



# What to do When the Big 4 Are Not Enough

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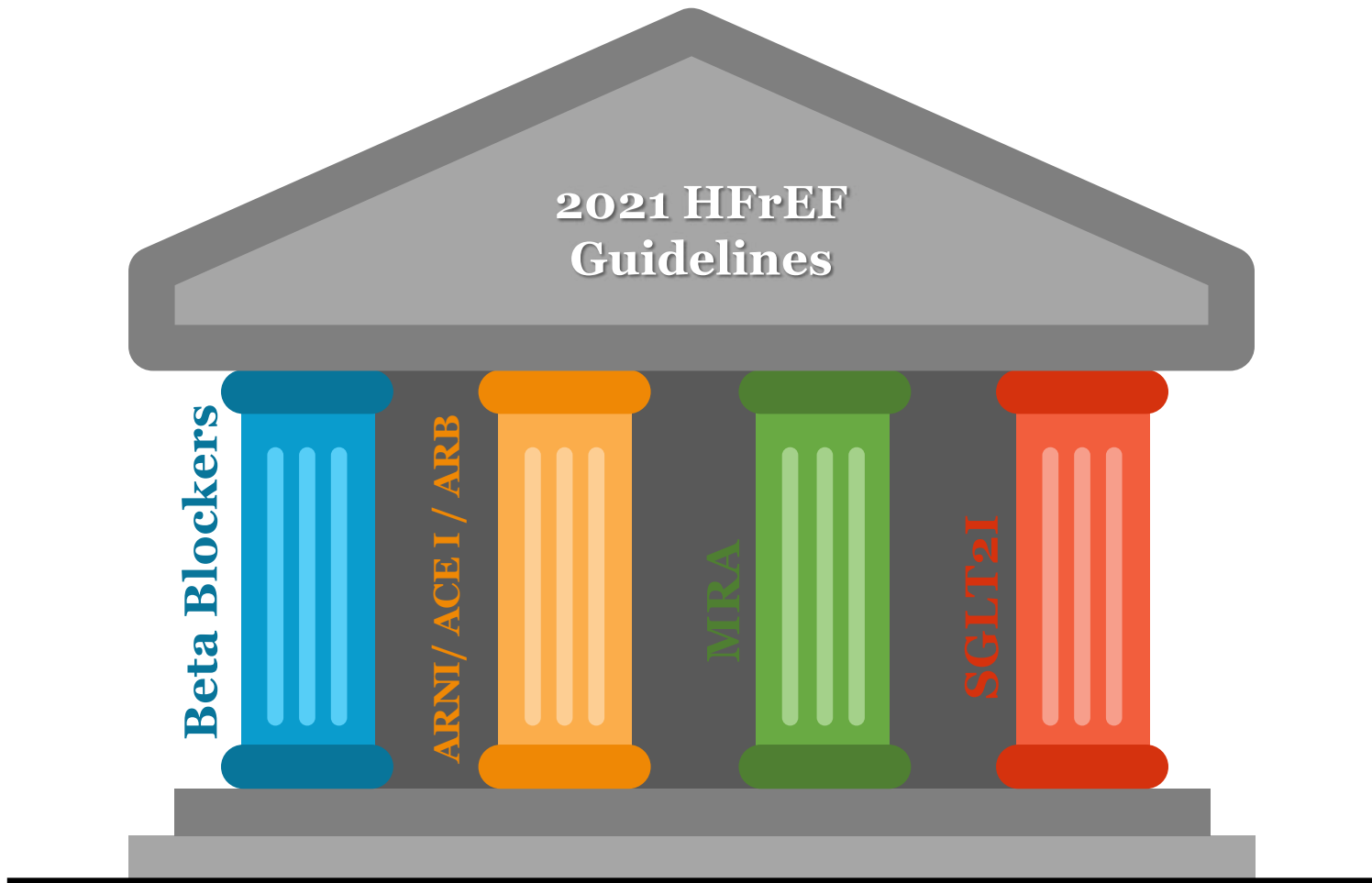
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# Conflict of Interest Disclosures

- **Grants/research support:** Astra Zeneca, BI, Bayer
- **Consulting fees/ Speaker fees:** Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Janssen, Novartis, Servier, BI

# The 4 Foundational Therapies in HFrEF Management



# Cumulative impact of evidence-based HFrEF medical therapies on all-cause mortality

	Relative Risk	Two-year Mortality
None	---	35.0%
ARNI (vs. imputed placebo)	↓ 28%	25.2%
BB	↓ 35%	16.4%
MRA	↓ 30%	11.5%
SGLT2i	↓ 17%	9.5%

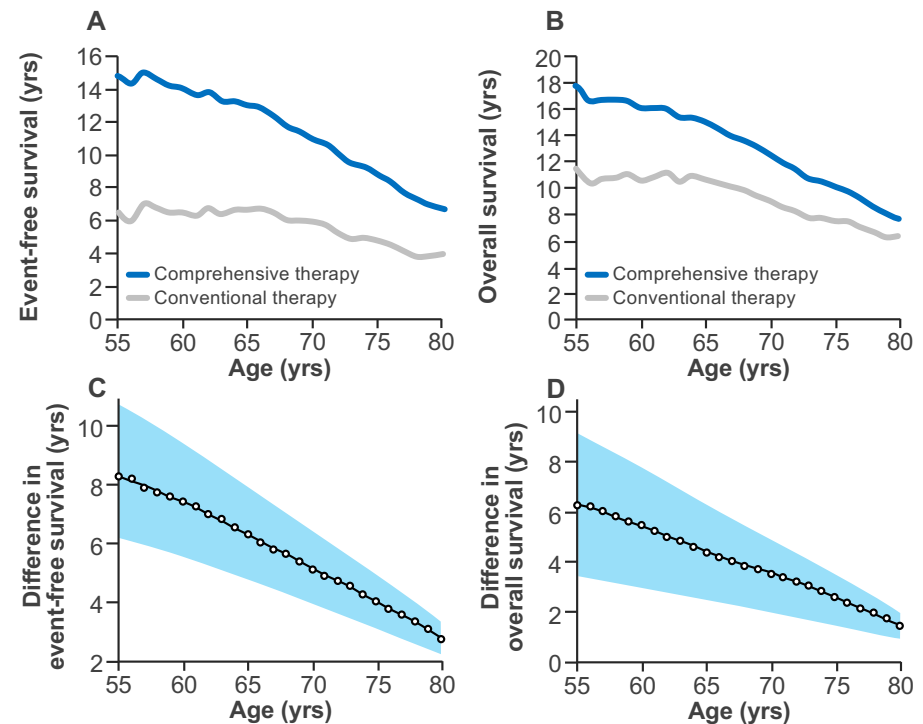
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Cumulative risk reduction in mortality if all evidence-based medical therapies are used:  
RRR 72.9%, ARR: 25.5%, NNT=3.9

ARNI, angiotensin-receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; ARR, absolute risk reduction; BB, beta-blocker; EF, ejection fraction; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NNT, number needed to be treated to prevent prespecified outcomes within 1 year; RRR, relative risk reduction; SGLT2i, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor  
Updated from Fonarow GC et al. Am Heart J 2011;161(6):1024-1030 and Fonarow GC et al. Lancet 2008;372(9645):1195-1196.

# COMPREHENSIVE THERAPY WITH NEWER AGENTS IMPROVES SURVIVAL AND EVENT-FREE SURVIVAL IN HFrEF

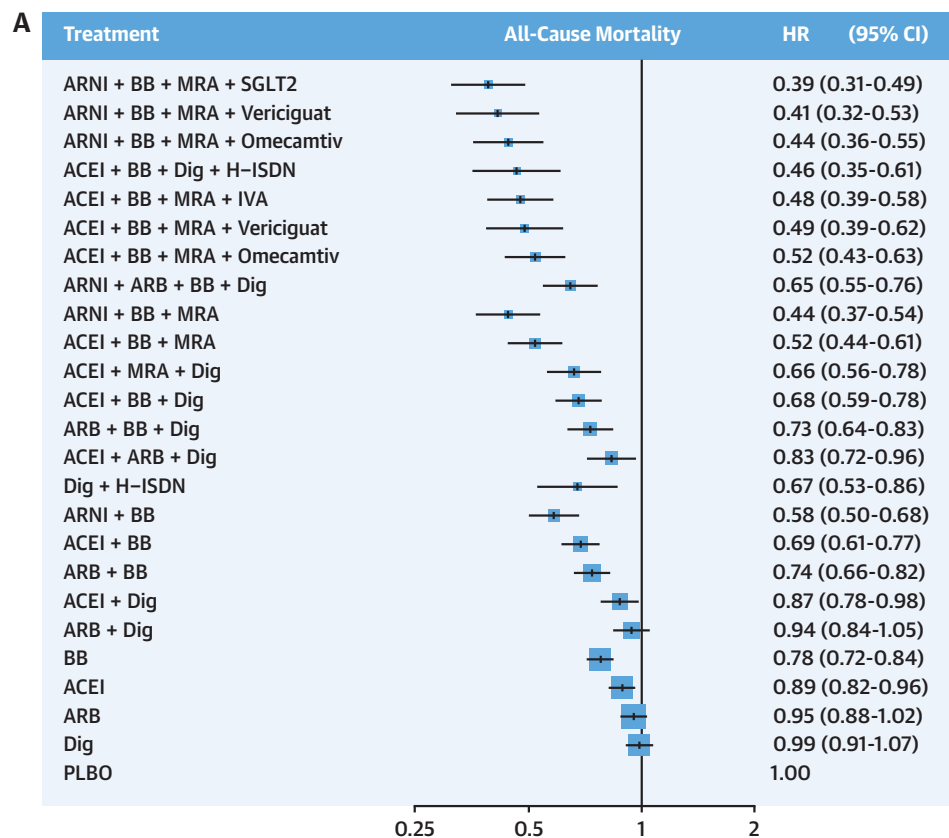
- In HFrEF, treatment effects of comprehensive therapy (**ARNI, beta-blocker, MRA, SGLT2i**) was compared to conventional therapy (ACEI/ARB, beta-blocker) in cross trial analyses
- This showed **significant improvement** with comprehensive therapy in both overall survival and event-free survival across all age groups
- In 55-year-old men, comprehensive therapy improved **event-free survival by 8.3 years** and **overall survival by 6.3 years**



ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI, angiotensin-receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; HFrEF, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; SGLT2i, sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor  
Vaduganathan M et al. Lancet 2020;S0140-6736(20)30748-0.

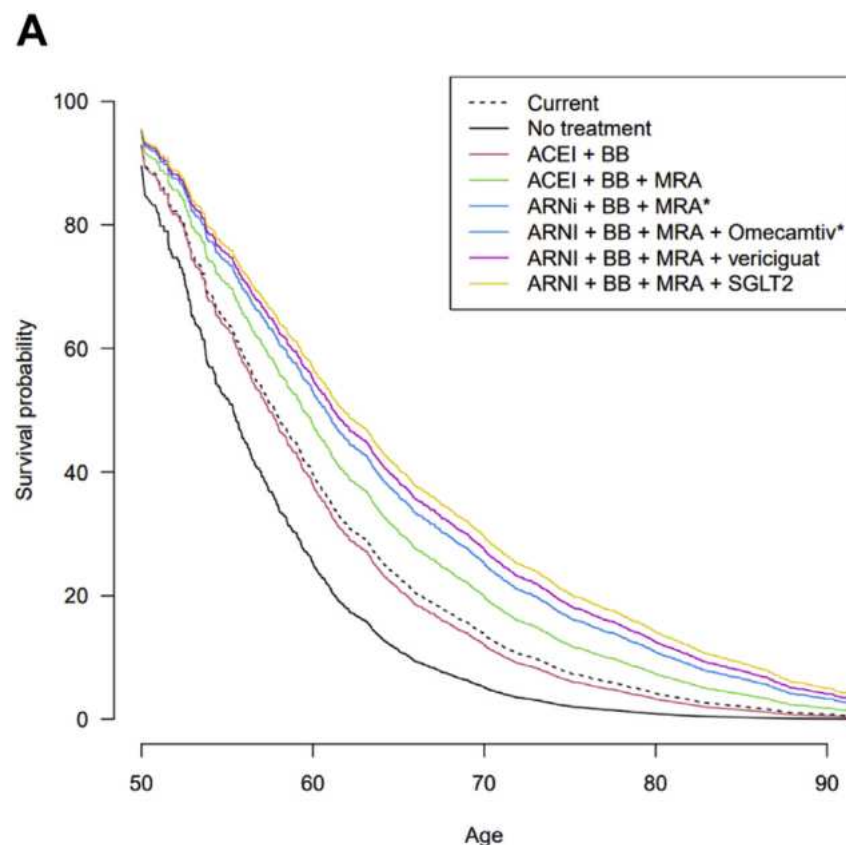
# Impact of Goal Directed Medical Therapy for Heart Failure

**CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION** Relative Risk Reduction of Different Pharmacological Treatment Combinations for Heart Failure



Tromp, J. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol HF. 2022;10(2):73-84.

**FIGURE 3** Estimated Average Lifetime Graphs





Sometimes good  
isn't good enough.

SUITS  
SEASON FINALE

USA

# THERAPEUTIC INERTIA: MISSED OPPORTUNITY TO INITIATE AND OPTIMIZE MEDICAL THERAPY

CHAMP-HF Registry of 3518 HFrEF patients in 150 US primary care and cardiology practices

	Patients <u>Without</u> Contraindications but <u>Not</u> Treated	Patients Treated at <100% of Target Dose
ACEI/ARB	39.1%	82.5%
ARNI	86.1%	86.0%
ACEI/ARB/ARNI	26.2%	83.2%
Beta-blocker	32.9%	72.5%
MRA	65.9%	23.4%

**<1% of patients eligible for all medications were simultaneously receiving target doses of ACEI/ARB/ARNI, beta-blocker and MRA**

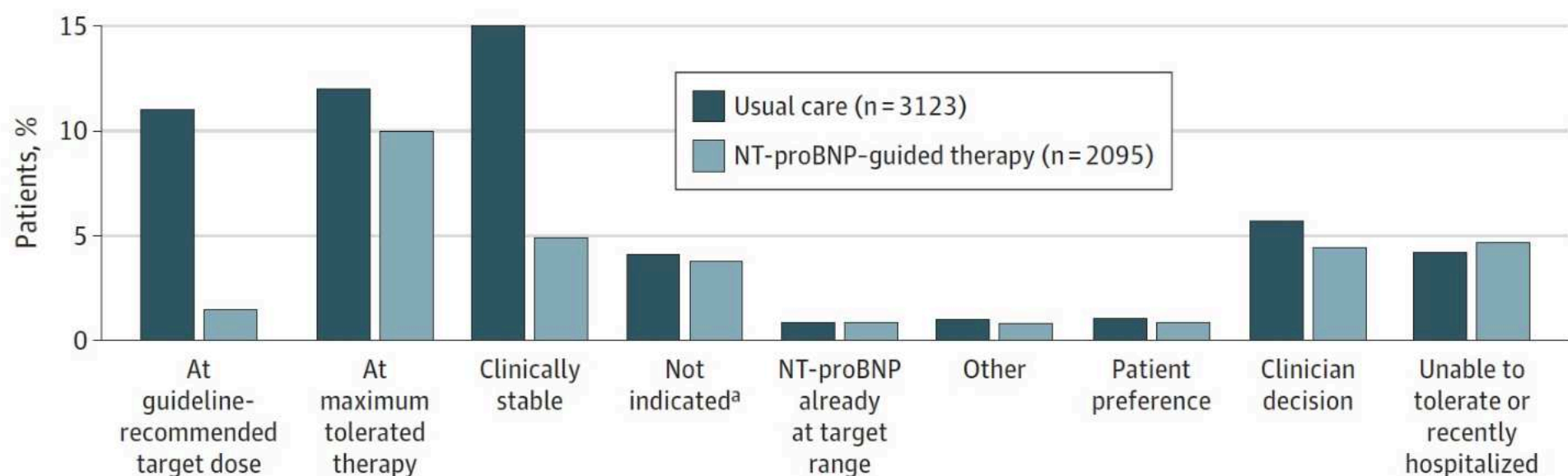


# Assessment of Limitations to Optimization of Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy in Heart Failure From the GUIDE-IT Trial

