

# HOT TOPICS IN CARDIOLOGIA 2023

13 e 14 Novembre 2023

Villa Doria D'Angri - Via F. Petrarca 80,  
Napoli

Il paziente dislipidemico  
con diabete : rischio  
cardiovascolare residuo

Antonio Lanzilli

UOSD Malattie endocrine , Nutrizione  
e Malattie del ricambio

AORN San Giuseppe Moscati Avellino

Per **Rischio Cardiovascolare Residuo** si intende la probabilità di sviluppare un evento cardiovascolare nonostante il paziente sia sottoposto al trattamento massimale con le terapie standard raccomandate

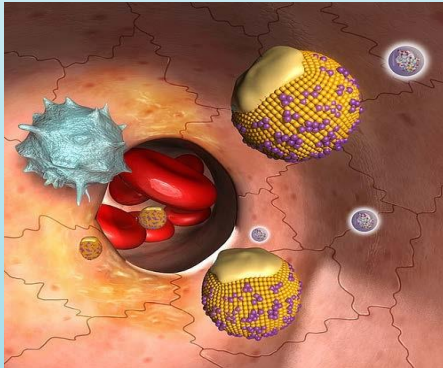
# Residual Vascular Risk: DEFINITION

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**Residual Risk of macro-vascular events, including risk from established (such as unhealthy lifestyles, dyslipidemia, high blood pressure, high blood sugar and obesity) and emerging risk factors, that persists in patients in spite of current evidence-based medical care**

Approved by the International Steering Committee members of the R<sup>3</sup>i Foundation and endorsed by its Trustees.

# Dislipidemia diabetica aterogena



*Alterazioni  
quantitative*



*FFA*



*Trigliceridi*



*HDL-Colesterolo*



*Colesterolo Totale*



*Apo B*

*Alterazioni  
qualitative*

*b-VLDL*

*HDL ricche di trigliceridi*



*HDL3 e*



*HDL1 e HDL2)*

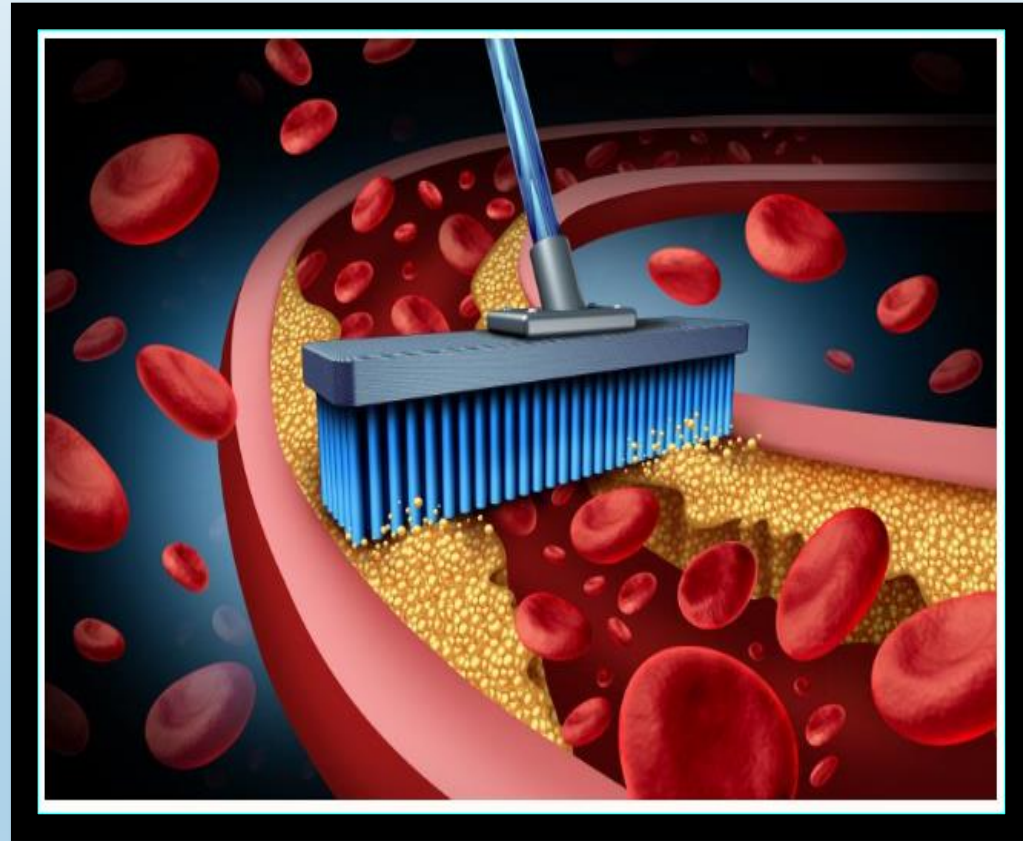
*LDL piccole e dense*

*Iperlipemia postprandiale*



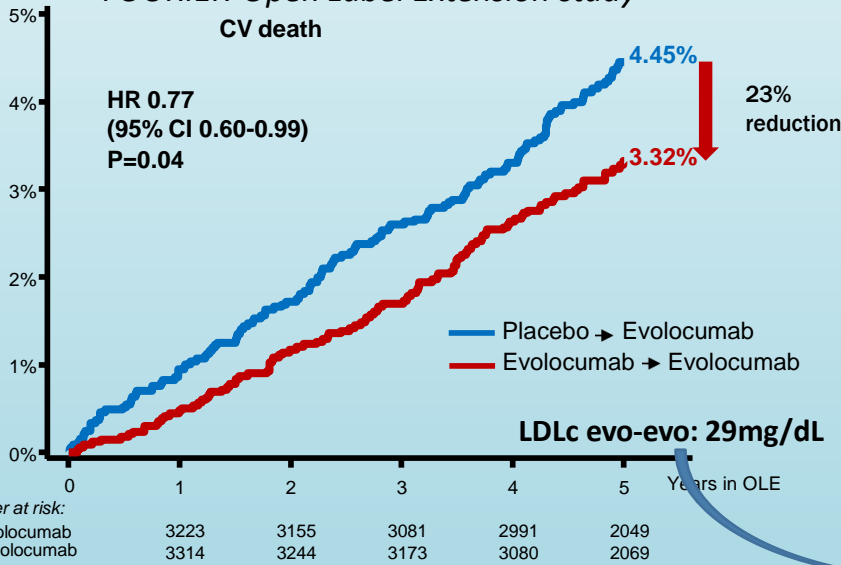
# MORE AGGRESSIVE LIPID LOWERING IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

There is ongoing debate as to whether aggressive LDL cholesterol-lowering therapy, as opposed to comprehensive lipid management addressing the hypertriglyceridaemia and low HDL cholesterol, is the optimal approach to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in people with diabetes.

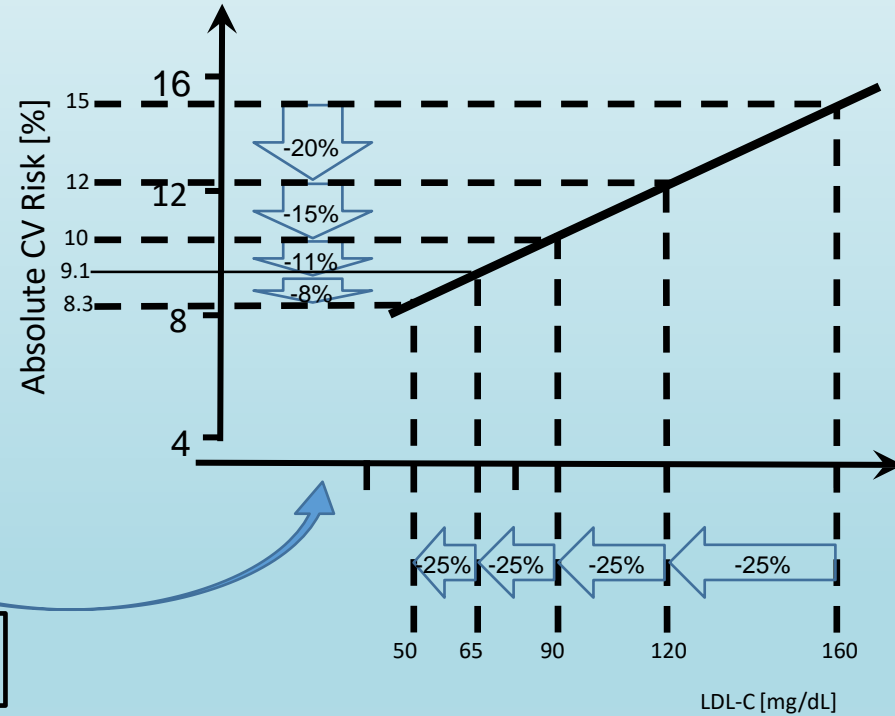


# Residual risk in patients with very-low LDLc levels

Significant benefit with marked residual risk  
FOURIER-Open Label Extension study

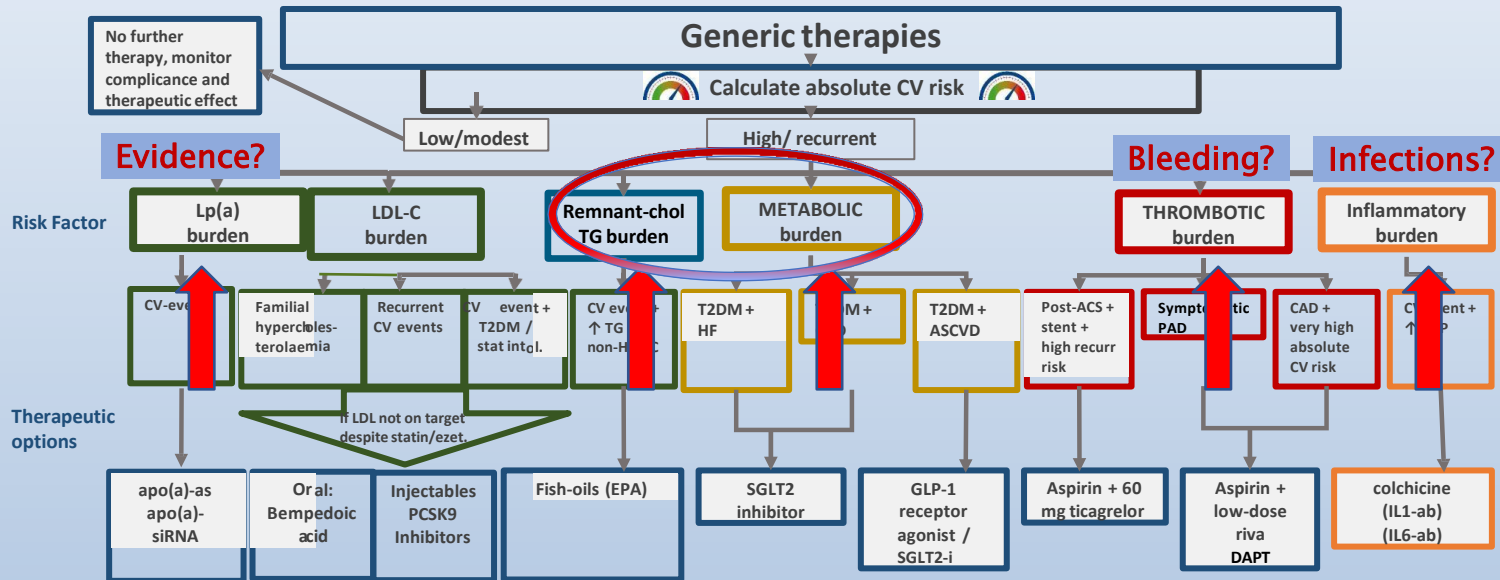


Further LDLc lowering - limited benefit



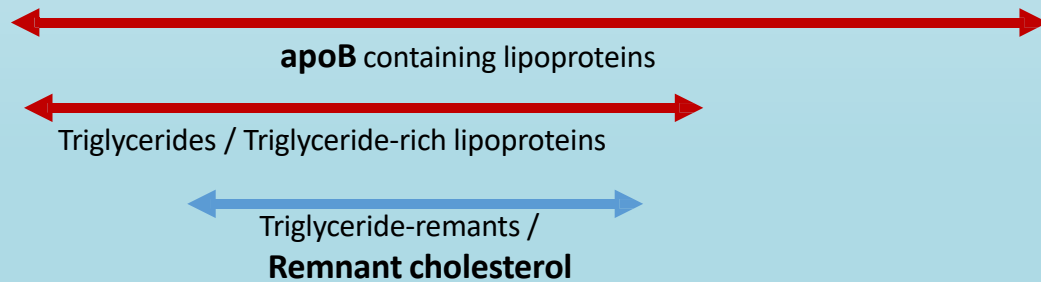
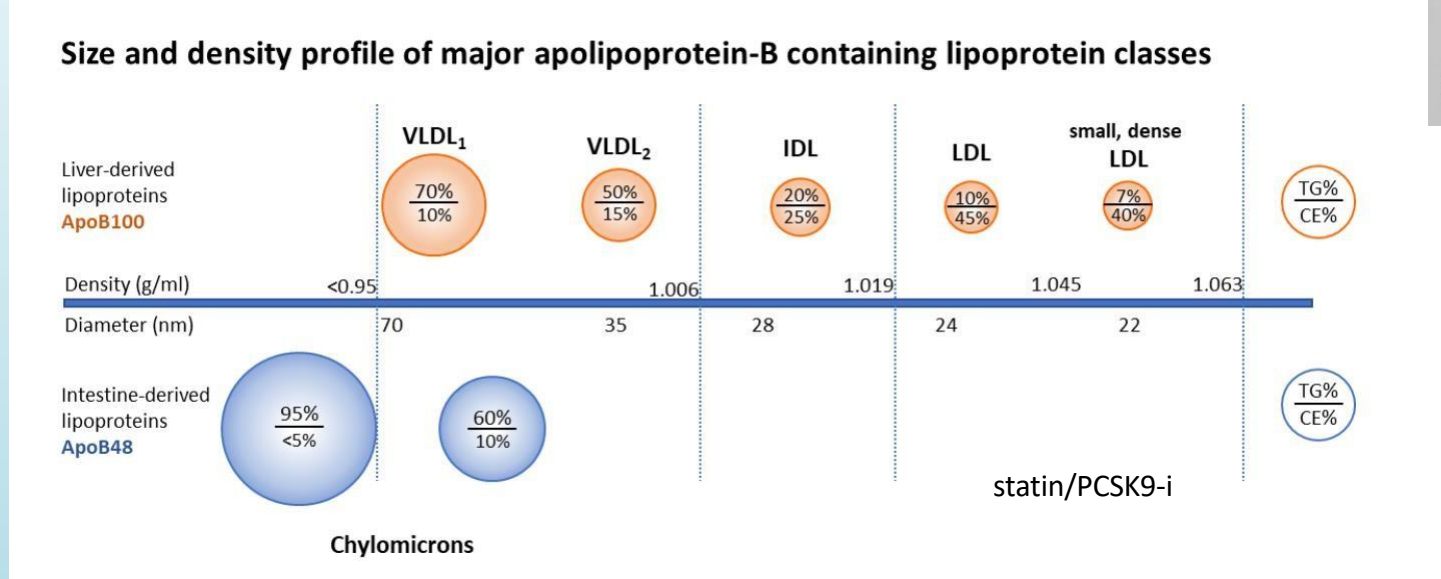
Recurrent CV-event rate in evo-evolocumab : 14.6% /5yr  
Recurrent CV-event rate in placebo-evolocumab: 16.8% /5yr

# Other pillars 'contributing' to atherogenesis




Hoogeveen, Stroes, Neth Heart J 2021

# When cardiologist talk about high TGs . TGs are 'heterogeneous'



Review Article | Published: 30 October 2018

## Safety and efficacy of statin therapy

Bhavin B. Adhyaru  & Terry A. Jacobson 

*Nature Reviews Cardiology* **15**, 757–769(2018) | [Cite this article](#)

5822 Accesses | 52 Citations | 48 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Efficacy and safety of statin therapy in older people:  
a meta-analysis of individual participant data from  
28 randomised controlled trials

*Cholesterol Treatment Trialists' Collaboration\**

### AHA Scientific Statement

#### Statin Safety and Associated Adverse Events

A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

Connie B. Newman, MD, FAHA, Chair; David Preiss, FRCPATH, PhD; Jonathan A. Tobert, MD, PhD, FAHA;  
Terry A. Jacobson, MD, FAHA, Vice Chair; Robert L. Page II, PharmD, MSPH, FAHA;  
Larry B. Goldstein, MD, FAHA; Clifford Chin, MD; Lisa R. Tannock, MD, FAHA;  
Michael Miller, MD, FAHA; Geetha Raghuvver, MD, MPH, FAHA; P. Barton Duell, MD, FAHA;  
Eliot A. Brinton, MD, FAHA; Amy Pollak, MD; Lynne T. Braun, PhD, FAHA;  
Francine K. Welty, MD, PhD, FAHA; on behalf of the American Heart Association Clinical  
Lipidology, Lipoprotein, Metabolism and Thrombosis Committee, a Joint Committee of the Council on  
Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis and Vascular Biology and Council on Lifestyle and Cardiometabolic Health;  
Council on Cardiovascular Disease in the Young; Council on Clinical Cardiology; and Stroke Council

**Le statine di sintesi si confermano il farmaco di prima scelta laddove il target di LDL non possa essere corretto con il solo regime dietetico o mediante l'utilizzo di nutraceutici (in particolare per i soggetti a rischio cardiovascolare elevato/molto elevato).**

# Identifying the right patient





## How to Screen Diabetes with ASCVD risk (DYSLIPIDEMIA)

- **For all patients:**
  - history and physical examination
  - standard lipid profile: **TC, LDL-C, HDL-C, non-HDL-C\*, TG, ApoB**
    - Non-fasting lipid testing is recommended in most adults for screening; however, for individuals with a history of TGs >4.5 mmol/L, fasting lipid levels are recommended.
    - **\*it is now generally preferable to follow non-HDL-C or ApoB levels over LDL-C when interpreting lipid results, particularly when TG is  $\geq 1.5$  mmol/L**
  - eGFR
  - **lipoprotein(a) -- once in patient's lifetime, with initial screening**
- **Optional:**
  - **Urine ACR** (if eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, hypertension, or diabetes)

# Nuovi marcatori rischio

- Trigliceridi
- HDL
- ApoB e non HDL-col
- Lp(a)
- Infiammazione

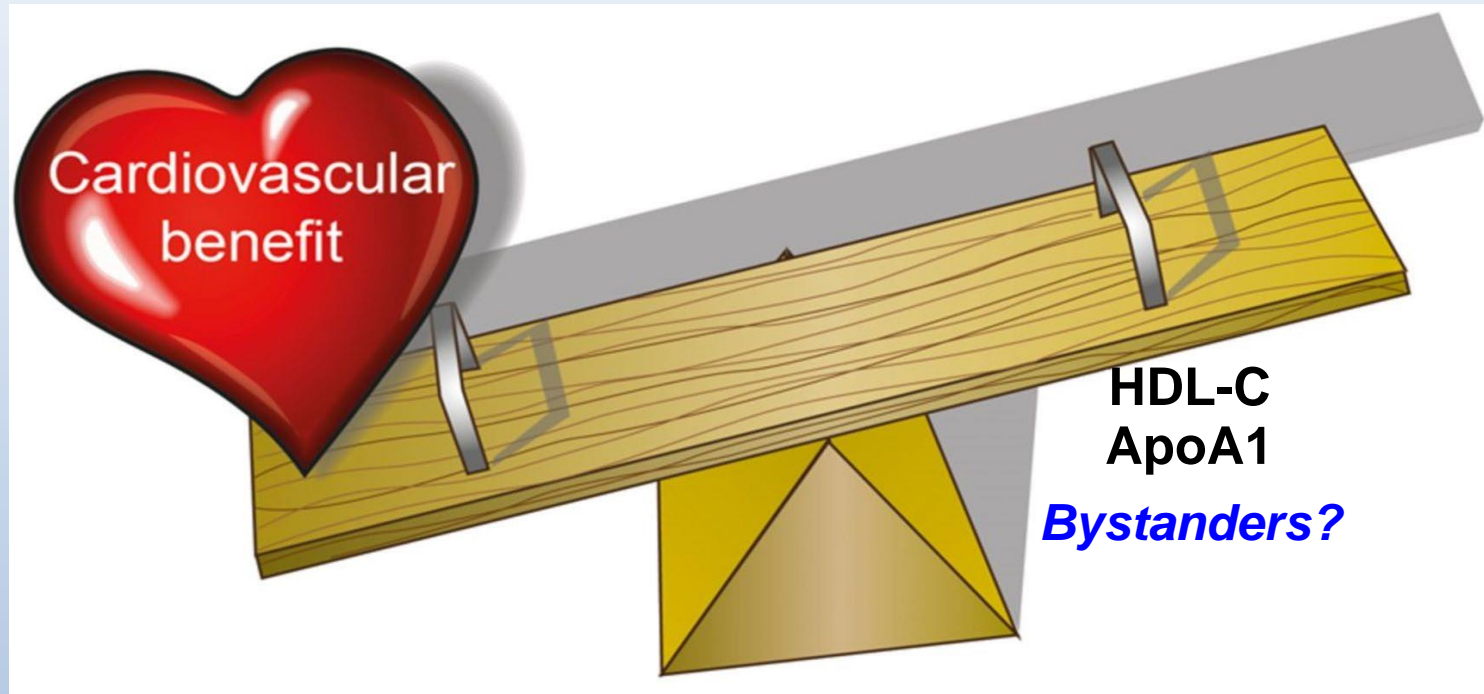


# Nuovi marcatori di rischio

- **Trigliceridi**
- HDL
- ApoB e non HDL-col
- Lp(a)
- Infiammazione



# Triglycerides a Causal Risk Factor?



Triglyceride-rich  
lipoproteins  
ApoC3

*Causal risk factors?*

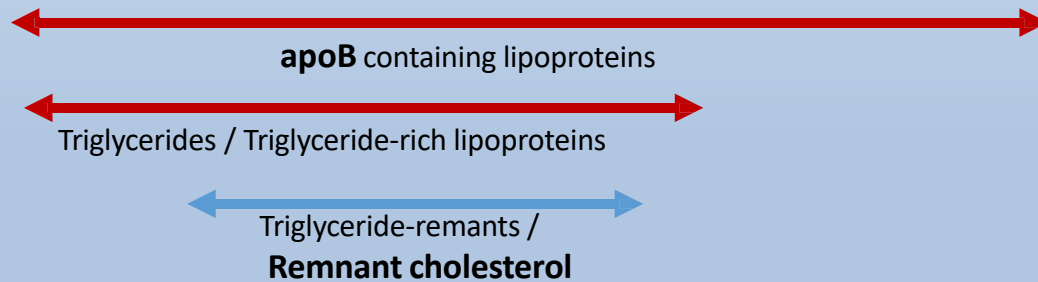
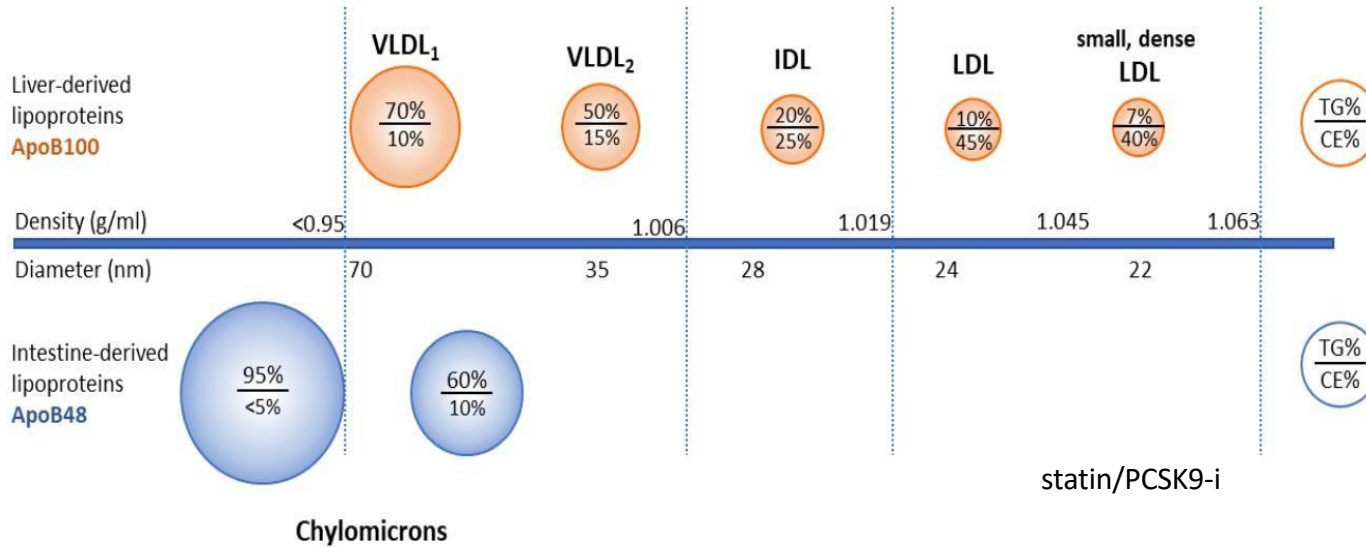
Adapted with permission from Libby P. Triglycerides on the rise: should we swap seats on the seesaw? *Eur Heart J.* 2015;36:774-776.

# When cardiologist talk about high TGs ...

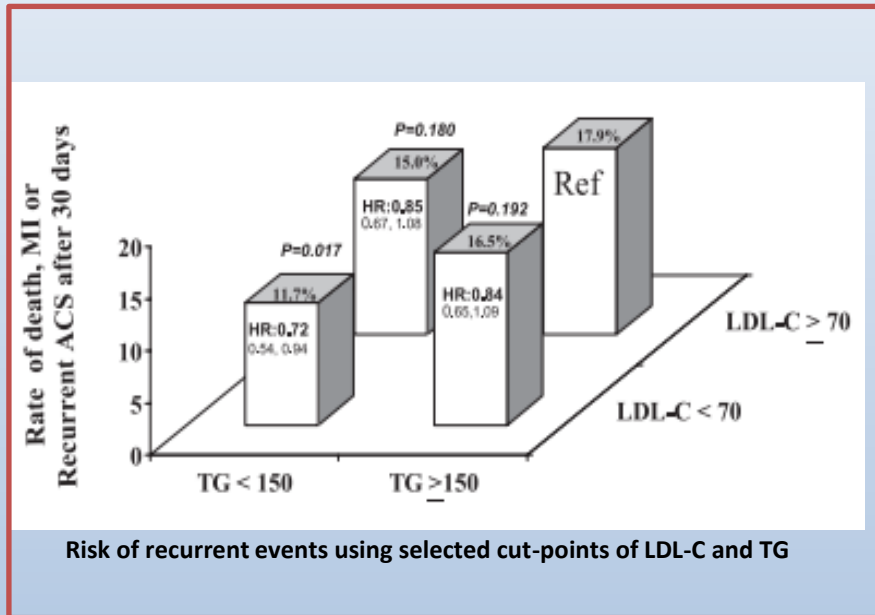
*TGs are 'heterogeneous'*



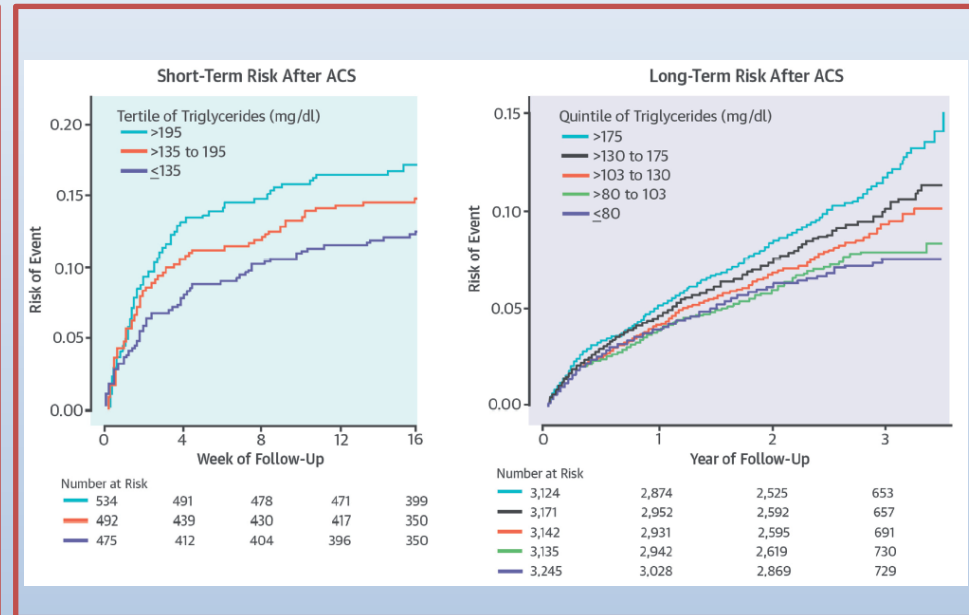
Size and density profile of major apolipoprotein-B containing lipoprotein classes



# Fasting Triglycerides Predict Recurrent Ischemic Events in Patients with Acute Coronary Syndrome or ASCVD Treated with High Dose Statins



Prove-it<sup>1</sup>



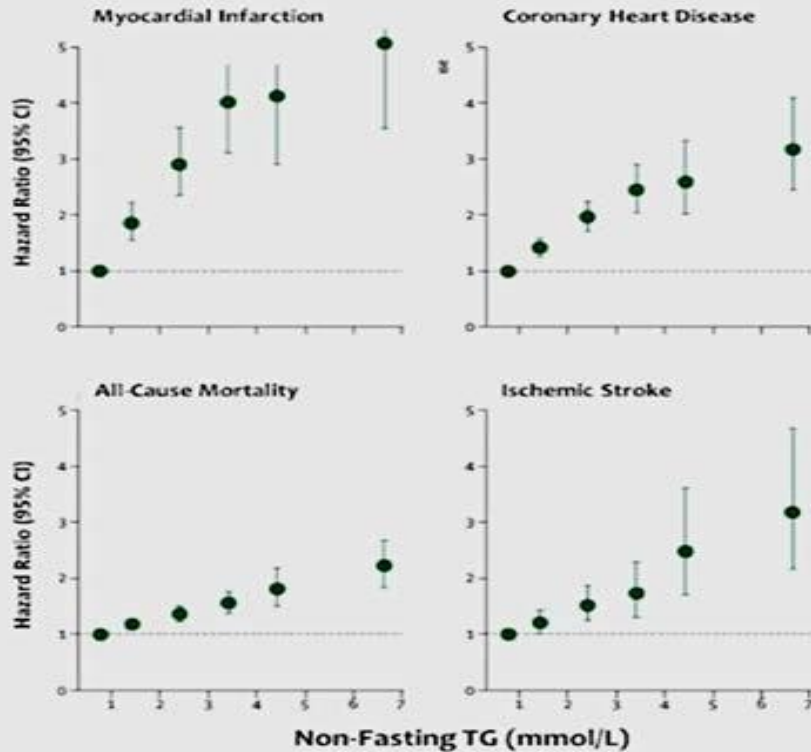
Miracl<sup>2</sup>

dal-OUTCOMES<sup>2</sup>

1. Miller M, et al., 2008. JACC Vol. 51, No. 7 Pages 724-730, ISSN 0735-1097
2. Schwartz GG, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2015; 65(21):2267-75



# Trigliceridi e Rischio CV



Large Population Based Studies Show Consistent Risk Associations

**Copenhagen City Heart Study and Copenhagen General Population Study.**  
Median Follow-Up 6 years

No. Subjects >90,000  
MI = 3287  
CHD = 7183  
Ischemic Stroke = 2994  
All Cause Mortality = 14,547

*Nordestgard Lancet 2014*

# Rischio Residuo



## LDL colesterolo

↑ **TG**

- **Fibrati ?**
- **Olio di pesce ?**

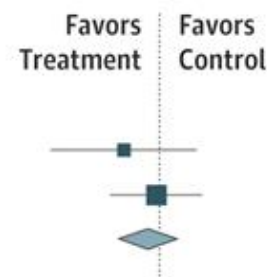


## **Randomized Control Trials**

# Associations of Omega-3 Fatty Acid Supplement Use With Cardiovascular Disease Risks

## Meta-analysis of 10 Trials Involving 77 917 Individuals

Source	No. of Events (%)		Rate Ratios (CI)
	Treatment	Control	
Nonfatal myocardial infarction			
Open	285 (1.9)	316 (2.1)	0.90 (0.73-1.11)
Blind	836 (3.5)	839 (3.5)	0.99 (0.87-1.13)
All	1121 (2.9)	1155 (3.0)	0.97 (0.89-1.05)

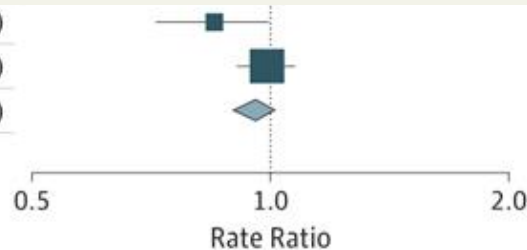


$P = .10$

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** This meta-analysis demonstrated that omega-3 fatty acids had no significant association with fatal or nonfatal coronary heart disease or any major vascular events. It provides no support for current recommendations for the use of such supplements in people with a history of coronary heart disease.

Open	512 (3.4)	598 (4.0)	0.85 (0.72-0.99)
Blind	2573 (10.7)	2590 (10.8)	0.99 (0.91-1.07)
All	3085 (7.9)	3188 (8.2)	0.96 (0.90-1.01)

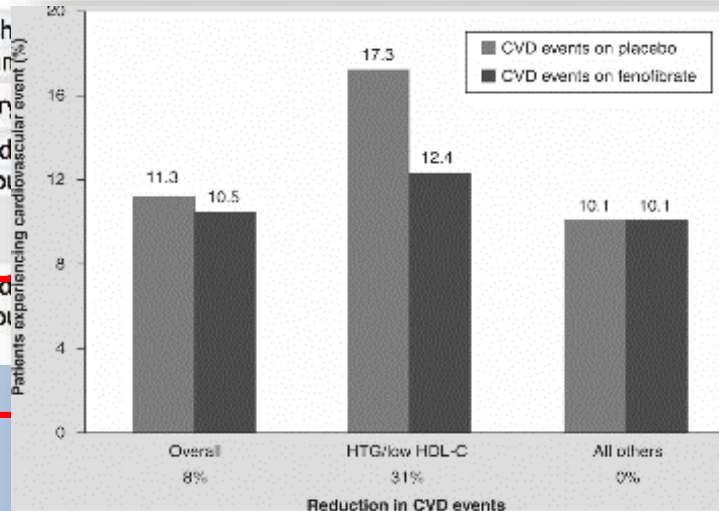
$P = .12$



# RCT con FIBRATI

**TABLE 2** Summary of CVD trials with TG lowering drugs

Trial	Drug	Patient population	Statin use	HDL	TG	LDL	CVD outcomes
HHS	Gemfibrozil	Non-HDL-C >5.2 mmol/L. Asymptomatic with no prior CVD	No	19.4% increase	52% decrease	8.4% decrease	34% reduction in CVD, no mortality benefit
VA-HIT	Gemfibrozil	Establish <1 mmol/L					No significant difference
BIP	Bezafibrate	Coronary artery disease				6.5% decline	Neutral
FIELD	Fenofibrate	Type 2 diabetes without CVD				5.8% decrease	Neutral (Non fatal MI, CHD death)
ACCORD	Fenofibrate	Type 2 diabetes without CVD					No significant difference vs placebo



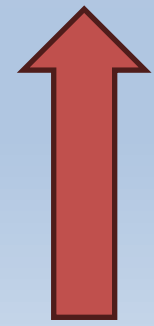
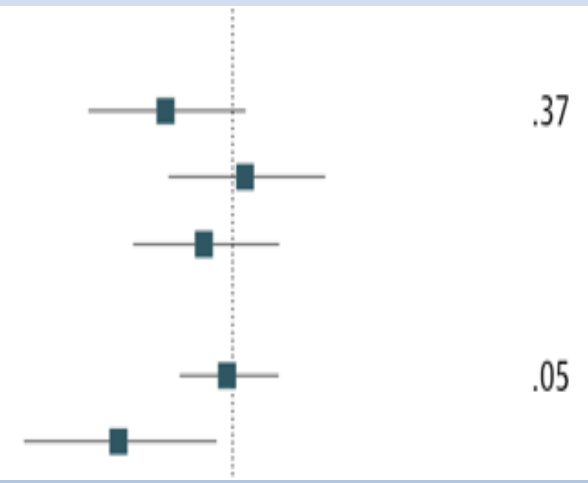
# Association of Fenofibrate Therapy With Long-term Cardiovascular Risk in Statin-Treated Patients With Type 2 Diabetes

Marshall B. Elam, PhD, MD<sup>1</sup>; Henry N. Ginsberg, MD<sup>2</sup>; Laura C. Lovato, MS<sup>3</sup>; et al

> [Author Affiliations](#) | [Article Information](#)

JAMA Cardiol. 2017;2(4):370-380. doi:10.1001/jamacardio.2016.4828

Triglycerides			
<129	146/879 (16.61)	186/930 (20.00)	0.83 (0.67-1.03)
129-203	171/918 (18.63)	160/908 (17.62)	1.04 (0.84-1.29)
≥204	189/927 (20.39)	190/882 (21.54)	0.93 (0.76-1.13)
Dyslipidemia			
No	407/2242 (18.15)	415/2266 (18.31)	0.99 (0.86-1.13)
Triglycerides >204 and HDL-C <34	99/482 (20.54)	121/454 (26.65)	0.73 (0.56-0.95)





# PROMINENT: Pemafibrato

MEN AND WOMEN  
WITH  
TYPE 2 DIABETES



10,000  
PARTICIPANTS  
24 Countries

TG 200-499 mg/dl (2.26-5.64 mM) and HDL  $\leq$  40 mg/dl (1.03 mM)  
Moderate-High Intensity Statin Therapy or LDL-C Control  
( $\leq$ 70 mg/dl other therapy or  $\leq$ 100 mg/dl if statin intolerant)  
1/3 Primary Prevention, 2/3 Secondary Prevention

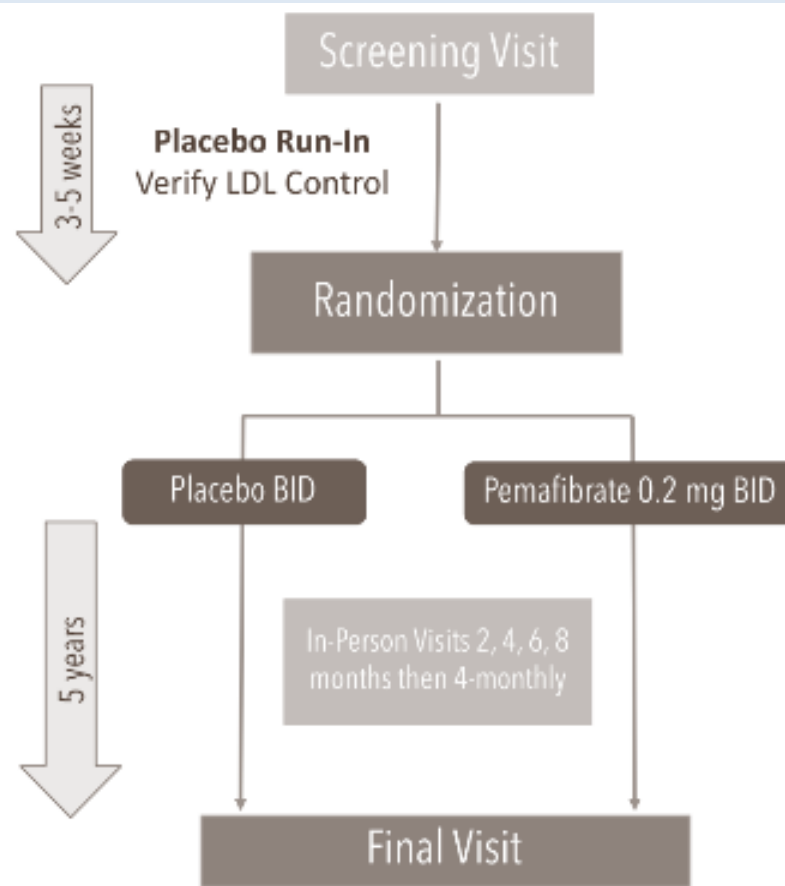
## ENDPOINTS

**Event Driven:** 1092 Primary Endpoints, 200 in ♀

### PRIMARY ENDPOINT (MACE+):

Myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, or unstable angina requiring unplanned revascularization, cardiovascular death.

**Secondary/Tertiary Endpoints:** all-cause mortality, any coronary revascularization, heart failure, total stroke, retinopathy, nephropathy, glycemic control, PAD, biomarkers, QOL

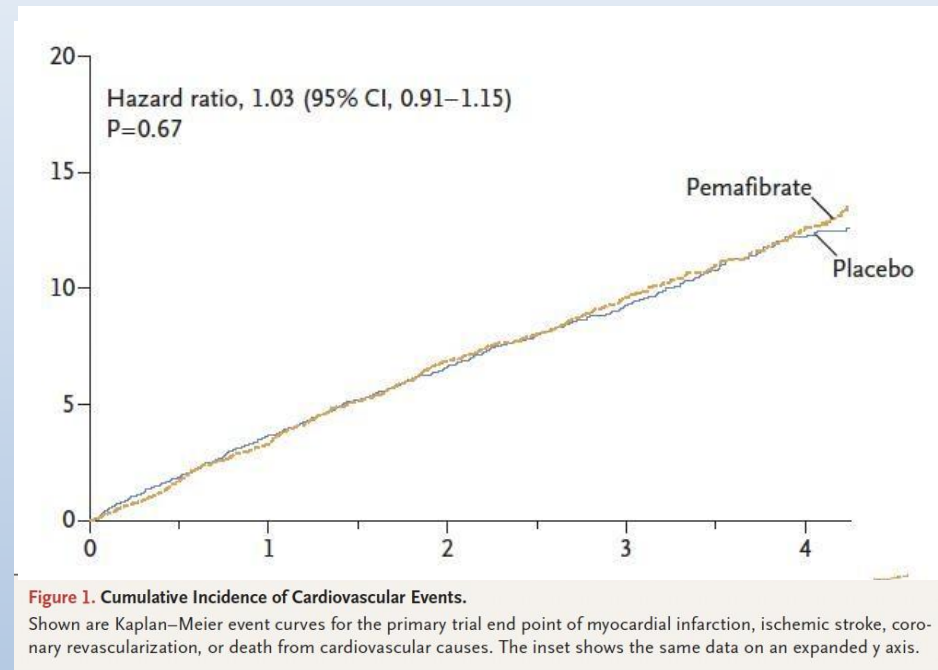


PROMINENT Study Design.

# **Fibrates: Enhancing TG-metabolism?**

## **TG lowering in absence of TRL-reduction not beneficial**

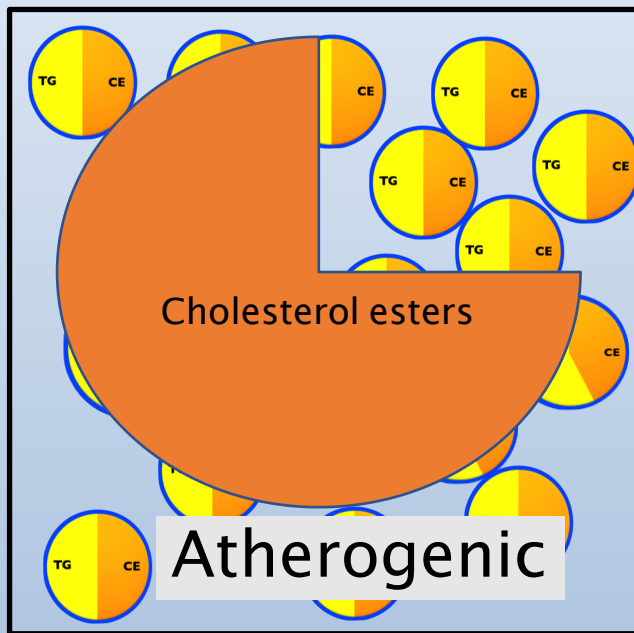
Effect Pema fibrate	%change compared to placebo	Abs. difference Vs placebo
TG change	-26.2 %	- 69 mg/dl
Remnant chol	-25.6 %	- 12 mg/dl
LDLc	+12.3 %	+ 10 mg/dl
apoB	+ 4.8 %	+ 5 mg/dl



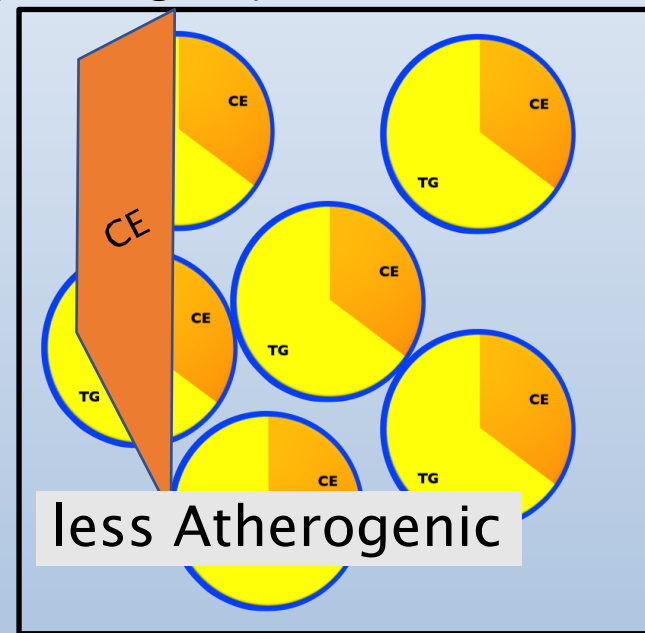
**Fibrate** does not ‘remove’ Triglyceride-rich particles  
It shifts atherogenic particles towards other atherogenic particles

# But. what is high Triglycerides? *a mixed bag*

TG 4.5 mmol/l (405 mg/dL)

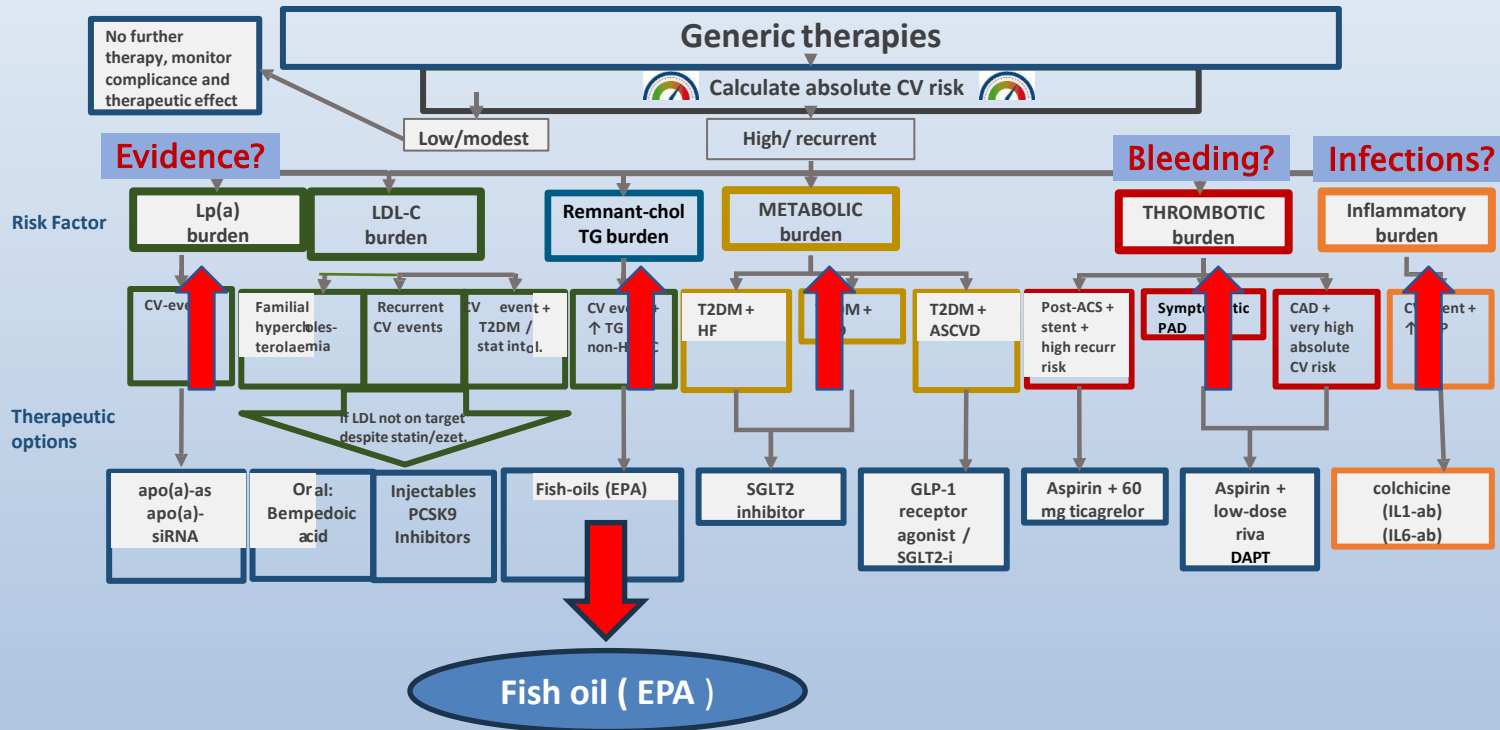


High apo B 135mg/dl



Low apo B 87 mg/dl

# Other pillars 'contributing' to atherogenesis



Hoogeveen, Stroes, Neth Heart J 2021

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY

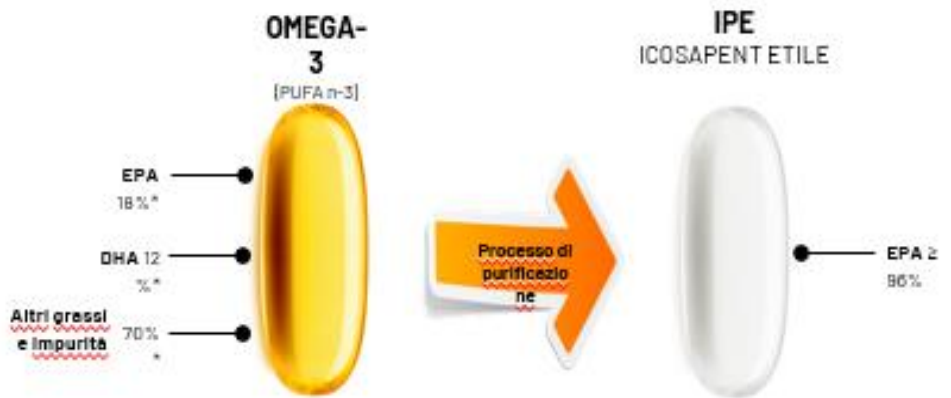
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# Effects of Icosapent Ethyl on Total Ischemic Events: From REDUCE-IT

Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH,<sup>a</sup> Ph. Gabriel Steg, MD,<sup>b,c</sup> Michael Miller, MD,<sup>d</sup> Eliot A. Brinton, MD,<sup>e</sup> Terry A. Jacobson, MD,<sup>f</sup>  
Steven B. Ketchum, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Ralph T. Doyle, Jr, BA,<sup>g</sup> Rebecca A. Juliano, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Lixia Jiao, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Craig Granowitz, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup>  
Jean-Claude Tardif, MD,<sup>h</sup> John Gregson, PhD,<sup>i</sup> Stuart J. Pocock, PhD,<sup>i</sup> Christie M. Ballantyne, MD,<sup>j</sup> on Behalf of the  
REDUCE-IT Investigators\*

Article available at <http://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2019.02.032>

Slides available for download at [www.lipid.org](http://www.lipid.org)



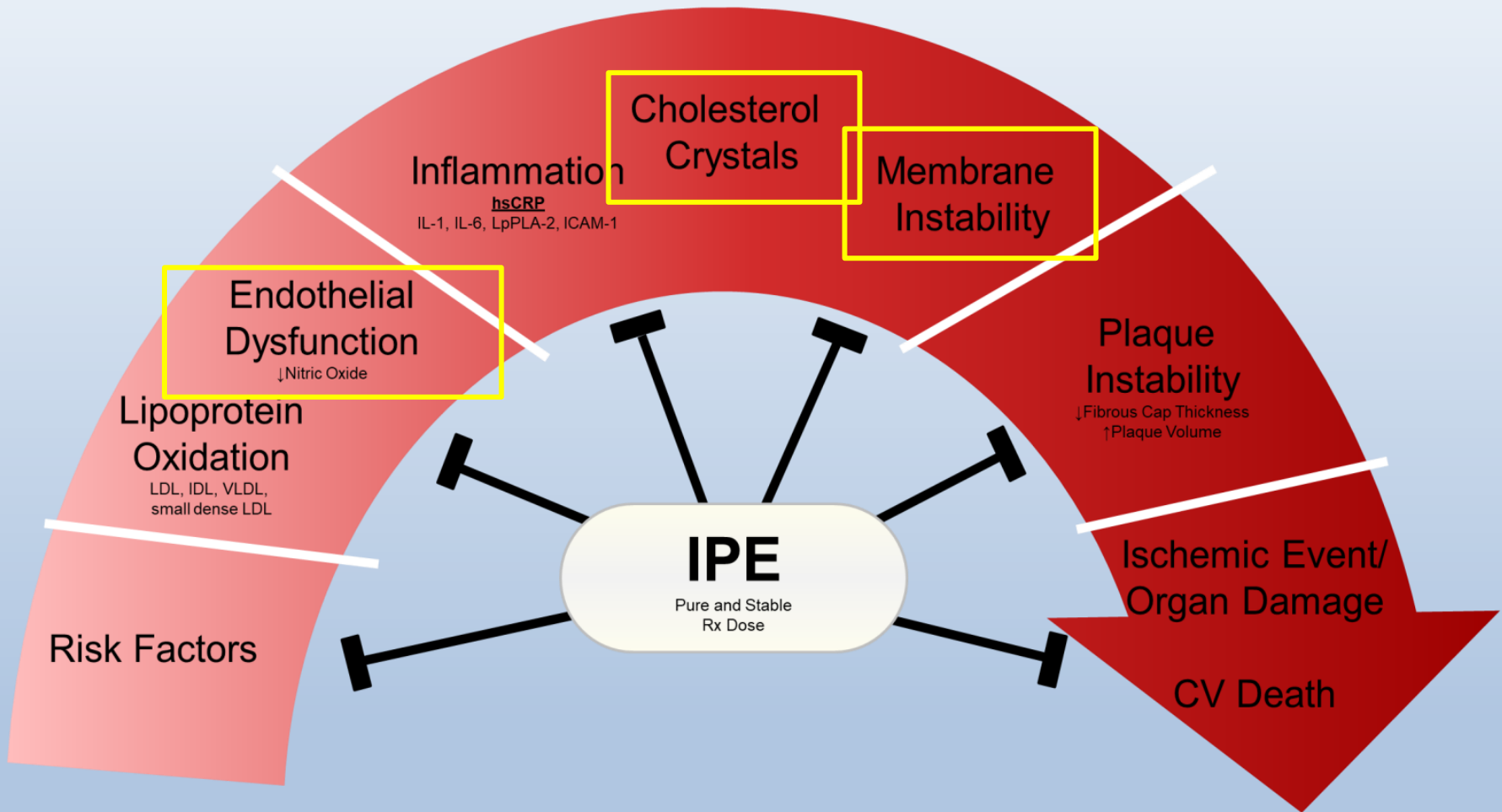
\* secondo dati generati dalla analisi GC/MS



L'ICOSAPENT ETILE (**IPE**) è l'estere etilico dell'**acido eicosapentaenoico** altamente PURIFICATO. **IPE** è stato approvato\* come una NUOVA entità chimica.



