



Breast Cancer Factsheet: Insights & Key Developments

Key Insights on Breast Cancer Care
and Infrastructure

Core Pillars:

1. Infrastructure
2. Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns
3. Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care
4. Utilization of Biomarkers
5. Clinical Guidelines
6. Reimbursement
7. Breast Cancer Screening

Breast cancer remains one of the most prevalent cancers worldwide, affecting millions of individuals each year. Despite advancements in diagnostics, treatment, and awareness, disparities in access to care, molecular testing, and specialized centers persist.

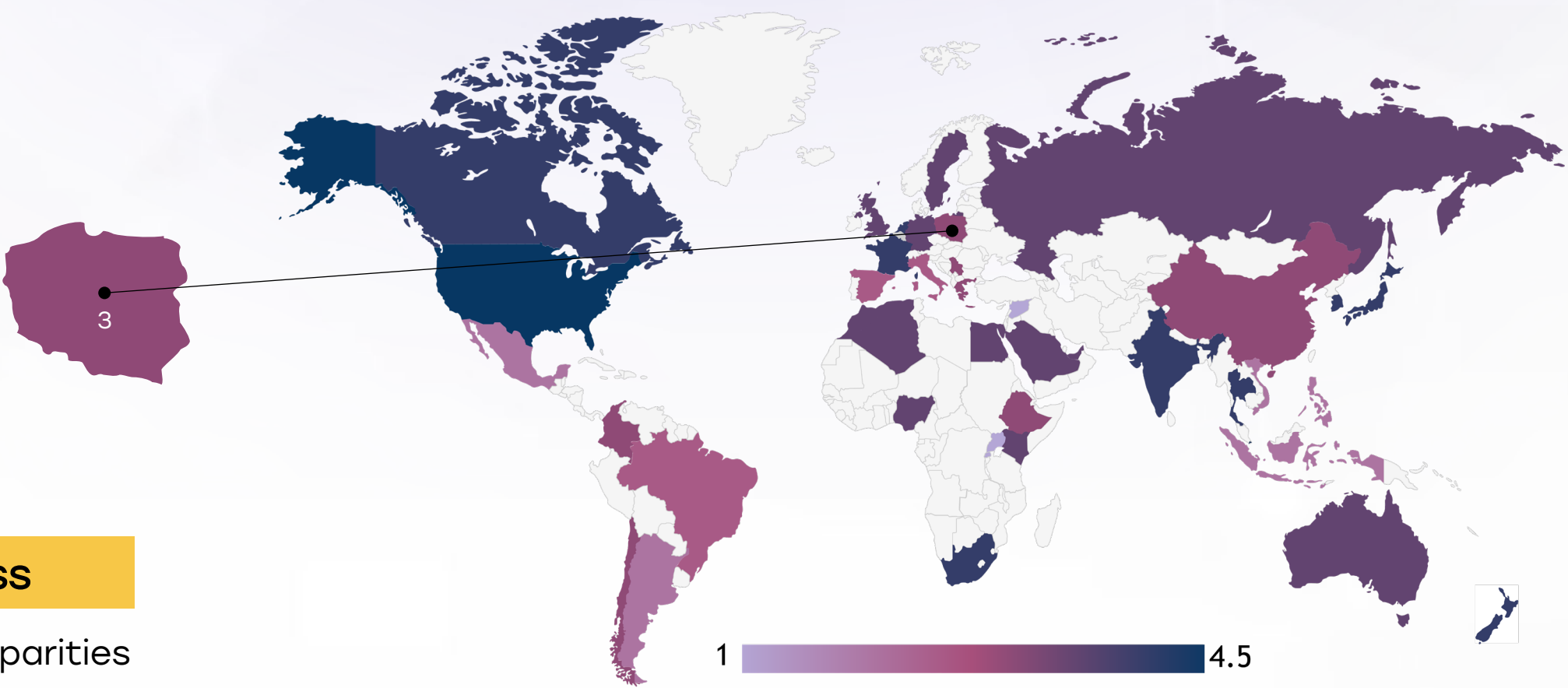
This factsheet provides a comprehensive overview of key pillars shaping breast cancer care, including specialized infrastructure, treatment accessibility, research funding, early detection, and palliative care.

- Annual Diagnoses: Approximately 24,000 new cases per year.
- Incidence Rate: 119.1 per 100,000 women.
- Annual Mortality: Around 7,967 deaths per year.
- Mortality Rate: 18.79 per 100,000 population.
- 5-Year Survival Rate: 80.4% for women, 68.67% for men.
- 10-Year Survival Rate: 68.75% for women, 49.5% for men.
- Years of Life Lost (YLLs): Breast cancer contributed to approximately 1.59 million years of life lost.
- Survival Trends: 5-year survival has improved by over 7 percentage points in the last two decades.

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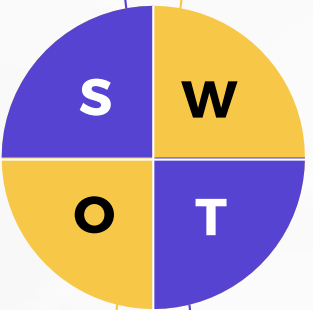


Infrastructure



Strengths

- Network of specialized oncology centers with molecular diagnostics in major cities like Warsaw, Kraków, and Gdańsk.
- The Maria Skłodowska-Curie National Research Institute of Oncology is a national leader in precision medicine and cancer research.



