

# 7<sup>th</sup> Advances in Heart Failure 2024

**10 e 11 de Outubro**

**FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO**

ORGANIZAÇÃO

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EVENTS.



**7<sup>th</sup> Advances  
in Heart  
Failure 2024**

**10 e 11 de Outubro**

FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

# Novos insights da Insuficiência Cardíaca Avançada *Inotrópicos*

**Doroteia Silva, MD**

ULS Santa Maria

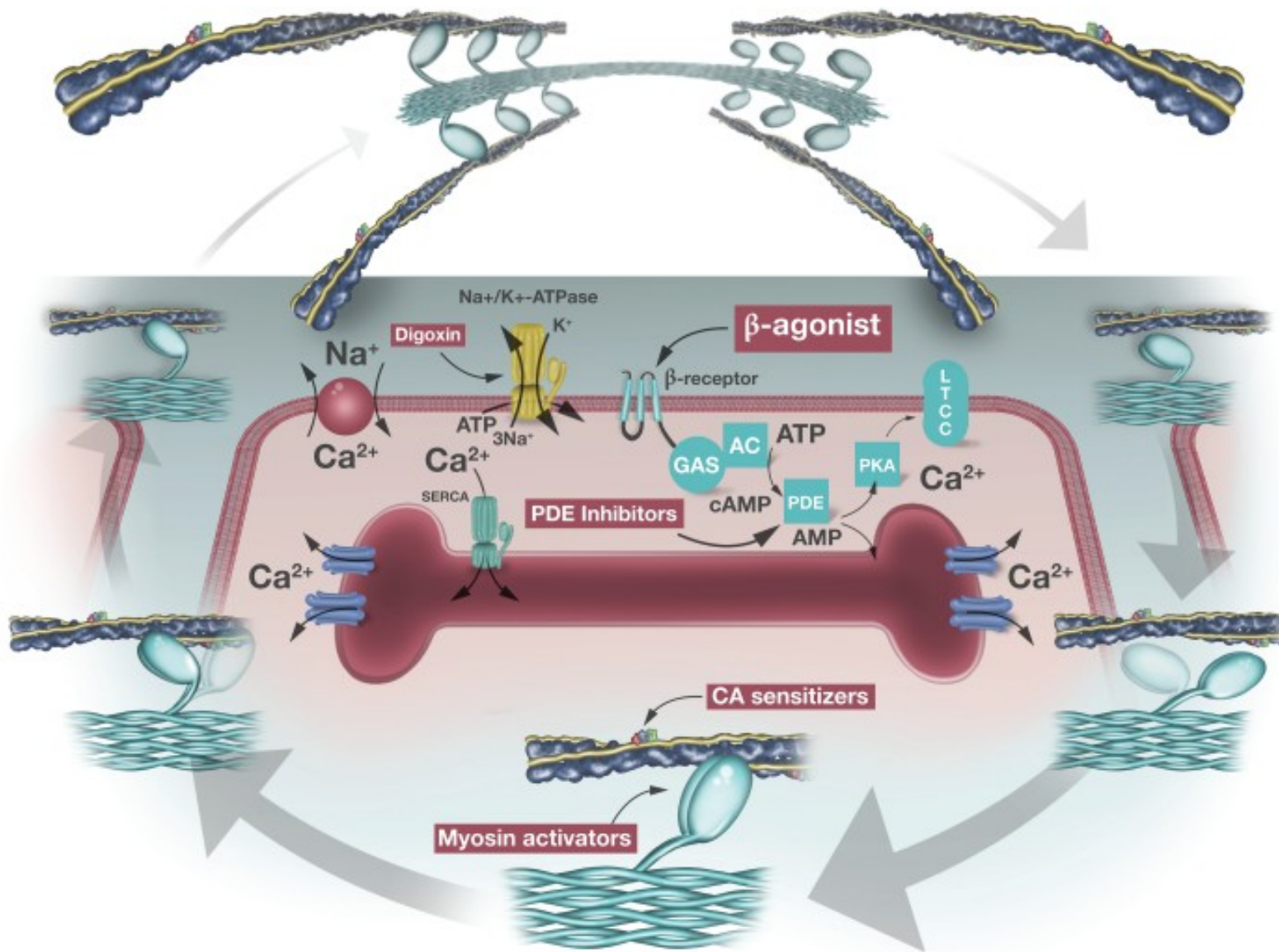
Hospital Lusíadas Lisboa

CCUL, Faculdade de Medicina, CAML



# Inotropes

B



On the level of the actomyosin cross-bridge, inotropy relies largely on:

- (i) the amount of calcium available to bind to troponin C > **Calcitropes**
- (ii) the calcium affinity of troponin C > **Myotropes**
- (iii) the duration of the force-producing state with availability of high energy phosphates > **Mitotropes**

# RESULTS OF CLINICAL TRIALS INVOLVING POSITIVE INOTROPES IN HEART FAILURE WITH REDUCED EF

Clinical trial	Comparator groups	Year	No. patients	Key inclusion criteria	Results
Amrinone Multicenter Trial <sup>40</sup>	Amrinone vs. placebo	1985	99	NYHA class III–IV, LVEF $\leq$ 40%	↑ Adverse events
Xamoterol in Severe Heart Failure <sup>41</sup>	Xamoterol vs. placebo	1990	516	LVEF < 35%, NYHA class III–IV	↑ Morbidity
PROMISE <sup>42</sup>	Milrinone vs. placebo	1991	1008	LVEF $\leq$ 35%, NYHA class III–IV	↑ Morbidity and mortality
PICO <sup>43</sup>	Pimobendan	1996	317	NYHA class II–III, LVEF $\leq$ 45%	↑ Exercise tolerance, ↑ mortality
PRIME II <sup>44</sup>	lbopamine	1997	1906	NYHA class III–IV, LVEF < 35%	↑ Mortality
VEST <sup>45</sup>	Vesnarinone	1998	3833	LVEF $\leq$ 30%, NYHA class III–IV	Dose-dependent ↑ mortality (potentially arrhythmias)
FIRST <sup>46</sup>	Dobutamine	1999	471	NYHA class IIIB–IV; LVEF < 30%	↑ Mortality
DICE <sup>47</sup>	Intermittent dobutamine vs. placebo	1999	38	NYHA class III–IV, cardiac index $\leq$ 2.2 L/min/m <sup>2</sup> , and LVEF $\leq$ 30%	No improvement in functional status
OPTIME-CHF <sup>48</sup>	Milrinone	2002	951	ADHF with LVEF < 40%	↑ Adverse events, equivalent mortality
LIDO <sup>49</sup>	Levosimendan vs. dobutamine	2002	203	ADHF with LVEF < 35%, CI < 2.5 L/min/m <sup>2</sup> , PCWP > 15 mmHg	↑ Haemodynamics, ↓ mortality with levosimendan
RUSSLAN <sup>50</sup>	Levosimendan vs. placebo	2002	504	LV failure complicating AMI	Low-dose levosimendan reduced the risk of worsening HF
SURVIVE <sup>51</sup>	Levosimendan vs. dobutamine	2007	1327	ADHF with LVEF $\leq$ 30%	↓ BNP with levosimendan but no impact on clinical outcomes
EMOTE <sup>52</sup>	Enoximone	2007	201	NYHA class IV, inotrope dependence, LVEF $\leq$ 25%	No difference in ability to wean patients off inotropes at 30 days
Enoximone Clinical Trials Program <sup>14,53</sup>	Enoximone	2009	1854	NYHA class III–IV, LVEF $\leq$ 35% (two trials)	No difference in mortality, CV hospitalizations, 6MWD, patient global assessment
HORIZON-HF <sup>32</sup>	Istaroxime	2008	120	ADHF with LVEF $\leq$ 35%	↓ PCWP, ↑ SBP, and ↓ diastolic stiffness
CUPID 2 <sup>34</sup>	SERCA2a gene	2016	250	Chronic HF, NYHA class II–III, LVEF $\leq$ 35%, NT-proBNP > 1200 pg/mL <sup>2</sup>	No difference in time to recurrent events
REVIVE <sup>54</sup>	Levosimendan	2013	700	ADHF with LVEF $\leq$ 35%	↓ HF symptoms, ↑ risk of adverse CV events and 14-day mortality
ATOMIC-AHF <sup>55</sup>	Omecamtiv mecarbil	2016	606	ADHF with LVEF $\leq$ 40%, BNP > 400 pg/mL or NT-proBNP > 1600 pg/mL <sup>2</sup>	No difference in dyspnoea endpoint, ↑ SET, ↓ LVESD, ↑ troponin
COSMIC-HF <sup>56</sup>	Omecamtiv mecarbil	2016	448	Chronic HF, NYHA class II–III, LVEF $\leq$ 40%, NT-proBNP $\geq$ 200 pg/mL <sup>2</sup>	↑ SET, ↑ SV, ↓ LVESD, ↓ LVEDD, ↓ NT-proBNP
PROFILE <sup>57</sup>	Flosequinan	2017	2354	NYHA class III–IV, LVEF $\leq$ 35%	↑ Exercise tolerance, ↑ mortality



**PRIOR STUDIES OF  
POSITIVE CARDIAC  
INOTROPES**

ENROLLMENT CRITERIA:  
LVEF/NYHA

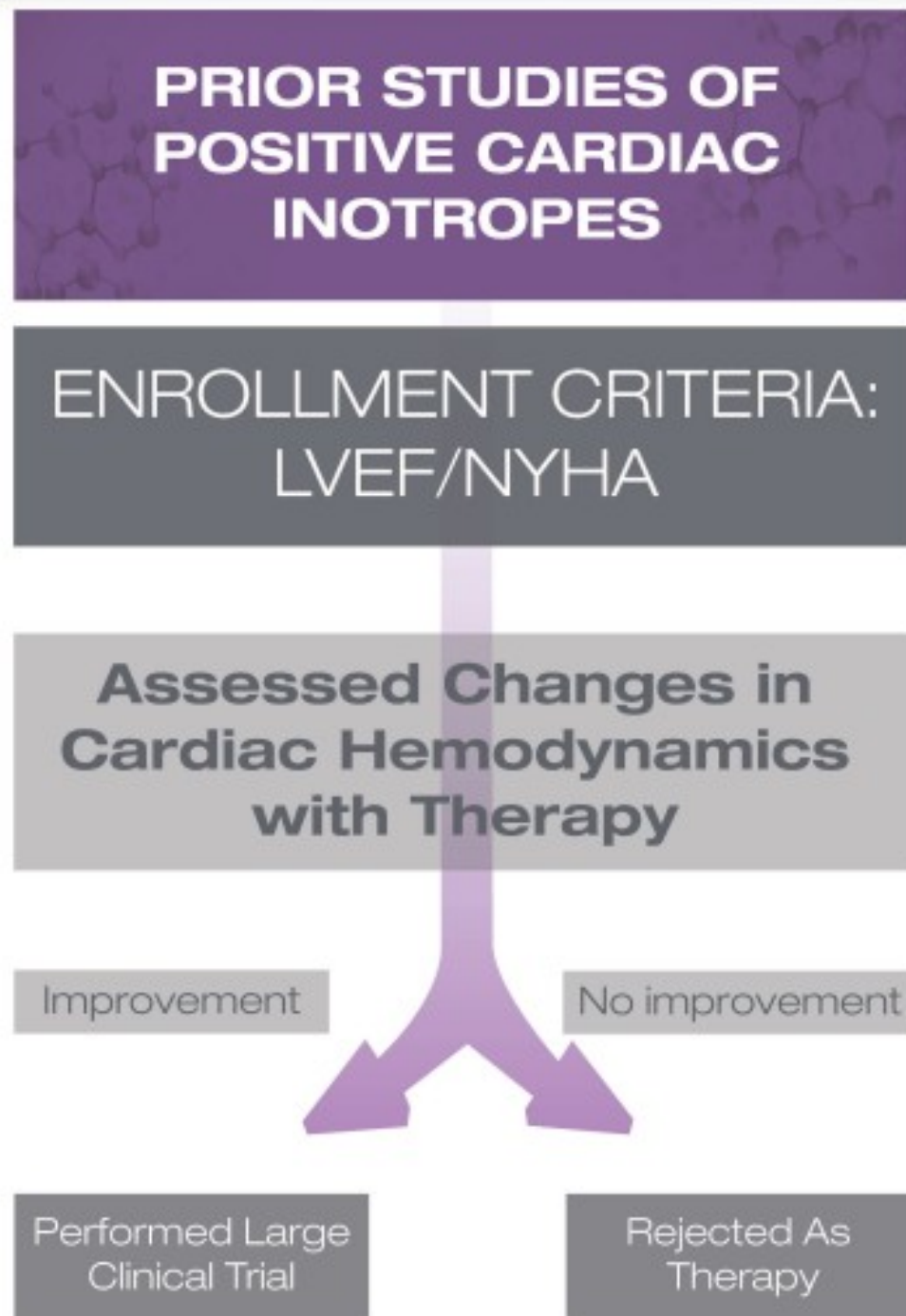
**Assessed Changes in  
Cardiac Hemodynamics  
with Therapy**

Improvement

No improvement

Performed Large  
Clinical Trial

Rejected As  
Therapy



# Some important conclusions....

- ✓ No inotrope improves survival endpoints in patients with HF
- ✓ Studies in refractory AdvHF patients have shown that treatment with intermittent low-dose dobutamine infusions improves QoL
- ✓ Small studies have shown that repeated levosimendan administration also improves functional capacity and QoL in AdvHF
- ✓ A meta-analysis of all available clinical trials, confirmed the effect of levosimendan on re-hospitalization in AdvHF on 3 months (**ESC Heart Fail. 2017**)
- ✓ As a result, no positive inotrope is currently approved for long-term use in heart failure.



**Some important conclusions....**



**Still, inotropes are indispensable in the setting of AdvHF as they do improve patients' symptoms/ QOL ...**

# Inotropes and Advanced Heart Failure (AdvHF)

Continuous inotropes and/or vasopressors may be considered in patients with low cardiac output and evidence of organ hypoperfusion as bridge to MCS or heart transplantation.<sup>389,390</sup>

**IIb**

**C**

**They can be used as palliative therapy for the relief of symptoms in patients without other treatment options.**

**Intermittent long-term use of inotropes may be considered in outpatients to improve functional class and QOL (IIb)**

ESC Guidelines 2021

Eur J Heart Fail 2018;20:11281136.390.

