

Peripheral blood mononuclear cell populations correlate with outcome in patients with metastatic breast cancer

Anna-Maria Larsson ¹, Olle Nordström ², Alexandra Johansson ¹, Lisa Rydén ^{1,3}, Karin Leandersson ⁴ and Caroline Bergenfelz ^{2,*}

¹. Division of Oncology, Department of Clinical Sciences Lund, Lund University, SE-223 81 Lund, Sweden; anna-maria.larsson@med.lu.se (AML); al0531jo-s@student.lu.se (AJ); lisa.ryden@med.lu.se (LR)

² Experimental Infection Medicine, Department of Translational Medicine, Lund University, SE-214 28 Malmö, Sweden; ol7840no-s@student.lu.se (ON); caroline.bergenfelz@med.lu.se (CB)

³ Department of Surgery, Skåne University Hospital, SE-223 81 Lund, Sweden

⁴ Cancer Immunology, Department of Translational Medicine, Lund University, SE-214 28 Malmö, Sweden; karin.leandersson@med.lu.se (KL)

* Correspondence: caroline.bergenfelz@med.lu.se

SUPPLEMENTAL TABLES

Supplemental Table S1. Characteristics of the included patients. ^a De novo MBC denotes MBC at initial breast cancer diagnosis. ^b Distant recurrent MBC denotes MBC diagnosis after >0 years after the primary diagnosis. ^c Visceral metastasis is defined as involvement of lung, liver, peritoneal and/or pleura. ^d Progression is defined as progressive disease at three months evaluation, using modified RECIST 1.1 criteria. *Abbreviations:* ECOG; Eastern Cooperative Oncology Group, NHG; Nottingham Histological Grade, PT; primary tumor, ER; estrogen receptor, PR; progesterone-receptor, HER2; human epidermal growth factor receptor 2, MET; metastasis.

Variable	Total N=32	%
<u>Age</u>		
< 65 years	17	53.1
≥65 years	15	46.9
<u>Baseline ECOG</u>		
0	22	68.8
1	6	18.8
2	4	12.5
Unknown	0	0.0
<u>PT Tumor type</u>		
Ductal	21	65.5
Lobular	6	18.8
Other	4	12.5
Unknown	1	3.1
<u>PT NHG</u>		
I	2	6.3
II	13	40.6
III	7	21.9
Unknown	10	31.3
<u>PT ER status</u>		
ER-negative	8	25.0
ER-positive	20	62.5
ER-unknown	4	12.5
<u>PT PR status</u>		
PR-negative	12	37.5
PR-positive	15	46.9
PR-unknown	5	15.6
<u>PT HER2 status</u>		
HER2-negative	16	50.0
HER2-positive	5	15.6
HER2-unknown	11	34.4
<u>Type of MBC</u>		
De novo ^a	5	15.6
Distant recurrent ^b	27	84.4
<u>Metastatic sites, number</u>		
< 3 metastatic sites	19	59.4
≥ 3 metastatic sites	13	40.6
<u>Metastatic sites, localization</u>		
Lymph nodes No / Yes	20 / 12	62.5 / 37.5
Lung No / Yes	20 / 12	62.5 / 37.5