# IPE Interferes with the CV Disease Continuum at Multiple Points to Reduce Events



# REDUCE-IT: Cardiovascular Risk Reduction with Icosapent Ethyl for Hypertriglyceridemia

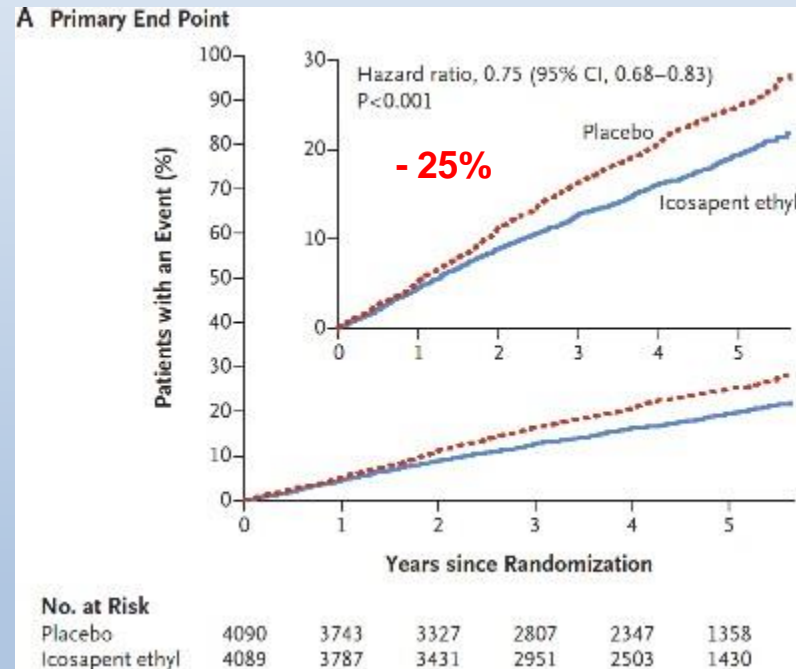
8179 Adulti trattati con statina  
Livelli persistentemente elevati di TG  
Storia di CVD o DM2 con un FdR aggiuntivo



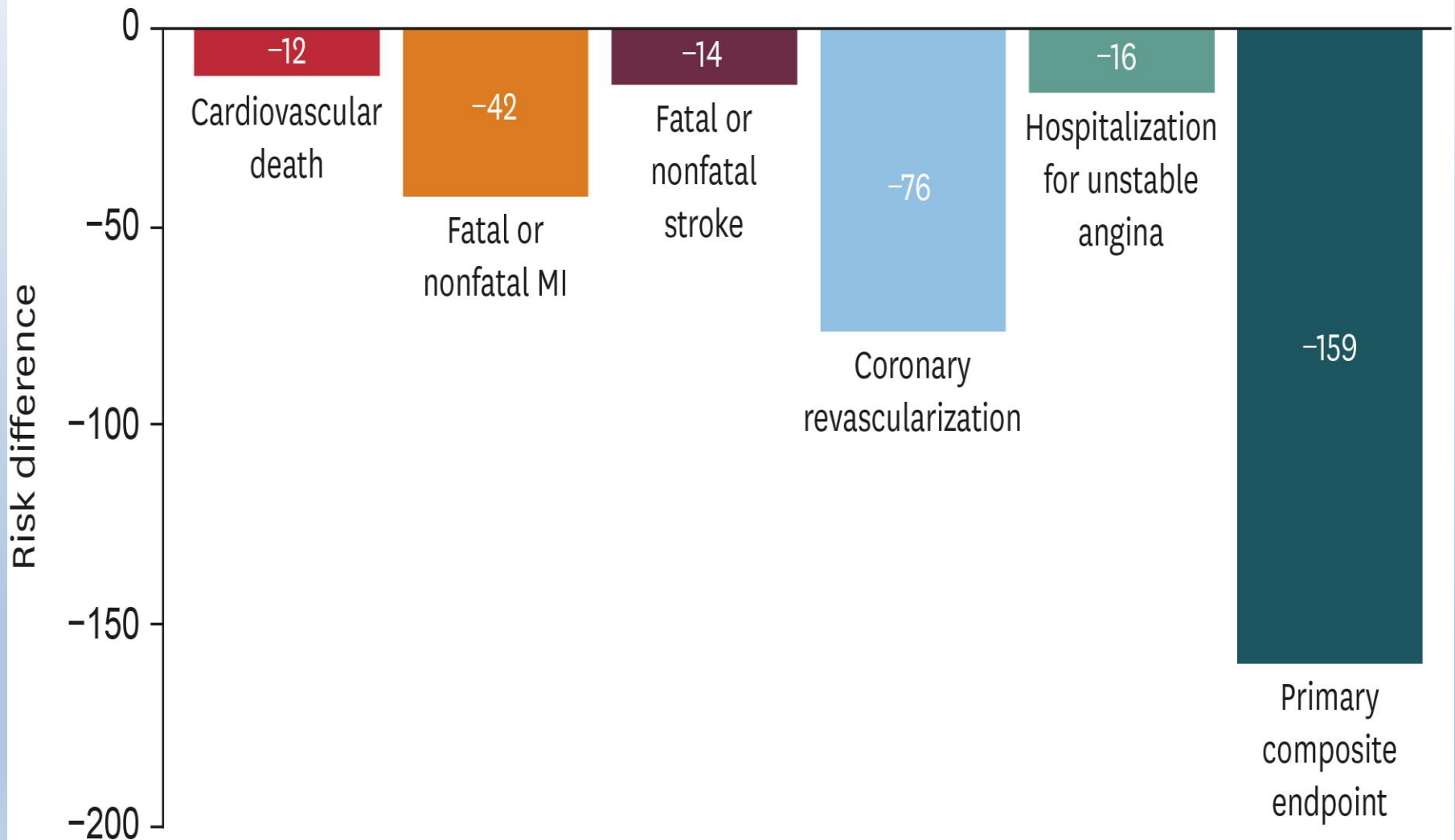
FU= 4.9 yrs



**Primary Outcome:** CV death, nonfatal MI, nonfatal stroke, coronary revascularization, or unstable angina



For every 1,000 patients treated with icosapent ethyl for 5 years, there are significant reductions in total ischemic events, including deaths from cardiovascular causes.



# Conclusions

Compared with placebo, VASCEPA 4g/day significantly reduced important CV events by **25%**, including:

- **20%** reduction in death due to cardiovascular causes
- **31%** reduction in heart attack
- **28%** reduction in stroke

Low rate of adverse effects, including:

- Small but significant increase in atrial fibrillation/flutter
- Non-statistically significant increase in serious bleeding

Consistent efficacy across multiple subgroups<sup>3</sup>

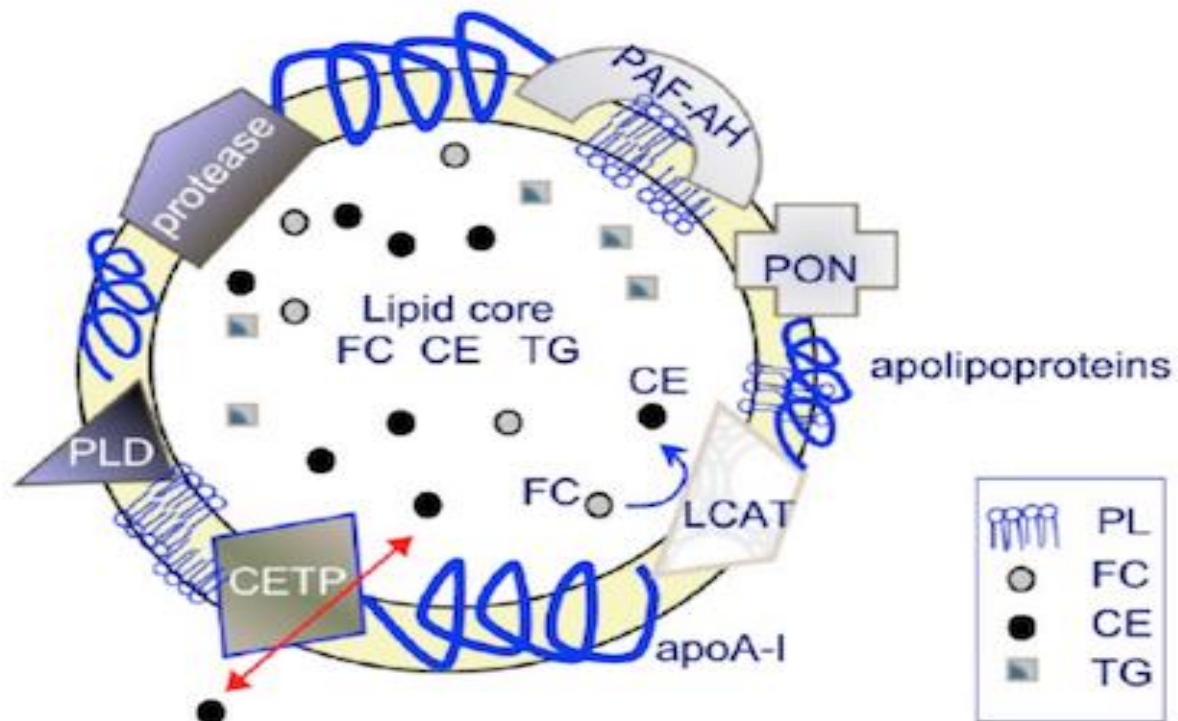
# Nuovi marcatori di rischio

- Trigliceridi
- **HDL**
- ApoB e non HDL-col
- Lp(a)
- Infiammazione



## HDL: UN PLAYMAKER NELLA RIDUZIONE DEL RISCHIO CV

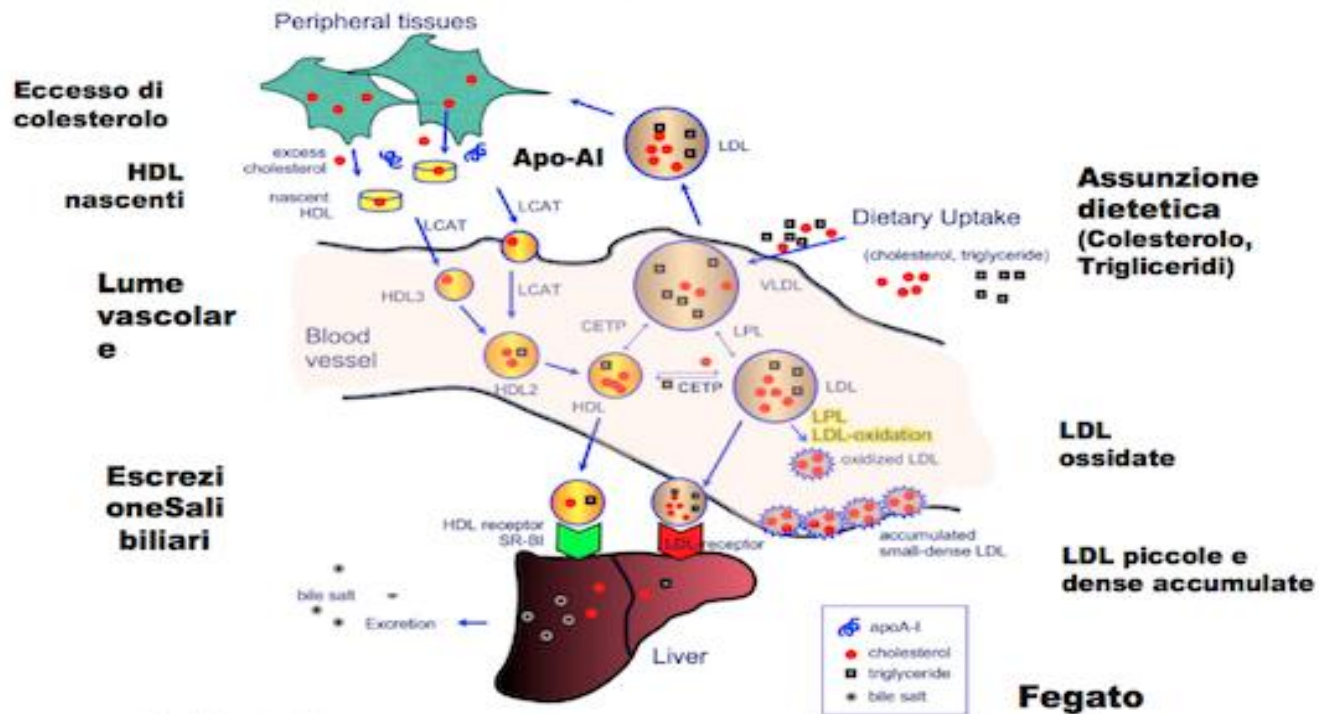
Illustrazione schematica e semplificata di una HDL



# HDL: UN PLAYMAKER NELLA RIDUZIONE DEL RISCHIO CV

Le HDL nel trasporto inverso del colesterolo

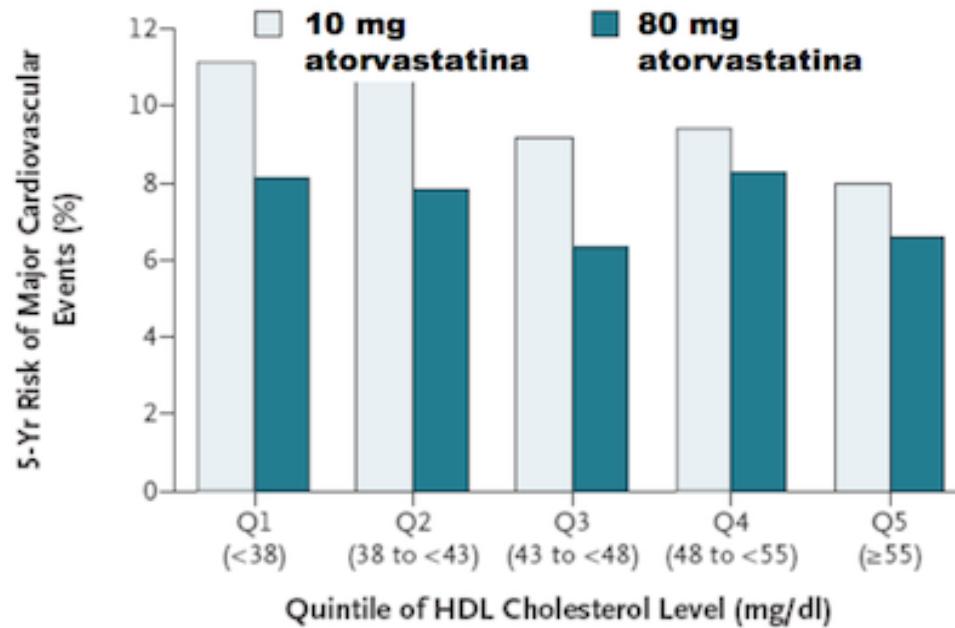
## Tessuti periferici



## HDL: UN PLAYMAKER NELLA RIDUZIONE DEL RISCHIO CV

Studio TNT: Rischio CV in funzione dei livelli di HDL

**Rischio a 5 anni di  
eventi CV maggiori  
(%)**



**Numero di  
eventi**

**Quintile di colesterolemia HDL (mg/dL)** '1

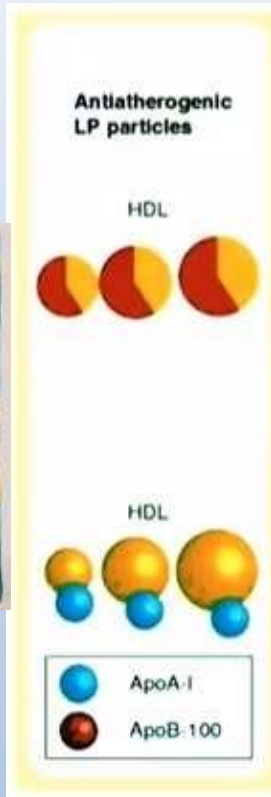


# Nuovi marcatori di rischio

- Trigliceridi
- HDL
- **ApoB e non HDL-col**
- Lp(a)
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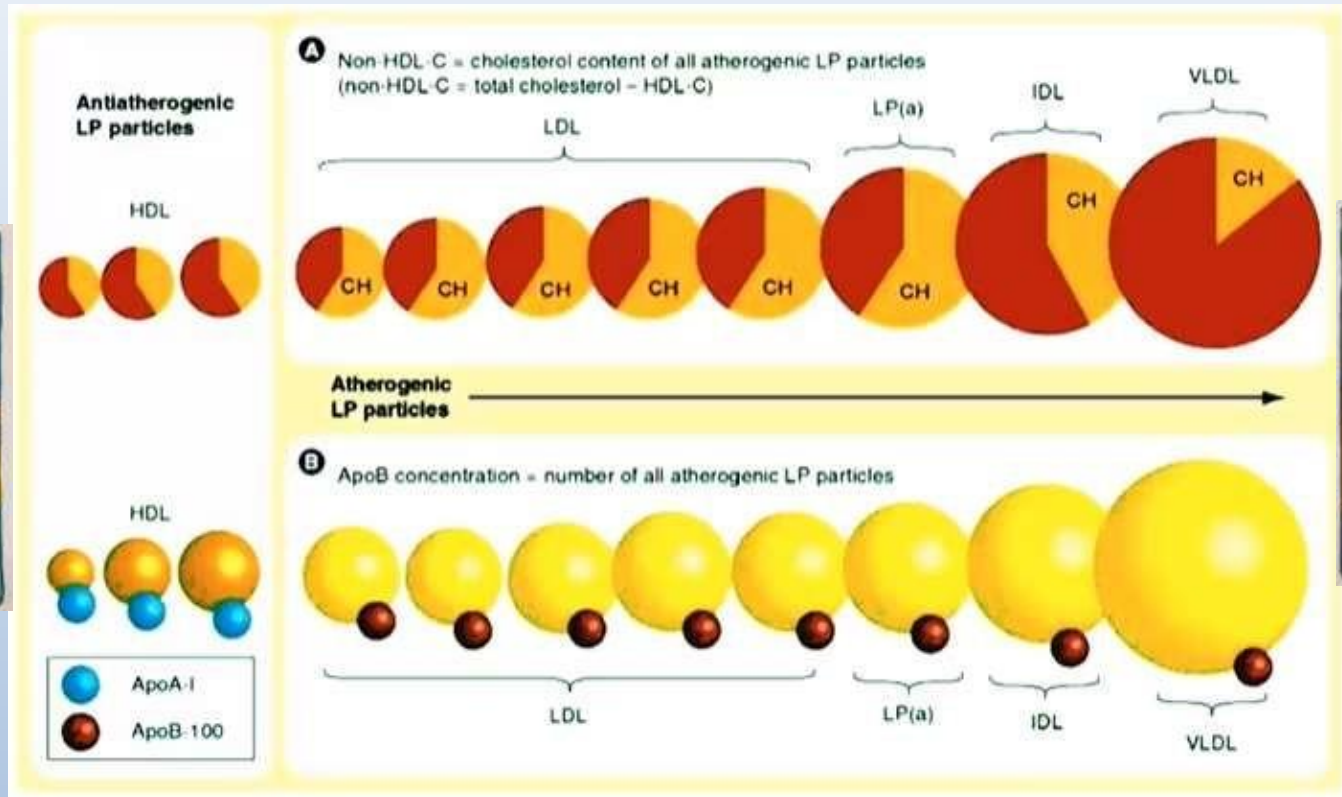


# LDL-C measures only a portion of atherogenic particles – although **non-HDL** or **ApoB** captures all -



Source: Clin Lipidol © 2011 Future Medicine Ltd

# LDL-C measures only a portion of atherogenic particles – although **non-HDL** or **ApoB** captures all -



$$\text{Non-HDL-C} = (\text{TC}) - (\text{HDL-C})$$

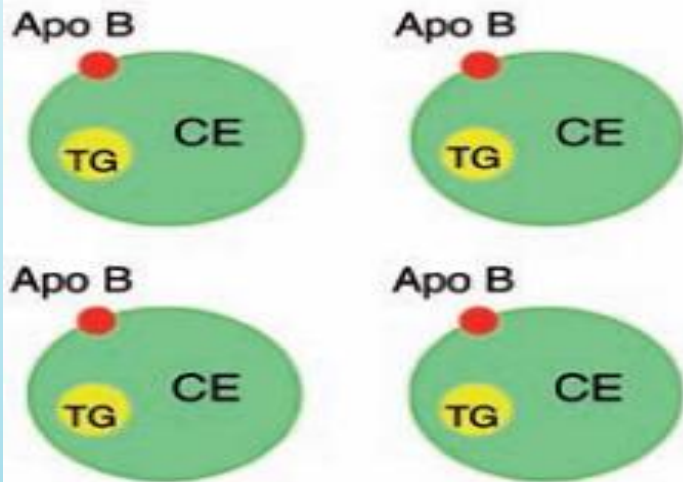
**Persistent CV Risk Beyond LDL-C: Case examples from 2021 CCS lipid guidelines (2021)**

# Non-HDL Cholesterol

(Non-HDL Chol. = TC - HDL)

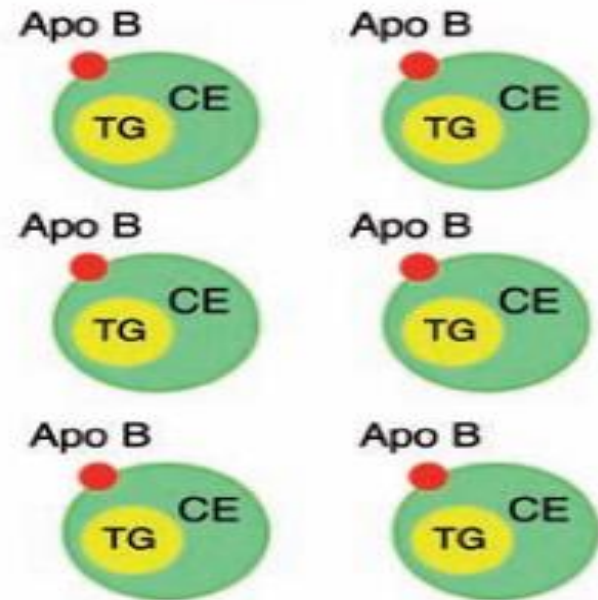
- ▶ Known predictor of CHD in epidemiology
- ▶ Equivalent to total apo B-100, and TC/HDL
- ▶ Represents the sum of LDL, Lp(a), IDL, and VLDL:  
All atherogenic apo B containing lipoproteins
- ▶ Lipid Equivalent of “HbA1C”

LDL-C 100 mg/dL  
Apo B 80 mg/dL

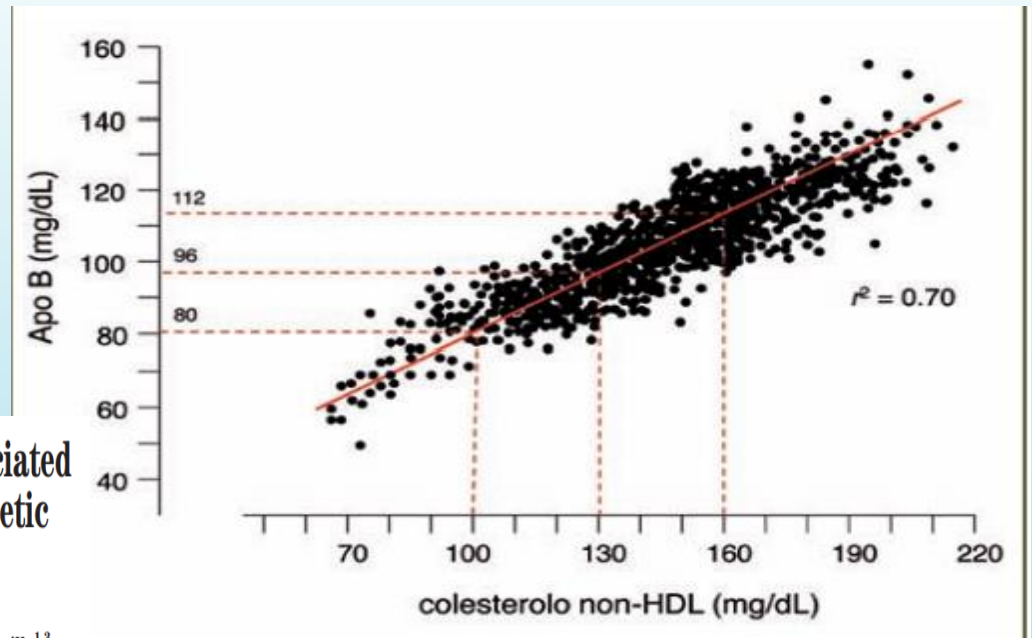


Controlli

LDL-C 100 mg/dL  
Apo B >100 mg/dL



Pazienti T2DM



## Apolipoprotein B but not LDL Cholesterol Is Associated With Coronary Artery Calcification in Type 2 Diabetic Whites

Seth S. Martin,<sup>1,2</sup> Atif N. Qasim,<sup>1</sup> Nehal N. Mehta,<sup>1</sup> Megan Wolfe,<sup>1</sup> Karen Terembula,<sup>1</sup> Stanley Schwartz,<sup>3</sup> Nayyar Iqbal,<sup>3</sup> Mark Schutta,<sup>3</sup> Roshanak Bagheri,<sup>4</sup> and Muredach P. Reilly<sup>1,3</sup>

### Association of plasma levels of apoB and cholesterol parameters with CAC

Variables adjusted for	Type 2 diabetic subjects (n = 611)	Nondiabetic subjects (n = 803)
	*Tobit ratio (95% CI)	*Tobit ratio (95% CI)
<b>ApoB</b> ←		
Age, sex, medications	*1.36 (1.06–1.75)	1.65 (1.38–1.96)
Age, sex, medications, risk factors	1.37 (1.05–1.79)	1.50 (1.25–1.80)
LDL cholesterol		
Age, sex, medications	1.09 (0.85–1.41)	1.56 (1.30–1.86)
Age, sex, medications, risk factors	1.13 (0.87–1.47)	1.51 (1.27–1.81)
Non-HDL cholesterol		
Age, sex, medications	1.30 (1.01–1.68)	1.68 (1.41–2.00)
Age, sex, medications, risk factors	1.28 (0.99–1.67)	1.54 (1.29–1.85)



## 2019 ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias: *lipid modification to reduce cardiovascular risk*

The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)

**Use of ApoB in risk stratification.** ApoB may be a better measure of an individual's exposure to pro atherogenic lipoproteins, and hence its use may be particularly helpful for risk assessment in people where measurement of LDL-C underestimates this burden, such as those with high TG, DM, obesity, or very low LDL-C.

In general, LDL-C, non-HDL-C, and ApoB concentrations are very highly correlated. As a result, under most circumstances, they provide very similar information about ASCVD risk.<sup>45,105–108</sup> However, under certain circumstances—including among people with elevated TG levels, DM, obesity, or very low achieved LDL-C levels—the calculated or directly measured LDL-C level may underestimate both the total concentration of cholesterol carried by LDL and, more importantly, underestimate the total concentration of ApoB-containing lipoproteins, thus underestimating the risk of ASCVD.

In circa il 20% dei casi vi è discordanza tra LDL e ApoB.

- ▶ Il target dei livelli di ApoB da raggiungere dovrebbero essere , rispettivamente , inferiore a **65** mg/dl , **80** mg/dl e **100** mg/dl in funzione del rischio CV del paziente ( molto alto , alto e moderato )



# A Translational Tool to Facilitate Use of Apolipoprotein B for Clinical Decision-Making

J. Cole, J.D. Otvos, A.T. Remaley

January 2023

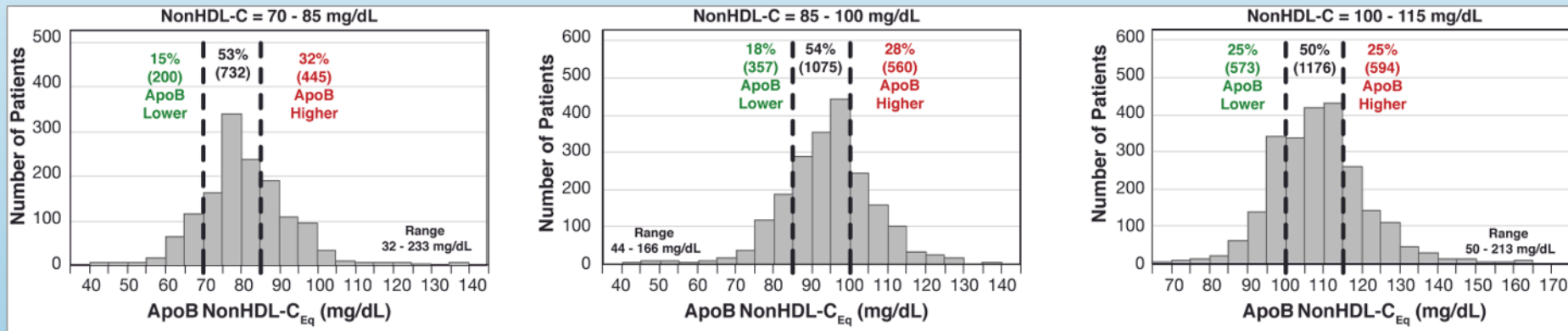
<https://doi.org/10.1093/clinchem/hvac161>

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## Discordantly higher apoB than LDL-C indicates insulin resistance, small, cholesterol-depleted LDL, increased TG, and low HDL-C

ApoB LDL-C <sub>Eq</sub> Difference	N (%)	ApoB LDL-C <sub>Eq</sub> (mg/dL)	LDL-C (mg/dL)	TG (mg/dL)	HDL-C (mg/dL)	LDL Size (nm)	LP-IR (0-100)
<b>ApoB LDL-C<sub>Eq</sub> Higher than LDL-C</b>							
>30 mg/dL	404 (3.0)	139 [42]	96 [38]	357 [176]	39 [22]	20.0 [0.6]	73 [19]
20–30 mg/dL	443 (3.3)	117 [36]	92 [36]	232 [99]	43 [17]	20.2 [0.5]	66 [19]
10–20 mg/dL	1321 (9.7)	106 [36]	92 [36]	176 [80]	45 [16]	20.3 [0.5]	59 [19]
5-10 mg/dL	1312 (9.7)	95 [34]	88 [34]	144 [64]	49 [17]	20.4 [0.5]	54 [19]
1–5 mg/dL	1422 (10.5)	95 [33]	92 [33]	128 [56]	51 [16]	20.6 [0.4]	49 [19]
<b>ApoB LDL-C<sub>Eq</sub> Equal to LDL-C</b>							
<1 mg/dL	739 (5.4)	96 [35]	96 [35]	120 [52]	53 [17]	20.7 [0.4]	47 [19]
<b>ApoB LDL-C<sub>Eq</sub> Lower than LDL-C</b>							
1–5 mg/dL	1690 (12.5)	94 [33]	97 [33]	110 [47]	55 [17]	20.7 [0.4]	42 [19]
5– 10 mg/dL	2027 (14.9)	96 [32]	103 [32]	103 [43]	57 [17]	20.9 [0.4]	38 [19]
10–20 mg/dL	2790 (20.6)	102 [32]	117 [32]	99 [40]	61 [17]	21.0 [0.4]	34 [19]
20–30 mg/dL	1059 (7.8)	114 [33]	138 [34]	96 [42]	65 [17]	21.2 [0.3]	28 [17]
> 30 mg/dL	360 (2.6)	130 [47]	168 [50]	100 [49]	69 [18]	21.4 [0.4]	25 [20]

# ApoB non-HDL-C<sub>Eq</sub> distributions within subgroups of non-HDL-C concentration.



- Non-HDL-C is only slightly less discordant with apoB than LDL-C.
- As it does not indicate particle number and size, it is similar to LDL-C in its limitations as a marker of ASCVD risk.

# Conclusions

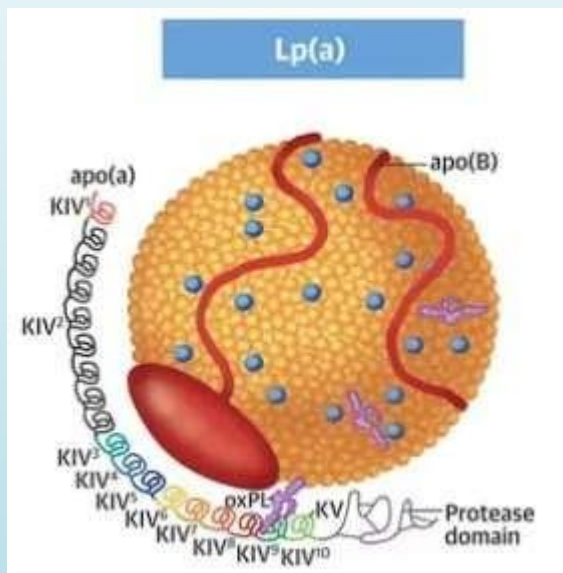
- **Both LDL-C and non-HDL-C are frequently discordant with apoB, which is the superior marker of residual ASCVD risk.**
- **When making patient-centered treatment decisions, the most accurate marker of individual risk is desired.**
- **A major impediment to changing over to the use of apoB for this purpose is a lack of guideline-recommended apoB treatment targets.**
- **Clinical laboratories can effect an immediate positive impact for patients by reporting apoB LDL-C<sub>Eq</sub> values where apoB testing is available.**

# Nuovi marcatori di rischio

- Trigliceridi
- HDL
- ApoB e non HDL-col
- **Lp(a)**
- **Infiammazione**



# What is Lipoprotein(a)?

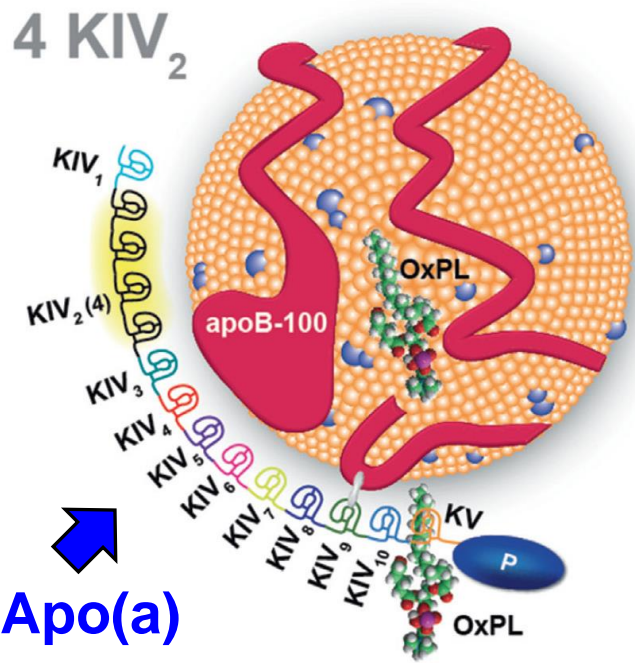


**Lp(a) = LDL-C + apo(a)**

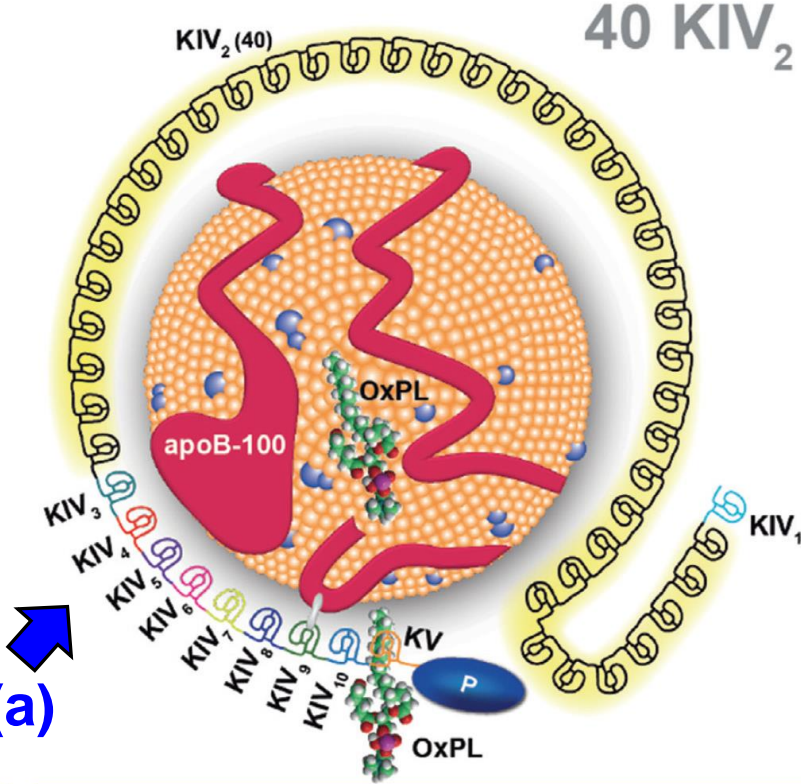
- A “bad” LDL with a “sticky” tail → **highly atherogenic**
  - Poorly correlated with LDL-C
- Lp(a) levels are almost entirely **genetically** determined (levels are determined at birth and remain stable over lifetime).
  - Higher in South Asians, Latin Americans and African Americans
- Independent marker of CV risk (independent of other lipids and risk factors)
  - The higher the Lp(a), the higher the risk for ASCVD and recurrent events
- Most common genetic dyslipidemia
  - Estimated 6 million Canadians have high Lp(a) defined as >50 mg/dL

# Lipoprotein(a) and Plasminogen Structure

## Plasminogen



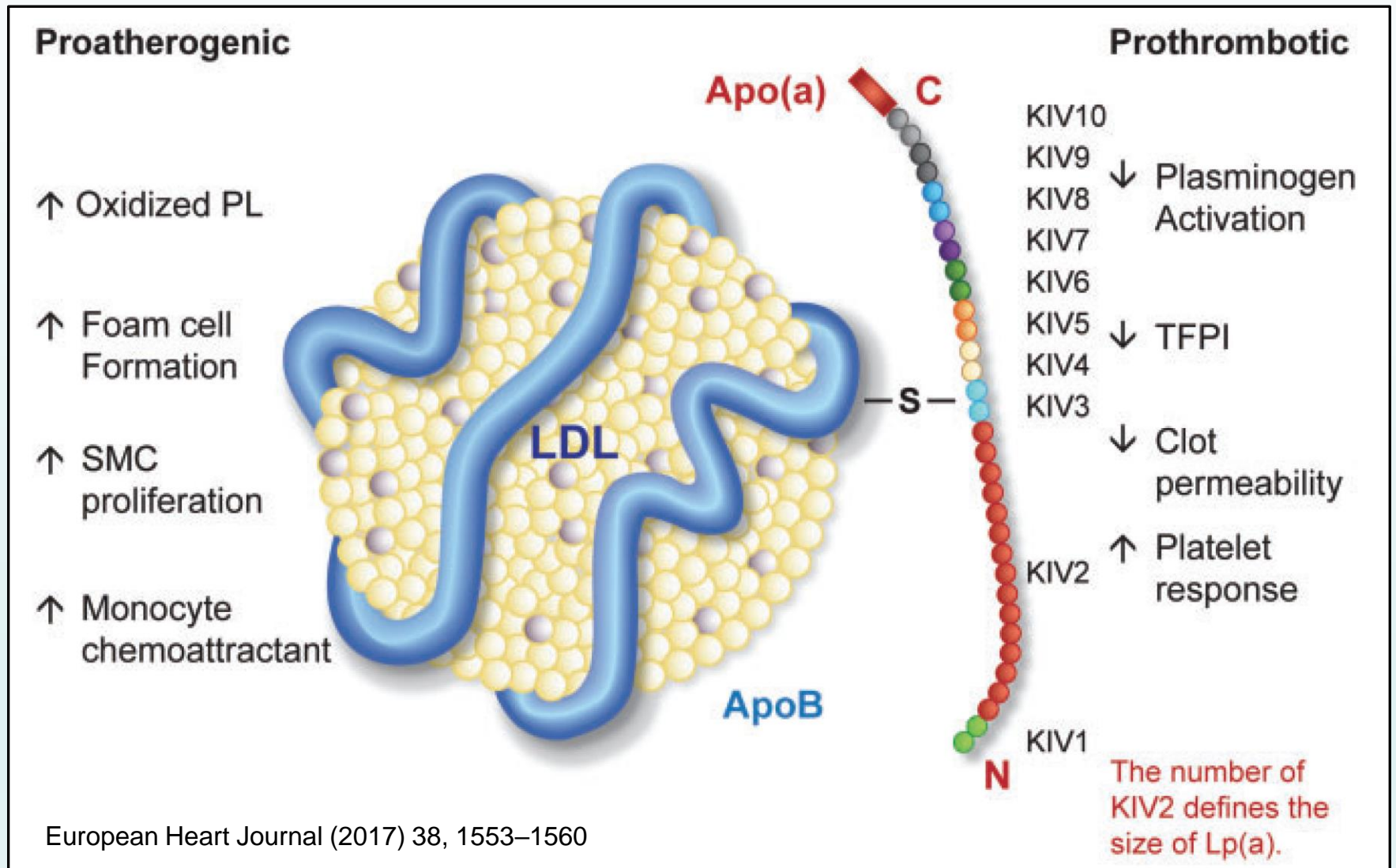
## Lp(a) isoforms



Adapted from J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;69:692-711



# Lp(a) Components: Dual Mechanisms Of Harm

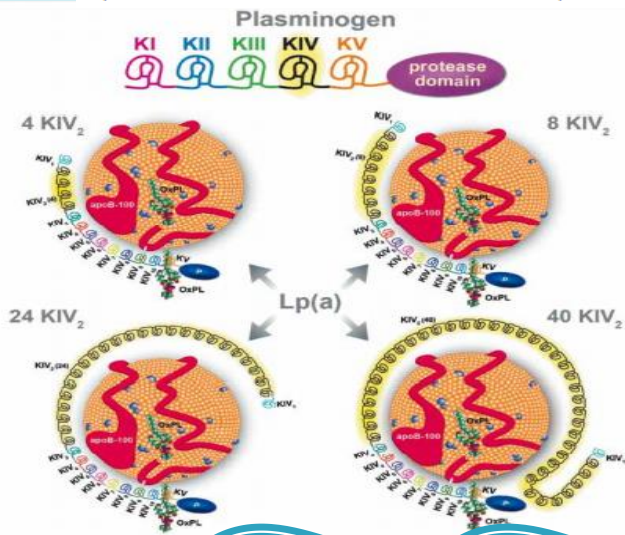




MARCATORI DI MALATTIA

**LIPOPROTEINA(a)  
È ATEROSCLEROSI:  
È TEMPO DI TRATTARE!**  
Lipoprotein(a) and Atherosclerosis:  
it is high time to treat!

MARIA GRAZIA ZENTI, ANNA ALTOMARI, ENZO BONORA  
Endocrinologia, Diabetologia e Metabolismo,  
Dipartimento di Medicina, Università e Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata di Verona



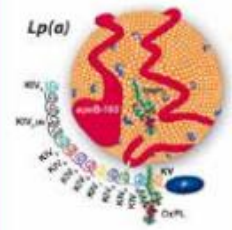
Molteplici isoforme,  
attività peculiare.

**Pro-Infiammatoria**

- ↑ espressione macrofagica di IL-8
- ↑ rilascio di citochine dai monociti
- ↑ chemiotassi/trasmigrazione dei monociti
- ↑ fosfolipidi ossidati

**Pro-Aterogena**

- ↑ legame CE
- ↑ upregulation di molecole di adesione
- ↑ proliferazione SMC
- ↑ legame a proteoglicani
- ↑ formazione foam-cell
- ↑ formazione core necrotico
- ↑ calcificazione delle lesioni



**Protrombotica**

- ↓ attivazione plasminogeno
- ↓ degradazione di fibrina
- ↑ espressione EC PAI1
- ↑ attività TFP1
- ↑ risposta piastrinica

## 2019 ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias: *lipid modification to reduce cardiovascular risk*

The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)

Certain individuals declare themselves to be at high or very high CVD risk without needing risk scoring, and all risk factors require immediate attention. This is true for patients with documented CVD, older individuals with long-standing DM, familial hypercholesterolaemia, chronic kidney disease, carotid or femoral plaques, coronary artery calcium score >100, or extreme Lp(a) elevation.

**Livelli estremi di Lp(a) modificano la classe di rischio del paziente**

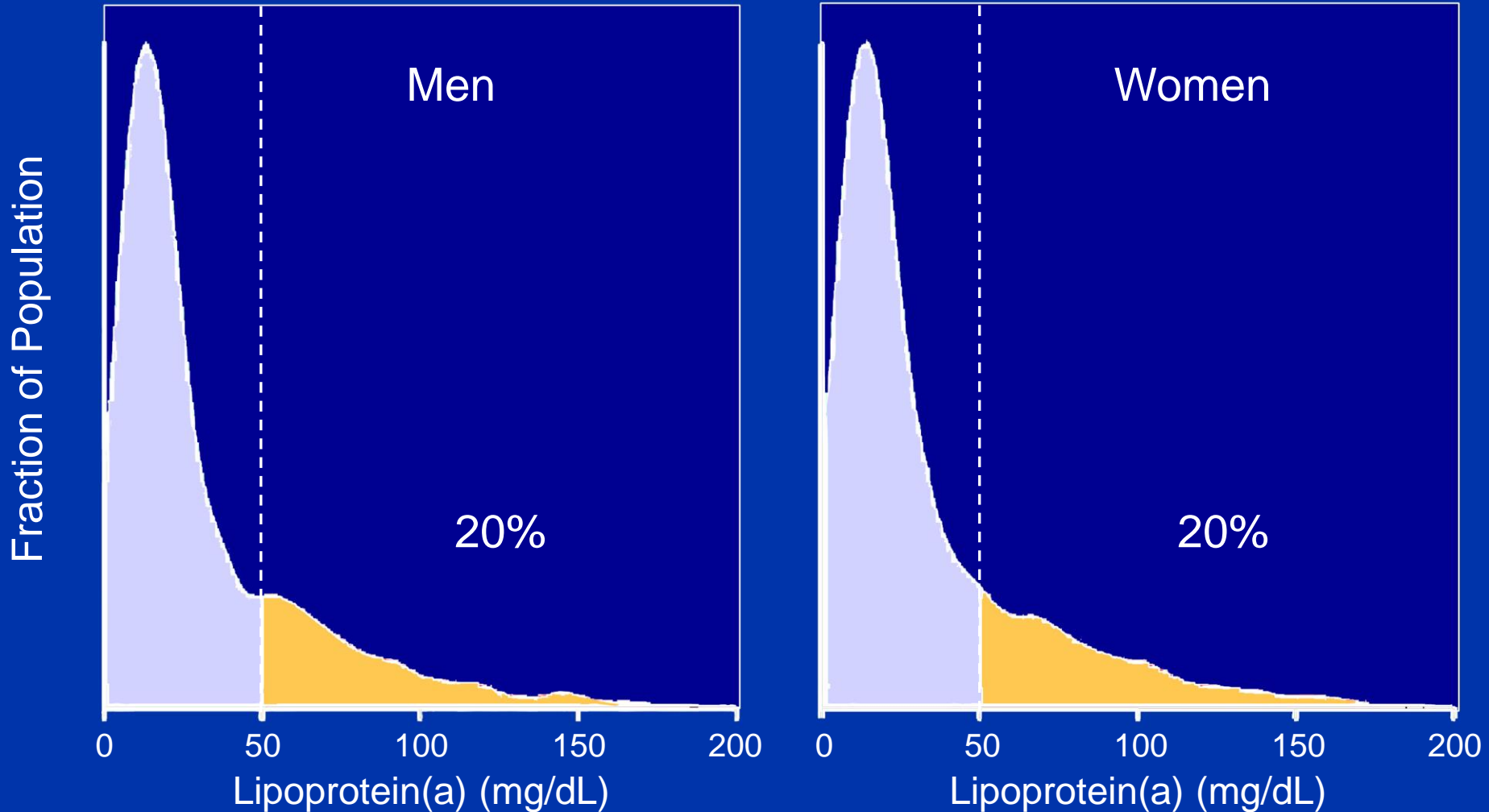
### **Lipid analyses for CVD risk estimation**

Lp(a) measurement should be considered at least once in each adult person's lifetime to identify those with very high inherited Lp(a) levels >180 mg/dL (>430 nmol/L) who may have a lifetime risk of ASCVD equivalent to the risk associated with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia.

**Particolarmente significativi i livelli oltre 180 mg/dl**

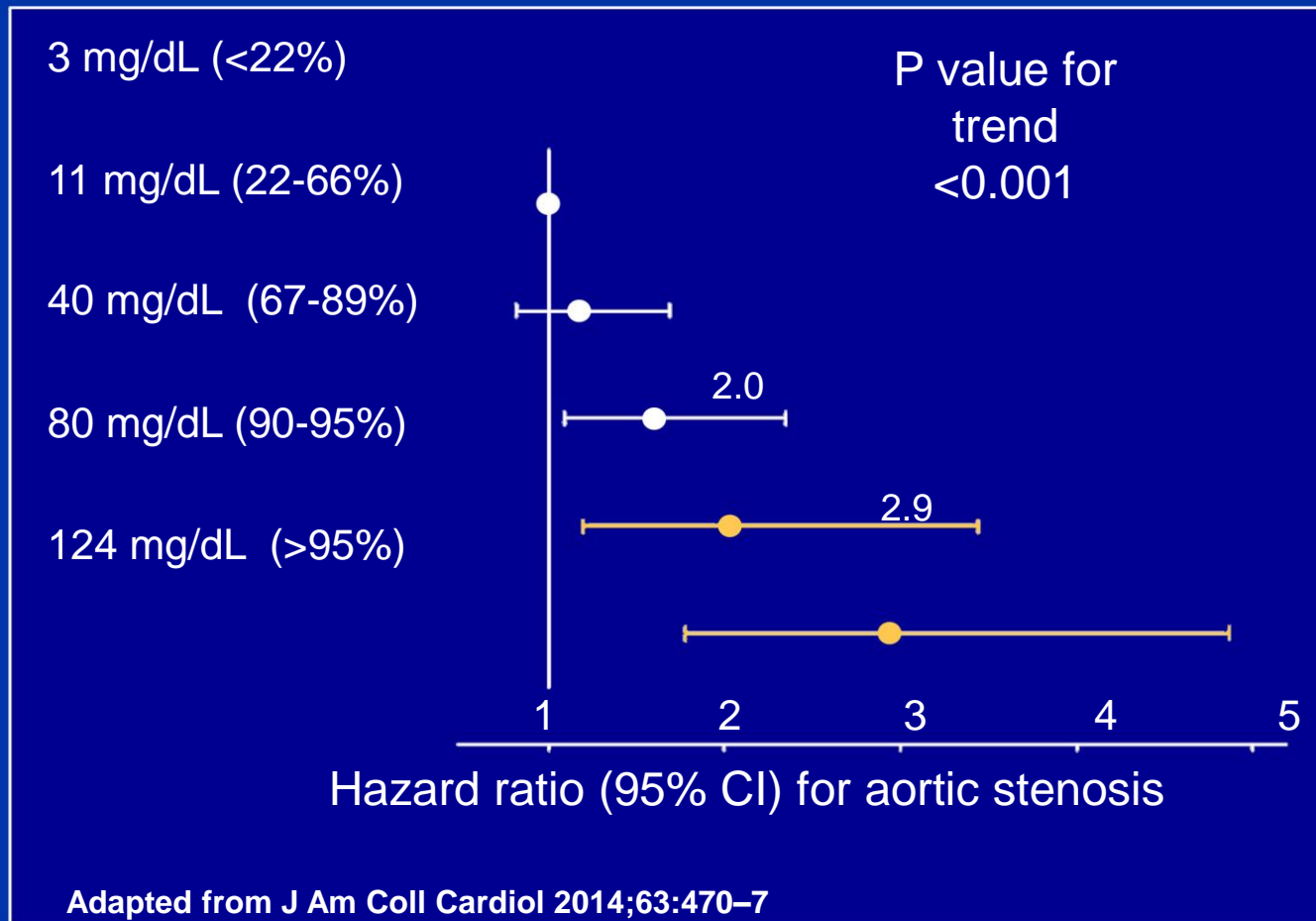
**What are Normal and Abnormal  
Levels of Lipoprotein(a)?**

# Distribution of Lp(a) in the General Population



# Lipoprotein(a) Levels and Risk of Aortic Stenosis

Median Lipoprotein(a) Level (percentile)



# How Does Lipoprotein(a) Contribute to Atherosclerosis?

# Lp(a) level and atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease risk

- **INTERHEART Study** of risk factors for first MI: Lp(a) > 50 mg/dL (>500 mg/L) associated with 1.5-fold increased risk of MI, independent of other CVD risk factors including DM, smoking, high blood pressure
- **Copenhagen Heart Study:** Lp(a) between 30-76 mg/dL (300-760 mg/L) had 1.7-fold higher and with level > 117 mg/dL (1170 mg/L) 2.7-fold higher hazard ratio for myocardial infarction
- Higher Lp(a) carries even higher burden of CVD risk in South Asian and Latin American individuals
- With very high levels (>100 mg/L) CVD event rate is similar to individuals with heterozygous FH, a condition for which family screening is recommended

# Guidelines Recommendation

## **RECOMMENDATION**

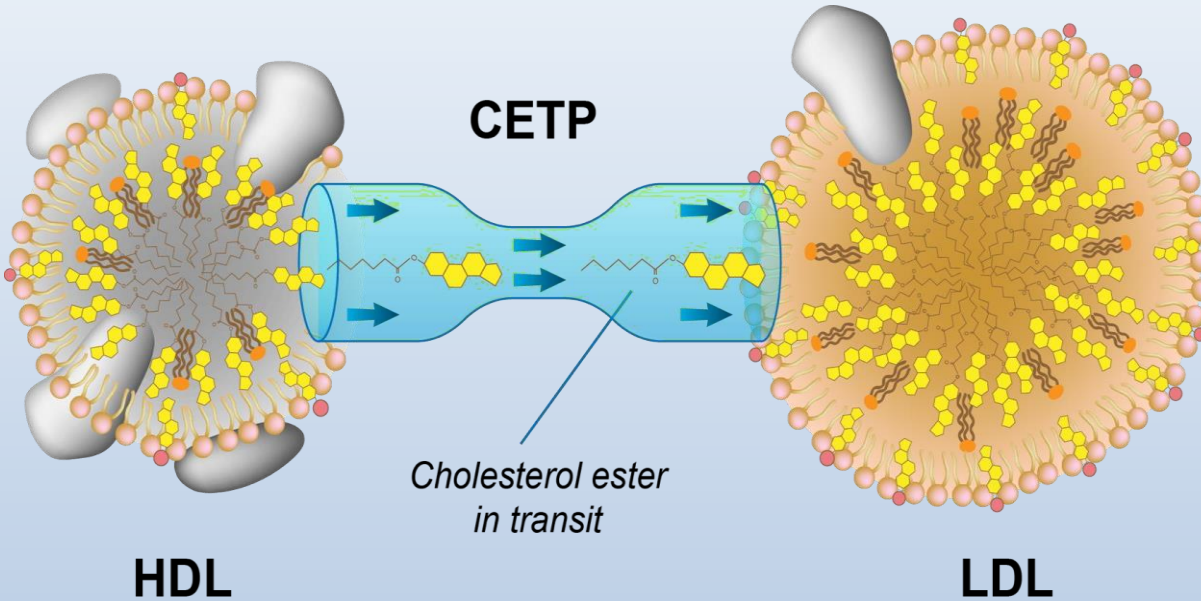
5. We recommend measuring Lp(a) level once in a person's lifetime as a part of the initial lipid screening (Strong Recommendation; High-Quality Evidence).
6. For all patients in the setting of primary prevention with a Lp(a)  $\geq 50$  mg/dL (or  $\geq 100$  nmol/L), we recommend earlier and more intensive health behaviour modification counselling and management of other ASCVD risk factors (Strong Recommendation; Expert Consensus).



# Current and emerging Lp(a) lowering therapies

- **PCSK9-inhibition**
- Lipoprotein apheresis
- **CETP-inhibition**
- apo(a)- gal-nac antisense
- apo(a)-siRNA

# CETP transfers cholesterol esters from HDL to LDL

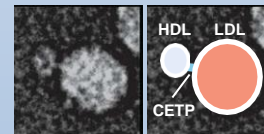


**HDL**

**LDL**

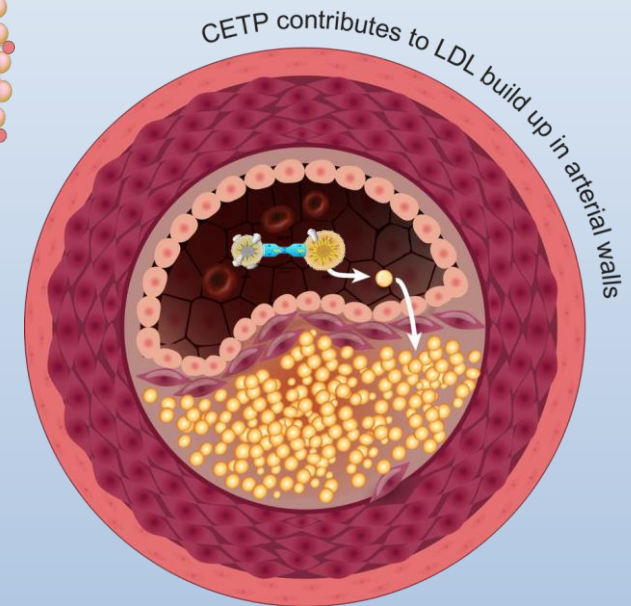
Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) promotes the transfer of cholesterol esters from *anti-atherogenic HDLs* to *pro-atherogenic LDLs*

- CETP activity increases circulating LDL-C levels



Electron micrograph of HDL, LDL, CETP

Electron micrograph (key)

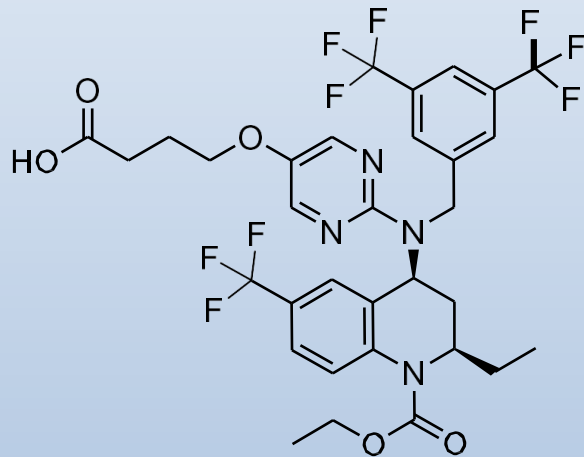


- Note: Figures adapted from Meng Zhang, et al., Assessing the mechanisms of cholesteryl ester transfer protein inhibitors, *Biochimica et Biophysica Acta (BBA) - Molecular and Cell Biology of Lipids*, 1862(12), 2017, 1606-1617, and from Lei D, et al., Insights into the Tunnel Mechanism of Cholesteryl Ester Transfer Protein through All-atom Molecular Dynamics Simulations, *J Biol Chem.*, 2291(27), 2016, 14034-14044.

