

Women's Health **2024** | *Beyond the Annual Visit*

*Love Story: Lipid Education
for Women's Heart Health*

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Disclosures

- Consultant to Sanofi, Novo Nordisk, Novartis, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Lilly, Amgen, Bayer, Medtronic, Jaxx, Edwards, and Esperion

Research Funding:

Grants:

- NIH R01 DK118278: (PI: Taub PR)
 - Impact of time-restricted feeding (TRF) on glucose homeostasis and mitochondrial function in patients with metabolic syndrome – The TIMET Study (NCT0405733)
- Hillblom Network Grant (PI: Taub PR) (NCT05365529)
- Dysautonomia International Grant (PI: Taub PR) ([NCT05409651](#))

Clinical Trial Leadership:

- US National Lead/Steering Committee Member for: Study of Inclisiran to Prevent Cardiovascular (CV) Events in Participants With Established Cardiovascular Disease (VICTORION-2P). (Sponsor: Novartis; [NCT05030428](#))
- US National Lead/Steering Committee Member for: A Double-blind, Randomized, Placebo controlled, Multicenter Study Assessing the Impact of Olpasiran on Major Cardiovascular Events in Patients with Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease and Elevated Lipoprotein (a). (Sponsor: Amgen [NCT05581303](#))
- Executive Steering Committee for VICTORIAN-1P Trial (Sponsor: Novartis)
- National Principal Investigator for the NIH RECOVER COVID Initiative ([recovercovid.org](#)) and responsible for design and execution of studies related to Post COVID Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome.
- US National Lead/Steering Committee Member for MK0616 (oral PCSK9 inhibitor) Phase 3 program (Sponsor: Merck)
- Executive Steering Committee Member for TRANSFORM Trial (Sponsor: Cleerly)



Learning Objectives

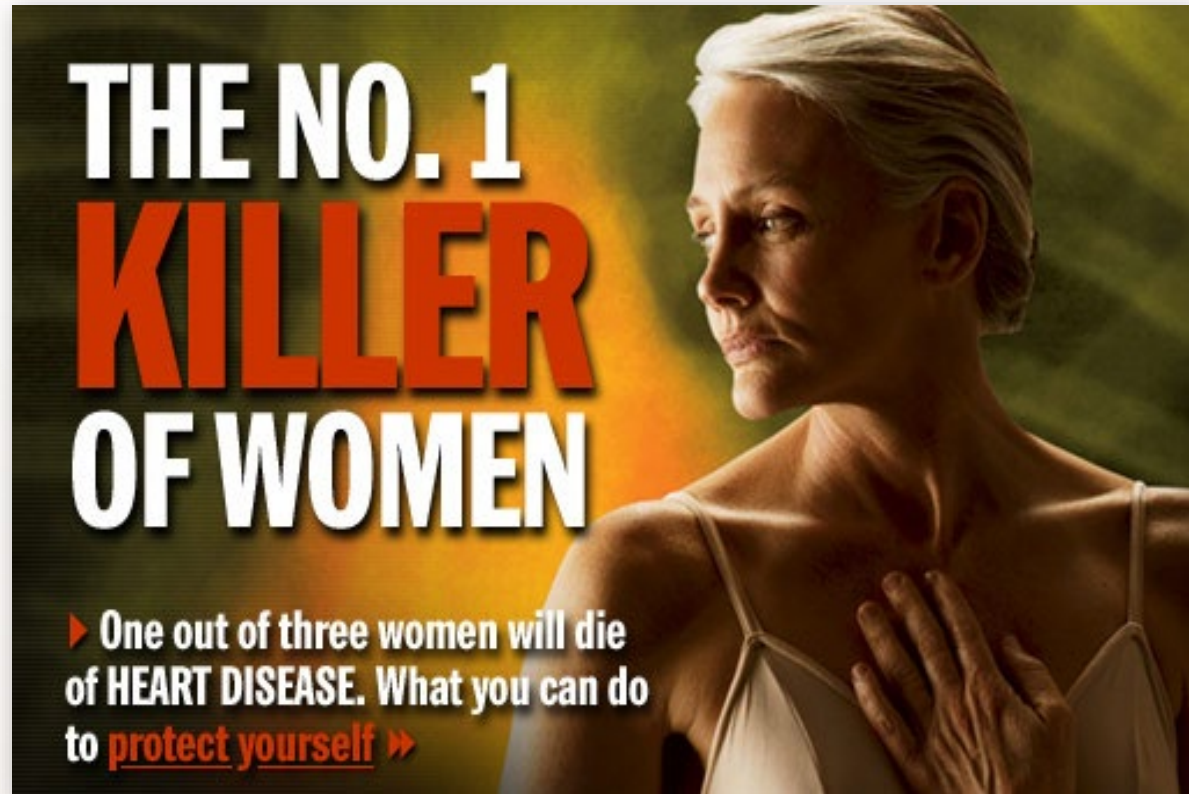
- Demonstrate collective understanding of gender differences and challenges in optimizing LDL-C management for women, with a particular focus on practical considerations
- Analyze the changing landscape of LDL-C management in women by integrating the latest research findings and therapeutic insights



Talk Overview

- **Speak Now:** Assessing Risk Status for CV Events in Women
- **Love Story:** LDL-C Goals and Testing
- **Shake It Off:** Managing LDL-C
- **Wildest Dreams:** Latest Nonstatin Therapy Management Approaches

Speak Now: Raise Awareness of Heart Disease in Women

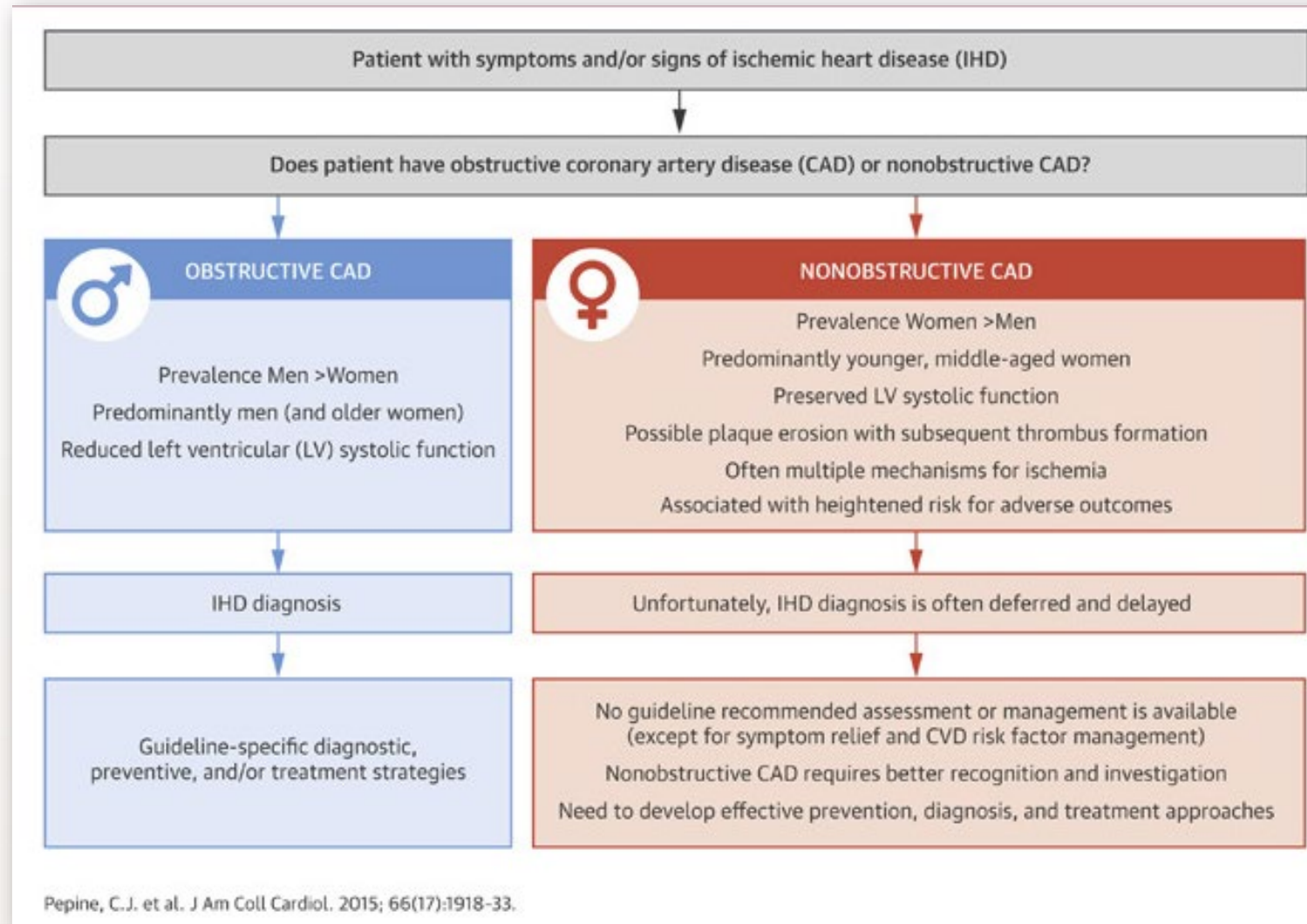




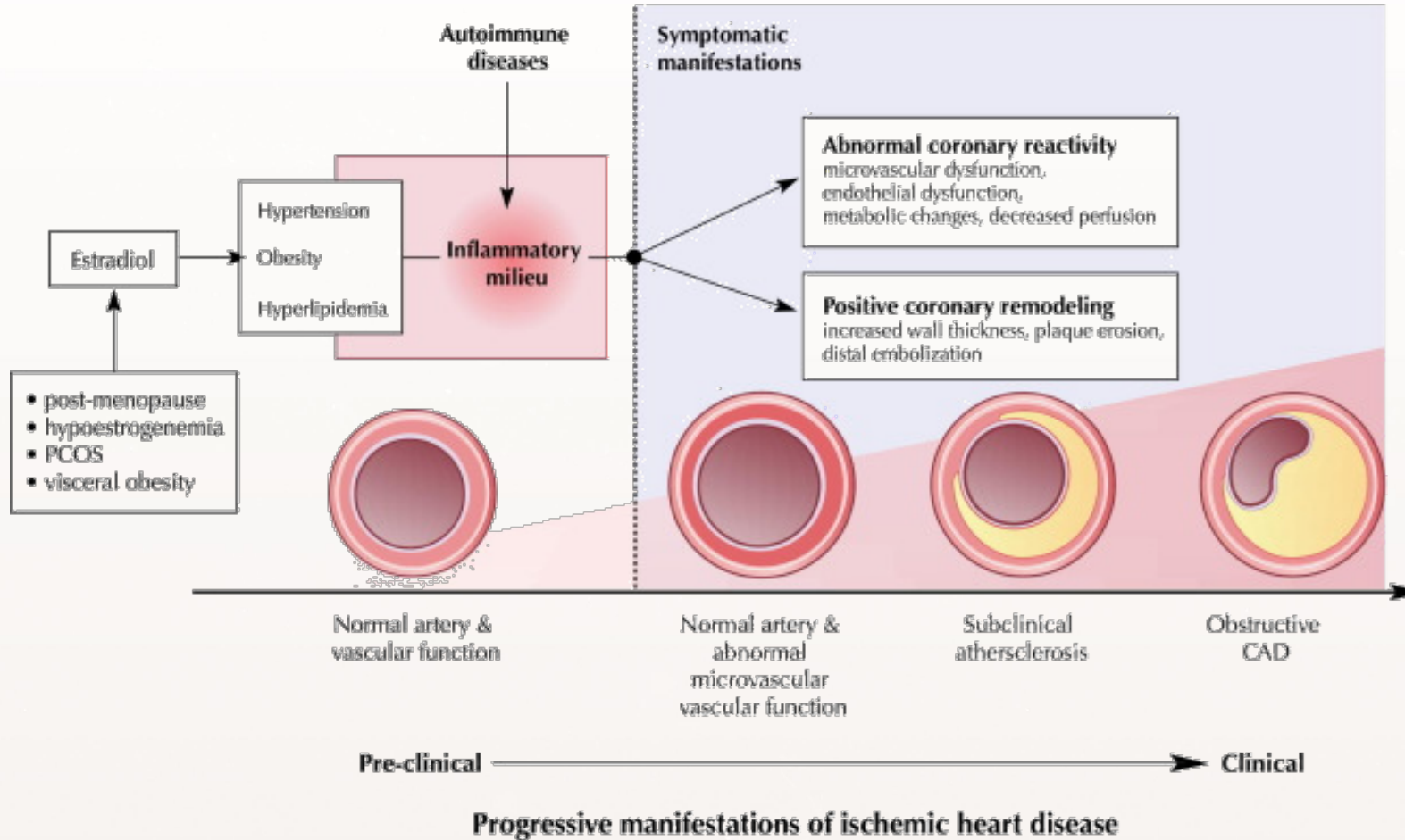
Overview of CVD in Women

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) accounts for 35% of all deaths in women worldwide
- 8.9 million women died from CVD in 2019
- Women have worse outcomes with acute myocardial infarction, yet women are less likely to receive guideline-indicated therapies
- Younger women are at the greatest risk for poor outcomes after acute myocardial infarction
- Women are understudied, underdiagnosed, undertreated, and underrepresented in clinical trials

