

# IMPLEMENT-EF: Clinical Perspectives – Foundations of HFpEF/HFmrEF

Webinar will begin shortly



American Heart Association®

IMPLEMENT-EF

*The American Heart Association's IMPLEMENT-EF initiative is supported by Bayer*

# Initiative Overview



Scan the QR code to see a map of participating sites, stay informed about upcoming educational opportunities, and insights from the initiative.

[heart.org/IMPLEMENTEF](https://www.heart.org/IMPLEMENTEF)

## GOALS:

- In 2025, the American Heart Association, launched a quality improvement initiative.
- Discover current gaps and identify ideal care models in the HFpEF/HFmrEF patient journey
- Build a network of multidisciplinary team members focused on improving HFpEF/HFmrEF care
- Amplify HFpEF/HFmrEF awareness with providers and monitoring adherence to evidence-based therapies for HFpEF/HFmrEF patients in hospitals

<https://www.heart.org/en/professional/quality-improvement/implement-ef>





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**IMPLEMENT-EF**

# IMPLEMENT-EF Participating Sites

1. AdventHealth Redmond
2. AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
3. Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center
4. Baptist Health Paducah
5. Baptist Health Lexington
6. Baptist Memorial Hospital - Memphis
7. Bon Secours St. Mary's Hospital
8. Carolina Pines Regional Medical Center
9. Carteret Health Care
10. Cleveland Clinic
11. Dayton Veterans Affairs Medical Center
12. Froedtert Hospital
13. Froedtert West Bend Hospital
14. Geisinger Medical Center
15. Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center
16. Hackensack Meridian Southern Ocean Medical Center
17. Hackensack University Medical Center
18. MaineHealth Maine Medical Center Biddeford
19. Mount Sinai Health System
20. Murray County Medical Center
21. North Mississippi Medical Center
22. Northwestern Medicine Palos Hospital
23. NYC Health + Hospitals / Elmhurst
24. Ochsner LSU Health Shreveport
25. Penn Medicine Lancaster General Health
26. Penn State Health Milton S. Hershey Medical Center
27. Renown Regional Medical Center
28. Saint Francis Hospital Muskogee
29. Stanford Health Care
30. Sutter Medical Center, Sacramento
31. Texas Health Fort Worth
32. Titus Regional Medical Center
33. UCHealth - Memorial Hospital Central
34. UCHealth University of Colorado Hospital
35. UI Health
36. University of Alabama at Birmingham Hospital
37. University of California Irvine Medical Center
38. University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
39. WellStar Kennestone Regional Hospital
40. WellStar Paulding Hospital

Rome, GA  
Shawnee Mission, KS  
Sioux Falls, SD  
Paducah, KY  
Lexington, KY  
Memphis, TN  
Richmond, VA  
Hartsville, SC  
Morehead City, NC  
Cleveland, OH  
Dayton, OH  
Milwaukee, WI  
West Bend, WI  
Danville, PA  
Edison, NJ  
Manahawkin, NJ  
Hackensack, NJ  
Biddeford, ME  
New York, NY  
Slayton, MN  
Tupelo, MS  
Palos Heights, IL  
Elmhurst, NY  
Shreveport, LA  
Lancaster, PA  
Hershey, PA  
Reno, NV  
Muskogee, OK  
Stanford, CA  
Sacramento, CA  
Fort Worth, TX  
Mount Pleasant, TX  
Colorado Springs, CO  
Aurora, CO  
Chicago, IL  
Birmingham, AL  
Orange, CA  
Dallas, TX  
Marietta, GA  
Hiram, GA



[heart.org/IMPLEMENTEF](http://heart.org/IMPLEMENTEF)

# **Clinical Perspectives: Foundations of HFpEF/HFmrEF**

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FASE Regional Director, Heart Failure Clinical  
Program-SSM Health, St. Louis & Southern IL



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# Disclosures

I have these relevant financial relationships. I do not intend to present any off-label indications for medications or devices.

Type of Relationship: Speaker Bureau

- Zoll, Astra Zeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals, Merck, SCpharma, Abiomed, Abbott, Impulse Dynamics, CVRx, Bayer

Type of Relationship: Research

- Zoll, Impulse Dynamics

Type of Relationship: Advisory Board

- Astra Zeneca, Zoll, Bayer, Abiomed

# Disclaimer

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# Universal Definition of Heart Failure

## *HF is a Clinical Syndrome*

- HF is a clinical syndrome with current or prior **Symptoms and or signs caused by a structural and/or functional cardiac abnormality**, as determined by

- Abnormal cardiac chamber enlargement
- E/E' of >15
- Moderate/severe ventricular hypertrophy
- or moderate/severe valvular obstructive or regurgitant lesion

- And corroborated by at least one of the following:

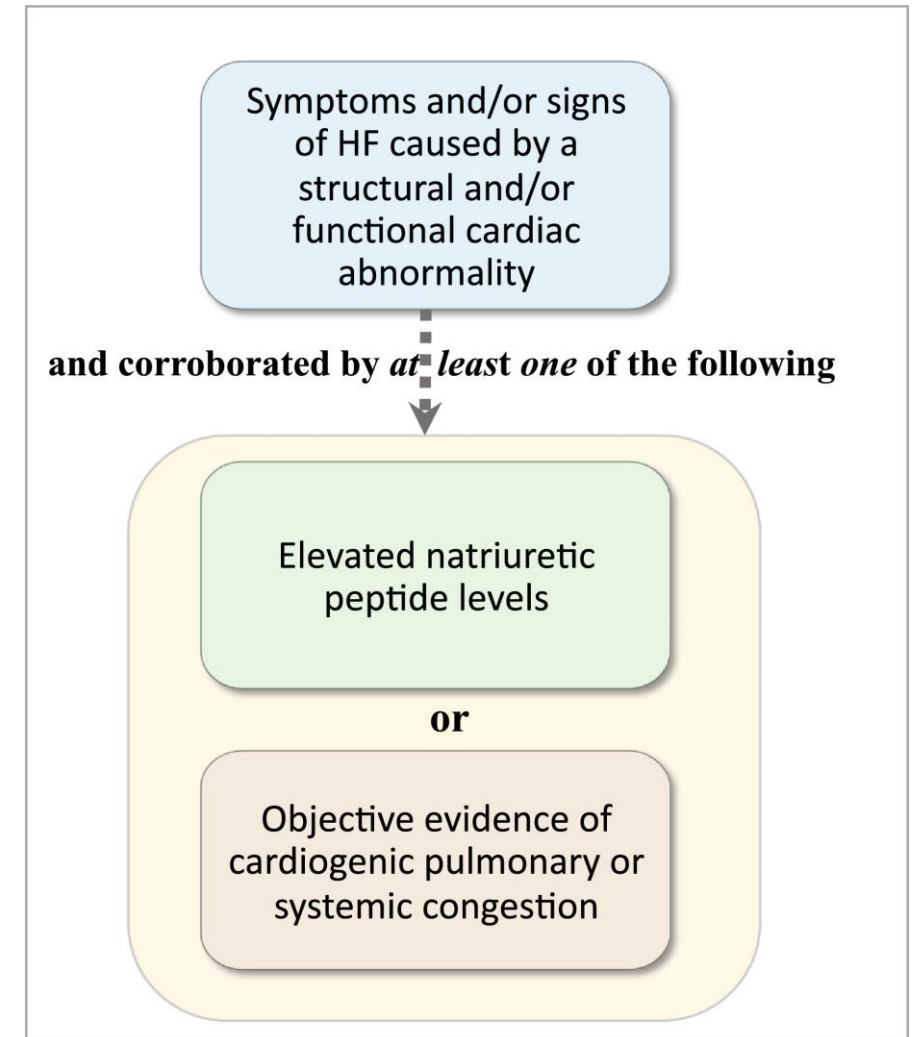
- **Elevated natriuretic peptide levels**

### Natriuretic Peptide Levels Supporting Definition of HF

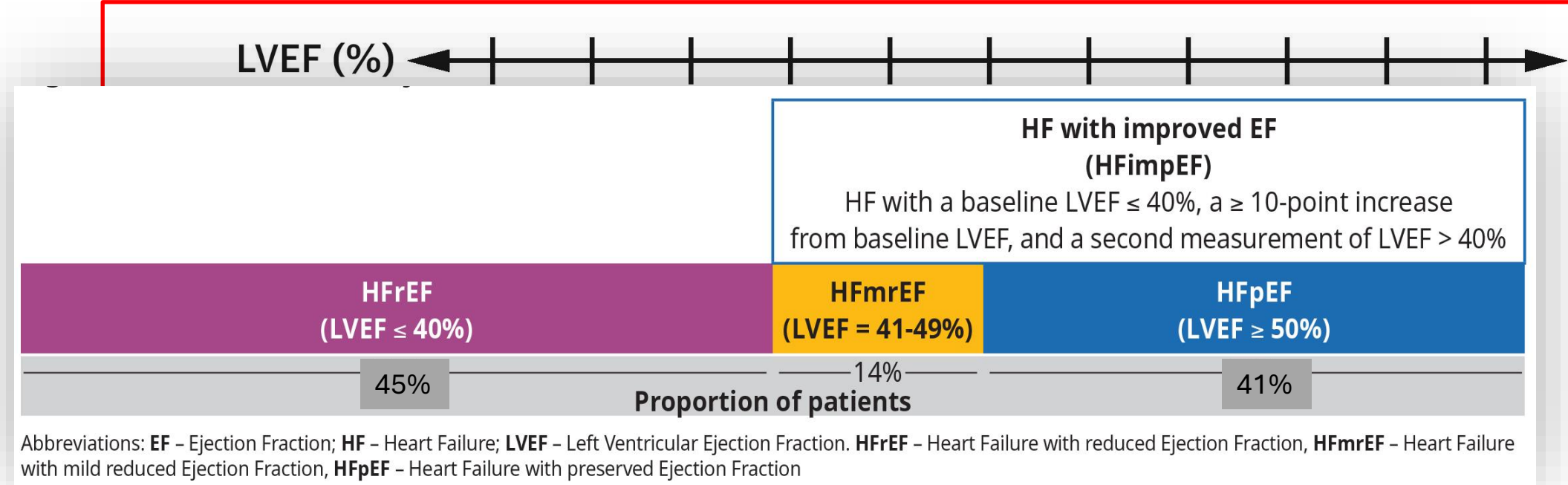
	Ambulatory	Hospitalized/Decompensated
BNP, pg/mL	≥35	≥100
NT-ProBNP, pg/mL	≥125	≥300

\* Reduced specificity in older patients, CKD, A.fib

- Objective evidence of **Cardiogenic Pulmonary or Systemic Congestion** by diagnostic modalities, such as imaging (eg, by chest radiograph or elevated filling pressures by echocardiography) or hemodynamic measurement (eg, right heart catheterization, pulmonary artery catheter) at rest or with provocation (eg, exercise)



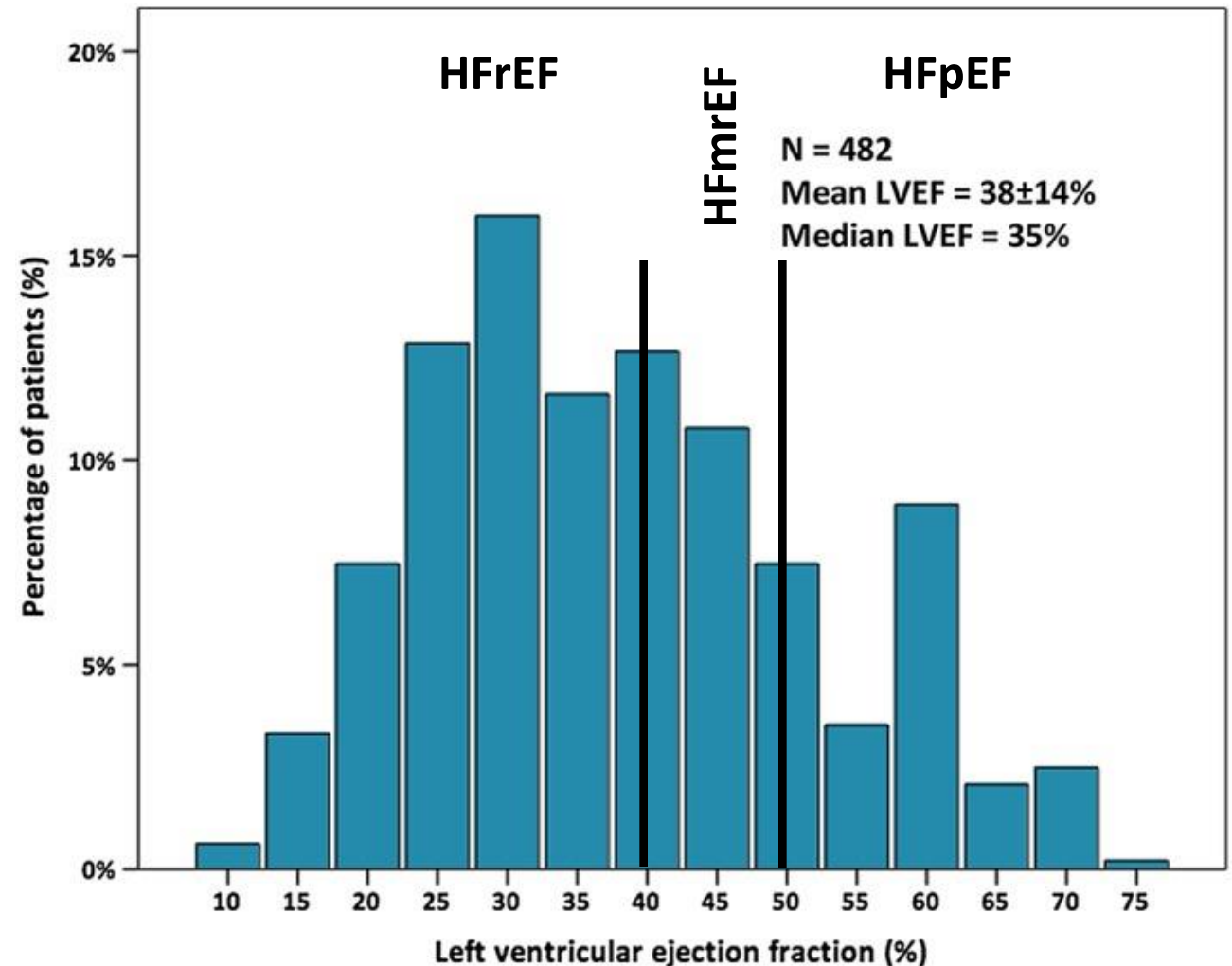
# Classification of Heart Failure According to Ejection Fraction





# Distribution of EF in Heart Failure Patients

- Patients with HFrEF, HFmrEF, and HFpEF share the same cardiovascular risk factors, medical history, and prognosis.
- Patients with HFmrEF have a different clinical profile, which is nearly the same as patients with HFpEF, except for sex.
- Between 13-24% of HF patients have EF below 50% but above 40%, suggesting that there are ~ 1.6 million HFmrEF in the US along.
- These patients have been largely excluded from clinical trials that have focused on patients with HFrEF (usually defined as < 35%) or HFpEF (usually defined as EF > 50%).



# WHAT IS HFpEF?

## How do we make the diagnosis?




- **Classical Definition: Inability of the heart to pump blood adequately *at normal filling pressures* in patient with  $EF \geq 50\%$** 
  - New “Universal” Definition: Clinical syndrome with symptoms and or signs caused by a structural and/or functional cardiac abnormality and corroborated by elevated natriuretic peptide levels and/or objective evidence of pulmonary or systemic congestion
- ***Diagnosis relies on finding objective evidence of congestion:***
  - Physical exam
  - Natriuretic peptides & radiography
  - Echocardiography: left atrial (LA) enlargement, LA dysfunction
  - Catheterization:  $\uparrow$ PCWP ( $\geq 15$  mmHg at rest,  $\geq 25$  mmHg with exercise)

# WHAT IS HFpEF?

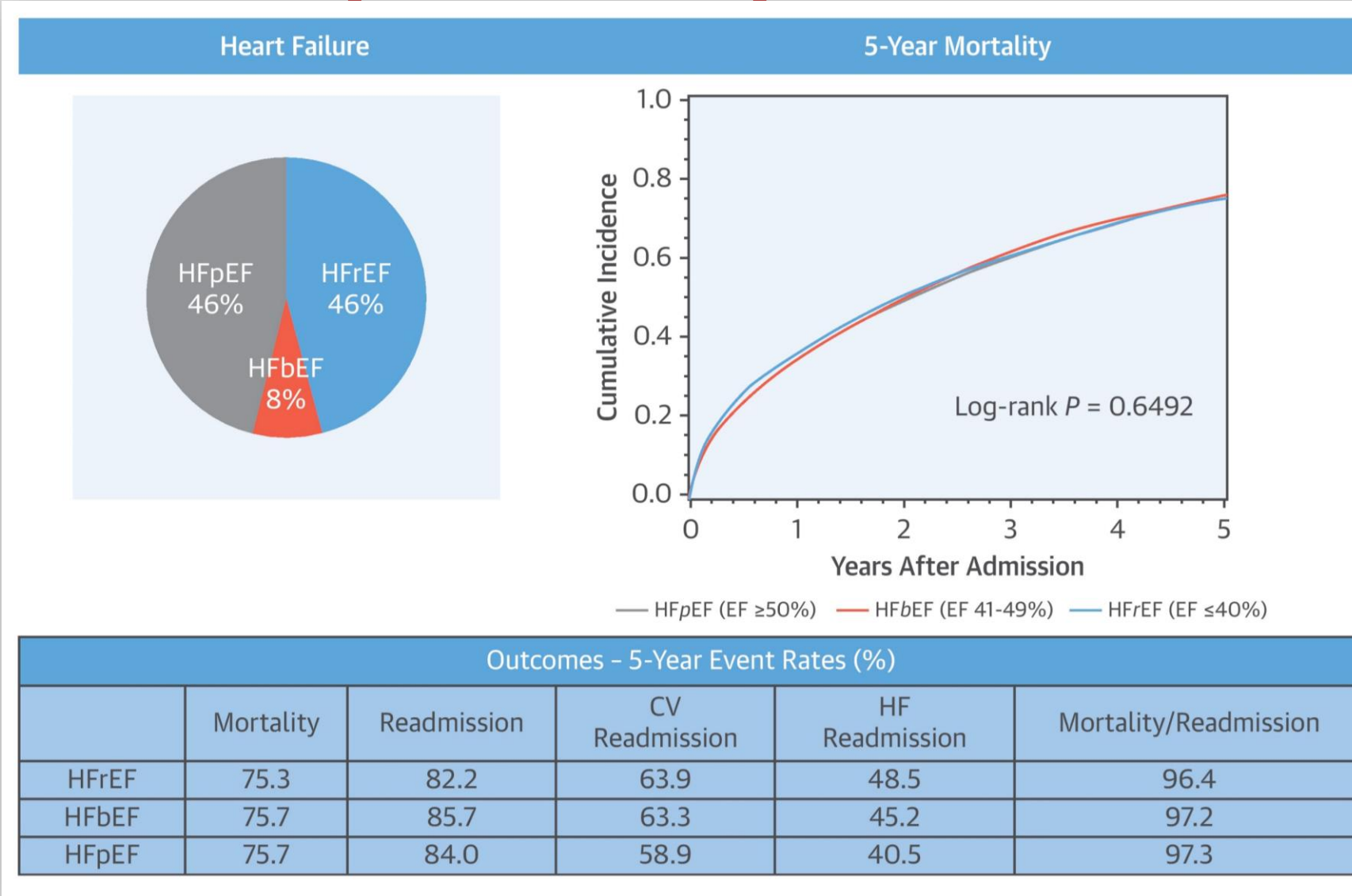
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# EPIDEMIOLOGY OF HFpEF

