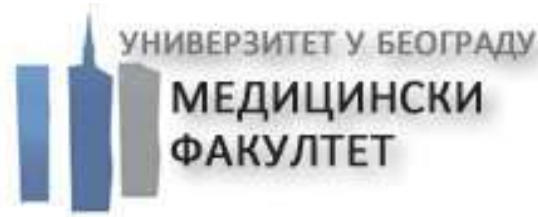




HFA
Heart Failure
Association

European Society of Cardiology



Prof. dr Petar M. Seferovic, MD, PhD, FESC, FACC

Chair, ESC Task force on Eastern Countries

Co-Editor for Eastern Europe, European Heart Journal

Vice-president, European Society of Cardiology (2020-2022)

SGLT2 inhibitors from HFrEF to HFmrEF and HFpEF

Academician, Serbian Academy of Sciences and Arts

Professor of Cardiology, Belgrade University School of Medicine

President, Heart failure Society of Serbia

ESC/HFA long-term mission:

Surveillance of HF epidemiology and management capacities in ESC member countries

2013 Survey



European Journal of Heart Failure (2013) 15, 947–959
doi:10.1093/ejhf/hh092

Organization of heart failure management in European Society of Cardiology member countries: survey of the Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology in collaboration with the Heart Failure National Societies/Working Groups

2019 HFA Atlas



European Journal of Heart Failure (2021)
doi:10.1002/ehf.2143

RESEARCH ARTICLE

The Heart Failure Association Atlas: Heart Failure Epidemiology and Management Statistics 2019

2025 European HF Survey



Heart Failure
& World Congress on
Acute Heart Failure
2025

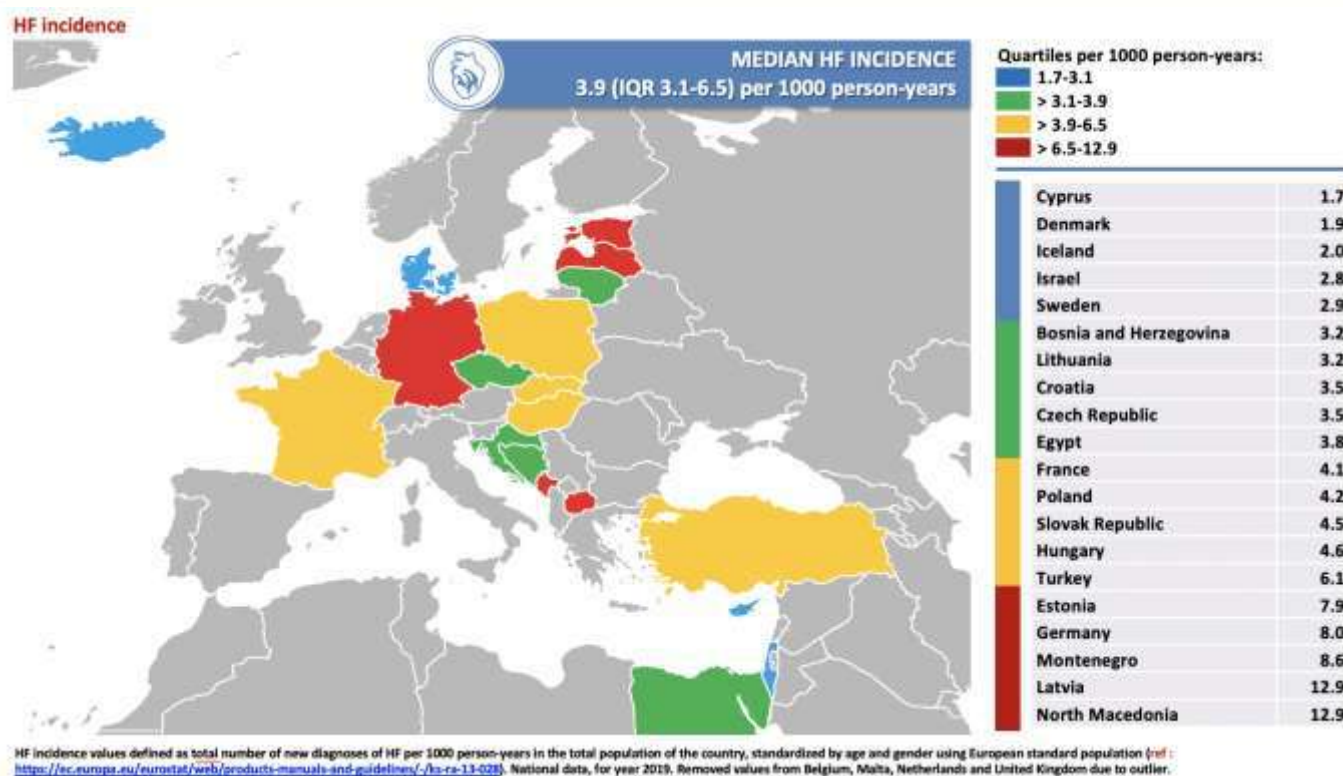
2019 HFA Atlas vs 2025 European HF Survey

Heart failure incidence

Median incidence 2019:
3.2 new cases per 1000 PY



Median incidence 2025:
3.9 new cases per 1000 PY



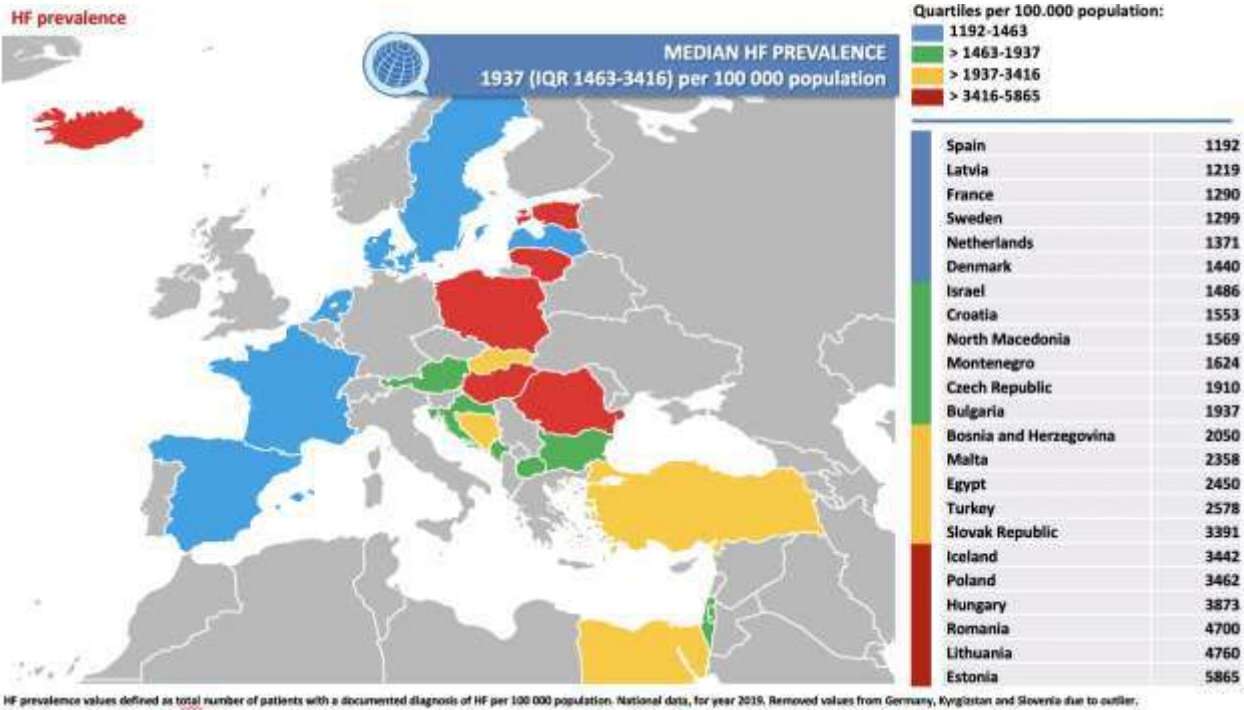
2019 HFA Atlas vs 2025 European HF Survey

Heart failure prevalence

Median prevalence 2019:
1.7% total population

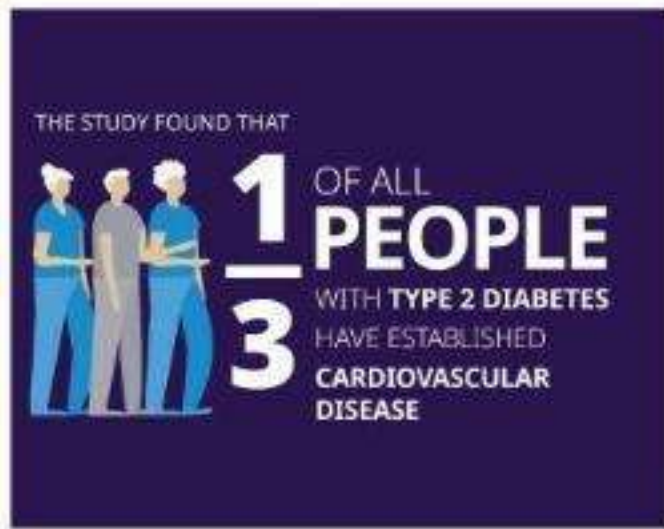


Median prevalence 2025:
1.9% total population



CAPTURE: a cross-sectional study of the contemporary (2019) prevalence of cardiovascular disease in adults with type 2 diabetes across 13 countries

Cardiovascular disease must be prioritised as a key factor in the management of type 2 diabetes

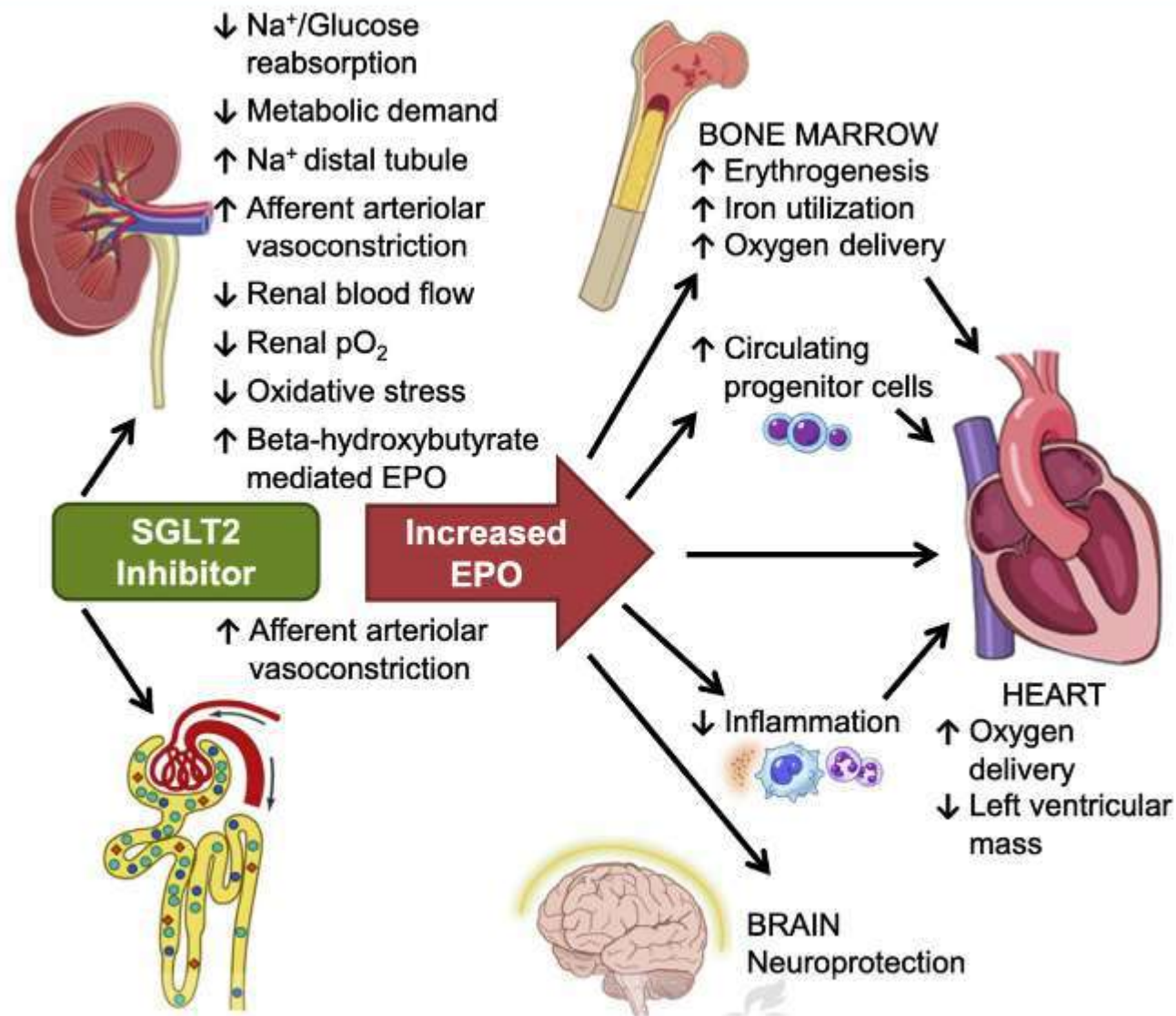
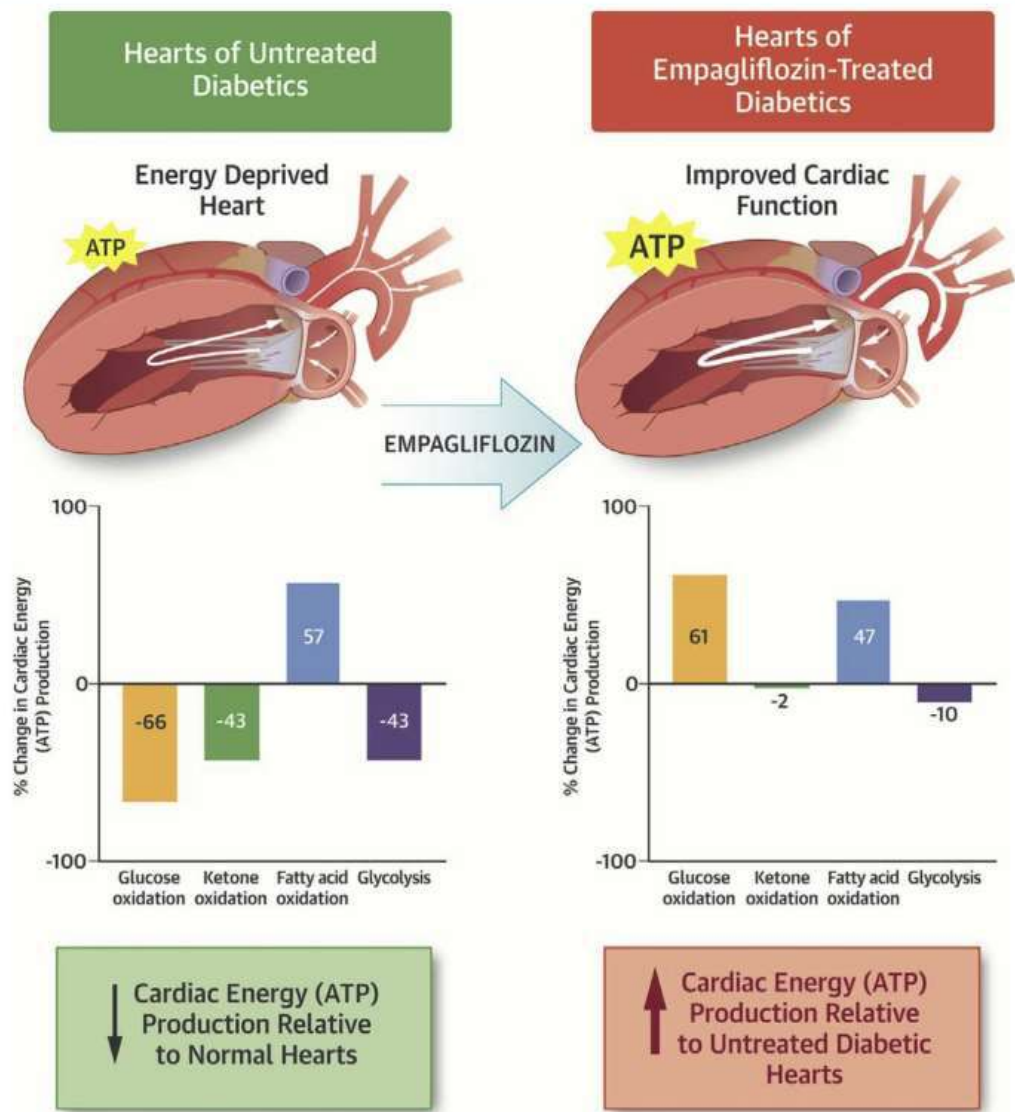


