



L'obesità e il rischio cardiovascolare: nuove opportunità terapeutiche?

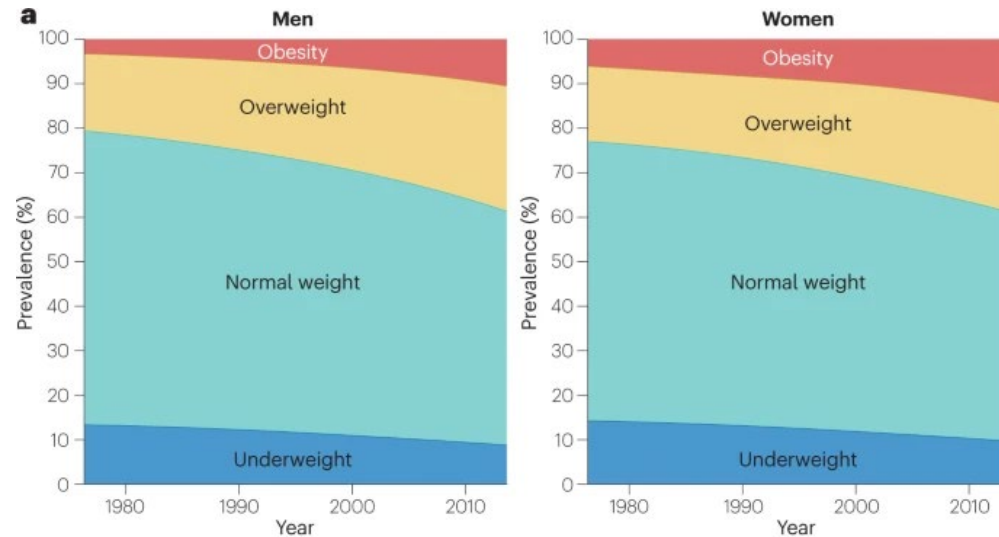
Paolo Marzullo

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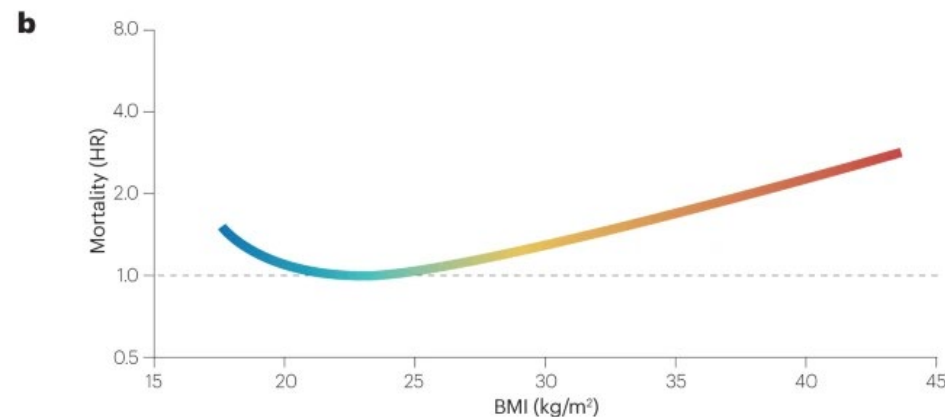
All-cause mortality increases with increasing BMI

NCD Risk Factor Collaboration Trends (N=19,2 million persons)

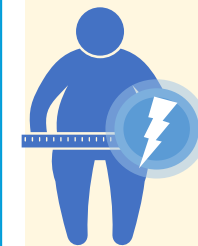
Global trends in BMI categories from 1975 to 2014¹



Association between BMI and all-cause mortality^{2,3}



Obesity rates have **3x** nearly tripled since 1975⁵

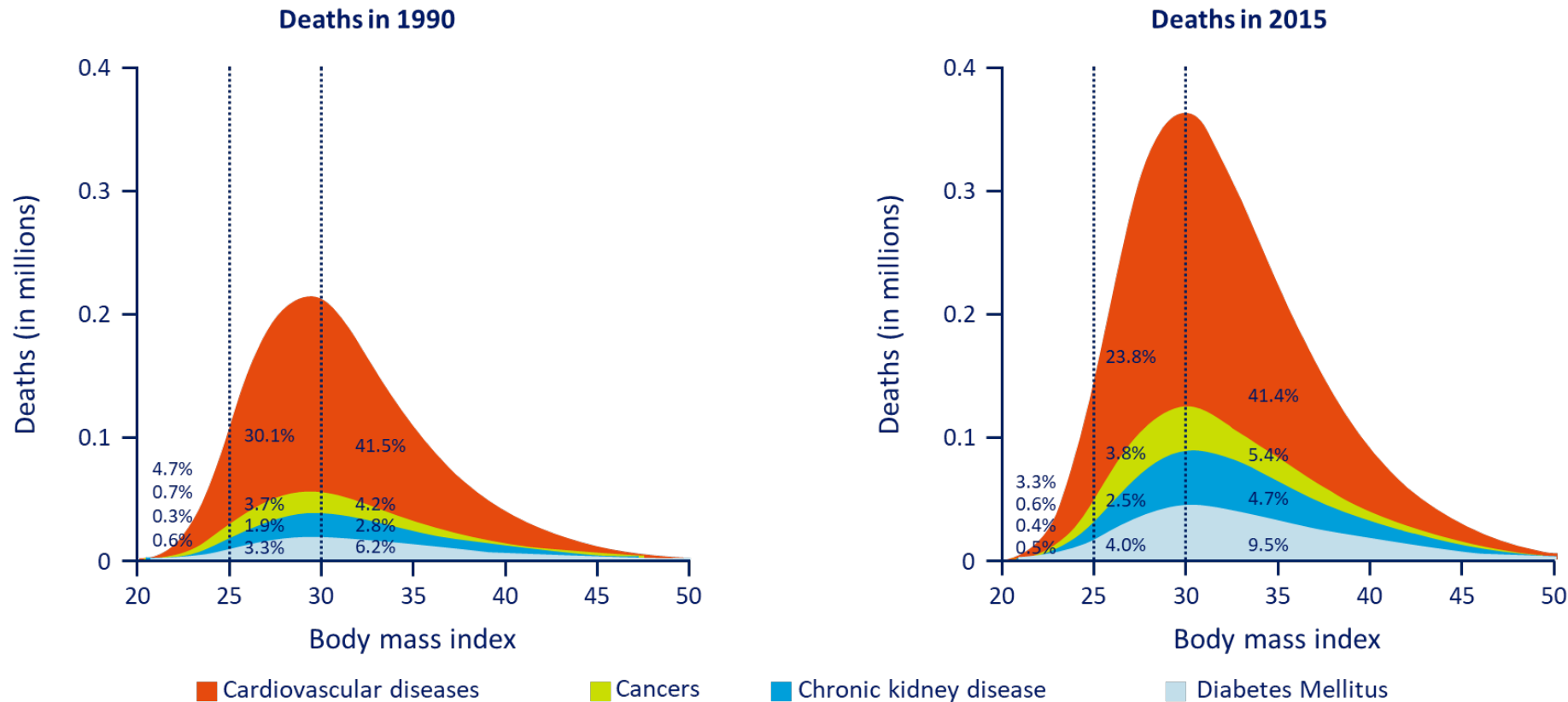


About 878 million people, globally, have obesity⁴

¹NCD Risk Factor Collaboration Trends in adult body-mass index in 200 countries from 1975 to 2014: a pooled analysis of 1698 population-based measurement studies with 19.2 million participants. *Lancet* 387, 1377–1396 (2016). ²Global BMI Mortality Collaboration. Body-mass index and all-cause mortality: individual-participant-data meta-analysis of 239 prospective studies in four continents. *Lancet* 388, 776–786 (2016). ³Henning RJ. Obesity and obesity-induced inflammatory disease contribute to atherosclerosis: a review of the pathophysiology and treatment of obesity. *Am J Cardiovasc Dis.* 2021 Aug 15;11(4):504-529. ⁴NCD Risk Factor Collaboration (NCD-RisC). Worldwide trends in underweight and obesity from 1990 to 2022: a pooled analysis of 3663 population-representative studies with 222 million children, adolescents, and adults. *Lancet.* 2024 Mar 16;403(10431):1027-1050. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(23)02750-2. Epub 2024 Feb 29. PMID: 38432237. ⁵World Obesity Federation. World obesity atlas 2022. Available at: <https://www.worldobesity.org/resources/resource-library/world-obesity-atlas-2022>.

CV death contributes to the majority of deaths associated with high BMI

Global Burden of Disease Study (N=68.5 million persons)



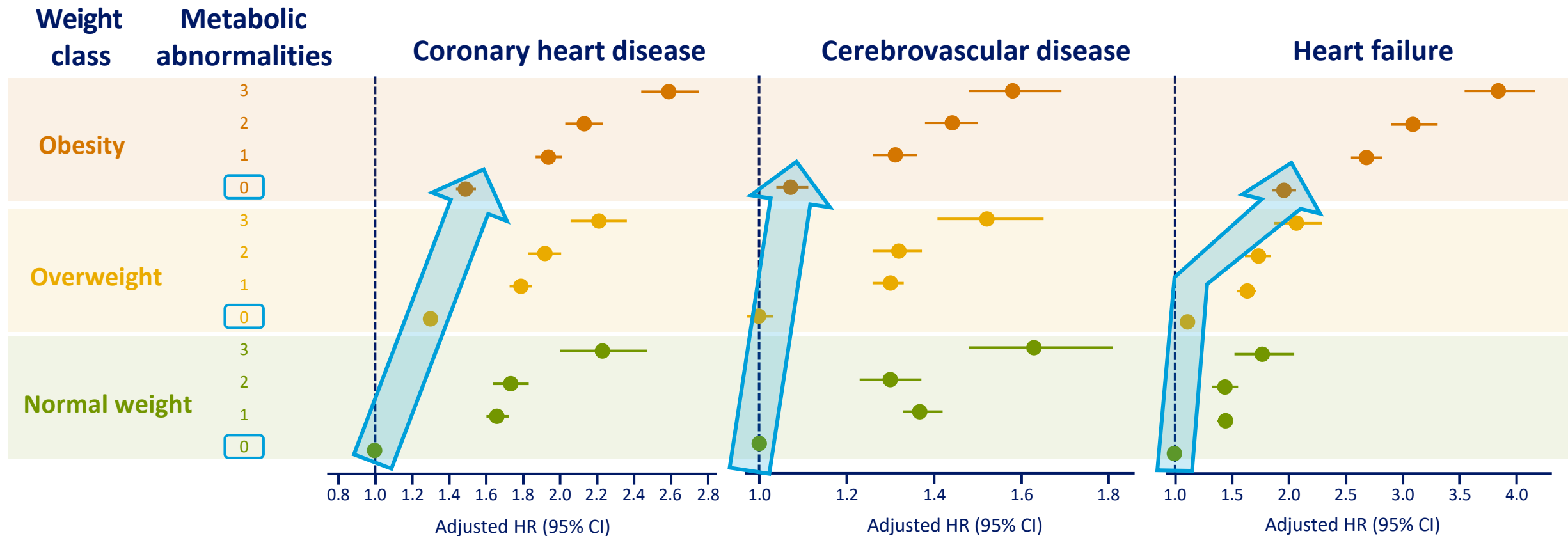
~2 million

CV-related deaths
are attributed to
obesity

Deaths Associated with a High Body-Mass Index (1990–2015)

Overweight or obesity increase the risk of CVD even in the absence of other metabolic abnormalities