Ambulatory inotrope infusions in advanced heart failure: a systematic review and meta-analysis. JACC Heart Fail



# The Future for Inotropes in Heart Failure. Do Not Throw the Baby Out With the Bathwater!

*Piero Pollesello, PhD\* and Zoltán Papp, MD, PhD†*

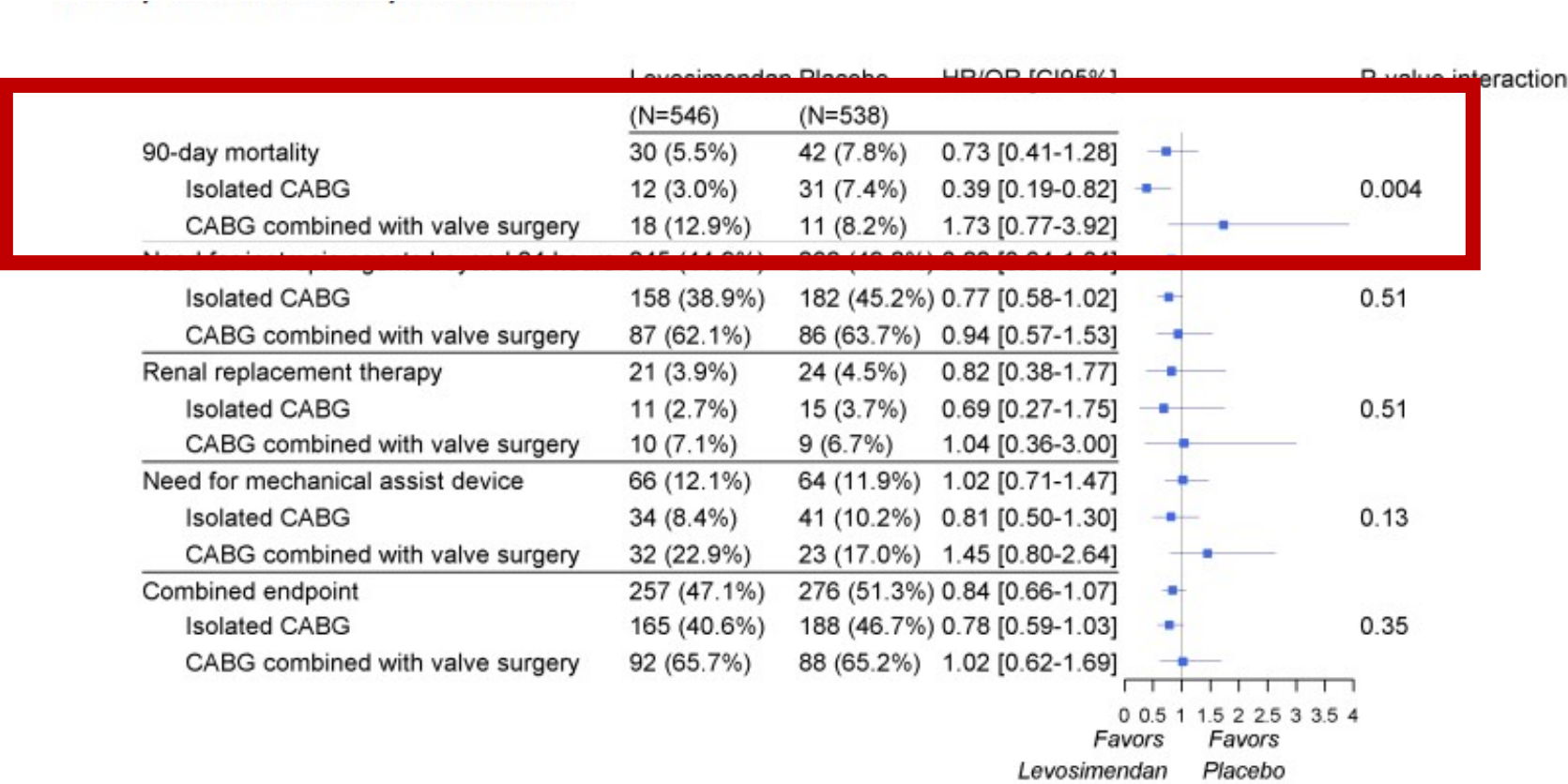


## **Why has positive inotropy failed in chronic heart failure? Lessons from prior inotrope trials**

- 1) Improvements in short-term haemodynamics may not translate into longer-term mortality and morbidity benefits**
- 2) Benefit from inotropes might only be restricted to sub-phenotypes of heart failure**
- 3) The mechanism and dosage of inotropic agents can cause adverse effects**
- 4) Medical treatment of patients in prior trials did not protect them from sudden cardiac death**
- 5) Inotropes need to improve efficiency and not contractility...**



# Prophylactic levosimendan in patients with low ejection fraction undergoing coronary artery bypass grafting: A pooled analysis of two multicentre randomised controlled trials



The subgroup of patients undergoing isolated CABG had a reduction in mortality at day 90, whereas there was no significant effect in combined surgery patients. This finding requires confirmation with a specific prospective trial.

# The Future for Inotropes in Heart Failure. Do Not Throw the Baby Out With the Bathwater!

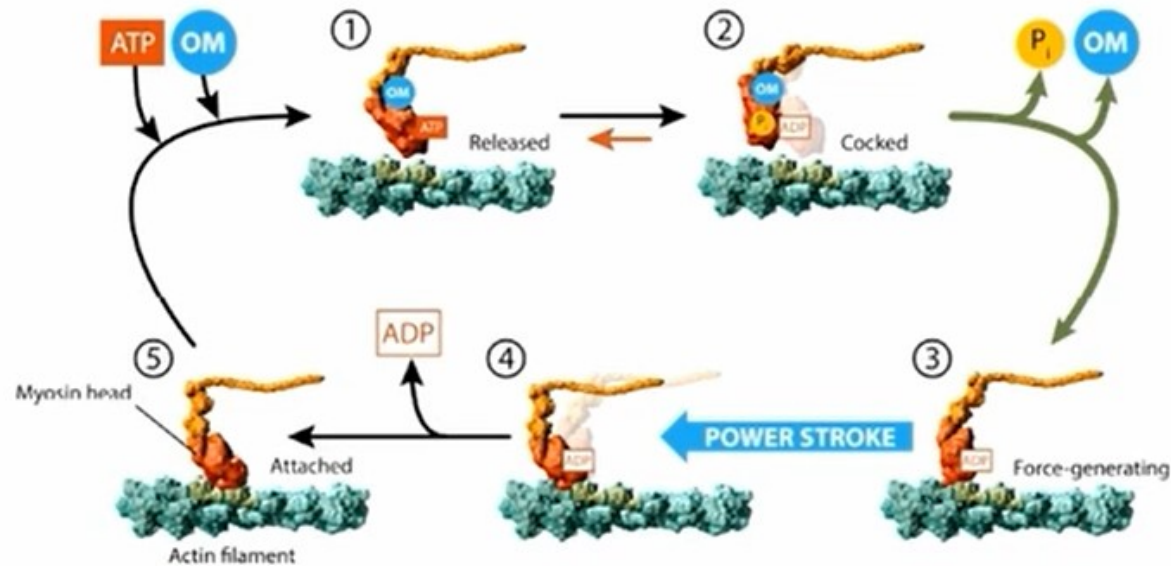
*Piero Pollesello, PhD\* and Zoltán Papp, MD, PhD†*

- ***None of the established inotropes have been studied comprehensively in any closely-defined heart failure subsetting so far...***
- ***It depends on which inotrope and on which subtype of heart failure...***
- ***We must not throw the baby out with the bath water, just because in the past the clinical trials were not focused enough.***



# Omecamtiv Mecarbil (OM): A Novel Selective Cardiac Myosin Activator

Omecamtiv mecarbil stabilizes myosin in the Pre-Powerstroke State, increasing the entry rate of myosin into the tightly-bound, force-producing state with actin with no effect on intracellular calcium



Malik FI, et al. *Science* 2011; 331:1439-43;  
Shen YT, et al. *Circ Heart Fail* 2010;3:522-7;  
Planelles-Herrero VJ, et al. *Nat Commun* 2017;8:190;  
Teerlink JR, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol HF* 2020;8:329-340.

With omecamtiv mecarbil

- More “hands” (myosin heads) to grasp the “rope” (actin filament) to produce more force

# Omecamtiv mecarbil in HFrEF

Teerlink JR, *et al. Lancet* 2016; 388: 2895-903.

149 patients per group

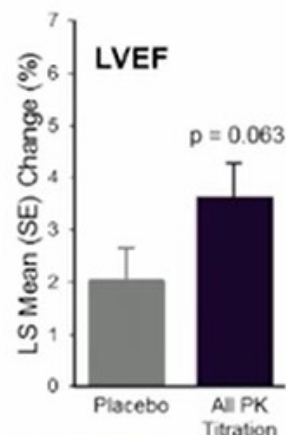
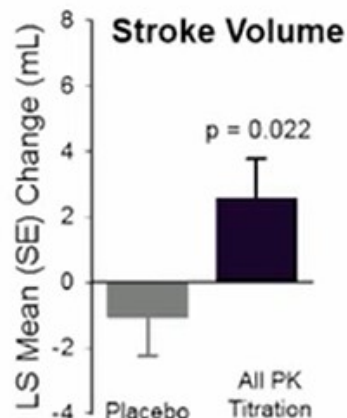
- History of chronic HF
- Treated with stable, optimal HF Rx
- NYHA class II or III
- LVEF  $\leq 40\%$
- NT-proBNP  $\geq 200$  pg/mL

20-weeks Oral therapy

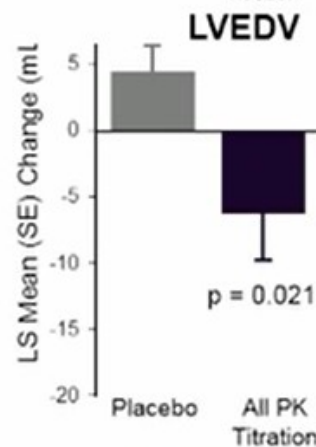
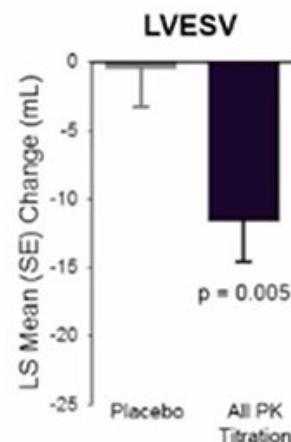
- Placebo
- Omecamtiv mecarbil  
25  $\rightarrow$  50 mg BID (PK-titration)

Serial Echocardiograms

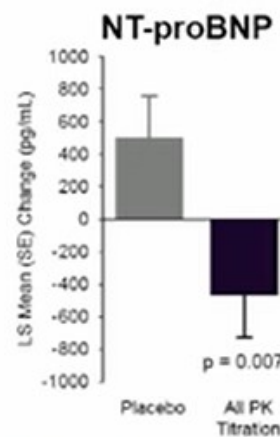
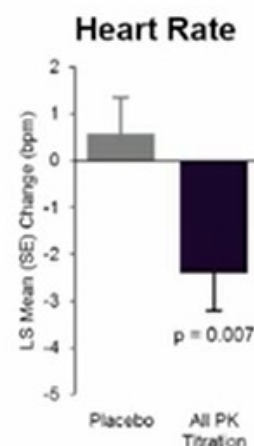
## Improved LV Function



## Decreased LV Volumes

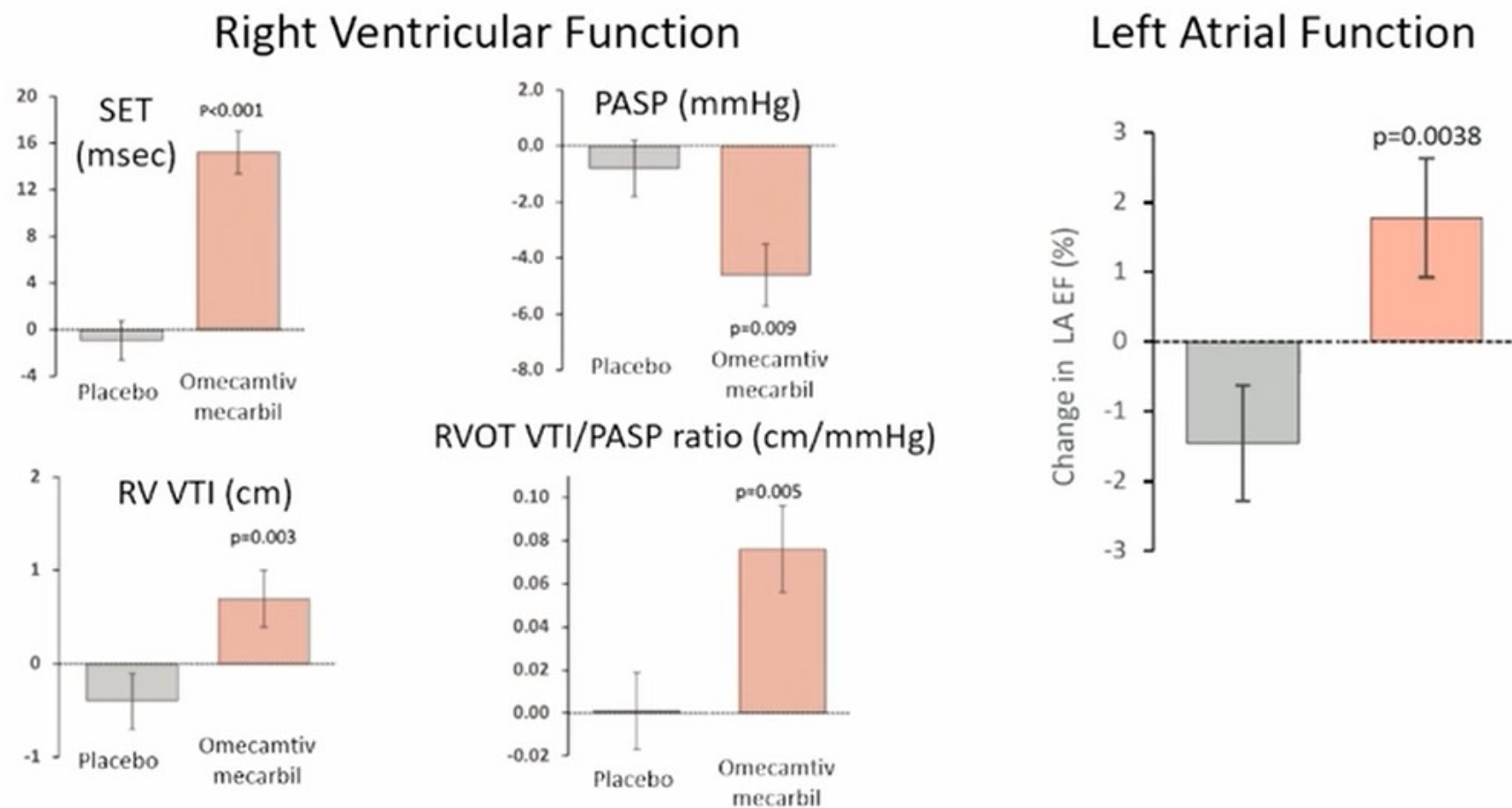


## Decreased Neuro- hormonal Activation



# Improved Right Ventricular and Left Atrial Function

Biering-Sorensen T, et al. *Eur J Heart Fail* 2021;23:1052-1056; Biering-Sorensen T, et al. *Circulation* 2016;134, Abstract.



LAEF, Left atrial ejection fraction; PASP, Pulmonary artery systolic pressure; RV, Right ventricular; SE, standard error; SET, systolic ejection time; VTI, Velocity time integral (~Stroke volume).