Sex Differences in CAD



Impact of Factors Unique to Women on CAD Progression

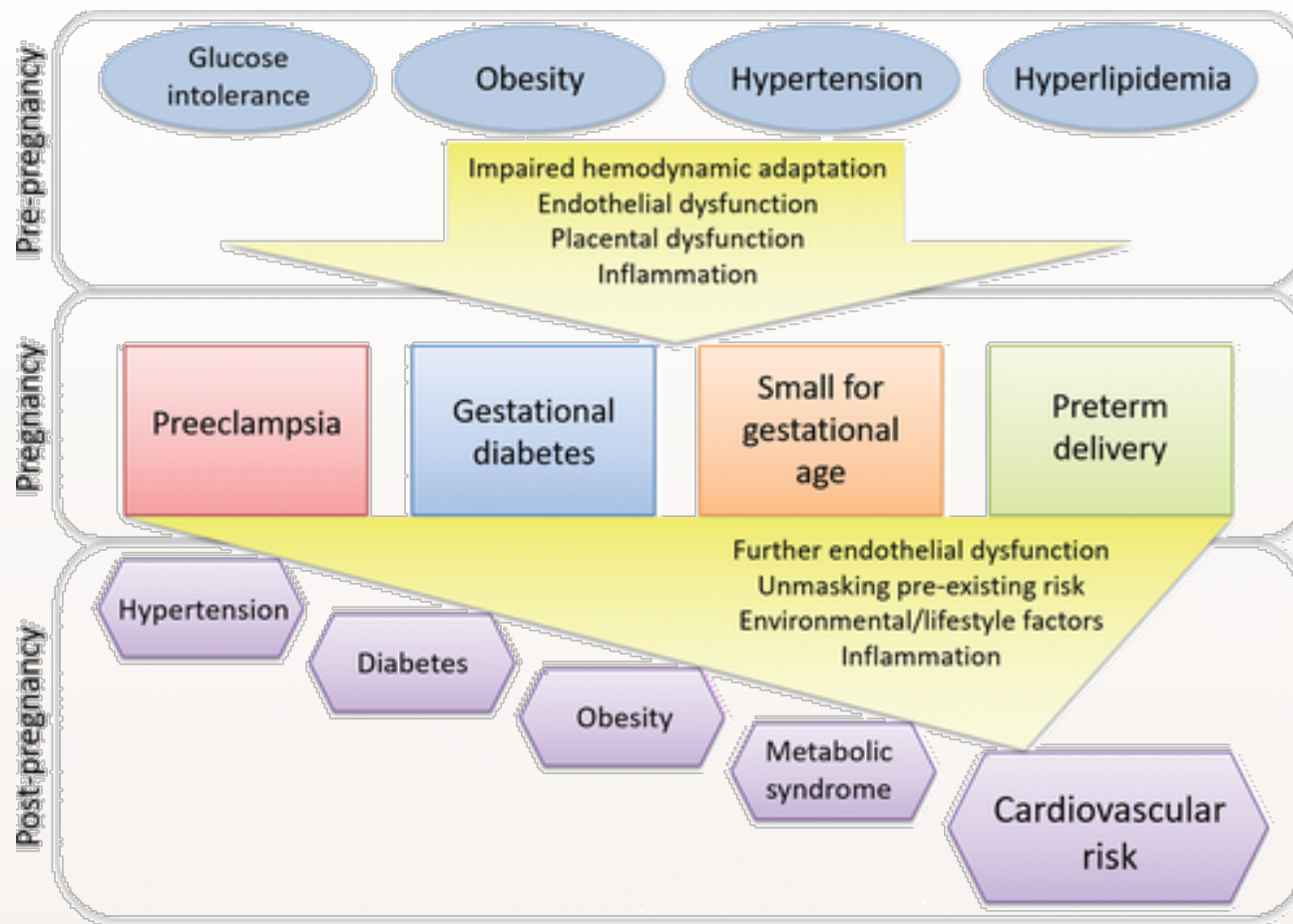




Diabetes Impacts Women More Severely

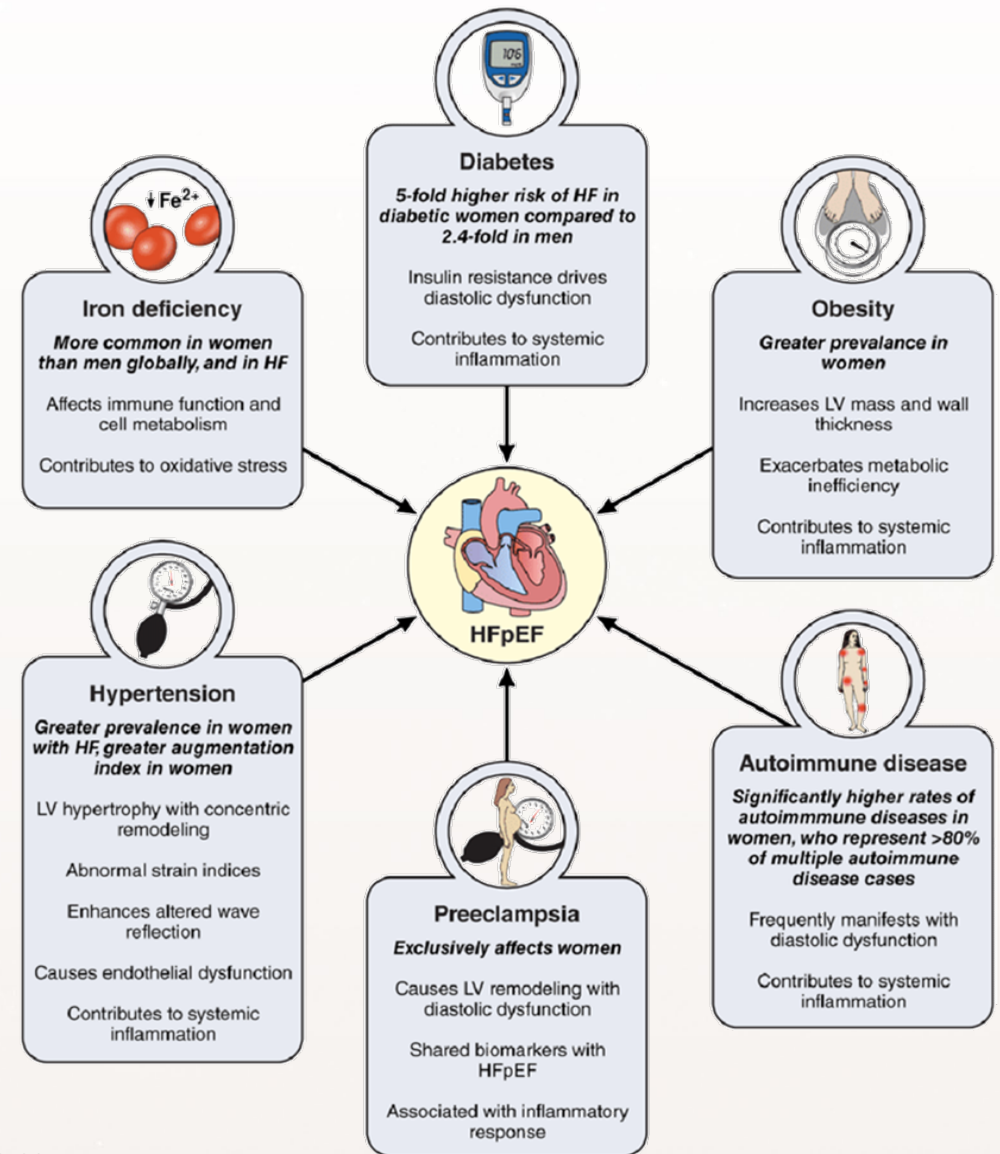
- Premenopausal women with diabetes lose the protection against heart disease that nondiabetic women have and are 50% more likely to die from heart disease
- Elderly women with T2DM and end-stage renal disease have a significantly higher risk of death than men
- Women with diabetes are 4 times more likely to suffer a stroke than women without diabetes
- Cyclical hormonal changes make diabetes control more difficult in premenopausal women, and the risk of diabetic ketoacidosis is higher amongst women than men
- Across all countries, women tend to receive less intensive care and treatment for diabetes compared to men

Associations Between Pre-Pregnancy Risk Factors, Adverse Pregnancy Outcomes, and Post-Pregnancy Cardiometabolic Risk Factors and Outcomes



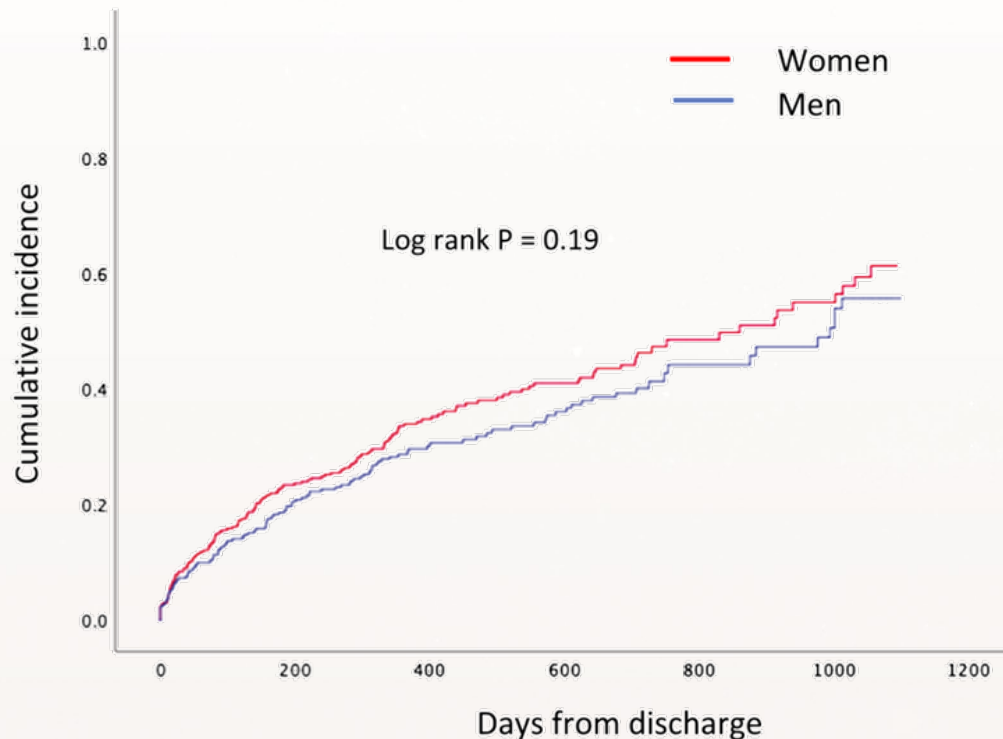
HFpEF Disproportionately Impacts Women

- HFpEF is intricately linked to T2DM and risk factors for T2DM
- Female sex was independently associated with the presence of diastolic dysfunction and worse clinical outcomes in a cohort of elderly patients with HFpEF

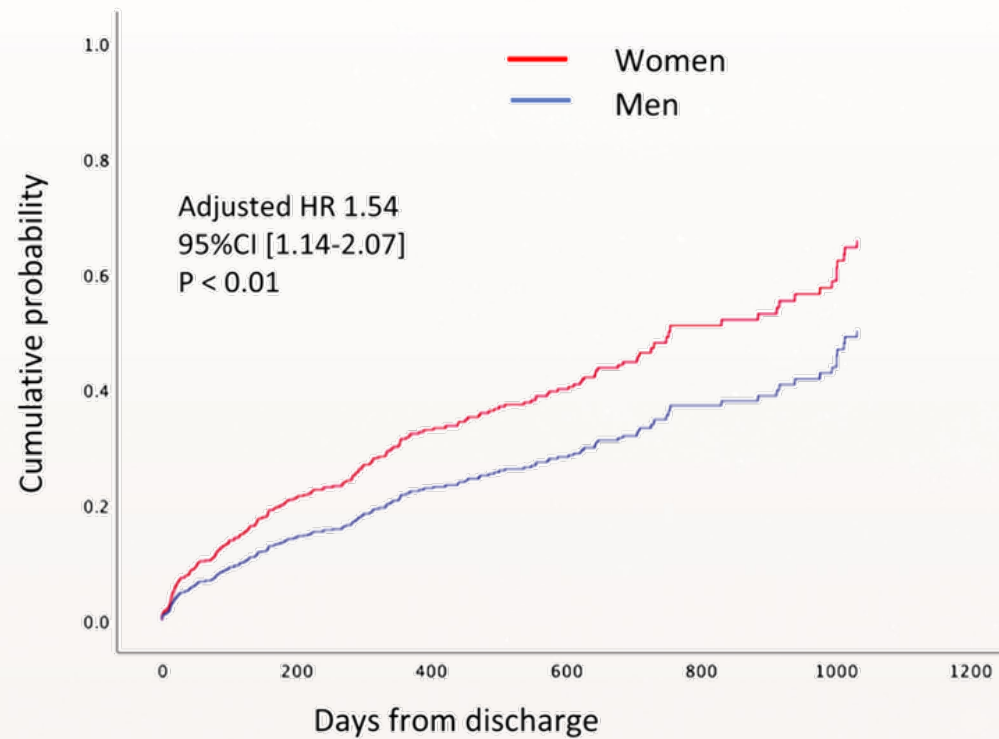


Women With HFpEF Have Worse Outcomes

**A Clinical endpoint (all-cause death and HF readmission)
Kaplan Meier curves**



**B Clinical endpoint (all-cause death and HF readmission)
Adjusted probability curves**



Number at risk

Women	481	261	149	118	43	32
Men	389	220	131	103	37	29

Adolescence

Young Adulthood

Pregnancy

Middle Aged

Perimenopause

Post Menopause

Baseline lipid testing
(Screen for FH, PCOS)