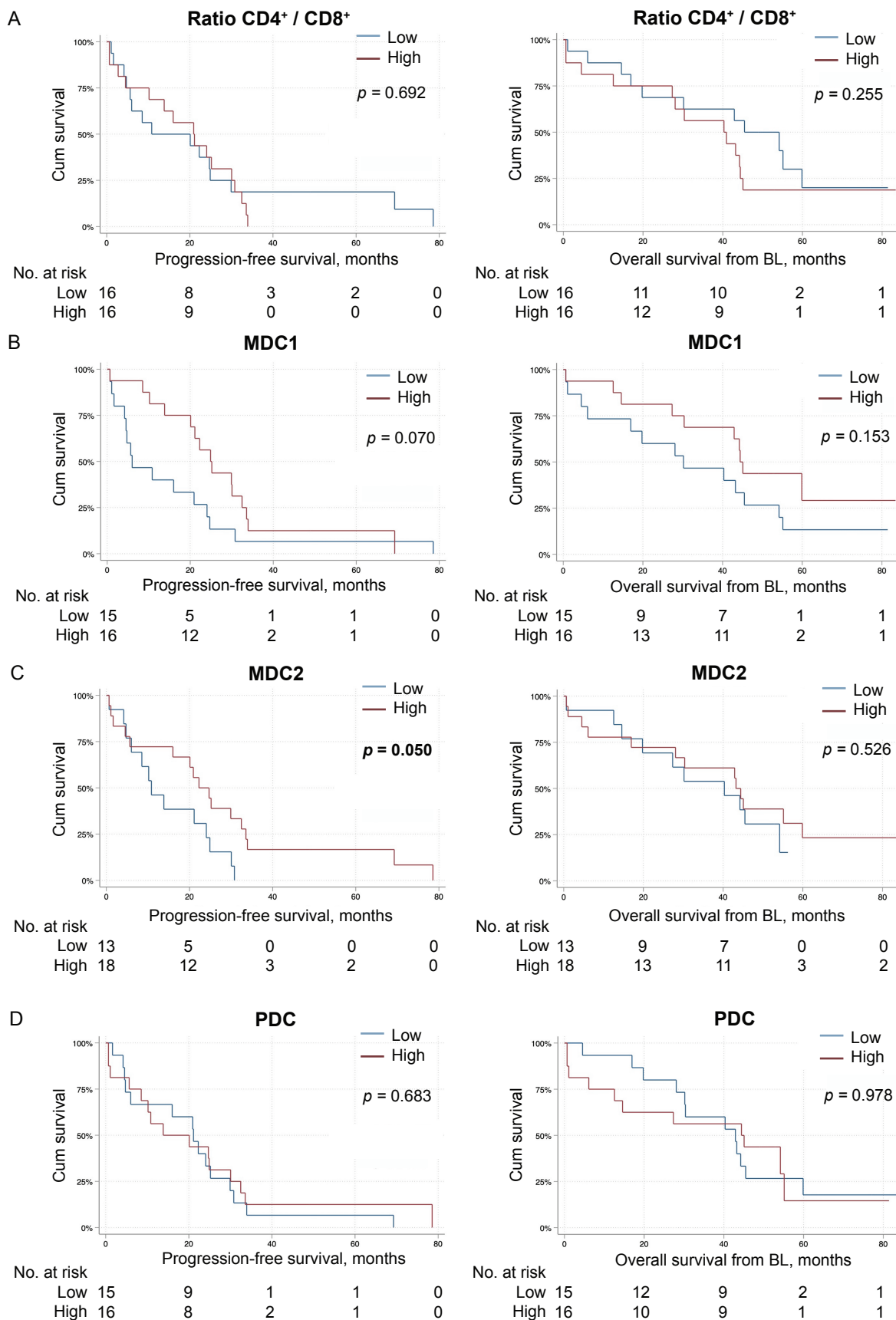
Liver No / Yes	23 / 9	71.9 / 28.1
Bone No / Yes	7 / 25	21.9 / 78.1
Visceral ^c No / Yes	13 / 19	40.6 / 59.4
Bone only No / Yes	23 / 9	71.9 / 28.1
<u>MET ER status</u>		
ER-negative	1	3.1
ER-positive	27	84.4
ER-unknown	4	12.5
<u>MET PR status</u>		
PR-negative	16	50.0
PR-positive	11	34.4
PR-unknown	5	15.6
<u>MET HER2 status</u>		
HER2-negative	23	71.9
HER2-positive	3	9.4
HER2-unknown	6	18.8
<u>Progression at 3 mo evaluation^d</u>		
Non-progression	25	78.1
Progression	3	9.4
Unknown	4	12.5

Supplemental Table S2. Antibodies used for flow cytometry with clone and dilution indicated.
 All from BD Biosciences unless otherwise stated. ^a. from Miltenyi Blood dendritic cell enumeration kit that also includes CD14 and CD19 to exclude monocytes and B lymphocytes, respectively.