## A Secondary Analysis of a Randomized Clinical Trial

Mona Fiuzat, PharmD; Justin Ezekowitz, MB BCh, MSc; Wendimagegn Alemayehu, PhD; Cynthia M. Westerhout, PhD; Marco Sbolli, MD; Dario Cani, MD; David J. Whellan, MD, MHS; Tariq Ahmad, MD; Kirkwood Adams, MD; Ileana L. Piña, MD; Chetan B. Patel, MD; Kevin J. Anstrom, PhD; Lawton S. Cooper, MD, MPH; Daniel Mark, MD, MPH; Eric S. Leifer, PhD; G. Michael Felker, MD, MHS; James L. Januzzi, MD; Christopher M. O'Connor, MD

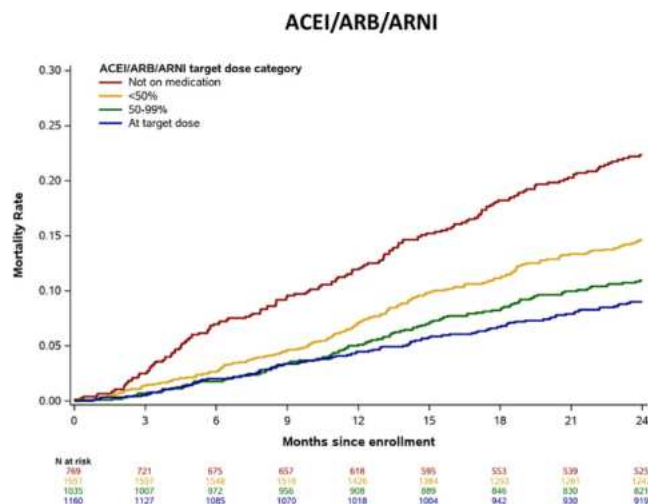
**Figure 2. Reasons for Not Titrating Medications by Treatment Arm**



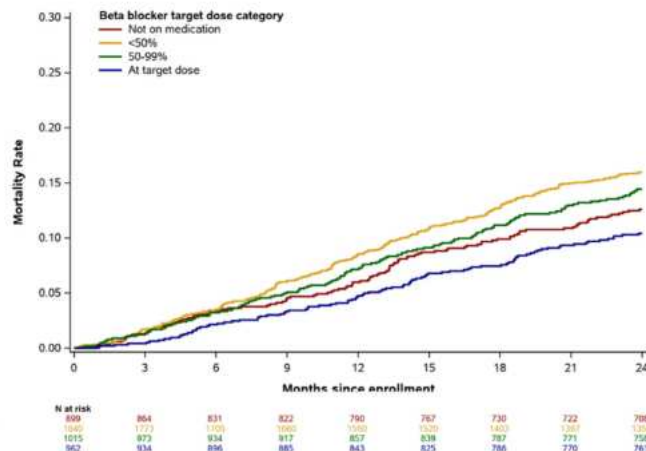
Fiuzat, JAMA Cardiology, 2020

# Use of Goal Directed Medical Therapy: Dose Matters

ACEI/ARB/ARNI

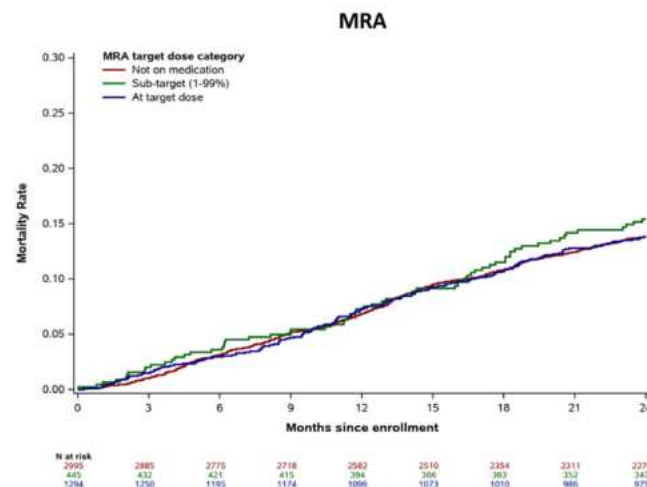


Beta-Blocker



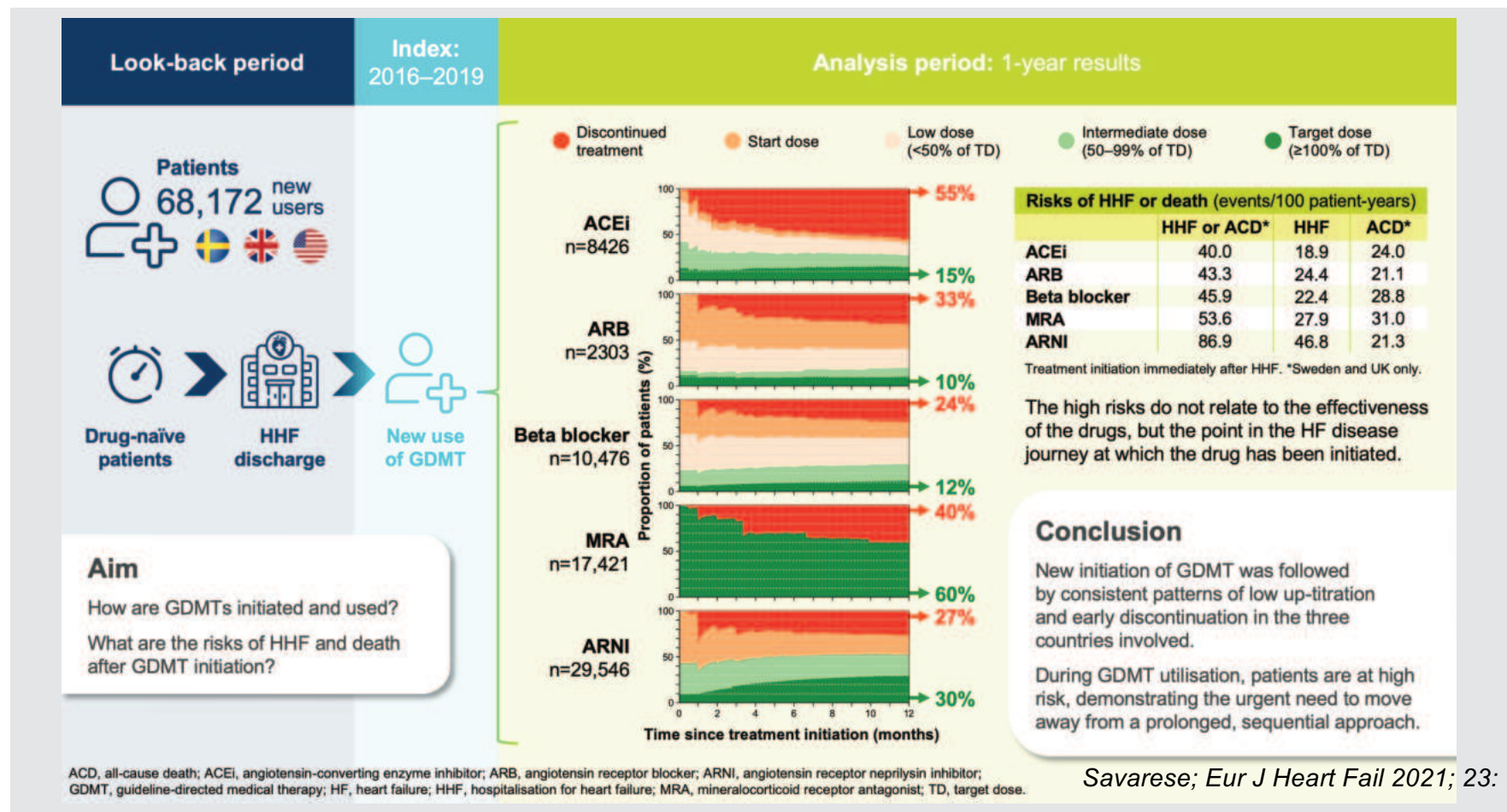
BETA BLOCKER

MRA

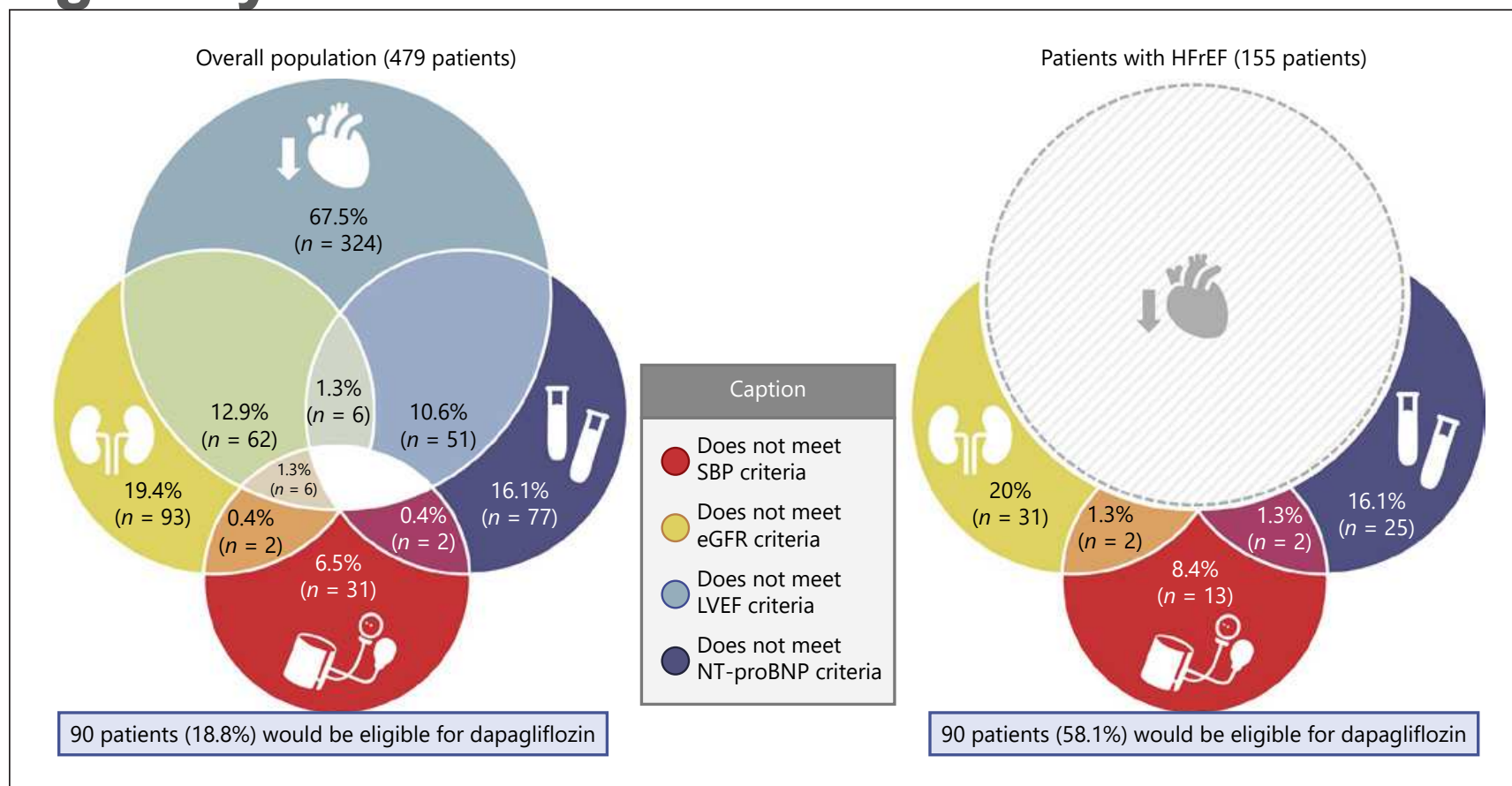


Greene; J Card Fail 2022; 28:370-84

# Use of Goal Directed Medical Therapy in Clinical Practice



# Goal Directed Medical Therapy: Real World Eligibility



Maltes; Cardiology 2021: 146:201

# Foundational Therapy: Real World Eligibility

HFrEF (N= 1295)

**PARADIGM-HF / DAPA-HF eligible**  
N=805 (62.2% among patients with HFrEF)

ACEi/ ARB  
N= 599 (74.4%)

Beta-blocker

- On treatment N= 701 (87.1%)
- ≥ 50% of recommended dose N= 233 (28.9%)
- Full of recommended dose N= 58 (7.2%)

MRA  
N= 384 (47.8%)

- ACEi + BB : N= 548 (68.1%)
- ACEi + BB + MRA: N= 273 (33.9%)

