

# “Beating Heart Failure with Healthy Heartbeat”

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**Kyaw Soe Win**

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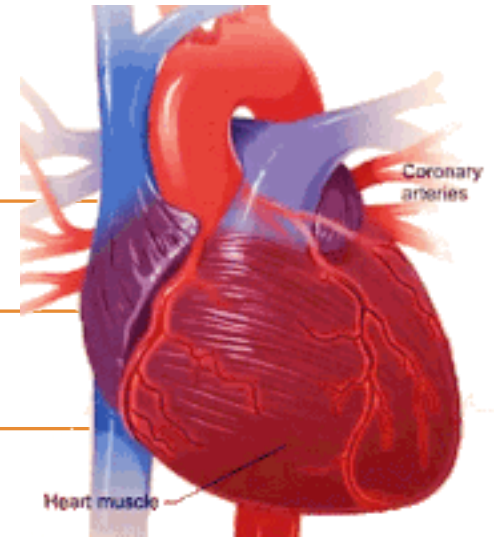
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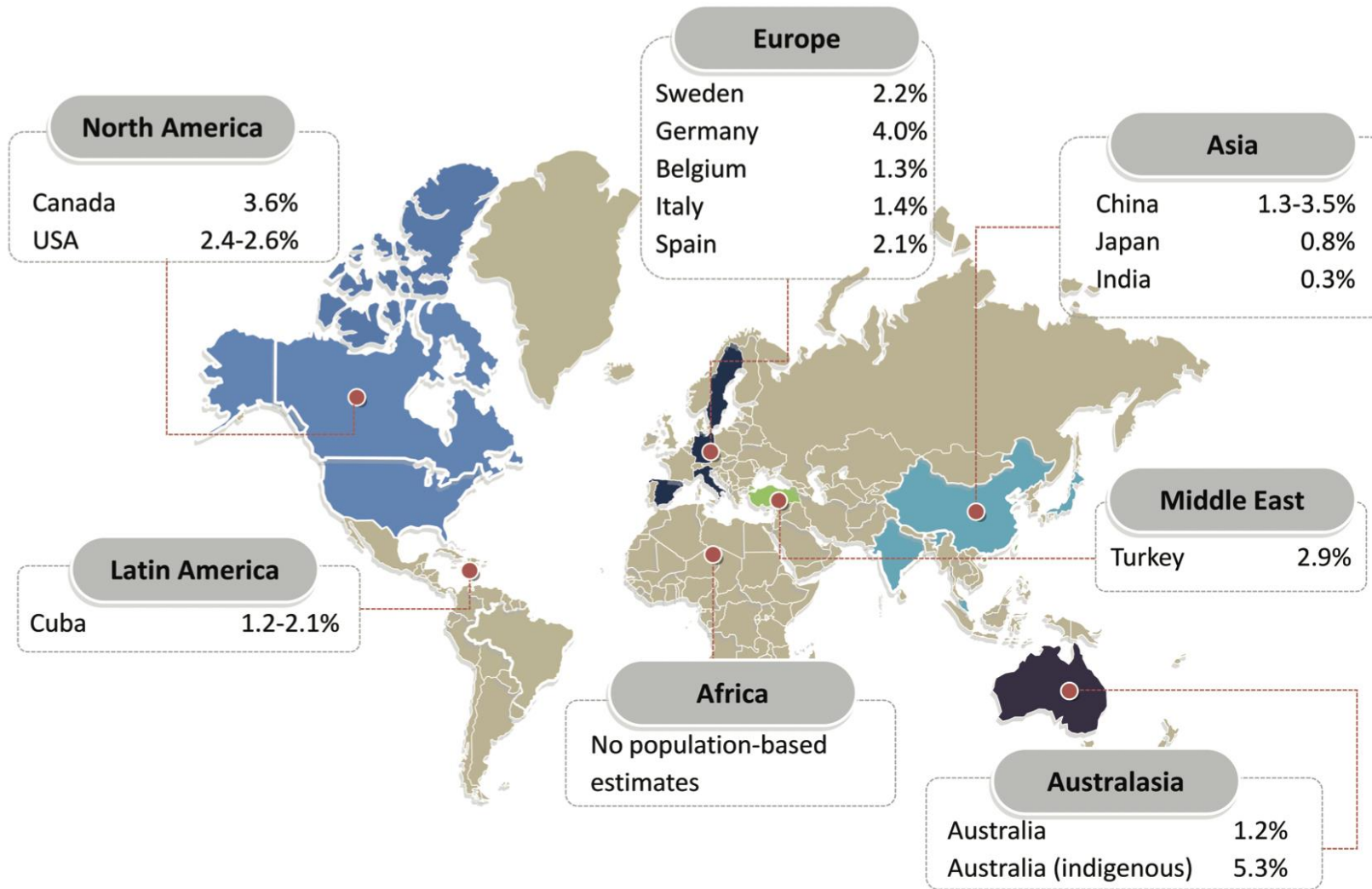
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23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024

# HF is an increasingly important public health issue

HF Prevalence in population-based studies<sup>1</sup>



Prevalence<sup>1</sup>



of the population in Asia have HF<sup>1</sup>



As many as 1 in 5 people aged 70–80 years have HF<sup>1</sup>

Growth<sup>2</sup>

HF Prevalence

Increasing prevalence of risk factors<sup>5,6</sup>

Ageing population<sup>5</sup>

Improved post-MI survival<sup>5</sup>

# Prevalence of cardiovascular morbidities in Myanmar

Ko Ko Zaw<sup>1\*</sup>, Nwe Nwe<sup>2</sup> and Su Su Hlaing<sup>3</sup>

**Possible heart Failure prevalence 2.8% (1.5million of 50 million pop:)**

## Abstract

**Background:** Cardiovascular diseases (CVDs) are now in a rising trend in South East Asia including Myanmar due to increase in major cardiovascular risk factors in both urban and rural areas, such as smoking, obesity and diabetes

**The most common cause of heart failure is CAD, especially after AMI, followed by VHD and dilated cardiomyopathy.**

Research Group] to determine the level of reported CVD morbidities in adult population.

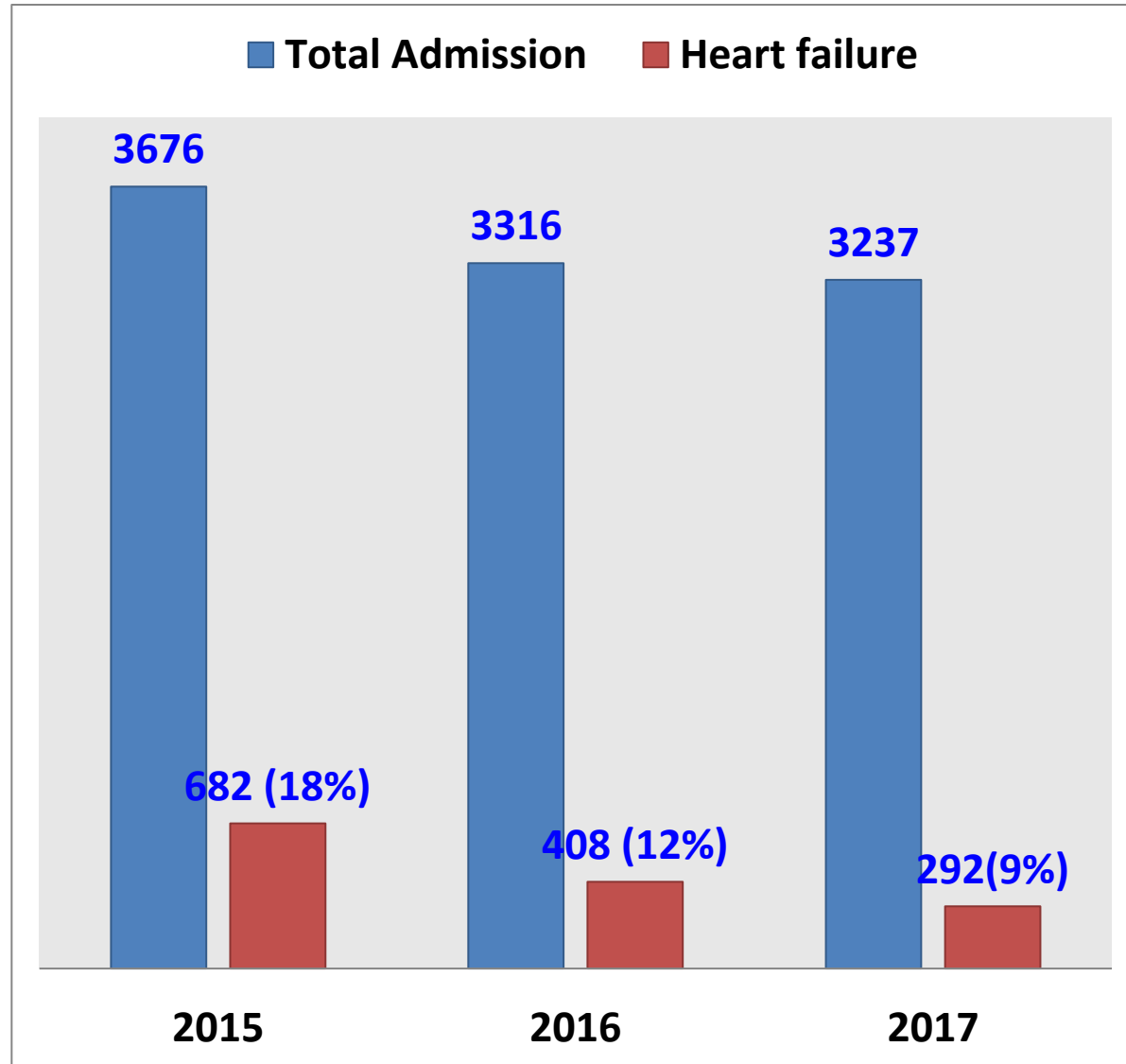
**Results:** Age of the study population ranged from 40 to 99 years with the mean age of 56 years. Seventy-one percent of the study population was women. Nine percent of the study population have suffered from angina according to Rose Angina Questionnaire. Prevalence of possible heart attack, stroke and heart failure was 7.5, 1.5 and 2.8%. Prevalence of hypertension was 51%.

**Conclusion:** The CVD morbidities are high. There is a need for strengthening prevention and control activities of CVDs.

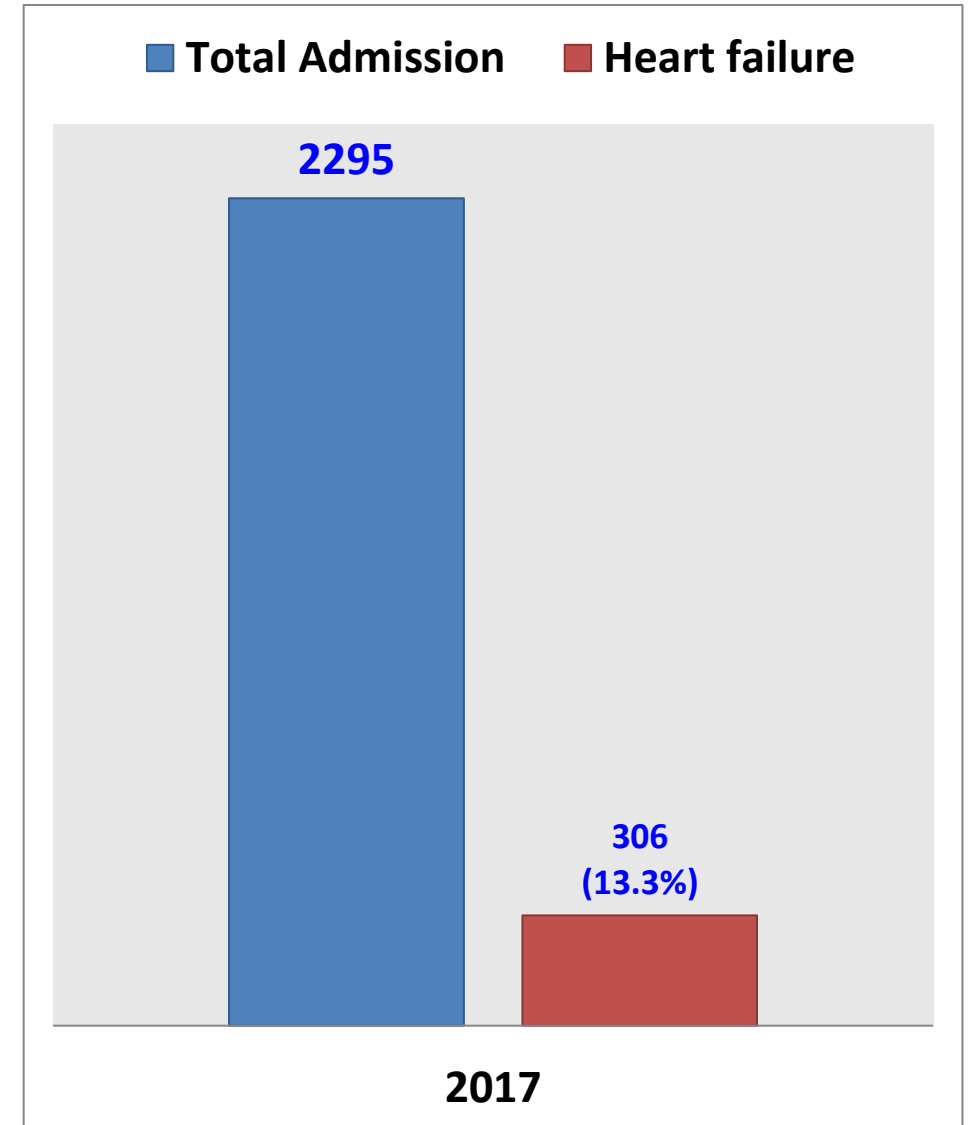
**Keywords:** Cardiovascular diseases, CVD, Myanmar, Prevalence, Morbidities



## Total number of HF cases in CVM, MGH 2015 to 2017

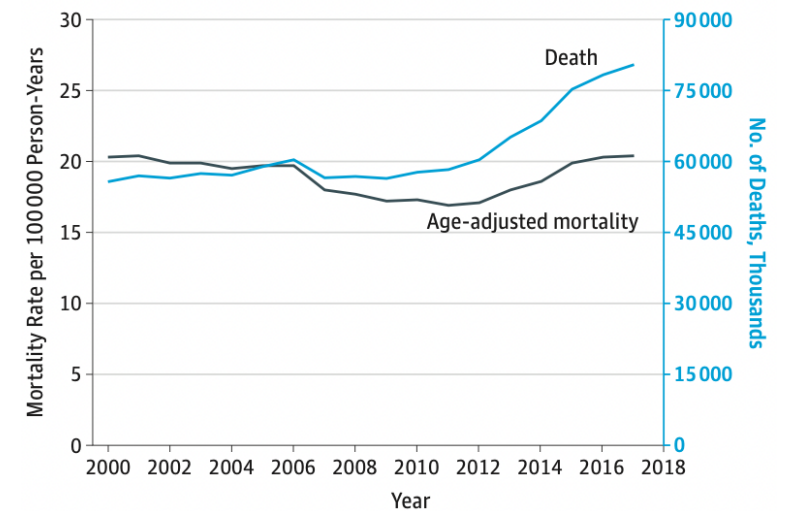
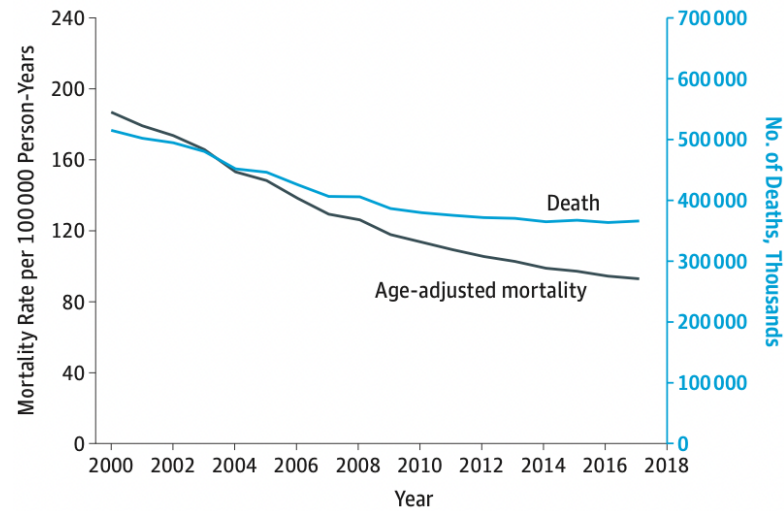
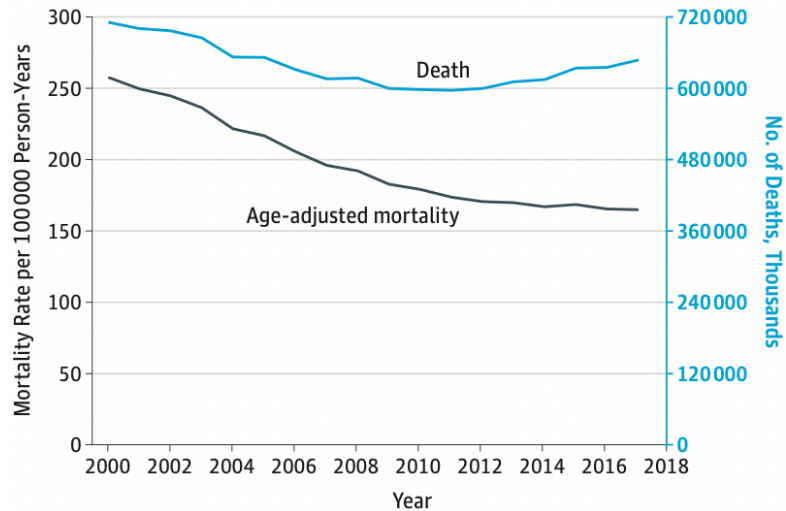


## Total number of HF cases in CVM, NOGH 2017



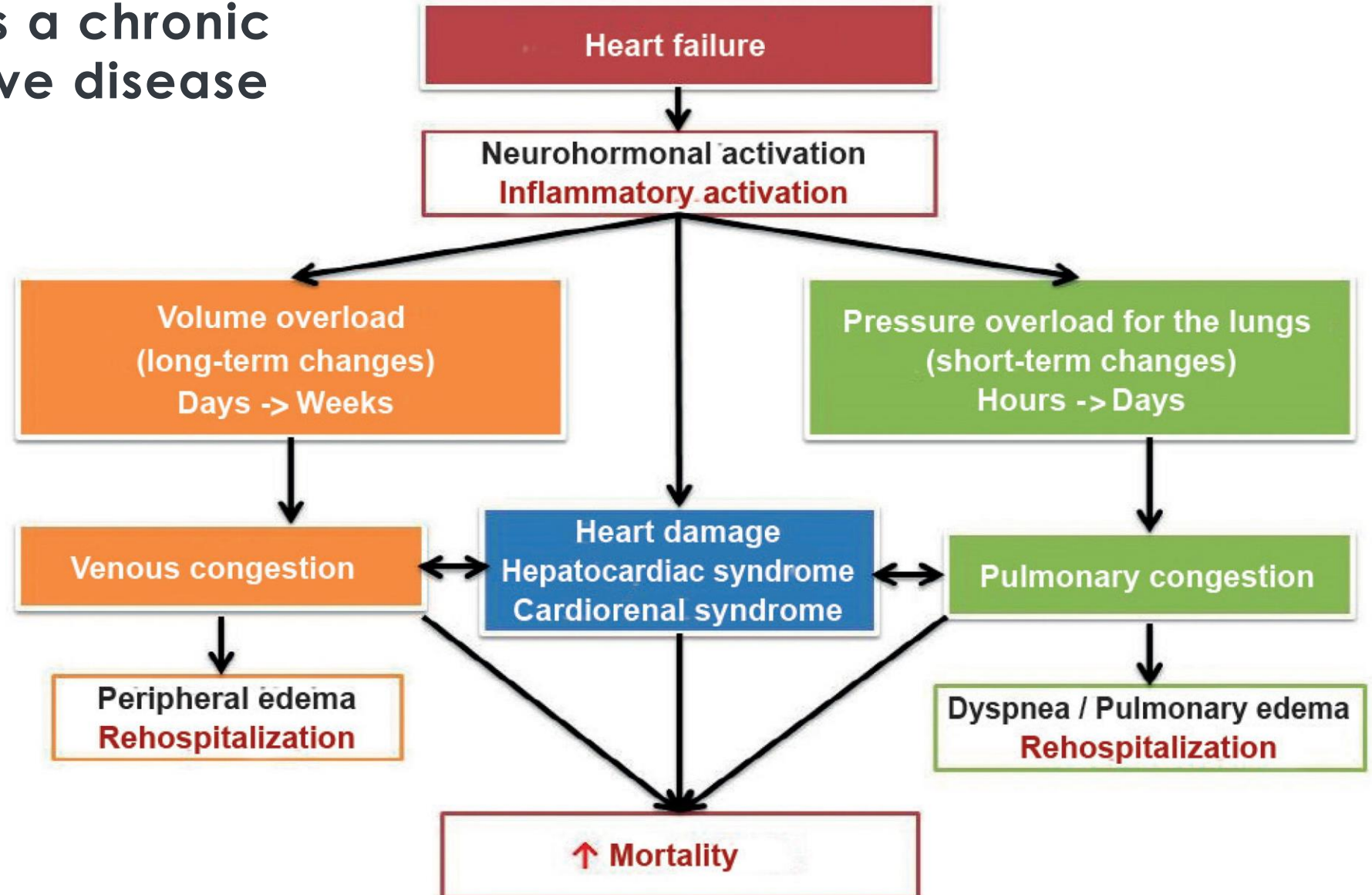
# HF is an increasingly important public health issue

## Mortality Rates and Number of Deaths in USA<sup>1</sup>, 2000 to 2017



- **Deceleration in the rate of decrease of heart disease mortality** from 2011 to 2017
- Age-adjusted mortality rate **decreased 5.0% for heart disease and 14.9% for CHD** while **increasing 20.7% for heart failure** and 8.4% for other heart diseases
- Explanations:
  - substantial **increases in obesity and diabetes rates** that began in the mid-1980s (heart disease mortality)
  - rapid population growth in group of adults  $\geq 65$  years + increased burden of comorbidities (HF mortality)
  - transition from HF<sub>r</sub>EF to HF<sub>p</sub>EF, for which effective evidence-based strategies are still largely lacking<sup>2</sup>

# Heart failure is a chronic and progressive disease



# With several key challenges heart failure hospitalization

>1 million

Annual hospitalizations both in  
the United States and Europe<sup>1</sup>

1-4%

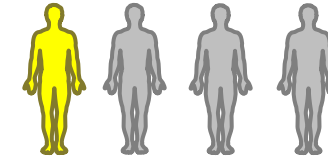
Heart failure hospitalization  
among total hospital  
admission<sup>2</sup>

