



Sharing Progress  
in Cancer Care

# **QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENT IN MBC PATIENTS INVESTIGATORS MEETING**

**Lisbon - 8 November 2023**

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**“Enhancing therapy adherence among metastatic breast cancer patients”**

# Sharing Progress in Cancer Care

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**QUALITY OF CARE IMPROVEMENT IN MBC PATIENTS  
INVESTIGATORS MEETING**

# METASTATIC BREAST CANCER DISEASE

## *Epidemiology aspects*

More than **281.550 new cases** of invasive breast cancer have been reported in the 2021.

Around **3%-6%** of the breast cancer patients have **metastatic disease** at the time of diagnosis.

**10%-30%** of patients with early breast cancer later develop systemic recurrence.

### METASTATIC BREAST CANCER (MBC) INCIDENCE



# ADHERENCE TO ORAL ANTICANCER TREATMENTS

*A Journey into the Complexity*

- **MBC** is an **incurable disease** and medications are focused on deferral disease progression and symptoms mitigation.
- **MBC patients** present pain and fatigue, and an increased difficulty with physical, social, and emotional functioning.



## SPECIAL ARTICLE

### ESMO Expert Consensus Statements on Cancer Survivorship: promoting high-quality survivorship care and research in Europe

I. Vaz-Luis<sup>1,2\*</sup>, M. Masiero<sup>3,4</sup>, G. Cavaletti<sup>5</sup>, A. Cervantes<sup>6,7</sup>, R. T. Chlebowski<sup>8</sup>, G. Curigliano<sup>3,9</sup>, E. Felip<sup>10</sup>, A. R. Ferreira<sup>11,12</sup>, P. A. Ganz<sup>13</sup>, J. Hegarty<sup>14</sup>, J. Jeon<sup>15</sup>, C. Johansen<sup>16</sup>, F. Joly<sup>17</sup>, K. Jordan<sup>18,19</sup>, B. Koczwara<sup>20</sup>, P. Lagergren<sup>21,22</sup>, M. Lambertini<sup>23,24</sup>, D. Lenihan<sup>25</sup>, H. Linardou<sup>26</sup>, C. Loprinzi<sup>27</sup>, A. H. Partridge<sup>28</sup>, S. Rauh<sup>29</sup>, K. Steindorf<sup>30</sup>, W. van der Graaf<sup>31,32</sup>, L. van de Poll-Franse<sup>33,34,35</sup>, G. Pentheroudakis<sup>36</sup>, S. Peters<sup>36</sup> & G. Pravettoni<sup>3,4</sup>

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

**The Breast**

journal homepage: [www.journals.elsevier.com/the-breast](http://www.journals.elsevier.com/the-breast)

Progression-free survival and quality of life in metastatic breast cancer: The patient perspective

Shirley Mertz<sup>a</sup>, Christine Benjamin<sup>b</sup>, Charis Girvalaki<sup>c</sup>, Antonella Cardone<sup>c</sup>, Paulina Gono<sup>c</sup>, Suepatra G. May<sup>d,\*</sup>, Erin Comerford<sup>e</sup>, Kyi-Sin Than<sup>d</sup>, Kelly Birch<sup>d</sup>, Meaghan Roach<sup>d</sup>, Sky Myers<sup>d</sup>, Medha Sasane<sup>e</sup>, Liat Lavi<sup>e</sup>, Anna Cameron<sup>e</sup>, Fatima Cardoso<sup>f</sup>

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<sup>b</sup> SHARE Cancer Support, 165 West 46th St, Suite 712, New York, NY, 10036, USA  
<sup>c</sup> European Cancer Patient Coalition, 40, Rue de Montoyer/Montoyestraat, B-1000, Brussels, Belgium  
<sup>d</sup> PRECISIONhear, 60 E 42nd Street, Suite 1325 New York, NY, 10165, USA  
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<sup>f</sup> Breast Unit, Champalimaud Clinical Center/Champalimaud Foundation and ABC Global Alliance, Lisbon, Portugal

# ADHERENCE TO ORAL ANTICANCER TREATMENTS

*A Journey into the Complexity*

## Call to Action for Improving Oral Anticancer Agent Adherence

Laura A. Levit, JD<sup>1</sup>; Shaily Arora, PharmD<sup>2</sup>; Paul G. Kluetz, MD<sup>3</sup>; Allison Magnuson, DO<sup>4</sup>; Atiqur Rahman, PhD<sup>3</sup>; and R. Donald Harvey, PharmD<sup>5</sup>

**Journal of Clinical Oncology**<sup>®</sup>  
An American Society of Clinical Oncology Journal

Original Investigation | Oncology

October 13, 2022

## Factors Associated With Patients Not Receiving Oral Anticancer Drugs

Sahil D. Doshi, MD<sup>1</sup>; Morgan R. L. Lichtenstein, MD<sup>2,3</sup>; Melissa P. Beauchemin, PhD, MSN, CPNP<sup>3,4</sup>; et al

