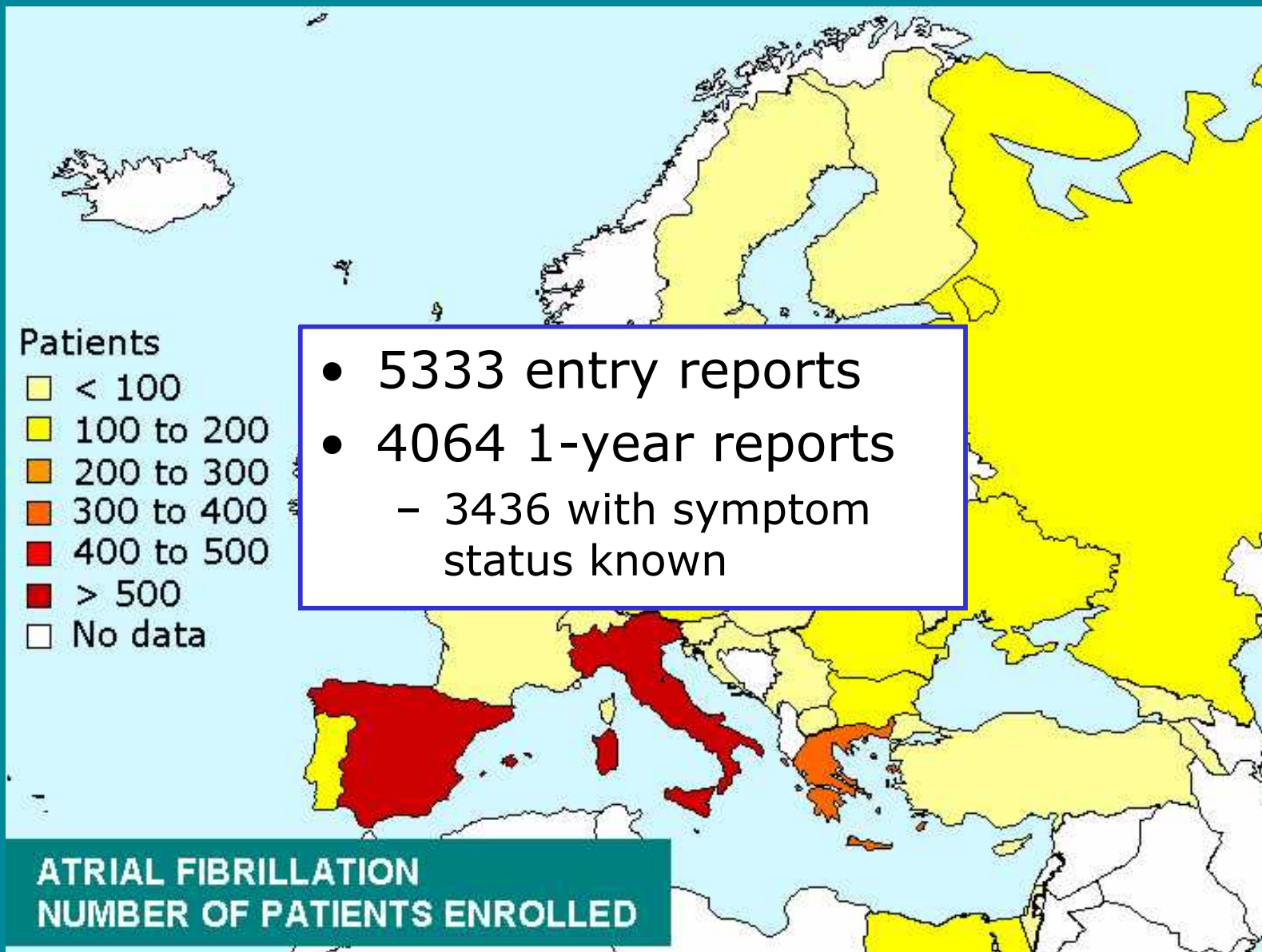


**Insights into the Management of
Atrial Fibrillation in Clinical
Practice in Europe
Results of the Euro Heart Survey
on Atrial Fibrillation**

**Symptomatic or asymptomatic
AF, does it matter?**

S Bertil Olsson



Euro Heart Survey on Atrial Fibrillation

- AF Expert Committee
 - Harry Crijns, chairman
 - Robby Nieuwlaat, research fellow
 - 12 consultants
- Survey Team (EHH, France)
 - 6 experts
- National coordinators (33)
-

"Asymptomatic" - definition

Asymptomatic

Silent

Symptomfree

Lack of ..

Euro Heart Survey

How is "asymptomatic" defined in the AF survey?

Admission Information

Current Stroke or systemic embolism is not included
(As reported) as an AF symptom in the EuroHeart Survey

Symptoms recorded: please tick

- None
- Palpitations
- Chest Pain
- Shortness of Breath
- Syncope
- Dizziness
- Fatigue
- Other

If none, please indicate if patient was symptomatic in the past:

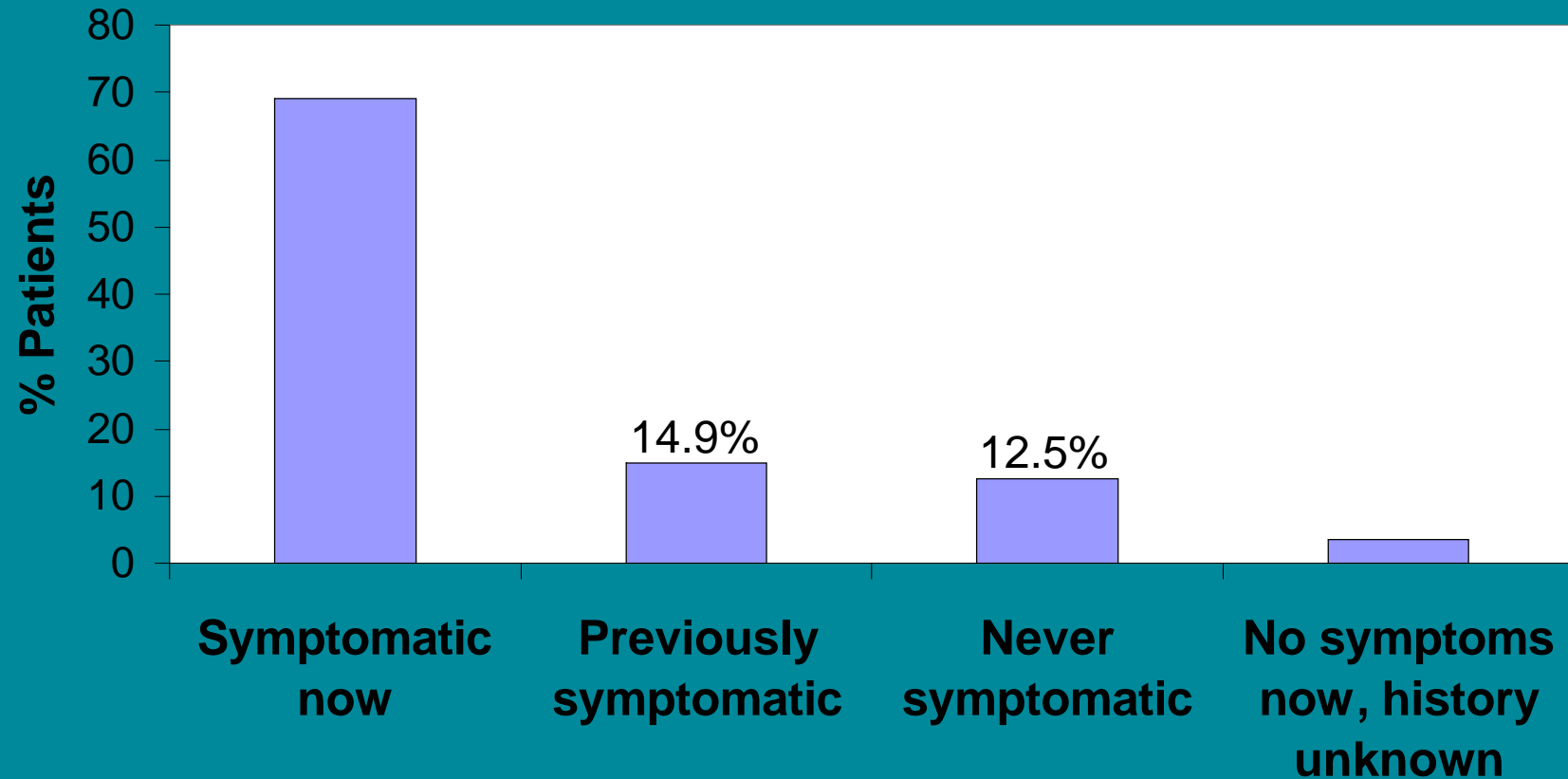
- No
- Yes
- Unknown

Questions to be answered

- How common is asymptomatic AF?
- Is freedom of symptom the only difference?
- How common are the different symptoms?
- Type of symptom vs type of AF?
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- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

How common is asymptomatic AF?

