

**« Harmonization of the ACC/AHA and ESC/ESH  
blood pressure/hypertension guidelines:  
Comparisons/reflections/recommendations »**

**Whelton/Carey/Mancia/Kreutz/Bundy/Williams  
JACC, in press**

**BP classification in US and EU Hypertension (HT) GLs  
(\*US GLs:unified as pre-HT)**

<b>BP (mmHg)</b>	<b>US (2003)/EU(2007-2013-2018)</b>	<b>US (2017)</b>
<b>&lt; 120/80</b>	<b>Optimal</b>	<b>Normal</b>
<b>120-129 / 80-84</b>	<b>Normal*</b>	<b>Elevated</b>
<b>130-139 / 85-89</b>	<b>High normal*</b>	<b>Grade 1 HT</b>
<b>140-159 / 90-99</b>	<b>Grade 1 HT</b>	<b>Grade 2 HT</b>
<b>160-179 / 100-110</b>	<b>Grade 2 HT</b>	
<b>&gt; 180/110</b>	<b>Grade 3 HT</b>	

# BP classification by ACC-AHA GLs

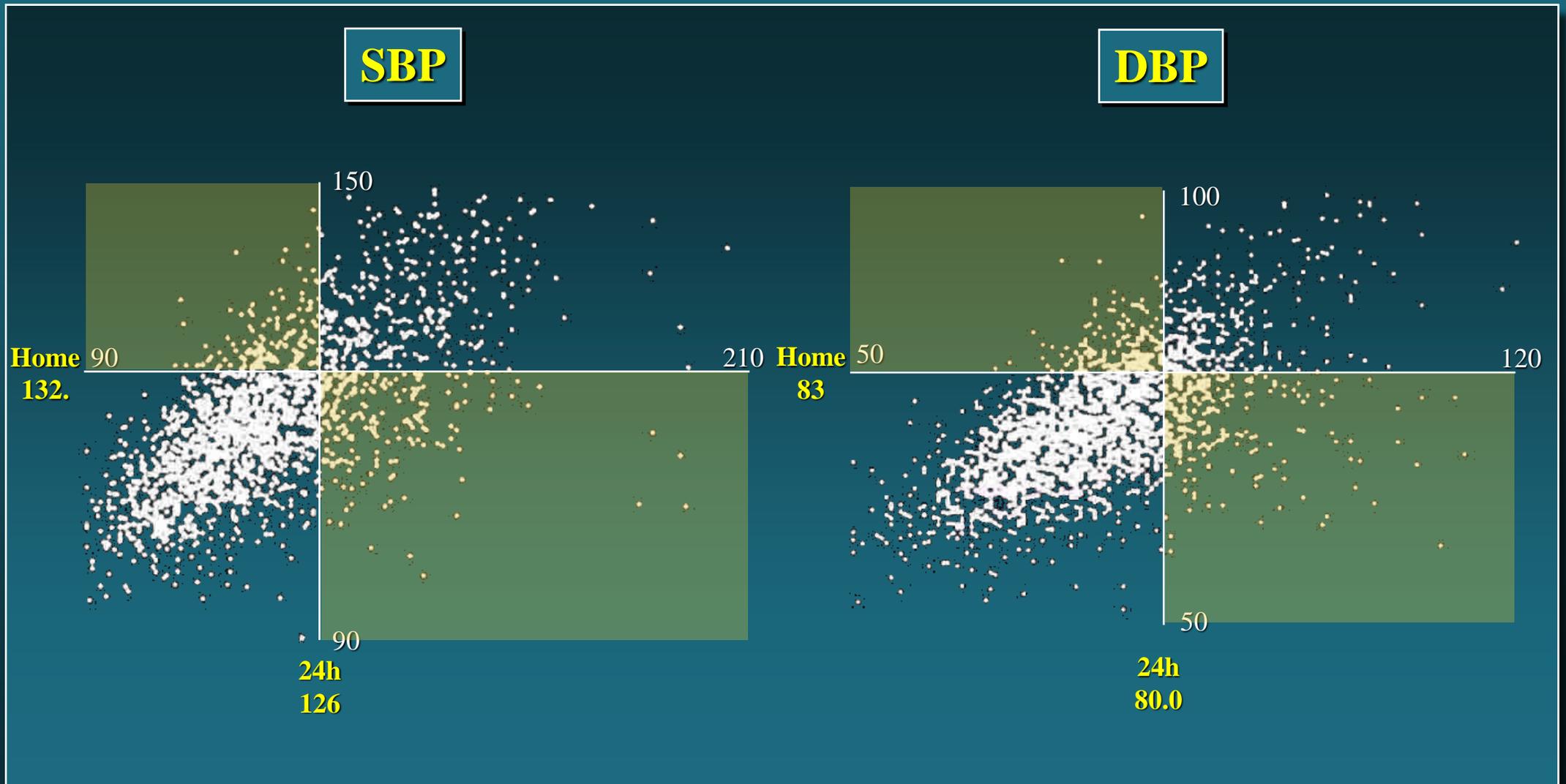
## Possible consequences

- Elimination of Grade 3 HT : **Unnecessary (grading the HT severity useful)**
- Downshift of Grade 2 HT (>140 rather than 160mmHg): **Unnecessary (pts treated anyway)**
- High normal BP (130mmHg) now called Grade 1 HT: **More pts defined as HT& but many of them not treated**
- Normal BP (120-129mmHg) now called elevated: **Paradoxical/potential harm(see old pts)**

## Use of Out-of-office BP

- **Wider use recommended by both GLs**
- **In US GLs preference to Home BP while in EU GLs mention of specific pros/cons and Home & ABP regarded as complementary**

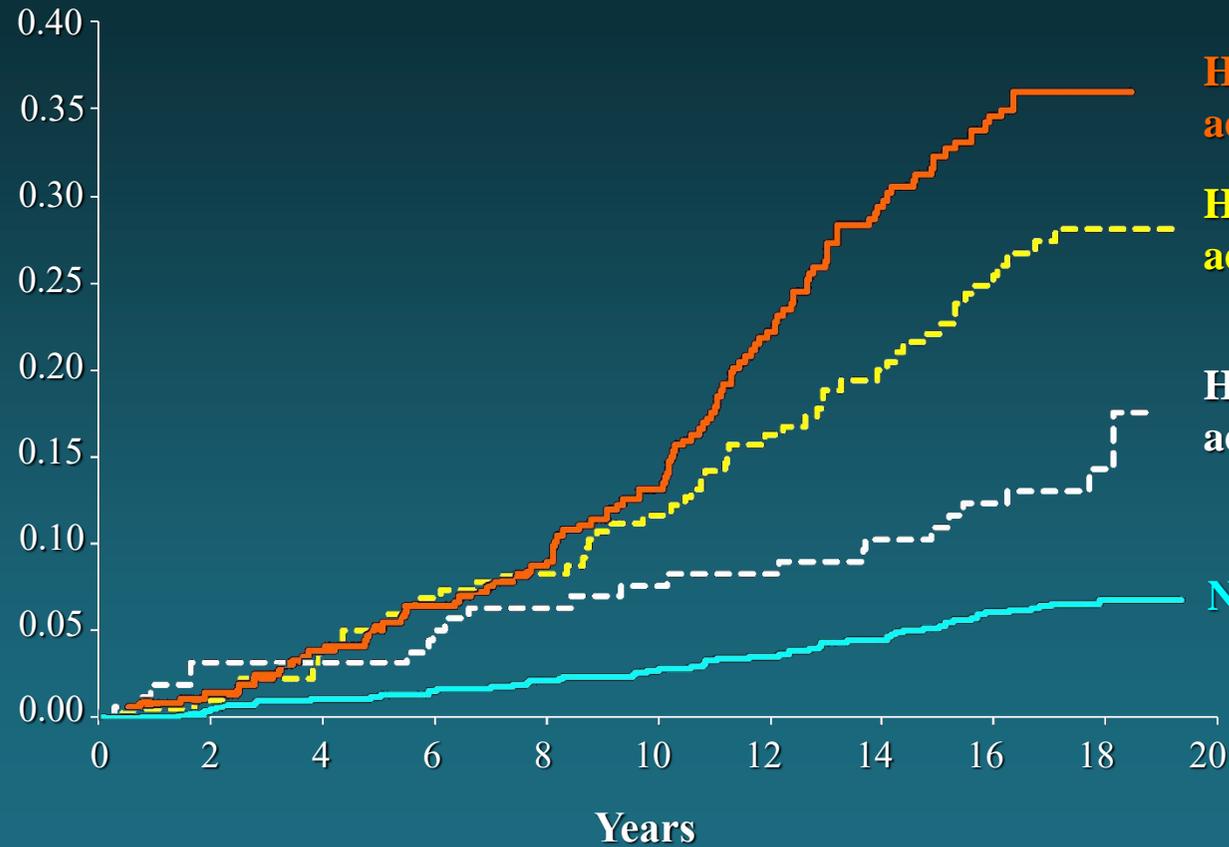
# Relationship between 24h and Home BP in PAMELA



*Mancia et al., Hypertension 2006; 47: 846; Mancia et al., unpublished data*

# All cause mortality in WCH diagnosed by normality of one or both 24h and home BP

Cumulative incidence



**HT:**  
adOR 1.48 (1.02-2.16)

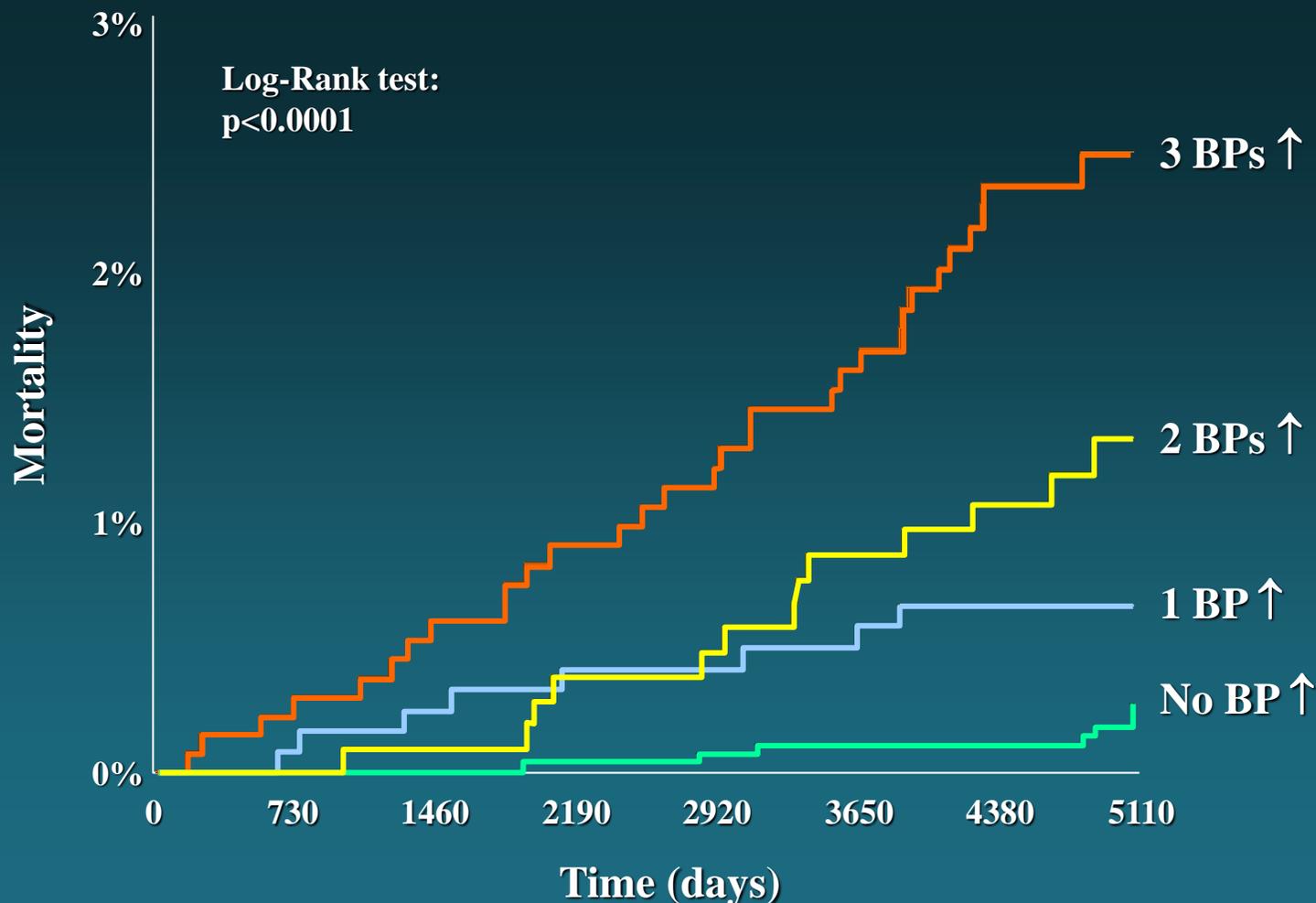
**Home or ABP normal:**  
adOR 1.58 (1.05-2.38)

**Home and ABP both normal:**  
adOR 1.35 (0.81-2.23)

**NT**

# Progressive Increase in CV Mortality

(age/gender adjusted data from 0 to 3 BP elevations [office/home/24h mean])



## Use of Out-of-office BP

- Wider use recommended by both GLs
- In US GLs preference to Home BP while in EU GLs mention of specific pros/cons and Home & ABP regarded as complementary
- Target 24h BP lower in US than EU GLs (125/75 vs 130/80mmHg)
- Limitations of the evidence only mentioned by EU GLs

# Corresponding Values of SBP/DBP for Clinic, HBPM, Daytime, Nighttime, and 24-Hour ABPM Measurements

Clinic	HBPM	Daytime ABPM	Nighttime ABPM	24-Hour ABPM
120/80	120/80	120/80	100/65	115/75
130/80	130/80	130/80	110/65	125/75
140/90	135/85	135/85	120/70	130/80
160/100	145/90	145/90	140/85	145/90

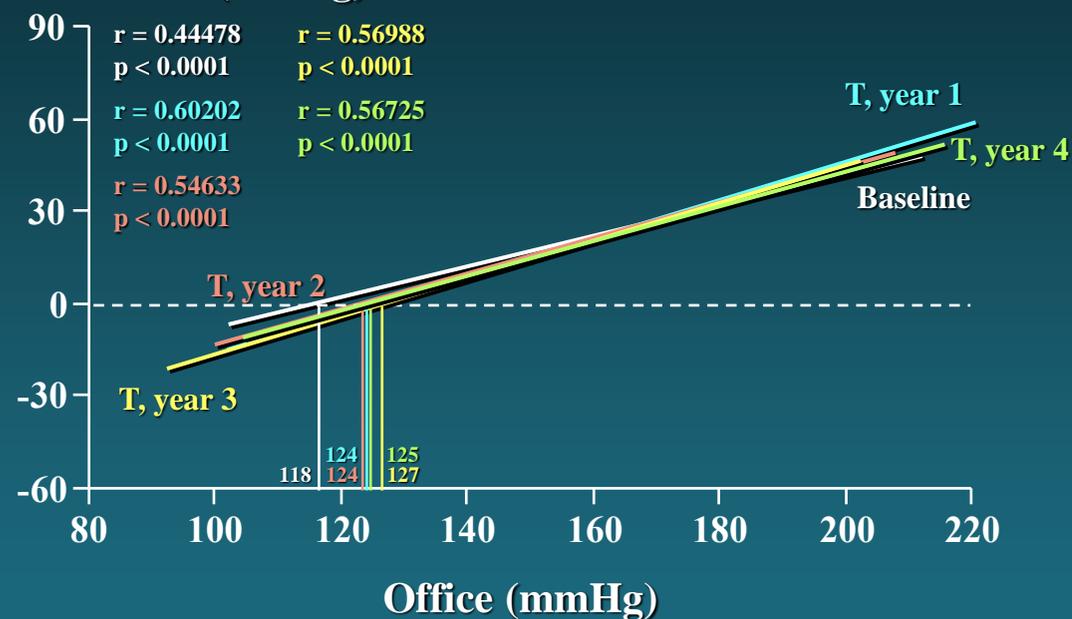
ABPM indicates ambulatory blood pressure monitoring; BP, blood pressure; DBP diastolic blood pressure; HBPM, home blood pressure monitoring; and SBP, systolic blood pressure.

# Relationship between Office BP and Office-24h BP Δ in ELSA

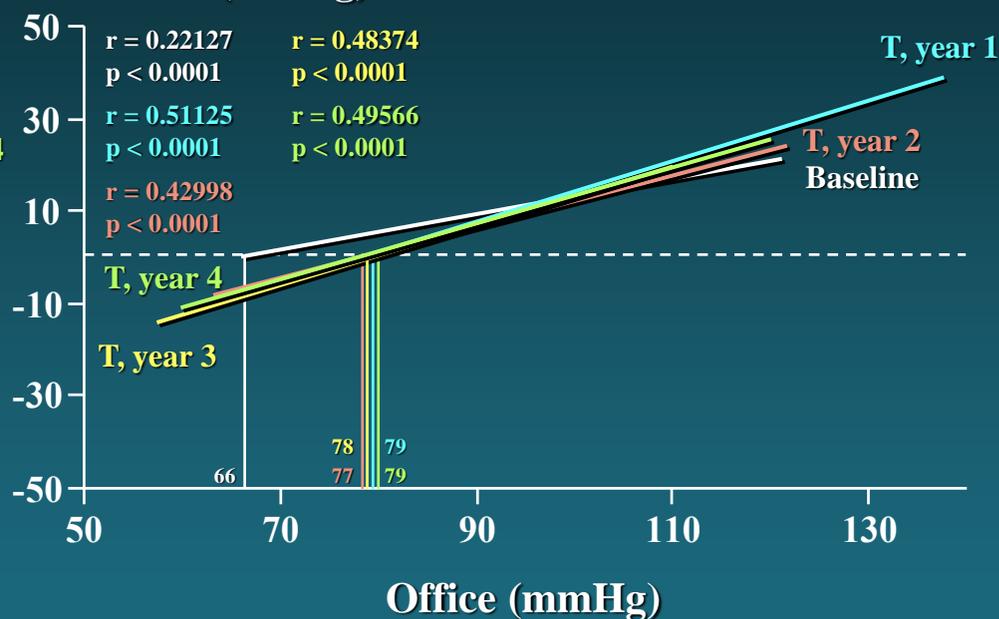
**SBP**

**DBP**

Office-24h (mmHg)



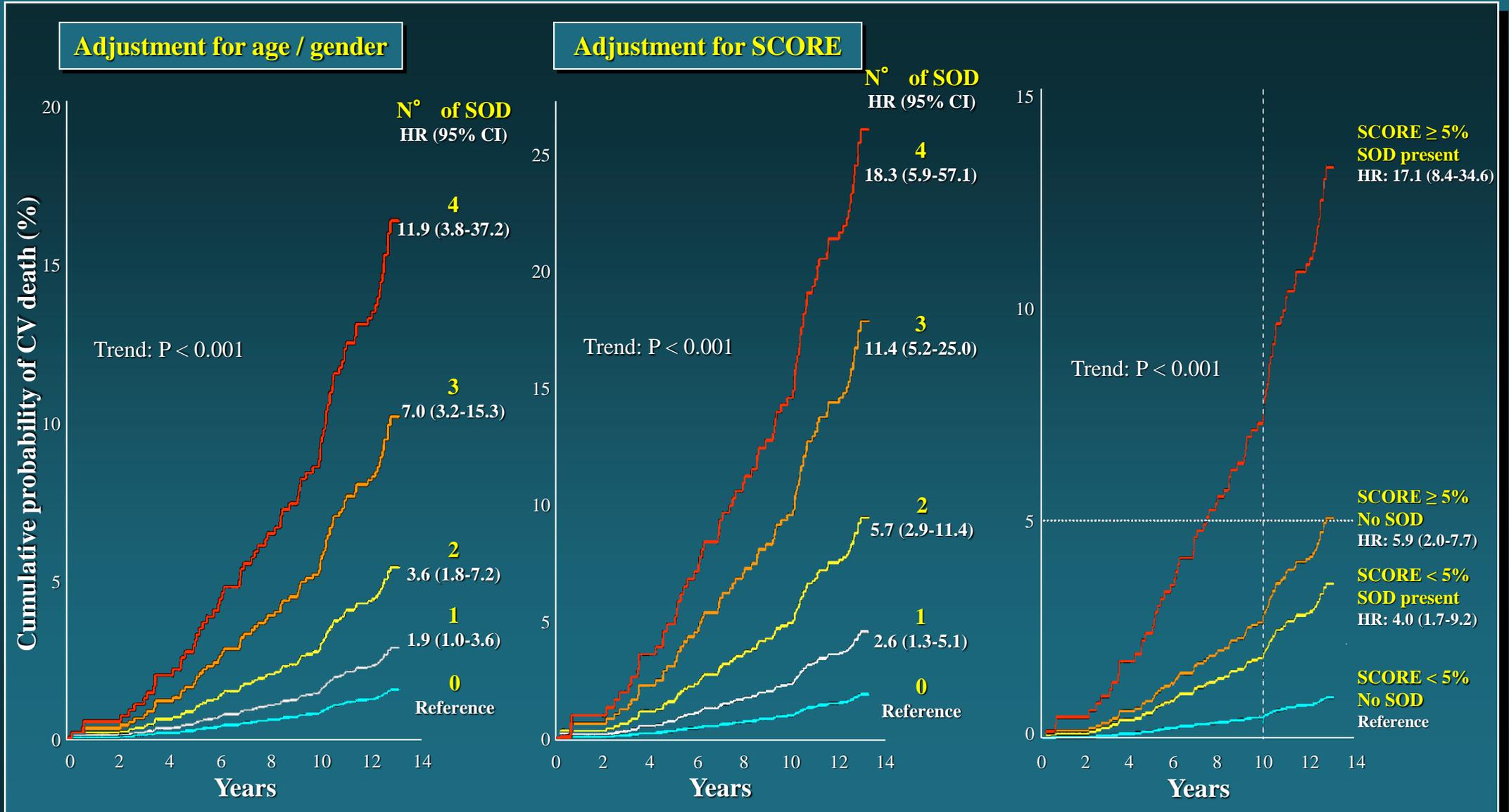
Office-24h (mmHg)



