

Lp(a) in Special Populations: Aortic Stenosis and Peripheral Arterial Disease

Dr. Nishant P. Shah, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine in Cardiology
Duke Clinical Research Institute
Duke Cardiometabolic Prevention

Dr. Marc Bonaca, MD

Professor of Medicine
Director of Vascular Research
William R. Hiatt Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research
University of Colorado School of Medicine



American
Heart
Association.

Disclaimer

The recommendations and opinions presented by our guest speakers may not represent the official position of the American Heart Association. The materials are for educational purposes only, and do not constitute an endorsement or instruction by AHA/ASA. The AHA/ASA does not endorse any product or device.



Lp(a) Discovery Project

Lp(a), also known as lipoprotein(a), is an independent, inherited and causal risk factor for cardiovascular disease, the leading cause of death and disability worldwide. High Lp(a) levels affect approximately 1 in 5 people worldwide.

The American Heart Association (AHA) launched a 3-year national initiative, the **Lp(a) Discovery Project**, to increase Lp(a) testing by improving processes across care settings through national education. As an enhancement to this work, the AHA launched the **Lp(a) CHC Discovery Project** which seeks to identify various approaches and barriers to testing for Lp(a) within community health centers.

A graphic for the Lp(a) Discovery Project. It features a white rectangular box with the text "Lp(a) Discovery Project" in a dark blue font. The box is overlaid on a background of red, translucent, spherical structures resembling lipoproteins or cells, with some internal branching structures. The overall color scheme is red and white.

Lp(a)
Discovery
Project

**Scan to
discover more:**





The Association of Lp(a) and Aortic Stenosis

Nishant P. Shah, MD

Associate Professor of Medicine in Cardiology

Duke Clinical Research Institute

Duke Cardiometabolic Prevention



Duke Heart



@Nishant_ShahMD



Disclosures

Consulting: Novartis, Amgen, Amarin, Esperion,
Amarin, New Amsterdam Pharma, Regeneron

Research Support: NIH, Amgen, Novartis, Janssen,
Eli Lilly, New Amsterdam Pharma, Regeneron



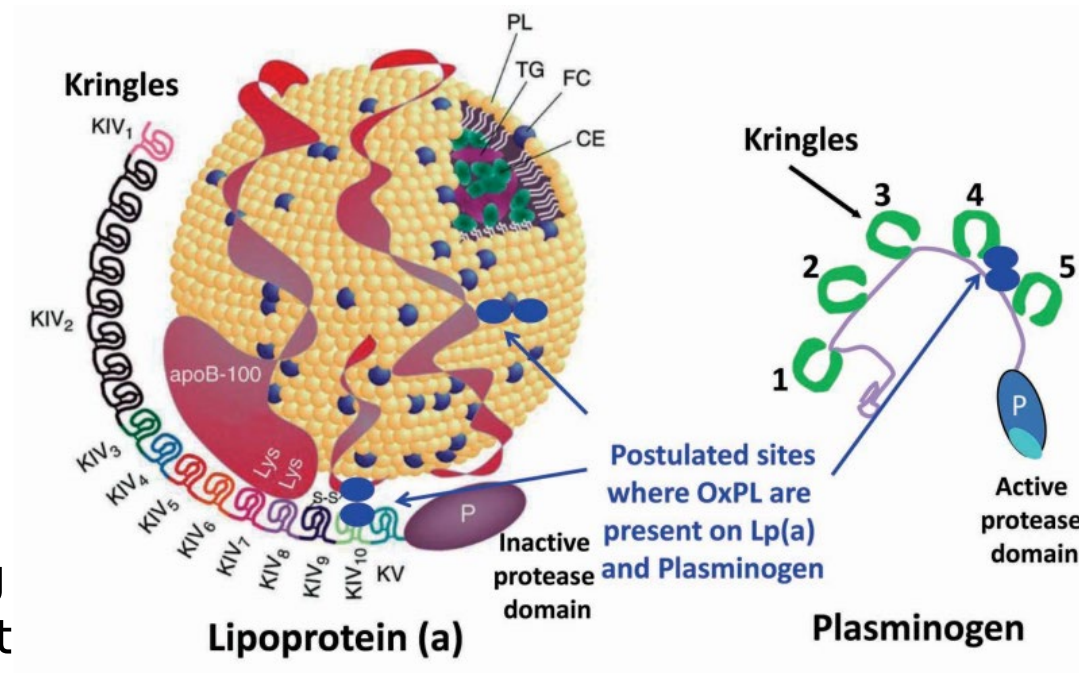
Learning Objectives

- Discuss Lp(a) as a marker of risk
- Describe the pathophysiology of Lp(a) related calcific aortic stenosis
- Describe clinical implications of aortic stenosis and Lp(a)
- Highlight future directions of research

Lipoprotein (a)

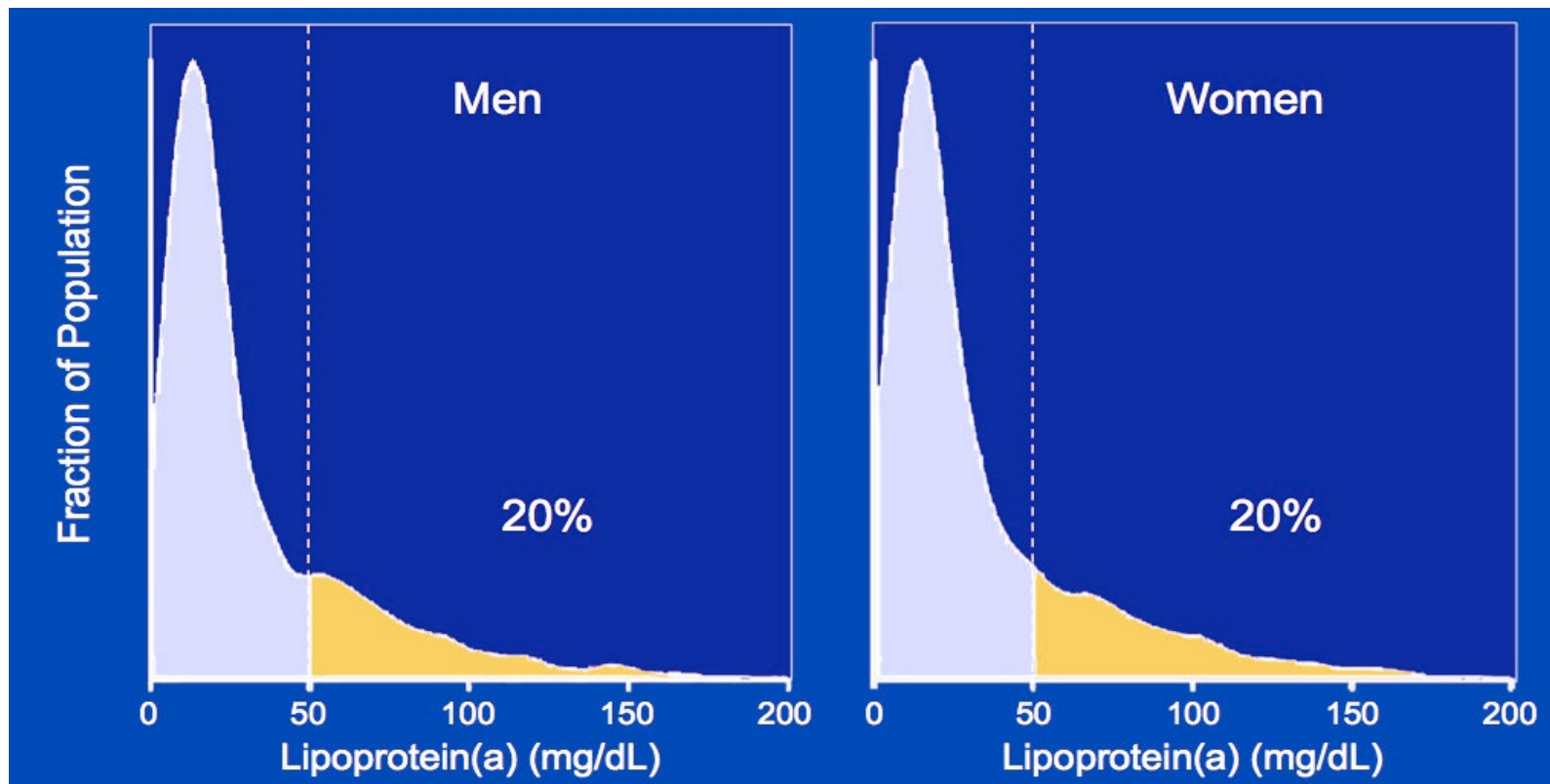
Causal and independent association with cardiovascular events

- Genetic origin and expressed from *LPA* locus
- Several isoforms based on number of Kringle Repeats
- Levels don't vary overtime without intervention



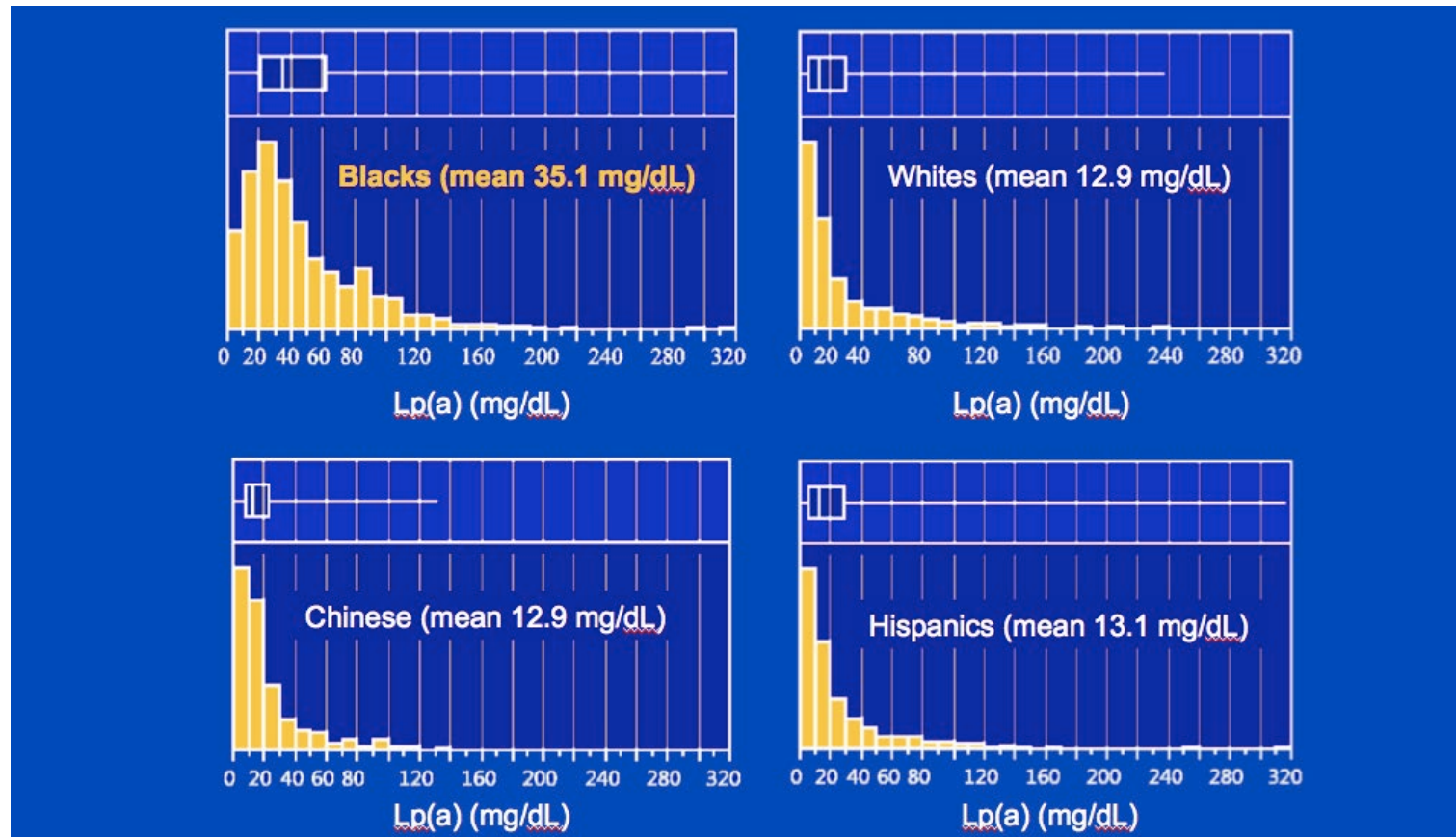
- Consists of about 30-45% bound LDL
- Standard lipid assays cannot distinguish free LDL from Lp(a)-LDL
- Pathogenic mechanisms include inflammatory, atherogenic, and thrombotic

Lp(a) Distribution by Gender



- Elevated in 1/5 patients tested for Lp(a)
- Elevated in 1/3 patients with FH
- Elevated in 1/4 patients with premature ASCVD

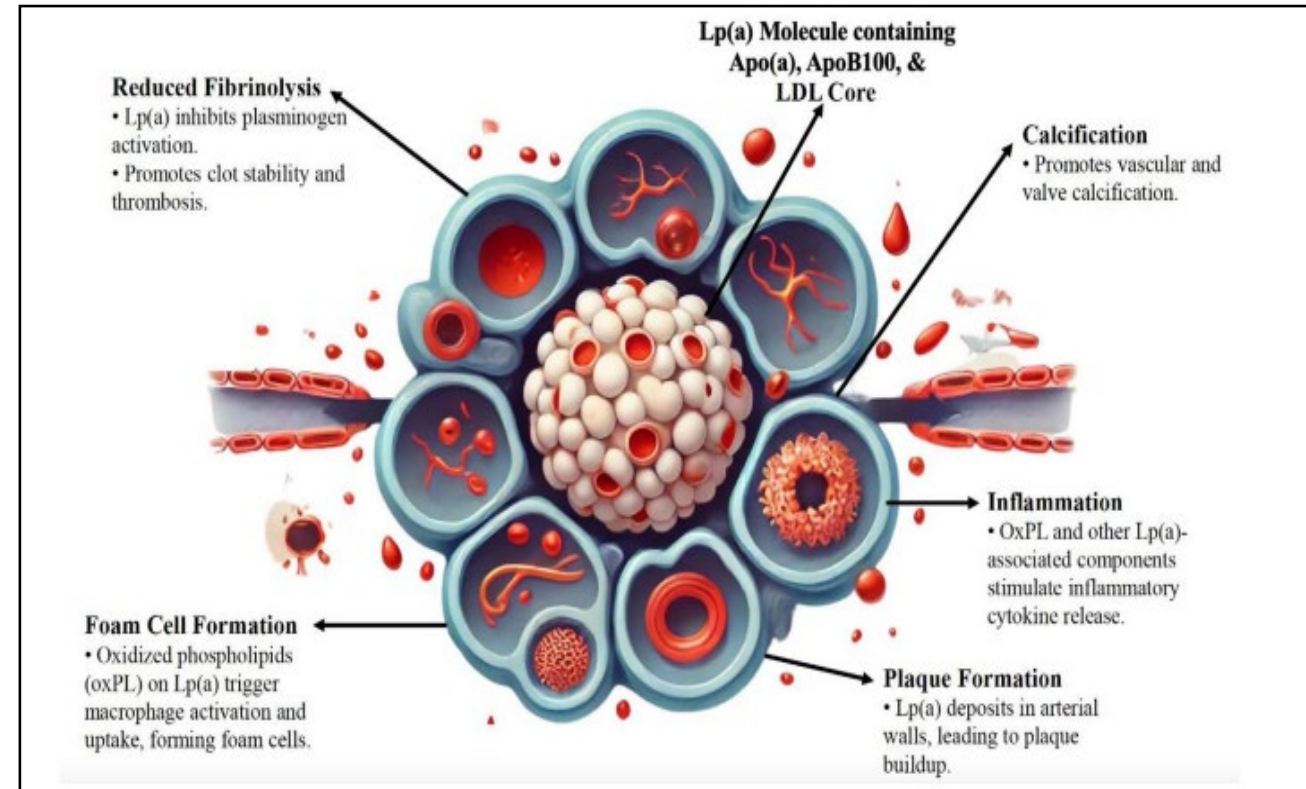
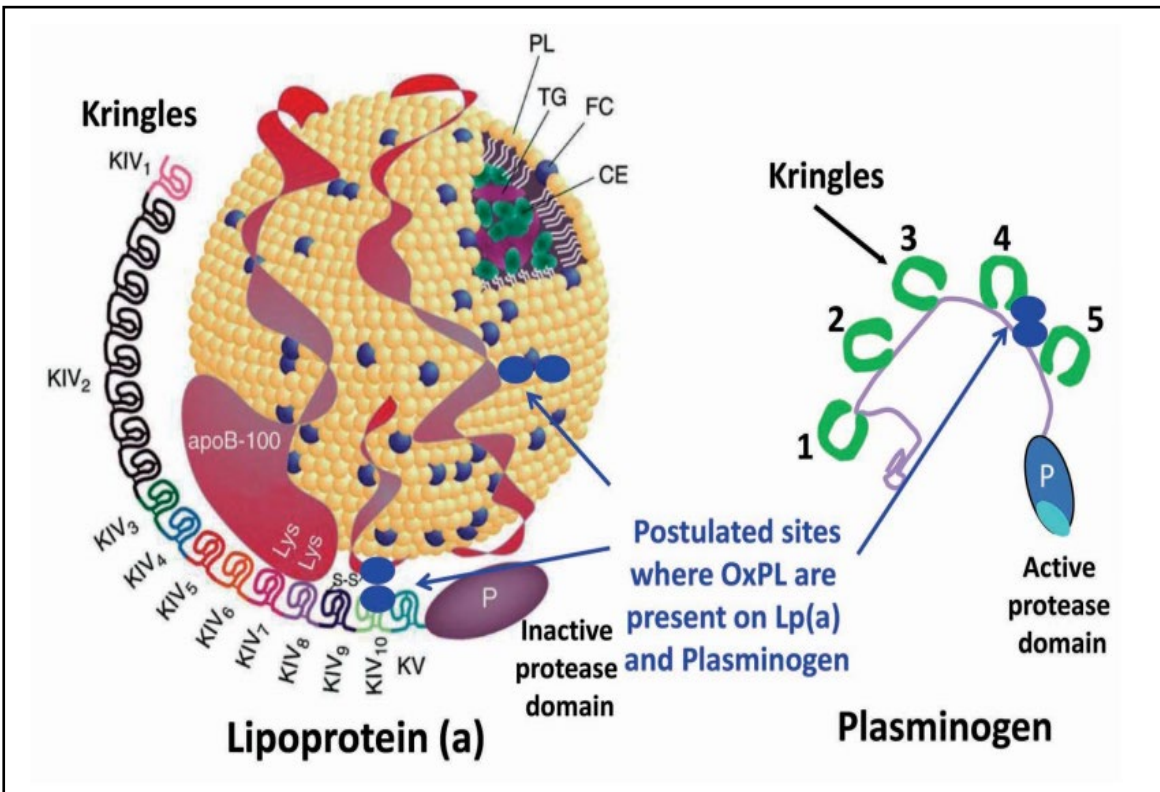
Lp(a) Distribution by Race



How is Lp(a) related to Aortic Stenosis?