# Summary of previous CETP inhibitors

Drug	CETP inhibition	LDL-C reduction	HDL-C increase	ApoB	Significant trials	Results	Other
<b>Torcetrapib</b>	≥80%	-20%	65%	-16%	ILLUMINATE (2006)	Terminated due to increased death and CV events	
<b>Dalcetrapib</b>	37%	-7%	26%	-2%	Dal-OUTCOMES (2012)	Terminated for futility	Decrease in onset of DM
<b>Evacetrapib</b>	83%	-26%	98%	16%	ACCELERATE (2017)	Terminated for futility	Decrease in onset of DM Lp(a) -32% (100mg)
<b>Anacetrapib</b>	90%	-41% (-17%)*	104%	-18%	REVELL (2017, 2021)	MACE -9% MACE -20% in 2.3 yr f/u	Decrease in onset of DM Lp(a) -25% 4+ year half-life

# Obicetrapib

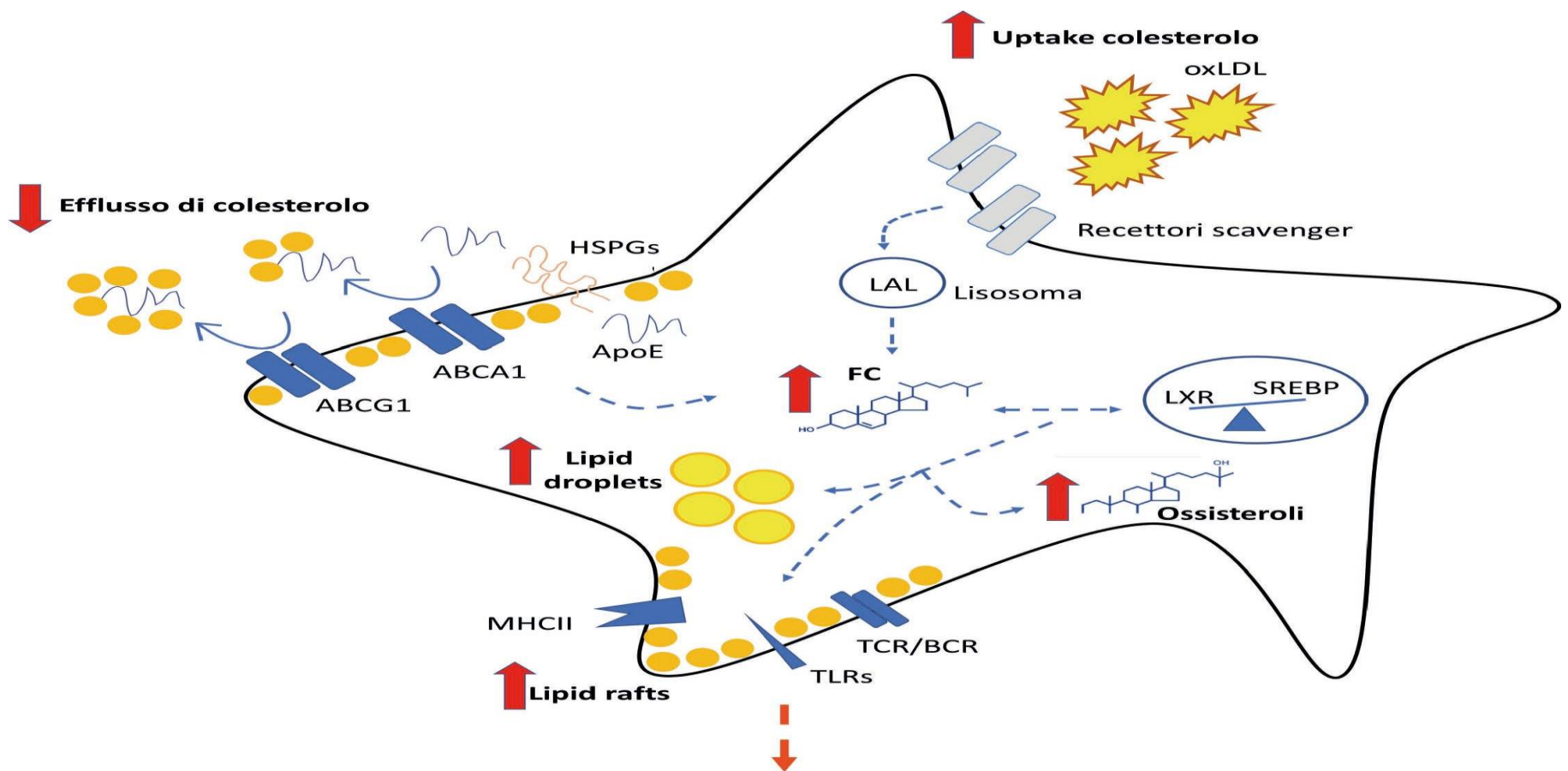


- Obicetrapib is a selective CETP inhibitor undergoing clinical development for reducing both LDL-C and the incidence of major adverse cardiovascular events
- **At equipotent dosages obicetrapib reduces CETP activity to a greater extent than both anacetrapib and evacetrapib resulting in greater efficacy for LDL-C lowering**
- The potency of obicetrapib comes from a series of crystallography experiments that have shown that CETP inhibitors located at the narrow N-terminal neck of the hydrophobic tunnel of CETP are able to restrict the lipid flow through this tunnel
- By introducing hydrophilic structures into obicetrapib, it is the most polar of all CETP inhibitors and has a LogP of 4.9 versus 9.2 for anacetrapib and 7.9 for evacetrapib (less lipophilic)

# Nuovi marcatori di rischio

- Trigliceridi
- HDL
- ApoB e non HDL-col
- Lp(a)
- **Infiammazione**





**Aumentata risposta immunitaria:  
Attivazione dell'inflammasoma, produzione di  
citochine pro-infiammatorie incontrollata  
proliferazione**

**Promozione delle malattie a carattere infiammatorio  
ATEROSCLEROSI**

# «Inflammation : the next target in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease care ?»


Paul Ridker  
Birmingham e Women'S Hospital Boston  
USA

ESC Congress 2023

E' ormai accettata la definizione di **Rischio infiammatorio residuo** dove Hs-CRP e altre proteine della fase acuta siano dei biomarcatori e le interleuchine ( IL-1 b , IL-6 , IL-7 ) utilizzate come target



# Il Canone di Medicina Interna dell'Imperatore Giallo



上 医 医 未 病 之 病  
中 医 医 将 病 之 病  
下 医 医 已 病 之 病  
— 黄 帝 内 经

Il medico superiore previene le malattie;  
Il medico mediocre cura le malattie incombenti;  
Il medico inferiore tratta le malattie completamente manifeste.

Neijn di Huang Di  
(2695-2589 a.c.)



# What's Hot in CVD Prevention?

## Lipid Management!!



**THANK YOU!**









# Role of Lipoprotein(a) in Coronary Disease: An Emerging Novel Target

Steven E. Nissen MD MACC

Chairman, Department of Cardiovascular Medicine  
Cleveland Clinic

# Role of Lipoprotein(a) in Coronary Disease: An Emerging Novel Target

## Disclosure

*Consulting:* Many pharmaceutical companies

*Clinical Trials:* Abbvie, Amgen, AstraZeneca, Eli Lilly, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, The Medicines Company, Cerenis, Orexigen, Takeda and Pfizer.

Companies are directed to pay any honoraria, speaking or consulting fees directly to charity so that neither income nor tax deduction is received.



# Acknowledgements

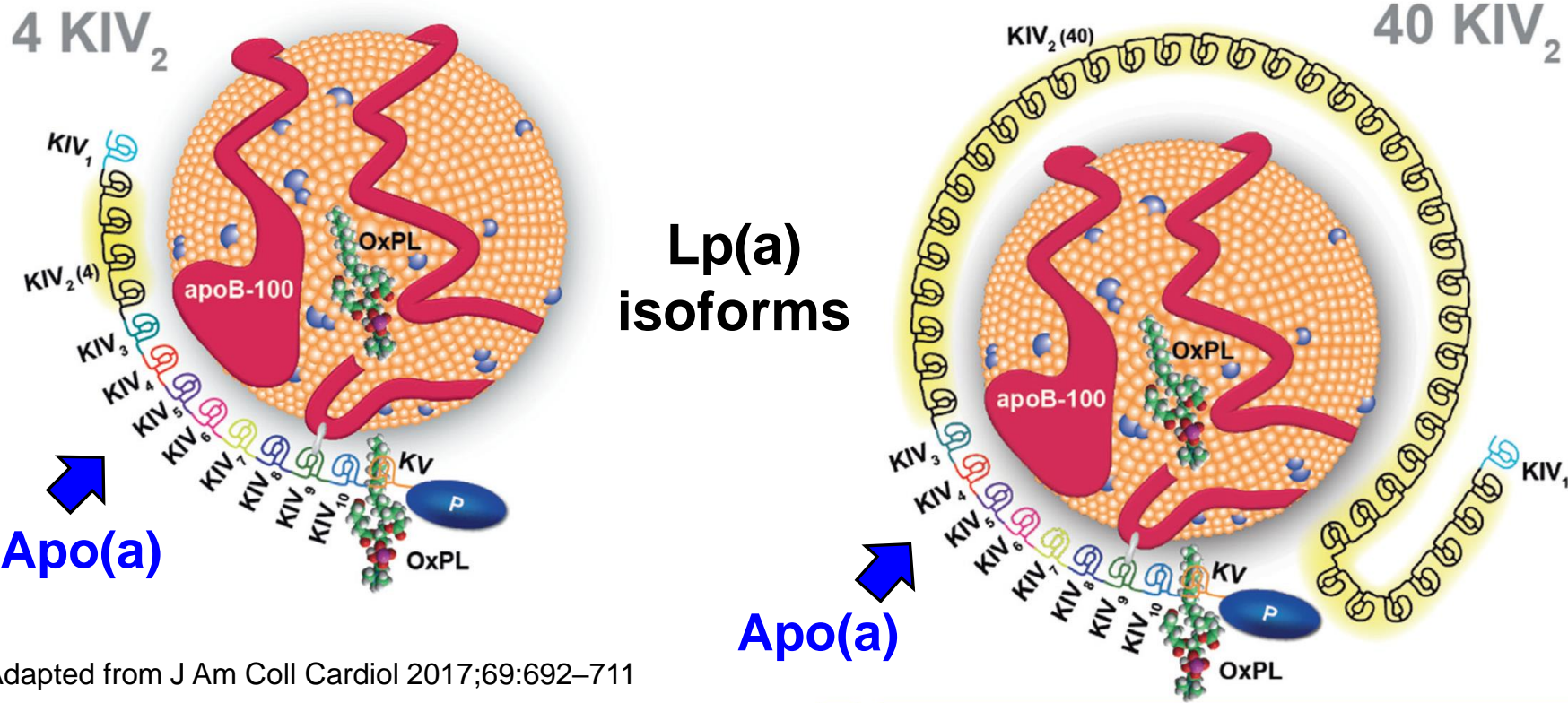
*Some slides adapted from excellent review  
by Dr. Sam Tsimikas  
(J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;69:692–711)*

# What is Lipoprotein(a)?

- An LDL-like particle consisting of apo B covalently bound to apo(a) via a disulfide bond.
- May have evolved from the plasminogen gene, the proenzyme converted to the fibrinolytic enzyme plasmin by activators such as tPA.
- Lp(a) has some similarities to LDL, but is more atherogenic, promoting both inflammation and thrombosis.
- Lp(a) has many isoforms (>40) based on Kringle IV repeats with all isoforms contributing to atherogenic risk.

# Lipoprotein(a) and Plasminogen Structure

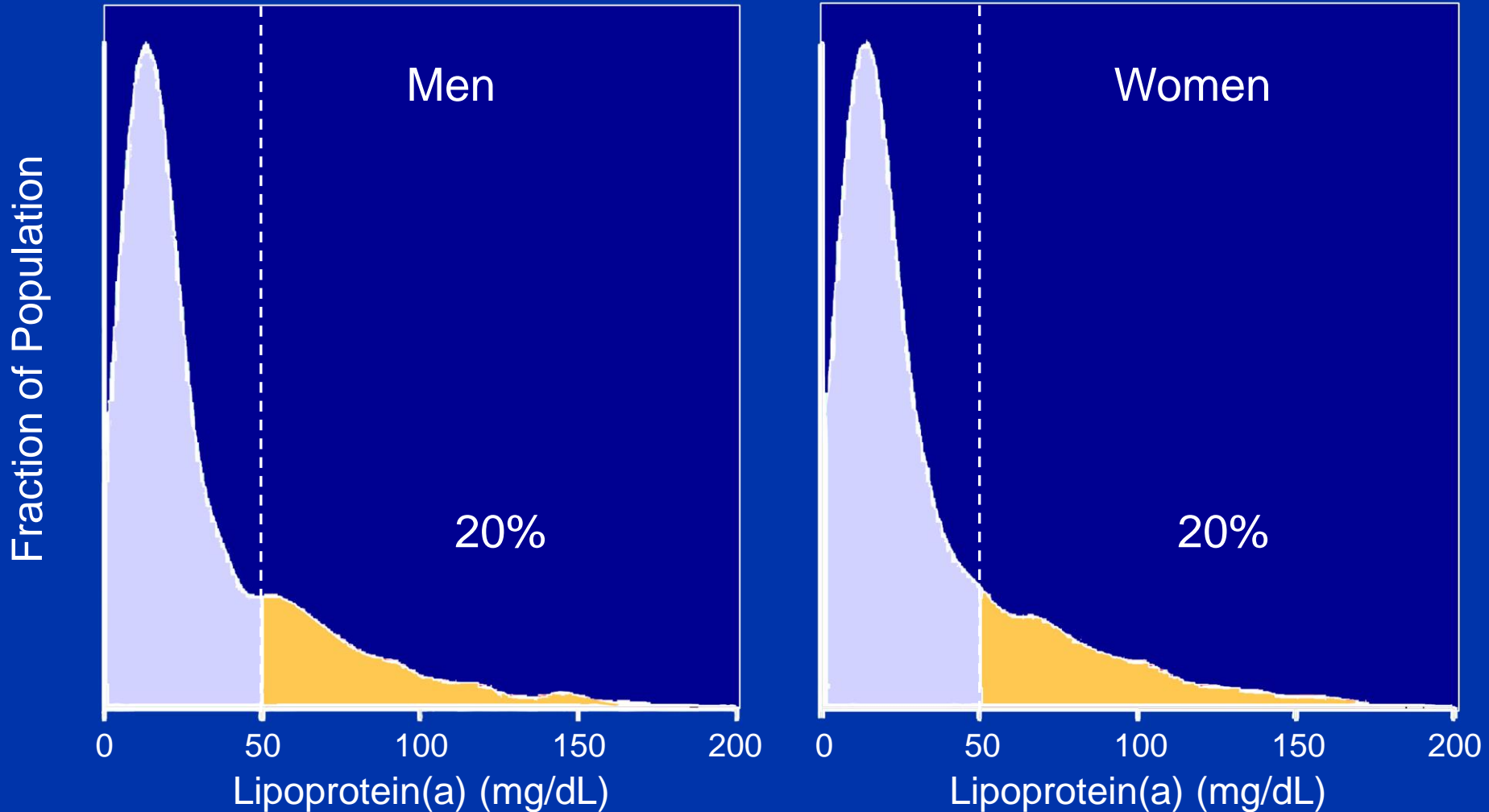
## Plasminogen



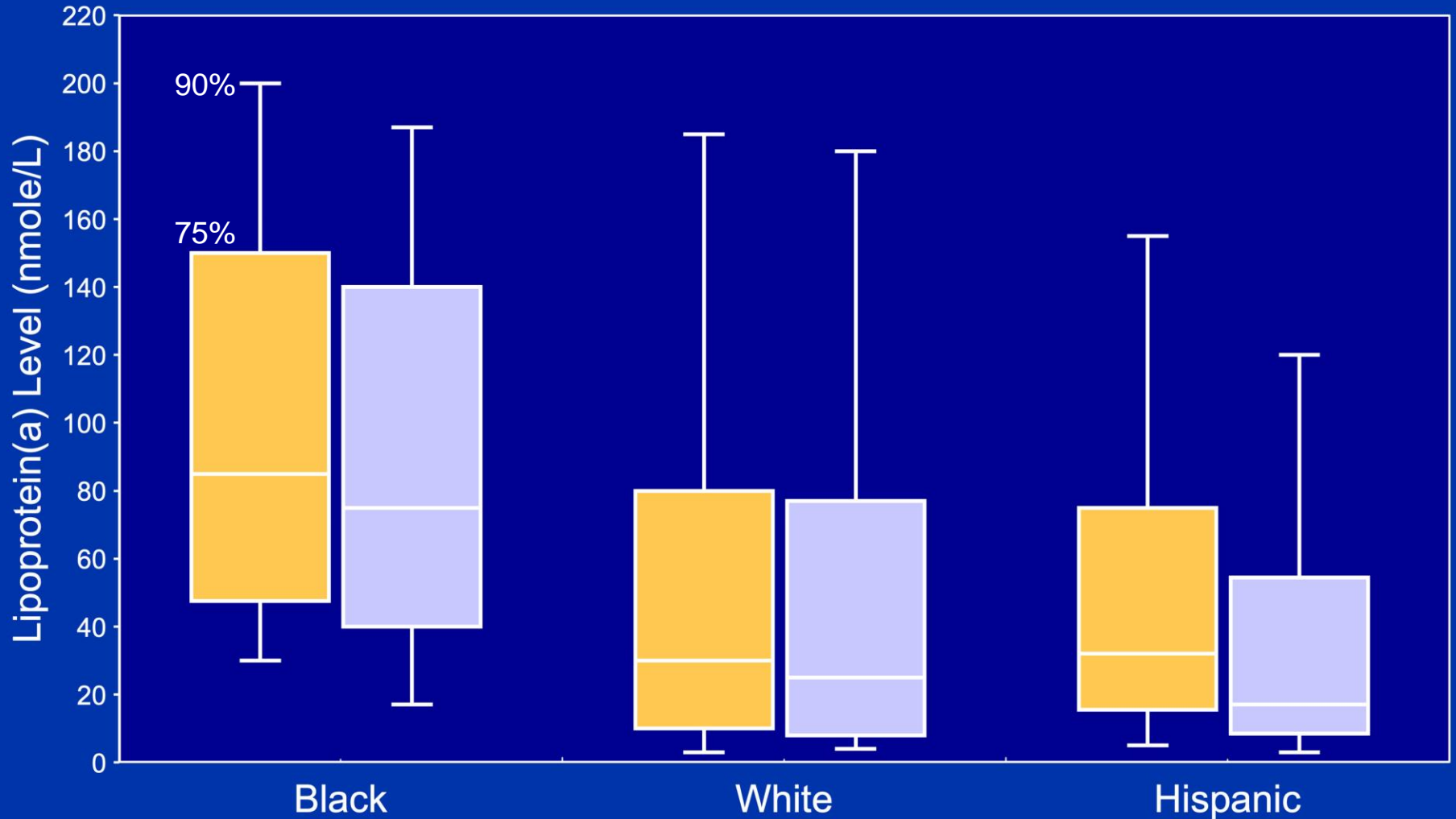
Adapted from J Am Coll Cardiol 2017;69:692-711

**What are Normal and Abnormal  
Levels of Lipoprotein(a)?**

# Distribution of Lp(a) in the General Population



# Dallas Heart Study: Lp(a) Levels by Race/Ethnicity

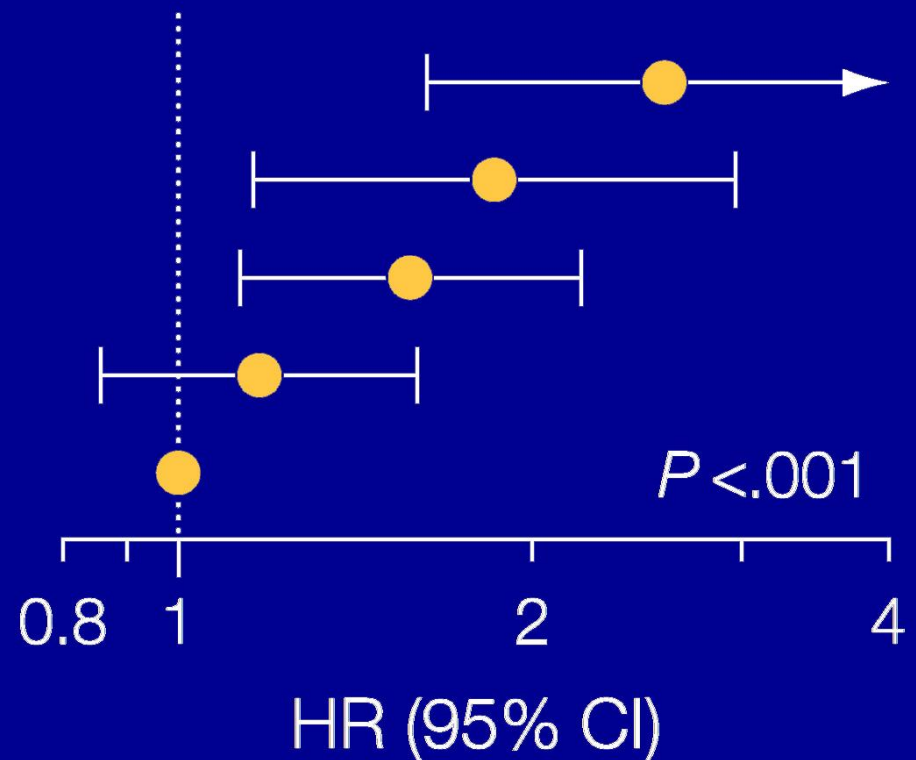


# Risk of Elevated Lp(a) in General Population\*

## Lipoprotein(a)

Percentile	mg/dL
>95th	>117
90th-95th	77-117
67th-89th	30-76
22nd-66th	5-29
<22nd [Reference]	<5

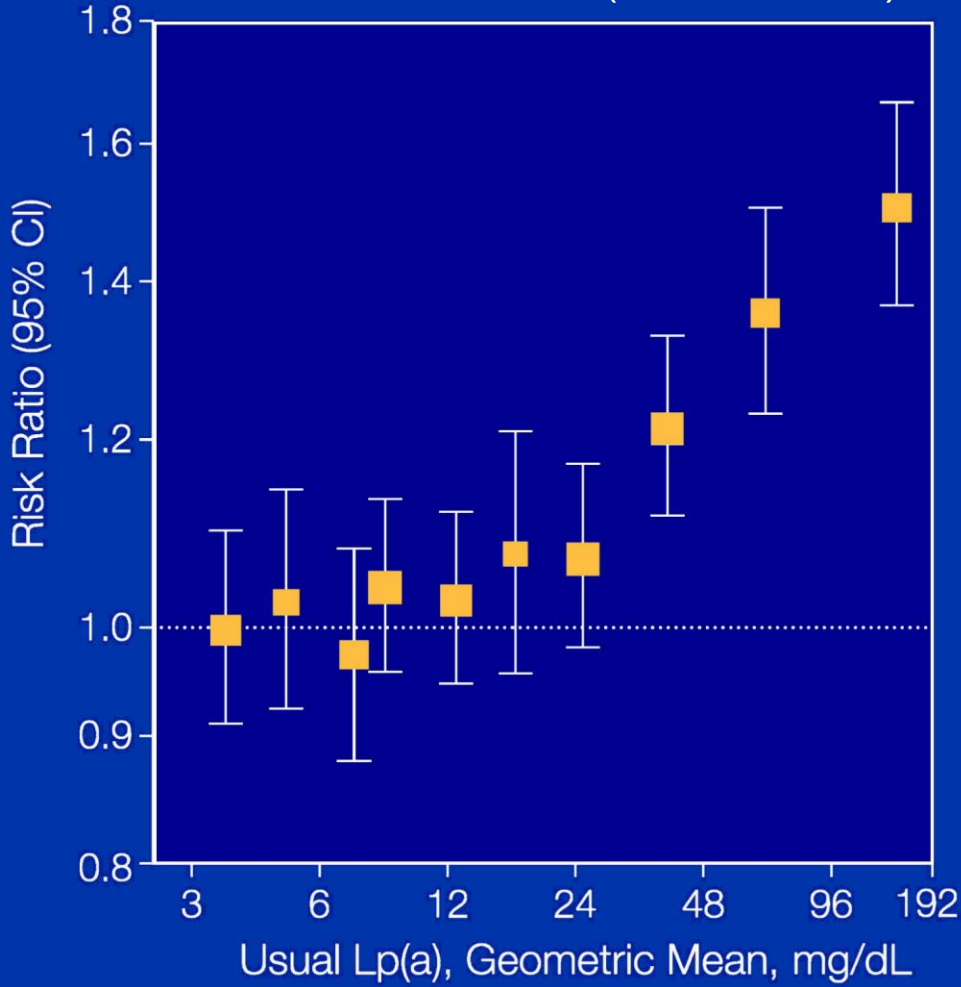
## Multivariable Adjusted



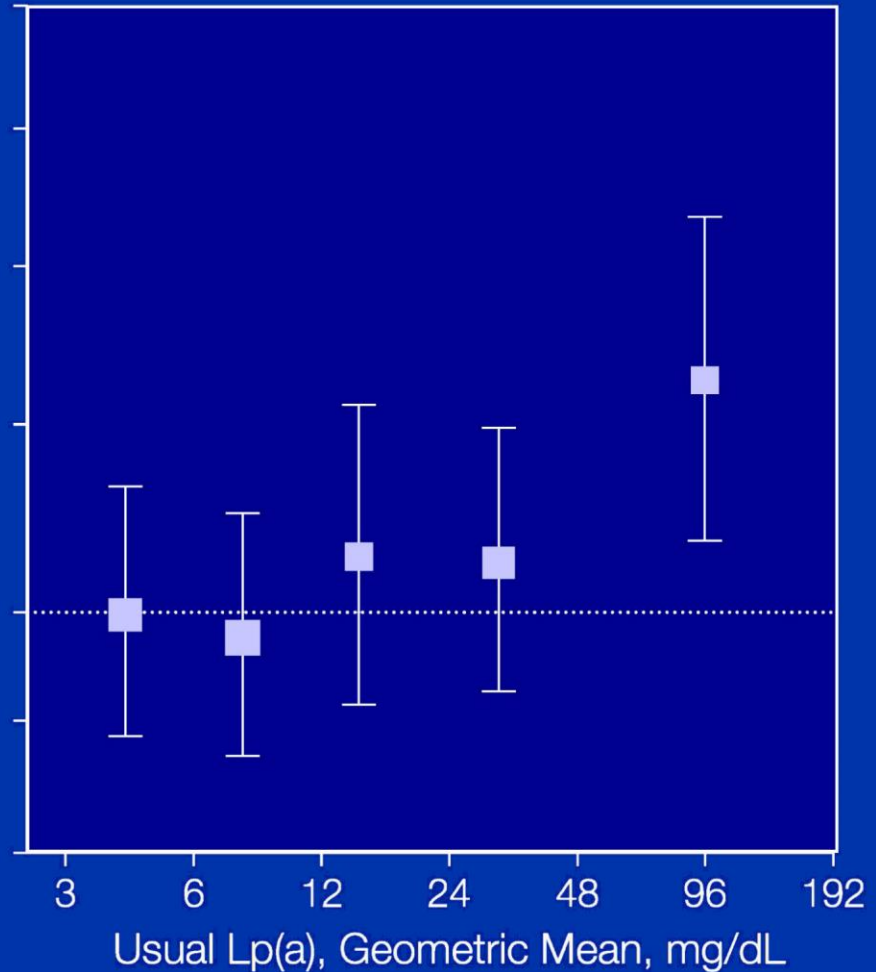


# Relationship between Lipoprotein(a) and Outcome\*

### MI and CV Death (9318 cases)



### Ischemic Stroke (1890 cases)



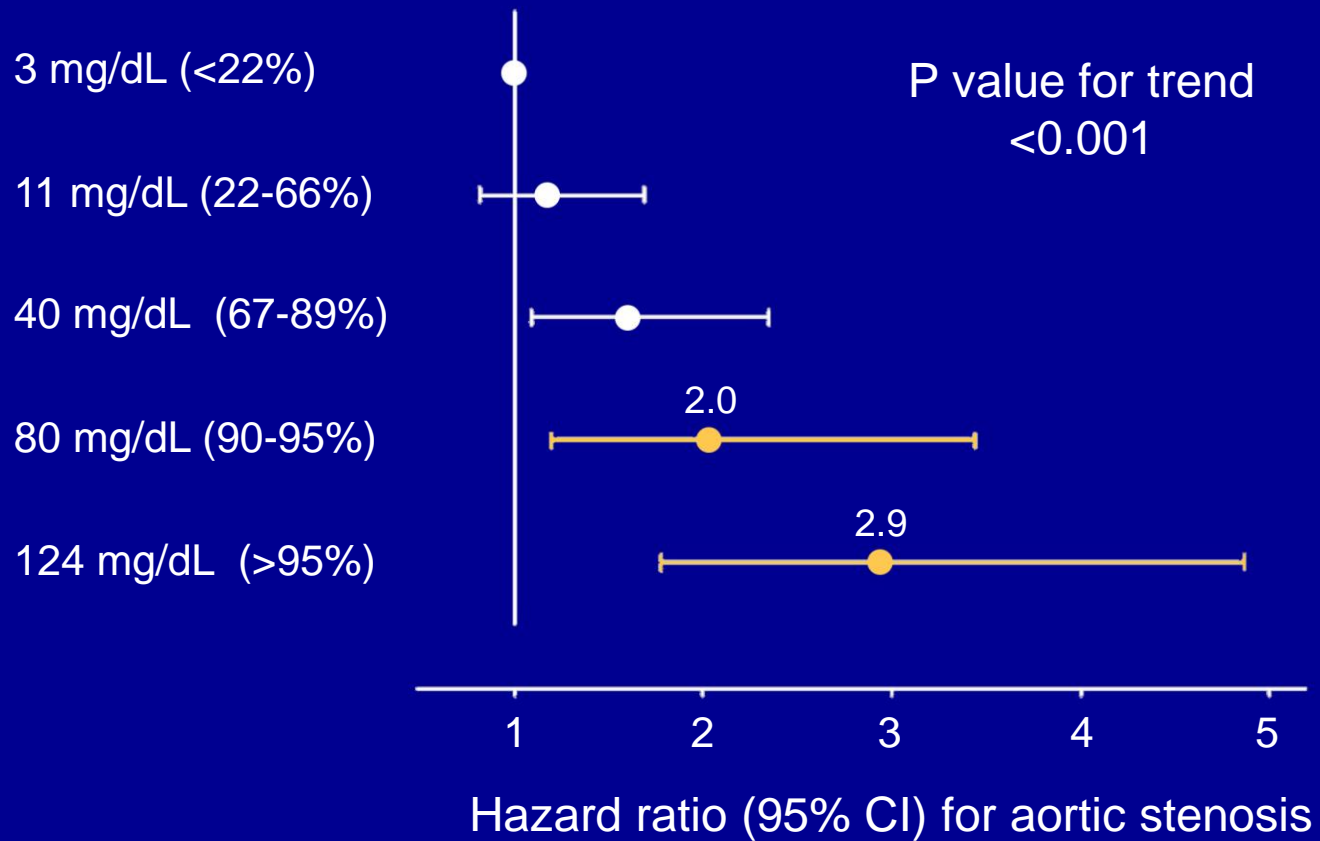
JAMA. 2009;302(4):412-423

\*Emerging Risk Factor Collaboration



# Lipoprotein(a) Levels and Risk of Aortic Stenosis

Median Lipoprotein(a) Level (percentile)

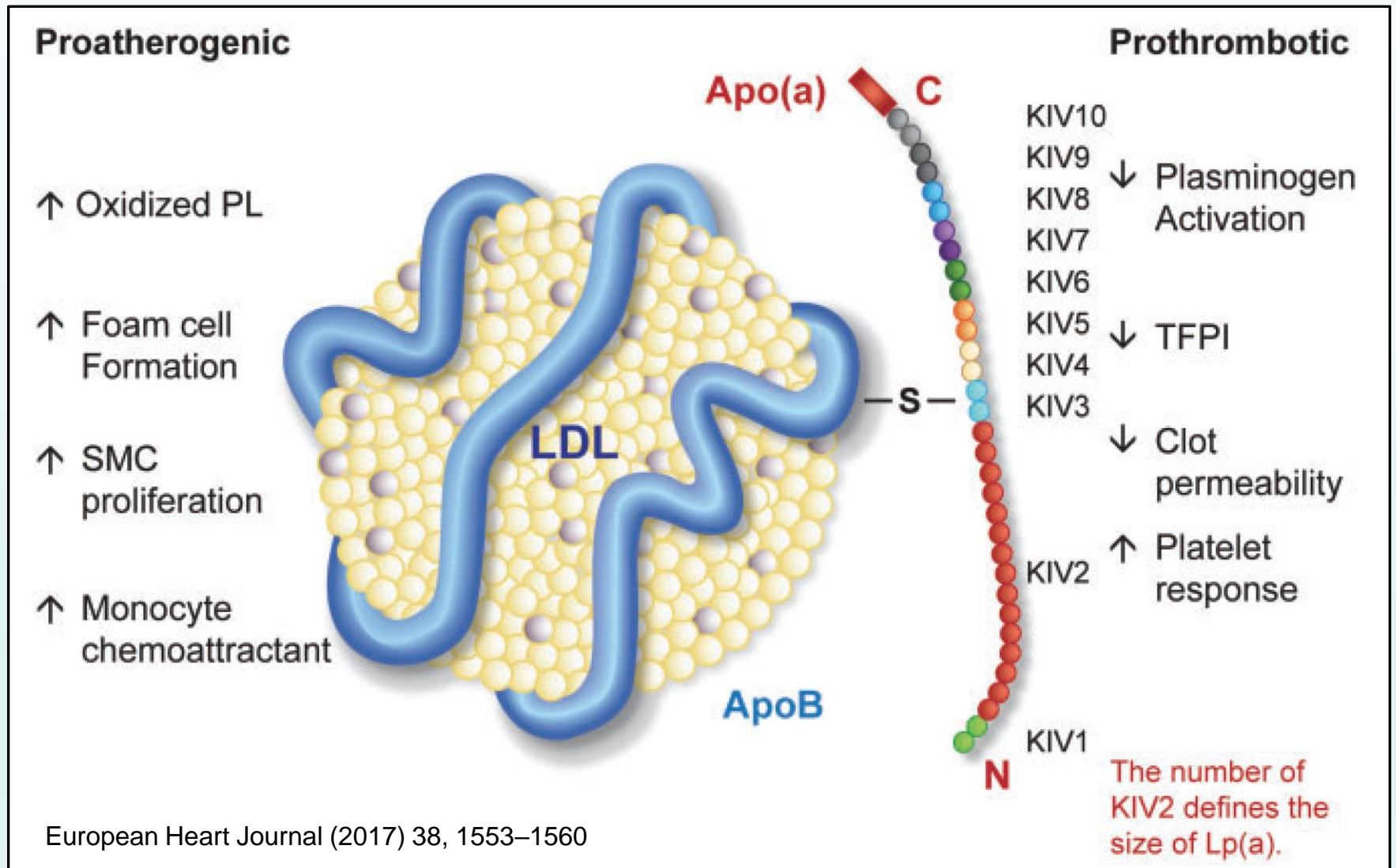


# Prevalence of Elevated Lp(a): US and Globally

Prevalence	Top 20%	Top 10%	Top 5%	Top 1%
Lp(a) Level	60 mg/dL	90 mg/dL	116 mg/dL	180 mg/dL
Number (USA)	64 million	30 million	16 million	3.2 million
Number (EU)	150 million	75 million	37.5 million	7.5 million
Number Globally	1.4 billion	700 million	350 million	7 million

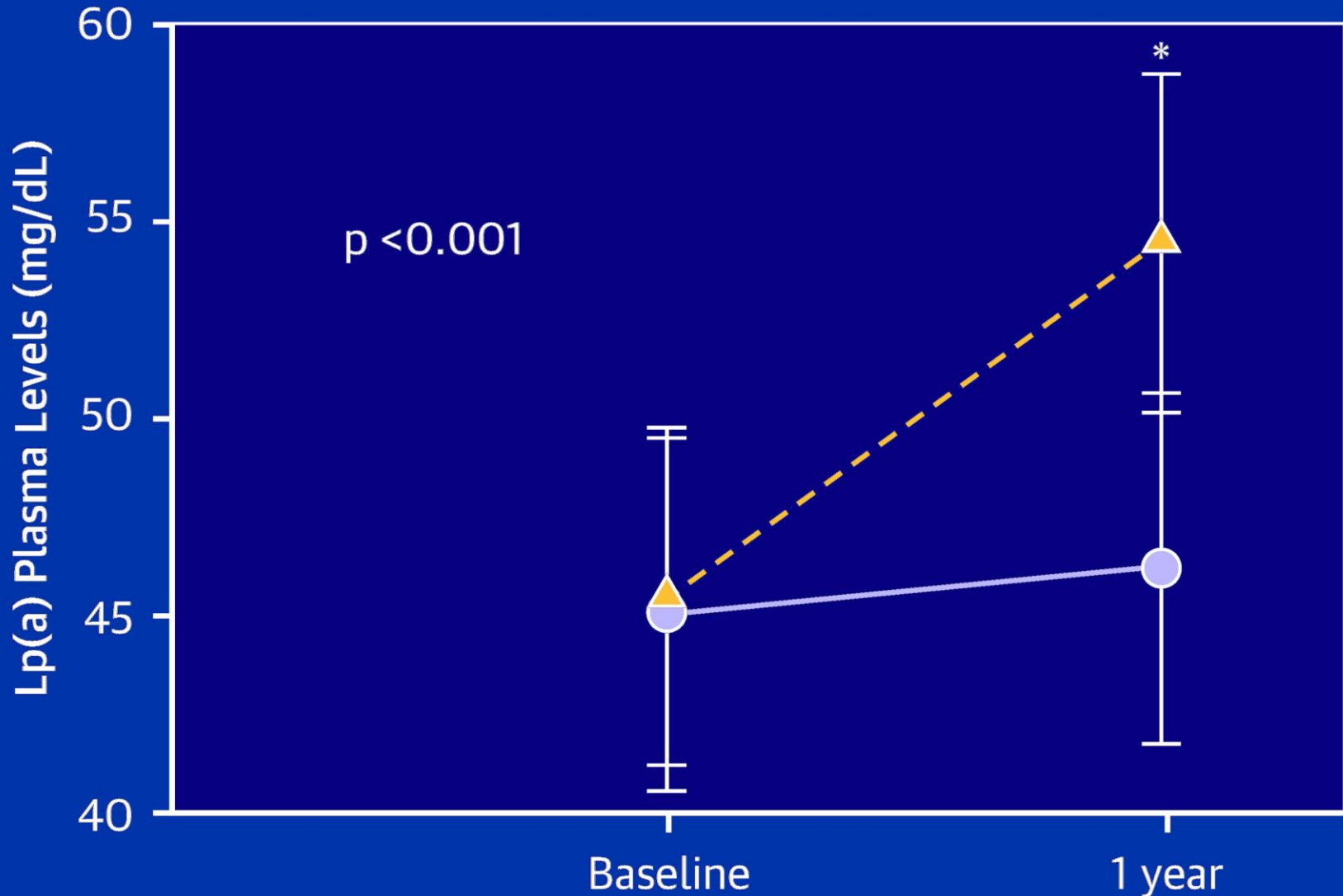
# How Does Lipoprotein(a) Contribute to Atherosclerosis?

# Lp(a) Components: Dual Mechanisms Of Harm

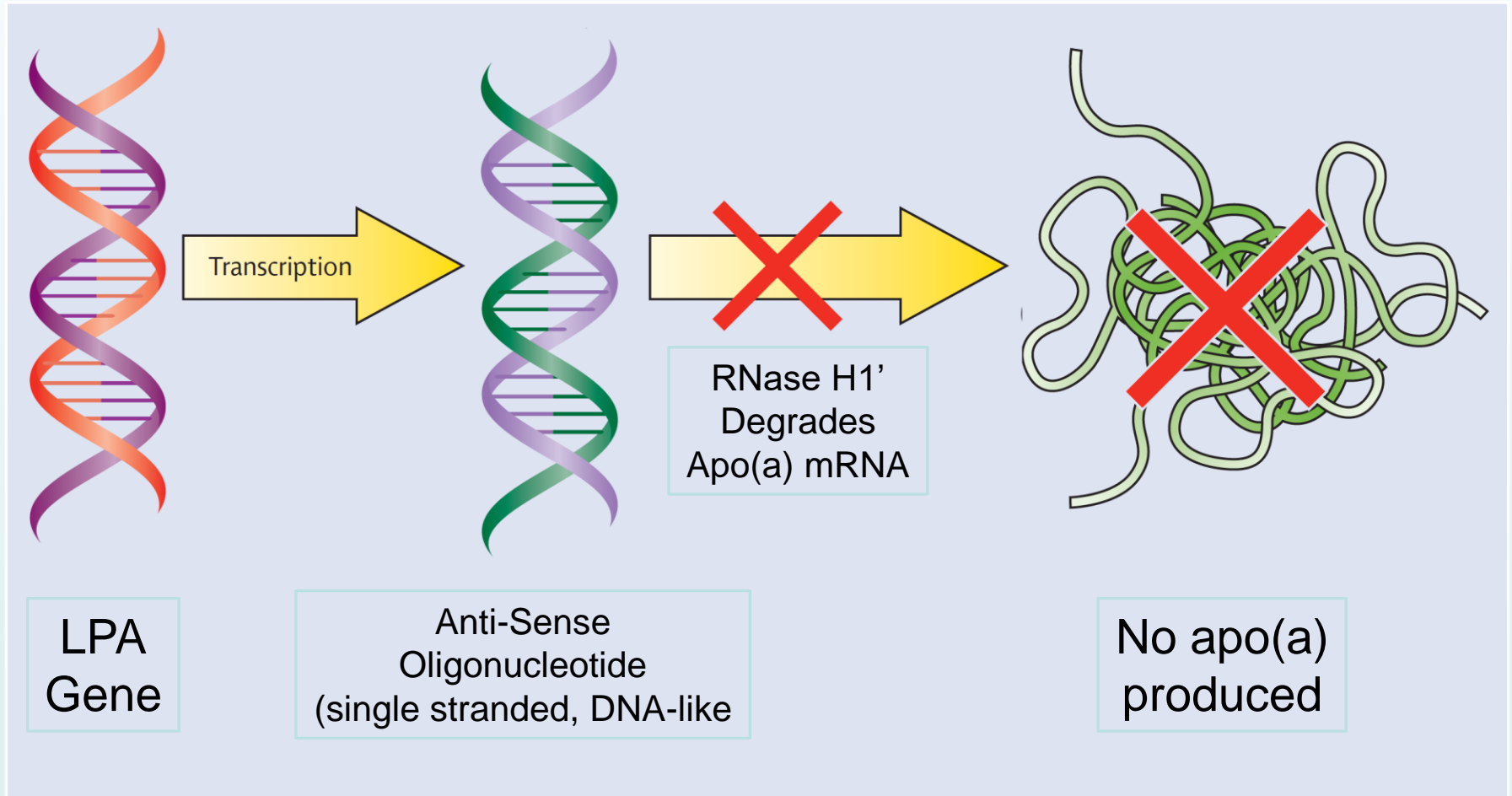


**Lipoprotein(a) Levels  
are Genetically Determined  
Diet and Lifestyle Have No Effect**

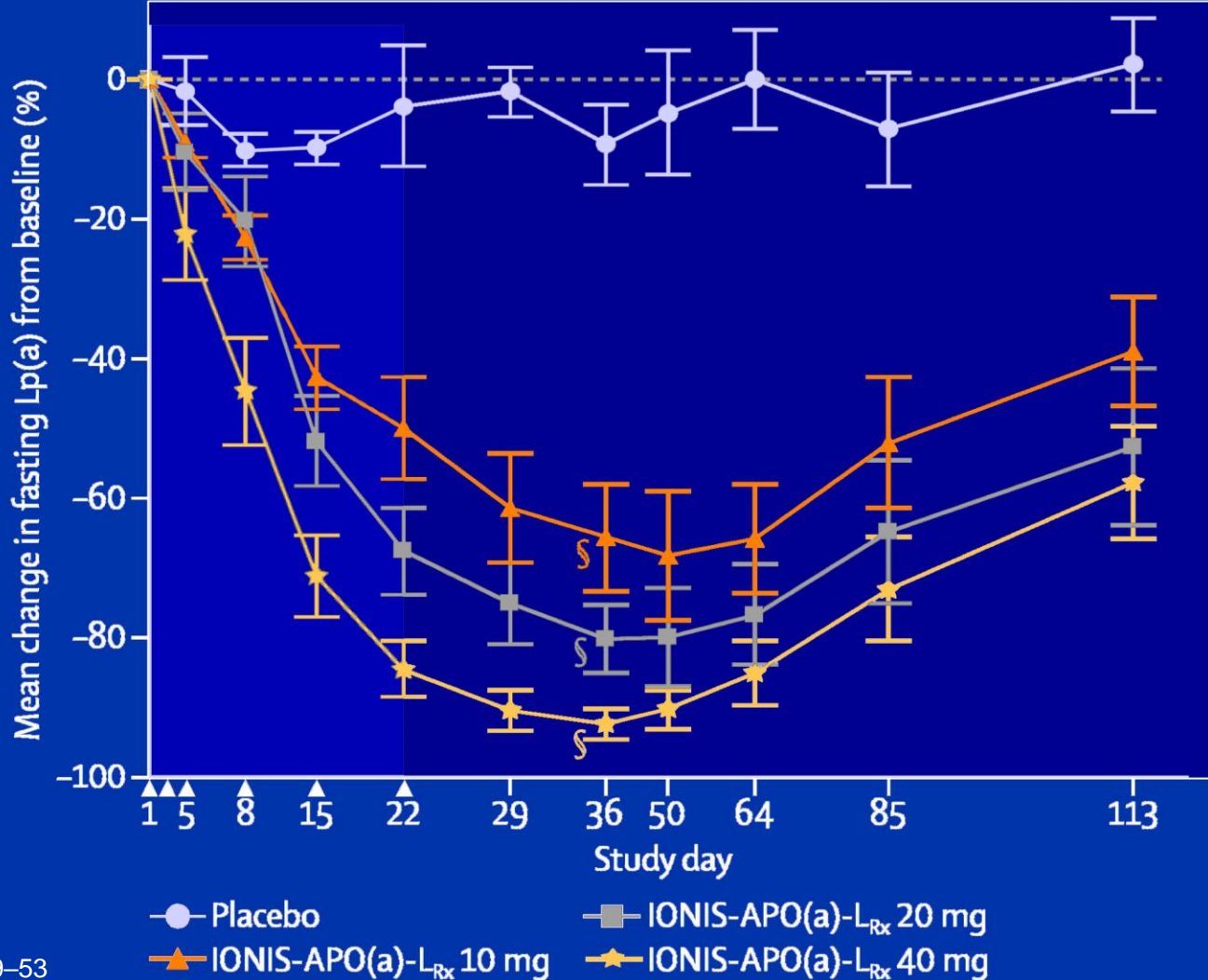
# Effect of Rosuvastatin on Lipoprotein(a) Levels



# Lp(a) Anti-Sense Oligonucleotide Therapy



# GalNAc-Enhanced Lp(a) Oligonucleotide Therapy

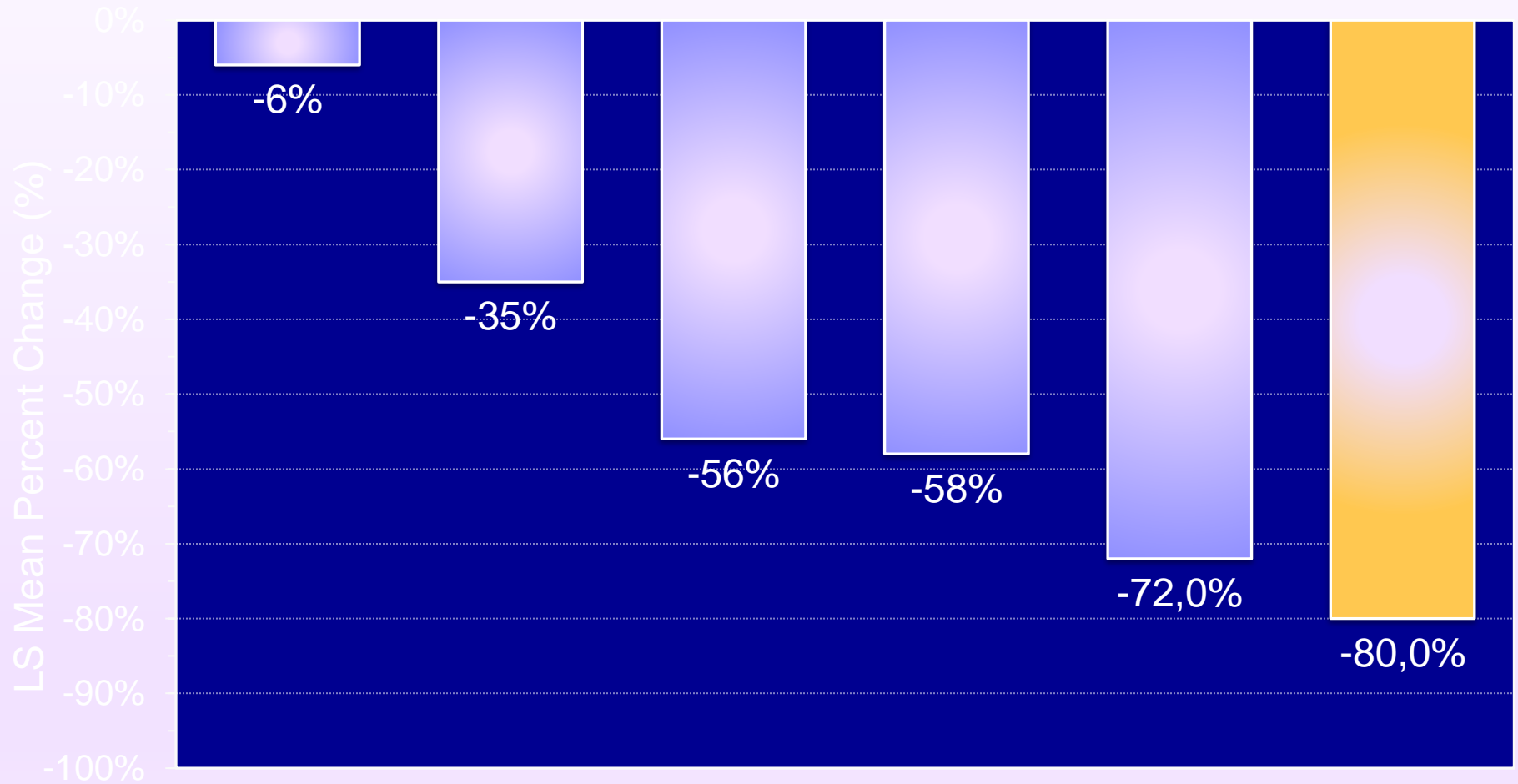


Lancet 2016; 388: 2239-53



# Phase IIb: Effect of ASO on Lp(a) Levels (n=286)

Placebo 20mg/Q4W 40mg/Q4W 20mg/Q2W 60mg/Q4W 20mg/QW



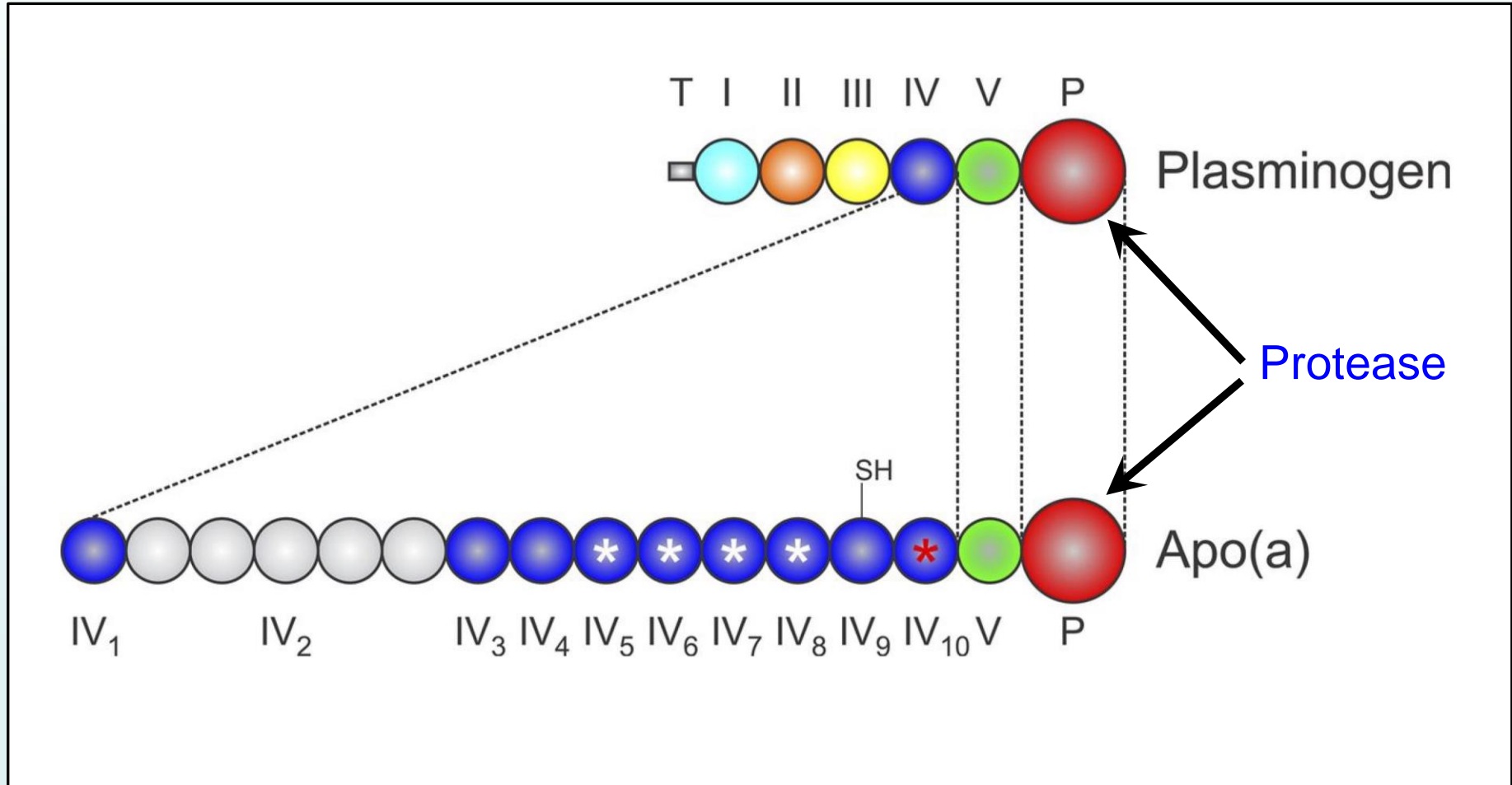
Presented by Tsmikas et al (AHA 2018)

# EAS: Screening for Elevated Lipoprotein(a)

- **Premature CVD**
- **Familial hypercholesterolemia**
- **Family history premature CVD or Lp(a)↑**
- **Recurrent CVD despite statins**
- **≥3% 10-year risk of fatal CVD**
- **≥10% 10-year risk** of fatal/nonfatal CHD



# Homology between Apo(a) and Plasminogen

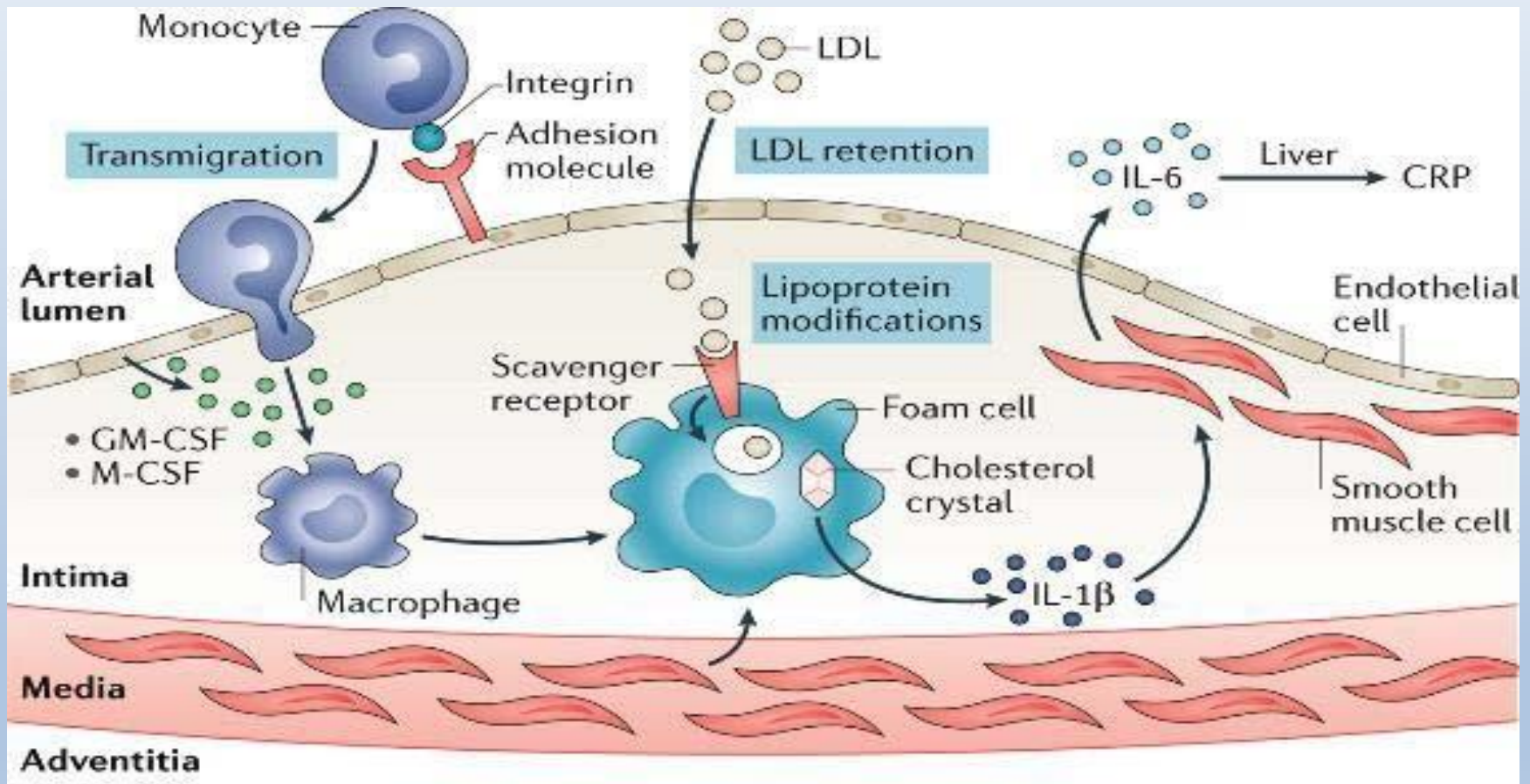


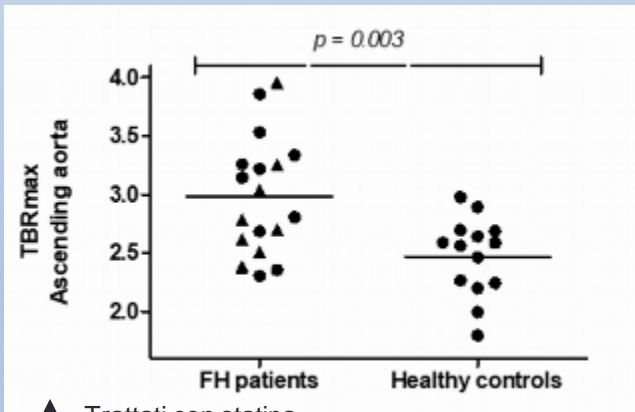
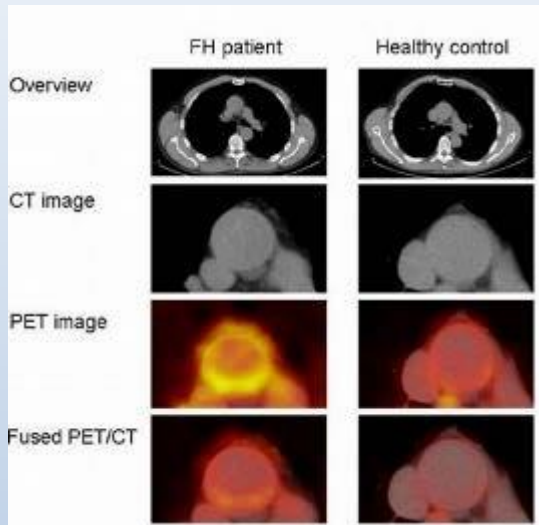
# Nuovi Marcatori di Rischio

