

A decorative graphic on the left side of the slide, consisting of a network of thin, light-orange lines that resemble a circuit board or a stylized tree. These lines branch out from the left edge, with small circles at various points, set against a dark red background that has a subtle gradient.

**RCT HANDS ON**

# RCT OR THERAPY STUDY

- Randomized controlled trial is a study in which people are allocated at random to receive one of several clinical interventions.
- On most occasions, the term “intervention” refers to treatment.

# APPRAISING AN RCT

- **FRISBE**

- **F**= Follow-up- is everyone accounted for?
- **R**= Randomization- was assignment of patients to treatment or control random? Was allocation concealed?
- **I**= intention to treat analysis- were all patients analysed in the group to which they were assigned?
- **S**= Similar baseline characteristics of patients- were groups similar at start of study?
- **B**= Blinding- were patients, health workers and study personnel “blinded” to who had treatment and who placebo/comparison?
- **E**= Equal treatment- aside from the intervention was everyone treated equally?

An abstract graphic on the left side of the image, consisting of a network of thin, light-orange lines and small circles, resembling a circuit board or a stylized tree structure. The lines and circles are concentrated on the left edge and extend slightly into the main red area.

# **VIDEO**

# RCT APPRAISAL

Support Care Cancer (2012) 20:1613–1618

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## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### **Topical silver sulfadiazine for the prevention of acute dermatitis during irradiation for breast cancer**

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# GOAL

effectiveness of topical SSD. The purpose of this controlled trial was to assess the effectiveness of topical SSD as a prophylactic agent for acute radiation dermatitis in women who underwent radiotherapy for breast cancer.

# ASSIGNMENT OF PATIENTS RANDOMIZED?

Patients were randomized into the intervention and control groups by random allocation software [16]. Because the

# GROUPS SIMILAR ?

groups by random allocation software [16]. Because the anatomy of the irradiated site is a known factor influencing the severity of radiation dermatitis [4], the two groups were matched in this regard (flat or not flat chest wall based on

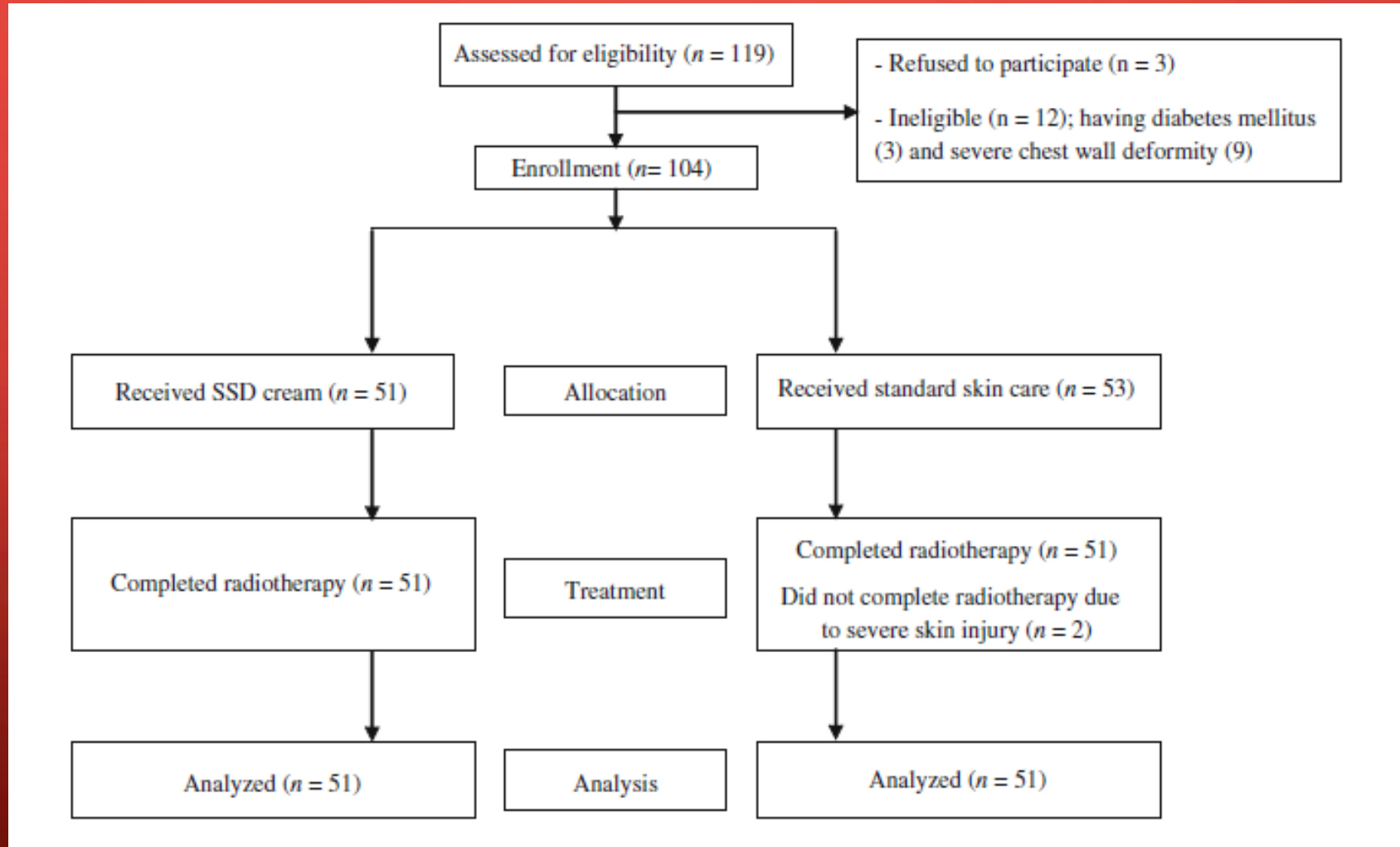
	SSD <i>n</i> =51	Control <i>n</i> =51	<i>p</i>
Age	48.7±10.3	48.1±9.9	0.785 *
Chest wall, flat/not flat	40/11	40/11	–
Energy, E8/E10	1/50	4/47	0.181 **
Radiation fields, one/two	42/9	45/6	0.289 **
Post. axillary field, no (%)	29 (56.8)	31 (60.7)	0.420 **



