

Coronary Heart Disease in Women and underrepresented populations

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Disclosures

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CCMC Ethics credit is approved for this course. The CCMC Code of Professional Conduct will be referenced in this presentation. View the CCMC Code of Professional Conduct [here](#).

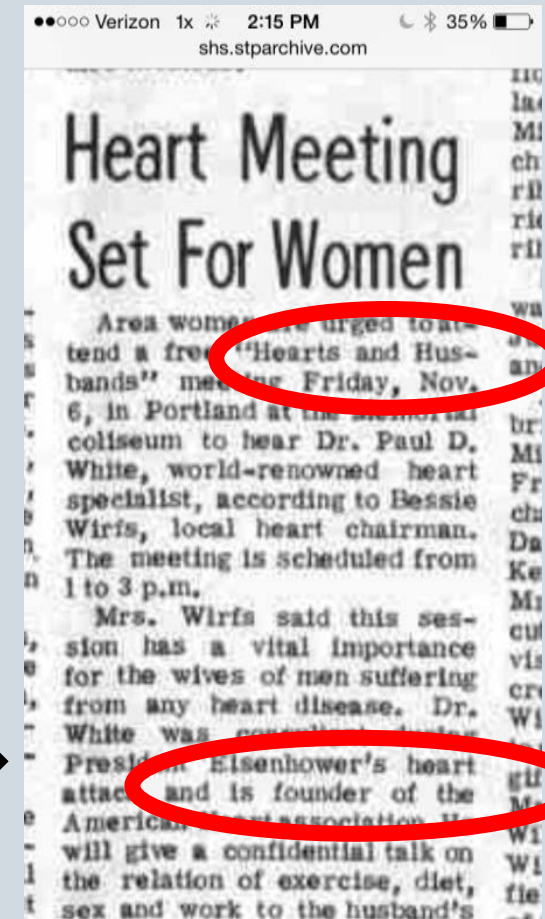
1964 – AHA held the first conference on women and heart disease

Featuring Paul Dudley White

“Hearts and Husbands”

It was basically about How to Care for Your Man

- “This session has vital importance for the *wives of men suffering from any heart disease*”



2016 –AHA releases the first scientific statement on myocardial infarction in women

AHA Scientific Statement

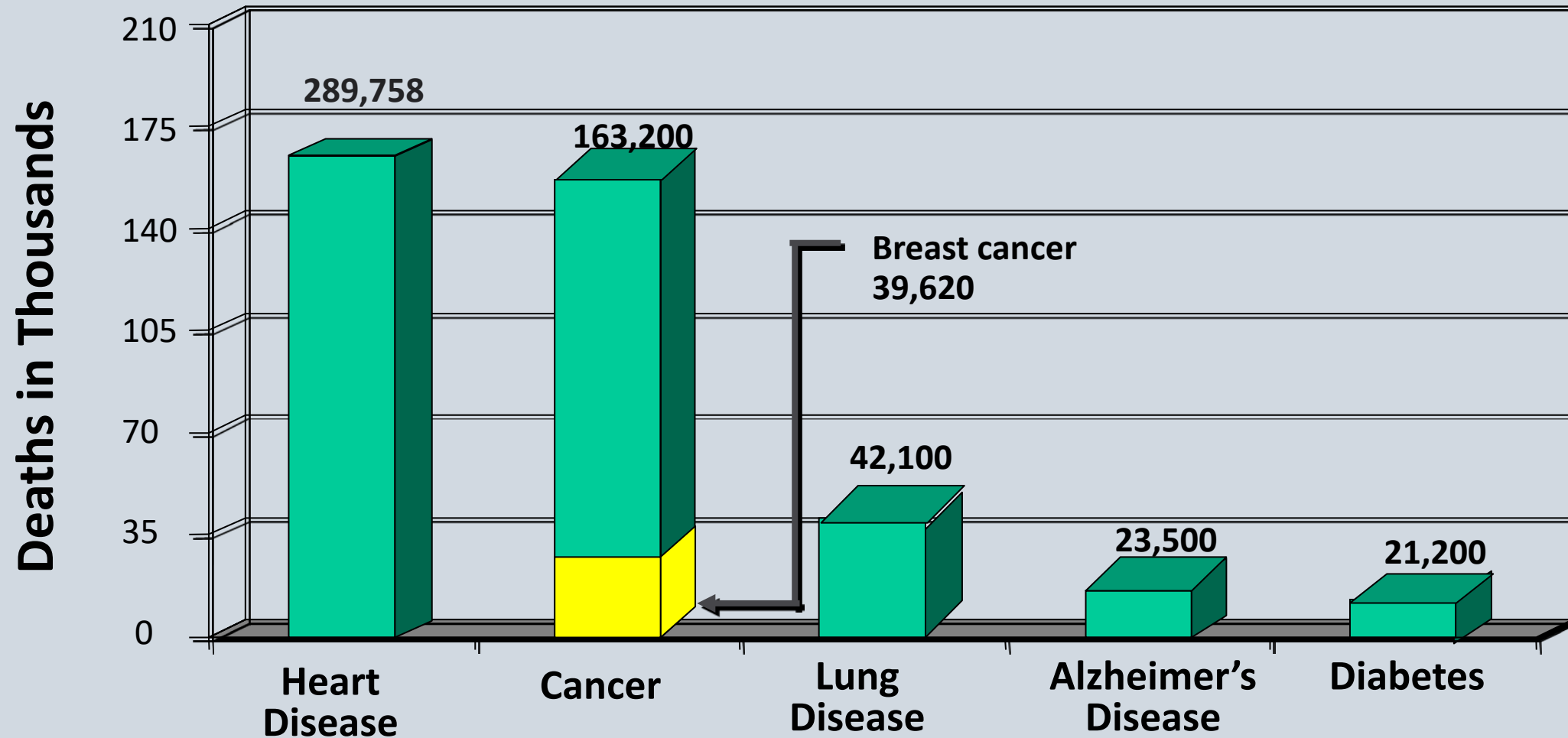
Acute Myocardial Infarction in Women **A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association**

Laxmi S. Mehta, MD, FAHA, Chair; Theresa M. Beckie, PhD, FAHA, Co-Chair;
Holli A. DeVon, PhD, RN, FAHA; Cindy L. Grines, MD; Harlan M. Krumholz, MD, SM, FAHA;
Michelle N. Johnson, MD, MPH; Kathryn J. Lindley, MD; Viola Vaccarino, MD, PhD, FAHA;
Tracy Y. Wang, MD, MHS, MSc, FAHA; Karol E. Watson, MD, PhD;
Nanette K. Wenger, MD, FAHA; on behalf of the American Heart Association Cardiovascular
Disease in Women and Special Populations Committee of the Council on Clinical Cardiology,
Council on Epidemiology and Prevention, Council on Cardiovascular and Stroke Nursing,
and Council on Quality of Care and Outcomes Research

Abstract—Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of mortality in American women. Since 1984, the annual cardiovascular disease mortality rate has remained greater for women than men; however, over the last decade, there have been marked reductions in cardiovascular disease mortality in women. The dramatic decline in mortality rates for women is attributed partly to an increase in awareness, a greater focus on women and cardiovascular disease risk, and the increased application of evidence-based treatments for established coronary heart disease. This is the first scientific statement from the American Heart Association on acute myocardial infarction in women. Sex-specific differences exist in the presentation, pathophysiological mechanisms, and outcomes in patients with acute myocardial infarction. This statement provides a comprehensive review of the current evidence of the clinical presentation, pathophysiology, treatment, and outcomes of women with acute myocardial infarction. (*Circulation*. 2016;133:916-947. DOI: 10.1161/CIR.0000000000000351.)

Key Words: AHA Scientific Statements ■ cardiovascular diseases ■ coronary disease
■ myocardial infarction ■ women

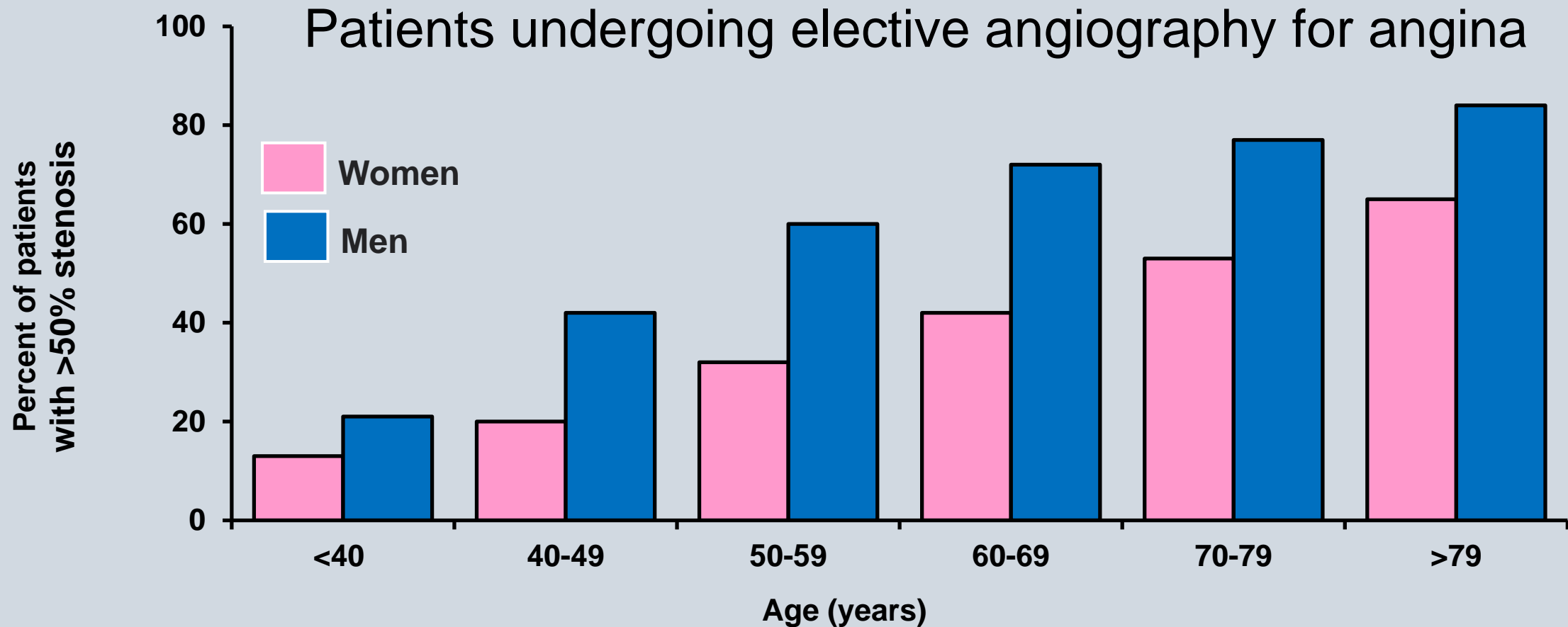
Heart Disease is the #1 Cause of Death in Women



Heart Disease in Women

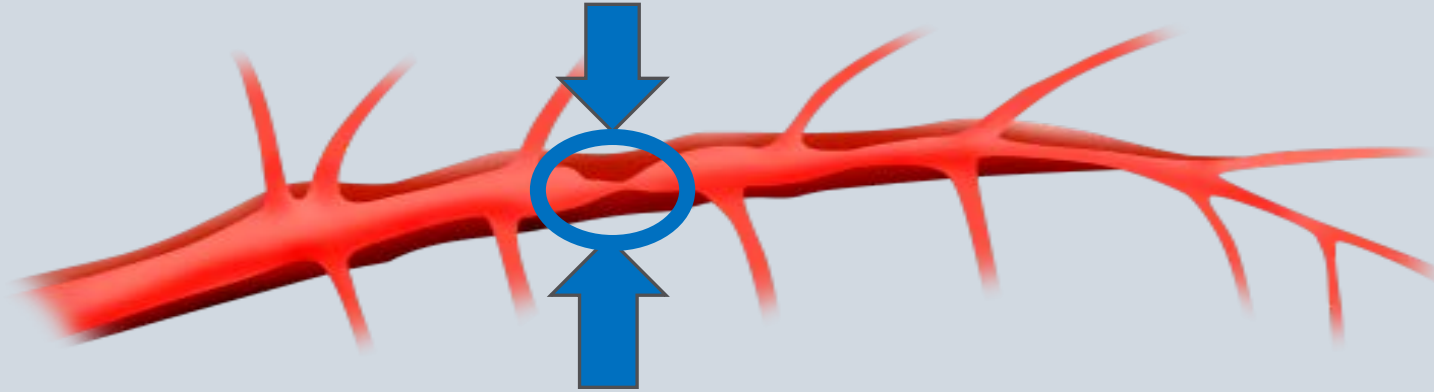
- **Ischemic heart disease in women**
 - biology, risk factors, response to therapy
- **Ischemic syndromes of particular importance to women**
 - MINOCA, Microvascular Dysfunction, SCAD
- **Heart failure syndromes of particular importance to women**
 - Takotsubo cardiomyopathy