- Acido Urico
- Trigliceridi
- Infiammazione

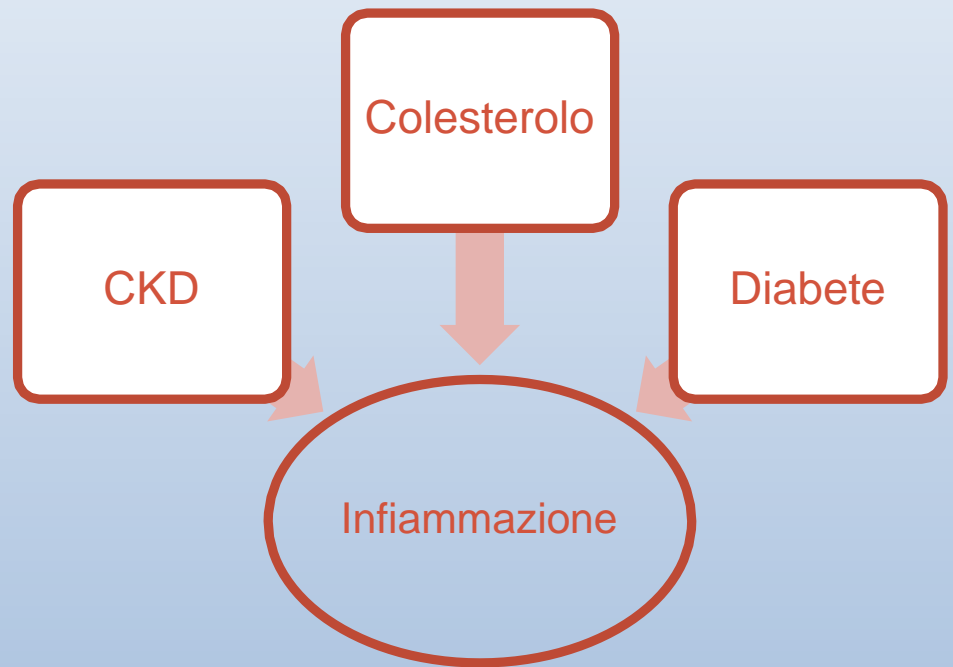


# INFIAMMAZIONE





▲ Trattati con statina



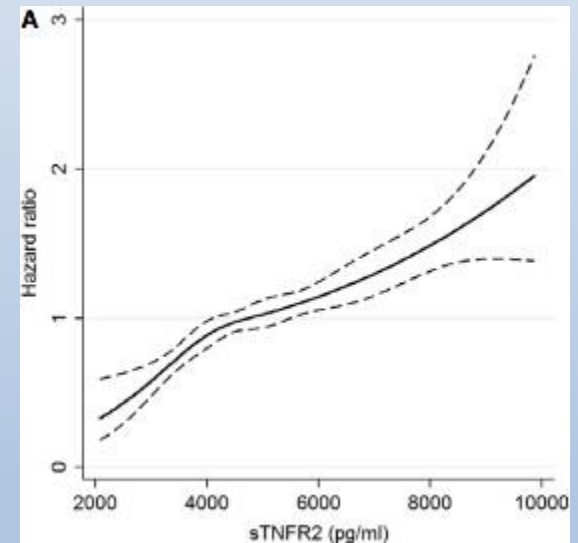
Wan Wijk et al JACC 2014; Sophie J. Bernelot Moens JASN 2017

# Biomarcatori di Infiammazione

sTNFR1 and sTNFR2 associated with CV events and mortality (FU 10 yrs) in patients with stable CHD at baseline

## Recettori del TNF- $\alpha$

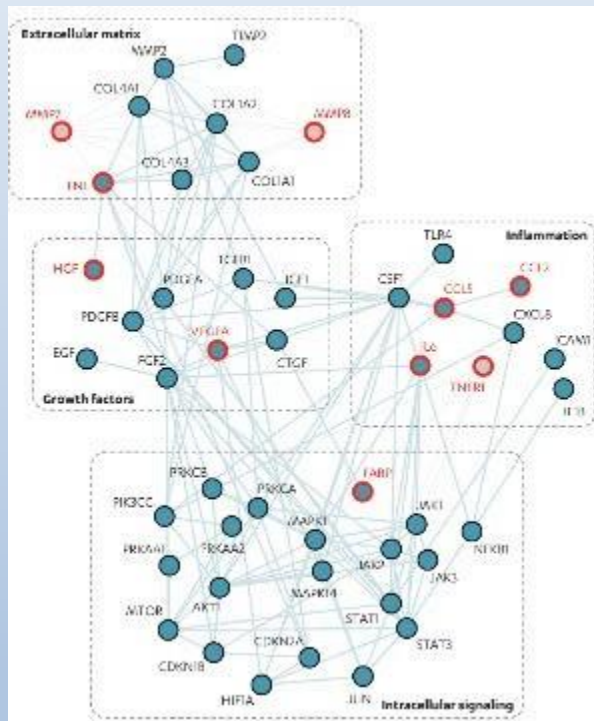
- Marcatori di progressione DKD



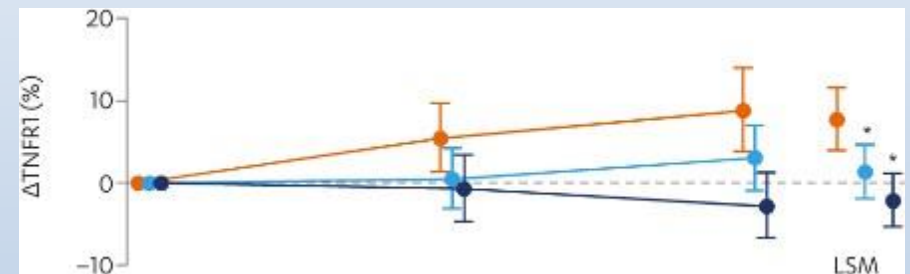
Carlsson AC et al. *J Am Heart Assoc.* 2018



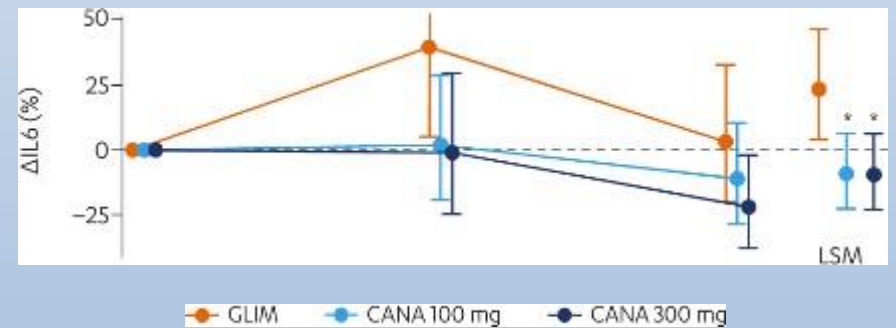
# SGLT2i – Biomarcatori di Infiammazione



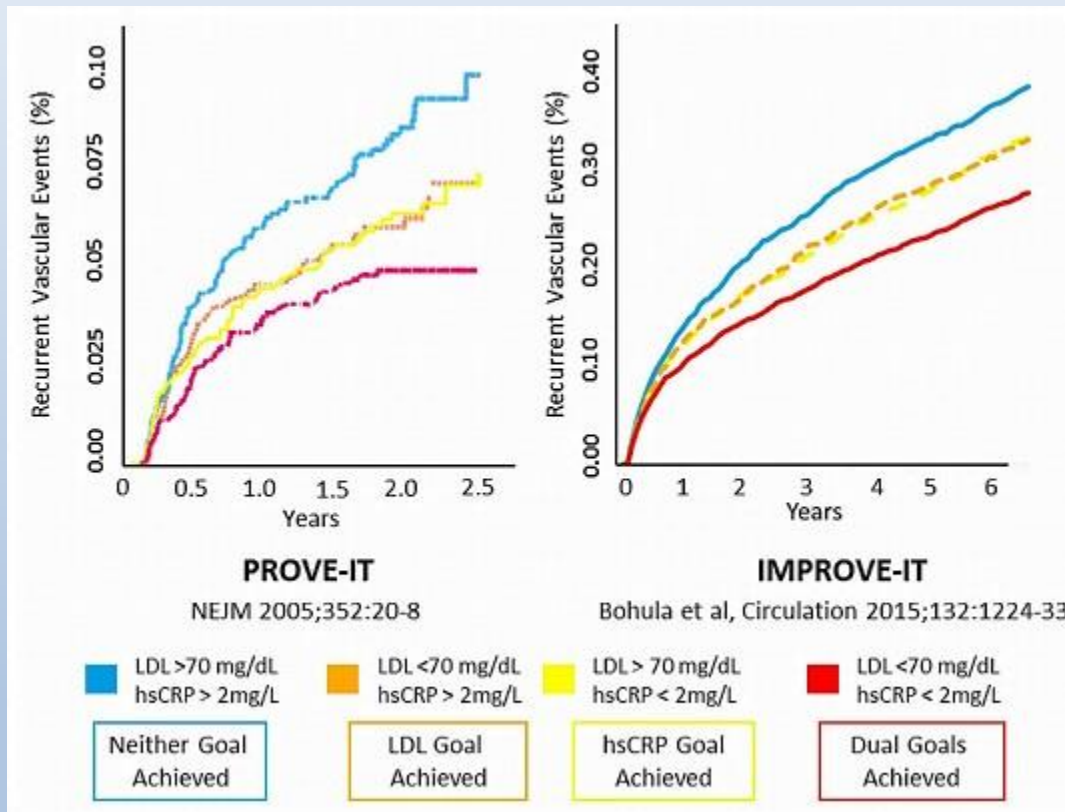
**TNFR1**



**IL-6**



# hs-PCR per la Stratificazione del Rischio Residuo





Stable CAD (post MI)  
Statin, RASi, BB, ASA  
Residual Inflammatory Risk  
(hsCRP  $\geq$  2 mg/L)

N = 10,061  
39 Countries  
April 2011 - June 2017  
1490 Primary Events

Randomized  
Canakinumab 50  
mg  
SC q 3 months

Randomized  
Canakinumab 150  
mg  
SC q 3 months

Randomized  
Canakinumab 300 mg  
SC q 3 months

Randomized  
Placebo  
SC q 3  
months

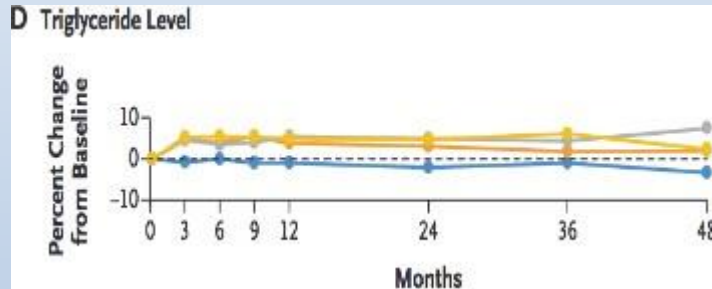
Primary Endpoint: Nonfatal MI, Nonfatal Stroke, Cardiovascular Death (MACE)

Secondary Endpoint: MACE plus Unstable Angina Requiring Urgent Revascularization (MACE+)

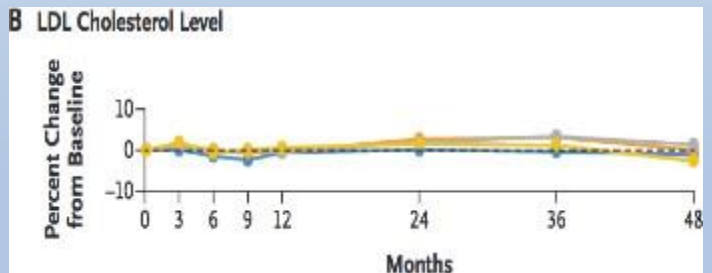
# CANTOS Trial: Anti-inflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for Atherosclerotic Disease



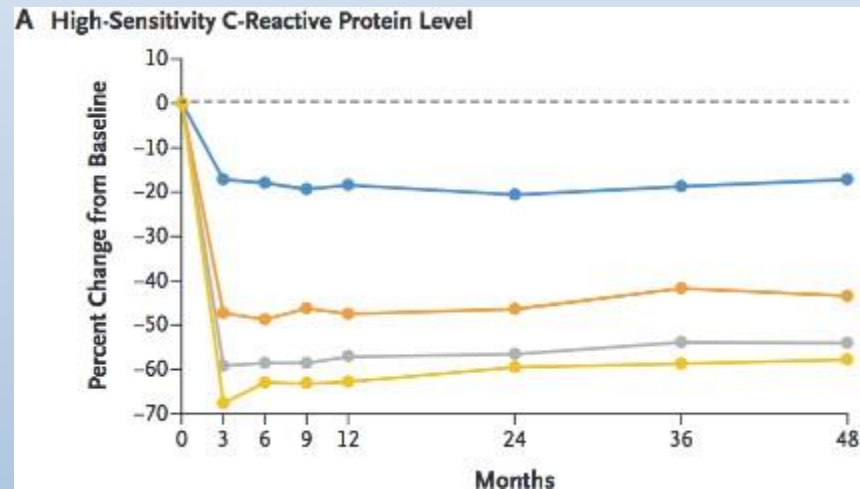
**D** Triglyceride Level



**B** LDL Cholesterol Level

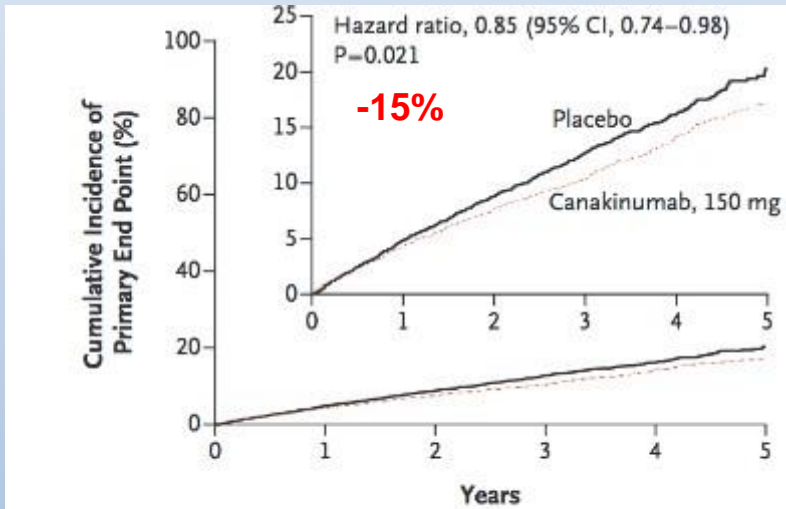


**A** High-Sensitivity C-Reactive Protein Level

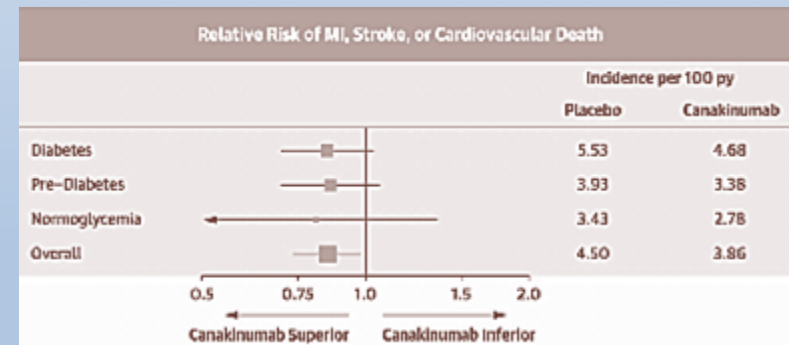
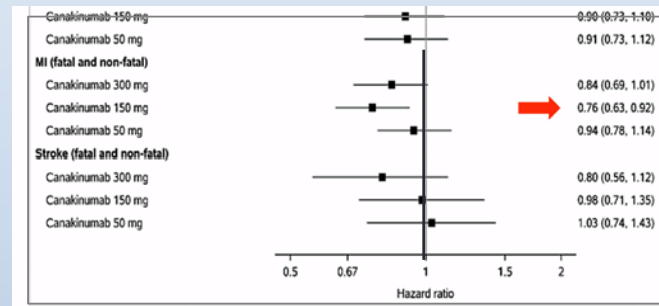


# CANTOS Trial: Anti-inflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for Atherosclerotic Disease

MACE: CV death, non-fatal stroke, non-fatal MI



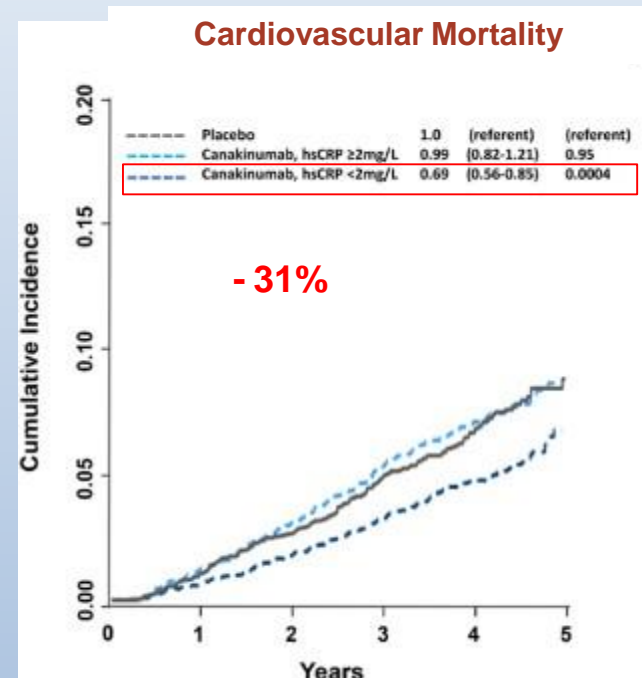
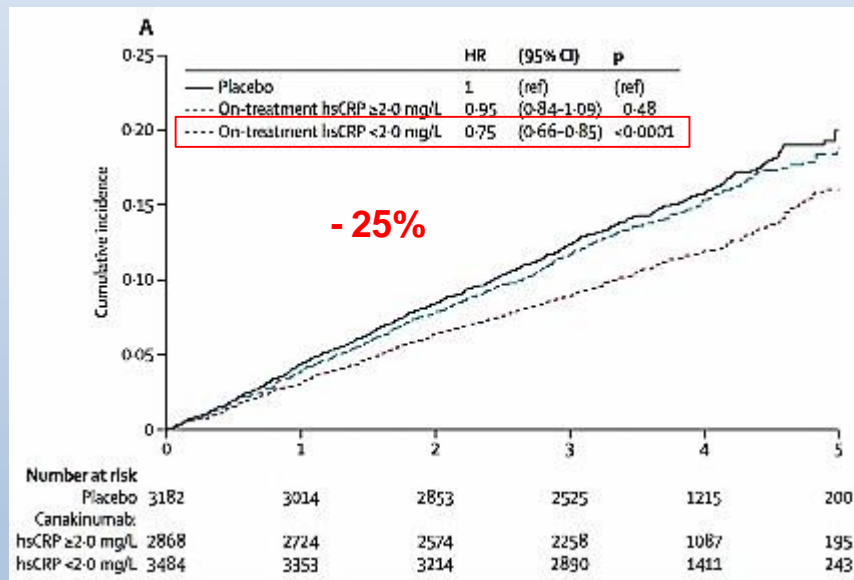
No. at Risk						
Placebo	3344	3141	2973	2632	1266	210
Canakinumab	2284	2151	2057	1849	907	207



Ridker PM et al NEJM 2017; Everett BM JACC 2018

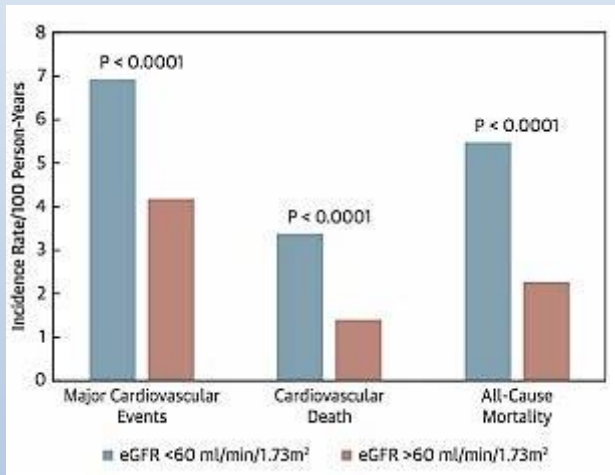
# CANTOS Trial: Anti-inflammatory Therapy with Canakinumab for Atherosclerotic Disease

MACE: CV death, non-fatal stroke, non-fatal MI

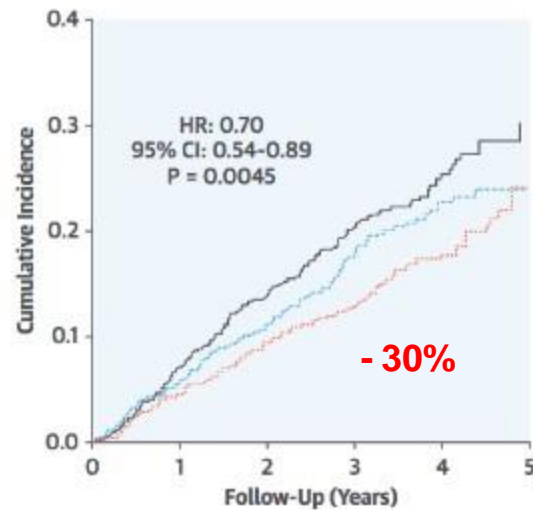


Ridker PM et al Lancet 2018, Ridker PM et al Circulation 2018

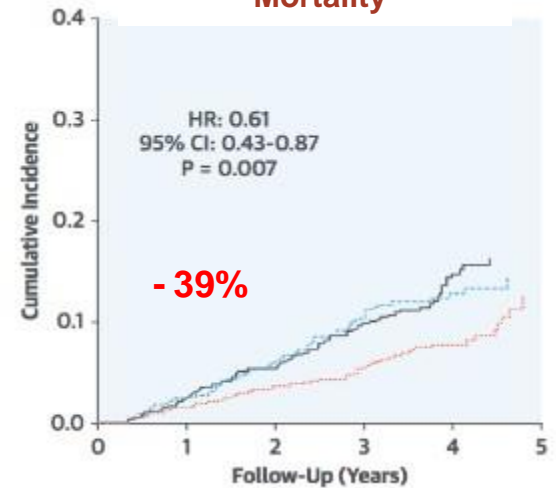
# CANTOS: Efficacy in Patients with CKD



## MACE



## Cardiovascular Mortality



— placebo group  
— canakinumab group with on-treatment hsCRP > 2 mg/l  
— canakinumab group with on-treatment hsCRP < 2 mg/l

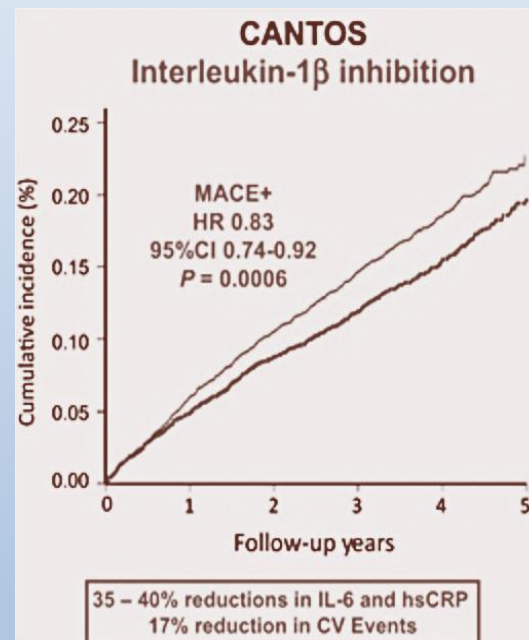
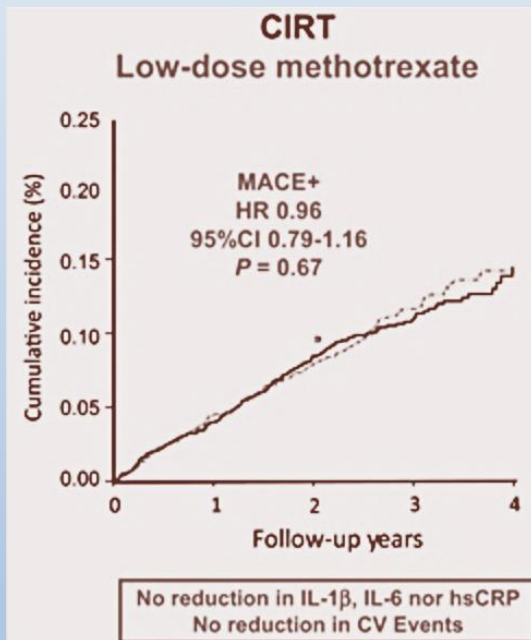


# Effetti Avversi

Adverse Event or Laboratory Variable	Placebo Group (N = 3344)	Canakinumab				P Value	
		50-mg Group (N = 2170)	150-mg Group (N = 2284)	300-mg Group (N = 2263)	All Doses (N = 6717)	For Trend across Doses vs. Placebo	For Combined Dose Groups vs. Placebo
Event — incidence rate per 100 person-yr (no. of patients with event)							
Any serious adverse event	11.96 (1202)	11.41 (741)	11.71 (812)	12.33 (836)	11.82 (2389)	0.43	0.79
Any serious adverse event of infection	2.86 (342)	3.03 (230)	3.13 (258)	3.25 (265)	3.14 (753)	0.12	0.14
Cellulitis	0.24 (30)	0.24 (19)	0.37 (32)	0.41 (35)	0.34 (86)	0.02	0.09
Pneumonia	0.90 (112)	0.94 (74)	0.94 (80)	0.99 (84)	0.95 (238)	0.56	0.62
Urinary tract infection	0.22 (27)	0.18 (14)	0.24 (21)	0.20 (17)	0.21 (52)	0.84	0.87
Opportunistic infection†	0.18 (23)	0.16 (13)	0.15 (13)	0.20 (17)	0.17 (43)	0.97	0.78
Pseudomembranous colitis	0.03 (4)	0.13 (10)	0.05 (4)	0.12 (10)	0.10 (24)	0.13	0.03
Fatal infection or sepsis	0.18 (23)	0.31 (25)	0.28 (24)	0.34 (29)	0.31 (78)	0.09	0.02
Any cancer‡	1.88 (231)	1.85 (144)	1.69 (143)	1.72 (144)	1.75 (431)	0.31	0.38
Fatal cancer‡	0.64 (81)	0.55 (44)	0.50 (44)	0.31 (27)	0.45 (115)	<0.001	0.02
Other adverse event							
Injection-site reaction‡	0.23 (29)	0.27 (21)	0.28 (24)	0.30 (26)	0.28 (71)	0.49	0.36
Arthritis	3.32 (385)	2.15 (164)	2.17 (180)	2.47 (201)	2.26 (545)	0.002	<0.001
Osteoarthritis	1.67 (202)	1.21 (94)	1.12 (95)	1.30 (109)	1.21 (298)	0.04	<0.001
Gout	0.80 (99)	0.43 (34)	0.35 (30)	0.37 (32)	0.38 (96)	<0.001	<0.001
Drug-induced liver injury‡	0.18 (23)	0.15 (12)	0.13 (11)	0.05 (4)	0.11 (27)	0.004	0.05
Leukopenia	0.24 (30)	0.30 (24)	0.37 (32)	0.52 (44)	0.40 (100)	0.002	0.01
Neutropenia	0.06 (7)	0.05 (4)	0.07 (6)	0.18 (15)	0.10 (25)	0.01	0.17
Any hemorrhage	4.01 (462)	3.33 (249)	4.15 (327)	3.82 (301)	3.78 (877)	0.94	0.31
Thrombocytopenia	0.43 (53)	0.56 (44)	0.54 (46)	0.71 (60)	0.60 (150)	0.02	0.03
Hepatic variable — percent of patients with condition (no.)							
Alanine aminotransferase >3x normal value	1.4 (46)	1.9 (42)	1.9 (44)	2.0 (45)	2.0 (131)	0.19	0.06
Aspartate aminotransferase >3x normal value	1.1 (36)	1.5 (32)	1.5 (35)	1.5 (34)	1.5 (101)	0.30	0.11
Alkaline phosphatase >3x normal value	0.4 (15)	0.5 (11)	0.4 (10)	0.5 (12)	0.5 (33)	0.67	0.82
Bilirubin >2x normal value	0.8 (26)	1.0 (21)	0.7 (15)	0.7 (15)	0.8 (51)	0.34	0.83



# CIRT: Low dose Methotrexate

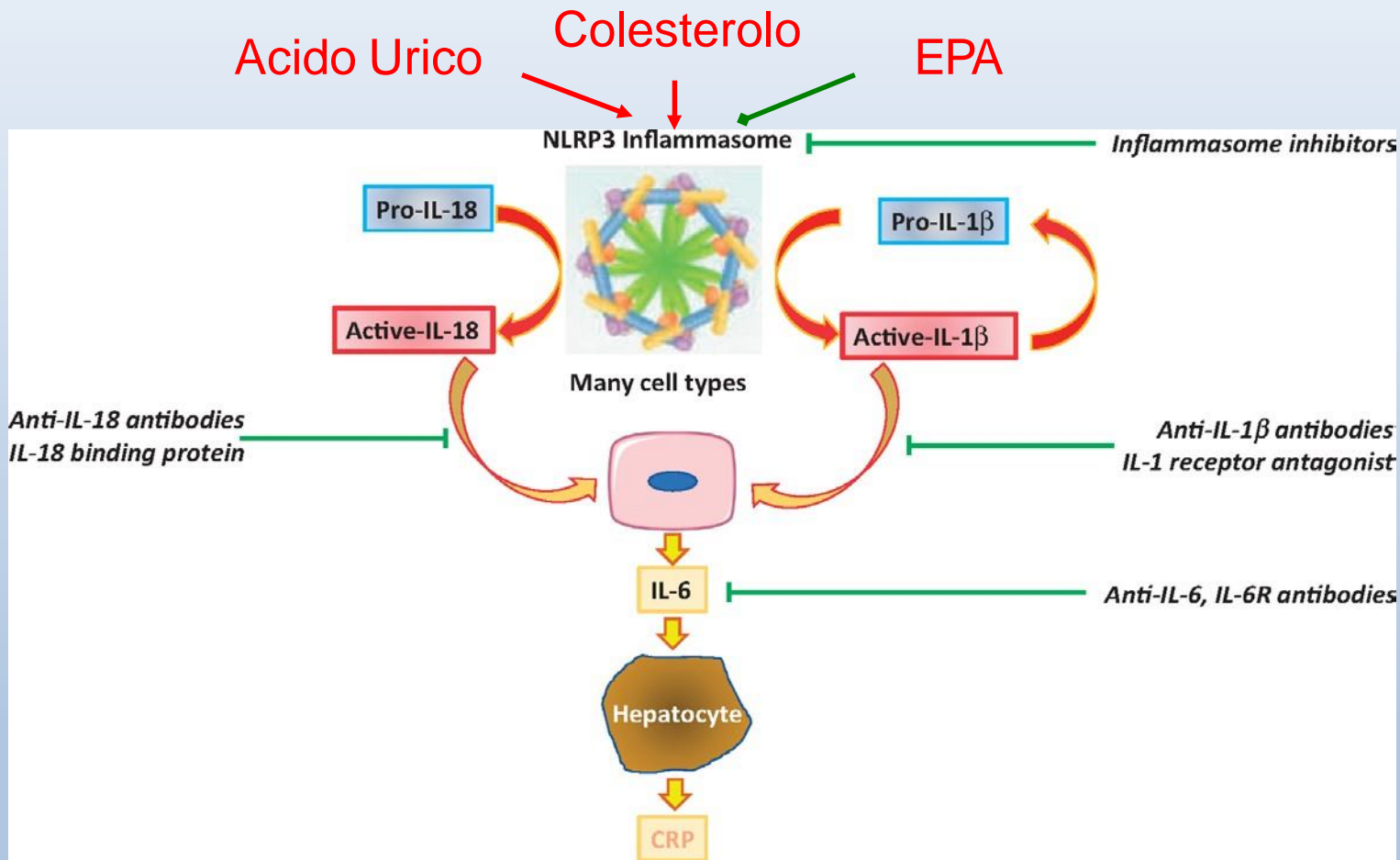


## Casistica

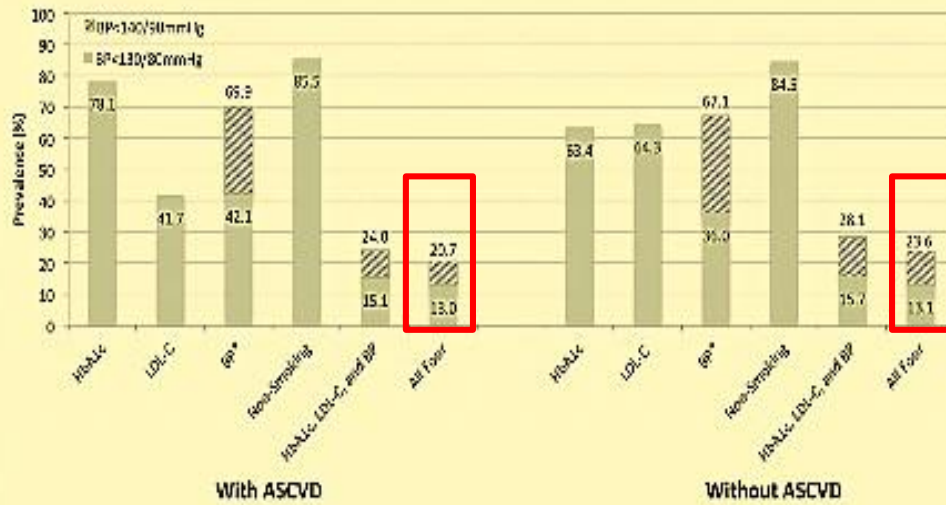
- CANTOS:  $\uparrow$ CRP
- CIRT: DM2-SM

## Pathway

- CANTOS: NLRP3 IL1-IL6-CRP
- CIRT: generico

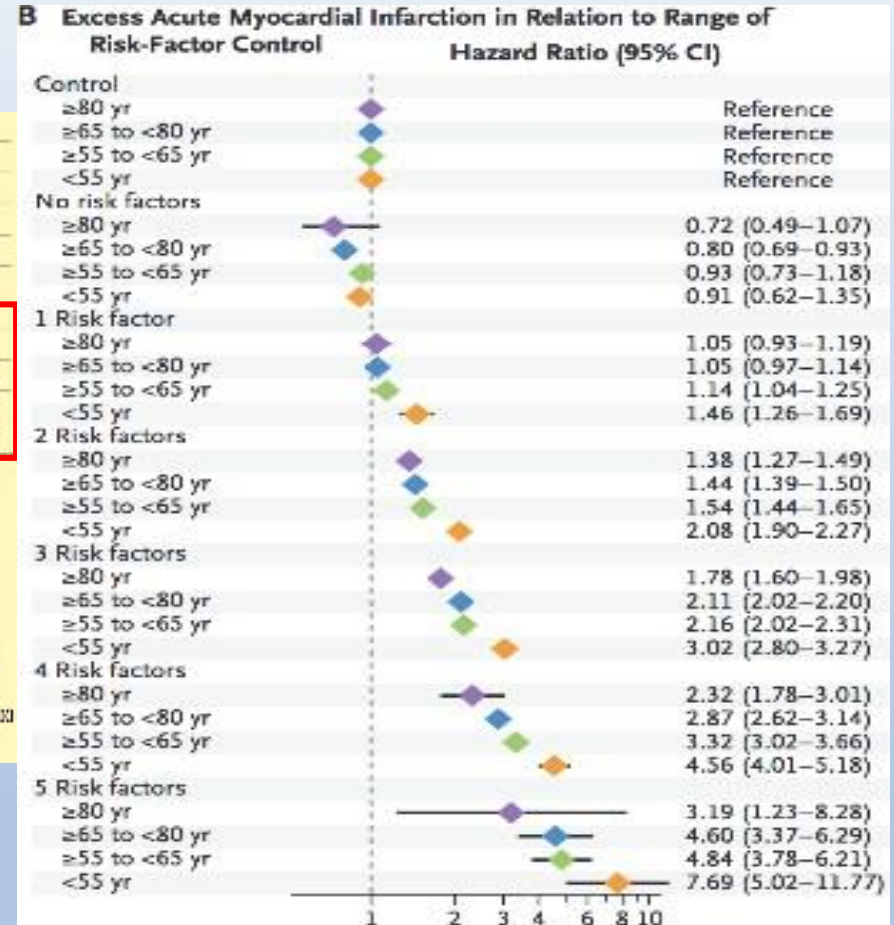


# Target Tradizionali



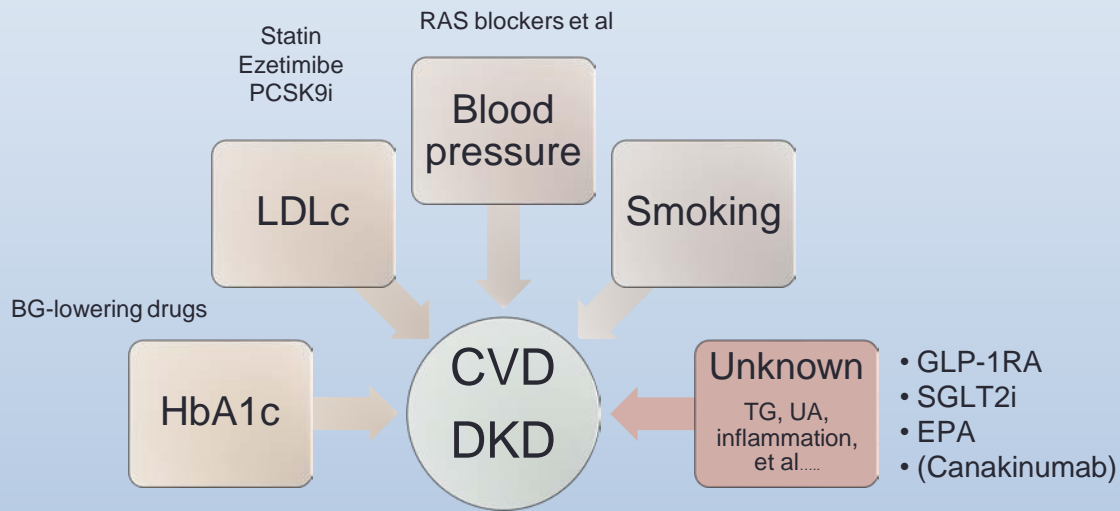
**FIGURE 8** Proportion of patients (%) with achievement of single and multiple cardiovascular disease risk factor control by prior atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) status (ASCVD, n = 51 695; no ASCVD, n = 22 698). BP, blood pressure; HbA1c, glycated haemoglobin; LDL-C, LDL cholesterol. HbA1c target control: <53 mmol/mol (7%) or <64 mmol/mol (8%) if with ASCVD. LDL-C target control: LDL-C <2.6 mmol/L (100 mg/dL) or <1.8 mmol/L (70 mg/dL) if with ASCVD.

A1C, BP, fumo, LDL

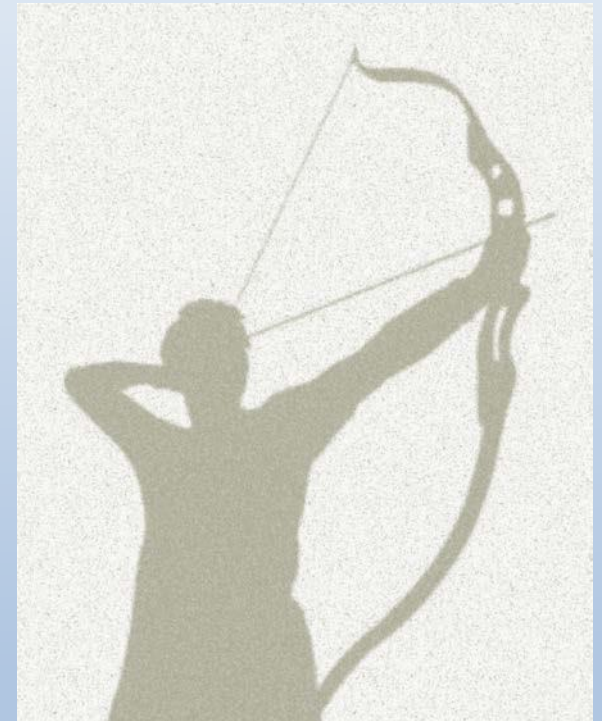


A1C, BP, fumo, LDL, albuminuria

# Conclusione...



*Implementazione  
Aderenza terapeutica*

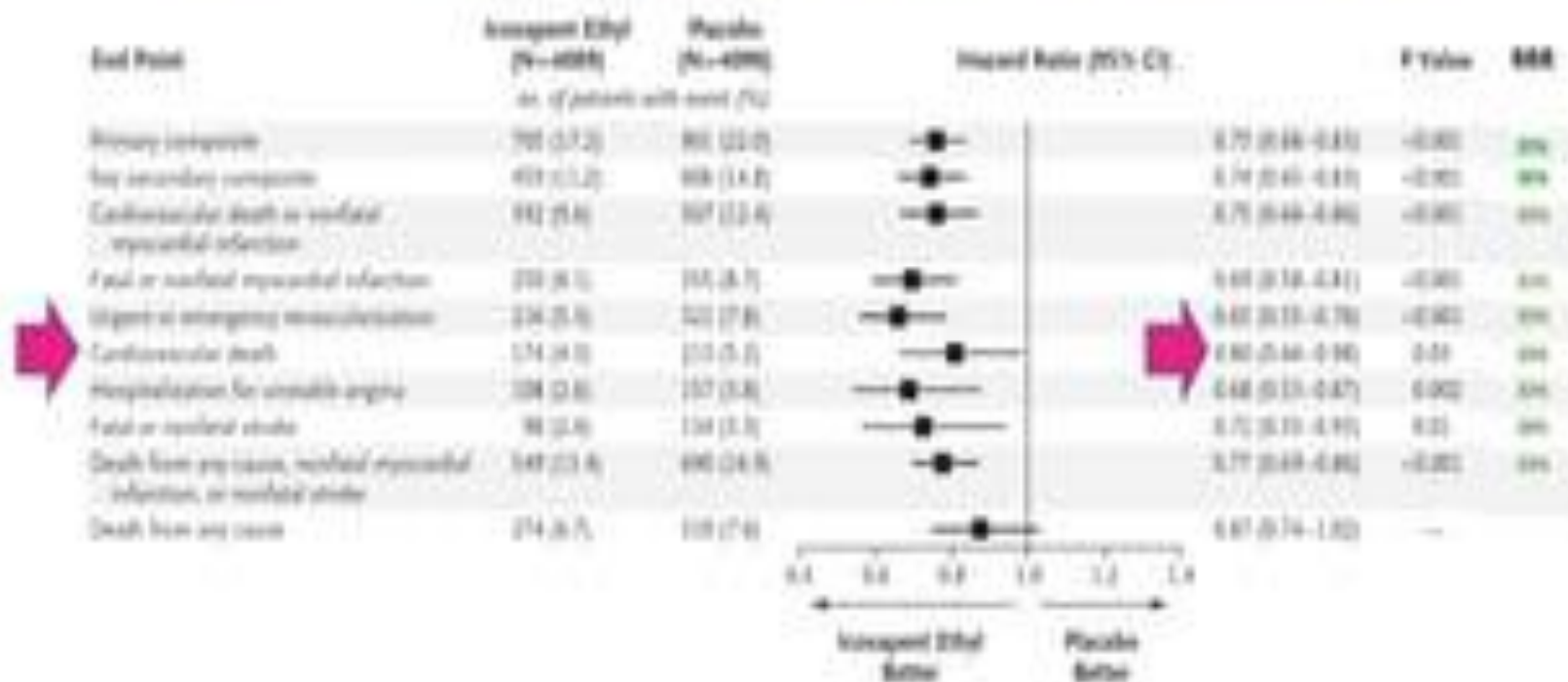


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*Clinical Implication 3*

**Reduction in CV Death**

## 20% reduction in CV Death in REDUCE-IT







## The 2021 Canadian Lipid Guidelines for Icosapent Ethyl (IPE)

**We recommend  
the use of IPE to  
lower the risk of  
CV events**

In patients with ASCVD

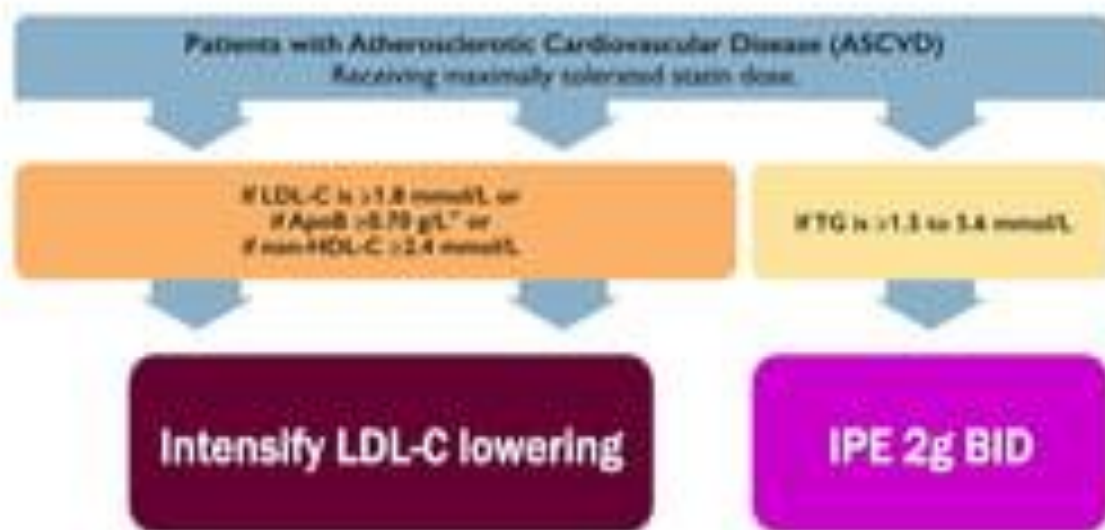
In patients with  
diabetes and  $\geq 1$  risk  
factor

TG 1.5-5.6 mmol/L  
and maximum  
tolerated statin

**STRONG  
RECOMMENDATION  
HIGH QUALITY EVIDENCE**



## It's not sequential – but horizontal integration



## The 2021 Canadian Lipid Guidelines

We **do not**  
recommend the  
use of OTC  
omega-3 PUFA  
supplements to  
lower the risk  
of CV events

These are marketed  
as natural health  
products in Canada

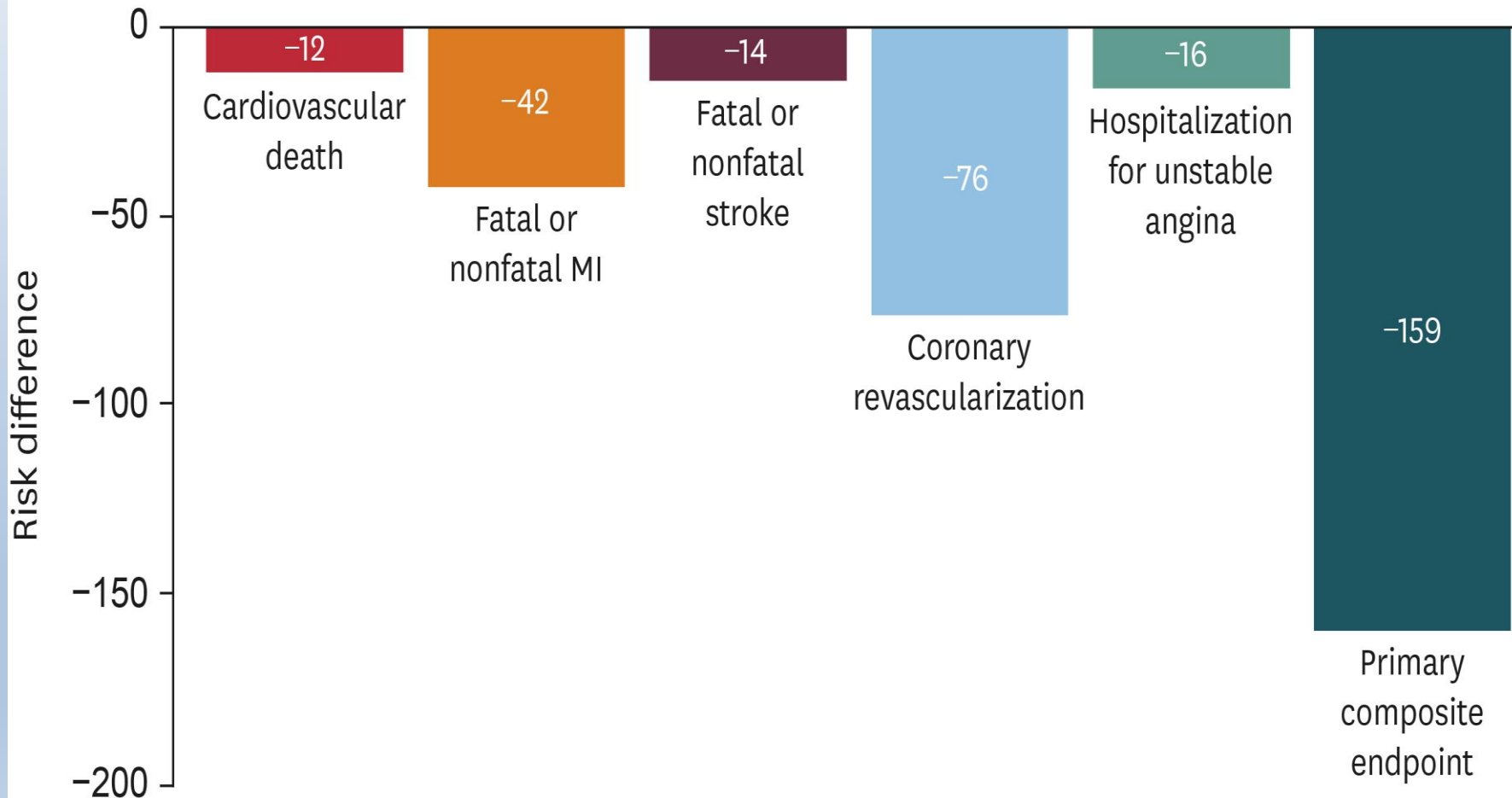
**STRONG  
RECOMMENDATION**

**HIGH QUALITY  
EVIDENCE**

## Key contemporary residual risk pathways in secondary prevention



For every 1,000 patients treated with icosapent ethyl for 5 years, there are significant reductions in total ischemic events, including deaths from cardiovascular causes.



# Interesting questions and answers



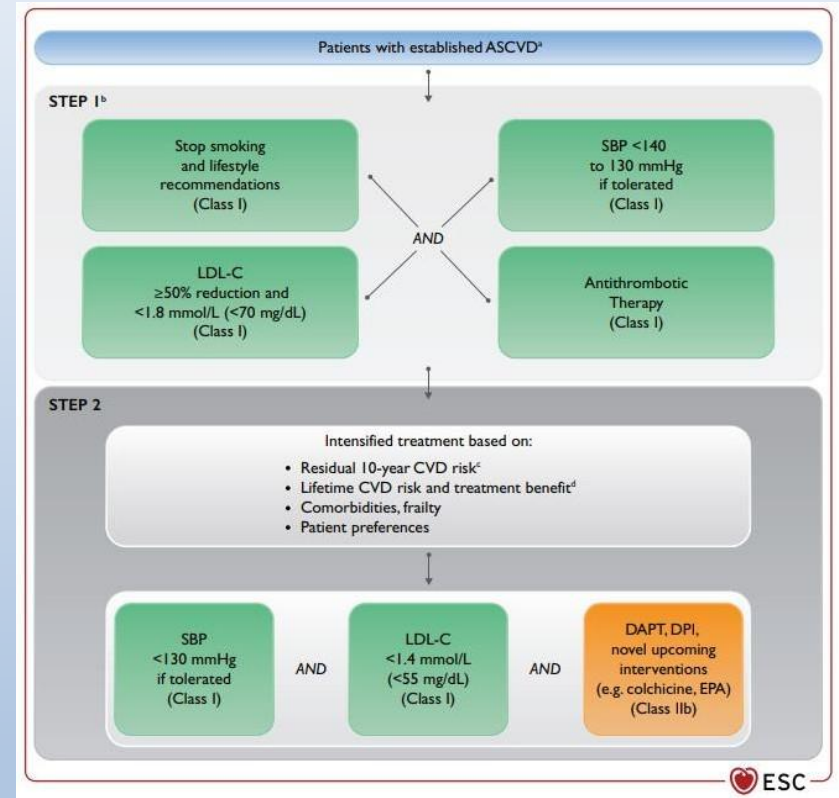
# ESC guidelines: recommendations for use of icosapent ethyl

## Recommendations for drug treatment of patients with hypertriglyceridaemia

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>
Statin treatment is recommended as the first drug of choice to reduce CVD risk in high-risk individuals with hypertriglyceridaemia [TG levels >2.3 mmol/L (>200 mg/dL)]. <sup>355</sup>	<b>I</b>	<b>B</b>
In high-risk (or above) patients with TG levels between 1.5–5.6 mmol/L (135–499 mg/dL) despite statin treatment, n-3 PUFAs (icosapent ethyl 2×2 g/day) should be considered in combination with a statin. <sup>194</sup>	<b>IIa</b>	<b>B</b>
In primary prevention patients who are at LDL-C goal with TG levels >2.3 mmol/L (>200 mg/dL), fenofibrate or bezafibrate may be considered in combination with statins. <sup>305–307,356</sup>	<b>IIb</b>	<b>B</b>
In high-risk patients who are at LDL-C goal with TG levels >2.3 mmol/L (>200 mg/dL), fenofibrate or bezafibrate may be considered in combination with statins. <sup>305–307,356</sup>	<b>IIb</b>	<b>C</b>

© ESC 2019

ESC/EAS guidelines 2019<sup>1</sup>



ESC guidelines on CVD prevention 2021<sup>2</sup>



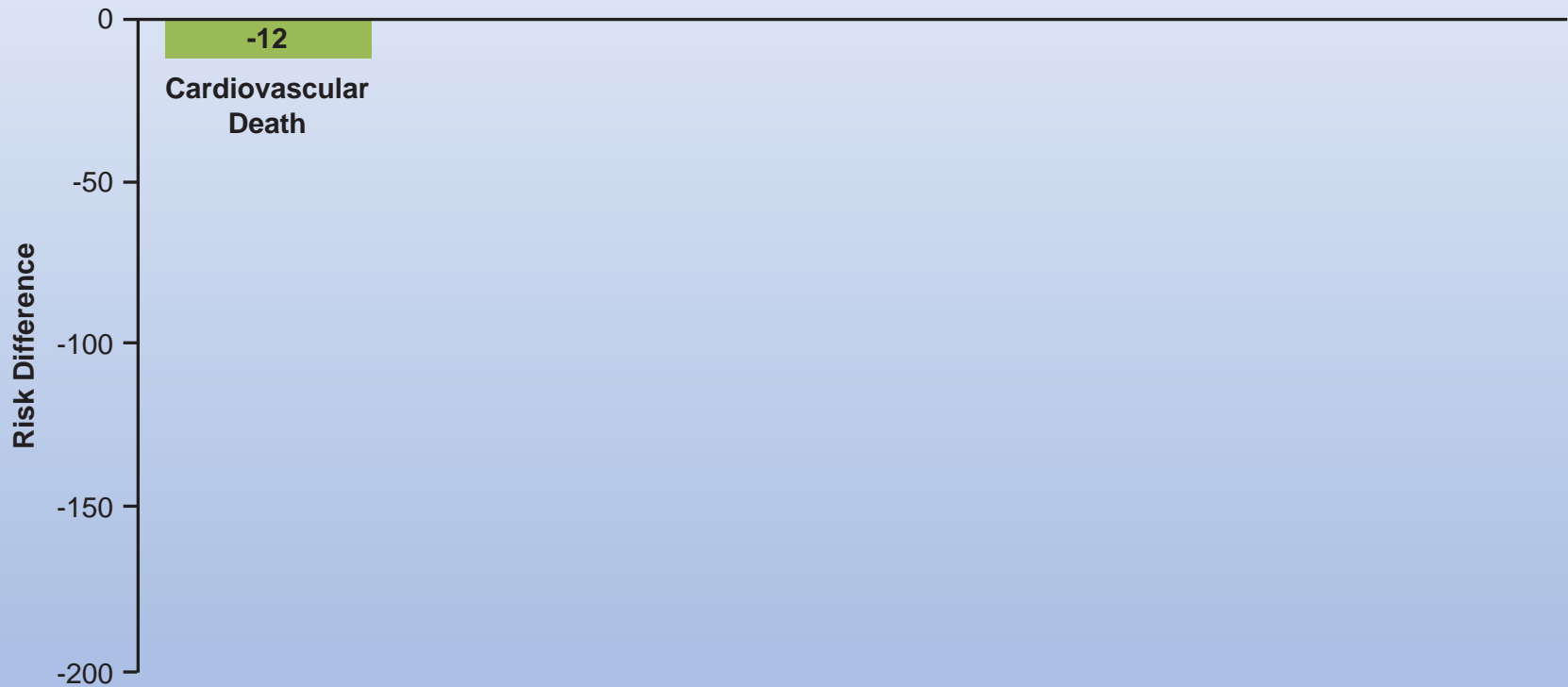
# Conclusions

Compared with placebo, icosapent ethyl 4g/day significantly reduced total cardiovascular events by **30%**, including:

- **25%** reduction in first cardiovascular events
- **32%** reduction in second cardiovascular events
- **31%** reduction in third cardiovascular events
- **48%** reduction in fourth or more cardiovascular events

Analysis of first, recurrent, and total events demonstrates the large burden of ischemic events in statin-treated patients with baseline triglycerides > ~100 mg/dL and the potential role of icosapent ethyl in reducing this residual risk

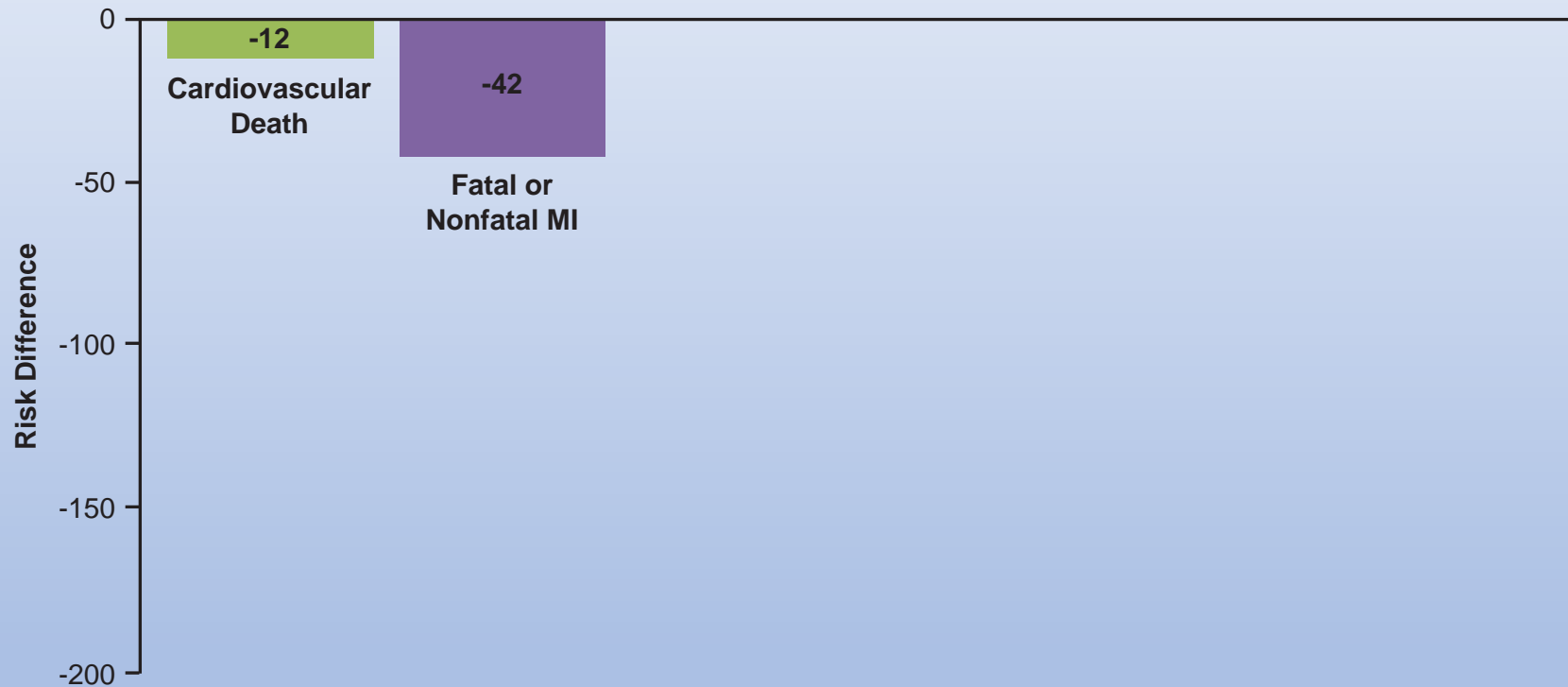
# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:



Bhatt DL, Steg PG, Miller M, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2019.

