



# Il management dell'ipertensione arteriosa nel paziente anziano

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Il sottoscritto

ai sensi dell'art. 76, comma 4 dell'Accordo Stato-Regioni del 2 febbraio 2017 e del paragrafo 4.5. del Manuale nazionale di accreditamento per l'erogazione di eventi ECM

dichiara che

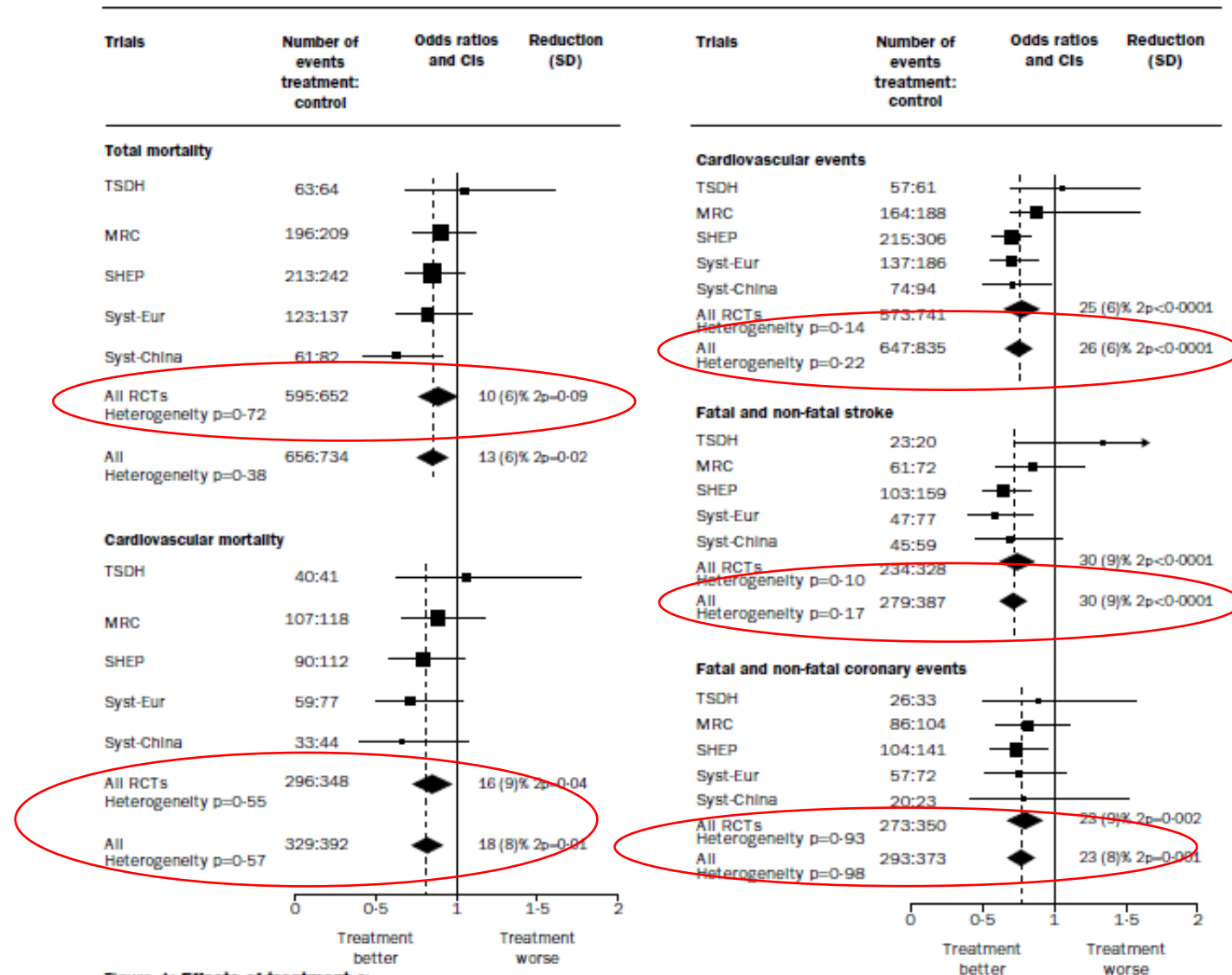
negli ultimi due anni ha avuto rapporti con i seguenti soggetti portatori di interessi commerciali in ambito sanitario:

- Berlin Chemie Menarini
- Recordati

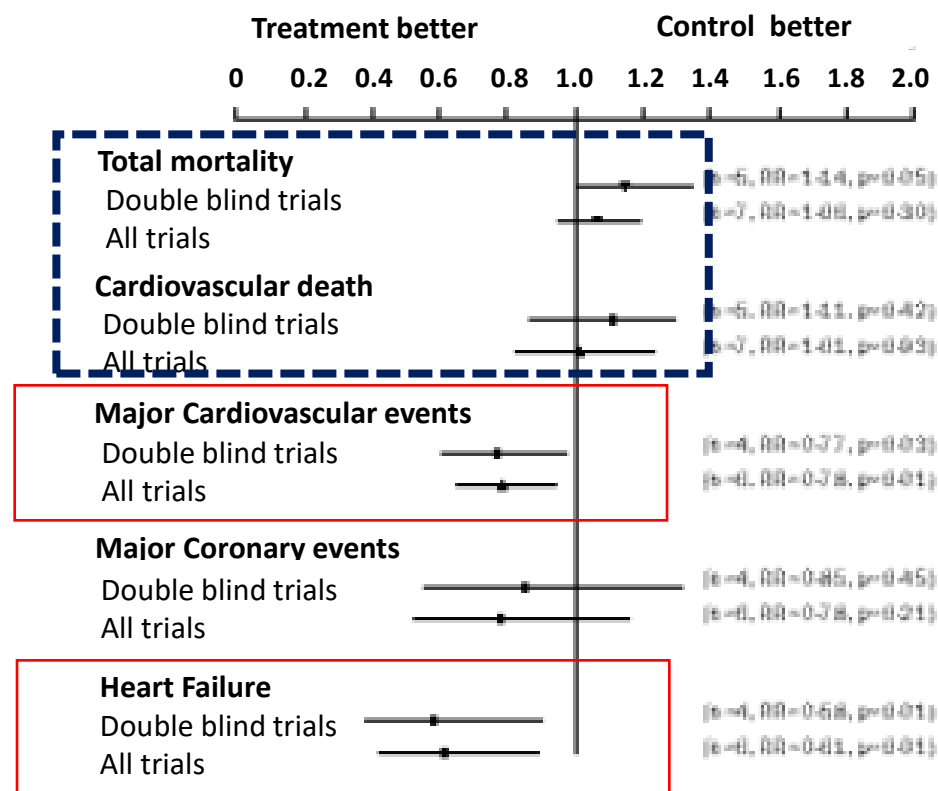
**Ridurre la PA nell'anziano iperteso porta benefici:  
effetto su mortalità e morbidità CV**

# Effetto della terapia antiipertensiva nell'anziano (>60 anni)

## PAS > 160 mmHg; PAD < 95 mmHg



# Effetto della terapia antiipertensiva nel grande anziano (>80 anni)



# Treatment of hypertension in patients 80 yrs of age or older: The HYVET study

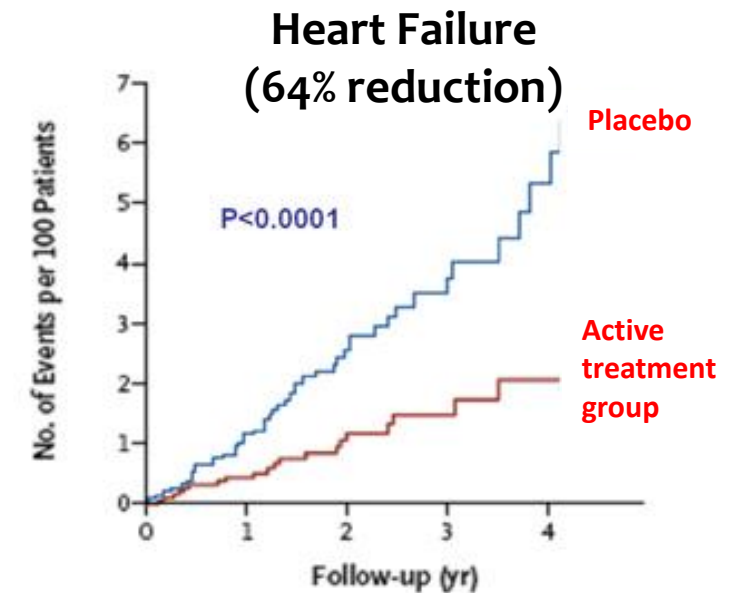
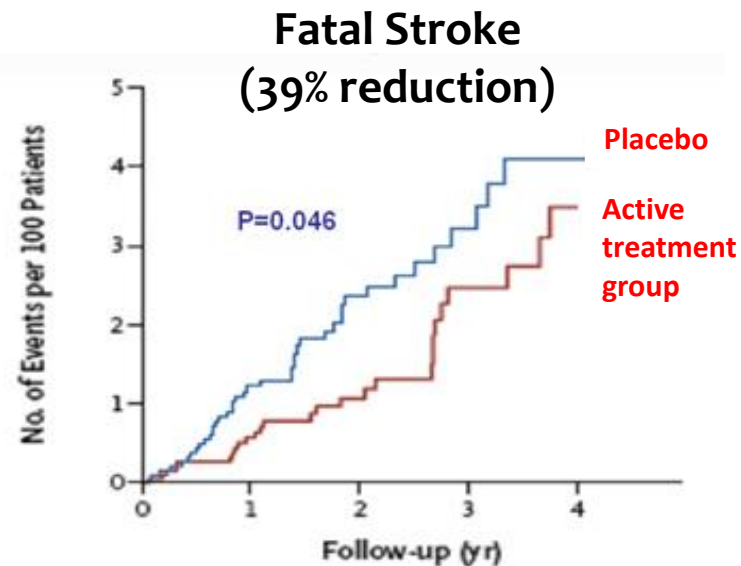
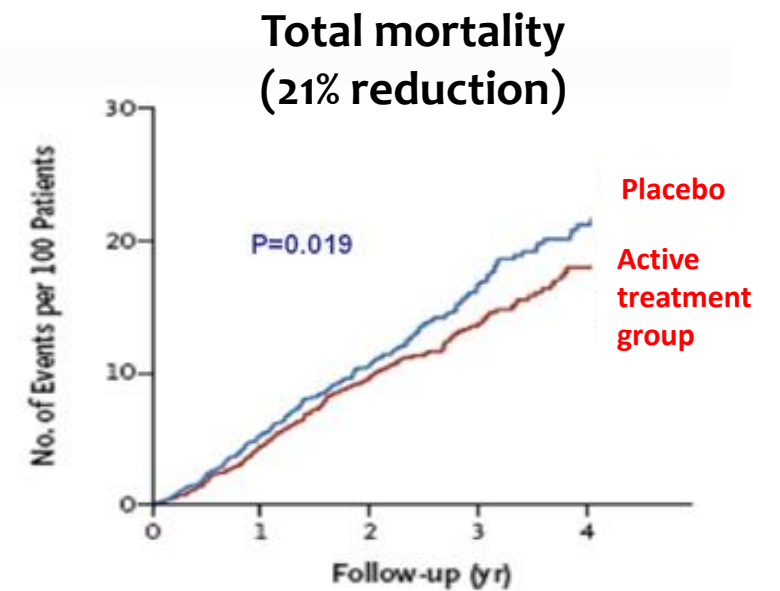
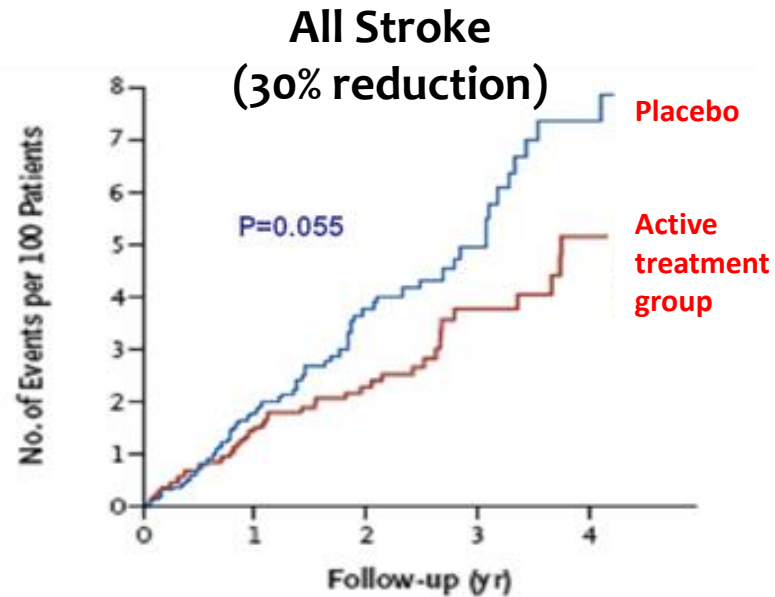
The NEW ENGLAND  
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

