



Functional assessment (invasive) of Coronary Circulation

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Potential conflicts of interest

- Consulting fees and honoraria on my behalf go to the Cardiovascular Research Center Aalst
- Contracted Research between the Cardiovascular Research Center Aalst and the following pharmaceutical and device companies:

Ablynx, Astra Zeneca, BMS, Eli Lilly, GSK, Therabel, Abbott Vascular, Biotronik, Boston Scientific, Cordis J&J, Edwards, Medtronic, Orbus Neich, St Jude, Terumo

- Ownership Interest: Cardiovascular Research Center Aalst is co-founder of Cardio³BioSciences, a start-up company focusing on cell-based regenerative cardiovascular therapies



Why do we need functional assessment?



Event Rates after a Negative Functional Stress Testing Myocardial Perfusion Imaging or Stress Echocardiography

Table 4

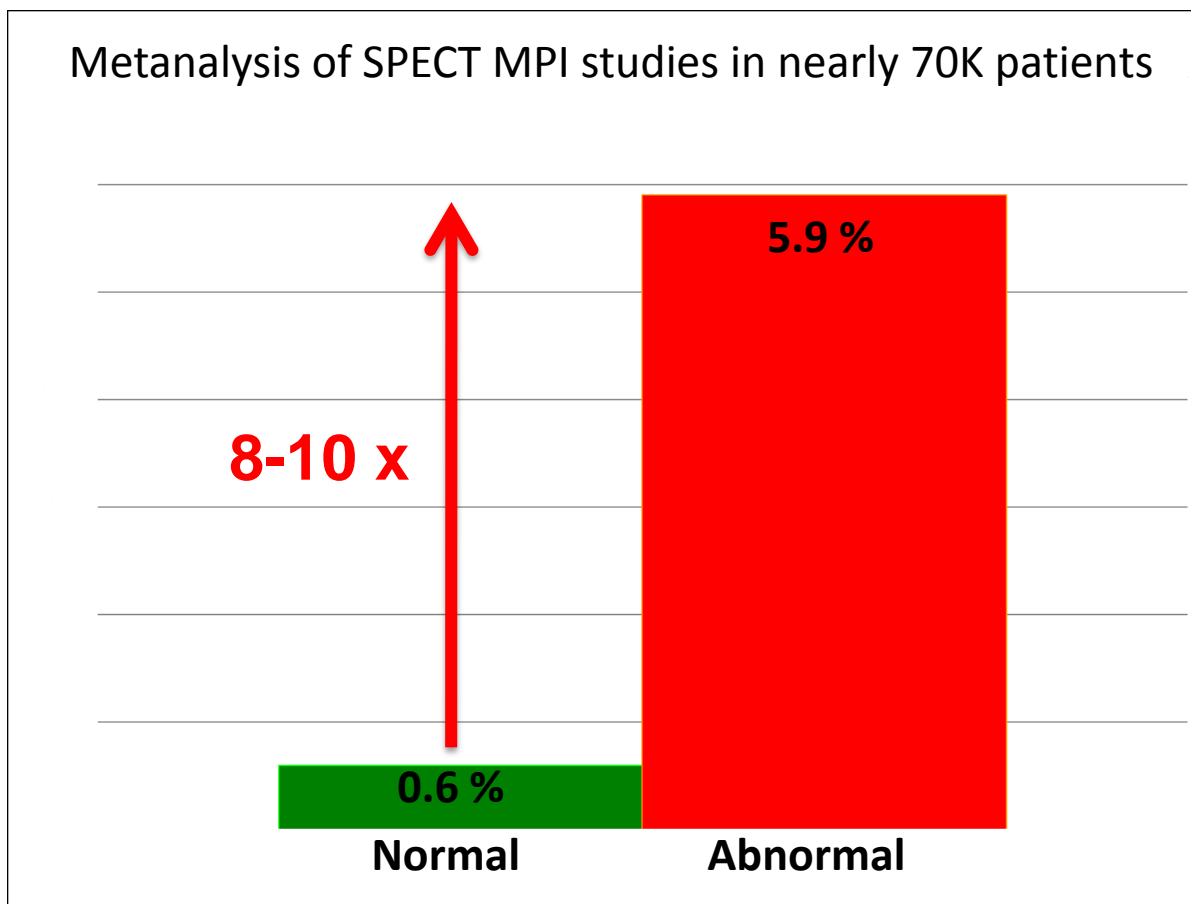
Summary Estimates of Rates After a Negative Test and Negative Predictive Value for Myocardial Infarction or Cardiac Death for Women and Men in Exercise Myocardial Perfusion Imaging and Exercise Echo

Exercise Imaging Modality	n	Mean Follow-Up (Months)	Summary Event Rate After Negative Test (%) (95% CI)	Negative Predictive Value (%) (95% CI)	Annualized Event Rate (%)
Myocardial Perfusion Imaging					
MPI					
All	2,900	32	1.03 (0.70-1.48)	99.0 (98.5-99.3)	0.58
Women	1,443	32	0.69 (0.33-1.27)	99.3 (98.7-99.7)	0.33
Men	1,457	20	1.37 (0.84-2.12)	98.6 (97.9-99.2)	0.82
Stress Echocardiography					
Echo					
All	5,946	37.6	3.23 (2.70-3.82)	96.8 (96.2-97.3)	1.03
Women	2,547	37.6	2.34 (1.71-3.13)	97.7 (96.9-98.3)	0.75
Men	3,399	37.6	3.90 (3.12-4.81)	96.1 (95.2-96.9)	1.24

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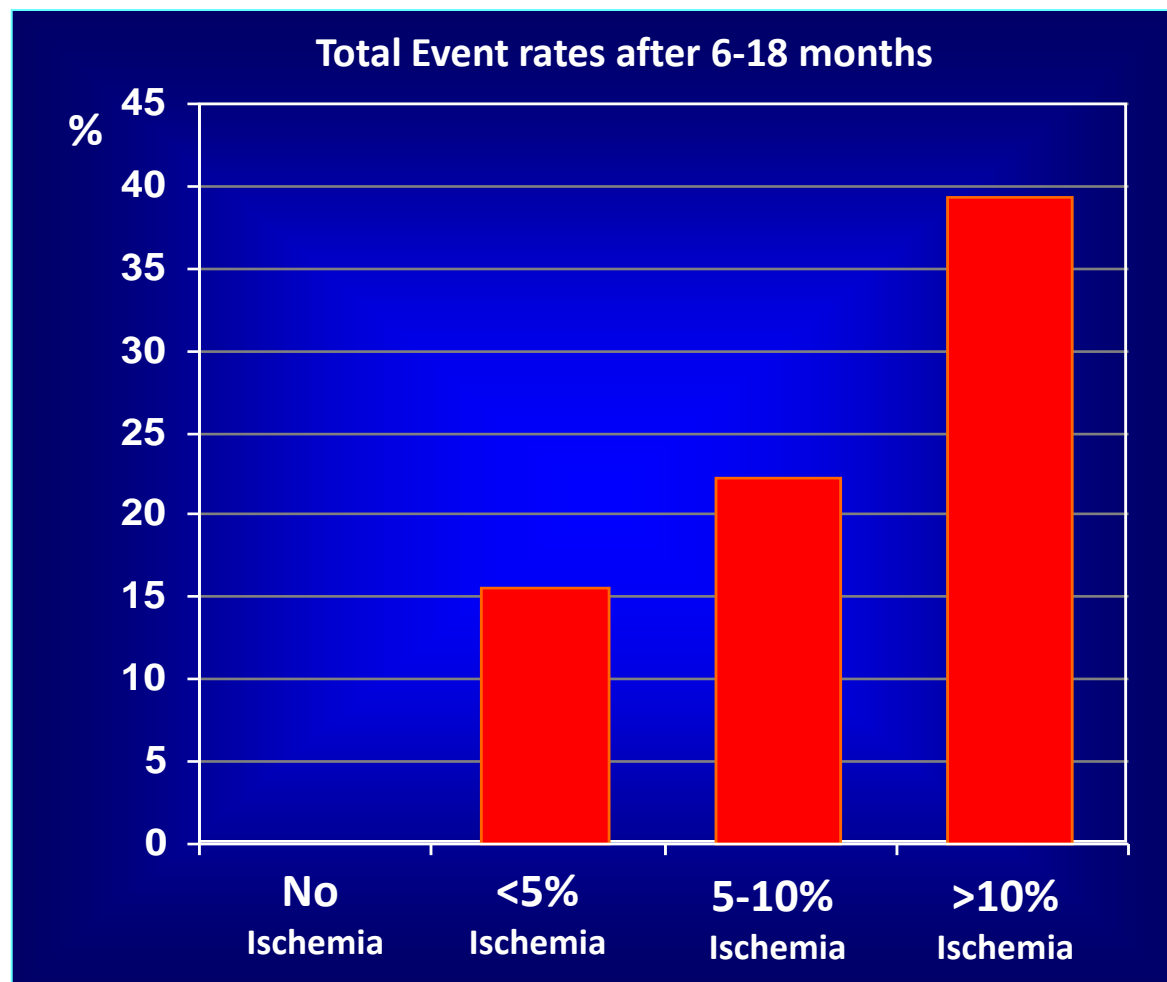
Annual risk of Cardiac Death and Myocardial Infarction





Extent of Functional Assessment abnormality and Cardiovascular Event Rate

- 314 patients with CAD
- After - either PCI+OMT
- or OMT
- Myocardial perfusion imaging prior and again 6 months after treatment

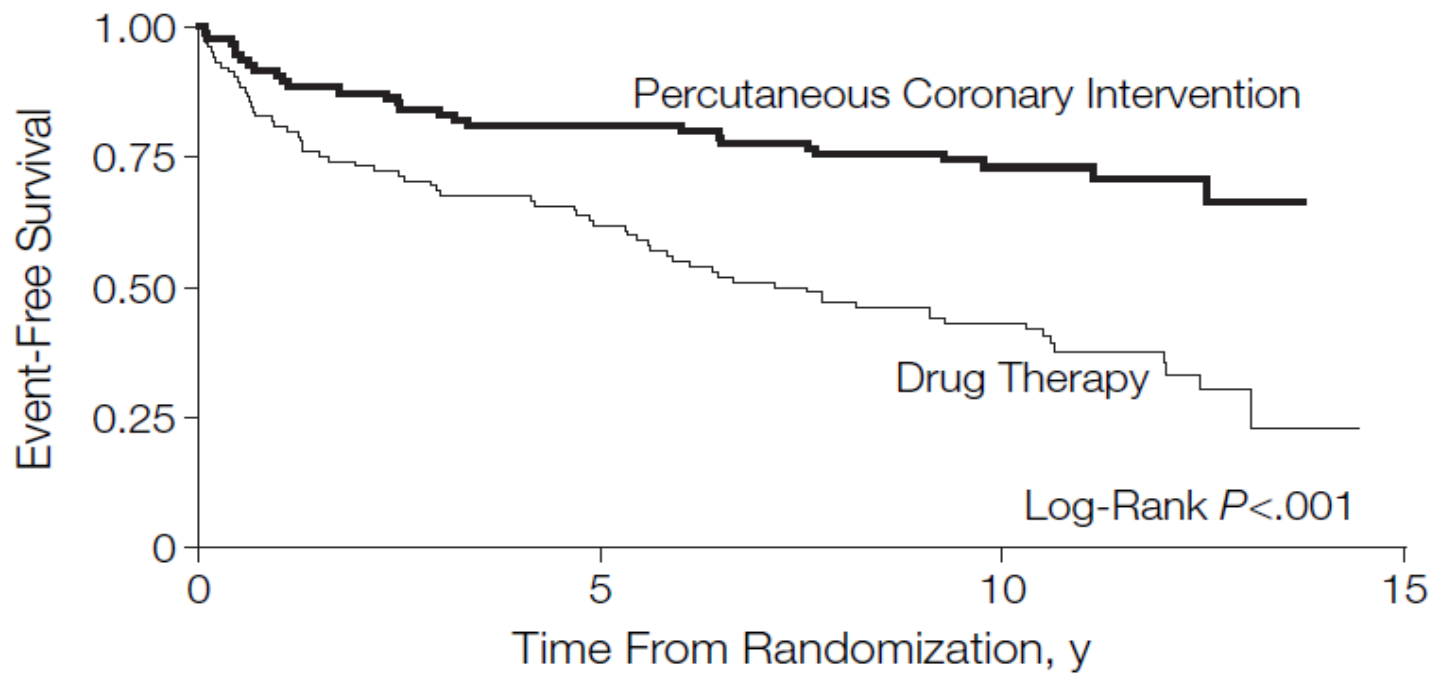


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SWISSI II Trial

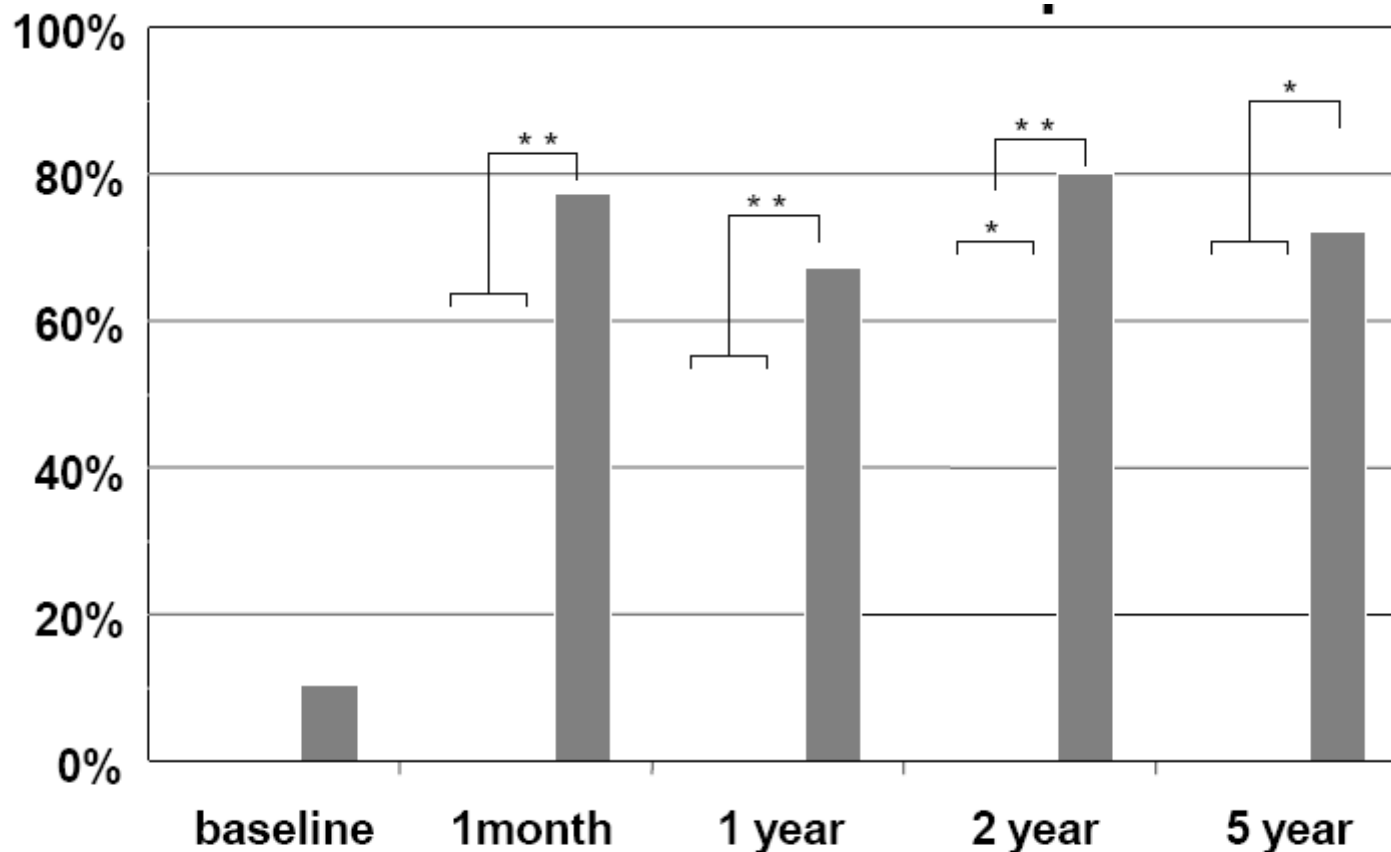
201 patients with silent ischemia after a myocardial infarction 10 Year-Follow-Up



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Freedom from Chest-pain



Ischemic lesions (FFR < 0.75)
treated by stenting



European Heart Journal (2010) 31, 2501–2555
doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehq277

ESC/EACTS GUIDELINES



Guidelines on myocardial revascularization

The Task Force on Myocardial Revascularization of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS)

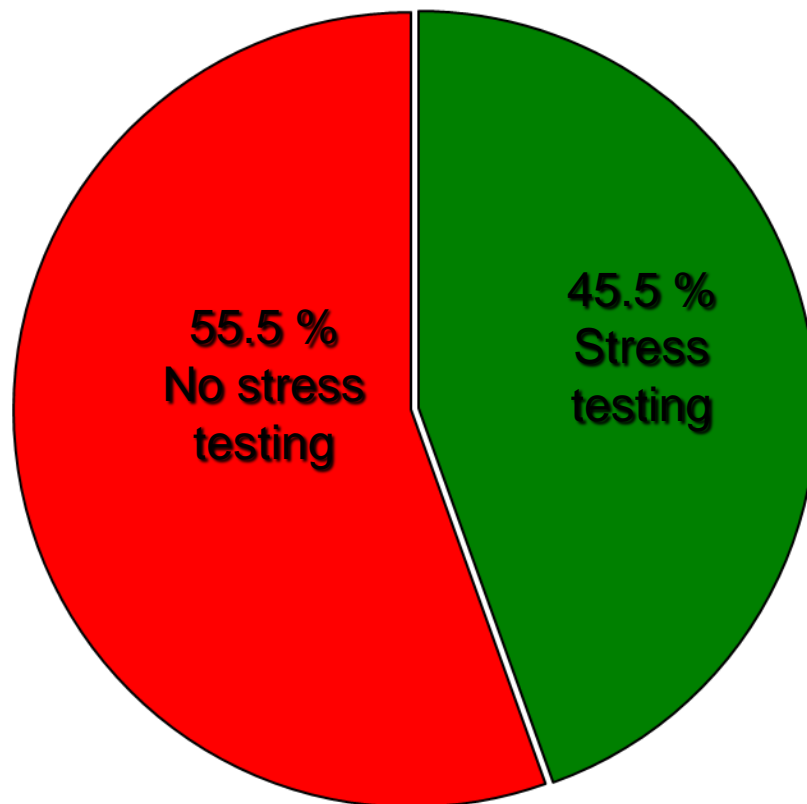
Developed with the special contribution of the European Association for Percutaneous Cardiovascular Interventions (EAPCI)‡

Authors/Task Force Members: William Wijns (Chairperson) (Belgium)*, Philippe Kolh

... In summary, documentation of ischaemia using functional testing is strongly recommended before elective invasive procedures, preferably using non-invasive testing before invasive angiography



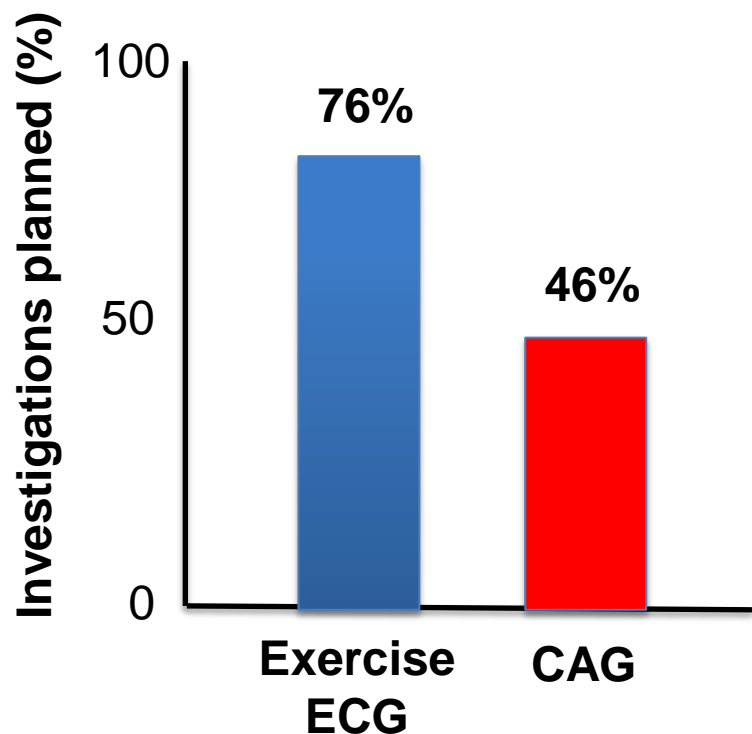
Frequency of stress tests to document ischemia prior to elective CAG+PCI



