



"Al **CUORE** del **DIABETE**"

Roma | 6-7 marzo 2026

Aula Brasca, Policlinico Gemelli

**La terapia del
diabete**

**Meglio tutto
e subito**



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Conflict of Interest

last 3 years

Speaker in Scientific Events

AstraZeneca
Amgen
Bayer
Boehringer Ingelheim
Daiichi Sankyo
Echosens
Lilly
Menarini Diag

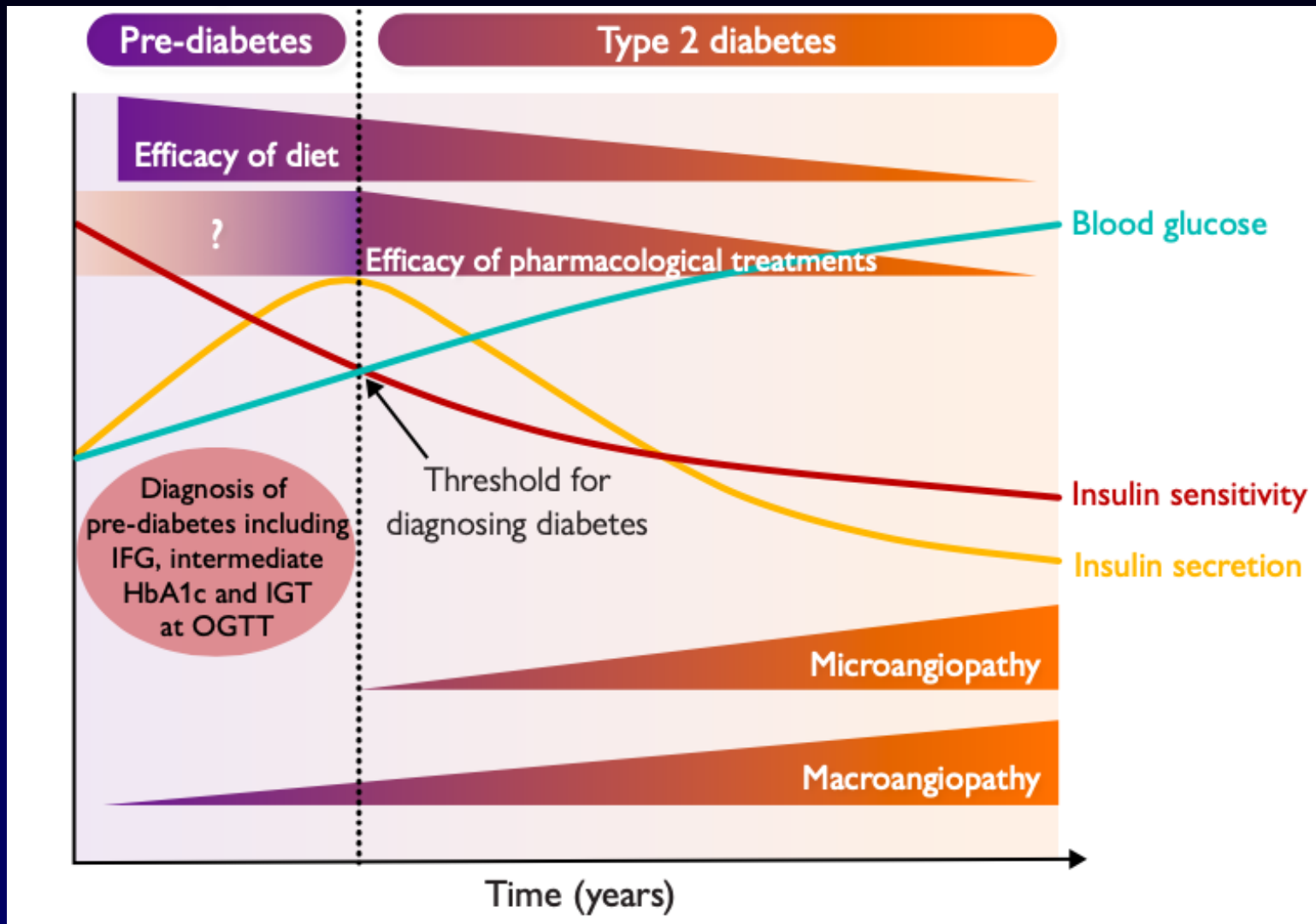
Merck
Novartis
Novo Nordisk
Pfizer
PikDare
Roche Diag
Sanofi
Servier