MAY 1, 2008

VOL. 358 NO. 18

Initial BP: 161/84 mmHg  
Final BP: 144/78 mmHg



Original Investigation

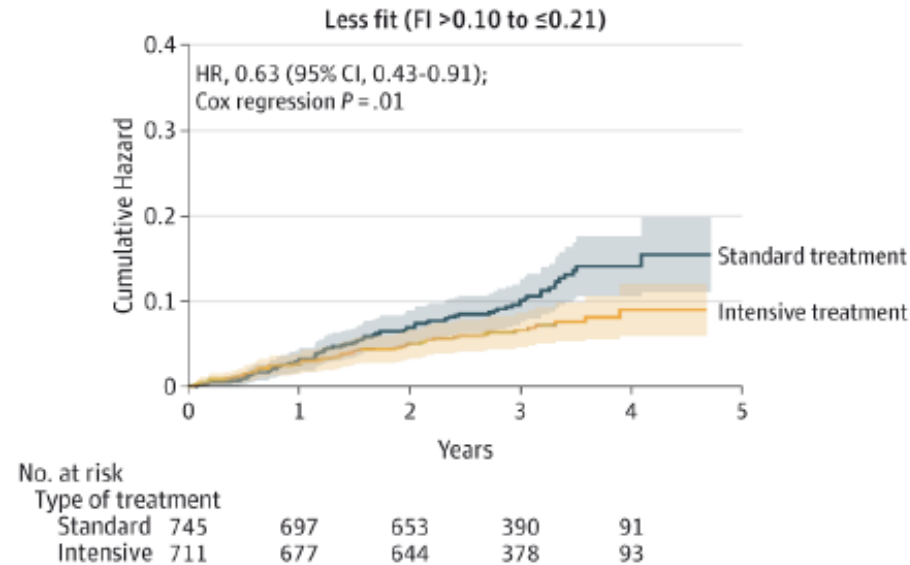
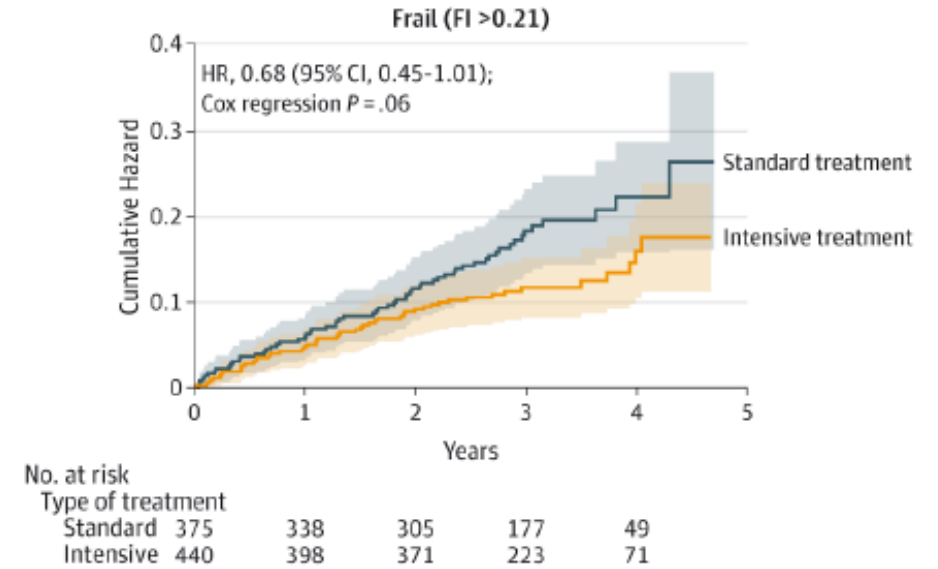
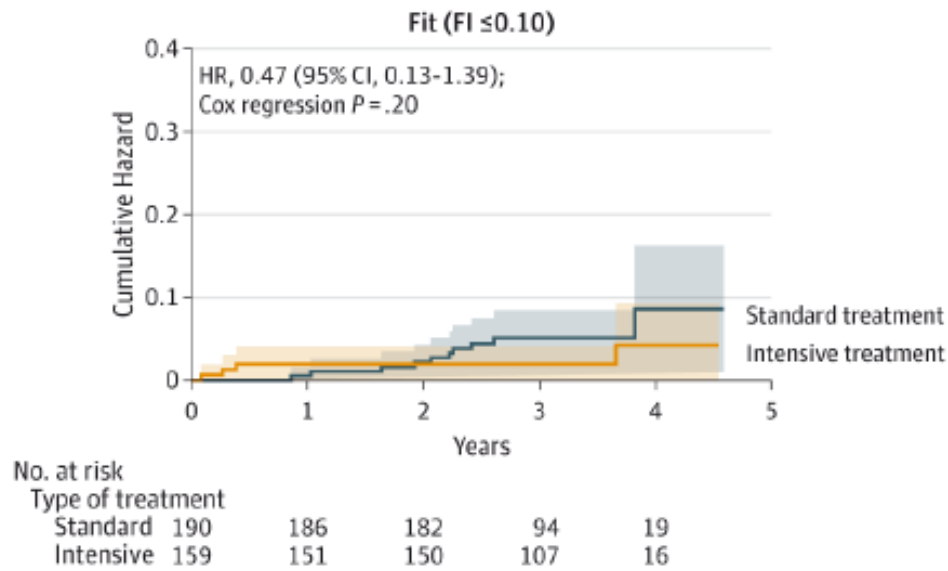
# Intensive vs Standard Blood Pressure Control and Cardiovascular Disease Outcomes in Adults Aged $\geq 75$ Years

## A Randomized Clinical Trial

Jeff D. Williamson, MD, MHS; Mark A. Supiano, MD; William B. Applegate, MD, MPH; Dan R. Berlowitz, MD; Ruth C. Campbell, MD, MSPH; Glenn M. Chertow, MD; Larry J. Fine, MD; William E. Haley, MD; Amret T. Hawfield, MD; Joachim H. Ix, MD, MAS; Dalane W. Kitzman, MD; John B. Kostis, MD; Marie A. Krousel-Wood, MD; Lenore J. Launer, PhD; Suzanne Oparil, MD; Carlos J. Rodriguez, MD, MPH; Christianne L. Roumie, MD, MPH; Ronald I. Shorr, MD, MS; Kaycee M. Sink, MD, MAS; Virginia G. Wadley, PhD; Paul K. Whelton, MD; Jeffrey Whittle, MD; Nancy F. Woolard; Jackson T. Wright Jr, MD, PhD; Nicholas M. Pajewski, PhD; for the SPRINT Research Group

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE** Among ambulatory adults aged 75 years or older, treating to an SBP target of less than 120 mm Hg compared with an SBP target of less than 140 mm Hg resulted in significantly lower rates of fatal and nonfatal major cardiovascular events and death from any cause.

# SPRINT trial





## Trial of Intensive Blood-Pressure Control in Older Patients with Hypertension

- Multicenter, randomized, controlled trial: Chinese patients 60-80 yrs
- Mean **age 66.2** [4.8] years with hypertension
- SBP target of 110 to less than 130 mm Hg (**intensive treatment**) or
- SBP target of 130 to less than 150 mm Hg (**standard treatment**).
- Intensive treatment resulted in a **lower incidence of CV events**.
- **Beneficial effects of intensive treatment NOT CONFIRMED in those aged 70-80 yrs, in women and in those with diabetes**

# Clinical Trials vs Real World

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## (Some) exclusion criteria from clinical trials

### **HYVET**

- Heart failure requiring treatment
- Serum creatinine >1.7 mg/dl
- Dementia
- Requirement of nursing care
- SBP < 160 mmHg

*Beckett NS et al, NEJM 2008*

### **SPRINT**

- Symptomatic heart failure
- 1' SBP < 110 mm Hg
- Diabetes
- eGFR < 20 ml/min or ESRD
- Survival less than 3 years
- Nursing home residents
- Dementia
- Unintentional weight loss >10% in last 6 months

*Wright JT et al, NEJM 2015*

### **STEP**

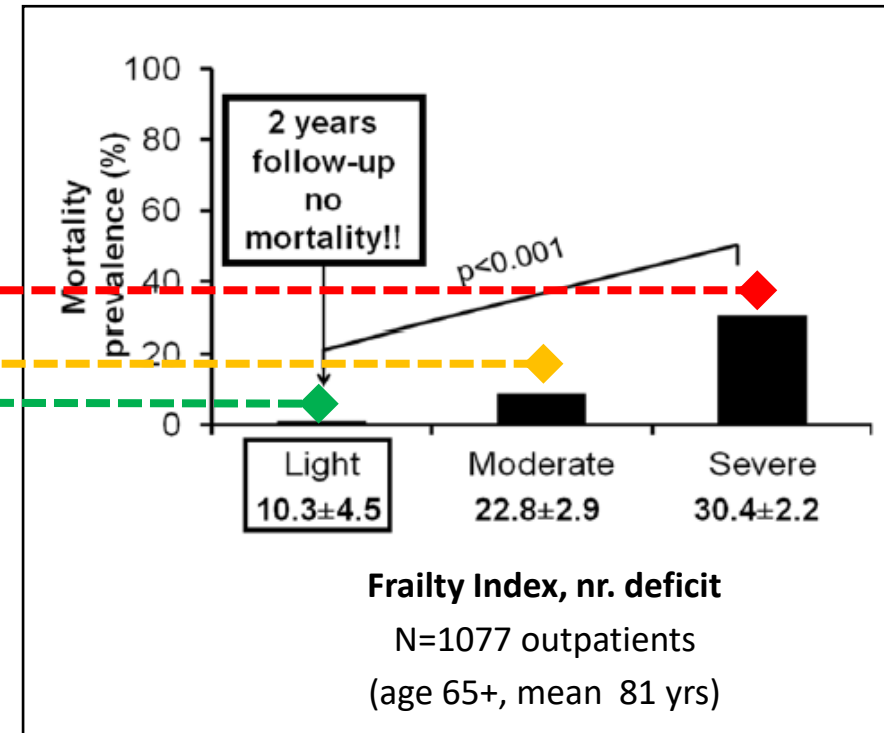
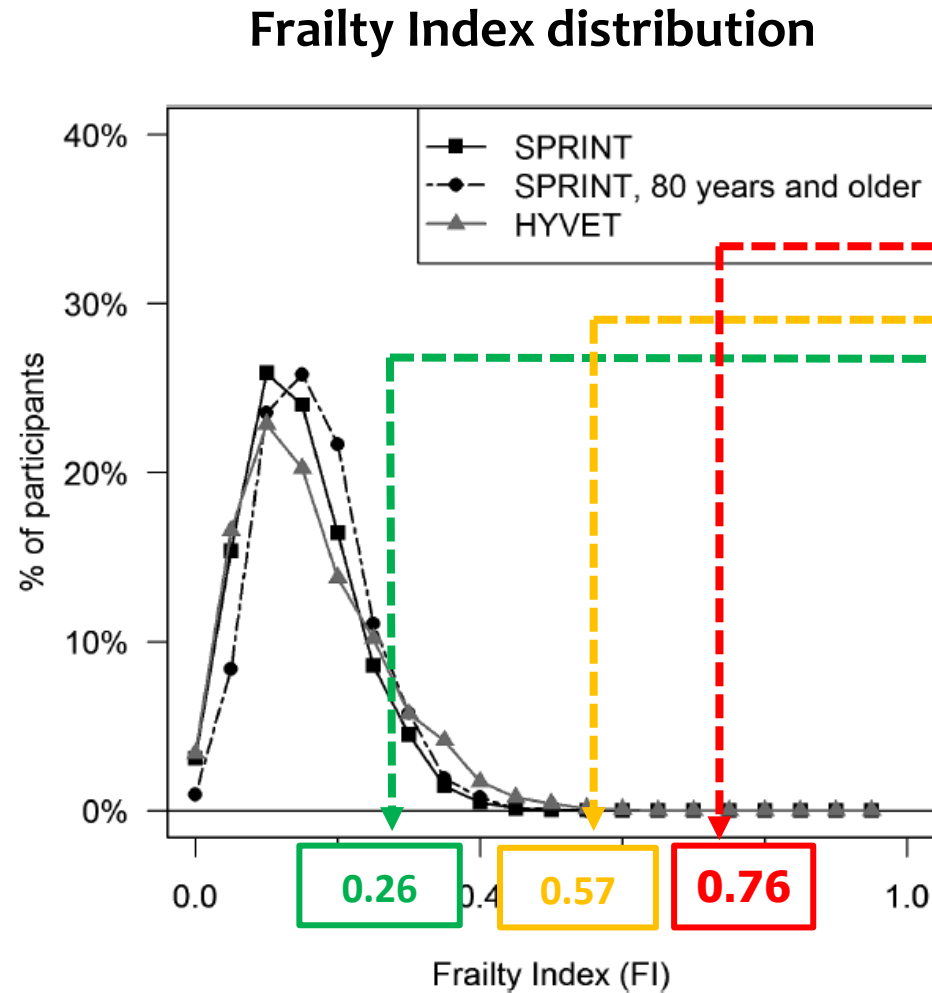
- Previous stroke
- Recent MI or decompensated Heart Failure
- Atrial fibrillation
- Valvular disease
- Dilated or hypertrophic cardiomyopathy
- Severe cognitive impairment
- Uncontrolled Diabetes

*Zhang W et al. NEJM 2021*

# Baseline Characteristics of Participants Aged 75 Years or Older: SPRINT trial

|  | Intensive Treatment<br>(n = 1317) | Standard Treatment<br>(n = 1319) |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gait speed                               |                                   |                                  |
| Median (IQR), m/s                        | 0.90 (0.77-1.05)                  | 0.92 (0.77-1.06)                 |
| Speed <0.8 m/s, No. (%)                  | 371 (28.2)                        | 369 (28.0)                       |
| Frailty index, median (IQR) <sup>c</sup> | 0.18 (0.13-0.23)                  | 0.17 (0.12-0.22)                 |
| Frailty status, No. (%)                  |                                   |                                  |
| Fit (frailty index ≤0.10)                | 159 (12.1)                        | 190 (14.4)                       |
| Less fit (frailty index >0.10 to ≤0.21)  | 711 (54.0)                        | 745 (56.5)                       |
| Frail (frailty index >0.21)              | 440 (33.4)                        | 375 (28.4)                       |

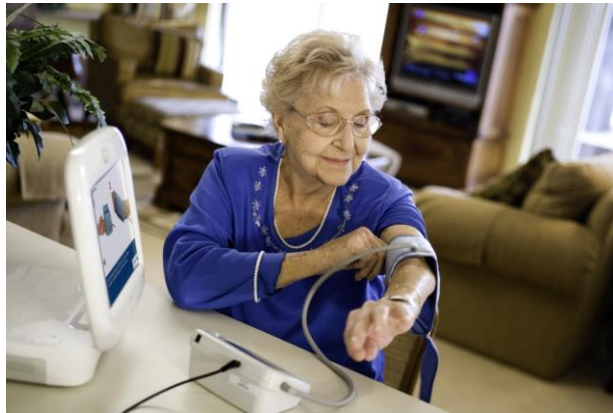
## Degrees of FI associated with mortality rate



# A Randomized Trial of Intensive versus Standard Blood-Pressure Control

The SPRINT Research Group\*

Goals of antihypertensive treatment in the frail.



