



Nieuwste inzichten in behandeling van congestief hartfalen

Prof. dr. Wilfried Mullens



37th WCN-congres

New Frontiers

Nieuwste inzichten in behandeling van congestief hartfalen

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University Hasselt, Belgium
President-Elect HFA

November 29, 2024

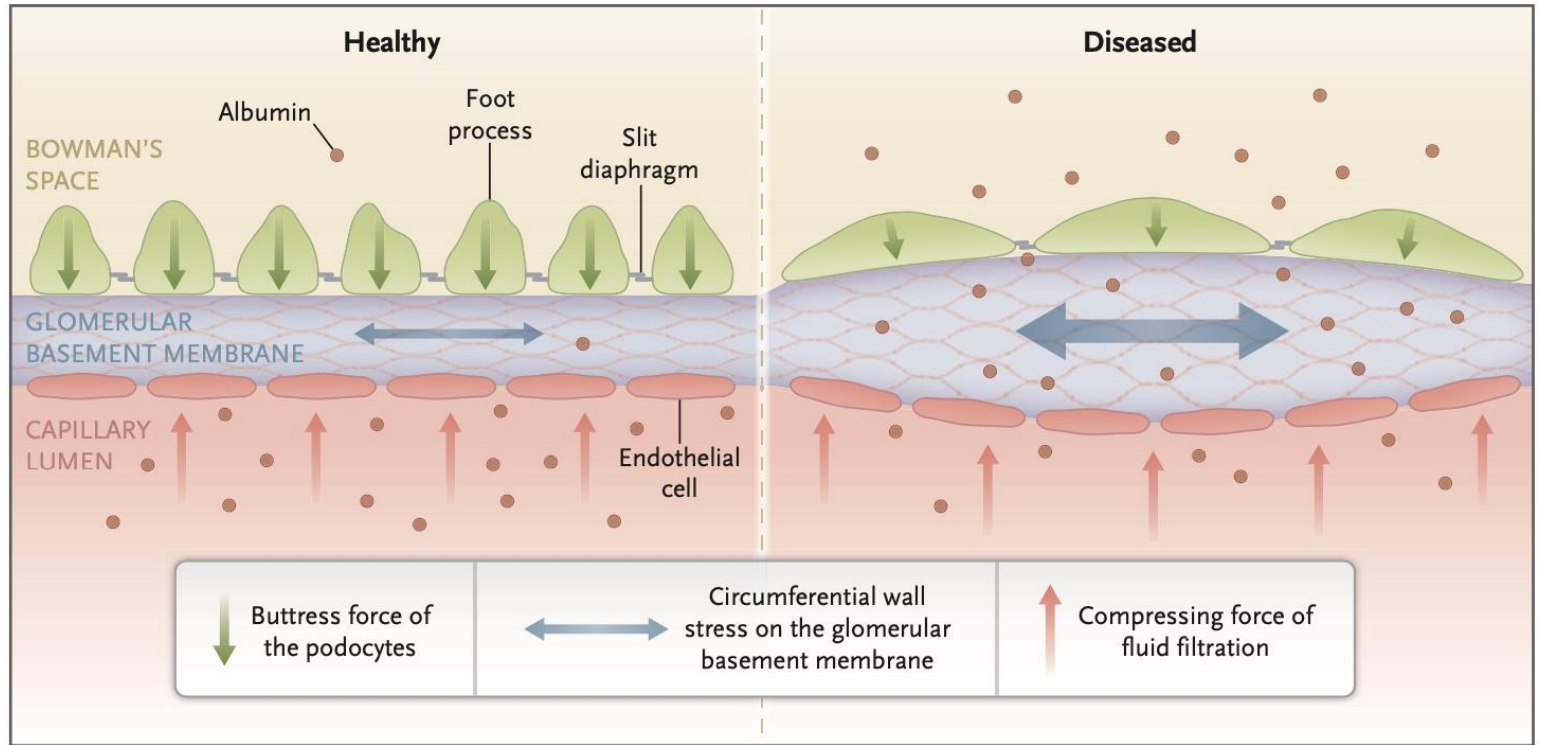
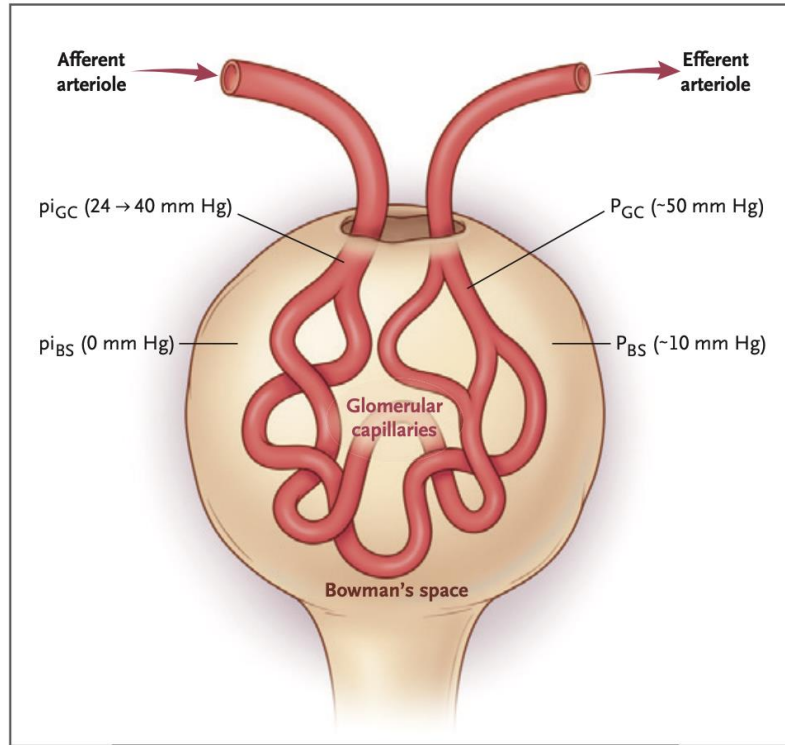
Declaration of interest

- Speaker fees to independent Hospital / University Fund
- Will (try to) explain what you should do in case of diuretic resistance and/or WRF....
which is mostly reflecting 'normal' physiological response to HF

Conclusions

1. Renal function $\neq$ GFR
2. CKD is very prevalent and related to adverse outcomes
3. Certain agents delay the progression of CKD
4. Diuretic resistance / WRF is a normal physiological response
5. Do NOT stop decongestion / GDMT if WRF occurs

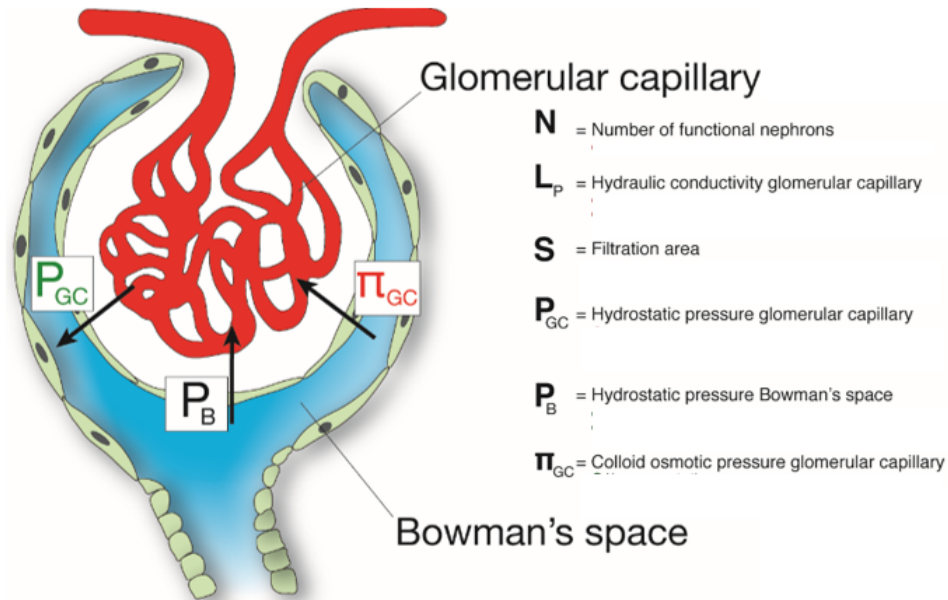
Single nephron GFR depending on integrity of podocytes and intraglomerular Starling pressure



RENAL FUNCTION

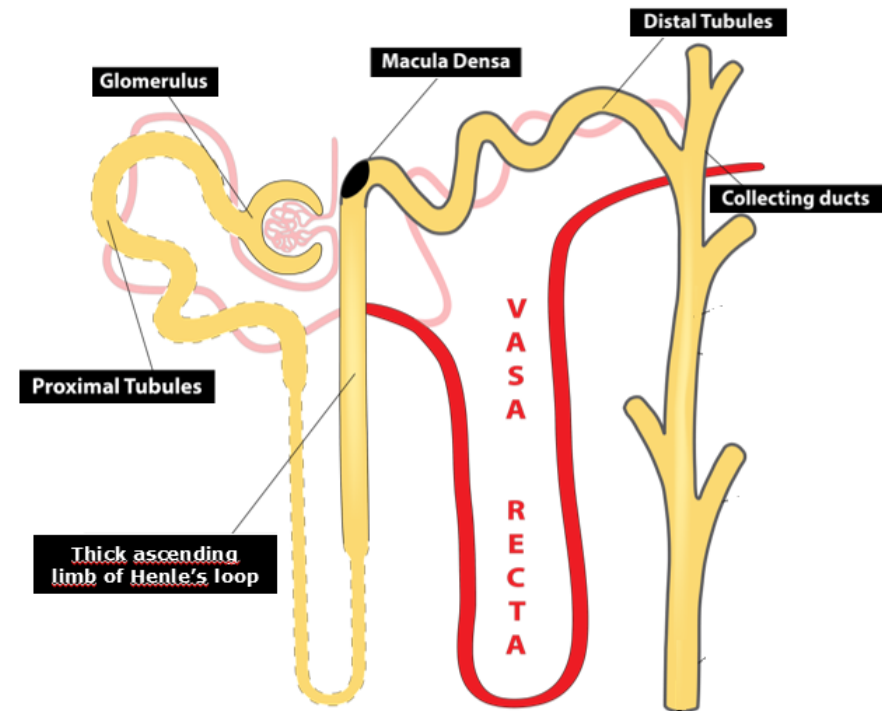
Glomerular filtration rate (GFR)

$$\text{GFR} = N \times L_p \times S \times (P_{GC} - P_B - \pi_{GC})$$



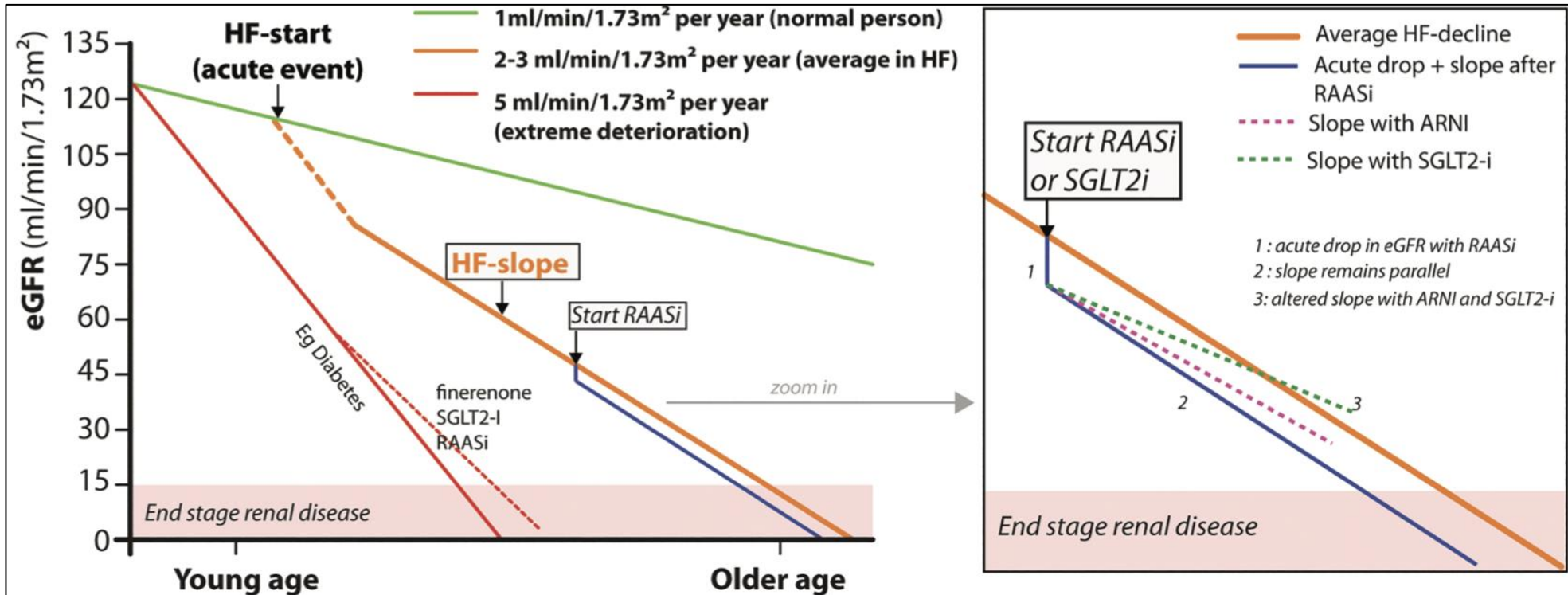
CLEARANCE

Tubular function



HOMEOSTASIS

CKD (eGFR < 60) affects > 50 % of HF patients + stronger predictor than LVEF

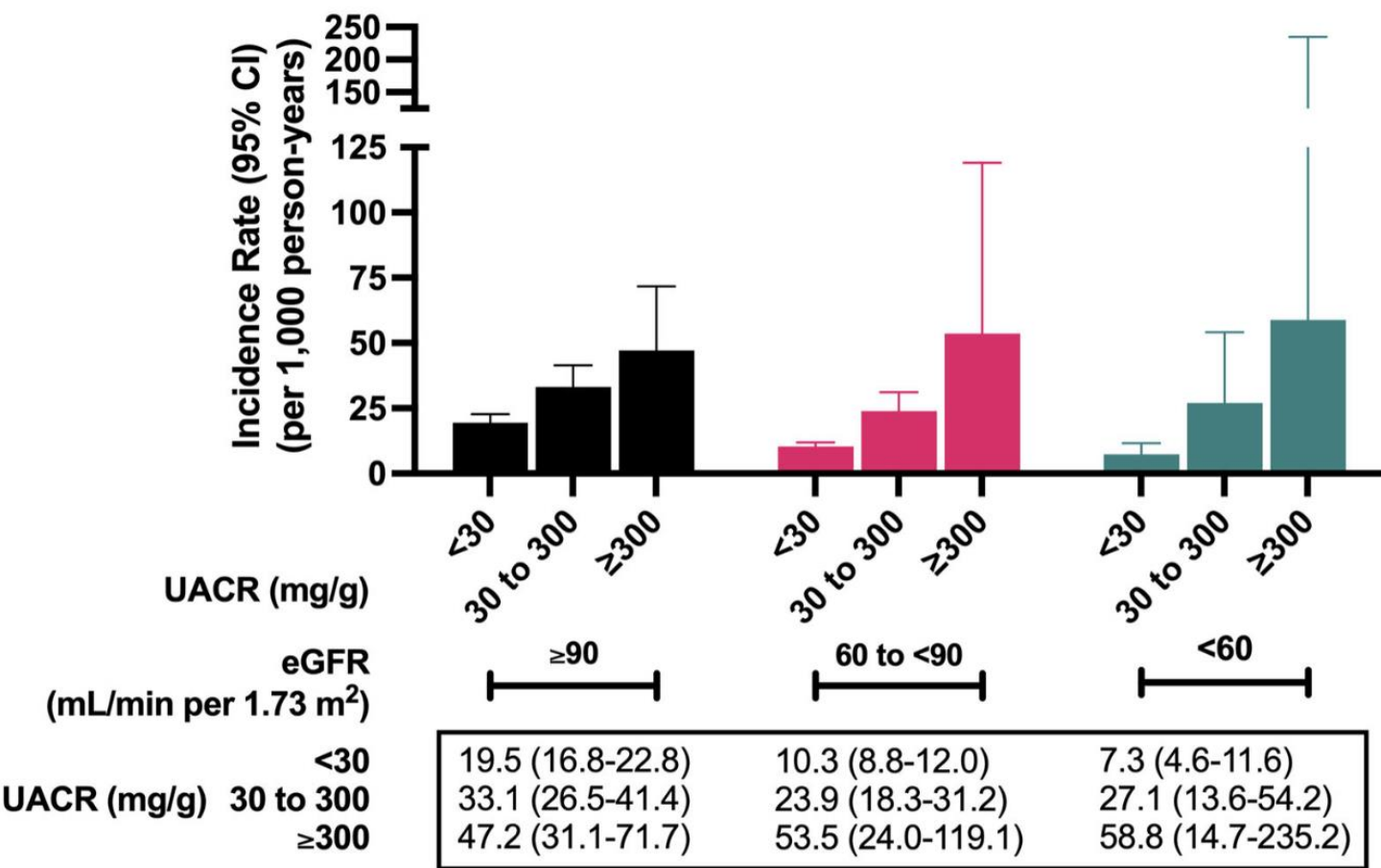
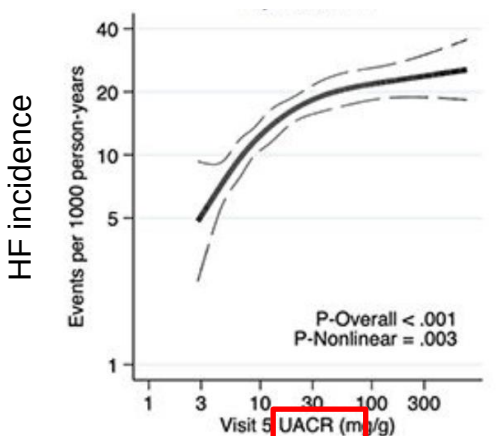
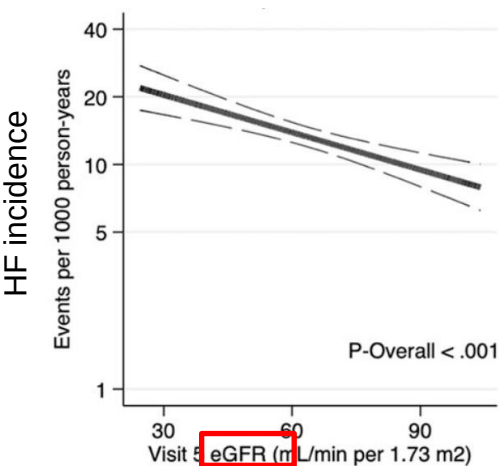


Key messages

1. Acute drop in GFR with RAASi, ARNI and SGLT2-i does not diminishes treatment effect
2. A reduction in slope deterioration in HFrEF with ARNI and SGLT2-i is associated with reduced hard renal endpoints

Correlation between eGFR, UACR and HF

ARIC Study - Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities study (5170 pnts)



