

# Herzinsuffizienz Update



Georg Noll

# Conflicts of Interest

Honorare für Vorträge/Consulting:

Amgen, Bayer, Novartis, MSD, Sanofi, Servier,  
St. Jude, Vifor

Studien von/mit:

Amgen, Sanofi, Novartis

# **2023 Focused Update of the 2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure**

**Developed by the task force for the diagnosis and treatment of acute  
and chronic heart failure of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)**

**With the special contribution of the Heart Failure Association (HFA)  
of the ESC**



# Epidemiologie der Herzinsuffizienz

## Prävalenz

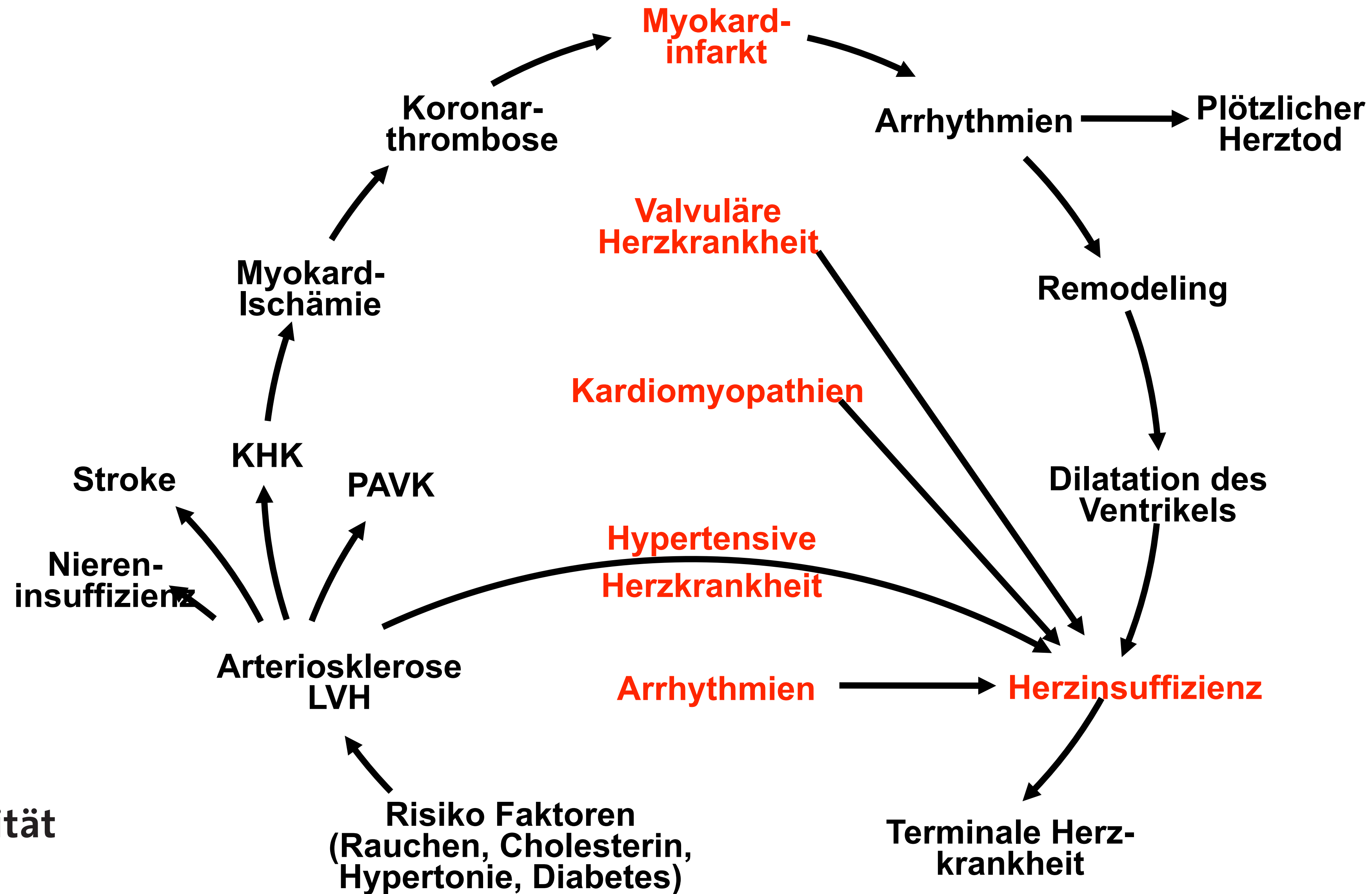
- >2-3% der Bevölkerung, 10 - 20% bei >70 Jahre alten
- Europa: >15 Millionen Patienten mit Herzinsuffizienz, Zahl steigend
- 20% Lebensrisiko für Herzinsuffizienz

## Bedeutung

- 5% primärer Grund für Hospitalisation
- 10% der hospitalisierten Patienten
- 2% der Gesundheitskosten (60 - 70% wegen Hospitalisationen)
- 40% der wegen Herzinsuffizienz hospitalisierten Patienten versterben oder werden wieder hospitalisiert innerhalb eines Jahres
- Stark eingeschränkte Lebensqualität



# Ursachen der Herzinsuffizienz



# Definition of Different Forms of Heart Failure

Type of HF		HFrEF	HFmrEF	HFpEF
CRITERIA	1	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>
	2	LVEF ≤40%	LVEF 41–49% <sup>b</sup>	LVEF ≥50%
	3	—	—	Objective evidence of cardiac structural and/or functional abnormalities consistent with the presence of LV diastolic dysfunction/raised LV filling pressures, including raised natriuretic peptides <sup>c</sup>



# iTunes Preview

Overview Music Video Charts

## Seattle Heart Failure Risk Calc

[View More by This Developer](#)

By Epocrates

Open iTunes to buy and download apps.



[View in iTunes](#)

Free

Category: [Medical](#)

Updated: Feb 11, 2011

Version: 1.2

Size: 1.1 MB

Language: English

Seller: Epocrates

© Epocrates, Inc.

[Rated 4+](#)

**Compatibility:** Requires iOS 3.0 or later. Compatible with iPhone, iPad, and iPod touch.

### Customer Ratings

Current Version:

★★★★ 35 Ratings

### Description

Seattle Heart Failure Risk Calc is based on the Seattle Heart Failure Model, which provides an accurate estimate of one-, two-, and five-year survival rates and average years of survival for patients with heart failure. The model incorporates medications and devices that are used to treat heart failure and how altering these affect survival.

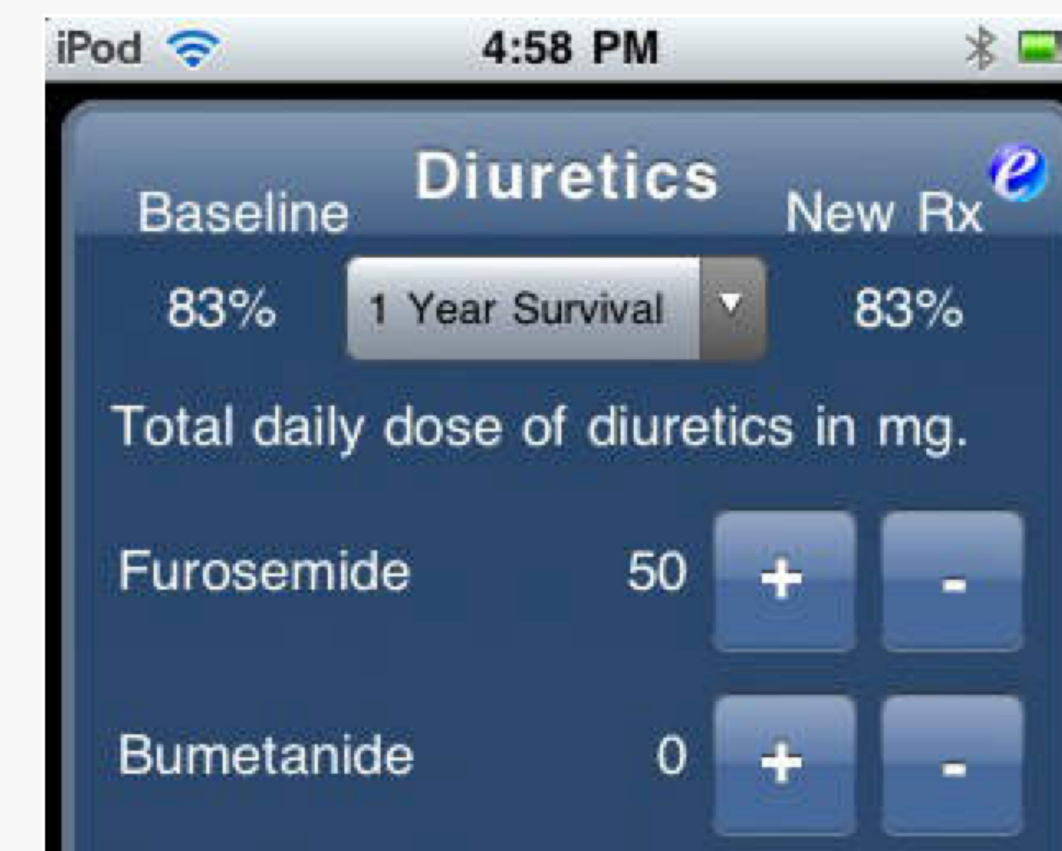
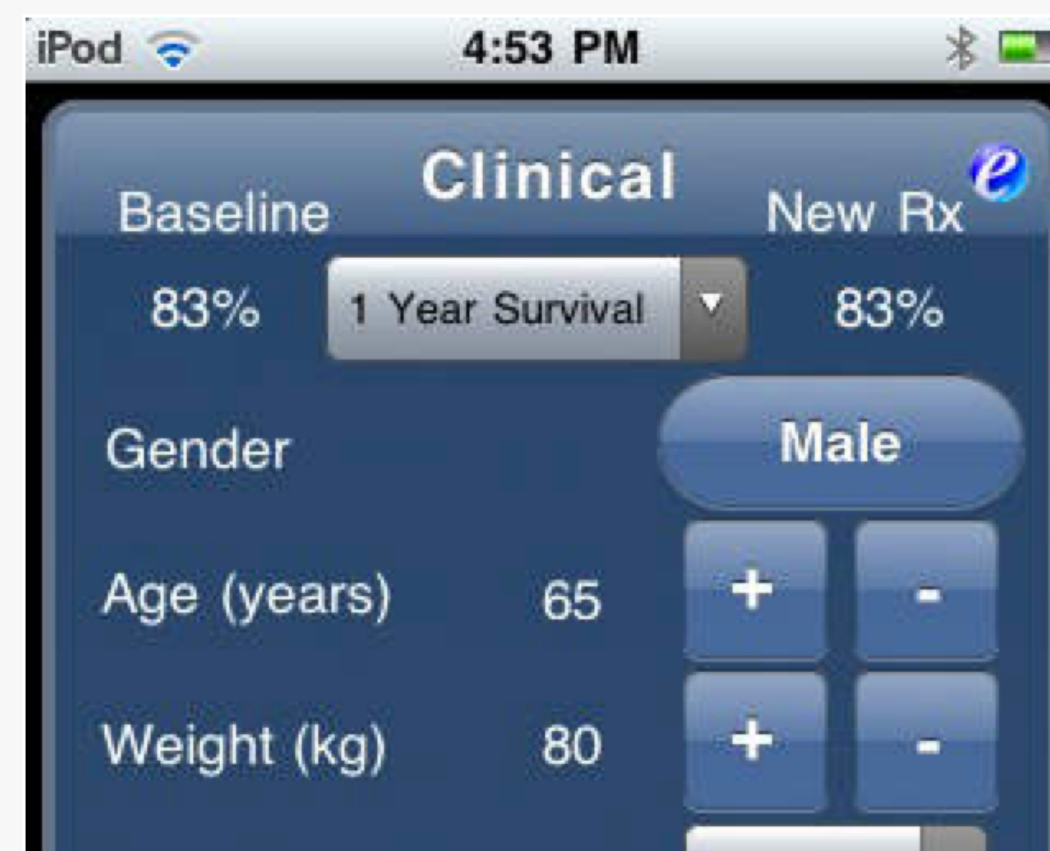
[Epocrates Web Site](#) [Seattle Heart Failure Risk Calc Support](#)

[...More](#)

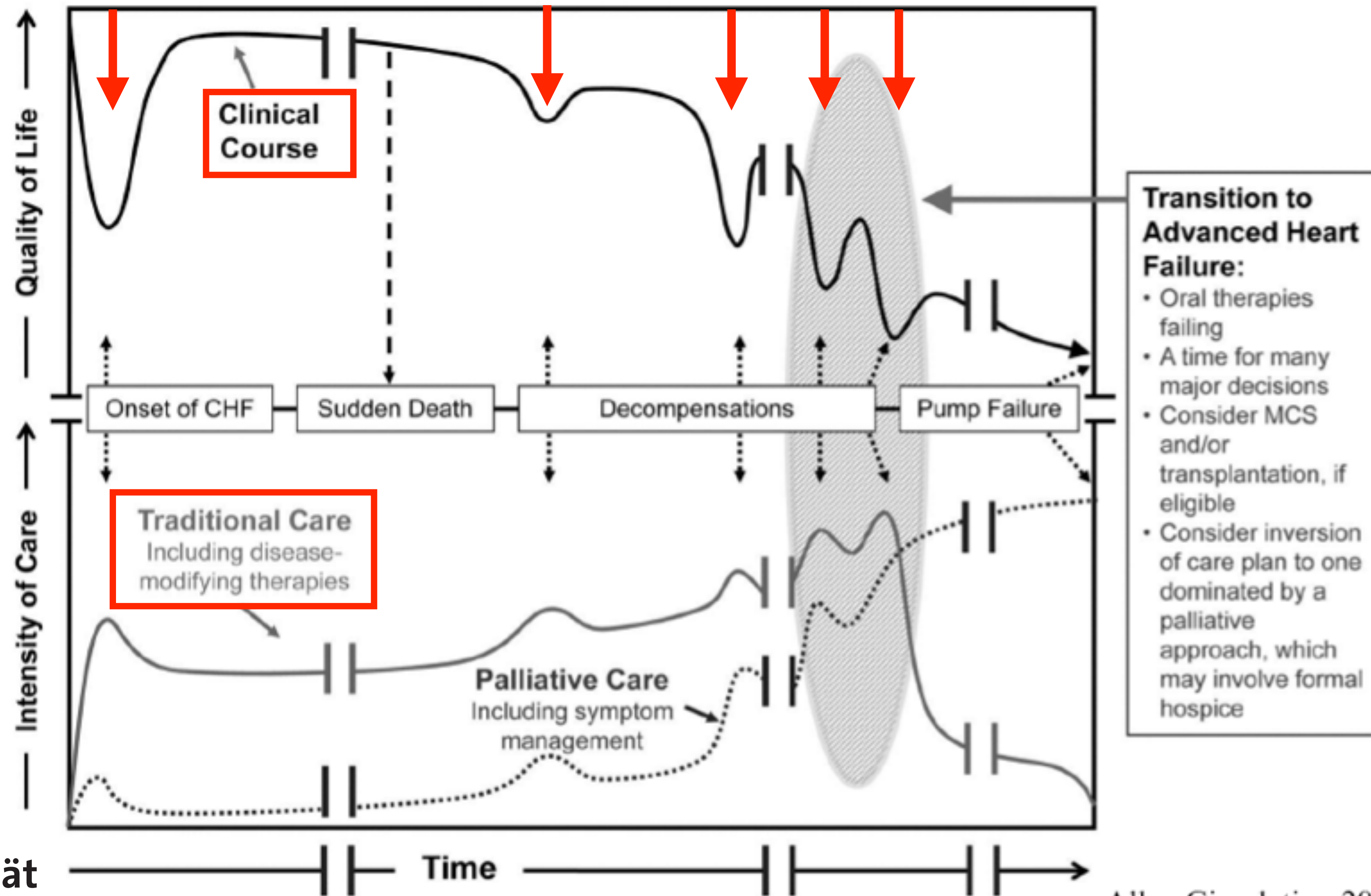
### What's New in Version 1.2

Maintenance

### iPhone Screenshot



# Natural Course of Heart Failure



Allen Circulation 2012

Lanken Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2008

# Diagnostischer Algorithmus für die Diagnose einer Herzinsuffizienz

## BEURTEILUNG DER WAHRSCHEINLICHKEIT

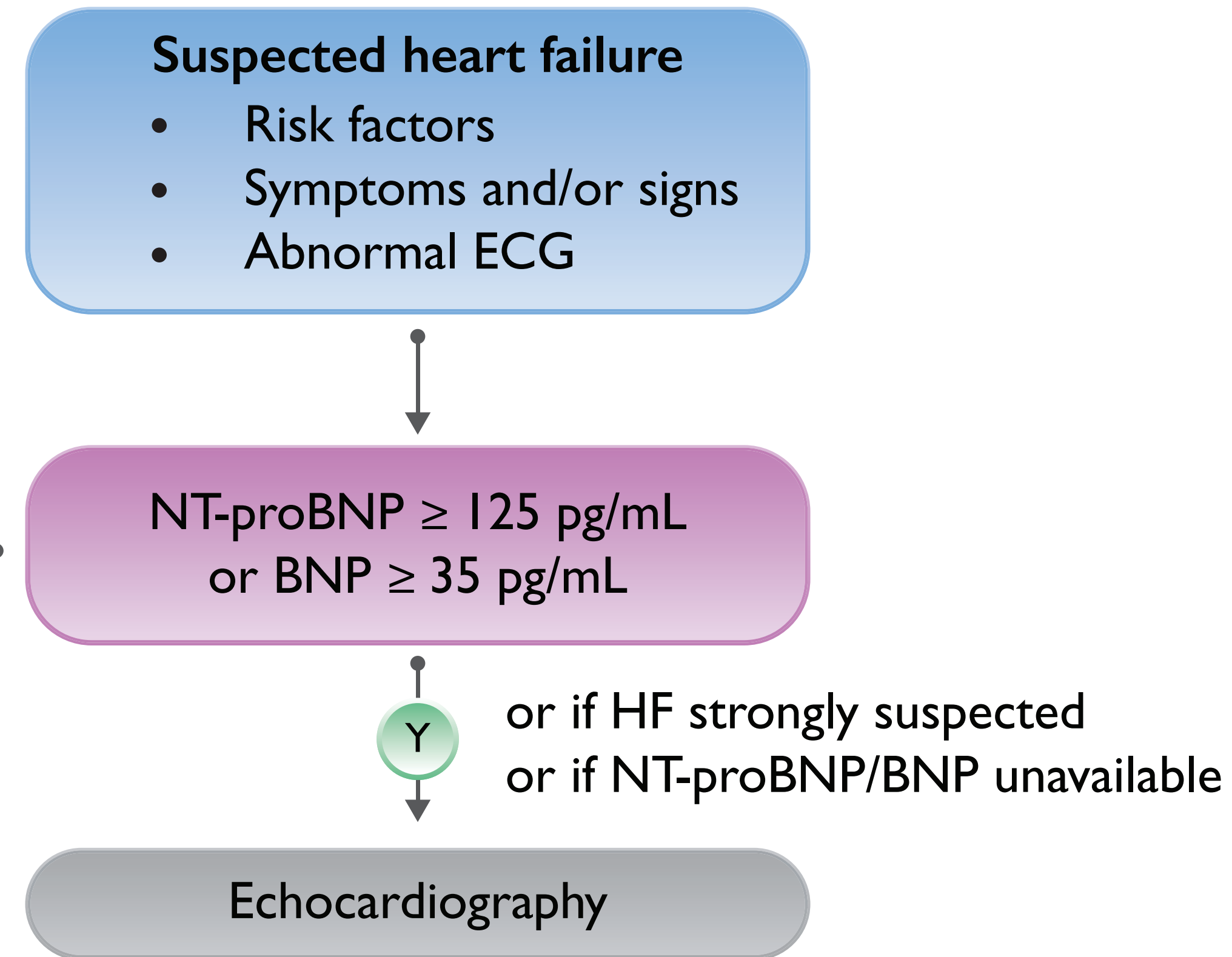
### 1. Anamnese:

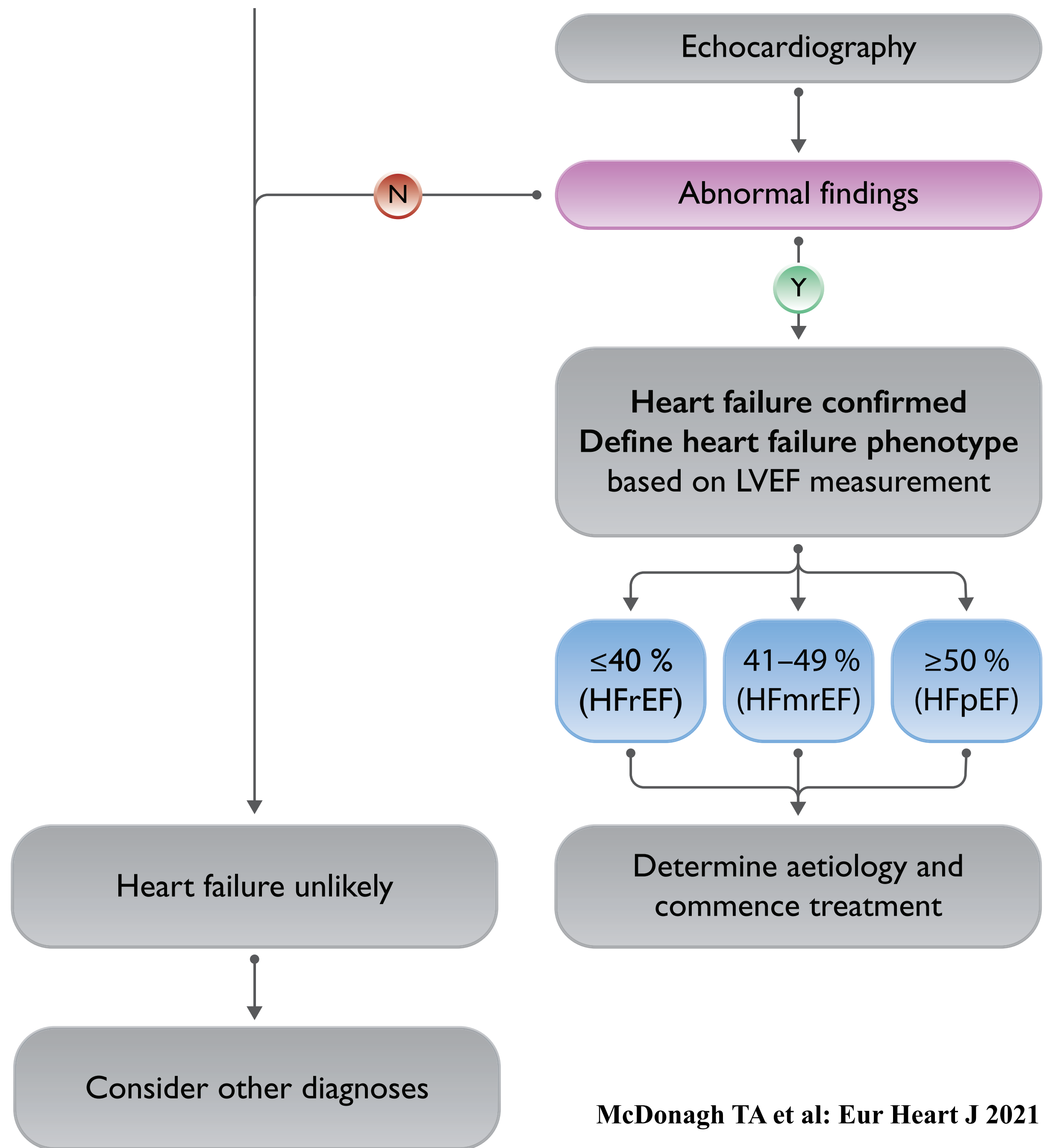
Koronare Herzkrankheit (MI, Revaskularisation)  
Arterielle Hypertonie  
Kardiotoxische Medikamente/Bestrahlung  
Diuretikum-Behandlung  
Orthopnoe / paroxysmal nächtliche Dyspnoe

### 2. Untersuchung:

Lungenstauung  
Beidseitige Knöchelödeme  
Herzgeräusch  
Halsvenenstauung  
Lateralisierter/verbreiteter Herzspitzenstoss

### 3. EKG: Jegliche Abnormität





McDonagh TA et al: Eur Heart J 2021



# (NT-pro)BNP bei Herzinsuffizienz

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## Hilfreich für

- Diagnose (Ausschluss)
- Schweregrad
- Prognose
- Therapiesteuerung?



# Nicht-medikamentöse Massnahmen bei Herzinsuffizienz

1. Normalisierung des Körpergewichts
2. **Salzrestriktion  $<5\text{g/d}$  (ESC,  $<3\text{ g/d}$  (WHO) ?**  
**KEINE SALZEXZESSE !**
3. Kontrolle der Flüssigkeitszufuhr (1.5 - 2L/d, ESC)  
**Bei Hyponatriämie !**
4. Kontrolle der kardiovaskulären Risikofaktoren
5. Alkoholrestriktion (30g/d für Männer, 20 g/d für Frauen)  
**Bei Alkohol-bedingter Kardiomyopathie: Absolute Alkoholkarenz**
6. Regelmässige Bewegung  
**Bei Dekompensation: Bettruhe**



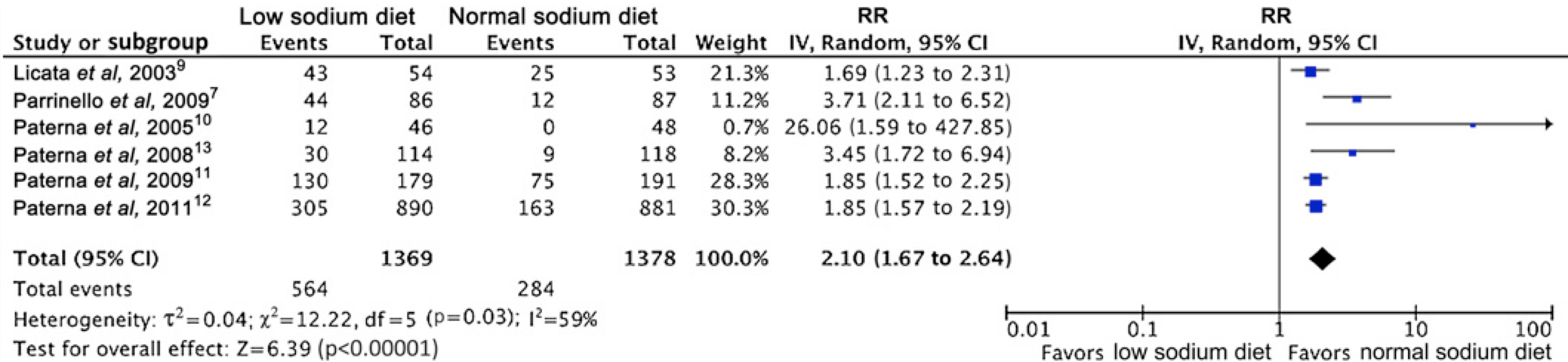
I've made a diet and abstained  
from fast food and alcohol –  
in two weeks I lost 14 days.