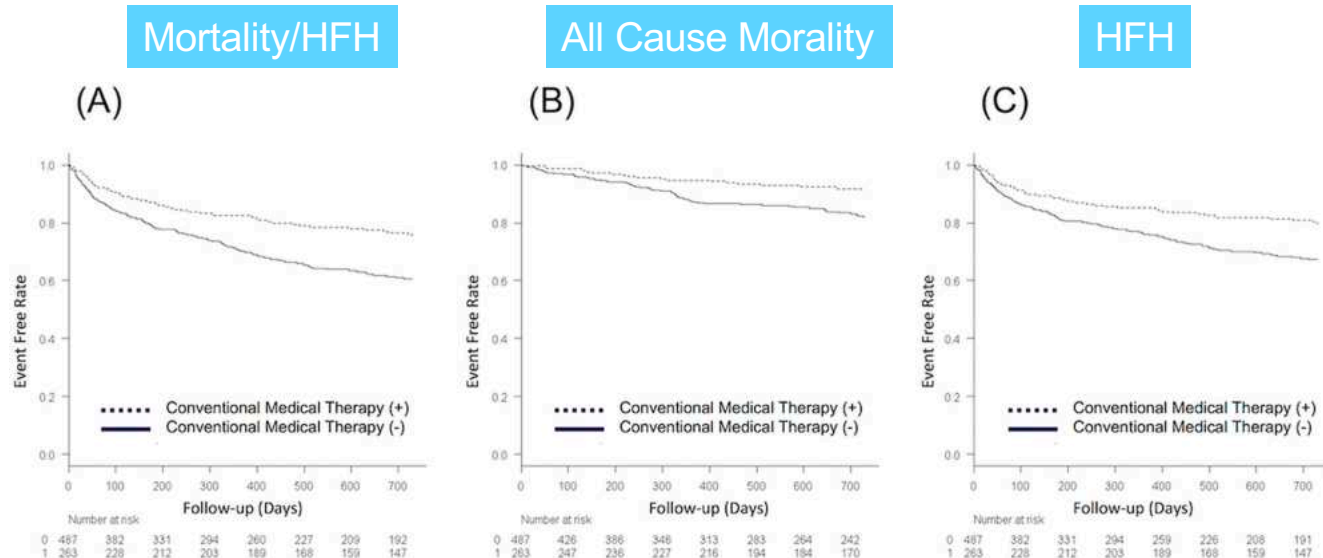
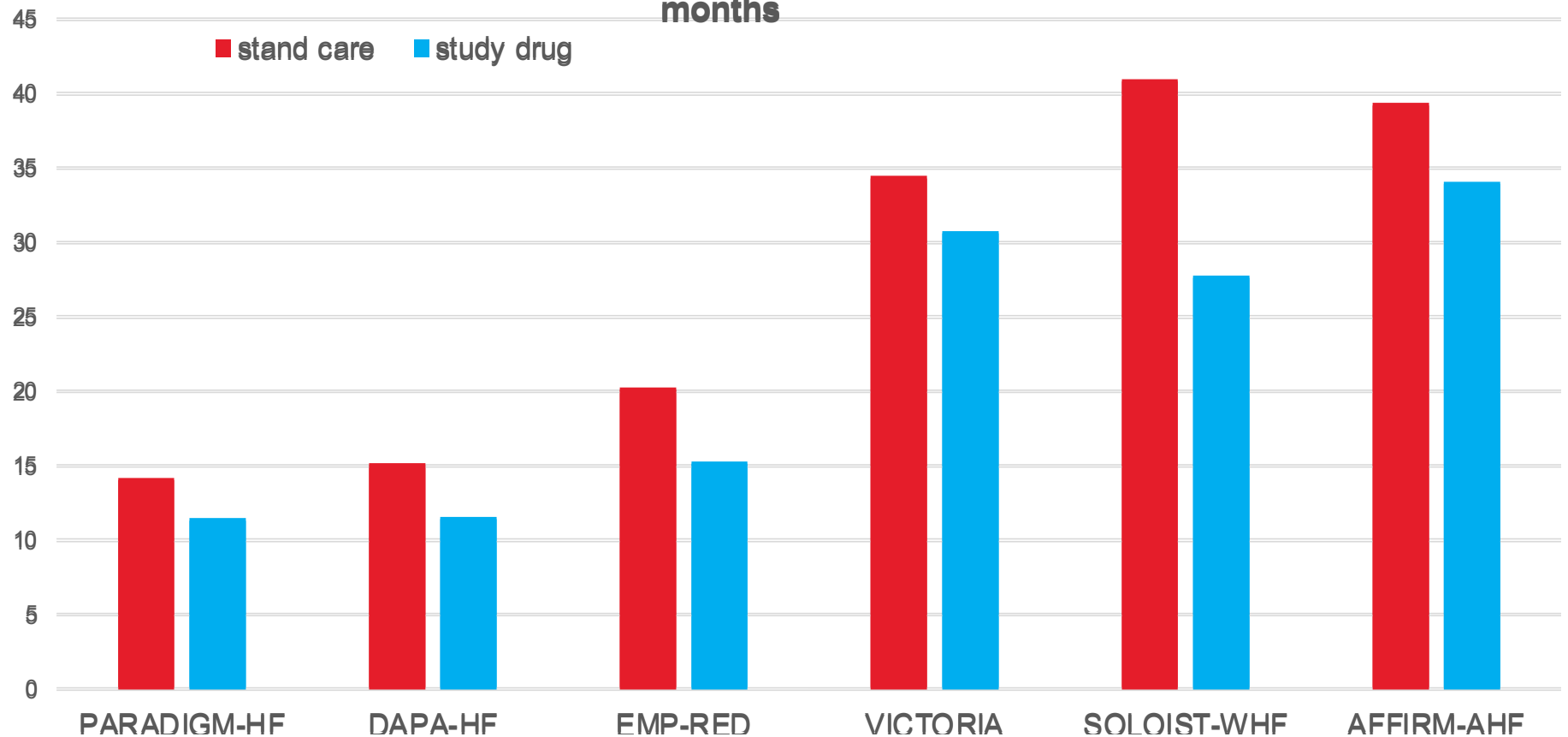


Fig. 2. Association between the use of conventional medical therapy and long-term outcomes [(A) the composite outcome of all-cause death and heart failure readmission, (B) all-cause death, and (C) heart failure readmission within 2 years] within patients meeting the PARADIGM-HF/ DAPA-HF enrollment criteria.



# Residual Risk Despite Optimized Goal Directed Medical Therapy

First Occurrence of Either CV death or Heart Failure Hospitalization at 12 months

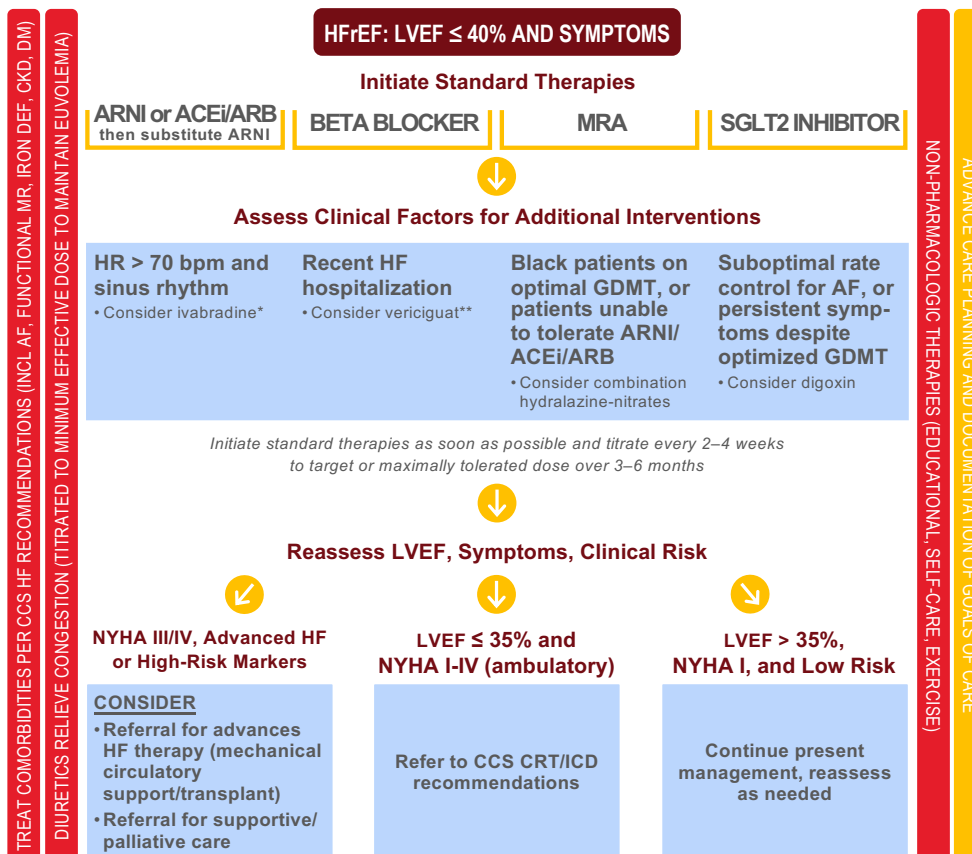


# 2021 CCS/CHFS Heart Failure Guidelines Update

Laying the Foundation

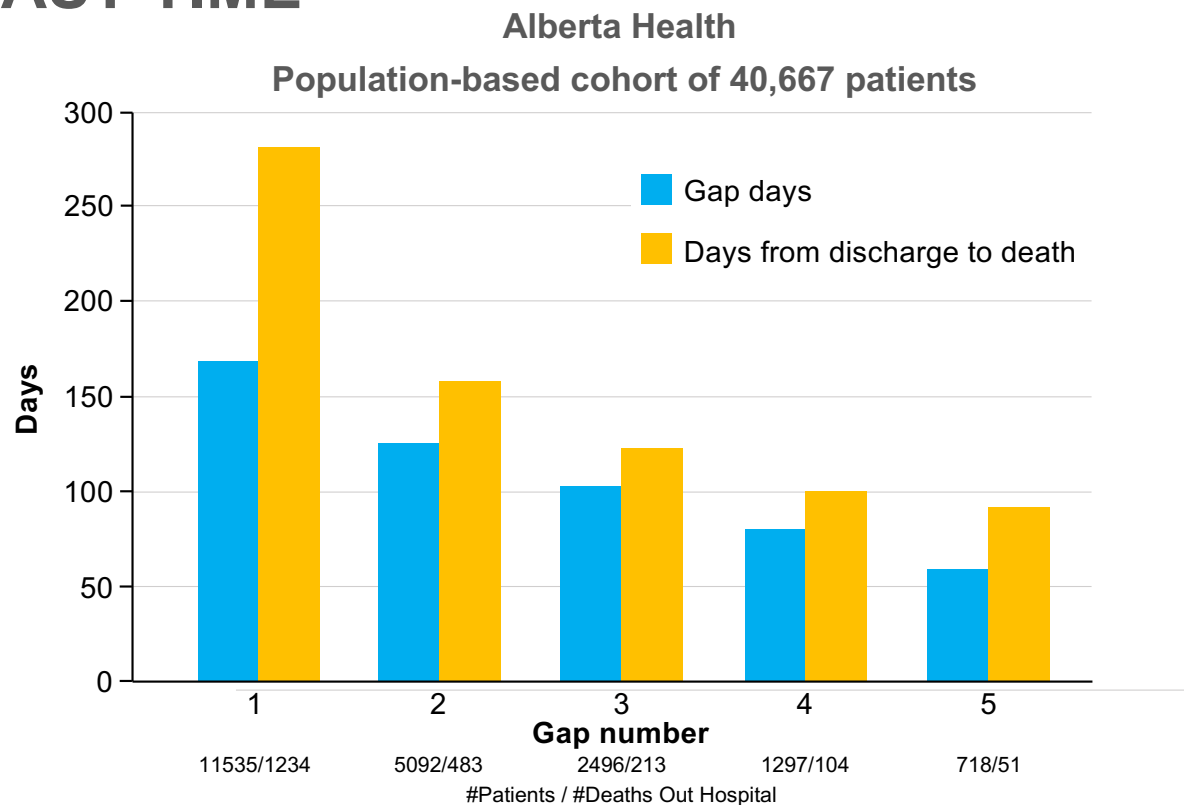
Personalization

Recalibration



ACEI, angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin receptor blocker; ARNI, angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; CCS, Canadian Cardiovascular Society; CKD, chronic kidney disease; CRT, cardiac resynchronization therapy; DM, diabetes mellitus; GDMT, guideline-directed medical therapy; ICD, implantable cardioverter defibrillator; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NYHA, New York Heart Association; SGLT, sodium glucose transport. \* Health Canada has approved ivabradine for patients with HFrEF and heart rate (HR) 77 bpm in sinus rhythm. \*\* Vericiguat is not yet approved for use in Canada.  
Canadian Journal of Cardiology 2021 37531-546DOI: (10.1016/j.cjca.2021.01.017)

# EACH TIME PATIENTS ARE HOSPITALIZED FOR HF, THEY ARE BACK IN HOSPITAL 28 DAYS FASTER THAN THE LAST TIME



**168**  
Median gap days  
between first and  
second hospitalizations

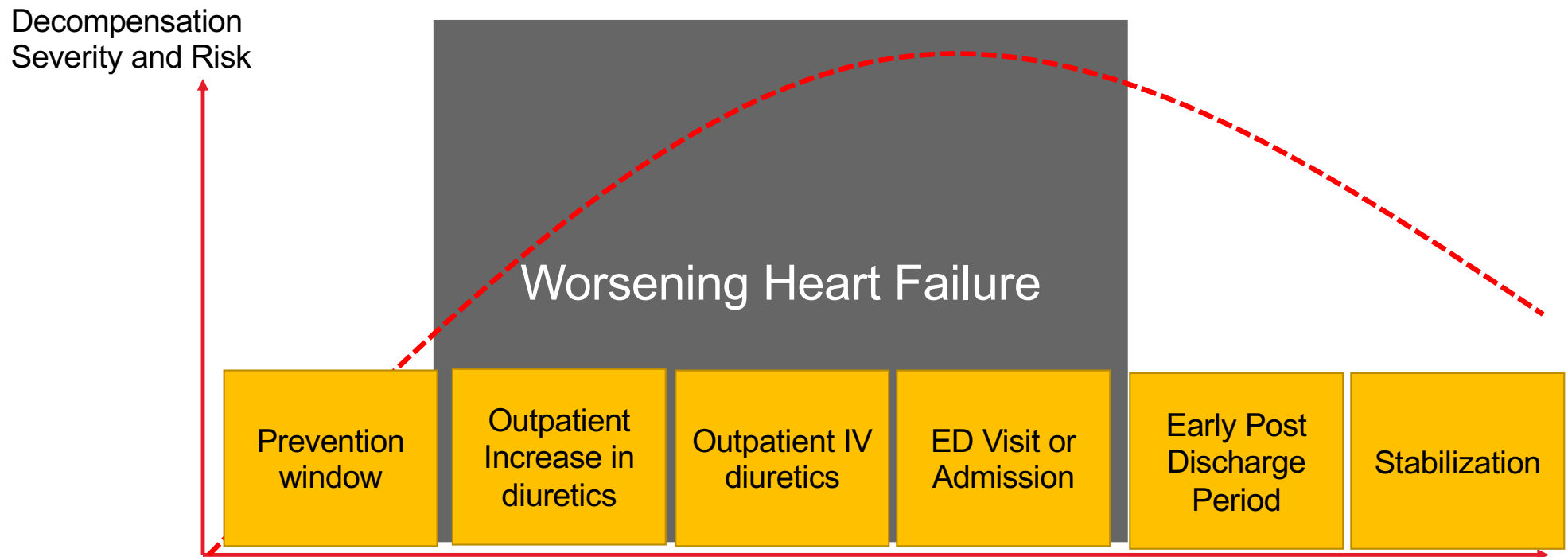


**Average reduction of 28 gap days  
for each rehospitalization**

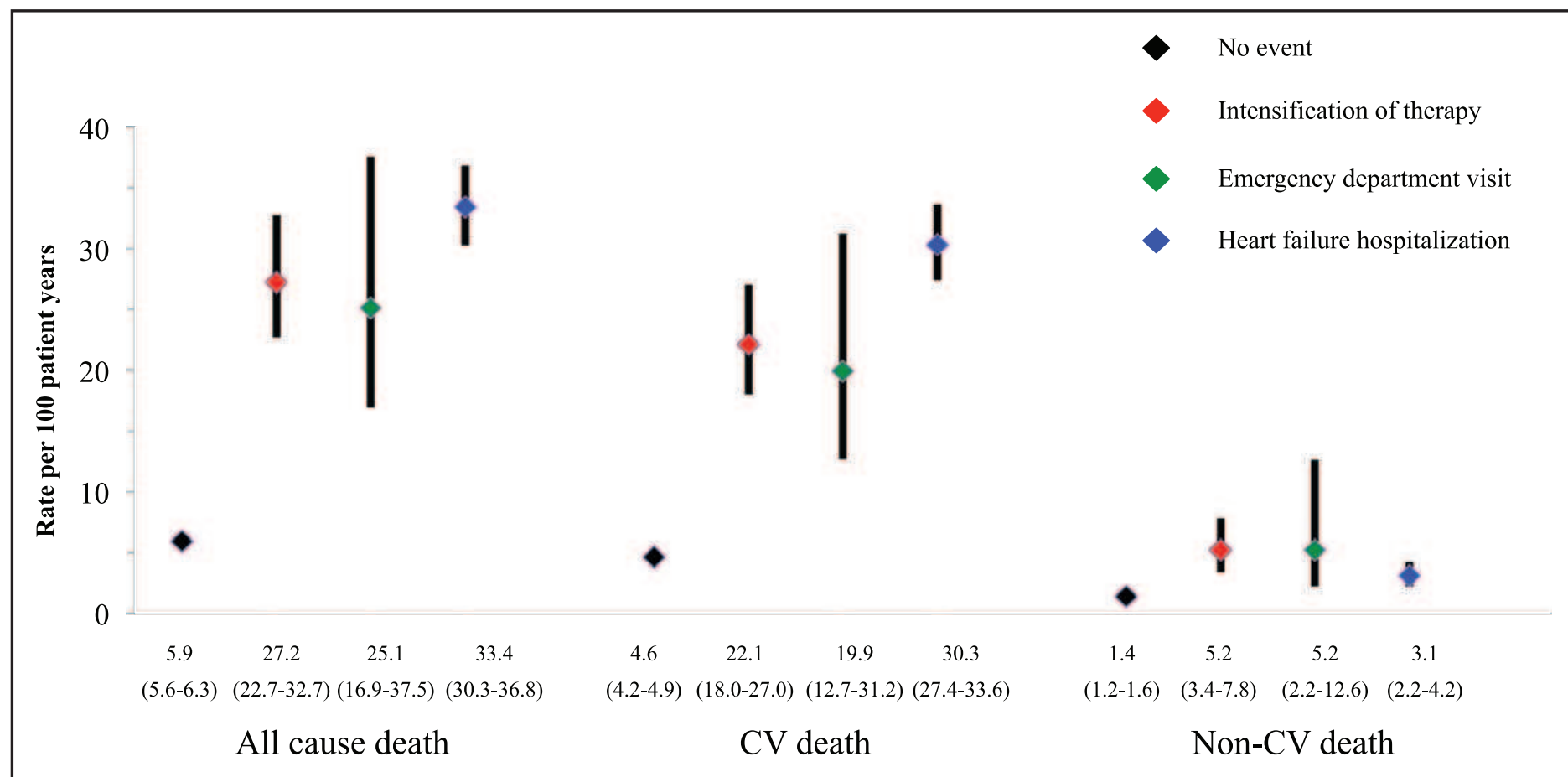
**60**  
Median gap days  
between fourth and  
fifth hospitalizations



