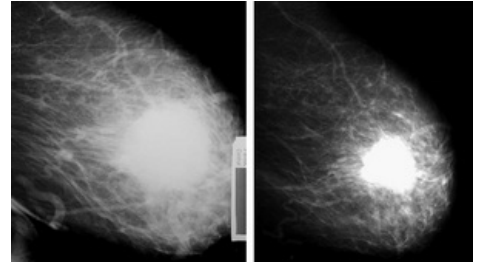


# General principles of anticancer treatment

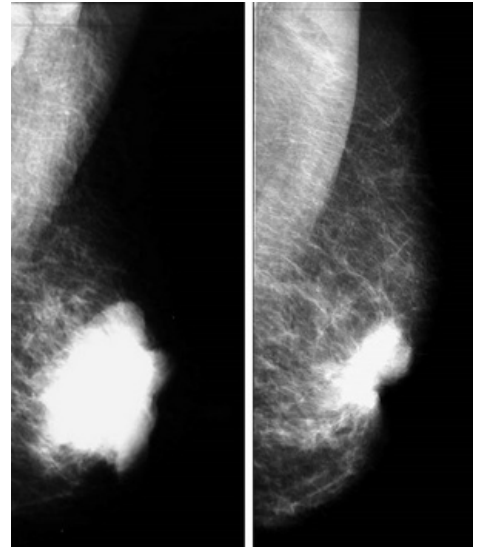
- before determining the therapy it is necessary to set a **general therapeutic goal**
- **real goal** justifies temporary (or permanent) side effects of therapy
- we generally use the terms *curative*, *palliative* and *symptomatological treatment*
- sometimes with curative treatment we achieve a palliative effect, very rarely with palliative treatment we achieve a curative effect

## Curative intention

- The treatment is to **cure the patient**, completely rid him of the tumor
- cure is a vague concept, often after a perfect "remission" there can be a "relapse", so we are more talking about **treatment prolonging the overall survival time**
- therapy must be radical, intensive enough
- **Adjuvant treatment**
  - treatment starting **after curative** primary treatment (usually after surgery)
  - directed against latent cancer, the patient is healthy from an oncological point of view, but we assume the existence of micrometastases
  - The benefit of adjuvant has been proven only in some cancers - breast, GIT, etc.
- **Neoadjuvant treatment**
  - eliminates very probable systemic impairment
  - is performed "before" elimination of the primary tumor



Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer (mammography before and after)



Neoadjuvant chemotherapy for breast cancer (mammography before and after)

## Palliative intent

- The main goal is to **improve the quality of life**, maintain it or prevent significant deterioration
- cure cannot be expected, but prolonging life is possible (sometimes for many years)
- so far, unfortunately, it is the focus of cancer treatment
- ***It is not symptomatological therapy or terminal treatment!***

## Symptomatological intent

- we do not affect the course of cancer, but only alleviate existing problems

## Treatment modalities

- oncology uses **5 modalities**:
  1. *surgery*
  2. *radiotherapy*
  3. *chemotherapy (+ hormonal therapy)*
  4. *supportive treatment*
  5. *others* (phototherapy, immunotherapy, biotherapy, gene therapy, etc.)
- **effects** should be either:
  - *local* (radiotherapy, surgery, phototherapy)
  - *systemic* (chemotherapy, immunotherapy, gene therapy)

## Links

## Related articles

Anticancer therapy