23887 Medicare patients undergoing *elective* CAG+PCI in 2004



Referral to CAG after the initial consultation



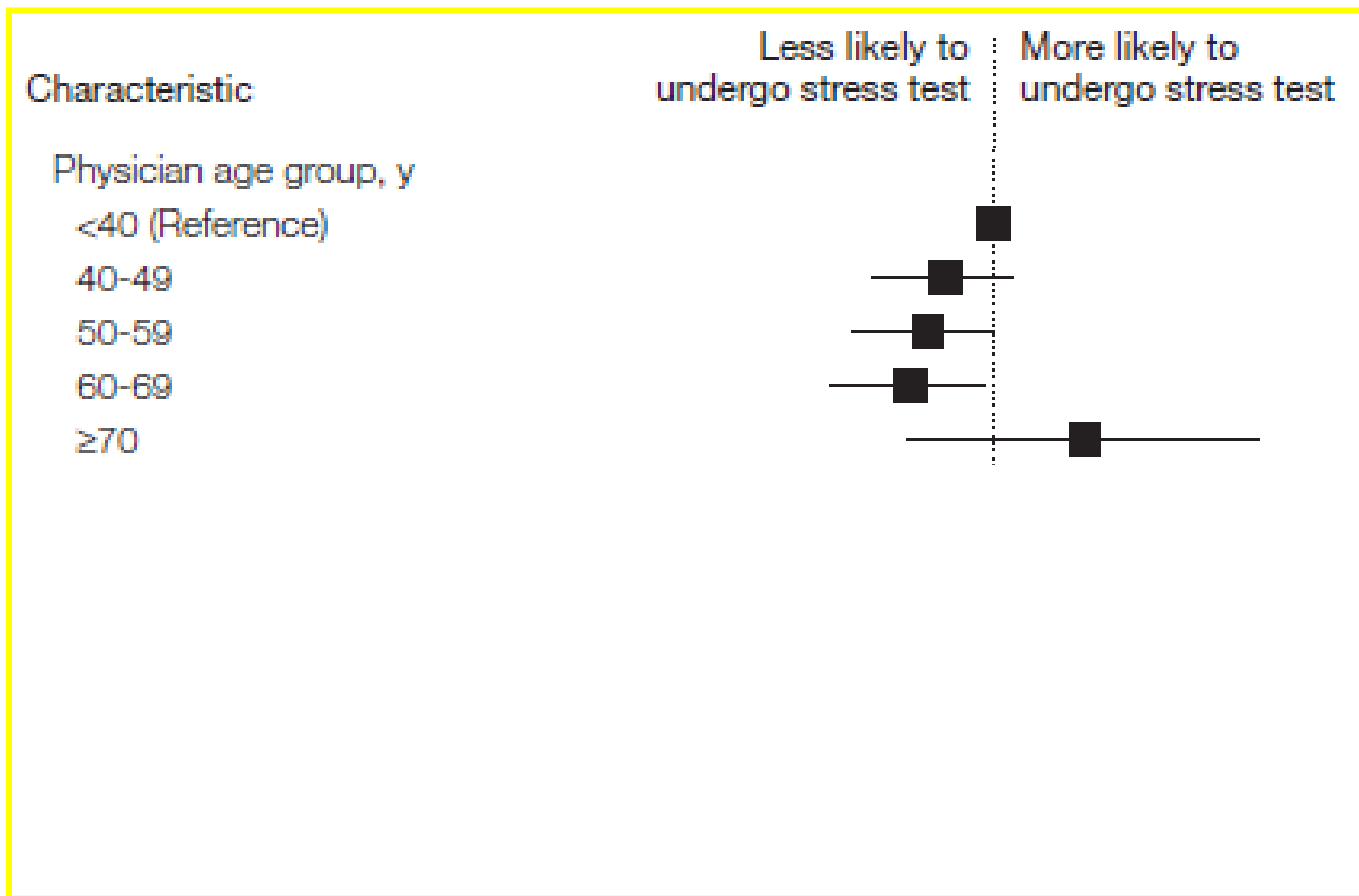
Countries with Low Rate of CAG

- Positive Exercise Test
- Female Gender

Countries with High Rate of CAG

- Positive Exercise Test
- Female Gender
- Invasive Centre
- Symptom duration > 6 months

Frequency of Stress Testing to Document Ischemia Prior to Elective CAG+PCI



23887 Medicare patients undergoing *elective* CAG+PCI in 2004

G.A. Lin et al JAMA 2008

Technician:
Test ind:

DOB:

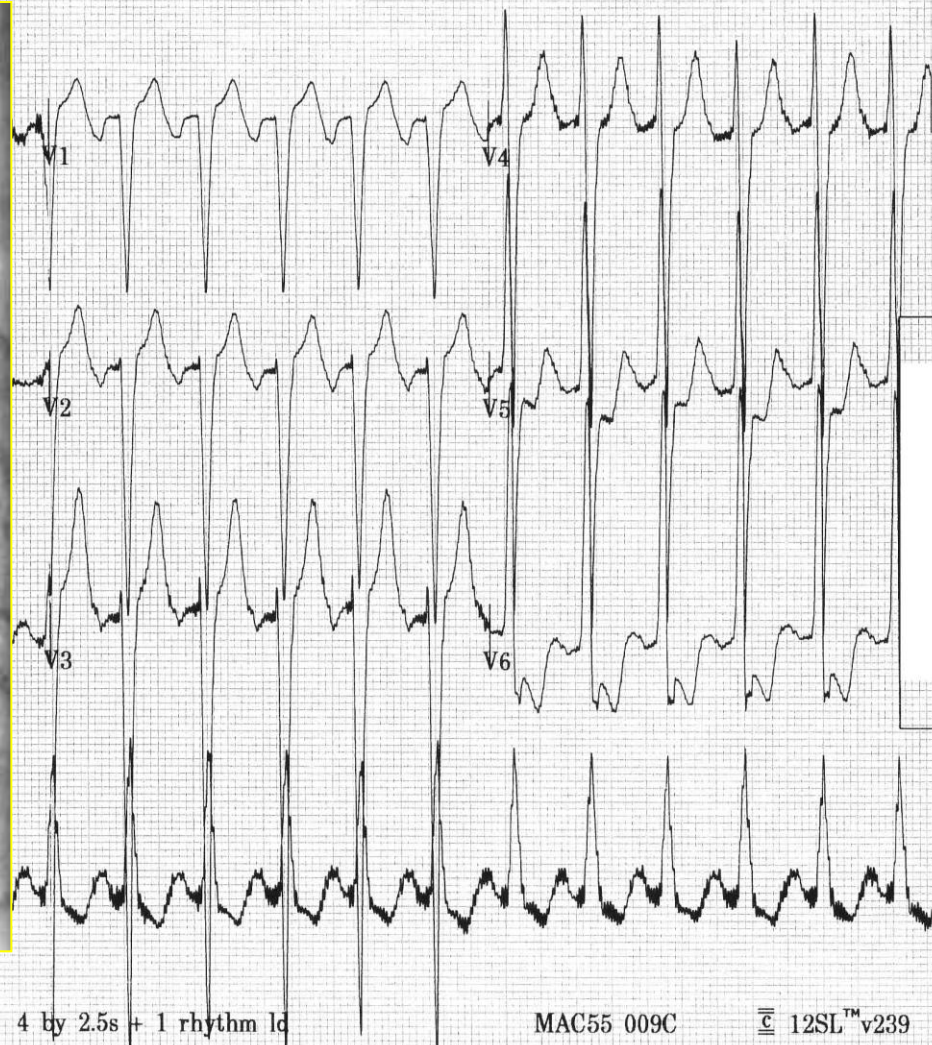
ACCOUNT #:

Referred by:

ADMITTED:

Unconfirmed

EKG # _____:



150 Hz 25.0 mm/s 10.0 mm/mV

4 by 2.5s + 1 rhythm ld

MAC55 009C

12SL™ v239

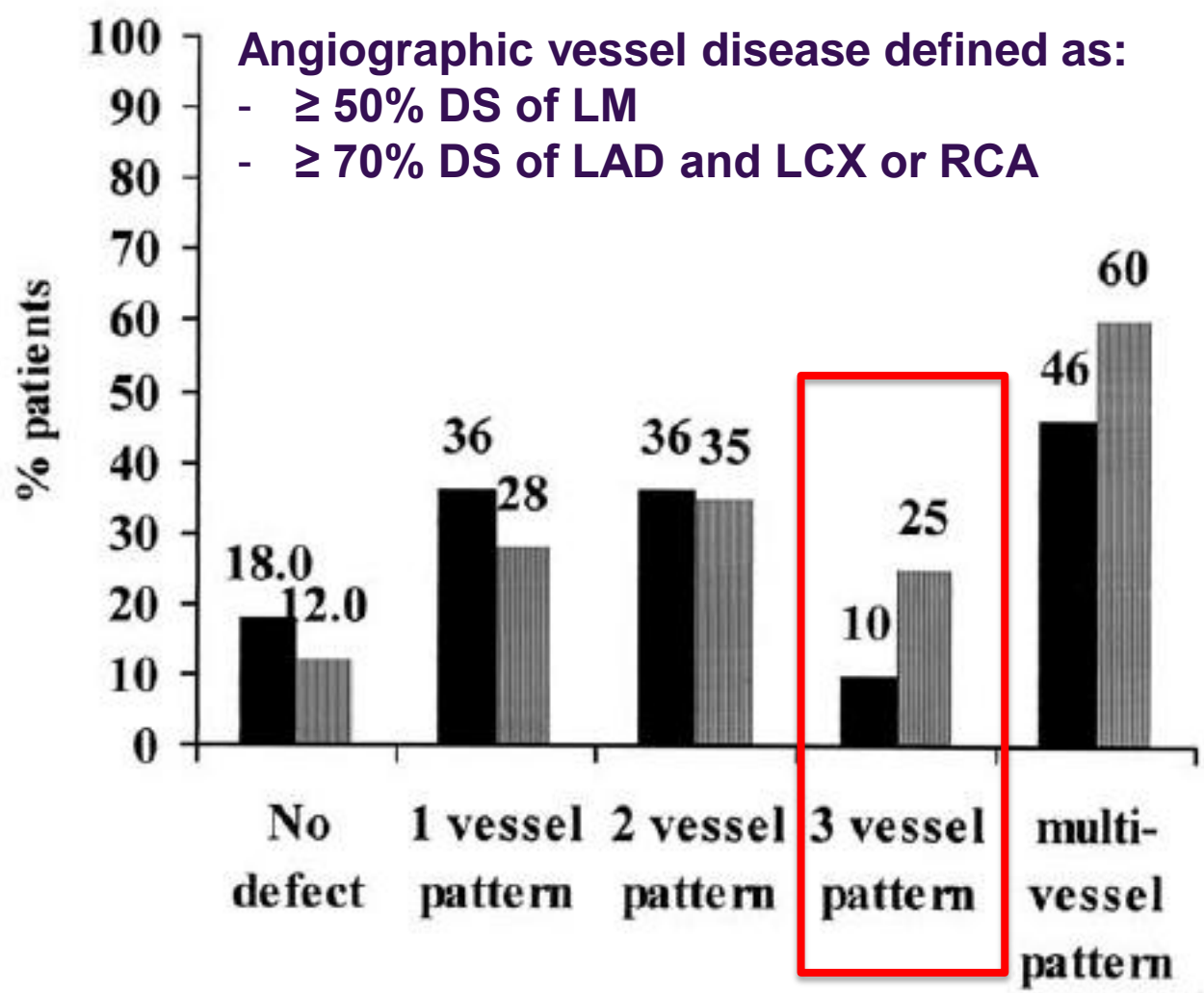
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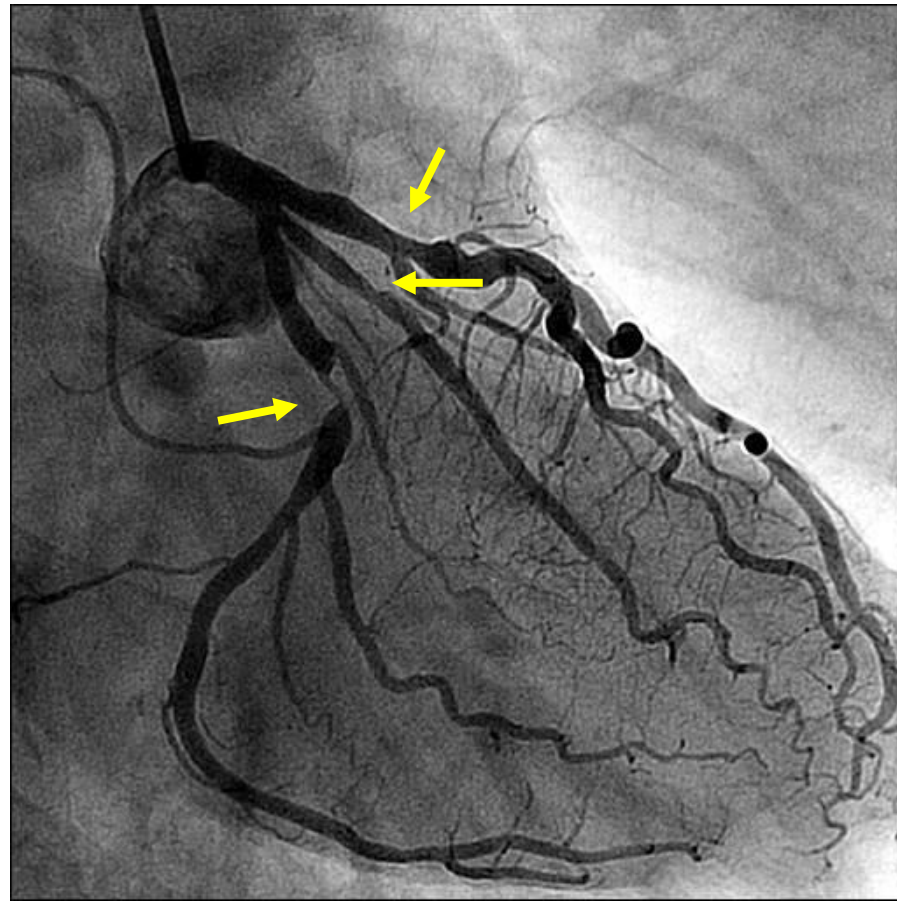
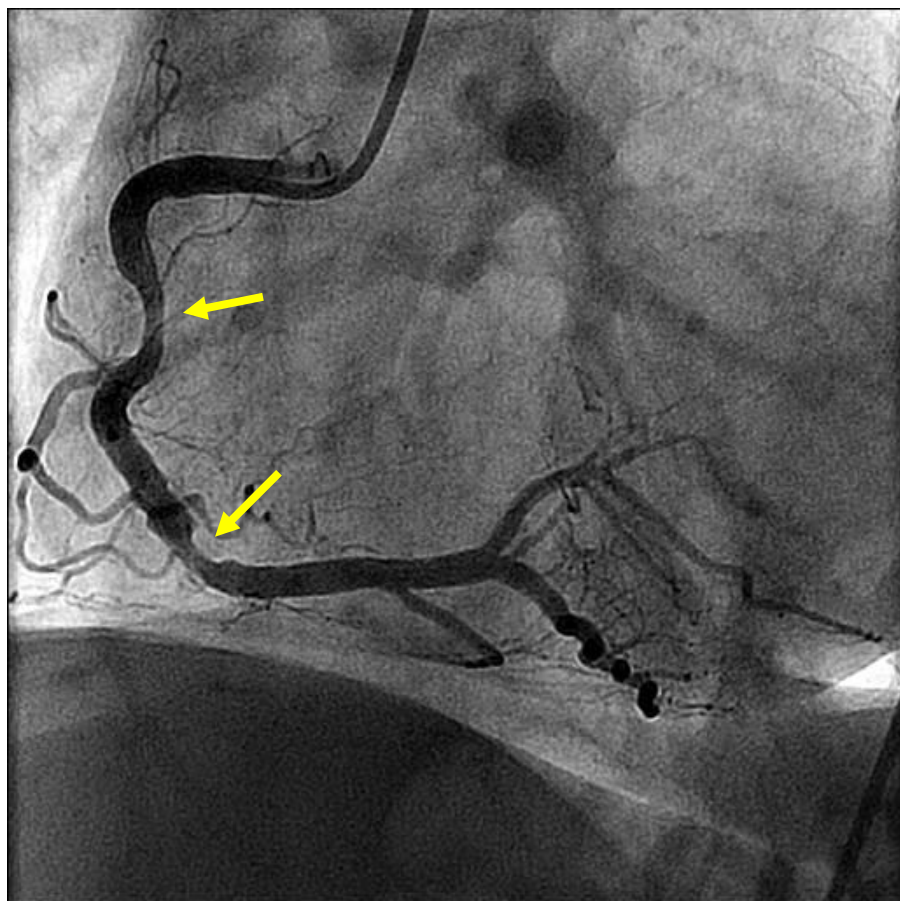


Clinical conditions in which non-invasive testing is difficult to interpret

1. During and after acute myocardial infarction
2. Obesity, bundle branch block, ...
3. "Intermediate lesion"
4. Left main stenosis
5. Multivessel disease
6. ...

Diagnostic accuracy of ECG-gated SPECT MPI in patients 3-vessel disease

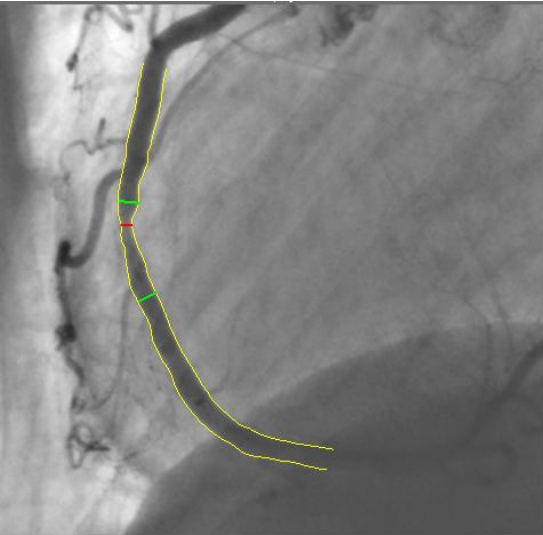




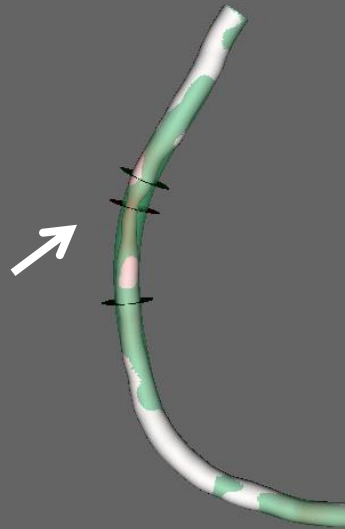
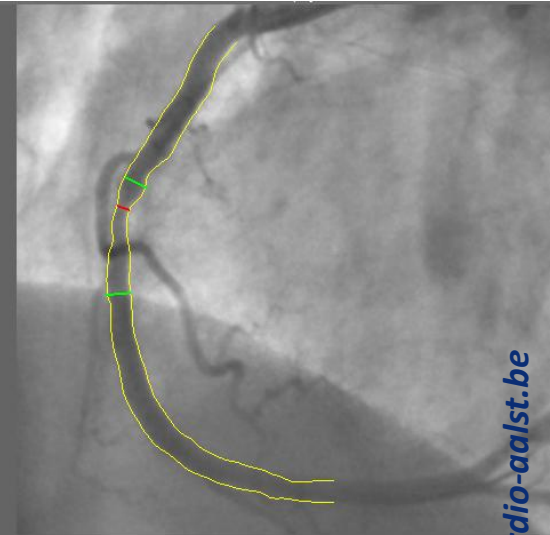
How to proceed?

