



**Additional file 4:** Kaplan Meier analyses for overall survival (OS) according to CTC-dynamics relative to a CTC-count decrease of  $\geq 50\%$  for the interval from baseline (q0) to the end of the first cycle docetaxel (q1).

Groups	CTC-counts	Patients, n	OS, months	95%CI	p
Group 1	always <5	11	24.8	n.a.	1 vs. 2: 0.004
Group 2	decrease $\geq 50\%$	16	9.2	6.3-12.0	1 vs. 3: <0.001
Group 3	decrease <50% or increasing	6	3.9	0.0-10.5	2 vs. 3: 0.046