## EU & US GLs differences on assessment of organ damage

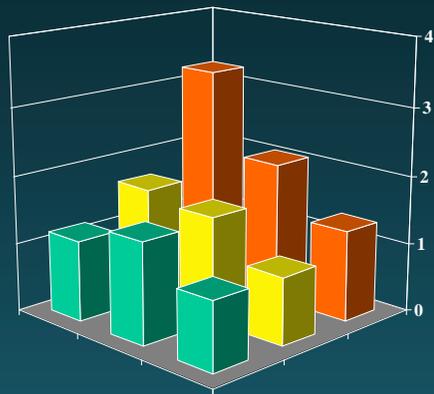
- Agreement on need to quantify CV risk but approach and risk factors listed somewhat different (e.g. HR in EU GLs)
- **For EU( but not US) GLs HT-related organ damage most important**
  - **Fundamental for identification of high CV risk**
  - **Useful for drug (s) choice**
  - **Marker of treatment benefit, e.g. LVH/UACR reduction**

# Cumulative Probability of CV Death according to Presence / Number of Organ Damage



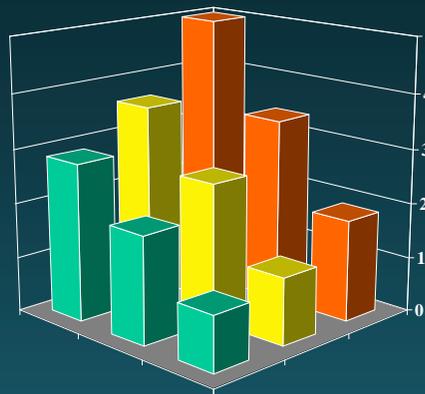
# Combined Effects of Albuminuria and eGFR Levels at Baseline on the Risk for Adverse Outcomes in ADVANCE

### Cardiovascular events



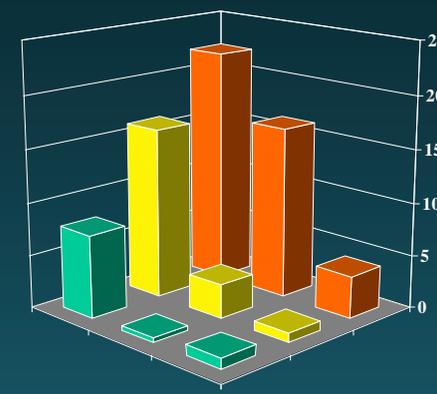
### Cardiovascular death

*Hazard Ratio*



*Hazard Ratio*

### Renal events



*Hazard Ratio*

Macro-albuminuria  
Micro-albuminuria  
Normo-albuminuria  
**Baseline UACR**

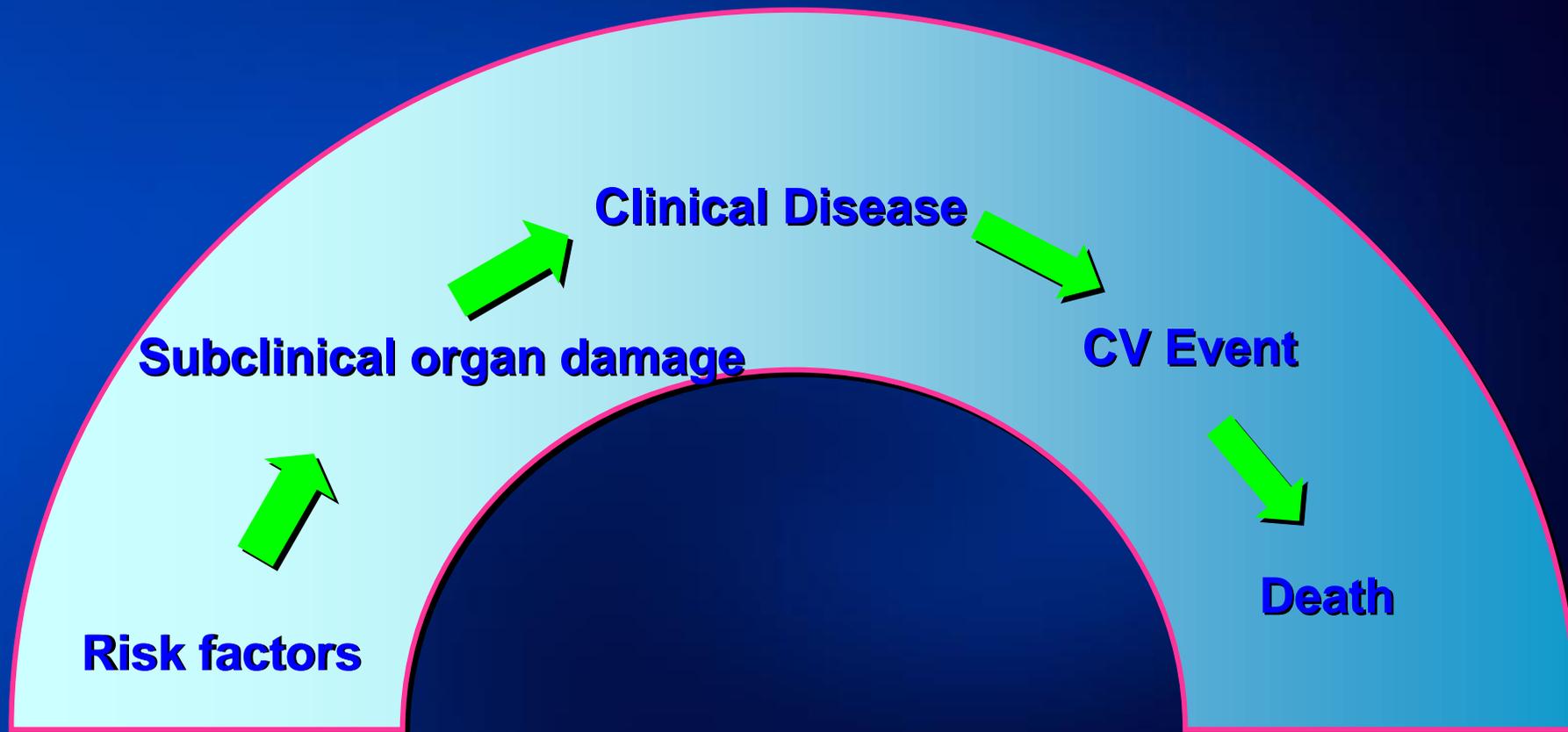
eGFR ≥ 90  
eGFR 60-89  
eGFR < 60  
**Baseline eGFR**

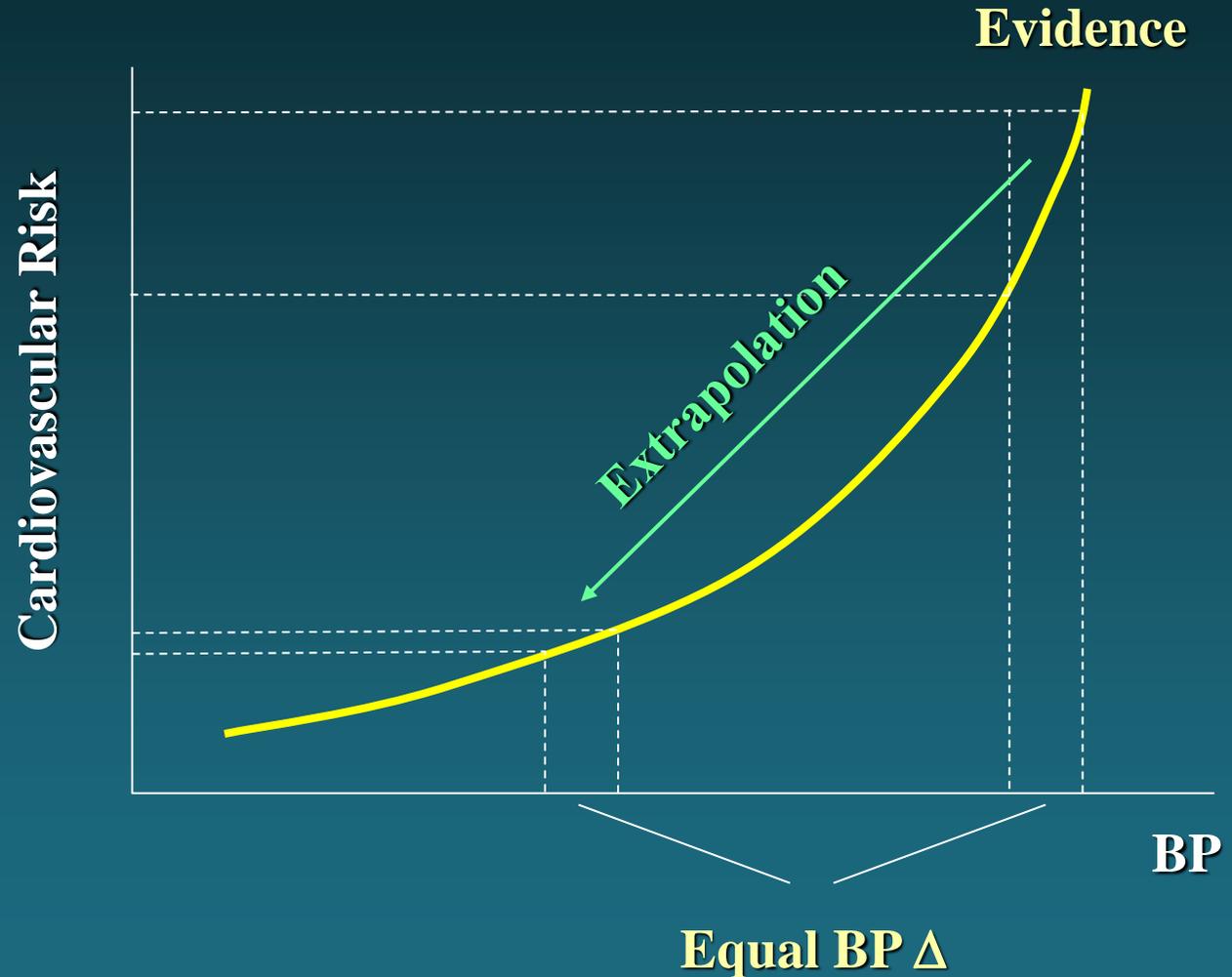
Macro-albuminuria  
Micro-albuminuria  
Normo-albuminuria  
**Baseline UACR**

eGFR < 60  
eGFR 60-89  
eGFR ≥ 90  
**Baseline eGFR**

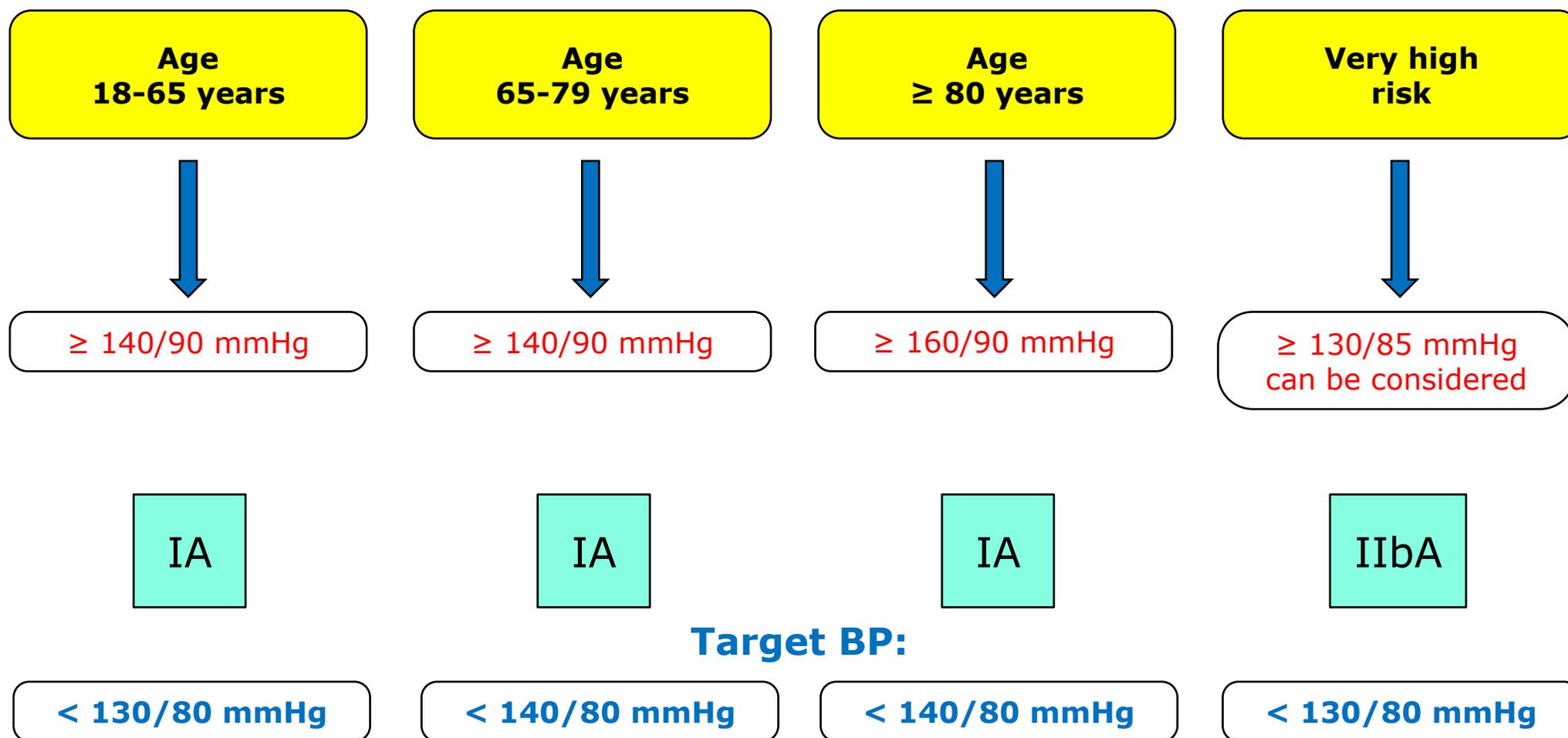
Macro-albuminuria  
Micro-albuminuria  
Normo-albuminuria  
**Baseline UACR**

eGFR < 60  
eGFR 60-89  
eGFR ≥ 90  
**Baseline eGFR**

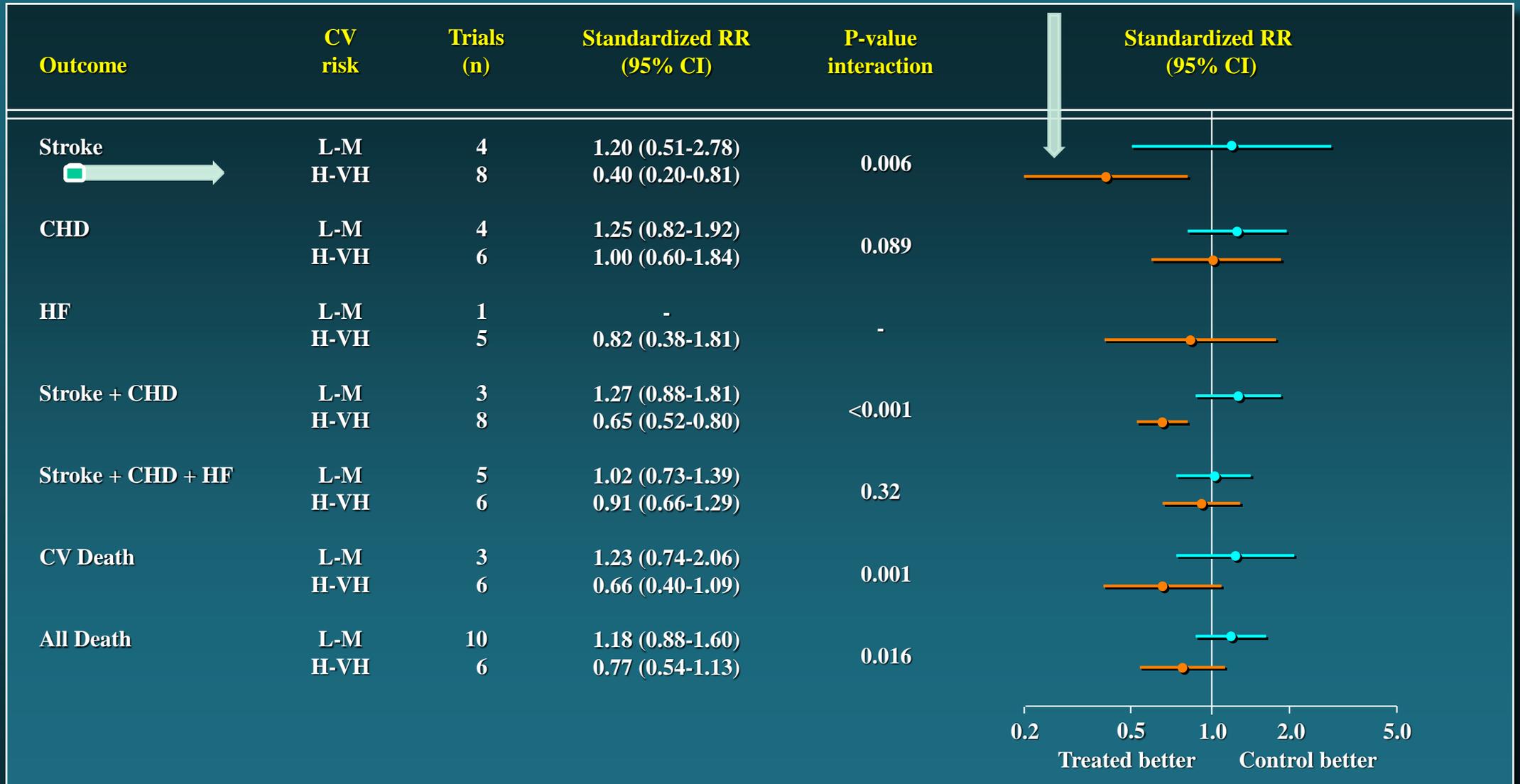




# Summary of office BP thresholds for treatment



## Relative risk of morbidity and mortality outcomes in individuals with high-normal or normal BP: comparison of individuals at low–moderate and high–very high CV risk

