




1

**The Optimal Approach to Lowering Lipids in 2024**

Michael D Miedema MD MPH  
Director of Cardiovascular Prevention  
Minneapolis Heart Institute


  
**Allina Health**  
MINNEAPOLIS  
HEART INSTITUTE


The slide has a dark teal background with a light blue border. The title "The Optimal Approach to Lowering Lipids in 2024" is centered in a large, white, serif font. Below the title, the speaker's name and title are listed in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. At the bottom center is the Allina Health logo, which includes a stylized white icon of a person with arms raised, followed by the text "Allina Health" in a bold, sans-serif font, and "MINNEAPOLIS HEART INSTITUTE" in a smaller, all-caps, sans-serif font below it.

2

**Disclosures**

- None

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3

3

**Objectives**

- Current Approach to lipid-lowering therapy
- Future Directions

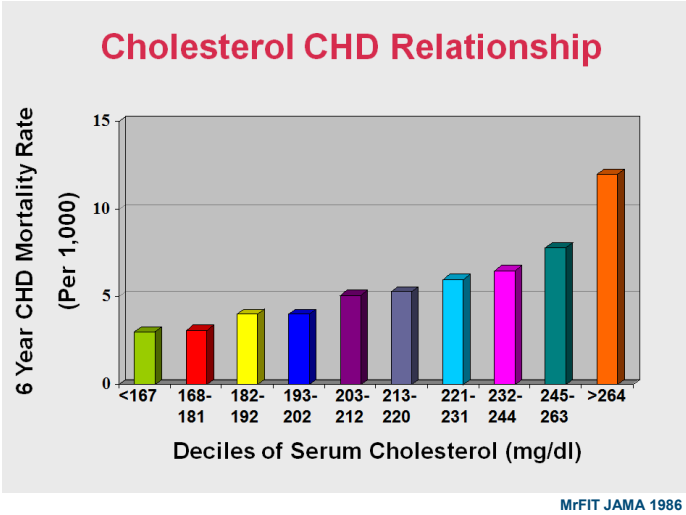
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4

4

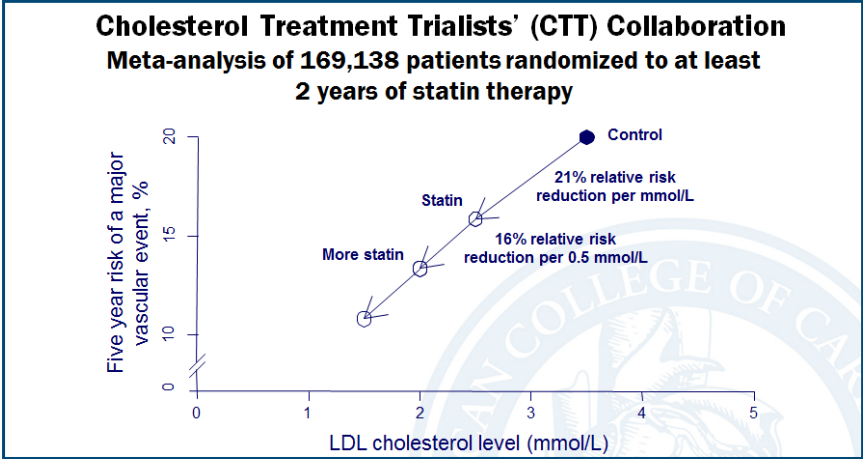
## The Relationship Between Cholesterol and CHD is Linear



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5


## Statin Good - More Statin Better




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6

## Statin Safety



**Effect of statin therapy on muscle symptoms: an individual participant data meta-analysis of large-scale, randomised, double-blind trials**



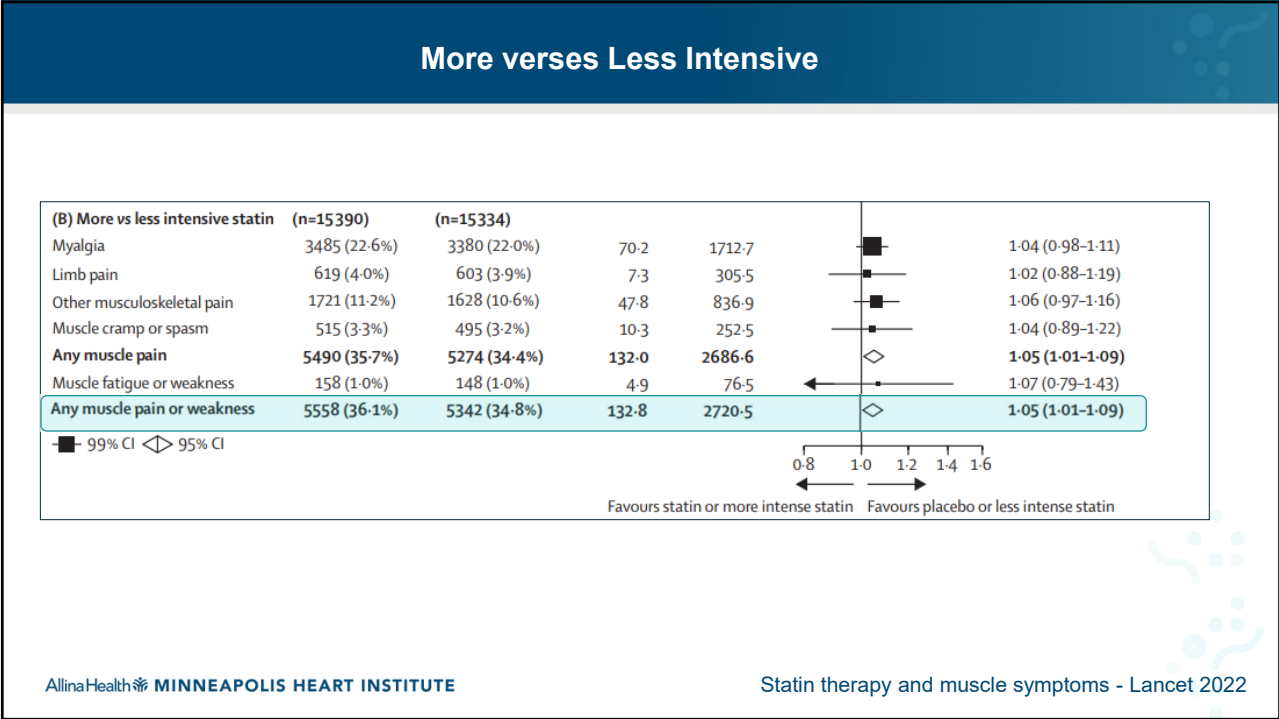
Cholesterol Treatment Trialists' Collaboration\*

7

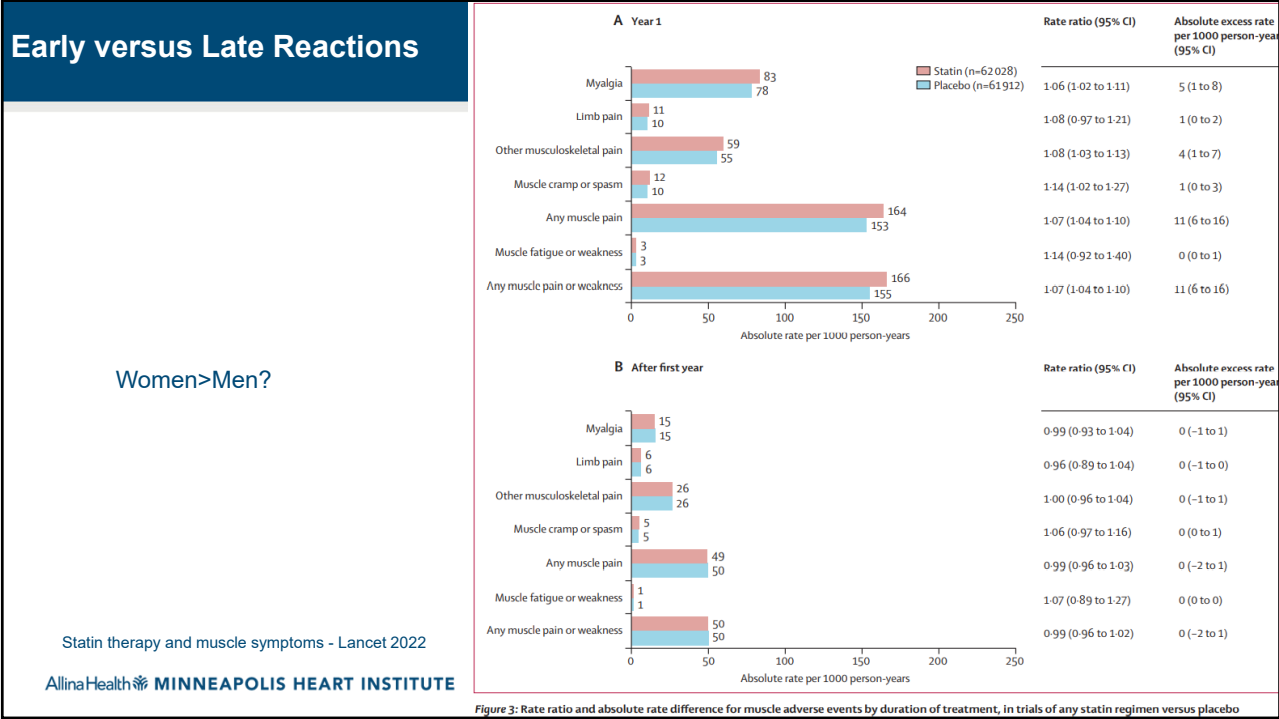
## Statin vs Placebo

(A) Statin vs placebo	(n=62 028)	(n=61 912)			OR	95% CI
Myalgia	7446 (12.0%)	7269 (11.7%)	120.1	3657.4	1.03	(0.99-1.08)
Limb pain	1850 (3.0%)	1836 (3.0%)	3.6	921.3	1.00	(0.92-1.09)
Other musculoskeletal pain	8245 (13.3%)	8037 (13.0%)	131.3	4066.1	1.03	(0.99-1.08)
Muscle cramp or spasm	1697 (2.7%)	1553 (2.5%)	71.2	812.4	1.09	(1.00-1.19)
<b>Any muscle pain</b>	<b>16 656 (26.9%)</b>	<b>16 281 (26.3%)</b>	<b>274.8</b>	<b>8206.8</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>(1.01-1.06)</b>
Muscle fatigue or weakness	445 (0.7%)	406 (0.7%)	19.4	212.7	1.10	(0.92-1.31)
<b>Any muscle pain or weakness</b>	<b>16 835 (27.1%)</b>	<b>16 446 (26.6%)</b>	<b>283.1</b>	<b>8292.7</b>	<b>1.03</b>	<b>(1.01-1.06)</b>

8



9



10

## The SAMSON Trial

JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF CARDIOLOGY  
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VOL. 78, NO. 12, 2021

### Side Effect Patterns in a Crossover Trial of Statin, Placebo, and No Treatment

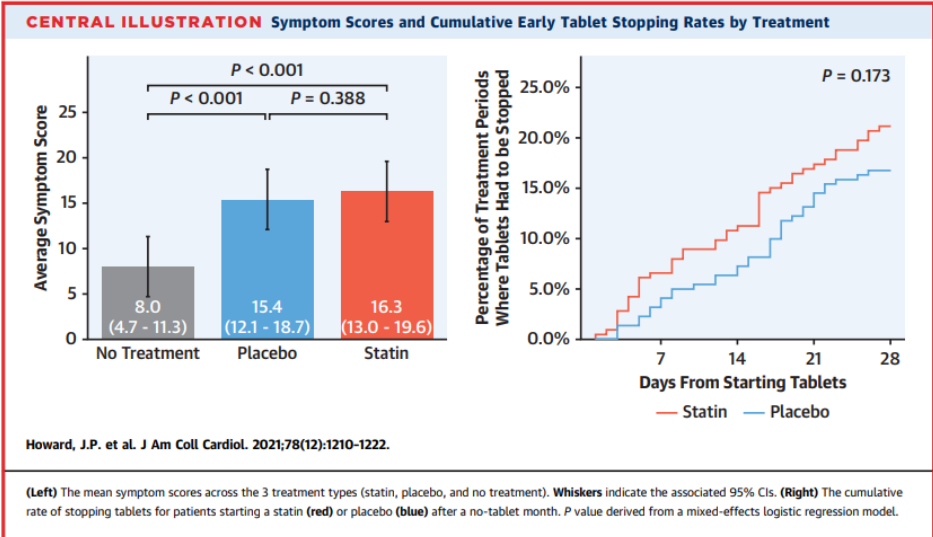
James P. Howard, PhD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Frances A. Wood, MPhil,<sup>a,\*</sup> Judith A. Finegold, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Alexandra N. Nowbar, MBBS,<sup>a</sup> David M. Thompson, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Ahran D. Arnold, MBBS,<sup>a</sup> Christopher A. Rajkumar, MBBS,<sup>a</sup> Susan Connolly, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Jaimini Cegla, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Chris Stride, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Peter Sever, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Christine Norton, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Simon A.M. Thom, MD,<sup>a</sup> Matthew J. Shun-Shin, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Darrel P. Francis, MA<sup>a</sup>

