

Scientific cartography

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DAGs: mapping causal assumptions

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- A: acyclic
- G: graph

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DAGs: mapping causal assumptions

- D: directed — a cause points in the direction of its effect
- A: acyclic — a phenomenon cannot be its own cause
- G: graph — it's a drawing of points connected by lines.
 - Causes/effects are points, a connecting line denotes a causal relationship

Basic structures

A causal relationship



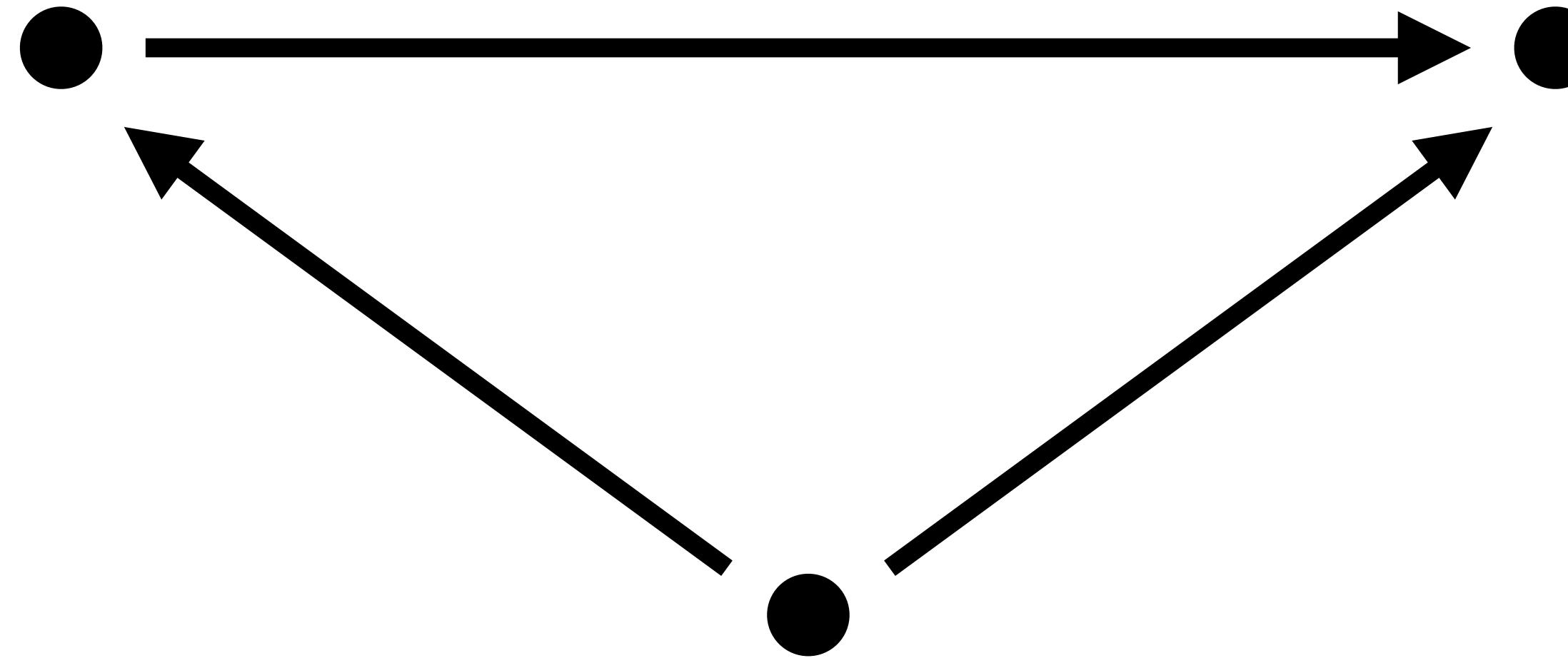
Basic structures

A causal relationship



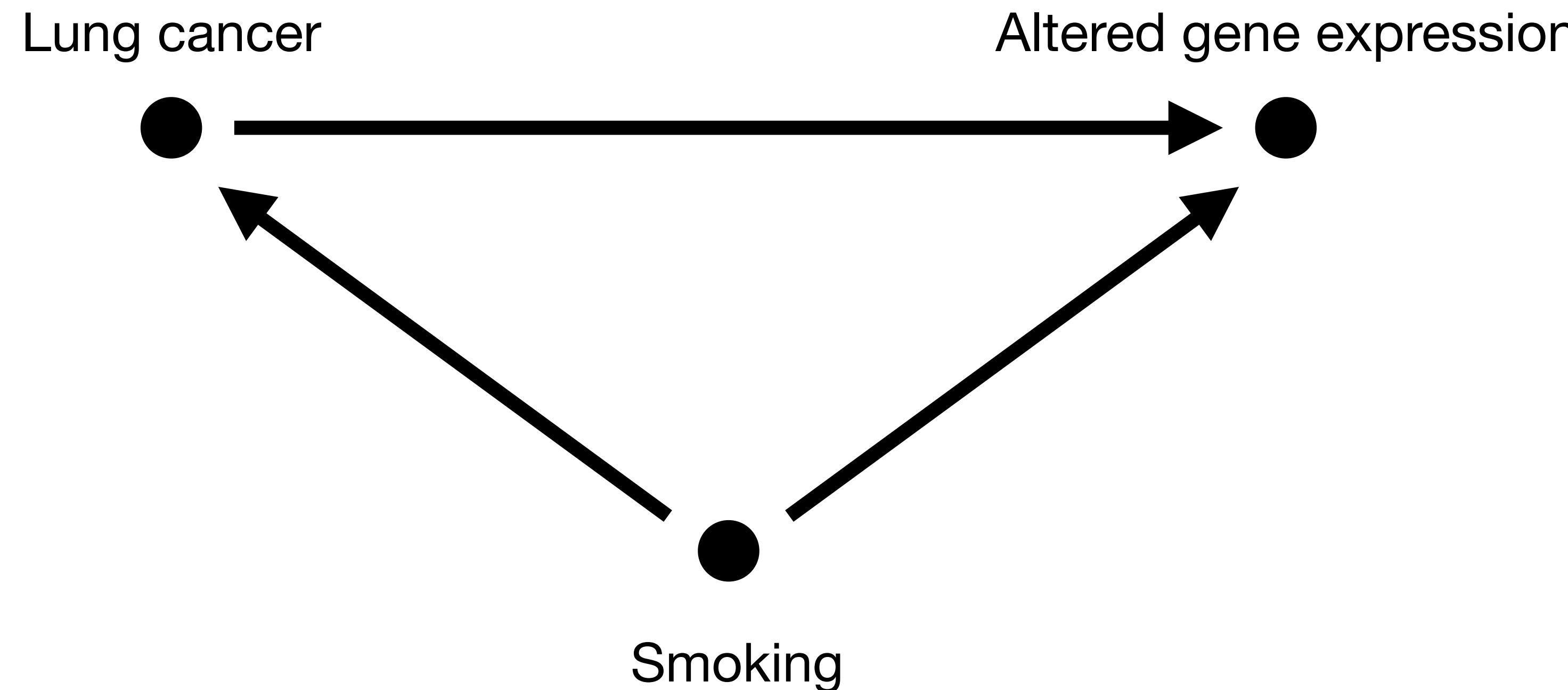
Basic structures

Confounding: a mixing of effects



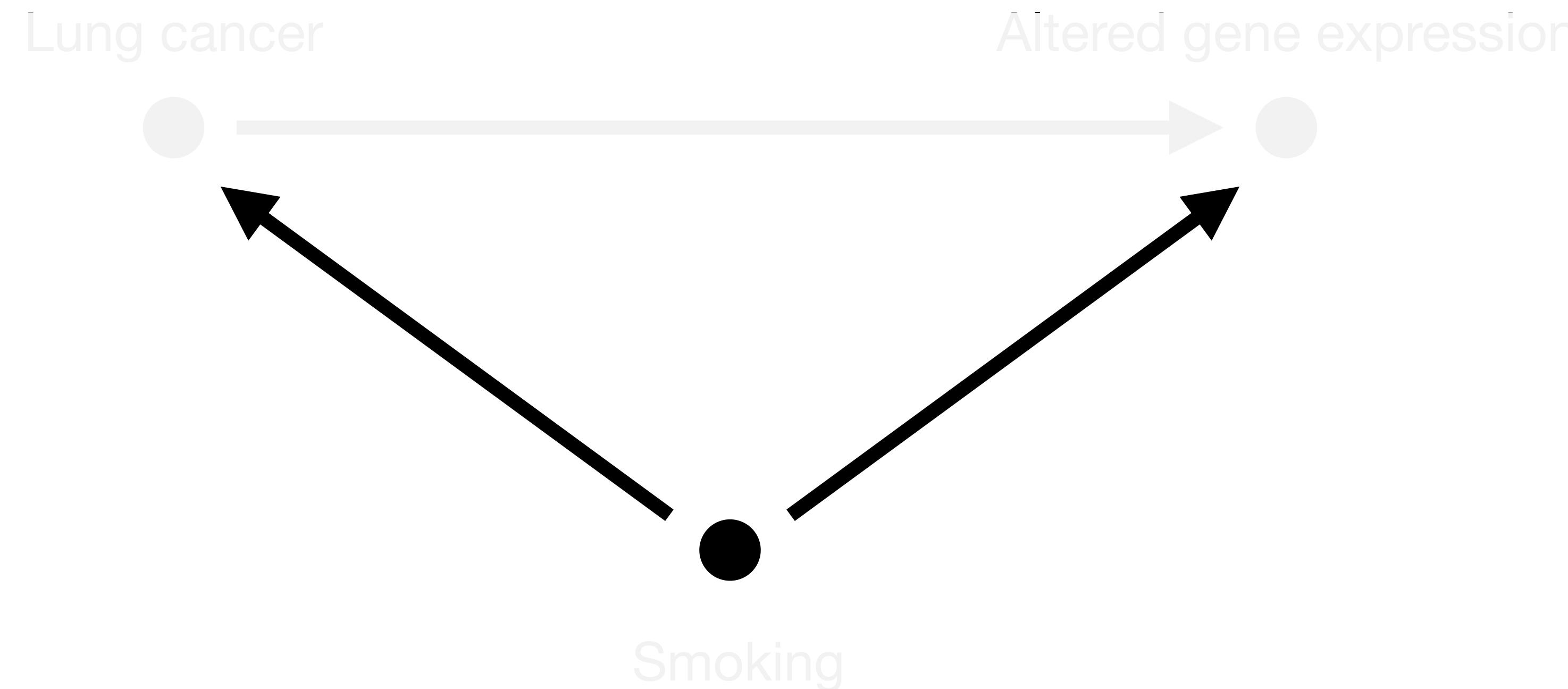
Basic structures

Confounding: a mixing of effects



Basic structures

