

# Come può un farmaco per il diabete aiutare il cuore?

## GLP-1 RA e Cuore

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ANDROLOGY AND METABOLIC DISEASES



**UNIVERSITÀ**  
DEGLI STUDI DI BARI  
ALDO MORO

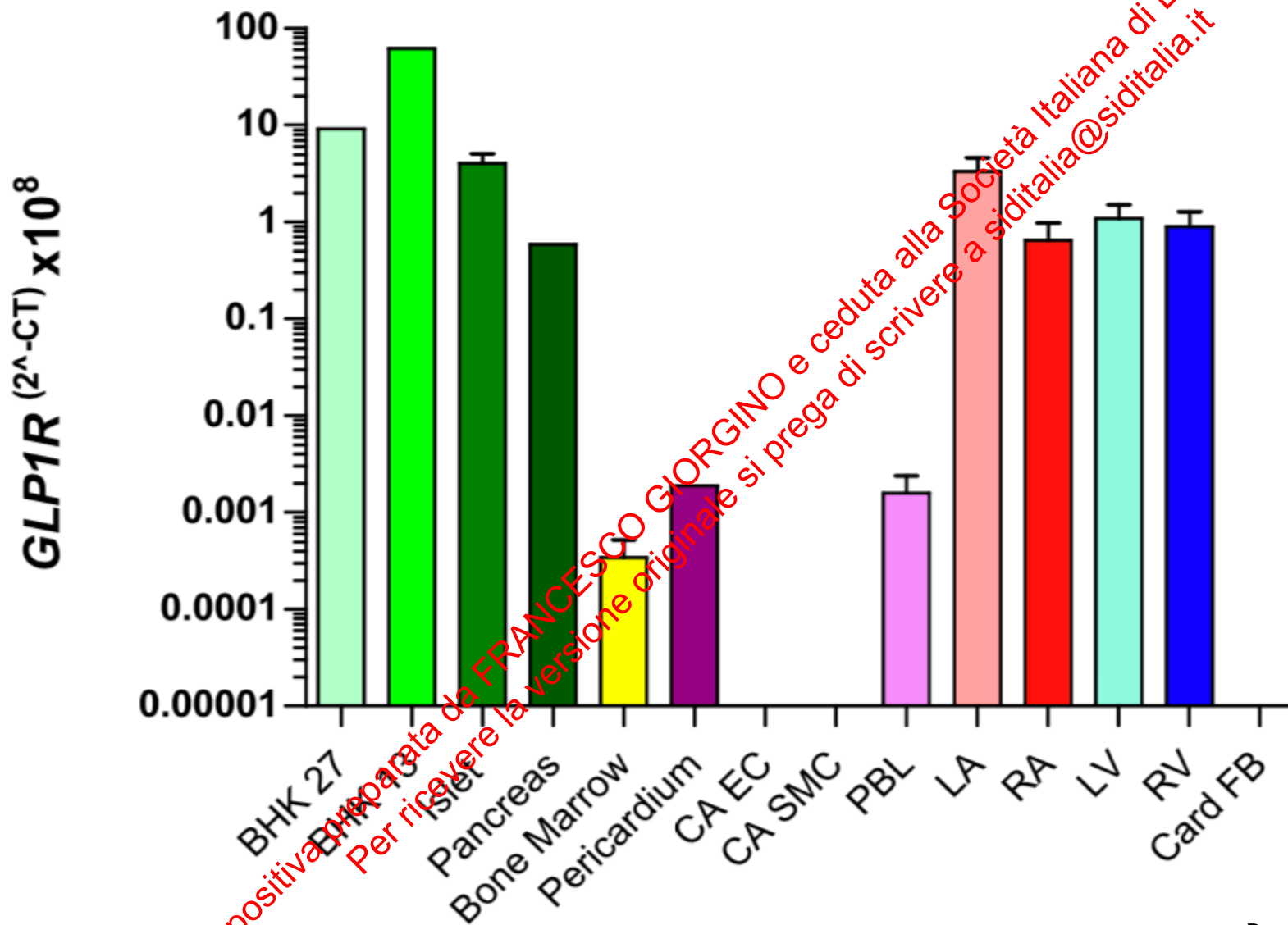
Diapositiva preparata da FRANCESCO GIORGINO e ceduta alla Società Italiana di Diabetologia.  
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# Disclosures

- Advisory Boards: AstraZeneca; Eli Lilly; Novo Nordisk; Roche Diabetes Care, Sanofi
- Consultant: Boehringer Ingelheim; Lifescan; Merck Sharp & Dohme; Sanofi, AstraZeneca, Medimmune, Roche Diabetes Care, Sanofi
- Research Support: Eli Lilly, Lifescan, Takeda, Roche Diabetes Care

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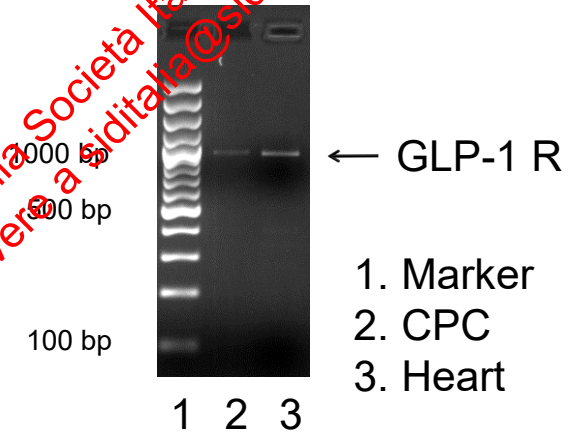
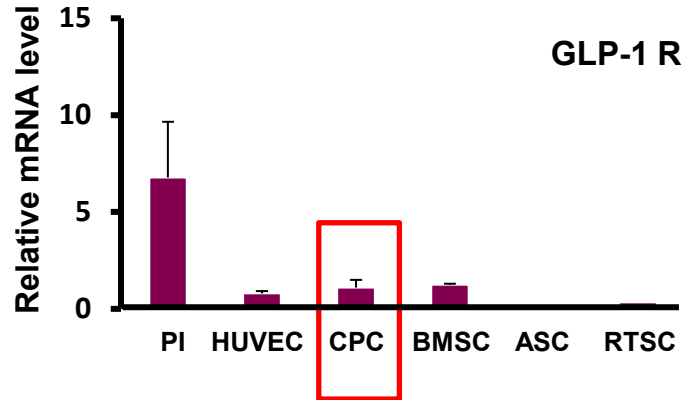
# mRNA Expression of GLP-1 Receptor in Human Heart



LA, left atria; RA, right atria; LV, left ventricle; RV, right ventricle; CA EC, coronary artery endothelial cells; CA SMC, coronary artery smooth muscle cells; PBL, peripheral blood lymphocytes; Card FB, cardiac fibroblasts.

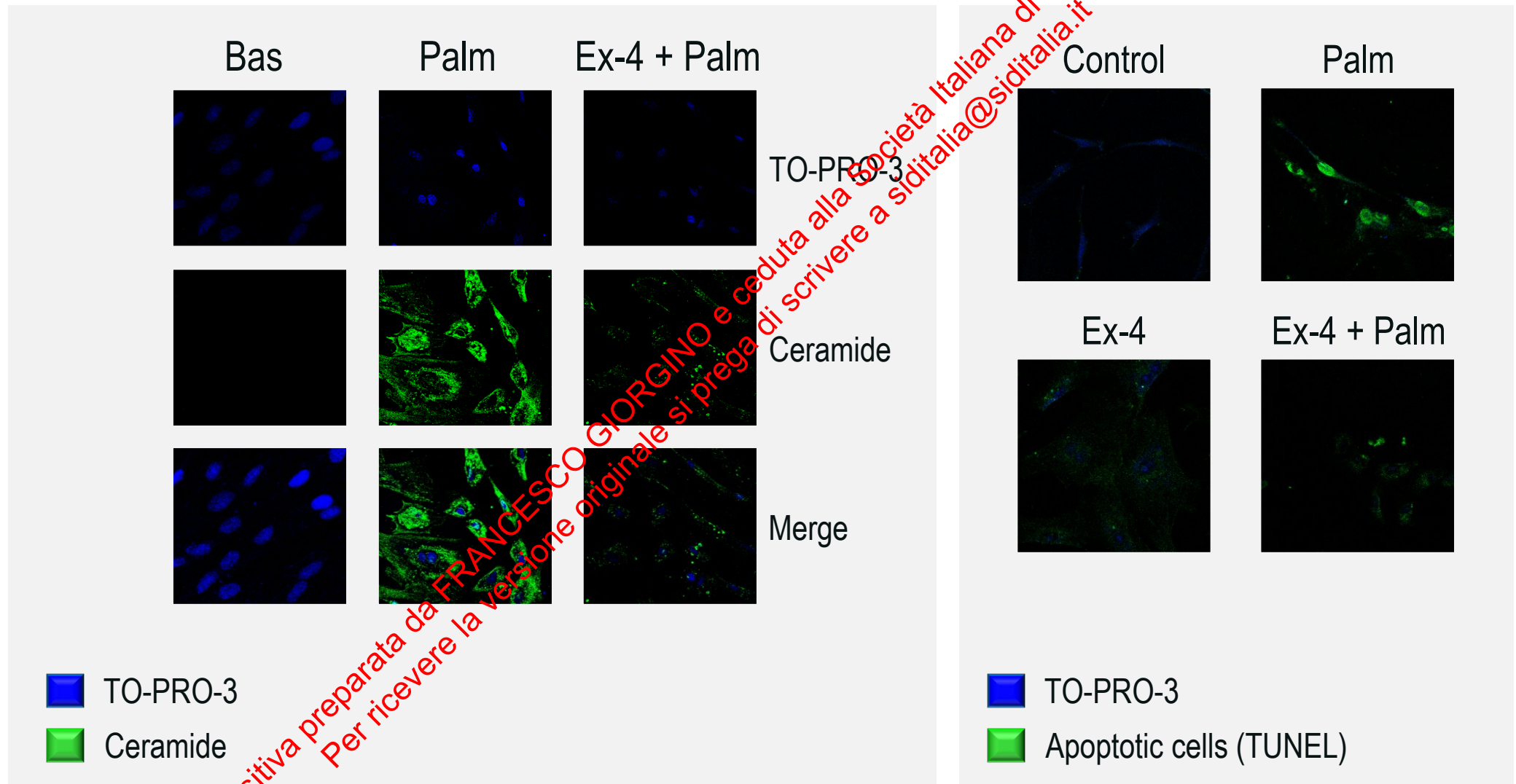
Baggio LL et al, *Endocrinology*, 2018

# The GLP-1 Receptor in Human CPC



ASC, adipose tissue-derived stem cells; BMSC, human bone marrow stem cells; CPC, cardiac progenitor cells; CREB, cAMP-response-element binding protein; GLP-1, glucagon-like peptide-1; HUVEC, human umbilical vein endothelial cells; PI, human renal tubular stem cells