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SAMSON Trial, JACC, 2021

11

## The Power of the Nocebo Effect



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SAMSON Trial, JACC, 2021

12

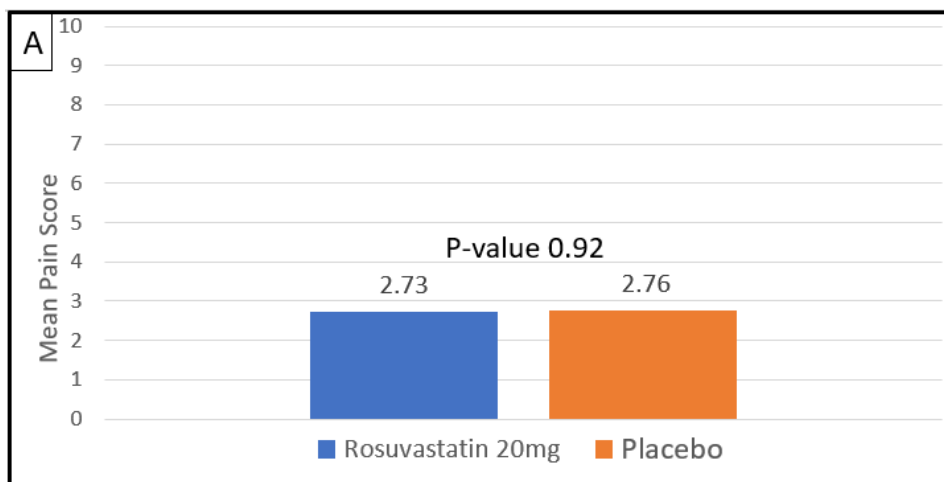
## Determining Statin Intolerance For Rosuvastatin

- Adults with intolerance to 2 prior statins
  - Primary or Secondary Prevention
  - Trial can occur on other lipids lowering therapy
- Double blinded randomized “N of 1” Trial
- 6 month study
  - 3 4-week courses of placebo
  - 2 4-week courses of 20mg of rosuvastatin
  - 1 week break in between each course
- 3-month unblinded trial of rosuvastatin for those with no evidence of statin intolerance

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13

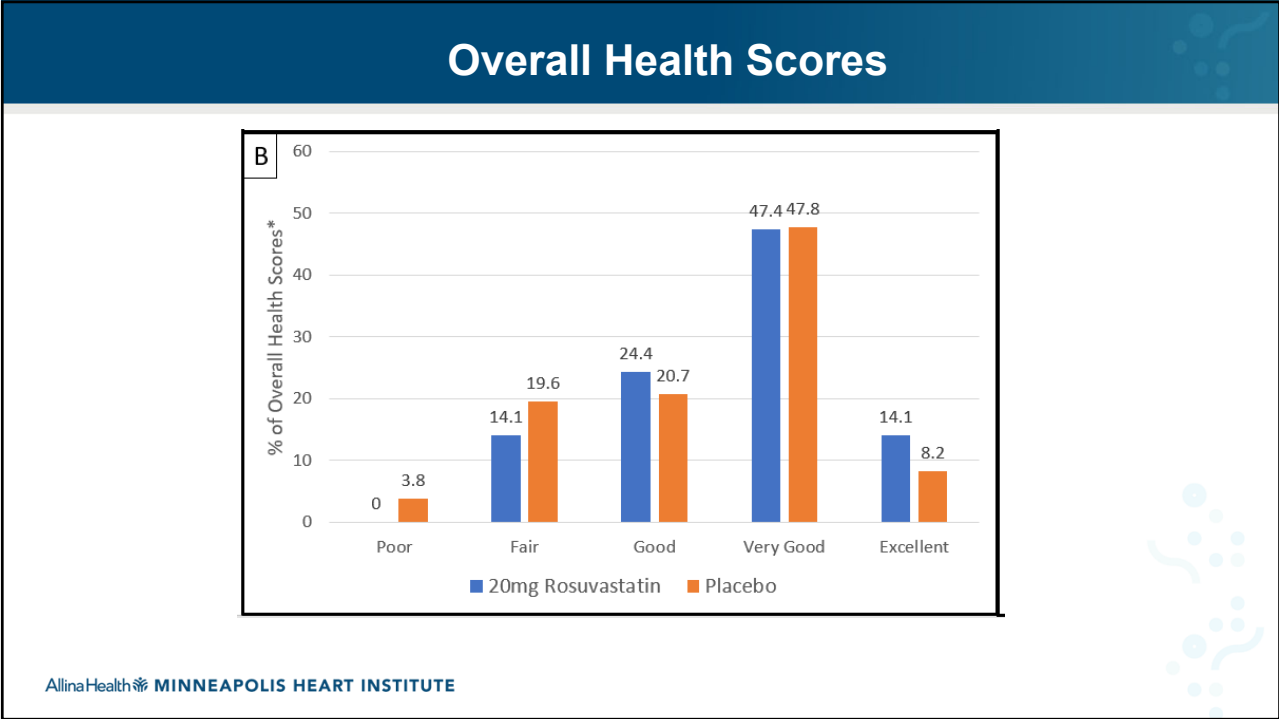
## Mean Pain Score



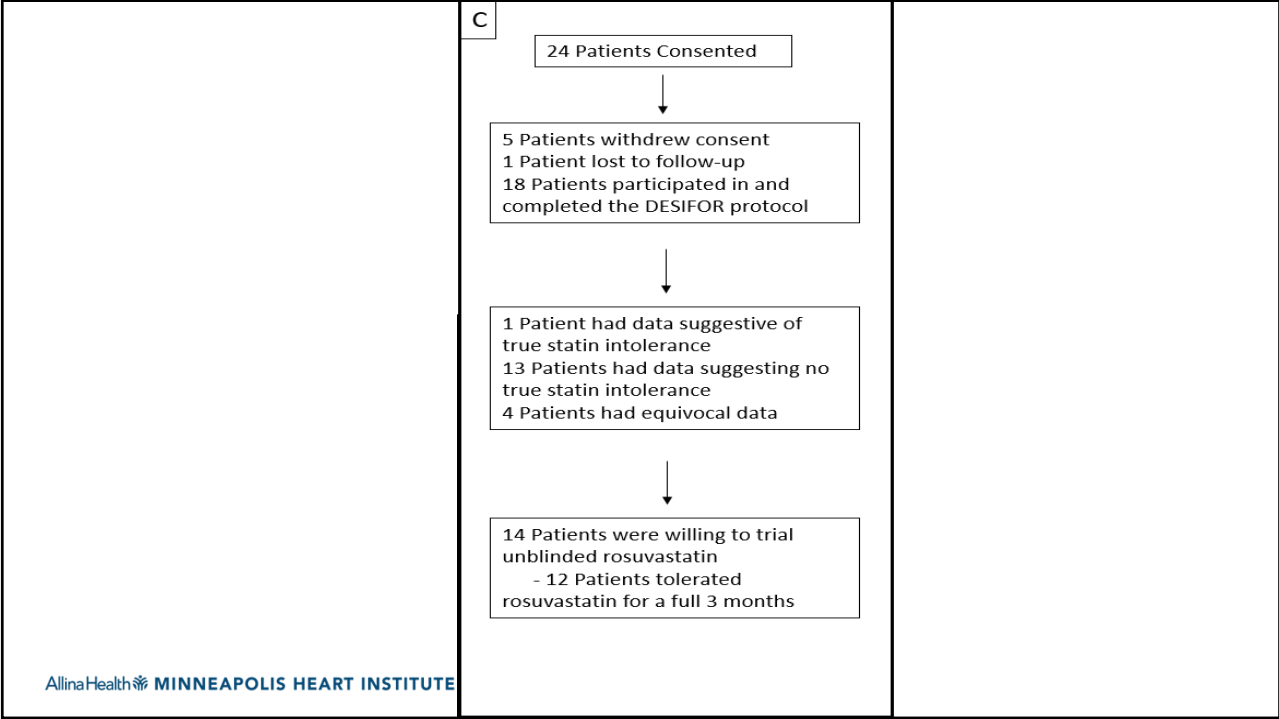
- 129 weeks on rosuvastatin vs 176 weeks of placebo

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14



15



16



## The DESIFOR Trial

JACC: Advances

### Letters

RESEARCH LETTER

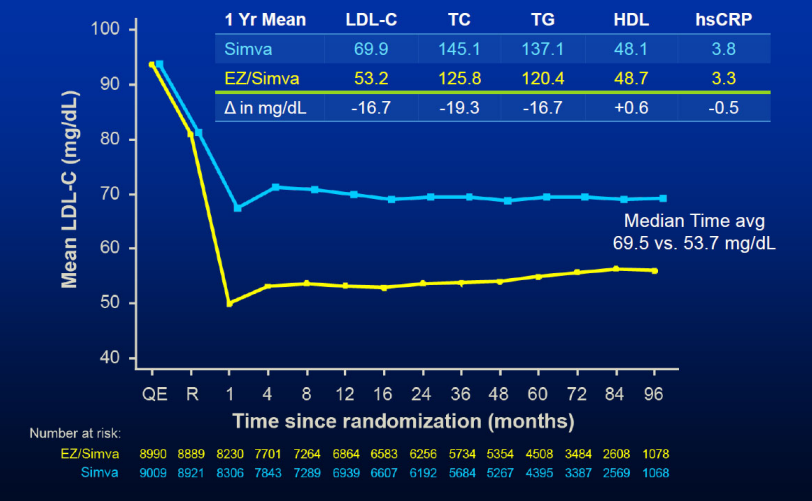
A Double-Blinded Randomized N-of-1 Trial to Facilitate Tolerance of Unblinded Rosuvastatin

The DESIFOR Pilot Trial

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17

## IMPROVE-IT Trial – Ezetimibe in addition to statin therapy



1 Yr Mean	LDL-C	TC	TG	HDL	hsCRP
Simva	69.9	145.1	137.1	48.1	3.8
EZ/Simva	53.2	125.8	120.4	48.7	3.3
$\Delta$ in mg/dL	-16.7	-19.3	-16.7	+0.6	-0.5

Number at risk:

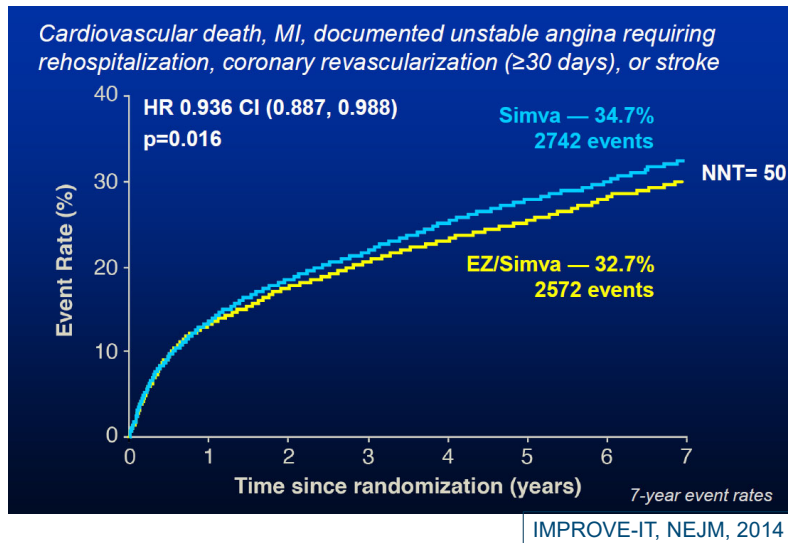
EZ/Simva	8990	8889	8230	7701	7264	6864	6583	6256	5734	5354	4508	3484	2608	1078
Simva	9009	8921	8306	7843	7289	6939	6607	6192	5684	5267	4385	3387	2569	1068