Women have less obstructive CAD



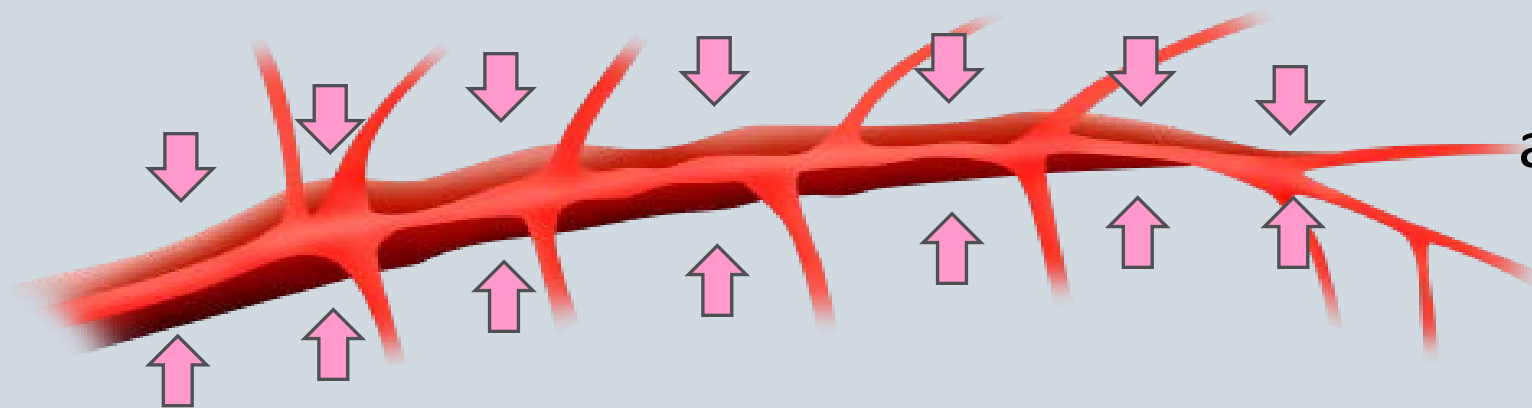
CAD develops differently in women

MEN



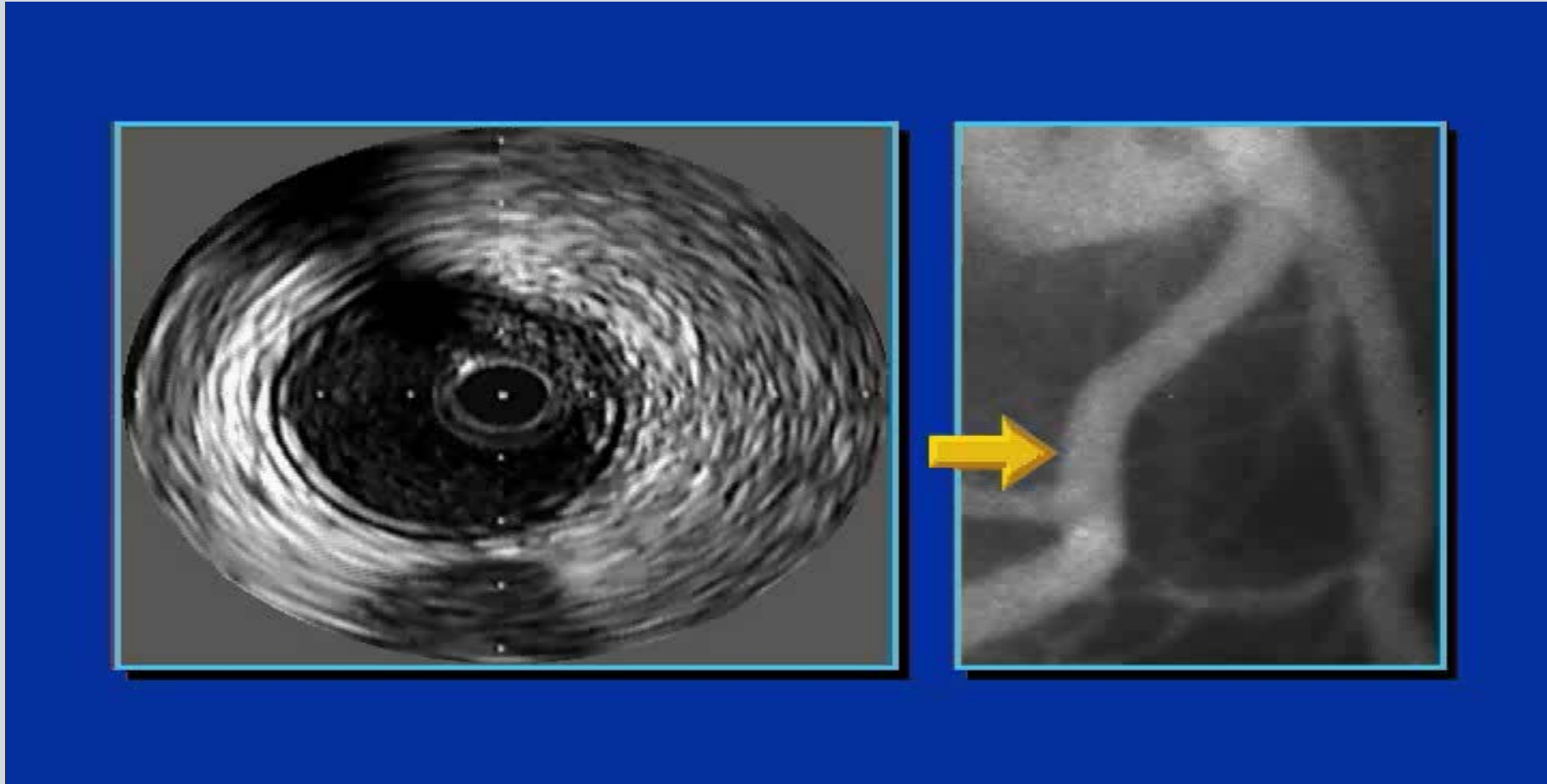
Focal
Stenosis

WOMEN



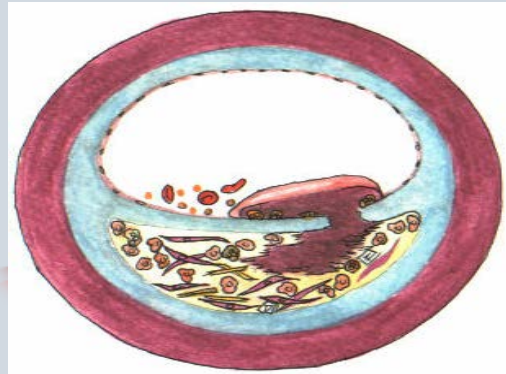
Diffuse
atherosclerosis

A large amount of atherosclerosis can hide



CAD develops differently in women

MEN

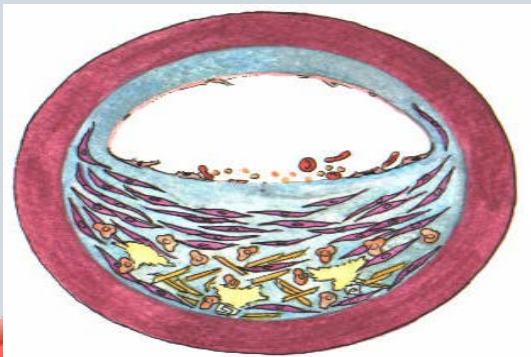


Plaque rupture

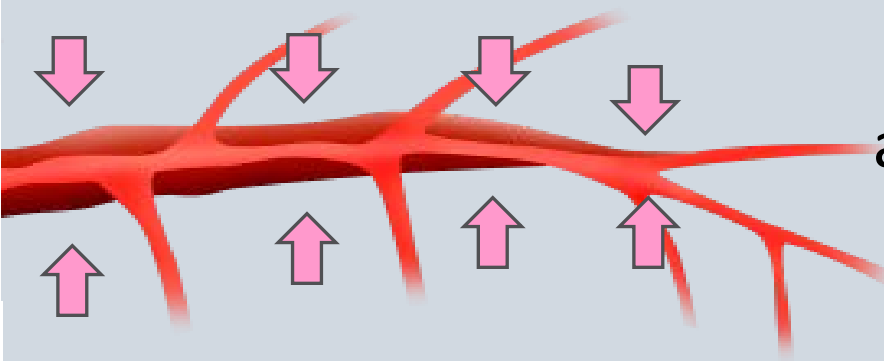


Focal Stenosis

WOMEN



Plaque erosion



Diffuse atherosclerosis

Men have “classic” symptoms



Women have “atypical” symptoms



Chest pain
or
discomfort



Unusual upper
body discomfort



Shortness of
breath



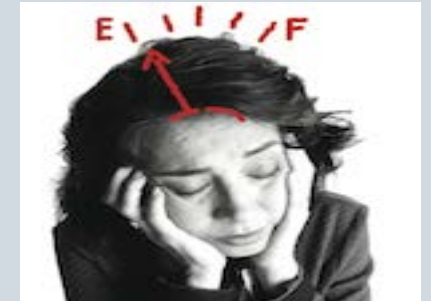
Diaphoresis



Light-headedness or
sudden dizziness



Nausea



Unusual or
unexplained
fatigue

Risk Factors for Heart Disease

- Smoking
- Diabetes
- Hypercholesterolemia
- Hypertension
- Obesity/Overweight
- Physical inactivity
- Family history
- Age

Risk Factors of particular importance to women

- Auto-immune disease
- Breast cancer treatments
- SAD Risk factors (Stress, Anxiety and Depression)
- Pregnancy Complications
 - Pre-term delivery
 - Pregnancy induced hypertension
 - Gestational diabetes



Reproductive Hormone transition times are high risk for women's CV systems

- Puberty

- Boys grow taller and thinner; girls grow taller and heavier

- Pregnancy

- A “stress test” for the cardiovascular system

- Menopause

- The menopause “bump”

Pregnancy – a Stress Test for the heart

Preeclampsia with preterm delivery

- 8 x ↑ risk of future death CVD
- 5 x ↑ risk of future stroke

Preeclampsia with full term delivery

- 3 x ↑ risk of future death CVD

Gestational diabetes

- ~30 % ↑ risk of future death CVD
- 20-60% will develop type 2 DM within 5-16 yrs

Menopause



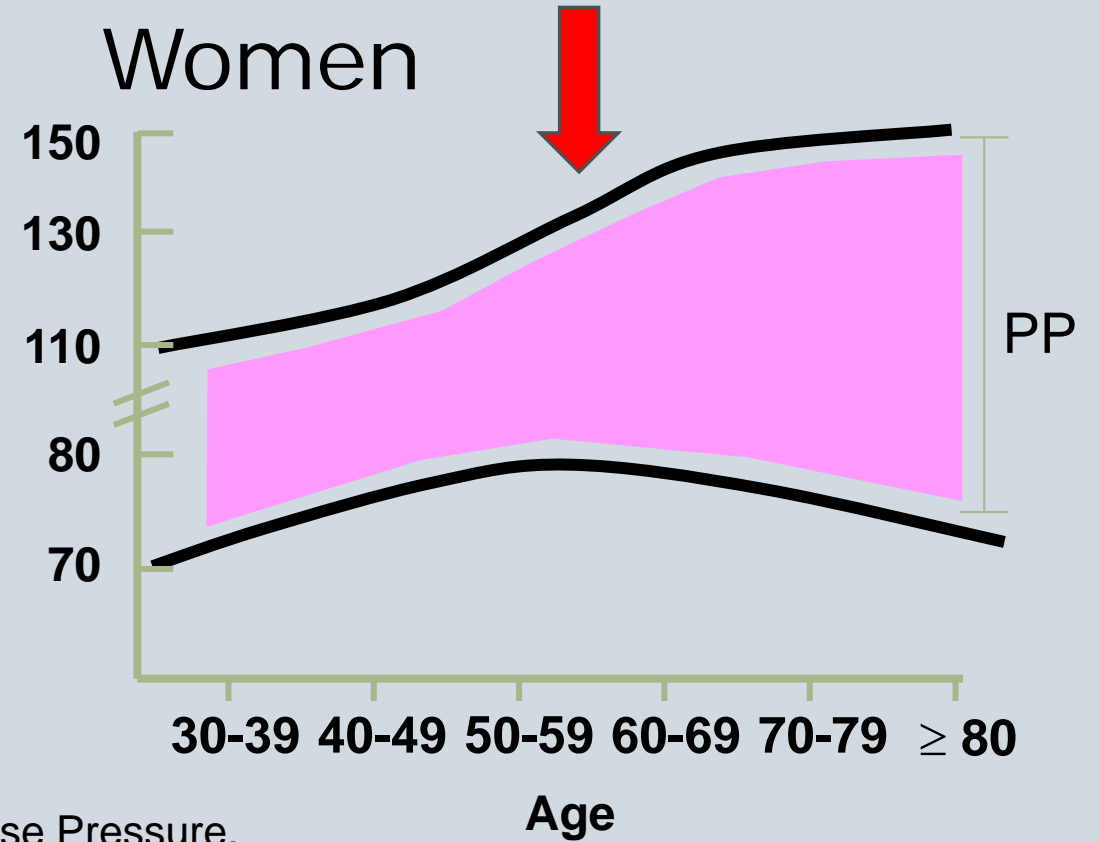
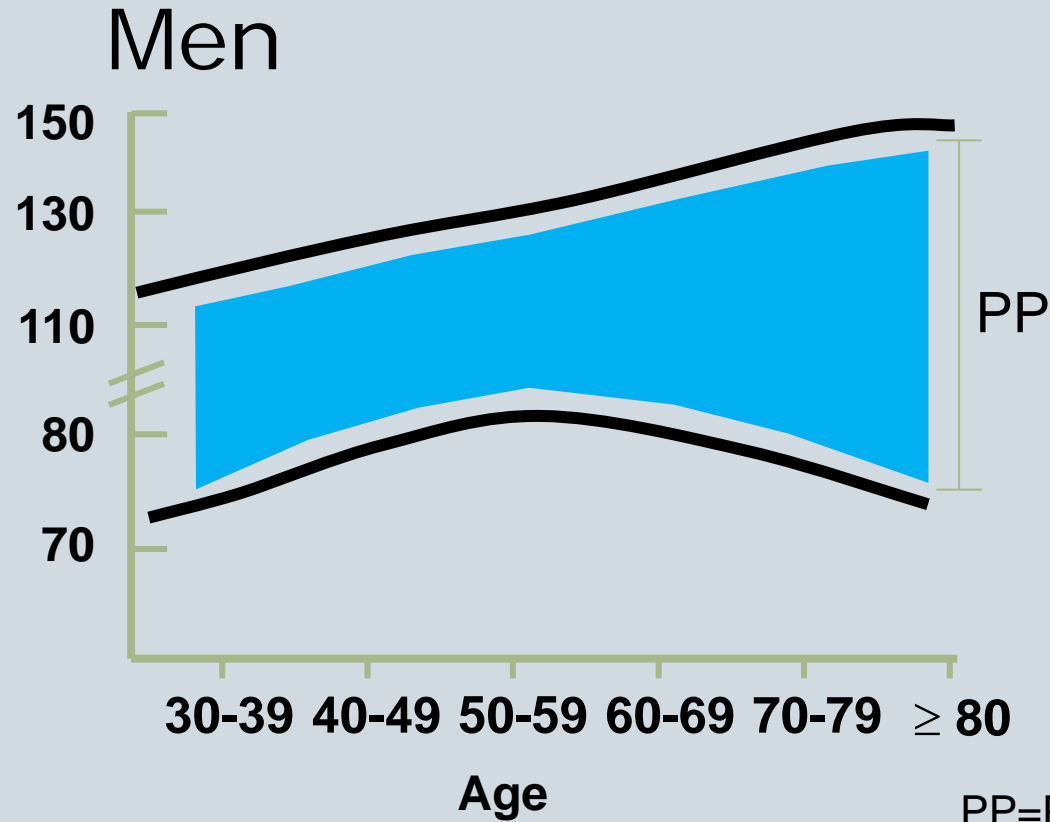
Loss of estrogen puts women at higher risk for developing CVD

Before the onset of menopause, women have ~1/5 the rate of heart disease as men

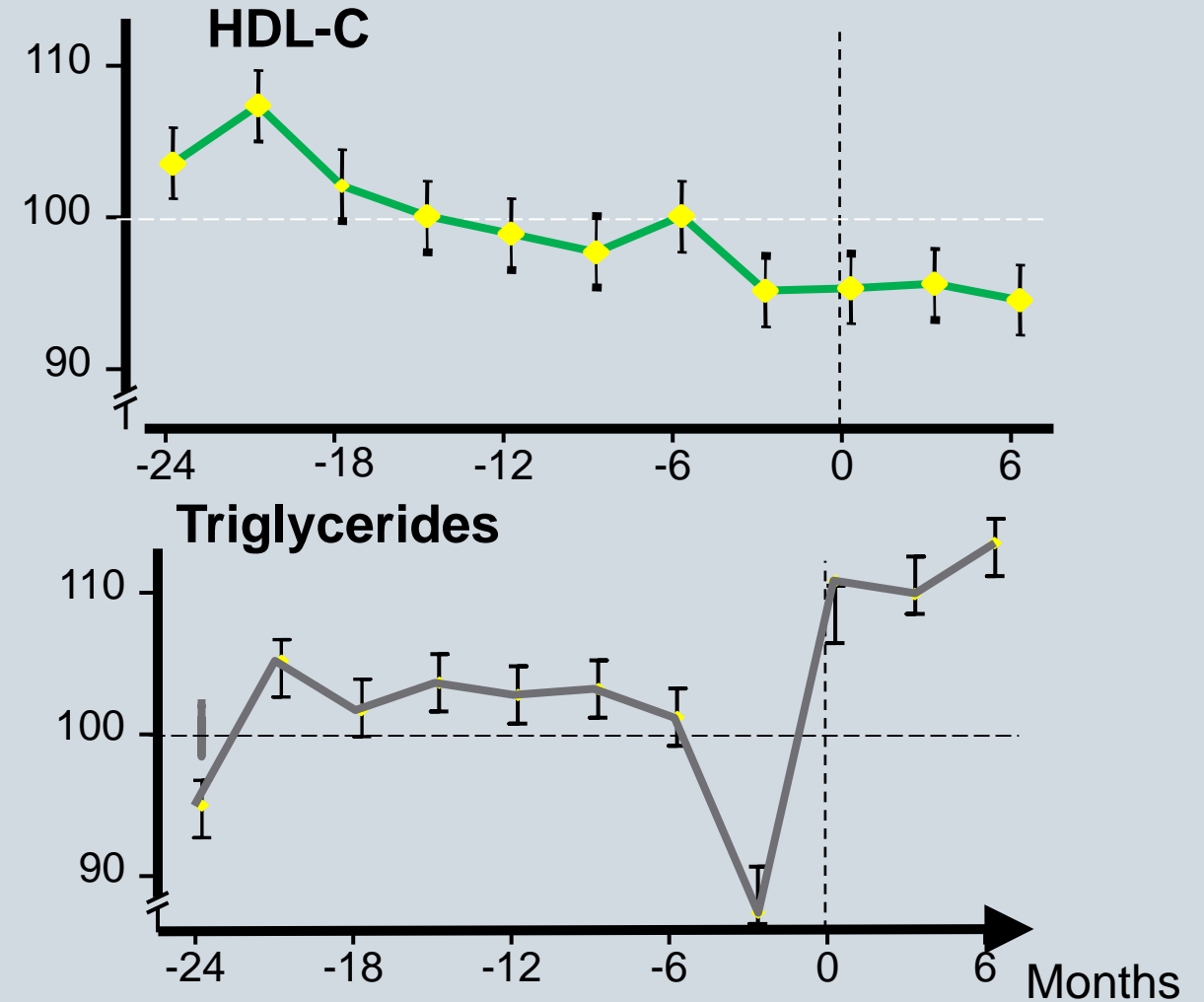
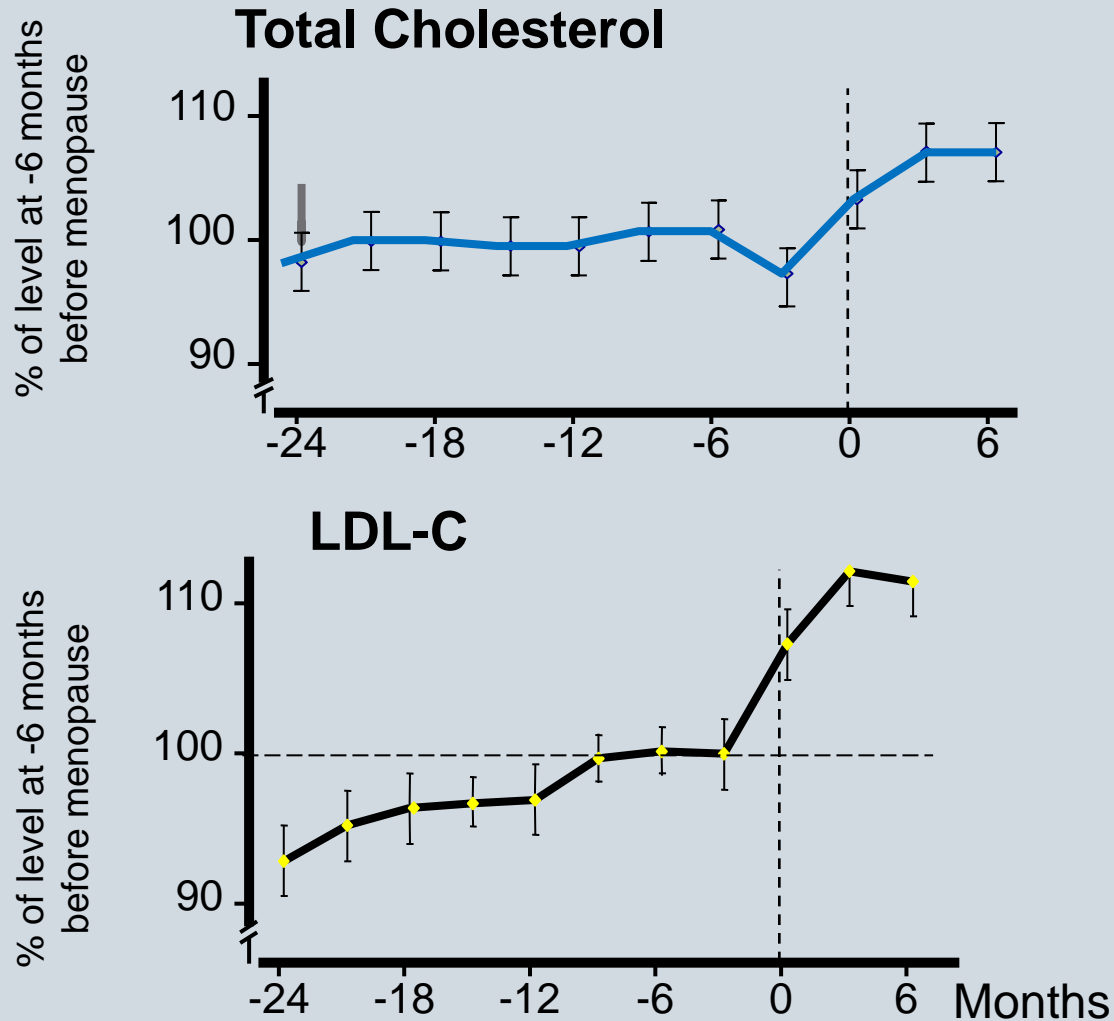
10 years after menopause, rate of MI equals that of men