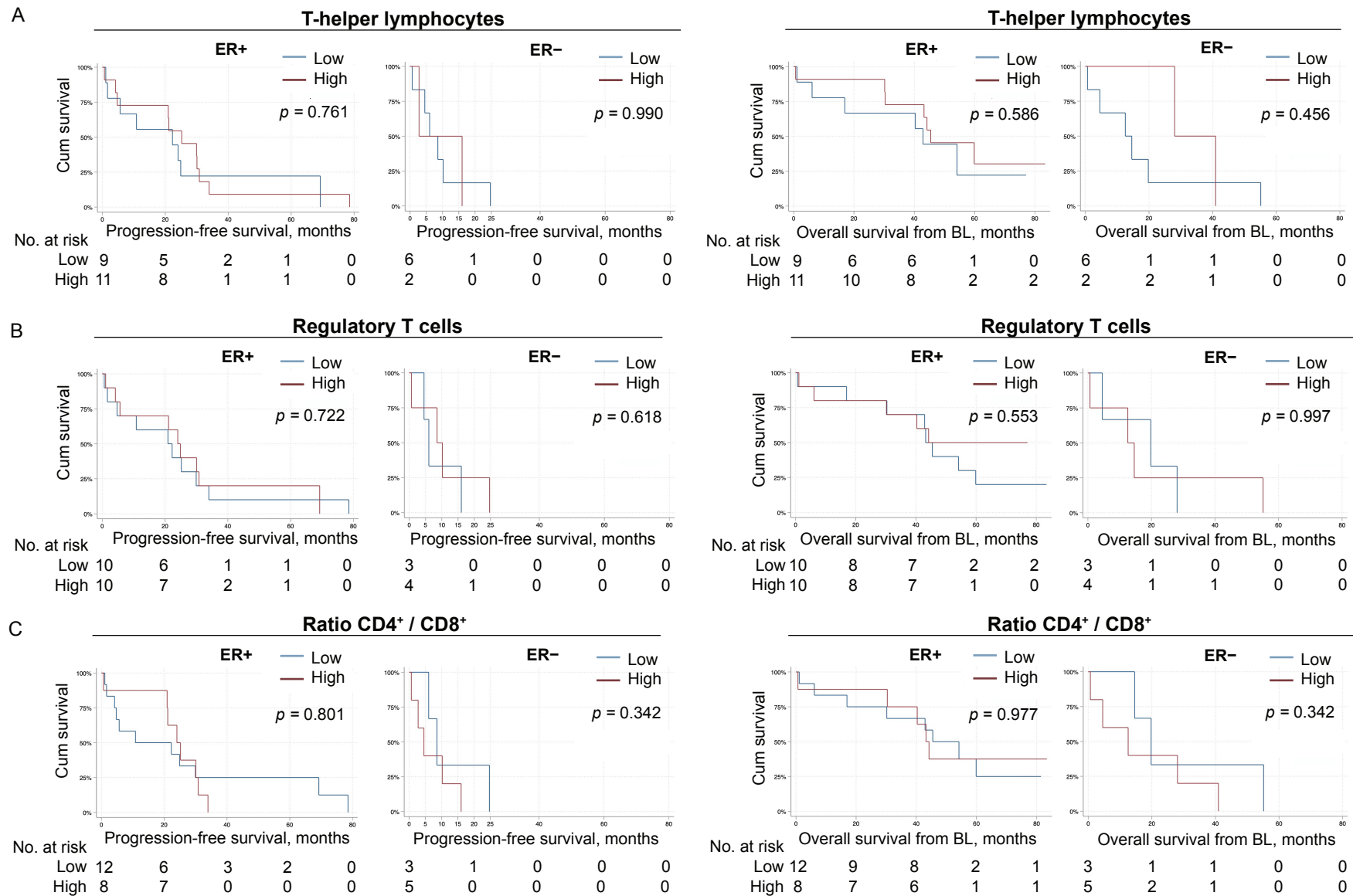
Antibody	Clone	Dilution
CD14-FITC	M5E2	1:10
CD16-PE	3G8	1:20
HLA-DR-APC	G46-6	1:50
CD3-FITC	HIT3a	1:25
CD3-APC	HIT3a	1:20
CD4-PE	RPA-T4	1:25
CD8-PE	HIT8a	1:25
CD25-FITC	2A3	1:10
CD127-biotin / SA-APC	HIL-7R-M21	1:10 / 1:10
CD56-APC	B159	1:10
CD19-FITC	HIB19	1:20
CD33-APC	WM53	1:10
BDCA-1 (CD1c) ^a	NA ^a	1:10
BDCA-2 (CD303) ^a	NA ^a	1:10
BDCA-3 (CD141) ^a	NA ^a	1:10

Supplemental Table S3. Summary of the analyzed immune cell populations. Circulating immune cell populations were analyzed by flow cytometry (see Supplementary Figure 1 for gating strategies). Values represent percentage of immune cell population of PBMCs or, where indicated, of all CD4⁺ T cells. ^a. Ratio calculated as percentage of CD4⁺ cells of all lymphocytes / CD8⁺ cells of all lymphocytes. ^b. Ratio calculated as percentage of CD14⁺CD16⁺ cells / CD14⁺CD16⁻ cells. Median values with SEM and number of patients analyzed shown.