# Exendin-4 Inhibits de Novo Production of Ceramide and Apoptosis in Human CPC



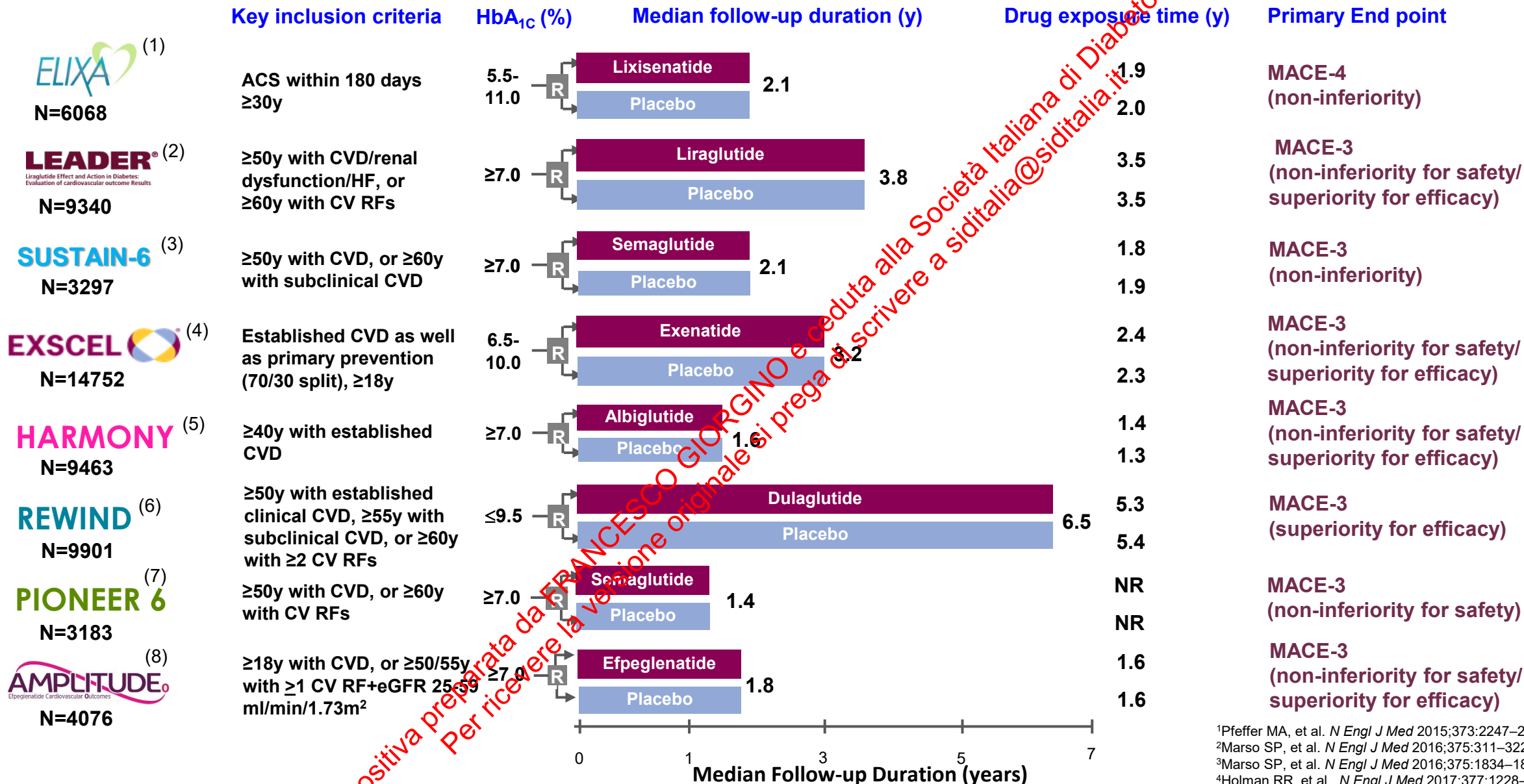
# Effects of GLP-1RA on Heart Glucose Metabolism

|               | Glucose Uptake                                        | Glucose Metabolism                                                                                                   | Infarct Size               | Functional Recovery          |
|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Heart         |                                                       |                                                                                                                      |                            |                              |
|               | Experimental animals                                  |                                                                                                                      |                            |                              |
| hypoglycemia  |                                                       |                                                                                                                      |                            |                              |
| euglycemia    | <div>↑<sup>1,2,3</sup></div> <div>↓<sup>4</sup></div> | <div>↑ anaerobic<sup>1</sup></div> <div>↑ aerobic<sup>3,5</sup>/anaerobic<sup>3</sup></div> <div>↔<sup>4</sup></div> | <div>↓<sup>5,3</sup></div> | <div>↑<sup>1,5,3</sup></div> |
| hyperglycemia | n.a. <sup>6</sup>                                     | n.a. <sup>6</sup>                                                                                                    | <div>↓<sup>6</sup></div>   |                              |
|               | Humans                                                |                                                                                                                      |                            |                              |
| hypoglycemia  | ↔ <sup>7</sup>                                        |                                                                                                                      |                            |                              |
| euglycemia    | ↔ <sup>7</sup>                                        | ↔ <sup>8</sup>                                                                                                       |                            | <div>↑<sup>8</sup></div>     |
| hyperglycemia | ↓ <sup>9</sup>                                        | ↔ <sup>10</sup>                                                                                                      |                            |                              |

Experiments under ischemic conditions are presented in red

1, Zhao T et al, J Pharmacol Exp Ther, 2006; 2, Moberly SP et al, Exp Biol Med, 2012; 3, Aravindhan K et al, PLoS One, 2015; 4, Nguyen TD et al, Int J Cardiol, 2013; 5, Bao W et al, PLoS One, 2011; 6, Hausenloy DJ, Cardiovasc Diabetol, 2013; 7, Gejl M et al, PLoS One, 2014; 8, McCormick LM et al, JACC Cardiovasc Interv, 2015; 9, Moberly SP et al, Basic Res Cardiol, 2013; 10, Gejl M, J Clin Endocrinol Metab, 2012.

# Completed GLP-1 RA CVOTs



<sup>1</sup>Pfeffer MA, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015;373:2247–2257  
<sup>2</sup>Marso SP, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375:311–322  
<sup>3</sup>Marso SP, et al. *N Engl J Med* 2016;375:1834–1844  
<sup>4</sup>Holman RR, et al., *N Engl J Med* 2017;377:1228–1239  
<sup>5</sup>Hernandez AF, et al. *Lancet* 2018;392(10157):1519–1529  
<sup>6</sup>Gerstein HC, et al. *Lancet* 2019;294(10193):121–130  
<sup>7</sup>Husain M, et al *N Eng J Med* 2019;381(9):841–851  
<sup>8</sup>Gerstein HC, et al *N Eng J Med* 2021;385(10):896–907

|                                        | ELIXA                          | LEADER                                  | SUSTAIN-6                               | EXSCEL                                  | HARMONY                                   | REWIND                                   | PIONEER 6                               | AMPLITUDE-O                              |                        |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Diabetes duration (years)              | 9.3                            | 12.8                                    | 13.9                                    | 12                                      | 14.1                                      | 10.1                                     | 14.9                                    | 15.4                                     | Baseline<br>Risk Level |
| Baseline HbA1c (%)                     | 7.6                            | 8.7                                     | 8.7                                     | 8.0                                     | 8.7                                       | 7.3                                      | 8.2                                     | 8.9                                      |                        |
| Baseline BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )      | 30.1                           | 32.5                                    | 32.8                                    | 31.7                                    | 32.3                                      | 32.3                                     | 32.3                                    | 32.7                                     |                        |
| History of CVD (%)                     | 100                            | 81.3                                    | 83                                      | 73.1                                    | 100                                       | 31.4                                     | 84.6                                    | 89.6                                     |                        |
| Hypertension (%)                       | 76.3                           | 90                                      | 92.8                                    | 90.3                                    | 86.4                                      | 93.2                                     | 95.3                                    | 91.3                                     |                        |
| eGFR <60 (%)                           | 23.2                           | 21.7                                    | 28.5                                    | 21.7                                    | 22.6                                      | 22.2                                     | 27                                      | 31.6                                     |                        |
| Mortality rate (events/100 patient-yr) | 3.1; 3.3                       | 2.1; 2.5                                | 1.8; 1.7                                | 2.0; 2.3                                | 2.4; 2.5                                  | 2.1; 2.3                                 | 1.1; 2.2                                | 2.2;2.8                                  |                        |
| MACE rate (events/100 patient-yr)      | 6.4; 6.3                       | 3.4; 3.9                                | 3.2; 4.4                                | 3.7; 4.0                                | 4.6; 5.9                                  | 2.4; 2.7                                 | 2.9; 3.7                                | 3.9;5.3                                  | Main<br>Outcomes       |
| MACE HR                                | 1.02<br>[95% CI<br>0.89–1.17]) | 0.87<br>[95% CI<br>0.78–0.97]<br>p=0.01 | 0.74<br>[95% CI<br>0.58–0.95]<br>p=0.02 | 0.91<br>[95% CI<br>0.83–1.00]<br>p=0.06 | 0.78<br>[95% CI<br>0.68–0.90]<br>p=0.0006 | 0.88<br>[95% CI<br>0.79–0.99]<br>p=0.026 | 0.79<br>[95% CI<br>0.57-1.11]<br>p=0.17 | 0.73<br>[95% CI<br>0.58-0.92]<br>p=0.007 |                        |
| All-cause mortality HR                 | 0.94<br>[95% CI<br>0.78–1.13]  | 0.85<br>[95% CI<br>0.74–0.97]           | 1.05<br>[95% CI<br>0.74 –1.50]          | 0.86<br>[95% CI<br>0.77–0.97]           | 0.95<br>[95% CI<br>0.79–1.16]             | 0.90<br>[95% CI<br>0.80–1.01]            | 0.51<br>[95% CI<br>0.31-0.84)           | 0.78<br>[95%CI<br>0.58-1.06]             |                        |

BMI, body mass index; CI, confidence interval; CVD, cardiovascular disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HR, hazard ration; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; yr, year.