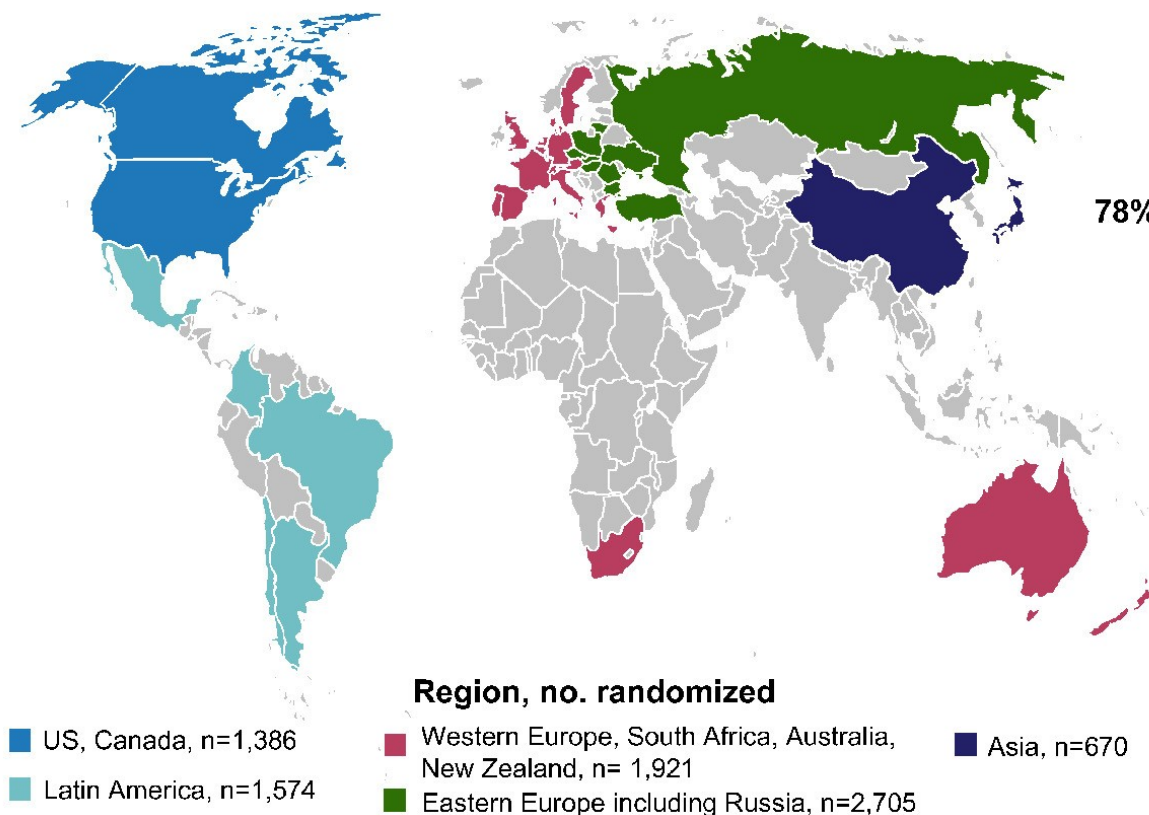


## CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Baseline Characteristics of GALACTIC-HF, Phase 3 Trial of Omecamtiv Mecarbil in Patients With HFrEF

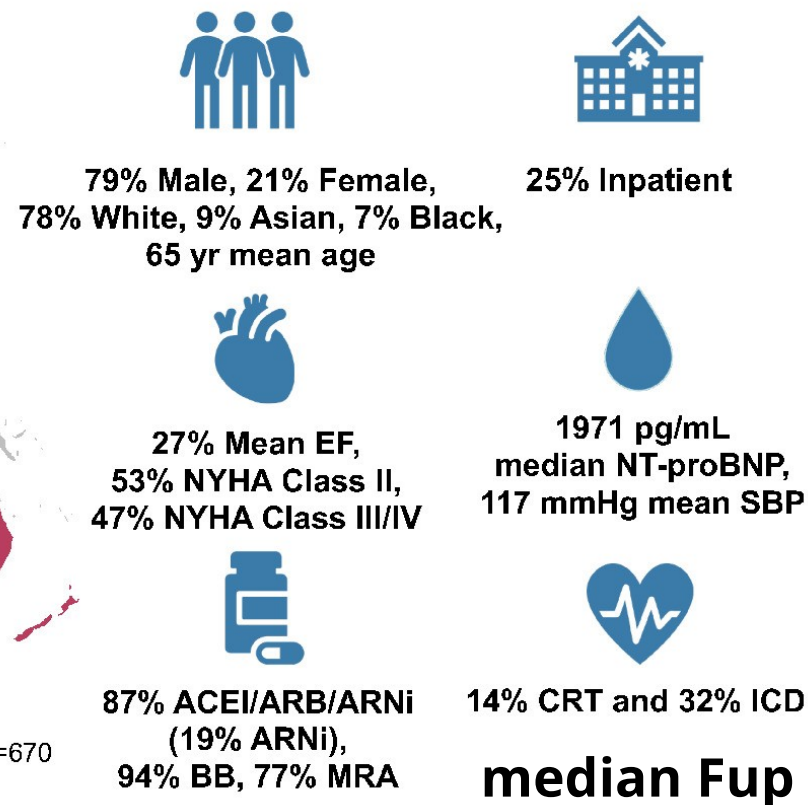
**GALACTIC-HF: Multicenter, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, event-driven trial**

- Assess effects of omecamtiv mecarbil, a *novel, selective cardiac myosin activator*, on clinical outcomes in both inpatients and outpatients with HFrEF **EjF < 35%**
- *Primary efficacy outcome*: Time to CV death or HF event, whichever occurs first

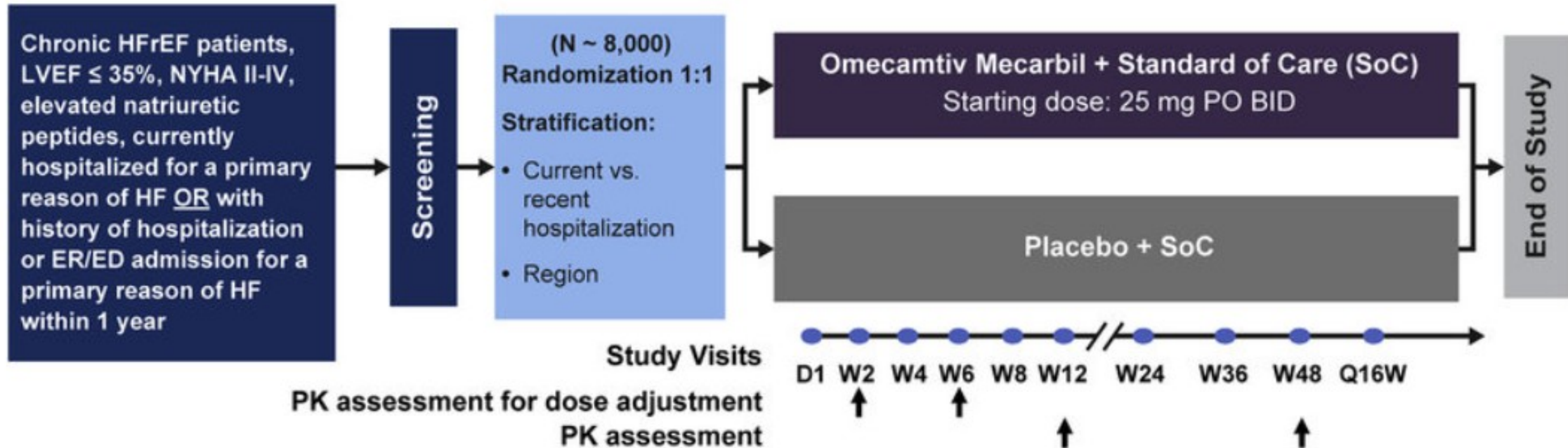
### Enrolled 8,256 Patients With HFrEF



### Baseline Characteristics

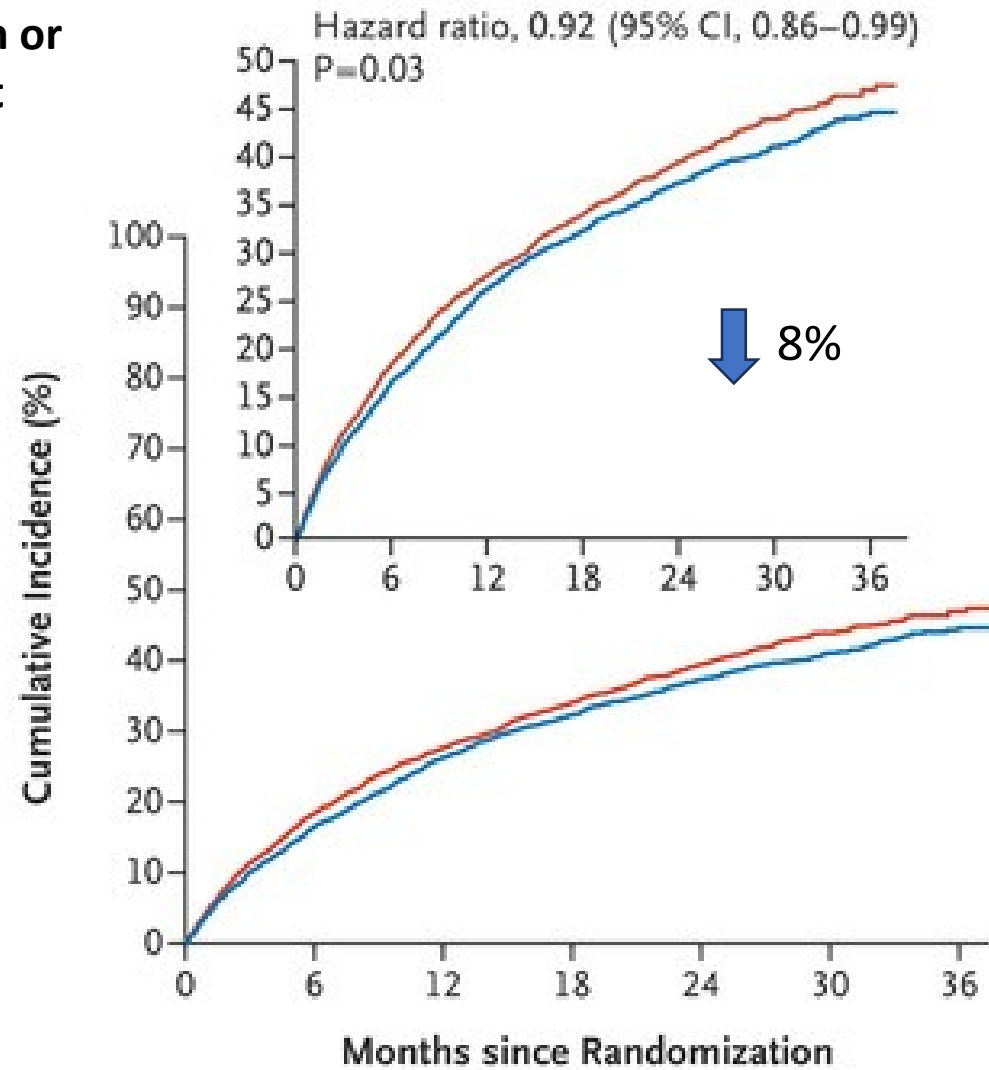


# Schematic of Study Design for the GALACTIC-HF Trial



**A Primary Outcome**

**CV death or  
HF event**

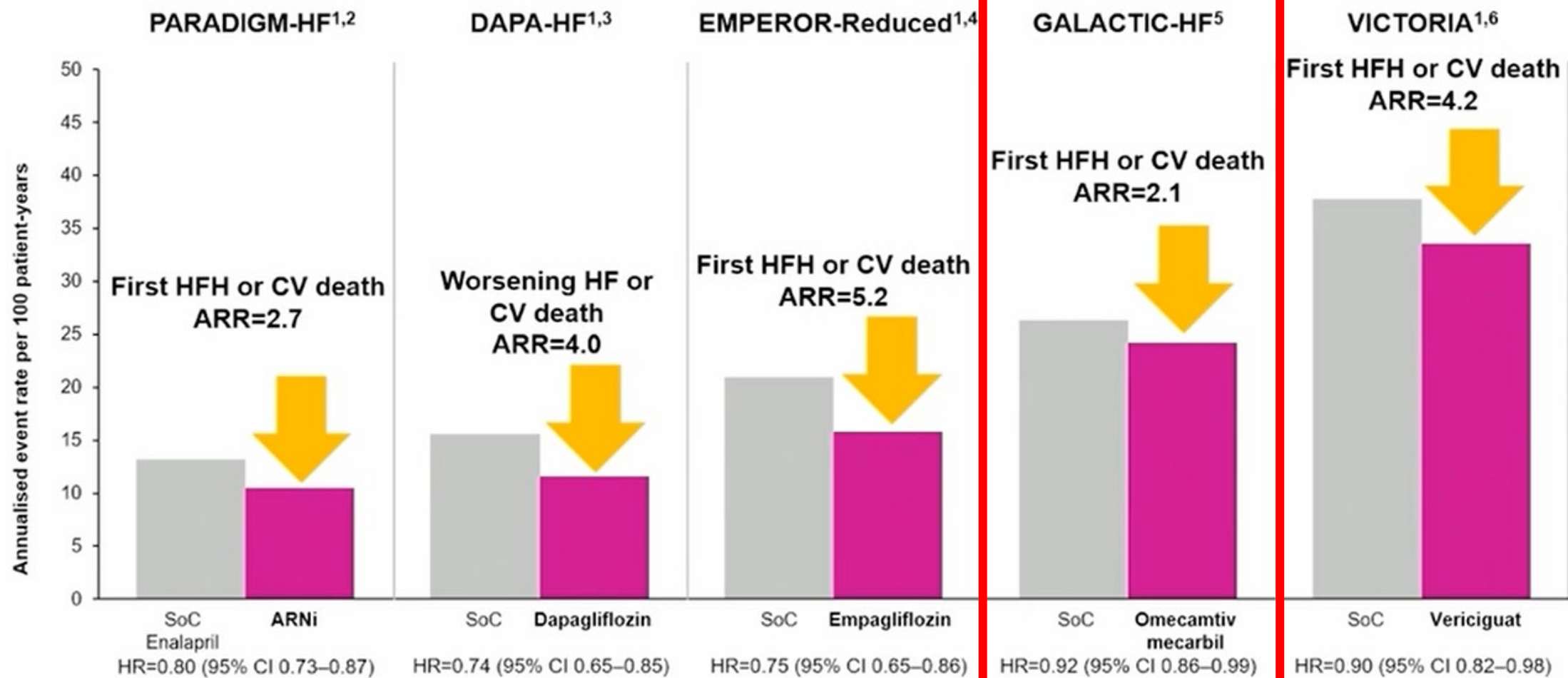


**No. at Risk**

Placebo	4112	3310	2889	2102	1349	647	141
Omecamtiv mecarbil	4120	3391	2953	2158	1430	700	164