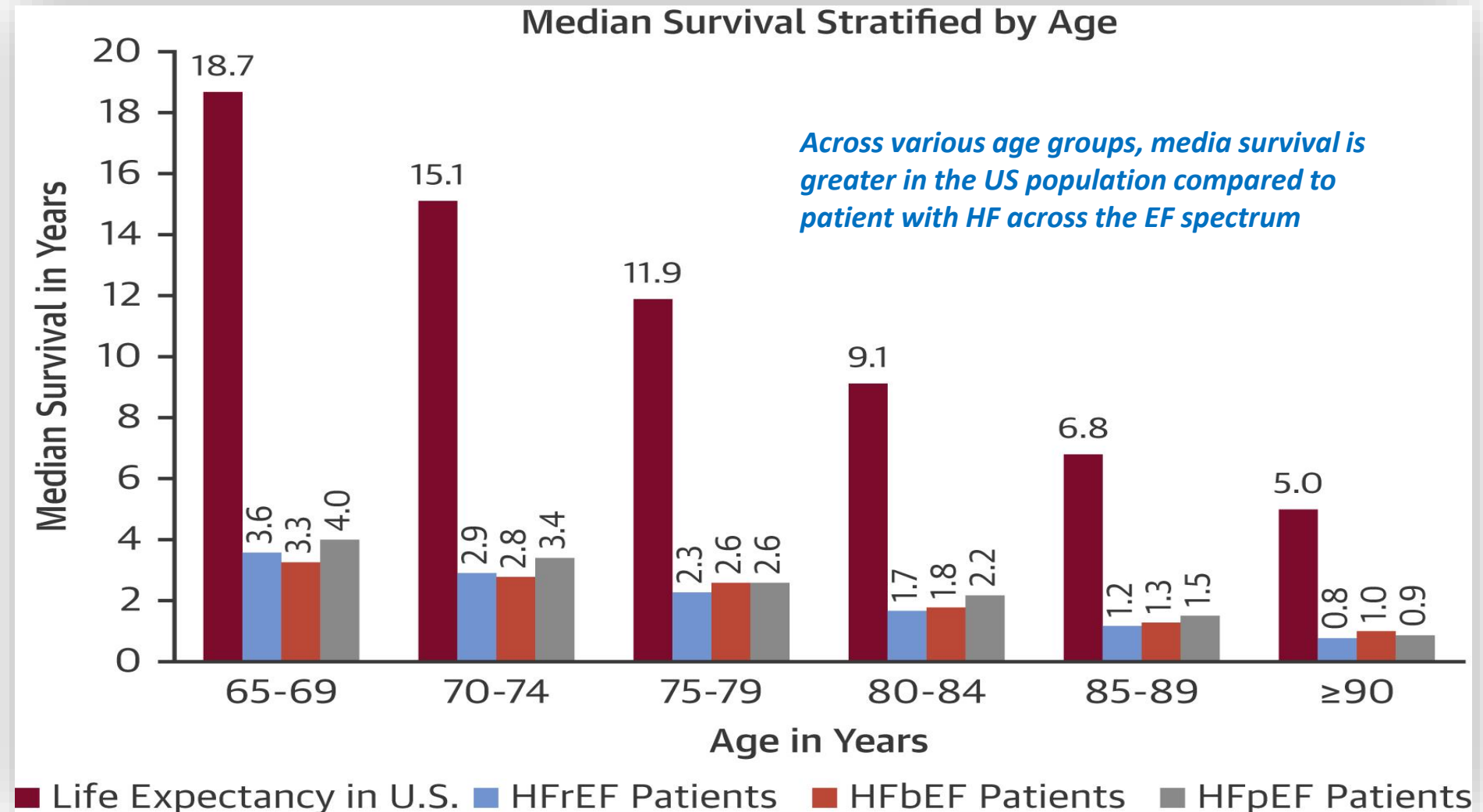
	HFpEF Incidence	HFpEF Prevalence	HFpEF Clinical Outcomes
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 27 cases per 10,000 person-years</li> <li>• Lifetime risk: 1 in 10 at age 45 years</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1.0%-1.5% of population</li> <li>• Highly age dependent</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5-year mortality: 75.3% (GWTG registry)</li> <li>• 30-day all-cause readmission rate: 21%</li> </ul>
Secular trends	↑ incidence over time	↑ prevalence over time	?
Sex differences			
HFpEF vs HFrEF	HFpEF incidence rising relative to HFrEF	HFpEF prevalence rising relative to HFrEF	Similarly poor survival ↓ CV death in HFpEF vs HFrEF

# 5-YEAR OUTCOME IN PATIENTS WITH HF WITH PRESERVED, BORDERLINE, AND REDUCED EF



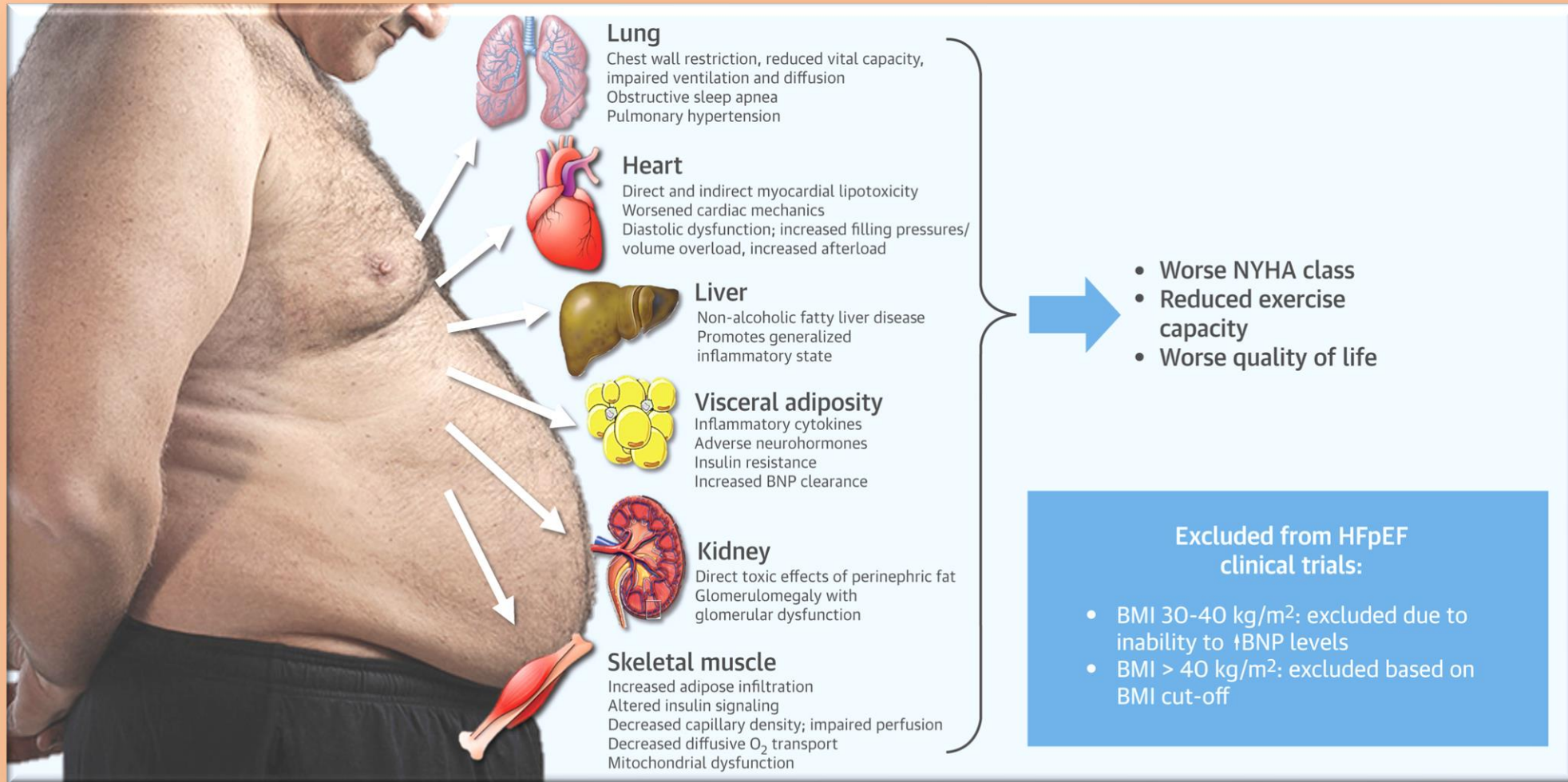
# OUTCOMES WITH HF HOSPITALIZATION

5-year Outcomes Compared with the General US Population

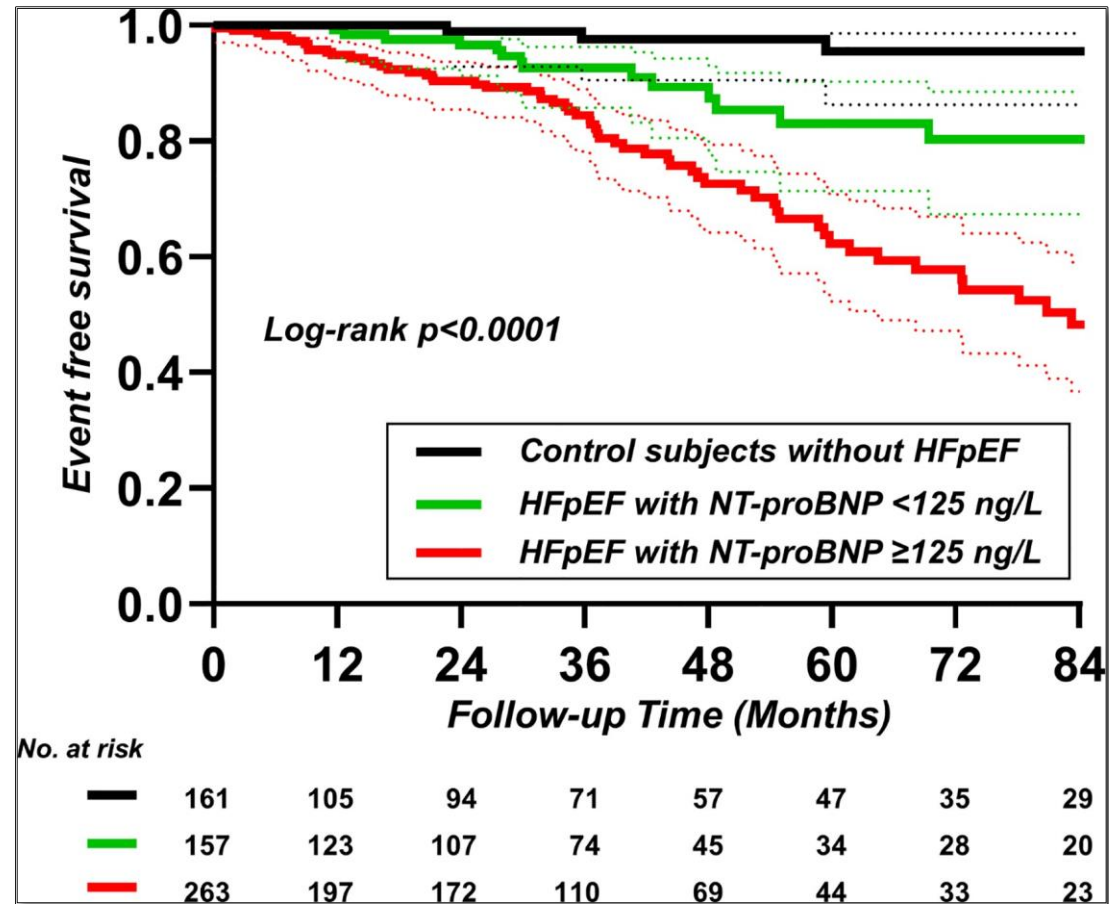
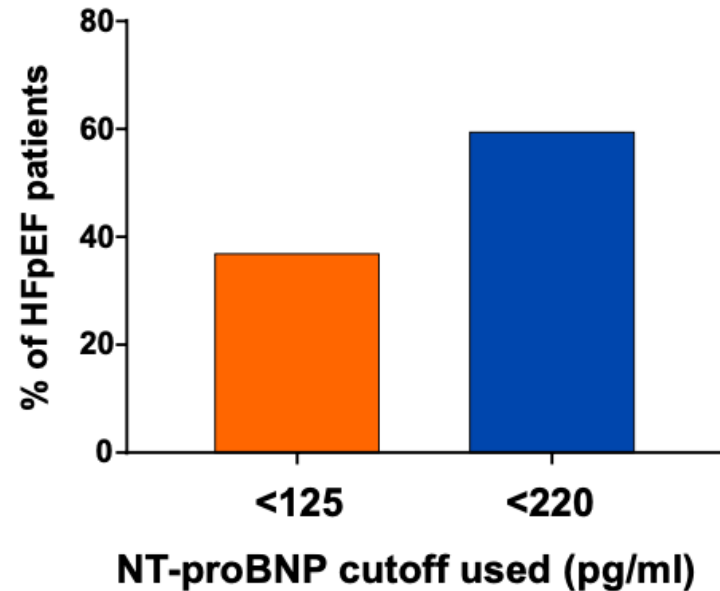




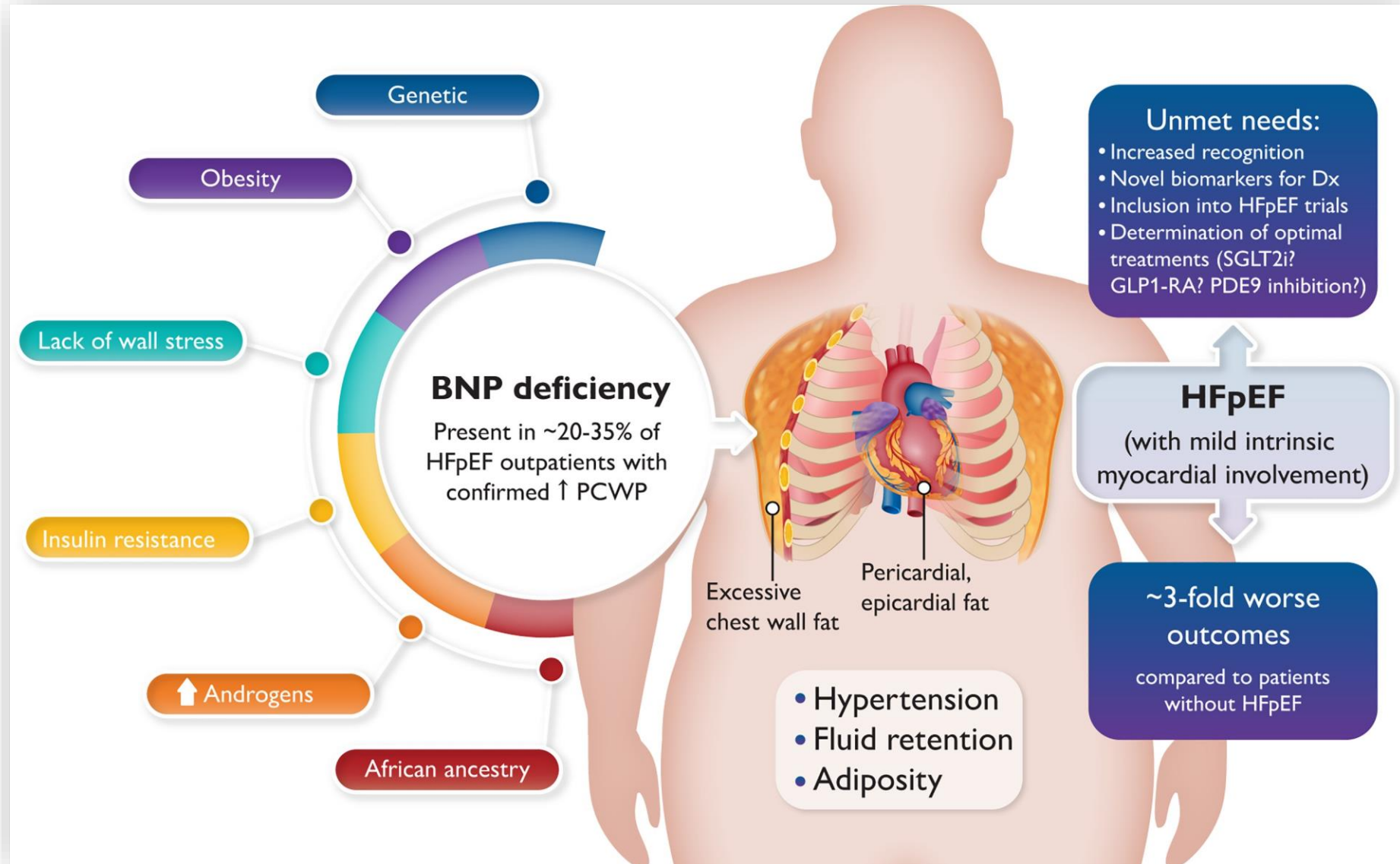
# HFpEF: A heterogeneous, systemic syndrome