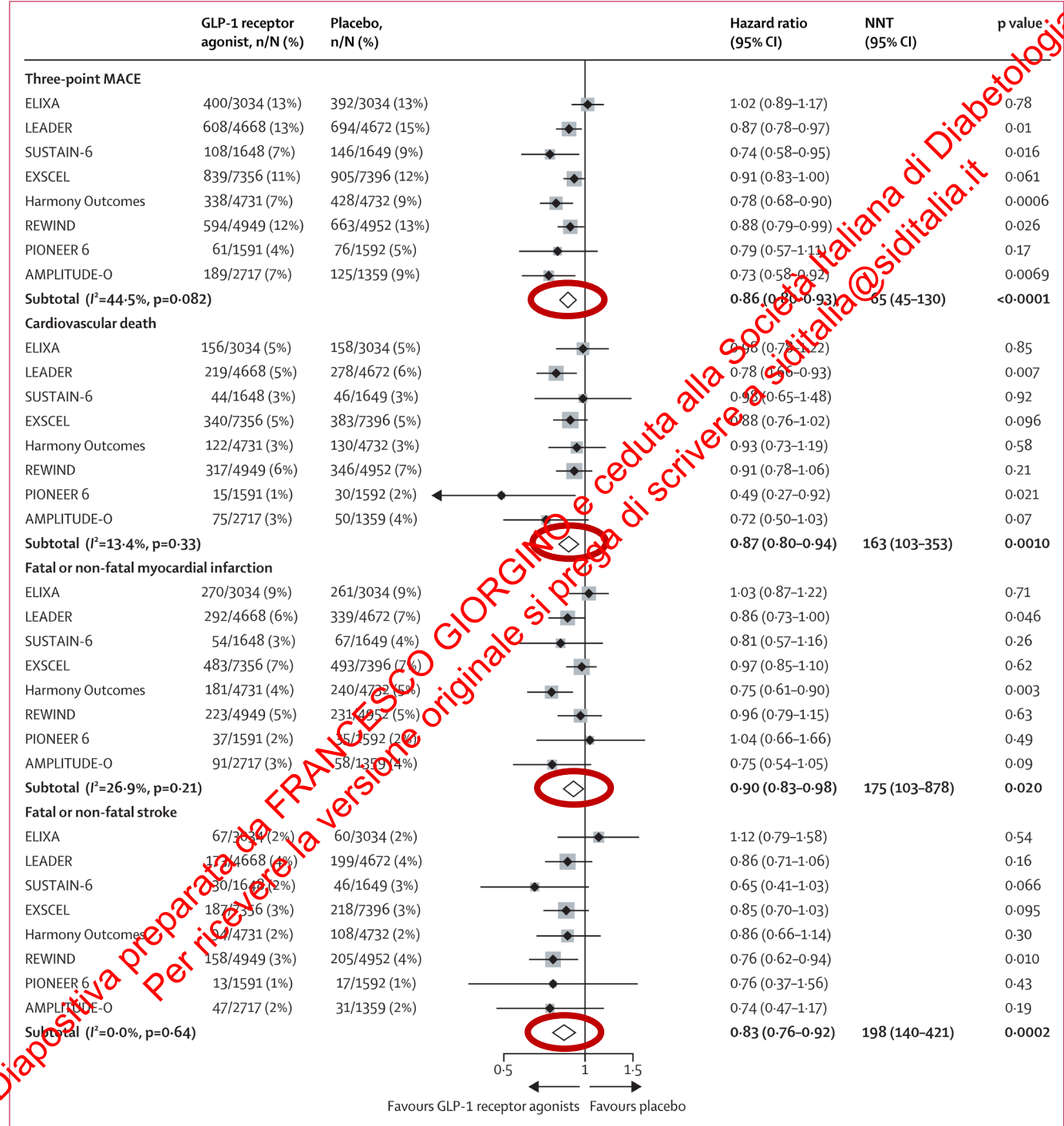
Adapted from **Caruso I, et al. Trends Endocrinol. Metab. 2019;30(9):578-89**

### 3-P MACE

### CV death

### Fatal or non-fatal MI

### Fatal or non-fatal stroke

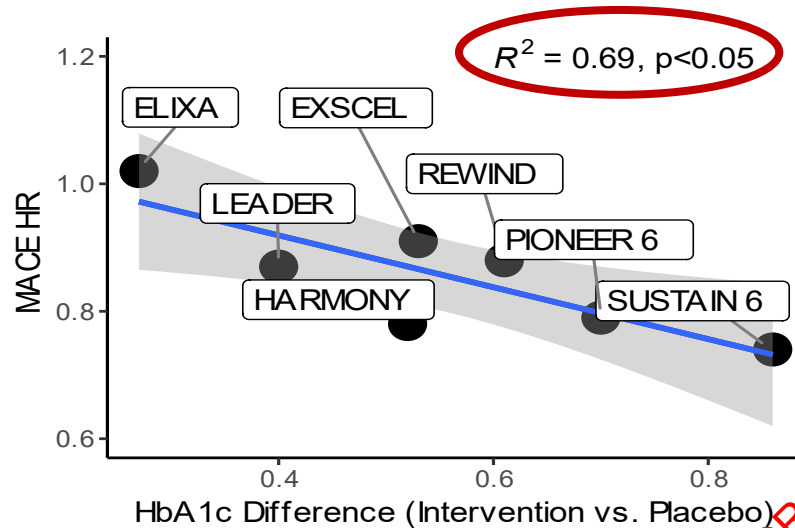


## Individual Components of the Primary Endpoint in GLP-1RA CVOTs

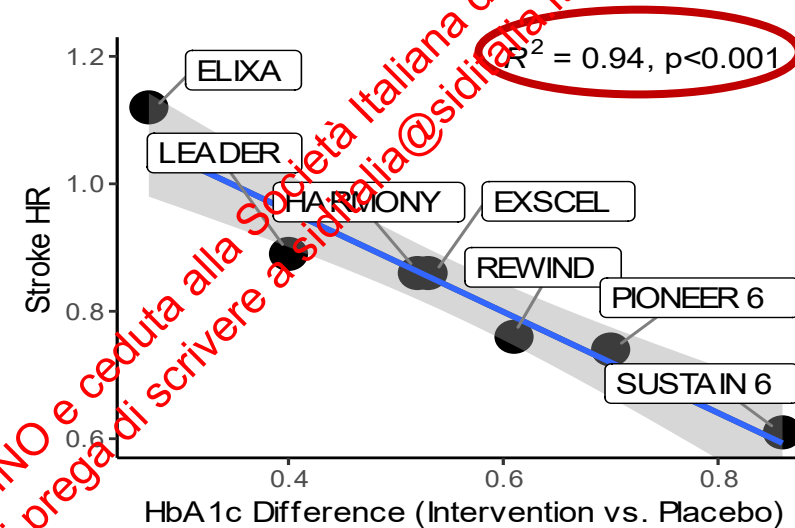
Sattar N, et al, *Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol* 2021

# Association of Mean Between-arm HbA1c Difference in GLP-1 RA CVOT and MACE HR

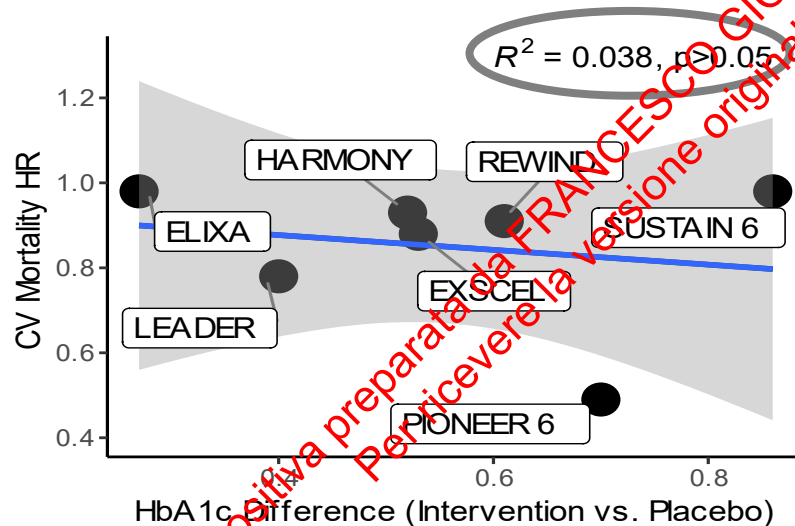
**MACE**



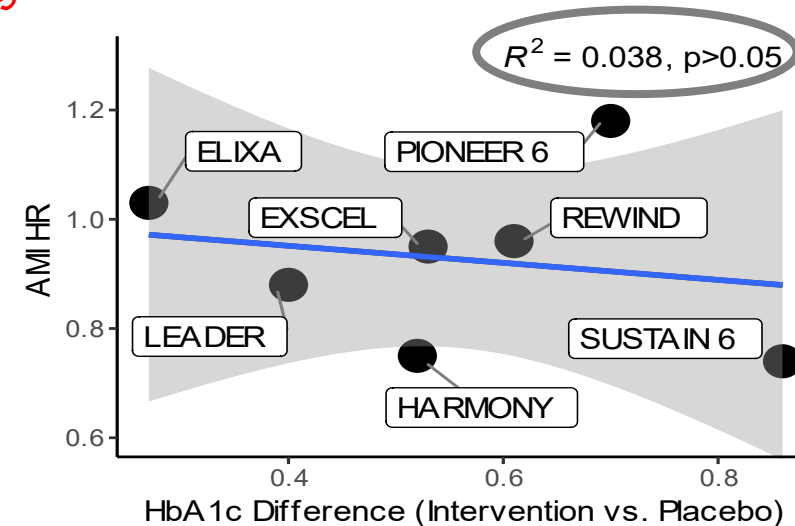
**Stroke**



**CV death**



**AMI**



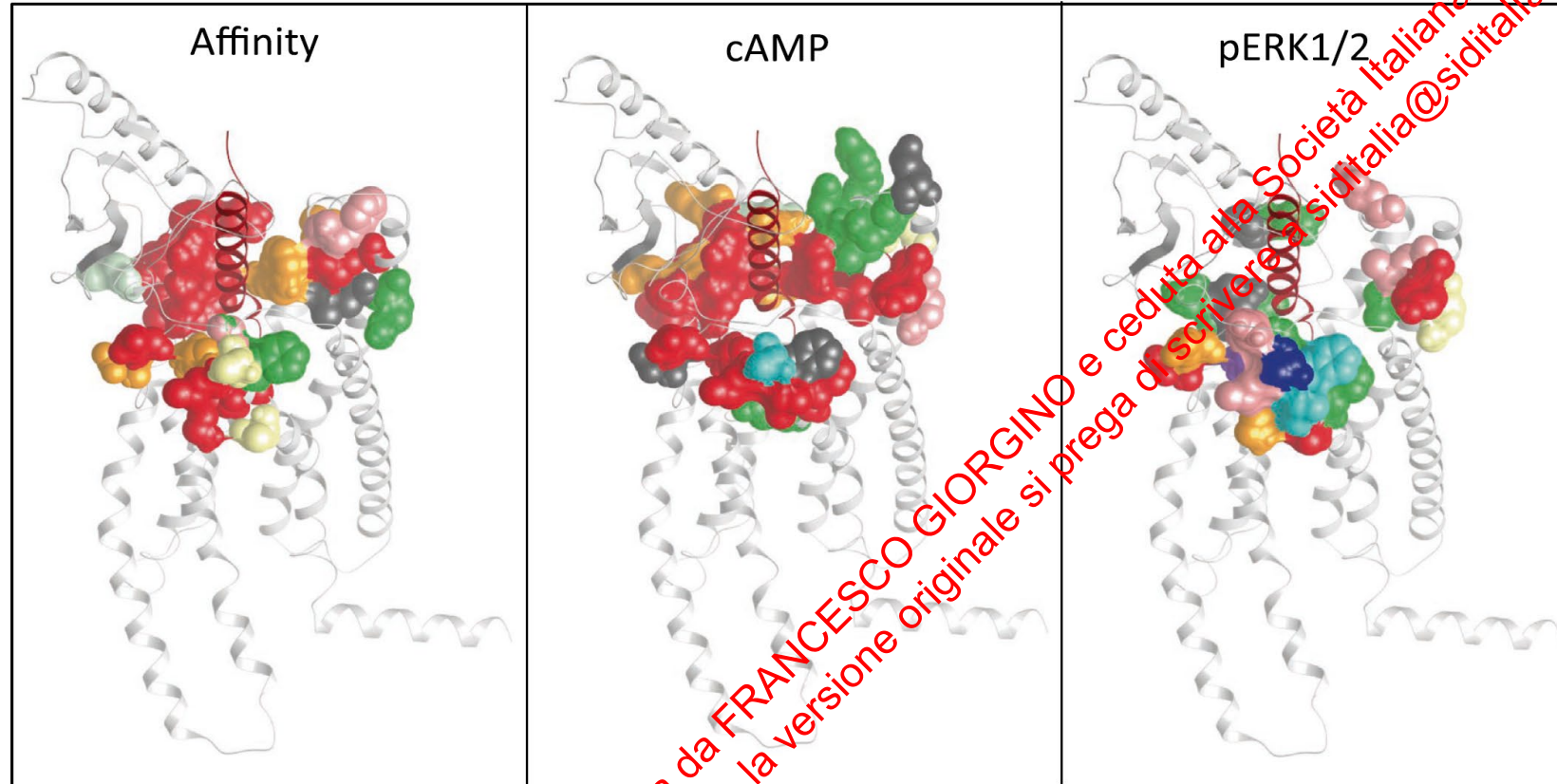
Caruso I, et al., Glucose control: Not just a bystander in GLP-1RA-mediated cardiovascular protection. *Metabolism*. 2020 Aug;109:154272.

