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# The association between Ki-67 expression and survival in breast cancer subtypes: a cross-sectional study of Ki-67 cut-point in northern Thailand

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## Abstract

**Background** Breast cancer is a major health concern worldwide, and Ki-67 level index is a prognostic factor that indicates tumor proliferation and predicts survival outcomes. However, the standard Ki 67 cut-off level varies between local laboratories, and in Thailand, there is no established optimal cut-off level.

**Objective** This study aimed to determine the optimal cut-off point for Ki-67 expression and investigate the association between Ki-67 levels and other prognostic factors with 8-year overall survival.

**Method** A retrospective review of Ki-67 levels was conducted in non-metastatic breast cancer patients treated at Maharaj Nakorn Chiangmai hospital from January 2013-December 2015, including 507 breast cancer patients.

**Results** The ROC curve analysis identified the optimal Ki-67 cut-point as  $\geq 30\%$ , with 75% sensitivity and 48.85% specificity. Age over 60 was associated with higher mortality regardless of cancer stage. Locally advanced staging, nodal involvement, Ki-67  $\geq 30\%$ , and triple-negative subtype correlated with poorer survival. Even after adjustments, these factors remained significant in prognostic evaluation. Chemotherapy notably improved survival, especially in high Ki-67 ( $\geq 30$ ) patients. However, this effect was not seen in low Ki-67 patients. High Ki-67 patients receiving chemotherapy showed improved survival in early-stage, node-negative cases compared to those who did not receive chemotherapy. HER2-positive patients with high Ki-67 benefited from chemotherapy, but statistical significance was not reached in hormone-positive patients.

**Conclusion** This study identified the optimal cut point for Ki-67 in Northern Thailand as 30%. Patients with KI-67 above 30% show significantly lower 8-year survival rates. This is especially relevant for low-risk patients, like those with hormonal subtypes or early-stage nodal negativity. In these cases, KI-67 becomes crucial for treatment decisions. Our study not only aids Northern Thailand's understanding but also aligns with broader research, emphasizing KI-67's vital role in planning treatment for low-risk breast cancer patients.

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**Keywords** Breast cancer, Ki-67, Cut-off, Subtype

## Introduction

Breast cancer is the most prevalent cancer among females globally, with approximately 2.26 million cases diagnosed in 2020, accounting for 24.5% of all cancer cases, and the leading cause of cancer-related deaths in females, accounting for 15.5% [1]. Several prognostic factors, such as tumor size, axillary lymph node (AXL) metastasis, hormonal status, Her-2 expression, and Ki-67 expression, determine the appropriate treatment for each breast cancer case. Breast cancer is categorized into subtypes based on molecular testing using IHC, and these subtypes are crucial in predicting the disease's prognosis and suggesting the appropriate treatment decision [2]. Ki-67 is a marker that indicates tumor proliferation and is considered a crucial prognostic factor. Its expression is used to subdivide breast cancer into luminal A and Luminal B subtypes and plays a crucial role in predicting the recurrence rate and survival outcomes in early-stage breast cancer [2–5]. Differences in Ki-67 detection and interpretation methods across laboratories have caused variations in detection results, reducing the accuracy of breast cancer subtyping. According to the 2011 St. Gallen consensus [6] Ki-67 level index is significant in distinguishing between luminal A and Luminal B subtypes, with the recommended cut-off point being 14% by the ROC method and a gene expression profile– defined gold standard [7]. However, some studies suggest that the optimal cut-off point for Ki-67 expression is 20% [8–10] while others indicate that a cut-off of 30% provides a better prognostic value [11]. The St. Gallen consensus of 2013 and 2015 stated that the interpretation of Ki-67 levels should be based on the standards set by the local laboratory [12, 13]. The use of Ki-67 immunohistochemistry (IHC) to assess proliferative activity remains a topic of debate. While Ki-67 scores are widely recognized for their strong prognostic value and their ability to predict the benefit of adding cytotoxic chemotherapy in cases with high scores, establishing a universally applicable cut-off point has been challenging. This difficulty arises due to the continuous nature of Ki-67 expression and various preanalytical and analytical obstacles that hinder standardized evaluation. The primary objective of this study is to determine the optimal cut-off point for Ki-67 for prognostic value in breast cancer patients in Northern Thailand. The secondary aim is to examine the association between Ki-67 levels and other prognostic factors with 8-year survival outcomes for breast cancer.

## Materials and methods

A total of 507 non-metastatic breast cancer patients who underwent treatment between January 2013 and December 2015 at Maharaj Nakorn Chiang Mai Hospital were included in this study after obtaining ethical approval (SUR-2565-08862 Research ID:8862). Informed consent was waived by the ethic committee due to retrospective study but compliance with the Declaration of Helsinki. The study recorded general characteristics such as sex, age, staging, tumor histologic grading, hormonal status, HER-2 status, Ki-67 level index (Ki-67 LI), and treatment received (such as chemotherapy, anti-HER2) from the Chiangmai cancer registry and reviewed the patients' medical records. The survival status of patients as of July 1, 2021, was determined, and patients without available death information were assumed to be alive.