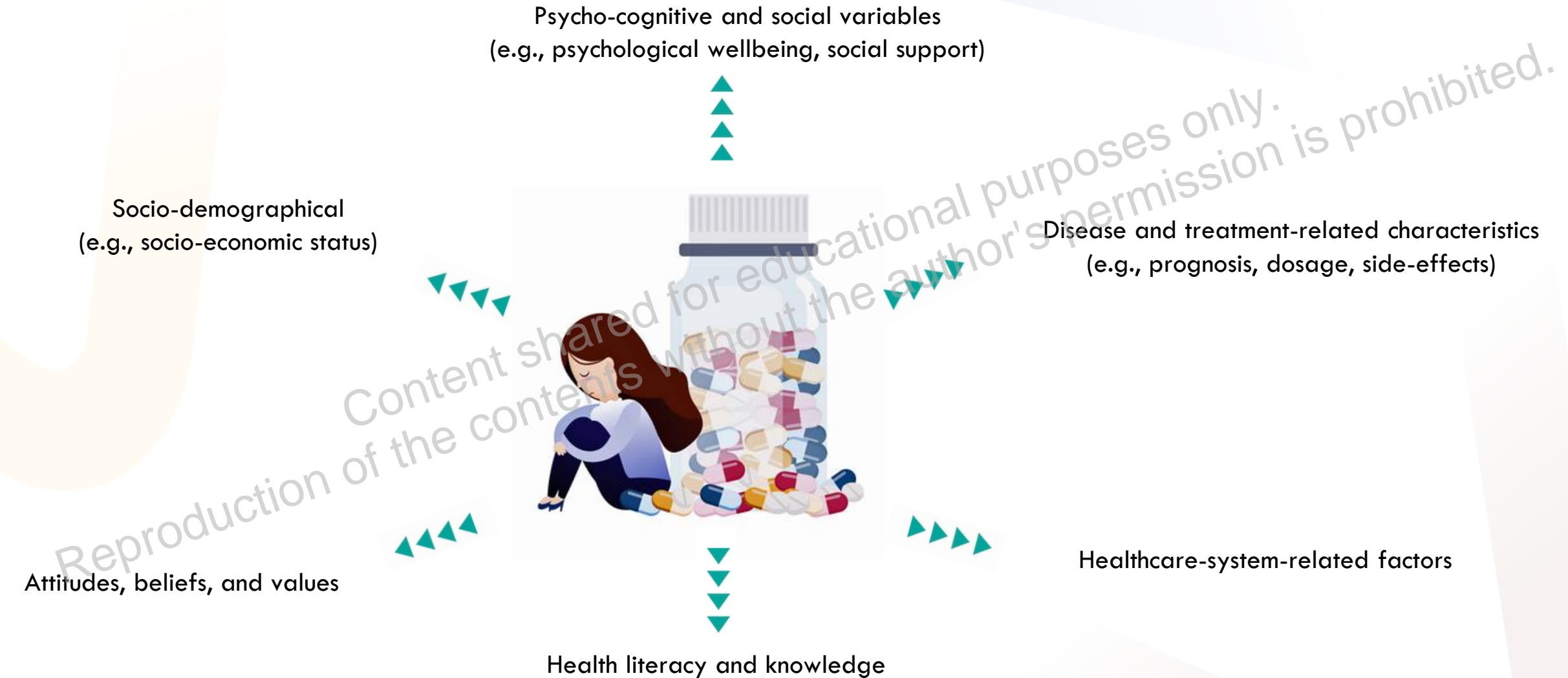
[» Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

*JAMA Netw Open.* 2022;5(10):e2236380. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.36380

- The clinical advancements achieved in anticancer treatments have increased the **5-year survival rate** around **38%**.
- **Oral anticancer treatments (OATs)** have changed the oncology treatment landscape, accounting for 40%–50% of new cancer treatments in development.
- Notwithstanding, **adherence to OATs is suboptimal** (ranged 30%-85%), declining over time since treatment initiation.

# ADHERENCE TO ORAL ANTICANCER TREATMENTS

## *Adherence a Multicomponent Model*



# ADHERENCE TO ORAL ANTICANCER TREATMENTS

## *New Challenges*



Given the **impact of non-adherence on clinical outcomes** and the associated economic burden for the healthcare system, finding **effective ways to increase treatment adherence** is particularly relevant.



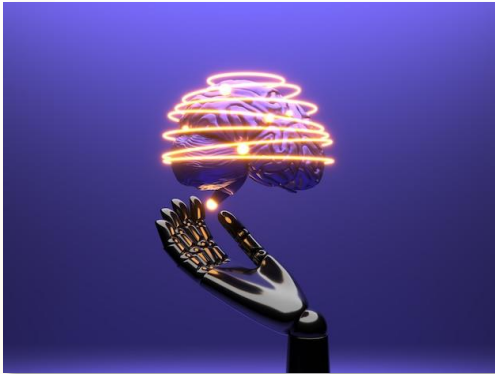
**MBC patients need support in managing oral therapies** and overcoming individual and systemic barriers and roadblocks.



# RISK-PREDICTIVE MODELS AND DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEMS

*Engines to reduce the complexity of medication non-adherence to OATs*

## Machine Learning Models



### Clinicians OUTCOMES

- Inform about the **specific risk factors** associated with non-adherence;
- **Earlier identification of MBC patients** with poor adherence;

## Decision Support System (DSS)



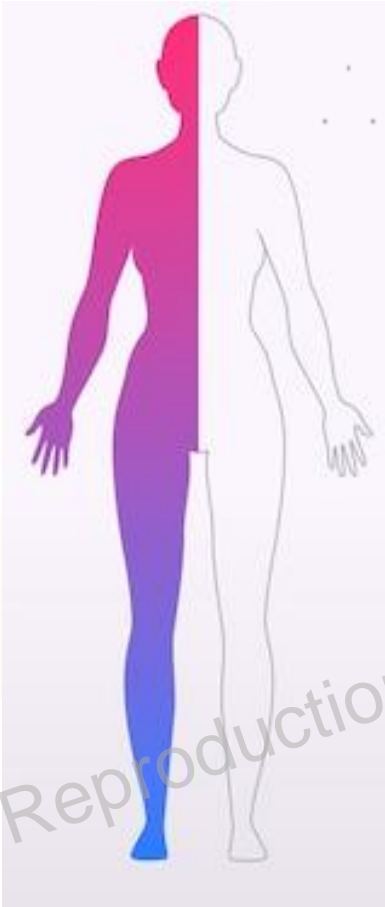
### MBC Patients OUTCOMES

- Provide evidence-based information;
- **Recognize and clarify their personal values**, and increase participation in care decision;
- Facilitate communication by providing information and a platform to **encourage substantial interaction**.



# PFIZER PROJECT

*Enhancing Therapy Adherence Among Metastatic Breast Cancer Patients*



The goal of the **Pfizer Project** is to develop a predictive model of non-adherence and associated shared decision support system (DSS) and guidelines to foster patients' engagement and enhanced therapy adherence among MBC patients.

- **Retrospective Study** (N=2750) provides a preliminary version of the predictive model of non-adherence.
- **Prospective Study** (N=100) assesses the effectiveness and usability of DSS web-based and will improve the predictive power of the machine learning model.

# PHASE 1° - RESTROSPECTIVE STUDY



# RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

## Method

Multi-modal retrospective data has been retrieved from the **Patient Electronic Health Records (EHR)** using the **Natural Language Processing (NLP)** in a sample of **2.750 MBC** patients (from 2010 to 2020). The mean age was 58.3 (SD=11.7).



### ▶▶▶▶ Overall variables included:

Sociodemographic variables, diagnosis, biochemical and medical tests, procedures and medical history, treatment programs, treatment side effects, comorbidities, and familiarities.