IMPROVE-IT, NEJM, 2014

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18

## IMPROVE-IT Trial – Ezetimibe in addition to statin therapy



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19

### ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS

## Atherothrombotic Risk Stratification and Ezetimibe for Secondary Prevention



Erin A. Bohula, MD, DPharm,<sup>a</sup> David A. Morrow, MD, MPH,<sup>a</sup> Robert P. Giugliano, MD, SM,<sup>a</sup> Michael A. Blazing, MD,<sup>b</sup> Ping He, MS,<sup>a</sup> Jeong-Gun Park, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Sabina A. Murphy, MPH,<sup>a</sup> Jennifer A. White, MS,<sup>b</sup> Y. Antero Kesaniemi, MD, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Terje R. Pedersen, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Adrian J. Brady, MD,<sup>e</sup> Yale Mitchel, MD,<sup>f</sup> Christopher P. Cannon, MD,<sup>a</sup> Eugene Braunwald, MD<sup>g</sup>

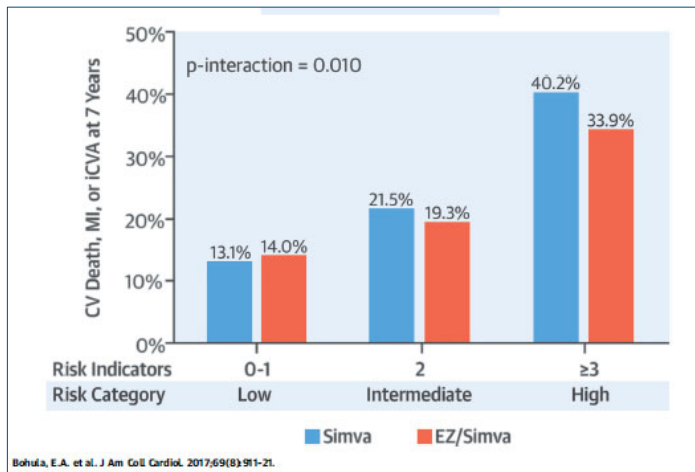
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Ezetimibe-Risk Stratification, JACC, 2017

20

## The Importance of Risk Stratification

TRS 2°P Risk Indicators	Points
CHF	1
HTN	1
Age ≥75	1
DM	1
Prior Stroke	1
Prior CABG	1
PAD	1
eGFR <60	1
Smoking	1
<b>Maximum Possible</b>	<b>9</b>

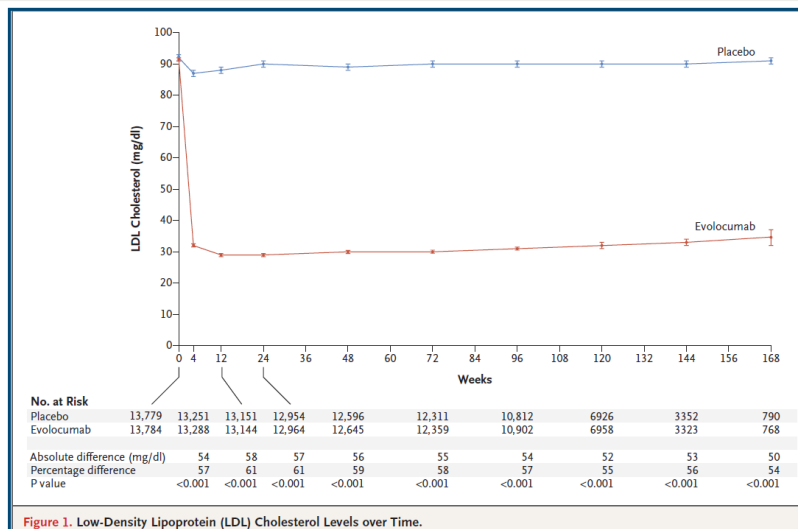


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Ezetimibe-Risk Stratification, JACC, 2017

21

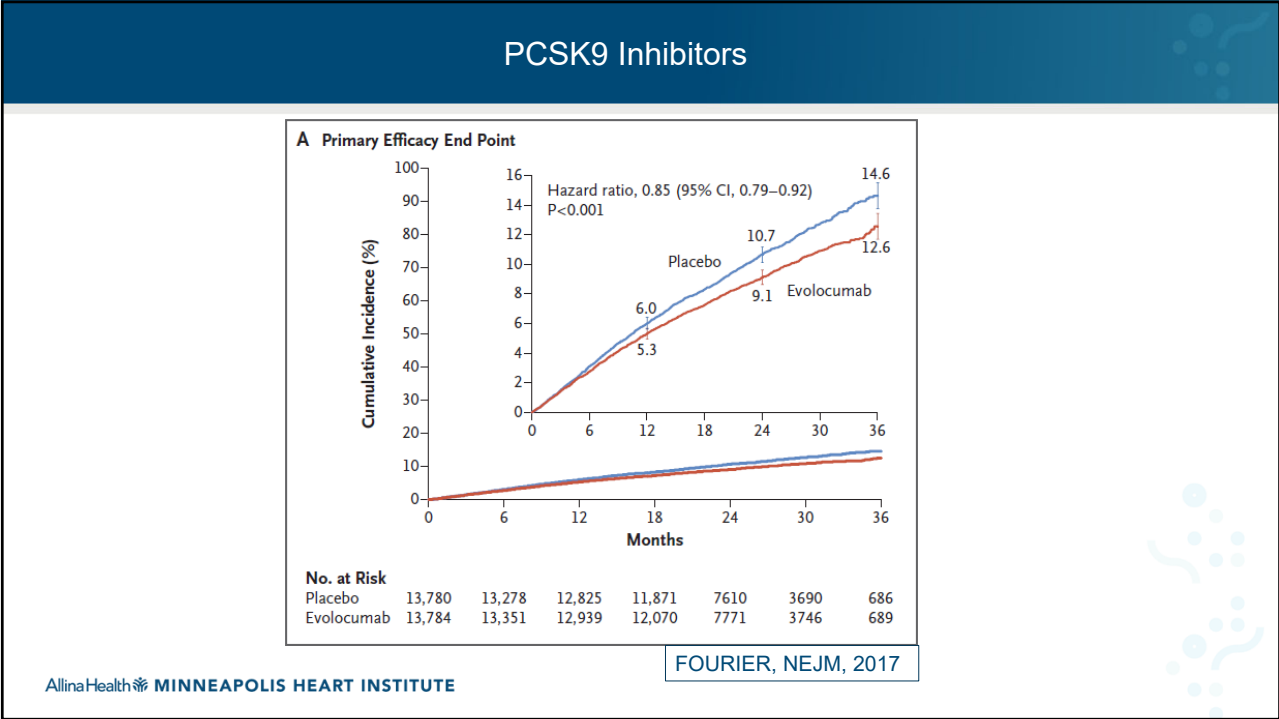
## PCSK9 Inhibitors



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FOURIER, NEJM, 2017

22



23

## FOURIER-OLE

# Circulation

**Long-Term Evolocumab in Patients with Established Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease**

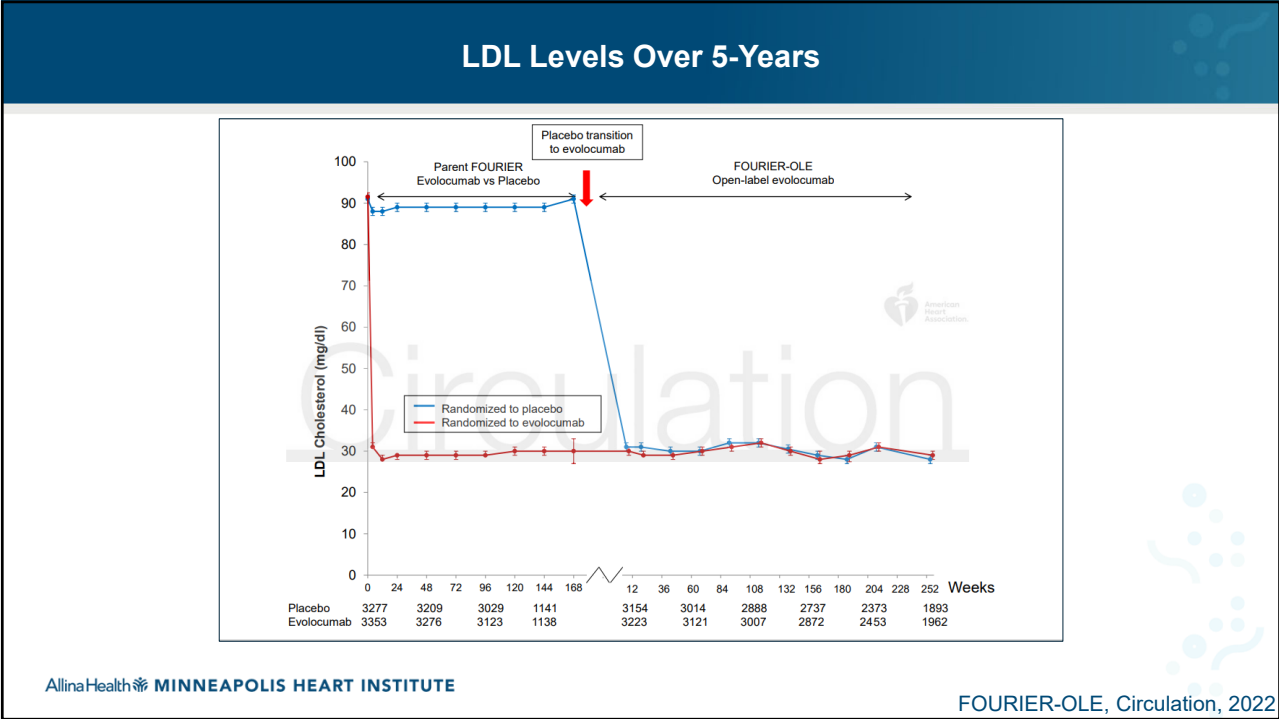
**Running Title:** *O'Donoghue et al.; Long-term evolocumab in cardiovascular disease*

Michelle L. O'Donoghue MD MPH<sup>1</sup>; Robert P. Giugliano MD SM<sup>1</sup>; Stephen D. Wiviott MD<sup>1</sup>;  
 Dan Atar MD<sup>2,3</sup>; Anthony Keech MBBS<sup>4</sup>; Julia F. Kuder MA<sup>1</sup>; KyungAh Im PhD<sup>1</sup>; Sabina A.  
 Murphy MPH<sup>1</sup>; Jose H. Flores-Arredondo MD<sup>5</sup>; J. Antonio G. López MD<sup>5</sup>; Mary Elliott-Davey  
 MSc<sup>6</sup>; Bei Wang PhD<sup>5</sup>; Maria Laura Monsalvo MD<sup>5</sup>; Siddique Abbasi MD<sup>5</sup>;  
 Marc S. Sabatine MD MPH<sup>1</sup>