Weakness

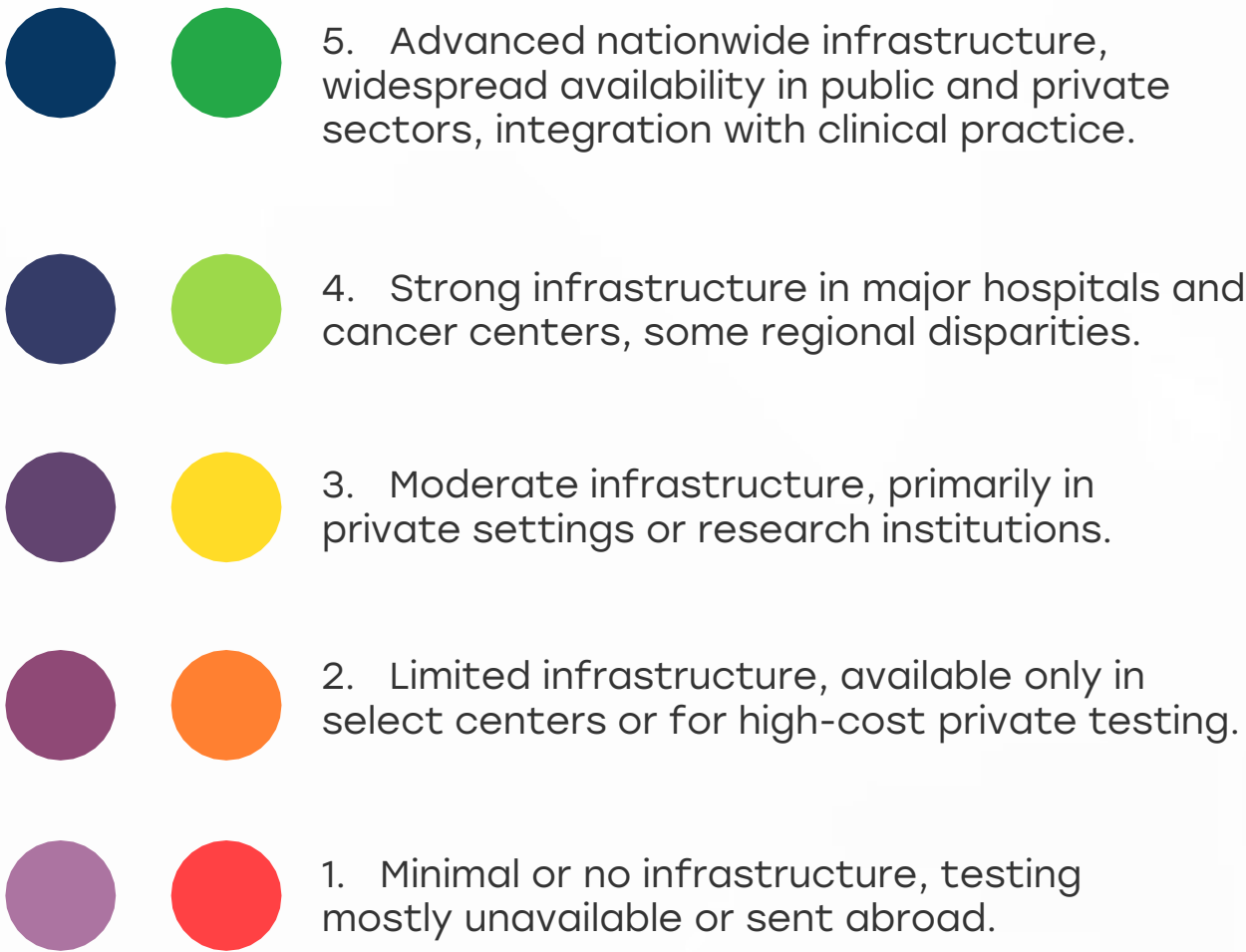
- Significant disparities in access to infrastructure between urban and rural areas.
- Limited availability of molecular testing and diagnostic equipment in regional hospitals.

Opportunity

- Expand NGS-equipped laboratories under the National Oncology Strategy (2020–2030).
- Strengthen rural diagnostic capacity through telepathology and regional partnerships.

Threats

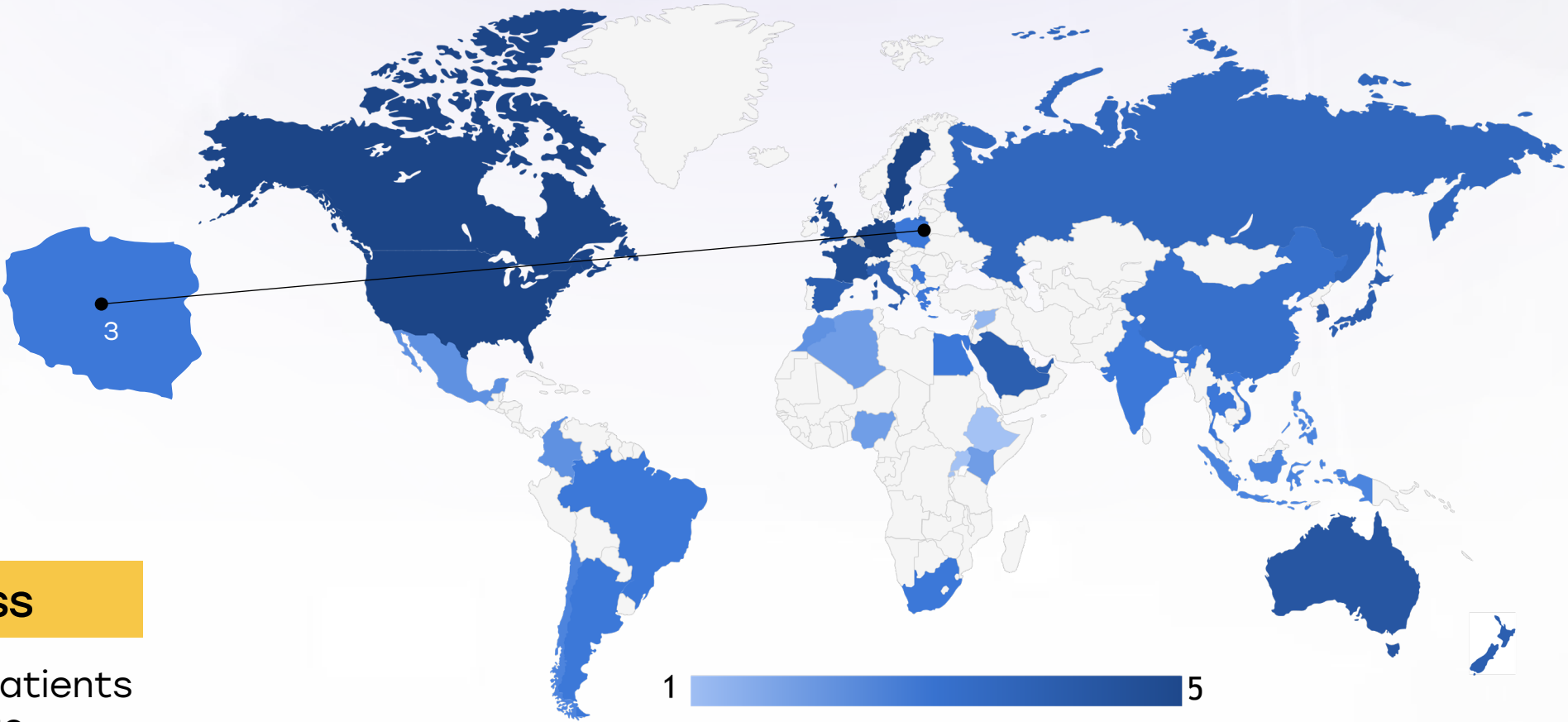
- Uneven infrastructure could delay nationwide rollout of precision oncology.
- Geographic inequalities risk excluding rural populations from advanced care options.