- Calcific aortic valve stenosis is the most prevalent form of valvular disease worldwide, affected nearly 3% of the population over 65 years of age
- There are no current pharmacological treatments indicated to prevent the onset or progression of calcific aortic valve stenosis, and definitive treatment is generally an aortic valve replacement when the stenosis is severe and symptomatic
- Some evidence suggest long term exposure to risk factors such as hypertension or chronic kidney disease can lead to rapid progression of aortic stenosis severity
- Lp(a) has been shown to have an independent and causal association with calcific aortic stenosis beyond traditional risk factors

Pathophysiology of Lp(a) related Aortic Stenosis



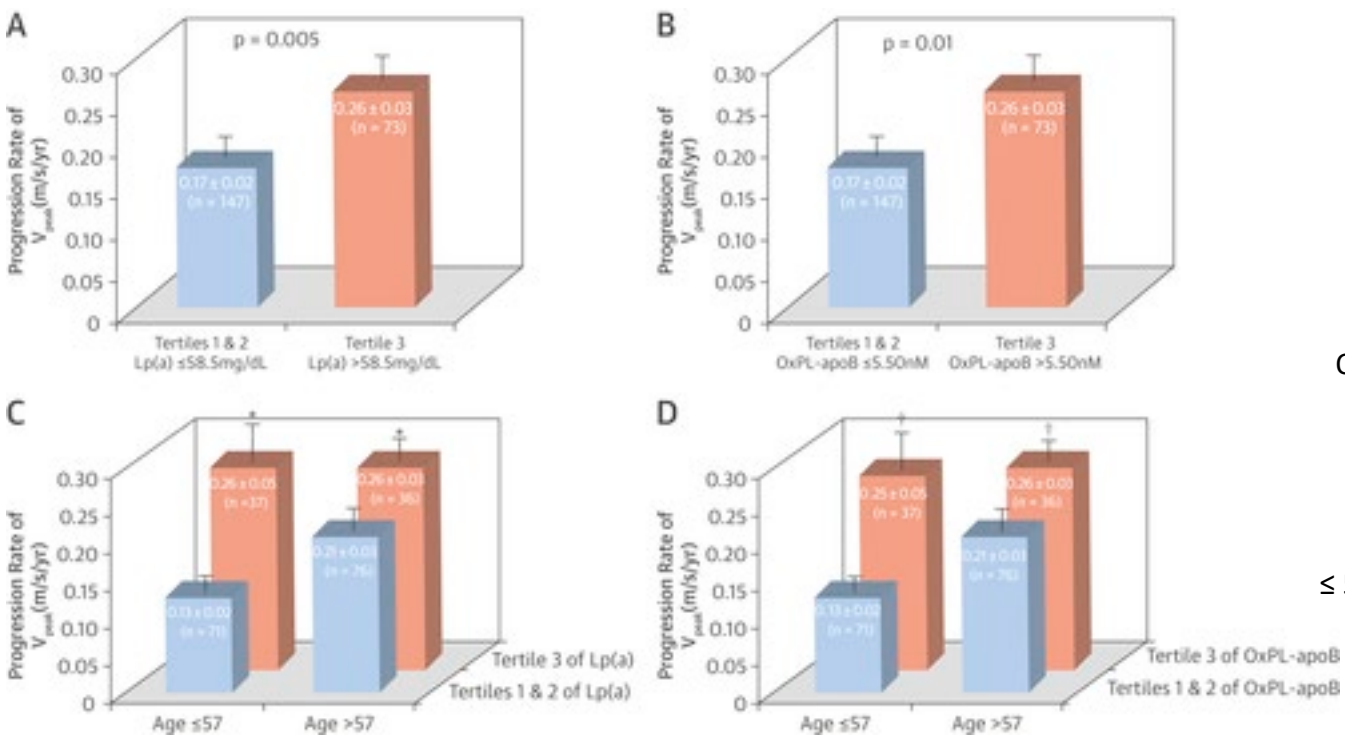
Genetic Origin with Known SNPs Linked to AS

SNP	Gene	Chromosome	Effect and Function	Study Notes	Associated with Coronary Disease
rs10455872	LPA	6	Increased Lp(a) levels, associated with valve calcification	Multiple GWAS; Lp(a) a key risk factor for CAVD	Yes
rs17659543	IL1F9	2	Associated with elevated Lp(a) levels and calcification	Additional variant linked to CAVD progression	Yes
rs13415097	IL1F9	2	Implicated in endothelial integrity and calcification	Suggests role in vascular remodeling	No
rs3798220	LPA	6	Increased Lp(a) levels, promotes calcification	Linked to CAVD and aortic stenosis progression	Yes

CAVS indicates calcific aortic valve stenosis; Lp(a), lipoprotein (a); and GWAS, genome-wide association study



Lp(a) and oxidized phospholipid are key mediators



Overall

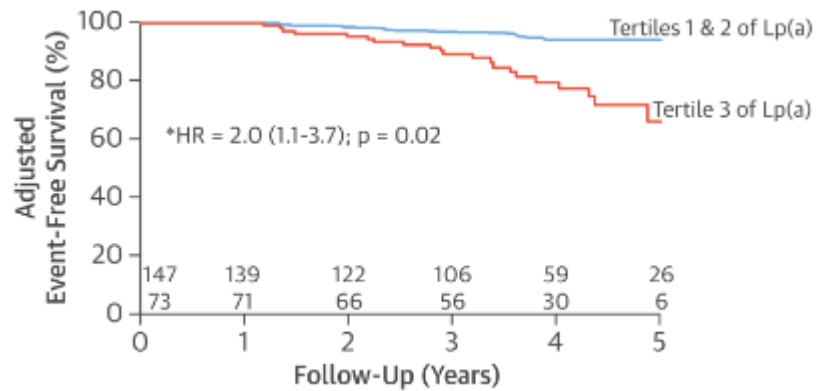
≤ 57 years

Risk of Being a Rapid Progressor for Patients in Tertile 3			
Univariable Risk		Adjusted Risk	
OR (95% CI)	p Value	OR (95% CI)	p Value
2.1 (1.2–3.8)	0.009	2.6* (1.4–5.0)	0.003
2.0 (1.2–4.6)	0.02	2.4* (1.2–4.6)	0.009
4.0 (1.7–9.5)	0.001	4.9† (1.8–13.7)	0.002
3.4 (1.4–7.8)	0.005	4.1† (1.4–11.9)	0.01

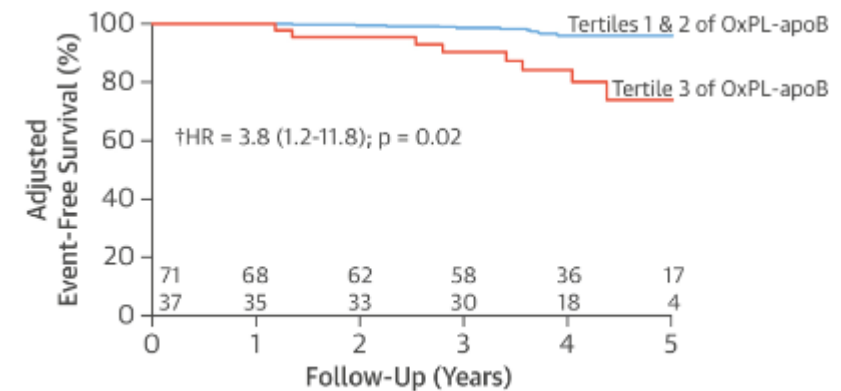
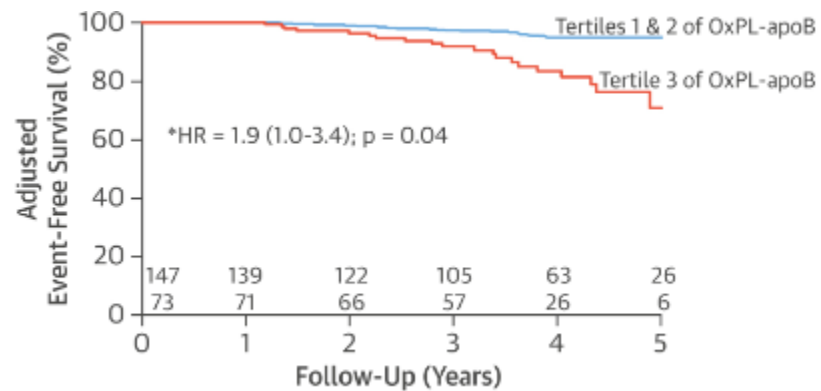
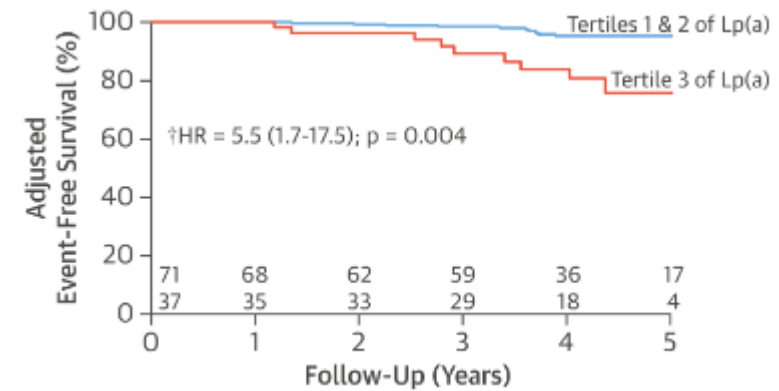
Multivariate model adjusted for age, sex, hypertension, metabolic syndrome, statin use, LDL-C, creatinine, bicuspid aortic valve phenotype, aortic valve calcification score, and baseline peak velocity

Event Free Survival from Composite of AVR and Cardiac Death

Overall



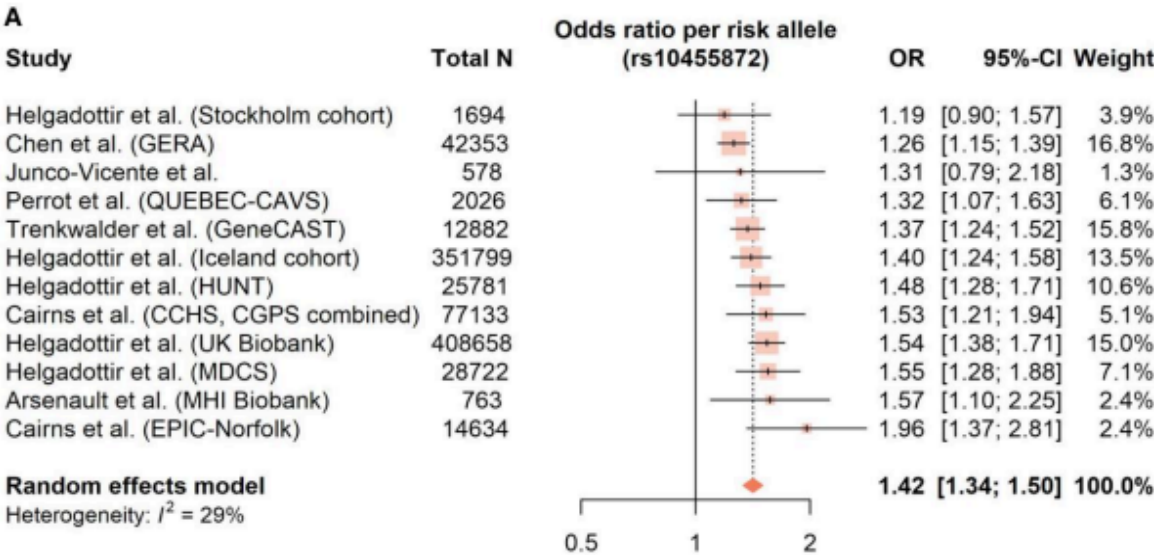
≤ 57 years of age





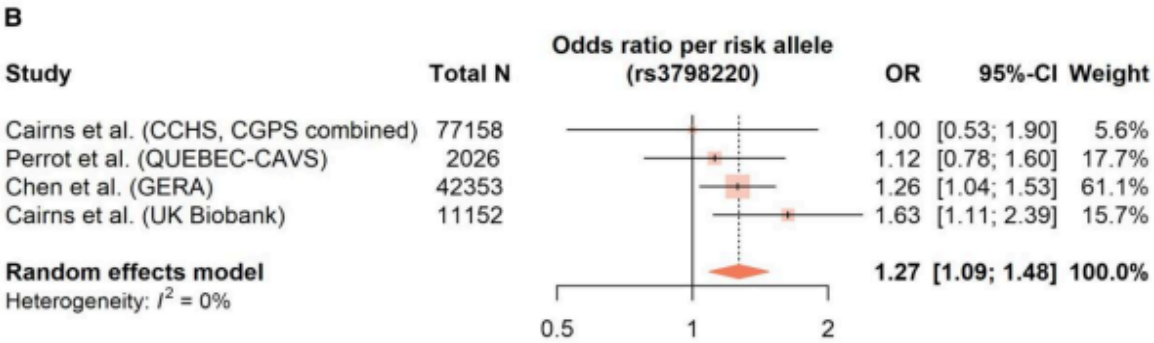
Association with Calcified AS is Consistent Across SNPs

rs10455872

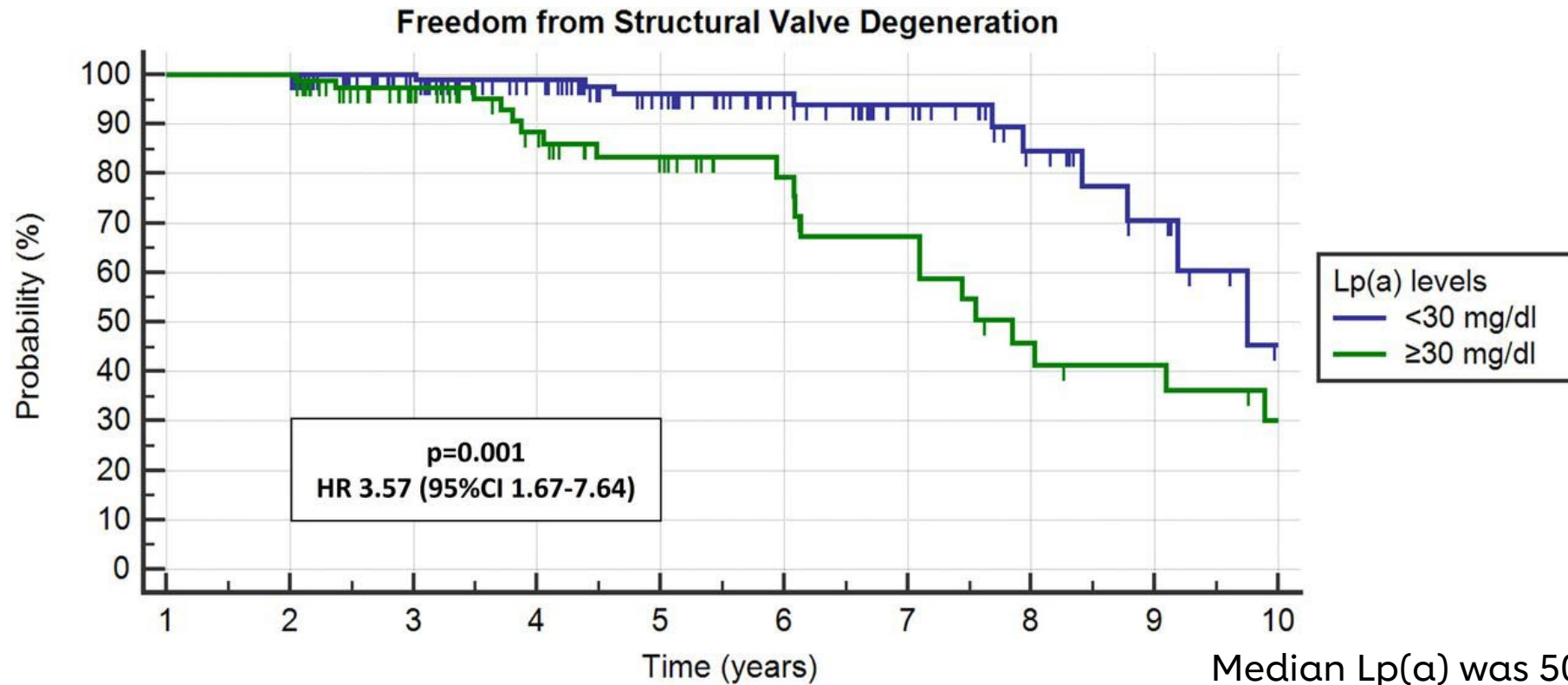


- Those with calcific AS had higher Lp(a) level by 22.63 nmol/L
- Elevated Lp(a) was associated with faster peak velocity rate at 0.09 m/s/year

rs3798220



Rapid Degeneration in Bioprosthetic Aortic Valves



Median Lp(a) was 50.0 (IQR 72.0) mg/dL in those with degenerative valves vs 15.6 (IQR 48.6) mg/dL in non-degenerative valves

Screening Recommendations for ASCVD Risk

Society	Clinical Lp(a) Recommendations
2018 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Guidelines	Screen Lp(a) in at risk patients. Reasonable to initiate treatment if Lp(a) $\geq$ 50mg/dL
2019 European Society of Cardiology Cholesterol Guidelines	One time screening of Lp(a) to identify those at extreme elevations (>180mg/dL) or less extreme elevation who are at higher overall risk

Grundy SM, et al. 2018 AHA/ACC Cholesterol Guideline. *Circulation*. 2019;139:e1082-1143.