**Gli effetti cardioprotettivi dei GLP-1RA sono più evidenti con gli analoghi basati sulla struttura chimica del GLP-1 umano rispetto a quelli basati su Exendin-4?**

- SI
- NO
- NON VI SONO SUFFICIENTI EVIDENZE

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# Amino Acid Residues in the GLP-1 Receptor That Are Important for GLP-1, Exendin-4 and Oxyntomodulin Binding and Signaling



Residues highlighted in red reduce function of all three peptides, those in pink selectively reduce GLP-1 only, those in yellow selectively reduce exendin-4 only, and those in green selectively reduce oxyntomodulin only.

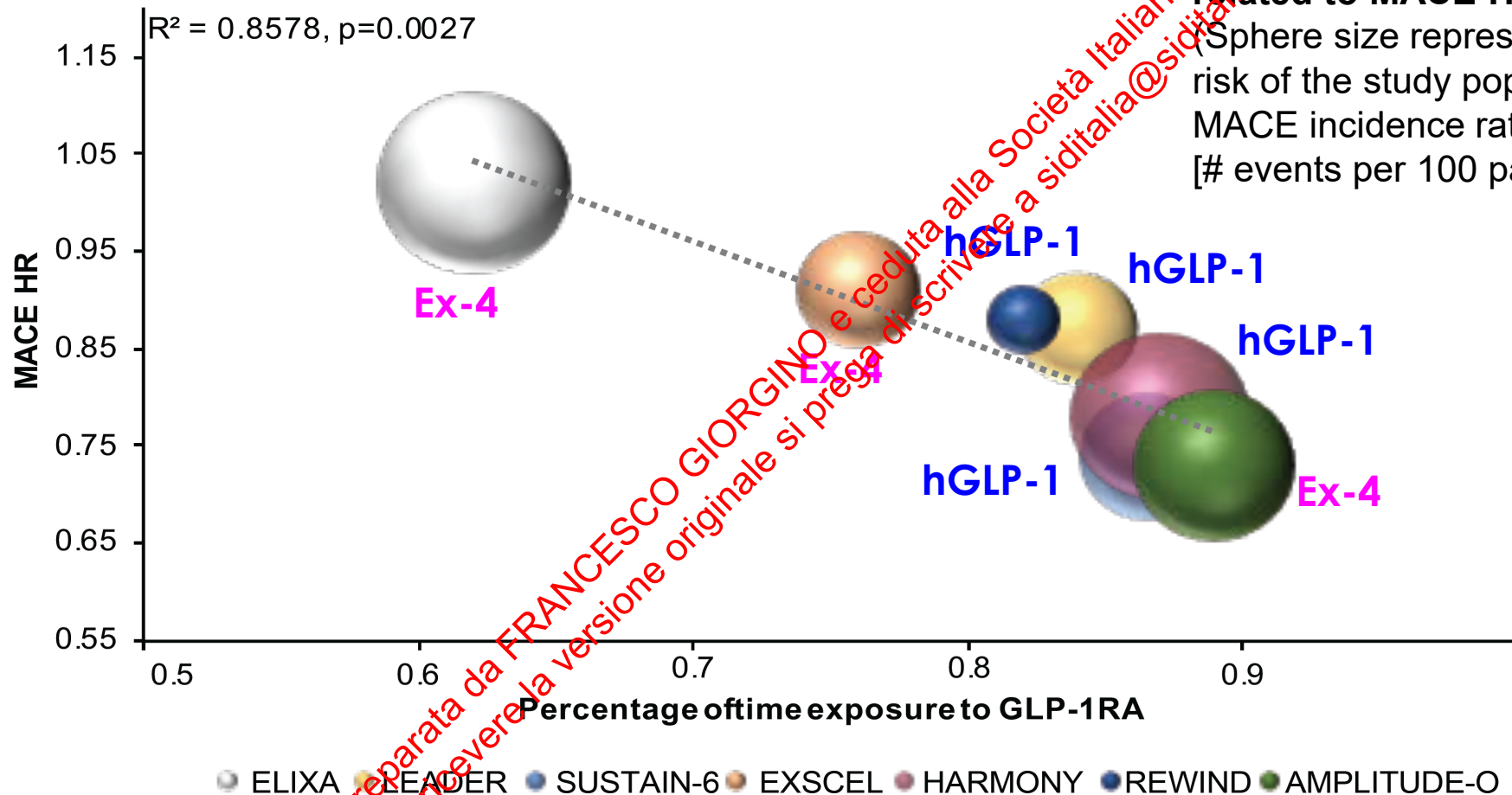
A large number of residues are important for both GLP-1 and exendin but not oxyntomodulin, and these are highlighted in orange.

Other colors represent either enhanced function or existence of opposite effects when mutated on oxyntomodulin compared to GLP-1 and exendin-4.

## Effect of mutation

|                   |                           |                   |                   |
|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ↓ All peptides    | ↓ GLP-1                   | ↓ GLP-1/Exendin-4 | ↑ GLP-1           |
| ↓ Exendin-4       | ↓ GLP-1/Oxyntomodulin     | ↑ Oxyntomodulin   | ↑ GLP-1/Exendin-4 |
| ↓ Oxyntomodulin   | ↓ Oxyntomodulin/Exendin-4 | ↑ Oxyntomodulin   | ↓ GLP-1/Exendin-4 |
| ↑ GLP-1/Exendin-4 | ↑ Oxyntomodulin           | ↓ GLP-1/Exendin-4 |                   |

# Correlation between Percentage of Time Exposure to GLP-1 RA and MACE HR



- Baseline CV risk level not apparently related to MACE HR.

(Sphere size represents the baseline CV risk of the study population, expressed as MACE incidence rate in the control arm [# events per 100 patient-year])

The percentage of time exposure to study drug is expressed as median in ELIXA, HARMONY Outcomes, REWIND and AMPLITUDE-O, and as mean in LEADER, SUSTAIN-6 and EXSCEL. Actual exposure to lixisenatide in ELIXA is estimated to be approximately 56%.

Ex-4, exendin-4; GLP-1 RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; hGLP-1, human GLP-1; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event.

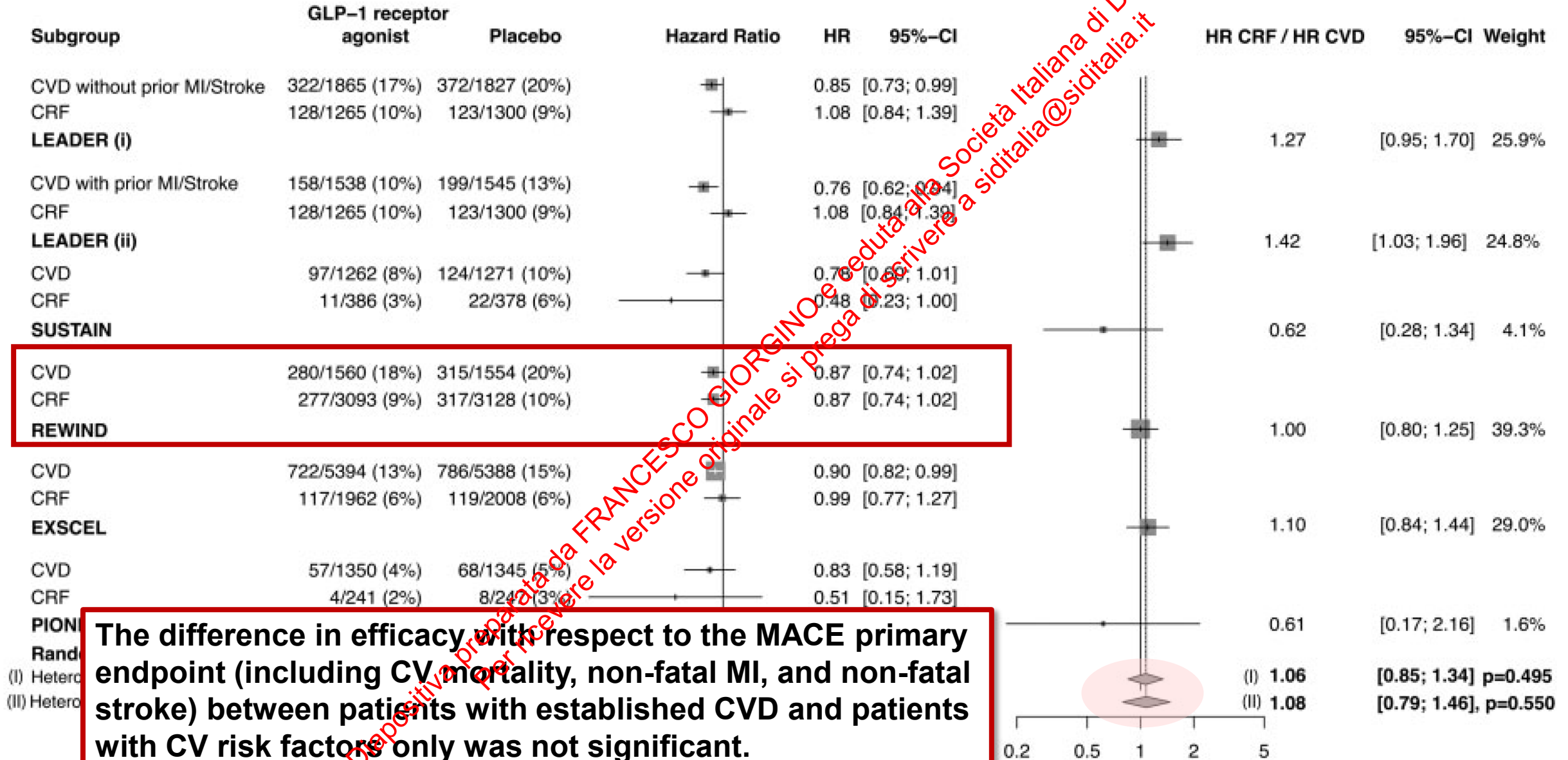
Adapted from **Caruso I et al., Diabetes Care, 2022**

## **Gli effetti cardioprotettivi dei GLP-1RA sono evidenti anche in pazienti con diabete di tipo 2 senza malattia cardiovascolare?**

