

*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:

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  - 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*

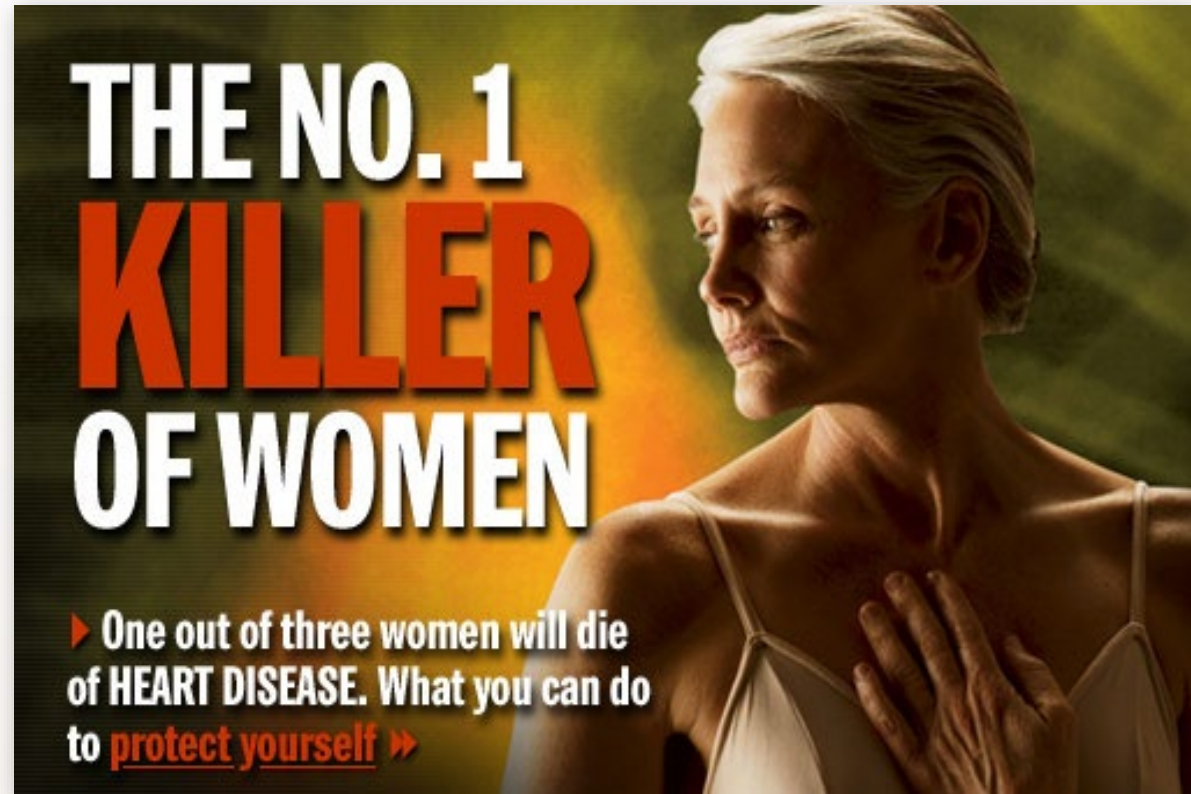
- Demonstrate collective understanding of gender differences and challenges in optimizing LDL-C management for women, with a particular focus on practical considerations
- Analyze the changing landscape of LDL-C management in women by integrating the latest research findings and therapeutic insights