### ▶▶▶▶ Adherence variables included:

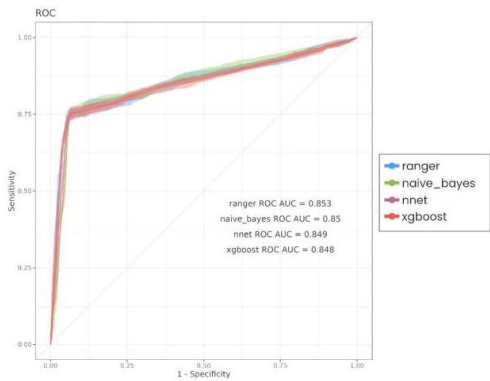
Initiation of the treatment, interruption of treatment, and skipped treatment doses.

# RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

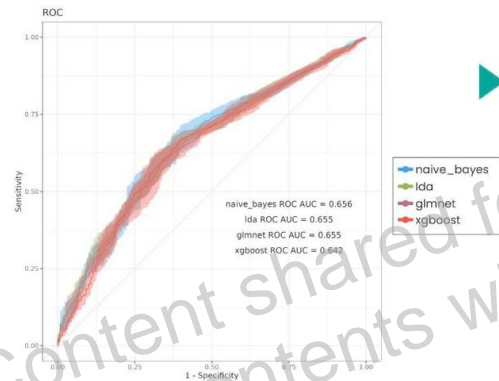
## Method

A machine learning application was developed on models to predict adherence risk factors and used data extracted from the EHR of the European Institute of Oncology (Milan, Italy).

Physical status and comorbid conditions



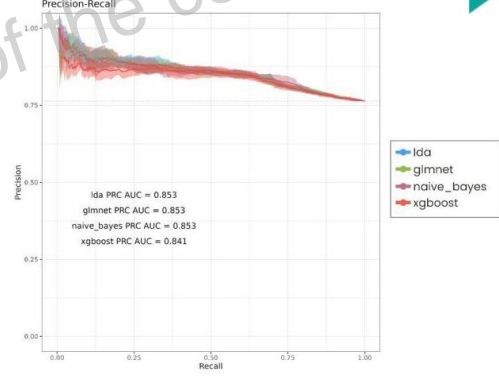
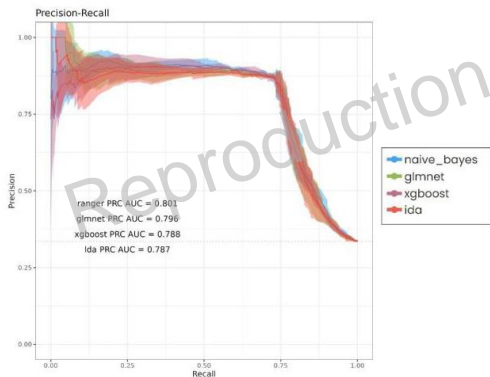
Short and long term side effects



The machine learning models focused on two outcomes: **short and long-term side effects**, as well as **physical status and comorbid conditions**.



The models were integrated into a web application built using the **Shiny open-source framework** for the R statistical language.



# RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

## Results

Shiny application

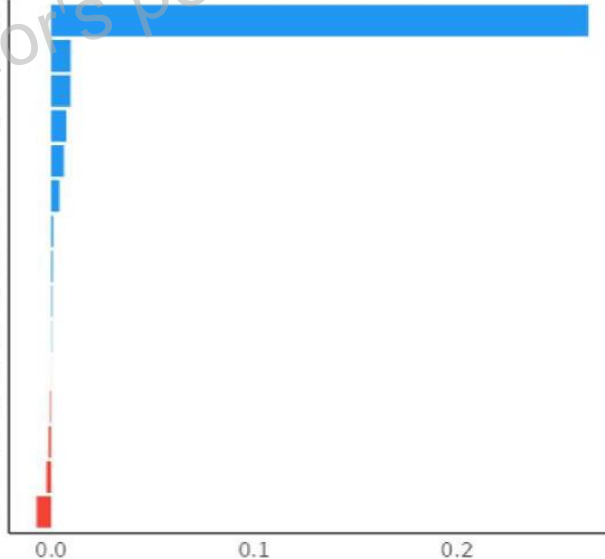
The screenshot shows a web application titled "Fattori di rischio". It has a sidebar with navigation options: "Comorbilità fisica" and "Side Effects". The main content area is divided into sections: "Physical Comorbid (BPCO, Cardiomiopatia, Cardiomiopatia Ipertensiva, Cardiomiopatia Ischemica, Diabete, Emiplegia, Epattite, Epilessia, Ipertensione Arteriosa, Ipertensione Portale, Obesità, ipotiroidismo, Ipertiroidismo, Parkinsonismo, Sclerosi Multipla, Malattia di Parkinson, Malattia di Hodgkin)", "Tipo di cancro:" with checkboxes for "Triplo Negativo", "HER2 Positivo", and "Luminale", and "Fattori di Rischio:" with checkboxes for "Malattia Cardiovascolare (Aritmia, Bradicardia, Cardiomiopatia, Cardiomiopatia ischemica, Cardiopatia ipertensiva, ipertensione Arteriosa, ipertensione Portale, Tachicardia)", "Capecitabina", "Endoxan", "Everolimus", "Exemestane", "Isterectomia", "Recidiva", "Ribociclib", "Risposta Completa", "Risposta Parziale", "Disturbi Neurologici (Emiplegia, Epilessia)", and "Psycho Emotional (Depressione, Depressione Ansiosa, Distimia, Stato Depressivo, Ansia, Sindrome Ansiosa, Schizofrenia)". A "CALCOLARE LA PROBABILITÀ" button is at the bottom.