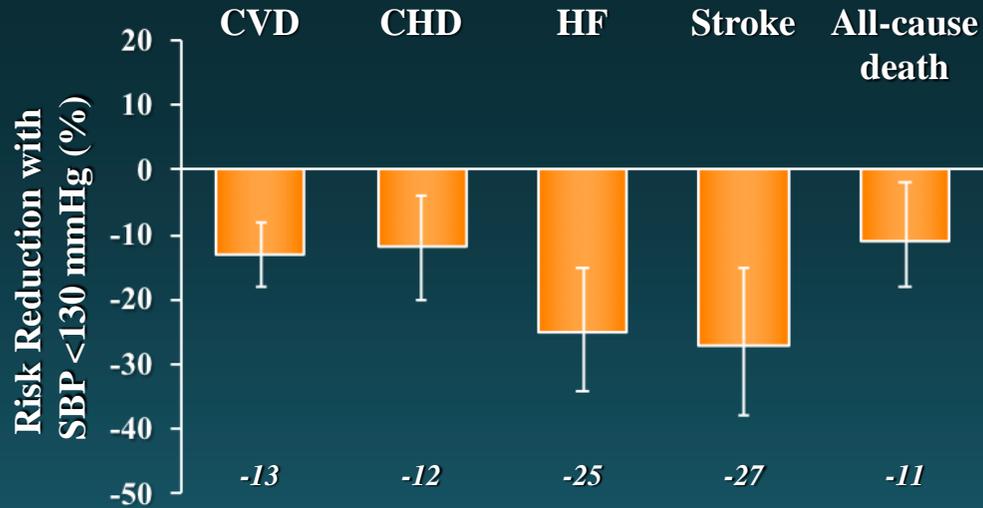


## High normal BP and antihypertensive drugs

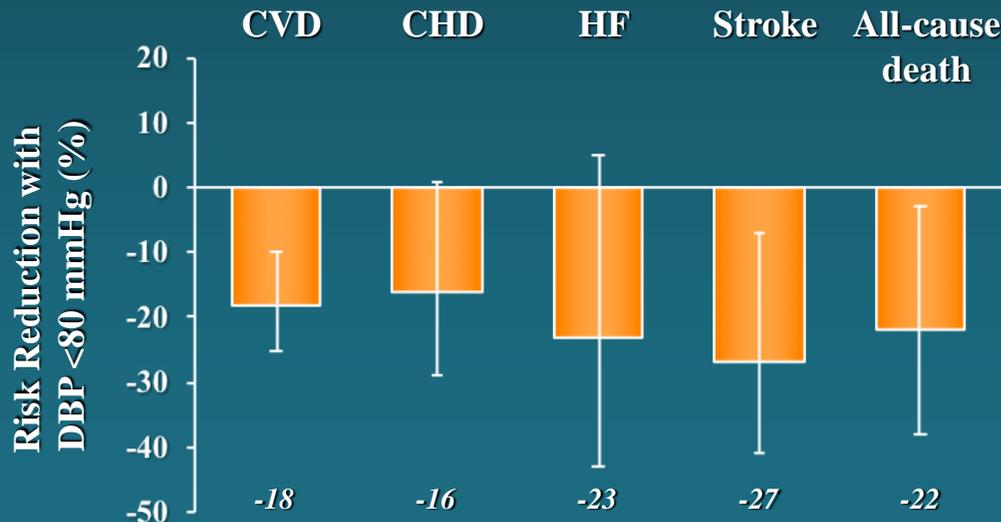
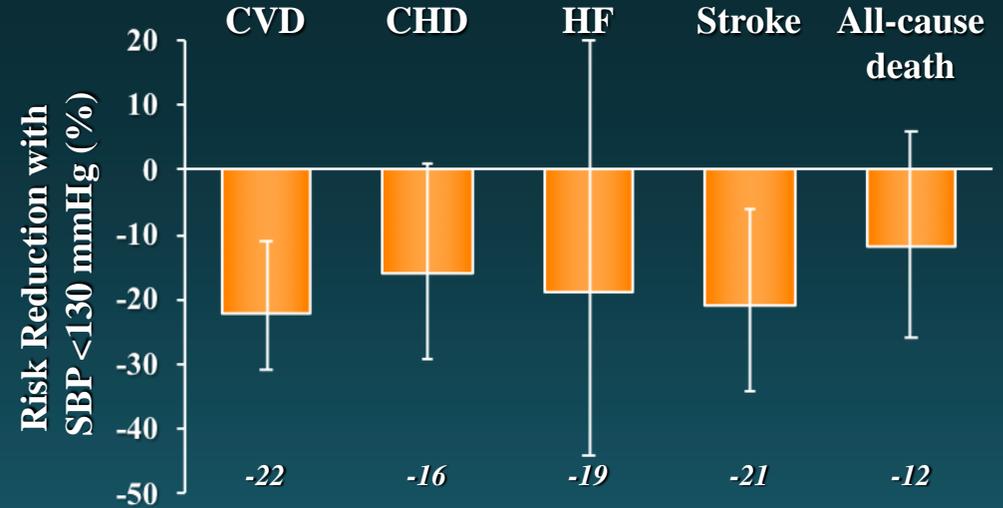
- **ESC/ESH GLs: only in pts with history of CV events**
- **ACC/AHA GLs: recommended if 10yr Framingham risk score is >10%**
- **In the elderly this cutoff value is reached just because of the advanced age**
- **Labelling high normal BP pts as «grade 1 hypertensives» may stimulate most doctors and patients to use drugs**

# Risk reduction achieved by lowering SBP to <130 or DBP to <80 mmHg vs higher BP values in RT-based meta-analyses

*Ettehad et al. (Lancet, 2015)*



*Thomopoulos et al. (J Hypertens, 2016)*



*Thomopoulos et al. (J Hypertens, 2016)*

# BP Thresholds for and Goals of Pharmacological Therapy in Patients With Hypertension According to Clinical Conditions

Clinical Condition(s)	BP Threshold, mm Hg	BP Goal, mm Hg
<b>General</b>		
Clinical CVD or 10-year ASCVD risk $\geq 10\%$	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
No clinical CVD and 10-year ASCVD risk $< 10\%$	$\geq 140/90$	$< 130/80$
Older persons ( $\geq 65$ years of age; noninstitutionalized, ambulatory, community-living adults)	$\geq 130$ (SBP)	$< 130$ (SBP)
<b>Specific comorbidities</b>		
Diabetes mellitus	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Chronic kidney disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Chronic kidney disease after renal transplantation	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Heart failure	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Stable ischemic heart disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Secondary stroke prevention	$\geq 140/90$	$< 130/80$
Secondary stroke prevention (lacunar)	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Peripheral arterial disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$

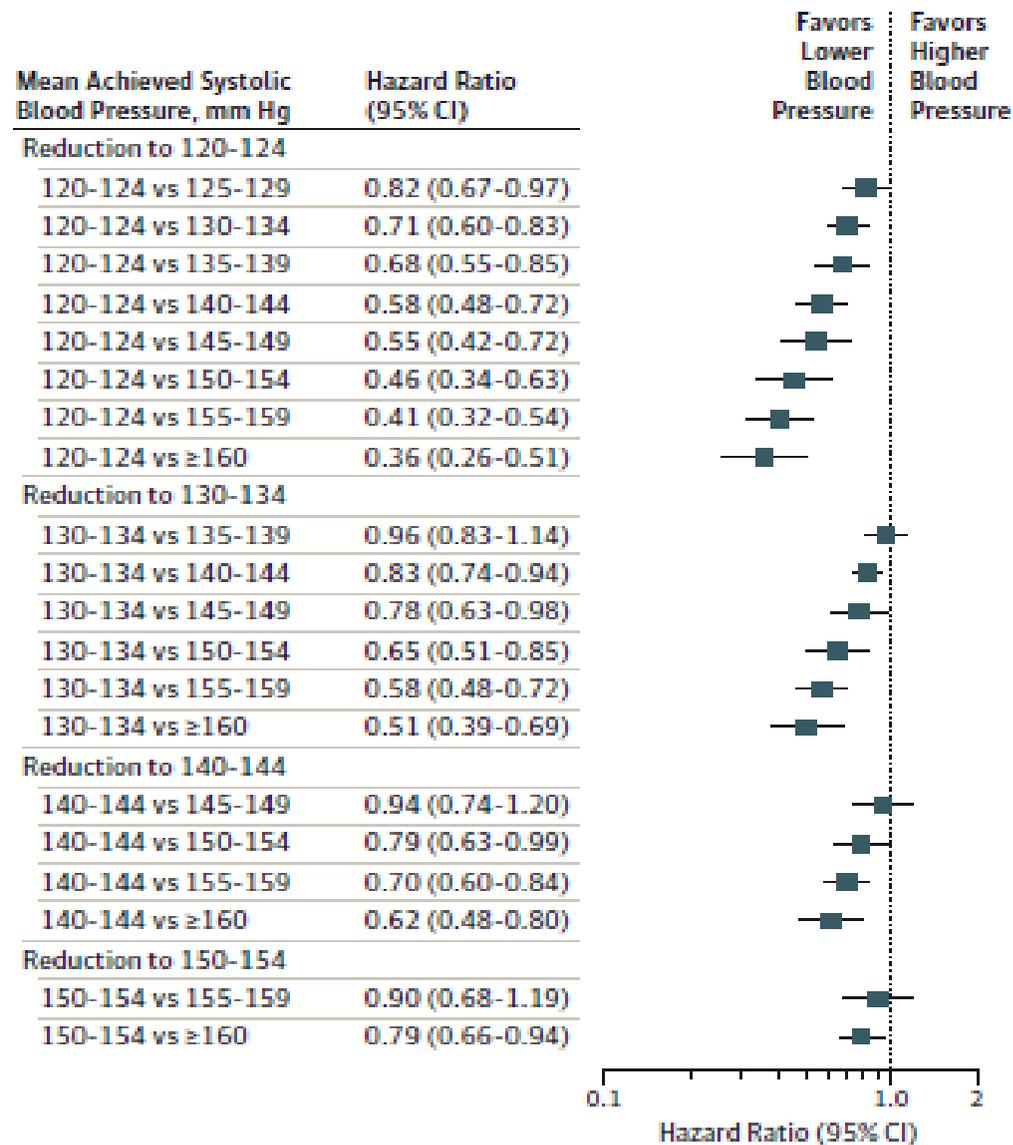
ASCVD indicates atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; BP, blood pressure; CVD, cardiovascular disease; and SBP, systolic blood pressure.

## Office BP treatment targets in hypertensive patients - General Recommendations

### Class / Level

- The first objective of treatment should be to lower BP to <140/90 mmHg in all patients IA
- Provided that treatment is well tolerated treated BP should be targeted to 130/80 mmHg or lower in patients aged <65years, unless with CKD IA

**Figure 3. Hazard Ratios and 95% CIs for Major Cardiovascular Disease Associated With More Intensive Reductions in Systolic Blood Pressure**

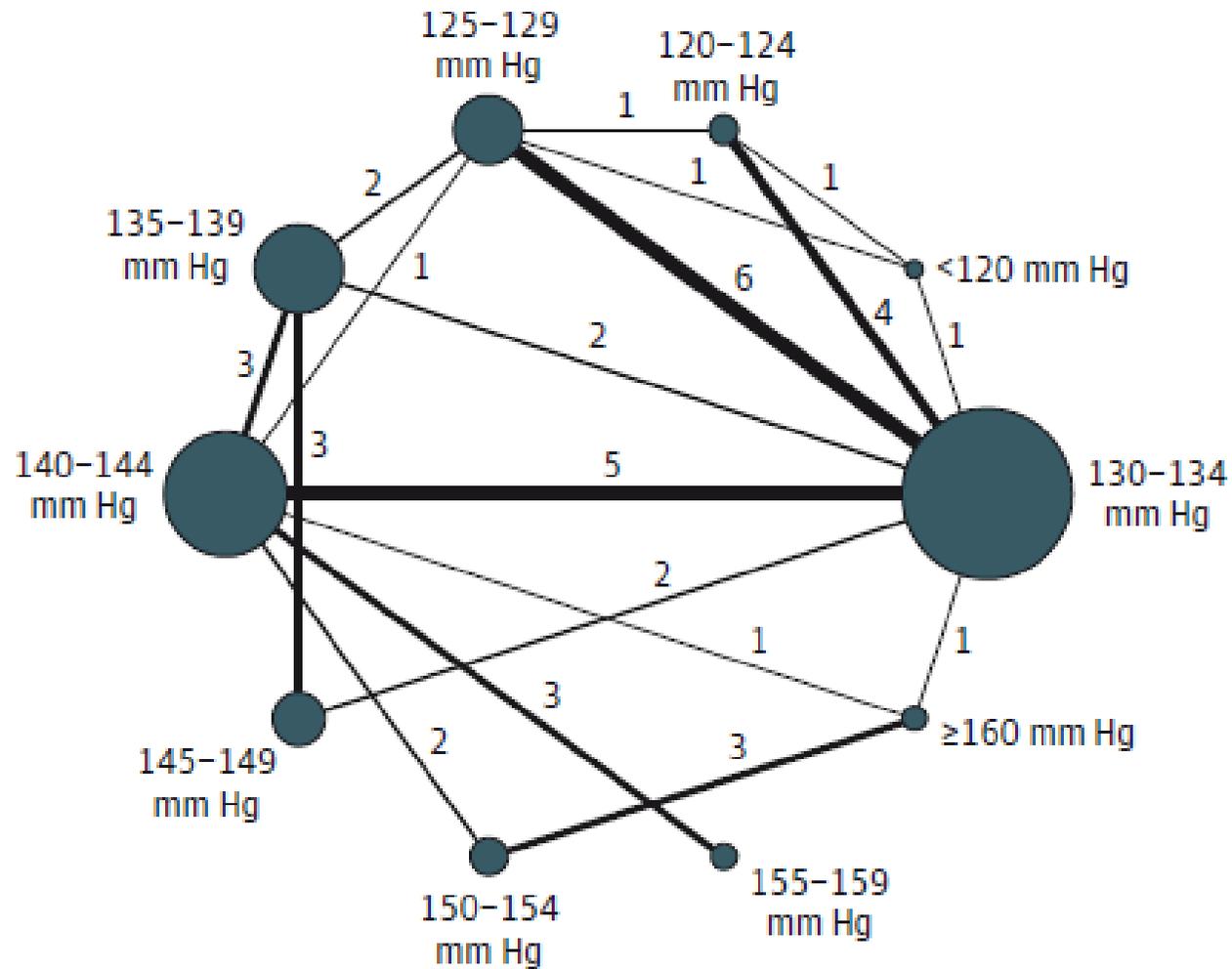


42 studies, n=144220

Bundy et al,  
Jama, Cardiol

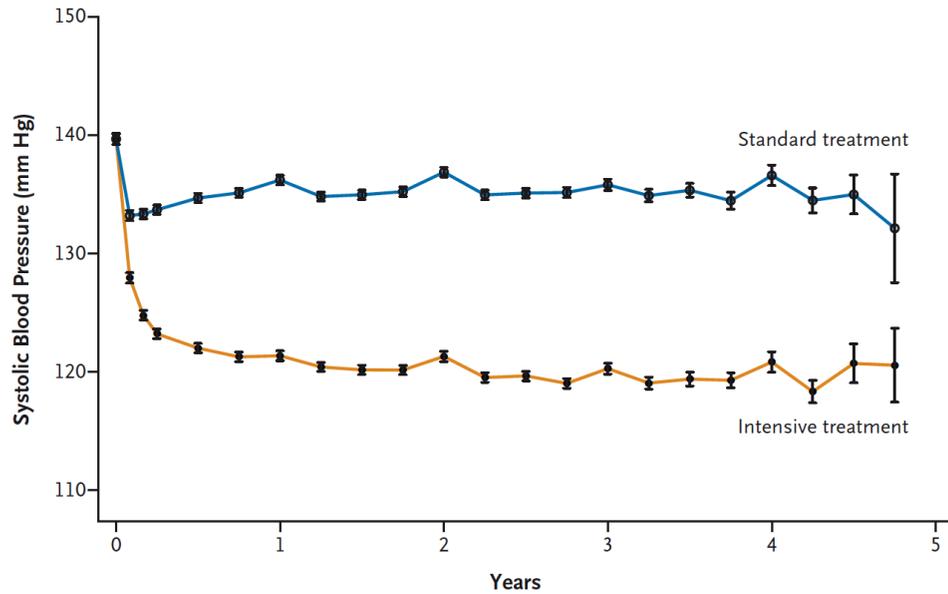
Doi:10.001/Jama

**Figure 2. Network of Treatment Comparisons for Cardiovascular Disease and Mortality According to Achieved Systolic Blood Pressure Categories Among 42 Clinical Trials**