Scientific AB

Amgen
Bruno Farmaceutici
EG
Lilly
Merck
Novartis
Novo Nordisk
Pfizer
PikDare
Sanofi



SUBITO è più efficace

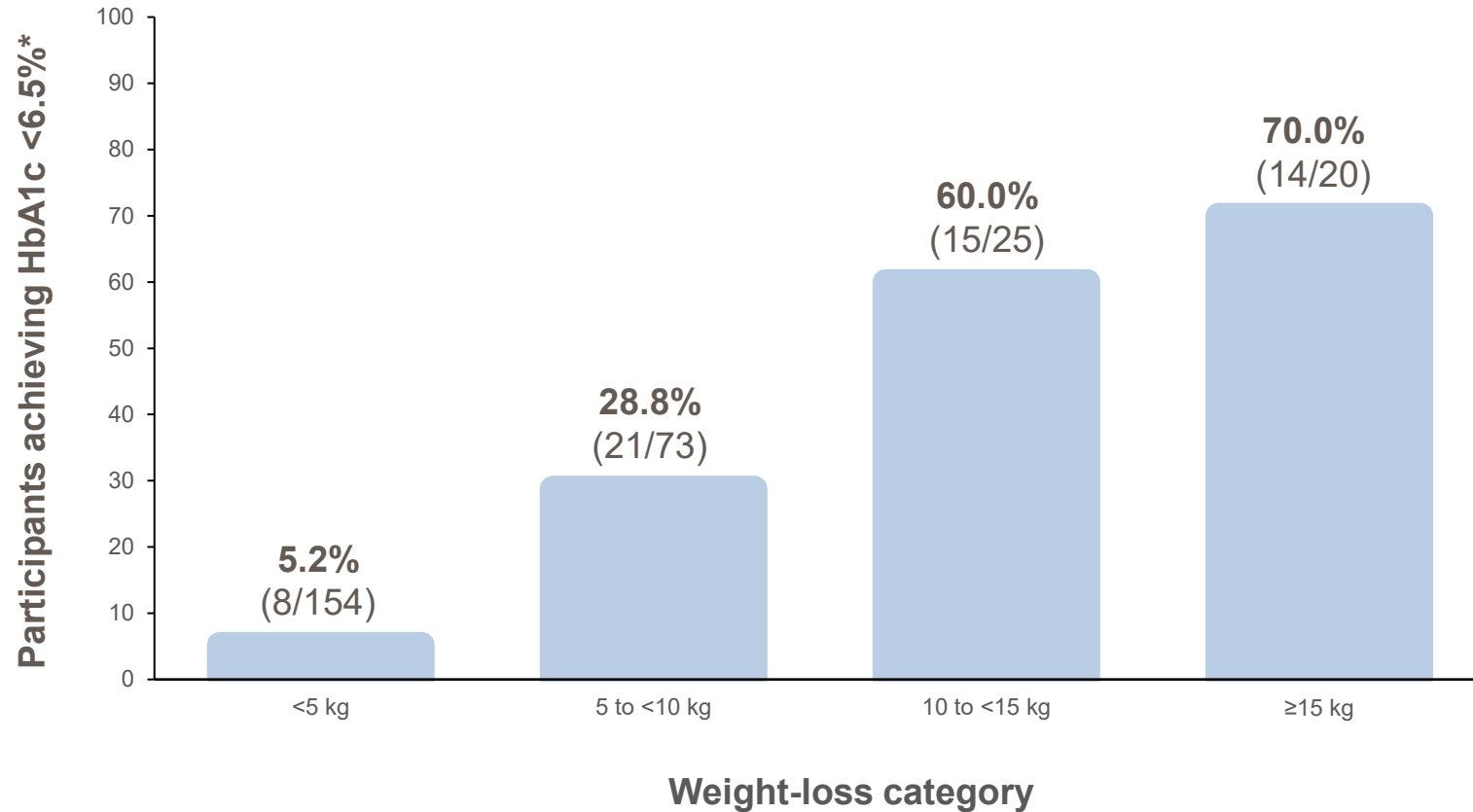


Alla diagnosi del DMT2 allo scopo di aver un buon controllo metabolico

non considerando la eterogeneità del DMT2, in particolare escludendo i pazienti SIDD