# Normal NT-proBNP does **NOT** exclude HFpEF



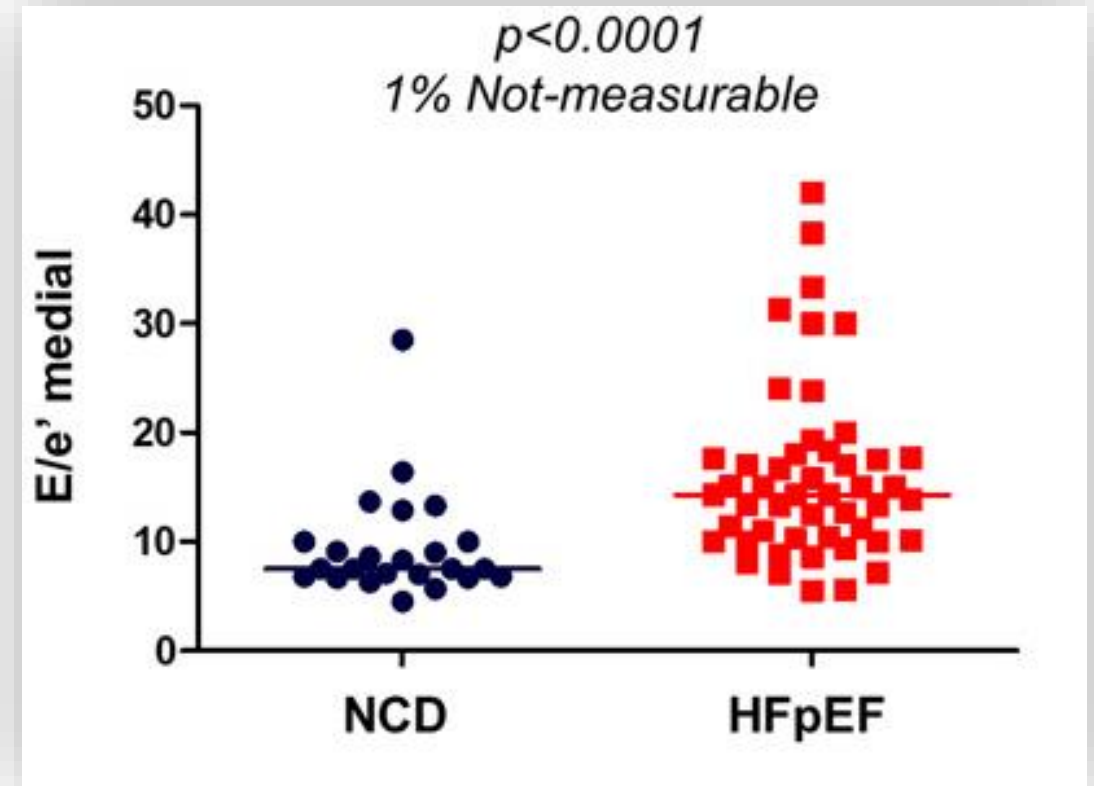
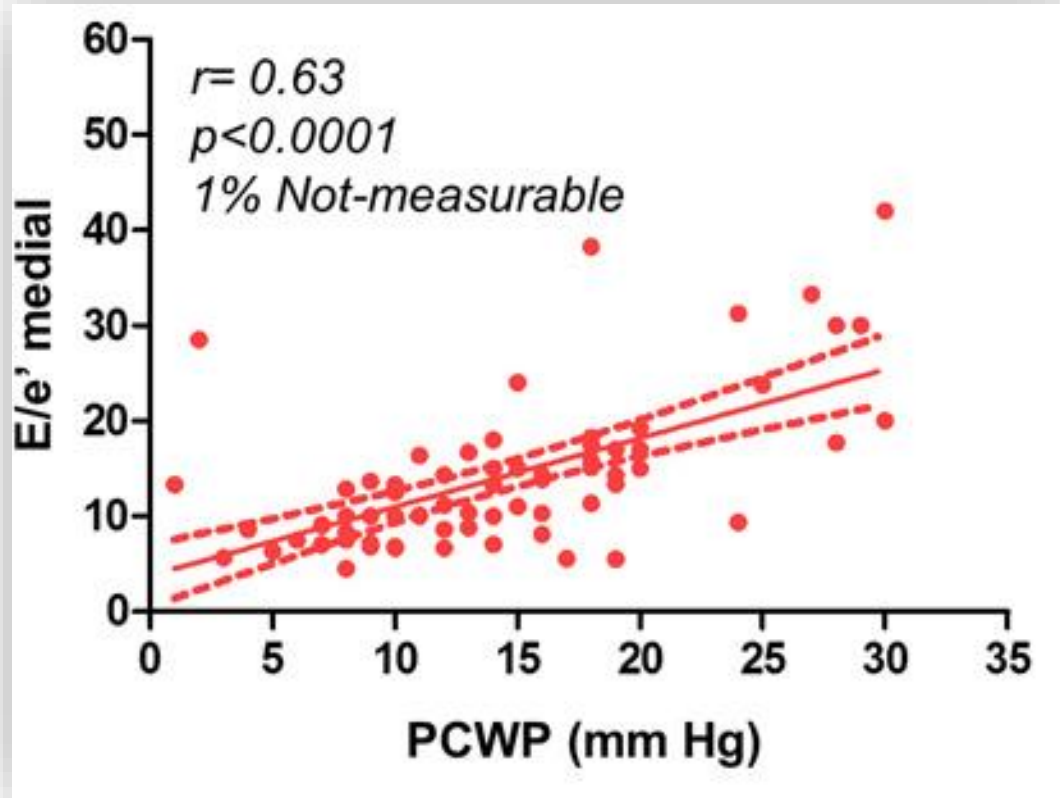
# BNP DEFICIENCY SYNDROME IN HFpEF





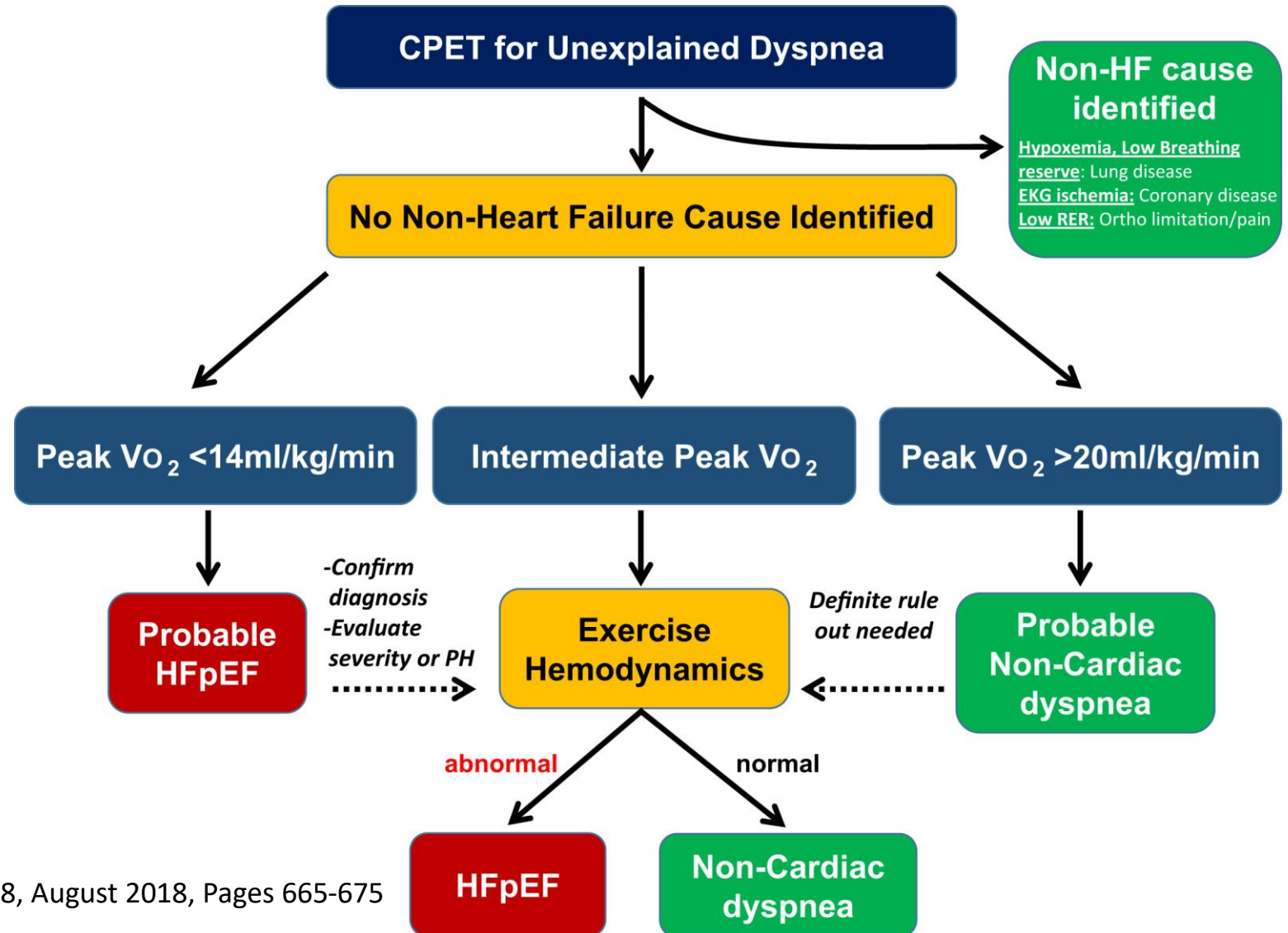
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# E/e' ratio: Useful when high only





# UTILIZATION OF CPET IN THE EVALUATION OF UNEXPLAINED DYSPNEA





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# H2FpEF SCORE AND PROBABILITY OF HFpEF

	Clinical Variable	Values	Points
H <sub>2</sub>	Heavy	Body mass index > 30 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	2
	Hypertensive	2 or more antihypertensive medicines	1
F	Atrial Fibrillation	Paroxysmal or Persistent	3
P	Pulmonary Hypertension	Doppler Echocardiographic estimated Pulmonary Artery Systolic Pressure > 35 mmHg	1
E	Elder	Age > 60 years	1
F	Filling Pressure	Doppler Echocardiographic E/e' > 9	1
H <sub>2</sub> FPEF score			Sum (0-9)
Total Points			
Probability of HFpEF			

## DOE, normal EF ≥50%:

- HFpEF vs. non-cardiac dyspnea?
- Intermediate pre-test probability

## Probability of HFpEF based on H2FPEF score:

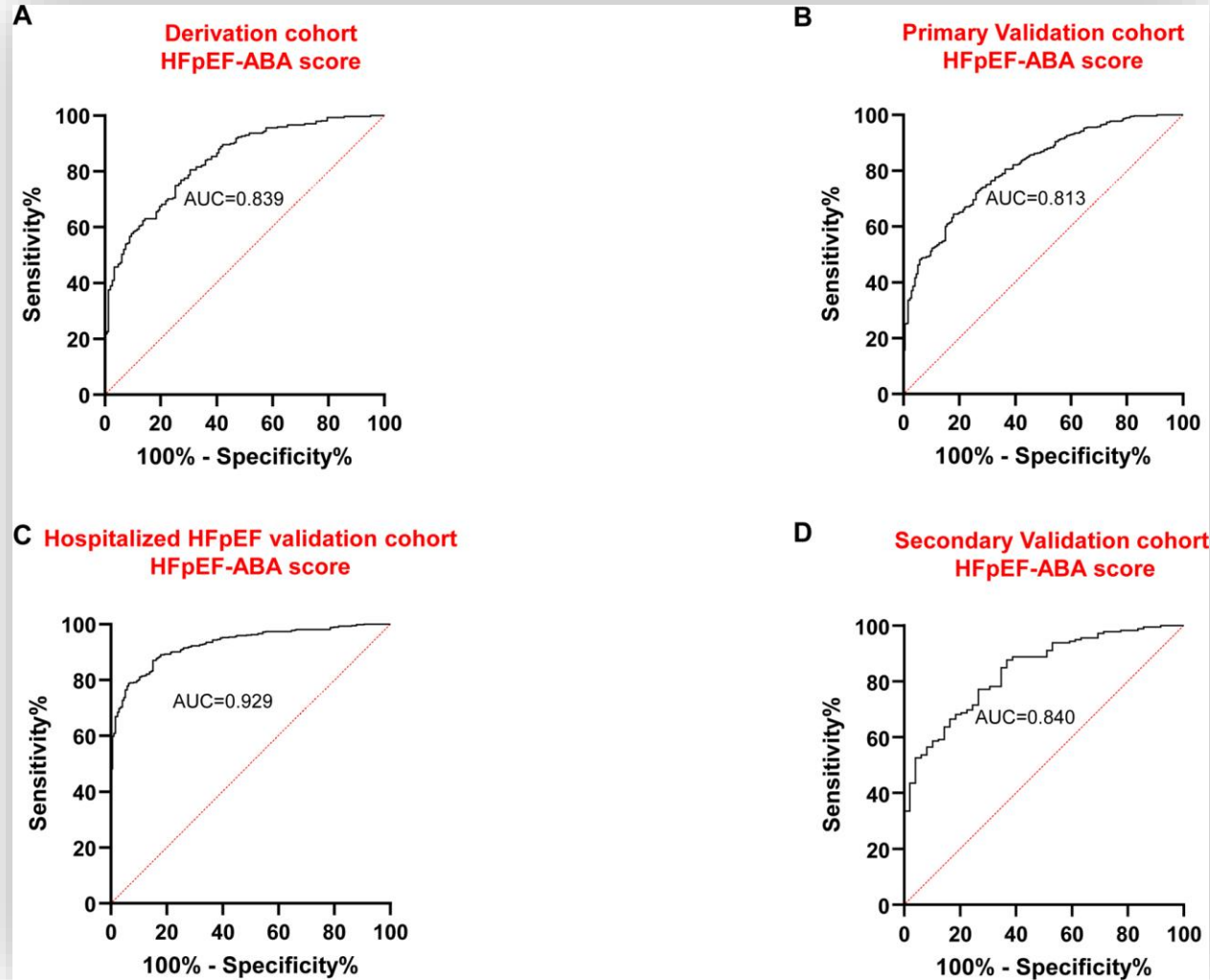
- Score 0-2 → Unlikely HFpEF
- Score 2-4 → Exercise testing
- Score 5-9 → Likely HFpEF (> 80% probability)





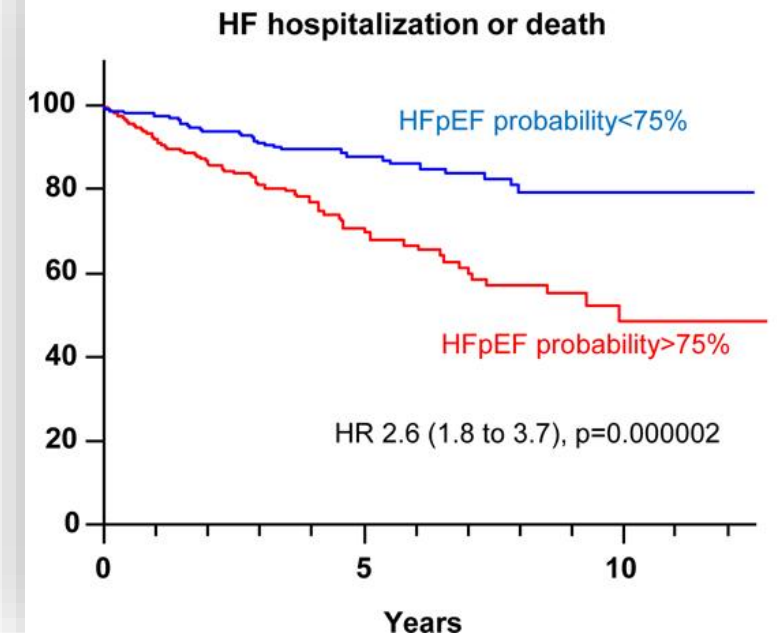
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# EVIDENCE-BASED SCREENING TOOL FOR HFpEF: THE HFpEF-ABA SCORE

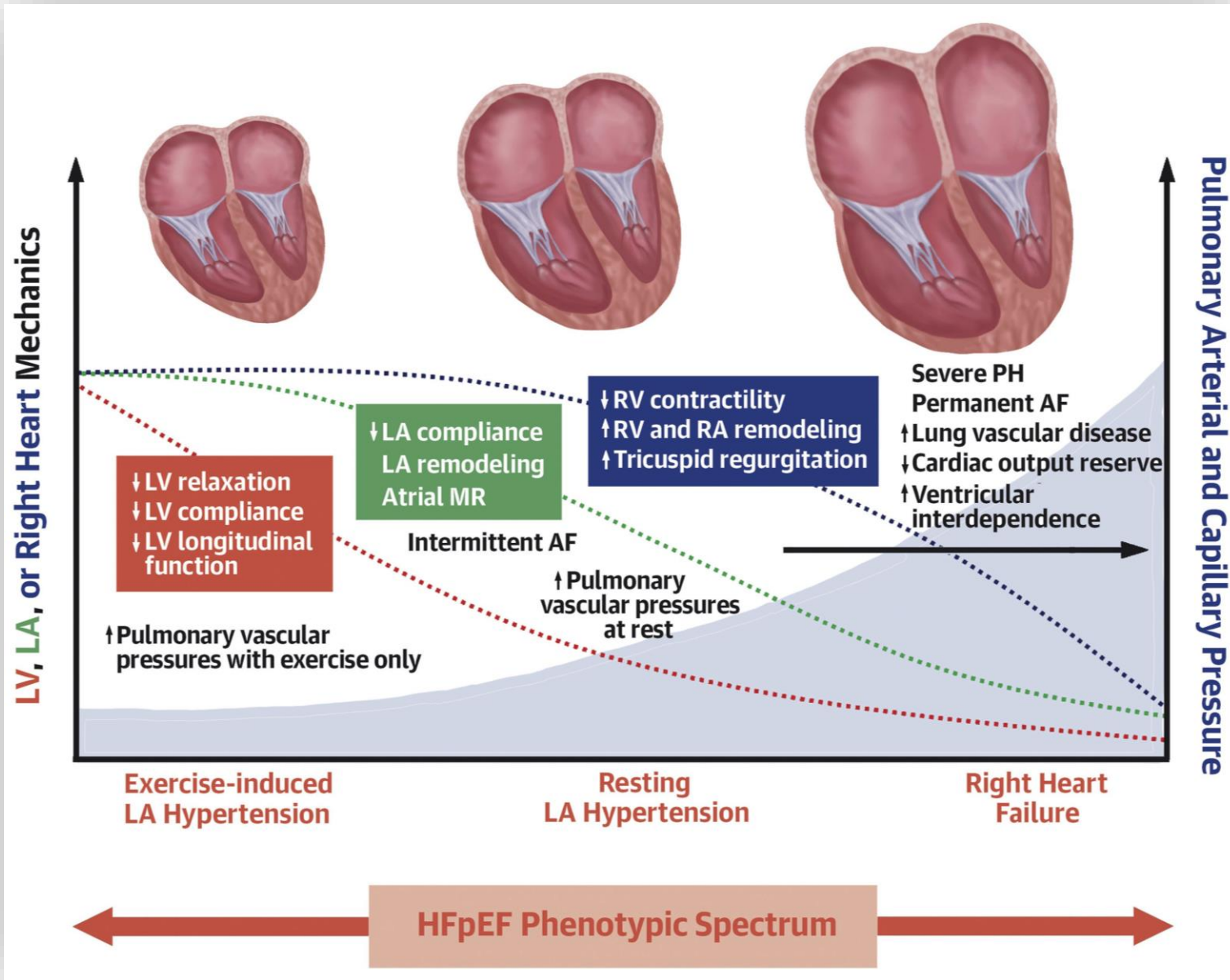


HFpEF screening model that is based exclusively on clinical variables:

1. Age
2. Body mass index
3. and history of atrial fibrillation



# TEMPORAL DISEASE PROGRESSION IN HEART FAILURE WITH PRESERVED EF

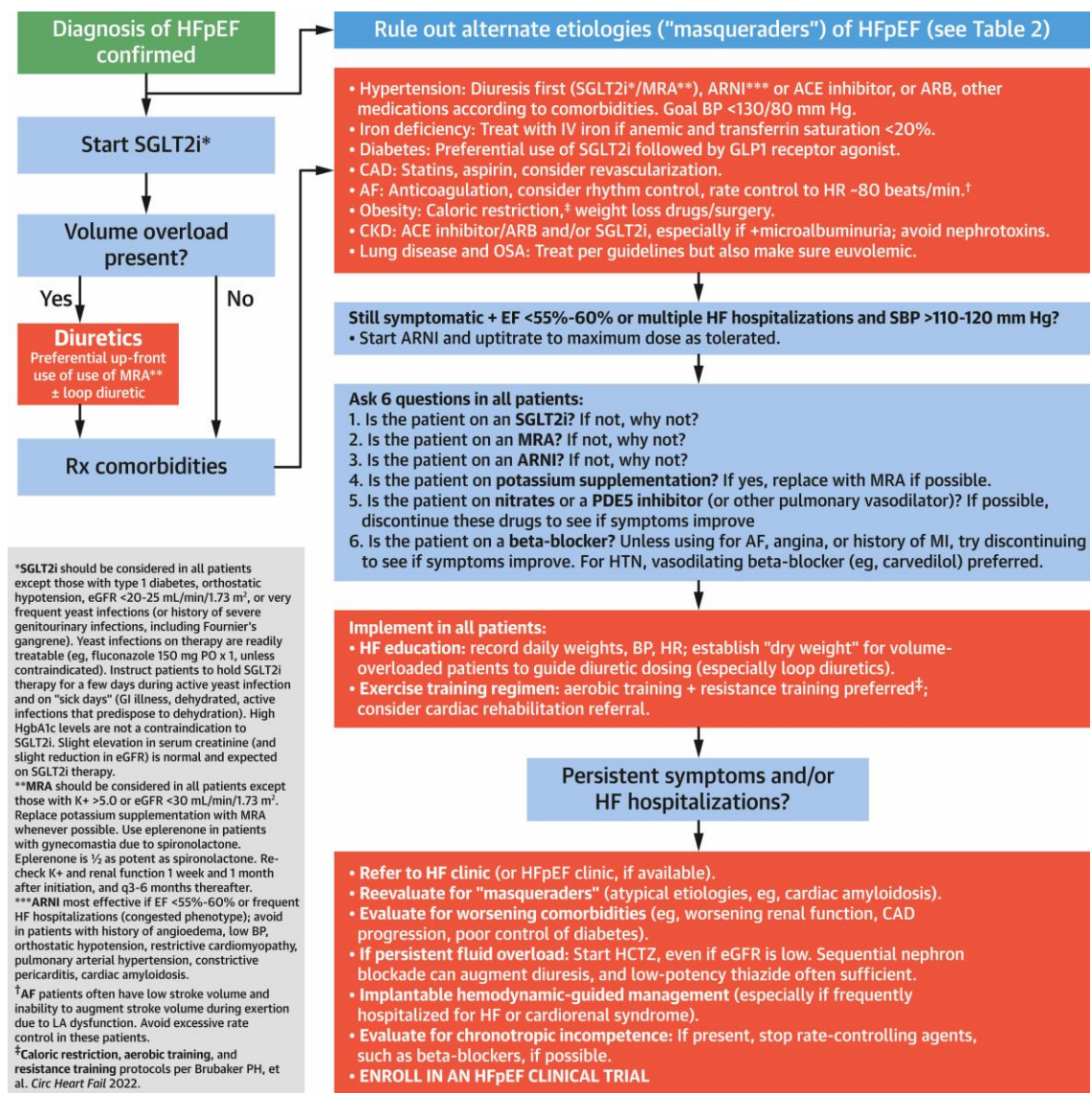




These individual phenogroups are sometimes singular but typically display considerable overlap with one another, complicating schemes to separate them into discrete cohorts



# SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS FOR TREATMENT OF HFpEF





*Thank You.*

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# Current Evidence – Based Therapies and Treatments

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Pardeep S Jhund BSc(Hons), MBChB, MSc, PhD



Speakers fees: AstraZeneca, ProAdWise Communications;

Advisory board fees: AstraZeneca, Bayer AG

Research funding: AstraZeneca, Boehringer Ingelheim, Analog Devices Inc, Roche Diagnostics

My employer the University of Glasgow has been remunerated for clinical trial work from AstraZeneca, Bayer AG, Novartis, and Novo Nordisk

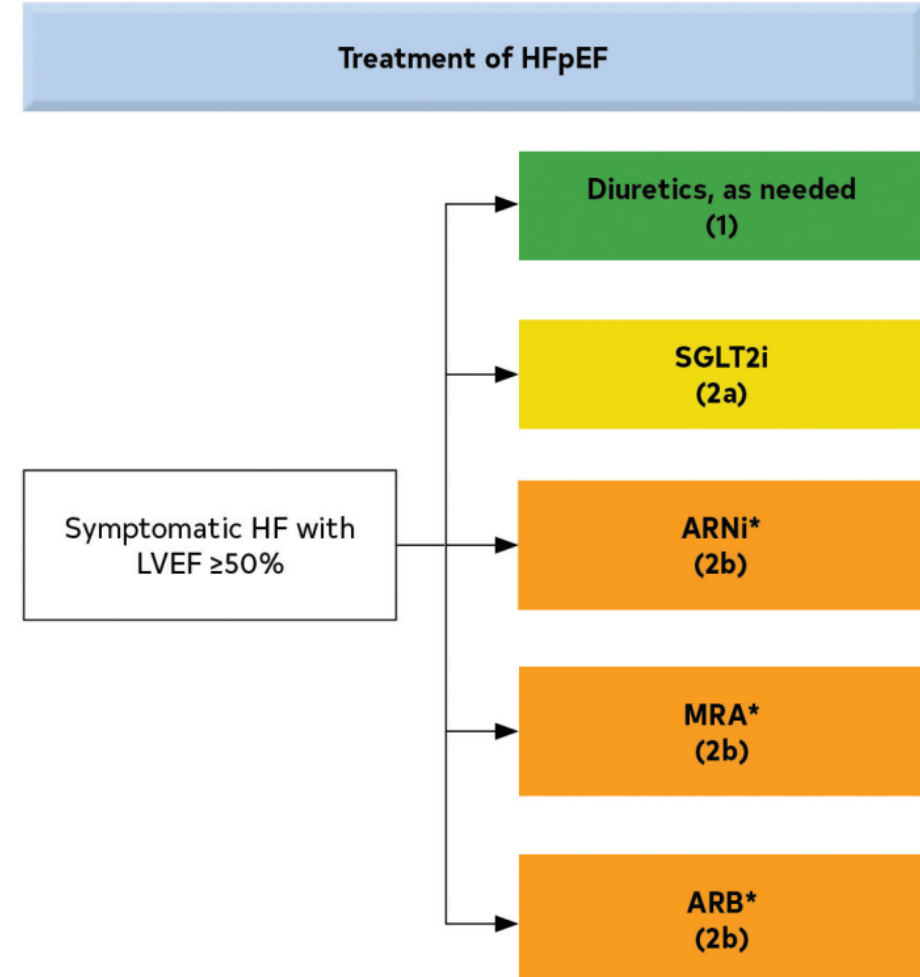
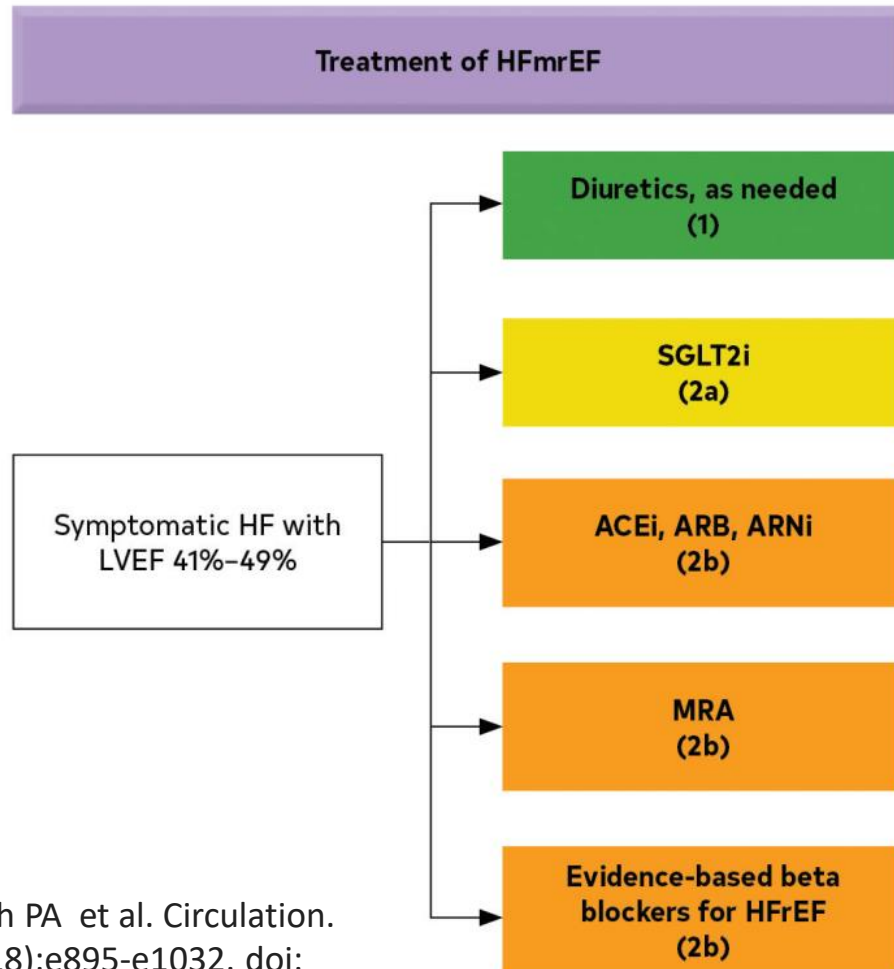
Director at GCTP Ltd

# Disclaimer

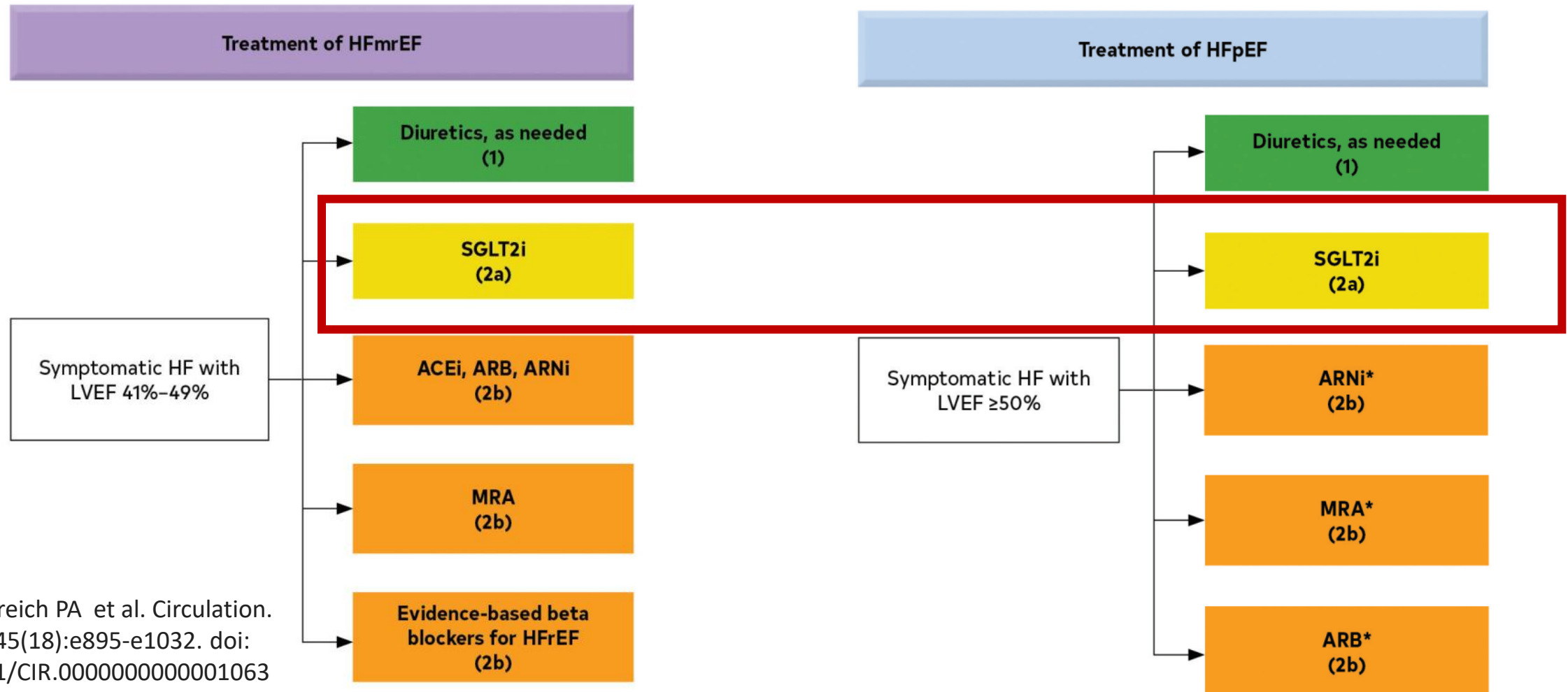
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# Management of HFmrEF/HFpEF 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline



# Management of HFmrEF/HFpEF 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline

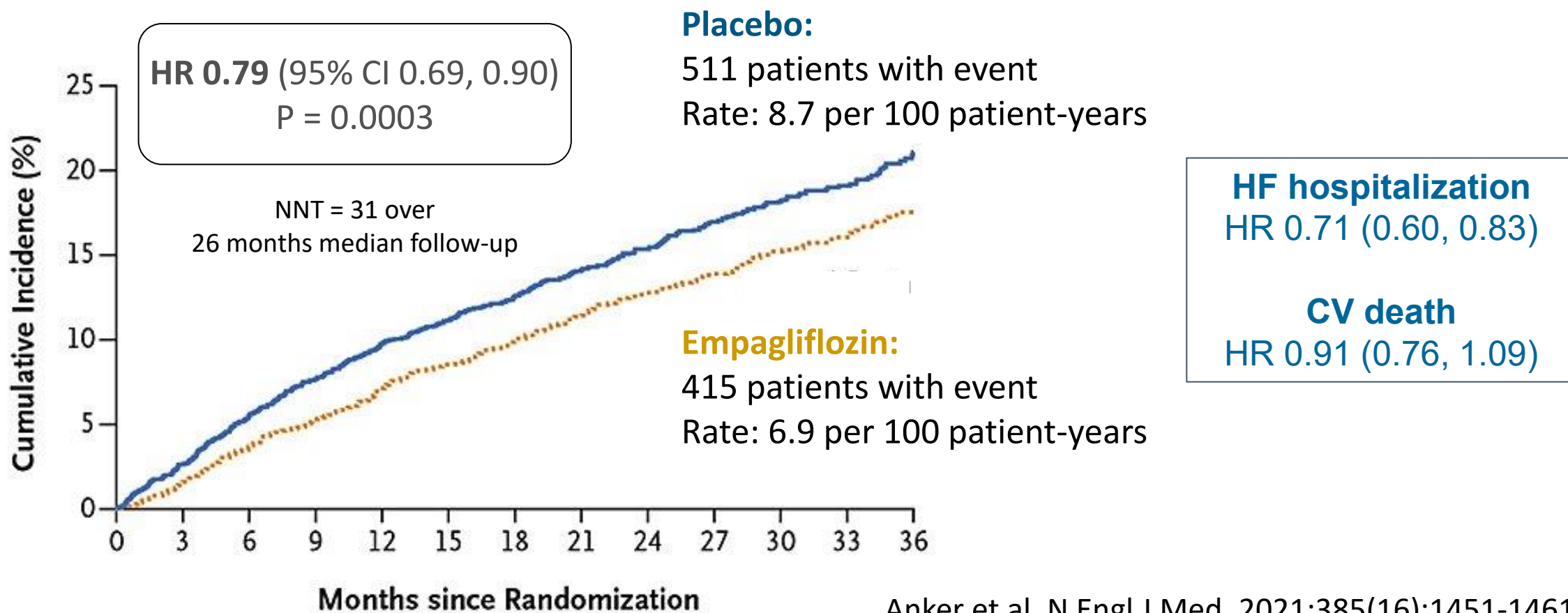




# EMPEROR-Preserved

## *Empagliflozin Outcome Trial in Patients with Chronic Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction*

Primary composite endpoint:  
Cardiovascular death or heart failure hospitalization





# SGLT2 inhibitors in patients with HFmrEF and HFpEF

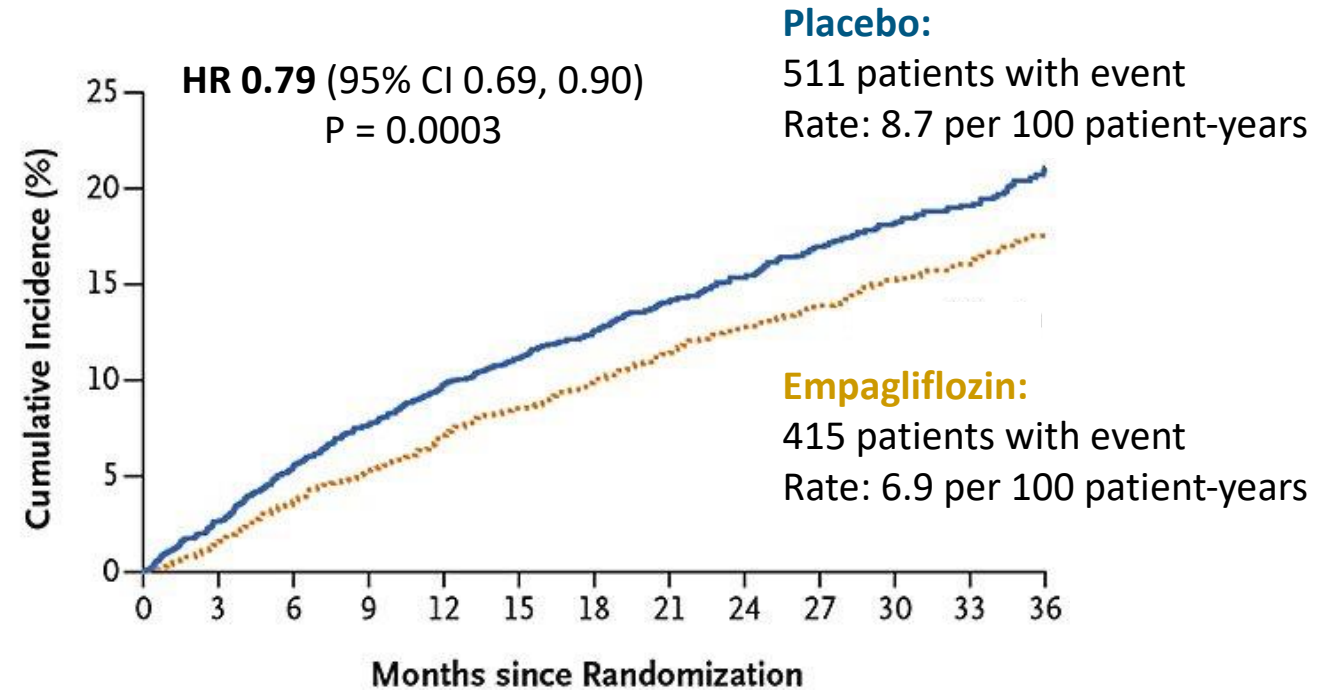
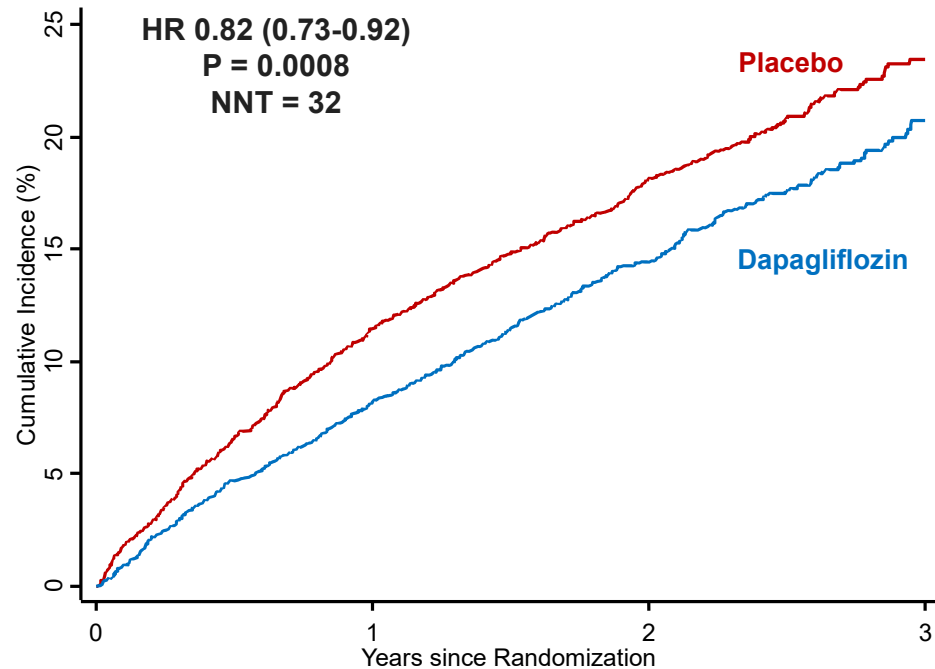
Patients with and without type 2 diabetes