Joe E. Lewis

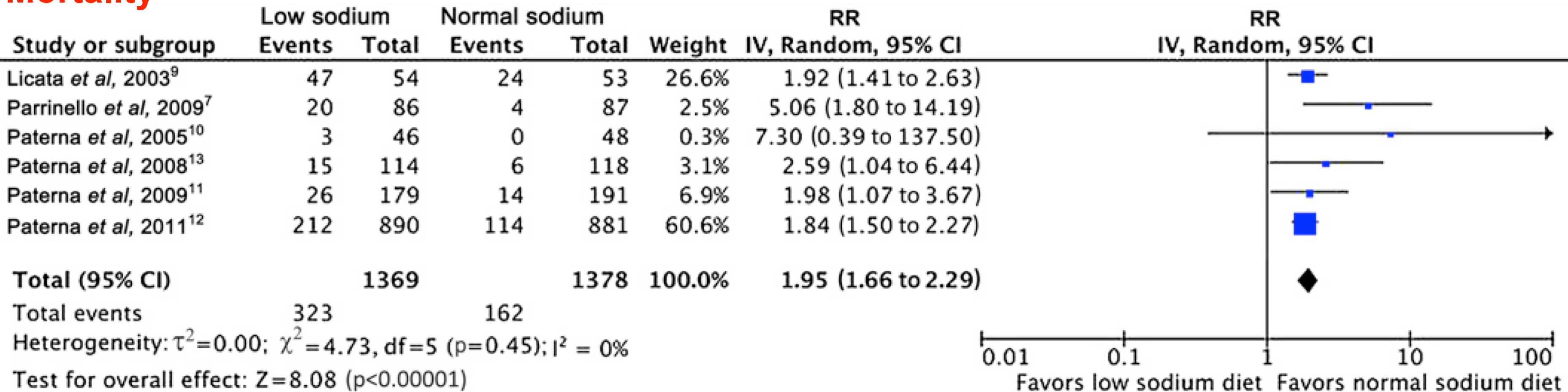
*comedian / singer in the 1920's*

# Low sodium versus normal sodium diets in systolic heart failure

## Readmission for heart failure



## Mortality



# Liberal fluid intake versus fluid restriction in chronic heart failure: a randomized clinical trial

Received: 13 February 2025

Accepted: 4 March 2025

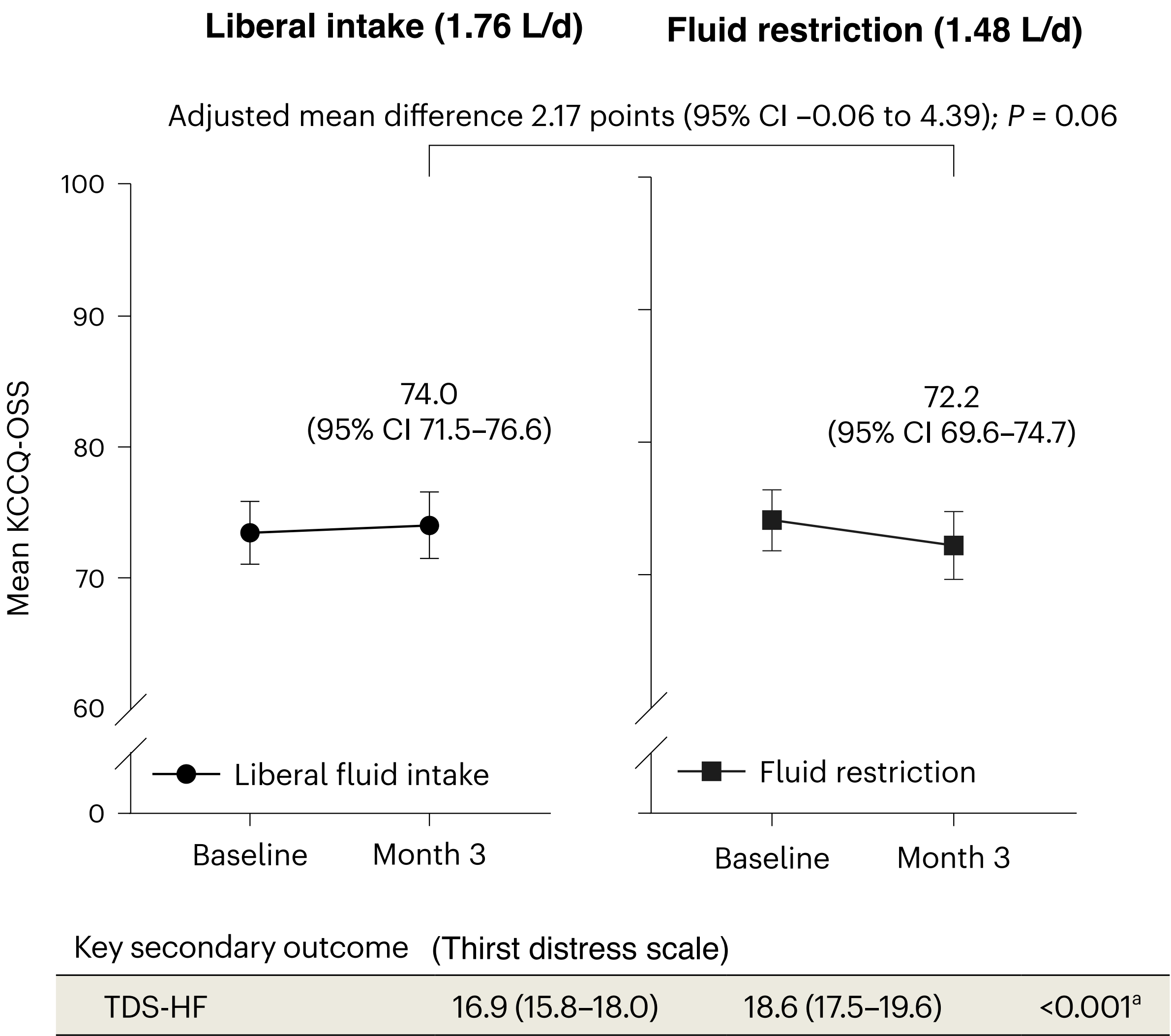
Published online: 30 March 2025

 Check for updates

**Job J. Herrmann** <sup>1,2</sup>, **Hans-Peter Brunner-La Rocca**<sup>3,4</sup>,  
**Lisette E. H. J. M. Baltussen**<sup>1</sup>, **Fabienne Beckers-Wesche**<sup>3</sup>,  
**Sebastiaan C. A. M. Bekkers**<sup>5</sup>, **Louise Bellersen**<sup>1</sup>, **J. W. Martijn van Eck**<sup>6</sup>,  
**H. Carlijne Hassing**<sup>1</sup>, **Tiny Jaarsma**<sup>7,8</sup>, **Gerard C. M. Linssen** <sup>9</sup>, **Ron Pisters**<sup>10</sup>,  
**Sandra Sanders-van Wijk**<sup>11</sup>, **Marjolein H. I. Verdijk**<sup>1</sup>, **M. Louis Handoko** <sup>8</sup>,  
**Peter van der Meer** <sup>12</sup>, **Frederik H. Verbrugge** <sup>13,14</sup>, **James L. Januzzi Jr**<sup>15</sup>,  
**Antoni Bayés-Genís**<sup>16</sup>, **Robby Nieuwlaat**<sup>17</sup>, **Laura Rodwell**<sup>18</sup>,  
**D. H. Frank Gommans**<sup>1,19</sup> & **Roland R. J. van Kimmenade** <sup>1</sup> 

# FRESH-UP

	Liberal fluid intake (n=254)	Fluid restriction (n=250)
Age, years	69.4±10.6	69.0±10.8
Male	170 (66.9)	169 (67.6)
White <sup>a</sup>	247 (97.2)	245 (98.0)
Quality of life		
KCCQ-OSS	76.0 [59.9–90.2]	77.7 [61.7–88.5]
TDS-HF	15.0 [10.0–22.0]	16.0 [11.0–21.0]
EQ-5D-5L	0.85 [0.71–0.92]	0.81 [0.70–0.91]
NYHA functional class		
II	218 (85.8)	221 (88.4)
III	36 (14.2)	29 (11.6)
LVEF		
%	40.3±10.9	40.2±10.8
HFrEF	136 (53.5)	124 (49.6)
HFmrEF	60 (23.6)	70 (28.0)
HFpEF	58 (22.8)	56 (22.4)
Cause of HF		
Ischemic	108 (42.5)	113 (45.2)
Nonischemic	146 (57.5)	137 (54.8)
HF duration, years	5.0 [2.0–10.0]	4.0 [2.0–10.0]

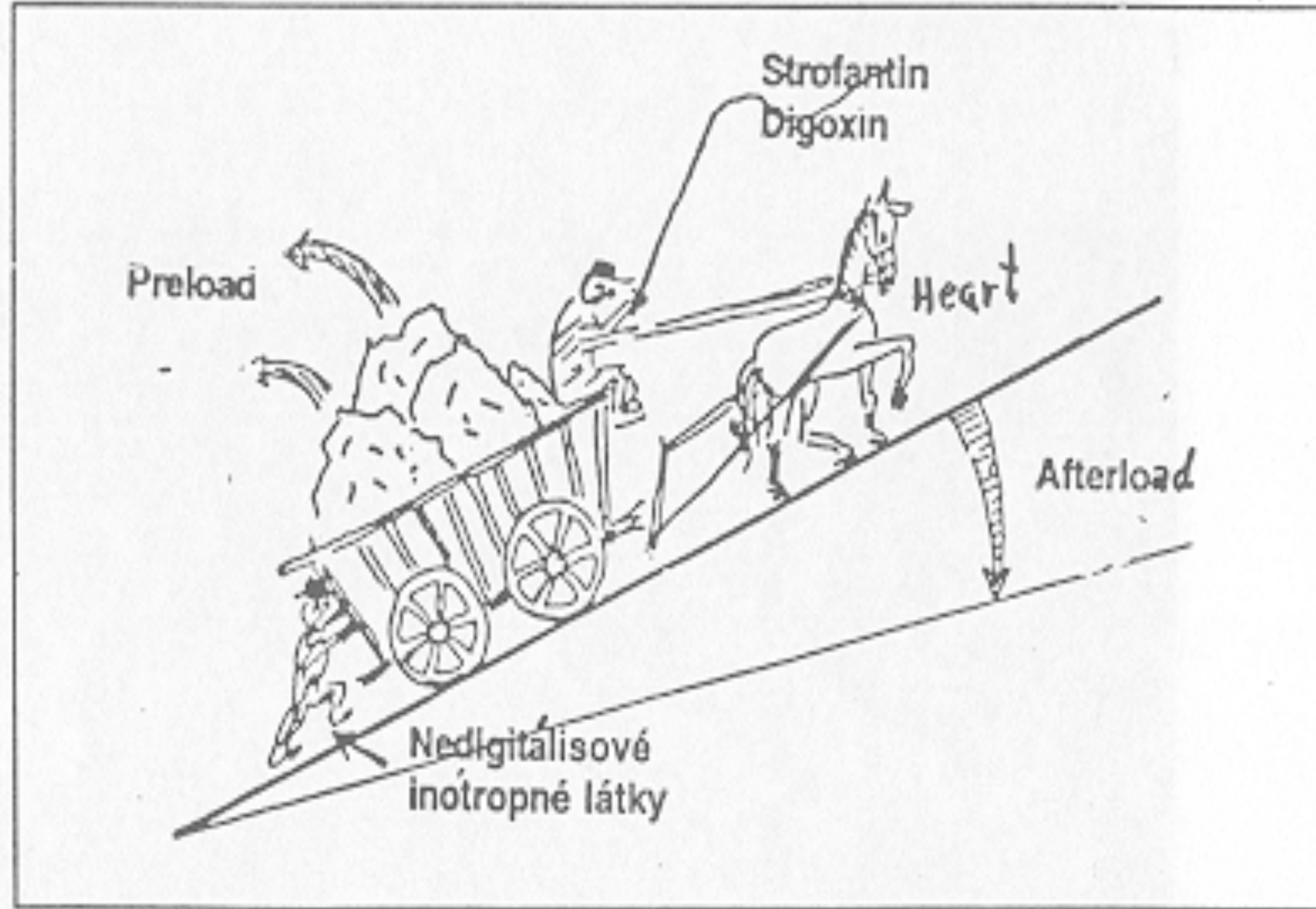


# Nicht-medikamentöse Massnahmen bei Herzinsuffizienz

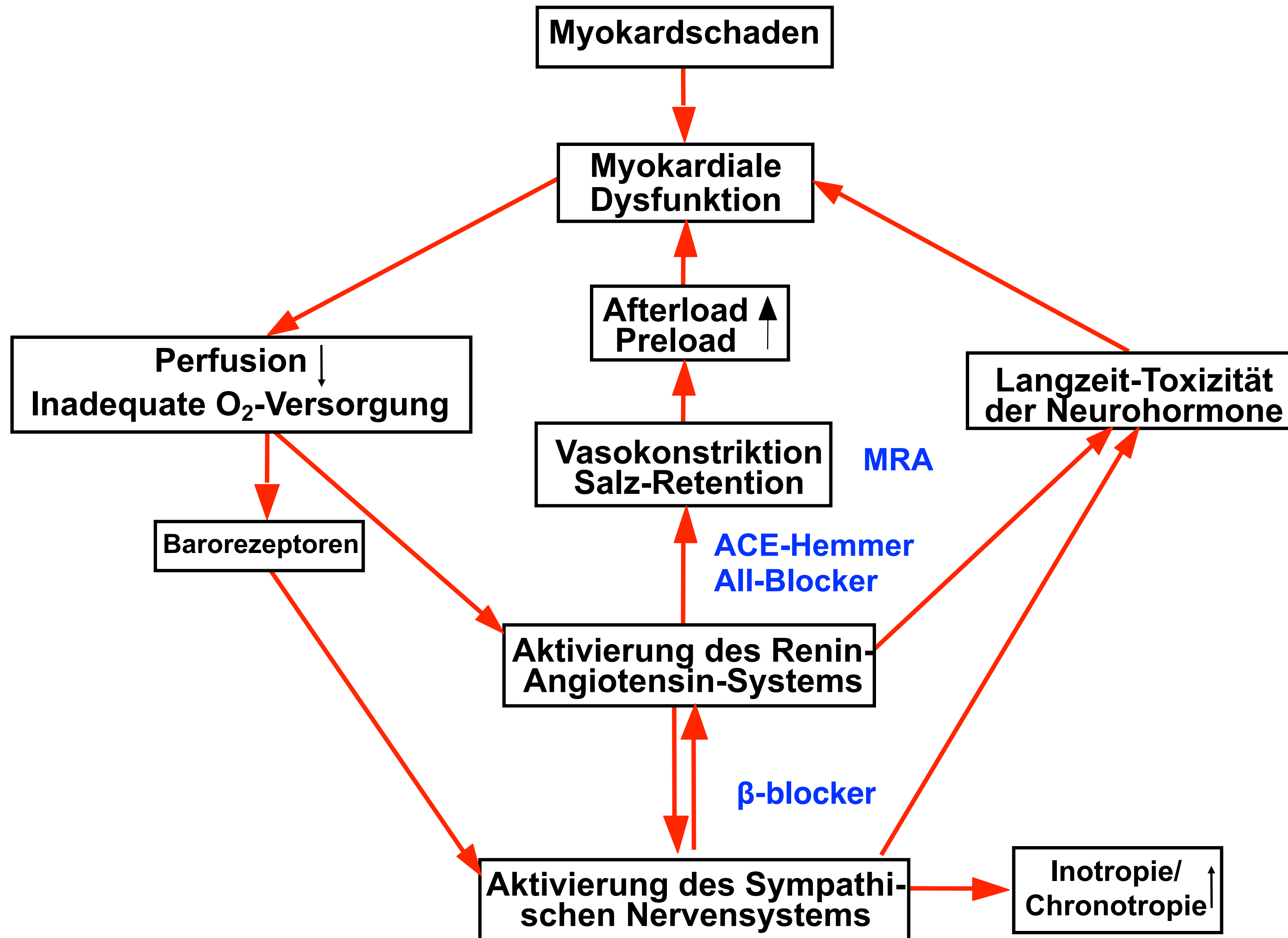
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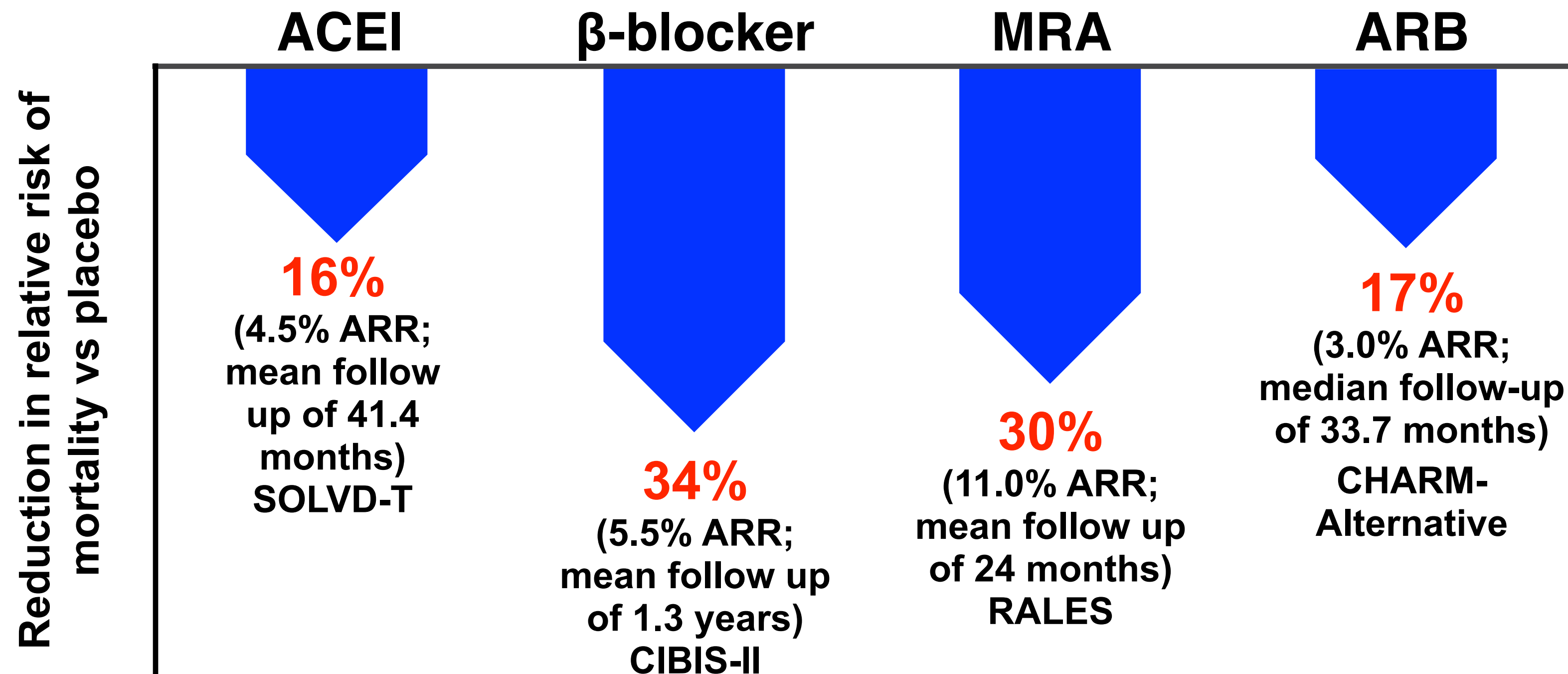
# Therapie-Prinzipien bei Herzinsuffizienz



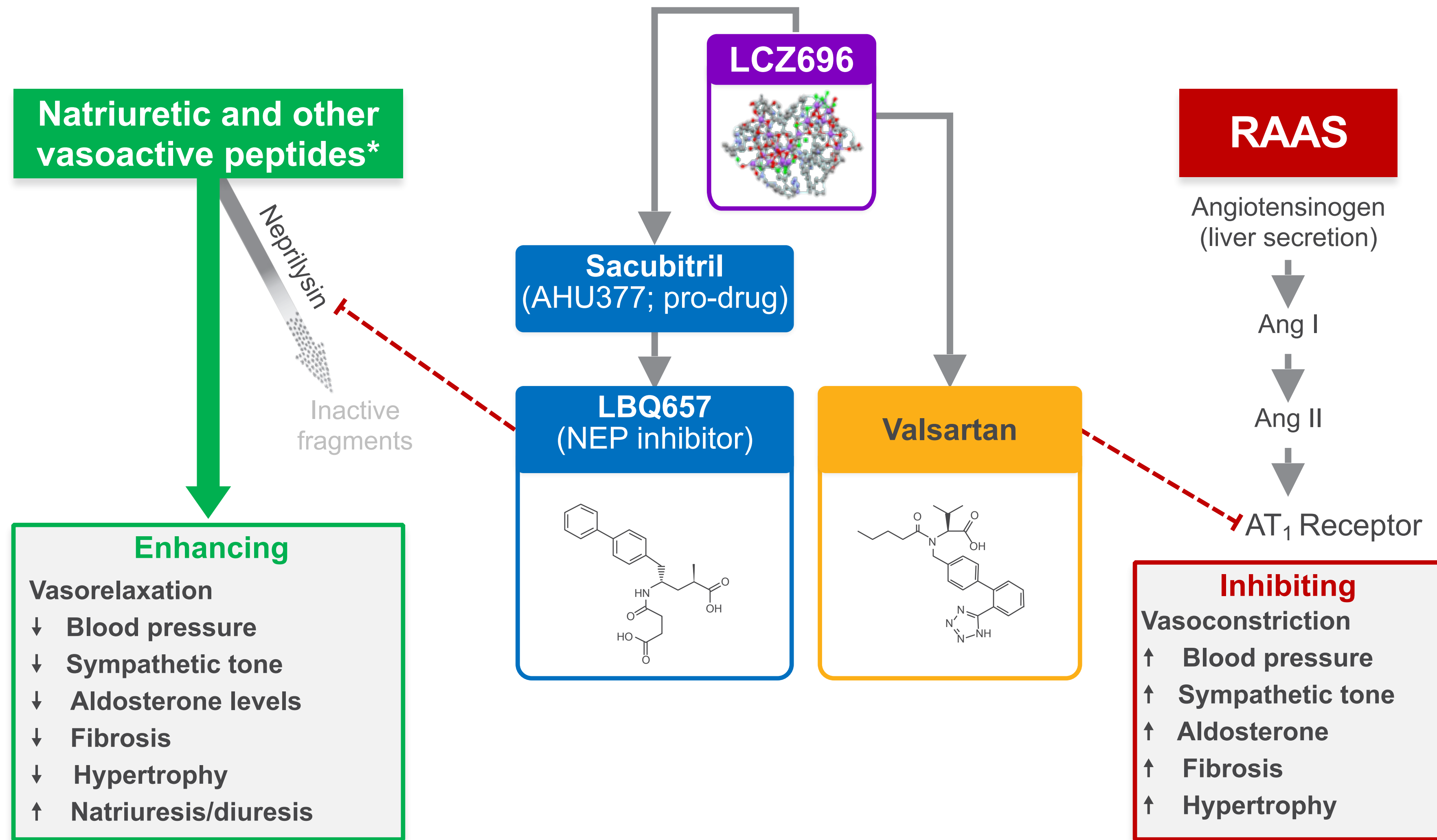
# Neurohumorale Mechanismen der Herzinsuffizienz



# Effects of neurohumoral Inhibitors on Survival in Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction



# Mode of Action of LCZ696 (Entresto): It simultaneously inhibits NEP (via LBQ657) and blocks the AT<sub>1</sub> receptor (via valsartan)



\*Neprilysin substrates listed in order of relative affinity for NEP: ANP, CNP, Ang II, Ang I, adrenomedullin, substance P, bradykinin, endothelin-1, BNP

Levin et al. N Engl J Med 1998;339:321–8; Nathisuwan & Talbert. Pharmacotherapy 2002;22:27–42;  
Schrier & Abraham N Engl J Med 2009;341:577–85; Langenickel & Dole. Drug Discov Today: Ther Strateg 2012;9:e131–9;  
Feng et al. Tetrahedron Letters 2012;53:275–6

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Angiotensin–Neprilysin Inhibition versus Enalapril in Heart Failure

John J.V. McMurray, M.D., Milton Packer, M.D., Akshay S. Desai, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Jianjian Gong, Ph.D., Martin P. Lefkowitz, M.D., Adel R. Rizkala, Pharm.D.,  
Jean L. Rouleau, M.D., Victor C. Shi, M.D., Scott D. Solomon, M.D.,  
Karl Swedberg, M.D., Ph.D., and Michael R. Zile, M.D.,  
for the PARADIGM-HF Investigators and Committees\*

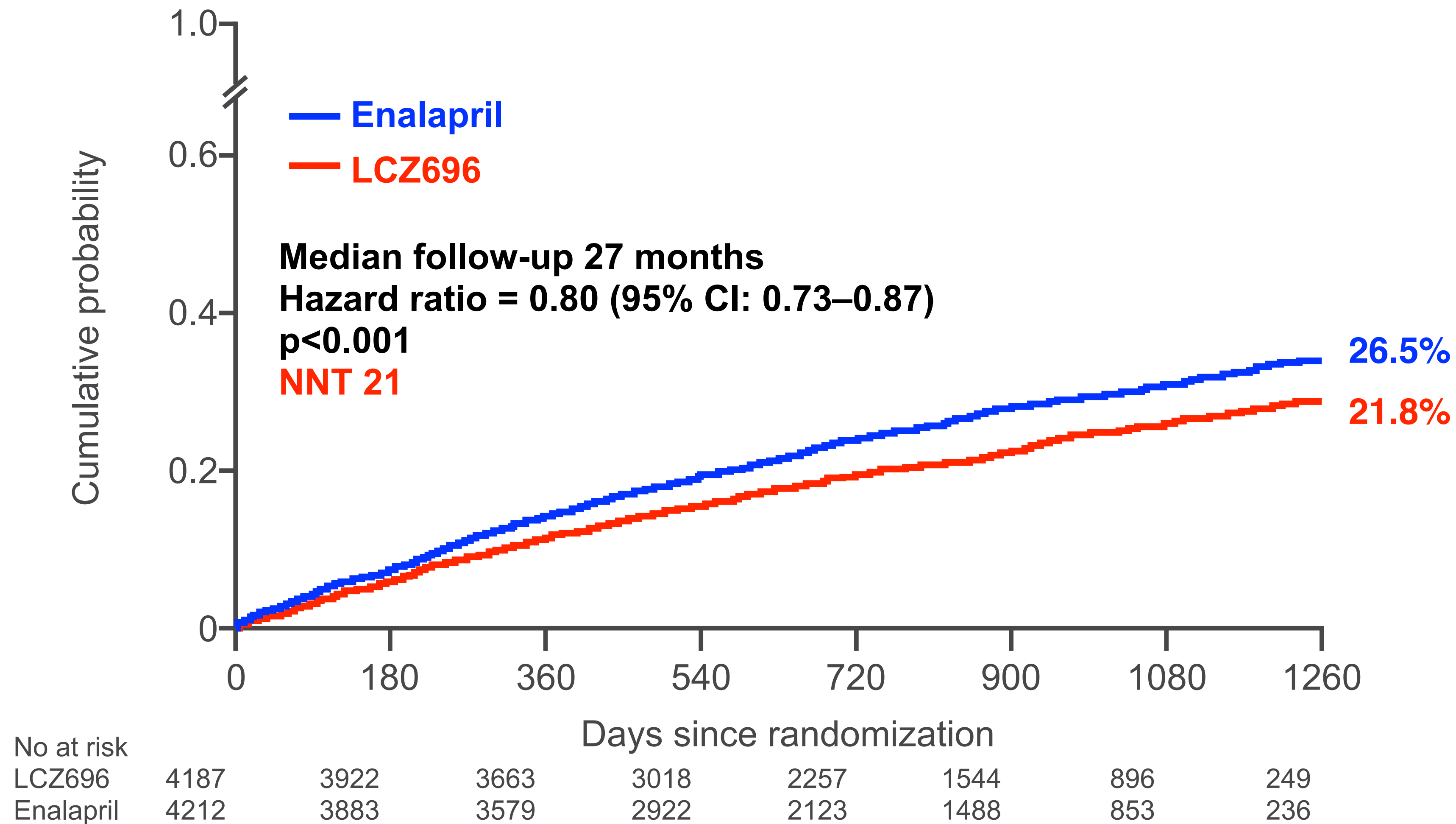


Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

McMurray JJ. *et al.* N Engl J Med. 2014;371(11):993-1'004.



# PARADIGM-HF: Primary endpoint: Death from CV causes or first hospitalization for HF



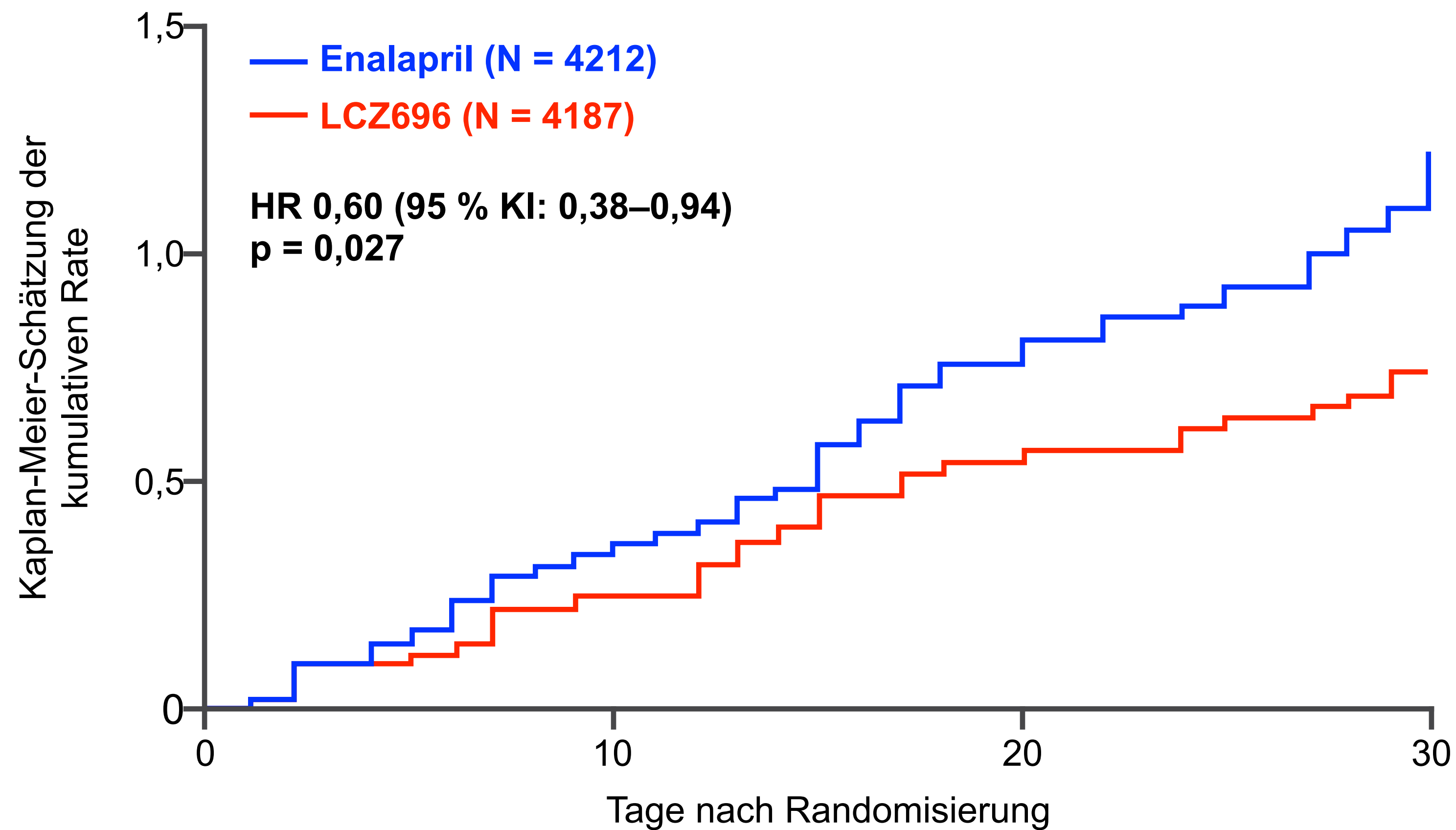
**Universität  
Zürich**<sup>UZH</sup>

McMurray JJ. *et al.* N Engl J Med. 2014;371(11):993-1'004.