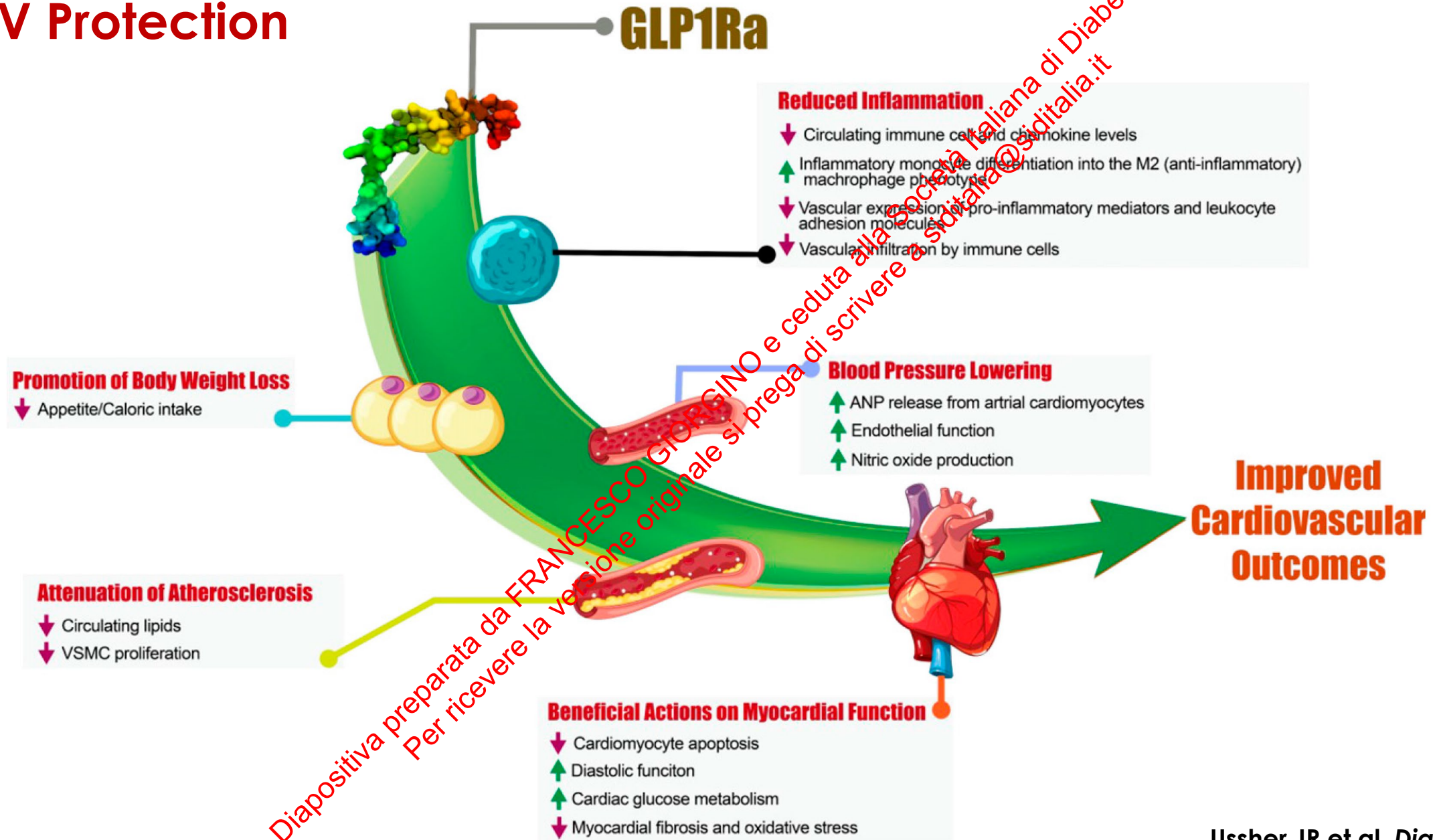
- SI
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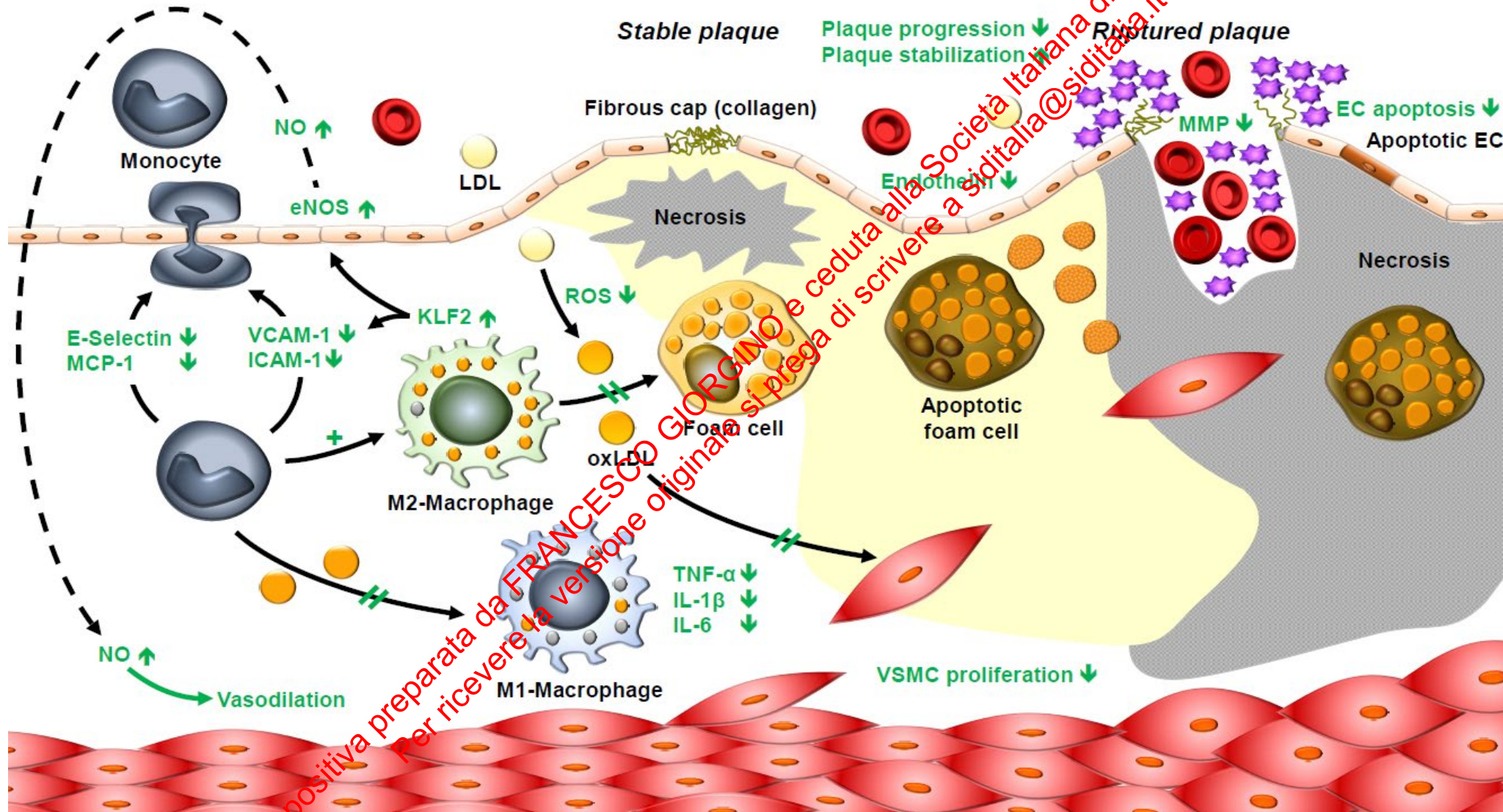
# Interaction Analysis for the 3P-MACE between Previous CVD (41,996) and CV Risk Factors Only (14,008) Subgroups



# Potential Mechanisms Contributing to GLP-1RA-mediated CV Protection



# Effects of GLP-1 RAs on the Progression of Atherogenesis and Plaque Evolution



**ORIGINAL ARTICLE**

WILEY

# Lower risk of death and cardiovascular events in patients with diabetes initiating glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists or sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitors: A real-world study in two Italian cohorts

Marta Baviera PharmD<sup>1</sup>  | Stefano Genovese MD<sup>2</sup> | Vito Lepore MD<sup>3,4</sup> |  
Pierluca Colacioppo MSc<sup>1</sup> | Fabio Robusto MD<sup>3</sup> | Mauro Tettamanti MSc<sup>5</sup> |  
Antonio D'Ettorre MSc<sup>3</sup> | Fausto Avanzini MD<sup>1</sup> | Ida Fortino MSc<sup>6</sup> |  
Antonio Nicolucci MD<sup>3</sup>  | Maria C. Roncaglioni MSc<sup>1</sup> | Francesco Giorgino MD<sup>7</sup> 

# Baseline Characteristics of Matched Populations According to GLP-1RA Treatment in Lombardy and Apulia

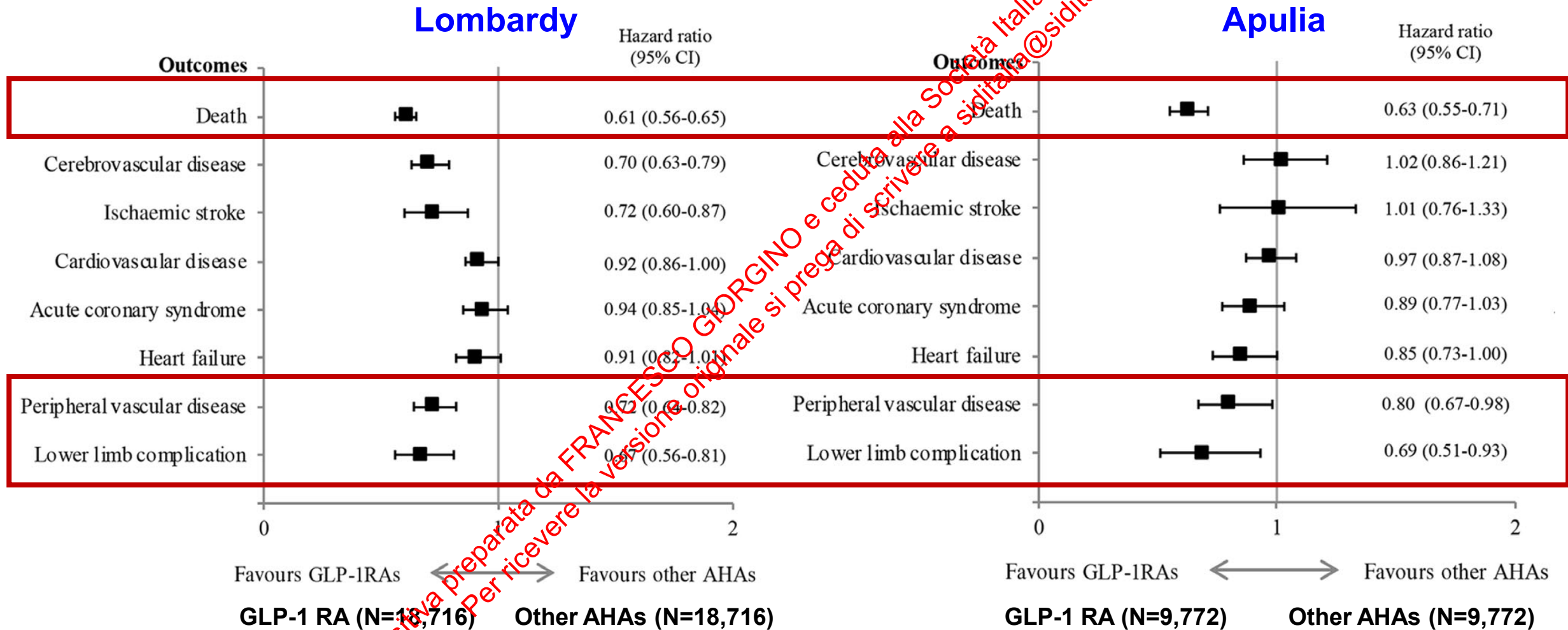
## Lombardy

| Variables                             | Matched population                   |                            |                          |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                       | GLP-1RA <sup>a</sup><br>(N = 18 716) | Other AHAs<br>(N = 18 716) | Standardized differences |
| Mean (±SD) age, years                 | 65.4 ± 8.0                           | 65.5 ± 8.0                 | −0.01                    |
| Women, n (%)                          | 8355 (44.6)                          | 8248 (44.1)                | 0.01                     |
| Comorbidities of interest, n (%)      |                                      |                            |                          |
| Cerebrovascular disease               | 695 (3.7)                            | 935 (5.0)                  | −0.06                    |
| CV disease                            | 2201 (11.8)                          | 2273 (12.1)                | −0.01                    |
| HF                                    | 670 (3.6)                            | 816 (4.4)                  | −0.03                    |
| Peripheral vascular disease           | 627 (3.4)                            | 757 (4.0)                  | −0.03                    |
| Lower limb complication               | 154 (0.8)                            | 260 (1.4)                  | −0.05                    |
| Renal disease                         | 318 (1.7)                            | 613 (3.3)                  | −0.10                    |
| Neuropathy                            | 415 (2.2)                            | 383 (2.0)                  | 0.01                     |
| Diabetic retinopathy                  | 19 (0.1)                             | 29 (0.2)                   | −0.01                    |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 661 (3.5)                            | 808 (4.3)                  | −0.04                    |
| Cancer                                | 1244 (6.6)                           | 1558 (8.3)                 | −0.06                    |