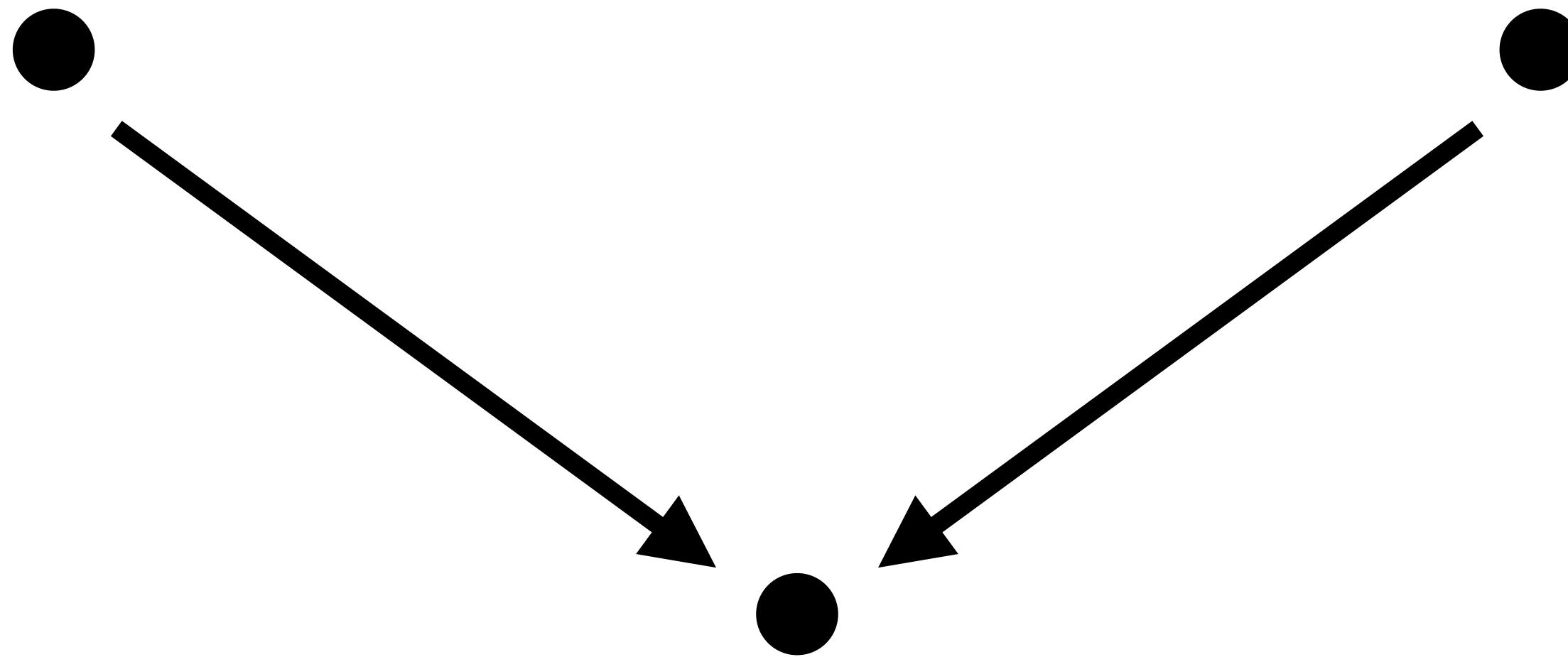
Confounding: a mixing of effects



“Back-door path:” closed by controlling for smoking

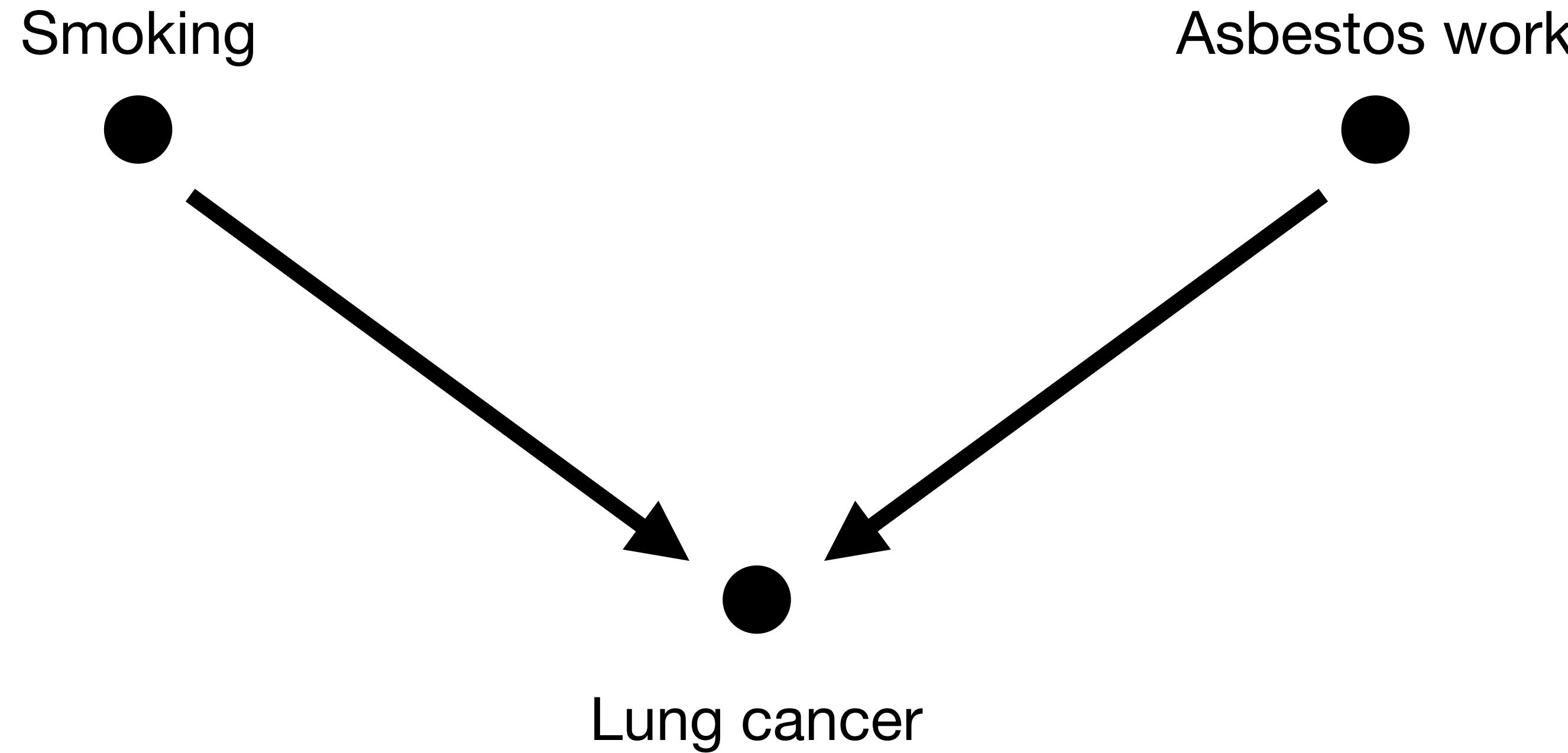
Basic structures

Collider: a closed path



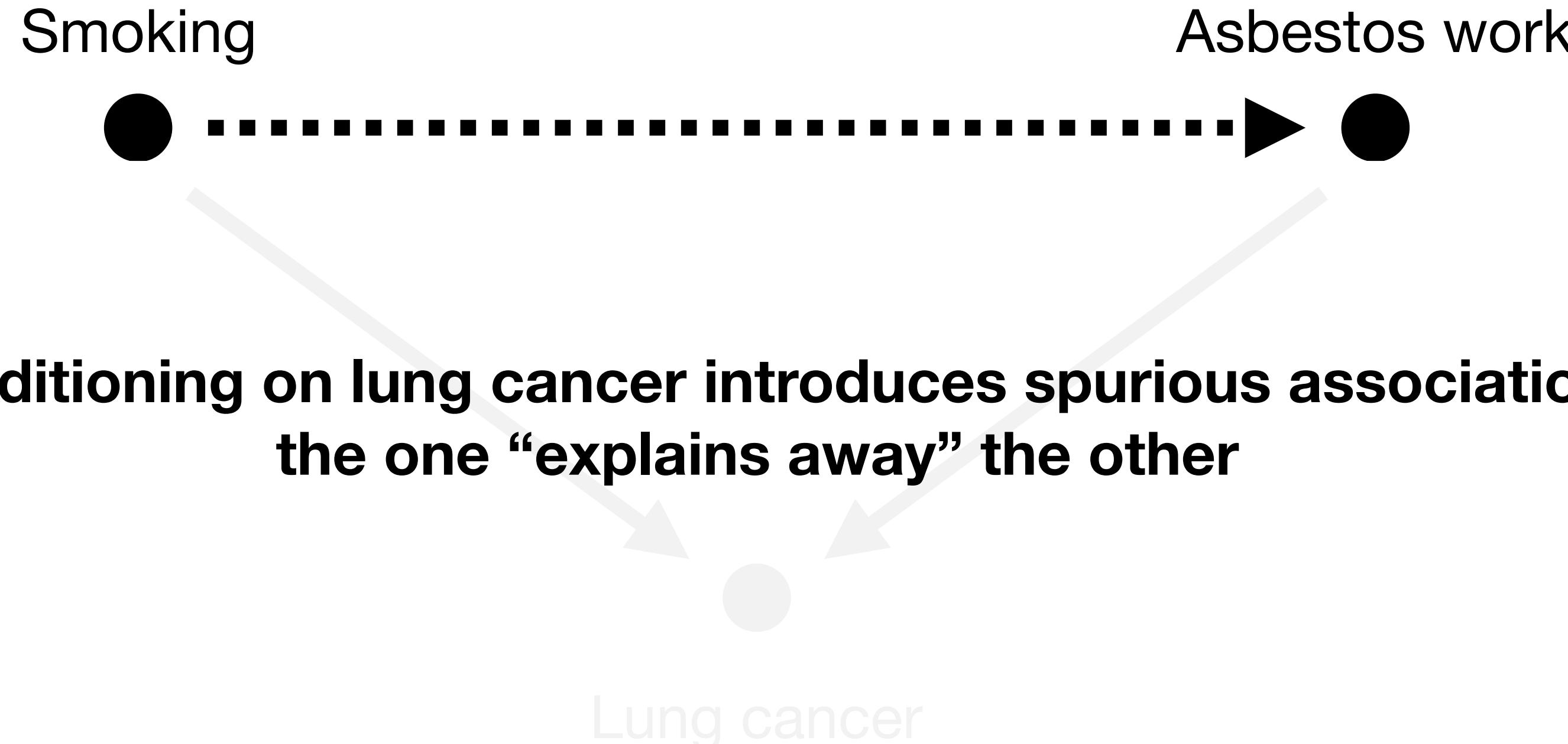
Basic structures

Collider: a closed path



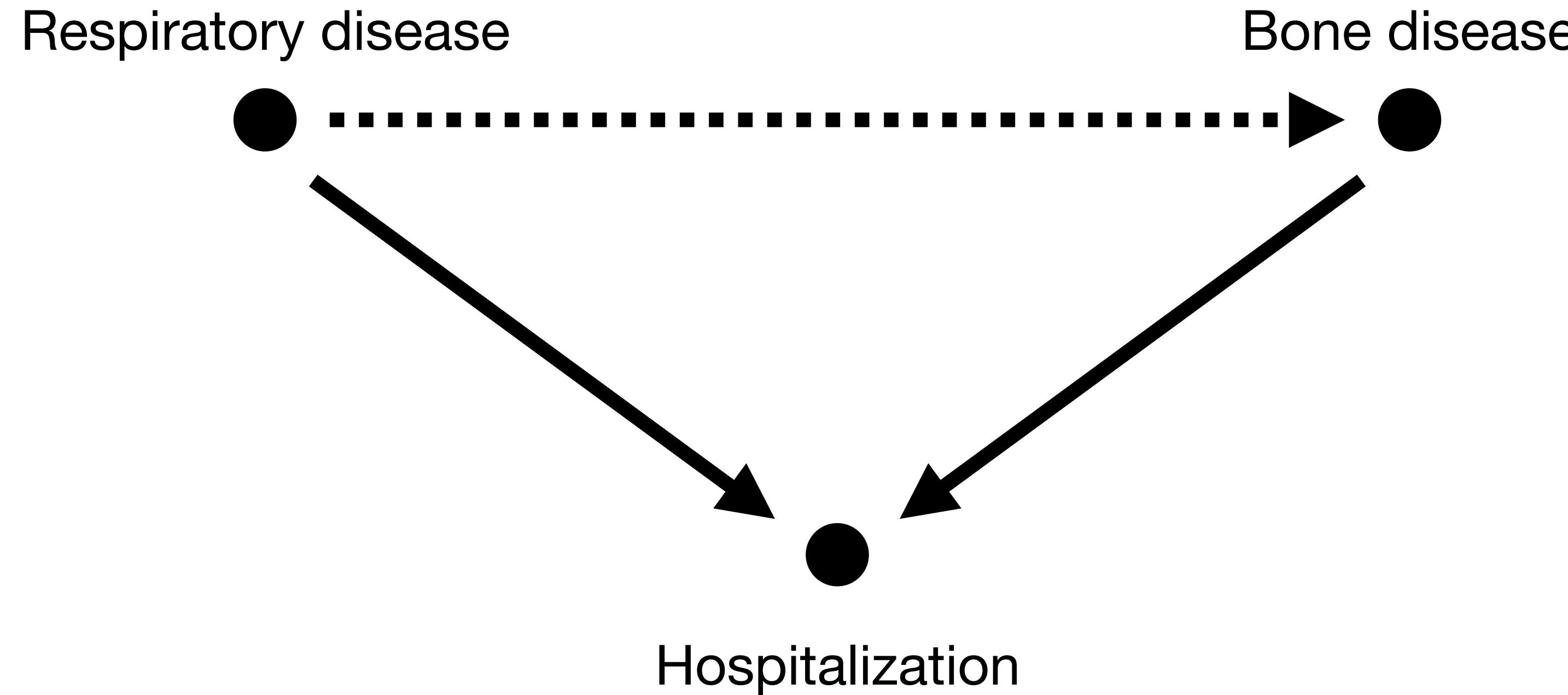
Basic structures

Collider: a closed path



Basic structures

Collider: a closed path





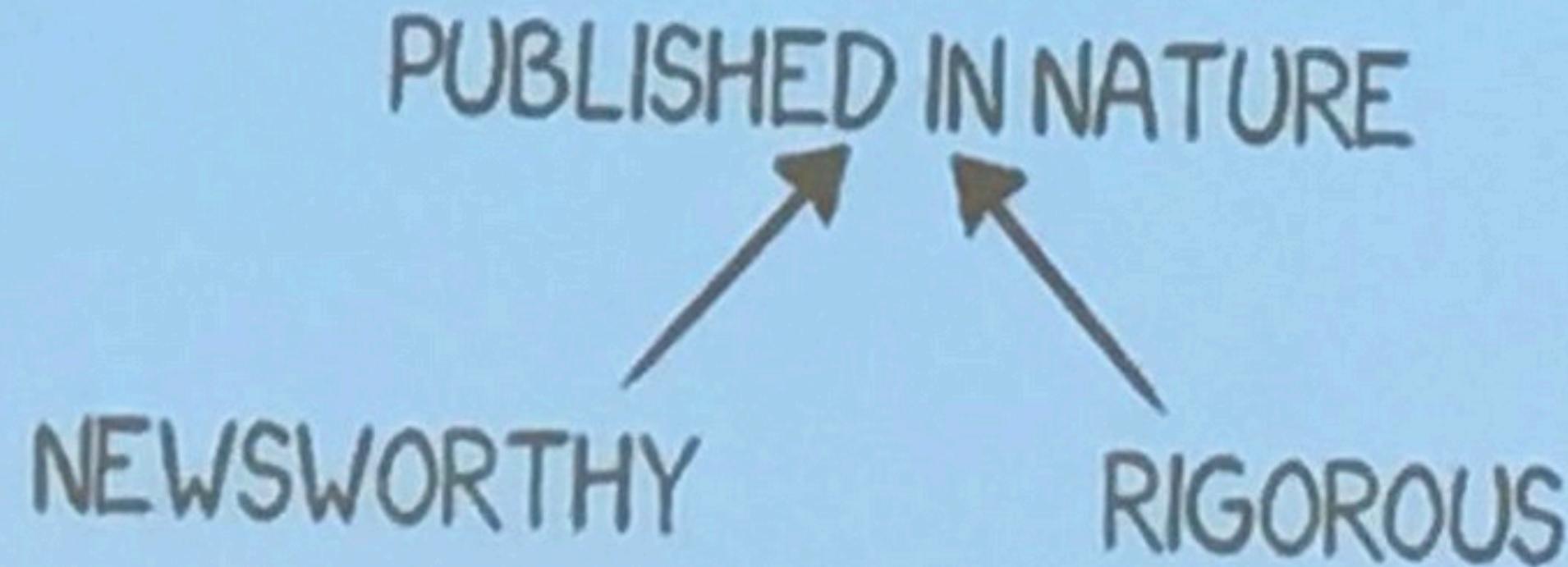
Richard McElreath

@rlmcelreath



The Collider: A Weekly Illustrated Journal of Science

3. The Collider



9:45 AM · Oct 29, 2019 · [Twitter Web App](#)

Mapmaking

- Draw causal graph using plausible/suspected causal relationships
- Can get complicated
- Use rules of “d-separation” to ascertain what to adjust for (ie. put the graph into a computer).



On Exactitude in Science

Jorge Luis Borges, *Collected Fictions*, translated by Andrew Hurley.

...In that Empire, the Art of Cartography attained such Perfection that the map of a single Province occupied the entirety of a City, and the map of the Empire, the entirety of a Province. In time, those Unconscionable Maps no longer satisfied, and the Cartographers Guilds struck a Map of the Empire whose size was that of the Empire, and which coincided point for point with it. The following Generations, who were not so fond of the Study of Cartography as their Forebears had been, saw that that vast Map was Useless, and not without some Pitilessness was it, that they delivered it up to the Inclemencies of Sun and Winters. In the Deserts of the West, still today, there are Tattered Ruins of that Map, inhabited by Animals and Beggars; in all the Land there is no other Relic of the Disciplines of Geography.