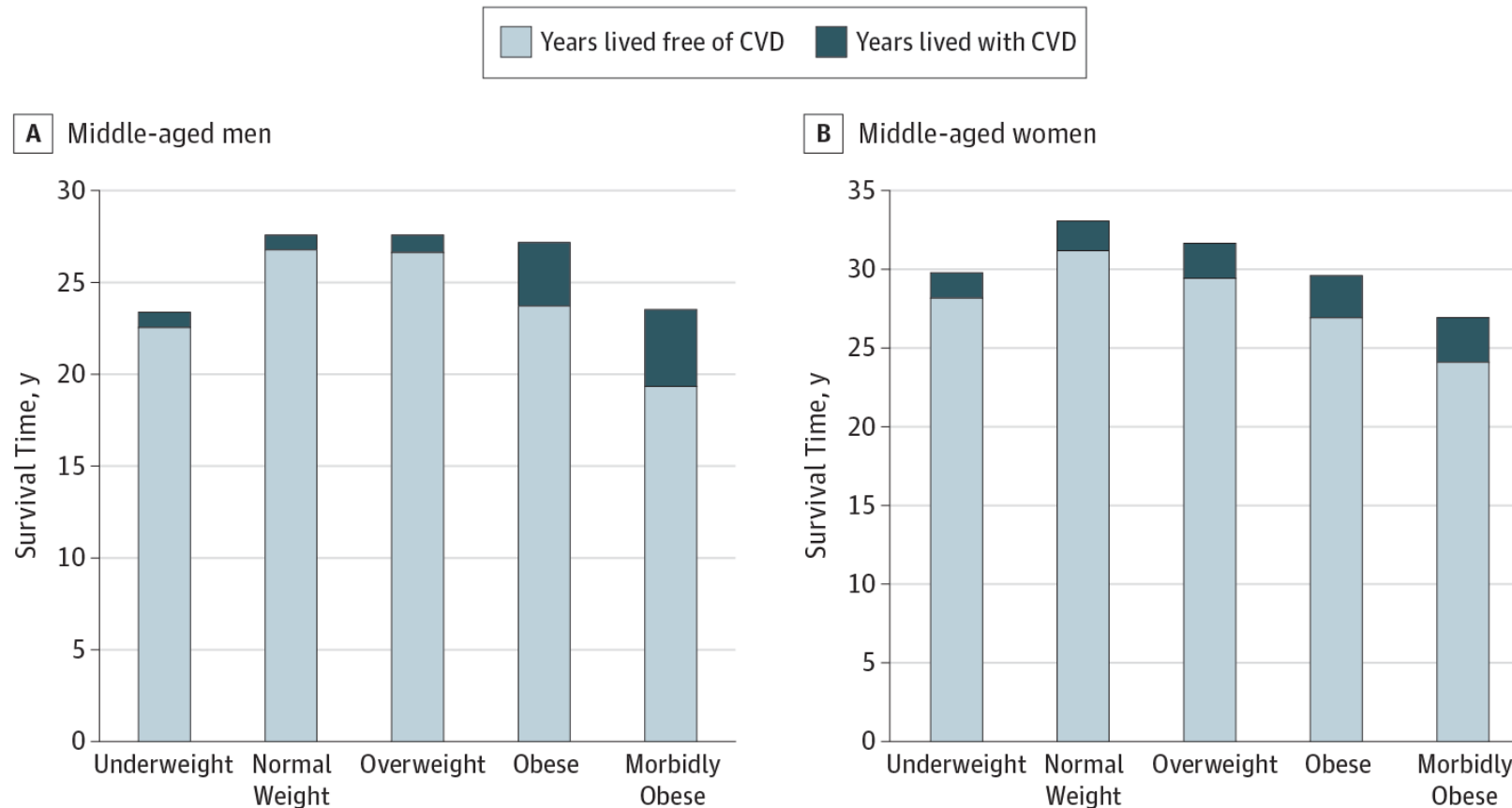
Body size, metabolic status and CVD events in 3.5 million UK adults



The time spent with CVD is associated with BMI

Cardiovascular Disease Lifetime Risk Pooling Project (N=190,672)

Years lived free of and with CVD in middle-aged (index age, 40-59 years) men (A) and women (B)



Accelerated
CVD onset by
7.5 years

Reduced
survival by
5.6 years

Accelerated
CVD onset by
7.1 years

Reduced
survival by
2.0 years

Obesity-related glomerulopathy

Pathologic and clinical characteristics

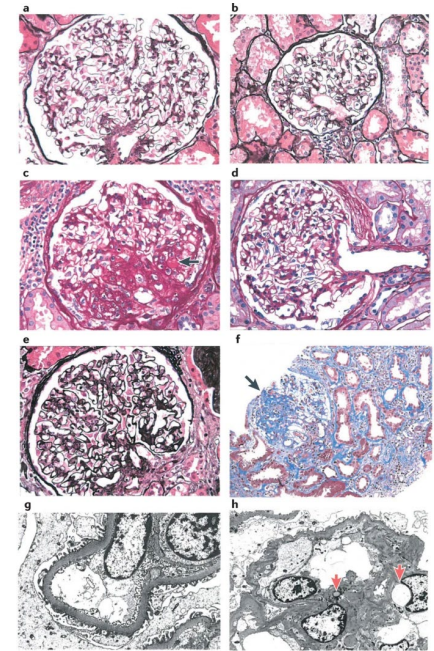
Pathology: glomerulomegaly, focal segmental glomerulosclerosis

Manifestations: subnephrotic proteinuria, nephrotic-range proteinuria, progressive loss of renal function.

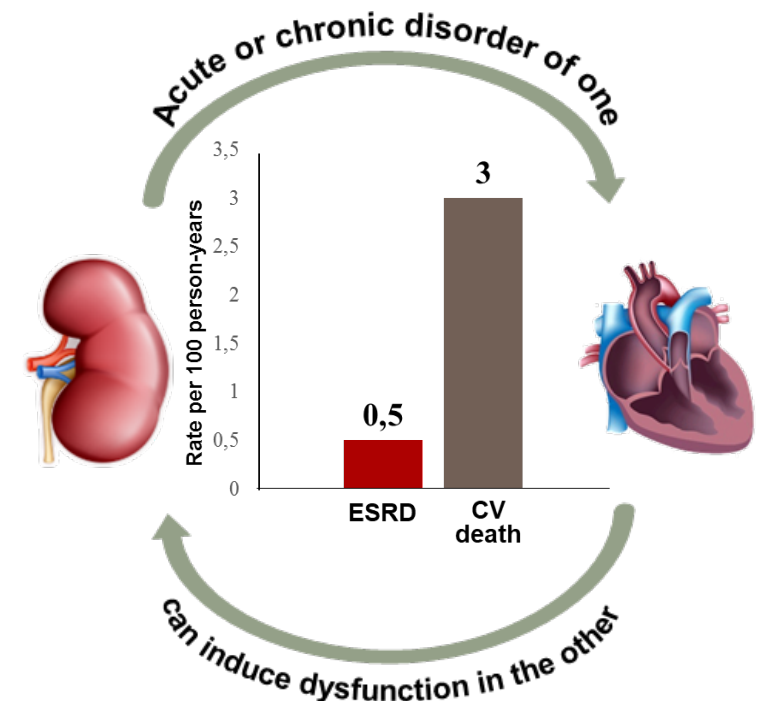
Hemodynamics: increased glomerular filtration rate, renal plasma flow, filtration fraction and tubular reabsorption of sodium.

Adiposity: meta-inflammation, maladaptive responses to hyperfiltration, podocyte depletion, proteinuria, glomerulosclerosis, interstitial fibrosis.

CARDIORENAL METABOLIC SYNDROME



Nature Reviews | Nephrology



Adipose tissue dysfunction contributes to ectopic fat storage and related complications

Adiposopathy

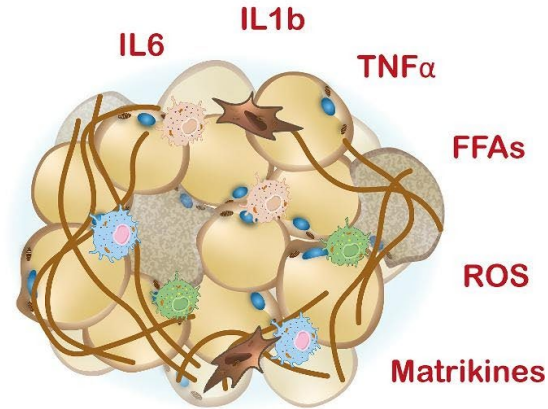
Healthy Adipose Tissue



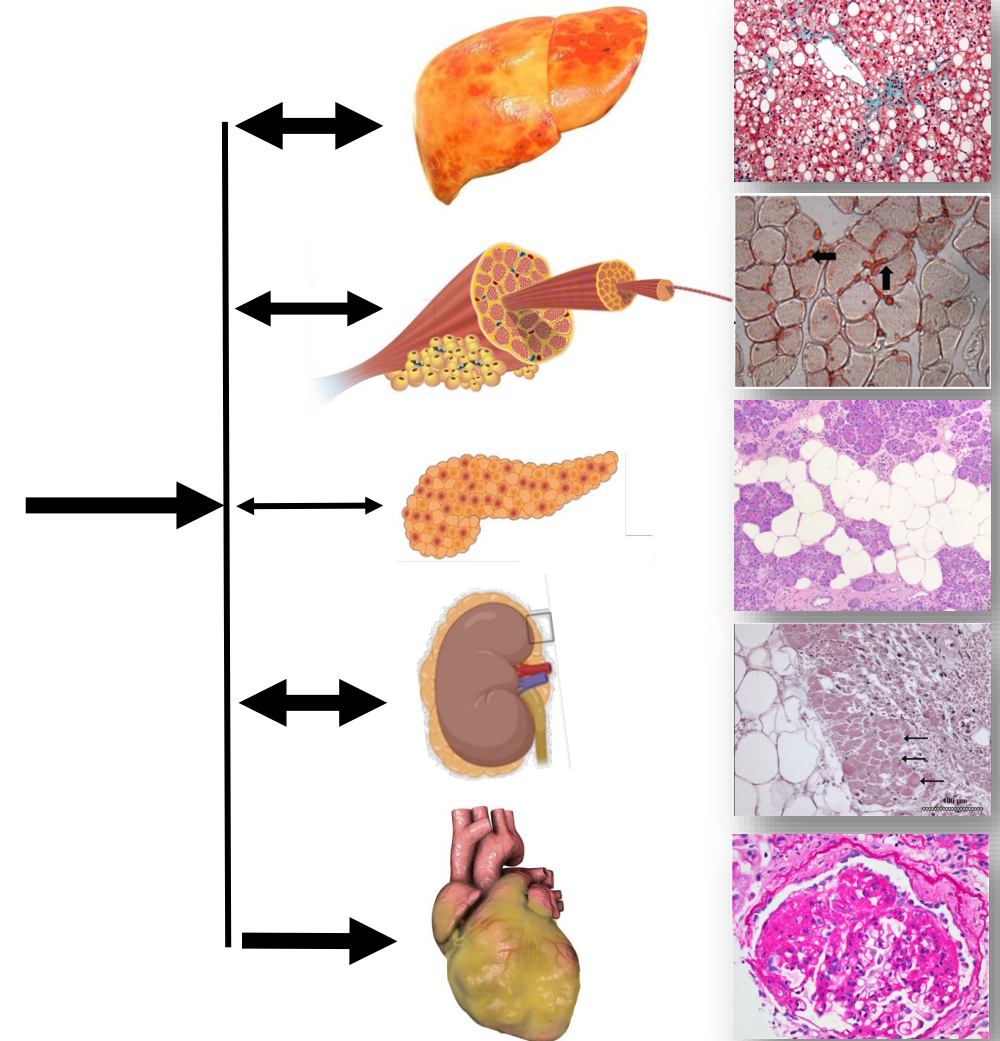
Normal adipocyte size
Healthy ECM distribution
M2 resident macrophage

Hyperglycemia/
hyperinsulinemia
Hypertrophy
Inflammation
Macrophage polarization
Oxidative stress
Lipid overload
Fibrosis