## Apulia

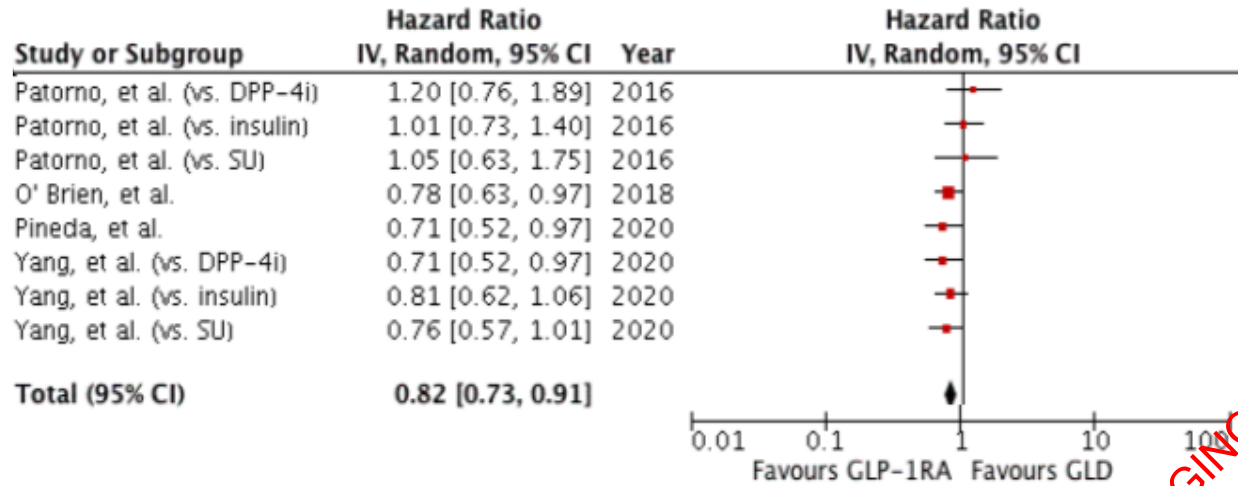
| Variables                             | Matched population                 |                          |                          |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|                                       | GLP-1RA <sup>a</sup><br>(N = 9772) | Other AHAs<br>(N = 9772) | Standardized differences |
| Mean (±SD) age, years                 | 64.6 ± 7.7                         | 64.3 ± 7.9               | 0.03                     |
| Women, n (%)                          | 4892 (50.1)                        | 4876 (49.9)              | 0.00                     |
| Comorbidities of interest, n (%)      |                                    |                          |                          |
| Cerebrovascular disease               | 523 (5.3)                          | 679 (6.9)                | −0.06                    |
| CV disease                            | 1167 (11.9)                        | 1257 (12.9)              | −0.02                    |
| HF                                    | 408 (4.2)                          | 541 (5.5)                | −0.06                    |
| Peripheral vascular disease           | 594 (6.1)                          | 548 (5.6)                | 0.02                     |
| Lower limb complication               | 73 (0.7)                           | 106 (1.1)                | −0.03                    |
| Renal disease                         | 315 (3.2)                          | 418 (4.3)                | −0.05                    |
| Neuropathy                            | 279 (2.9)                          | 298 (3.0)                | −0.01                    |
| Diabetic retinopathy                  | 24 (0.2)                           | 20 (0.2)                 | 0.00                     |
| Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease | 553 (5.7)                          | 611 (6.2)                | −0.02                    |
| Cancer                                | 817 (8.4)                          | 972 (9.9)                | −0.05                    |

# Risk of Death and Clinical Events in Matched Populations According to GLP-1RA Treatment in Lombardy and Apulia from 2010 to 2018

