

# Real-world outcomes from use of CDK4/6 inhibitors in the management of advanced/metastatic breast cancer in Asia

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## Abstract

**Background:** Oestrogen receptor positive, human epidermal growth factor receptor-2 (HER2) negative breast cancer (BC) is the most frequently diagnosed BC subtype. Combinations of cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitors (CDK4/6i) with anti-oestrogen therapy have led to improved survival compared with anti-oestrogen therapy alone for advanced/metastatic BC. The evaluation of CDK4/6i in the real-world facilitates treatment planning, insights into the incidence of drug toxicities, dose modifications including dose delays (DDs) and dose reductions (DRs) and improves prognostic accuracy in subgroups, for example geriatric patients, who are under-represented in clinical trials.

**Methods:** This multi-centre study analysed retrospective and prospective data from 456 patients treated with CDK4/6i between January 2015 and December 2020. We examined patient characteristics, variation in prescribing practices, efficacy and toxicity outcomes.

**Results:** In all, 456 patients were included in this study. The median age was 59 (range: 24–92). In total, 85 (19%) were  $\geq 70$  years old. In all, 122 (27%) and 119 (26%) of patients were treated in the first-line and second-line settings, respectively. In total, 25 (5%), 31 (7%) and 145 (32%) of patients had brain, peritoneum and liver metastasis, respectively, at the time of CDK4/6i initiation. On univariate analysis, heavily pre-treated patients and those with distant metastases, involving the liver, brain or peritoneum, had significantly shorter progression-free survival (PFS) and 24-month overall survival (OS). Elderly patients ( $\geq 70$ ) had a shorter PFS; OS results were not mature. Majority of patients ( $n=362$ , 80%) initiated treatment with the United States FDA-approved starting dose of CDK4/6i. In all, 330 (72%) had at least one DD and 217 (48%) patients required at least one DR, but these dose modifications were not associated with poorer survival outcomes. Patients age  $\geq 70$  were more likely to require dose modifications leading to a lower treatment dose. The most common reason for DD/DR was neutropenia (60%) and the incidence of febrile neutropenia was only 2%.

**Conclusions:** Our study indicates CDK4/6i is effective and safe. Age  $\geq 70$ , distant metastases to liver, peritoneal or brain were negative prognostic factors. Age  $\geq 70$  was associated with significantly increased requirement for dose modification; however, this did not impact survival outcomes. These findings provide reassurance that survival outcomes are not adversely affected in elderly patients when DD/DR is indicated.

**Keywords:** advanced/metastatic breast cancer, Asia, CDK4/6 inhibitors, real world

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## Introduction

Breast cancer (BC) is the most frequently diagnosed cancer and the leading cause of cancer

deaths in women.<sup>1</sup> Over two-thirds of advanced BC patients have hormone receptor positive (HR+), human epidermal growth factor receptor

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2 negative (HER2<sup>-</sup>) disease.<sup>2,3</sup> Cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitors (CDK4/6i) in combination with anti-oestrogen therapy is a cornerstone of therapy in the treatment of advanced/metastatic HR<sup>+</sup>, HER2<sup>-</sup> BC.<sup>4</sup> The CDK4/6-Retino-blastoma pathway is a key regulator in the progression from G1 to S phase in a cell cycle. CDK4/6i target the CDK4/6 enzyme complex and disrupt cell cycle progression, preventing uncontrolled cellular proliferation.<sup>5,6</sup>

CDK4/6i currently approved in the treatment of advanced/metastatic HR<sup>+</sup> HER2<sup>-</sup> BC include palbociclib, ribociclib and abemaciclib, which have labelled indications in combination with aromatase inhibitors,<sup>7–11</sup> fulvestrant<sup>10,12–16</sup> or as monotherapy (abemaciclib)<sup>17</sup> based on landmark randomised controlled trials (RCT) demonstrating progression-free survival (PFS)<sup>7–9,11,13,16</sup> and overall survival (OS)<sup>10,12,14,15</sup> benefit compared to anti-oestrogen therapy plus placebo, in both pre- and post-menopausal patient populations.<sup>10,12,14,15</sup>

Real-world evidence offers important insights into efficacy endpoints such as PFS, OS and patient toxicities in the real-world setting, and importantly allow for analysis of patient subgroups, including elderly patients, those with poor performance status or the presence of brain metastases, that are often not adequately captured by RCTs. The objective of our study was to conduct a real-world analysis on the use of CDK4/6i in Asian advanced HR<sup>+</sup>/HER2<sup>-</sup> BC patients.

## Methods

### *Patients and treatment*

A multi-centre cohort study was carried out for all patients receiving palliative intent CDK4/6i in any line of palliative systemic therapy for advanced/metastatic BC between 2015 and 2020 in Singapore. Data were retrospectively collected from 1 January 2015 to 31 July 2020 and prospectively collected from 1 August 2020 to 31 December 2020.

The study was approved by the National Healthcare Group Domain Specific Review Board (NHG DSRB) (Reference number: 2018/01081) and *Parkway Independent Ethics Committee* (PIEC/2019/040) and was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki provision. Informed consent was waived for

patients recruited retrospectively and written informed consent was obtained for patients recruited prospectively.