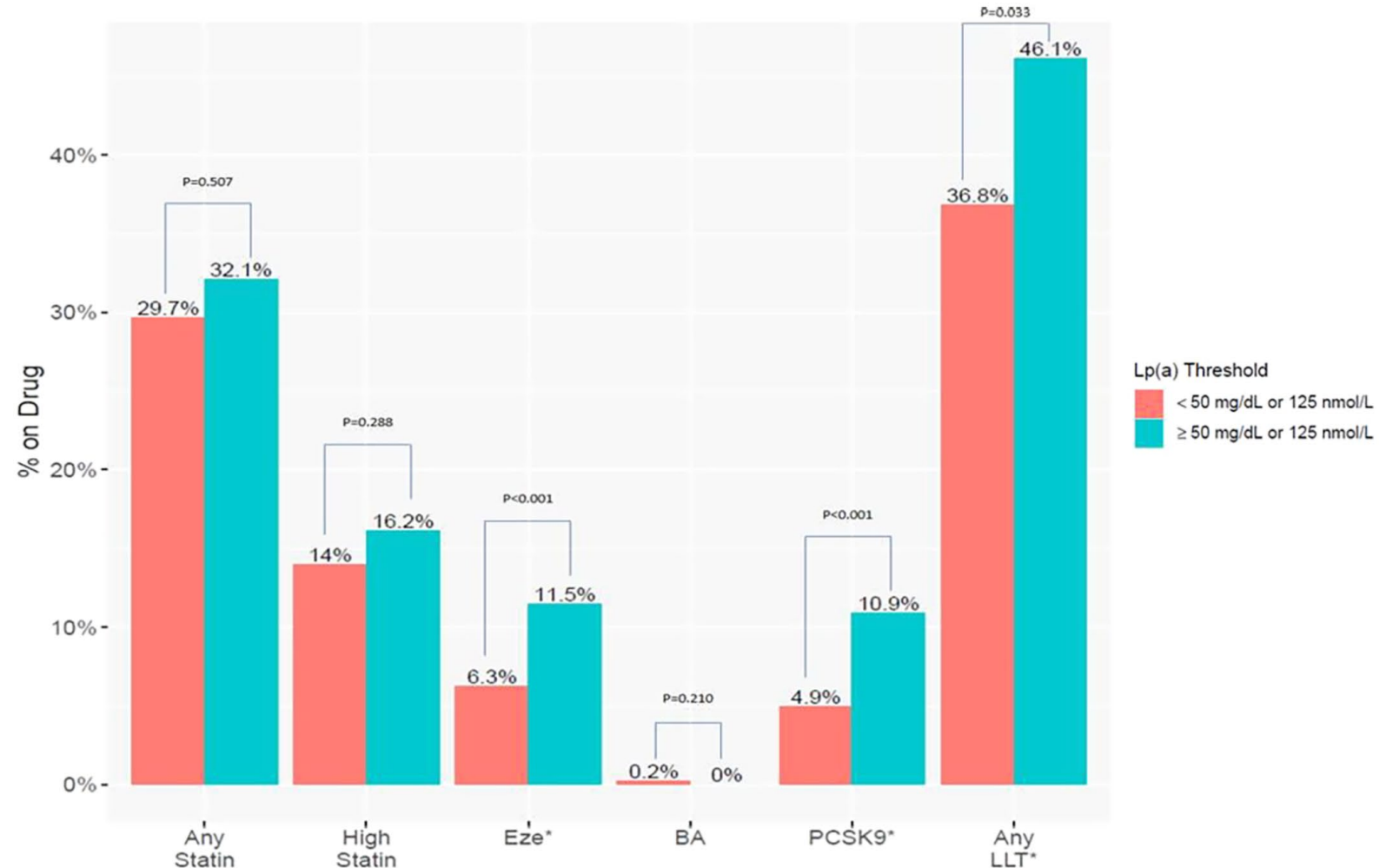
Mach F, et al. 2019 ESC/EAS Dyslipidaemia Guidelines. *Eur Heart J*. 2020;41:111-188.



What's really happening?

Among 595,684 patients across 5 large health systems:

- Lp(a) testing rates were low at 0.4%
- Females, older individuals, and members of the Black race were less likely to be tested
- Those with an Lp(a) test, regardless of value, were likely to be initiated on lipid lowering therapy
- Those with elevated levels were more likely to initiate non-statin therapies

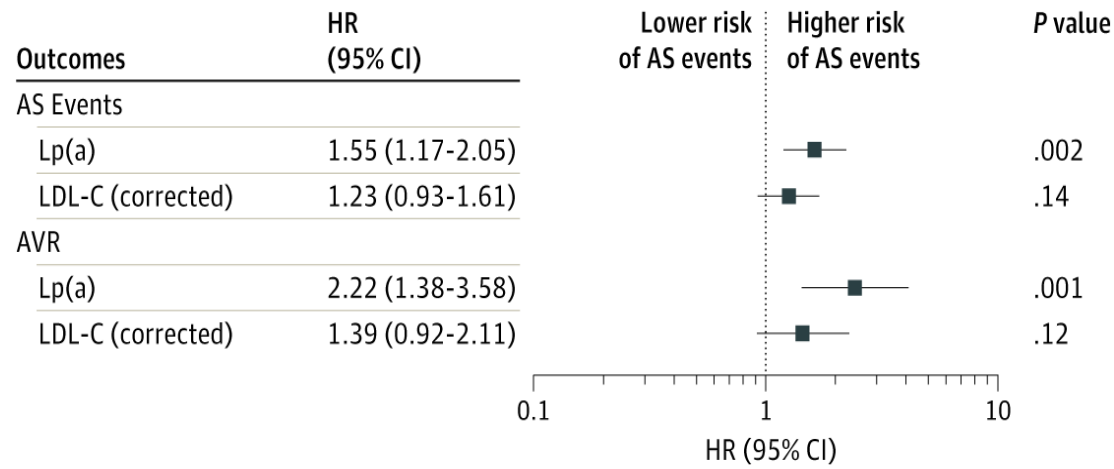


Impact of various therapeutics on Lp(a) levels

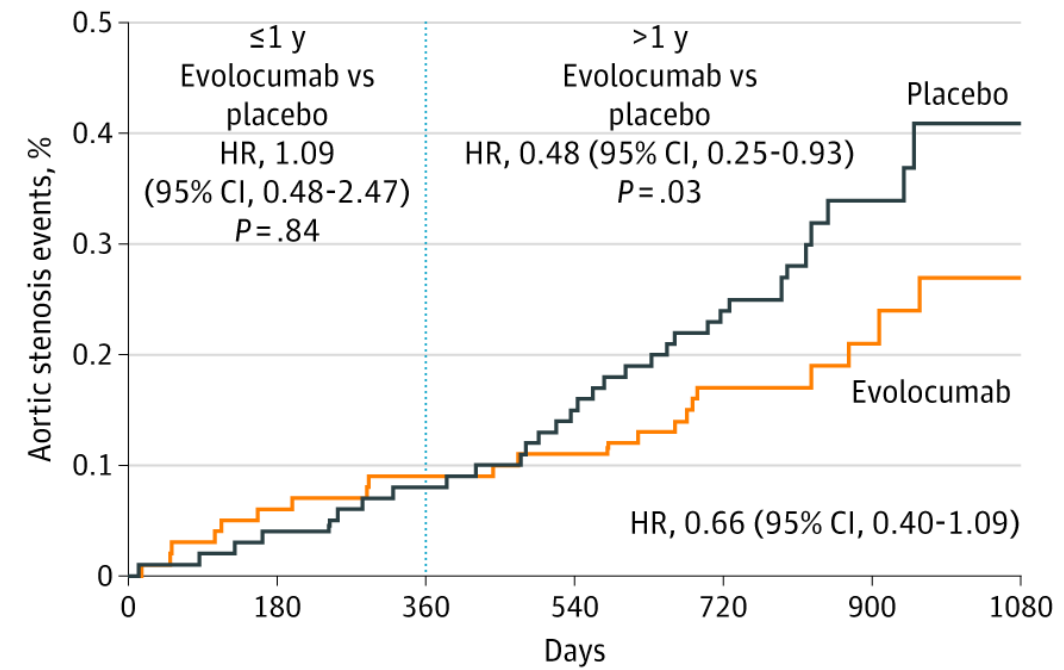
Drug	Effect on Lipoprotein(a)
Statins	• ~13% decrease (CARDS) • ~15% decrease • No significant effect
Ezetimibe	• No effect
Niacin	• ~22.9% dose-independent decrease
PCSK9 inhibitors	• ~26.9% decrease (FOURIER) • ~25.6% decrease (alirocumab) • Confirmed in meta-analyses
Inclisiran	• ~18.6% decrease (ORION-11)
Mipomersen	• ~26.4% decrease
CETP inhibitors	• Up to ~40% decrease (evacetrapib) • ~14% decrease (anacetrapib) • ~33.8% and ~55.6% decrease (obicetrapib)
ASO and siRNA	• ~80% and ~72% decrease (pelacarsen) • ~70.5% to ~100.5% decrease (olpasiran) • Up to ~98% decrease (SL430)



Exploratory Analysis from FOURIER on AS Events



Multivariable model adjusted for age, sex, diabetes, hypertension, smoking, and eGFR



No. at risk				
PBO	13 780	13 515	8616	1019
EVO	13 784	13 540	8651	982



Other Lp(a) targeting agents

Zerlasiran (SLN360)

- siRNA based therapy
- Reduction in Lp(a) up to -96%

Nissen S, Wolski K. et al. JAMA 2022

Lebodisran

- siRNA based therapy
- Reduction in Lp(a) up to -97% and sustained reduction at one year

Nissen S, Linnebjerg H. et al. JAMA 2023

Muvalaplin (oral agent)

- Oral therapy to disrupts creation of Lp(a)
- Reduction in Lp(a) up to -86%

Nicholls SJ, Ni W. et al. JAMA 2024





Calcified AS Specific Trials Underway

- Phase II, randomized clinical trial on the effect of PCSK9 inhibitors on calcific aortic valve disease (NCT04968509)
- Phase II, randomized clinical trial on the effect of Pelacarsen on calcific aortic valve disease (NCT0564381)





Clinical Implications

Test for Lp(a) to stratify ASCVD risk, but also in patients who have been identified to have some degree of AS especially if young

In patients with elevated Lp(a) levels:

- 1) Lower LDL as low as possible, (consider an LDL-C < 70mg/dL) to modify ASCVD risk
- 2) Consider Aspirin therapy if bleeding risk is low for further ASCVD risk modification
- 3) Modify remaining modifiable risk factors: HTN, obesity, DM, lifestyle
- 4) Cascade screening of all first degree relatives
- 5) For patients identified with AS, routine imaging surveillance and monitoring for symptoms
- 6) Consider opportunity for clinical trials



Conclusion

- Test for Lp(a) as management strategies exist today
- Lp(a) has been linked to progression of calcified aortic stenosis and observed to have an association with degeneration of bioprosthetic valves
- Pathophysiologic mechanisms involve inflammatory pathways as a mediator for valve calcification
- Clinical trials exploring the therapeutic impact on calcific AS with therapies that modify Lp(a) are underway
- There is a need for more research to better understand Lp(a)'s effect beyond vascular disease

Lp(a) and Peripheral Artery Disease

Marc P. Bonaca MD MPH

Professor of Medicine

Director of Vascular Research

William R. Hiatt Endowed Chair in Cardiovascular Research

University of Colorado School of Medicine

Disclosures

- **VOYAGER PAD funded through grants from Bayer and Janssen to CPC Clinical Research**
- **Dr. Bonaca is the Executive Director of CPC, a non-profit academic research organization affiliated with the University of Colorado, that receives or has received research grant/consulting funding between August 2021 and present from: Abbott Laboratories, Agios Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Alexion Pharma, Alnylam Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Amgen Inc., Angionetics, Inc., Anthos Therapeutics, ARCA Biopharma, Inc., Array BioPharma, Inc., AstraZeneca and Affiliates, Atentiv LLC, Audentes Therapeutics, Inc., Bayer and Affiliates, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Better Therapeutics, Inc., Boston Clinical Research Institute, Bristol-Meyers Squibb Company, Cambrian Biopharma, Inc., Cardiol Therapeutics Inc., CellResearch Corp., Cleerly Inc., Cook Regentec LLC, CSL Behring LLC, Eidos Therapeutics, Inc., EP Trading Co. Ltd., EPG Communication Holdings Ltd., Epizon Pharma, Inc., Esperion Therapeutics, Inc., Everly Well, Inc., Exicon Consulting Pvt. Ltd., Faraday Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Foresee Pharmaceuticals Co. Ltd., Fortress Biotech, Inc., HDL Therapeutics Inc., HeartFlow Inc., Hummingbird Bioscience, Insmed Inc., Ionis Pharmaceuticals, IQVIA Inc., Janssen and Affiliates, Kowa Research Institute, Inc., Kyushu University, Lexicon Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Medimmune Ltd., Medpace, Merck & Affiliates, Nectero Medical Inc., Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corp., Novo Nordisk, Inc., Osiris Therapeutics Inc., Pfizer Inc., PhaseBio Pharmaceuticals, Inc., PPD Development, LP, Prairie Education and Research Cooperative, Prothena Biosciences Limited, Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc., Regio Biosciences, Inc., Saint Luke's Hospital of Kansas City, Sanifit Therapeutics S.A., Sanofi-Aventis Groupe, Silence Therapeutics PLC, Smith & Nephew plc, Stanford Center for Clinical Research, Stealth BioTherapeutics Inc., State of Colorado CCPD Grant, The Brigham & Women's Hospital, Inc., The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Thrombosis Research Institute, University of Colorado, University of Pittsburgh, VarmX, Virta Health Corporation, Worldwide Clinical Trials Inc., WraSer, LLC, and Yale Cardiovascular Research Group.**
- **Dr. Bonaca receives support from the AHA SFRN under award numbers 18SFRN3390085 (BWH-DH SFRN Center) and 18SFRN33960262 (BWH-DH Clinical Project).**

Clinical Case – Patient S.N.

50 YO Man in good health

Developed acute onset of right leg pain and presented to the ED. Noted to have no pulses. CTA showed acute thrombotic occlusion of the right common femoral artery with SFA, profunda and popliteal disease. Treated with thrombolysis and limb was salvaged

- LDL 148, HDL 42, TG 139, Cr 0.84
- BP 118/60, eGFR 80
- A1C 4.8%
- Non-smoker
- BMI 25.2
- Athletic
- No family history

Treated with aspirin, clopidogrel, high-intensity statin
Thrombophilia workup negative

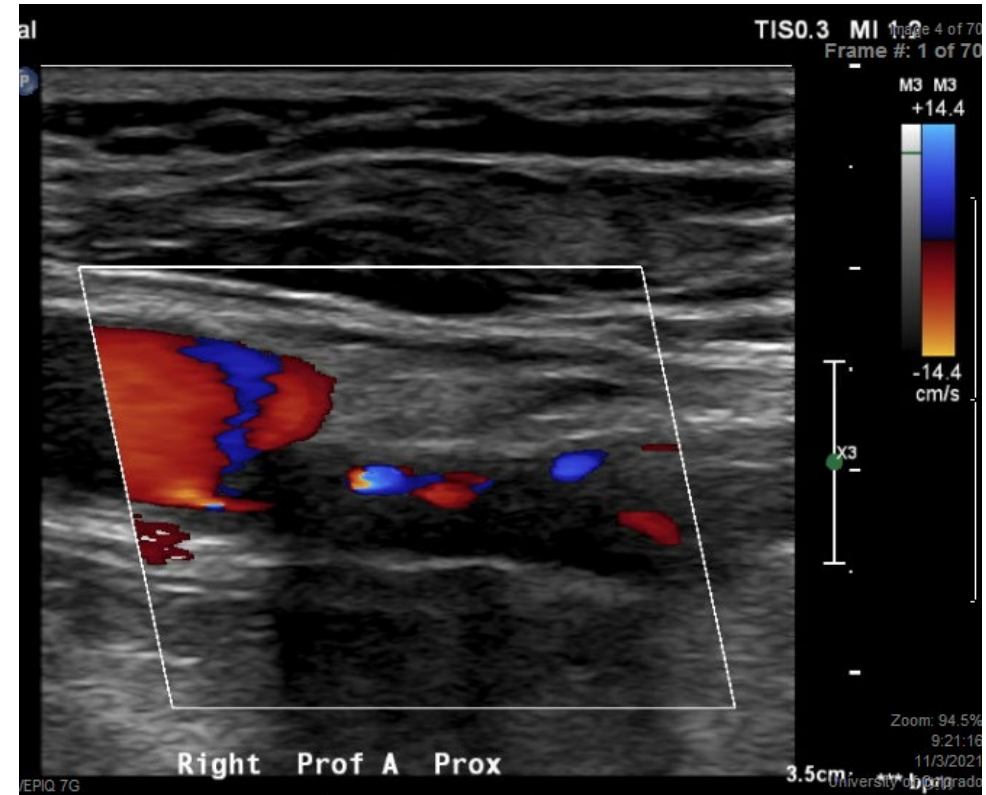
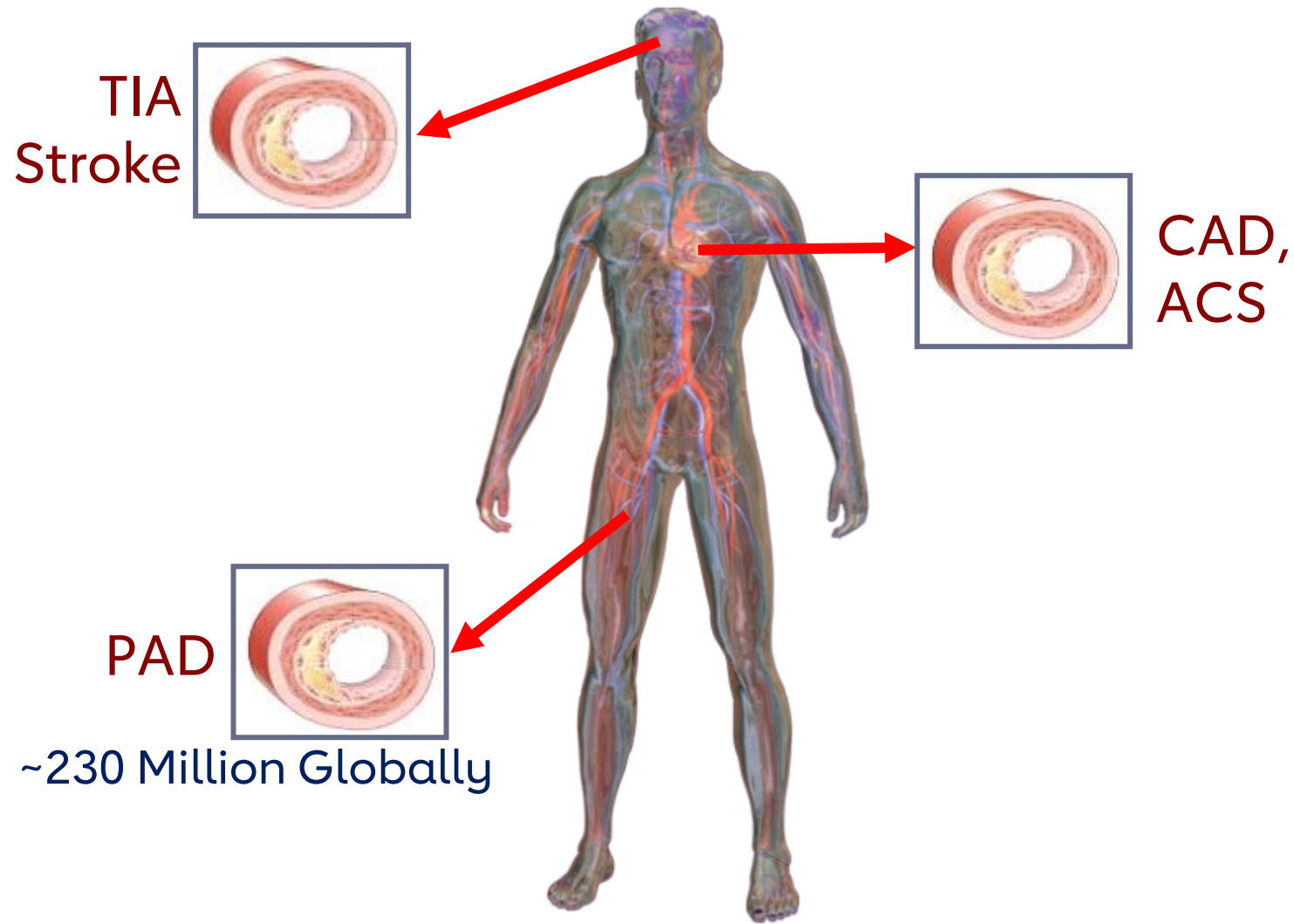