### Immunohistochemistry study

Representative formalin-fixed, paraffin-embedded tissue sections of the tumors were cut in slices 3- $\mu$ m-thick and processed following standard procedures for estrogen receptor (ER), progesterone receptor (PR), HER-2, and Ki-67 immunohistochemistry staining. Heat-induced antigen retrieval was performed with Tris-EDTA buffer (pH=9), and the slides were stained with monoclonal antibodies against ER and PR by a labeled streptavidin-biotin (LSAB) system (ER Clone SP1 and PR Clone 1E2; Roche). HER-2 staining was done with a monoclonal antibody against HER2 4B5 oncoprotein (Roche), and Ki-67 staining was performed with the MIB-1 clone (1:500; DAKO, ). IHC staining was carried out in a BenchMark ultra autostainer (Ventana Medical System, Tuscon, AZ) using an Ultraview detection kit. All the immunostained slides were reviewed and evaluated in accordance with the current American Society of Clinical Oncology (ASCO)/College of American Pathologists (CAP) guidelines. Among patients with HER-2 2+, the DISH method was performed to determine whether the patient was HER-2 positive or negative. The molecular subtype was categorized by IHC.

The patients were categorized into 4 groups: (1) hormonal receptor positive and HER-2 negative were defined as a hormone-positive group, (2) hormonal receptor negative and HER-2 positive was defined as an HER-2 enriched group, (3) hormonal receptor negative and HER-2 negative were defined as a triple negative group (TN), and (4) hormonal receptor positive and HER-2 positive were defined as a triple positive group (TP).

### Statistical analysis

Descriptive statistics of the characteristics of the patients are presented as frequencies and percentages. The optimal cut-point for Ki-67 level was determined using receiver operating characteristic (ROC) curves according where the Youden's index is maximum (using the *roctab*

**Table 1** The characteristics of primary breast cancer patients diagnosed between January 2013 and December 2015 (N = 507)

	Frequencies (N = 507)	Per- cent- ages
Age		
< 41	66	13.0
41–60	328	64.7
> 60	113	22.3
Staging of breast cancer		
1A	146	28.8
1B	31	6.1
2A	129	25.4
2B	95	18.7
3A	53	10.5
3B	29	5.7
3C	24	4.7
LN metastasis / 9 (missing)		
Node negative	283	56.8
Node positive	215	43.2
Tumor Grade / 17 (missing)		
G1	15	3.1
G2	250	51.0
G3	225	45.9
Subtypes		
Hormone + (ER + PR + Her-2-)	180	35.5
HER-2 enrich (ER-PR-Her-2+)	124	24.5
Triple positive	139	27.4
Triple negative	64	12.6
Ki-67 level (%)		
0–14	129	25.4
15–30	158	31.2
31–45	59	11.6
> 45	161	31.8
Chemotherapy		
Antracyclin	223	44.0
Taxane	154	30.4
No	130	25.6
HER2		
Used	52	10.3
No	455	89.7
Recurrent within 8 years after diagnosis breast cancer		
Yes	83	16.4
No	424	83.6
Dead within 8 years after diagnosis breast cancer		
Yes	97	19.1
No	410	80.9

and *cutpt* command in Stata). The area under the curve (AUC), sensitivity, and specificity were also considered for the correctness of classification. The AUC values between 0.51 and 0.60, 0.61–0.70, 0.71–0.80, 0.81–0.90, and 0.90–1.00 were considered in terms of fail, poor, fair, good, and excellent discrimination ability, respectively [14].

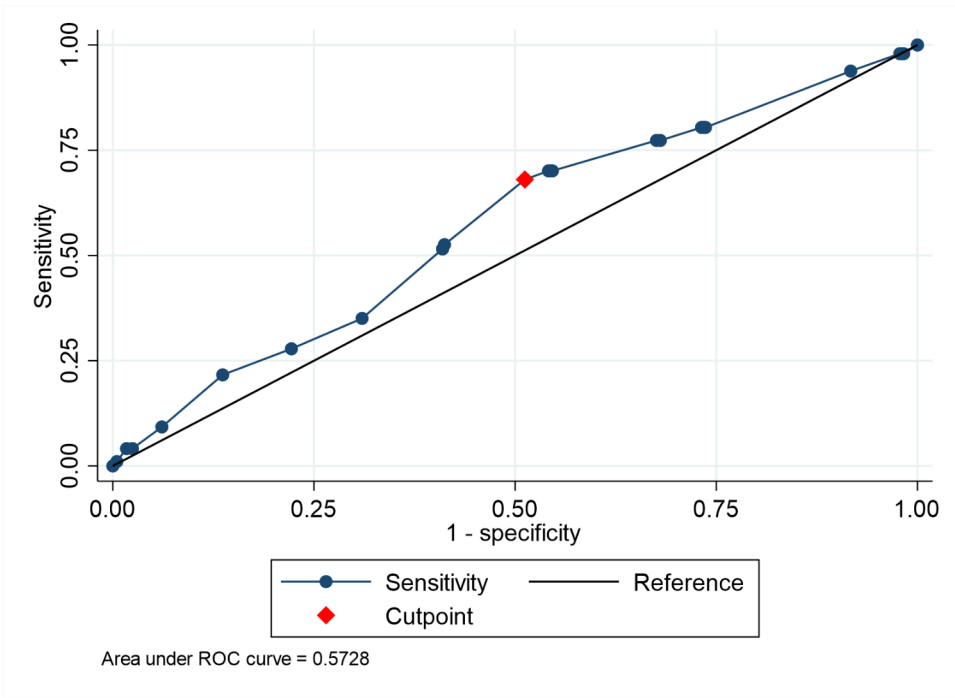
The 8-year survival rate was estimated using the Kaplan-Meier method. The survival rate between patients with high and low Ki-67 level according to the provided cut-point was compared using the log-rank test. Cox regression analysis was performed to examine the associated between the Ki-67 level expression and 8-year survival in each of the breast cancer subtypes. A *p*-value of < 0.05 was considered statistically significant.