# What is Worsening Heart Failure?



# Worsening HF in PARADIGM-HF



# Victoria Trial Patient Population

## ***“Chronic HF”***

- NYHA class II–IV
- **LVEF < 45%**
- Guideline based HF therapies

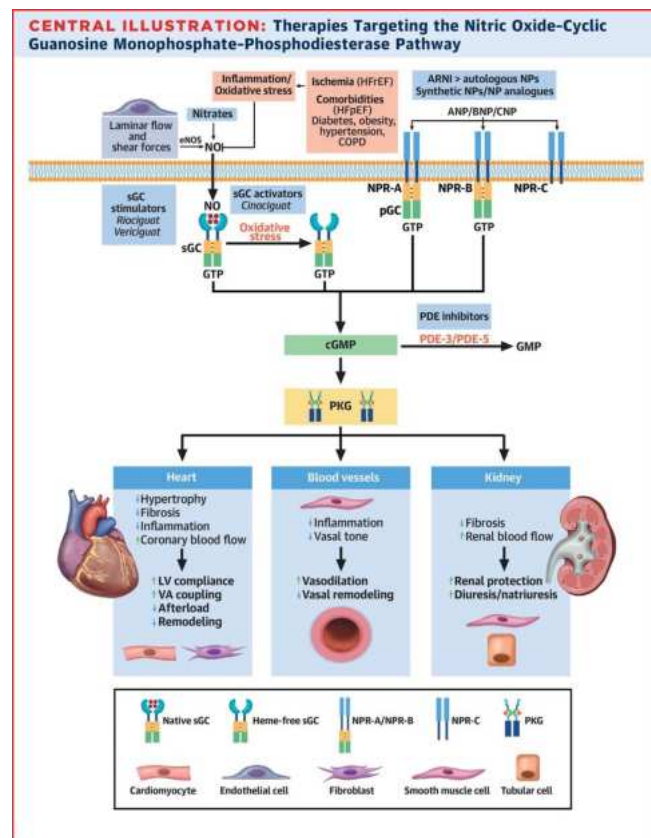
***after***

## ***“Worsening event”***

- Recent HFH or IV diuretic use
- With very elevated natriuretic peptides (BNP or NT-proBNP)
  - BNP  $\geq 300$  & pro-BNP  $\geq 1000$  pg/ml NSR
  - BNP  $\geq 500$  & pro-BNP  $\geq 1600$  pg/ml AF

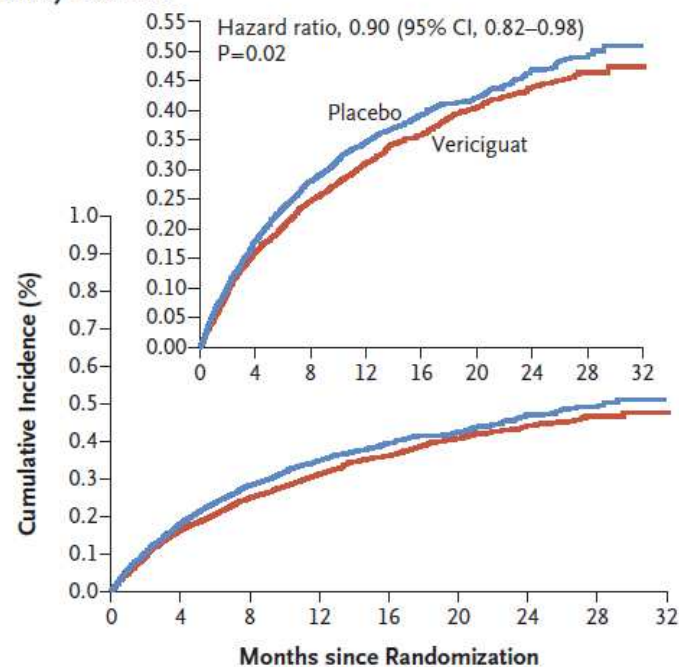
*Patients may have been randomized as an inpatient or outpatient but must have met criteria for clinical stability (e.g., **SBP  $\geq 100$  mmHg**, off IV treatments  $\geq 24$  hours)*

# Vericiguat in Patients with Heart Failure and Reduced Ejection Fraction



Emdin, M. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;76(15):1795-807.

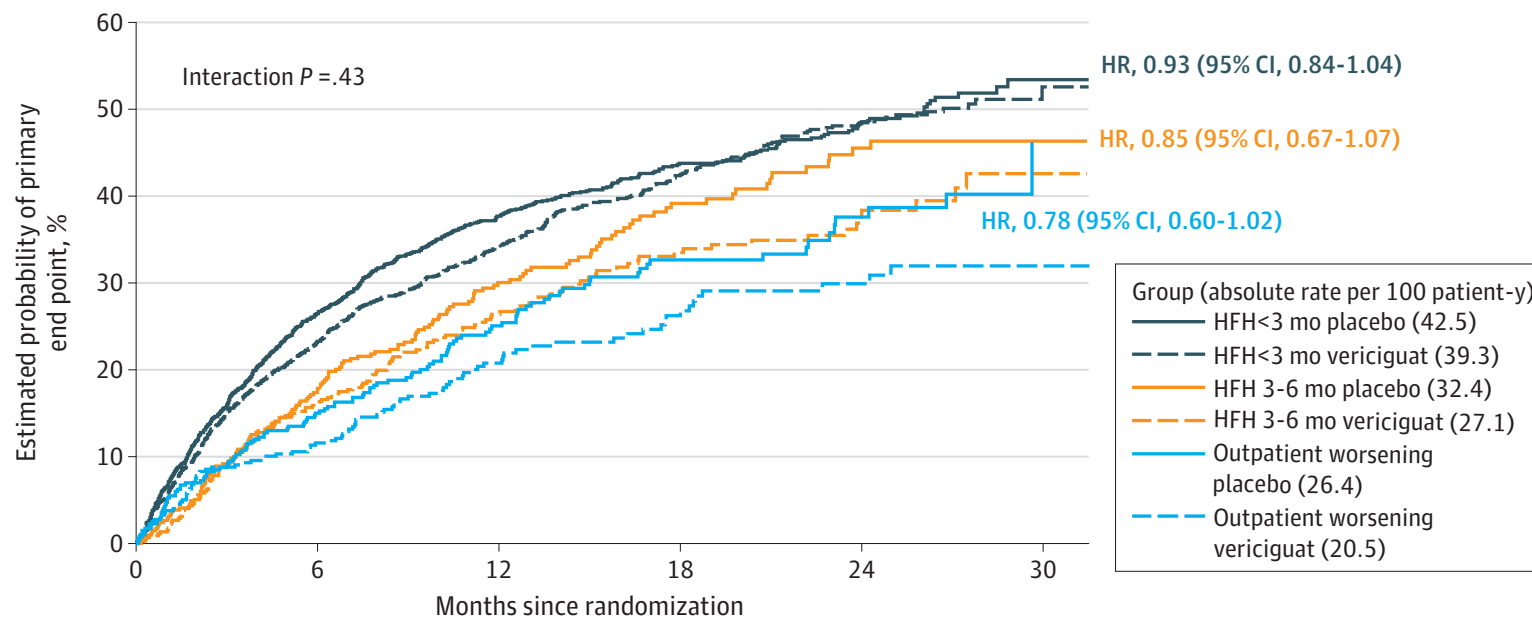
## A Primary Outcome



## No. at Risk

Placebo	2524	2053	1555	1097	772	559	324	110	0
Vericiguat	2526	2099	1621	1154	826	577	348	125	1

# Worsening HF Events in VICTORIA

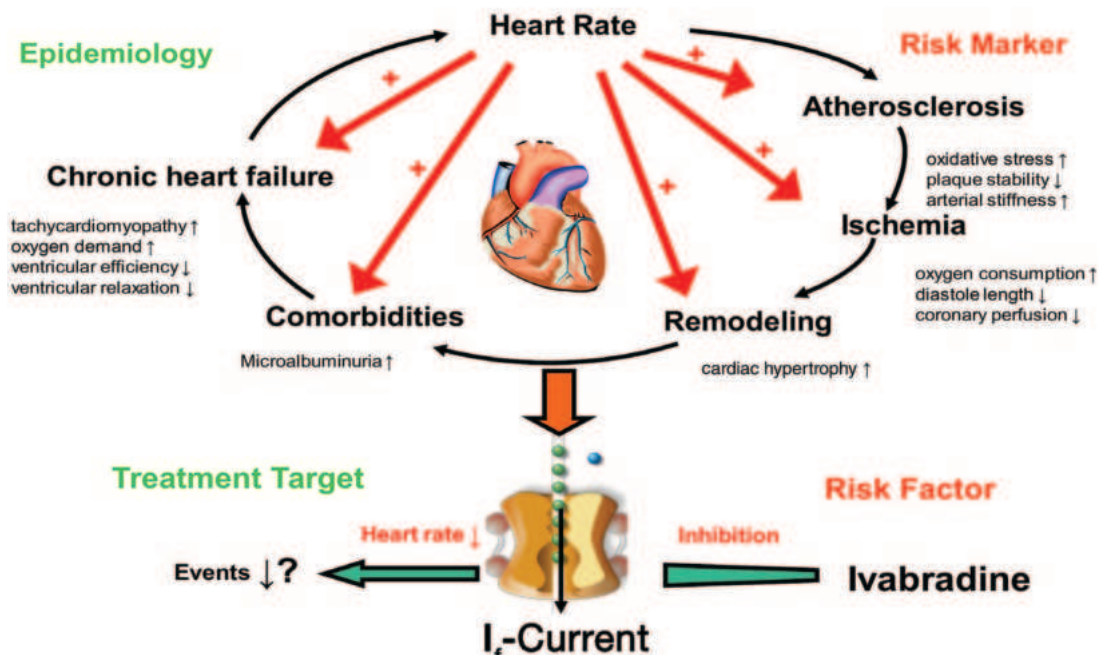


## No. at risk

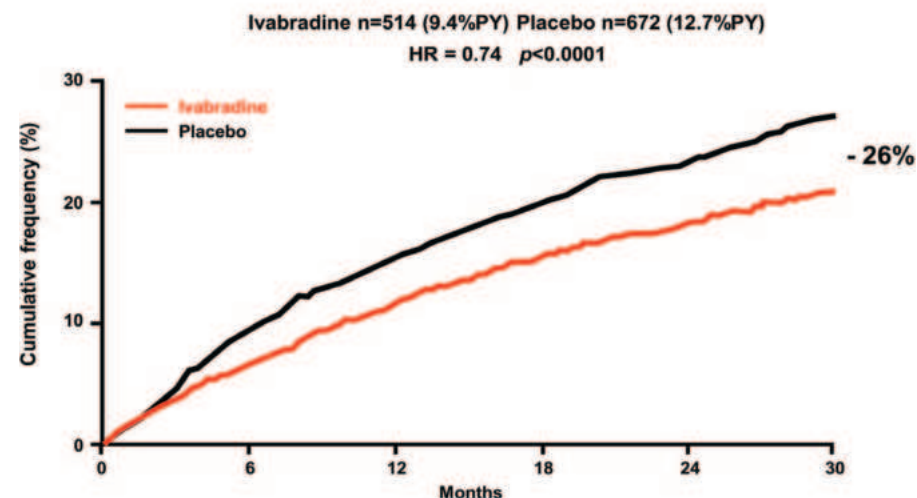
	0	6	12	18	24	30
HFH < 3 mo placebo (42.5)	1705	1233	701	419	221	27
HFH < 3 mo vericiguat (39.3)	1673	1264	741	436	217	33
HFH 3-6 mo placebo (32.4)	417	341	215	122	71	9
HFH 3-6 mo vericiguat (27.1)	454	373	235	151	86	9
Outpatient worsening placebo (26.4)	402	338	205	131	61	6
Outpatient worsening vericiguat (20.5)	399	349	205	133	73	14

# Heart Rate and its Reduction in Chronic Heart Failure

## Positive Effects of Heart Rate Reduction



## Hospitalization for heart failure



# Effects of Ivabradine in Patients with HR>77 bpm

## Quality of Life and Patient Reported Outcomes

**Table 2** Change between baseline and last visit for New York Heart Association class and global assessment in patients with a heart rate  $\geq 77$  b.p.m. at rest

	Ivabradine group (N = 1657)	Placebo group (N = 1700)	P
NYHA functional class, % (n)	Nobs = 1643	Nobs = 1680	0.0003
Improved	28.0% (n = 460)	22.7% (n = 382)	
Stable or worsening	72.0% (n = 1183)	77.0% (n = 1298)	
Change in global self-assessment, % (n)	Nobs = 1497	Nobs = 1515	0.0006
Improved	72.3% (n = 1082)	66.6% (n = 1009)	
Stable or worsening	27.7% (n = 415)	33.4% (n = 506)	
Change in global assessment, physician perspective, % (n)	Nobs = 1573	Nobs = 1596	<0.0001
Improved	61.0% (n = 960)	54.5% (n = 869)	
Stable or worsening	39.0% (n = 613)	45.5% (n = 727)	

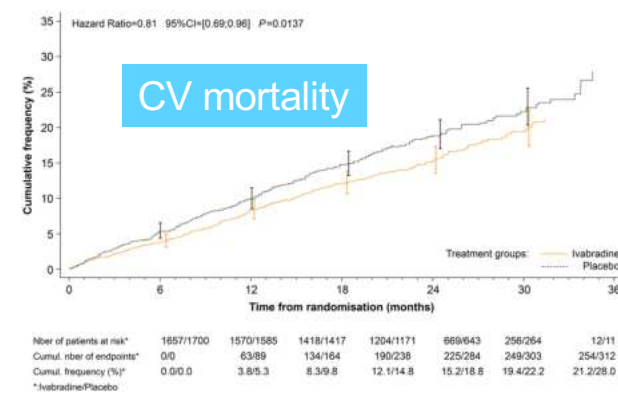
Nobs, number of observations; NYHA, New York Heart Association.