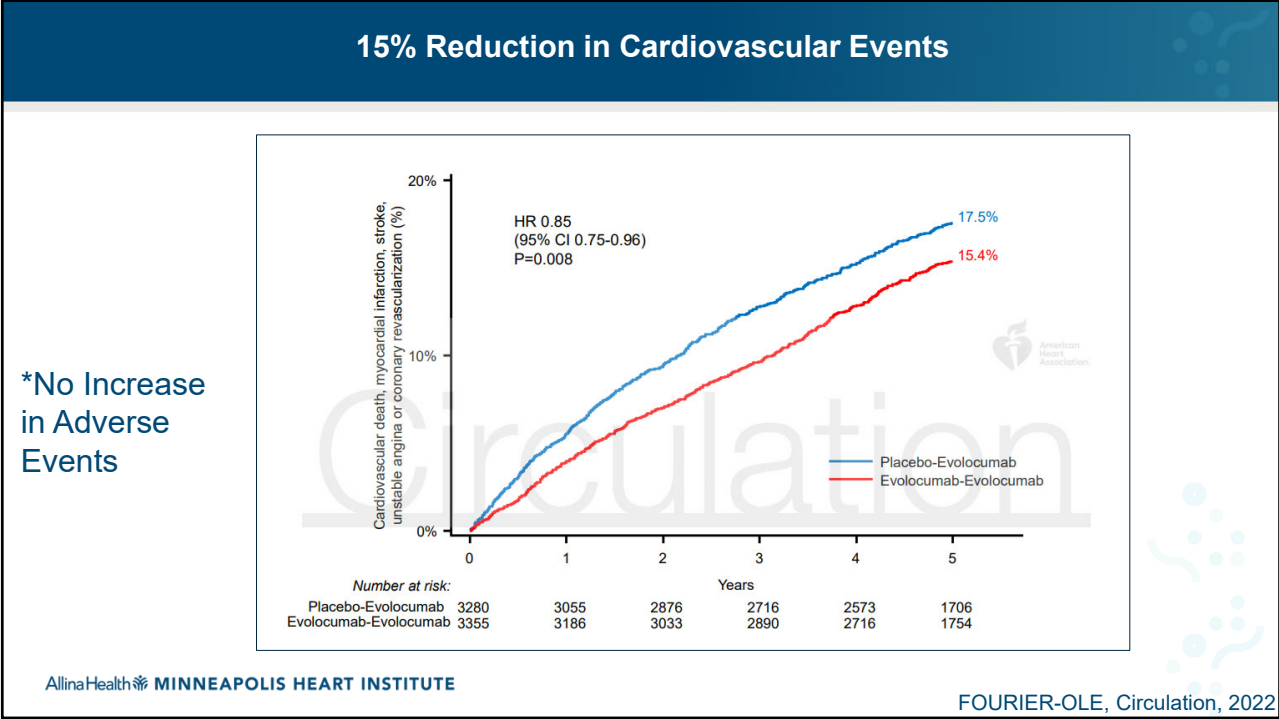
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FOURIER-OLE, Circulation, 2022

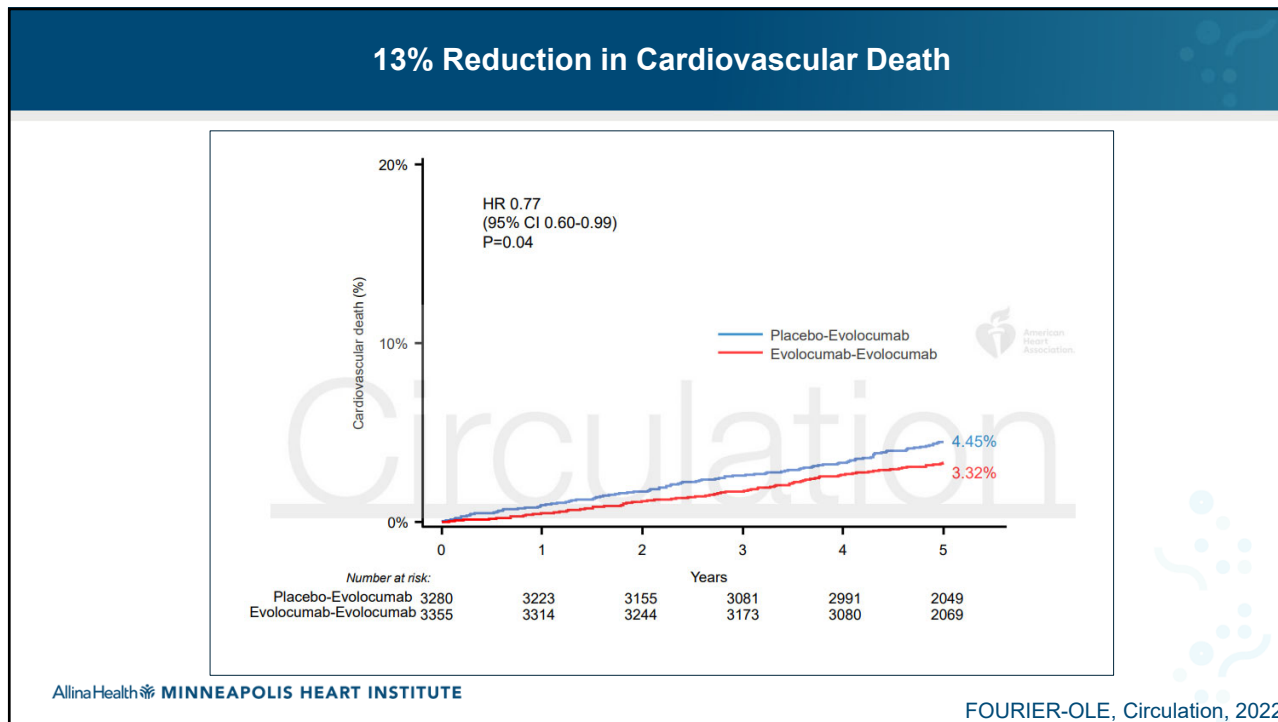
24




25




26



27



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## Combination Moderate-Intensity Statin and Ezetimibe Therapy for Elderly Patients With Atherosclerosis

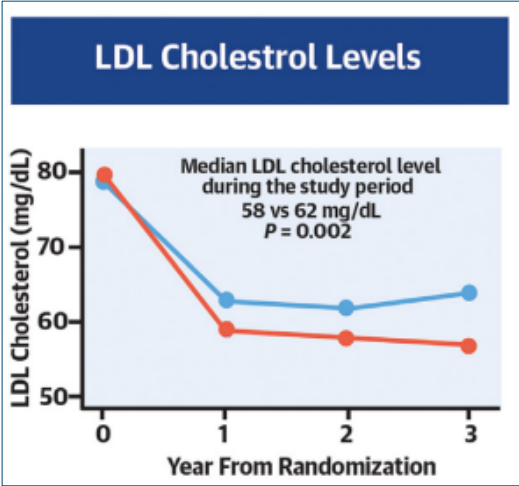


Sang-Hyup Lee, MD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Yong-Joon Lee, MD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Jung Ho Heo, MD, PhD,<sup>b</sup> Seung-Ho Hur, MD, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Hyun Hee Choi, MD, PhD,<sup>d</sup> Kyung-Jin Kim, MD, PhD,<sup>e</sup> Ju Han Kim, MD, PhD,<sup>f</sup> Keun-Ho Park, MD, PhD,<sup>g</sup> Jung Hee Lee, MD, PhD,<sup>h,i</sup> Yu Jeong Choi, MD, PhD,<sup>j</sup> Seung-Jun Lee, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Sung-Jin Hong, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Chul-Min Ahn, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Byeong-Keuk Kim, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Young-Guk Ko, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Donghoon Choi, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Myeong-Ki Hong, MD, PhD,<sup>a</sup> Yangsoo Jang, MD, PhD,<sup>k</sup> Jung-Sun Kim, MD, PhD<sup>a</sup>

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28

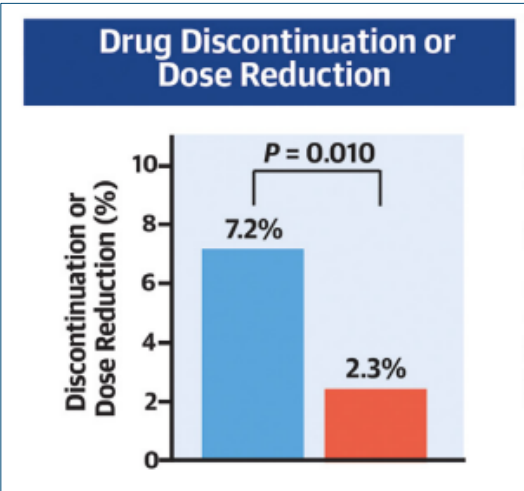
### Better LDL lowering with combination therapy



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29

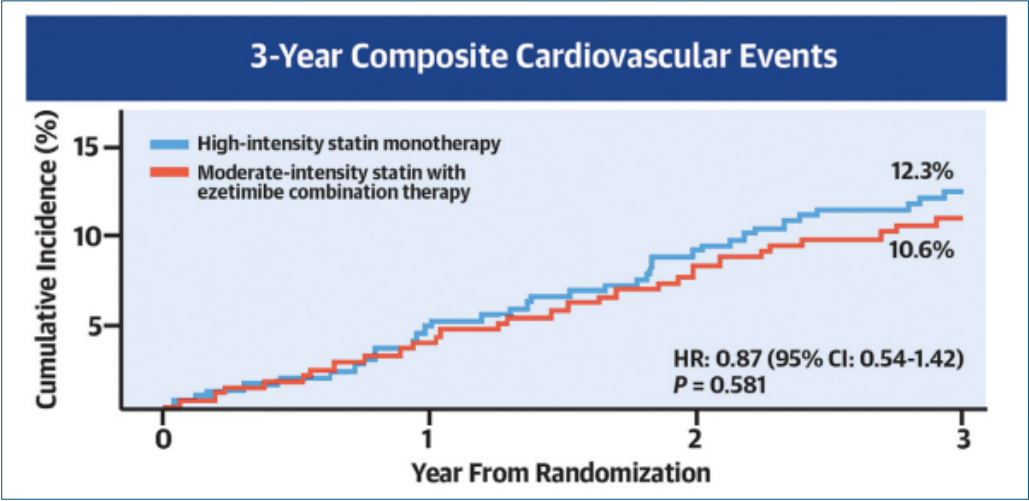
### The benefits of combination lipid lowering therapy



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30

### The benefits of combination lipid lowering therapy

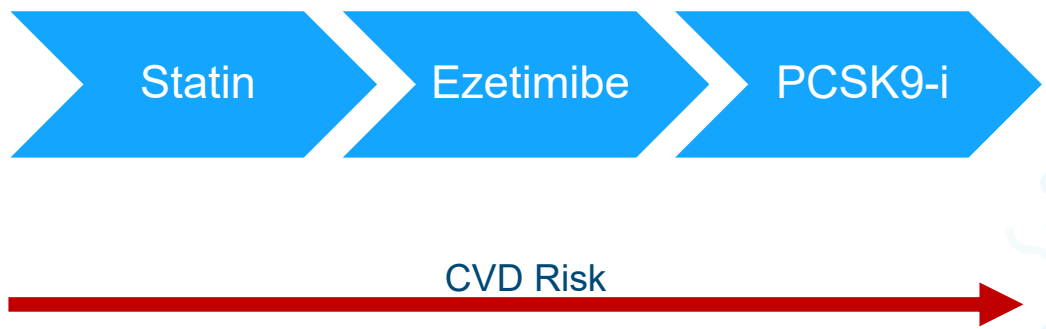


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31

### Current Approach

LDL – as **low** as possible for **long** as possible



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32



*The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE*

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Two Phase 3 Trials of Inclisiran in Patients with Elevated LDL Cholesterol

Kausik K. Ray, M.D., M.Phil., R. Scott Wright, M.D., David Kallend, M.D., Wolfgang Koenig, M.D., Lawrence A. Leiter, M.D., Frederick J. Raal, Ph.D., Jenna A. Bisch, B.A., Tara Richardson, B.A., Mark Jaros, Ph.D., Peter L.J. Wijngaard, Ph.D., and John J.P. Kastelein, M.D., Ph.D., for the ORION-10 and ORION-11 Investigators\*