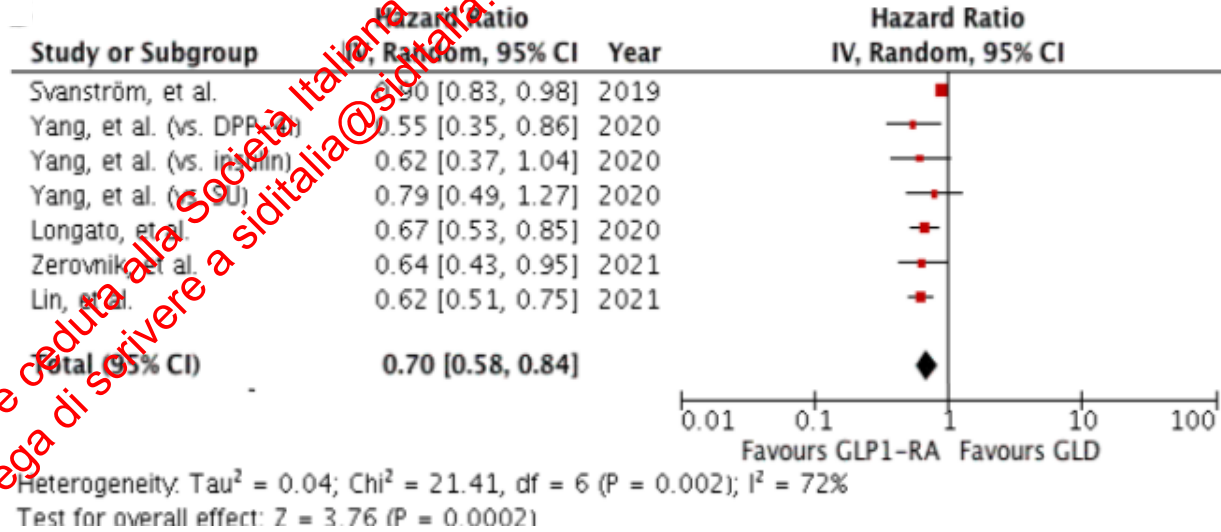


# Effects of GLP-1RA vs. Other GLD on CV Outcomes in RWS

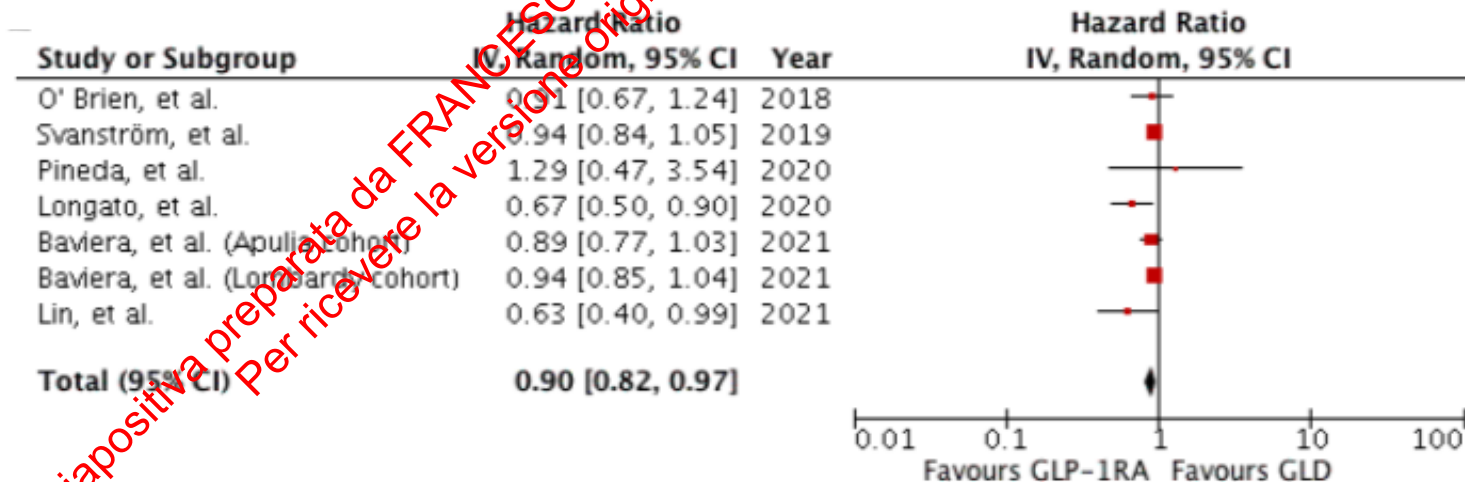
## Composite CV Outcome



## MACE



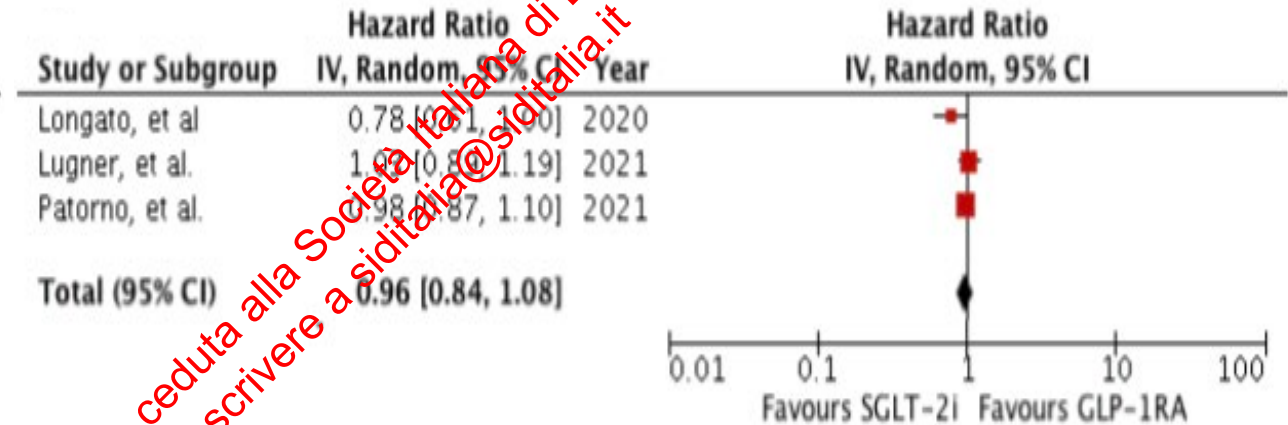
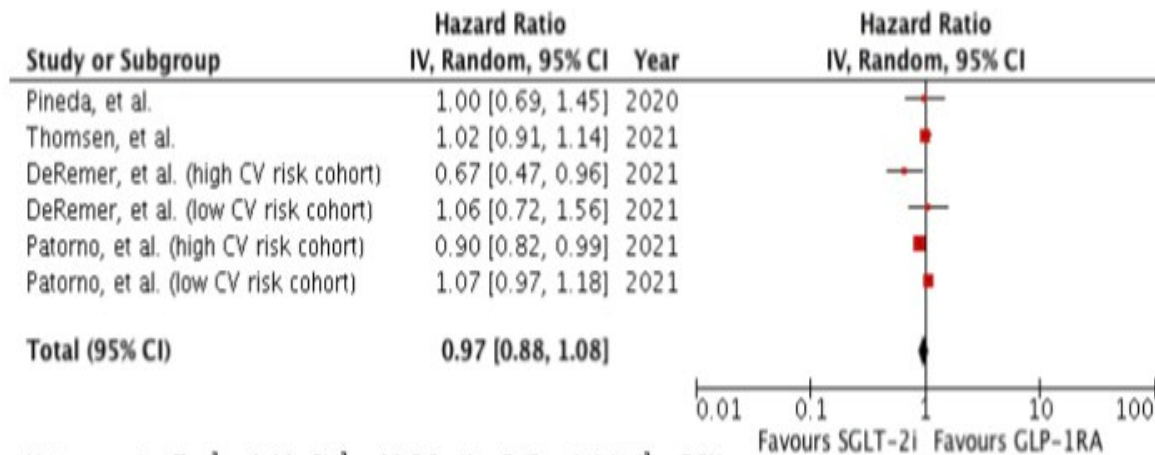
## MI



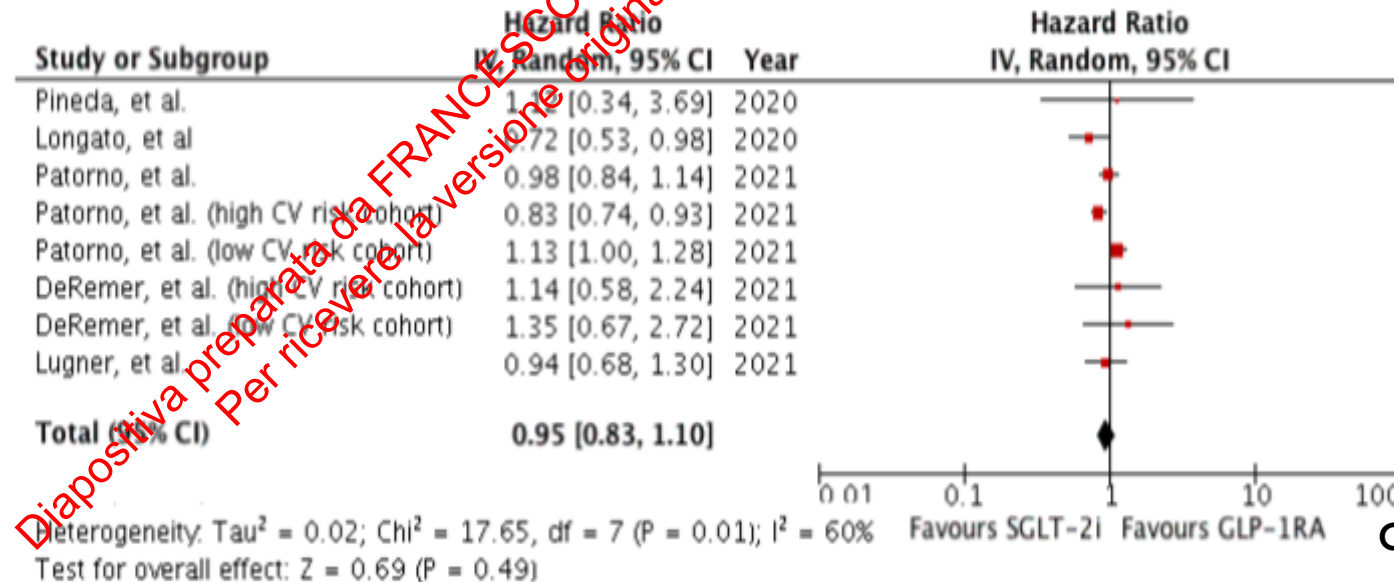
CV, cardiovascular; GLD, glucose-lowering drugs; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular outcomes (non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, CV death); MI, myocardial infarction; RWS, real-world studies

# Effects of GLP-1RA vs. SGLT-2i on CV Outcomes in RWS

## Composite CV Outcome



CV, cardiovascular;  
MACE, major adverse  
cardiovascular outcomes  
(non-fatal MI, non-fatal  
stroke, CV death); MI,  
myocardial infarction;  
RWS, real-world studies



## I GLP-1RA hanno effetti favorevoli sullo scompenso cardiaco?

- SI
- NO
- NON VI SONO SUFFICIENTI EVIDENZE

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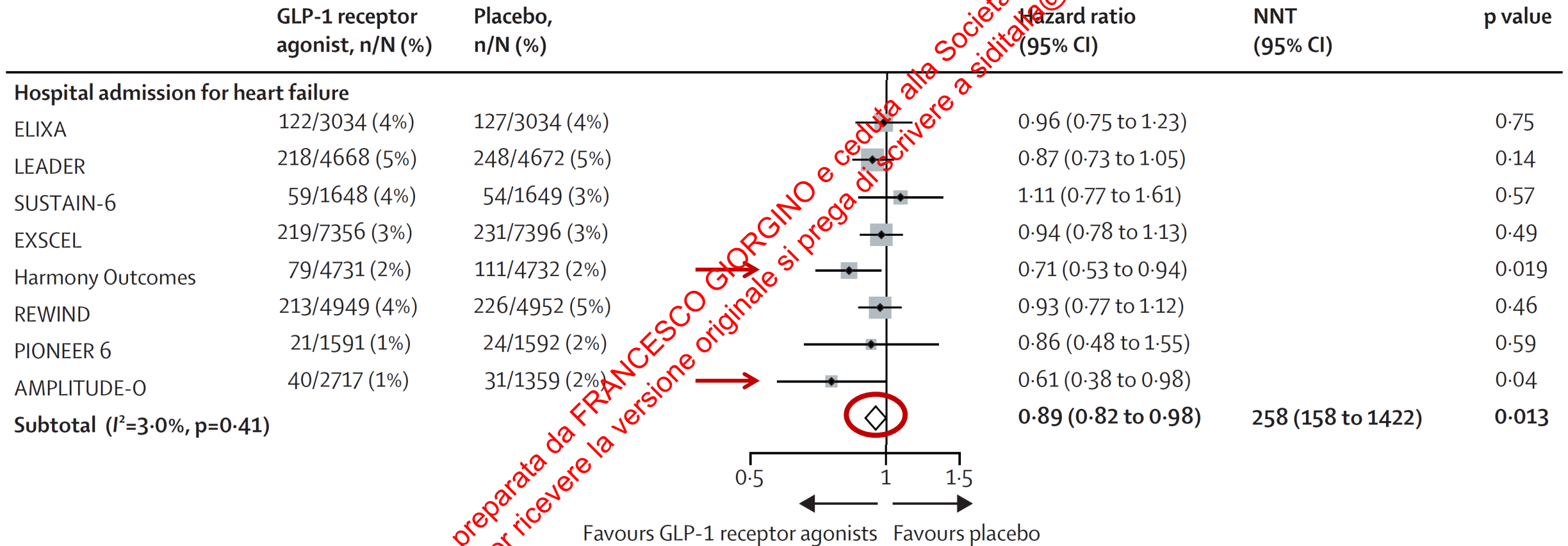
Effects of GLP-1RA on LV function and structure in RCT conducted in T2D patients

| Study                | Design                  | Exposure, duration                                    | Outcome, method | Population, n                         | Baseline | Change (%) | p      |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------|----------|------------|--------|
| Systolic parameters  |                         |                                                       |                 |                                       |          |            |        |
| [23]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 µg/die for 26 weeks                   | LVEF, CMRI      | NoHF, 23 vs. 26                       | 55%      | − 1%       | 0.002  |
| [28]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Albiglutide various dosage, 12 weeks                  | LVEF, US        | HFrEF, 29 vs. 30                      | 32%      | − 2%       | ns     |
| [22]                 | Single arm, prospective | Liraglutide 0.9 µg/die for 26 weeks                   | LVEF, US        | HFpEF, 31                             | NA       | NA         | ns     |
| [24]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 µg/die vs. metformin 2 g for 6 months | GLS, US         | NoHF, 30 vs. 30                       | 15%      | + 1.2      | 0.043  |
| [25]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 mg, or glimepiride 4 mg for 18 weeks  | LVEF, US        | NoHF with subclinical dysf, 33 vs. 29 | 53%      | − 2.1      | ns     |
|                      |                         |                                                       | GLS, US         |                                       | 15%      | 0          | ns     |
| [26]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 mg, or glimepiride 4 mg for 25 weeks  | LVEF, US        | HFrEF, 146 vs. 156                    | 25       | + 1.1      | ns     |
| [27]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 mg for 24 weeks                       | LVEF, US        | HFrEF, 122 vs. 119                    | 33%      | − 0.7      | ns     |
|                      |                         |                                                       | GLS, US         |                                       | 11%      | 0.6        | ns     |
| Diastolic parameters |                         |                                                       |                 |                                       |          |            |        |
| [23]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 µg/die for 26 weeks                   | E/e', CMRI      | NoHF, 23 vs. 26                       | 7.3      | − 0.9      | 0.001  |
| [22]                 | Single arm, prospective | Liraglutide 0.9 µg/die for 26 weeks                   | E/e', US        | HFpEF, 31                             | 12.7     | − 2.7      | 0.0371 |
| [24]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 µg/die vs. metformin 2 g for 6 months | E/A, US         | NoHF, 30 vs. 30                       | 0.92     | + 0.6      | ns     |
| [25]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 mg, or glimepiride 4 mg for 18 weeks  | E/e', US        | NoHF, 33 vs. 29                       | 12.5     | − 0.5      | ns     |
| [27]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 mg for 24 weeks                       | LVEF, US        | HFrEF, 122 vs. 119                    | 12.6     | − 0.6      | 0.03   |
| Remodeling           |                         |                                                       |                 |                                       |          |            |        |
| [28]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Albiglutide various dosage, 12 weeks                  | LVDV, US        | HFrEF, 29 vs. 30                      | 196      | − 0.2%     | ns     |
|                      |                         |                                                       | LVMi, US        |                                       |          |            |        |
| [23]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 µg/die for 26 weeks                   | LVEDV, CMRI     | NoHF, 23 vs. 26                       | 147      | − 11       | 0.002  |
|                      |                         |                                                       | LVMi, CMRI      |                                       | 49       | − 1.5      | ns     |
| [26]                 | Prospective vs. aCTRL   | Liraglutide 1.8 mg, or placebo 4 mg for 25 weeks      | LVEFVi, US      | HFrEF, 146 vs. 156                    | 140      | + 6.7      | ns     |
| [27]                 | Prospective vs. placebo | Liraglutide 1.8 mg for 24 weeks                       | LVEDV, US       | HFrEF, 122 vs. 119                    | 163      | − 4        | ns     |