We included patients from three major academic health institutions in Singapore – National University Cancer Institute, Singapore, National Cancer Centre, Singapore and Tan Tock Seng Hospital, that together see the majority of cancer patients in the public sector in Singapore, as well as two private oncology groups – Icon Cancer Centre and OncoCare Cancer Centre. Clinical patient characteristics, oncologic and treatment history including CDK4/6i indication, duration and reasons for CDK4/6i discontinuation were extracted from electronic medical records. Endocrine-resistant BC was defined as recurrence while on or  $\leq 12$  months from end of adjuvant endocrine therapy. Endocrine-sensitive BC was defined as recurrence  $> 12$  months from end of adjuvant endocrine therapy. Treatment was stopped in the following situations: disease progression, unacceptable toxicities, death or patient's decision to stop treatment.

### *Efficacy outcomes*

Chest and/or abdominal computed tomography scans and/or bone scans were performed by clinicians every 8–12 weeks as part of routine clinical care, to evaluate patient's response and assess for disease progression. PFS was measured from time of initiation of drug to disease progression or death due to any cause. OS was measured from time of initiation of drug to death due to any cause. Safety analysis examined the incidence of adverse events (AEs) as recorded by clinicians. A dose delay (DD) was defined as the discrete number of times the CDK4/6i was not started at the planned date of a 28-day cycle ( $\pm 2$  days). A dose reduction (DR) was defined as a decrease in the dose of drug prescribed. All patients who have received  $\geq 1$  cycle of CDK4/6i were included in the survival analysis.

### *Statistical analysis*

Continuous and categorical variables were summarised as median (interquartile range) and frequency (percentage), respectively. Survival analysis was performed using Kaplan–Meier survival curves for PFS and OS. Univariate and multivariable Cox-proportional hazard regression models were applied to survival outcomes. Quantitative association from Cox regression was

**Table 1.** Patient demographics.

<b>Total number of patients</b>		<b>456</b>
Median age of diagnosis of metastatic BC		59 (range: 24–92)
Age	<70 years old	371 (81%)
	≥70 years old	85 (19%)
Ethnicity	Chinese	326 (72%)
	Malay	49 (11%)
	Indian	29 (6%)
	Others	52 (11%)
	> Asians <sup>a</sup>	> N = 24 (5%)
	> Non-Asians	> N = 28 (6%)
Gender	Female	454 (99%)
	Male	2 (1%)
ECOG	0–1	356 (78%)
	2	27 (6%)
	3–4	16 (4%)
	Unknown	57 (12%)
Menopausal status	Post-menopausal	344 (75%)
	Pre-menopausal	107 (24%)
	> On ovarian suppression	> N = 85 (79%)
	Unknown	5 (1%)
<sup>a</sup> Middle east (n=8), Filipino (n=4) and Indonesian (n=12). BC, breast cancer; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.		

expressed as hazard ratio (HR) with its corresponding 95% confidence interval (CI). All statistical tests utilised were two-sided and a *p* value < 0.05 was considered statistically significant. Statistical analyses were performed using IBM SPSS statistics version 22.

## Results

### *Demographics, tumour and treatment characteristics*

In all, 456 patients received CDK4/6i for advanced/metastatic BC from January 2015 to December 2020. Patient characteristics at the time of CDK4/6i initiation are shown in Table 1. The median age of diagnosis was 59 (range: 24–92). In all, 85 (19%) patients were ≥70 years old. Majority of the patients were ethnically Chinese

(*n* = 326, 72%), female (*n* = 454, 99%), had an Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group (ECOG) status of 0/1 (*n* = 356, 78%) and were post-menopausal (*n* = 344, 75%). Of 107 (24%) pre-menopausal patients, 85 (79%) were receiving ovarian function suppression with surgery or gonadotrophin-releasing hormone analogues concurrent to endocrine therapy.

Patient tumour and treatment characteristics are summarised in Table 2. Most of the BCs were invasive ductal carcinomas (327, 72%) and oestrogen receptor positive (448, 98%). In all, 17 (4%) patients had HER2+ BC. Half the patients had *de novo* metastatic disease (226, 50%). Out of the 228 (50%) patients with disease relapse following initial early-stage cancer diagnosis, 85 (37%), 86 (38%) and 27 (12%) patients had endocrine-resistant, endocrine-sensitive disease