It is not the question IF stenting is indicated, but WHERE and HOW MANY

2D and 3D QCA



LAO 43, CAUD 20
DS 53%, 14.0 mm
Pro 2.7 mm, 2.7 mm
Dis 2.7 mm, 2.6 mm
Bending Angle: 13



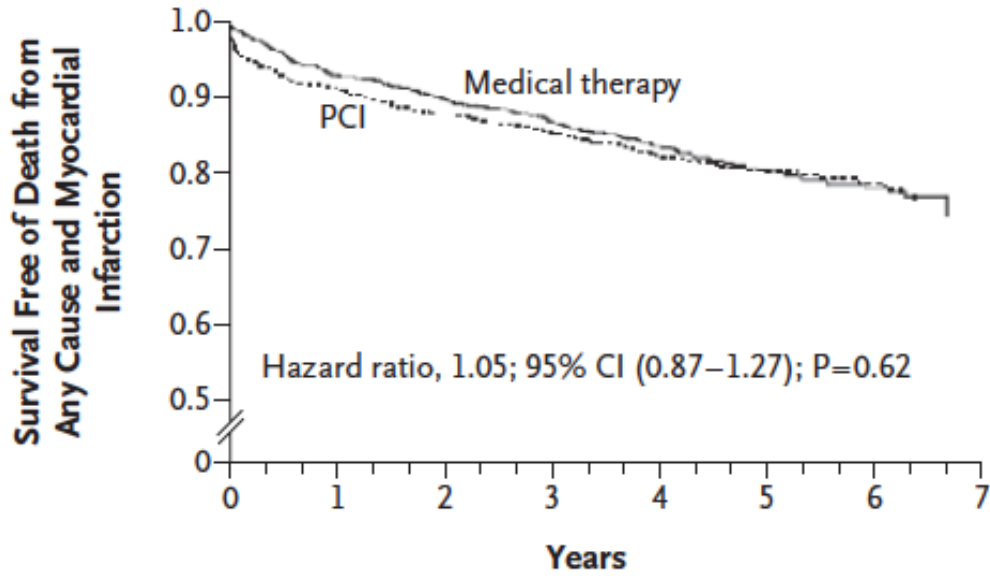
Diameter stenosis =
53%

QAngio XA 3D

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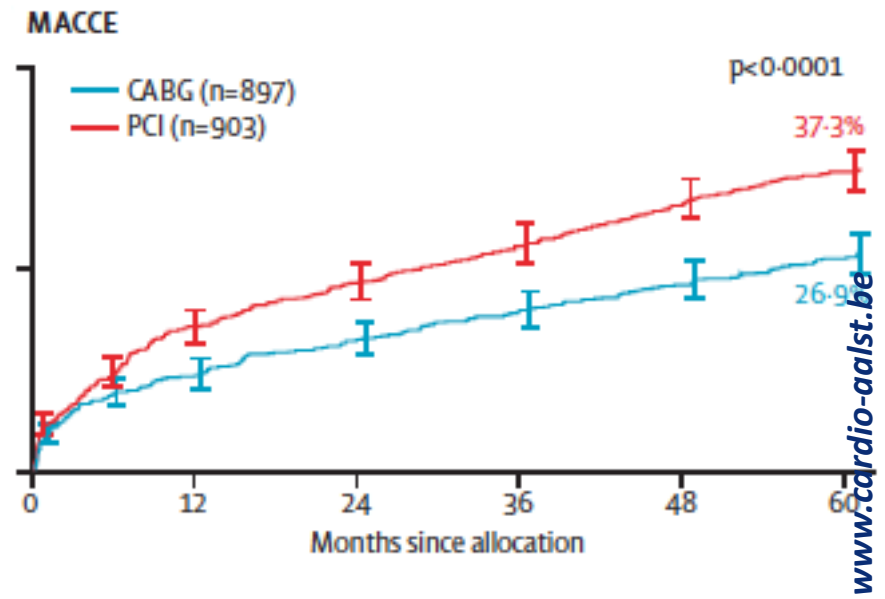


Low-to-intermediate Risk



COURAGE
W.E. Boden et al NEJM 2007

Intermediate-to-high Risk

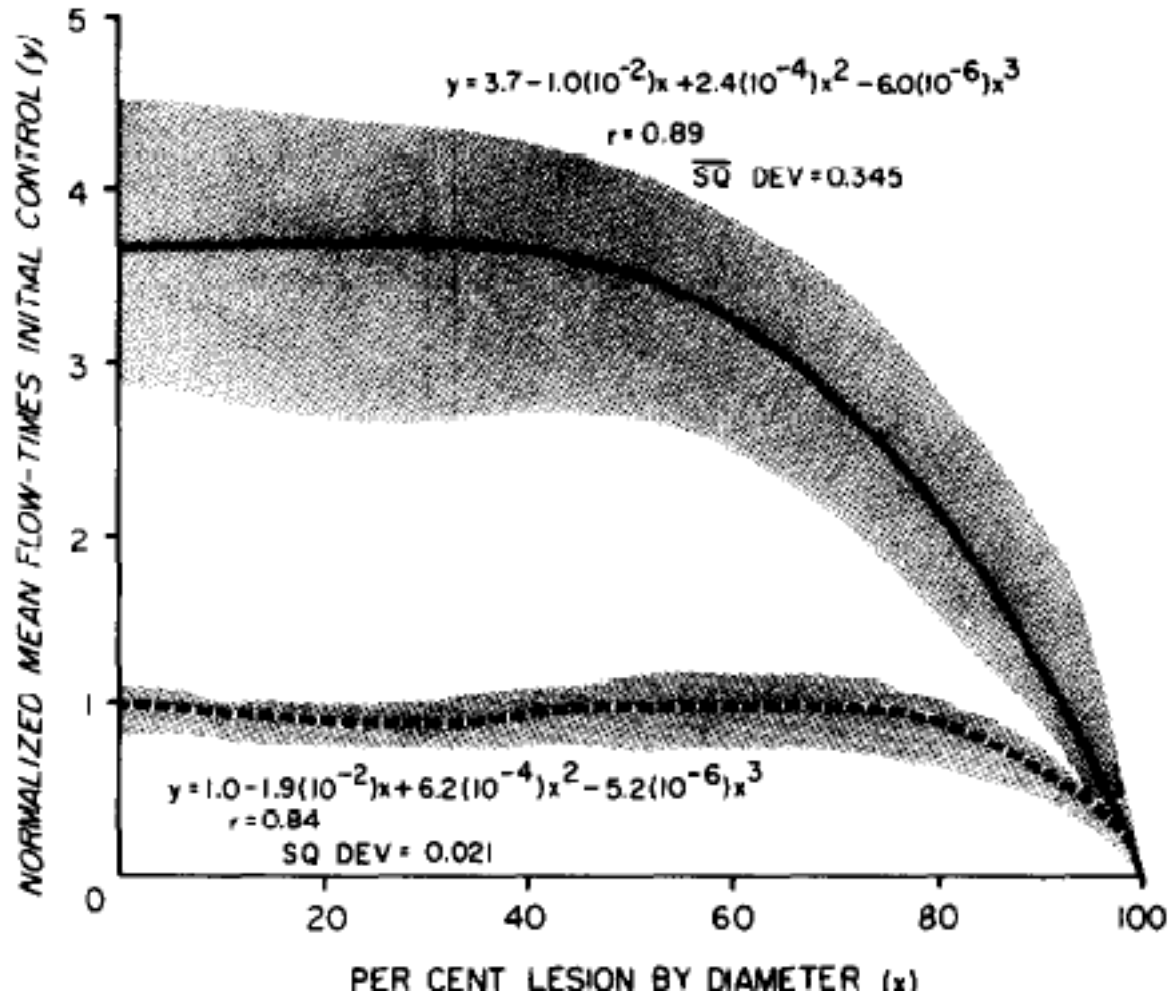


SYNTAX
F.W. Mohr et al Lancet 2013

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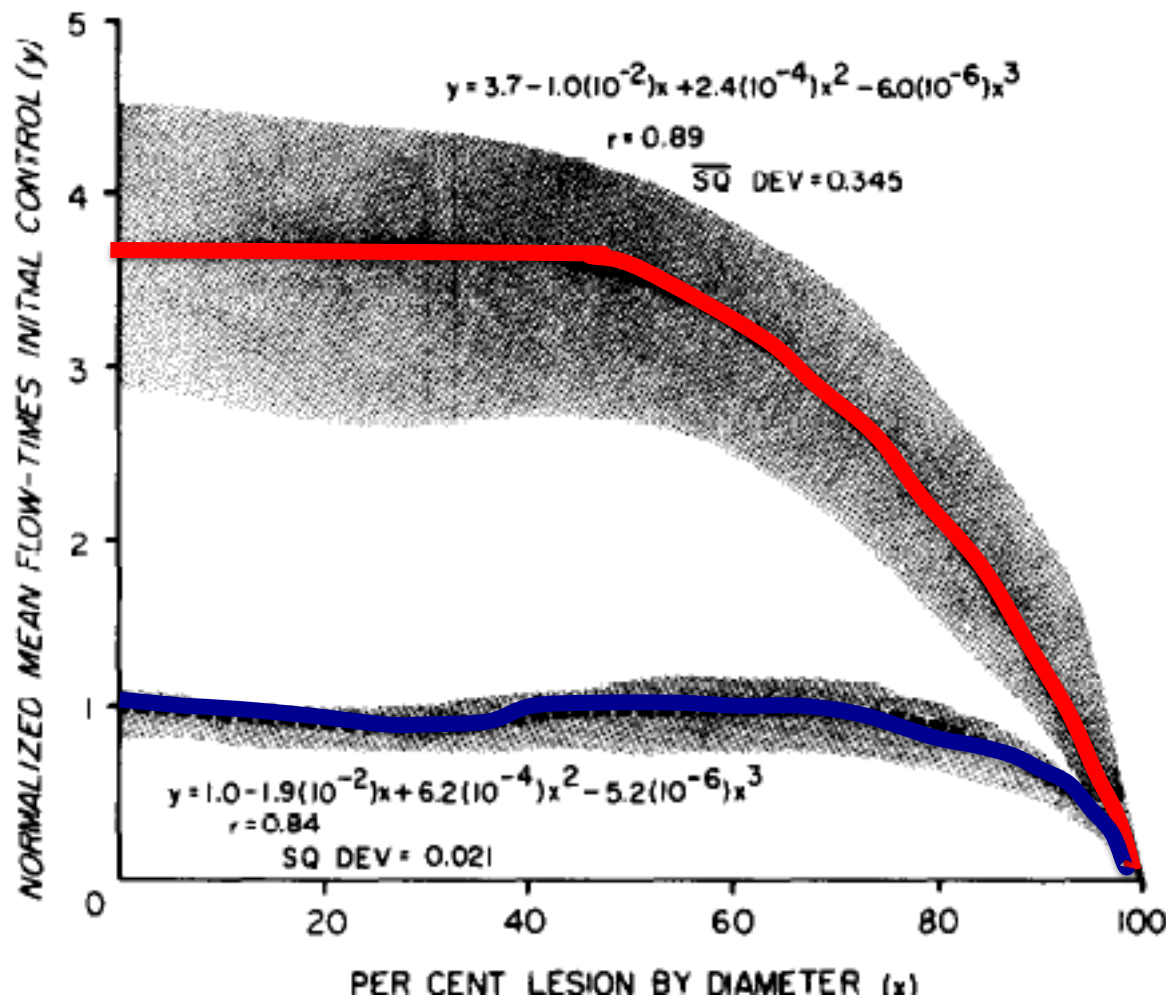
Relationship between %DS and coronary flow



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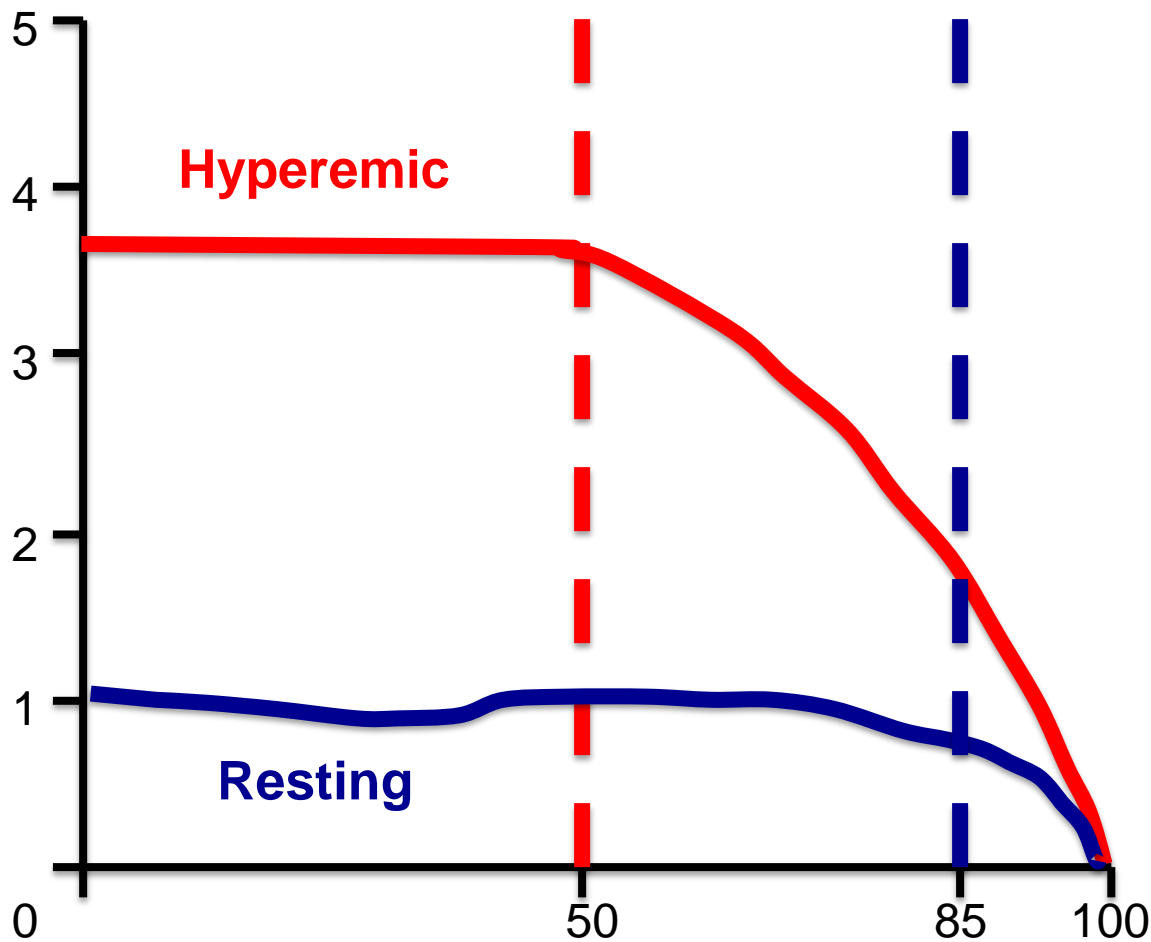


Relationship between %DS and coronary flow



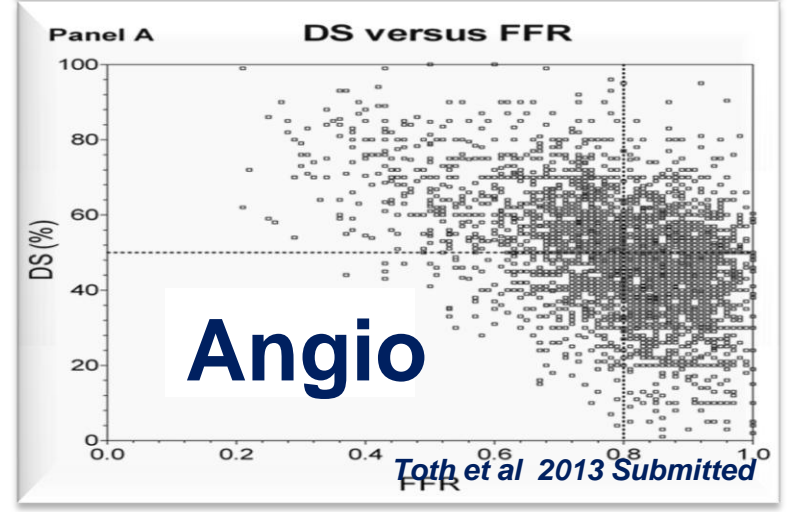
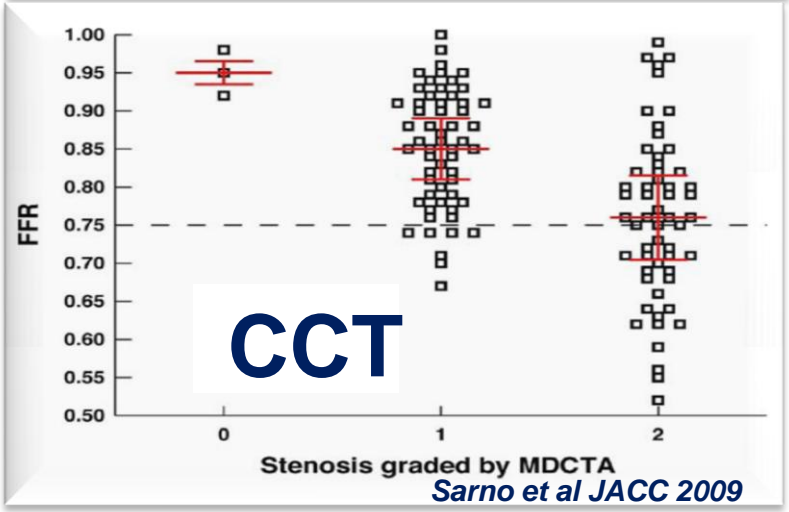
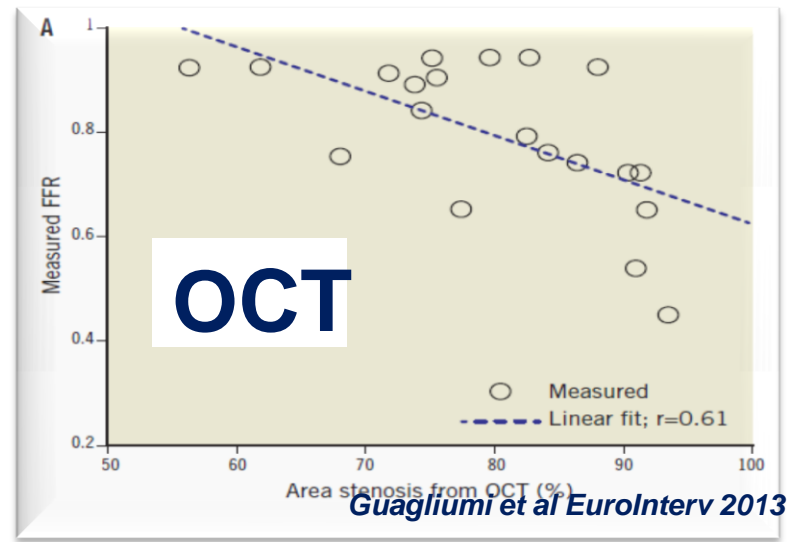
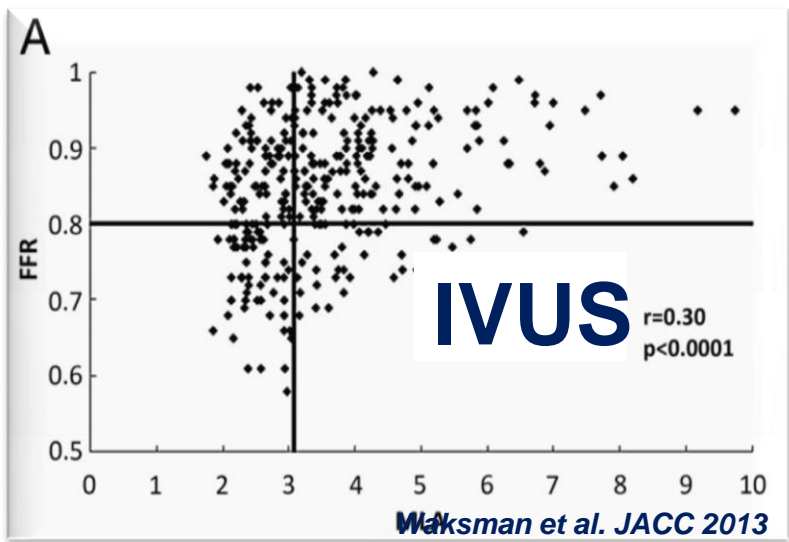


Relationship between %DS and coronary flow





Anatomy vs Physiology: the Chimeric Link

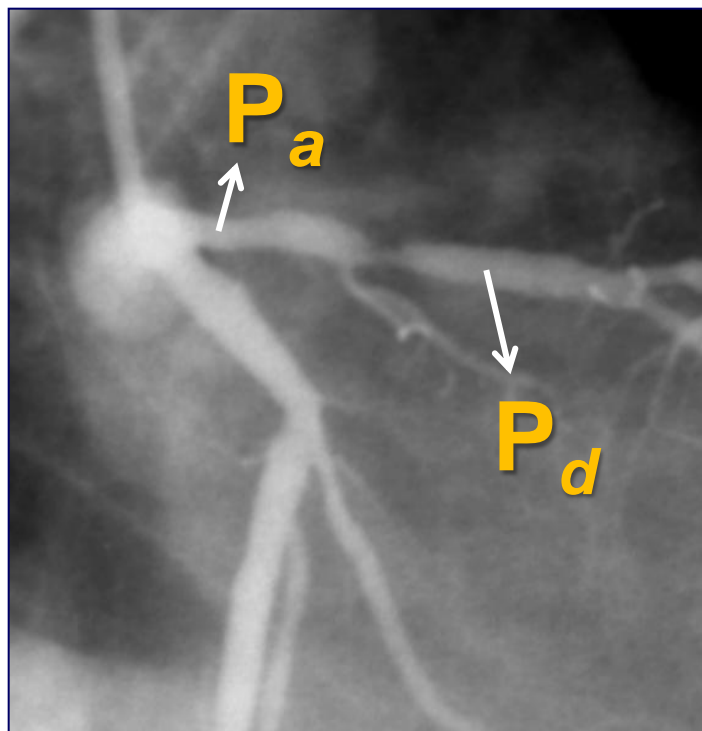


Statistical (mechanistic) relation but little clinical relation

Fractional Flow Reserve

FFR = ratio of hyperemic flow in the stenotic vessel to hyperemic flow in the same vessel but in the absence of the stenosis

FFR = extent to which (%) maximal myocardial flow is limited by the epicardial stenosis