# Contemporary HF Outcome Trials

## Primary Endpoint Absolute Rate Reduction





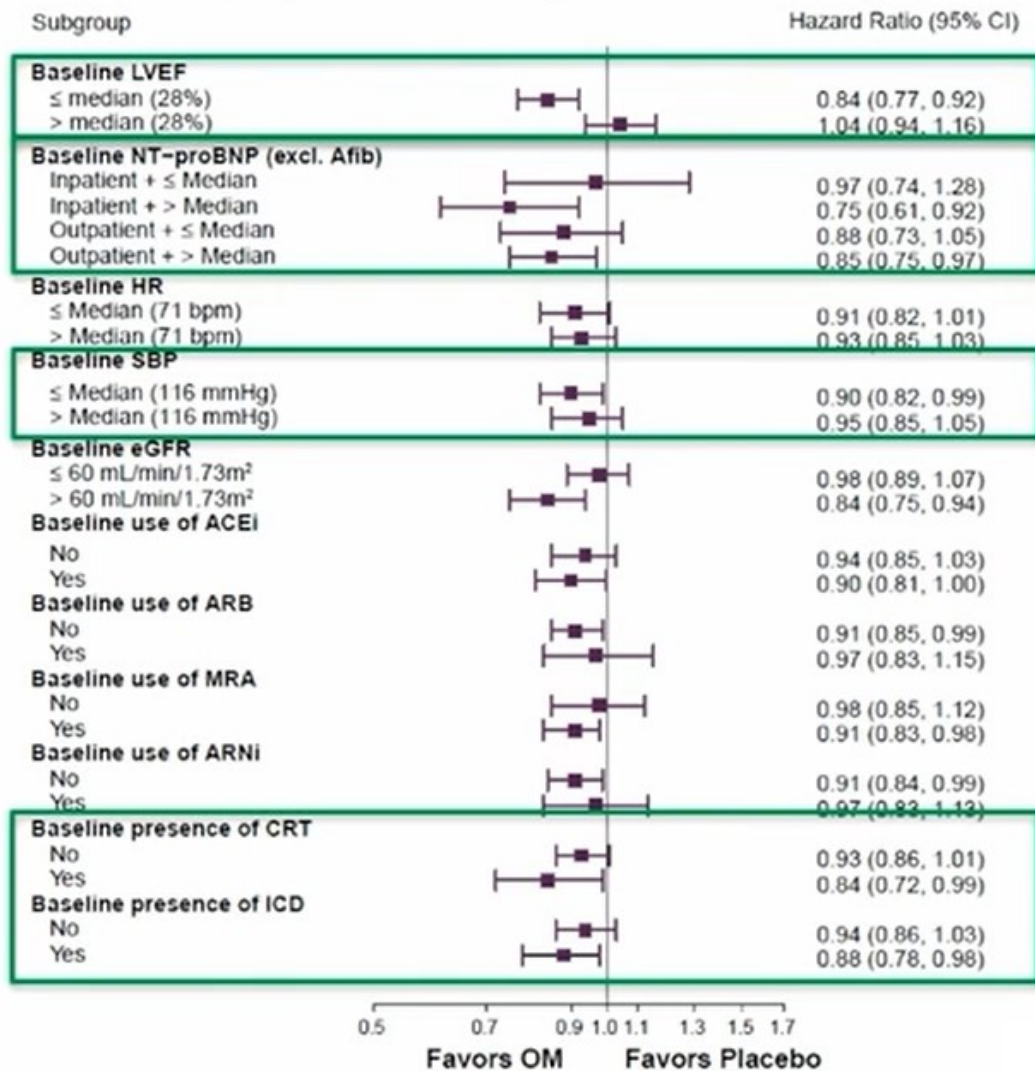
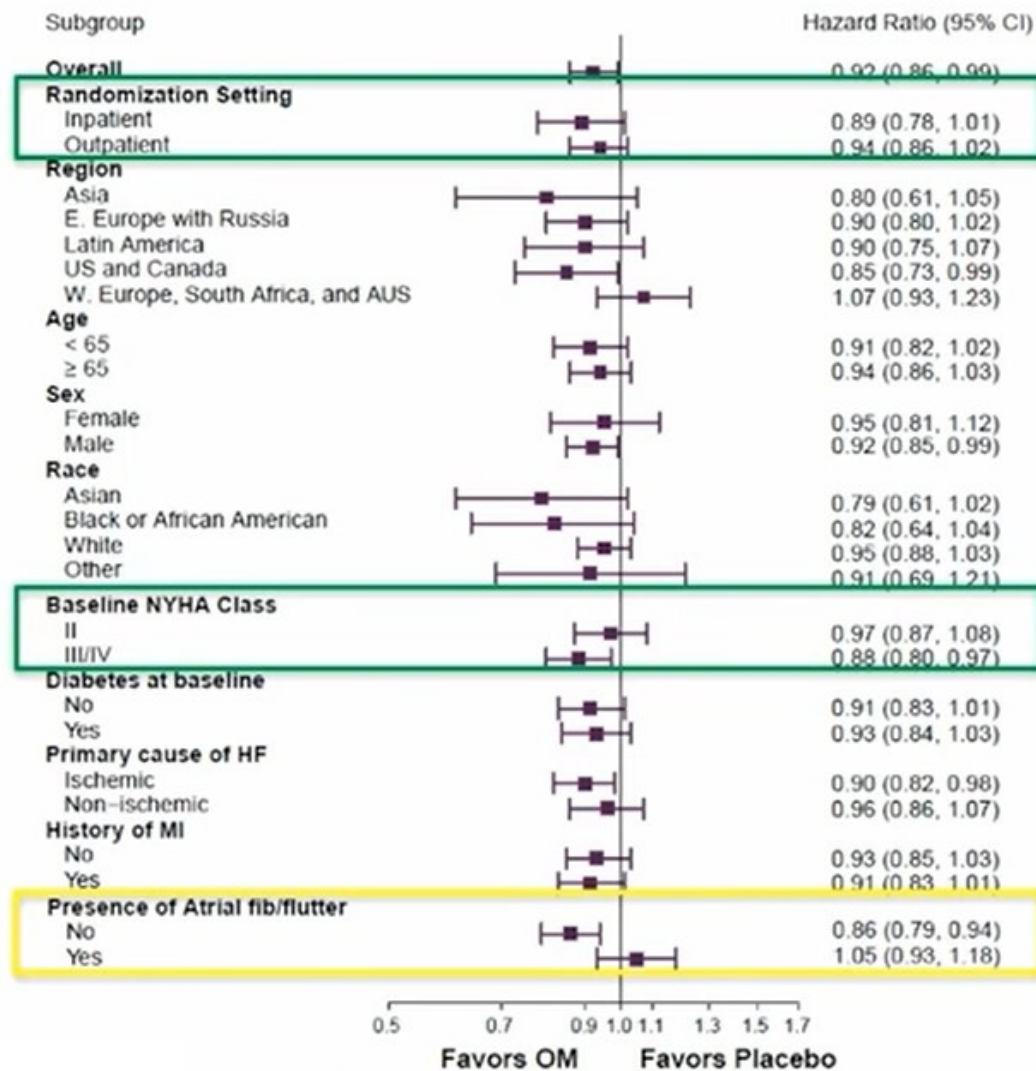
**Table 2. Primary and Secondary Cardiovascular Outcomes.\***

Variable	Omecamtiv Mecarbil (N = 4120)		Placebo (N = 4112)		Hazard Ratio or Difference (95% CI) <sup>†</sup>	P Value
	Value	Events	Value	Events		
		<i>no./100 patient-yr</i>		<i>no./100 patient-yr</i>		
<b>Primary composite outcome — no. (%)<sup>‡</sup></b>	1523 (37.0)	24.2	1607 (39.1)	26.3	0.92 (0.86 to 0.99)	0.03
Cardiovascular death as first event	346 (8.4)		371 (9.0)			
Hospitalization for heart failure as first event	1107 (26.9)		1133 (27.6)			
Urgent outpatient visit for heart failure as first event	70 (1.7)		103 (2.5)			
<b>Secondary outcomes</b>						
Cardiovascular death — no. (%)	808 (19.6)	10.9	798 (19.4)	10.8	1.01 (0.92 to 1.11)	0.86§
Change in KCCQ total symptom score at wk 24						0.03§
Inpatients	23.7±0.7	NA	21.2±0.7	NA	2.5 (0.5 to 4.5)	
Outpatients	5.8±0.3	NA	6.3±0.3	NA	−0.5 (−1.4 to 0.5)	
First hospitalization for heart failure — no. (%)	1142 (27.7)	18.0	1179 (28.7)	19.1	0.95 (0.87 to 1.03)	NA
Death from any cause — no. (%)	1067 (25.9)	14.4	1065 (25.9)	14.4	1.00 (0.92 to 1.09)	NA
<b>Exploratory outcome</b>						
Heart-failure event — no. (%)	1177 (28.6)	18.7	1236 (30.1)	20.3	0.93 (0.86 to 1.00)	NA

# Cardiac Myosin Activator: Omecamtiv Mecarbil



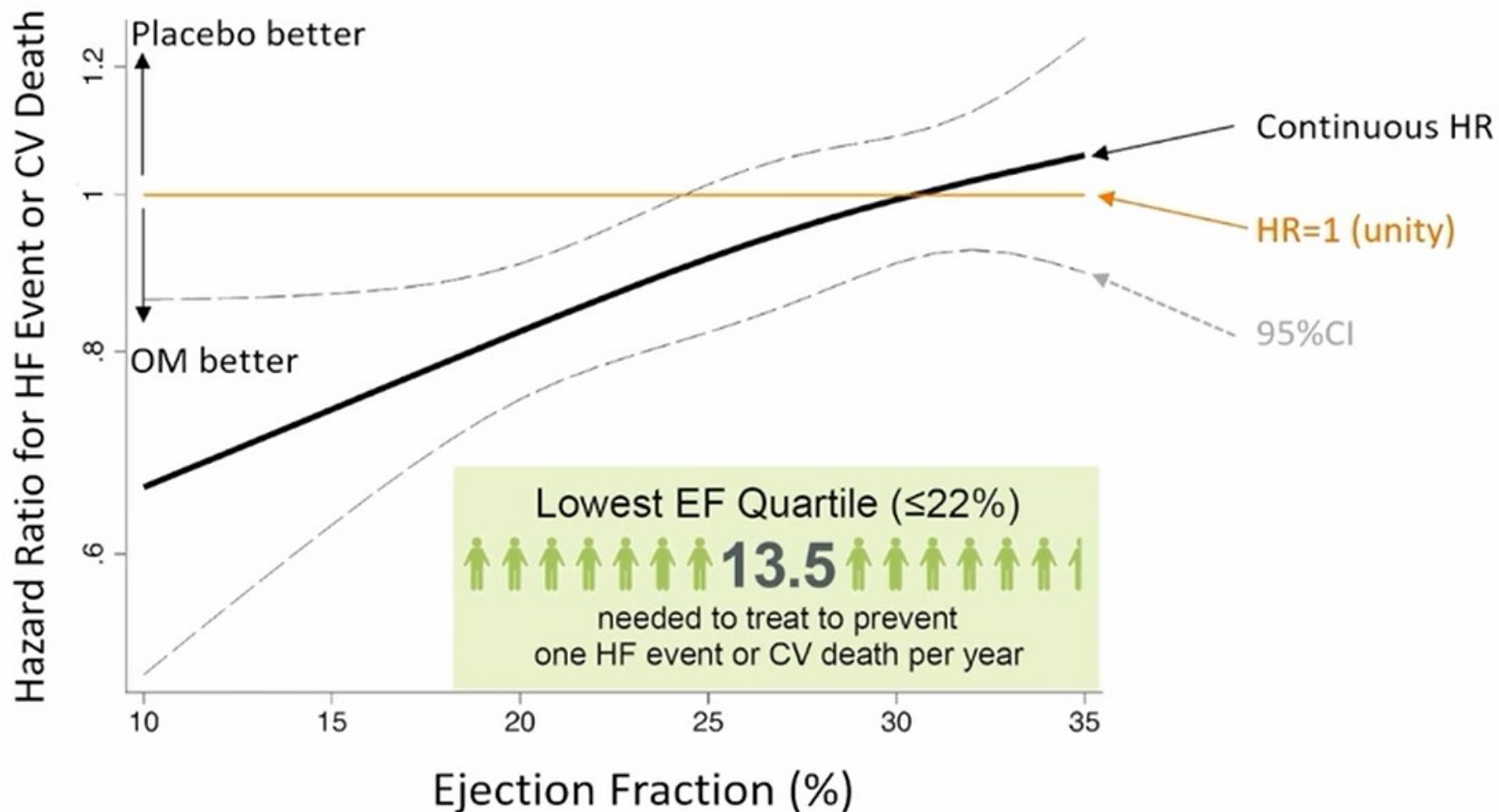
Teerlink JR, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:105-116.



# Primary Outcome: EF Subgroup Results

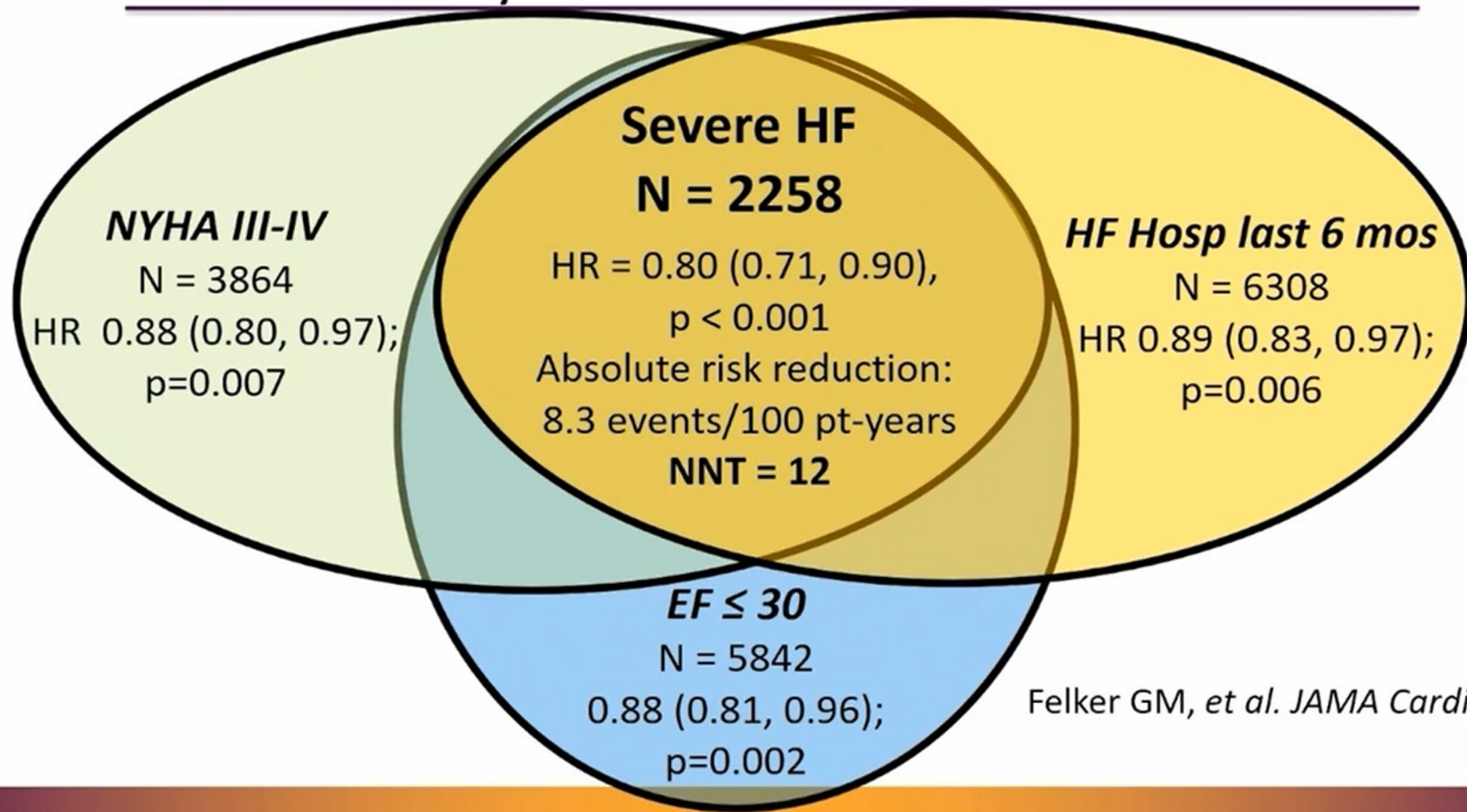


Teerlink JR, et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2021;78:97-108.