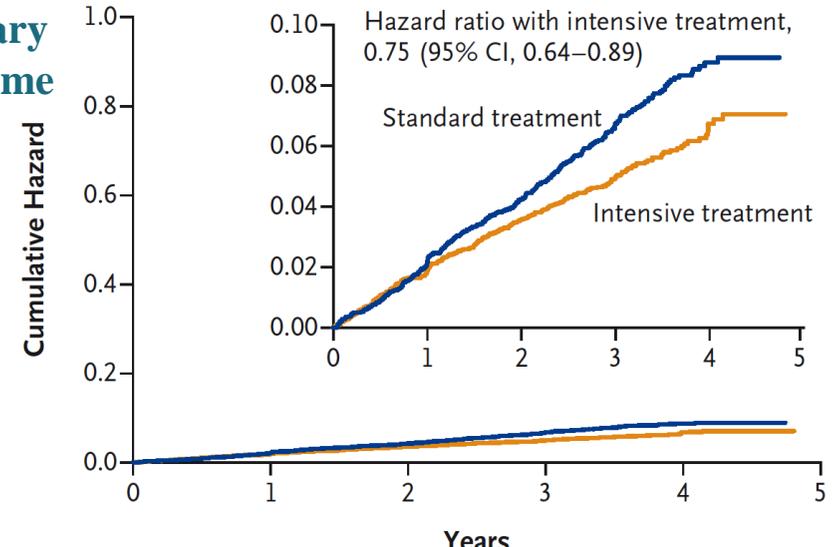


**SPRINT: SBP over the Trial and Outcomes/(On-T BP 134.6 vs 121.5/75.5 vs 67.2mmHg)**

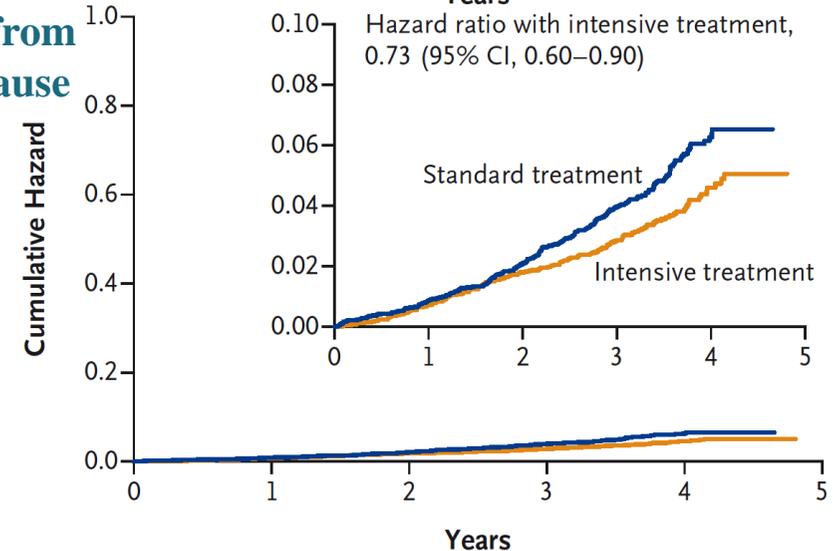
**Systolic Blood Pressure**



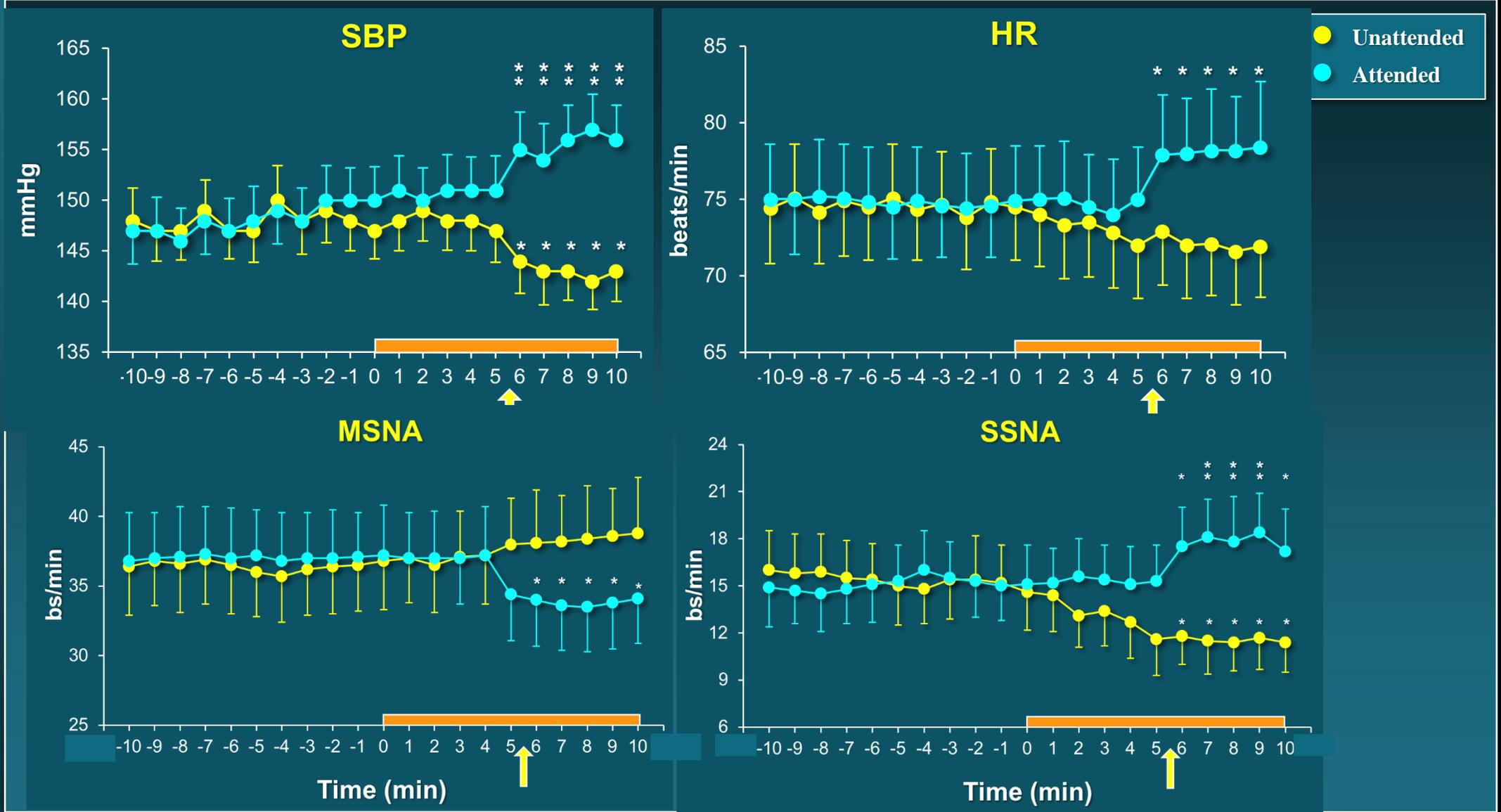
**Primary Outcome**



**Death from Any Cause**

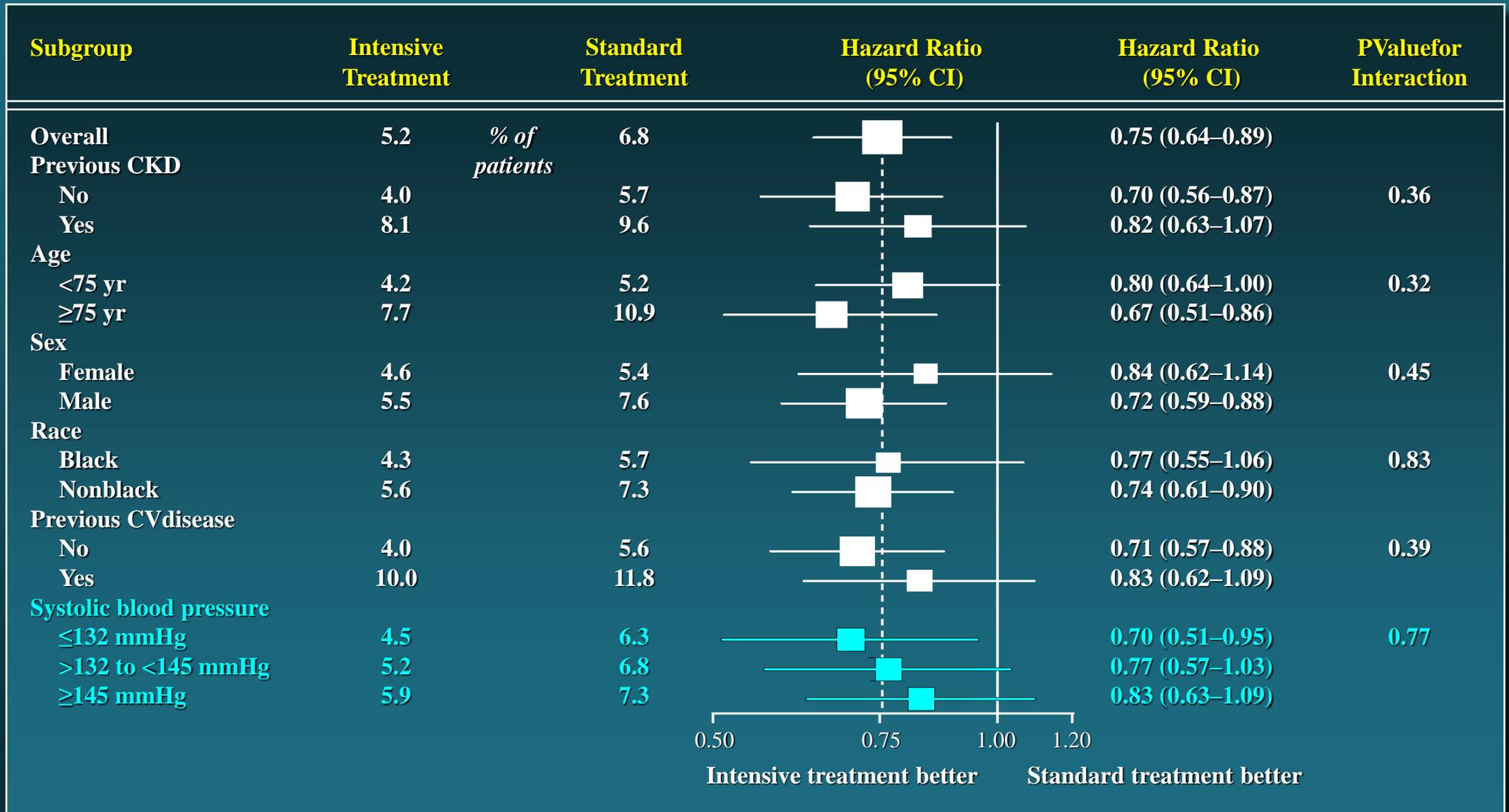


# Beat-to-beat SBP, HR, MSNA and SSNA recorded before and during unattended and attended automatic BP measurement session

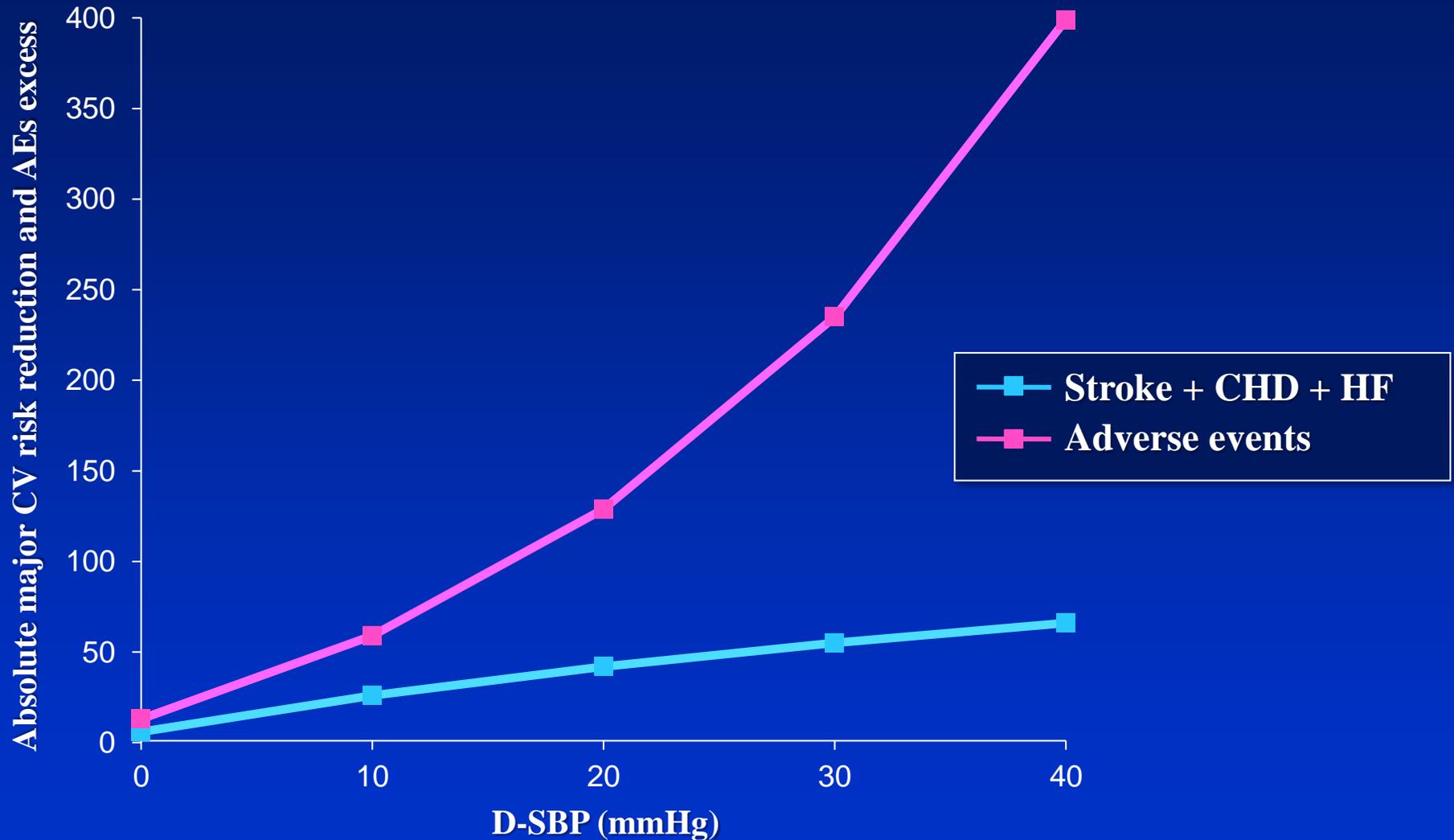


*Grassi, Quarti-Trevano, Dell'Oro, Vanoli, Perseghin, Mancina, Hypertension 2021; doi: 10.1161/HYPERTENSIONAHA.121.1765*

# SPRINT: Forest Plot of Primary Outcome according to Subgroups



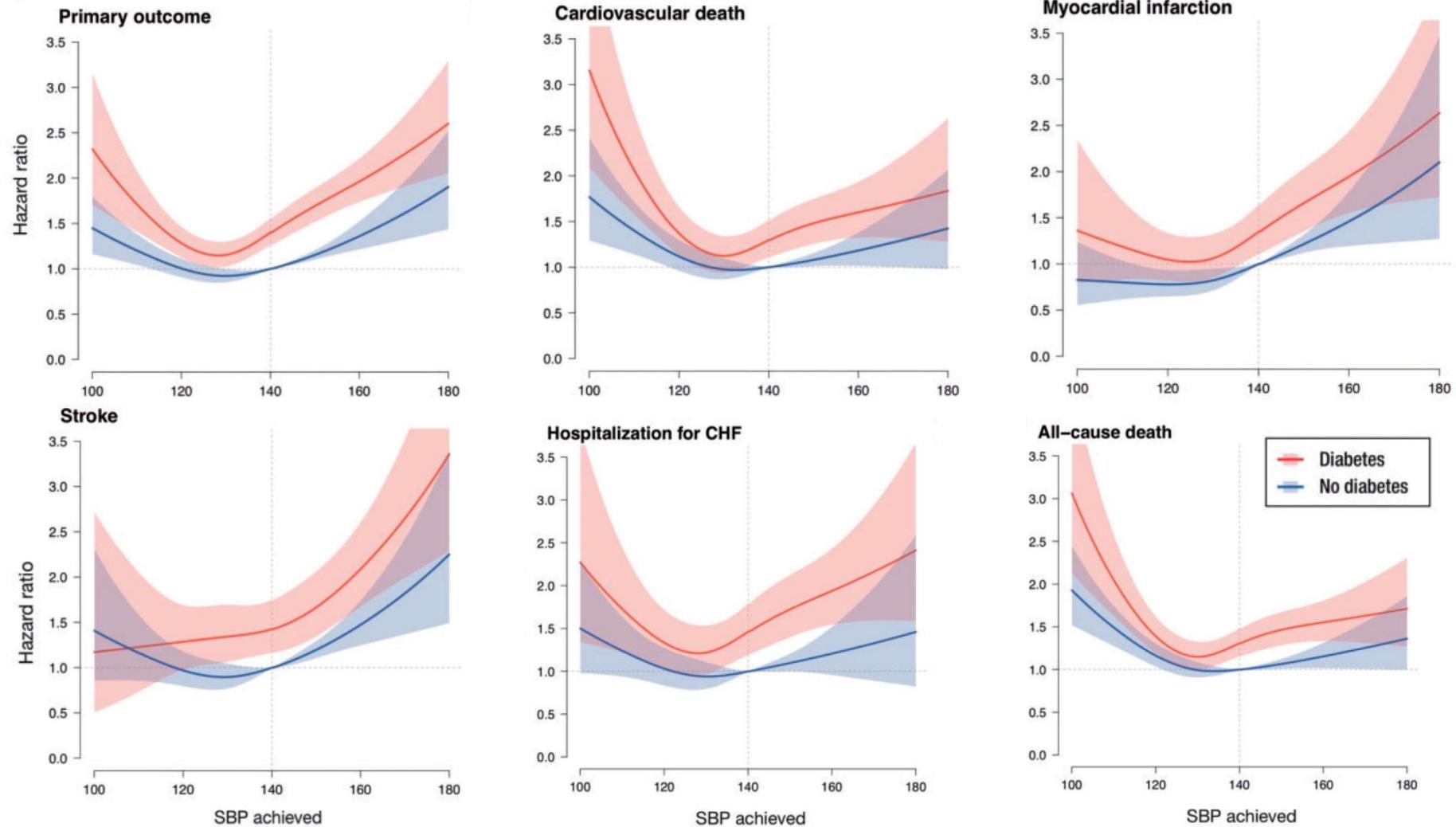
# Relationships of Numbers of Outcomes Prevented and Numbers of Excess in Treatment Discontinuations\* to the Extent of SBP Reductions



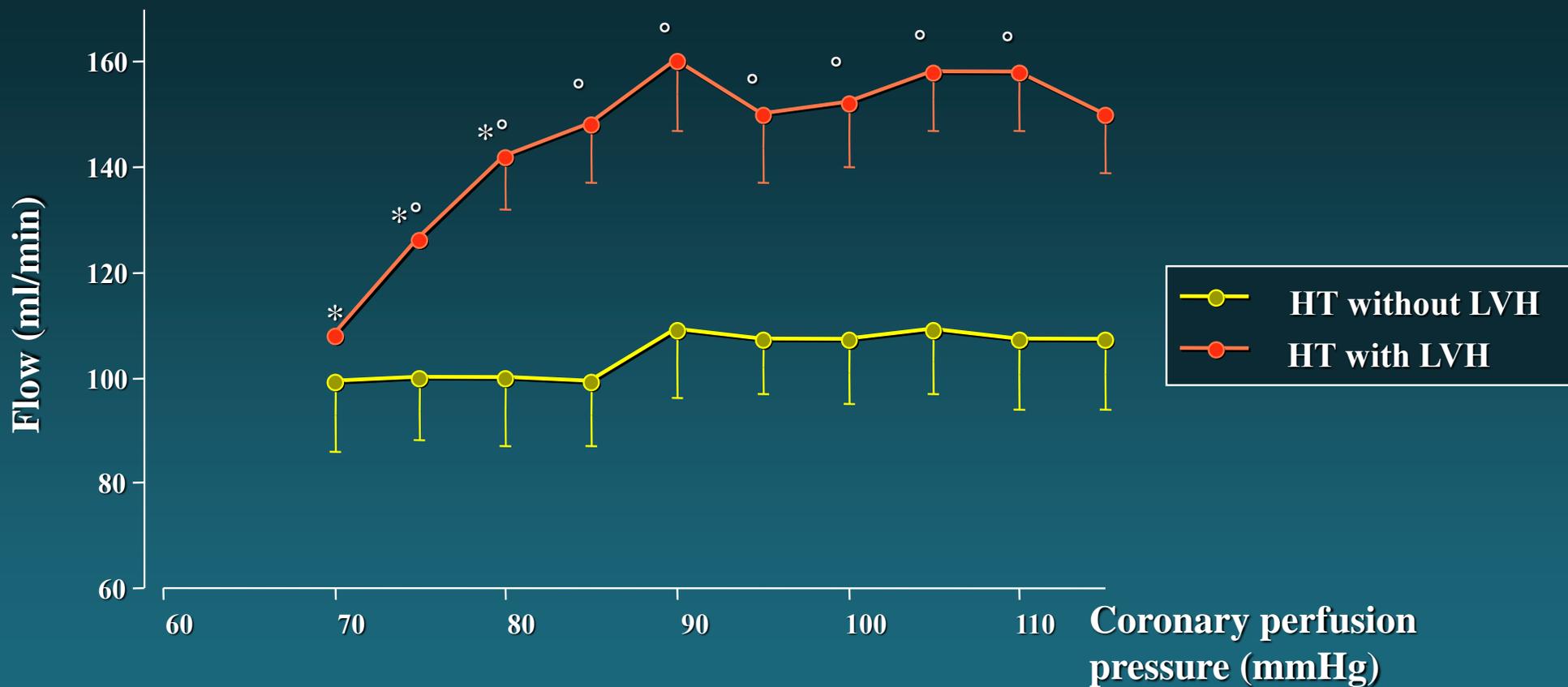
\* Attributed to treatment adverse events

*Thomopoulos, Parati, Zanchetti, J Hypertens 2016; 34: 1451-1463*

**Hazard ratio according to mean achieved SBP for the adjusted hazard ratios for primary outcome, CV death, myocardial infarction, stroke, hospitalization for CHF, and all-cause death**



# Stepwise Reduction of Coronary Perfusion Pressure in Hypertensives Patients Without and With LVH and Corresponding Flow in Great Cardiac Vein