**DELIVER**

**EMPEROR-Preserved**

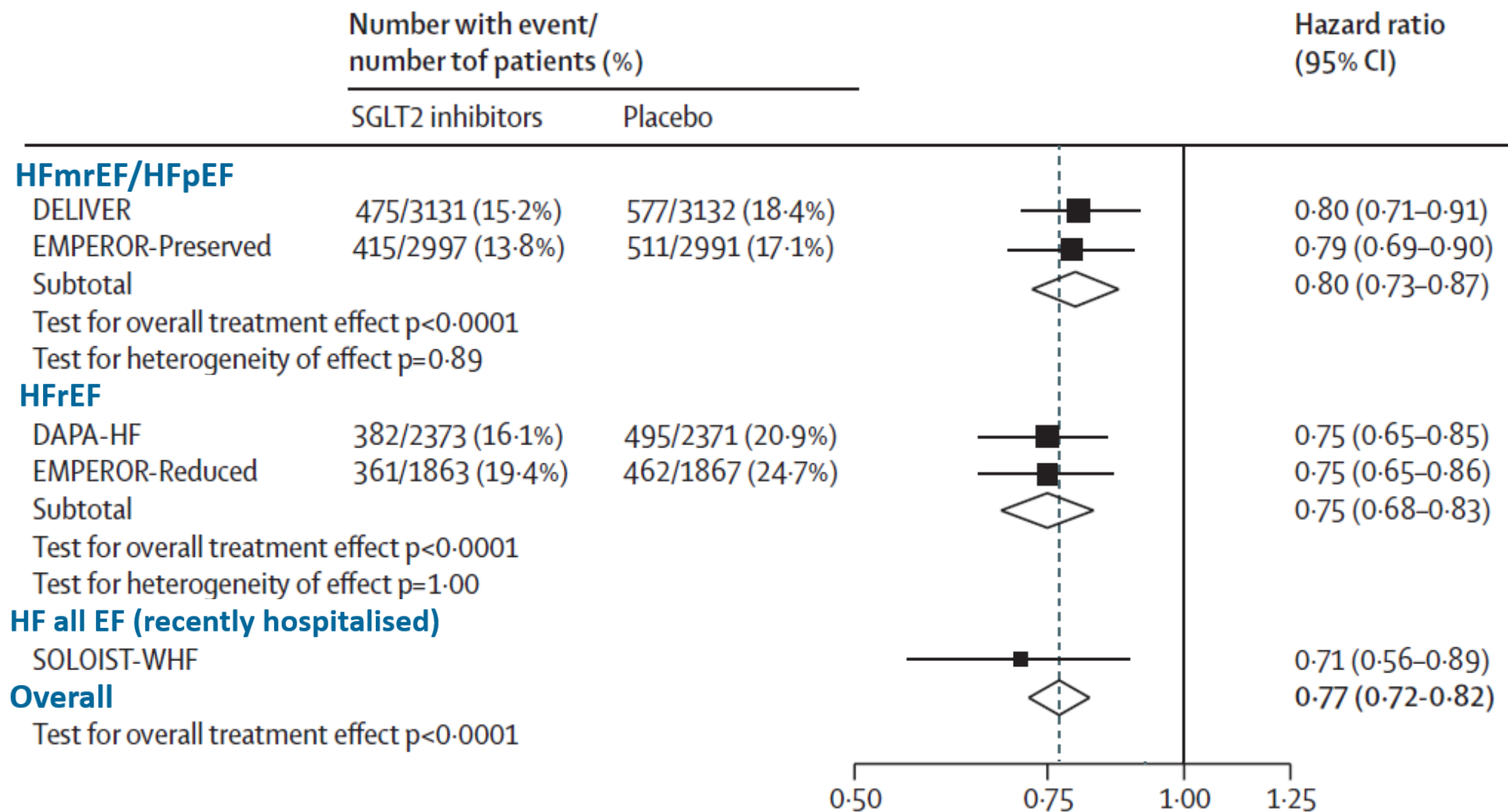
CV Death/worsening HF event

CV Death/ HF hospitalization

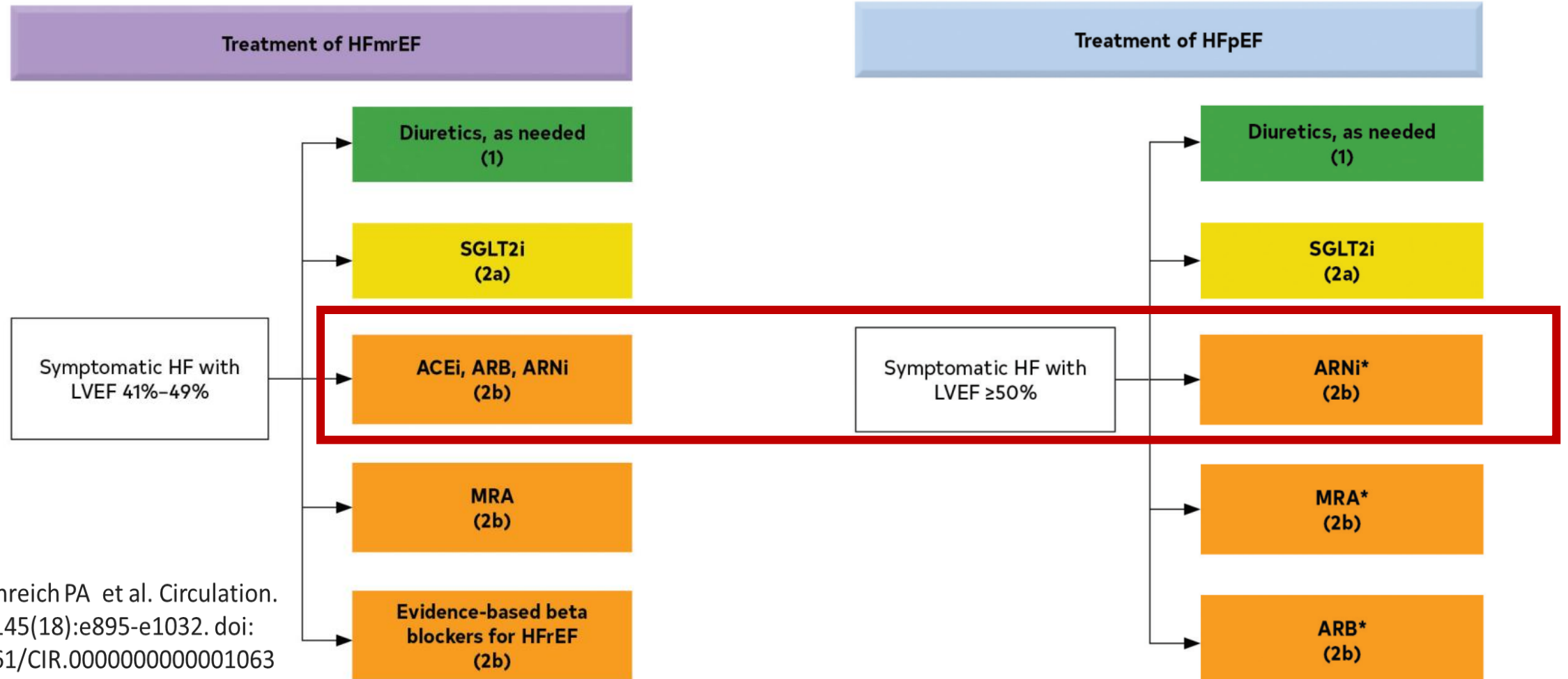




# Meta-analysis of 5 large RCTs with SGLT2i in patients with HF (CV death/ HF hospitalisation)



# Management of HFmrEF/HFpEF 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline





# PARAGON-HF

Prospective comparison of ARni with Arb Global Outcomes in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction

## *The* NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

OCTOBER 24, 2019

VOL. 381 NO. 17

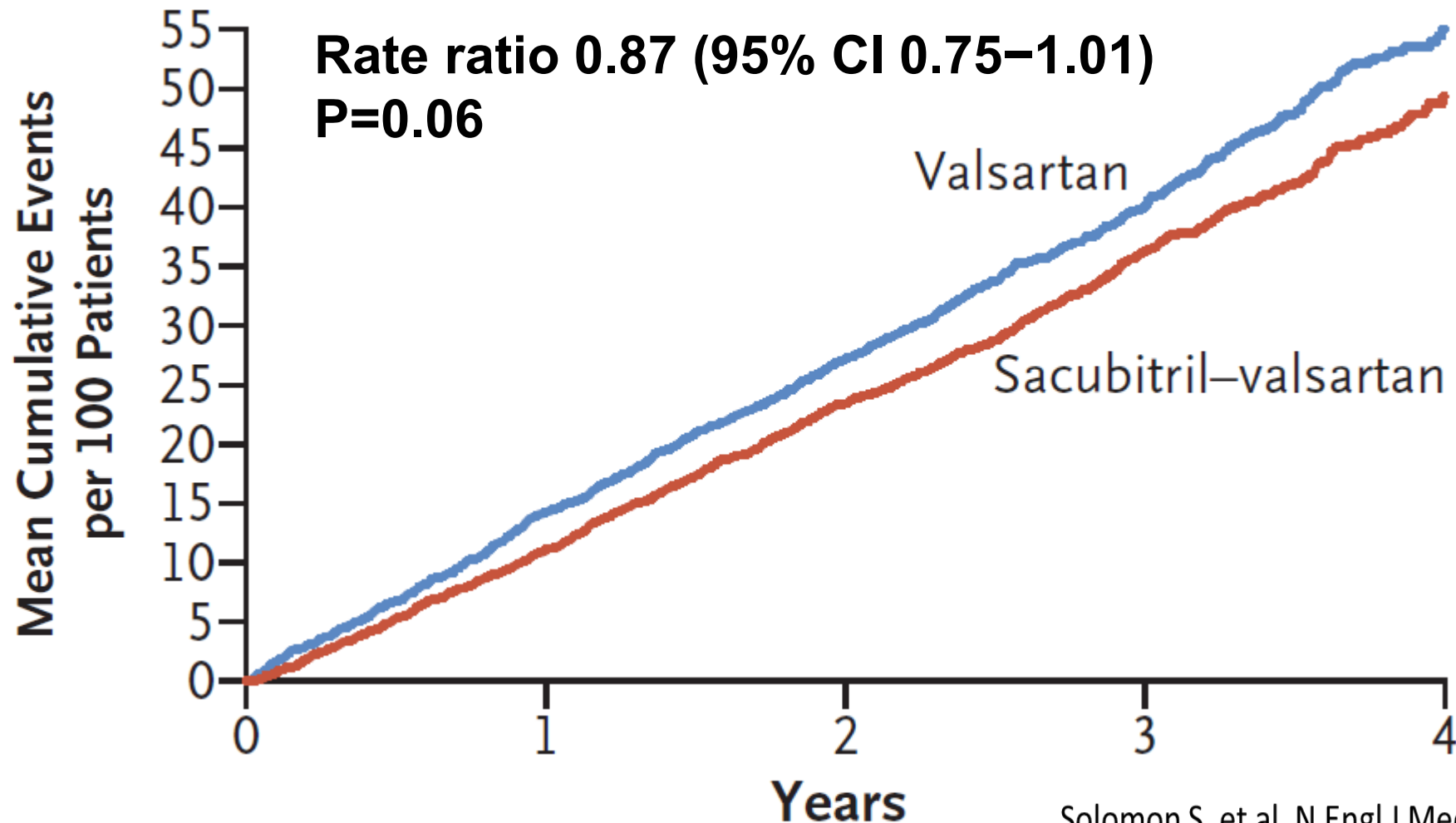
### Angiotensin–Neprilysin Inhibition in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

S.D. Solomon, J.J.V. McMurray, I.S. Anand, J. Ge, C.S.P. Lam, A.P. Maggioni, F. Martinez, M. Packer, M.A. Pfeffer, B. Pieske, M.M. Redfield, J.L. Rouleau, D.J. van Veldhuisen, F. Zannad, M.R. Zile, A.S. Desai, B. Claggett, P.S. Jhund, S.A. Boytsov, J. Comin-Colet, J. Cleland, H.-D. Düngen, E. Goncalvesova, T. Katova, J.F. Kerr Saraiva, M. Lelonek, B. Merkely, M. Senni, S.J. Shah, J. Zhou, A.R. Rizkala, J. Gong, V.C. Shi, and M.P. Lefkowitz,  
for the PARAGON-HF Investigators and Committees\*



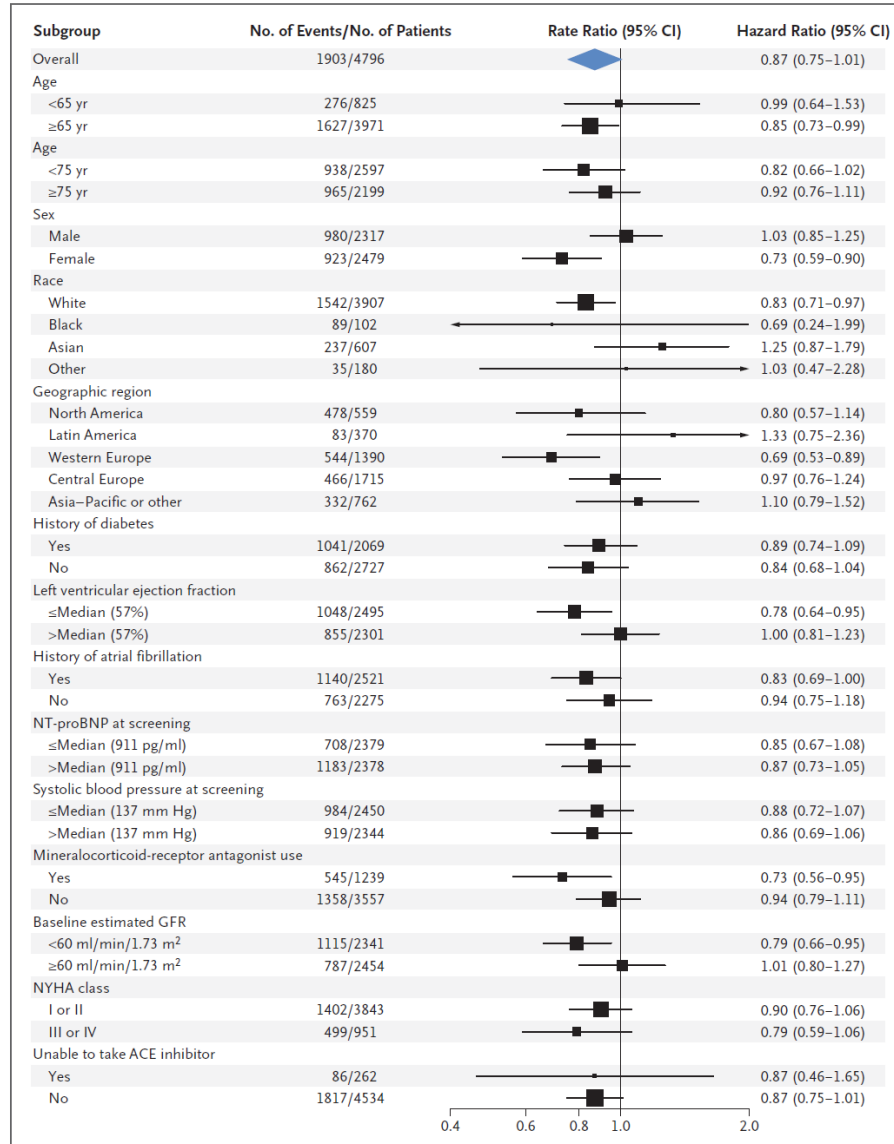
# PARAGON-HF

Prospective comparison of ARni with Arb Global Outcomes in heart failure  
with preserved ejection fraction  
Primary Outcome – CV death / Total HF hospitalizations



# PARAGON-HF

## Subgroups– CV death / Total HF hospitalizations



Left ventricular ejection fraction

≤Median (57%)

1048/2495



0.78 (0.64–0.95)

>Median (57%)