# *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*

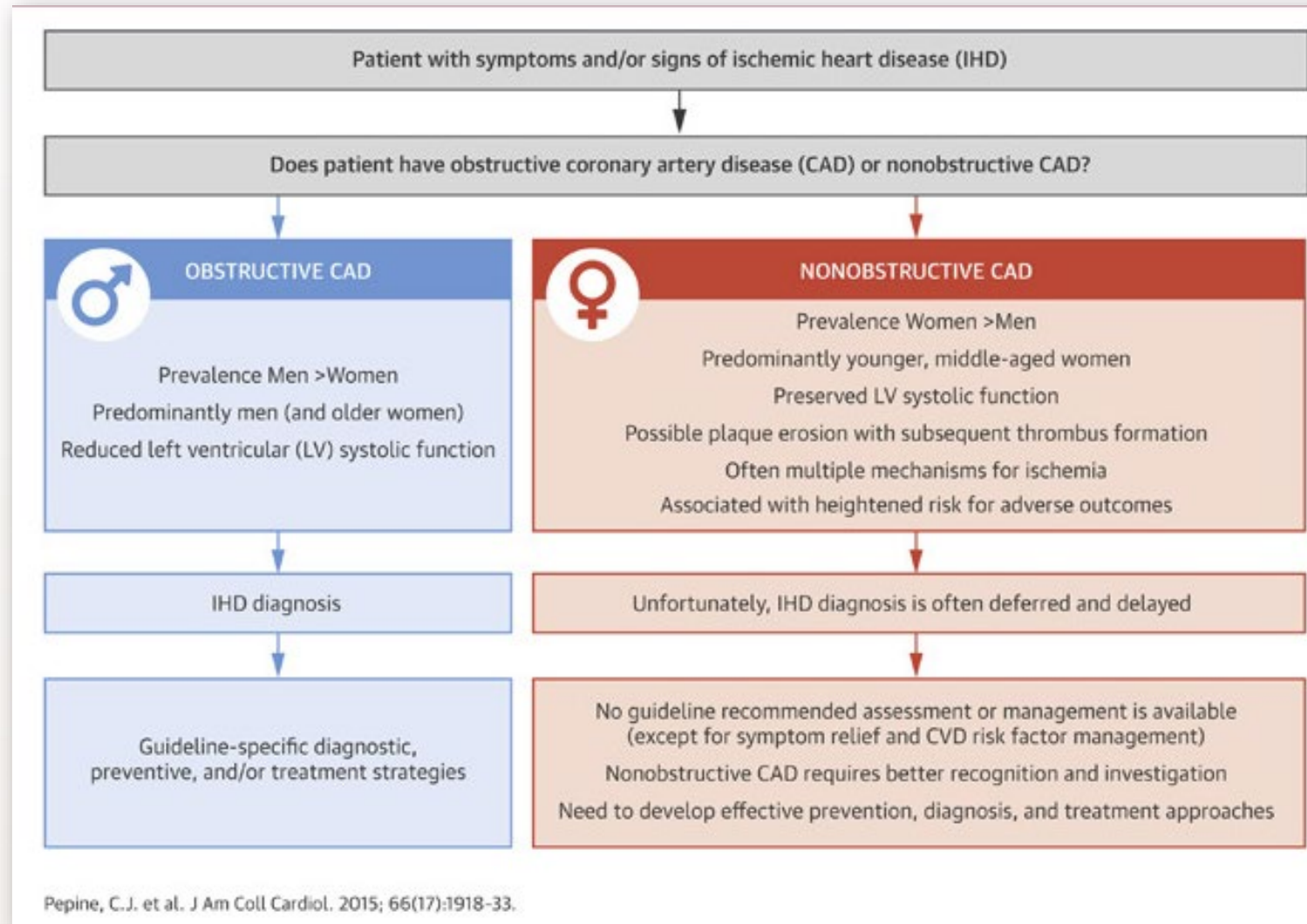




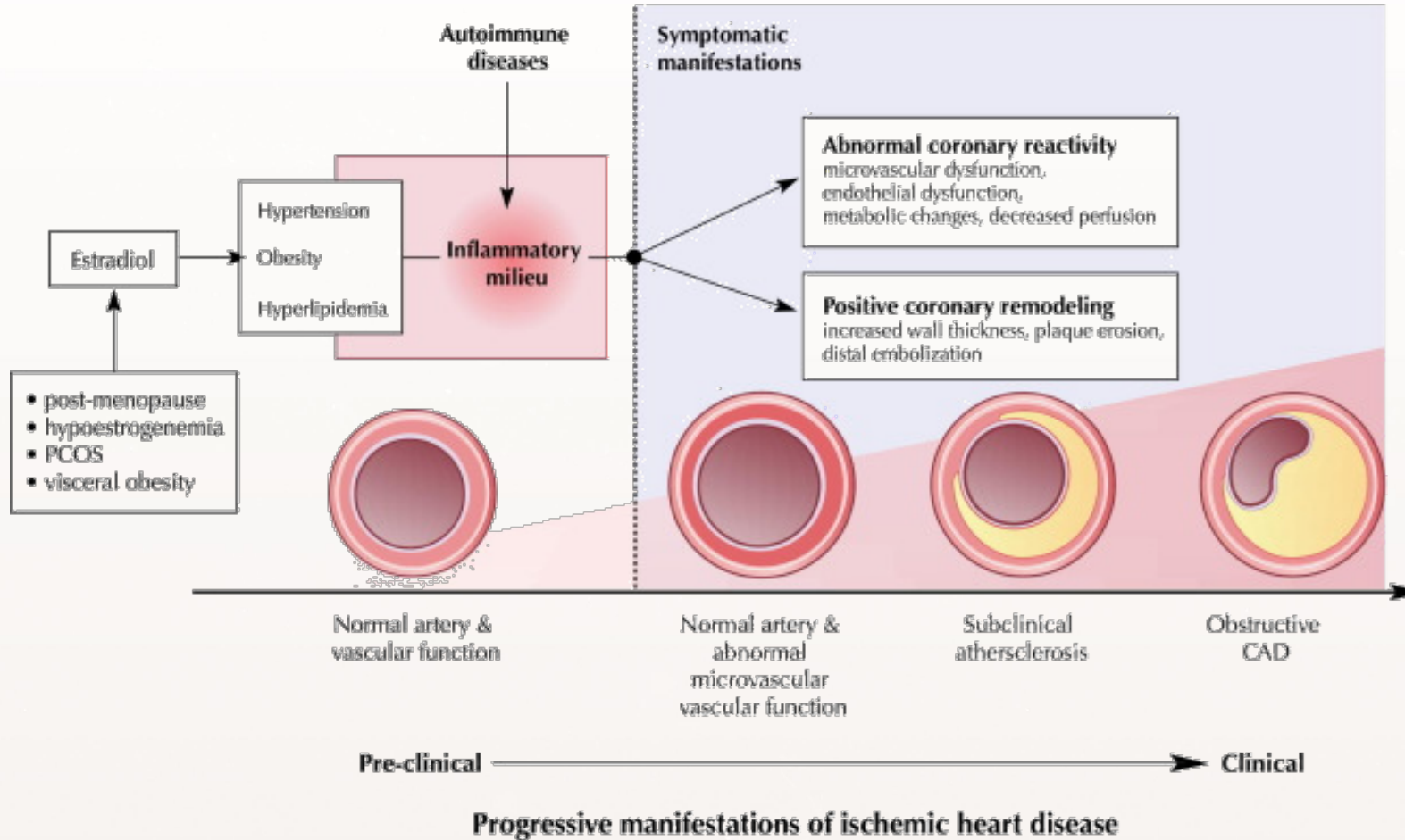
# *Overview of CVD in Women*

- 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



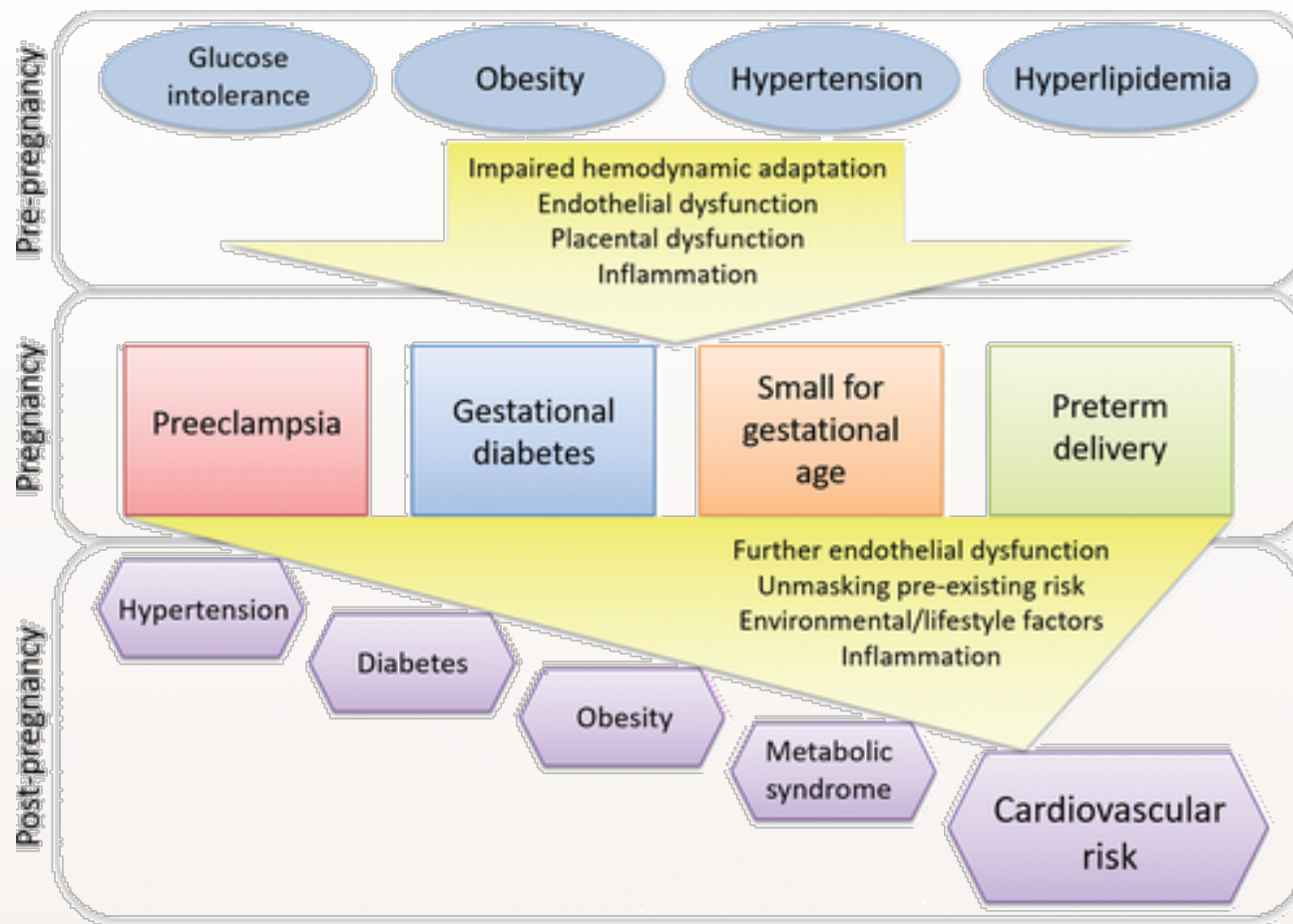




# *Diabetes Impacts Women More Severely*

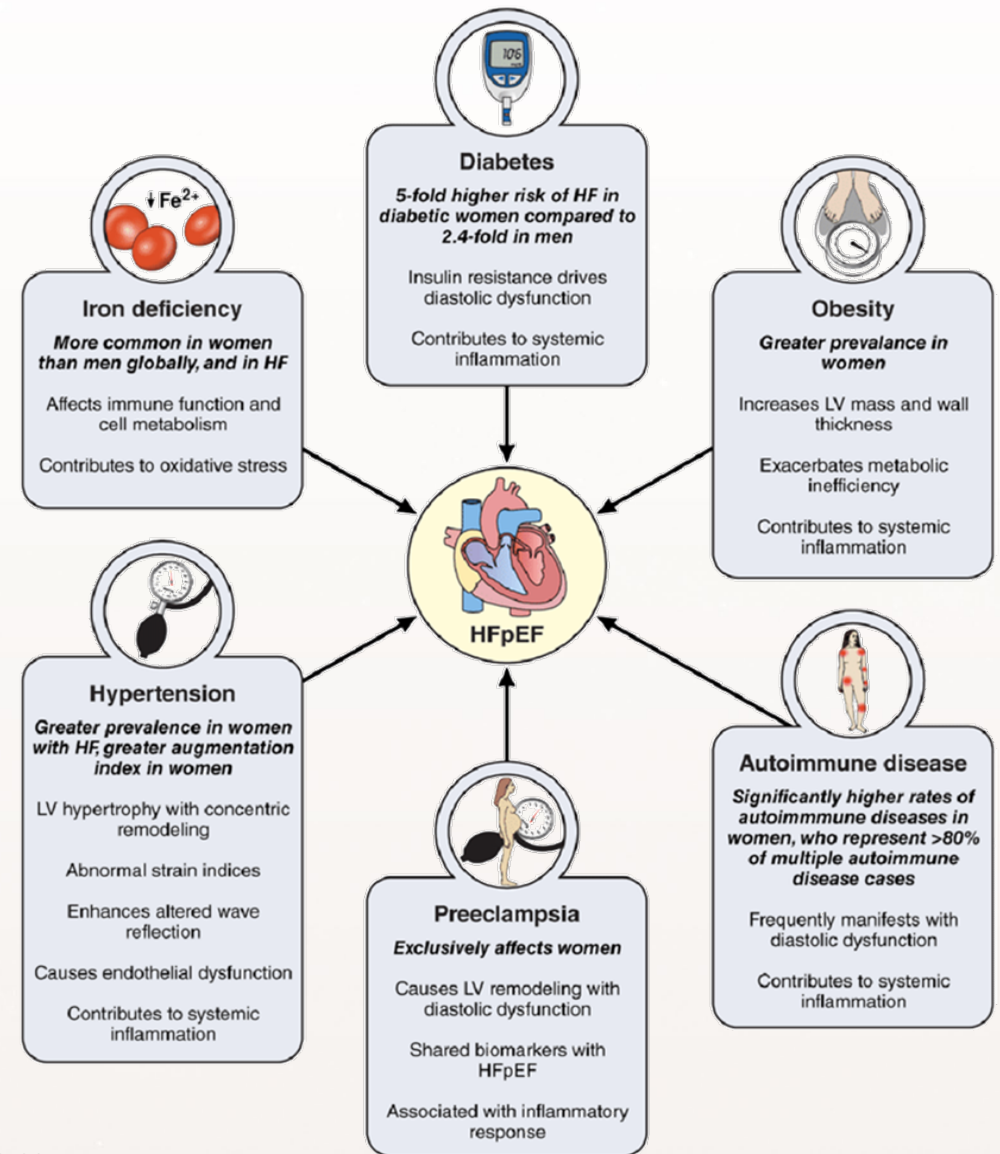
- Premenopausal women with diabetes lose the protection against heart disease that nondiabetic women have and are 50% more likely to die from heart disease
- Elderly women with T2DM and end-stage renal disease have a significantly higher risk of death than men
- Women with diabetes are 4 times more likely 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



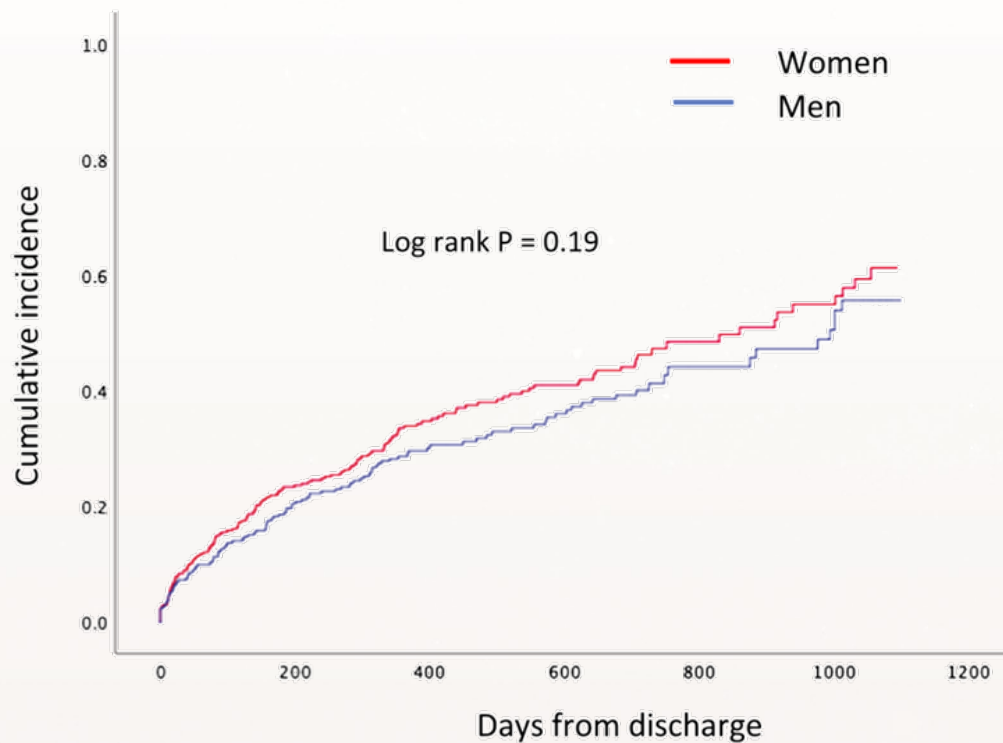
# HFpEF Disproportionately Impacts Women