Country	Specialized Centers	Genetic & Molecular Testing Infrastructure
South Africa	<div></div>	<div></div>
Kenya	<div></div>	<div></div>
Nigeria	<div></div>	<div></div>
Egypt	<div></div>	<div></div>
Morocco	<div></div>	<div></div>
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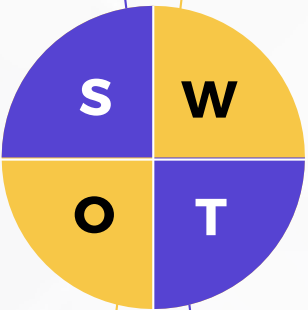
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Treatment Access, Research Funding and Awareness Campaigns



Strengths

- Over 20 Comprehensive Cancer Centers and 50+ oncology units ensure broad treatment access.
- PLN 5 billion committed under the National Oncology Strategy to research, screening, and innovation.



Weakness

- Only 30% of patients have access to precision medicine or clinical trials.
- Rural areas face longer wait times and limited availability of advanced therapies.

Opportunity

- Increase public education and outreach through programs like “Planuję Długie Życie.”
- Improve access to clinical trials for HER2-positive patients via decentralized trial models.

Threats

- Regional disparities and out-of-pocket costs could undermine equitable treatment access.
- Underfunding of translational research may slow HER2-specific innovation.



5. Strong healthcare infrastructure with comprehensive treatment access, high research funding, and nationwide awareness campaigns. Patients have access to advanced therapies, clinical trials, and widespread early detection programs.



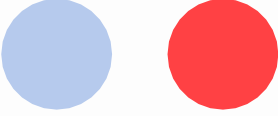
4. Well-developed system with good treatment availability, strong research funding, and effective but regionally focused awareness campaigns. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or between public and private sectors.



3. Moderate development, with specialized treatments available in major hospitals, research funding concentrated on specific cancers, and occasional but limited awareness efforts. Healthcare access may be restricted by cost or geography.



2. Limited system where cancer treatment is available only in select urban centers, research funding is minimal or sporadic, and awareness campaigns are rare or underfunded. Patients often face long wait times or financial barriers.

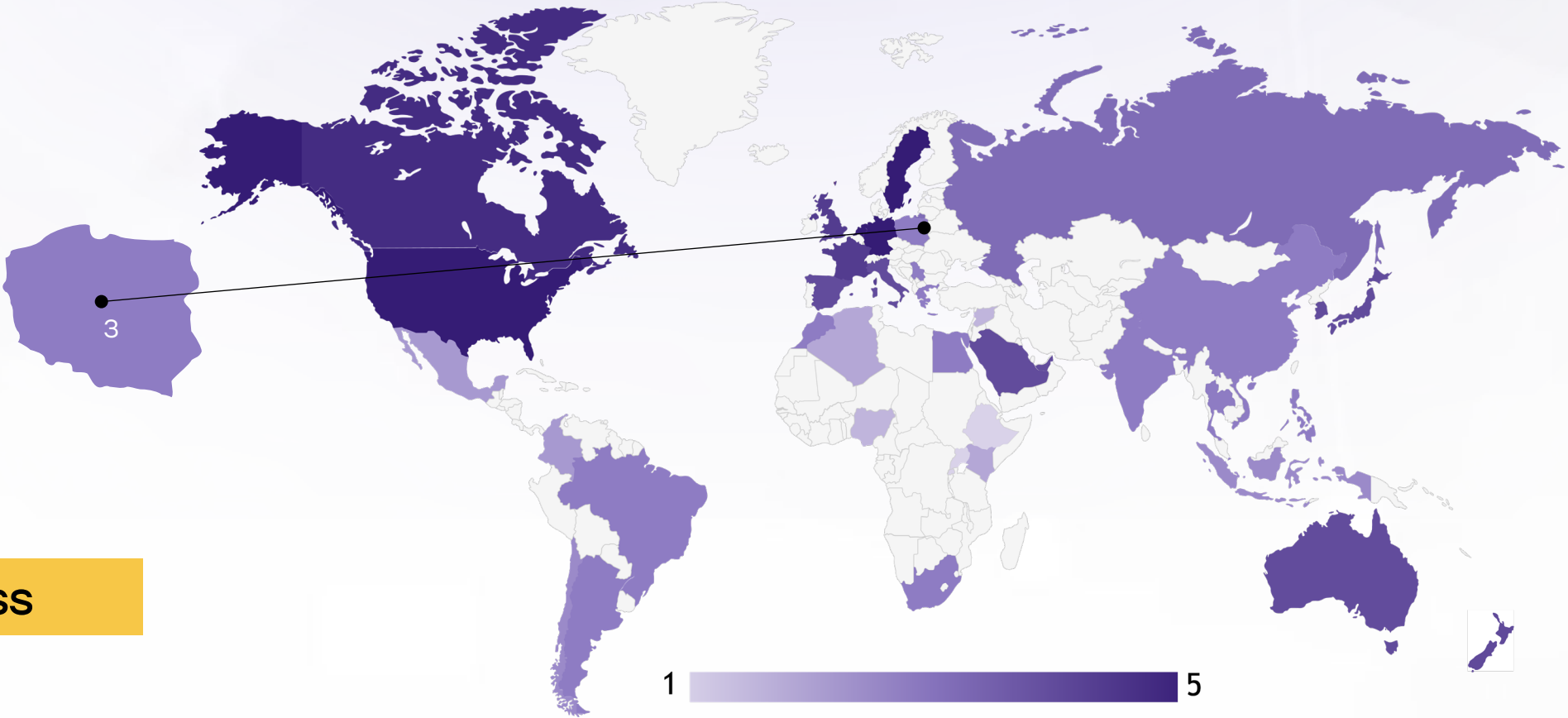


1. Poor infrastructure with severe barriers to treatment, little to no research funding, and lack of structured awareness campaigns. Cancer care is largely inaccessible, with many patients relying on out-of-pocket expenses or external aid.