# PARADIGM-HF

## Primary Endpoint at day 30



Anzahl der Patienten

LCZ696 4187

4174

4153

4140

Enalapril 4212

4192

4166

4143

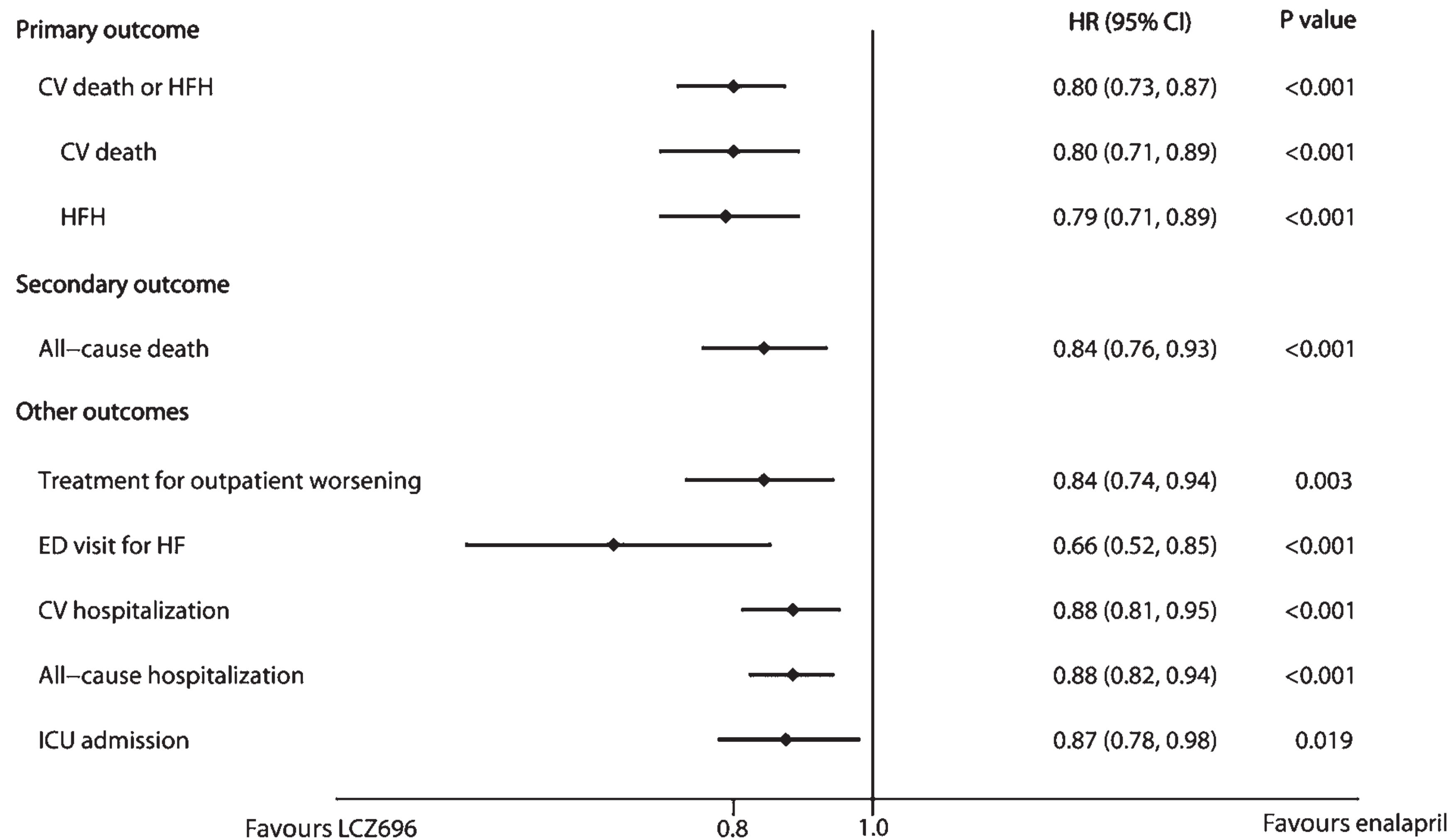


Universität  
Zürich<sup>UZH</sup>

Packer M, *et al.* Circulation. 2015 Jan 6;131(1):54-61.



# Other Outcomes in PARADIGM-HF



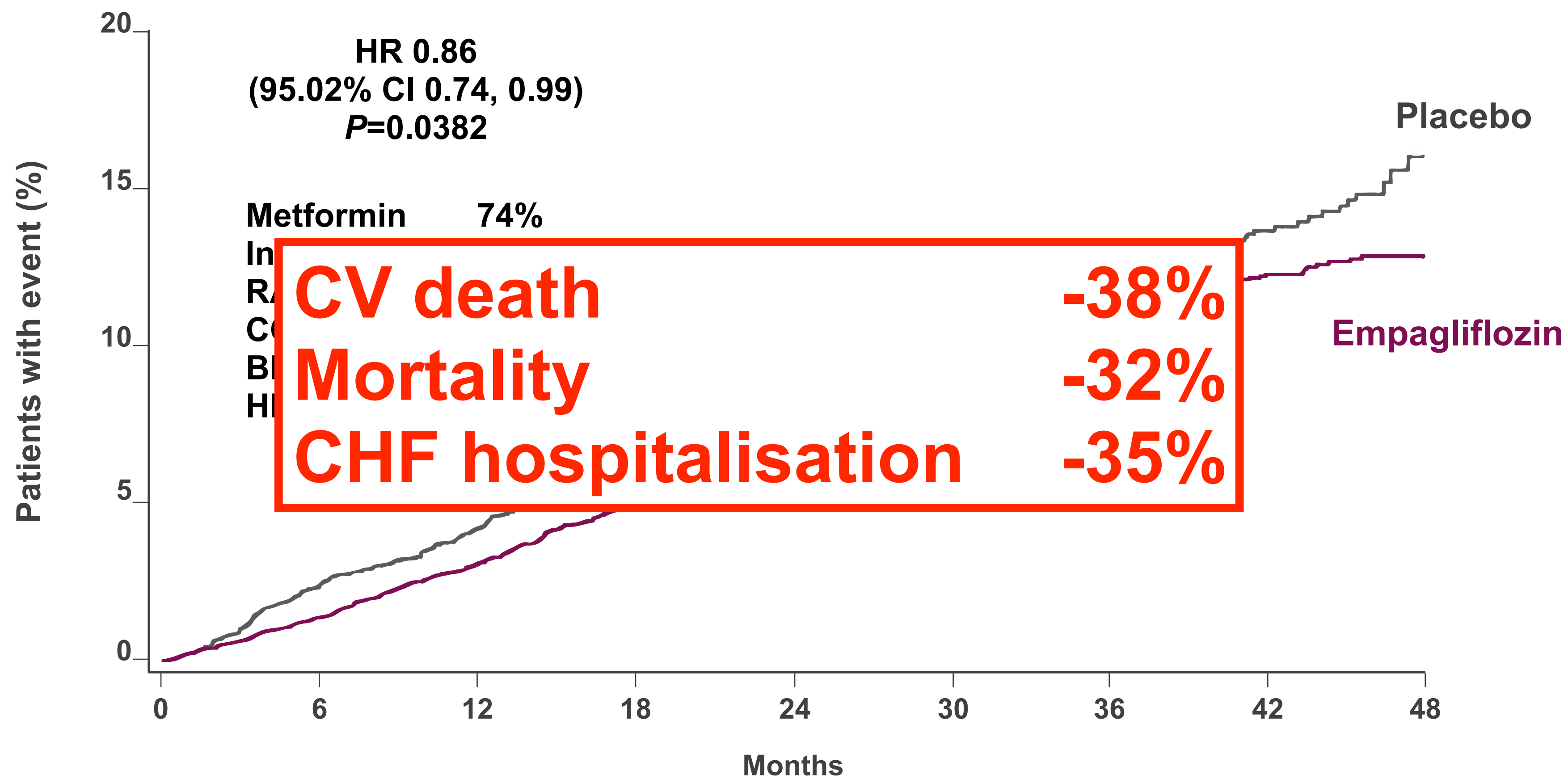
McMurray JJV: Eur Heart J 2015



**Universität  
Zürich** <sup>UZH</sup>



# EMPA-REG: Primary Endpoint (CV death, nonfatal MI, nonfatal stroke)

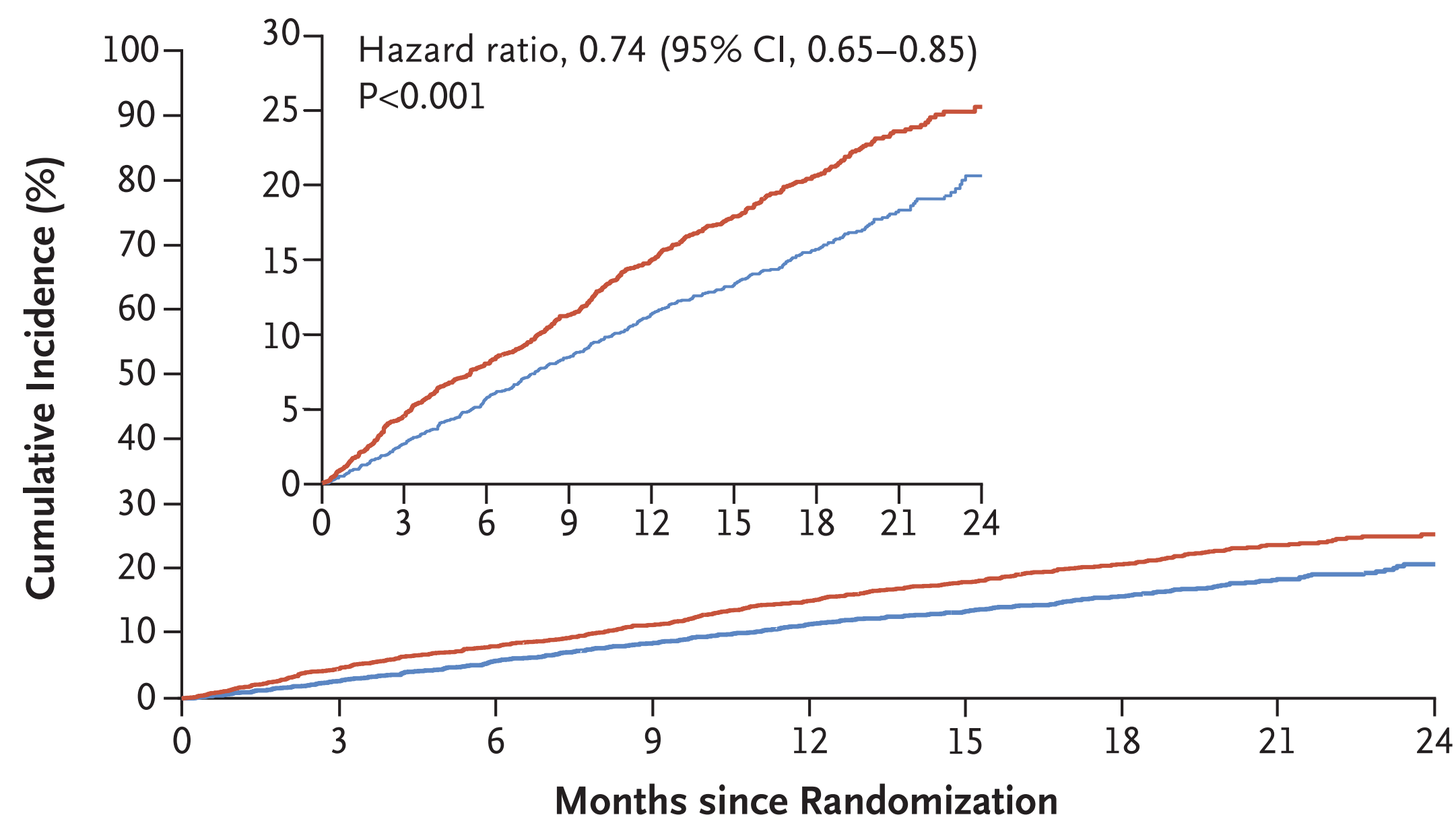


No. of patients									
Empagliflozin	4687	4580	4455	4328	3851	2821	2359	1534	
Placebo	2333	2256	2194	2112	1875	1380	1161	741	166

# SGLT2-Hemmer bei Herzinsuffizienz

## Kardiovaskulärer Tod oder Hospitalisation wegen Herzinsuffizienz

DAPA-HF

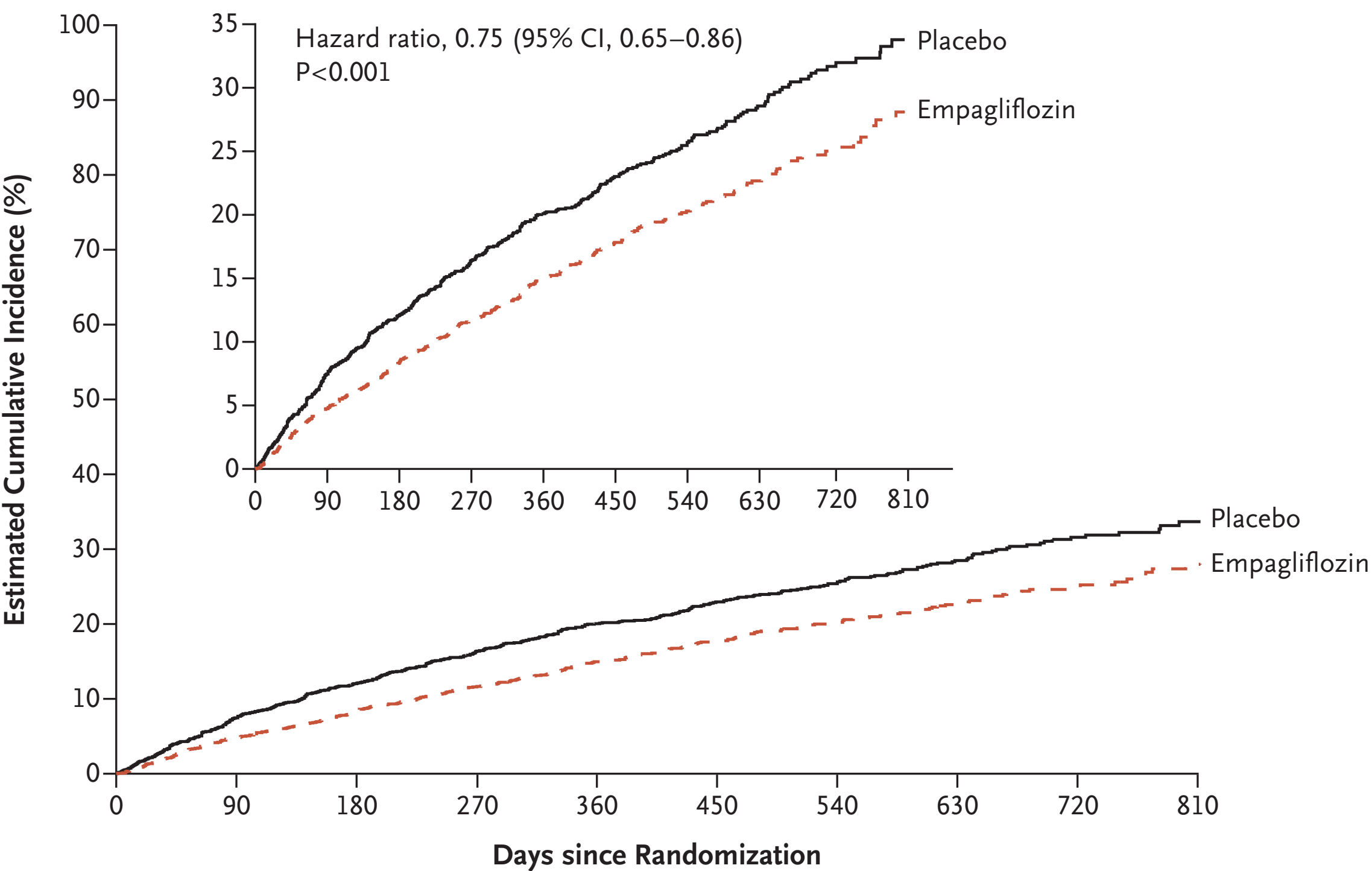


No. at Risk

Placebo	2371	2258	2163	2075	1917	1478	1096	593	210
Dapagliflozin	2373	2305	2221	2147	2002	1560	1146	612	210

McMurray JJV et al: NEJM 2019

EMPEROR-Reduced



No. at Risk

Placebo	1867	1715	1612	1345	1108	854	611	410	224	109
Empagliflozin	1863	1763	1677	1424	1172	909	645	423	231	101

Packer M et al: NEJM 2020

# SGLT2 inhibitors in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction: a meta-analysis of the EMPEROR-Reduced and DAPA-HF trials



Lancet 30.08.2020

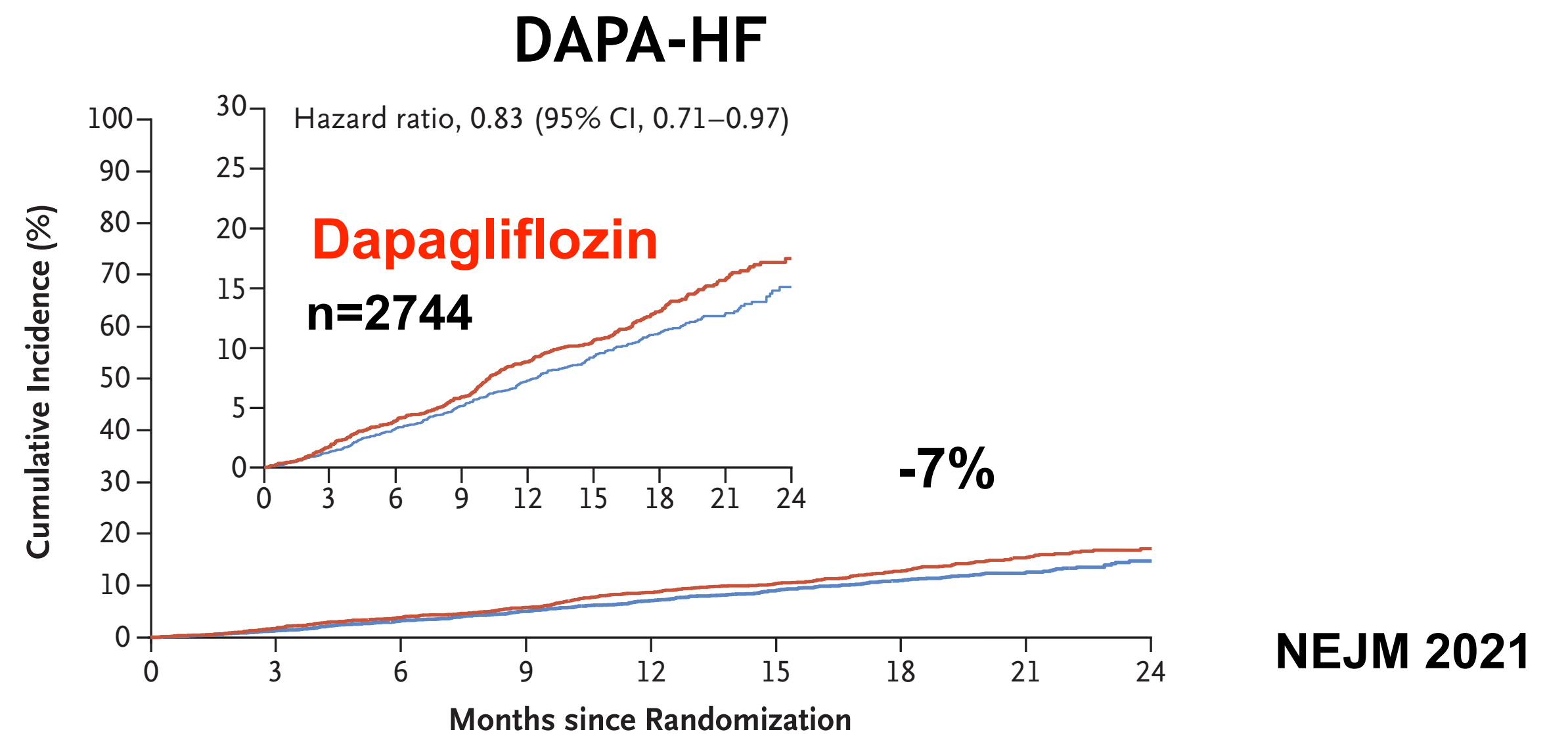
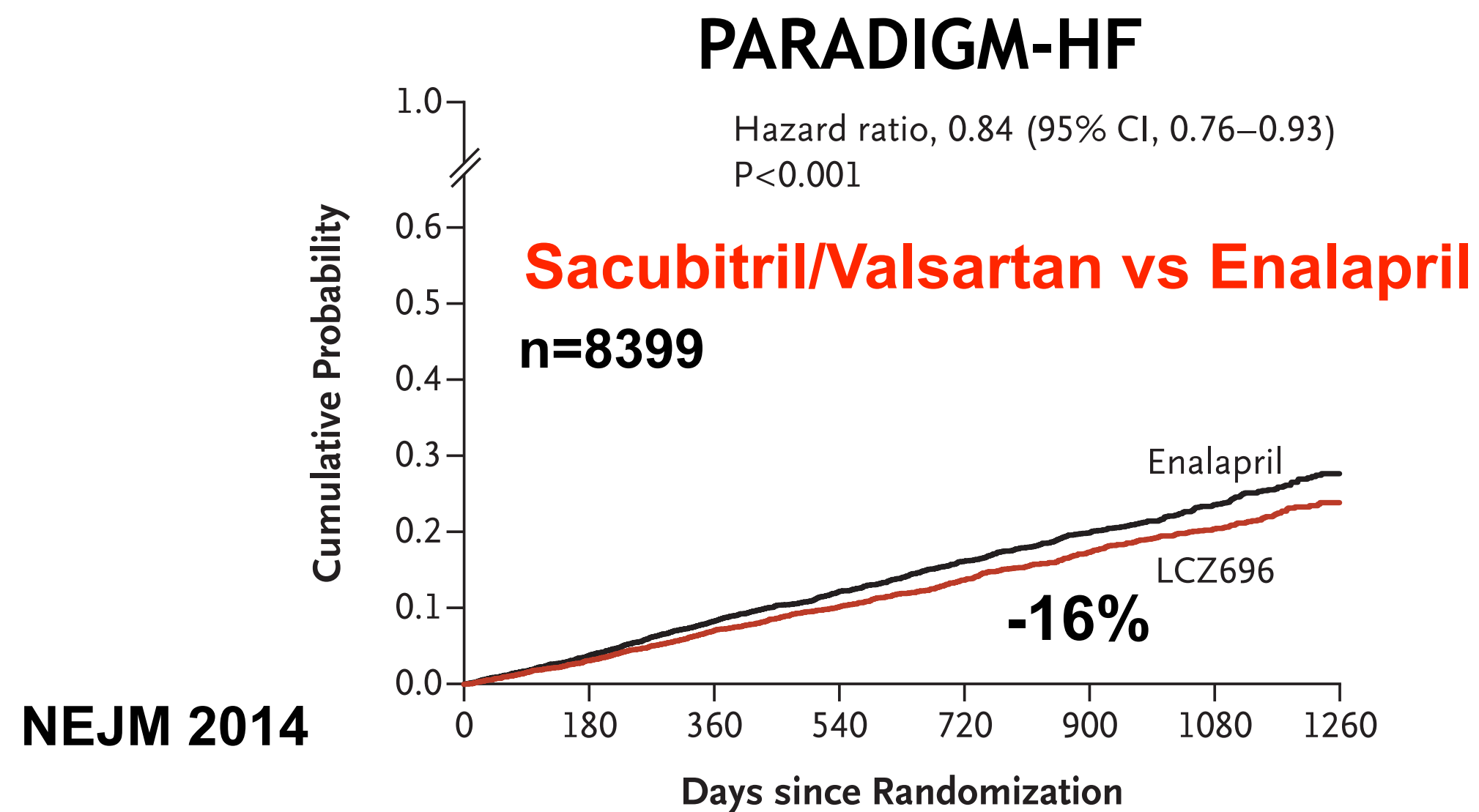
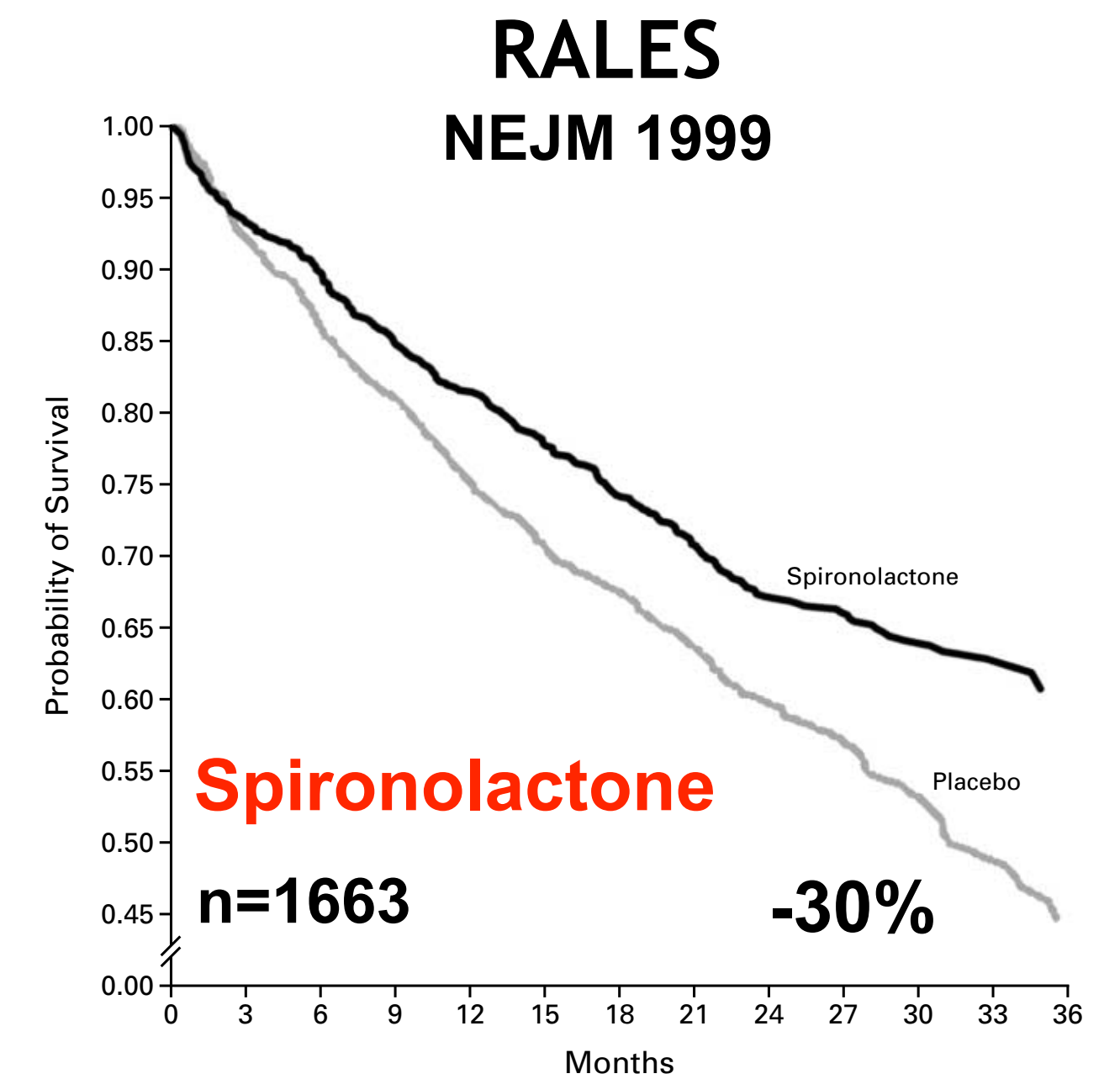
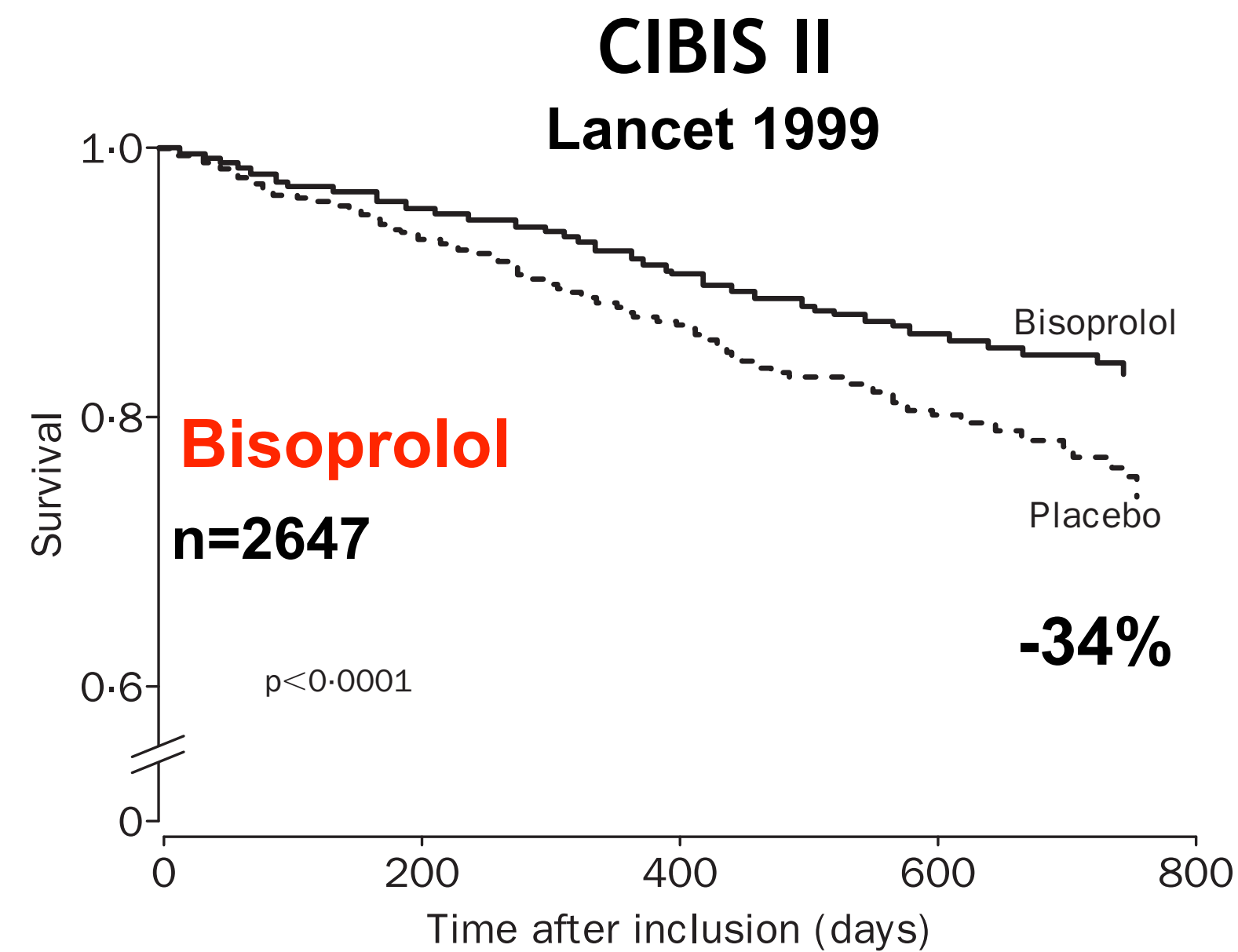
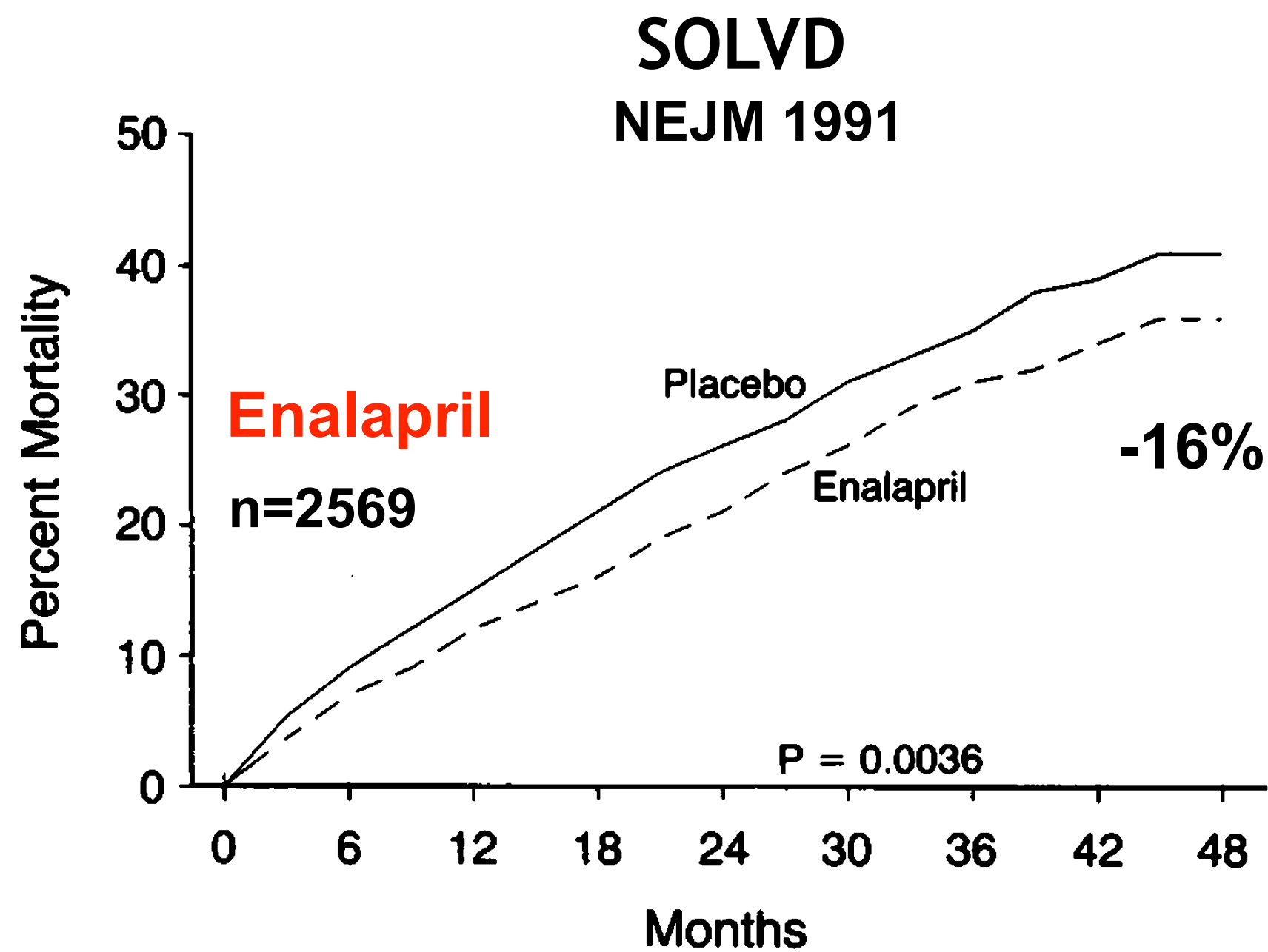
Faiez Zannad, João Pedro Ferreira, Stuart J Pocock, Stefan D Anker, Javed Butler, Gerasimos Filippatos, Martina Brueckmann, Anne Pernille Ofstad, Egon Pfarr, Waheed Jamal, Milton Packer