### Result

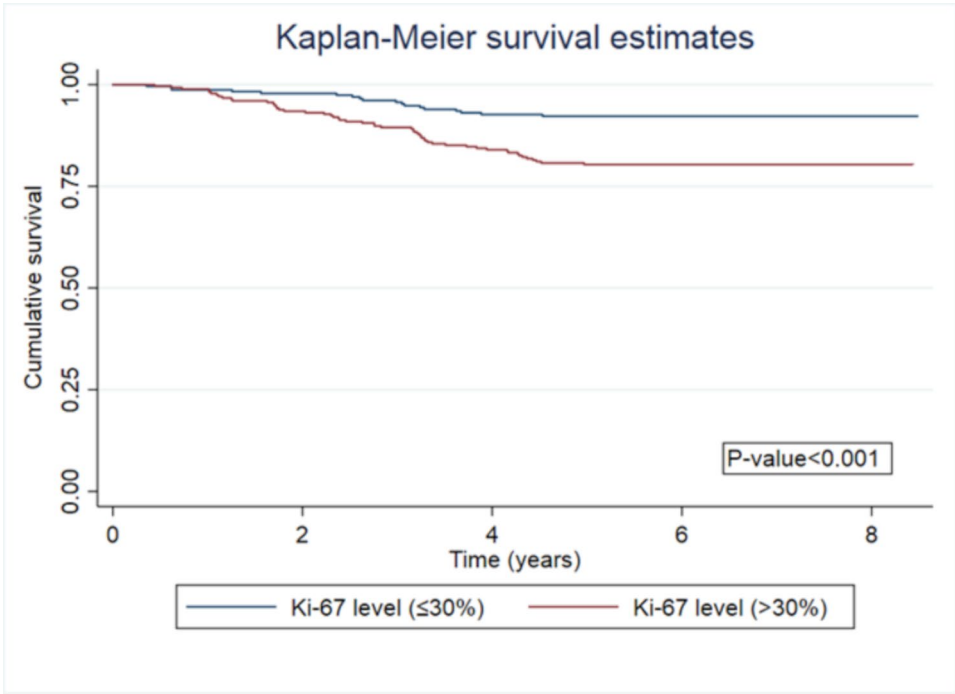
This retrospective study analyzed 507 invasive breast cancer patients with an age range of 21 to 90 years. The median follow-up time was 8 years (Interquartile Range, IQR:7.3–8), mean time follow up 6.9 years (SD:2.1). The patients' characteristics are presented in Table 1. Out of the 507 breast cancer patients, 64% were aged between 41 and 60 years. Among them, 146 cases (28.8%) were diagnosed with stage 1 A, 129 cases (25.4%) with stage 2 A, and 24 cases (4.7%) with stage 3 C. Nodal negative disease was observed in 283 cases (56.8%), whereas 215 cases (43.2%) had nodal involvement of more than one node. The hormone- positive group constituted 35.5% of the patients, the HER-2 enriched group was 24.5%, the triple positive group was 27.4%, and the triple negative group was 12.6%.

According to the Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) curve, the optimal cut-off point for Ki-67 was  $\geq 30\%$  for predicting mortality within 8 years, providing a sensitivity of 68% and a specificity of 48.78% with 52.47% correctness of classification. The area under the ROC curve was 0.5728 (Fig. 1). In Fig. 2, the survival analysis shown that the patient with a high Ki-67 level ( $\geq 30\%$ ) had a significantly lower 8-year survival rate than a patient with low Ki-67 level ( $p < 0.001$ ).

The univariable analysis in Table 2 show that age > 60 years (HR = 2.29, 95%  $P < 0.001$ ), locally advanced staging (HR = 4.84, 95%,  $P < 0.001$ ), nodal involvement at least 1 node (HR = 3.61,  $P < 0.001$ ), Ki-67  $\geq 30$  (HR = 1.94,  $P = 0.002$ ) were associated with worse overall survival. After adjusting for other factors, age > 60 years (adjusted HR = 2.70,  $P < 0.001$ ), locally advanced staging (adjusted HR = 3.37,  $P < 0.001$ ), nodal involvement (adjusted HR = 2.97,  $P < 0.001$ ), Ki-67  $\geq 30$  (adjusted HR = 1.65,  $P = 0.04$ ), and triple-negative subtype (adjusted HR = 2.01, 95% CI: 1.03–3.91,  $P = 0.04$ ) remained significant predictors of worse overall survival. Meanwhile, chemotherapy



**Fig. 1** The ROC of the cut-point of Ki-67



**Fig. 2** 8-year survival of breast cancer patients

with Taxane was associated with better overall survival (HR=0.52,  $P=0.01$ ).

This study conducted a thorough examination of the mortality risk linked to breast cancer, considering the stratification by cancer stage and subgroups defined by

various factors. The results from the subgroup analysis revealed a significant finding in Table 3. Individuals aged over 60 faced a substantially higher risk of mortality within an 8-year period compared to their counterparts aged 41–60. This pattern was consistent for both