# Benefit of Omecamtiv Mecarbil by Severe HF Criteria



Felker GM, et al. JAMA Cardiol 2022;  
7:26-34.



# Vital Signs and Laboratory Results



Teerlink JR, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:105-116.

Variable	Omecamtiv Mecarbil (N=4110)	Placebo (N=4101)	Relative Risk or Difference (95% CI)
<b>Vital signs, laboratory values: change from baseline to Week 24</b>			
Systolic BP, mmHg, mean (SD)	1.4 (15.3)	1.5 (15.6)	-0.1 (-0.9, 0.6)
Heart rate, bpm, mean (SD)	-2.1 (12.6)	-0.5 (12.8)	-1.6 (-2.2, -1.0)
Potassium, mmol/L, mean (SD)	-0.01 ± 0.57	-0.01 ± 0.57	0.00 (-0.03, 0.03)
Creatinine, mg/dL, mean (SD)	0.03 ± 0.33	0.02 ± 0.32	0.01 (-0.01, 0.02)
NT-proBNP, pg/mL, median (Q1, Q3)	-251 (-1180, 295)	-180 (-915, 441)	0.90 (0.86, 0.94)
Cardiac troponin I, ng/mL, median (Q1, Q3)	0.004 (-0.002, 0.021)	0.000 (-0.009, 0.008)	0.004 (0.003, 0.005)

**No adverse impact on heart rate, blood pressure, renal function or potassium**

# Adverse Events



Teerlink JR, *et al.* *N Engl J Med* 2021;384:105-116.

Adverse event	Omecamtiv Mecarbil (N=4110)	Placebo (N=4101)	Relative Risk (95% CI)
Any serious AE, n (%)	2373 (57.7)	2435 (59.4)	0.97 (0.94, 1.01)
Drug discontinuation due to AE, n (%)	371 (9.0)	382 (9.3)	0.97 (0.85, 1.11)
<b>Adverse events of interest</b>			
Ventricular tachyarrhythmias	290 (7.1)	304 (7.4)	0.95 (0.82, 1.11)
Torsade de pointes/QT prolongation	176 (4.3)	195 (4.8)	0.90 (0.74, 1.10)
SAE of ventricular arrhythmia requiring treatment	119 (2.9)	127 (3.1)	0.93 (0.73, 1.20)
Adjudicated major cardiac ischemic events, n (%)	200 (4.9)	188 (4.6)	1.06 (0.87, 1.29)
Myocardial infarction	122 (3.0)	118 (2.9)	--
Hospitalized for unstable angina	25 (0.6)	12 (0.3)	--
Coronary revascularization	115 (2.8)	117 (2.9)	--
Adjudicated Strokes	76 (1.8)	112 (2.7)	0.68 (0.51, 0.91)

**No imbalance of AEs/SAEs (including cardiac ischemia and arrhythmias)**

# ***O que dizem as guidelines HF ESC 2021?***

## **Cardiac myosin activator**

The GALACTIC-HF study assessed the efficacy and safety of the cardiac myosin activator, omecamtiv mecarbil, in HFrEF patients, enrolling patients in both the inpatient and outpatient settings. The primary endpoint of a first HF event or CV death was reduced by 8%. There was no significant reduction in CV mortality. Currently, this drug is not licensed for use in HF. However, in the future it may be able to be considered, in addition to standard therapy for HFrEF to reduce the risk of CV mortality and hospitalization for HF.<sup>159</sup>

# FDA Declines Approval for Omecamtiv Mecarbil in HFrEF

Megan Brooks

March 01, 2023

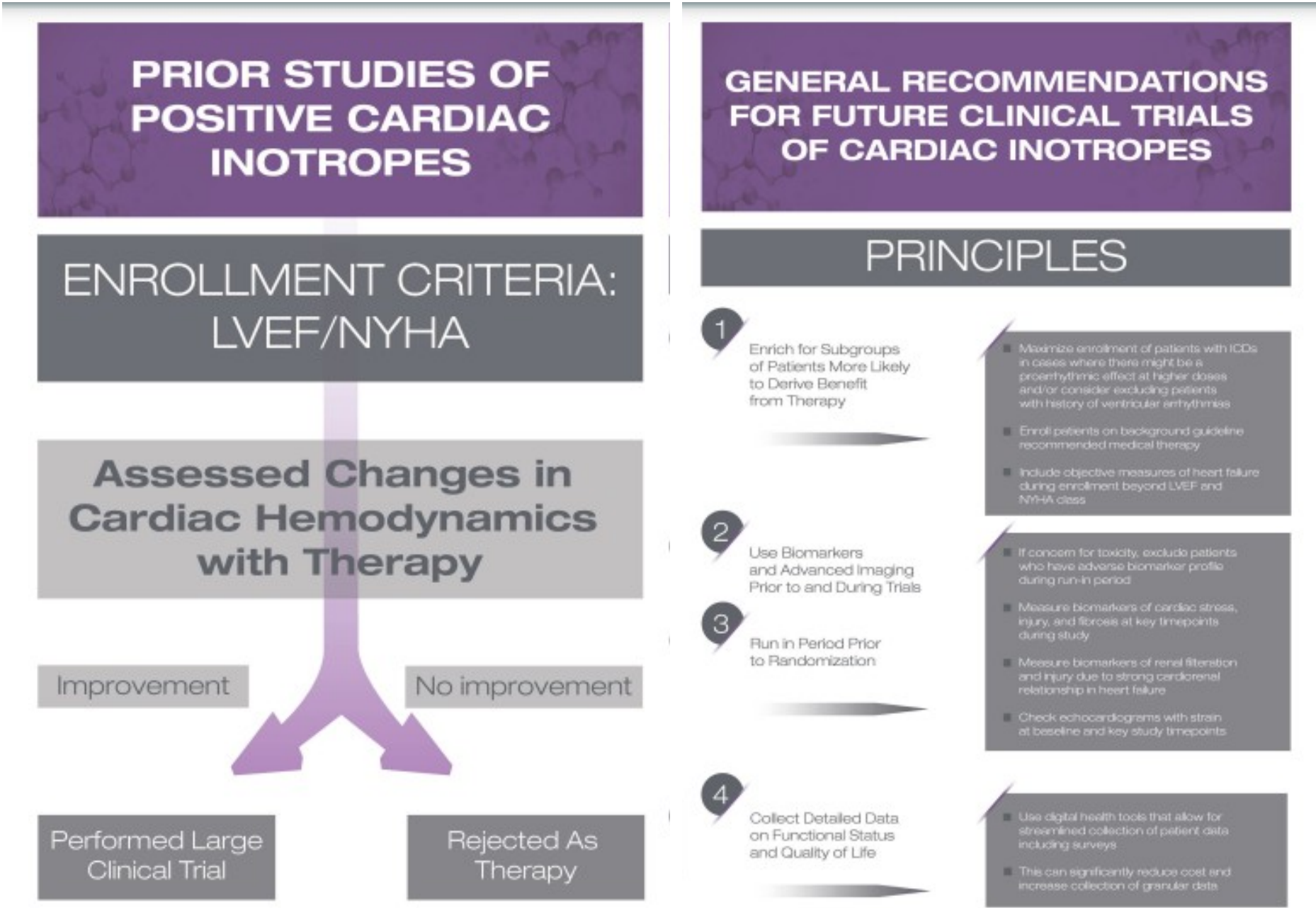


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The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has declined to approve [omecamtiv mecarbil](#) (Cytokinetics) for treatment of adults with chronic [heart failure](#) with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), citing a lack of evidence on efficacy.



# Considerations for future trials testing positive inotropes



**Sob T Médica Opt. (4 pilares)  
CDI/CRTD**

**Fej., NYHA, DC/ VS , CPWP, PAD**

**Fenótipos específicos**

**Biomarcadores  
stress/lesão  
miocárdica /fibrose**

**Biomarcadores de lesão  
e disfunção renal**

**Técnicas avançadas de  
Imagem (echo /RMC)**

**Análise detalhada/objectiva  
da capacidade funcional e  
qualidade de vida, episódios  
de agudização de IC,  
sobrevida...**

1

Enrich for Subgroups  
of Patients More Likely  
to Derive Benefit  
from Therapy

2

Use Biomarkers  
and Advanced Imaging  
Prior to and During Trials

3

Run in Period Prior  
to Randomization

4

Collect Detailed Data  
on Functional Status  
and Quality of Life

**GENERAL RECOMMENDATIONS  
FOR FUTURE CLINICAL TRIALS  
OF CARDIAC INOTROPES**

- Maximize enrollment of patients in cases where there might be a proarrhythmic effect at higher doses and/or consider excluding patients with history of ventricular arrhythmias
- Enroll patients on background guideline recommended medical therapy
- Include objective measures of heart failure during enrollment beyond LVEF and NYHA class

- If concern for toxicity, exclude patients who have adverse biomarker profile during run-in period
- Measure biomarkers of cardiac stress, injury, and fibrosis at key timepoints during study
- Measure biomarkers of renal filtration and injury due to strong cardorenal relationship in heart failure
- Check echocardiograms with strain at baseline and key study timepoints

- Use digital health tools that allow for streamlined collection of patient data including surveys
- This can significantly reduce cost and increase collection of granular data

# 5 Take Home Messages

- ✓ No positive inotrope is currently approved for long-term use in heart failure. Still, inotropes are indispensable in the setting of AdvHF.
- ✓ None of the established inotropes have been studied comprehensively in any closely-defined heart failure subsetting so far.
- ✓ There is a role for dobutamine and levosimendan in advanced heart failure.
- ✓ Omecamtiv Mecarbil is a promising drug > It is necessary to phenotype who must benefit with it.
- ✓ We need future (and different) trials testing positive inotropes!



# 7<sup>th</sup> Advances in Heart Failure 2024

10 e 11 de Outubro

FACULDADE DE MEDICINA DA UNIVERSIDADE DO PORTO

*Obrigada*



An abstract graphic of a heart shape, composed of numerous concentric, slightly wavy lines. The lines are colored in a gradient from light blue to dark purple, creating a sense of depth and movement. The heart is positioned on the left side of the image, with its right side (the side closer to the viewer) facing right.

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An abstract graphic of a heart shape, composed of numerous concentric, slightly wavy lines that create a sense of depth and movement. The heart is rendered in a light blue color, contrasting with the dark blue background. The lines are more densely packed in some areas, giving it a three-dimensional appearance.

# 7<sup>th</sup> Advances in Heart Failure 2024

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## 6.3 Devices under evaluation

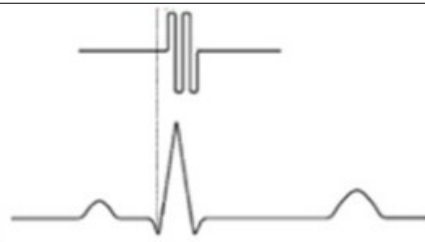
Cardiac contractility modulation (CCM) has been evaluated in patients with NYHA class III–IV HF, with an LVEF  $\geq 25\%$  to  $\leq 45\%$  and QRS duration  $< 130$  ms, and was associated with a small improvement in exercise tolerance and QOL.<sup>241,242</sup>

Technologies that involve modification of the activity of the autonomic nervous system, e.g. baroreflex activation therapy,<sup>243,244</sup> have also been shown to offer a modest improvement in effort capacity and QOL. However, currently, the evidence is considered insufficient to support specific guideline recommendations for a reduction in mortality or hospitalization for these and a variety of other implantable electrical therapeutic technologies (see also Gaps in Evidence, section 16).

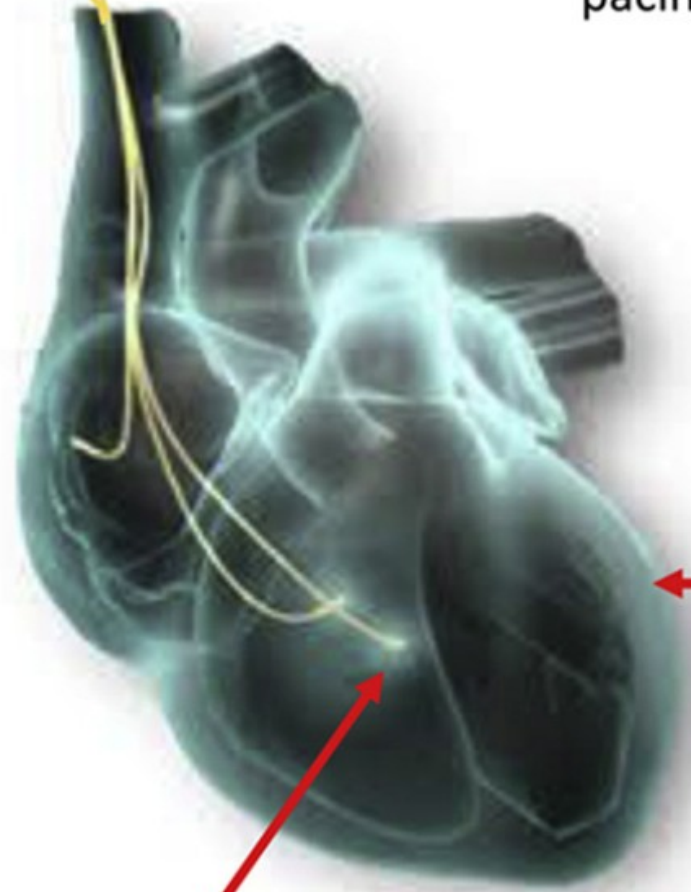




Rechargeable  
Implanted  
Pulse Generator



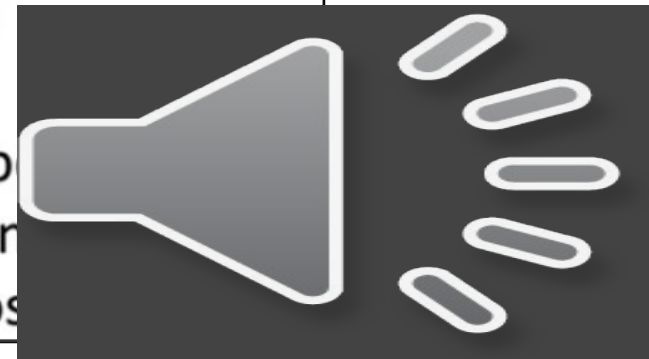
CCM Signal applied during  
absolute refractory period  
to the RV septum via standard  
pacing leads