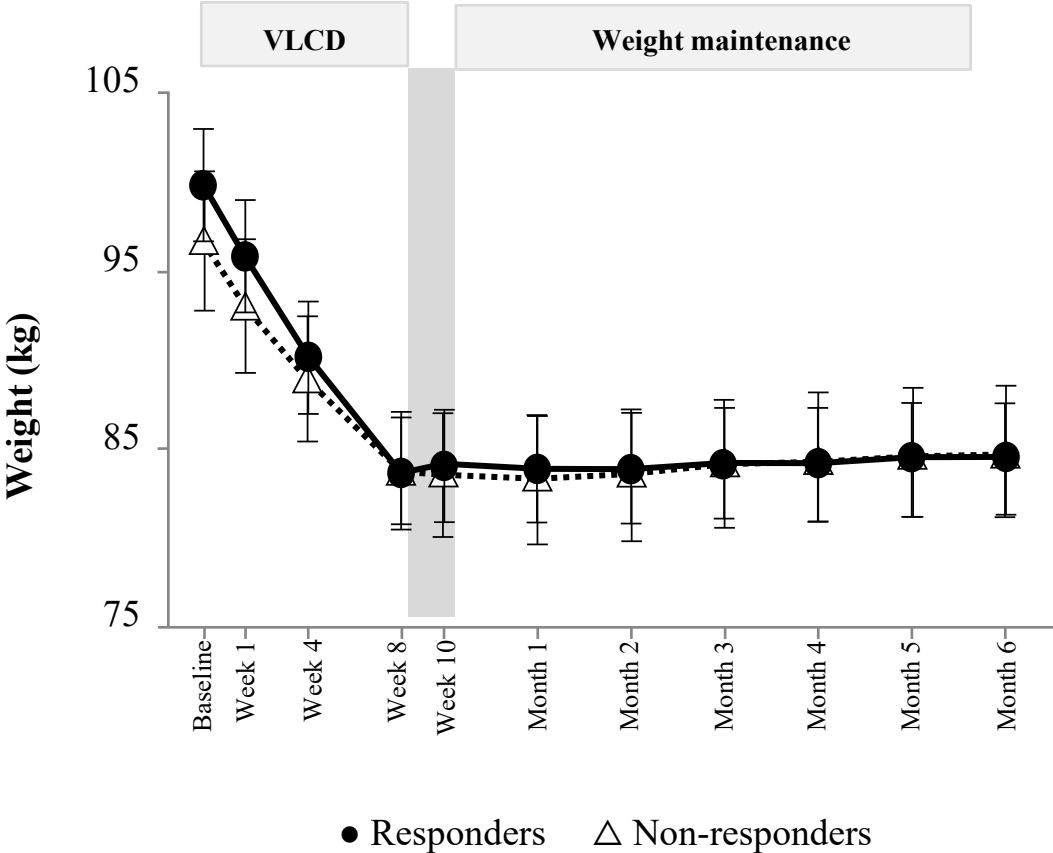
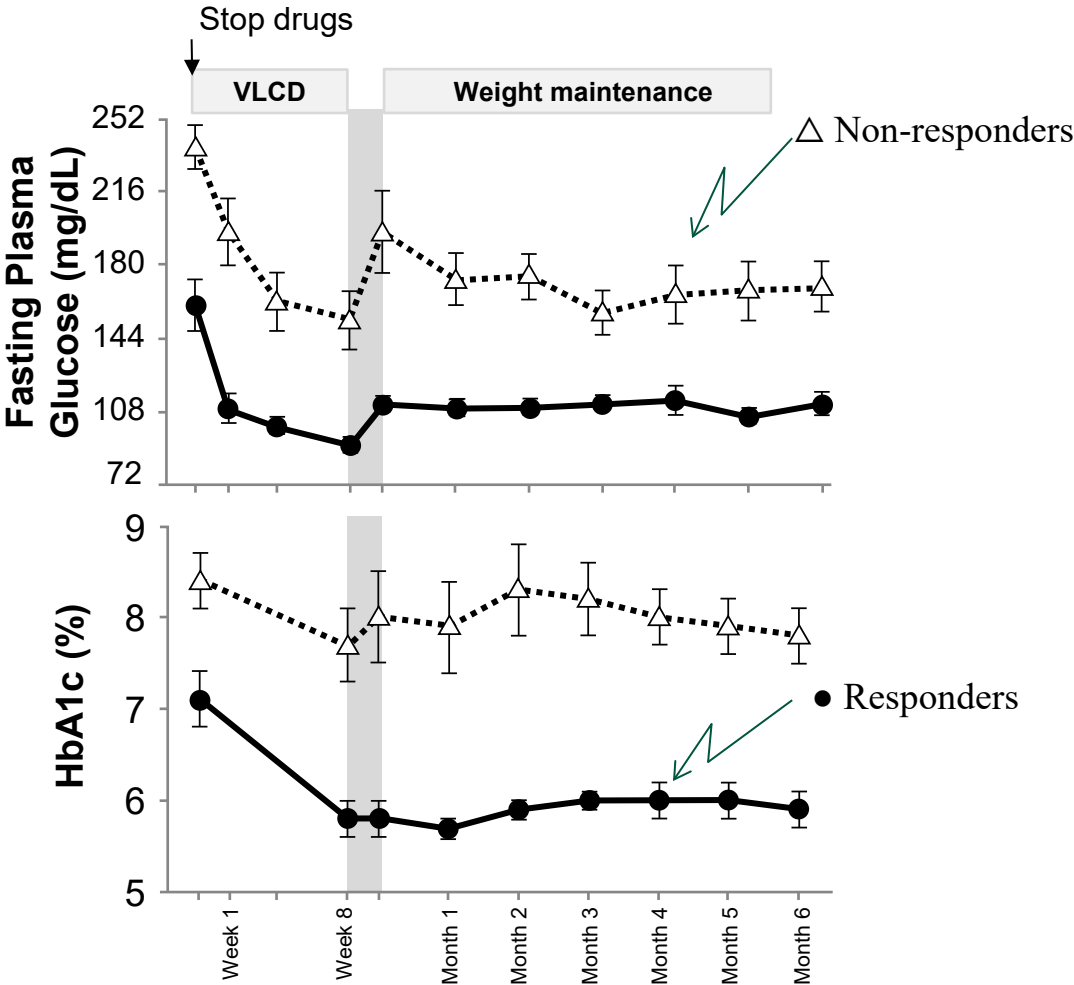
DiRECT Study

Improvement of HbA1c was proportional to body weight reduction



- 36% of the patients achieved HbA1c <6.5% without drugs
- 60% of the patients maintained the target without drugs up to 2 years
- For every kg lost, 25% increment of the probability to achieve HbA1c <6.5%