- 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

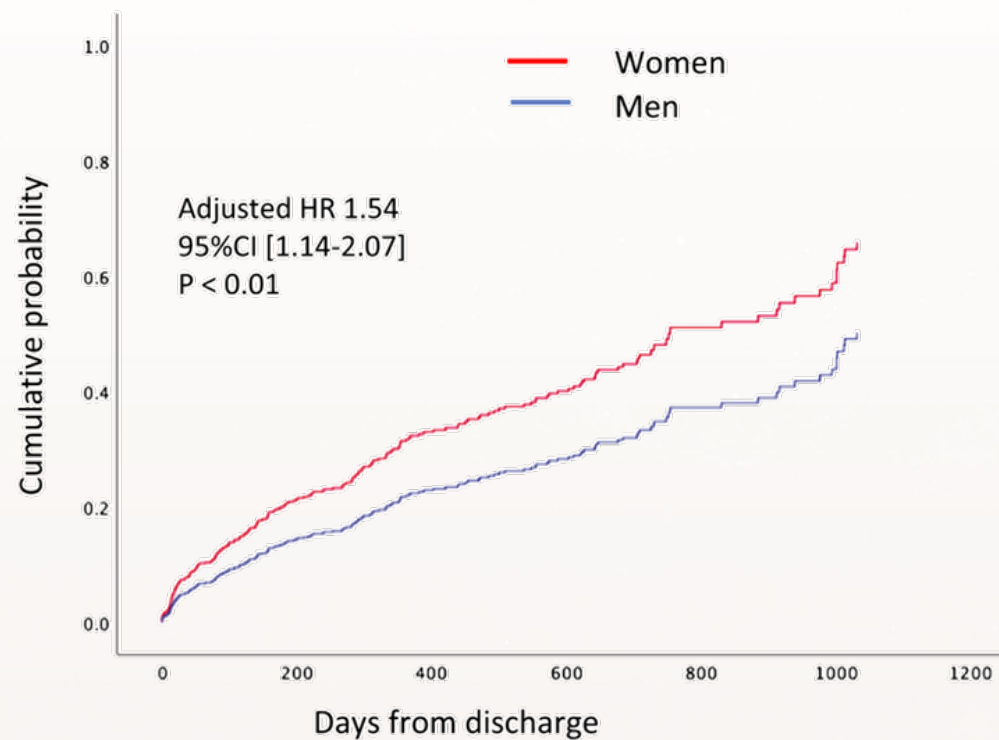


# Women With HFpEF Have Worse Outcomes

**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

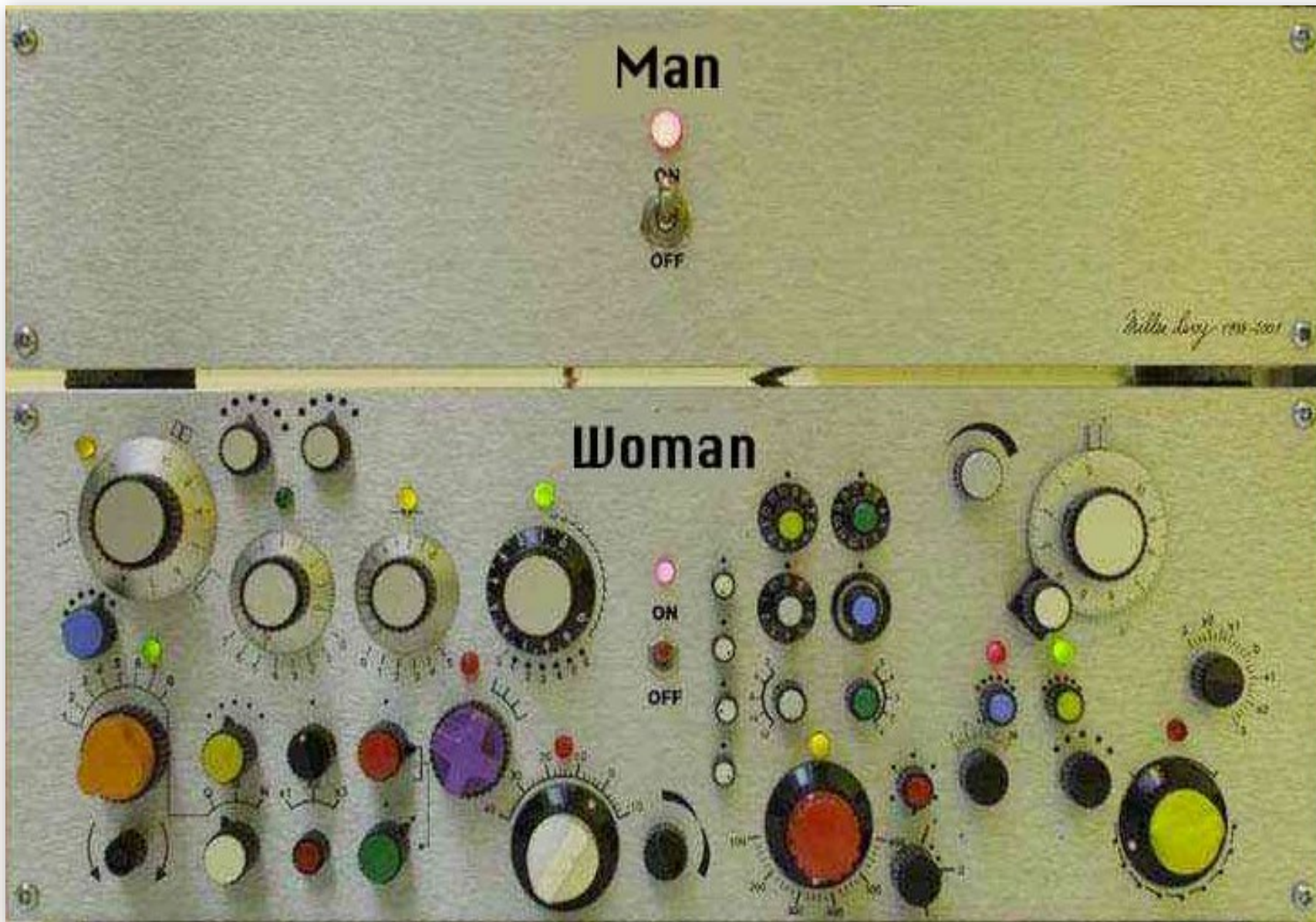
Initiate lifestyle changes to ↓LDL

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

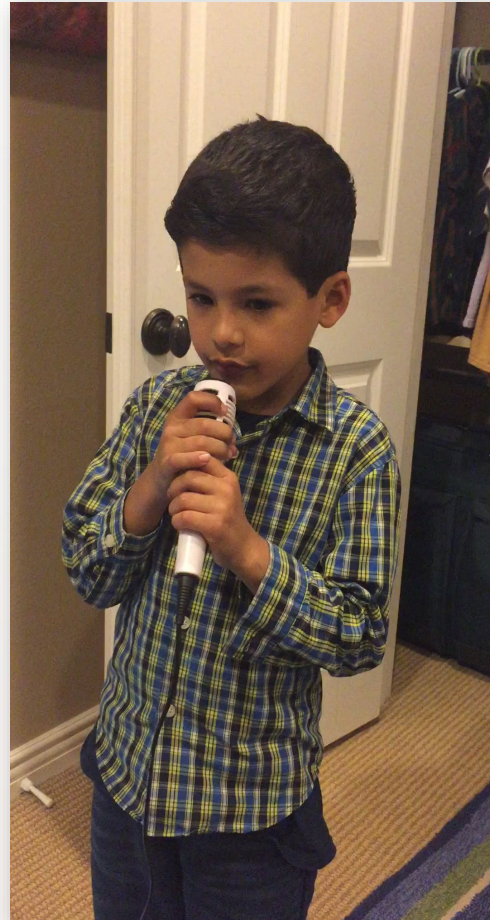
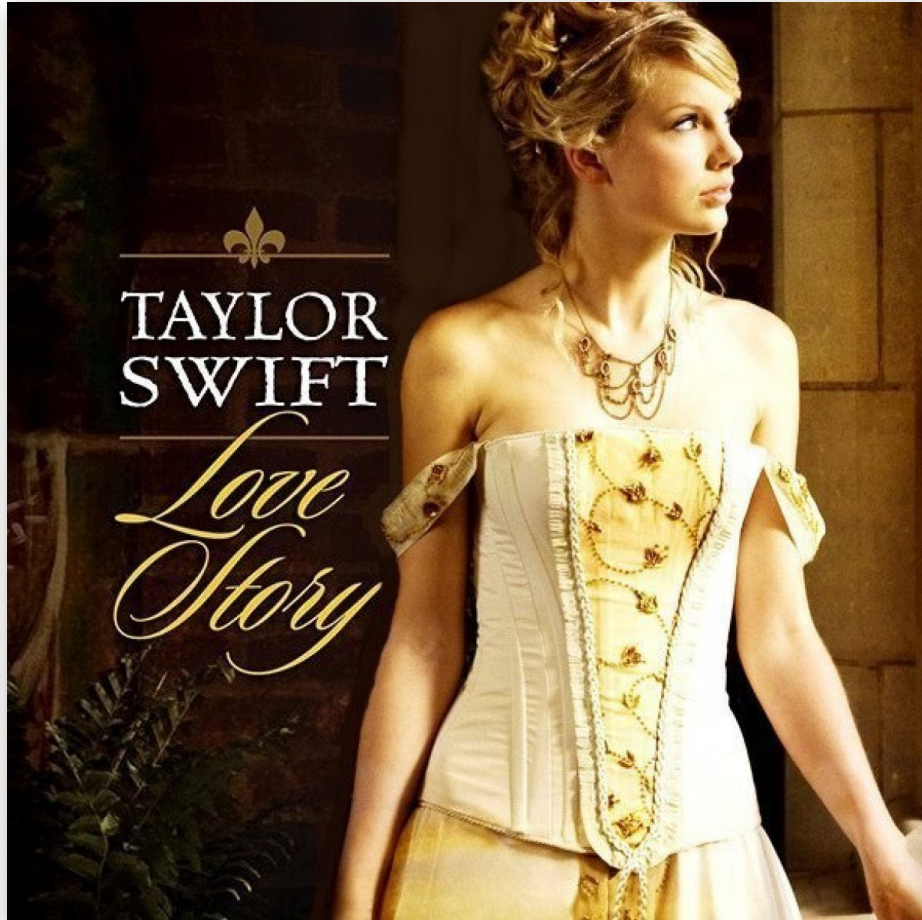
- Regular screening w/ lipid panel, blood pressure, HbA1c; treat lipids & modifiable risk factors  
- Consider Coronary Artery Calcium score & Lp(a) for CV risk stratification

Personalized lipid management based on ASCVD risk

Increasing ASCVD risk



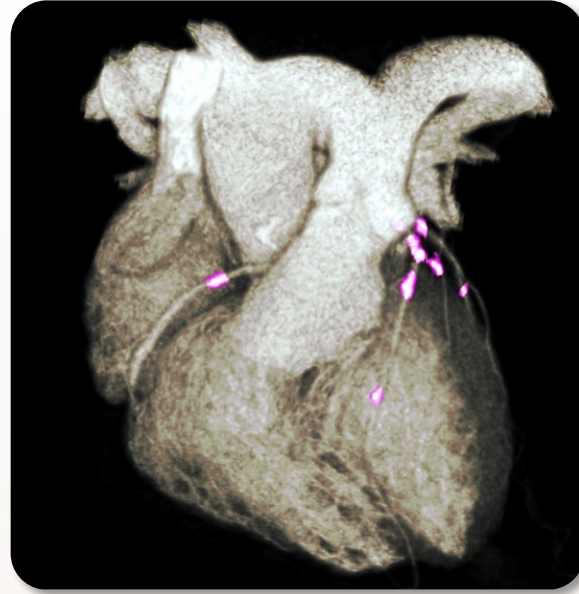
# *Love Story: Engage in Meaningful Relationships*



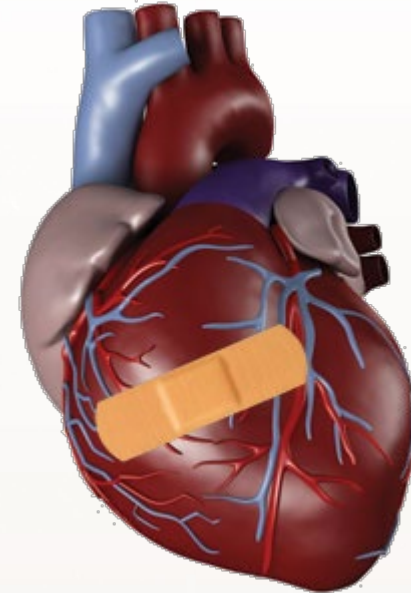
# *Continuum of ASCVD Risk*



**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  $\geq 160$  mg/dL ( $\geq 4.1$  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 ( $\geq 175$  mg/dL or  $\geq 2.0$  mmol/L)

## In selected individuals if measured:

- hs-CRP  $\geq 2.0$  mg/L
- Lp(a) levels  $> 50$  mg/dL or  $> 125$  mmol/L
- apoB  $\geq 130$  mg/dL
- Ankle-brachial 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  $\geq 160$  mg/dL ( $\geq 4.1$  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  $\geq 190$  mg/dL ( $\geq 4.9$  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:

- Family history of premature ASCVD
- Persistently elevated LDL-C  $\geq 160$  mg/dL ( $\geq 4.1$  mmol/L)
- Chronic kidney disease
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- apoB  $\geq 130$  mg/dL
- Ankle-brachial 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)**