Up to 9/10  
patients

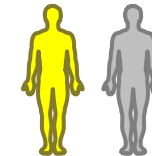
Hospitalized due to worsening  
chronic heart failure as compared  
with de novo heart failure<sup>3</sup>

5-10  
days

Average length of hospital  
stay<sup>3</sup>



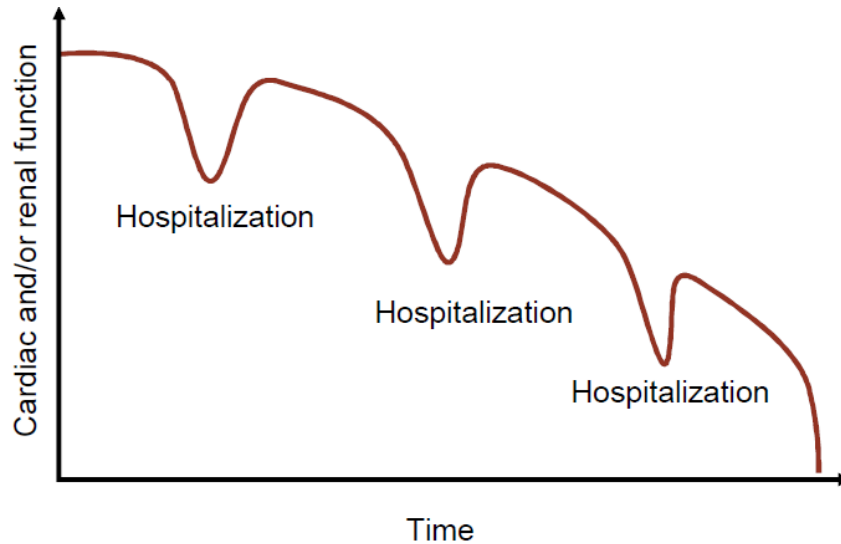
Almost **1 out of 4** hospitalized  
patients (24%) are  
rehospitalized for heart failure  
within the **30-day post  
discharge period**<sup>4</sup>



Nearly **1 out of 2** patients (46%) are  
rehospitalized for heart failure within  
the **60-day post discharge period**<sup>4</sup>



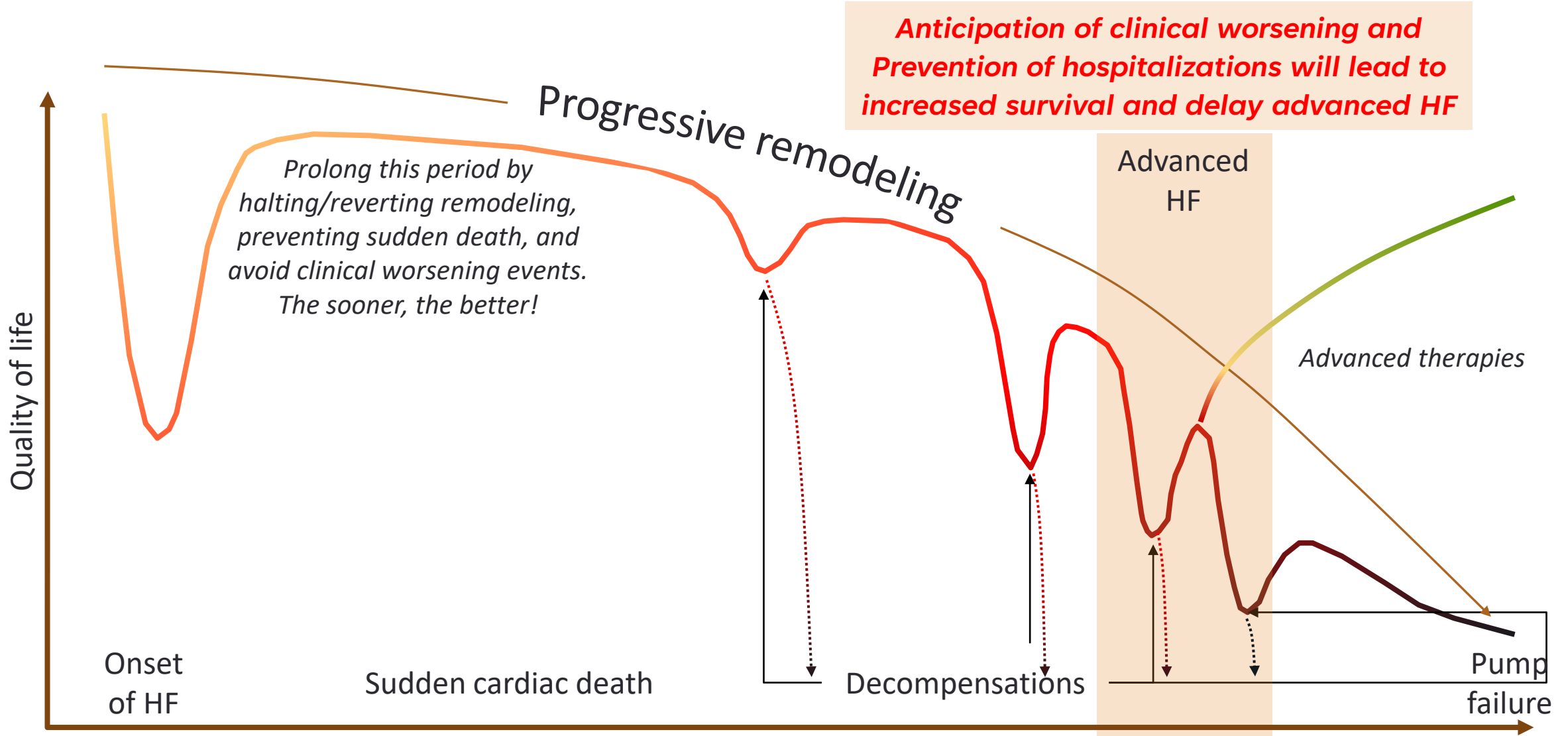
# Heart failure patients suffer from recurrent hospitalization

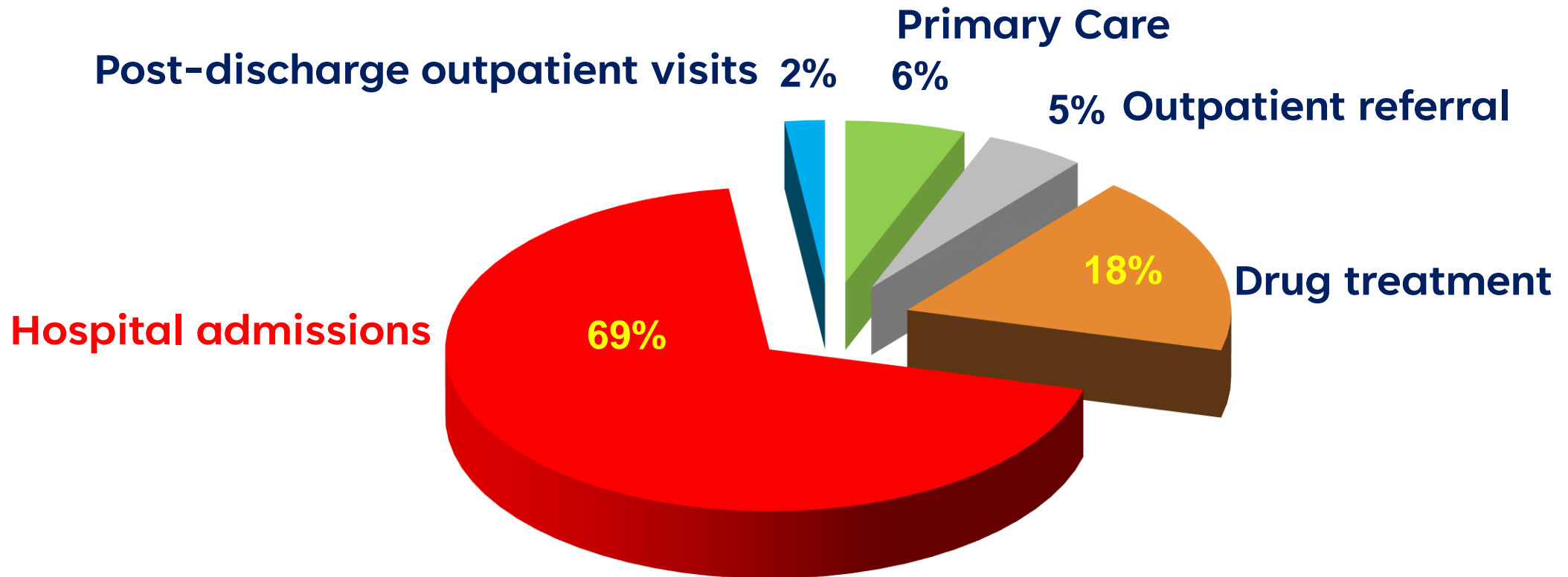


With each hospitalization, there is likely **myocardial and renal damage** which contributes to progressive LV or renal dysfunction, leading to an inevitable downward spiral.<sup>1</sup>



# Clinical course of heart failure





**Hospitalization accounts for most CHF-associated costs**

# Medical Treatment for Ambulatory Patients with HFrEF

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



   
**2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure**  
Heidenreich PA, et al. *J Card Fail* 2022

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

## Diuretics

- Relieve congestion

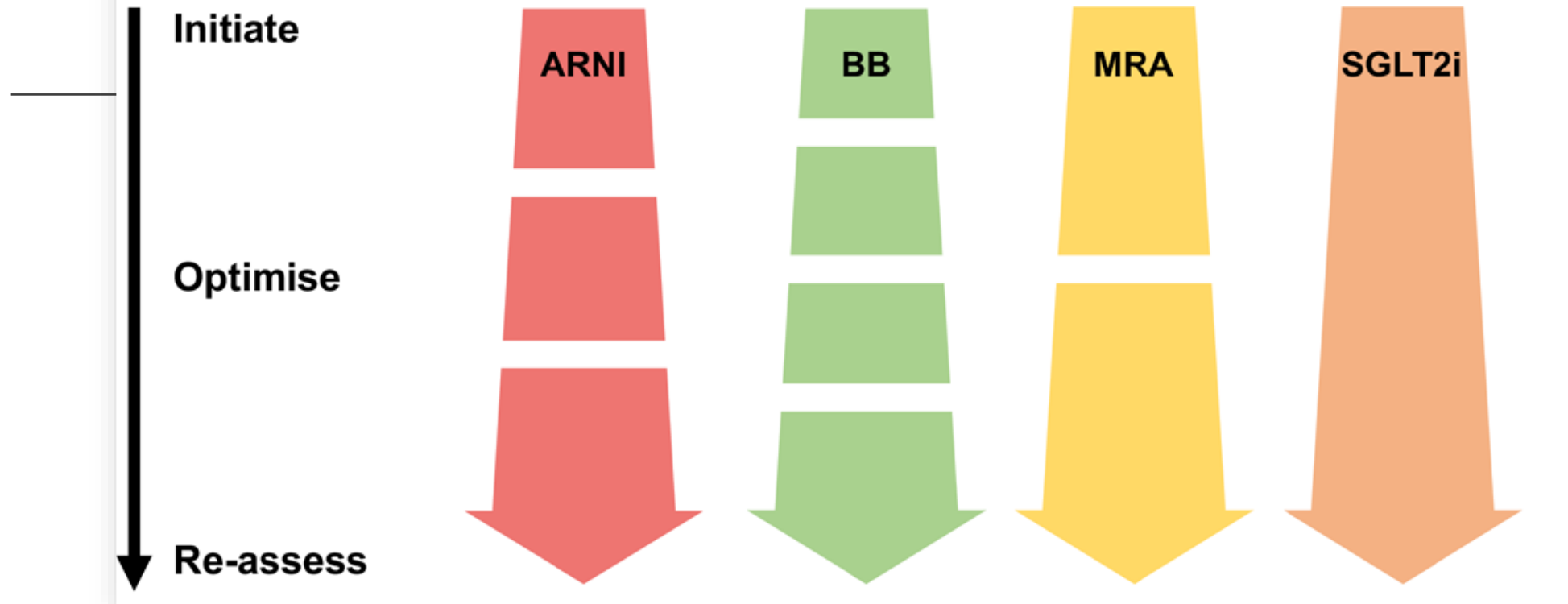
## • Neurohormonal agents

- Modify disease course/reduce HHF/improve mortality
- ACEI/ARB/ARNI, BBs, MRAs, SGLT2i as 4 pillars of therapy

## • Personalised

- Ivabradine/Digoxin/H-ISDN
- Device therapy
- Management of comorbidities: hyperkalemia/iron deficiency anaemia/arrhythmias

# The Four Pillars of Heart Failure

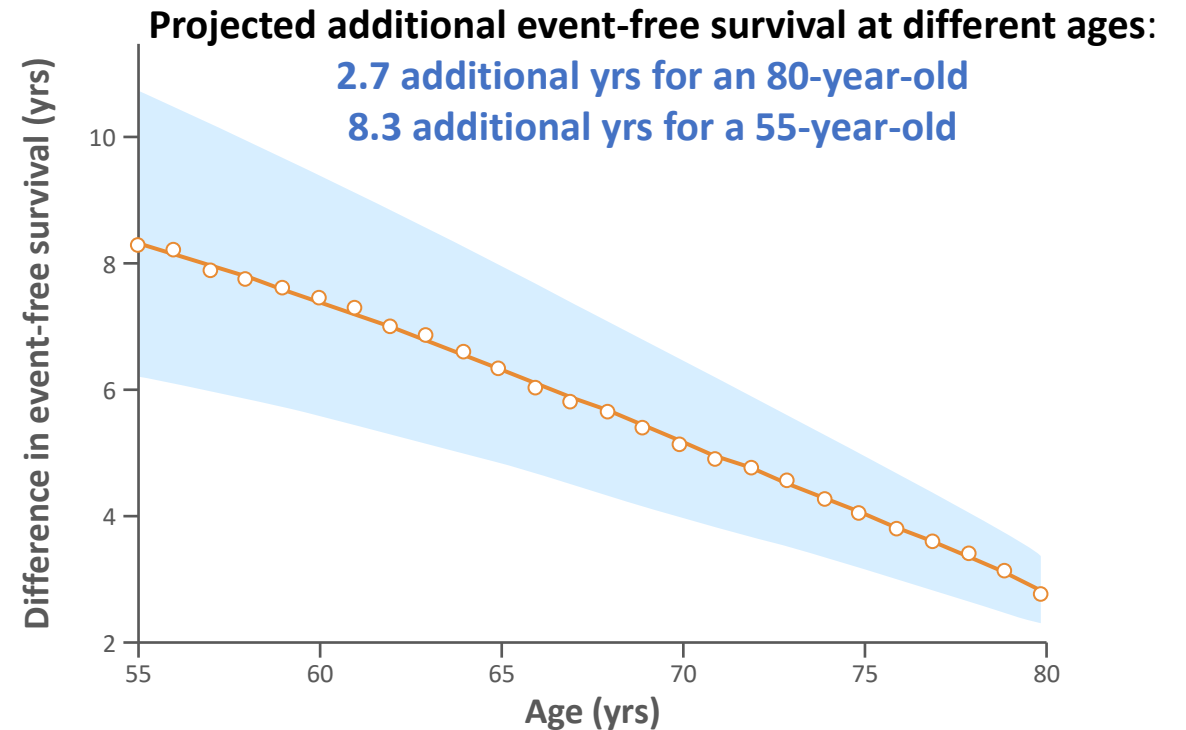
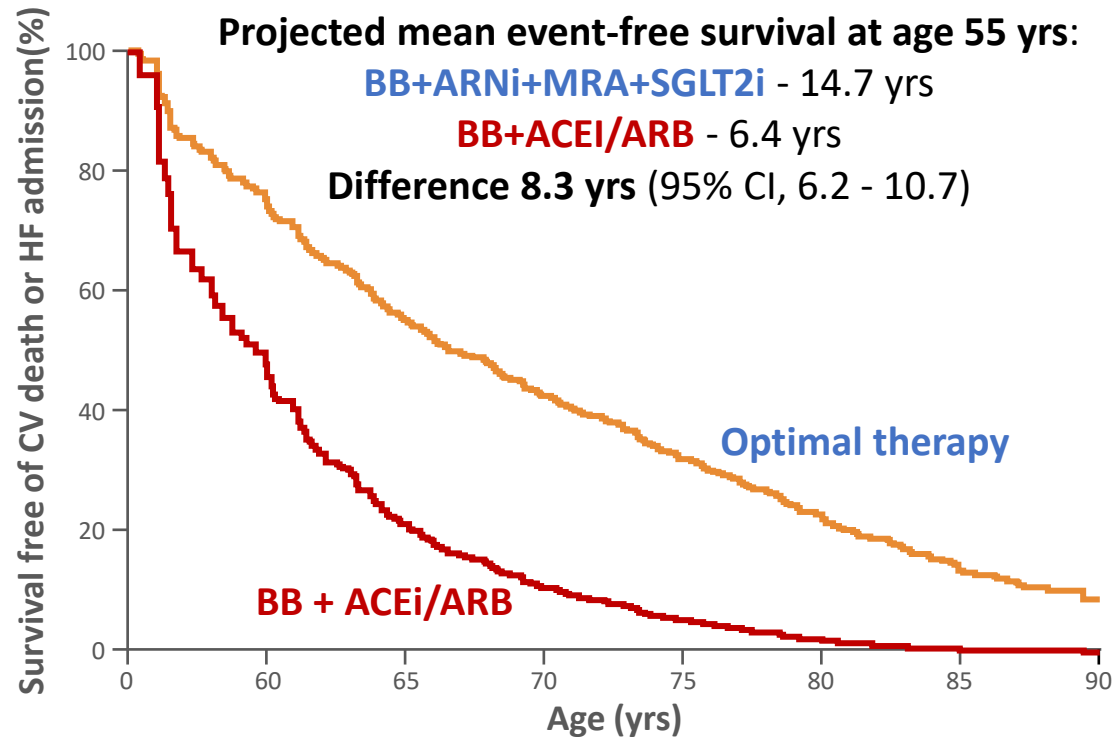


Cumulative risk reduction in all-cause mortality over 24 months if all evidence-based medical therapies are used: **Relative risk reduction 72.9%, Absolute risk reduction 25.5%**

**NNT to prevent death- 4**

# Opportunities to prolong survival in HFrEF

## Survival benefits of optimal, comprehensive disease-modifying drug therapy



**Cross-trial analysis of EMPHASIS-HF, PARADIGM-HF and DAPA-HF<sup>1</sup>:** Lifetime comprehensive disease-modifying drug therapy (BB, ARNi, MRA, and SGLT2i) reduces the hazard of CV death or HF admission (HR 0.38 [95% CI, 0.30–0.47]) compared with conventional therapy (BB + ACEi/ARB). Depending on the age of therapeutic optimisation, comprehensive disease-modifying drug therapy was estimated to afford 1.4 to 6.3 additional yrs of survival. EMPHASIS-HF control group (93% ACEi/ARB, 87% BB): mean age 69 yrs, 78% male, mean LVEF 26%, prior HF admission 53%.

# Gaps in the Use of GDMT: Data from the CHAMP-HF Registry

In adjusted models, older age, lower BP, more severe functional class, renal insufficiency and recent HHF generally favored **lower medication utilization or dose**

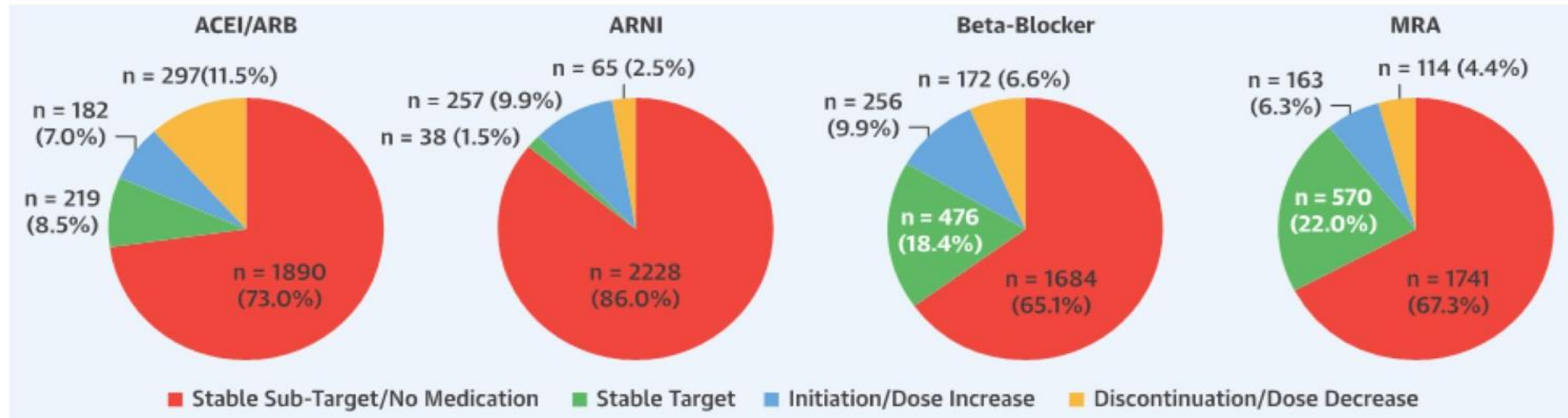


|  | ACEI/ARB | ARNI | ACEI/ARB/<br>ARNI | Beta-<br>Blocker | MRA  |
|--|----------|------|-------------------|------------------|------|
| Without Contraindication and Not Treated | 1374     | 3029 | 920               | 1159             | 2317 |
| Treated                                  | 2107     | 452  | 2536              | 2351             | 1163 |
| With Contraindication                    | 37       | 37   | 62                | 8                | 38   |

3518 outpatients from 150 practices with chronic HFrEF receiving at least 1 oral medication for management of HF included in analysis. Greene Sj, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol*. 2018;72:351-366.