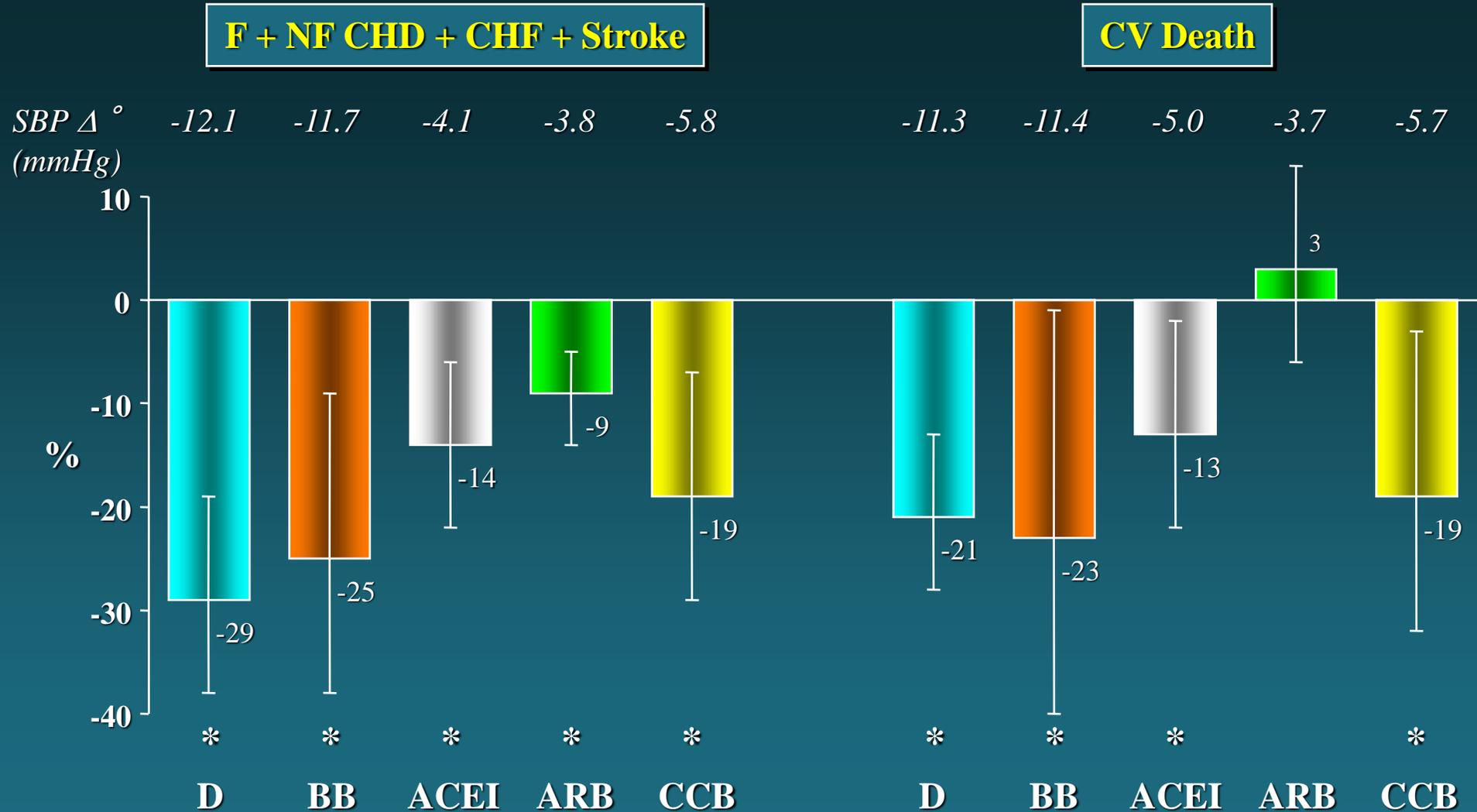


\* p < 0.01 vs baseline  
° p < 0.01 vs HT without LVH

## **Priorital antihypertensive drugs in US and EU GLs**

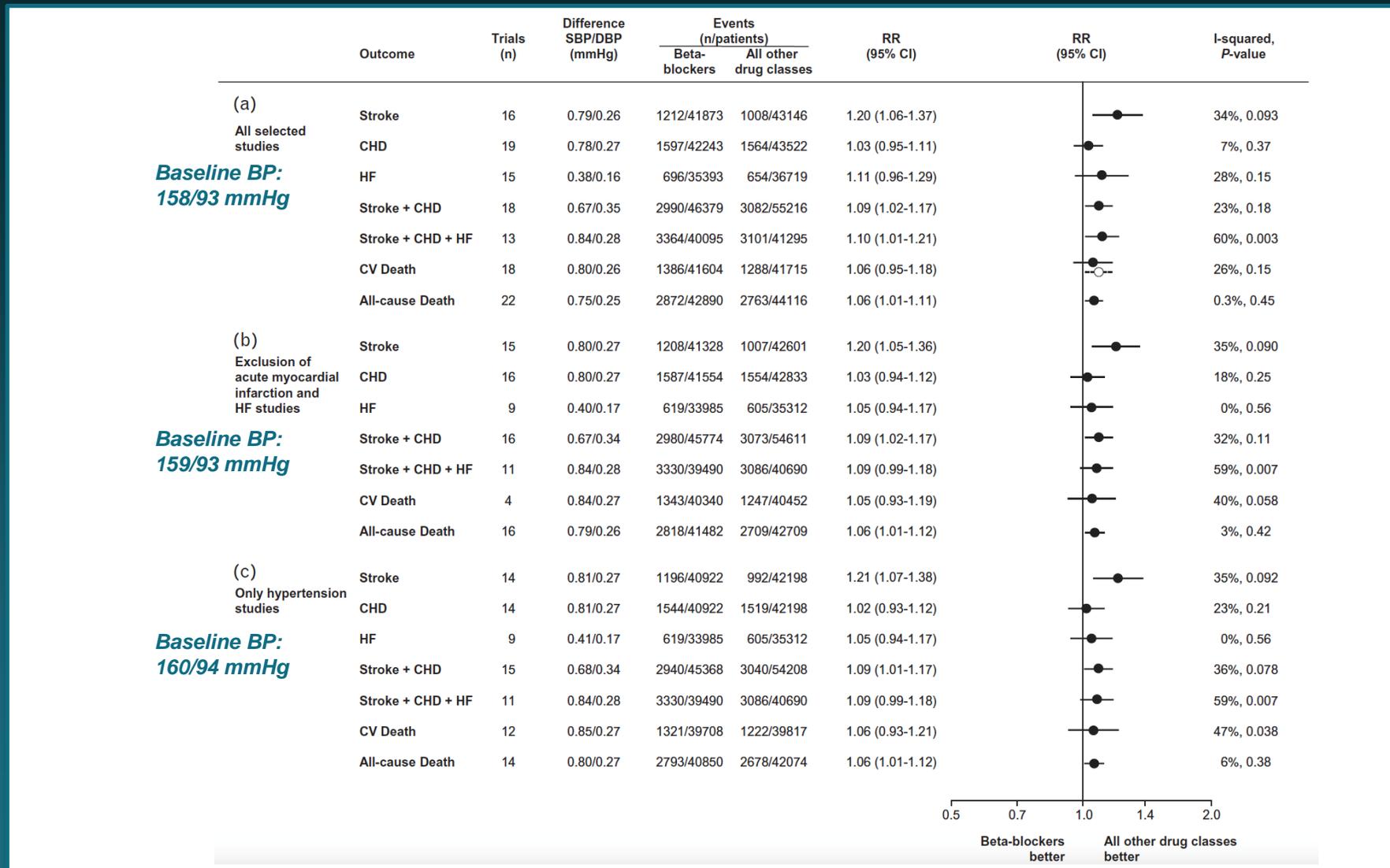
- **US GLs: preference to chlortalidone/EU GLs: equal status for chlortalidone, indapamide, HCTZ**
- **US GLs: D/ACEI/ARB/CCB**
- **EU GLs: D/ACEI/ARB/CCB/BB**
  - **Effective and similar BP reduction**
  - **CV protection against placebo in RCTs**
  - **Similar degree of overall CV protection in several comparison RCTs and meta-analyses**

# Risk of CV Morbidity and Mortality in RCTs Comparing Drug Treatment vs Placebo

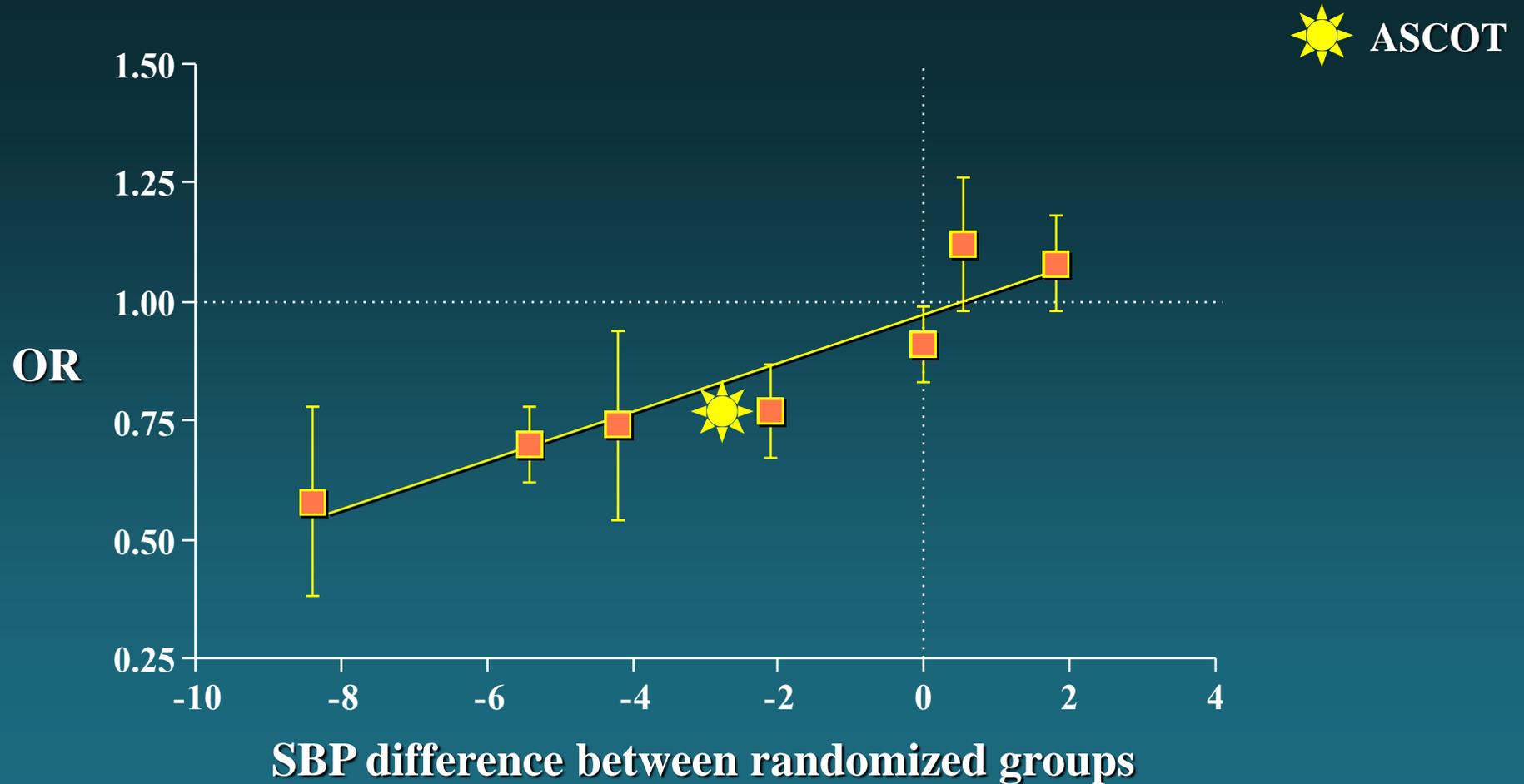


<sup>o</sup> Sign “-” means lower SBP in drug group; \* Statistically significant

# Comparisons of BP-lowering treatment based on BBs with treatments based on all other drug classes considered together



# Reduction of stroke risk in CCB compared to BB group (ASCOT) vs the metaregressio on the relationship between T-induced fall in BP and stroke

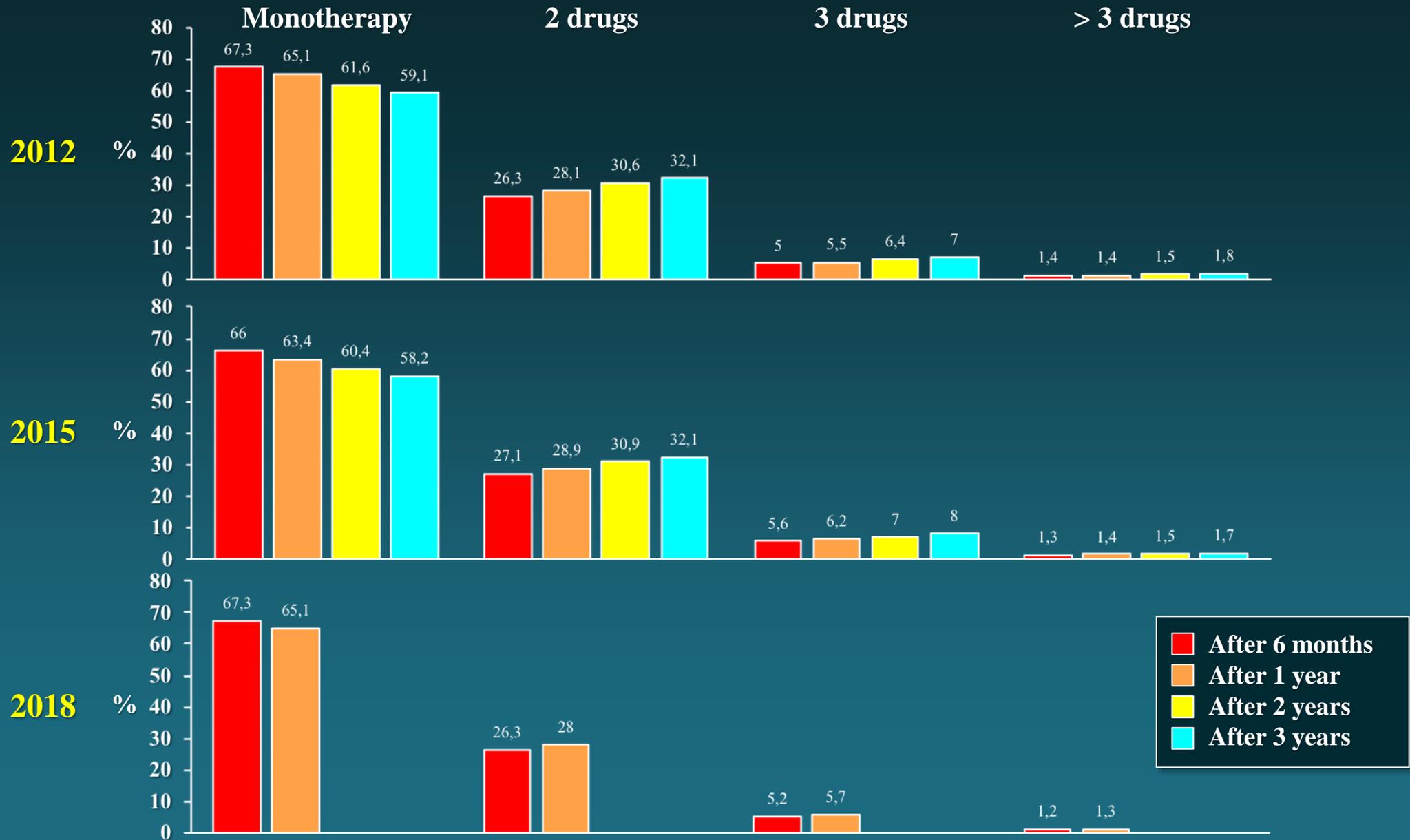


**Relative risk reduction of various outcomes in BP-lowering trials on BB treatment versus placebo, no treatment or less and no BB-based treatment**  
**Only hypertension studies (Baseline BP 163.0/94.3mmHg)**

Outcome	Trials (n)	Difference SBP/DBP (mmHg)	Events (n/patients)		RR (95% CI)	RR (95% CI)	I-squared, P-value
			Active	Control			
Stroke	5	-10.5/-7.0	216/6654	394/12070	0.77 (0.61-0.97)		45%, 0.12
CHD	5	-10.5/-7.0	293/6654	538/12070	0.88 (0.77-1.01)		0%, 0.47
HF	2	-14.8/-8.7	31/ 777	60/ 855	0.57 (0.35-0.91)		16%, 0.28
Stroke + CHD	5	-10.5/-7.0	509/6654	932/12070	0.84 (0.74-0.95)		33%, 0.20
Stroke + CHD + HF	4	-10.7/-7.1	446/6282	903/11722	0.78 (0.64-0.96)		72%, 0.014
CV Death	5	-10.5/-7.0	258/6654	466/12070	0.84 (0.68-1.04)		49%, 0.097
All-cause Death	5	-10.5/-7.0	457/6654	780/12070	0.95 (0.84-1.06)		11%, 0.34

0.2      0.5      1.0      2.0  
Active better      Control better

# Antihypertensive monotherapy and combination treatment over 3 years in Lombardy data-base



Rea, Corrao, Mancina, unpublished

# Core drug treatment strategy for hypertension

Step 1

**Dual FDC**



*Consider increased dose  
of combination components (ISH GLs)*

Step 2

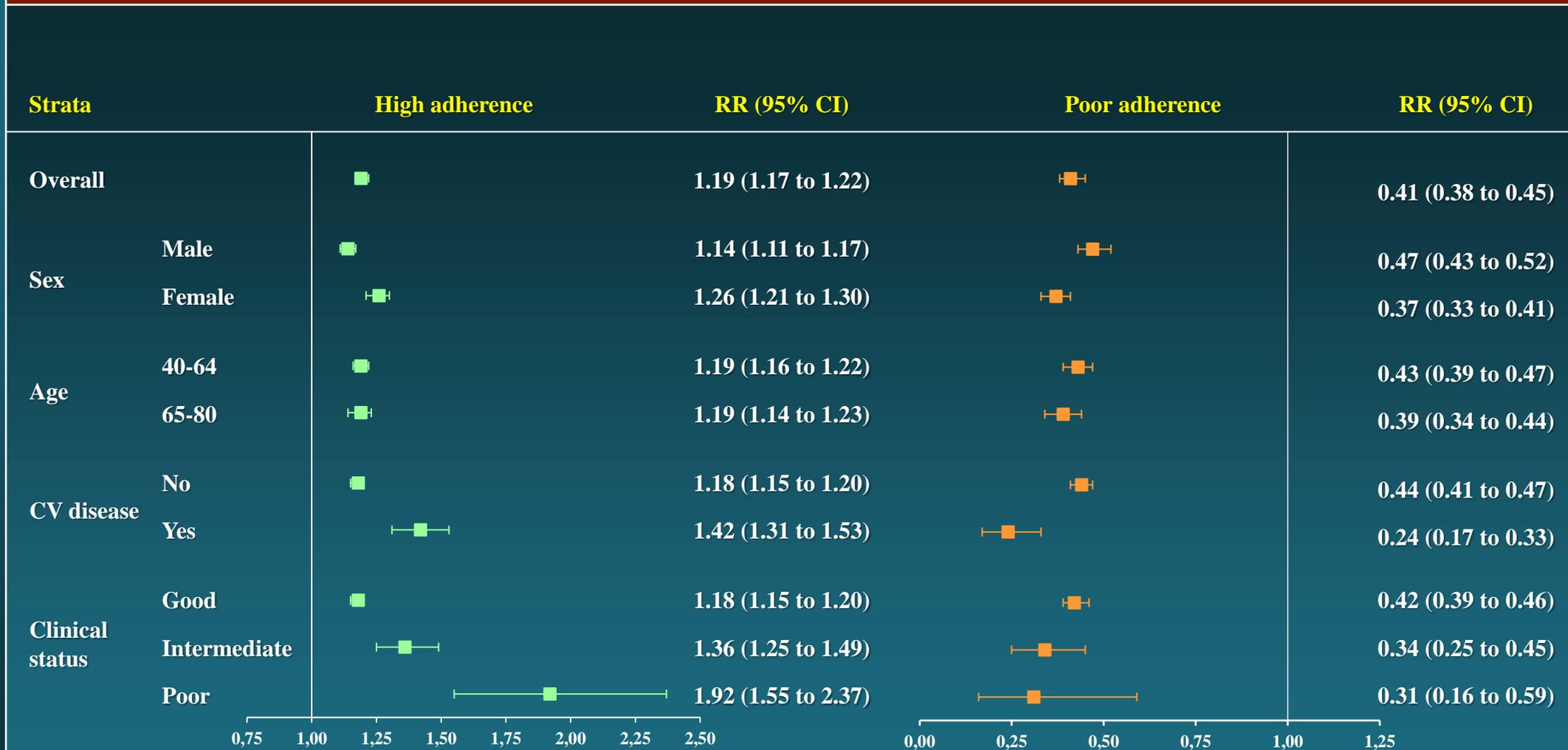
**Triple combination  
(FDC if available)**



Step 3

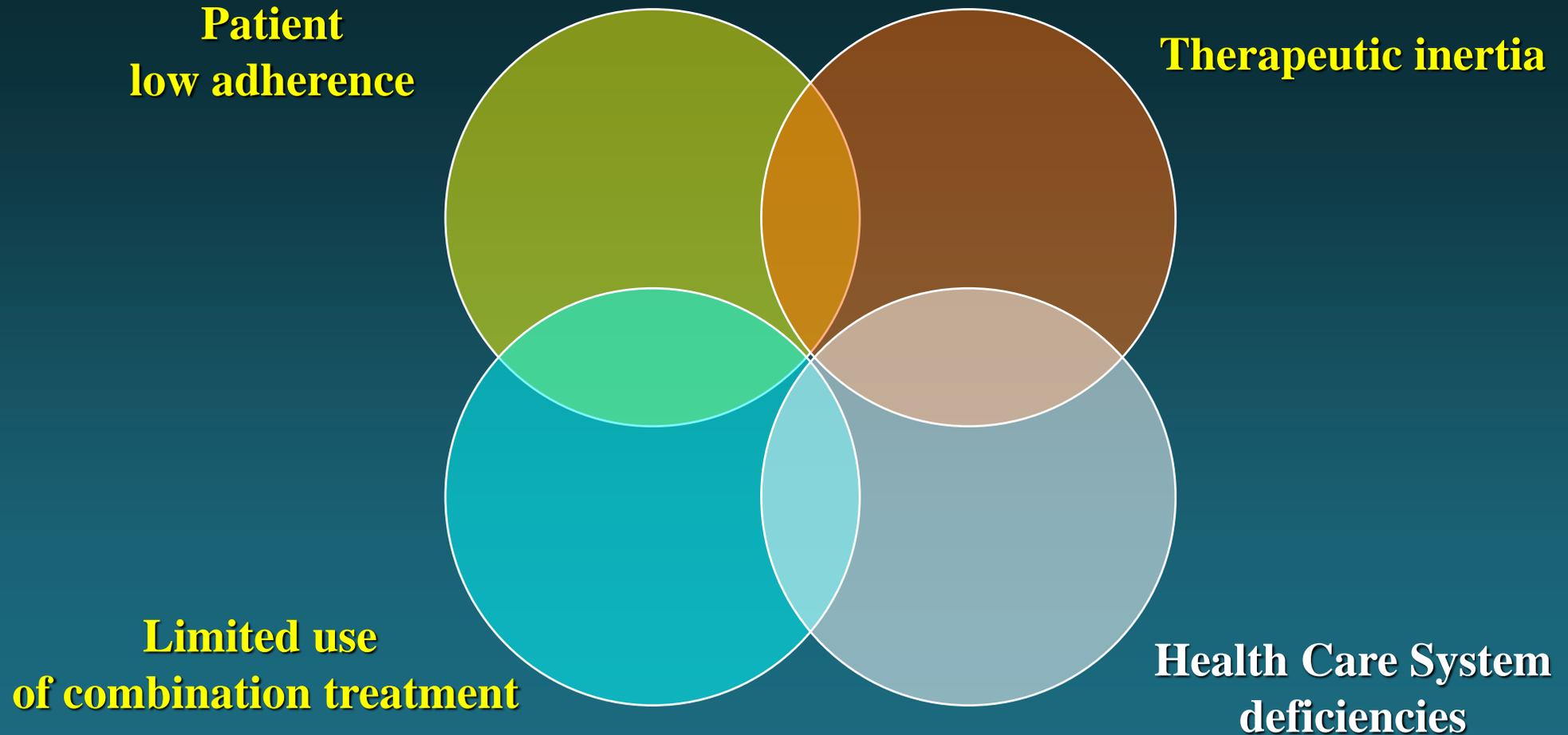
**Triple combination  
+ Other drugs**

## Adjusted odds of achieving high\* or avoiding low \*\* adherence to treatment in patients starting treatment with antihypertensive monotherapy (n=53702) vs dual FDC (n=9746) in Lombardy