*Incidence Rate (95% CI) per 1,000 person-years

GDMT in relation to CKD

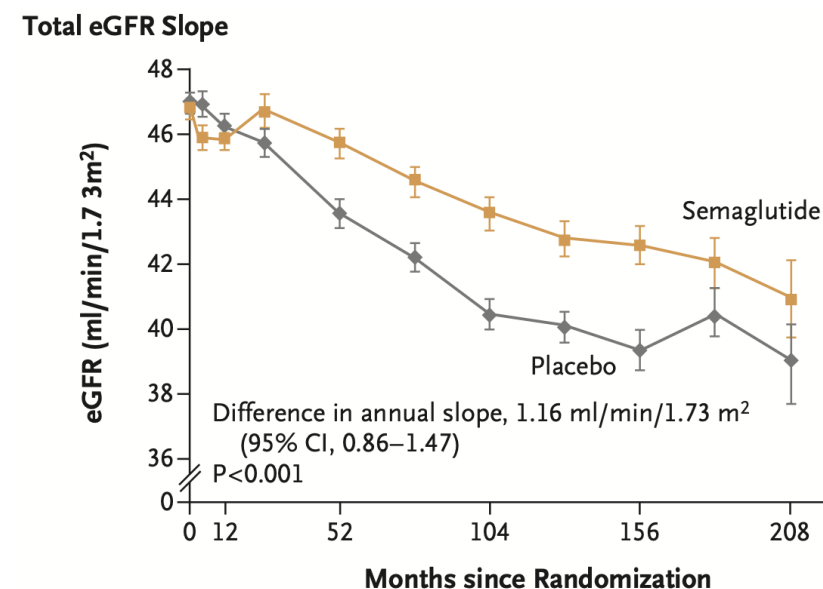
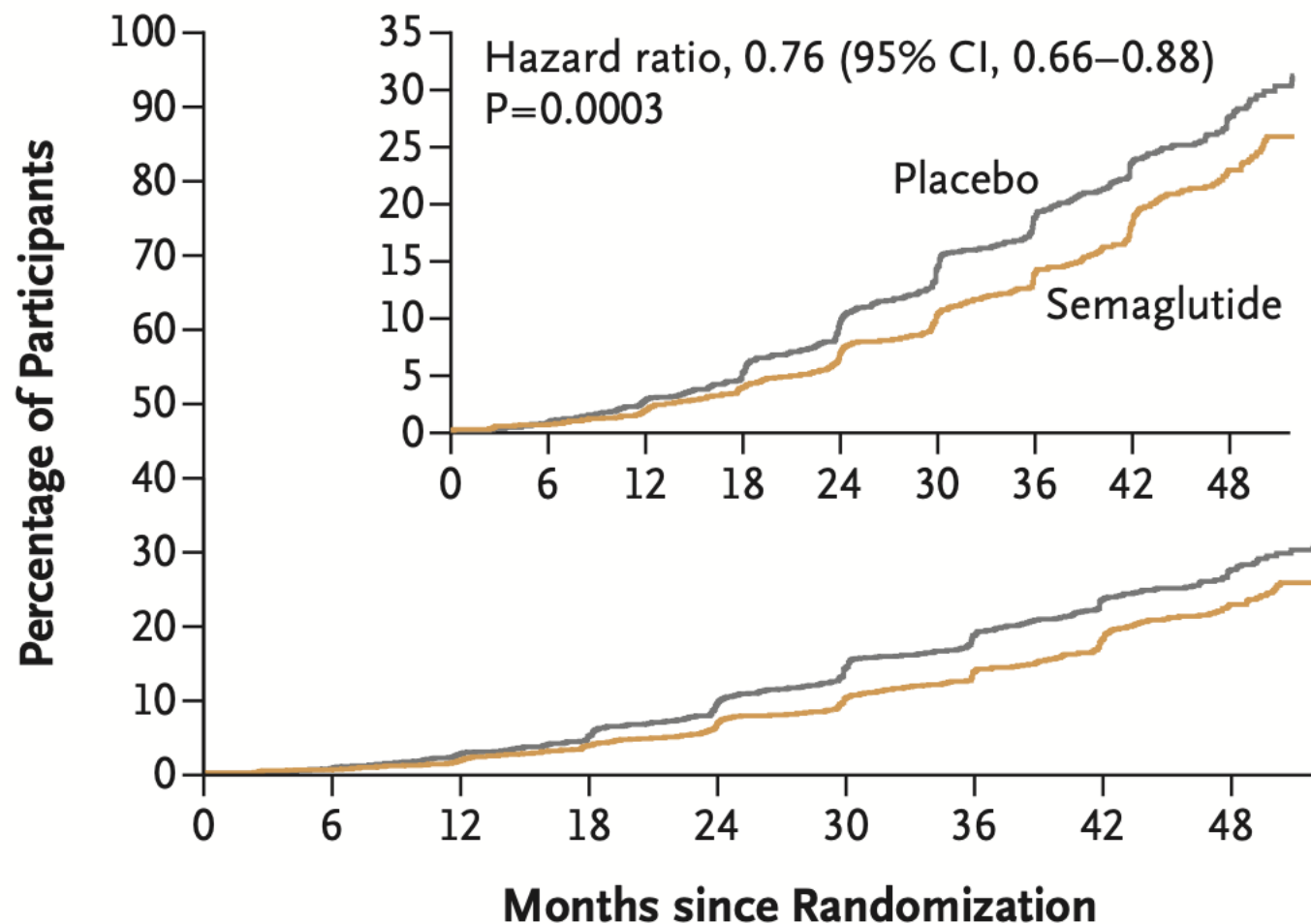
Drug	Evidence across GFR strata according to baseline eGFR enrolment criteria				Acute drop GFR	Impact on GFR slope in HF trial	CKD treatment interaction	Treatment effect with CKD
	ESKD	15–30	30–60	>60				
ACE-I/ARB	Moderate evidence if dialysis, weak evidence if not on dialysis				Yes	No (beneficial effect of around 1–2 ml/min/1.73 m ² per year in CKD trials)	No	Relative benefit: ~ Absolute benefit: ↑
Beta-blockers					No	No	Yes (potentially but some conflicting results)	Relative benefit: ~ Absolute benefit: ↑
MRA					Yes	No	No	Relative benefit: ~ Absolute benefit: ↑
ARNI					Yes	Yes (around 0.5 ml/min/1.73 m ² per year)	No	Relative benefit: ~ Absolute benefit: ↑
SGLT2-i		>20			Yes	Yes (around 1–2 ml/min/1.73 m ² per year)	No	Relative benefit: ~ Absolute benefit: ↑

GLP1 (Semaglutide) in FLOW RCT (CKD + DM), 24% RR in progression CKD / CV death

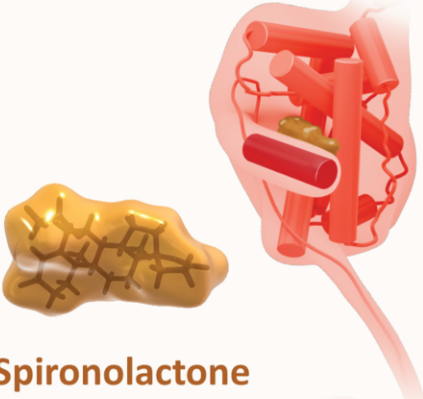
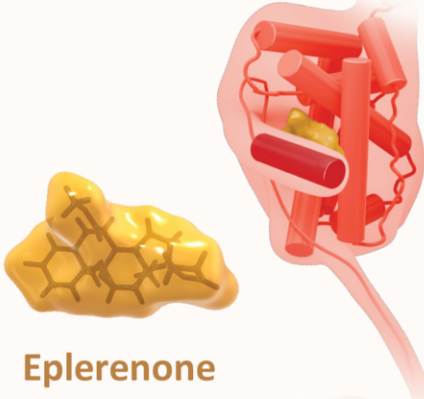
Semaglutide in CKD (FLOW)

Type 2 DM
eGFR 50-75 – uACR > 300
eGFR 25-50 – uACR > 100
1 mg sema / w vs placebo

First major kidney disease events
kidney failure / > 50% reduction in the eGFR / CV death



Finerone, the new 'stronger and more selective' MRA on the block

	Steroidal MRAs		Finerenone
	 Spironolactone	 Eplerenone	 Finerenone
Structural properties	Flat (steroidal)	Flat (steroidal)	Bulky (non-steroidal)
Potency to MR	+++	+	+++
Selectivity to MR	+	++	+++
CNS penetration	+	+	–
Sexual side effects	++	(+)	–
Half-life	>20 h**	4–6 h**	2–3 h*
Active metabolites	++	–	–
Effect on BP	+++	++	+

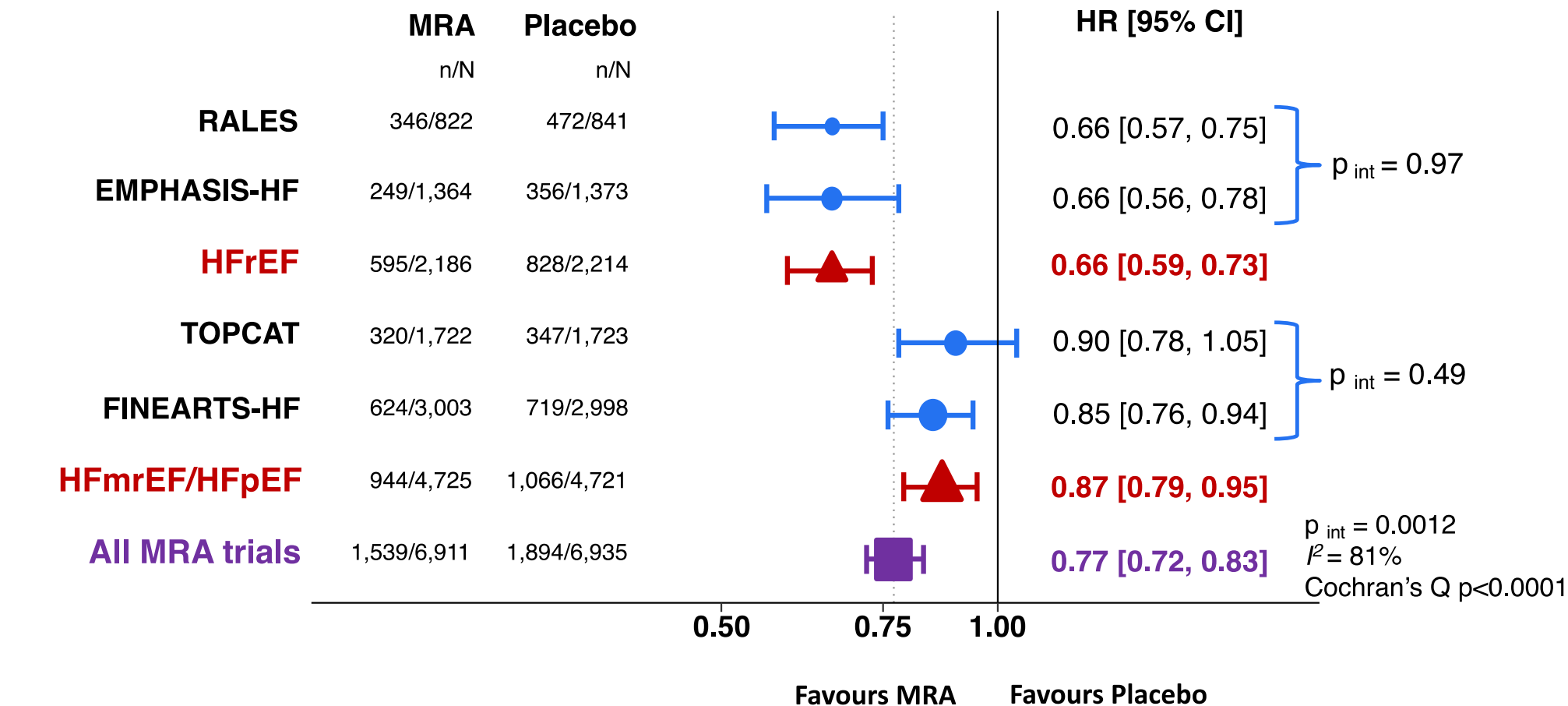
Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
In patients with T2DM and CKD, ^c SGLT2 inhibitors (dapagliflozin or empagliflozin) are recommended to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization or CV death. ^{5,7,35}	I	A
In patients with T2DM and CKD, ^c finerenone is recommended to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization. ^{10,11,34,40}	I	A

***FIDELIO-DKD
FIGARO-DKD***

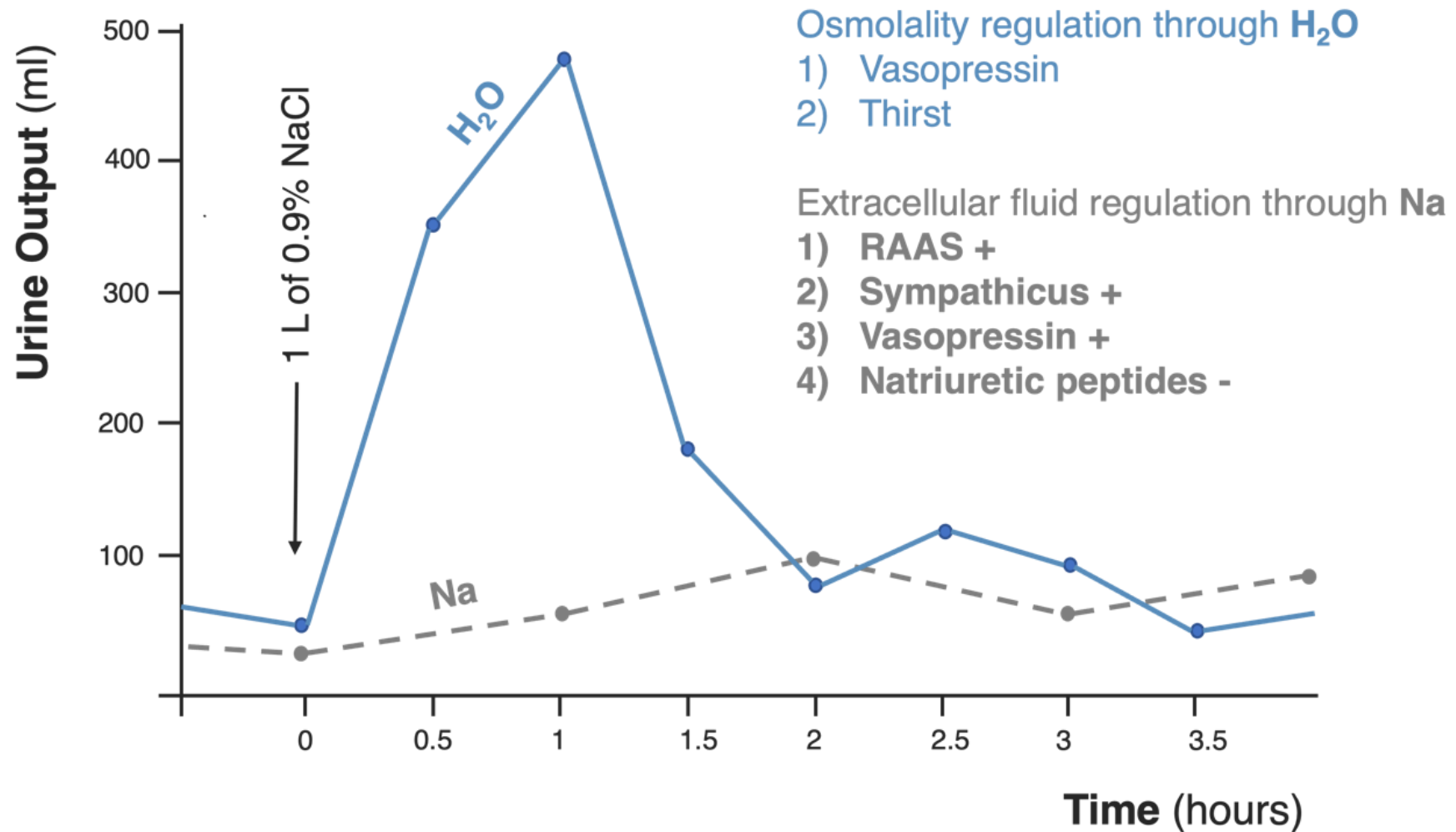
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists in heart failure

Key trial characteristics	RALES	EMPHASIS-HF	TOPCAT	FINEARTS-HF
Investigational drug	spironolactone	eplerenone	spironolactone	finerenone
Number of patients, sites and countries	1663 patients at 195 sites in 15 countries	2737 patients at 278 sites in 29 countries	3445 participants at 233 sites in 6 countries	6001 patients at 654 sites in 37 countries
Key inclusion criteria	Ejection fraction $\leq 35\%$	Ejection fraction $\leq 30\%$ (or, if >30 to 35% , a QRS duration of >130 msec on electrocardiography)	Ejection fraction $\geq 45\%$	Ejection fraction $\geq 40\%$ including improved ejection fraction

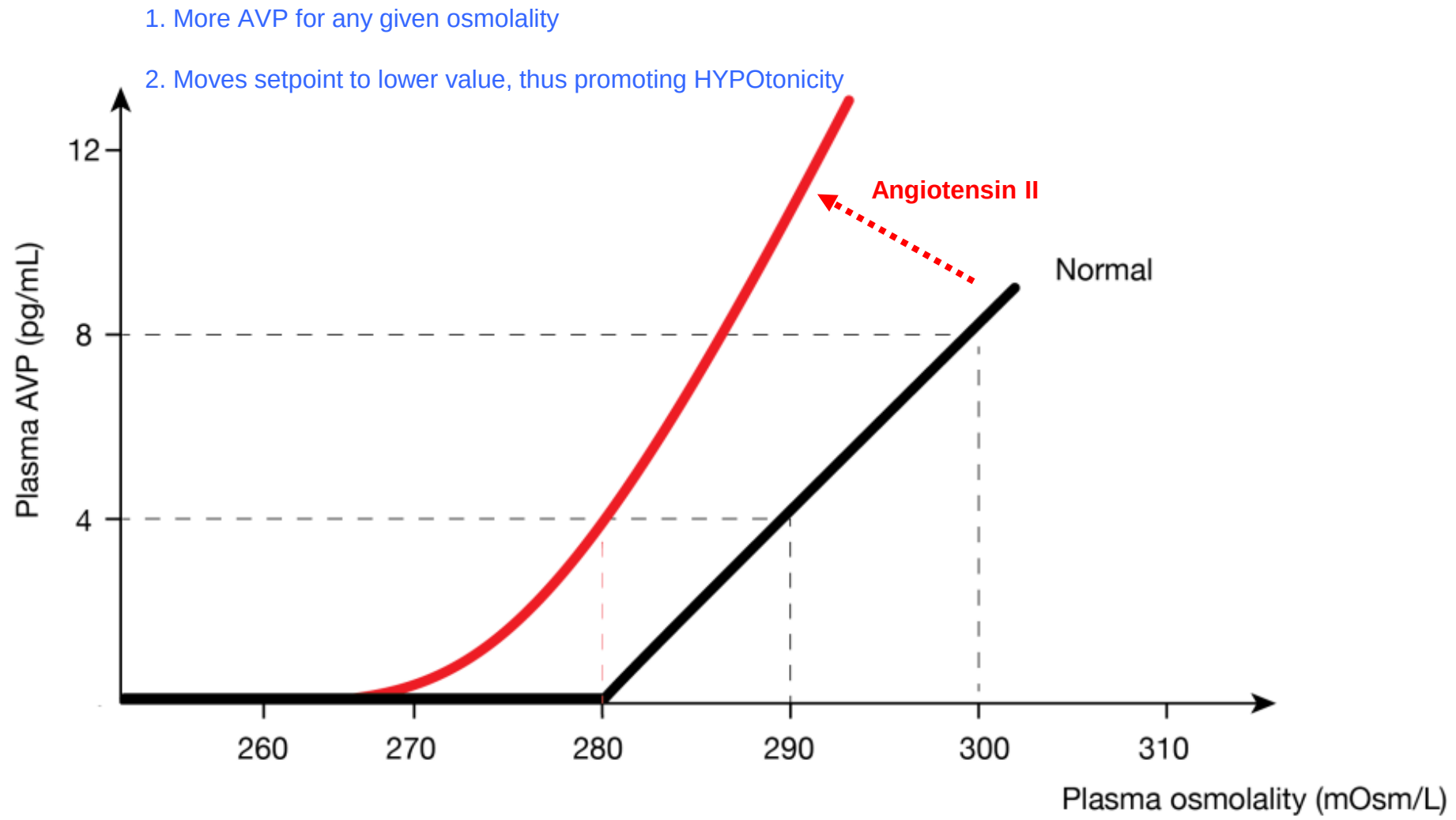
Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists in heart failure: CV death / HFH



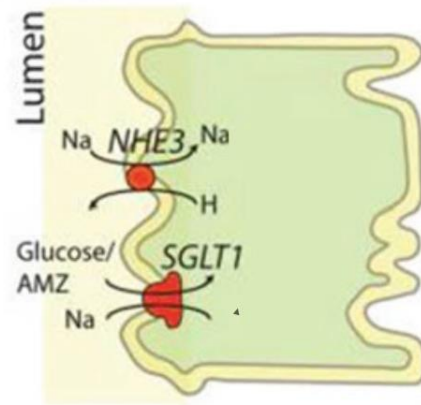
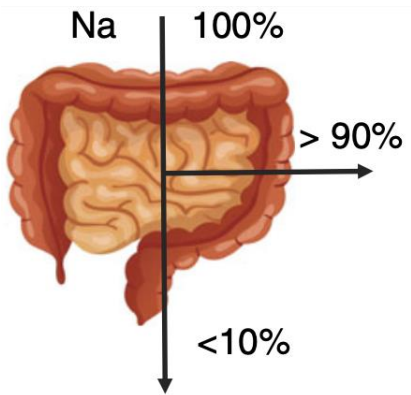
‘more difficult to loose sodium than water’



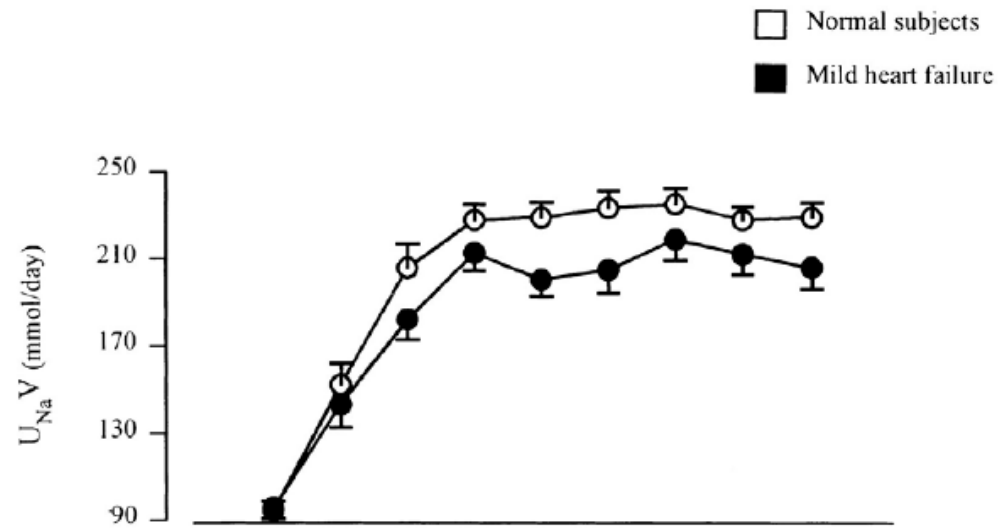
Increased plasma release of AVP in advanced heart failure



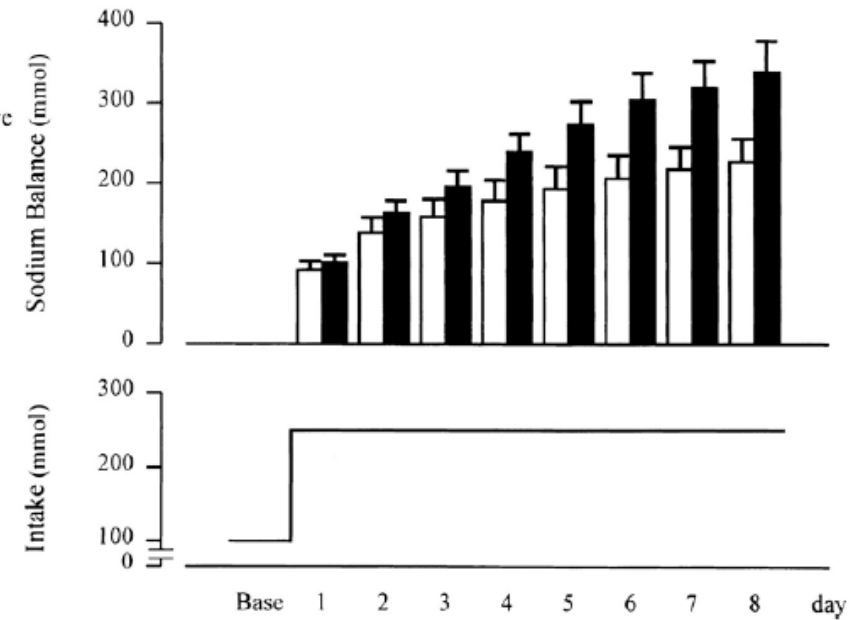
GI absorption of sodium is 100% in everybody (even without HF)



Positive sodium balance - very fast



Natriuresis



Sodium Balance

Volpe M et al. Hypertension 1997

Journal of the American College of Cardiology
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Published by Elsevier Inc.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

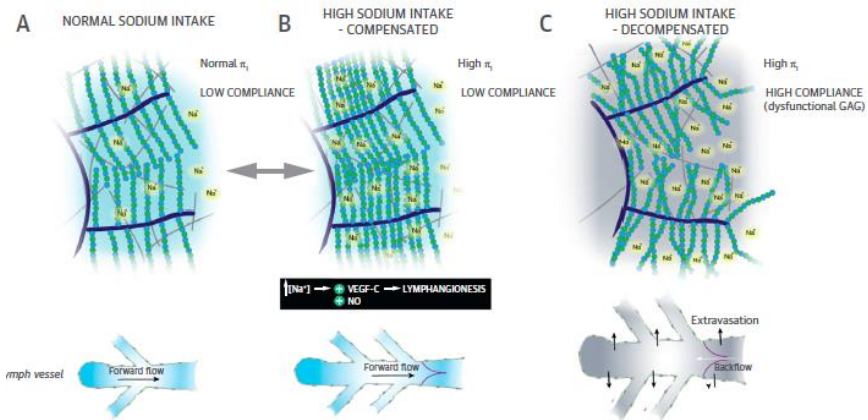
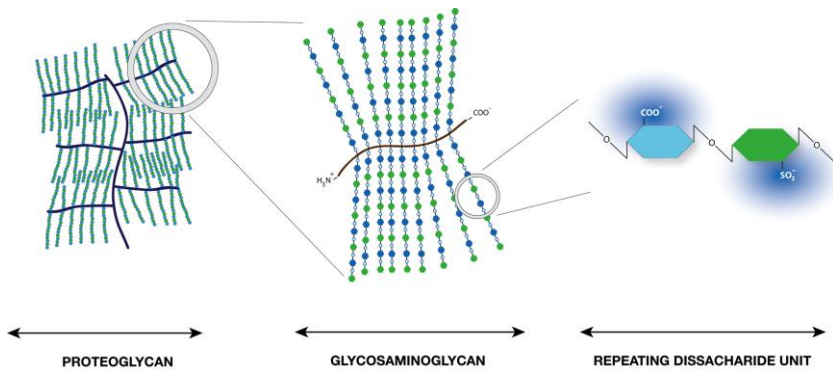
The Early Intertwining of the Heart and the Kidney Through an Impaired Natriuretic Response to Acute Volume Expansion*

Wilfried Mullens, MD, PhD,†‡
W. H. Wilson Tang, MD§
Genk and Hasselt, Belgium; and Cleveland, Ohio

The problem of HF starts within the kidney

McKie P et al / Mullens W et al J Am Coll Card 2011.