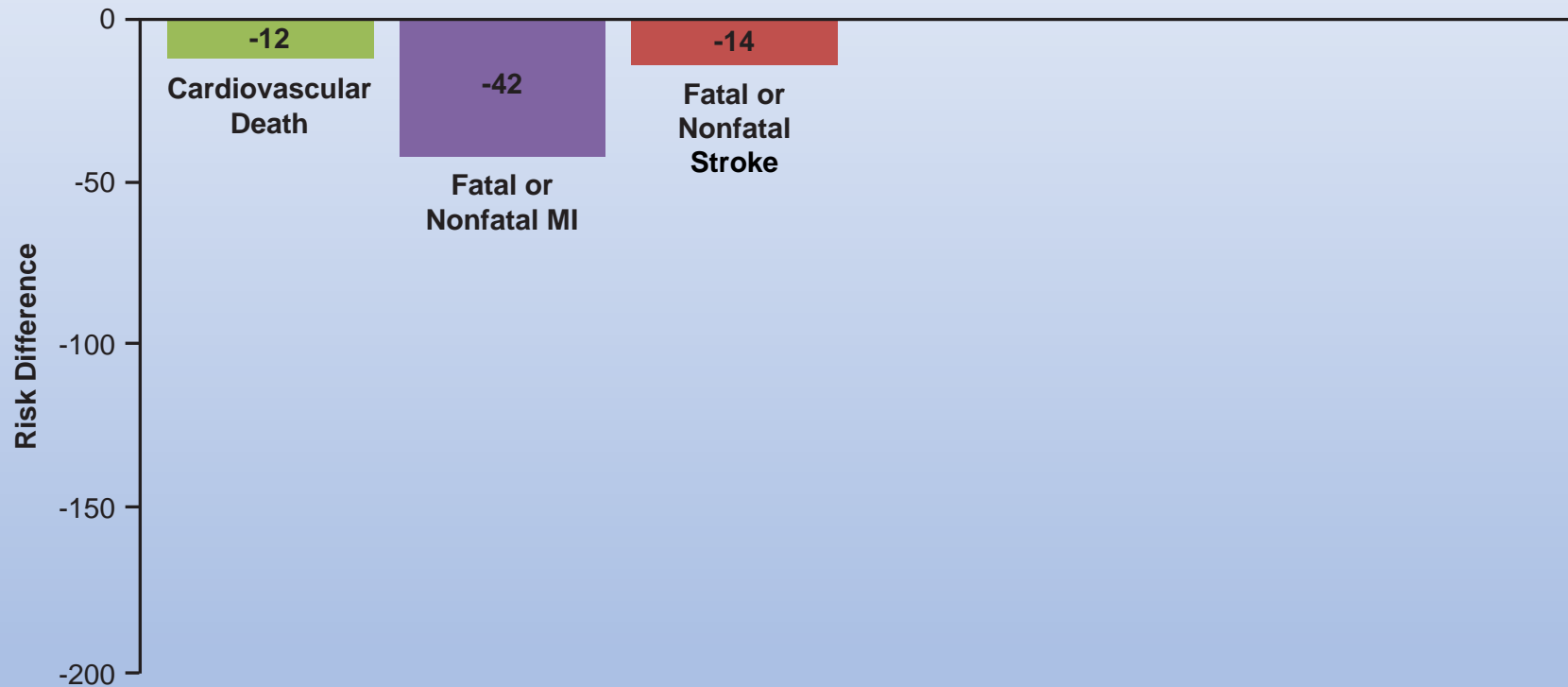


# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:

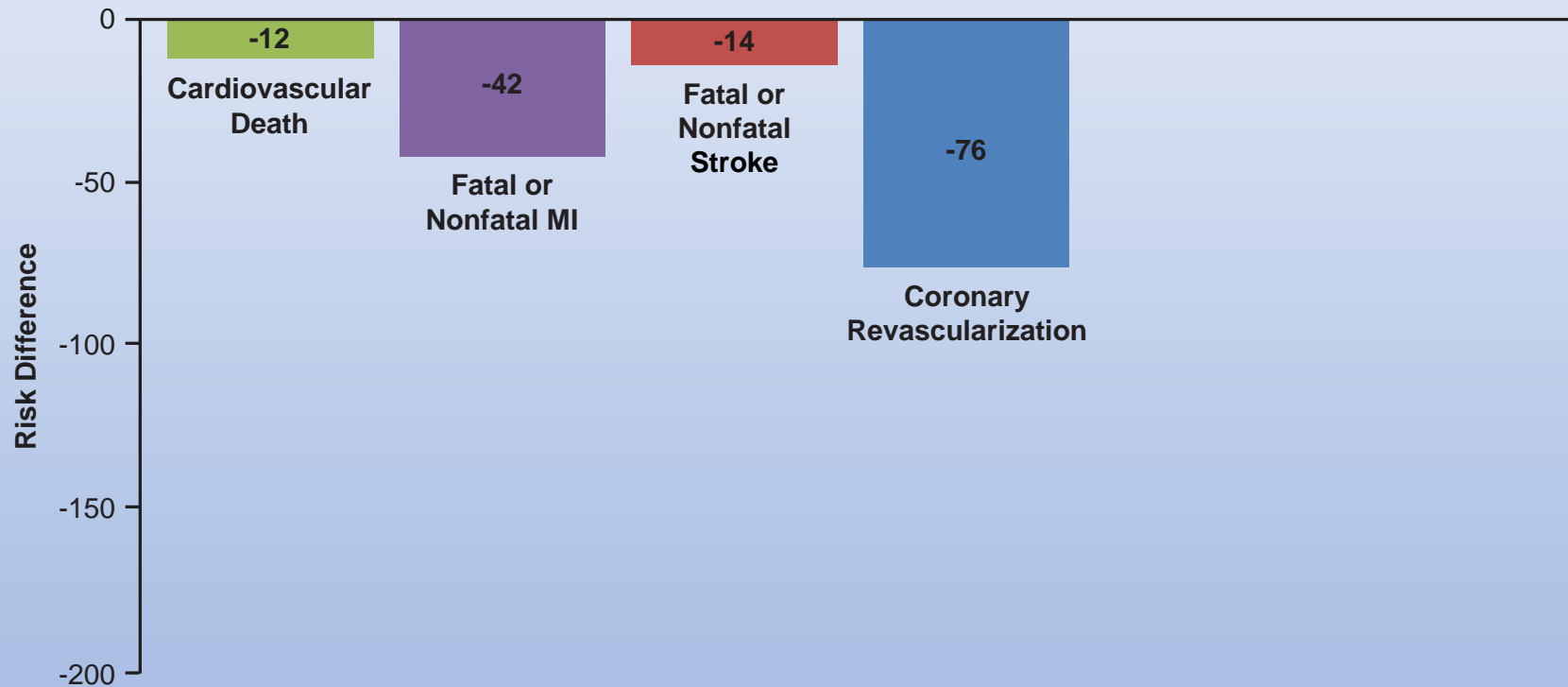


Bhatt DL, Steg PG, Miller M, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2019.

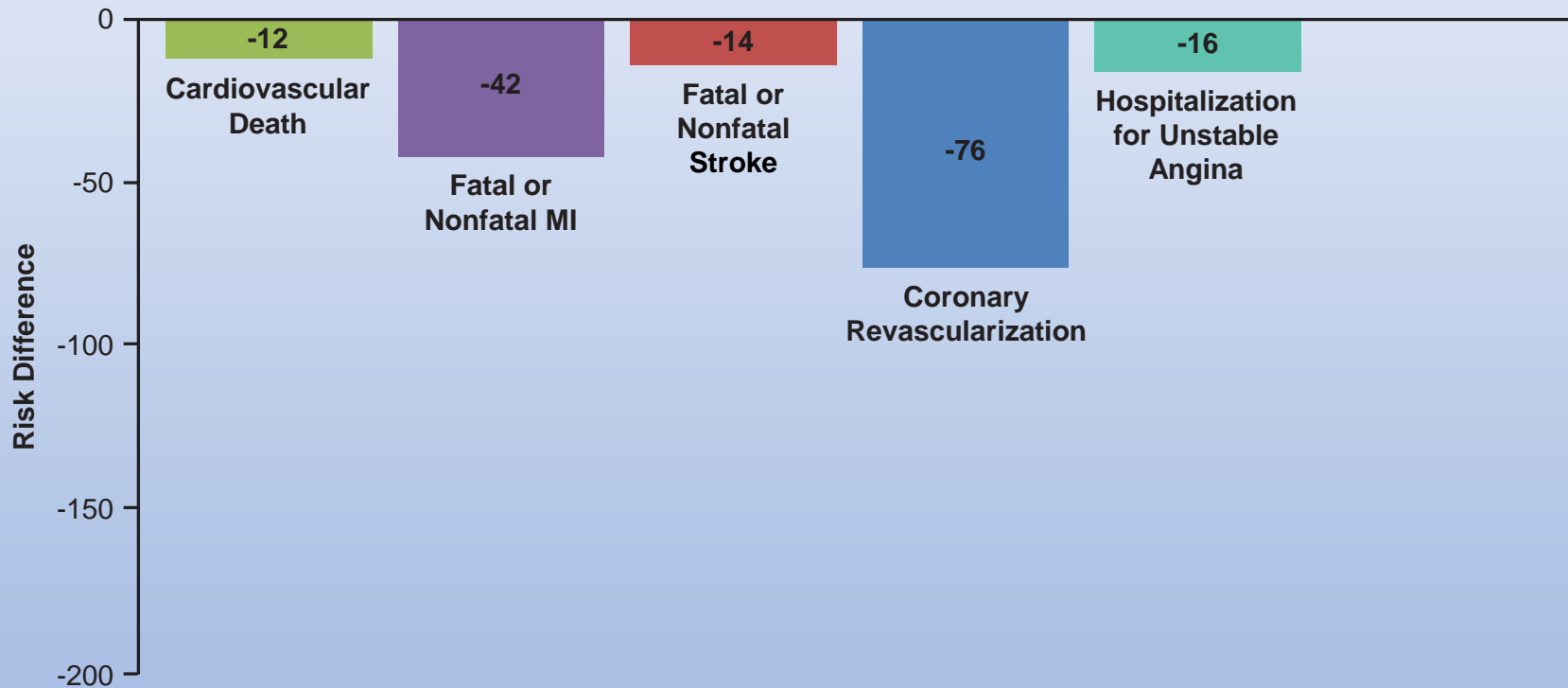
# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:



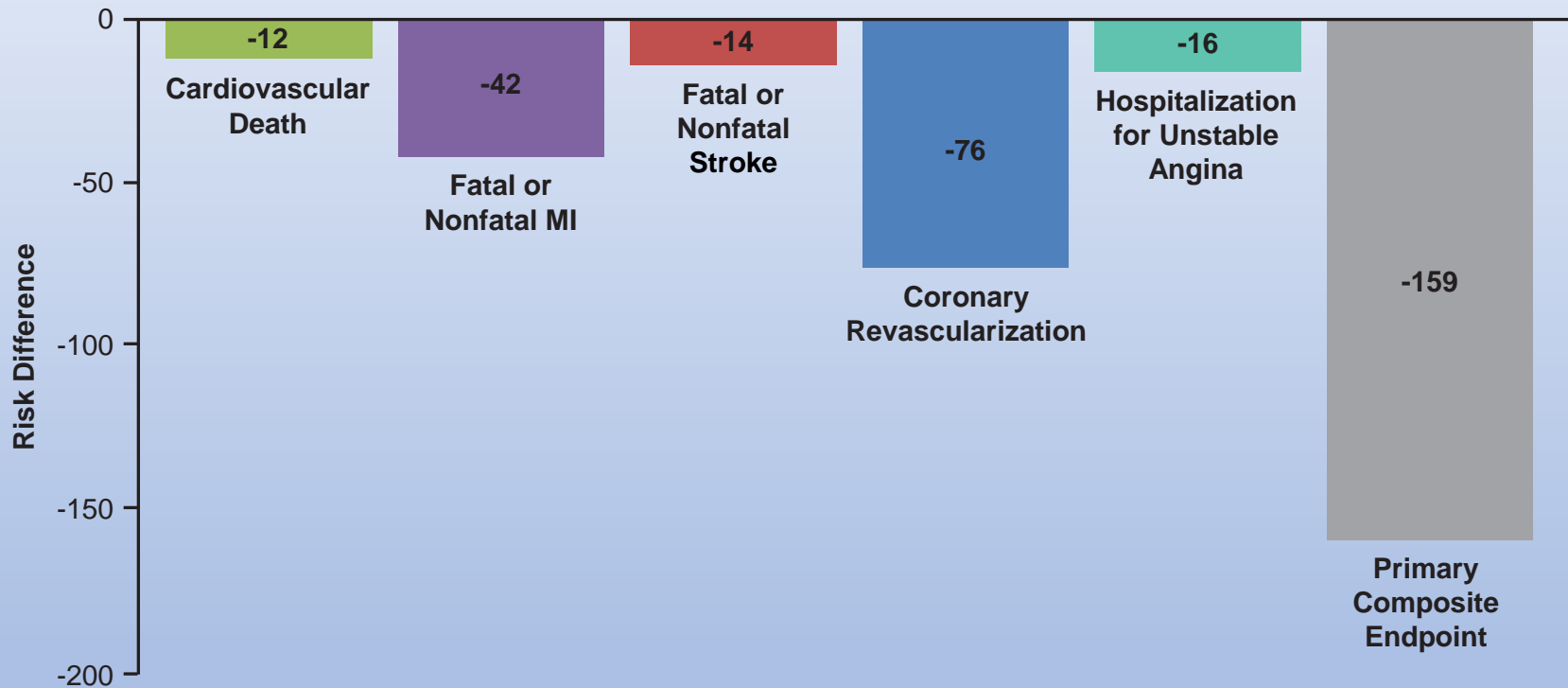
# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:



# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:



# For Every 1000 Patients Treated with Icosapent Ethyl for 5 Years:



# CONCLUSIONS

- Statin therapy is recommended as the first-line lipid-lowering drug therapy for the management of dyslipidemia in individuals with DM
- In major statin trials, significant residual cardiovascular risk remains even after acceptable reduction of LDL-C, especially in patients with diabetes
- Ezetimibe and PCSK9 inhibitors have some beneficial effects to address the residual risk
- The results of REDUCE-IT trial have introduced a new tool to address the residual risk...!

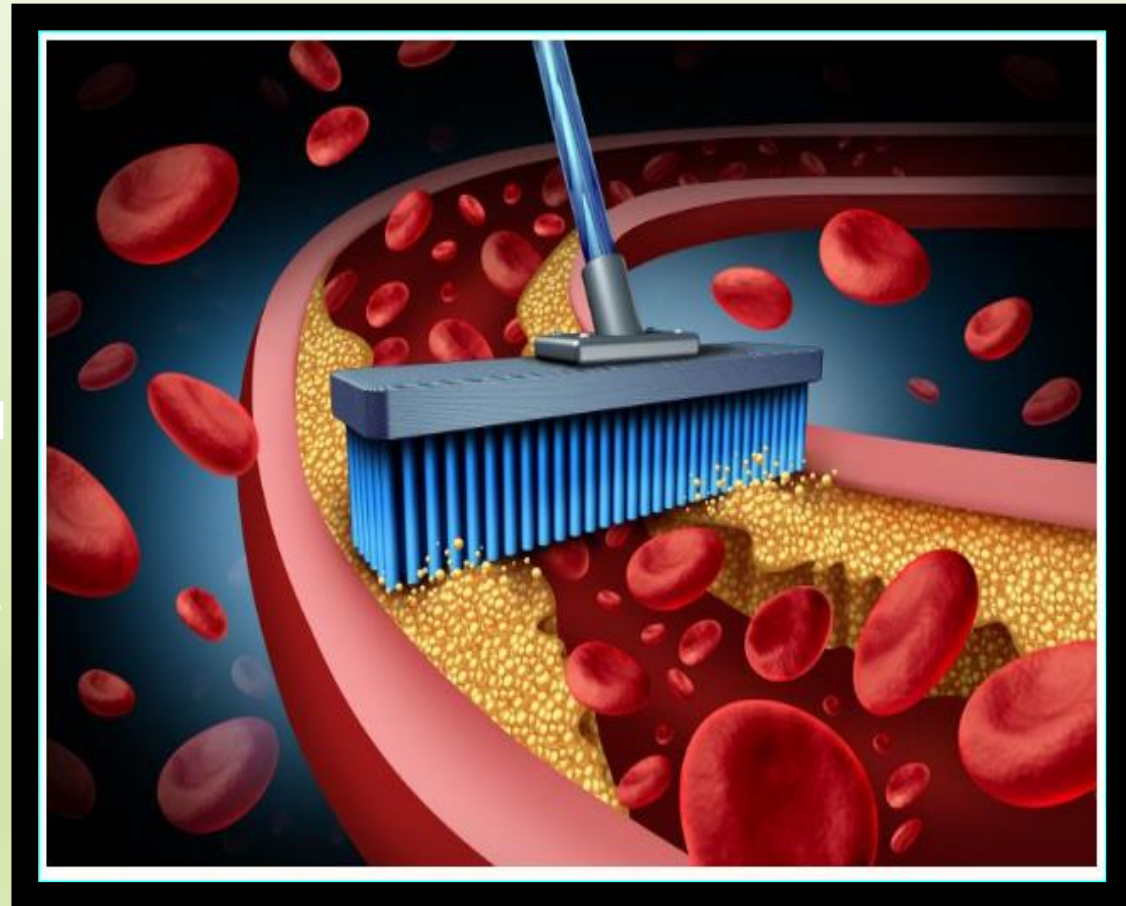
# ADA UPDATES, MARCH 27, 2021



- Based on findings from the Reduction of Cardiovascular Event with Icosapent Ethyl-Intervention Trial (**REDUCE-IT**), an additional recommendation has been officially added to the section "Treatment of Other Lipoprotein Fractions or Targets." The new recommendation reads as follows:
- In patients with ASCVD or other cardiac risk factors on a statin with controlled LDL-C, but elevated triglycerides (135-499), the addition of **icosapent ethyl** should be considered to reduce cardiovascular risk. **A**
- Reference: Bhatt DL, Steg G, Miller M, Brinton EA, Jacobson TA, Ketchum SB, Doyle RT, Juliano RA, Jiao L, Granowitz C, Tardif JC, Ballantyne CM; REDUCE-IT Investigators. Cardiovascular risk reduction with icosapent ethyl for hypertriglyceridemia. N Engl J Med 2019;380:11-22.
- Suggested citation: American Diabetes Association. 10. Cardiovascular disease and risk management: Standards of Medical Care in Diabetes—2019 [web annotation]. Diabetes Care 2019;42(Suppl. 1):S103–S123. Retrieved from [https://hyp.is/JHz\\_CrEembFJ9LIVBZlw/care.diabetesjournals.org/content/42/Supplement\\_1/S103](https://hyp.is/JHz_CrEembFJ9LIVBZlw/care.diabetesjournals.org/content/42/Supplement_1/S103)

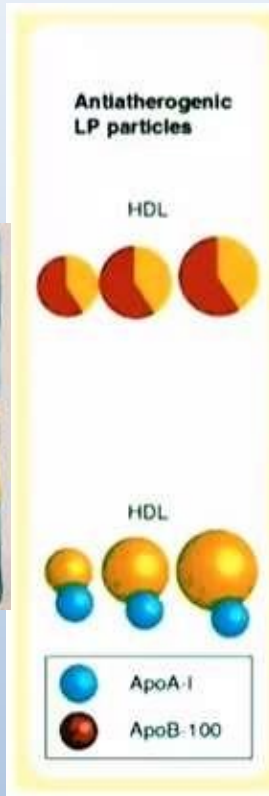
# MORE AGGRESSIVE LIPID LOWERING IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

There is ongoing debate as to whether aggressive LDL cholesterol-lowering therapy, as opposed to comprehensive lipid management addressing the hypertriglyceridaemia and low HDL cholesterol, is the optimal approach to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in people with diabetes.



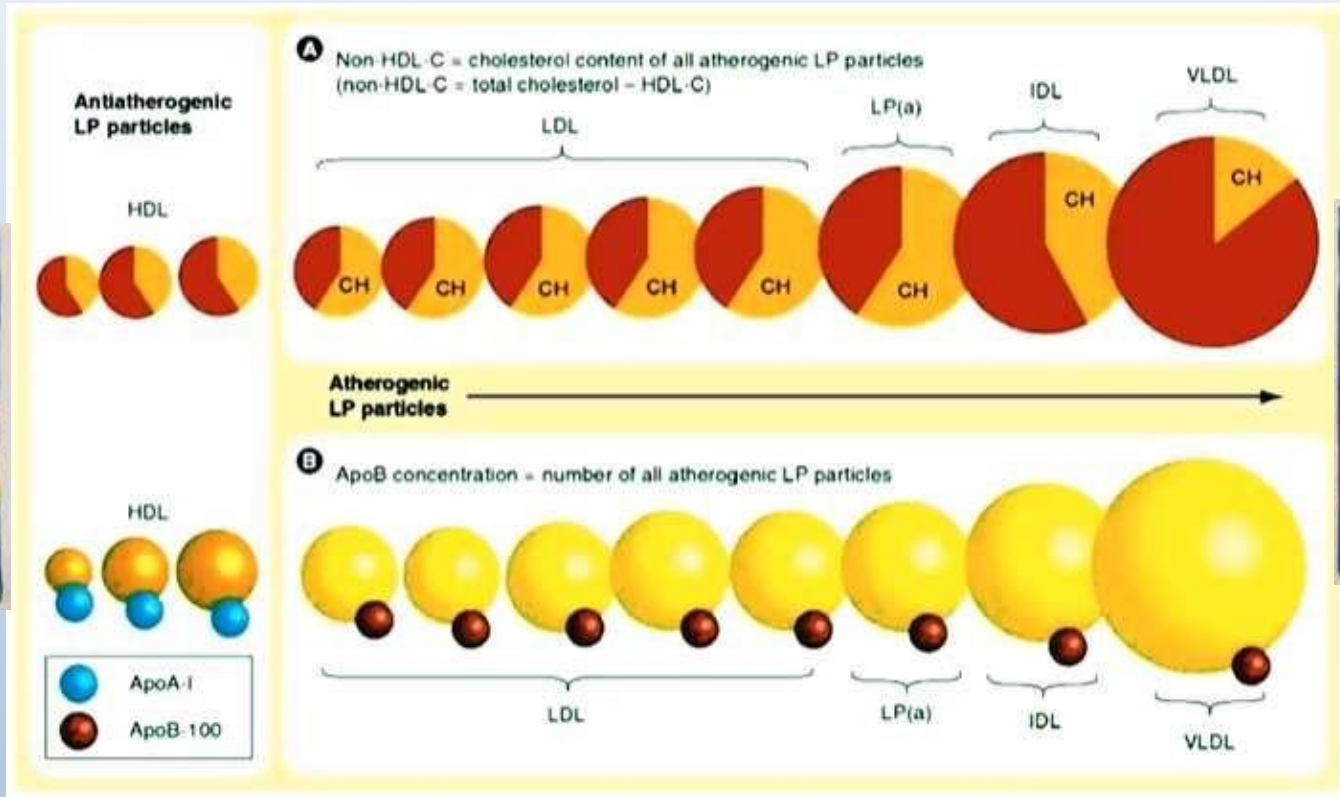


# LDL-C measures only a portion of atherogenic particles – although **non-HDL** or **ApoB** captures all -



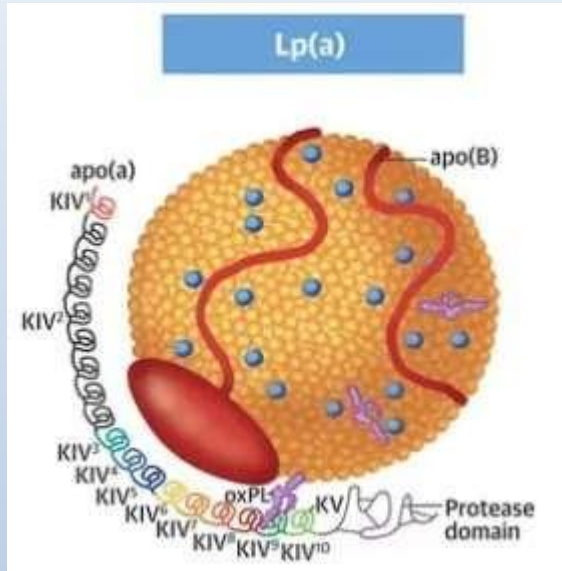
Source: Clin Lipidol © 2011 Future Medicine Ltd

# LDL-C measures only a portion of atherogenic particles – although **non-HDL** or **ApoB** captures all -



$$\text{Non-HDL-C} = (\text{TC}) - (\text{HDL-C})$$

# What is Lipoprotein(a)?



$$\text{Lp(a)} = \text{LDL-C} + \text{apo(a)}$$

- A “bad” LDL with a “sticky” tail → **highly atherogenic**
  - Poorly correlated with LDL-C
- Lp(a) levels are almost entirely **genetically** determined (levels are determined at birth and remain stable over lifetime).
  - Higher in South Asians, Latin Americans and African Americans
- Independent marker of CV risk (independent of other lipids and risk factors)
  - The higher the Lp(a), the higher the risk for ASCVD and recurrent events
- Most common genetic dyslipidemia
  - Estimated 6 million Canadians have high Lp(a) defined as >50 mg/dL

# Lp(a):

- CCS recommends measuring Lp(a) level **once** in a person's lifetime as part of the initial lipid screening
- For all patients with Lp(a)  $\geq 50$  mg/dL (or  $\geq 100$  nmol/L), this is associated with a >2-fold increased CV risk and thus recommend earlier screening, health behaviour counselling and management of other CV risk factors in the setting of primary prevention.
- Currently a **marker of risk and not a treatment target** – only test once in each adult's lifetime
  - Patients with high Lp(a) should have **earlier consideration of LDL-lowering therapies** (and be more aggressive in when to start therapy).
  - Possible future therapies reducing Lp(a) (?early thoughts re: PCSK9i)

## Who to Treat to reduce ASCVD

Does this patient have a statin-indicated condition?

- If **YES**, may be for secondary prevention (i.e. history of ASCVD) or other high risk condition.
- If **No**, primary prevention patient (risk stratify using Framingham Risk Score).

## Step 3 – Who to Treat to reduce ASCVD risk?

### A. Based on Clinical Factors (Framingham Risk Calculation **not** req'd):

#### 1. Patients with Statin-Indicated Conditions:

Secondary  
Prevention

- a. Clinical ASCVD (“*secondary prevention*”) or AAA
- b. Diabetes mellitus if >40 yo, or >30 yo with microvascular disease or >15 yrs duration
- c. Chronic kidney disease (non-dialysis, eGFR <60 mL/min or urine ACR ≥ 3.0 mg/mmol)
- d. FH or LDL-C ≥5.0 or non-HDL-C ≥5.8 mmol/L or ApoB ≥ 1.45 g/L

#### 2. Patients with very high TG ≥10 mmol/L and/or history of TG-related pancreatitis → fibrates.

## Step 3 – Who to Treat to reduce ASCVD risk?

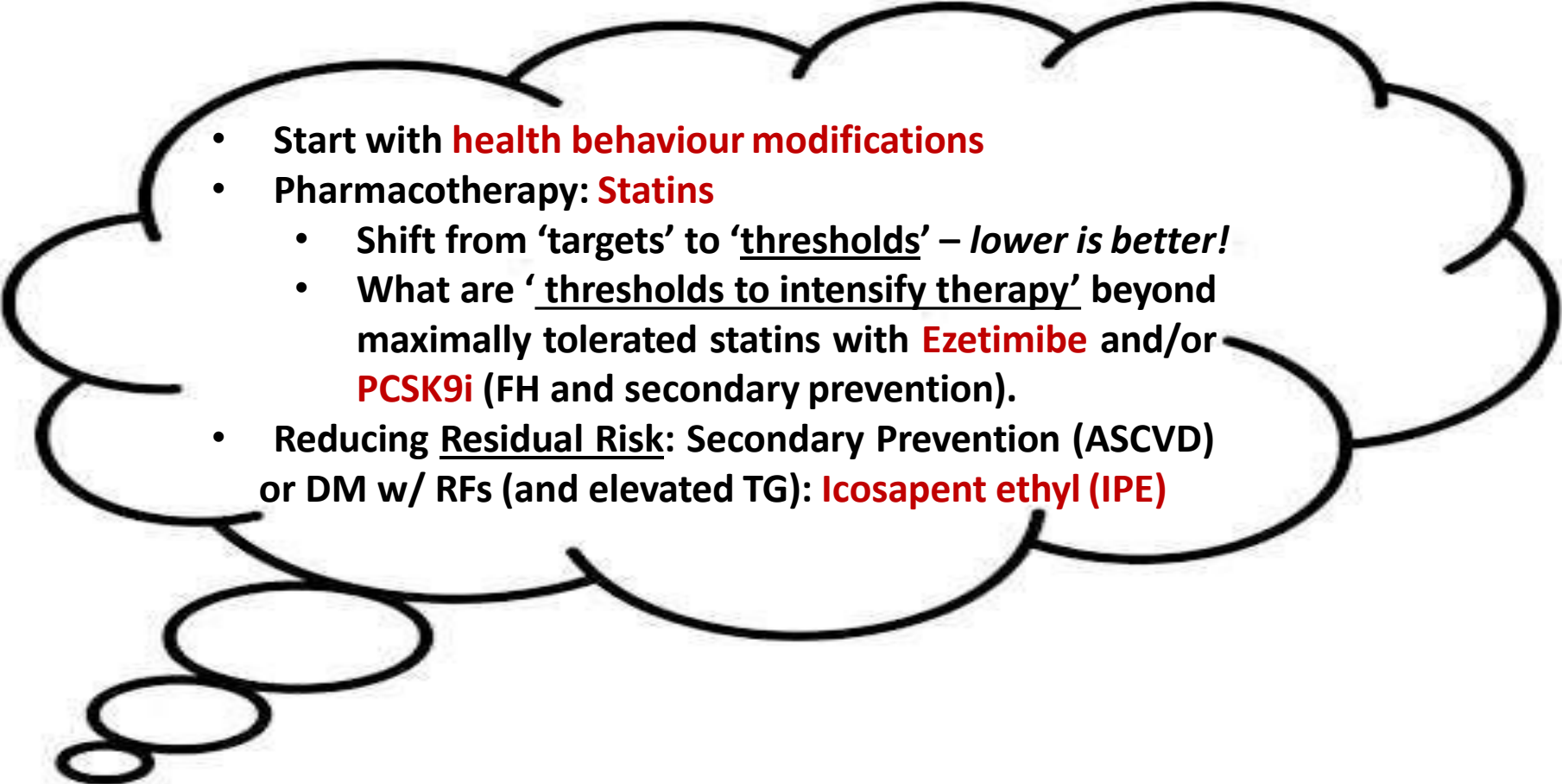
Primary  
Prevention

### B. Based on Calculation of Framingham Risk Score (FRS):

1. High FRS ( $\geq 20\%/10\text{yrs}$ ) – all patients should be treated with statins
2. Intermediate FRS ( $10\text{-}19.9\%/10\text{-yrs}$ ) and **LDL-C  $\geq 3.5$  mmol/L** or **non-HDL-C  $\geq 4.2$  mmol/L** or ApoB  $\geq 1.05$  g/L
3. Intermediate FRS ( $10\text{-}19.9\%/10\text{-yrs}$ ) and **LDL-C  $< 3.5$  mmol/L** or **nonHDL-C  $< 4.2$  mmol/L** or ApoB  $< 1.05$  g/L or other risk enhancers:
  - Men  $\geq 50$  yrs and women  $\geq 60$  yrs with one additional risk factor: low HDL-C, IFG, high waist circumference, smoker or HTN **or the presence of other risk modifiers: hsCRP  $\geq 2.0$  mg/L, CAC  $> 0$  AU, family history of premature CAD, Lp(a)  $\geq 50$  mg/dL (100 nmol/L)**
4. Low FRS ( $< 10\%/10\text{-yrs}$ ) – statin therapy (beyond health behaviour modification) not recommended for most low-risk individuals, exceptions include:
  - LDL-C  $\geq 5.0$  mmol/L (or non-HDL-C  $\geq 5.8$  mmol/L or ApoB  $\geq 1.45$  g/L) or
  - FRS ( $5\text{-}9\%/10$  years) LDL-C  $\geq 3.5$  mmol/L (or non-HDL-C  $\geq 4.2$  mmol/L or ApoB  $\geq 1.05$  g/L), particularly with **other CV risk modifiers (e.g., FHx, Lp(a)  $\geq 50$  mg/dL [or  $\geq 100$  nmol/L] or CAC  $> 0$  AU)**

## Step 4 – How to treat patients (dyslipidemia)?

**\*\*Reminder: multimodal approach to CV risk reduction and addressing all vascular risk factors (BP, glucose, lipids), diet, exercise, weight goals, alcohol and smoking.**

- 
- Start with **health behaviour modifications**
  - Pharmacotherapy: **Statins**
    - Shift from 'targets' to 'thresholds' – *lower is better!*
    - What are 'thresholds to intensify therapy' beyond maximally tolerated statins with **Ezetimibe** and/or **PCSK9i** (FH and secondary prevention).
  - Reducing Residual Risk: Secondary Prevention (ASCVD) or DM w/ RFs (and elevated TG): **Icosapent ethyl (IPE)**





The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Triglyceride Lowering with Pemafibrate to Reduce Cardiovascular Risk

A. Das Pradhan, R.J. Glynn, J.-C. Fruchart, J.G. MacFadyen, E.S. Zaharris, B.M. Everett, S.E. Campbell, R. Oshima, P. Amarenco, D.J. Blom, E.A. Brinton, R.H. Eckel, M.B. Elam, J.S. Felicio, H.N. Ginsberg, A. Goudev, S. Ishibashi, J. Joseph, T. Kodama, W. Koenig, L.A. Leiter, A.J. Lorenzatti, B. Mankovsky, N. Marx, B.G. Nordestgaard, D. Páll, K.K. Ray, R.D. Santos, H. Soran, A. Susekov, M. Tendera, K. Yokote, N.P. Paynter, J.E. Buring, P. Libby, and P.M. Ridker,  
for the PROMINENT Investigators\*



CENTER FOR CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE  
PREVENTION  
BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL

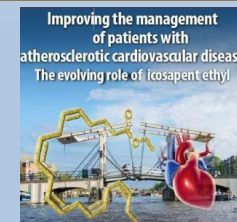
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03071692

# Challenges in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease reduction and Triglyceride-related risk

Erik Stroes, MD

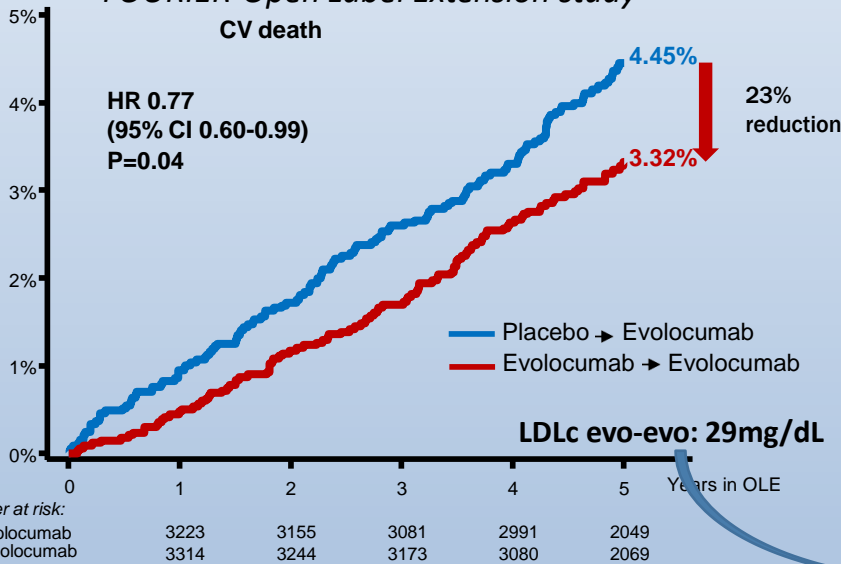
Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands

**Improving the management of patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease - The evolving role of icosapent ethyl**

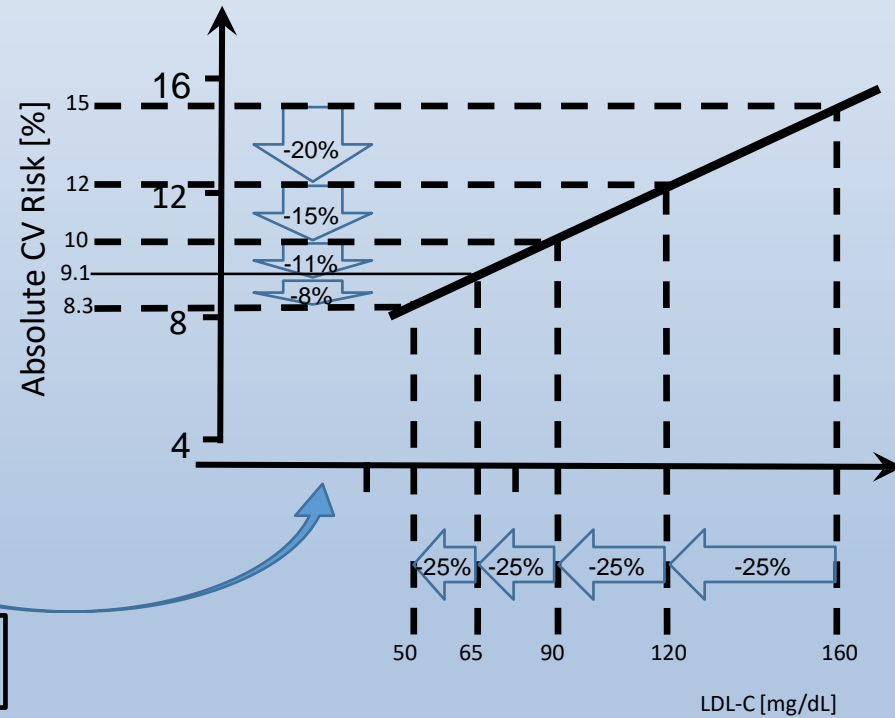


# Residual risk in patients with very-low LDLc levels

Significant benefit with marked residual risk  
FOURIER-Open Label Extension study

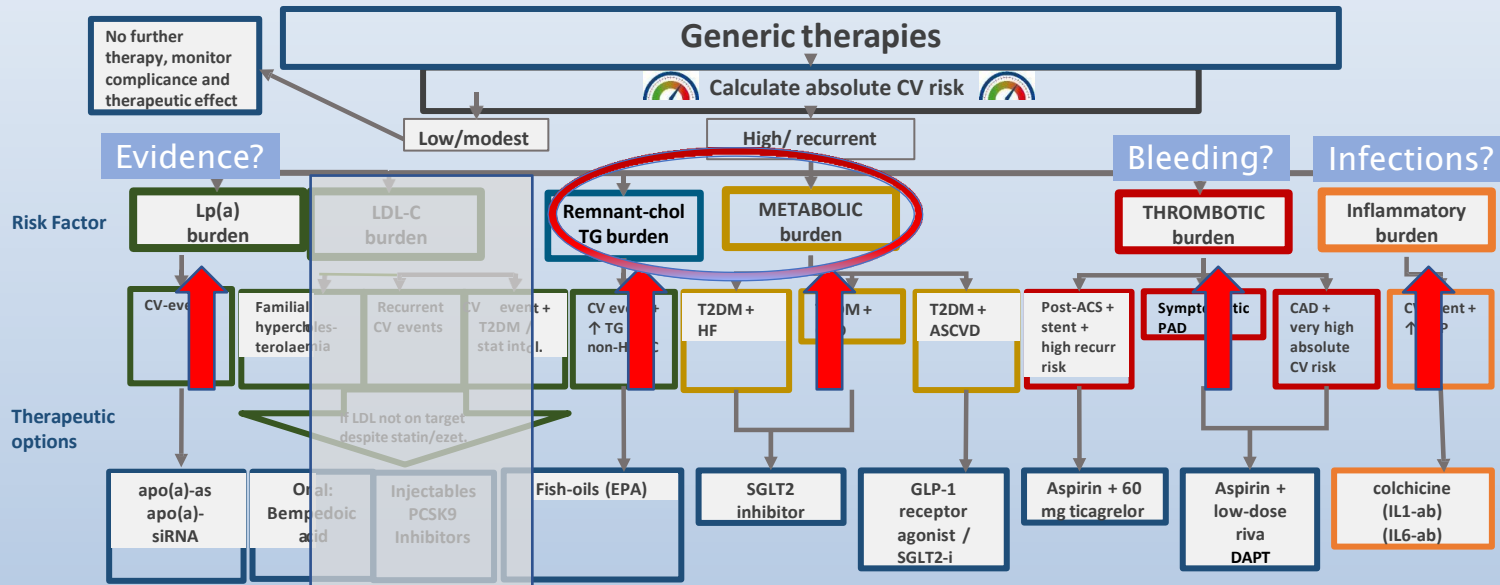


Further LDLc lowering - limited benefit

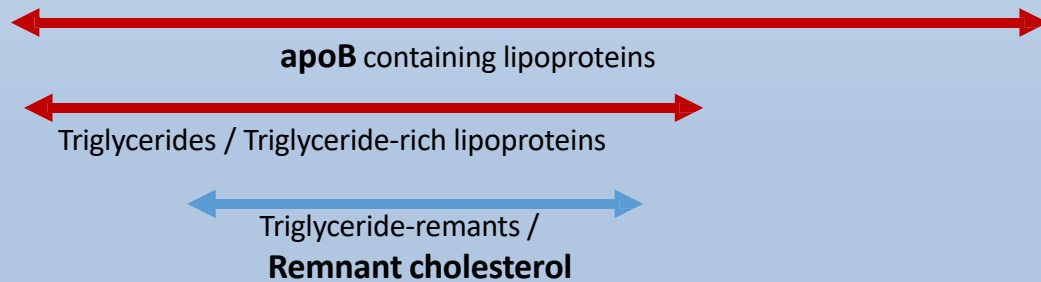
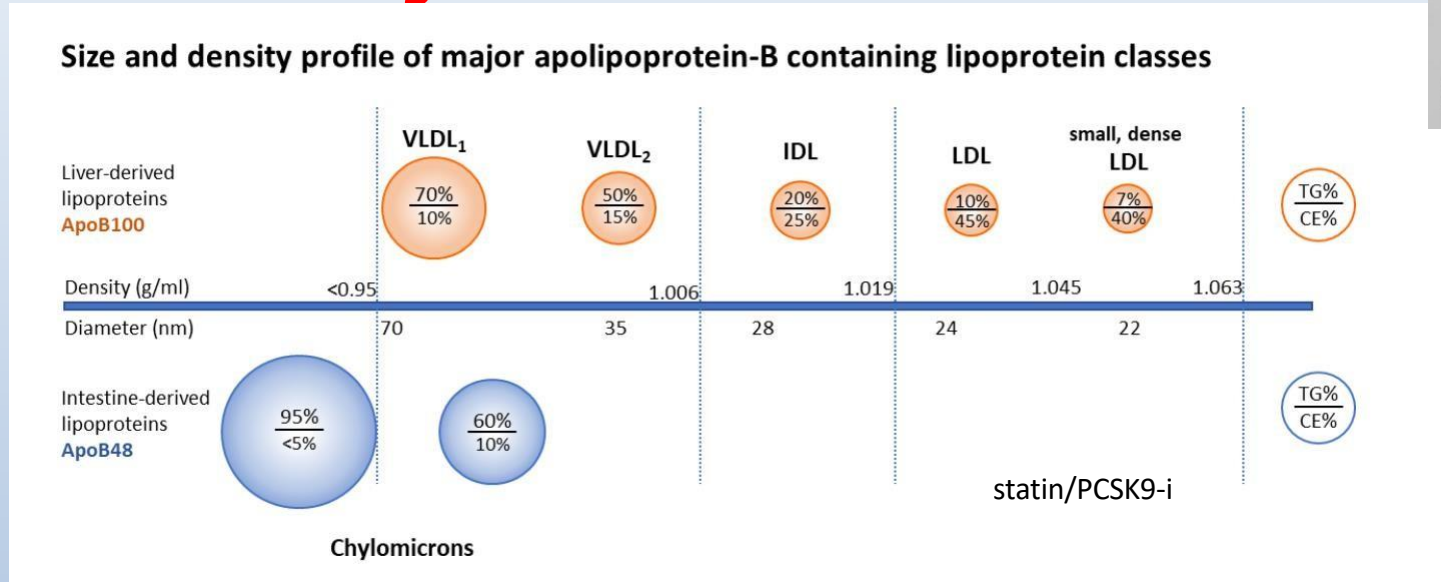


Recurrent CV-event rate in evo-evolocumab : 14.6% /5yr  
Recurrent CV-event rate in placebo-evolocumab: 16.8% /5yr

# Other pillars 'contributing' to atherogenesis



# When cardiologist talk about high TGs . TGs are 'heterogeneous'

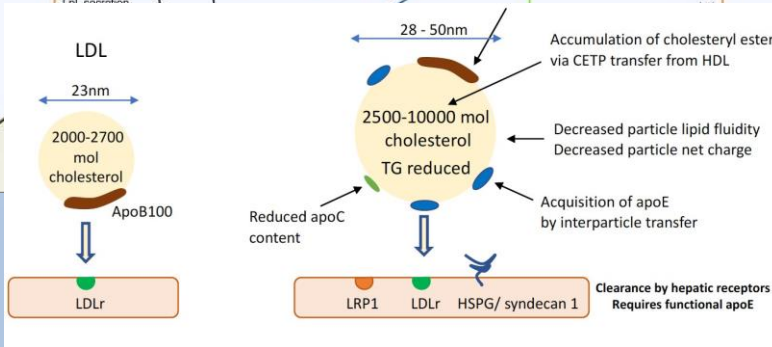
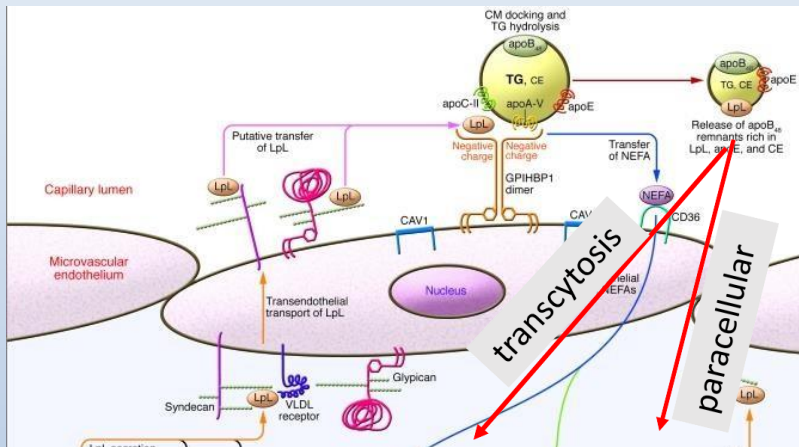


# Why are Triglyceride-rich particles atherogenic?

**Experimental evidence: direct uptake in the arterial wall**

**Table 1. Labeled Esterified Cholesterol in Plasma and Tissues after Injection of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -Cholesterol-Labeled Chylomicrons and  $^3\text{H}$ -Cholesterol-Labeled d < 1.019 Lipoproteins**

Animal*	Duration (hr)	Mean plasma		Intima-media†		Liver†	
		$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)	$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)	$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)
1	1.4	0.78					
2	1.8	0.61					
3	3.2	0.74					
4	3.3	0.64					
5	3.8	0.53					
6	4.3	0.42					
7	4.4	0.47					



Anitschkow



Chylomicron

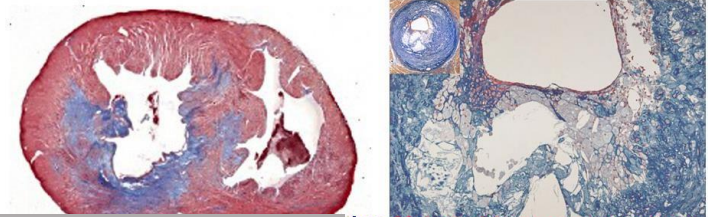


Figure 4. The take of labeled

Atherosclerosis in rabbits

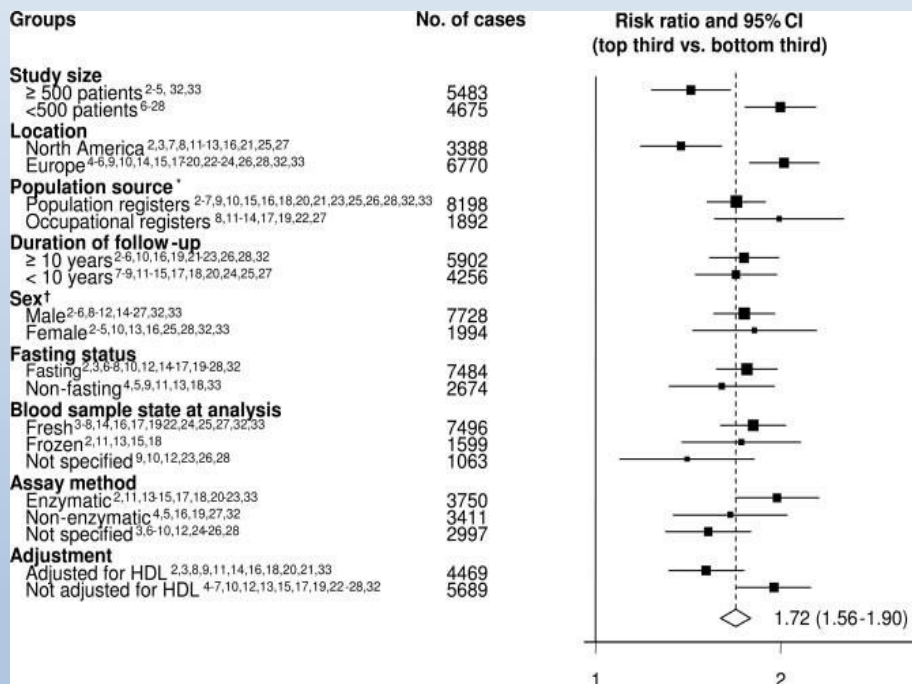
Vulnerable coronary plaques

Yang, Int J Mol Sciences 2018; Hassing, BBA 2012; Ginsberg, Eur H J 2022; Steender & Zilversmit, Atherosclerosis 1981

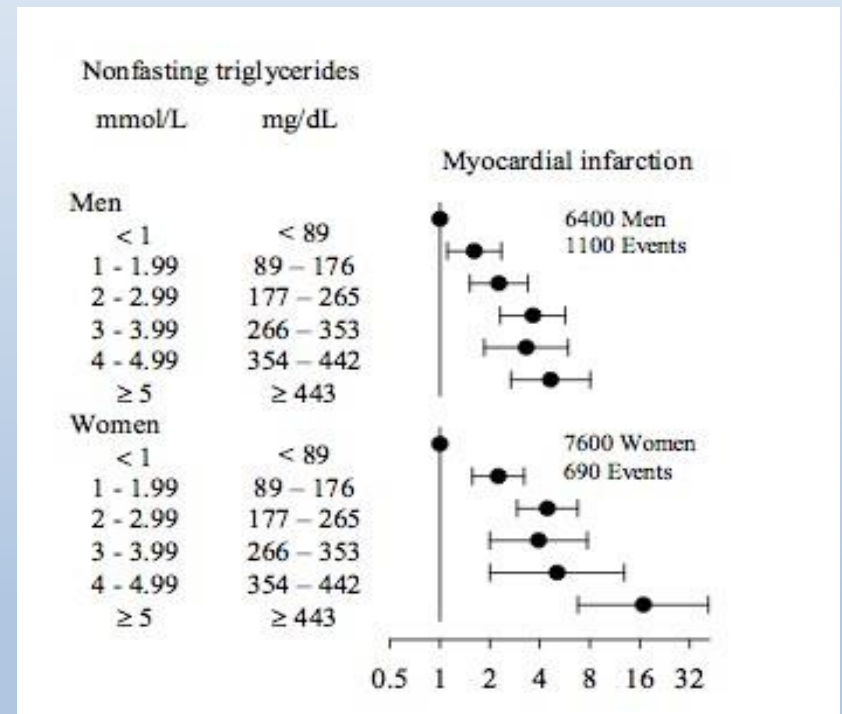
# Are Triglycerides associated with Atherogenesis?

## Epidemiological evidence: TG associated with CV-risk

**TGs association with CV-risk**  
**10.158 Cases in 262.525 subjects**



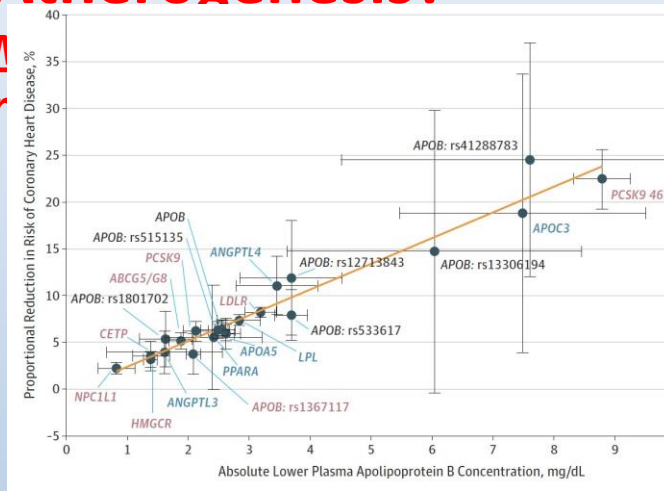
**non-fasting TGs associate with CV-risk**  
**in both men and women**





# Are Triglycerides a 'causal' factor in Atherogenesis?

↑  
r



↑  
r: TRL-C (particle number)

Clinical benefit of LDL-C or TG/TRL-C lowering is proportional to the reduction in the number of atherogenic particles, i.e. apoB reduction

Table 3. Multivariable Mendelian Randomization Analysis of the Association Between Plasma Triglycerides, LDL-C, and ApoB With the Risk of CHD<sup>a</sup>

Analysis	Variables	Odds Ratio for CHD (95% CI)	P Value
Association of 10-mg/dL lower ApoB with risk of CHD	ApoB	0.770 (0.760-0.781)	1.42E-170
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C with risk of CHD	LDL-C	0.846 (0.833-0.858)	8.16E-77
Association of 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides with risk of CHD	Triglycerides	0.815 (0.785-0.846)	1.37E-18
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C and 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides with risk of CHD included in same model	LDL-C	0.862 (0.849-0.875)	6.92E-65
	Triglycerides	0.876 (0.850-0.902)	1.36E-14
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C, 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides, and 10-mg/dL lower ApoB with risk of CHD included in same model	ApoB	0.761 (0.723-0.798)	7.51E-20
	LDL-C	1.010 (0.967-1.055)	.19
	Triglycerides	1.014 (0.965-1.065)	.19

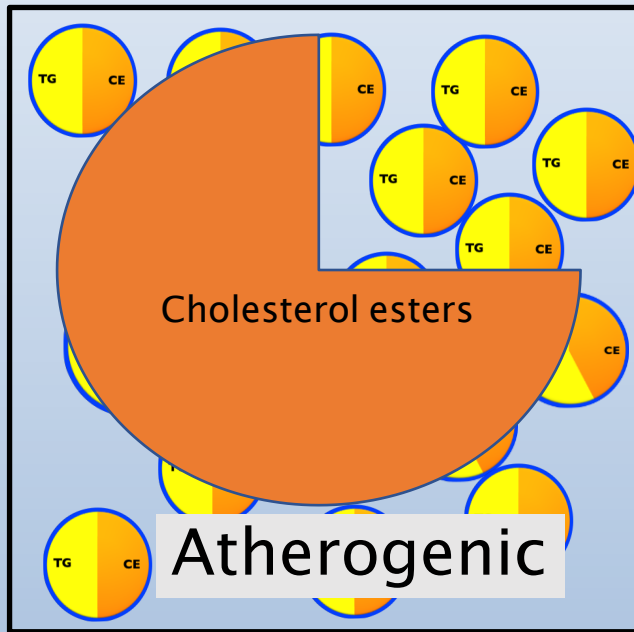
Varbo, Circ 2013; Jorgenson, NEJM 2014; TG working group, NEJM 2014  
 Cardiogram consortium, NEJM 2016; Helgadottir, Nature genetics 2016  
 Dewey, NEJM 2016; Dewey, NEJM 2017; .....