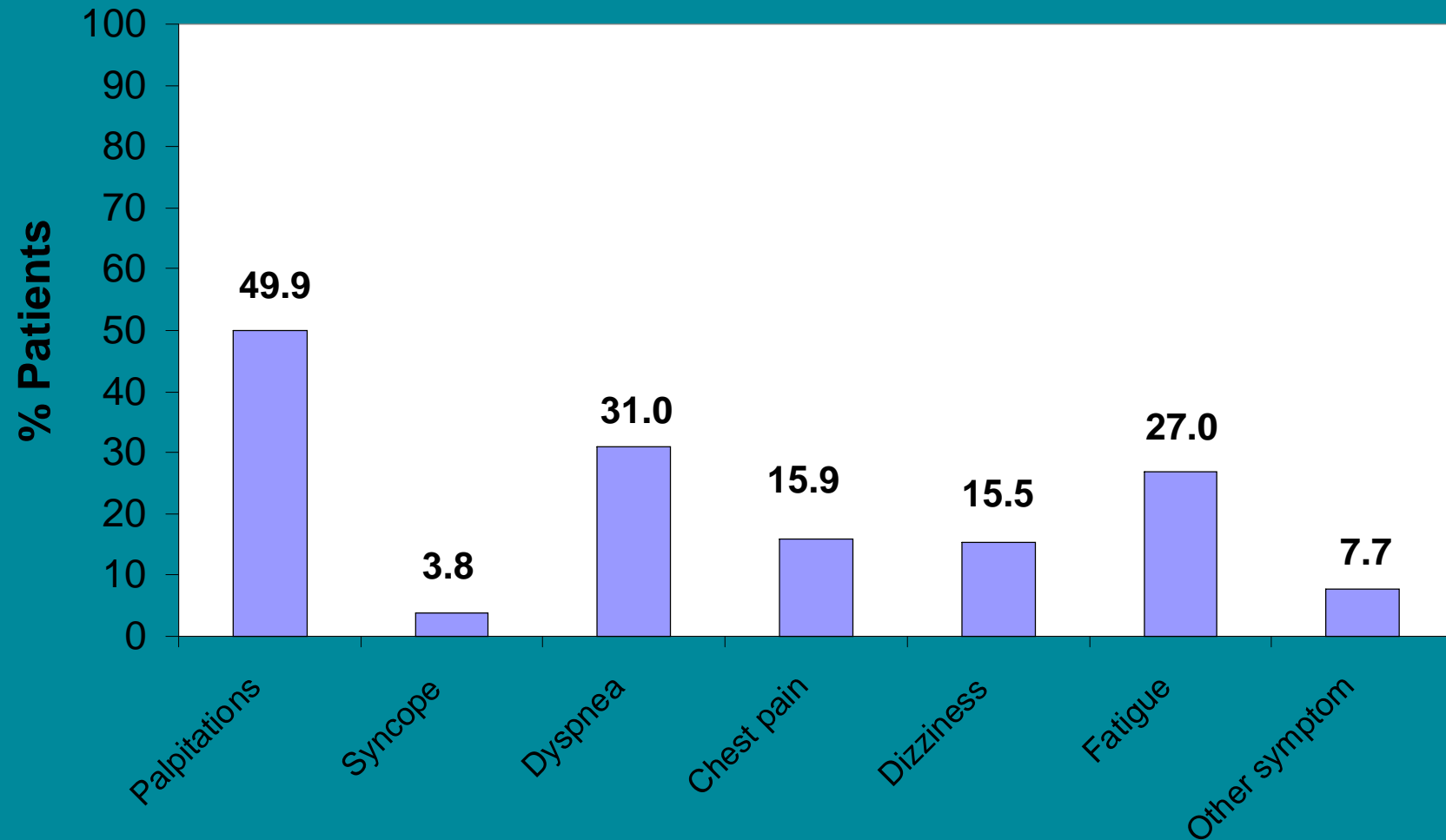
Symptom status initial survey



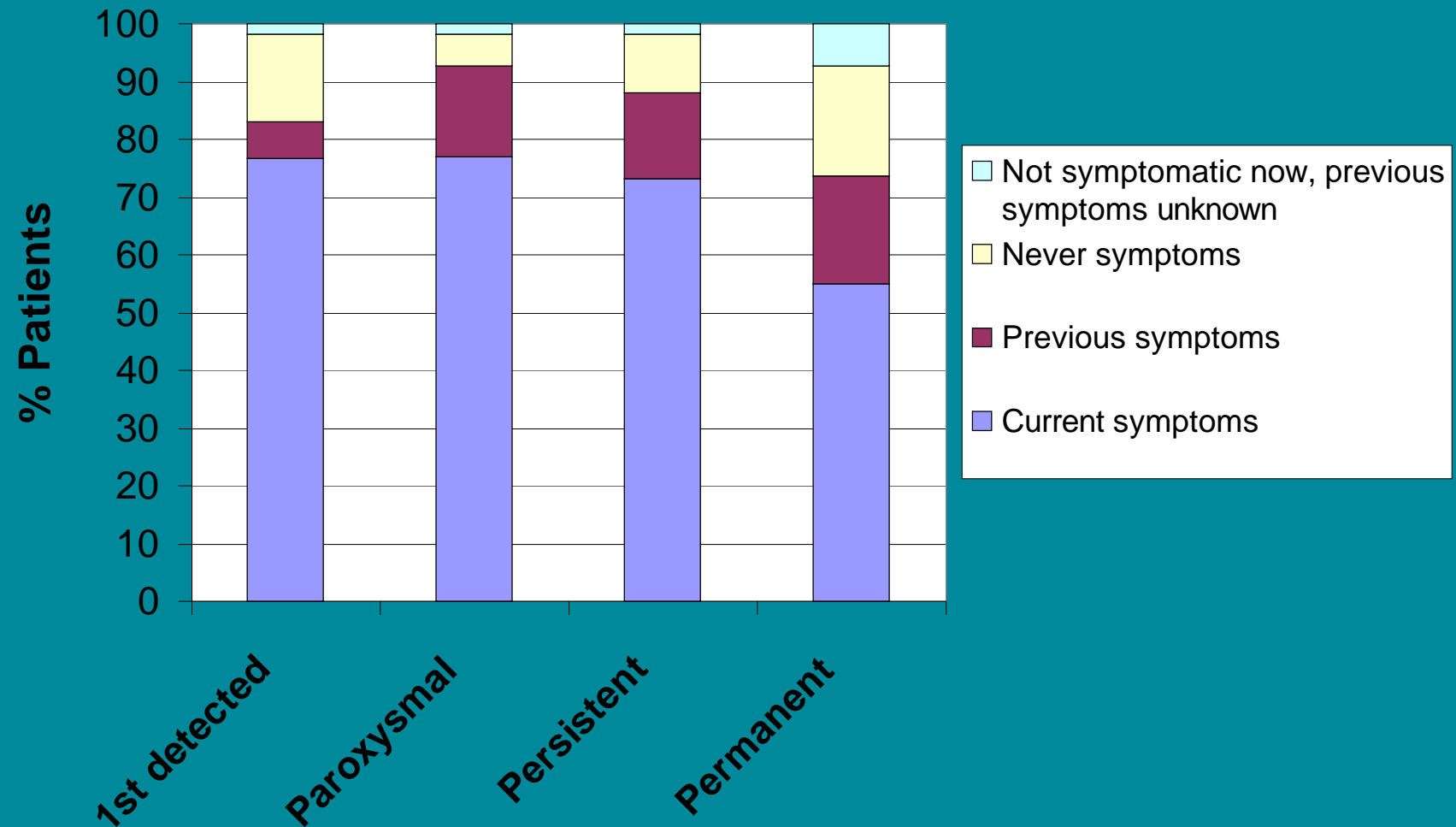
Characteristics of patients with/without symptoms

•Symptoms?	Now	Previously only	Never
•Nr	3680	793	664
•Age (SD)	66 (13)	68 (12)	69 (12)
•Female gender	44.5	39.2	31.3
•CAD (%)	33.1	31.3	34.7
•VHD (%)	25.7	28.8	26.6
•Hyp (%)	64.4	60.2	64.3
•Lone AF (%)	10.5	12.2	9.8
•Prior stroke (%)	9.6	9.0	10.9

How common are the different AF symptoms?