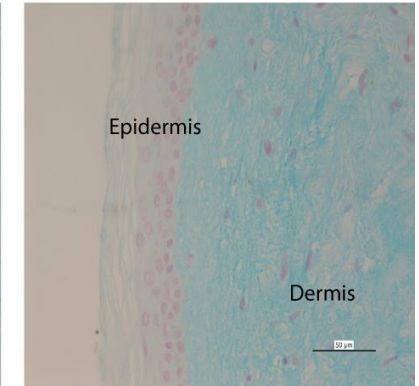
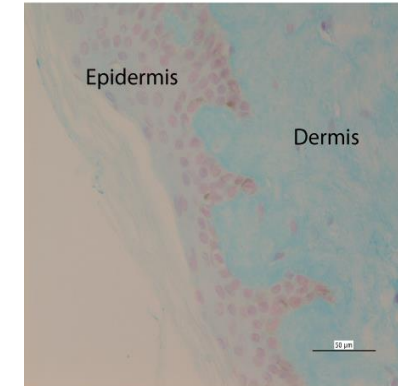
Buffering of Sodium in Interstitium



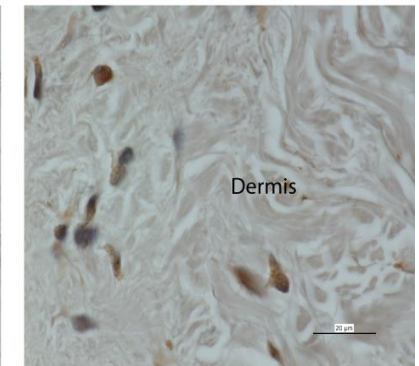
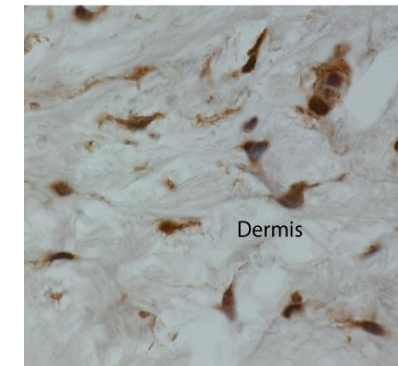
Healthy

HFrEF

Alcian blue



Angiotensin II type 1 receptor



Question; do HF patients tolerate sodium excess intake ?

21 patients with HFrEF and 10 healthy controls



4 weeks of daily 1.2 g sodium loading

HFrEF

Healthy

No change in skin sodium buffering

Congestion

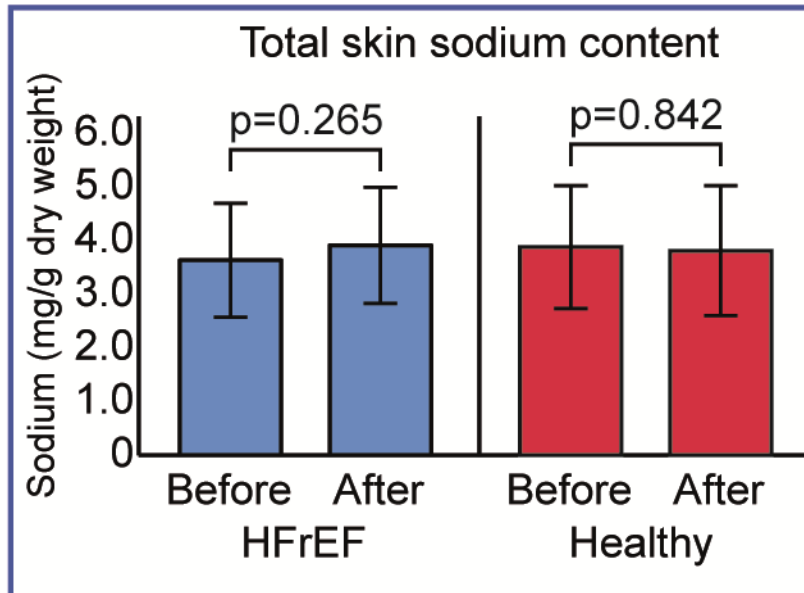
Weight	=	=
NT-proBNP	=	=
Congestion score	=	=
Blood volume	=	=

Neurohormonal

Renin	↓↓	=
Aldosterone	=	=

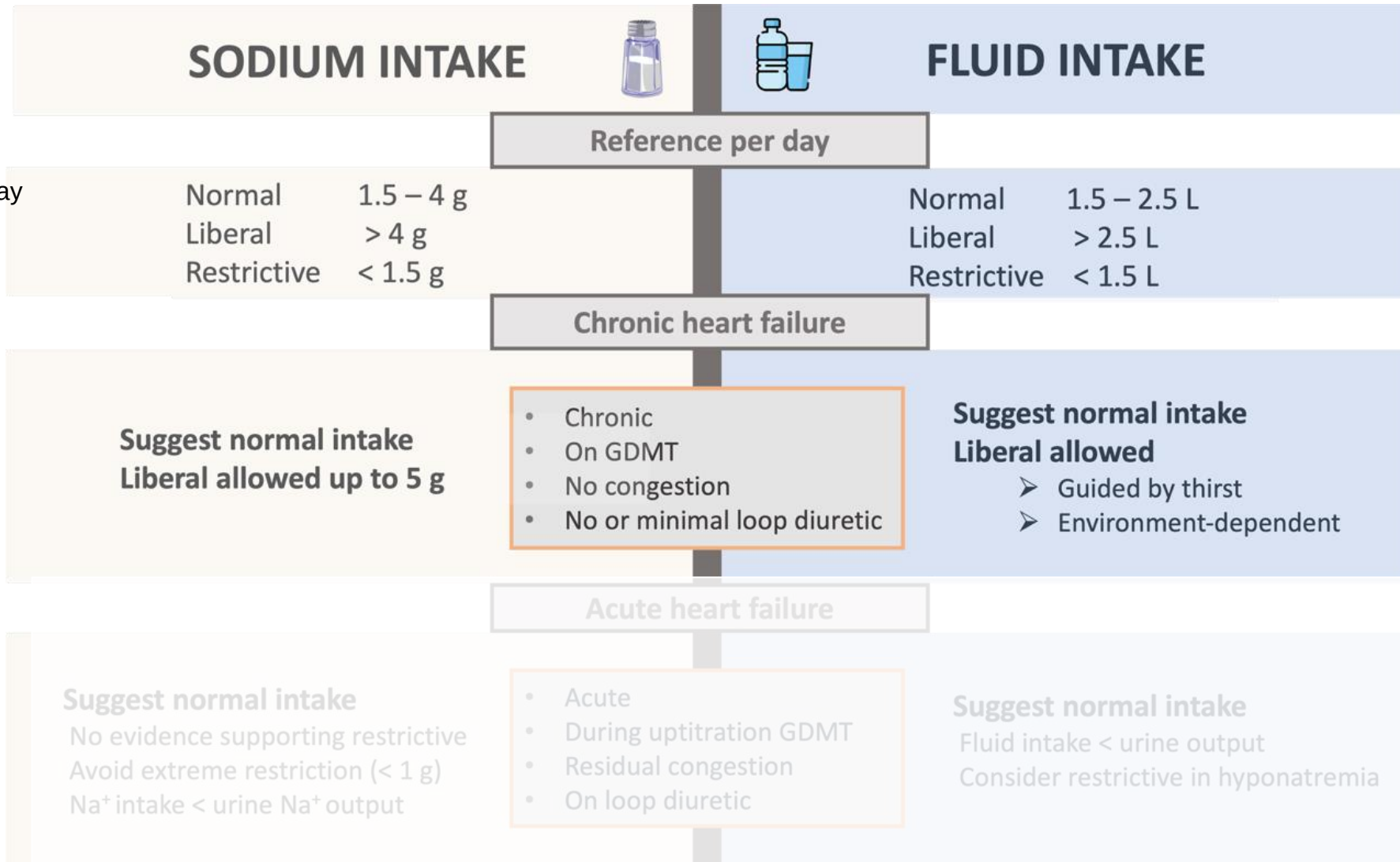
Renal

Natriuresis	↑	↑↑
Diuresis	=	=



Water and sodium recommendations ?

Equals 4-10 g NaCl
HFA: avoid > 5 g NaCl / day



Question; why do HF pnts have a tendency to retain more sodium ?

Extracellular Volume = Na

Normal kidneys filter a tremendous amount of salt

GFR = 100 mL/min = 180 L/day

Plasma Na⁺ = 142 mmol/L

25,560 mmol Na⁺ filtered each day ~ > 1 kg sodium

Extracellular Volume = Na
Bad kidneys still filter a lot of salt

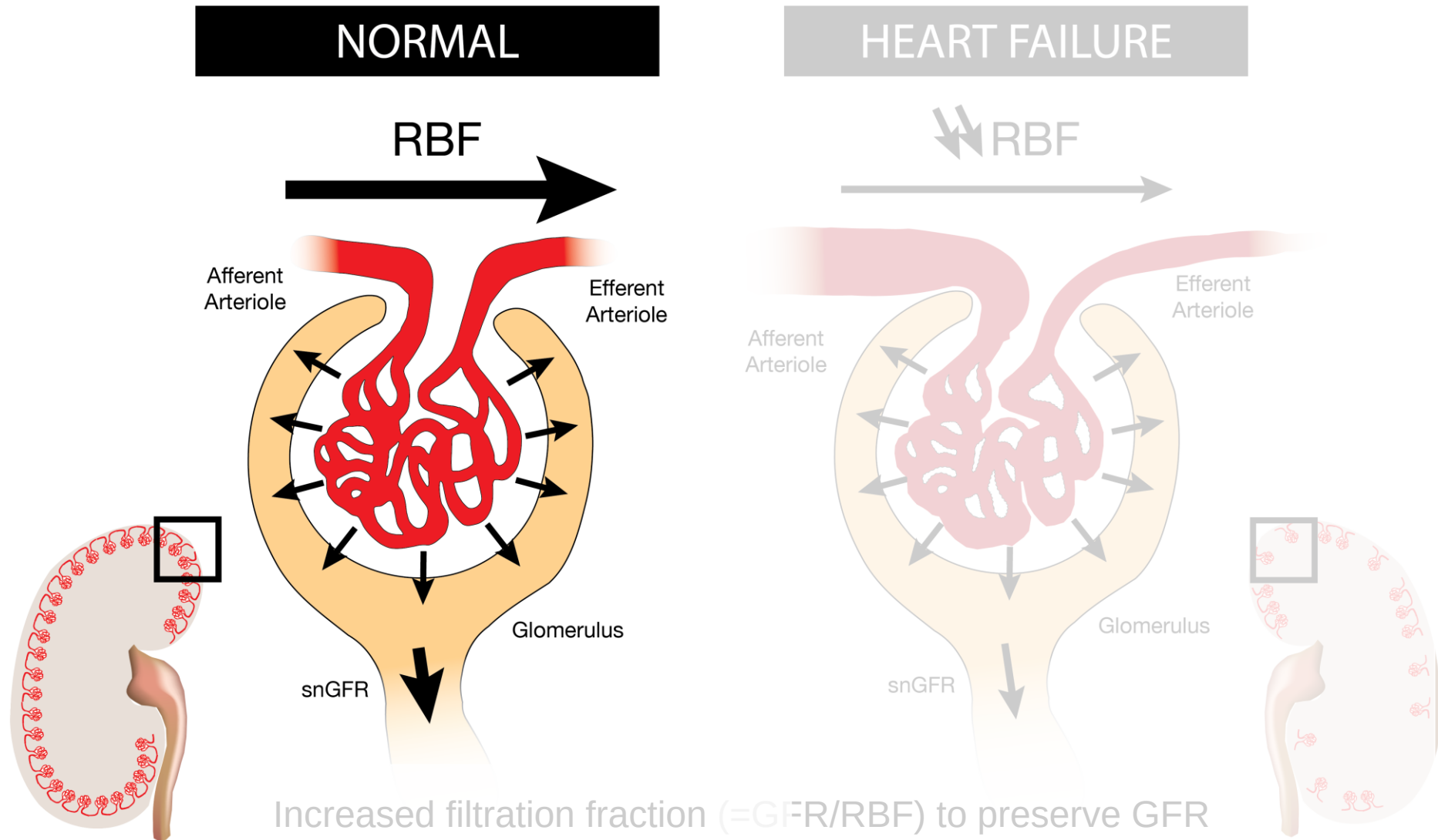
GFR = 10 mL/min = 20 L/day

Plasma Na⁺ = 142 mmol/L

3500 mmol Na⁺ filtered each day ~ 150 g sodium

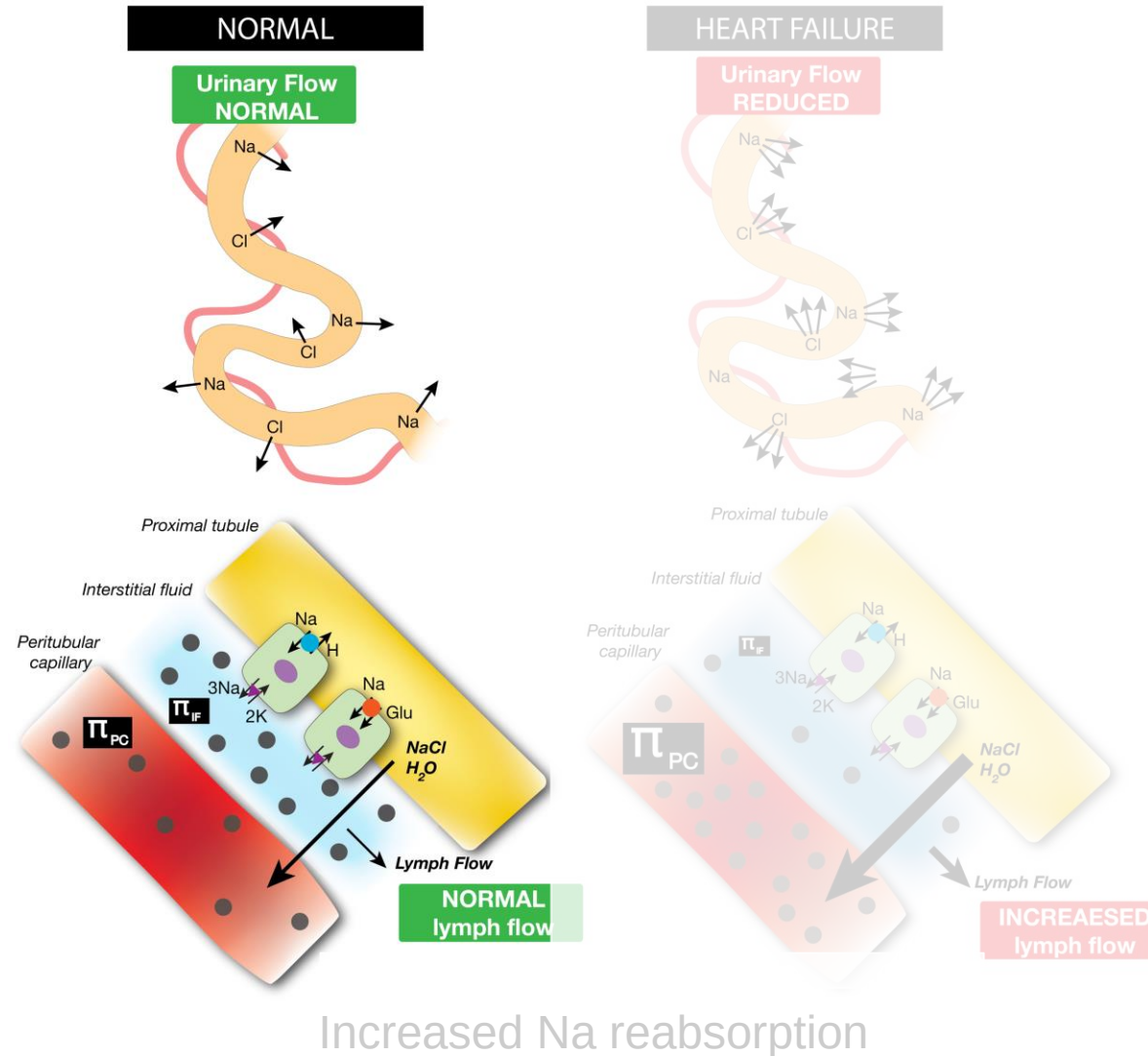
Problem is not that the kidney filters too little sodium.....