**Table 3** Quality of life, subgroup of patients with a heart rate  $\geq 77$  b.p.m. at rest

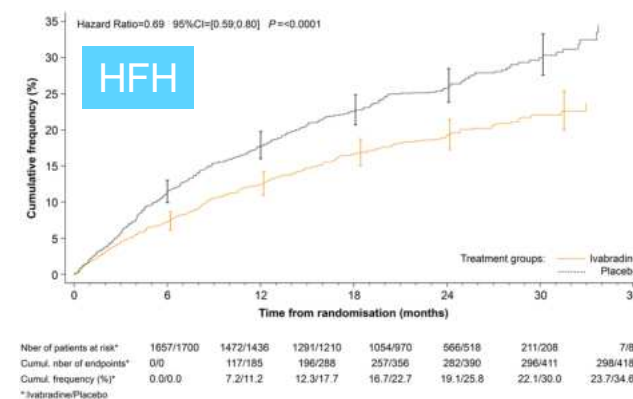
KCCQ scores	Ivabradine group (N = 510)	Placebo group (N = 512)	Treatment effect (change in QoL at 1 year)	
			Estimate (95% CI)	P
CSS, at baseline mean ( $\pm$ SD)	66.58 ( $\pm$ 20.74)	66.38 ( $\pm$ 20.04)	—	—
CSS, changes at last post-baseline value mean ( $\pm$ SD)	3.66 ( $\pm$ 18.51)	1.24 ( $\pm$ 18.67)	2.37 (0.25–4.48)	0.028
OSS, at baseline mean ( $\pm$ SD)	63.27 ( $\pm$ 20.67)	63.13 ( $\pm$ 19.31)	—	—
OSS, changes at last post-baseline value mean ( $\pm$ SD)	5.30 ( $\pm$ 18.54)	2.19 ( $\pm$ 18.86)	3.00 (0.89–5.10)	0.005

CSS, clinical summary score; KCCQ, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire; OSS, overall summary score; QoL, quality of life.

**Figure 2** Kaplan–Meier curves for cardiovascular mortality alone in patients with a heart rate  $\geq 77$  b.p.m. at rest.



**Figure 3** Kaplan–Meier curves for hospitalization for worsening heart failure alone in patients with a heart rate  $\geq 77$  b.p.m. at rest.



# Ivabradine: Pooled Outcome Estimates

**Patient or population:** patients with heart failure  
**Setting:** any setting  
**Intervention:** Ivabradine  
**Comparison:** placebo/no intervention/usual care

Outcomes	Nº of participants (studies) Follow-up	Certainty of the evidence (GRADE)	Relative effect (95%CI)	Anticipated absolute effects	
				Risk with placebo/no intervention/usual care	Risk difference with Ivabradine
All-cause mortality	19257 (22 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ High a,b,c	<b>RR 0.94</b> (0.88 to 1.01)	134 per 1.000	<b>8 fewer per 1.000</b> (16 fewer to 1 more)
Serious adverse events	20144 (31 RCTs)	⊕⊕○○ Low b,c,d	<b>RR 0.90</b> (0.87 to 0.94)	374 per 1.000	<b>37 fewer per 1.000</b> (49 fewer to 22 fewer)
Quality of life (KCCQ)	1781 (2 RCTs)	⊕⊕○○ Low b,e,f	-		<b>MD 2.92 higher</b> (1.34 higher to 4.5 higher)
Quality of life (MLWHFQ)	221 (4 RCTs)	⊕○○○ Very low b,g,h	-		<b>MD 5.28 lower</b> (6.6 lower to 3.96 lower)
Cardiovascular mortality	18738 (15 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ High a,b,c	<b>RR 0.98</b> (0.90 to 1.06)	103 per 1.000	<b>2 fewer per 1.000</b> (10 fewer to 6 more)
Myocardial infarction	18190 (9 RCTs)	⊕⊕○○ Low a,c,i	<b>RR 1.00</b> (0.80 to 1.24)	17 per 1.000	<b>0 fewer per 1.000</b> (3 fewer to 4 more)
Non-serious adverse events	21598 (49 RCTs)	⊕⊕⊕⊕ High a,b,c	<b>RR 1.10</b> (1.07 to 1.12)	471 per 1.000	<b>47 more per 1.000</b> (33 more to 57 more)

\*The risk in the intervention group (and its 95% confidence interval) is based on the assumed risk in the comparison group and the **relative effect** of the intervention (and its 95% CI).

CI: confidence interval; MD: mean difference; RR: risk ratio

GRADE Working Group grades of evidence

Maagaard; BMJ Evidence Based Med 2021



# Ivabradine: Pooled Outcome Estimates

## Heart Rate Reduction

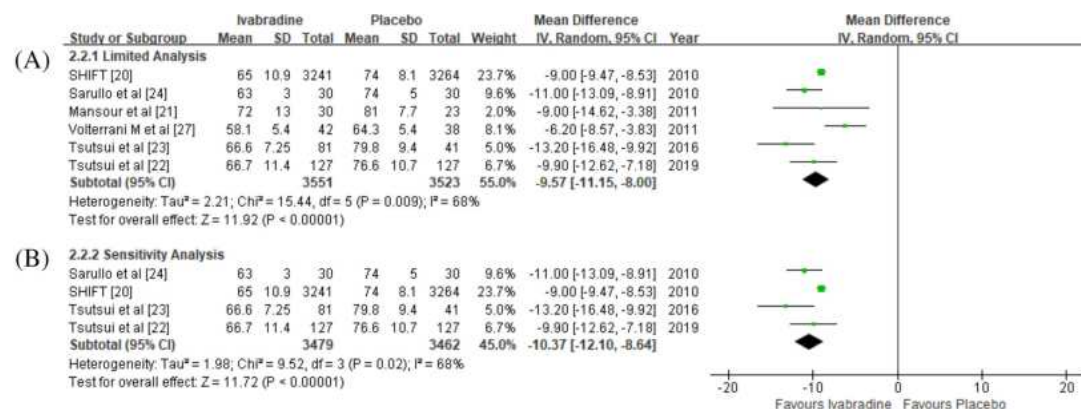
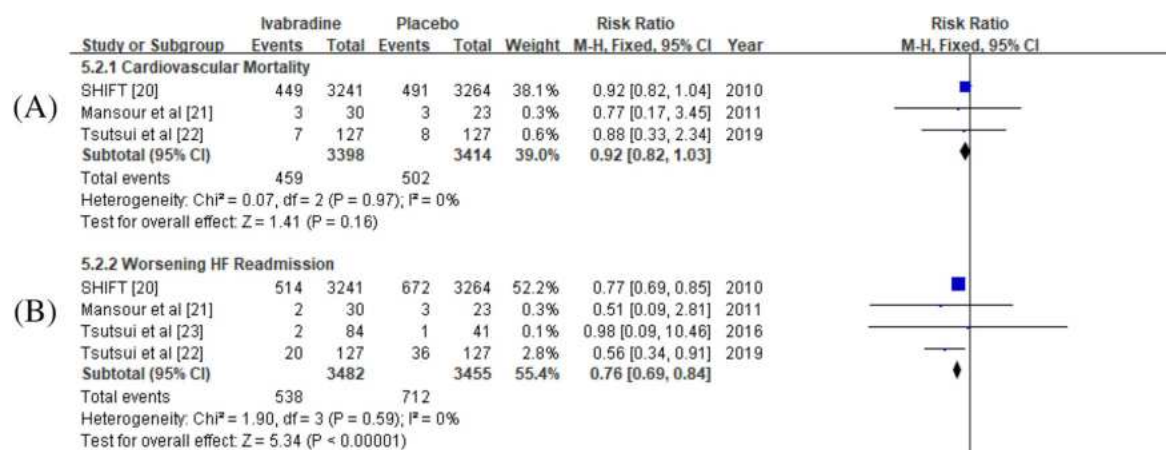


FIGURE 2 Effect of Ivabradine versus placebo on heart rate reduction. (A) limited analysis; (B) sensitivity analysis

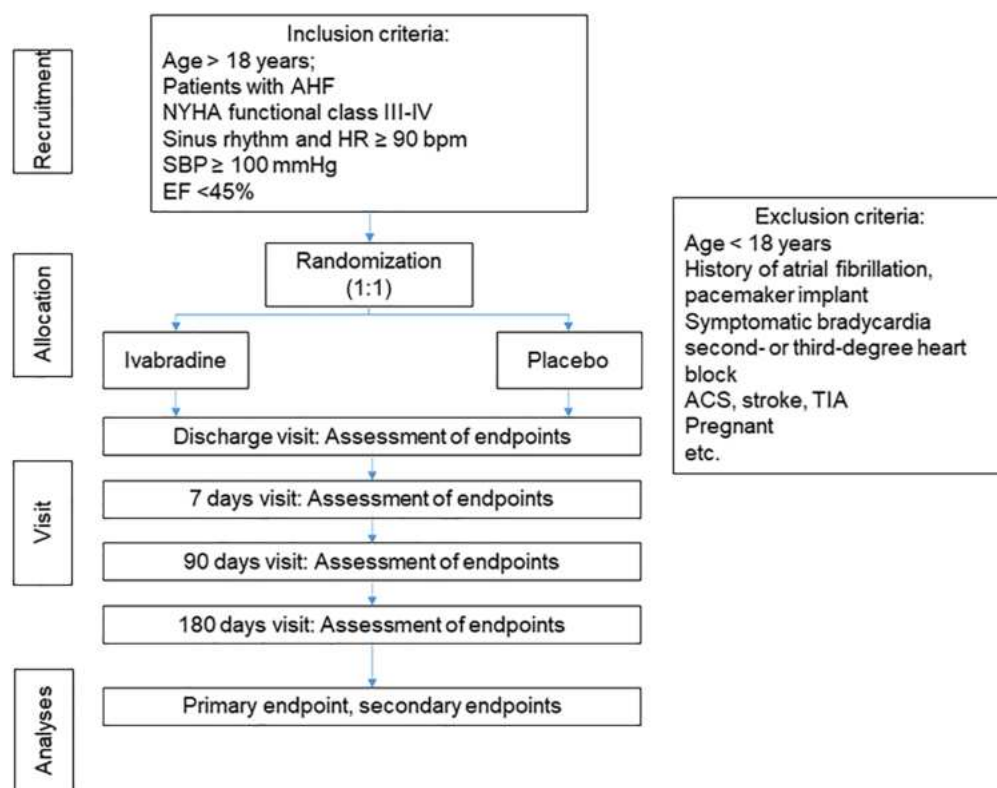


## CV Mortality

## HF Hospitalization

# Use of Ivabradine in Acute Heart Failure

**FIGURE 1** Flow chart of SHIFT-AHF trial. ACS, acute coronary syndrome; TIA, transient ischaemic attack.



## Primary Endpoint:

- Composite of all cause-mortality or HF readmission

## Secondary Endpoints:

- All cause death
- CV death
- HFH
- Cardiac remodelling
- Change in FC
- QOL

# Real World Eligibility of Ivabradine

**Table 2** SHIFT study-like characteristics potential Ivabradine patients

Characteristic, <i>n</i> (%)	AI <i>n</i> = 491	CH <i>n</i> = 605	<i>p</i> value AH/ CH
LVEF ≤ 35%	172/491 (35.0)	184/605 (30.4)	0.1045
Sinus rhythm	279/491 (56.8)	366/605 (60.5)	0.2191
HR ≥ 70 bpm	205/491 (41.8)	317/605 (52.4)	0.0004*
“SHIFT study-like” characteristics	41 (8.4)	71 (11.7)	0.0658

AH Academic hospital, CH community hospital, HR heart rate, LVEF left ventricular ejection fraction, % percentage

\* Significant *p* value

# Real World Eligibility of Ivabradine

HFrEF (N= 1295)

## SHIFT eligible

N= 457 (35.3% among patients with HFrEF)

ACEi/ ARB

N= 315 (68.9%)

Beta-blocker

- On treatment N= 385 (84.2%)
- ≥ 50% of recommended dose N= 105 (23.0%)
- Full-of recommended dose N= 20 (4.4%)

MRA

N= 209 (45.7%)

- ACEi + BB : N= 283 (61.9%)
- ACEi + BB + MRA: N= 146 (31.9%)