The Menopause Bump

Blood Pressure Levels by Age



Lipid Changes Peri-Menopause



Pre and post menopause changes

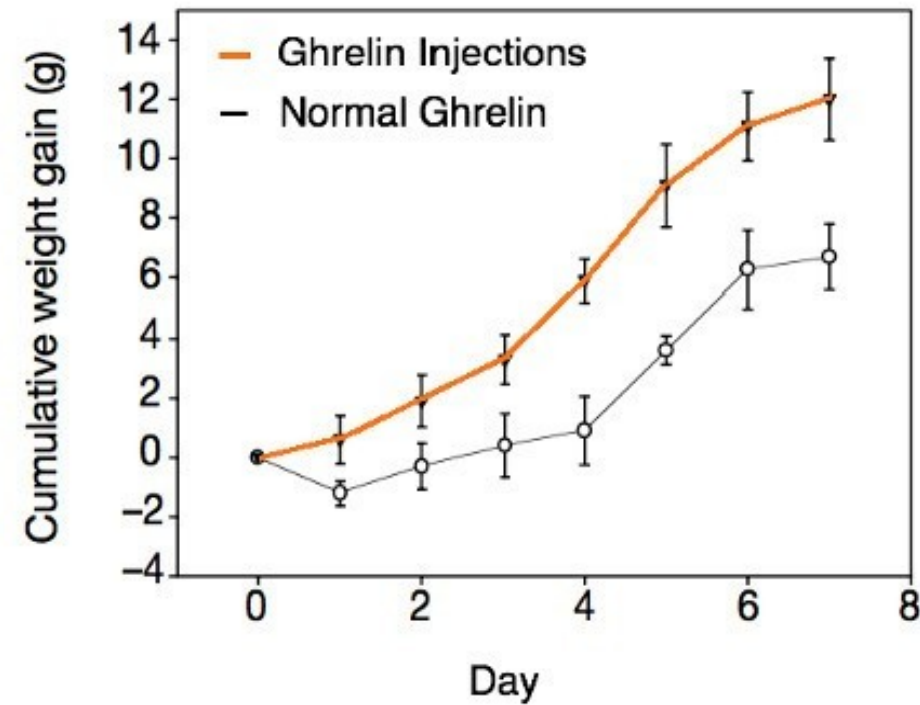
Cross-sectional study
of 3,636 women
(40–59 years old)

Variable	PRE	POST	p
AGE	49.7	55.2	0.001
Activity (METS)	5502	2458	NS
BMI	26.9	28.1	0.001
% BF	34.1	36.2	0.001
HTN (%)	55.2%	60.4%	0.01
LDL-c	121.6	132.2	0.001
HDL-c	63.7	62.5	NS
TG	100.8	113.0	0.001
Glucose	92.0	95.8	0.001

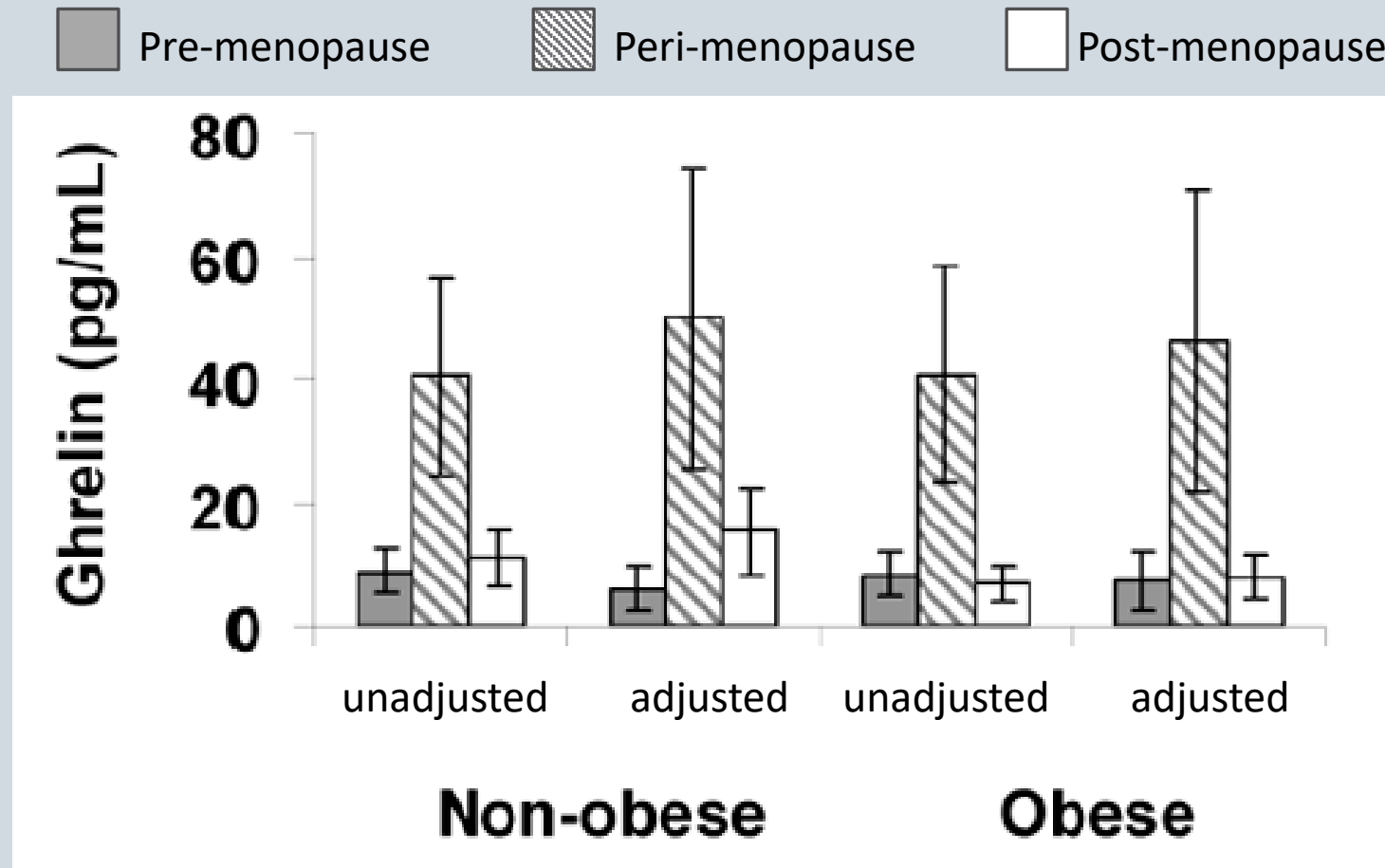
Ghrelin

Ghrelin (discovered in 1999) is a hormone that stimulates appetite

Weight Gain in Rats Following Ghrelin Injections

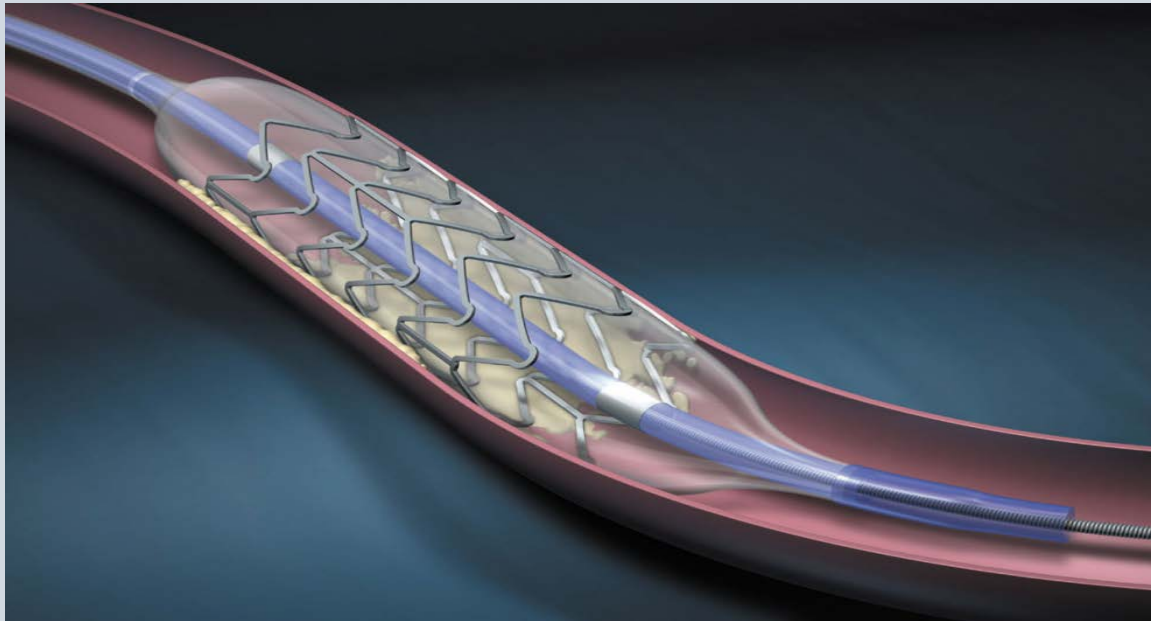


Ghrelin levels increase in peri-menopause

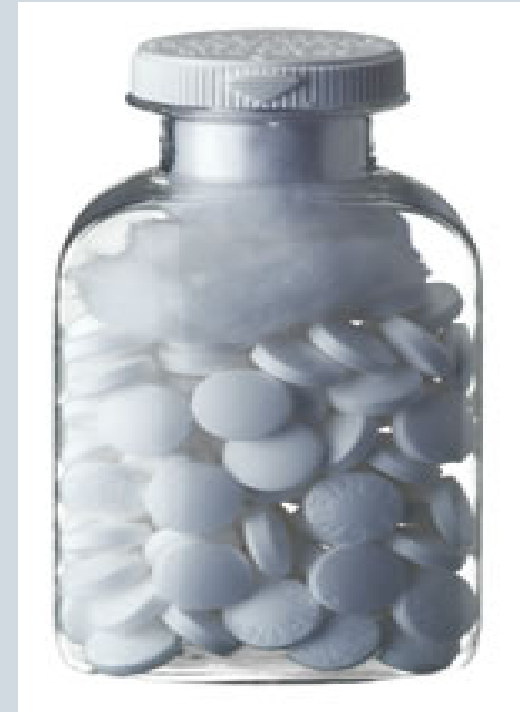


Therapeutic Approaches in IHD

Invasive Management



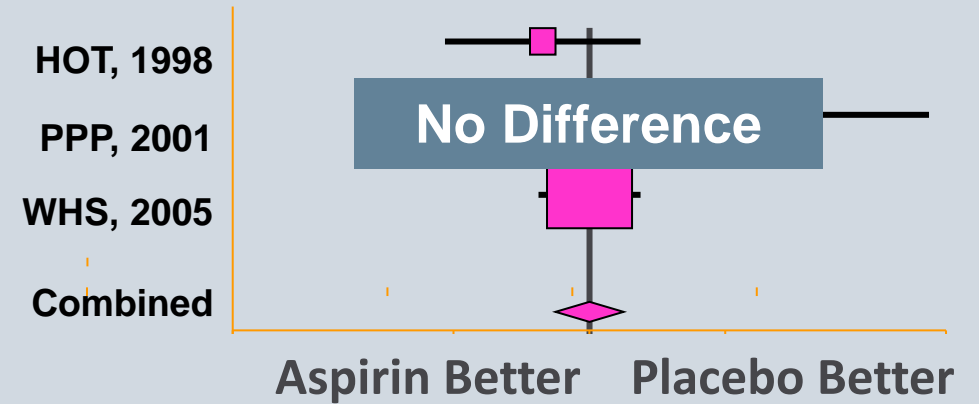
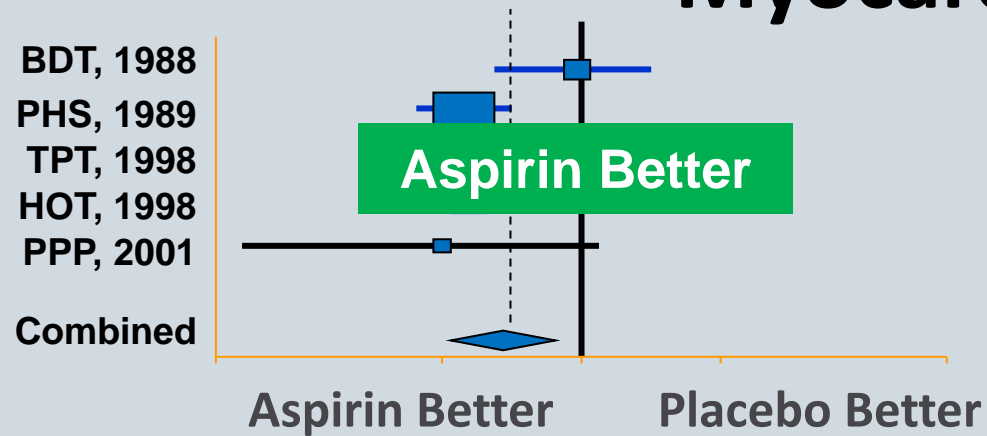
VS.



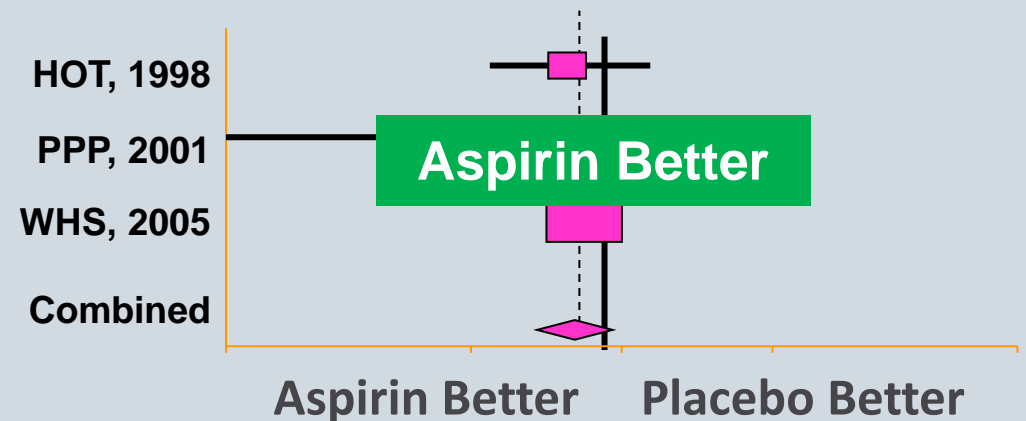
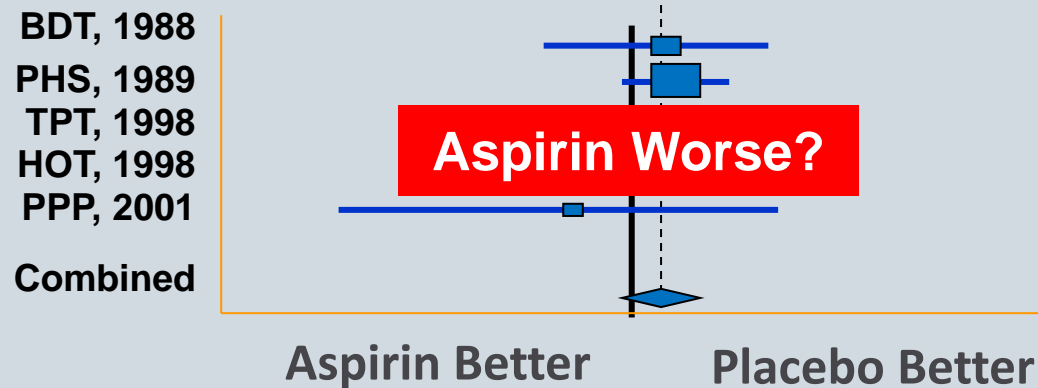
Medical Management

