Current standard for axillary management for patients treated with neoadjuvant systemic therapy, both chemotherapy and endocrine therapy alike.



The current standards for axillary management for patients treated with neoadjuvant systemic therapy, both chemotherapy and endocrine therapy alike. However, it is important to note that those treated with neoadjuvant endocrine therapy do not meet inclusion criteria for these clinical trials. The three most commonly used definitions of pathologic complete response-ypT0 ypN0 (absence of invasive cancer and in-situ cancer in the breast and axillary nodes), ypT0/is ypN0 (absence of invasive cancer in the breast and axillary nodes, irrespective of ductal carcinoma in situ), and ypT0/is (absence of invasive cancer in the breast irrespective of ductal carcinoma in situ or nodal involvement (October, 2020)

Management of the Axilla and Neoadjuvant Endocrine Therapy vs. Chemotherapy





Figure 2. This figure depicts a suggested axillary management algorithm for hormone receptor–positive cN0 patients, treated with neoadjuvant endocrine therapy. While pretreatment axillary ultrasound is recommended, it is not critical for this algorithm, because these patients would have met Z0011/AMAROS criteria if surgery were their primary treatment (provided they have cT1-2 breast tumors).

ALND, axillary lymph node dissection; cT, clinical tumor category; LN, lymph node; NET, neoadjuvant endocrine therapy; SLNB, sentinel lymph node biopsy; ypN; pathological node status.



Figure 3. This figure depicts a suggested axillary management algorithm for hormone receptor–positive cN1 patients, treated with neoadjuvant endocrine therapy. This algorithm is predicated on thorough pretreatment axillary imaging, to include at least ultrasound, to characterize the patient's presenting nodal disease burden, and to select patients with minimal nodal disease for thoughtful deescalation of





Smith <i>et al</i> ^[26] , 2005 (IMPACT)	ER+; Postmenopausal	(A) ANA 1 mg/d (113); (B) TAM 20 mg/d (108)	12 wk	OR by ultrasound	37% vs 36% (P < 0.087)	41% vs 31% ($P = 0.23$)	
Catalioth <i>et al</i> ^[27] , 2006 (PROACT)	ER+ and/or PR+; Postmenopausal	(A) ANA 1 mg/d (228); (B) TAM 20 mg/d (223)	3 mo	OR by ultrasound	50.0% vs 46.2% (P = 0.037)	38.1% vs 29.9% (P = 0.11)	
Semiglazov <i>et al</i> ^[16] , 2015	ER+ and/or PR+; Postmenopausal	(A) EXE (76); (B) TAM (75)	3 mo	OR by clinical palpation	76.3% vs 40% (P = 0.05)	36.8% vs 20% (P = 0.05)	
Kuter <i>et al</i> ^[29] , 2012 (NEWEST)	ER+; Postmenopausal	(A) FUL 500 mg/mo (109); (B) FUL 250 mg/mo (102)	16 wk	Expression of Ki67	17.4 vs 11.8% at week 4; 22.9 vs 20.6% at week 16	-	
Quenel-Tueux <i>et</i> al ^[30] , 2015	ER+; Postmenopausal	(A) ANA 1 mg/d (61); (B) FUL 500 mg/mo (59)	6 mo	OR by clinical palpation	58.9% vs 53.8%	58.9% <i>vs</i> 50%	
Guarneri <i>et al</i> ^[31] , 2014 (CARMINA 02)	ER+ and/or PR+ Her2-; Postmenopausal	(A) ANA 1 mg/d (59); (B) FUL 500 mg/mo (57)	6 mo	OR by clinical palpation	52.6% vs 36.8%	57.6% <i>vs</i> 50% (<i>P</i> = 0.5 not significant)	
Ellis et al ^[32] , 2011 (ACOSOG Z1031)	ER+ (Allred score 6- 8) postmenopausal T2-T4cN0-3M0	(A) EXE 25 mg/d(124); (B) LET 2.5 mg/d (128); (C) ANA 1 mg/d(125);	16-18 wk	OR by clinical palpation	69.1% vs 62.9% vs 74.8%	45.2% vs 40% vs 48.7%	
Torrisi <i>et al</i> ^[33] , 2007	ER+ T2-T4N0N2; premenopausal	LET 2.5 mg/d plus GnRHa 11.25 mg/3 mo (32)	4 mo	OR by clinical palpation	50%	47%	
Masuda <i>et a</i> l ^[34] , 2012 (STAGE)	ER+ and/or PR+ Her2-; Premenopausal	(A) ANA 1 mg/d (goseretin 3.6 mg/mo) (98); (B) TAM 20 mg/d (goseretin 3.6 mg/mo) (99)	24 wk	OR by ultrasound	70.4% vs 50.5% ($P = 0.004$)	85.7% <i>vs</i> 67.6%	
Dellapasqua <i>et</i> al ^[35] , 2019 (TREND)	ER+ and/or PR+ Her2-; Premenopausal	(A) Triptorelin + letrozole (26); (B) degarelix + letrozole (25)	6 mo	Time to optimal OFS	46.2% vs 44.0%	52.2% vs 42.3%	