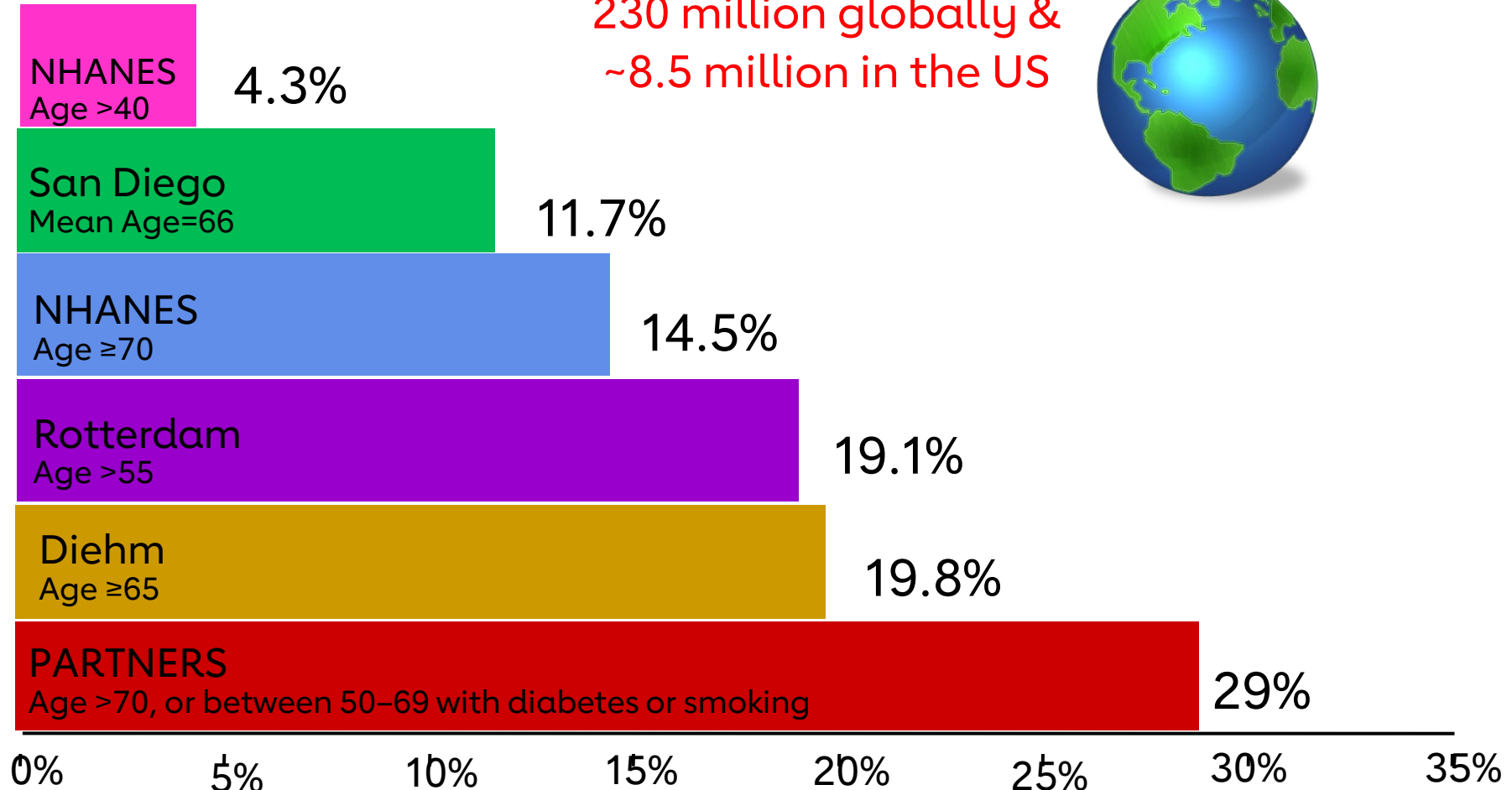
Image provided by presenter

Atherosclerosis is a Systemic Disease



A Prevalent and Morbid Form of Atherosclerosis

Current estimate:
230 million globally &
~8.5 million in the US



Selvin E and Erlinger TP. Prevalence of and risk for peripheral artery disease in the United States. *Circulation* (2004) 110, 738-43. DOI:

10.1161/01.CIR.0000137913.26087.F0

Criqui MH, Fronek A, et al. The prevalence of peripheral arterial disease in a defined population. *Circulation* (1985) 71(3), 510-515.

<https://doi.org/10.1161/01.CIR.71.3.510>

Meijer WT, Arnos AW, et al. Peripheral Artery Disease in the Elderly: The Rotterdam Study. *ATVB* (1998), 18(2), 185-92.

<https://doi.org/10.1161/01.ATV.18.2.185>

Diehm C, Schuster A, et al. High prevalence of peripheral artery disease and co-morbidity in 6880 primary care patients: cross-sectional study. *Atherosclerosis* (2004) 172(1), 195-205.

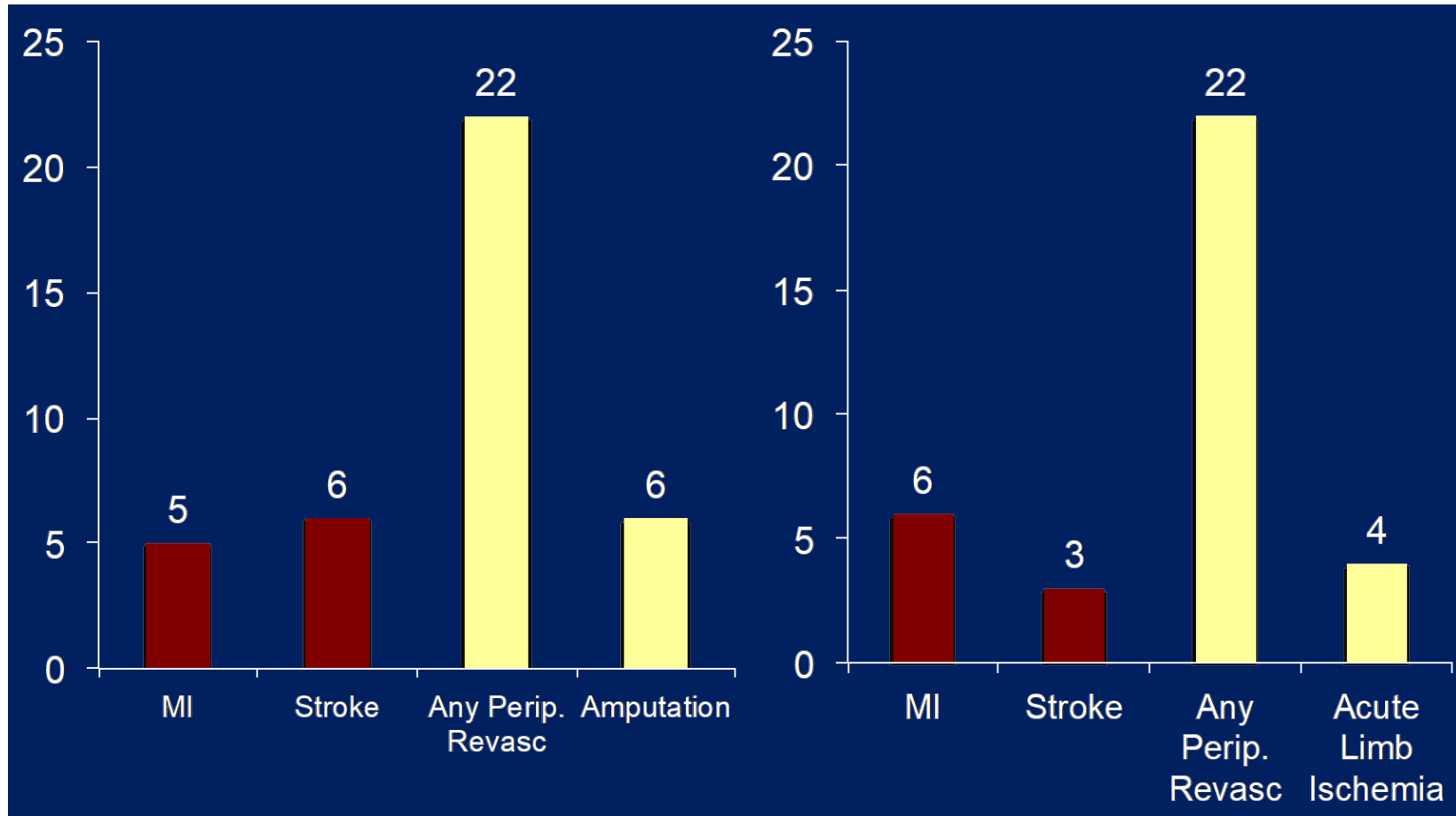
Hirsch AT, Criqui MH, et al. Peripheral Arterial Disease Detection, Awareness, and Treatment in Primary Care. *JAMA* (2001), 286(11), 1317-1324.

doi:10.1001/jama.286.11.1317

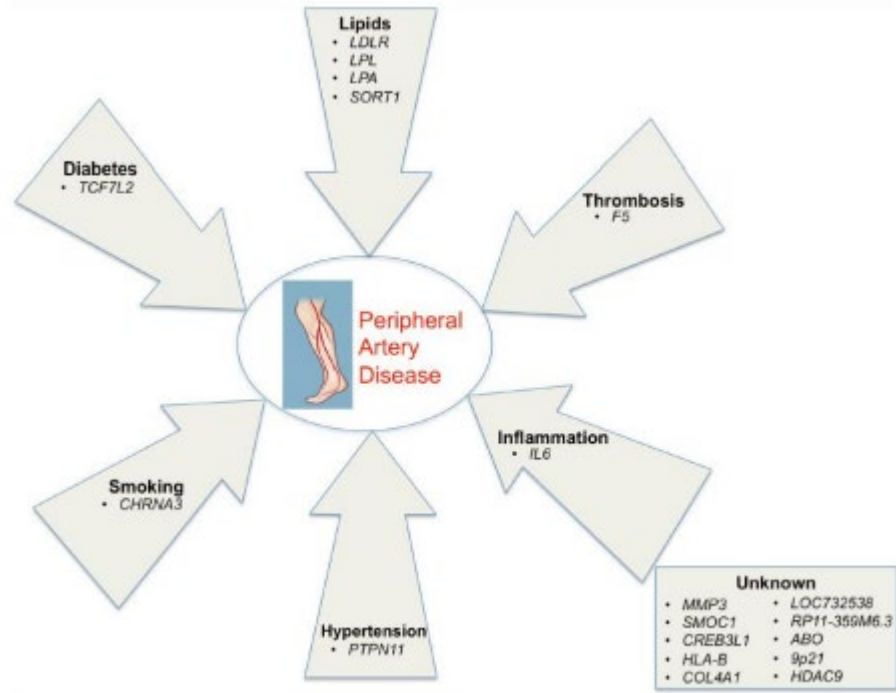
Adverse Limb Events are Frequent in Patients with PAD

Events in PAD Patients at 4 Years
REACH Registry

Events in PAD Patients at 3 Years
TRA2P-TIMI 50



Risk in PAD Driven by Multiple Axes



Lifestyle (exercise, diet)

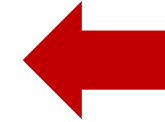
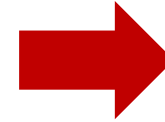
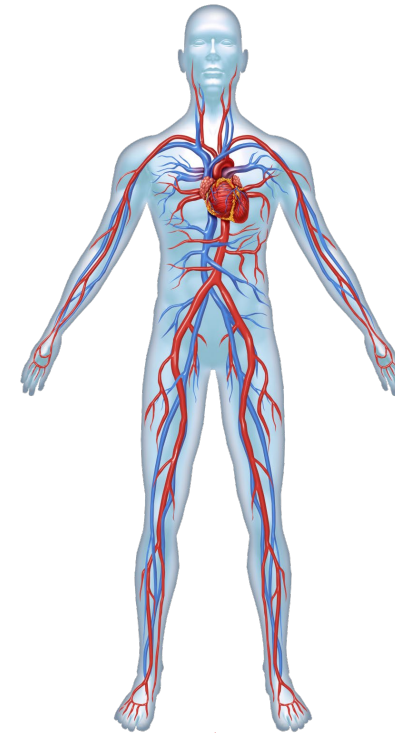
Lipid Risk
LDL-C
Lp(a)
Remnant Chol

Thrombosis Risk

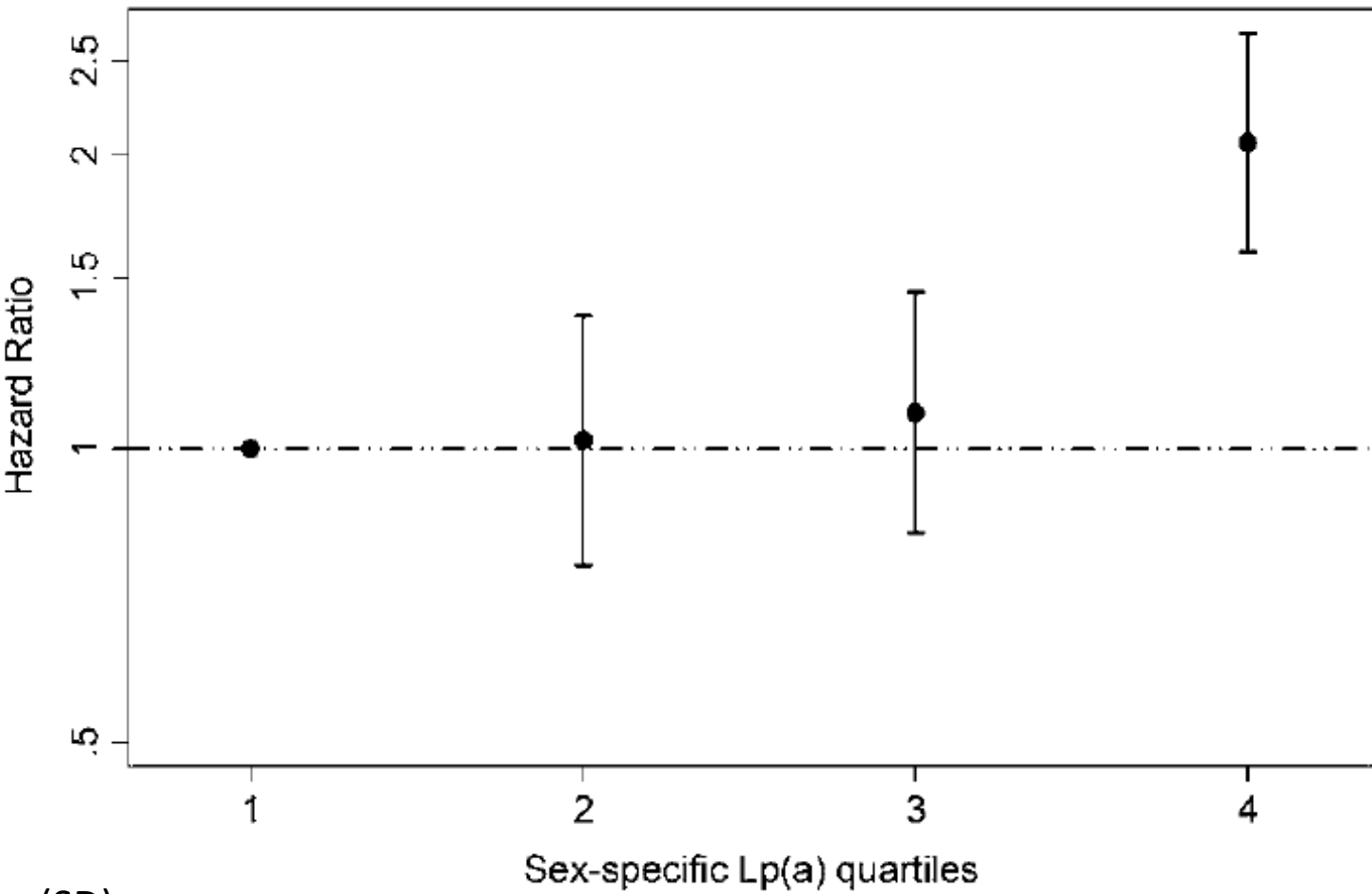
Diabetes Risk
(micro and macrovascular)

Smoking Risk

Inflammatory Risk



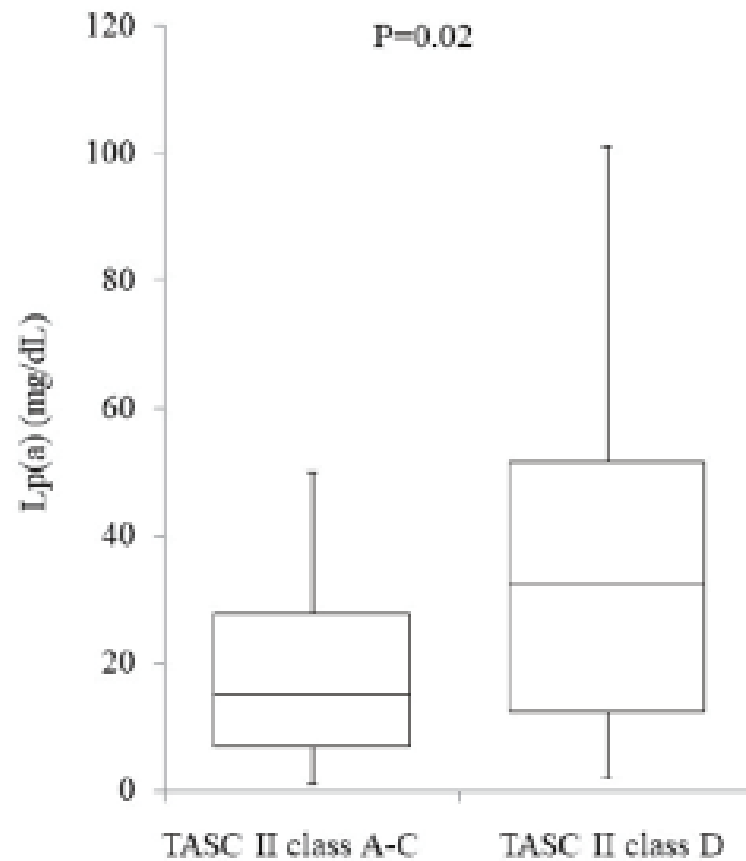
Incident peripheral artery disease vs Lp(a) in EPIC NORFOLK