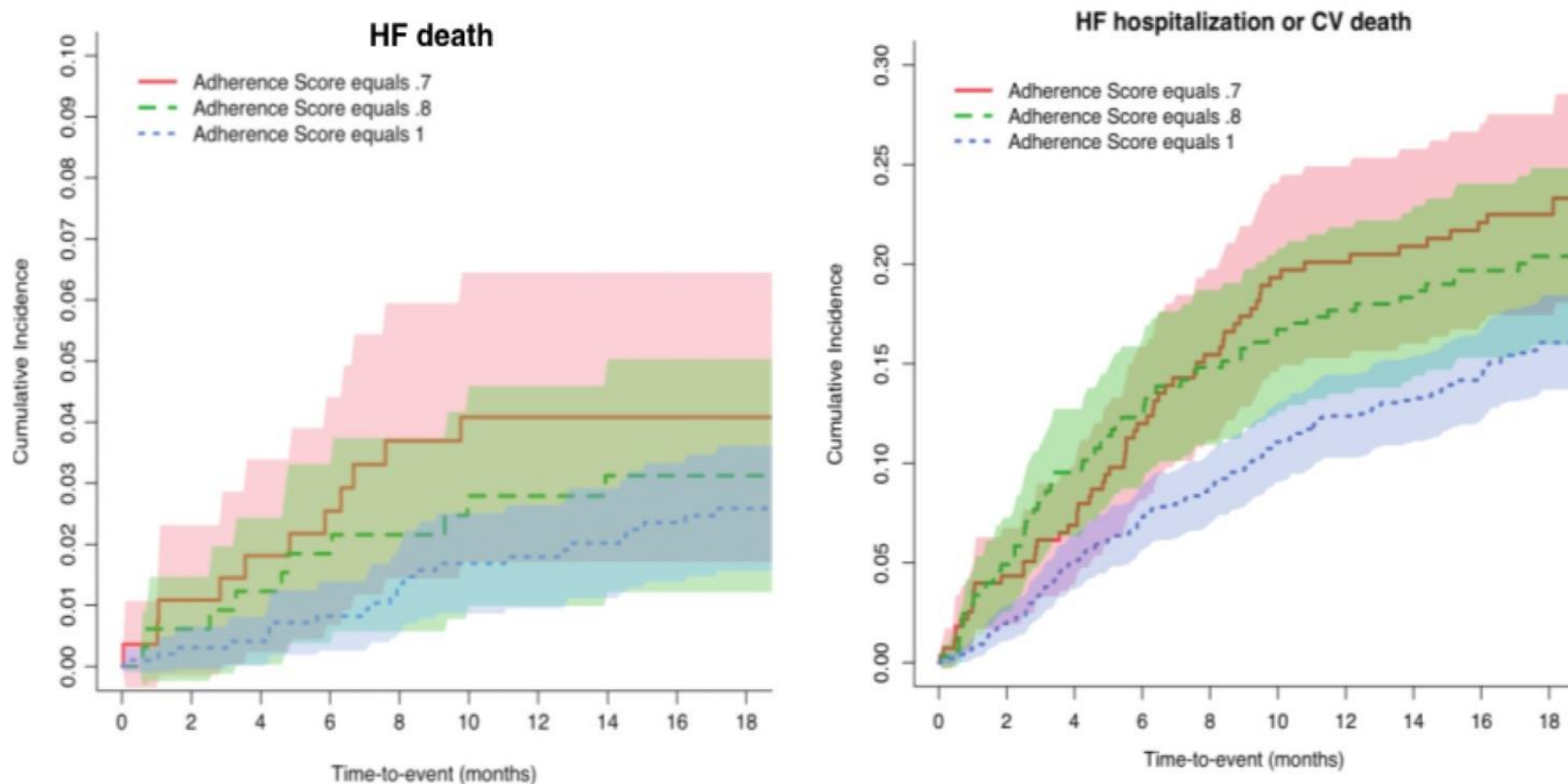
# Titration of GDMT in HFrEF: Data from CHAMP-HF

## Dose of Medication at 12-Month Follow-Up Compared With Baseline



- Over 12 months, < 1% of patients were simultaneously treated with target doses of ACEI/ARB/ARNI, beta-blocker, and MRA
- Medical reasons were the most common reasons for discontinuations and dose decreases of each therapy, but the relative contributions from patient preference, health team, and systems-based reasons varied by medication

# QUALIFY: Suboptimal Adherence to GDMT Associated with Reduced Outcomes in HFrEF



18 months follow up data on 6118 ambulatory patients with HFrEF from 549 centres in 36 countries.  
Komajda M, et al. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2019;21:921-929.

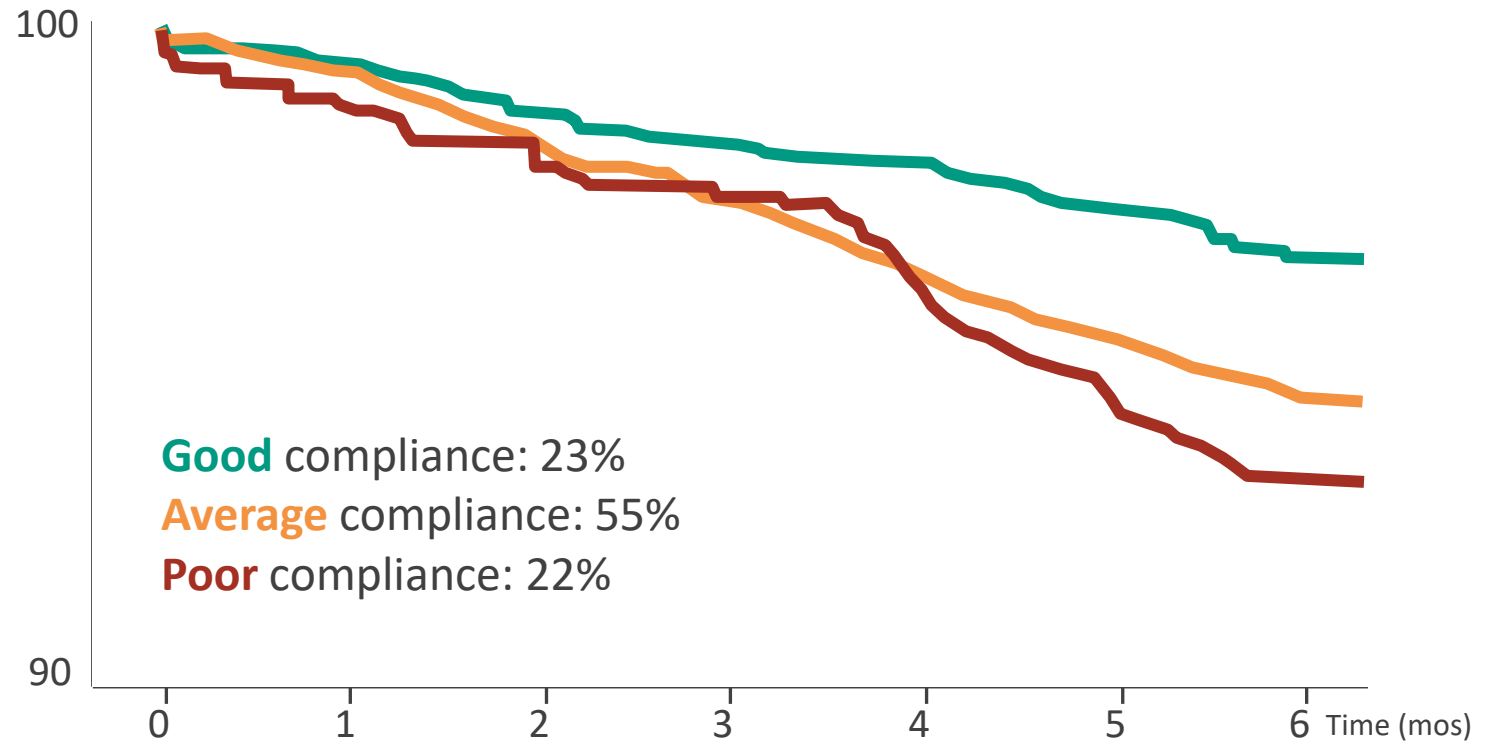


# Missed opportunities to prolong survival in HFrEF

## Impact of physician adherence to guidelines on overall survival

**Management of HFrEF**

|   |                      |   |                       |                        |
|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| To reduce mortality - for all patients                          |                      |   |                       |                        |
| ACE-I/ARNI  | BB                   | MRA   | SGLT2i                |                        |
| To reduce HF hospitalization/mortality - for selected patients  |                      |   |                       |                        |
| Volume overload   |                      |   |                       |                        |
| Diuretics   |                      |   |                       |                        |
| SR with LBBB $\geq 150$ ms                                      |                      | SR with LBBB 130-149 ms or non LBBB $\geq 150$ ms |                       |                        |
| CRT-P/D   |                      | CRT-P/D   |                       |                        |
| Ischaemic aetiology   |                      | Non-Ischaemic aetiology                           |                       |                        |
| ICD   |                      | ICD   |                       |                        |
| Atrial fibrillation   | Atrial fibrillation  | Coronary artery disease                           | Iron deficiency       |                        |
| Anticoagulation   | Digoxin PVI          | CABG  | Ferric carboxymaltose |                        |
| Aortic stenosis   | Mitral regurgitation | Heart rate SR > 70 bpm                            | Black Race            | ACE-I/ARNI intolerance |
| SAVR/TAVI   | TEE MV Repair        | Ivabradine  | Hydralazine/ISDN      | ARB                    |
| For selected advanced HF patients                               |                      |   |                       |                        |
| Heart transplantation   |                      | MCS as BTT/BTC                                    |                       | Long-term MCS as DT    |
| To reduce HF hospitalization and improve QOL - for all patients |                      |   |                       |                        |
| Exercise rehabilitation   |                      |   |                       |                        |
| Multi-professional disease management                           |                      |   |                       |                        |



**QUALIFY registry**<sup>1</sup>: 6669 Pts w/ HFrEF and HF hospitalization 1-15 mos. Guideline adherence score: ACEi, ARB if ACEi not tolerated, BB, MRA (NYHA II-IV) and ivabradine (NYHA II-IV, SR  $\geq 70$ -75 bpm). Maximum points if drug prescribed at  $\geq 50\%$  maximum recommended dose in absence of a contraindication. 18 months follow up data in 6,118 Pts<sup>2</sup>: HF death and the composite of CV death or HF hospitalizations were predicted by adherence score.

# Challenges and Limitations of Current HFrEF Therapy: Summary

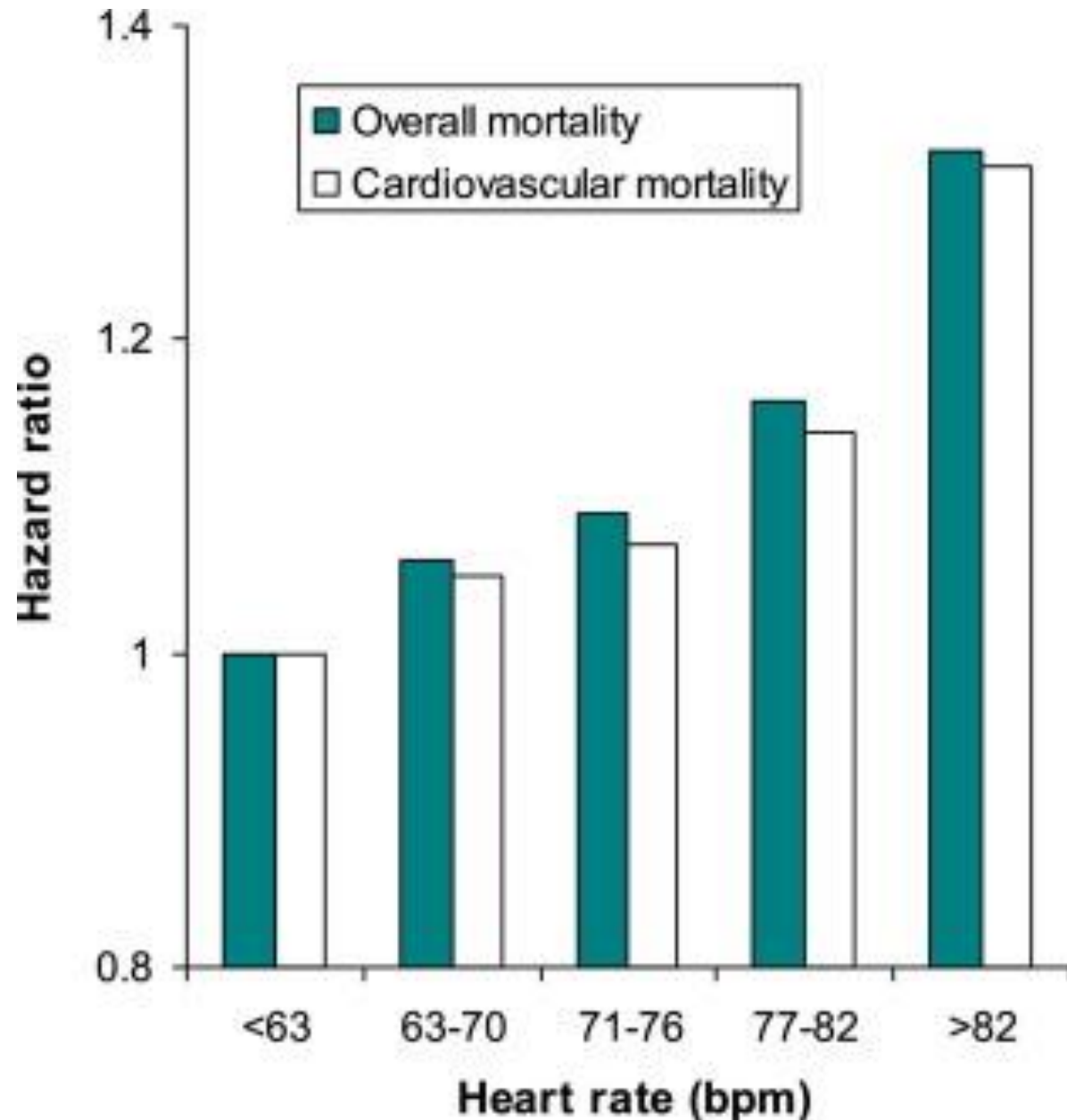
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- **Patients with HFrEF are at high risks for adverse outcomes**
- **optimizing treatment of HFrEF with existing therapies remains a key therapeutic goal**
- **There is still significant room for additional improvement in the treatment of patients with HFrEF**

# The cardiovascular risk factor “resting heart rate”

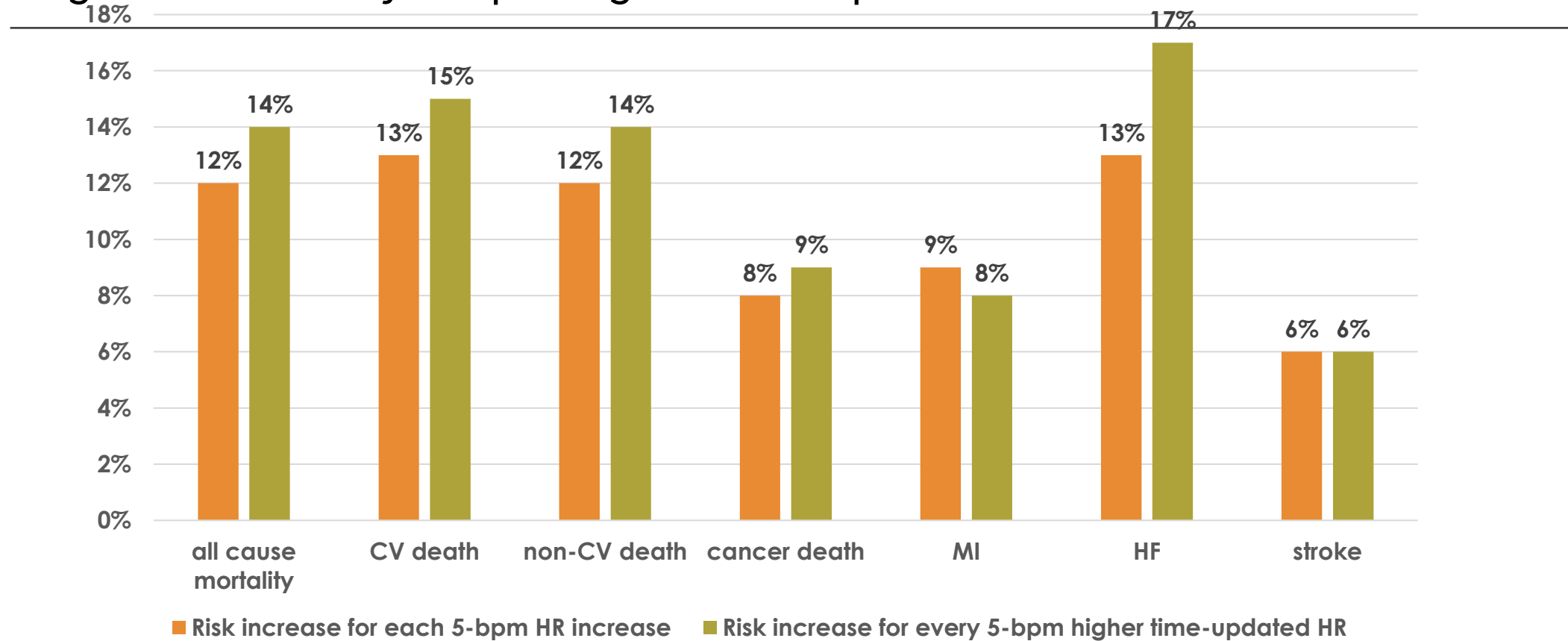
## Resting heart rate as a risk marker and risk factor

- **An elevated heart rate** causes shortening of the duration of the whole cardiac cycle, predominantly at the cost of diastolic duration because systolic time remains fairly stable.
- **The association of HR and diastolic duration** is not linear, showing disproportionate shortening of diastolic time with rising HR.
- In contrast, **slow HR** induce prolongation of diastolic duration, thereby improving coronary blood flow and oxygen supply, as **perfusion of coronary arteries occurs mainly in diastole.**



# Associations between HR and adverse outcomes

Increased risk of adverse outcomes with **each 5-bpm increase in HR** from the preceding visit and every 5-bpm higher time-updated HR\*

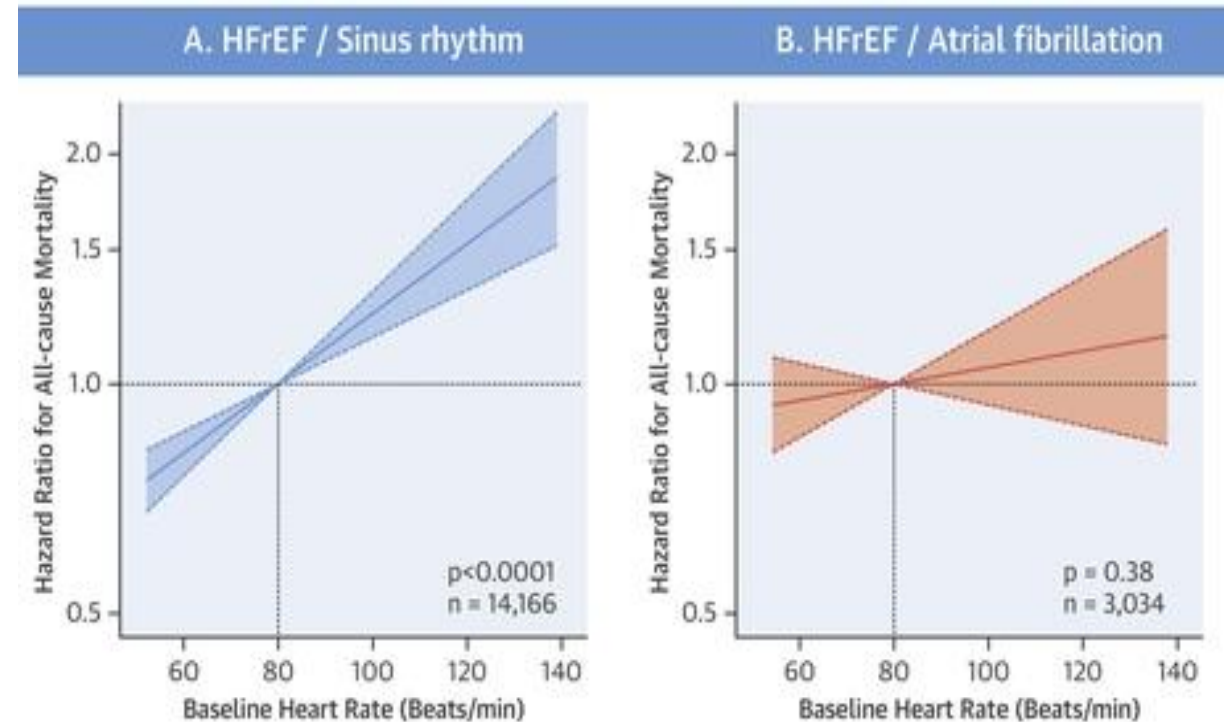


(\*) Time-updated HR is the most recent HR value measured before the occurrence of an event or at the end of a study  
HR: heart rate; bpm: beats per minute; CV: cardiovascular; MI: myocardial infarction; HF: heart failure

# Association of heart rate with outcomes in HFrEF

## Simple marker to help improve patients' lives

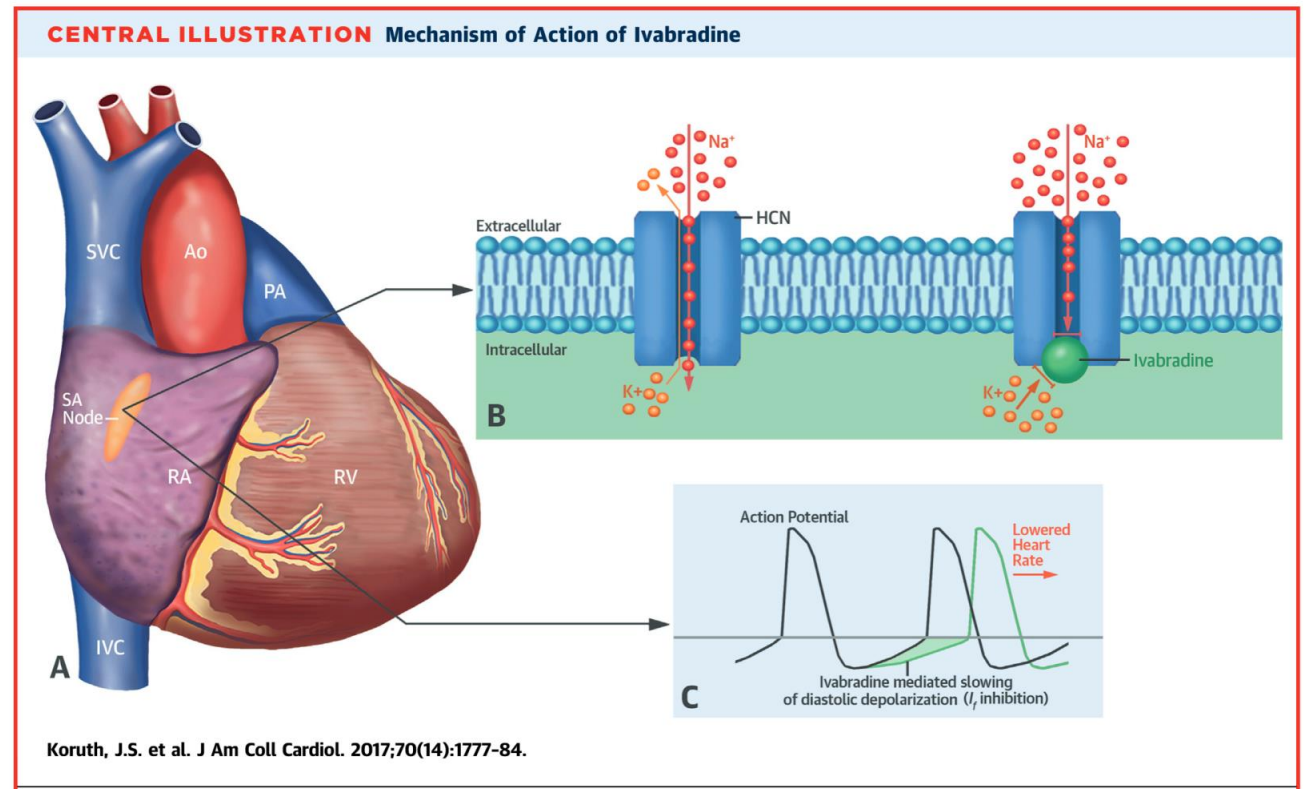
- These results<sup>1</sup> conclusively demonstrate the predictive value of pulse rate measured at time of diagnosis of HFrEF and during patient follow up
- A **lower pulse rate** at the time diagnosis and across follow-up encounters was strongly associated with **lower risk of mortality and hospitalization outcomes**, independent of BB treatment and dose
- Patients who had a **pulse rate  $\geq 70$  bpm in the past 6 months had 36%  $\uparrow$  mortality, 25%  $\uparrow$  all-cause hospitalizations, and 51%  $\uparrow$  HF hospitalization**, compared to patients with pulse rates  $< 70$  bpm
- Meta-analysis of 11 RCTs of BB in HF patients in SR showed significant positive linear association between HR at time of enrollment and all-cause mortality<sup>2</sup>



**Veterans Affairs (VA) national cohort:** 51,194 incident HFrEF cases ( $67 \pm 12$  years, 98% male) between 2006 and 2012. Average of  $6.3 \pm 3.6$  pulse measurements per patient updated at 6 month intervals over a median follow-up of 3.2 years. Objective: examine the associations of both baseline (time of HF diagnosis) and serially measured pulse rates, with mortality and days hospitalized per year for HF and for any cause.