**Table 2** Risk factor of the dead with breast cancer within 8 years

	Univariable			multivariable		
	HR	95%CI	P-value	aHR	95%CI	P-value
Age						
< 41	1.57	0.87–2.85	0.14	1.91	1.04–3.52	0.04
41–60	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
> 60	2.29	1.48–3.54	< 0.001	2.70	1.69–4.32	< 0.001
Staging						
Early stage (1 A-2B)	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
Locally advance (3 A-3 C)	4.84	3.25–7.21	< 0.001	3.37	2.02–5.61	< 0.001
Tumor Grade						
1	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
2	2.82	0.39–20.44	0.31	1.60	0.22–11.85	0.65
3	3.51	0.48–25.42	0.21	1.43	0.19–10.77	0.73
LN metastasis						
Node Negative	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
Node Positive	3.61	2.32–5.62	< 0.001	2.97	1.64–5.39	< 0.001
Ki67 (Cutoff median)						
< 30	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
≥ 30	1.94	1.26–2.97	0.002	1.65	1.03–2.66	0.04
Subtype						
Hormone positive	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
Her-2 enrich	1.54	0.93–2.55	0.09	1.53	0.88–2.65	0.13
Triple positive	0.80	0.45–1.41	0.43	0.59	0.32–1.10	0.10
Triple negative	1.72	0.95–3.11	0.07	2.01	1.03–3.91	0.04
Chemotherapy						
Receive anthracycline vs. Not receive	0.87	0.58–1.31	0.51	NA		
Receive Taxane vs. Not receive	1.33	0.88–2.01	0.18	0.52	0.32–0.86	0.01

early-stage and locally advanced breast cancer. The adjusted hazard ratios (aHR) were 1.97 ( $P=0.03$ ) for early-stage cases and 5.17 ( $P<0.001$ ) for locally advanced cases. Patients with positive lymph node metastasis exhibited a significantly higher risk of breast cancer-related death within 8 years compared to patients without lymph node involvement, as indicated by an aHR of 2.45 and a  $p$ -value of 0.002 in early-stage breast cancer. However, this effect was not observed in locally advanced-stage cases. No statistically significant difference was observed in the 8-year incidence of breast cancer mortality among subtypes in the early stage. However, in locally advanced stages, both the TN and HER2-enriched subtypes showed a higher susceptibility to breast cancer-related mortality compared to the hormone-positive group and TP subtype. Elevated Ki-67 expression was linked to an increased risk of breast cancer-related mortality in locally advanced breast cancer (HR 2.06,  $P=0.04$ ). In contrast, no statistically significant association was identified in the early stage.

The Overall Survival (OS) and Disease-Free Survival (DFS) were illustrated using the Kaplan-Meier curve, with a median follow-up duration of 8 years. The findings indicate that the group characterized by hormone positivity exhibited the most favorable DFS, contrasting with the Triple-Negative (TN) group, which displayed the least

favorable DFS. However, this distinction did not achieve statistical significance ( $p$ -value=0.42). Conversely, the hormone-positive cohort demonstrated the highest OS, while the Triple-Positive (TP) group recorded the lowest OS, and this difference reached statistical significance ( $p$ -value=0.01). (Fig. 3)

In the investigation of Ki-67 levels associated with each breast cancer subtype, it was determined that elevated Ki-67 level ( $\geq 30\%$ ) had a significantly lower 8-year survival rate in HR + group ( $p<0.001$ ). However, Ki-67 levels did not have a statistically significantly different OS in the HER2, TP and TN groups (Fig. 4).

In the subgroup analysis concerning the association between Ki-67 expression and chemotherapy in early-stage patients, it was found that patients who received chemotherapy exhibited significantly higher survival compared to those who did not. This effect was notable only in patients with high Ki-67 ( $\geq 30$ ). However, in patients with low Ki-67, chemotherapy did not impact overall survival. Upon further analysis of early-stage patients with negative lymph nodes, a significant survival advantage was observed for patients with high Ki-67 expression ( $\geq 30$ ) who received chemotherapy compared to those who did not. Conversely, a similar effect of chemotherapy on overall survival was not observed in

**Table 3** Risk factor of the dead with breast cancer within 8 years divided by stage of breast cancer

	Univariable			multivariable		
	HR	95%CI	P-value	aHR	95%CI	P-value
Early stage (1 A-2B)						
Age						
< 41	1.16	0.48–2.82	0.74	1.11	0.46–2.70	0.81
41–60	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
> 60	1.81	0.97–3.35	0.06	1.97	1.06–3.67	0.03
LN metastasis						
Node Negative	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
Node Positive	2.40	1.37–4.20	0.002	2.45	1.40–4.29	0.002
Tumor Grade						
1	Reference	-	-	NA		
2	1.59	0.22–11.73	0.65			
3	1.65	0.22–12.25	0.63			
Subtype						
Hormone positive	Reference	-	-	NA		
Her-2 enrich	1.05	0.51–2.14	0.90			
Triple positive	0.75	0.36–1.57	0.44			
Triple negative	0.92	0.37–2.28	0.85			
Ki67 (Cut of median)						
< 30	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
≥ 30	1.43	0.81–2.52	0.22	1.49	0.84–2.63	0.17
Locally advance (3 A-3 C)						
Age						
< 41	2.38	1.05–5.37	0.04	4.55	1.85–11.17	0.001
41–60	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
> 60	3.38	1.81–6.31	< 0.001	5.17	2.59–10.35	< 0.001
LN metastasis						
Node Negative	Reference	-	-			
Node Positive	0.89	0.28–2.88	0.85	NA		
Subtype						
Hormone positive	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
Her-2 enrich	1.72	0.81–3.65	0.16	2.12	0.96–4.71	0.06
Triple positive	0.73	0.29–1.82	0.50	0.39	0.15–1.02	0.06
Triple negative	3.76	1.62–8.72	0.002	5.21	2.02–13.44	0.001
Ki67 (Cut of median)						
< 30	Reference	-	-	Reference	-	-
≥ 30	2.06	1.05–4.05	0.04	3.09	1.45–6.61	0.004

patients with low Ki-67 expression within this nodal-negative early-stage cancer subgroup (Fig. 5).