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ORION-10+11, NEJM, 2020

33

### Inclisiran lowers LDL-C by ~50%

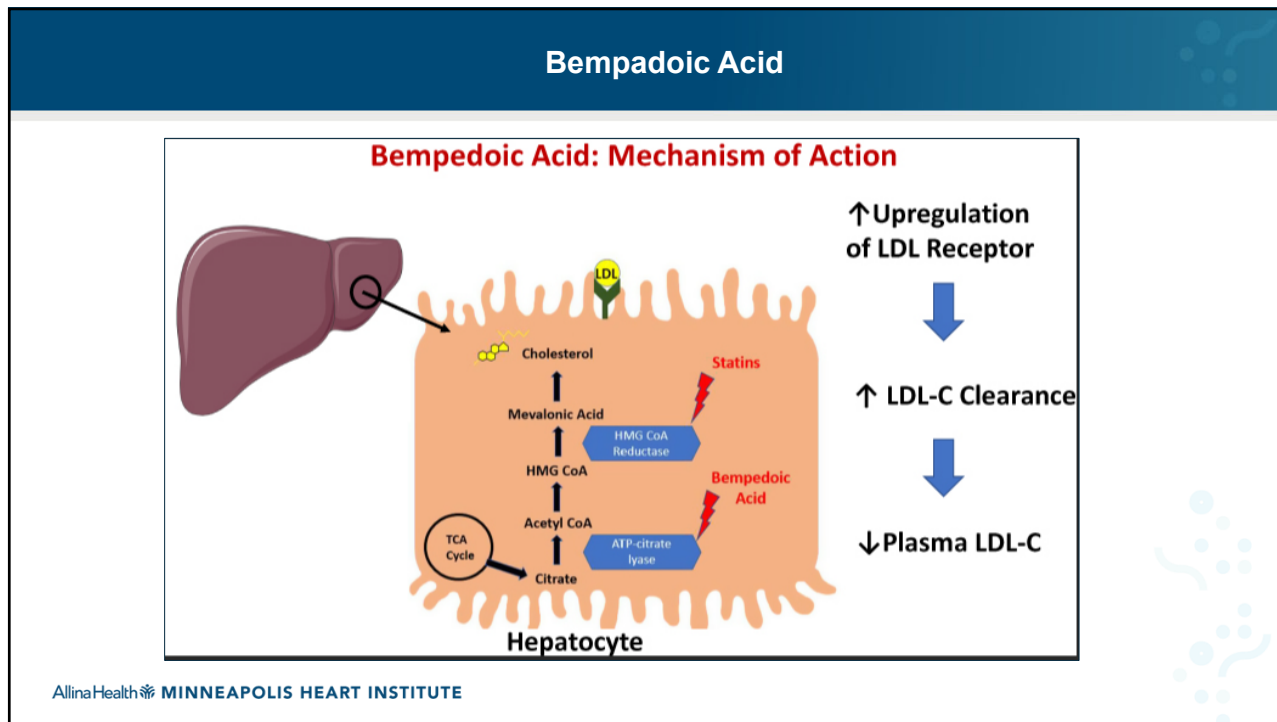
**C Percentage Change in LDL Cholesterol, ORION-11 Trial**

No. of Patients	0	90	150	270	330	450	510	540
Placebo	807	797	785	774	773	764	739	749
Inclisiran	810	790	796	778	773	768	724	742

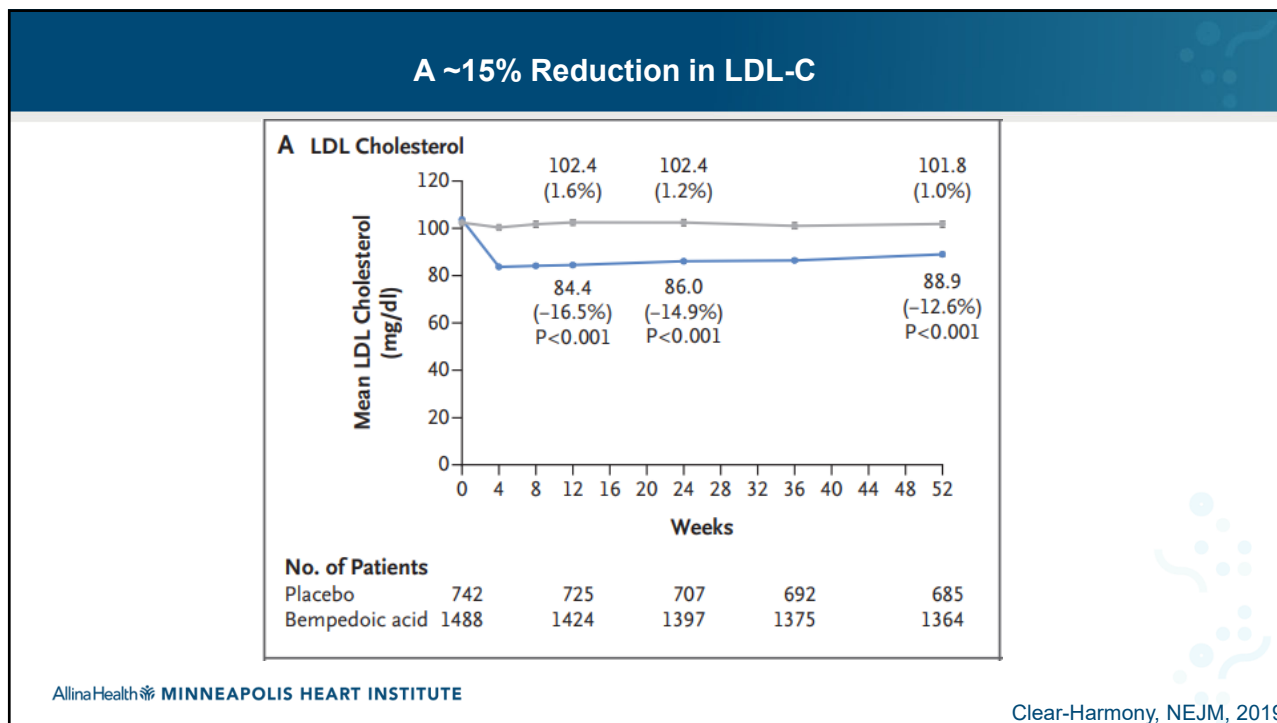
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ORION-10+11, NEJM, 2020

34



35



36

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

ESTABLISHED IN 1812      APRIL 13, 2023      VOL. 388 NO. 15

**Bempedoic Acid and Cardiovascular Outcomes  
 in Statin-Intolerant Patients**

S.E. Nissen, A.M. Lincoff, D. Brennan, K.K. Ray, D. Mason, J.J.P. Kastelein, P.D. Thompson, P. Libby, L. Cho,  
 J. Plutzky, H.E. Bays, P.M. Moriarty, V. Menon, D.E. Grobbee, M.J. Louie, C.-F. Chen, N. Li, L.A. Bloedon,  
 P. Robinson, M. Horner, W.J. Sasiela, J. McCluskey, D. Davey, P. Fajardo-Campos, P. Petrovic, J. Fedacko,  
 W. Zmuda, Y. Lukyanov, and S.J. Nicholls, for the CLEAR Outcomes Investigators\*

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37

23% Reduction in fatal and non-fatal MI

**C Fatal or Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction**

Hazard ratio, 0.77 (95% CI, 0.66–0.91)  
 P=0.002

No. at Risk											
Placebo	6978	6839	6704	6578	6420	6266	5388	2684	1304	562	64
Bempedoic acid	6992	6865	6767	6636	6498	6354	5516	2767	1337	603	81

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Clear Outcomes – NEJM - 2023

38

## The 2022 Kevin Graham Lecture

### 2022 Kevin Graham Prevention Lecture

## From reading the genome for risk to rewriting it for cardiovascular health



**Speaker: Sekar Kathiresan, MD**  
 CEO, Verve Therapeutics  
 Cambridge, MA

**Learning Objectives**

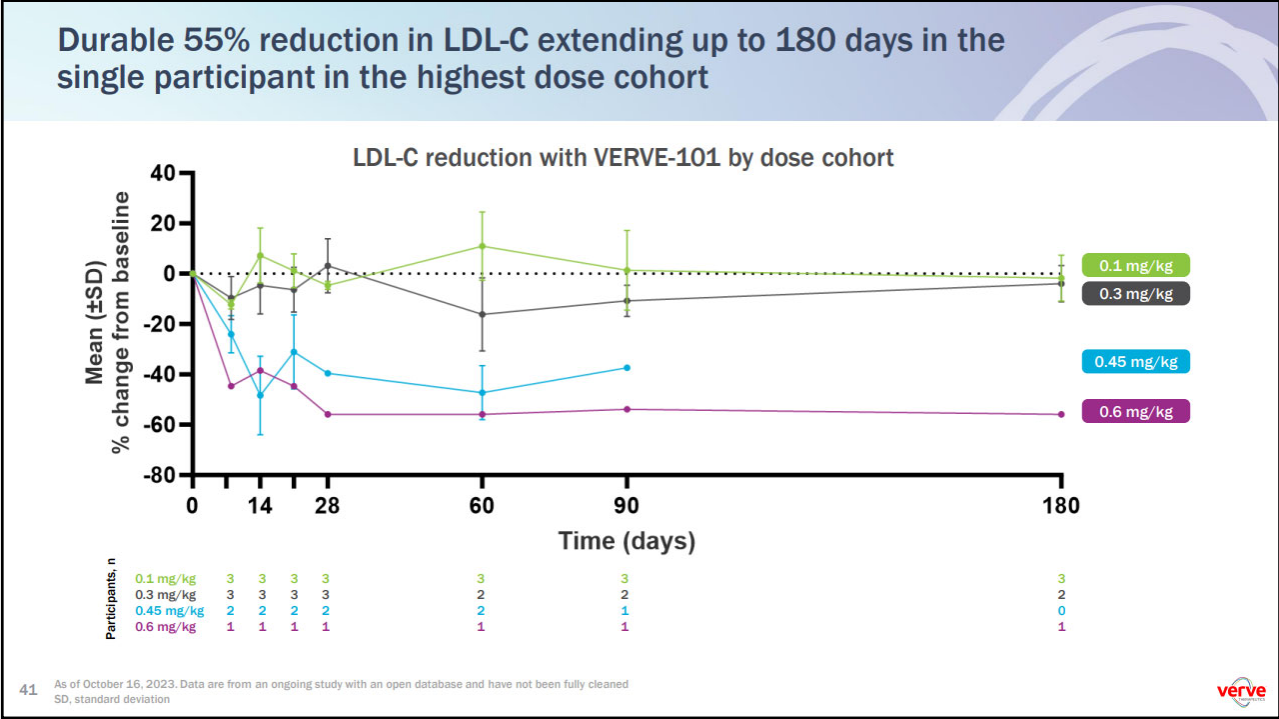
At the completion of this activity, the participants should be better able to:

- Name the three major genetic models for myocardial infarction risk – monogenic, polygenic and somatic.
- Describe how natural resistance mutations lower plasma LDL lifelong in some people and lead to protection against heart attack.
- Outline the development of a new class of medicines, which can edit the genome in an adult and lead to permanent lowering of LDL cholesterol after a single treatment.

Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation Cardiovascular Grand Rounds

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39




40

### Future Approach


- +/- Incliseran
- +/- Bempadoic Acid
- +/- Lpa treatment
- ? Genetic Editing

CVD Risk

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41

# Thank you

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42



# Lipoprotein(a) in Cardiovascular Disease



Felipe V Martignoni, MD  
Preventive Cardiology Research Fellow  
Nolan Center for Cardiovascular Health, Minneapolis Heart Institute Foundation



**PREVENTION**  
Nolan Family Center for  
Cardiovascular Health

No conflict of interest to disclose.