**Table 2.** Tumour and treatment characteristics.

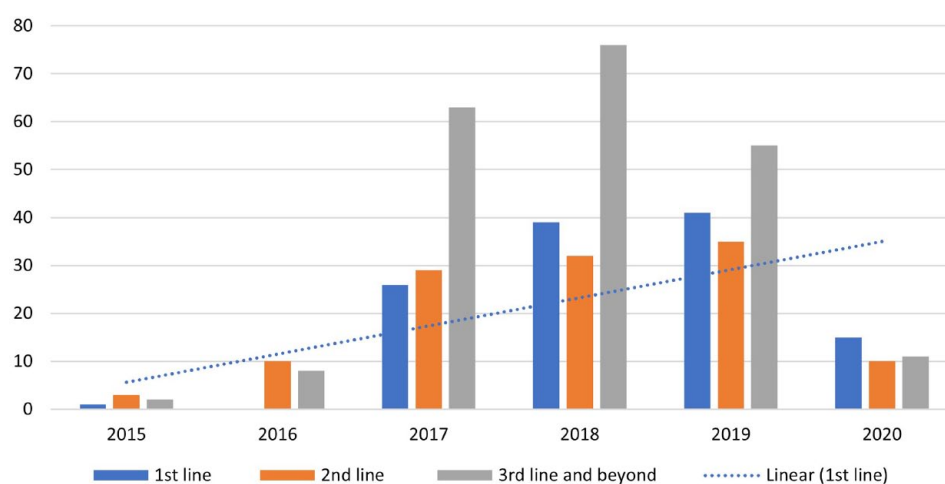
Treatment setting	De novo metastatic	226 (50%)
	Locoregional recurrence	37 (8%)
	Distant recurrence	191 (42%)
	Others	2 (1%) ➤ neoadjuvant (1) ➤ PD on neoadjuvant chemo (1)
Hormone sensitivity of patients with recurrent BC	Hormone resistant	85 (37%) ➤ Recurred while on adjuvant hormone therapy 67 (79%) ➤ Recurred ≤ 12 months from end of adjuvant hormone therapy 18 (21%)
	Hormone sensitive	86 (38%) ➤ Recurred 13–24 months from end of adjuvant endocrine therapy 8 (9%) ➤ Recurred > 24 months from end of adjuvant endocrine therapy 78 (91%)
	Did not take endocrine therapy in adjuvant setting	27 (12%)
	Unknown	30 (13%)
Histology	Invasive ductal carcinoma	327 (72%)
	Invasive lobular carcinoma	34 (7%)
	Others	46 (10%) ➤ Colloid 1 (2%) ➤ Medullary 1 (2%) ➤ Papillary 4 (9%) ➤ Mucinous 12 (26%) ➤ No special type 25 (54%)
	Unknown	49 (11%)
Biomarker status	Oestrogen receptor	448 (98%) ➤ Positive 3 (1%) ➤ Negative 5 (1%) ➤ Unknown
	Progesterone receptor	369 (81%) ➤ Positive 72 (16%) ➤ Negative 15 (3%) ➤ Unknown
	Her2Neu	17 (4%) ➤ Positive 439 (96%) ➤ Negative
	Site of metastasis	
	Brain metastasis	25 (5%)
	Peritoneum	31 (7%)
	Liver	145 (32%)
	Lung	244 (54%)

(Continued)

**Table 2.** (Continued)

	Bone	342 (75%)
Type of CDK4/6 inhibitor	Palbociclib	435 (95%)
	Ribociclib	21 (5%)
Partner anti-oestrogen therapy with CDK4/6 inhibitor	Fulvestrant	128 (28%)
	Aromatase inhibitor	290 (64%)
	➢ Letrozole	➢ 236 (81%)
	➢ Anastrozole	➢ 16 (6%)
	➢ Exemestane	➢ 38 (13%)
	Tamoxifen	38 (8%)
Line of treatment	First line	122 (27%)
	Second line	119 (26%)
	Third line	70 (15%)
	Fourth line and beyond	145 (32%)

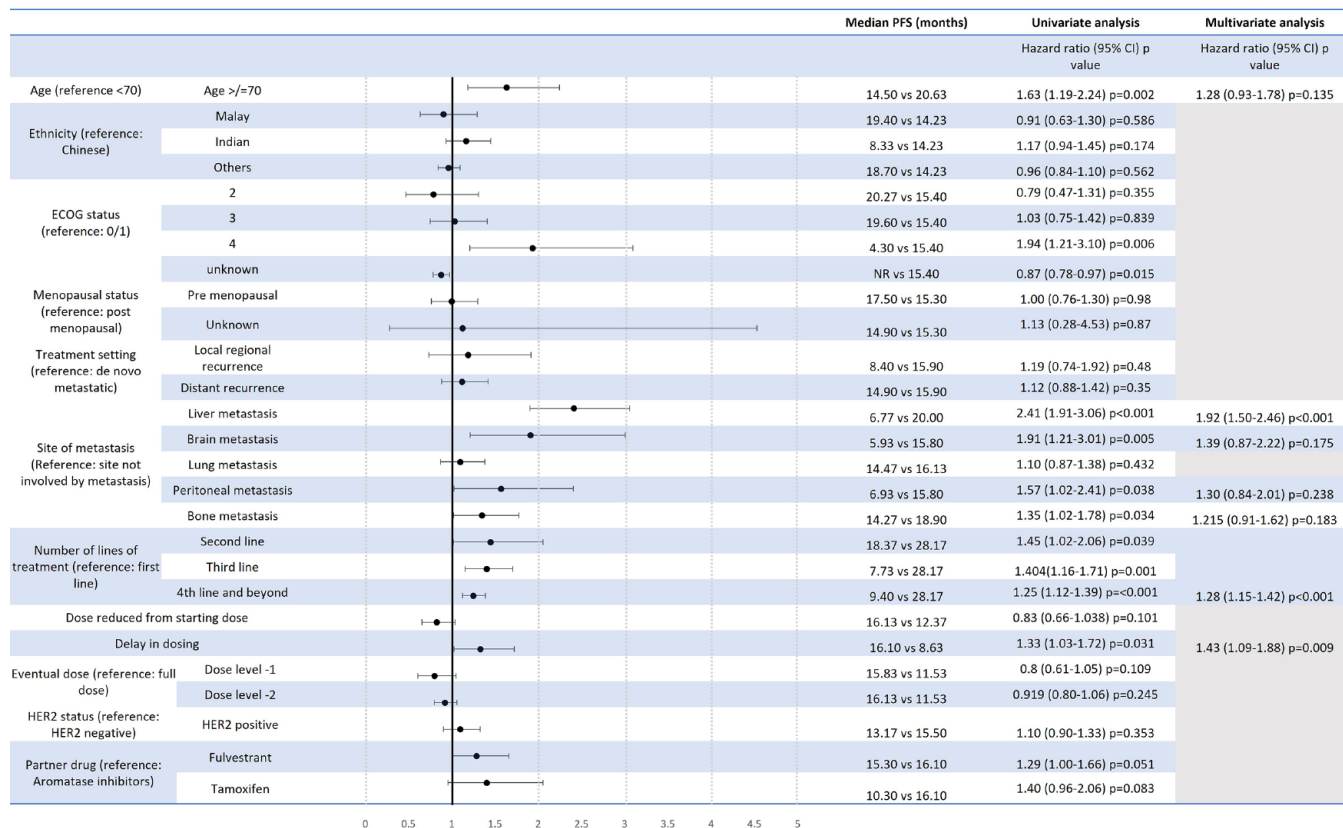
BC, breast cancer; CDK4, CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4.