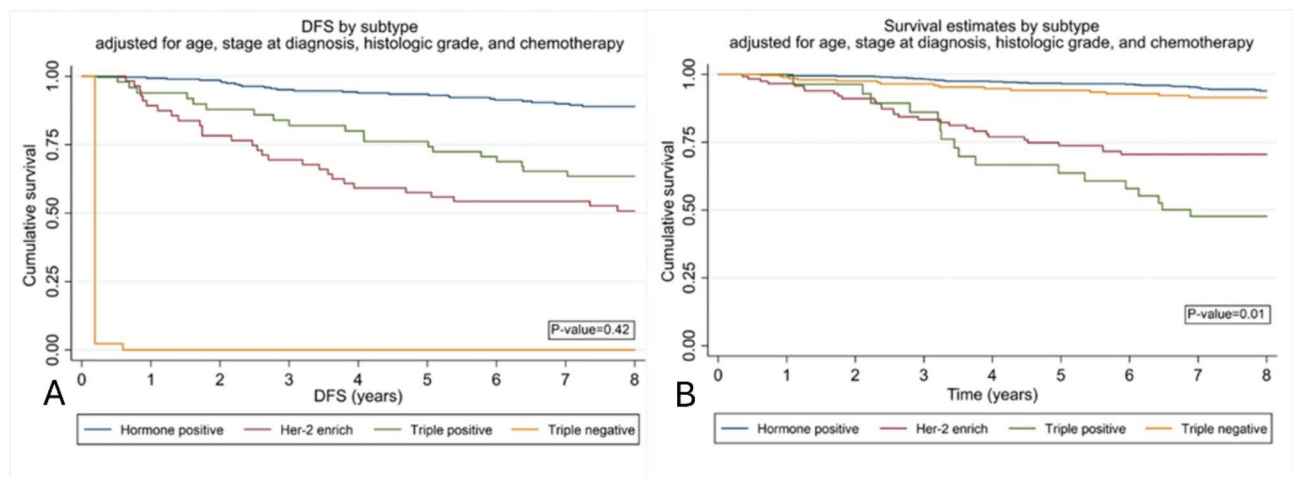
In the subgroup analysis of HER2-positive patients (including TP subtype and HER2-enriched subtype), a notable survival advantage was observed in patients with high KI-67 expression who received chemotherapy compared to those who did not (Fig. 6). Similarly, in the subgroup analysis of HR+ patients, a similar effect was noted, although this difference did not reach statistical significance (Fig. 7).

## Discussion

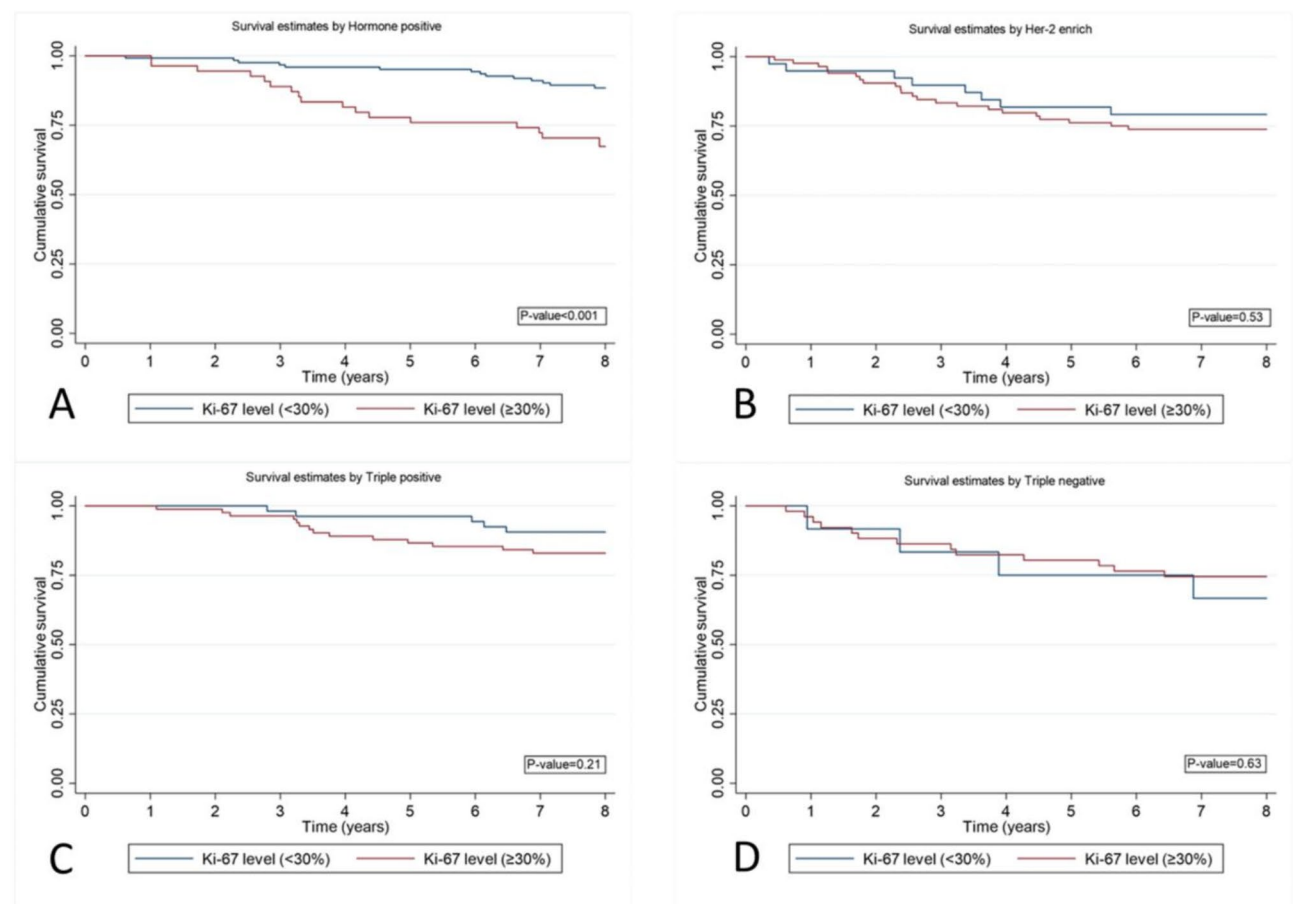
This investigation revealed the pivotal role of Ki-67 expression as a prognostic determinant for the 8-year survival of individuals with breast cancer. This discovery