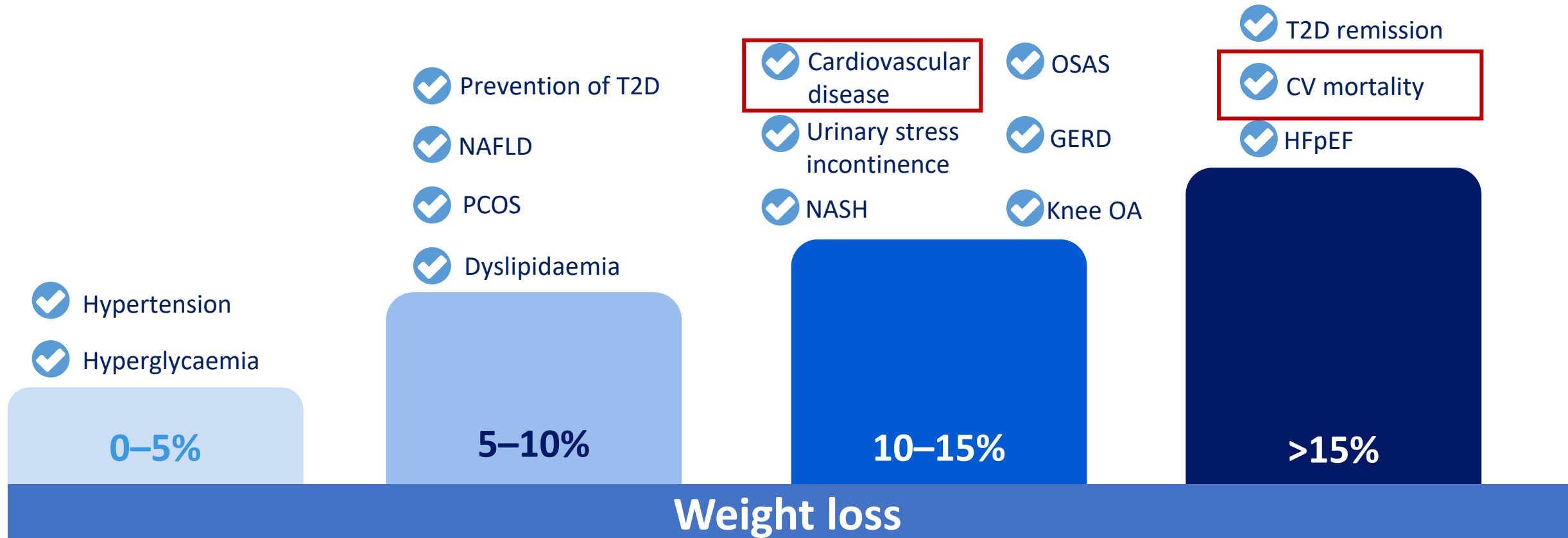
Unhealthy Adipose Tissue



Hypertrophic adipocytes
Necrotic adipocytes
Fibroblast and myofibroblast activation
ECM deposition
Macrophage infiltration
Alternative macrophage activation (M1, M2, ...)

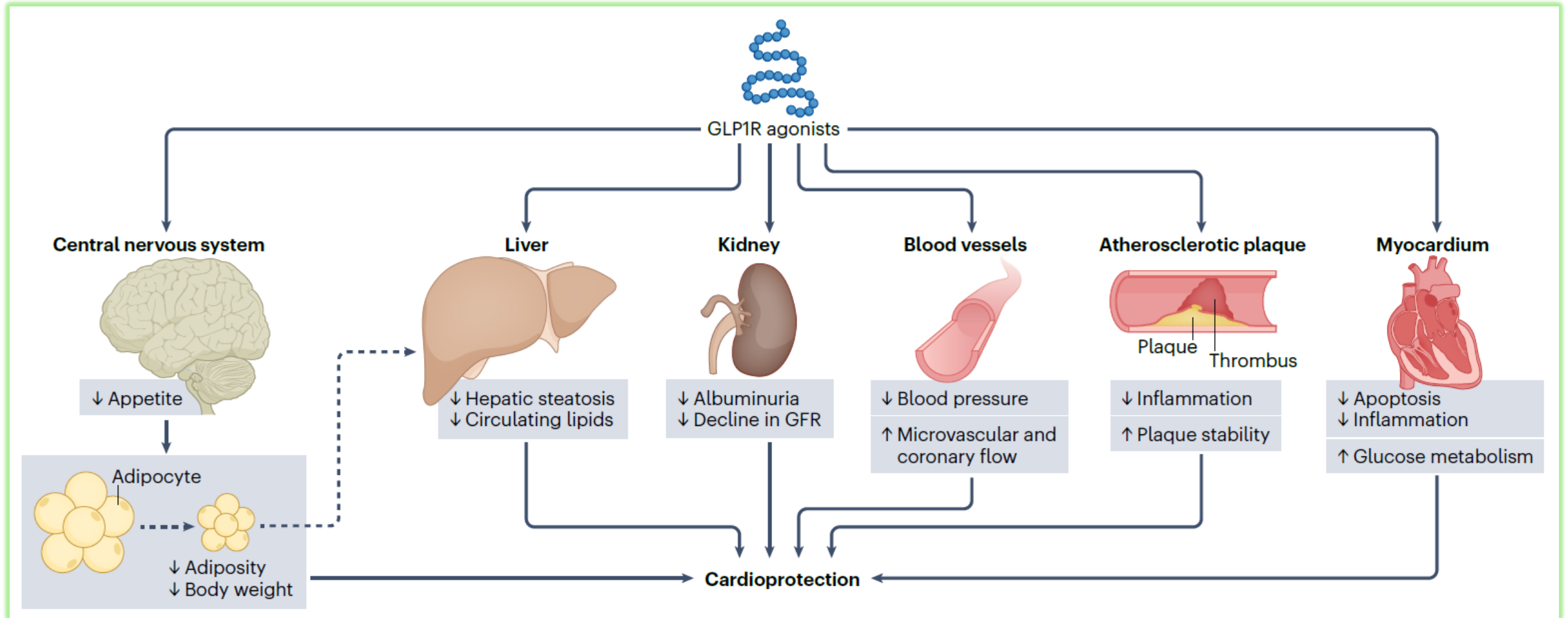


Greater weight loss leads to improved health outcomes in patients with obesity



inflammation - insulin resistance ← → glucose - lipids - blood pressure

Cardioprotection mediated by direct and indirect actions of GLP1 RA



Overview of status and key observations from obesity CVOTs and registries

	SCOUT ¹	CRESCENDO ²	LIGHT ³	CONVENE ⁴	CAMELLIA-TIMI ⁵	SELECT ⁶	SURMOUNT-MMO ⁷
Intervention	Sibutramine*	Rimonabant*	Naltrexone/ bupropion	Naltrexone/ bupropion	Lorcaserin*	Once-weekly semaglutide	Tirzepatide
Primary outcome	3P-MACE + resuscitated cardiac arrest	3P-MACE	3P-MACE	3P-MACE	1. 3P-MACE (safety outcome) 2. MACE+ (efficacy outcome)	3P-MACE	5P-MACE
Trial status	Completed	Terminated prematurely (Safety concerns)	Terminated prematurely (Study integrity compromised)	Terminated prematurely (Selling of US rights)	Completed	Completed	Ongoing
HR (95% CI) for primary outcome	1.16 (1.03; 1.31); p=0.02	0.97 (0.84; 1.12); p=0.68	50% interim analysis: 0.88 (0.57; 1.34)	No data available	MACE+: 0.97 (0.87; 1.07); p=0.55	0.80 (0.72; 0.90); p<0.001	N/A
Safety/ outcome results	Not safe/Harm†	Not safe‡/Neutral	Safe/Neutral (integrity compromised)	No data available	Safe/Neutral	Safe/Benefits (3P-MACE)	N/A
Weight change§	-1.7 kg (vs +0.7 kg) at 12 months	N/A	-3.6% (vs -1.1%) at trial end	No data available	-4.0 kg (vs -2.1 kg) at 40 months	-9.4% (vs -0.9%) at 24 months	N/A

3P-MACE, composite of CV death, non-fatal MI and non-fatal stroke; 5P-MACE, composite of all-cause death, non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, coronary revascularisation or HF events; MACE+, composite of MI, stroke, CV death, and hospitalisation due to unstable angina; HF, or any coronary revascularisation.

CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; CVOT, cardiovascular outcome trial; HF, heart failure; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; MI, myocardial infarction; T2D, type 2 diabetes.

See slide notes for footnotes and references.

*The following drugs have been withdrawn by the FDA: rimonabant (2008), sibutramine (2010) and lorcaserin (2020).

†Increased MACE events with sibutramine vs placebo.

‡Increased neuropsychiatric, serious psychiatric and GI effects with rimonabant vs placebo.

§vs weight loss in control group.

1. James WPT et al. *N Engl J Med* 2010;363:905-17;

2. Topol EJ et al. *Lancet* 2010;376:517-23;

3. Nissen SE et al. *JAMA* 2016;315:990-1004;

4. *ClinicalTrials.gov*. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT02638129>. Accessed October 2023;

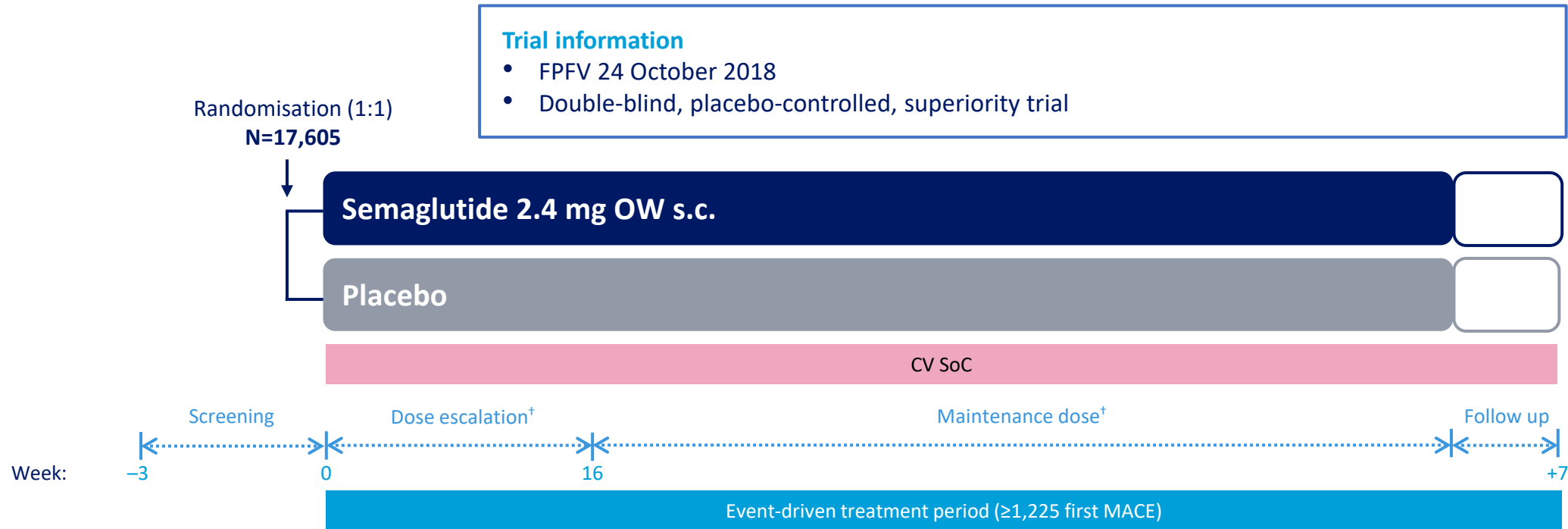
5. Bohula EA et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:1107-17;

6. Lincoff AM et al. *N Engl J Med* 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563;

7. *ClinicalTrials.gov*. <https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/NCT05556512>. Accessed October 2023.

Semaglutide Effects on Cardiovascular Outcomes in People With Overweight or Obesity - SELECT

Trial design (N=17,604)



Three-component MACE consisted of non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, CV death.

*Established CVD: MI ≥60 days ago, stroke ≥60 days ago, or symptomatic PAD, NYHA class IV excluded.