**Figure 1.** Time trend of the line of use of CDK4/6i from 2015 to 2020. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor.

and no endocrine therapy in the adjuvant setting, respectively. In total, 17 (4%) patients had HER2+ BC; 25 (5%), 31 (7%), 145 (32%), 244 (54%) and 342 (75%) patients had brain, peritoneum, liver, lung and bone metastasis at the time of CDK4/6i initiation, respectively.

In our cohort, 435 (95%) of patients received the CDK4/6i palbociclib. The most common partner

anti-oestrogen drug used was aromatase inhibitors ( $n=290$ , 64%), followed by fulvestrant ( $n=128$ , 28%). Letrozole was the most common aromatase inhibitor used ( $n=236$ , 81%). Patients received CDK4/6i most commonly in the first-line ( $n=122$ , 27%) and second-line setting ( $n=119$ , 26%). Figure 1 demonstrates the increasing trend of CDK4/6i usage as first-line treatment with time from 2015 to 2020.



**Figure 2.** Univariate and multivariate Cox-proportional hazards model for PFS of patients receiving CDK4/6i. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; PFS, progression-free survival.

### Survival analysis

All patients were included in the survival analysis. Median follow-up duration was 30.1 months.

Median PFS was 28.17, 18.37, 7.73 and 9.40 months in the first line, second line, third line and fourth line of treatment and beyond, respectively (Figures 2 and 4(a)), while the corresponding proportions of patients alive at 24 months were 72%, 74%, 56%, 43%, respectively (Figure 3).

Univariate analysis of PFS (Figure 2) and 24-month OS (Figure 3) for the use of CDK4/6i showed that age ≥70 years old, presence of liver, brain or peritoneal metastasis, and use of CDK4/6i in a later line of treatment were associated with a significantly shorter PFS. PFS was 6.77 versus 20.00 months (HR: 2.41, CI: 1.91–3.06,  $p < 0.001$ ) and 14.50 versus 20.63 months (HR: 1.63, CI: 1.19–2.24,  $p = 0.002$ ) for presence versus absence of liver metastasis and age ≥70 versus <70, respectively (Figure 4(b) and (c)). A starting dose of CDK4/6i at a reduced dose was

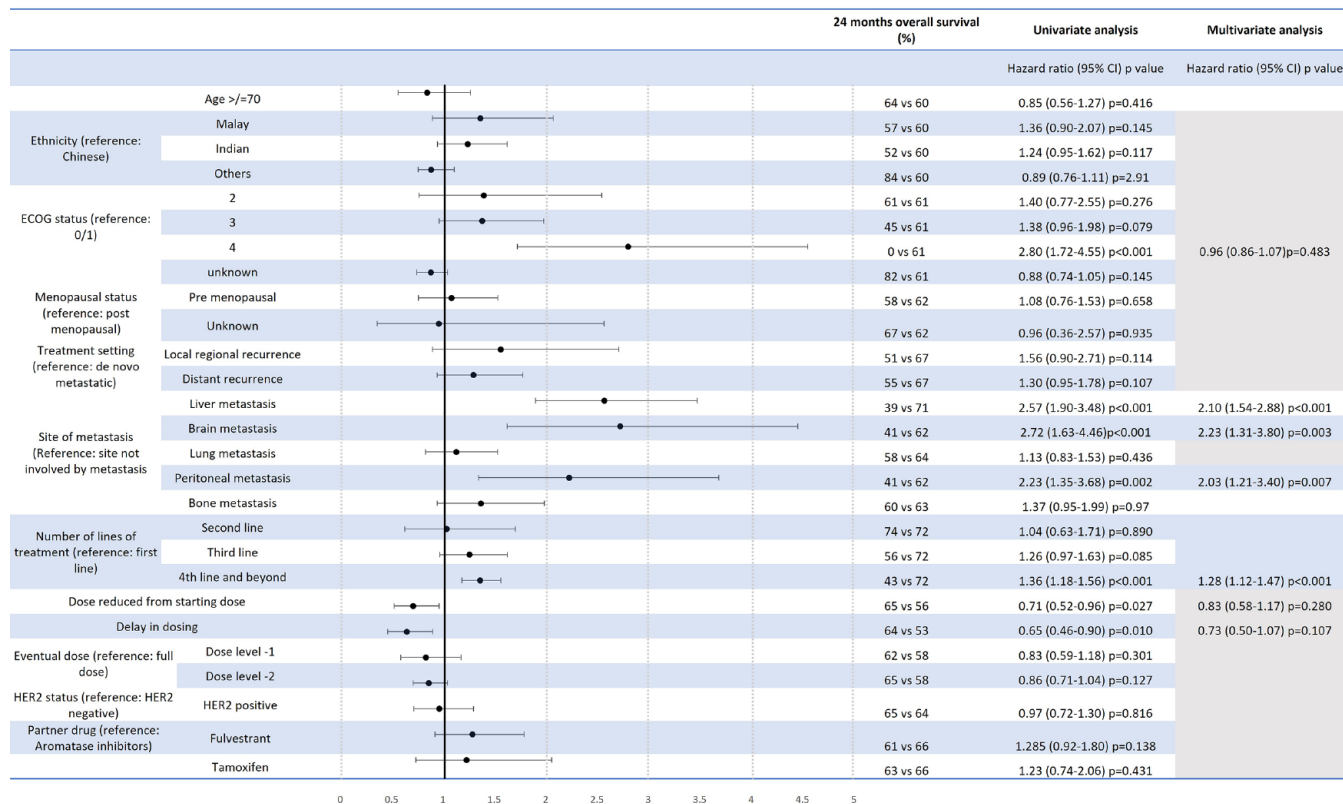
not significantly associated with a reduced PFS. PFS for starting dose of CDK4/6i at full dose and reduced dosed was 17.60 and 14.93 months, respectively (HR: 1.01, CI: 0.75–1.35,  $p = 0.960$ ) (Figure 4(d)). The presence of liver, brain, peritoneal metastasis and use of CDK4/6i in a later line of treatment were also associated with a significantly shorter 24-month OS (Figure 3).