aligns with findings from several previous studies [2, 4, 15]. Furthermore, our study specified the optimal cut-point level of Ki-67 for patients in northern Thailand, determined to be 30%. This determination is consistent with the results of an inquiry by Yue Hu et al. [10], examining the optimal Ki-67 cut-point for Chinese breast cancer patients. It is essential to note, however, that various prior studies have proposed an alternative optimal cut-point of 20% [7, 8]. The discrepancy in cut-off values between our study and others likely arises from the differing endpoints used to determine prognostic significance; our study employed overall survival, whereas others focused on disease-specific survival. Additionally, the St. Gallen Consensus in 2011 established a Ki-67 cut-point of 14% for categorizing luminal A subtypes, using gene





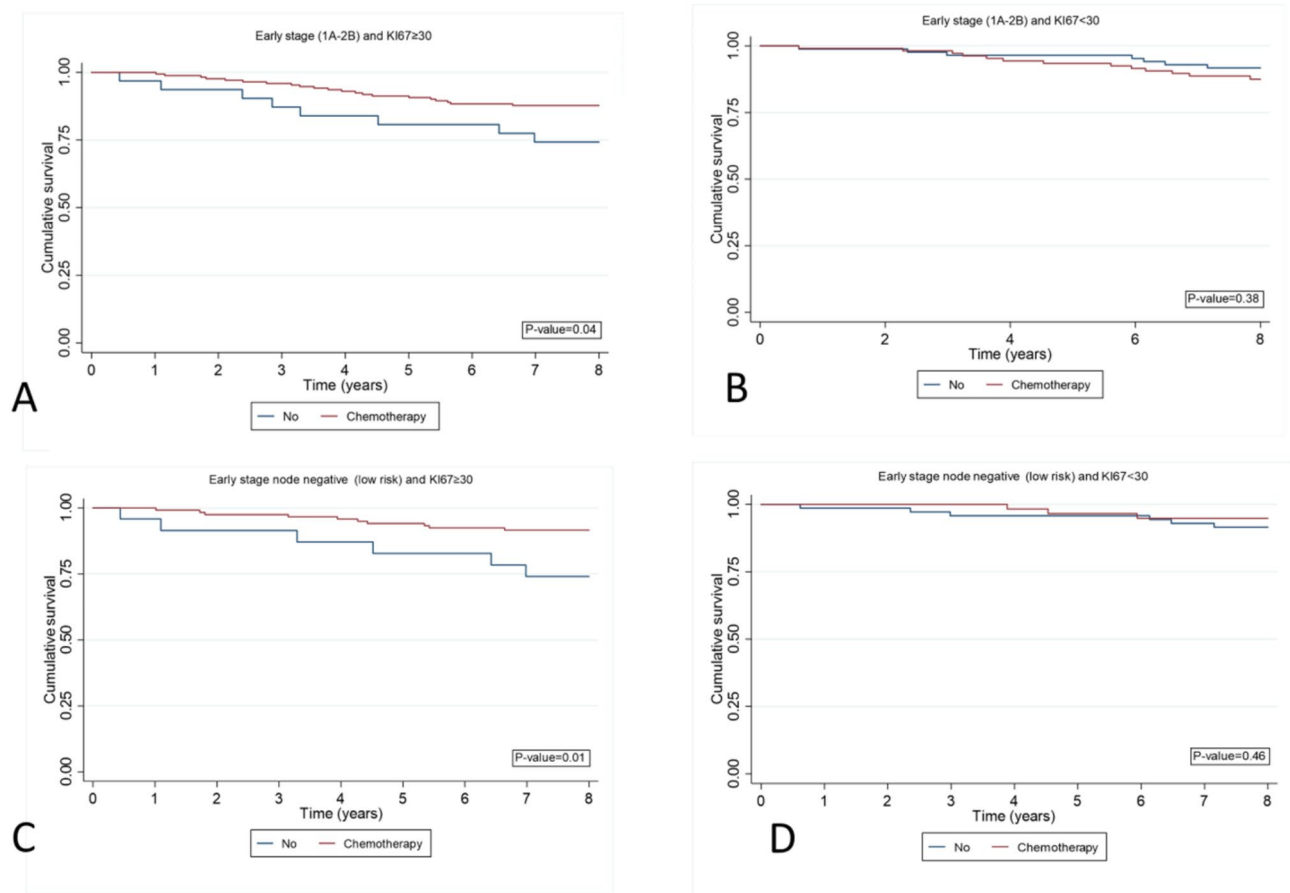
**Fig. 3** Kaplan-Meier graph estimate DFS and OS according by tumor subtype. **A:** DFS disease free survival **B:** 8-year survival