**Findings** Among 8474 patients, treatment with an SGLT2 inhibitor resulted in a 13% reduction in all-cause death (pooled HR 0.87, 95% CI 0.76–0.98;  $p=0.027$ ). SGLT2 inhibitors also reduced the risk of cardiovascular death or first hospitalisation for heart failure (HR 0.86, 95% CI 0.76–0.98;  $p=0.0001$ ), the composite of recurrent hospitalisation for heart failure or first hospitalisation for heart failure (HR 0.75, 95% CI 0.68–0.84;  $p<0.0001$ ), and the risk of the composite renal outcome (HR 0.84, 95% CI 0.75–0.94;  $p=0.0001$ ). The size between trials were not significantly different. All tests for heterogeneity of effect size were non-significant, suggesting consistent benefits for subgroups based on age, sex, diabetes, treatment with an ACEi and baseline eGFR, but suggested treatment-by-subgroup interactions for subgroups based on NYHA functional class and race.

Outcome	Relative Risk Reduction
All-cause mortality	-13%
Cardiovascular death	-14%
Hosp for HF/cv death	-26%
Hosp for HF	-31%

**Interpretation** The effects of empagliflozin and dapagliflozin on hospitalisations for heart failure were consistent in the two independent trials and suggest that these agents also improve renal outcomes and reduce all-cause and cardiovascular death in patients with HFrEF.

# Mortalität in Landmark-Studien bei chronischer Herzinsuffizienz



# Therapie der HFrEF

Diuretika zur Flüssigkeitsbilanz

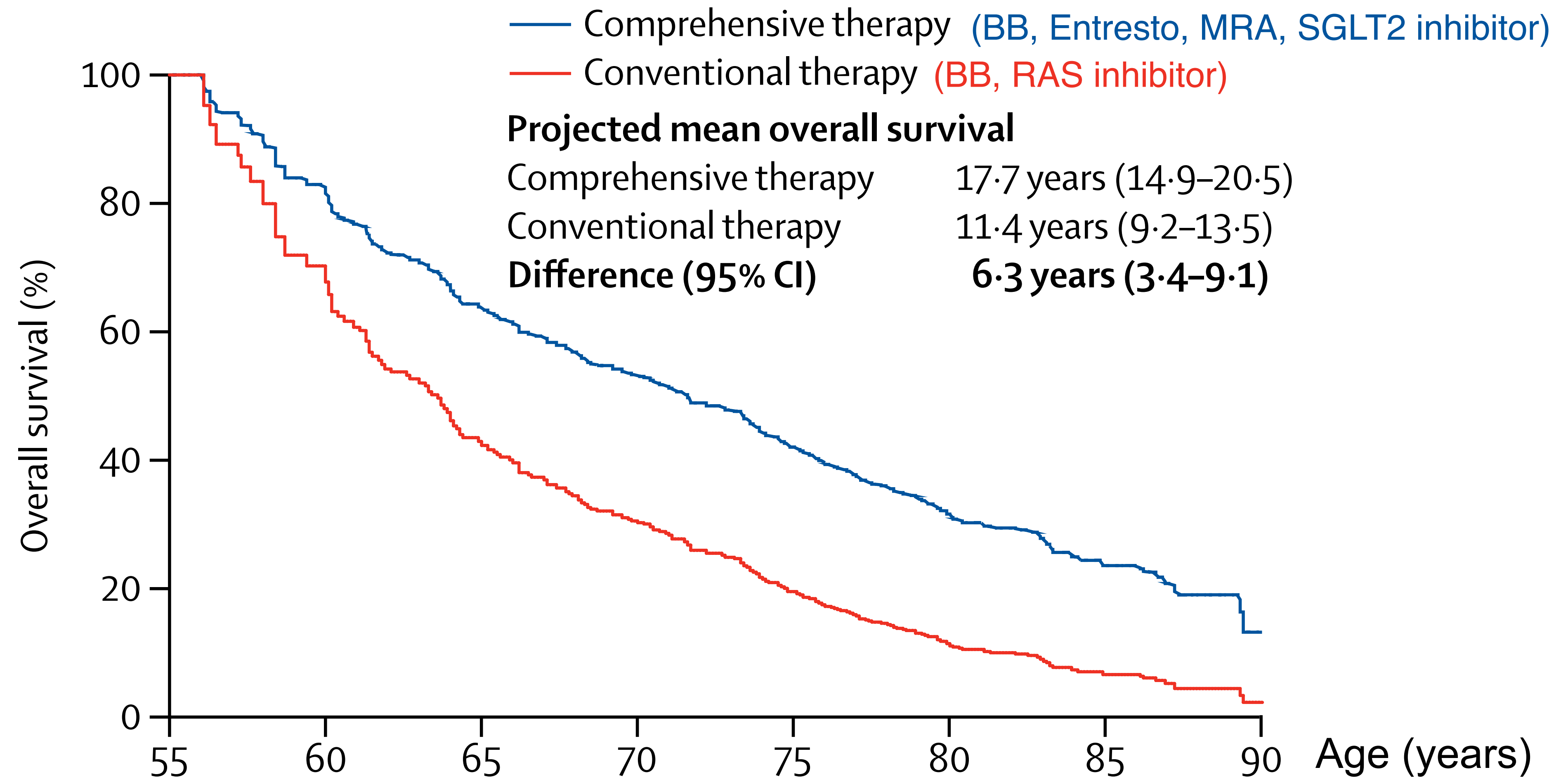
Entresto (ACE-Hemmer)

Betablocker

Aldosteron-Antagonisten

SGLT2-Hemmer

# Projected mean survival of a 55 year old patient with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction



Start l ? o slow

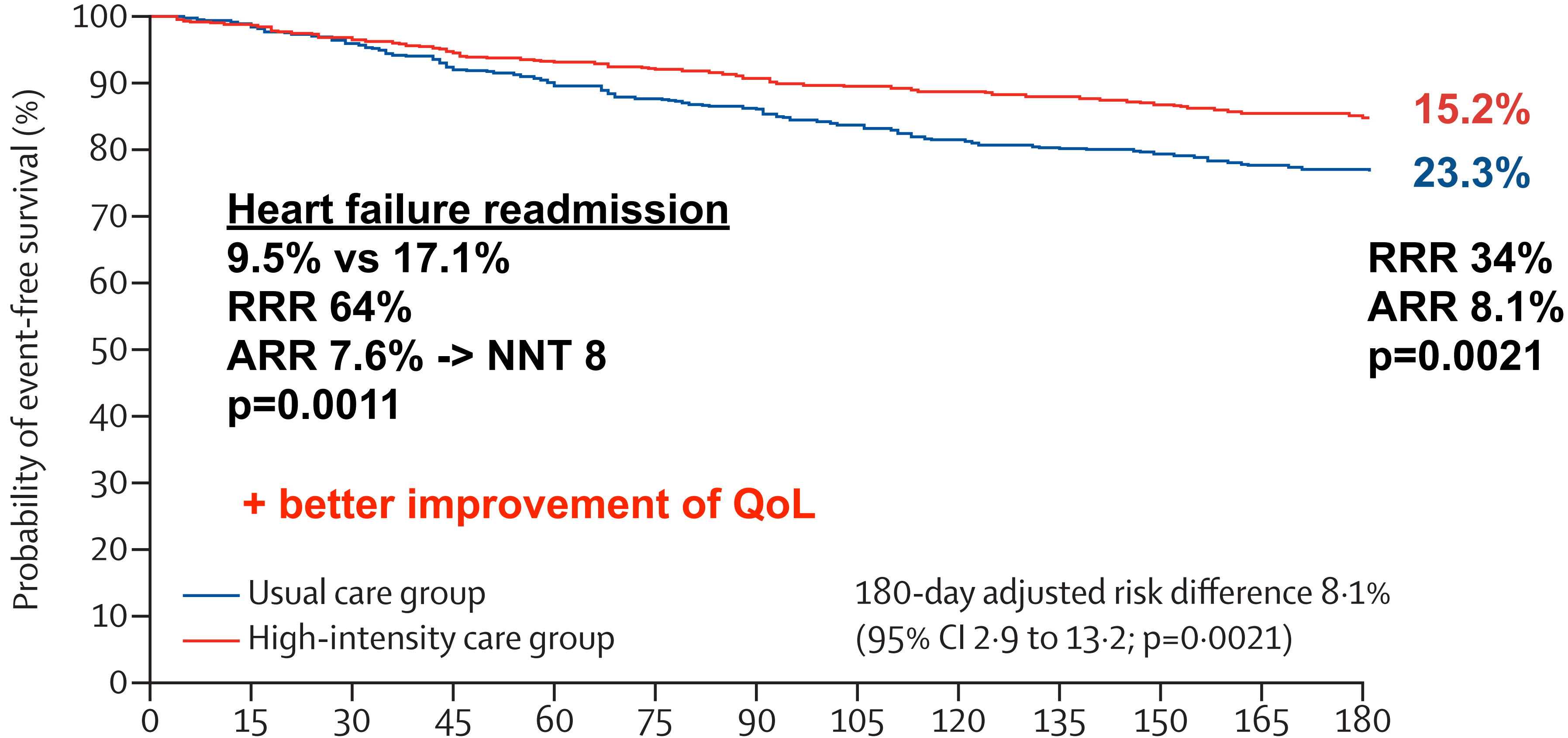


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# Strong-HF: All Cause Mortality, HF Hospitalisations

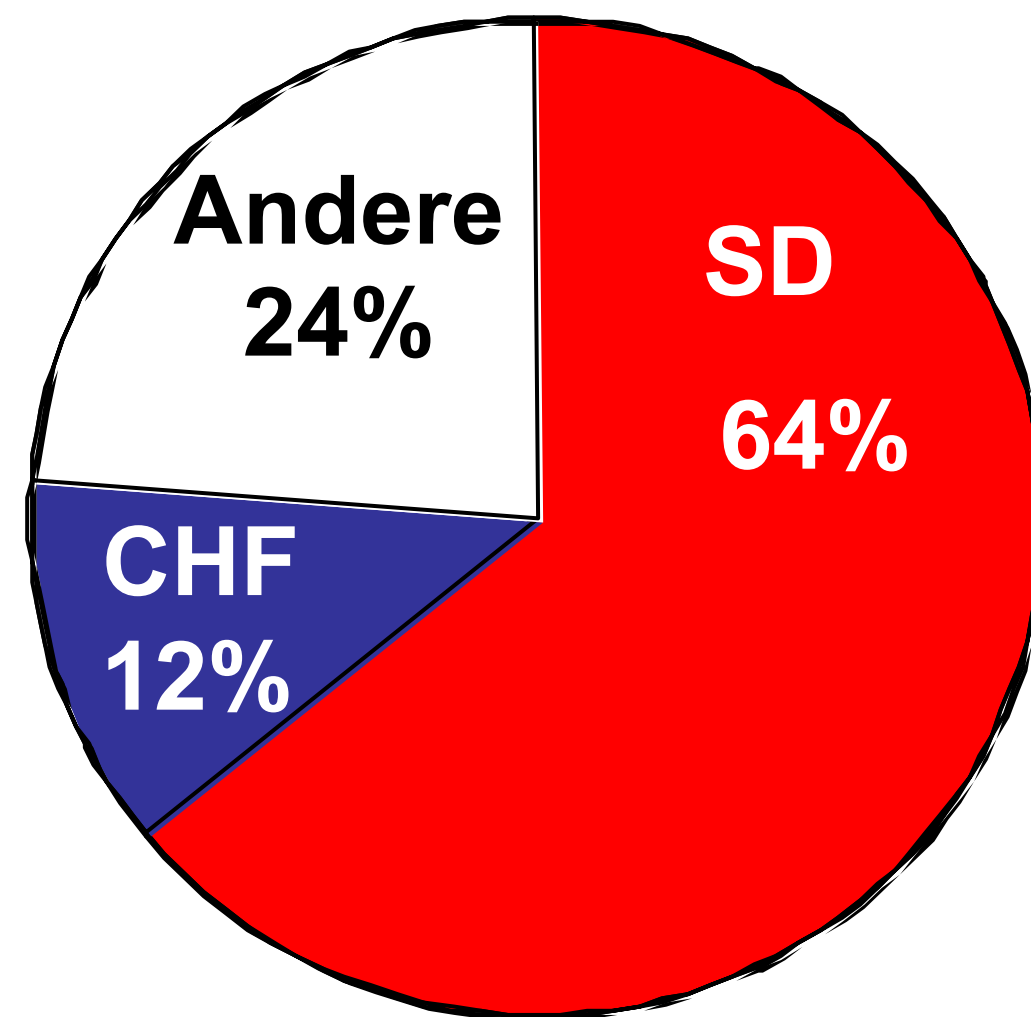
Visits at week 1, 2, 3, 6, 12, 25 after hospitalisation



Number at risk													
Usual care group	502	494	474	454	439	423	410	394	381	373	366	353	329
High-intensity care group	506	497	484	466	449	440	430	419	415	408	397	384	345

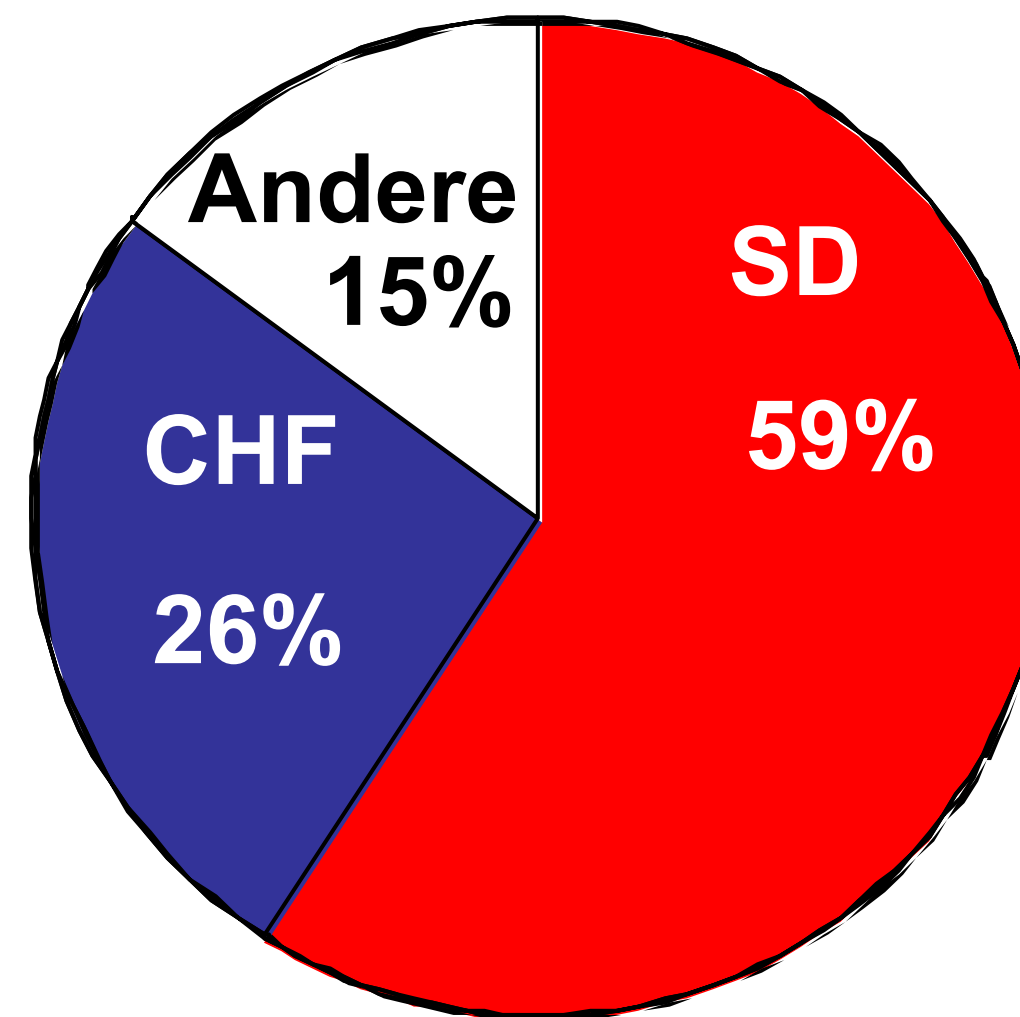
# Todesursache nach NYHA Klasse in MERIT

**NYHA II**



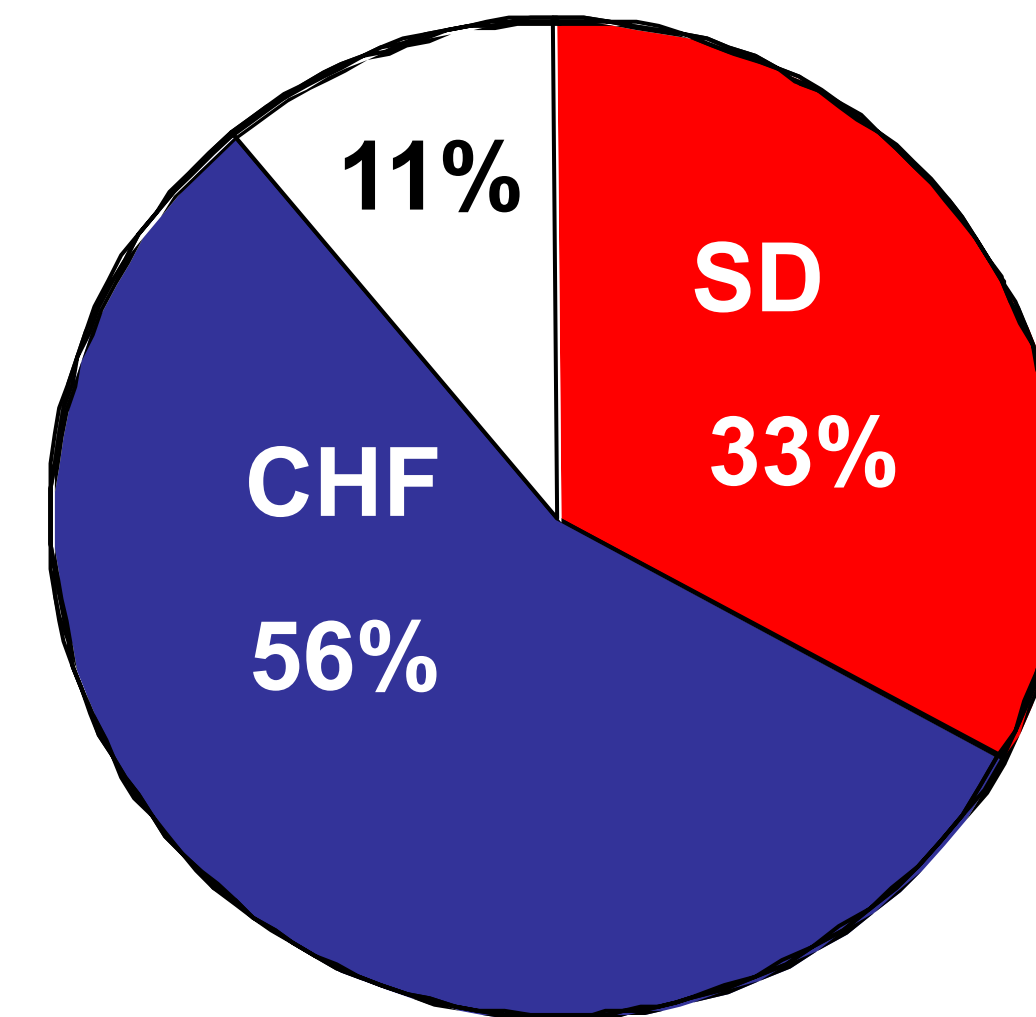
**Anzahl Todesfälle  
n=103**

**NYHA III**



**Anzahl Todesfälle  
n=232**

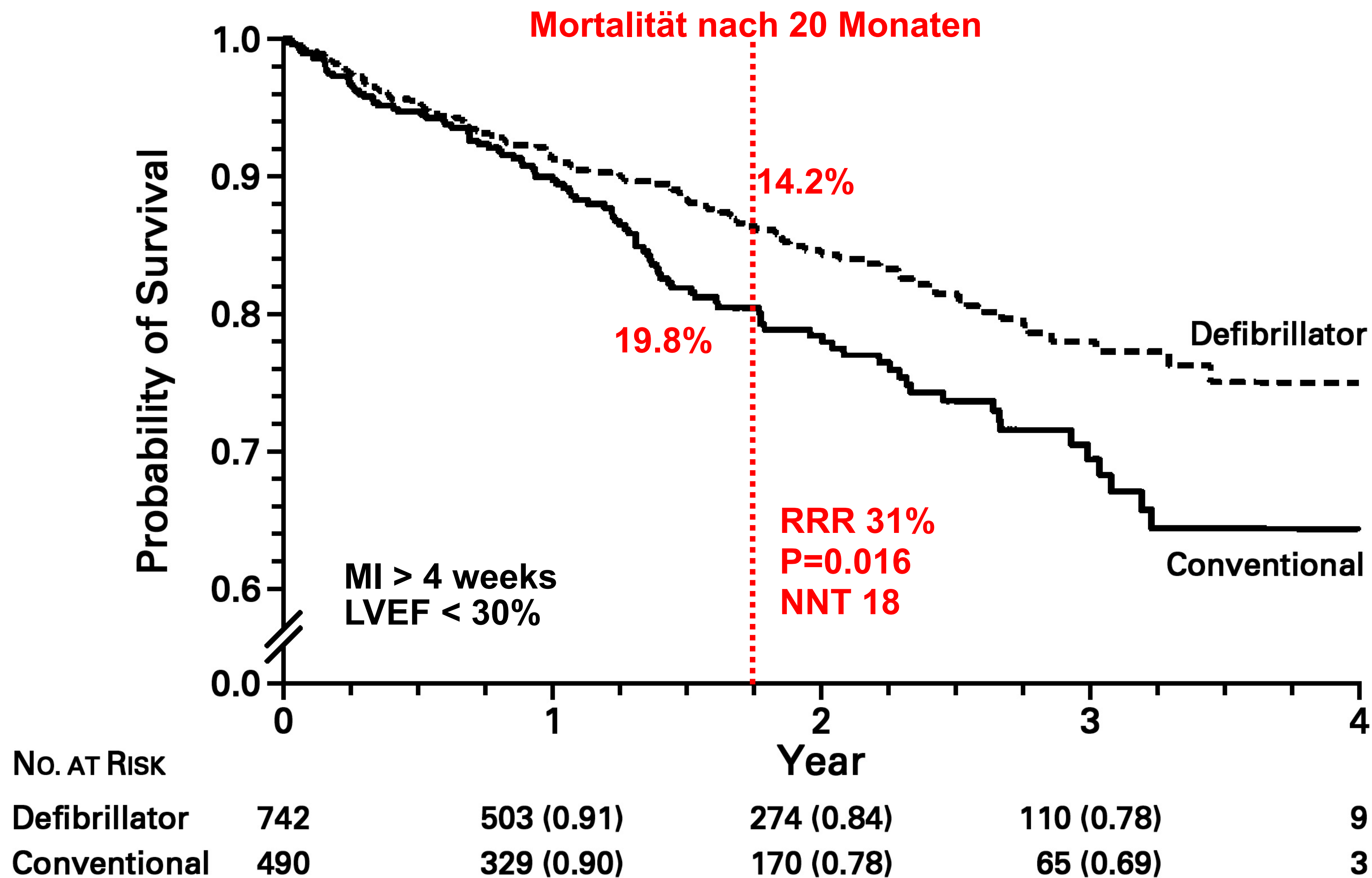
**NYHA IV**



**Anzahl Todesfälle  
n=27**

CHF=Herzinsuffizienz  
SD=plötzlicher Herztod

# Einfluss eines internen Defibrillators auf das Überleben von Patients mit eingeschränkter linksventrikulärer Funktion nach Myokardinfarkt