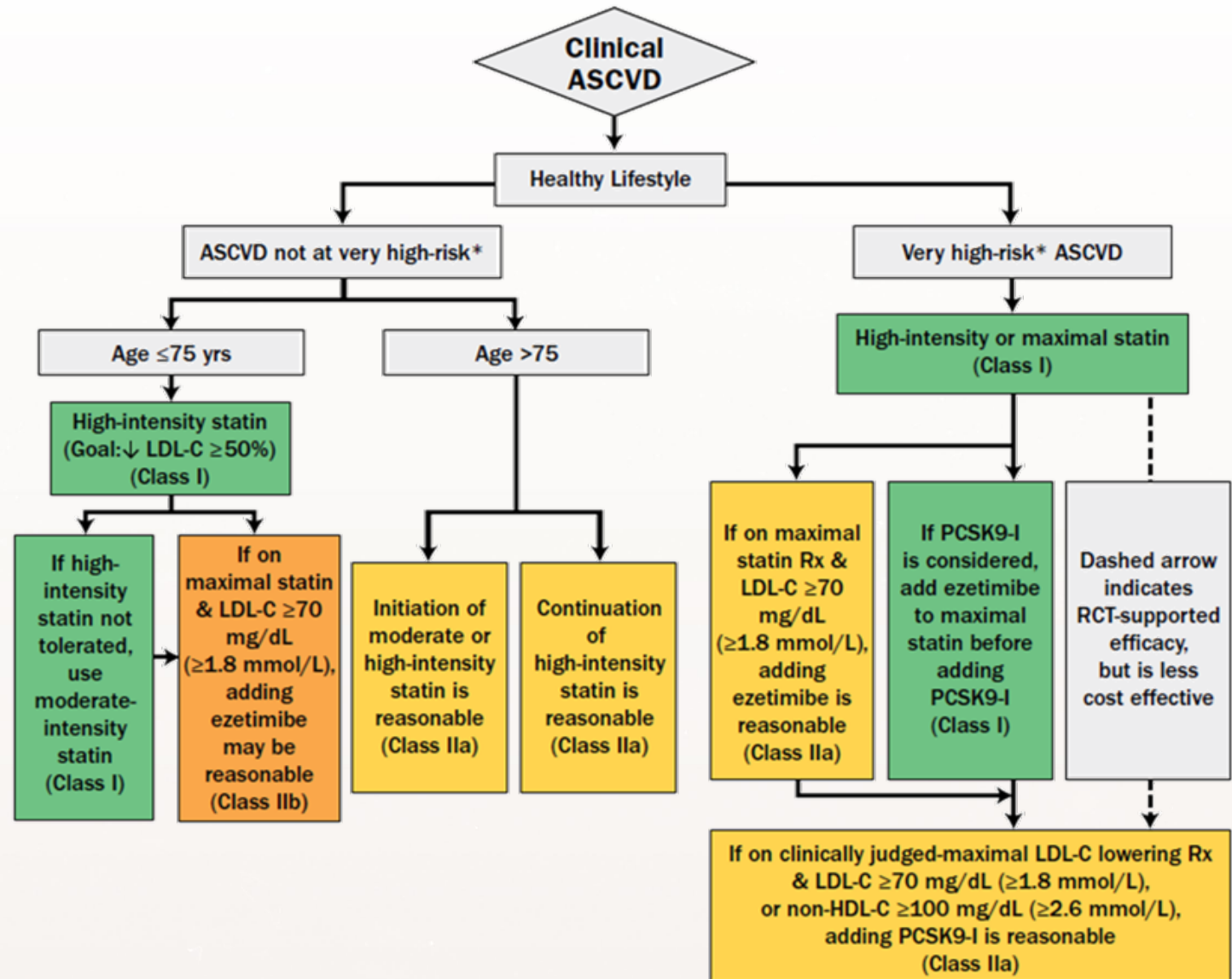
**Risk discussion: Initiate statin to reduce LDL-C  $\geq 50\%$  (Class I)**

**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  $\geq 75$ 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

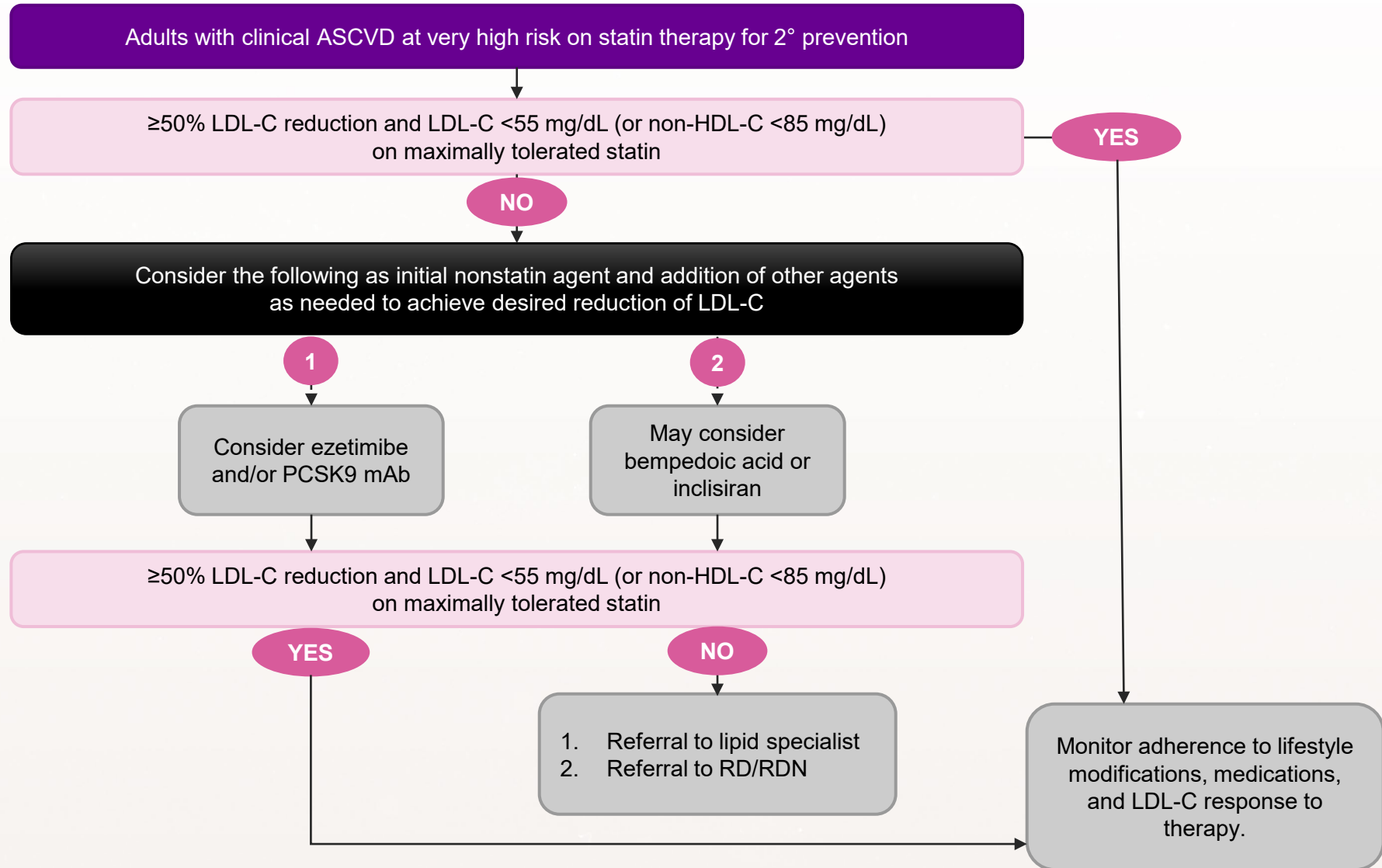


# Very High Risk for Future ASCVD events\*

| 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 <sup>2</sup> )  |
| 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  |

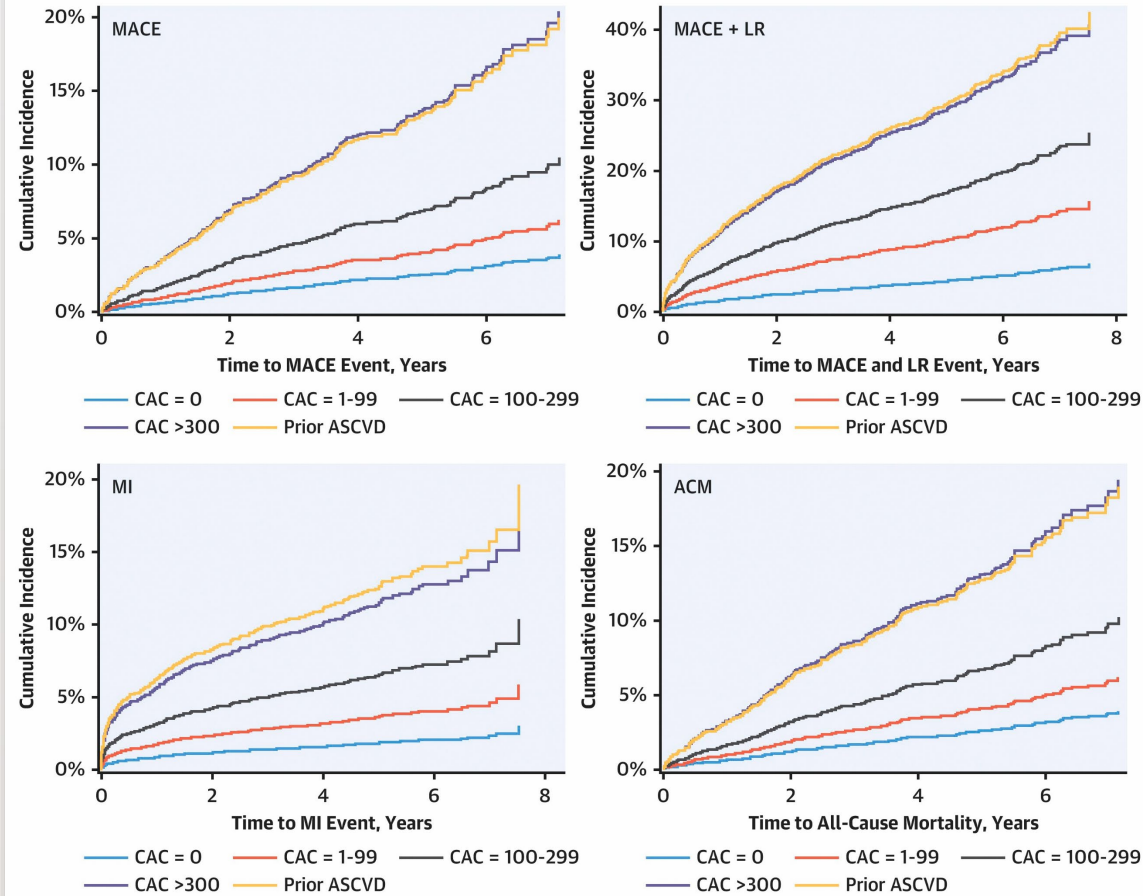
\*Very High Risk includes a history of multiple major ASCVD events or one major ASCVD event and multiple high-risk conditions.