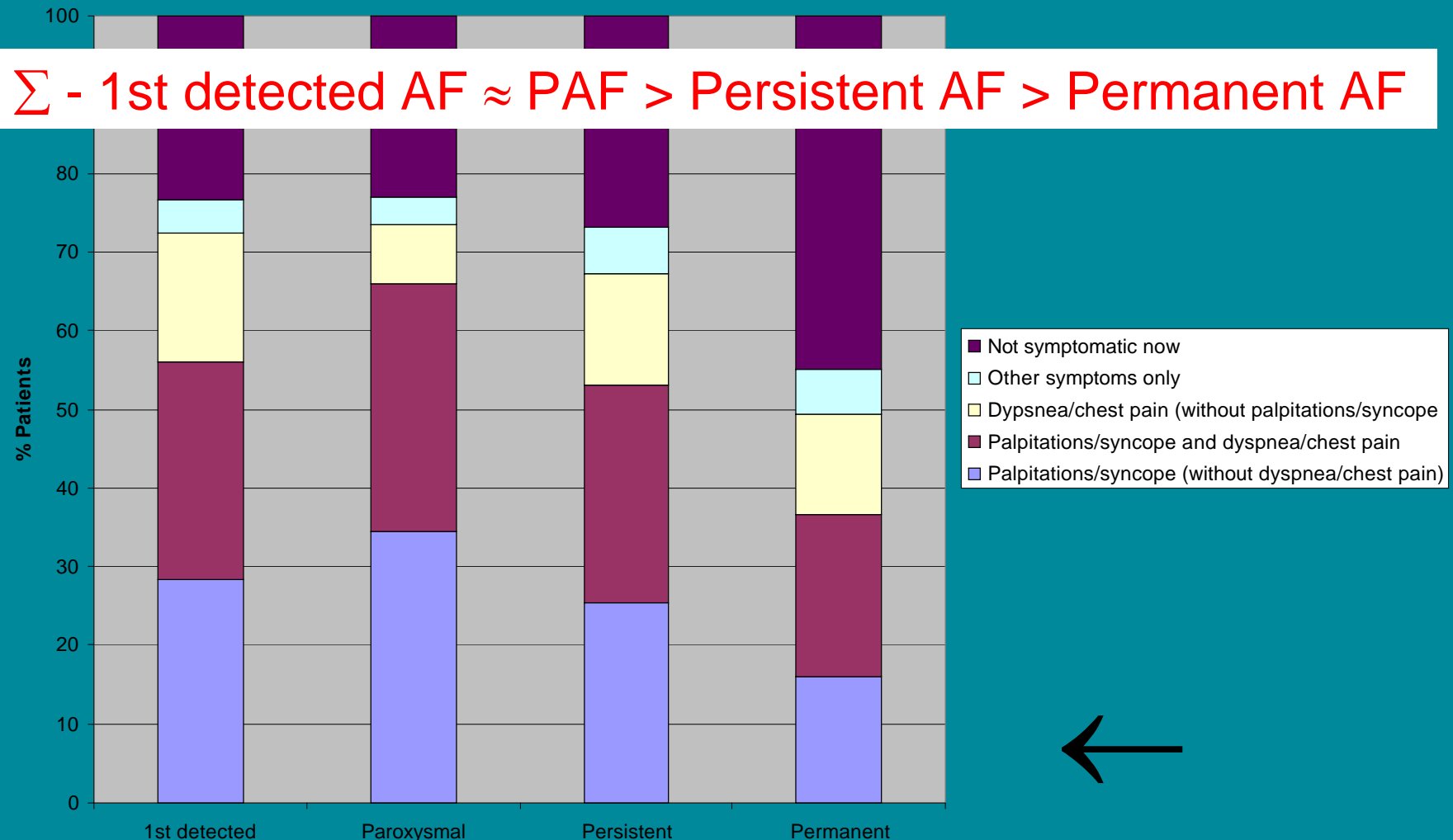


How common are symptoms at different types of AF?



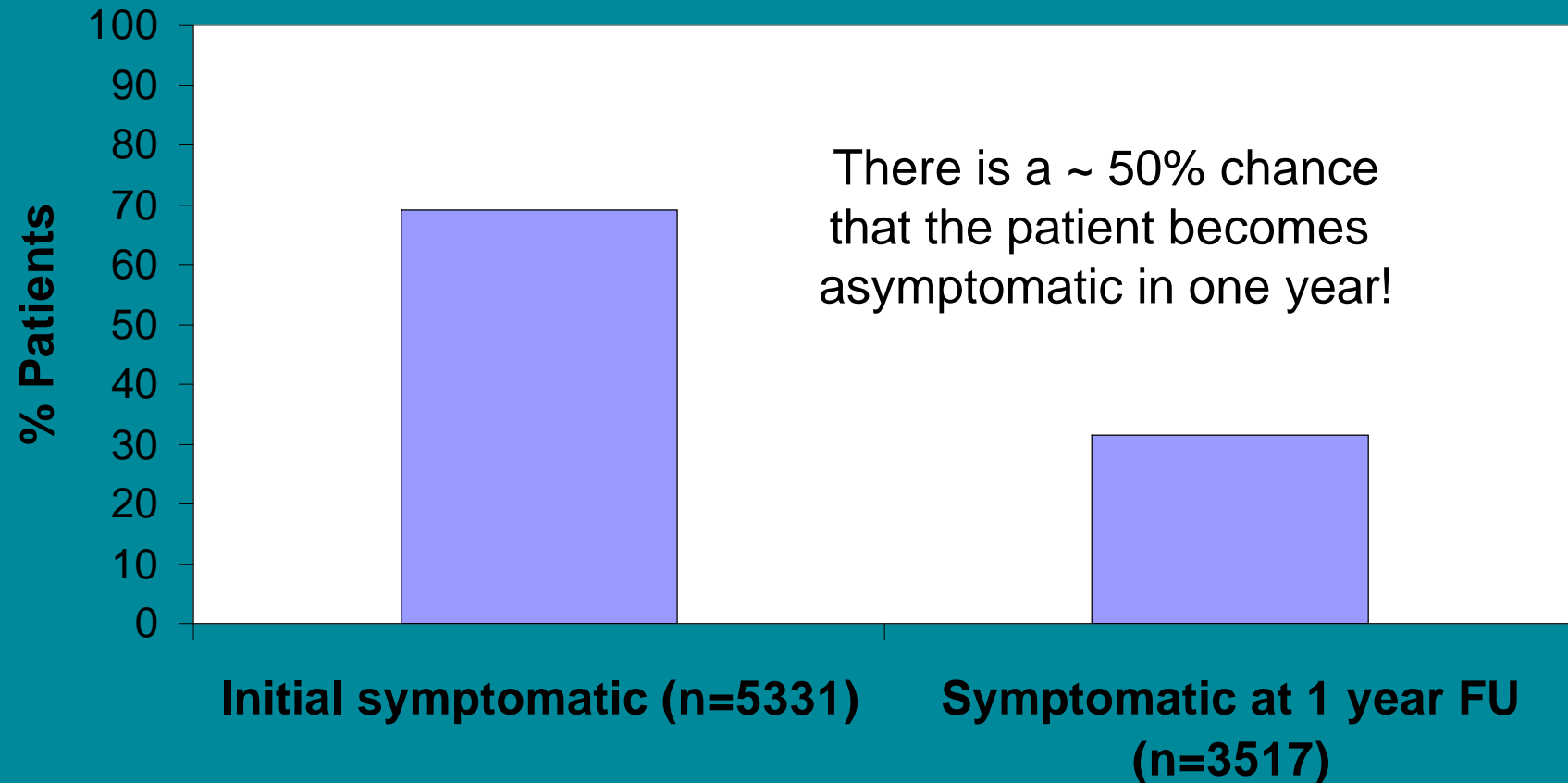
Are there different symptoms at different types of AF?