†Dose escalation is from week 4 to 16 with intervals of 4 weeks, and maintenance dose is event-driven to end of treatment period.

BMI, body mass index; CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; FPFV, first patient first visit; HbA_{1c}, glycated haemoglobin; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; MI, myocardial infarction; NYHA, New York Heart Association; OW, once weekly; PAD, peripheral artery disease; s.c., subcutaneous; SELECT, semaglutide effects on cardiovascular outcomes in people with overweight or obesity; SoC, standard of care.

Ryan DH et al. Am Heart J 2020;229:61–9; Lingvay I et al. Obesity (Silver Spring) 2023;31:111–22.

Main inclusion / exclusion criteria of SELECT

Key inclusion criteria^{1,2}



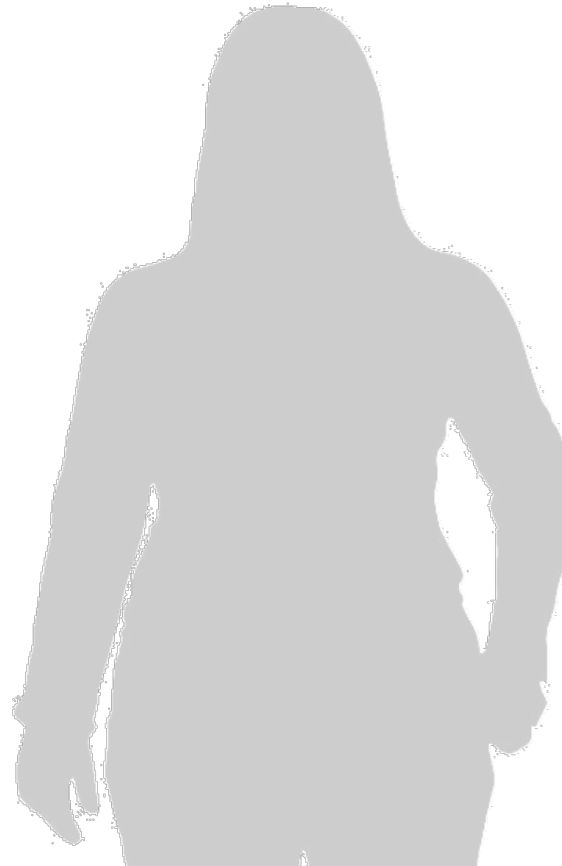
Prior MI / stroke*
Symptomatic PAD[†]



Male or female
≥45 years of age



BMI: ≥27 kg/m²



Key exclusion criteria^{1,2}

HbA_{1c} ≥6.5%



History of type 1
or type 2 diabetes[‡]



Treatment with glucose
lowering agents within the
last 90 days



Presently classified
as being in NYHA
class IV heart failure



*≥60 days prior to the day of screening.

[†]Symptomatic PAD evidenced by intermittent claudication with ankle-brachial index less than 0.85 (at rest), or peripheral arterial revascularisation procedure, or amputation due to atherosclerotic disease.

[‡]Gestational diabetes was allowed.

BMI, body mass index; HbA_{1c}, glycated haemoglobin; MI, myocardial infarction; NYHA, New York Heart Association; PAD, peripheral artery disease; SELECT, semaglutide effects on cardiovascular outcomes in people with overweight or obesity.

1. Ryan DH et al. Am Heart J 2020;229:61–9; 2. Lingvay I et al. Obesity (Silver Spring) 2023;31:111–22.

SELECT: Primary and confirmatory secondary endpoints

Primary endpoint^{1–3}

Time from randomisation to first occurrence of composite endpoint consisting of:

- Cardiovascular death
- Non-fatal myocardial infarction
- Non-fatal stroke



Confirmatory secondary endpoints^{1–3}

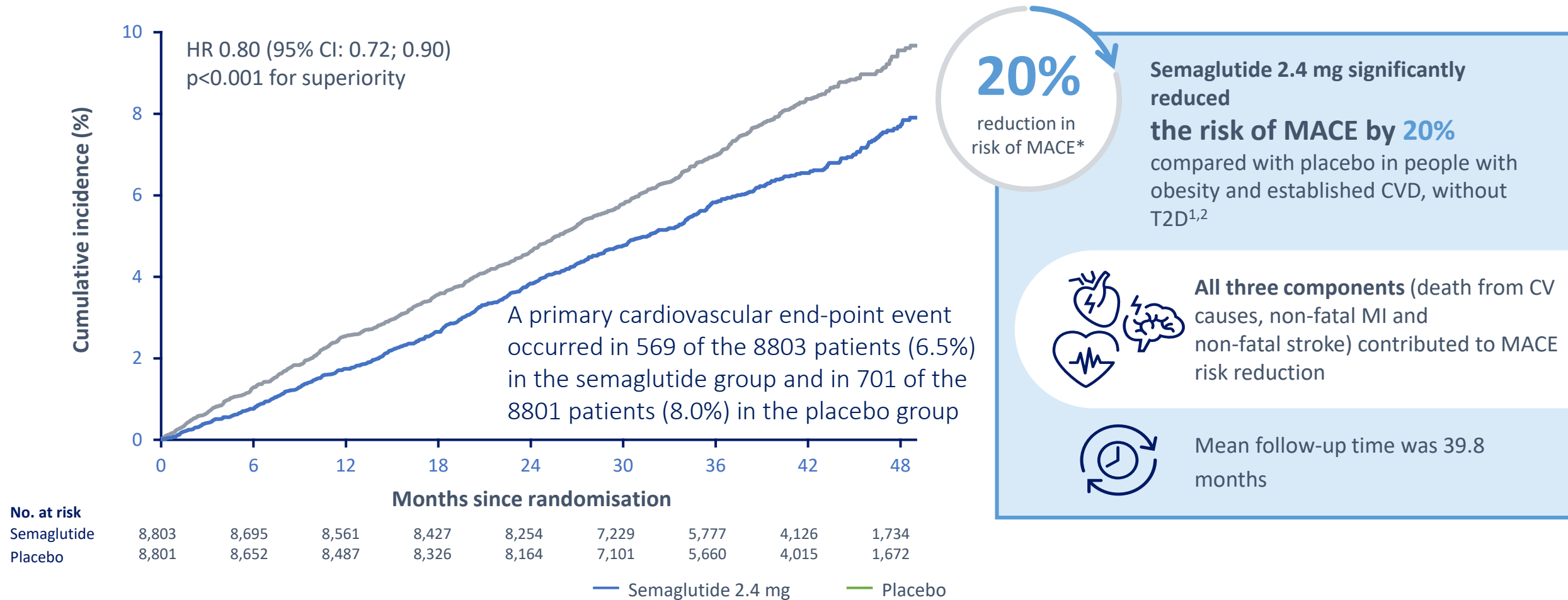
Time from randomisation to occurrence of:

- Cardiovascular death
- Composite heart failure endpoint (HF hospitalisation, urgent HF visit or CV death)
- All-cause death



SELECT: Cumulative incidence of MACE

Primary cardiovascular composite endpoint

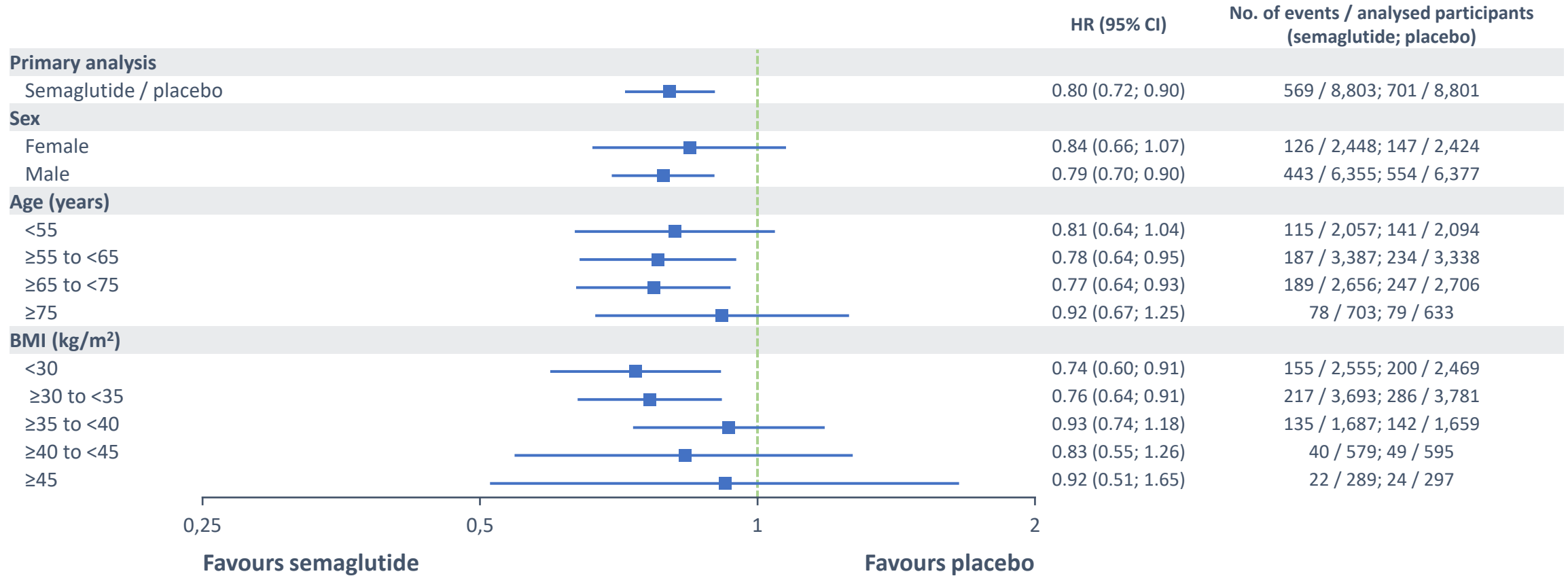


Cumulative incidence (using the Aalen-Johansen method) of the composite MACE primary endpoint. The HR was estimated using a Cox proportional hazards regression model. The proportion of participants with MACE was 6.5% with semaglutide 2.4 mg and 8.0% with placebo. MACE was defined as death from CV causes, non-fatal myocardial infarction, or non-fatal stroke.

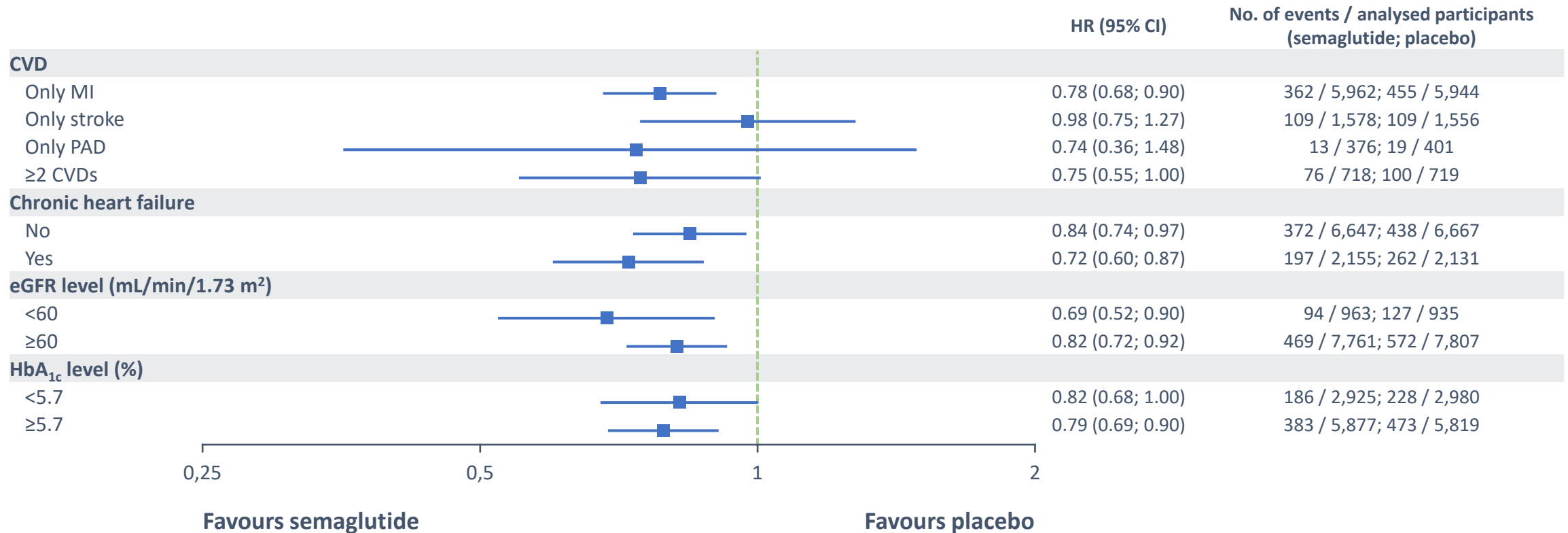
CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular events; MI, myocardial infarction.

