



# Congestive Heart Failure Update 2023

Arash Karnama, D.O., FACC

# Heart Failure

- Complex clinical syndrome that can result from any structural or functional cardiac disorder that impairs the ability of the ventricle to fill with or eject blood.

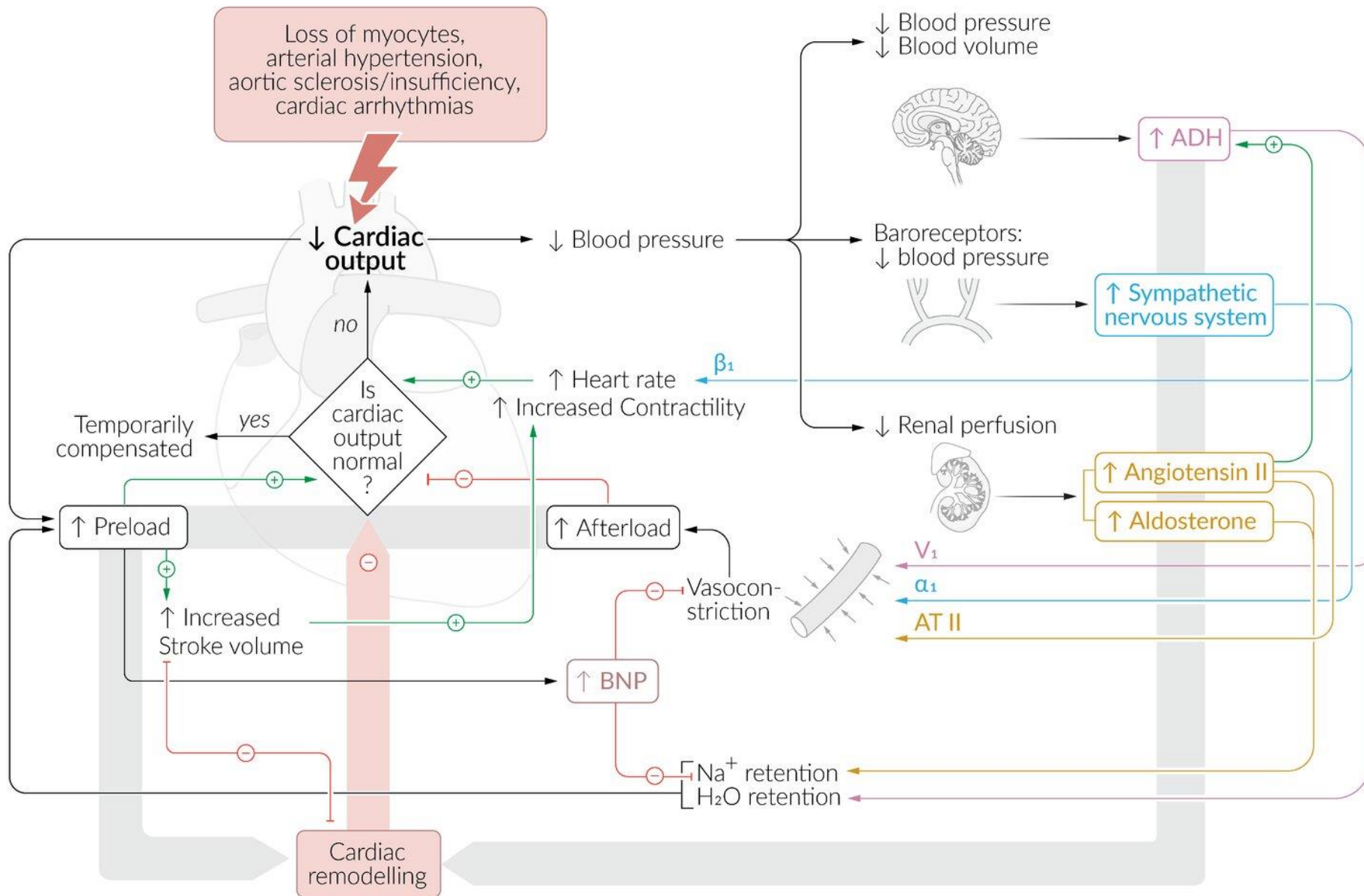
# Statistics

- Prevalence of 6.5 million people in the U.S. 960,000 new cases per year.
- Directly responsible for 8.5% of CV death per year.
- Contributes to 36% of CV death per year
- Most common Medicare diagnosis and also the most costly.

# Pathophysiology

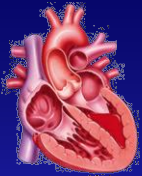
- Ischemia → infarction → poor pump function → poor tissue perfusion → compensatory increase in cardiac output caused by activation of neurohormonal axis (norepinephrine, arginine-vasopressin (AVP), angiotensin II, endothelin).



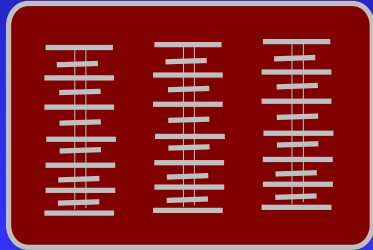


# Pathophysiology

- Norepinephrine – increased contractility, rate, vasoconstriction, sodium retention.
- AVP – retention of water to expand plasma volume.
- Angiotensin II – vasoconstriction, sodium retention, pathologic remodeling of the myocardium.
- Endothelin – vasoconstriction, inotropic effects. Stimulates further secretion of AVP and aldosterone.

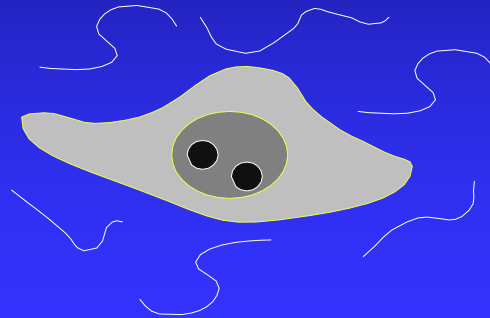


# Maladaptive Effects of Epinephrine and Norepinephrine



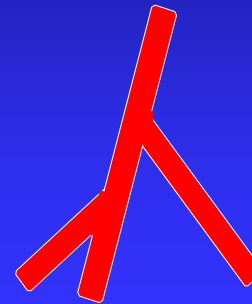
## Cardiac Myocyte

Hypertrophy  
Apoptosis  
Necrosis  
Increased wall stress  
Increased O<sub>2</sub> consumption  
Impaired relaxation



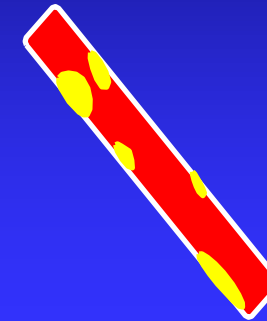
## Fibroblast

Hyperplasia  
Collagen synthesis  
Fibrosis



## Peripheral Artery

Vasoconstriction  
Endothelial dysfunction  
Hypertrophy  
Decreased compliance

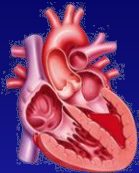


## Coronary Artery

Vasoconstriction  
Endothelial dysfunction  
Atherosclerosis  
Thrombosis

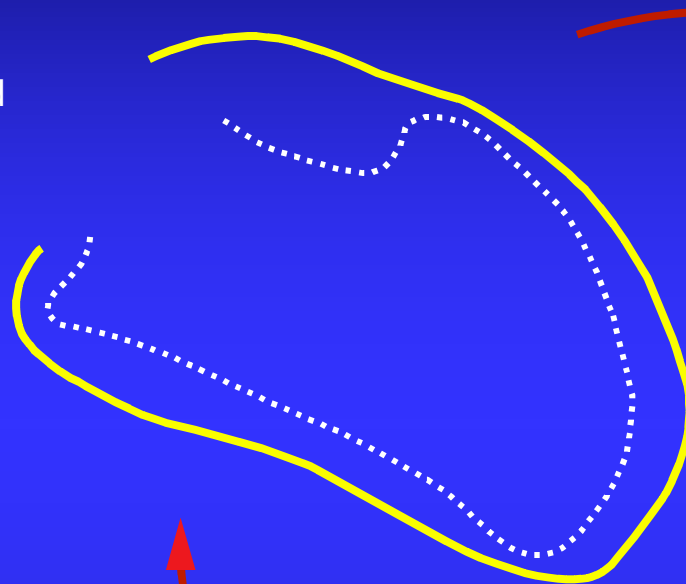
# Pathophysiology

- When these neurohormones are expressed on a chronic basis, a maladaptive pattern emerges, perpetuating heart failure.
- Two leading cause of death in these patients are progressive inotropic failure and arrhythmia.



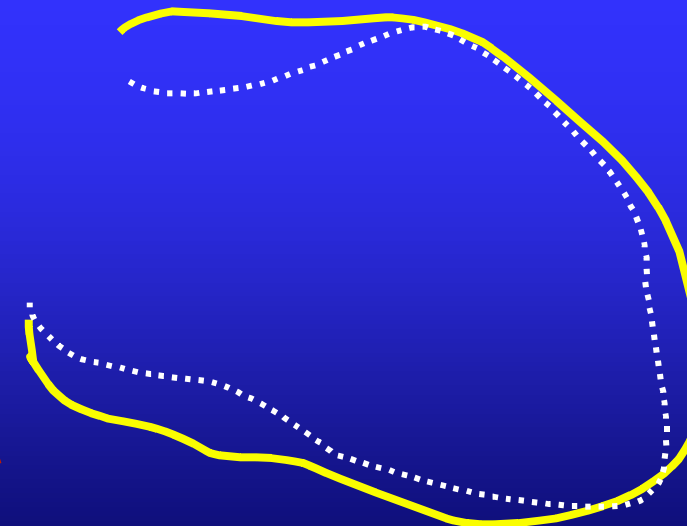
# Relation of Neurohumoral Activation to Myocardial Remodeling

Relatively normal chamber size and geometry<sup>1</sup>



**Myocyte dysfunction**  
**Structural alteration**

Cardiac adrenergic  
RAAS signaling



Remodeled Ventricle<sup>1</sup>

**Improved function**  
**Reverse remodeling**

ACE Inhibitors and  $\beta$ -blocker  
therapy (ANP/BNP?)<sup>2</sup>

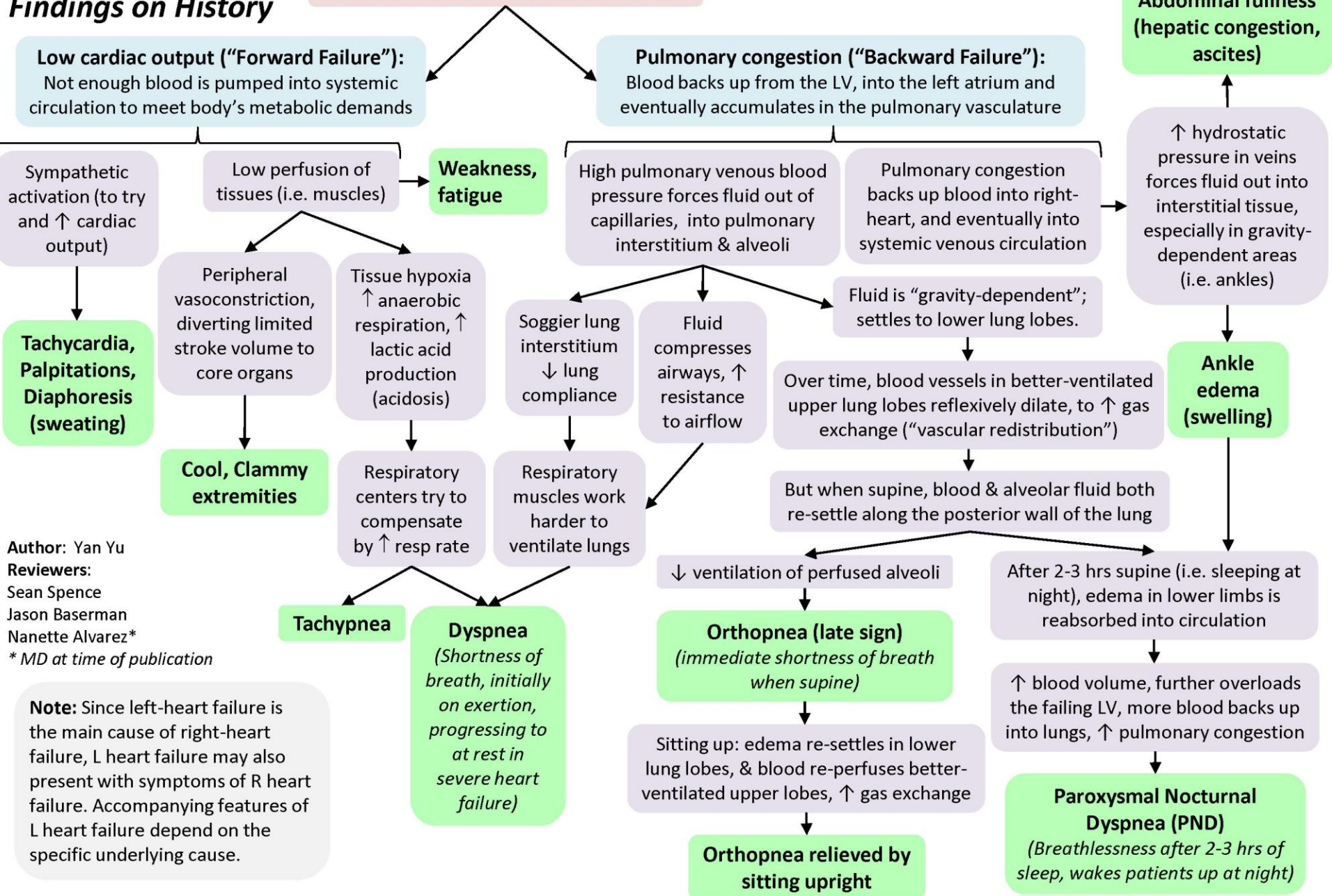
1. Cohn JN et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2000;35:569–582.
2. Burnett JC Jr. *J Hypertens*. 1999;17(suppl 1):S37–S43.

# Diagnosis

- Clinical diagnosis – history and physical examination are key to making diagnosis.

# Left heart failure: Findings on History

## Failure of the left ventricle (LV)



Author: Yan Yu  
 Reviewers:  
 Sean Spence  
 Jason Baserman  
 Nanette Alvarez\*  
 \* MD at time of publication

**Note:** Since left-heart failure is the main cause of right-heart failure, L heart failure may also present with symptoms of R heart failure. Accompanying features of L heart failure depend on the specific underlying cause.





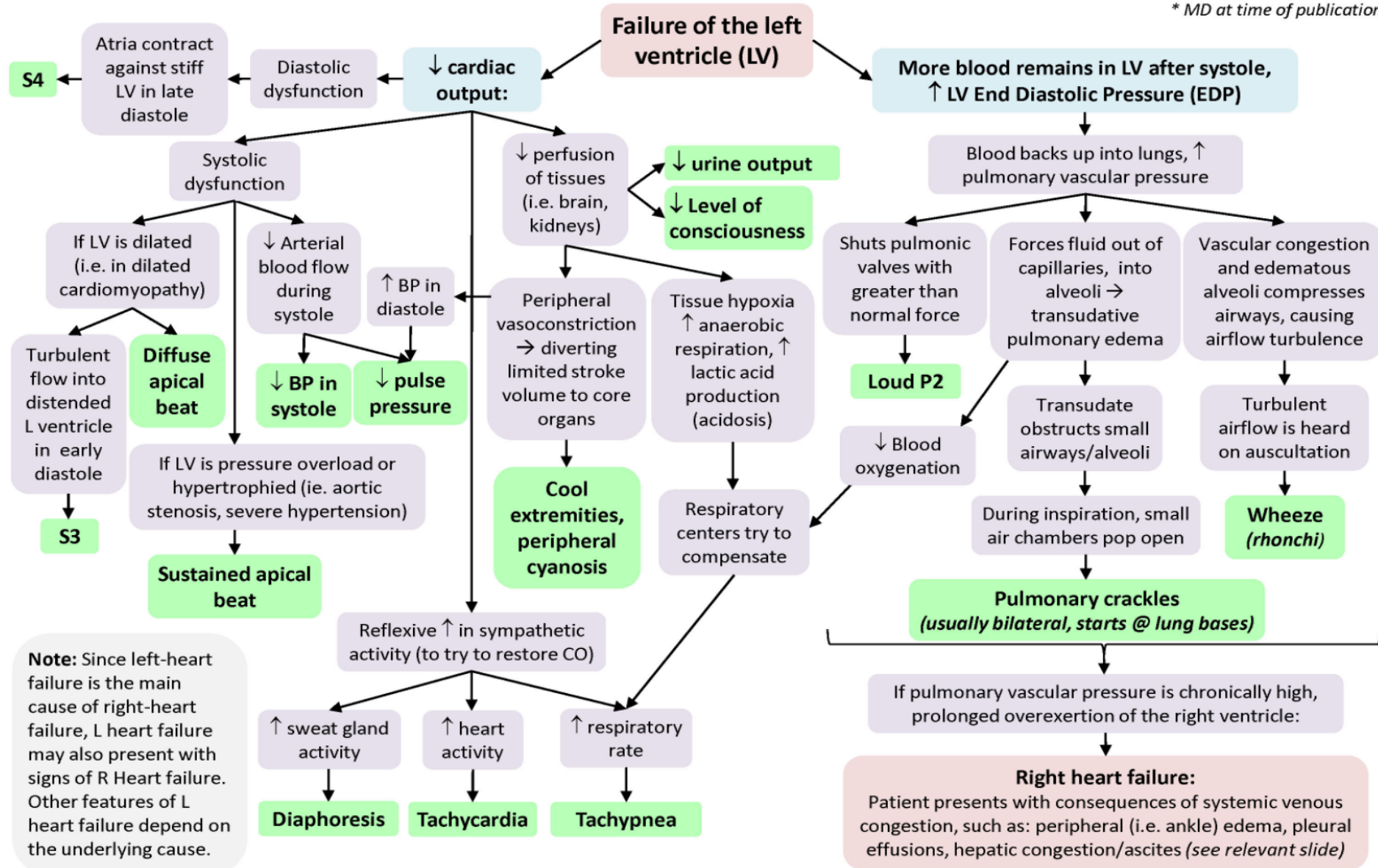
# LEFT HEART FAILURE: PHYSICAL EXAM FINDINGS

## Left heart failure: *Physical Exam Findings*

Author: Yan Yu

Reviewers: Sean Spence, Jason Baserman, Nanette Alvarez\*

\* MD at time of publication





EXPERT CONSENSUS DECISION PATHWAY

# 2021 Update to the 2017 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Optimization of Heart Failure Treatment: Answers to 10 Pivotal Issues About Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction



A Report of the American College of Cardiology Solution Set Oversight Committee

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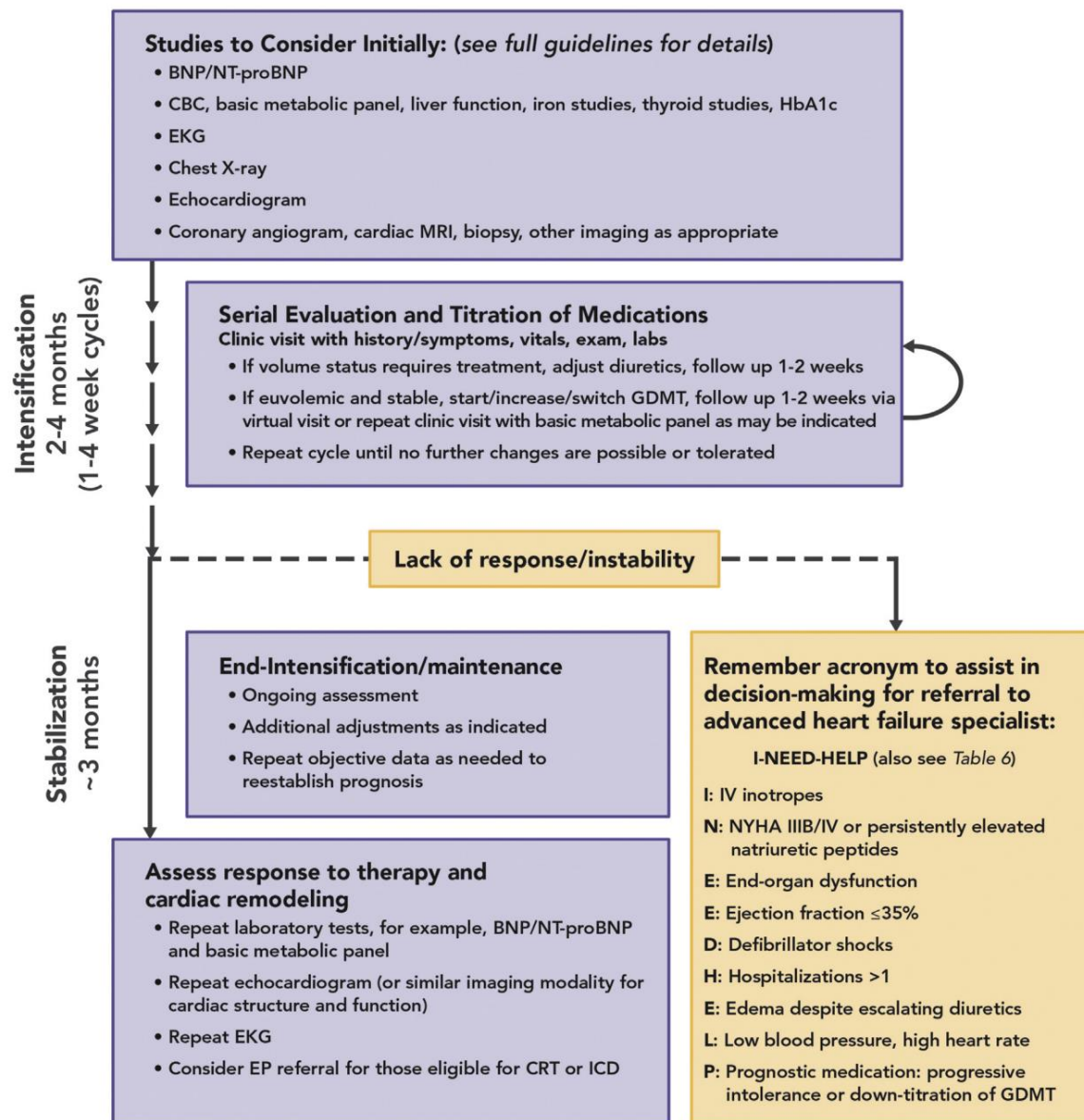
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FIGURE 4 Testing and Medication Titration Following Diagnosis of HFrEF



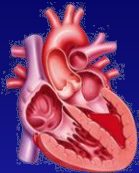
BNP = B-type natriuretic peptide; CBC = complete blood count; CRT = cardiac resynchronization therapy; ECG = electrocardiogram; EP = electrophysiologist; GDMT = guideline-directed medical therapy; HbA1c = hemoglobin A1c; HF = heart failure; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; ICD = implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; IV = intravenous; NT-proBNP = N terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide); NYHA = New York Heart Association.