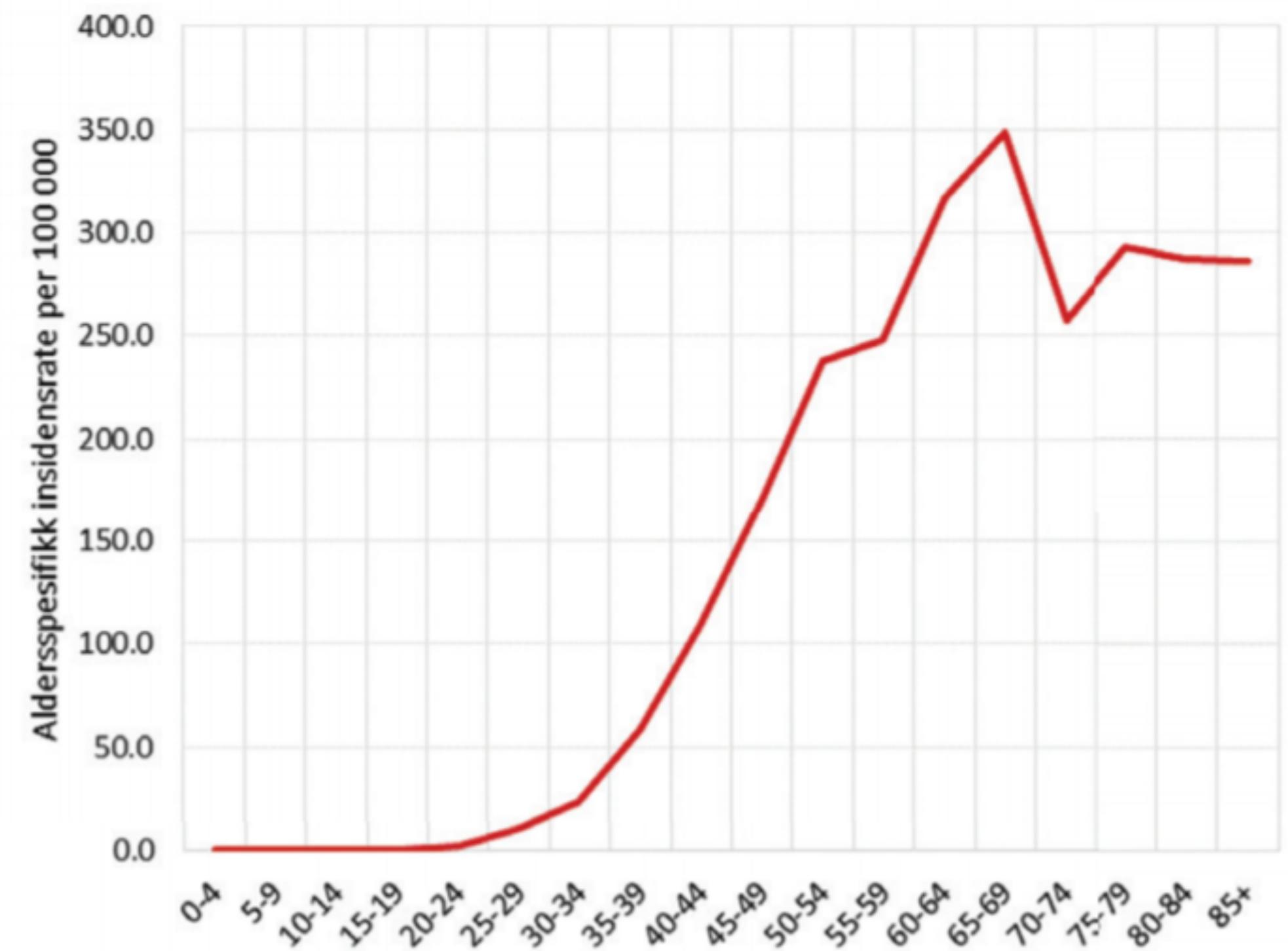
—Suarez Miranda, *Viajes de varones prudentes*, Libro IV, Cap. XLV, Lerida, 1658

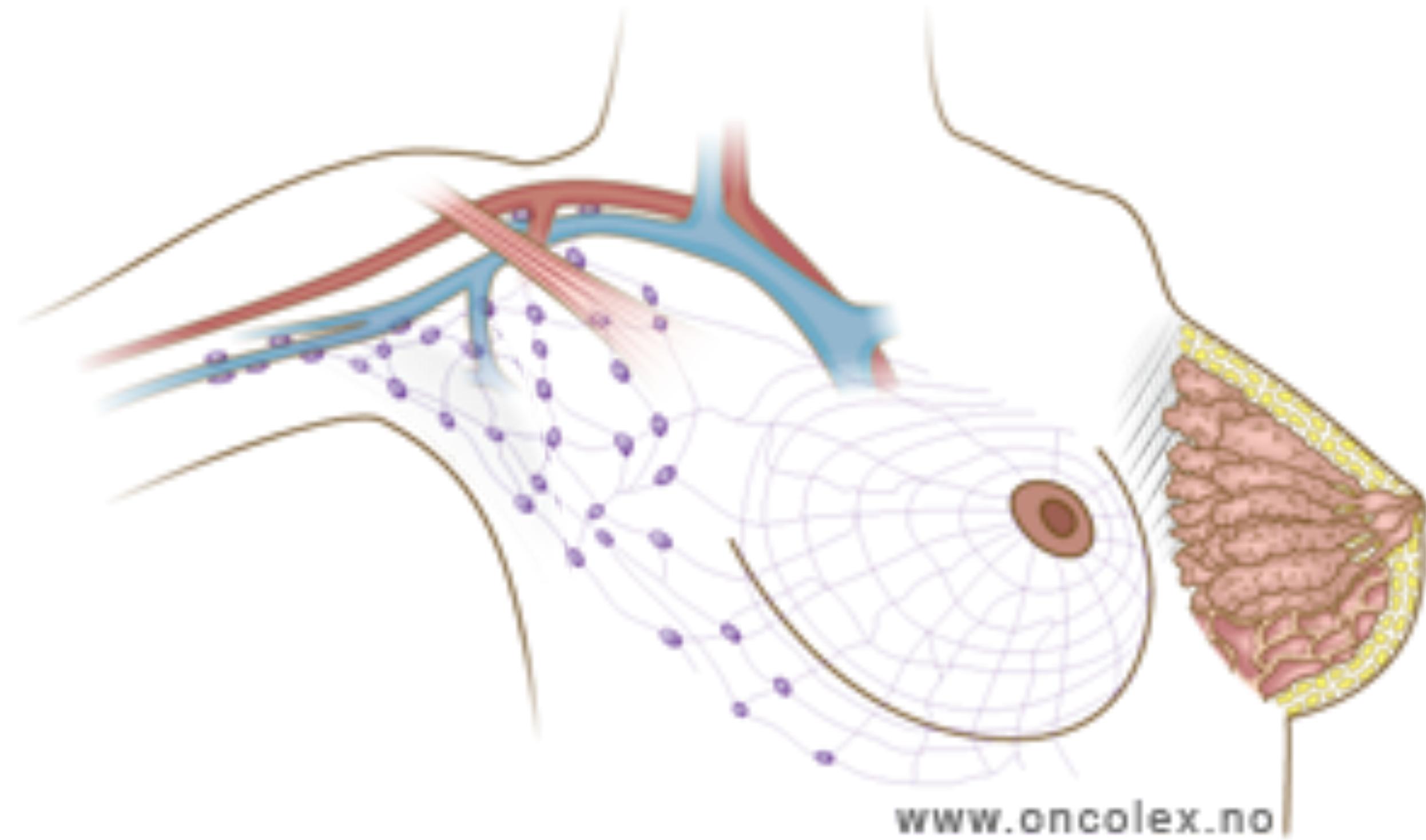
Nøkkeltall

| Nøkkeltall | |
|---|----------|
| Nye tilfeller i 2015 | 3 415 |
| Antall nye tilfeller per 100 000 i 2015 | 128.0 |
| Høyest insidens i aldersgruppen | 65–69 år |
| Akkumulert risiko fram til 75 års alder | 8.5 % |
| Fem-års relativ overlevelse 2011–15 | 89.0 % |