Remission depends on duration of the disease and baseline HbA1c

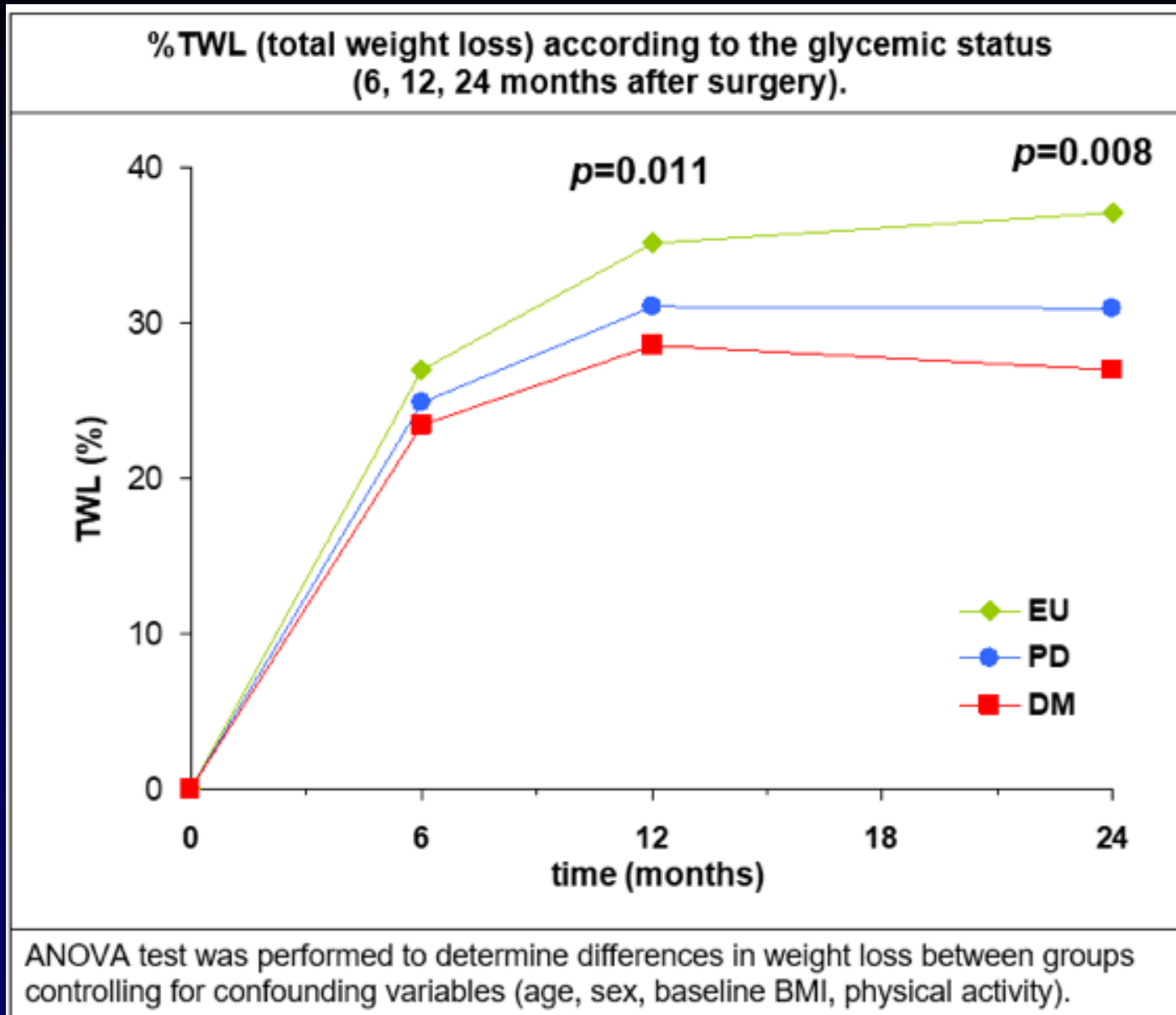


Bariatric Surgery

Sleeve gastrectomy

Timing

Riduzione di efficacia
non solo
sull'outcome "glicemico"



Muraca E et al (in preparation)