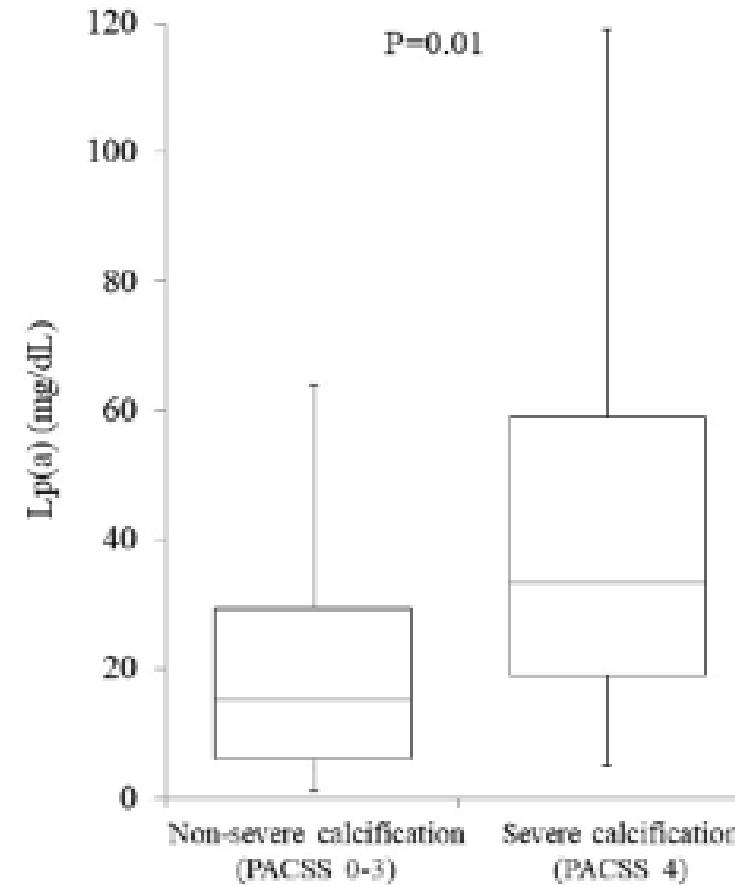
Risk gradient independent of LDL-C

Modestly elevated Lp(a) Associated with More Severe PAD

A

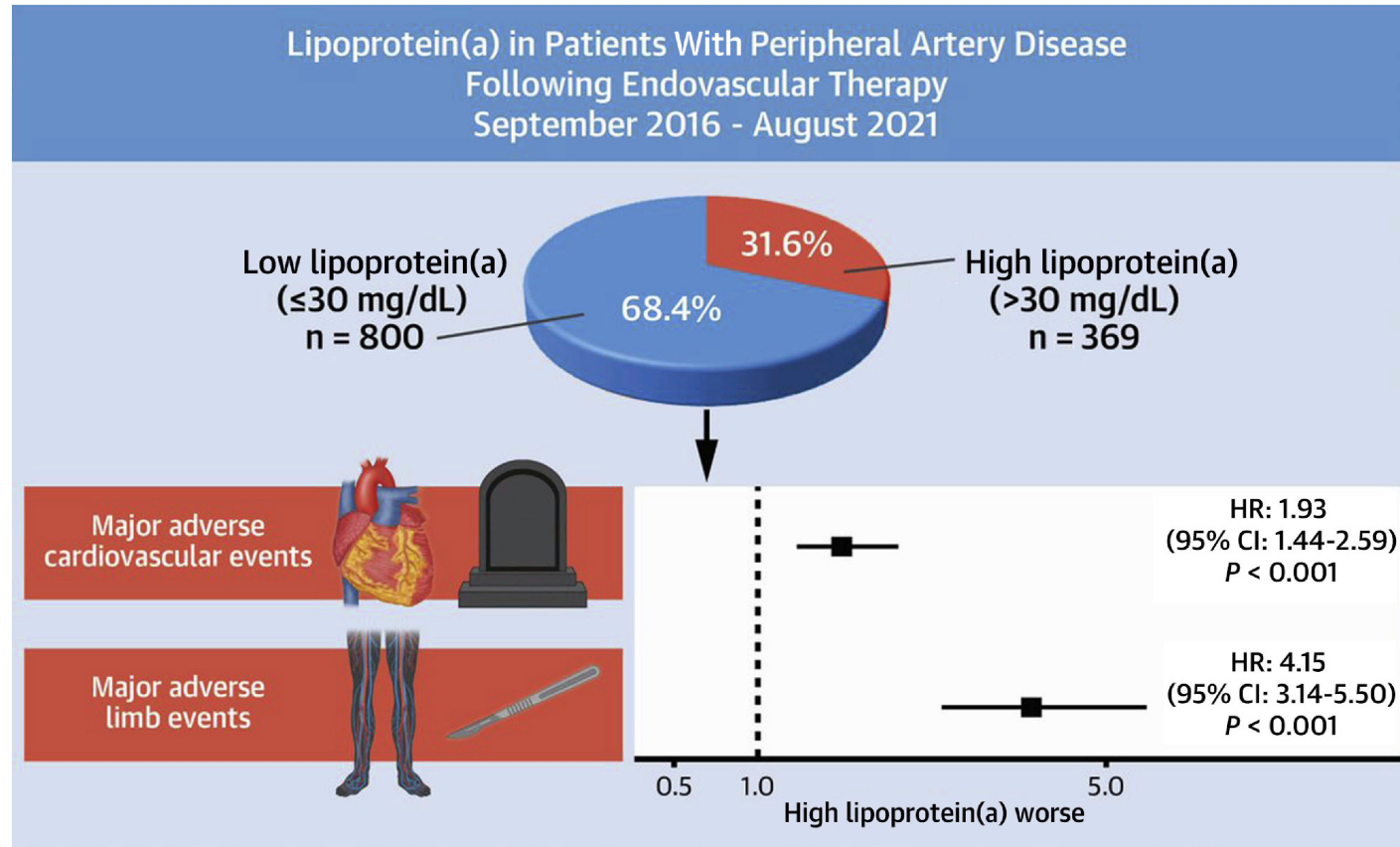


B



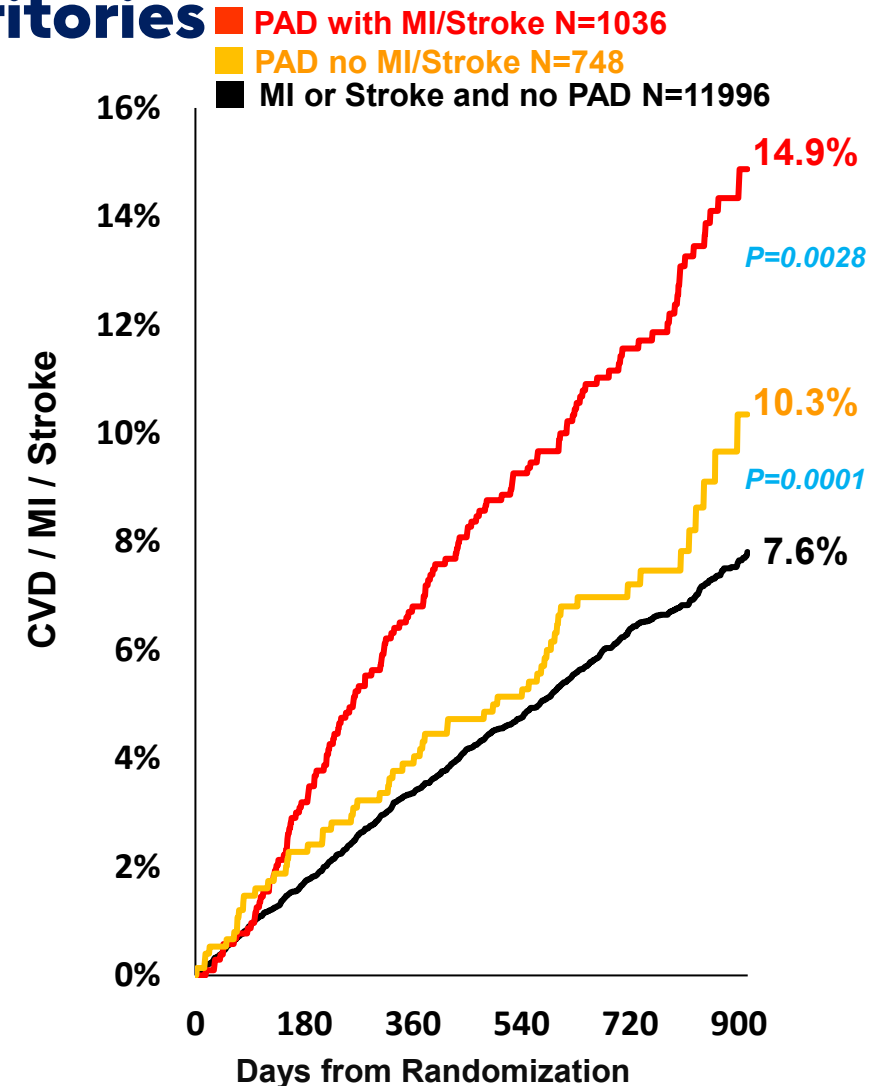
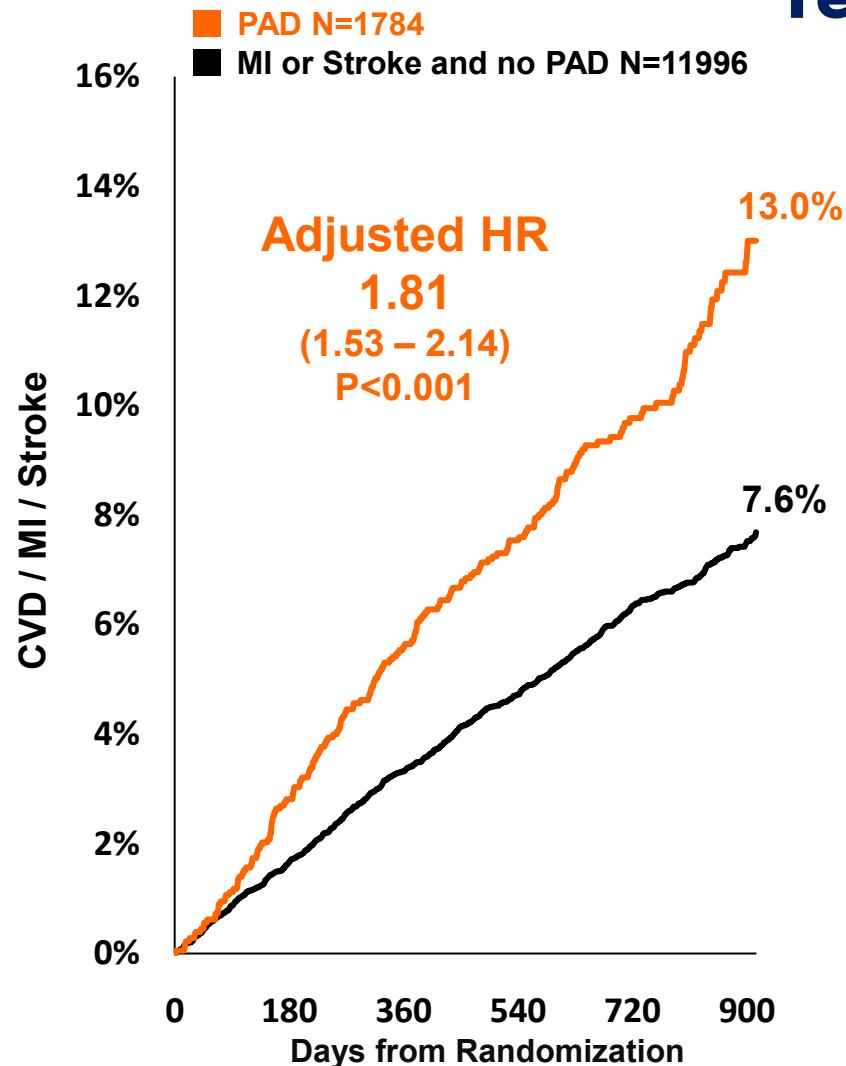
Lp(a) and MALE after Lower Extremity Revascularization

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: The Relationship Between Baseline Lipoprotein(a) and Future Cardiovascular and Limb Events in Patients With Peripheral Artery Disease Following Endovascular Therapy



Tomoi Y, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Interv. 2022;15(14):1466-1476.

Malignant Atherosclerosis Patients with PAD Have the Highest Risk of MACE, Particularly if Combined with Other Symptomatic Territories



adjusted age, sex, race, BMI, diabetes, hypertension, smoking, eGFR, CHF, prior MI, CABG/PCI, and history of stroke or TIA.

Bonaca MP, Nault P, et al. Low density lipoprotein cholesterol lowering with evolocumab and outcomes in patients with peripheral artery disease. *Circulation* (2018) 137, 338-350. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.117.032235>

Clinical Case cont'd

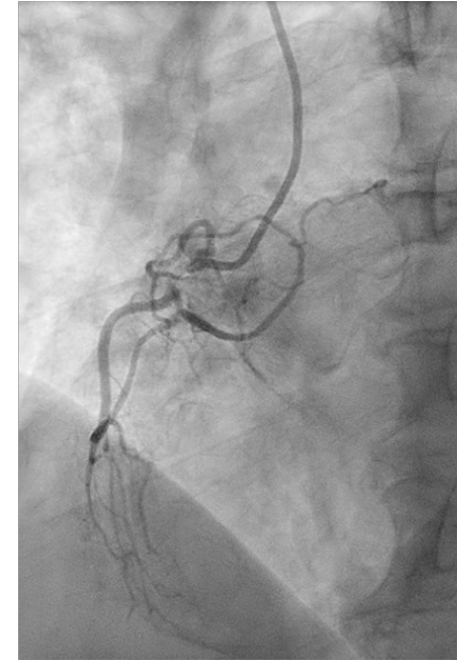
Two years later:

Develops chest pain and pressure after a long day mountain biking. Pain progresses and he goes to the ED where he is diagnosed with a non-ST elevation MI.

Med Flight to referral center in Denver:

Diagnosed with multivessel CAD treated with CABG

- LDL 63 mg/dL and adherent
- A1C 4.8%, Non-smoker
- BMI 25.0
- Athletic, intensive dietary changes x 2 years

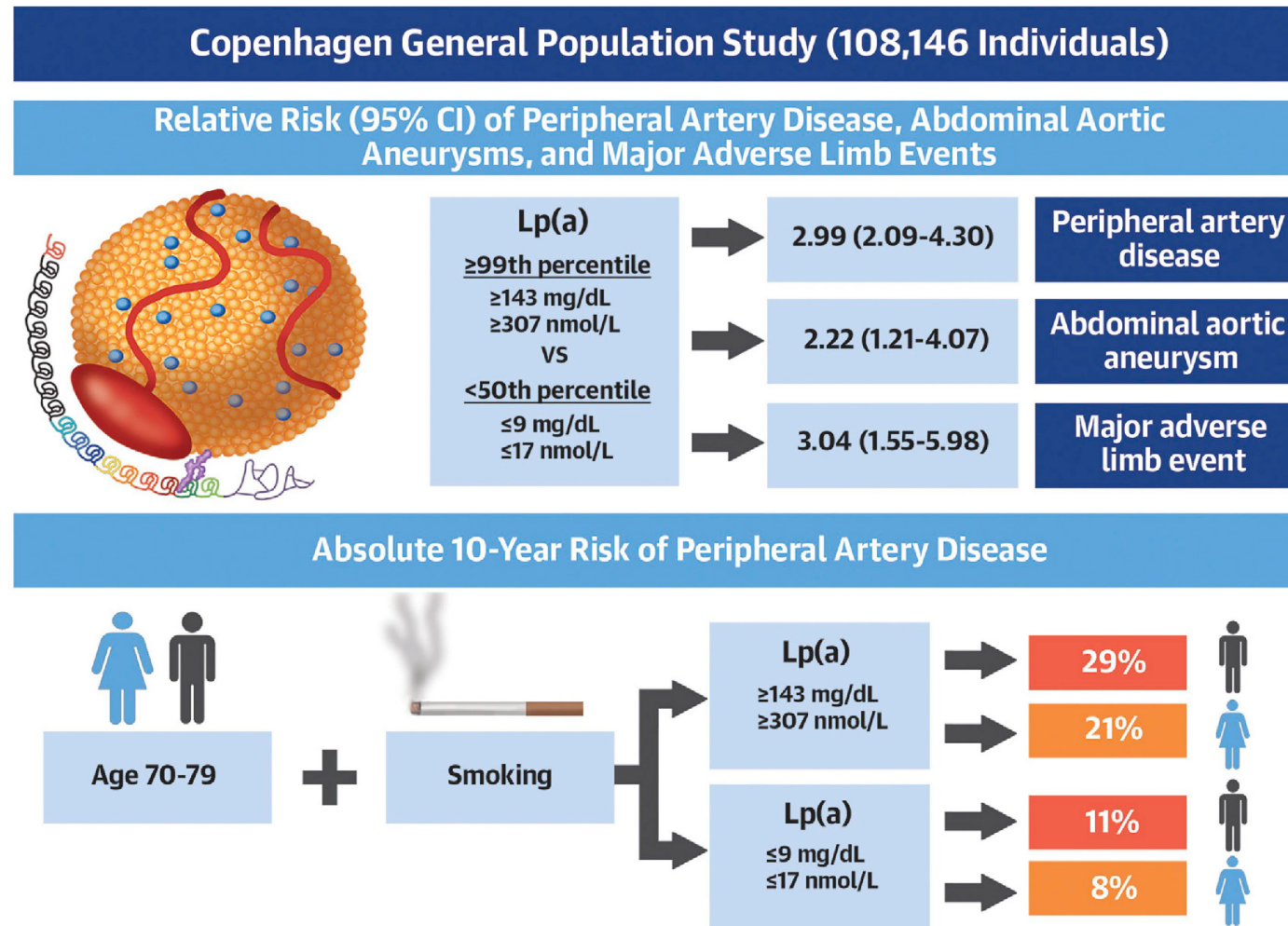


Presenter Provided Images

Follows up in vascular clinic and asks:

“I have PAD and CAD but no risk factors. I try to do everything right. What is causing this?”