ASCVD prevalence within the T2D population is high but the vast majority are not being managed with treatments that are proven to reduce the risk of life-altering cardiovascular events.




Cardiovascular risk active screen should be prioritised.

SGLT2 inhibition

Mechanisms of the cardio-/nephroprotective effects



SGLT2 inhibitors have multiple CV benefits in patients with T2DM

	EMPA-REG OUTCOME ¹ (empagliflozin)	CANVAS Program ² (canagliflozin)	DECLARE-TIMI 58 ³ (dapagliflozin)
 HHF	HR 0.65 (95% CI 0.50, 0.85) <i>p</i> =0.002*	HR 0.67 (95% CI 0.52, 0.87) [†]	HR 0.73 (95% CI 0.61, 0.88) [†]
 CV death	HR 0.62 (95% CI 0.49, 0.77) <i>p</i> <0.001*	HR 0.87 (95% CI 0.72, 1.06) [†]	HR 0.98 (95% CI 0.82, 1.17) [†]
 3P-MACE	HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.74, 0.99) <i>p</i> =0.04	HR 0.86 (95% CI 0.75, 0.97) <i>p</i> =0.02 [‡]	HR 0.93 (95% CI 0.84, 1.03) <i>p</i> =0.17

Comparison of studies should be interpreted with caution due to differences in study design, populations and methodology

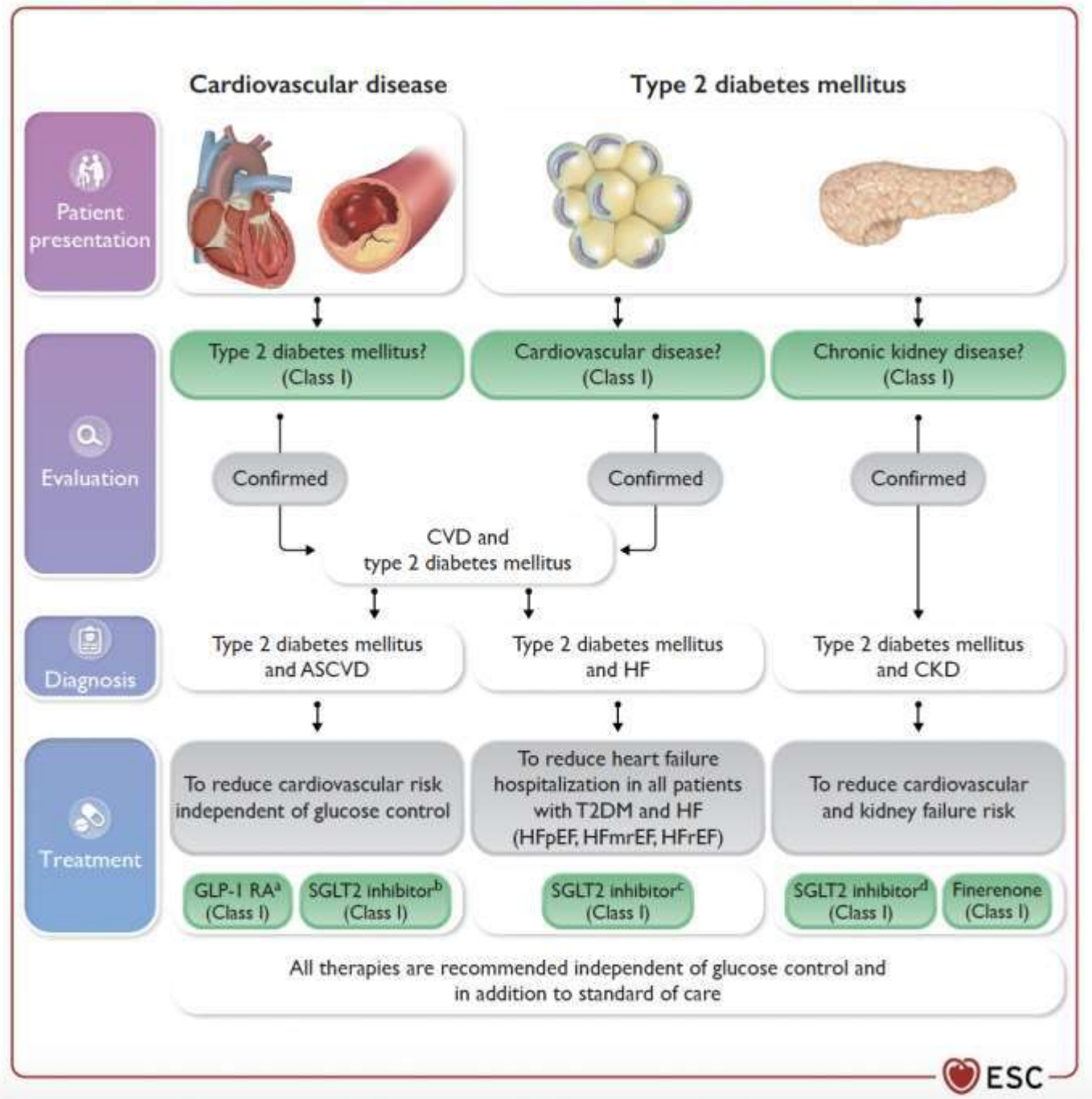
p-values are for superiority

*Nominal *p*-value; [†]Exploratory outcome, no *p*-value is reported – only nominal effect estimate is given; [‡]Testing for superiority for 3P-MACE was part of the statistical analysis plan but was not part of the hierarchical testing strategy

HHF, hospitalisation for heart failure

1. Zinman B *et al. N Engl J Med* 2015;373:2117; 2. Neal B *et al. N Engl J Med* 2017;377:644; 3. Wiviott S *et al. N Engl J Med* 2019;380:347

Management of cardiovascular disease in patients with T2DM: clinical approach and key recommendations



2023 ESC Guidelines for the management of cardiovascular disease in patients with diabetes

Special considerations for the glucose-lowering medication in patients with T2DM, with and without CV disease

Special considerations for glucose-lowering medications in patients with T2DM with and without HF

It is recommended to switch glucose-lowering treatment from agents without proven CV benefit or proven safety to agents with proven CV benefit.