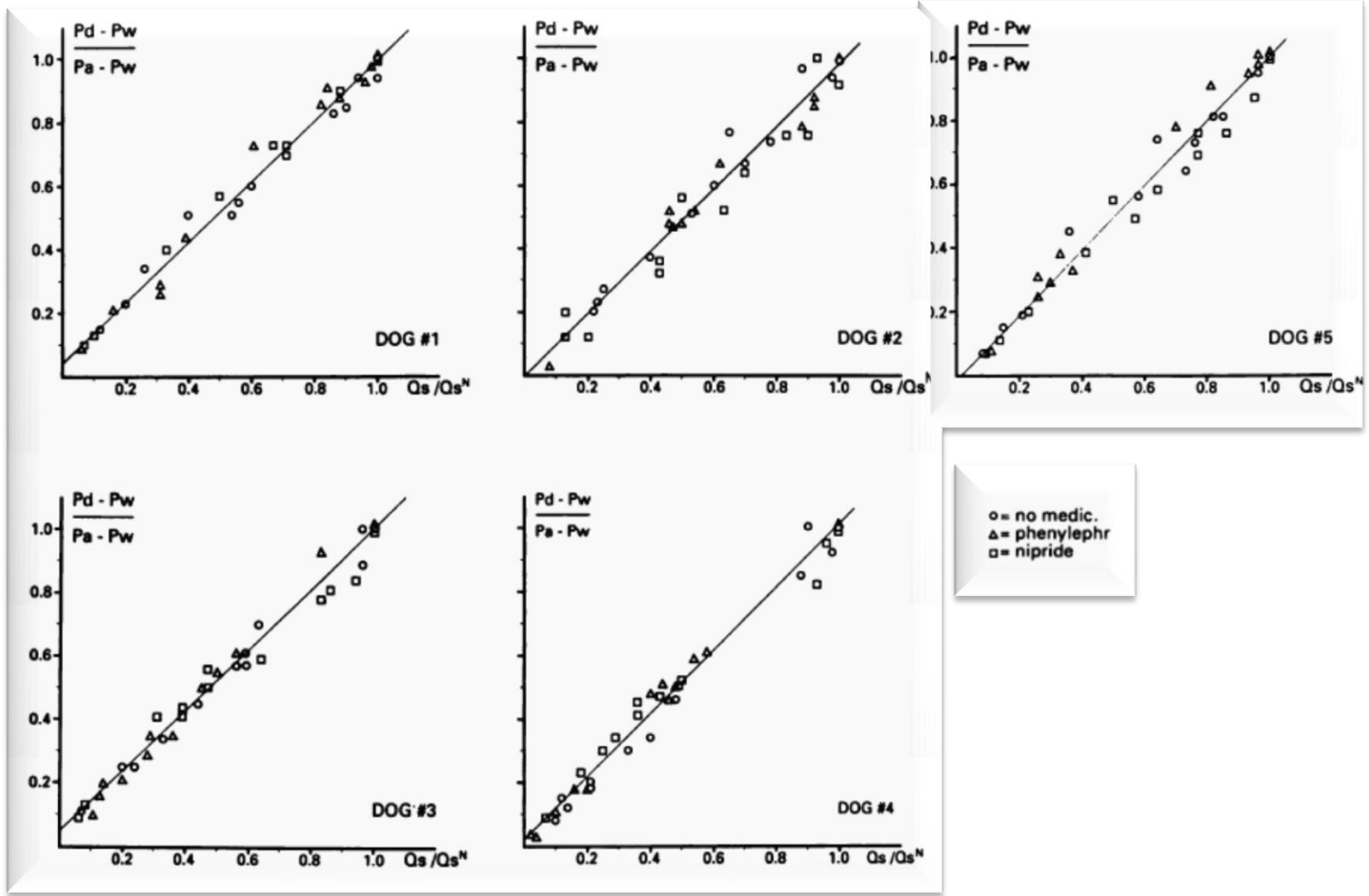


$$FFR = \frac{Q_{max}^S}{Q_{max}^N} = \frac{P_d}{P_a}$$

**During maximal hyperemia
(i.e. during maximal transstenotic flow)**

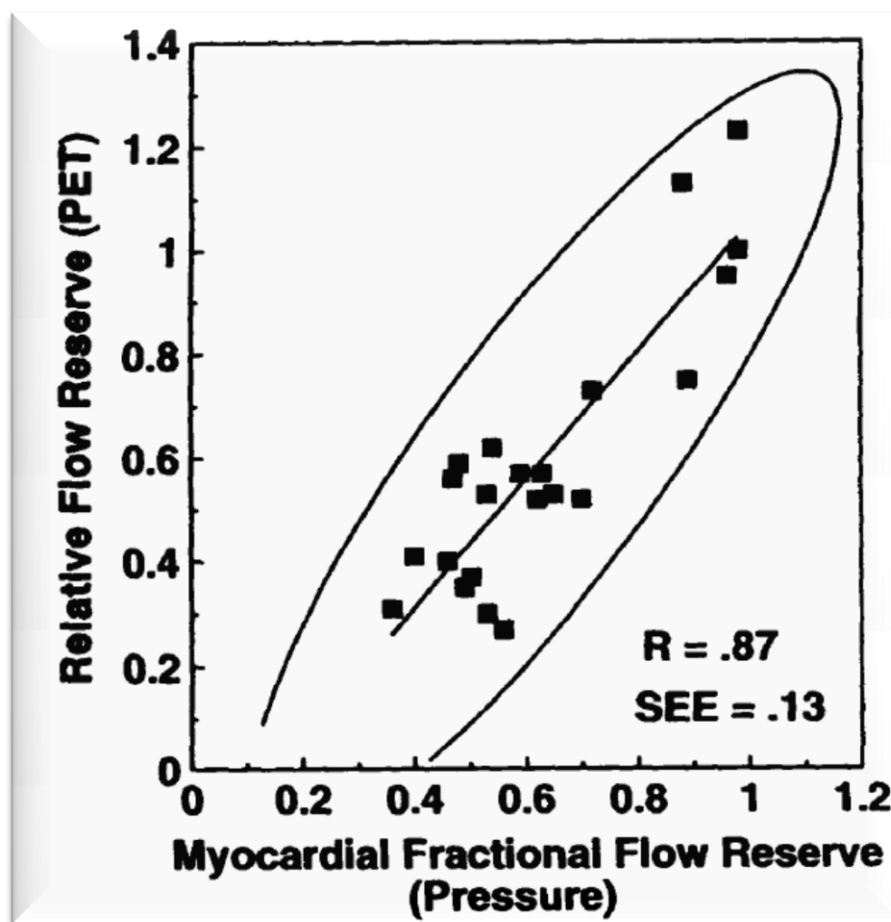


The relation between P_d/P_a and Q_s/Q_N is **LINEAR** during **HYPEREMIA**

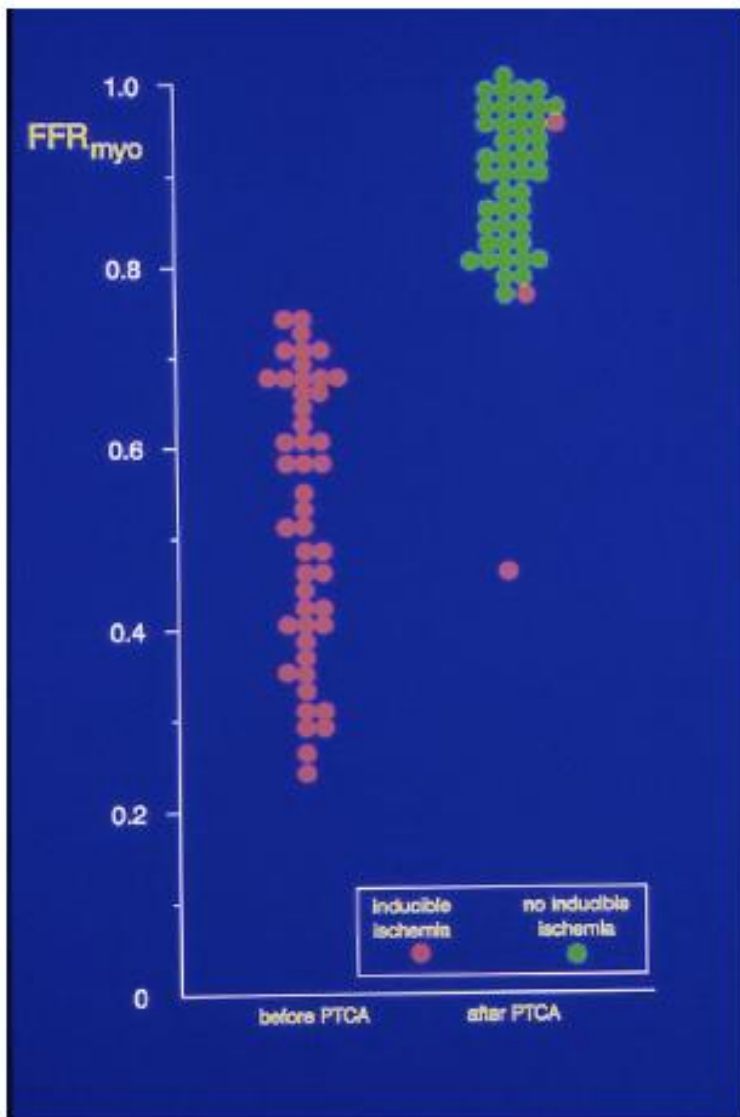


The relation between P_d/P_a and Q_S/Q_N is **LINEAR** during **HYPEREMIA**

- 22 Patients with an isolated proximal LAD stenosis
- $H_2^{15}O$ PET maximal flow in LAD vs normal territories
- FFR within 24 hours

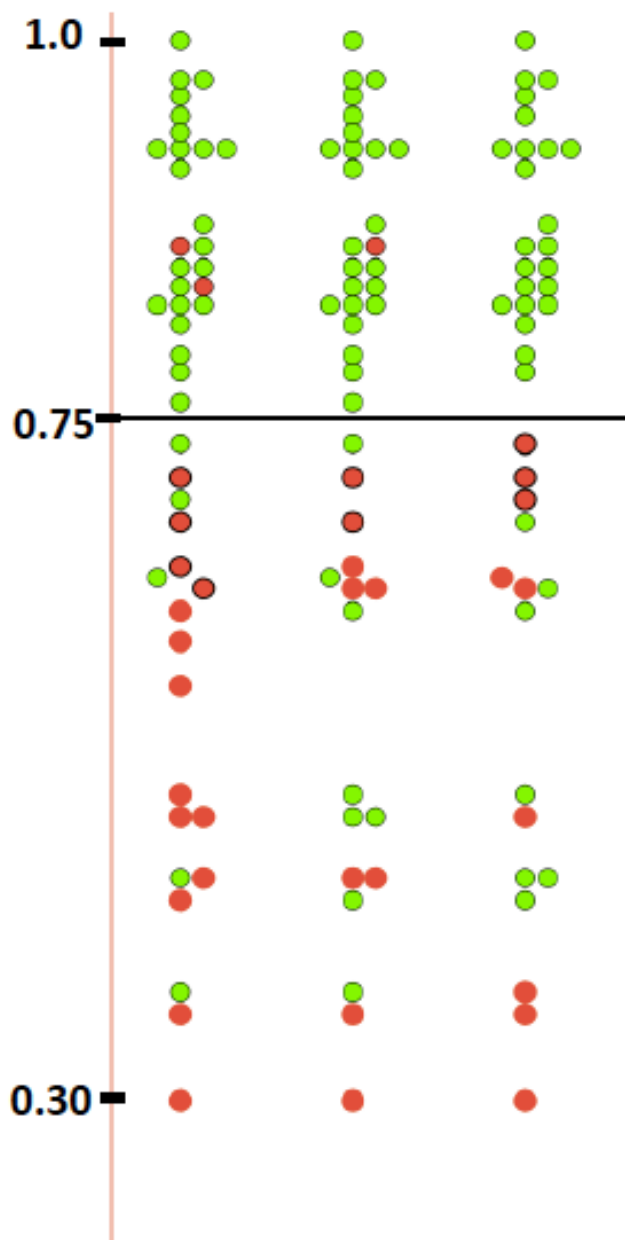


Validation of FFR in Humans (Step 1)



Proper validation of any index needs **2 steps:**

1. Searching for the threshold value in a selected population (sens, specif, NPV, PPV, ROC analysis)
2. Prospective validation in a population with unknown characteristics



Testing of FFR versus True Gold Standard

Creating a gold standard by *Prospective Multitest Sequential Bayesian Approach*:

- Exerc testing = electrical index of ischemia
- MIBISpect = perfusion index of ischemia
- Dobutrex Echo = contractile index of ischemia
- *reversal from positive before to negative after intervention, proves true positivity before and true negativity after test*

Diagnostic accuracy of FFR =

$$\left[(1-0.75) \times (1-0.8) \times (1-0.8) \right]^{-1} = 99\%$$

3 unclassifiable patients (no intervention)

→ worst case scenario for FFR → 93%

Pijls et al, NEJM 1996



Threshold value of FFR to detect significant stenosis in humans



FFR is the **only** functional index which has ever been validated versus a **true gold standard**.
(Prospective multi-testing Bayesian methodology)

ALL studies ever performed in a wide variety of clinical & angiographic conditions, found threshold between 0.75 and 0.80

Diagnostic accuracy > 93%

Pijls et al, N Engl J Med 1996; 334:1703-1708
Oldroyd et al, Circulation 2010

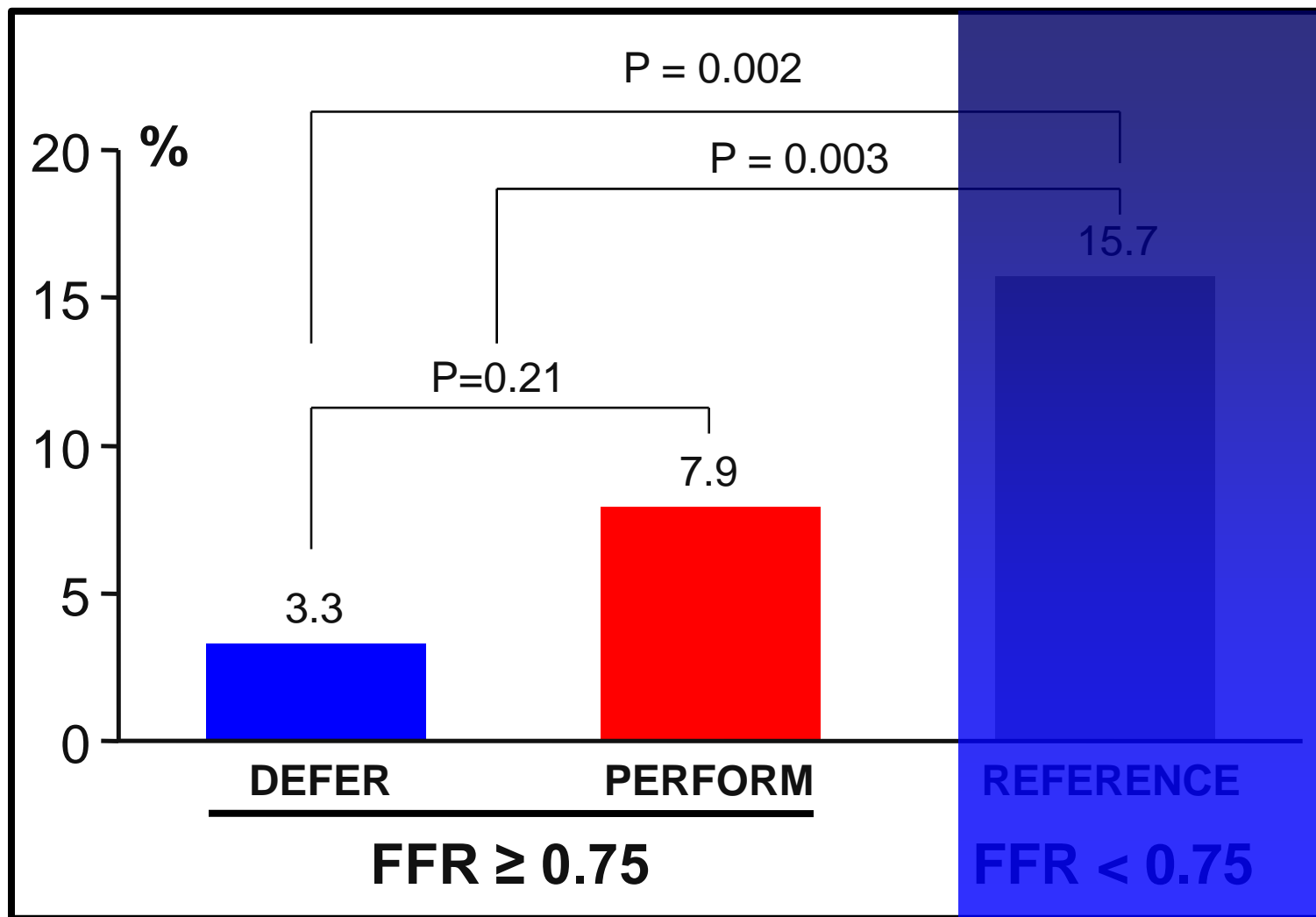
Clinical Outcome

- In stable patients with single vessel disease, stenting functionally non-significant stenoses does not improve clinical outcome as compared to deferring these stenoses to optimal medical treatment → → DEFER trial



DEFER: Clinical Outcome at 5 Years

Rate of Death/MI after 5 years



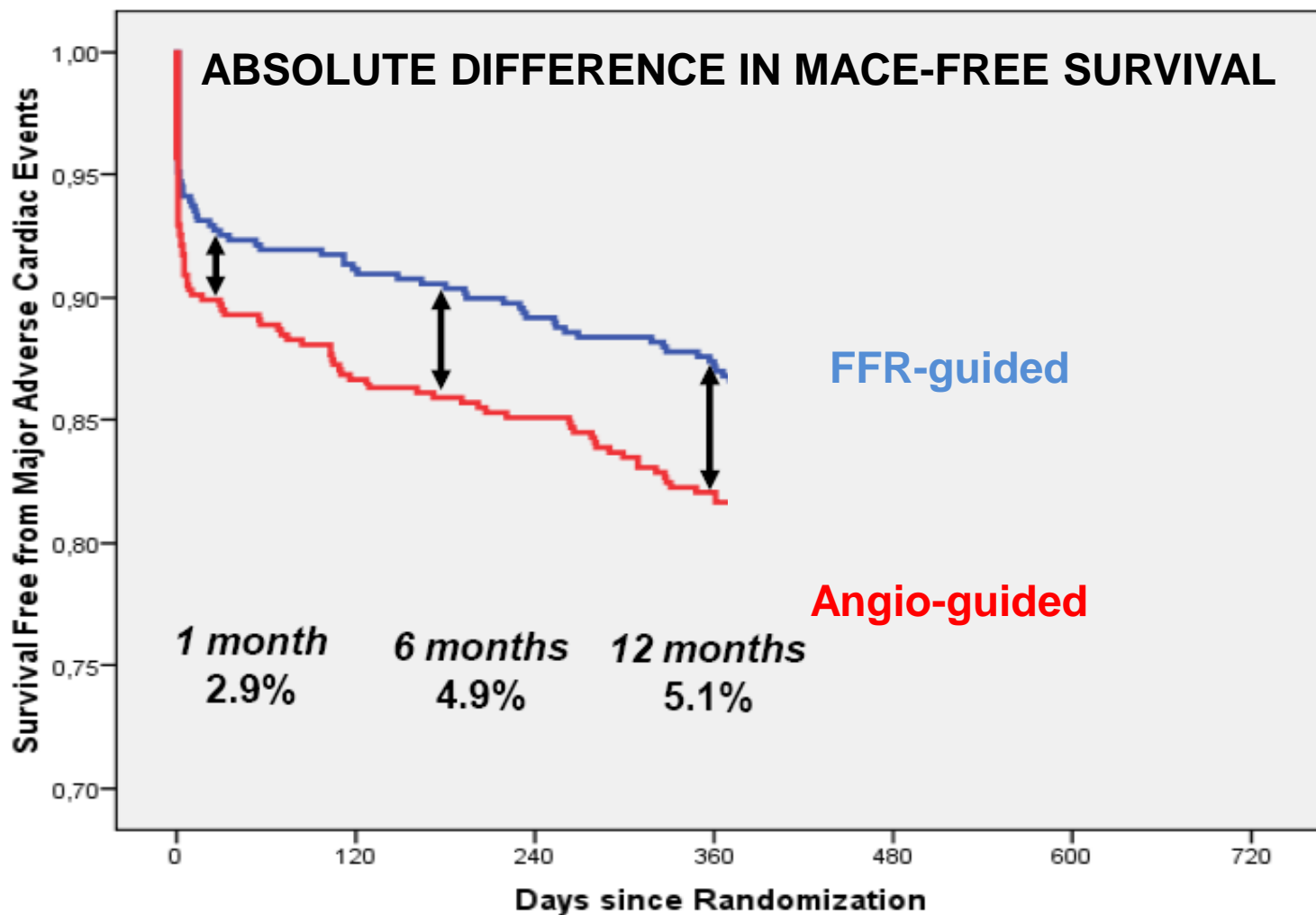


Clinical Outcome

- In stable patients with single vessel disease, stenting functionally non-significant stenosis does not improve clinical outcome as compared to deferring these stenoses to optimal medical treatment → → DEFER trial
- In patients with multivessel disease, an FFR-guided PCI strategy improves clinical outcome as compared with an Angio-guided strategy → → FAME trial