↑TG ↑LDL
during pregnancy



↑visceral fat ↑LDL, Lp(a)
↓muscle mass ↓bone density



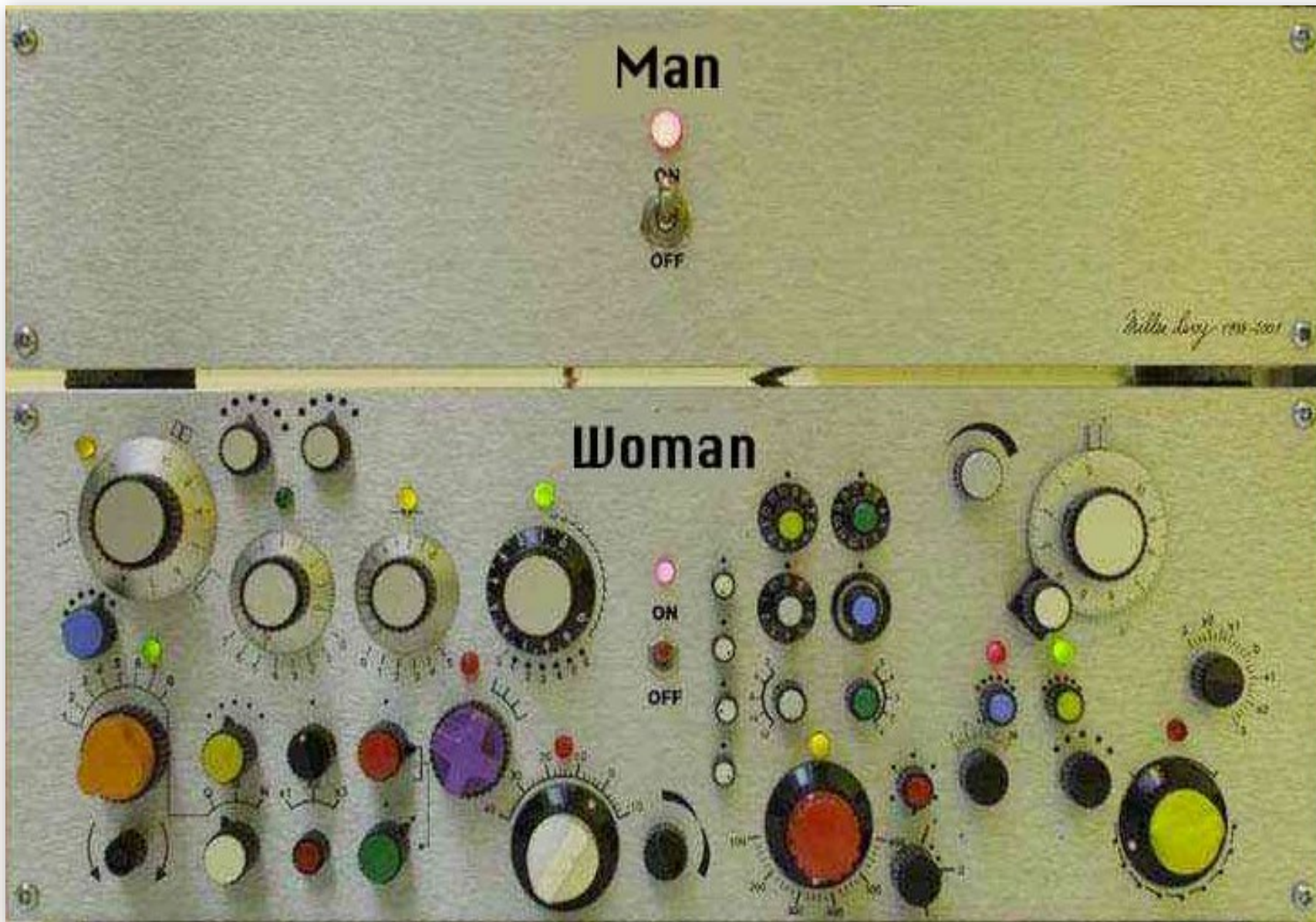
Initiate lifestyle changes to ↓LDL

- Statins can be considered in pregnancy, weigh risks & benefits
- Preeclampsia & gestational DM
↑ASCVD risk

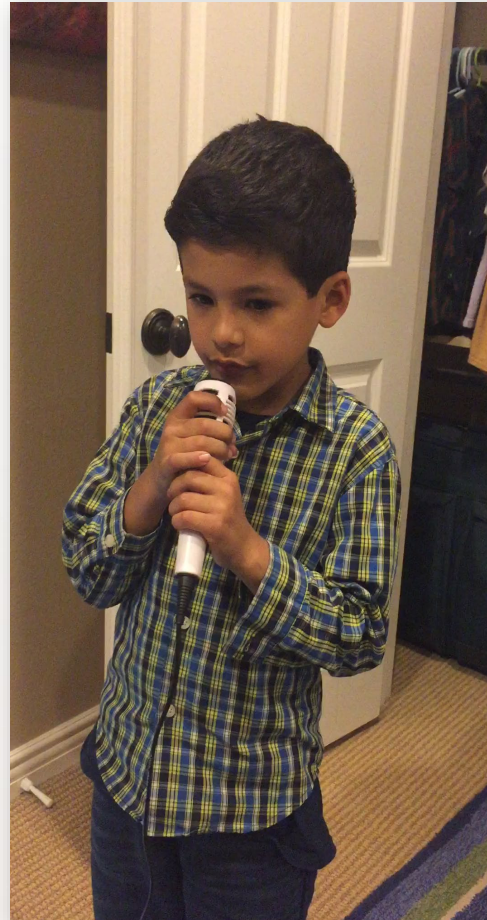
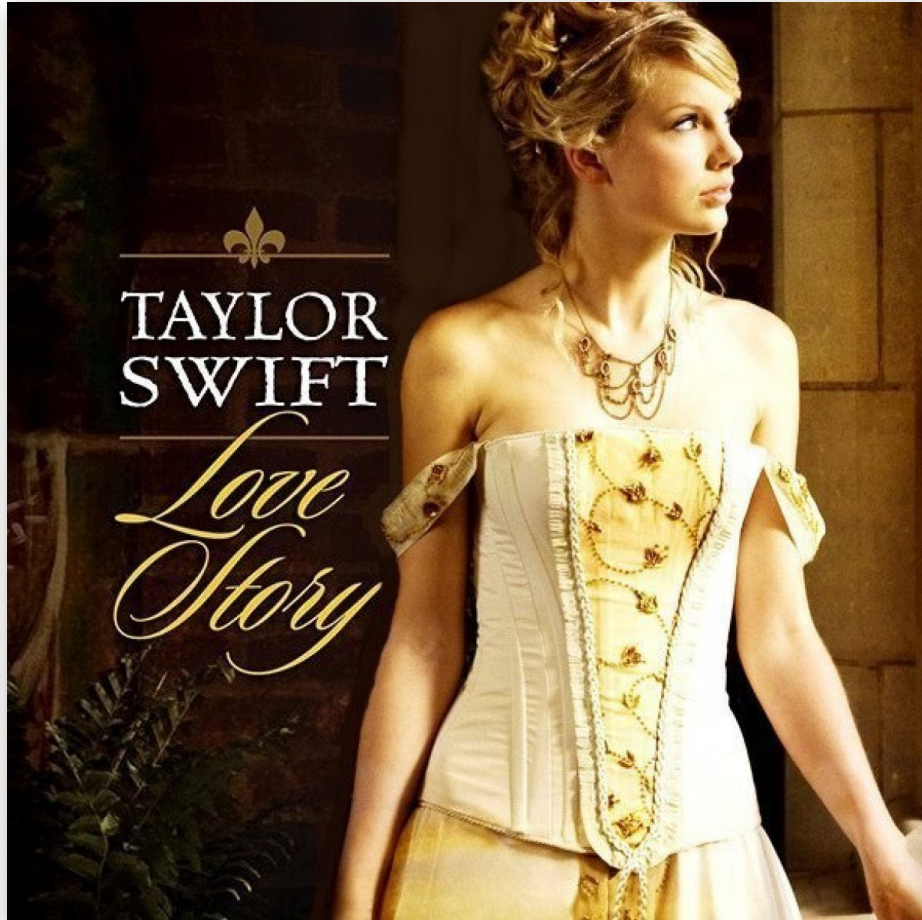
- Regular screening w/ lipid panel, blood pressure, HbA1c; treat lipids & modifiable risk factors
- Consider Coronary Artery Calcium score & Lp(a) for CV risk stratification

Personalized lipid management based on ASCVD risk

Increasing ASCVD risk



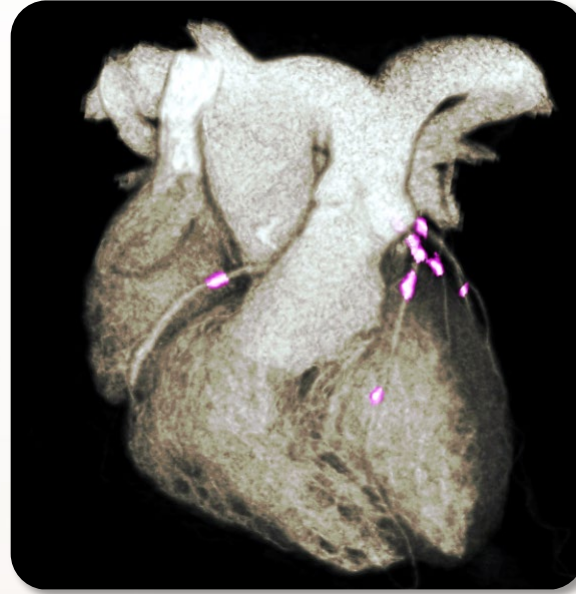
Love Story: Engage in Meaningful Relationships



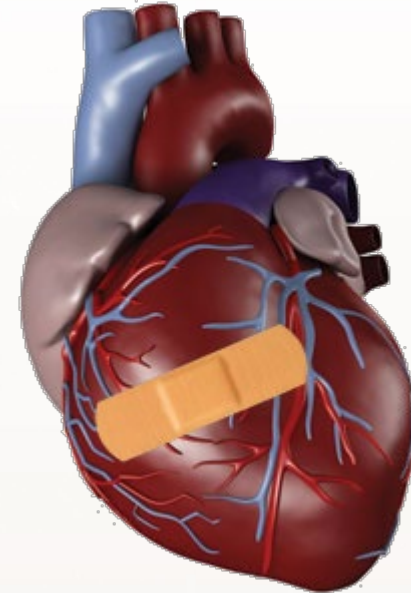
Continuum of ASCVD Risk



**Primary
Prevention**



**High-Risk Primary
Prevention**
Advanced Subclinical
Atherosclerosis?



**Secondary
Prevention**



2018 Blood Cholesterol Guideline | ASCVD Risk Enhancers

ASCVD Risk Enhancers:

- Family history of premature ASCVD
- Persistently elevated LDL-C ≥ 160 mg/dL (≥ 4.1 mmol/L)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Metabolic syndrome
- **Conditions specific to women (eg, preeclampsia, premature menopause)**
- Inflammatory diseases (especially rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, HIV)
- Ethnicity (eg, South Asian ancestry)

Lipid/Biomarkers:

- Persistently elevated triglycerides (≥ 175 mg/dL or ≥ 2.0 mmol/L)

In selected individuals if measured:

- hs-CRP ≥ 2.0 mg/L
- Lp(a) levels > 50 mg/dL or > 125 mmol/L
- apoB ≥ 130 mg/dL
- Ankle-branchial index (ABI) < 0.9

Primary Prevention:
Assess ASCVD Risk in Each Age Group Emphasize Adherence to Healthy Lifestyle

Age 0-19 y
Lifestyle to prevent or reduce ASCVD risk
Diagnosis of Familial Hypercholesterolemia
→ statin

Age 20-39 y
Estimate lifetime risk to encourage lifestyle to reduce ASCVD risk
Consider statin if family history premature ASCVD and LDL-C ≥ 160 mg/dL (≥ 4.1 mmol/L)

Age 40-75 y and LDL-C $\geq 70 \leq 190$ mg/dL ($\geq 1.8 \leq 4.9$ mmol/L) without diabetes mellitus
10-year ASCVD risk percent begins risk discussion

LDL-C ≥ 190 mg/dL (≥ 4.9 mmol/L)
No risk assessment; High-intensity statin (Class I)

Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y
Moderate-intensity statin (Class I)

Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y
Risk assessment to consider high-intensity statin (Class IIa)

Age >75 y
Clinical assessment, Risk discussion

ASCVD Risk Enhancers:

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- Conditions specific to women (eg, preeclampsia, premature menopause)
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- Ankle-branchial index (ABI) > 0.9

$< 5\%$
"Low Risk"

$5\% - < 7.5\%$
"Borderline Risk"

$\geq 7.5\% - < 20\%$
"Intermediate Risk"

$\geq 20\%$
"High Risk"

Risk discussion:
Emphasize lifestyle to reduce risk factors (Class I)

Risk discussion:
If risk enhancers present then risk discussion regarding moderate-intensity statin therapy (Class IIb)

Risk discussion:
If risk estimate + risk enhancers favor statin, initiate moderate-intensity statin to reduce LDL-C by 30% - 49% (Class I)