**11 %**  
Fattori di Rischio

Predicted outcome: False  
Predicted probability: 89.4 %

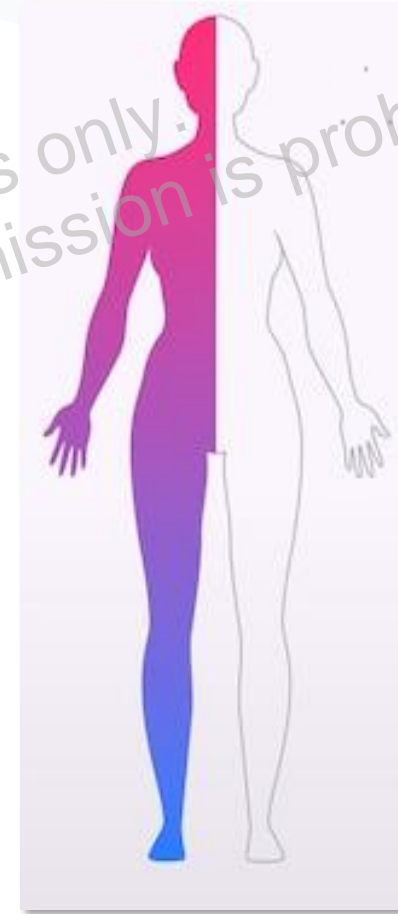
Feature

- Malattia Cardiovascolare = FALSE
- Everolimus = FALSE
- Psycho Emotional = FALSE
- Disturbi Neurologici = FALSE
- Triplo Negativo = FALSE
- Capecitabina = FALSE
- Recidiva = FALSE
- Luminale = FALSE
- Ribociclib = FALSE
- Endoxan = FALSE
- Risposta Completa = FALSE
- Isterectomia = FALSE
- Exemestane = FALSE
- Risposta Parziale = FALSE
- HER2 Positivo = FALSE



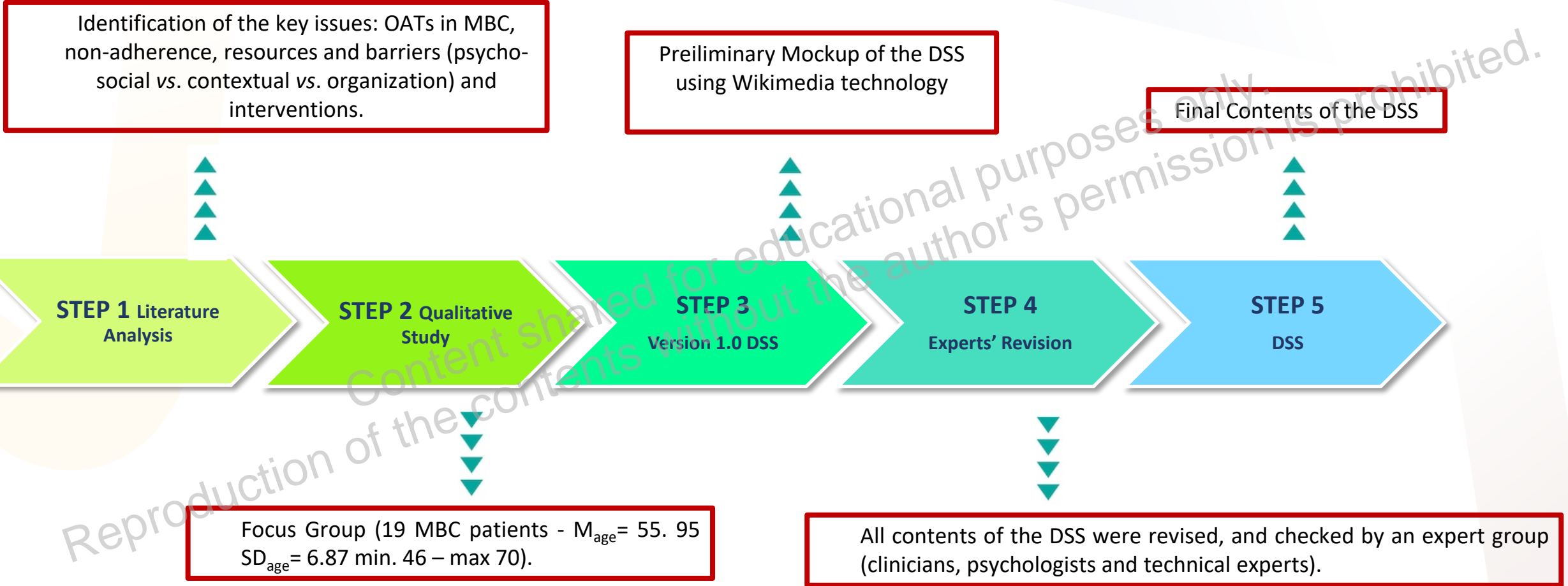
Supports  
Contradicts

# PHASE 1<sup>o</sup>- DECISION SUPPORT SYSTEM



# PFIZER PROJECT

## Decision Support System: Design and Development



**Ensuring focus on PATIENT PARTICIPATION and ENGAGEMENT**

# PFIZER PROJECT

TREAT - "TREATment Adherence support"



## Metastatic Breast Cancer

- a. Disease
- b. Features, and symptoms
- c. Available Therapies
- d. Side-effects
- e. Psychological Impact



Possibility to link to evidence-based sources ([ESMO guidelines](#))

## Adherence to Cancer Therapies



- a. The meaning of non-adherence
- b. Incidence and consequences of non-adherence in MBC
- c. Causes of non-adherence



## Promoting Adherence



- a. Resources
- b. Barriers
- c. Interventions to support adherence
- d. Self-manage strategies to boost adherence.
- e. A goal-setting protocol



## My Adherence Diary

- a. free-text diary reporting doubts, concerns, thoughts, and behaviors related to their disease and therapies

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## PHASE 2° - PROSPECTIVE STUDY



# PFIZER PROJECT

Prospective Study

## Primary endpoint

To assess the effectiveness of a **DSS web-based solution** in promoting adherence to oral anticancer treatments in a sample of MBC patients.

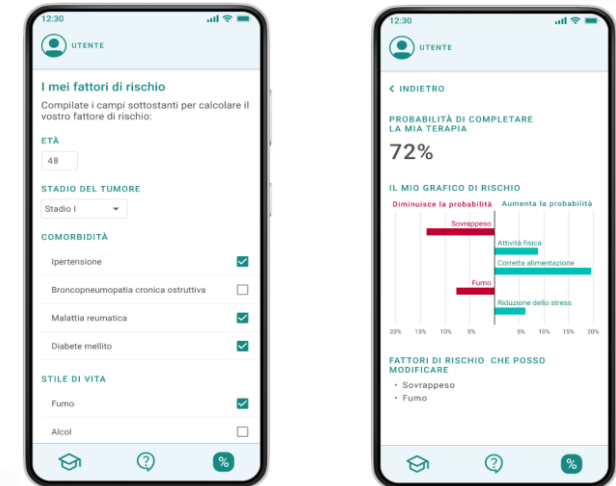
## Secondary endpoint

To collect a set of new physical, psychosocial, behavioral, and QoL variables that will be used to tune and refine the preliminary version of the machine learning models to predict patients' adherence behavior.