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Lipoprotein(a) and Risks of Peripheral Artery Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Major Adverse Limb Events

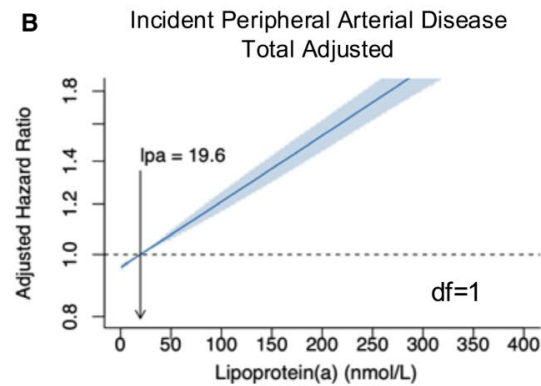
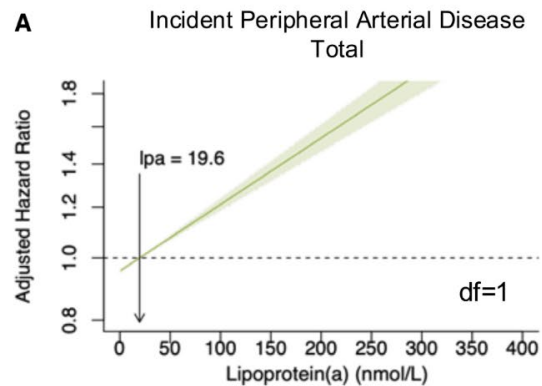
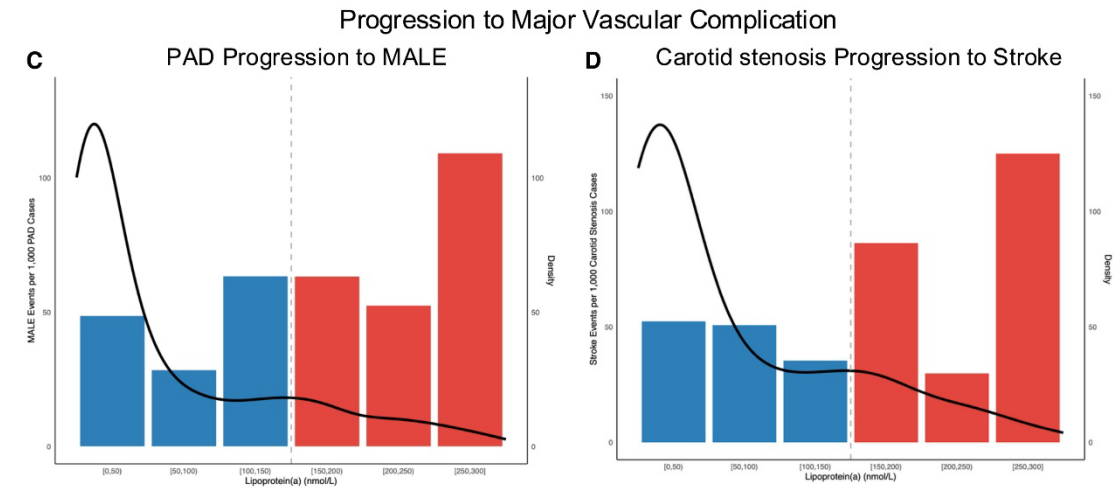
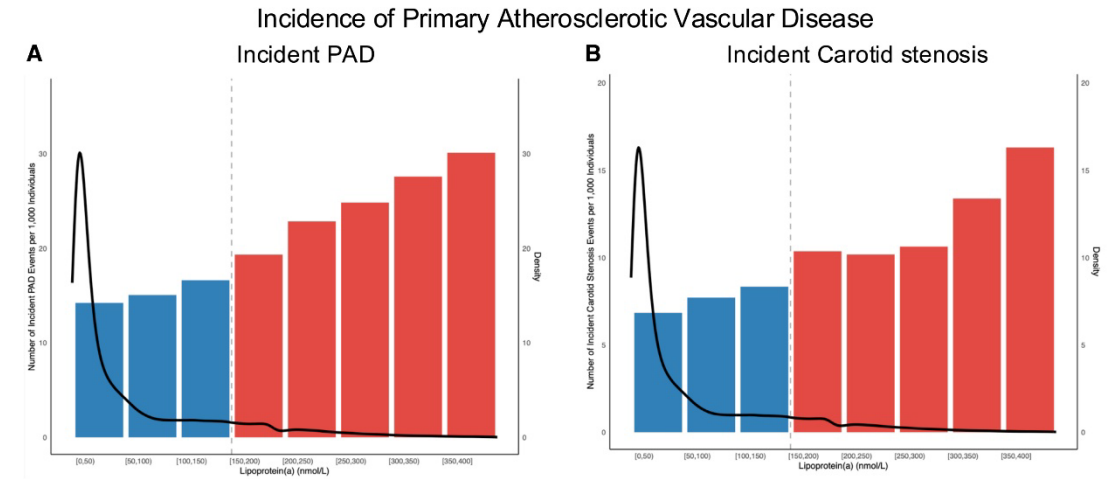
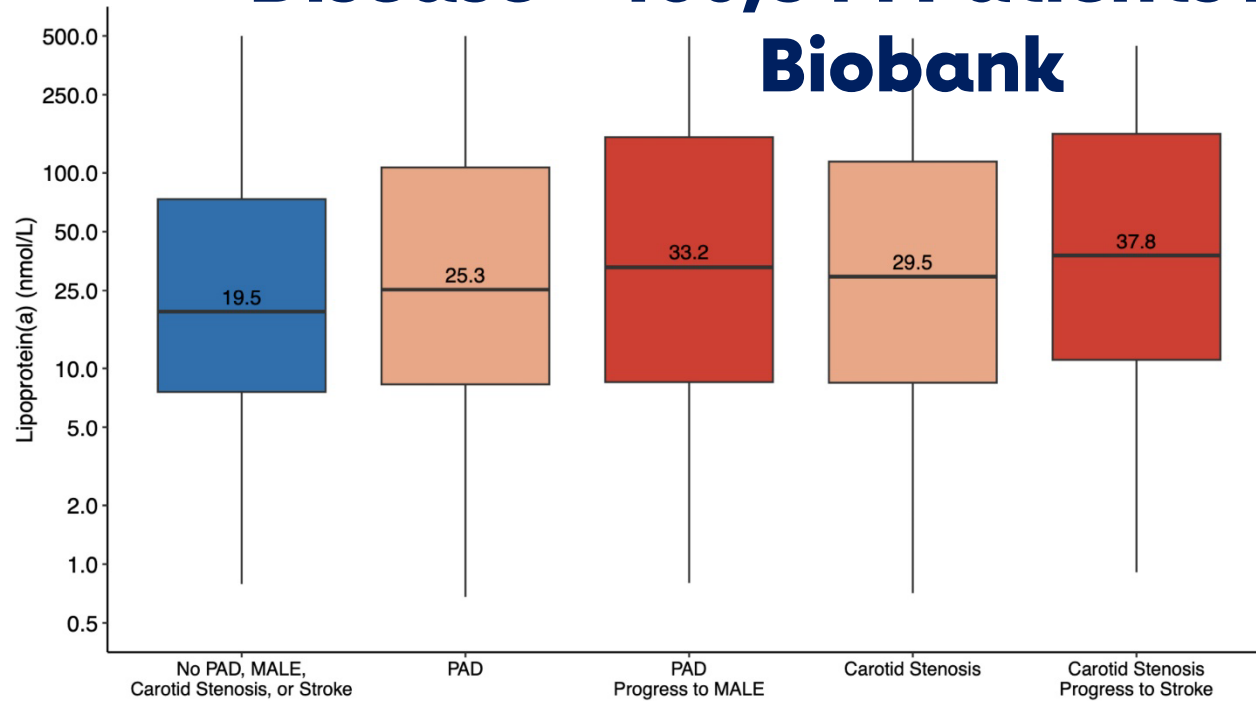


Thomas PE, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2023;82(24):2265-2276.

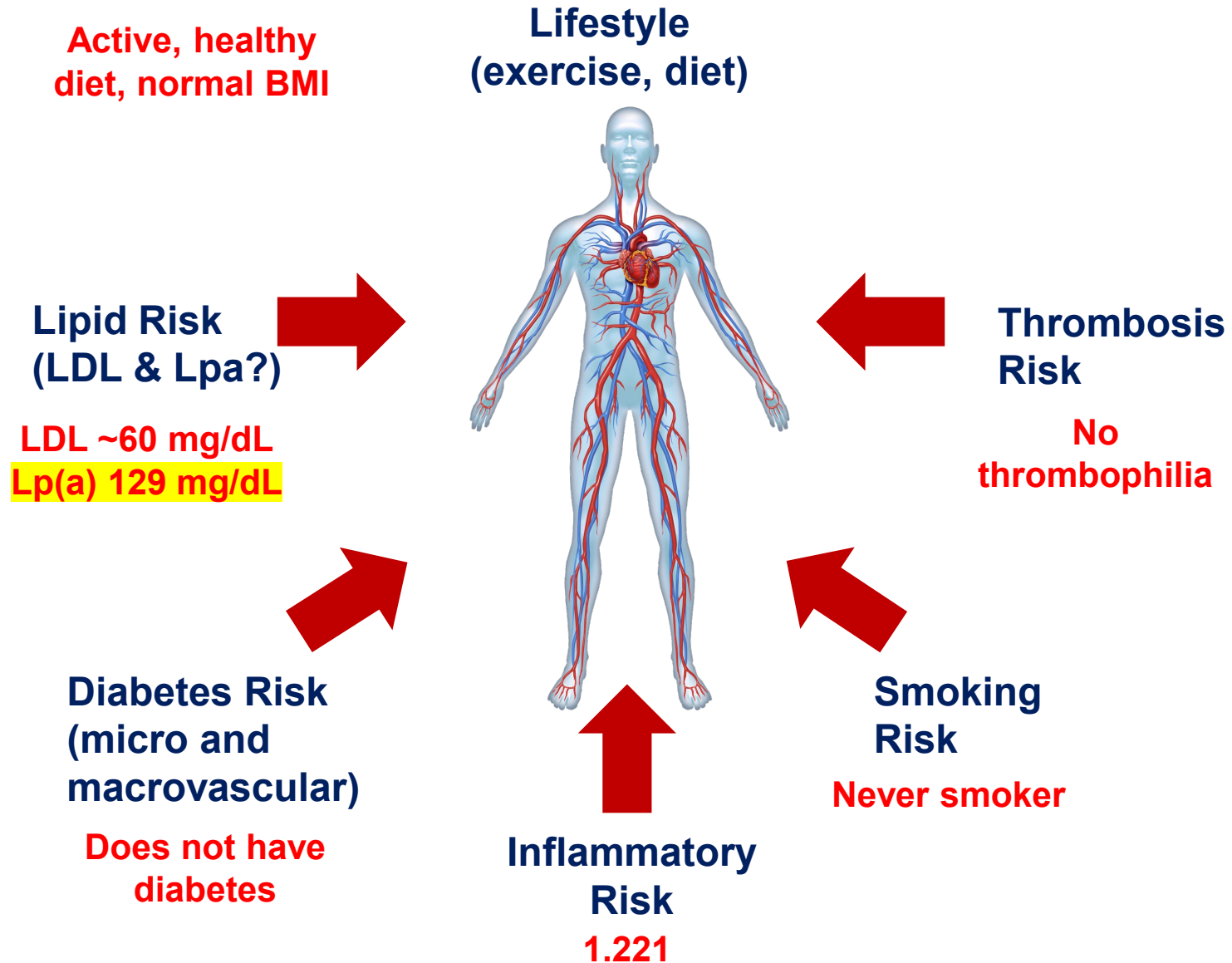
Thomas, P, Vedel-Krogh, S, Nielsen, S. et al. Lipoprotein(a) and Risks of Peripheral Artery Disease, Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, and Major Adverse Limb Events. JACC. 2023 Dec, 82 (24) 2265-2276.

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jacc.2023.10.009>

Lp(a) and Non-Coronary Vascular Disease – 460,544 Patients in the UK Biobank

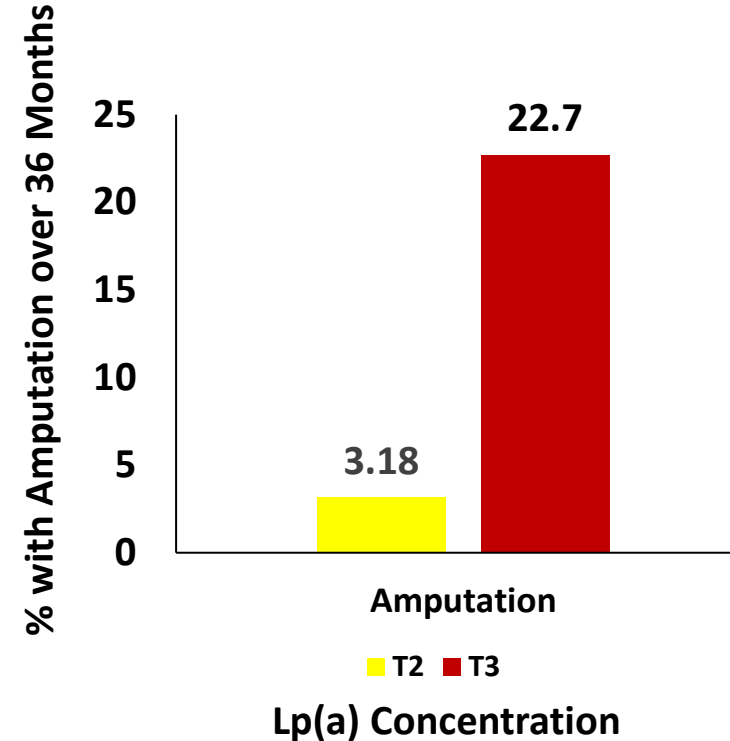
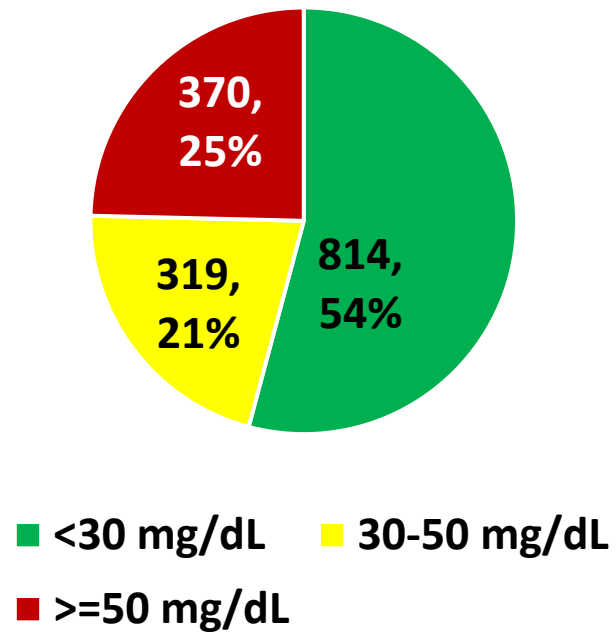


Risk in PAD Driven by Multiple Axes – What about Patient S.N.?

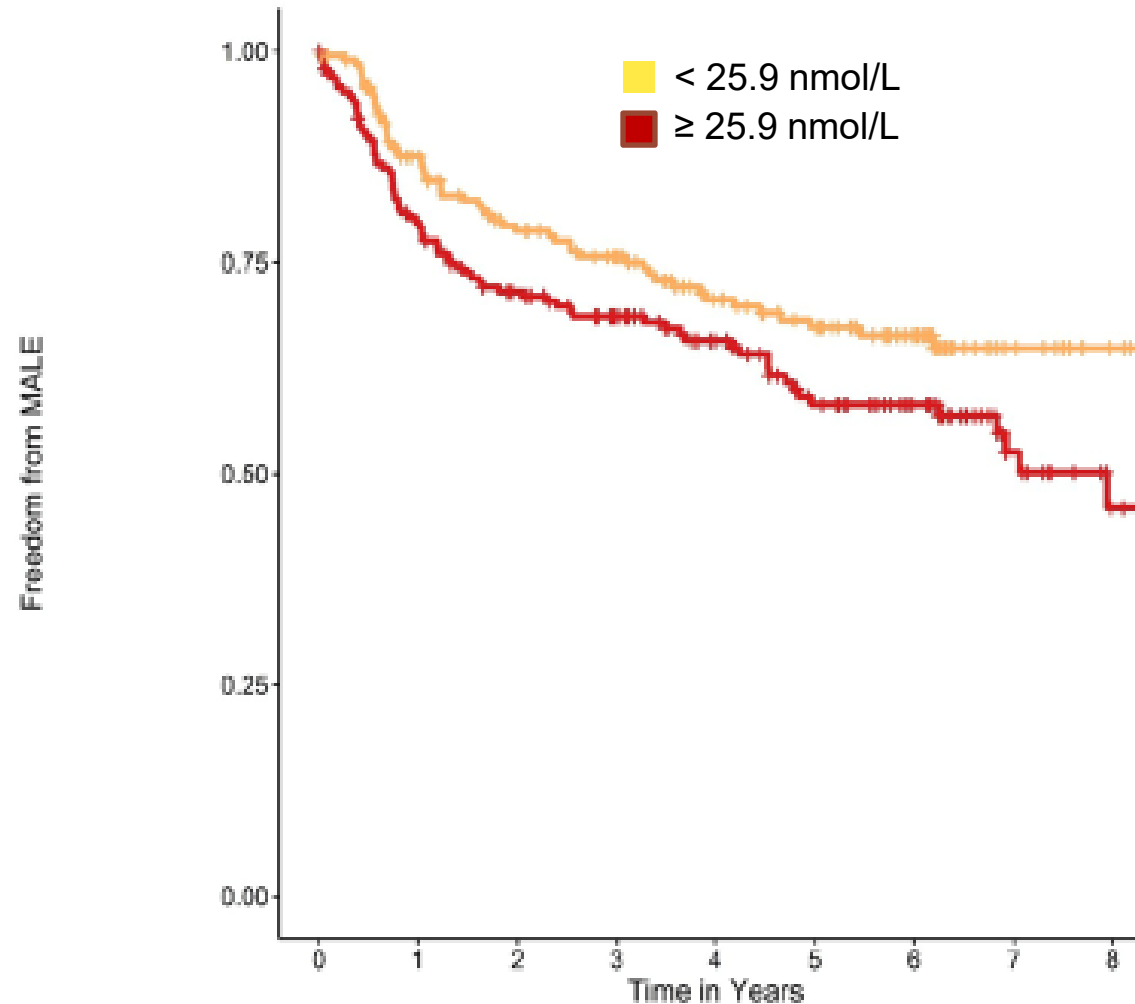


Association between Lp(a) and amputation

1503 patients with symptomatic PAD followed for 36 months
122 MI, 114 stroke, 58 amputations



Modest Lp(a) elevation associated with greater risk of limb revascularization



Number at risk

Lp(a) < 25.9 nmol/L	192	153	131	116	91	79	56	28	19
Lp(a) ≥ 25.9 nmol/L	192	148	128	108	85	64	48	22	10