SPRINT study (as well as HYVET and STEP) are not applicable to frail pts

**Cosa dicono le LG?**



2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of  
arterial hypertension  
*The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension  
of the European Society of Hypertension*

“The present guidelines strongly support the concept that **age should be no barrier to antihypertensive drug treatment ...**

*Soglie di trattamento*

In patients **18 to 79 years**, the recommended office threshold for initiation of drug treatment is 140 mmHg for SBP and/or 90 mmHg for DBP (IA)

*Target di trattamento*

The primary goal of treatment is to lower BP to <140/80 mmHg (IA)  
Lowering BP to below 130/80 mmHg can be considered if treatment is well tolerated (IB)

**In patients with ISH**, the primary goal of treatment is to lower SBP in the 140 to 150 mmHg range (IA)



2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of  
arterial hypertension  
*The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension  
of the European Society of Hypertension*

**Patients aged >80 years:** “Evidence on the BP threshold for treatment is much more scant...

### *Soglie di trattamento*

The recommended office SBP threshold for initiation of drug treatment is 160 mmHg (I B)

However, a lower SBP threshold in the range 140 – 160 mmHg may be considered (II C)

### *Target di trattamento*

Office BP should be lowered to a SBP in the 140-150 mmHg range and to a DBP <80mmHg(IA)

However, reduction of office SBP between 130-139 mmHg may be considered if well tolerated, albeit cautiously if DBP is already below 70 mmHg (IIB)

**Reduction of treatment** can be considered in patients aged 80 years or older with a low SBP (< 120 mmHg) or in the presence of severe orthostatic hypotension or a high frailty level (IIIC)





ESC

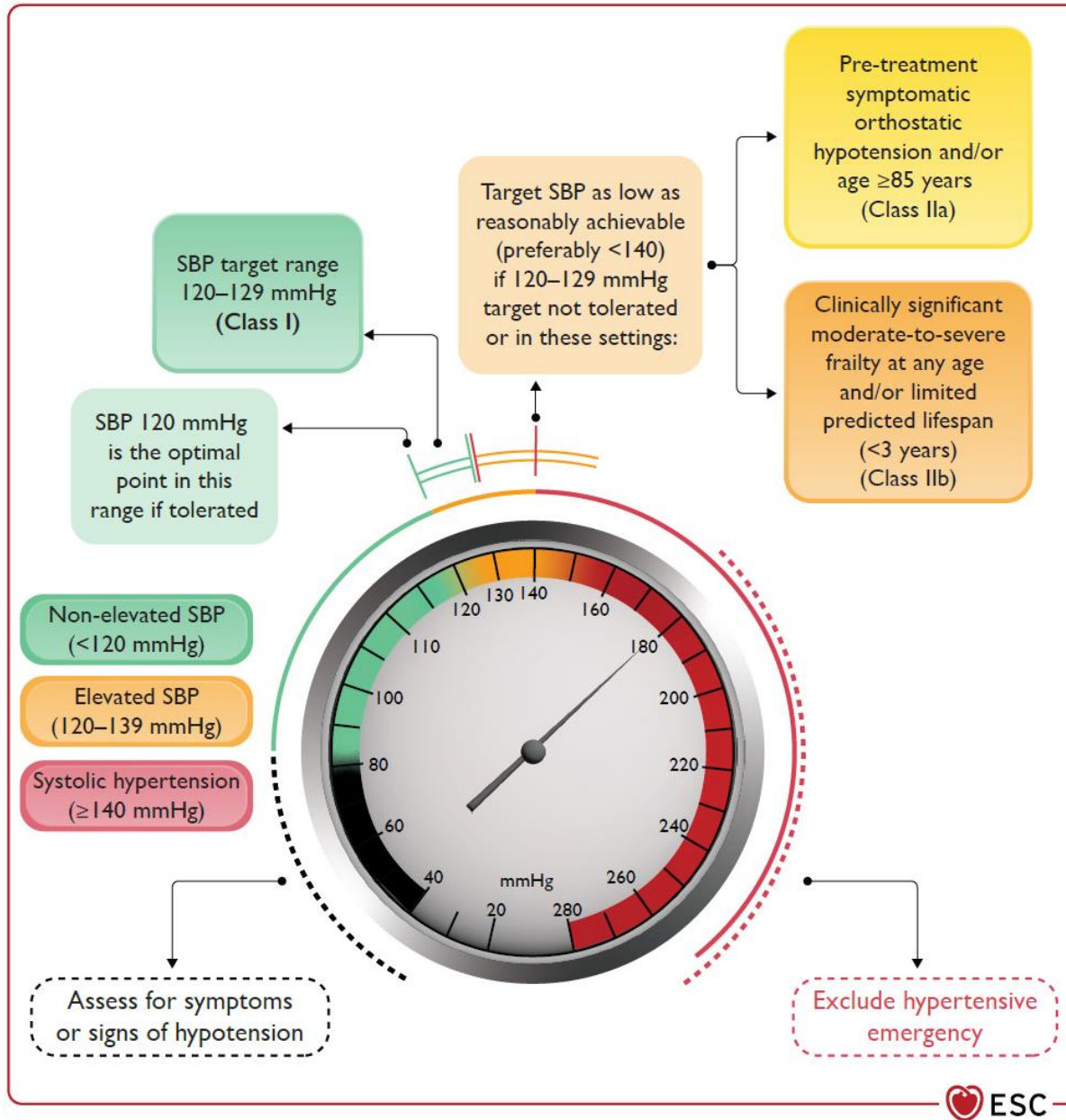
European Society  
of Cardiology

European Heart Journal (2024) 00, 1–107  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehae178>

ESC GUIDELINES

## 2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of elevated blood pressure and hypertension

- **Treatment target is always 120–129/70–79 mmHg**
- (if treatment is tolerated and with certain exceptions)
- **Data supporting this target among adults >85 years are inconclusive.**
  - **Personalized BP-lowering treatment** should be instituted in people aged ≥85 years and/or with significant frailty.





ESC

European Society  
of Cardiology

European Heart Journal (2024) 00, 1–107  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehae178>

ESC GUIDELINES

## 2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of elevated blood pressure and hypertension

### Recommendations for blood pressure targets with treatment

Because the CVD benefit of an on-treatment systolic BP target of 120–129 mmHg may not generalize to the following specific settings, personalized and more lenient BP targets (e.g. <140 mmHg) should be considered among patients meeting the following criteria: pre-treatment symptomatic orthostatic hypotension, and/or age  $\geq 85$  years.<sup>131</sup>

IIa

C

More lenient BP targets  
(e.g. <140/90 mmHg  
mmHg)

Because the CVD benefit of an on-treatment systolic BP target of 120–129 mmHg may not generalize to the following specific settings, personalized and more lenient BP targets (e.g. <140/90 mmHg) may be considered among patients meeting the following criteria: clinically significant moderate-to-severe frailty at any age, and/or limited predicted lifespan (<3 years).

IIb

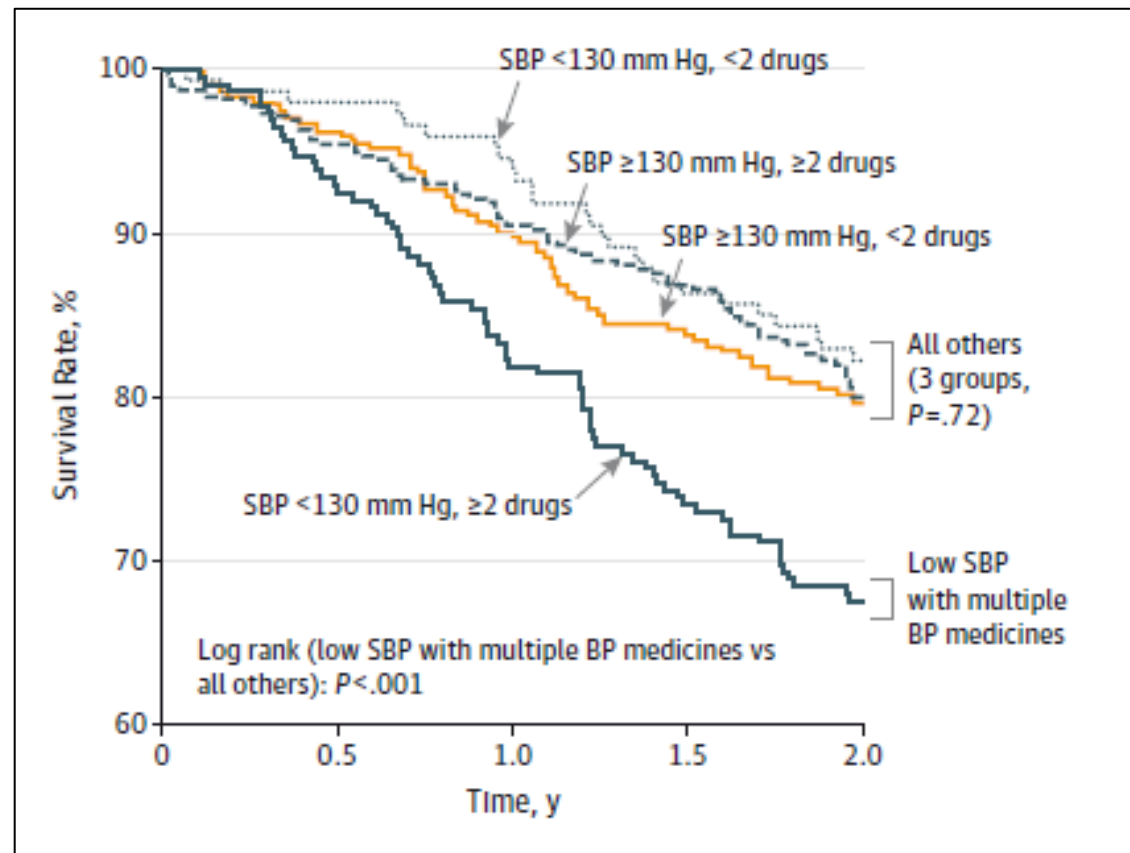
C

- Age  $\geq 85$
- Symptomatic OH
- Moderate-severe frailty
- Life expectancy <3 y