1. Lincoff AM et al. N Engl J Med 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563; 2. American College of Cardiology, SELECT: Semaglutide Reduces Risk of MACE in Adults With Overweight or Obesity, Accessed October 2023, <https://www.acc.org/Latest-in-Cardiology/Articles/2023/08/10/14/29/SELECT-Semaglutide-Reduces-Risk-of-MACE-in-Adults-With-Overweight-or-Obesity>

SELECT: Subgroup analysis of MACE (1)

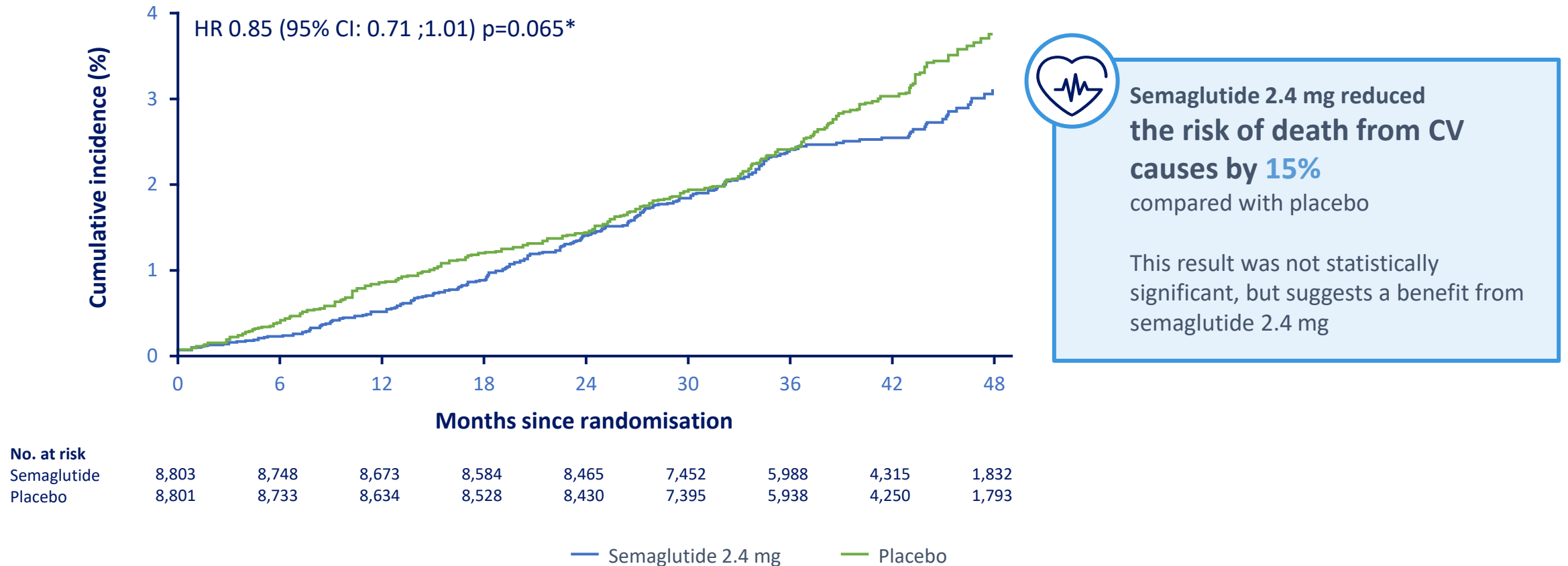


SELECT: Subgroup analysis of MACE (2)



SELECT: Cumulative incidence of death from CV causes

First confirmatory secondary endpoint

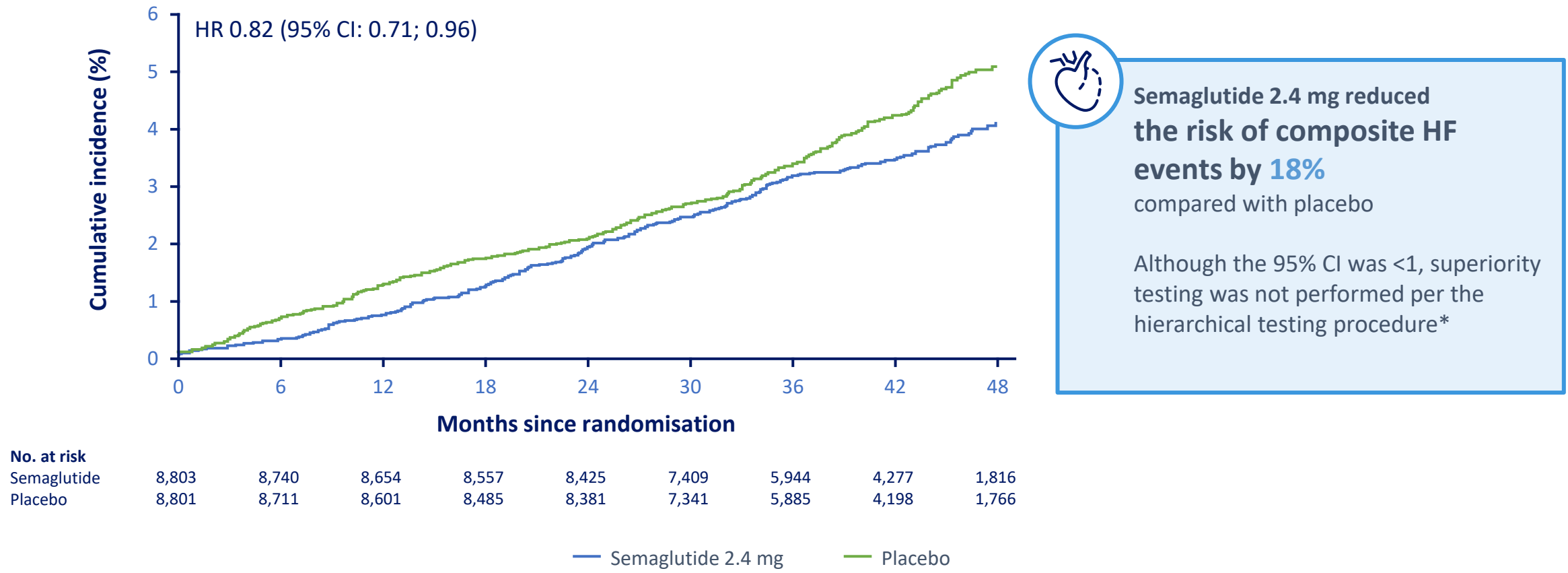


Cumulative incidence (using the Aalen–Johansen method) of the confirmatory secondary endpoints. The HR was estimated using a Cox proportional hazards regression model. The proportion of participants with death from CV causes was 2.5% with semaglutide 2.4 mg and 3.0% with placebo.

*Nominal significance level was 0.046.
CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; HR, hazard ratio.
Lincoff AM et al. N Engl J Med 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563.

SELECT: Cumulative incidence of composite heart failure events

Second confirmatory secondary endpoint



Cumulative incidence (using the Aalen–Johansen method) of the confirmatory secondary endpoints. The HR was estimated using a Cox proportional hazards regression model. The proportion of participants with composite heart failure events was 3.4% with semaglutide 2.4 mg and 4.1% with placebo. Composite heart failure events included HF hospitalisation, urgent HF visit or CV-related death.

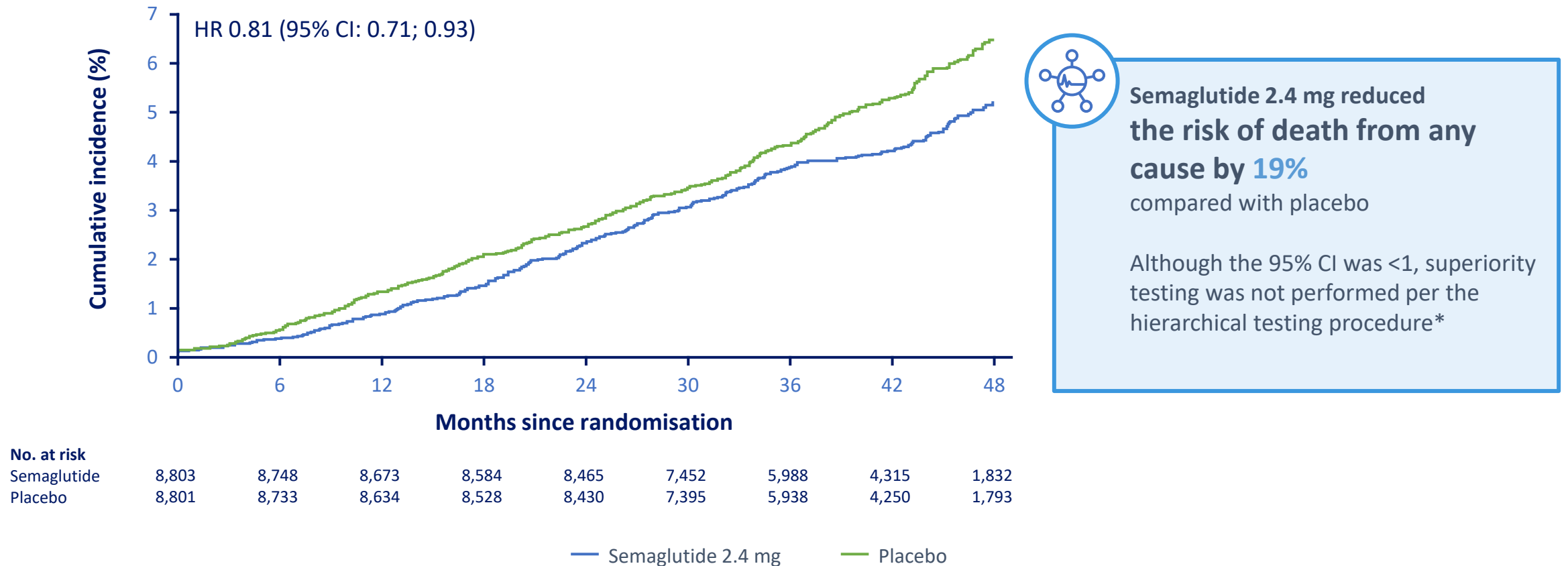
*The difference in the risk of death from CV causes did not meet the required p value for hierarchical testing, so superiority testing for the remaining confirmatory secondary endpoints was not performed.

CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; HF, heart failure; HR, hazard ratio.

Lincoff AM et al. N Engl J Med 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563.