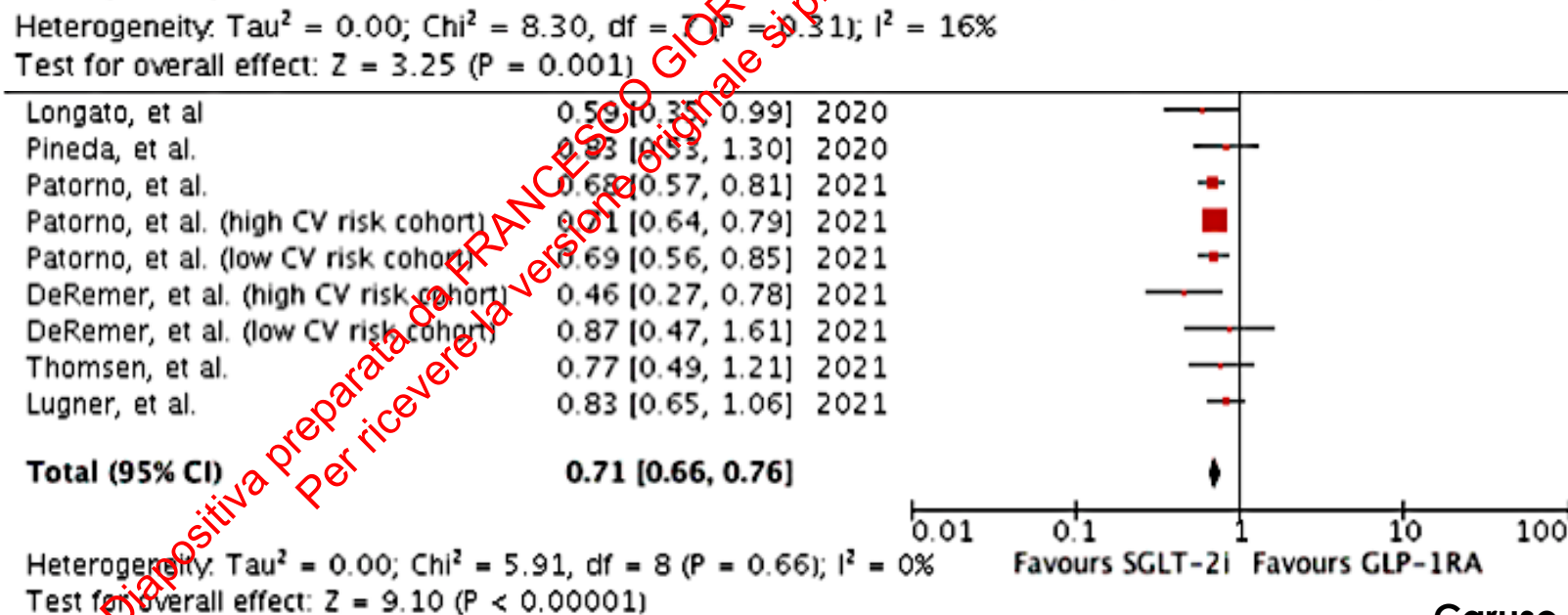
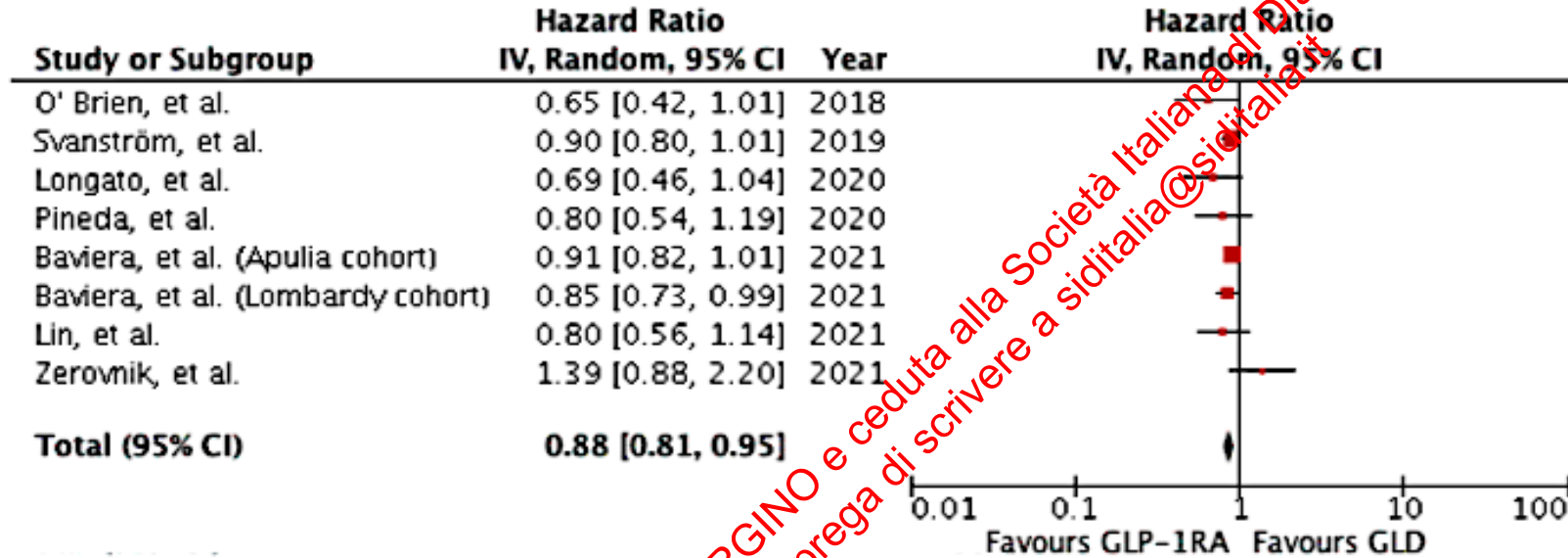
**Effects of GLP-1RA on LV function and structure in RCT conducted in T2D patients**

**Natali A et al, Cardiovasc Diabetol, 2021**

# GLP-1RA Reduced the Incidence of HF-Related Outcomes in CVD



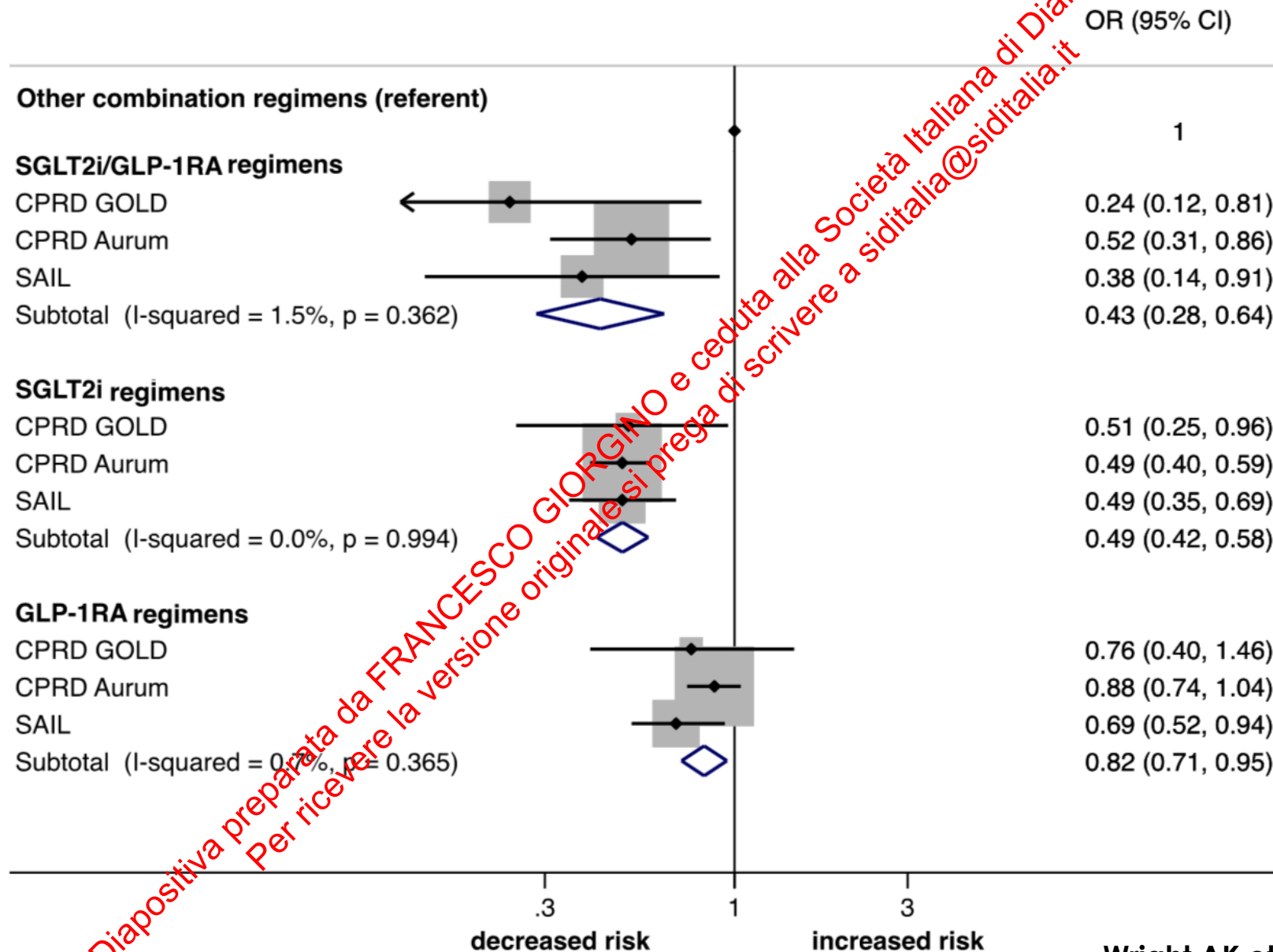
# Effects of GLP-1RA on HF-Related Outcomes in RWS



# Role of GLP-1RA in Primary Prevention of HF in T2D Patients

3 nested case-control studies in England and Wales (primary care data)

17,451 (4.2%) experienced a HF event in a cohort of 411,206 with T2D without HF



Wright AK et al, *Diabetes Care*, 2022

# Summary

- GLP-1 RA **reduce CV outcomes** (CV death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke).
- GLP-1RA-mediated cardioprotection results from **multiple contributing factors**, including **reduced inflammation and body weight, improved myocardial and vascular functions, decreased blood pressure, attenuation of atherosclerosis**.
- The **effect of glucose lowering** may play an important role in the ability of GLP-1 RA to **reduce stroke**.
- **Persistence to treatment** contributes to the CV benefit of GLP-1 RA – chemical structure of GLP-1RA seems irrelevant.
- GLP-1 RA may prevent CV events **throughout the CV risk continuum** (reduction of CV events in relatively lower-risk as well as higher-risk T2D subjects) – see **evidence from both CVOT and real-world studies**.
- GLP-1RA **reduce HF-related outcomes** vs. placebo in CVOT and vs. other glucose-lowering drugs (except SGLT-2i) in RWS, but improvement of LV function in human models of chronic heart failure is inconclusive.