# Diagnosis

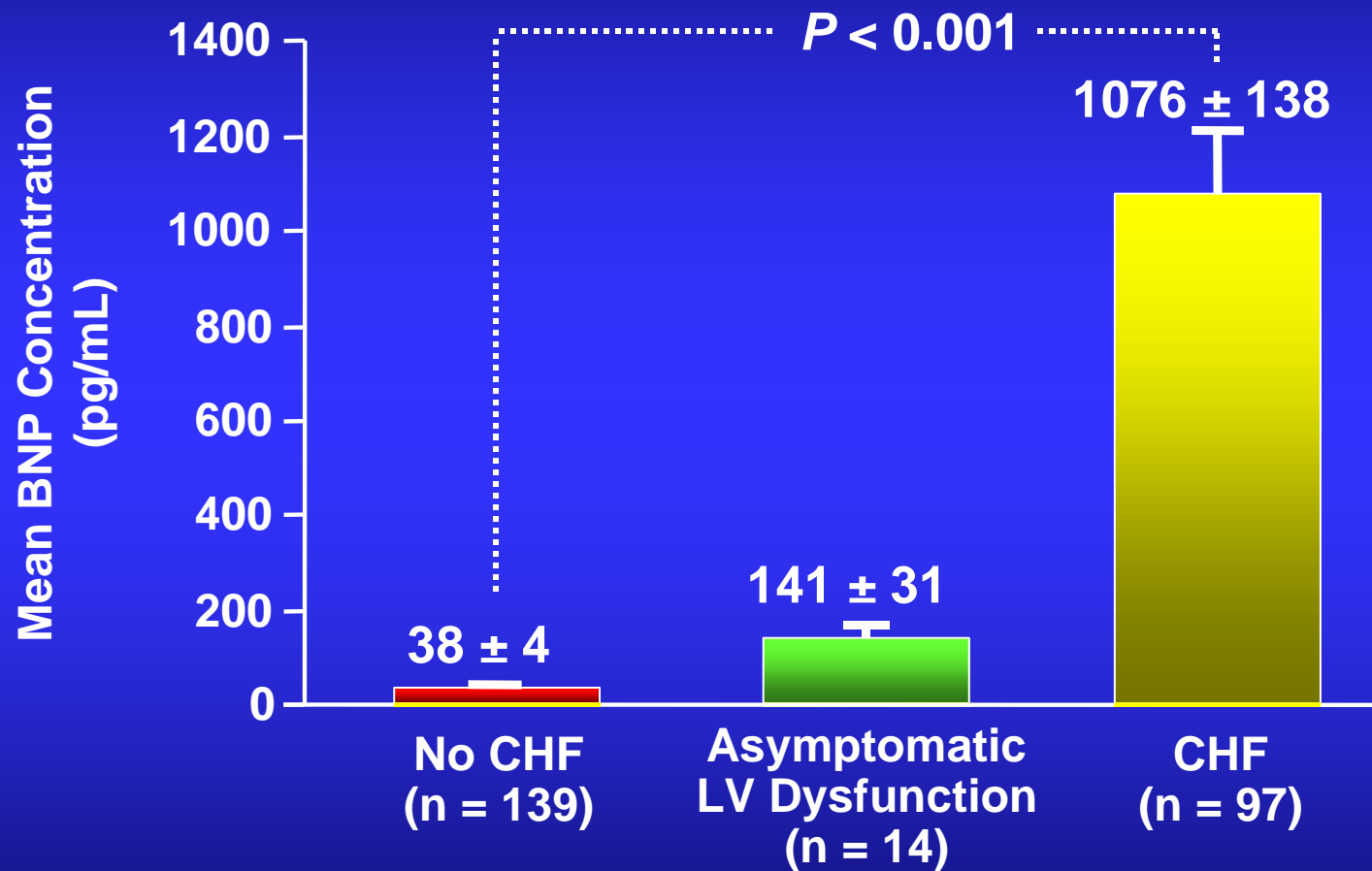
- BNP – 32 amino acid peptide secreted from ventricles of the heart.
- It is released in response to stretch and increased volume in the ventricles.
- Levels correlate with LVEDP and NYHA classification.

# Diagnosis

- BNP- level of 100pg/ml has sensitivity of 90%, specificity of 76%, and accuracy of 83% of differentiating CHF from other causes of dyspnea.
- BNP level of 50pg/ml has negative predictive value of 96%.
- BNP level is more accurate than NHANES criteria (67%) and Framingham criteria (73%), the two criteria most commonly used to diagnose CHF.



# BNP Levels of Patients Without CHF, With Baseline LV Dysfunction, and With CHF



### **Markedly increased levels**

(BNP > 500 pg/mL;  
NT-ProBNP > 1000 pg/mL)

- Decompensated heart failure
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Acute pulmonary embolism
- Septic shock

### **Moderately increased levels**

(BNP 100 - 500 pg/mL;  
NT-ProBNP 250 - 1000 pg/mL)

- Ventricular dysfunction
- Coronary heart disease
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Acute pulmonary embolism
- Cor pulmonale
- Septic shock
- Renal insufficiency
- Liver cirrhosis
- Subarachnoidal haemorrhage
- Hyperthyroidism

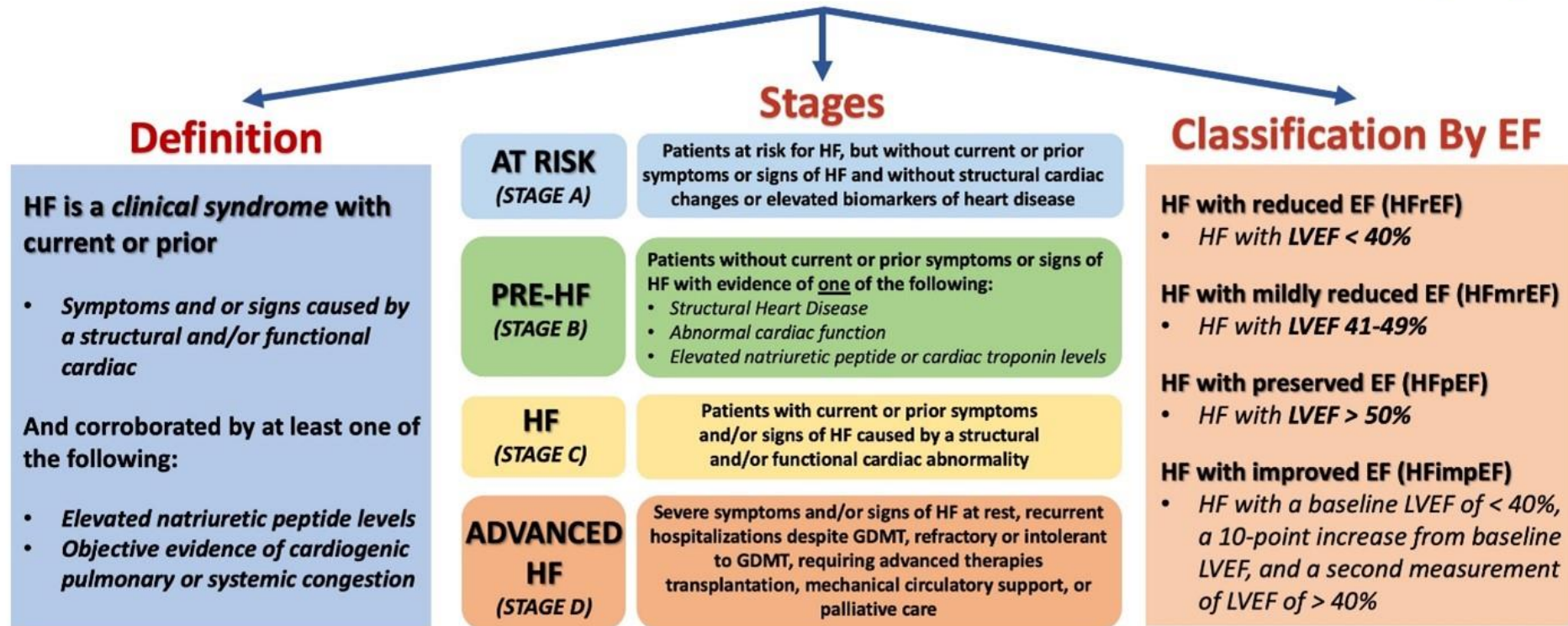
**Figure 4. Major causes of severe or moderate increases in BNP or**

# Staging and classification

ACC/AHA staging system	NYHA functional classification system
A – At high risk for HF w/out structural heart disease or symptoms of HF	I – Cardiac disease but no symptoms of HF with ordinary activity
B – Structural heart disease w/out symptoms	II – Cardiac disease that limits function slightly. Symptoms with ordinary activity.
C – Structural heart disease with prior or current symptoms of HF	III – Cardiac disease that limits function significantly. Symptoms with less than ordinary activity.
D – Refractory HF requiring specialized interventions	IV – Symptoms with any physical activity and may occur at rest.



# Universal Definition and Classification of Heart Failure (HF)



**Language matters!** The new universal definition offers opportunities for *more precise communication* and description with terms including **persistent HF** instead of “stable HF,” and **HF in remission** rather than “recovered HF.”



**TABLE 14****Important Pathophysiological Targets in Chronic, Hemodynamically Stable HFrEF and Treatments**

<b>Target</b>	<b>Therapy</b>
Renin-angiotensin-aldosterone system	ARNIs/ACEIs/ARBs, aldosterone antagonists
Sympathetic nervous system	Beta-blockers
Natriuretic and other vasodilator peptides	Neprilysin inhibitor (ARNI)
Sodium-glucose cotransporter-2	SGLT2 inhibitors
Balanced vasodilation and oxidative stress modulation	HYD/ISDN
Elevated heart rate	Beta-blocker, ivabradine
Guanylyl cyclase	Soluble guanylyl cyclase stimulators
Relief of congestion	Diuretic agents
Ventricular arrhythmias	Implantable cardioverter-defibrillators
Ventricular dyssynchrony due to conduction abnormalities	Cardiac resynchronization therapy
Mitral regurgitation	Surgical or percutaneous mitral valve repair
Reduced aerobic capacity	Aerobic exercise training

TREAT COMORBIDITIES PER CCS HF RECOMMENDATIONS (INCL. AF, FUNCTIONAL MR, IRON DEF, CKD, DM)

DIURETICS TO RELIEVE CONGESTION (TITRATED TO MINIMUM EFFECTIVE DOSE TO MAINTAIN EUVOLEMIA)

## HFrEF: LVEF $\leq$ 40% AND SYMPTOMS

### Initiate Standard Therapies

ARNI or ACEi/ARB  
then substitute ARNI

BETA BLOCKER

MRA

SGLT2 INHIBITOR



### Assess Clinical Factors for Additional Interventions

HR >70 bpm and  
sinus rhythm

- Consider ivabradine\*

Recent HF hospitalization

- Consider vericiguat \*\*

Black patients on optimal GDMT,  
or patients unable to tolerate  
ARNI/ACEi/ARB

- Consider combination  
hydralazine-nitrates

Suboptimal rate control for  
AF, or persistent symptoms  
despite optimized GDMT

- Consider digoxin

*Initiate standard therapies as soon as possible and titrate every 2-4 weeks to target or maximally tolerated dose over 3-6 months*



### Reassess LVEF, Symptoms, Clinical Risk



**NYHA III/IV, Advanced HF  
or High-Risk Markers**

#### CONSIDER

- Referral for advanced HF therapy (mechanical circulatory support/transplant)
- Referral for supportive/palliative care



**LVEF  $\leq$  35% and  
NYHA I-IV (ambulatory)**

Refer to CCS CRT/ICD  
recommendations



**LVEF > 35%,  
NYHA I, and Low Risk**

Continue present management,  
reassess as needed

NON-PHARMACOLOGIC THERAPIES (EDUCATION, SELF-CARE, EXERCISE)

ADVANCE CARE PLANNING AND DOCUMENTATION OF GOALS OF CARE

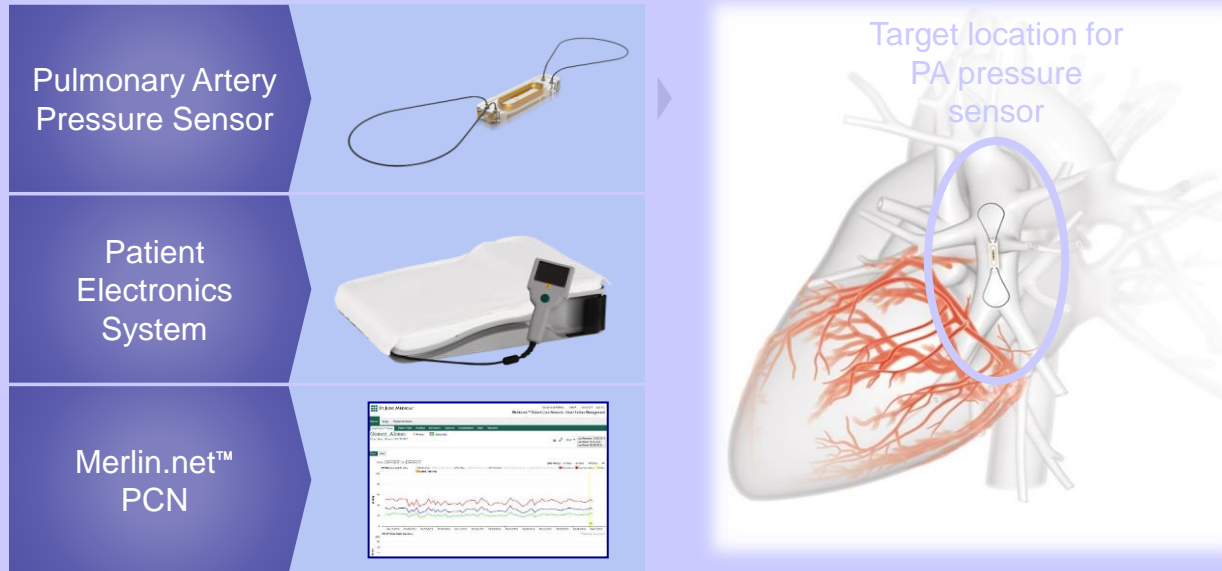
# Management – Nonpharmacologic therapy

- Screen for htn, dm, dyslipidemia.
- Tobacco cessation, elimination of alcohol consumption.
- Exercise – in patients with symptomatic chronic heart failure, it has been linked to reduced mortality and hospital admission.
- Dietary sodium reduction – in patients with edema and/or hypertension.
- Daily Weights and diuretic adjustments.

# cardiomems™ HF System:

Provides clarity in the management of heart failure

Delivers insight into the early onset of worsening HF to more proactively manage HF patients and improve outcomes



Abraham WT, Lancet, 2011





## GUIDE-HF: Hemodynamic-guided management of heart failure – randomized arm primary outcomes

**Purpose:** To evaluate whether pulmonary artery (PA) pressure-guided heart failure management leads to a clinical benefit in a broad range of heart failure patients (NYHA Class II, III, or IV), with either a recent hospitalization for heart failure or elevated natriuretic peptides.

**Trial Design:** Single blind, randomized controlled trial of PA pressure-guided therapy in NYHA class II-IV pts. (N=1000) with either HF hospitalization or elevated natriuretic peptide. Pts. received an implantable PA pressure sensor (CardioMEMS HF System) followed by randomization to either treatment group with provider remote access, or control group without provider access. Median follow-up 11.7 months.

**Primary Endpoints:** Composite of all-cause mortality and total heart failure events ( heart failure hospitalizations and urgent heart failure hospital visits) at 12 months. The pre-COVID impact analysis included all primary endpoints up to March 13, 2020.



Presented by: Joann Lindefeld, ESC 2021, The Digital Experience  
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	Remote Hemodynamic Guided Care (n=497)	Standard Care ( no access to PA pressures) (n=503)	HR (95%CI)	P value
<b>Overall primary endpoint analysis</b>	253	289	0.88 (0.74-1.05)	0.16
Components of overall primary endpoint				
HF events	213	252	0.85 (0.70-1.03)	0.096
Urgent HF hospital visits	28	27	1.04 (0.61-1.77)	0.89
HF hospitalizations	185	225	0.83 (0.68-1.01)	0.064
Death	40	37	1.09 (0.70-1.70)	0.71
<b>Pre-COVID impact analysis-primary endpoint</b>	177	224	0.81 (0.66-1.00)	0.049
Components of Pre-COVID impact analysis				
HF events	147	199	0.76(0.61-0.95)	0.014
Urgent HF hospital visits	23	23	1.02(0.57-1.82)	0.95
HF hospitalizations	124	176	0.72(0.57-0.92)	0.0072
Death	30	25	1.24(0.73-2.11)	0.42
<b>Results:</b>				
Hemodynamic-guided management across the spectrum of ejection fraction and symptom severity was safe but did not reduce a composite of mortality and heart failure events.				
COVID-19 pandemic impacted the outcomes of the trial. The pre-COVID impact analysis indicated a benefit of hemodynamic-guided management on the primary outcome in the pre-COVID-19 period, primarily driven by a lower HF hospitalization rate (28%) compared to control group				

Results reflect the data available at the time of presentation.

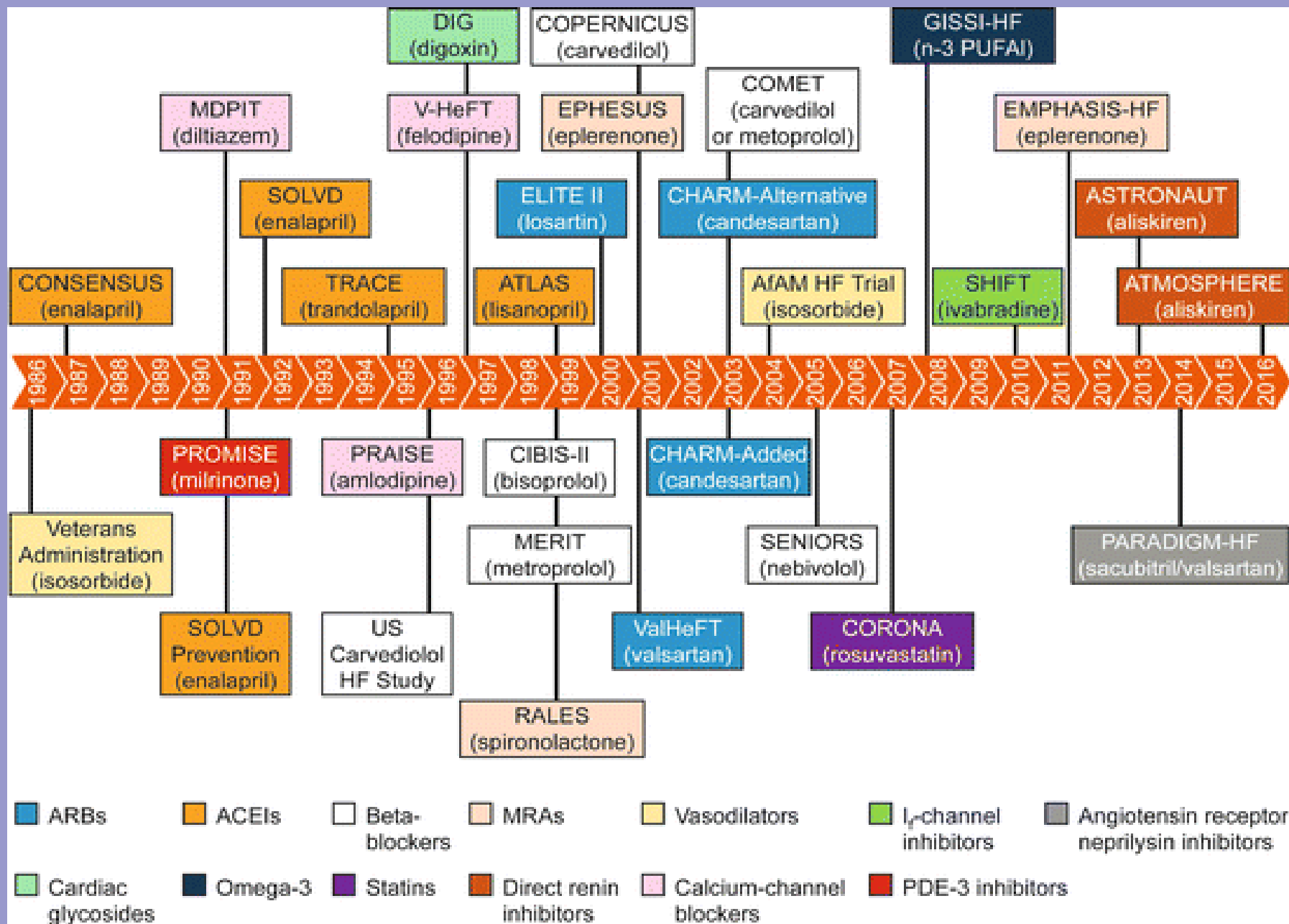
# Pharmacologic therapy

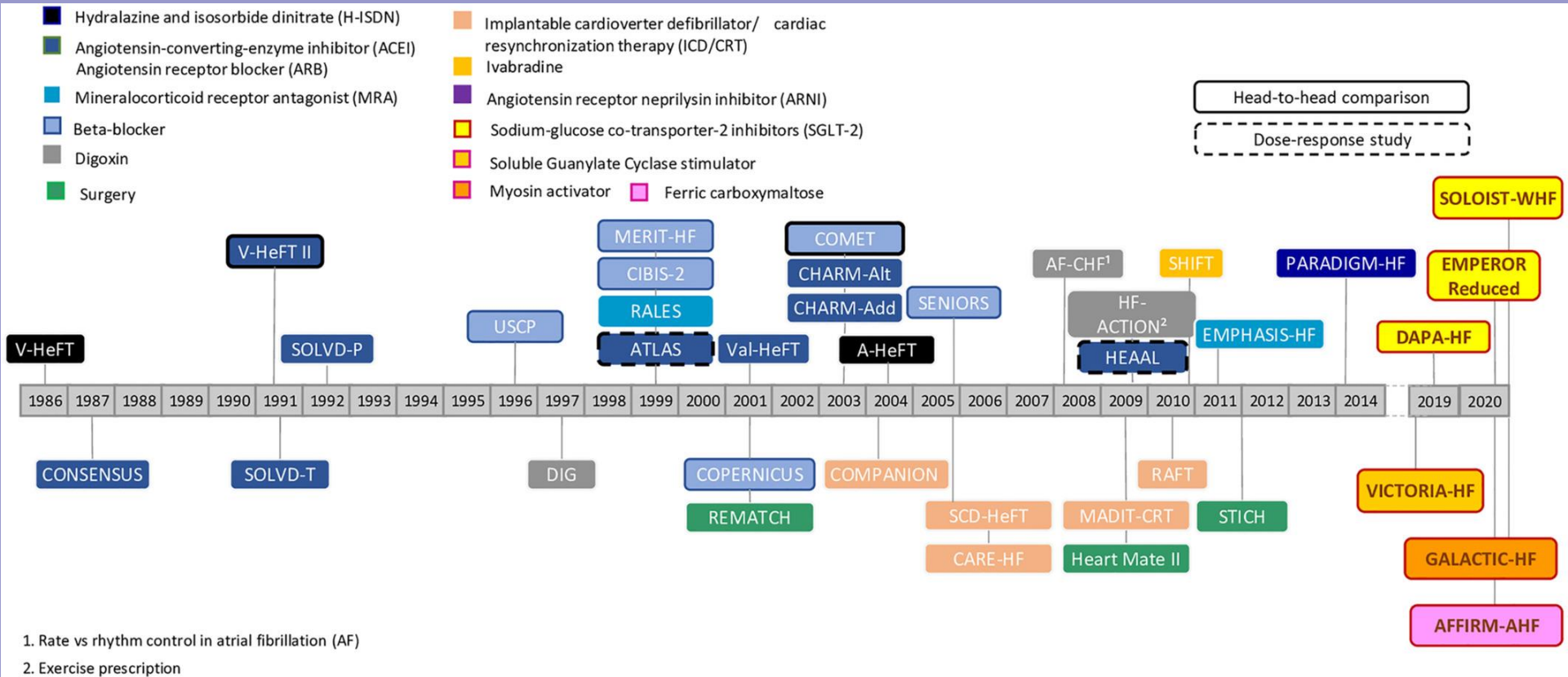
- ACE-I/ARB
- Beta-Blocker
- Hydralazine/Nitrate
- Aldosterone inhibitor
- Diuretic
- Digoxin