SELECT: Cumulative incidence of death from any cause

Third confirmatory secondary endpoint

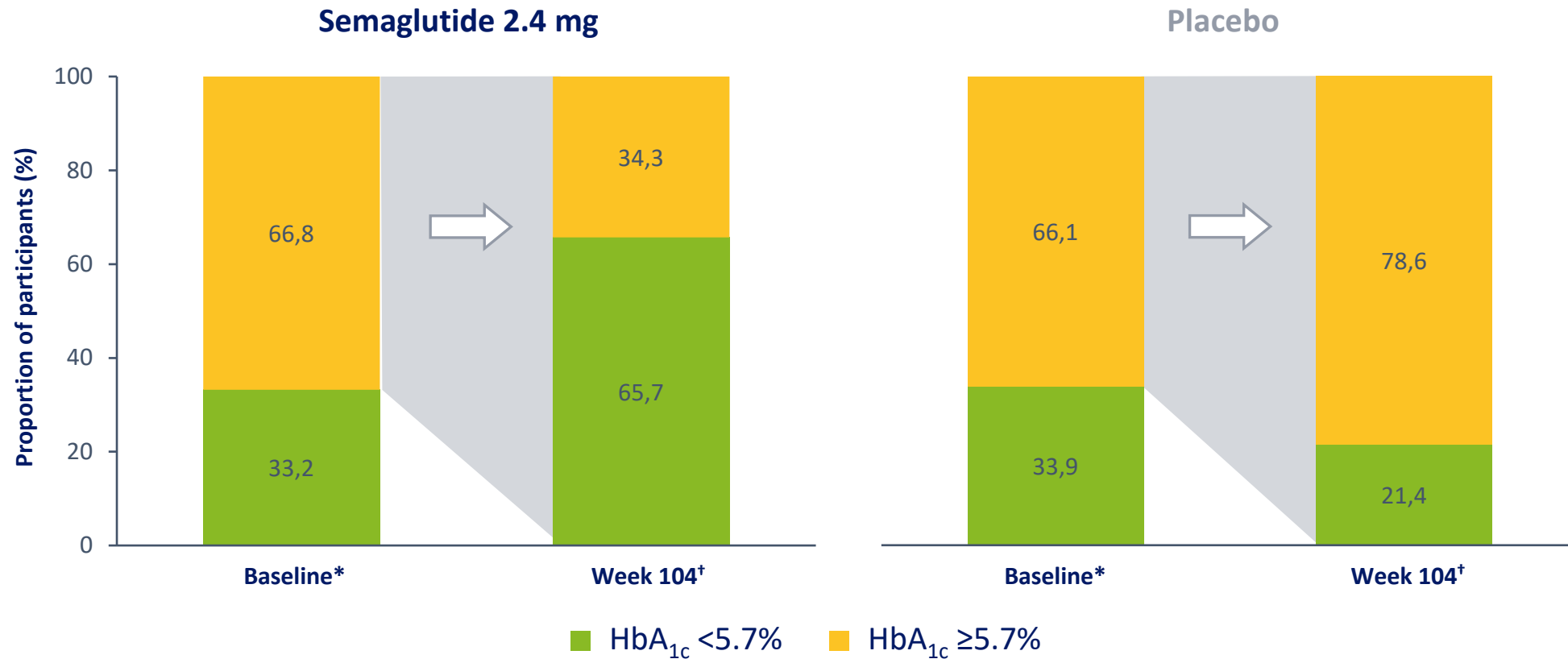


Cumulative incidence (using the Aalen-Johansen method) of the confirmatory secondary endpoints. The HR was estimated using a Cox proportional hazards regression model. The proportion of participants with death from any cause was 4.3% with semaglutide 2.4 mg and 5.2% with placebo. *The difference in the risk of death from CV causes did not meet the required p value for hierarchical testing, so superiority testing for the remaining confirmatory secondary endpoints was not performed.

CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; HR, hazard ratio.
Lincoff AM et al. N Engl J Med 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563.

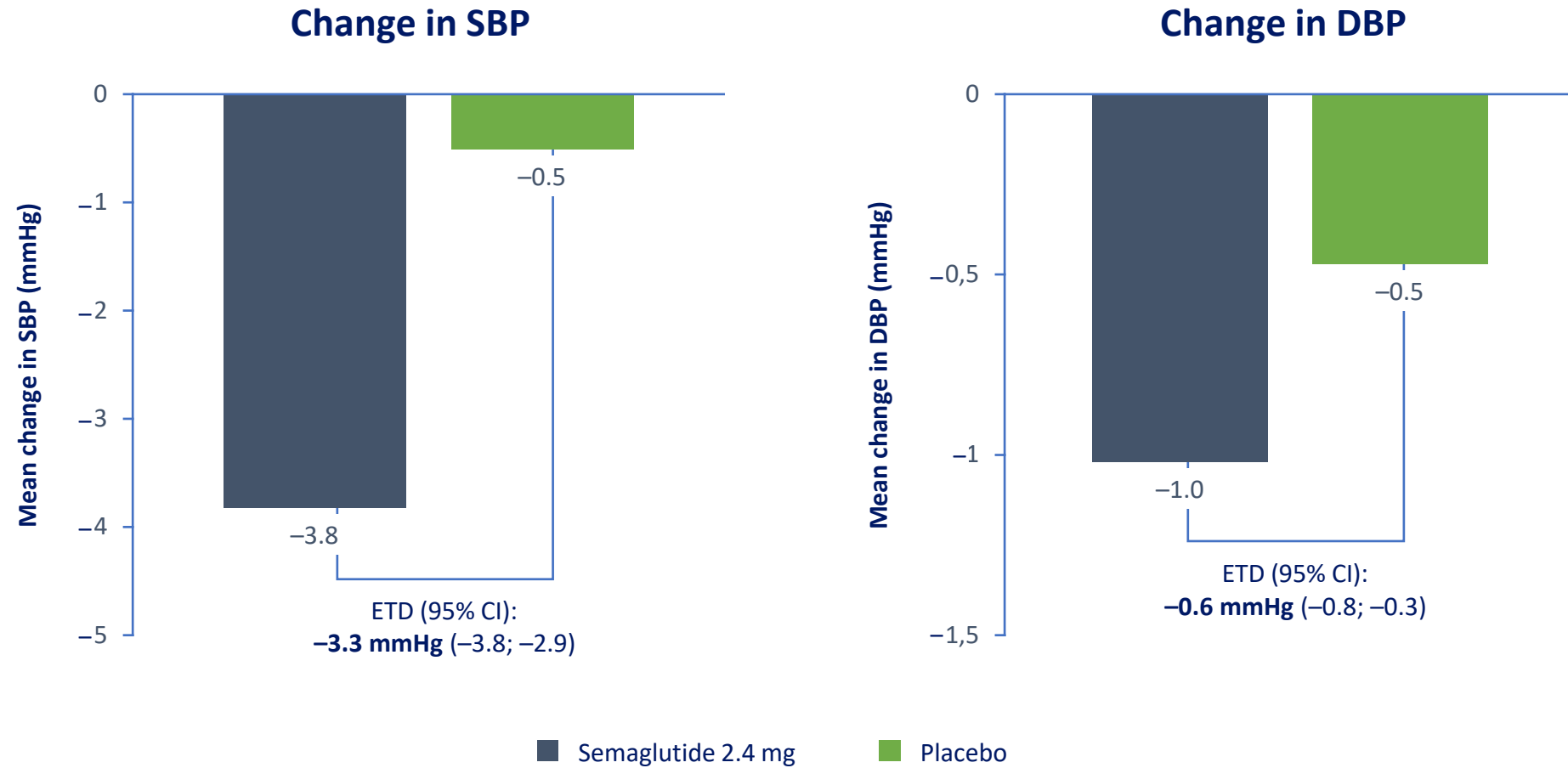
SELECT: Change in HbA_{1c}

Participants with baseline HbA_{1c} ≥5.7%



- Proportions estimated using logistic regression with treatment as factor and baseline HbA_{1c} as a covariate. *Number of participants with HbA_{1c} ≥5.7% at baseline was 5,877 for semaglutide and 5,819 for placebo. †Number of participants with HbA_{1c} ≥5.7% at baseline and evaluable data (assessment or imputation) at week 104 was 5,750 for semaglutide and 5,663 for placebo.
- CI, confidence interval; ETD, estimated treatment difference; HbA_{1c}, glycated haemoglobin.
- Lincoff AM et al. N Engl J Med 2023;DOI:10.1056/NEJMoa2307563.

SELECT: Change in blood pressure (mmHg)



SELECT: Change in lipids (%)

High-sensitivity CRP level

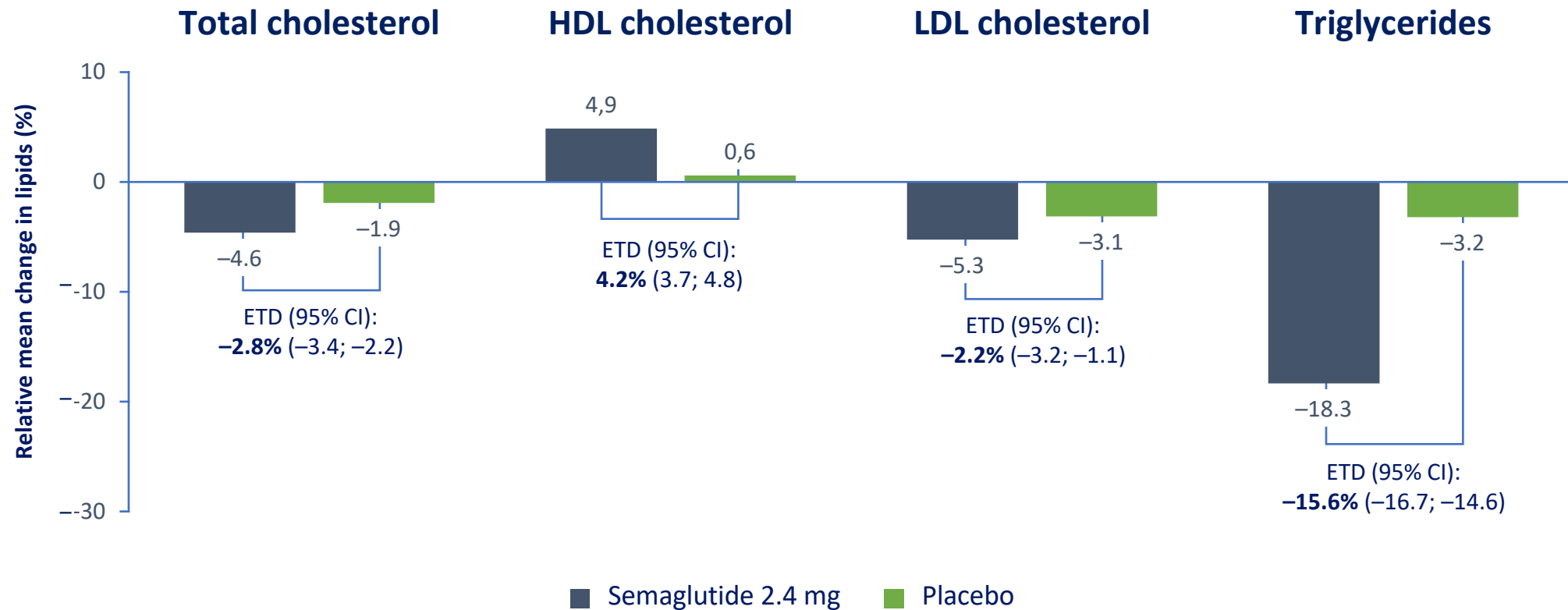
SEMAGLUTIDE

–39.12%

(–37.82%, –39.70 to –35.90)