# Ivabradine

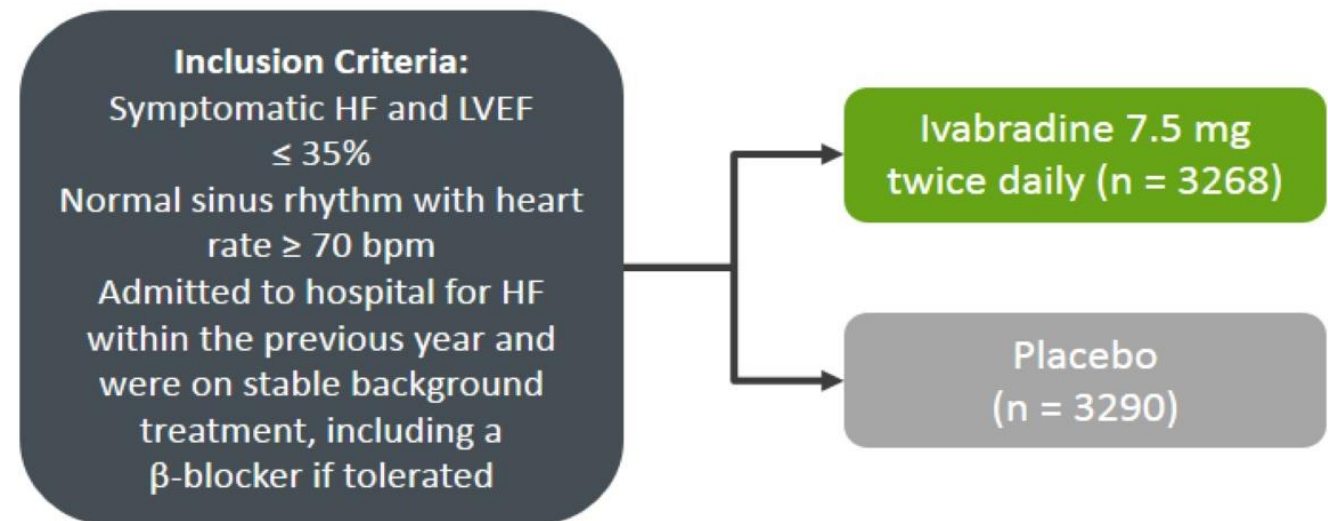
- Works on the sino-atrial node funny current slowing heart rate
- No effect on blood pressure
- No effect on contractility



# SHIFT

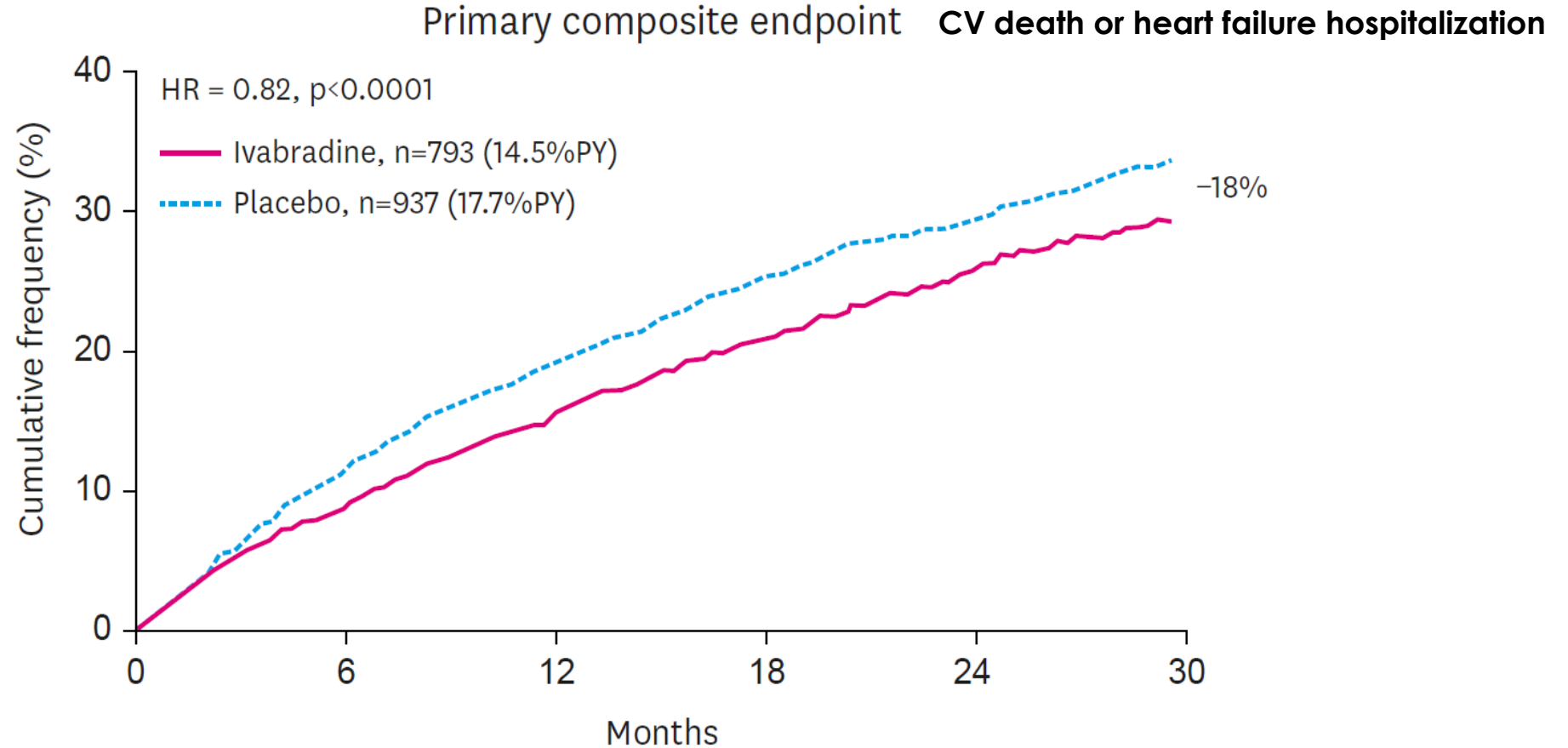
## Systolic Heart failure treatment with the $I_f$ inhibitor ivabradine Trial

- Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, parallel-group study; 6558 patients randomly assigned
- Study duration: median, 22.9 months; maximum ,41.7months



**Primary efficacy: composite of CV death or hospital admission for worsening HF**

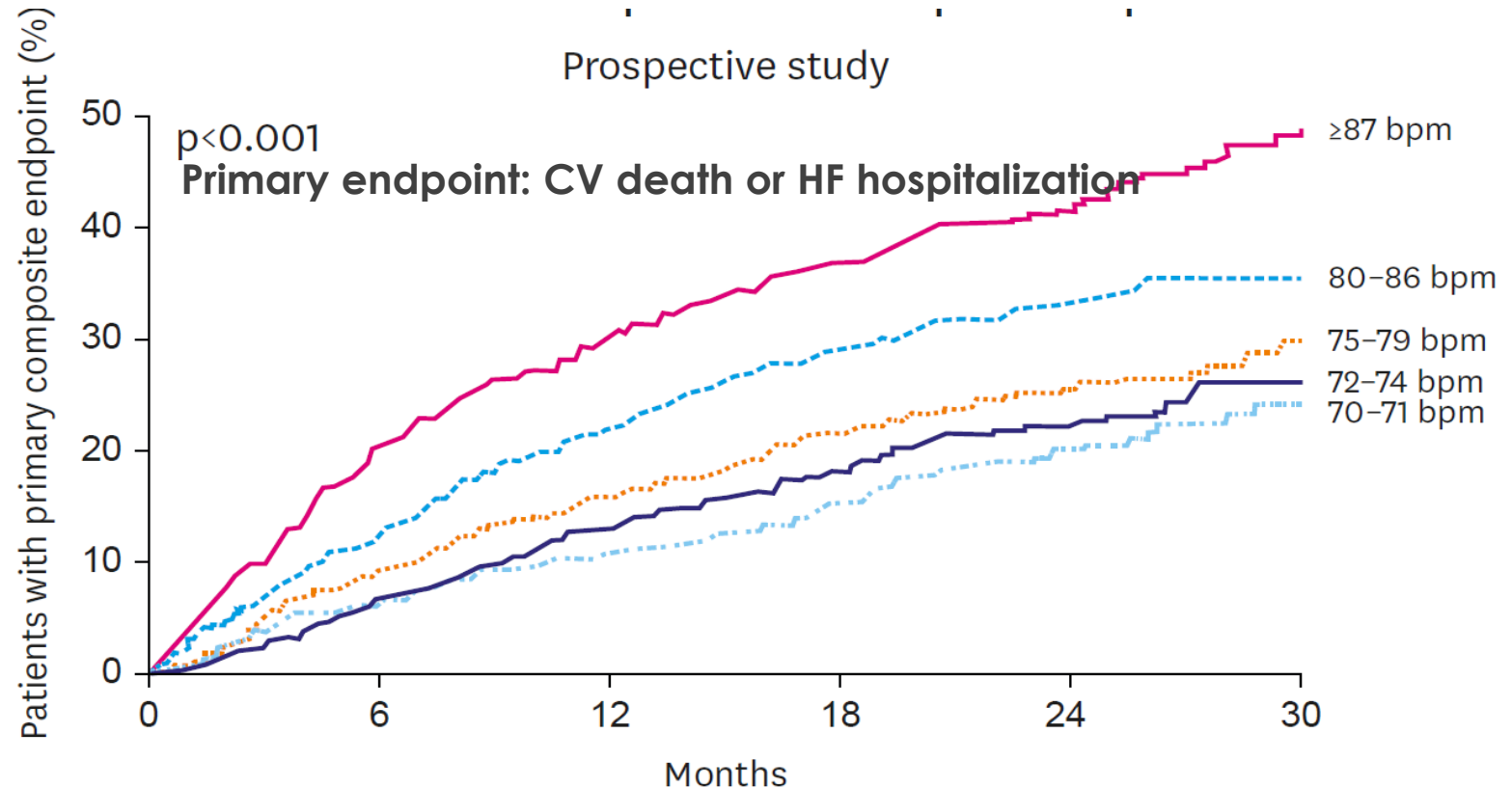
# Ivabradine improves outcomes in HFrEF



**Figure 3.** Kaplan Meier cumulative event curves for the primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalization) for ivabradine or placebo. Primary results of the SHIFT study. Modified according to 10. HR = hazard ratio; SHIFT = Systolic Heart failure treatment with the I<sub>f</sub>-inhibitor ivabradine Trial.



# Baseline HR is a predictor of endpoints on placebo



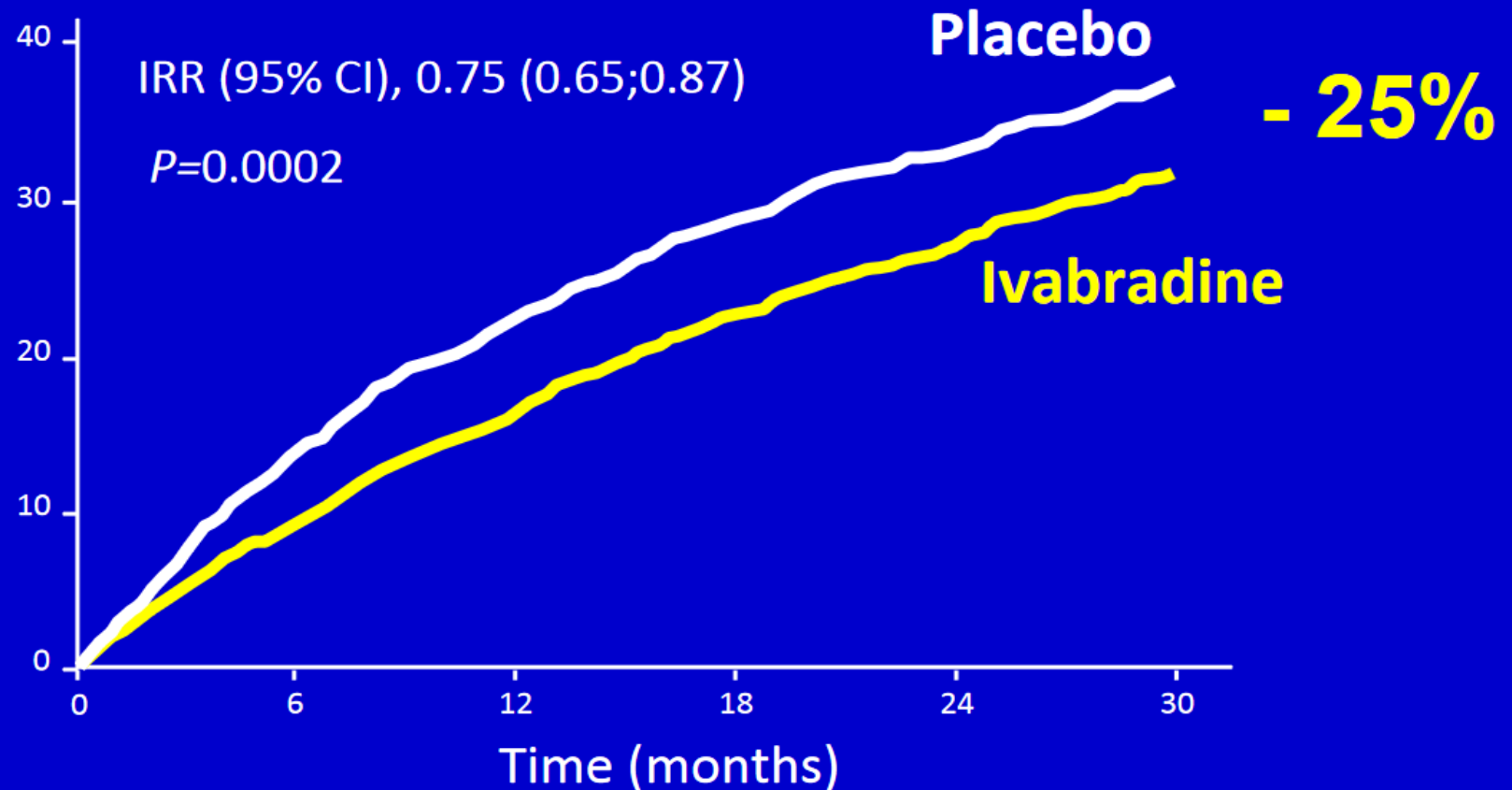
Primary composite endpoint: risk increases by 2.9% per 1 bpm increase, and by 15.6% per 5 bpm increase

**Figure 2.** Kaplan Meier cumulative event curves for the primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalization) according to patient groups defined by quintiles of heart rate at 28 days on placebo. Log rank  $p$  values show the difference between the groups. Modified according to 7.

# Ivabradine effect (on the top of guideline based treatment), heart rate reduction and HF hospitalizations

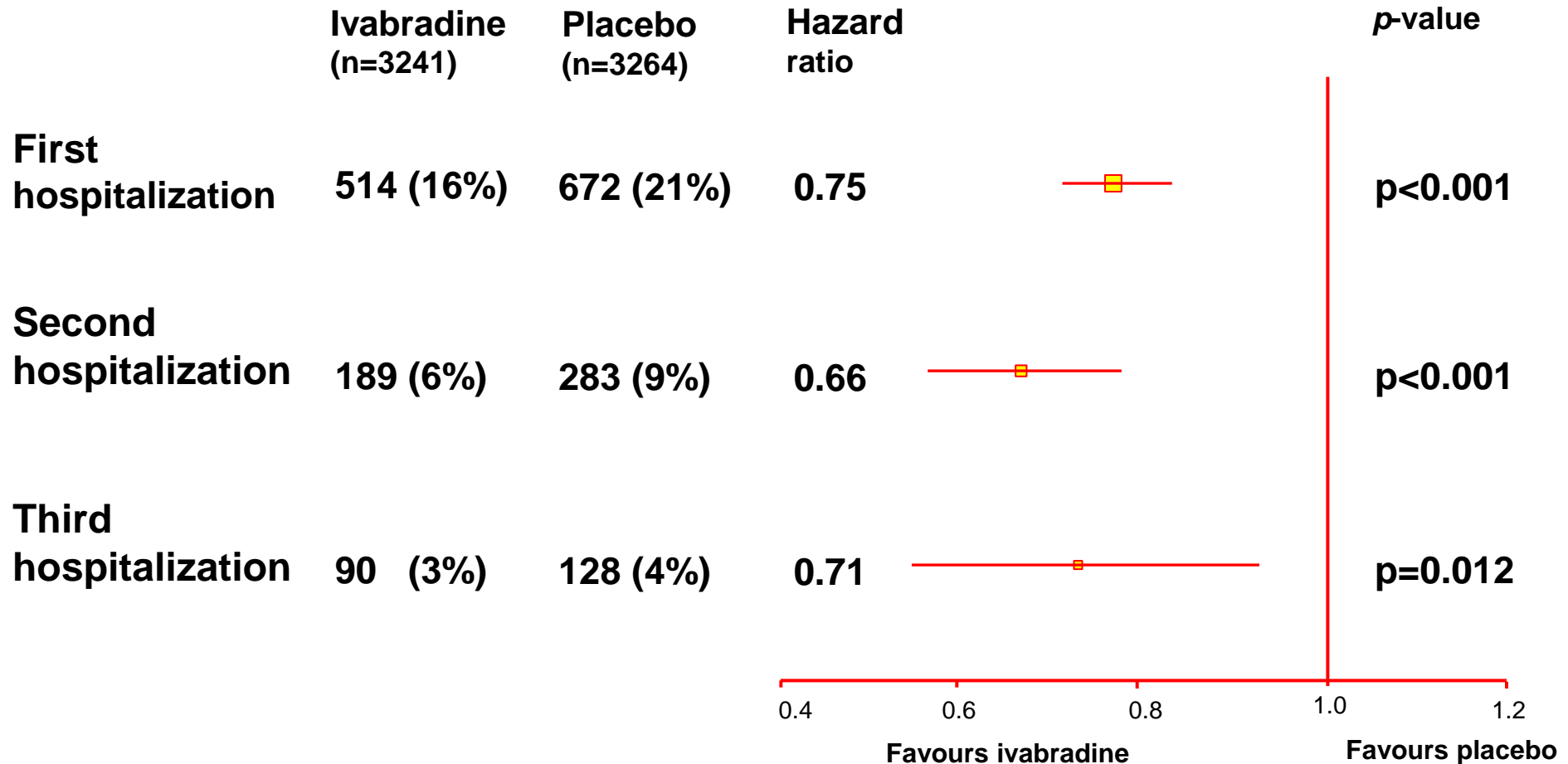


Cumulative incidence of HF hospitalizations (first and repeated)



# Recurrence of HF hospitalization

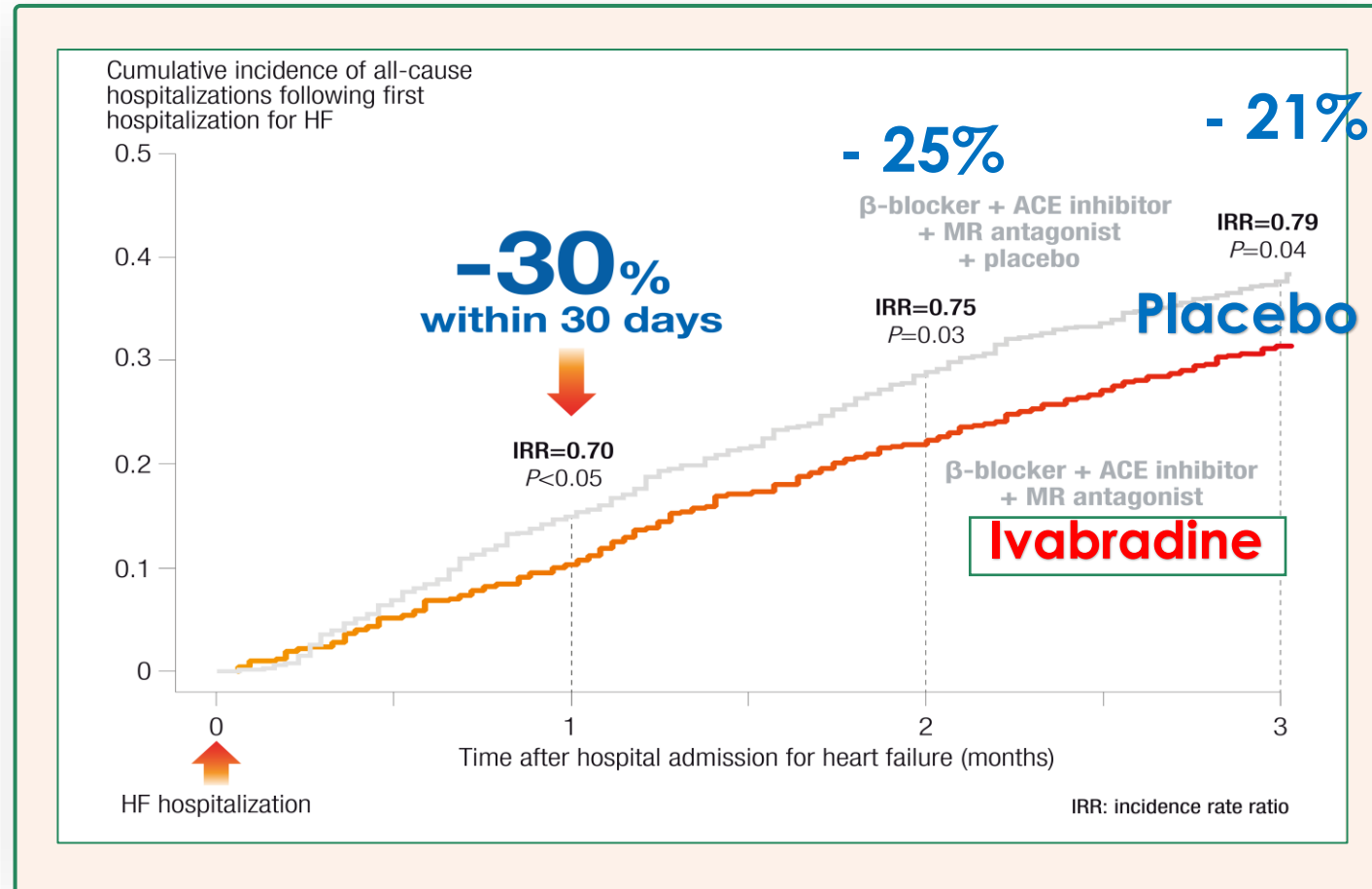
## Total-time approach



# Reduces the risk of early re-admissions when initiated Ivabradine BEFORE DISCHARGE

Earlier is better

Any hospitalization within 3 months of hospital discharge



# SHIFT trial: Mortality and Hospitalization

**SHIFT**

|                                  | Primary Endpoint                                | Mortality Endpoints |                   |                   | Other Endpoints                     |   |
|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
|                                  | CV death or hospital admission for worsening HF | All-cause mortality | CV mortality      | Death from HF     | Hospital admission for worsening HF | CV death, or hospital admission for worsening HF, or hospital admission for nonfatal MI |
| <b>Ivabradine group (n=3241)</b> | 793 (24%)                                       | 503 (16%)           | 449 (14%)         | 113 (3%)          | 514 (16%)                           | 825 (25%)   |
| <b>Placebo group (n=3264)</b>    | 937 (29%)                                       | 552 (17%)           | 491 (15%)         | 151 (5%)          | 672 (21%)                           | 979 (30%)   |
| <b>HR (95% CI)</b>               | 0.82 (0.75, 0.90)                               | 0.90 (0.80, 1.02)   | 0.91 (0.80, 1.03) | 0.74 (0.58, 0.94) | 0.74 (0.66, 0.83)                   | 0.82 (0.74, 0.89)   |
| <b>P Value</b>                   | < .0001   | .092                | .128              | .014              | < .0001                             | < .0001   |