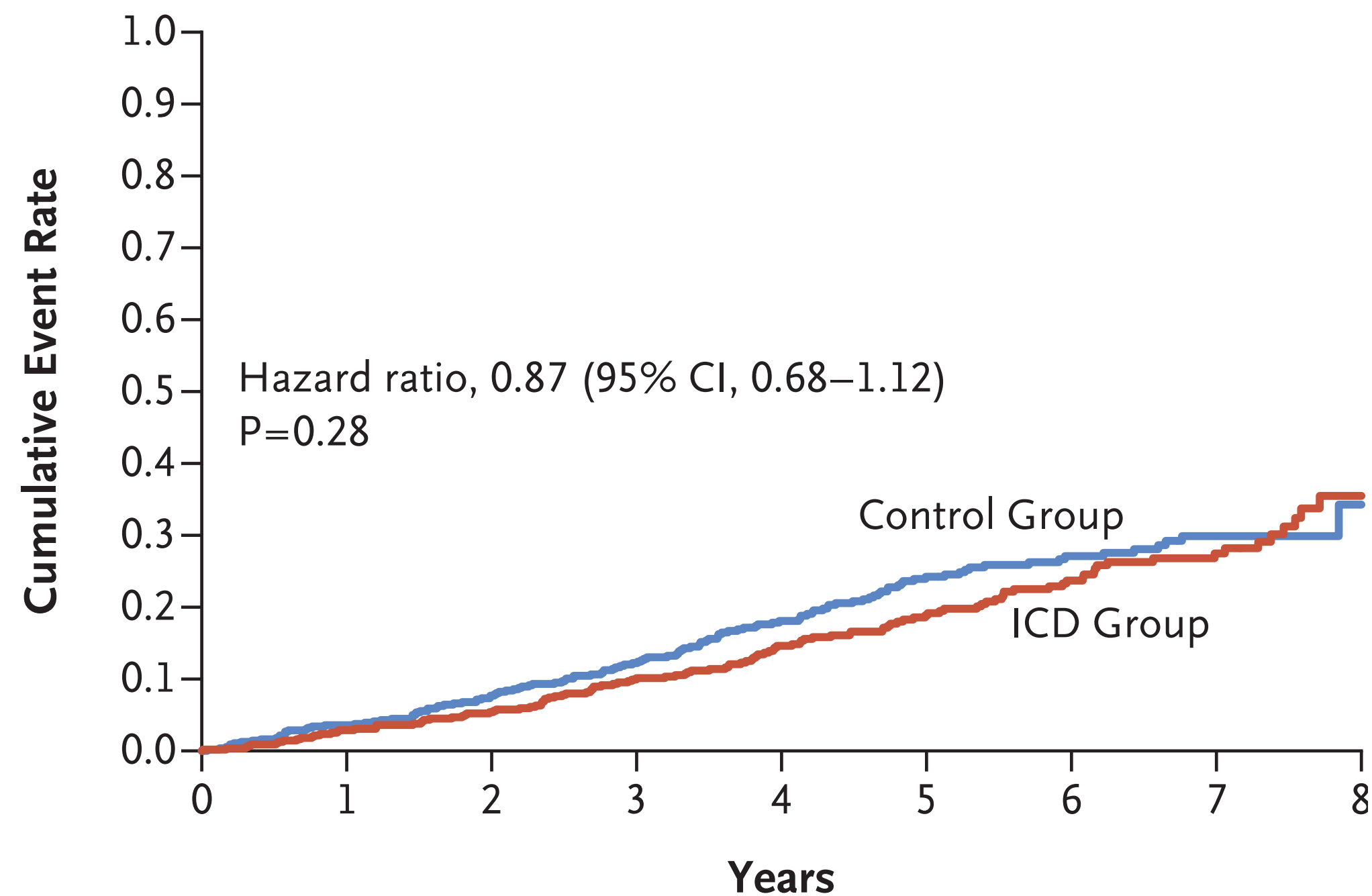


# ICD in Patients with Nonischemic Systolic Heart Failure

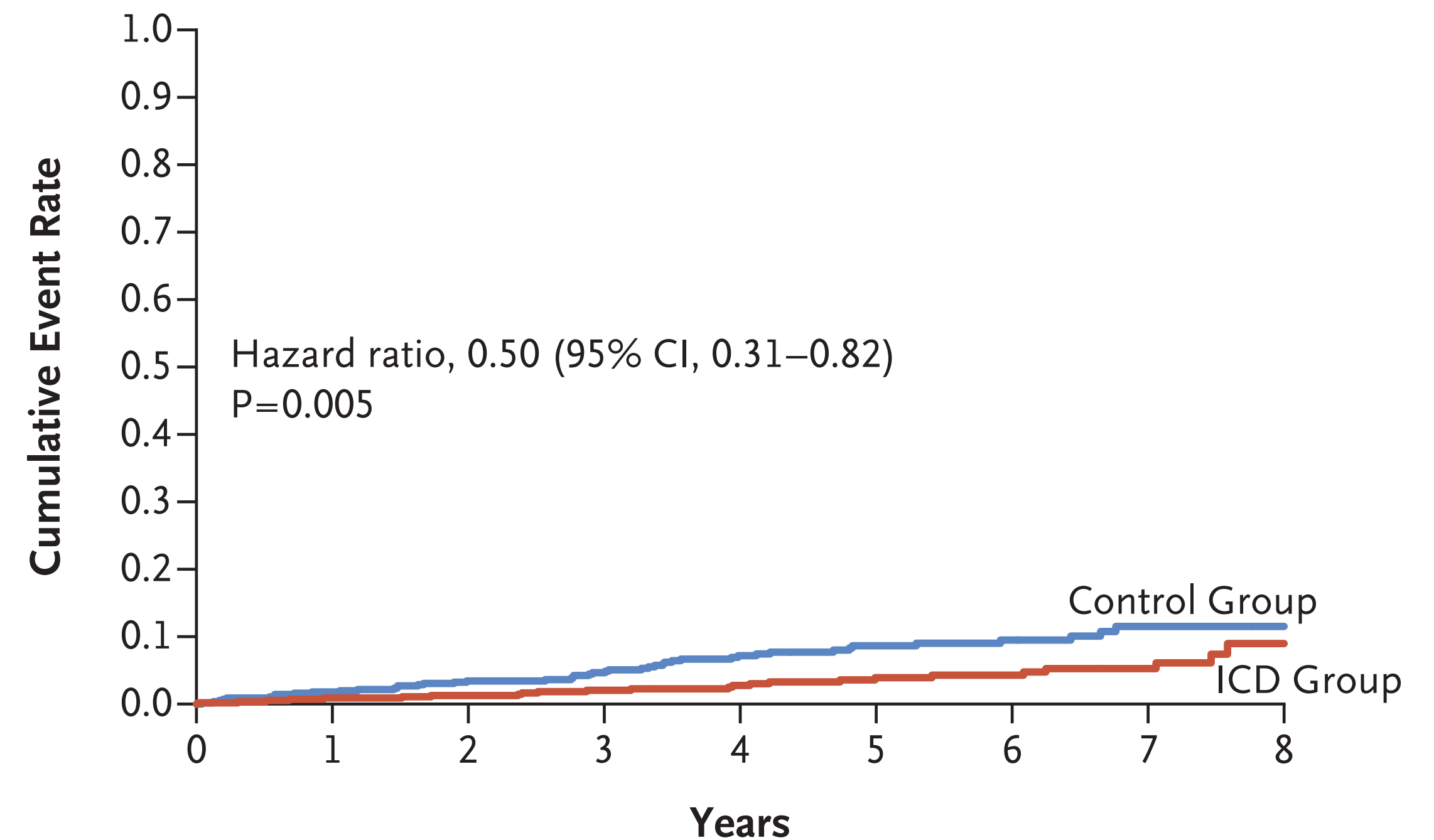
## DANISH

556 patients with symptomatic systolic heart failure (left ventricular ejection fraction,  $\leq 35\%$ ) **not** caused by coronary artery disease were assigned to receive an ICD, and 560 patients were assigned to receive usual clinical care

Death from Any Cause

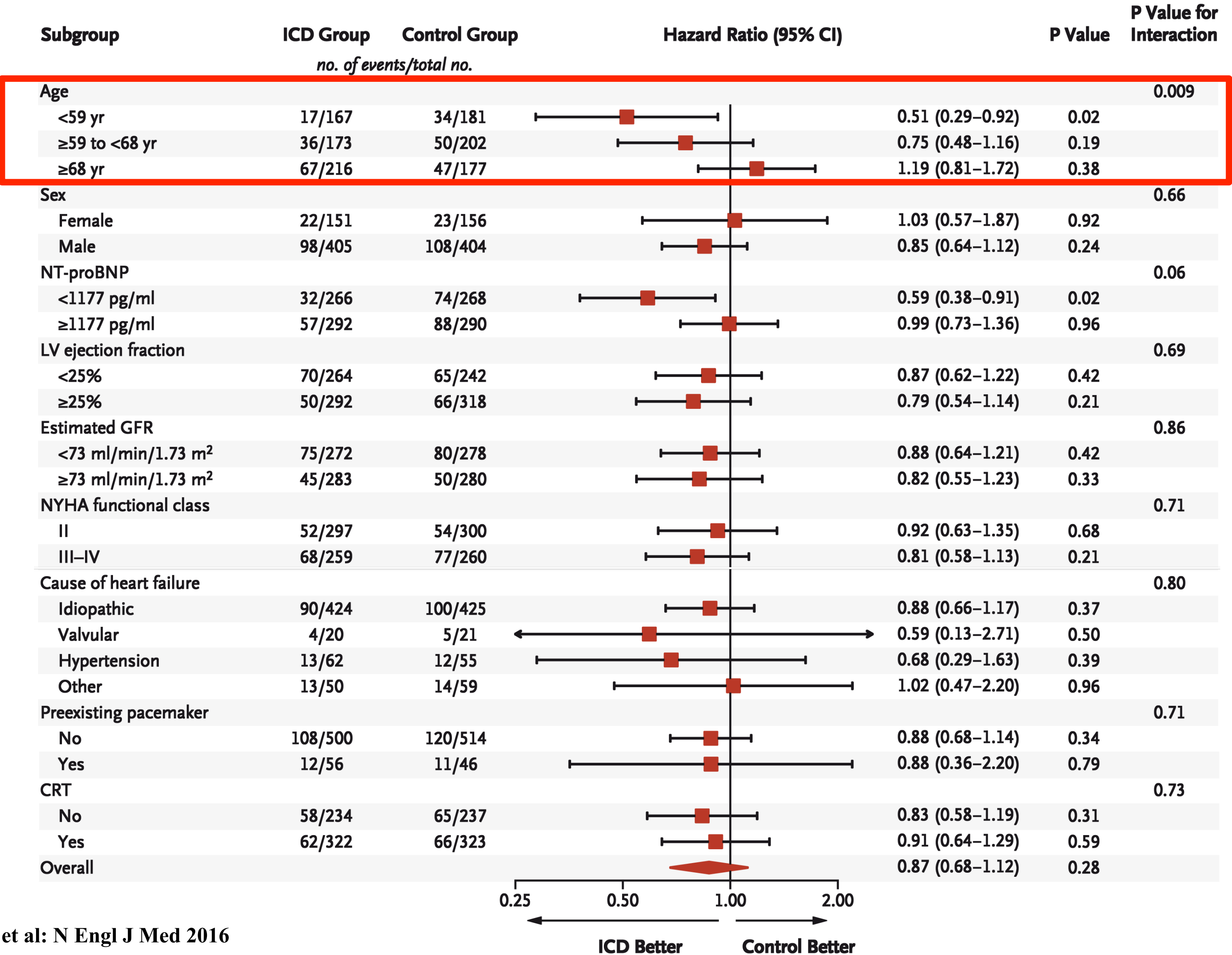


Sudden Cardiac Death



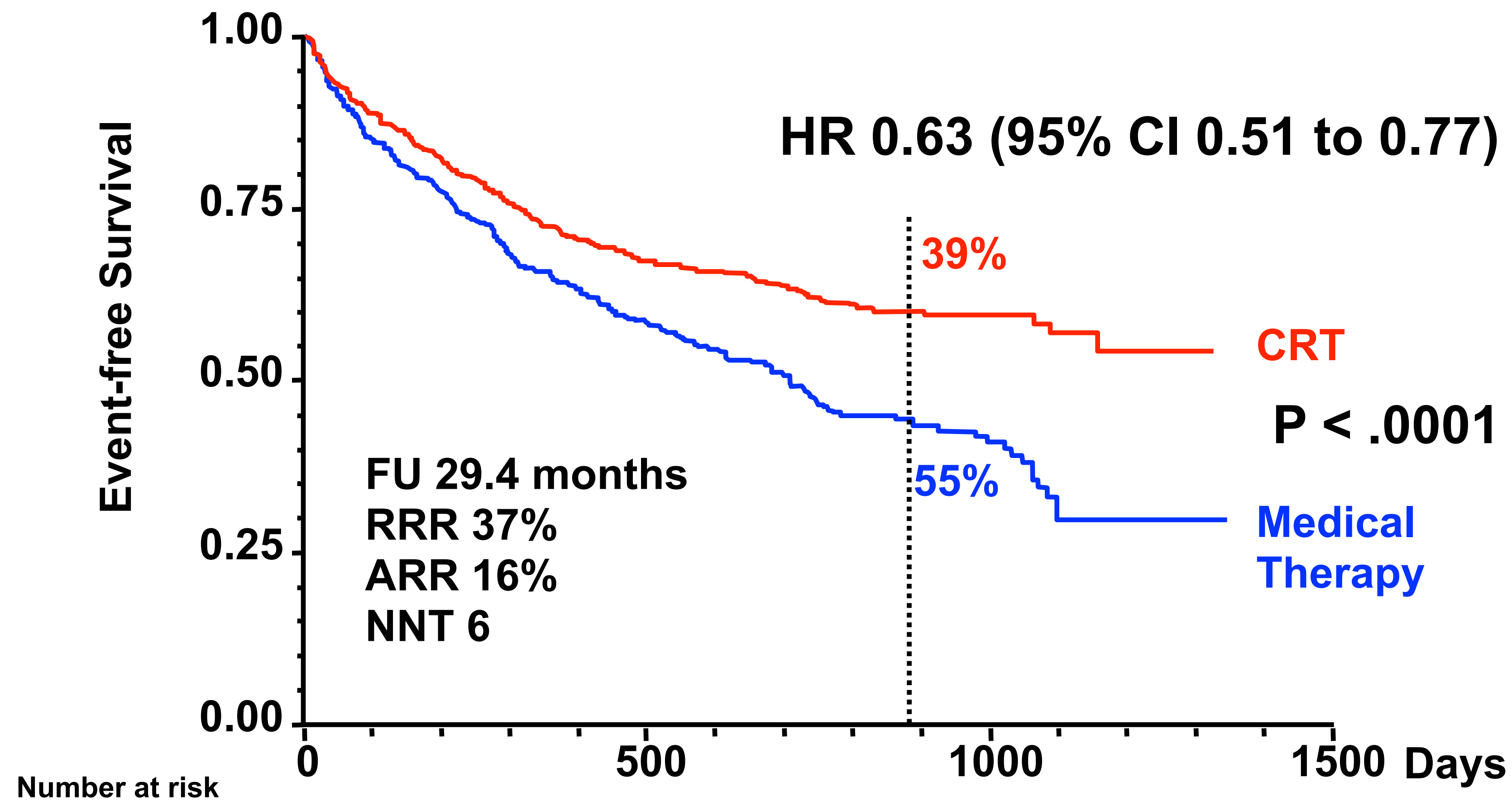
# ICD in Patients with Nonischemic Systolic Heart Failure

## DANISH



# CARE-HF: Primary Endpoint

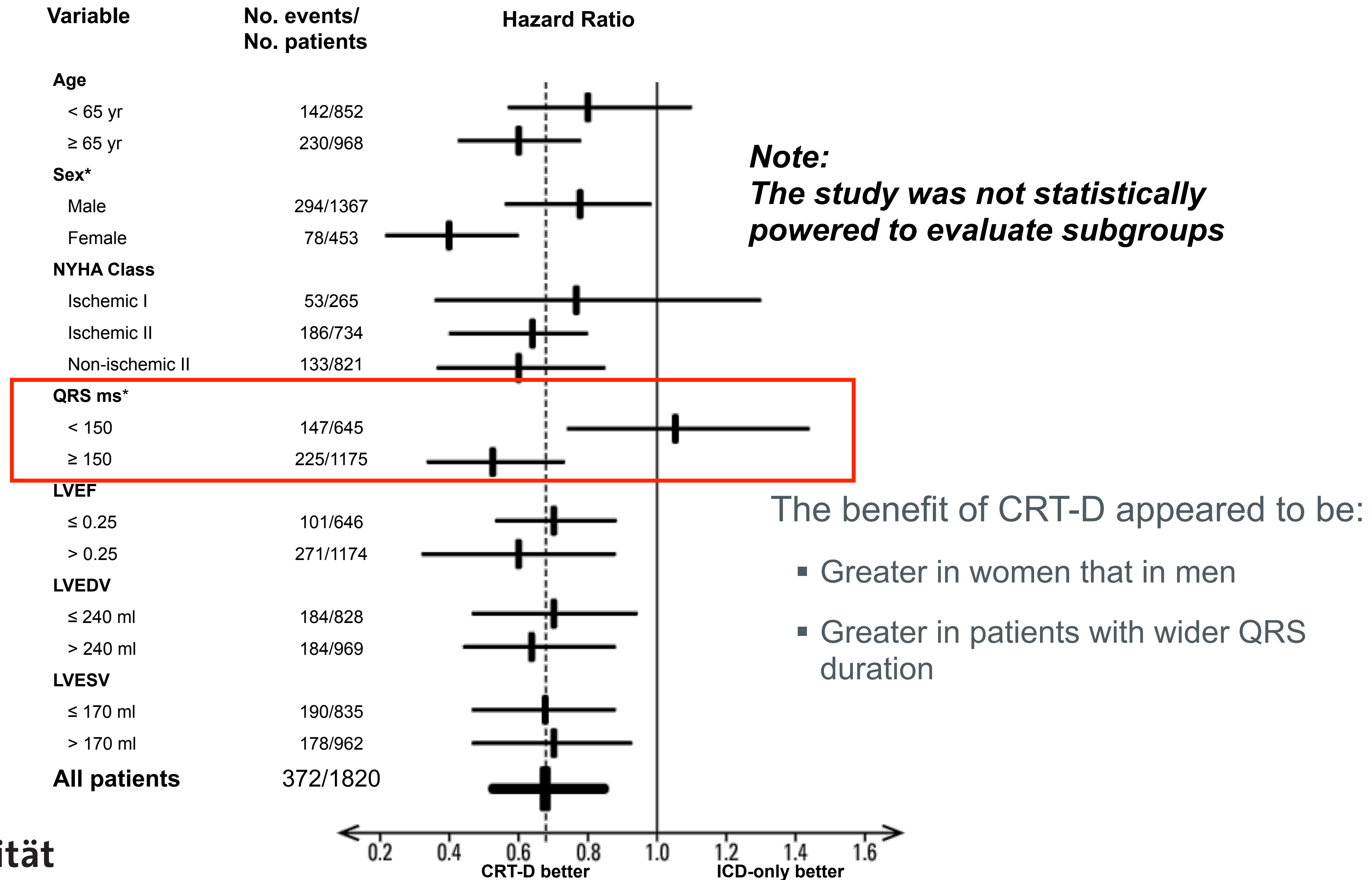
(All-cause Mortality or Unplanned Hosp. for Major CVS Event)



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# MADIT-CRT – Subgruppen



# Resynchronisation

071720061208

S5-1/Adult

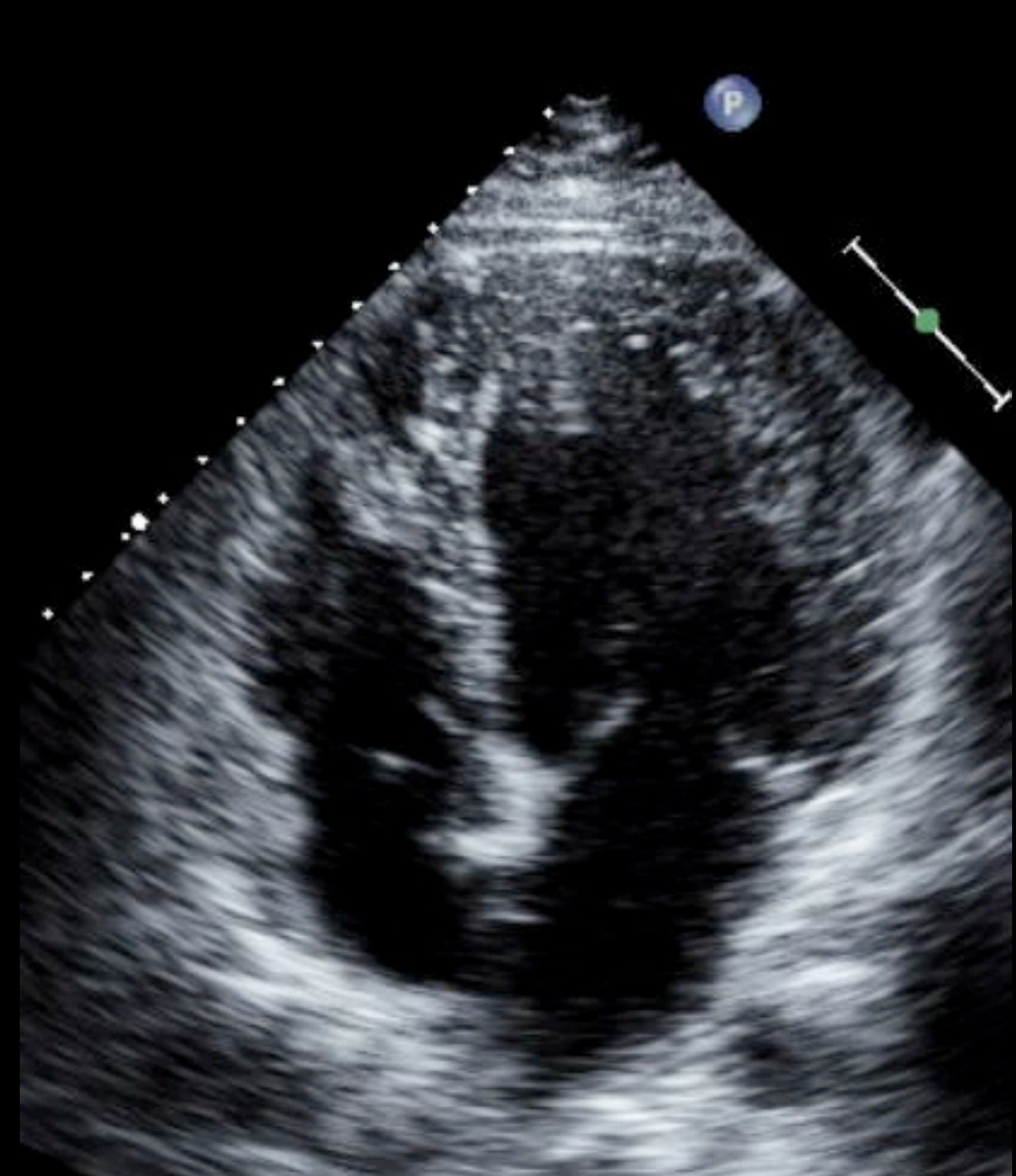
ARKUS

23/01/2008

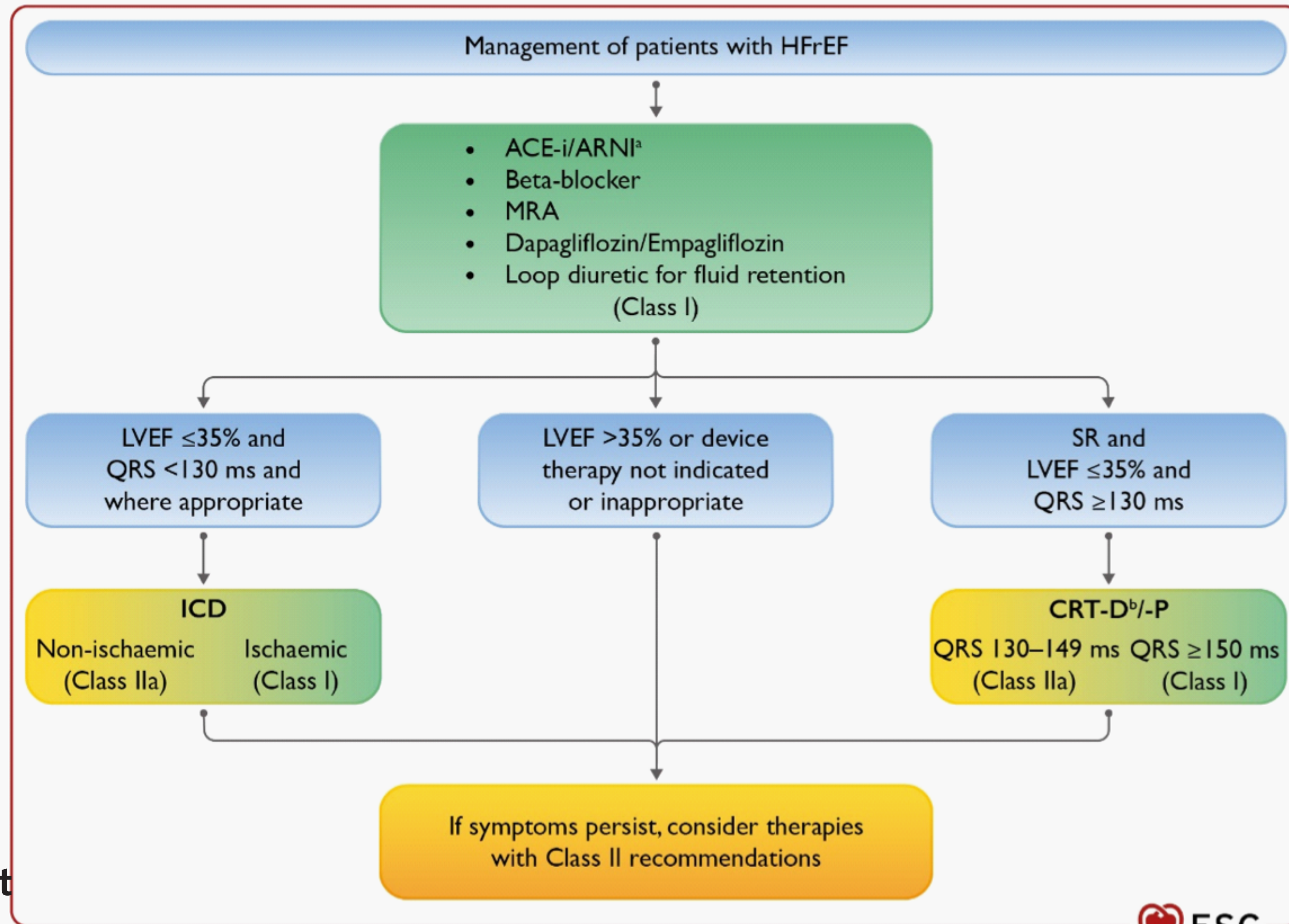
10:56:3

0123

S5-1/A



# Therapeutic Algorithm of Class I Therapy in Patients with Heart Failure with Reduced Ejection Fraction



ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Catheter Ablation in End-Stage Heart Failure with Atrial Fibrillation