I

C

Trilateral Cooperation Project

Starting date: Munich, March 22 nd, 2019



Petar M. Seferovic
President of HFA



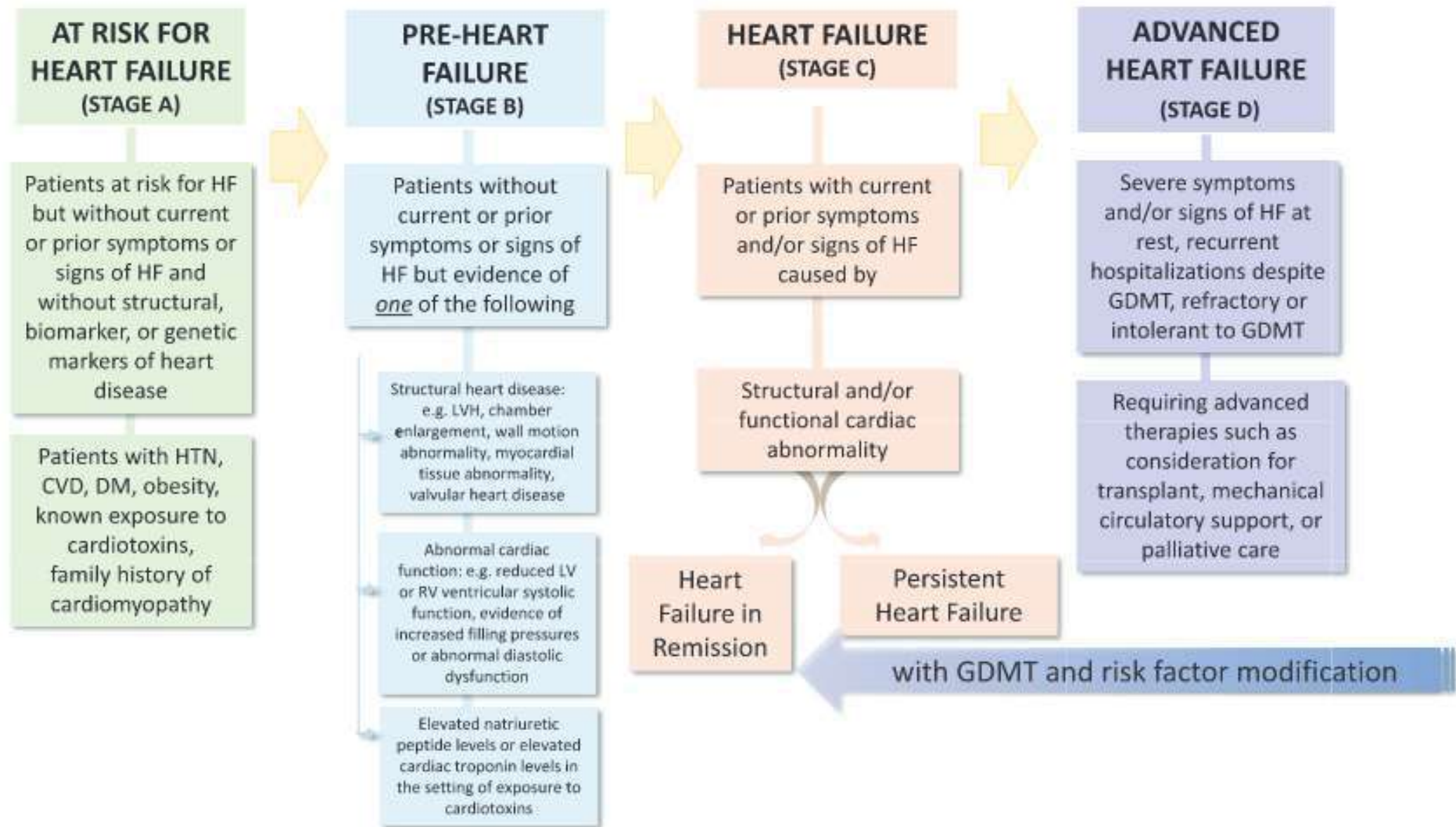
Randall Starling
President of HFSA



Hiroyuki Tsutsui
President of JHFS

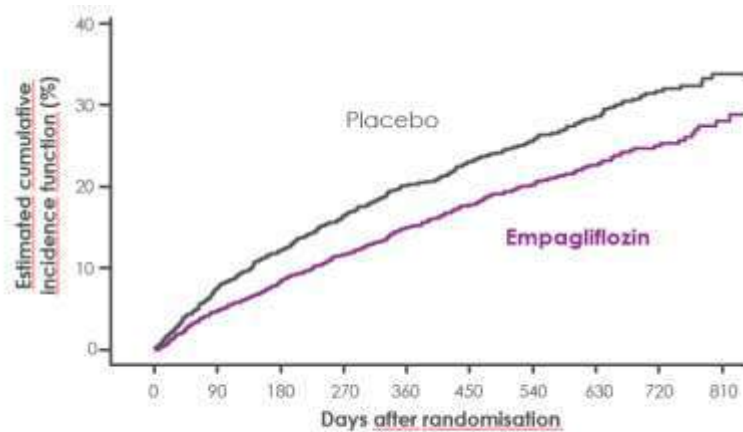


Stages in the development and progression of heart failure



EMPEROR Reduced

Primary endpoint: First adjudicated CV death or HF hospitalisation



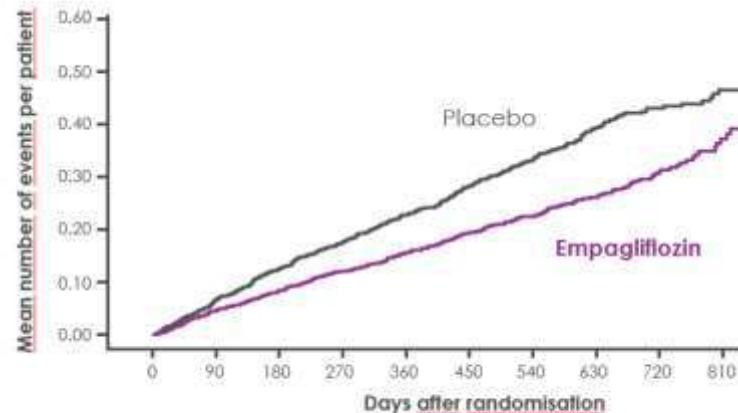
RRR
25%

ARR
5.2%

NNT = 19

HR 0.75
(95% CI 0.65, 0.86)
p<0.001

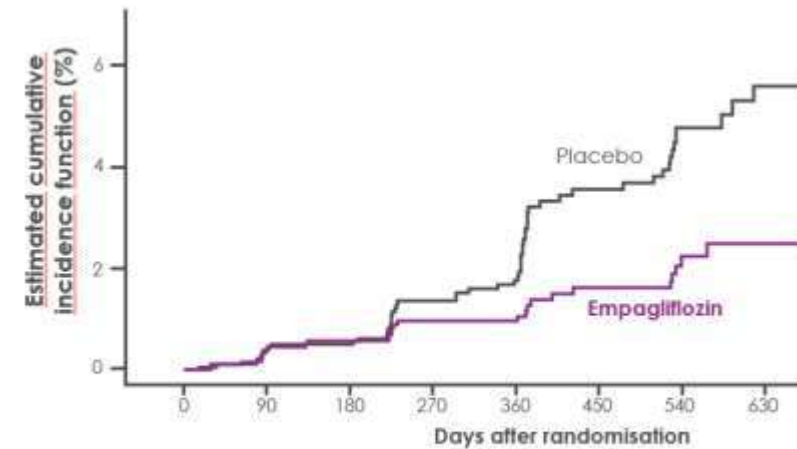
Key secondary: Adjudicated total HF hospitalisations (first and recurrent)



RRR
30%

HR 0.70
(95% CI 0.58, 0.85)
p<0.001

Composite renal endpoint (ESKD or sustained profound decrease in eGFR)



RRR
50%

ARR
1.5%

HR 0.50
(95% CI 0.32, 0.77)

Dapagliflozin: The first and only SGLT2 inhibitor to significantly reduce CV mortality in HFrEF patients, with and without T2D^{1,2}

DAPA-HF¹

N=4744

- LVEF ≤40%
- Elevated NT-proBNP
- eGFR ≥30 mL/min/1.73 m²

1:1 randomization

DAPA 10 mg

Placebo

Median follow-up: 18.2 months

Primary endpoint¹



Composite of CV death or worsening HF (hHF or an urgent HF visit)

Secondary endpoints¹

- CV death or hHF
- Total number of hHF (first and recurrent) and CV death
- Change in KCCQ-TSS from baseline to 8 months
- ≥50% sustained decline in eGFR, ESKD or renal death
- All-cause mortality

Baseline characteristics³



1437 pg/mL

Median
NT-proBNP



31%

Average
LVEF



55%

Without
T2D



41%

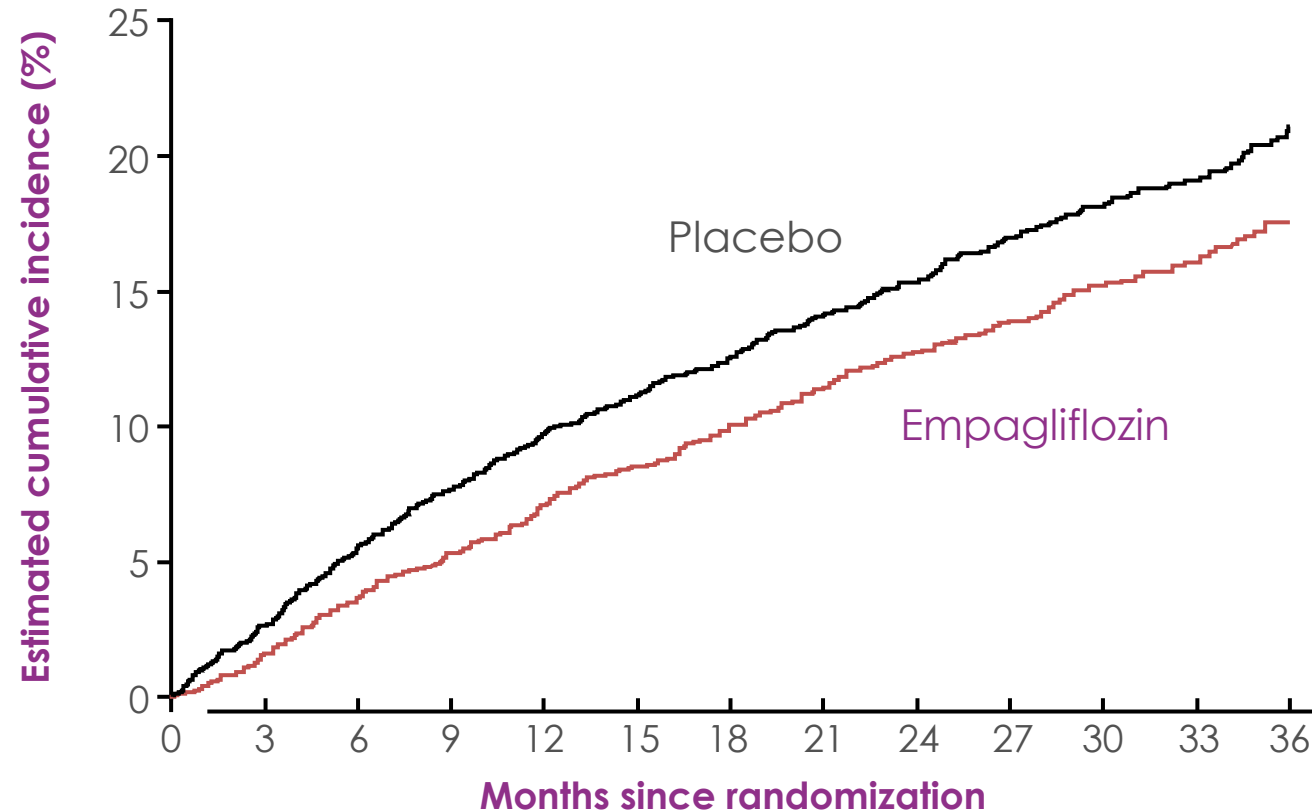
With an eGFR
<60 mL/min/1.73 m²

Pharmacological treatments indicated in patients with (NYHA class II-IV) heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (LVEF $\leq 40\%$) ESC

Recommendations	Class	Level
An ACE-I is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
A beta-blocker is recommended for patients with stable HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
An MRA is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
Dapagliflozin or empagliflozin are recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
Sacubitril/valsartan is recommended as a replacement for an ACE-I in patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	B

ACE-I = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; HF = heart failure; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NYHA= New York Heart Association.

EMPEROR-preserved: Reduction of composite primary endpoint of CV death/HHF



RRR 21%

ARR 3.3%

NNT*=31

HR: 0.79
(95% CI: 0.69, 0.90)
 $p < 0.001$

Patients at risk

Placebo	2991	2888	2786	2706	2627	2424	2066	1821	1534	1278	961	681	400
Empagliflozin	2997	2928	2843	2780	2708	2491	2134	1858	1578	1332	1005	709	402

Empagliflozin:
415 (13.8%) patients with event
Rate: 6.9/100 patient-years

Placebo:
511 (17.1%) patients with event
Rate: 8.7/100 patient-years

*During a median trial period of 26 months. ARR, absolute risk reduction; CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; HHF, hospitalization for heart failure; HR, hazard ratio; NNT, number needed to treat; RRR, relative risk reduction. Anker S et al. *N Engl J Med*. 2021 Aug 27. doi: 10.1056/NEJMoa2107038.

DELIVER

Largest and Broadest Trial to Date in Patients with Heart Failure and Mildly Reduced or Preserved Ejection Fraction

International | Multicenter | Parallel-group | Event-driven | Randomized | Double-blind

Inclusion Criteria



353 Sites
20 Countries



6263 Patients

- Age ≥ 40 with/without T2D
- Symptomatic HF
- LVEF $>40\%^a$
- Ambulatory or hospitalized
- Elevated NT-proBNP levels
- eGFR ≥ 25 mL/min/1.73 m²

Randomized 1:1^b

Stop when ~1117 primary events are reached

**Dapagliflozin
10 mg**



Placebo

Baseline Characteristics

Older, Symptomatic Cohort

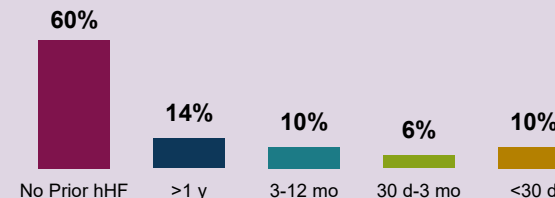
72 years Mean Age
44% Women
75% NYHA Class II
25% NYHA Class III
Moderate Symptomatic Impairment^c

High Rate of Comorbidities

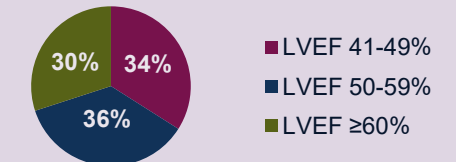
45% T2D
45% BMI ≥ 30 kg/m²
89% Hypertension
57% History of AF/AFL
51% Coronary artery disease
61 mL/min/1.73 m² Mean eGFR

Elevated Risk

- Median NT-proBNP: **1011 pg/mL**
- **16%** enrolled during or <90 days of hospitalization
- History of hospitalization for HF:

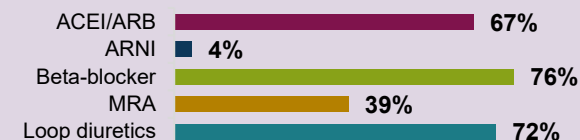


Well-represented LVEF Groups



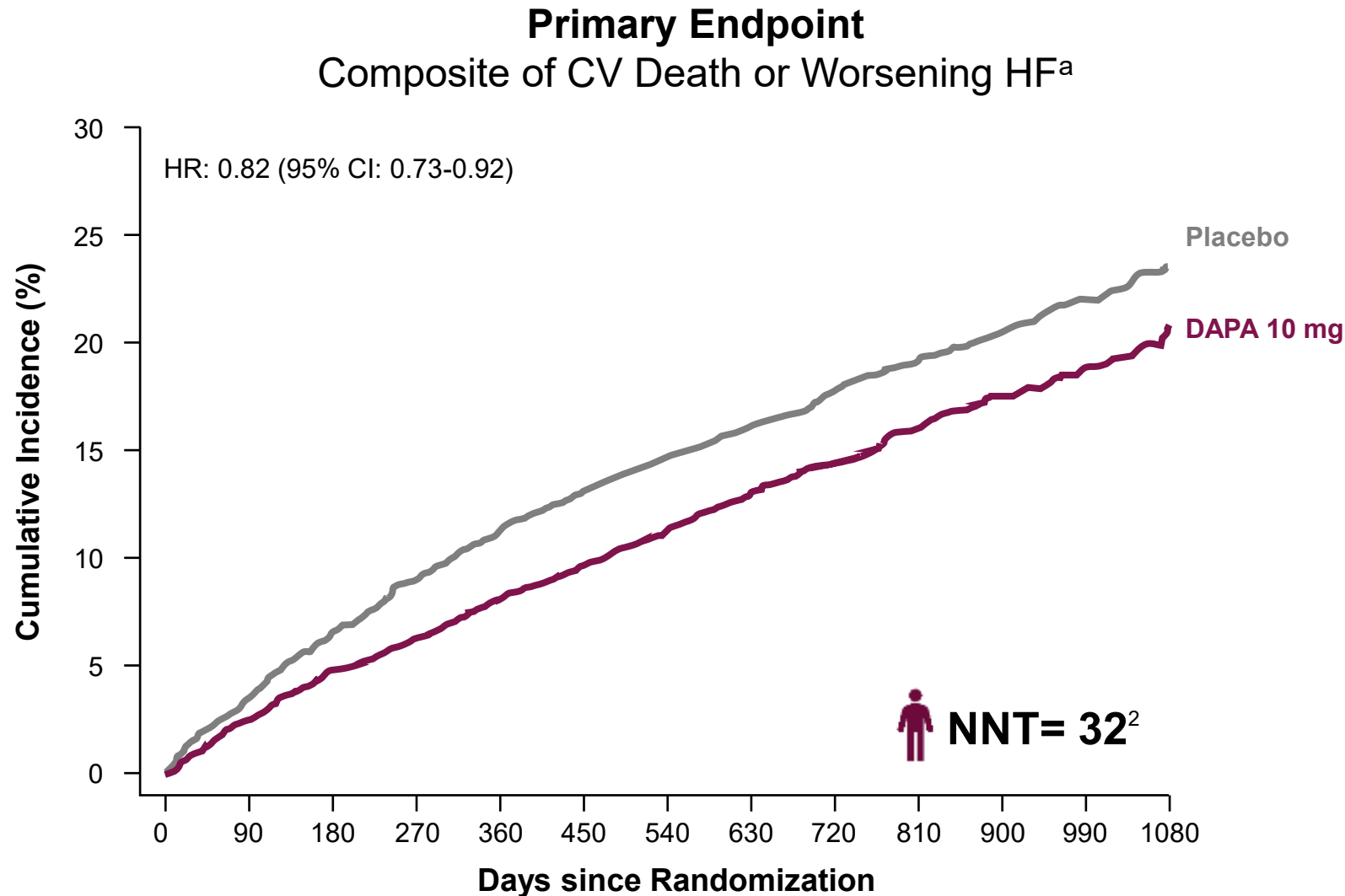
- Mean LVEF: **54%**
- Patients with prior LVEF $\leq 40\%^3$: **~18%**

High Use of HF Medical Therapies



^aPatients with prior LVEF $\leq 40\%$ were also included; ^bStratified by T2D status (established diagnosis/HbA1c $\geq 6.5\%$ at enrollment); ^cMean baseline KCCQ -CSS, -OSS, and -TSS were 68, 67, and 70, respectively.