Ference, JAMA 2019

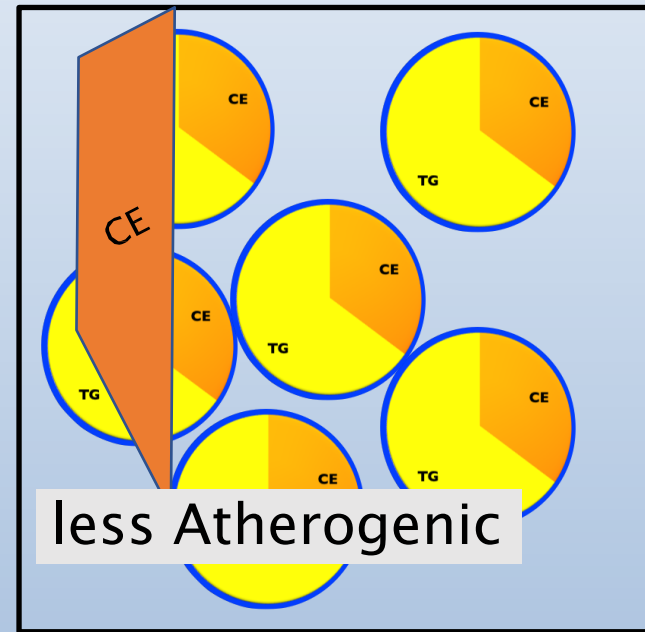


# But. what is high Triglycerides? *a mixed bag*

TG 4.5 mmol/l (405 mg/dL)



High apo B 1350mg/l



Low apo B 870 mg/l

# Triglyceride-rich particles 'drive' atherogenic risk

	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	231	6.0
HDL-C	37	0,97
LDL-C	126	3.27

*VLDL*

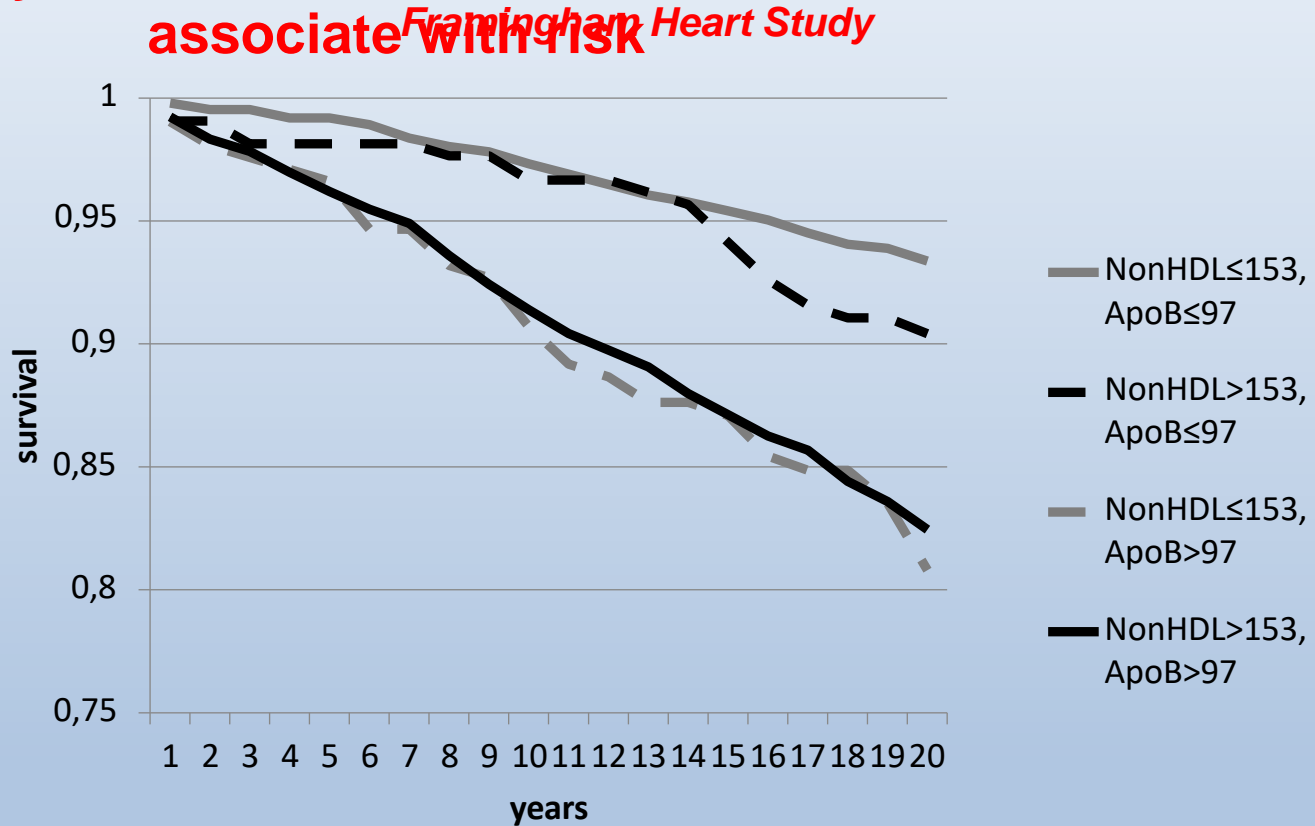
	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	308	8.0
TG	835	5.95
HDL-C		1,05
Non-HDL-c	268	6,95
LDL-C	nm	nm
apoB	140	1.4 g/l

*VLDL and LDL*

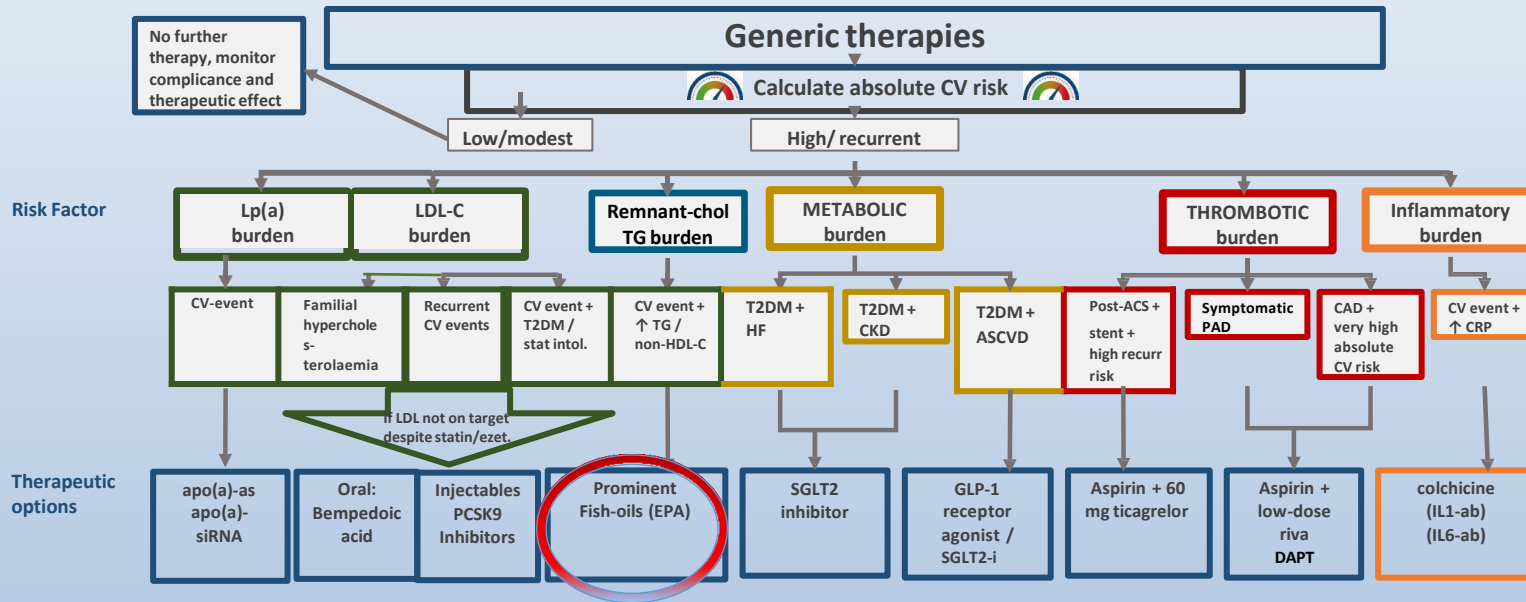
	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	316	8,2
TG	874	11,0
HDL-C		0,60
Non-HDL-c	295	7,6
LDL-C	nm	nm
apoB	100	1,0 g/l

*VLDL + chylomicrons*

**And we have known this for decades:  
Only an increased 'number' of TRLs  
associate with risk**



# Does 'TG'-lowering reduce residual CV-risk?



# PROMINENT:

## *Pemafibrate in high-risk hypertriglyceridemic DM-II patients*

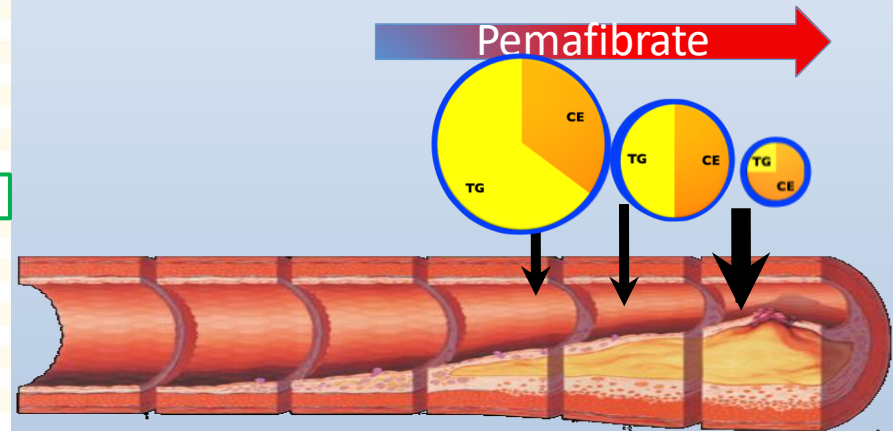
Variable	Pemafibrate (N=5240)	Placebo (N=5257)	Treatment Effect†
	Median Value (IQR)		Mean % Change (95% CI)
<b>Triglyceride-related biomarkers</b>			
Triglyceride level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	273 (224 to 342)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	189 (138 to 253)		
Median change from baseline — %	-31.1 (-48.9 to -9.6)	-6.9 (-28.4 to 20.2)	-26.2 (-28.4 to -24.10)
VLDL cholesterol level, calculated — mg/dl‡			
Baseline — mg/dl	49 (39 to 63)	49 (39 to 62)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	31 (23 to 42)	43 (32 to 59)	
Median change from baseline — %	-35.0 (-54.1 to -11.5)	-10.5 (-33.3 to 17.4)	-25.8 (-27.8 to -23.9)
Remnant cholesterol level, calculated§			
Baseline — mg/dl	47 (38 to 60)	47 (37 to 59)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	32 (24 to 42)	39 (29 to 52)	
Median change from baseline — %	-31.3 (-49.1 to -8.2)	-15.6 (-36.8 to 10.8)	-18.2 (-20.3 to -16.1)
Remnant cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	56 (43 to 73)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	30 (23 to 41)		
Median change from baseline — %	-43.6 (-57.8 to -24.1)	-20.2 (-38.3 to 3.8)	-25.6 (-27.3 to -24.0)
Apolipoprotein C-III level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	15 (13 to 19)	15 (13 to 18)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	11 (9 to 14)	15 (12 to 19)	
Median change from baseline — %	-27.8 (-43.8 to -9.1)	0.0 (-18.8 to 18.8)	-27.6 (-29.1 to -26.1)
<b>Other lipid biomarkers</b>			
Total cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	161 (139 to 193)	161 (137 to 191)	
4 mo — mg/dl	162 (138 to 190)	158 (134 to 190)	
Median change from baseline — %	-0.5 (-12.2 to 13.2)	-1.2 (-12.1 to 11.0)	0.8 (-0.1 to 1.6)
HDL cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	33 (29 to 37)	33 (29 to 37)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	36 (30 to 42)	34 (30 to 39)	
Median change from baseline — %	8.3 (-5.3 to 25.0)	3.1 (-7.4 to 15.6)	5.1 (4.2 to 6.1)
LDL cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	79 (60 to 104)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	91 (71 to 115)		
Median change from baseline — %	14.0 (-6.3 to 41.4)	2.9 (-13.5 to 24.6)	12.3 (10.7 to 14.0)
Apolipoprotein B level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	90 (75 to 108)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	93 (77 to 111)		
Median change from baseline — %	3.2 (-12.0 to 19.7)	-1.6 (-13.4 to 11.8)	4.8 (3.8 to 5.8)

84 mg/dl TG decrease

26 mg/dl RC decrease

12 mg/dl LDL-C increase

3 mg/dl apoB increase



## Fibrates: Enhancing TG-metabolism?

### TG lowering in absence of TRL-reduction not beneficial

Effect Pemafibrate	%change compared to placebo	Abs. difference Vs placebo
TG change	-26.2 %	- 69 mg/dl
Remnant chol	-25.6 %	- 12 mg/dl
LDLc	+12.3 %	+ 10 mg/dl
apoB	+ 4.8 %	+ 5 mg/dl

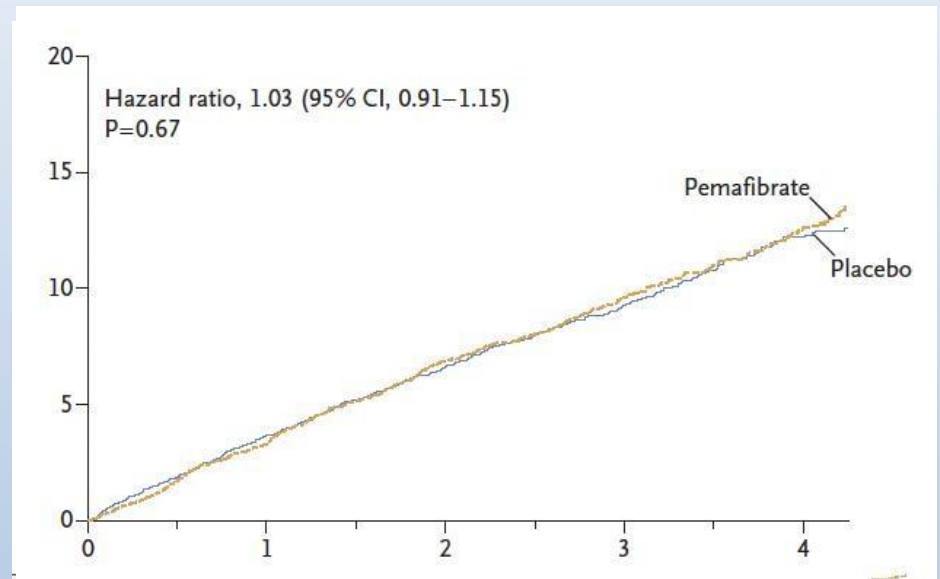


Figure 1. Cumulative Incidence of Cardiovascular Events.

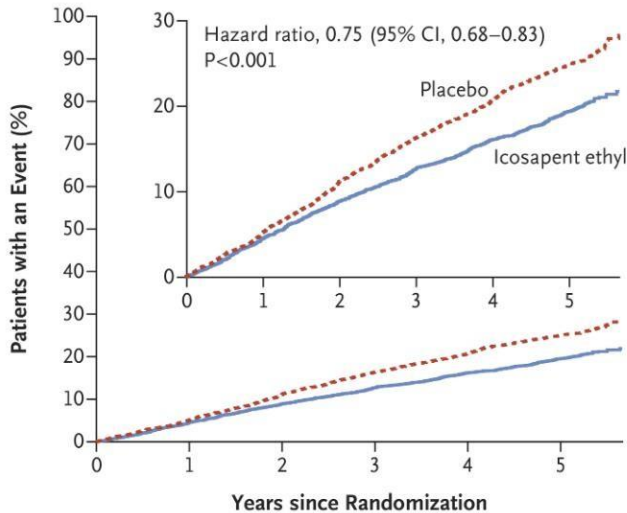
Shown are Kaplan–Meier event curves for the primary trial end point of myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, coronary revascularization, or death from cardiovascular causes. The inset shows the same data on an expanded y axis.

**Fibrate** does not ‘remove’ Triglyceride-rich particles

It shifts atherogenic particles towards other atherogenic particles

# REDUCE-IT: Icosapent-ethyl in hyperTG-patients

## *Benefit 'independent' of TG-effect?*



TOTAL EVENTS – Primary Composite Endpoint/Subgroup	Icosapent Ethyl Rate per 1000 Patient Years	Placebo Rate per 1000 Patient Years	RR (95% CI)	P-value
Primary Composite Endpoint (ITT)	61.1	88.8	0.70 (0.62–0.78)	<0.0001
Baseline Triglycerides by Tertiles*				
≥81 to ≤190 mg/dL	56.4	74.5	0.74 (0.61–0.90)	0.0025
>190 to ≤250 mg/dL	63.2	86.8	0.77 (0.63–0.95)	0.0120
>250 to ≤1401 mg/dL	64.4	107.4	0.60 (0.50–0.73)	<0.0001

\*P (interaction) = 0.11

0.2 0.6 1.0 1.4 1.8

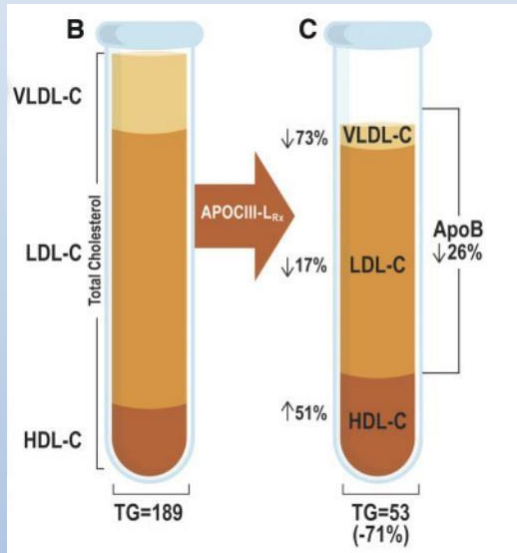
Icosapent Ethyl Better | Placebo Better

TG-reduction: 39 mg/dl (*pemafibrate: -84mg/dl*)

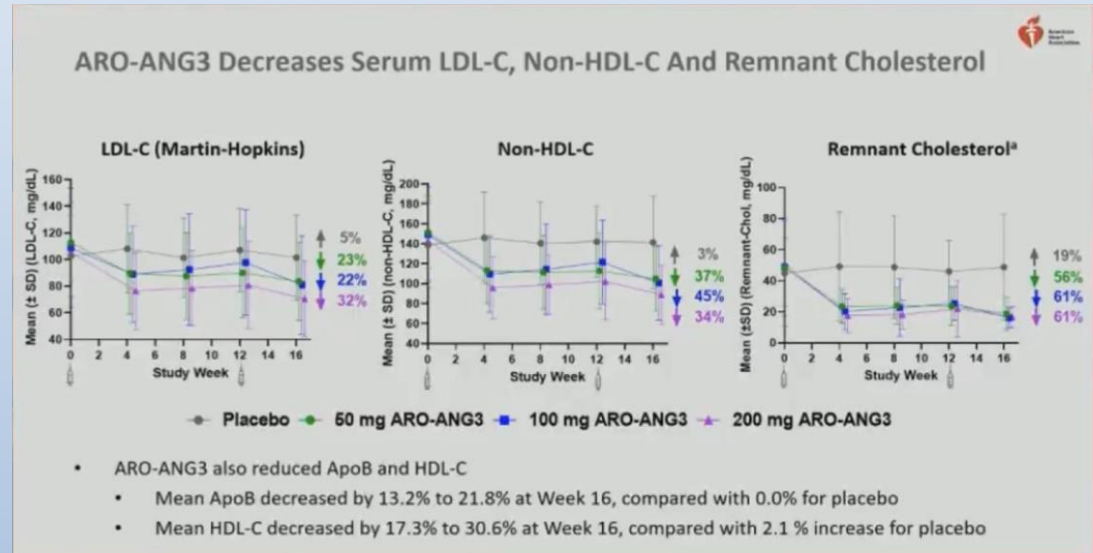
**Icosapent ethyl** is not a TG-lowering drug,  
Mechanism of benefit? Prof G Steg

# Benefit of TLR-lowering on CVD needs to be tested using TRL-lowering therapies

*apoCIII antisense therapy*



*ANGPTL3 siRNA therapy*





## **Summary: Challenges in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease reduction and Triglyceride-related risk**

- **TG reduction should not be used as target** for CVD-reduction
- **Triglyceride-rich lipoprotein (TRL) reduction**, i.e. reduction apoB + TG, **best surrogate** for CVD-reduction
- **Beta-lipoprotein reduction, comprising LDLc + TRL-C, is best target**

# ONGOING THERAPY AND MONITORING WITH LIPID PANEL

- In adults not taking statins or other lipid-lowering therapy, it is reasonable to obtain a lipid profile at the time of diabetes diagnosis, at an initial medical evaluation, and every 5 years thereafter if under the age of 40 years, or more frequently if indicated. **E**
- Obtain a lipid profile at initiation of statins or other lipid lowering therapy, 4–12 weeks after initiation or a change in dose, and annually thereafter as it may help to monitor the response to therapy and inform medication adherence. **E**



# STATIN TREATMENT PRIMARY PREVENTION



- For patients with diabetes aged 40–75 years without ASCVD, use moderate-intensity statin in addition to lifestyle therapy. **A**
- For patients with diabetes aged 20–39 years with additional ASCVD risk factors, it may be reasonable to initiate statin in addition to lifestyle therapy. **C**
- In patients with diabetes at higher risk, especially those with multiple ASCVD risk factors or aged 50–70 years, it is reasonable to use high-intensity statin. **B**
- In adults with diabetes and 10-year ASCVD risk of 20% or higher (equivalent documented ASCVD), it may be reasonable to add ezetimibe to maximally tolerated statin to reduce LDL levels by 50% or more. **C**

# PRIMARY PREVENTION (PTS WITHOUT ASCVD)

- The evidence is lower for aged >75 years; relatively few older patients with diabetes have been enrolled in primary prevention trials. However, heterogeneity by age has not been seen in the relative benefit of lipid-lowering therapy in trials that included older participants ,and because older age confers higher risk, the absolute benefits are actually greater .

Moderate-intensity statin therapy is recommended in patients with diabetes who are 75 years or older. However, the risk-benefit profile should be routinely evaluated in this population, with downward titration of dose performed as needed.



# AGE <40 YEARS AND/OR TYPE 1 DIABETES

- Very little clinical trial evidence exists for patients with DM2 under 40 years or DM1 of any age.
- Patients below the 40y have lower risk of developing a cardiovascular event over a 10-year horizon; however, their lifetime risk of developing CVD and suffering an MI, stroke, or cardiovascular death is high. For patients who are **younger than 40** years of age and/or have type 1 diabetes with other ASCVD risk factors, it is recommended that the patient and health care provider discuss the relative benefits and risks and consider the use of moderate-intensity statin therapy



# SECONDARY PREVENTION

- For patients of all ages with diabetes and ASCVD, high-intensity statin should be added to lifestyle therapy. **A**
- (based on the Cholesterol Treatment Trialists' Collaboration involving 26 statin trials, of which 5 compared high-intensity versus moderate-intensity statins. Together, they found reductions in nonfatal cardiovascular events with more intensive therapy, in patients with and without diabetes .)
- For patients with diabetes and ASCVD considered very high risk using specific criteria, if LDL is  $\geq 70$  mg/dL on maximally tolerated statin dose, consider additional LDL-lowering therapy (ezetimibe or PCSK9 inhibitor). **A** Ezetimibe may be preferred due to lower cost.
- following a clinician patient discussion about the net benefit, safety, and cost.
- (Definition of very high-risk patients with ASCVD = (major ASCVD events & high-risk conditions)
- For patients who do not tolerate the intended intensity, the maximally tolerated statin dose should be used. **E**
- In adults with diabetes aged  $\geq 75$  years already on statin therapy, it is reasonable to continue statin. **B**
- In adults with diabetes aged  $>75$  years, it may be reasonable to initiate statin therapy after discussion of potential benefits and risks. **C**
- Statin is contraindicated in pregnancy. **B**





- Combination Therapy for LDL Lowering Statins and Ezetimibe The IMPROVE-IT was a randomized controlled trial in 18,144 patients comparing the addition of ezetimibe to simvastatin therapy versus simvastatin alone. Individuals were >50 years of age, had experienced a recent ACS, and were treated for an average of 6 years.
- Overall, the addition of ezetimibe led to a 6.4% relative benefit and a 2% absolute reduction in major adverse cardiovascular events, with the degree of benefit being directly proportional to the change in LDL, which was 70 mg/dL in the statin group on average and 54 mg/dL in the combination group .In those with diabetes (27% of participants), the combination of moderate-intensity simvastatin (40 mg) and ezetimibe (10 mg) showed a significant reduction of major adverse cardiovascular events with an absolute risk reduction of 5% (40% vs. 45% cumulative incidence at 7 years) and a relative risk reduction of 14% over moderate-intensity simvastatin (40 mg) alone

## INITIATING STATIN BASED ON RISK



statins are the drugs of choice for LDL lowering and cardioprotection.

two statin dosing are recommended for clinical practice: high-intensity approximately a >50% reduction in LDL, and moderate-intensity statin 30–49% reductions in LDL.

**Low-dose statin therapy is generally not recommended in pts with diabetes but is sometimes the only dose of statin that tolerate.**

**Table 10.2—High-intensity and moderate-intensity statin therapy\***

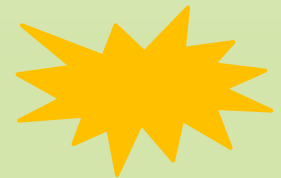
High-intensity statin therapy (lowers LDL cholesterol by $\geq 50\%$ )	Moderate-intensity statin therapy (lowers LDL cholesterol by 30–49%)
Atorvastatin 40–80 mg	Atorvastatin 10–20 mg
Rosuvastatin 20–40 mg	Rosuvastatin 5–10 mg
	Simvastatin 20–40 mg
	Pravastatin 40–80 mg
	Lovastatin 40 mg
	Fluvastatin XL 80 mg
	Pitavastatin 1–4 mg

\*Once-daily dosing. XL, extended release.



# TREATMENT OF OTHER LIPOPROTEIN FRACTIONS OR TARGETS

- For patients with fasting TG > 500 mg/dL, evaluate for secondary causes of hyper TG and consider medical therapy to reduce the risk of pancreatitis. **C**
- In adults with **moderate** hyper TG (TG **175–499** mg/dL), clinicians should address and treat lifestyle factors (obesity and metabolic syndrome), secondary factors (diabetes, chronic liver or kidney disease and/or nephrotic syndrome, hypothyroidism), and medications that raise triglycerides. **C**
- In patients with ASCVD or other CV risk factors on a statin with controlled LDL but elevated triglycerides (135–499 mg/dL), the addition of **icosapent ethyl** can be considered to reduce CV risk. **A**



# OTHER COMBINATION THERAPY

- Statin plus fibrate combination therapy has not been shown to improve ASCVD outcomes and is generally not recommended. **A**
- **A prospective trial of a newer fibrate in this specific population of patients is ongoing**
- Statin plus niacin combination therapy has not been shown to provide additional CV benefit above statin therapy alone, may increase the risk of stroke with additional side effects, and is generally not recommended. **A**



# LIPID-LOWERING AGENTS AND COGNITIVE FUNCTION



- Potential adverse impact of lipid-lowering agents on cognitive function have been raised

several lines of evidence point against this association, as detailed in a 2018 European Atherosclerosis Society Consensus Panel statement :

- 1-First, there are three large randomized trials of statin versus placebo where specific cognitive tests were performed, and no differences were seen between statin and placebo .
- 2-In addition, no change in cognitive function has been reported in studies with the addition of ezetimibe or PCSK9 inhibitors to statin therapy.
- 3-In addition, the most recent systematic review of the U.S. FDA's post marketing surveillance databases, randomized controlled trials, and cohort, case-control, and cross-sectional studies evaluating cognition in patients receiving statins found that published data **do not reveal an adverse effect of statins on cognition** .
- Therefore, a concern that statins or other lipid-lowering agents might cause cognitive dysfunction or dementia is not currently supported by evidence and should not deter their use in individuals with diabetes at high risk for ASCVD

# MORE AGGRESSIVE LIPID LOWERING IN PEOPLE WITH DIABETES?

There is ongoing debate as to whether aggressive LDL cholesterol-lowering therapy, as opposed to comprehensive lipid management addressing the hypertriglyceridaemia and low HDL cholesterol, is the optimal approach to reduce atherosclerotic cardiovascular risk in people with diabetes.



- The focus on **large statin outcome trials**: the reduction in major cardiovascular events is independent of the baseline LDL.
- Despite high-intensity statin therapy, residual cardiovascular risk remains and further lowering of LDL might be of value.
- benefit with the addition of ezetimibe benefit was seen in the **IMPROVE-IT** trial. Notably, despite only a small further reduction in LDL (0.43 mmol/L) with ezetimibe, cardiovascular benefit was apparent.

- In The **Lancet Diabetes & Endocrinology**, of a **prespecified secondary analysis of the ODYSSEY OUTCOMES** of the PCSK9 inhibitor alirocumab: assessing cardiovascular outcomes in participants with and without diabetes at baseline and exploring the drug's effects on glycaemia and diabetes risk among those without diabetes at baseline.
- LDL cholesterol concentration was lowered to a median of **0.8** mmol/L with alirocumab by 4 months.
- After almost 3 years of median follow-up, the relative risk reduction for the primary endpoint was similar across glycaemic categories, but with greater absolute risk reduction in those with diabetes (–2.3%) compared with those with prediabetes or normoglycaemia at baseline (both –1.2%).
- 
- This finding is similar to prespecified analysis of the PCSK9 inhibitor evolocumab after the **FOURIER** trial: LDL cholesterol concentration was also lowered to a median of 0.8 mmol/L, with a greater absolute risk reduction in patients with diabetes (2.7%) than in those without diabetes (1.6%).

- In terms of lipid management, should we just be targeting LDL in people with diabetes???
- Newer fibrates are under development and a large cardiovascular outcomes study (**PROMINENT**) is being done to assess whether *pemafibrate* can reduce the risk of CVD in high-risk patients with diabetes.
- In the **REDUCE-IT** trial, the risk of ischaemic events after a median follow-up of 4.9 years was significantly reduced in those receiving **icosapent ethyl**
- The reduction in cardiovascular events could not be explained by the modest reduction in triglyceride concentrations.
- Novel therapies targeting triglyceride synthesis or enhancing triglyceride clearance as well as LDL reduction, such as *bempedoic acid and angiopoietin-like 3 inhibitors*, are also under study.



## Should LDL targets be lowered further in people with diabetes???

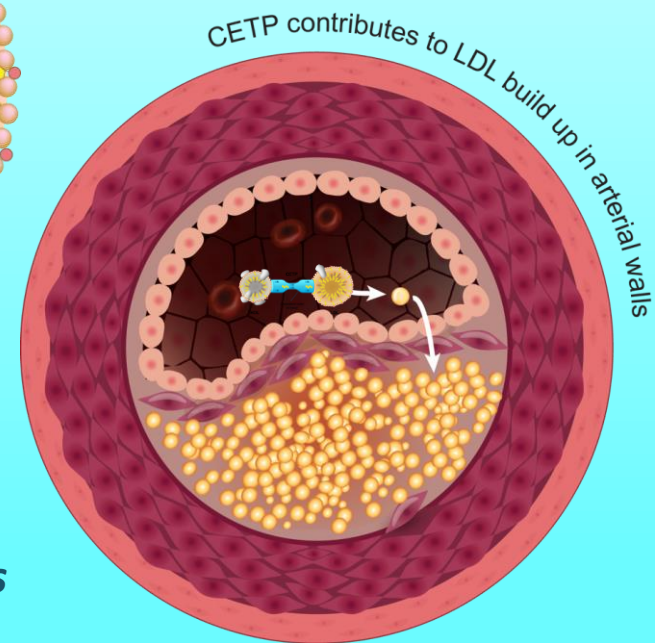
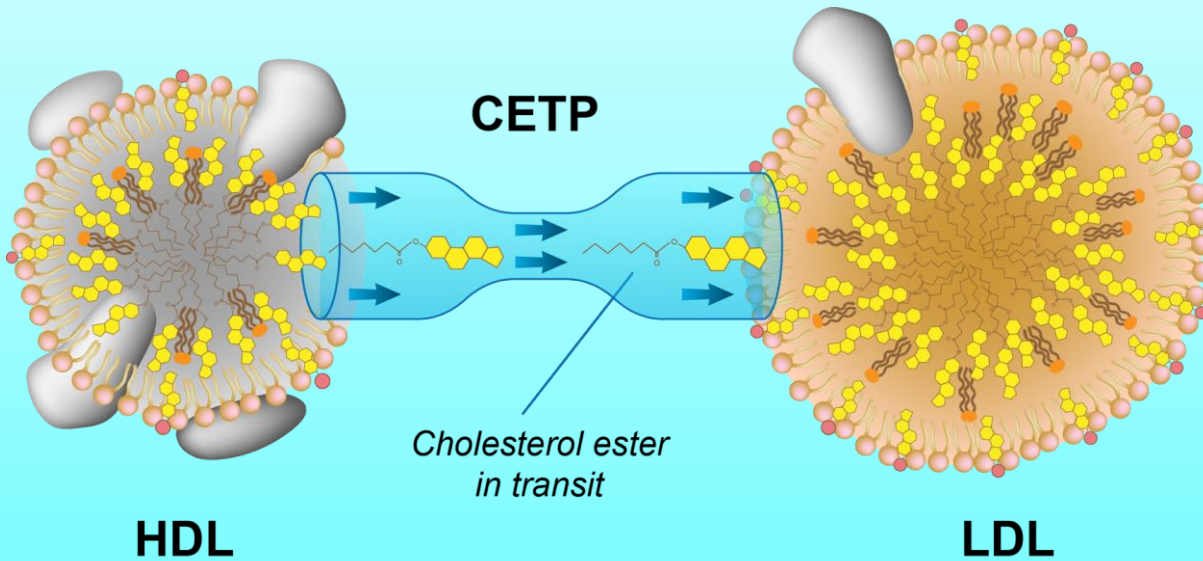
- While we await the results of outcomes studies with these newer agents, we should aim to reduce LDL aggressively in people with diabetes, since their absolute cardiovascular risk is high and there does not seem to be a threshold below which LDL lowering is not associated with further cardiovascular benefit.
- LDL cholesterol lowering is therefore recommended for most, if not all, people with diabetes, especially those with established vascular disease.
- **First-line therapy remains a high-intensity statin with the addition of ezetimibe if necessary.**
- The addition of a **PCSK9 inhibitor should be considered in patients who are intolerant to statins**, those who do not achieve optimal LDL with existing therapy, or in those with progressive atherosclerosis despite this therapy



**THANK YOU...**



## CETP transfers cholesterol esters from HDL to LDL



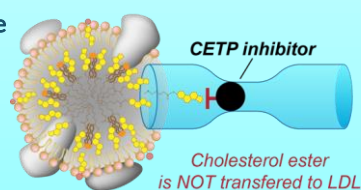
Cholesteryl ester transfer protein (CETP) promotes the transfer of cholesterol esters from *anti-atherogenic HDLs* to *pro-atherogenic LDLs*, causing LDL-C to build up in the walls of arteries

## Biology: CETP inhibition has multiple actions that are beneficial for CHD risk

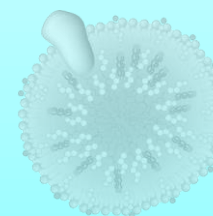
### 1 IN CIRCULATION

CETP inhibition **blocks transportation of cholesterol esters** from HDL > LDL, lowering LDL and increasing HDL

HDL levels rise

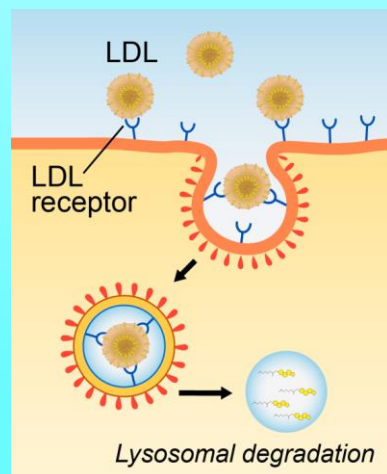


LDL levels drop



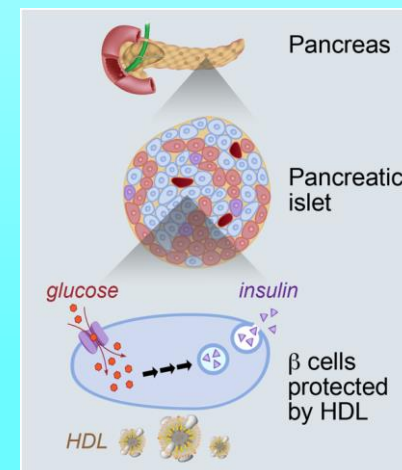
### 2 IN LIVER

CETP inhibition also upregulates LDL catabolism in the liver by causing an **increase in LDL receptors**, resulting in drop in LDL levels in circulation



### 3 IN PANCREAS

CETP inhibition also protects vital pancreatic  $\beta$  cells by increasing small functional HDLs, **supporting islet cell survival** and **increasing insulin production** in the pancreas

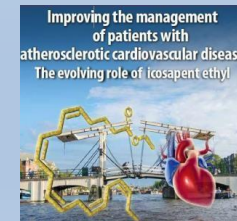


# Challenges in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease reduction and Triglyceride-related risk

Erik Stroes, MD

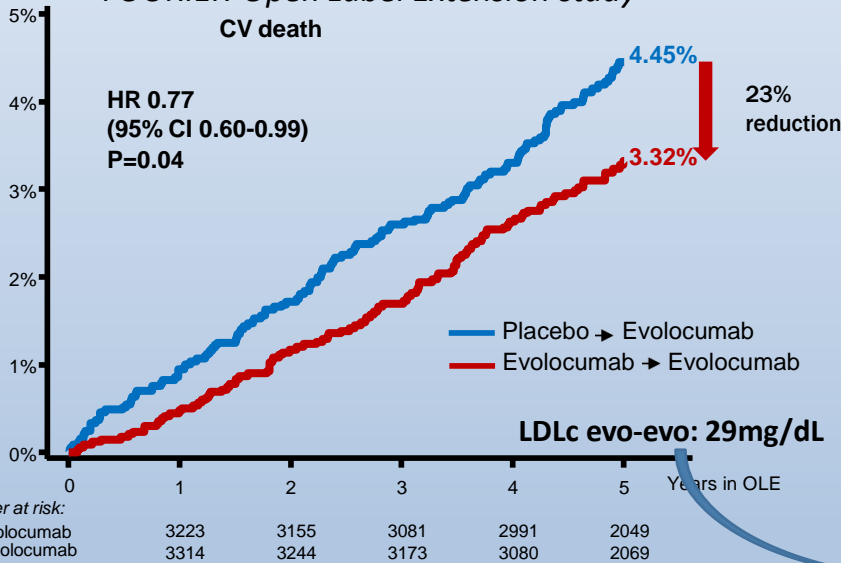
Amsterdam UMC, The Netherlands

Improving the management of patients with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease - The evolving role of icosapent ethyl

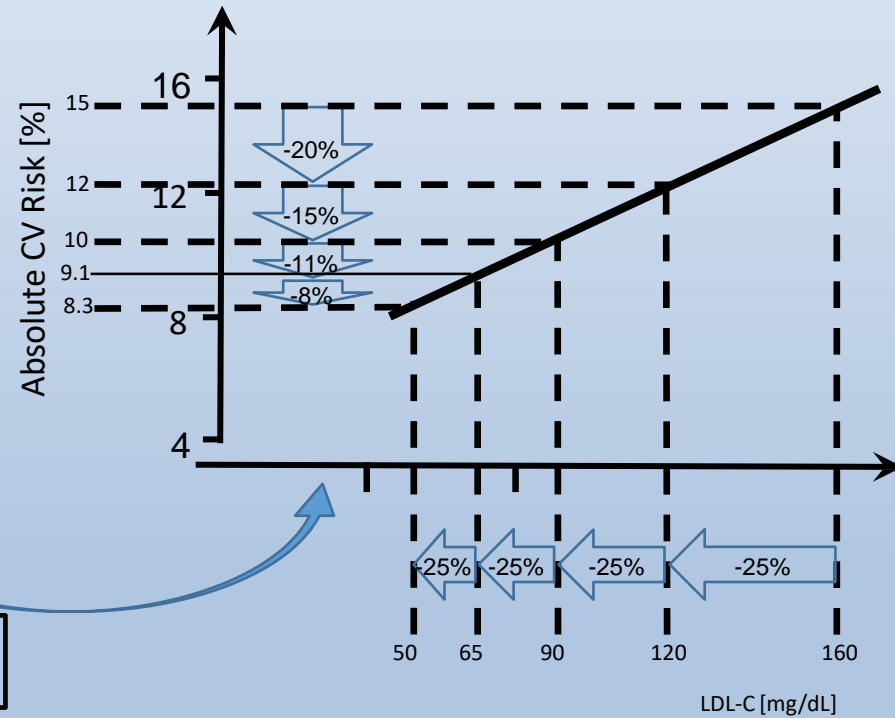


# Residual risk in patients with very-low LDLc levels

Significant benefit with marked residual risk  
FOURIER-Open Label Extension study



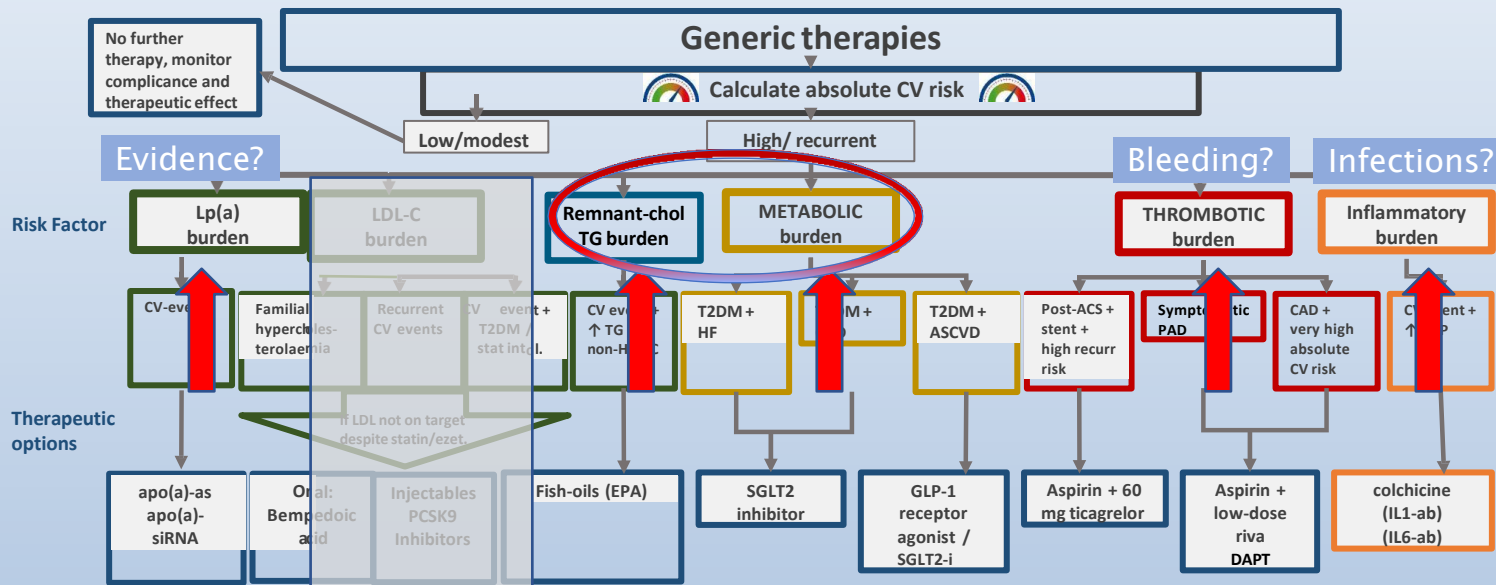
Further LDLc lowering - limited benefit



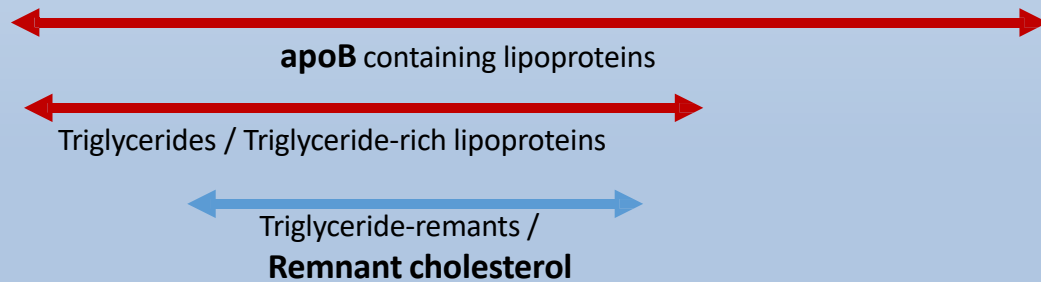
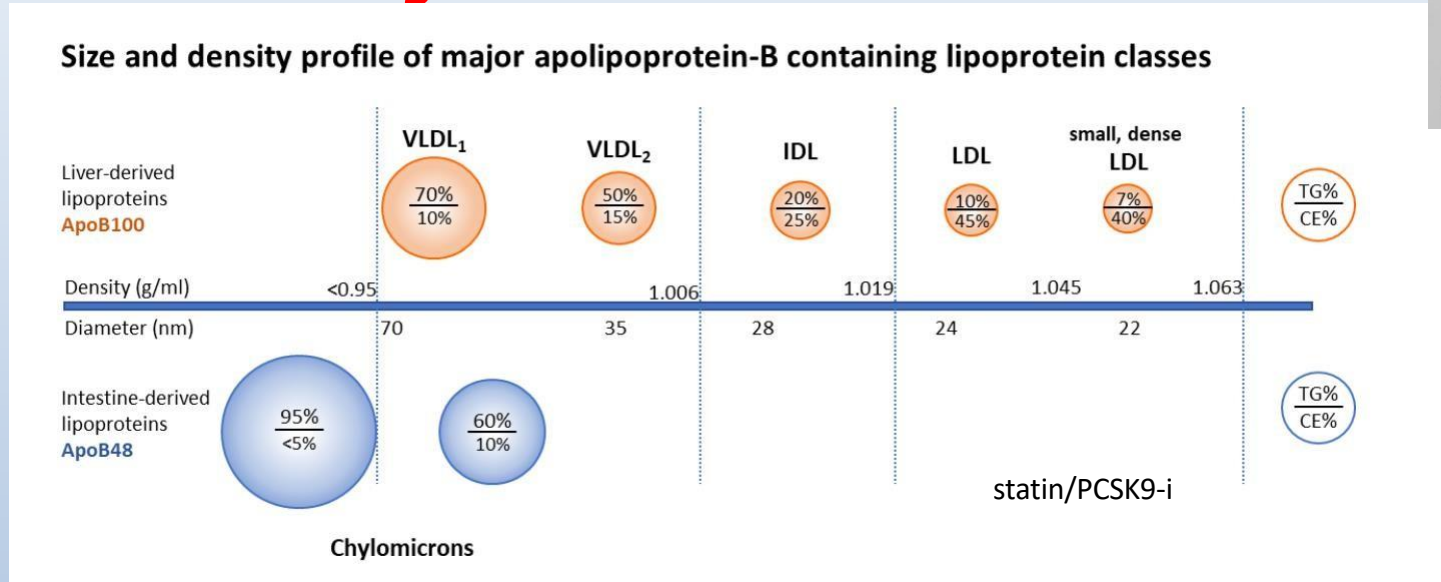
Recurrent CV-event rate in evo-evolocumab : 14.6% /5yr  
Recurrent CV-event rate in placebo-evolocumab: 16.8% /5yr



# Other pillars 'contributing' to atherogenesis



# When cardiologist talk about high TGs . TGs are 'heterogeneous'

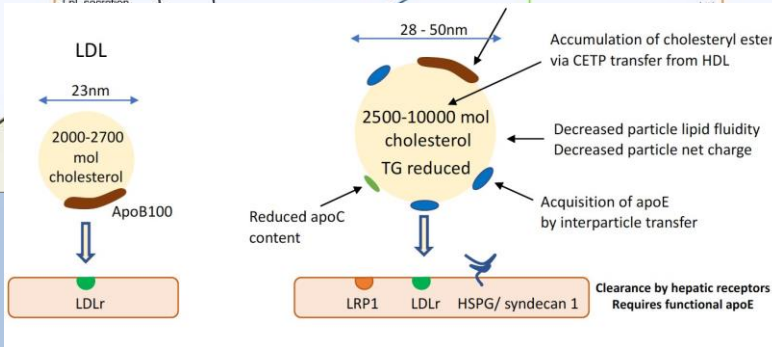
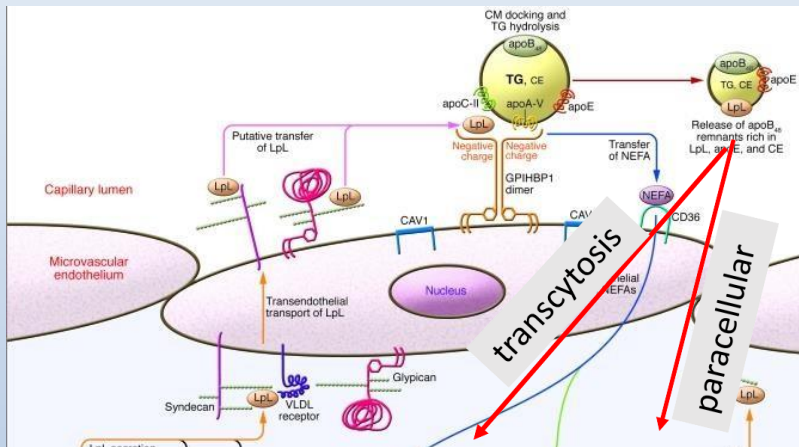


# Why are Triglyceride-rich particles atherogenic?

**Experimental evidence: direct uptake in the arterial wall**

**Table 1. Labeled Esterified Cholesterol in Plasma and Tissues after Injection of  $^{14}\text{C}$ -Cholesterol-Labeled Chylomicrons and  $^3\text{H}$ -Cholesterol-Labeled  $d < 1.019$  Lipoproteins**

Animal*	Duration (hr)	Mean plasma		Intima-media†		Liver†	
		$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)	$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)	$^{14}\text{C}$ (% of d)	$^3\text{H}$ (% of d)
1	1.4	0.78					
2	1.8	0.61					
3	3.2	0.74					
4	3.3	0.64					
5	3.8	0.53					
6	4.3	0.42					
7	4.4	0.47					



Anitschkow



Chylomicron

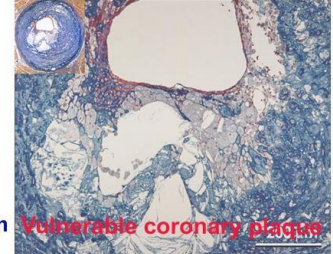
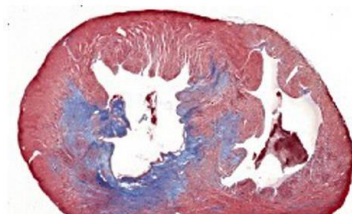


Figure 4. The take of labeled

Atherosclerosis in rabbits

Vulnerable coronary plaques

Yang, Int J Mol Sciences 2018; Hassing, BBA 2012;

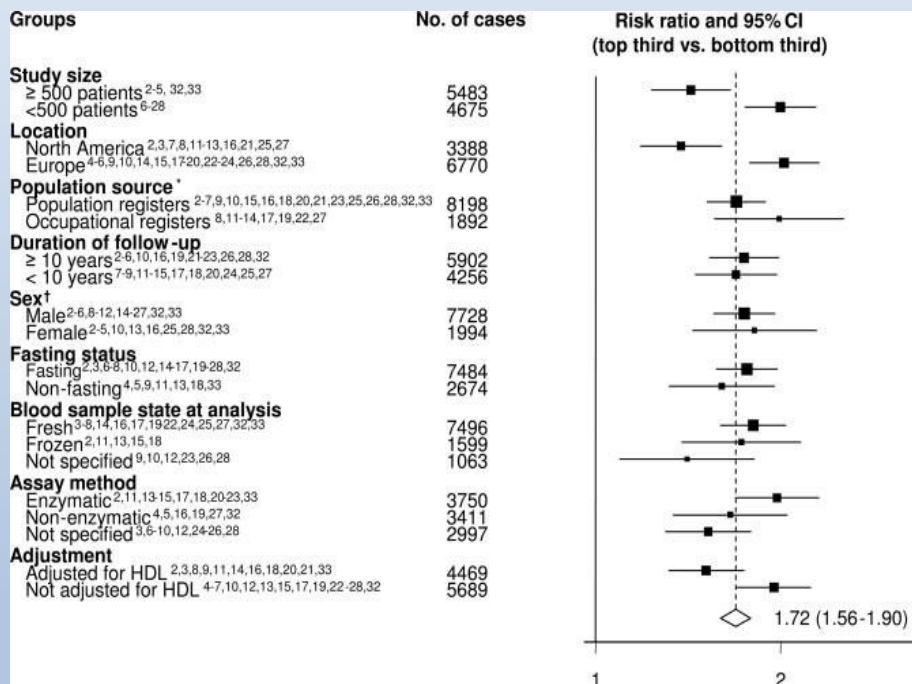
Ginsberg, Eur H J 2022; Steender & Zilversmit, Atherosclerosis 1981



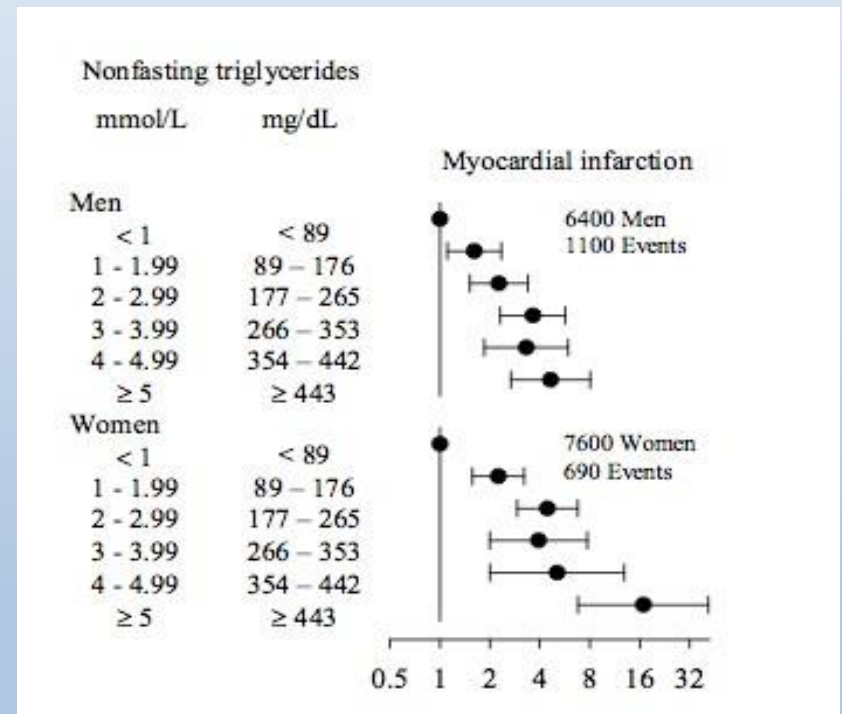
# Are Triglycerides associated with Atherogenesis?

## Epidemiological evidence: TG associated with CV-risk

**TGs association with CV-risk**  
**10.158 Cases in 262.525 subjects**

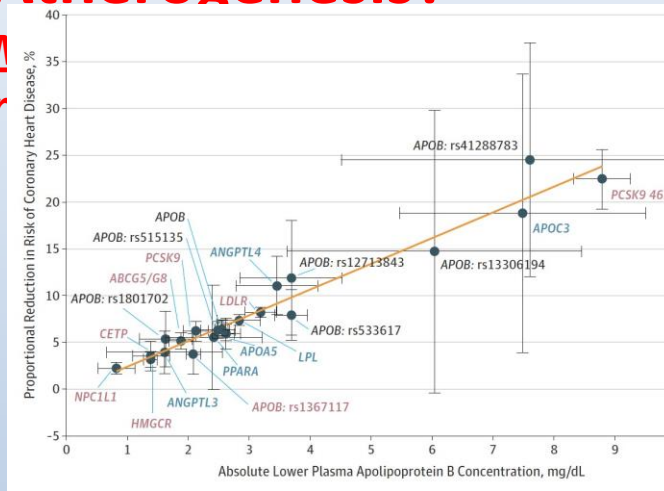


**non-fasting TGs associate with CV-risk**  
**in both men and women**



# Are Triglycerides a 'causal' factor in Atherogenesis?

↑  
r



↑  
r: TRL-C (particle number)

Clinical benefit of LDL-C or TG/TRL-C lowering is proportional to the reduction in the number of atherogenic particles, i.e. apoB reduction

Table 3. Multivariable Mendelian Randomization Analysis of the Association Between Plasma Triglycerides, LDL-C, and ApoB With the Risk of CHD<sup>a</sup>

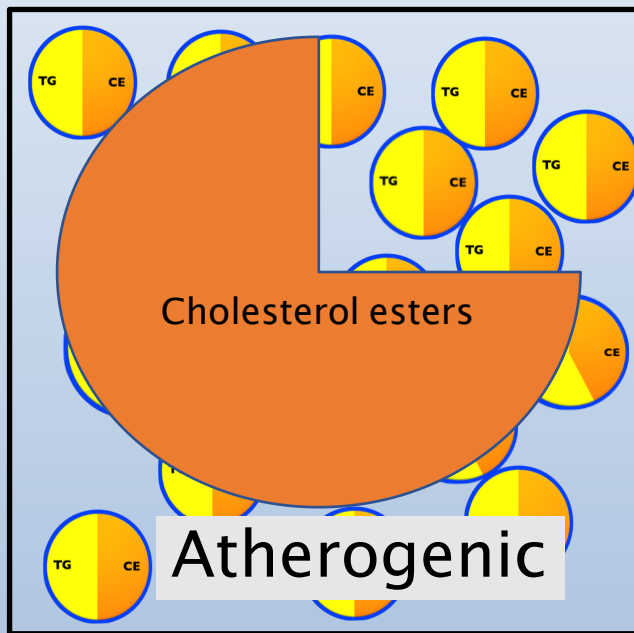
Analysis	Variables	Odds Ratio for CHD (95% CI)	P Value
Association of 10-mg/dL lower ApoB with risk of CHD	ApoB	0.770 (0.760-0.781)	1.42E-170
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C with risk of CHD	LDL-C	0.846 (0.833-0.858)	8.16E-77
Association of 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides with risk of CHD	Triglycerides	0.815 (0.785-0.846)	1.37E-18
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C and 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides with risk of CHD included in same model	LDL-C	0.862 (0.849-0.875)	6.92E-65
	Triglycerides	0.876 (0.850-0.902)	1.36E-14
Association of 10-mg/dL lower LDL-C, 50-mg/dL lower triglycerides, and 10-mg/dL lower ApoB with risk of CHD included in same model	ApoB	0.761 (0.723-0.798)	7.51E-20
	LDL-C	1.010 (0.967-1.055)	.19
	Triglycerides	1.014 (0.965-1.065)	.19

Varbo, Circ 2013; Jorgenson, NEJM 2014; TG working group, NEJM 2014  
 Cardiogram consortium, NEJM 2016; Helgadottir, Nature genetics 2016  
 Dewey, NEJM 2016; Dewey, NEJM 2017; .....

