



Identifying low levels of HER2 expression in breast cancer

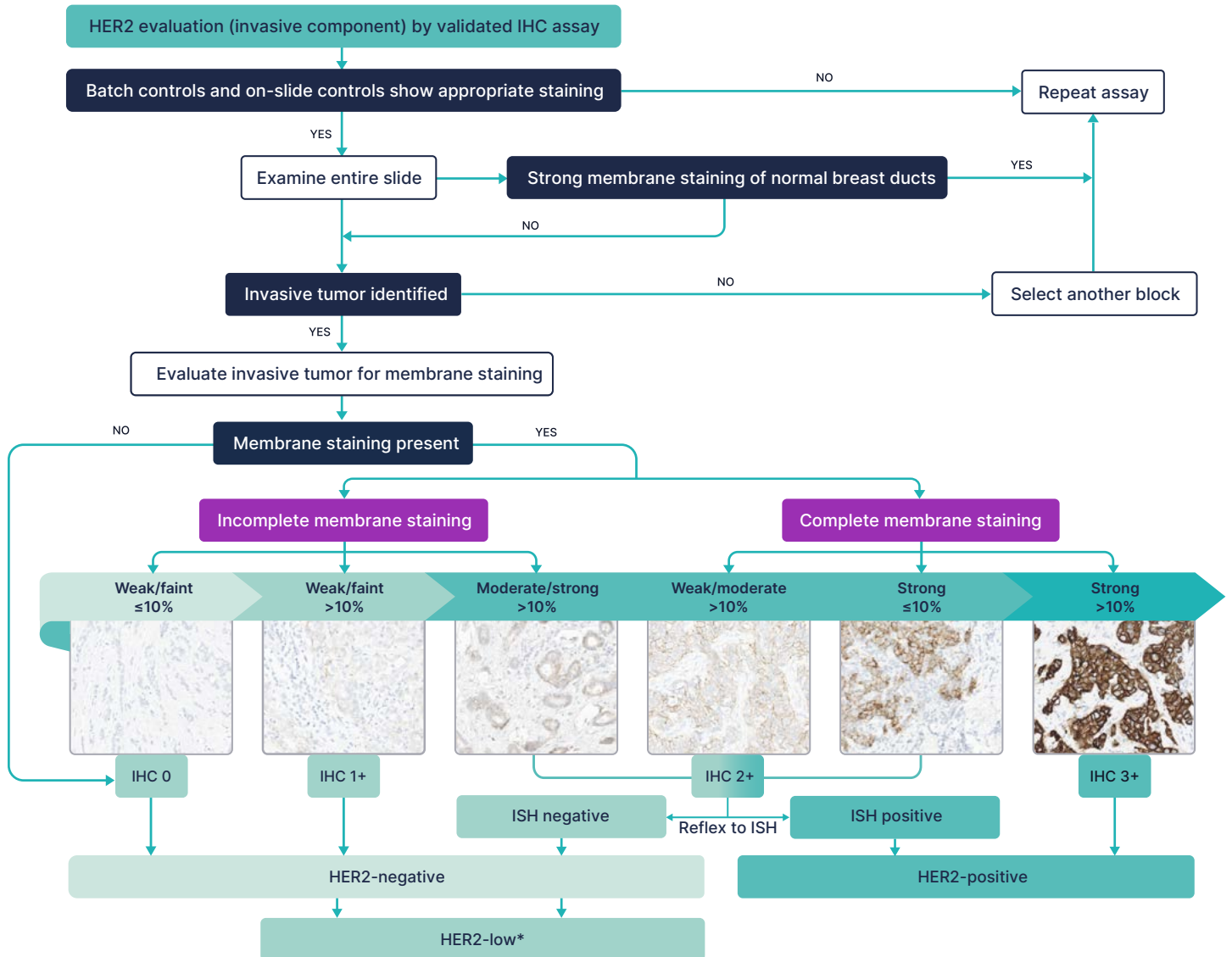


Figure adapted from Wolff AC, et al. 2023.¹

*HER2-low is not currently classified within the 2023 ASCO-CAP guideline update, but is recognized as HER2-negative.²



A significant proportion (about 50%) of breast cancers express low levels of HER2 in the absence of gene amplification, and are described as IHC 1+ or IHC 2+ with negative ISH.³ This proposed algorithm¹ represents a pragmatic approach to HER2 IHC interpretation, as we evolve towards distinguishing tumors that are HER2-negative from those with low levels of HER2 expression.

David G. Hicks, MD
Professor and Director of IHC-ISH Laboratory and Breast Subspecialty Service,
University of Rochester Medical Center.

ASCO, American Society of Clinical Oncology; CAP, College of American Pathologists; HER2, human epidermal growth factor receptor 2; IHC, immunohistochemistry; ISH, *in situ* hybridization.

1. Wolff AC, et al. Arch Pathol Lab Med 2023. 2. CAP. Template for reporting results of biomarker testing of specimens from patients with carcinoma of the breast. Version 1.5.0.1. Available at: https://documents.cap.org/documents/Breast.Bmk_1.5.0.1.REL_CAPCP.pdf. Accessed: November 2023. 3. Tarantino P et al. J Clin Oncol. 2020; 38(17): 1951-1962.

This resource is intended for use by US healthcare professionals only.