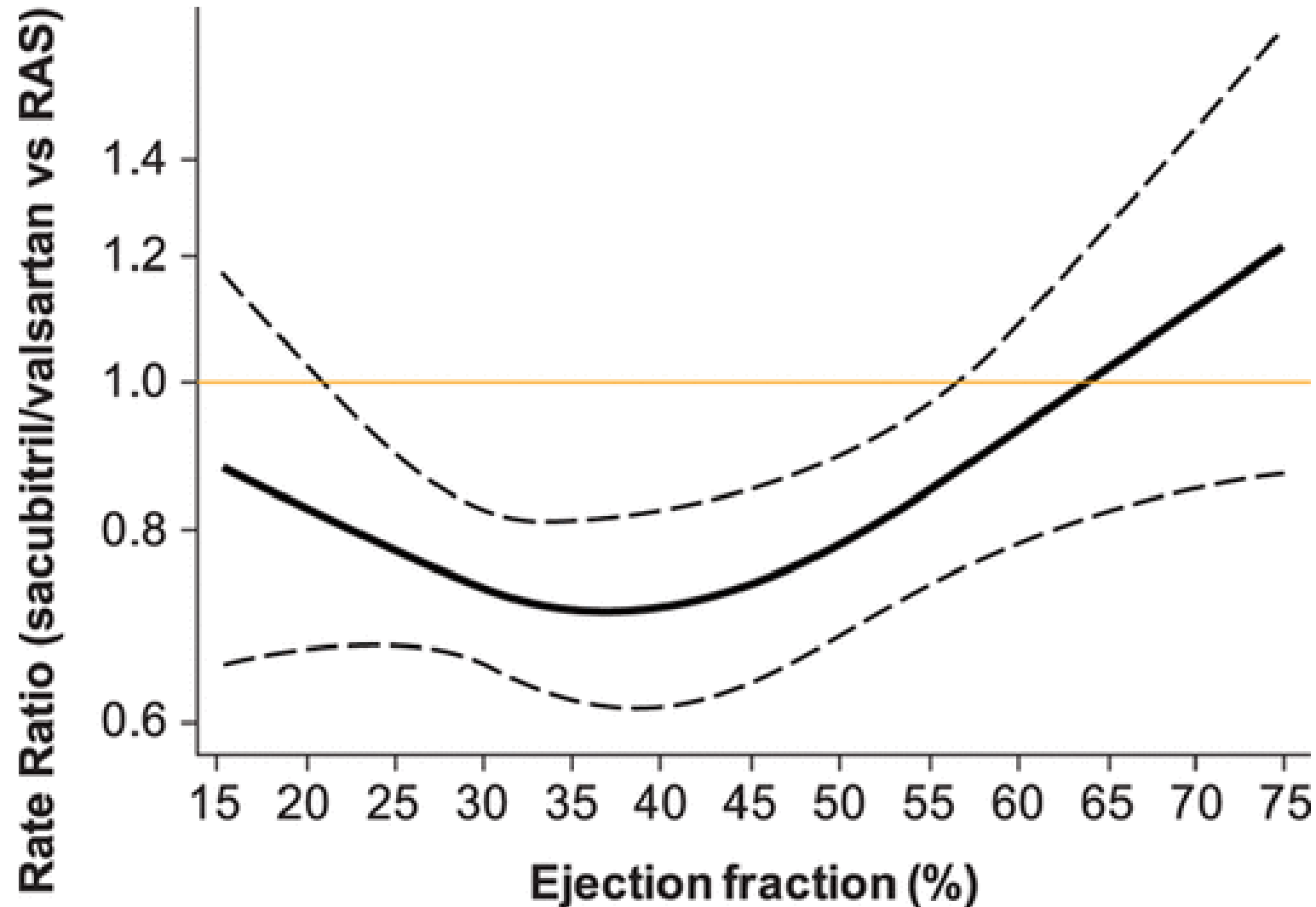
855/2301



1.00 (0.81–1.23)

# PARAGON-HF & PARADIGM-HF

## Total HF hospitalization or CV death



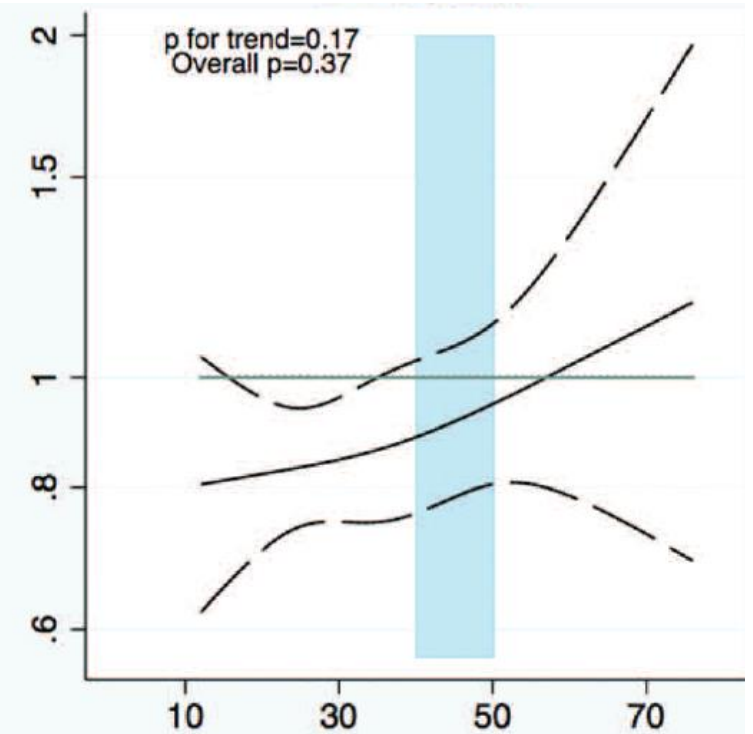
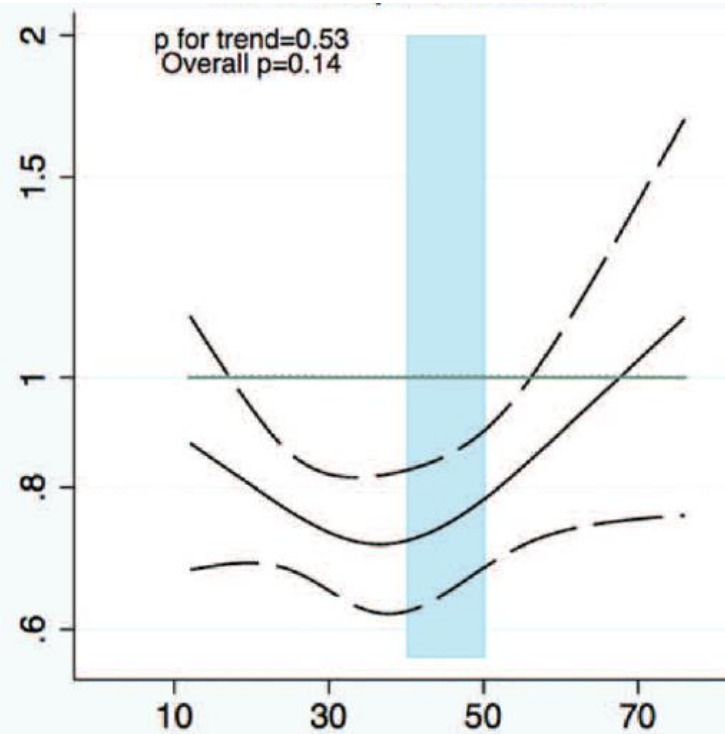
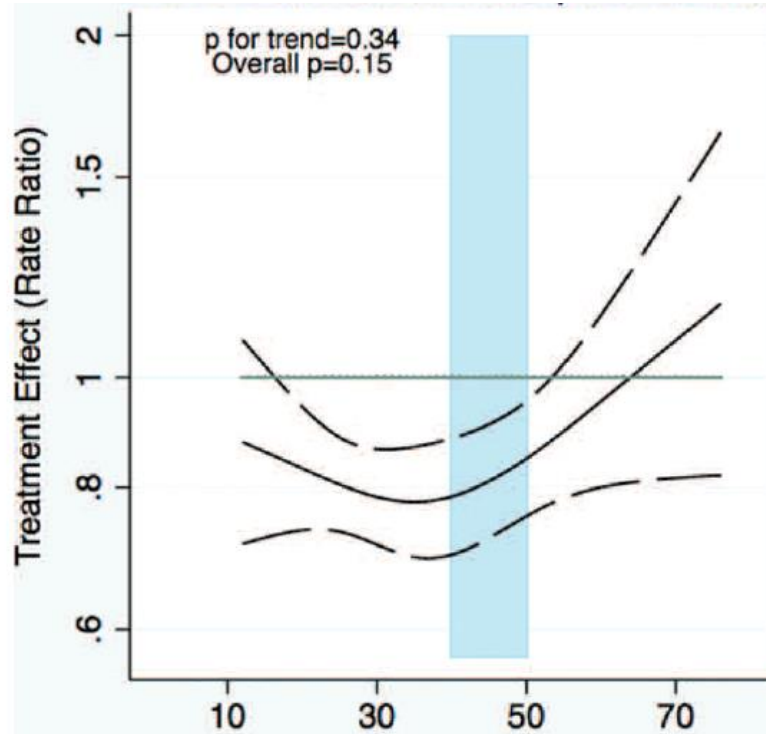