Aspirin Effects by sex

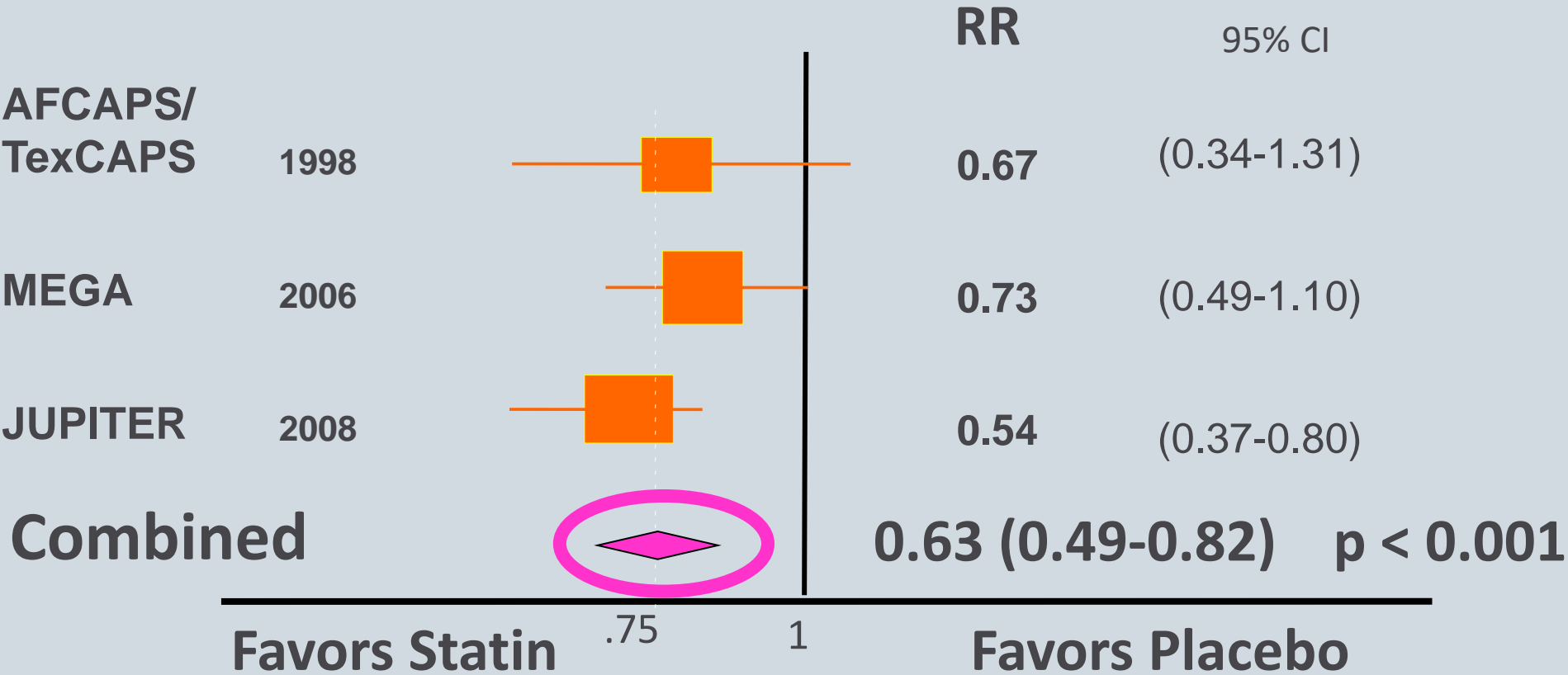
Myocardial Infarction



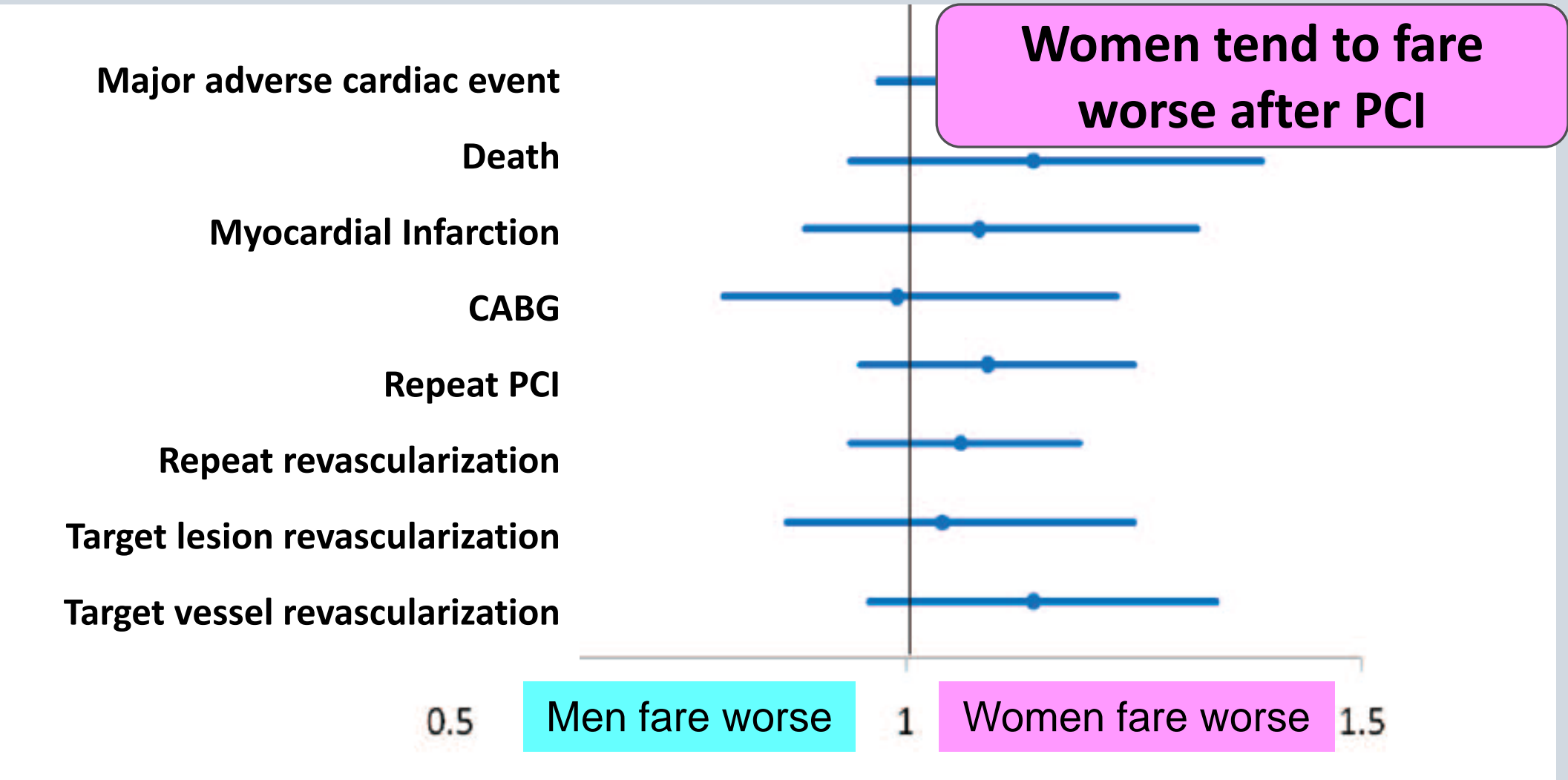
Stroke



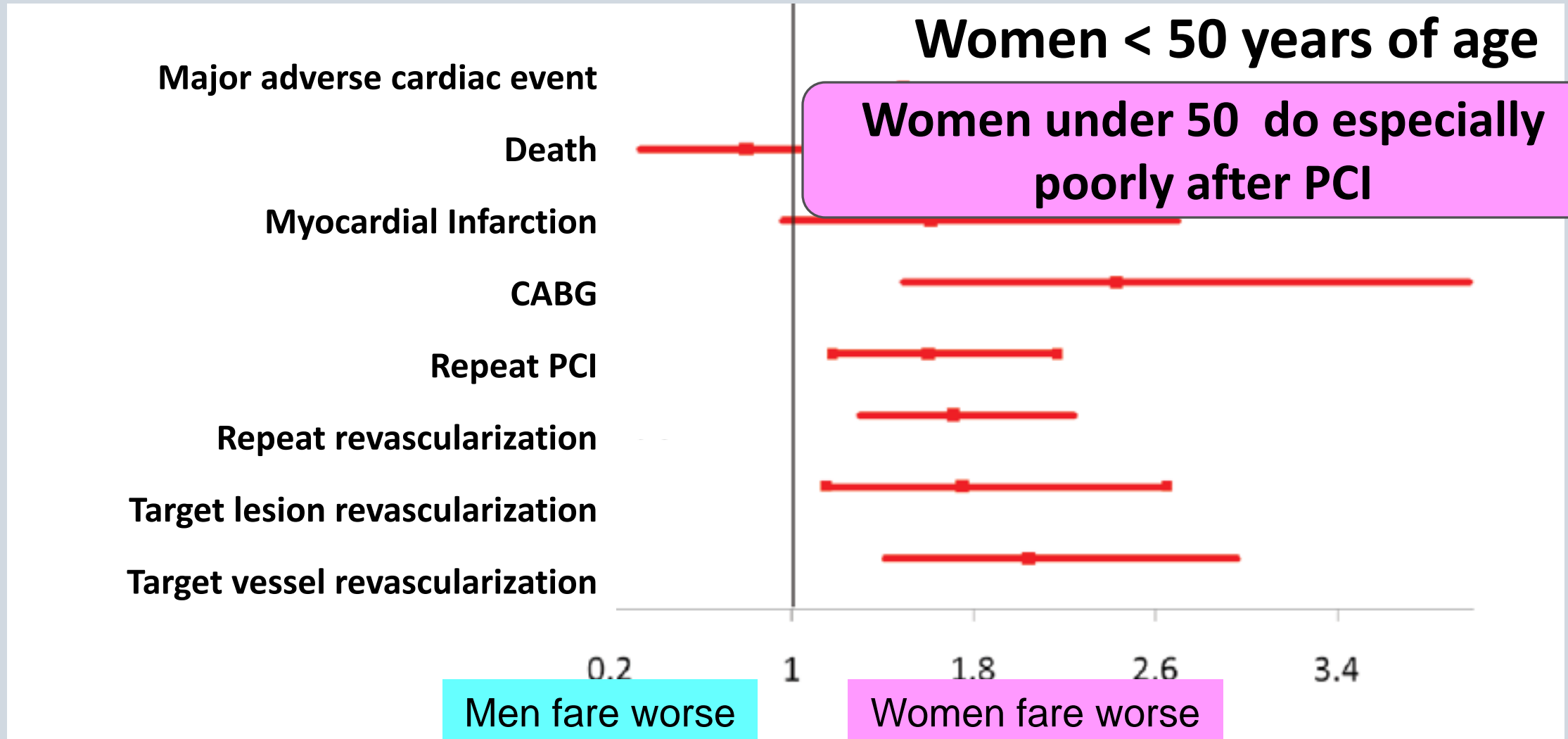
Meta-analysis of Primary Prevention Statin Trials in Women



Women have poorer outcomes post PCI



Young women have especially poor outcomes



Heart Disease in Women

- **Ischemic heart disease in women**
 - biology, risk factors, response to therapy
- **Ischemic syndromes of particular importance to women**
 - MINOCA, Microvascular Dysfunction, SCAD
- **Heart failure syndromes of particular importance to women**
 - Takotsubo, peripartum cardiomyopathy HFpEF
- **The link between breast cancer and heart disease**

What is MINOCA?

Table 1. Definition of MINOCA

1. Acute myocardial infarction (AMI) criteria⁵

Clinical evidence of AMI including any of the following:

- Symptoms – chest pain criteria
- ECG – new changes including ST segments, LBBB, pathological Q waves
- Myocardial perfusion imaging – new loss of viable myocardium
- Left ventricular functional imaging – new regional wall motion abnormality

2. Non-obstructive coronary arteries⁶

No stenosis $\geq 50\%$ on coronary angiography

3. No clinically overt cause for AMI presentation

LBBB = left bundle branch block; MINOCA = MI with non-obstructive coronary arteries.

Clinical Presentation

55-year old female presented with sudden onset of central chest pain for 2 hours.

Troponin T (Reference Range <29ng/L)

Initial: 99 ng/L

6 Hours: 301 ng/L

ECG

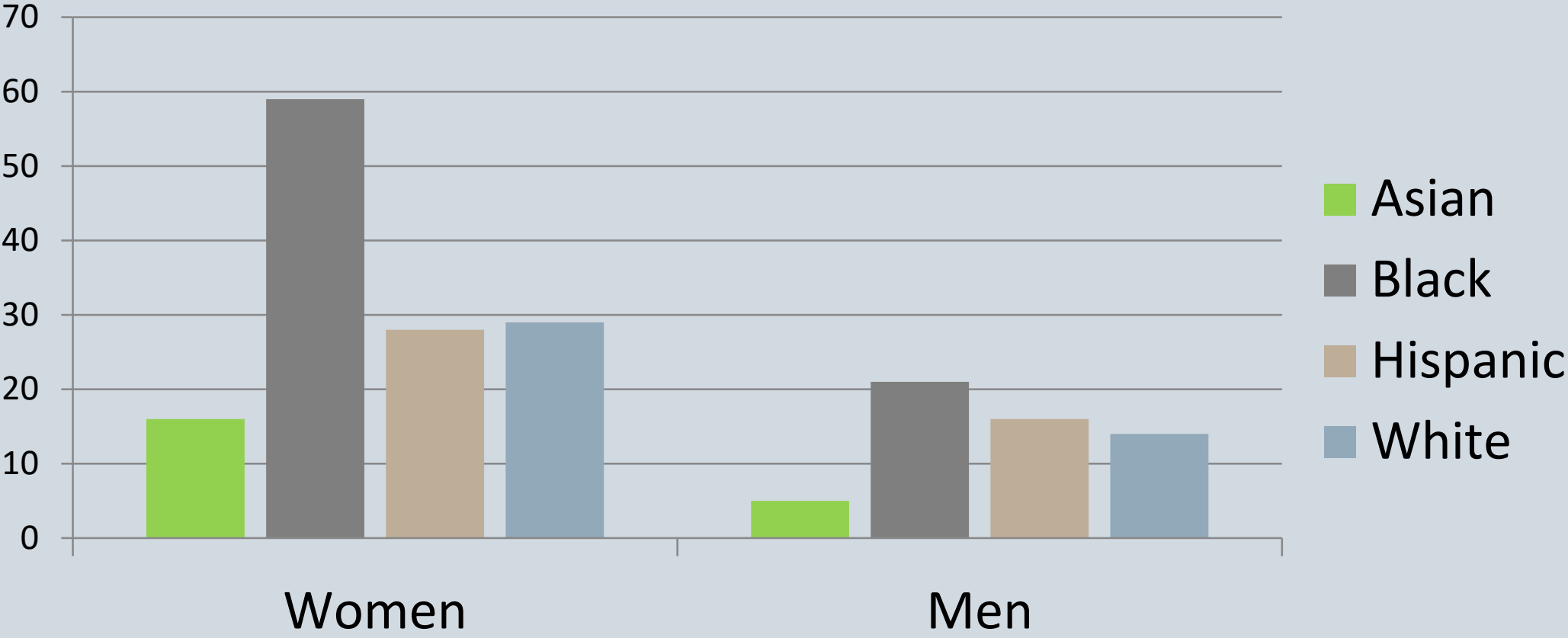
ST elevation in V3-V5



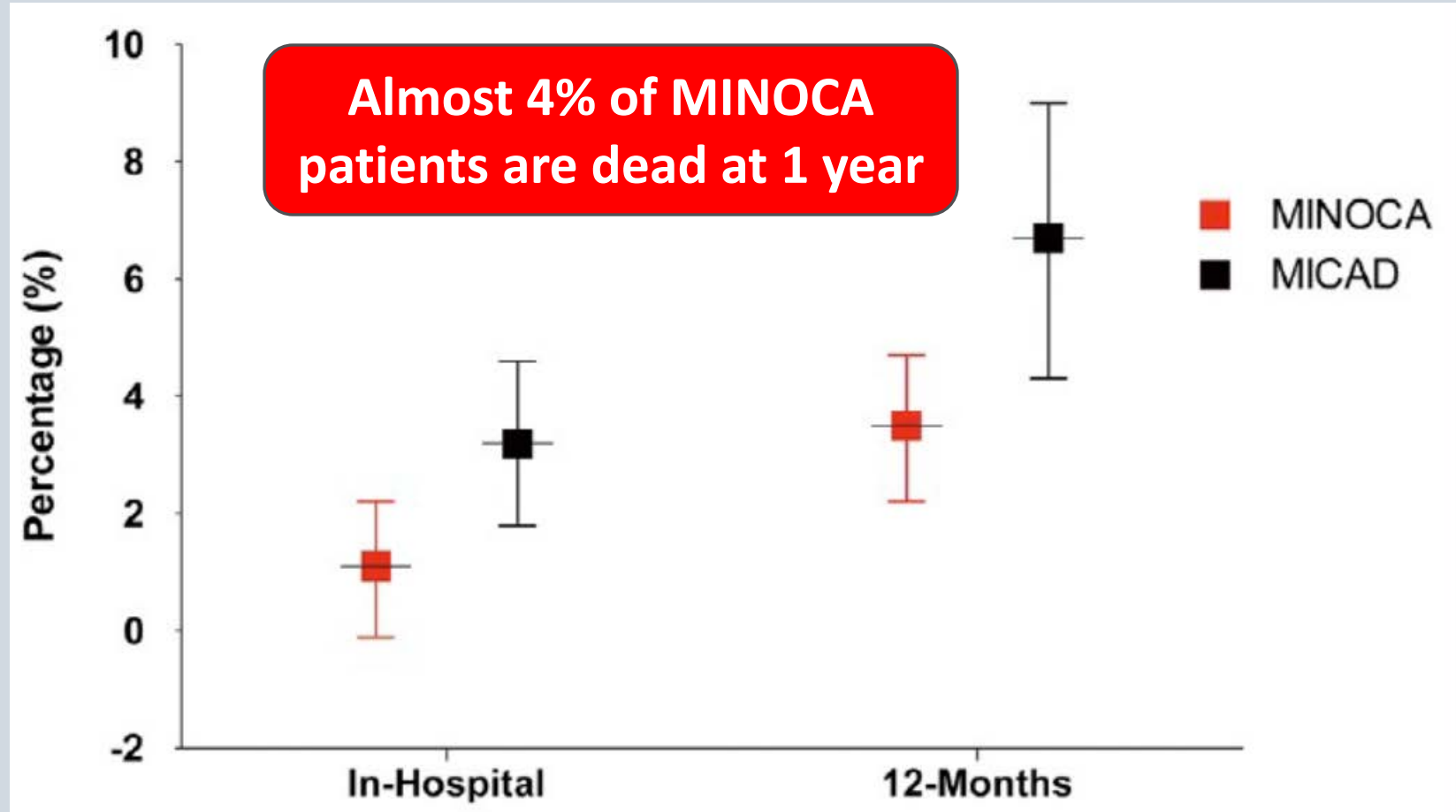
MINOCA

1. Acute Myocardial Infarction

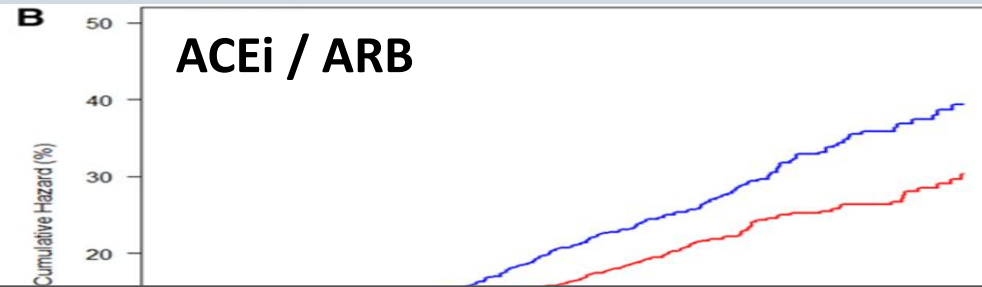
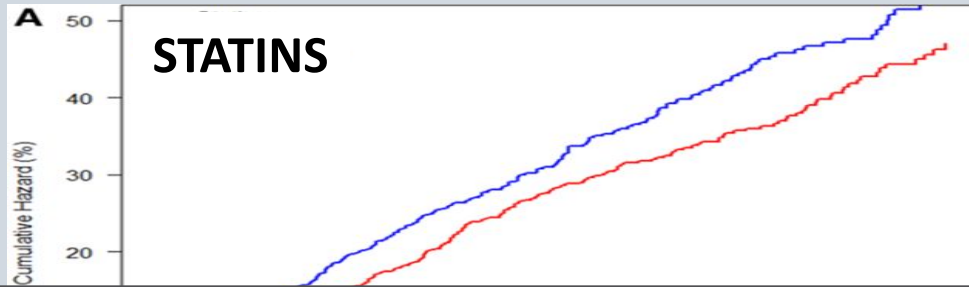
Women are more likely to have MINOCA