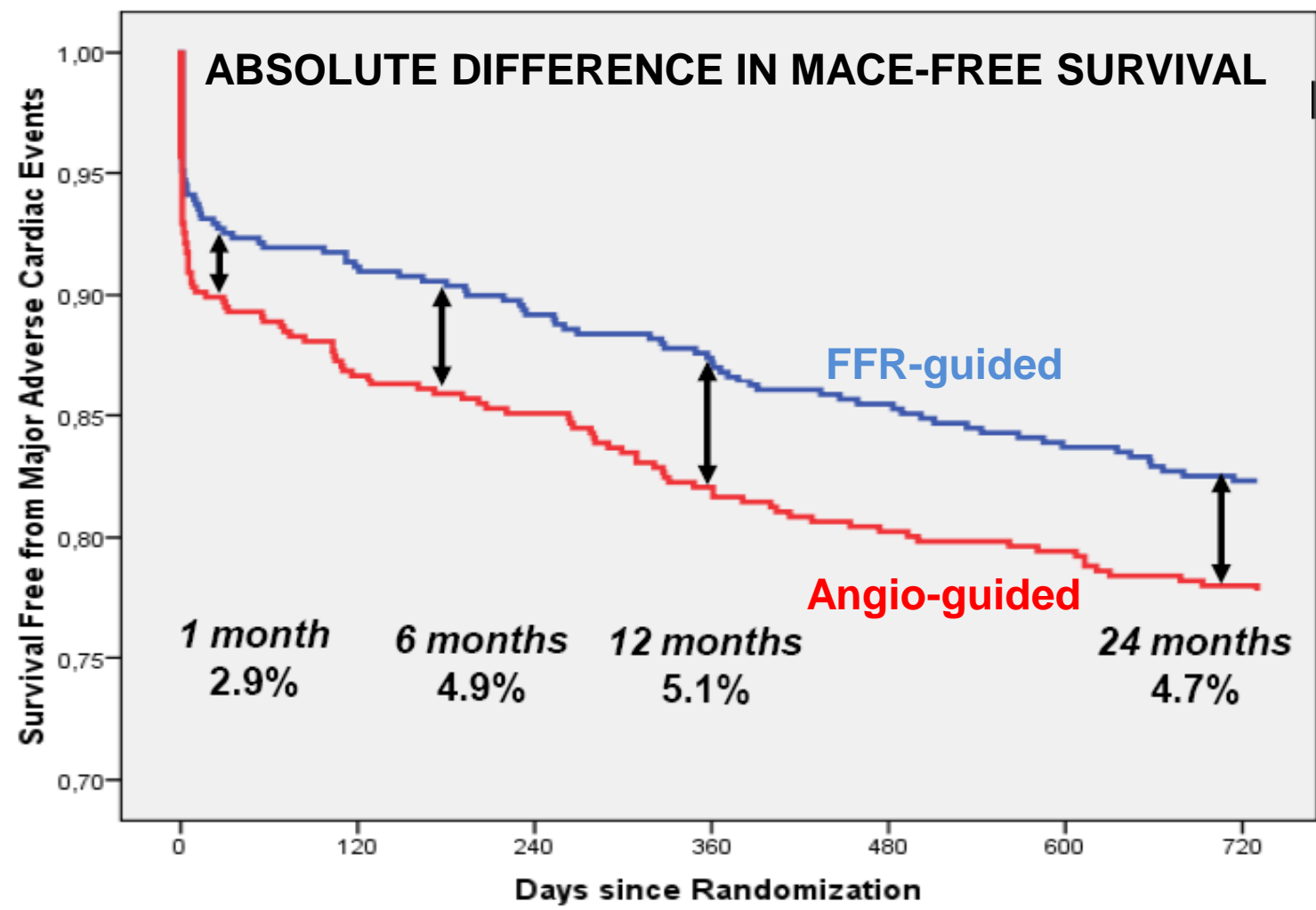


FAME trial





FAME trial



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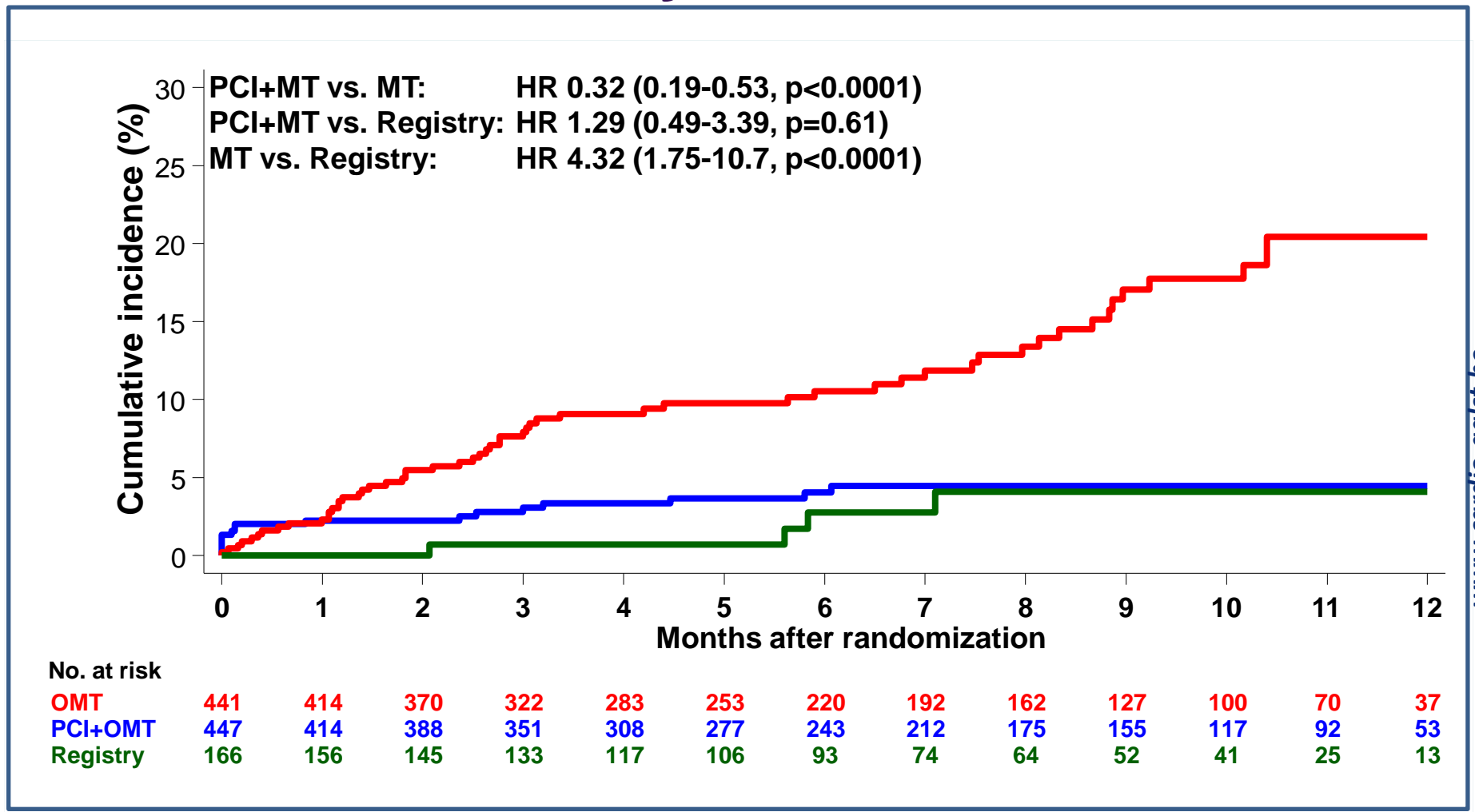
Clinical Outcome

- In stable patients with single vessel disease, stenting functionally non-significant stenosis does not improve clinical outcome as compared to deferring these stenoses to optimal medical treatment. → → DEFER trial
- In patients with multivessel disease, an FFR-guided PCI strategy improves clinical outcome as compared with an Angio-guided strategy. → → FAME trial
- In stable patients with at least one functional significant stenosis, FFR-guided PCI plus MT is associated with better clinical outcome as compared with MT alone. → → FAME 2 trial



FAME 2 TRIAL

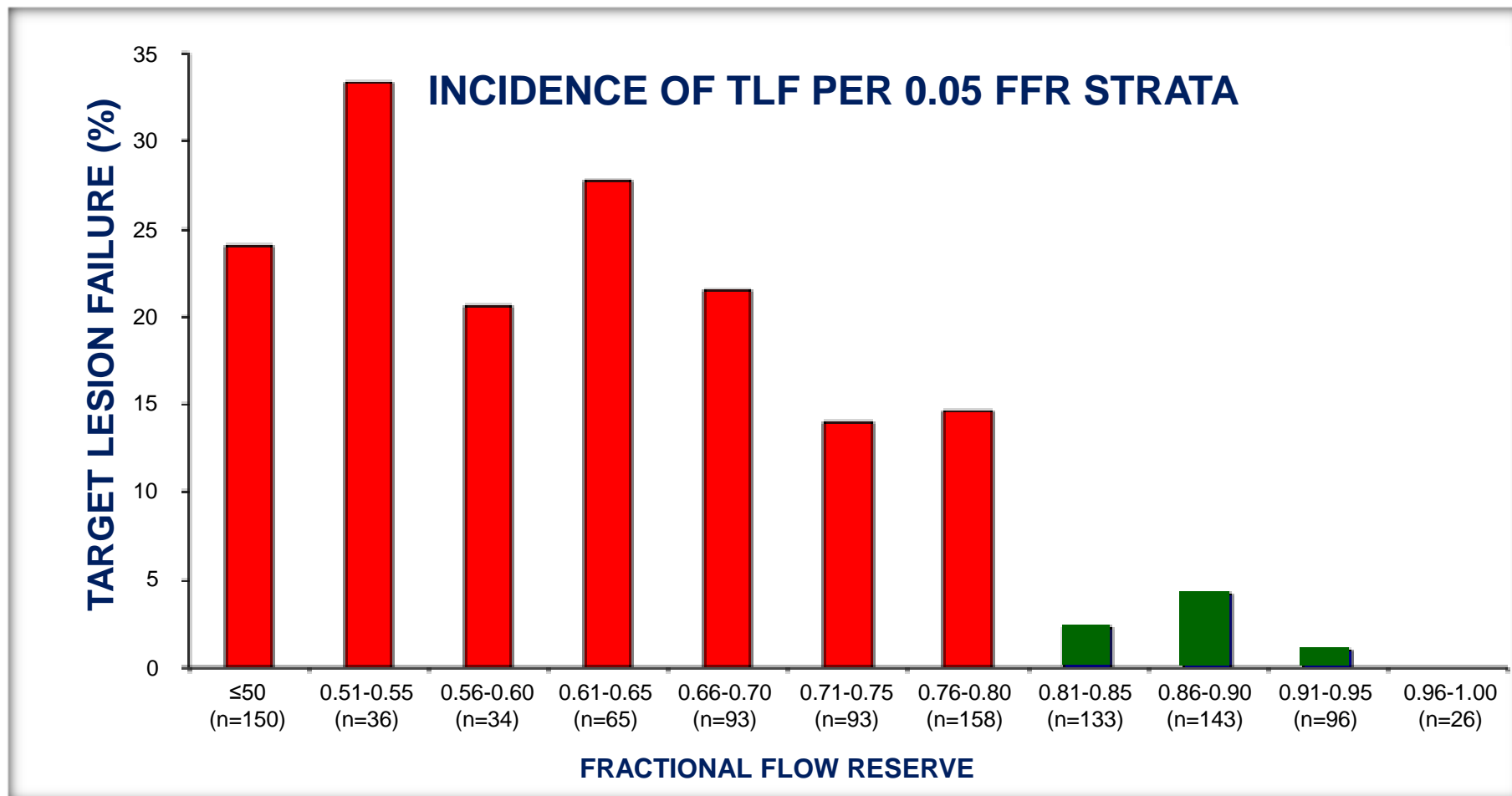
Primary End Point



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FAME 2: 607 Patients on Medical Therapy (1027 lesions, Median FU= 191 days)



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**Actual FFR value predicts the natural history of stenoses
in patients with stable coronary disease**

Take-home messages

- Evidences of a beneficial clinical outcome with FFR-guided revascularization strategy in different angiographic settings:
 - Isolated equivocal left main stenosis (n=230+51)
 - ➔ Hamilos, Circ 2009/Lindstaedt, Am Heart J 2006
 - Isolated prox left anterior descending artery (n=72)
 - ➔ Muller, JACC Cardiovasc Intv 2008
 - Small vessel disease (n=717)
 - ➔ Puymirat, Circ 2008
 - By-pass grafts (n=22)
 - ➔ Puymirat, Circ 2008
 - Bifurcated lesions (n=131)
 - ➔ Puymirat, Circ 2008/Kumsars, Eurointv 2012
 - Serial stenoses (n=131)
 - ➔ Kim, JACC Cardiovasc Intv 2012
 - Drug Eluting Stent Restenosis (n=49)
 - ➔ Nam, Am J Cardiol 2011
 - Post-stenting (BMS and DES) (n=750+80)
 - ➔ Pijls NHJ, Circ 2002/Nam, Am J Cardiol 2011
 - All comers, contemporary practice (n=7358)
 - ➔ Li J, EHJ 2013

>10000 patients



Level of Evidence of FFR

- FFR-guided PCI is recommended for detection of ischaemia-related lesion(s) when objective evidence of vessel-related ischaemia is not available

Class of Recommendation: I

Level of Evidence: A



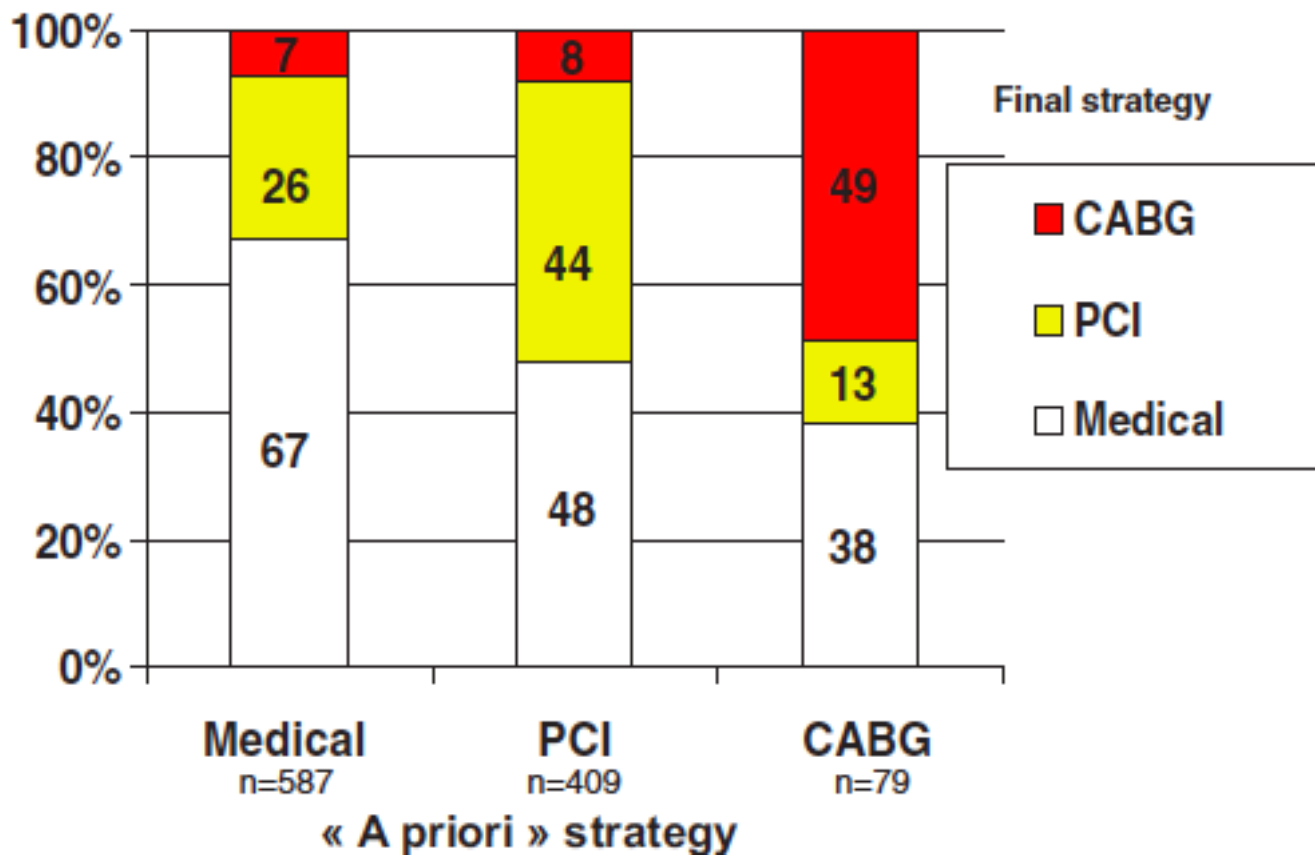
New Diagnostic Strategies

- **RIPCORDER study**
- **French registry**
- **POST-IT**



French registry

1075 consecutive patients undergoing diagnostic CAG



Change of Revascularization Strategy in 43% of the patients



New Therapeutic Strategies

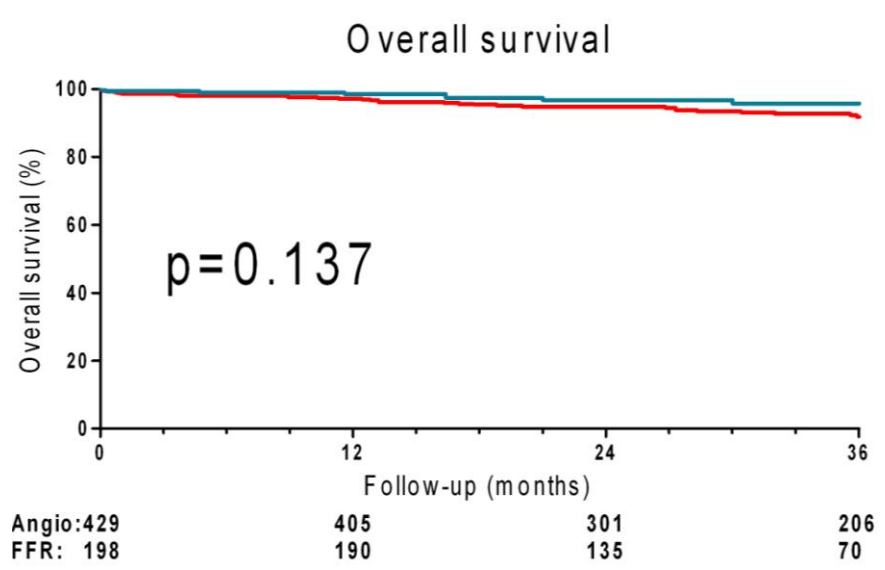
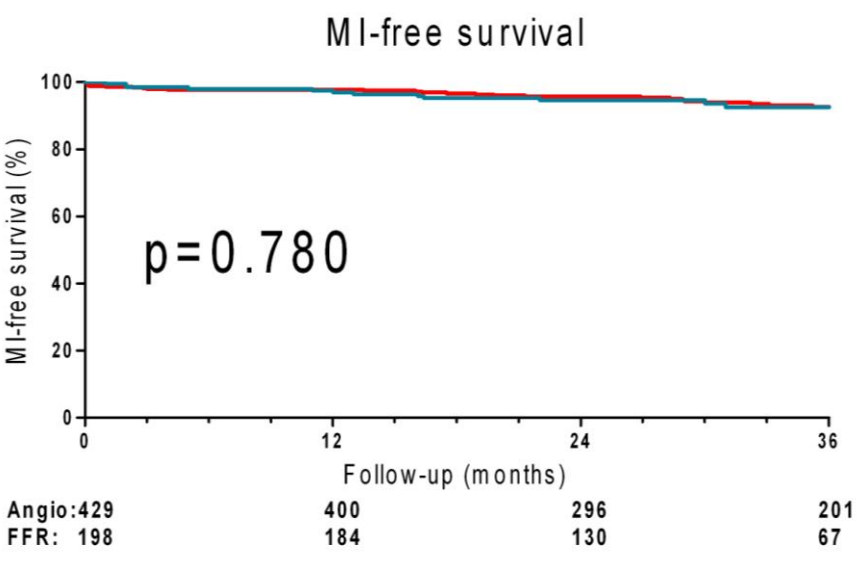
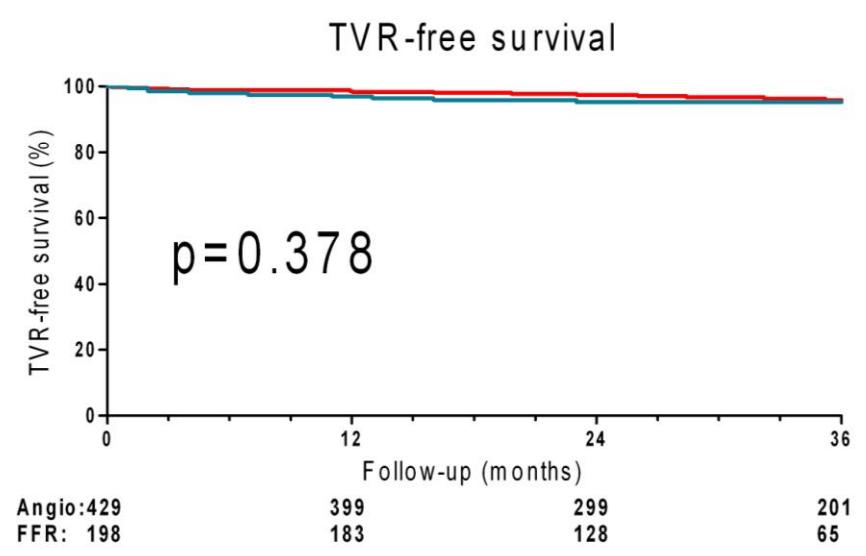
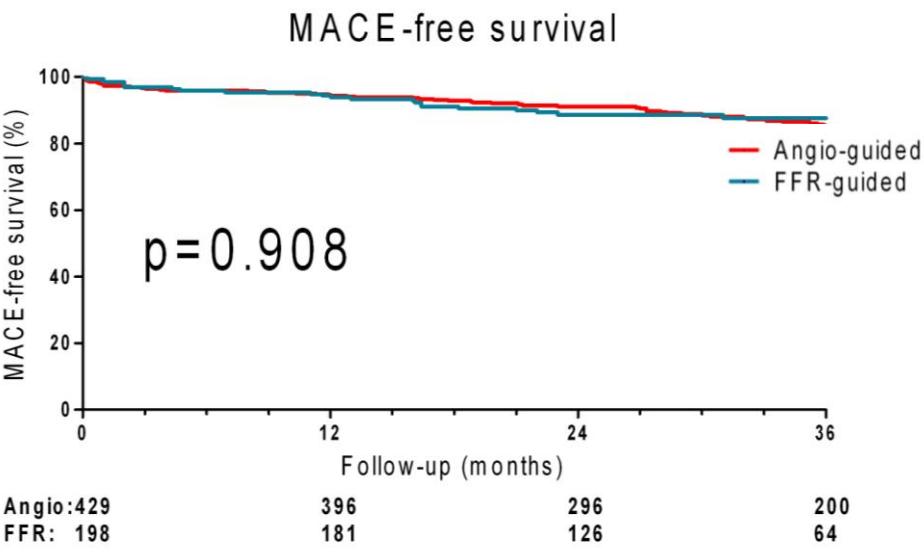
- **CABG registry**
- **GRAFFITI trial**
- **FAME 3 trial**