Dapagliflozin significantly reduced the risk of CV death or worsening HF^a in patients with LVEF >40%¹



^ahHF or an urgent HF visit.

How does SGLT2i reduce cardiovascular mortality?

Mediation analysis of the EMPA-REG OUTCOME trial

**Favourable haemodynamic effects:
decongestion?**

Changes of plasma volume

**(increasing haematocrit and
haemoglobin)** mediated $\sim 50\%$ of risk
reduction in CV death with empagliflozin
versus placebo.

Table 2—Univariable mediation analysis of risk of CV death with empagliflozin versus placebo: time-dependent covariate analysis adjusting for the change from baseline in each variable

	HR for CV death with empagliflozin vs. placebo (95% CI)	Percentage mediation
Unadjusted	0.615 (0.491, 0.770)	
Adjusted for		
HbA _{1c}	0.624 (0.496, 0.785)	3.0
FPG	0.665 (0.529, 0.837)	16.1
SBP	0.593 (0.473, 0.743)	−7.5
DBP	0.614 (0.490, 0.769)	−0.3
Heart rate	0.621 (0.495, 0.780)	2.0
LDL-C	0.596 (0.475, 0.748)	−6.5
HDL-C	0.636 (0.506, 0.799)	6.9
logTG	0.604 (0.482, 0.758)	−3.7
FFAs	0.586 (0.463, 0.741)	−9.9
logUACR	0.649 (0.518, 0.815)	11.1
eGFR (MDRD)	0.631 (0.504, 0.790)	5.3
eGFR (CKD-EPI)	0.632 (0.505, 0.791)	5.6
Weight	0.579 (0.461, 0.727)	−12.4
BMI	0.578 (0.460, 0.726)	−12.8
WC	0.598 (0.477, 0.750)	−5.8
Hematocrit	0.791 (0.626, 1.000)	51.8
Hemoglobin	0.780 (0.619, 0.983)	48.9
Albumin	0.696 (0.555, 0.873)	25.5
Uric acid	0.693 (0.553, 0.869)	24.6

Cox proportional hazards regression analysis in patients treated with one or more doses of study drug. FFA, free fatty acid; HDL-C, HDL cholesterol; LDL-C, LDL cholesterol; TG, triglyceride; WC, waist circumference.

The prevention of HF hospitalisation

The integrity of clinical decision making



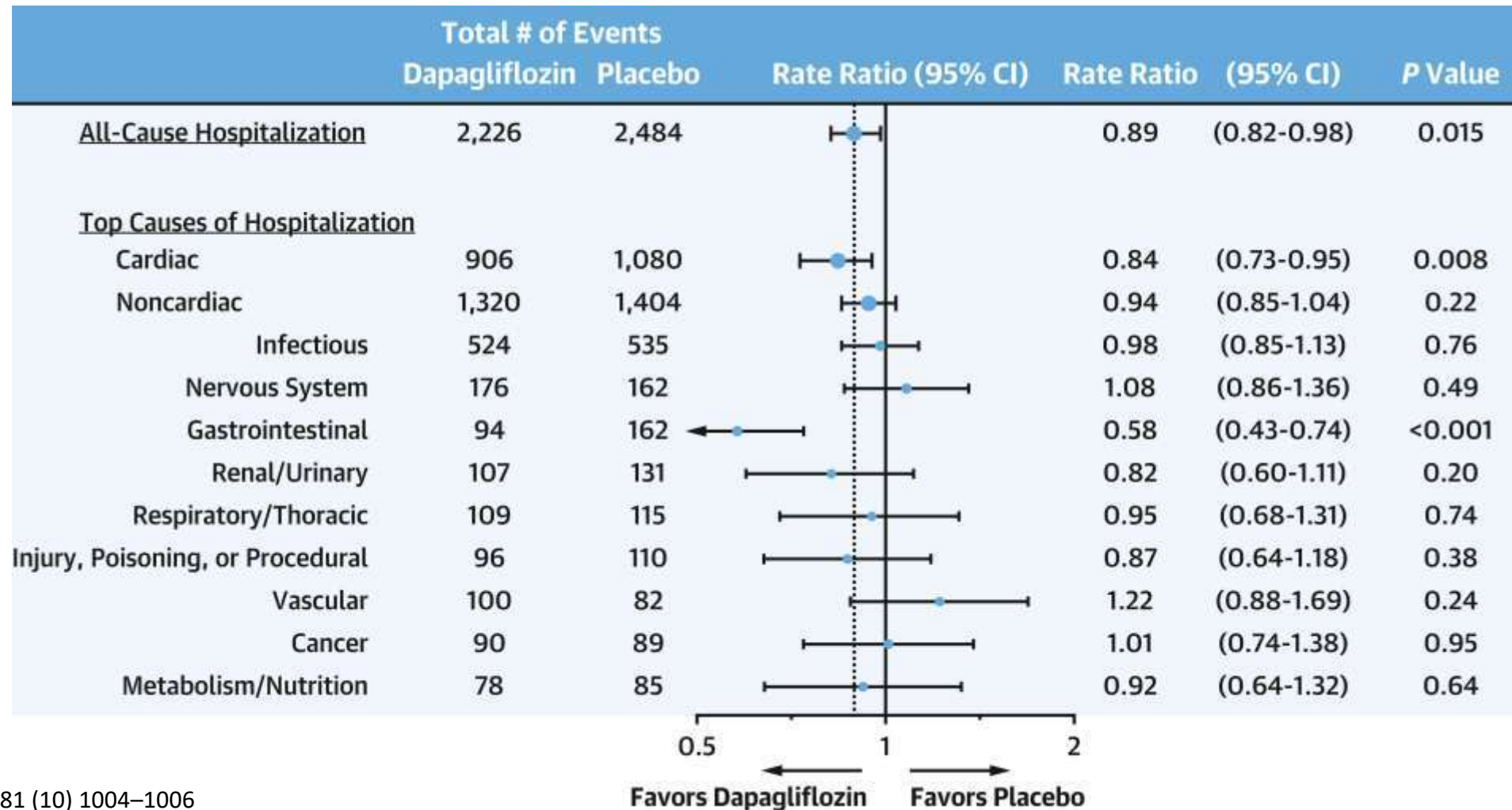
- Primary prevention
 - In **type 2 diabetes**, with or without atherosclerotic CV disease (EMPA-REG OUTCOME, CANVAS, VERITIS-CV)
 - In **chronic kidney disease**, with or without diabetes (CREDESCENCE, DAPA-CKD, SCORED)
- Secondary prevention
 - **HFrEF** (EMPEROR-reduced, DAPA-HF)
 - **HFpEF** (EMPEROR-preserved)

Dapagliflozin reduces the risk of all hospitalisations:

DELIVER

Patients with HFpEF are older, multimorbid and at risk of non-CV hospitalisation

- Treatment with dapagliflozin vs. placebo was associated with a **11% lower risk of all hospitalisations, with a number needed to prevent one HF hospitalisation of 26 patients.**

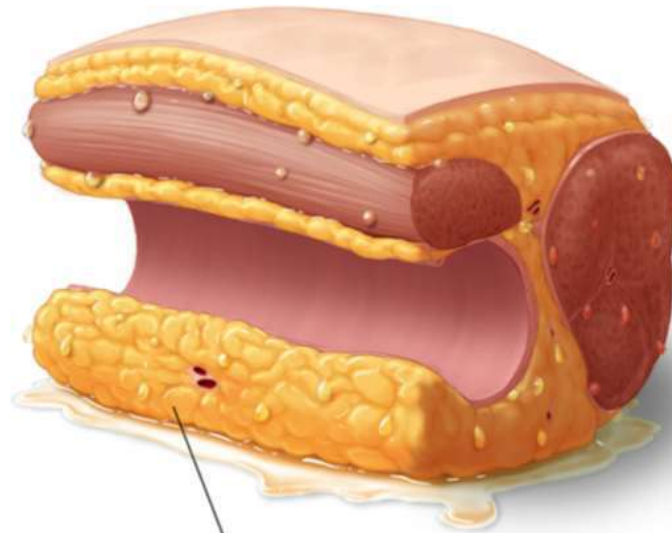


Why do SGLT2 inhibitors reduce heart failure hospitalization?

A differential volume regulation hypothesis

based on a mathematical model

Interstitial oedema in heart failure

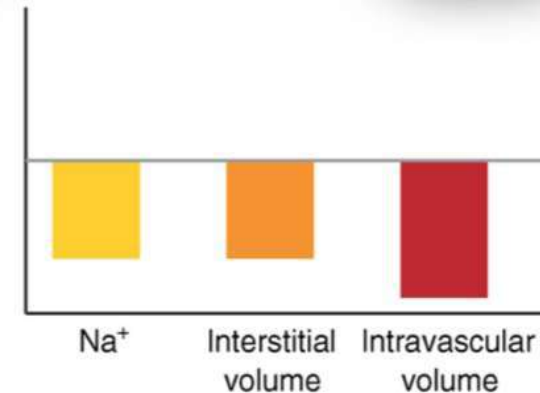
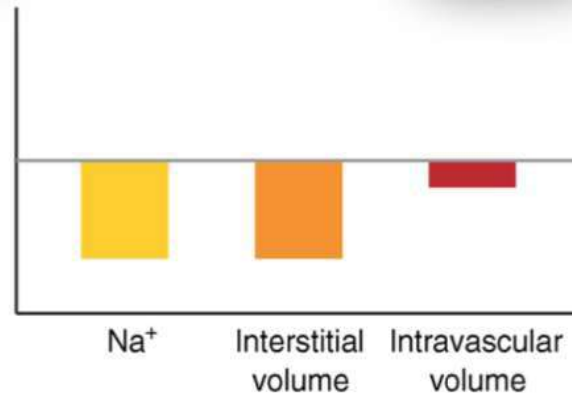


Interstitial oedema in congestive heart failure

SGLT2 inhibitors may selectively reduce interstitial oedema

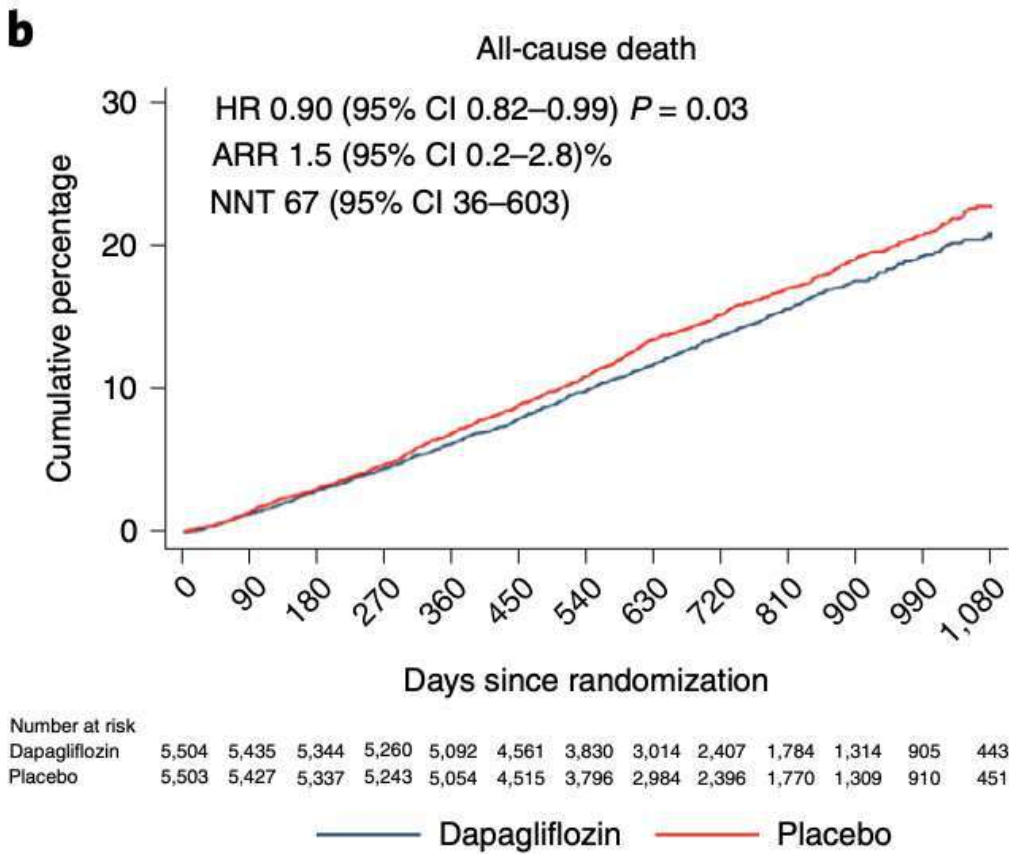
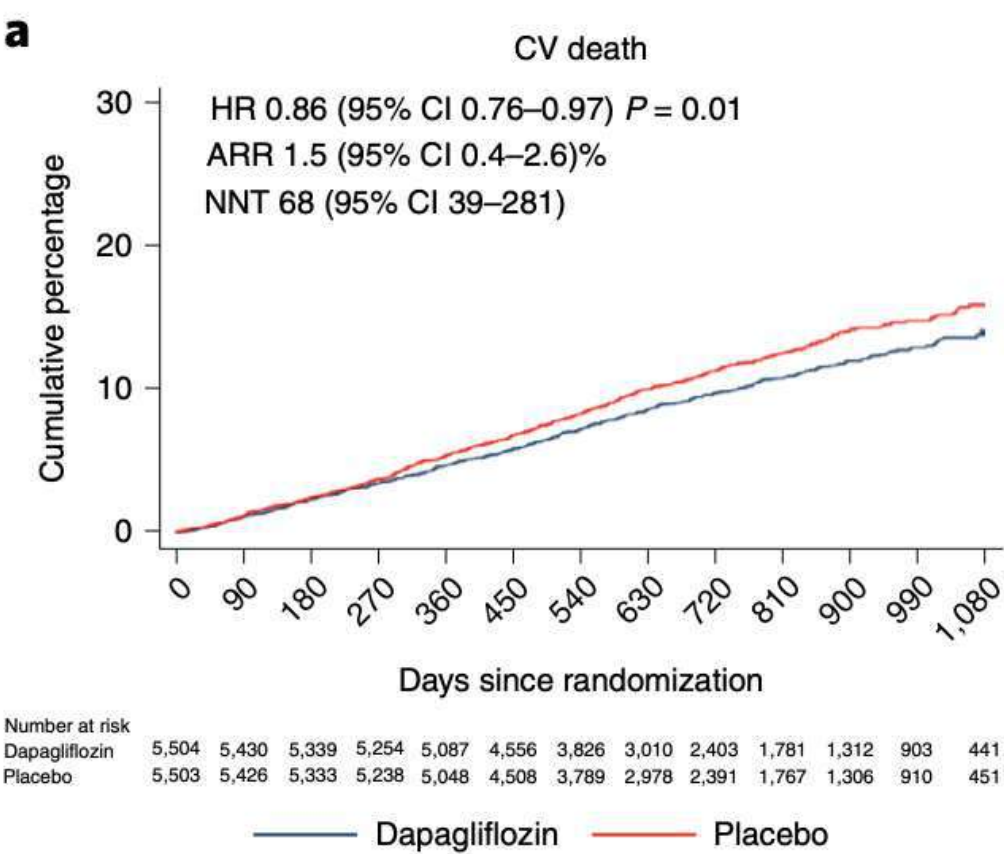