I: Glomerulus



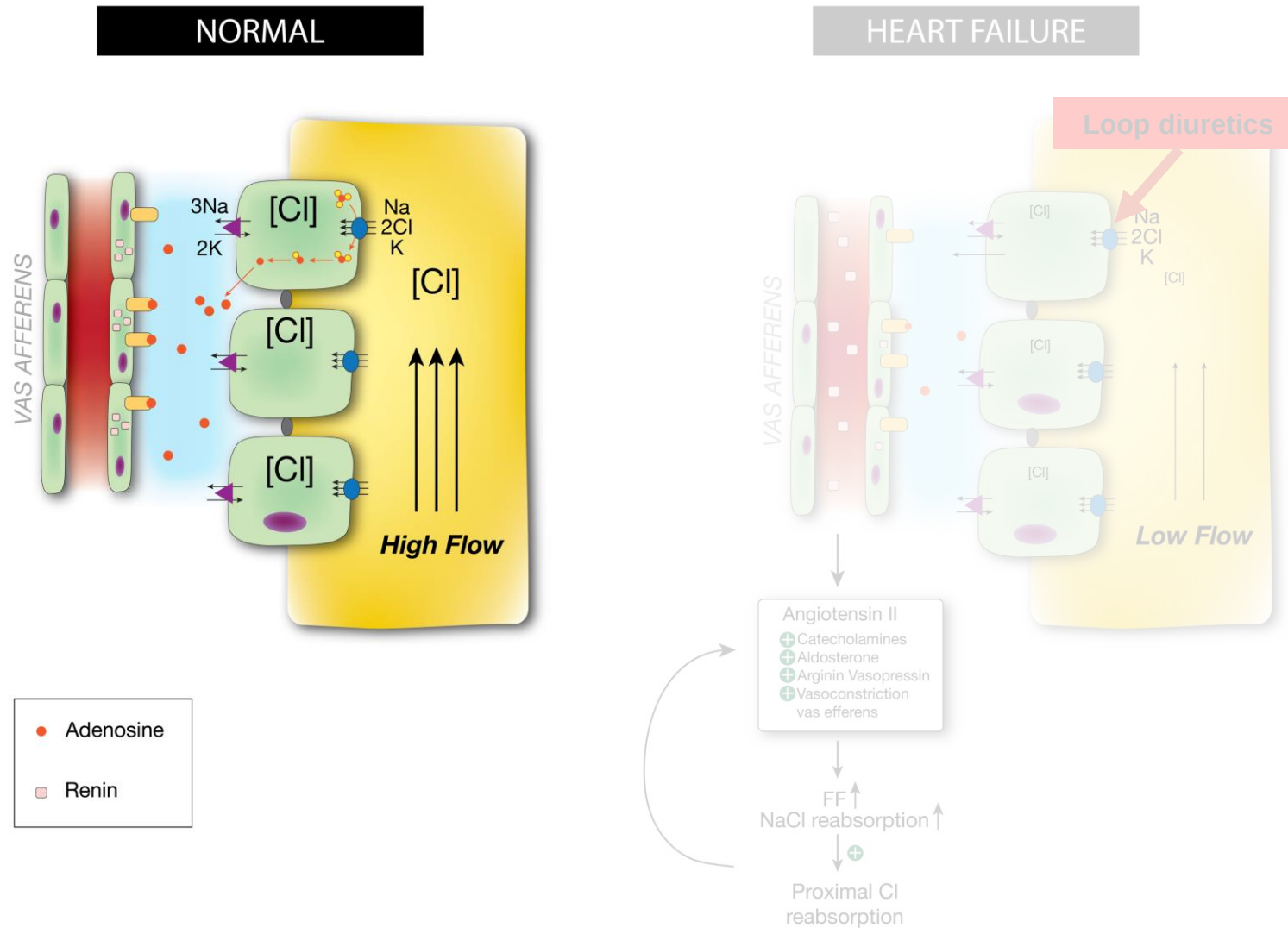
II: Proximal Tubulus

Glomerulotubular Feedback

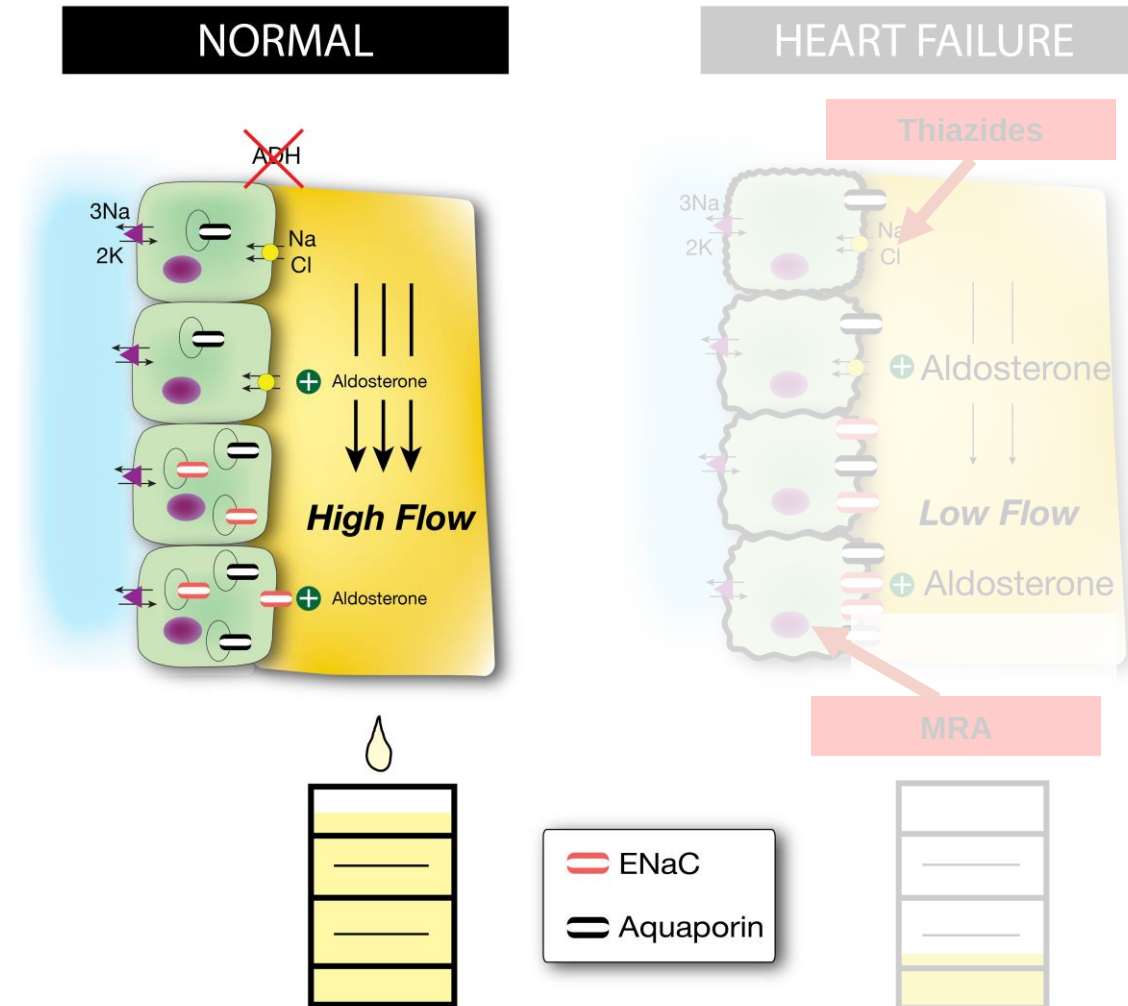


III: Loop of Henle - Macula Densa

Tubuloglomerular Feedback

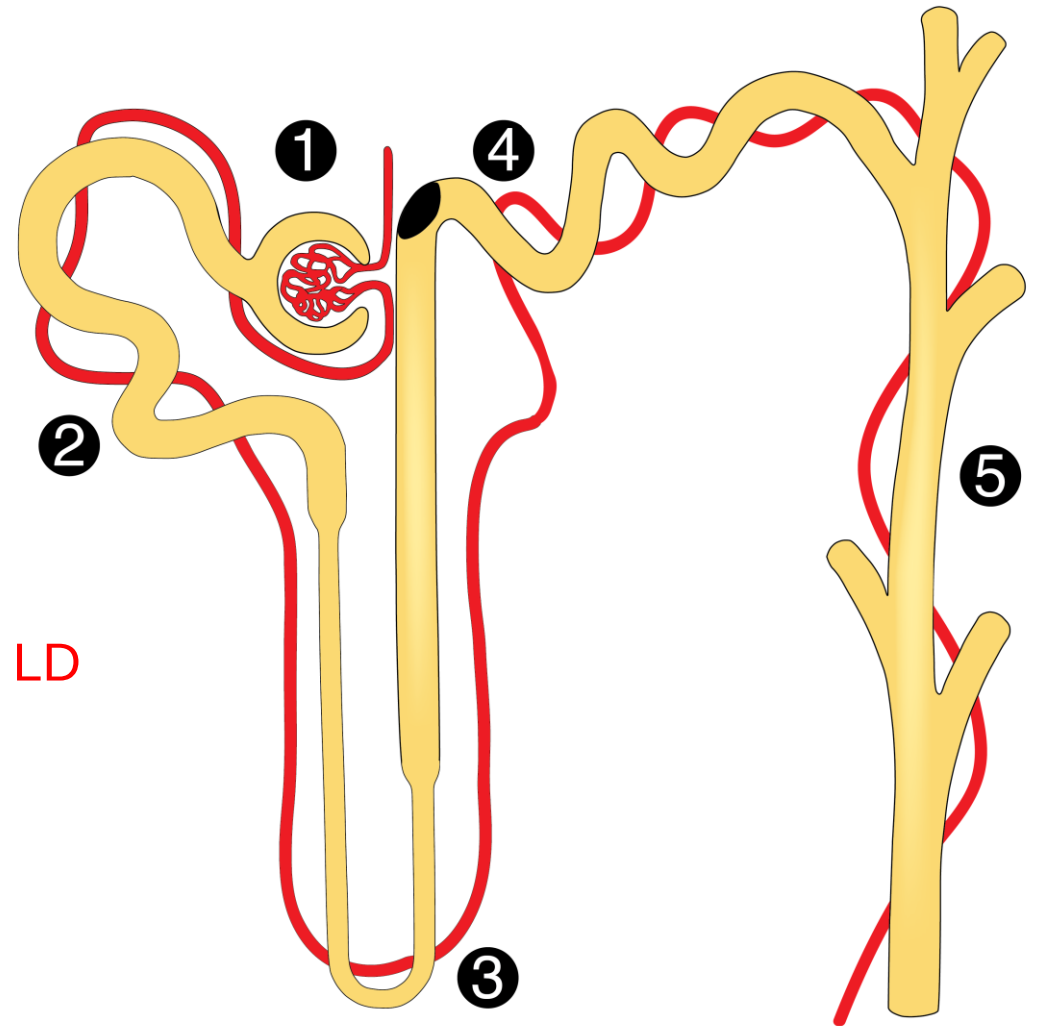


IV: Distal Nephron



Renal sodium reabsorption occurs mostly in proximal tubules (and is increased in HF)

1. Glomerulus
2. Proximal tubules (60-70%) ↑ in HF with congestion
3. Loop of Henle (25%)
4. Macula densa
5. Distal / collecting tubules (5%) ↑ in chronic high-dose LD

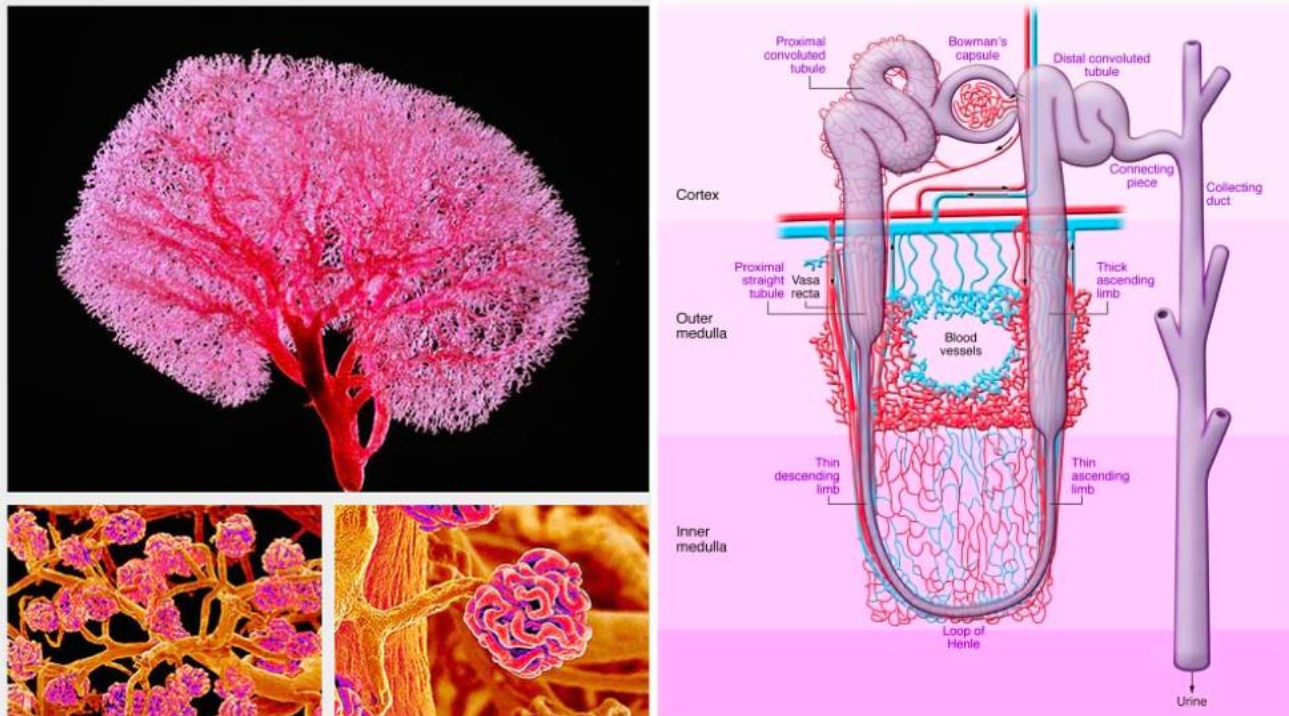


Underappreciated risk for hospitalization / death
associated with residual congestion in HF

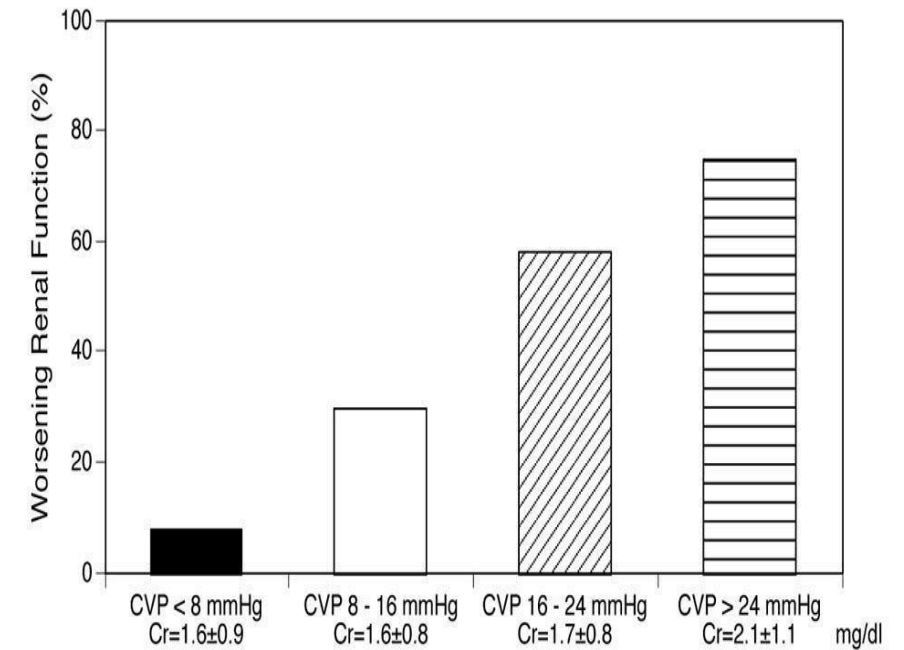


Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
It is recommended that patients hospitalized for HF be carefully evaluated to exclude persistent signs of congestion before discharge and to optimize oral treatment. ^{427,472}	I	C

Kidney: a remarkable vascular organ susceptible to congestion



Renal Plasma flow = 600 ml /min
Renal blood flow = 1000 ml/min



Diuretics

Intravenous loop diuretics are recommended for all patients with AHF admitted with signs/symptoms of fluid overload to improve symptoms.¹⁴⁵

I

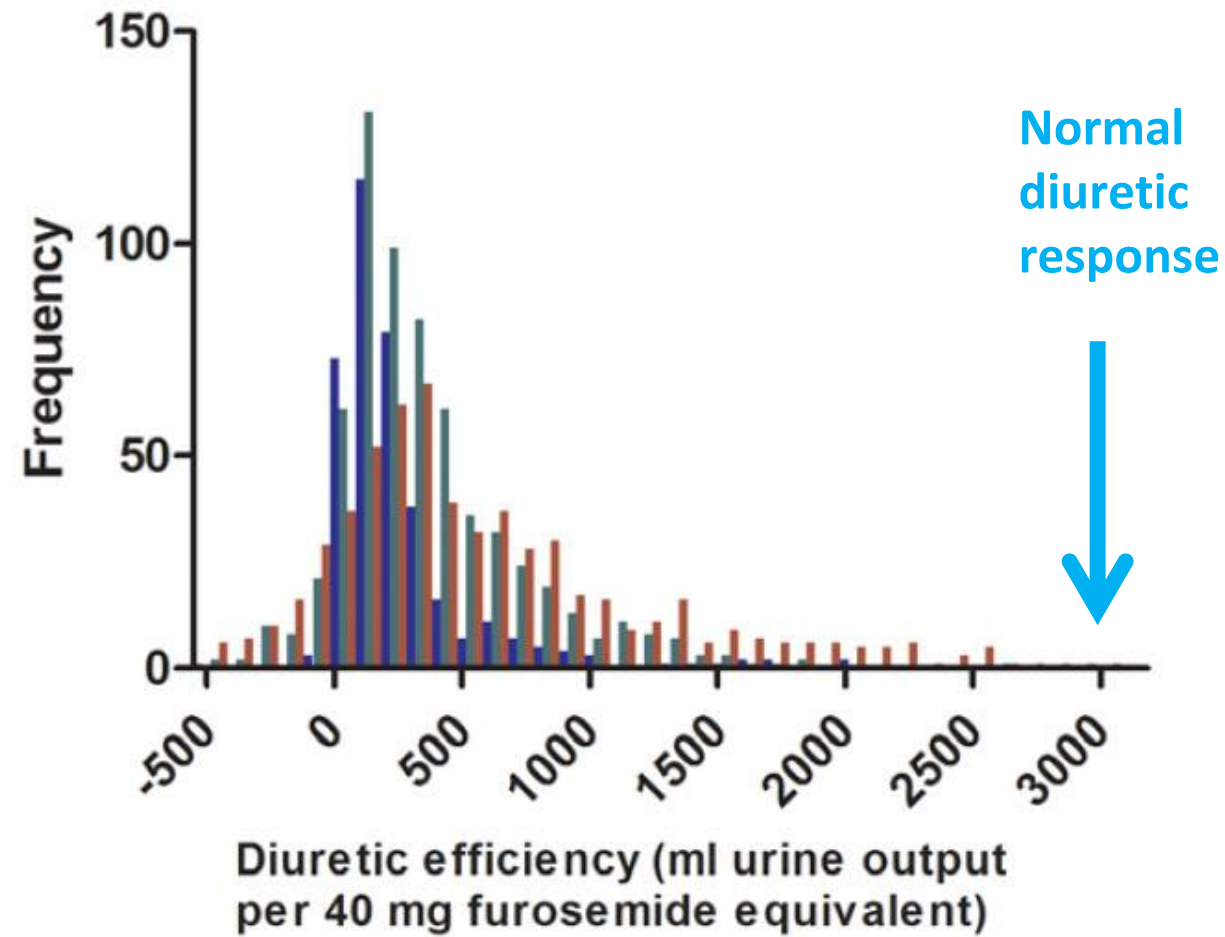
C

Combination of a loop diuretic with thiazide-type diuretic should be considered in patients with resistant oedema who do not respond to an increase in loop diuretic doses.¹⁴⁵

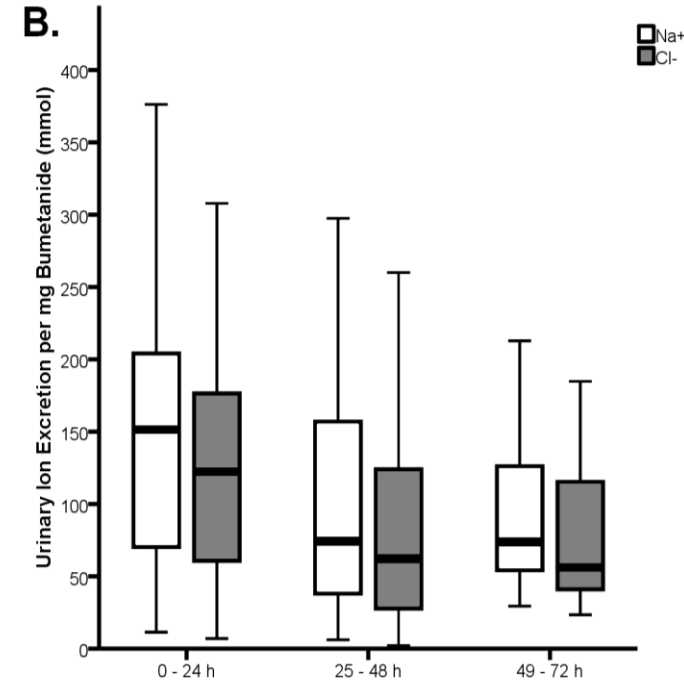
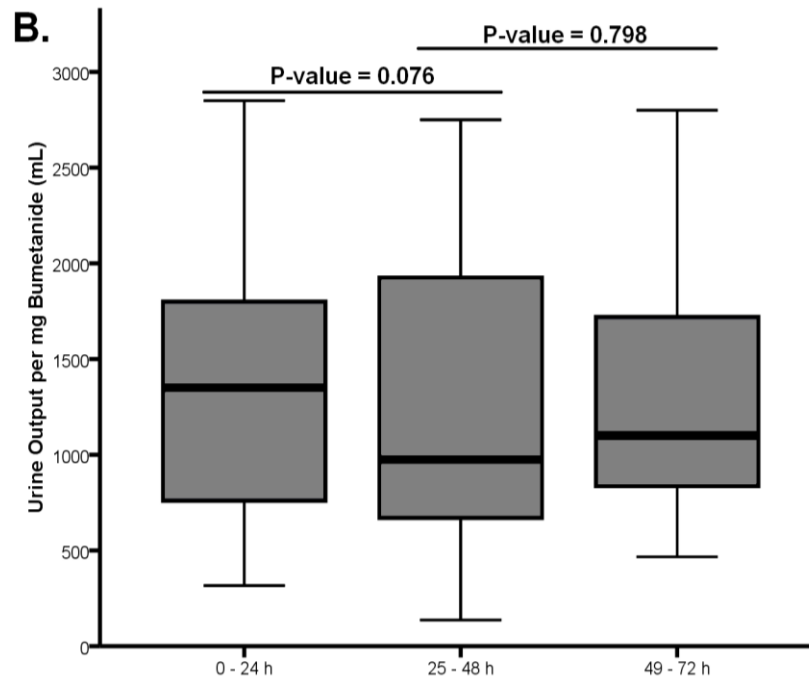
IIa

B

'Diuretic resistance' is omnipresent in HF patients



Urinary Composition during Decongestion



Progressive decrease in Urinary Na and Cl but NOT in urine output
(even after correction for diuretic dose)



ESC

European Society
of Cardiology

European Journal of Heart Failure (2019)

doi:10.1002/ejhf.1369

POSITION PAPER

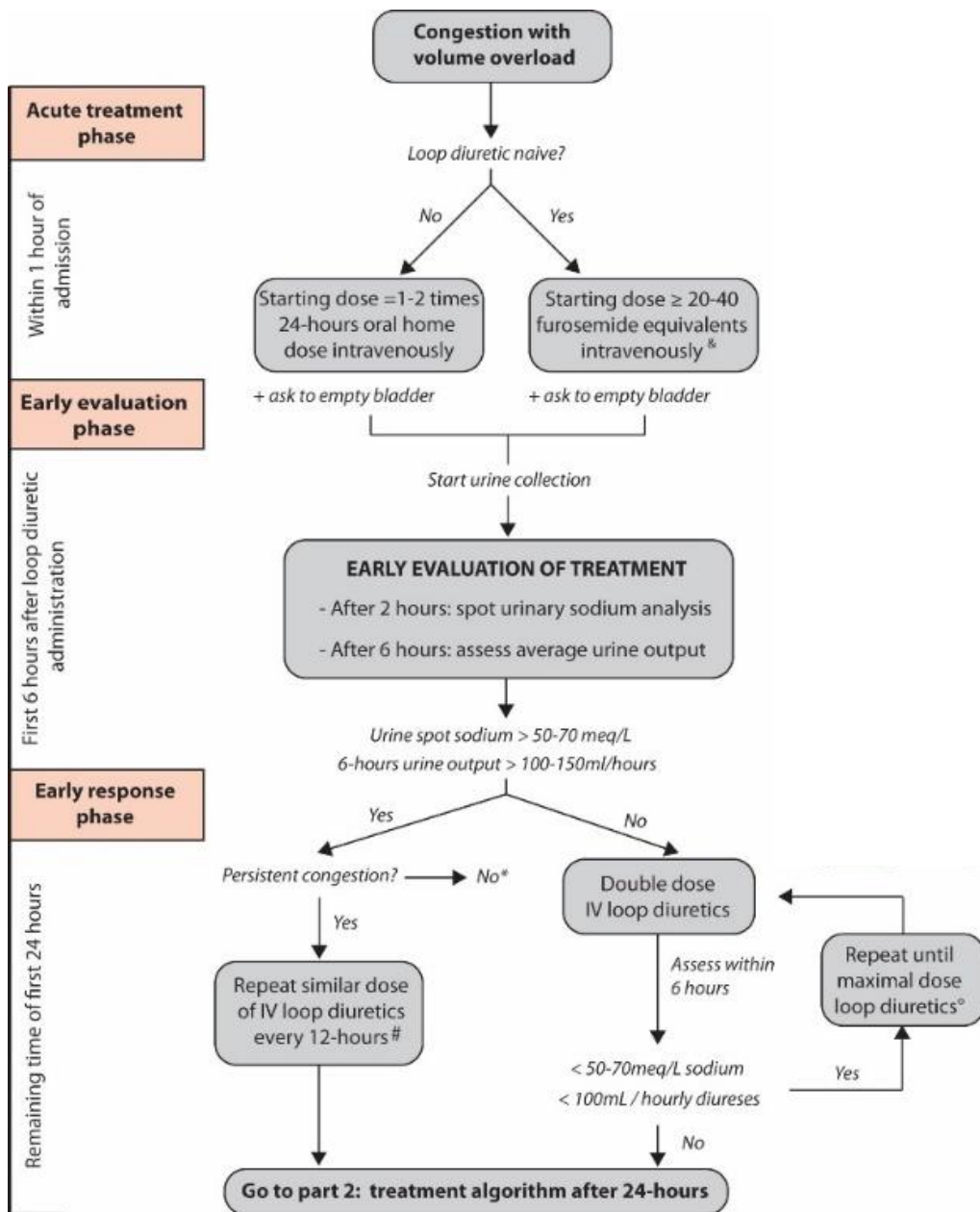
The use of diuretics in heart failure with congestion — a position statement from the Heart Failure Association of the European Society of Cardiology

Wilfried Mullens^{1,2*}, Kevin Damman³, Veli-Pekka Harjola⁴, Alexandre Mebazaa⁵, Hans-Peter Brunner-La Rocca⁶, Pieter Martens^{1,2}, Jeffrey M. Testani⁷, W.H. Wilson Tang⁸, Francesco Orso⁹, Patrick Rossignol¹⁰, Marco Metra¹¹, Gerasimos Filippatos^{12,13}, Petar M. Seferovic¹⁴, Frank Ruschitzka¹⁵, and Andrew J. Coats¹⁶

Citations: > 600

Downloads: > 500.000

Mullens W, Eur J Heart Fail 2019; 21:137-155.