# Pharmacologic therapy

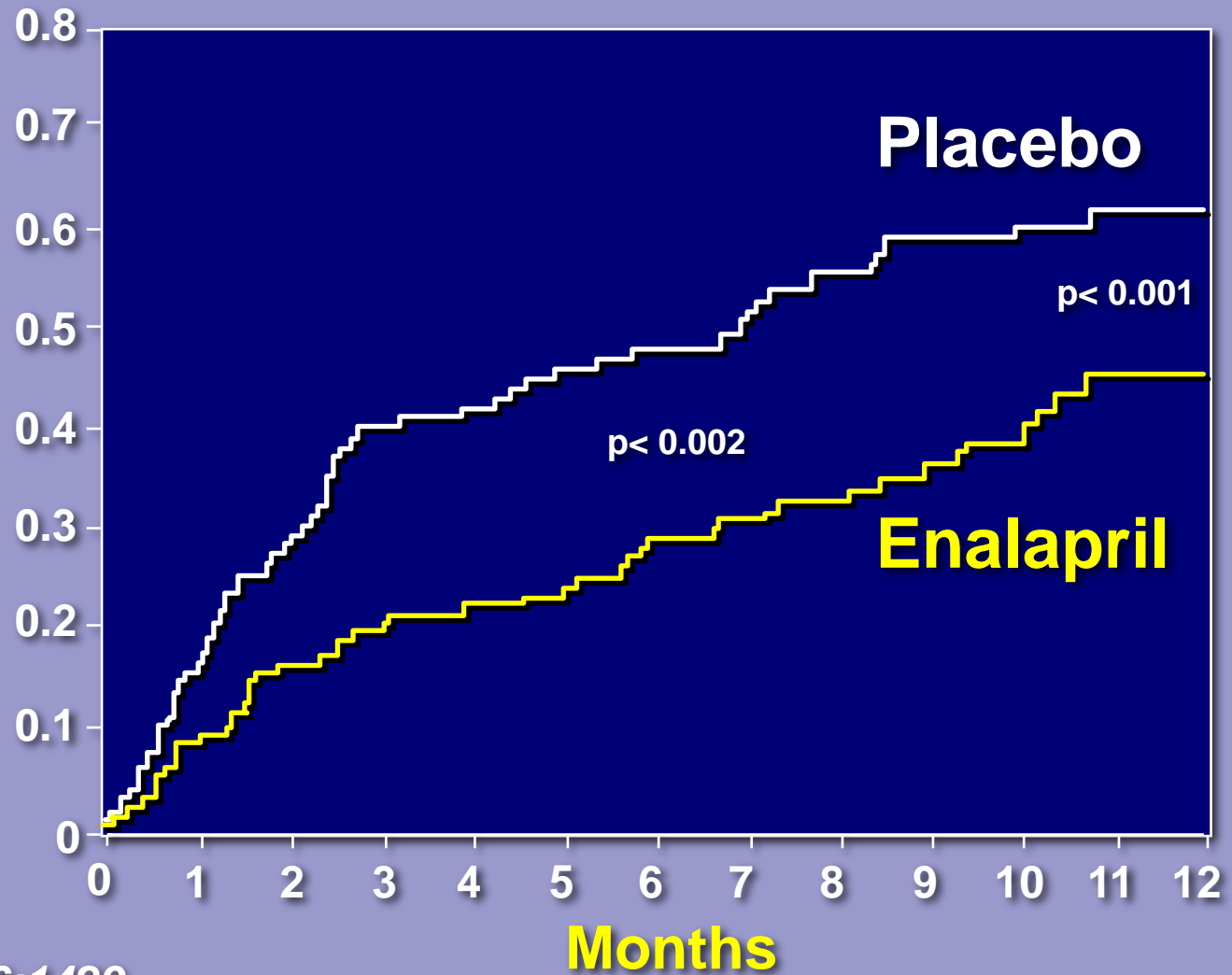
- Sacubitril/valsartan (Entresto)
- Vericiguat (Verguvo)
- Dapaglifozin (Farxiga), Empaglifozin (Jardiance)
- Ivabradine (Corlanor)





# ACE-I

Probability  
of  
Death



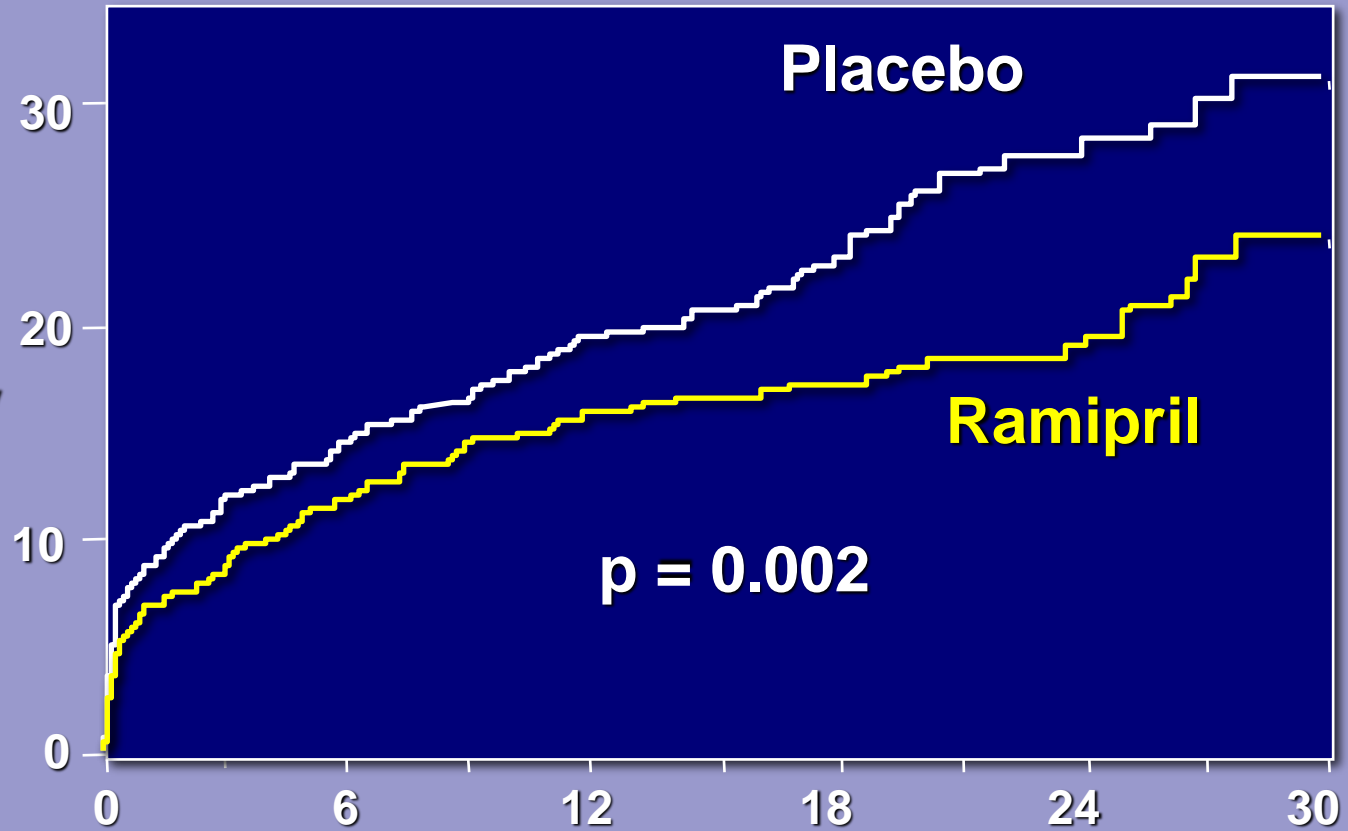
**CONSENSUS**

*N Engl J Med* 1987;316:1429

# ACE-I

**Mortality**  
%

n = 2006  
HF after AMI



**AIRE**

*Lancet 1993;342:821*

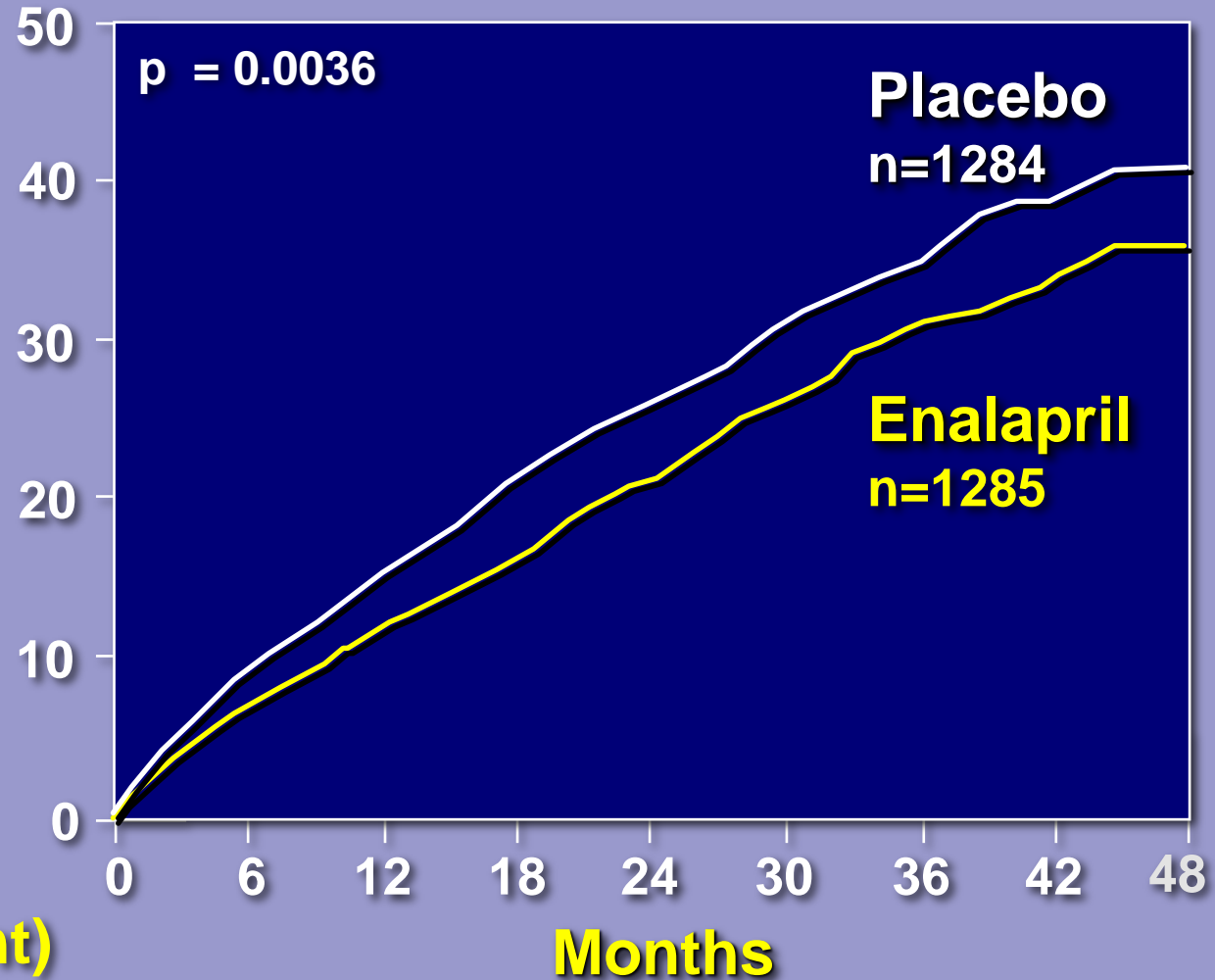
**Months**

# ACE-I

%  
Mortality

n = 2589  
CHF  
- NYHA II-III  
- EF < 35

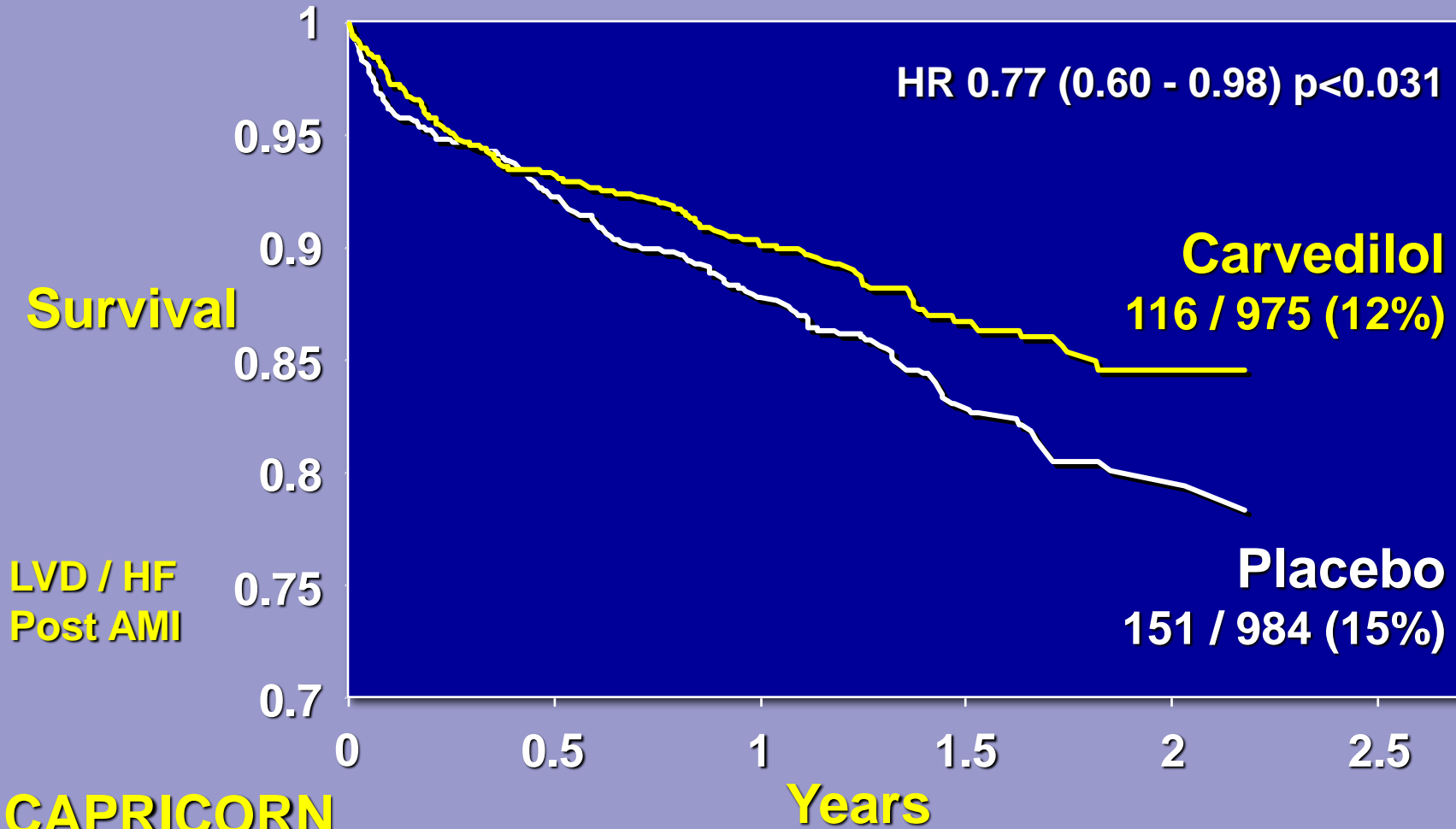
**SOLVD (Treatment)**  
*N Engl J M 1991;325:293*



# VALIANT

	Valsartan	Captopril	Combination
All cause mortality (n,%)	979(19.9)	958(19.5)	941(19.3)
CV Death	870(16.8)	830(16.9)	
CV Death or MI	1103(22.4)	1132(23.1)	
CV Death or HF	1326(27.0)	1335(27.1)	
CV Death, MI, or HF	1529(31.1)	1567(31.9)	

# β-Adrenergic Blockers

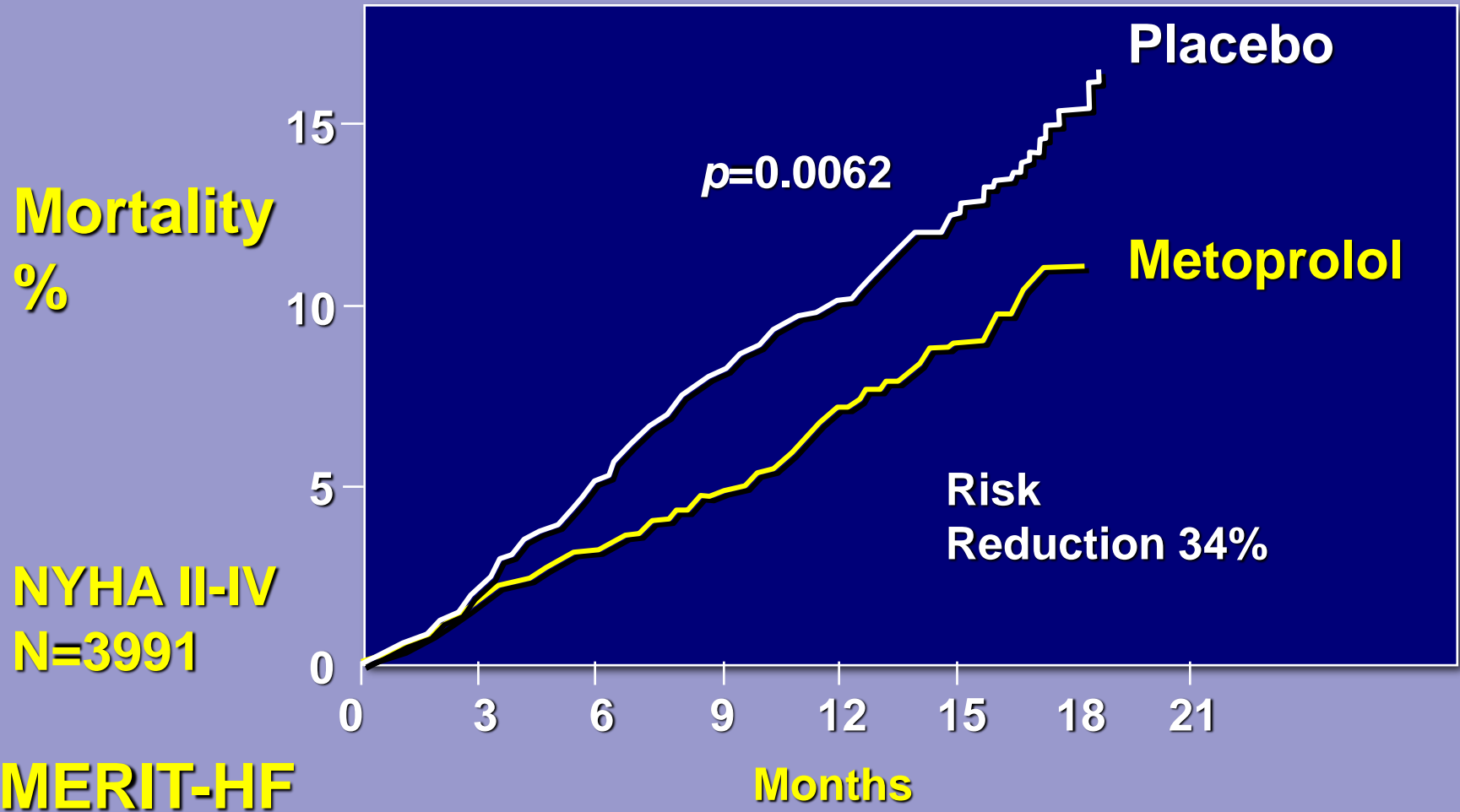


**CAPRICORN**

*Lancet 2001;357:1385*



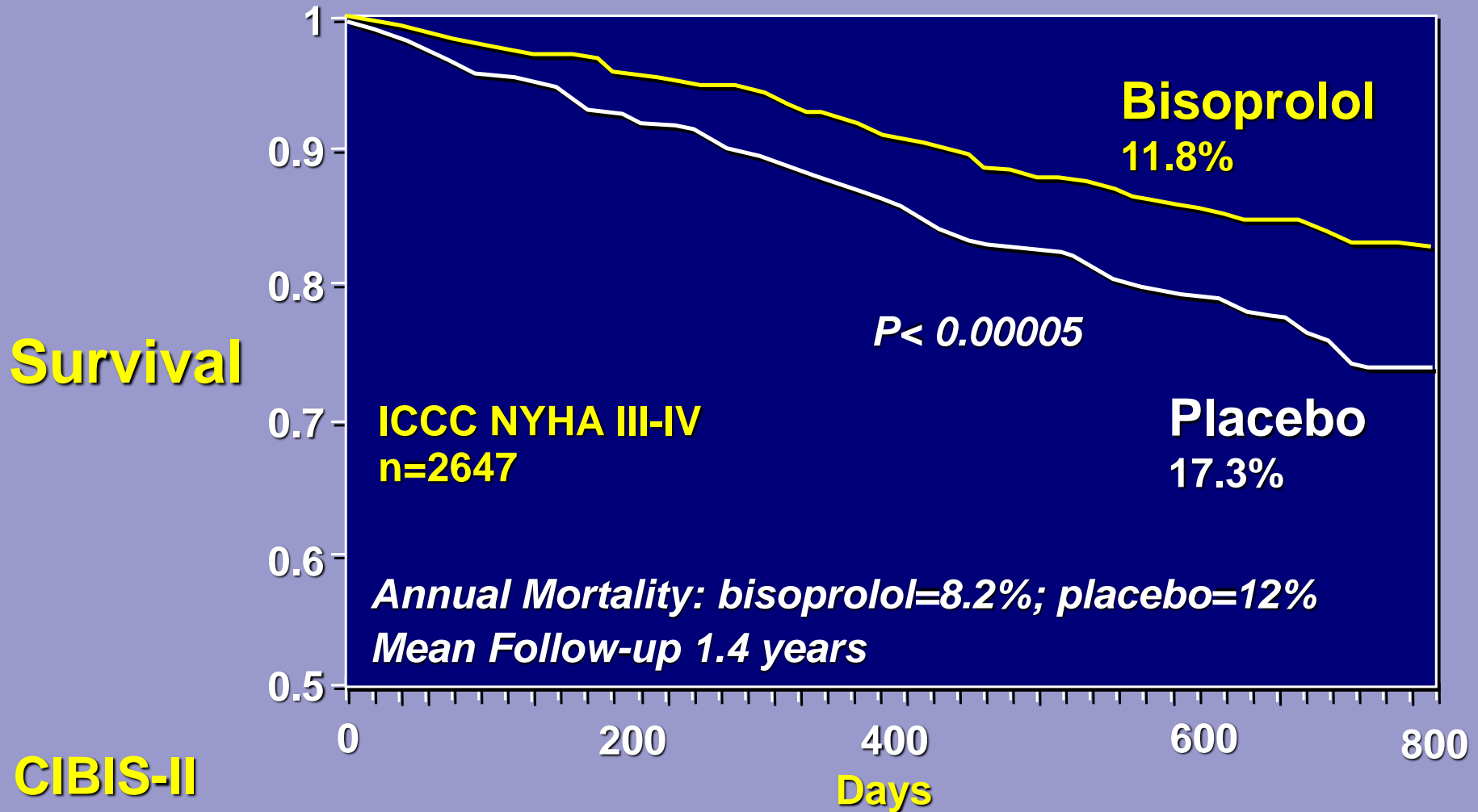
# $\beta$ -Adrenergic Blockers



**MERIT-HF**

*Lancet 1999; 353: 2001*

# $\beta$ -Adrenergic Blockers



# COMET trial

End point	Carvedilol (n=1511) (%)	Metoprolol (n=1518) (%)	HR (95% CI)	p
All-cause mortality	33.9	39.5	0.83 (0.74-0.93)	0.0017
All-cause mortality or all-cause hospitalization	73.9	76.4	0.93 (0.86-1.10)	0.1222