Σ - 1st detected AF \approx PAF > Persistent AF > Permanent AF



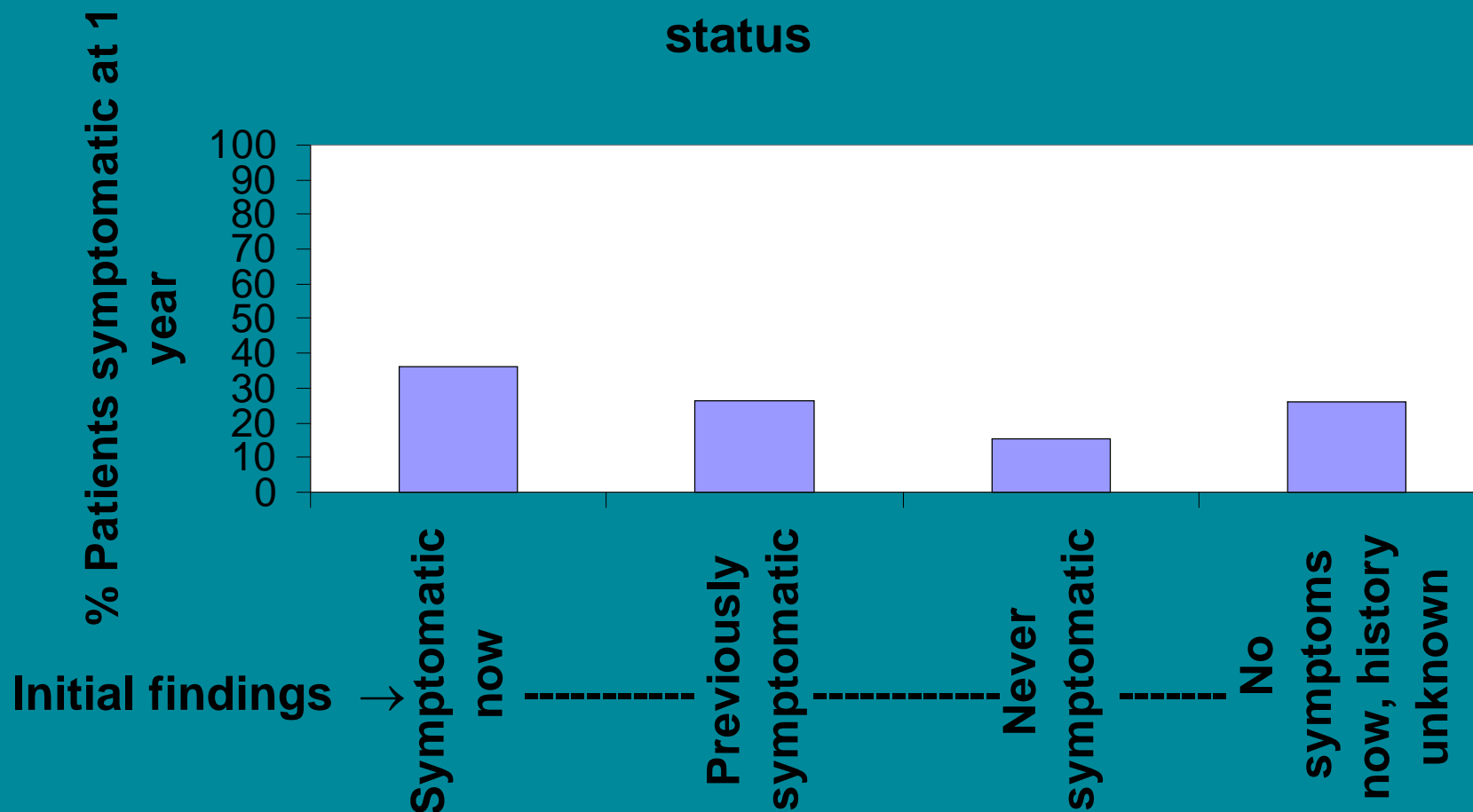
Symtomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?

Symptomatic initial vs 1 year FU



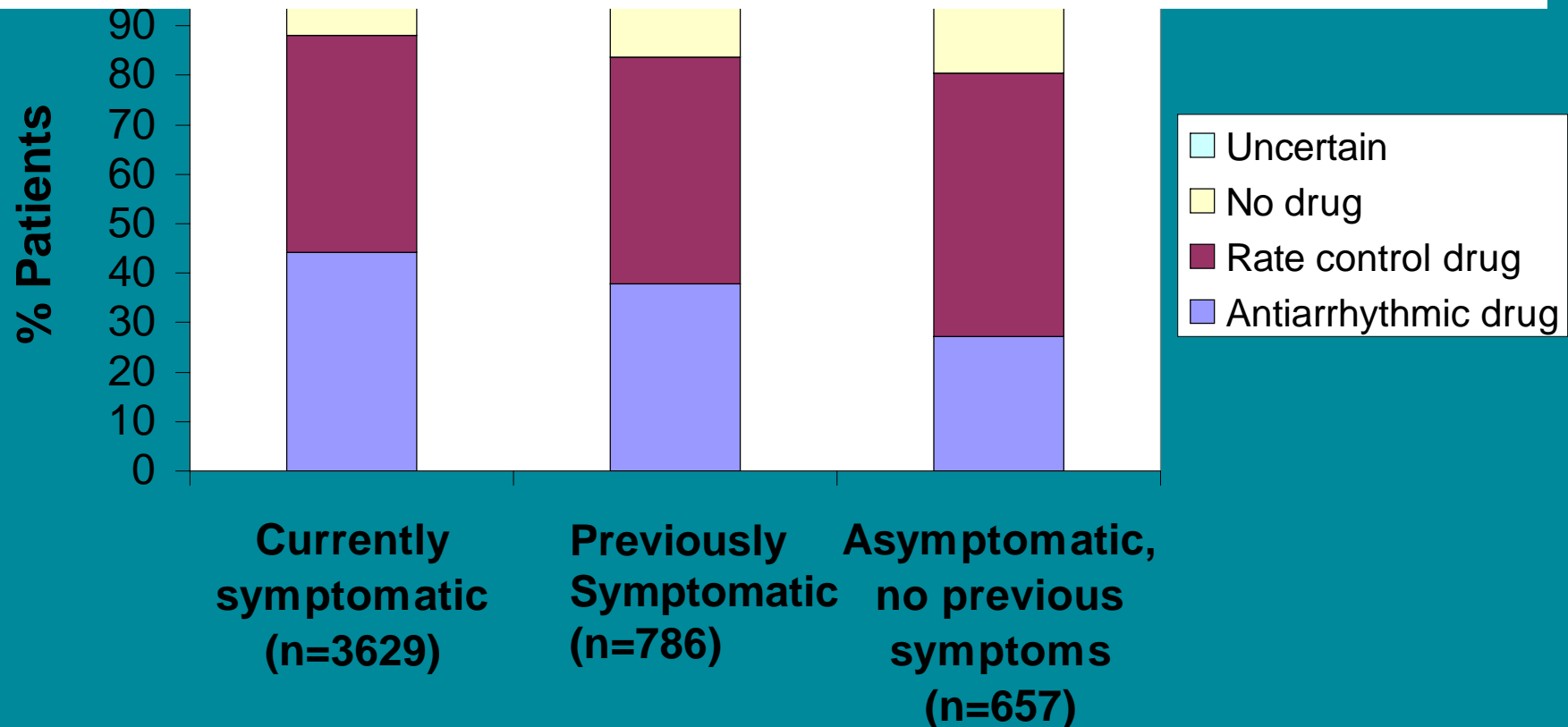
Symptomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?