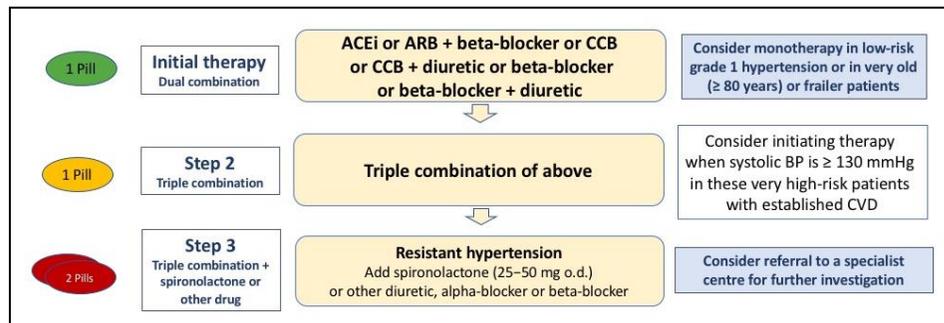
\* high (>75% of the 1 year prescription time)  
 \*\* low (<25% of the 1 year prescription time)

# Factors Involved in Poor Control of BP

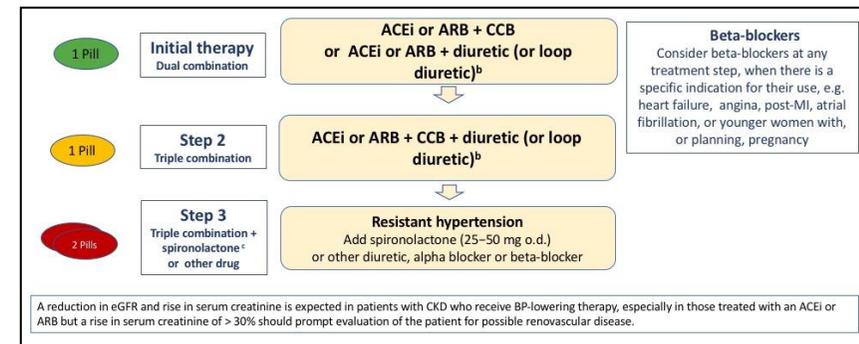


# Drug-treatment strategies

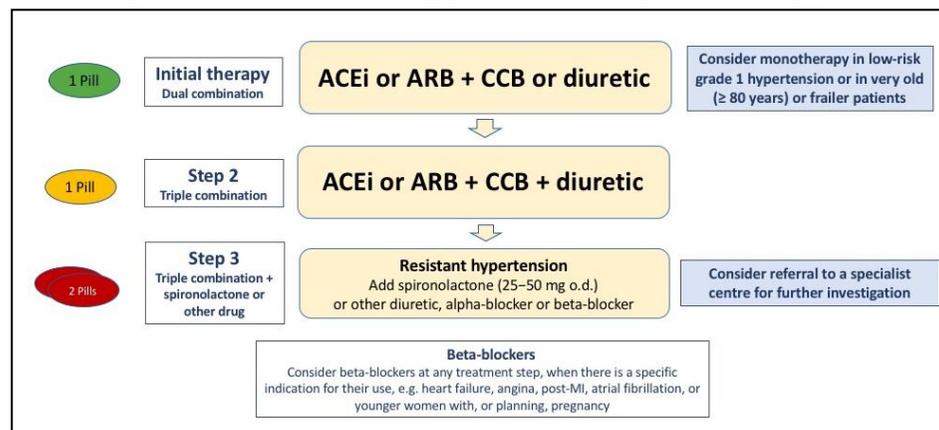
## Hypertension and CAD



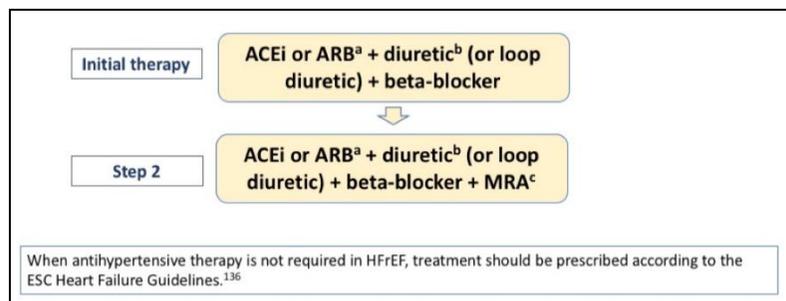
## Hypertension and CKD



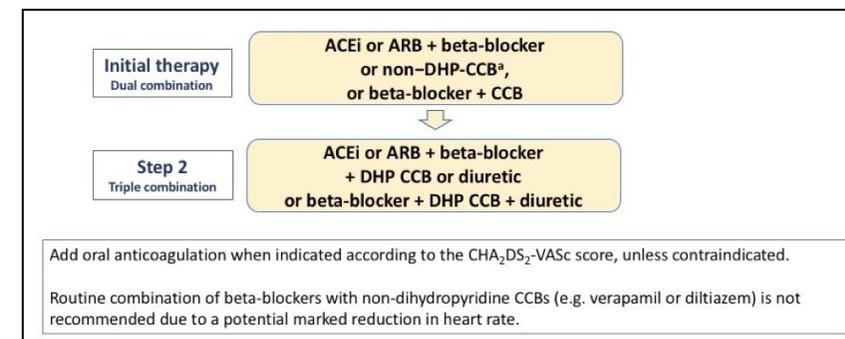
## Core drug-treatment strategy for uncomplicated hypertension



## Hypertension and HFrEF



## Hypertension and AF



Major drug combinations used in trials in a step-wise or randomized approach vs placebo, monotherapy or other combinations

**ACEI + D**

- CAPP
- ADVANCE
- PROGRESS
- HYVET
- ACCOMPLISH

**ACEI + CCB**

- ACCOMPLISH
- NORDIL
- INVEST
- ASCOT
- Syst-Eur
- Syst-China

**ARB + D**

- LIFE
- SCOPE
- COLM

**CCB + D**

- ELSA
- CONVINC
- VALUE
- COPE
- FEVER

**BB + D**

- COPE
- SHEP
- STOP-2
- CONVINC
- CAPP
- STOP-I
- LIFE
- NORDIL
- Coope & Warrender

**ACEI + ARB  
(or renin inhibitor)**

- ONTARGET
- ALTITUDE

**ACEI + BB**

- ALLHAT

**CCB + BB**

- ALLHAT
- COPE

**ARB + CCB**

- COPE
- COLM

- INVEST
- ALLHAT
- ASCOT

# Drug choice in GLs/Restricted or Expanded?

- Patients responsive to one drug class are frequently different from those responsive to another drug class
- Multiple drug options extend number of responders & facilitate drug replacement (in case of side effects)
- Restricting the number of drug options is against personalized/precision medicine.

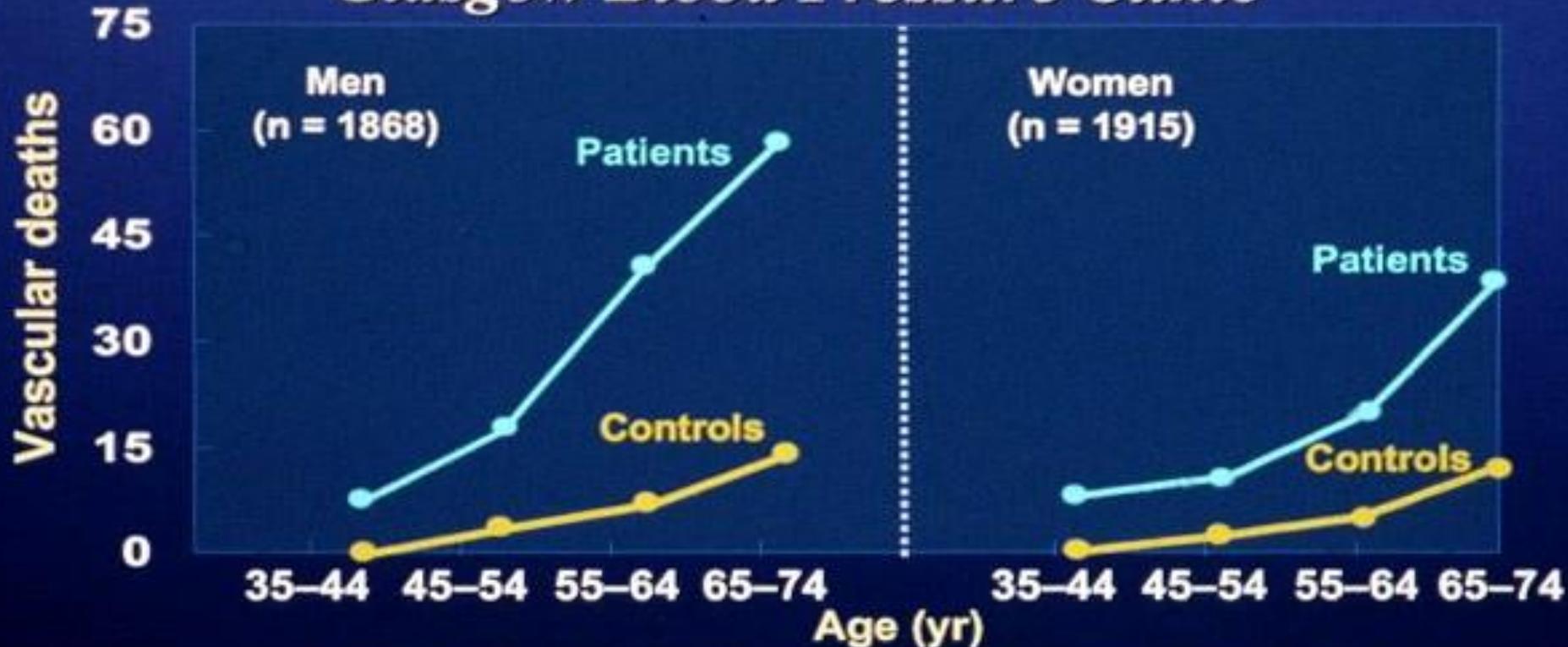
## Frequency of Office BP re-measurements According to BP values in GLs

	ACC/AHA	ESC/ESH
BP <120/80mmHg	1 year	5 years
BP 120-129/80-84mmHg*	3-6 months	3 years
BP 130/139/85-89mmHg**	-	1 year

- \*-80 in ACC/AHA GLs
- \*\* grade 1 hypertension for ACC/AHA GLs

# Persisting Cardiovascular Risk in Treated Hypertensive Patients

## *Glasgow Blood Pressure Clinic*

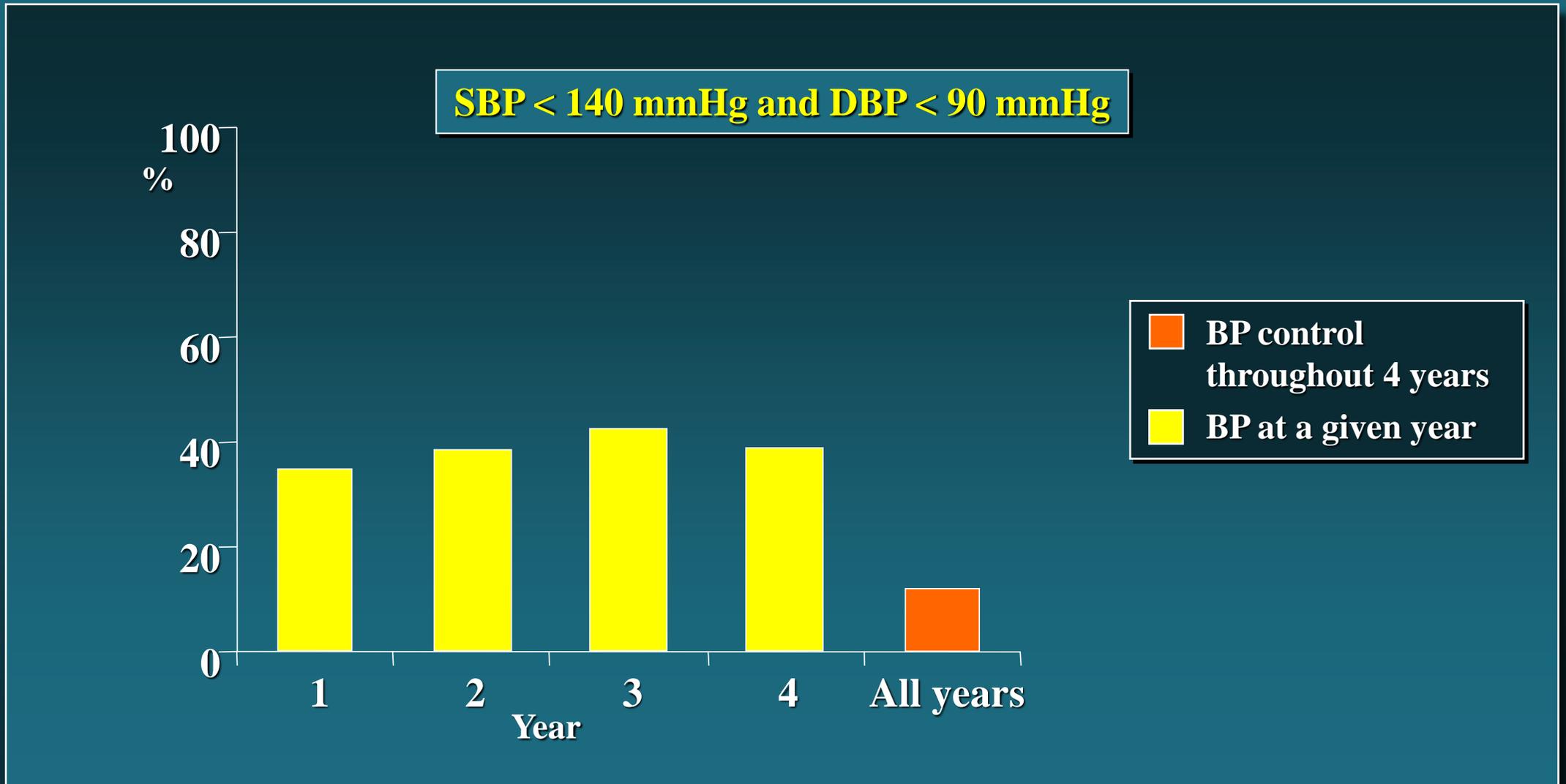


3783 treated patients with nonmalignant hypertension  
Follow-up 6.5 yr; 750 deaths (75% vascular)

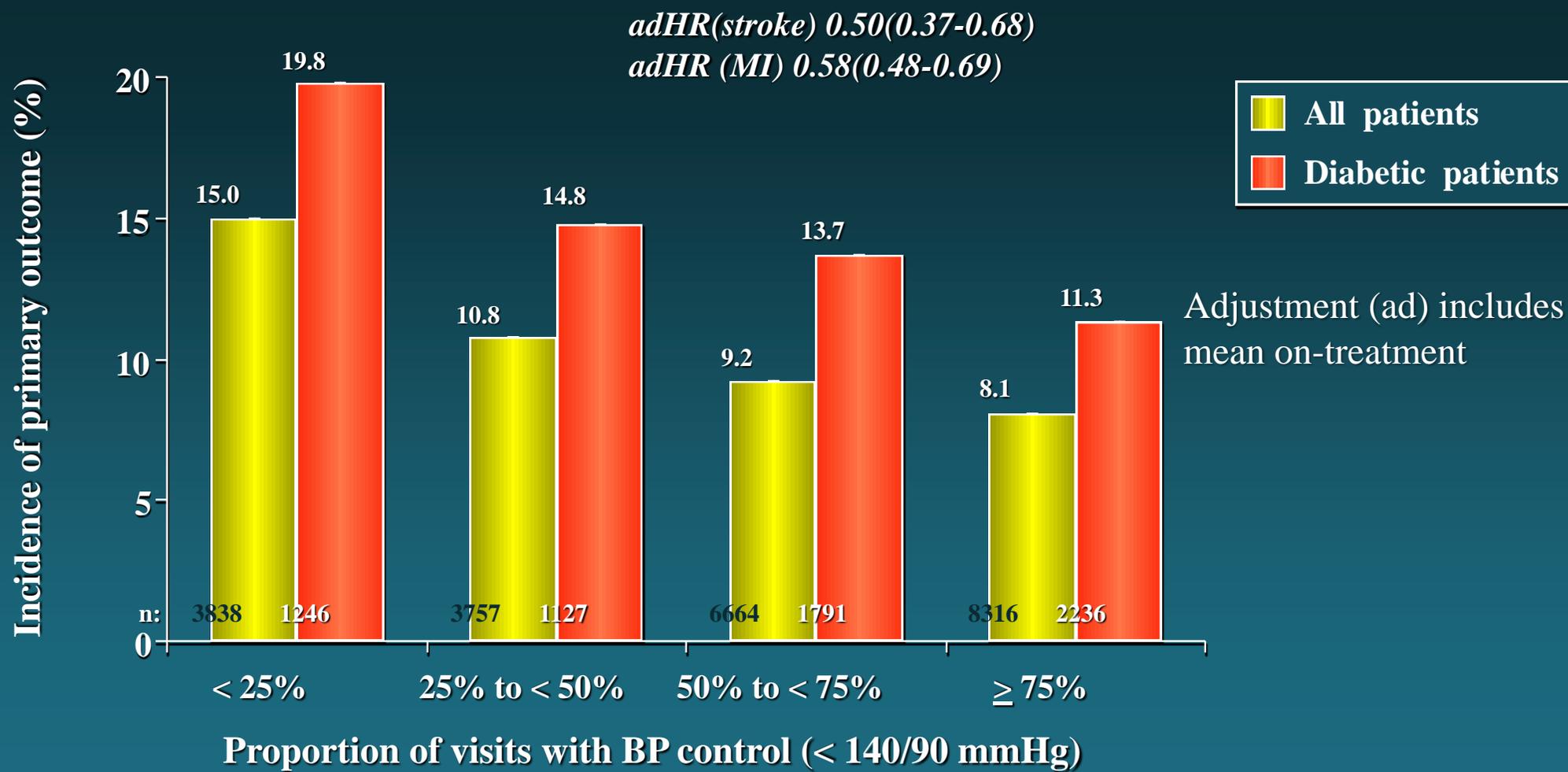
# Reducing residual risk in treated HTs/Options

- Is there a risk fraction unmodifiable?
- Associated risk factor control
- Individualized BP targets (higher in some/lower in other pts)
- Out-of-office BP control
- Short/Long term BP variability reduction
- Earlier treatment initiation (when risk still low)