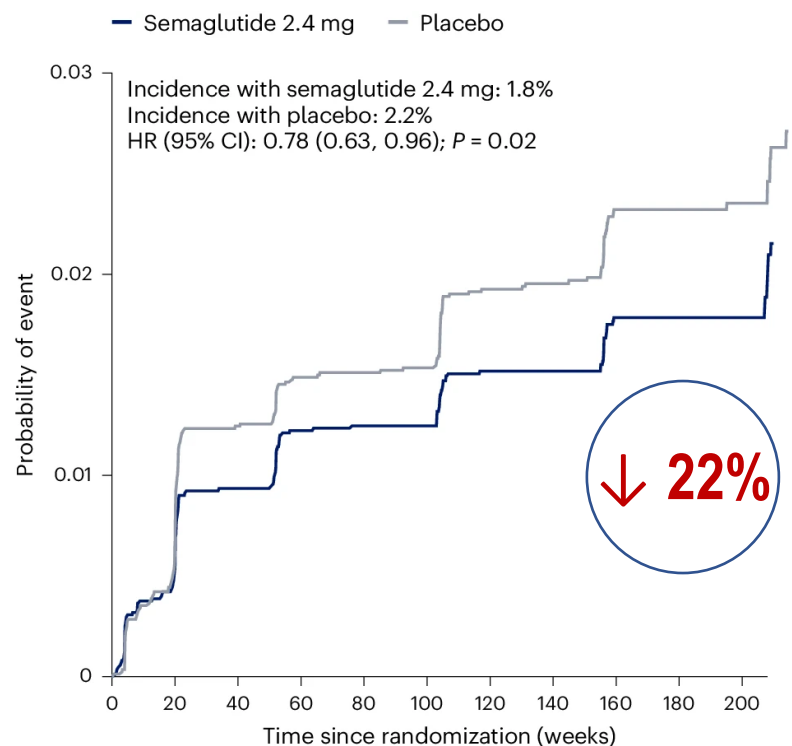
PLACEBO

–2.08%



SELECT: Long-term kidney outcomes

Main 5-component kidney composite endpoint



Patients at risk

Semaglutide 2.4 mg	8,803	8,716	8,623	8,536	8,464	8,390	7,904	6,747	5,813	4,540	2,643
Placebo	8,801	8,699	8,573	8,483	8,392	8,321	7,842	6,665	5,734	4,456	2,576

	Semaglutide 2.4 mg ($N = 8,803$), n (%)	Placebo ($N = 8,801$), n (%)	HR (95% CI); P value
5-component kidney composite endpoint	155 (1.8)	198 (2.2)	0.78 (0.63, 0.96); 0.02
Death due to kidney disease	0	0	N/A
Initiation of chronic kidney replacement therapy ^a	4 (0.0)	6 (0.1)	0.66 (0.17, 2.32); 0.52
Onset of persistent eGFR $<15 \text{ ml min}^{-1} 1.73 \text{ m}^{-2}$	5 (0.1)	4 (0.0)	1.24 (0.33, 5.02); 0.74
Onset of persistent $\geq 50\%$ reduction in eGFR	12/8,724 ^b (0.1)	21/8,742 ^b (0.2)	0.57 (0.27, 1.14); 0.11
Onset of persistent macroalbuminuria	144 (1.6)	179 (2.0)	0.80 (0.64, 1.00); 0.05

HR (95% CI)

Favors semaglutide 2.4 mg Favors placebo

Effect of semaglutide 2.4 mg on continuous kidney endpoints

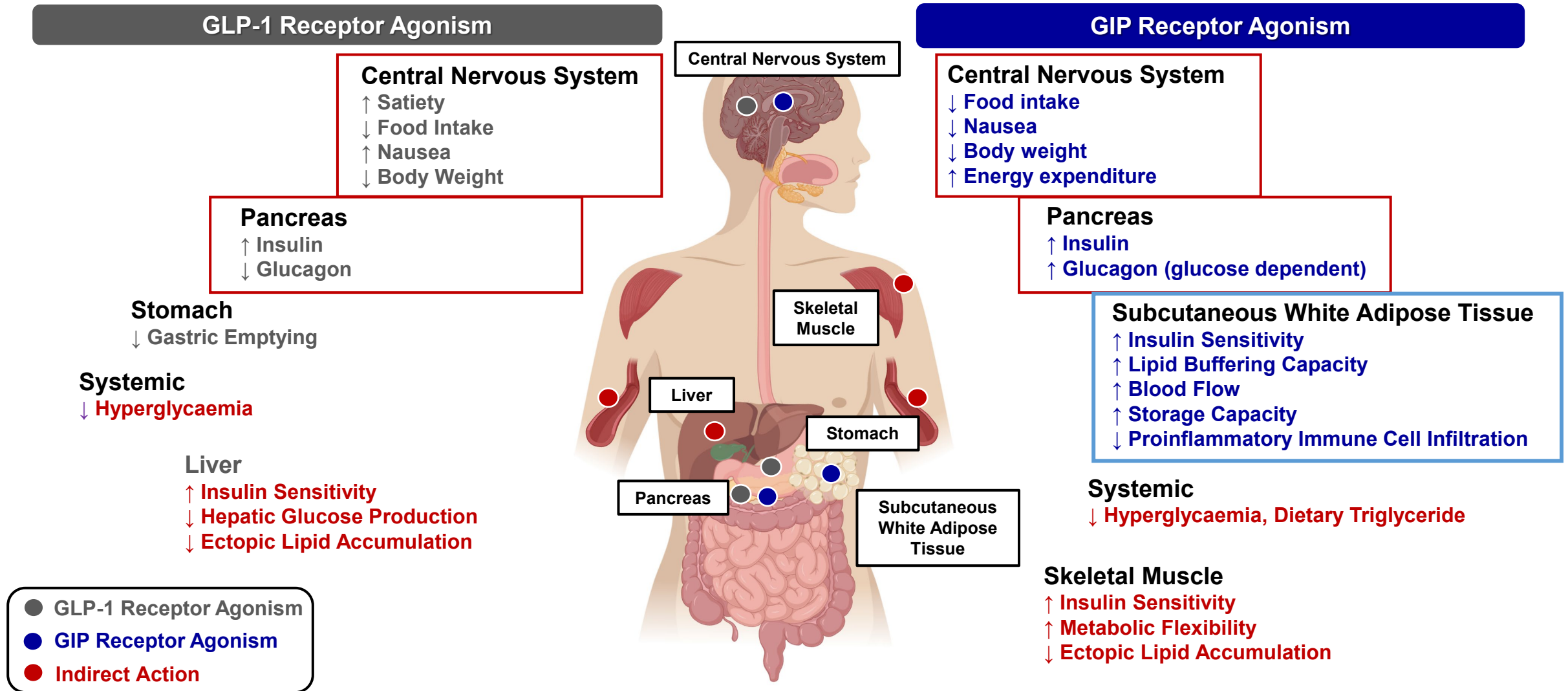
eGFR at 104 weeks
↑ 0.75 ml/min

Annual eGFR slope
↑ 0.39 ml/min

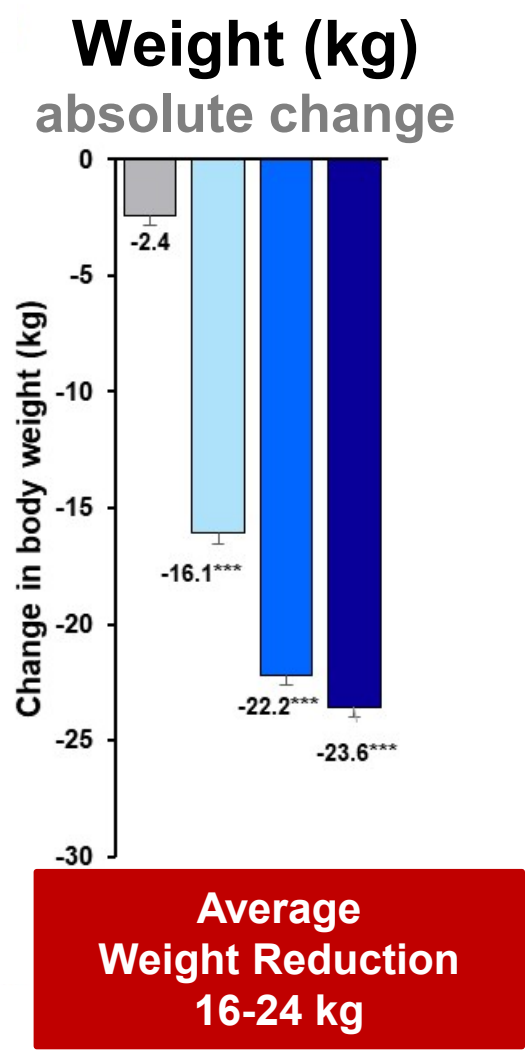
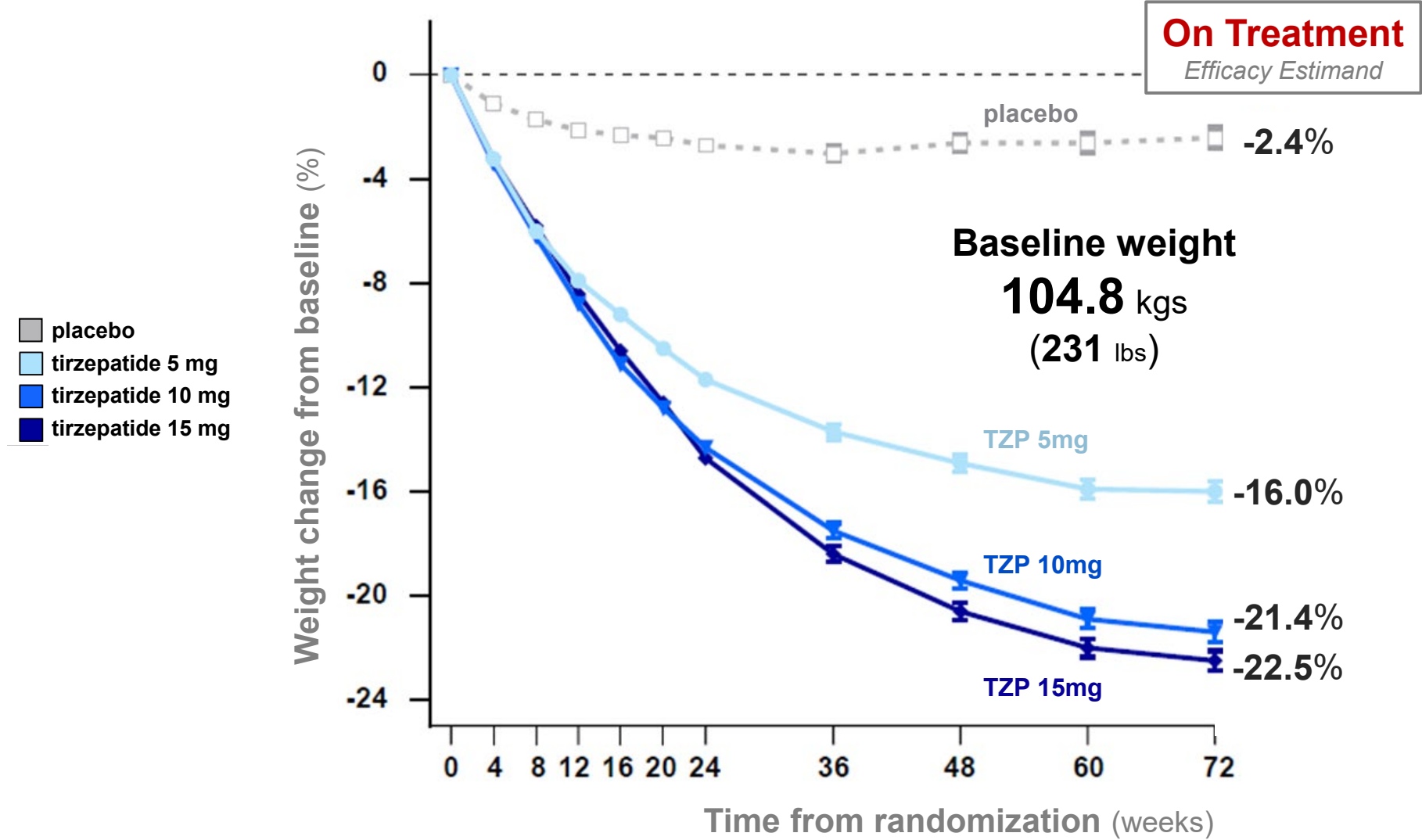
UACR
↓ 10.7%

Other pre-specified kidney endpoints
HR 0.82
(0.69, 0.97; $P=0.02$)