Symptom status at 1 year versus initial symptom status



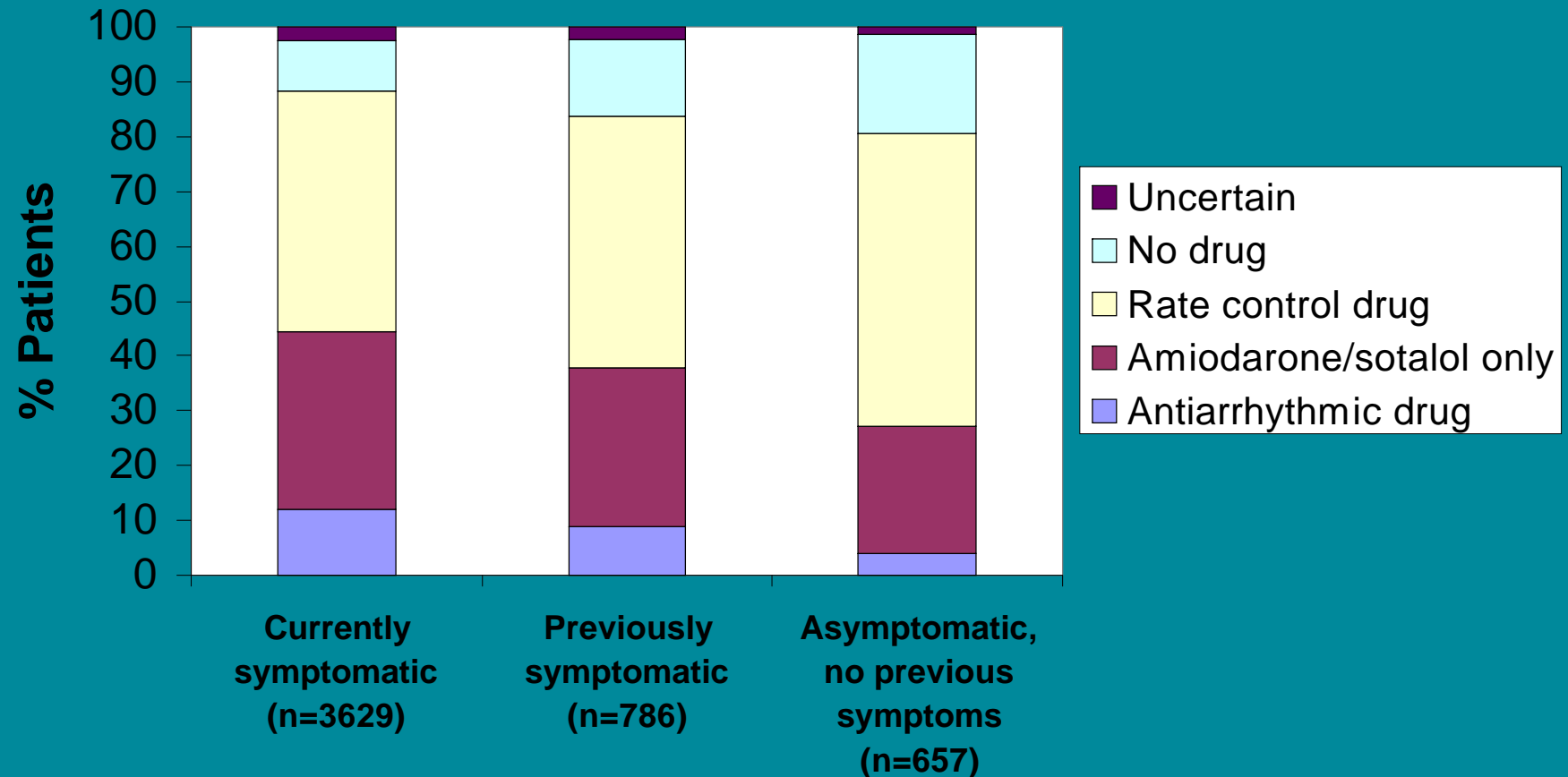
Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?