Five most important rules

- 1) Door to diuretic time
- 2) Early evaluation (within HOURS) of the diuretic effect
- 3) Appropriate dosing according to natriuresis/diuresis
- 4) Only stop when the patient is 'dry'
- 5) Continue guideline-directed medical therapy

Incorporated

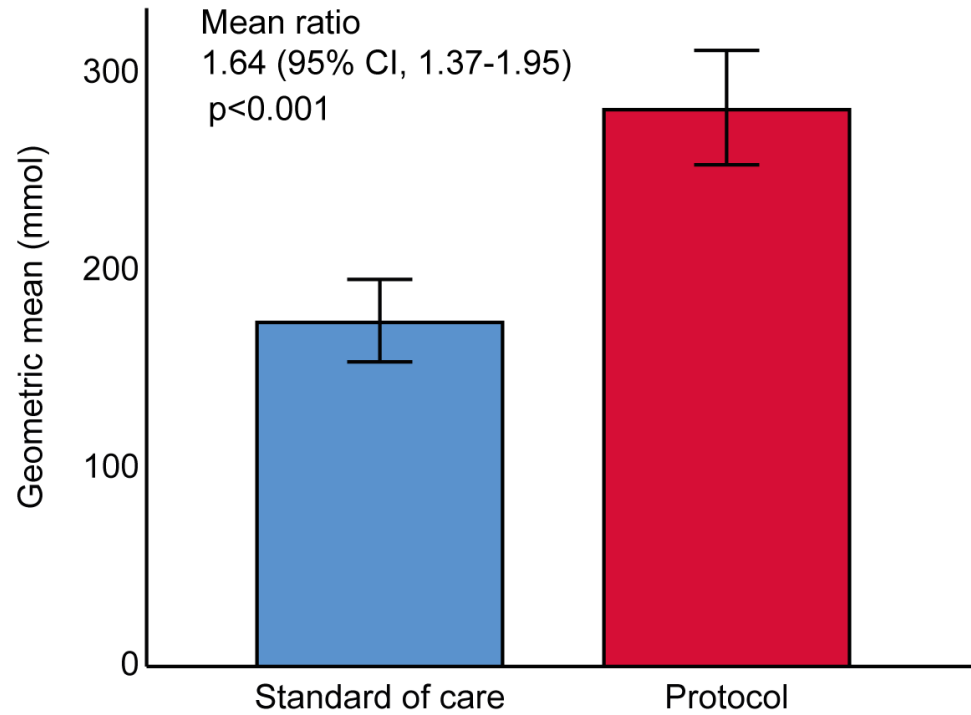
2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure

Developed by the Task Force for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC)

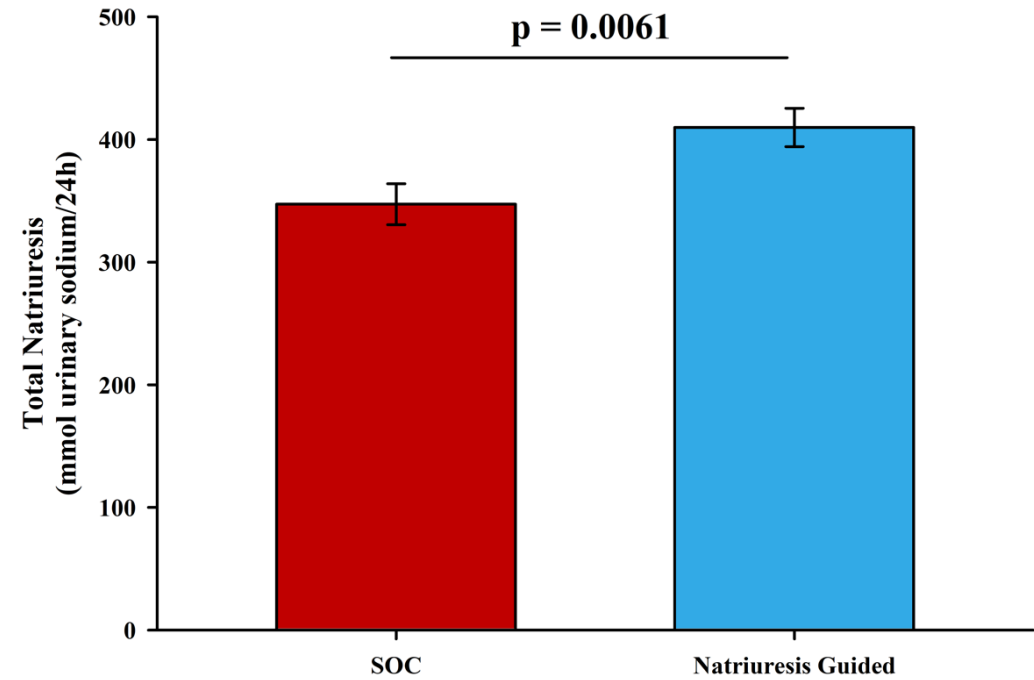
With the special contribution of the Heart Failure Association (HFA) of the ESC

Desalination RCTs

ENACT-HF Study



PUSH-AHF trial



Ongoing:

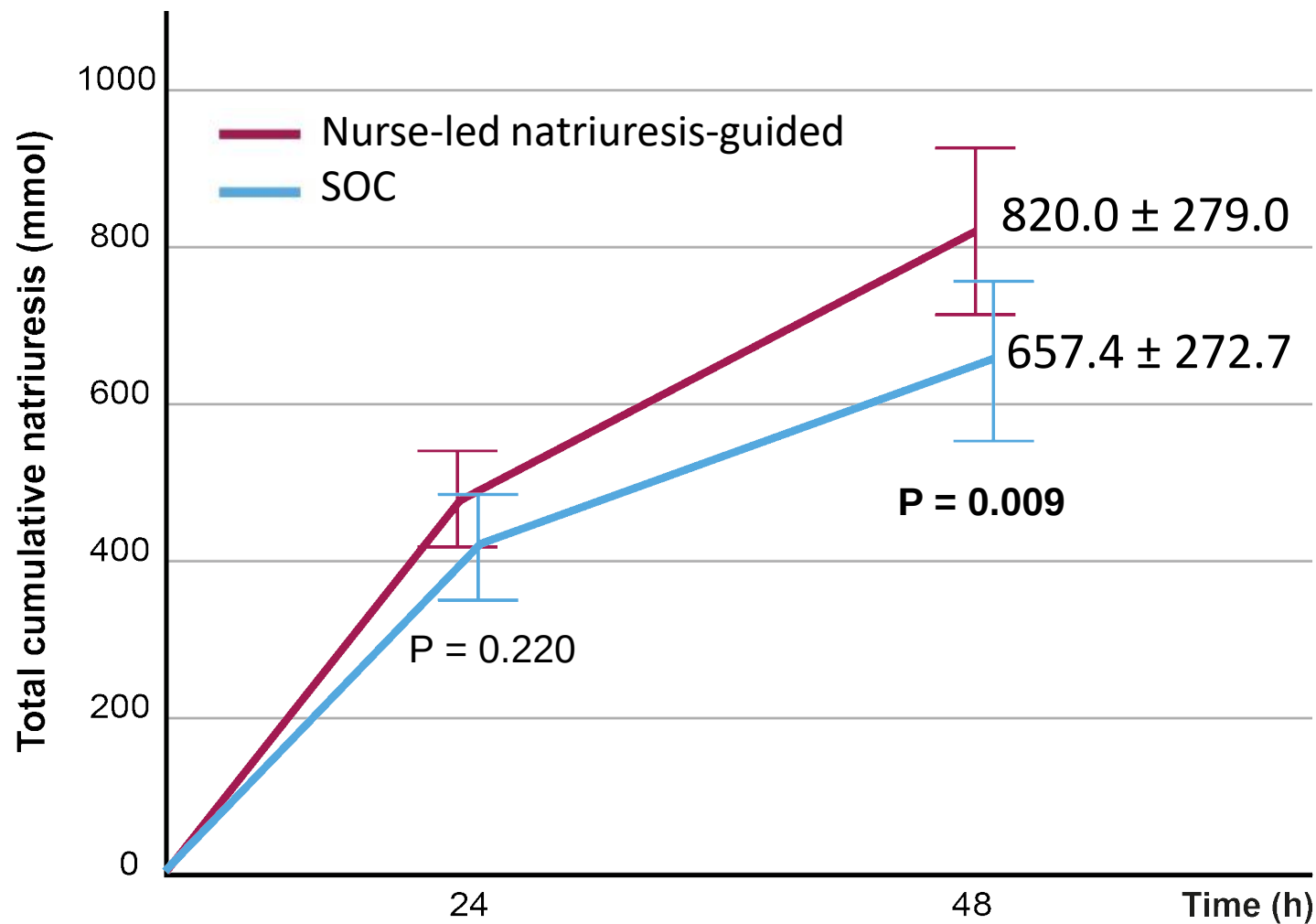
DECONGEST (NCT05411991)

ESCALATE (NCT04481919)

Dauw J, Mullens W et al. *Circ Heart Fail*, in press 2024

Ter Maaten J et al. *Nat Med* 2023;29:2625-2632

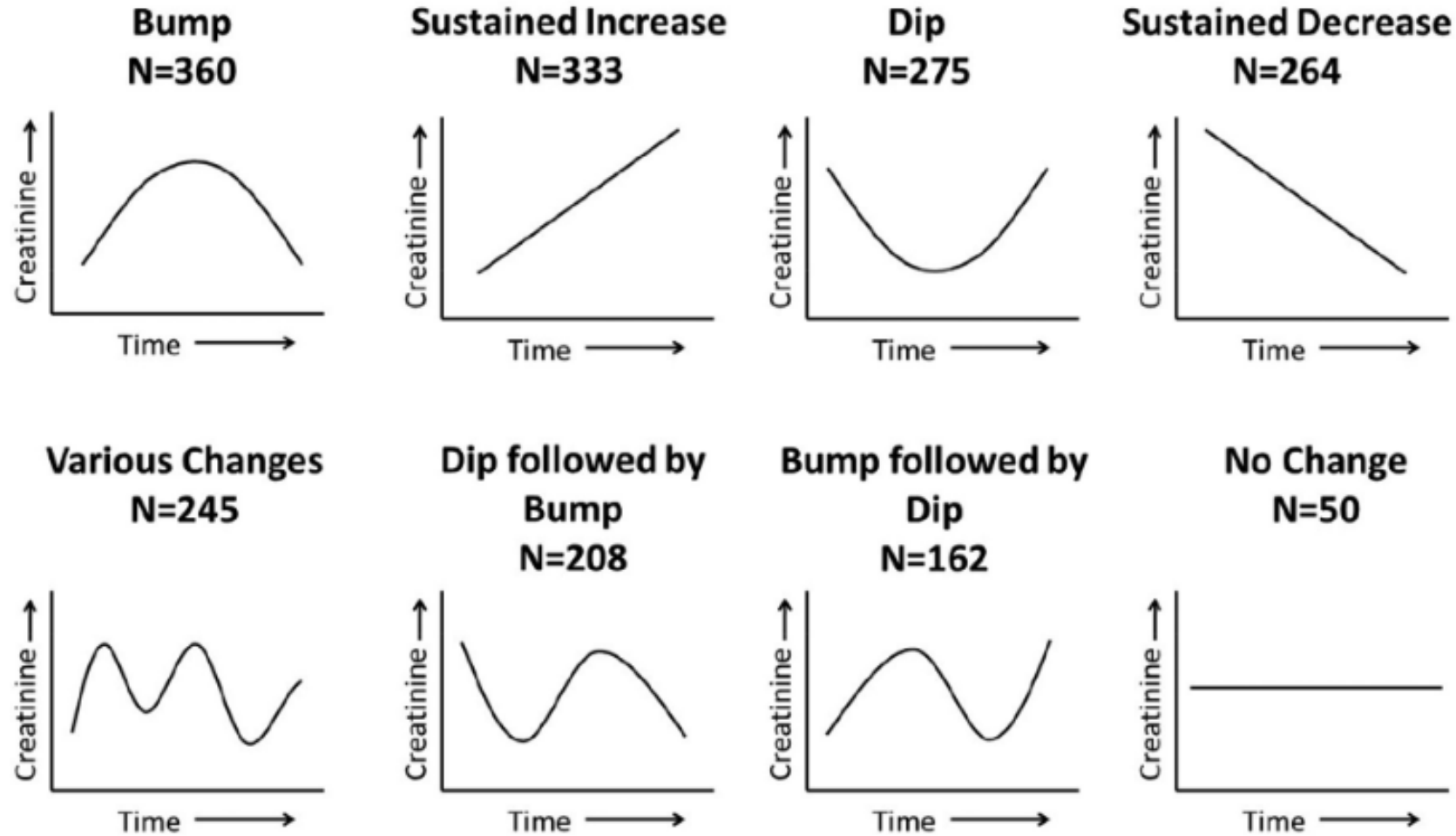
Nurse-Led Diuretic Titration via POC Urinary Sodium Sensor in ADHF EASY-HF trial



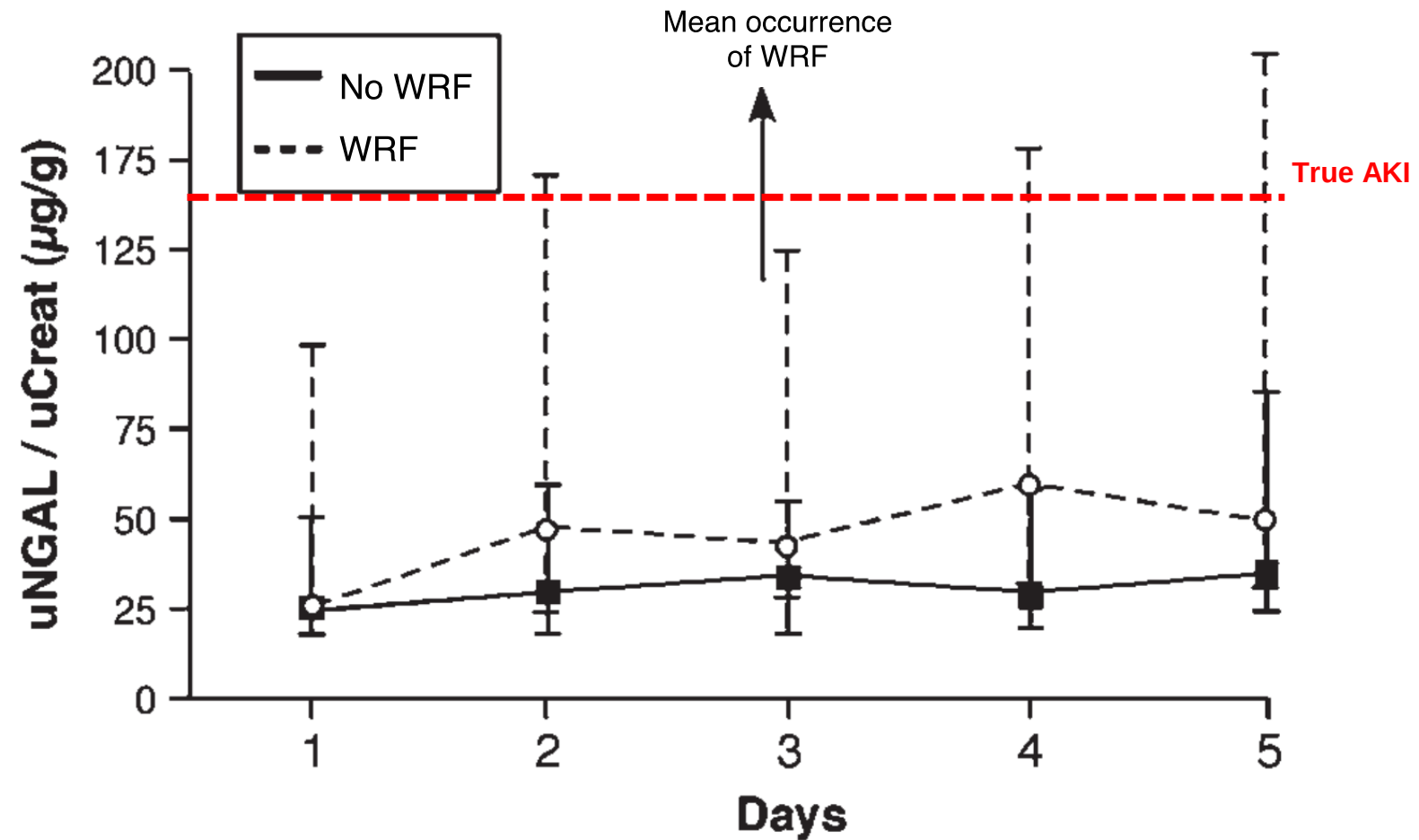
P = 0.027

Absolute difference
163 (19 to 306)

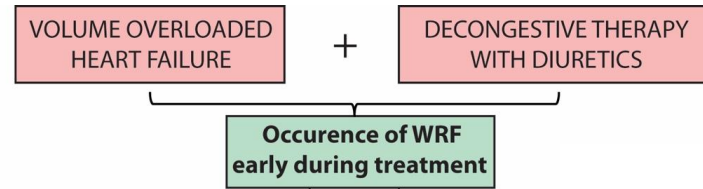
Worsening renal function during Acute HF



WRF during AHF does NOT lead to permanent renal damage



Worsening renal function during Acute HF



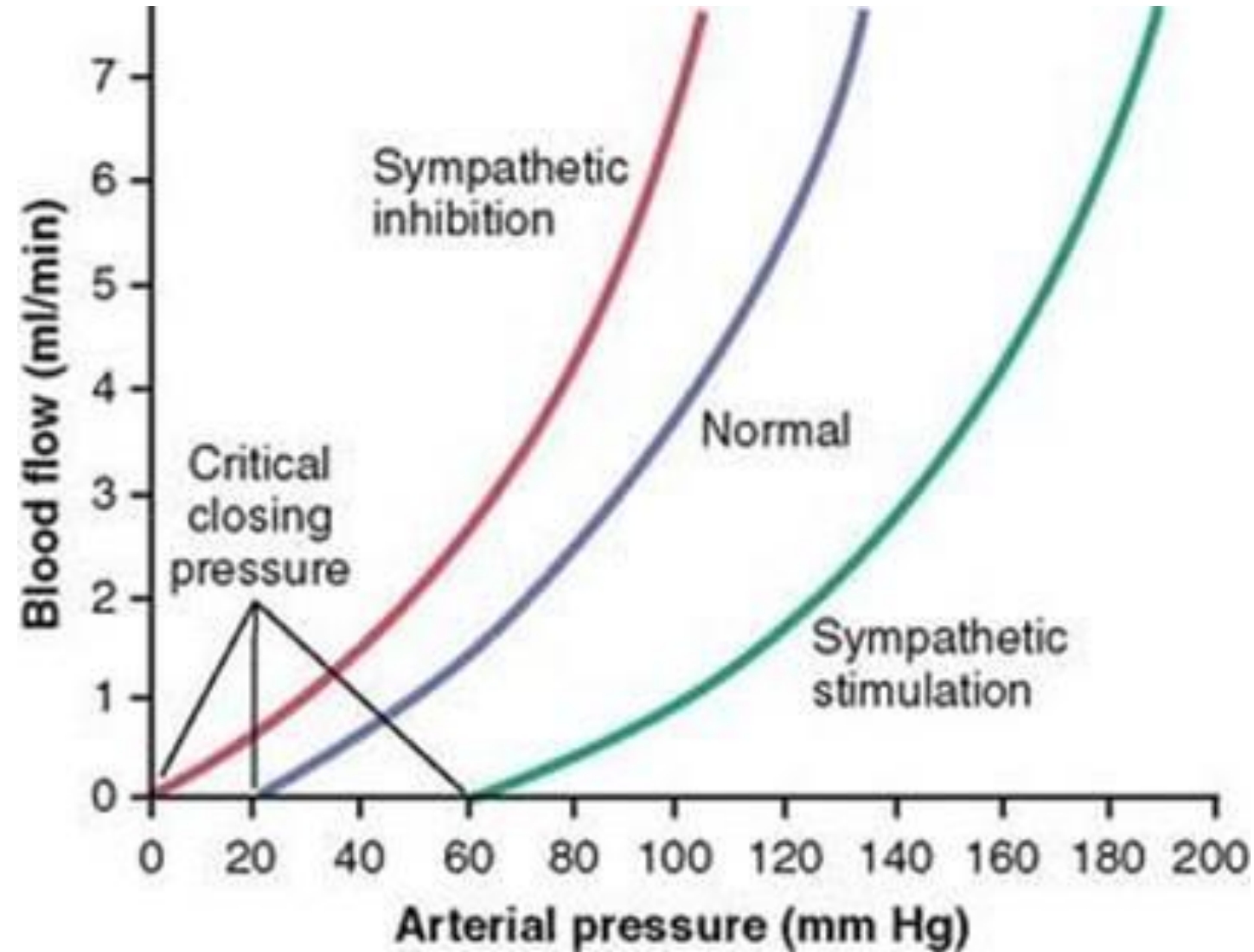
CAUTION IN CASE OF

- Serum creatinine increases more than 100%
- Serum creatinine absolute increase above 3.5 mg/dl