On multivariate analysis for PFS and OS, both liver metastasis and use of CDK4/6i in a later line of treatment continued to be associated with a significantly shorter PFS, while the presence of liver, brain, peritoneal and use of CDK4/6i in a later line of treatment remained significantly associated with a shorter OS (Figures 2 and 3).

### Dose modifications

In all, 362 (80%) of patients received the US FDA recommended starting dose of CDK4/6i (dose level 1). In total, 78 (17%) received a lower starting dose of palbociclib 100 mg or ribociclib 400 mg (dose level 1), and 13 (3%) receiving a





**Figure 3.** Univariate and multivariate Cox-proportional hazards model for OS of patients receiving CDK4/6i. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; OS, overall survival.

starting dose of palbociclib 75 mg or ribociclib 200 mg (dose level 2) (Figure 5(a)). Age ≥ 70 and ECOG ≥ 2 were significantly associated with a lower starting dose of CDK4/6i (Table 3).

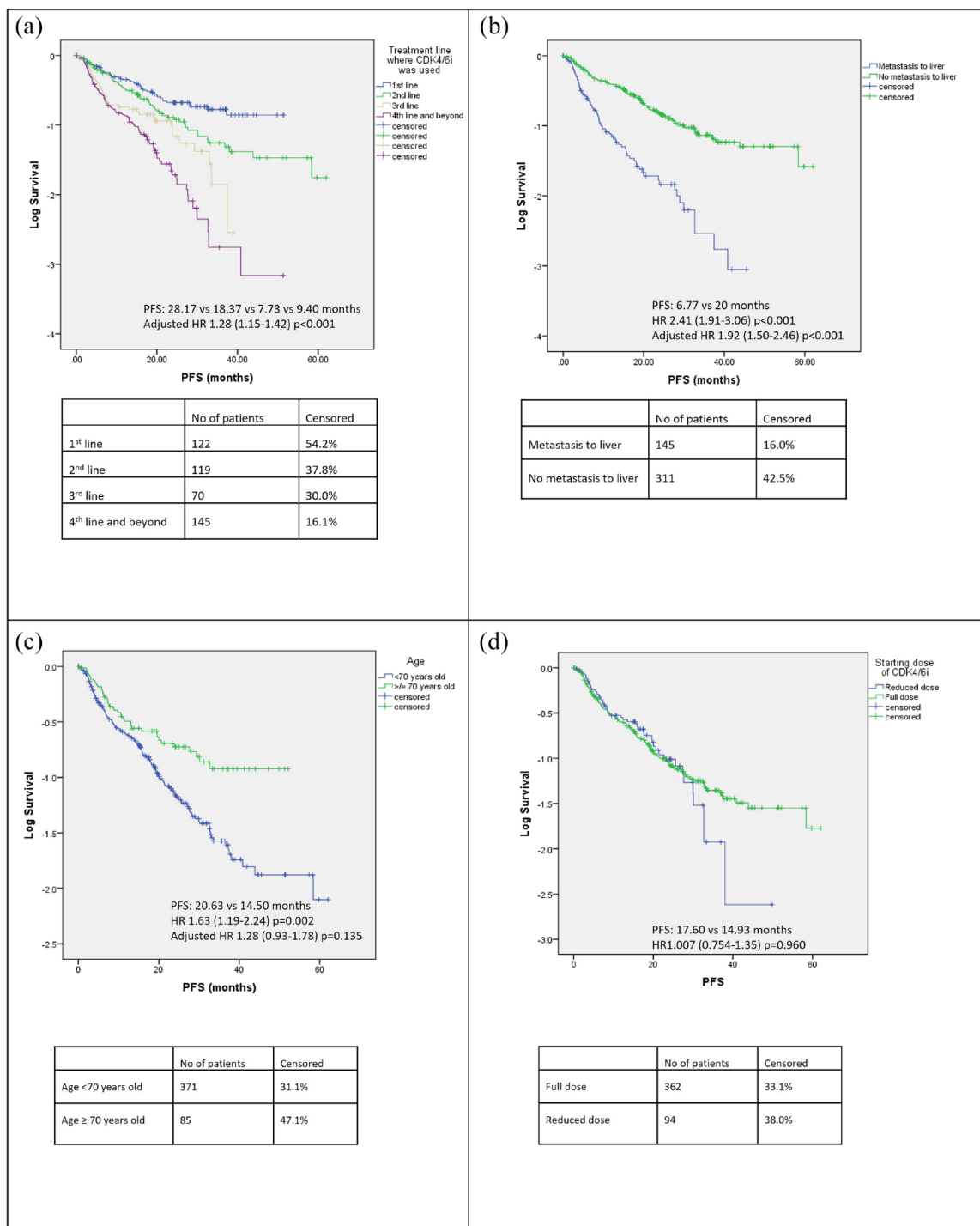
Overall, 217 (48%) of patients required at least one DR and 88 (19%) had two DRs. Of the patients who were prescribed full dose (dose level 1) at the start, 195 (54%) required at least one DR. Of the 101 (20%) of patients who were started at a reduced dose of CDK4/6i, 22 (22%) of patients required a further DR, while 11 (11%) patients had their dose increased eventually. Approximately one-third of patients each had an eventual dose of dose level 1 (37%) and dose level 1 (34%). Five (1%) of our patients had an eventual dose of alternating palbociclib 125 mg/100 mg (n=2), alternating palbociclib 100 mg/75 mg (n=1) and palbociclib 75 mg every other day (Figure 5(b)). Only age ≥ 70 was significantly associated with a lower eventual dose of CDK4/6i (Table 3).