The asymptomatic patient is more likely to receive rate-control than rhythm control



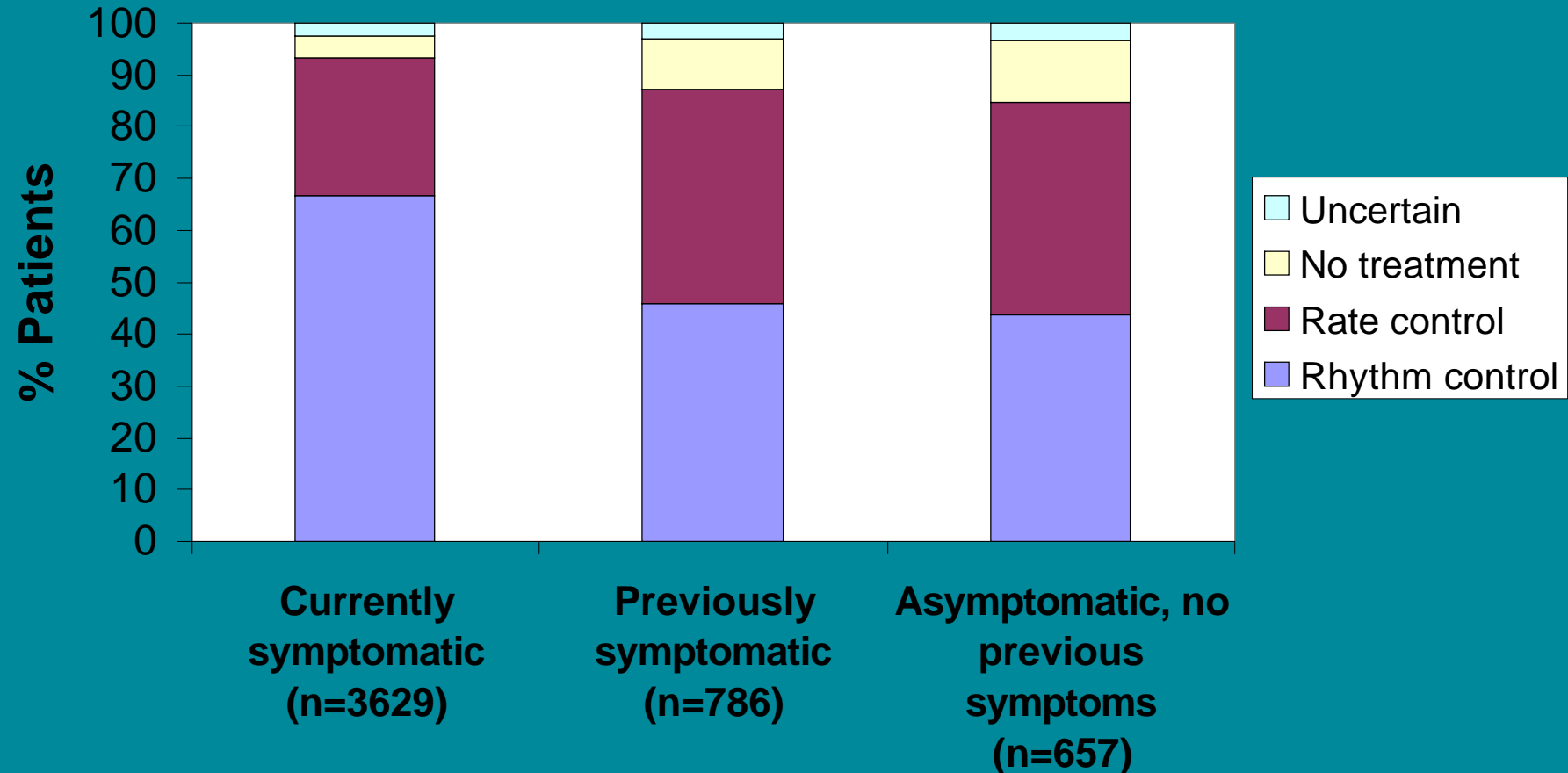
Is the choice of aa drug different in asymptomatic AF?

Strategy (drugs only) vs symptom status



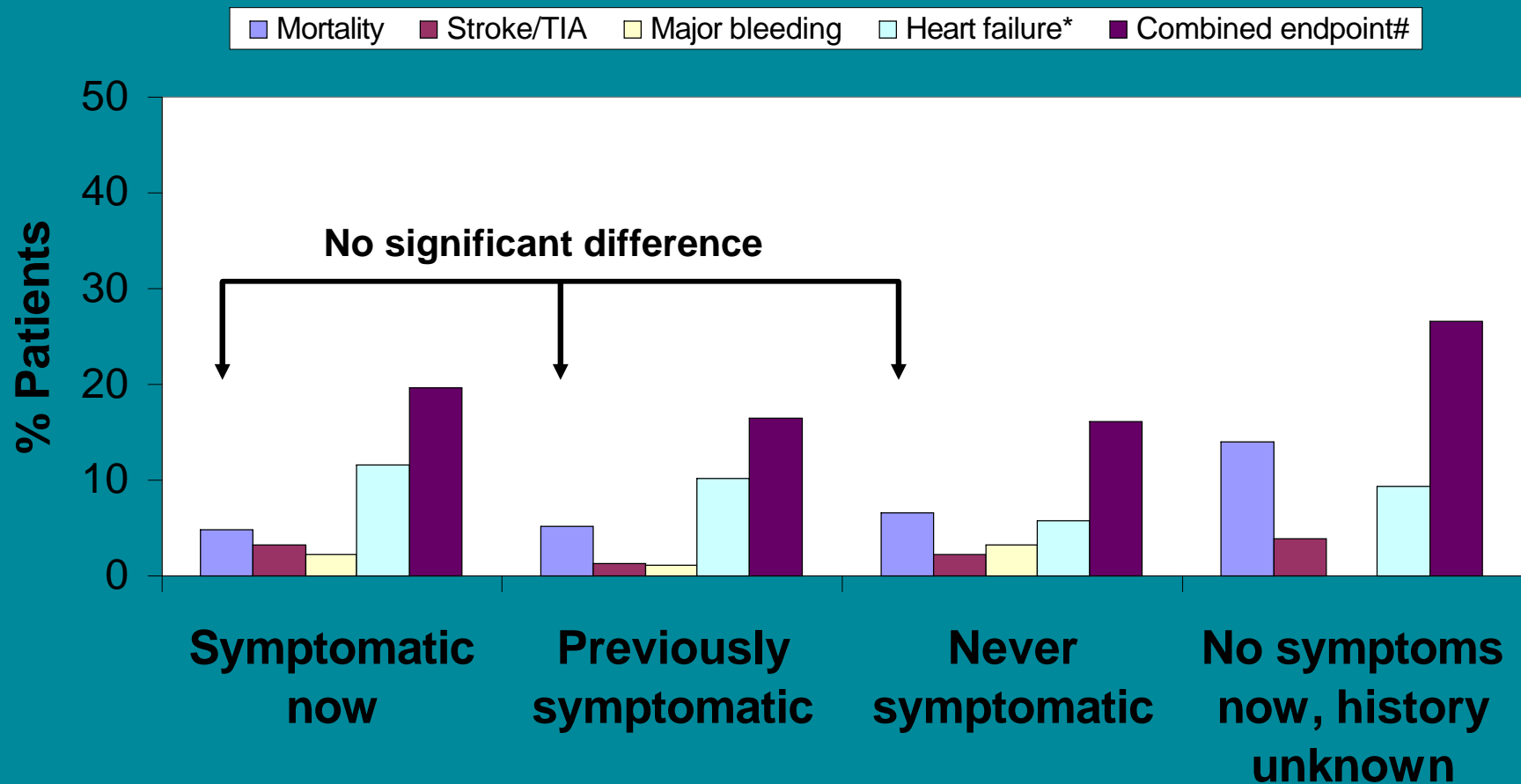
Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?