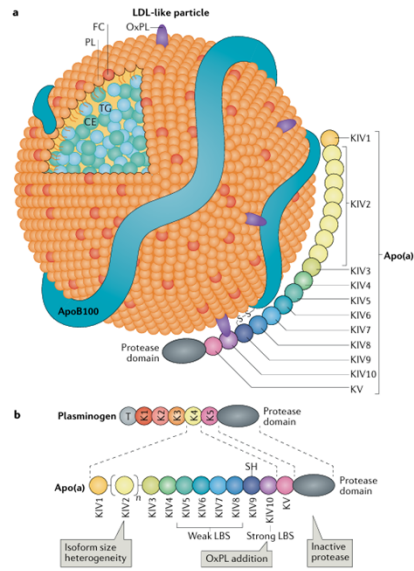


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Cardiovascular Health



## Lipoprotein (a)

- LDL-apoB bound **apolipoprotein (a)**
- Risk factor for atherothrombotic cardiovascular disease and calcific aortic valve disease.
- **Genetically determined**- Does not respond to lifestyle modifications or currently available medications- **LPA gene**

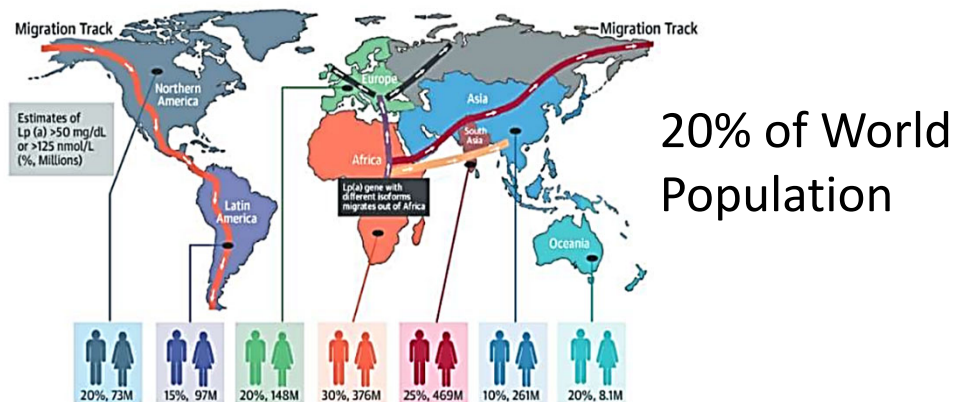


**PREVENTION**  
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 Cardiovascular Health

Boffa & Kotchinski 2019- a <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41569-018-0153-2>

47

## Lp(a) Ethnic Differences



**PREVENTION**  
 Nolan Family Center for  
 Cardiovascular Health

Tsimikas. JACC 2018. 71(2):177-192

48



## Pathophysiology

**Arterial wall**  
 SMC, Osteogenic differentiation, SMC proliferation and migration, Calcification, Intima, Endothelium, Platelet, Fibrin, Lumen, Thrombosis, Endothelial dysfunction, Adhesion molecules, Monocyte activation, Monocyte, Inflammation (IL-6 and TNF), Lp(a)

**Aortic valve leaflet**  
 Valve interstitial cell, Foam cell formation, Macrophage, Macrophage apoptosis, Inflammation (IL-8, LPC and LPA), Osteogenic differentiation, Calcification

**Disease/condition**  
 Atherosclerosis, Thrombosis, Aortic Valve Calcification  
 OxPL-apoB, Apo(a), OxPL-apoB Apo(a)

**PREVENTION**  
 Nolan Family Center for Cardiovascular Health

Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2022 Jan; 42(1): e48–e60  
 Boffa & Kotchinski 2019- a <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41569-018-0153-2>

49

## Evidence Linking Lp(a) to Atherosclerosis

Source	Design	Population	Key findings
<b>Association between Lp(a) and ASCVD</b>			
CCHS <sup>25</sup>	Prospective	9330 Individuals from the general population in Denmark	Adjusted HR for incident myocardial infarction with Lp(a) levels ≥120 mg/dL (≥95th percentile) vs levels <5 mg/dL (<2nd percentile) were 3.6 (95% CI, 1.7-7.7) in women and 3.7 (95% CI, 1.7-8.0) in men
Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration <sup>4</sup>	Meta-analysis	126 634 Individuals with no prior history of coronary heart disease or stroke from 36 cohorts	Adjusted RR of 1.13 (95% CI, 1.09-1.18) for incident coronary heart disease per 1-SD rise in Lp(a)
Kamstrup et al. <sup>6</sup> 2009	Mendelian randomization	40 486 Patients from 3 large Danish cohorts: CCHS, CGPS, and CHS	Causal association between increasing genetically determined Lp(a) levels and the risk of myocardial infarction (HR per doubling of Lp(a) levels, 1.22; 95% CI, 1.09-1.37)
O'Donoghue, <sup>26</sup> 2014	Meta-analysis	18 978 Individuals with coronary artery disease	OR for MACE was 1.40 (95% CI, 1.15-1.71) for the highest vs lowest Lp(a) quantile
UK Biobank <sup>3</sup>	Prospective	460 506 Middle-aged individuals with and without ASCVD	Incident or recurrent ASCVD events had an overall HR of 1.11 (95% CI, 1.10-1.12) per 50-nmol/L increment in Lp(a) concentrations
<b>Association between lipoprotein(a) and calcific aortic valve stenosis</b>			
CCHS and CGPS <sup>5</sup>	Mendelian randomization	77 680 Danish participants from the general population	When combining all genotypes, a genetic RR for aortic stenosis of 1.6 (95% CI, 1.2-2.1) for a 10-fold increase in Lp(a) concentration was reported
EPIC-Norfolk <sup>6</sup>	Prospective	17 553 Adults from the general UK population	Participants in the top Lp(a) tertile had an adjusted HR for aortic stenosis of 1.57 (95% CI, 1.02-2.42) compared with participants in the bottom tertile
FOURIER <sup>27</sup>	Clinical trial	27 564 Individuals with stable ASCVD taking statins	The adjusted HR for aortic stenosis events was 1.55 (95% CI, 1.17-2.05) per 1-SD increase in Lp(a) levels; LDL-C levels had no association with aortic stenosis
<b>Association between Lp(a) and ischemic stroke</b>			
Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration <sup>4</sup>	Meta-analysis	126 634 Individuals with no prior history of coronary heart disease or stroke from 36 cohorts	Adjusted RR for ischemic stroke was 1.10 (95% CI, 1.02-1.18) per 1-SD rise in Lp(a)
CCHS and CGPS <sup>28</sup>	Prospective	60 512 Individuals from the general Danish population	The HR for ischemic stroke was 1.60 (95% CI, 1.24-2.05) for individuals with Lp(a) >93 mg/dL compared with individuals with Lp(a) <10 mg/dL

**ESC**  
European Society of Cardiology

European Journal of Preventive Cardiology (2024) 00, 1–10  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurpc/zwae043>

**FULL RESEARCH PAPER**  
Cardiovascular disease

### The association of lipoprotein(a) and coronary artery calcium in asymptomatic patients: a systematic review and meta-analysis

Felipe Villa Martignoni<sup>1\*</sup>, José Eduardo RL Júnior<sup>2</sup>, Isabela R. Marques<sup>3</sup>, Cintia Gomes<sup>4</sup>, Vittoria Caporal S. Moreira<sup>5</sup>, Isabela A. F. de Souza<sup>6</sup>, Isabele A. Miyawaki<sup>7</sup>, Carolyn H. Silva<sup>8</sup>, Augusto Barreto do Amaral Neto<sup>9</sup>, Eduardo M. H. Padrao<sup>10</sup>, Rhanderson Cardoso<sup>11</sup>, Henrique Doria de Vasconcellos<sup>12</sup>, and Michael Miedema<sup>1</sup>

Eur J Prev Cardiol. 2024 Feb 1:zwae043.  
 JAMA Cardiology July 2022 Volume 7, Number 7

50

### CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Relative Atherogenicity of Lipoprotein(a) and Low-Density Lipoprotein Particles

**Key Question**

How atherogenic is 1 particle of Lp(a) compared to 1 particle of LDL?

**Key Methodology**

Both Lp(a) and LDL contain 1 apoB per particle. Here, we identified genetic variants (SNPs) that affected plasma levels of either LDL particles or Lp(a) particles. For these 2 genetic SNP "clusters," we related the change in apoB to the respective change in CHD risk. This way, we directly compared the atherogenicity of LDL and Lp(a), particle for particle.

**Genetic variants that raise apoB by raising Lp(a)**

**LDL Cluster**

Genetic variants that raise apoB by raising LDL

**Mendelian Randomization**

ApoB in Lp(a) vs CHD risk

ApoB in LDL vs CHD risk

\* apoB attached to either an LDL or Lp(a) particle

Take-Home Message: In most people, LDL particles are much more abundant than Lp(a) and carry the greatest proportion of overall CVD risk; however, on a per-particle basis, Lp(a) is about 6 times more atherogenic than LDL.

Björnson E, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2024;83(3):385-395.

### CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Lipoprotein(a) and Long-Term Incidence of Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease in a Multi-Ethnic Pooled Cohort in the United States

**Baseline Lp(a) (Median)**

- <50th percentile (3.6 mg/dL) (n = 13,835)
- 50th-75th percentile (13.5 mg/dL) (n = 6,960)
- 75th-90th percentile (23.9 mg/dL) (n = 4,177)
- ≥90th percentile (52.6 mg/dL) (n = 2,784)

**Pooled Community-Based Cohorts in the U.S. (n = 27,756)**

- MESA: n = 5,892
- CARDIA: n = 4,001
- JACKSON: n = 2,098
- FHS-OS: n = 2,587
- ARIC: n = 13,178

**Adjusted Relative Risks (95% CI) of Incident ASCVD**

Reference

- HR: 1.06 (95% CI: 0.99-1.14)
- HR: 1.18 (95% CI: 1.09-1.28)
- HR: 1.46 (95% CI: 1.33-1.59)

Mean Follow-Up 21.1 Years

**Lp(a) ≥90th vs <50th Percentile**

- Myocardial Infarctions: HR: 1.68 (95% CI: 1.44-1.90)
- Revascularization: HR: 1.26 (95% CI: 1.08-1.51)
- Stroke: HR: 1.32 (95% CI: 1.08-1.47)
- CHD Death: HR: 1.32 (95% CI: 1.06-1.64)
- All-Cause Mortality: HR: 1.01 (95% CI: 0.93-1.08)

The relation of Lp(a) with incident ASCVD was similar by:

- Risk group (low-intermediate vs high)
- Sex (female vs male)
- Race/ethnicity (Asian, Black, Hispanic, and White)
- LDL-C category (<70, 70-100, 100-130, and ≥130 mg/dL)

The relation of Lp(a) (≥90th vs <50th percentile) with incident ASCVD was stronger in those with:

- Diabetes: HR: 1.92 (95% CI: 1.50-2.45) vs
- No diabetes: HR: 1.41 (95% CI: 1.28-1.55)

Overall interaction P < 0.01

Wong ND, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2024;83(16):1511-1525.

**Lp(a) is 6x more atherogenic than LDL**  
**Stronger relation between Lp(a) and ASCVD in patients with diabetes vs. without (HR 1.9 x 1.4)**

April 2024

51

## Lp(a) informs comprehensive ASCVD risk assessment

Each 50 nmol/L increment in Lp(a) = 11% higher ASCVD risk independent of other risk factors

10-y ASCVD risk including Lp(a) = Predicted 10-y risk × [1.11<sup>(patient's Lp(a) level in nmol/L/50)</sup>]

For a patient with 10-y ASCVD risk estimate of 10%, who has an Lp(a) level of 250 nmol/L, the updated predicted risk estimate would be:

10% × 1.11<sup>(250/50)</sup> =

10% × 1.11<sup>5</sup> =

10% × 1.73 = 17.3%

Reyes-Soffer et al. A genetically determined, causal, and prevalent risk factor for ASCVD: A scientific statement from the AHA, ATVB 2022  
 Patel et al. Lp(a) (Lipoprotein[a]) Concentrations and Incident Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease, ATVB 2021

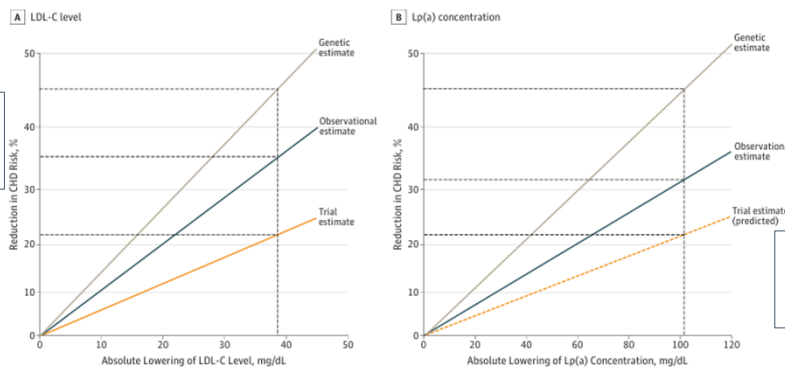
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Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol. 2021;41:465-474. doi: 10.1161/ATVBAHA.120.315291  
 CALVIN YEANG, MD, PHD, FACC- Borrowed from ACC 2024- Measuring Lp(a) in Clinical Practice: Who, When, and Why?