Original Investigation

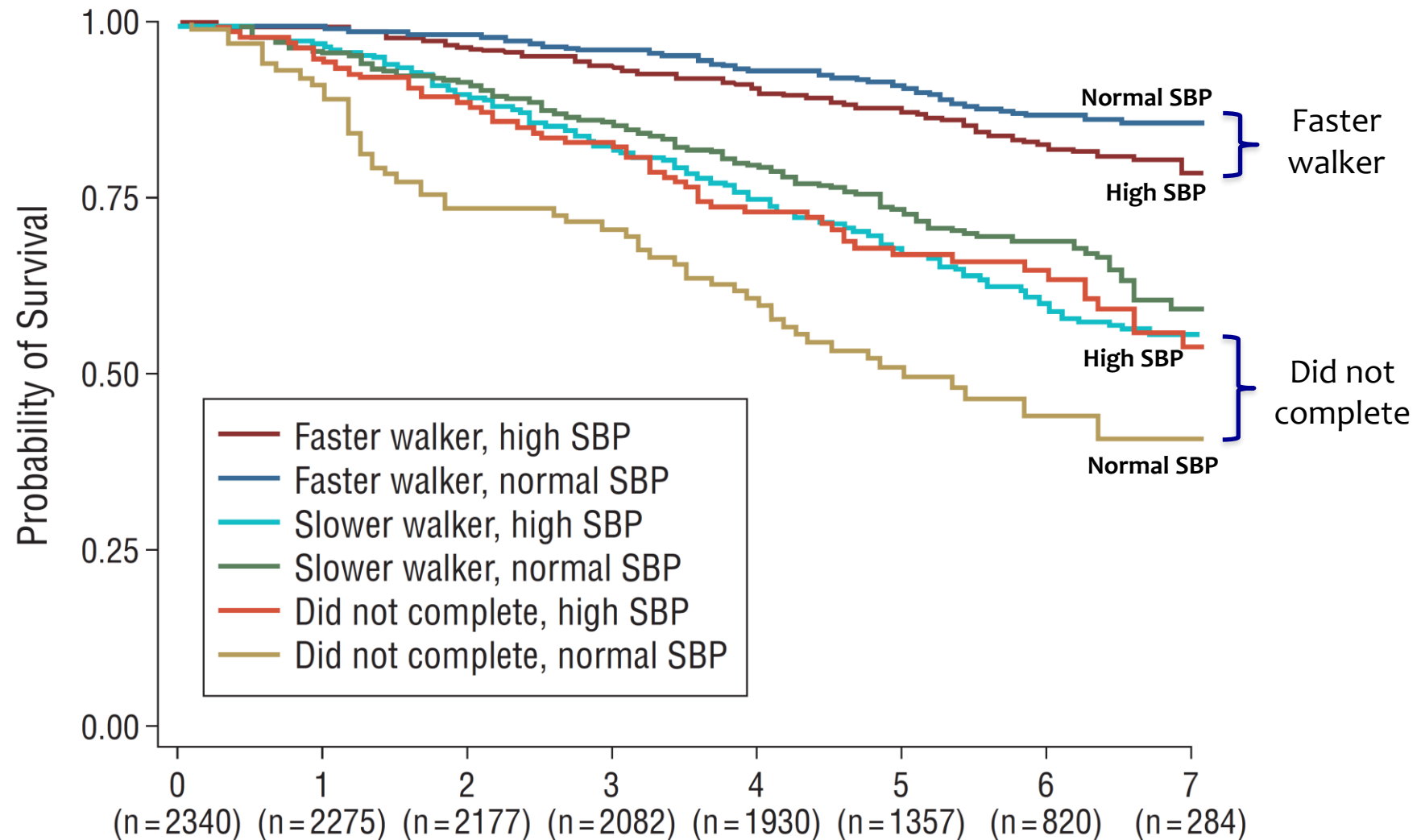
# Treatment With Multiple Blood Pressure Medications, Achieved Blood Pressure, and Mortality in Older Nursing Home Residents

## The PARTAGE Study



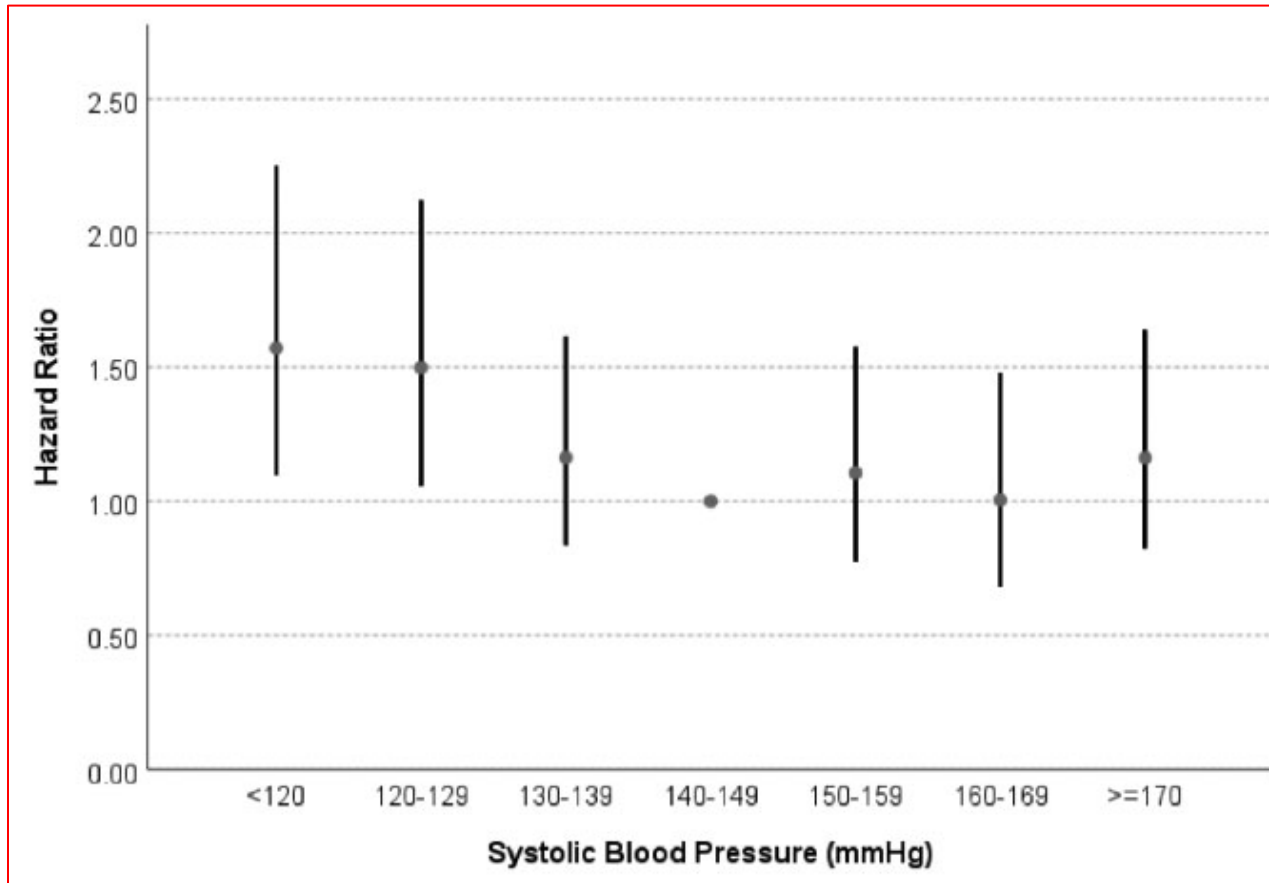
**Association between BP and risk of death in the institutionalized elderly**

# Association of elevated SBP and mortality, stratified by walking speed, in NHANES Survey participants 65 years and older (1999-2002)



# Control of blood pressure and risk of mortality in a cohort of older adults: the Berlin Initiative Study

Association of SBP with the risk of all-cause mortality in community-dwelling older adults.



Increased risks were observed in

- ✓ patients  $\geq 80$  years (HR 1.40; [CI 1.12–1.74])
- ✓ previous CV events (HR 1.61; [CI 1.14–2.27])
- ✓ not in those aged 70–79 years
- ✓ Not in those without previous CV events

# Antihypertensive Medication and Fracture Risk in Older Veterans Health Administration Nursing Home Residents

Chintan V. Dave, PharmD, PhD; Yongmei Li, PhD; Michael A. Steinman, MD; Sei J. Lee, MD, MAS; Xiaojuan Liu, MS; Bocheng Jing, MS; Laura A. Graham, PhD; Zachary A. Marcum, PharmD, PhD; Kathy Z. Fung, MS; Michelle C. Odden, PhD

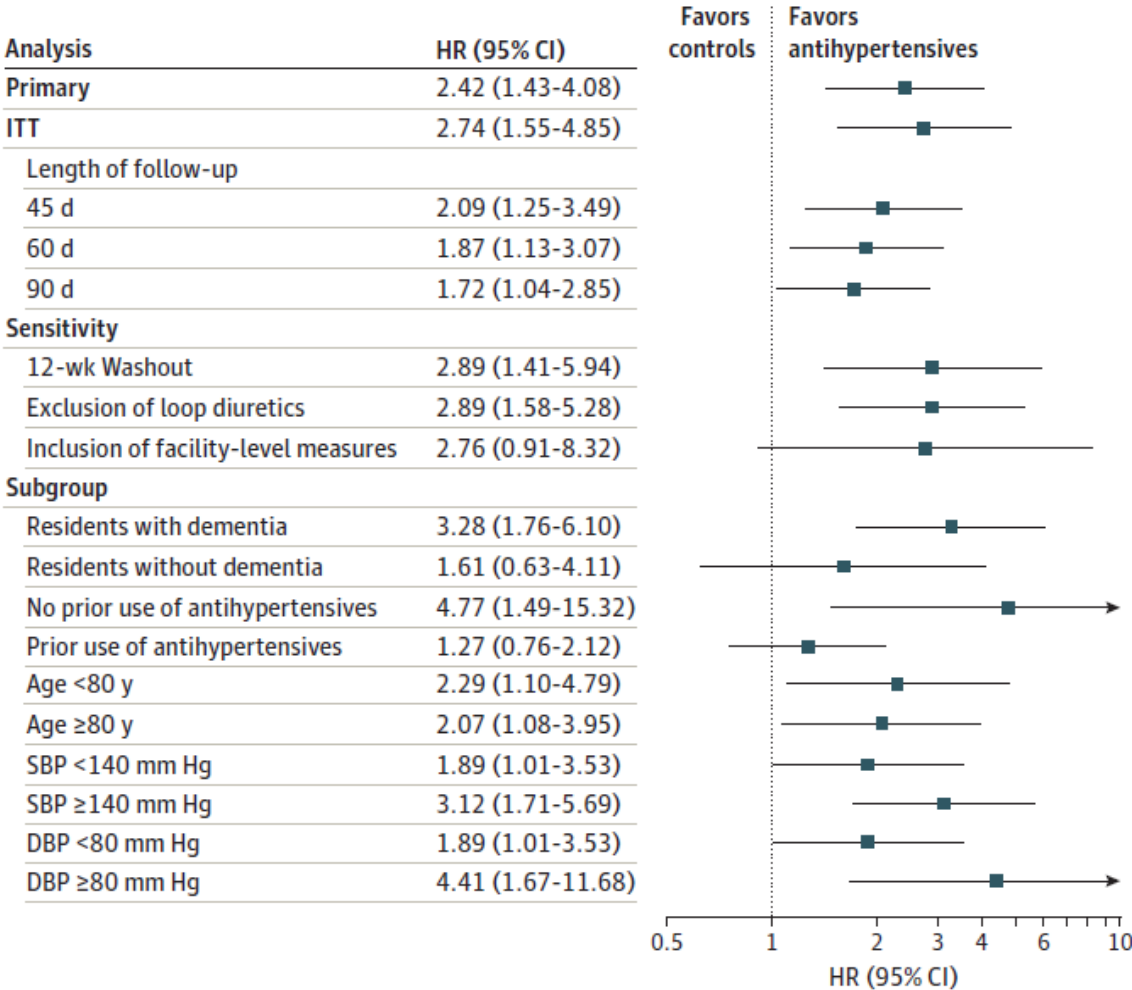
JAMA Intern Med. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2024.0507  
Published online April 22, 2024.

29 648 older long-term care nursing home residents in the Veterans Health Administration (01/01/2006, - 31/10/2019)

## Endpoint

nontraumatic fracture of the humerus, hip, pelvis, radius, or ulna within 30 days of antihypertensive medication initiation

Adjusted Risk of Fracture Among Nursing Home Residents Initiating Antihypertensive Medication:  
Sensitivity and Subgroup Analyses



# Antihypertensive Medication and Fracture Risk in Older Veterans Health Administration Nursing Home Residents

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**Endpoint**  
nontraumatic fracture of the humerus, hip, pelvis, radius, or ulna within 30 days of antihypertensive medication initiation

## Risk of Fall-Related Events Among Nursing Home Residents Initiating Antihypertensive Medication

| Event                                    | Pooled analysis                 |                         |                  |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------|------------------|
|  | No. of events (IR) <sup>a</sup> |                         |                  |
|  | Treated<br>(n = 12 942)         | Control<br>(n = 51 768) | HR (95% CI)      |
| Fracture <sup>b</sup>                    | 46 (5.4)                        | 56 (2.2)                | 2.42 (1.43-4.08) |
| Severe fall                              | 246 (28.8)                      | 386 (15.5)              | 1.80 (1.53-2.13) |
| Syncope                                  | 135 (15.8)                      | 231 (9.3)               | 1.69 (1.30-2.19) |
| Expanded outcome definition <sup>b</sup> | 52 (6.1)                        | 66 (2.6)                | 2.30 (1.44-3.69) |