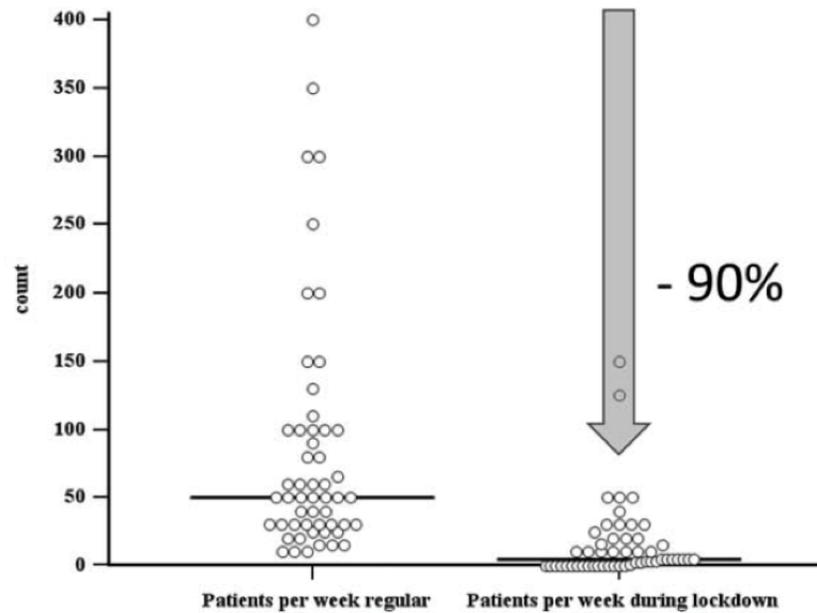
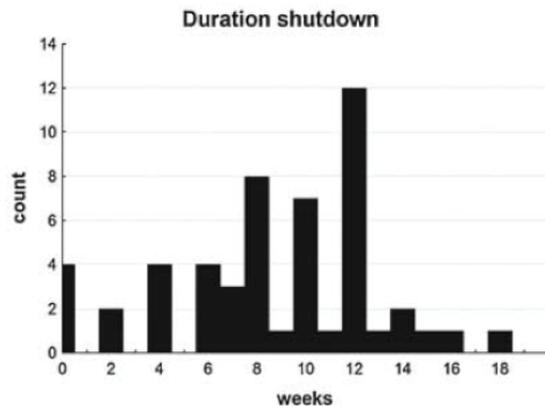
## Rate of Clinic BP Normalization at Each Year and Throughout the 4 Years of Treatment in ELSA



# INVEST: BP Control and Incidence and risk of Primary Outcome in All Patients and in Diabetic Patients



# Summary of the effects of corona-virus disease 2019 and the associated shutdown of routine healthcare services for hypertensive patients



Some pts stopping RAS blockers



Hypertension service working June 2020



## Use of ARBs, ACEIs and other antihypertensive drugs in patients with Covid-19 infection (cases\*) and corresponding matched controls

	Cases (N=6,272)	Controls (N=30,759)	Relative difference
Age, years - mean (SD)	68 (13)	68 (13)	MV
Women	2,303 (37%)	11,357 (37%)	MV
<b>Drugs:</b>			
Antihypertensive drugs	3,632 (57.9%)	15,319 (49.8%)	+14.0%
<b>ACEIs</b>	1,502 (23.9%)	6,569 (21.4%)	+10.5%
<b>ARBs</b>	1,394 (22.2%)	5,910 (19.2%)	+13.3%
CCBs	1,446 (23.1%)	5,926 (19.3%)	+13.1%
β-blockers	1,826 (29.1%)	7,123 (23.2%)	+20.5%
Diuretics	1,902 (30.4%)	7,420 (24.1%)	+20.5%
Thiazide/Thiazide-like	1,104 (17.6%)	5,074 (16.5%)	+6.4%
Loop	871 (13.9%)	2,411 (7.8%)	+43.6%
<b>MRA</b>	239 (3.8%)	738 (2.4%)	+37.1%
Monotherapy	1,067 (17.1%)	4,903 (15.9%)	+6.4%
<b>Combination therapy</b>	2,565 (40.9%)	10,416 (33.9%)	+17.3%

\* MV: Matching variables

**Adjusted odds ratios of Covid-19 infection associated with use of BP-lowering drugs in monotherapy or combination therapy (n=6272 with Covid-19 vs 30759 controls)**

<b>BP-Lowering Drugs</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>		<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>
<b>BP lowering as a whole</b>			
<b>ACEIs</b>	<b>0.96 (0.87 to 1.07)</b>	<b>No use during 2019</b>	<b>1.00 (reference)</b>
<b>ARBs</b>	<b>0.95 (0.86 to 1.05)</b>		
<b>MRA</b>	<b>0.90(0.75 to 1.07)</b>	<b>Use only as monotherapy</b>	<b>1.03 (0.90 to 1.18)</b>
<b>CCBs</b>	<b>1.03(0.95 to 1.12)</b>		
<b>β-blockers</b>	<b>0.99 (0.91 to 1.08)</b>		
<b>Thiazides/Thiazides-like</b>	<b>1.03(0.91 to 1.23)</b>	<b>Use as combination therapy</b>	<b>0.99 (0.90 to 1.09)</b>

**Clinical features of patients with Covid-19 infection (cases/n=6272))  
and corresponding matched controls\* (n=30759)**

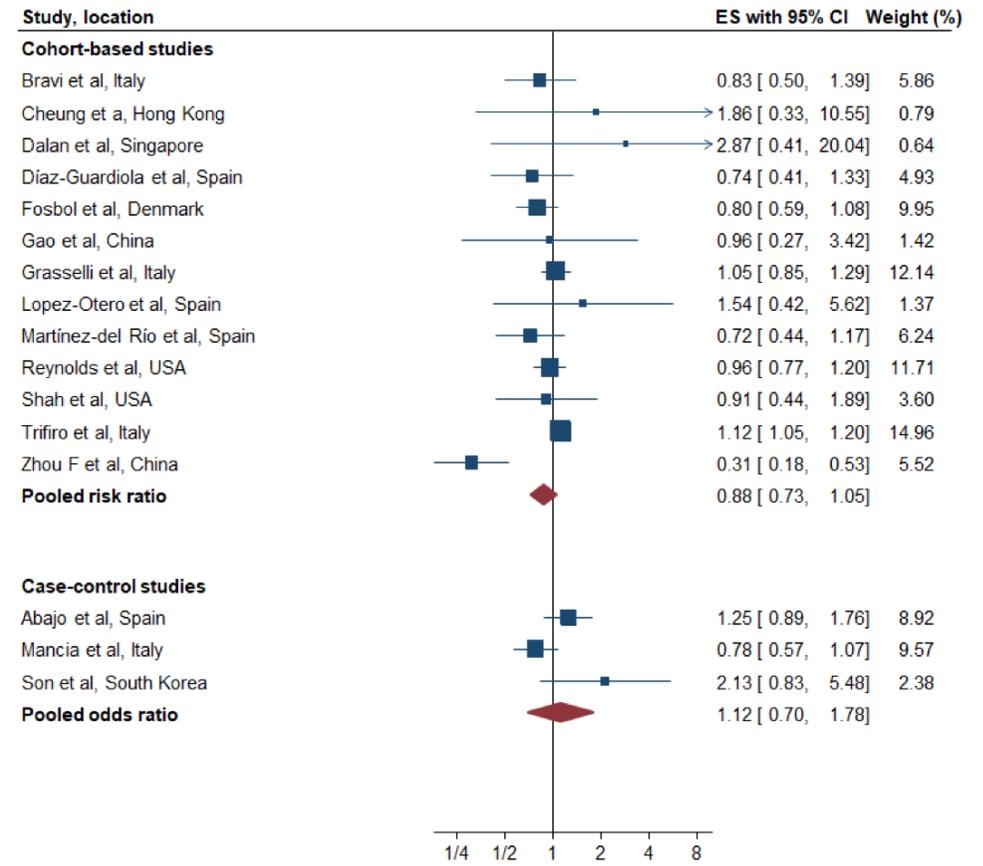
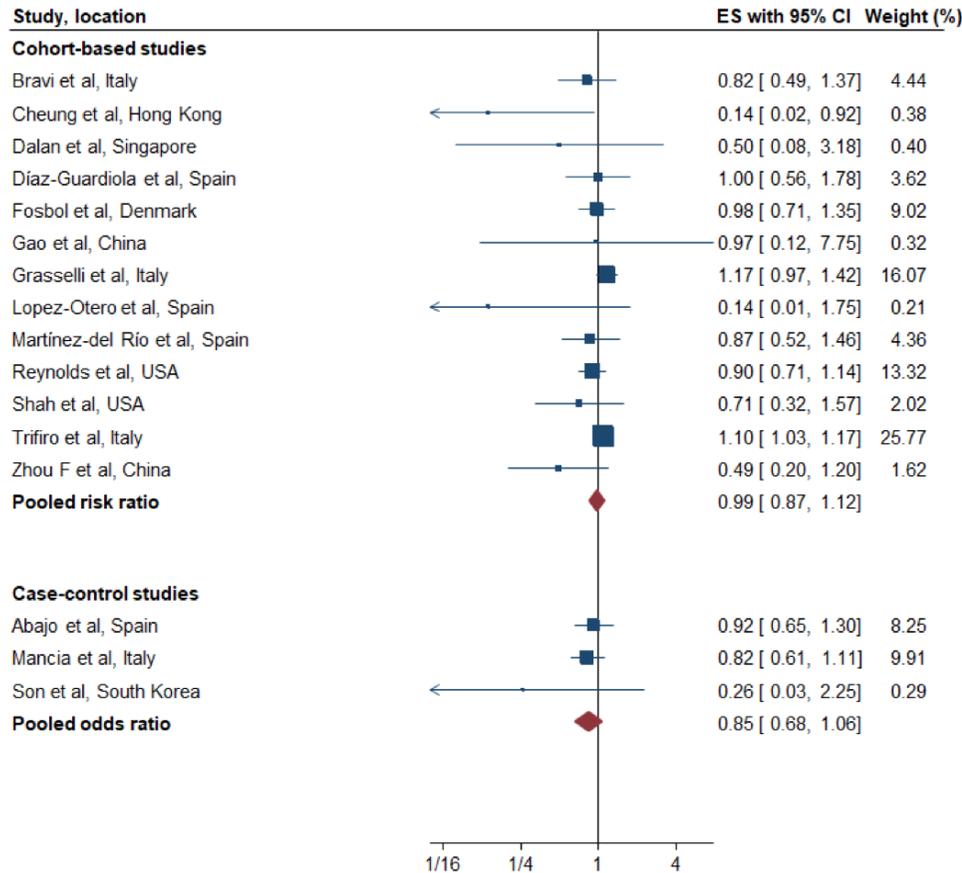
<b>Comorbidities and associated procedures</b>	<b>Relative difference (Cases vs Controls)</b>	<b>Chronic Comorb. Score</b>	<b>Relative difference (Cases vs Controls)</b>	<b>Adjusted OR</b>
<b>Cardiovascular disease</b>	<b>+28.0%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>-25.8%</b>	<b>1.00 (Reference)</b>
Coronary artery disease	+34.6%			
Percutaneous coronary intervention	+31.3%	<b>1</b>	<b>-7.2%</b>	<b>1.19 (1.09 to 1.31)</b>
Heart failure	+52.1%	<b>2</b>	<b>+11.4%</b>	<b>1.38 (1.23 to 1.54)</b>
<b>Respiratory diseases</b>	<b>+46.3%</b>			
COPD	+53.1%	<b>3</b>	<b>+25.9%</b>	<b>1.55 (1.34 to 1.78)</b>
Asthma	+60.4%			
<b>Kidney disease</b>	<b>+26.8%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+38.2%</b>	<b>1.57 (1.34 to 1.84)</b>
Chronic kidney disease	+55.8%			
Dialysis	+77.6%			
<b>Cancer</b>	<b>+13.3%</b>			

\* Cases diagnosed from February 21 to March 11 2020

# Forest plot of the association between ACEI or ARB treatment and all-cause mortality/severe disease in 87951 patients hospitalized with COVID-19 infection

## ACEI

## ARB

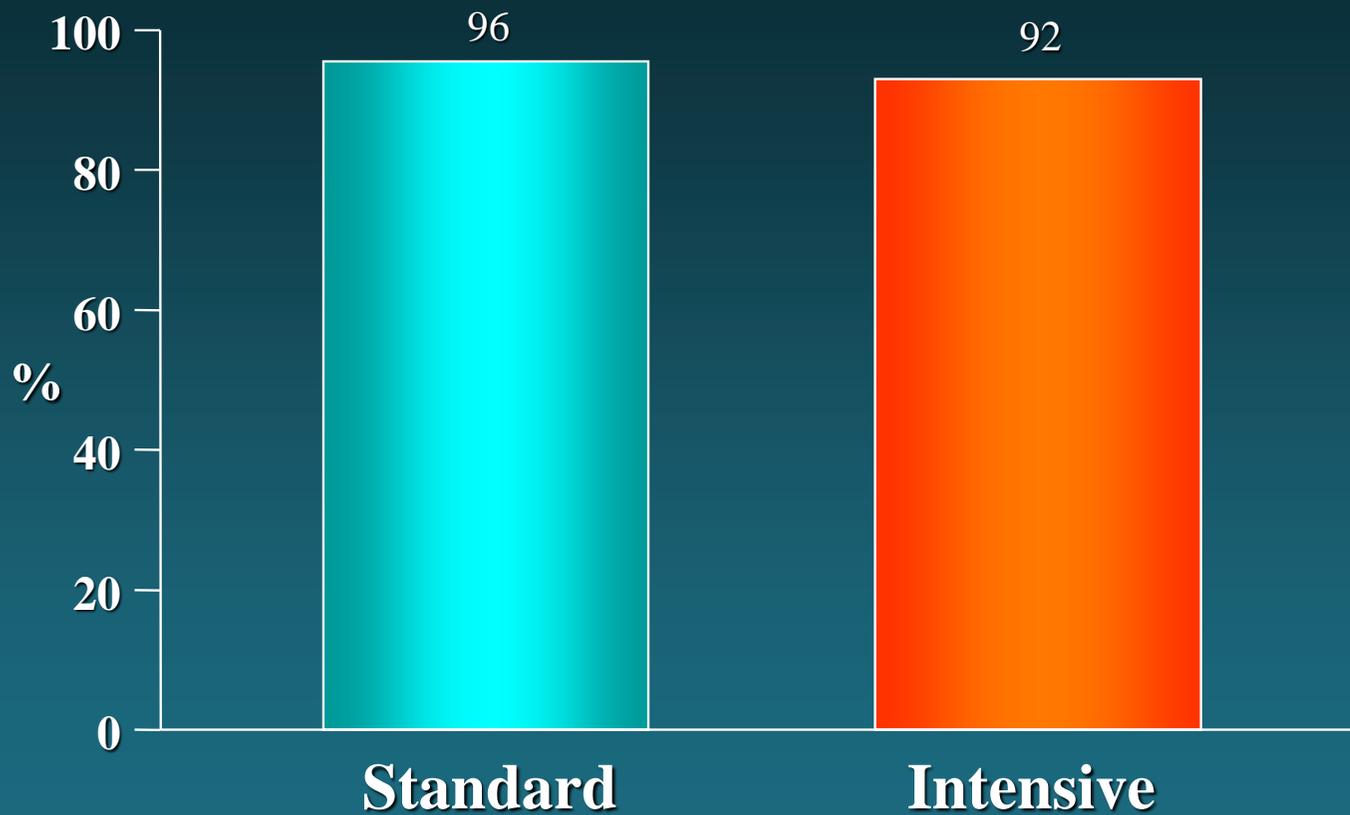


**Adjusted odds ratios of Covid-19 infection associated with use of BP-lowering drugs in monotherapy or combination therapy (n=6272 with Covid-19 vs 30759 controls)**

<b>BP-Lowering Drugs</b>	<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>		<b>Odds Ratio (95% CI)</b>
<b>BP lowering as a whole</b>		<b>No use during 2019</b>	<b>1.00 (reference)</b>
ACEIs	0.96 (0.87 to 1.07)	<b>Use only as monotherapy</b>	<b>1.03 (0.90 to 1.18)</b>
ARBs	0.95 (0.86 to 1.05)		
MRA	0.90(0.75 to 1.07)	<b>Use as combination therapy</b>	<b>0.99 (0.90 to 1.09)</b>
<b>CCBs</b>	<b>1.03(0.95 to 1.12)</b>		
<b>β-blockers</b>	<b>0.99 (0.91 to 1.08)</b>		
<b>Thiazides/Thiazides-like</b>	<b>1.03(0.91 to 1.23)</b>		



**In SPRINT pts were at high CV risk and initial BP was in the high normal range but virtually all of them were treated at baseline**



## Sensitivity to detect treatment-induced changes, reproducibility and operator independence, time to changes, and prognostic value of changes provided by markers of HMOD

Marker of HMOD	Sensitivity to changes	Reproducibility and operator independence	Time to changes	Prognostic value of the change
LVH by ECG	Low	High	Moderate (> 6 months)	Yes
LVH by echocardiogram	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate (> 6 months)	Yes
LVH by CMR	High	High	Moderate (> 6 months)	No data
eGFR	Moderate	High	Very slow (years)	Yes
Urinary albumin excretion	High	Moderate	Fast (weeks to months)	Moderate
Carotid IMT	Very low	Low	Slow (> 12 months)	No
PWV	High	Low	Fast (weeks to months)	Limited data
Ankle-brachial index	Low	Moderate	Slow (> 12 months)	Moderate

## Office BP treatment target ranges

Age group	Office SBP treatment target ranges (mmHg)					Diastolic treatment target range (mmHg)
	Hypertension	+ Diabetes	+ CKD	+ CAD	+ Stroke/TIA	
18–65 years	<b>Target to 130</b> <i>or lower if tolerated</i> Not < 120	<b>Target to 130</b> <i>or lower if tolerated</i> Not < 120	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to 130</b> <i>or lower if tolerated</i> Not < 120	<b>Target to 130</b> <i>or lower if tolerated</i> Not < 120	< 80 to 70
65–79 years	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	< 80 to 70
≥ 80 years	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	<b>Target to &lt; 140 to 130</b> <i>if tolerated</i>	< 80 to 70
<b>Diastolic treatment target range (mmHg)</b>	< 80 to 70	< 80 to 70	< 80 to 70	< 80 to 70	< 80 to 70	

# How to explain the threshold and target BP gap in EU GLs?

- In US GLs Threshold/Target BP for drug treatment almost entirely coincide:  $\geq 130/80$  VS  $< 130/80$  mmHg
- In EU GLs Threshold higher in most cases than Target BP:  $\geq 140/90$  vs  $< 140/80$  or  $< 130/80$  mmHg

# How to explain the threshold and target BP gap in EU GLs?

- In US GLs Threshold/Target BP for drug treatment almost entirely coincide:  $>- 130/80$  VS  $<130/80$ mmHg
- In EU GLs Threshold higher in most cases than Target BP:  $>- 140/90$  vs  $<140/80$  or  $<130/80$ mmHg
- In EU GLs threshold BP values strictly based on recruitment BP criteria in untreated pts
- In US GLs probable use of baseline BP data  $<140/90$ mmHg even if pts were already under treatment

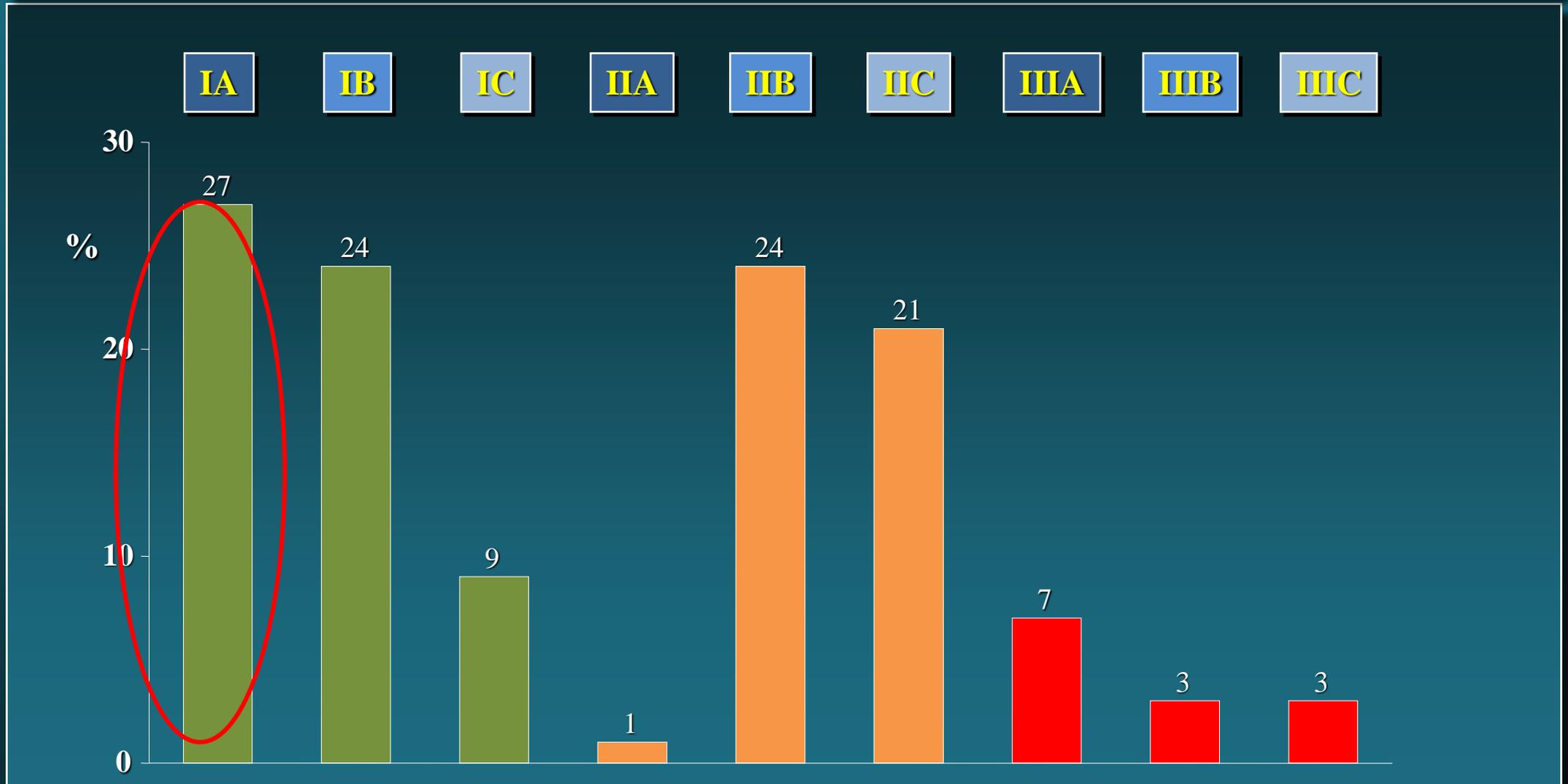
## Preferred treatment strategies in US and EU GLs