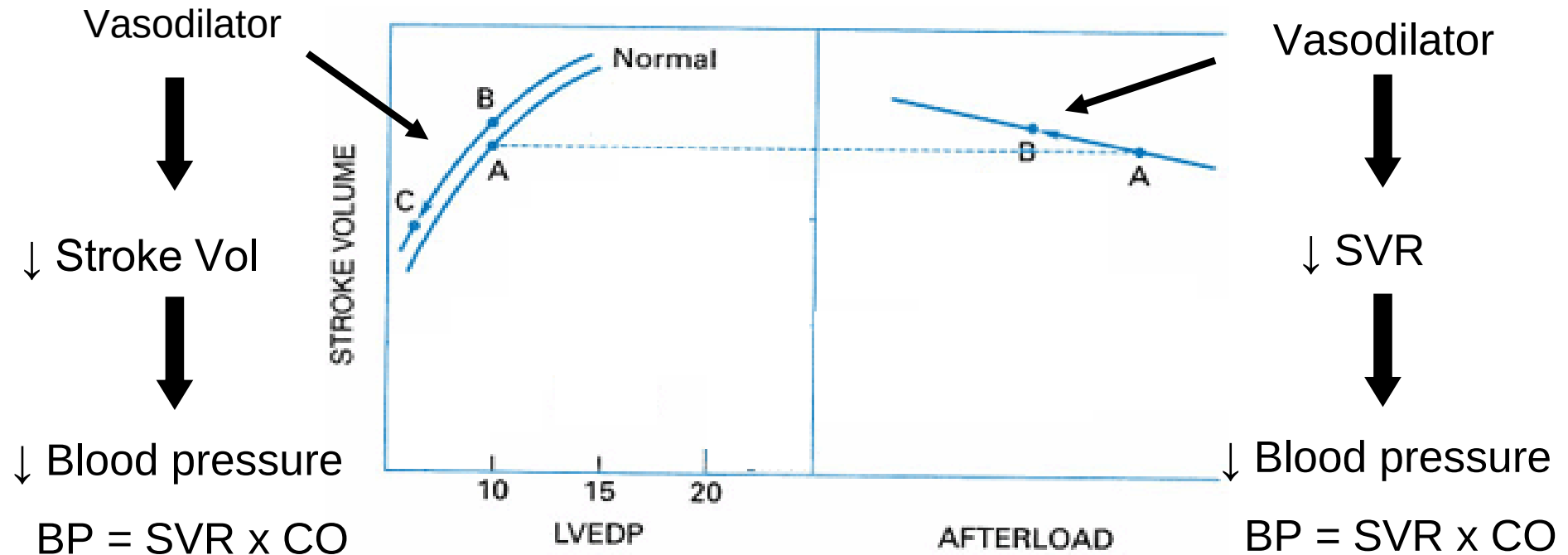
99%

1%

Pathophysiology: blood pressure $\neq$ flow

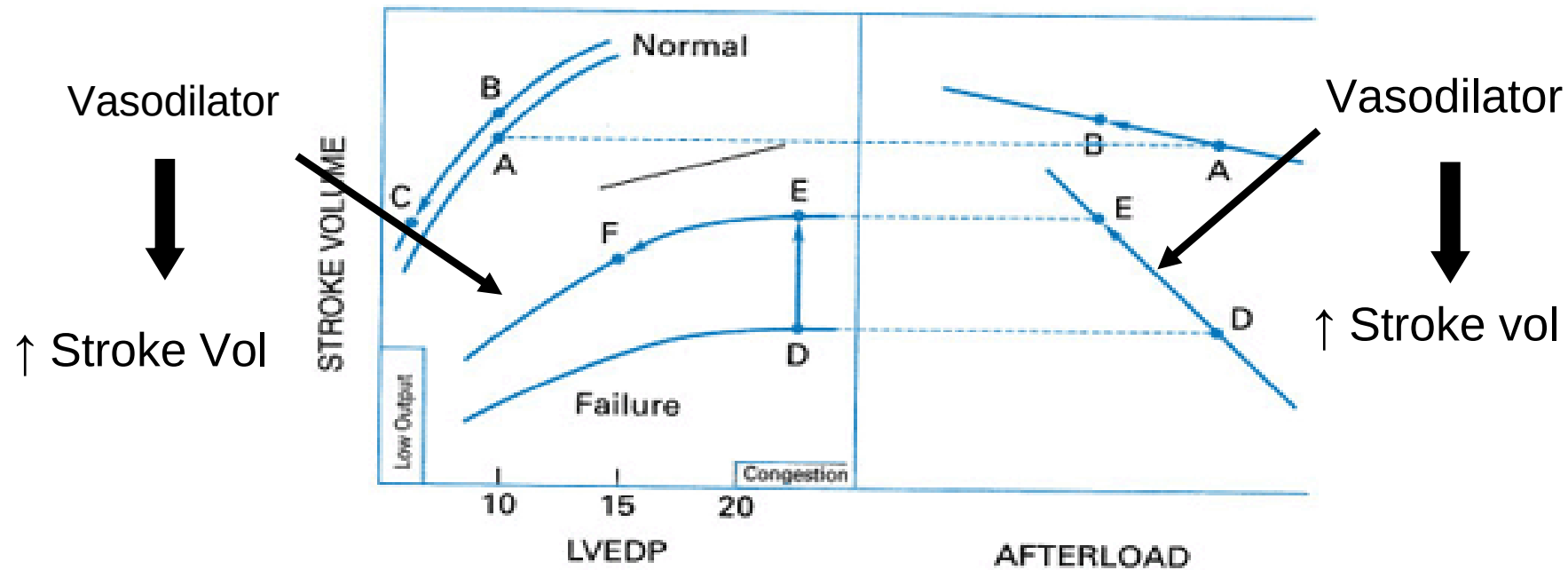


Pathophysiology: pre- and afterload normal heart



Normal heart = “preload” dependent

Pathophysiology: pre- and afterload failing HFrEF

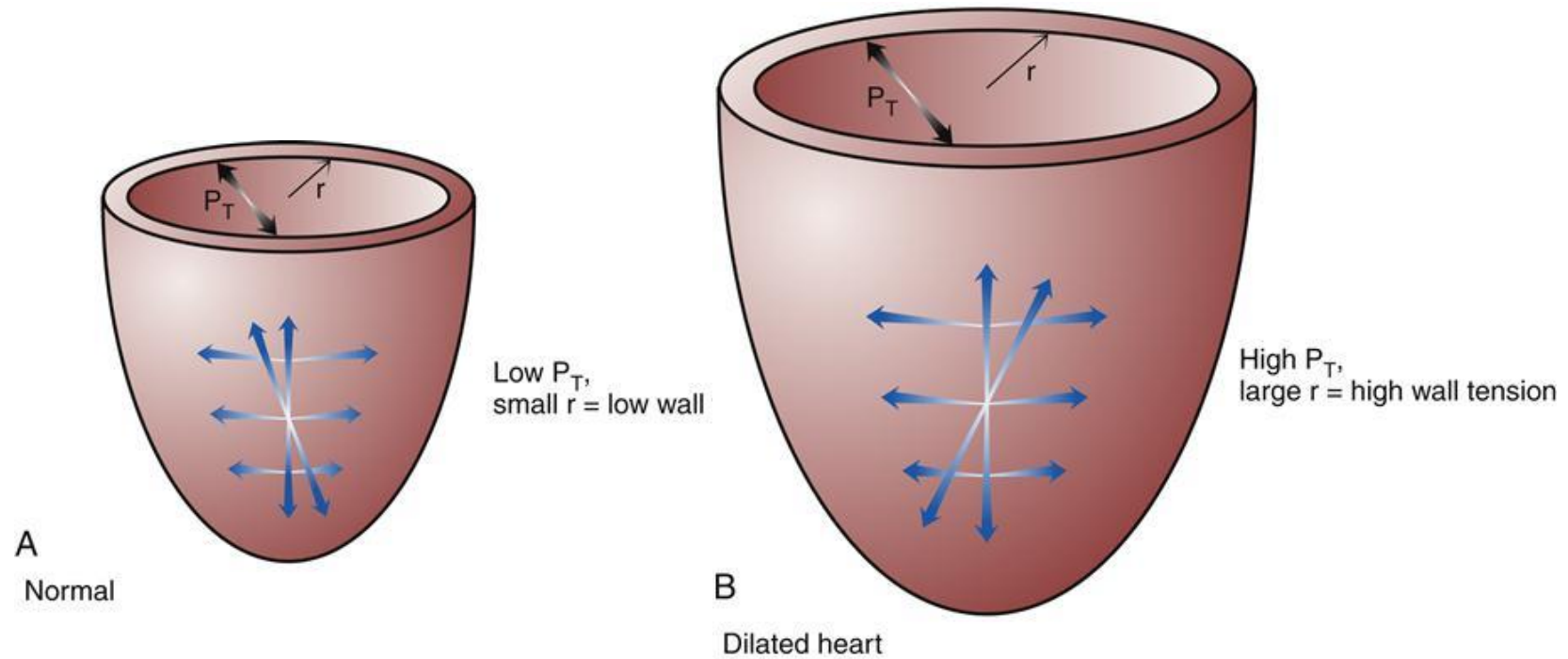


Stroke Normal heart is pre-load dependent

SVR Heart Failure is afterload dependent

What is LV afterload ?

Pathophysiology: failing HFrEF – Law of Laplace



$$\text{Wall tension} = (\text{pressure} \times \text{radius}) / (2 \times \text{wall thickness})$$

Pathophysiology: failing HFrEF

Nitroprusside for Advanced Decompensated HFrEF

Start **Nitroprusside** protocol through a continuous infusion at a dose of 10-400 mcg/min (without bolus)

Titrate to MAP 60-70 mmHg

Well trained nursing staff – dose adjusted / 15 minutes

BP measured non-invasively

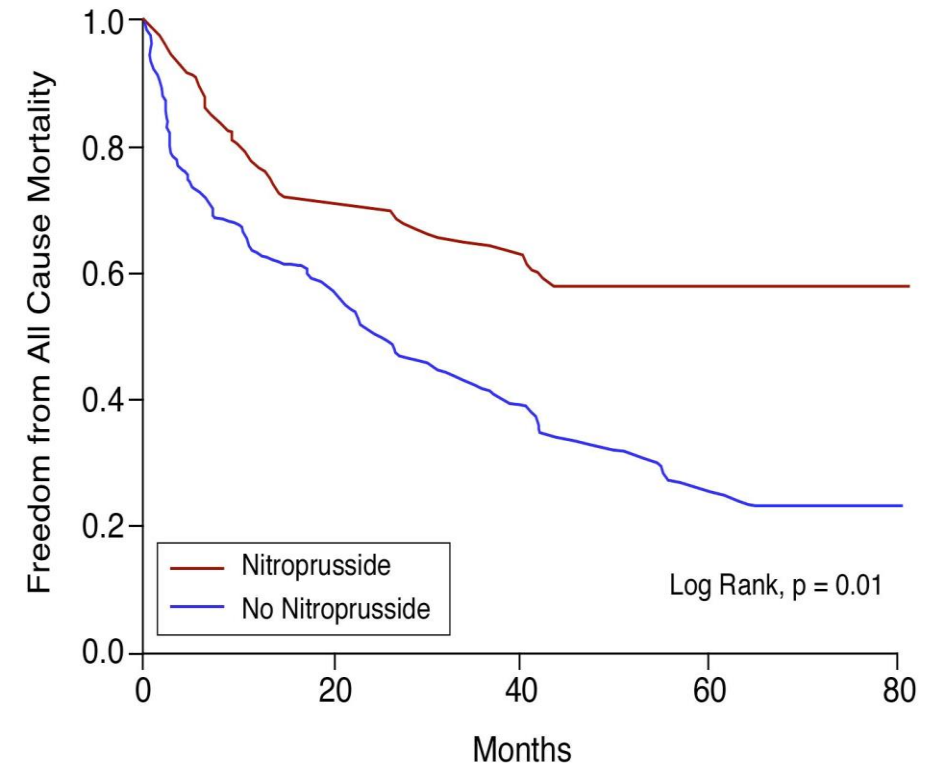
Optimal hemodynamic response

- decrease in PCWP to ≤ 18 mmHg,

- decrease in right atrial pressure to ≤ 8 mmHg

- improvement in cardiac index to ≥ 2.2 l/min/m²

Continue ACE-I, BB and spironolactone as tolerated



High dose spiro for advanced decompensated heart failure ATHENA trial

	Usual Care	Spironolactone	P
Log NTproBNP			
Baseline	8.23 (7.58, 8.94)	8.43 (7.90, 9.17)	
96 h (or discharge)	7.64 (6.93, 8.45)	7.89 (7.19, 8.68)	
Change	-0.49 (-0.98, -0.14)	-0.55 (-0.92, -0.18)	0.57
N-terminal pro B-type natriuretic peptide, pg/ml			
Baseline	3753 (1968, 7633)	4601 (2697, 9596)	
96 h (or discharge)	2080 (1025, 4675)	2672 (1326, 5896)	
Change	-1072 (-3182, -231)	-1796 (-3883, -571)	0.76

Combination of a loop diuretic with thiazide-type diuretic should be considered in patients with resistant oedema who do not respond to an increase in loop diuretic doses.¹⁴⁵

Ila

B

CLOROTIC

Endpoint	Placebo (n = 116)	Hydrochlorothiazide (n = 114)	P-value
Coprimary endpoints			
Change in weight at 72 h (kg)	−1.5 (−3.2 to 0.0)	−2.3 (−3.9 to −1.2)	0.002
Adjusted estimated difference (notionally 95% confidence interval)	−1.14 [−1.84 to −0.42]		
AUC for dyspnoea at 72 h (VAS)	720 (240–1455)	960 (360–1620)	0.497

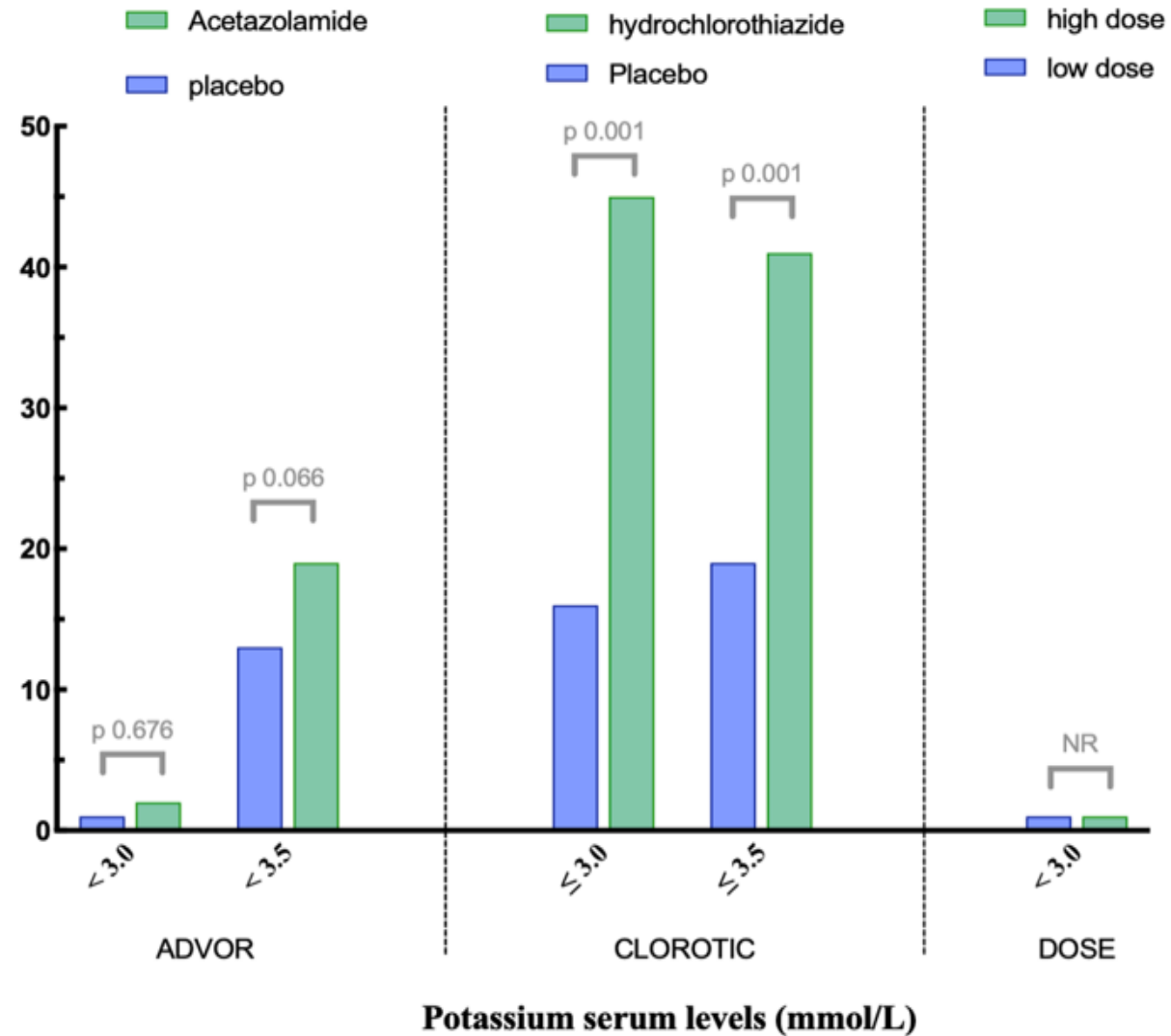
Trullas JC et al. Eur Heart J 2023;44:411-421

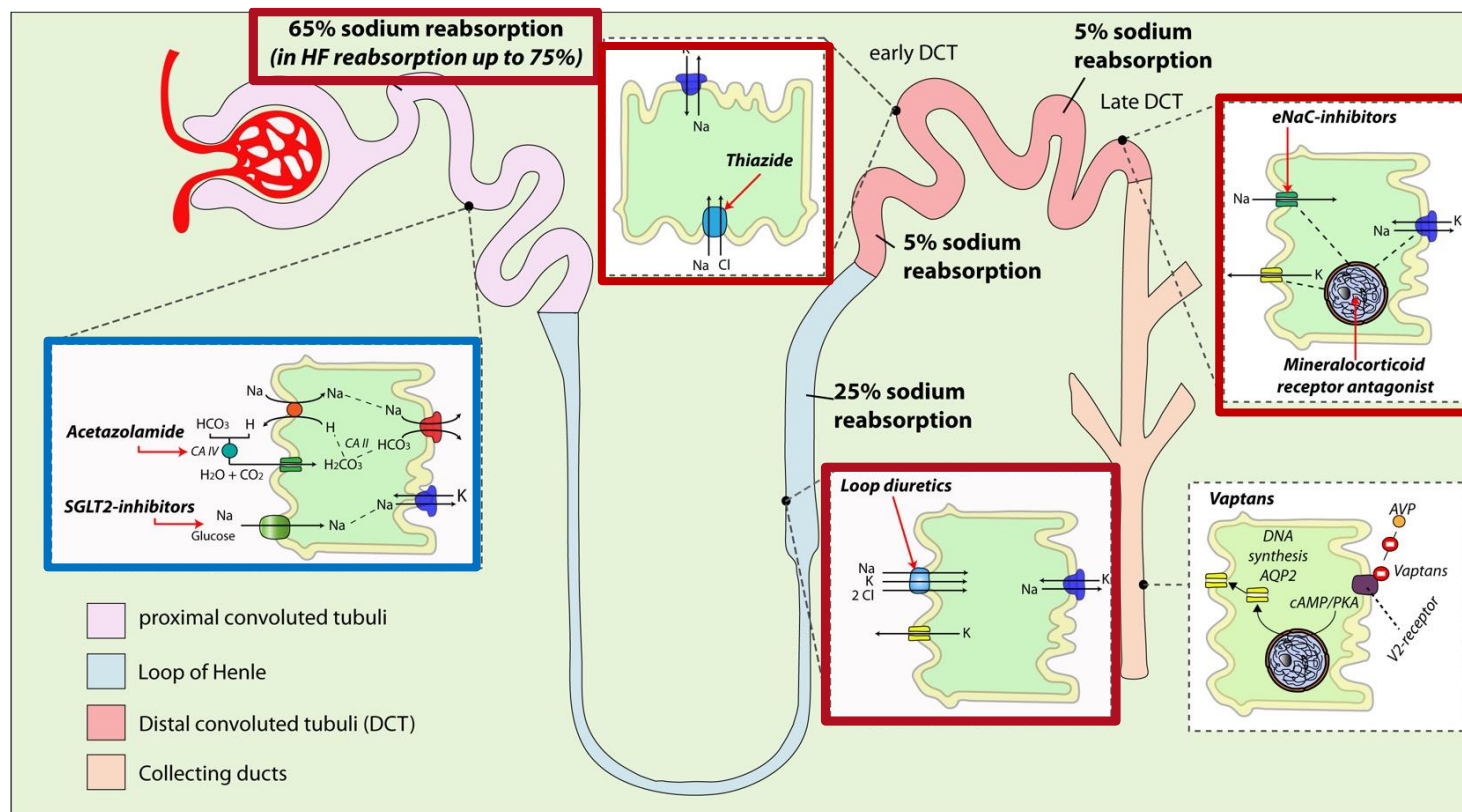
Subanalysis CLOROTIC trial: less effect if eGFR was lower !