# 2022 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway

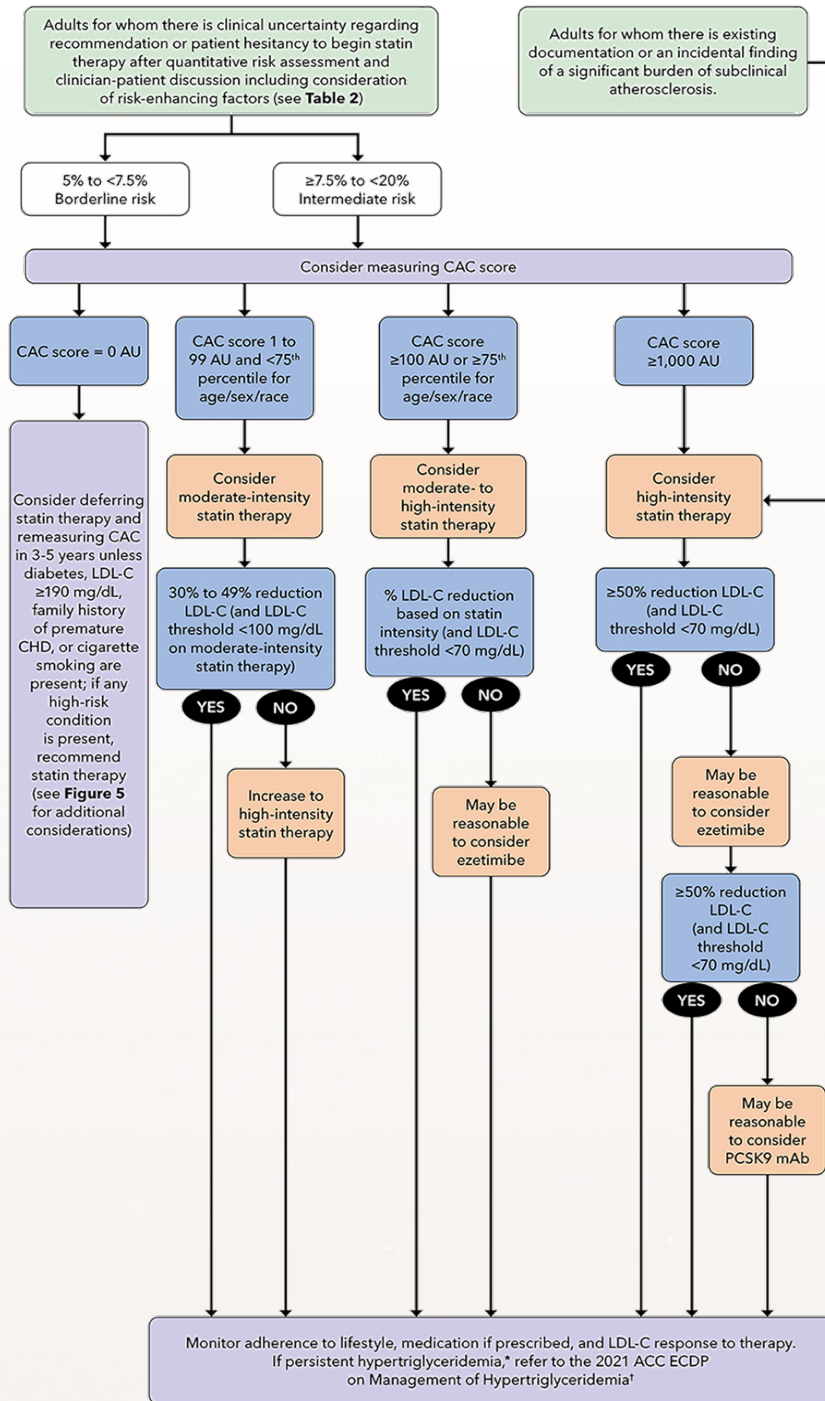


# CAC Score > 300 = Same Risk as Patients With ASCVD

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

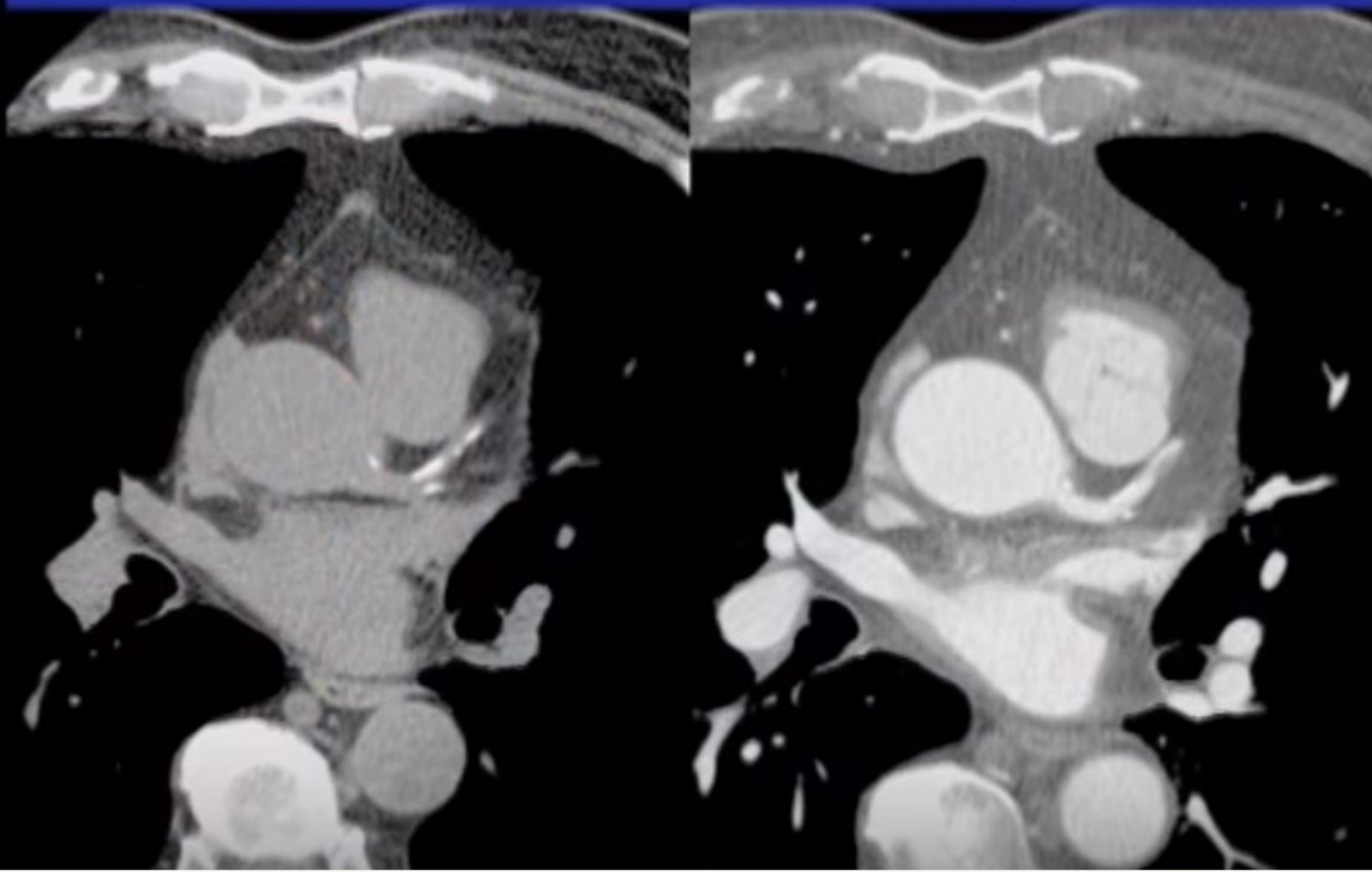


Budoff MJ, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Img. 2023;16(9):1181-1189.

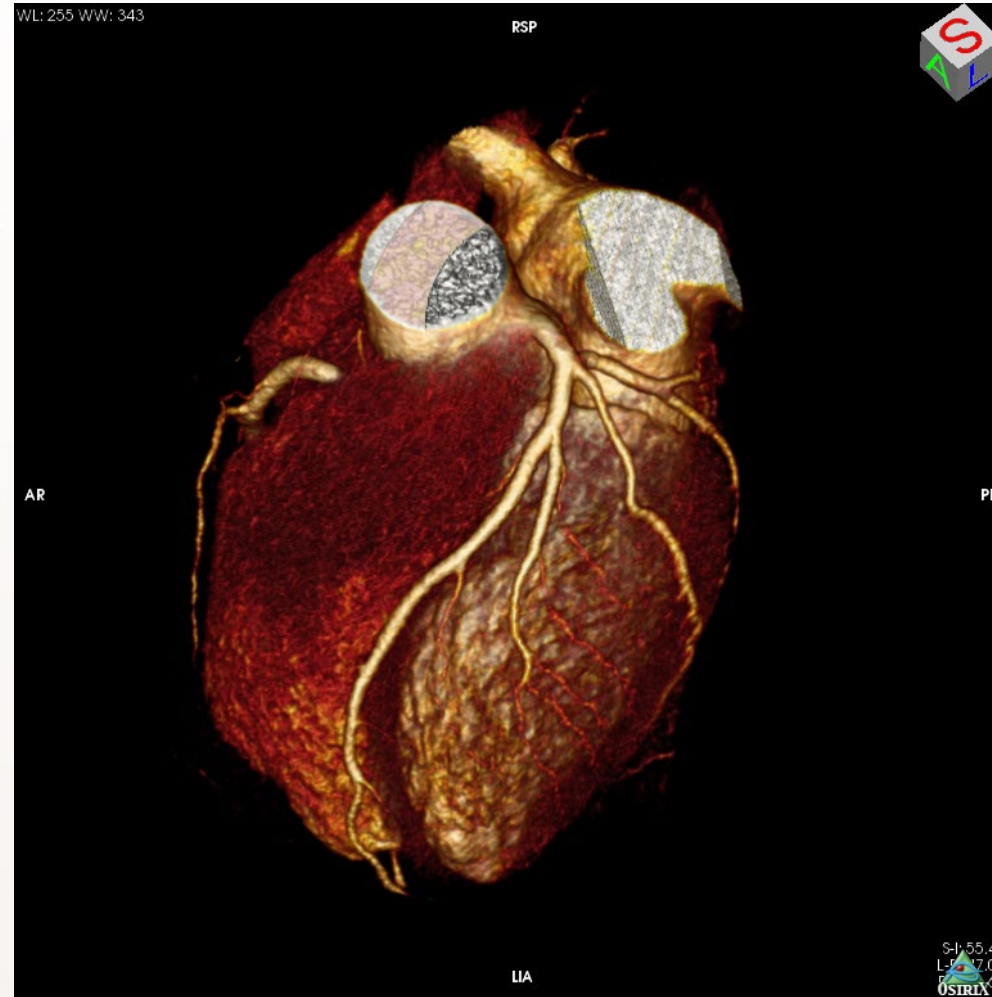


Lloyd-Jones DM, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2022;80(14):1366-1418.

## Calcium score vs. coronary CTA



# *Coronary CT Angiography: Best Imaging Modality for Plaque Characterization*

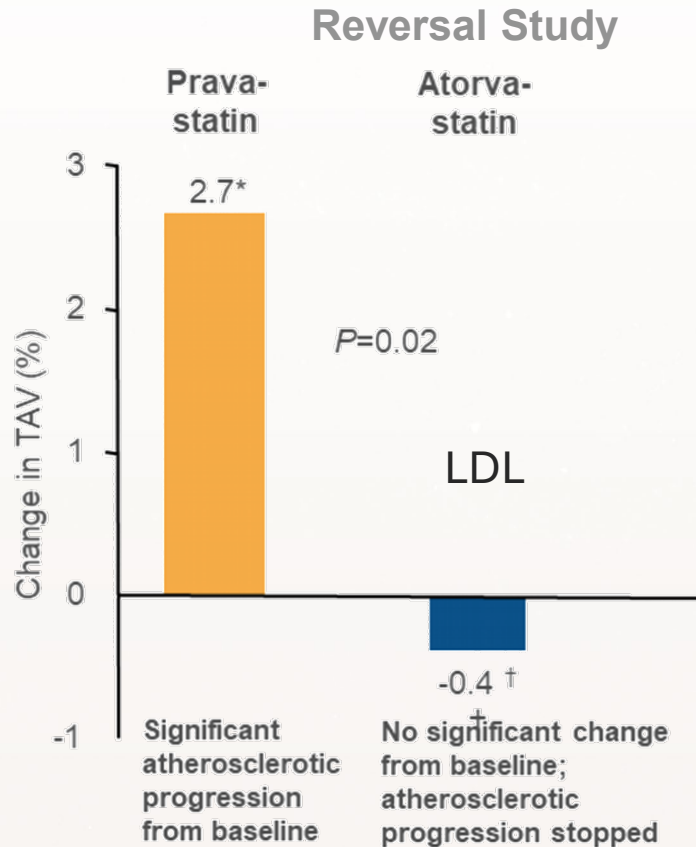




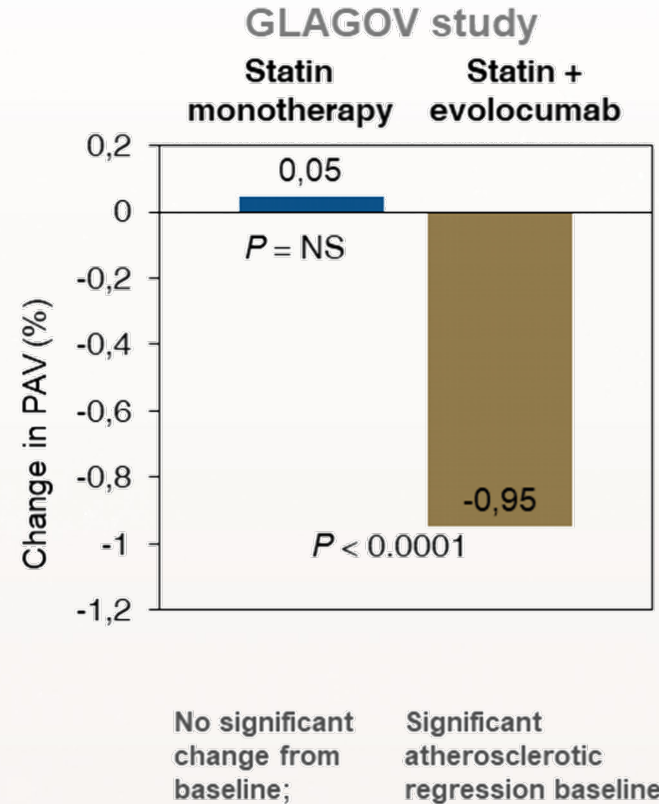
# *Shake It Off: Exercise Daily to Reduce Risk of Cardiovascular Disease*