# Ivabradine improves outcomes in HFrEF

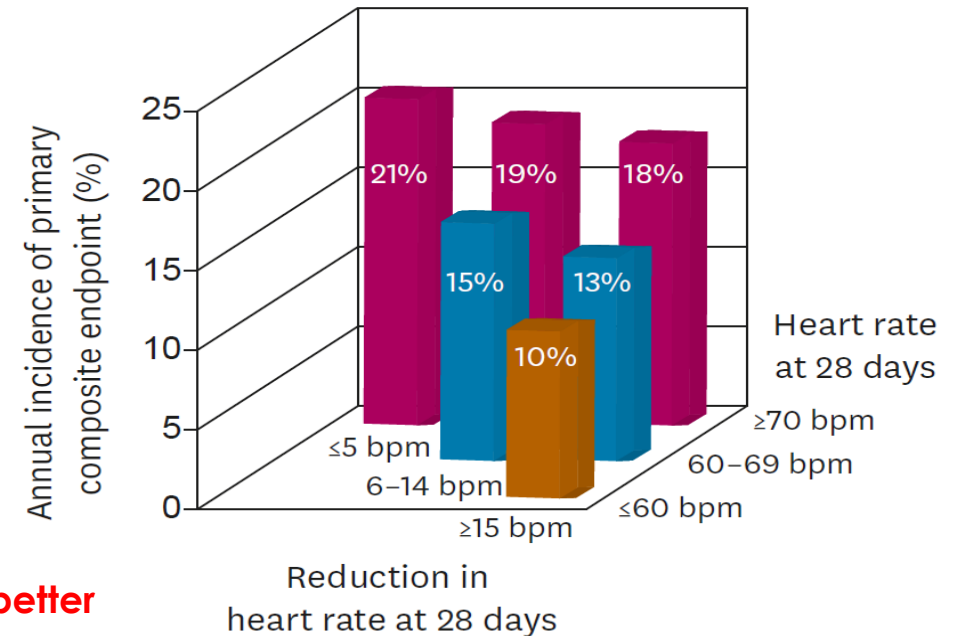
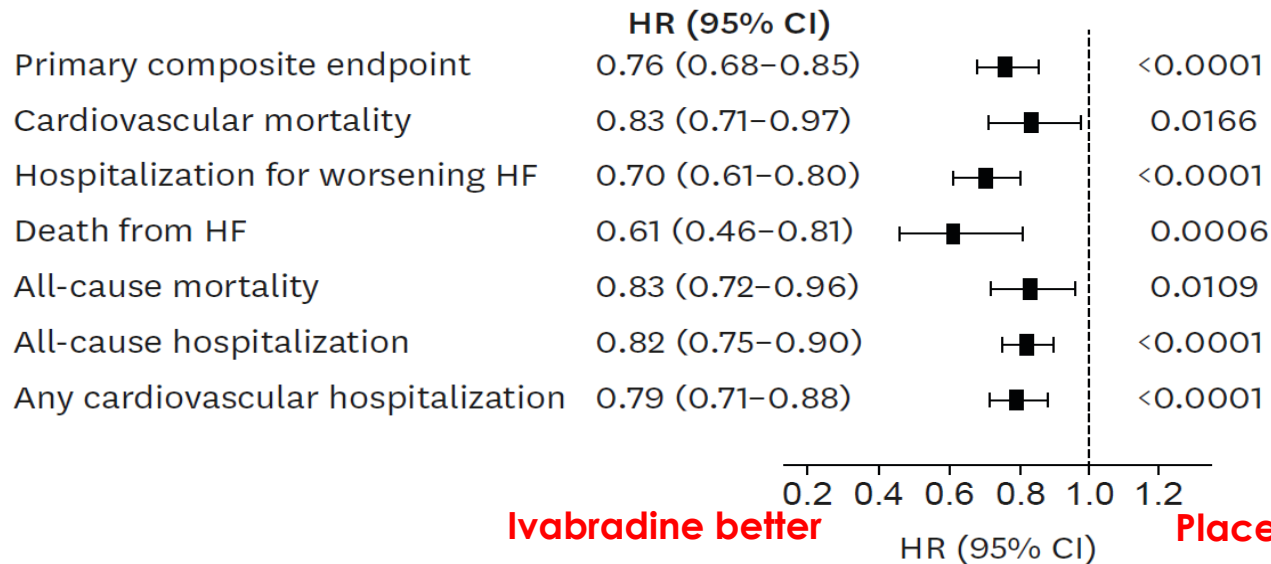


6505 patients with HF and LVEF≤35%, NYHA II-IV, SR ≥70 bpm, and at least one HF hospitalization in the past 12 months.

## Effects in subgroup of patients with baseline HR ≥75 bpm

Effect of ivabradine on outcomes

≥75 bpm



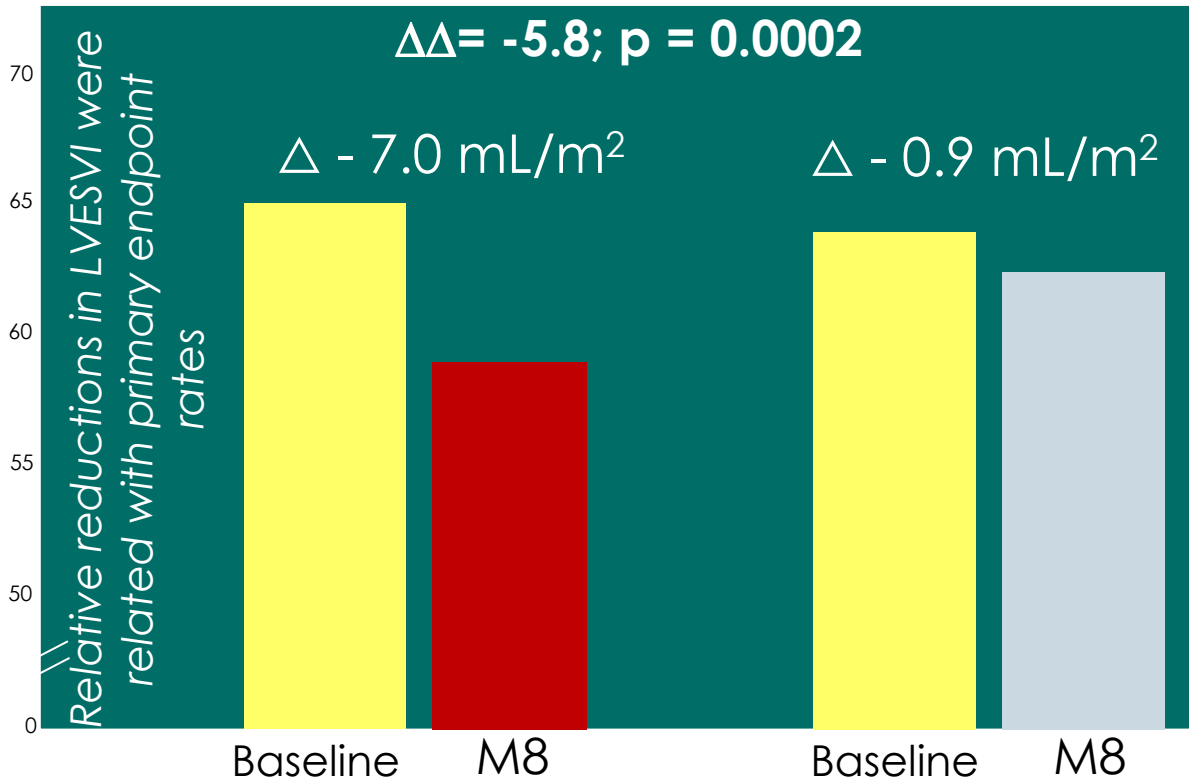
**Figure 4.** Forest plots (left) demonstrating the hazard ratio (with 95% CIs) for the primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death or HF hospitalization), cardiovascular mortality, hospitalization for worsening of HF, death from HF, all-cause mortality, all-cause hospitalization and any cardiovascular hospitalization for ivabradine compared to placebo. On the right hand side, the annual incidents of the primary composite endpoint are given according to heart rate achieved after up-titration of ivabradine at 28 days or reduction of heart rate at 28 days. Please note that all endpoints were significantly reduced and this reduction is closely associated with heart rate achieved and heart rate reduction in patients with chronic HF at a heart rate ≥ 75 bpm. Modified according to 24. CI = confidence interval; HF= heart failure; HR = hazard ratio.

# Ivabradine improves outcomes in HFrEF

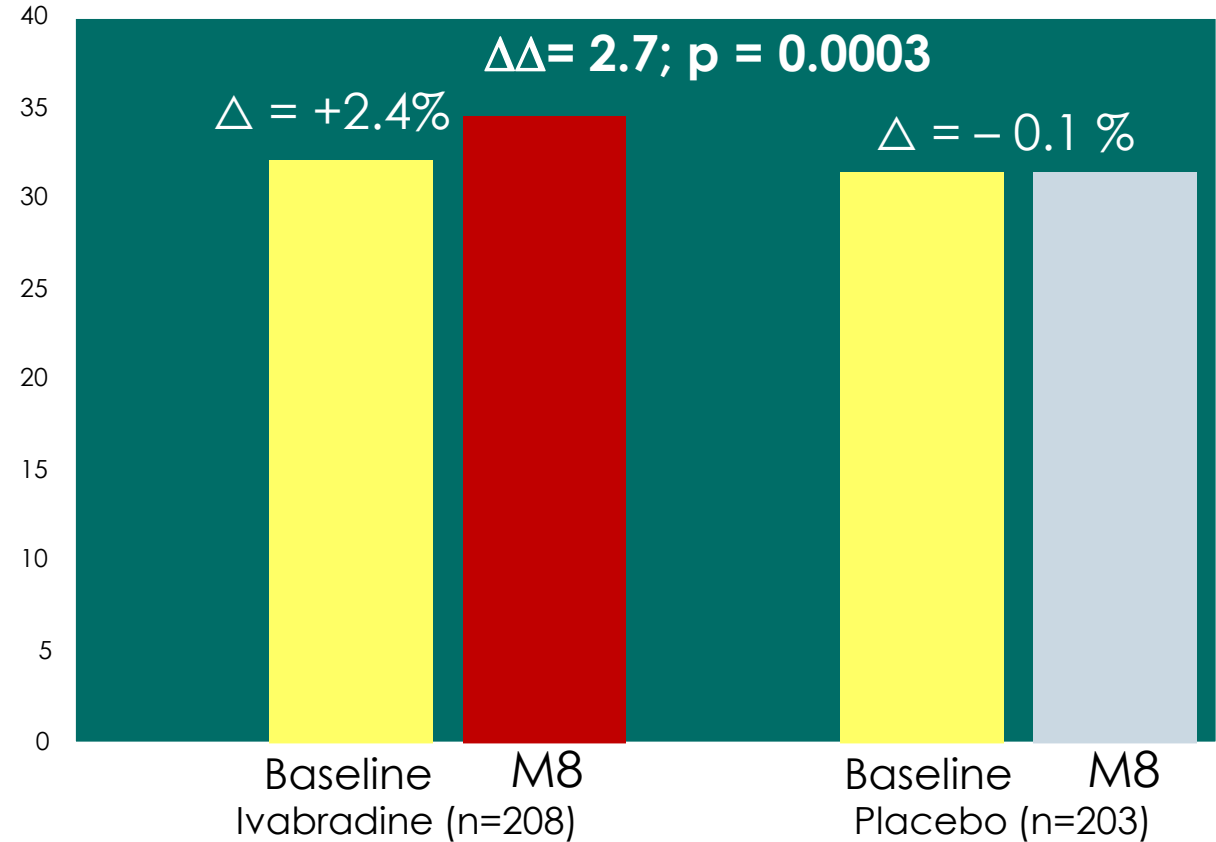


Mechanism of benefit includes reverse remodeling

### LV endsystolic volume index



### LV ejection fraction



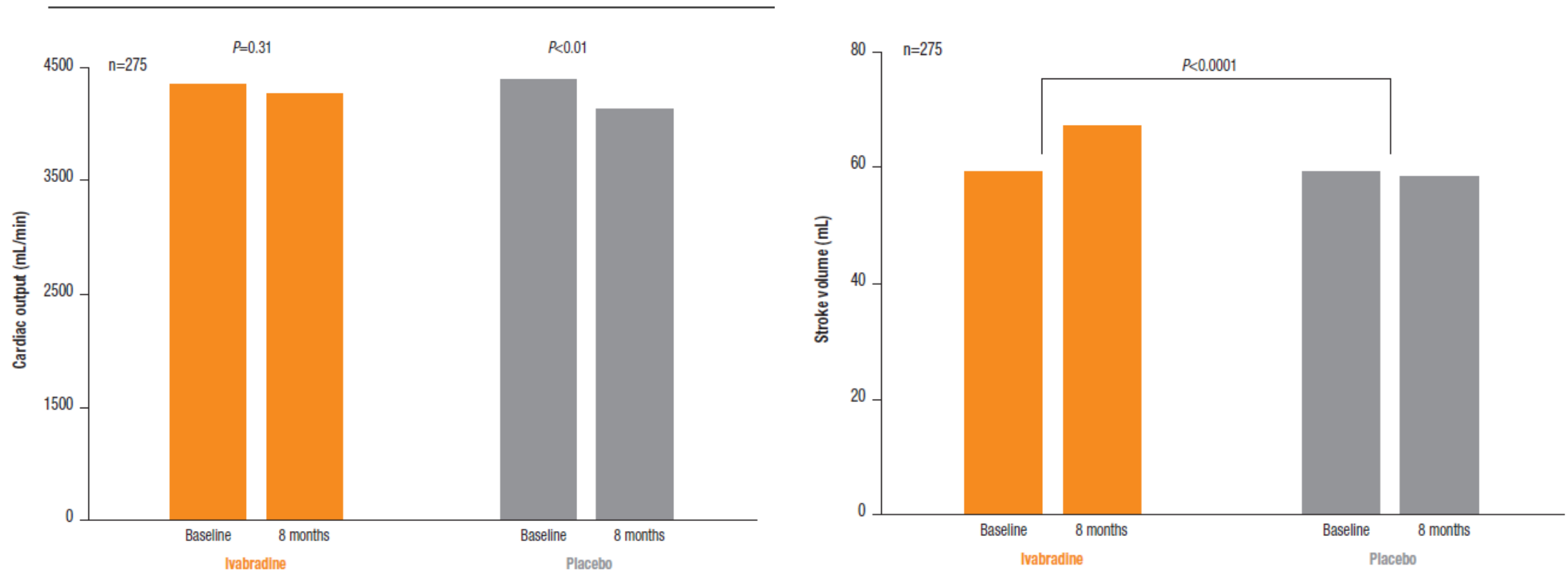
**SHIFT:** 6505 patients with HF and LVEF $\leq$ 35%, NYHA II-IV, SR  $\geq$ 70 bpm, and at least one HF hospitalization in the past 12 months. Patients were randomly assigned to ivabradine titrated to a maximum of 7.5 mg bid or matching placebo. Echo substudy included 613 patients.

Medical therapy at baseline included 91% ACEi/ARB and 90% BB. Median follow up 23 months. Primary endpoint: CV death or HF hospitalization.



# Ivabradine and cardiac haemodynamic parameters<sup>1</sup>

Cardiac output is maintained as stroke volume increases [SHIFT study]



Ivabradine or placebo is given on top of guideline-recommended therapy including ACE inhibitor,  $\beta$ -blocker, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist

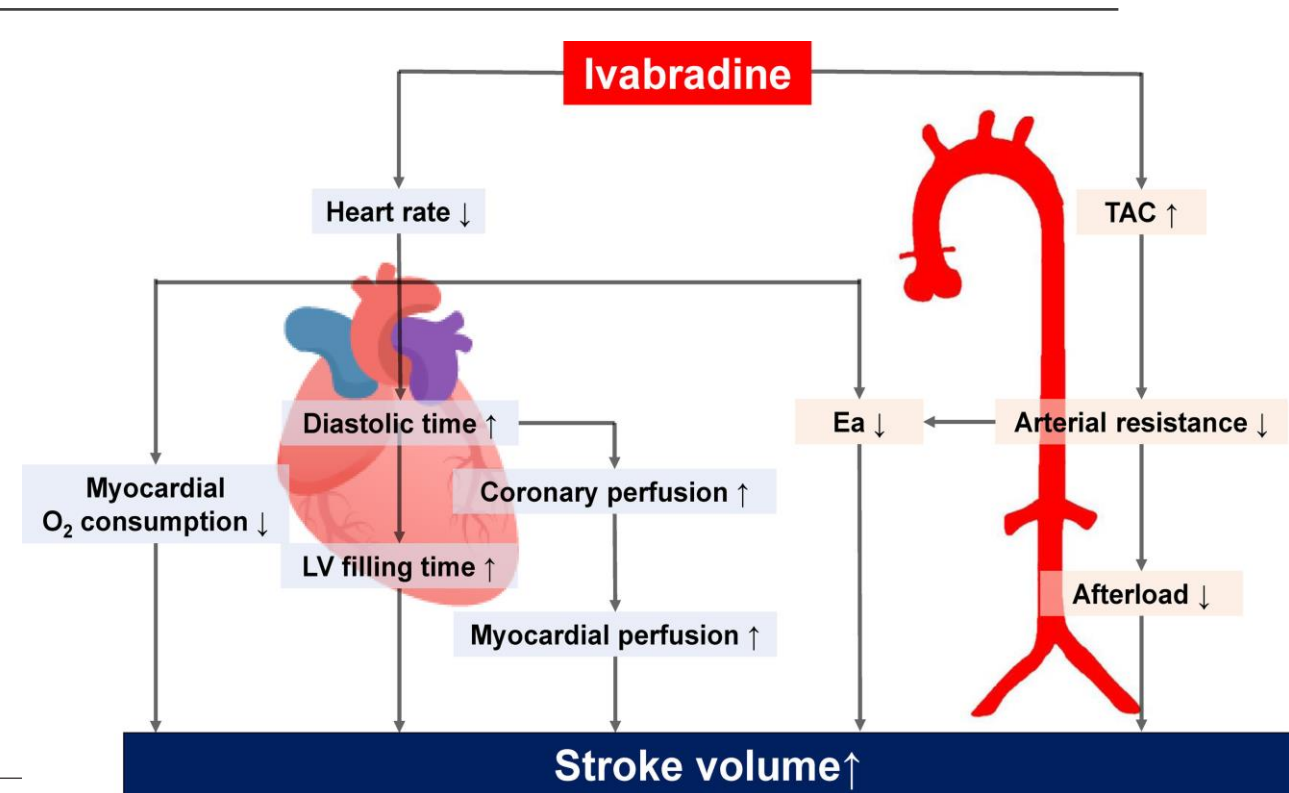
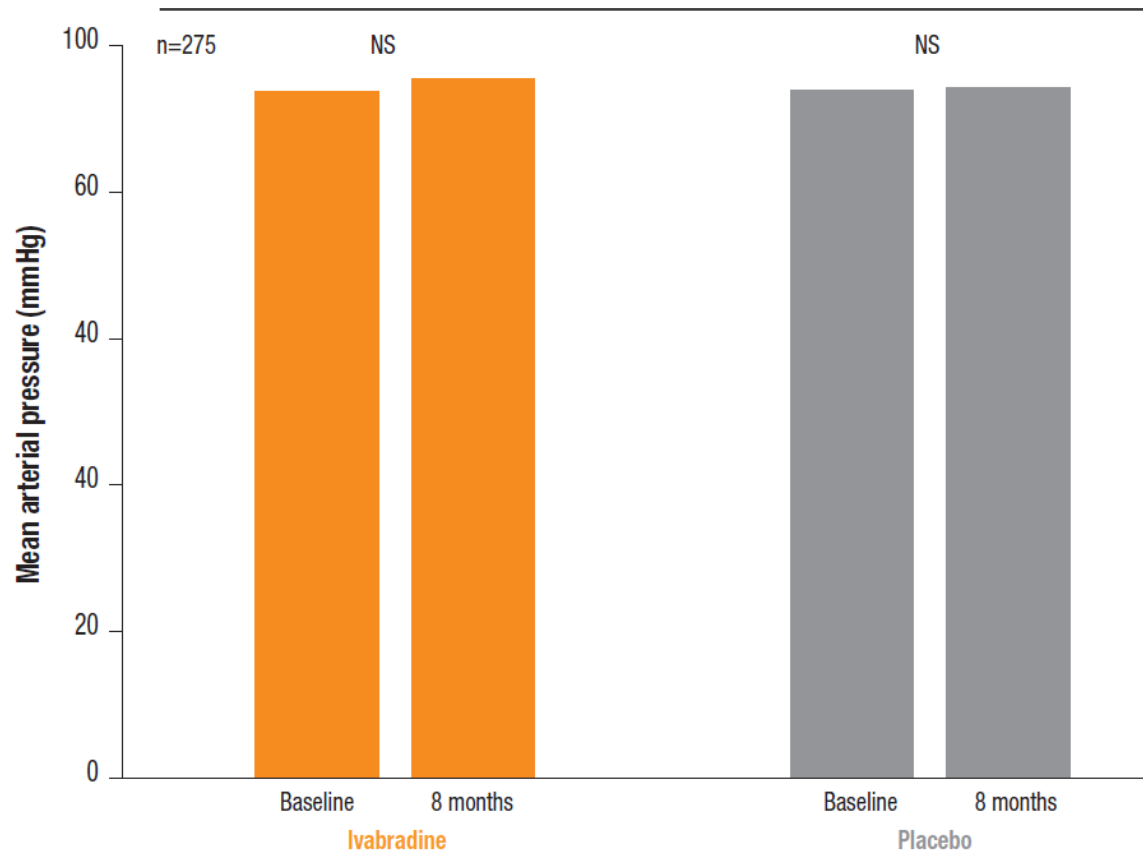
1. Reil JC, Tardif JC, Ford I, et al. Selective heart rate reduction with ivabradine unloads the left ventricle in heart failure patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2013;62(21):1977-1985