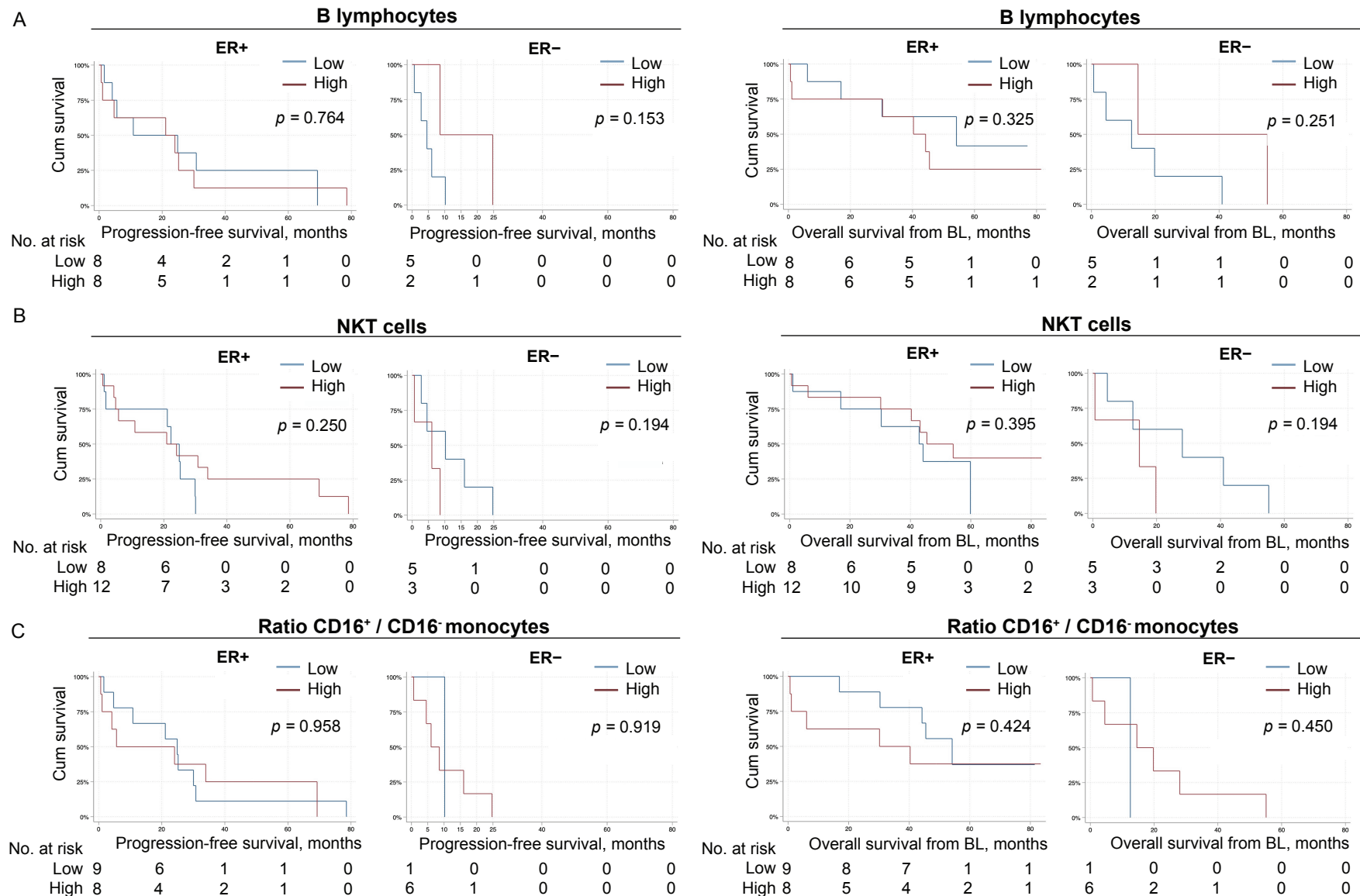
Immune cell population or ratio	N	Median \pm SEM
% All T lymphocytes (CD3 ⁺ cells)	32	23.23 % \pm 2.05
% Cytotoxic T lymphocytes (CD8 ⁺ cells)	32	6.59 % \pm 0.96
% T helper cells (CD4 ⁺ cells)	32	14.63 % \pm 1.31
% Tregs (CD4 ⁺ CD25 ⁺ CD127 ^{low/-} cells of all CD4 ⁺ cells)	31	3.68 % \pm 0.42
% CD8 ⁺ cells of all CD3 ⁺ T lymphocytes	32	34.34 % \pm 2.02
% CD4 ⁺ cells of all CD3 ⁺ T lymphocytes	32	64.54 % \pm 2.66
Ratio CD4 ⁺ T cells / CD8 ⁺ T cells ^a	32	1.86 \pm 0.32
% B lymphocytes (CD19 ⁺ cells)	26	4.34 % \pm 0.86
% NK cells (CD56 ⁺ CD3 ⁻ cells)	32	2.82 % \pm 0.49
% NKT cells (CD56 ⁺ CD3 ⁺ cells)	32	0.53 % \pm 0.28
% Classical monocytes (CD14 ⁺ CD16 ⁻ cells)	27	7.36 % \pm 0.91
% Intermediate monocytes (CD14 ⁺ CD16 ^{+/++} cells)	27	2.59 % \pm 0.46
% Non-classical monocytes (CD14 ⁺ CD16 ⁺⁺ cells)	27	0.27 % \pm 0.06
Ratio CD16 ⁺ / CD16 ⁻ monocytes ^b	27	0.23 \pm 0.05
% MDC1 (BDCA-1 ⁺ cells)	31	0.31 % \pm 0.05
% MDC2 (BDCA-3 ⁺ cells)	31	0.02 % \pm 0.01
% PDC (BDCA-2 ⁺ cells)	31	0.58 % \pm 0.12