Traditional diuretics may reduce both interstitial oedema and IV volume → hypoperfusion



Dapagliflozin across the range of ejection fraction in patients with heart failure: a patient-level, pooled meta-analysis of DAPA-HF and DELIVER

Across the range of LVEF dapagliflozin reduced the risk of all-cause and CV death: pooled analysis DAPA-HF and DELIVER



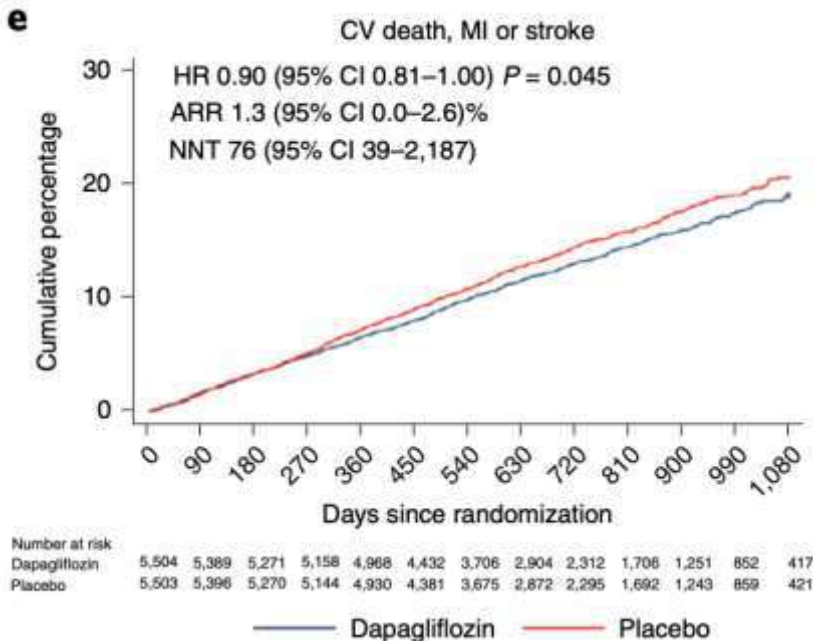
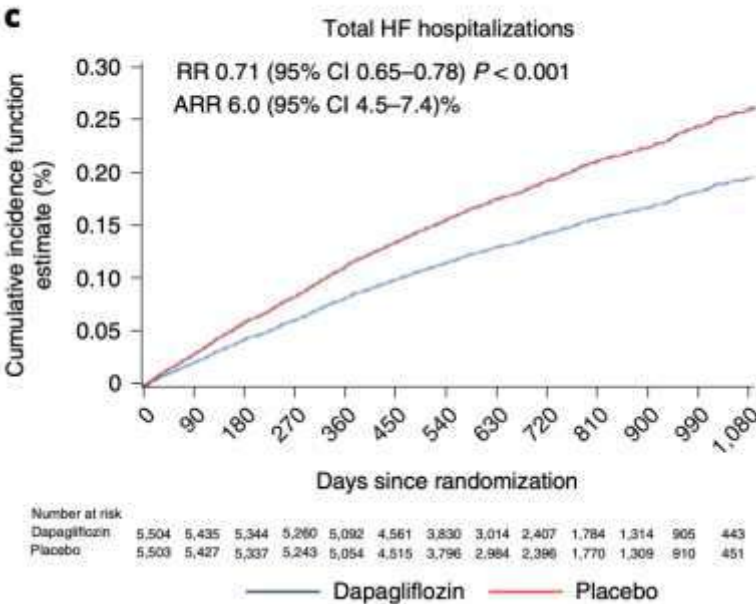
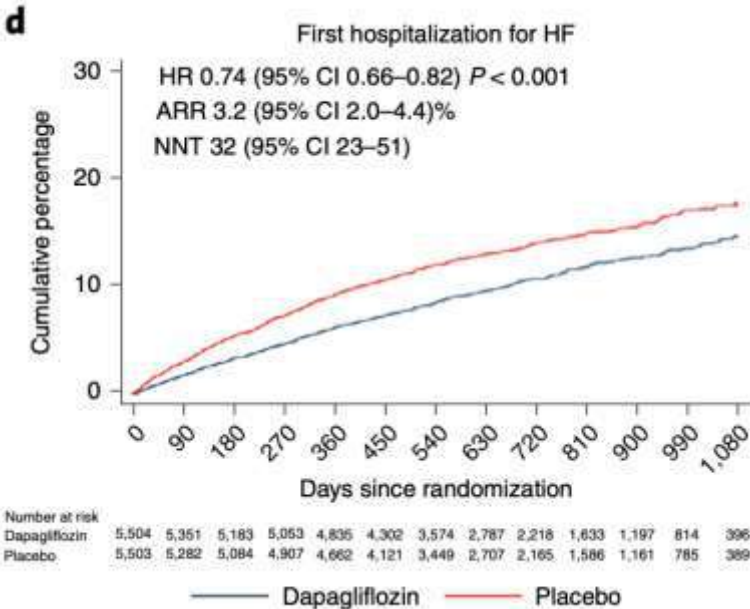
Dapagliflozin across the range of ejection fraction in patients with heart failure: a patient-level, pooled meta-analysis of DAPA-HF and DELIVER

Across the range of LVEF dapagliflozin reduced the risk of major CV complications: pooled analysis DAPA-HF and DELIVER

First HF hospitalisation

Total HF hospitalisation

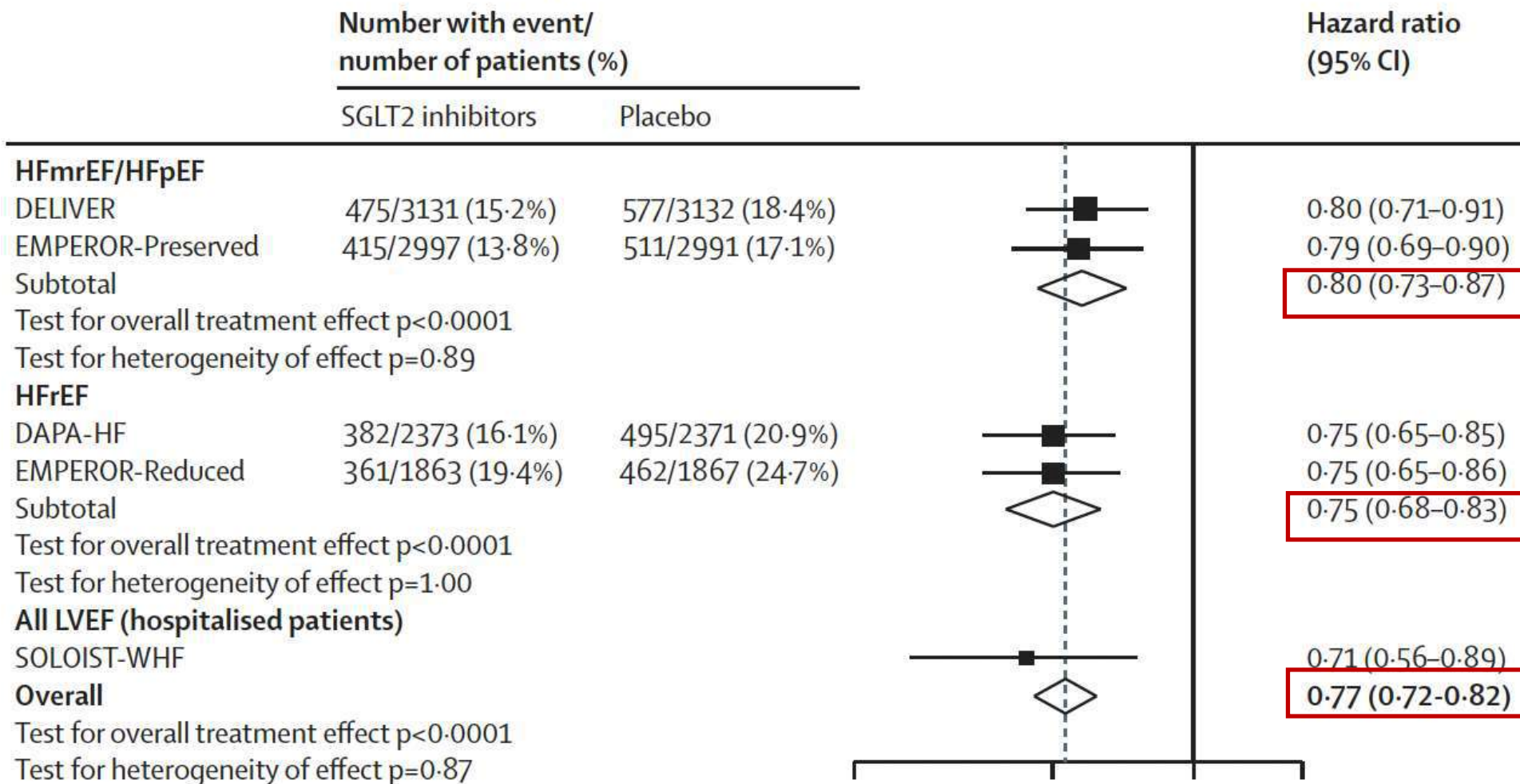
MACE



SGLT-2 inhibitors in patients with heart failure: a comprehensive meta-analysis of five randomised controlled trials

**Across all LVEF, 23% risk
reduction in CV death/HF
hospitalisation**

Cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalisation



HEART FAILURE AND CARDIOMYOPATHIES

EDITOR'S CHOICE

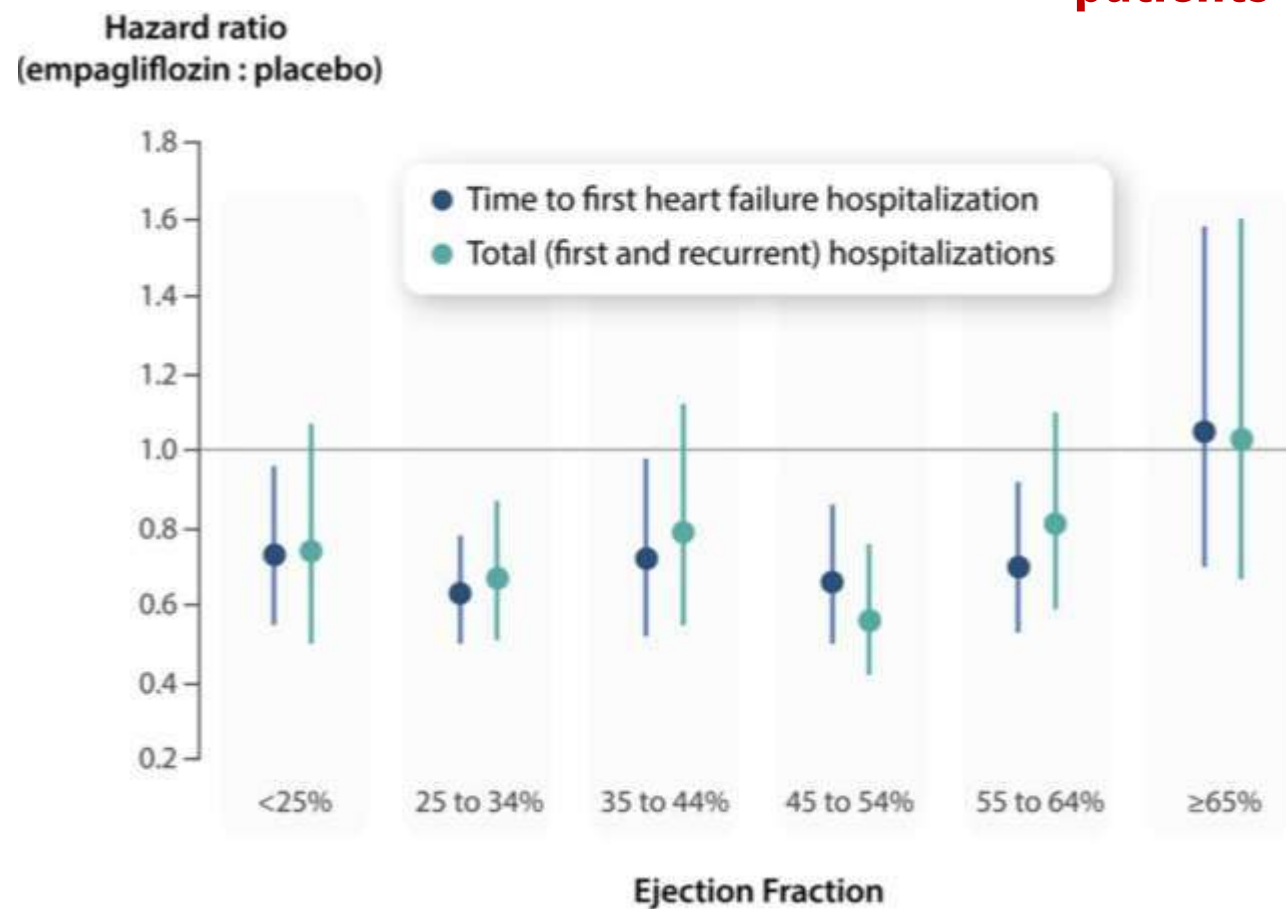
Effect of empagliflozin in patients with heart failure across the spectrum of left ventricular ejection fraction