# CHARM-Programme: Effect of candesartan across the LVEF spectrum

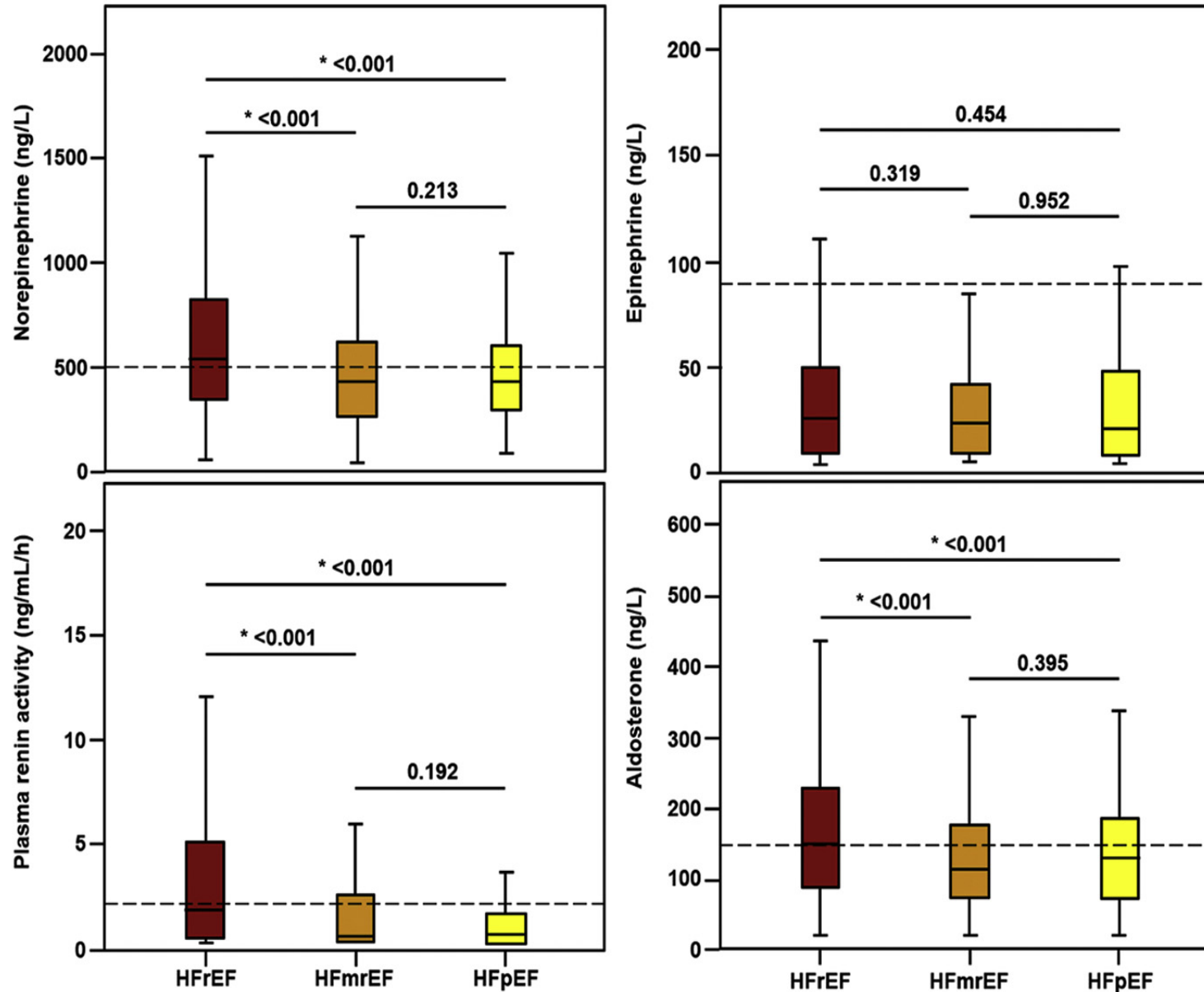
CV death or HF hospitalization

HF hospitalization

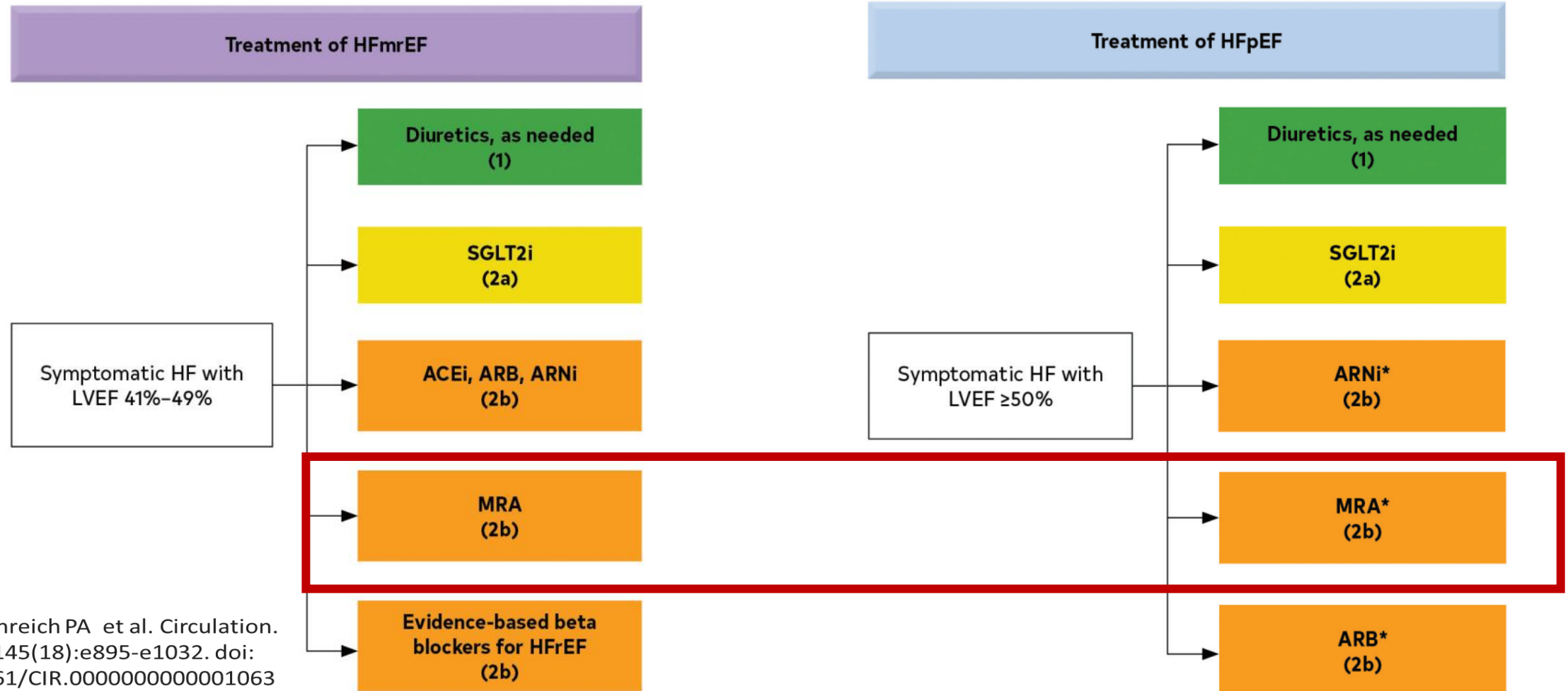
CV death



# Less neurohormonal activation in HFpEF



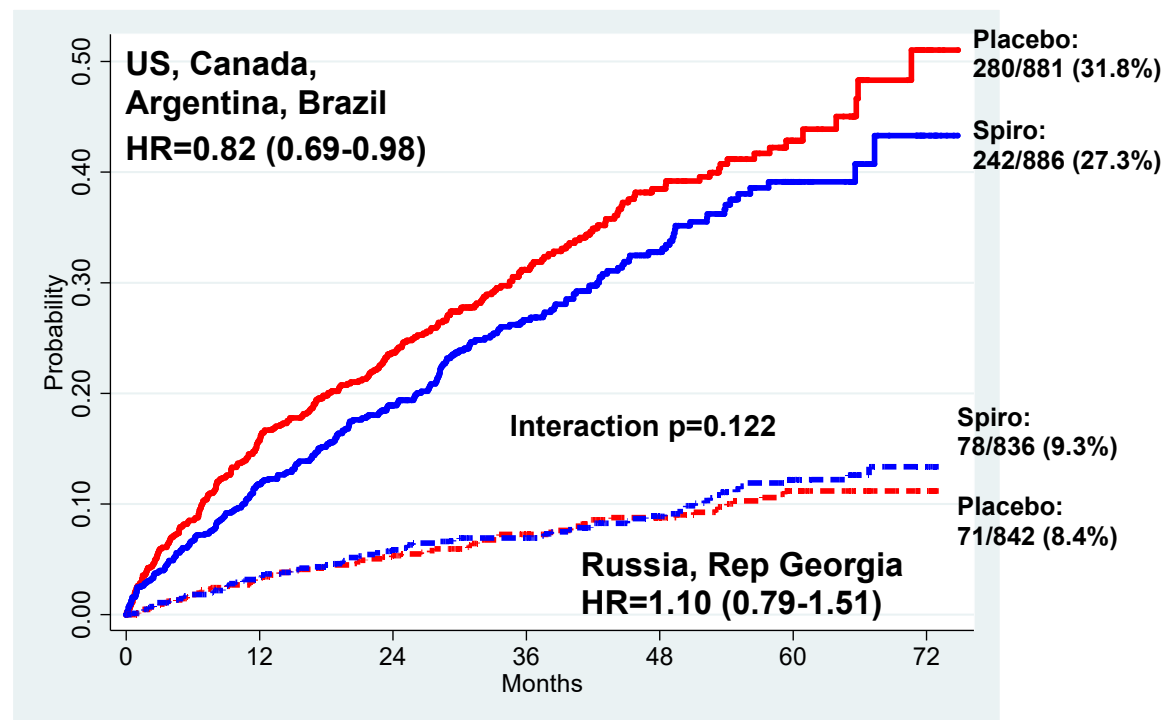
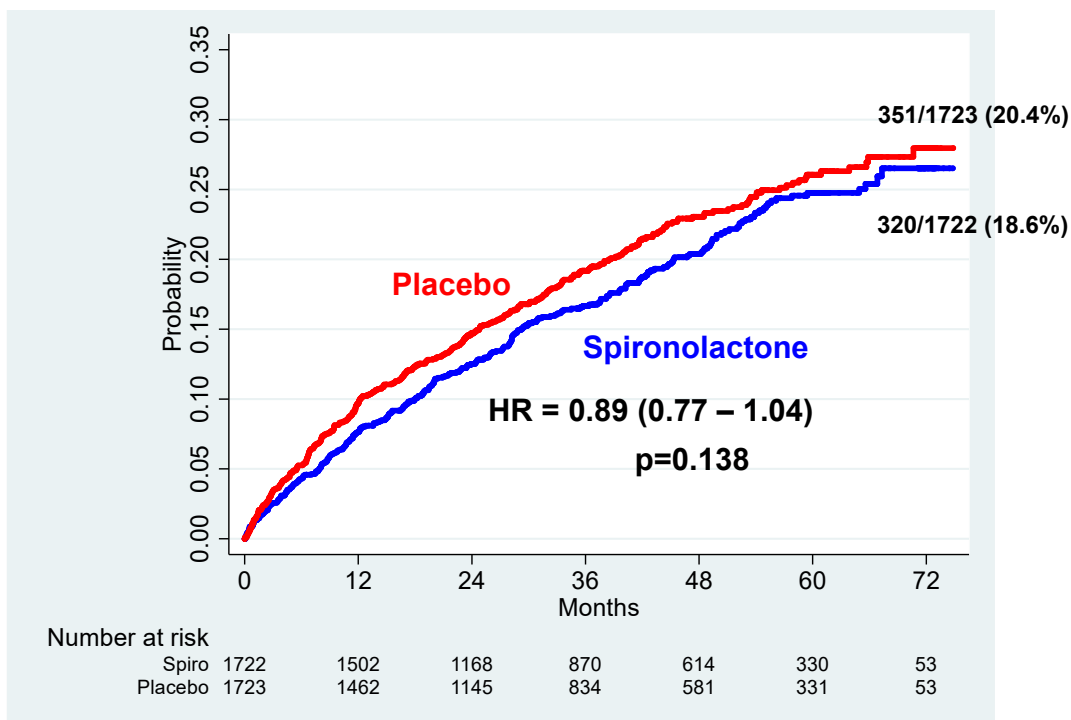
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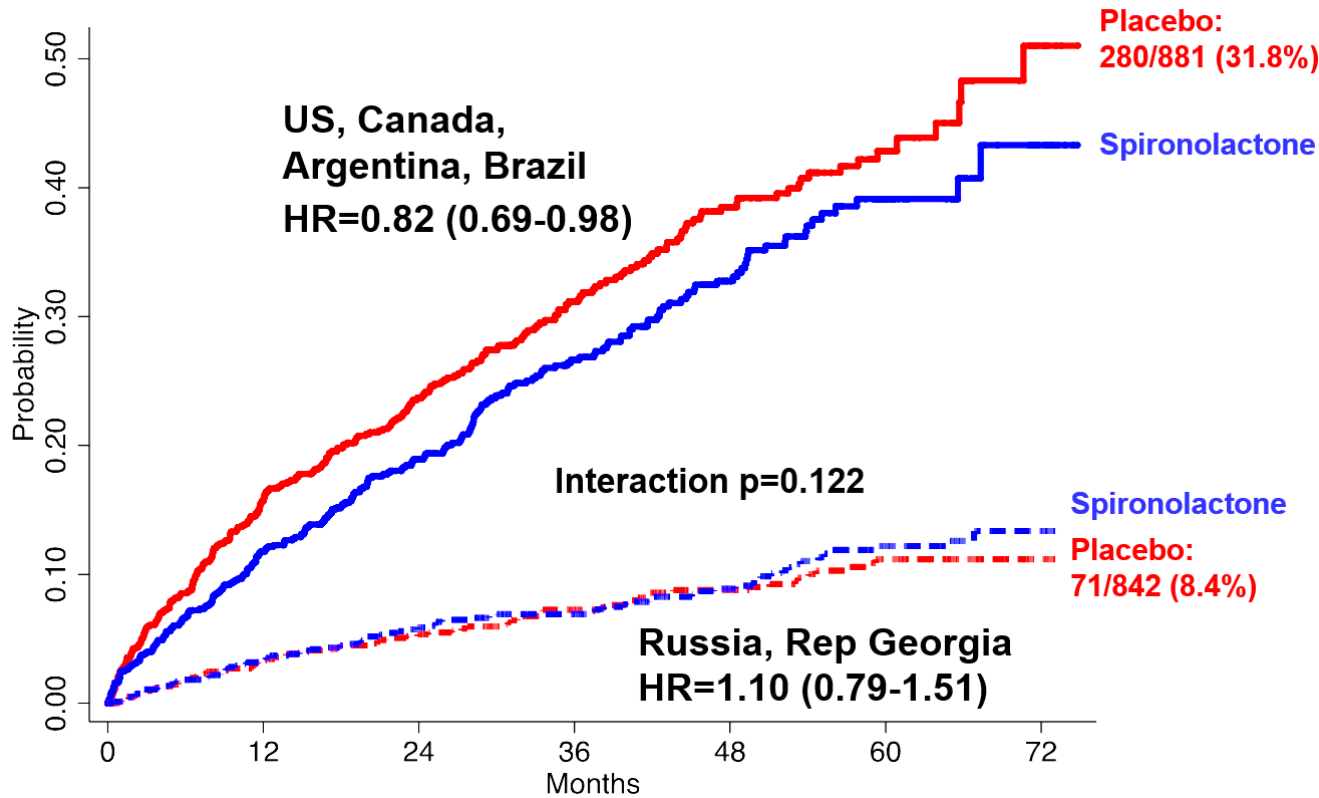
# MRAs in HFpEF

- Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists (MRAs) have a IA recommendation in guidelines for HFrEF but not HFpEF
- Based on interpretation of TOPCAT

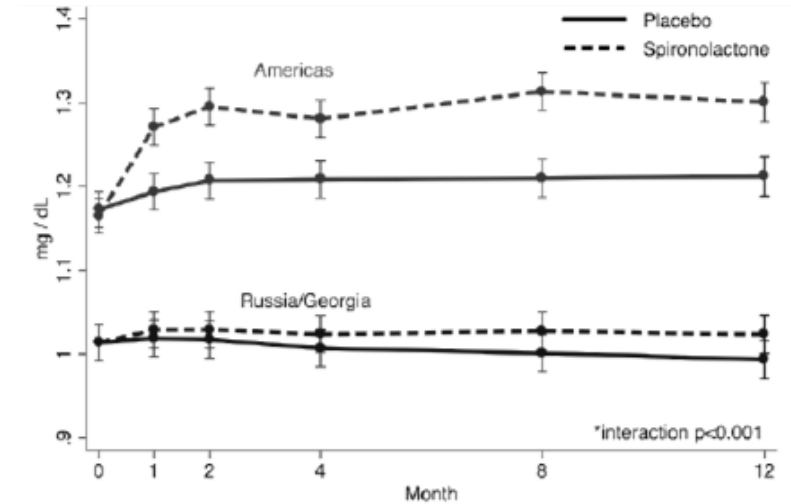
Pfeffer et al. *N Engl J Med* 2017; 376:1690-1692



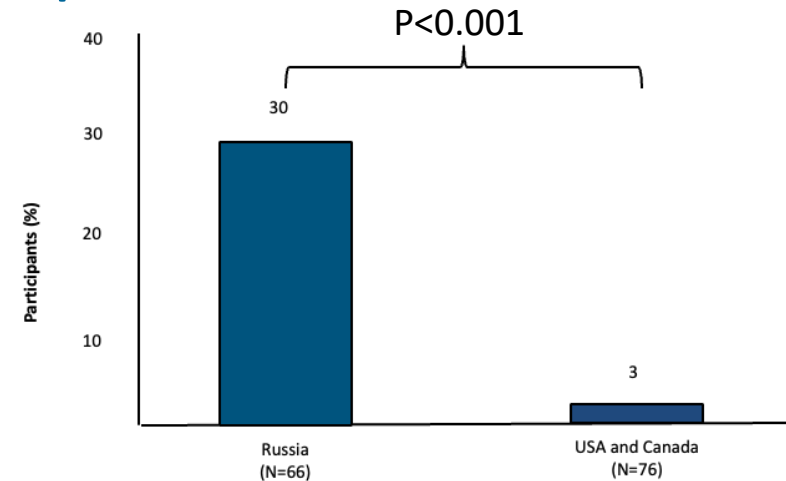
# TOPCAT: Forensic analysis by Marc Pfeffer et al



## Change in creatinine



## Reported use with no detectable canrenone



# Management of HFmrEF/HFpEF 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline

**I Ib** **B-R**

A post hoc analysis<sup>6</sup> showed efficacy in the Americas (HR 0.83) but not in Russia-Georgia (HR 1.10). A sample of the Russia-Georgia population in the active treatment arm had nondetectable levels of a spironolactone metabolite. Post hoc analyses have limitations, but they suggest a possibility of benefit in appropriately selected patients with symptomatic HFpEF (LVEF  $\geq 45\%$ , elevated BNP level or HF admission within 1 year, eGFR  $>30$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>, creatinine  $<2.5$  mg/dL, and potassium  $<5.0$  mEq/L).





# FINEARTS-HF: Trial design

Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial testing the hypothesis that finerenone would reduce cardiovascular death and total worsening heart failure events in patients with heart failure and mildly reduced or preserved ejection fraction

## Key inclusion criteria

- Symptomatic HF (NYHA class II-V) with LVEF  $\geq 40\%$
- Hospitalized, recently hospitalized, or ambulatory
- Elevated natriuretic peptide levels
- Structural heart disease (LA Enlargement or LVH)
- Diuretics in the 30 days prior to randomization

## Key exclusion criteria

- Potassium  $>5.0$  mmol/L; eGFR  $<25$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>
- MRA use 30 days prior to randomization
- History of peripartum, chemotherapy induced, or infiltrative cardiomyopathy (e.g., amyloidosis)
- Alternative causes of signs or symptoms

**Finerenone 10-20 mg or 20-40 mg dosing based on eGFR (mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>):**  
 $\leq 60$ , max dose 20 mg;  $>60$ , max dose 40 mg

*Up-titrate to maximally tolerated dose if  
 $K^+ < 5.0$  mmol/L and eGFR decrease  $<30\%$*

1:1  
Randomization

**Matching Placebo**

## Trial endpoints

### Primary Endpoint

- CV death and total HF events (hospitalizations/urgent visits)

### Secondary Endpoints

- Total HF events
- KCCQ-TSS at 6, 9, and 12 months
- NYHA class at 12 months
- Renal composite endpoint
- All-cause mortality

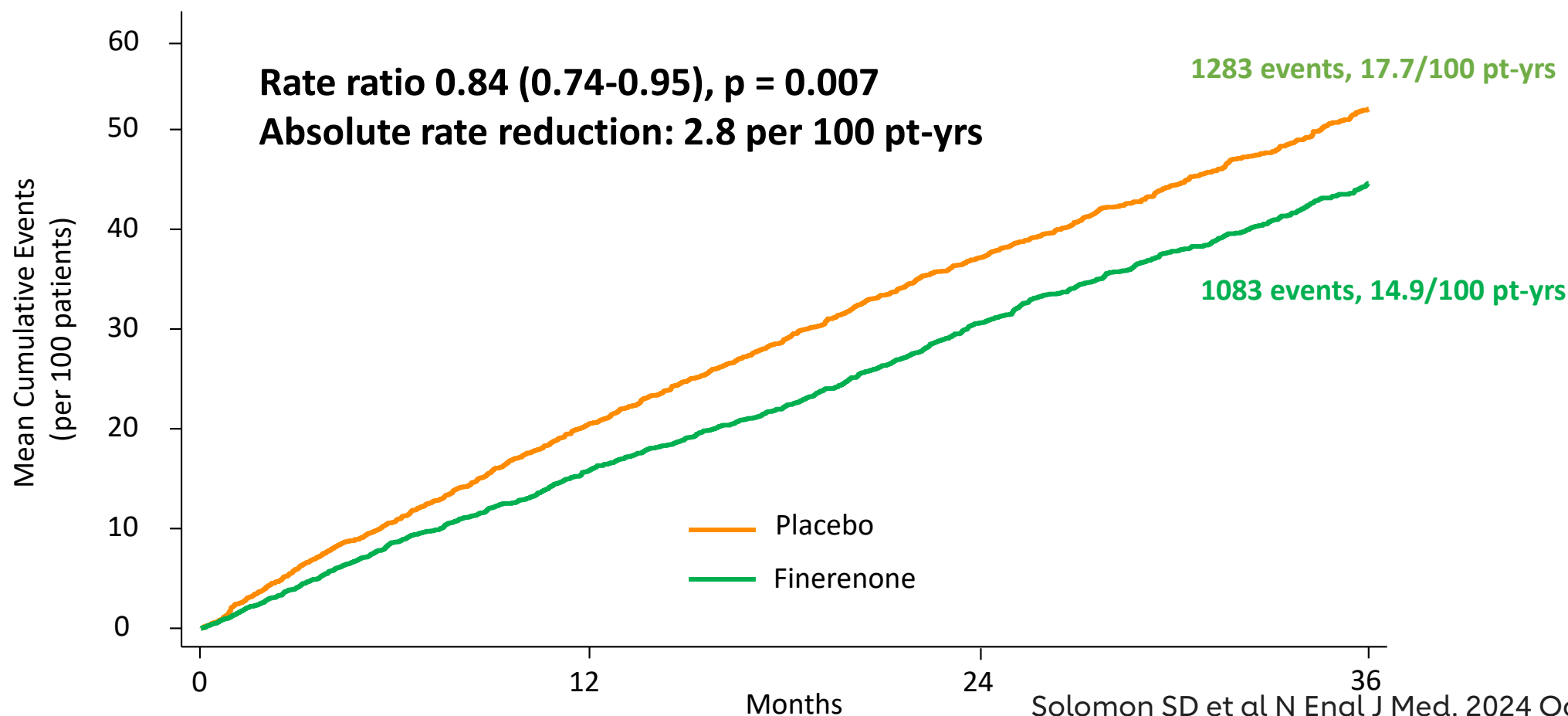
Visits: Month 1, then 3-monthly for first 12 months, 4-monthly visits thereafter with telephone contact in between

Solomon SD et al N Engl J Med. 2024 Oct 24;391(16):1475-1485.