# Plaque Stabilization vs Plaque Regression Depends on LDL Achieved



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

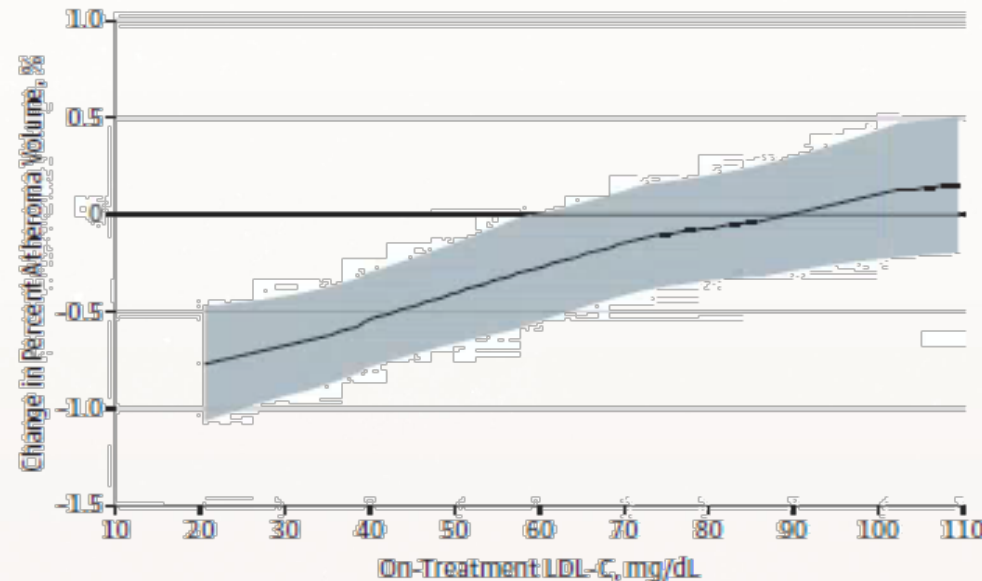


LDL in statin group: 93  
 LDL in statin + PCSK9i group: 36

**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



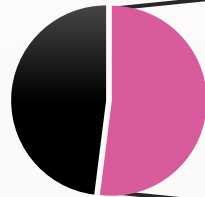
Local regression (LOESS) curve illustrating the post hoc analysis of the association (with 95% confidence intervals) between achieved low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) levels and the change in percent atheroma volume in all patients undergoing serial IVUS evaluation. Curve truncated at 20 and 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

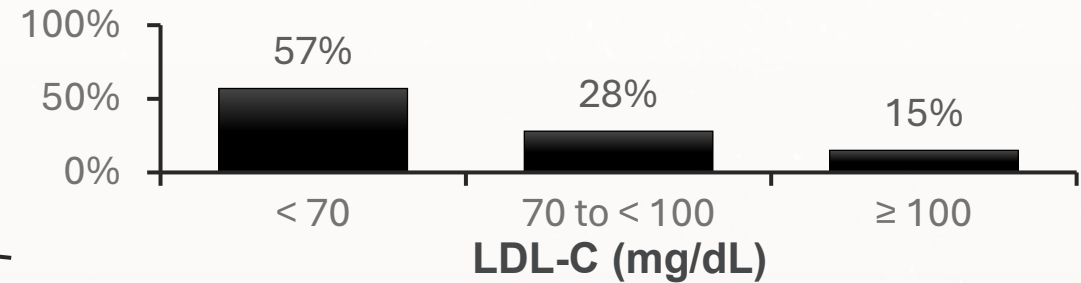
~1 of every 2 patients had LDL-C measured after PCI

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

No LDL-C  
48%



LDL-C  
52%

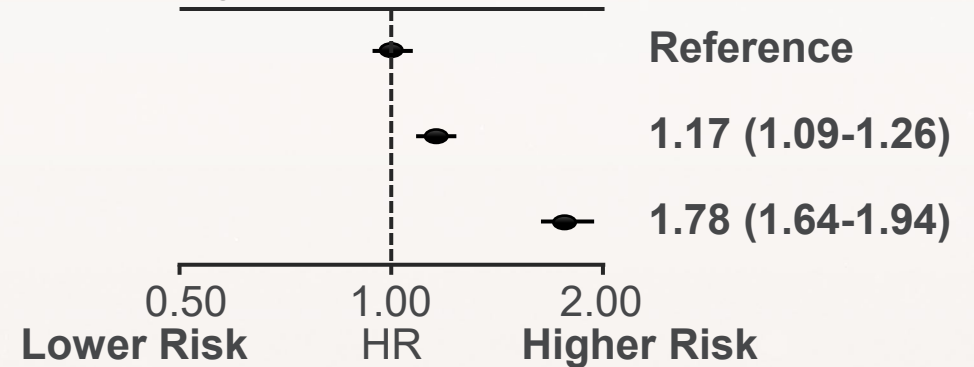


Higher LDL-C after PCI was associated with a higher risk of MACE

Rate of MACE

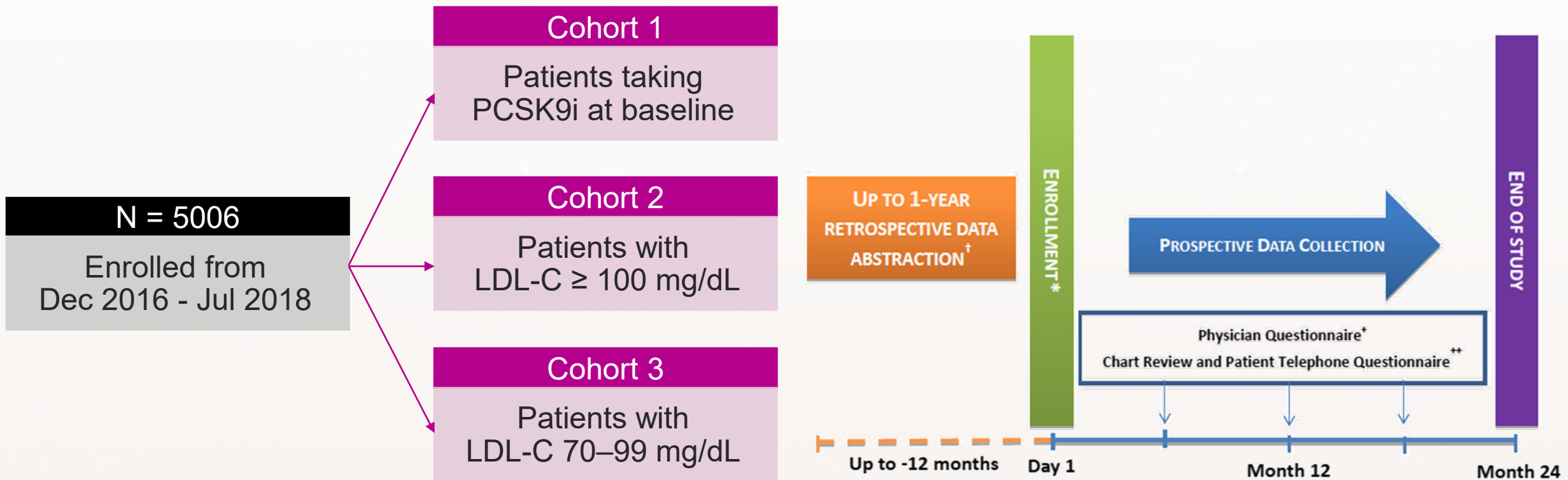


Adjusted Risk of MACE



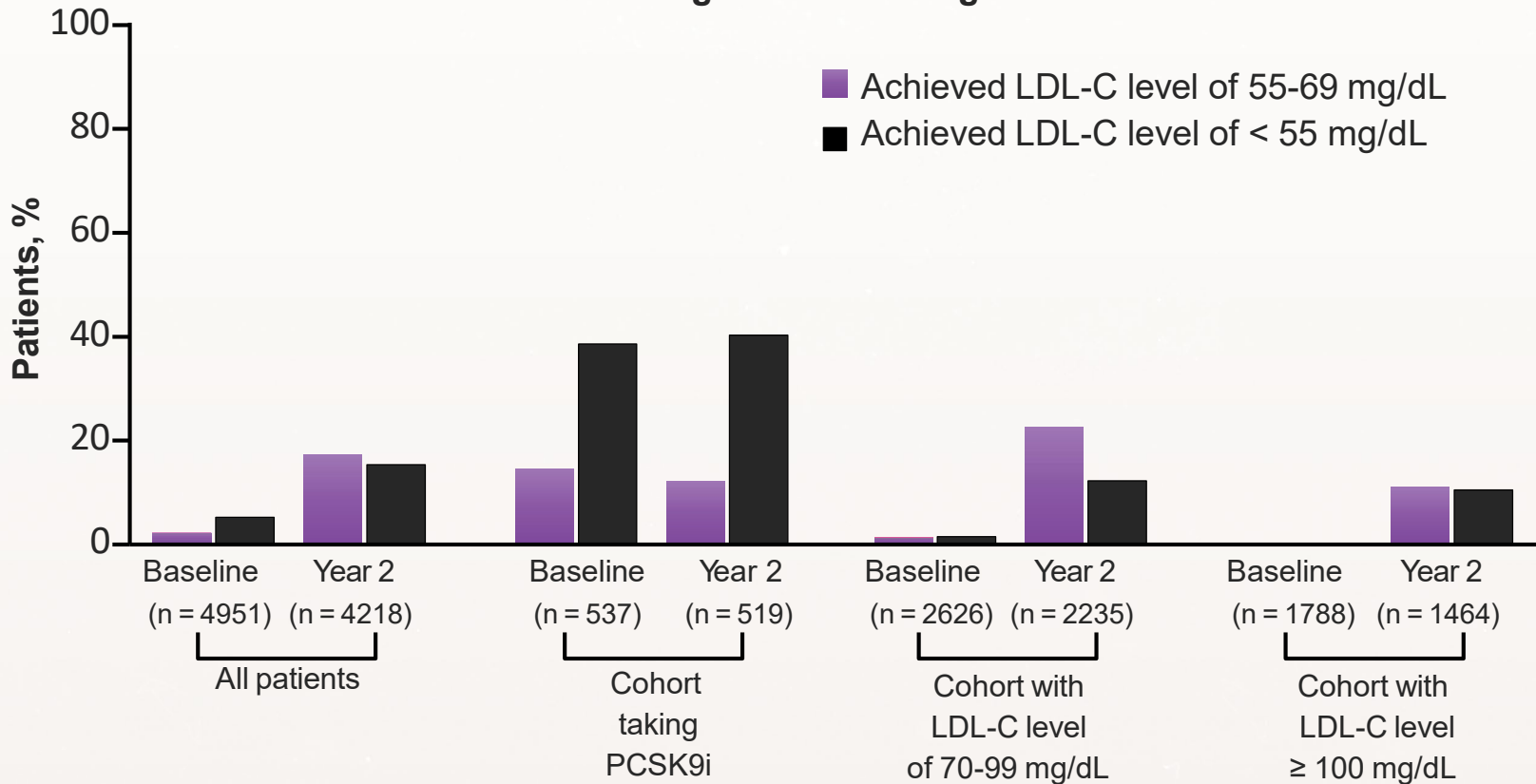
# GOULD Registry: High-Risk Patients With ASCVD