In total, 330 (72%) of all patients and 63 (74%) of patients ≥ 70 years old had at least one DD.

The total number of DD episodes experienced by patients in our study were 1466 (median number of DDs per patient 2, range: 0–37). Some patients had more than one reason for a DD. The most common reason for DDs was neutropenia (60%). There were 10 (0.7%) febrile neutropenia episodes out of the total number of DDs, and this occurred in nine patients or 2% of the entire population (Figure 6).<sup>18</sup>

### Discussion

Previous studies have published real-world use of CDK4/6i<sup>19–23</sup> with the largest being the retrospective observational analysis from the Flatiron Health Analytic Database comprising 1430 patients of which 1.6% were Asians.<sup>20</sup> To our knowledge, our study is the largest real-world study in Asia evaluating the use of CDK4/6i in the treatment of advanced/metastatic BC. Our study indicates that CDK4/6i is an effective and safe treatment, with the increasing trend of CDK4/6i usage as first-line treatment with time from 2015 to 2020, and efficacy results consistent with those seen in clinical trials.

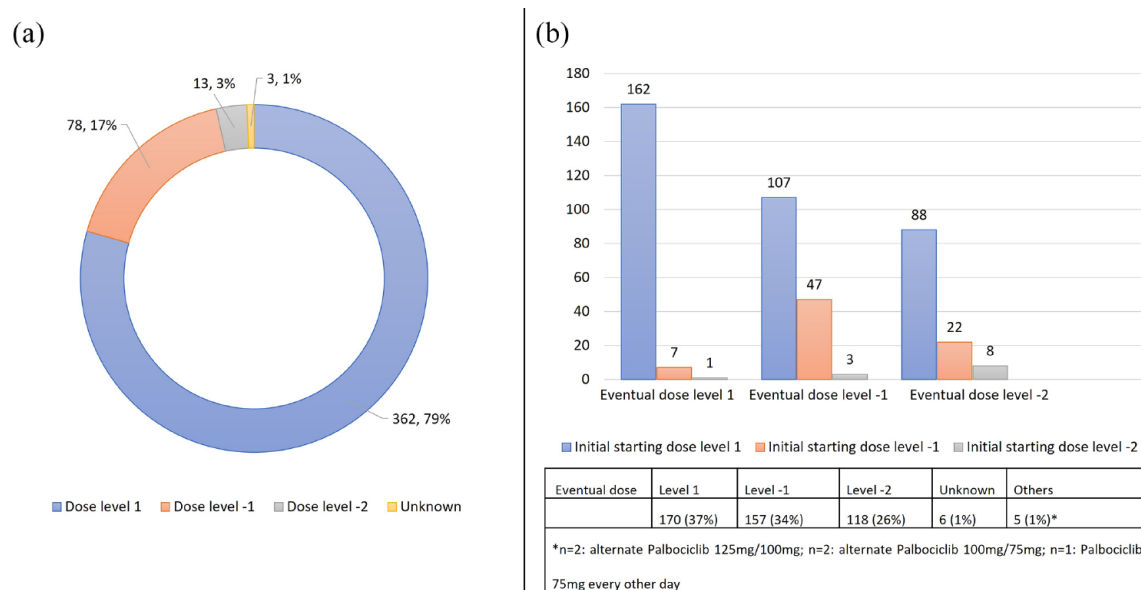


**Figure 4.** PFS of patients stratified by (a) line of treatment where CDK4/6i was used, (b) presence of liver metastasis, (c) age and (d) starting dose of CDK4/6i. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; PFS, progression-free survival.

Palbociclib was the most frequently prescribed CDK4/6i in this cohort. This is similar to other CDK4/6i real-world studies,<sup>20,24,25</sup> and is likely due to palbociclib being the first CDK4/6i to be approved for use in HR+/HER2- advanced/

metastatic BC. The median PFS for first-line CDK4/6i in our study is 28.17 months, and this is similar to the PALOMA-2 and MONALEESA-2 study for first-line advanced/metastatic BC<sup>7-9</sup> which reported a PFS of 24.80 and 25.30 months,





**Figure 5.** (a) Starting dose of CDK4/6i and (b) eventual dose of CDK4/6i and their starting dose. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor.

respectively. The PFS reported in our study is numerically longer than the 20.00 and 21.50 months in the Flatiron study<sup>20</sup> and the PALOMA-4 study of palbociclib and letrozole in Asian postmenopausal woman, respectively.<sup>26</sup> Unlike the PALOMA, MONALESSA and Flatiron studies, most of the patients in our study are Asians ( $n=440$ , 97%) with predominantly Chinese ( $n=326$ , 72%), providing important real-world data validating the efficacy of CDK4/6i in Asian, particularly Chinese patients.