Biological effects seen rapidly in  
region of signal applications

Biological effects seen  
remotely over time

Improved p  
MLWHFQ and  
Reduced HF Hos





# CCM therapy

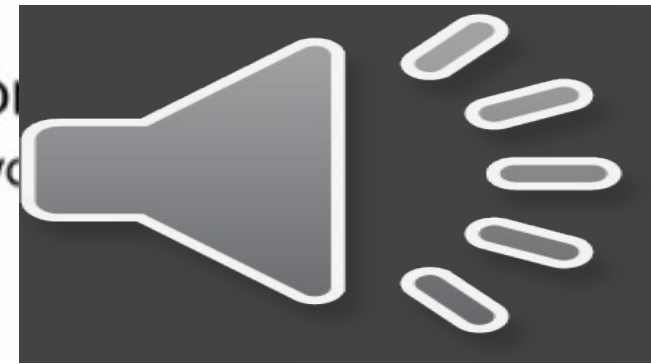
## *Modes of action*

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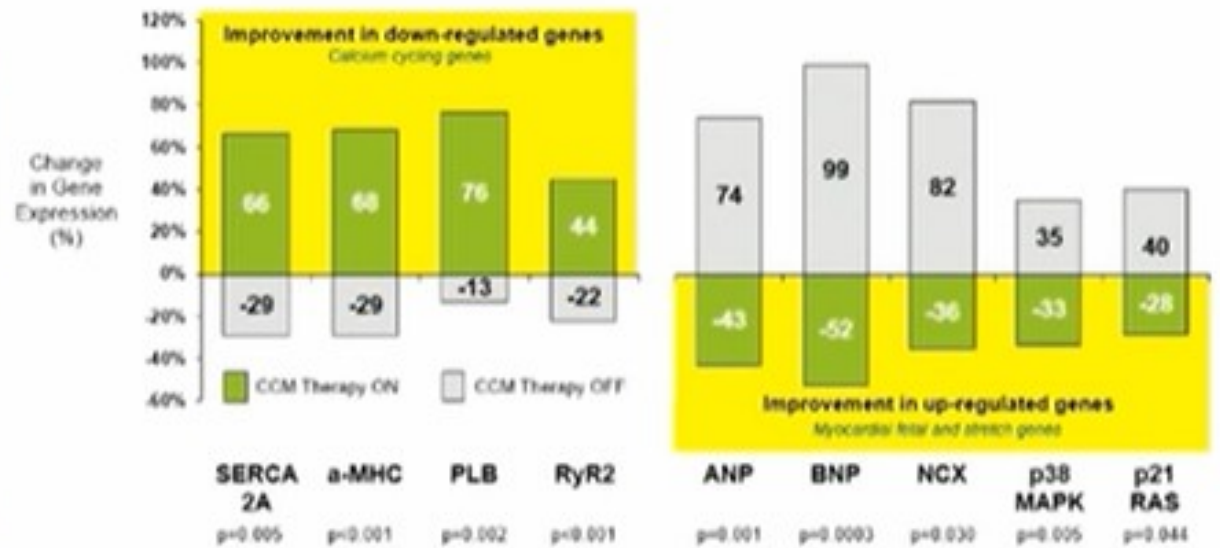
There are thought to be two modes of action

1. Improvement of calcium handling within the myo



# CCM therapy

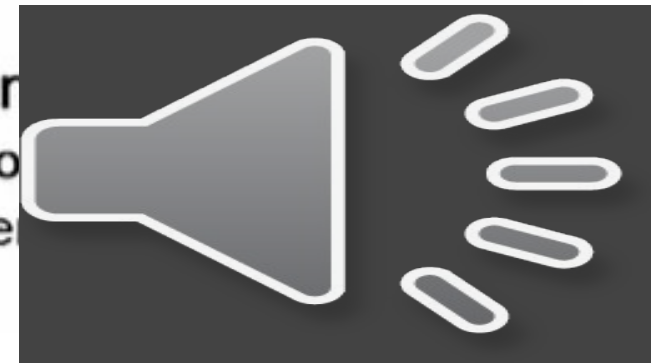
## Modes of action



Adapted from Butter, JACC 2008 FIX-HF-4 (N=11 patients);  
Group 1: Therapy On > Off (n=7); Group 2: Therapy Off to On (n=4)

There are thought to be two modes of action

1. Improvement of calcium handling within the myo
2. Normalization of abnormal gene expression see

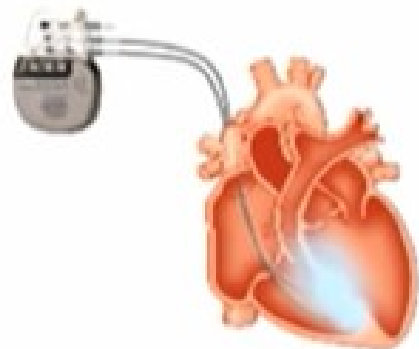


# Optimizer<sup>®</sup> Smart

## Therapy effects

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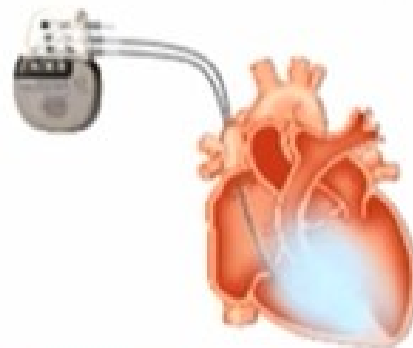
**Rapid**



**Minutes to Hours<sub>(1-3)</sub>**

Improves contractility

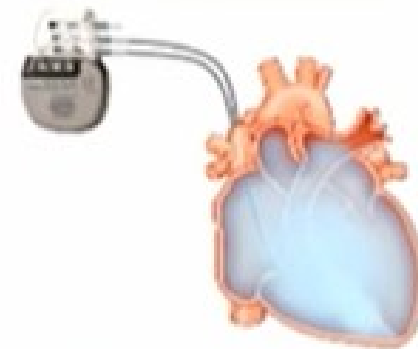
**Intermediate**



**Hours to Weeks<sub>(1-3)</sub>**

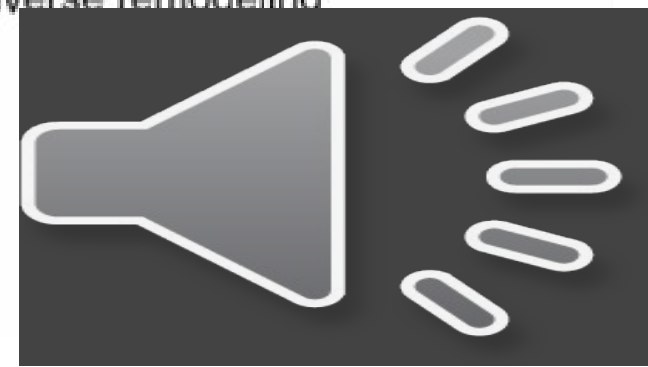
Normalizes gene profile

**Long-Term**



**Weeks to Months<sub>(~4)</sub>**

Reverse remodeling

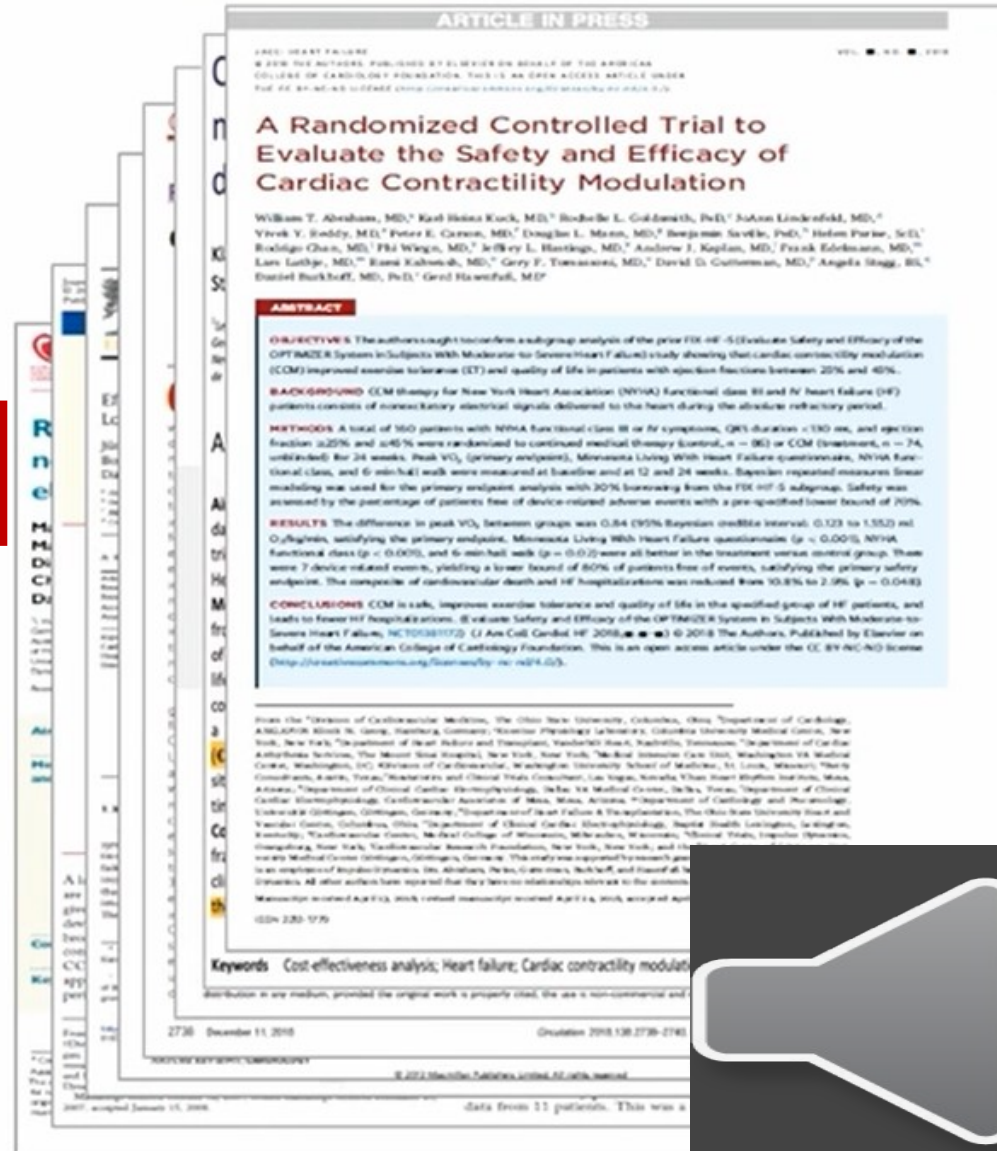




**More than 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals**

### Select Publications

- **Kuschyk et al:** "Long Term Clinical experience with cardiac contractility modulation delivered by the Optimizer Smart system" European Journal of Heart Failure, May 2021
- **Tschope** - Clinical effects of cardiac contractility modulation in heart failure with mildly reduced systolic function ESC Heart Failure December 2020
- **Abraham et al:** "A Randomized Control Trial to evaluate the safety and efficacy of Cardiac Contractility Modulation" JACC HF, May 2018
- **Tschope et al:** "Cardiac contractility modulation: mechanisms of action in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction and beyond" European Journal of Heart Failure, August 2018
- **Borggrefe and Mann:** "Cardiac Contractility Modulation in 2018" Circulation, December 2018
- **Butter C:** "Cardiac Contractility Modulation Electrical Signals Improve Myocardial Gene Expression in Patients with heart failure" Journal of the American College of Cardiology, May 2008
- **Borggrefe M.M. et al:** "Randomized, double blind study of non-excitatory, cardiac contractility modulation electrical impulses for symptomatic heart failure" European Heart Journal, January 2008



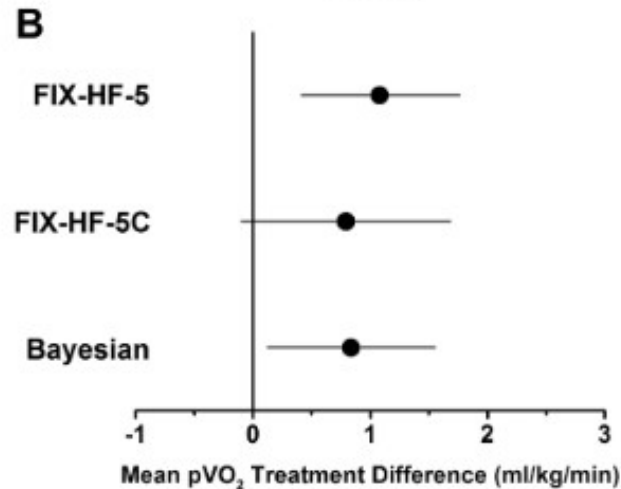
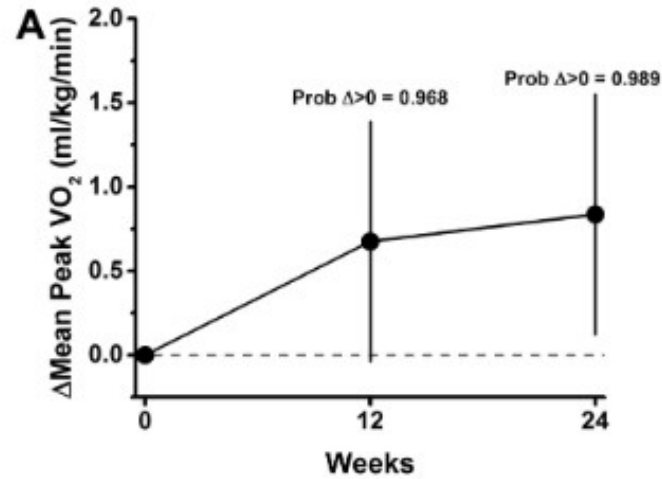


# A Randomized Controlled Trial to Evaluate the Safety and Efficacy of Cardiac Contractility Modulation

160 patients  
 NYHA functional class III or IV symptoms  
 QRS duration < 130 ms  
 Ejection fraction 25% and 45%

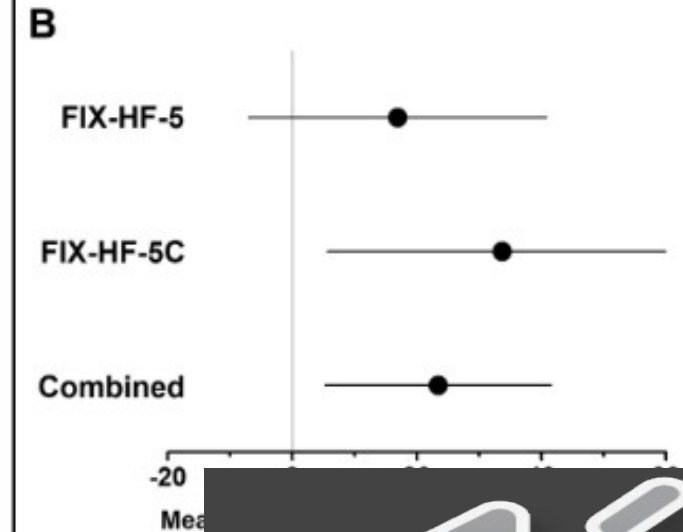
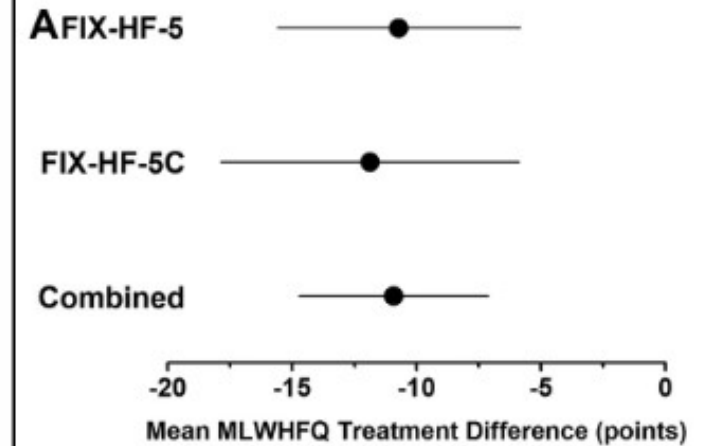
Continued medical therapy or CCM  
 Fup. 24 weeks.