Angio-guided
n=429

FFR-guided
n=198



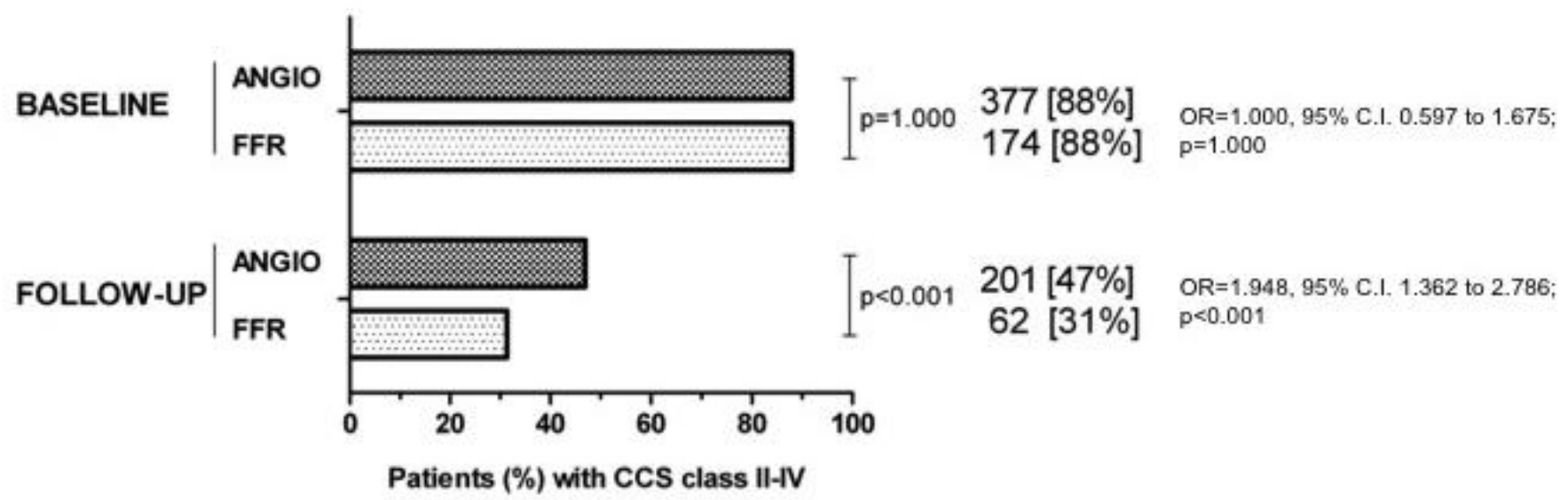
Clinical endpoints @ 36 months



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CCS II-IV @ 36 months



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GRAFFITI trial: GRaft Patency After FFR-guided vs Angio-guided CABG: a randomized clinical Trial

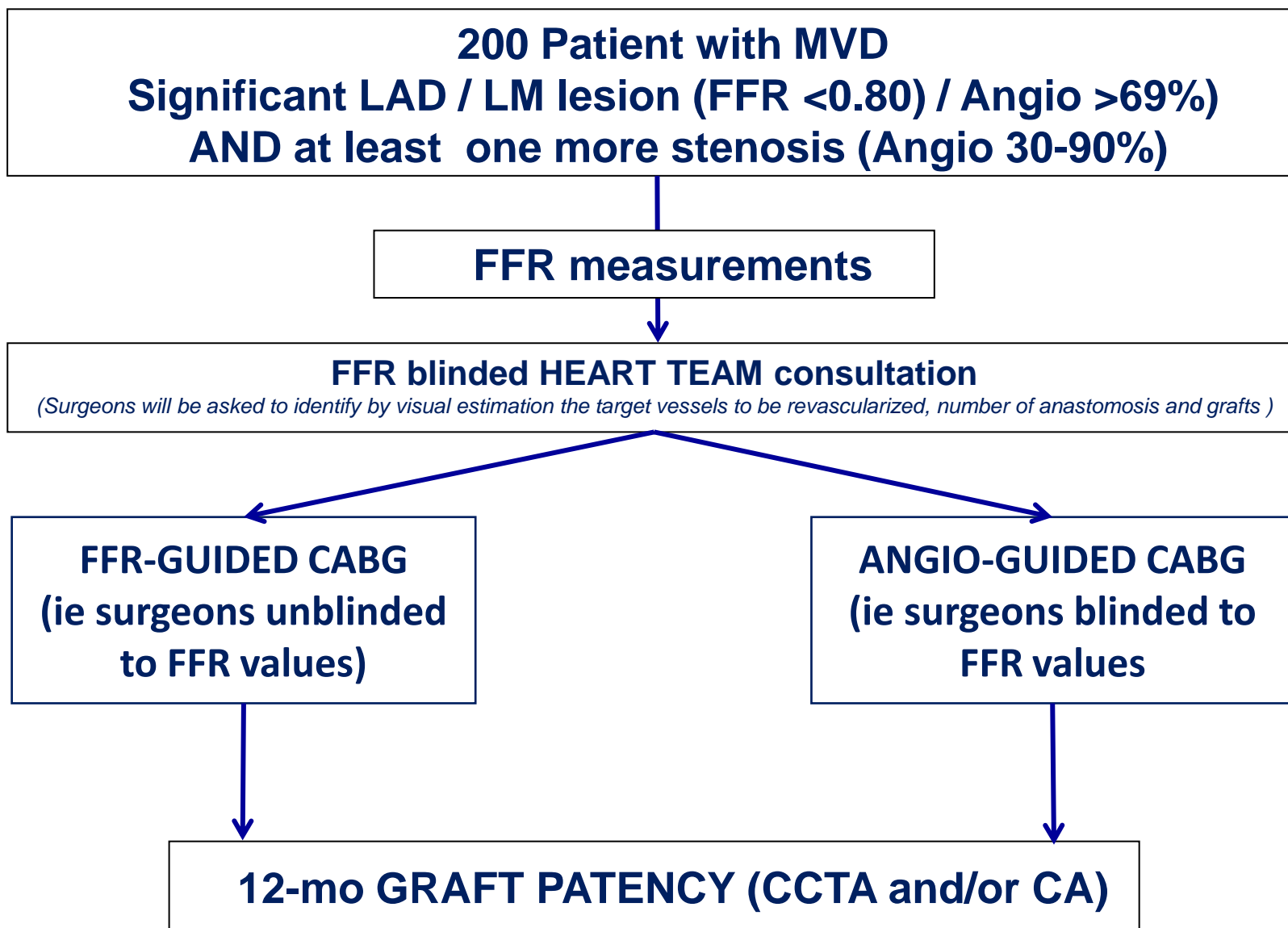
PI : Emanuele Barbato MD, PhD
Cardiovascular Center Aalst, Belgium

Hypothesis

FFR-guided CABG is associated with a lower rate of 1-year graft occlusion

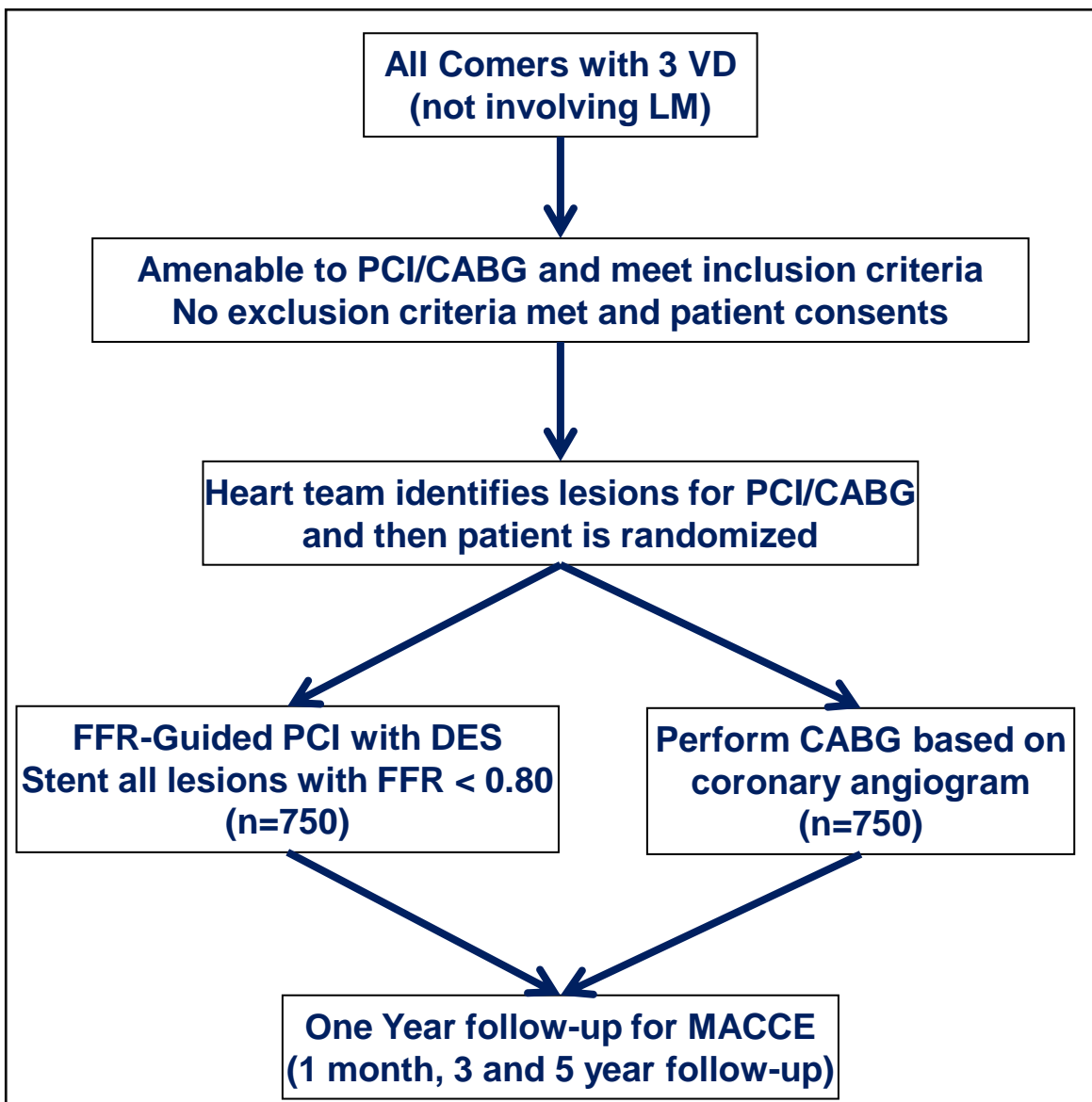


GRAFFITI trial: GRaft Patency After FFR-guided vs Angio-guided CABG: a randomized clinical Trial





FAME 3: A Comparison of FFR-guided PCI and CABG in Patients with Multivessel Coronary Artery Disease



Hypothesis:

FFR-guided PCI in MVD will result in similar outcomes to CABG

Design:

- Noninferiority design
- Clinically relevant difference of 5%

PI's:

- Fearon WF (PI)
- Pijls NHJ (Co-PI)
- De Bruyne B (Co-PI)

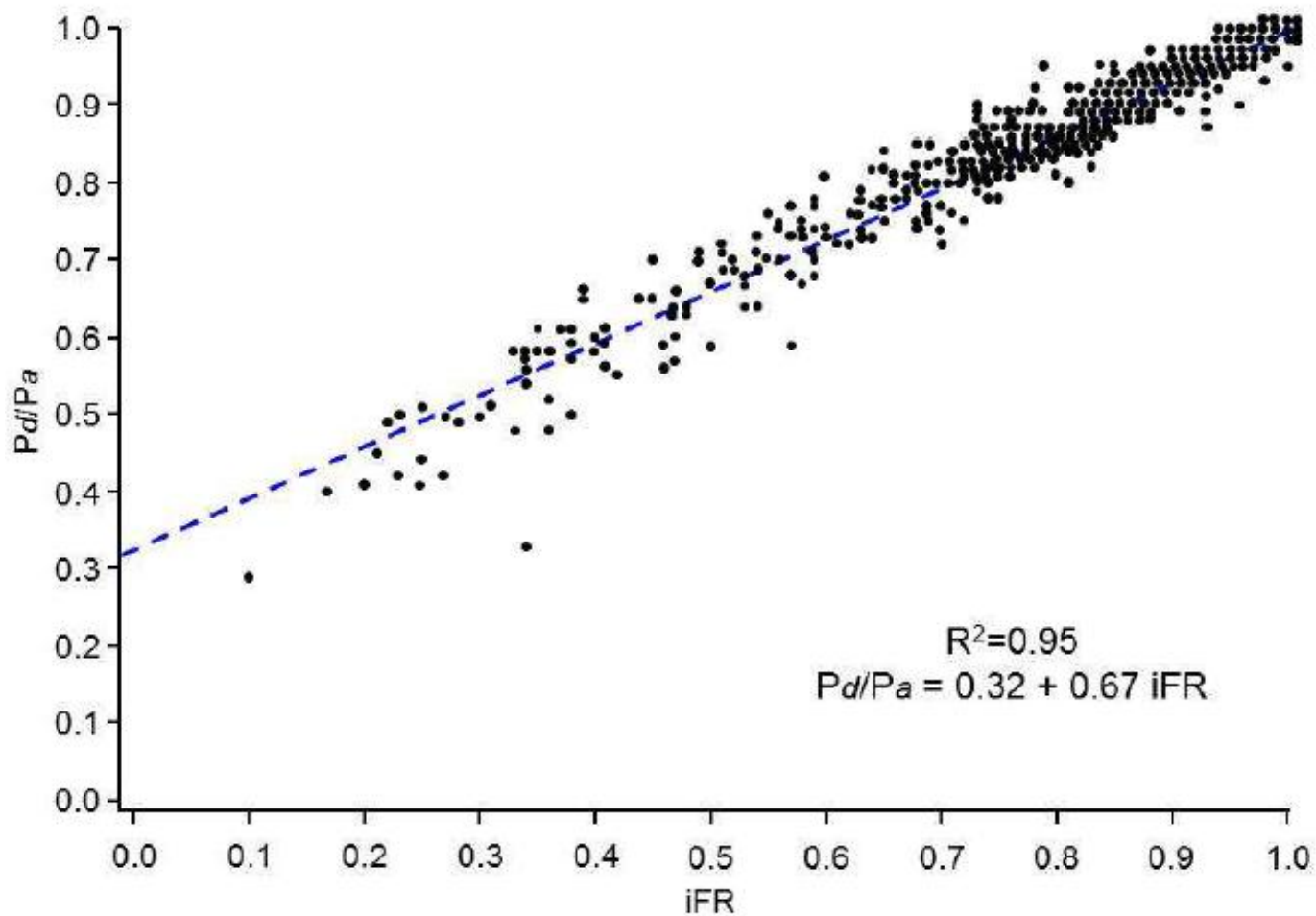
Can we obtain the same results but simplifying the technique?



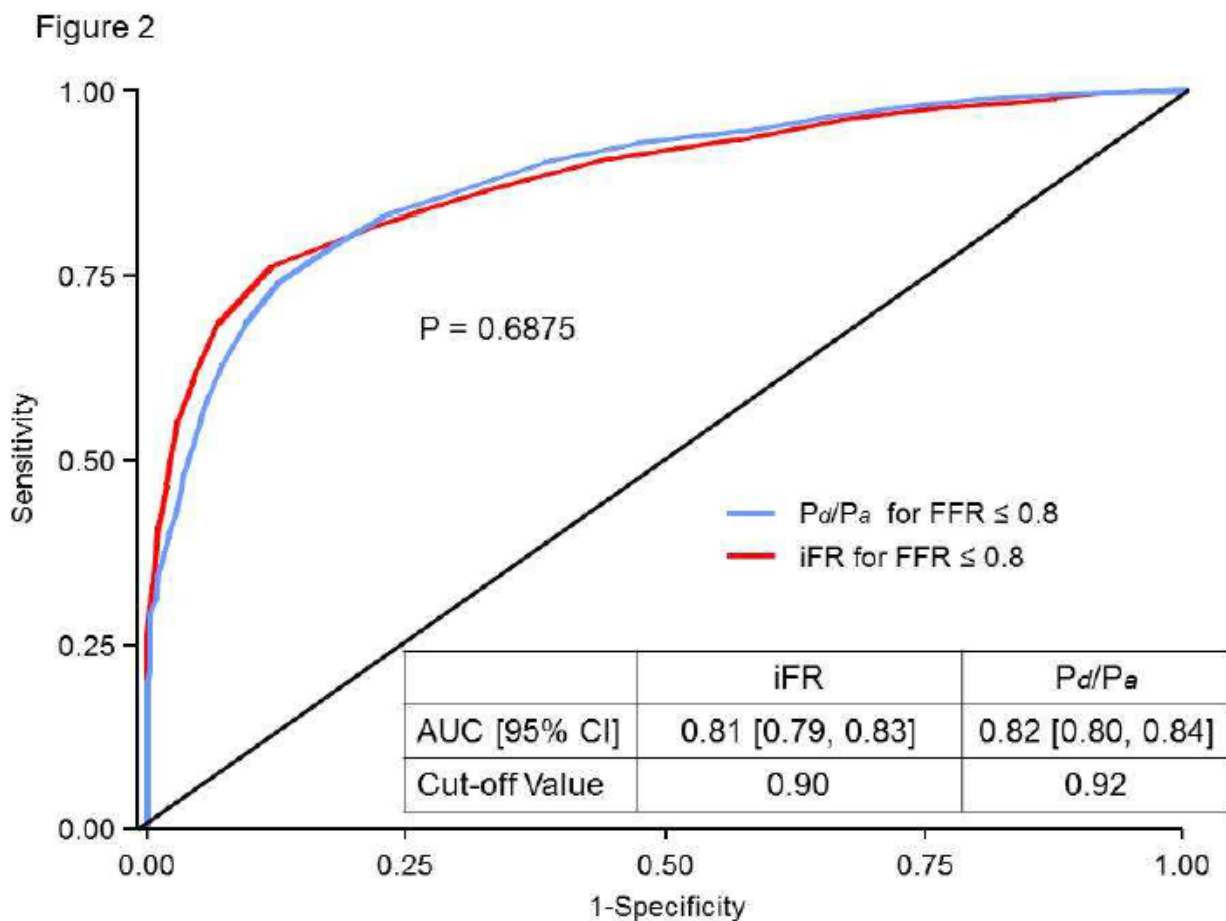
- **Adenosine-free pressure derived coronary functional indexes:**
 - bSR (Piek)
 - iFR (Davies)
 - iFG (Indolfi)
 - Pd/Pa (Mammhas)
- **Non-invasive FFR:**
 - FFR_{CT}