# Ivabradine and cardiac haemodynamic parameters<sup>1</sup>

Blood pressure is maintained in heart failure patients [SHIFT study]



Ivabradine or placebo is given on top of guideline-recommended therapy including ACE inhibitor,  $\beta$ -blocker, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist

1. Reil JC, Tardif JC, Ford I, et al. Selective heart rate reduction with ivabradine unloads the left ventricle in heart failure patients. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2013;62(21):1977-1985

# Ivabradine and beta-blocker combination therapy

## Treatment synergies

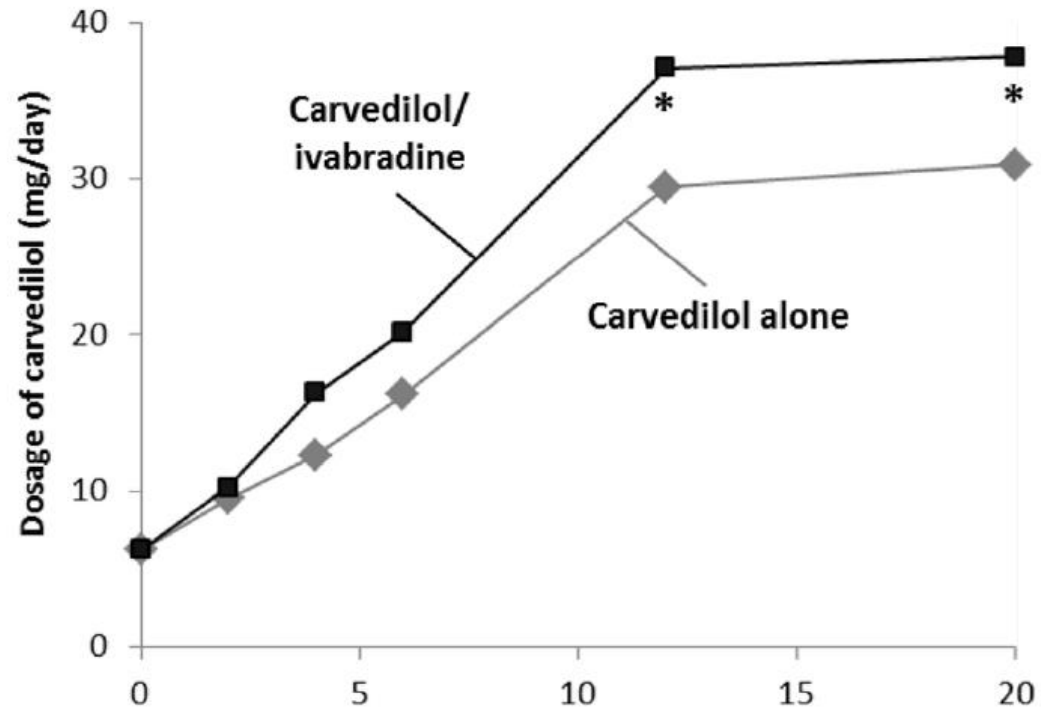
|                        | B-Bloq | Ivab |
|------------------------|--------|------|
| Heart rate             | ↓      | ↓    |
| <b>Systolic volume</b> | ↓      | ↑    |
| Cardiac output         | ↓      | ↔    |
| Blood pressure         | ↓      | ↔    |

- In the **normal heart**, increasing the HR (e.g., exercise) has a **positive inotropic** effect and ↑velocity of both ventricular contraction and relaxation
- In the **HF-rEF heart**, the opposite occurs, and this explains the intolerance to exercise: impaired Ca entry into myocardial cells and less proteins available to transport Ca back into the sarcoplasmic reticulum
- **Reducing HR in HFrEF is useful because it increases the force of contraction**
- **Ivabradine increases systolic volume**

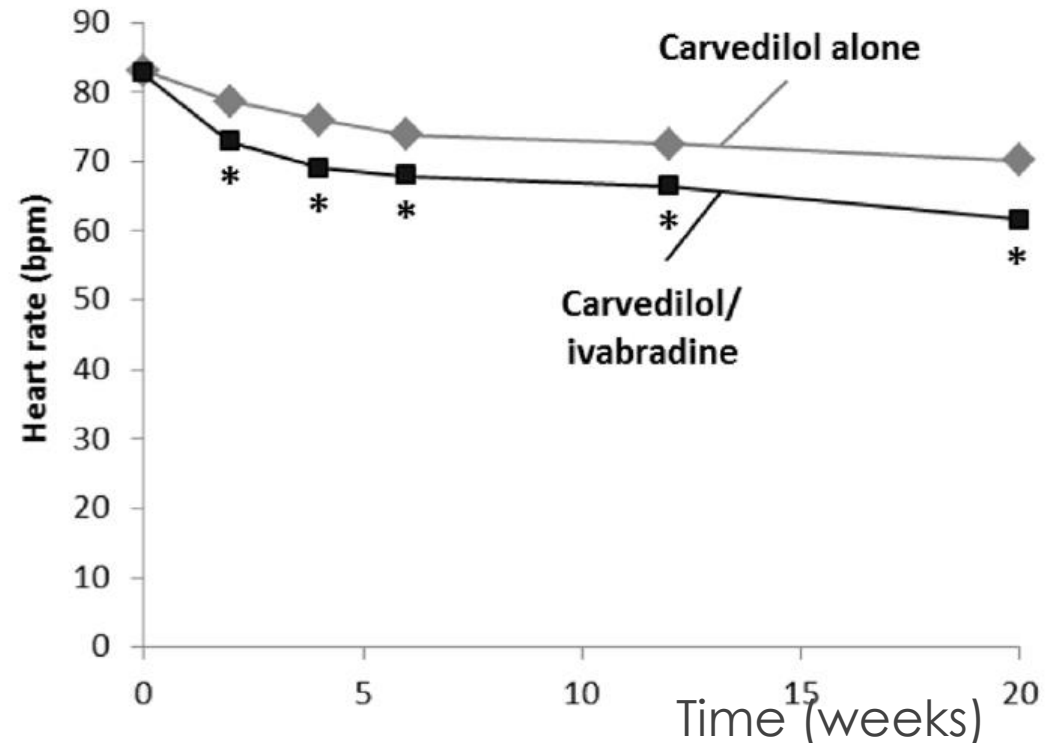
# Ivabradine and carvedilol combination therapy

## Early benefits

### Facilitates carvedilol titration



### Improves HR reduction



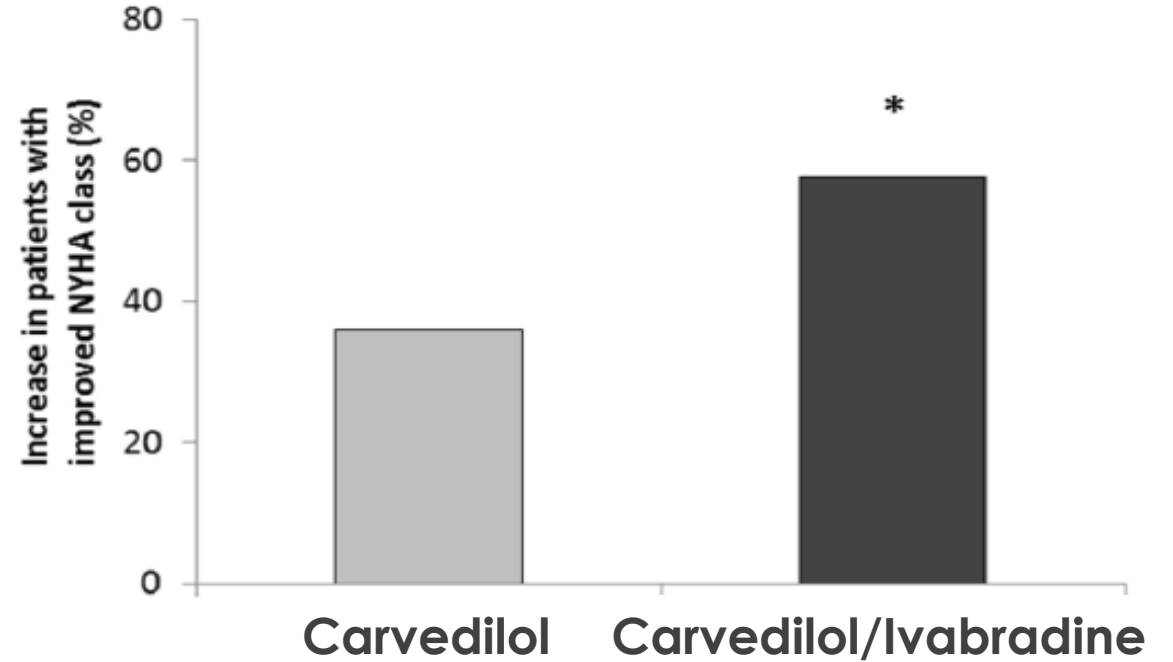
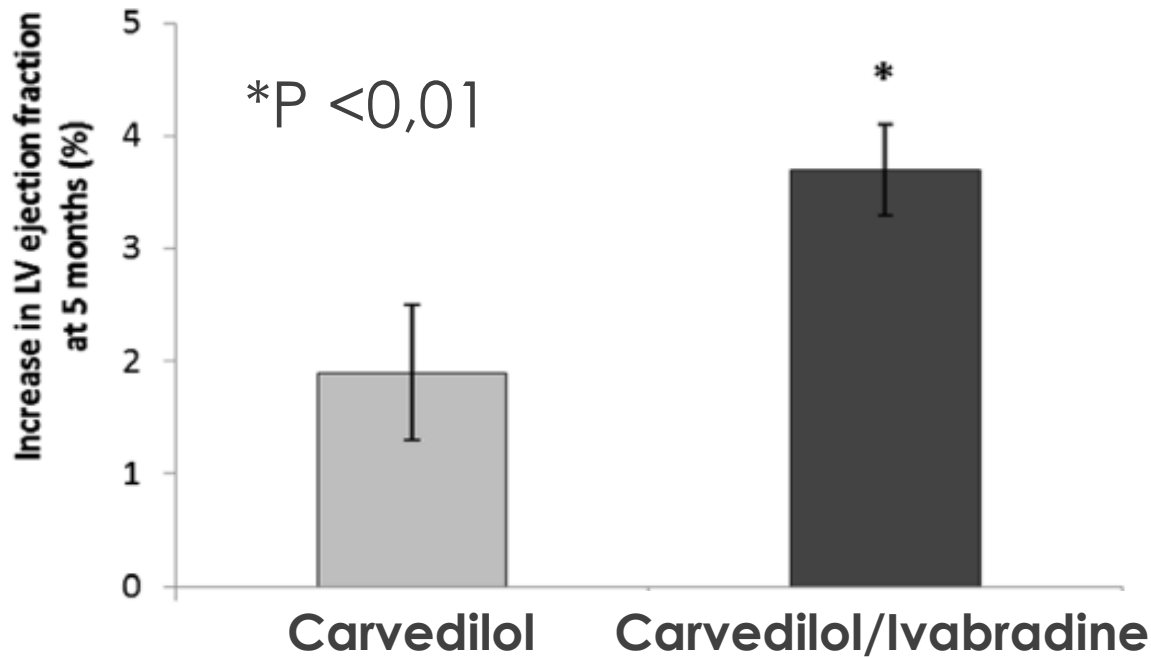
69 Pts with prior MI and HFrEF in NYHA II/III, SR  $\geq 70$ , not on BB. Carvedilol 3.125 mg bid, dose doubled q2 weeks up to maximal tolerated dose (max 25 mg bid). Ivabradine 5 mg bid started on 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> day, increased to 7.5 mg bid at 1 month if HR  $\geq 70$ .

# Ivabradine and carvedilol combination therapy

## Early benefits

### Improves systolic function

### Improves functional capacity

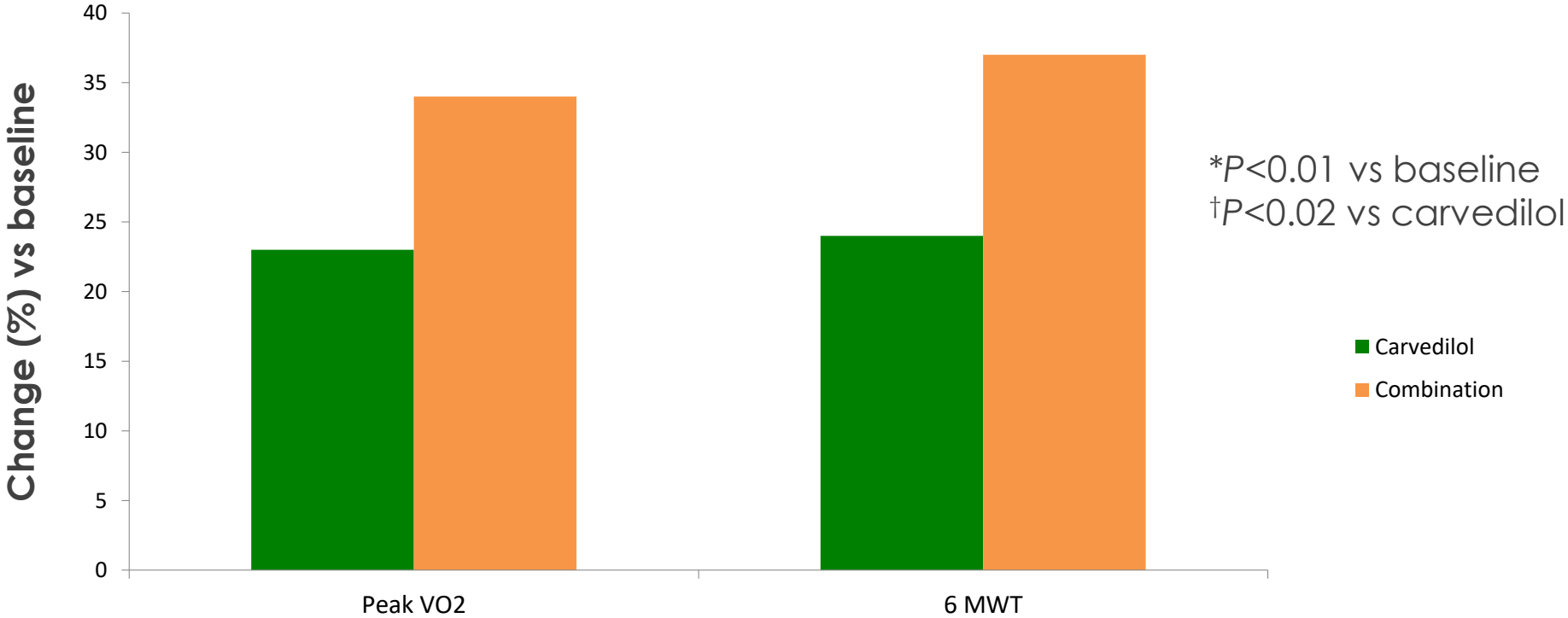


69 Pts with prior MI and HFrEF in NYHA II/III, SR  $\geq 70$ , not on BB. Carvedilol 3.125 mg bid, dose doubled q2 weeks up to maximal tolerated dose (max 25 mg bid). Ivabradine 5 mg bid started on 2<sup>nd</sup> /3<sup>rd</sup> day, increased to 7.5 mg bid at 1 month if HR  $\geq 70$ .

# Ivabradine and carvedilol combination therapy

## Early benefits

### Improves exercise capacity at 12 weeks

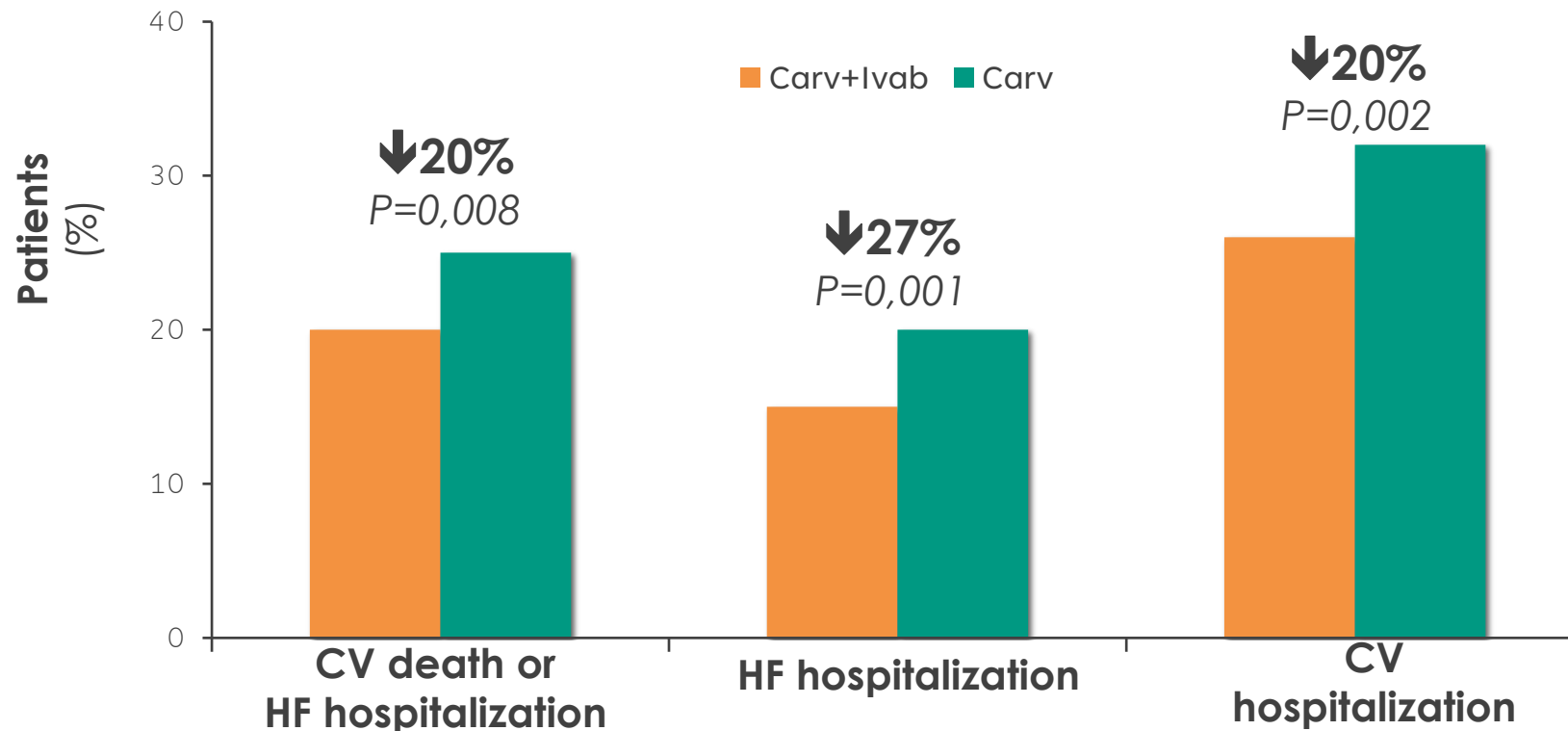


**CARVIVA-HF:** 121 HFrEF patients in NYHA II or III. ACEi taken in maximum tolerated doses.

# Ivabradine and carvedilol combination therapy

## Long term benefits

### Increased life expectancy and survival free from HF hospitalizations



**SHIFT-Carvedilol:** 6505 patients with HF and LVEF $\leq$ 35%, NYHA II-IV, SR  $\geq$ 70 bpm, and at least one HF hospitalization in the past 12 months. Patients were randomly assigned to ivabradine titrated to a maximum of 7.5 mg bid or matching placebo.

Medical therapy at baseline included 91% ACEi/ARB and 90% BB. Median follow up 23 months. Primary endpoint: CV death or HF hospitalization. 2596 Dts tratados com Carvedilol (45% dos tratados com BB).

# Heart rate and outcomes in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

## A dose-response meta-analysis

Xiaoke Shang, MD<sup>a</sup>, Rong Lu, MD<sup>b</sup>, Mei Liu, MD<sup>b</sup>, Shuna Xiao, MD<sup>c</sup>, Nianguo Dong, MD, PhD<sup>a,\*</sup>

positive relationships were significant in patients with SR but not in those with AF. Higher heart rate in SR is a risk factor for adverse outcomes in patients with HFpEF.