Javed Butler and others

European Heart Journal, Volume 43, Issue 5, 1 February 2022, Pages 416–424,

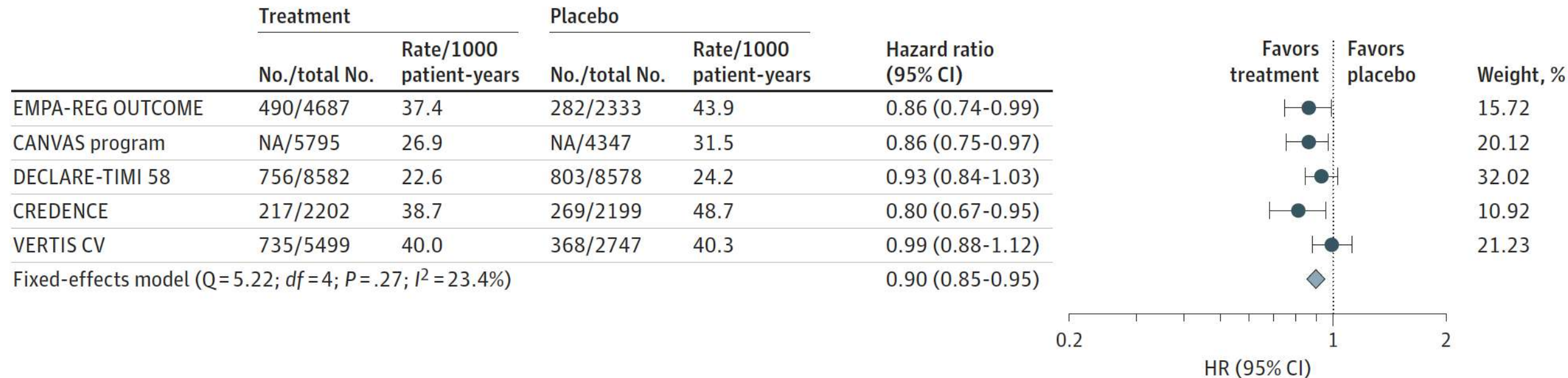
Article highlight:

EMPEROR-pooled analysis: the magnitude of the effect of empagliflozin on HF outcomes and health status was similar across LVEF <25% to <65%, but it was attenuated in patients with LVEF $\geq 65\%$.



SGLT2 inhibitors: impact on major cardiovascular outcomes in type 2 diabetes

Meta-analysis, 4 different SGLT2 inhibitors (empagliflozin, canagliflozin, dapagliflozin, ertugliflozin), n=46,969 pts with T2DM (66% with CVD)



Reduction in the risk of MACE without evidence of a considerable heterogeneity between the trials

**SGLT-2 inhibitors in patients with heart failure:
a comprehensive meta-analysis of five randomised
controlled trials**

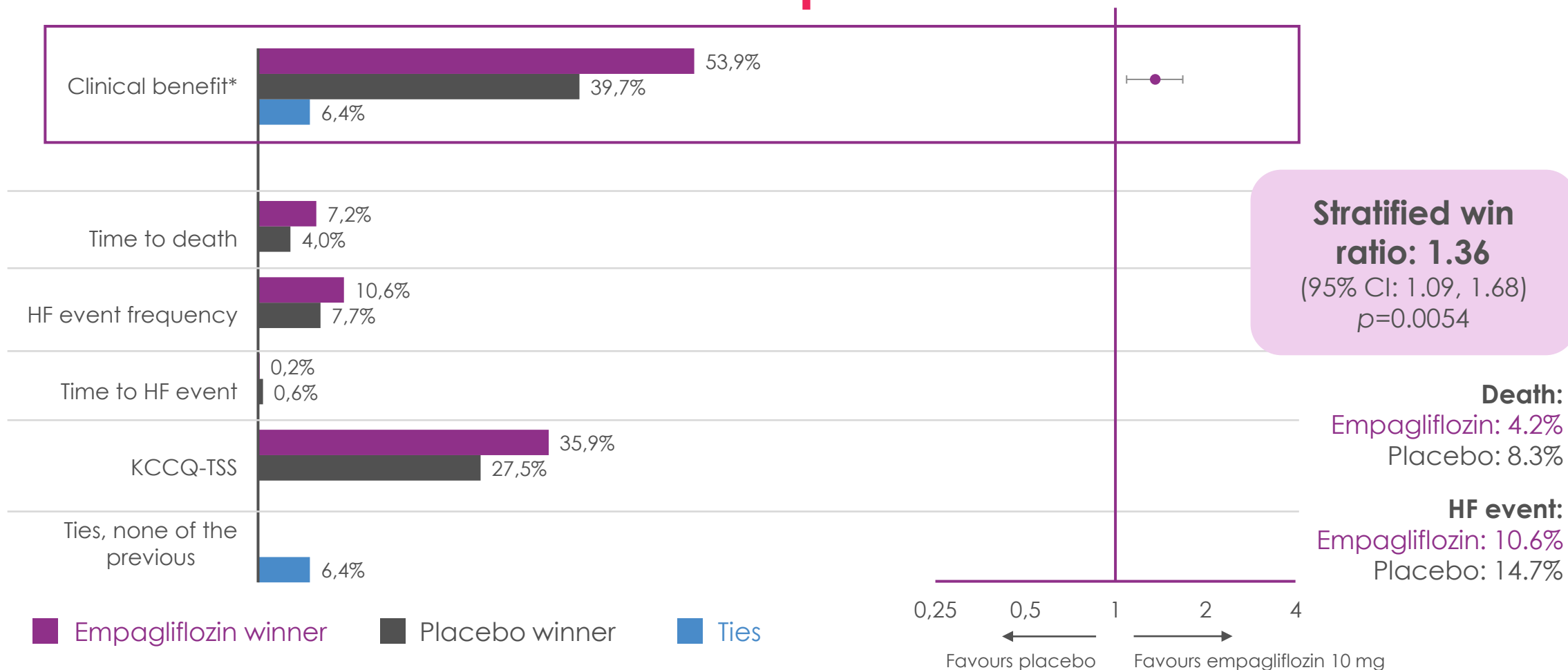
Favourable safety profile

	DELIVER		EMPEROR-Preserved	
	Dapagliflozin (n=3126)	Placebo (n=3127)	Empagliflozin (n=2996)	Placebo (n=2989)
Any serious adverse event	1361 (43.5%)	1423 (45.5%)	1436 (47.9%)	1543 (51.6%)
Amputation	19 (0.6%)	25 (0.8 %)	16 (0.5%)	23 (0.8%)
Diabetic ketoacidosis	2 (0.1%)	0 (0.0 %)	4 (0.1%)	5 (0.2%)
Hypoglycaemia	6 (0.2 %)	7 (0.2 %)	73 (2.4%)	78 (2.6%)
Renal	73 (2.3 %)	79 (2.5 %)	363 (12.1%)	384 (12.8%)



EMPULSE

Empagliflozin is likely to produce a 36% more clinical benefit vs placebo



Numbers reflect percentage of comparisons. For the components of the win ratio these numbers do not reflect randomized comparisons. *Composite of death, number of HFEs (including HHFs, urgent HF visits and unplanned outpatient visits), time to first HFE and ≥ 5 point difference in the KCCQ-TSS change from baseline after 90 days of treatment. CI, confidence interval; HF, heart failure; HFE, heart failure event; HHF, hospitalization for heart failure; KCCQ-TSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Total Symptom Score. Voors AA et al. Nat Med. 2022;doi:10.1038/s41591-021-01659-1.

FAST TRACK CLINICAL RESEARCH

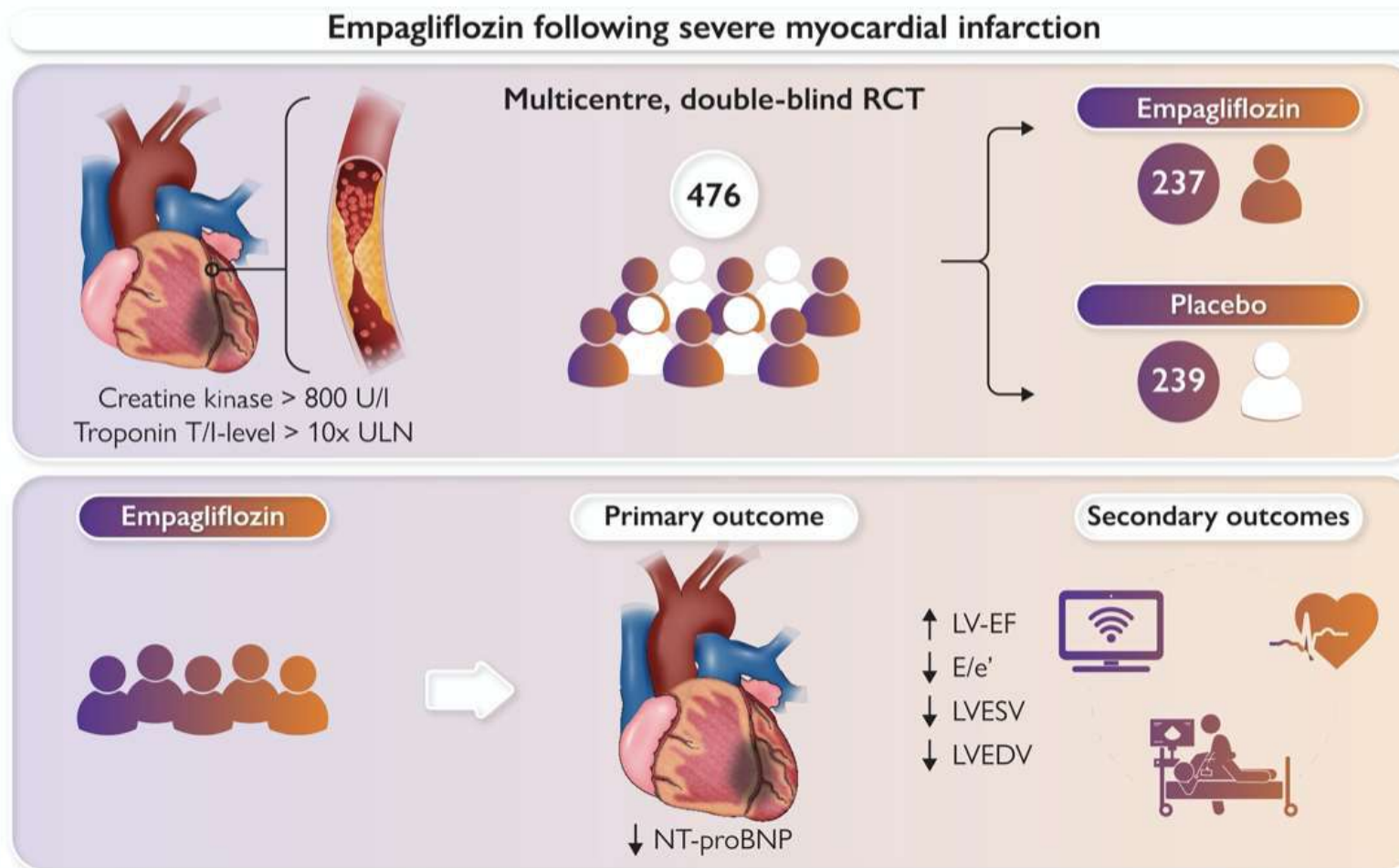
Empagliflozin in acute myocardial infarction: the EMMY trial

Dirk von Lewinski and others

European Heart Journal, Volume 43, Issue 41, 1 November 2022, Pages 4421–4432,

Article highlight:

Us of empagliflozin after AMI provides a significantly greater NT-proBNP reduction and an improvement in echocardiographic parameters.