Lp (a) and lower limb peripheral revascularization

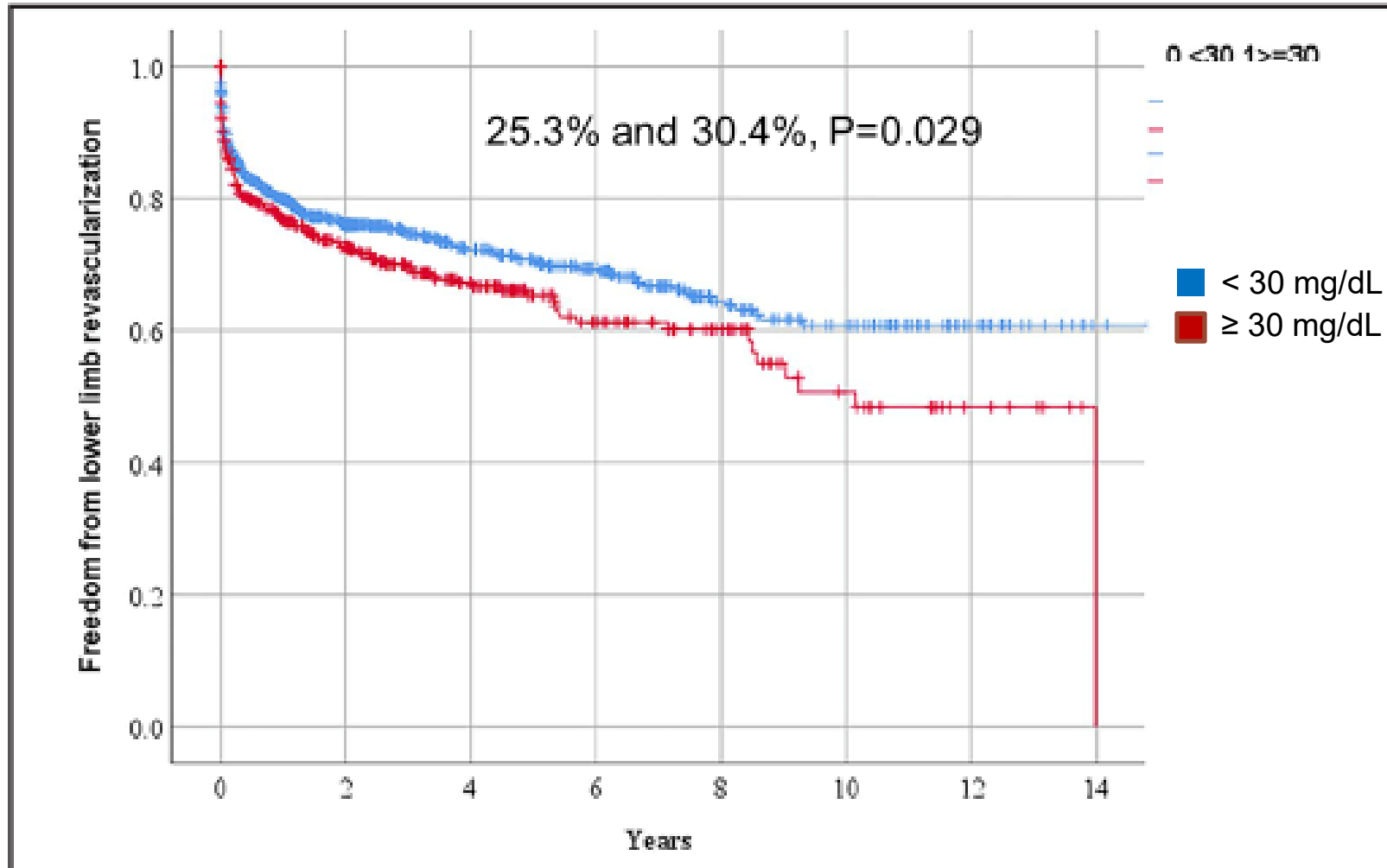
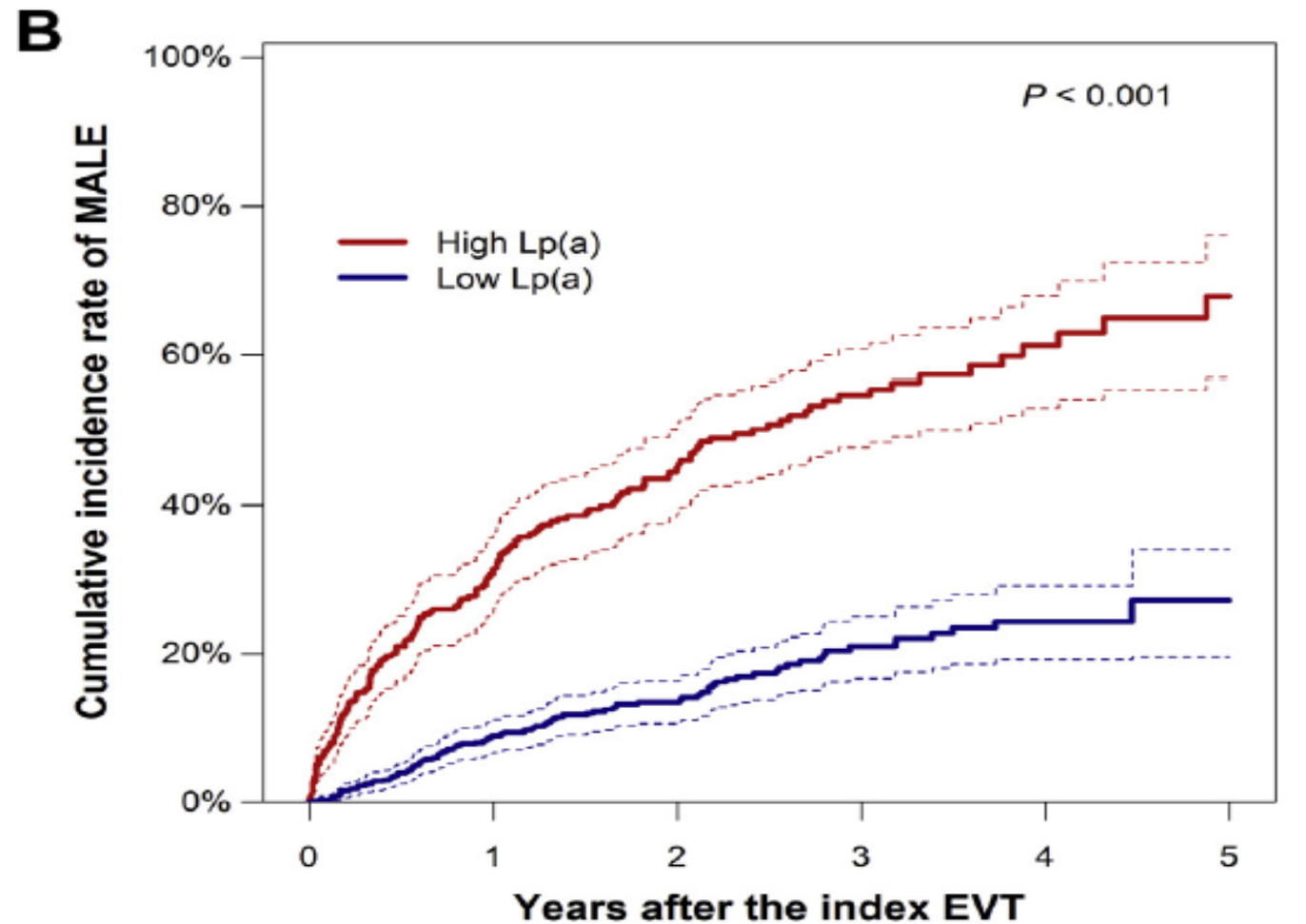
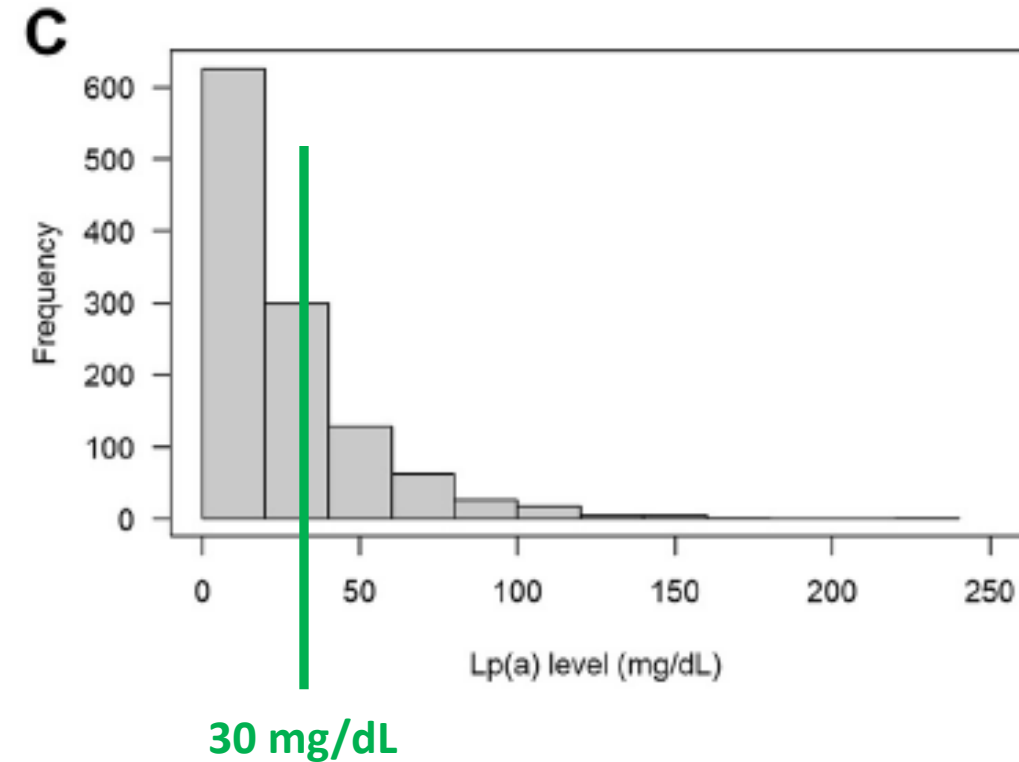


Figure 2. Freedom from requirement for lower limb peripheral revascularization in people referred for management of peripheral artery disease in relationship to serum lipoprotein (a) ≥ 30 mg/dL.

Lp(a) and MALE after Lower Extremity Revascularization



Number at risk / Number of events						
High Lp(a)	369 / 1	183 / 102	113 / 134	57 / 151	27 / 157	9 / 160
Low Lp(a)	800 / 0	481 / 58	289 / 78	157 / 97	60 / 102	7 / 103
Estimate $\pm$ SE						
High Lp(a)	0.3 $\pm$ 0.3%	31.5 $\pm$ 2.6%	45.0 $\pm$ 3.0%	54.7 $\pm$ 3.3%	61.2 $\pm$ 3.8%	67.9 $\pm$ 4.8%
Low Lp(a)	0.0 $\pm$ 0.0%	9.0 $\pm$ 1.1%	13.5 $\pm$ 1.5%	20.9 $\pm$ 2.1%	24.4 $\pm$ 2.5%	27.2 $\pm$ 3.7%

Lp(a) and MALE after Lower Extremity Revascularization

Author & Year	Cutpoint	Outcome
Yanaka et al 2021	Cutpoint ~30 mg/dL	Lesion Severity
Verwer et al 2021	25.9 nmol/L	MALE Peripheral revascularization
Goledge et al 2020	30 mg/dL	Peripheral revascularization
Tomoi et al 2022	30 mg/dL	MALE Peripheral revascularization

Lower concentrations of Lp(a) associated with risk in patients who already have PAD and after intervention

How to Manage ?

Active, healthy diet, Lifestyle (exercise, normal BMI diet)

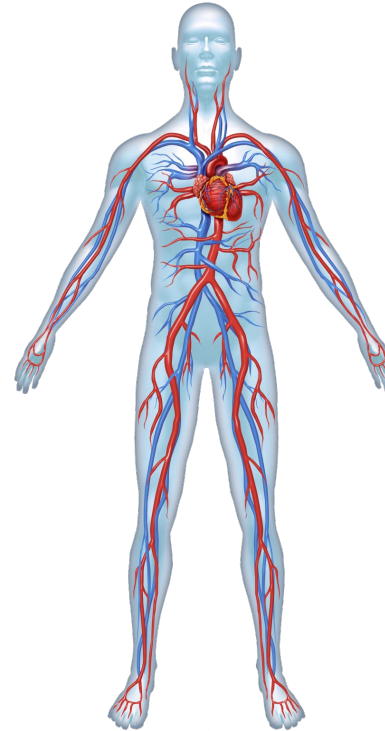
- Push to lower LDL target (<55 and ideally 30 or lower)
- Favor PCSK9i if possible (FOURIER and ODYSSEY results)
- Consider apheresis?

Lipid Risk
(LDL & Lp(a)?)

LDL ~60 mg/dL
Lp(a) ?

Diabetes Risk
(micro and macrovascular)

Does not have diabetes



Thrombosis Risk

No thrombophilia

Smoking Risk

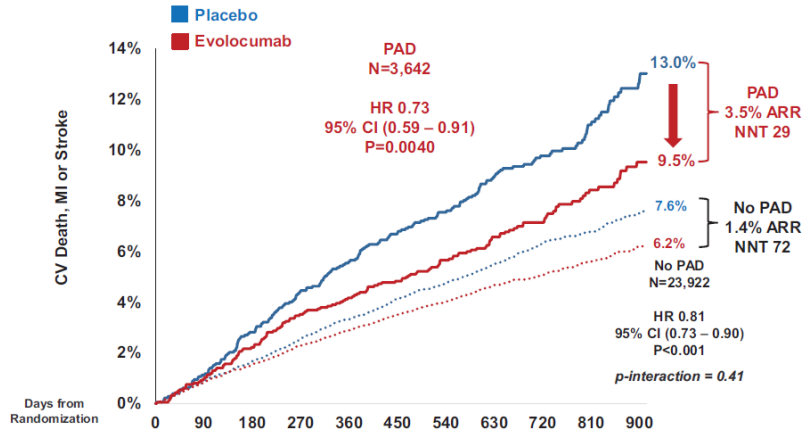
Never smoker

Inflammatory Risk

hsCRP low

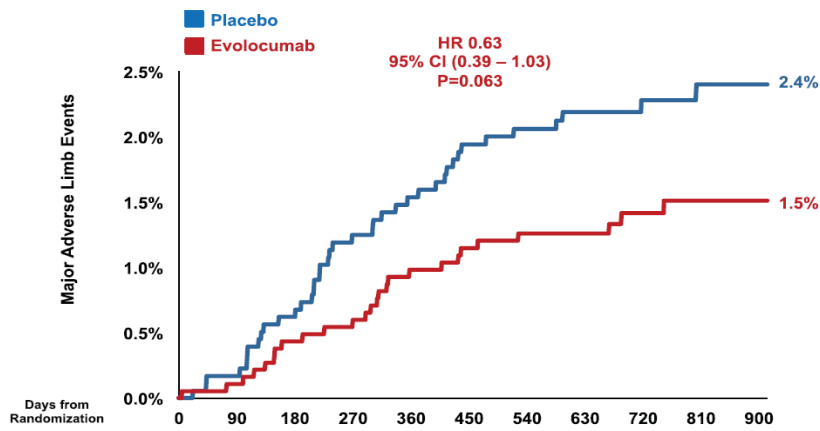
PCSK9i Reduce MACE & MALE in Patients with PAD

B CV Death, MI or Stroke in Patients with and without PAD

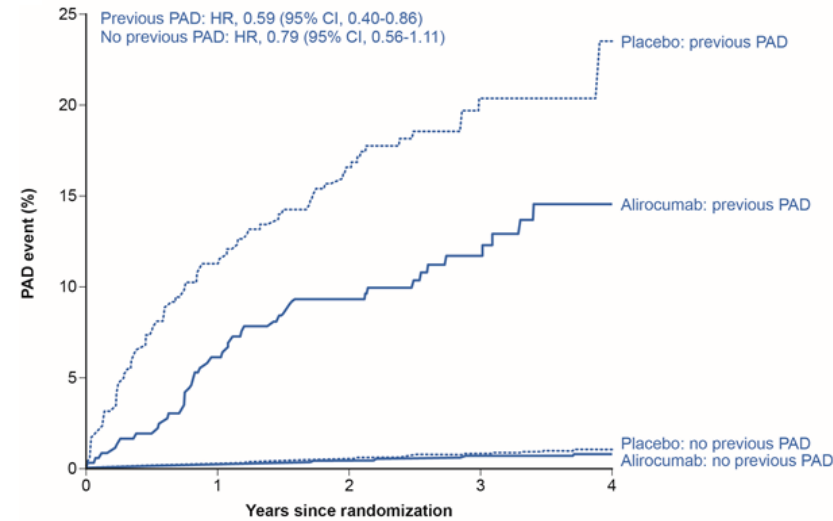
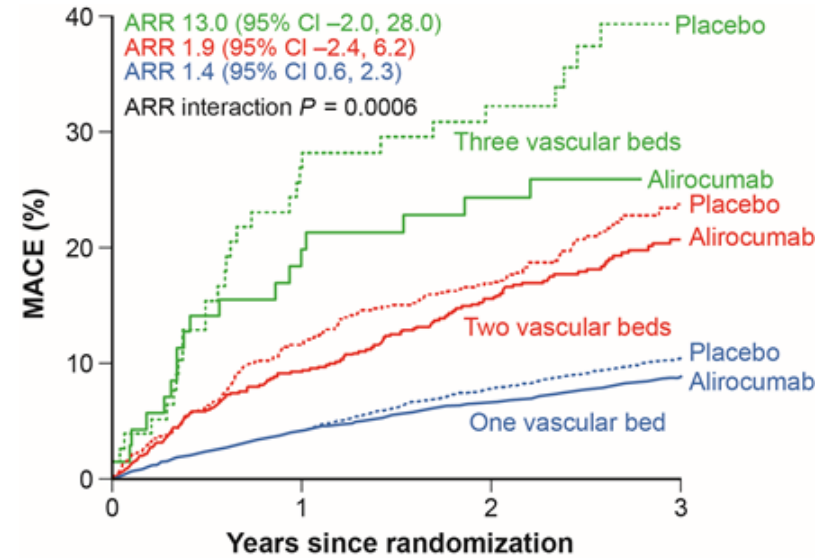


MACE

B Major Adverse Limb Events – Patients with PAD



MALE



Schwartz GG, Steg PG, et al. Peripheral artery disease and venous thromboembolic events after acute coronary syndrome. *Circulation* (2020) 141(20), 1608-17. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.120.046524>

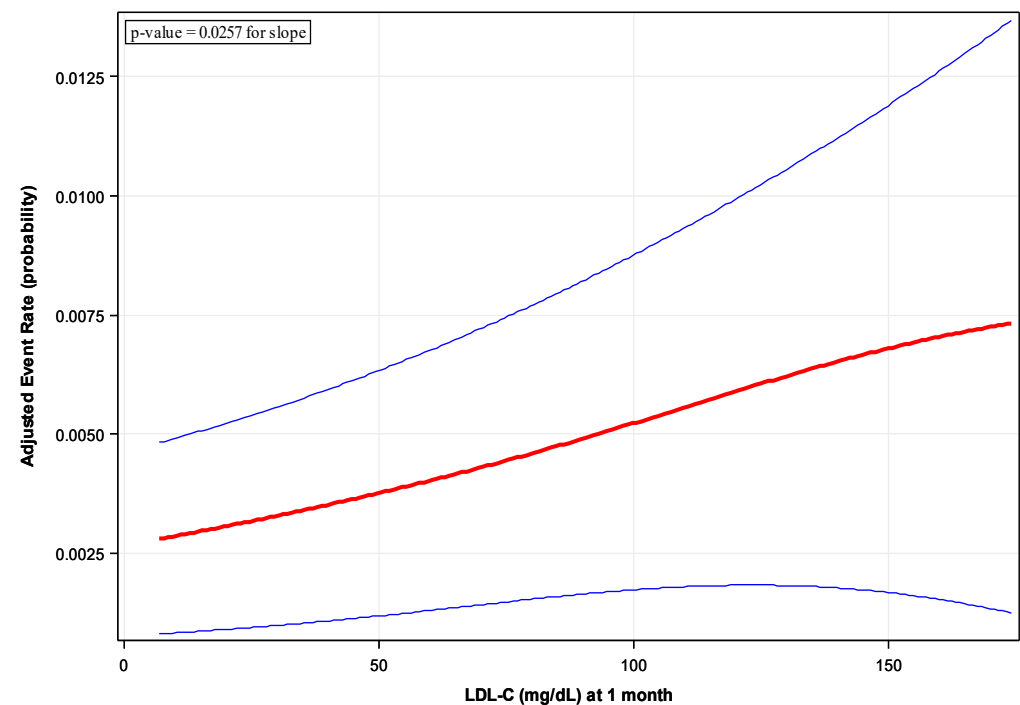
Jukema JW, Zihlstra LE, et al. Effect of alirocumab on stroke in ODYSSEY OUTCOMES *Circulation* (2019) 140 (25) 2054-62. <https://doi.org/10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.119.043826>

An Affiliate of:



Modified from Bonaca MP, Nault P, et al. Low density lipoprotein cholesterol lowering with evolocumab and outcomes in patients with peripheral artery disease. *Circulation* (2018) 137, 338-350.