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

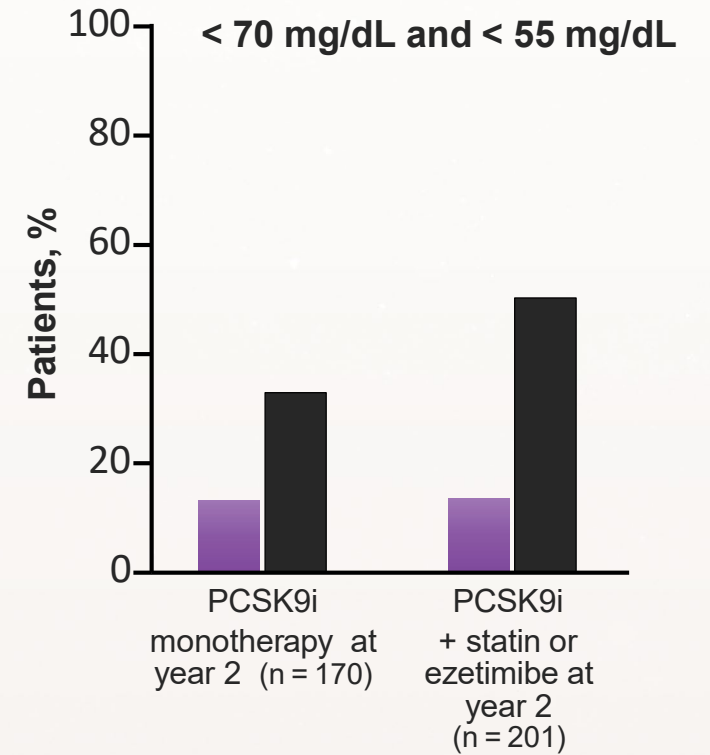


# GOULD: Combination Therapy Required to Achieve Target LDL-C

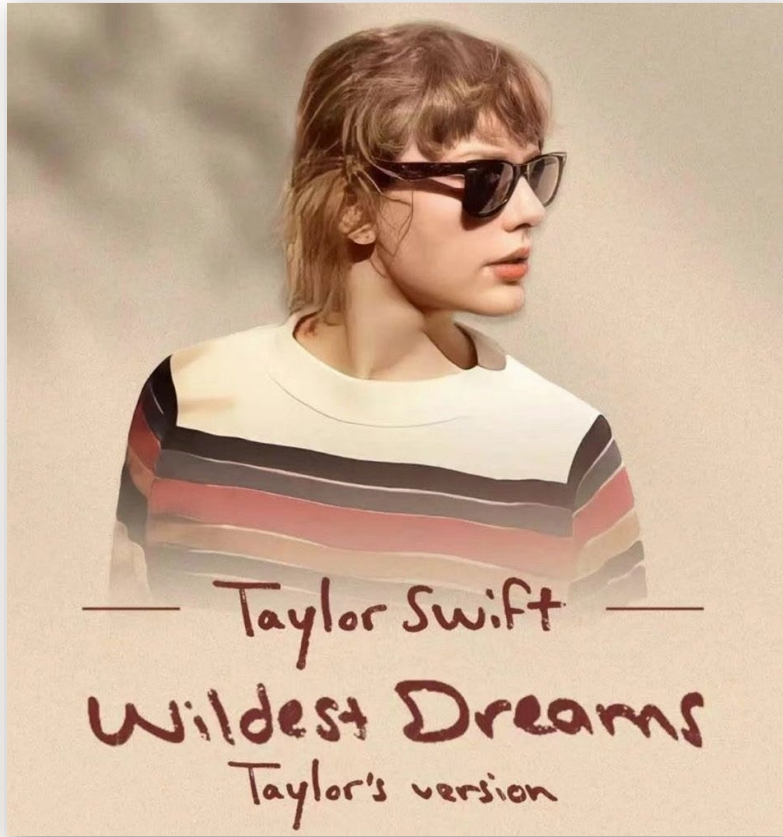
Patients who achieved LDL-C levels < 70 mg/dL and < 55 mg/dL



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

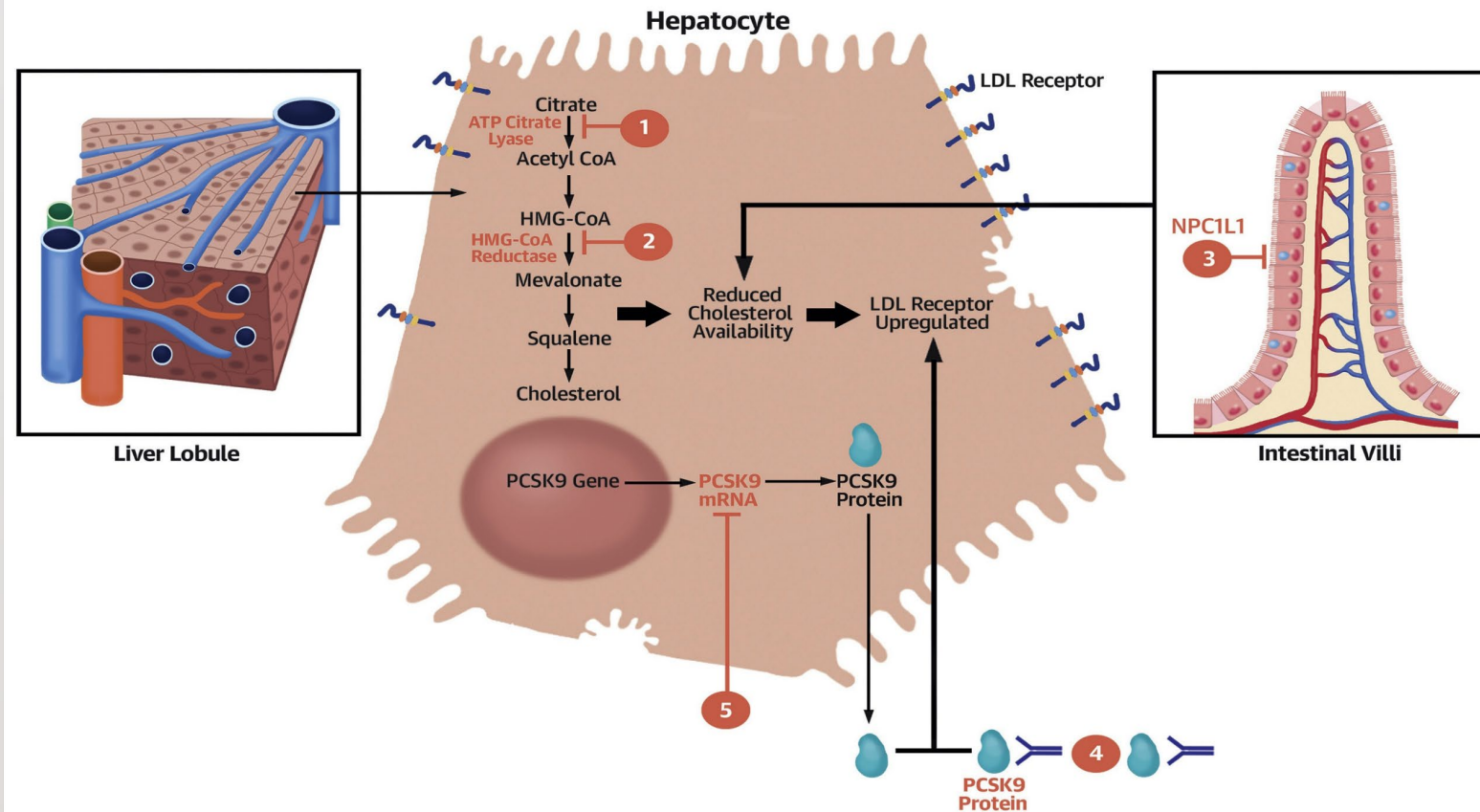


# *Wildest Dreams: New Science Is Giving Us So Many Options for Lipid Lowering*



# 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

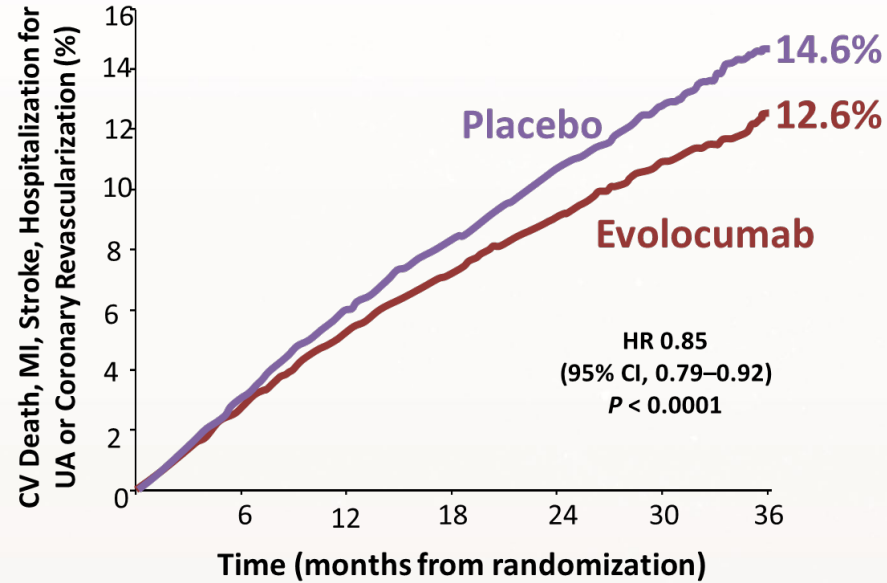


Preiss, D. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2020;75(16):1945-55.

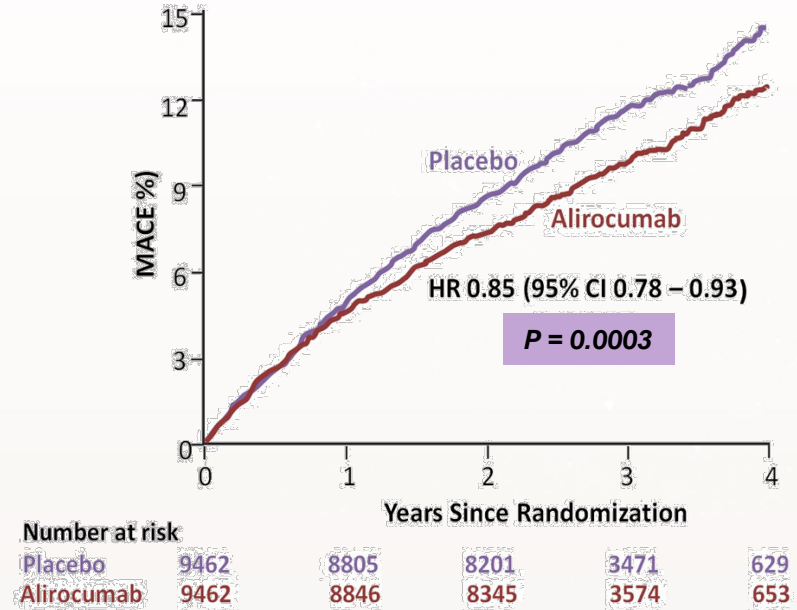


# PCSK9i Cardiovascular Outcome Trials

## FOURIER: Cumulative Incidence of MACE in Months After Randomization<sup>1</sup>



## ODYSSEY: Cumulative Incidence of MACE per Year After Randomization<sup>2</sup>



|            | 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

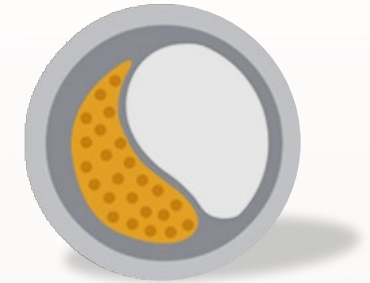
- **Studies in ACS:**

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

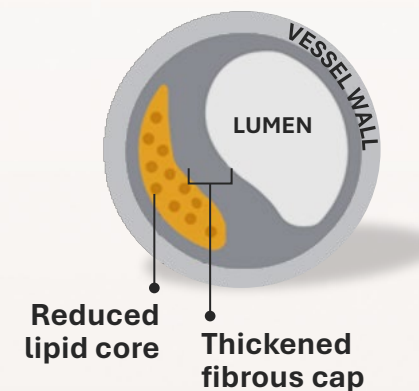
- **Results:**

- 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



ACS, acute coronary syndrome.