Brystkreft

Insidensrater i ulike aldersgrupper





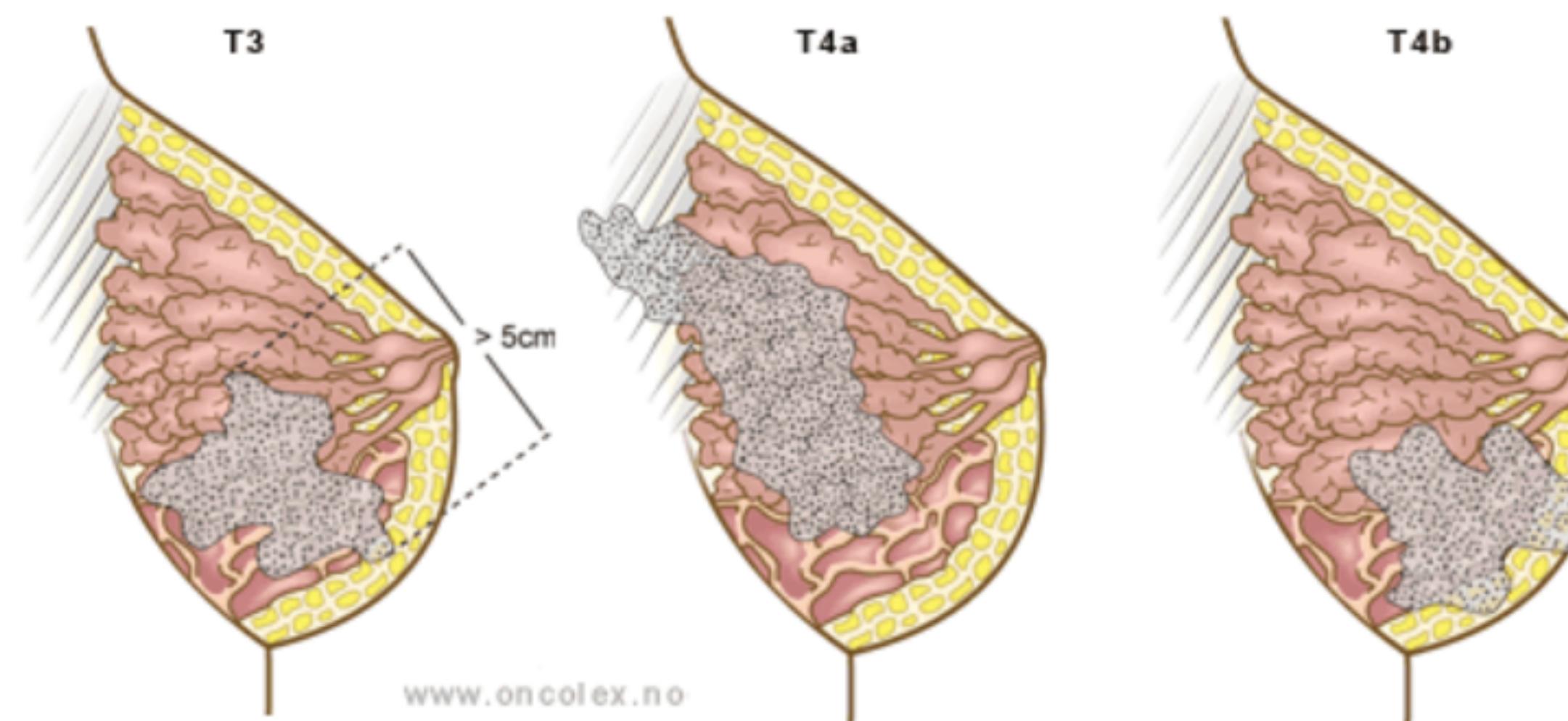
Classification and staging

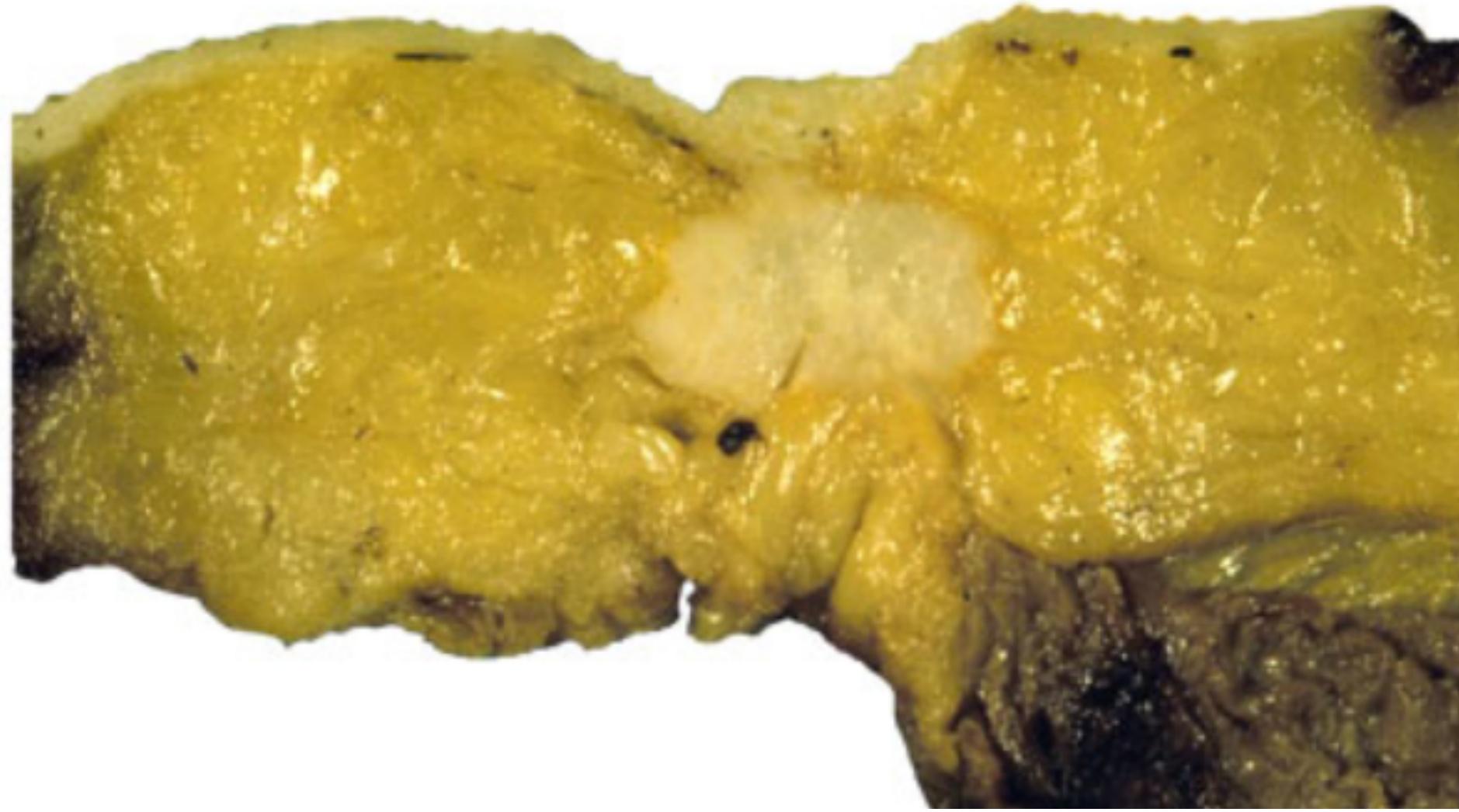
T - Tumor size and placement

N - Cancer cells in adjacent lymph node

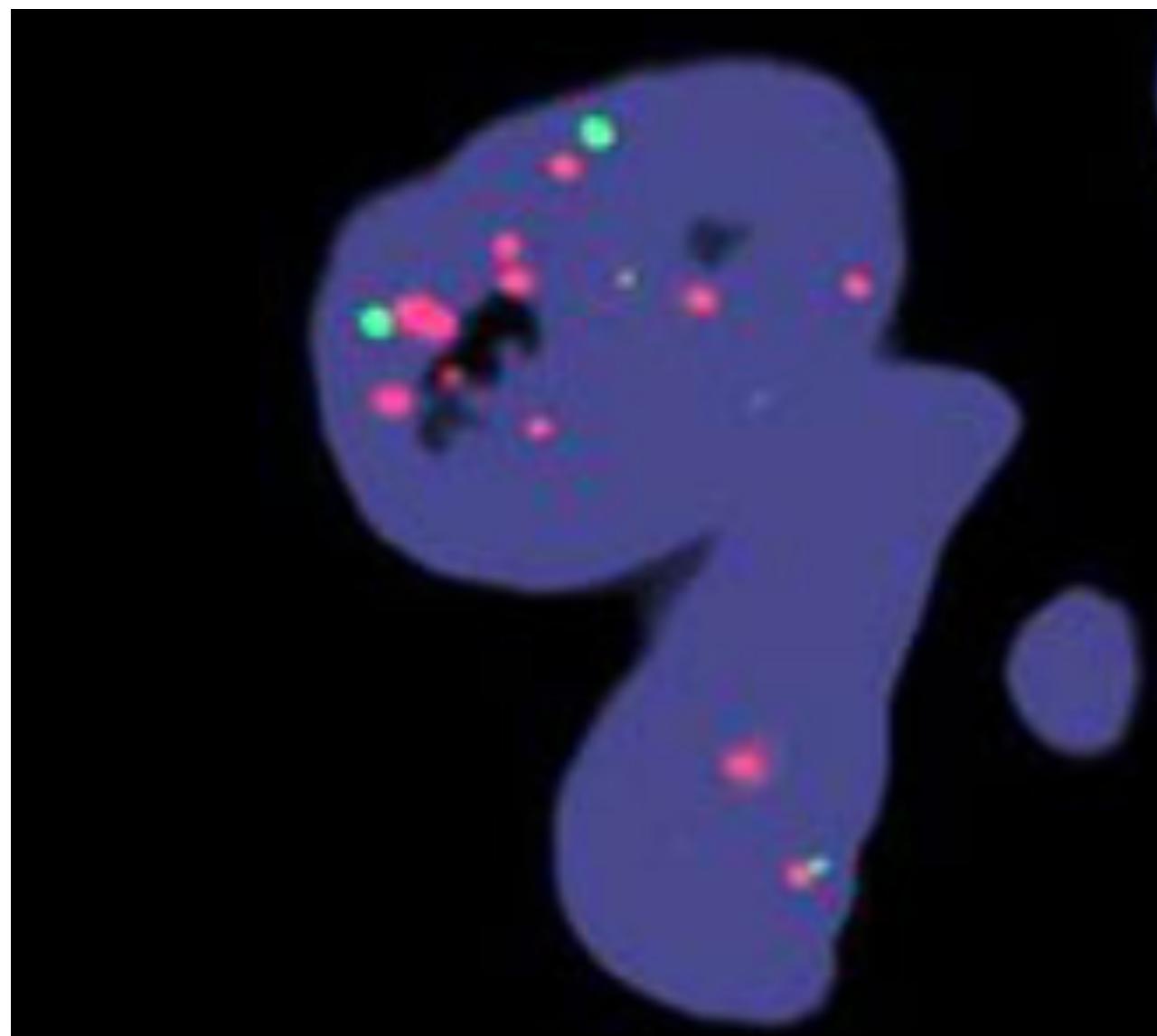
M - Distant metastases

TNM dictates stage, I-IV





Tumor (3-4 cm) and fatty tissue



FISH analysis to determine Her2

Presence of certain proteins...