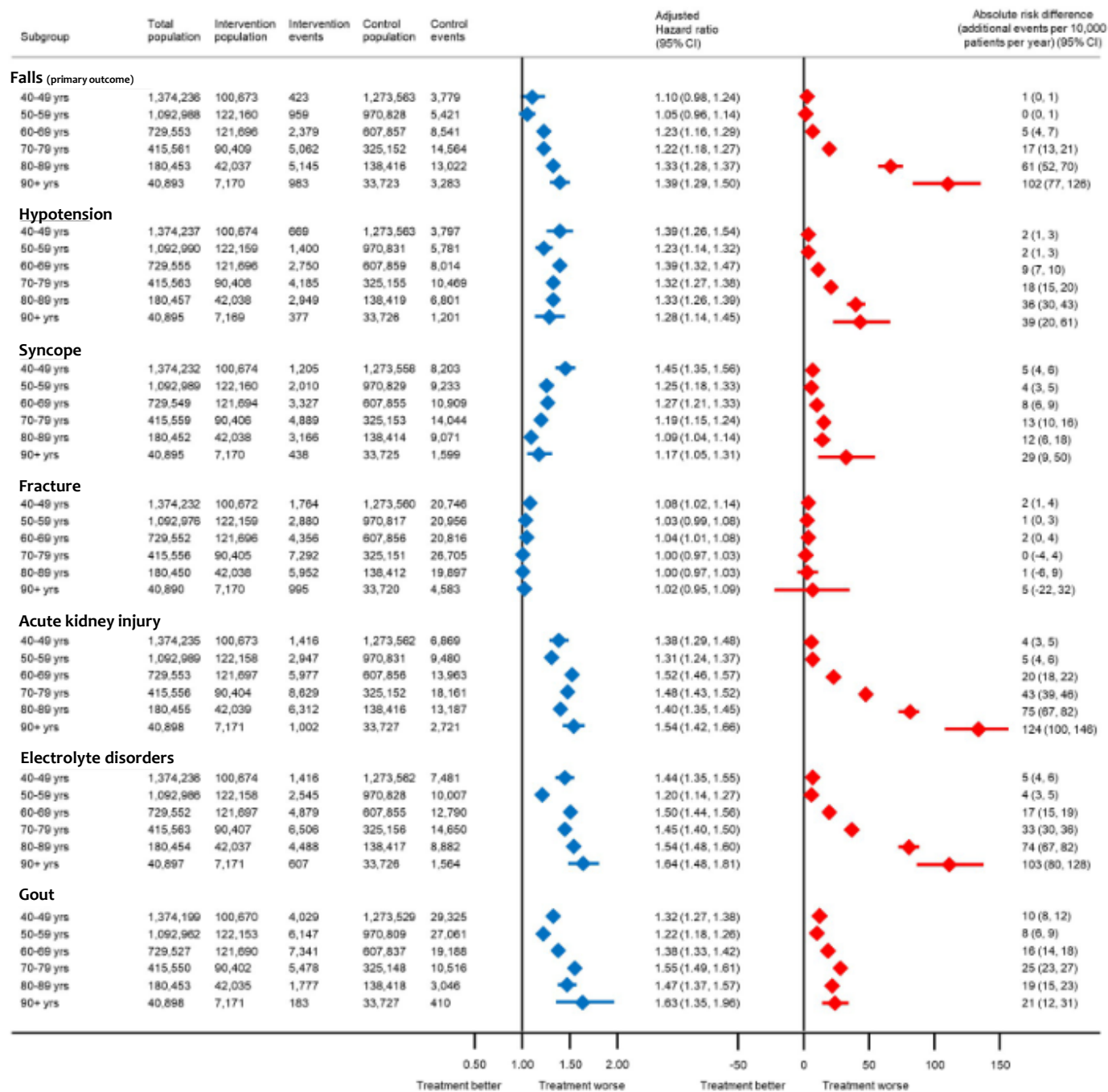


# Short-term Risk of Serious Fall Injuries in Older Adults Initiating and Intensifying Treatment with Antihypertensive Medication

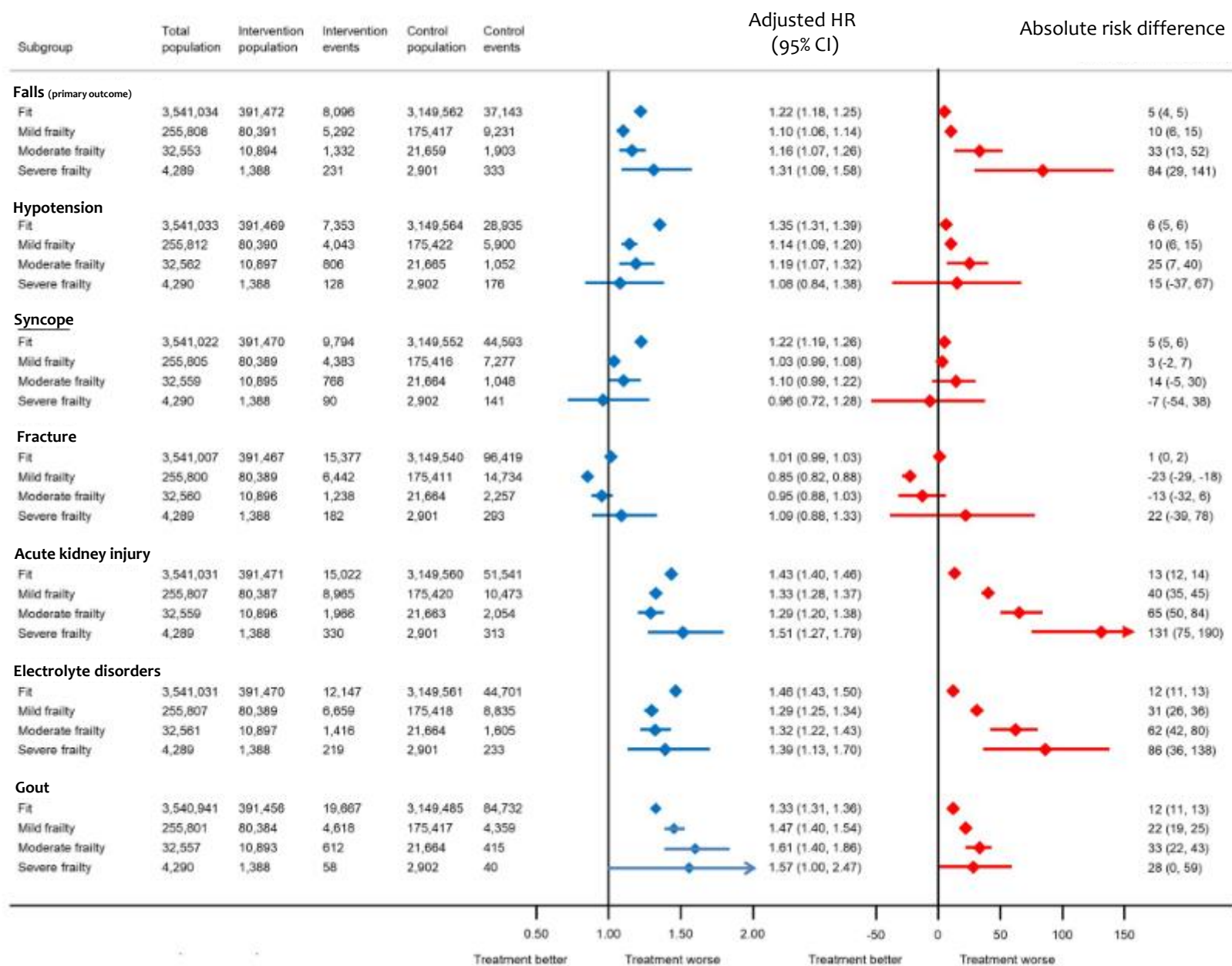
**Table 3. Short-Term Odds Ratios for a Serious Fall Injury Associated With Initiation, Adding a New Drug Class, and Antihypertensive Medication Titration**

|                          | Overall (n=90 127 Serious Fall Injuries) |                           |                  | Previous Hypertension Diagnosis* (n=90 127 Serious Fall Injuries) |                              |                  | No Recent Hospitalization† (n=60 211 Serious Fall Injuries) |                              |                  |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------|------------------|
|                          | Case Period<br>n (%)‡                    | Control Periods<br>n (%)§ | OR (95% CI)      | Case Period<br>n (%)‡   | Control<br>Periods<br>n (%)§ | OR (95% CI)      | Case<br>Period<br>n (%)‡                                    | Control<br>Periods<br>n (%)§ | OR (95% CI)      |
| Initiation               | 272 (0.30)                               | 1201 (0.22)               | 1.36 (1.19–1.55) | 159 (0.18)  | 701 (0.13)                   | 1.36 (1.15–1.62) | 146 (0.24)  | 635 (0.18)                   | 1.38 (1.15–1.65) |
| Addition of<br>new class | 1508 (1.67)                              | 7820 (1.45)               | 1.16 (1.10–1.23) | 1276 (1.42)   | 6664 (1.23)                  | 1.15 (1.09–1.23) | 687 (1.14)  | 3450 (0.95)                  | 1.20 (1.10–1.30) |
| Titration                | 3113 (3.45)                              | 16 714 (3.09)             | 1.13 (1.08–1.18) | 2696 (2.99)   | 14 542 (2.69)                | 1.12 (1.08–1.17) | 1432 (2.38)   | 7662 (2.12)                  | 1.13 (1.07–1.20) |





The association between antihypertensive treatment and serious adverse events by age and frailty: A cohort study

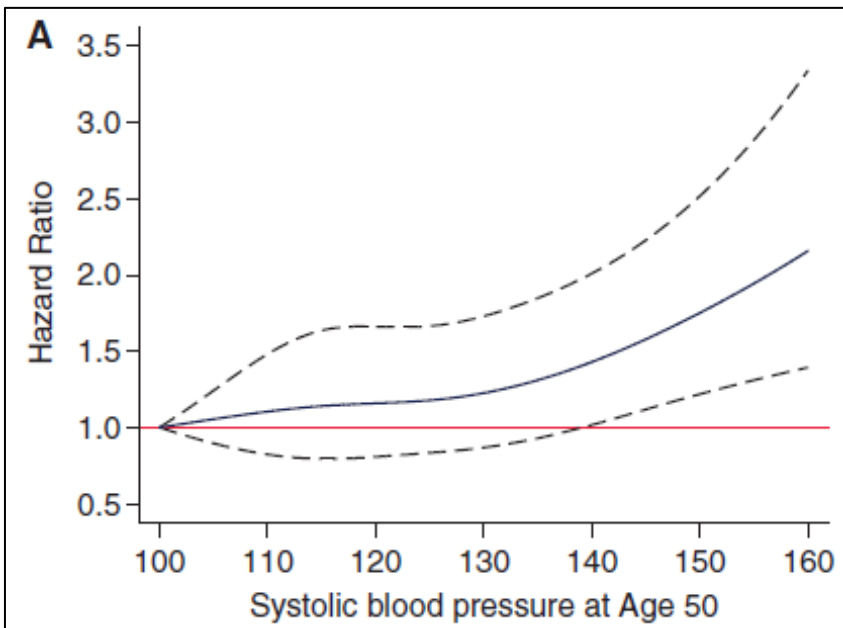


The association between antihypertensive treatment and serious adverse events by age and frailty: A cohort study

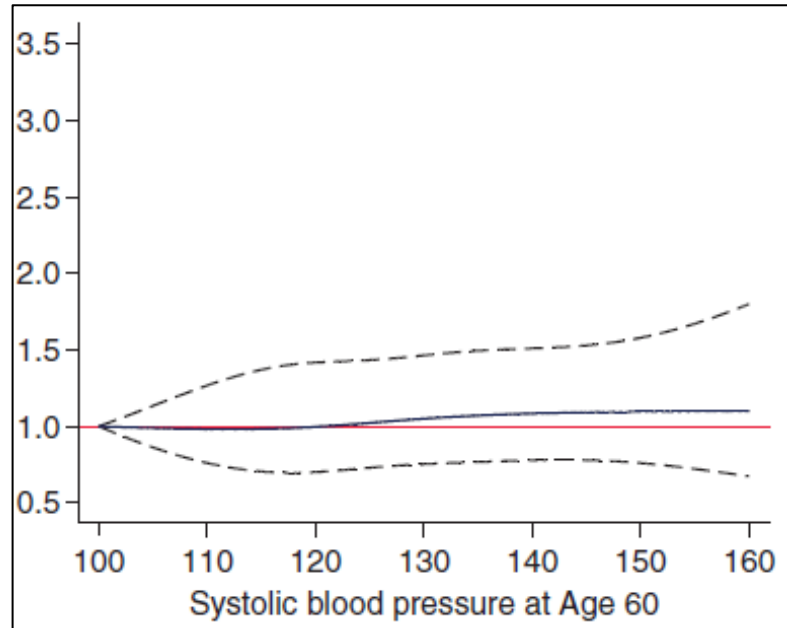
# Association between SBP and dementia in the Whitehall II cohort study: role of age, duration, and threshold used to define hypertension

Threshold: association of SBP with dementia at:

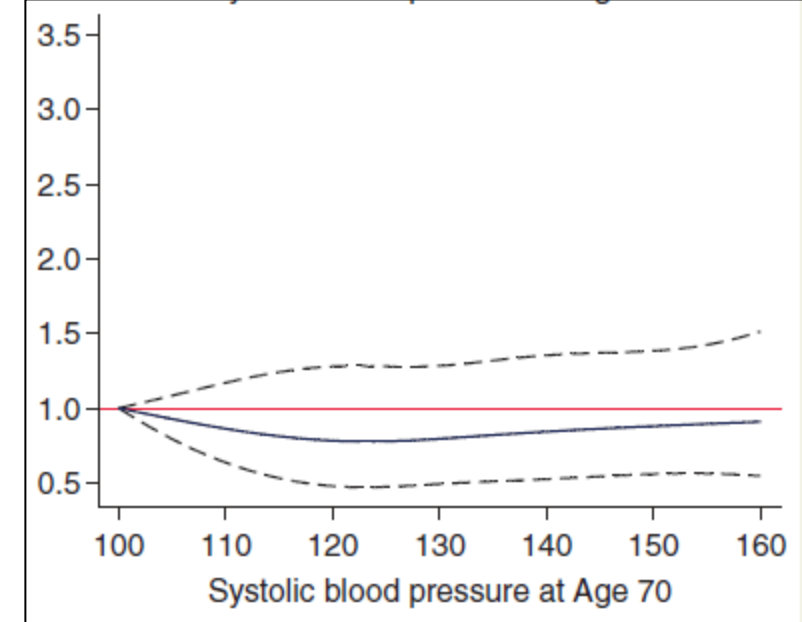
Age 50 yrs



Age 60 yrs

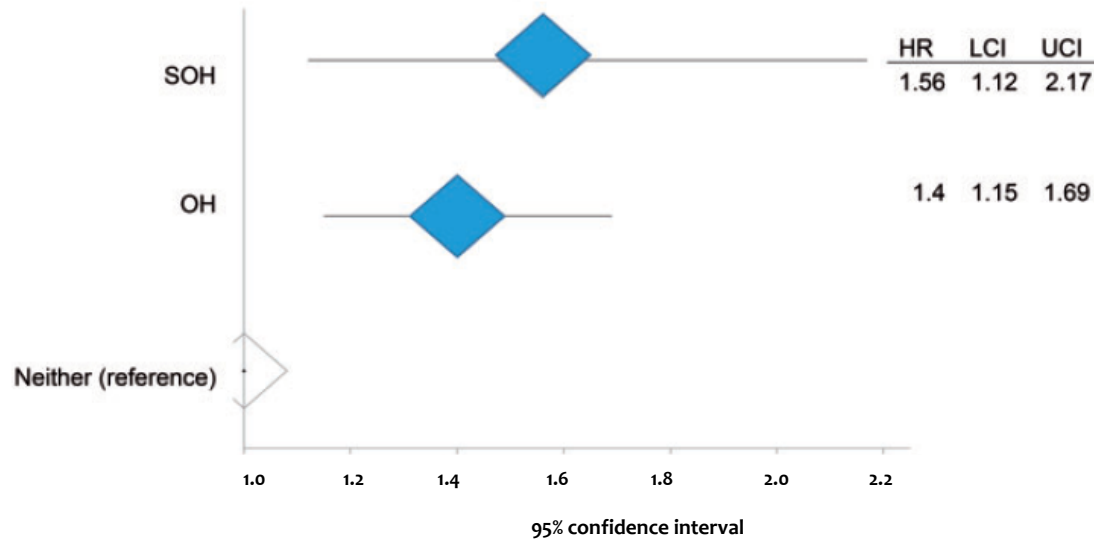


Age 70 yrs

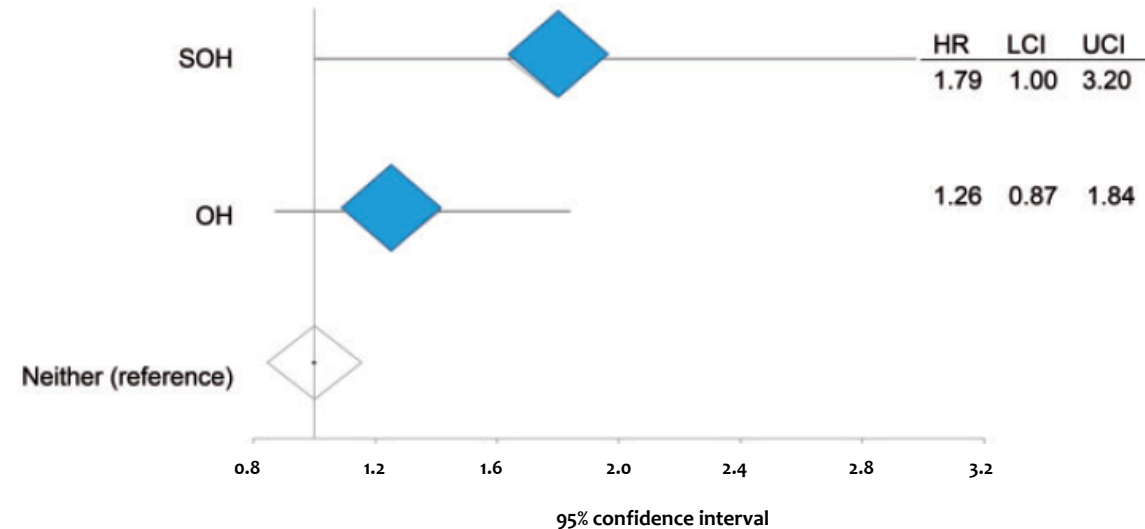


# Orthostatic hypotension (OH) and symptomatic OH increase risk of cognitive impairment: an integrated evidence review and analysis of a large older hypertensive (HYVET) cohort

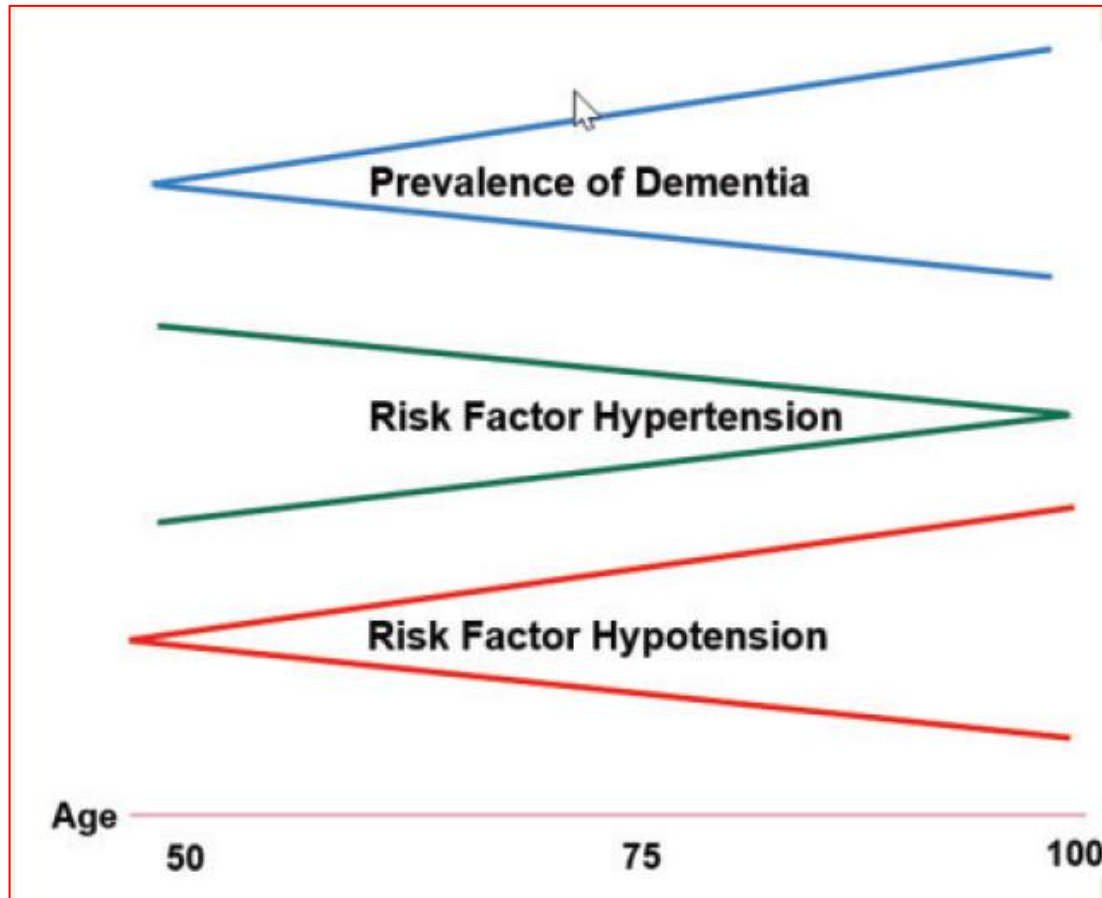
## Risk of cognitive decline



## Risk of dementia



# The oldest old: does hypertension become essential again?



“The older the patient, the less important a risk factor hypertension becomes.

In older patients, elevated BP progressively becomes less of a risk factor for dementia and too low a BP increasingly becomes the principle haemodynamic culprit.”

- ✓ Hypotension
- ✓ Syncope, falls
- ✓ Electrolyte disorders
- ✓ Dehydration
- ✓ Acute kidney injury
- ✓ Fatigue, dizziness
- ✓ Confusion



- ✓ Activity restriction, anxiety
- ✓ Functional decline
- ✓ Unplanned hospitalization complicated by:
  - bed rest, sarcopenia,
  - nosocomial infections, falls,
  - delirium and cognitive decline



**Impaired life trajectory at old age  
20 to 300-fold increased risk of  
disability and/or institutionalization**

# Hospitalization, Restricted Activity, and the Development of Disability Among Older Persons

Prospective cohort study, conducted in the general community, of people  $\geq 70$  years. Individuals not disabled (ie, required no personal assistance) in 4 essential activities of daily living: bathing, dressing, walking inside the house, and transferring from a chair.

**Table 2.** Exposure to Intervening Events per 100 Months According to Disability Status\*

| Intervening Event        | Any Disability    |                  |         | Persistent Disability |                  |         | Disability With Nursing Home Admission |                  |         |
|--------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---------|-----------------------|------------------|---------|--|------------------|---------|
|                          | Present (n = 417) | Absent (n = 337) | P Value | Present (n = 278)     | Absent (n = 476) | P Value | Present (n = 199)                      | Absent (n = 555) | P Value |
| Hospitalization          | 3.0 (0-8.3)       | 0 (0-2.0)        | <.001   | 3.8 (0-9.1)           | 0 (0-3.4)        | <.001   | 7.0 (3.7-13)                           | 1.7 (0-3.7)      | <.001   |
| Restricted activity only | 14 (2.4-33)       | 7.8 (3.7-16)     | <.001   | 14 (2.6-33)           | 8.9 (3.8-19)     | <.001   | 13 (2.6-28)                            | 10 (3.9-20)      | .16     |

\*Values represent the median number of months (interquartile range) of the exposure. The exposure period includes the time to onset of the relevant disability outcome or to a censoring event for participants who did not develop the relevant disability outcome. *P* values were calculated using the Wilcoxon rank test.

## Before start...

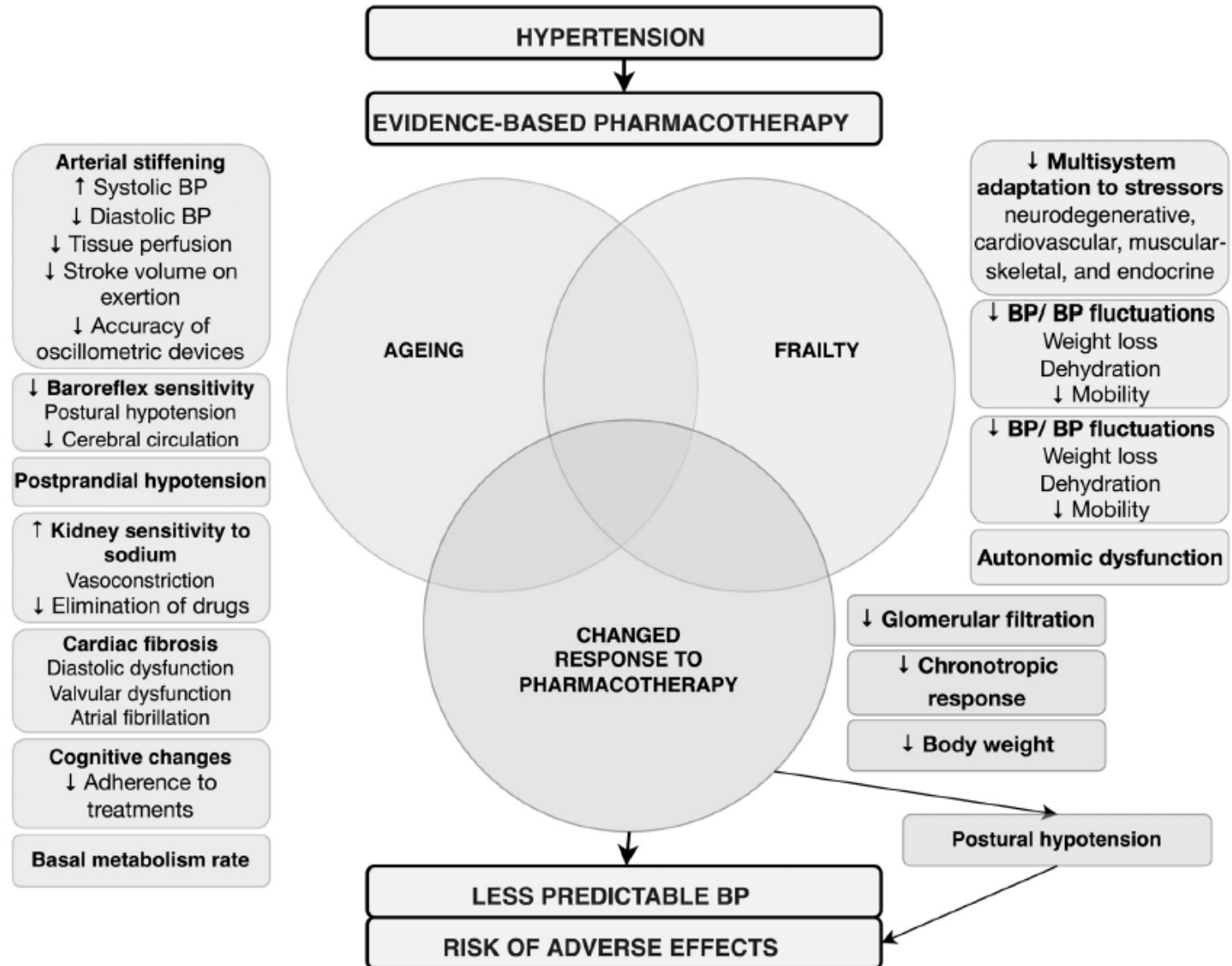
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### Frailty assessment is mandatory