**FIGURE 2 Primary Efficacy Results**



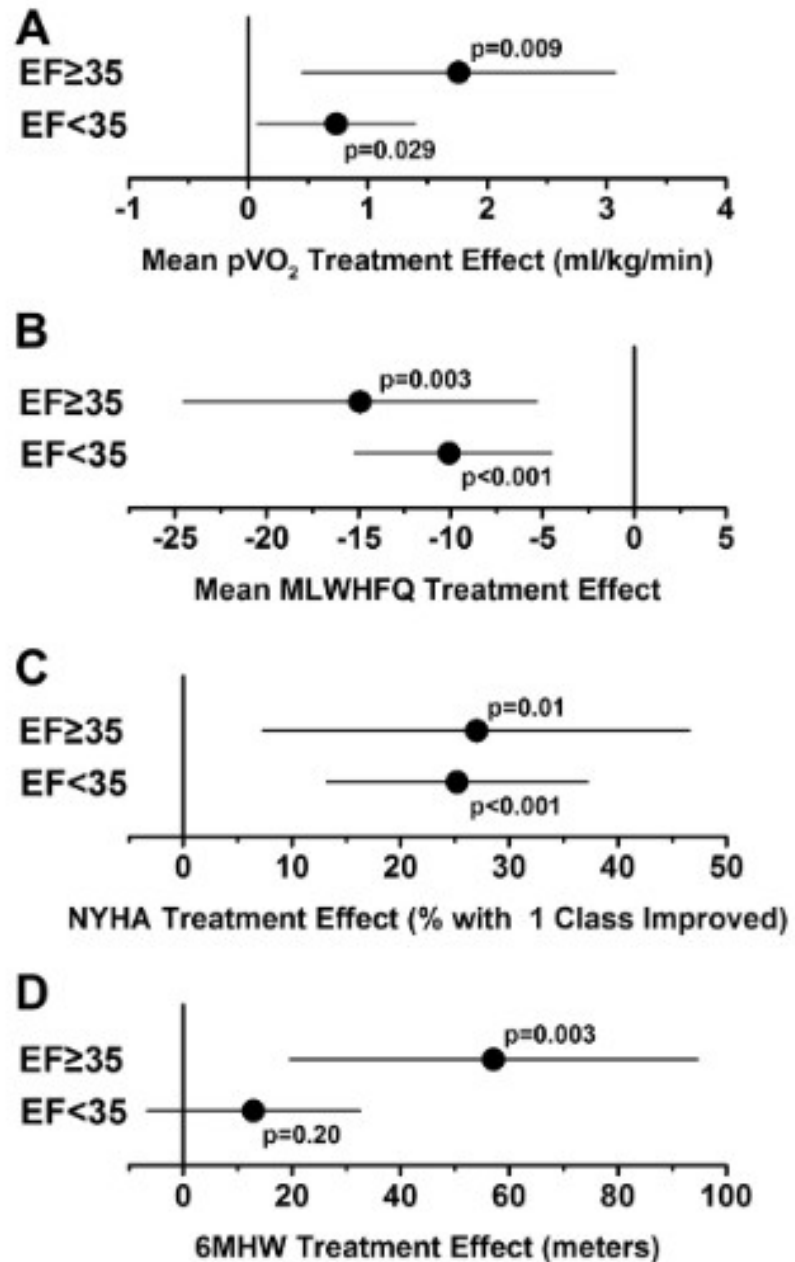
(A) Between group-differences in peak Vo<sub>2</sub> over time.  
 (B) 24-week between-group treatment effects in FIX-HF-5 subgroup alone, FIX-HF-5C alone, and Bayesian result.

**FIGURE 3 Secondary Efficacy Results**

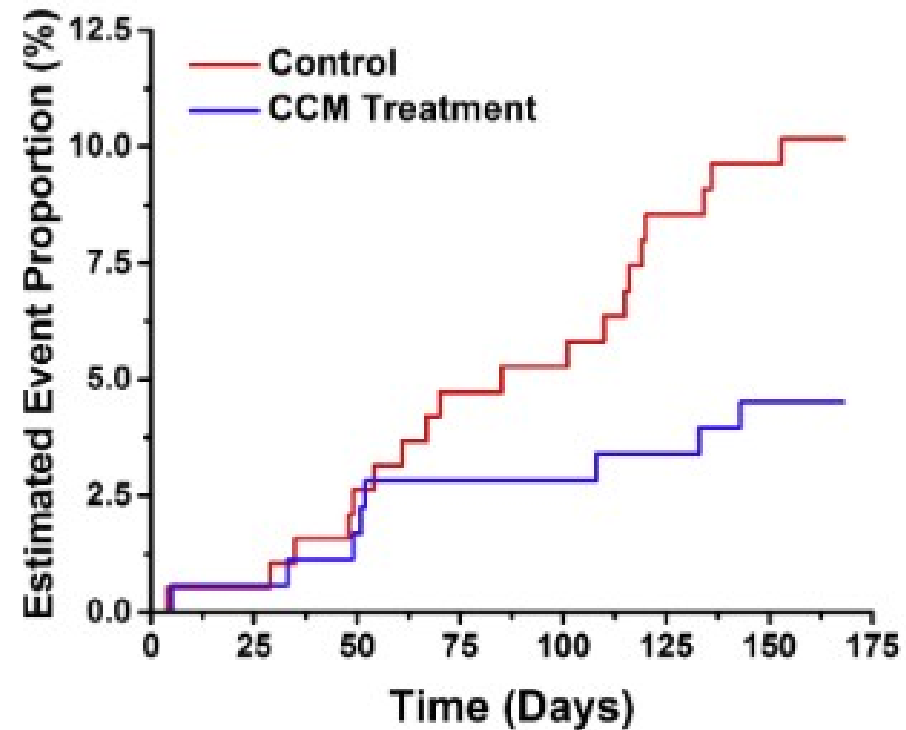


Treatment effect  
 rate and pooled  
 questionnaire (M

**FIGURE 4** Efficacy Results by EF Groups



**FIGURE 5** Heart Failure and Mortality Events



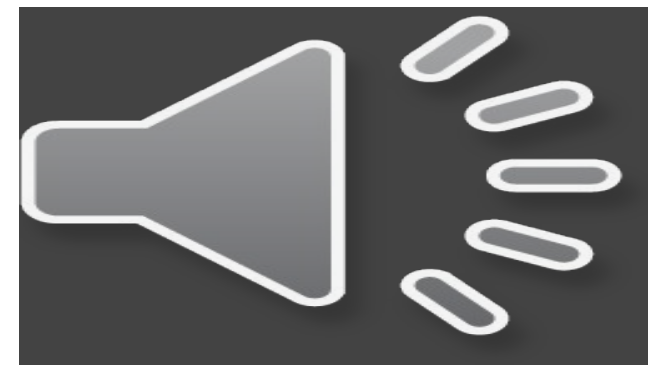
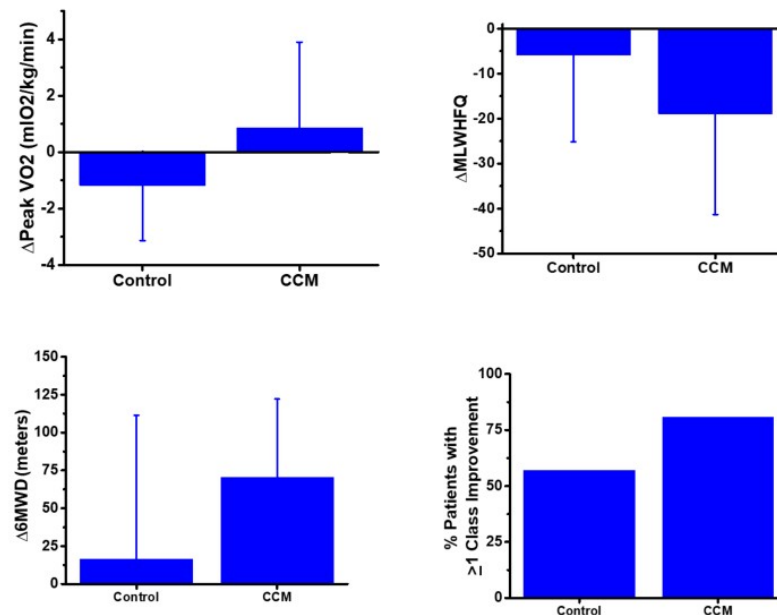
Comparison of estimated event proportions of the composite of cardiac death and heart failure hospitalizations between Control and Treatment;  $p = 0.042$  by log-rank test and  $p = 0.036$  when comparing 24 weeks using Greenwood's formula for variance. Further details in [Online Table 6](#). CCM = cardiac contractility modulation.

# Clinical effects of cardiac contractility modulation in heart failure with mildly reduced systolic function

Carsten Tschöpe<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Javed Butler<sup>4</sup>, Dimitrios Farmakis<sup>5</sup>, Deborah Morley<sup>6</sup>, Ishu Rao<sup>6</sup> and Gerasimos Filippatos<sup>7\*</sup>

53 patients with a LVEF of 40–45% recruited in previous CCM studies

**Figure 1** Absolute changes in exercise capacity, quality of life, and functional status observed in the cardiac contractility modulation (CCM) group and the control group (6MWD, 6 min walk distance; MLWHFQ, Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire).



# CCM clinical outcomes

## Real-world results in patients followed for 3 years



European Journal of Heart Failure (2021)  
doi:10.1002/ehf.2202

### RESEARCH ARTICLE

## Long-term clinical experience with cardiac contractility modulation therapy delivered by the Optimizer Smart system

Jürgen Kuschyk<sup>1</sup>, Peter Falk<sup>2</sup>, Thomas Demming<sup>2</sup>, Oliver Marx<sup>3</sup>, Deborah Morley<sup>4</sup>, Ishu Rao<sup>4</sup>, and Daniel Burkhardt<sup>5</sup>\*

<sup>1</sup>1st Department of Medicine - Cardiology, University Medical Centre Mannheim, Germany; Partner Site Heidelberg/Mannheim, German Center for Cardiovascular Research (DZHK), Mannheim, Germany; <sup>2</sup>Herzzentrum Bad Reichenhagen, Bad Reichenhagen, Germany; <sup>3</sup>Städtisches Klinikum Stade, Klinik für Innere Medizin, Kardiologie und Intensivmedizin, Stade, Germany; <sup>4</sup>Impulse Dynamics, Inc., Marlton, NJ, USA; and <sup>5</sup>Cardiovascular Research Foundation, New York, NY, USA

Received 4 February 2021; revised 18 March 2021; accepted 27 April 2021

### Aims

We assessed long-term effects of cardiac contractility modulation delivered by the Optimizer Smart system on quality of life, left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF), mortality and heart failure and cardiovascular hospitalizations.

### Methods and results

CCM-REG is a prospective registry study including 503 patients from 51 European centres. Effects were evaluated in three tertiles of LVEF ( $\leq 25\%$ , 26–34% and  $\geq 35\%$ ) and in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF) and normal sinus rhythm (NSR). Hospitalization rates were compared using a chi-square test. Changes in functional parameters of New York Heart Association (NYHA) class, Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire (MLWHFQ) and were assessed using Wilcoxon rank-sum test.

### Aims:

To assess the long-term effects of CCM delivered by the Optimizer Smart system on:

- NYHA functional class
- quality of life
- left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF)
- mortality and heart failure and cardiovascular hospitalizations

In 503 patients with CE Mark indications for CCM:

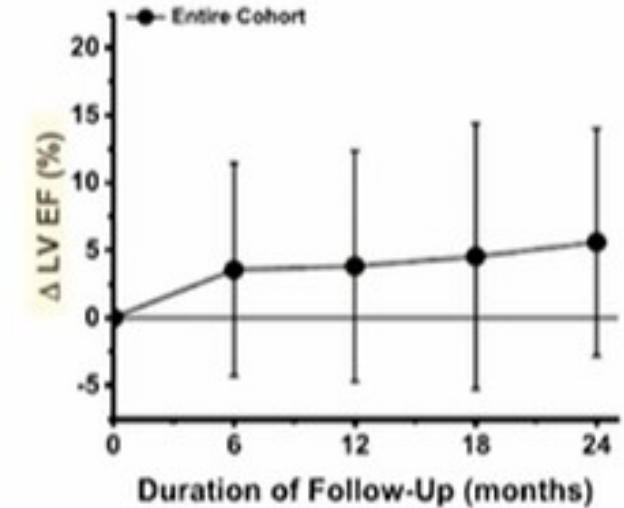
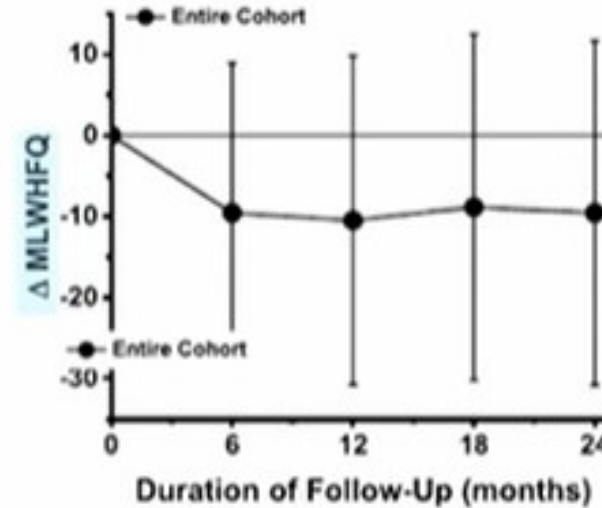
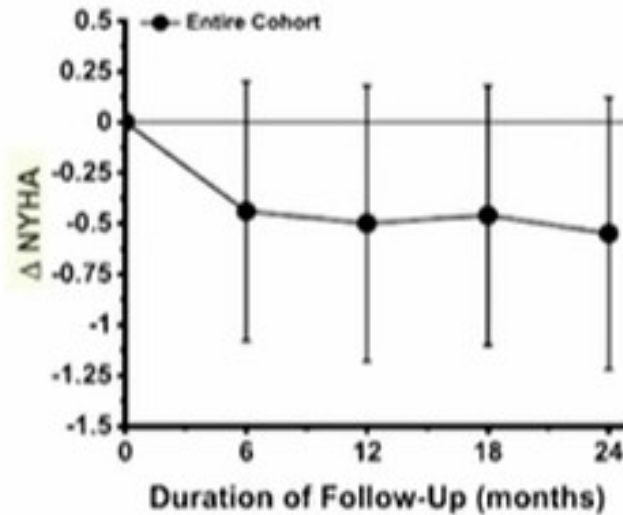
- “symptomatic (NYHA II-IV, E





# CCM clinical outcomes

## Changes in NYHA, QoL, and LVEF



Average  
improvement @  
24 months ( $p < 0.0001$ )