Strategy, interventions + drugs vs symptom status
(Intervention = CV by DC or drug, any type of ablation)



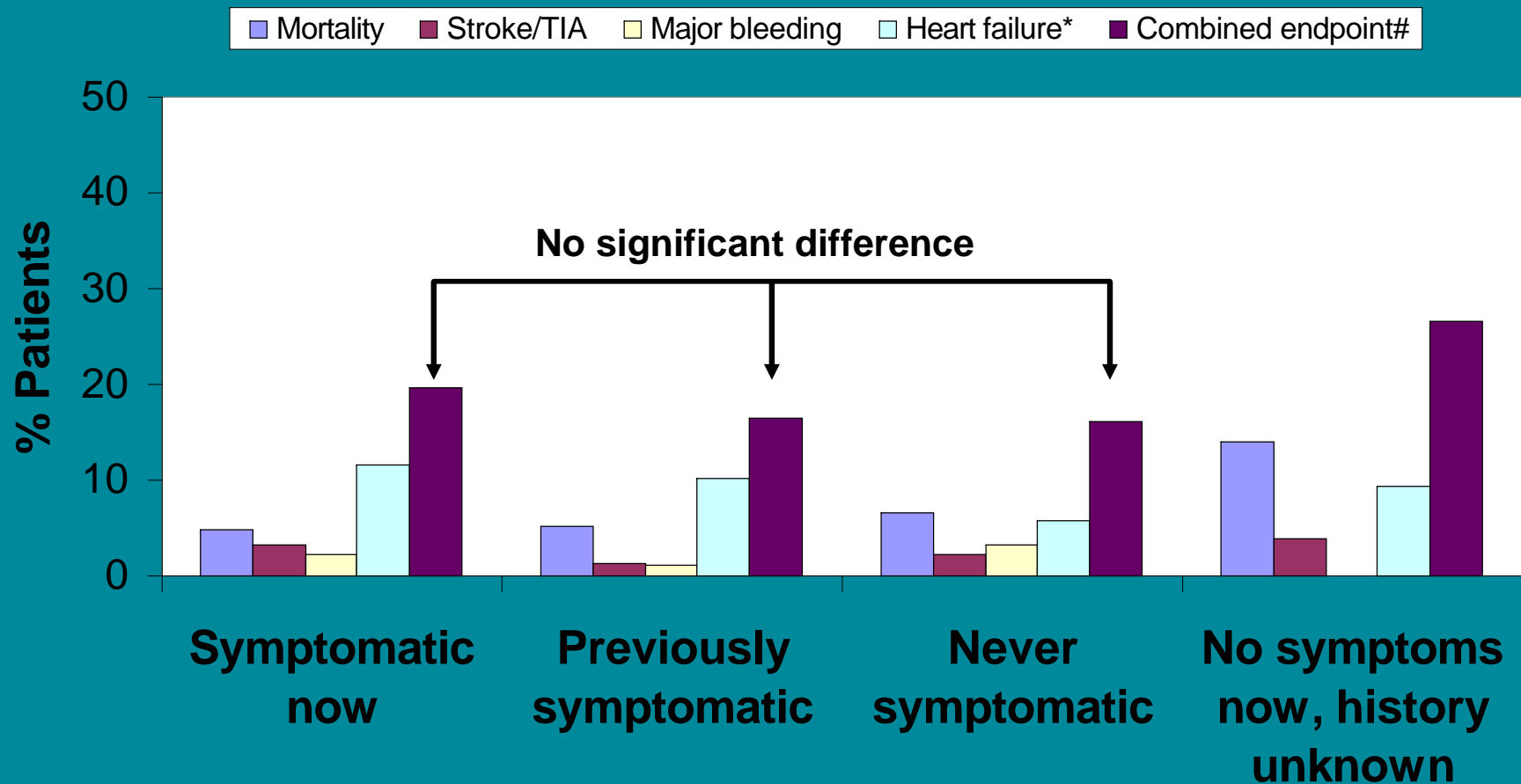
Outcome vs symptoms/no symptoms?

Symptomatic initial vs 1 year FU



Outcome vs symptoms/no symptoms?

Symptomatic initial vs 1 year FU



Answers to the questions

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~25 % of all patients!

Answers to the questions

- How common is asymptomatic AF?
- **Is freedom of symptom the only difference?**
- How common are the different symptoms?
- Type of symptom vs type of AF?
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Females are slightly more symptomatic

Answers to the questions

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- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

Between 50 % (palpitations) and 4 % (syncope)

Answers to the questions

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- How common are the different symptoms?
- **Type of symptom vs type of AF?**
- Symptomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?
- Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?
- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

Yes, it differs

Answers to the questions

- How common is asymptomatic AF?
- Is freedom of symptom the only difference?
- How common are the different symptoms?
- Type of symptom vs type of AF?
- **Symptomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?**
- Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?
- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

1 year: ~ 50 % reduction of symptoms!

Answers to the questions

- How common is asymptomatic AF?
- Is freedom of symptom the only difference?
- How common are the different symptoms?
- Type of symptom vs type of AF?
- Symptomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?
- **Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?**
- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

Yes, more often rate-control-regimen

Answers to the questions

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- How common are the different symptoms?
- Type of symptom vs type of AF?
- Symptomatic ↔ asymptomatic at followup?
- Is the asymptomatic patient treated differently?
- What is the prognosis with vs without symptoms?

No difference!

Thank you!

EuroHeart Survey AF