# **β-Adrenergic Blockers**

## **Dose (mg)**

**Initial**

**Target**

**Bisoprolol**

**1.25 / 24h**

**10 / 24h**

**Carvedilol**

**3.125 / 12h**

**25 / 12h**

**Metoprolol Succinate**

**12,5-25 / 24h**

**200 / 24h**

- **Start Low, Increase Slowly**
- Increase the dose every 2 - 4 weeks

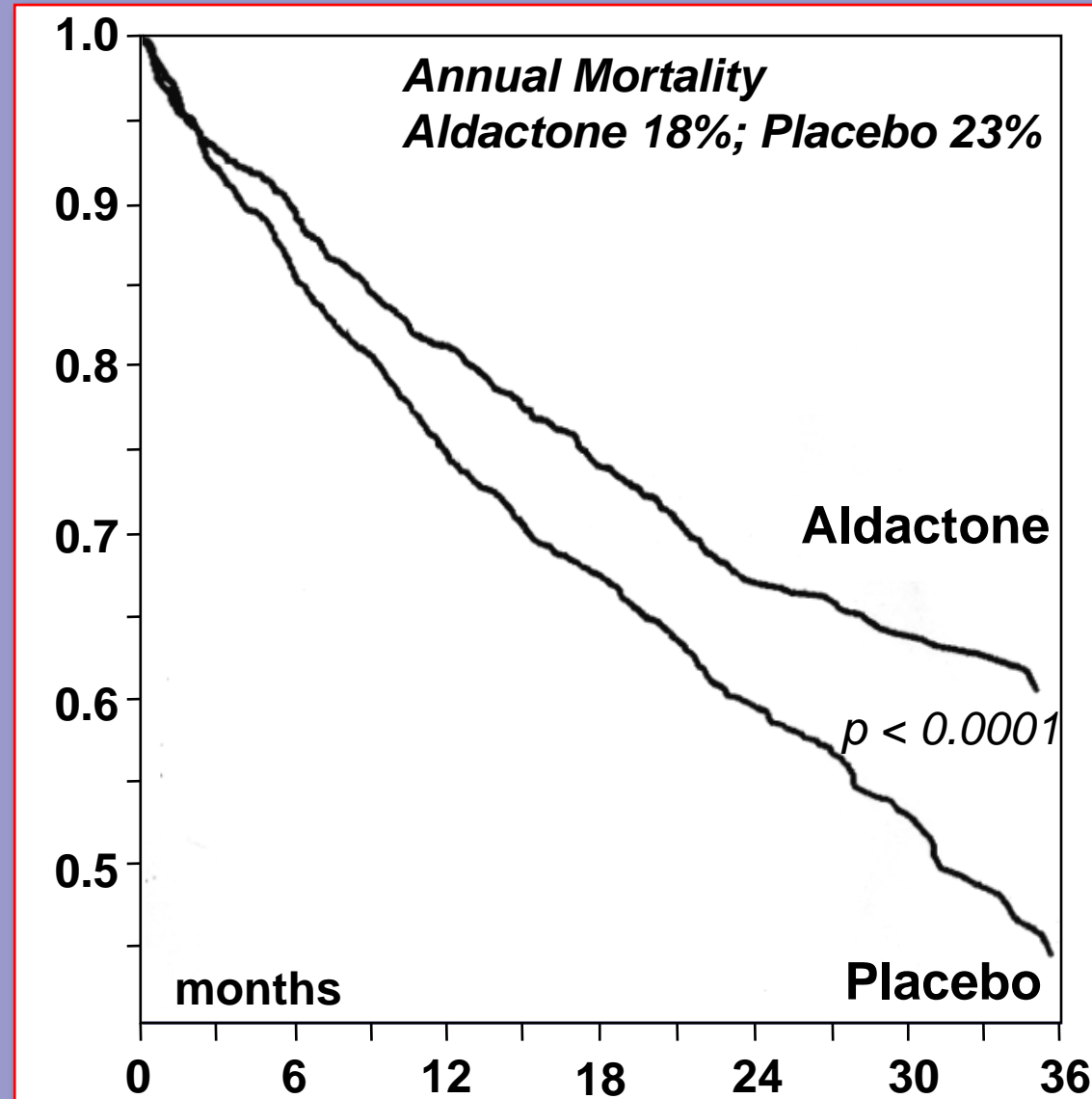
# Spironolactone

## Survival

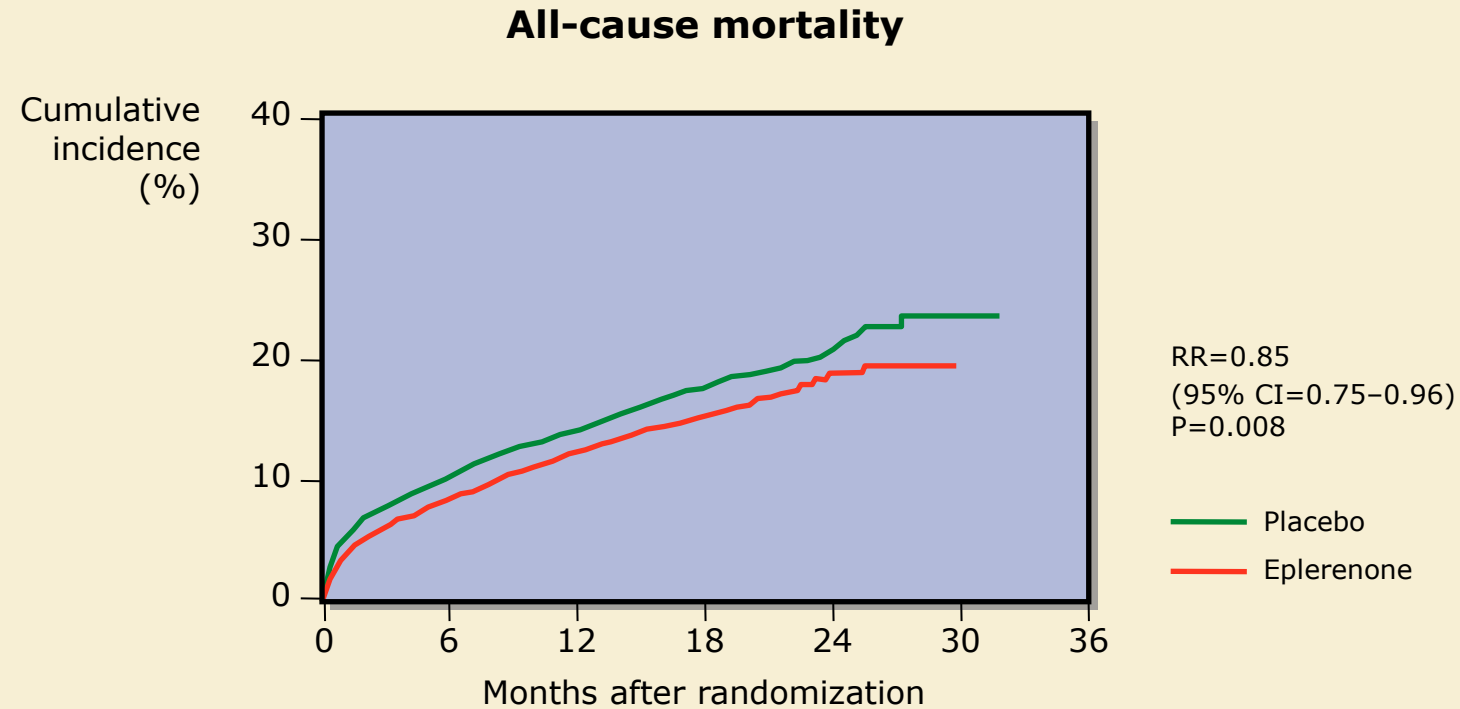
N = 1663  
NYHA III-IV  
Mean follow-up 2 y

### RALES

NEJM 1999;341:709



# EPHESUS: Eplerenone Post-Acute Myocardial Infarction Heart Failure Efficacy and Survival Study



Pitt et al. *N Engl J Med* 2003;**348**:1309-21.

# A-Heft

	<b>ISDN + Hydralazine</b>	<b>Placebo</b>	<b><i>P</i></b>
Primary composite score	-0.1	-0.5	.01
Components of primary composite score:			
All-cause mortality (%)	6.2	10.2	.02
First hospitalization for heart failure (%)	16.4	24.4	.001
Change in quality of life score at 6 mos	-5.6	-2.7	.02

# Digitalis

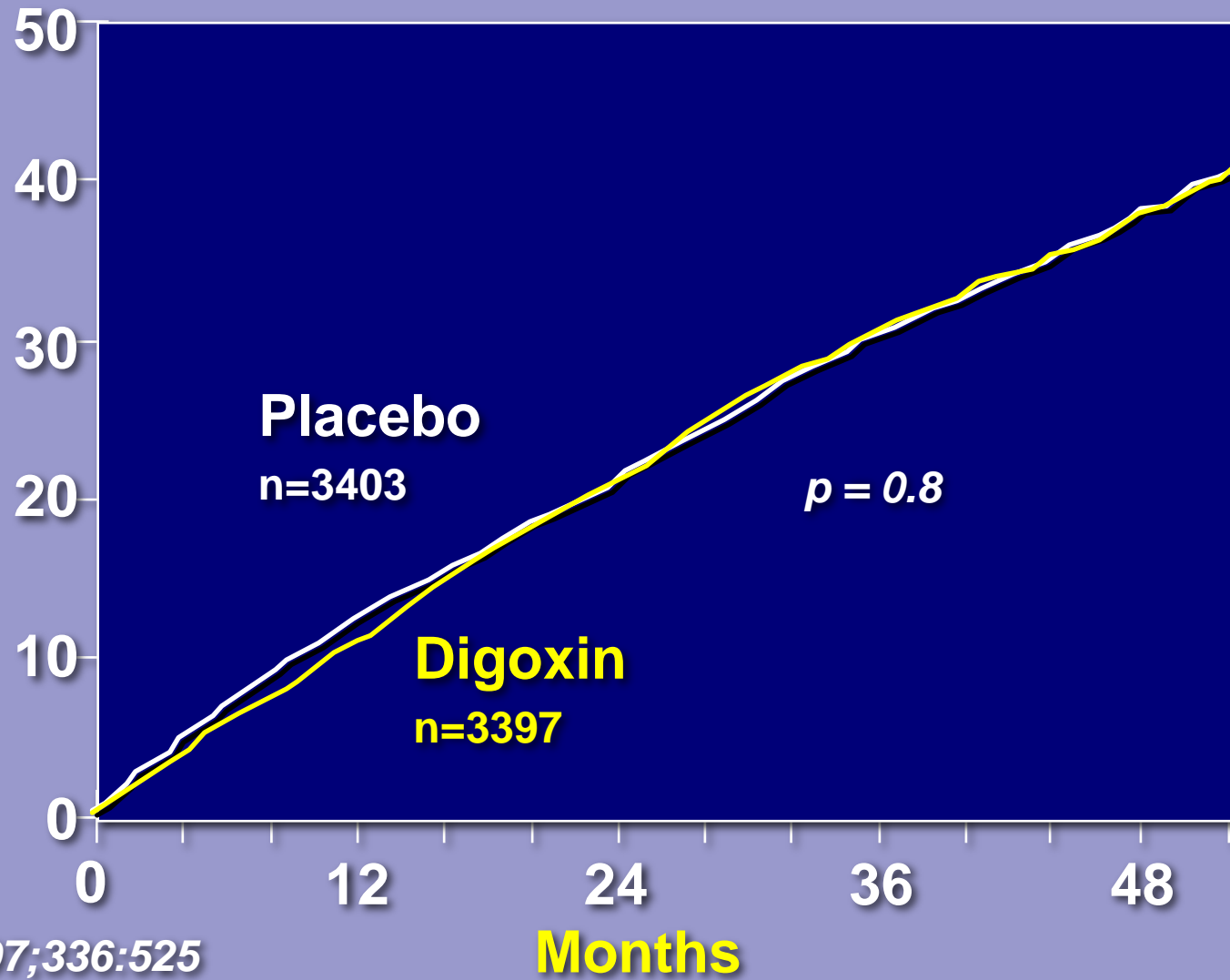
Mortality  
%

N=6800

NYHA II-III

DIG

*N Engl J Med 1997;336:525*



Placebo  
n=3403

Digoxin  
n=3397

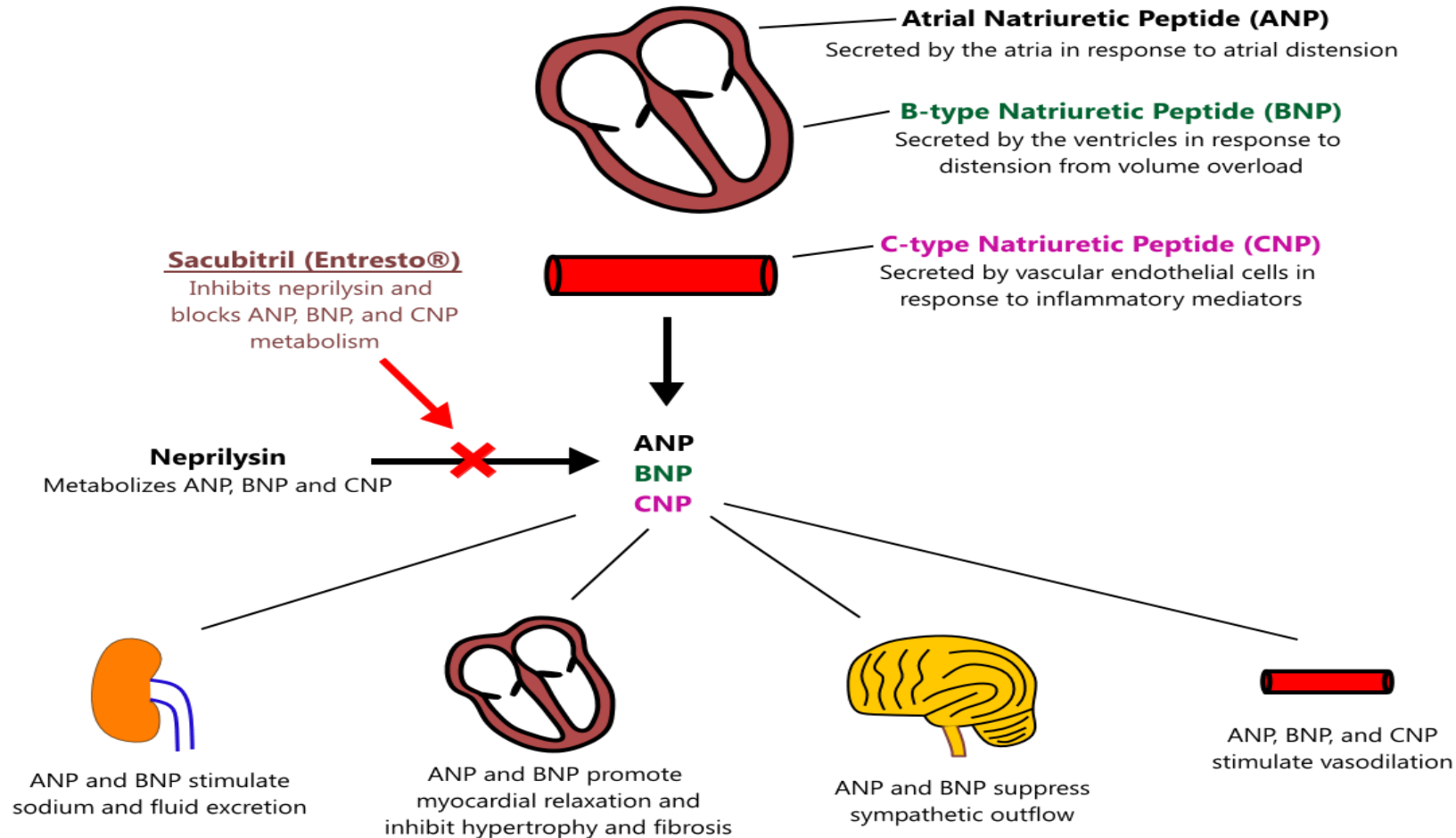
$p = 0.8$

Months

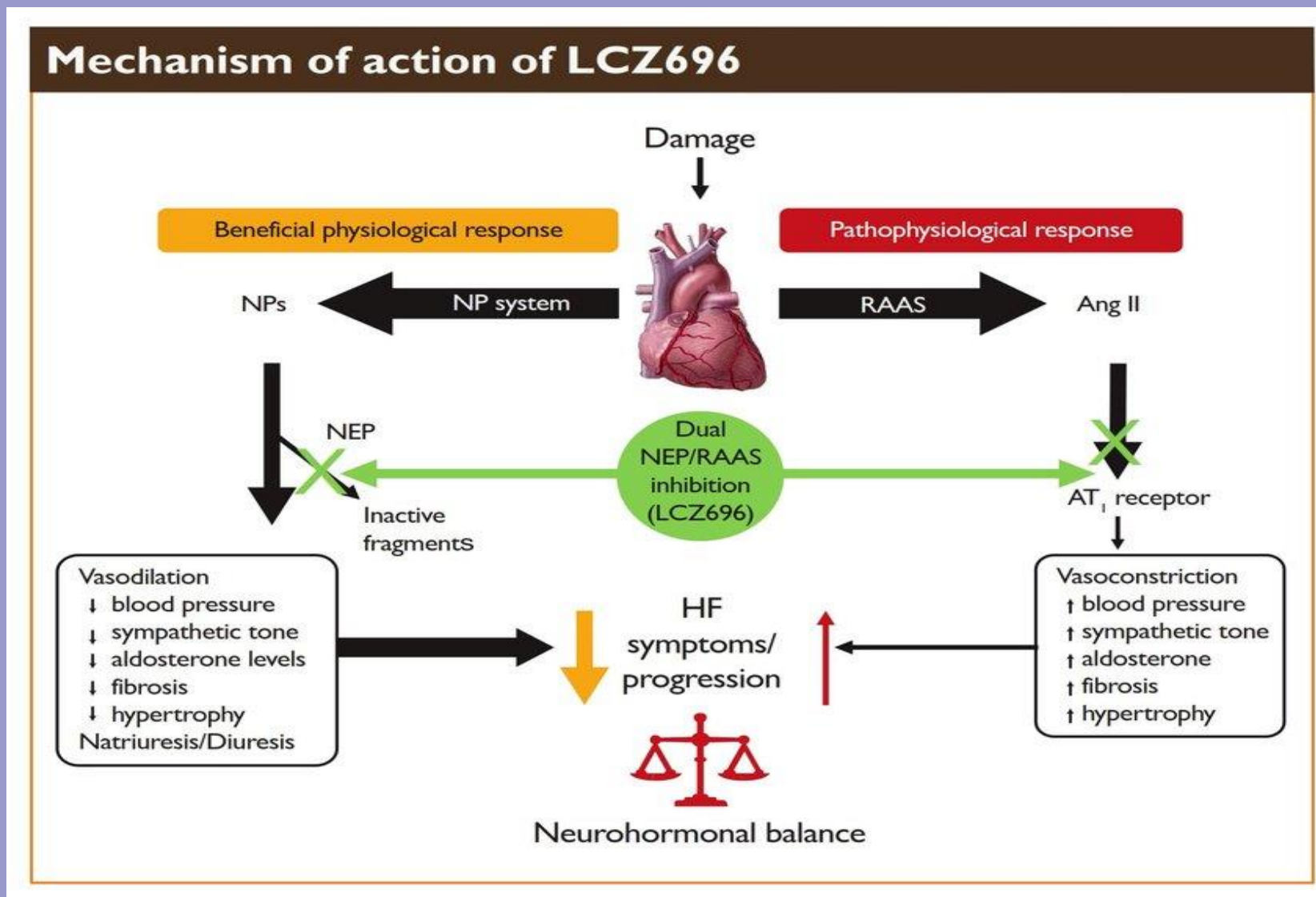


# Entresto

## NATRIURETIC PEPTIDE PHYSIOLOGY



# Entresto



# Entresto



**A Comparison of Angiotensin Receptor-  
Neprilysin Inhibition (ARNI) With ACE Inhibition  
in the Long-Term Treatment of Chronic Heart  
Failure With a Reduced Ejection Fraction**