Correlation between Pd/Pa and iFR

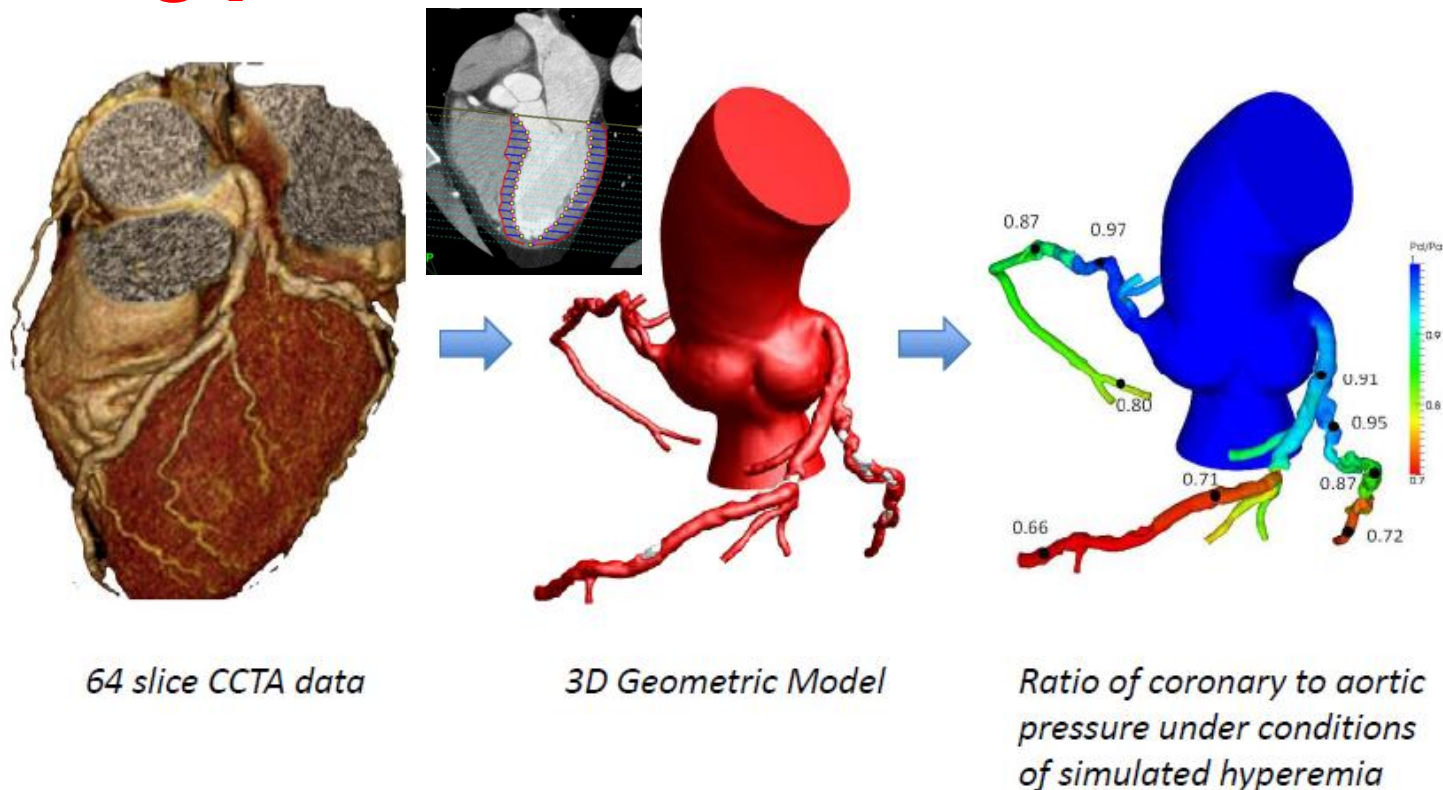


Moderate diagnostic accuracy



- Adenosine-free pressure derived coronary functional indexes:
 - bSR (Piek)
 - iFR (Davies)
 - iFG (Indolfi)
 - Pd/Pa (Mammhas)
- **Non-invasive FFR:**
 - FFR_{CT}

FFR_{CT} From Anatomy to function



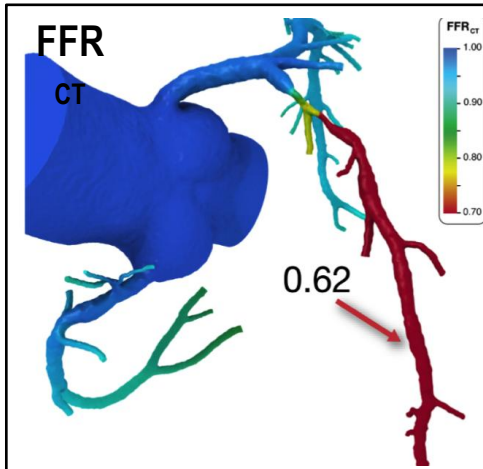
1. Coronary flow meets myocardial demand at rest
2. Resistance of microcirculatory vascular bed at rest is inversely proportional to size of feeding vessel
3. Microcirculation has a predictable response to adenosine

Computational Flow Dynamics

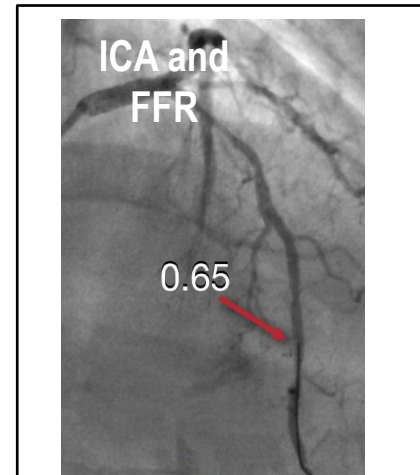
Case 1



LAD stenosis



FFR_{CT} 0.62
= Lesion-specific
ischemia

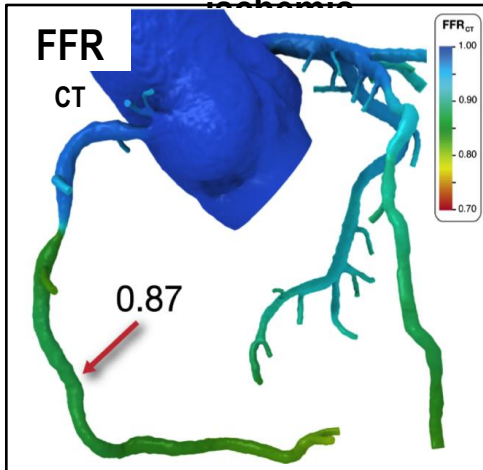


FFR 0.65
= Lesion-specific
ischemia

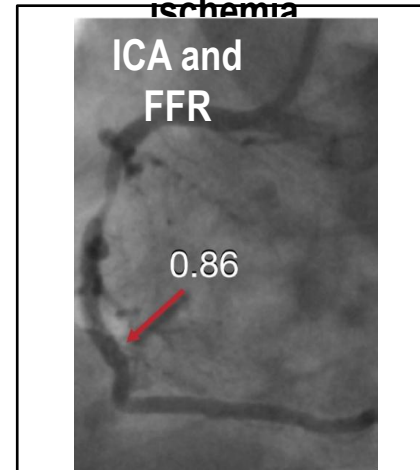
Case 2



RCA stenosis



FFR_{CT} 0.87
= No ischemia



FFR 0.86
= No ischemia

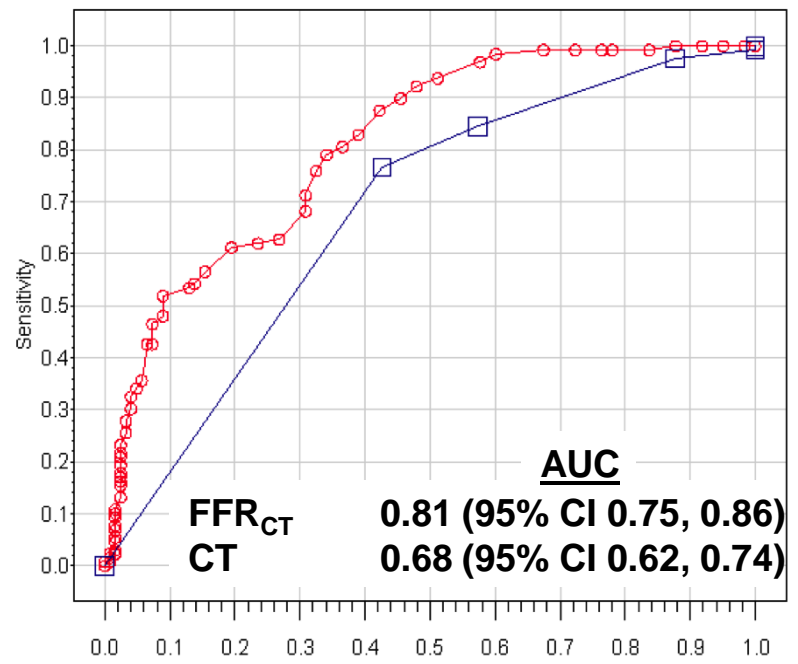
1. Min et al.

JAMA 2012;308:1237-1245

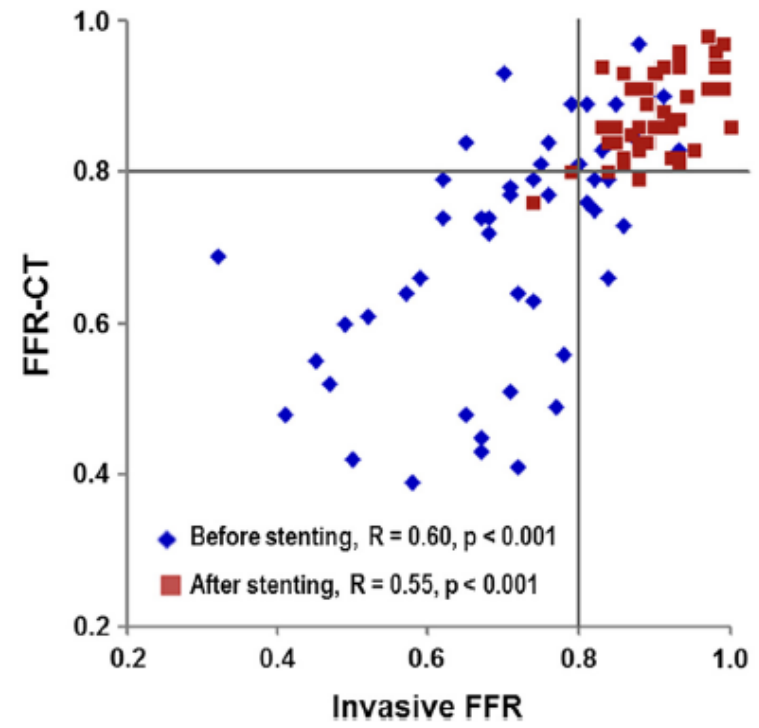


Diagnostic Accuracy of FFR_{CT} : DeFacto

Per-Patient



Before/After Stenting



Diagnostic accuracy ≈ 80%

www.cardio-aalst.be



FFR is the gold standard to assess ischemia

100% accuracy – “The Holy Grail”

FFR
(Hyperemia)



≥93%

Resting Indexes + FFR_{CT}
(Resting Pd/Pa, iFR)



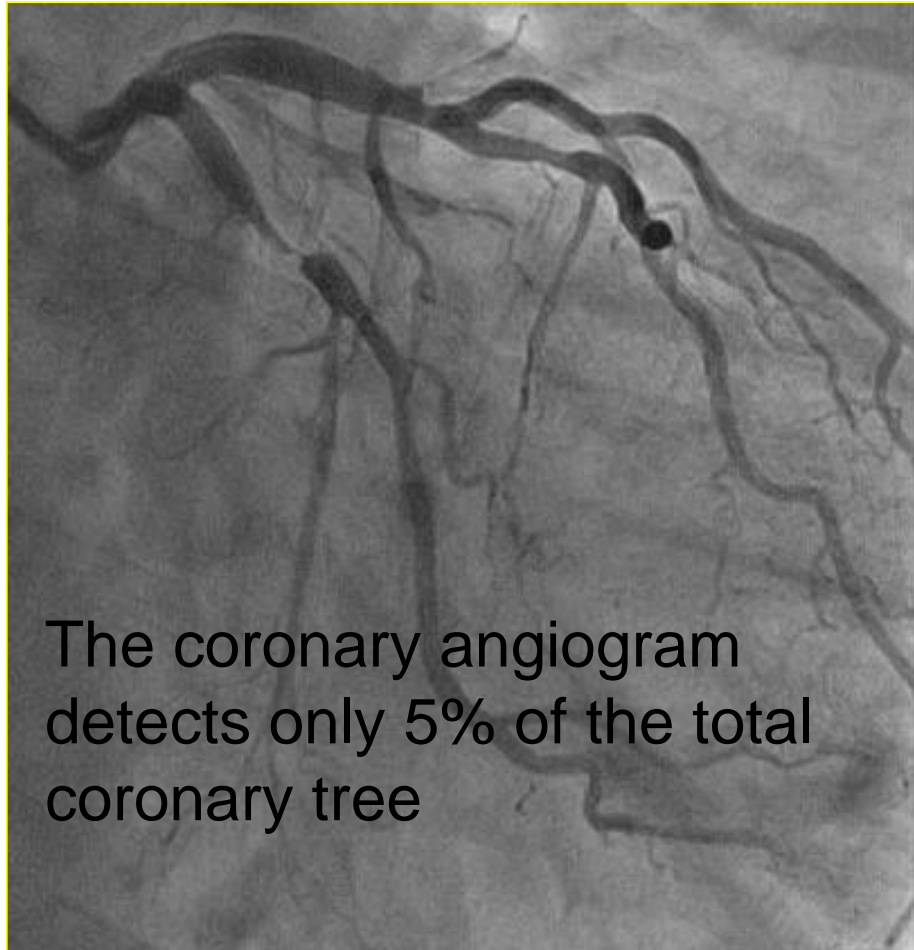
80%

Angio

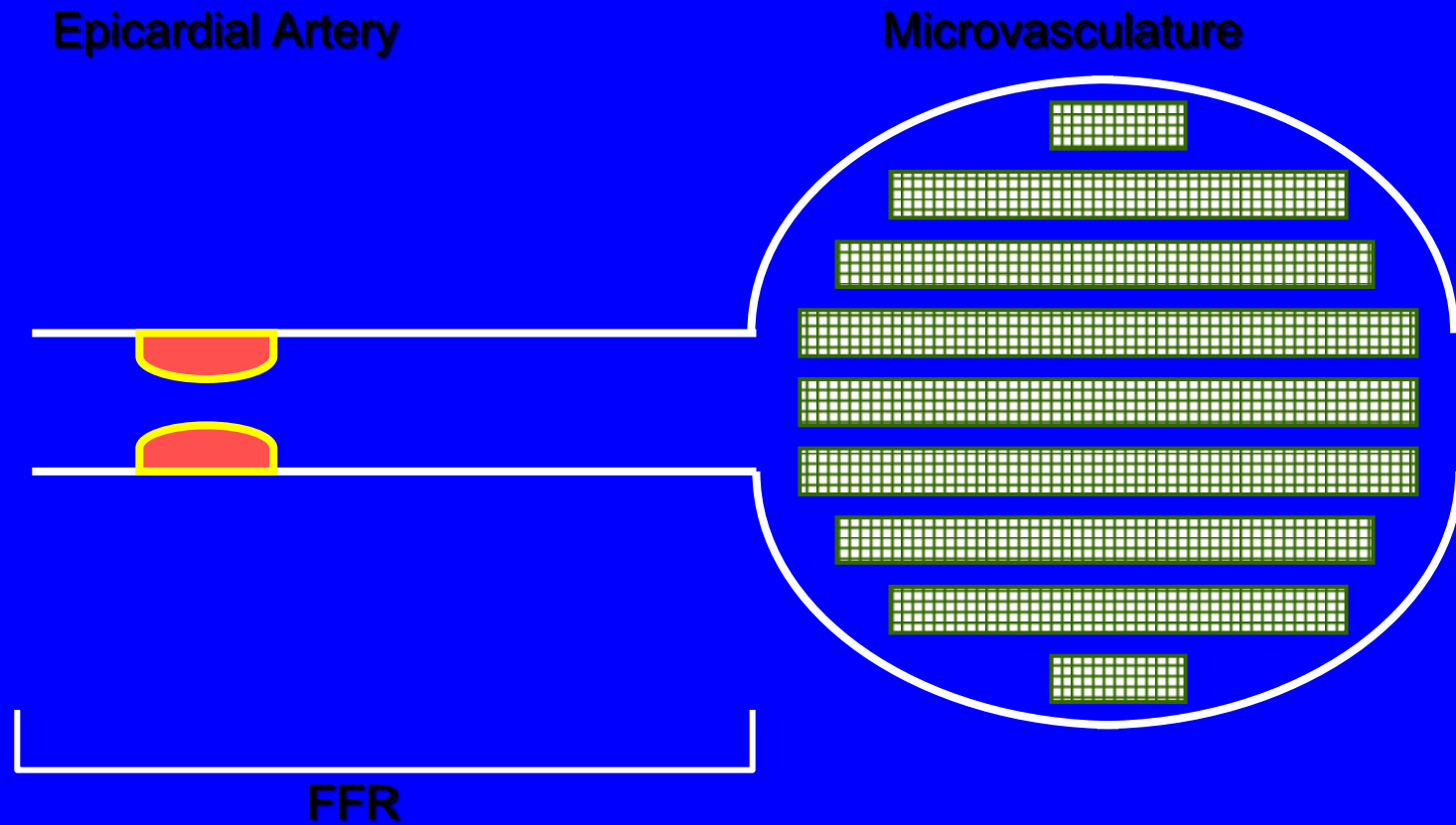


70%

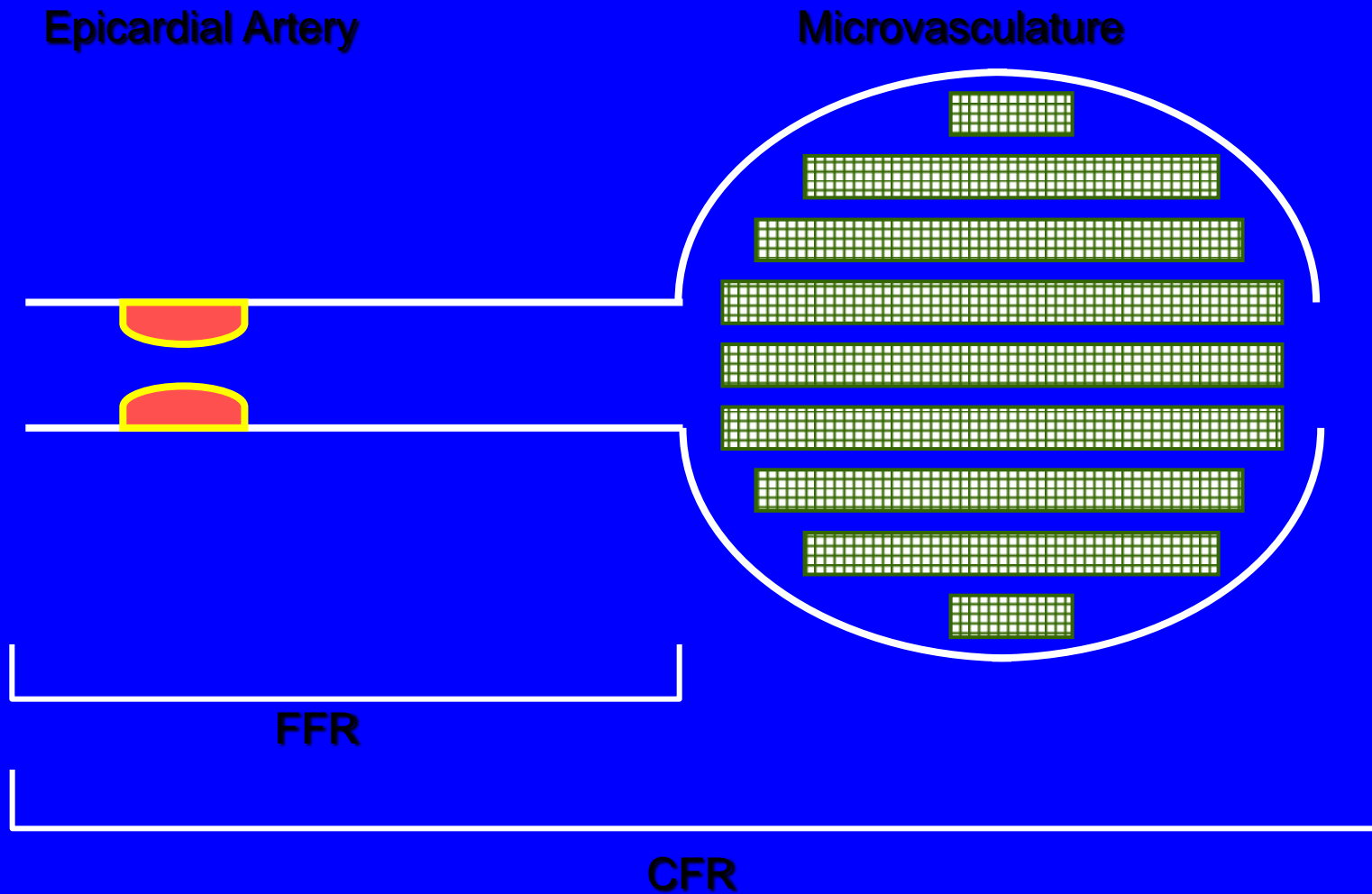
Two-Compartment Model of the Coronary Circulation