Christian Sohns, M.D., Henrik Fox, M.D., Nassir F. Marrouche, M.D.,  
Harry J.G.M. Crijns, M.D., Ph.D., Angelika Costard-Jaeckle, M.D.,  
Leonard Bergau, M.D., Gerhard Hindricks, M.D., Nikolaos Dagres, M.D.,  
Samuel Sossalla, M.D., Rene Schramm, M.D., Ph.D., Thomas Fink, M.D.,  
Mustapha El Hamriti, M.D., Maximilian Moersdorf, M.D., Vanessa Sciacca, M.D.,  
Frank Konietzschke, Ph.D., Volker Rudolph, M.D., Jan Gummert, M.D.,  
Jan G.P. Tijssen, Ph.D., and Philipp Sommer, M.D.,  
for the CASTLE HTx Investigators

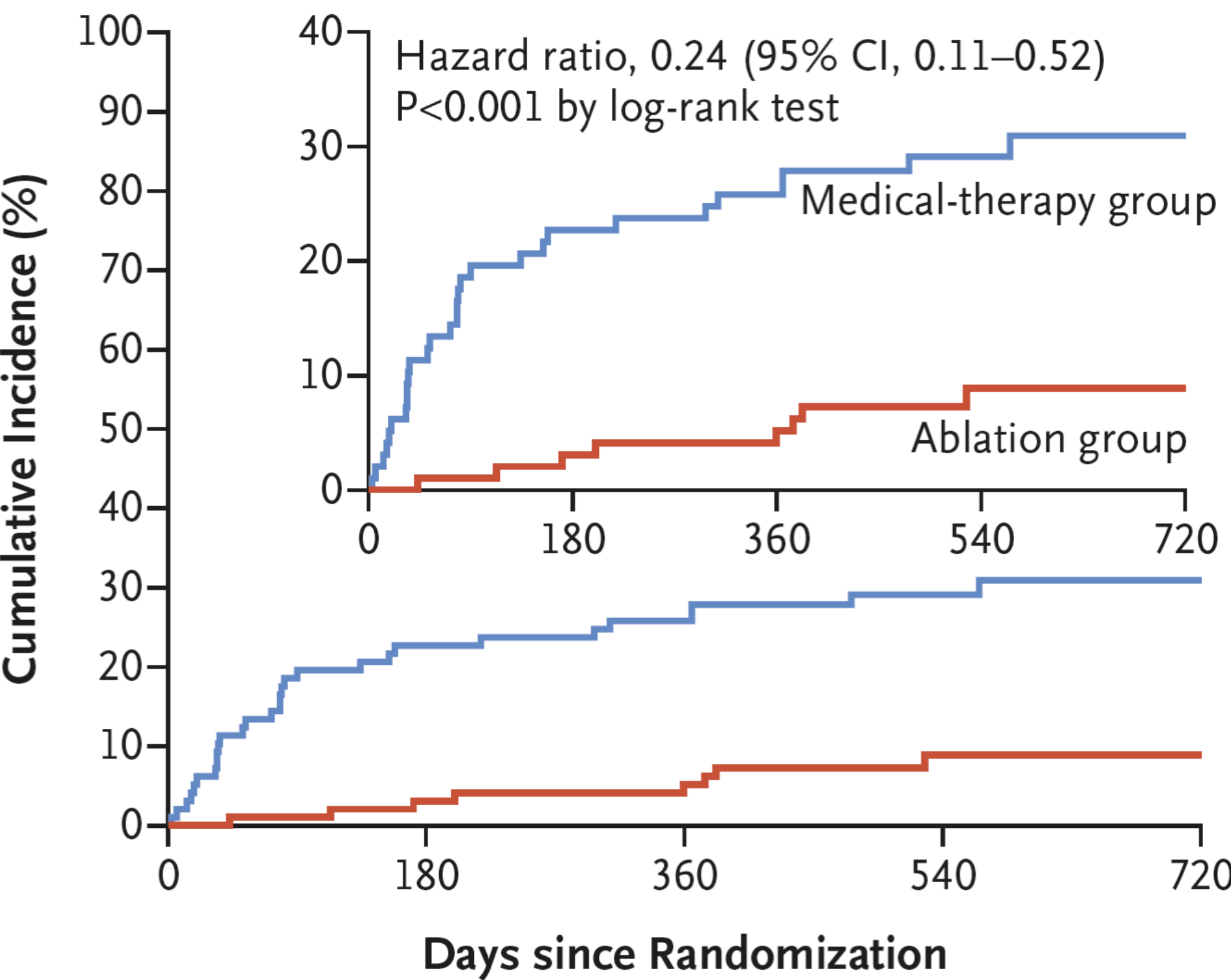
27.08.2023

# CASTLE-HTx - Baseline Characteristics

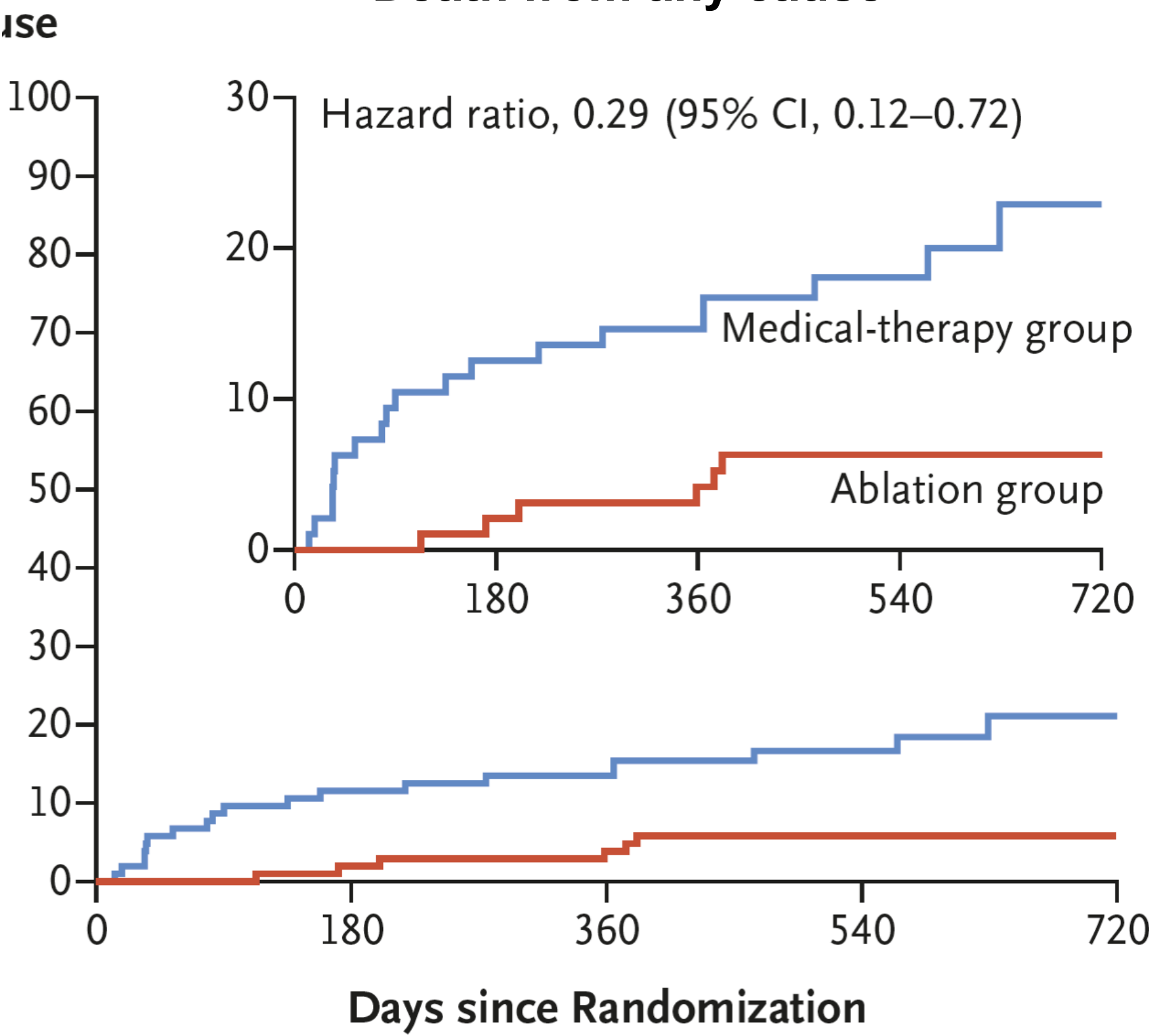
Characteristic	Ablation Group (N = 97)	Medical-Therapy Group (N = 97)
Age — yr	62±12	65±10
Male sex — no. (%)	85 (88)	72 (74)
Body-mass index†	28±4	28±5
NYHA functional class — no. (%)‡		
II	33 (34)	28 (29)
III	52 (54)	54 (56)
IV	12 (12)	15 (15)
Left ventricular ejection fraction — %	29±6	25±6
Type of atrial fibrillation — no. (%)		
Paroxysmal	28 (29)	31 (32)
Persistent	54 (56)	54 (56)
Long-standing persistent: duration of >1 yr	15 (15)	12 (12)
Duration of atrial fibrillation — yr	4±5	3±4
History of cardioversion — no. (%)	64 (66)	62 (64)
Heart rate — beats/min	80±21	82±20
Cause of heart failure — no. (%)		
Ischemic	37 (38)	39 (40)
Nonischemic	60 (62)	58 (60)
Left atrial diameter — mm	49±6	48±8

# CASTLE-HTx - Results

Death from any cause, implantation of a LVAD, urgent HTX



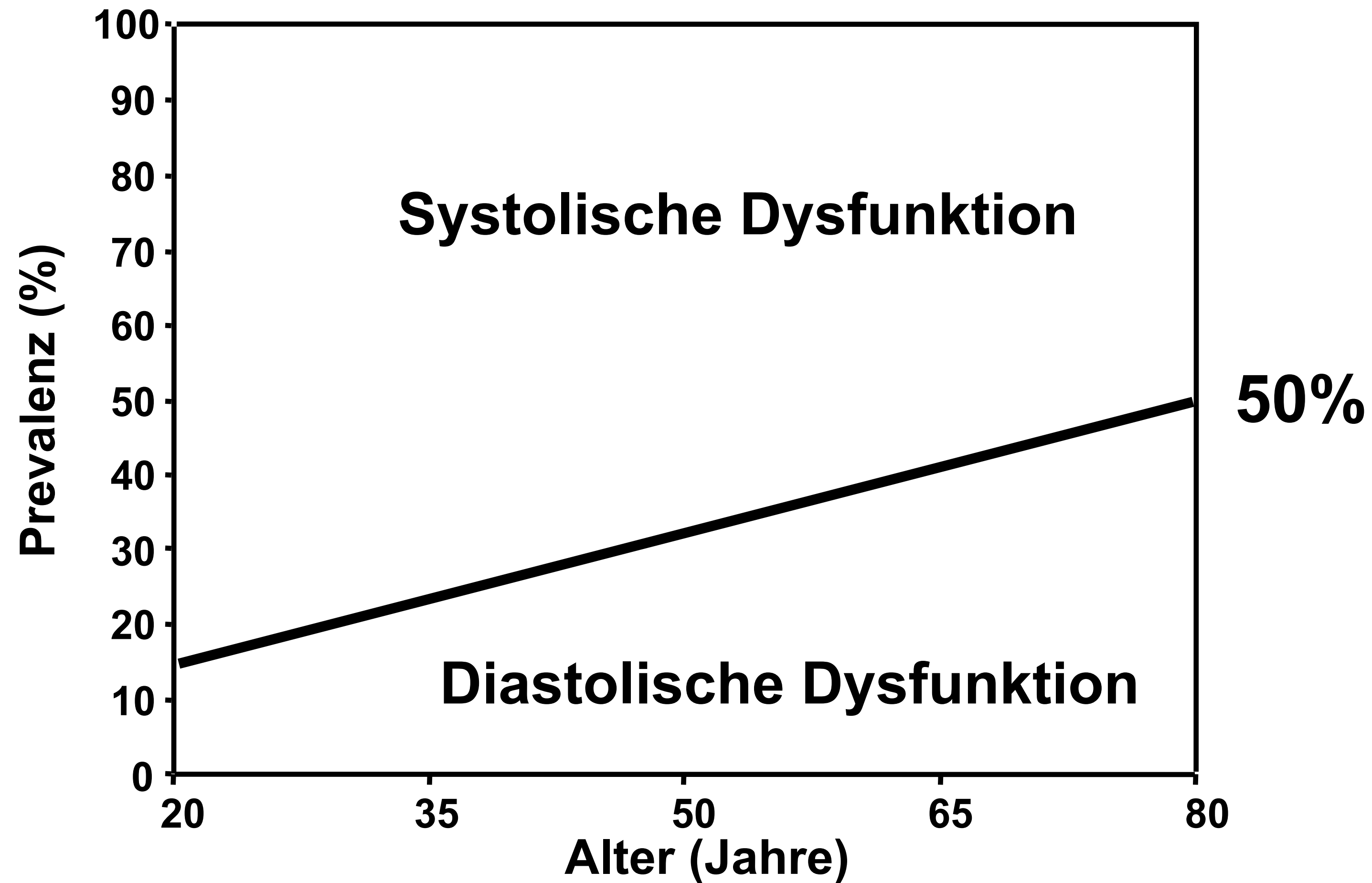
Death from any cause



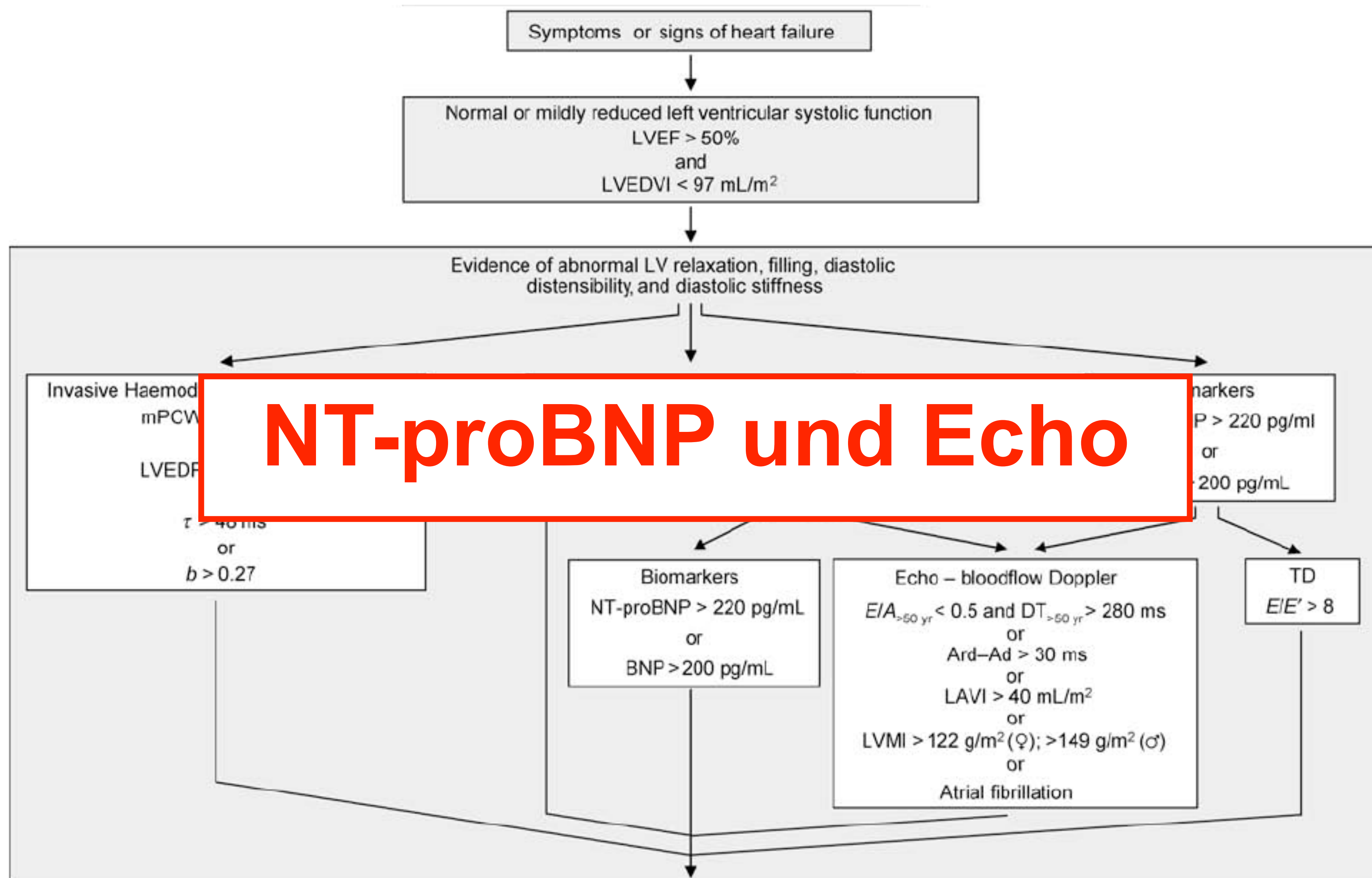
No. at Risk

Medical-therapy group	97	75	72	41	12	97	85	83	45	13
Ablation group	97	94	88	50	20	97	95	93	51	20

# Prevalenz von systolischer/diastolischer Dysfunktion als Ursache für eine Herzinsuffizienz



# How to Diagnose HFpEF?



# **Therapie der Herzinsuffizienz mit erhaltener systolischer Funktion**

Behandlung der Hypertonie

Suche bzw. Therapie einer Ischämie

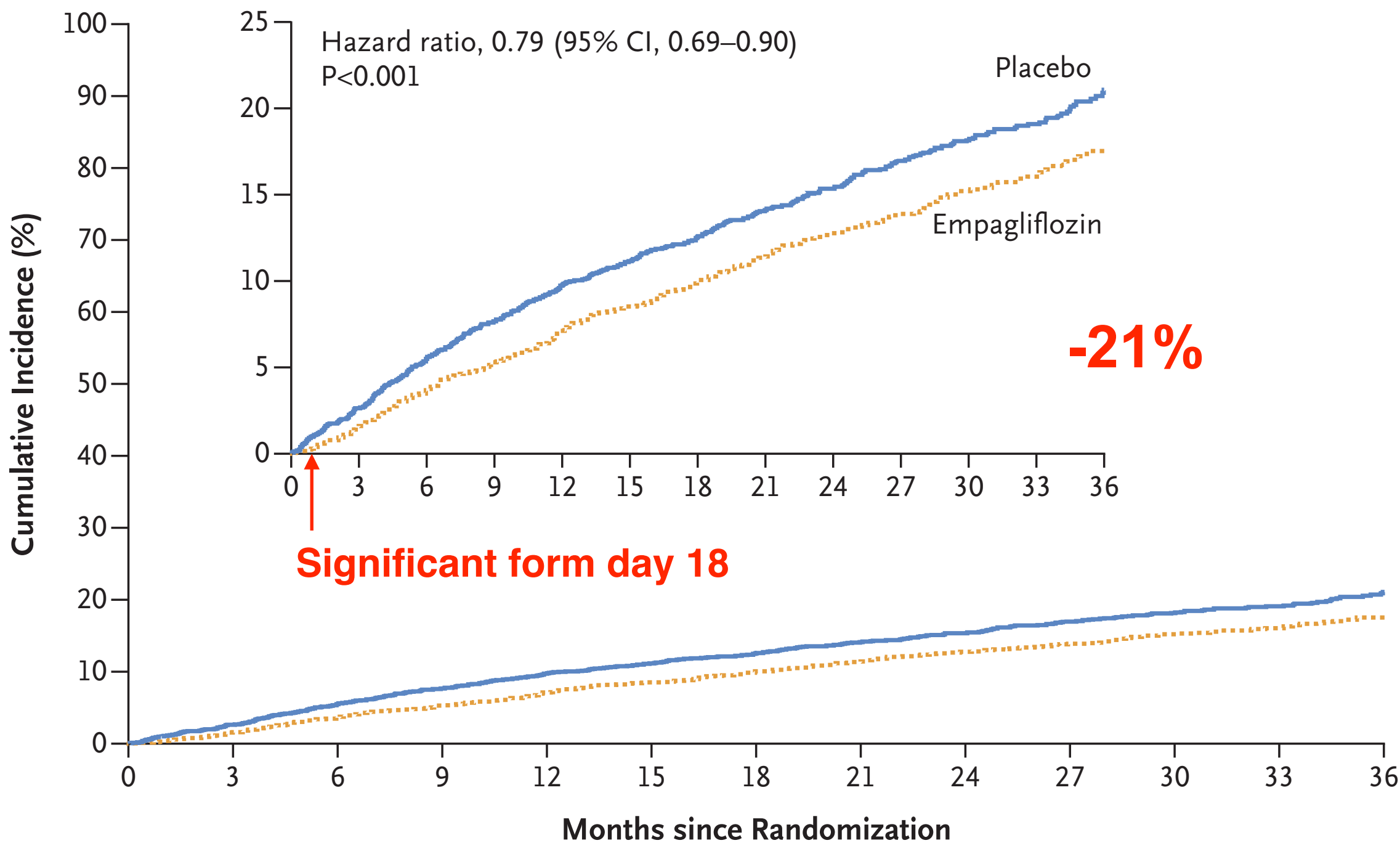
Kontrolle von Vorhofflimmern

Diuretika (Spironolacton [TOPCAT])

# SGLT2 Inhibitors in Patients with Preserved or Slightly Reduced LV Function

## EMPEROR-Preserved

### Hospitalisation for heart failure, CV death

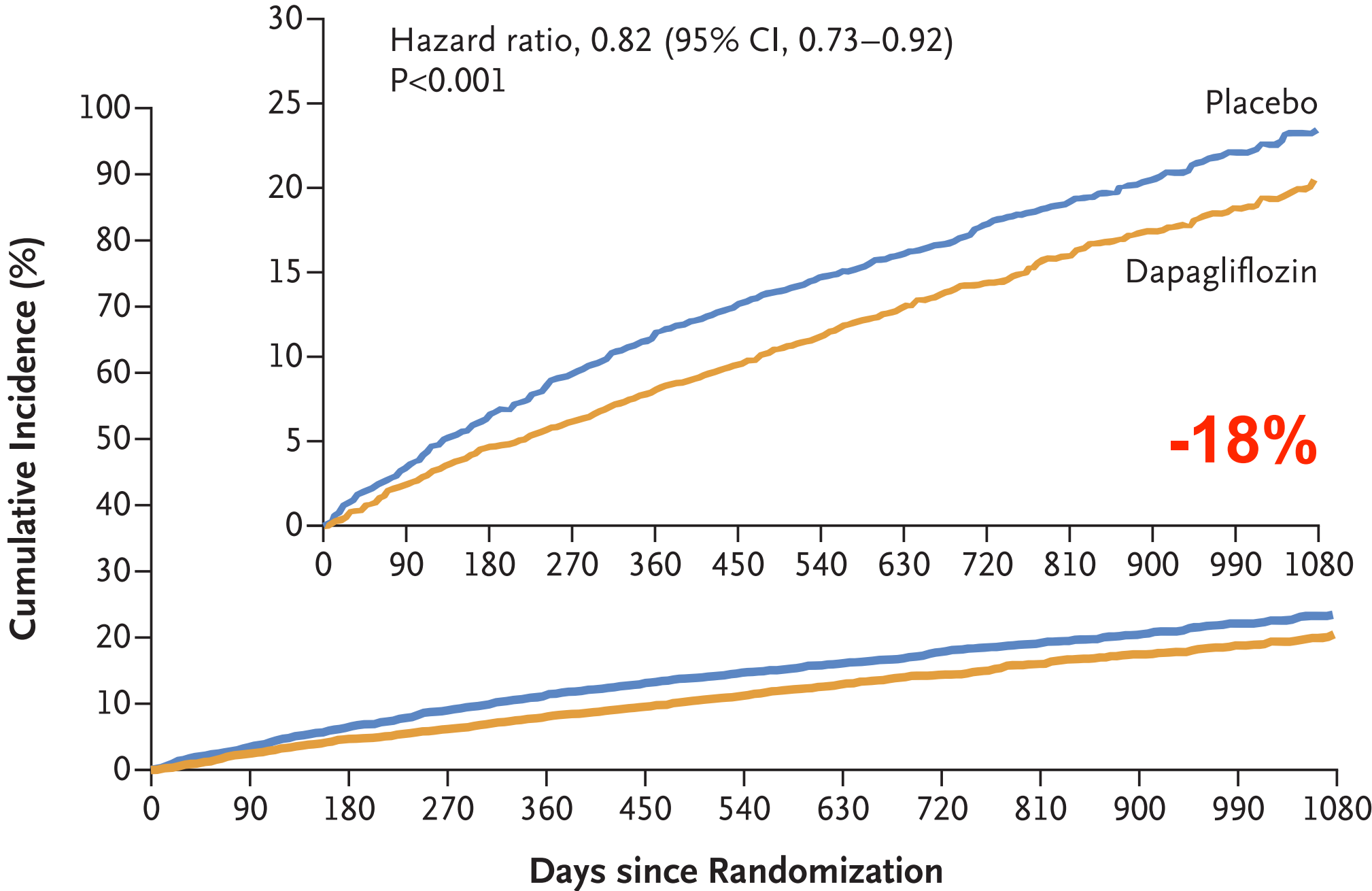


No. at Risk														
Placebo	2991	2888	2786	2706	2627	2424	2066	1821	1534	1278	961	681	400	
Empagliflozin	2997	2928	2843	2780	2708	2491	2134	1858	1578	1332	1005	709	402	

Anker SD et al: NEJM 2021

## DELIVER

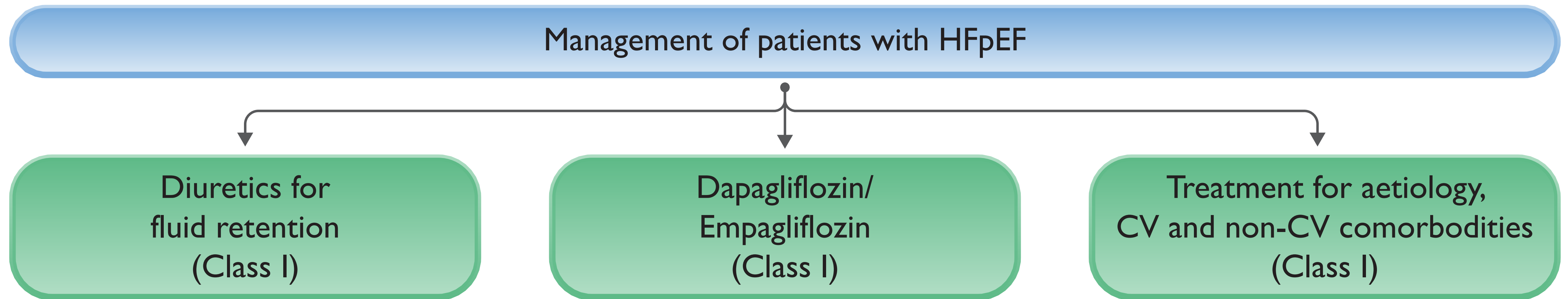
### Worsening heart failure, CV death



No. at Risk														
Placebo	3132	3007	2896	2799	2710	2608	2318	2080	1923	1554	1140	772	383	
Dapagliflozin	3131	3040	2949	2885	2807	2716	2401	2147	1982	1603	1181	801	389	