## DSS TREAT



## Risk Predictive Models



# PFIZER PROJECT

## Study Design

### Randomized Controlled Trial

### Sample

A sample of 100 MBC patients admitted to the European Institute of Oncology at the Division of Medical Senology are enrolled.

**Experimental Group:** 50 MBC patients exposed to the DSS.

**Control Group:** 50 MBC patients not exposed to the intervention.

## MEASURES

### International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPOR) Medication Compliance and Persistence Work Group

- Adherence Medication Diary
- Adherence Attitude Inventory (AAI)
- Morisky Medication Adherence Scale (MMAS-8)

- State-Trait-Anxiety Inventory (STAI-Y)
- Beck Depression Inventory-II (BDI-II)
- Cancer behavior Inventory CBI Short form (CBI-B/I)
- Sense of Coherence (SOC-13)
- Brief Pain Inventory (BPI)
- European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer Quality of Life questionnaire (EORTC-QLQ-C30)/ QLQ-BR23
- Big Five Inventory
- System Usability Scale (SUS)

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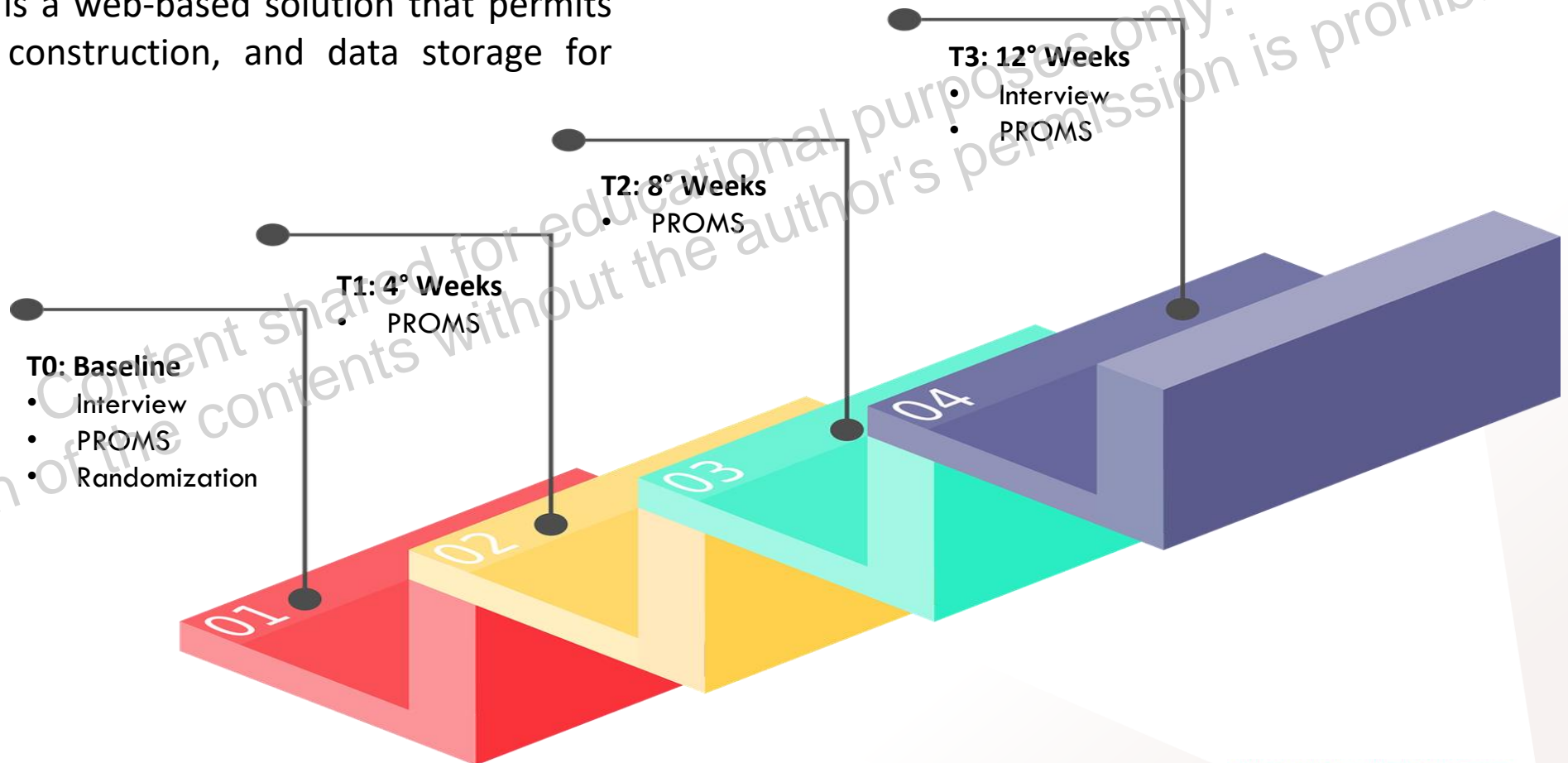
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- U.S. Reg. No. TX-8-285-390 June 12, 2016 Copyright
- U.S. Reg. No. TX-8-632-533 September 21, 2018 Copyright

# PFIZER PROJECT

## Timeline

An internal database was created using the **REDCap** Platform of the IEO. The **REDCap** is a web-based solution that permits data collection, survey construction, and data storage for research aims.