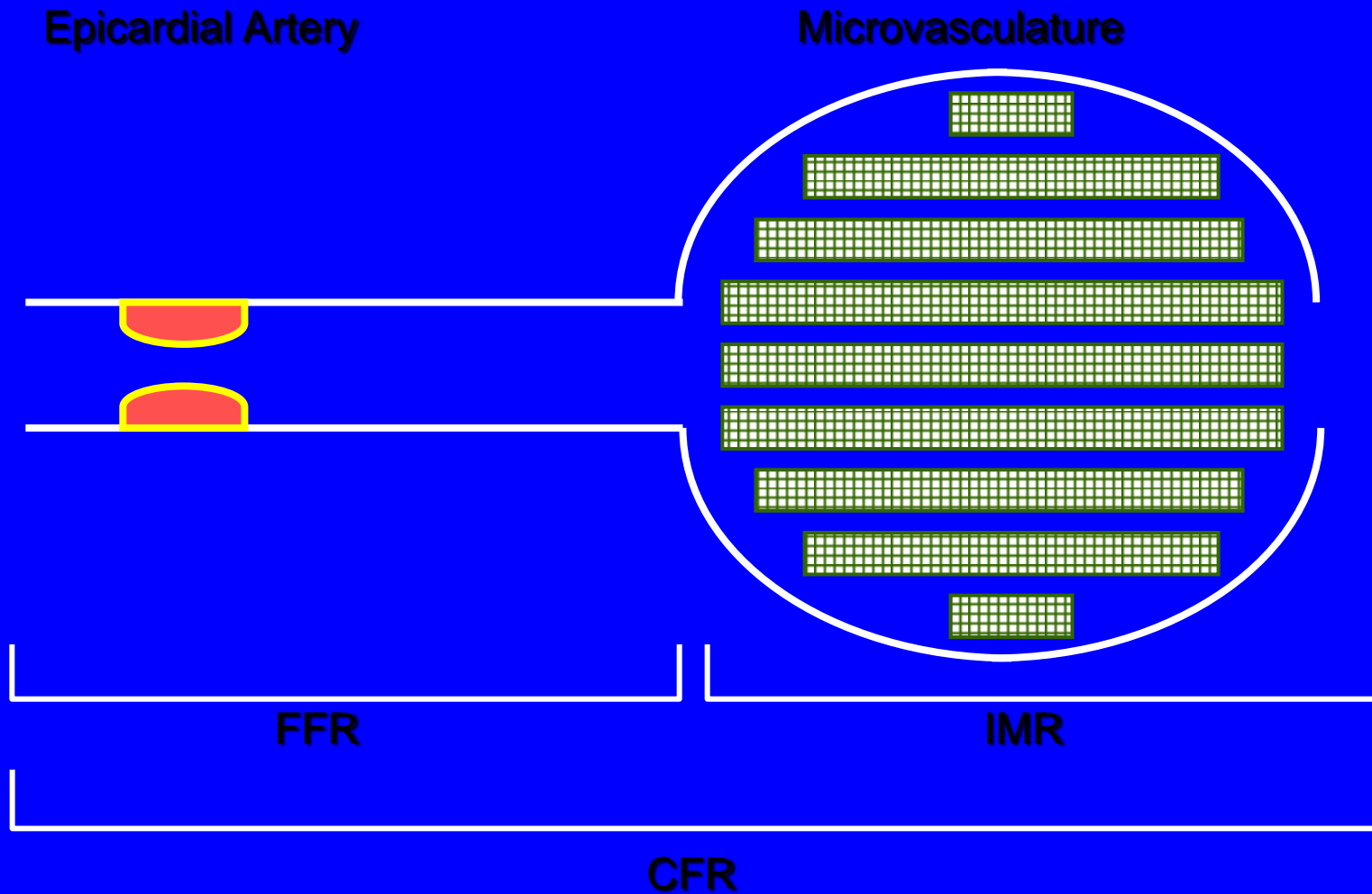
Two-Compartment Model of the Coronary Circulation



Two-Compartment Model of the Coronary Circulation



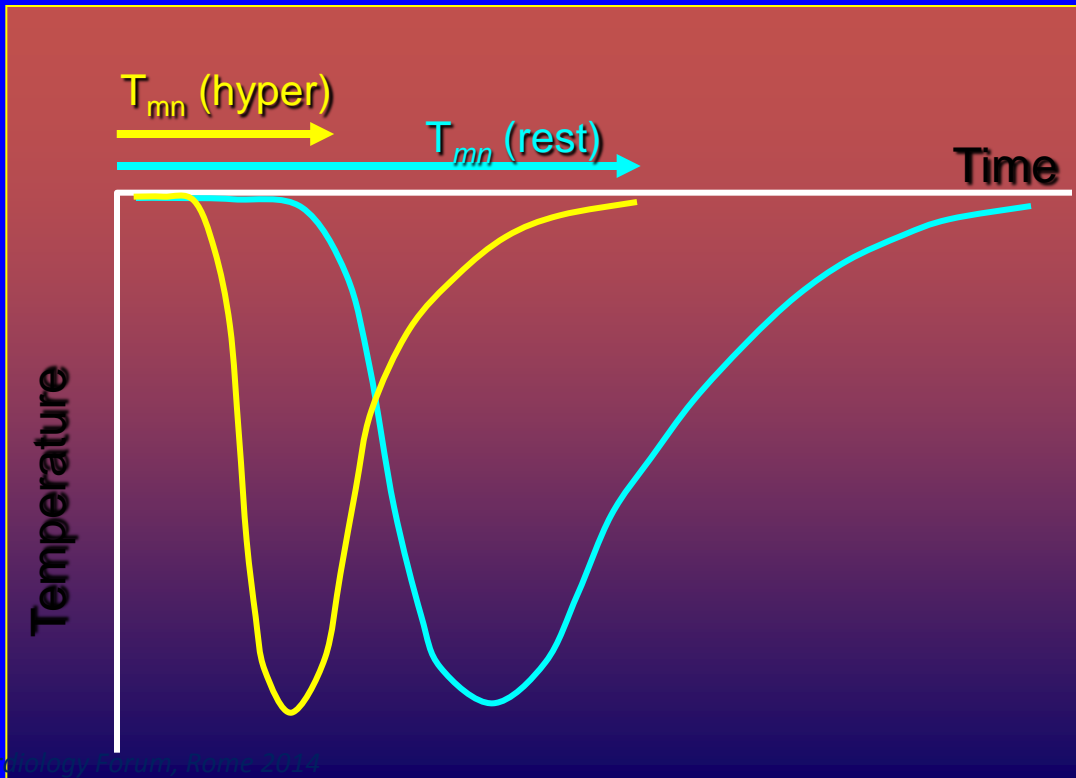
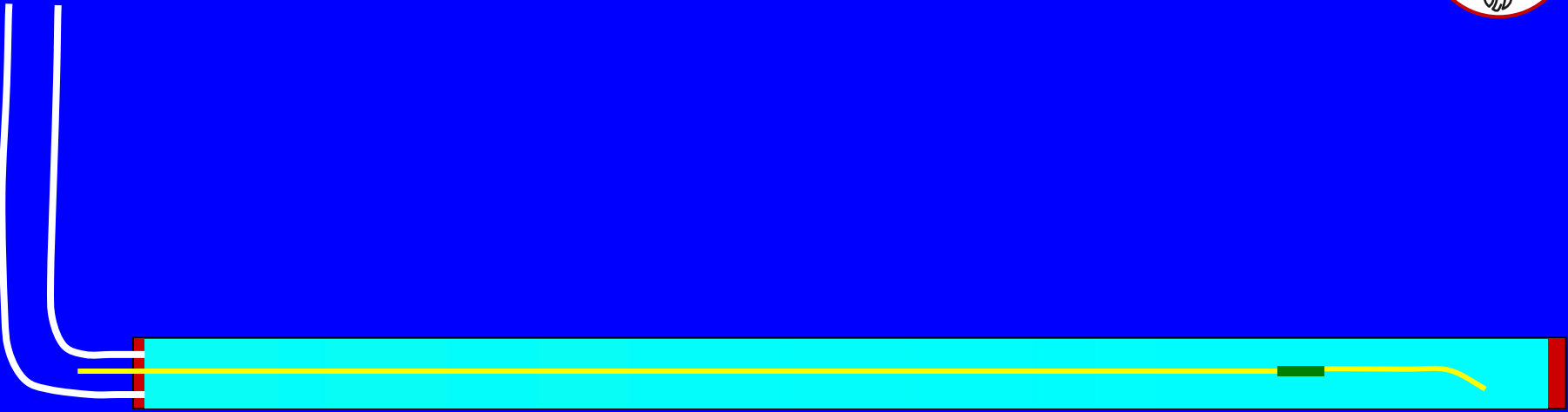
Two-Compartment Model of the Coronary Circulation





Features of IMR

- Specific for the microvasculature
- Quantitative and reproducible
- Predictive of outcomes
- Independent from changes in heart rate, blood pressure and contractility (Ng, Circulation 2006)



Derivation of IMR

- Resistance = Δ Pressure / Flow
- $1 / Tmn$ @ Flow
- IMR = Distal Pressure / ($1 / Tmn$)

• IMR = Distal Pressure x Tmn at maximal hyperemia

Note: Must incorporate coronary wedge pressure to account for collateral flow if significant epicardial stenosis is present

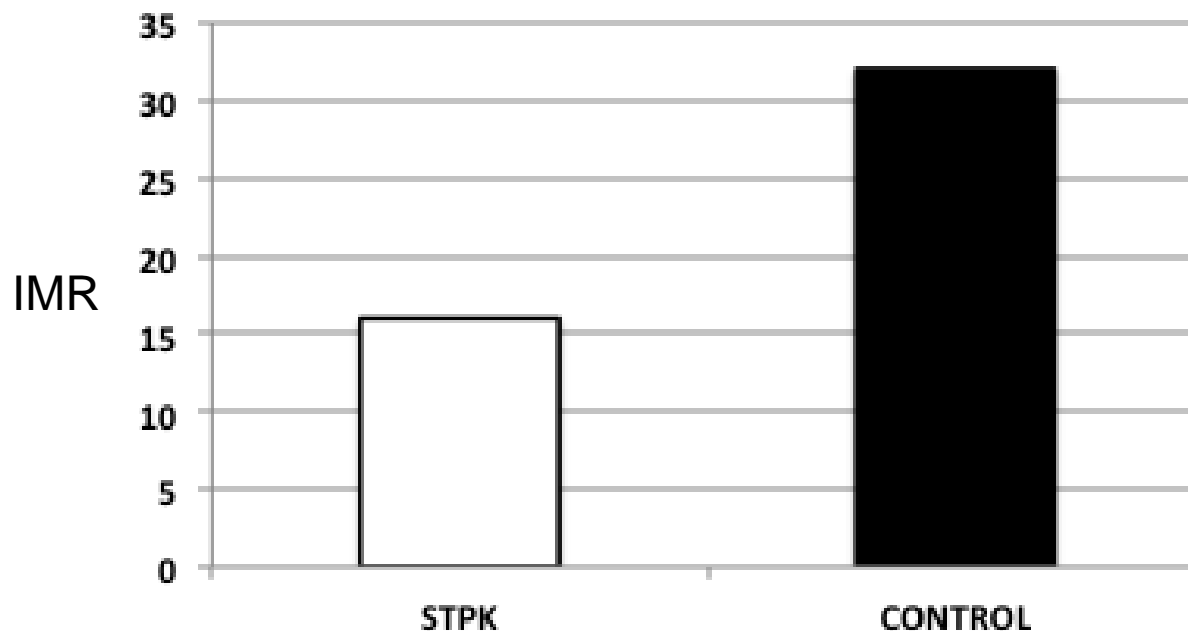


Clinical use of IMR

- Assessment of myocardial perfusion in STEMI patients
- Predictive of left ventricular remodeling after primary PCI

Assessment of myocardial perfusion in STEMI patients

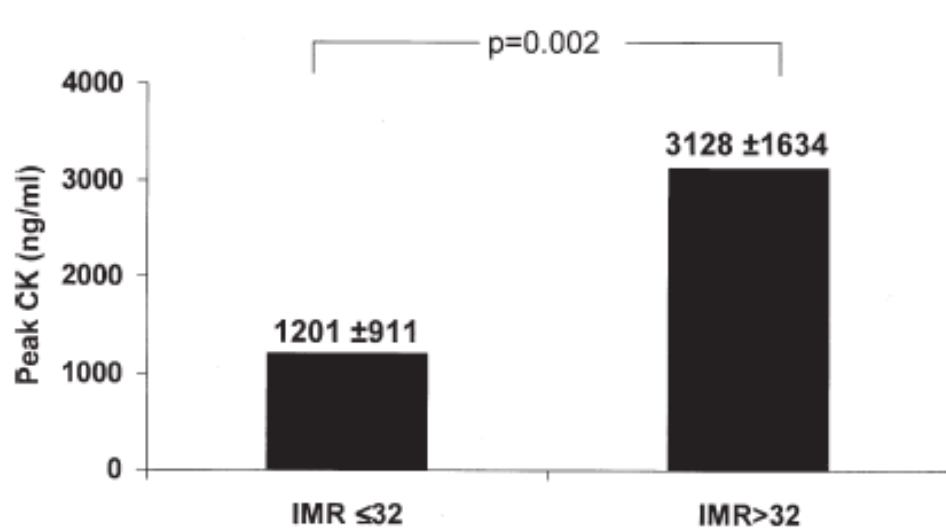
41 STEMI pts randomized either to pPCI plus IC STPK or pPCI alone



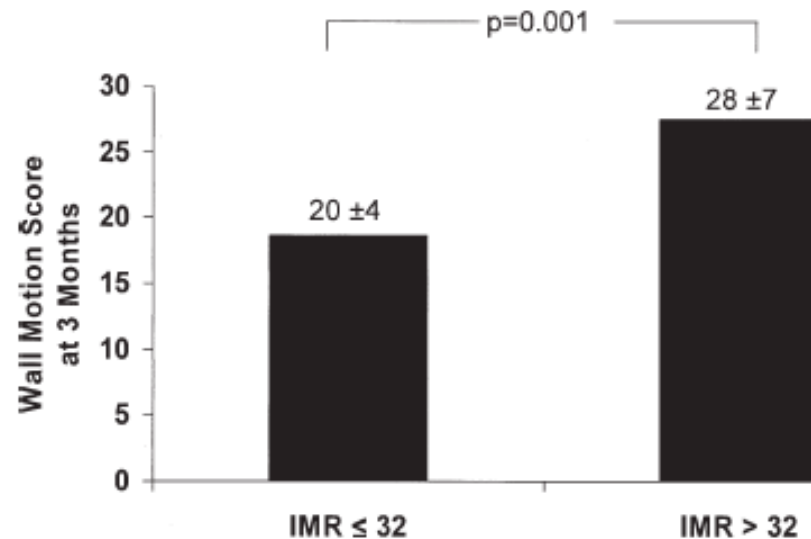
Sezer M, NEJM 2007

Predictive value after primary PCI

29 STEMI patients undergoing pPCI and IMR assessment



Acute setting



3 months after

Fearon W, JACC 2008

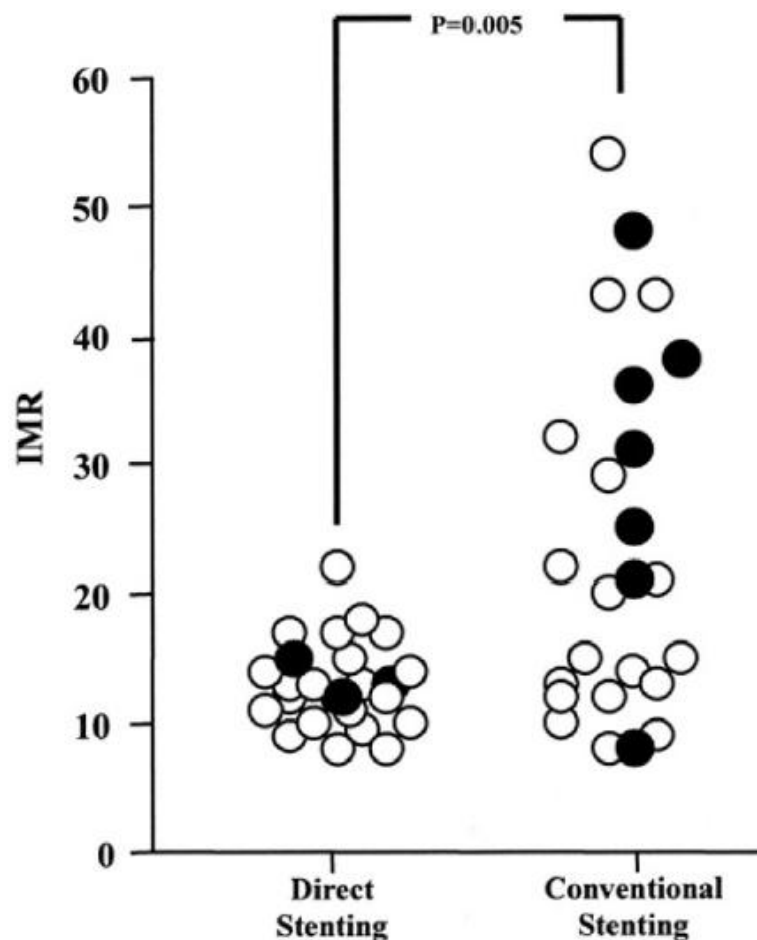


Clinical use of IMR

- Assessment of myocardial perfusion in STEMI patients
- Predictive value after primary PCI
- Assessment of microvascular damage after elective PCI

Assessment of microvascular damage after elective PCI

- 50 patients randomized to conventional stenting with predilatation versus direct stenting
- IMR measured after PCI and correlated with troponin release



Cuisset T, JACC 2008

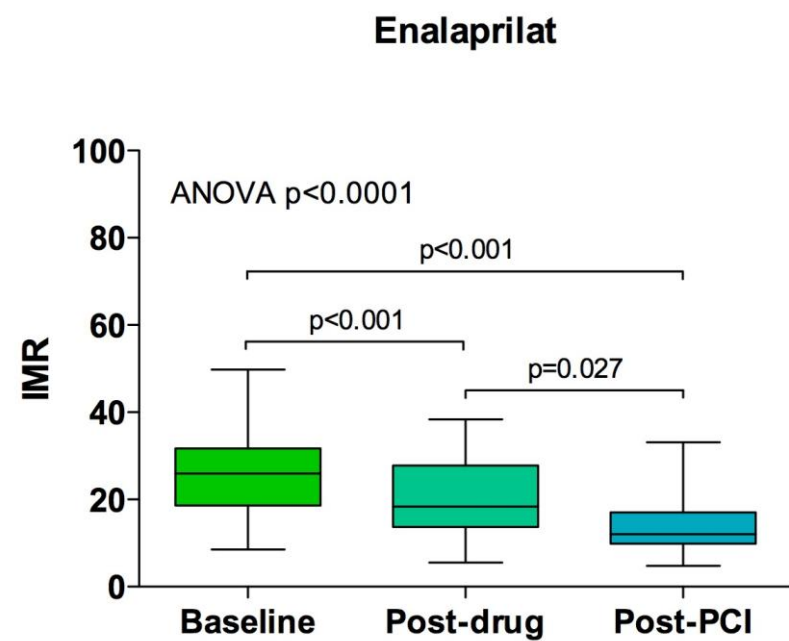
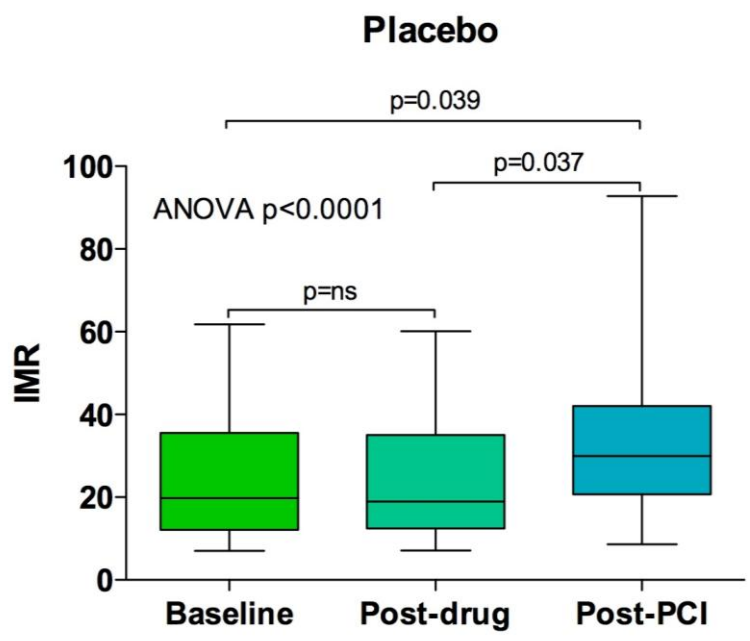


Clinical use of IMR

- Assessment of myocardial perfusion in STEMI patients
- Predictive value after primary PCI
- Assessment of microvascular damage after elective PCI
- Assessment of pharmacologic strategies to prevent microvascular damage after elective PCI

Assessment of pharmacologic strategies to prevent microvascular damage after elective PCI

ProMicro trial



Mangiacastra & Barbato, JACC 2013



Conclusions

- Functional assessment of the coronary circulation enables the identification of the patients at increased risk of cardiovascular events
- With equivocal or absent objective evidence of vessel-related ischemia, FFR measurement is recommended to guide revascularization
- The latter when adopted eventually translates into an improved clinical outcome of the patients