Benefit of PCSK9i for MALE associated with LDL-C and Lp(a)



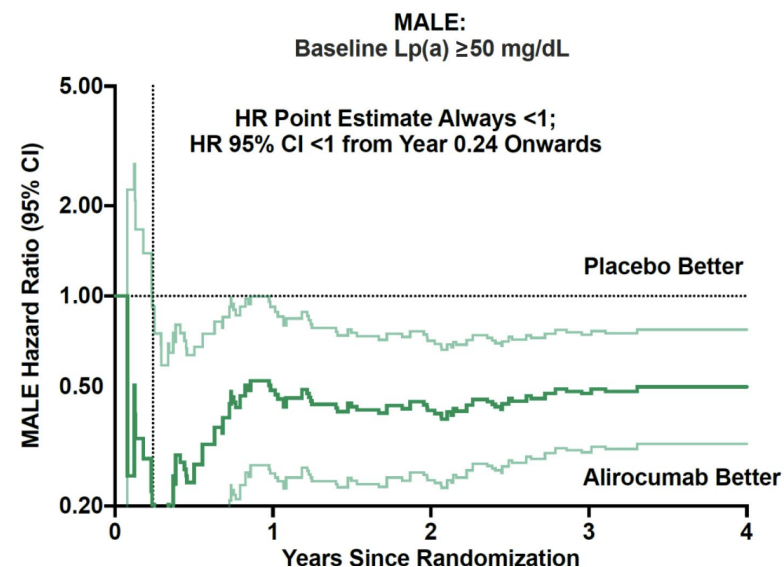
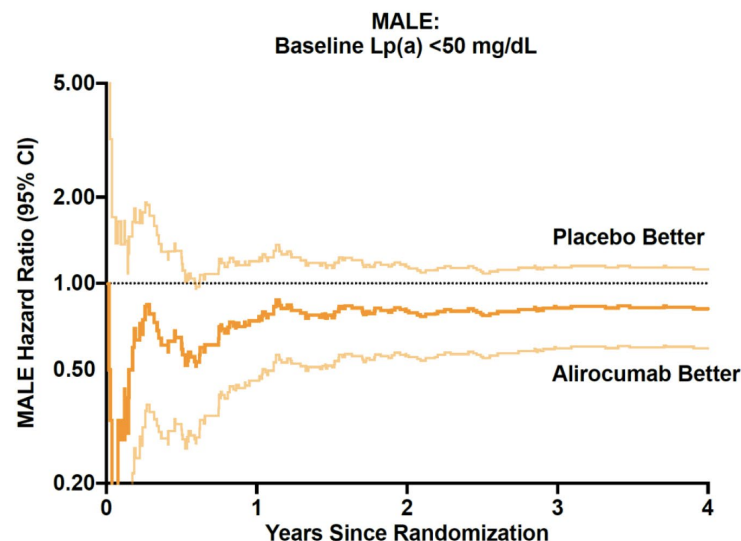
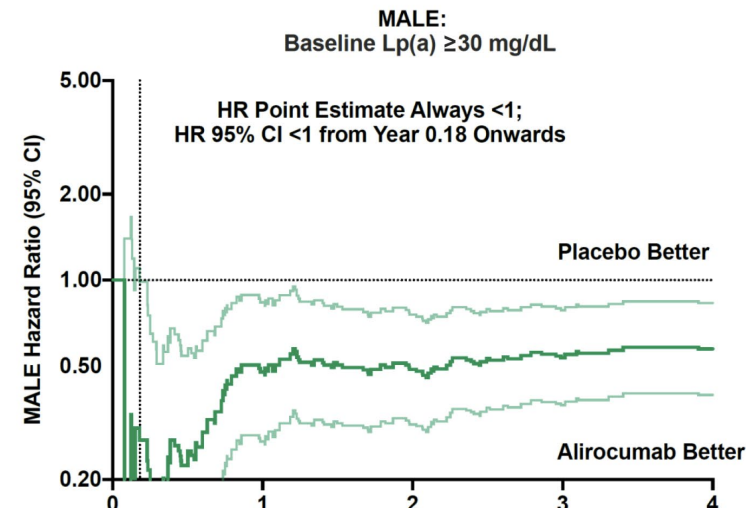
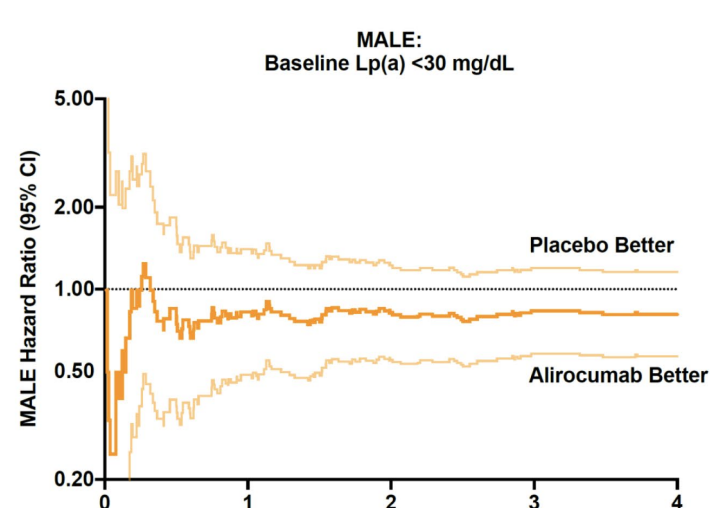
PAD events: lipoprotein(a)

Subgroup	PAD incidence		Relative risk reduction	
	Alirocumab n/N (%)	Placebo n/N (%)	HR (95% CI)	
Quartile 1	26/2327 (1.1)	25/2403 (1.0)	1.05 (0.61-1.83)	
Quartile 2	28/2438 (1.1)	33/2293 (1.4)	0.78 (0.47-1.29)	
Quartile 3	21/2356 (0.9)	33/2373 (1.4)	0.66 (0.38-1.14)	
Quartile 4	26/2341 (1.1)	54/2393 (2.3)	0.48 (0.30-0.77)	
Overall	101/9462 (1.1)	145/9462 (1.5)	0.69 (0.54-0.89)	

$P_{trend} = .03$

0.3 0.5 1 2
Alirocumab better Placebo better

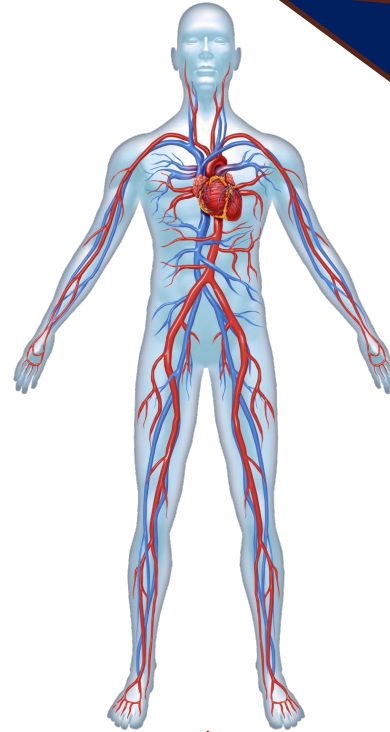
Benefit of Alirocumab for MALE by Baseline Lp(a)



- *Re-enforce healthy lifestyle*

Active, healthy diet, normal BMI
Lifestyle (exercise, diet)

- *Further support for healthy lifestyle*
- *Family screening*
- *Interested in research studies and new therapies*



**Lipid Risk
(LDL & Lpa?)**

LDL ~60 mg/dL
Lp(a) ?

Thrombosis Risk

No thrombophilia

- *On aspirin monotherapy*
- *Added rivaroxaban 2.5 mg twice daily (indicated for PAD) due to higher risk profile*

- *Push to lower LDL target (<55 and ideally 30 or lower)*
- *Favor PCSK9i if possible (FOURIER and ODYSSEY results)*
- *Consider apheresis*

**Diabetes Risk
(micro and macrovascular)**

Does not have diabetes

- *Re-enforce preventive testing and healthy lifestyle*

Smoking Risk

Never smoker

- *Further support tobacco abstinence*

Inflammatory Risk

hsCRP low

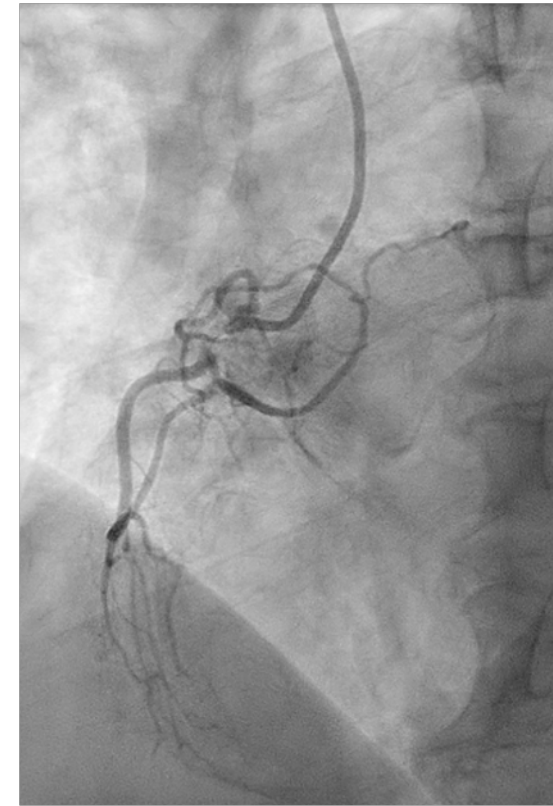
When to Check Lp(a)?

1. All patients once in a lifetime (evolving practice) → many are doing now!
2. Previously – a selective approach:
 - Early onset disease (PAD, AS, aneurysm)
 - Malignant phenotype (polyvascular disease, adverse limb outcomes, recurrent thrombotic events)
 - Recurrent events / poor outcomes after revasculariation
 - Disease in absence of other clear risk factors (e.g. age, diabetes, smoking)
 - Disease progression despite control of conventional risk factors

Clinical Case

After measuring Lp(a)

- **Identified a clear uncontrolled risk factor**
- **Discussed importance of family screening**
- **Added PCSK9i now with LDL-C of 10 mg/dL**
- **Discussion of plasmapheresis**
- **On waiting list for opportunity to enroll in a clinical trial or for when specific therapies available if shown efficacious**



Questions and Discussion



Lp(a) Resources



Clinicians' Guide

Frequently Asked Questions About Lipoprotein(a) Testing

Elevated levels of Lp(a) have been associated with an increased risk of cardiovascular disease including coronary artery disease, stroke, and aortic stenosis.

Clinicians' Guide (PDF)

Clinicians' Guide to Frequently Asked Questions About Lipoprotein(a) Test

Lp(a) Discovery Podcast Episodes



Privacy policy

American Heart Association • Lp(a) Discovery Perspectives from Neurology and Cardiology Part 1



Privacy policy

American Heart Association • Lp(a) Discovery Perspectives from Neurology and Cardiology Part 2



Privacy policy

American Heart Association • Lp(a) Discovery Women's Health and Cardiovascular Disease E3



Lipoprotein (a): Myths Vs. Facts

Myth 1: If I know my LDL "bad" cholesterol number, I don't need to have my Lp(a) tested

Fact: Lipoprotein (a), commonly abbreviated as Lp(a), and LDL cholesterol are not the same. While both contain harmful or "bad" cholesterol, they are different in their composition and potential impact on increasing the risk of heart disease. LDL primarily consists of cholesterol esters and apolipoprotein on its surface. Lp(a) shares a similar composition with LDL but contains an additional protein called apolipoprotein(a) [apo(a)] attached to apolipoprotein B. This difference in their structures introduces unique properties to Lp(a), potentially leading to increased plaque building, inflammation and blood clotting in the arteries due to the similarity of apo(a) to plasminogen, a protein involved in blood clotting regulation.

You could have a normal LDL number and a high Lp(a) level. Since the regular cholesterol test doesn't include Lp(a), ask your doctor about getting an Lp(a) test.

Myth 2: I don't need to know my Lp(a) level because it doesn't affect my health

Fact: Too much Lp(a) in your arteries can cause the accumulation of fatty deposits, known as plaques, which narrow arteries and reduce blood flow. If a piece of the plaque breaks free, it can block blood flow to vital organs such as the heart, brain, kidneys, lungs, and other parts of the body. This can lead to serious conditions including heart attack, coronary artery disease, aortic stenosis, peripheral artery disease (PAD), and stroke. Therefore, having high Lp(a) levels can significantly impact your health.

Myth 3: I don't have any symptoms, so I don't need to get my Lp(a) tested

Fact: Many people don't have symptoms until they experience a serious event such as a heart attack or stroke. Since Lp(a) levels are mainly determined by genetics, you could have high Lp(a) even if you maintain a healthy lifestyle and control all other heart disease risk factors. Talk to your doctor if you have:

- Known family history of high Lp(a)
- Family or personal history of heart disease or premature cardiovascular disease
- Diagnosis of familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) - an inherited condition where the body poorly recycles LDL or bad cholesterol

Myth 4: Just because a close relative has high Lp(a), it doesn't mean my Lp(a) level will be high too

Fact: Lp(a) is a genetically inherited lipoprotein and a common independent risk factor for heart disease. If anyone in your family has high Lp(a), it's important to get tested, and encourage other family members to get tested as well. Early intervention is crucial in reducing the risk of heart disease. Ask your doctor about cascade screening and other specific needs.

Myth 5: Children can't get their Lp(a) tested; only adults can

Children can't get their Lp(a) tested; only adults can



Understanding the Lp(a) Test

1 What should prompt a talk with my health care professional about a screening?

- Known family history of high Lp(a)
- Family or personal history of heart disease or premature cardiovascular disease
- Diagnosis of familial hypercholesterolemia (FH) - inherited condition that causes the body to poorly recycle LDL or bad cholesterol

2 How do I get screened?

- The standard cholesterol test, also known as a lipid panel, does not include Lp(a). Talk to your health care professional about screening for Lp(a).
- Next, get a simple blood test that can be done at your doctor's office or diagnostic lab center.

3 What do the results mean?

- Levels higher than 50 mg/dL (125 nmol/L) are considered to be high.
- A high Lp(a) level increases the risk of heart attack, stroke, peripheral artery disease (PAD), and aortic stenosis.
- Lp(a) is a genetic risk factor. If you have high Lp(a), encourage your family members to get tested. Ask your doctor about cascade screening and other genetic testing options for your specific needs.

4 How can I lower my Lp(a)?

- Lp(a) is not affected by lifestyle changes. However, it is still important to focus on lifestyle changes to help reduce overall heart disease risk.

5 Would my health insurance cover the Lp(a) test?

- Health insurance plans often cover Lp(a) testing, but if you're unsure about your plan's coverage, contacting your insurance and providing them with the CPT code 83685 for the test can help clarify.
- If your health insurance doesn't cover the Lp(a) test, your health care professional may be able to assist you in finding affordable options.

Thoughtful Talks with My Health Care Professional: Understanding My Lp(a) Risk

Bring this sheet to your appointment and discuss the following questions.

REVIEW MY PERSONAL & FAMILY HISTORY	UNDERSTANDING MY NUMBER	ASSESS MY HEART DISEASE RISK
Lp(a) stands for lipoprotein (a) and is a genetically inherited independent risk factor for heart disease. Discuss with your health care professional if you have any of the following: ☐ Known family history of high Lp(a) ☐ Family or personal history of heart disease or premature coronary artery disease (defined as younger than 45 for men and 55 for women) ☐ Diagnosis of familial hypercholesterolemia (inherited condition that causes the body to poorly recycle LDL or bad cholesterol) Notes: _____ _____ _____ _____ ☒ If so, ask if you should be screened for Lp(a).	Once you've been screened, ask your health care professional: My Lp(a) number: _____ What does my Lp(a) number mean? _____ What level is considered to be high? _____ Does anything contribute to a high Lp(a) number? _____ Should I encourage my family members to get screened? _____	Do you think I'm at risk for a heart attack or stroke? _____ What else contributes to my risk? _____ _____ EXPLORE TREATMENTS Although Lp(a) is not affected by lifestyle changes, it is still important to lower your overall risk of heart attack, stroke, and peripheral arterial disease. What lifestyle changes can I make to lower my risk for heart disease? _____ _____ What resources can help me learn more about Lp(a) and heart disease? _____ _____

Remember if you have a high Lp(a), you didn't do anything to cause it, and now that you know, take control and reduce your overall heart disease risk! Learn more at heart.org/lpa

© Copyright 2024 American Heart Association, Inc., a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit. All rights reserved. Unauthorized use prohibited. WF-490550 3/24