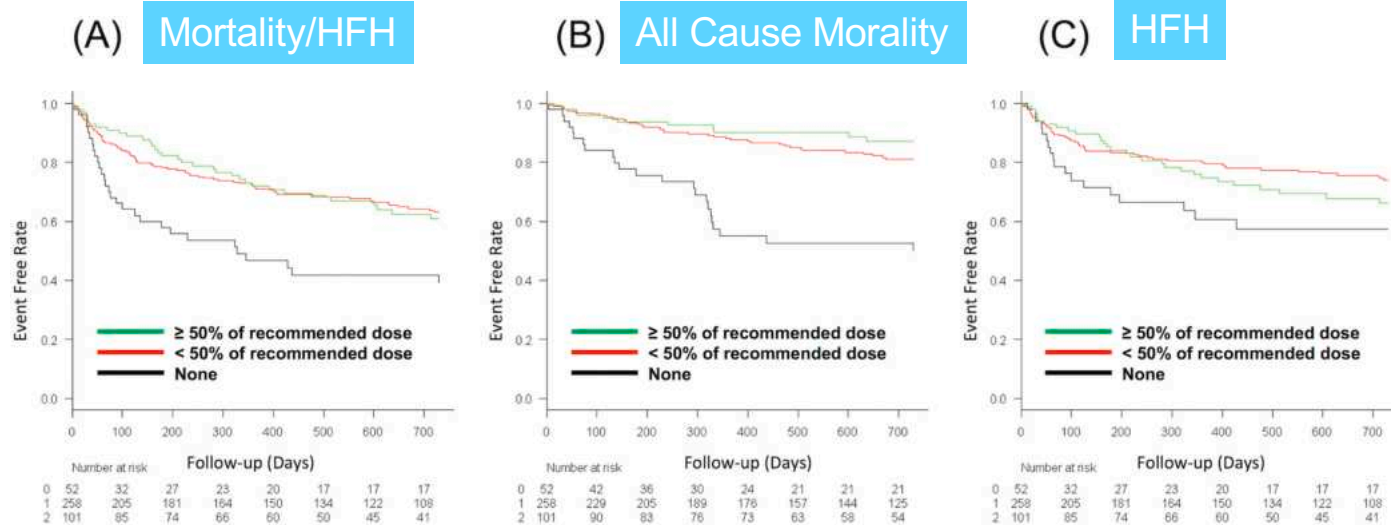
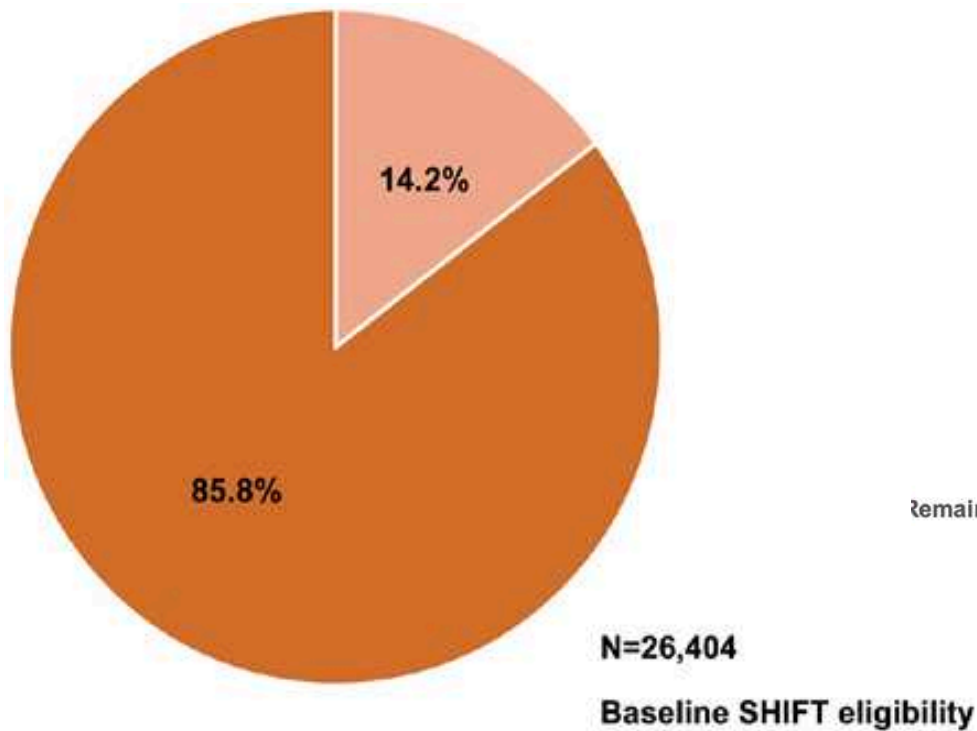
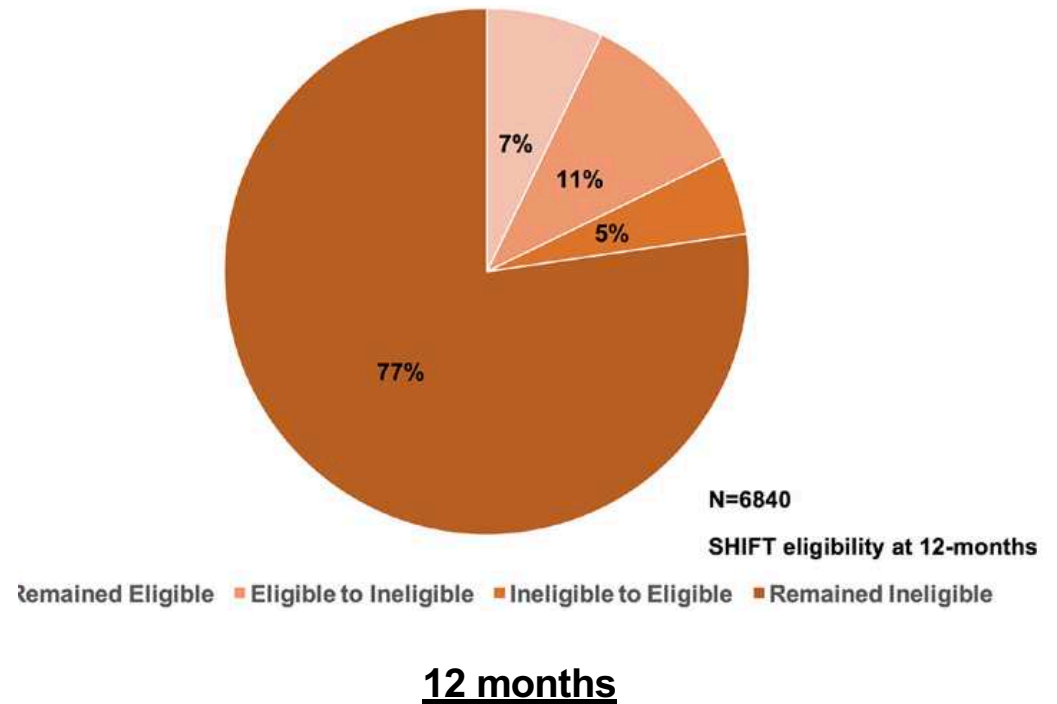


Fig. 3. Association between the dose of beta-blockers and long-term outcomes [(A) the composite outcome of all-cause death and heart failure readmission, (B) all-cause death, and (C) heart failure readmission within 2 years] within patients meeting the SHIFT enrollment criteria.

# Real World Eligibility of Ivabradine



■ SHIFT-type ■ Non-SHIFT-type



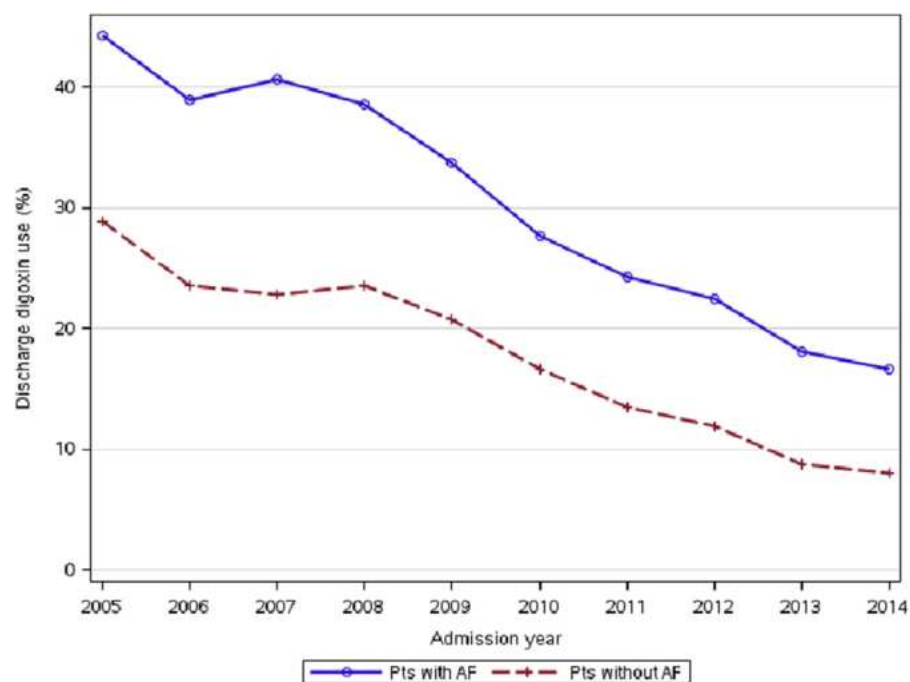
■ Remained Eligible ■ Eligible to Ineligible ■ Ineligible to Eligible ■ Remained Ineligible

# Digoxin: The Great Divide

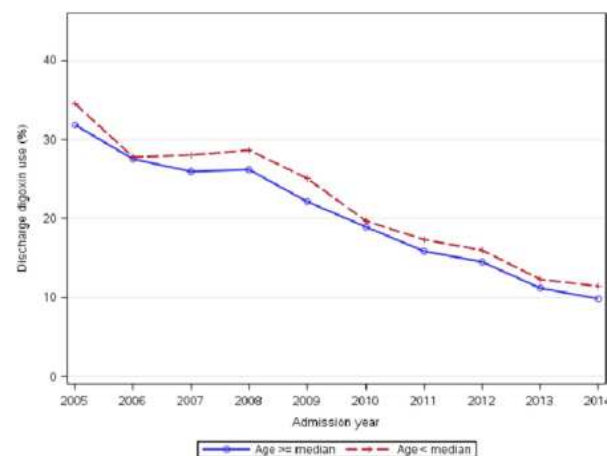
Study Design				Outcomes
Meta-analyses and other study designs	Meta-analyses of RCTs	RCTs		
		DIG [6] *Ahmed et al. [7, 8] *Gheorghiade et al. [10] RADIANCE [11] PROVED [12] RATE-AF [24]	Positive	
Lopes et al. [17] Allen et al. [18] Gheorghiade et al. [19]	Ziff et al. [20]		Neutral	
Mate at el. [13, 16] Wang et al. [14] Ouyang et al. [15]			Negative	

# Temporal Trends in Digoxin Use Over Time

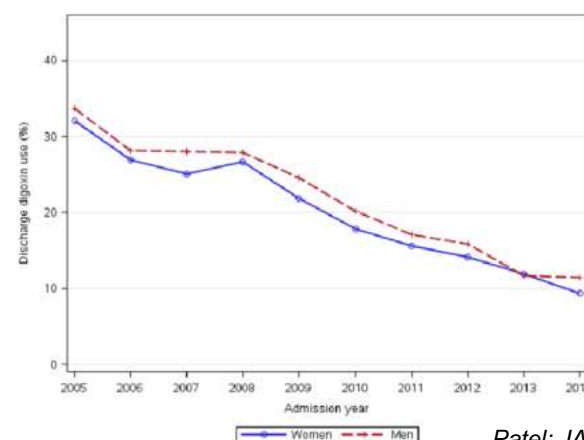
**FIGURE 3** Trends of Digoxin Use Among Patients With or Without Atrial Fibrillation in the HFrEF Patient Population



AF = atrial fibrillation; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction.

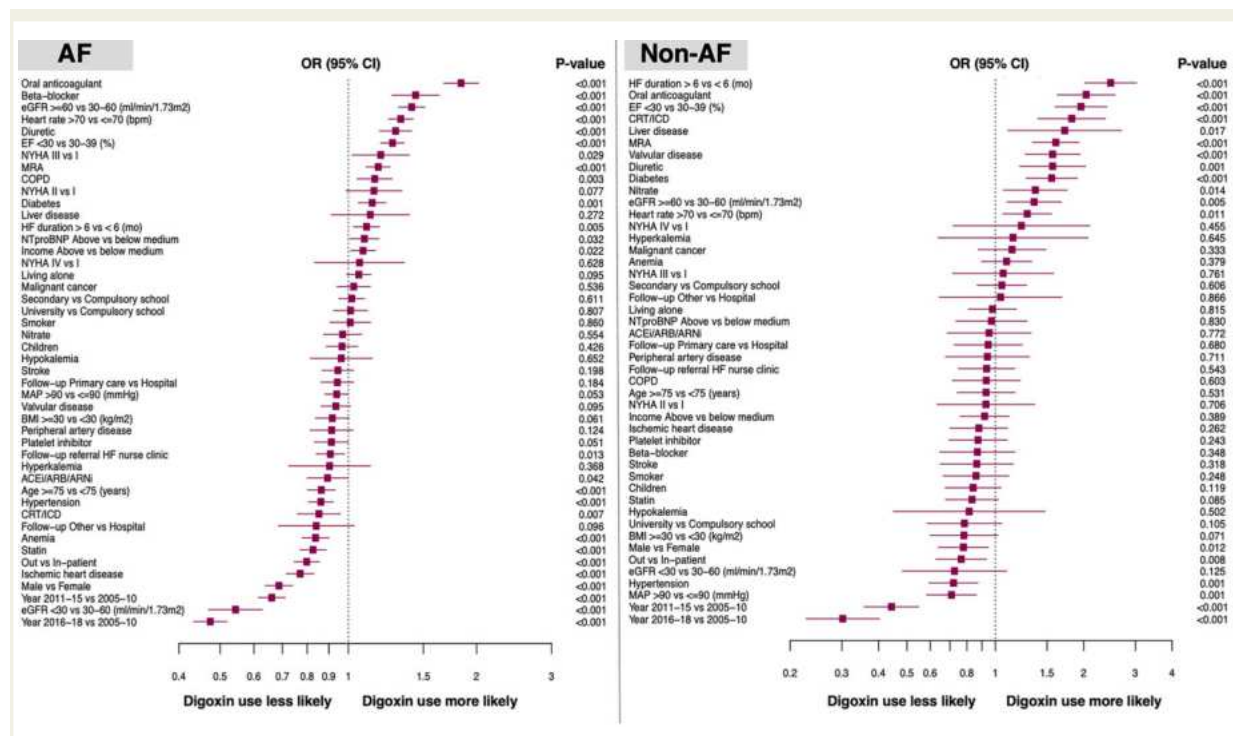
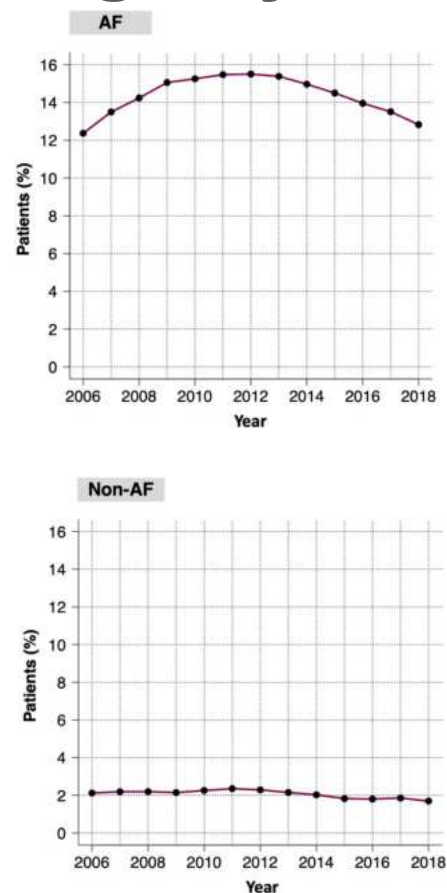


Age above or below 68 years



Sex

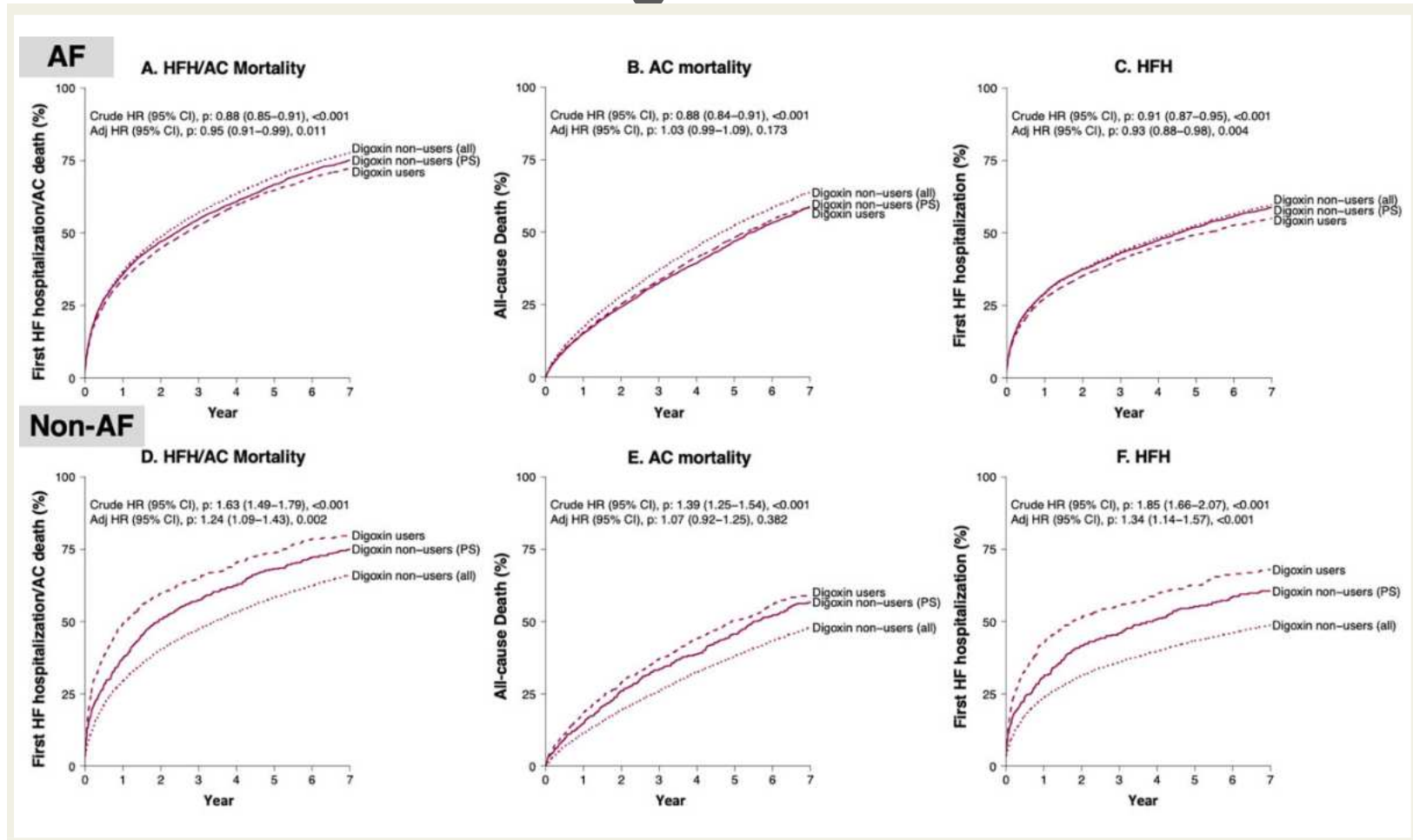
# Digoxin Use in HFrEF: Swedish Heart Failure Registry



**Figure 3** Independent predictors of digoxin use in patients with (left panel) and without atrial fibrillation (right panel). The forest plots report the odds ratios and 95% confidence intervals derived from multivariable logistic regression analyses using digoxin use as the dependent variable. Abbreviations as in [Table 1](#).