Country	Treatment Access	Research Funding	Awareness Campaigns
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
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Netherlands			
Sweden			
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Poland			
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Indonesia			
Vietnam			
Philippines			
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Survival Rates, Early Detection and Palliative Care



Strengths

- 5-year breast cancer survival has improved to ~76%, with gains driven by early detection.
- Over 80 palliative care units and 350 hospices provide structured end-of-life care.

Weakness

- Screening participation remains below the EU average; only ~50% uptake.
- Rural areas lack timely access to palliative services and diagnostic follow-up.

Opportunity

- Expand home-based care models and telehealth palliative services.
- Strengthen awareness campaigns in underserved communities to boost early detection.

Threats

- Capacity constraints and workforce shortages may limit palliative care scale-up.
- Low awareness in some regions contributes to late-stage presentation and poorer outcomes.



5. High survival rates, strong early detection programs, and well-established palliative care services. Patients have access to timely diagnosis, advanced treatments, and comprehensive end-of-life care.



4. Good survival rates, effective early detection efforts, and accessible but regionally limited palliative care. Some disparities may exist in rural areas or for specific cancer types.



3. Moderate survival rates, early detection available but not widespread, and palliative care services mainly in urban centers. Some patients experience delays in diagnosis or limited end-of-life care.



2. Low survival rates, early detection efforts are inconsistent or underfunded, and palliative care is minimal or only available in select hospitals. Cancer patients face significant access barriers.



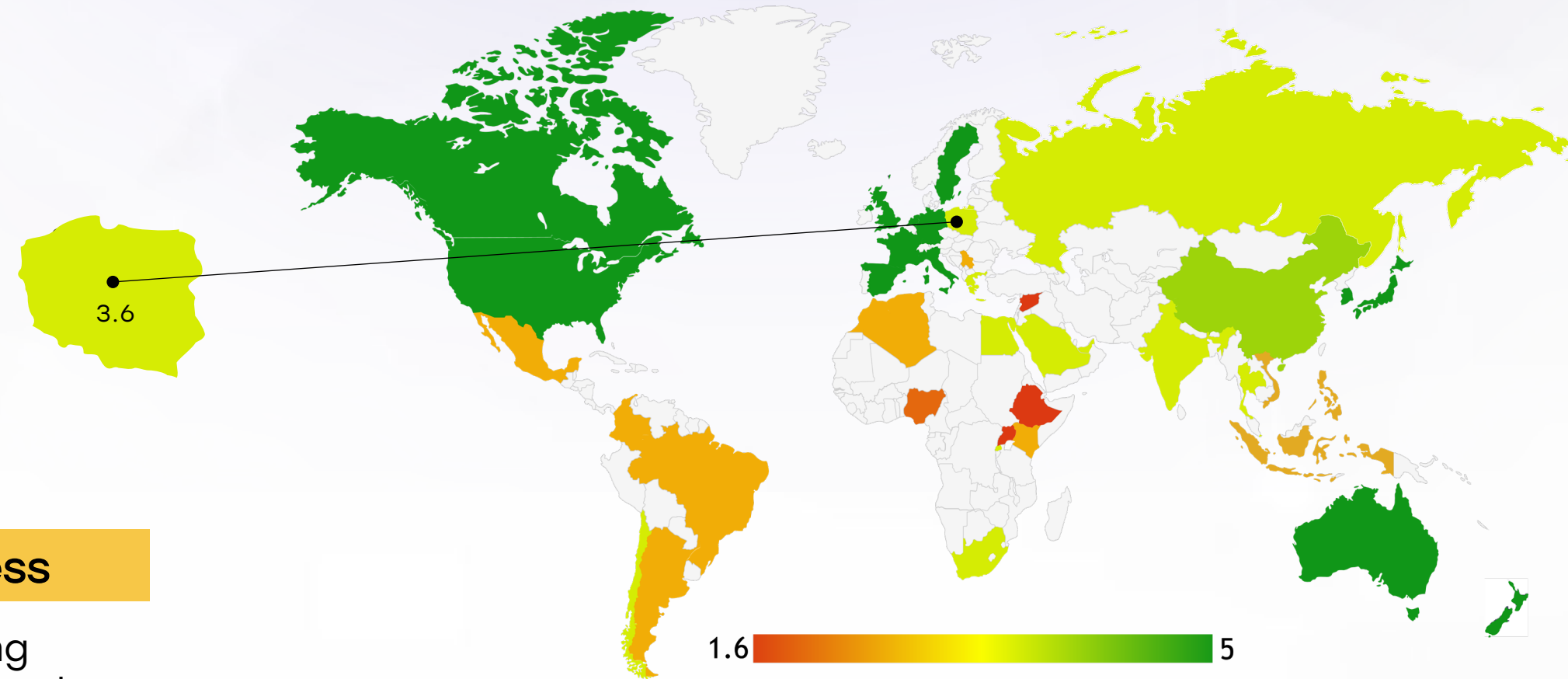
1. Very low survival rates, poor early detection infrastructure, and almost no palliative care services. Many patients are diagnosed late and lack proper support for pain management and end-of-life care.

Country	Survival Rates	Early Detection	Palliative Care
South Africa			
Kenya			
Nigeria			
Egypt			
Morocco			
Algeria			
Ethiopia			
India			
Japan			
South Korea			
China			
Thailand			
Singapore			
United Kingdom			
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Utilization of Biomarkers



Strengths

- HER2, ER, and PR testing performed in >85% of breast cancer cases in major centers.
- National efforts underway to expand access to NGS and liquid biopsy platforms.