ER – estrogen receptor

PR – progesterone receptor

Her2 – Human epidermal growth factor receptor 2

... dictate subgroups:

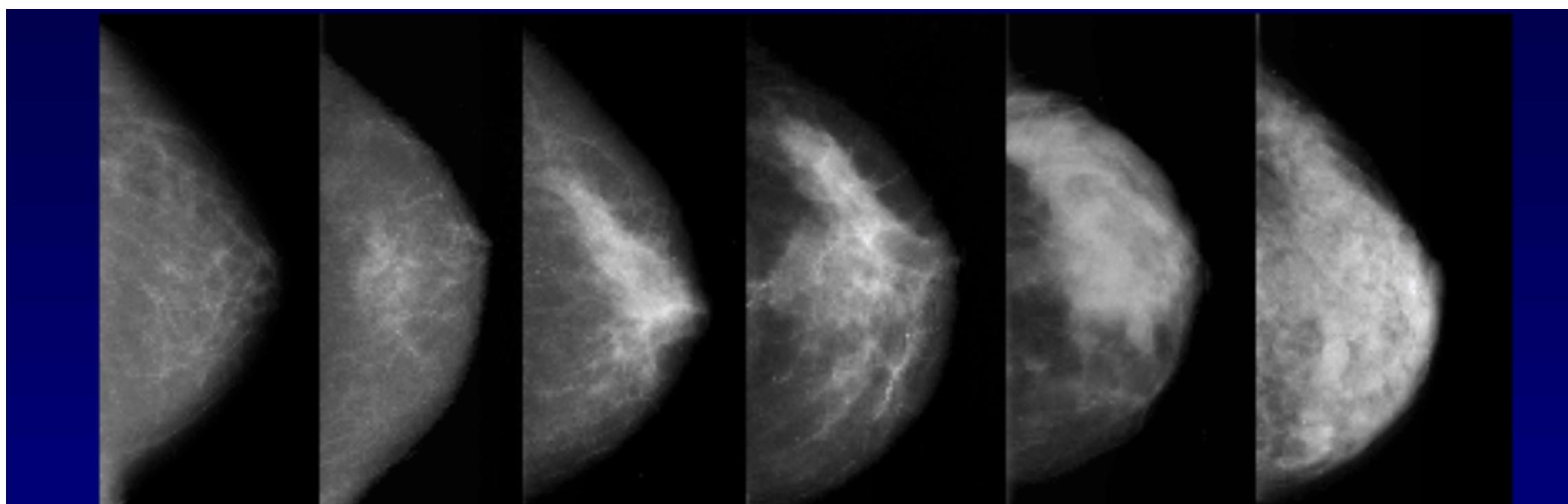
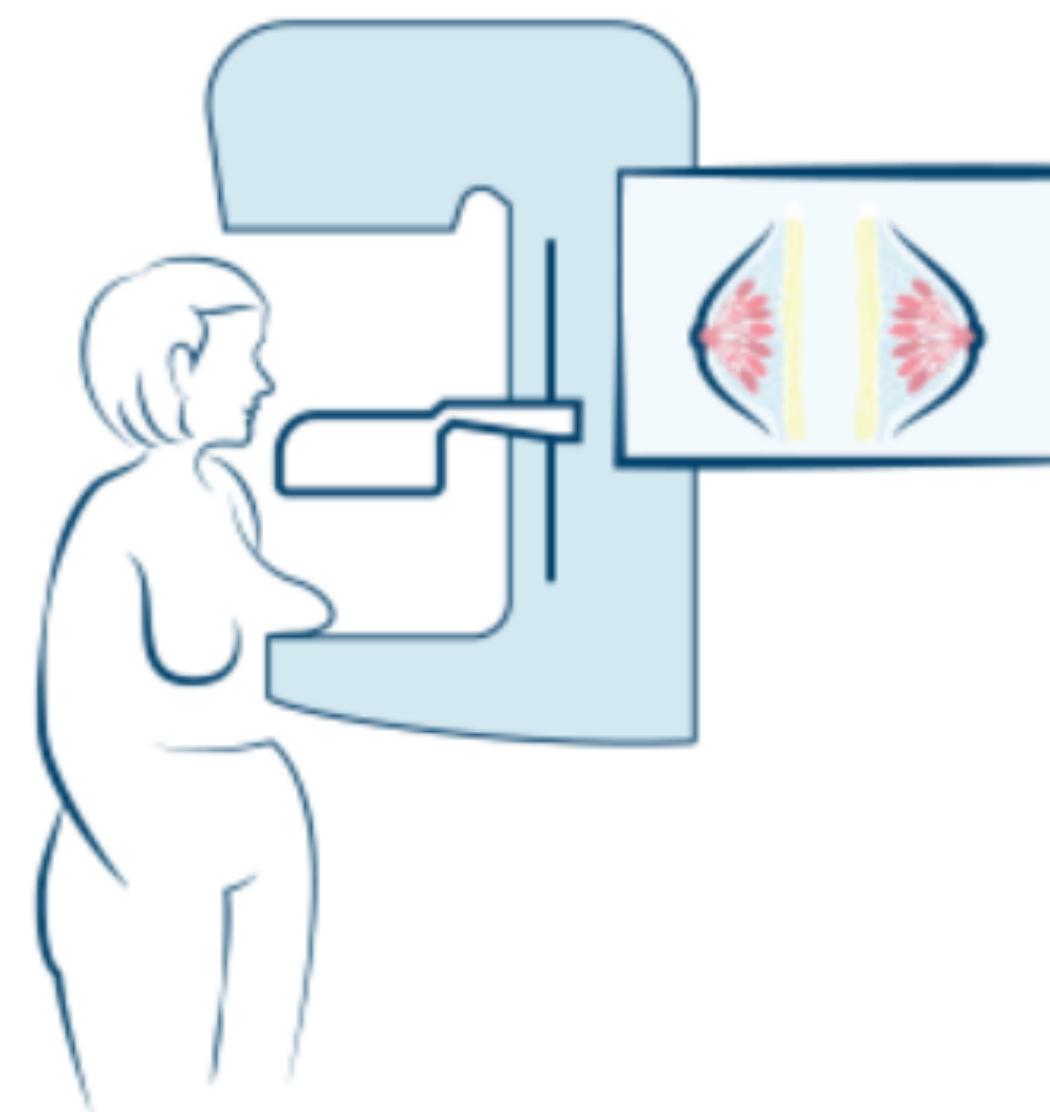
Luminal A

Luminal B

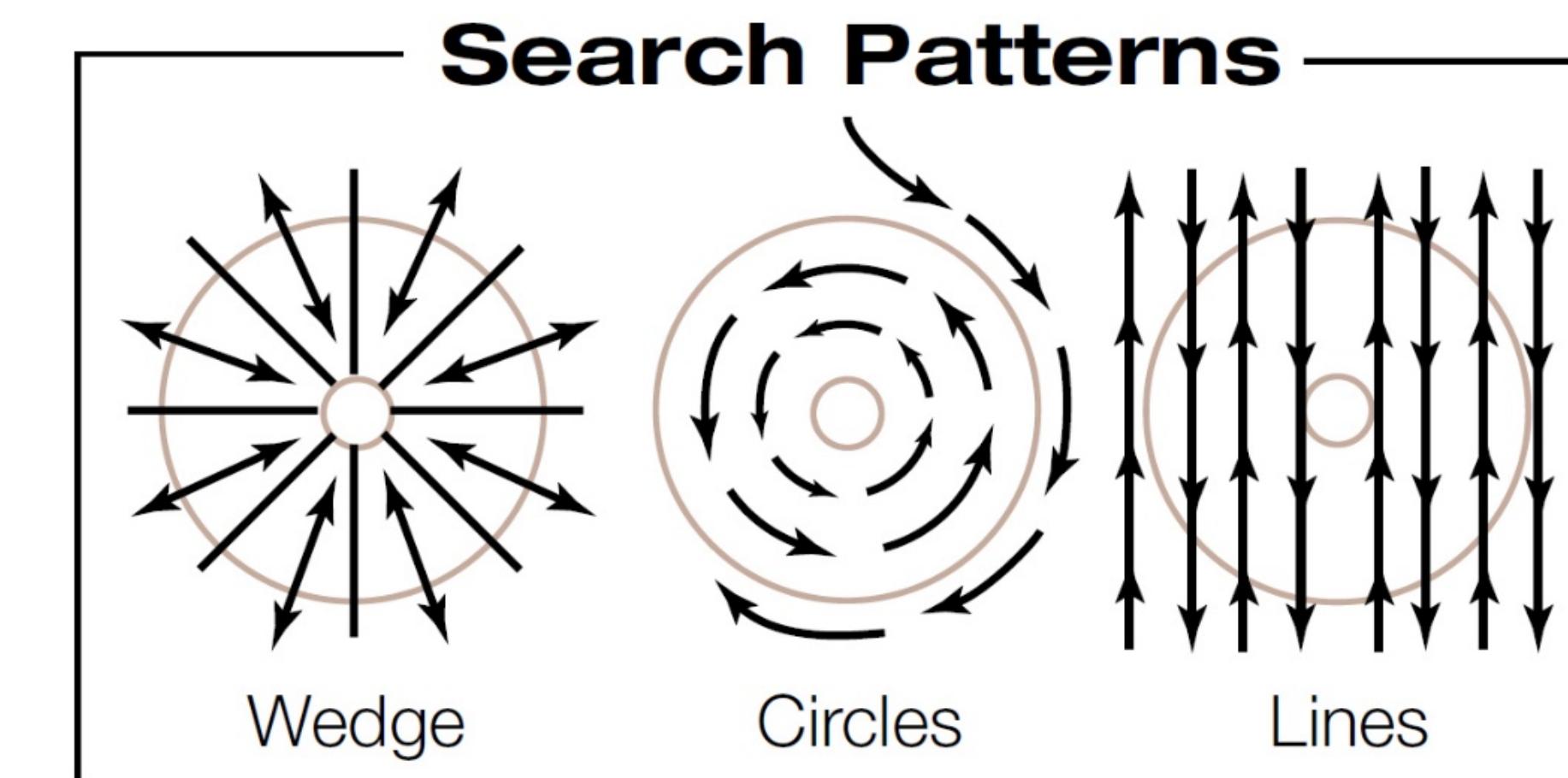
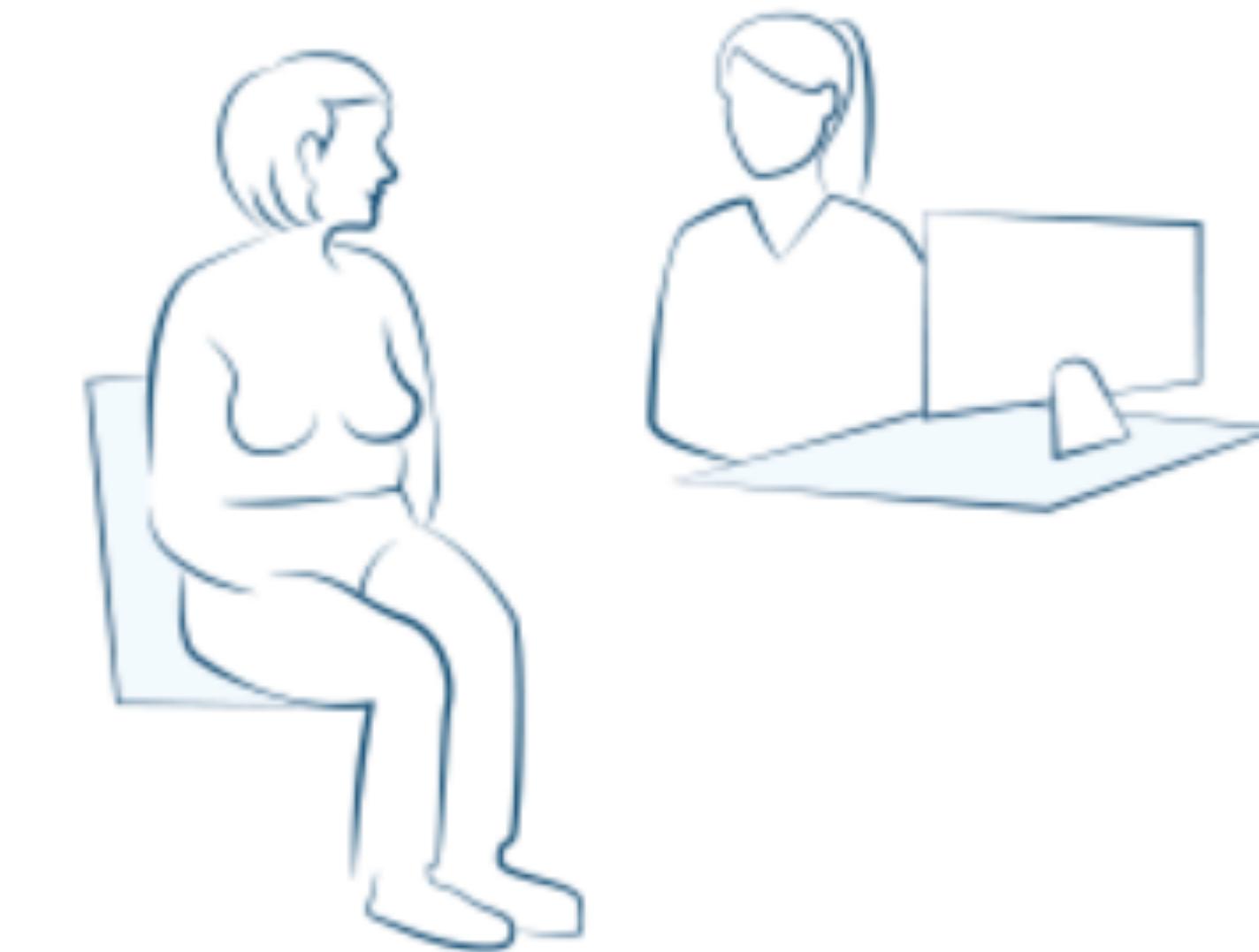
Her2 positive