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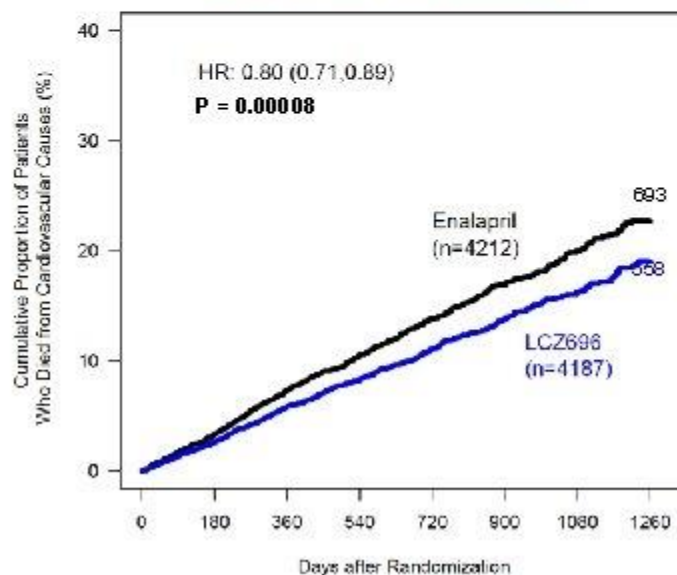
Milton Packer, John J.V. McMurray, Akshay S. Desai, Jianjian Gong, Martin P. Lefkowitz, Adel R. Rizkala, Jean L. Rouleau, Victor C. Shi, Scott D. Solomon, Karl Swedberg and Michael R. Zile for the PARADIGM-HF Investigators and Committees

# PARADIGM-HF

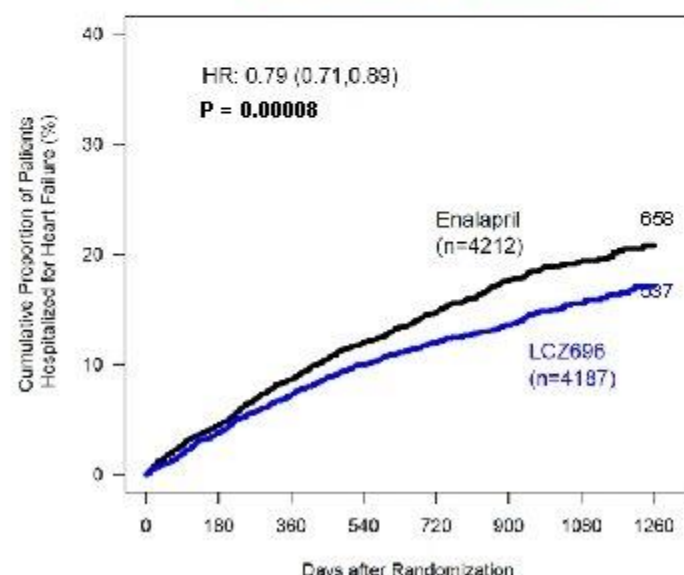
Prospective comparison of ARNI with ACEI to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and morbidity in Heart Failure trial

**Primary composite outcome**  
**HR: 0.80 (0.73, 0.87) p = 0.0000004**

**Death from CV causes**  
**20% risk reduction**



**HF hospitalization**  
**21% risk reduction**



McMurray, Packer et al. NEJM 2014

# PARAGON-HF

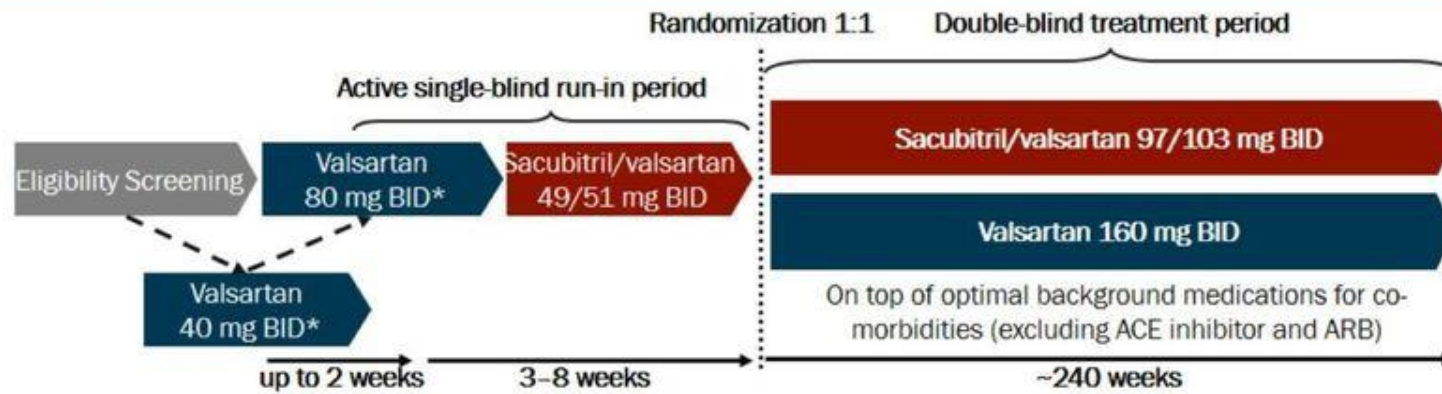
Prospective comparison of ARni with Arb  
Global Outcomes in heart failure with  
preserved ejection fraction





# PARAGON-HF Study Design

Randomized, double-blind, active comparator trial testing the hypothesis that sacubitril/valsartan, compared with valsartan, would reduce the composite outcome of total HF hospitalizations and CV death\*



## Primary Endpoint

Composite of total (first and recurrent) HF hospitalizations and CV death

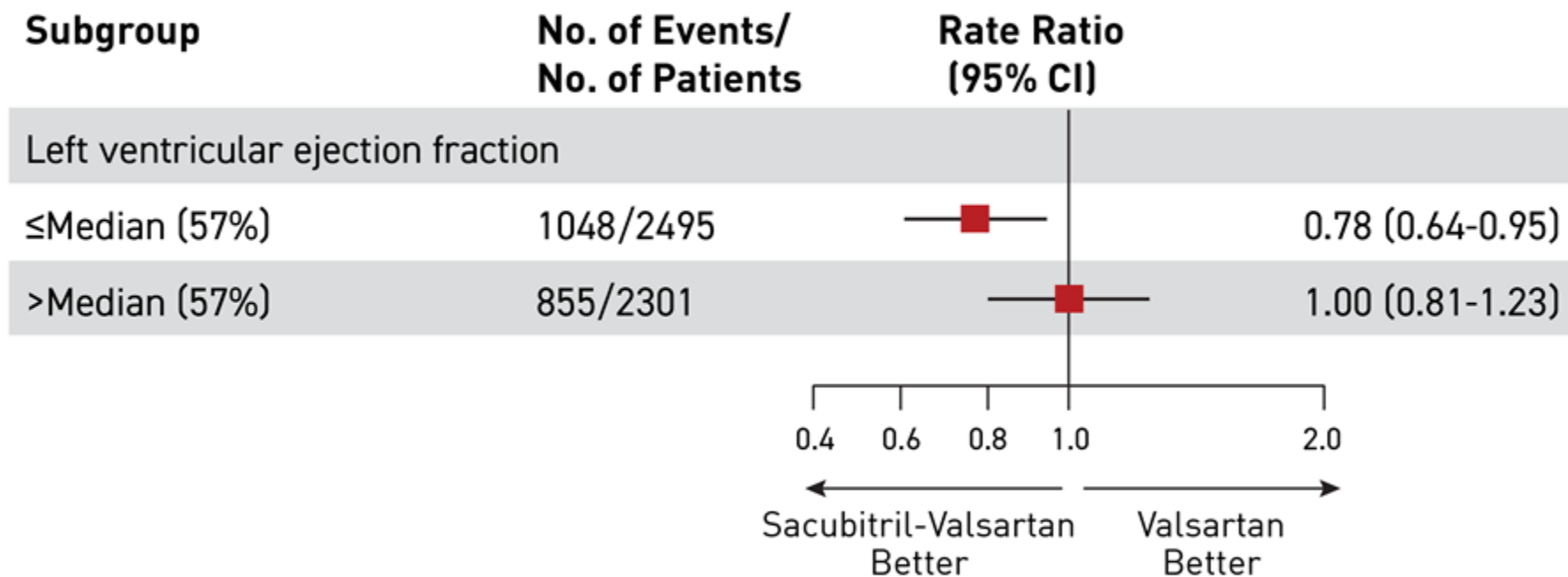
\* See publication for details.

Solomon SD, et al. *JACC-Heart Fail* 2017; 5:471-482.

## Secondary Endpoints:

- Improvement in NYHA functional classification at 8 months
- Changes in KCCQ clinical summary score at 8 months
- Time to first occurrence of worsening renal failure
- Time to all-cause mortality

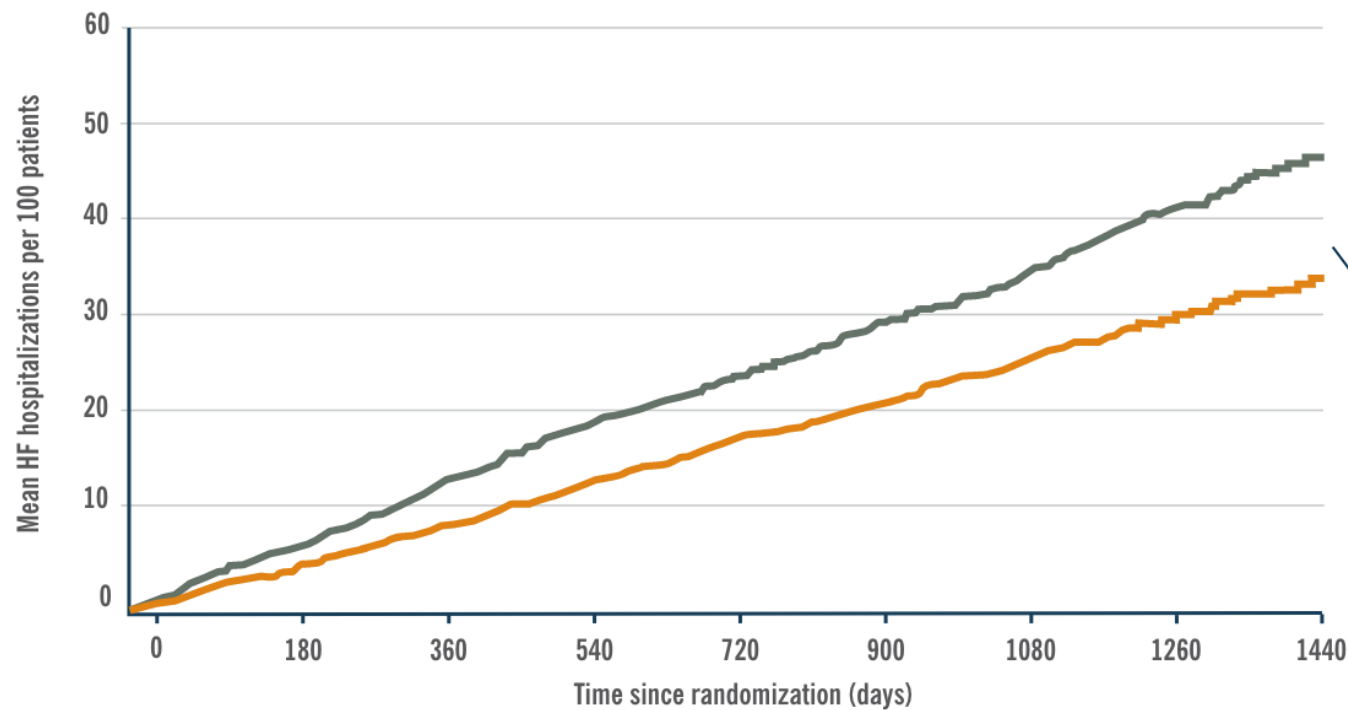
# PARAGON-HF: Primary Outcome in LVEF Subgroup



# PARAGON-HF: Secondary Endpoints

	Sacubitril/Valsartan N = 2316	Valsartan N = 2302	Effect size (95% CI)	Nominal P-value
NYHA functional classification at 8 months - Change from baseline (%)				
Improved	15.0%	12.6%	OR for improvement 1.45 (1.13, 1.86)	0.004
Unchanged	76.3%	77.9%		
Worsened	8.7%	9.6%		
Worsening Renal Function Composite of renal death, reaching ESRD, or $\geq 50\%$ decline in eGFR relative to baseline	1.4%	2.7%	HR = 0.50 (0.33, 0.77)	0.002
All-cause mortality (%)	14.2%	14.6%	HR = 0.97 (0.84, 1.13)	0.68





	No. of patients								
ENTRESTO	1239	1219	1196	1156	1128	928	577	277	93
Valsartan	1256	1226	1199	1168	1141	938	566	292	100

**25%**  
RRR

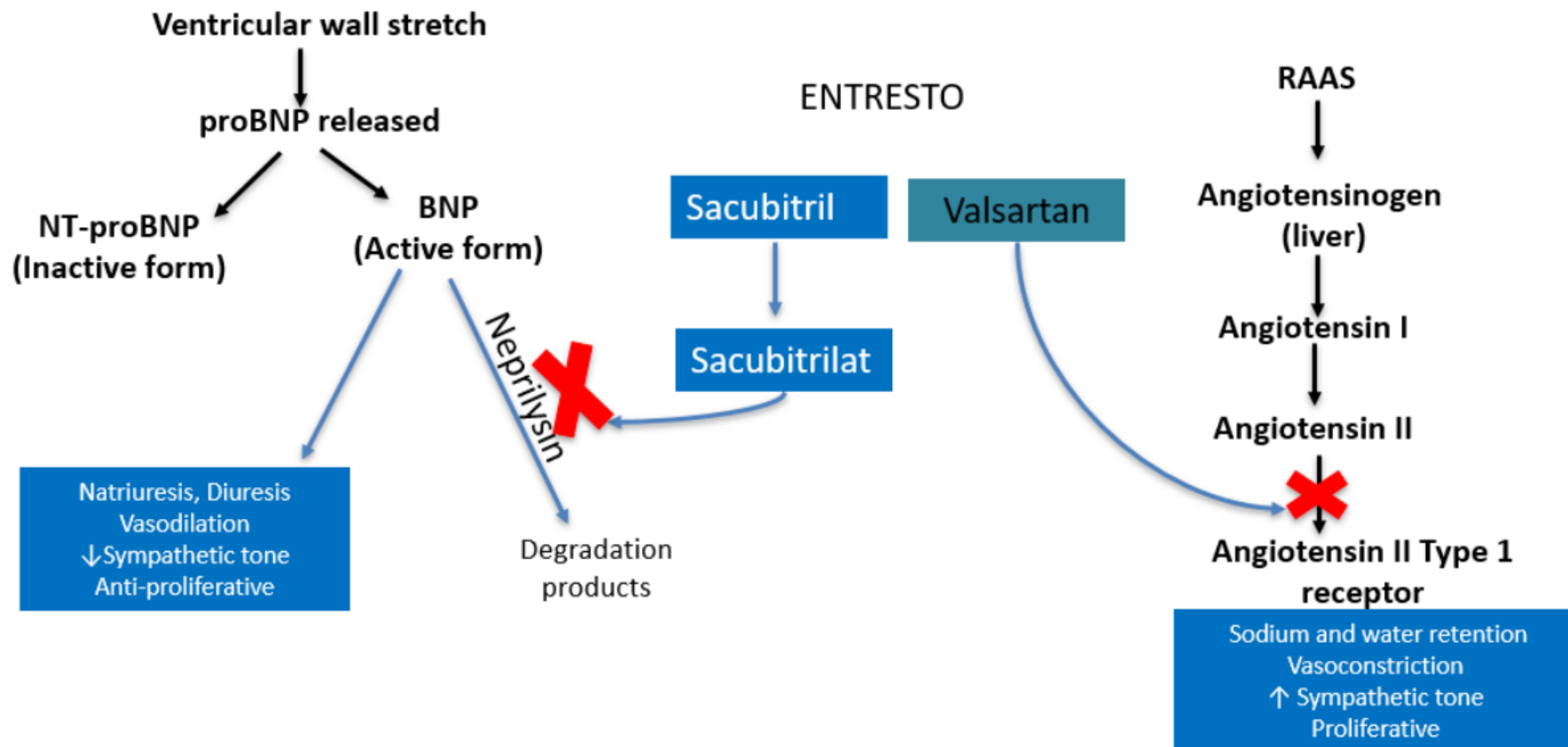
**IN TOTAL HF  
HOSPITALIZATIONS**

RR 0.75 (95% CI: 0.60, 0.95);  
ARR 3.6<sup>†</sup>

CV death: HR 0.99 (95% CI: 0.77,  
1.26); ARR 0.1<sup>†</sup>

# Entresto and BNP

Figure 1: Mechanism of action of ENTRESTO



**TABLE 3****Dose Adjustments of Sacubitril/Valsartan for Specific Patient Populations**

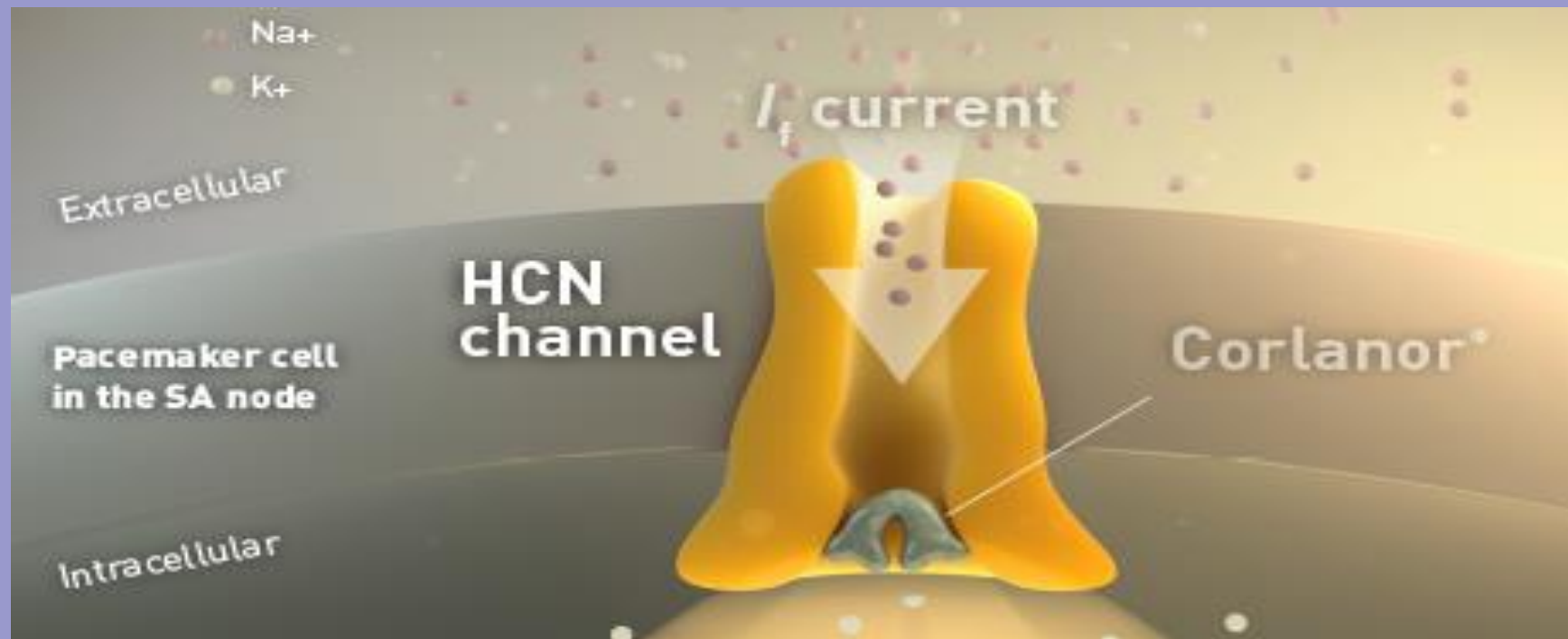
<b>Population</b>	<b>Initial Dose</b>
<i>High-dose ACEI</i> > <i>Enalapril 10-mg total daily dose or therapeutically equivalent dose of another ACEI</i>	<b>49/51 mg twice daily</b>
<i>High-dose ARB</i> > <i>Valsartan 160-mg total daily dose or therapeutically equivalent dose of another ARB</i>	
<i>De novo initiation of ARNI</i> <i>Low- or medium-dose ACEI</i> ≤ <i>Enalapril 10-mg total daily dose or therapeutically equivalent dose of another ACEI</i>	<b>24/26 mg twice daily</b>
<i>Low- or medium-dose ARB</i> ≤ <i>Valsartan 160-mg total daily dose or therapeutically equivalent dose of another ARB</i>	
<i>ACEI/ARB naive</i>	
<i>Severe renal impairment*</i> ( <i>eGFR &lt;30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup></i> )	
<i>Moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B)</i>	
<i>Elderly (age ≥75 years)</i>	

\*This population was not studied in the PARADIGM-HF trial. The statement is consistent with FDA-approved labeling indications.

ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; FDA = Food and Drug Administration; PARADIGM-HF = Prospective Comparison of ARNI with ACEI to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and Morbidity in HF.

# Corlanor

Blocks the hyperpolarization-activated cyclic nucleotide-gated (HCN) channel responsible for the cardiac pacemaker  $I_f$  current, which regulates heart rate.