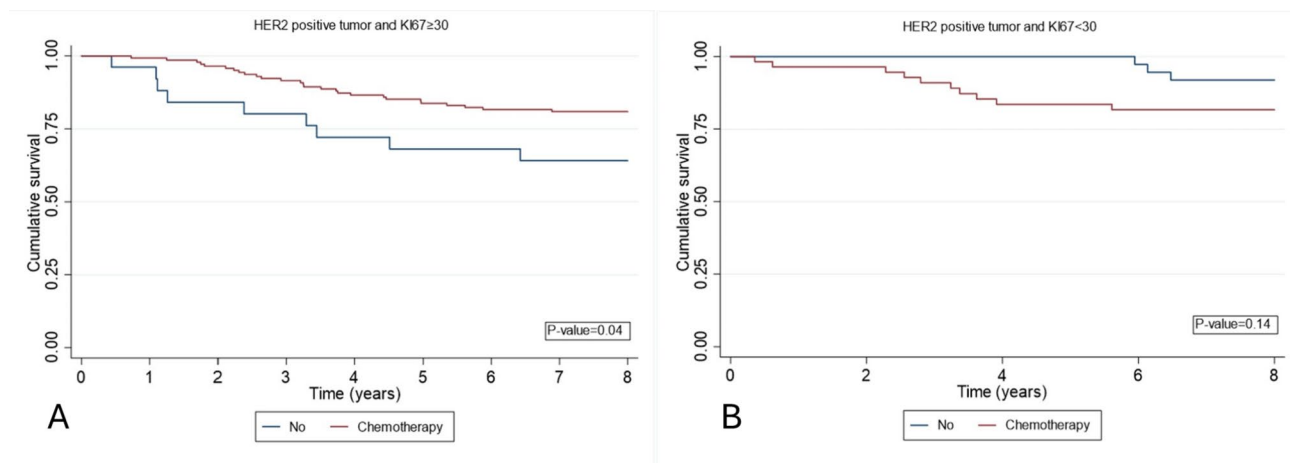
**Fig. 4** Kaplan-Meier curves estimate OS estimate by subtype and Ki-67 level. **A:** hormone positive, **B:** Her2 enrich **C:** triple positive **D:** triple negative

expression testing as the gold standard. This cut-point was intended for classification purposes, not for determining prognostic value. By 2015, the St. Gallen Consensus reflecting variability in testing methods and patient populations and recommended using median Ki-67 value from local laboratories as the preferred cut-point.

In our investigation into the prognostic implications of Ki-67 levels, we made a significant observation regarding overall survival. Our findings suggest that breast cancer patients with a higher Ki-67 level ( $\geq 30\%$ ) experienced more adverse survival outcomes compared to those with lower Ki-67 expression. These observations align with



**Fig. 5** Kaplan-Meier curves estimate overall survival (OS) according to received or not received chemotherapy in early stage breast cancer. Early stage breast cancer **A:** Ki-67  $\geq 30$  and **B:** Ki-67  $< 30$ . Early stage breast cancer without nodal involvement **C:** Ki-67  $\geq 30$  and **D:** Ki-67  $< 30$



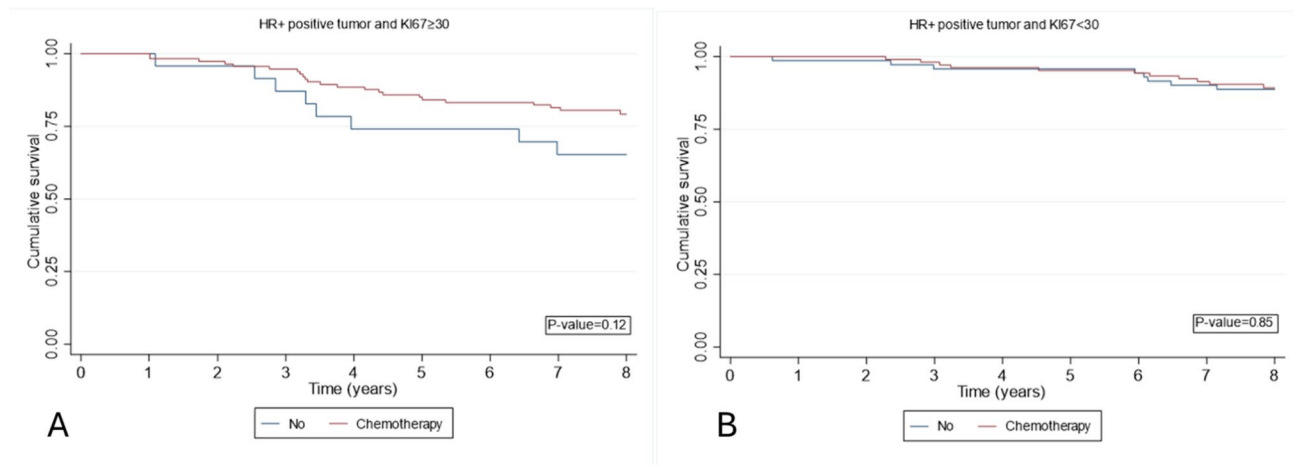
**Fig. 6** Kaplan-Meier curves estimate OS according to received or not received chemotherapy in HER-2 positive breast cancer. **A:** Ki-67  $\geq 30$ , **B:** Ki-67  $< 30$

previous studies in the field, strengthening the proposition that elevated Ki-67 expression is associated with an inferior prognosis among breast cancer patients [5, 16].