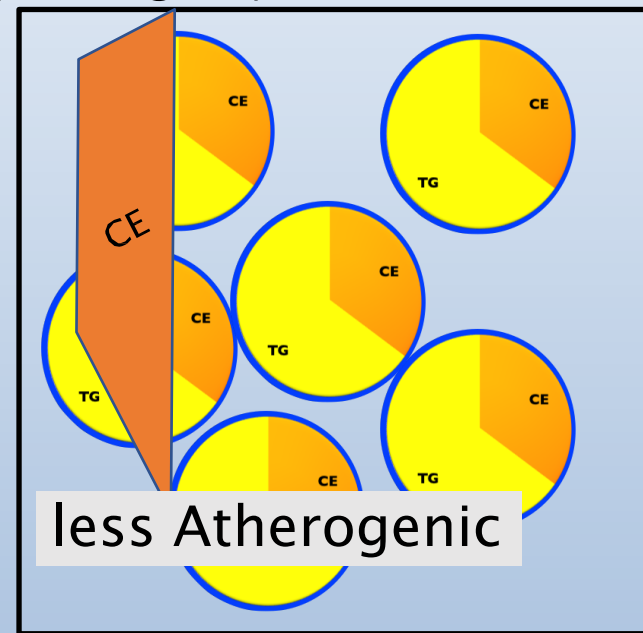
Ference, JAMA 2019

# But. what is high Triglycerides? *a mixed bag*

TG 4.5 mmol/l (405 mg/dL)



High apo B 135mg/dl



Low apo B 87 mg/dl

# Triglyceride-rich particles 'drive' atherogenic risk

	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	231	6.0
HDL-C	37	0,97
LDL-C	126	3.27

*VLDL*

	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	308	8.0
TG	835	5.95
HDL-C		1,05
Non-HDL-c	268	6,95
LDL-C	nm	nm
apoB	140	1.4 g/l

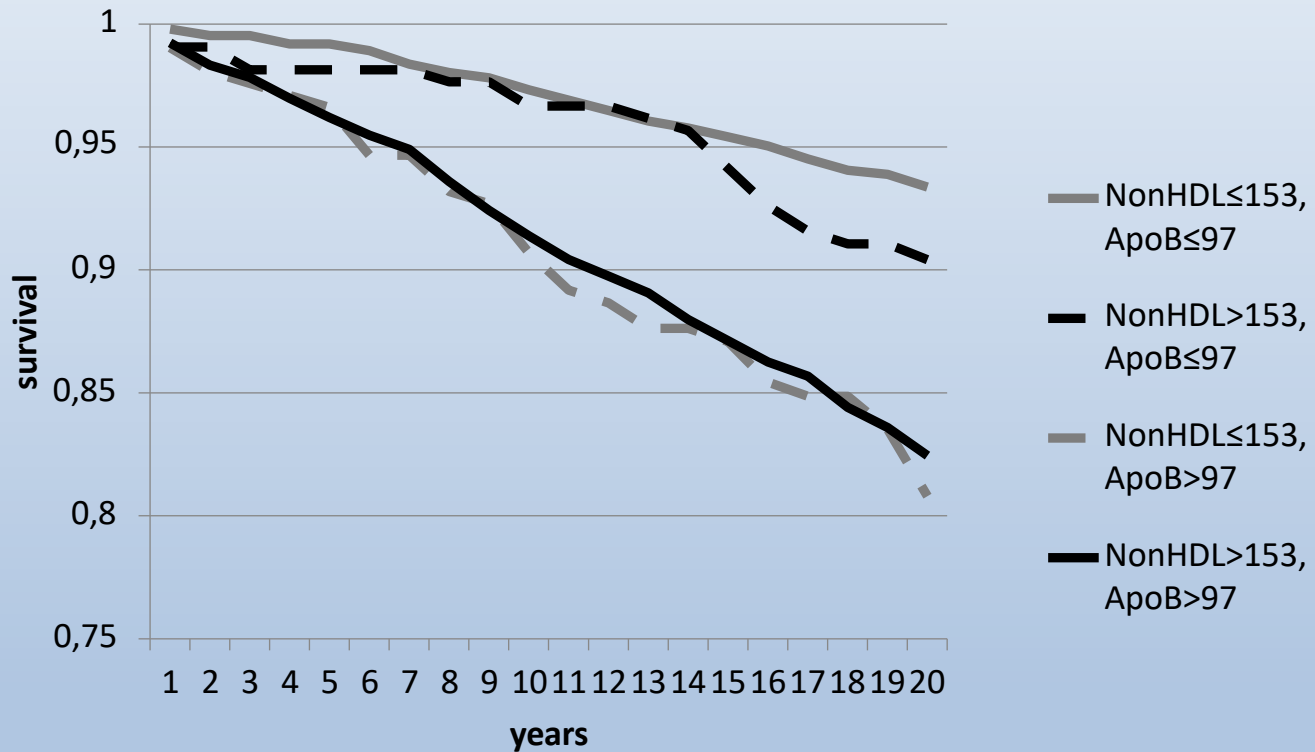
*VLDL and LDL*

	Mg/dl	Mmol/l
TC	316	8,2
TG	874	11,0
HDL-C		0,60
Non-HDL-c	295	7,6
LDL-C	nm	nm
apoB	100	1,0 g/l

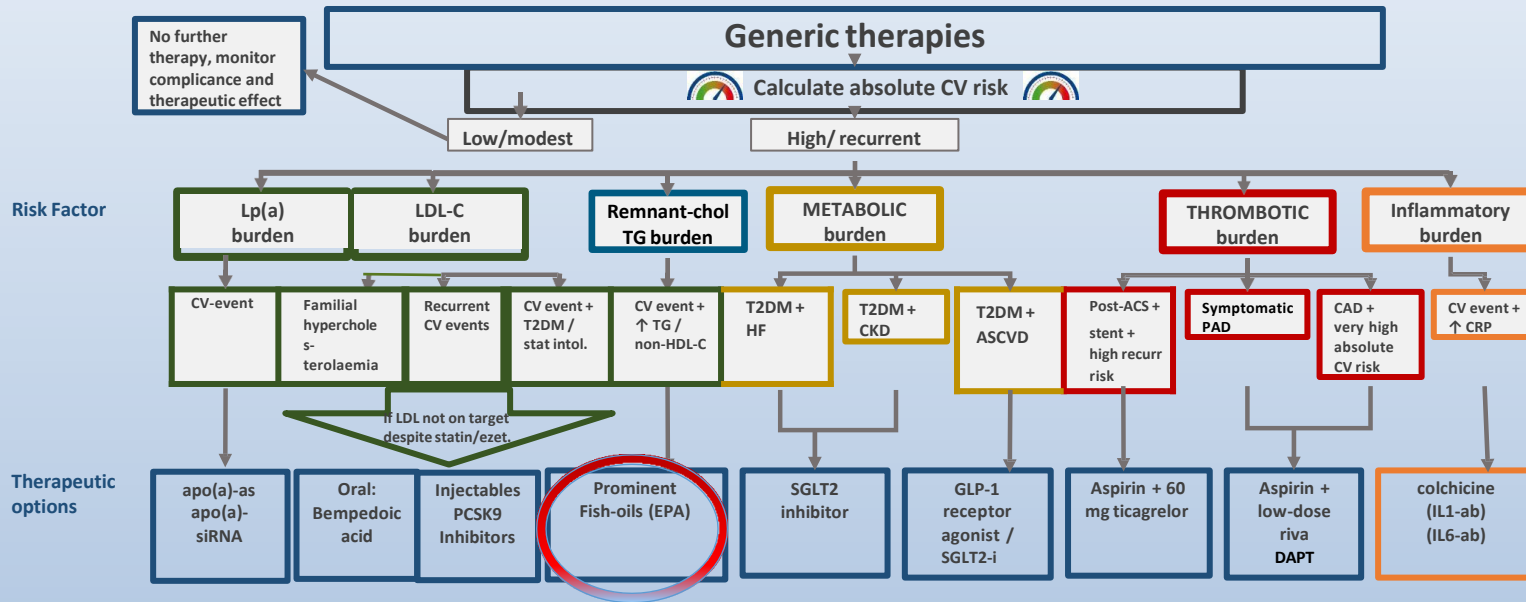
*VLDL + chylomicrons*

# And we have known this for decades: Only an increased 'number' of TRLs associate with risk

## Framingham Heart Study



# Does 'TG'-lowering reduce residual CV-risk?



# PROMINENT:

## *Pemafibrate in high-risk hypertriglyceridemic DM-II patients*

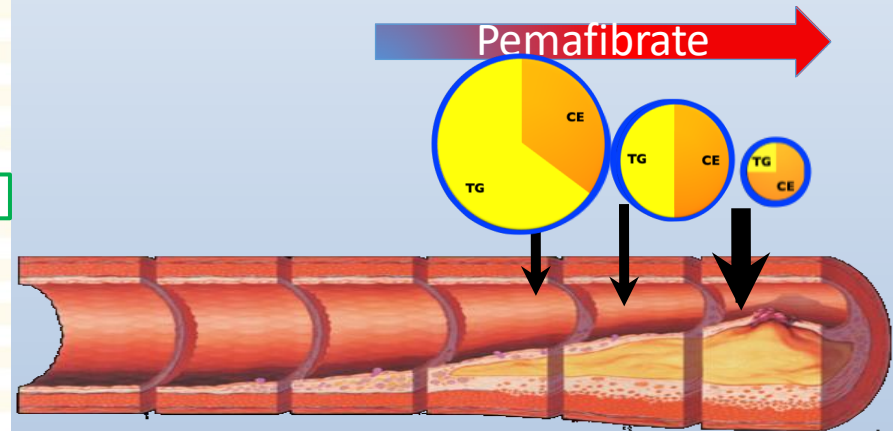
Variable	Pemafibrate (N=5240)	Placebo (N=5257)	Treatment Effect†
	Median Value (IQR)		Mean % Change (95% CI)
<b>Triglyceride-related biomarkers</b>			
Triglyceride level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	273 (224 to 342)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	189 (138 to 253)		
Median change from baseline — %	-31.1 (-48.9 to -9.6)	-6.9 (-28.4 to 20.2)	-26.2 (-28.4 to -24.10)
VLDL cholesterol level, calculated — mg/dl‡			
Baseline — mg/dl	49 (39 to 63)	49 (39 to 62)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	31 (23 to 42)	43 (32 to 59)	
Median change from baseline — %	-35.0 (-54.1 to -11.5)	-10.5 (-33.3 to 17.4)	-25.8 (-27.8 to -23.9)
Remnant cholesterol level, calculated§			
Baseline — mg/dl	47 (38 to 60)	47 (37 to 59)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	32 (24 to 42)	39 (29 to 52)	
Median change from baseline — %	-31.3 (-49.1 to -8.2)	-15.6 (-36.8 to 10.8)	-18.2 (-20.3 to -16.1)
Remnant cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	56 (43 to 73)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	30 (23 to 41)		
Median change from baseline — %	-43.6 (-57.8 to -24.1)	-20.2 (-38.3 to 3.8)	-25.6 (-27.3 to -24.0)
Apolipoprotein C-III level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	15 (13 to 19)	15 (13 to 18)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	11 (9 to 14)	15 (12 to 19)	
Median change from baseline — %	-27.8 (-43.8 to -9.1)	0.0 (-18.8 to 18.8)	-27.6 (-29.1 to -26.1)
<b>Other lipid biomarkers</b>			
Total cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	161 (139 to 193)	161 (137 to 191)	
4 mo — mg/dl	162 (138 to 190)	158 (134 to 190)	
Median change from baseline — %	-0.5 (-12.2 to 13.2)	-1.2 (-12.1 to 11.0)	0.8 (-0.1 to 1.6)
HDL cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	33 (29 to 37)	33 (29 to 37)	
4 Mo — mg/dl	36 (30 to 42)	34 (30 to 39)	
Median change from baseline — %	8.3 (-5.3 to 25.0)	3.1 (-7.4 to 15.6)	5.1 (4.2 to 6.1)
LDL cholesterol level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	79 (60 to 104)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	91 (71 to 115)		
Median change from baseline — %	14.0 (-6.3 to 41.4)	2.9 (-13.5 to 24.6)	12.3 (10.7 to 14.0)
Apolipoprotein B level, measured			
Baseline — mg/dl	90 (75 to 108)		
4 Mo — mg/dl	93 (77 to 111)		
Median change from baseline — %	3.2 (-12.0 to 19.7)	-1.6 (-13.4 to 11.8)	4.8 (3.8 to 5.8)

84 mg/dl TG decrease

26 mg/dl RC decrease

12 mg/dl LDL-C increase

3 mg/dl apoB increase



## Fibrates: Enhancing TG-metabolism?

### TG lowering in absence of TRL-reduction not beneficial

Effect Pemafibrate	%change compared to placebo	Abs. difference Vs placebo
TG change	-26.2 %	- 69 mg/dl
Remnant chol	-25.6 %	- 12 mg/dl
LDLc	+12.3 %	+ 10 mg/dl
apoB	+ 4.8 %	+ 5 mg/dl

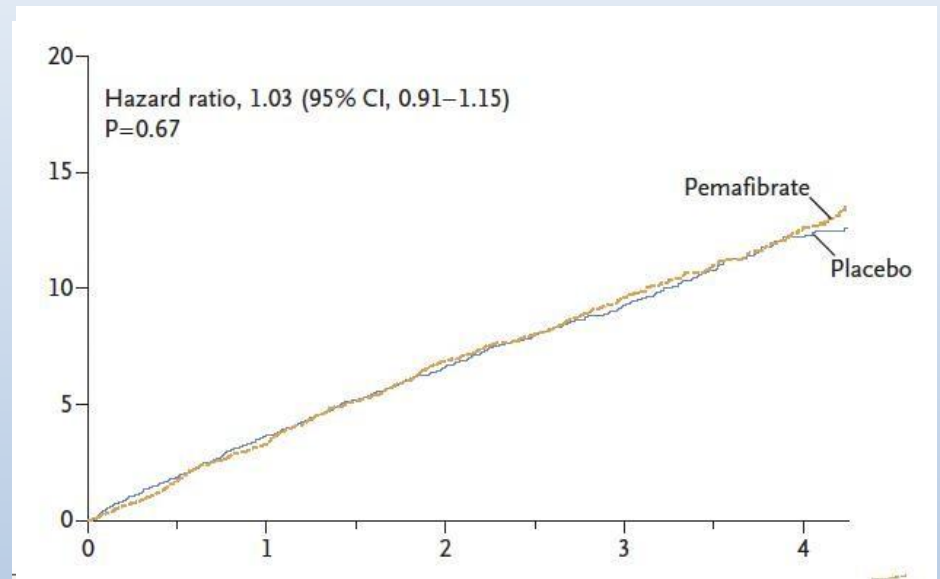


Figure 1. Cumulative Incidence of Cardiovascular Events.

Shown are Kaplan–Meier event curves for the primary trial end point of myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, coronary revascularization, or death from cardiovascular causes. The inset shows the same data on an expanded y axis.

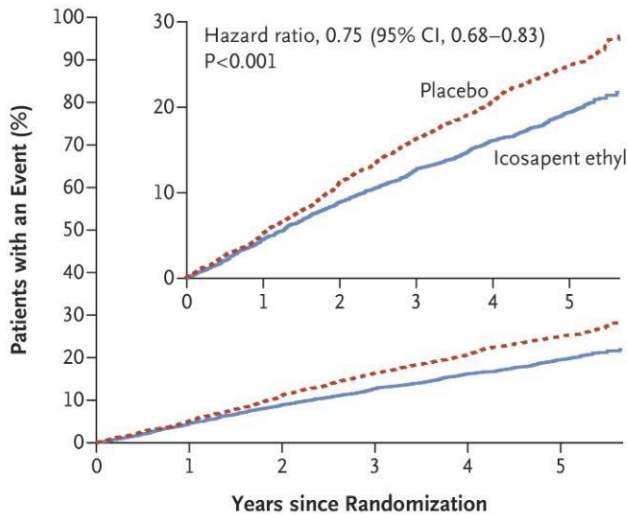
**Fibrate** does not ‘remove’ Triglyceride-rich particles

It shifts atherogenic particles towards other atherogenic particles



# REDUCE-IT: Icosapent-ethyl in hyperTG-patients

## *Benefit 'independent' of TG-effect?*



TOTAL EVENTS – Primary Composite Endpoint/Subgroup	Icosapent Ethyl	Placebo	RR (95% CI)	P-value
	Rate per 1000 Patient Years	Rate per 1000 Patient Years		
<b>Primary Composite Endpoint (ITT)</b>	61.1	88.8	0.70 (0.62–0.78)	<0.0001
Baseline Triglycerides by Tertiles*				
≥81 to ≤190 mg/dL	56.4	74.5	0.74 (0.61–0.90)	0.0025
>190 to ≤250 mg/dL	63.2	86.8	0.77 (0.63–0.95)	0.0120
>250 to ≤1401 mg/dL	64.4	107.4	0.60 (0.50–0.73)	<0.0001

0.2 0.6 1.0 1.4 1.8

Icosapent Ethyl Better

Placebo Better

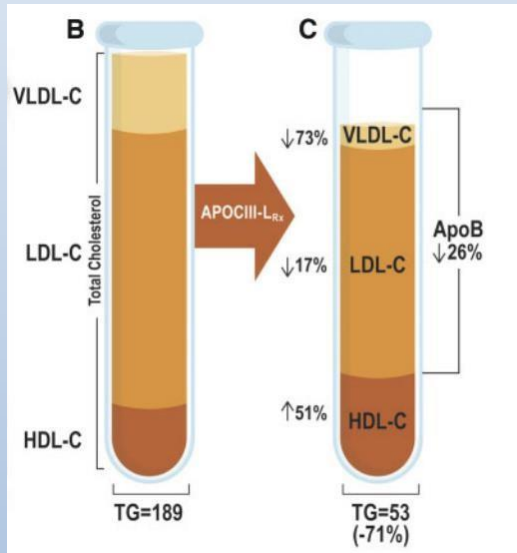
\*P (interaction) = 0.1

TG-reduction: 39 mg/dl (*pemafibrate: -84mg/dl*)

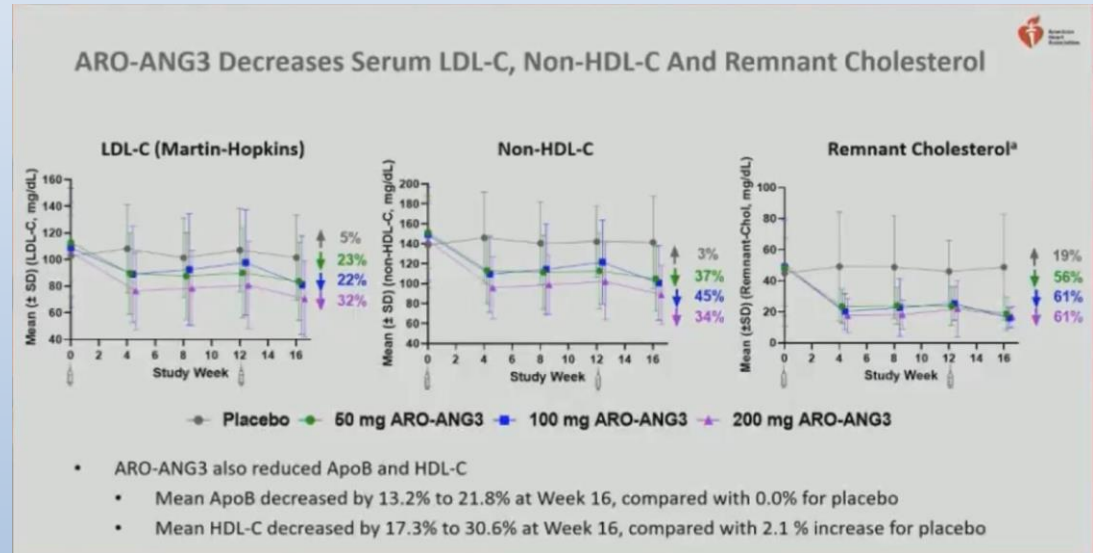
**Icosapent ethyl** is not a TG-lowering drug,  
Mechanism of benefit? Prof G Steg

# Benefit of TLR-lowering on CVD needs to be tested using TRL-lowering therapies

*apoCIII antisense therapy*



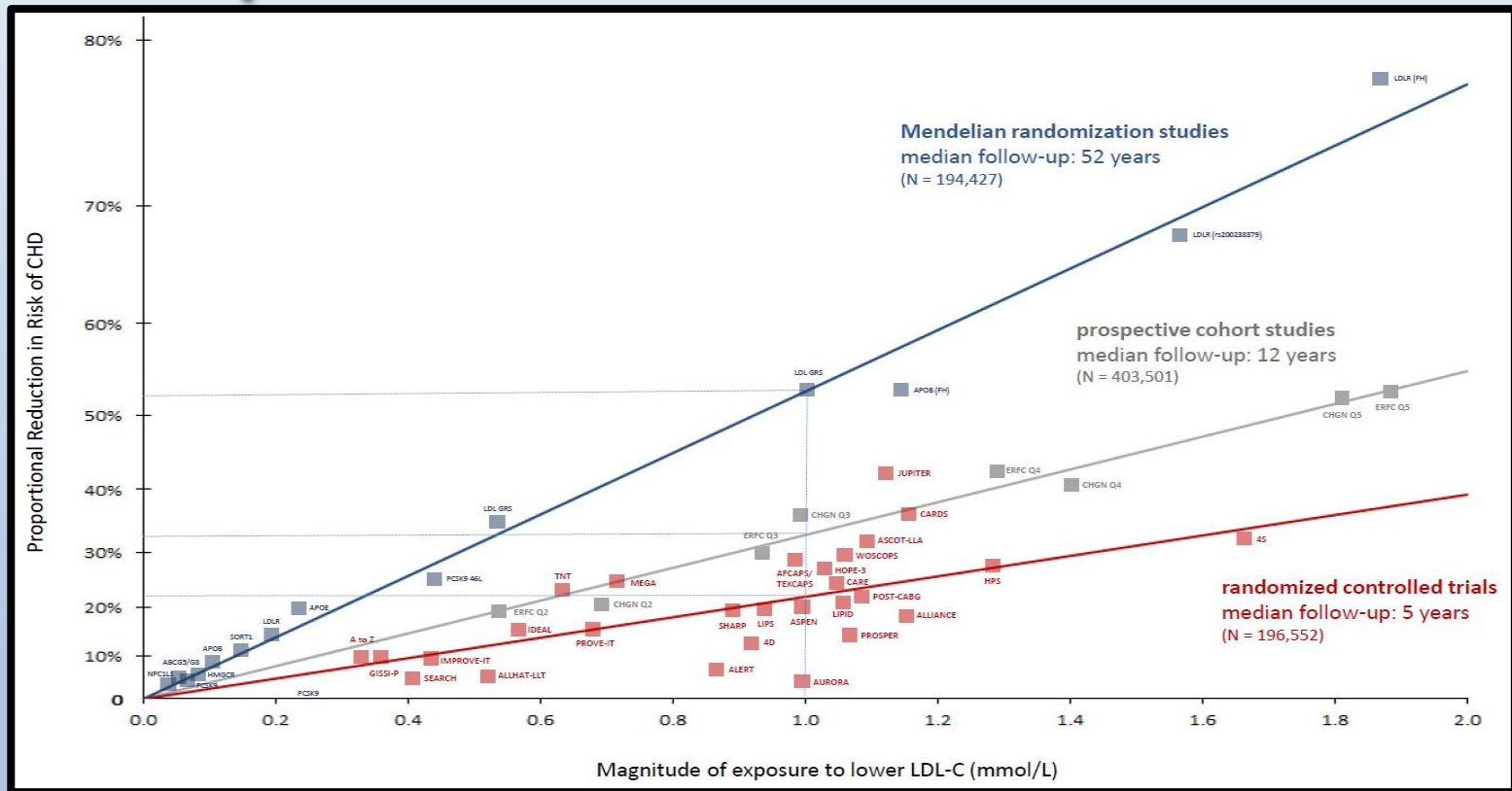
*ANGPTL3 siRNA therapy*



## **Summary: Challenges in Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease reduction and Triglyceride-related risk**

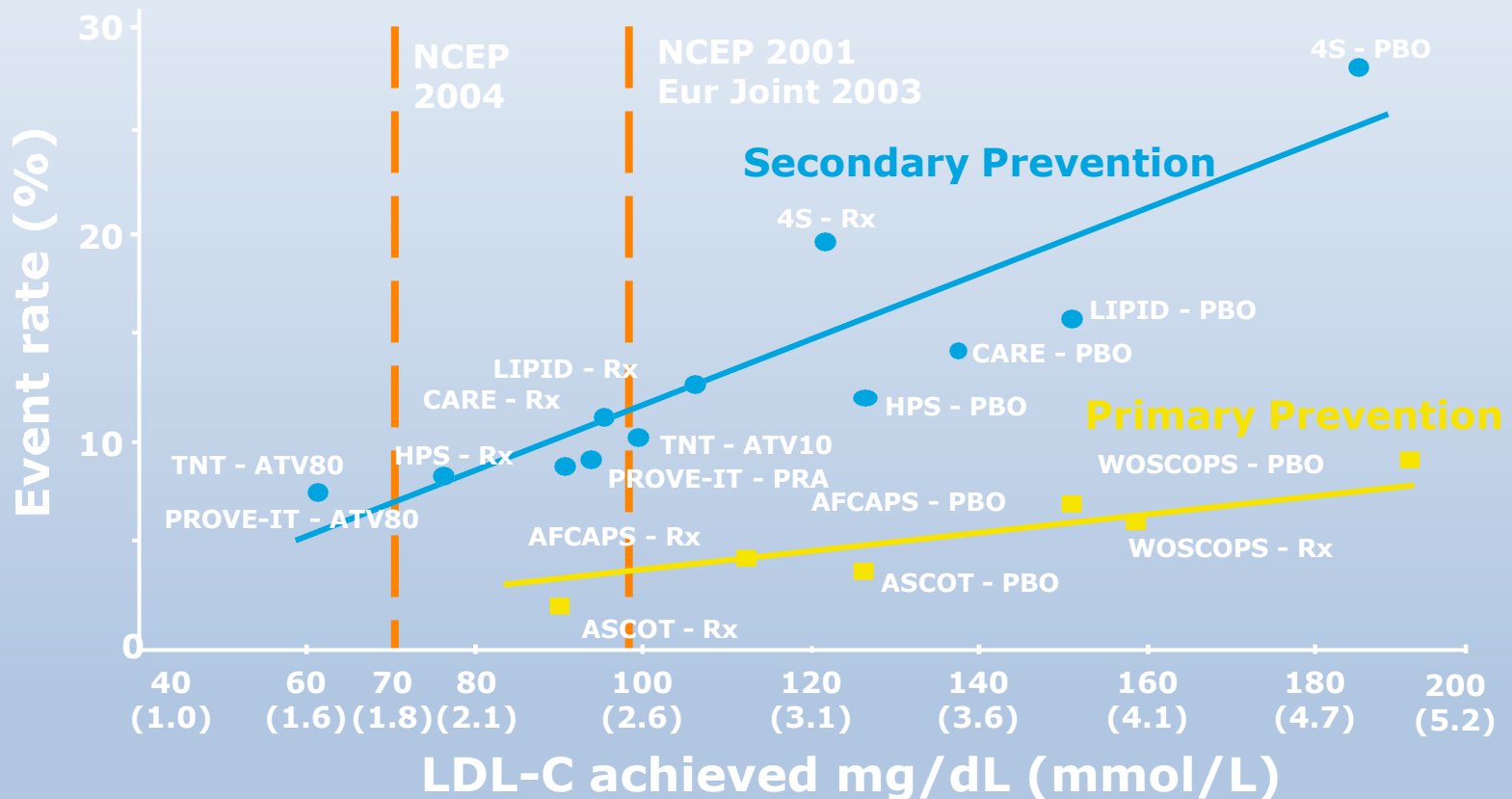
- **TG reduction should not be used as target** for CVD-reduction
- **Triglyceride-rich lipoprotein (TRL) reduction**, i.e. reduction apoB + TG, **best surrogate** for CVD-reduction
- **Beta-lipoprotein reduction, comprising LDLc + TRL-C, is best target**

# Genetic Benefits of Early Exposure to Lower LDL-C Levels



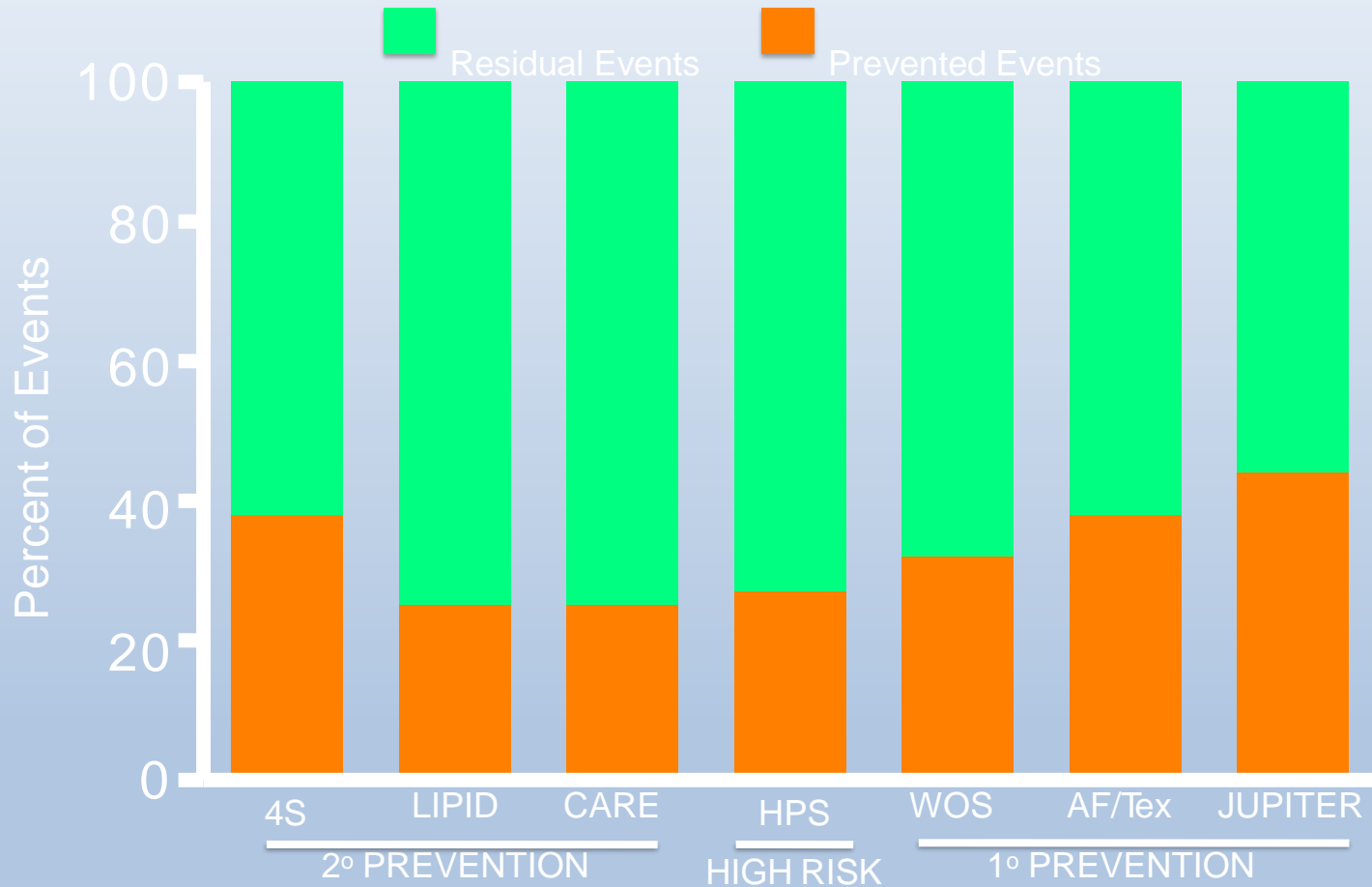
Ference, Nicholls et al. *Eur Heart J* 2017;38:2459-72.

# LDL-C Lowering and Benefit of Statins



Adapted from Rosensen, Exp Opin Emerg Drugs 2004;9:269; LaRosa J et al, N Engl J Med,2005;352:1425

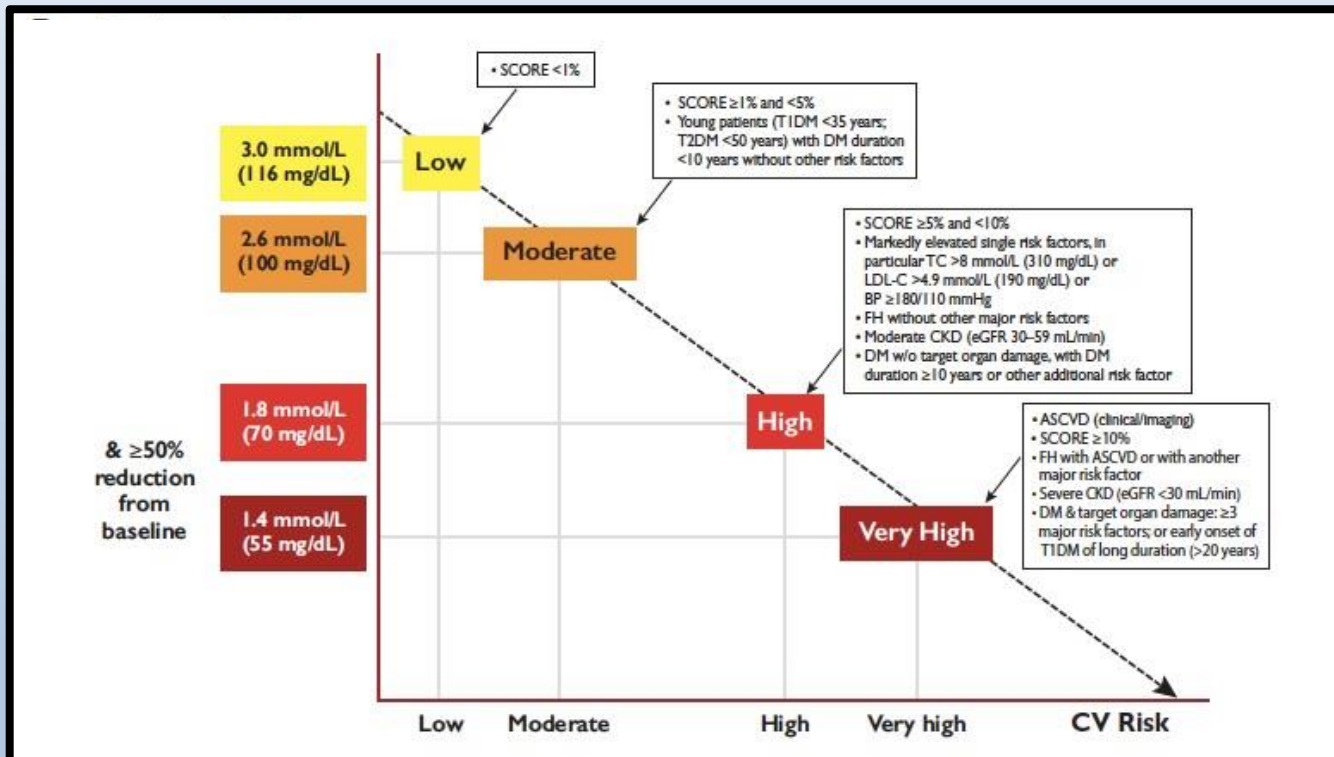
# Residual Clinical Risk in Statin Trials



## Outcomes: Non-Statin LDL-C Lowering Therapies

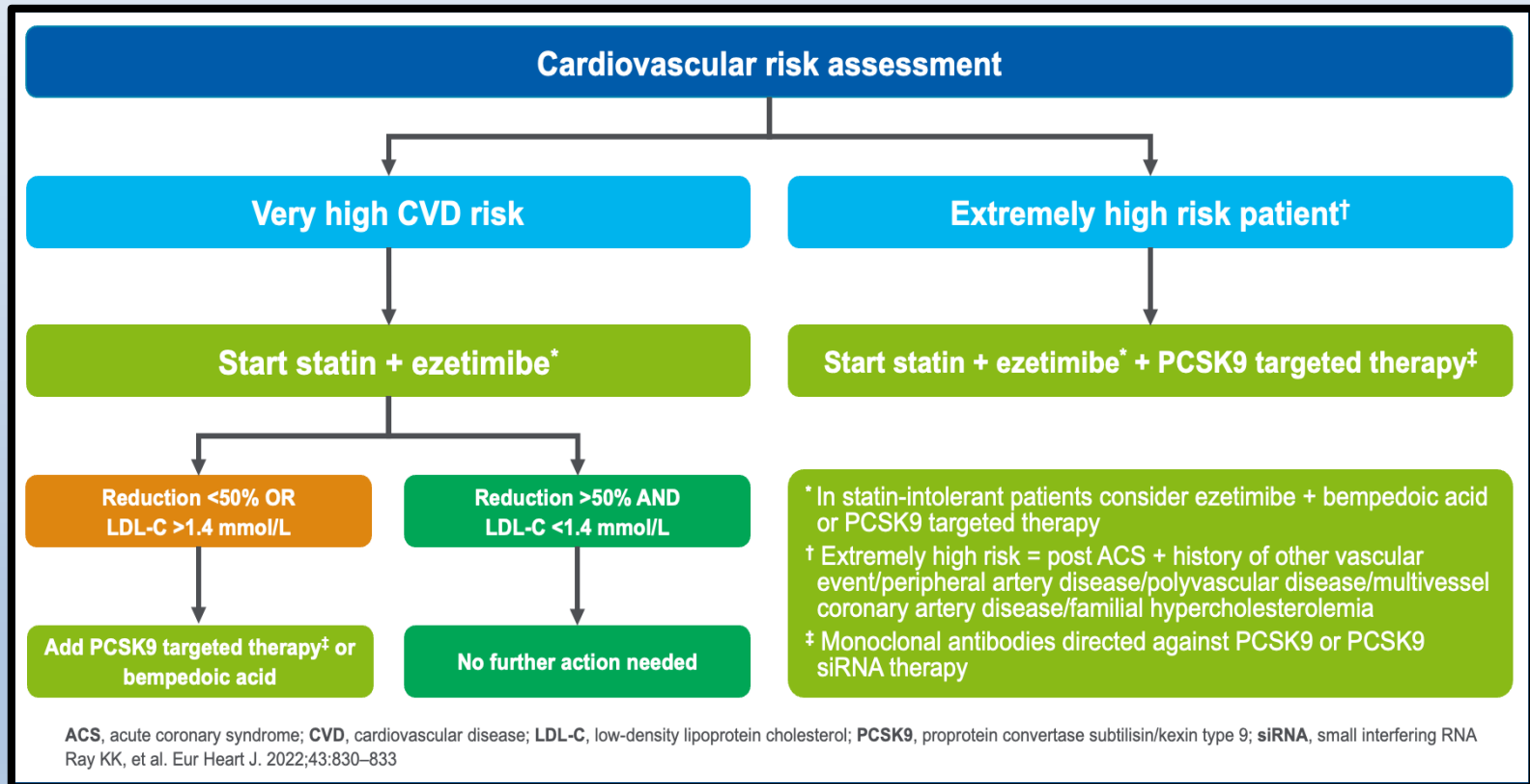
	3- Component MACE	Nonfatal MI
IMPROVE-IT Ezetimibe	0.90	0.87
FOURIER Evolocumab	0.80	0.73 <sup>†</sup>
ODYSSEY Outcomes Alirocumab	0.86 <sup>*</sup>	0.86
CLEAR Outcomes Bempedoic Acid	0.85	0.73

# High Risk Patients Need Very Low LDL-C Levels





# Integration of Combination of Lipid Lowering in Treatment Guidelines

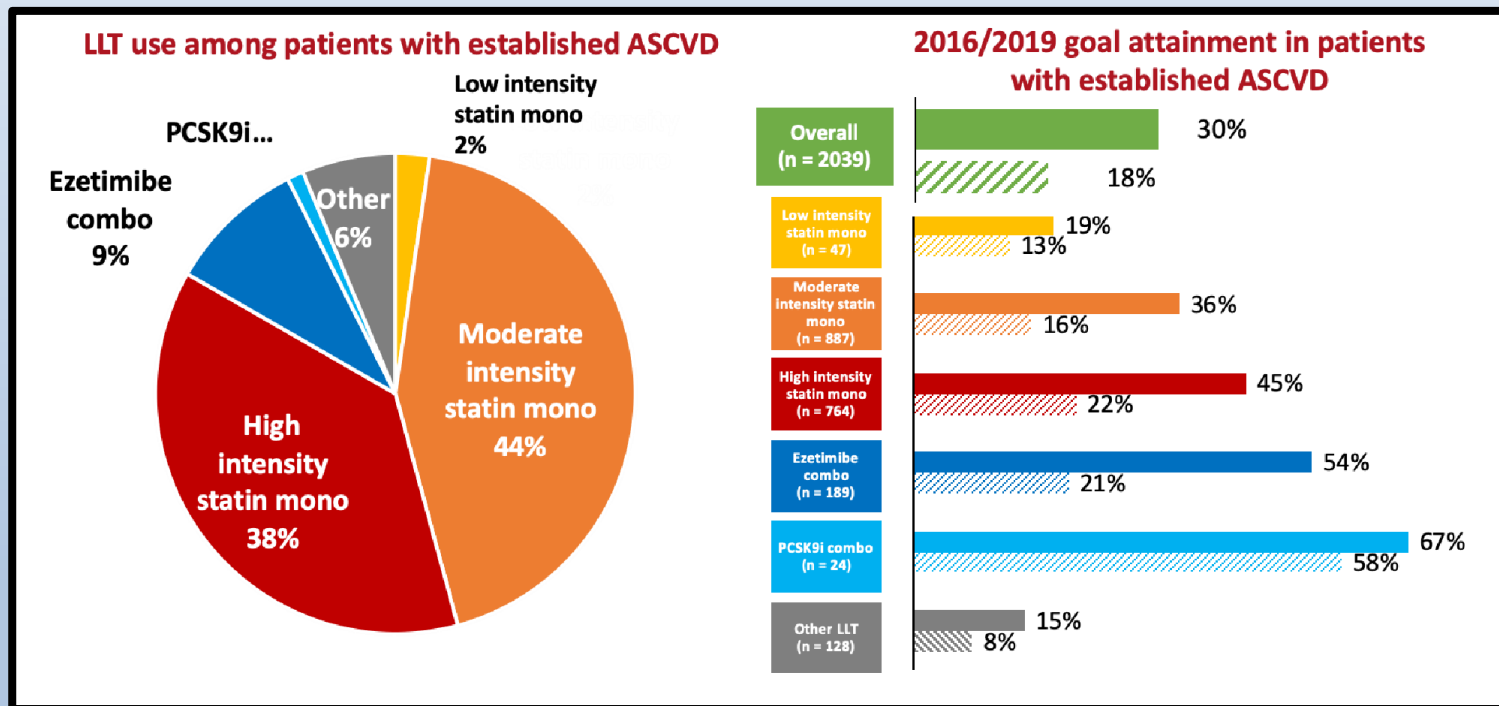


# Intensity of Lipid Lowering Treatment

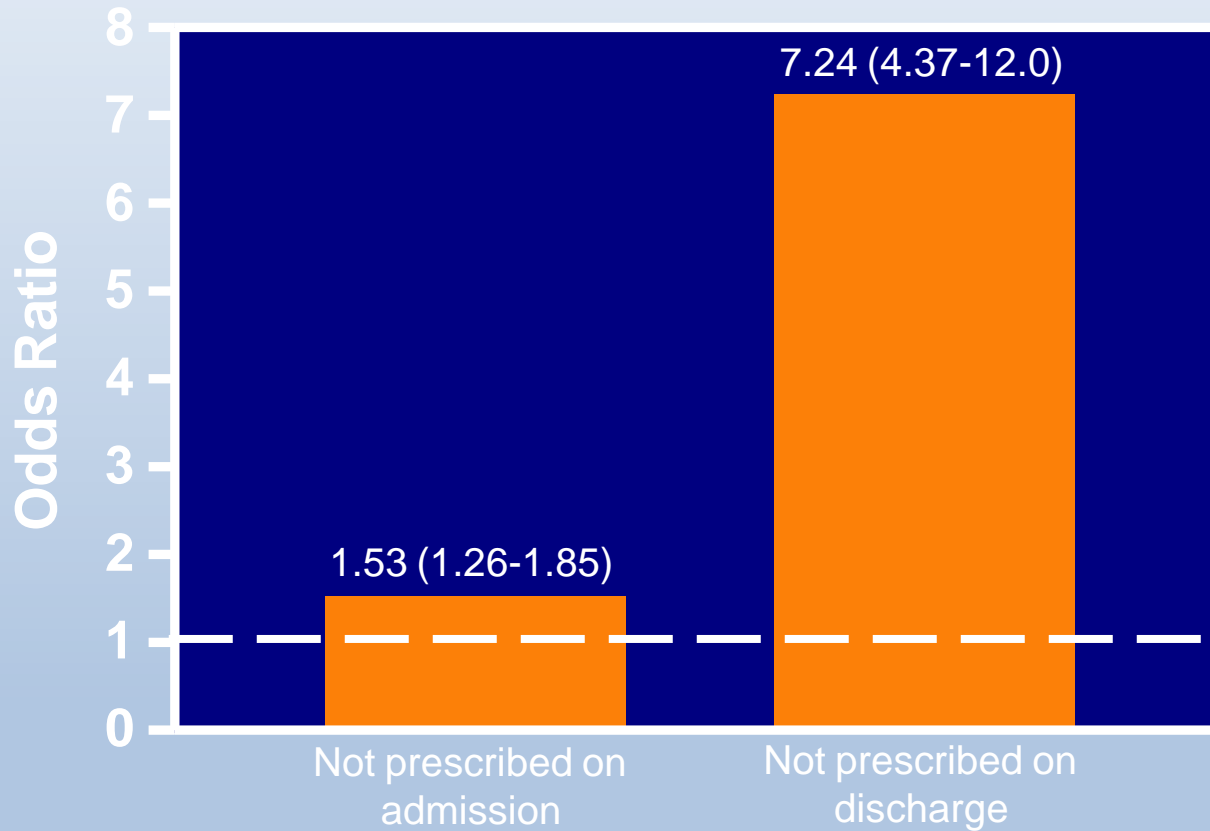
Treatment	LDL-C Reduction
Moderate intensity statin	~30%
Ezetimibe + bempedoic acid	~45%
High intensity statin	~50%
High intensity statin + ezetimibe	~65%
Moderate statin + ezetimibe + bempedoic acid	~65%
PCSK9 inhibitor	~60%
PCSK9 inhibitor + high intensity statin	~75%
PCSK9 inhibitor + high intensity statin + ezetimibe	~85%

Mach *Eur Heart J* 2020;41:111-88. Thompson et al *J Clin Lipidol* 2016; 10: 556-567. Rubino, et al *Athero* 2021

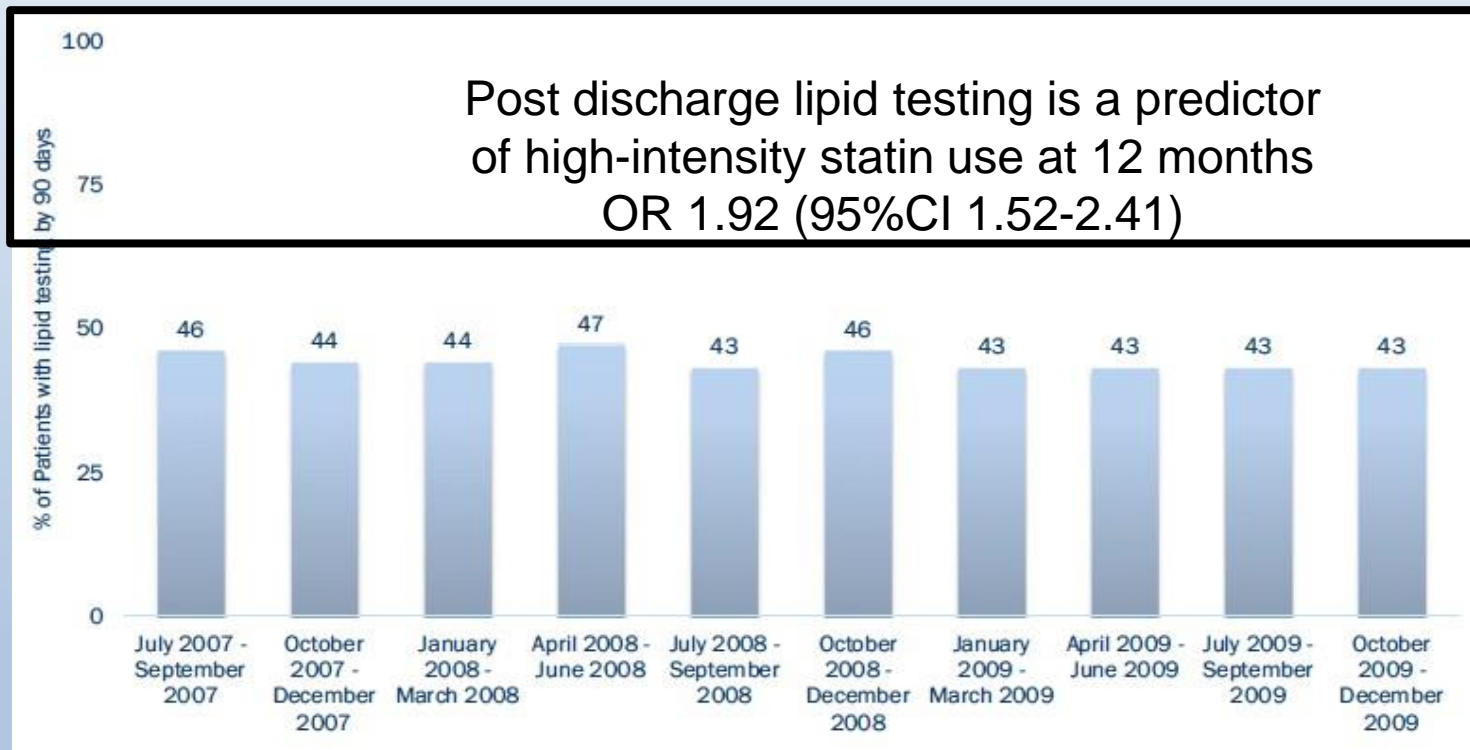
# Lipid Lowering Therapy and LDL-C Goal Attainment in Patients with ASCVD



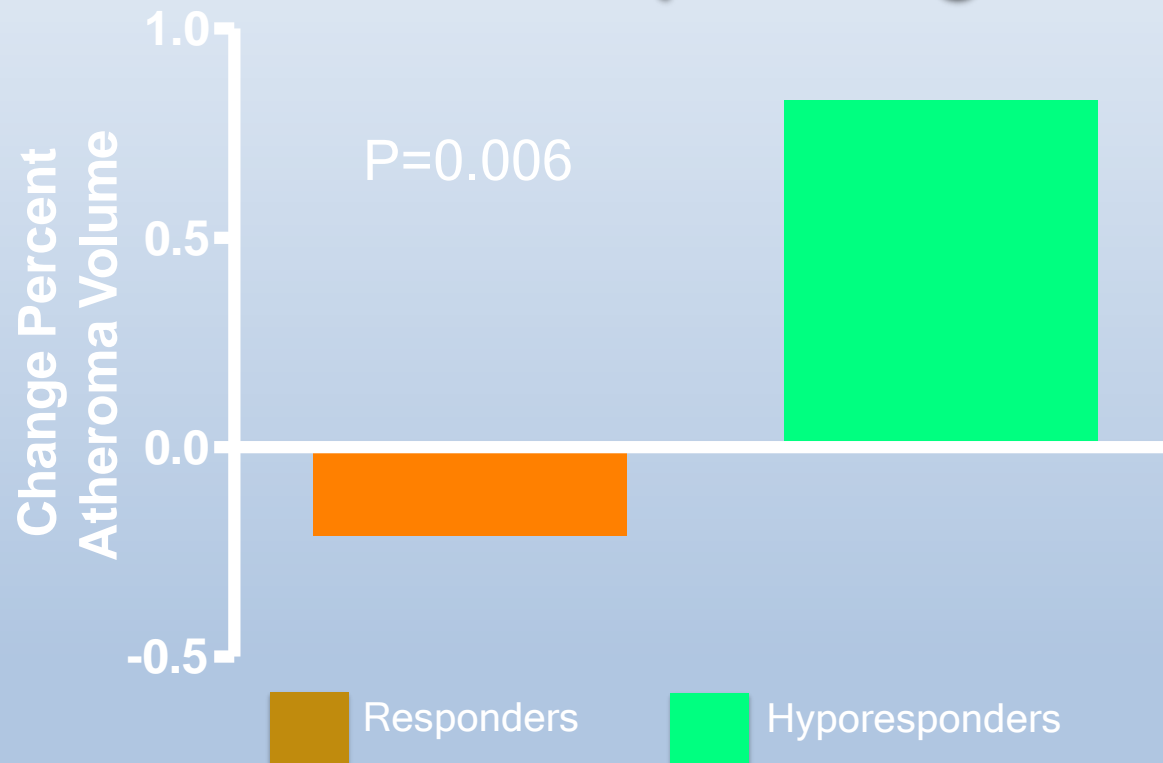
# Predictors of Intensive Lipid Lowering Use 12 Months Post ACS

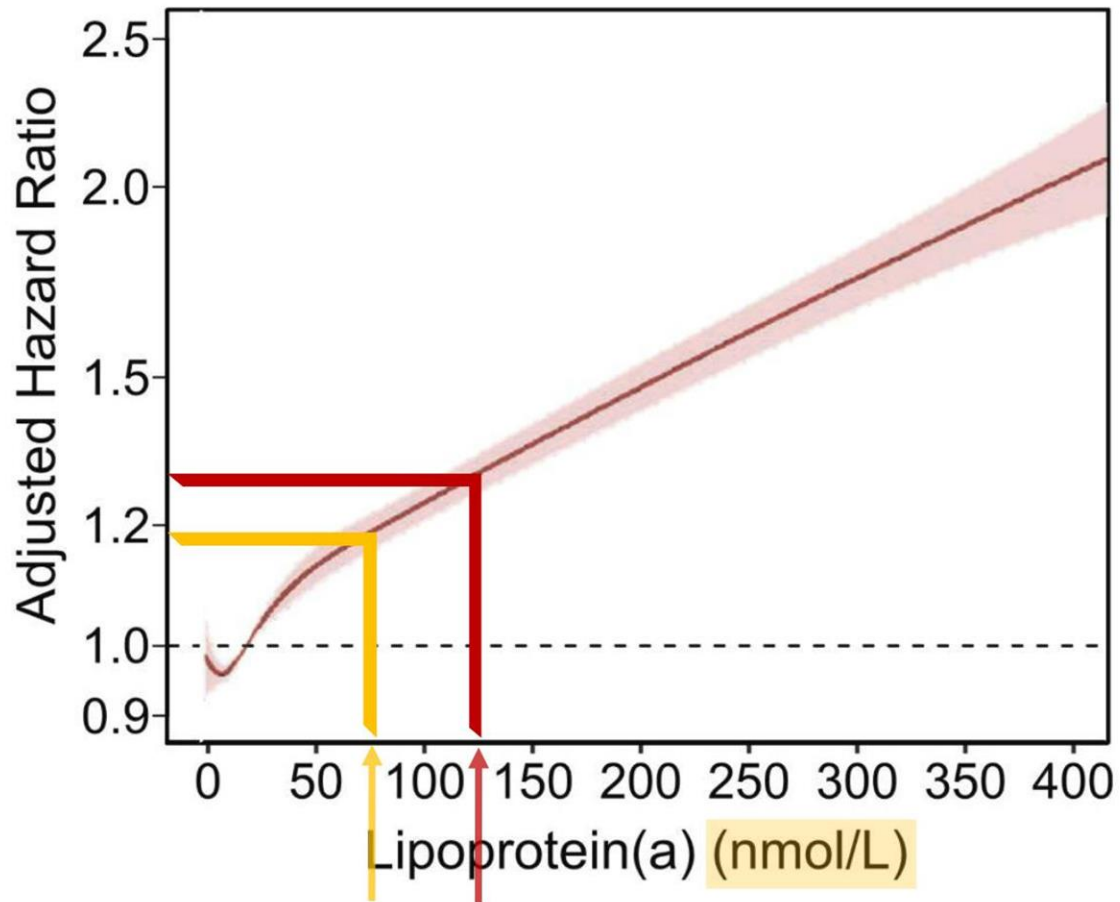


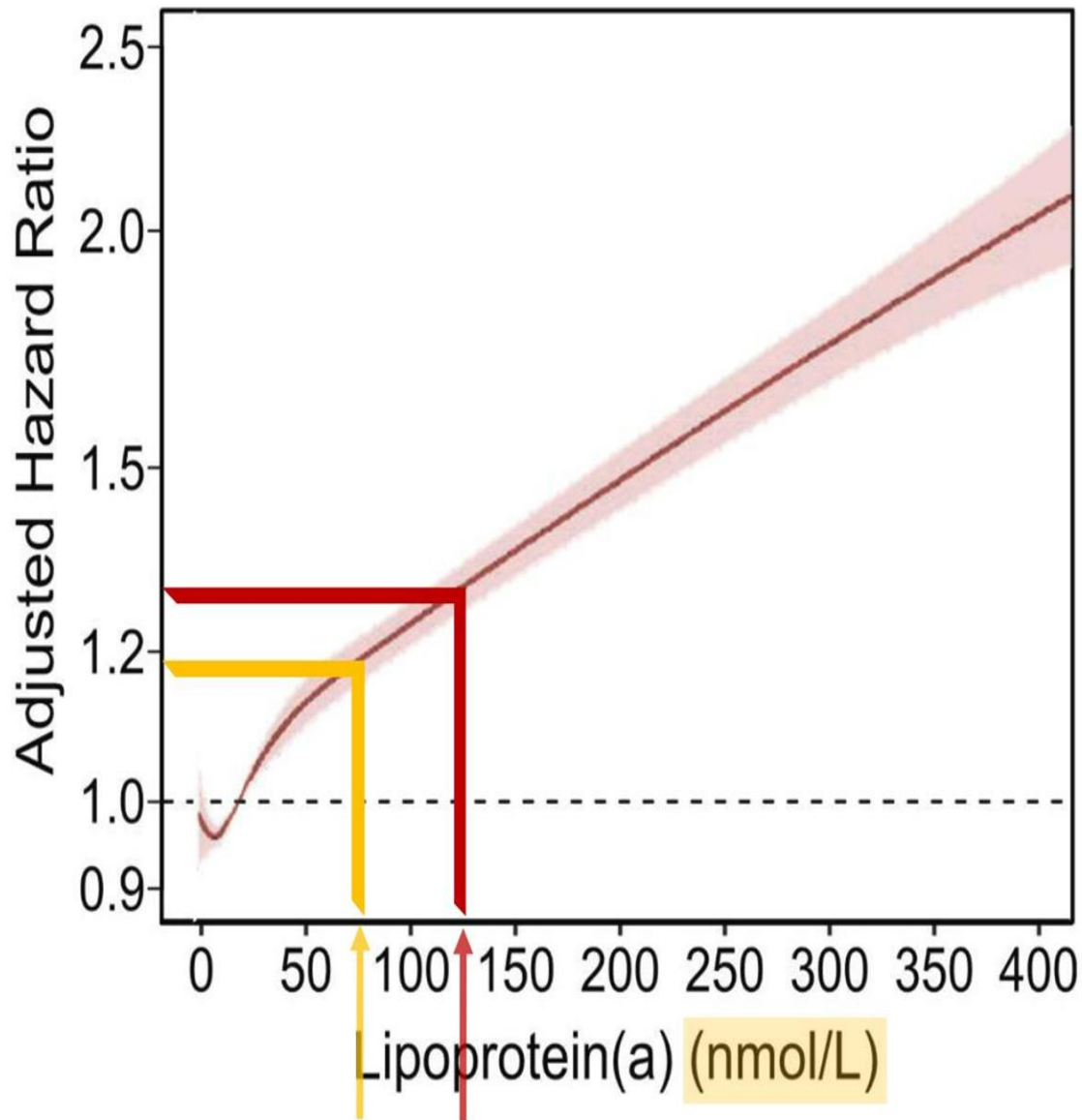
# We Don't Follow up with Lipid Tests



# Suboptimal LDL Response to Statins Associate with Plaque Progression









**So, why should I measure  $L_p(a)$  now?**

- **causal risk factor**
- **frequent risk factor**
- **helpful for risk estimation**