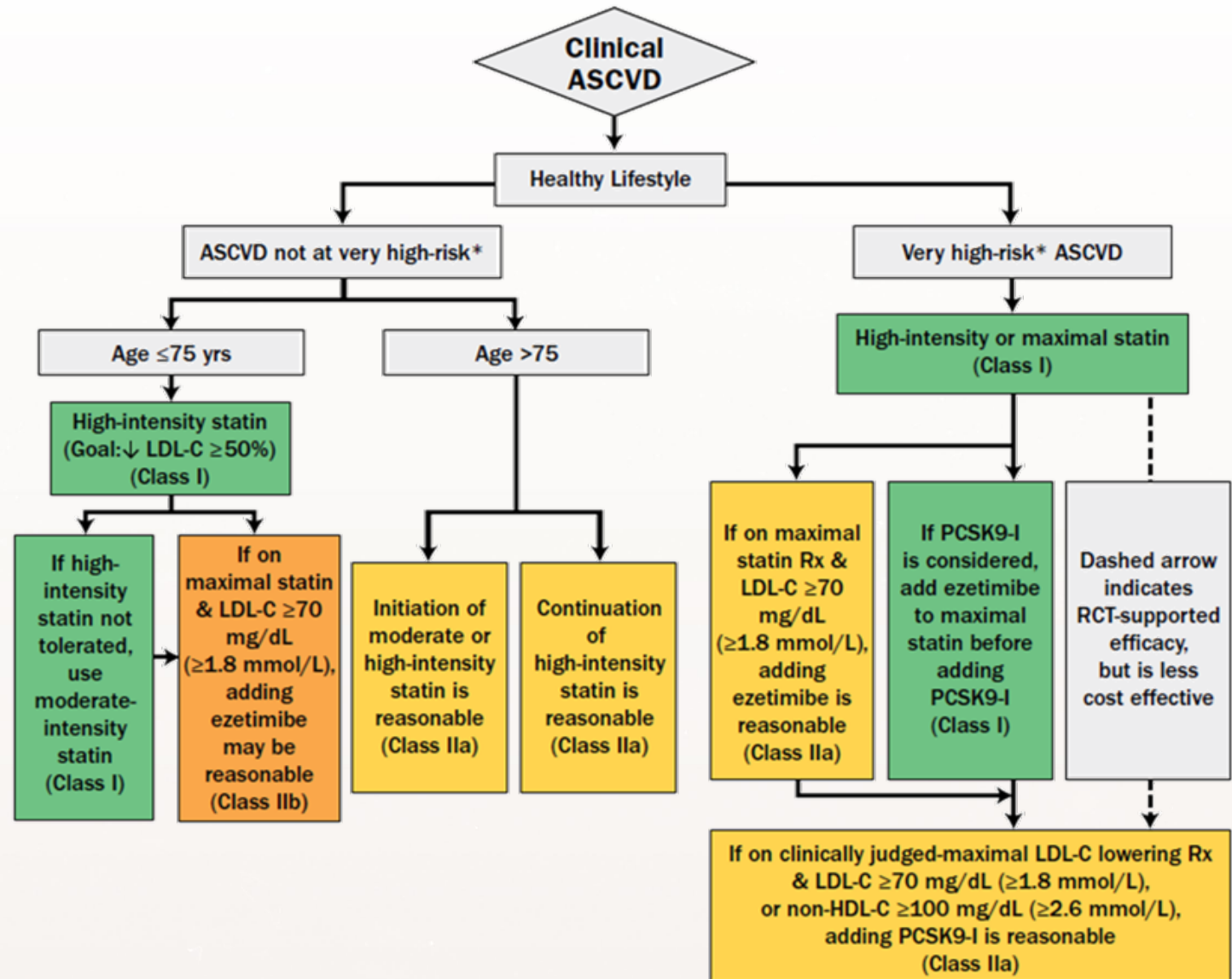
Risk discussion:
Initiate statin to reduce LDL-C $\geq 50\%$ (Class I)

If risk decision is uncertain:
Consider measuring CAC in selected adults:
CAC = zero (lowers risk; consider no statin, unless diabetes, family history of premature CHD, or cigarette smoking are present)
CAC = 1-99 favors statin (especially after age 55)
CAC = 100+ and/or ≥ 75 th percentile, initiate statin therapy

Very-High-Risk Features

- Recent ACS
- History of prior MI
- History of ischemic stroke
- Symptomatic PAD
- Age \geq 65 years
- HeFH
- Prior CABG or PCI
- Diabetes
- Hypertension
- Chronic kidney disease
- Current smoking
- LDL-C \geq 2.6 mmol/L (100 mg/dL) on statin and ezetimibe
- History of HF
- Recurrent ASCVD events
- Major ASCVD event with \geq 1 risk conditions

Secondary Prevention in Patients with Clinical ASCVD

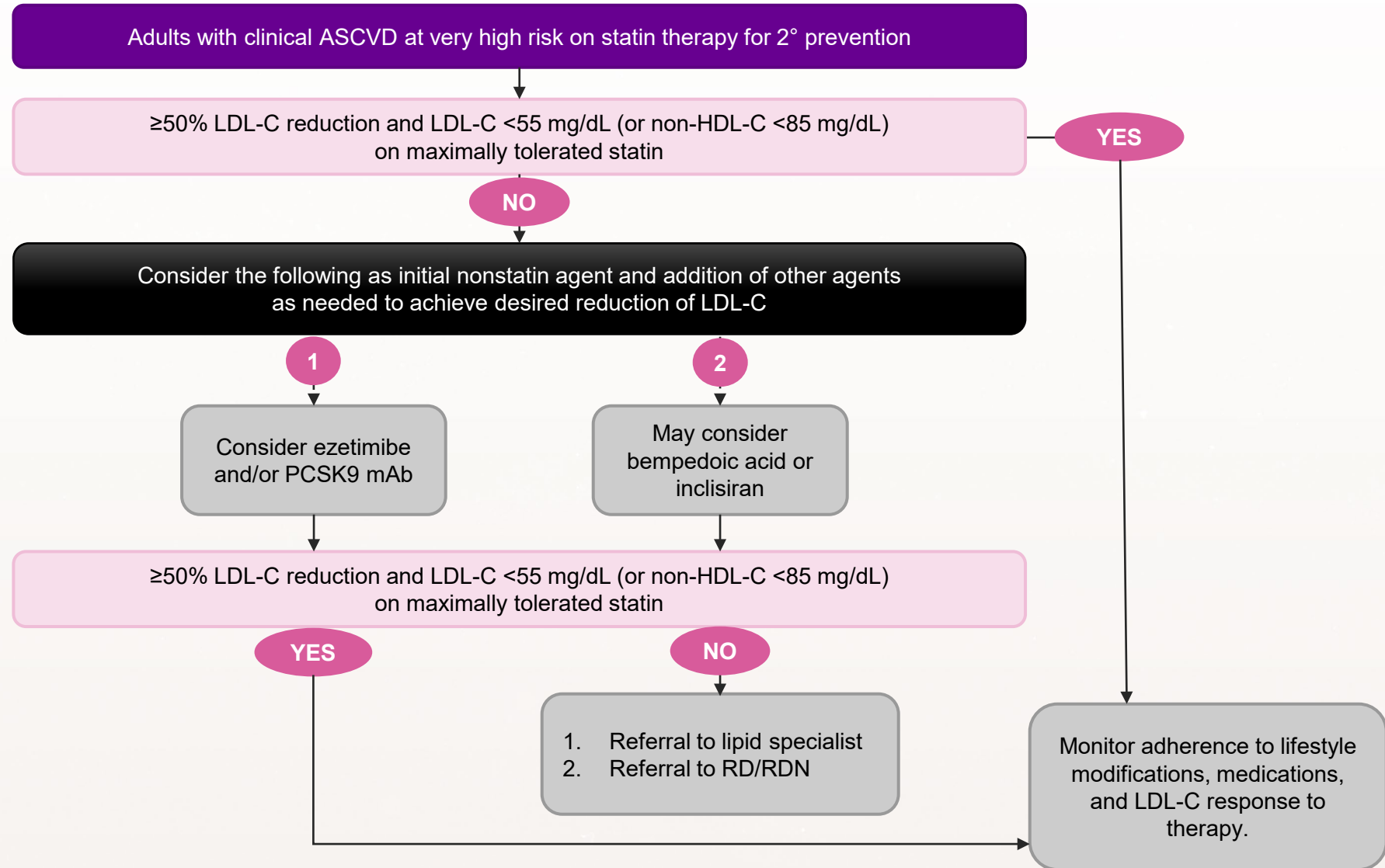


Very High Risk for Future ASCVD events*

Major ASCVD Events
Recent acute coronary syndrome (within the past 12 months)
History of myocardial infarction (other than recent acute coronary syndrome event listed above)
History of ischemic stroke
Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease (history of claudication with ankle brachial index <0.85, or previous revascularization or amputation)
High-Risk Conditions
Age ≥65 years
Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia
History of prior coronary artery bypass surgery or PCI outside of the major ASCVD event(s)
Diabetes Mellitus
Hypertension
Chronic kidney disease (eGFR 15-59 mL/min/1.73 m ²)
Current smoking
Persistently elevated LDL-C (LDL-C ≥100 mg/dL (≥2.6 mmol/L)) despite maximally tolerated statin therapy and ezetimibe
History of congestive heart failure

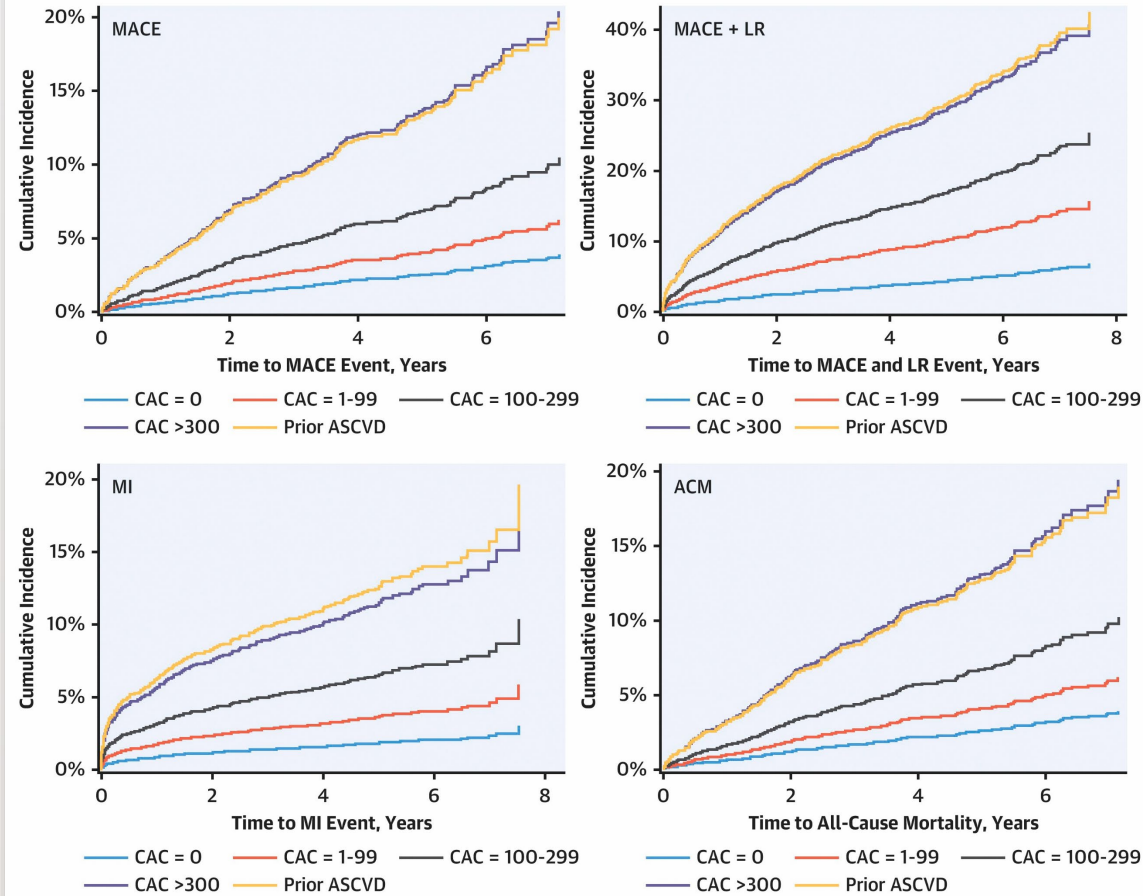
*Very High Risk includes a history of multiple major ASCVD events or one major ASCVD event and multiple high-risk conditions.