Mortality is high in patients with MINOCA



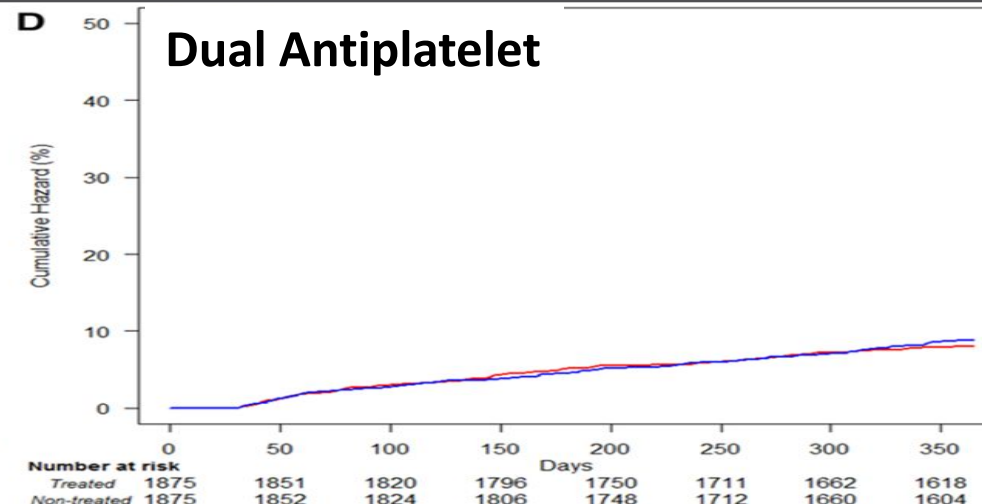
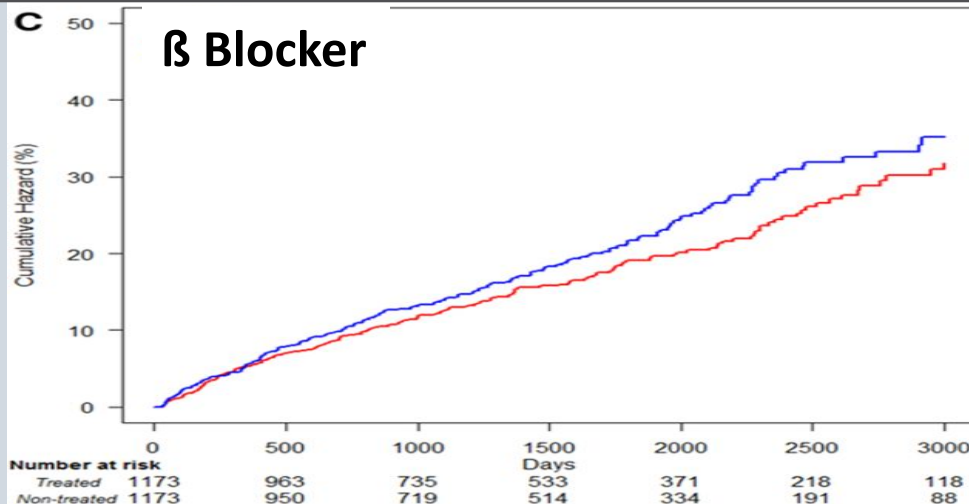
Treatment of MINOCA



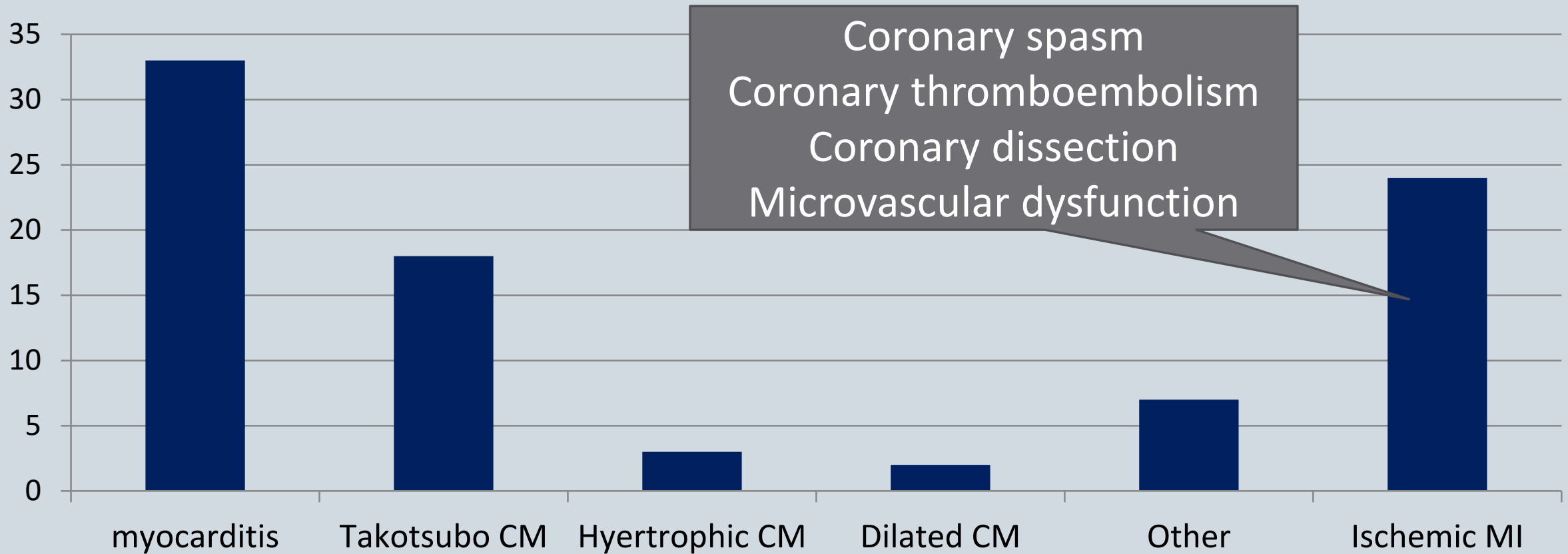
— Not treated
— Treated

Statins, ACE/ARBs and β blockers improve outcomes in MINOCA.
Dual antiplatelet therapy does not

MORTALITY



MINOCA – Cardiac MR Diagnoses



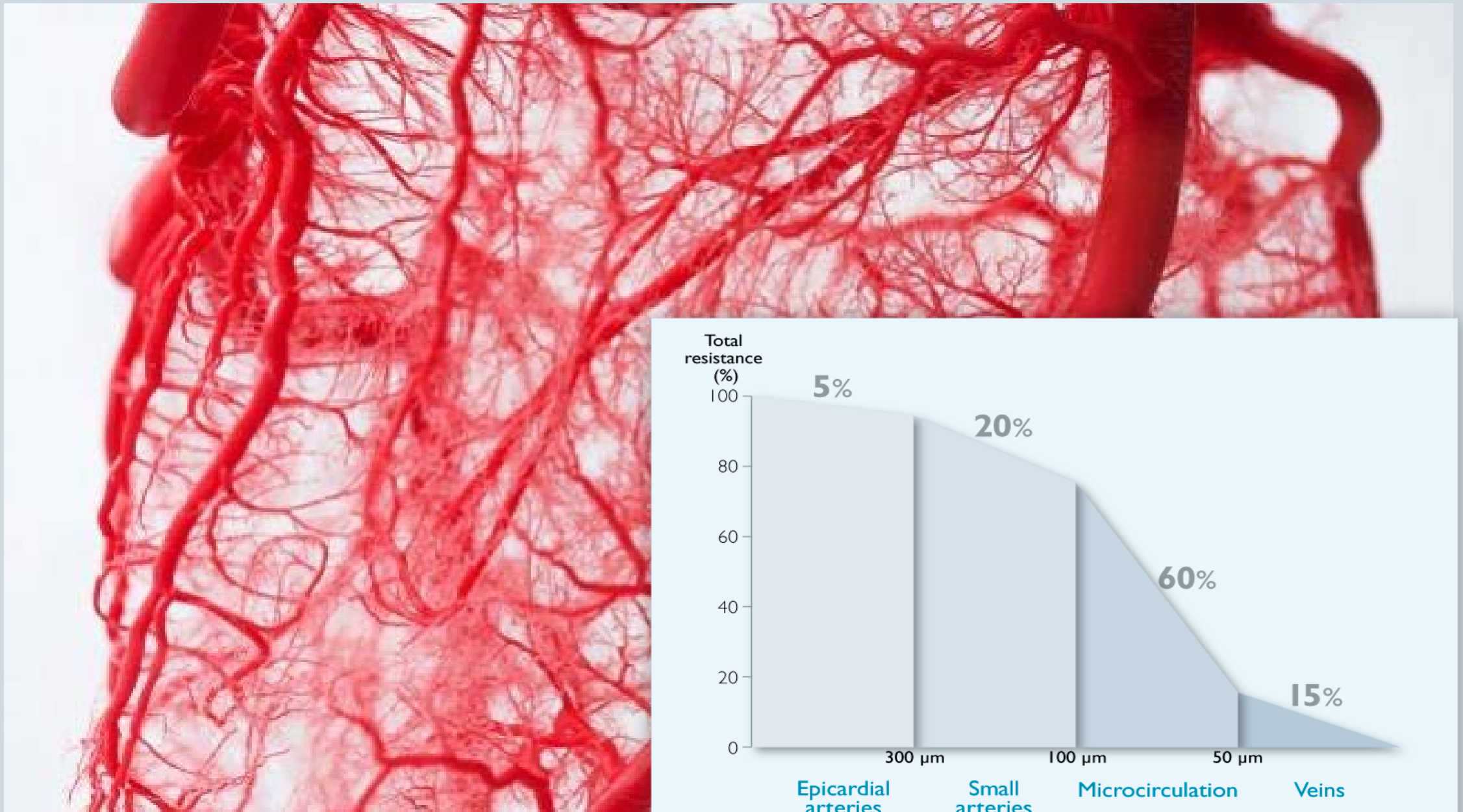
The microvasculature is important

Epicardial coronary arteries ($>500\ \mu\text{m}$)
are where we focus most of our
attention



Microvessels ($<500\ \mu\text{m}$) are much more
abundant and carry most of myocardial
blood flow





Microvascular disease (MVD)

Microvascular dysfunction (MVD) can cause ischemic heart disease

Microvascular dysfunction (MVD) is more common in women

MVD may be influenced by hormonal fluctuations and by cardiac risk factors (especially diabetes)

The microcirculation has the greatest impact on coronary blood flow

Spontaneous Coronary Artery Disease (SCAD)

First described in 1931

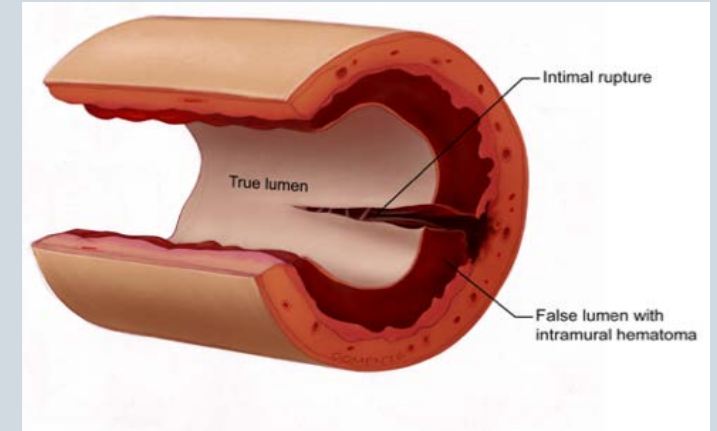
A non-atherosclerotic form of acute coronary syndrome

Underdiagnosed and often not considered in younger women presenting with chest pain

Previously considered rare, SCAD now recognized to cause 2–4% of all ACS, 24–36% of MIs in women <50y, and the most common cause of pregnancy-associated MI