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

SEPTEMBER 22, 2022

VOL. 387 NO. 12

Glycemia Reduction in Type 2 Diabetes — Glycemic Outcomes

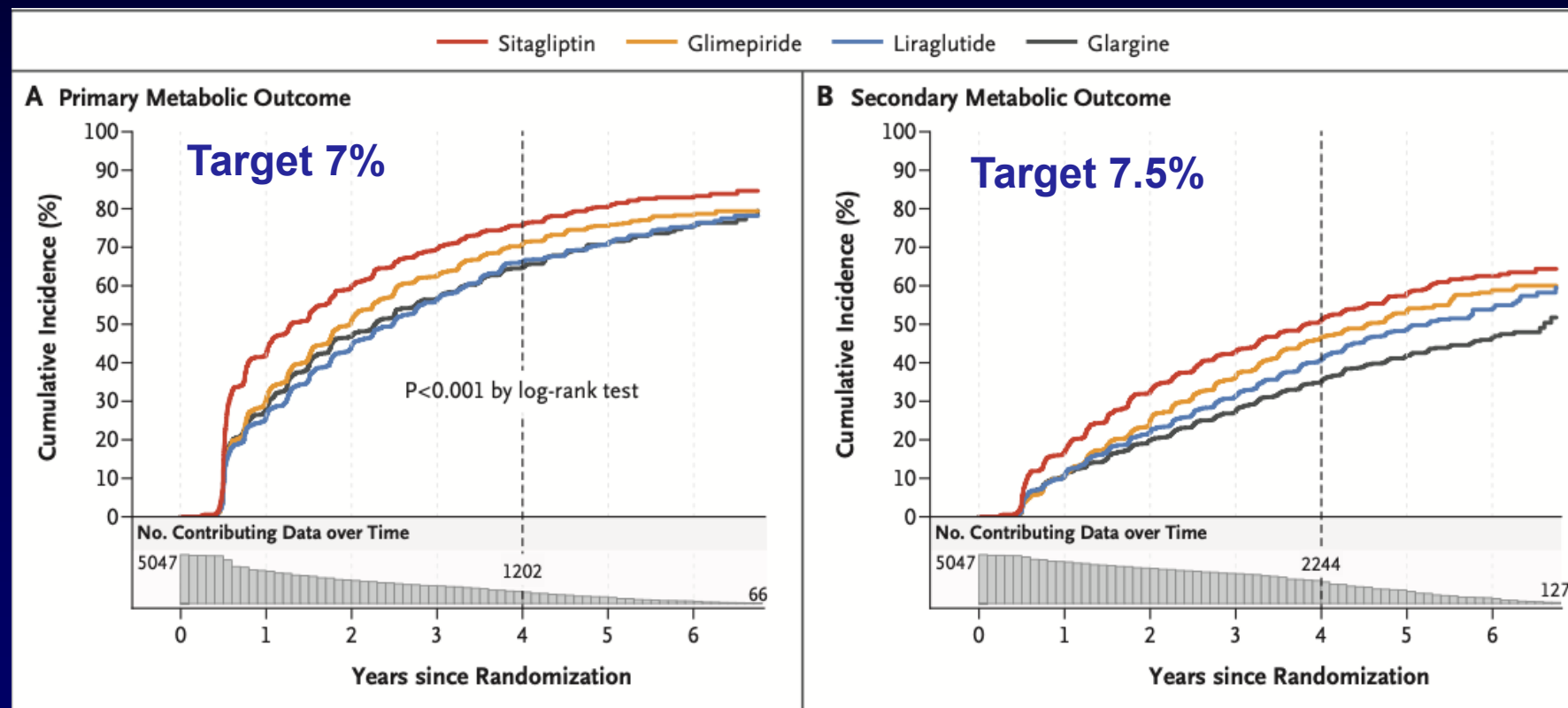
The GRADE Study Research Group*

Standard strategy

Short duration
(4 years)