In our subgroup analysis stratified by cancer stage, we identified that high Ki-67 level is a significant risk factor of death within 8 years, particularly in cases of locally

advanced cancer. However, intriguingly, this effect did not achieve statistical significance in the context of early-stage cancer. These observations contrast with findings in other studies [17, 18] emphasizing the substantial impact of Ki-67 in early-stage or low-aggressive cancer. It is plausible that the divergence in results between our study





**Fig. 7** Kaplan-Meier curves estimate OS according to received or not received chemotherapy in hormone positive breast cancer. **A:** Ki-67  $\geq 30$ , **B:** Ki-67  $< 30$

and prior investigations may be attributed to the limited sample size in our research. Furthermore, discrepancies in defining low and high Ki-67 expression levels across studies could lead to variations. In previous studies, low Ki-67 was defined as 5% or less, and high Ki-67 as 30% or more. In our study, however, we operationalized low Ki-67 expression as ranging from 0 to 29%. This difference in defining cutoff points for Ki-67 levels might be a potential factor contributing to the observed variation in effects.

Previous research has explored the association between Ki-67 and other low-aggressive prognostic factors. For example, a study by Qin Liang et al. [18] demonstrated a relationship between low histologic grade and Ki-67 expression. Similarly, Fallah P et al. [3] found that among patients with low Oncotype DX scores, those with high Ki-67 levels had a significantly higher relapse rate compared to those with low Ki-67 levels. Our findings align with these studies. In the subgroup analysis of low-aggressive tumors, specifically early-stage breast cancer with negative lymph nodes, patients with high Ki-67 levels showed significantly lower disease-free survival (DFS) compared to those with low Ki-67 levels. Moreover, among patients with early-stage breast cancer, negative lymph nodes, and high Ki-67 levels, chemotherapy was associated with a reduced recurrence rate compared to patients who did not receive chemotherapy. These results suggest that Ki-67 expression may serve as an important prognostic factor in low-aggressive tumors. Our study underscores the value of considering Ki-67 levels when making treatment decisions for very low-risk patients. For these patients, additional evaluation with tools such as Oncotype DX or MammaPrint may be beneficial in refining treatment strategies. However, in settings where access to advanced diagnostic tools is limited, this study supports using Ki-67 as a practical marker to guide chemotherapy decisions.

In tumors characterized by a more aggressive phenotype, the impact of Ki-67 may show a reduced prominence and lack statistical significance. This result can be attributed to the heightened aggressiveness associated with clinical features such as nodal positivity, larger tumor size, higher tumor grade, and a high Oncotype Dx score. Consequently, the expression level of Ki-67 may not exert a substantial effect in the context of these aggressive tumor characteristics.

In our study, we observed that age above 60 years, lymph node involvement, and locally advanced disease and high Ki-67 were identified as predictors of poorer prognostic outcomes for breast cancer patients. Additionally, we found that triple-negative breast cancer exhibited a poorer prognosis compared to the triple-positive or hormone-positive groups. These findings are consistent with previous studies conducted in the field [16, 19–21].

There are some limitations in this study. Firstly, the AIC of the ROC curve according to the Ki-67 classification was noticeably low. Further study to examine the ability of classification in other settings or using other indices should be conducted. Second, since the correctness of classification of the purposed cut-off point was 52.47% (sensitivity of 68.04% and specificity of 48.78%), using this cut-off point only should be caution. The mortality risk should be also considered for other potential associated factors. Third, the cut-off point in this study was specific to the Northern Thailand region and may not be applicable to populations with different genetic backgrounds or healthcare systems. External validation of this cut-off point should be conducted.

## Conclusion

The optimal cut point for the KI-67 level in Northern Thailand is identified as 30%. Patients with a KI-67 level exceeding 30% demonstrate a significantly lower

8-year survival rate compared to those with a Ki-67 level below 30%. In low-risk patients, particularly those with hormonal subtypes or in the early stage with nodal negativity, the Ki-67 level emerges as a crucial factor to be considered in determining appropriate treatment for breast cancer patients. Our study is in alignment with other research, emphasizing the importance of the Ki-67 index as a prognostic factor in the planning of suitable treatment for low-risk breast cancer patients.

#### Abbreviations

AXL	Axillary lymph node
Ki-67 LI	Ki-67 level index
ER	Estrogen receptor
PR	Progesterone receptor
LSAB	Labeled streptavidin-biotin
ASCO	American Society of Clinical Oncology
ROC	Receiver operating characteristic
AUC	Area under the curve
OS	Overall survival
DFS	Disease-free survival
TN	Triple-Negative
TP	Triple positive

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#### Author contributions

PW conception, design, collection, and interpretation of data, manuscript writing. IC conception, design, interpretation of data, and final approved manuscript. WO interpreted the data, manuscript writing and final approved manuscript. PT and SP analyzed and interpreted the data. WR manuscript writing, collection data. All authors are supervised, and the final version of the manuscript is approved.

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#### Data availability

The datasets generated for this current study are available from the corresponding author on reasonable request.

#### Declarations

##### Ethics approval and consent to participate

This study has ethical approval from Research Ethics Committee Panel 5 Faculty of medicine, Chiang Mai University (SUR-2565-08862 Research ID:8862). Inform consent was waived by the ethic committee due to retrospective study.

##### Competing interests

The authors declare no competing interests.

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