# FINEARTS-HF: Primary endpoint

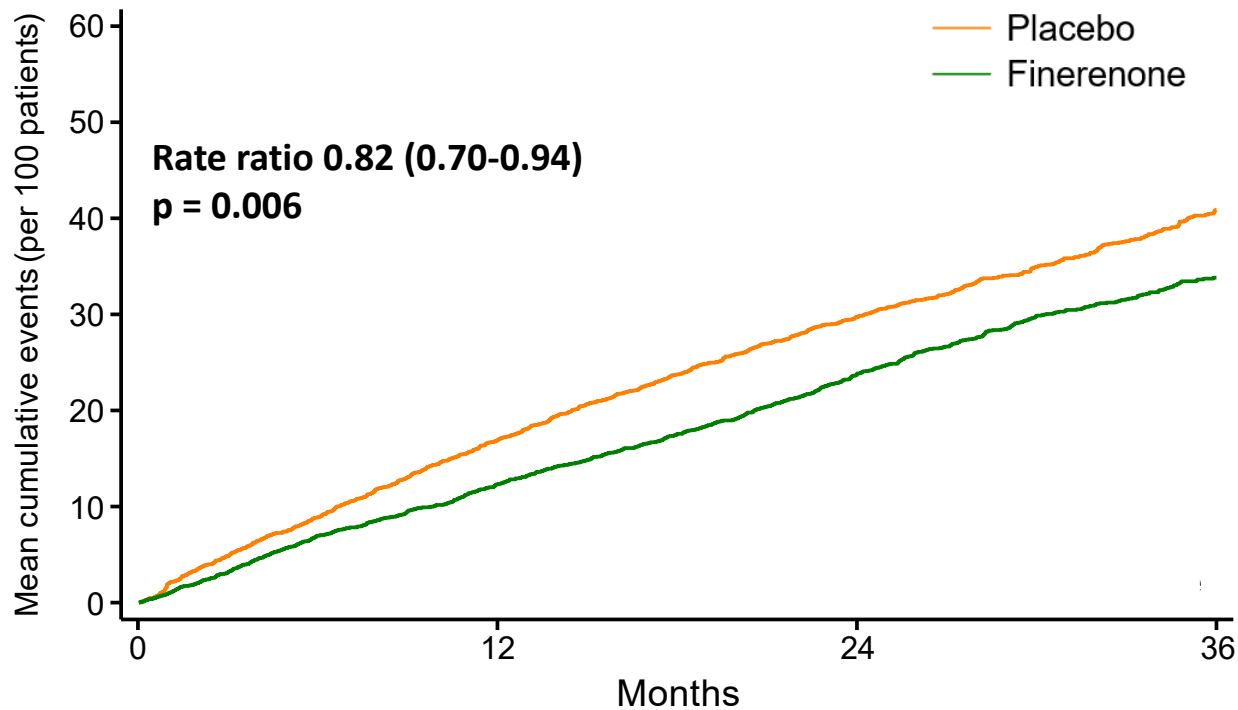
## CV Death and total HF events

*Median follow-up of 32 months*

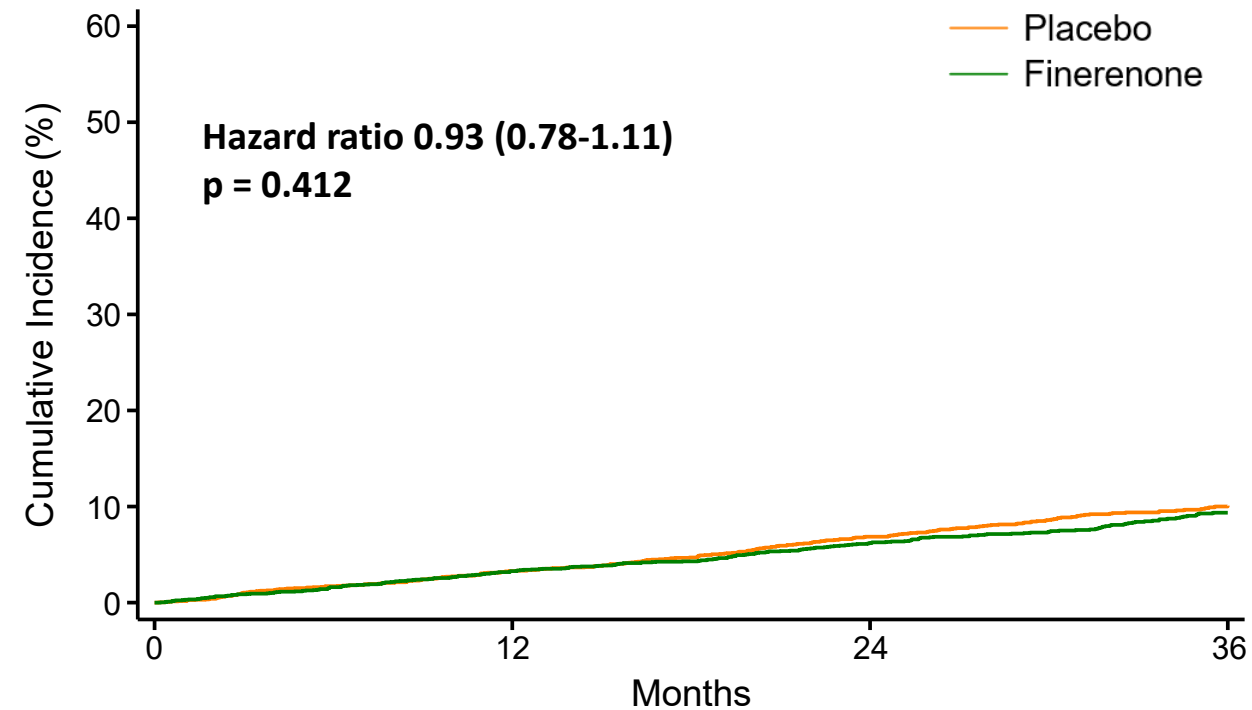


# FINEARTS-HF: Components of primary endpoint

## Total HF events



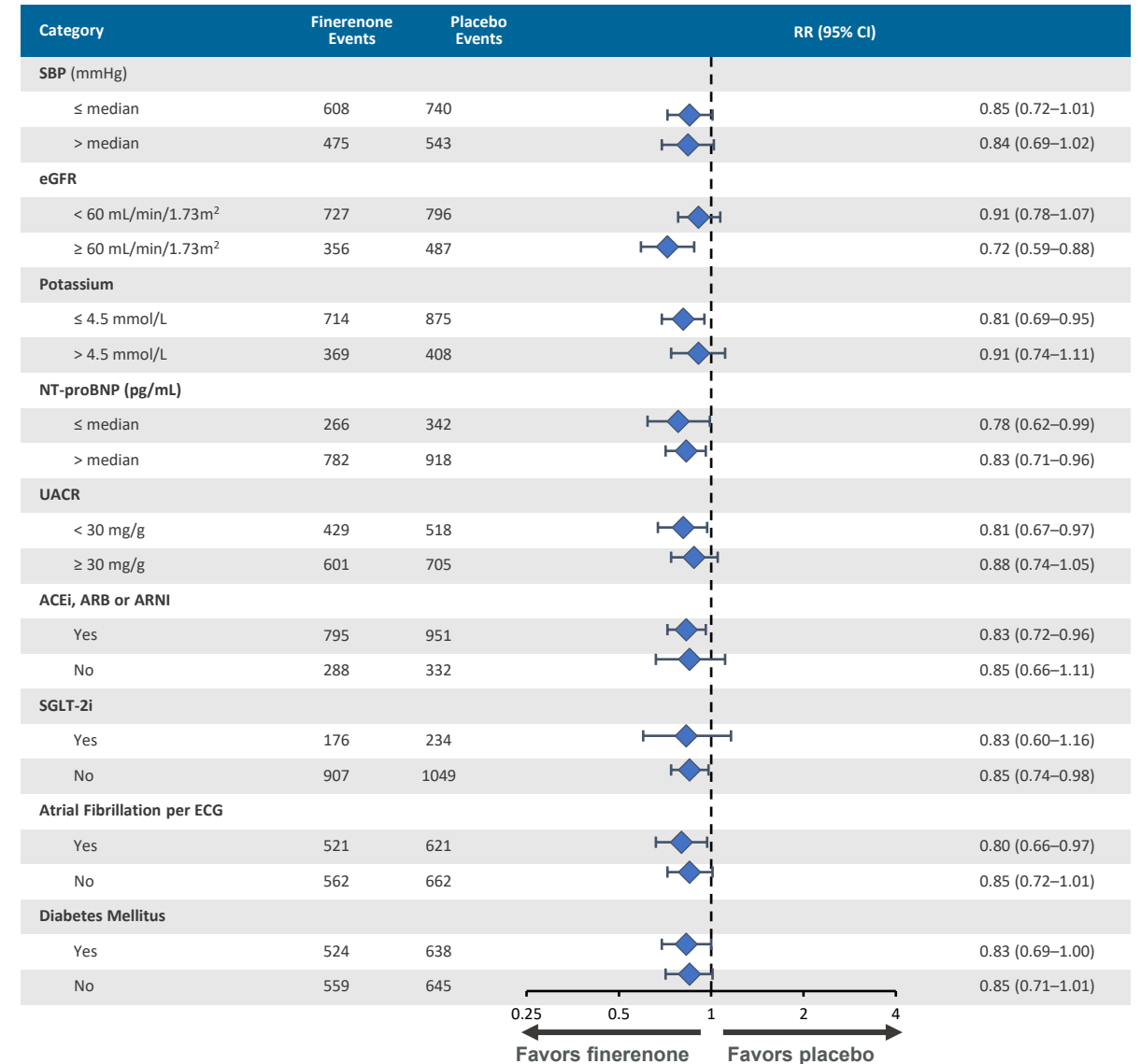
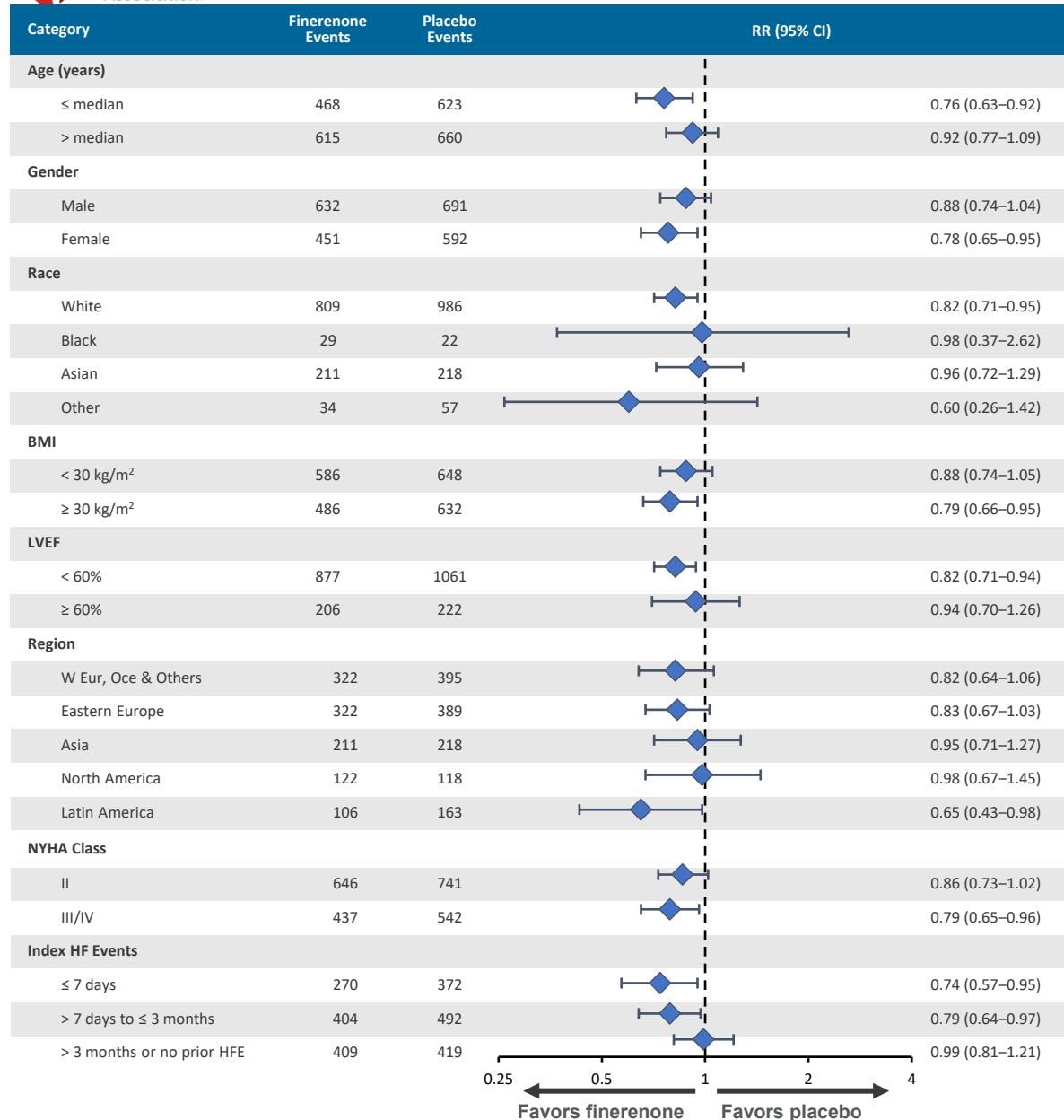
## CV death



# FINEARTS-HF: Prespecified subgroups (Primary outcome)



Consistent treatment effects across all pre-specified subgroups, including ejection fraction and SGLT2-inhibitor use

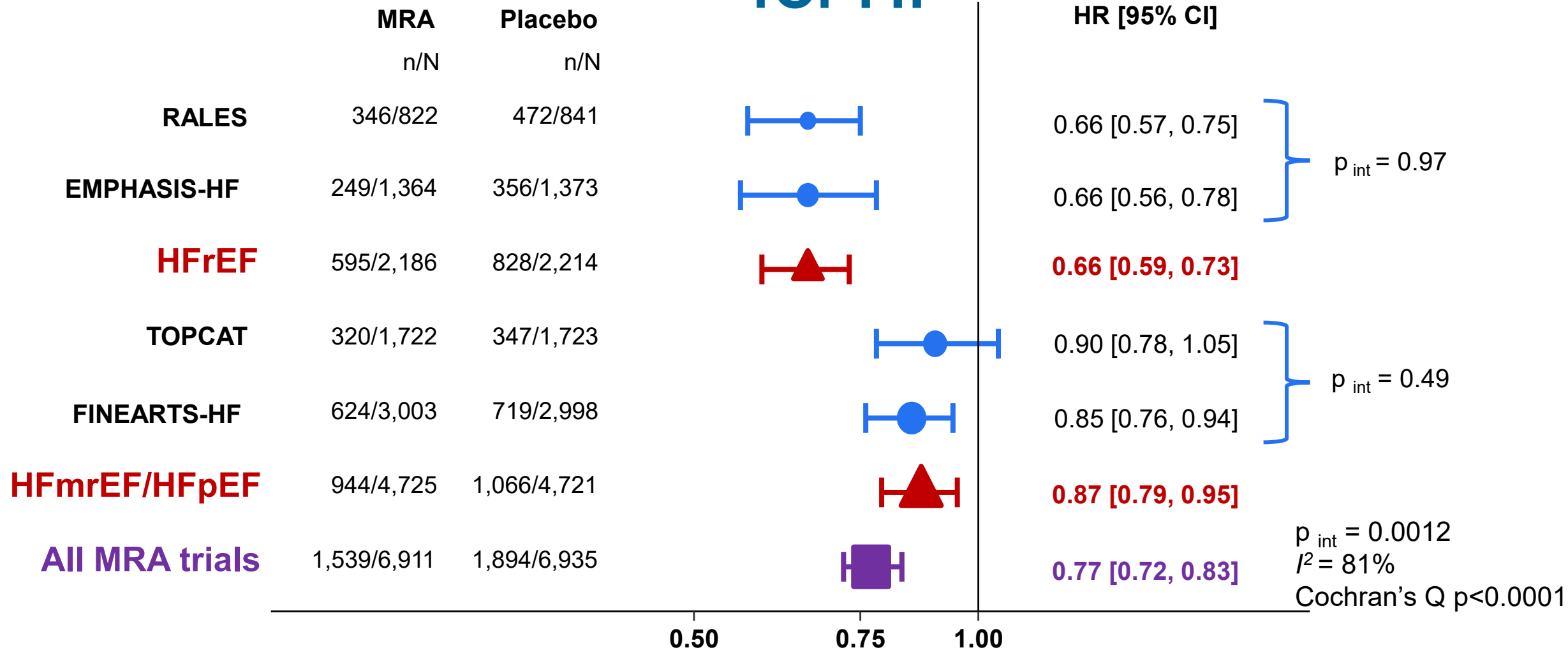


Solomon SD et al N Engl J Med. 2024  
Oct 24;391(16):1475–1485.

# FINEARTS-HF: Prespecified safety and tolerability

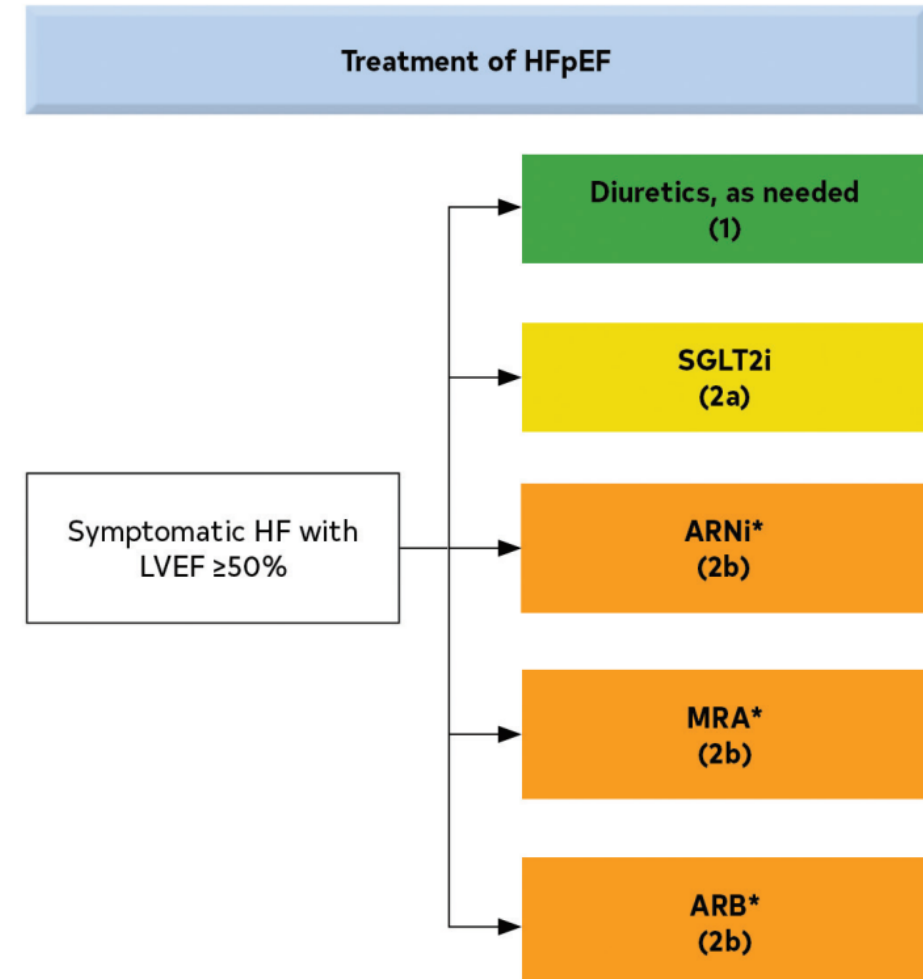
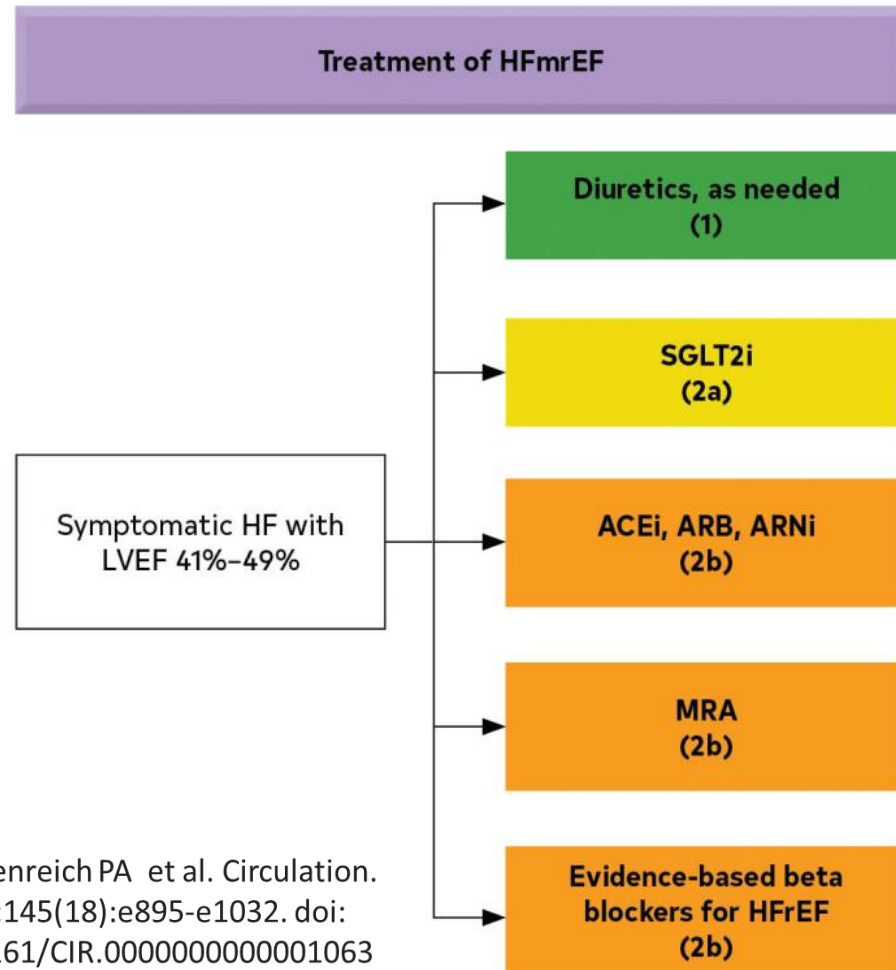
Treatment emergent safety outcome	Finerenone (N=2993)	Placebo (N=2993)
Any Serious Adverse Event (SAE)	38.7%	40.5%
Serum creatinine $\geq 3.0$ mg/dl	2.0%	1.2%
Serum potassium		
$>5.5$ mmol/l	14.3%	6.9 %
$>6.0$ mmol/l	3.0 %	1.4 %
$<3.5$ mmol/l	4.4 %	9.7 %
Investigator-reported hyperkalaemia	9.7%	4.2%
Leading to hospitalization	0.5%	0.2%
Leading to death	0%	0%
Systolic blood pressure $<100$ mmHg	18.5%	12.4%

# MRAs in HF: CV Death or hospitalisation for HF





# Management of HFmrEF/HFpEF 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline



# Summary

- Patients with HFmrEF and HFpEF now have multiple therapies that improve outcomes
- SGLT2is have data to support their use across the ejection fraction spectrum
- MRAs look to also be effective across the ejection fraction spectrum
- ARNis are indicated in patients with lower than normal ejection fraction
- There is a role for beta blockers in HFmrEF and angiotensin receptor blockers in HFpEF

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**All these data are fantastic but are only valuable if we use them to treat our patients!**



*Thank You.*

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Questions?





# Upcoming Event



American Heart Association®  
**IMPLEMENT-EF**

## Virtual Event

### Bridging Gaps in HFpEF/HFmrEF Care: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Addressing Social Needs

Wednesday, December 10<sup>th</sup> 10:00am – 1:30 pm CT

This half-day summit brings together innovative models and practices to improve the identification, diagnosis, and treatment of HFpEF and HFmrEF. Through four focused sessions, participants will explore strategies for recognizing these conditions at admission, leveraging AI for diagnosis, implementing evidence-based therapies, and addressing health-related social needs from both clinical and patient perspectives. Join us to learn effective implementation strategies in caring for HFpEF/HFmrEF patients

- AI in Action: Enhancing HFpEF/HFmrEF Diagnosis Through Site-Based Model
- Spotlight on Admission: Models for Identifying HFpEF/HFmrEF at Admission
- Putting Evidence into Action: Real-World HFpEF/HFmrEF Treatment Model
- Barriers to Better Care: Tackling Health-Related Social Needs in HFpEF/HFmrEF Management



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<https://bit.ly/4omUtSC>