 5 years
- ✓ for patients prescribed adjuvant local radiotherapy after primary surgery for early-stage breast cancer



Brunt et al. 2020. The lancet. [url](#)

# RADIOTHERAPY POSITION

## Supine or Prone Position ?

### PRONE POSITION

was associated with a reduction in the amount of irradiated lung in all patients and in the amount of heart volume irradiated in 85% of patients with left breast cancer.<sup>a</sup>

### PRONE CRAWL POSITION

in whole breast and lymph node irradiation allows for good breast and nodal target coverage with better sparing of ipsilateral lung, thyroid, contralateral breast, contralateral lung and oesophagus when compared to supine position.<sup>b,c</sup>

Table 3. Radiation dose to the opposite breast in the two consecutive cohorts of the study

	First phase ( <i>n</i> = 20)		Second phase ( <i>n</i> = 41)		<i>p</i> for first vs. second phase	
	Mean dose (Gy)	V <sub>5Gy</sub> (%)	Mean dose (Gy)	V <sub>5Gy</sub> (%)	Mean dose	V <sub>5Gy</sub>
Supine	0.85 ± 0.47	2.7 ± 2.0	0.61 ± 0.73	1.7 ± 2.8	0.096	0.073
Prone	1.26 ± 0.78	4.5 ± 3.4	0.74 ± 0.44	2.2 ± 2.0	0.00092	0.001
<i>p</i> for supine vs. prone	0.0038	0.0057	0.162	0.159		

# ADJUVANT TREATMENTS?

Chemotherapy? Anti-HER2? Endocrine therapy?

- Doxorubicin/Cyclophosphamide followed by Paclitaxel  
= STANDARD TREATMENT (anthracycline-based therapy)

But anthracyclines are quite toxic...

- Weekly Paclitaxel?

“7-year follow-up report of paclitaxel and trastuzumab for patients with small, node-negative HER2-positive breast cancer demonstrates **few disease recurrences** with even longer follow-up and further supports the use of this regimen **for adjuvant therapy** for this patient population. The 3-year and 7-year DFS in the APT trial were 98.7% and 93%, respectively, with just four distant recurrences at 7 years (1%).“

NCCN updated: **Paclitaxel + trastuzumab may be considered for patients with low-risk T1,N0,M0, HER2-positive disease, particularly those not eligible for other standard adjuvant regimens due to comorbidities.**





# Breast Cancer Treatments De-escalation



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Patients should be incentivized for screening

Patients should understand the multidisciplinary nature of treatment

Patients need personalized information for informed decision making

Thank you!