# Outcomes Based on Digoxin Use



Kapeliou; Eur Heart J 2021

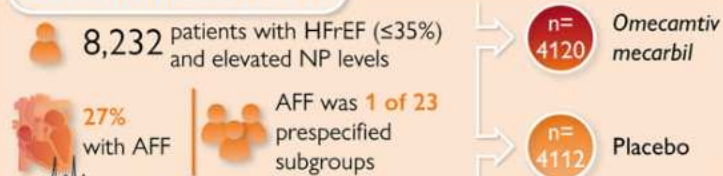
# Caution: Potential Risks of Combination Therapy

## Influence of atrial fibrillation on efficacy and safety of Omecamtiv Mecarbil in heart failure: The GALACTIC-HF trial

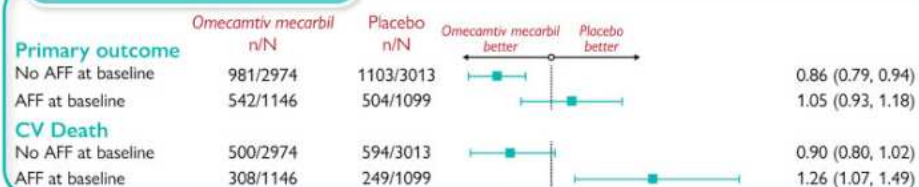
### Rationale

- *Omecamtiv mecarbil* is a myosin activator that augments cardiac contractility in HFrEF
- Patients with HFrEF and AFF tend to have a worse prognosis
- We studied the interplay between baseline AFF, HFrEF, and *Omecamtiv mecarbil* use

### Global multicenter RCT



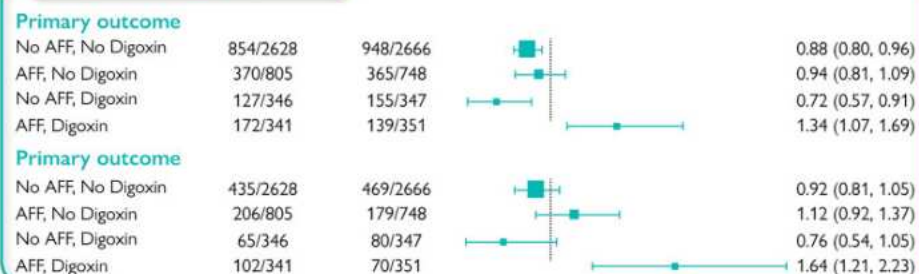
### AFF at baseline



### Key findings

- Patients without baseline AFF derived greater benefit from *Omecamtiv mecarbil* ( $P_{\text{interaction}} = 0.012$ )
- Lack of treatment effects in patients with baseline AFF who were also receiving Digoxin ( $P_{\text{interaction}} = 0.007$ )

### AFF and Digoxin use



### Conclusions

Patients with baseline AFF, particularly those who were receiving Digoxin, experienced a blunted treatment effect from *Omecamtiv mecarbil*

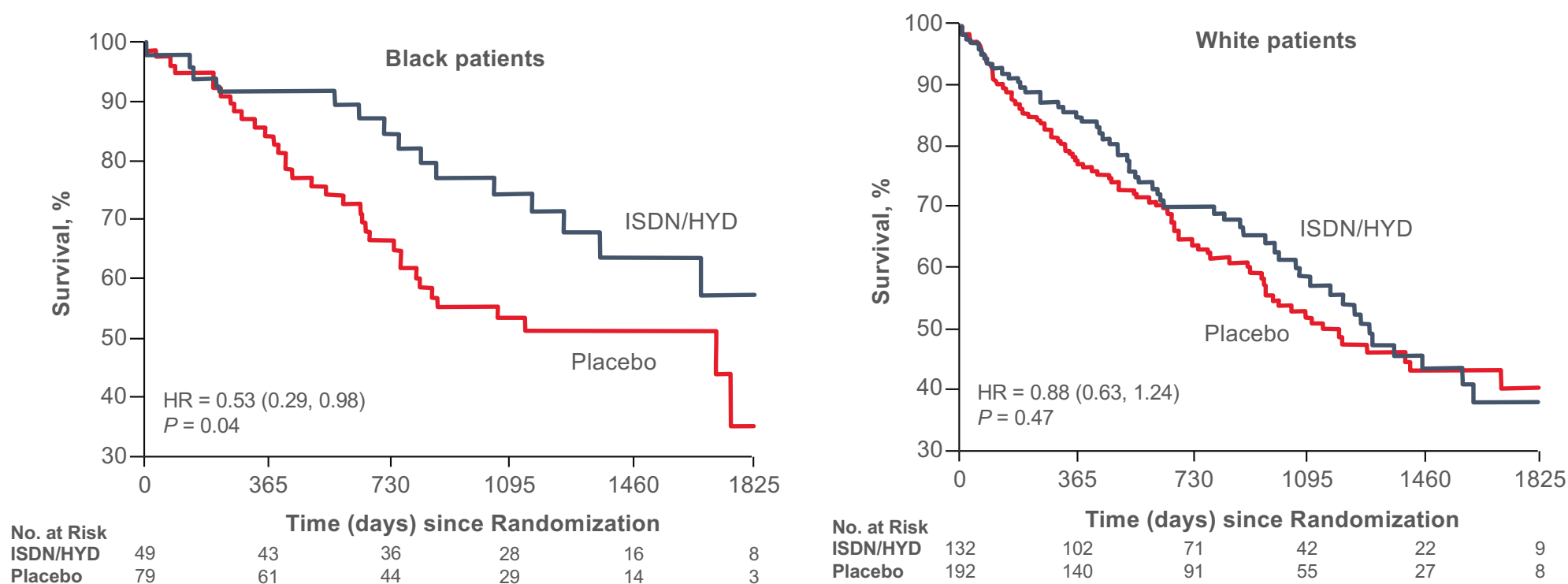
# Digoxin and SGLT2 Inhibitors Compared..

**Table 1.** Outcomes in Large-Scale Trials of SGLT2 Inhibitors and Digoxin in Patients With Heart Failure and a Reduced Ejection Fraction

	DIG	DAPA-HF	EMPEROR-Reduced
No. of randomized patients	7372	4744	3730
Median duration of double-blind therapy	37 months	18 months	16 months
Effect on all-cause mortality	0.99 (0.91–1.07)	0.83 (0.71–0.97)	0.92 (0.77–1.10)
Effect on cardiovascular deaths	1.01 (0.93–1.10)	0.82 (0.69–0.98)	0.92 (0.72–1.12)
Effect on heart failure deaths	0.88 (0.77–1.01)	Not reported	Not reported
Effect on all-cause hospitalizations	0.92 (0.87–0.98)	Not reported	0.82 (0.74–0.90)
Effect on cardiovascular hospitalizations	0.87 (0.81–0.93)	Not reported	0.75 (0.67–0.85)
Effect on heart failure hospitalizations	0.72 (0.66–0.79)	0.70 (0.59–0.83)	0.69 (0.59–0.81)

# Considering Hydralazine-Nitrates Combinations

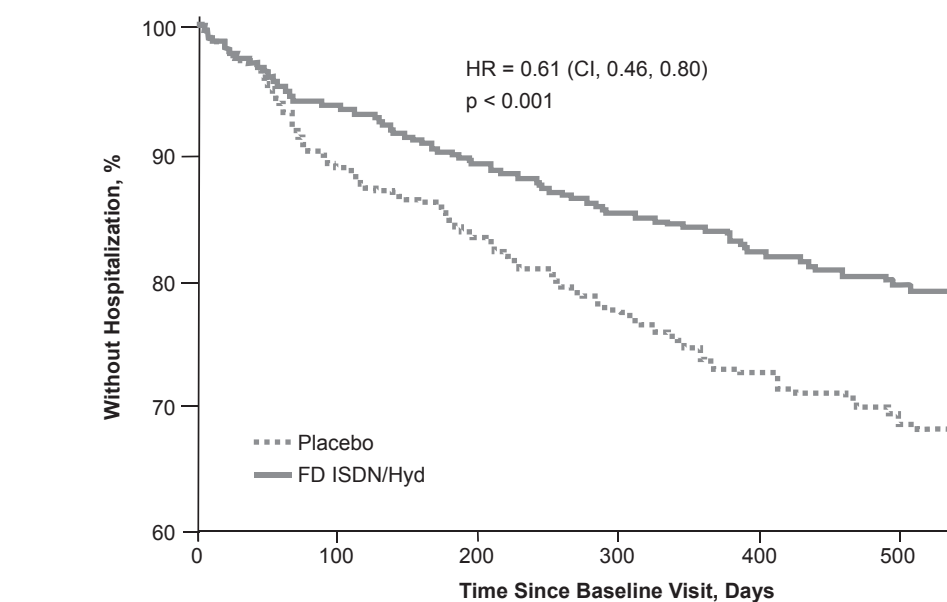
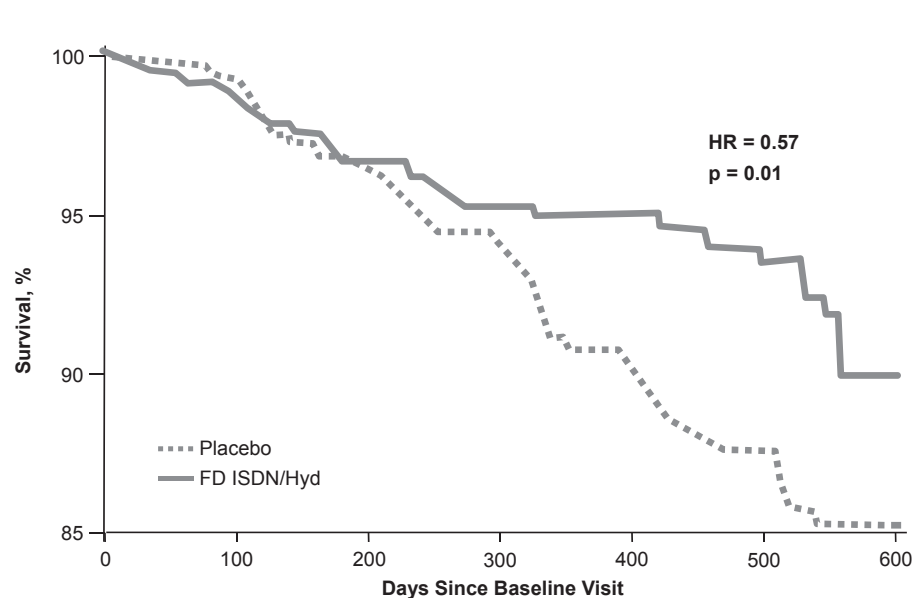
Survival in Black patients and White patients in the V-HeFT 1 trial (from Cohn *et al.*<sup>7)</sup>)



HR, hazard ratio; ISDN/HYD, isosorbide dinitrate/hydralazine

Al-Mohammad A. Hydralazine and nitrates in the treatment of heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. *ESC Heart Fail.* 2019;6(4):878-883. doi:10.1002/ehf2.12459

# Considering Hydralazine-Nitrates Combinations



Taylor AI; New Engl J Med 2004; 351:2049

# Use of Hydralazine-Nitrates in Contemporary Heart Failure Management

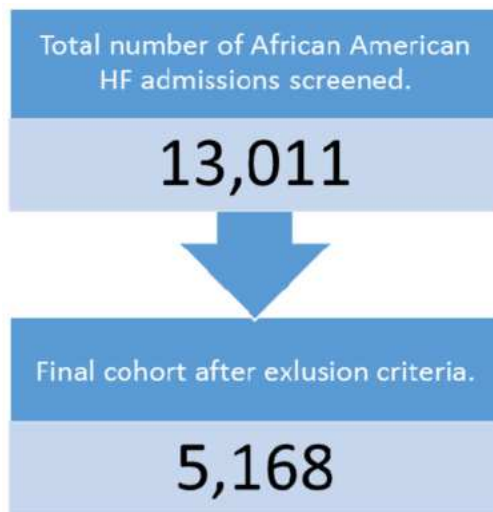
Table 4

Percent of participants reaching target dose of hydralazine/nitrate and sacubitril/valsartan by race

	Black				Nonblack			
	Target dose* achieved (patients on therapy)			Eligible patients on target dose	Target dose* achieved (patients on therapy)			Eligible patients on target dose
	Less than 50%	50% to <100%	100% or more		Less than 50%	50% to <100%	100% or more	
Hydralazine/ Nitrate	56%	33%	10%	2%	65%	28%	7%	0.1%
Sacubitril/ Valsartan	33%	36%	29%	8%	49%	29%	19%	4%

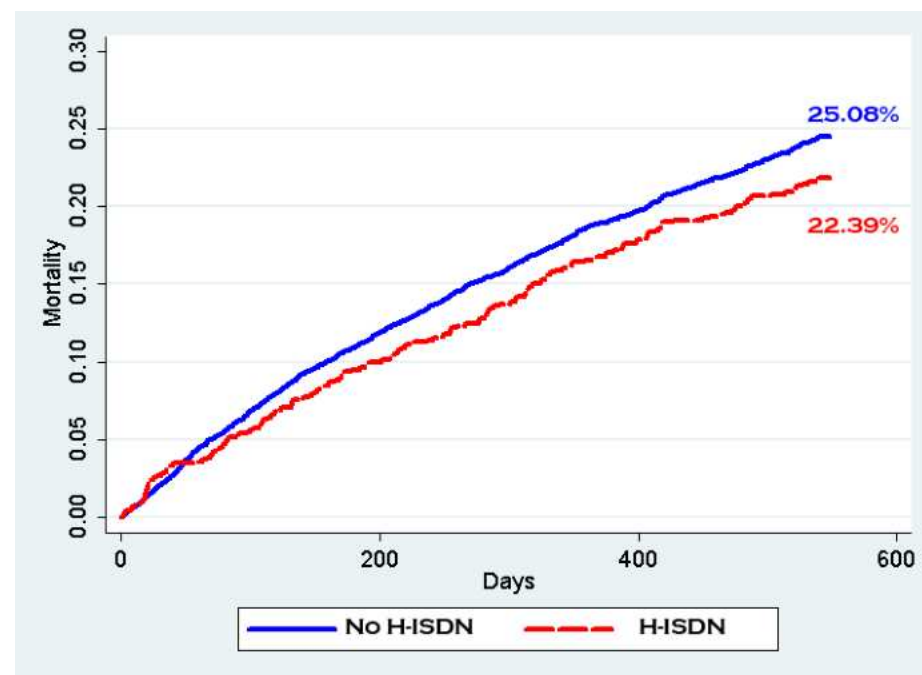
\* Target total daily doses were as follows: hydralazine 300 mg, nitrate (isosorbide dinitrate) 120 mg, and sacubitril/valsartan 400 mg.