2022 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

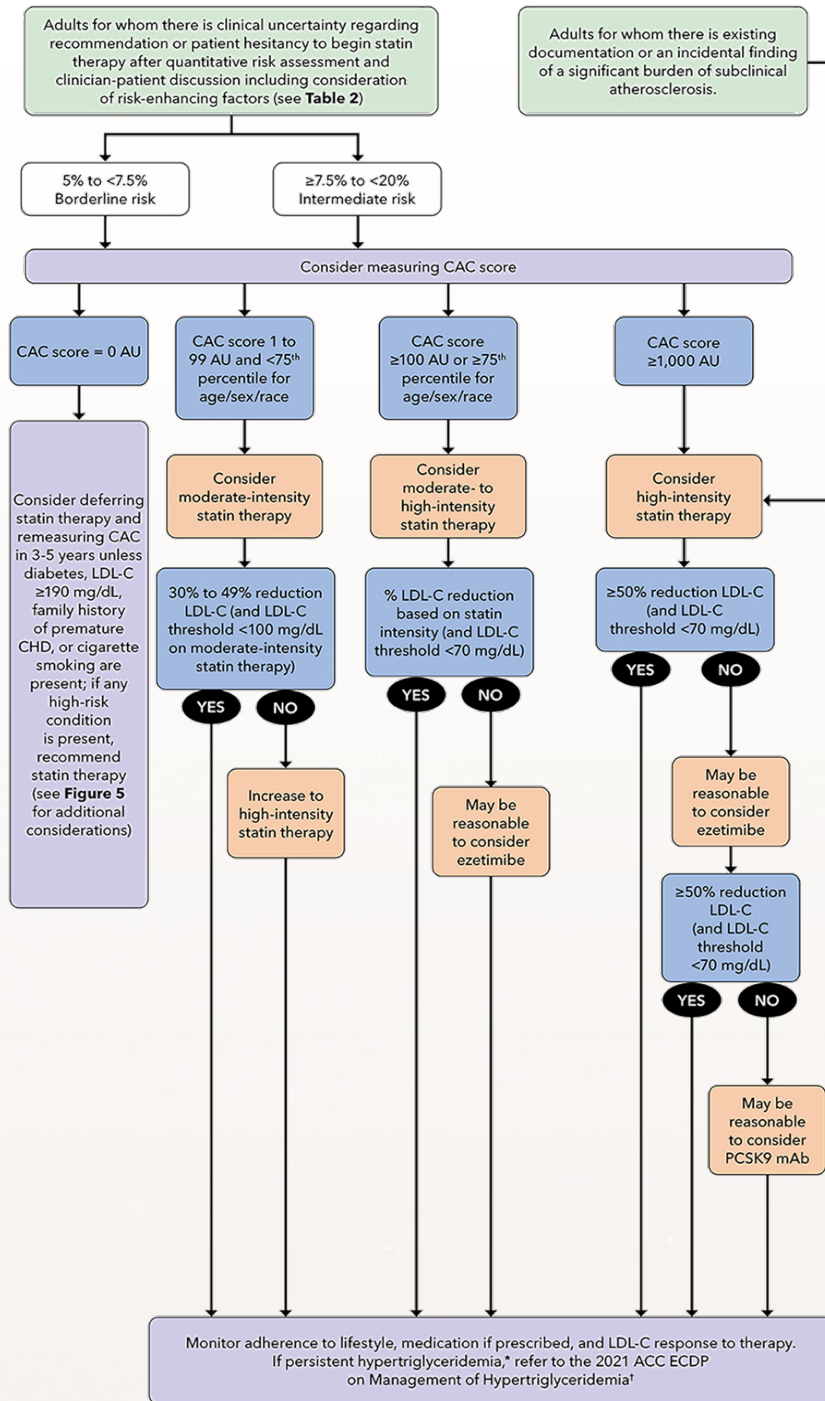


CAC Score > 300 = Same Risk as Patients With ASCVD

CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Event Rates by CAC Score Categories for MACE Compared to Prior ASCVD Patients

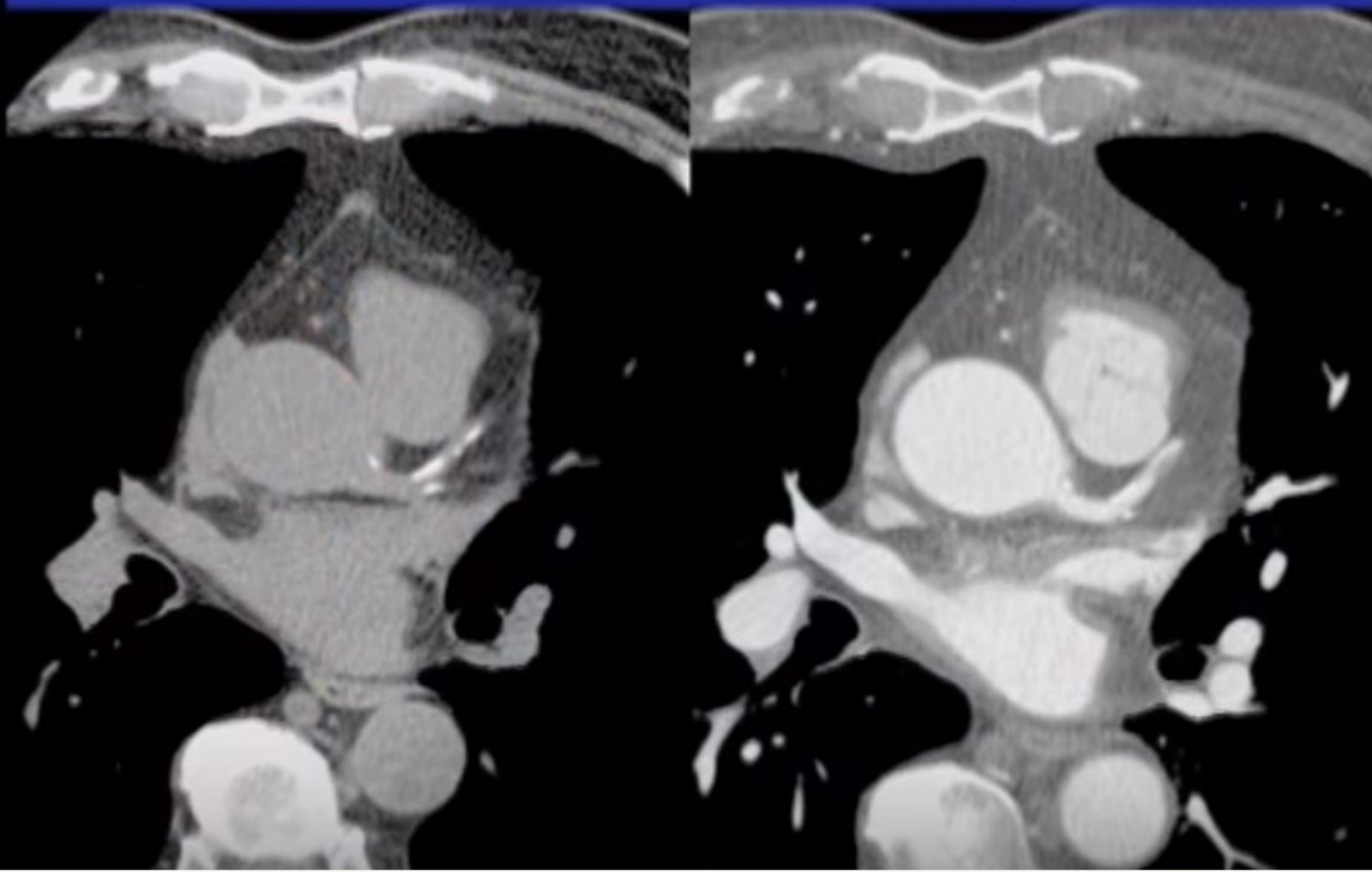


Budoff MJ, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2023;16(9):1181-1189.

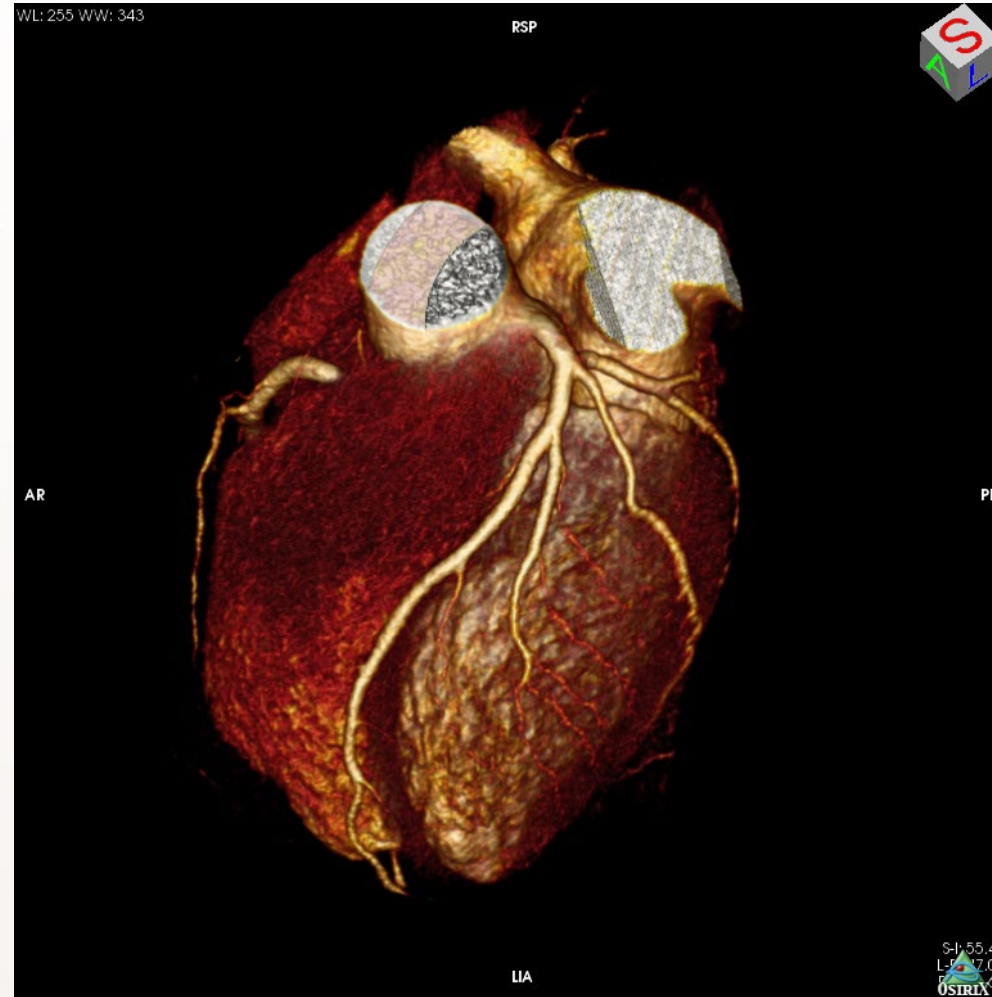


Lloyd-Jones DM, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2022;80(14):1366-1418.

Calcium score vs. coronary CTA



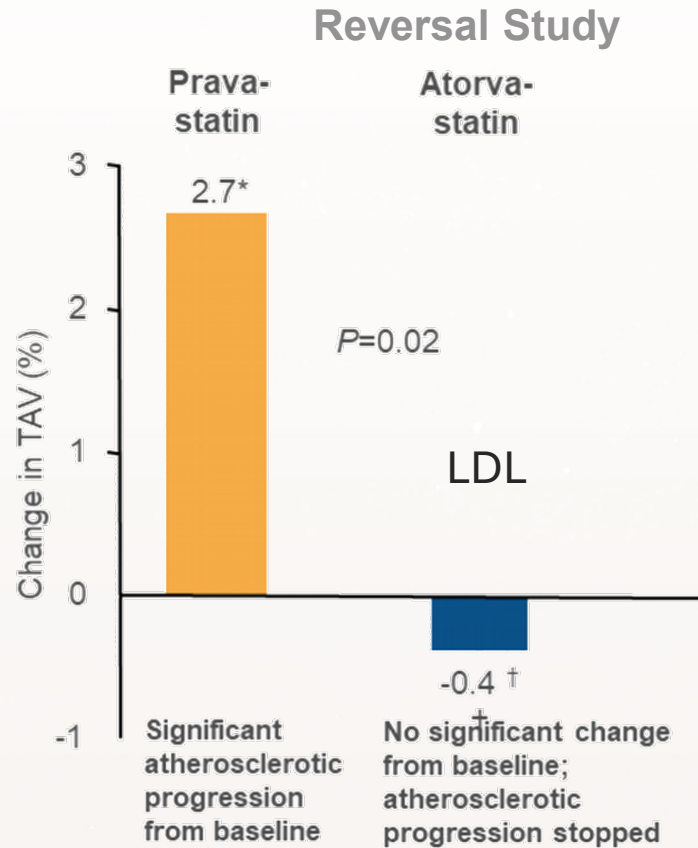
Coronary CT Angiography: Best Imaging Modality for Plaque Characterization



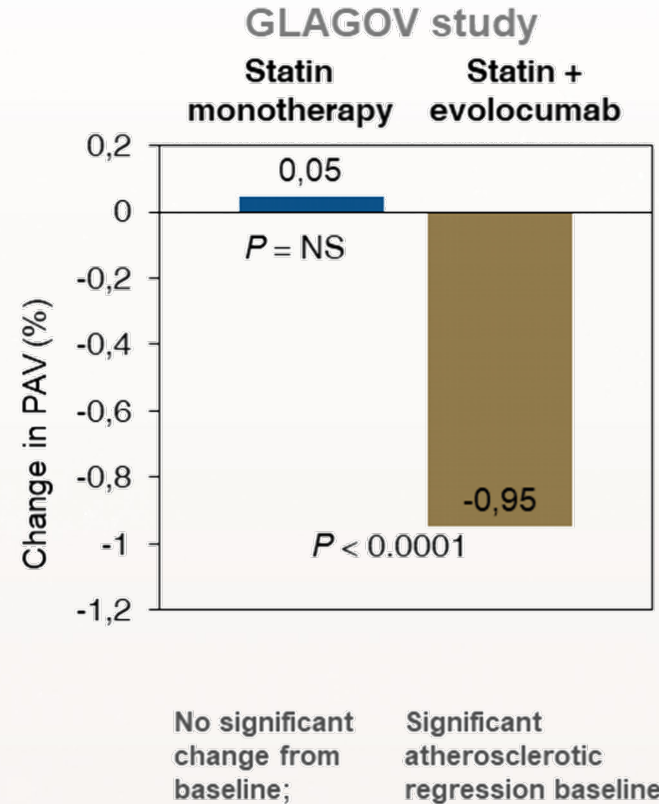
Shake It Off: Exercise Daily to Reduce Risk of Cardiovascular Disease