Solomon SD et al: NEJM 2021

# Management of Patients with HFpEF (EF $\geq 50\%$ )

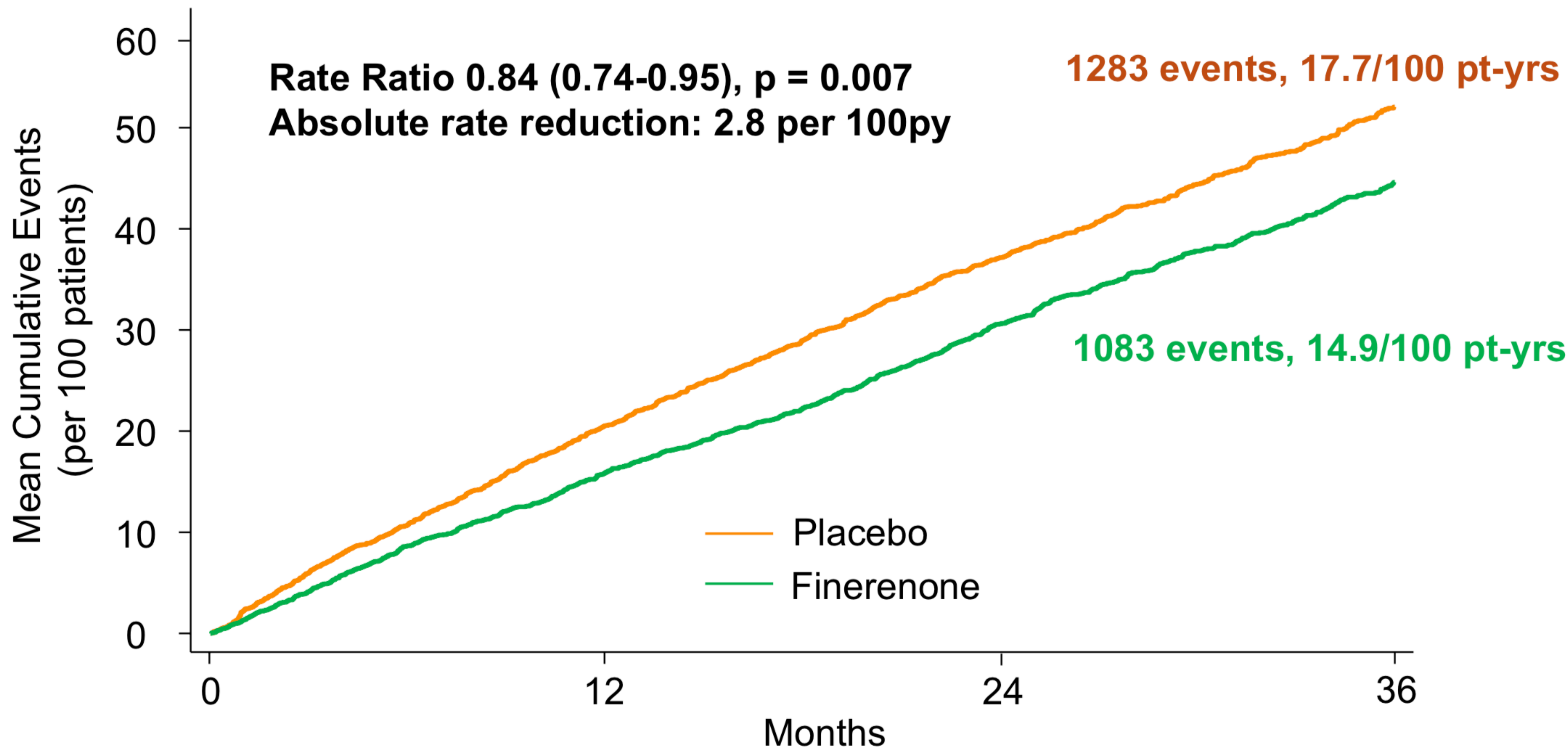


# Finerenone in Heart Failure with Mildly Reduced or Preserved Ejection Fraction

S.D. Solomon, J.J.V. McMurray, M. Vaduganathan, B. Claggett, P.S. Jhund, A.S. Desai, A.D. Henderson, C.S.P. Lam, B. Pitt, M. Senni, S.J. Shah, A.A. Voors, F. Zannad, I.Z. Abidin, M.A. Alcocer-Gamba, J.J. Atherton, J. Bauersachs, M. Chang-Sheng, C.-E. Chiang, O. Chioncel, V. Chopra, J. Comin-Colet, G. Filippatos, C. Fonseca, G. Gajos, S. Goland, E. Goncalvesova, S. Kang, T. Katova, M.N. Kosiborod, G. Latkovskis, A.P.-W. Lee, G.C.M. Linssen, G. Llamas-Esperón, V. Mareev, F.A. Martinez, V. Melenovský, B. Merkely, S. Nodari, M.C. Petrie, C.I. Saldarriaga, J.F.K. Saraiva, N. Sato, M. Schou, K. Sharma, R. Troughton, J.A. Udell, H. Ukkonen, O. Vardeny, S. Verma, D. von Lewinski, L. Voronkov, M.B. Yilmaz, S. Zieroth, J. Lay-Flurrie, I. van Gameren, F. Amarante, P. Kolkhof, and P. Viswanathan, for the FINEARTS-HF Committees and Investigators\*

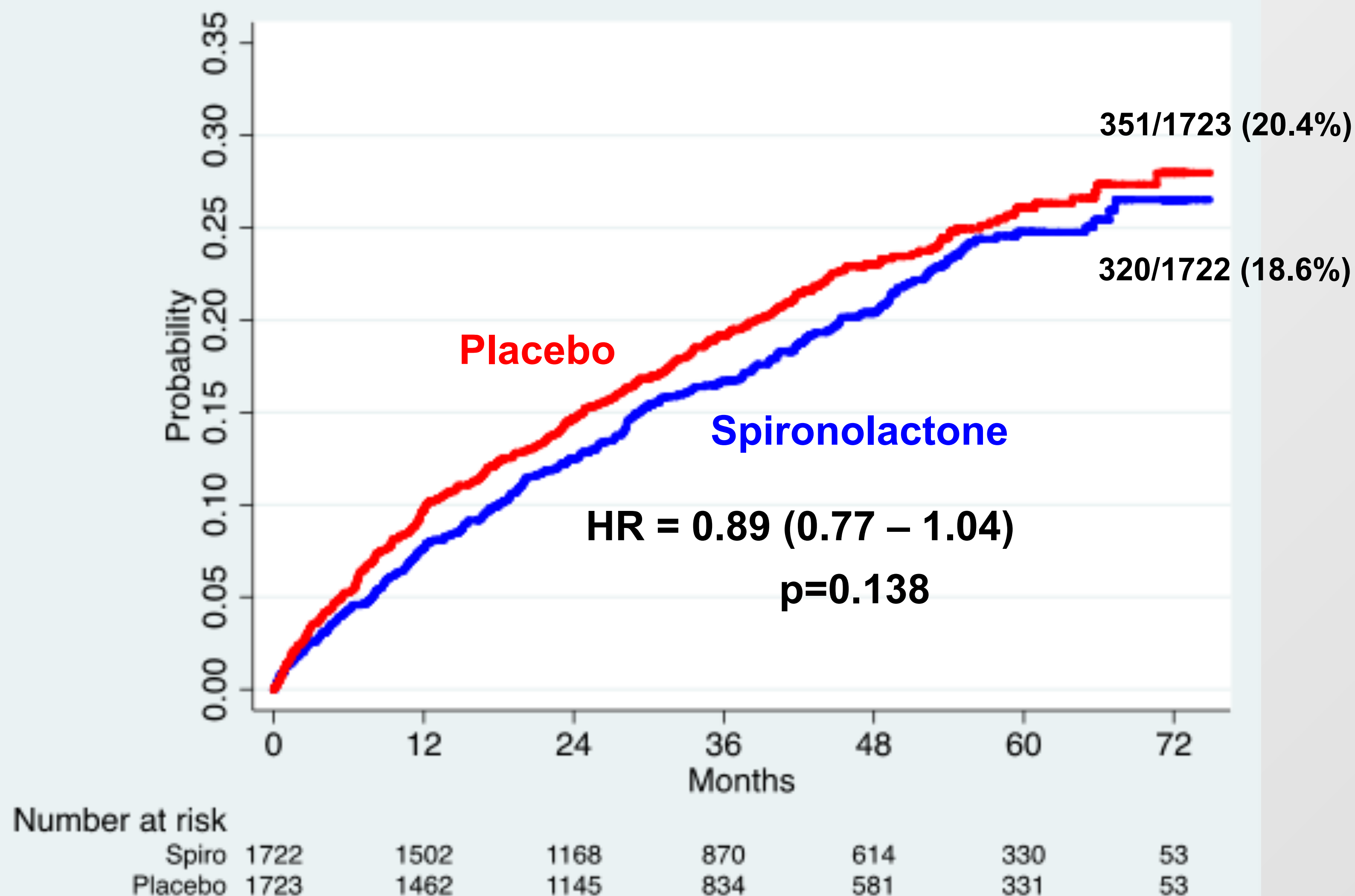
# FINEARTS-HF - Primary Endpoint: CV death and total HF events

Finenerone reduced cardiovascular deat and total worsening heart failure events over median follow-up of 32 months

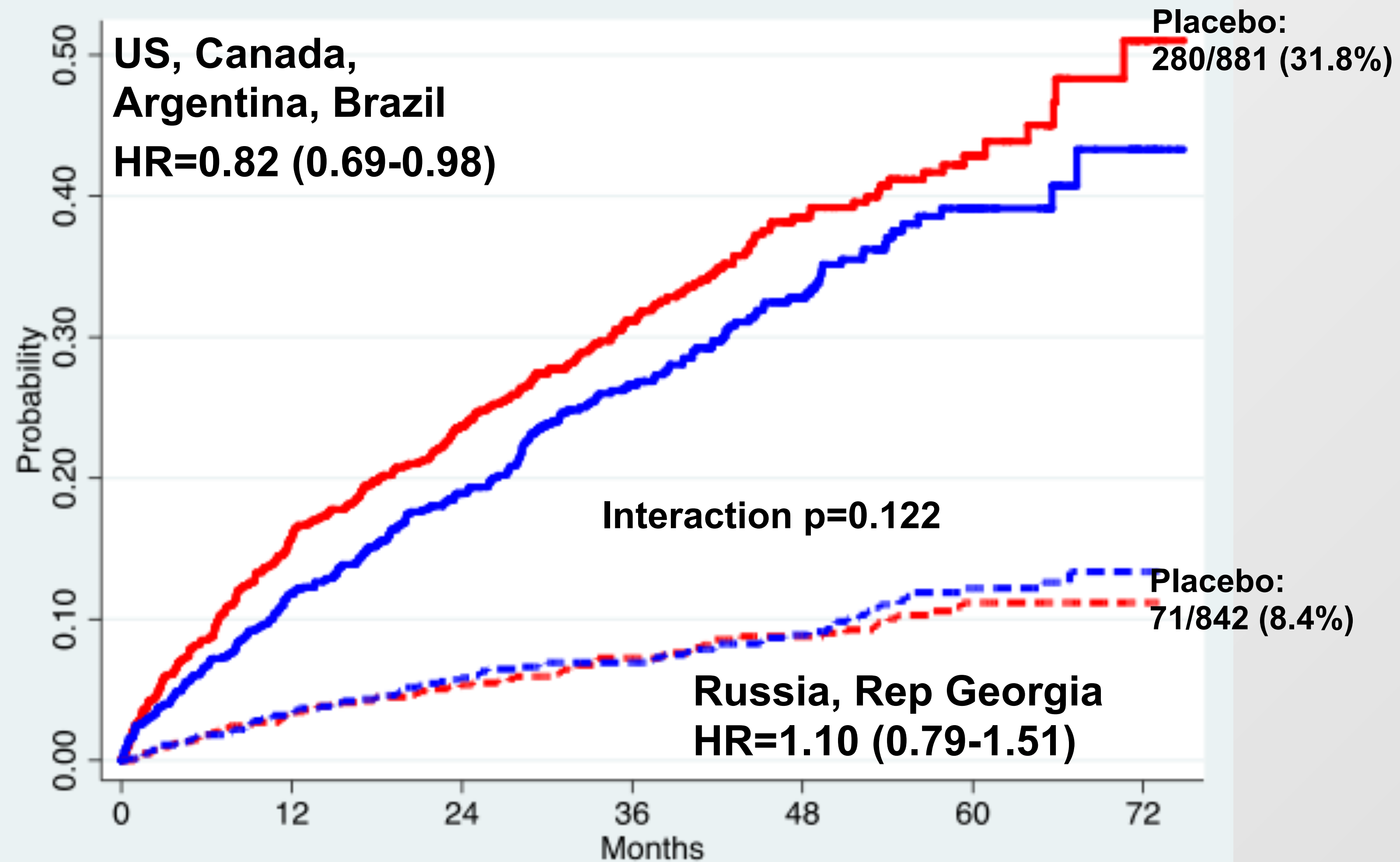


# 1° Outcome

(CV Death, HF Hosp, or Resuscitated Cardiac Arrest)



# Exploratory (post-hoc): Placebo vs. Spiro by region



# Praktische Überlegungen für die optimale medikamentöse Herzinsuffizienzbehandlung

## Problem

## Lösung

Tiefer Blutdruck

– Unnötige Blutdruck-wirksame Medikamente reduzieren,

Or **„If a patient is unable to tolerate maximal doses of all medications, lower doses of all medications are preferred over a high-dose therapy of one and no coverage of other pathways.“**

Blutdruck- und Herzfrequenz-Ziele

- Zielwerte anstreben
- Symptome sind prioritär vor hämodynamischen Werten

Müdigkeit

- Betablocker abends verabreichen
- Wichtigkeit der Medikation erklären

# **2023 ESC Guidelines for the management of cardiomyopathies**

- **Phänotypische Charakterisierung: Echo, MR, Szintigraphie**
- **Ätiologien abklären: Bildgebung, Labor, Genetik**
- **Risikostratifizierung: Langzeit-EKG, MR, Genetik**
- **Therapie: Allgemein, spezifisch**

ECHO HKH

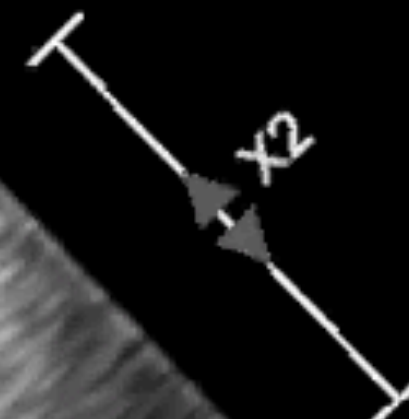
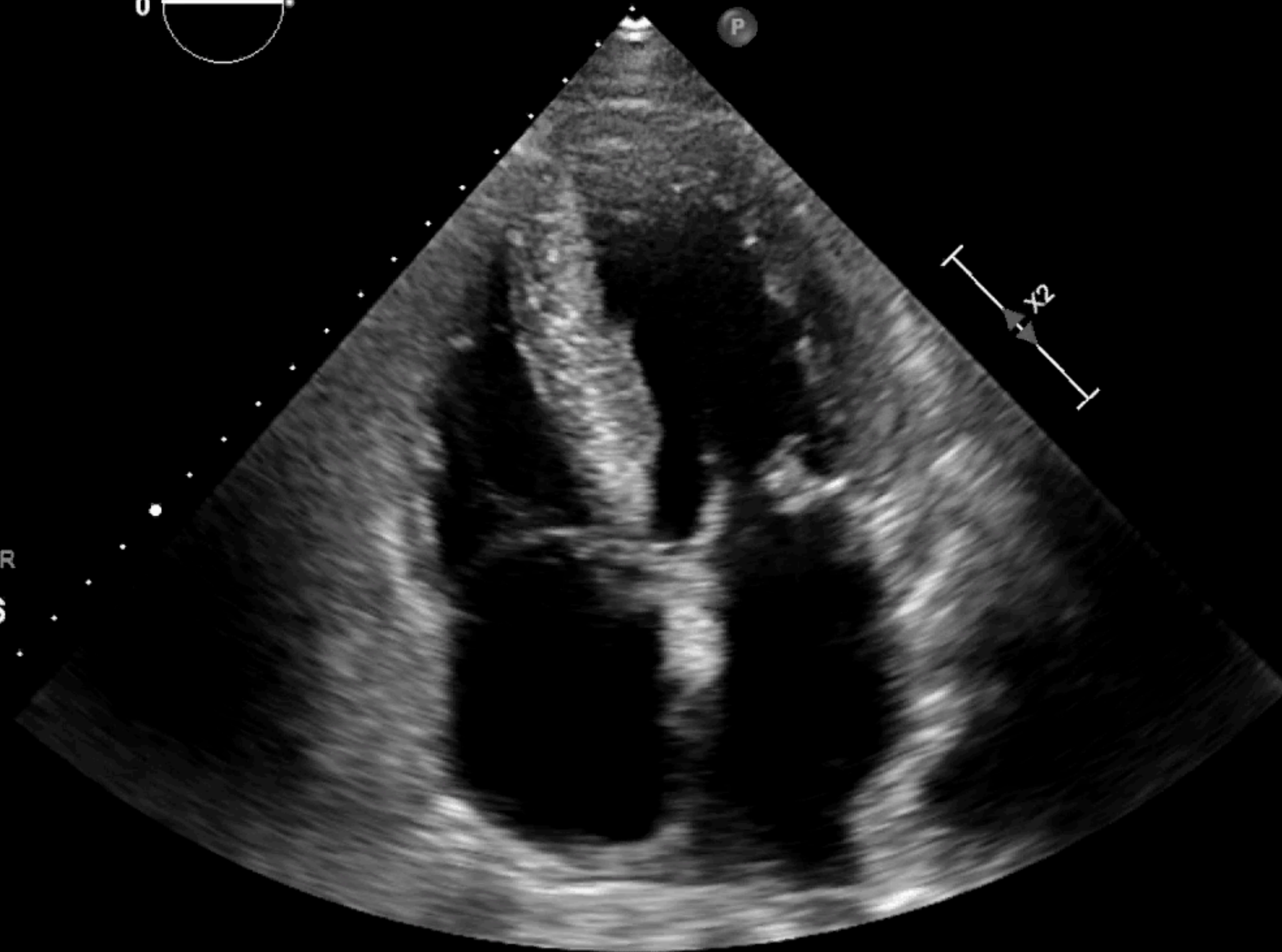
X5-1  
50Hz  
19cm

2D  
69%  
C 50  
P Low  
HPen



TIS0.4 MI 1.2

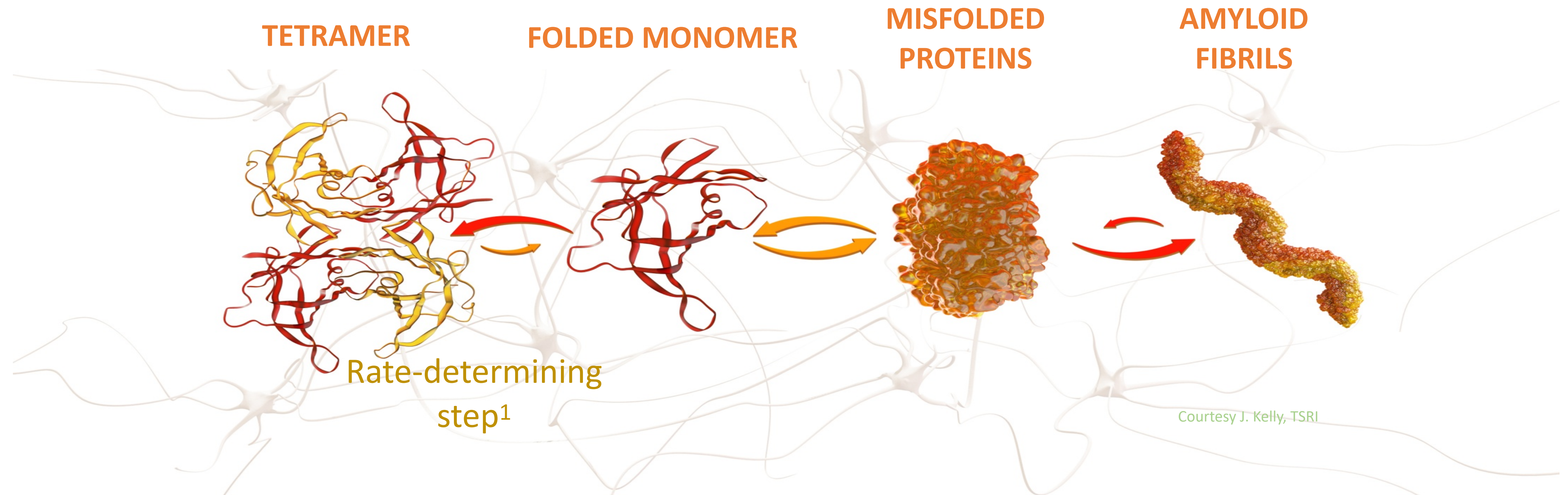
M3



91 bpm

# Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy (ATTR-CM)

Transthyretin tetramer destabilization leads to misfolded proteins that form amyloid fibrils.<sup>1–3</sup>



**Pathogenic transthyretin variants alter the rate at which tetramers dissociate due to the effect of the mutation on the tetramer's stability.<sup>1,2</sup>**

# Cardiac Amyloidosis

**Extracellular deposition of misfolded pathologic proteins into the myocardium**

## **AL Amyloidosis (light chain amyloidosis)**

- Kappa/lambda light chains (blood)
- Immunofixation (blood, urine)

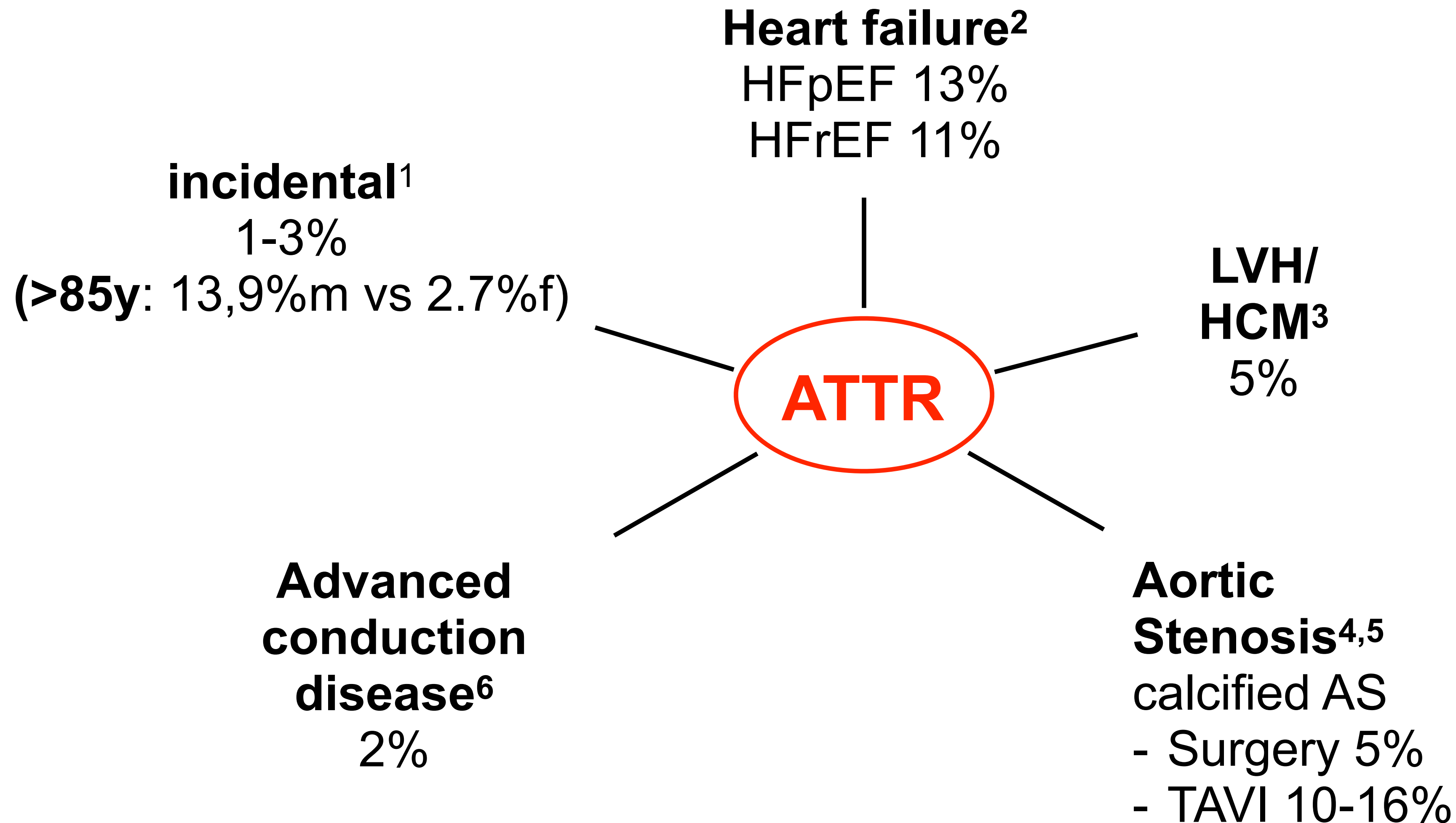
## **ATTR Amyloidosis**

- Wild type (senile)
- Hereditary (genetic testing)
- Tc-Scintigraphy

## **Red Flags**

- Heart failure
- ECG (low voltage)
- „LVH“
- Carpal tunnel syndrome
- Autonomic dysfunction