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| In old patients with hypertension there should always be an assessment of functional/autonomy status including cognitive function. | I | C |
| In patients with reduced functional/autonomy status and/or dementia treatment should be individualized.                            | I | C |



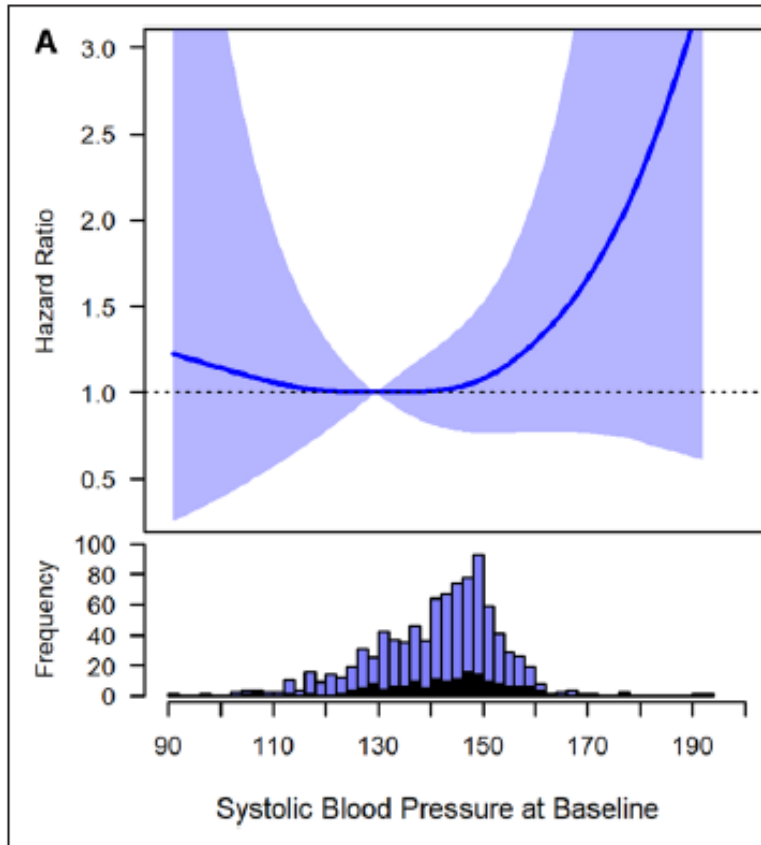
# BP control and frailty



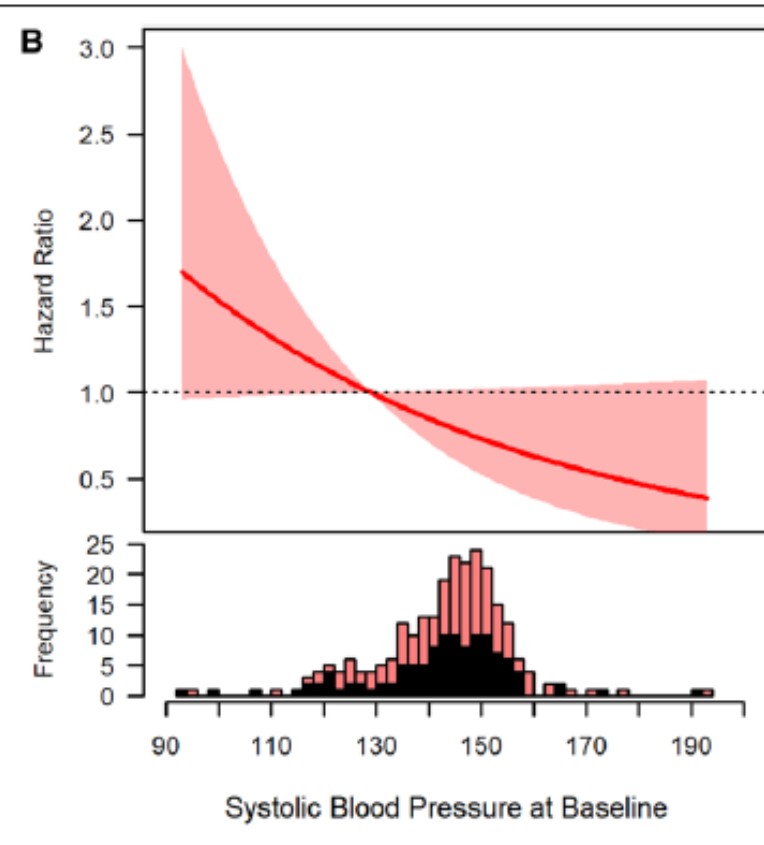
# Systolic Blood Pressure and Mortality in Community-Dwelling Older Adults: Frailty as an Effect Modifier

Splines for the association between systolic blood pressure and 8-y all-cause-mortality stratified by frailty

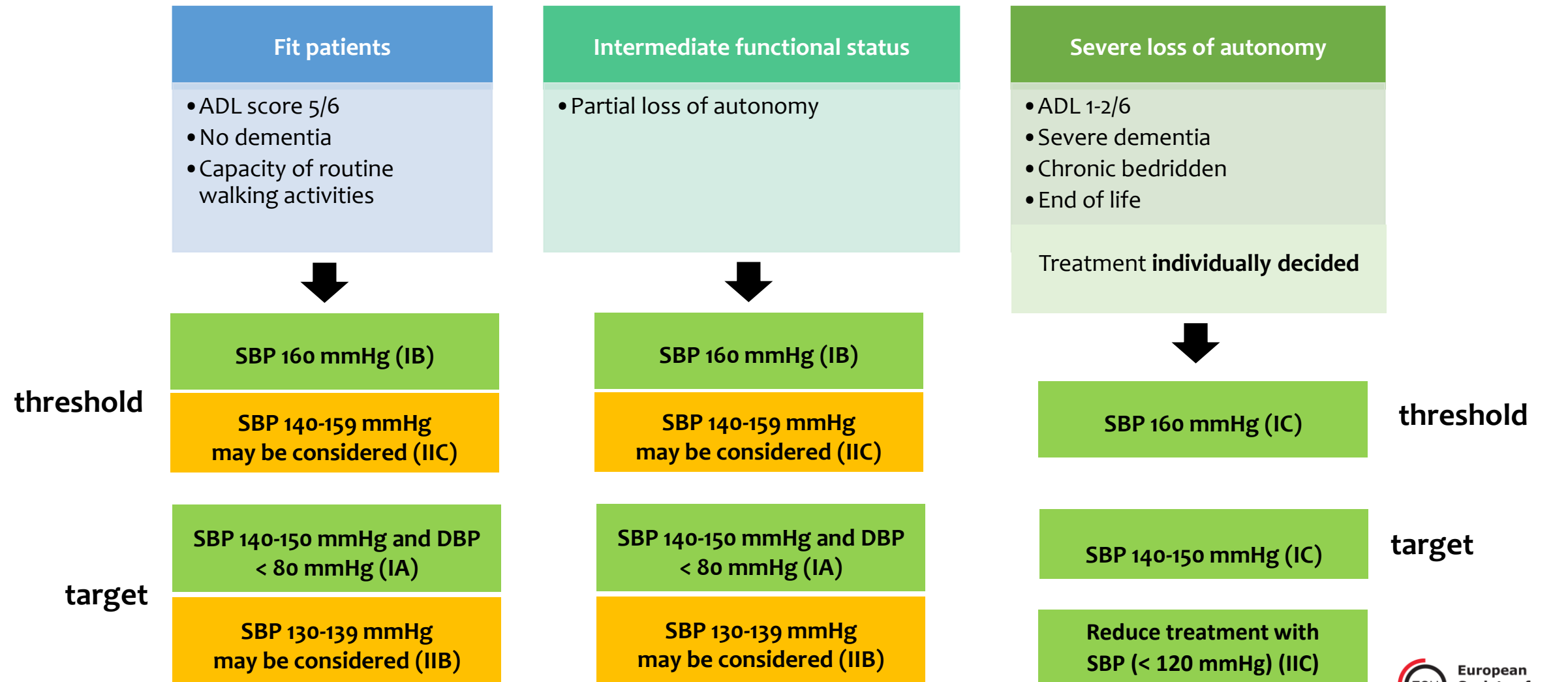
Non frail



Frail



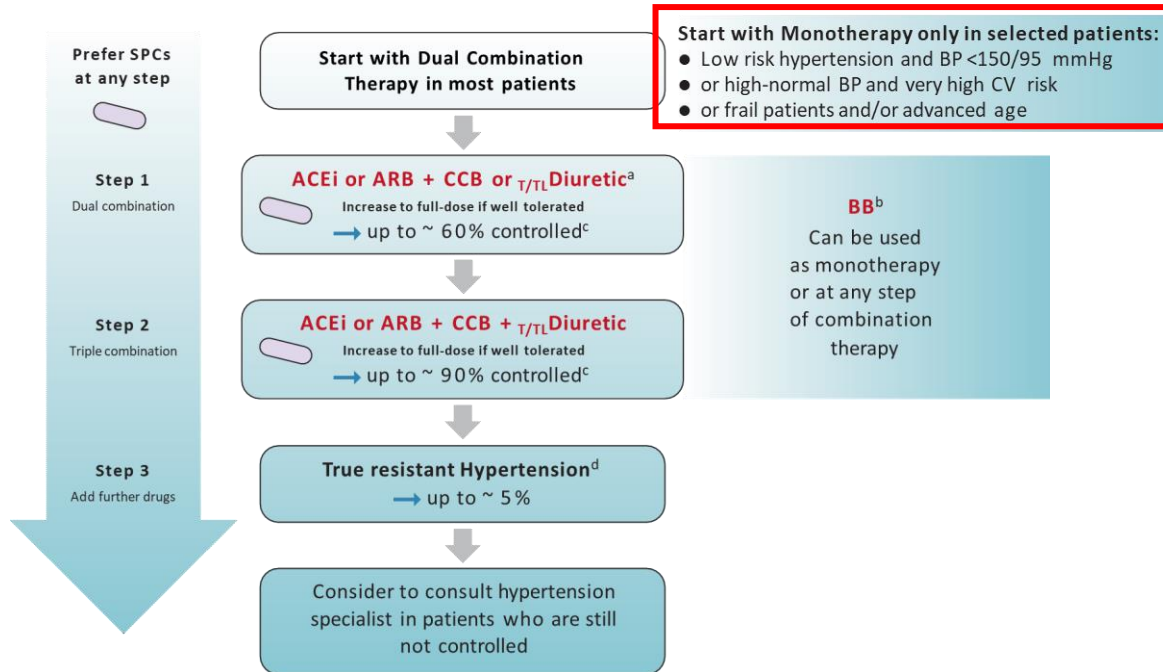
# Adapting BP-lowering strategies in pts older than 80 years according to functional/antonomy status





## 2023 ESH Guidelines for the management of arterial hypertension

*The Task Force for the management of arterial hypertension of the European Society of Hypertension*



## How to start:



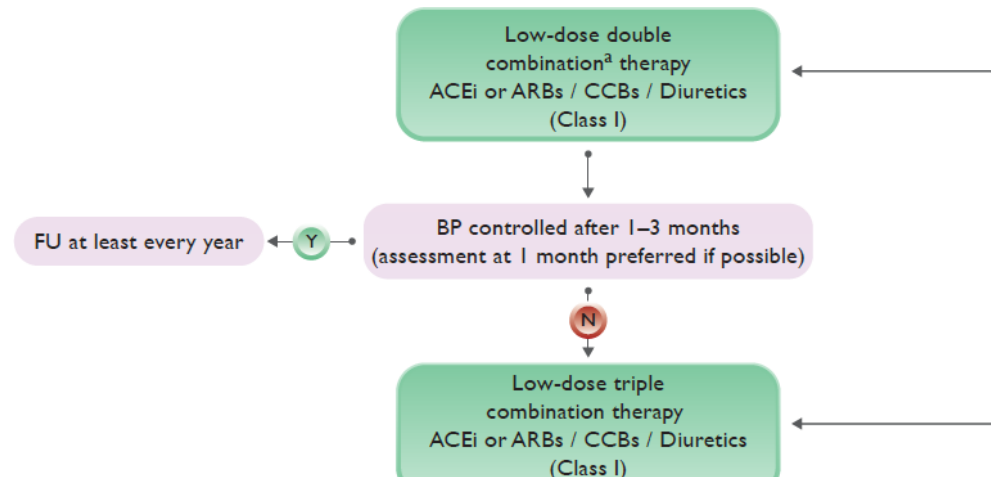
European Heart Journal (2024) 00, 1–107  
European Society of Cardiology <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehae178>