	Results for placebo	Results for HCTZ	Difference	P for interaction
Primary endpoint. Change in weight (kg) at 72 hours				
Overall	-1.6 [-2.1 to 1.1]	-2.4 [-2.7 to -1.8]	-0.8 [-1.4 to -0.2]	0.001
< 45 ml/min/1.73m ²	-1.8 [-2.3 to -0.9]	-1.9 [-2.4 to -1.7]	-0.1 [-1.3 to 0.4]	0.246
45 to 59 ml/min/1.73m ²	-1.2 [-2.1 to -0.7]	-2.5 [-3.3 to -0.9]	-1.3 [-2.3 to 0.2]	
≥ 60 ml/min/1.73m ²	-1.6 [-2.9 to -1.2]	-3.7 [-4.8 to -2.7]	-2.1 [-3.0 to -0.5]	

Trullas JC et al. Eur J Heart Fail 2023;25:1784-1793

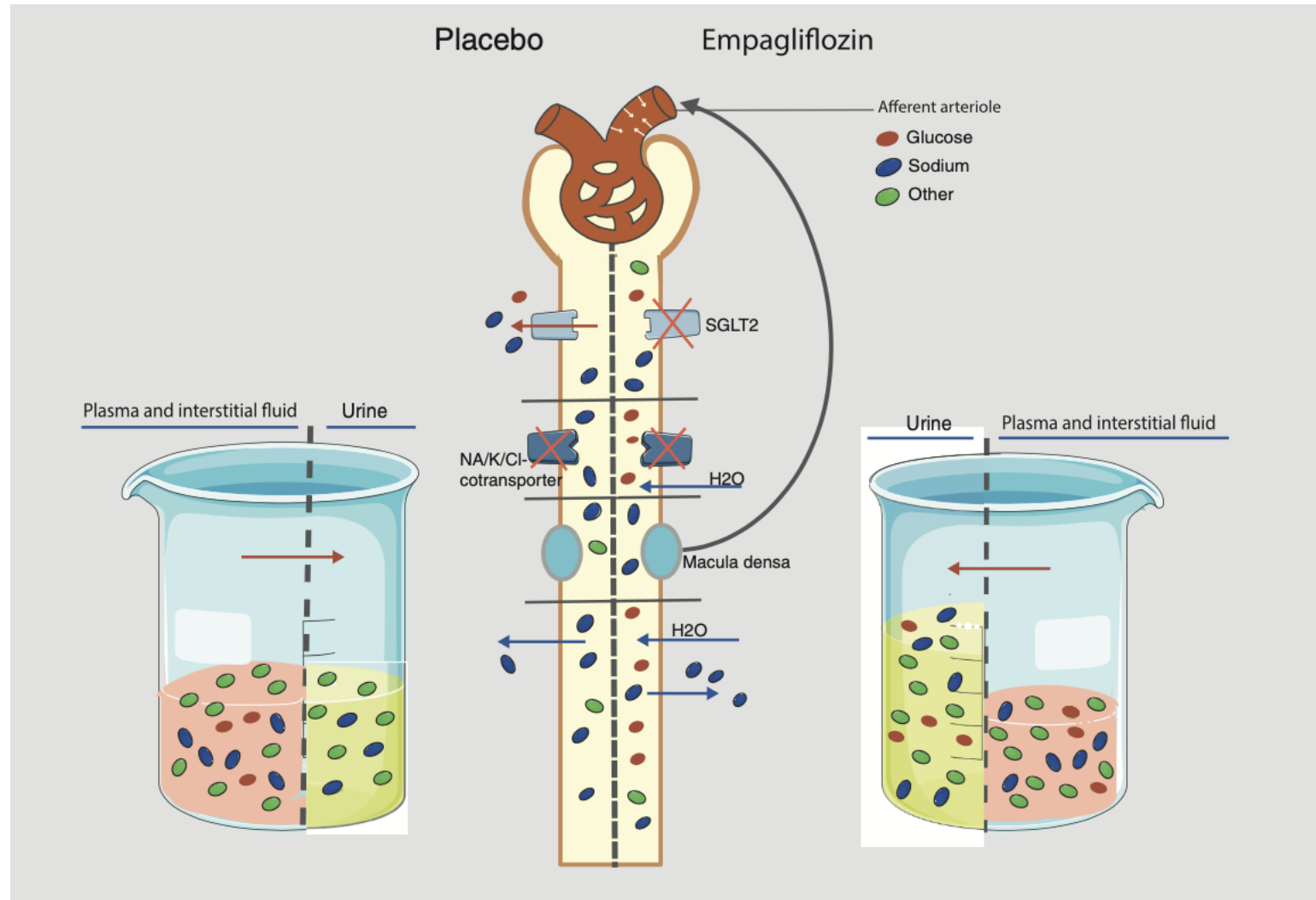
Hypokalemia loop diuretics +/- acetazolamide vs thiazides





HF induces a state of increased proximal renal sodium reabsorption, but loop diuretics, thiazides, MRA work distal at loop of Henle

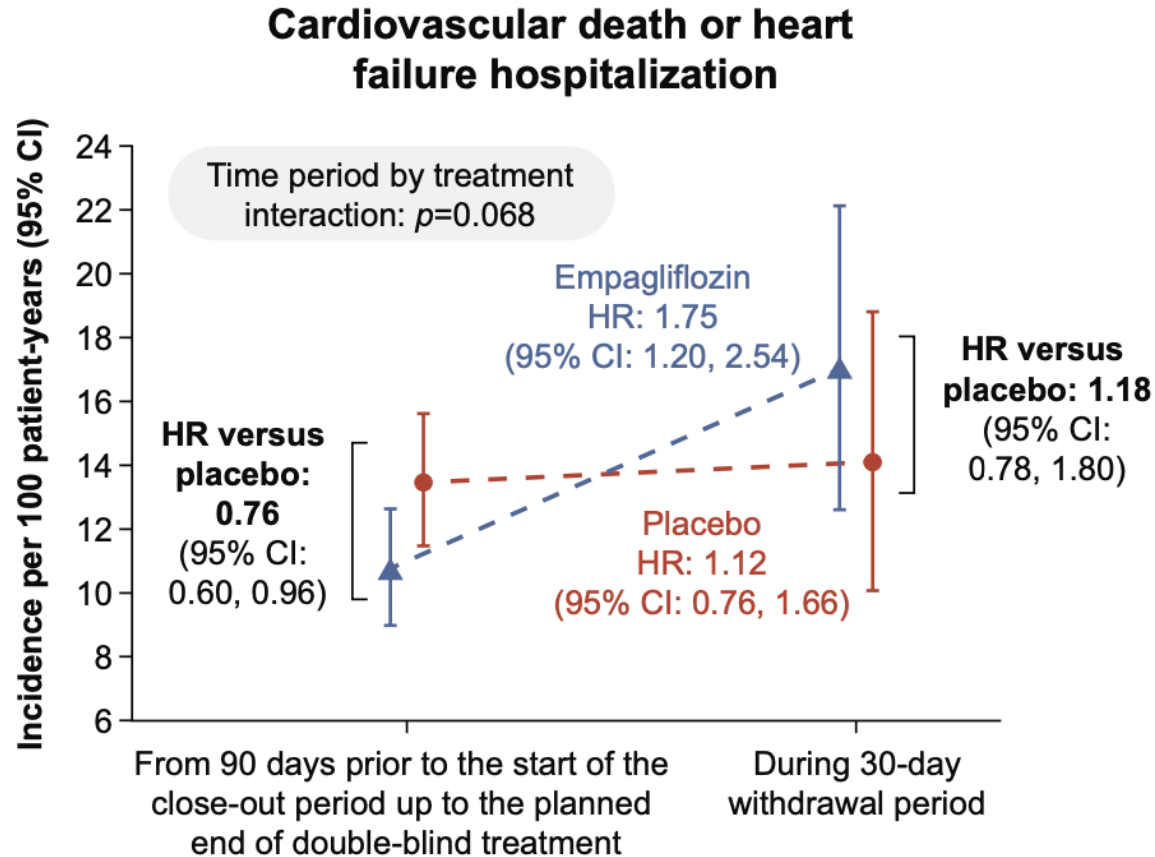
Renal Preservation: SGLT2i (EMPA-RESPONSE-AHF)



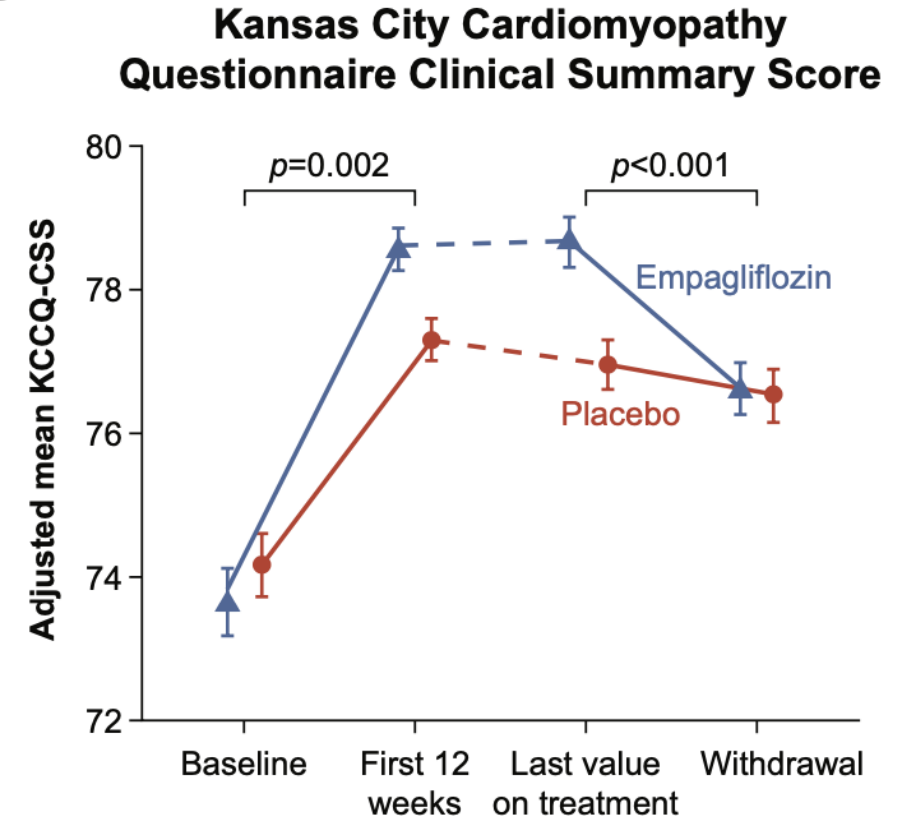
↑ FeGluc but = FeNa

Safe to stop SGLT2i ?

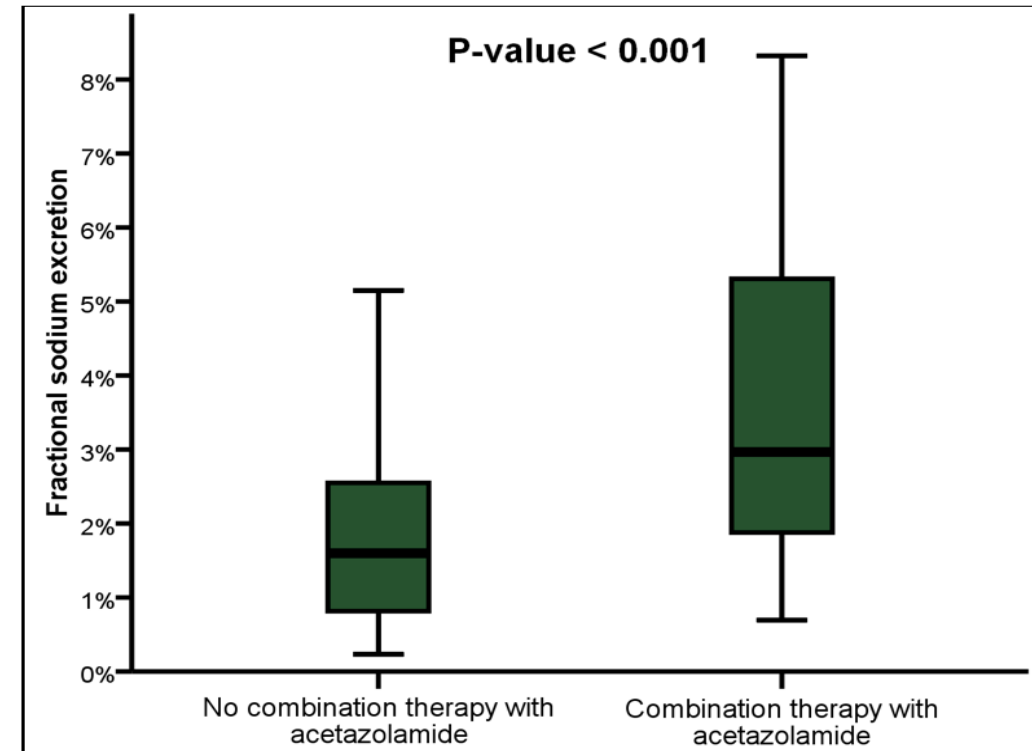
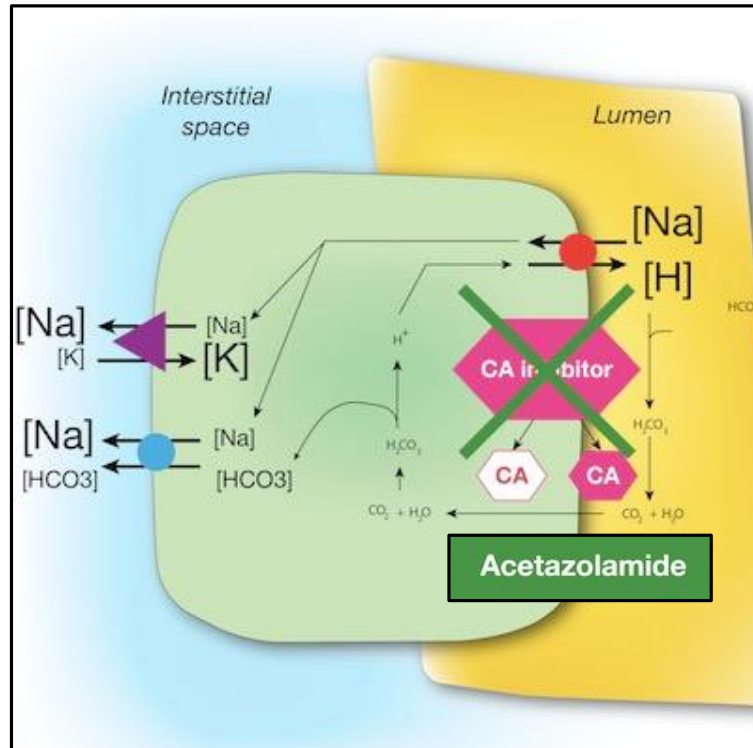
A



B



Acetazolamide might improve loop diuretic efficiency





Acetazolamide in **D**ecompensated Heart Failure With **V**olume **O**ve**R**load

www.advor.be

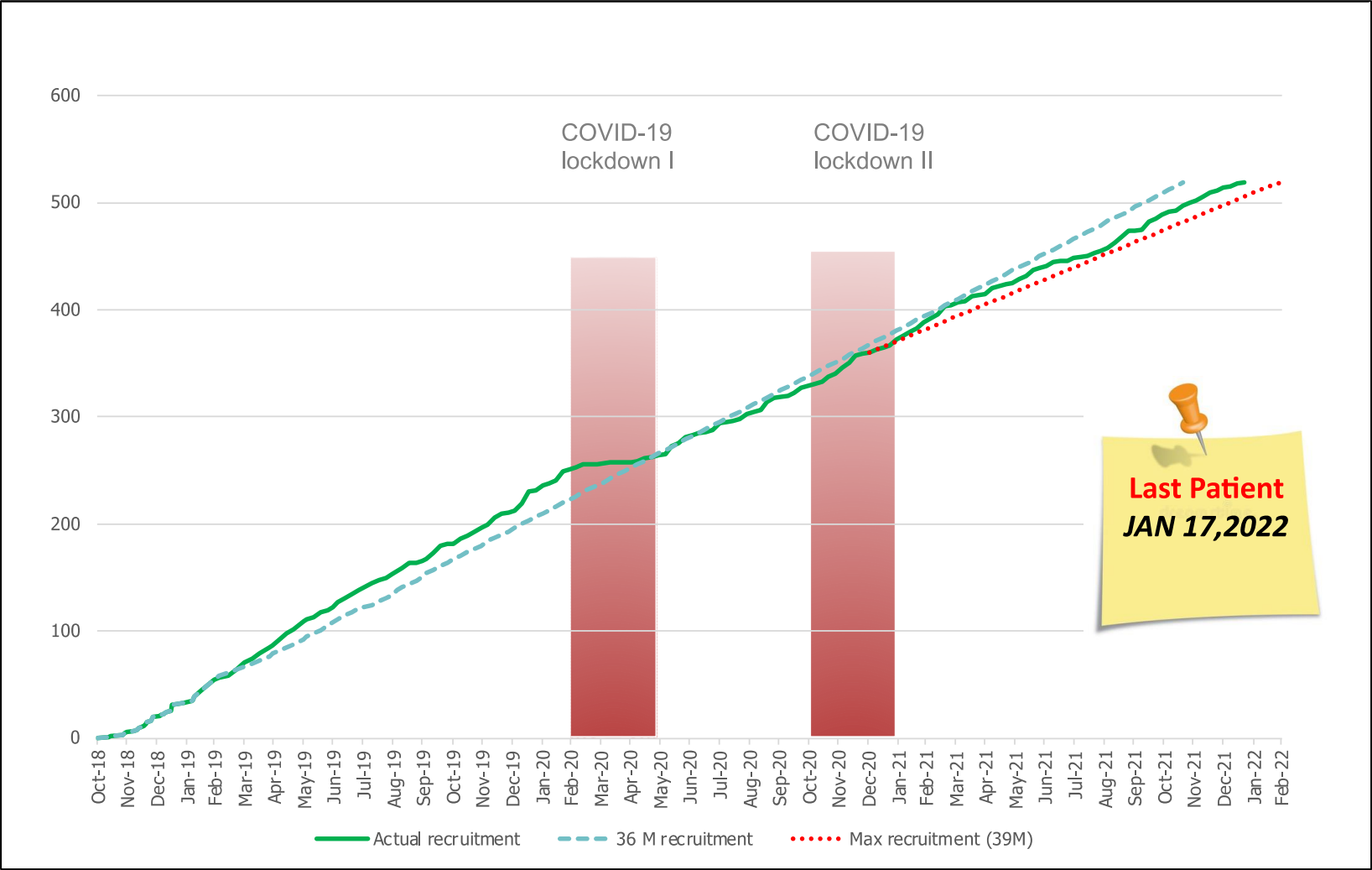
29 (27) participating sites

Hospital	Principal Investigator
AZ Delta Roeselare-Menen	M. Deceunick
AZ Glorieux, Ronse	F. Van Durme
AZ Groeninge, Kortrijk	D. Derthoo
AZ klina, Antwerpen	W. Smolders
AZ Maria Middelaes Gent	D. Vervloet
AZ Mol	H. Striekwold
AZ Nikolaas, St-Niklaas	K. Goossens
AZ Sint-Lucas, Gent	H. Vandekerckhove
AZ Turnhout	P.J. Hofkens
CHR de la Citadelle, Luik	P. Troisfontaines
CHU Charleroi	S. Moubayed
CHU UCL Namur	L. Gabriel
Clinique Saint-Luc Bouge	P. Blouard
Grand Hôpital de Charleroi	F. Chenot
GZA, sint-Vincentius, Wilrijk	D. Raes