## *Effectiveness of GLP1RAs in Real –Life Studies*

*Does it really work???*



## Punti di forza

Popolazione ben definita  
Disegno dello studio  
Trattamento somministrato in  
condizioni strettamente controllate<sup>anc</sup>  
Massima compliance

## Punti di Forza

Più ampio spettro di popolazioni e di set  
assistenziali (esclusi nei trials)  
Effetti **lungo periodo**  
Effetti su **outcomes che non erano stati considerati**  
nei trials **Eventi avversi rari** /tossicità in **sottogruppi**  
Valutare la persistenza in terapia e la  
**compliance** Analisi **farmaco-economiche**

“Ideal” world  
evidence



Efficacy

“Real” world  
evidence



Effectiveness

## Limiti

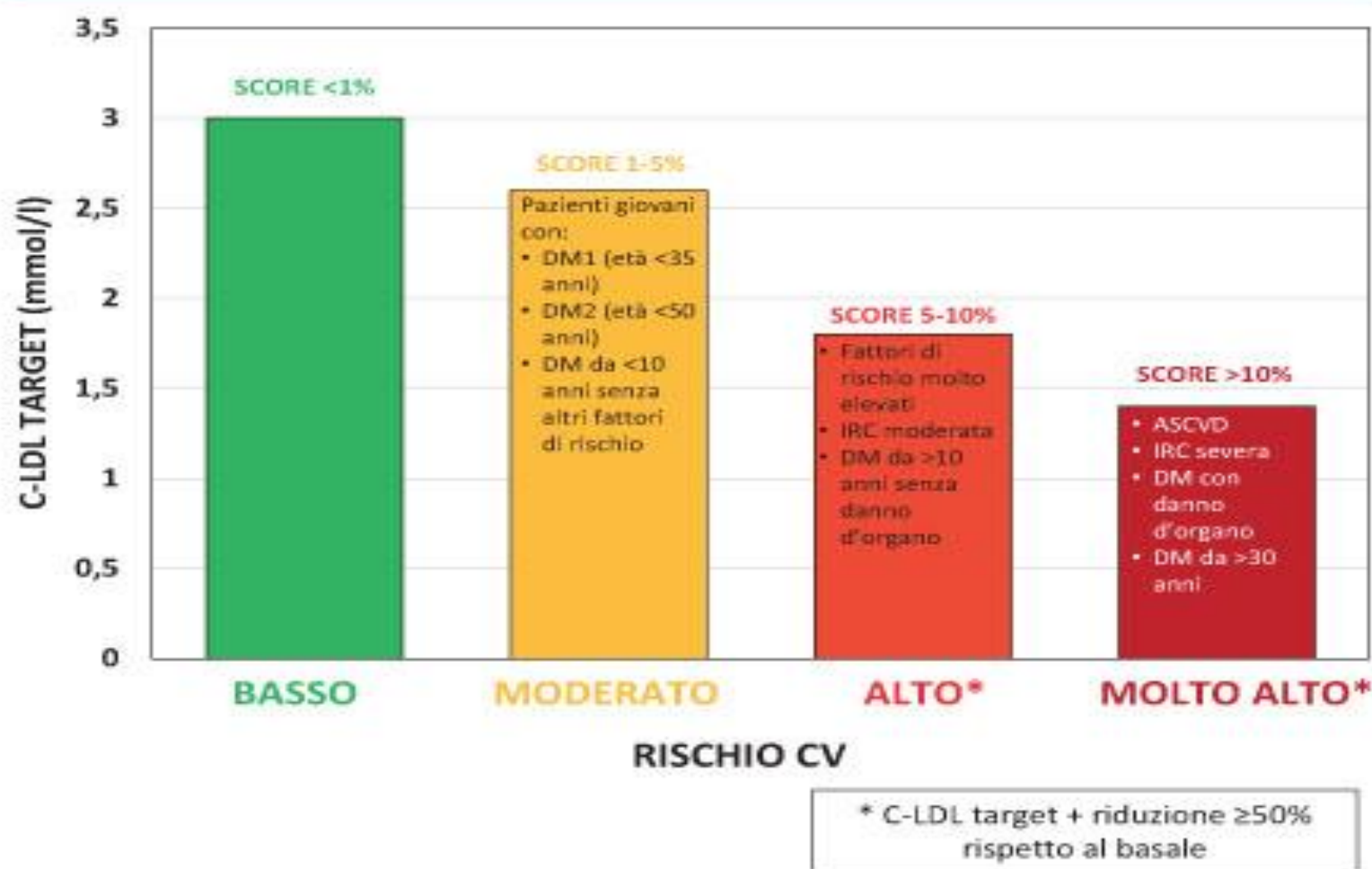
Esclusione di molti pazienti  
Difficoltà a generalizzare i risultati  
Centri specializzati  
Durata e dimensioni campione limitate,  
no info su lungo termine  
Trial effect”

## Limiti

Rischio di selection bias  
Limitato numero di  
informazioni Dati mancanti o  
eterogeneità nella definizione  
dei dati

**Tabella 1.** Fattori determinanti l'aterogenicità delle lipoproteine contenenti apolipoproteina B<sup>100</sup>.

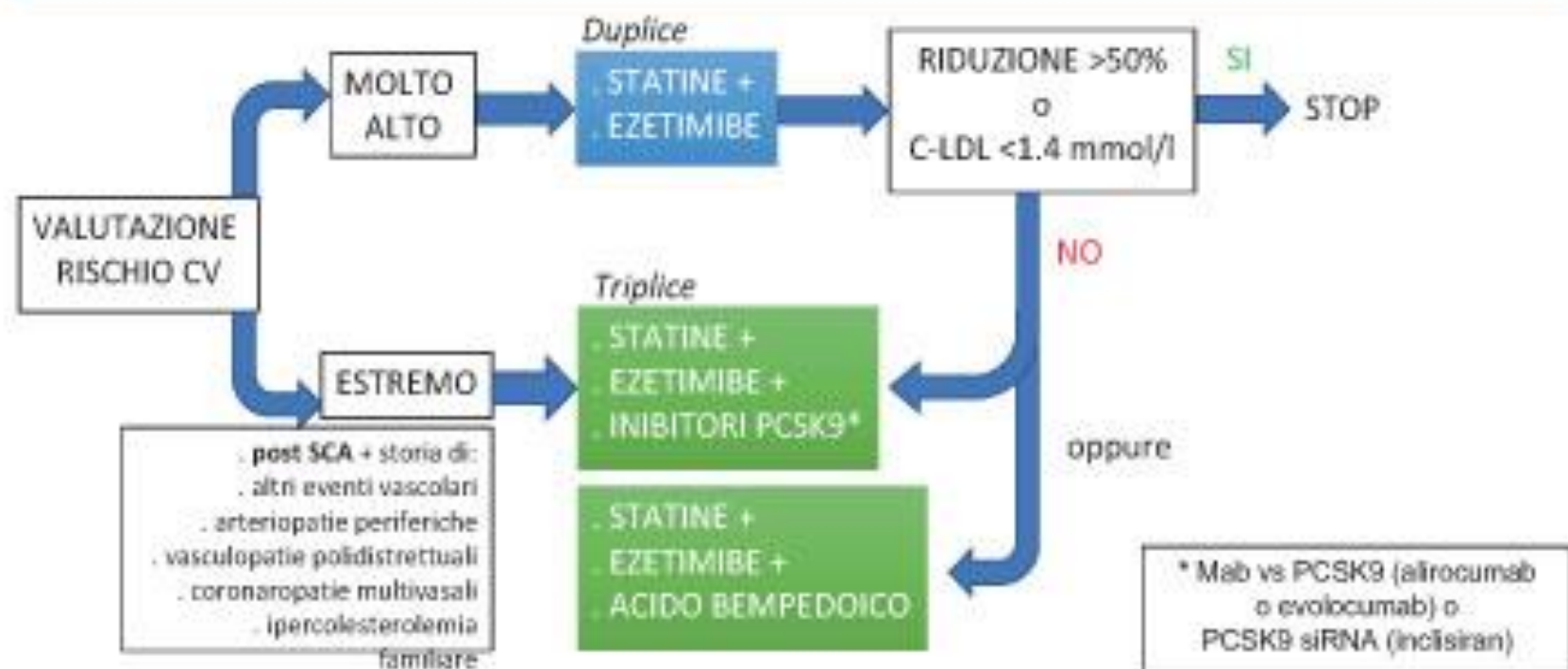
1. Concentrazione plasmatica
2. Dimensioni e affinità per i proteoglicani della parete arteriosa
3. Instabilità delle lipoproteine intrappolate e rapidità di aggregazione (dipendente dalla composizione lipidica delle lipoproteine a bassa densità, a sua volta influenzata dalla dieta)
4. Suscettibilità delle lipoproteine aggregate a subire ulteriori modifiche all'interno della parete arteriosa
5. Capacità delle lipoproteine modificate di indurre risposte cellulari alterate



**Figura 1.** Livelli target di colesterolo LDL (C-LDL) per le diverse categorie di rischio cardiovascolare (CV). ASCVD, malattia cardiovascolare aterosclerotica; DM1/2, diabete mellito di tipo 1/2; IRC, insufficienza renale cronica.

Elaborata da Mach et al.<sup>6</sup>

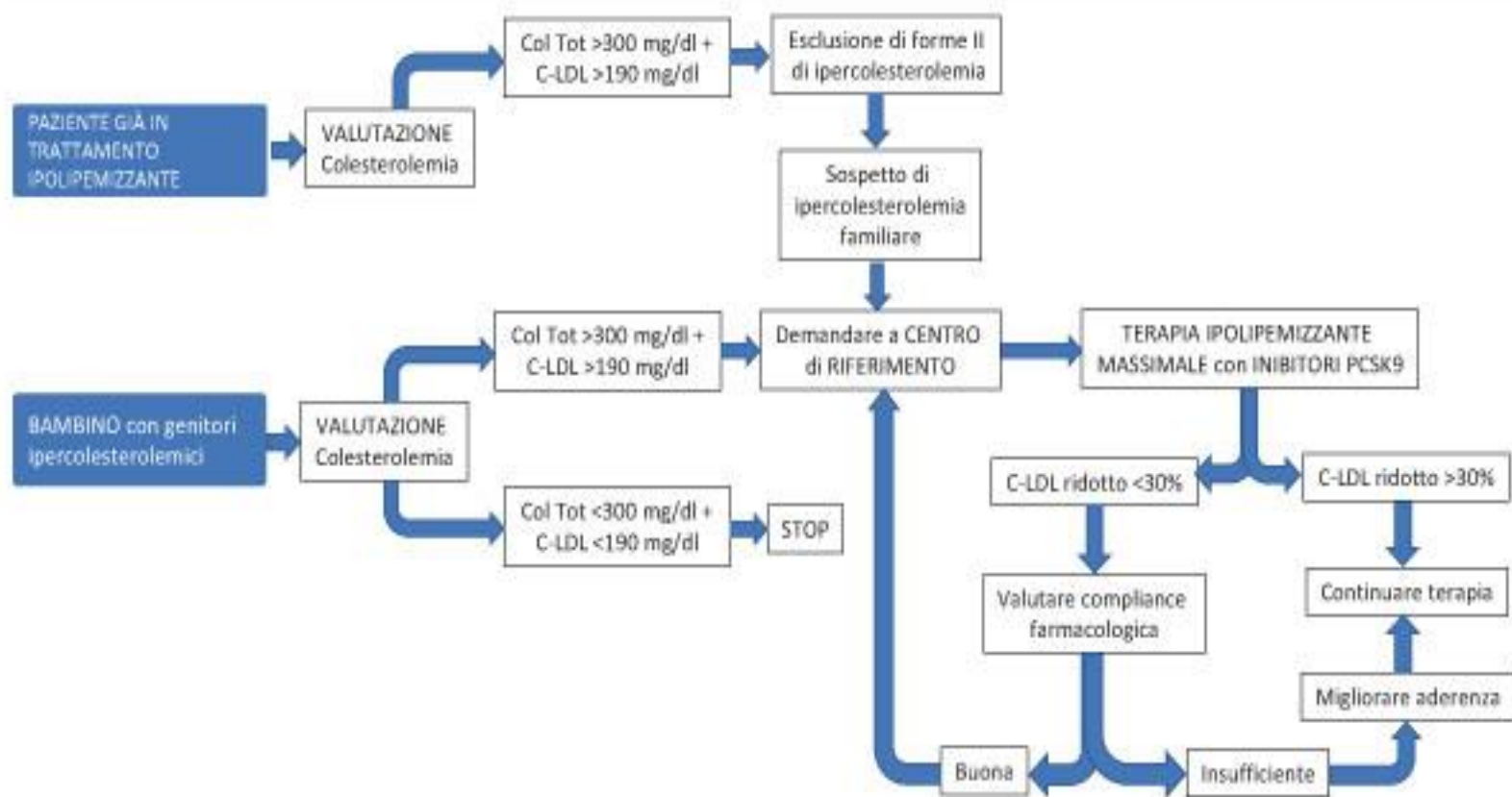




**Figura 3.** Terapia ipolipemizzante di combinazione come prima linea di trattamento nei pazienti ad elevato rischio cardiovascolare (CV).

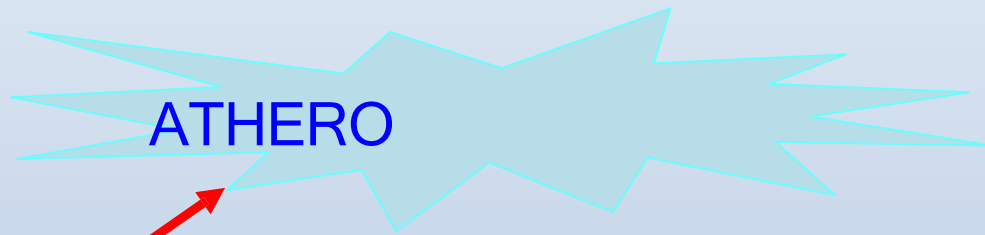
C-LDL, colesterolo LDL; PCSK9, proproteina convertasi subtilisina/kexina tipo 9; SCA, sindrome coronarica acuta; siRNA, small interfering RNA.

Elaborata da Ray et al.<sup>17</sup>



**Figura 5.** Algoritmo per l'identificazione e la gestione dei pazienti con ipercolesterolemia familiare. C-LDL, colesterolo LDL; Col Tot, colesterolo totale; PCSK9, proproteina convertasi subtilisina/kexina tipo 9. Elaborata da Bilato et al.<sup>49</sup>

**Lipoprotein (a)**



**ATHERO**

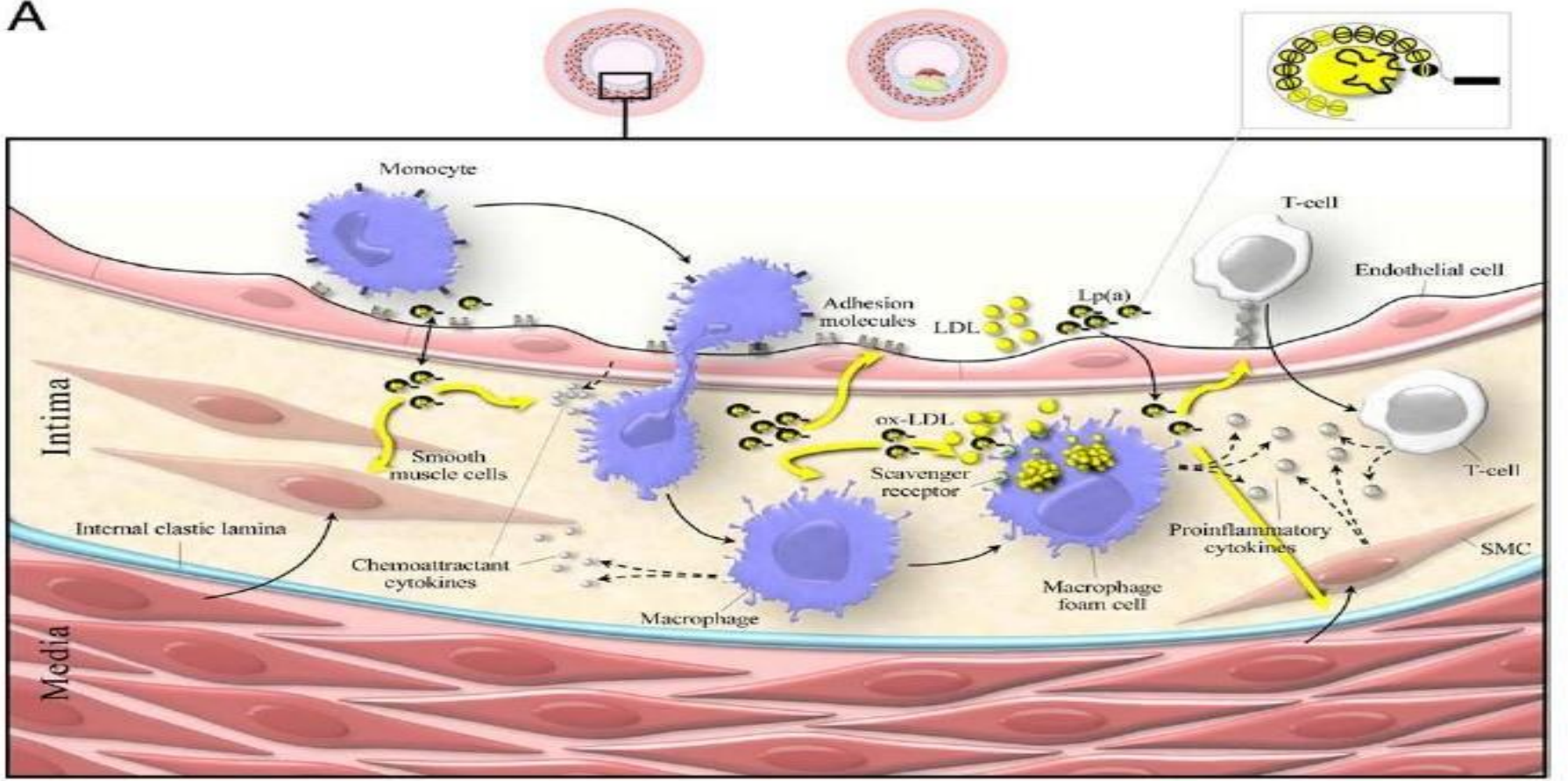
**APO B-100**  
**Cholesterol**





# LIPOPROTEIN (a): PROATHEROGENIC PROPERTIES

A



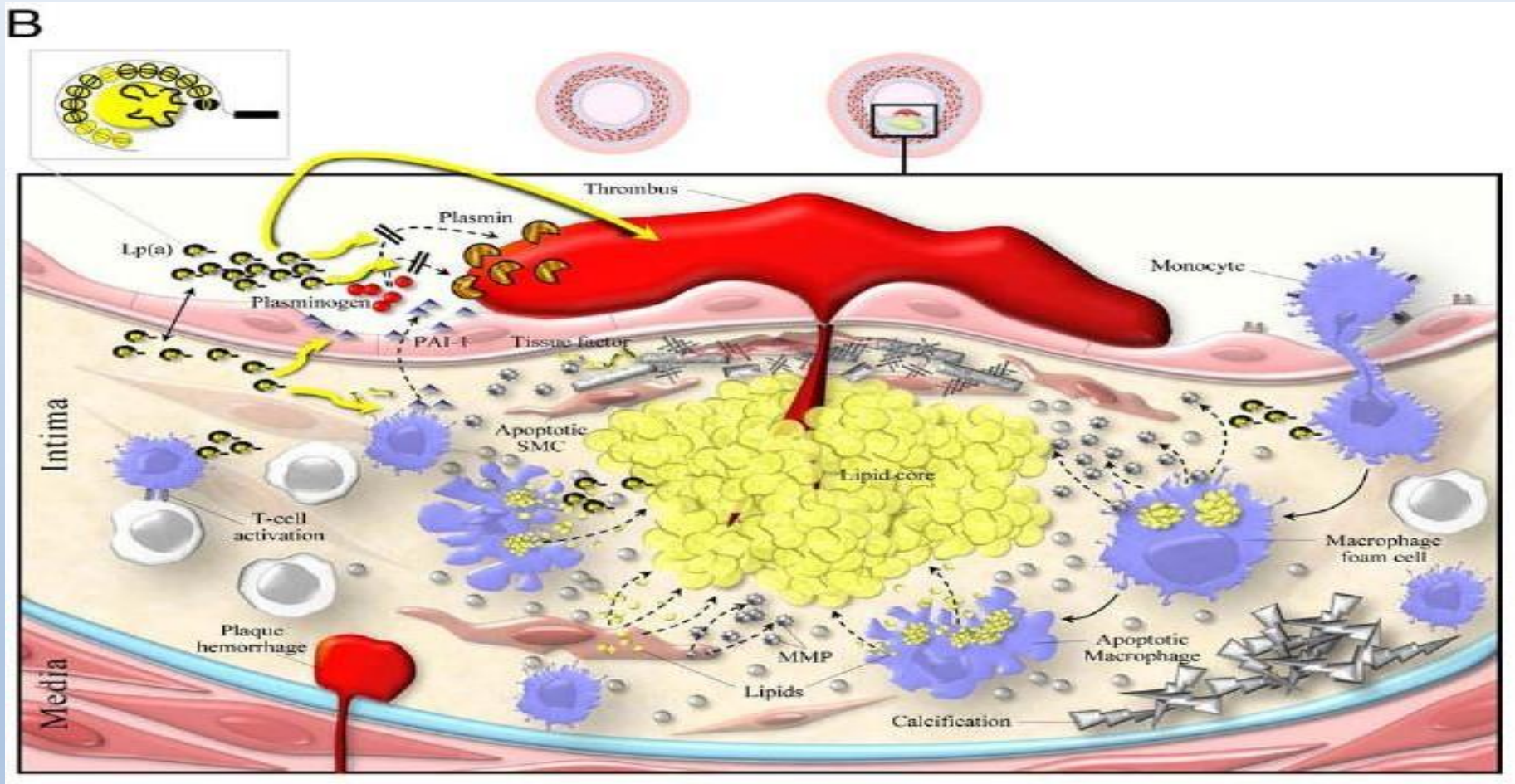
**Lipoprotein (a)**



**APO (a)**



# LIPOPROTEIN (a): PROTHROMBOTIC PROPERTIES



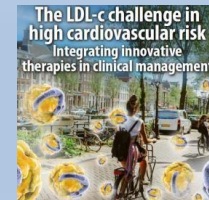
# Novel oral pathways in LDL-C lowering therapy: The new promise of CETPi

Erin D. Michos

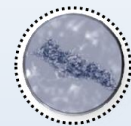
Johns Hopkins School of Medicine

Baltimore, MD, USA

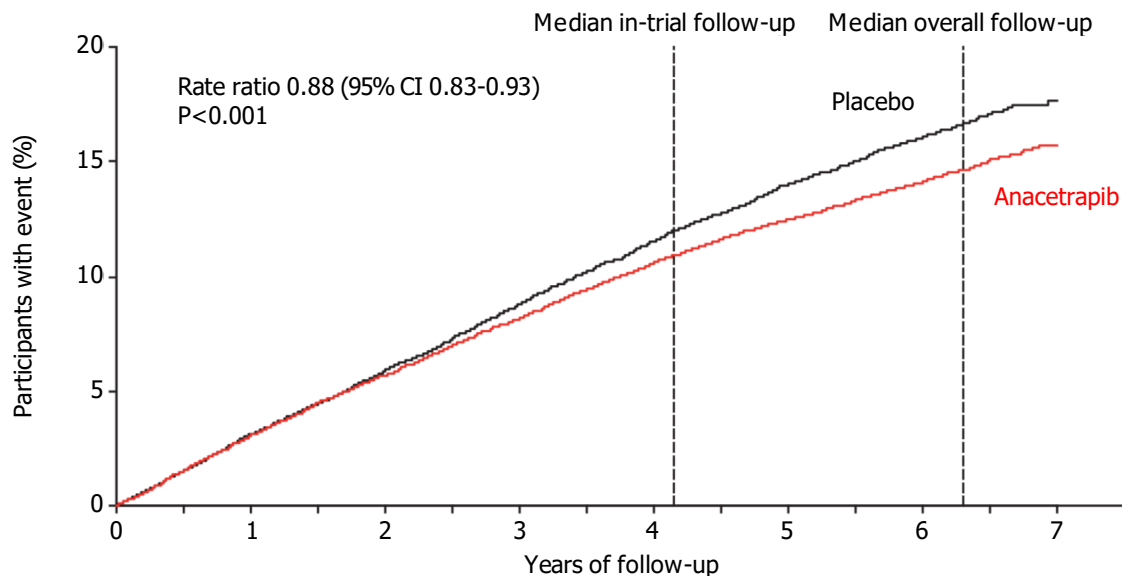
**The LDL-c challenge in high cardiovascular risk - Integrating innovative therapies in clinical management**



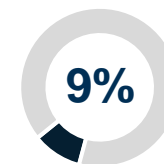
# Historical effects of CETP inhibitors were found in reducing cardiovascular events



## REVEAL: Effects of anacetrapib on first major coronary event



## Reduction of MACE



At 4.1 years



Additional reduction  
at 6.3 years

The positive impacts of CETP inhibition on major coronary incidents increased with extended follow-up, with no unfavorable outcomes in non-vascular death or illness

- CETP, cholesteryl ester transfer protein; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events.
- HPS3/TIMI55-REVEAL Collaborative Group; et al. *Eur Heart J.* 2022;43(14):1416-1424.

# ROSE study: Obicetrapib and High Intensity Statin therapy (HIS)



**Objective** To evaluate the effect of obicetrapib on top of HIS on LDL-C

## Inclusion criteria

- A stable dose of HIS (A 40 / 80; R 20 / 40) 8 weeks prior to screening
- Fasting LDL-C levels >1.8 mmol/L

## Exclusion criteria

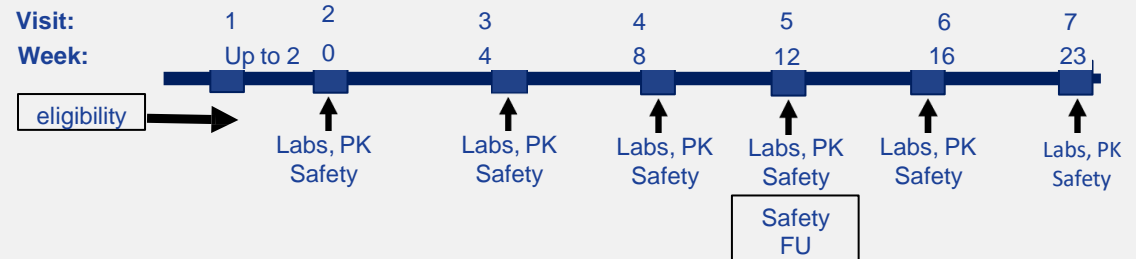
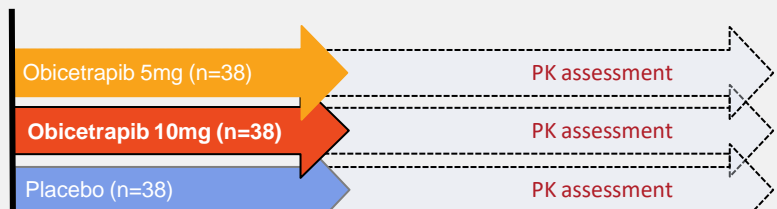
- Current significant CV disease
- Diagnosis of type 1 or type 2 diabetes mellitus;
- Uncontrolled hypertension

## Primary efficacy endpoint

- Percent change from baseline in LDL-C compared to the placebo group

## Study design

Patients (n=120)  
Mild dyslipidaemia  
(18 – 75 years)



Pre-specified assessment of LDL-C levels by preparative ultra-centrifugation and Friedewald

NLA Scientific Session, Late Breaking Sessions, June 4, 2022

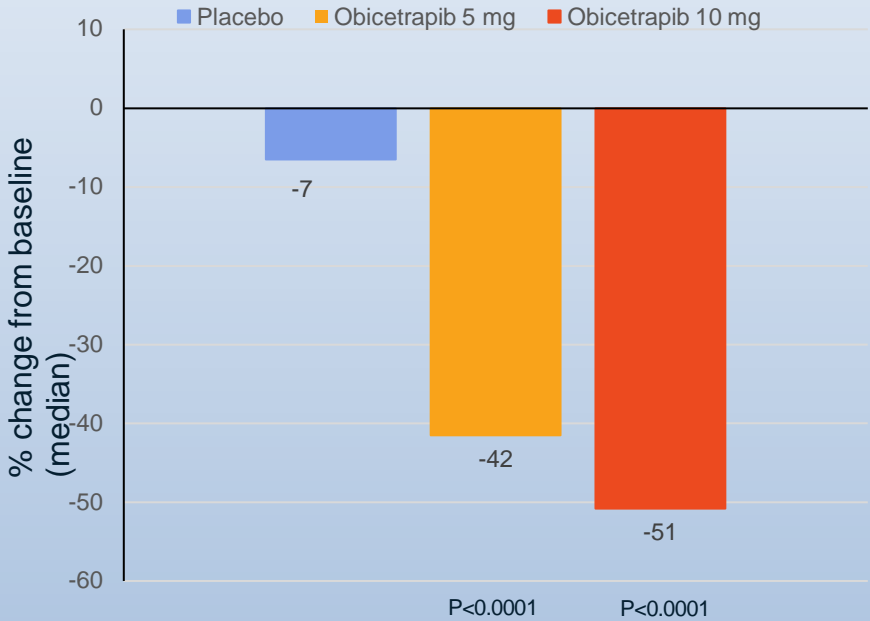
Nicholls SJ et al. Nature Medicine 2022; 28: 1672-1678



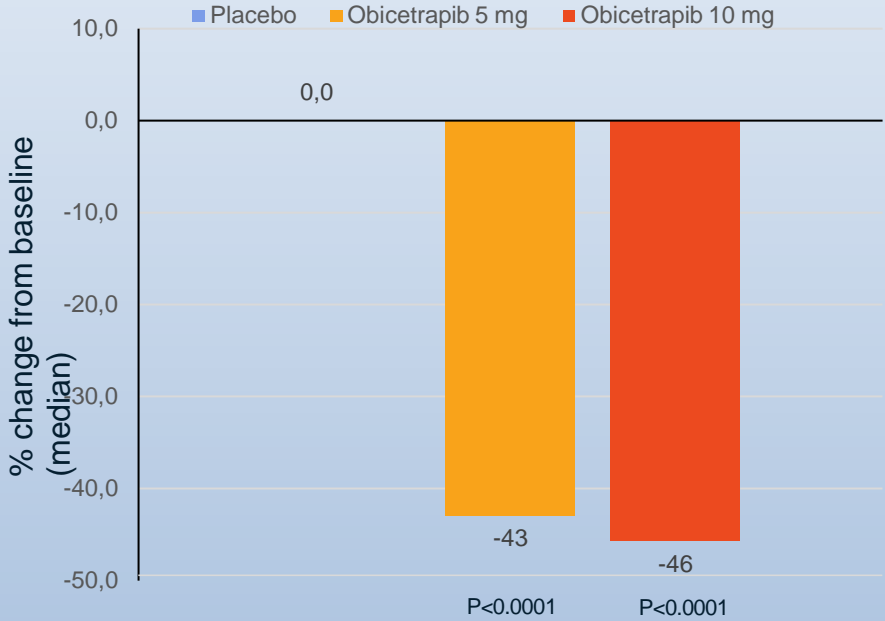
# LDL-C Percent change from baseline by different measurement approaches



### Preparative Ultra-centrifugation



### Friedewald

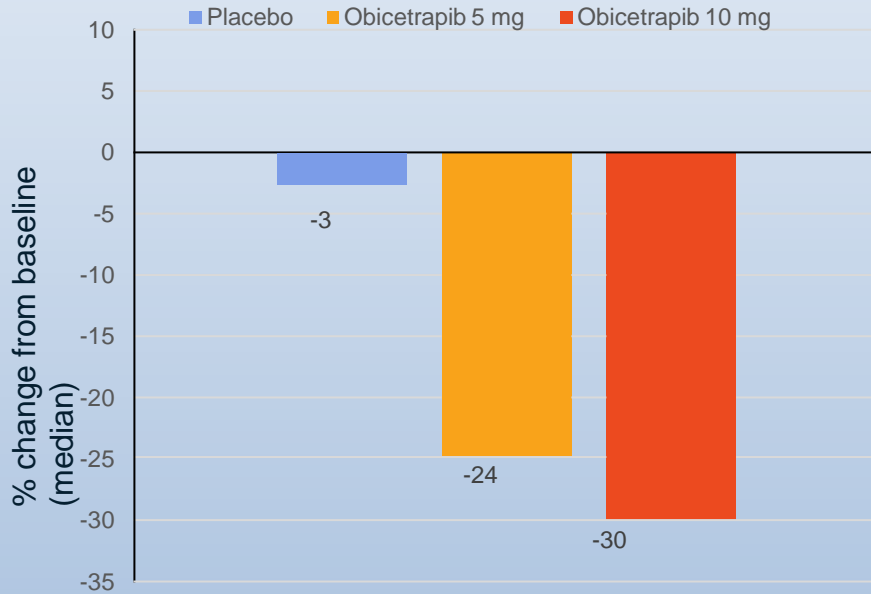


NLA Scientific Session, Late Breaking Sessions, June 4, 2022  
Nicholls SJ et al. Nature Medicine 2022; 28: 1672-1678

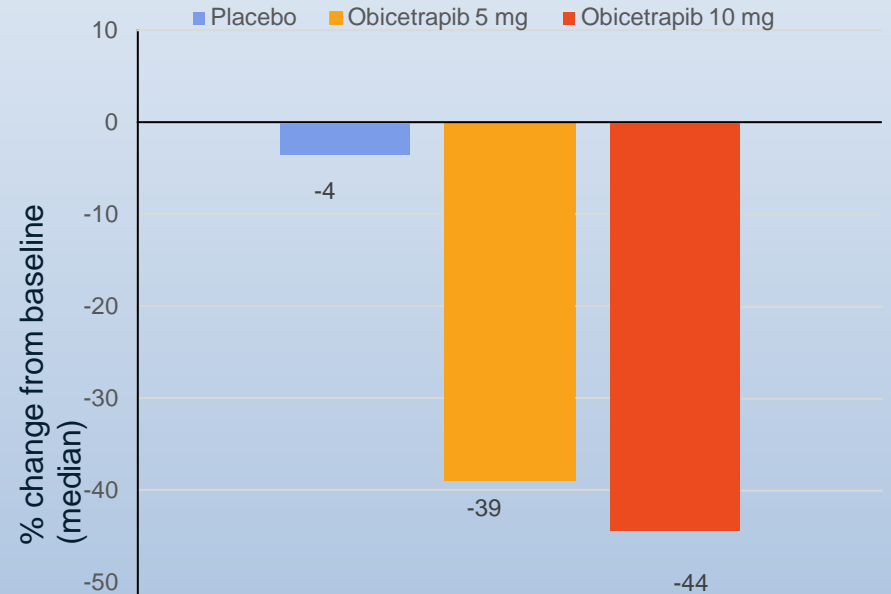
# ApoB & non-HDL-C Percent change from baseline



## ApoB



## Non-HDL-C

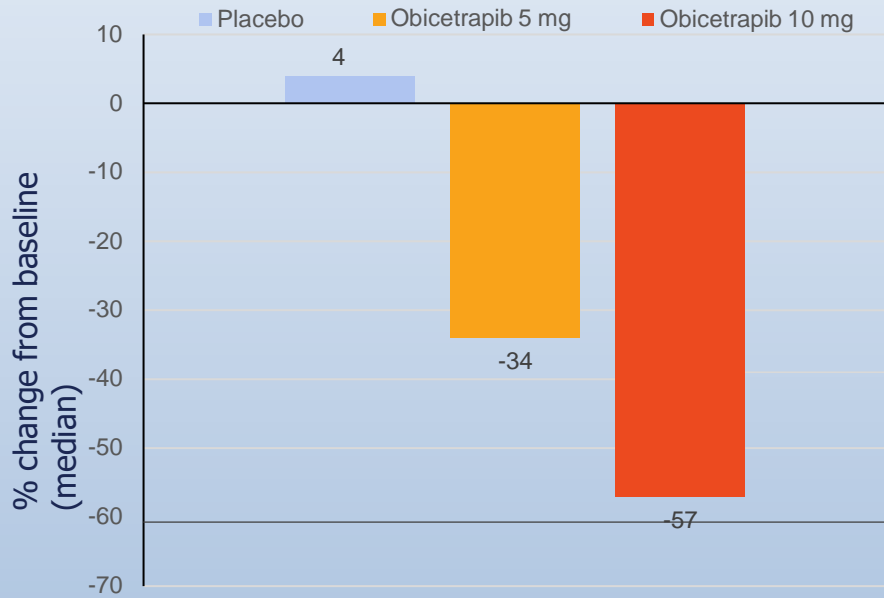




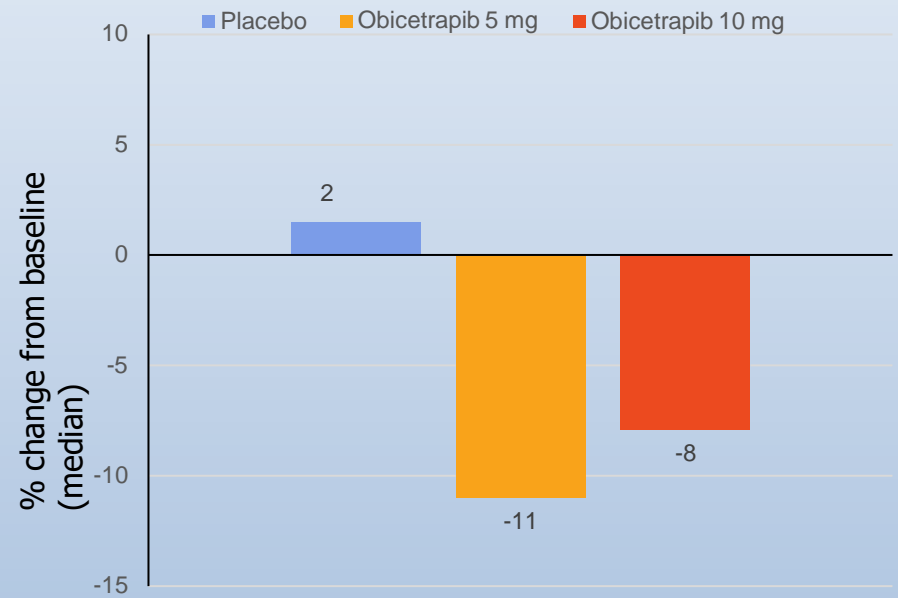
# Lp(a) and Triglycerides Percent change from baseline



## Lp(a)



## Triglycerides



# ROSE Conclusions



- Obicetrapib 5 and 10 mg on top of HIS therapy was well tolerated
- Obicetrapib 5 and 10 mg on top of HIS therapy reduced median LDL-C levels by -42% and -51% from baseline, respectively
- Obicetrapib LDL-C lowering comparable at all baseline LDL-C levels
- Obicetrapib LDL-C lowering is not mitigated in combination with HIS
- Obicetrapib LDL-C lowering is similar with both LDL-C quantitation methods
- Obicetrapib has potential to be a valuable addition for high risk ASCVD patients who do not achieve their target LDL-C guideline goals despite the use of HIS therapy.

# ROSE 2 Trial: obicetrapib + ezetimibe and high-intensity statin therapy



## Objective

To evaluate the effect of obicetrapib 10mg in combination with ezetimibe 10mg on top of HIS on LDL-C

### Inclusion criteria

- Stable dose of high-intensity statins (A 40/80, R 20/40) 8 weeks before screening
- Fasting LDL-C levels >70 mg/dL (1.8 mmol/L)

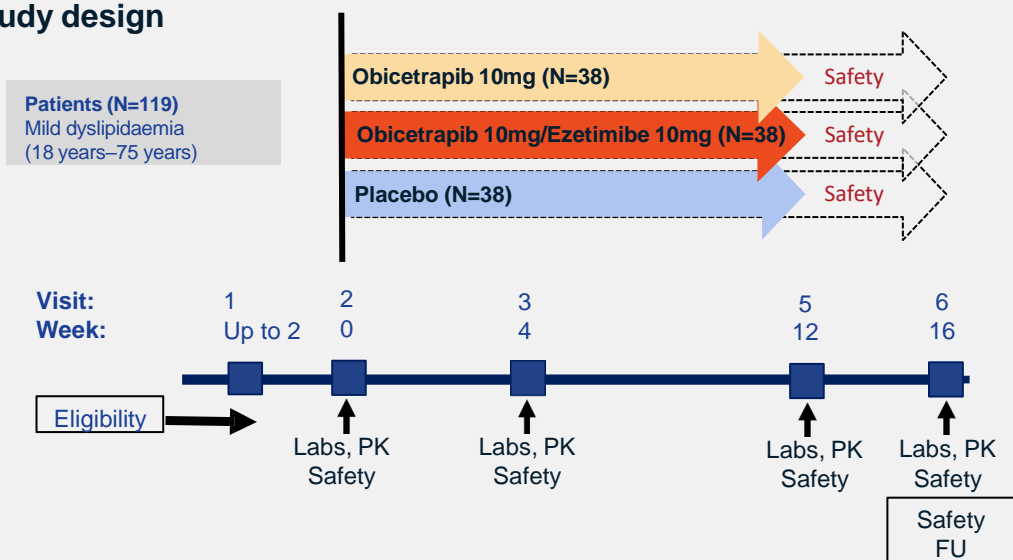
### Exclusion criteria

- Current significant CV disease
- HbA1c ≥10%
- Uncontrolled hypertension

### Primary efficacy endpoint

- Percent change from baseline in LDL-C compared with the placebo group

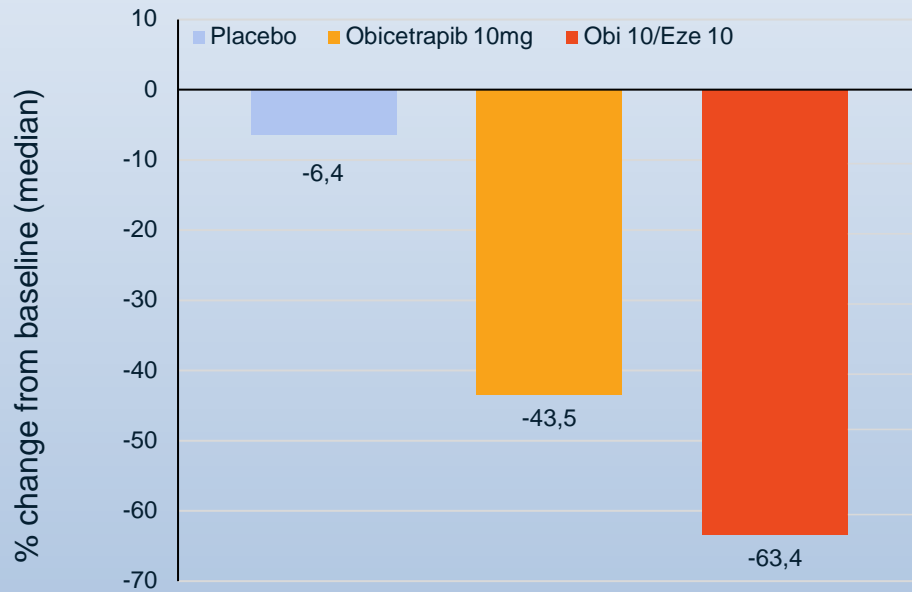
### Study design



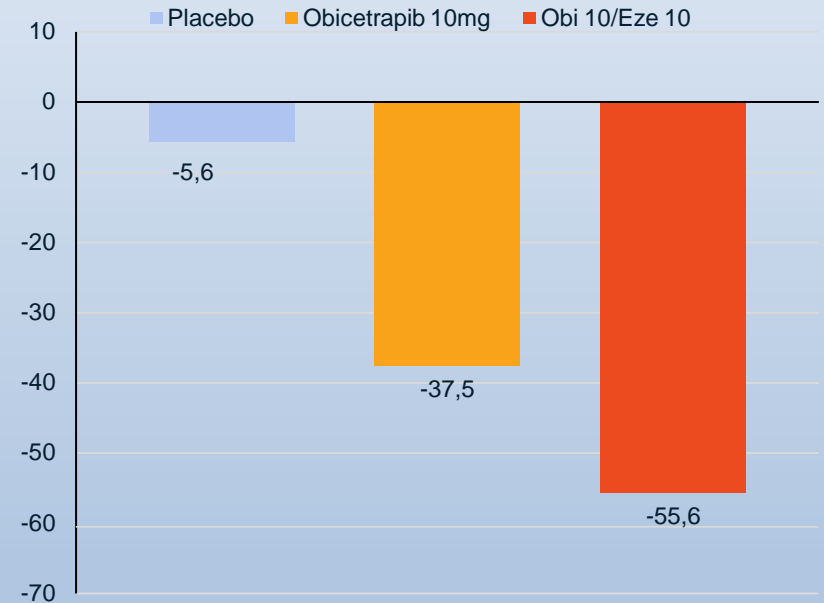
# LDL-C in mg/dL and percent change from baseline



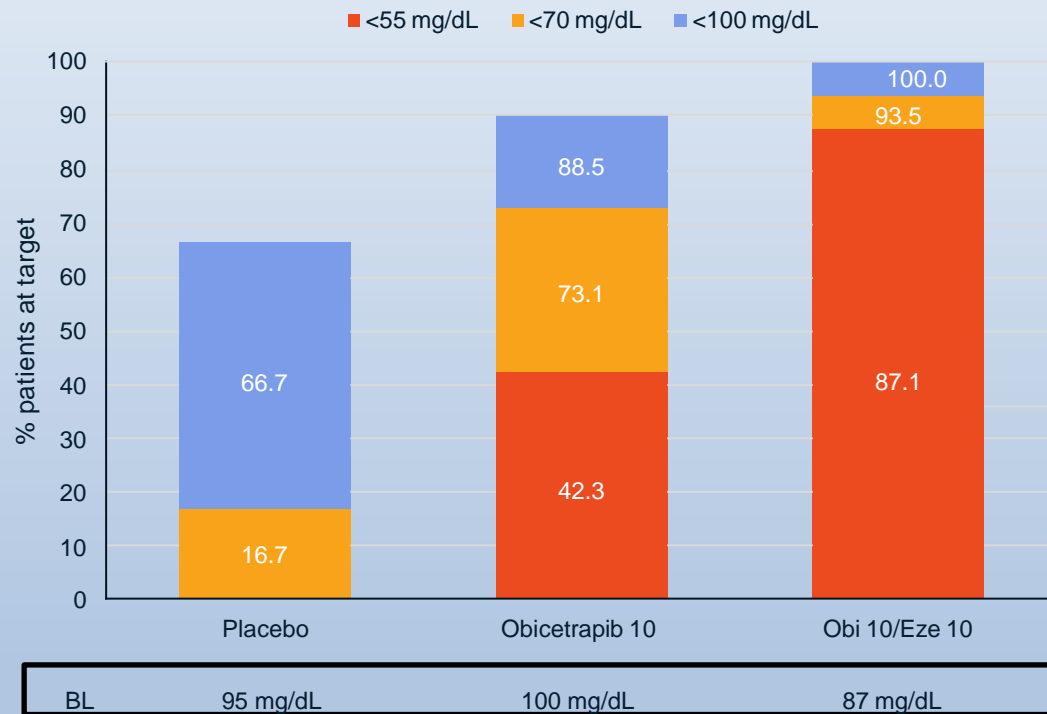
## LDL-C



## Non-HDL-C



# LDL-C target attainment



Ballantyne CM, et al. J. of Clinical Lipidology 2023

# Safety: TEAEs, TESAEs, and withdrawal overview (safety population)



	Placebo N= 40, N (%)	Obicetrapib 10 mg N= 39, N (%)	Obi 10 mg / Eze 10 mg N= 40, N (%)
<b>TEAEs (%)</b>			
TEAEs	16 (40)	8 (20.5)	11 (27.5)
Related TEAEs	2 (5.0)	4 (10.3)	5 (12.5)
Severe TEAEs	2 (5.0)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
<b>TESAEs</b>			
TESAEs, total	1 (2.5)	1 (2.6)	0 (0)
Deaths	0	0	0
<b>Withdrawal's study / medication</b>			
TEAEs leading to discontinuation of study drug	2 (5.0)	2 (5.1)	1 (2.5)

N=total number of subjects in each treatment group.  
n=number of subjects who experienced an event.  
%=100 x n/N.

Treatment emergent adverse events (TEAE)

# Rose 2 Trial Conclusions



- Obicetrapib 10 mg and the combination of obicetrapib 10 mg + ezetimibe 10 mg were observed to reduce median LDL-C levels by -43.5% and -63.4%, respectively, on top of HIS therapy
- The combination of obicetrapib 10 mg + ezetimibe 10 mg was observed to reduce total LDL particles and small LDL particles by 72.1% and 95.4%, respectively
- 87.1% of patients taking the combination of obicetrapib 10 mg + ezetimibe 10 mg were observed to achieve an LDL-C level <55 mg/dL
- Obicetrapib 10 mg and the combination of obicetrapib 10 mg and ezetimibe 10 mg on top of HIS therapy were well tolerated
- These data support the continued development of a fixed dose combination of obicetrapib 10 mg plus ezetimibe 10 mg

# Obicetrapib Cardiovascular Outcome Trial in ASCVD patients



## Rationale

Patients with established ASCVD on maximally tolerated lipid-lowering therapy, including high-intensity statins, who are unable to get to their guideline goals, are at high risk for cardiovascular events, have an unmet medical need and therefore require additional lipid-lowering therapy

**Objective** To evaluate the potential of Obicetrapib to reduce cardiovascular mortality and morbidity in patients with established ASCVD

### Main inclusion criteria

- Established ASCVD
- Max tolerated lipid-modifying therapy
- LDL-C level  $\geq 70 < 100$  mg/dL + 1 RF
  - Recent MI (3-12 months)
  - T2DM
  - TG  $> 150$  mg/dL
  - HDL-C  $< 40$  mg/dL
- Or  
LDL-C  $\geq 100$  mg/dL

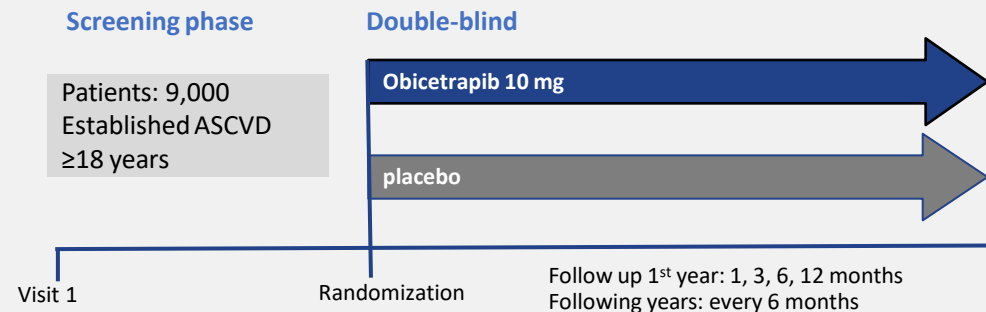
### Main exclusion criteria

- Poorly controlled diabetes (HbA1c  $> 10\%$ )
- Hypertension
- Congestive heart failure
- Severe anemia
- Liver disease
- Chronic kidney disease

### Strategy

- Duration if 959 primary endpoint events occur or the last randomized patient has been followed for a minimum of 2.5 years

**Study design:** Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled



### Primary endpoint

- 4 point MACE (CVD death, non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, non-elective coronary revascularization)

### Secondary objective

- LDL-c at 12 weeks
- New-onset diabetes mellitus;

NCT05202509



# What's Hot in CVD Prevention?

## Lipid Management!!



**THANK YOU!**

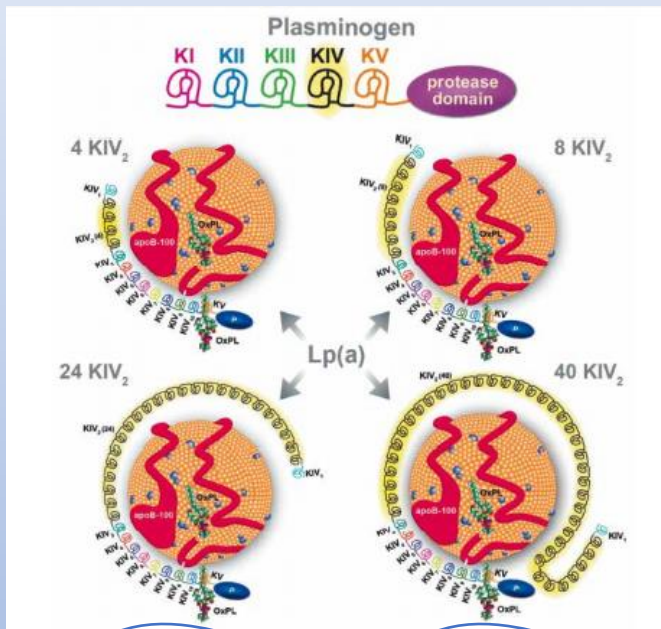
**Questions??**

# LIPOPROTEINA(a) È ATEROSCLEROSI: È TEMPO DI TRATTARE!

Lipoprotein(a) and Atherosclerosis:  
it is high time to treat!

MARIA GRAZIA ZENTI. ANNA ALTOMARI. ENZO BONORA

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Dipartimento di Medicina, Università e Azienda Ospedaliera Universitaria Integrata di Verona



Molteplici isoforme, attività  
peculiare.

## Pro-Infiammatoria

↑ espressione  
macrofagica di IL-8

↑ rilascio di citochine  
dai monociti

↑ chemiotassi/trasmigrazione  
dei monociti

↑ fosfolipidi ossidati

## Pro-Aterogena

↑ legame CE

↑ upregulation di  
molecole di adesione

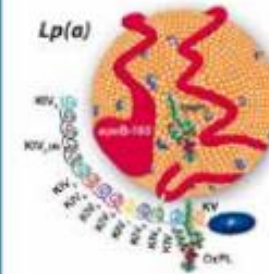
↑ proliferazione SMC

↑ legame a  
proteoglicani

↑ formazione foam-cell

↑ formazione core  
necrotico

↑ calcificazione delle  
lesioni



## Protrombotica

↓ attivazione  
plasminogeno

↓ degradazione  
di fibrina

↑ espressione EC PAI1

↑ attività TFPI

↑ risposta piastrinica

## 2019 ESC/EAS Guidelines for the management of dyslipidaemias: *lipid modification to reduce cardiovascular risk*

The Task Force for the management of dyslipidaemias of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and European Atherosclerosis Society (EAS)

Certain individuals declare themselves to be at high or very high CVD risk without needing risk scoring, and all risk factors require immediate attention. This is true for patients with documented CVD, older individuals with long-standing DM, familial hypercholesterolaemia, chronic kidney disease, carotid or femoral plaques, coronary artery calcium score >100, or extreme Lp(a) elevation.

**Livelli estremi di Lp(a) modificano la classe di rischio del paziente**

### **Lipid analyses for CVD risk estimation**

Lp(a) measurement should be considered at least once in each adult person's lifetime to identify those with very high inherited Lp(a) levels >180 mg/dL (>430 nmol/L) who may have a lifetime risk of ASCVD equivalent to the risk associated with heterozygous familial hypercholesterolaemia.

**Particolarmente significativi i livelli oltre 180 mg/dl**

# LIPOPROTEINA(a) È ATEROSCLEROSI: È TEMPO DI TRATTARE! Lipoprotein(a) and Atherosclerosis: it is high time to treat!

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