

3,329 newly patients included as stage I-III breast cancer in a database of our Department of Medical Oncology from Jan 1982 to Dec 2008

1,652 patients who had surgery in other center without tumor samples available were excluded

38 patients with DCIS only were excluded

15 patients with metastatic disease at diagnosis were excluded

62 patients who received neoadjuvant chemotherapy were excluded

7 patients without axillary dissection were excluded

10 patients with bilateral tumors were excluded

3 patients diagnosed previously with other cancer was excluded

293 patients with no representative tumor samples were excluded

1,249 stage I-III breast cancer patients with representative tumor samples available were included