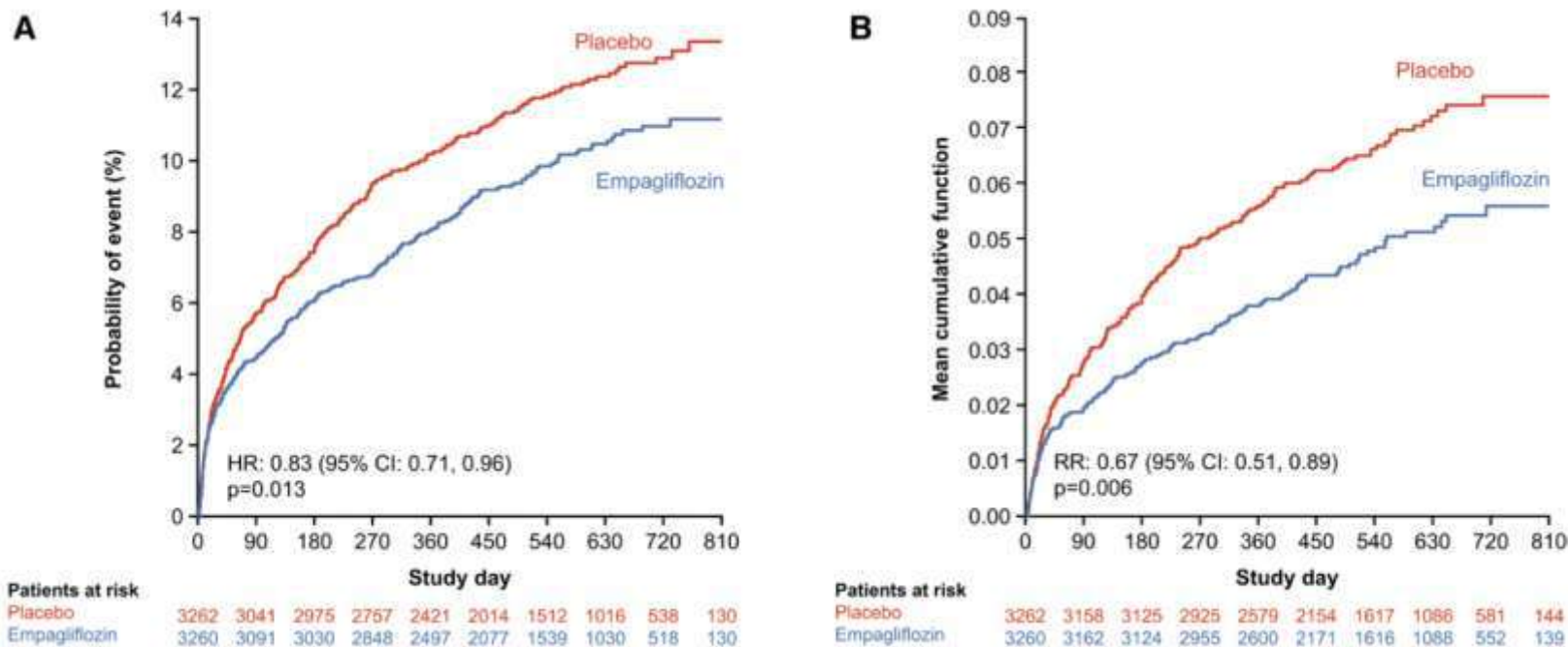


Empagliflozin and risk of HF hospitalisation after AMI

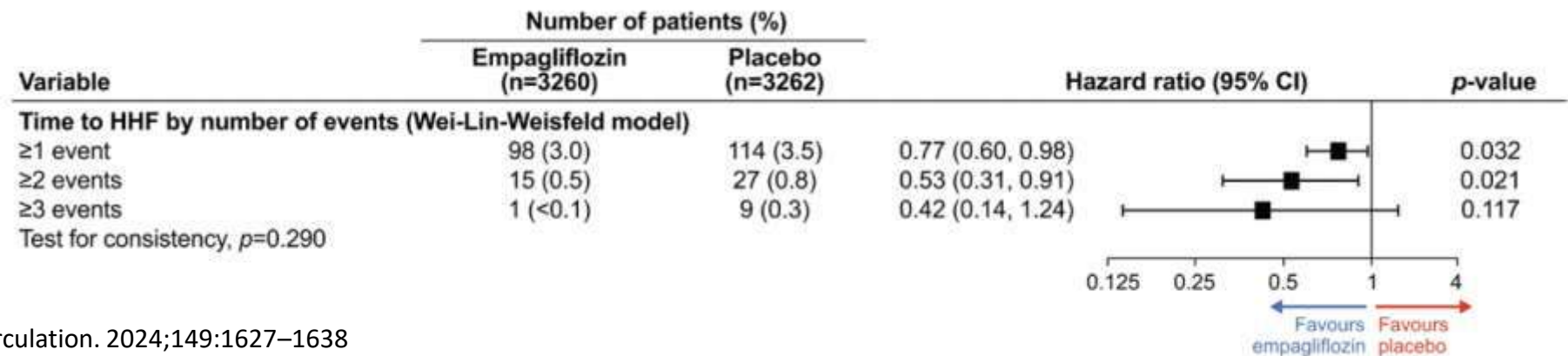
EMPACT-MI

- Empagliflozin vs. placebo
- 1 – 14 days after AMI, FUP 17.2 m
- Inclusion criteria:
 - AMI
 - LVEF ≤ 45% and/or
 - Signs/symptoms of congestion
 - + one or more risk augmenting factors.
- Primary endpoint first HF hospitalisation
HF or all-cause death: HR, 0.90; 95% CI, 0.76–1.06; P=0.21

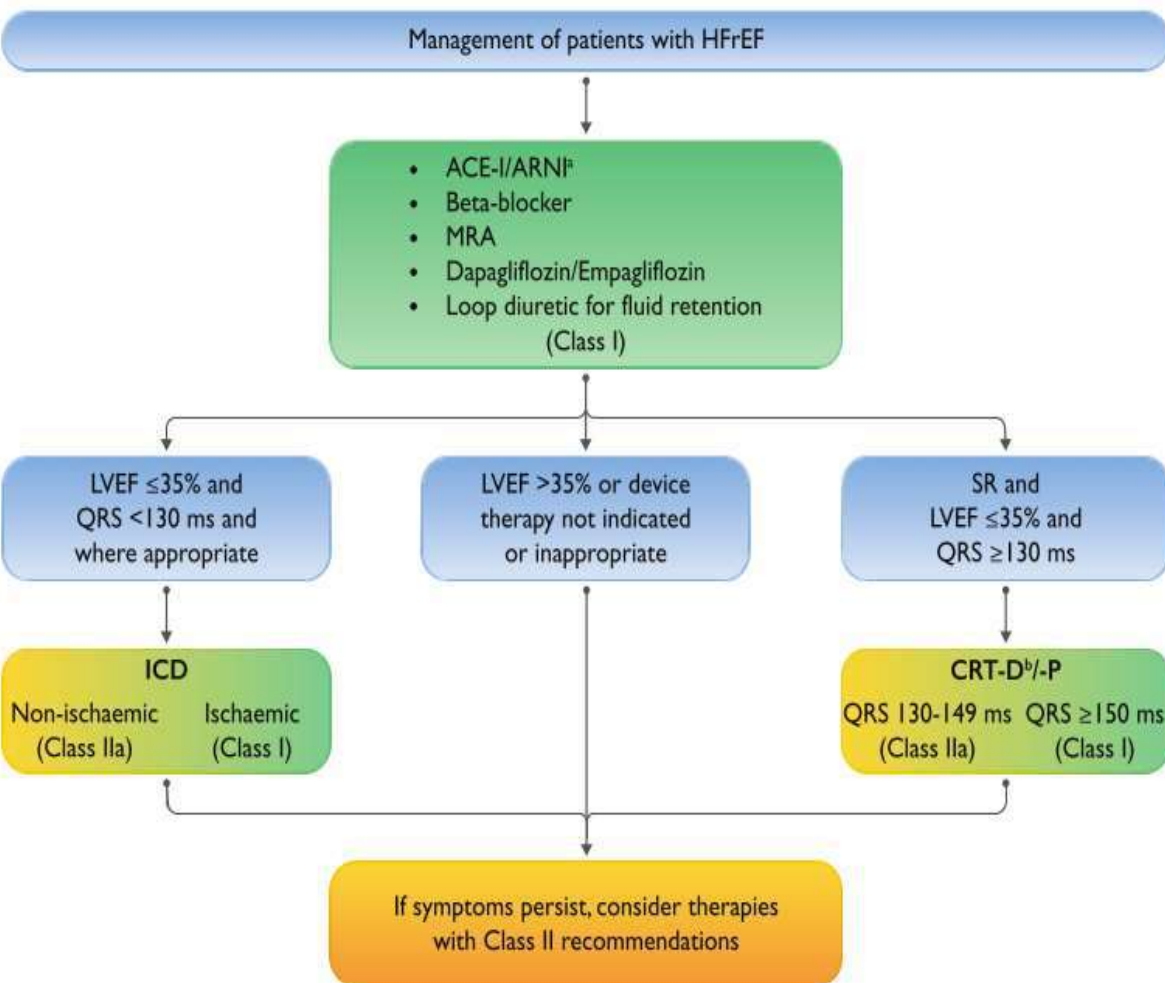
Lower risk of first and total HF hospitalisations



Lower risk of repeat HF hospitalisations

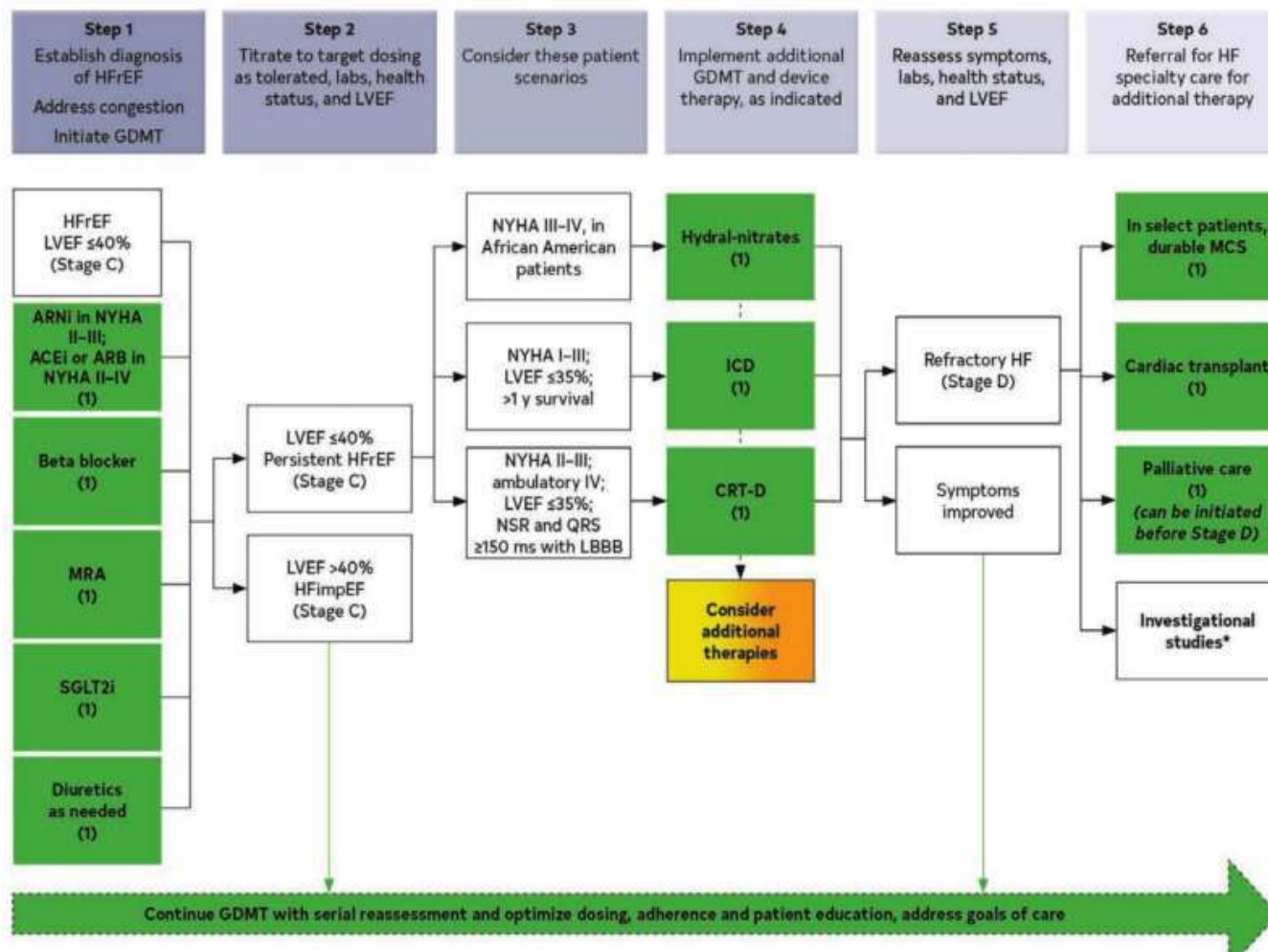


2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure



CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE: FULL TEXT

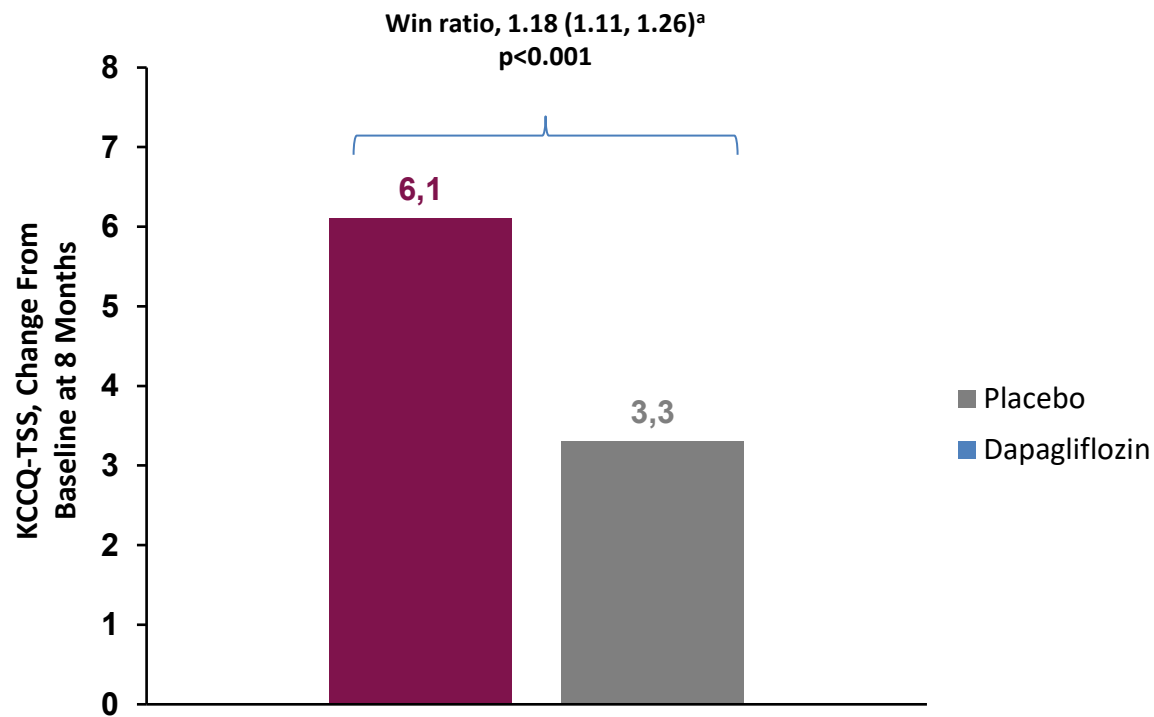
2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure



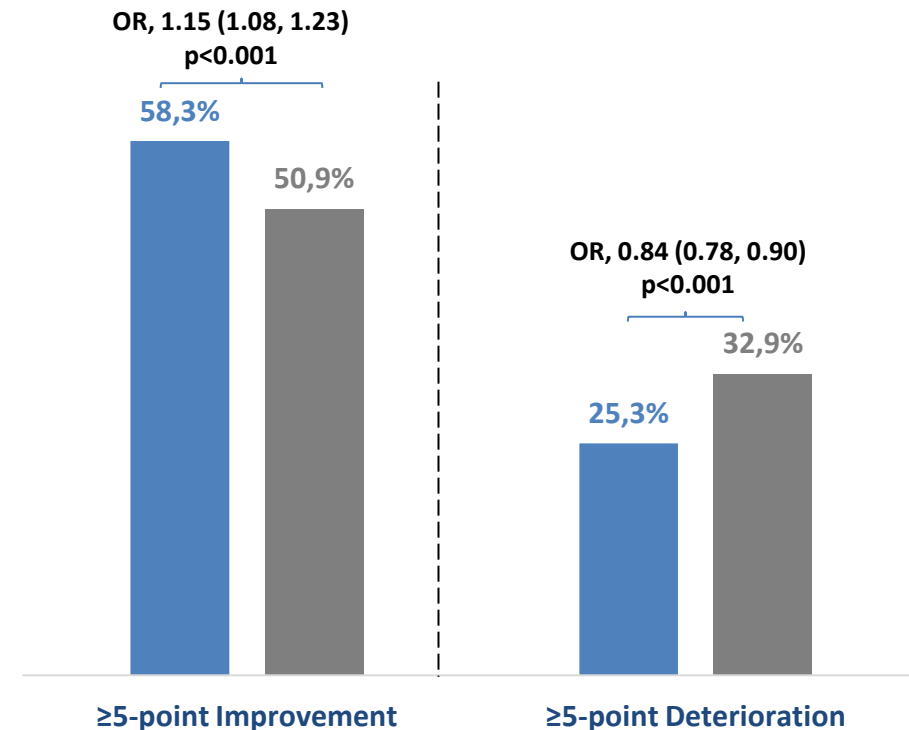
Secondary Endpoint: Health Status Assessed By Change from Baseline in KCCQ-TSS at 8 Months

Patients on dapagliflozin were 18% more likely to have symptom benefit (improvement in KCCQ-TSS) compared to placebo

Symptom improvement was more common and deterioration was less common with dapagliflozin



Proportion of patients with clinically meaningful change (≥ 5 points)^b in KCCQ-TSS



^aWin ratio >1 indicates superiority of dapagliflozin over placebo; ^bTaking account of death.

KCCQ-TSS = Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Total Symptom Score; OR = odds ratio.
McMurray JJV et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2019;381:1995-2008.



CLINICAL RESEARCH

EDITOR'S CHOICE

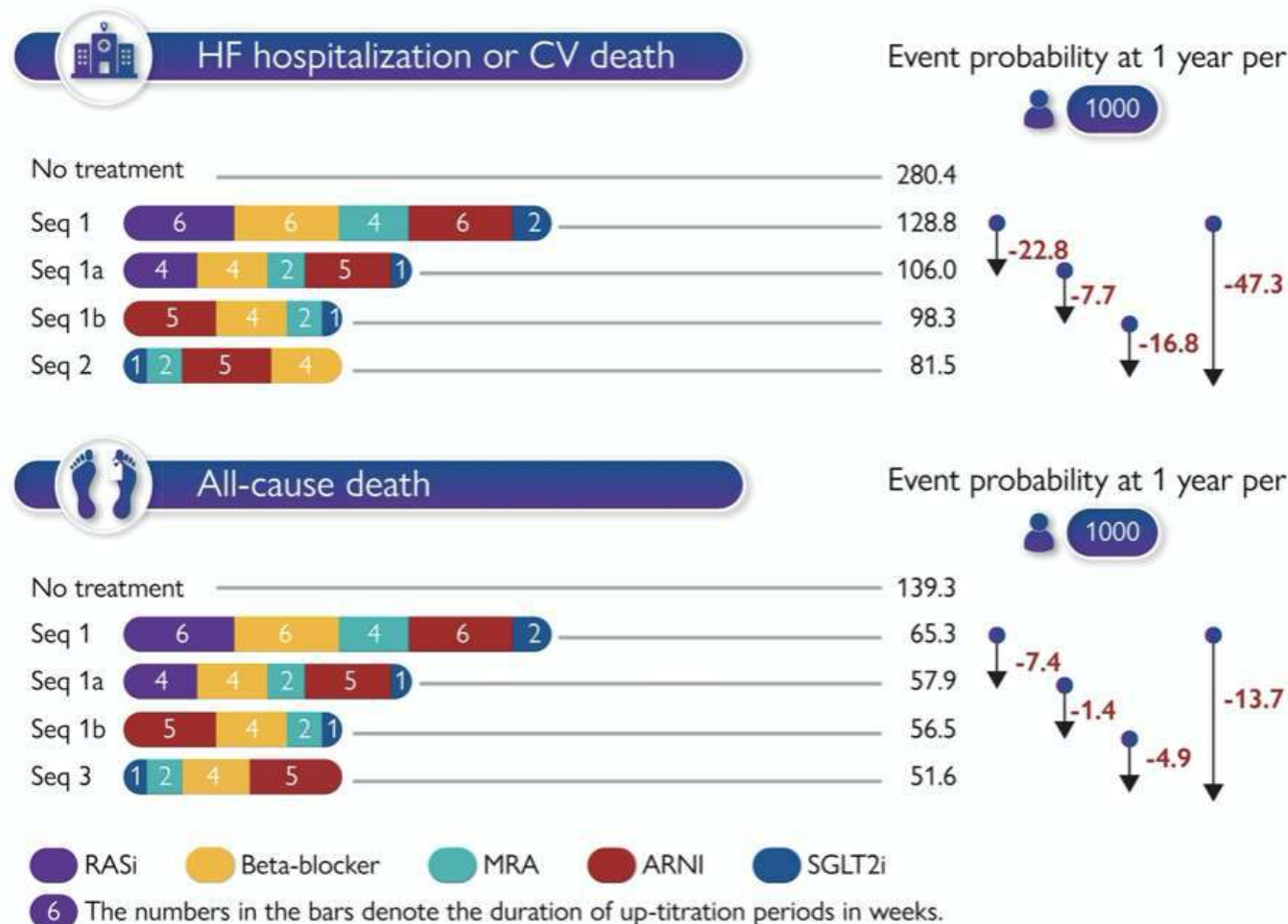
Accelerated and personalized therapy for heart failure with reduced ejection fraction FREE

Li Shen and others

European Heart Journal, Volume 43, Issue 27, 14 July 2022, Pages 2573–2587,

Article highlight:

Accelerated up-titration and optimized ordering can prevent at least 14 deaths and 47 HF hospitalisations/CV deaths per 1000 treated HFrEF patients over the first 12 months.

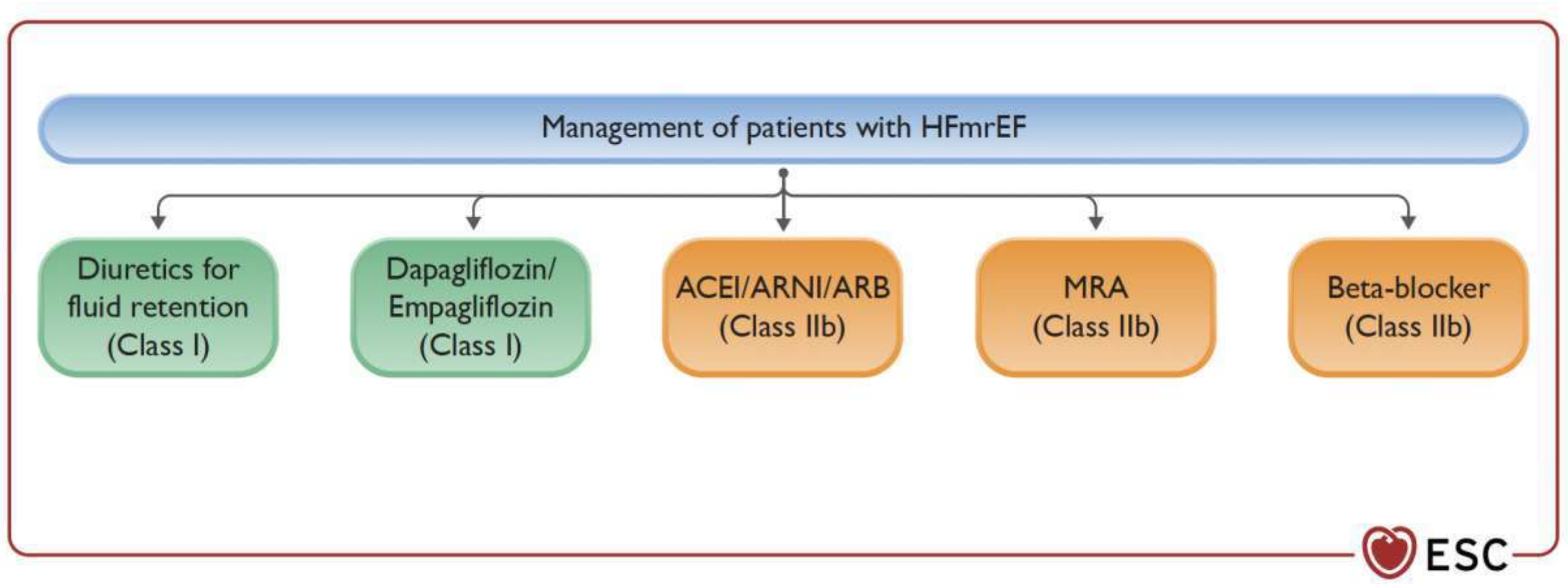


**2023 Focused Update of the 2021 ESC
Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment
of acute and chronic heart failure**

**Recommendation for the treatment of patients
with symptomatic HFmrEF**

Recommendation	Class ^a	Level ^b
An SGLT2 inhibitor (dapagliflozin or empagliflozin) is recommended in patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization or CV death. ^{c 6,8}	I	A

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Management of patients with HFpEF

Diuretics for
fluid retention
(Class I)

Dapagliflozin/
Empagliflozin
(Class I)

Treatment for aetiology,
CV and non-CV comorbidities
(Class I)



Great Debate: SGLT2 inhibitors should be first-line treatment in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction FREE

Milton Packer, John G F Cleland, Johann Bauersachs ✉ [Author Notes](#)

EJH Great debate

SGLT2 inhibitors should be first line treatment in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction

- With an introduction by J Bauersachs, M. Packer and J. Cleland discuss scientific evidence for the use of SGLT2 inhibitors as first-line HFrEF treatment.



Pro

DAPA-HF and EMPEROR-Reduced demonstrate early and sustained reduction of CV death/HF hospitalizations

SGLT2i are among the four foundational drugs for HFrEF and can add to the efficacy of the other three

When all foundational drugs are started within one week, the ordering does not matter

SGLT2i do not require dose adjustment or uptitration; the starting dose of these drugs is the target dose

Modeling analyses suggest greatest benefit when SGLT2i are initiated first

SGLT2i can facilitate the safety and tolerability of other foundational drugs for HF



Contra

Only patients failing on GRMT were enrolled in DAPA-HF and EMPEROR-Reduced

Inconsistent effect of SGLT2i on mortality; most HF hospitalizations not prevented

DAPA-MI failed to show SGLT2i reduced HF or all-cause hospitalizations or deaths

All-cause hospitalizations are more important drivers of healthcare costs, HF causes <30% of all admissions

Effect of SGLT2i on morbidity/mortality modest versus β -blocker, MRA or ARNI

Many patients in trials had few symptoms and little symptom benefit from SGLT2i







Adjusting diuretics may have a similar effect as SGLT2i on symptoms/congestion



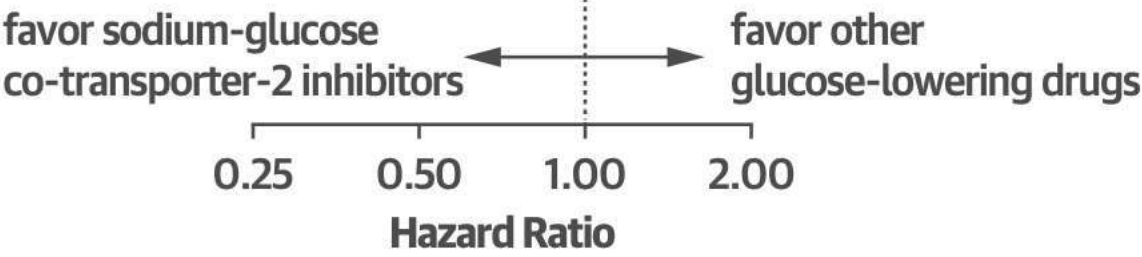
SGLT-2 Inhibitors and Cardiovascular Risk

An Analysis of CVD-REAL

SGLT2i (empagliflozin) are effective even in patients without known VCD.

Death	With prior cardiovascular disease*		0.56 [0.44, 0.70]
	Without prior cardiovascular disease*		0.56 [0.50, 0.63]
Heart failure	With prior cardiovascular disease*		0.72 [0.63, 0.82]
	Without prior cardiovascular disease*		0.61 [0.48, 0.78]
Heart failure+Death	With prior cardiovascular disease*		0.63 [0.57, 0.70]
	Without prior cardiovascular disease*		0.56 [0.50, 0.62]

*Diagnosis of AMI, unstable angina, stroke, heart failure, transient ischemic attack, coronary revascularization (CABG or PCI) or occlusive peripheral artery disease prior to index drug initiation





- On the evening of January 23, 1896, Wilhelm Conrad Röntgen (University of Würzburg, Germany) ,
- demonstrated for the first time the use of x-ray photograph
- The news traveled fast, and within a year, x-ray equipment was being employed world-wide.
- Later research revealed many diagnostic and therapeutic applications of x-rays.

ESC Textbook of heart failure