Opportunity

- Scale up reimbursement for BRCA and NGS testing under the 2020–2030 Oncology Strategy.
- Increase standardization and quality control across pathology labs nationwide.

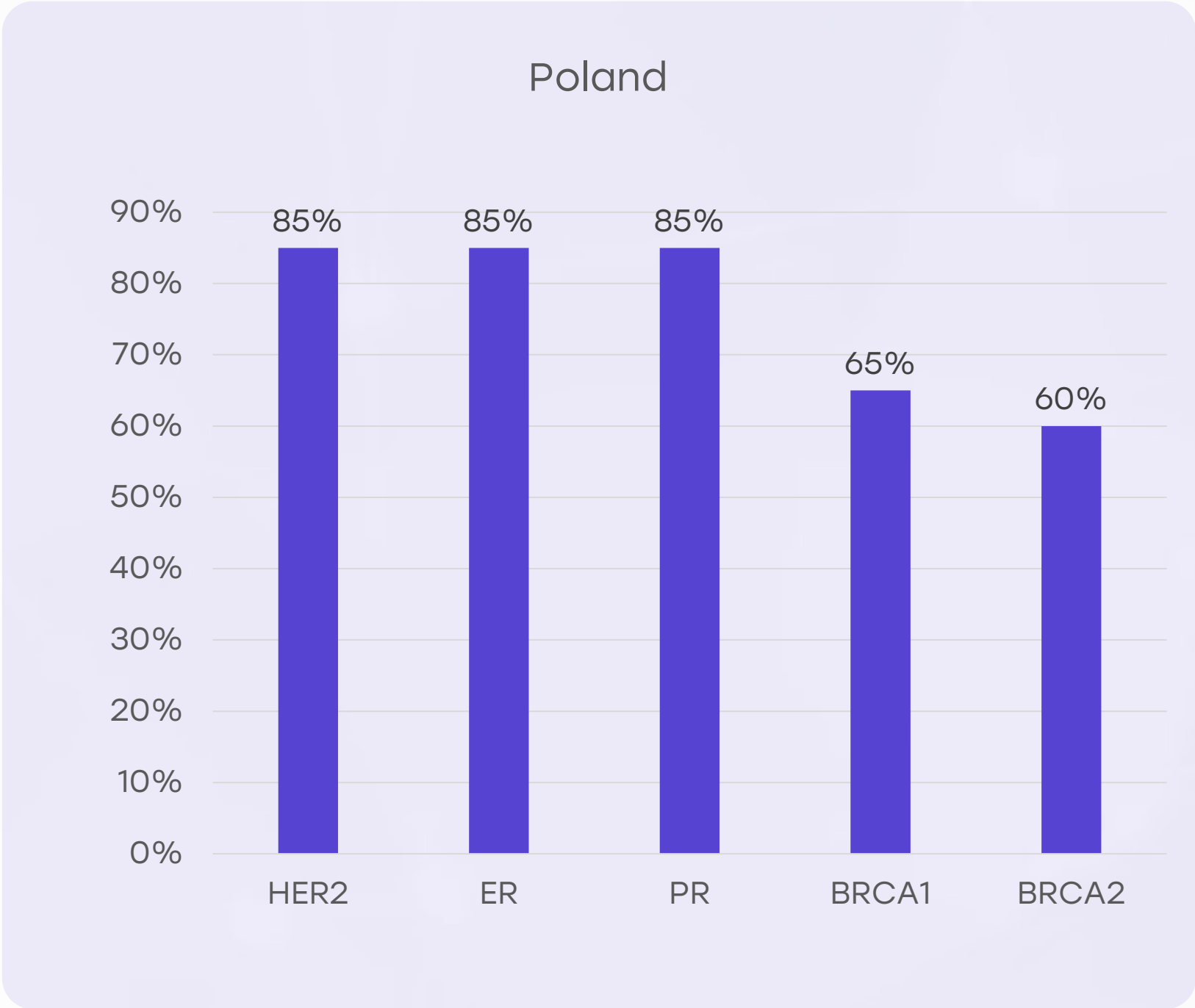
Weakness

- BRCA testing remains limited (~25–30%) and often restricted to high-risk patients.
- Inconsistent testing availability in smaller hospitals delays treatment planning.

Threats

- Delayed results and limited regional access may prevent optimal treatment use.
- Financial and logistical barriers could restrict equitable biomarker integration.