52

## Estimates of Risk Reduction LDL vs Lp(a)

Figure 3. Estimates of Coronary Heart Disease (CHD) Risk Reduction With Lowering of Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol (LDL-C) Level and Lipoprotein(a) (Lp(a)) Concentration



**22% risk reduction after LDL reduction of 40 mg/dL**

**Estimated 22% risk reduction after Lp(a) reduction of 100 mg/dL**

Genetic estimates of lifelong lowering from mendelian randomization (brown line), observational estimates from prospective cohort studies (blue line), and (A) trial estimate from short-term statin trials (for LDL-C) or (B) predicted trial estimate (for Lp(a)) (orange line). The vertical line is at 38.67 mg/dL (ie, 1

mmol/L) for LDL-C level and at 101.5 mg/dL for Lp(a) concentration, the estimated equivalent lowering in Lp(a) for the same reduction in CHD risk. To convert LDL-C to millimoles per liter, multiply by 0.0259.



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JAMACardiol. 2018;3(7):619-627. doi:10.1001/jamacardio.2018.1470

53

## Non-genetic influences on Lp(a) levels

Condition	Effect on Lp(a) levels
<b>Medical Conditions</b>	
Advanced CKD	Increase in those with large apo(a) isoforms
Nephrotic syndrome	3-5 times higher than controls
Liver transplant recipient	Lp(a) levels reflect that of donor
Acute MI	Variable, no change or increase
Severe inflammatory conditions	Increase
<b>Hormonal</b>	
Thyroid disorder	Increase with hypothyroidism; decrease with hyperthyroidism
Pregnancy	Increase
Menopause	Minimal
Pituitary insufficiency	~2x increase with growth hormone treatment
<b>Medications</b>	
Statins	Variable, no change or increase
PCSK9i	~10-30% decrease
Postmenopausal hormone replacement therapy	~25% decrease

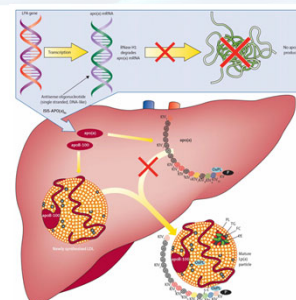
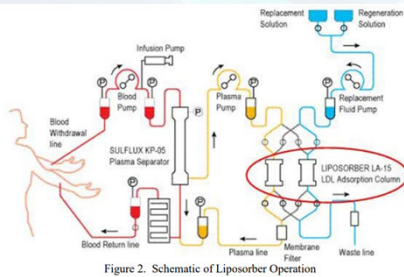
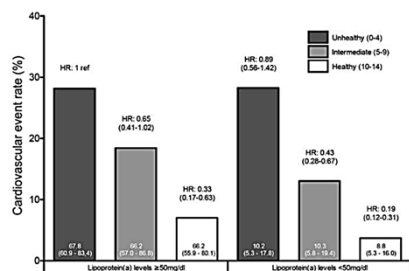
Adapted from Kronenberg et al, Lipoprotein(a) in atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease and aortic stenosis: a European Atherosclerosis Society consensus statement, European Heart Journal 2022



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54

## Actionable strategies in patients with high Lp(a)



### Lifestyle Modifications

Lipid Lowering therapy (PCSK-9?)

Niacin, Aspirin (?)

### Lp(a) Apheresis

Effective, but cumbersome

FDA approved

### Exploring Lp(a)

### Targeted Therapy

Phase III Results are coming



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Perrot et al. Atherosclerosis 2017

55

## The Benefit of PCSK9 Therapy is Dependent on Lp(a)

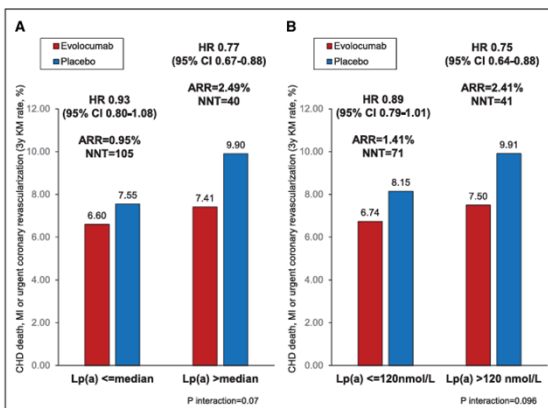


Figure 1. The efficacy of Evolocumab by Lp(a) concentration split at the median (A) and split at 120 nmol/L (50 mg/dL) for reducing CHD (B).

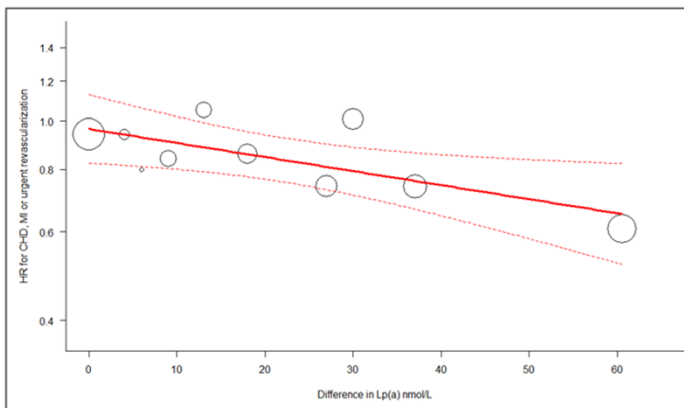


Figure 2. Treatment effect on major coronary events per unit decrease in Lp(a).



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Circulation. 2019;139:1483-1492.

56

## Lp(a) targeted CVOT Outcomes Trial


### Anti **Sen**se Oligonucleotides (ASO)

Pelacar**SEN** → **Lp(a) Horizon**

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### Small Interfering **RNA**

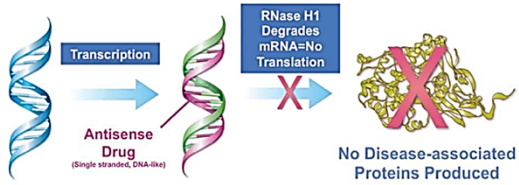
Olpa**SIR**an → **Ocean(a)**



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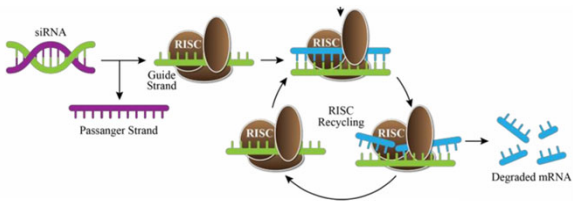
57

### Antisense Oligonucleotide Blocks Translation of Disease-Causing Protein by Targeting mRNA




Antisense oligonucleotides (ASOs) are small, synthetic pieces of RNA that can bind to specific RNA molecules. This prevents translation of Apo(a).

### Small Interfering RNA



RNA-induced silencing complex, or RISC-Multiprotein complex that incorporates one strand of a siRNA. RISC uses the siRNA as a template for recognizing complementary mRNA. When it finds a complementary strand, it activates RNase and cleaves the RNA.



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58

# Effect of APO(a)-L<sub>RX</sub> on Lp(a) Levels

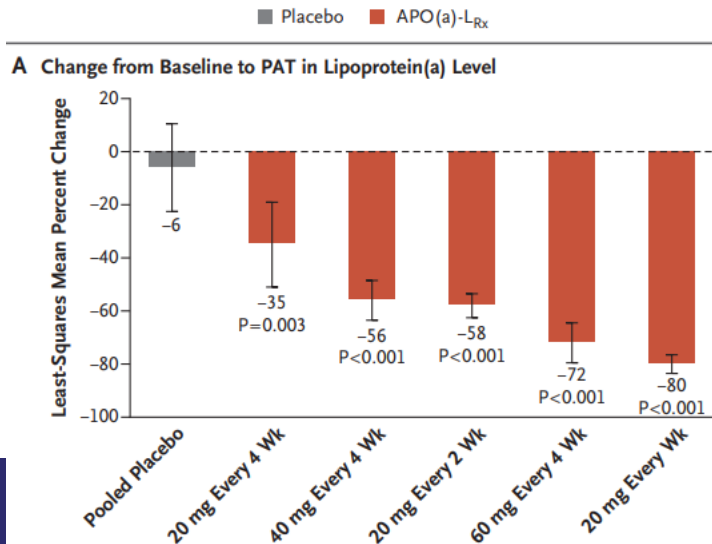
ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Lipoprotein(a) Reduction in Persons with Cardiovascular Disease

Sotirios Tsimikas, M.D., Ewa Karwatowska-Prokopczuk, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Ioanna Gouni-Berthold, M.D., Jean-Claude Tardif, M.D., Seth J. Baum, M.D.,  
 Elizabeth Steinhagen-Thiessen, M.D., Michael D. Shapiro, D.O., Erik S. Stroes, M.D.,  
 Patrick M. Moriarty, M.D., Børge G. Nordestgaard, M.D., D.M.Sc.,  
 Shuting Xia, M.S., Jonathan Guerriero, M.B.A., Nicholas J. Viney, B.Sc.,  
 Louis O'Dea, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., and Joseph L. Witztum, M.D.,  
 for the AKCEA-APO(a)-L<sub>RX</sub> Study Investigators\*

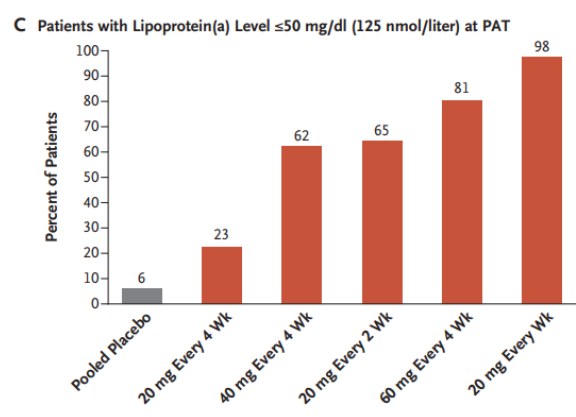
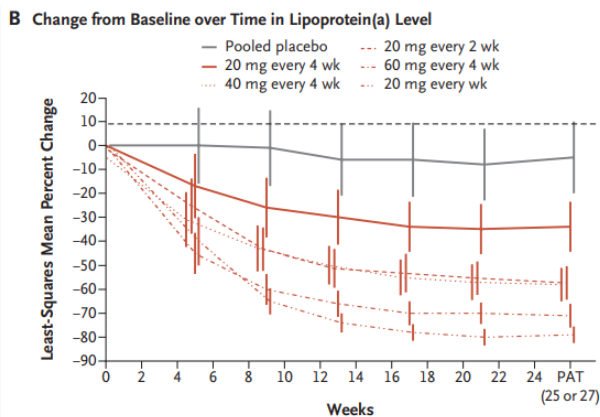


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59

# Effect of APO(a)-L<sub>RX</sub> on Lp(a) Levels



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Tsimikas et al., N Engl J Med 382:3 Nejm.org January 16, 2020