While CDK4/6i has been approved by the US FDA in metastatic HR+ HER2- advanced/metastatic BC, several important data gaps exist for patient groups which are not well represented in RCTs such as elderly patients or patients with brain metastasis.<sup>27</sup> The MONALESSA-2<sup>28</sup> and PALOMA-2<sup>27</sup> included 295 (44%) and 262 (39%) of patients  $\geq 65$  years old. While the benefit from addition of ribociclib to letrozole was reported in patients  $\geq 65$  years old,<sup>28</sup> the proportion of patients  $\geq 70$  years old and benefit derived from addition of CDK4/6i to aromatase inhibitor in this elderly population was not reported in the randomised trials. Almost 20% patients in our cohort are  $\geq 70$ , and PFS was significantly shorter for this elderly population on univariate analysis in our study. Both PFS and 24-month OS were also significantly shorter for patients with brain, liver or peritoneal metastasis. This offers important insights into treatment planning and

prognostication in special subgroups of patients in the clinic.

The toxicities of CDK4/6i reported in this real-world study are similar to those reported in prospective clinical trials. The most common AE is neutropenia with only 2% of the cohort experiencing febrile neutropenia. In all, 217 (48%) of our patients required at least one DR which is higher than the 35.5–36.9% reported in phase II/III trials evaluating the use of CDK4/6i.<sup>29,30</sup> This could be explained by our more heterogeneous group of patients including elderly and patients with visceral metastasis. Furthermore, most patients in the initial RCTs leading to the approval of CDK4/6i were Whites while our study has a predominantly Asian population. It is known that toxicity varies in different ethnic groups.<sup>31–34</sup> Pharmacoefficacy may account for inter-racial variation in anticancer drug toxicity due to allelic variants of genes encoding drug-metabolising enzymes.<sup>35</sup> Reassuringly, a reduced starting dose, DRs, DDs and the eventual dose of CDK4/6i were all not associated with an inferior PFS or 24-month OS.

Our study has its limitations. Certain treatment combinations or indications in our study were not aligned with the approved US FDA indication. For instance, 17 (4%) of patients who had HER2+ BC was prescribed CDK4/6i. While there was no difference in PFS and 24-month OS for HER2+

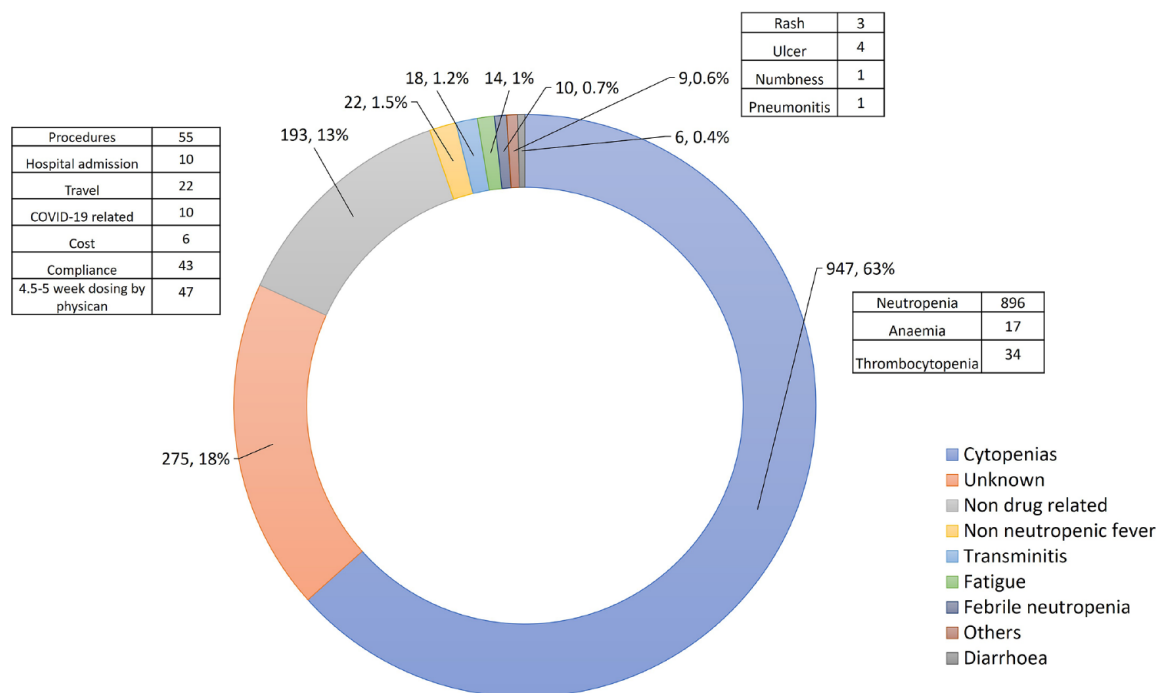
**Table 3.** Factors affecting the starting and eventual dose of CDK4/6i.