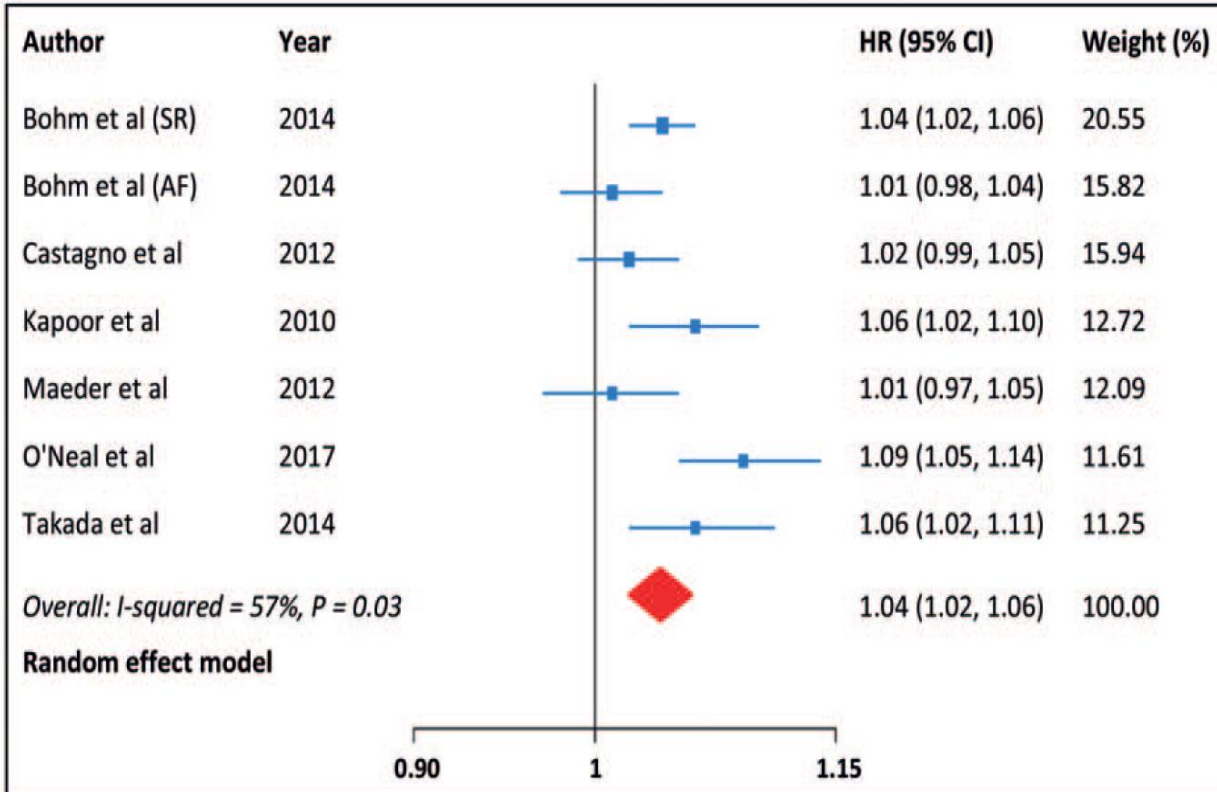


Figure 2. All-cause death for each 10bpm increase in heart rate.

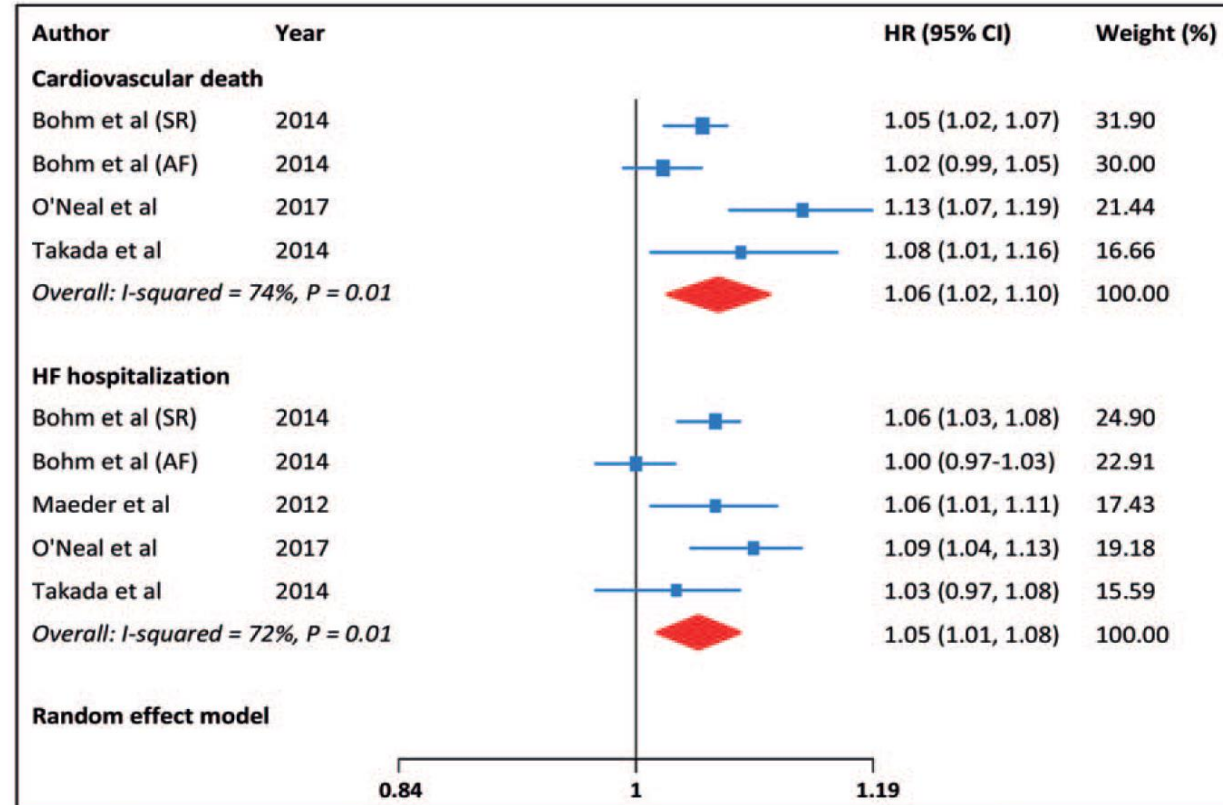


Figure 5. Cardiovascular death and HF hospitalization for each 10bpm increase in heart rate.

# Heart Rate and Outcomes in Hospitalized Patients With Heart Failure With Preserved Ejection Fraction



Phillip H. Lam, MD,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Daniel J. Dooley, MD,<sup>a,b,c</sup> Prakash Deedwania, MD,<sup>a,d</sup> Steven N. Singh, MD,<sup>b,e</sup> Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH,<sup>f,g</sup> Charity J. Morgan, PhD,<sup>h</sup> Javed Butler, MD, MPH, MBA,<sup>i</sup> Selma F. Mohammed, MD, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Wen-Chih Wu, MD,<sup>j,k</sup> Gurusher Panjra, MD,<sup>l</sup> Michael R. Zile, MD,<sup>m,n</sup> Michel White, MD,<sup>o</sup> Cherinne Arundel, MD,<sup>b,l,p</sup> Thomas E. Love, PhD,<sup>q</sup> Marc R. Blackman, MD,<sup>a,b,l</sup> Richard M. Allman, MD,<sup>r</sup> Wilbert S. Aronow, MD,<sup>s,t</sup> Stefan D. Anker, MD, PhD,<sup>u,v</sup> Gregg C. Fonarow, Ali Ahmed, MD, MPH<sup>a,l,x</sup>

## CONCLUSIONS

In hospitalized older patients with **HFpEF**, a **discharge HR <70 beats/min** was independently associated with a **lower risk of all-cause mortality**, but had no association with all-cause or HF readmission. These findings suggest that the beneficial association of a lower HR and improved survival observed in patients with HFrEF might extend to those with HFpEF. Future studies are needed to develop and test interventions that might improve outcomes in patients with HFpEF and elevated HR.

**TABLE 2 Outcomes in Propensity Score-Matched Patients**

|  | Events                                     |                                      | Hazard Ratio (95% CI) | p Value |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|
|  | Heart Rate $\geq 70$ Beats/Min (n = 2,031) | Heart Rate <70 Beats/Min (n = 2,031) |                       |         |
| All-cause mortality                              | 70 (1,422)                                 | 65 (1,317)                           | 0.86 (0.80-0.93)      | <0.001  |
| All-cause readmission                            | 89 (1,810)                                 | 90 (1,830)                           | 1.01 (0.95-1.08)      | 0.681   |
| Heart failure readmission                        | 48 (966)                                   | 47 (956)                             | 0.93 (0.85-1.02)      | 0.111   |
| All-cause readmission or all-cause mortality     | 97 (1,964)                                 | 97 (1,968)                           | 1.01 (0.94-1.07)      | 0.880   |
| Heart failure readmission or all-cause mortality | 84 (1,702)                                 | 80 (1,632)                           | 0.90 (0.84-0.96)      | 0.002   |

Values are % (n) unless otherwise indicated.  
CI = confidence interval.



# Advances in the management of heart failure: the role of ivabradine

Müller-Werdan et al

Dovepress

## Ivabradine in HF with preserved ejection fraction?

In a small study of 61 patients, ivabradine (5mg bd. for 7days) had a significant beneficial effect on maximal exercise capacity in patients with HFPEF. The study showed an improvement in diastolic function during exercise, including an improvement in LV filling pressures.<sup>2</sup>

**Table 1** Types of heart failure with prognostic relevance of resting heart rate (sinus rhythm) and role of the pacemaker current inhibitor ivabradine

| Role of heart rate/ ivabradine                    | HFrEF chronic stable | HFpEF chronic stable | Acute/ decompensated HF | Post-cardiac transplantation | Peripartum CM | Shock and MODS | ROSC after OHCA |
|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Heart rate is prognostically relevant             | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                     | ?                            | Yes           | Yes            | Yes             |
| Ivabradine reduces heart rate                     | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                     | Yes                          | Yes           | Yes            | ?               |
| Ivabradine improves prognosis                     | Yes                  | ?                    | ?                       | ?                            | ?             | ?              | ?               |
| Ivabradine approved for use in EU/USA             | Yes                  | No                   | No                      | No                           | No            | No             | No              |
| Combination of ivabradine + beta-blocker feasible | Yes                  | Yes                  | Yes                     | ?                            | Yes           | ?              | ?               |

**Note:** For patients with HFmrEF, no prospective trials with ivabradine are yet available.

**Abbreviations:** CM, cardiomyopathy; EU, European Union; HF, heart failure; HFmrEF, heart failure with mild-range ejection fraction; HFpEF, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; HFrEF, heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; MODS, multiple organ dysfunction syndrome; OHCA, out-of-hospital cardiac arrest; ROSC, return of spontaneous circulation.

2. Kosmala W et al., *J. Am. Coll. Cardiol.* 62(15), 1330–1338 (2013).

# When to use ivabradine<sup>1</sup>

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Ivabradine is indicated in chronic heart failure with systolic dysfunction in patients with:

- ✓ NYHA II to IV class
- ✓ sinus rhythm
- ✓ HR  $\geq$  75 bpm

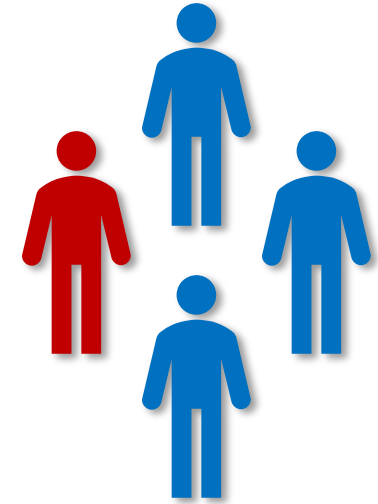
- in combination with standard therapy including  $\beta$ -blocker therapy
- or when  $\beta$ -blocker therapy is contraindicated or not tolerated.

# Clinical assessment before discharge: the key to avoid readmissions

Optimization **before** discharge is the **key action** in HF care



"Vulnerable phase"



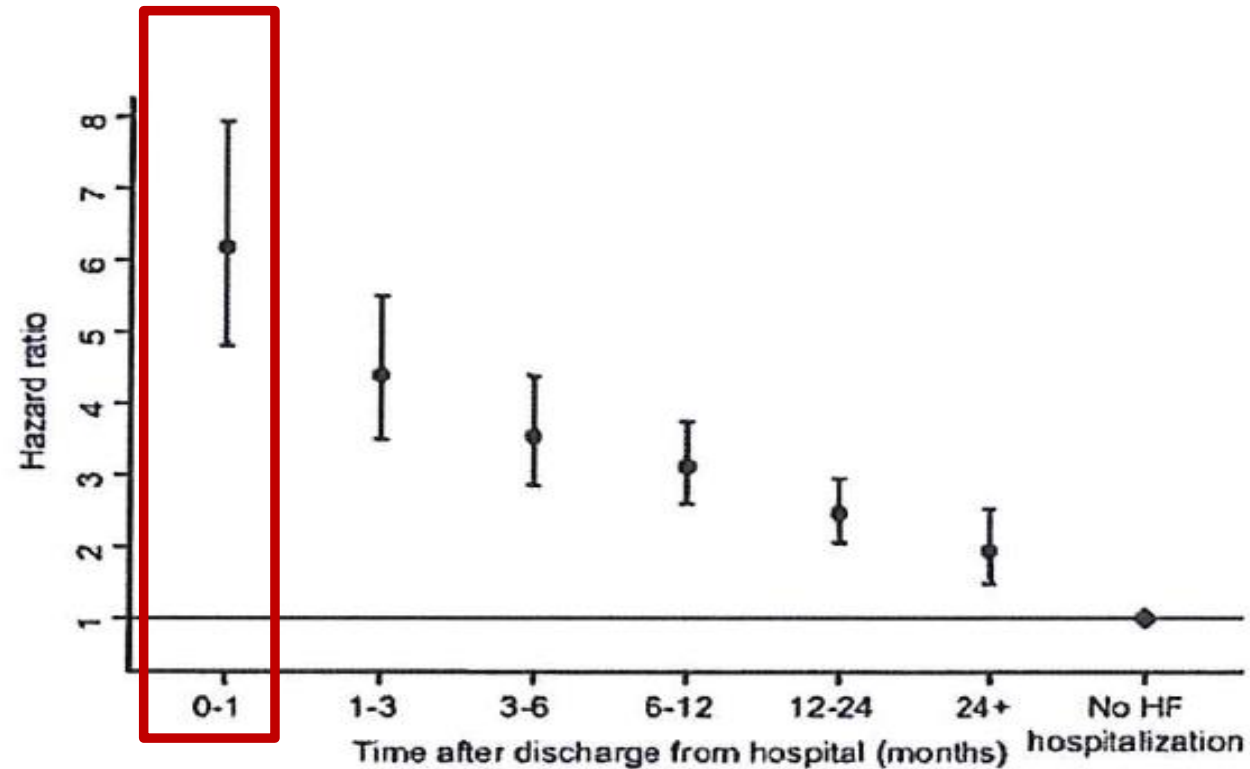
Nearly **1 out of 4** patients are readmitted for HF **within 30 days** following discharge.

The risk is particularly high within 30 days after hospitalization. Early post-discharge assessment is key: further adjustments to therapy will be required.



# Mortality is particularly high in the early phase after hospitalization

All-cause mortality after discharge for HF is high during the 1<sup>st</sup> month<sup>1</sup>

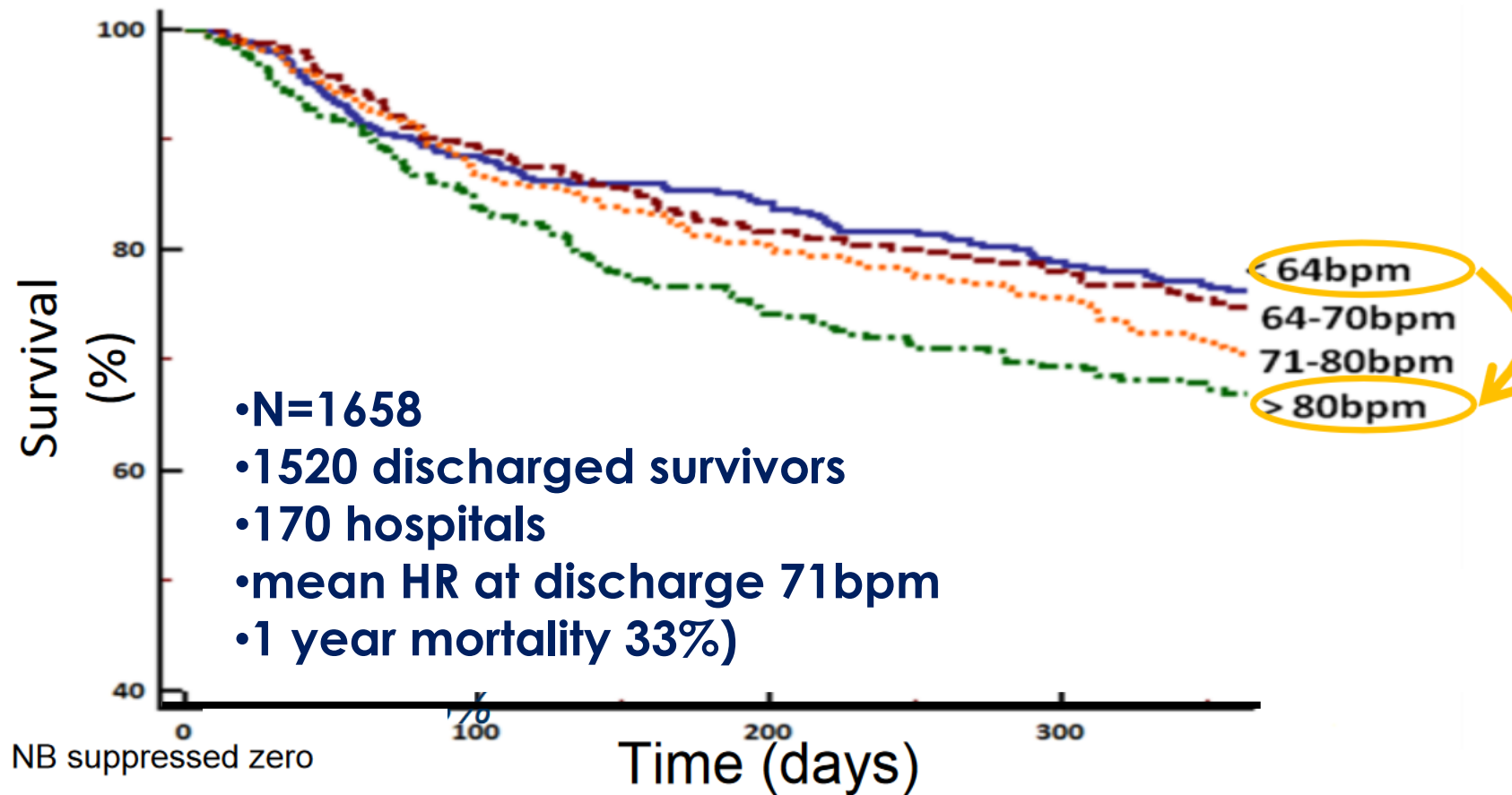


1. Martí NC et al. Timing and duration of interventions in clinical trials for patients with hospitalized heart failure. *Circ Heart Fail*. 2013;6:1095-1101. doi:10.1161/aha.112.301101. Changes in risk profile after hospitalization. Hazard ratio of all-cause mortality after discharge from hospital for first hospitalization.

# Clinical variables essential for the long-term patient outcomes

|                                | Prevention of fluid overload | Symptomatic improvement | Prognostic improvement |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Clinical</b>                |                              |                         |                        |
| <b>Signs of congestion</b>     | +++                          | +                       | ++                     |
| blood pressure                 | +                            | ?                       | +                      |
| <b>Heart rate</b>              | ?                            | +                       | +                      |
| <b>ECG</b>                     |                              |                         |                        |
| QRS duration (for CRT)         | +                            | ++                      | +++                    |
| AF / tachyarrhythmias          | + ?                          | +                       | ++                     |
| <b>Laboratory examinations</b> |                              |                         |                        |
| myocardial viability           | +                            | +                       | ++ (?)                 |
| natriuretic peptides           | ++                           | +                       | +                      |
| renal function / electrolytes  | +                            | + / 0                   | + / ++ (?)             |
| anaemia / iron deficiency      | ?                            | ++                      | +                      |

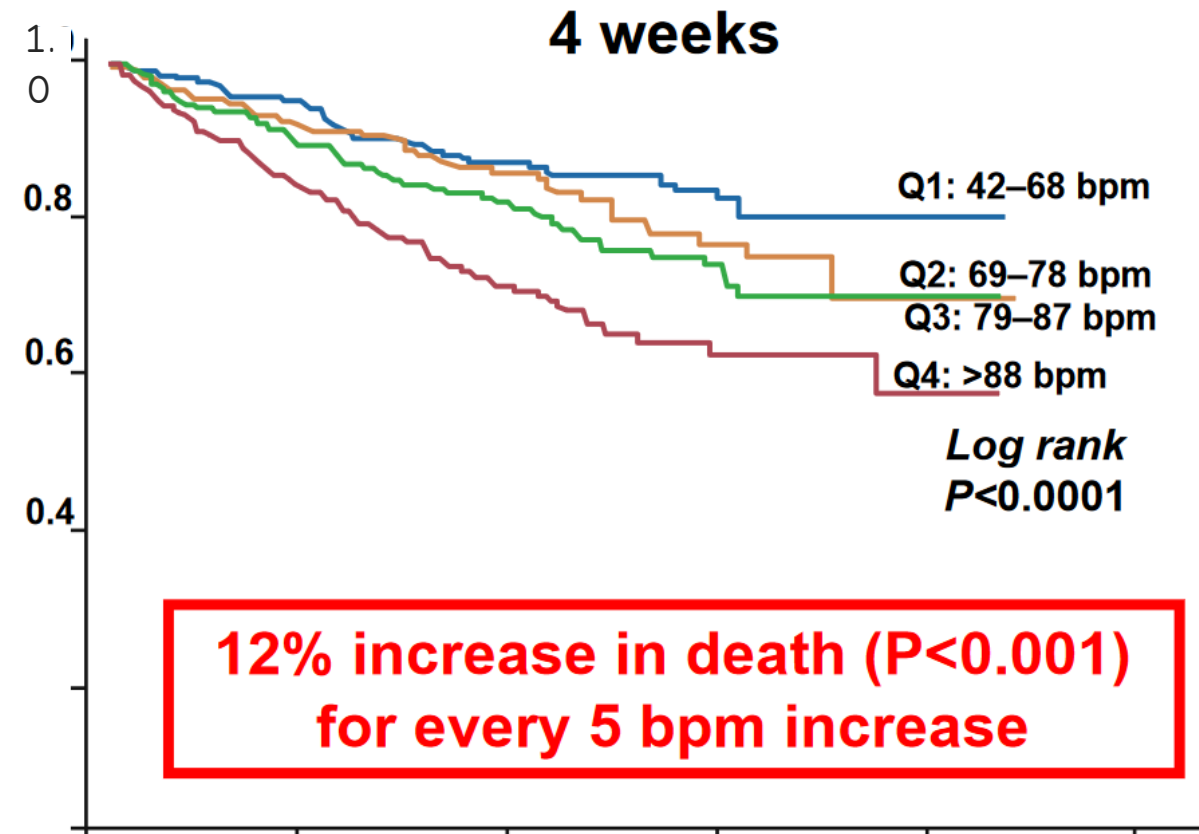
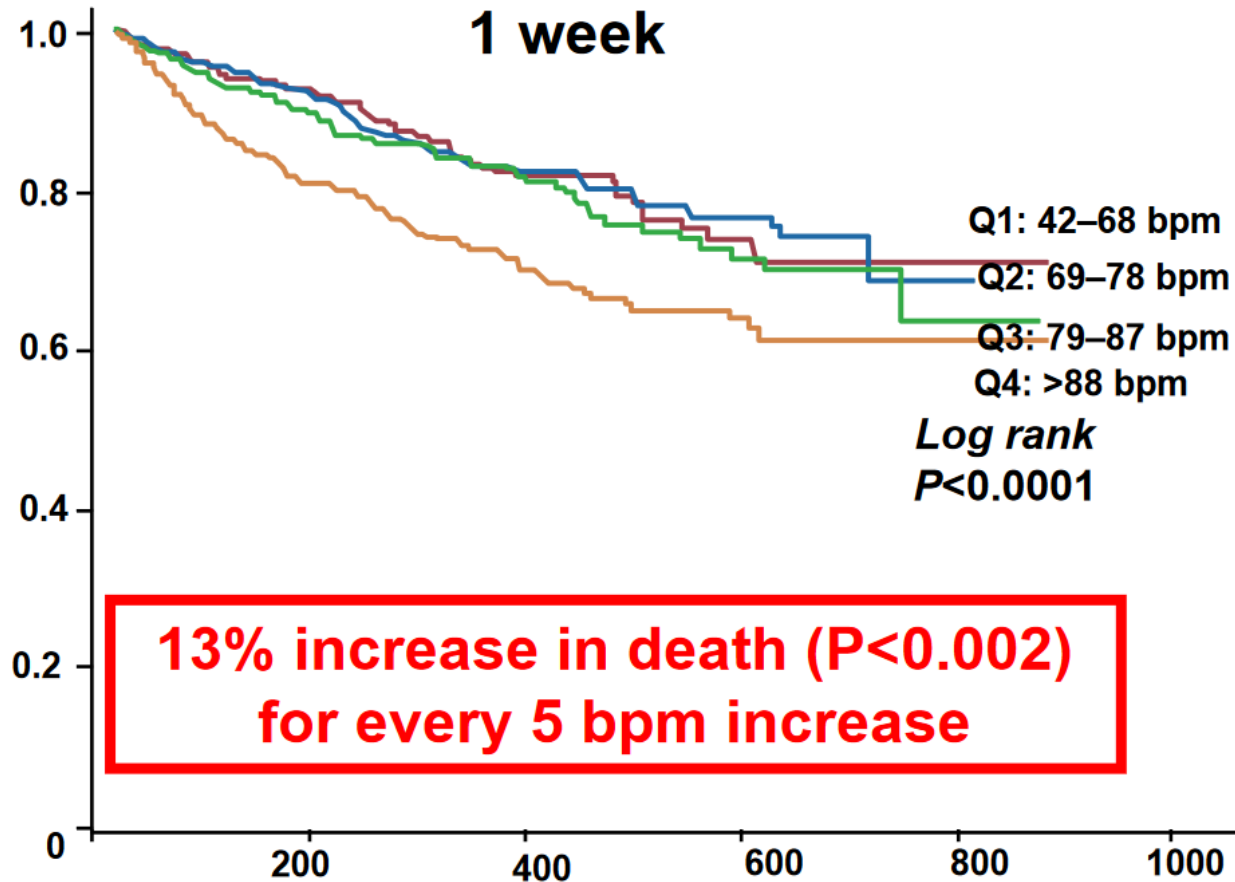
# Heart rate at discharge: reliable predictor of one-year mortality