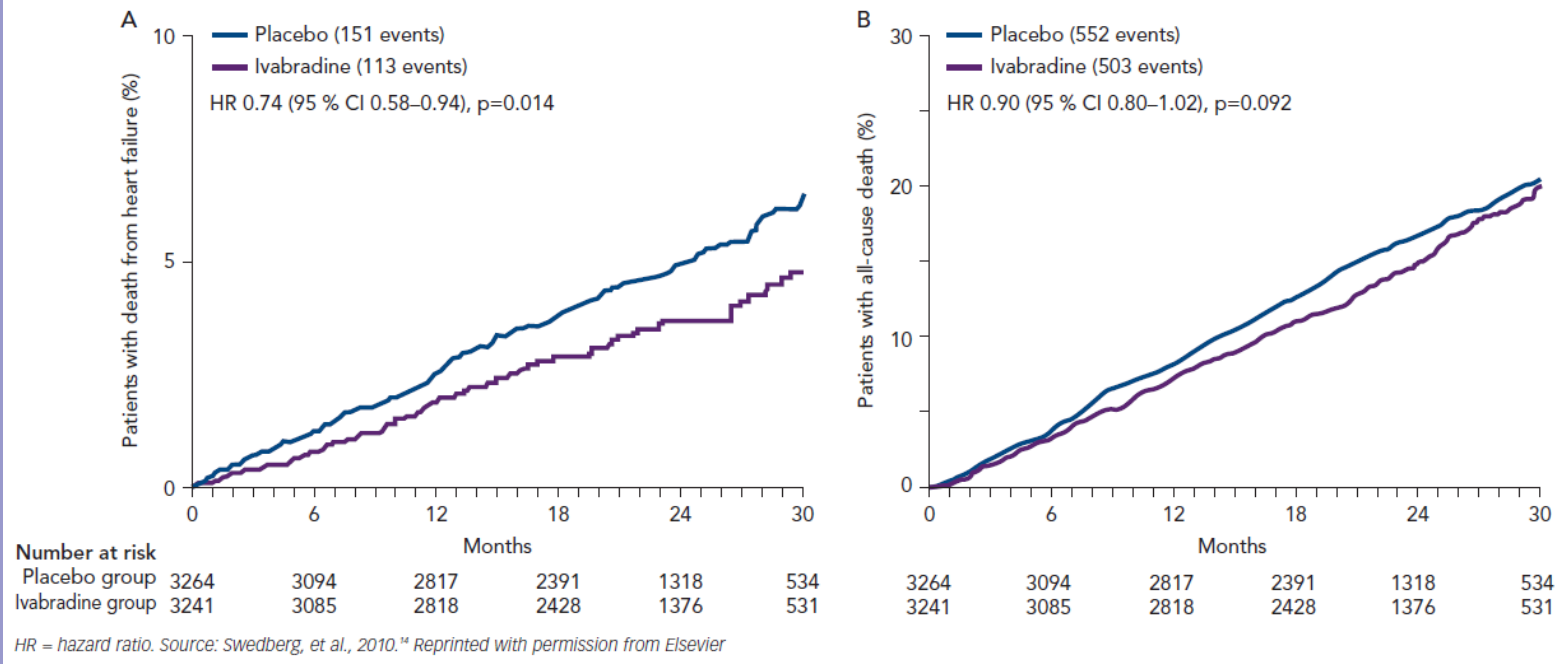
# Corlanor

**TABLE 5** Recommended Starting Dose of Ivabradine

<b>Population</b>	<b>Initial Dose</b>
Maximally tolerated beta-blocker dose with persistent resting heart rate $\geq 70$ beats/min	5 mg twice daily with meals
History of conduction defects Age $\geq 75$ years	2.5 mg twice daily with meals

# Ivabradine (SHIFT Trial)

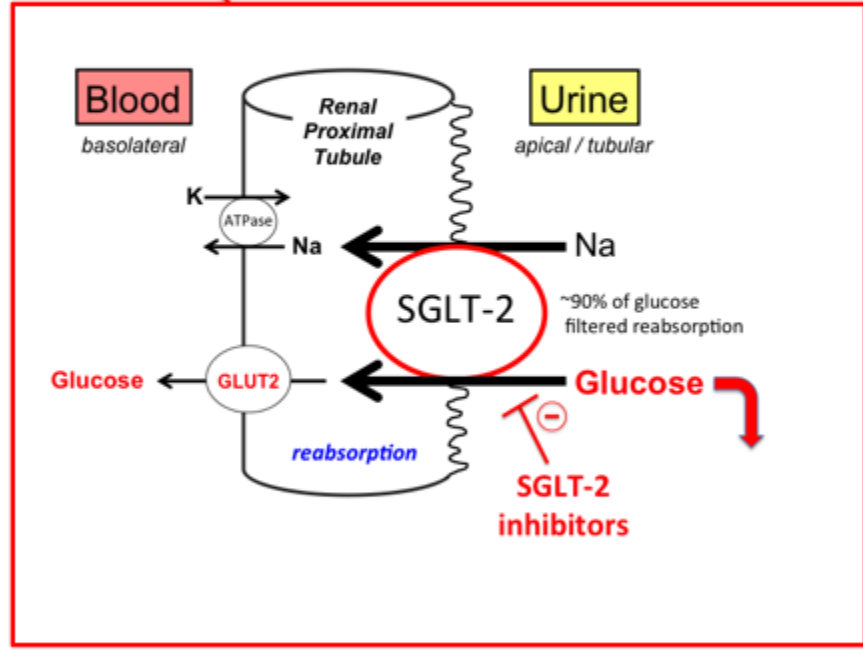
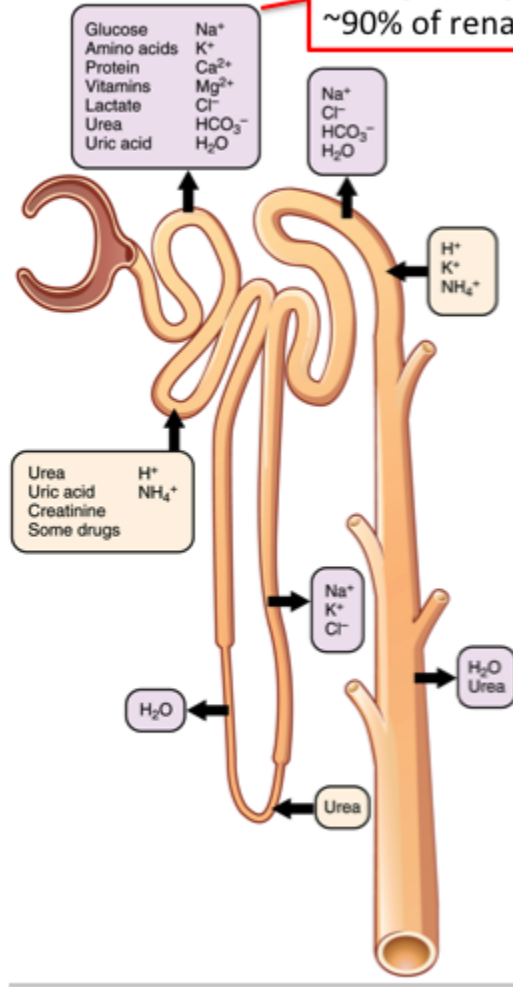
Figure 2: Kaplan–Meier cumulative event curves for death from heart failure (A) and all-cause death in the Systolic Heart Failure Treatment with the  $I_f$  Inhibitor Ivabradine (SHIFT) trial (B). HR = hazard ratio. Source: Swedberg, et al., 2010.<sup>14</sup> Reprinted with permission from Elsevier.



# Farxiga(Dapagliflozin), Jardiance(Empagliflozin)

- SGLT2 inhibitors inhibit the coupled reabsorption of sodium and glucose from the proximal tubules, thereby increasing renal glucose and sodium excretion

**S1 segment proximal tubule:**  
~90% of renal glucose reabsorption



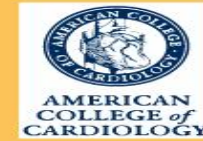


# Farxiga

2019

## DAPA-HF TRIAL

Dapagliflozin in Patients with Heart Failure and Reduced Ejection Fraction



Randomized, parallel group, placebo-controlled trial



**Objective:** To evaluate dapagliflozin (a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 [SGLT2] inhibitor) compared with placebo among patients with heart failure and a reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF).

**4,744**  
patients

**Inclusion criteria:** patients with symptomatic HF; LVEF  $\leq 40\%$  NT-proBNP  $\geq 600$  pg/ml (if hospitalized for HF within last 12 months  $\geq 400$  pg/ml; if atrial fibrillation/flutter  $\geq 900$  pg/ml)



**Dapagliflozin**  
10 mg daily  
(n = 2,373)

VS

**Placebo**  
(n = 2,371)



### PRIMARY OUTCOME

16.3

**Cardiovascular death, hospitalization for HF, or urgent HF visit %**  
HR 0.74; 95% CI 0.65-0.85, P < 0.001

21.2

### SECONDARY OUTCOME

9.6

**Cardiovascular death %**  
HR 0.82; 95% CI 0.69 to 0.98

11.5

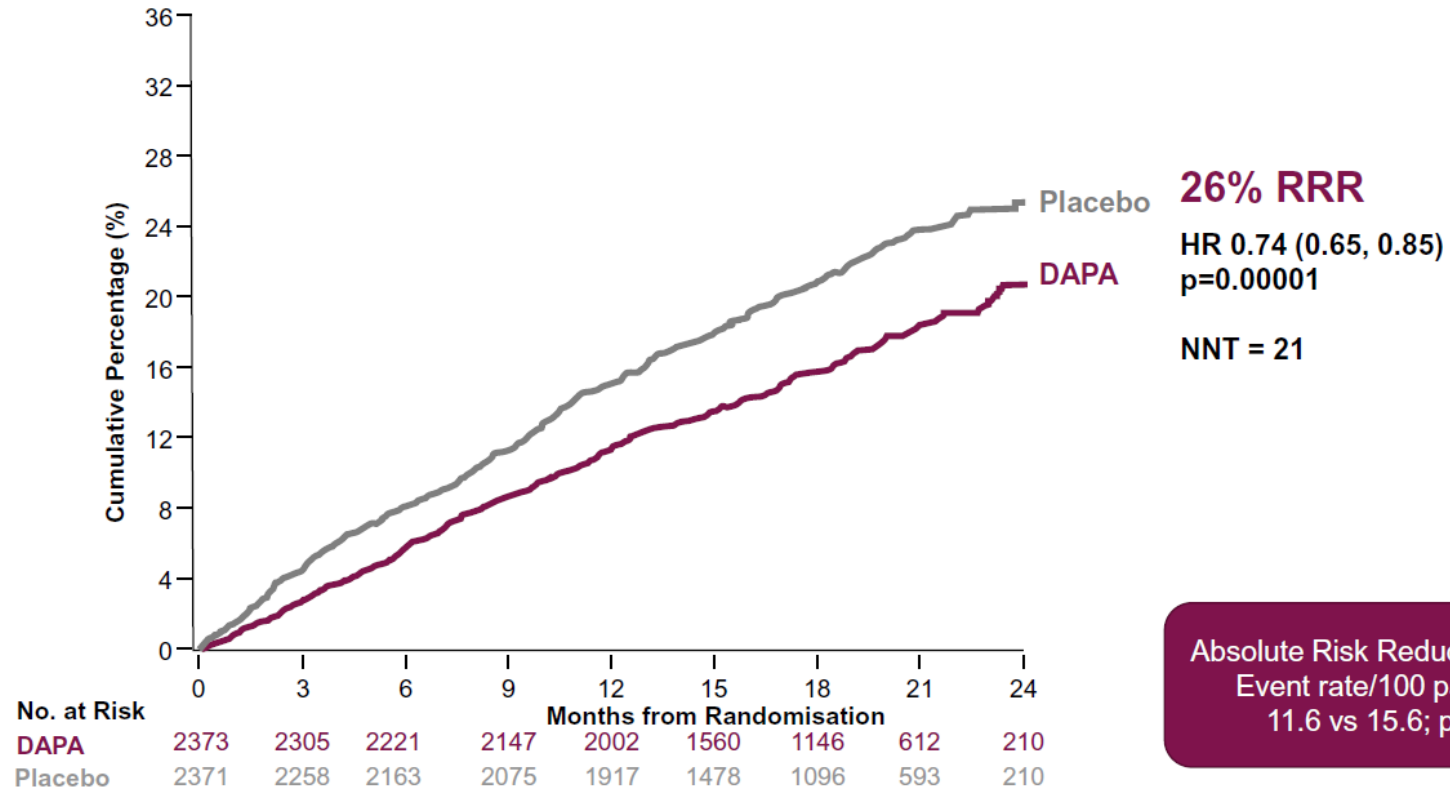
1.2

**Worsening of renal function %**  
HR 0.71; 95% CI 0.44 to 1.16

1.6

**Conclusion:** Dapagliflozin vs. placebo was associated with a reduction in cardiovascular deaths and HF events

## Primary Endpoint: CV Death or hHF or an Urgent HF Visit



DAPA = dapagliflozin; HF = heart failure; hHF = hospitalisation for heart failure; HR = hazard ratio; NNT = number needed to treat.

# Jardiance

## **EMPEROR-Reduced Trial**

---

### **Effect of Empagliflozin on Cardiovascular and Renal Events in Heart Failure With a Reduced Ejection Fraction**

Milton Packer MD and Faiez Zannad MD, on behalf of the EMPEROR-Reduced Executive Committee, Trial Committees, Investigators and Coordinators

Baylor University Medical Center, Dallas TX, Imperial College, London UK  
Université de Lorraine, Inserm INI-CRCT, CHRU, Nancy, France

Disclosures for presenter: Abbvie, Actavis, Akcea, Amgen, Amarin, AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Cardiorentis, Daiichi Sankyo, Eli Lilly Johnson & Johnson, NovoNordisk, Pfizer, Relypsa, Sanofi, Synthetic Biologics and Theravance

**EMPEROR-REDUCED**Cardiovascular and Renal Outcomes  
with Empagliflozin in Heart Failure

Double-blind, parallel-group, placebo-controlled trial



**Objective:** To evaluate the use of empagliflozin in patients with chronic heart failure and a reduced ejection fraction with or without diabetes.

**3730**  
patients

**Inclusion criteria:** Adults ( $\geq 18$  years of age) with or without diabetes who had chronic heart failure (functional class II, III, or IV) with a left ventricular ejection fraction of 40% or less on excellent baseline GDMT.



empagliflozin  
(N=1863)

VS



placebo  
(N=1867)

**PRIMARY OUTCOME**

19.4

**Cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure %**  
HR 0.75; 95% CI, 0.65 to 0.86; P<0.001

24.7

**SECONDARY OUTCOME**

388

**Total no. of hospitalizations for heart failure (N)**  
HR 0.70; 95% CI, 0.58 to 0.85; P<0.001

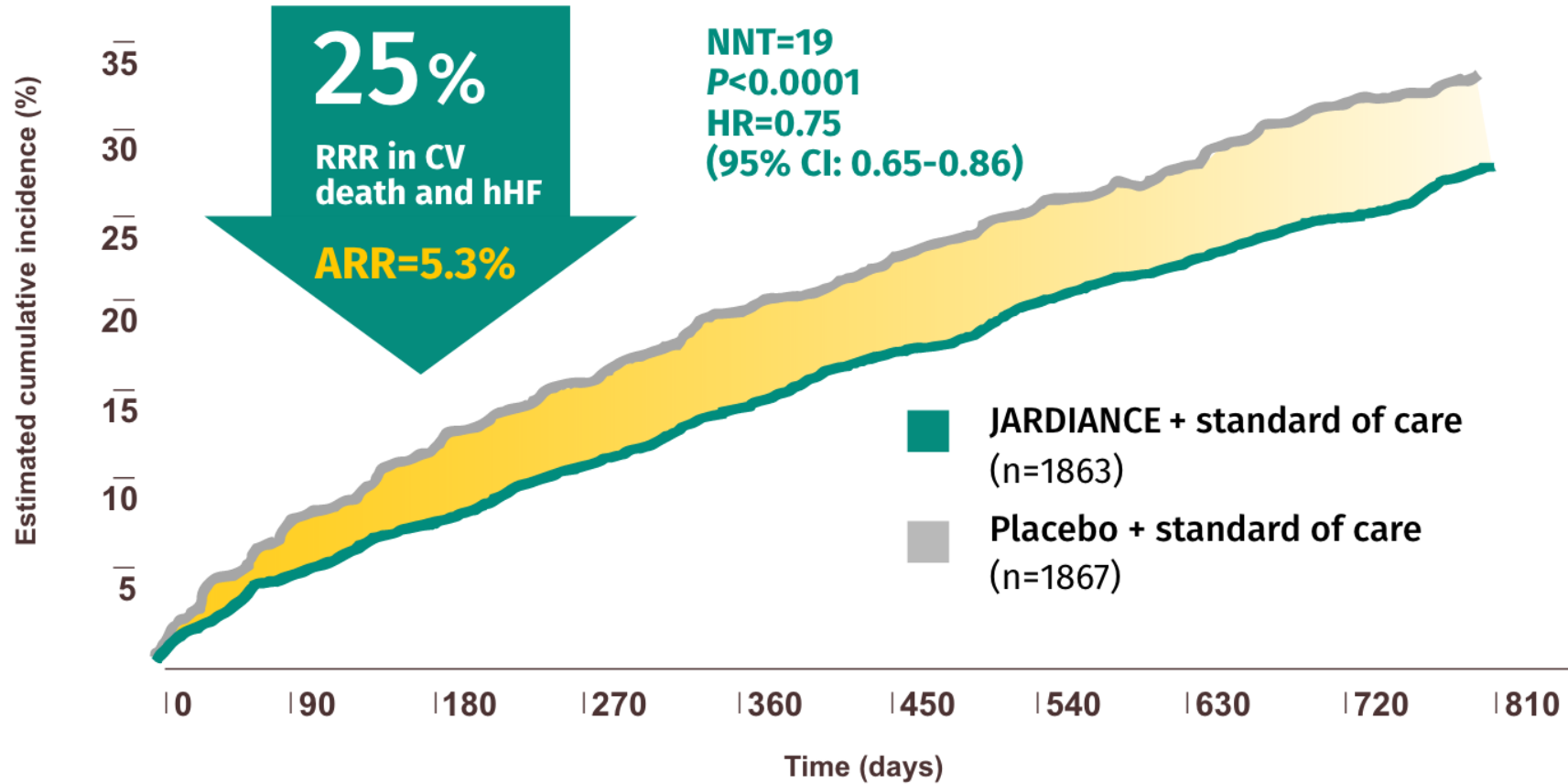
553

-0.55

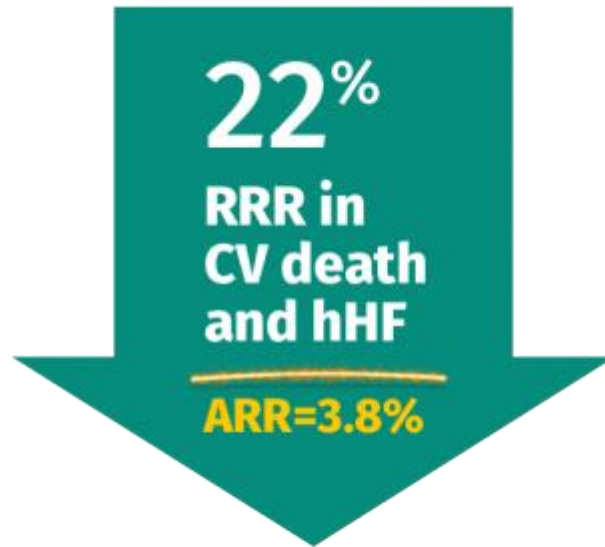
**Mean change in eGFR per year**  
HR 1.73; 95% CI, 1.10 to 2.37; P<0.001

-2.28

**Conclusion:** Among patients receiving recommended therapy for heart failure, those in the empagliflozin group had a lower risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure than those in the placebo group, regardless of the presence or absence of diabetes.



**Without T2D**



**NNT=26**

JARDIANCE + standard of care (n=161/936)  
Placebo + standard of care (n=197/938)

**With T2D**



**NNT=14**

JARDIANCE + standard of care (n=200/927)  
Placebo + standard of care (n=265/929)



# EMPEROR-PRESERVED

Empagliflozin in Heart Failure with a Preserved Ejection Fraction  
Anker et al, Aug 27, 2021. NEJM.



## QUESTION

In patients with heart failure and a preserved ejection fraction, does Empagliflozin improve outcomes?

## INCLUDED

- 18 and older
- NYHA II-IV
- LVEF > 40%
- ntProBNP > 300; or > 900 if AFib
- Evidence of LAE or LVH
- Stable diuretic use
- BMI < 45 kg/m<sup>2</sup>

5988 PATIENTS



**EMPAGLIFLOZIN 10MG**  
(SGLT-2 INHIBITOR)

VS



**PLACEBO**

Stratified by region, diabetes status,  
eGFR of 50, and LVEF 50%

## PRIMARY OUTCOME



CV Death\*



HF Hospitalization

13.8%

17.1%

HR 0.79; 95%CI 0.69-0.90; P<0.001

\*Mostly driven by HF hospitalizations

## SECONDARY OUTCOMES



HF Hospitalization

↓ WITH EMPAGLIFLOZIN

HR 0.73; 95% CI, 0.61-0.88;  
P<0.001



Rate of GFR decline

E -1.25 vs. -2.62 P

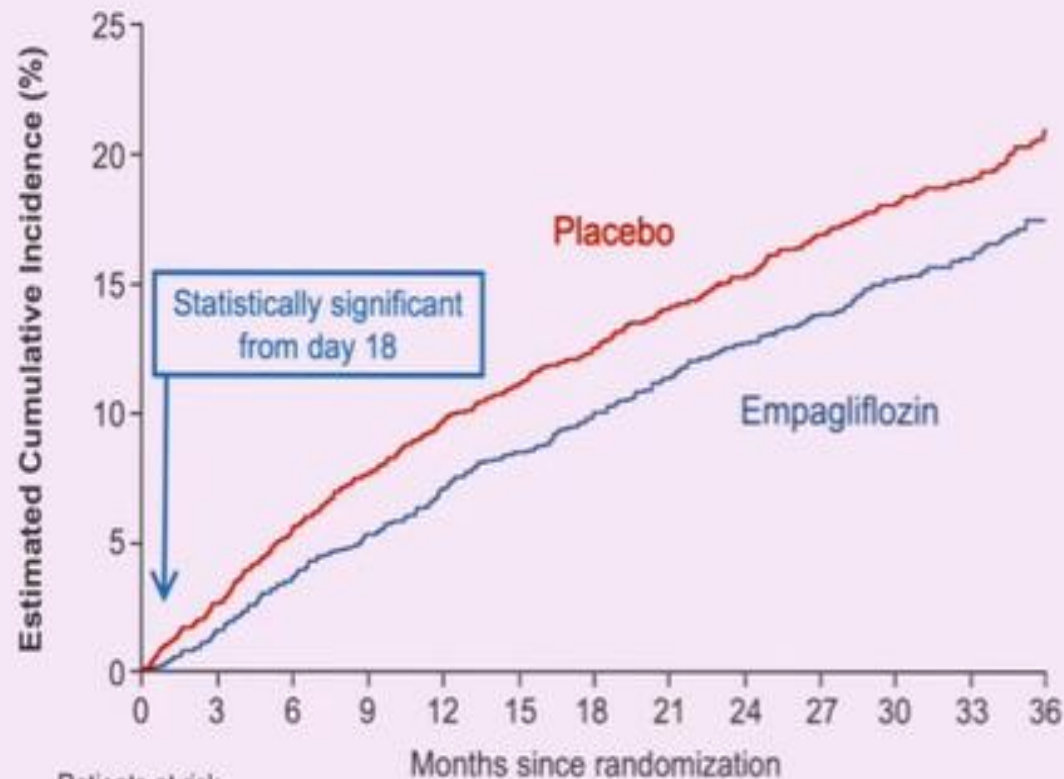
ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>/year; P<0.001

## CONCLUSION

Empagliflozin reduced the combined risk of cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalization in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, regardless of the presence or absence of diabetes.

@IsaMathiasMD

# Primary Endpoint – Composite of Cardiovascular Death or Heart Failure Hospitalization



	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
Placebo	2991	2786	2627	2066	1534	961	400						
Empagliflozin	2997	2843	2708	2134	1578	1005	402						

**HR 0.79**

(95% CI 0.69, 0.90)

P = 0.0003

**Placebo:**

511 patients with event  
Rate: 8.7 per 100 patient-years

**Empagliflozin:**

415 patients with event  
Rate: 6.9 per 100 patient-years

**RRR**  
21%

**NNT=31**

During a median trial period of 26 months.