**Daily Adherence Diary**  
(12 weeks)





DIARIO SETTIMANALE DI ADERENZA ALLA TERAPIA ORALE dal 23-05 al 28-05

Giorno Settimanale	Data (gg/mm)	Ho assunto la terapia (sì/no/parziale)	Effetti collaterali (Descrivi i tuoi sintomi se presenti)	Intensità (0 per nulla intenso - 10 molto intenso)	Pensieri (Descrivi brevemente le tue riflessioni)	Emozioni (Descrivi brevemente il tuo stato d'animo,)	Comportamen (Descrivi brevemente tua condotta di aderenza o non aderenza)
Lunedì							
Martedì	23/05	SI	STOMATITE PICCOLE SCARICHE DI DIARREA	5	OGGI VISITA ONCOLOGICA SEMBRA CHE LA TERAPIA NON FUNZIONI	AMAREGGIATA	NESSUN PRO NEL'ADEQUA A NUOVI GRAR.
Mercoledì	24/05	SI	STOMATITE IN TRATTAMENTO	3	SOLITA ROUTINE LAVORO X APP. AGENZIA SALUTE	MENO AMARA	LA NUOVA TER.
Giovedì	25/05	SI	LIEVE STOMATITE (IN TRATTAMENTO)	↓	LAVORO	TRANQUILLA	SHOPPING CON AMICHE
Venerdì	26/05	SI	STANCHEZZA	↓	EDRGO DI ESSERE SERENA	(SI NESSUNO FA DOMANDE)	PASSAGGIATA
Sabato	27/05	SI	/	1		EDRGO DI PENSARE POSITIVO!!	SOLITO QUOTIDIANO
Domenica	28/05	SI	BRUCIORE DI STOMACO PICCOLO DIARREA (ALIBUM)	1	SOLITA CORR		✓

Adherence Weekly Diary

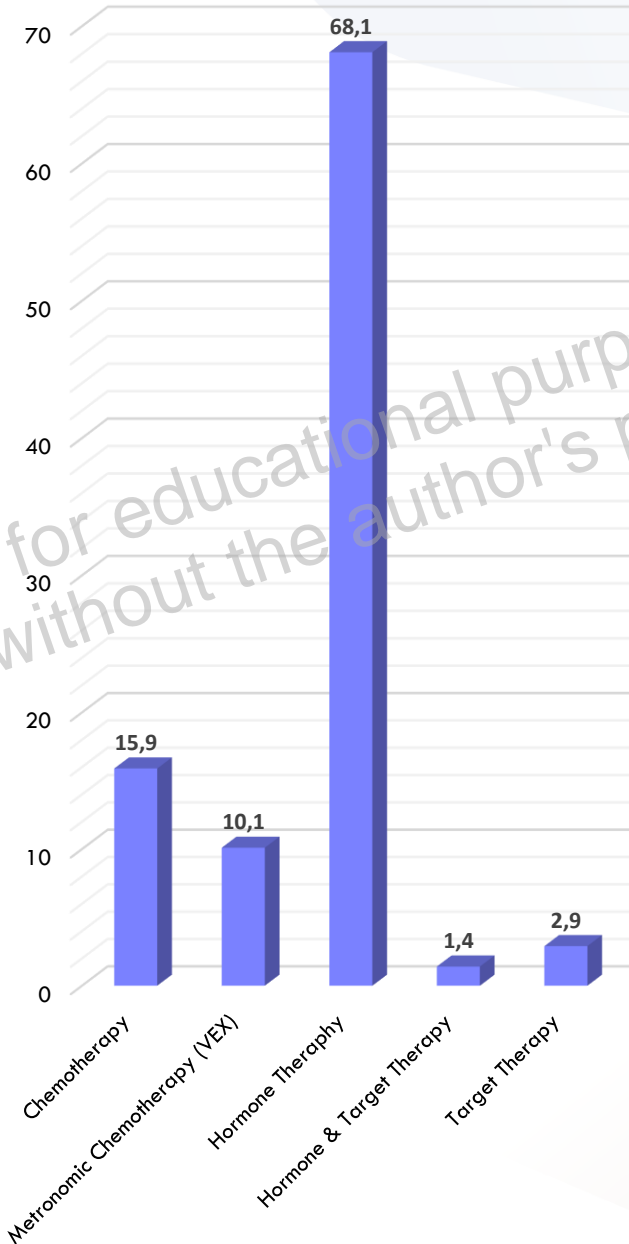
# PFIZER PROJECT

## Sample

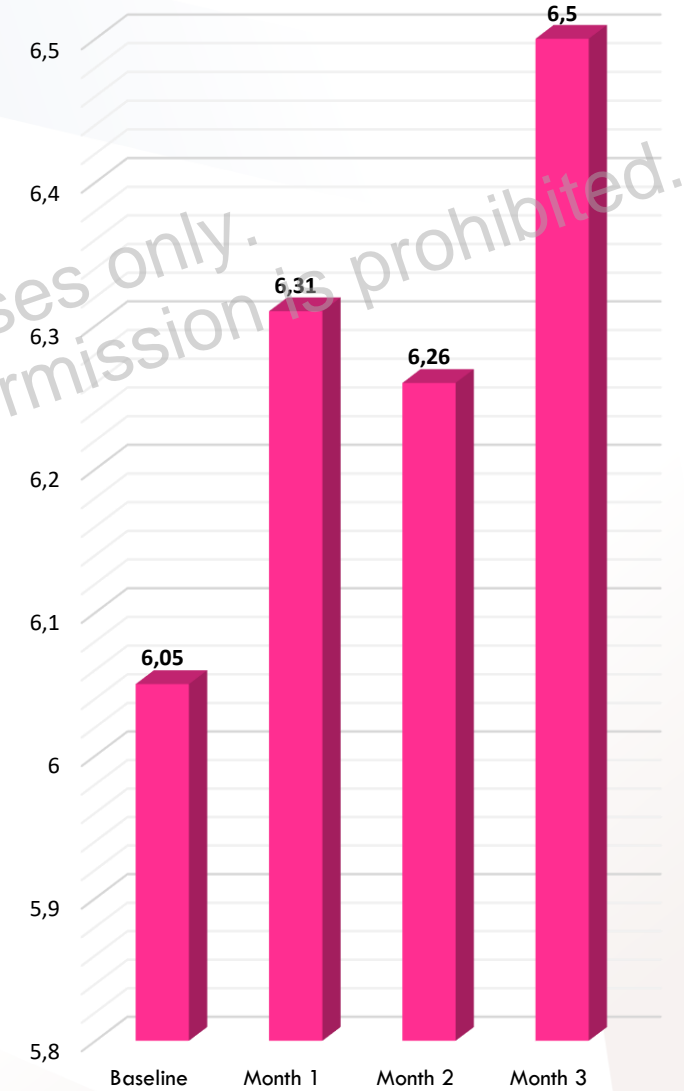
69 MBC patients ( $M_{age}=55$   $SD_{age}=20.5$  min. 30 - max. 75 ) admitted to the Division of Medical Senology of the IEO were enrolled.