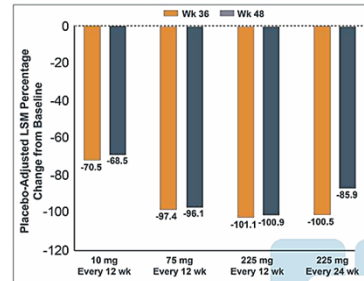
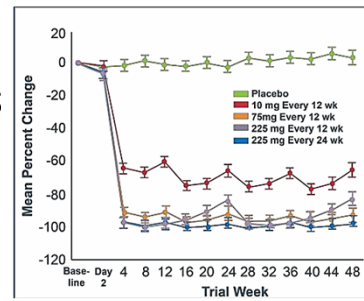
60

## Effect of Olpasiran on Lp(a) Levels

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

### Small Interfering RNA to Reduce Lipoprotein(a) in Cardiovascular Disease

Michelle L. O'Donoghue, M.D., M.P.H., Robert S. Rosenson, M.D.,  
 Baris Gencer, M.D., M.P.H., J. Antonio G. López, M.D., Norman E. Lepor, M.D.,  
 Seth J. Baum, M.D., Elmer Stout, M.D., Daniel Gaudet, M.D., Ph.D.,  
 Beat Knusel, Ph.D., Julia F. Kuder, M.A., Xinhui Ran, M.S.,  
 Sabina A. Murphy, M.P.H., Huei Wang, Ph.D., You Wu, Ph.D.,  
 Helina Kassahun, M.D., and Marc S. Sabatine, M.D., M.P.H.,  
 for the OCEAN(a)-DOSE Trial Investigators\*



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O'Donoghue et al., N Engl J Med 2022;387:1855-64. DOI: 10.1056/NEJMoa2211023

61

## Phase 3 study CVOT RCT Comparison

- Lp(a) HORIZON
- 12/12/2019 – finished enrolling 2022
- Once a month injection Pelacarsen (ASO) vs. placebo
- 8000+ patients s/p MI >3 month < 10 years
- Lp(a) > 70mg/dL (≈165nmol/L)
- F/u ≈ 5 years

- OCEAN(a)
- 01/2023
- Q3 month injection Olpasiran (siRNA) vs. placebo
- 6000+ patients- MI - PCI +1 risk factor
- Lp(a) > 200 nmol/L (≈ 100 mg/dL)
- f/u ≈ 4 years



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62

## Guidelines on Testing for Lp(a)

Box. When to Measure Lipoprotein(a) (Lp[a]) and Thresholds for Treatment

### 2018 American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Cholesterol Guidelines<sup>19</sup>

- ASCVD not explained by major risk factors
- Family history of premature ASCVD<sup>a</sup>
- Lp(a) levels  $\geq 125$  nmol/L ( $\geq 50$  mg/dL) are considered an ASCVD risk-enhancing factor

### 2019 HEART UK Consensus Statement<sup>22</sup>

- Personal or family history of premature ASCVD<sup>c</sup>
- First-degree relatives with serum Lp(a) levels  $>200$  nmol/L
- Familial hypercholesterolemia or other genetic dyslipidemias
- Calcific aortic valve stenosis
- Borderline increased (but  $<15\%$ ) 10-year ASCVD risk
- Lp(a) levels  $>90$  nmol/L are considered high risk

### 2020 Endocrine Society Lipid Management Guidelines<sup>23</sup>

- Family history of premature ASCVD or high Lp(a)
- Personal history of ASCVD
- Lp(a) levels  $\geq 125$  nmol/L ( $\geq 50$  mg/dL) are considered an ASCVD risk-enhancing factor

### 2019 National Lipid Association Scientific Statement<sup>20</sup>

April 2024

### 2019 European Society of Cardiology/European Atherosclerosis Society Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidaemias<sup>21</sup>

### 2021 Canadian Guidelines for the Management of Dyslipidemia<sup>24</sup>

### Recommendations

- Adults (aged  $\geq 18$  y): Measurement of Lp(a) in all adults

Universal  
Screening



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JAMA Cardiol. 2022;7(7):760-769.

Journal of Clinical Lipidology (2024) 000, 1–12

63

## Real World Data Allina System

Figure 1. Prevalence of Lp(a) testing and baseline demographics in adults 40-79 years from 2004-2023.

419,812  
patients

1.8% Tested for Lp(a)



- Median age 61
- 52% female
- 90% white
- 61% dyslipidemia
- 11% ASCVD

Lp(a) was tested in 1.8% of the total sample, including 1.4% of those without prior ASCVD and 4.9% of patients with ASCVD (Figure 1).

Characteristics	Total population 419,813 <sup>1</sup>	No ASCVD 371,744 <sup>1</sup>	ASCVD 48,069 <sup>1</sup>	p-value <sup>2</sup>
Age	61 (52- 70)	60 (51-69)	69 (61-75)	p<0.01
Female	218,205 (52%)	201,041 (54%)	17164 (36%)	p<0.01
White	375,884 (90%)	331,853 (89%)	44,031 (92%)	p<0.01
BMI	29 (25, 34)	29 (25-34)	30 (26-34)	p<0.01
Dyslipidemia	256,665 (61%)	212, 977 (55%)	43,668 (91%)	p<0.01
Diabetes	81,401 (19%)	62,971 (17%)	18,430 (38%)	p<0.01
Hypertension	223,228 (53%)	181,501 (49%)	41,727 (87%)	p<0.01
Tobacco Status				
Every Day/Some Day	47,881 (11.4%)	41,165 (11%)	6,755 (14%)	p<0.01
Former	141,755 (34%)	118,978 (32%)	22,777(47%)	p<0.01
Collected Lp(a)	7,619 (1.8%)	5,260 (1.4%)	2,359 (4.9%)	p<0.01
mg/dL	-	20 (8,55)	27 (10,76)	p=0.015
nmol/L	-	47 (19-129)	59 (20-174)	p<0.01
Elevated Lp(a)	-	1,410 (27%)	846 (36%)	p<0.01

<sup>1</sup>Median (IQR); n (%); BMI: body mass index;

<sup>2</sup>Pearson's Chi-Squared; Wilcoxon rank sum test



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64



## Allina Data

Time Period	Low/Borderline (%)	Intermediate (%)	High (%)	ASCVD (%)
2004-2007	28	26	22	33
2008-2010	28	35	29	39
2011-2013	34	42	33	45
2014-2016	24	32	23	38
2017-2019	19	16	25	32
2020-2022	27	24	25	33

Figure 2. Prevalence of Lp(a) testing according to ASCVD risk status from 2004-2023 in a large Midwest healthcare system.

Time Period	Low/Borderline	Intermediate	High	ASCVD
2004-2007	180	200	180	280
2008-2010	150	200	150	330
2011-2013	180	210	180	330
2014-2016	150	220	150	280
2017-2019	400	280	150	380
2020-2022	700	450	180	550

While the prevalence of Lp(a) testing was low, there has been a recent increase in Lp(a) testing (Figure 2).

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## Allina Outcomes

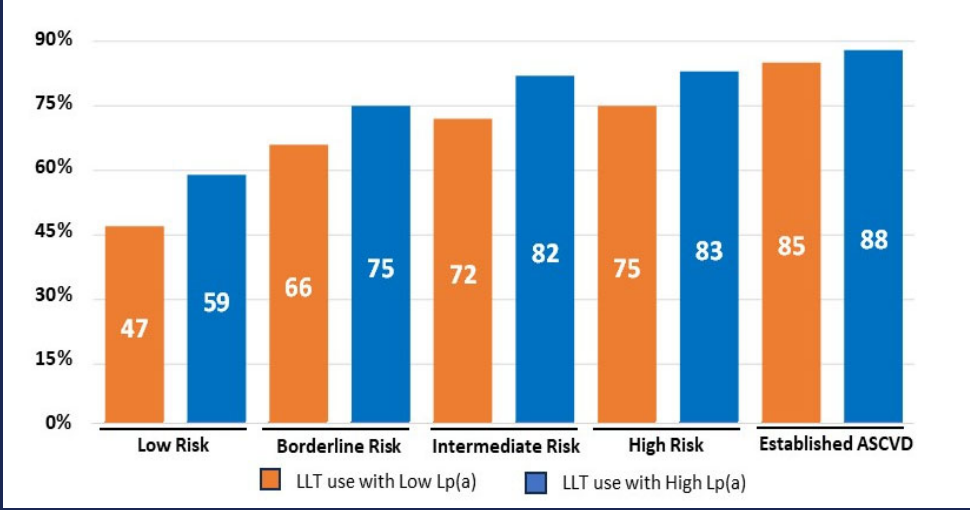
**30%** of patients had elevated Lp(a)

**59%** of patients had a variance of **> 20%** from consecutive measurements.

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66

Use of LLT in 7,618 patients who underwent Lp(a) testing according to Lp(a) elevation and ASCVD risk status.



67

**TRENDS IN CARDIOVASCULAR RISK FACTORS AND USE OF PREVENTIVE CARDIOVASCULAR MEDICATIONS IN PATIENTS PRESENTING WITH ST-ELEVATION MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION**

**Prevalence of CVD risk factors and use of preventive CVD medications during 2011-14, 2015-2018, and 2019-2022 in 7,854 STEMI patients**

**INTRODUCTION**

ST-elevation myocardial infarction (STEMI) is a severe manifestation of potentially preventable cardiovascular (CVD) disease.

Statins, antihypertensives, and antiplatelet agents lower CVD risk but are often underused.

**AIM**

To assess the prevalence of CVD risk factors and use of preventive CVD medications over the past 10+ years in a large Midwest STEMI system.

**METHODS**

Analysis: Consecutive STEMI patients from the Level One STEMI program at the Minneapolis Heart Institute between 2003 and 2023.

Variables collected: Baseline demographics, traditional CVD risk factors, and pre-admission CVD medications.

**7,854**  
first-time STEMI patients

Pearson's Chi-Squared; \*p<0.05, comparing 2011-14 to 2019-22.

**RESULTS**

The sample (n=7,854) was relatively young (mean age 64 years) with a high prevalence of dyslipidemia (54%) and hypertension (59%). (Table 1)

More than 70% of STEMI patients had no prior ASCVD, which has remained stable over the past decade (Figure 1a).

Comparing 2011-14 to 2019-22, there were no significant changes in the prevalence of smoking, hypertension, prior CVD, or dyslipidemia, but diabetes increased from 21% to 25% (p=0.012) (Figure 1a).

In those without prior CVD, statin use prior to STEMI increased from 19% to 29% (p<0.01), ACE-I/ARB from 19% to 29% (p<0.01), and beta-blockers from 17% to 22% (p<0.05), with a non-significant decline in use of aspirin. Secondary prevention statin increased from 64% to 75% (p<0.01), with no change in other medications, including aspirin (Figure 1b).

**CONCLUSIONS**

- In a sample of >7,800 patients with STEMI, >70% had no clinical ASCVD prior to STEMI, which has remained unchanged over time
- The prevalence of traditional CVD risk factors prior to STEMI has remained stable except for a slight increase in diabetes
- Utilization of preventive CVD medications remains suboptimal, especially in primary prevention.
- Better methods of CVD risk assessment and implementation of current guidelines are needed.

**Table 1. Baseline Characteristics**

Characteristics	Total population 7,854
Age	64 (54, 74)
Female	2,369 (30%)
White	7,111 (93%)
Dyslipidemia	4,138 (54%)
Diabetes	1,617 (20%)
Hypertension	4,569 (59%)
Smoker	2,465 (32%)
Prior CVD	2,013 (27%)

Abbreviations: ACE-I: Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB: Angiotensin receptor blocker; ASCVD: Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease.

68

# Questions?

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69

# Why varying so much?

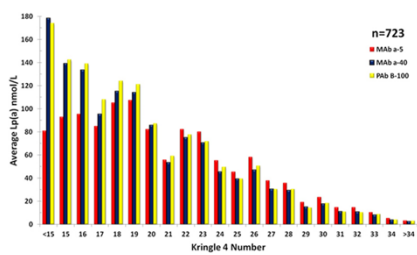


Fig. 2. Comparison of Lp(a) values obtained by ELISA using the same MAb (a-6) to capture Lp(a) in the samples and different detecting MAbs (a-5 and a-40) and a polyclonal antibody to B-100. Mean Lp(a) levels obtained by each detecting antibody were compared as a function of the predominantly expressed apo(a) isoform size.

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70