ESC GUIDELINES

## 2024 ESC Guidelines for the management of elevated blood pressure and hypertension

### <sup>a</sup>Initial monotherapy preferred

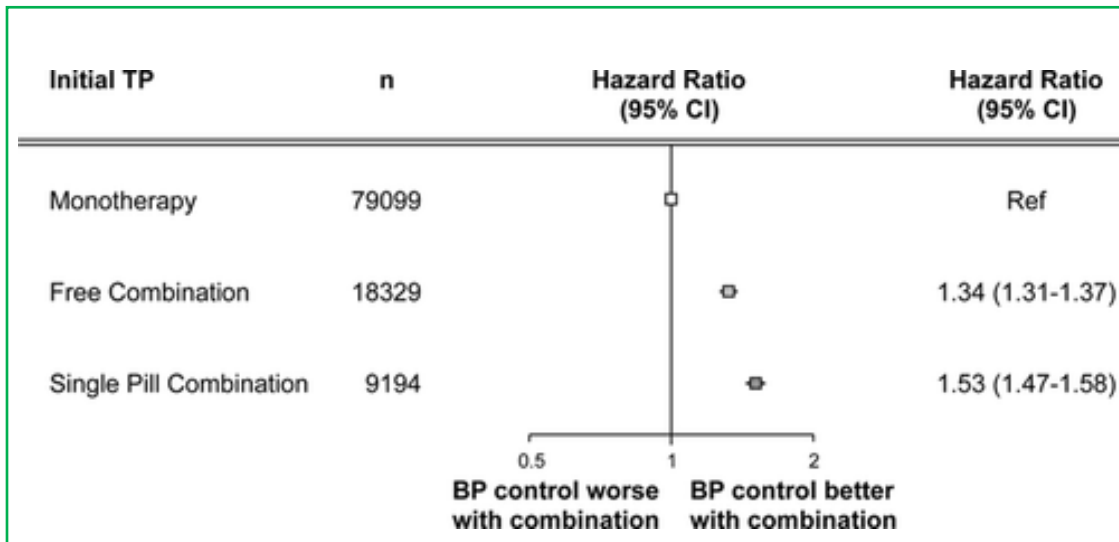
- Elevated BP category (120/70–139/89 mmHg)
- Moderate-to-severe frailty
- Symptomatic orthostatic hypotension
- Age ≥85 years



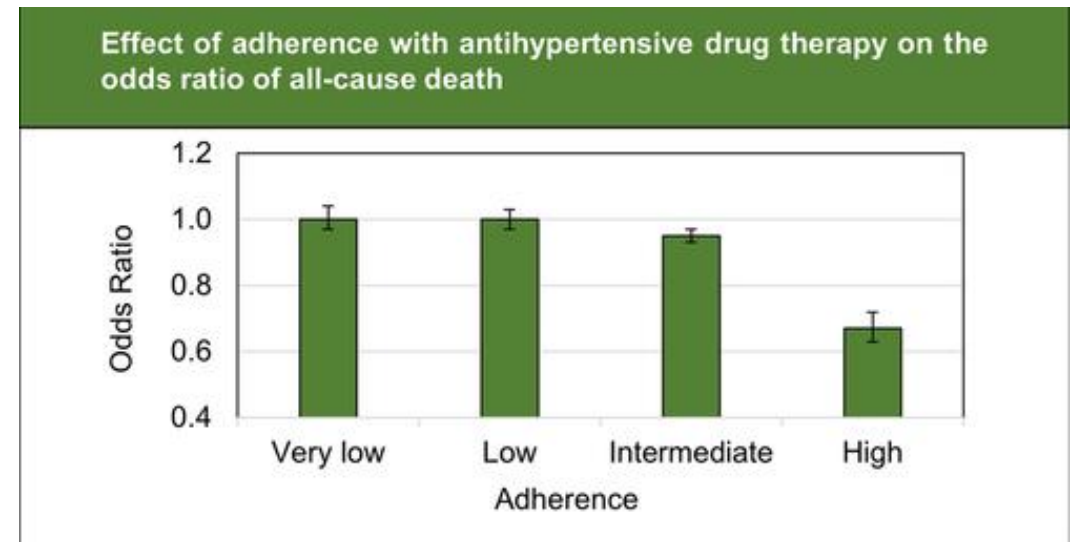
# Practical tip: uptitrate..... but at a lower pace (avoid intolerance and side effects !)

## Up-titration with a SPC treatment

Less clinical inertia  
More adherence  
More CV prevention

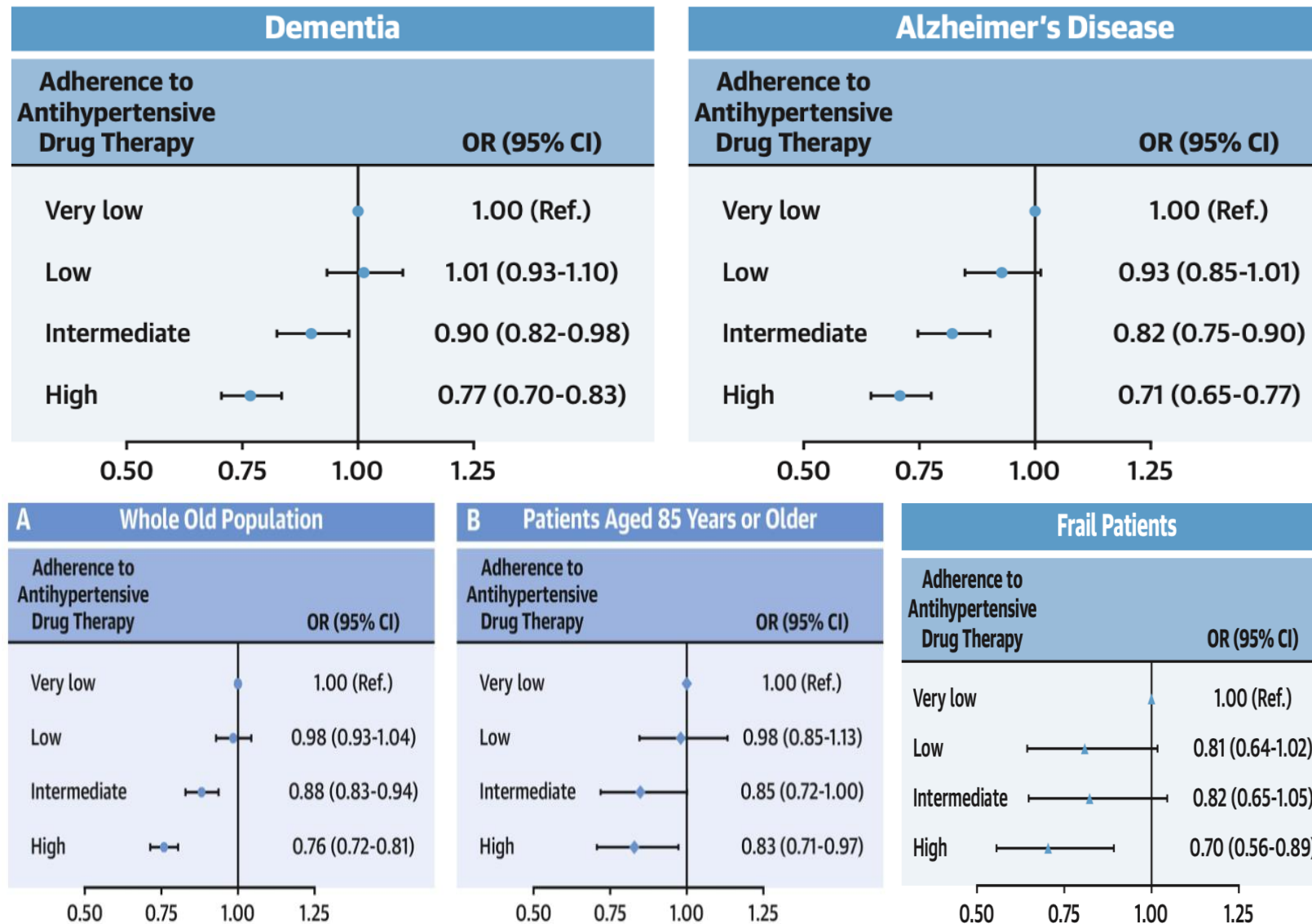


Mancia et al, *Circ Res* 2019



Rea et al, *Hypertension* 2020

# Antihypertensive drugs and dementia – Nested case-control study – 215,547 patients ≥65 years - 13,812 patients (77.5±6.6 years; 40% men) developed dementia/AD during follow-up

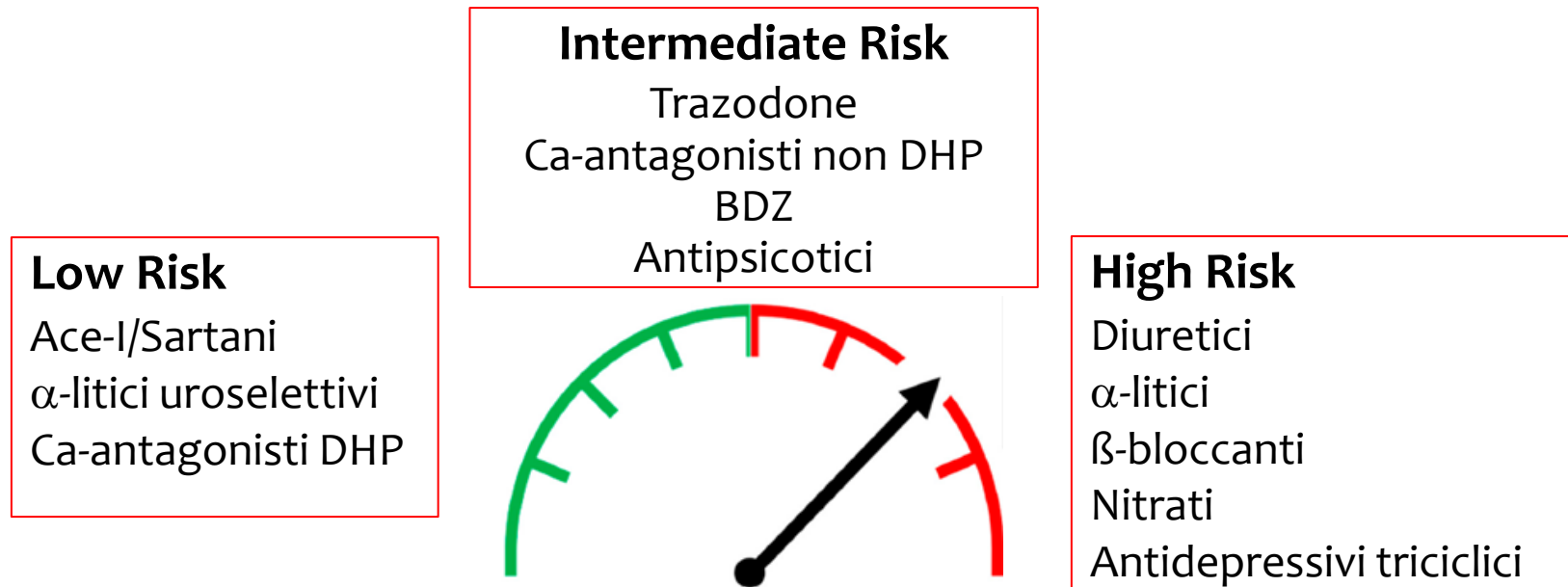


# Come – Quali farmaci ?

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**“... older patients may be more susceptible to side effects of drugs due to age by itself and health condition changes/comorbidities”** (Consensus document, ESH Working Group)

- Incontinenza urinaria (diuretici)
- Affaticabilità e disturbi del sonno (beta-bloccanti)
- **Ipotensione ortostatica** (vasodilatatori, diuretici, beta-bloccanti)



# Conclusioni

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## QUANDO?

- Soglia e target **personalizzati in base al livello di autonomia e di fragilità** (approccio geriatrico)
- Considerare modalità di **misurazione out-of-office (white-coat effect)**
- Valutare eventuale presenza di ipotensione ortostatica

## COME?

- Valutare monoterapia e titolazione **graduale**
- **Farmaci a più basso rischio ipotensivo**
- **Stretto monitoraggio** dei valori pressori e del livello di fragilità





# Effects of low blood pressure in cognitively impaired elderly patients treated with antihypertensive drugs

N=172 patients with mild/moderate CI/dementia, mean age of 79, mean MMSE score of 22.1