## Treatments



## Adherence

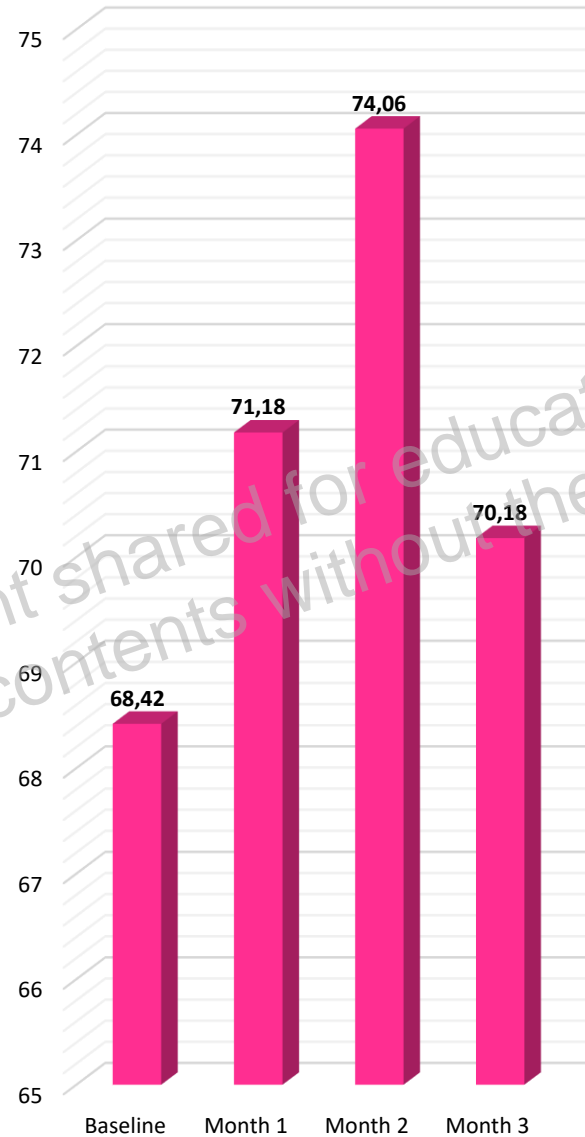


# PFIZER PROJECT

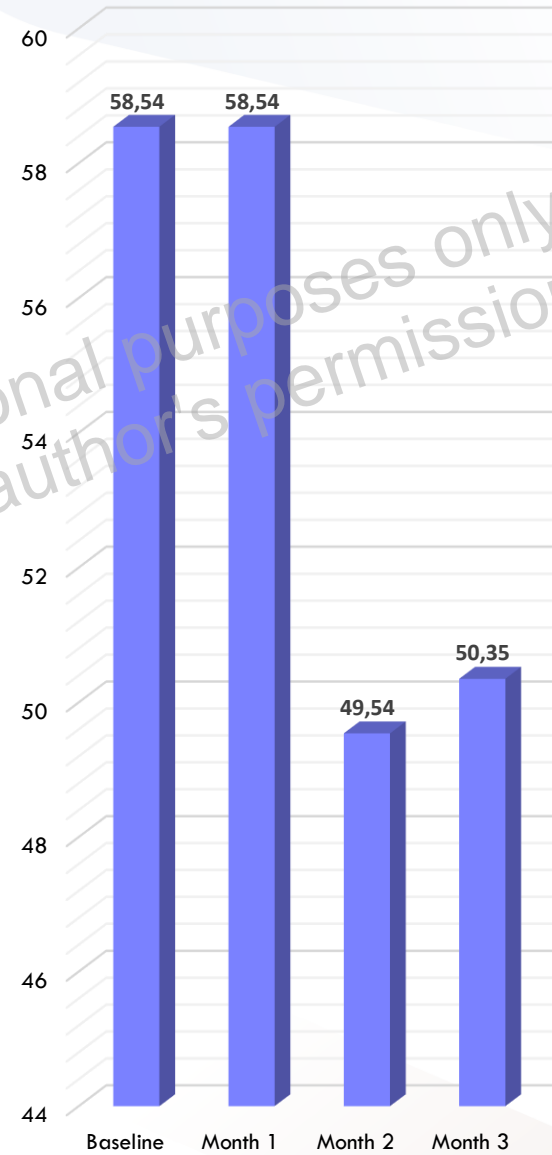
EORTC-QLQ-C30)/ QLQ-BR23



### Global Health Status

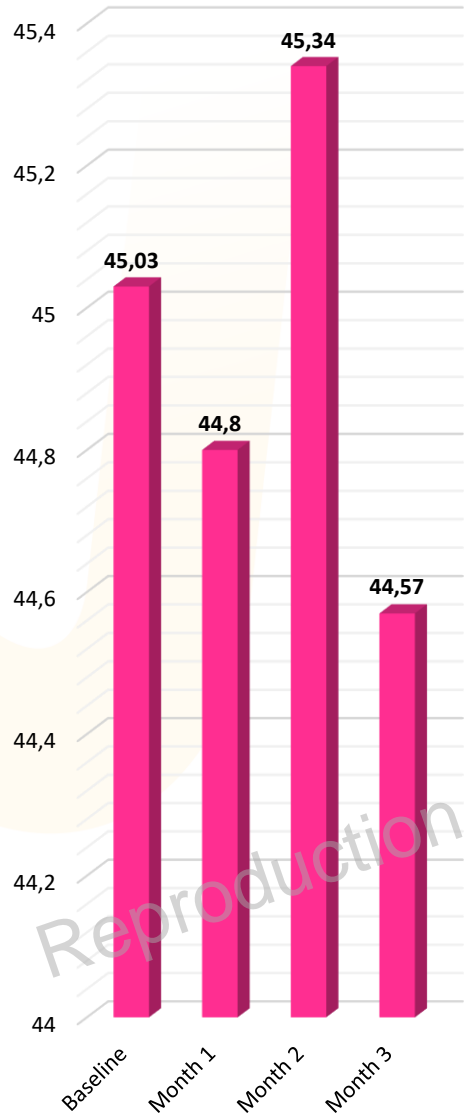


### Future Perspective

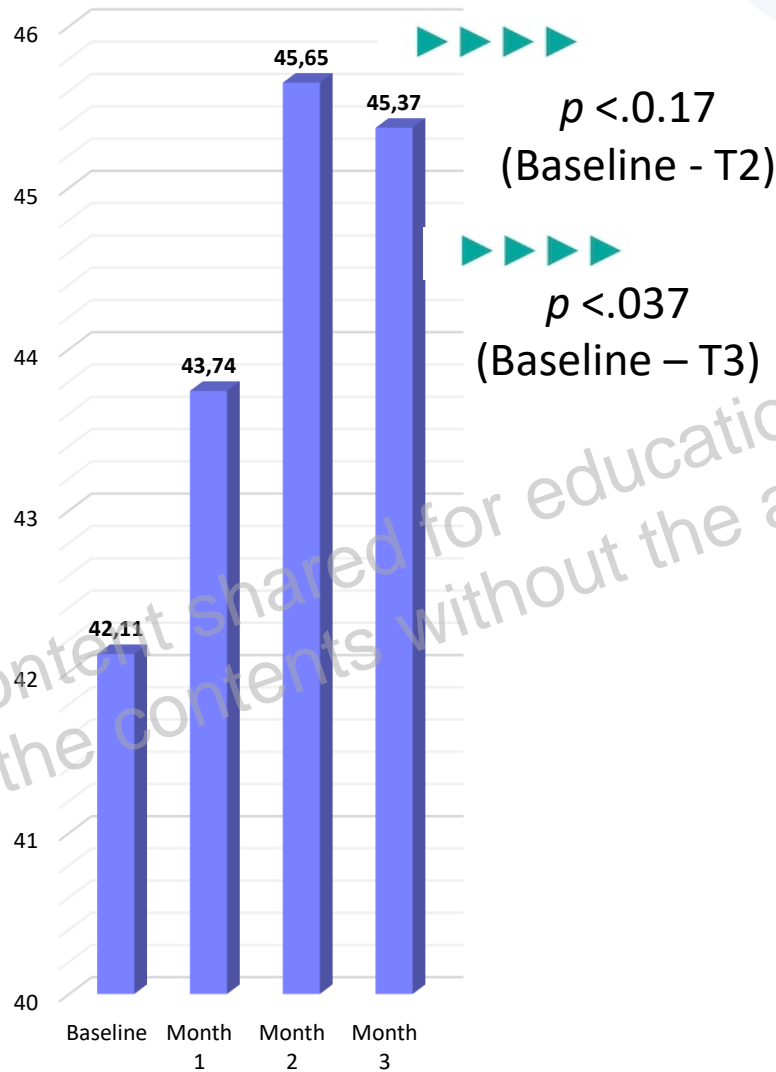


$p < .025$

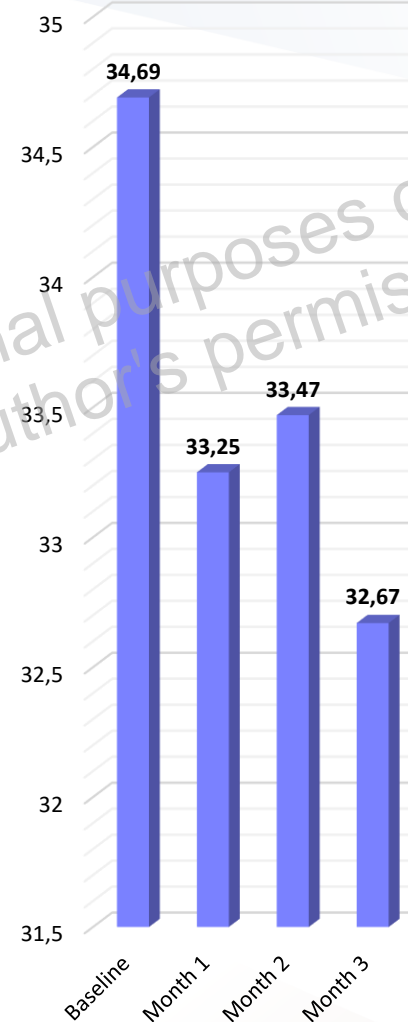
### Self-Efficacy



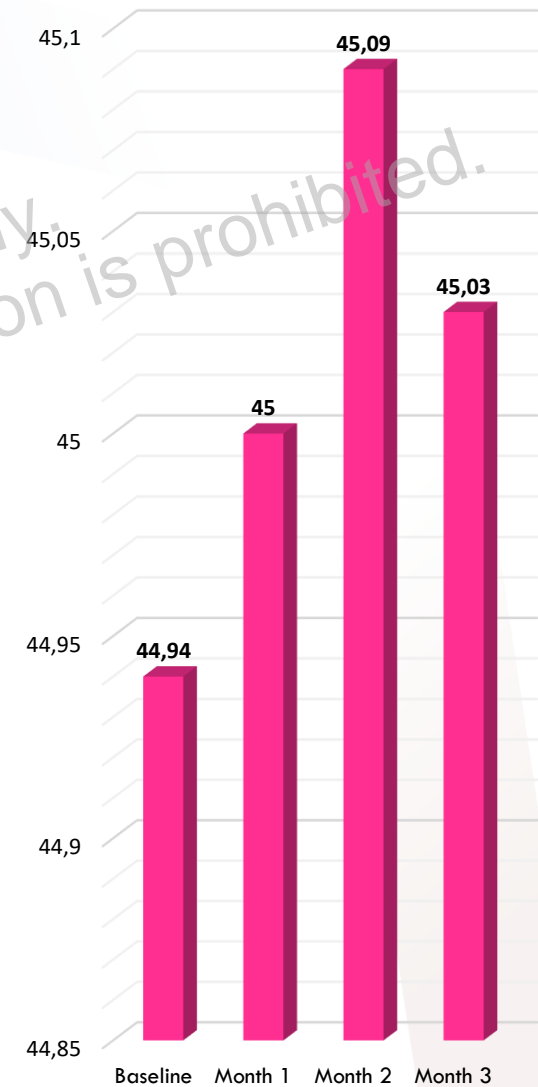
### Commitment to Adherence



### Patient and Providers Communication



### Cognitive Functions





# CONCLUSION



# PFIZER PROJECT

## *Expected Results*

**Refining** the initial risk-predictive model of adherence will inform about specific predictors of adherence behavior.

**Implementing** a shared and integrated DSS might be an essential strategy for MBC patients to enhance understanding of medication non-adherence.



**Identifying** patients with poor adherence will permit the development of tailored psychological and behavioral interventions.

**Supporting** oncologists' treatment decisions, allowing them to better understand the hindered reasons behind a complex adherence trajectory.

# PFIZER PROJECT

## Team



Gabriella Pravettoni



Marianna Masiero



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Elisa Fragale



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Elisabetta Munzone





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