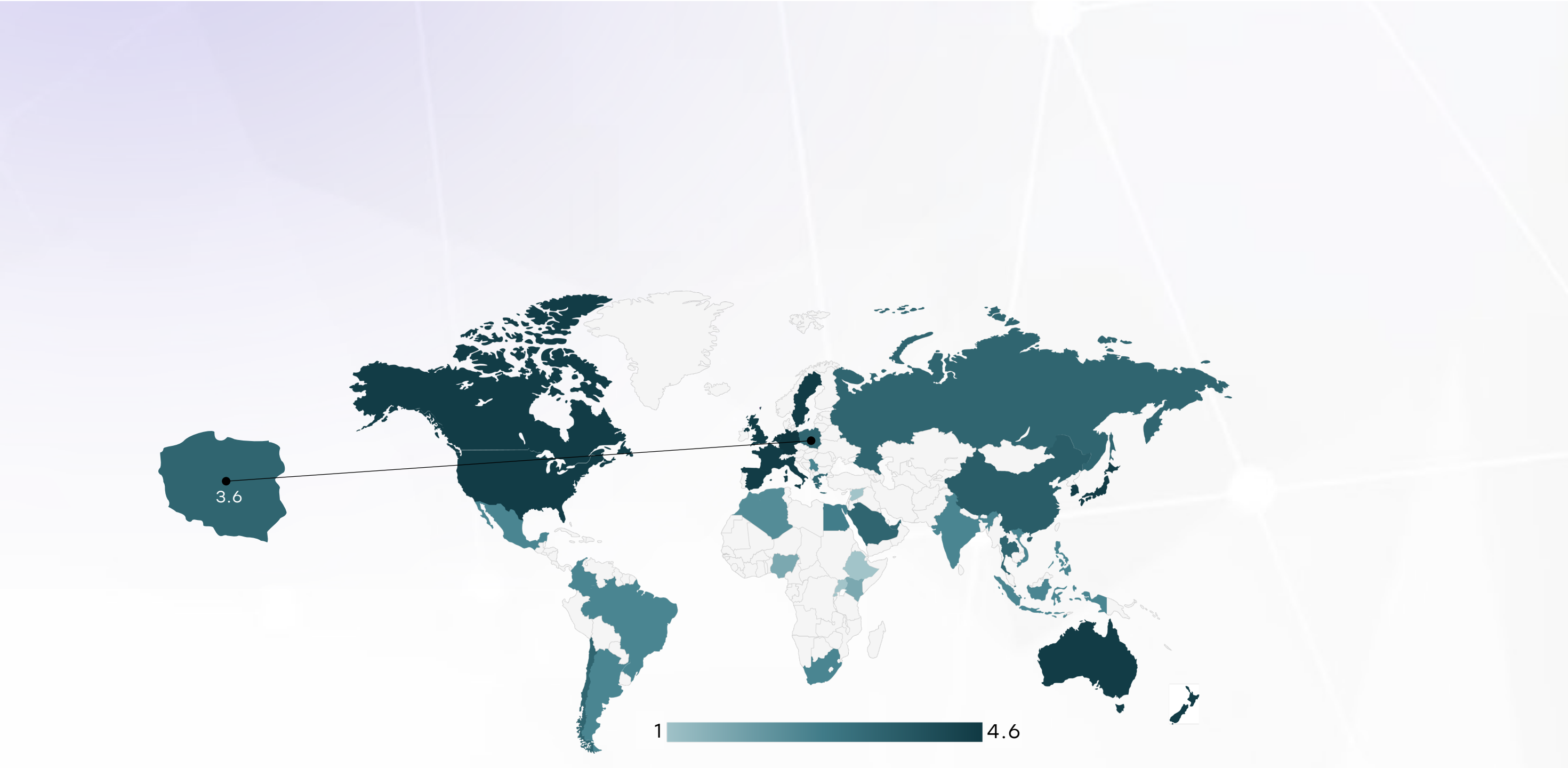
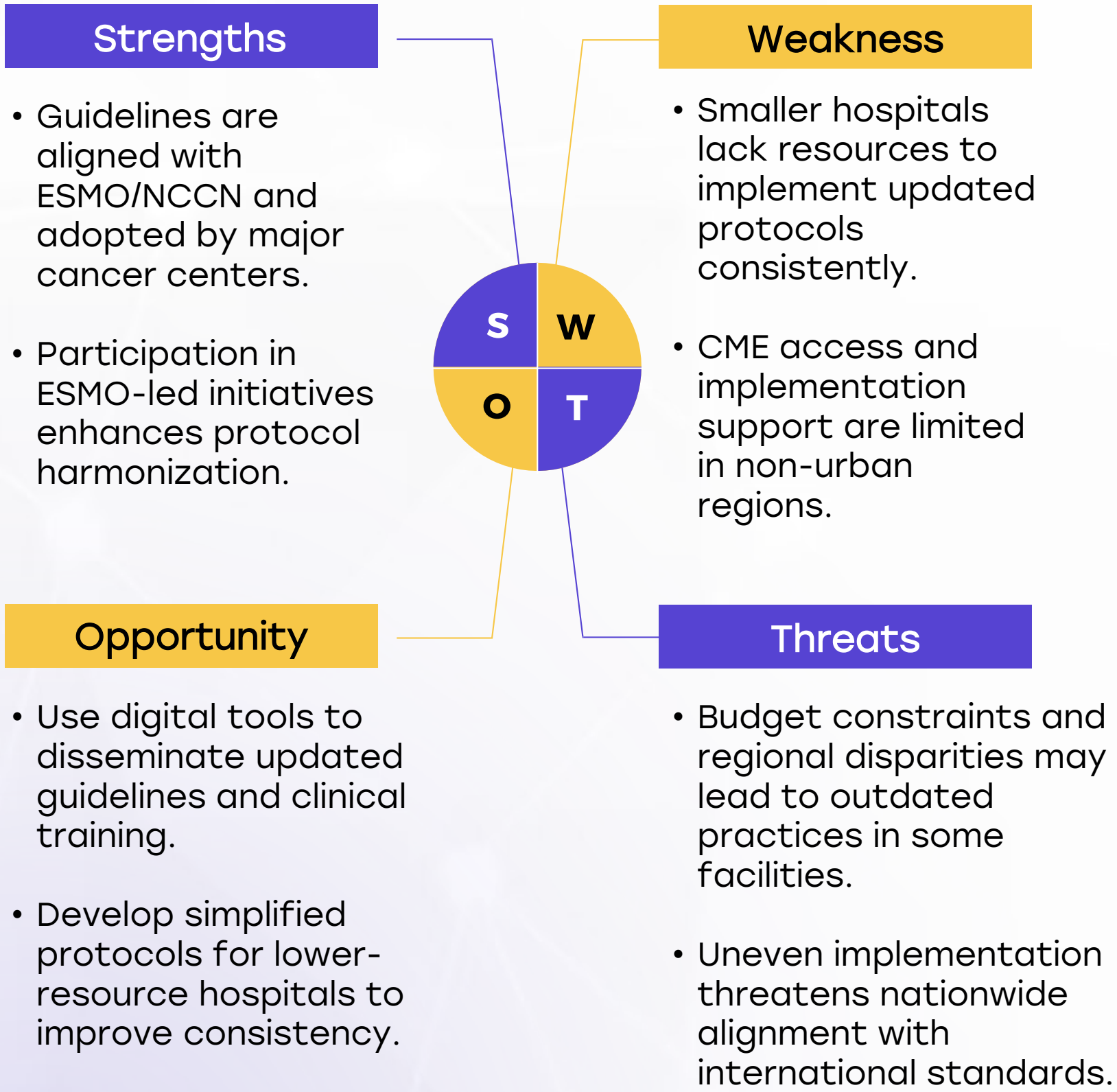
- 5. 80% Biomarker testing is widely available and routinely performed as part of standard clinical practice. Strong integration into treatment decisions, with national coverage and reimbursement ensuring accessibility.
- 4. 61-80%. Biomarker testing is commonly used, but access may be limited in certain regions or patient groups. Some disparities exist in coverage or affordability, but it is still a crucial part of cancer diagnostics
- 3. 41-60% Moderate utilization, often restricted to major hospitals or private healthcare settings. Some patients may not receive biomarker testing due to cost or limited availability in public healthcare systems.
- 2. 20-40% Biomarker testing is available but underutilized, with significant barriers such as high costs, lack of awareness, or limited infrastructure. Many patients may not receive recommended biomarker assessments.
- 1. <20% Biomarker testing is rarely performed, often due to lack of infrastructure, awareness, or financial barriers. Patients typically do not receive targeted therapies based on biomarker status.