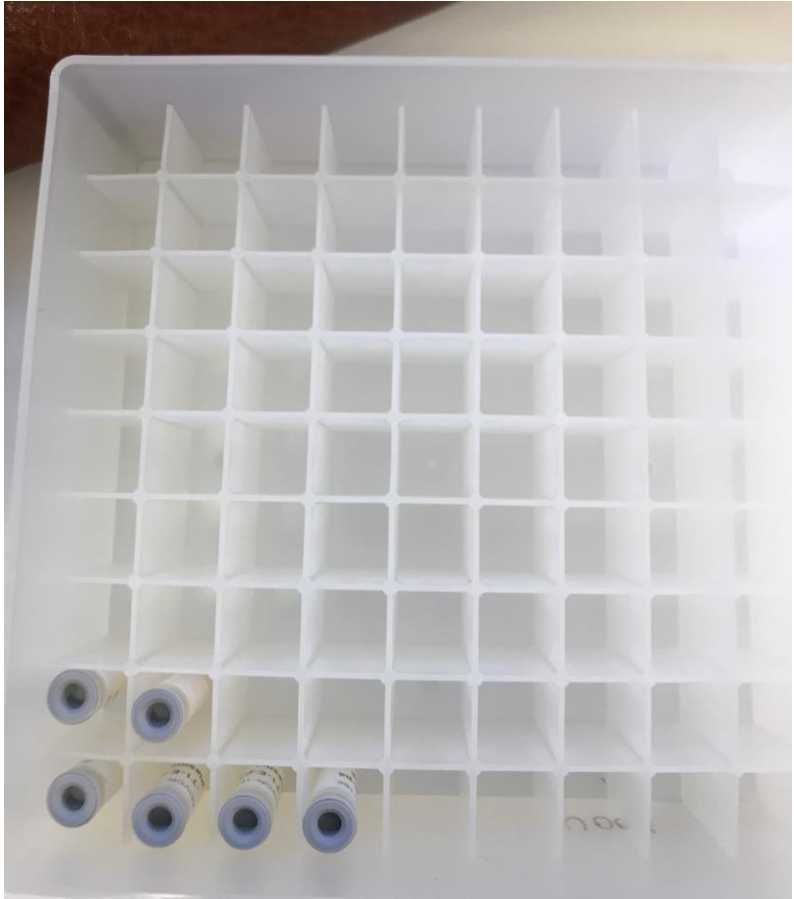
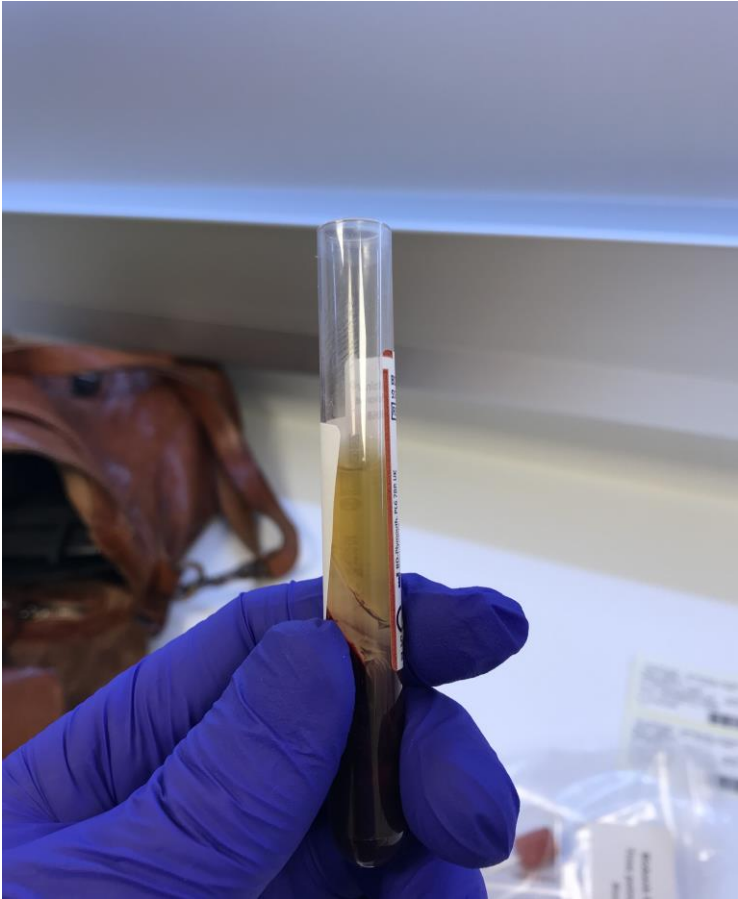
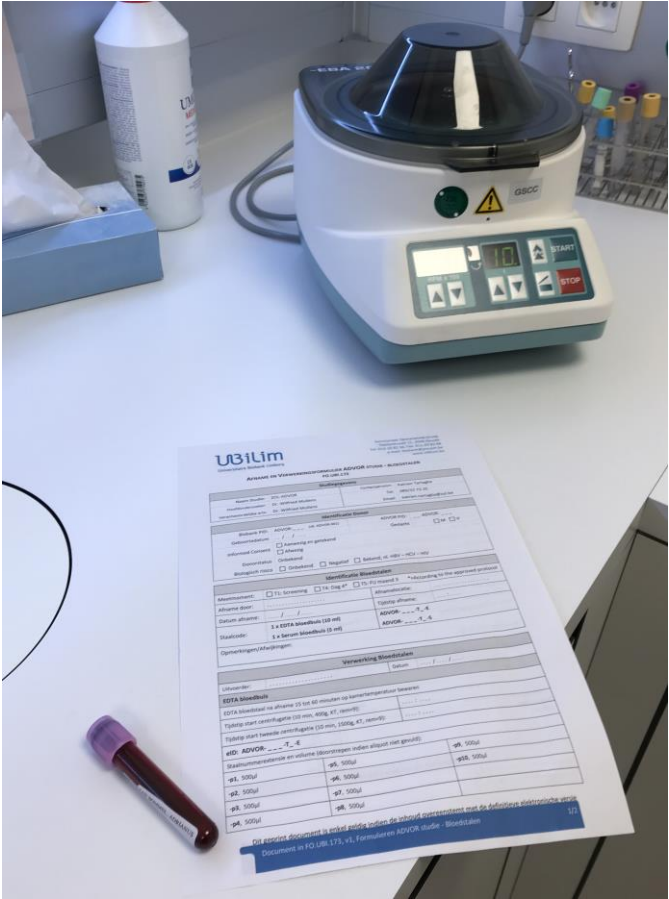
Hospital	Principal Investigator
Hôpital Erasme, Brussel	J.L. Vachery
Imeldaziekenhuis, Bonheiden	B. Ector
Jan Yperman	E. Viaene
Jessa Ziekenhuis, Hasselt	P. Timmermans
OLV Ziekenhuis Aalst-Asse-Ninove	R. Dierckx
Sint Maarten, Mechelen	G. Vervoort
UZ Antwerpen	E. Van Craenenbroeck
UZ Brussel	S. Lochy
UZ Gent	M. Depauw
UZ Leuven	W. Droogne
UZ Saint-Luc, Brussel	A.C. Pouleur
Ziekenhuis Maas en Kempen	M. Hulselmans
Ziekenhuis Oost Limburg AV	W. Mullens
ZNA Middelheim	E. Prihadi



Patient recruitment

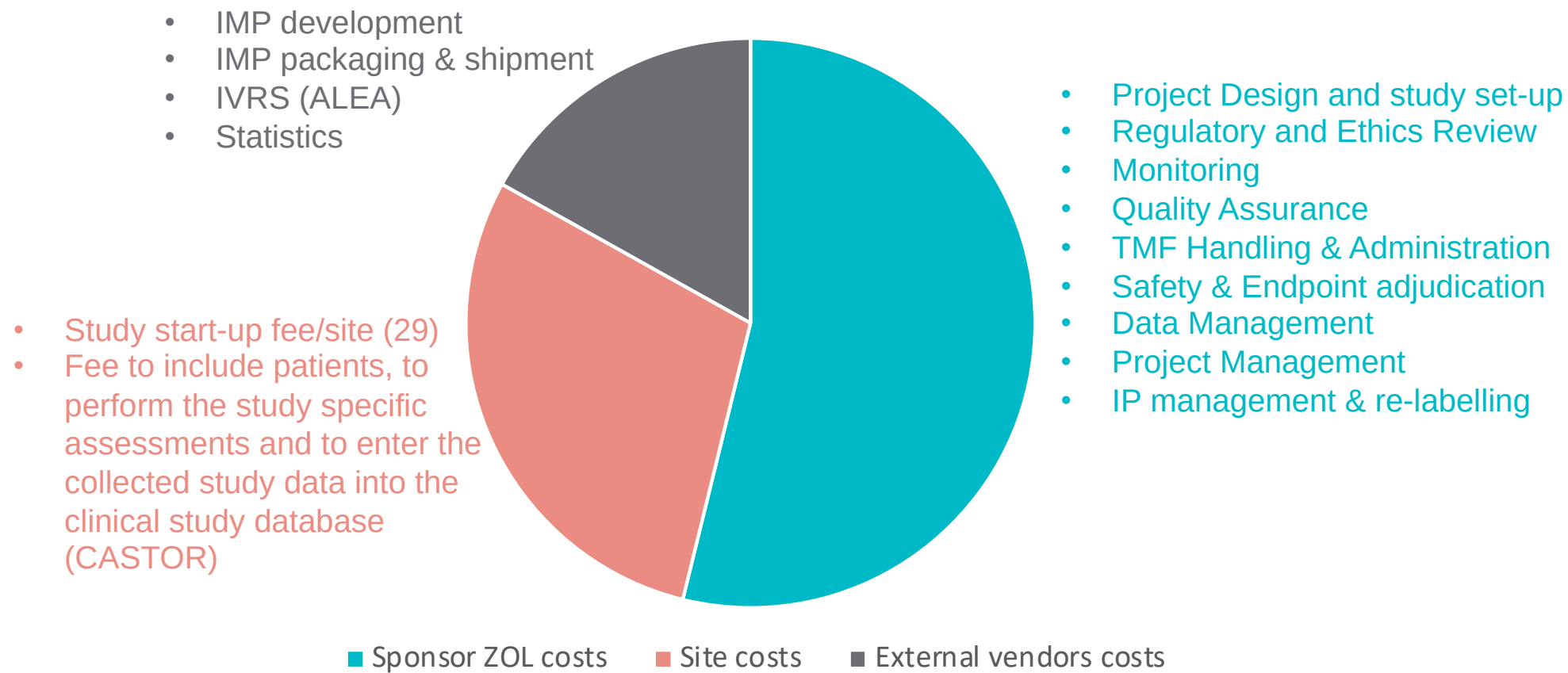


Biomarker substudy (February 18, 2020 – 01.05 am)



Budget

Total budget of 2,2 million euro (or 2,6 million euro (incl. VAT))

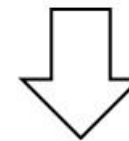


Methods: congestion score

EDEMA	No edema (score 0)	Trace edema (pitting disappear immediately) (score 1)	Clear pitting edema (score 2)	Visual deformation above ankle (score 3)	Visual deformation above knee (score 4)
PLEURAL EFFUSION (to be confirmed by chest X-ray or ultrasound on admission if suspected)	No pleural effusion (score 0)	Minor (non-amenable for puncture) pleural effusion (score 2)		Major (amenable for puncture) pleural effusion (score 3)	
ASCITES (to be confirmed by ultrasound on admission if suspected)	No ascites (score 0)	Minor ascites, only detected by echography (score 2)		Significant ascites (score 3)	



**Successful
decongestion**



Continue IV diuretic therapy

Methods: primary end point

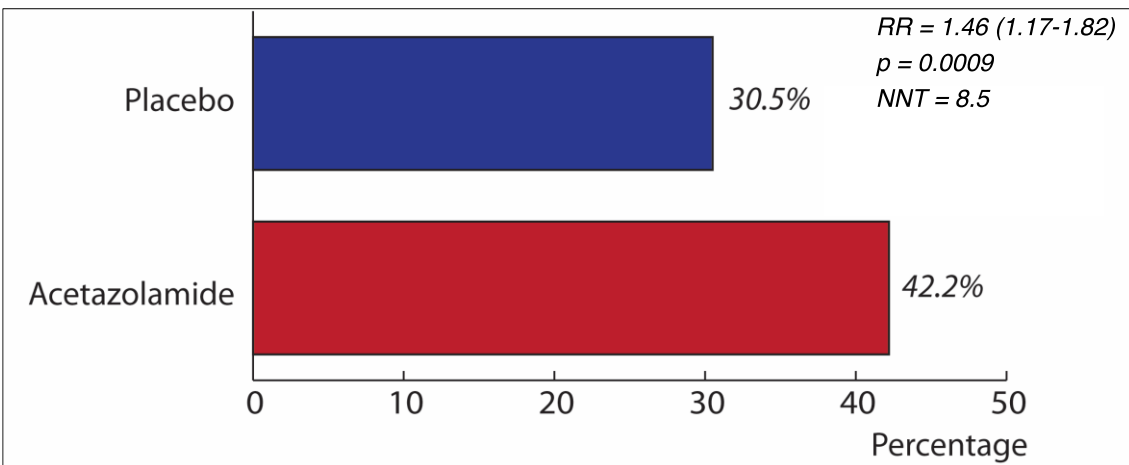
Primary end point:

Successful decongestion defined as congestion score ≤ 1 within 3 days after randomization without an indication for escalation of decongestive therapy

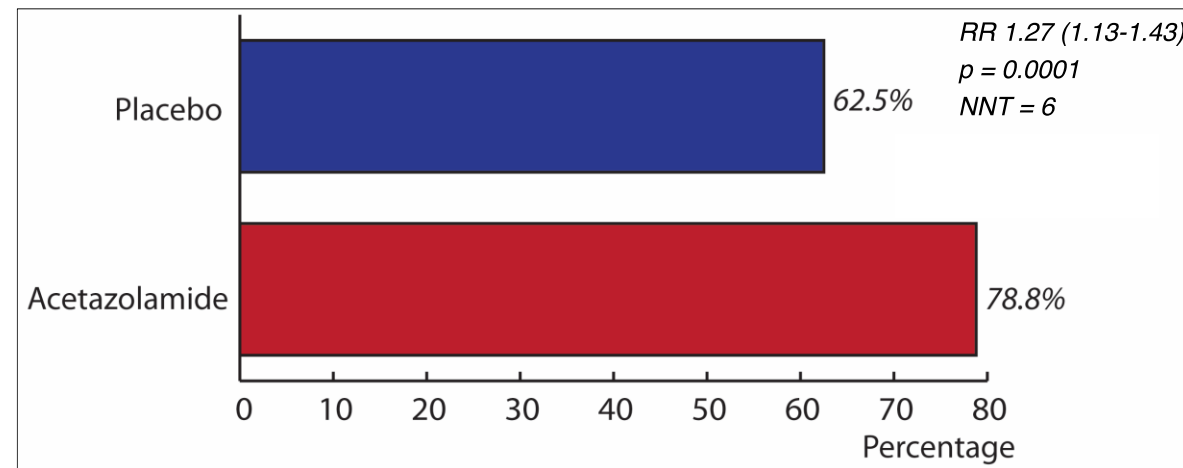
=

Recommendations	Class ^a	Level ^b
It is recommended that patients hospitalized for HF be carefully evaluated to exclude persistent signs of congestion before discharge and to optimize oral treatment. ^{427,472}	I	C

Results: successful decongestion

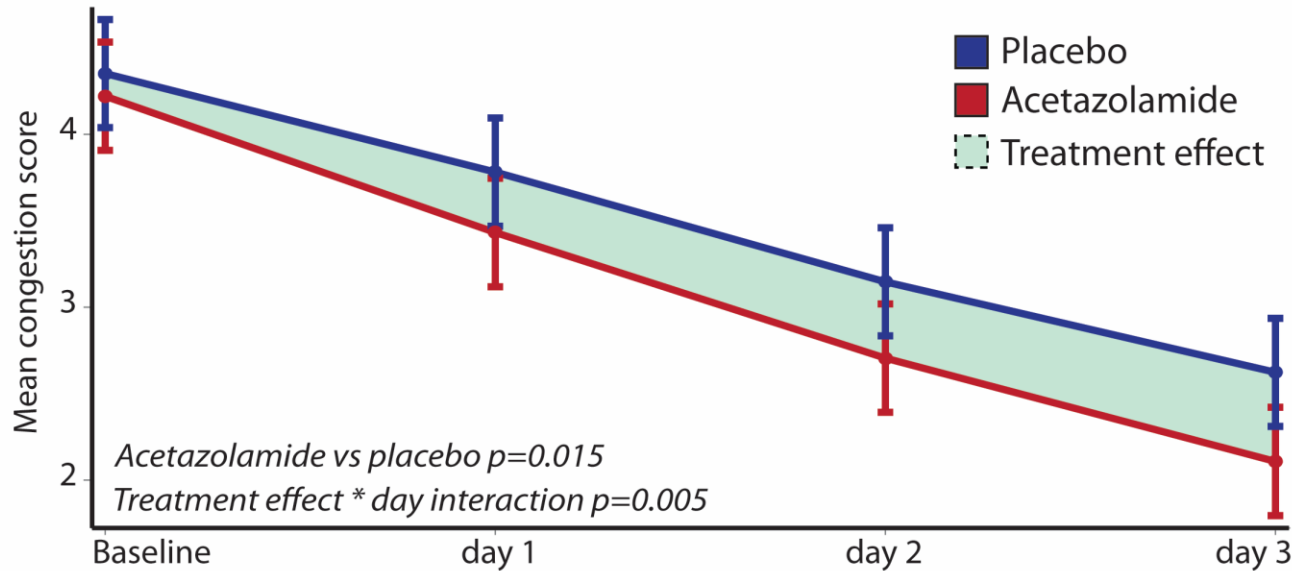


After 3 days (prim endpoint)

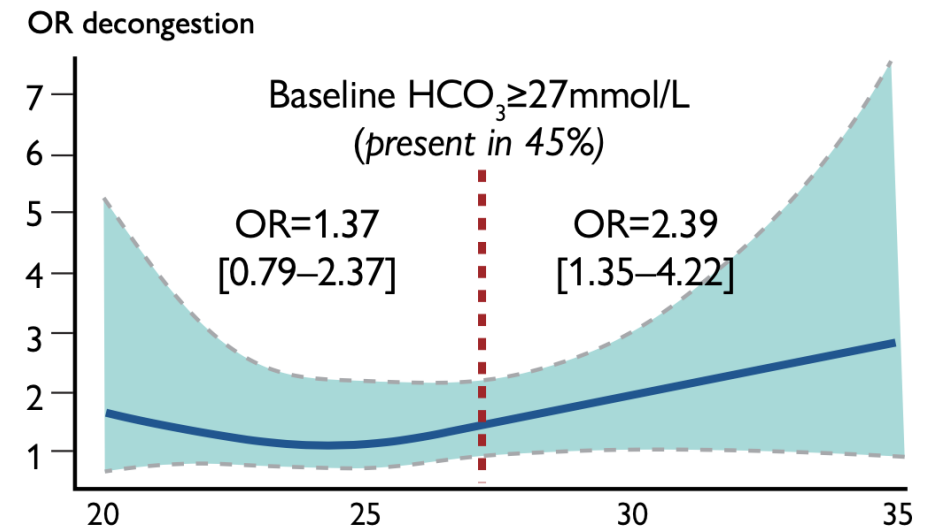


Discharge

Acetazolamide prevents loop diuretic resistance



Higher decongestive response, diuresis, natriuresis and shorter LOS if baseline $\text{HCO}_3^- \geq 27 \text{ mmol/L}$



AD[♥]OR

“door to combo-diuretic time”

ESC CONGRESS 2022
Barcelona & Online



Effect of Loop Diuretic Omission in ambulatory HF

1. No clear guidance in the guidelines
2. Conditions for successful downtitration
 - Maximally tolerated dose of GDMT
 - Compliant patient
 - No residual congestion clinically
 - Nml RV function with nml VCI
 - Nml diastolic function
 - NTproBNP < 500
3. Instruct patients on follow-up
4. Future probably through urinary sodium analysis

Effect of Loop Diuretic Omission in ambulatory HF: conflicting data

FUROSEMIDE WITHDRAWAL IN STABLE CHRONIC OUTPATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE: A DOUBLE-BLIND, MULTICENTER, RANDOMIZED TRIAL

A DOUBLE-BLIND, MULTICENTER, RANDOMIZED TRIAL



NYHA



EF $\leq$ 45%



NO CONGESTION



STABLE
OUTPATIENTS

RANDOMIZATION

FUROSEMIDE
WITHDRAWAL

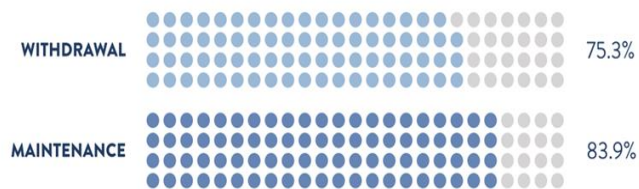


FUROSEMIDE
MAINTENANCE

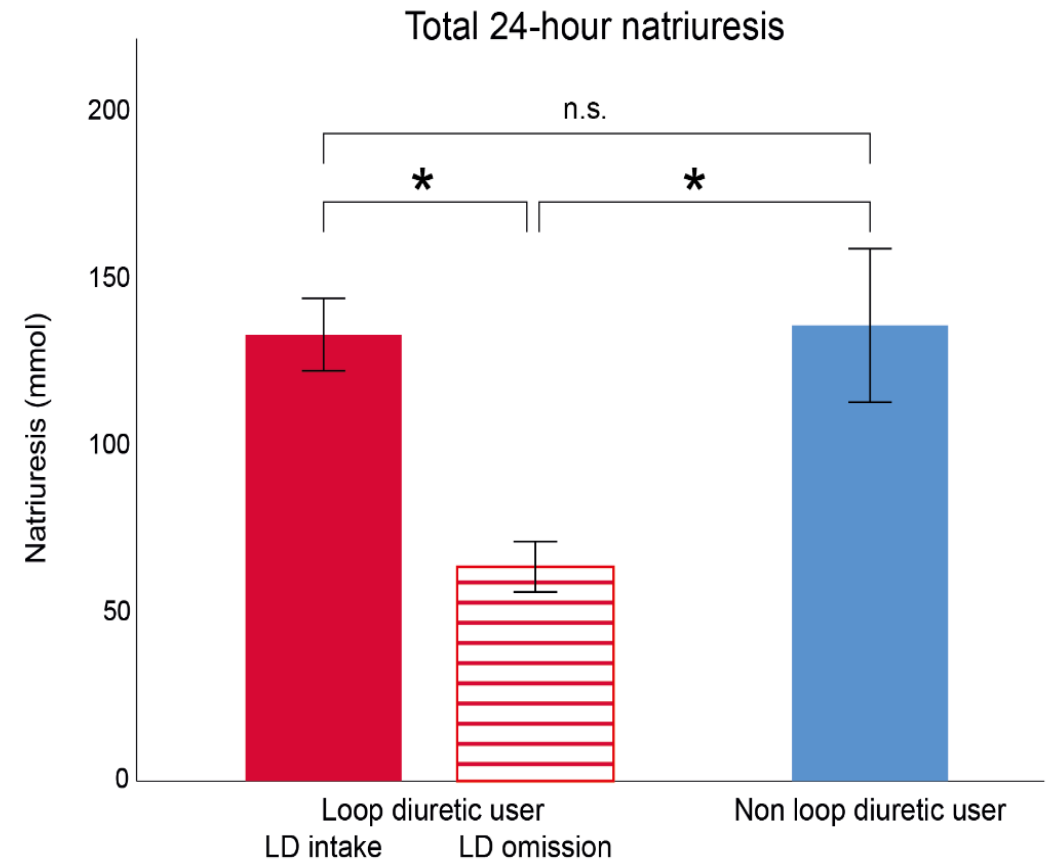
DYSPNEA AT 90 DAYS –
VISUAL ANALOGUE SCALE



PATIENTS WITH NO ADDITIONAL FUROSEMIDE



WITHDRAWING FUROSEMIDE DID NOT SIGNIFICANTLY
WORSEN DYSPNEA OR INCREASE ADDITIONAL DIURETIC USE.



- Misinterpretation of WRF leads to
- Ineffective decongestion in AHF
 - Insufficient dosing of GDMT in CHF