**TABLE 2****Indications for ARNI, Ivabradine, and SGLT2 Inhibitor Use****Indications for Use of an ARNI**

---

- HFrEF (EF  $\leq$ 40%)
  - NYHA class II-IV HF
  - Administered in conjunction with a background of GDMT for HF in place of an ACEI or ARB
- 

**Indications for Use of Ivabradine**

---

- HFrEF (EF  $\leq$ 35%)
  - On maximum tolerated dose of beta-blocker
  - Sinus rhythm with a resting heart rate  $\geq$ 70 beats/min
  - NYHA class II or III HF
- 

**Indications for Use of an SGLT2 Inhibitor**

---

- HFrEF (EF  $\leq$ 40%) with or without diabetes
  - NYHA class II-IV HF
  - Administered in conjunction with a background of GDMT for HF
- 

ACEI = angiotensin-converting-enzyme inhibitor; ARB= angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; EF = ejection fraction; GDMT = guideline-directed medical therapy; HF = heart failure; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; NYHA = New York Heart Association; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

**TABLE 4** Contraindications and Cautions for Sacubitril/Valsartan, Ivabradine, and SGLT2 inhibitors**A) Sacubitril/Valsartan**

Contraindications	Cautions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Within 36 hours of ACEI use</li> <li>■ History of angioedema with or without an ACEI or ARB</li> <li>■ Pregnancy</li> <li>■ Lactation (no data)</li> <li>■ Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh C)</li> <li>■ Concomitant aliskiren use in patients with diabetes</li> <li>■ Known hypersensitivity to either ARBs or ARNIs</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Renal impairment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mild-to-moderate (eGFR 30-59 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>): no starting dose adjustment required</li> <li>– Severe* (eGFR &lt;30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>): reduce starting dose to 24/26 mg twice daily; double the dose every 2-4 weeks to target maintenance dose of 97/103 mg twice daily, as tolerated</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Hepatic impairment:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Mild (Child-Pugh A): no starting dose adjustment required</li> <li>– Moderate (Child-Pugh B): reduce starting dose to 24/26 mg twice daily; double the dose every 2-4 weeks to target maintenance dose of 97/103 mg twice daily, as tolerated</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Renal artery stenosis</li> <li>■ Systolic blood pressure &lt;100 mm Hg</li> <li>■ Volume depletion</li> </ul>

**B) Ivabradine**

Contraindications	Cautions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ HFpEF</li> <li>■ Presence of angina with normal EF</li> <li>■ Hypersensitivity</li> <li>■ Severe hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh C)</li> <li>■ Acute decompensated HF</li> <li>■ Blood pressure &lt;90/50 mm Hg</li> <li>■ Sick sinus syndrome without a pacemaker</li> <li>■ Sinoatrial node block</li> <li>■ 2nd or 3rd degree block without a pacemaker</li> <li>■ Resting heart rate &lt;60 beats/min</li> <li>■ Persistent AF or flutter</li> <li>■ Atrial pacemaker dependence</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Sinus node disease</li> <li>■ Cardiac conduction defects</li> <li>■ Prolonged QT interval</li> </ul>

**C) SGLT2 Inhibitors**

Contraindications	Cautions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Not approved for use in patients with type 1 diabetes due to increased risk of diabetic ketoacidosis</li> <li>■ Known hypersensitivity to drug</li> <li>■ Lactation (no data)</li> <li>■ On dialysis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ For HF care, dapagliflozin, eGFR &lt;30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ For HF care, empagliflozin, eGFR &lt;20 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup></li> <li>■ Pregnancy</li> <li>■ Increased risk of mycotic genital infections</li> <li>■ May contribute to volume depletion. Consider altering diuretic dose if applicable</li> <li>■ Ketoacidosis in patients with diabetes:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Temporary discontinuation before scheduled surgery is recommended to avoid potential risk for ketoacidosis</li> <li>■ Assess patients who present with signs and symptoms of metabolic acidosis for ketoacidosis, regardless of blood glucose level</li> </ul> </li> <li>■ Acute kidney injury and impairment in renal function: consider temporarily discontinuing in settings of reduced oral intake or fluid losses</li> <li>■ Urosepsis and pyelonephritis: evaluate patients for signs and symptoms of urinary tract infections and treat promptly, if indicated</li> <li>■ Necrotizing fasciitis of the perineum (Fournier's gangrene): rare, serious, life-threatening cases have occurred in both female and male patients; assess patients presenting with pain or tenderness, erythema, or swelling in the genital or perineal area, along with fever or malaise</li> </ul>

\*This population was not studied in PARADIGM-HF. The statement is consistent with FDA-approved labeling indications.

ACEI = angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; AF = atrial fibrillation; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; EF = ejection fraction; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; ESRD = end-stage renal disease; FDA = Food and Drug Administration; HF = heart failure; HFpEF = heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; PARADIGM-HF = Prospective Comparison of ARNI with ACEI to Determine Impact on Global Mortality and Morbidity in HF; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

# Verquvo

- Verquvo is a soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) stimulator that independently and synergistically with NO, vericiguat **increases intracellular cGMP levels**, causing smooth muscle relaxation and vasodilation.

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JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

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Vericiguat in Patients with Heart Failure and Reduced  
Ejection Fraction

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Mahesh J. Patel, M.D., Lothar Roessig, M.D., Joerg Koglin, M.D., Ph.D., and Christopher M. O'Connor, M.D.,  
for the VICTORIA Study Group\*

## Table 1 VICTORIA trial inclusion criteria

### Inclusion criteria

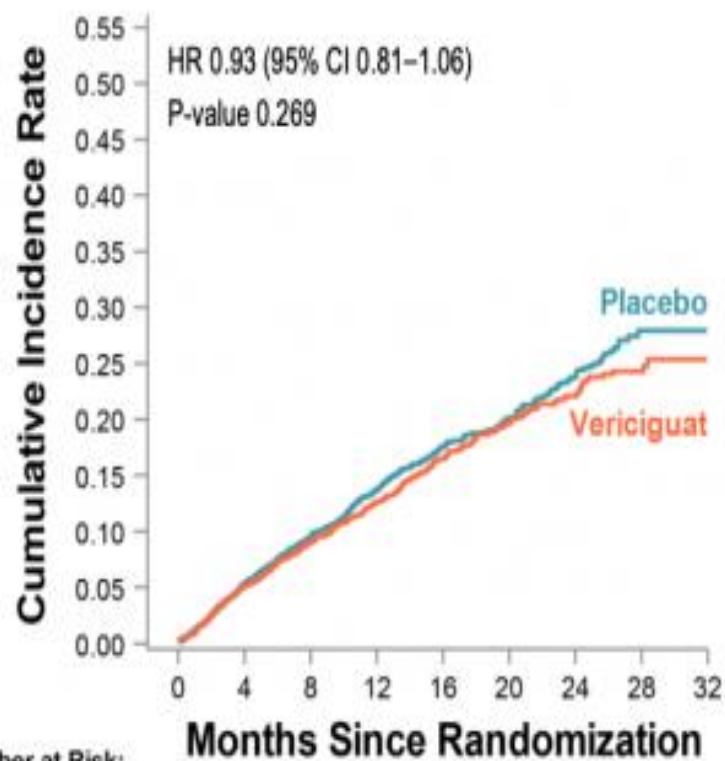
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- Ejection fraction <45% assessed within 12 months prior to randomization
- Elevated natriuretic peptide levels within 30 days prior to randomization; for patients in sinus rhythm BNP  $\geq 300$  pg/mL and NT-proBNP  $\geq 1000$  pg/mL; for those in atrial fibrillation BNP  $\geq 500$  pg/mL and NT-proBNP  $\geq 1600$  pg/mL<sup>a</sup>
- Prior HF hospitalization within 6 months (those >3 months limited to 20%) or outpatient IV diuretic therapy for HF within 3 months prior to randomization

BNP, B-type natriuretic peptide; HF, heart failure; IV, intravenous; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide.

<sup>a</sup>For those subjects receiving sacubitril/valsartan, NT-proBNP criteria will be applied.

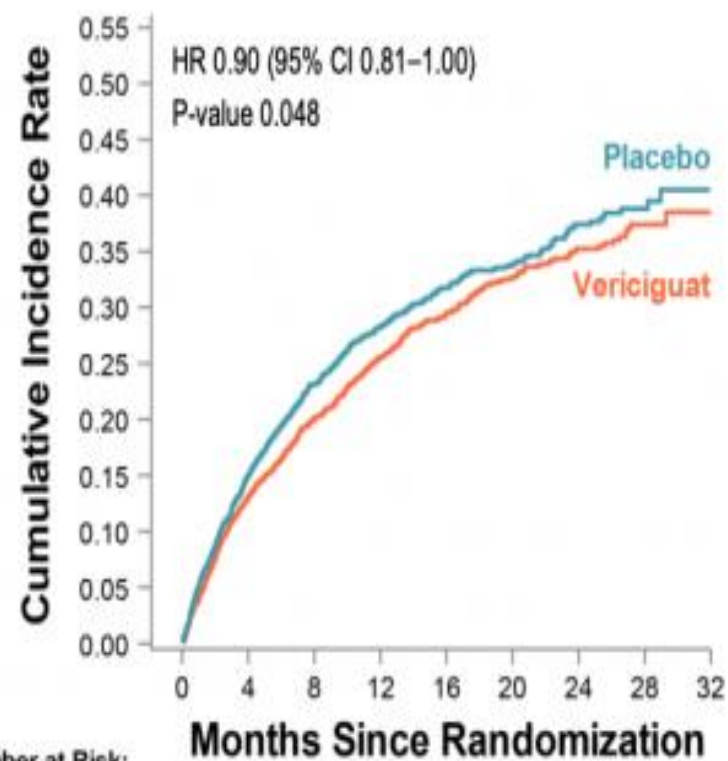
## Cardiovascular Death



Number at Risk:

Vericiguat	2526	2376	1968	1468	1070	779	487	165	1
Placebo	2524	2370	1951	1439	1045	768	471	157	0

## HF Hospitalization



Number at Risk:

Vericiguat	2526	2098	1620	1153	825	577	346	125	1
Placebo	2524	2052	1554	1096	771	558	323	110	0



Canadian **VIGOUR** Centre  
Bridging Hearts and Minds



Duke Clinical Research Institute

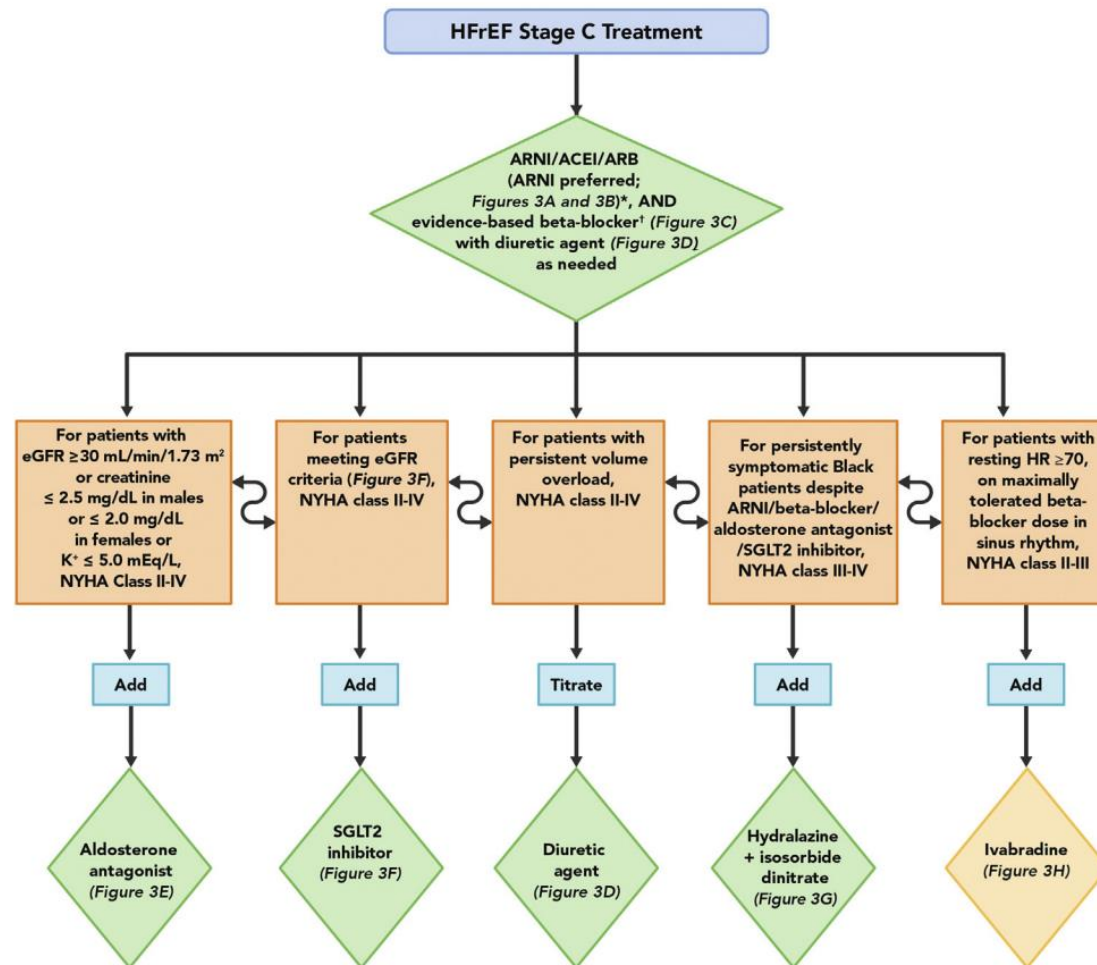


TABLE 1

Starting and Target Doses of Select GDMT and Novel Therapies for HF (choice and timing of each therapy and in whom they should be added discussed in the text)\*

	Starting Dose	Target Dose
<b>Beta-Blockers</b>		
Bisoprolol	1.25 mg once daily	10 mg once daily
Carvedilol	3.125 mg twice daily	25 mg twice daily for weight <85 kg and 50 mg twice daily for weight ≥85 kg
Metoprolol succinate	12.5–25 mg daily	200 mg daily
<b>ARNIs</b>		
Sacubitril/valsartan	24/26 mg–49/51 mg twice daily	97/103 mg twice daily
<b>ACEIs</b>		
Captopril	6.25 mg 3× daily	50 mg 3× daily
Enalapril	2.5 mg twice daily	10–20 mg twice daily
Lisinopril	2.5–5 mg daily	20–40 mg daily
Ramipril	1.25 mg daily	10 mg daily
<b>ARBs</b>		
Candesartan	4–8 mg daily	32 mg daily
Losartan	25–50 mg daily	150 mg daily
Valsartan	40 mg twice daily	160 mg twice daily
<b>Aldosterone antagonists</b>		
Eplerenone	25 mg daily	50 mg daily
Spironolactone	12.5–25 mg daily	25–50 mg daily
<b>SGLT2 inhibitors</b>		
Dapagliflozin	10 mg daily	10 mg daily
Empagliflozin	10 mg daily	10 mg daily
<b>Vasodilators</b>		
Hydralazine	25 mg 3× daily	75 mg 3× daily
Isosorbide dinitrate <sup>†</sup>	20 mg 3× daily	40 mg 3× daily
Fixed-dose combination isosorbide dinitrate/hydralazine <sup>‡</sup>	20 mg/37.5 mg (1 tab) 3× daily	2 tabs 3× daily
<b>Ivabradine</b>		
Ivabradine	2.5–5 mg twice daily	Titrate to heart rate 50–60 beats/min. Maximum dose 7.5 mg twice daily

**FIGURE 2** Treatment Algorithm for Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy Including Novel Therapies



\*ACEI/ARB should only be considered in patients with contraindications, intolerance or inaccessibility to ARNI. In those instances, please consult Figure 3 and text for guidance on initiation.

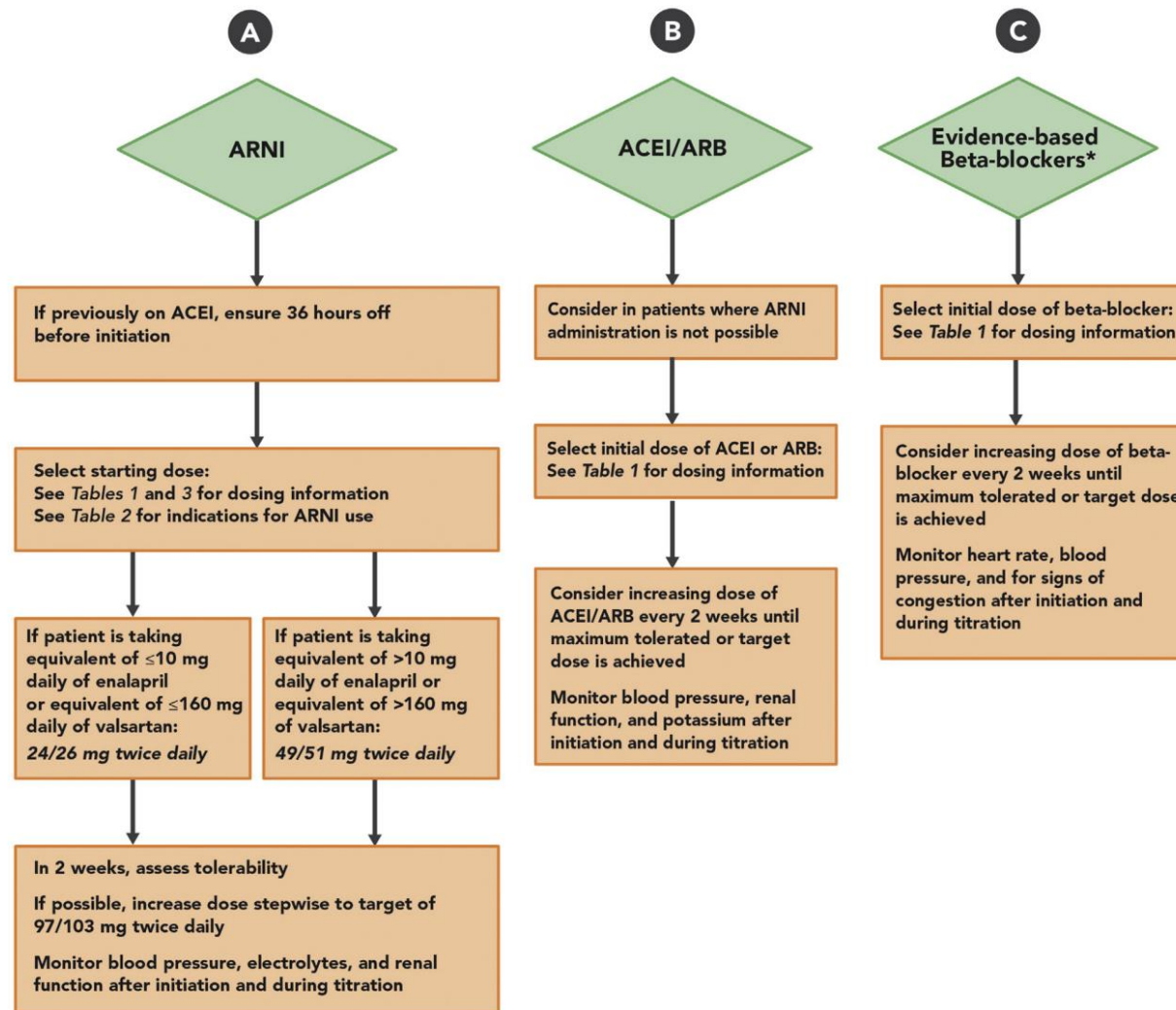
†Carvedilol, metoprolol succinate, or bisoprolol.

ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; HR = heart rate; K<sup>+</sup> = potassium; NYHA = New York Heart Association; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

Green color identifies a Class I therapy from clinical practice guidelines, whereas yellow color indicates a Class II therapy.



**FIGURE 3** Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy Including Novel Therapies in the Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Chronic Heart Failure

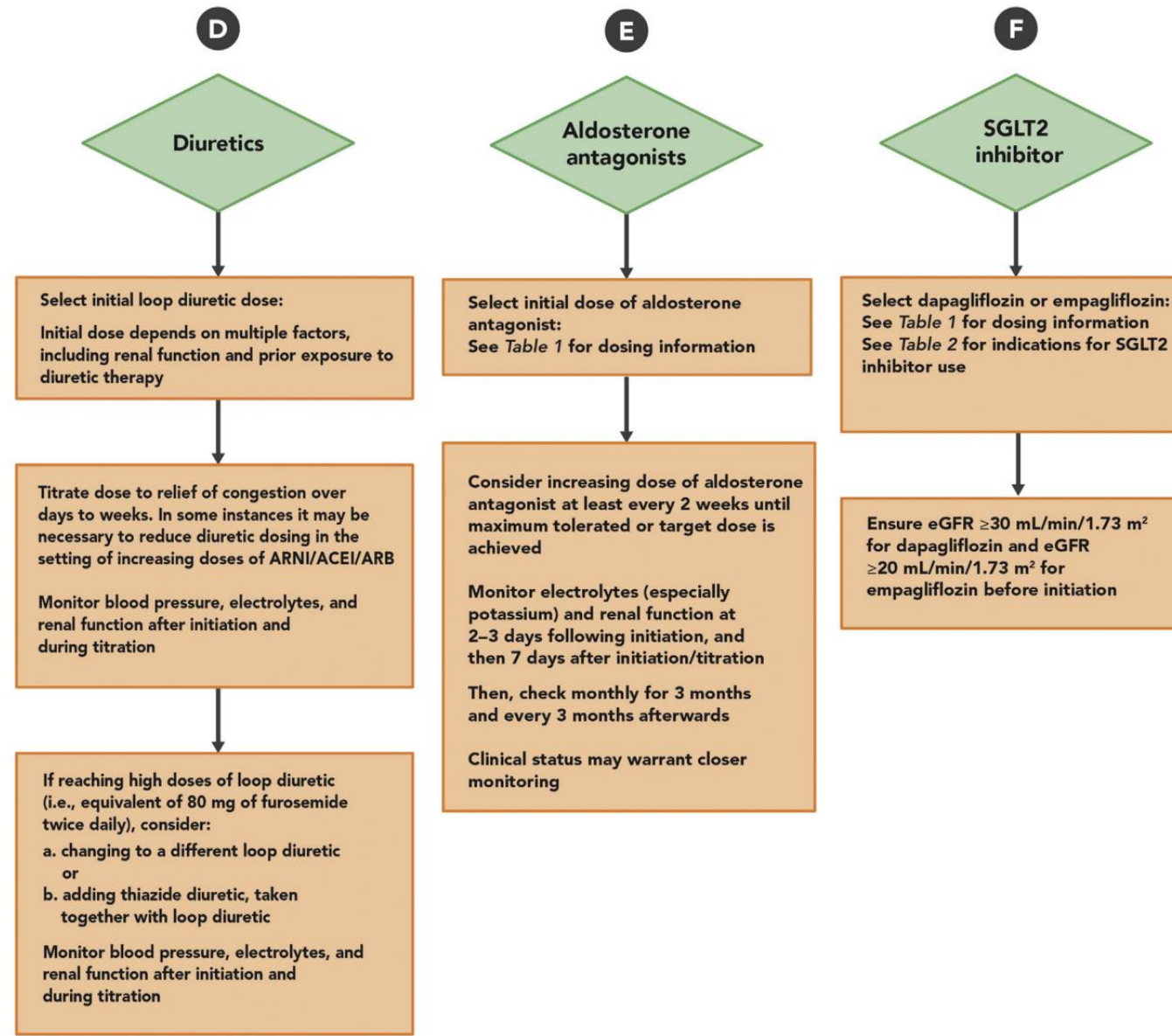


ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate.