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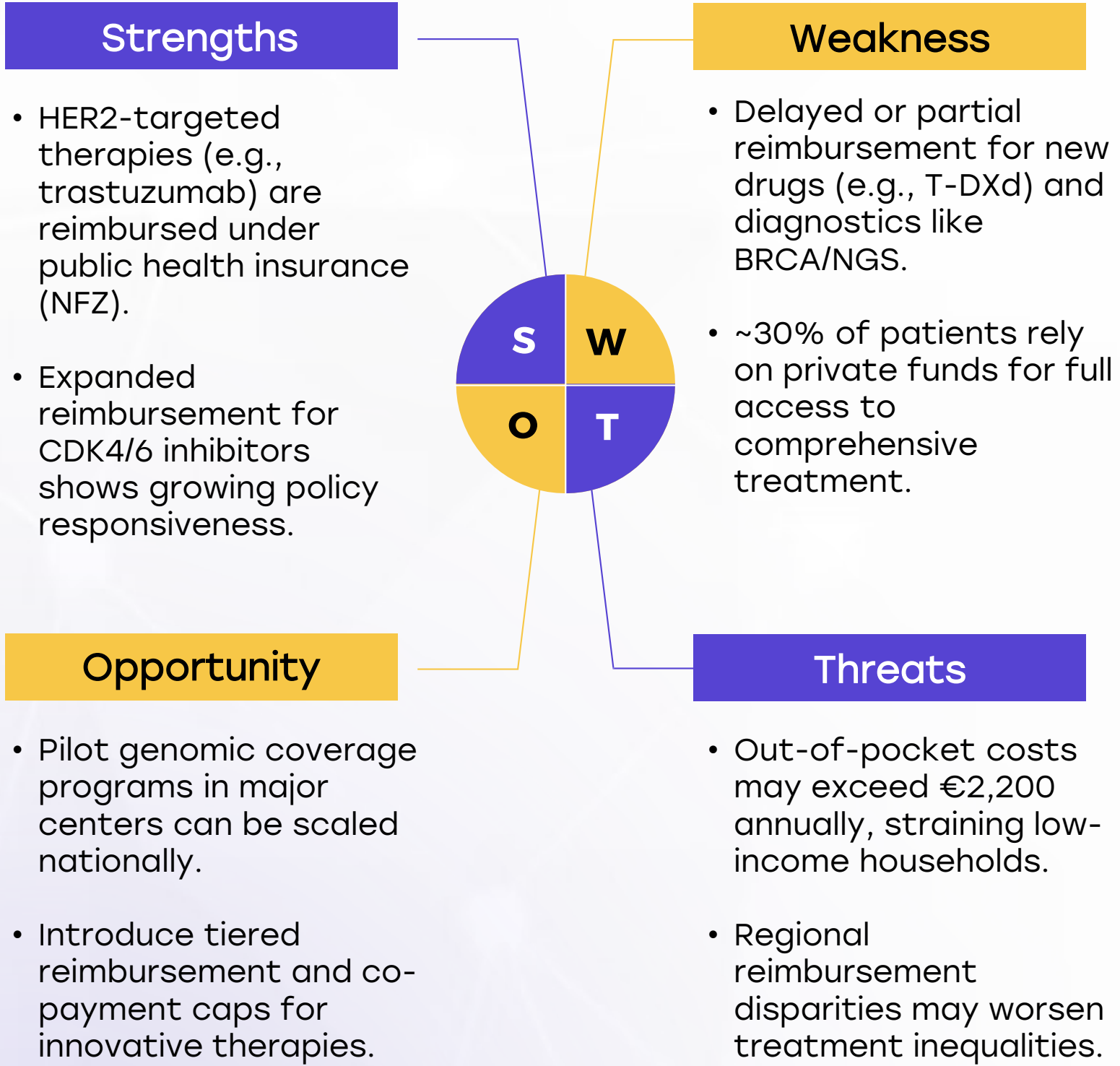
Clinical Guidelines



	Very High	High	Medium	Low	Very Low
Clinical Guideline Implementation	✗	○	✗	✗	✗
Feasibility of Integration	✗	○	✗	✗	✗
Adoption of International Guidelines	✗	○	✗	✗	✗
Engagement with Updates	✗	✗	○	✗	✗
ESMO Guidelines Implementation	✗	○	✗	✗	✗