Triple negative

Mammography screening



Clinically detected



Risk factors:

Sex, age

Hereditability: BRCA genes, others

Hormone load, endo- and exogenous

Overweight/obesity

Height

Alcohol use

Smoking

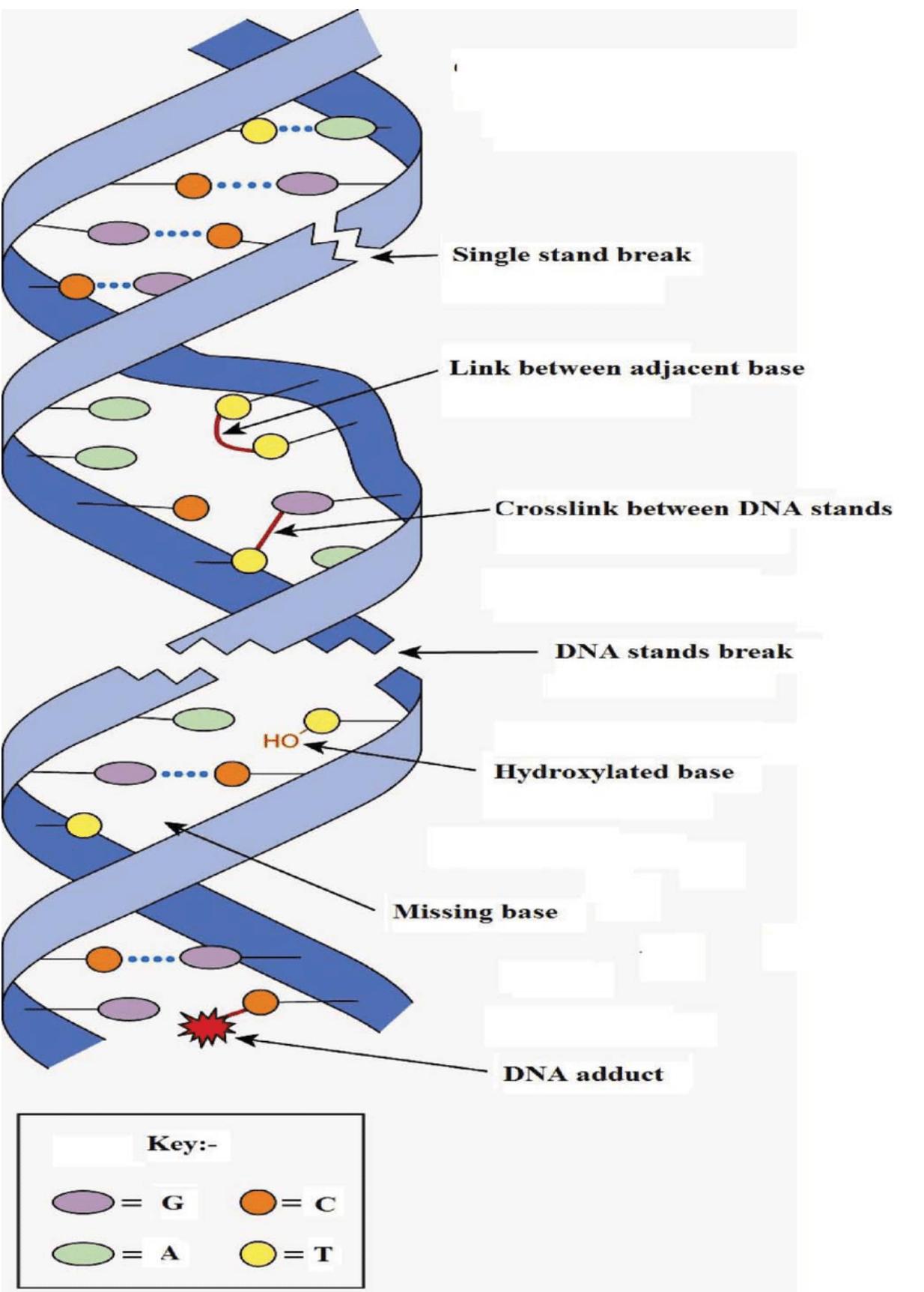
Protective factors:

Pregnancies: early and many

Breast feeding

Asian origin

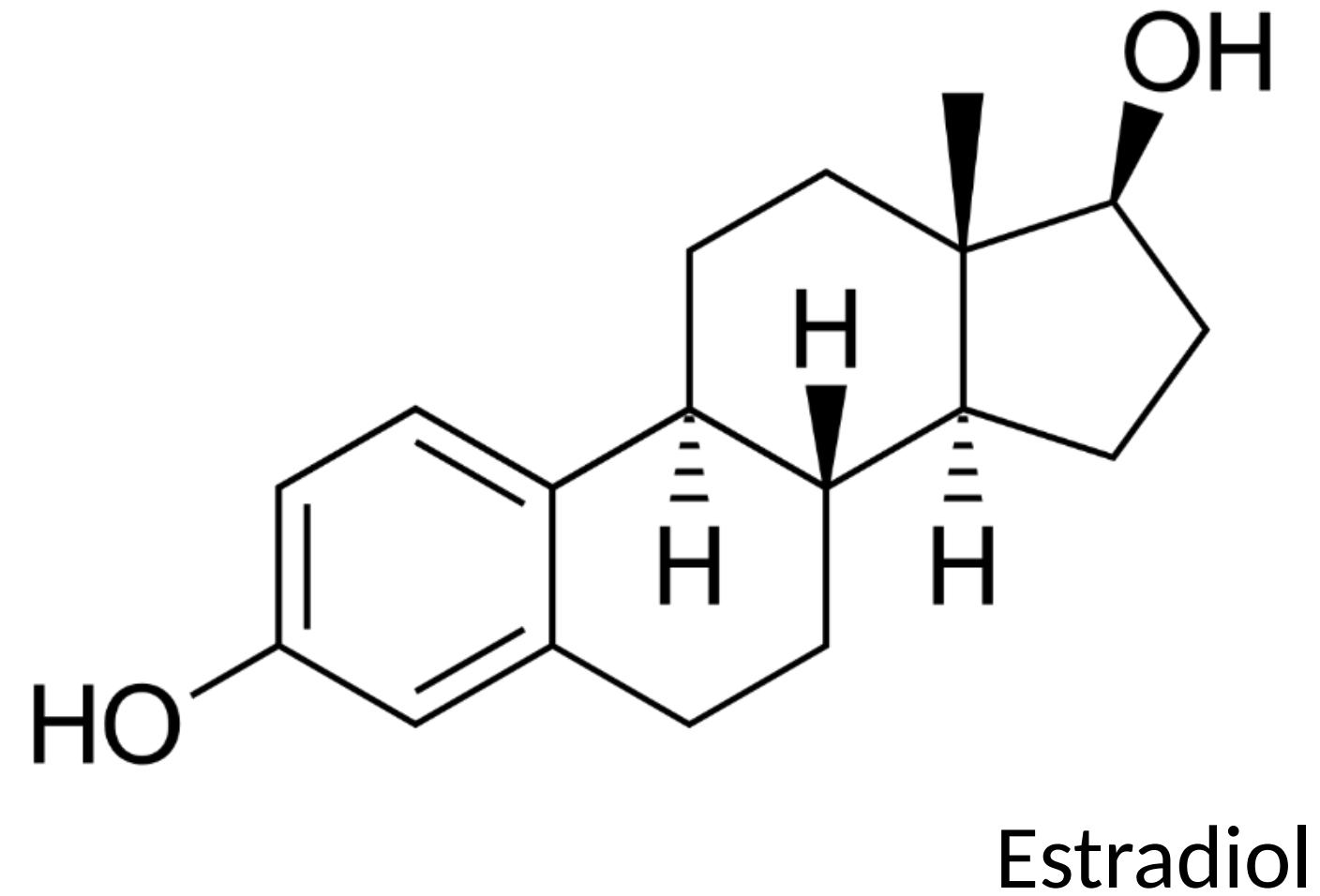
Physical activity



DNA damage ->

Uncontrolled cell proliferation ->

Cancer



Hormones act as mitogens ->

Increased cell proliferation ->

Cancer

Risk factors:

Sex, age

Hereditability: BRCA genes, others

Hormone load, endo- and exogenous

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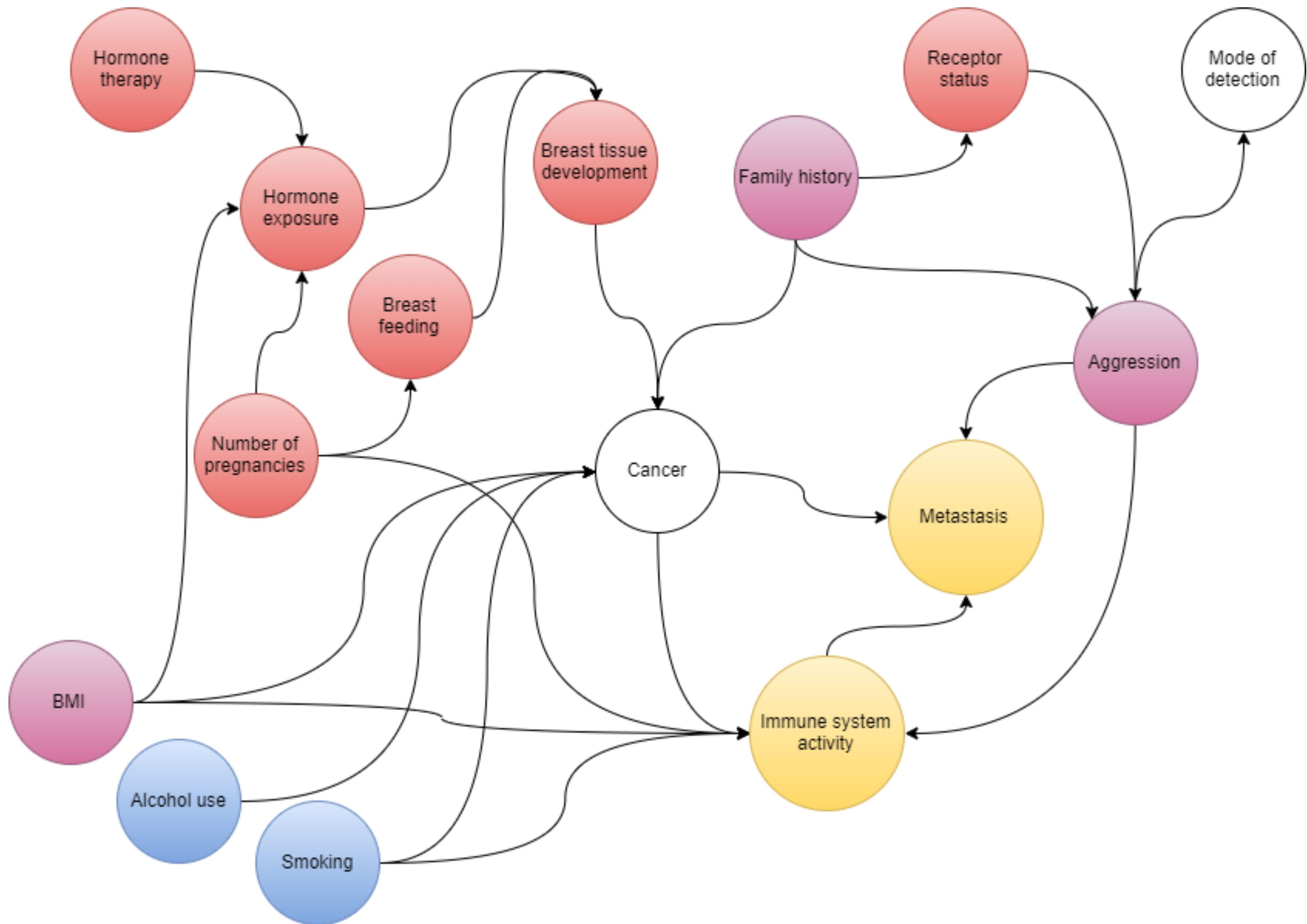


Table 1 Descriptive characteristics of breast cancer cases and healthy controls

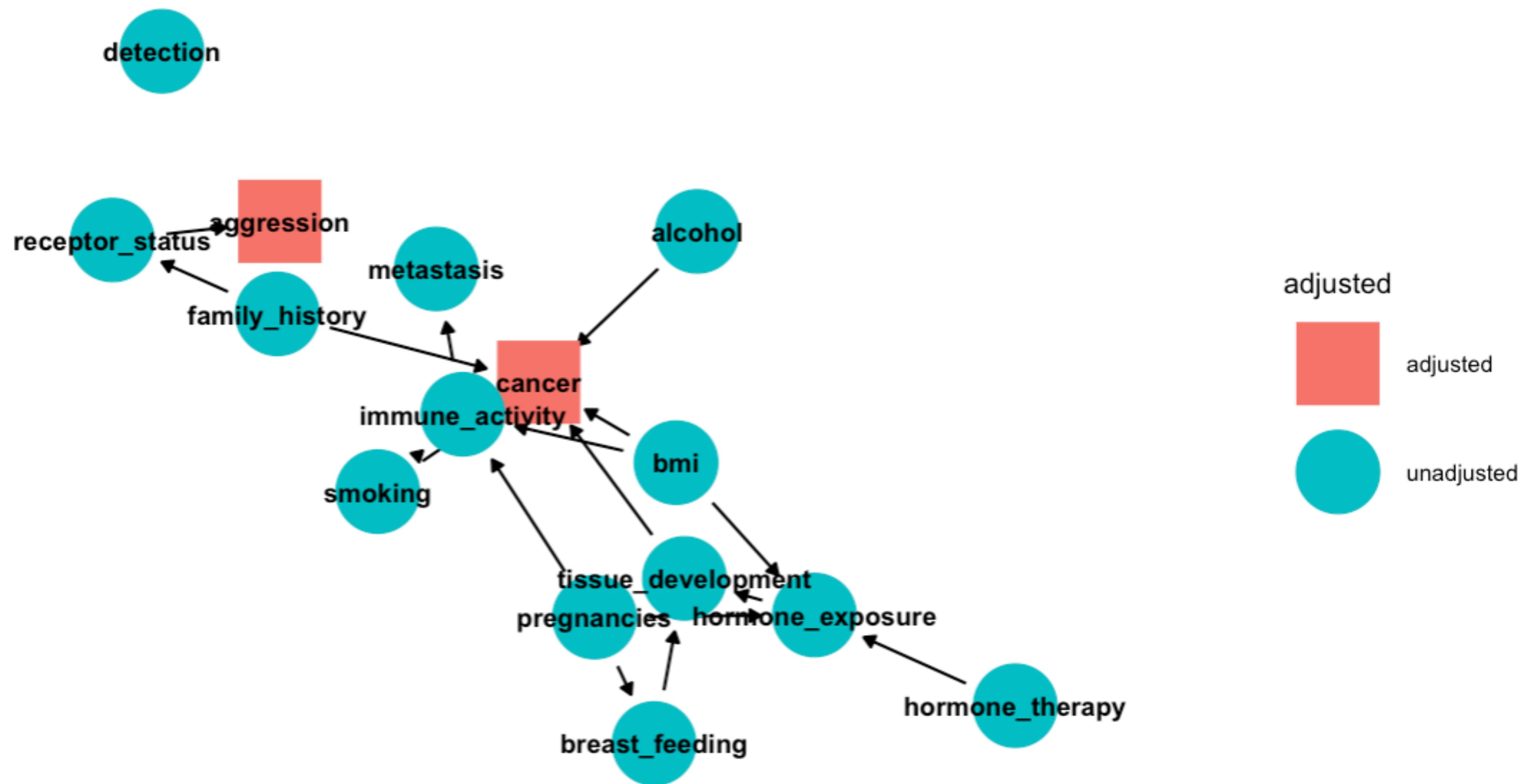
| | Controls | Breast cancer, non-metastasized | Breast cancer, metastasized |
|---------|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| n | 156 | 115 | 41 |
| Age | 56.1 | 56.0 | 56.2 |
| BMI | 25.5 | 25.5 | 26.1 |
| Smoking | 37 (24%) | 26 (23%) | 10 (24%) |
| HT use | 29 (19%) | 41 (36%) | 12 (29%) |
| Parity | 1.9 | 1.8 | 1.8 |

Table 2 Characteristics of the breast cancer cases

| | Non-metastasized | Metastasized |
|-----------------|------------------|--------------|
| Follow-up time | 318 | 375 |
| Detection mode | | |
| Screening | 91 (79%) | 20 (49%) |
| Interval | 24 (21%) | 21 (51%) |
| Subtypes | | |
| Luminal A | 59 (51%) | 26 (63%) |
| Luminal B | 9 (8%) | 4 (10%) |
| Triple negative | 2 (2%) | 3 (7%) |
| HER2 positive | 0 | 3 (7%) |
| Unknown | 45 (39%) | 5 (13%) |

```
library(ggdag)
theme_set(theme_dag())
metastasis_dag <- dagify(
  cancer ~ smoking + alcohol + bmi + tissue_development + family_history,
  metastasis ~ cancer + aggression + immune_activity,
  detection ~ aggression,
  tissue_development ~ breast_feeding + hormone_exposure,
  hormone_exposure ~ pregnancies + bmi + hormone_therapy,
  breast_feeding ~ pregnancies,
  immune_activity ~ pregnancies + cancer + bmi + smoking + aggression,
  aggression ~ family_history + receptor_status,
  receptor_status ~ family_history,
  exposure = "immune_activity",
  outcome ="metastasis"
)
ggdag_adjustment_set(metastasis_dag, text_col = "black")
```

{aggression, cancer}



Thanks!