\*Carvedilol, metoprolol succinate, or bisoprolol.

ARNIs are the preferred agents, but for patients in whom ARNI administration is not possible, an ACEI/ARB is recommended.

FIGURE 3 Continued



ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors;  
ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

**Hydralazine  
+isosorbide  
dinitrate**

Select initial dose of hydralazine and isosorbide dinitrate, either as individual medications or fixed-dose combination:  
See *Table 1* for dosing information

Consider increasing dose of hydralazine and/or isosorbide dinitrate every 2 weeks until maximum tolerated or target dose is achieved  
Monitor blood pressure after initiation and during titration

**Ivabradine**

Reassess that beta-blockers are adjusted to maximally tolerated doses and/or target doses  
Verify patient is in sinus rhythm  
See *Table 1* for target beta-blocker doses  
See *Table 2* for indications for ivabradine therapy

Select starting dose of ivabradine:  
See *Tables 1* and *4* for dosing information

Age  $\geq 75$  years  
2.5 mg twice daily  
with food

Age  $< 75$  years  
5.0 mg twice daily  
with food

Reassess heart rate in at least 2–4 weeks

Heart rate  
 $< 50$  beats/min or  
symptoms of  
bradycardia

Heart rate  
50-60 beats/min

Heart rate  
 $> 60$  beats/min

Reduce dose by 2.5 mg twice daily with food or discontinue if already at 2.5 mg twice daily with food  
Monitor heart rate

Maintain current dose and monitor heart rate

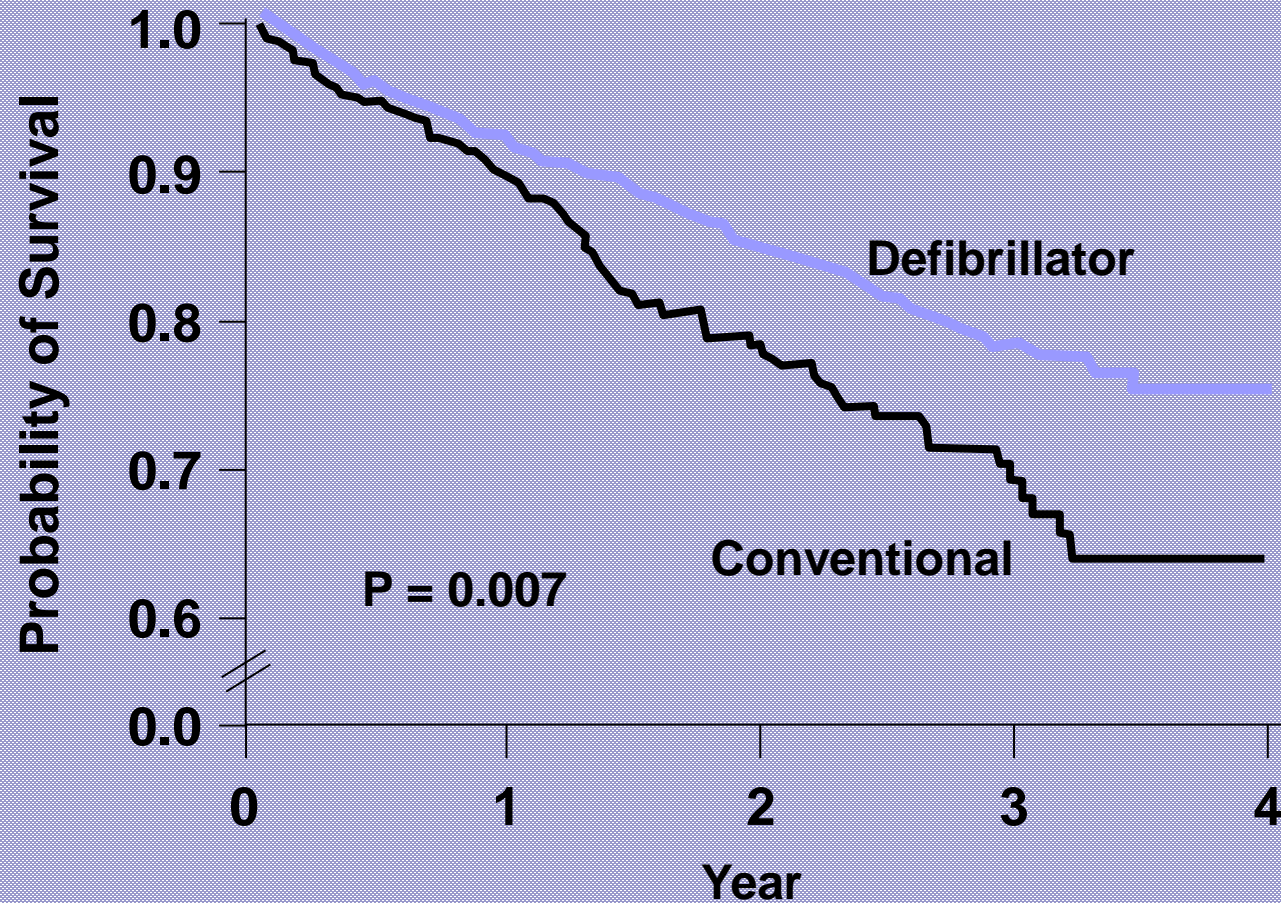
Increase by 2.5 mg twice daily with food until reaching maximum dose of 7.5 mg twice daily with food  
Monitor heart rate

# Management – Nonpharmacologic therapy

- ICD/CRT-D therapy.

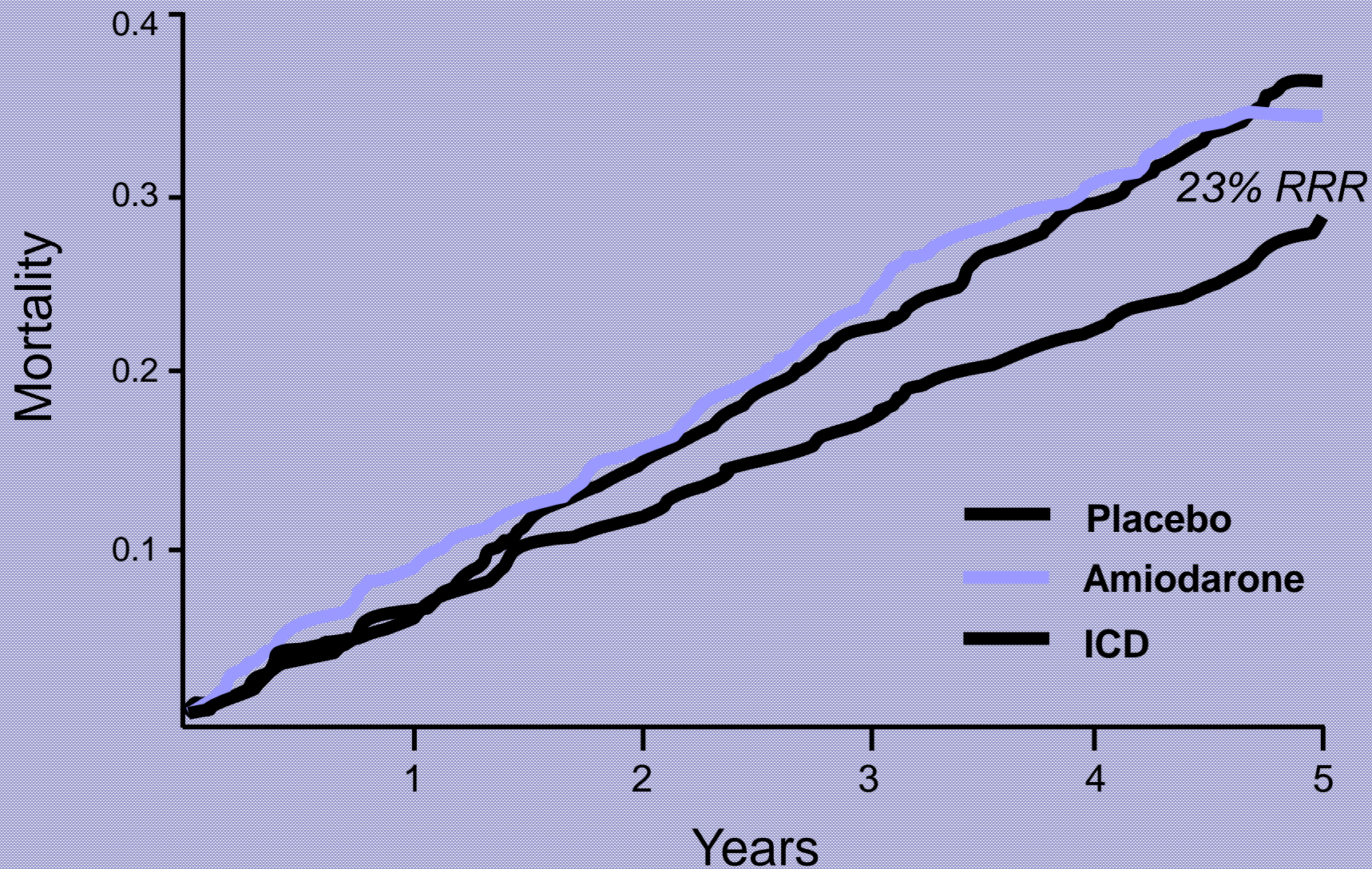
# MADIT II

1232 patients with LVEF  $\leq 30\%$ , Prior MI



# SCD-HeFT

2521 patients with  $LVEF \leq 35\%$ , NYHA II-III





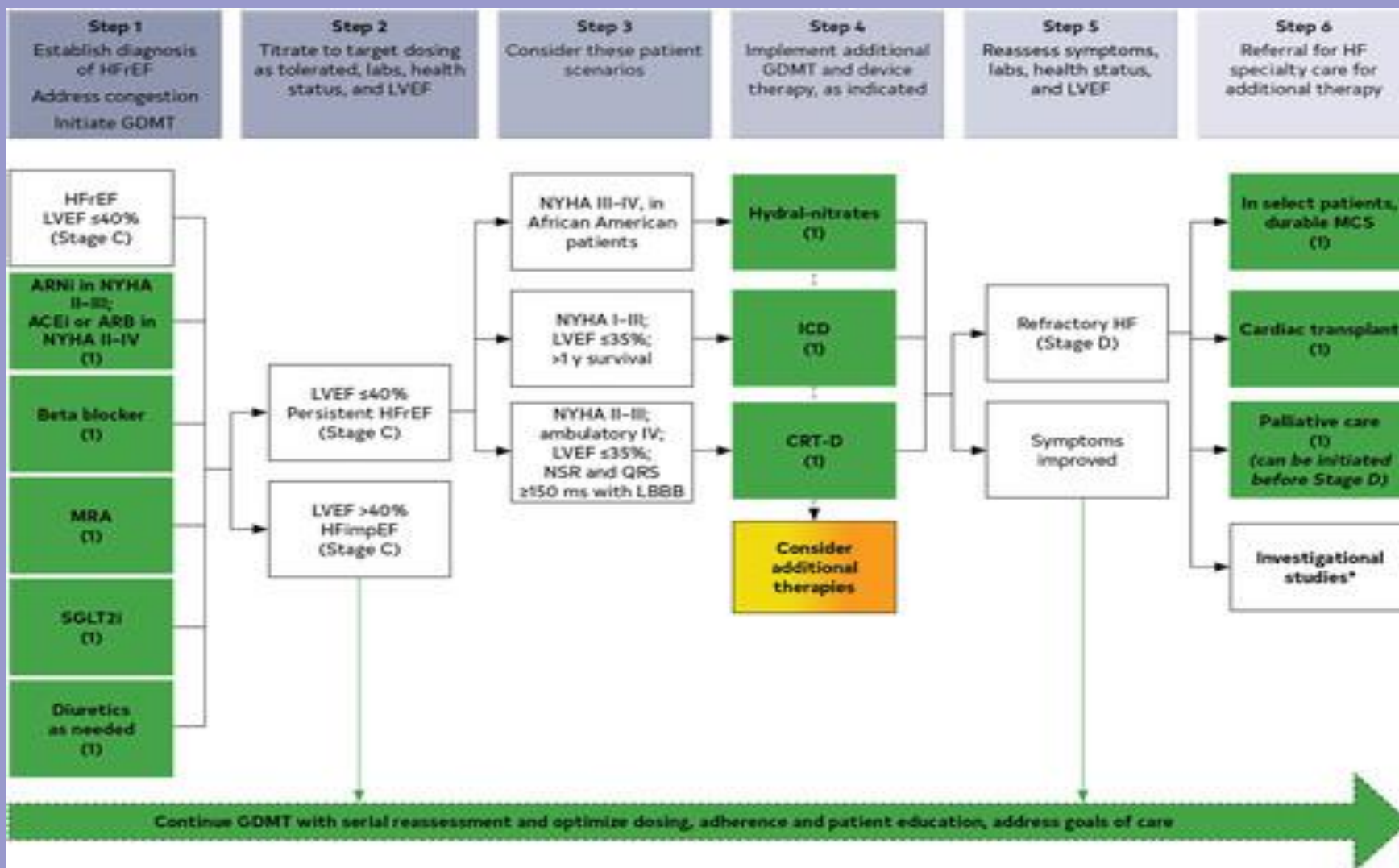
# 2022 Update

## Top 10 Take-Home Messages

- Guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) for heart failure (HF) with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) now includes 4 medication classes that include sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors (SGLT2i).
- SGLT2i have a Class of Recommendation 2a in HF with mildly reduced ejection fraction (HFmrEF). Weaker recommendations (Class of Recommendation 2b) are made for ARNi, ACEi, ARB, MRA, and beta blockers in this population.
- New recommendations for HFpEF are made for SGLT2i (Class of Recommendation 2a), MRAs (Class of Recommendation 2b), and ARNi (Class of Recommendation 2b). Several prior recommendations have been renewed including treatment of hypertension (Class of Recommendation 1), treatment of atrial fibrillation (Class of Recommendation 2a), use of ARBs (Class of Recommendation 2b), and avoidance of routine use of nitrates or phosphodiesterase-5 inhibitors (Class of Recommendation 3: No Benefit).
- Improved LVEF is used to refer to those patients with previous HFrEF who now have an LVEF >40%. These patients should continue their HFrEF treatment.
- Value statements were created for select recommendations where high-quality, cost-effectiveness studies of the intervention have been published.



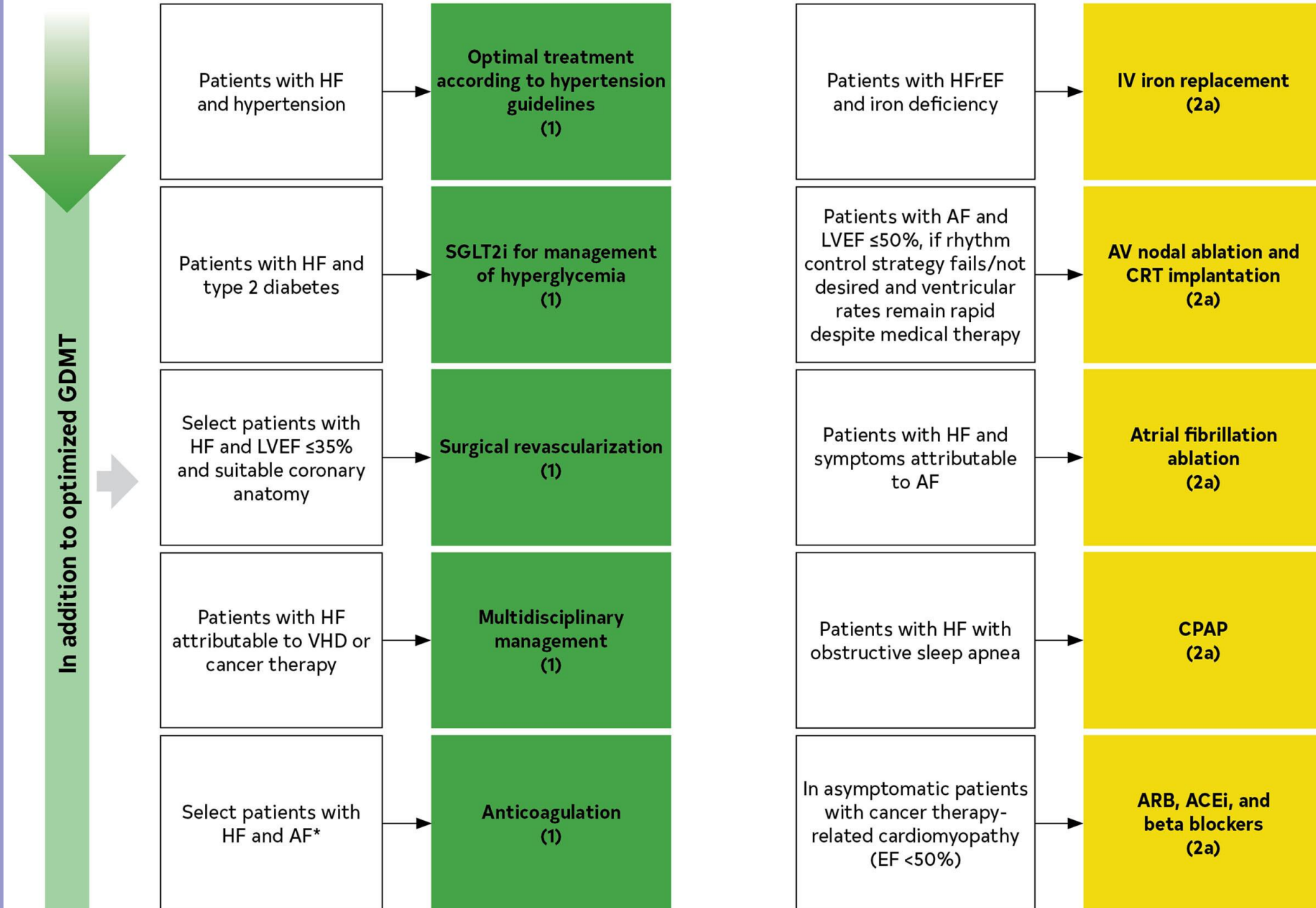
- Amyloid heart disease has new recommendations for treatment including screening for serum and urine monoclonal light chains, bone scintigraphy, genetic sequencing, tetramer stabilizer therapy, and anticoagulation.
- Evidence supporting increased filling pressures is important for the diagnosis of HF if the LVEF is >40%. Evidence for increased filling pressures can be obtained from noninvasive (eg, natriuretic peptide, diastolic function on imaging) or invasive testing (eg, hemodynamic measurement).
- Patients with advanced HF who wish to prolong survival should be referred to a team specializing in HF. A HF specialty team reviews HF management, assesses suitability for advanced HF therapies, and uses palliative care including palliative inotropes where consistent with the patient's goals of care.
- Primary prevention is important for those at risk for HF (stage A) or pre-HF (stage B). Stages of HF were revised to emphasize the new terminologies of "at risk" for HF for stage A and pre-HF for stage B.
- Recommendations are provided for select patients with HF and iron deficiency, anemia, hypertension, sleep disorders, type 2 diabetes, atrial fibrillation, coronary artery disease, and malignancy.



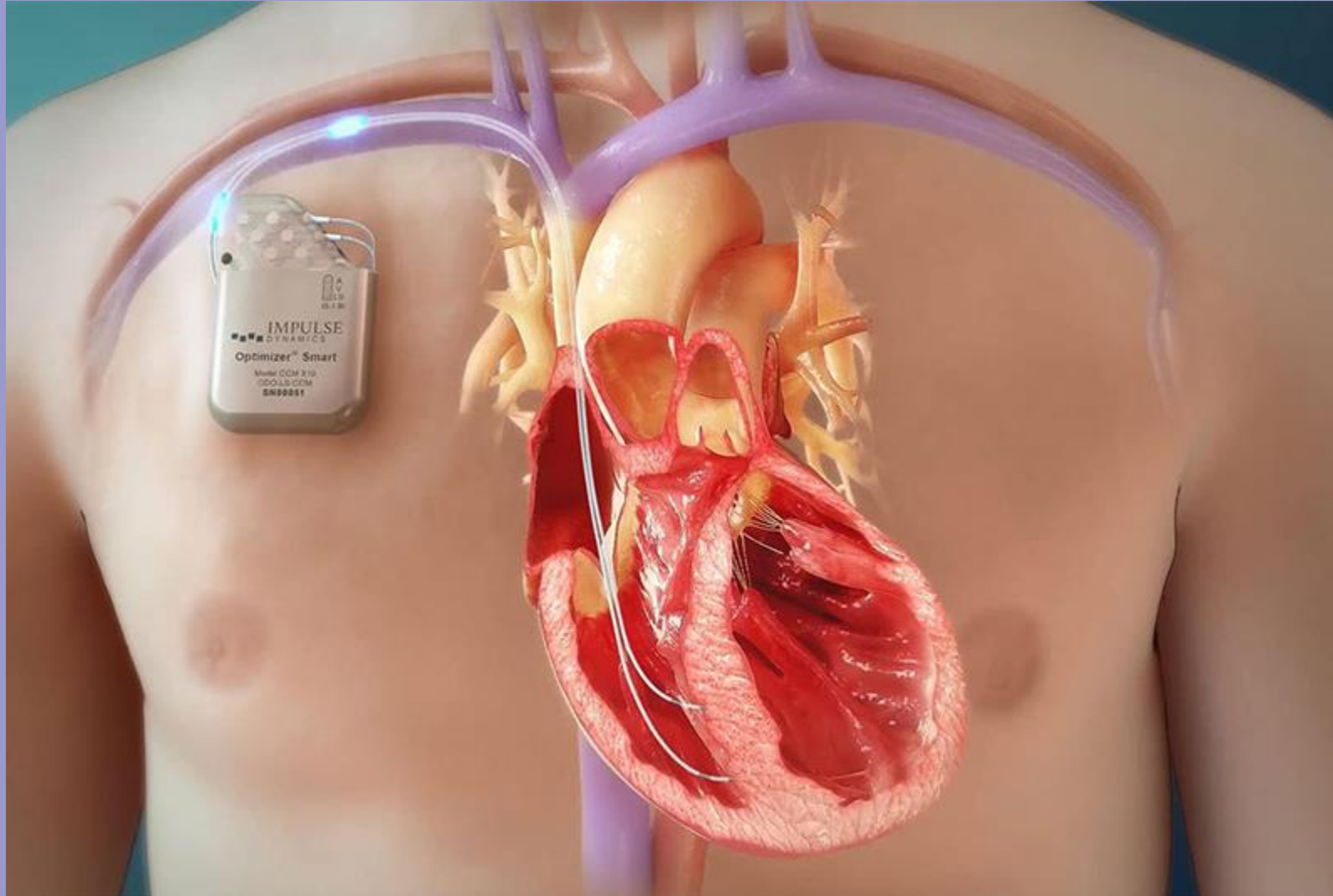
Paul A. Heidenreich. Circulation. 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure: Executive Summary: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Joint Committee on Clinical Practice Guidelines, Volume: 145, Issue: 18, Pages: e876-e894, DOI: (10.1161/CIR.0000000000001062)

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## Additional Therapies in Patients With HF and Comorbidities



# Cardiac Contractility Modulation





Thank you!