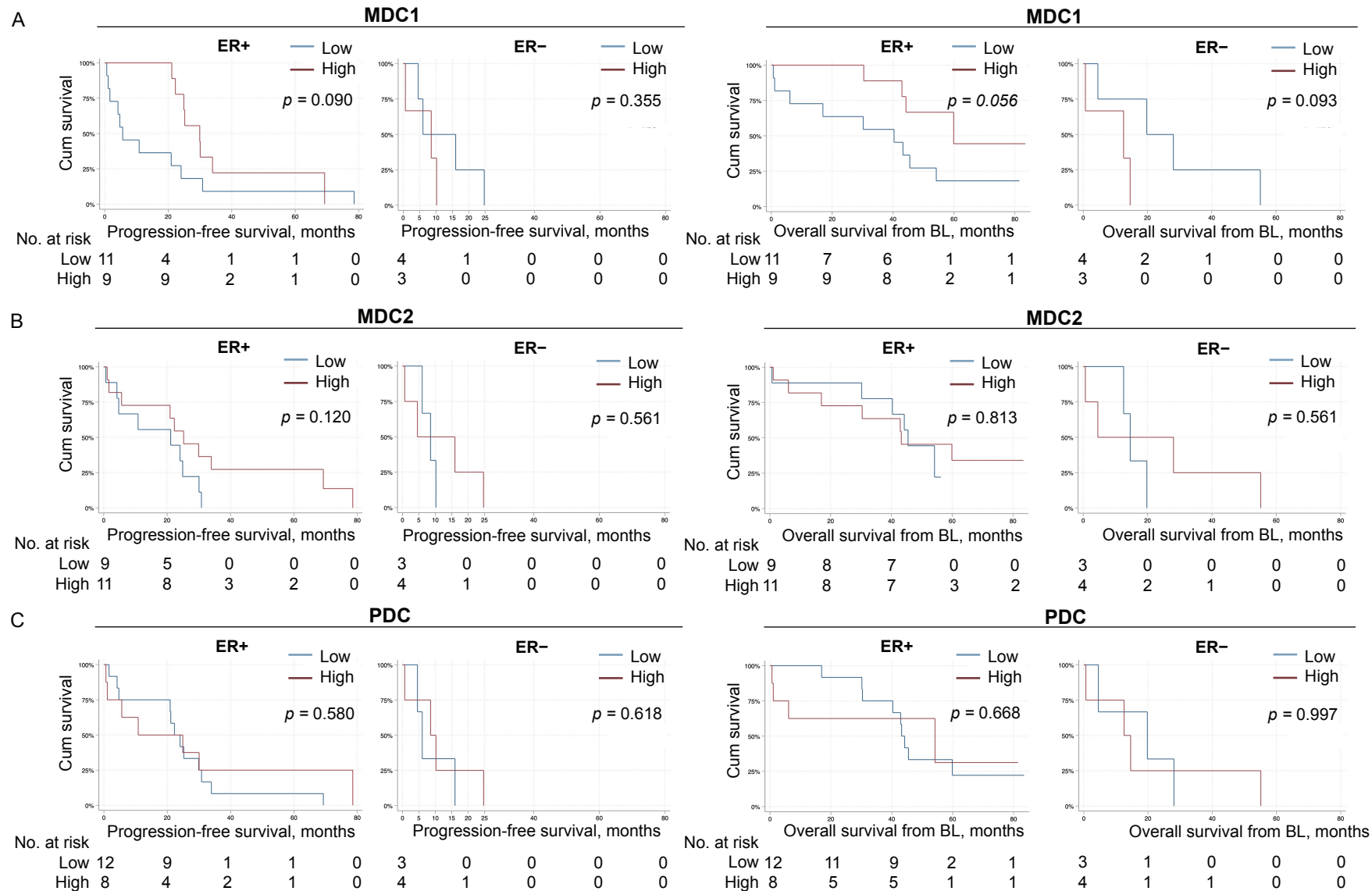
Supplemental Figure S1. High levels of systemic MDC1 associate with improved progression-free survival. Kaplan-Meier curves of progression-free survival (PFS; left panels) and overall survival (OS) from baseline (right panels) according to the levels (percentages) of indicated immune cell population in MBC patients. **A**, Ratio of % CD4⁺ T-helper cells / % CD8⁺ CTLs. **B**, BDCA-1⁺ MDC1. **C**, BDCA-3⁺ MDC2. **D**, BDCA-2⁺ PDC. *N*=31 for all populations except for CD4⁺/CD8⁺ ratio (*N*=32). Statistics by Log-rank test, *p*-values < 0.05 highlighted in bold.