# Use of Hydralazine-Nitrates in Contemporary Heart Failure Management



Exclusions:

- 6,116: LVEF  $\geq 40$
- 986: Renal failure
- 522: ACEi and ARB contraindication
- 109: Comfort care
- 110: No VA prescriptions in prior 6 months



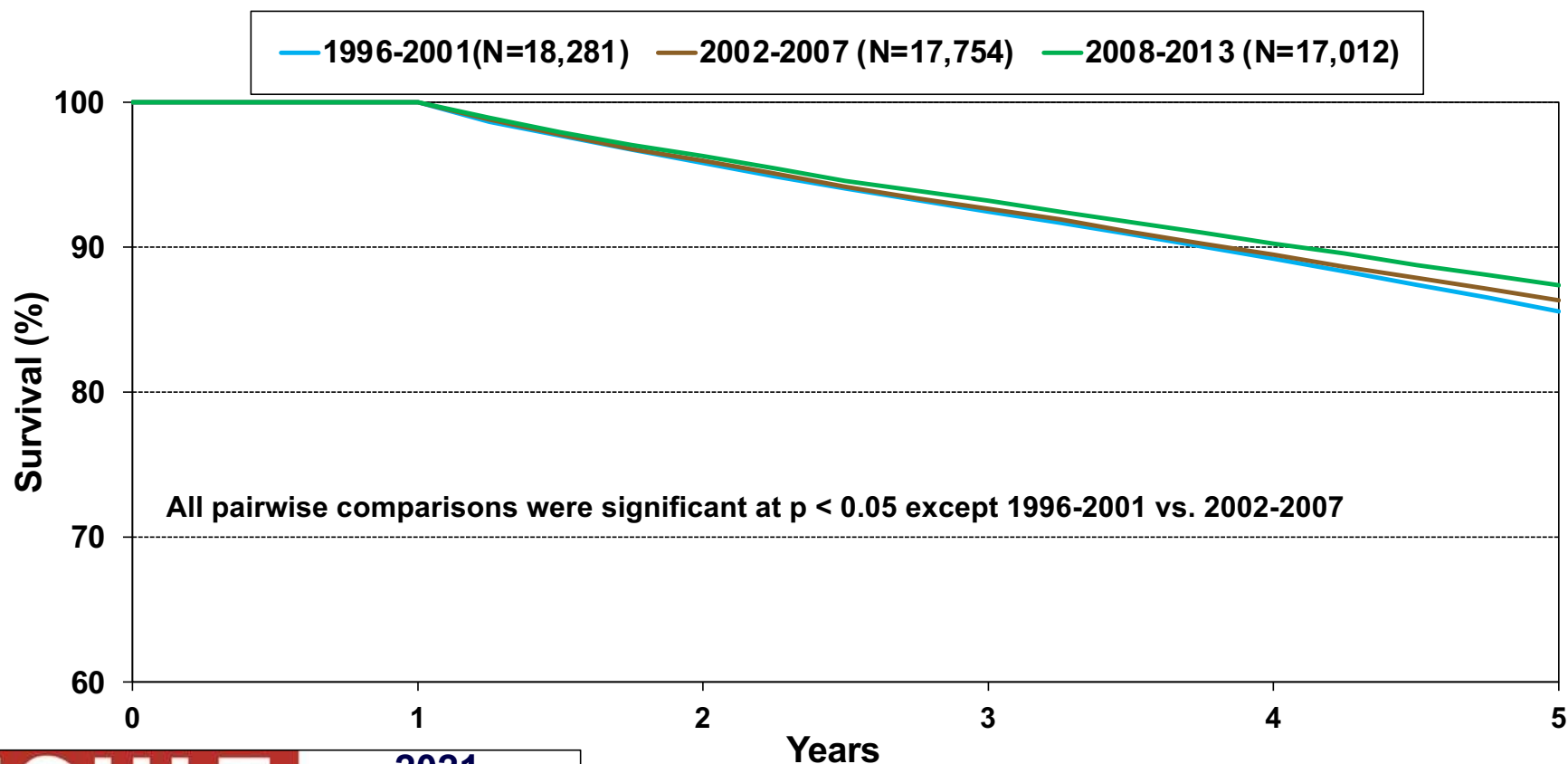
# When to Recognize Transition to Advanced Heart Failure “ I NEED HELP”

	Factor	Description
I	Inotropes	Previous or ongoing requirement for inotropes
N	NYHA FC OR Natriuretic peptides	Persistently > 3 Persistently elevated >1000
E	End organ dysfunction	Worsening renal or liver dysfunction
E	Ejection fraction	<20%
D	ICD shocks	Recurrent shocks
H	hospitalization	>1 in one year
E	Escalating diuretics	
L	Low BP	Consistently <90 mmHg
P	Prognostic meds	Inability to titrate or initiate



# Adult Heart Transplants

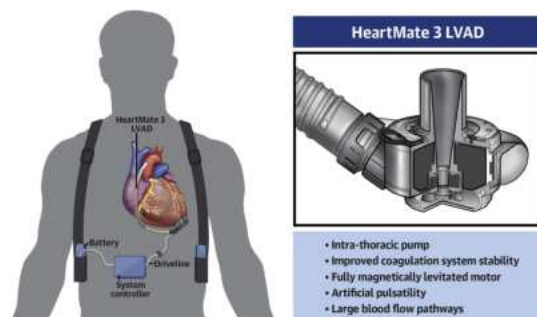
## Kaplan-Meier Survival within 5 Years Conditional on Survival to 1 Year By Era (Transplants: Jan 1996 - Jun 2013)



Note: Y-axis is truncated for clearer presentation

# Trends in LVAD Outcomes

FIGURE 1 Technology Highlights of the HeartMate 3 LVAD



## 2-Year Survival Rate of Advanced HF Patients Stratified by Treatment

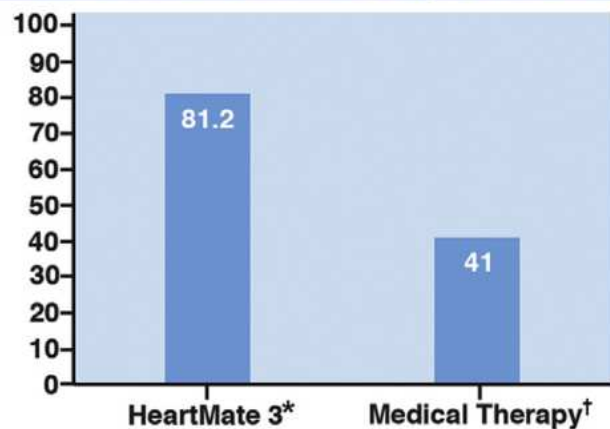
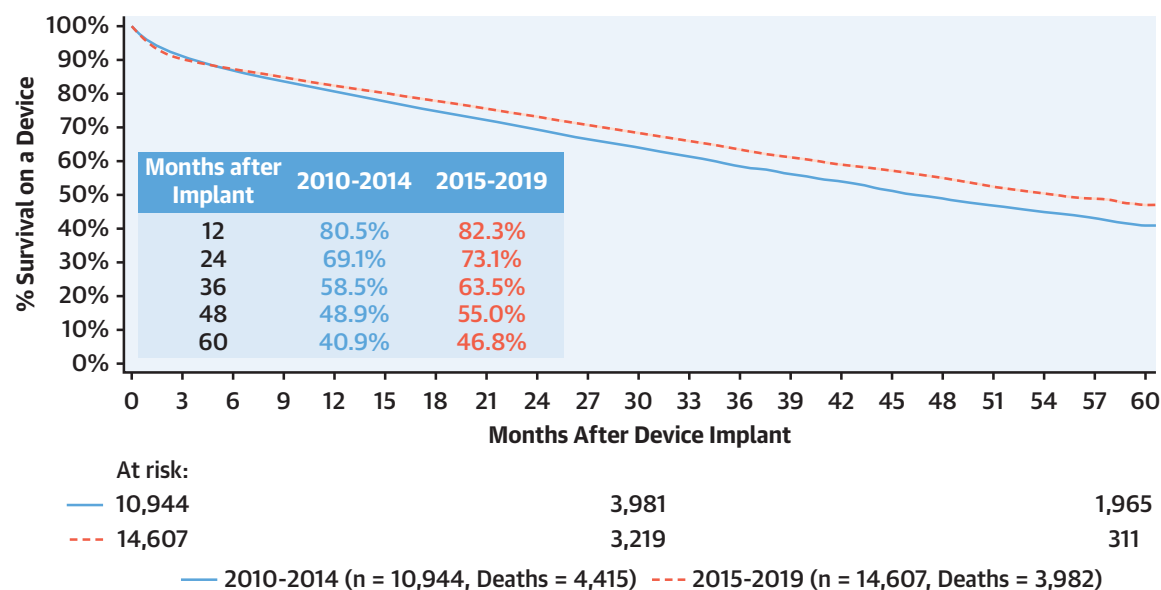
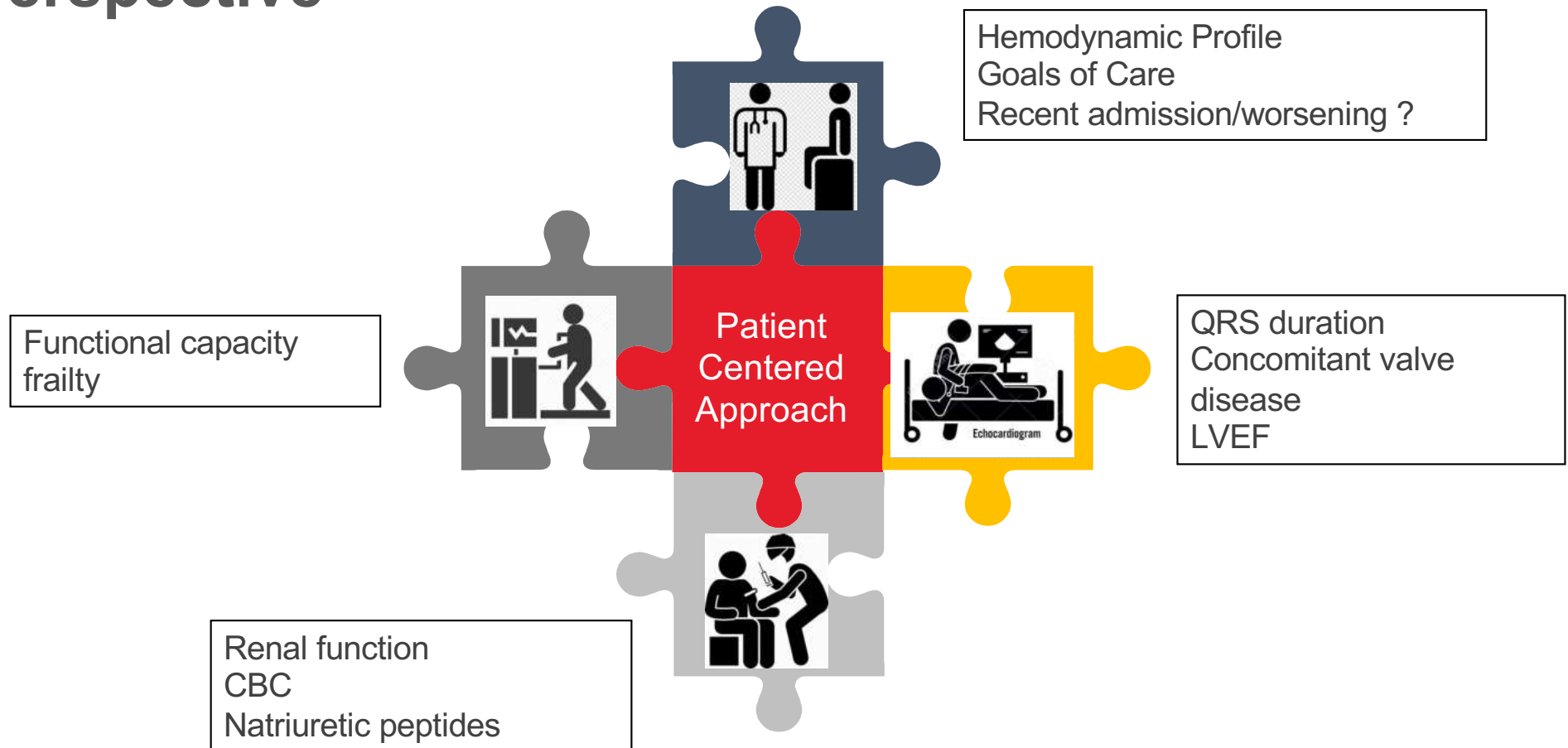


FIGURE 3 Survival After LVAD Implantation, 2015-2019 vs 2010-2014

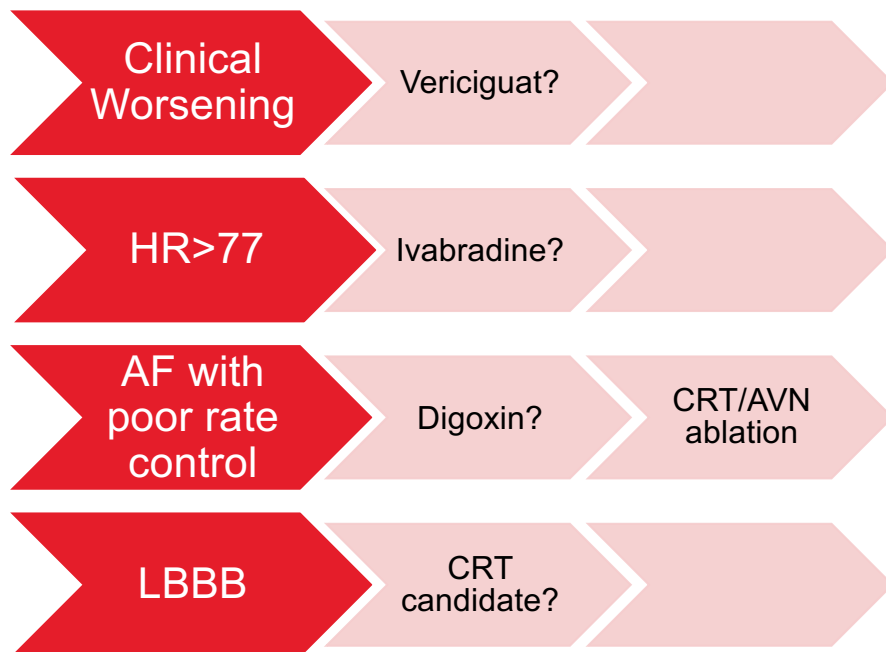


Varshney. JACC 2022;79:1092

# Putting it All Together From the Patient's Perspective



# Putting it All Together From the Patient's Perspective



Is there Opportunity to Advance or Initiate 4 Foundational Therapies?

Is the Patient a Candidate for Referral for Advanced Therapies?

Have we sufficiently addressed goals of care and advanced directives?



# Summary Points

- Substantial gains evident in the use of four foundational therapies
  - Care gaps exist
    - Have we made every attempt to initiate drug?
    - Have we attempted dose escalation?
    - Underuse continues to exist
- Additional therapies can be personalized to patient goals/unique profile
  - Majority of drugs will provide benefit on reducing HF hospitalization
  - Improvement in quality of live
  - Need to be balanced with potential side effects/risks
- Key to identify patients eligible for interventions that improve mortality
  - Transplant
  - MCS
  - Devices