Supplementary Figure 1. Forest plot of time to treatment failure (TTF) hazard ratios (HR) of major subgroups (exploratory analysis). A HR smaller than 1.0 favours the alternating treatment. D, docetaxel; D/G, docetaxel alternating with gemcitabine; WHO PS, World Health Organization performance status; Tx, taxane; HER2, erbB2 tyrosine kinase.

| Subgroup (No. of failures in Arm1/Arm2) | Hazard ratio (95% CI) |
|----------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| All patients (85/81)                   | 0.85 (0.63 to 1.16)   |
| WHO PS 0 (23/19)                       | 0.71 (0.38 to 1.31)   |
| WHO PS >0 (62/62)                      | 0.94 (0.66 to 1.35)   |
| Taxane + (4/10)                        | 1.11 (0.34 to 3.61)   |
| Taxane - (81/71)                       | 0.85 (0.61 to 1.17)   |
| HER2 + (21/14)                         | 0.59 (0.29 to 1.17)   |
| HER2 - (46/59)                         | 1.25 (0.85 to 1.85)   |