Significant association with fibromuscular dysplasia

- -? Generalized vasculopathy



The Canadian SCAD (CanSCAD) a prospective, observational study

750 SCAD patients from Canada (20 centers) and the US (2 centers)

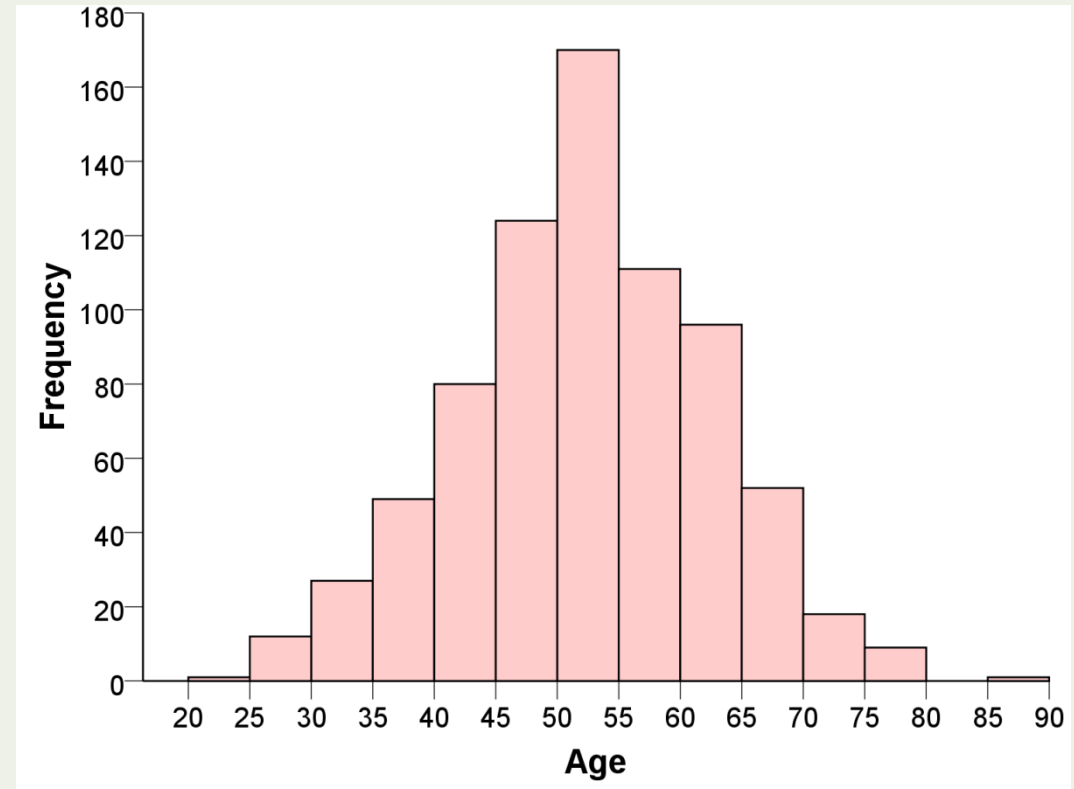
Average age was 51.8 years

89% were female

55% were postmenopausal

Only 4.5% were peripartum

33.9% had NO cardiac risk factors



The Canadian SCAD (CanSCAD) study through 2018

50.3% reported high or severe levels of emotional stress

28.9% reported unusually intense physical stress

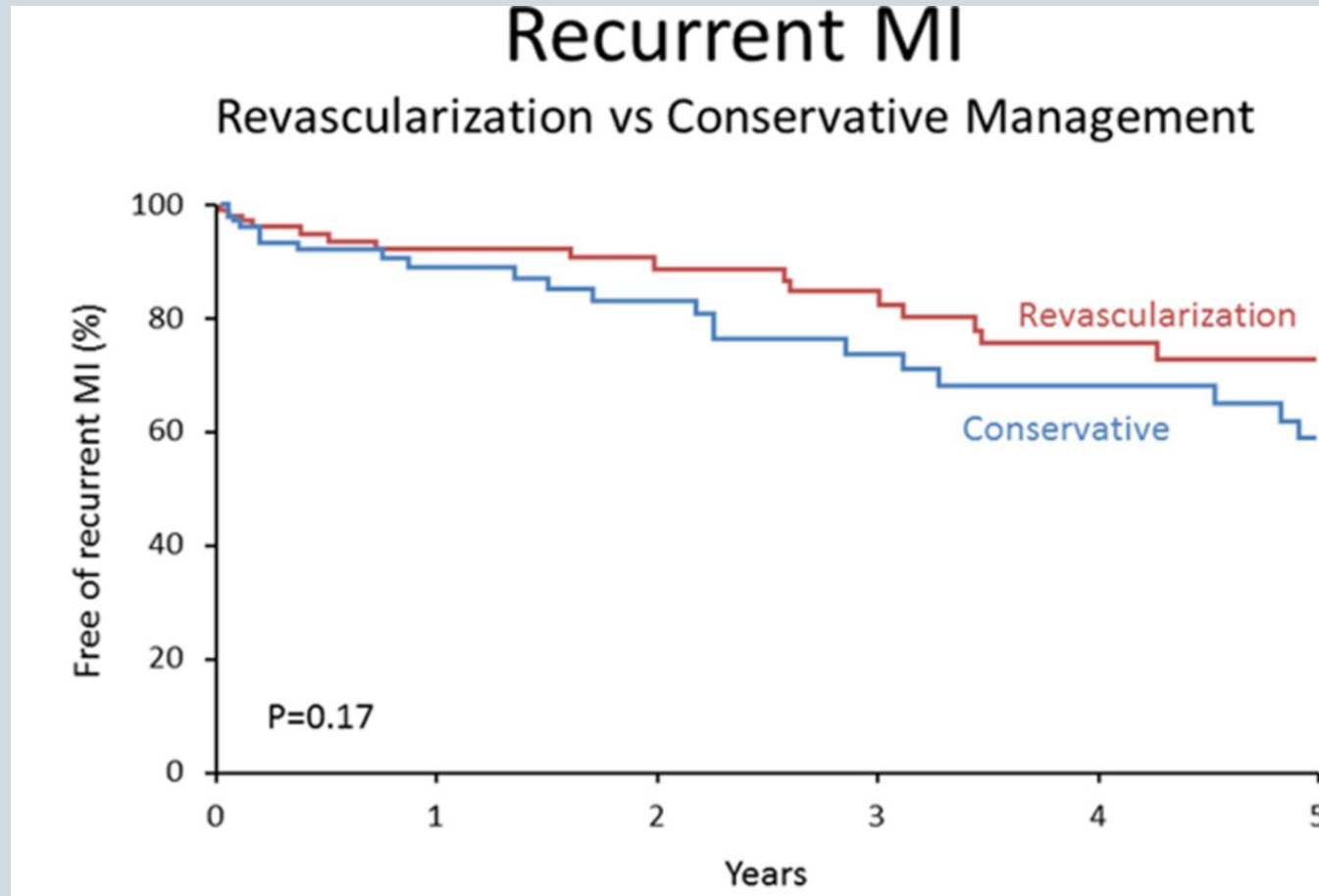
9.8% reported Isometric stress >50 lb. weight lifting

32.5% had a history of migraines

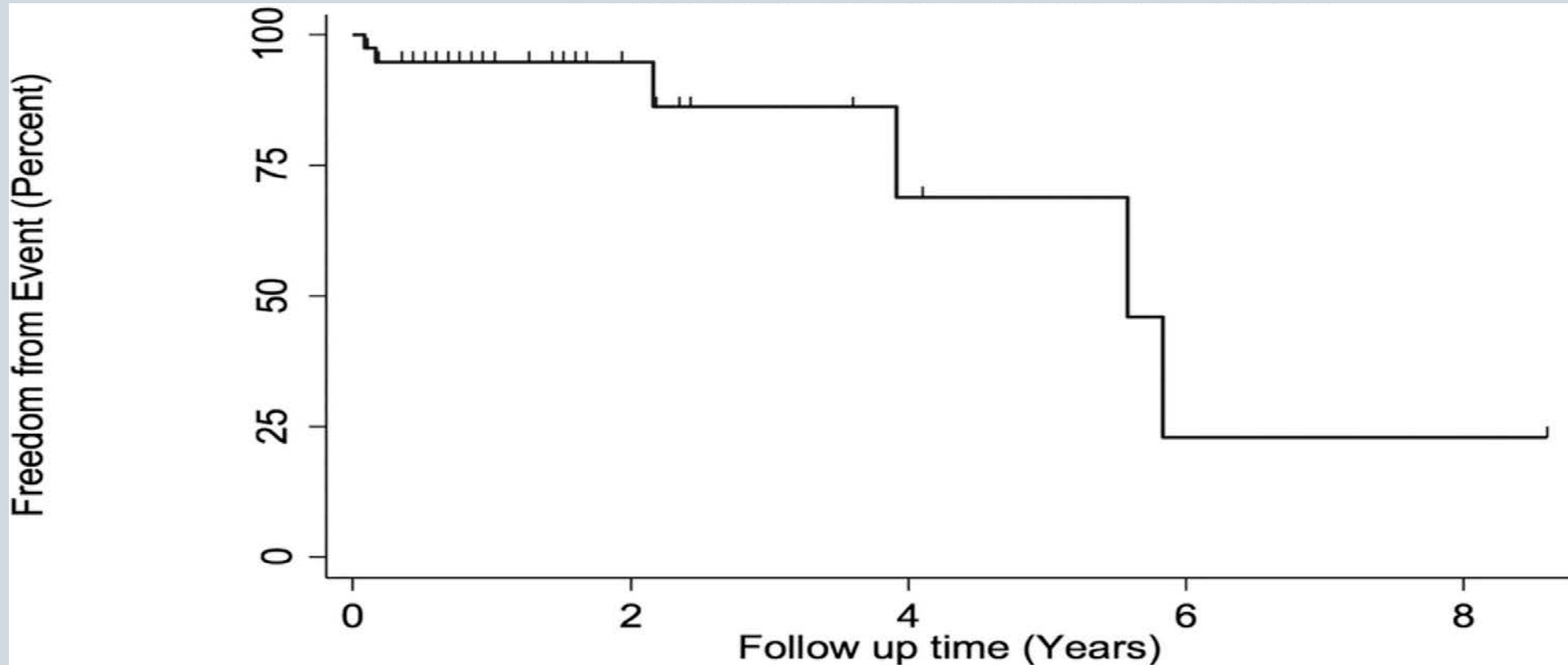
31.1% had ***fibromuscular dysplasia***

- 27.7 % renal arteries
- 21.0 % femoral and/or iliac
- 29.5 % cerebrovascular
- 7.1% had cerebral aneurysms

SCAD should be treated conservatively



Long term outcomes of SCAD are poor

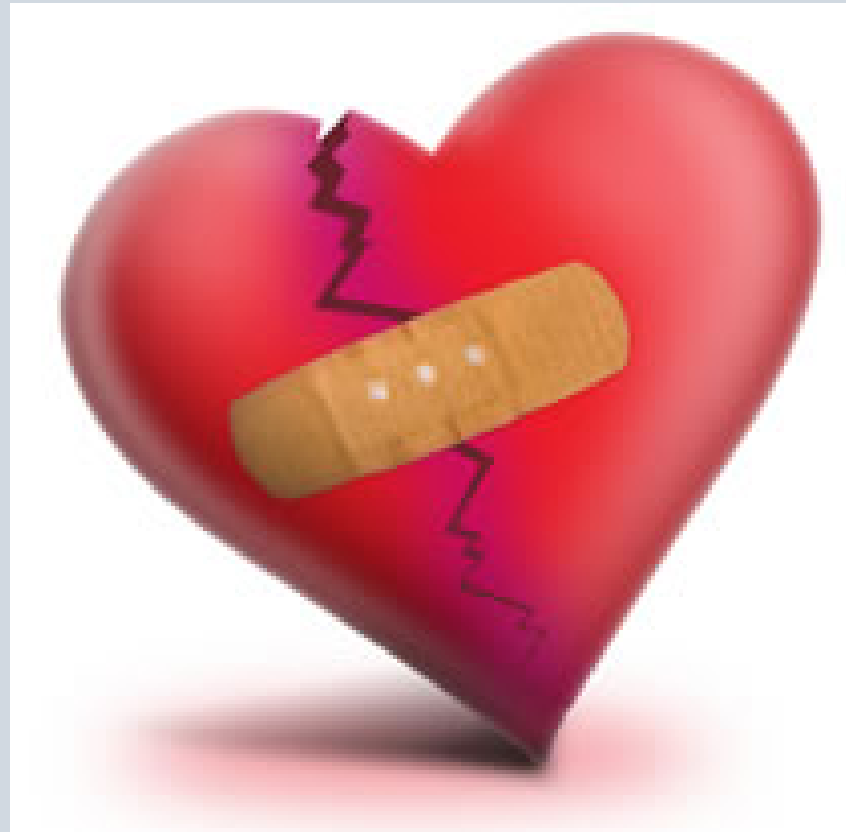


Long term outcomes are poor in SCAD with high recurrent CV event rates

Heart Disease in Women

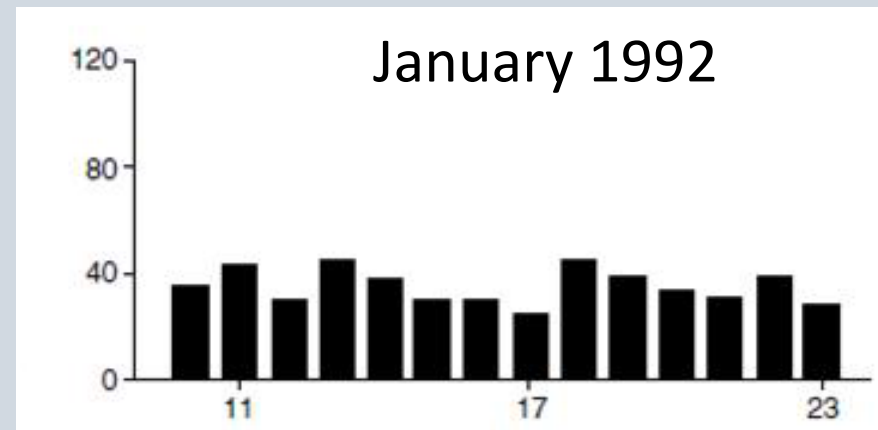
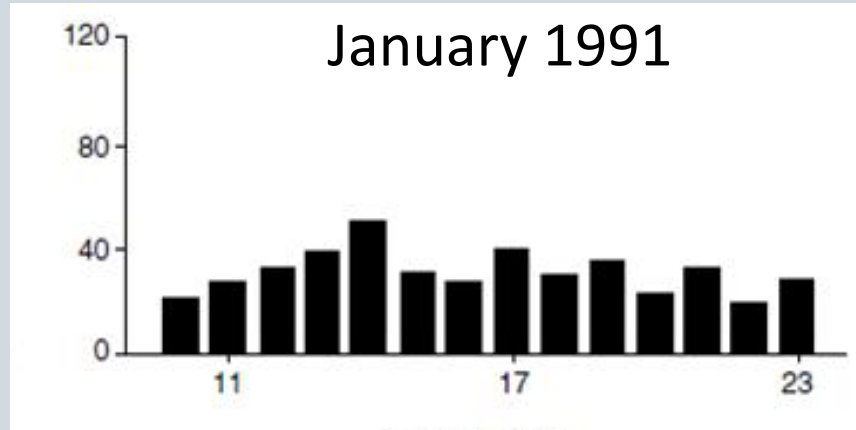
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 - Takotsubo cardiomyopathy
- **The link between breast cancer and heart disease**

Takotsubo: Stress and the heart

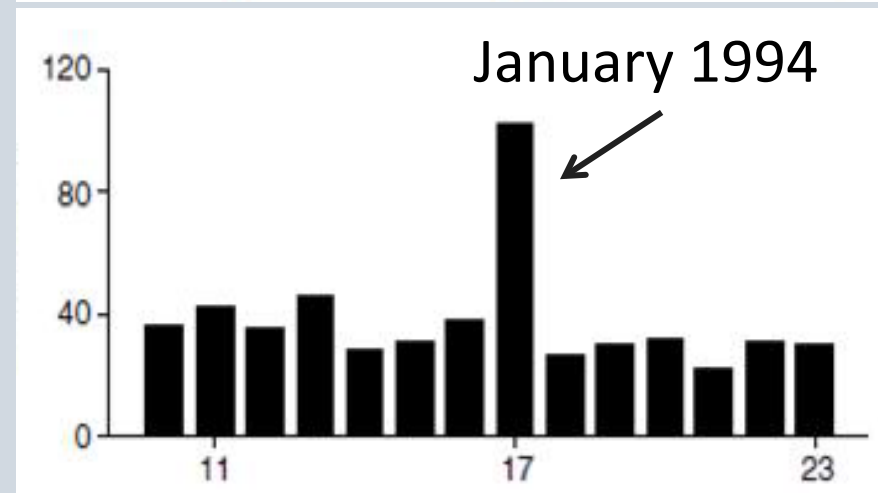
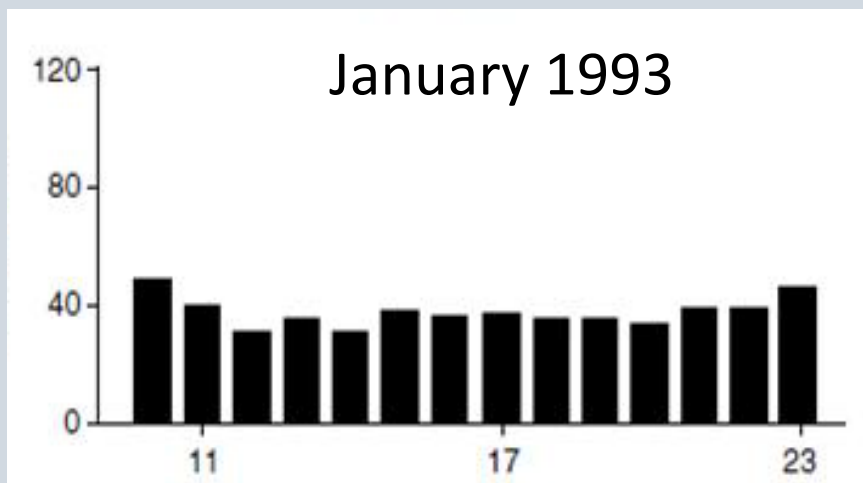