# **WAS RANDOMIZATION CONCEALED ?**

- Not mentionned

# WAS INTENTION TO TREAT USED ?



# WHERE PATIENTS, CLINICIANS, BLIND TO TREATMENT?

intervals during radiotherapy and 1 week thereafter. The observer was a radiation oncologist who was unaware to which groups the patients belong to. Skin injury was scored

# WHERE BOTH GROUPS TREATED EQUALLY ?

Both groups received verbal instructions and a leaflet about standard skin care at the start of radiotherapy, including gentle washing of the area with baby soap and not applying a powerful soap directly to the skin, patting the area dry with a soft towel, and wearing loose clothes, preferably cotton, next to the skin. Also, they were advised not to use cosmetics, perfume, cologne, or deodorant on the area. No other prophylactic creams/lotions/gels were to be applied to the radiation field during the radiotherapy course. The compliance in applying the SSD cream and general skin care instructions was evaluated weekly by treating physician.

# FOLLOW UP LONG ENOUGH ?

		Severity of skin injury					<i>p</i> *
		Grade 0	Grade 1	Grade 2	Grade 3	Grade 4	
1st wk	SSD	51 (100)	0	0	0	0	—
	Control	51 (100)	0	0	0	0	
2nd wk	SSD	51 (100)	0	0	0	0	< 0.001
	Control	40 (78.4)	11 (21.5)	0	0	0	
3rd wk	SSD	0	51 (100)	0	0	0	0.003
	Control	0	43 (83.3)	8 (15.6)	0	0	
4th wk	SSD	0	51 (100)	0	0	0	< 0.001
	Control	0	29 (56.8)	22 (43.1)	0	0	
5th wk	SSD	0	31 (60.7)	18 (35.2)	2 (3.9)	0	0.002
	Control	0	15 (29.4)	26 (50.9)	10 (19.6)	0	
6th wk	SSD	0	8 (15.6)	32 (62.7)	11 (21.5)	0	0.001
	Control	0	1 (1.9)	23 (45.1)	27 (52.9)	0	

The background is a solid dark red color. In the four corners, there are decorative elements consisting of thin, light red lines that resemble circuit traces or a stylized network. These lines connect to small circles, some of which are also connected to each other, forming a sparse, geometric pattern.

# **IS THIS A GOOD STUDY ?**