- **Combination treatment in most pts (both)**
- **Initial dual combination in most pts (both)**
- **Preferred triple therapy and additional drugs in RH similar**
- **In EU GLs more emphasis on**
  - SPC
  - RAS blocker with CCB or D (uncomplicated HT)
  - Other combinations mentioned for specific conditions

## Differences between ACC/AHA guidelines

- **Classification of BP values**
- **Use of out-of-office BP**
- **Assessment of asymptomatic organ damage**
- **BP threshold for drug treatment**
- **BP target for drug treatment**
- **Major drug classes (first choice)**
- **Preferred treatment strategies**
- **Follow-up**

## Distribution of Combined Class / Level of Evidence in ESH/ESC Guidelines

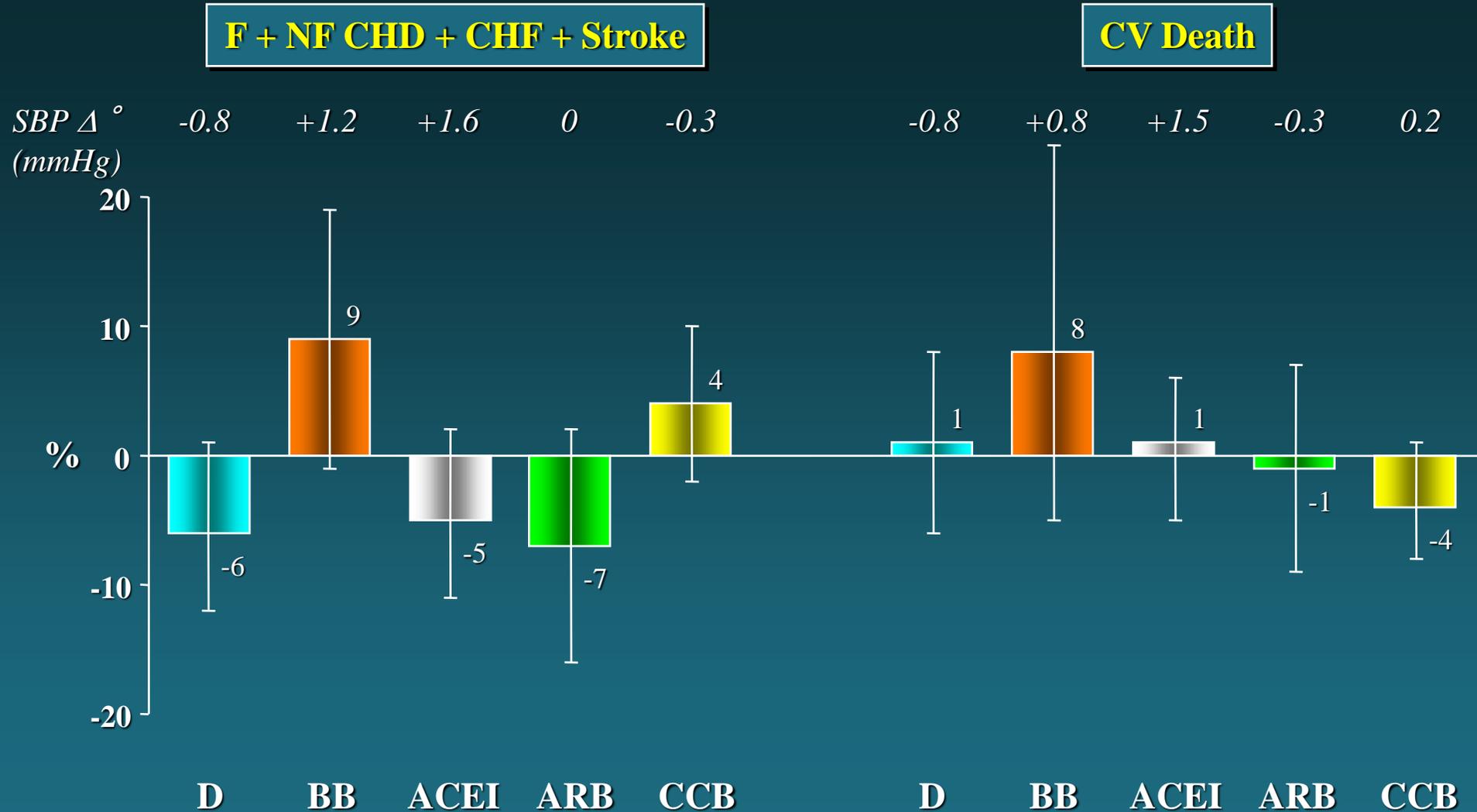




## BBs are the Preferred Drugs in a large number of conditions

- Previous MI
- Angina pectoris
- Supraventricular tachyarrhythmias
  - Tachycardia
  - Permanent AF
  - Recurrent AF
- Ventricular arrhythmias
- Glaucoma
- Pregnancy
- Congestive heart failure
- Acute coronary syndrome
- Thyrotoxicosis
- Hyperkinetic syndrome
- Migraine
- Essential tremor
- Perioperative hypertension
- Excessive pressor response to exercise (and stress)
- Orthostatic hypertension
- Aortic aneurysm
- After CABG

## Risk of CV Morbidity and Mortality in RCTs Comparing One Antihypertensive Drugs Class vs Others



° Sign “-” means lower SBP in antihypertensive drug compared with others

## Office BP Target(mmHg) for treatment in GLs

- **European GLs\*:**

- **< 140/80 (<130/80 only if treatment well tolerated)**

- **Older pts/CKD <140/80 & never <130/70**

- **ISH GLs\*:** <130/80 but <140/90 acceptable

- **ACC/AHA GLs:** < 130/80 in virtually all pts

- **European GLs: Never <120/70( J curve)**

\* target individualized in frail pts

**Standardized effects of 10mmHg SBP fall by beta-blockers  
vs other antihypertensive drugs ( 123 trials/n=613815)**

**OUTCOME**

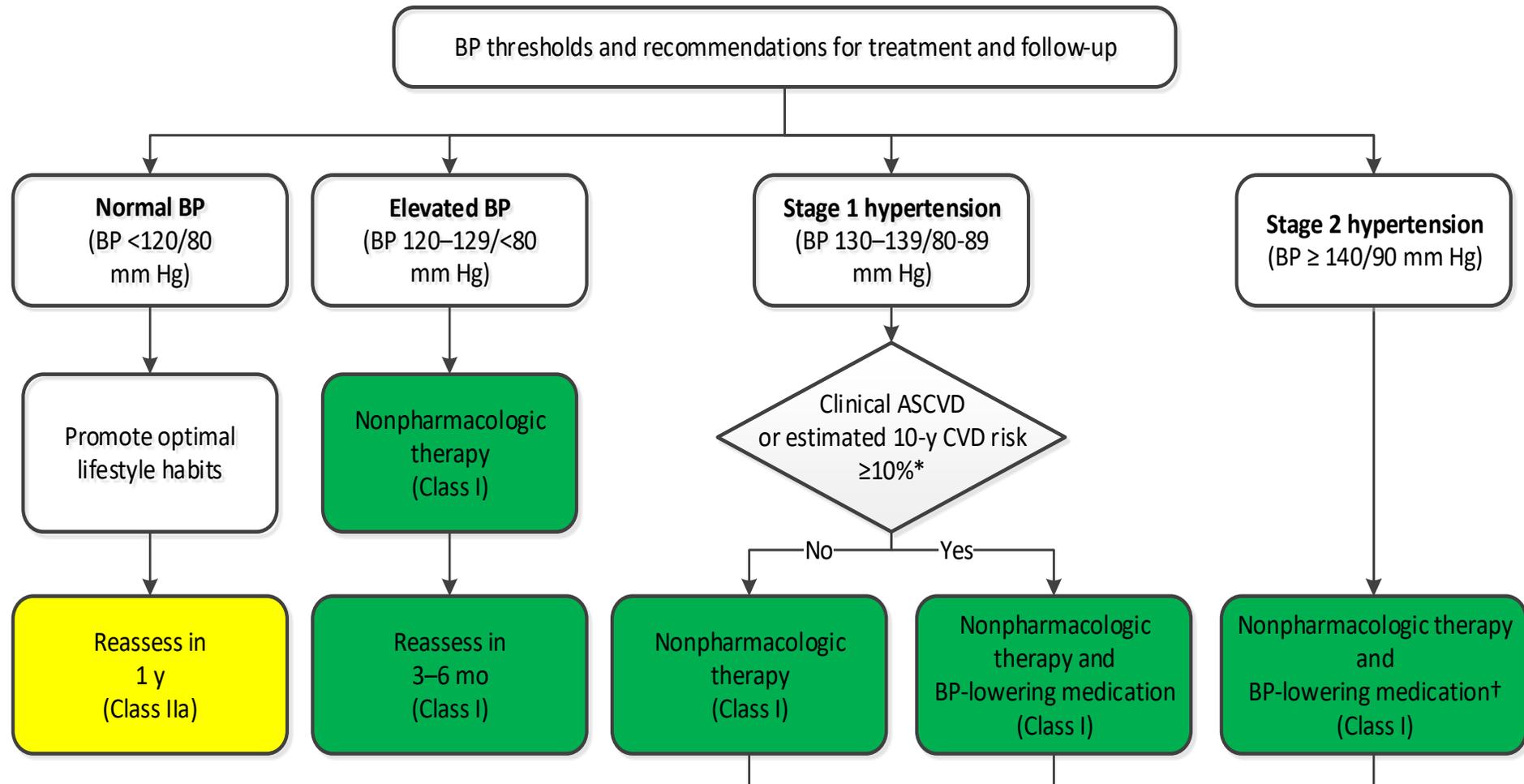
**RISK (%)**

<b>CV events</b>	<b>+17*</b>
<b>Coronary disease</b>	<b>+3 (ns)</b>
<b>Heart Failure</b>	<b>+4 (ns)</b>
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>+24*</b>
<b>All Cause Mortality</b>	<b>+6*</b>

**\* Statistically significant**



# Blood Pressure (BP) Thresholds and Recommendations for Treatment and Follow-Up (continued on next slide)



## **BP classification/2017 ACC-AHA GLs modifications**

- **BP >- 140/90mmHg (grade 2-3 HT): grade 2 HT ( grade 3 eliminated)**

**UNNECESSARY**

- **BP 120-129/80-84mmHg (normal): now «elevated»**  
**PARADOXICAL/POTENTIALLY HARMFUL**

- **BP 130-139/85-89mmHg(high normal): now «grade 1 HT»**

**NEGATIVE BUT ALSO POSITIVE ASPECTS**

## Major changes in the 2017 ACC/AHA GLs

- **Grade 2 HT from 140mmHg SBP above(Grade 3 HT eliminated)**
- **High normal BP (130-139mmHg SBP) becomes Grade 1 HT**
- **Normal BP (120-129mmHg SBP) becomes BP elevation**

## **BP threshold for drug treatment in 2017 ACC/AHA GLs**

- **Threshold >- 130/80mmHg in virtually all hypertensive patients, including old and very old (octogenarians) individuals**
- **Exception: No treatment if BP is high normal (130-139/85/89mmHg) and 10 year CV risk <10 %**
- **Just because of age old patients with a high normal BP usually have a 10year CV risk >10%**

**Distribution of class / level of evidence \***  
**in 2018 ESC/ESH Guidelines recommendations (n = 135)**



\* Subclasses IIa/b combined

## **Out-of-office BP in the 2017 ACC/AHA GLs**

- **Out-of office BP measurements are recommended for**
  - Diagnosis of hypertension**
  - Titration of BP-lowering interventions**
- **Some preference to Home vs Ambulatory BP**

## BP measurements

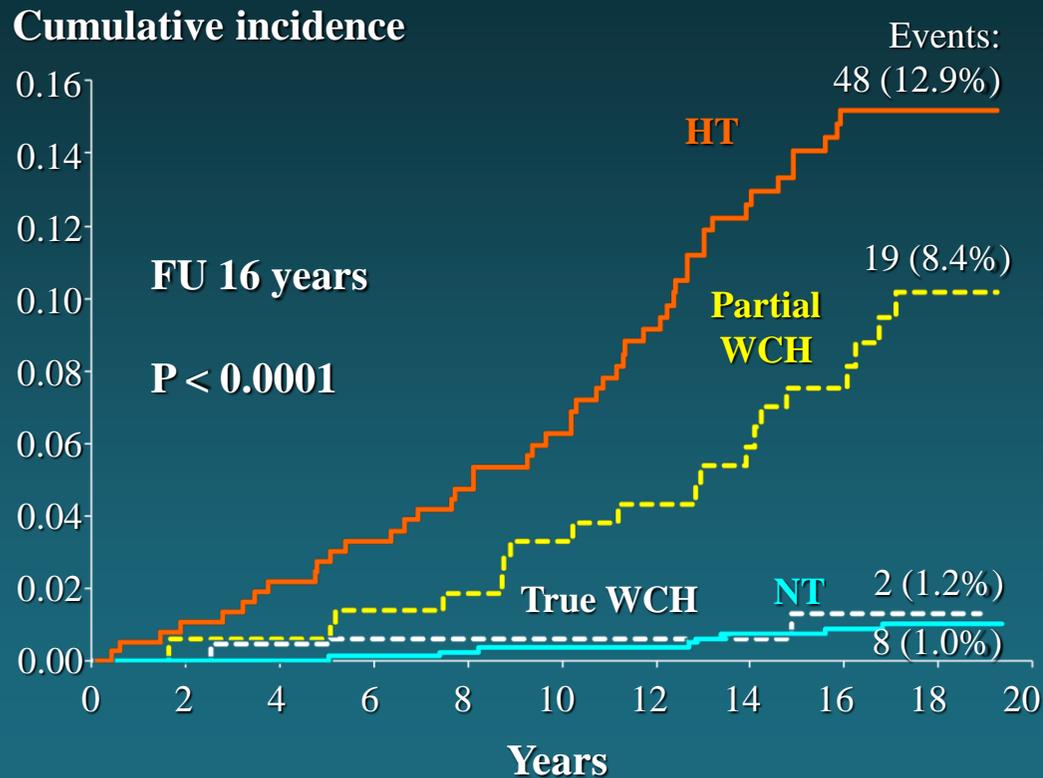
« In general, ABPM and HBPM should be regarded as complementary rather than absolute alternatives»

## **BP threshold for drug treatment in 2017 ACC/AHA GLs**

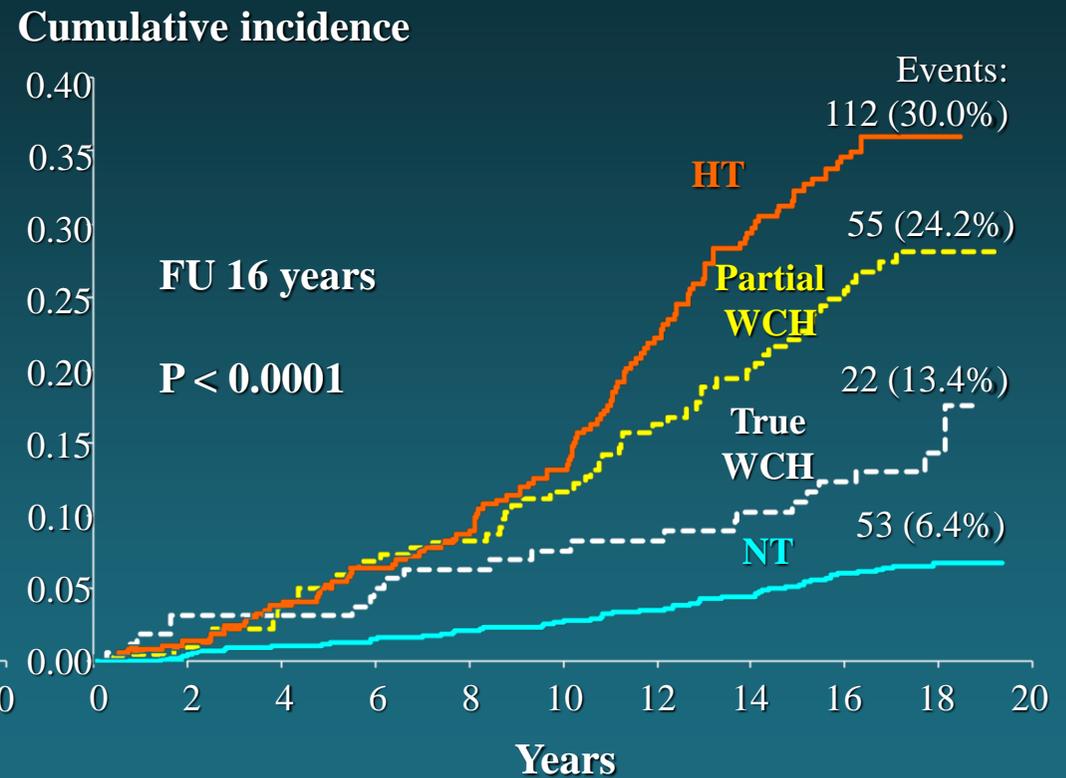
- **Threshold >- 130/80mmHg in all hypertensive patients, including old and very old (octogenarians) patients**
- **In patients with high normal BP and 10 year CV risk <10 %: threshold >-140/90mmHg**

# CV and All Cause Mortality in WCH Diagnosed by Normality of One (Partial WCH) or Both 24h and Home BP (True WCH)

**CV mortality**



**All cause mortality**



## Home(H)/Ambulatory(A) BP. Major limitations

- **Advantage of HBP/ABP-guided T never tested**
- **Optimal HBP/ABP targets never established**
- Evidence on long-term prognostic superiority of ABP/HBP over office BP limited by:
  - Single set of ABP/HBP data
  - Adjustment approach
  - No verification of office BP quality
- **How much addition of HBP/ABP to office BP improves outcome prediction is unknown**

# BP Thresholds for and Goals of Pharmacological Therapy in Patients With Hypertension According to Clinical Conditions

Clinical Condition(s)	BP Threshold, mm Hg	BP Goal, mm Hg
<b>General</b>		
Clinical CVD or 10-year ASCVD risk $\geq 10\%$	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
No clinical CVD and 10-year ASCVD risk $< 10\%$	$\geq 140/90$	$< 130/80$
Older persons ( $\geq 65$ years of age; noninstitutionalized, ambulatory, community-living adults)	$\geq 130$ (SBP)	$< 130$ (SBP)
<b>Specific comorbidities</b>		
Diabetes mellitus	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Chronic kidney disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Chronic kidney disease after renal transplantation	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Heart failure	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Stable ischemic heart disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Secondary stroke prevention	$\geq 140/90$	$< 130/80$
Secondary stroke prevention (lacunar)	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$
Peripheral arterial disease	$\geq 130/80$	$< 130/80$

ASCVD indicates atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; BP, blood pressure; CVD, cardiovascular disease; and SBP, systolic blood pressure.

## Drug treatment at high normal or grade 1 HT

- **ESC/ESH GLs: Only in the setting of secondary prevention**
- **ACC/AHA GLs: When CV risk is greater than 10% (Framingham)**

**All cause mortality in WCH diagnosed by normality of both 24h home BP or of only one of these two BPs**