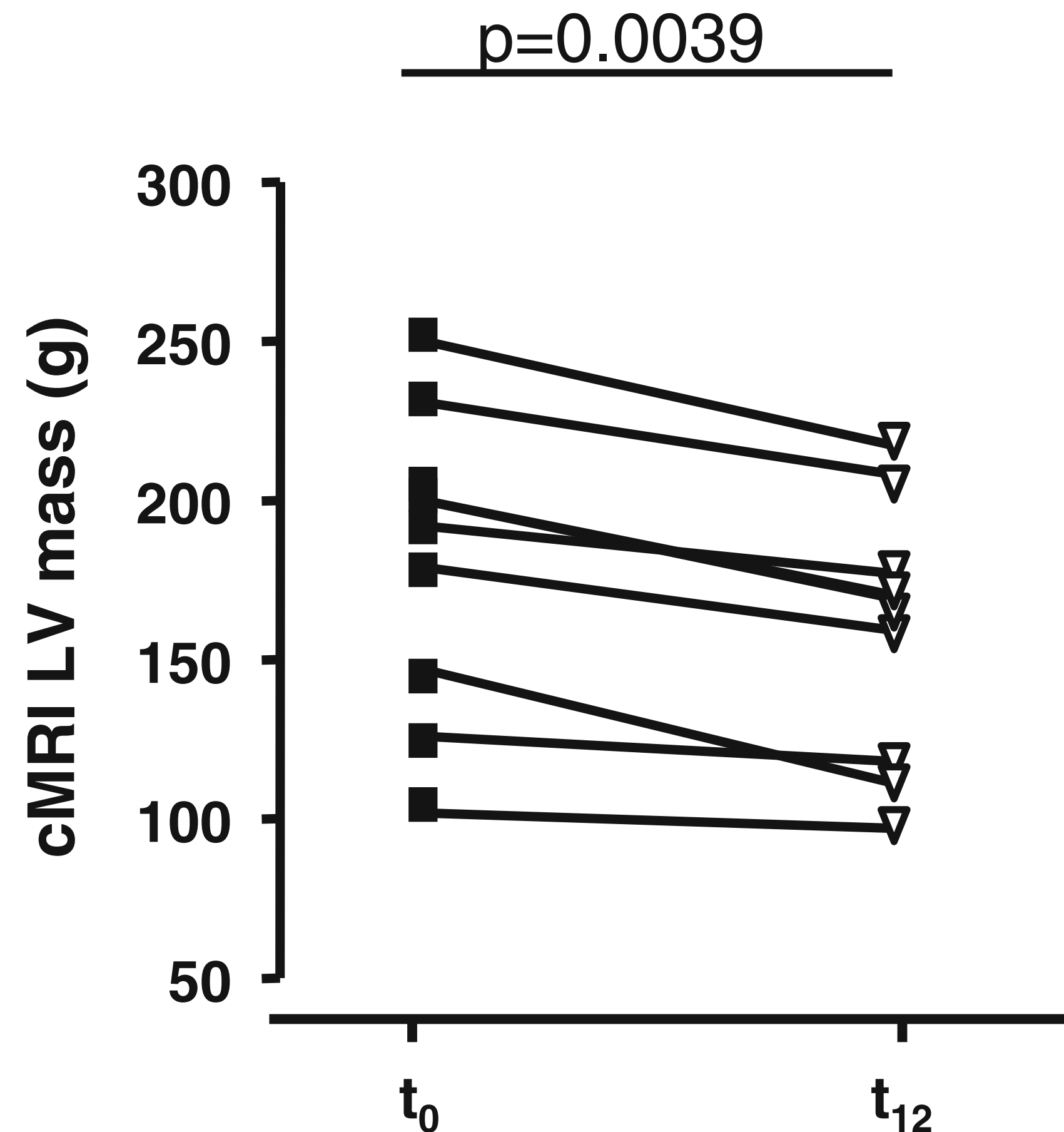
# ATTR-CM: rare, but not too rare



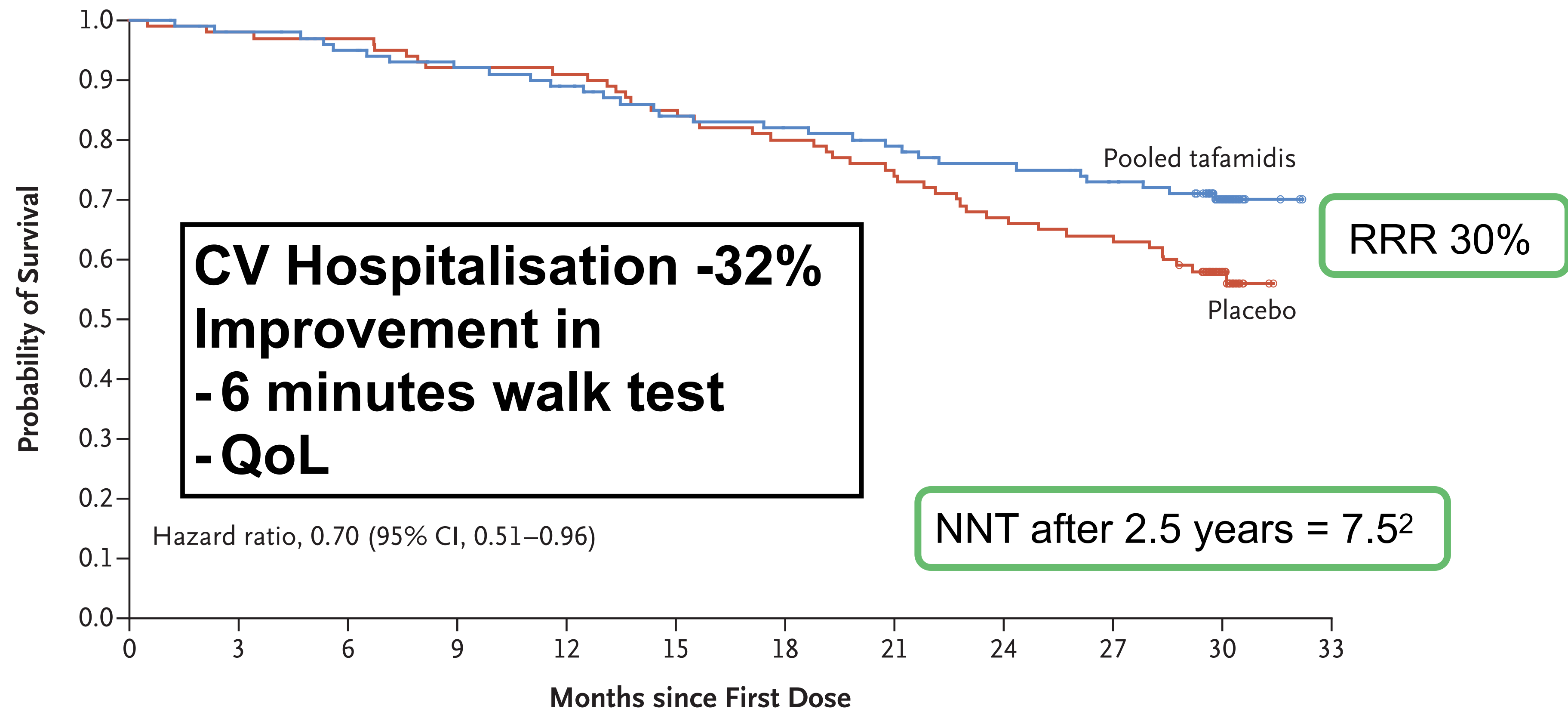
# Therapie der ATTR-Amyloidose

# Green tea halts progression of cardiac transthyretin amyloidosis: an observational report

Arnt V. Kristen · Stephanie Lehrke · Sebastian Buss · Derliz Mereles · Henning Steen · Philipp Ehlermann · Stefan Hardt · Evangelos Giannitsis · Rupert Schreiner · Uwe Haberkorn · Philipp A. Schnabel · Reinhold P. Linke · Christoph Röcken · Erich E. Wanker · Thomas J. Dengler · Klaus Altland · Hugo A. Katus



# ATTR-ACT: All-Cause Mortality



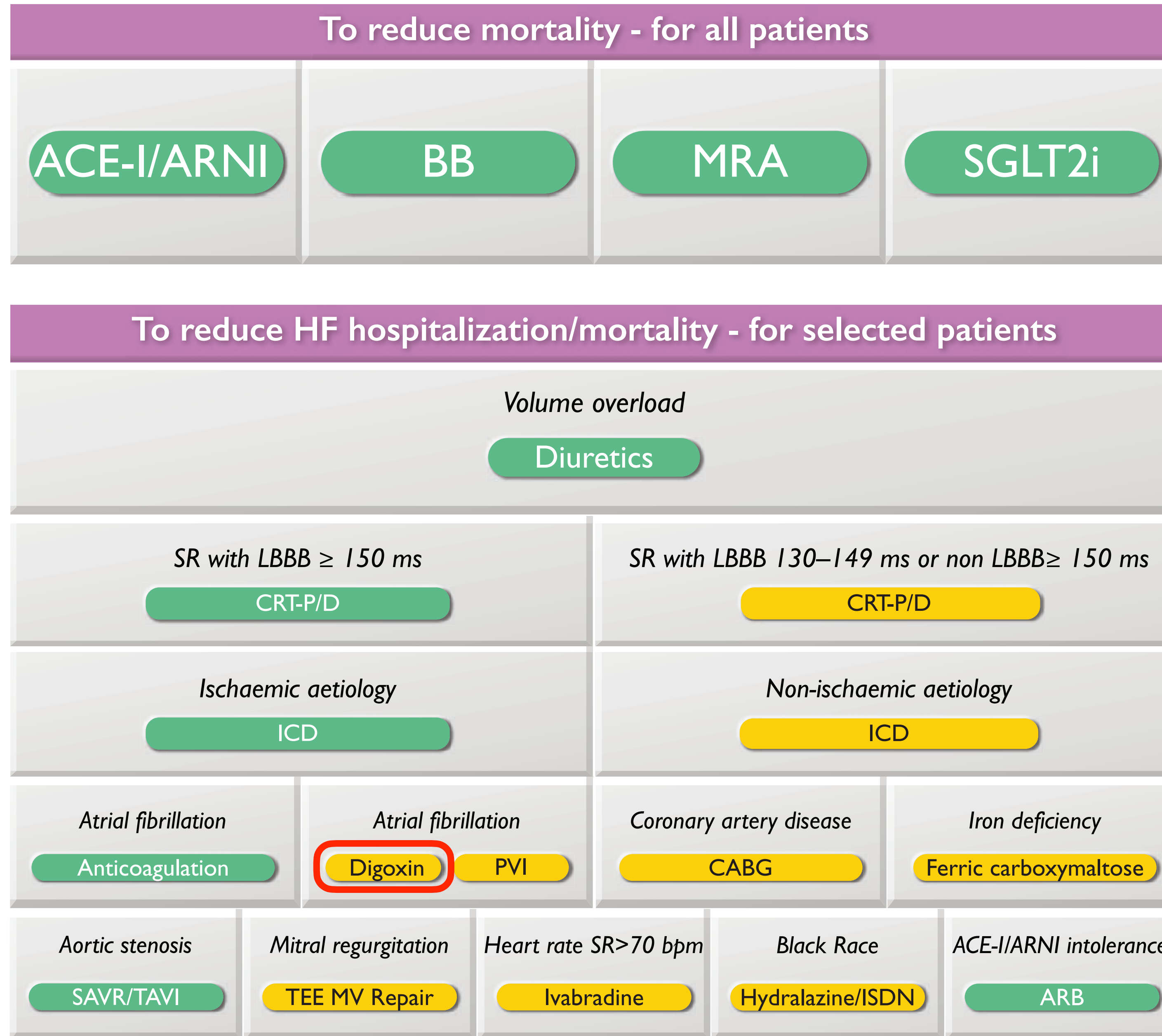
## No. at Risk (cumulative no. of events)

Pooled tafamidis	264 (0)	259 (5)	252 (12)	244 (20)	235 (29)	222 (42)	216 (48)	209 (55)	200 (64)	193 (71)	99 (78)	0 (78)
Placebo	177 (0)	173 (4)	171 (6)	163 (14)	161 (16)	150 (27)	141 (36)	131 (46)	118 (59)	113 (64)	51 (75)	0 (76)

30% reduction in the risk of all-cause mortality with tafamidis compared with placebo (HR = 0.70; 95% CI, 0.51 – 0.96)<sup>1</sup>

33% reduction when heart transplant and implantation of a cardiac mechanical assist device were not treated as death (HR = 0.67; 95% CI, 0.49 – 0.94)<sup>1</sup>

# Management of HFrEF



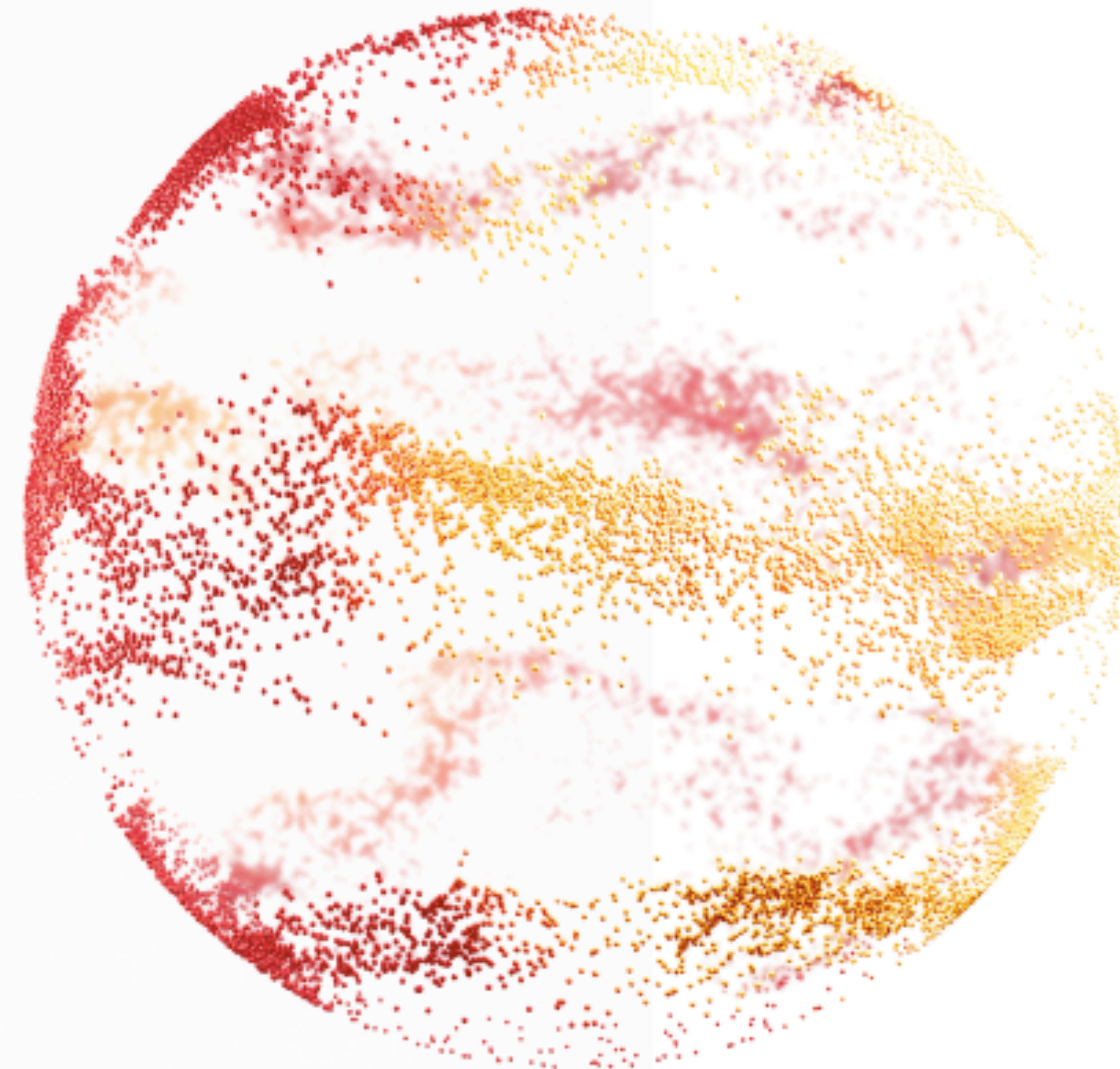
# NEWS from

## **ESC Congress 2025** Madrid

TOGETHER WITH

## **World Congress of Cardiology**

29 August to 1 September



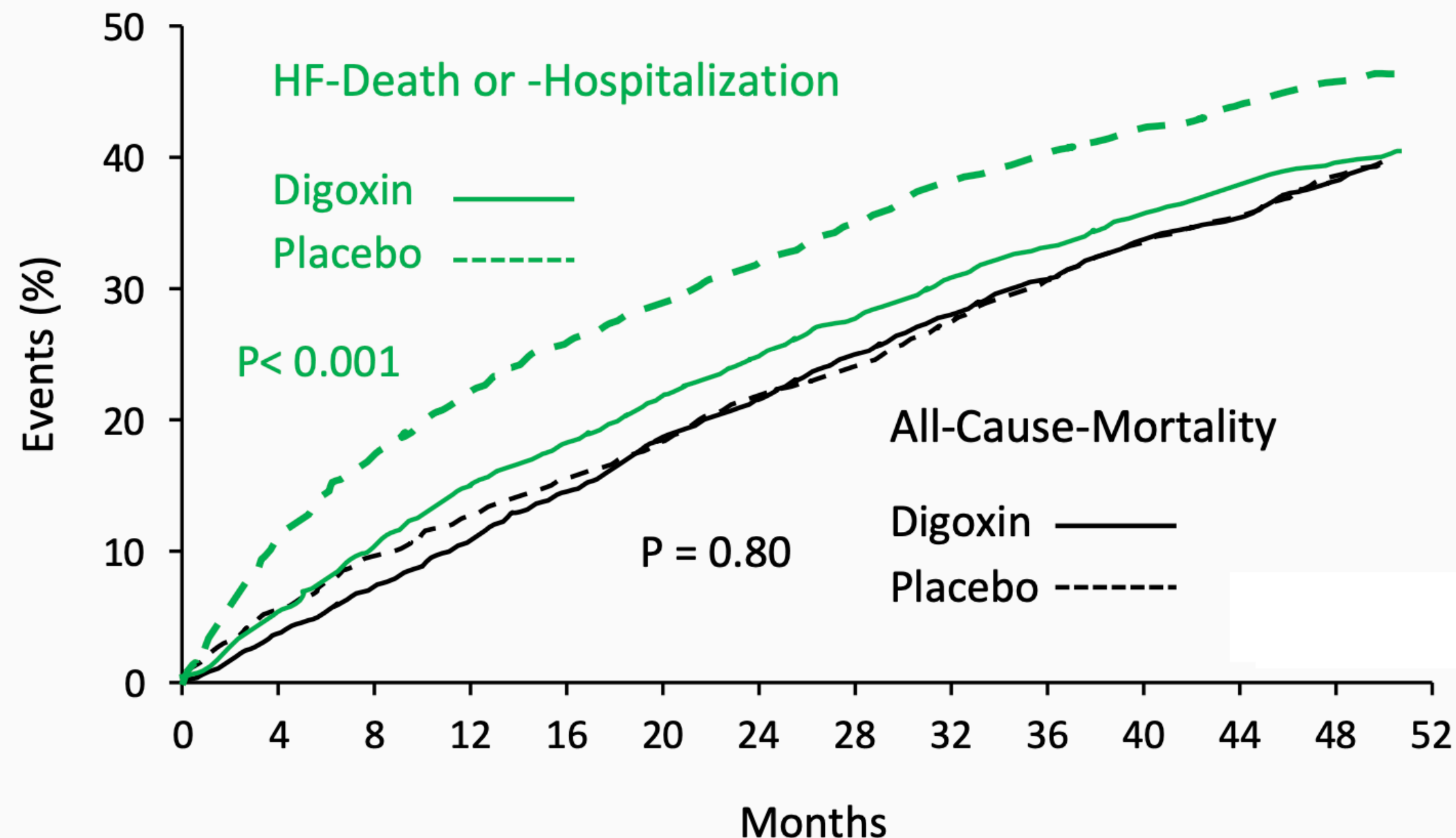
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Digitoxin in Patients with Heart Failure and Reduced Ejection Fraction

U. Bavendiek,<sup>1</sup> A. Großhennig,<sup>2</sup> J. Schwab,<sup>3,4</sup> D. Berliner,<sup>1</sup> A. Rieth,<sup>5</sup> L.S. Maier,<sup>6</sup>  
T. Gaspar,<sup>7,8</sup> N.H. Thomas,<sup>2</sup> X. Liu,<sup>2</sup> S. Schallhorn,<sup>1</sup> E. Angelini,<sup>1</sup> S. Soltani,<sup>1</sup>  
F. Rathje,<sup>1</sup> M.-A. Sandu,<sup>1</sup> W. Geller,<sup>1</sup> R. Hambrecht,<sup>9</sup> M. Zdravkovic,<sup>10</sup> S. Philipp,<sup>11</sup>  
D. Kosevic,<sup>12</sup> G. Nickenig,<sup>13</sup> D. Scheiber,<sup>14</sup> S. Winkler,<sup>15</sup> P.M. Becher,<sup>16-18</sup> P. Lurz,<sup>19</sup>  
M. Hülsmann,<sup>20</sup> S. Wiesner,<sup>2</sup> C. Schröder,<sup>21</sup> B. Neuhaus,<sup>22</sup> A. Seltmann,<sup>22</sup>  
H. von der Leyen,<sup>23,24</sup> C. Veltmann,<sup>1,25</sup> S. Störk,<sup>26,27</sup> M. Böhm,<sup>28</sup> A. Koch,<sup>2</sup>  
and J. Bauersachs,<sup>1</sup> for the DIGIT-HF Study Group\*

**29.08.2025**

## DIG trial



Worsening HFH: Risk Ratio 0.72 (0.66-0.79),  $p < 0.001$

Potential benefit particularly if

- LVEF  $< 25\%$
- NYHA III/IV
- Digoxin 0.5-0.9 ng/ml

Digoxin  $> 1.0$  ng/ml

- association with worse outcomes

## Digitoxin

- more stable serum concentrations even if worsening renal function
- no clinical trials of appropriate size

Bavendiek U, Bauersachs J, ESC Textbook of Heart Failure 2023  
Adapted from DIG Investigators NEJM 1997, 336:525

Rathore SS et al., JAMA 2003, 289:871  
Belz GG, Eur J Clin Invest 2001, 31(2):10  
Gheorghiade M et al., EJHF 2013, 15:551

With funding from the:



# Study design and recruitment



**investigator-initiated, multicentre, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, event-driven phase IV trial**  
**investigating whether digitoxin improves outcomes in patients with heart failure and reduced ejection fraction**

## Main inclusion criteria

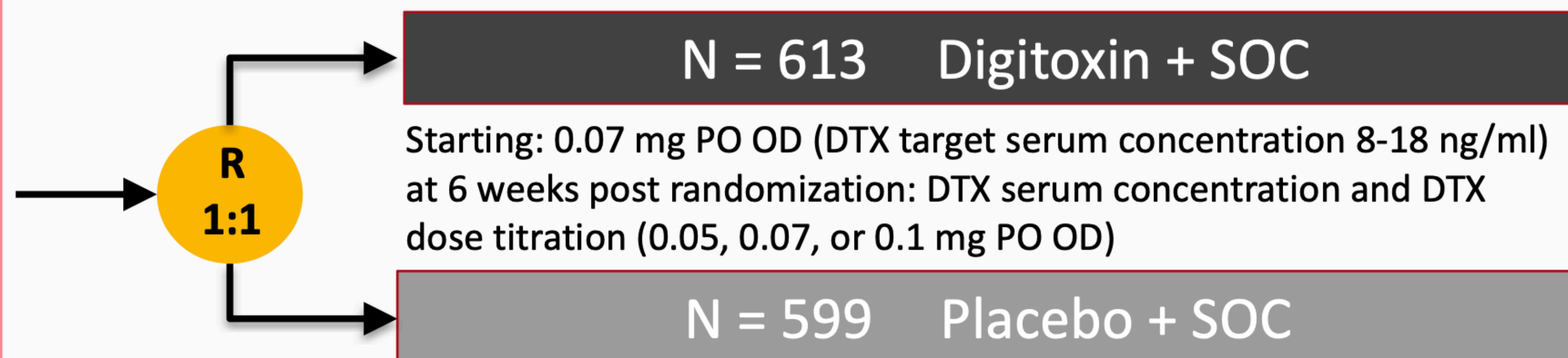
- Chronic HF
- NYHA II and LVEF  $\leq 30\%$   
or  
NYHA III-IV and LVEF  $\leq 40\%$
- Evidence based HF therapy  
 $\geq 6$  months

## Main exclusion criteria

- Amiodarone
- Heart rate  $< 60$  b.p.m  
(except CRT-in place)
- Recent ( $< 2$  month)  
procedure potentially  
improving LVEF/HF

Randomization of 1240 patients (05/2015 – 09/2023, LPLV 29.11.2024,  
55 sites: Germany 89%, Austria 3%, Serbia 8%)

Intention to treat population: n= 1212 (at least one dose of IMP)



Follow-Up every 6 month after randomization

Sample size calculation based on estimation

- at initial trial design: n=2190
- after trial extension 2019: n=1653

# Baseline Characteristics I

*Well balanced between treatment groups*



Characteristic	Digitoxin (N = 613)	Placebo (N = 599)
Age – yr	66.0 ± 11.1	65.8 ± 11.4
Female sex – no. (%)	122 (19.9)	125 (20.9)
NYHA functional class - no. (%)		
II	181 (29.5)	178 (29.7)
III	408 (66.6)	399 (66.6)
IV	24 (3.9)	22 (3.7)
Left ventricular ejection fraction – %	28.4 ± 6.9	28.9 ± 6.7
Main cause of heart failure – no. (%)		
Ischemic	323 (53.1)	310 (52.4)
Non-ischemic/Unknown	285 (46.9)	282 (47.6)
Body mass index – kg/m <sup>2</sup>	29.3 ± 5.7	28.9 ± 5.6
Heart rate – beats/min	73.7 ± 11.9	74.1 ± 12.3
Systolic blood pressure – mmHg	120.5 ± 18.6	121.4 ± 18.8
Atrial fibrillation – no. (%)	169 (27.6)	161 (26.9)
Estimated glomerular filtration rate		
Mean – ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup>	65.0 ± 23.0	65.2 ± 23.7
≤60 ml/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> – no./total no. (%)	263 (43.0)	257 (42.9)









70% NYHA III-IV

# Baseline Characteristics II

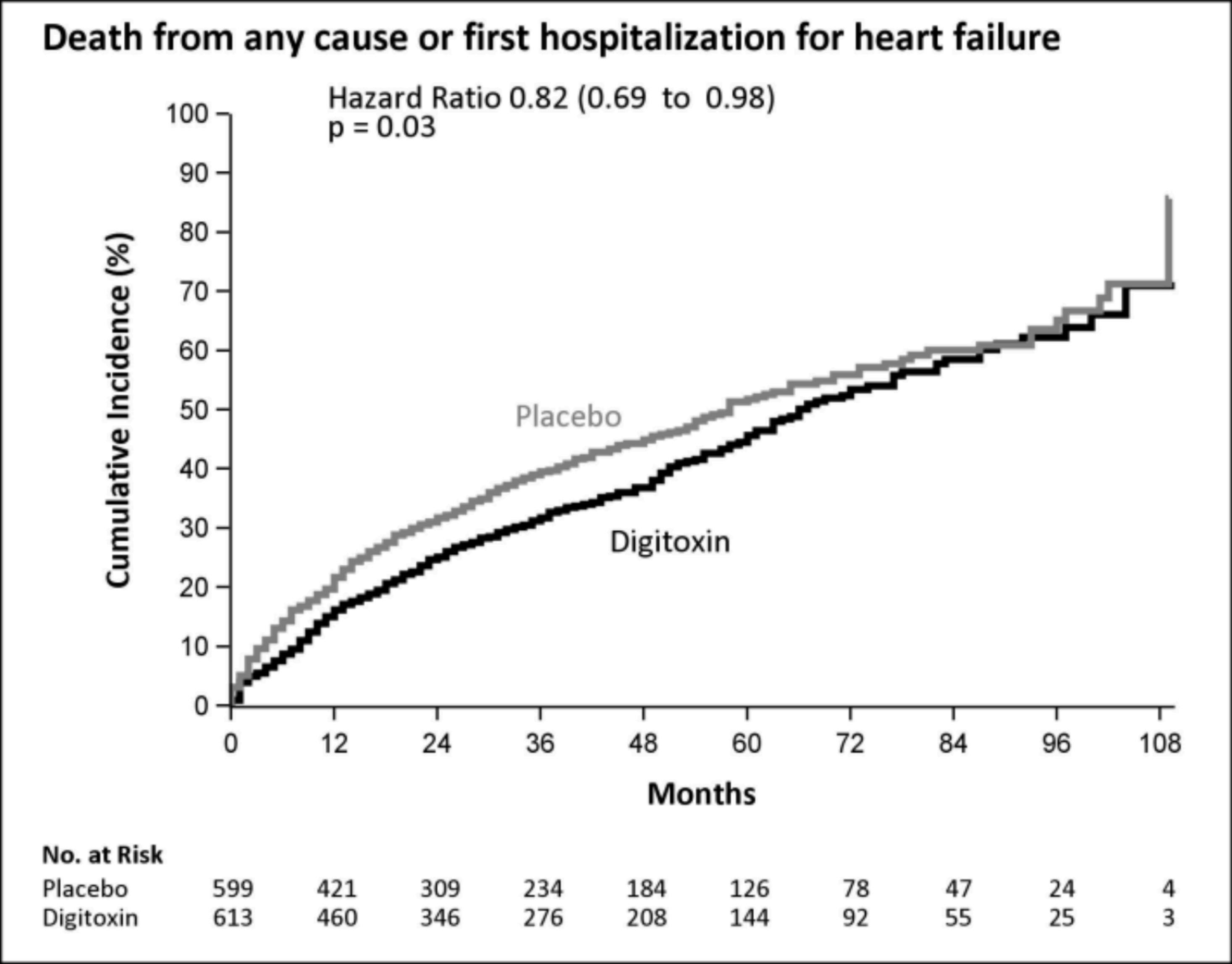
*Well implemented heart failure therapy*



Characteristic	Digitoxin (N = 613)	Placebo (N = 599)
<b>Heart failure medication – no. (%)</b>		
Beta-blocker	593 (96.7)	567 (94.7)
Angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor	222 (36.2)	213 (35.6)
Angiotensin receptor blocker	113 (18.4)	115 (19.2)
Angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor	248 (40.5)	231 (38.6)
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist	466 (76.0)	458 (76.5)
Sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor	121 (19.7)	113 (18.9)
Cardiac glycoside	3 (0.5)	6 (1.0)
<b>Device therapy – no. (%)</b>		
Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator therapy	415 (67.7)	364 (60.9)
Cardiac resynchronisation therapy	162 (26.4)	144 (24.1)

 BB 95%  
 ARNI 40%  
 MRA 76%  
 SGLT2i 19%  
  
 ICD 65%  
 CRT 25%

# Primary Outcome



Absolut risk reduction: 4.6%  
Number-needed-to-treat: 22

Median time of follow-Up: 36 month

# Take home messages

- **Herzinsuffizienz ist häufig**
- **Diagnostik: NT-proBNP, Echo, ev. MRI**
- **HFrEF/HFmrEF: Entresto (ACEI), SGLT2-Hemmer, MRA, BB, Digitoxin**
- **HFpEF: SGLT2-Hemmer, MRA (Finenerone)**
- **Medikamente rasch auftitrieren, keine Flüssigkeitsrestriktion**
- **EF <35%: ICD erwägen, CRT bei LSB**
- **An Amyloidose denken**

(Giovanni Trapattoni)

**„Ich habe fertig!“**

**Merci!**

[georg.noll@hirslanden.ch](mailto:georg.noll@hirslanden.ch)