$0.6 \pm 0.7$

$10 \pm 21$

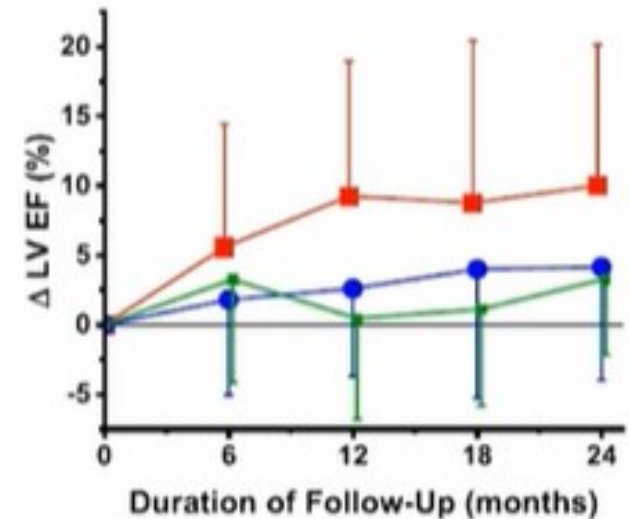
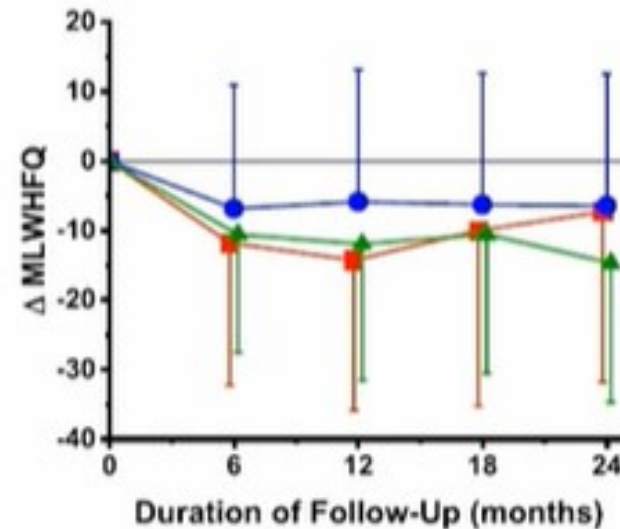
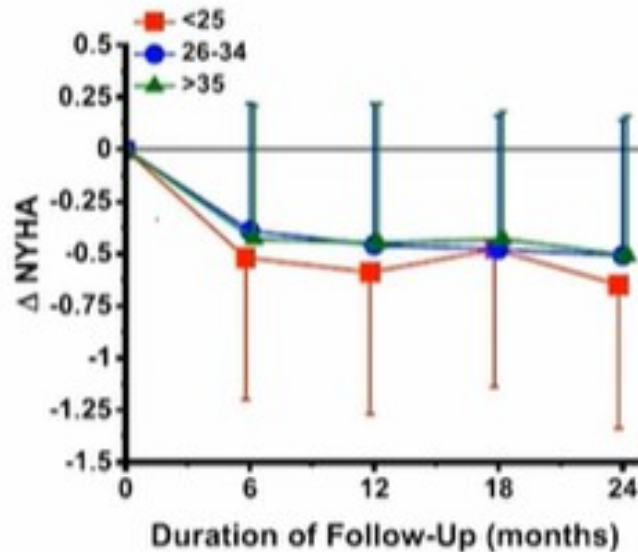
$5.6 \pm 8.4\%$



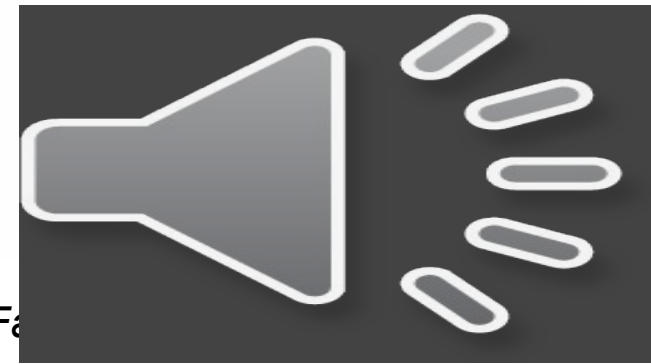
# CCM Registry Study

## Changes of NYHA, QoL, LVEF: LVEF subgroups

LVEF  
Subgroups



*All subgroups statistically significant*



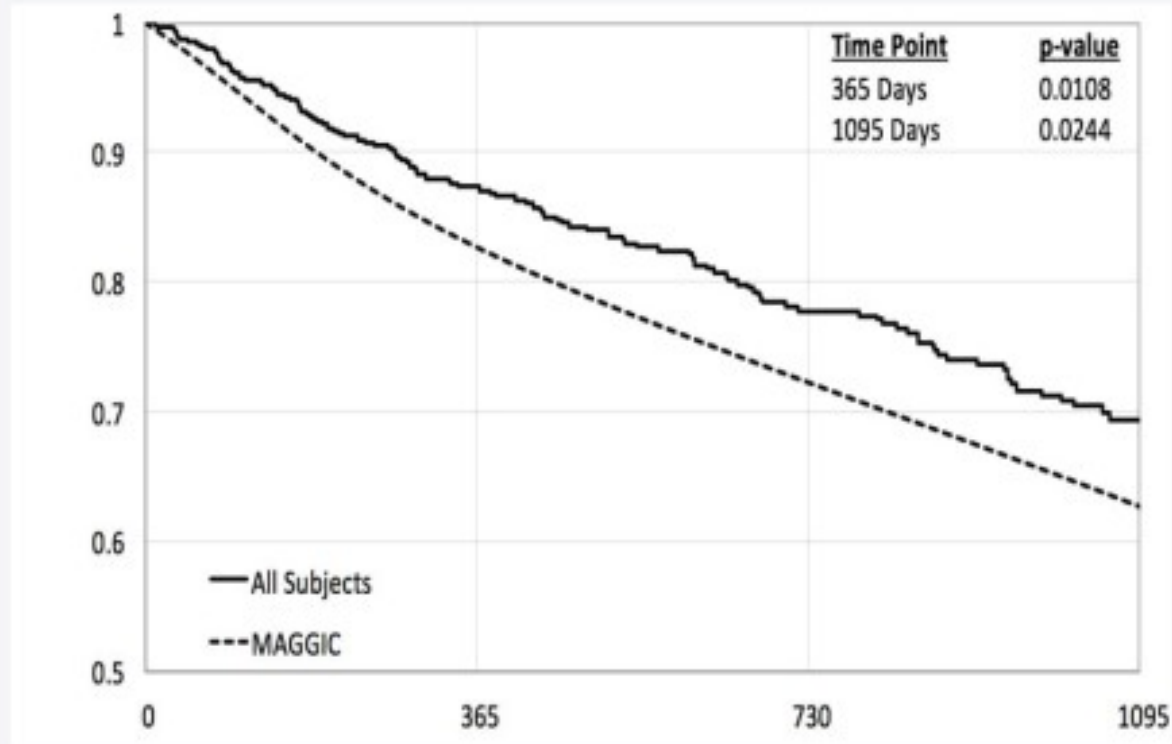
**Table 3** Hospitalization rates the year prior to Optimizer implant compared to the 2 years following Optimizer implant in the entire cohort and in the five subgroups of interest

Subgroup	Pre-treatment (1 year prior)				Post-treatment (0–730 days)				
	Patients	Patient-years	Events	Event rate	Patients	Patient-years	Events	Event rate	P-value
All patients									
All cardiovascular events	503	503	523	1.04	503	729	287	0.39	<0.0001
Heart failure events			371	0.74			179	0.25	<0.0001
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			152	0.30			108	0.15	<0.0001
LVEF ≤25%									
All cardiovascular events	178	178	227	1.28	178	233	123	0.53	<0.0001
Heart failure events			182	1.02			90	0.39	<0.0001
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			45	0.25			33	0.14	0.0106
LVEF 26–34%									
All cardiovascular events	164	164	157	0.96	164	255	99	0.39	<0.0001
Heart failure events			102	0.62			59	0.23	<0.0001
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			55	0.34			40	0.16	0.0002
LVEF ≥35%									
All cardiovascular events	161	161	139	0.86	161	242	65	0.27	<0.0001
Heart failure events			87	0.54			30	0.12	<0.0001
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			52	0.32			35	0.14	0.0002
Normal sinus rhythm									
All cardiovascular events	349	349	342	0.98	349	530	200		
Heart failure events			229	0.66			130		
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			113	0.32			70		
Atrial fibrillation									
All cardiovascular events	154	154	181	1.18	154	198	87		
Heart failure events			142	0.92			49		
Non-heart failure cardiovascular events			39	0.25			38		





## Improved Survival vs MAGGIC



### Conclusions

Cardiac contractility modulation therapy improved functional status, quality of life, prior history, reduced heart failure hospitalization rates. Survival at 1 and 3 years predicted by the MAGGIC risk score.





# Indication

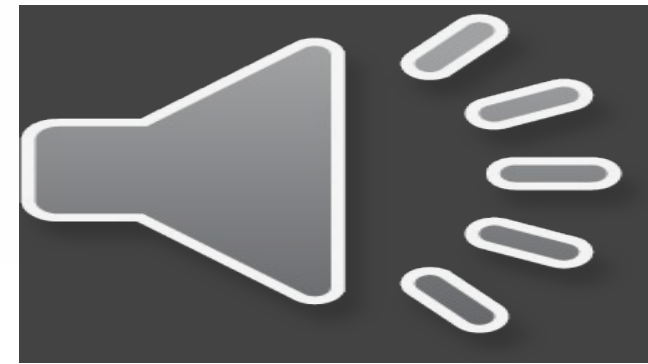
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## CE Mark Indications

- Patients >18 years with symptomatic HF due to systolic LVD despite appropriate medical therapy.
- CCM therapy as delivered by the OPTIMIZER system has been shown to:
  - Improve clinical status
  - Functional capacity and quality of life
  - and prevent hospital admissions
    - in patients with symptomatic left heart failure in carefully selected patients and in the hands of dedicated heart failure cardiologists.

## US FDA Indications

- The Optimizer® Smart system is indicated to:
  - Improve 6-minute hall walk distance, and
  - Improve quality of life, and
  - Improve functional status
    - for NYHA Class III HF patients with LVEF 25% to 45% who remain symptomatic despite GDMT
    - who are not indicated for cardiac resynchronization therapy (CRT)



# CCM-HFpEF Pilot Study

CCM in Heart Failure With Preserved Eejection Fraction

Presented at ESC HF  
Late Breaking Clinical  
Trial Session  
Madrid, Spain  
22 May 2022



Cecilia Linde, MD  
Steering  
Committee

 **KAROLINSKA**  
UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL

## Study Objective

Assess the potential  
benefits of CCM in  
patients with HFpEF

## Study Design

Prospective, multi-  
center, pilot study of  
CCM in patients with  
symptomatic HFpEF in  
47 patients from 17  
EU and AUS sites

## Key Inclusion Criteria

- LVEF > 50% per core lab
- NYHA II or III on OMT for 30+d
- Stable OMT > 3 months
- NT pro-BNP > 220 pg/ml (SR) or > 600 pg/ml (AF)
- Per core lab:
- LAVi > 34 ml/m<sup>2</sup> AND EITHER
- E/e' > 13 OR
- Septal e' < 7 cm/s or lateral e' < 10 cm/s

## Primary Efficacy Endpoint

Mean change in KCCQ OSS  
from baseline to 24  
weeks. 90% power to  
detect 12.5 point average  
improvement

## Safety Endpoint

Device- and procedure-  
related adverse events  
at 24 weeks





# CCM-HFpEF Pilot Study: results

## KCCQ overall summary score

Baseline	12 weeks	BL-12wks (95% CI)	24 weeks	BL-24wks (95% CI)	T-test
48.9 $\pm$ 21.7	63.6 $\pm$ 21.2	14.5 $\pm$ 18.6 (9.0, 20.1)	67.0 $\pm$ 21.1	<b>18.0 <math>\pm</math> 16.6</b> (13.1, 22.9)	<0.001

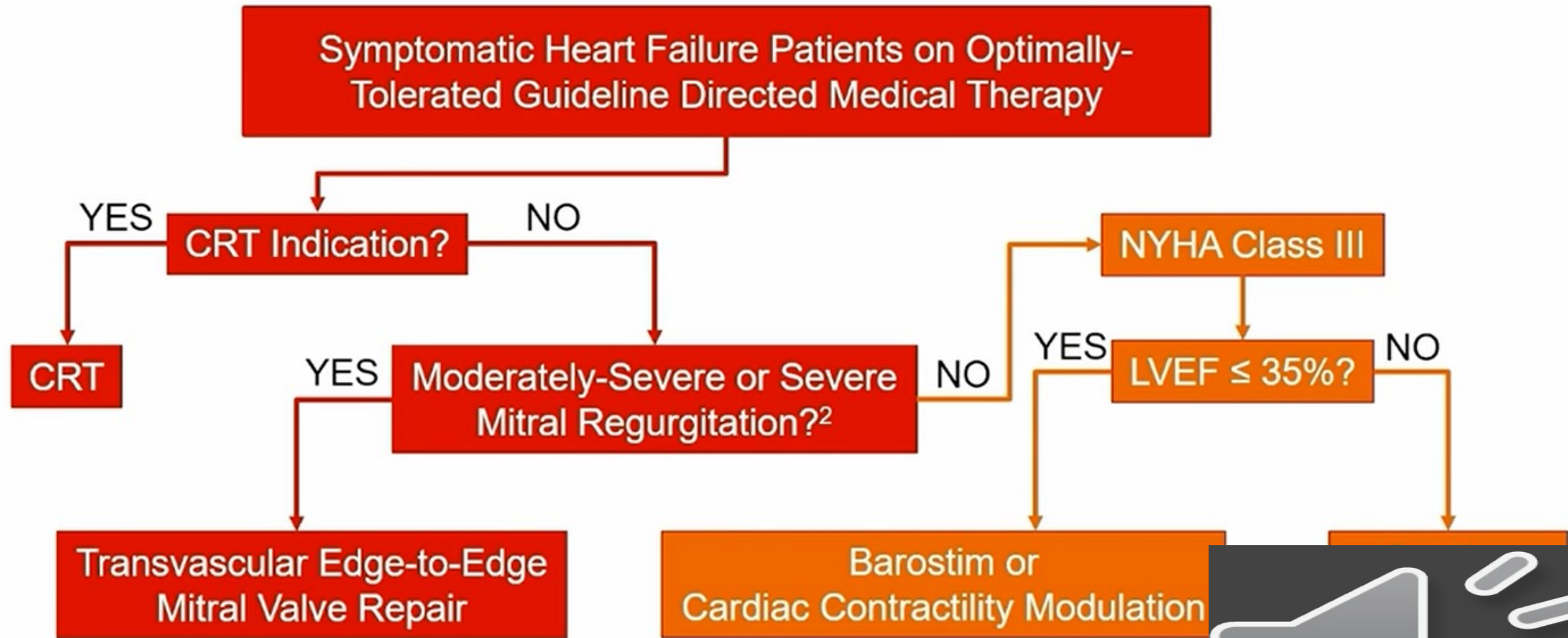
Trial (year)	KCCQ change in sham	KCCQ change in treatment	Incremental difference over/under mean
MADIT-CRT (2012)	4.6 (ICD arm)	7.0 (CRT-D arm)	+2.4

Even assuming a **4.6-point placebo effect** improvement, the improvement would still be a greater than **13 point improvement** between groups





# Available Device Therapies for Heart Failure: Who Should Be Considered for These Therapies?<sup>1</sup>



■ To improve clinical outcomes and symptoms   ■ To improve symptoms

<sup>1</sup>Along with an ICD as indicated per guidelines; <sup>2</sup>And LVEF 20%-50%; <sup>3</sup>LVEF 36%-45%