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Reimbursement



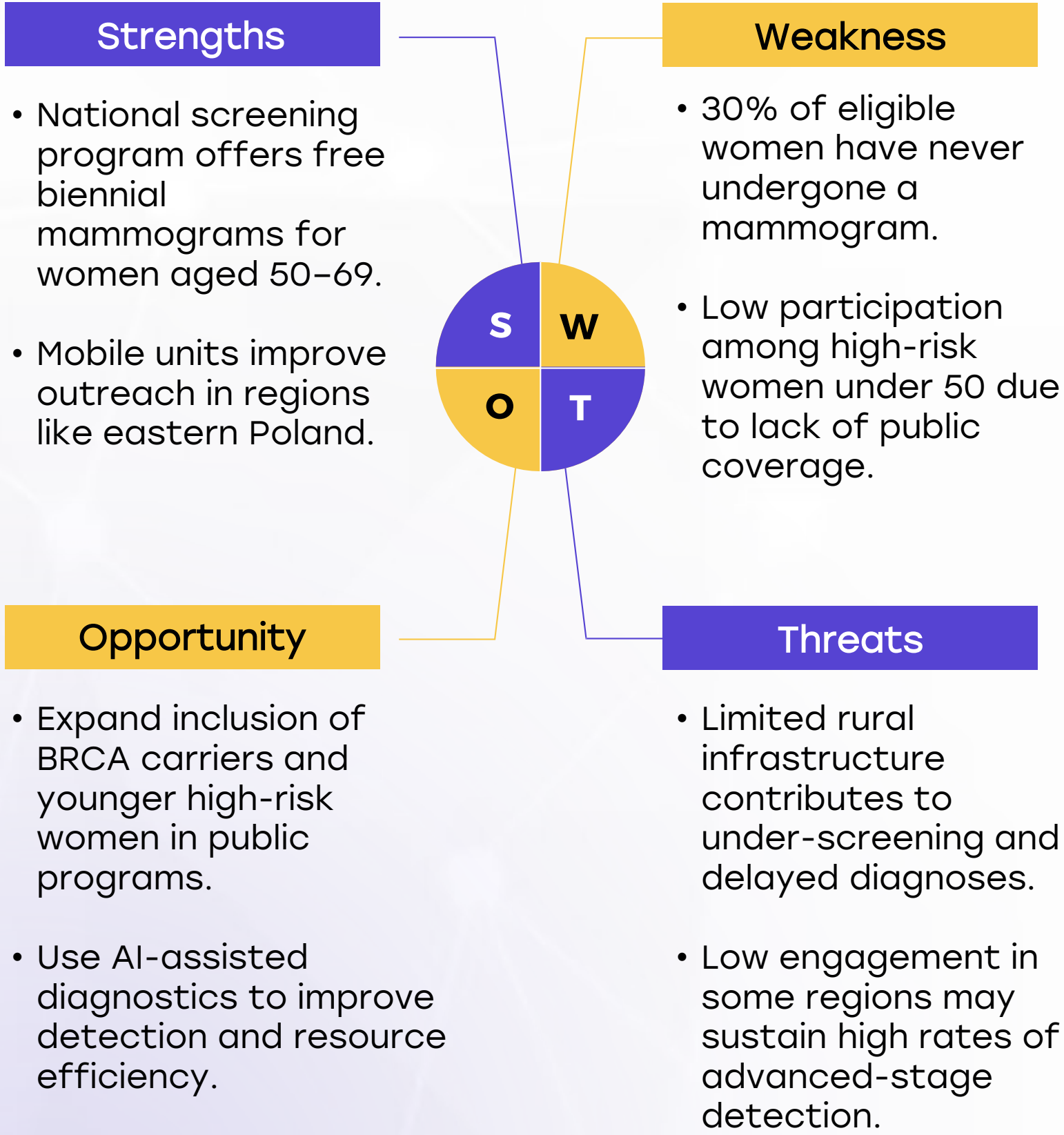
- Yes - A structured reimbursement system exists, ensuring biomarker testing is covered through national healthcare systems, insurance, or public-private partnerships. Patients face no direct financial burden.
- ◉ Partial - A reimbursement framework is in place, but patients may still have out-of-pocket expenses such as co-pays, limited coverage, or financial caps on testing.
- ✗ No - No formal reimbursement system exists, meaning patients must fully cover the cost of biomarker testing out-of-pocket.

Country	Reimbursement	No-cost Access
South Africa	○	✗
Kenya	✗	✗
Nigeria	✗	✗
Egypt	○	◉
Morocco	○	✗
Algeria	○	✗
Ethiopia	✗	✗
India	◉	✗
Japan	○	○
South Korea	○	○
China	○	◉
Thailand	○	◉
Singapore	○	○
United Kingdom	○	○
Germany	○	○
France	○	○
Netherlands	○	○
Sweden	○	○
Italy	○	○
Spain	○	○
Poland	○	◉
Mexico	○	✗
Brazil	○	✗
Argentina	○	✗
Chile	○	◉
Colombia	○	✗
United States	○	○
Canada	○	○
Australia	○	○
New Zealand	○	○
Greece	○	◉
Rwanda	✗	✗
Uganda	✗	✗
Serbia	○	◉
Saudi Arabia	○	○
UAE	○	○
Syria	○	○
Indonesia	○	◉
Vietnam	✗	✗
Philippines	✗	✗
Russia	○	◉

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Breast Cancer Screening



Country	Breast Cancer Screening
United States	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
United Kingdom	Triennial mammograms (50-71 years)
Canada	Mammograms every 2-3 years (50-74 years)
Australia	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
Germany	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
France	Biennial mammograms (50-74 years)
Netherlands	Mammograms every 2 years (50-75 years)
Sweden	Mammograms every 18-24 months (40-74 years)
Italy	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Spain	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Poland	Mammograms every 2 years (50-69 years)
Japan	Mammograms every 2 years (40+ years)
South Korea	Biennial mammograms (40+ years)
China	Regional mammogram programs (40-69 years)
India	Opportunistic screening
Singapore	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Saudi Arabia	Opportunistic screening; regional programs for women aged 40+
UAE	Opportunistic screening; encouraged every 2 years for 40-69 years
Syria	No national program; limited local initiatives due to conflict

Country	Breast Cancer Screening
Thailand	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
South Africa	Opportunistic screening
Kenya	No national program
Nigeria	No national program
Egypt	National awareness campaigns
Morocco	National program for 45-69 years
Algeria	Planned national program (50-69 years)
Ethiopia	No national program
Mexico	Biennial mammograms (40-69 years)
Brazil	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Argentina	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Chile	Mammograms every 3 years (50-69 years)
Colombia	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
New Zealand	Biennial mammograms (45-69 years)
Greece	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Rwanda	No national program
Uganda	No national program
Serbia	Biennial mammograms (50-69 years)
Indonesia	Opportunistic screening; no national mammography program
Vietnam	Regional mammography programs; pilot programs in urban areas (age 45-69)
Philippines	Opportunistic screening; mammography recommended every 2 years for women 50+
Russia	National program for biennial mammograms (50-69 years)