Nicholls SJ, et al. *JACC Cardiovasc Imaging*. 2022;15(7):1308-1321. Nissen SE, et al. *JAMA*. 2004;291(9):1071-1080. Nicholls SJ, et al. *JAMA*. 2016;316(22):2373-2384. Räber L, et al. *JAMA*. 2022;327(18):1771-1781.

# 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:

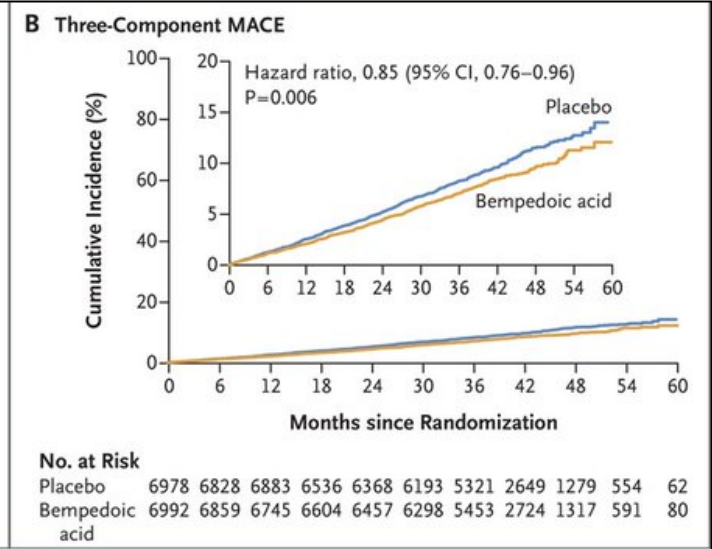
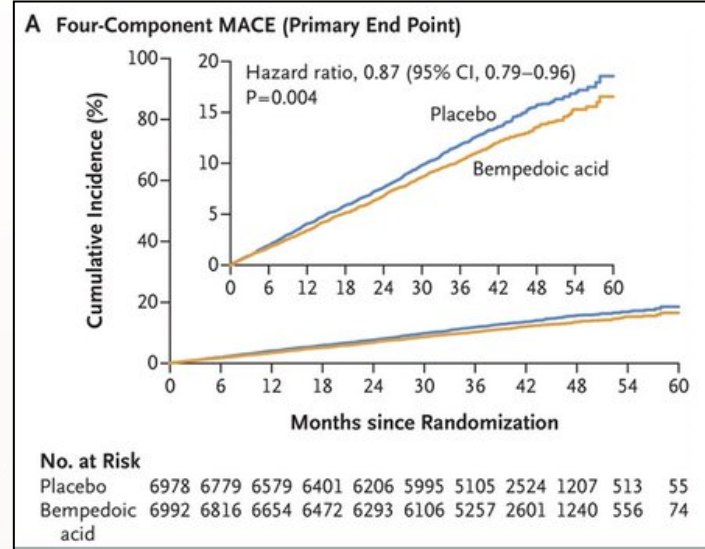
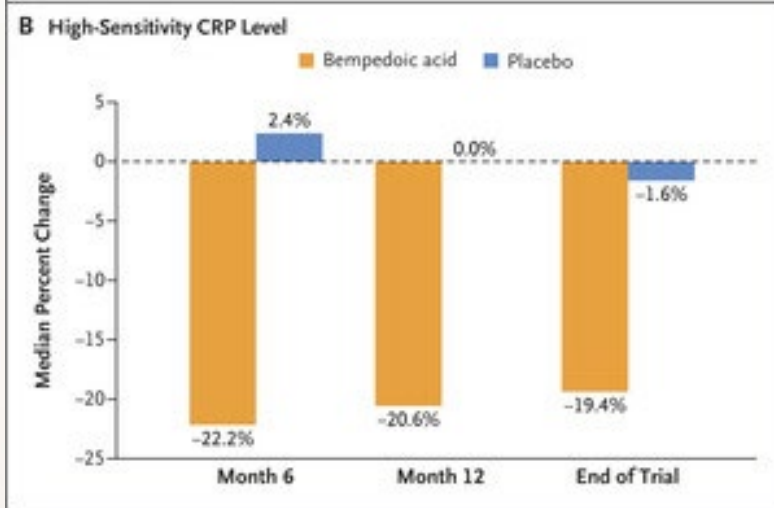
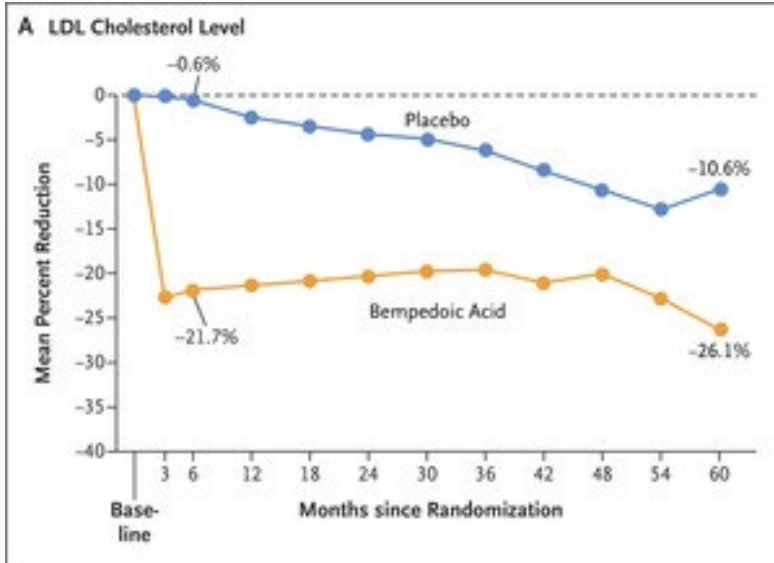
Ability to tolerate a lower dose of statin than is required to achieve the desired therapeutic objective

### 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);  $P=.002$

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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

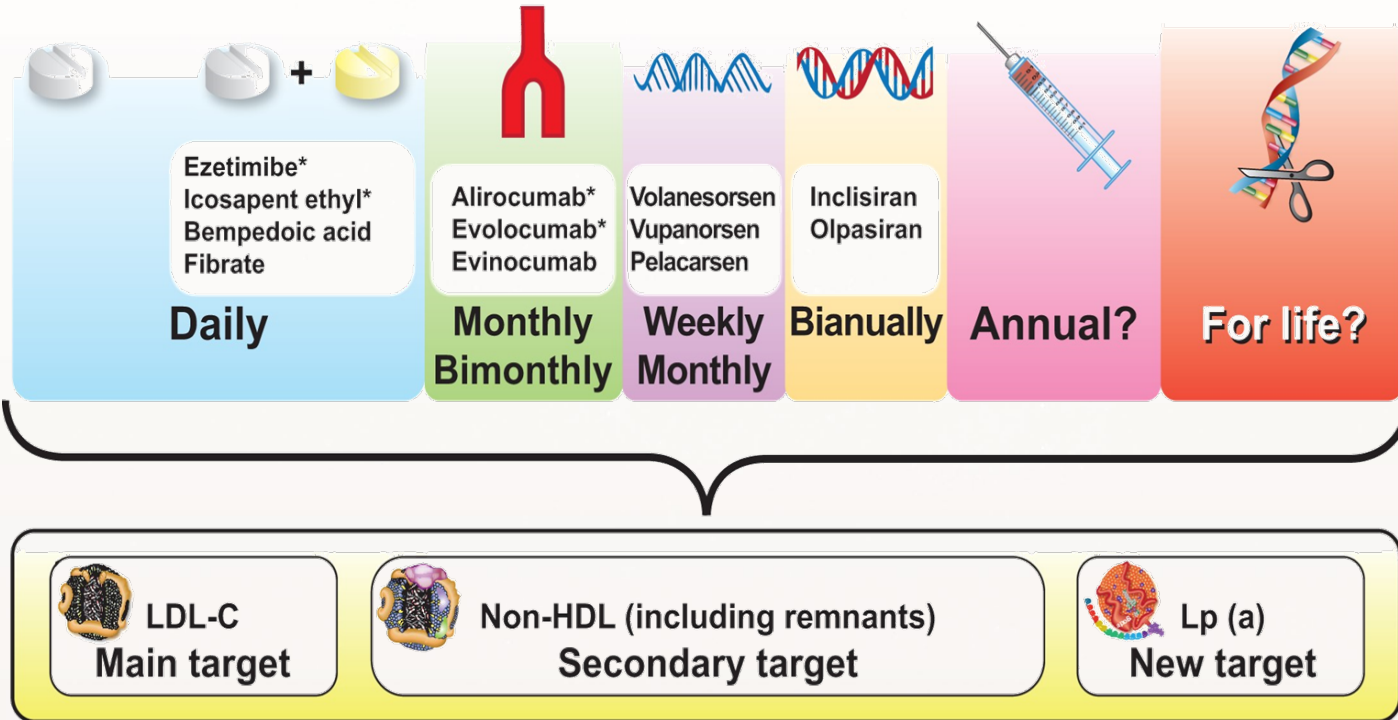
# *FDA Label Update March 2024 Based on CLEAR OUTCOMES*

- 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.

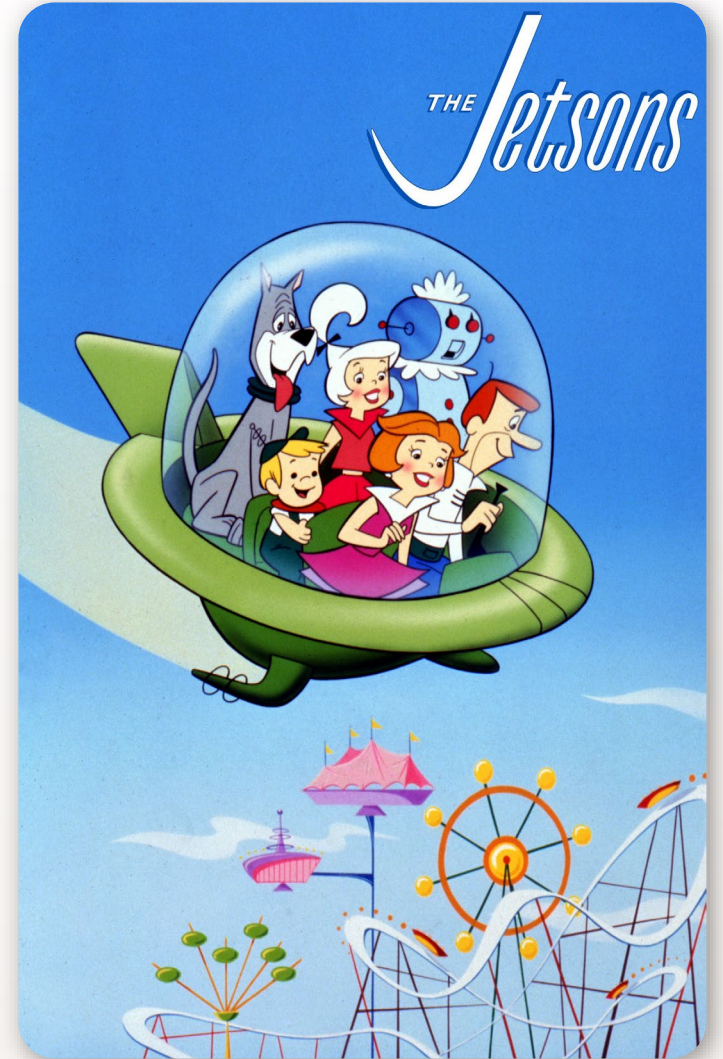
# The Future of Lipid-Lowering Therapies

## 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***