Plaque Stabilization vs Plaque Regression Depends on LDL Achieved



LDL in pravastatin group: 110
 LDL in atorvastatin group: 79

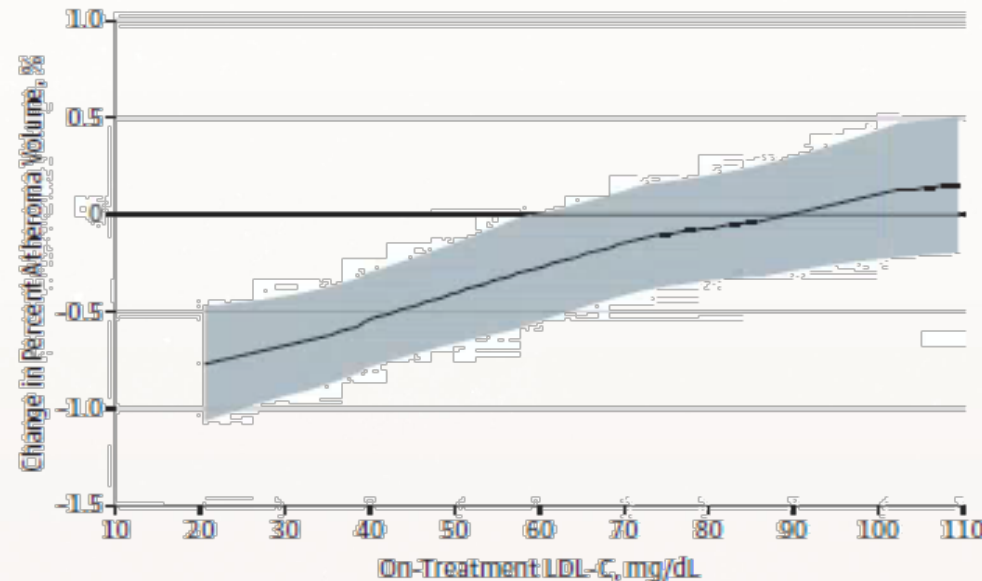


LDL in statin group: 93
 LDL in statin + PCSK9i group: 36

LDL of 36 or lower resulted in significant plaque regression

GLAGOV Study: Benefit of LDL Lowering on Plaque Regression

Figure 4. Post Hoc Analysis Examining the Relationship Between Achieved LDL-C Level and Change in Percent Atheroma Volume



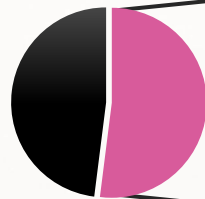
Local regression (LOESS) curve illustrating the post hoc analysis of the association (with 95% confidence intervals) between achieved low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels and the change in percent atheroma volume in all patients undergoing serial IVUS evaluation. Curve truncated at 20 and 110 mg/dL owing to the small number of values outside that range. To convert LDL-C values to mmol/L, multiply by 0.0259.

Reality Check: Many Patients With ASCVD Not at LDL-C Goal

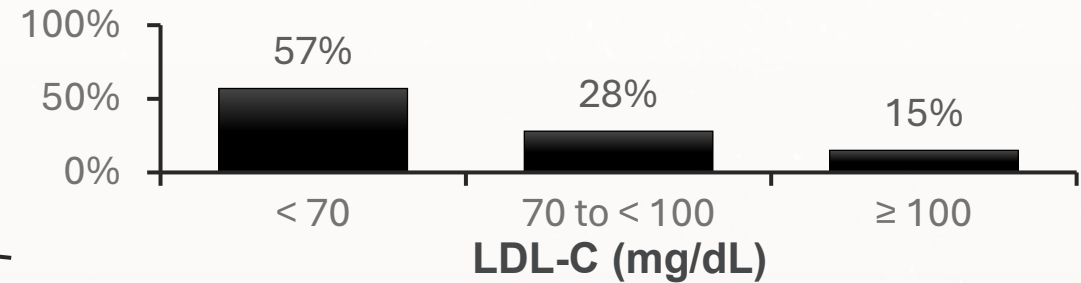
~1 of every 2 patients had LDL-C measured after PCI

~1 of every 2 patients had LDL-C < 70 mg/dL

No LDL-C
48%



LDL-C
52%

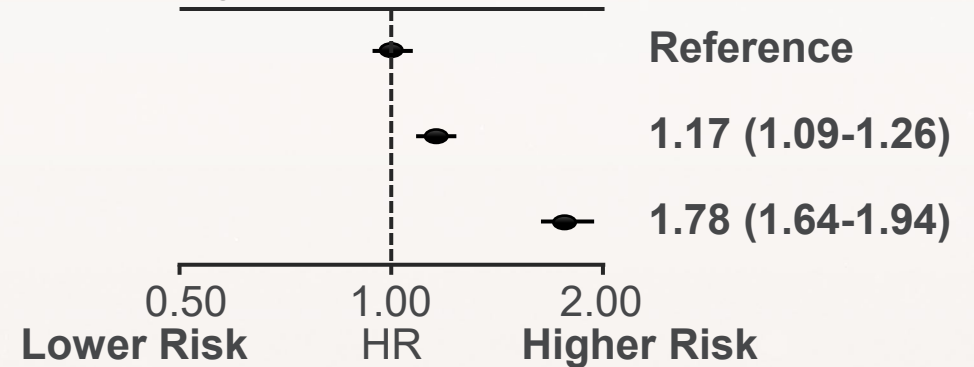


Higher LDL-C after PCI was associated with a higher risk of MACE

Rate of MACE

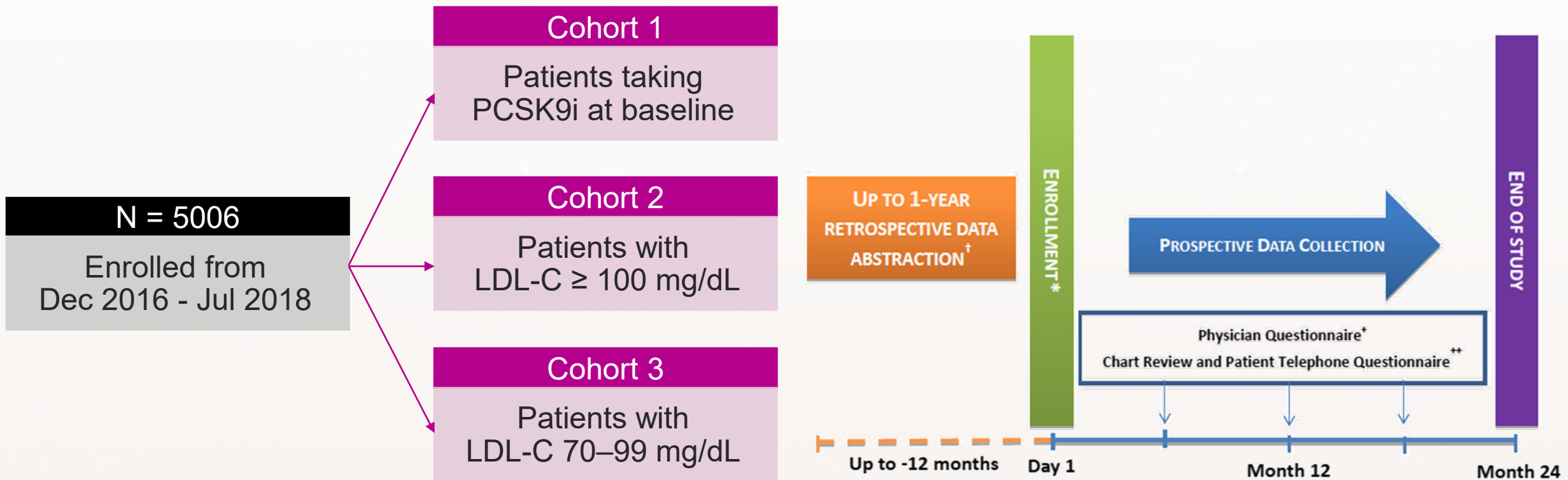


Adjusted Risk of MACE



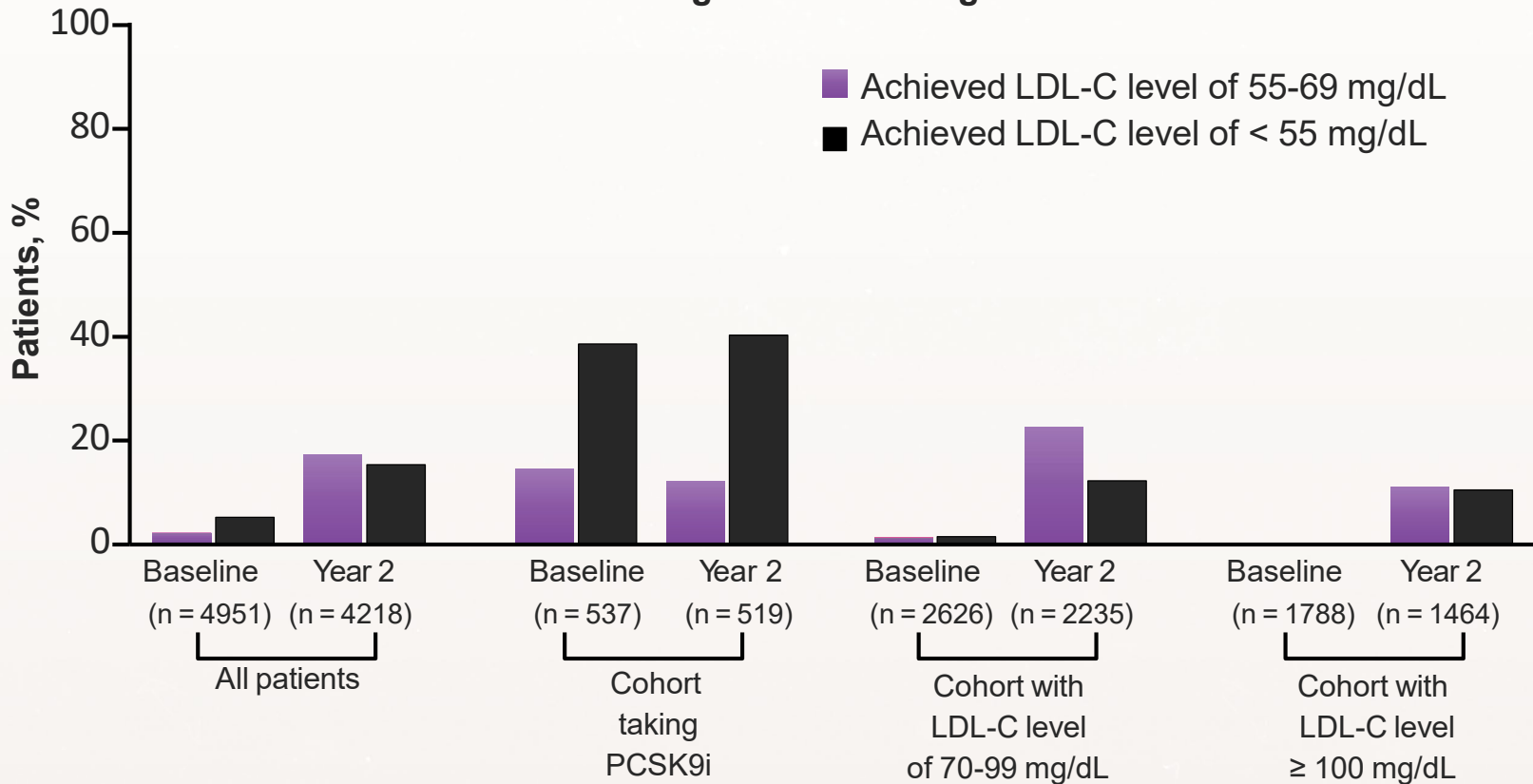
GOULD Registry: High-Risk Patients With ASCVD

GOULD is a multicenter observational registry that describes lipid-lowering therapy patterns among patients with clinical ASCVD + LDL-C \geq 70 mg/dL (or taking a PCSK9i) in the United States

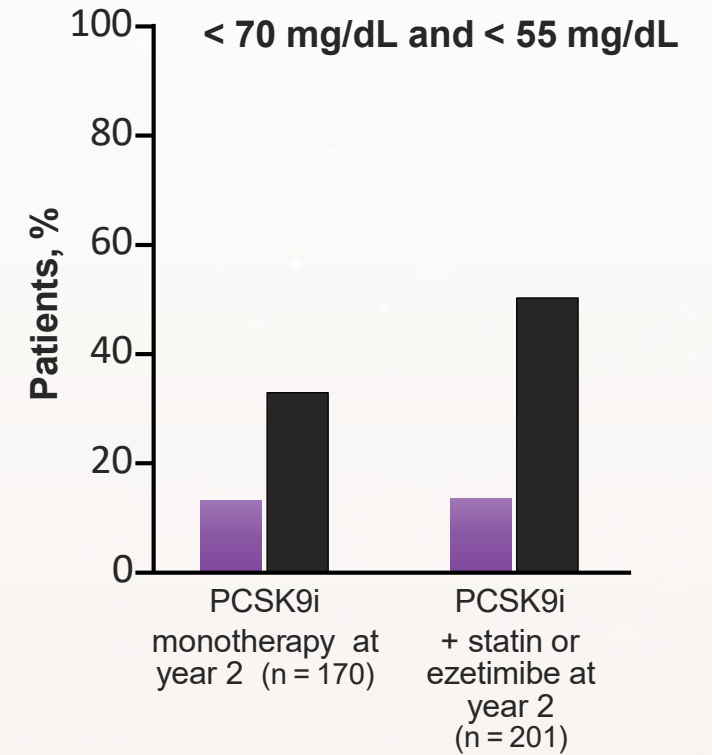


GOULD: Combination Therapy Required to Achieve Target LDL-C

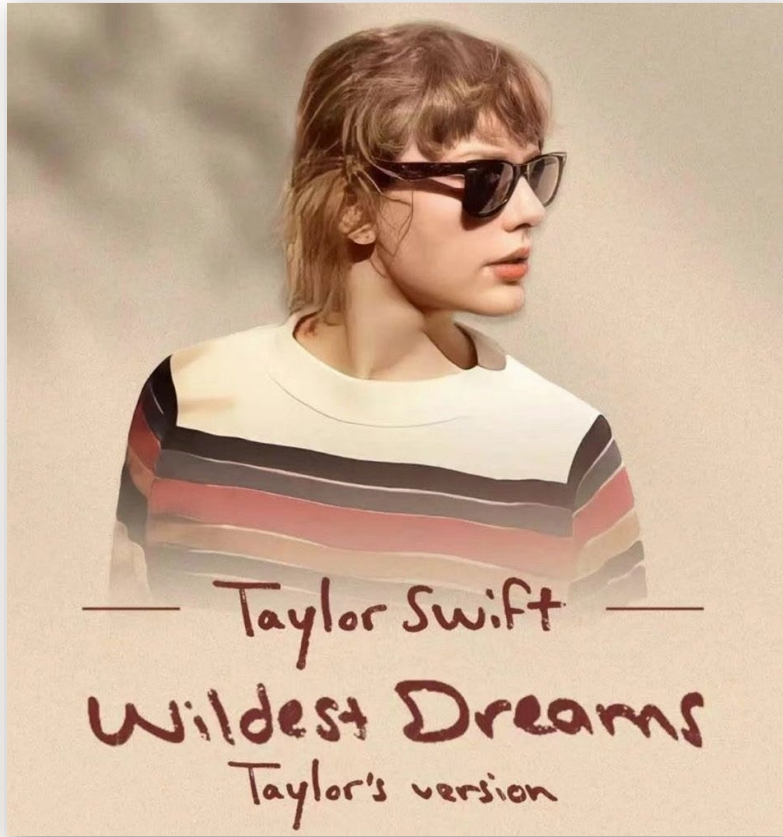
Patients who achieved LDL-C levels < 70 mg/dL and < 55 mg/dL