Supplemental Figure S2. The levels of T-helper or T_{regs} do not associate with survival in patients with ER-positive or ER-negative primary tumors. Kaplan-Meier curves of progression-free survival (PFS; left panels) and overall survival (OS, right panels) according to the levels of indicated immune cell populations in patients with MBC stratified for primary tumor ER status. **A**, CD4⁺ T-helper cells. **B**, CD4⁺CD25⁺CD127^{low/-} cells of CD4⁺ cells. **C**, ratio of % CD4⁺ T-helper cells / % CD8⁺ CTLs. $N=20$ ER-positive and $N=8$ ER-negative for all populations except for T_{regs} ($N=20$ and $N=7$, respectively). Statistics by Log-rank test, p -values < 0.05 highlighted in bold.



Supplemental Figure S3. The levels of B lymphocytes or NKT cells do not associate with survival in patients with ER-positive or ER-negative primary tumors. Kaplan Meier curves of progression-free survival (PFS; left panels) or overall survival (OS) from baseline (right panels) according to the levels of indicated immune cell populations in patients with MBC stratified for primary tumor ER status. **A**, CD19⁺ B lymphocytes, $N=16$ ER-positive and $N=7$ ER-negative. **B**, CD56⁺CD3⁺ NKT cells, $N=20$ ER-positive and $N=8$ ER-negative. **C**, ratio of % CD16⁺ monocytes / % CD16⁻ monocytes, $N=17$ ER-positive and $N=7$ ER-negative. Statistics by Log-rank test, with p -values indicated.



Supplemental Figure S4. The levels of MDC1 tend to associate with survival. Kaplan Meier curves of progression-free survival (PFS; left panels) or overall survival (OS) from baseline (right panels) according to the levels of indicated blood DC population in patients with MBC stratified for primary tumor ER status. **A**, BDCA-1⁺ MDC1. **B**, BDCA-3⁺ MDC2. **C**, BDCA-2⁺ PDC. $N=20$ ER-positive and $N=7$ ER-negative for all populations. Statistics by Log-rank test, with p -values indicated.