Potential Actions of GIP and GLP-1 Based on Preclinical and Clinical Research



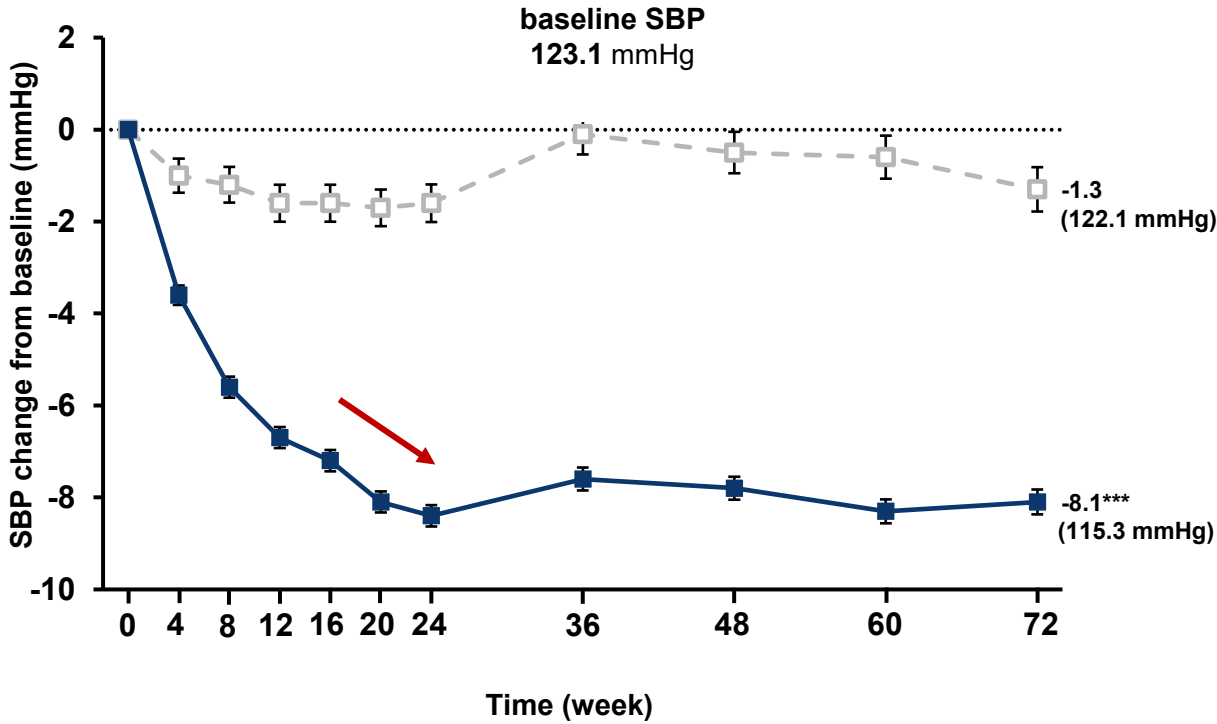
SURMOUNT 1: Weight Reduction Over 72 weeks (absolute change)



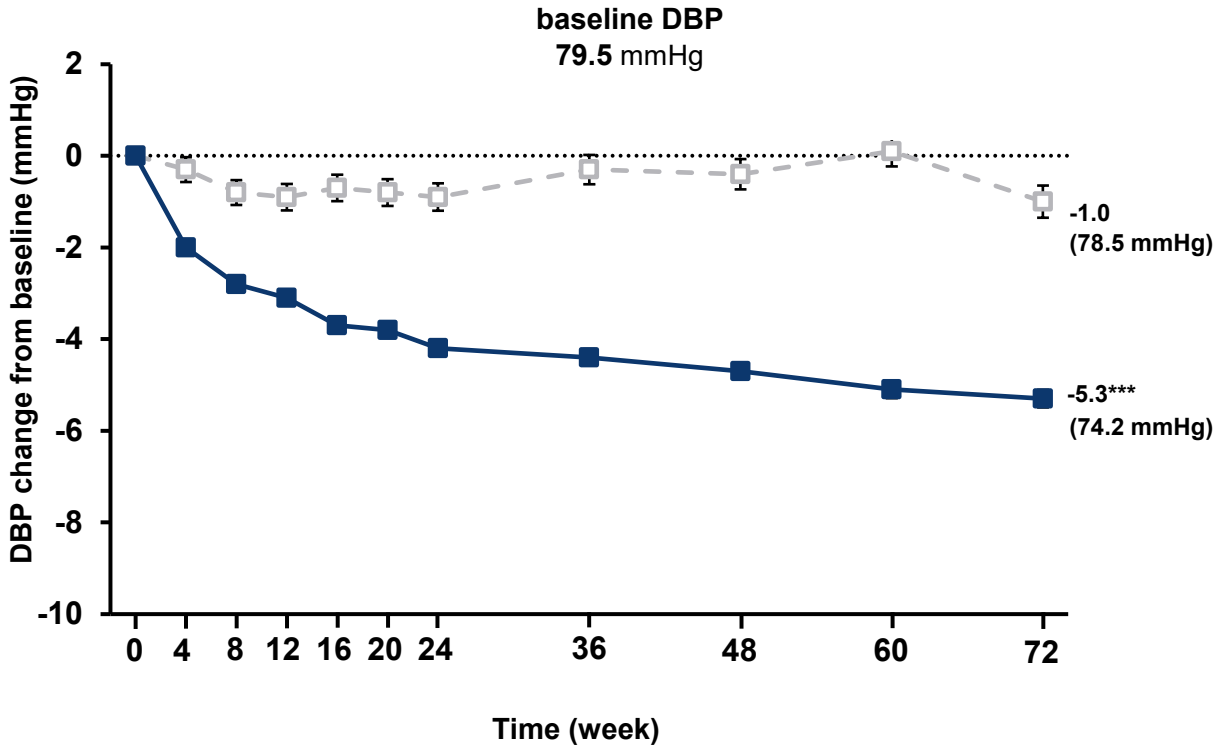
TZP = Tirzepatide.
Jastreboff AM et al. N Engl J Med. 2022 Jul 21;387(3):205-216.

SURMOUNT 1: Change in Blood Pressure

Systolic Blood Pressure



Diastolic Blood Pressure



On Treatment

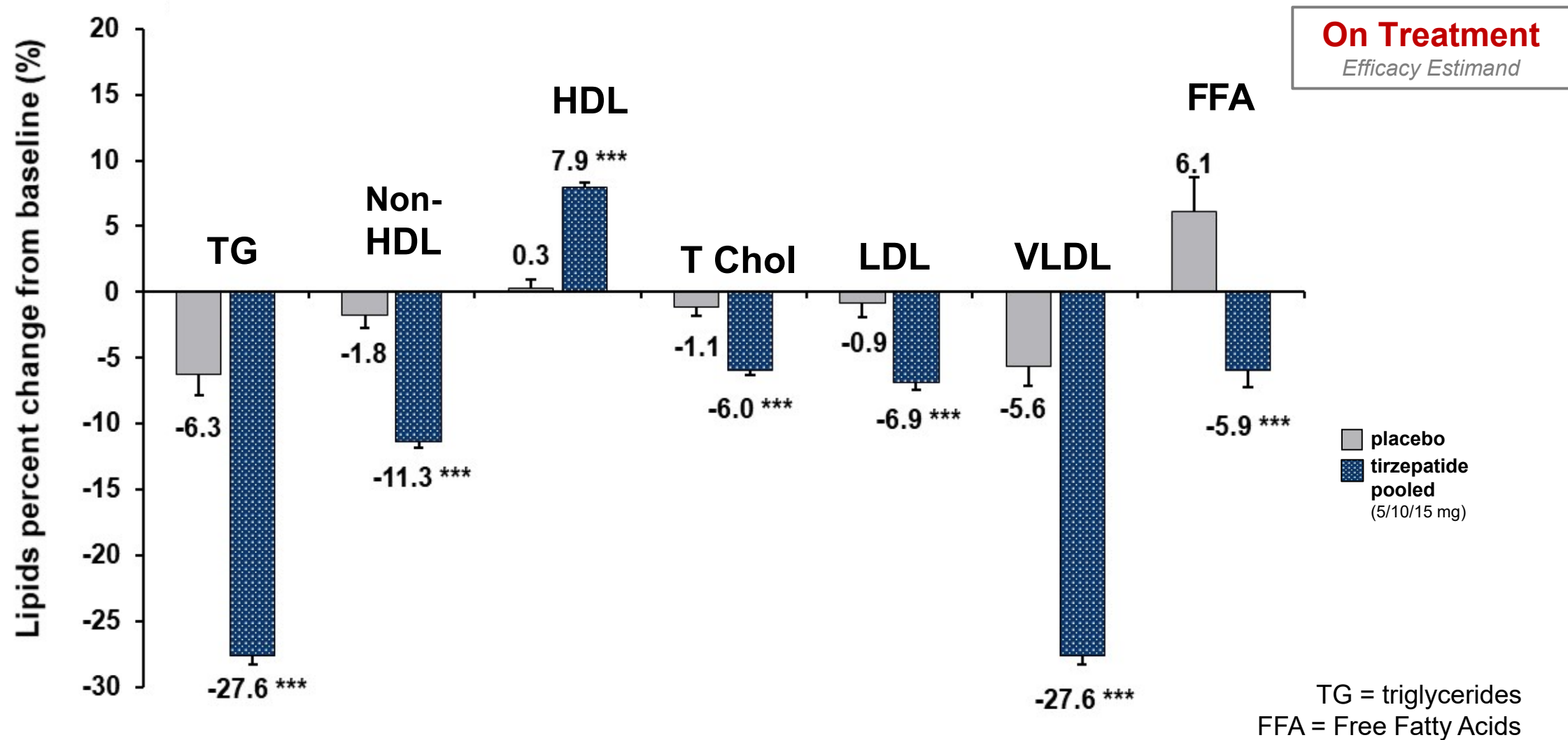
Efficacy Estimand

placebo

tirzepatide pooled
(5/10/15 mg)

Improvements in blood pressure do not appear to be dependent on the magnitude of weight loss

SURMOUNT 1: Change in Lipids



FFA = Free fatty acids; HDL = High-density lipoprotein; LDL = Low-density lipoprotein; T = Total; TG = Triglycerides; VLDL = Very low-density lipoprotein.

A Study of Tirzepatide on the Reduction on Morbidity and Mortality in Adults With Obesity

SURMOUNT-MMO

International, randomized, double-blind, placebo controlled phase III trial

Estimated Primary Completion Date:
October 2027
(Final data collection date for primary outcome measure)

Patients with obesity without diabetes; BMI ≥ 27 kg/m²; with or at high risk for ASCVD (N=15,374)

Tirzepatide sc, tolerated dose escalat.

[Time Frame: Up to 5 Years]

Placebo sc

ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT05556512

Recruitment Status ⓘ : Active, not recruiting

First Posted ⓘ : September 27, 2022

Last Update Posted ⓘ : May 29, 2024

- **Primary outcome:** Time to first occurrence of All-Cause Death, Nonfatal Myocardial Infarction (MI), Nonfatal Stroke, Coronary Revascularization, or Heart Failure Events
- **Select secondary outcomes:** time to T2D onset, composite renal death/ESRD/eGFR decline/HF events/body weight change (hierarchical), time to first occurrence of any component event of MACE-3, SF-36, MACE components, etc.

Summarizing...

- Patients with overweight/obesity and CVD may benefit from similar CVD protection under GLP1 RA treatment like the diabetic counterpart.
- The CV protection yielded by Semaglutide 2.4 mg spreads across subgroups.
- Indirect evidence on the potential benefits of Tirzepatide for CVD exists, data in patients selected for CVD are awaited.
- The mechanisms are likely composite (and direct?), yet they remain to be fully elucidated (ectopic fat, CV risk factors, systemic proinflammation, prothrombotic risk, etc)
- Whether this CVD protection applies to those with lower CVR is unknown.
- Future guidelines and health policies may (and should) take this into account to grant GLP-1 RA availability to patients with obesity prone to CVD.