Patients receiving PCSK9i who achieved LDL-C levels < 70 mg/dL and < 55 mg/dL

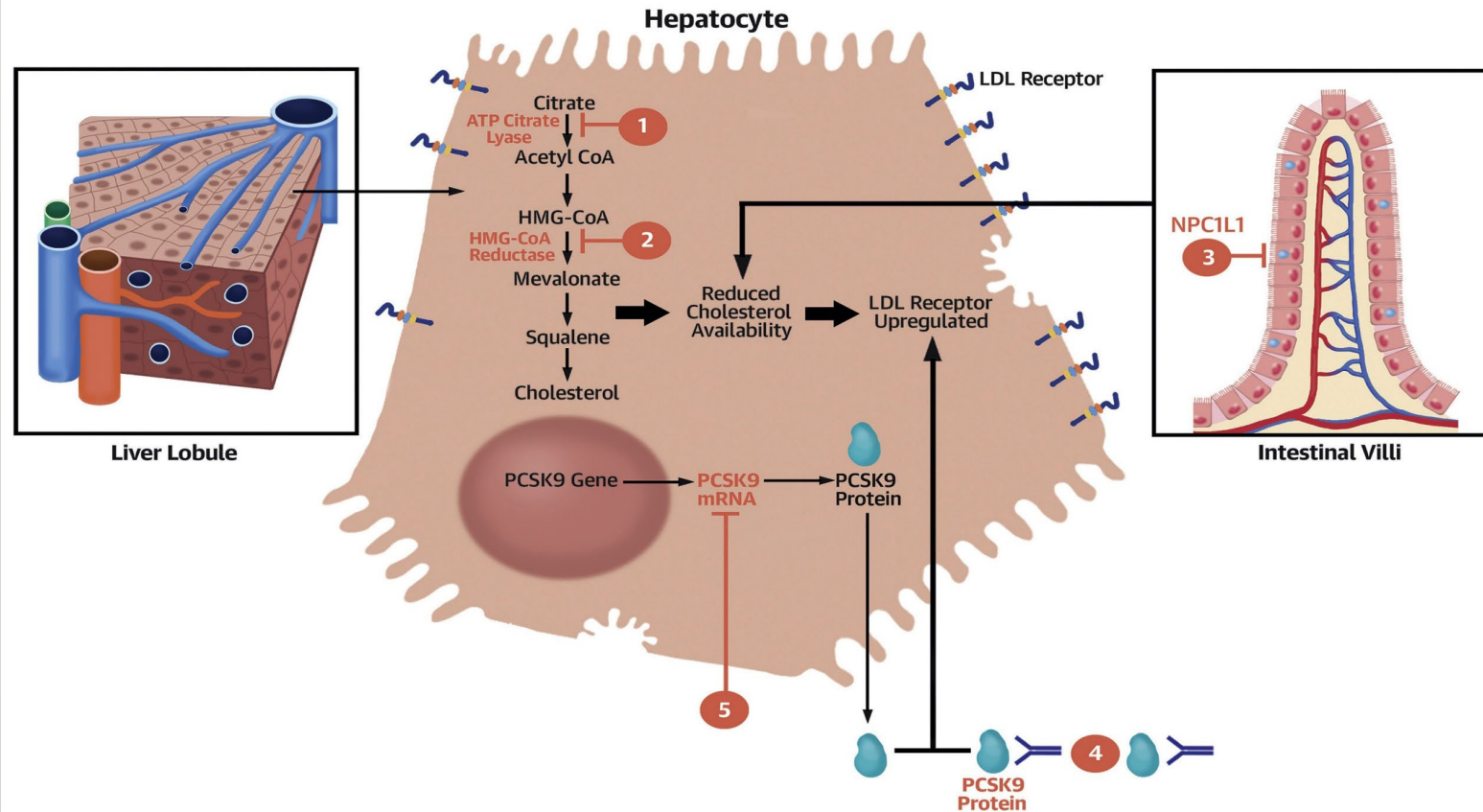


Wildest Dreams: New Science Is Giving Us So Many Options for Lipid Lowering



Review of Mechanism of Action of Nonstatin Agents

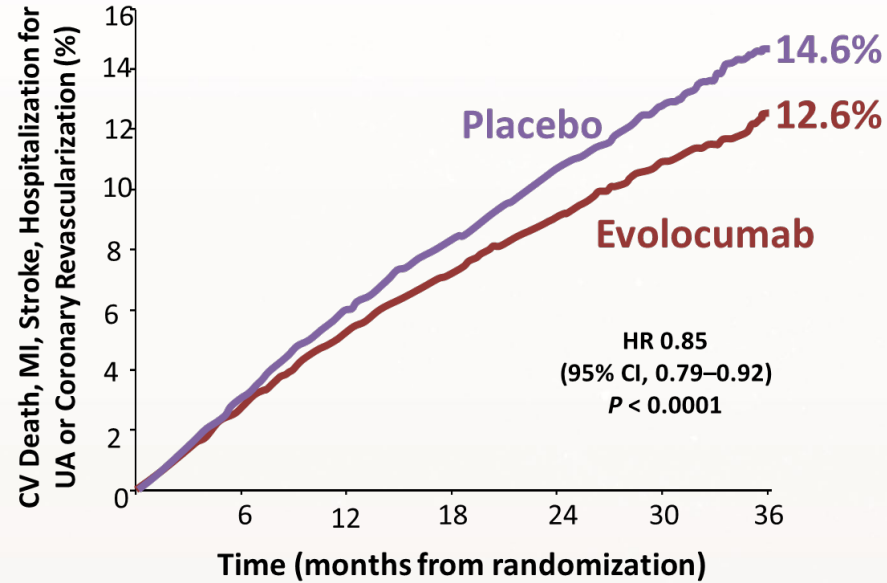
CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Schematic Diagram of the Mechanisms of Action of Statins, PCSK9 Inhibitors, PCSK9 Synthesis Inhibitors, and Bempedoic Acid



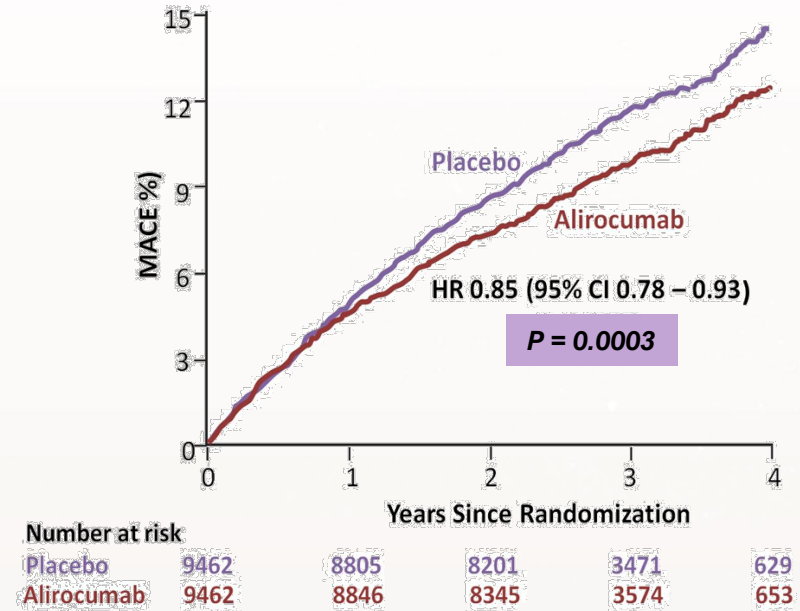
Preiss, D. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;75(16):1945-55.

PCSK9i Cardiovascular Outcome Trials

FOURIER: Cumulative Incidence of MACE in Months After Randomization¹



ODYSSEY: Cumulative Incidence of MACE per Year After Randomization²



	0	1	2	3	4
Placebo	9462	8805	8201	3471	629
Alirocumab	9462	8846	8345	3574	653

Efficacy	FOURIER	ODYSSEY OUTCOMES
Change in LDL-C (Absolute mg/dL)	56	53
% change in LDL-C (on-treatment arm)	↓59%	↓61%

MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; PCSK9i, proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 inhibitor; UA, unstable angina.

1. Sabatine MS, et al; FOURIER Steering Committee and Investigators. *N Engl J Med.* 2017;376(18):1713-1722. 2. Schwartz GG, et al; ODYSSEY OUTCOMES Committees and Investigators. *N Engl J Med.* 2018;379(22):2097-2107.

Stabilization and Regression of Vulnerable Plaque With PCSK9 Inhibitors

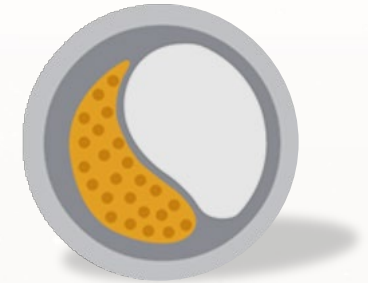
- **Studies in ACS:**

- HUYGENS: Evolocumab vs placebo
- GLAGOV: Evolocumab vs placebo
- PACMAN-AMI: Alirocumab vs placebo

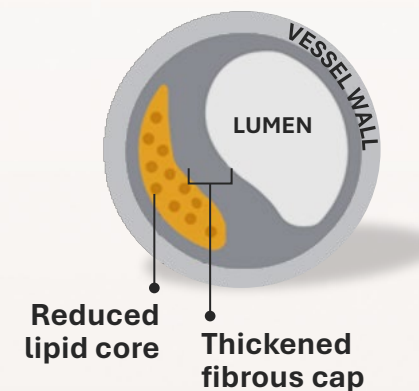
- **Results:**

- In patients with ACS, treatment with PCSK9i led to significantly greater plaque regression vs placebo
- Plaque regression was related to degree of LDL-C lowering

Vulnerable Plaque



Stable Plaque



Summary of Safety and Efficacy of Inclisiran

Efficacy Favors Inclisiran



- Mean proprotein convertase subtilisin-kexin type 9 % change from baseline ↓80.9% at Day 510



- Mean LDL-C% change from baseline ↓50.7% at Day 510



- LDL-C level ↓55.1 mg/dL at Day 510

Pooled Data ORION-9, -10, -11

Twice a year dosing

Now FDA-approved as an adjunct to diet and statin therapy for the treatment of adults with primary hyperlipidemia, including HeFH. (July 2023)

Similar Safety to Placebo



- In this safety analysis: 3,655 patients with approximately 2,653 person years of exposure to inclisiran



- Similar safety profile between inclisiran and placebo



- Modest excess of self-limited mild-to-moderate TEAE at the injection site and bronchitis



- No difference between groups in liver, muscle, or hematological parameters

Statin Intolerance

- Statin nonadherence: up to 20% of patients prescribed a statin stop it due to side effects
- GAUSS-3 study: blinded, placebo-controlled statin rechallenge in patients with history of statin-associated muscle symptoms
 - 43% had statin intolerance
- PRIMO study: 7,924 patients on high-dose statins
 - 10.5% reported myalgias (38% with lifestyle-limiting side effects)

NLA 2022 Update: Statin Intolerance

Partial Intolerance:

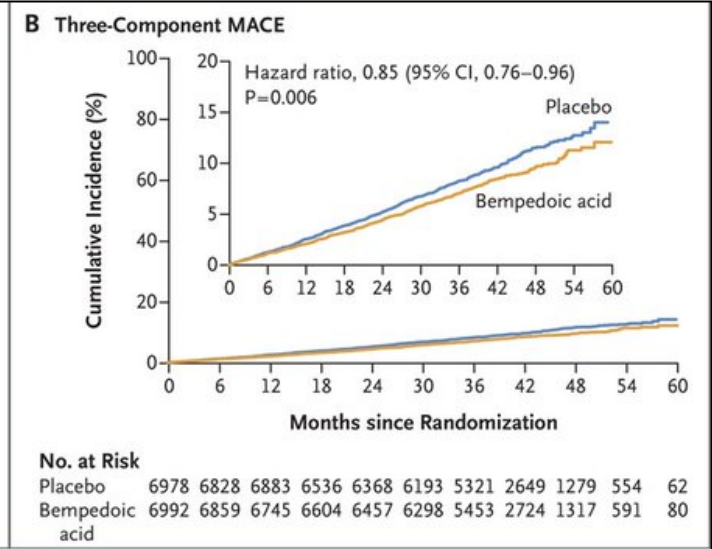
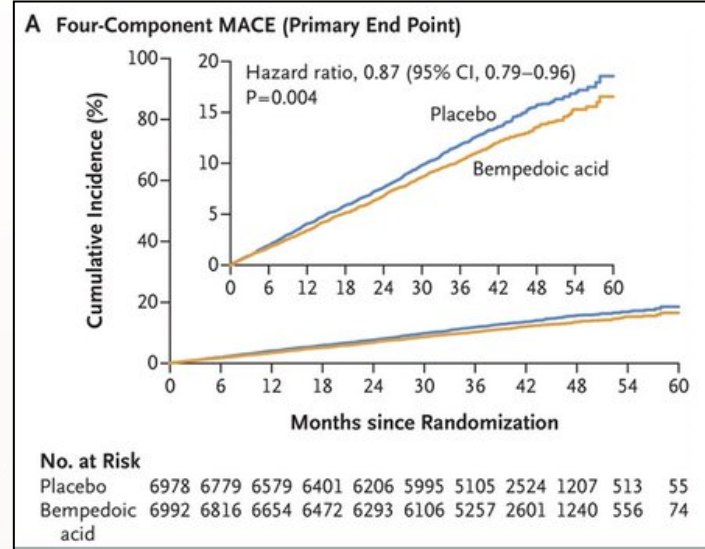
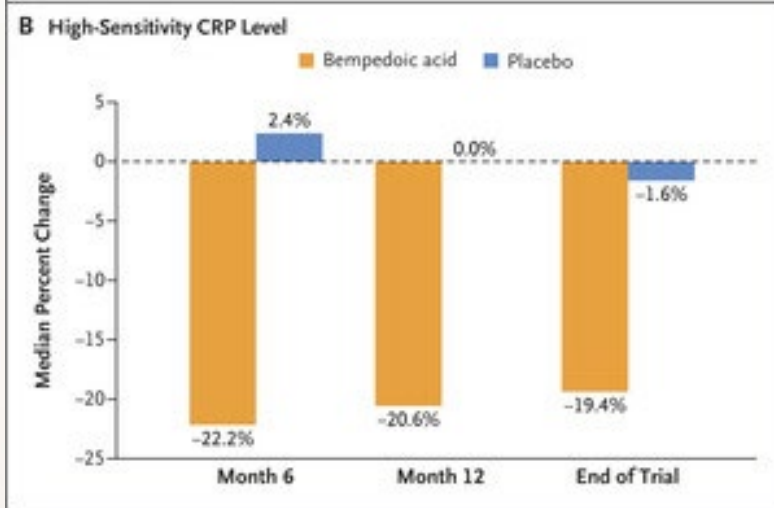
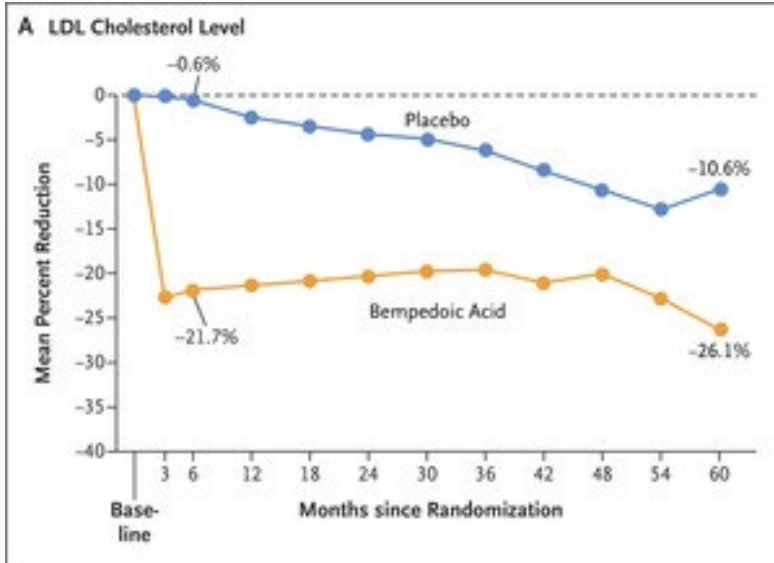
Ability to tolerate a lower dose of statin than is required to achieve the desired therapeutic objective

Complete Intolerance:

Patient is unable to tolerate any statin dose or regimen

Finding a tolerable statin regimen may require modification of the statin, statin dose, and/or dosing regimen

Clear Outcomes Study



Primary endpoint: Four-component composite of major adverse cardiovascular events, defined as death from cardiovascular causes, nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal stroke, or coronary revascularization.

Key Takeaways:

- Patients with statin intolerance (high percentage are women; 48% women in trial) are undertreated and need more aggressive LDL lowering
- 13% RRR with bempedoic acid in composite MACE at 40 months; NNT 63
- Bempedoic acid is well tolerated and improves CV outcomes

QUESTION In statin-intolerant primary prevention patients at high cardiovascular risk, does bempedoic acid reduce major adverse cardiovascular events?

CONCLUSION Treatment with bempedoic acid in primary prevention patients has the potential to reduce major adverse cardiovascular events.

POPULATION

2481 Women
1725 Men



Statin-intolerant adults
without a prior
cardiovascular event

Mean age: 68 years

LOCATIONS

1250
Centers
worldwide



INTERVENTION



2100

Bempedoic acid
180-mg oral dose
administered daily

4206 Patients randomized



2106

Placebo
Matching placebo

PRIMARY OUTCOME

Composite of cardiovascular death,
nonfatal myocardial infarction, nonfatal
stroke, or coronary revascularization

FINDINGS

Composite end point occurrence

Bempedoic acid
5.3% (111 of 2100 patients)

Placebo
7.6% (161 of 2106 patients)

Risk reduction was significant:
Adjusted hazard ratio, **0.70**
(95% CI, 0.55-0.89); $P=.002$

© AMA

Nissen SE, Menon V, Nicholls SJ, et al. Bempedoic acid for primary prevention of cardiovascular events in statin-intolerant patients. *JAMA*.
Published online June 24, 2023. doi:10.1001/jama.2023.9696

Key Takeaways:

- The high-risk primary prevention population has a high event rate, and this subgroup had even more benefit; NNT 44
- There was an all-cause mortality benefit for this subgroup

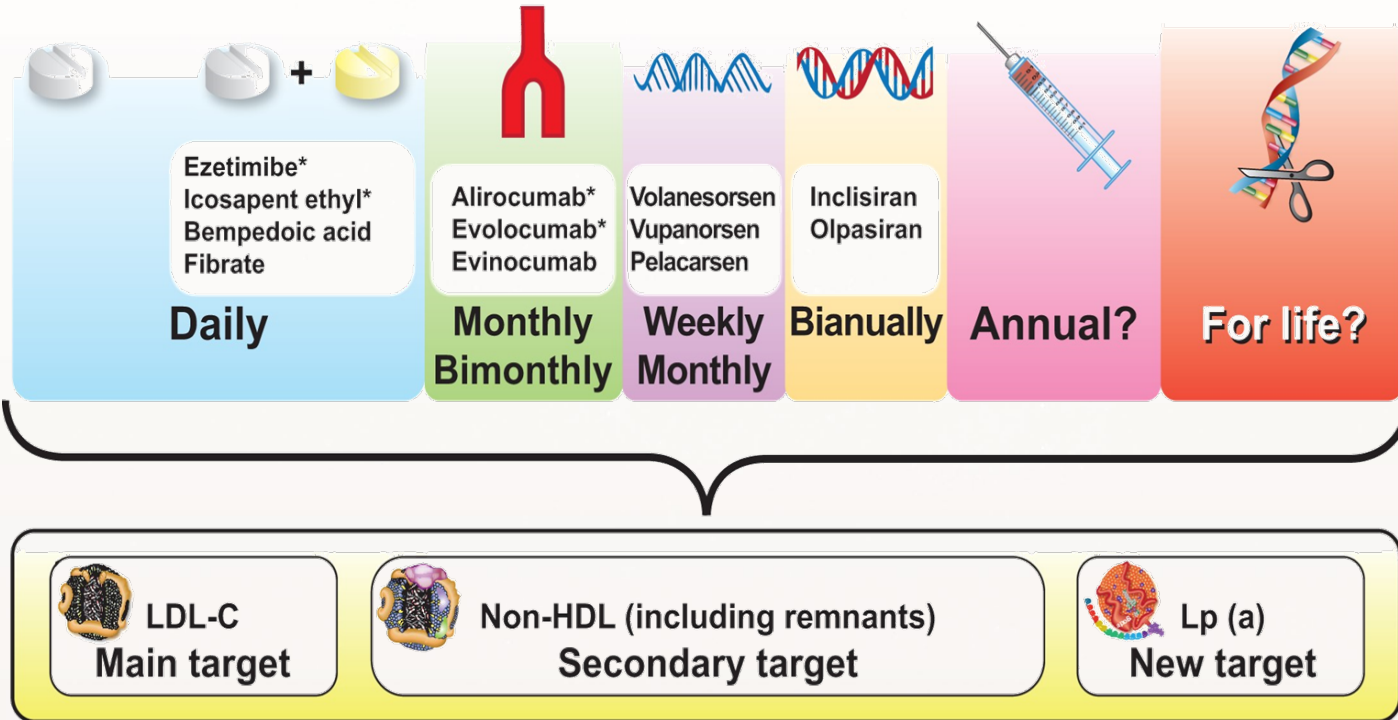
FDA Label Update March 2024 Based on CLEAR OUTCOMES

- The bempedoic acid component of NEXLIZET and NEXLETOL is indicated to reduce the risk of myocardial infarction and coronary revascularization in adults **who are unable to take recommended statin therapy (including those not taking a statin)** with:
 - established cardiovascular disease (CVD), or
 - **at high risk for a CVD event but without established CVD.**
- As an adjunct to diet:
 - NEXLIZET, alone or in combination with other LDL-C-lowering therapies, to reduce LDL-C in adults with primary hyperlipidemia, including HeFH.
 - NEXLETOL, in combination with other LDL-C-lowering therapies, or alone when concomitant LDL-C-lowering therapy is not possible, to reduce LDL-C in adults with primary hyperlipidemia, including HeFH.

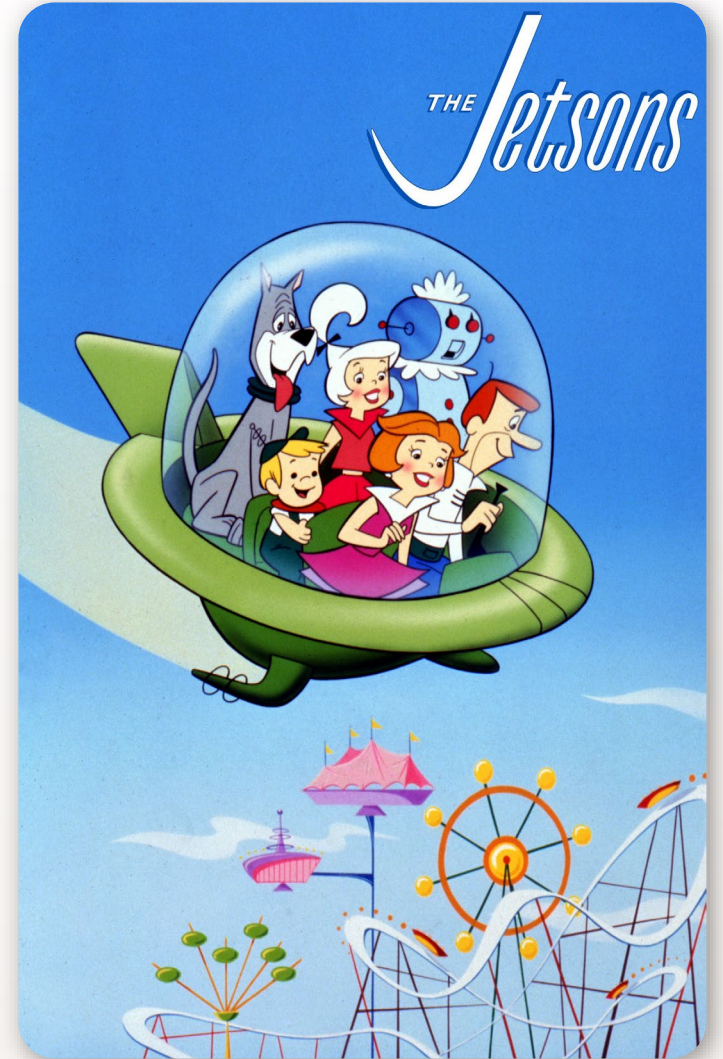
The Future of Lipid-Lowering Therapies

Evolution of Lipid Lowering Therapies:

Statins* → Oral combination → MoAb → ASO → siRNA → Vaccination → Gene editing



*Therapies shown to decrease CV events





Conclusions

- Cardiovascular disease continues to be the #1 killer of women
- LDL-C is the single most modifiable risk factor
- Most high-risk patients with ASCVD are not at LDL-C goal
- Combination therapy with statin and nonstatin agents is needed to achieve LDL goals
- Patients with elevated CAC scores >300 should be considered secondary prevention
- Get the LDL as low as you can for secondary prevention



Women's Health

2024

Beyond the Annual Visit

THANK YOU