Northridge earthquake and Cardiac Deaths

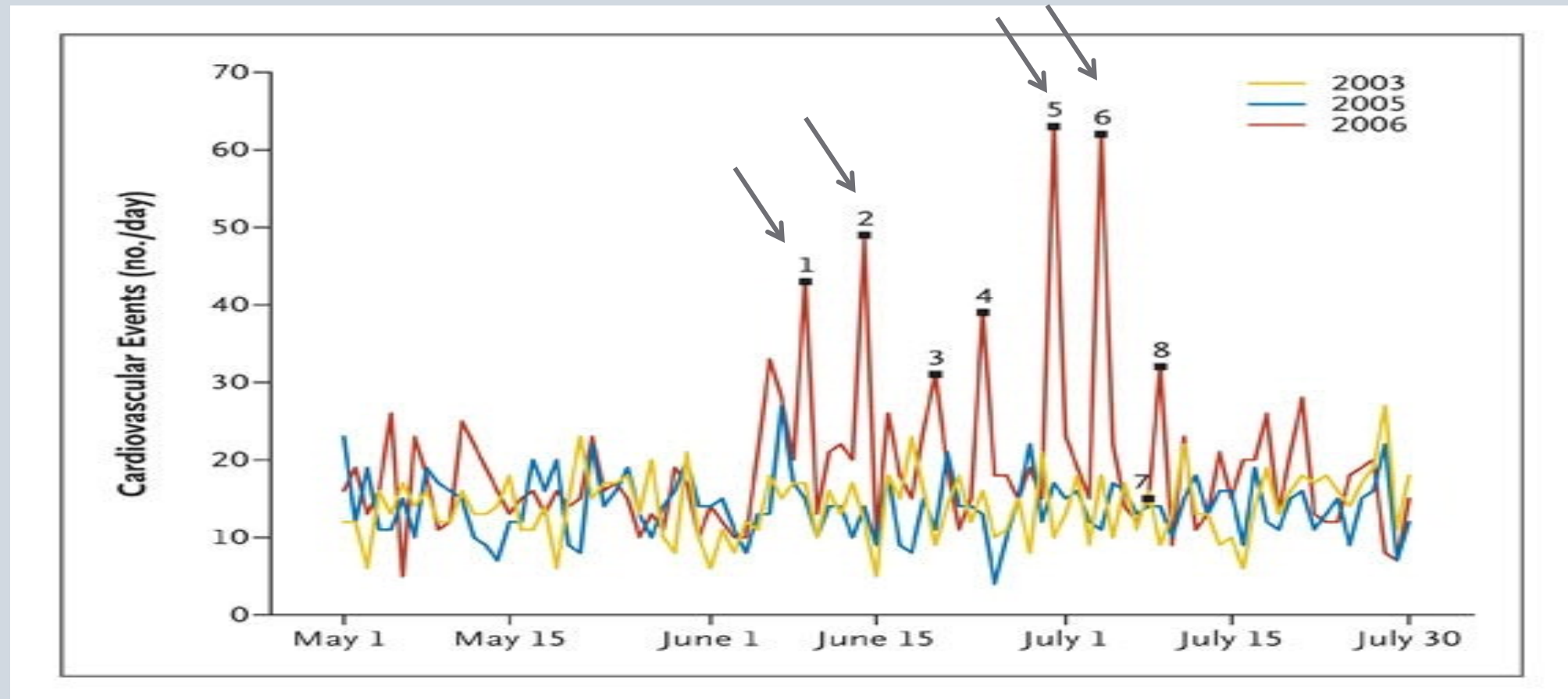
Number of Cardiac Deaths



Number of Cardiac Deaths

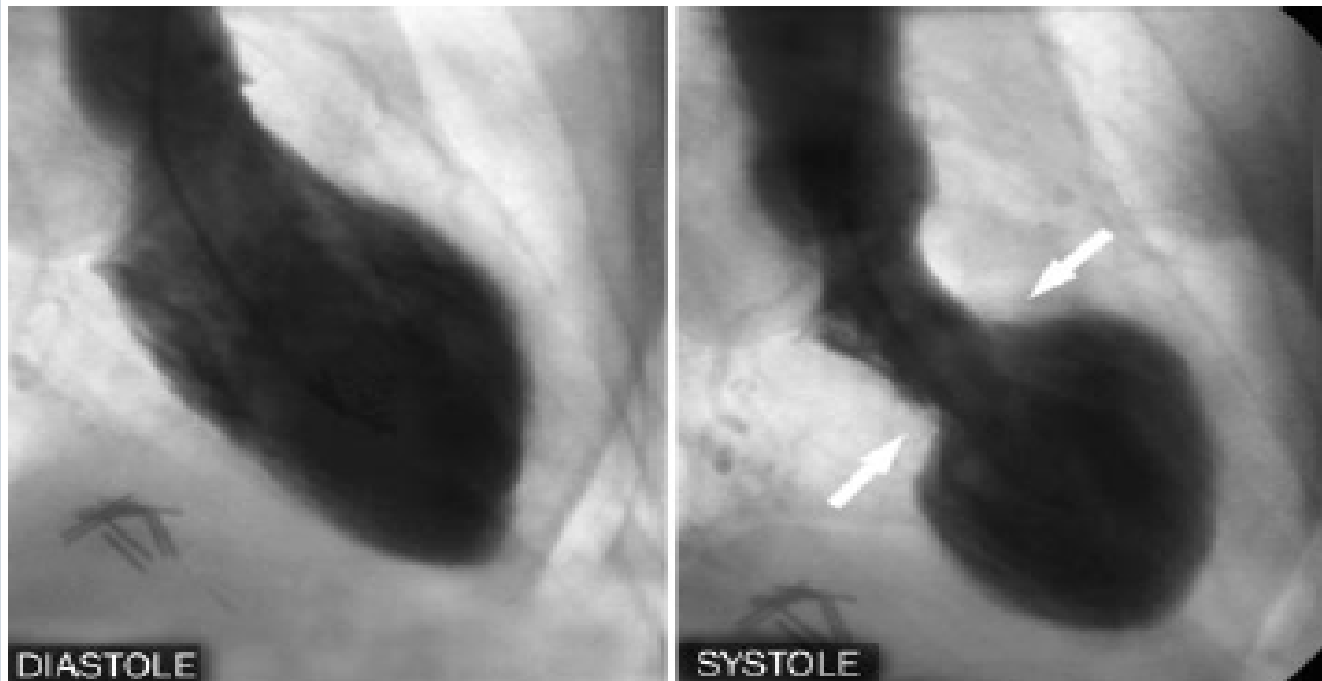


Cardiac Deaths and World Cup soccer in Germany



“Stress” is an Important Cardiovascular Risk Factor in women

TAKOTSUBO CARDIOMYOPATHY



Non-atherosclerotic form of acute myocardial infarction

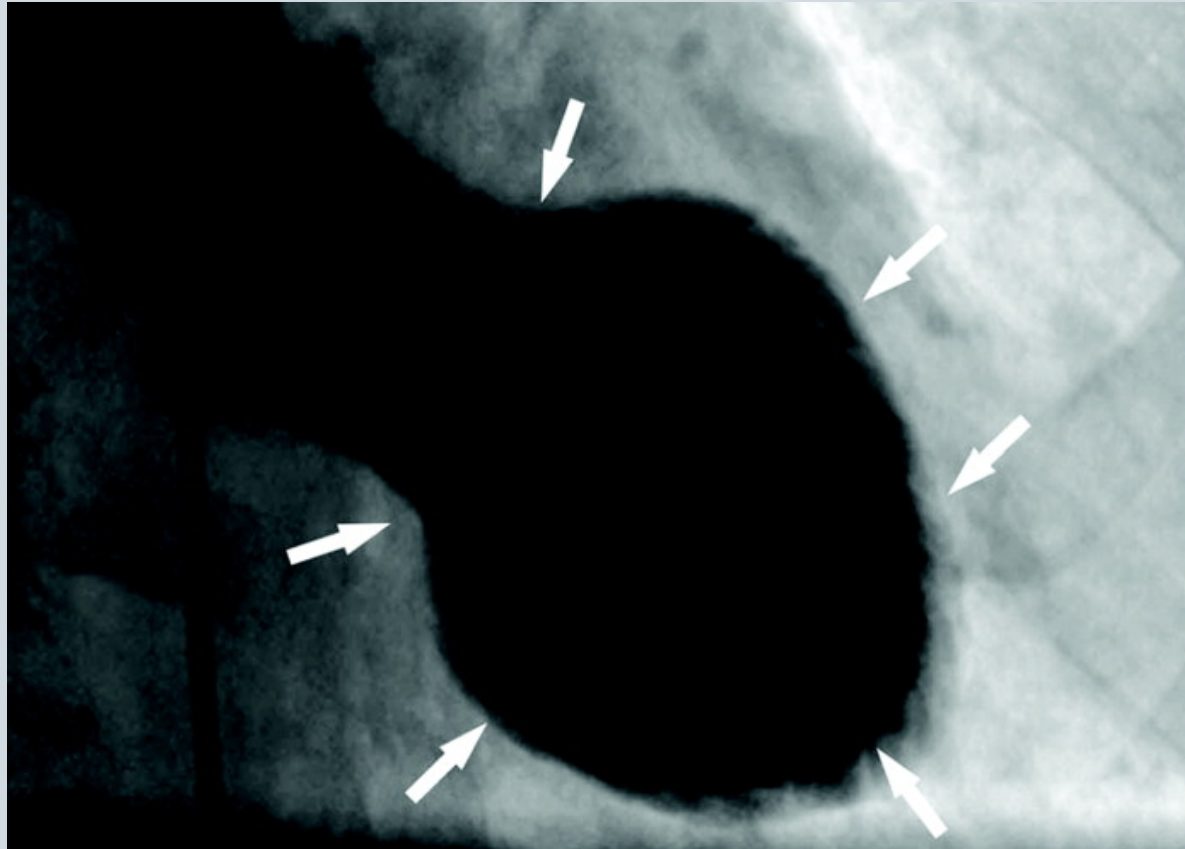
Cardiomyopathy with apical sparing (resembling a “takotsubo”)

Preceding emotional stressor (“*lifetime crisis*”) or physical trigger

90% post-menopausal females

Takotsubo

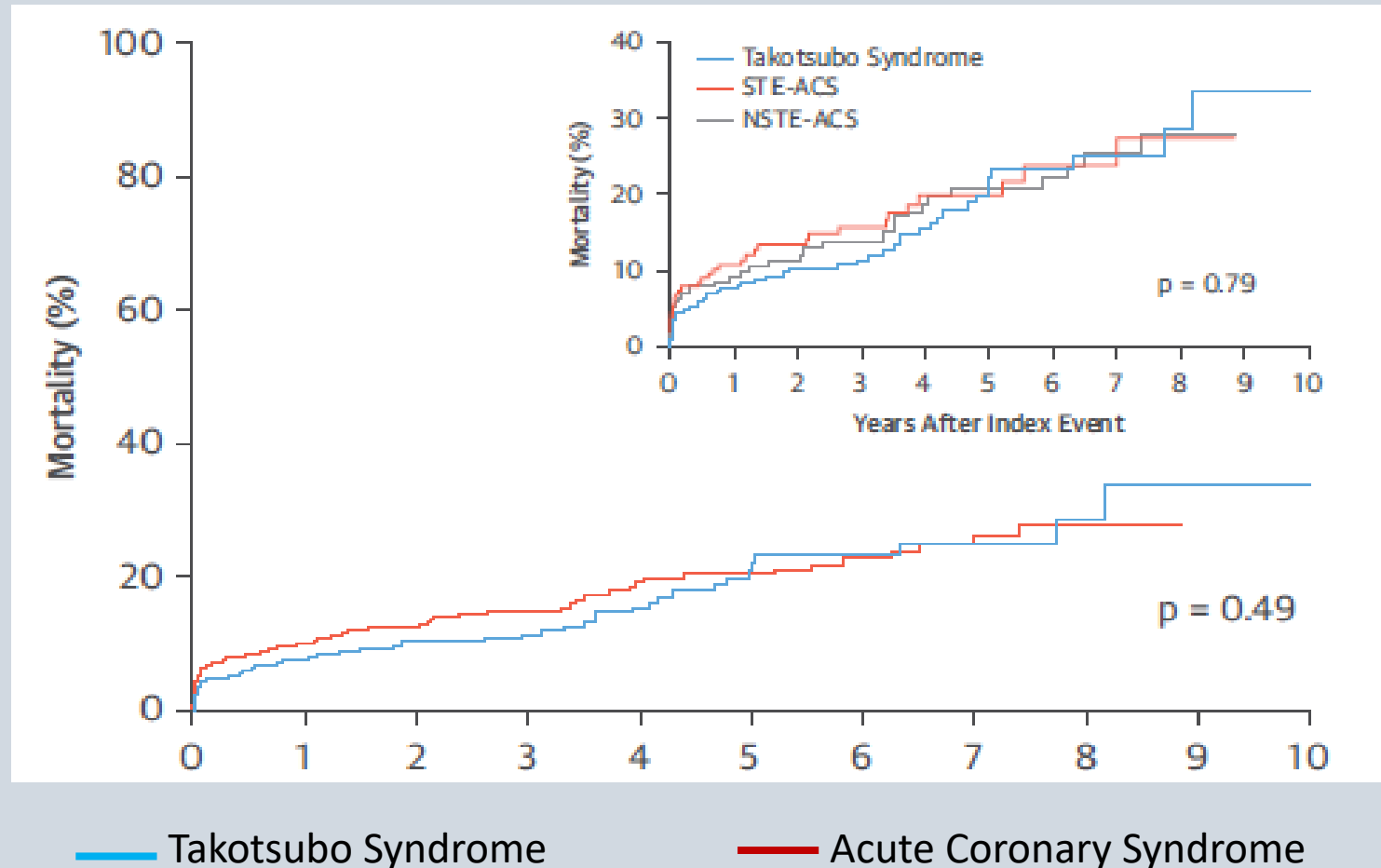
- Broken Heart Syndrome
- Stress Cardiomyopathy



Japanese octopus trap

Takotsubo outcomes similar to ACS outcomes

- 1,613 patients enrolled in the International Takotsubo Registry.
- 90% women
- Takotsubo patients had similar long-term mortality to ACS patients



Urinary stress hormone levels Women vs. Men

Variable*	Female n=348	Male n=306	P Value
Smoking Status, % Never / former / current smoker	59/34/7	38/49/13	<0.001
Diastolic Blood Pressure, mmHg	67.4 ± 9.62	73.5 ± 9.52	0.00001
Blood pressure medications, %	49	39	0.0134
BMI, kg/m ²	29.6 ± 5.9	28.0 ± 4.5	0.0014
HDL cholesterol, mg/dl	56.6 ± 15.80	46.3 ± 14.45	<0.0001
Urinary Catecholamines			
NE, (ln ng/ creatinine mg/dl)	29.1(23.1-40.6)	24.2(17.9-32.0)	<0.0001
EPI, (ln ng/ creatinine mg/dl)	2.3(1.4-3.0)	2.4 (1.5-3.3)	0.4200
DA, (ln ng/ creatinine mg/dl)	242.9 ¹⁹	198.4(158.5-250.5)	<0.0001

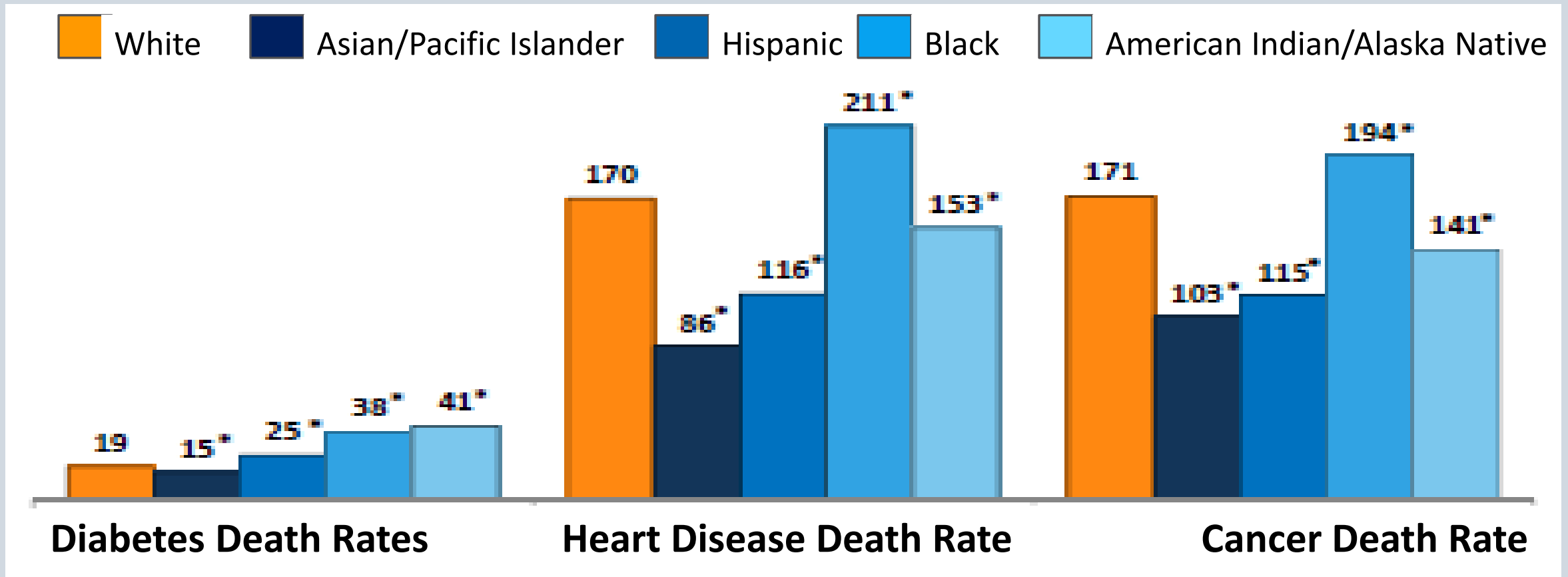


“We wanted to make the stress test as realistic as possible.”

Underrepresented Minorities

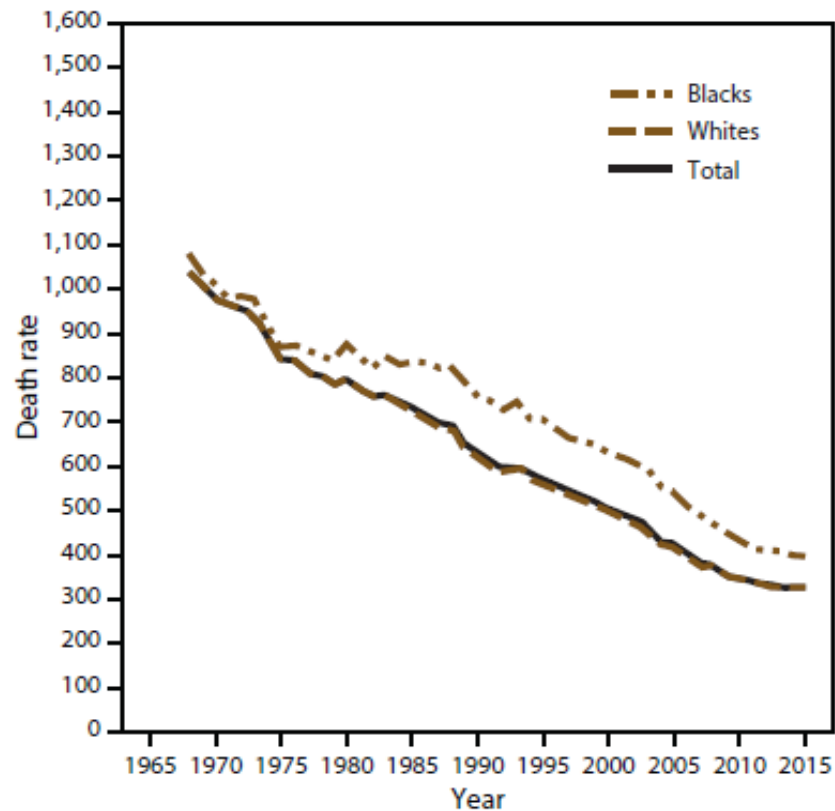


Death rates by race-ethnicity



Disparities in heart disease death rates

FIGURE 1. Heart disease death rates* and annual percentage changes among adults aged ≥ 35 years, by race — United States, 1968–2015



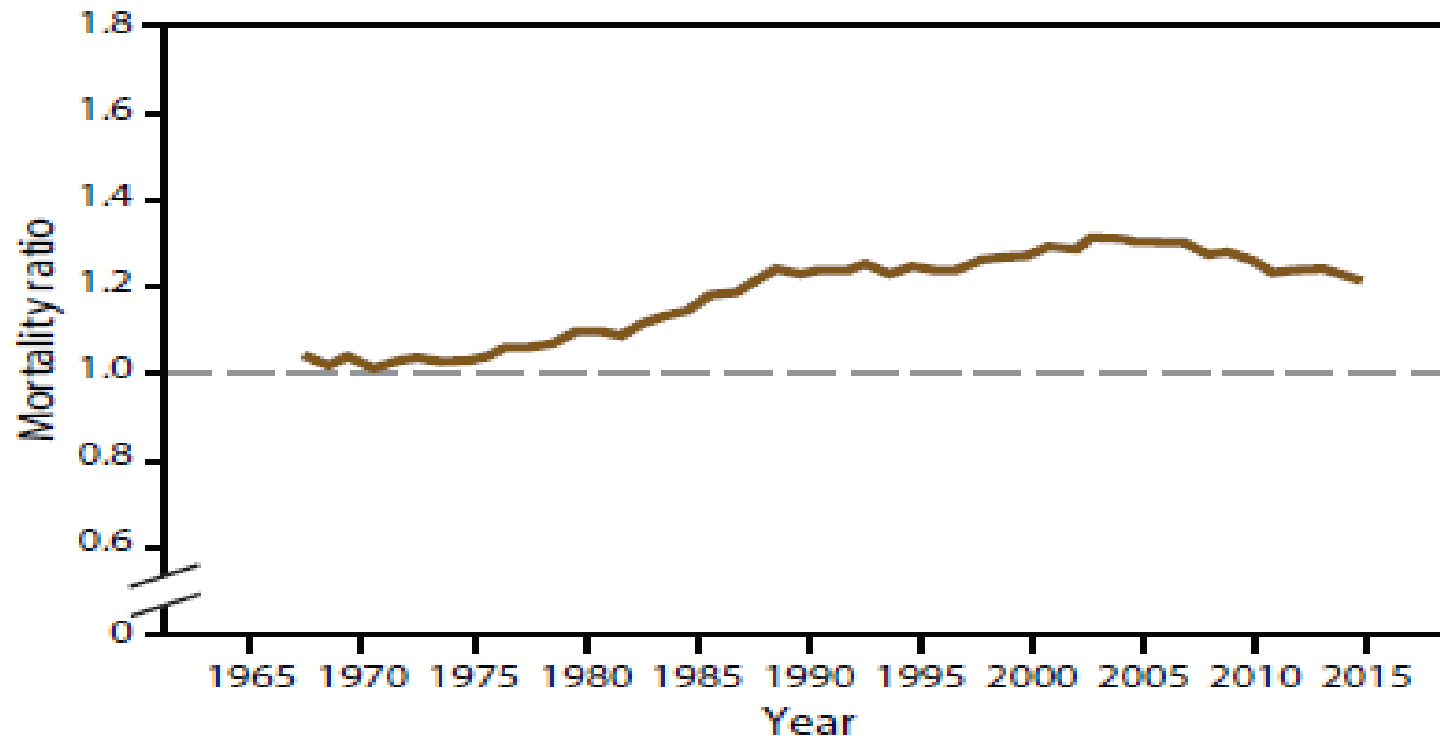
Black have higher heart disease death rates than white.