	Starting dose		p Value	Eventual dose		p Value
	Dose level 1	Reduced dose		Dose level 1	Reduced dose	
<b>Age</b>						
≥70	56 (66%)	29 (34%)	p=0.003	18 (21%)	67 (79%)	p=0.001
<70	306 (82%)	65 (18%)		152 (41%)	219 (59%)	
<b>ECOG</b>						
0/1	293 (82%)	63 (18%)	p=0.004	134 (38%)	222 (62%)	p=0.816
≥2	69 (69%)	31 (31%)		36 (36%)	64 (64%)	
<b>Liver metastasis</b>						
Present	117 (81%)	28 (19%)	p=0.659	58 (40%)	87 (60%)	p=0.430
Absent	245 (79%)	66 (21%)		112 (36%)	199 (64%)	
<b>Brain metastasis</b>						
Present	19 (76%)	6 (24%)	p=0.659	12 (48%)	13 (52%)	p=0.259
Absent	343 (80%)	88 (20%)		158 (40%)	273 (60%)	
<b>Lung metastasis</b>						
Present	195 (80%)	49 (20%)	p=0.779	83 (34%)	161 (66%)	p=0.100
Absent	166 (78%)	46 (22%)		87 (41%)	125 (59%)	
<b>Peritoneal metastasis</b>						
Present	23 (74%)	8 (26%)	p=0.455	14 (45%)	17 (55%)	p=0.345
Absent	338 (80%)	87 (20%)		156 (37%)	269 (63%)	
<b>Bone metastasis</b>						
Present	269 (79%)	73 (21%)	p=0.451	125 (37%)	217 (63%)	p=0.451
Absent	93 (82%)	21 (18%)		45 (39%)	69 (61%)	
<b>Line of treatment</b>						
First line	104 (85%)	18 (15%)	p=0.258	51 (42%)	70 (58%)	p=0.424
Second line	96 (81%)	23 (19%)		43 (36%)	76 (64%)	
Third line	51 (73%)	19 (27%)		20 (29%)	50 (71%)	
Fourth line and beyond	111 (77%)	34 (23%)		56 (39%)	89 (61%)	

CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; ECOG, Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group.

*versus* HER2– patients on univariate analysis, the number of patients was small, and no definitive conclusions can be made. Only 80% patients were started on CDK4/6i at the approved dose level in our real-world study. Moreover, the retrospective

nature of the study, differing baseline characteristics, and imbalances in number of patients receiving the various CDK4/6i and limited sample size do not allow for valid efficacy comparison among different CDK4/6i and in subpopulations.



**Figure 6.** Reasons for CDK4/6i DDs. CDK4/6i, cyclin-dependent kinase 4/6 inhibitor; DDs, dose delays.

### Conclusion

Our study shows that CDK4/6i is an effective and safe treatment in the real world, consistent with results seen in clinical trials. Age  $\geq 70$  and presentation with liver, peritoneal or brain metastasis are negative prognostic factors. Significant dose modifications were observed but this did not impact on survival. This will help assure clinicians and patients that their outcomes will not be adversely affected when dose modifications are clinically required.

### Declarations

#### Ethics approval and consent to participate

The study was approved by the National Healthcare Group Domain Specific Review Board (NHG DSRB) (Reference number: 2018/01081) and Parkway Independent Ethics Committee (PIEC/2019/040) and was conducted in accordance with the Declaration of Helsinki provision. Informed consent was waived for patients recruited retrospectively and written informed consent was obtained for patients recruited prospectively.

#### Consent for publication

Not applicable.

#### Author contribution(s)

**Jia Li Low:** Conceptualisation; Data curation; Formal analysis; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Writing – original draft; Writing – review & editing.

**Elaine Lim:** Data curation; Project administration; Writing – review & editing.

**Lavina Bharwani:** Data curation; Project administration; Writing – review & editing.

**Andrea Wong:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Karmen Wong:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Samuel Ow:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

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**Joan Choo:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Joline Lim:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Gloria Chan:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Robert John Walsh:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Vaishnavi Muthu:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Natalie Ngoi:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Wanqin Chong:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Sing Huang Tan:** Data curation; Writing – review & editing.

**Soo Chin Lee:** Conceptualisation; Data curation; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Supervision; Writing – review & editing.

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#### Competing interests

Andrea Wong:

Advisory board: Novartis, Pfizer, Eisai, Ostuka  
Research collaborations: Otsuka pharmaceuticals

Karmen Wong:

Advisory board: Pfizer, Novartis

Samuel Ow:

Honorary/Consulting: Pfizer, Astra Zeneca, Roche, Novartis, Eli Lilly

Joline Lim:

Advisory/Consulting: Pfizer, Novartis, MSD, Everest Medicine

Research funding: Synthon

Travel/accommodation/expenses: Novartis, Astra Zeneca, MSD

Robert John Walsh:

Honorarium: Pfizer

Advisory board: Pfizer

Natalie Ngoi:

Honorarium: Astra Zeneca, Pfizer, Merck

Travel: Astra Zeneca

Wan Qin Chong:

Conference support: Ipsen Pharma

Soo Chin Lee:

Grant support/Research collaborations: Pfizer, Eisai, Taiho, ACT Genomics, Bayer, MSD, Karyopharm, Adagene

Advisory board/Speaker Invitation: Pfizer, Novartis, Astra Zeneca, ACT Genomics, Eli Lilly, MSD, Roche

Conference support: Amgen, Pfizer, Roche

#### Availability of data and materials

Not applicable.


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