**41% increase  
in one year  
mortality  
(p=0.01)**

# One and four week post discharge heart rate vs. mortality

## EVEREST Trial (n=1947 HF pts)



# Pre-discharge and early post-discharge care



| Recommendations <sup>1</sup>  | Class | Level         |
|---|-------|---------------|
| It is recommended that patients hospitalized for HF be carefully evaluated to exclude persistent signs of congestion before discharge and to optimize oral treatment  | I     | C <b>NEW!</b> |
| It is recommended that <b>evidence based oral medical treatment be administered before discharge</b>  | I     | C <b>NEW!</b> |
| An <b>early follow-up visit</b> is recommended at 1-2 weeks after discharge to assess signs of congestion, drugs' tolerance and start and/or uptitrate evidence-based therapy   | I     | C <b>NEW!</b> |
| <b>Ferric carboxymaltose</b> should be considered in symptomatic HF patients recently hospitalized for HF and with LVEF <50% and iron deficiency, defined as serum ferritin <100 ng/mL or serum ferritin 100-299 ng/mL with TSAT <20%, to improve symptoms and reduce the risk of HF hospitalization <sup>2</sup> | IIa   | B <b>NEW!</b> |

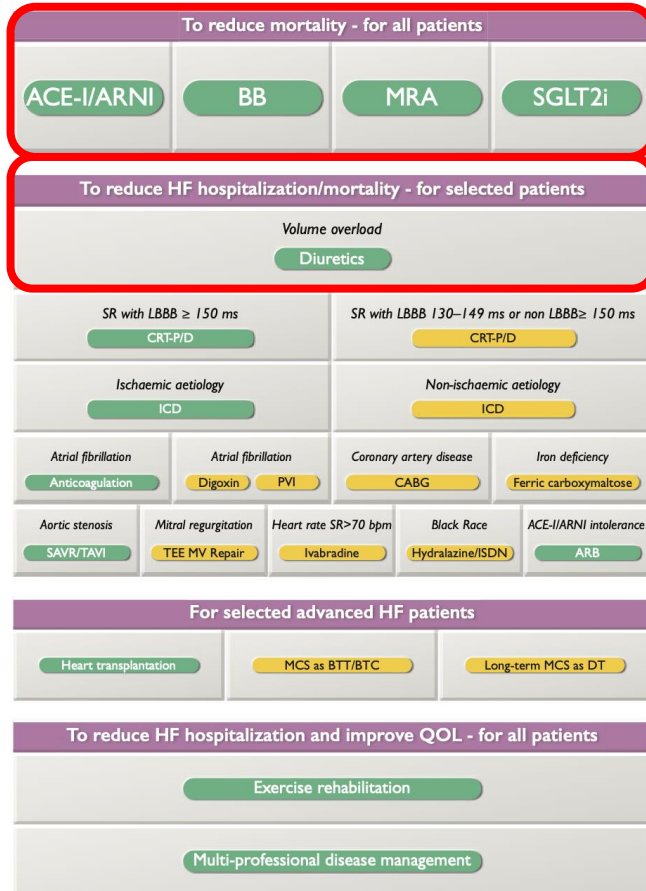
**! No time to waste !**





# Guidelines for the management of HF with reduced EF

## Management of HFrEF



### Drugs recommended in **all patients** with HFrEF

**ACE-I** is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death

Class    Level

I    A

**Beta-blocker** is recommended for patients with stable HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death

I    A

**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 **NEW!**

**Sacubitril/valsartan** is recommended as a replacement for an ACE-I in patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death

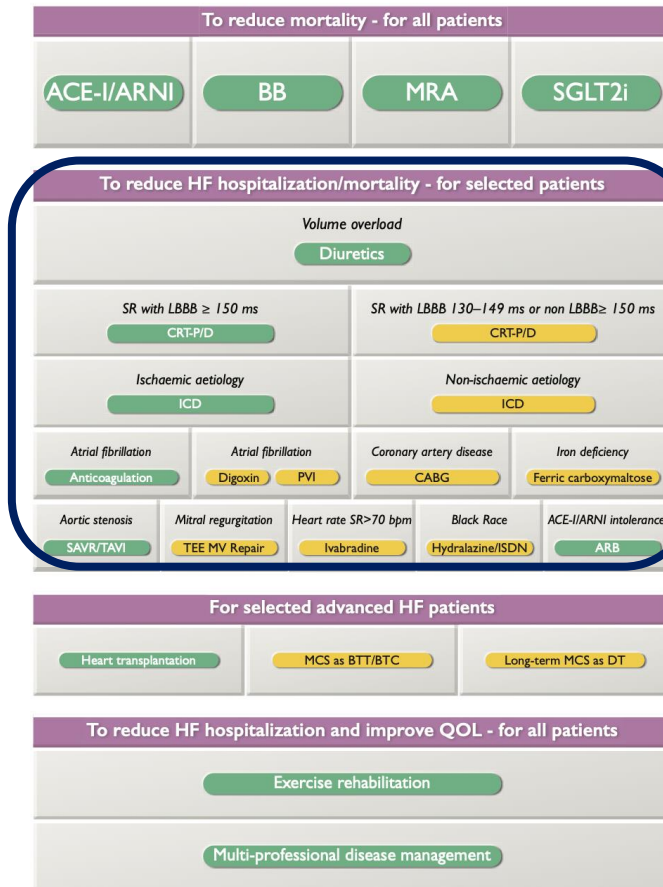
I    B

Initiation of sacubitril/valsartan in ACE-I naïve (i.e. de novo) patients with HFrEF may be considered (IIb-B)

**NEW!**

# Guidelines for the management of HF with reduced EF

## Management of HFrEF



## Drugs recommended in selected patients with HFrEF<sup>1</sup>

**Ivabradine** should be considered in symptomatic patients with LVEF ≤35%, in SR and a resting HR ≥70 bpm despite treatment with an evidence-based dose of beta-blocker (or maximum tolerated dose below that), ACE-I/ARNi and an MRA, to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and CV death

**Ivabradine** should be considered in symptomatic patients with LVEF ≤35%, in SR and a resting HR ≥70 bpm who are unable to tolerate or have contraindications for a beta-blocker to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and CV death

**Vericiguat** may be considered in patients in NYHA class II-IV who have had worsening HF despite treatment with an ACE-I/ARNi, a beta-blocker and an MRA to reduce the risk of CV mortality or HF hospitalization<sup>2</sup>

| Class | Level |
|-------|-------|
| Ila   | B     |
| Ila   | C     |
| Ilb   | B     |

Currently, omecamtiv mecarbil is not licensed for use in HF. However, in the future it may be able to be considered, in addition to standard therapy for HFrEF to reduce the risk of CV mortality and HF hospitalization<sup>3</sup>



American  
Heart  
Association.



AMERICAN  
COLLEGE of  
CARDIOLOGY  
FOUNDATION

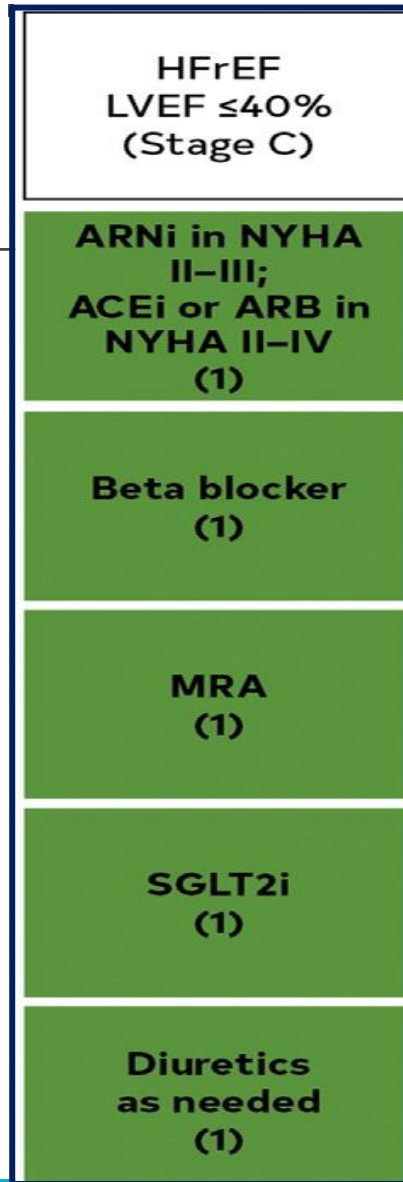
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# 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure

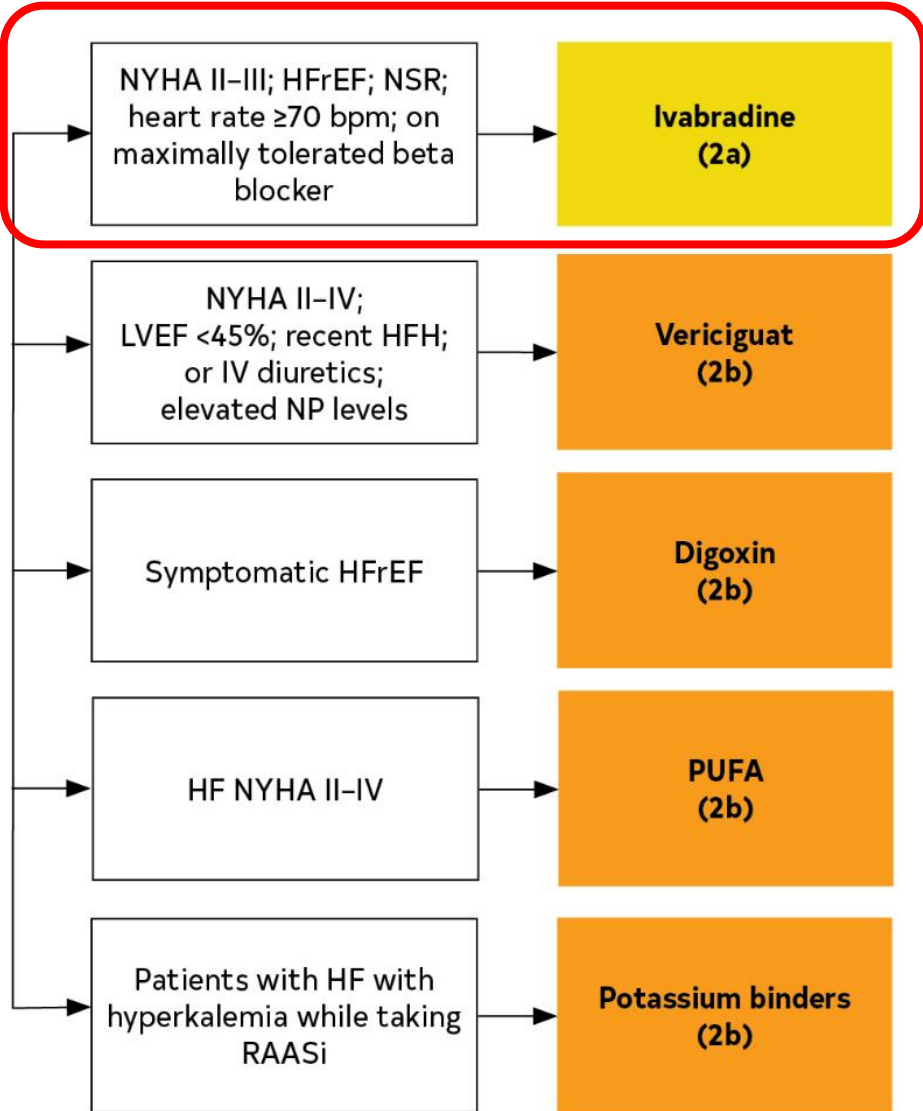
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Developed in partnership with the Heart Failure Society of America

# GDMT for HFrEF



Consider Additional Therapies Once GDMT Optimized



# Ivabradine

| COR | LOE | Recommendation  |
|-----|-----|---|
| 2a  | B-R | 1. For patients with symptomatic (NYHA class II to III) stable chronic HFrEF (LVEF $\leq 35\%$ ) who are receiving GDMT, including a beta blocker at maximum tolerated dose, and who are in sinus rhythm with a <u>heart rate of <math>\geq 70</math> bpm</u> at rest, <u>ivabradine</u> can be beneficial to reduce HF hospitalizations and cardiovascular death. <sup>1,2</sup> |

in those advanced HF patients in whom tachycardia persists and where the use of BBs is limited due to hypotension



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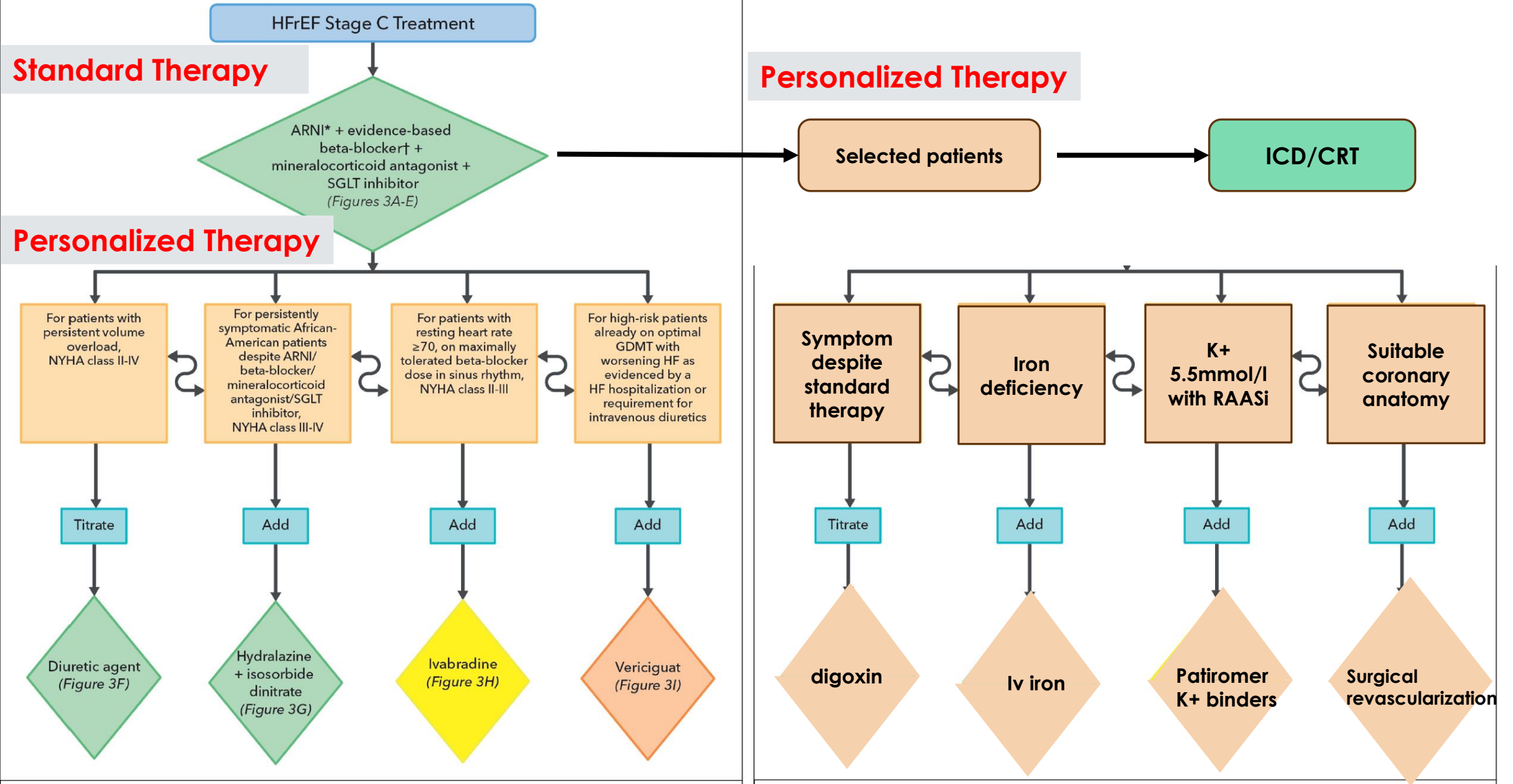
**EXPERT CONSENSUS DECISION PATHWAY**

# 2024 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Treatment of Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction



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

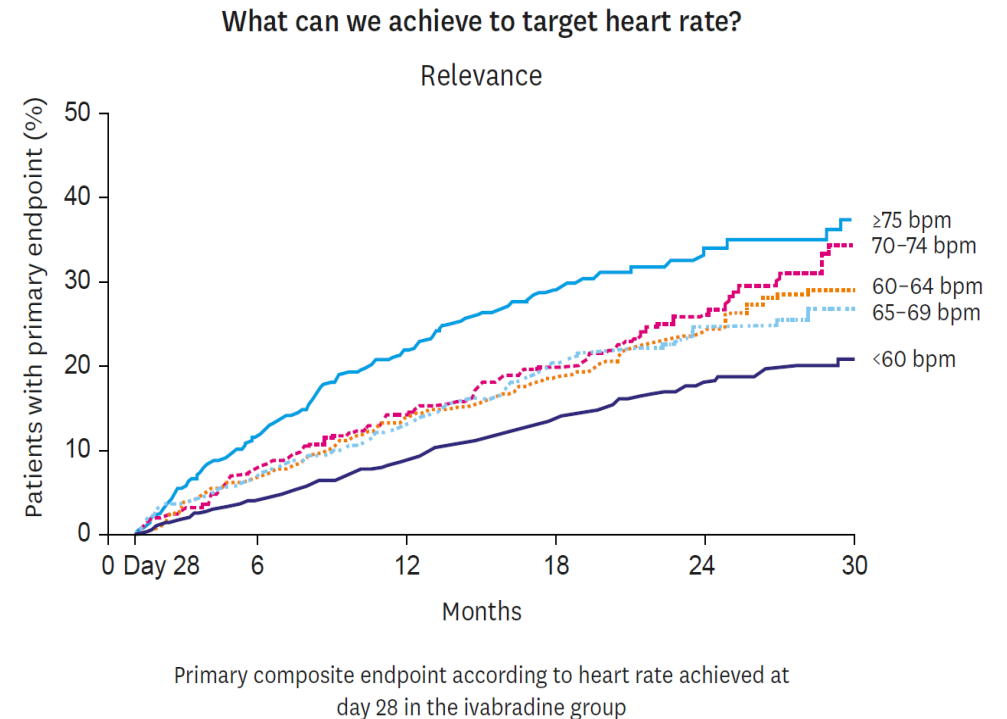
FIGURE 2 Treatment Algorithm for Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy



Reasonable to use omega3 fatty acid to reduce mortality and hospitalization

# “The heart rate goal”

- reduction of HR to  $< 60$ /min or at least for a reduction of 10 bpm in patients with HFrEF and sinus rhythm of  $\geq 75$  bpm, either by **betablocker alone** or by the **combination of betablocker plus ivabradine**.
- **the lower HR limit is either 50 bpm or symptomatic bradycardia.**
- As many HFrEF patients under beta-blocker have a HR  $\geq 75$  bpm there is a need for a combination therapy of betablocker plus ivabradine in these patients



**Figure 7.** Kaplan Meier cumulative event curves for the primary composite endpoint (cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalization) according to patient groups defined by quintiles of heart rate achieved at 28 days on treatment with ivabradine. Log rank p-values show the difference between the groups. Modified according to 7.



# Conclusions

- Adherence to clinical practice guidelines is the principal solutions to improve the prognosis of patients with HFrEF.
- **Two barriers:**
  - Adherence of the physicians to guideline
  - Adherence of the patient to the prescribed medication
- **High heart rate**, both at the time of diagnosis and during follow-up, is **strongly associated with increased risk of adverse outcomes in HFrEF** patients, independent of the use of beta-blockers
- Since the risk is particularly high within 30 days after hospitalization, **ivabradine Pure HR reducing agent** should be initiated before discharge to improve patient outcomes and health care cost.



**23<sup>rd</sup> November 2024**

**Thank You**