This has been true since 1970

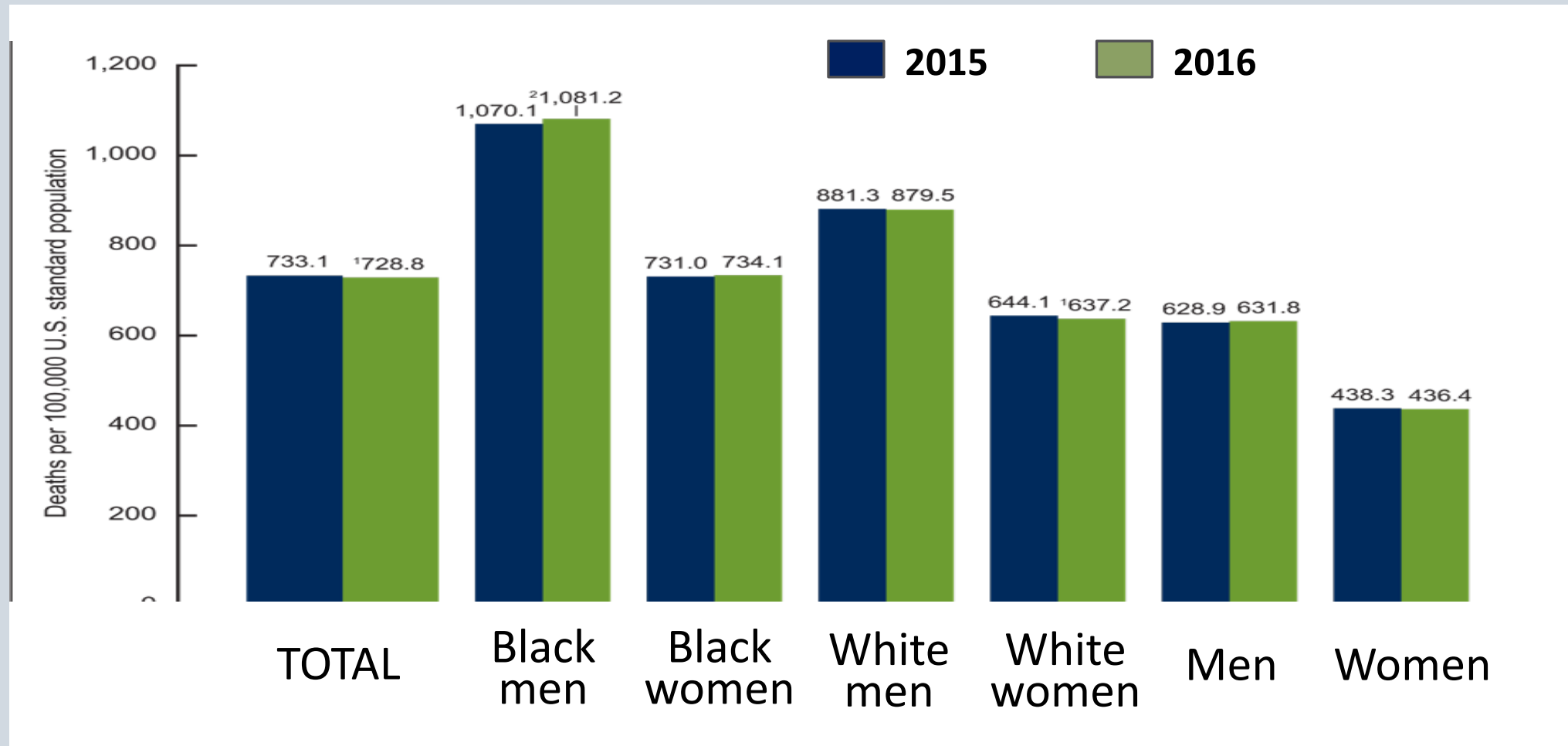
The gap is not closing

Disparities in heart disease death rates

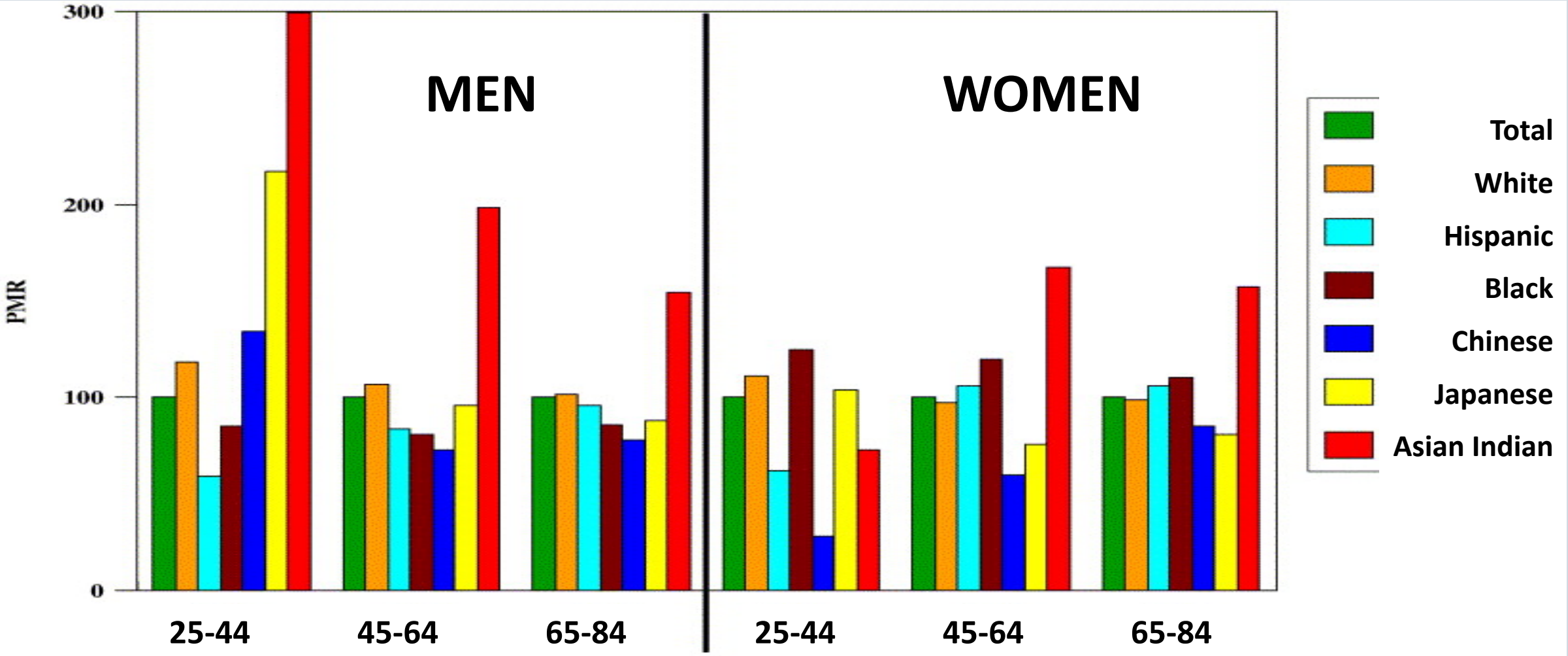
FIGURE 2. Black-white heart disease mortality ratios and annual percentage changes among adults aged ≥ 35 years — United States, 1968–2015



Heart disease mortality is increasing in Black men



CVD Mortality by Ethnic Group, in California



South Asians

South Asians

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
- 1.6 billion individuals (*one-fifth of all humans!*)

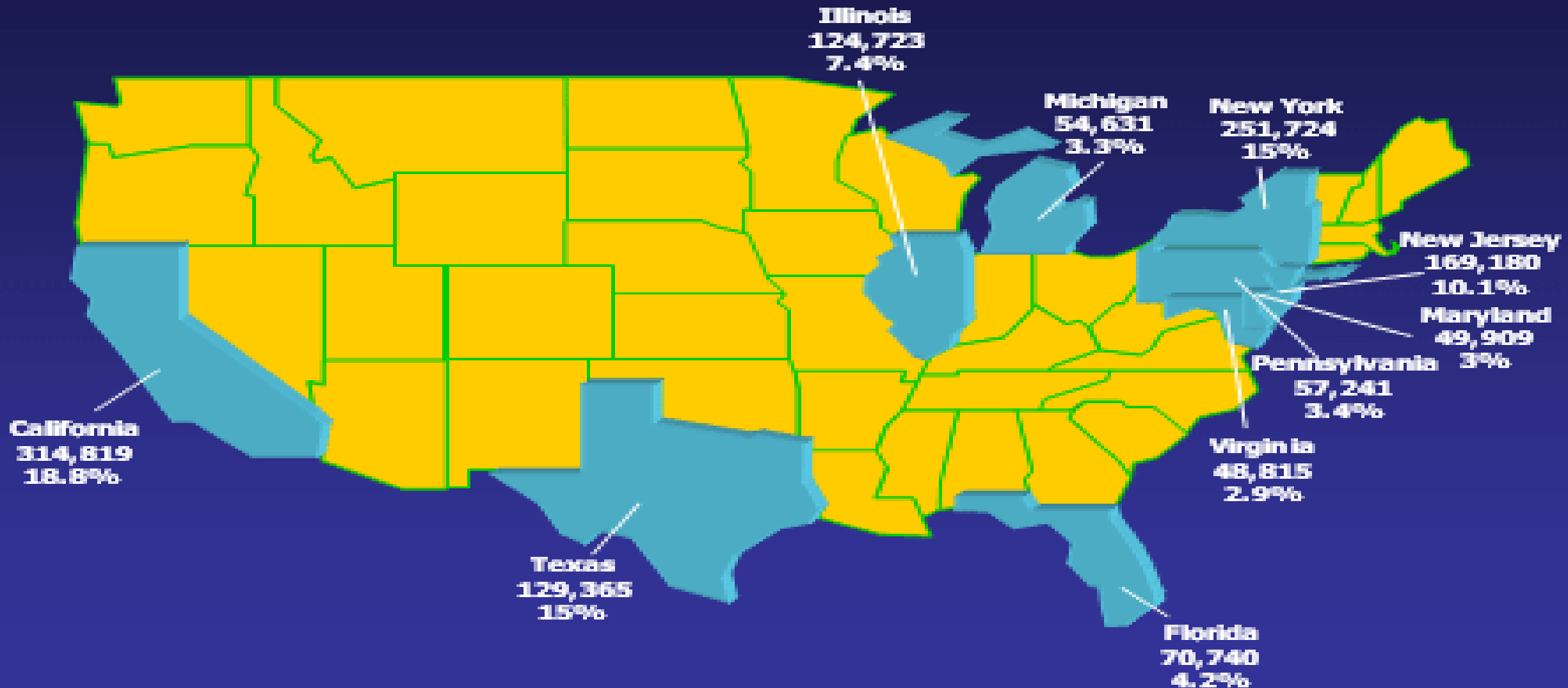
Migration:

- 1890s-1920s: First wave, mainly from the Indian State of Punjab occurred
- 1960s: Second wave with passage of the 1965 immigration and nationality act (INA).
 - A total of 20,000 highly skilled professionals and 25,000 physicians emigrated from India to the US.
- 1980s: Third wave: Family reunification, allowing for parents and extended families of the settled professionals, to emigrate to the U.S.

U.S. Asian Population: 2010 Census



South Asians in the United States



Total US Population: 1,678,765

South Asians in the U.S.

- Asian Americans 2010 Census
 - Chinese (3.79 million)
 - Filipino (3.41 million)
 - **Indian (3.18 million)**
 - Vietnamese (1.73 million)
 - Korean (1.7 million)
 - Japanese (1.3 million)
- 2010 U.S. Census: 3,863,963 South Asians
 - 6% are age 65 or older
- Largest numbers of South Asians are in New York, New Jersey, Michigan, Texas and Illinois

Cardiovascular Disease in South Asians

High rates of CAD for South Asians

- higher hospitalization and mortality rates from CAD
- Average 10 years earlier first event than other race/ethnicities

Heart Failure Younger age of onset

- Higher risk of ventricular arrhythmias and lower risk of AF
- More ischemic etiology responsible for HF

Risk Factors - Type 2 Diabetes Mellitus

- South Asians
 - Higher odds of diabetes compared to whites and Latinos
 - Not significantly different from African Americans and Chinese Americans
- Approximately 33% of participants have pre-DM, 25% DM
- South Asians develop DM 5–10 years earlier and at a lower BMI
- Migrant SAs more insulin-resistant than white Europeans across the life course and potentially experience β -cell exhaustion at a younger age

Traditional Risk Factors – Obesity

THE SKINNY-FAT PHENOTYPE



UNDERMUSCLED *in the shoulders, upper chest, arms, and upper back and back in general - what i call the **“HALO”** and **“WINGS”** - which makes for more of an “A” build rather than an “X” build, a very ectomorph build for muscle mass, but...*

FAT DEPOSITS *typically in the lower chest, love handles, and belly area*

[HTTP://ANTHONYMYCHAL.COM](http://anthonymychal.com)

Emerging Risk Factors

Lipoprotein (a)

- LDL-like particle and the specific apolipoprotein(a) [apo(a)], covalently bound to the apoB of the LDL like particle
- Correlated with atherogenic activity and CVD outcomes with large genetic determination
- Multiple U.S. cohorts demonstrate elevated levels in South Asians when compared to white controls
- Correlation of Lp(a) has relationship to CAD severity in South Asians^{23,24}

AHA SCIENTIFIC STATEMENT

Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in South Asians in the United States: Epidemiology, Risk Factors, and Treatments

A Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association

ABSTRACT: South Asians (from Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka) make up one quarter of the world's population and are one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the United States. Although native South Asians share genetic and cultural risk factors with South Asians abroad, South Asians in the United States can differ in socioeconomic status, education, healthcare behaviors, attitudes, and health insurance, which can affect their risk and the treatment and outcomes of atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD). South Asians have higher proportional mortality rates from ASCVD compared with other Asian groups and non-Hispanic whites, in contrast to the finding that Asian Americans (Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese) aggregated as a group are at lower risk of ASCVD, largely because of the lower risk observed in East Asian populations. Literature relevant to South Asian populations regarding demographics and risk factors, health behaviors, and interventions, including physical activity, diet, medications, and community strategies, is summarized. The evidence to date is that the biology of ASCVD is complex but is no different in South Asians than in any other racial/ethnic group. A majority of the risk in South Asians can be explained by the increased prevalence of known risk factors, especially those related to insulin resistance, and no unique risk factors in this population have been found. This scientific statement focuses on how ASCVD risk factors affect the South Asian population in order to make recommendations for clinical strategies to reduce disease and for directions for future research to reduce ASCVD in this population.

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Council on Epidemiol-
ogy and Prevention;
Cardiovascular Disease
and Stroke in Women
and Special Popula-
tions Committee of
the Council on Clinical
Cardiology; Council
on Cardiovascular and
Stroke Nursing; Council
on Quality of Care and
Outcomes Research;
and Stroke Council

Conclusion

- Sex, race, and ethnicity matter in cardiovascular disease
- Heart disease is the No. 1 killer of women, and its signs and symptoms may differ from men.
- Many underrepresented populations are at higher risk for CHD
- Understanding the unique risk factors, pathophysiology, and response to therapy for patients at greatest risk will greatly improve cardiovascular outcomes

Why we need to prevent cardiovascular disease



If we keep on doing what we've always done...
we'll keep on getting what we've always gotten...