In metformina al basale

a 4 anni
71% dei pazienti con
HbA1c > 7%

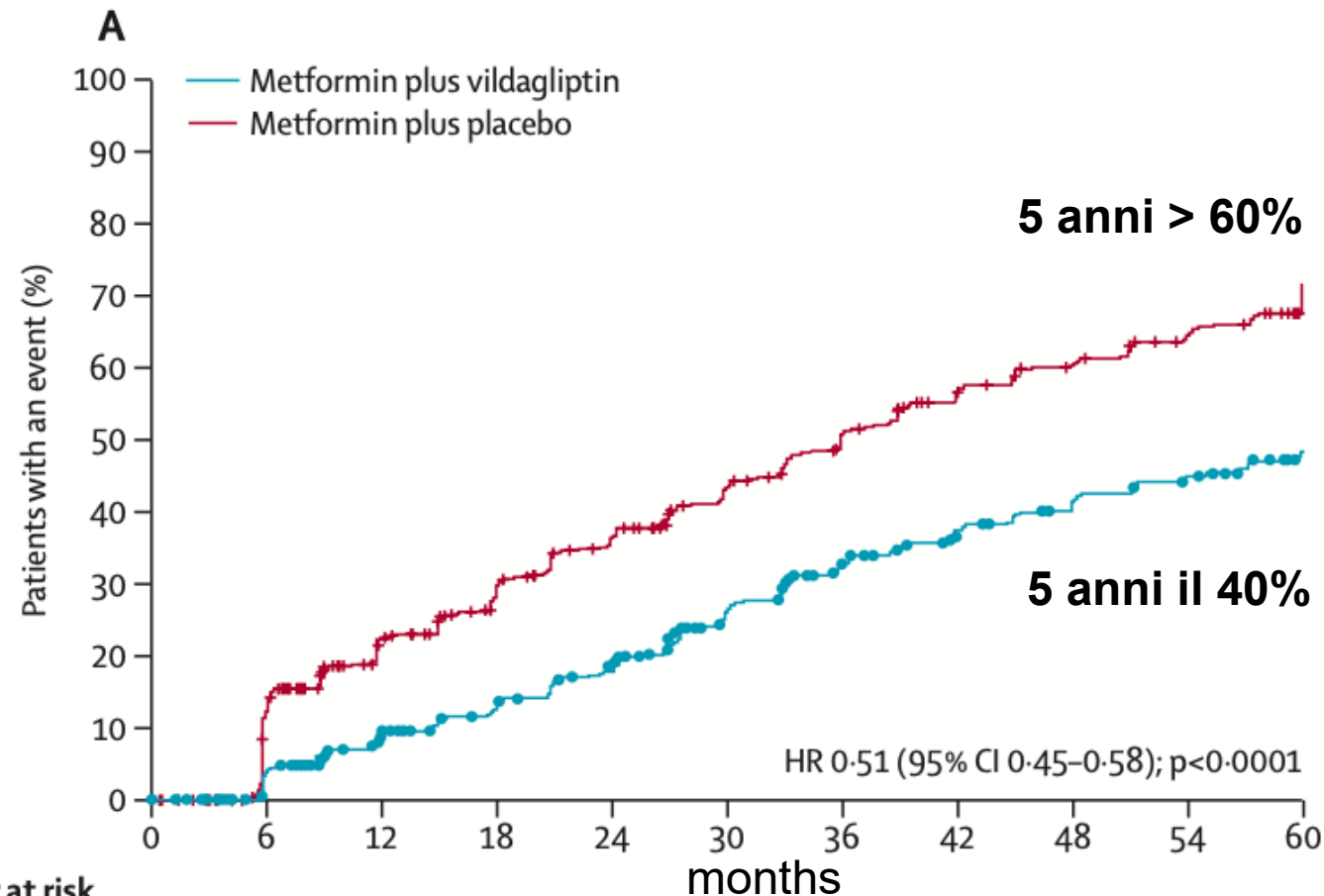


Glycaemic durability of an early combination therapy with vildagliptin and metformin versus sequential metformin monotherapy in newly diagnosed type 2 diabetes (VERIFY): a 5-year, multicentre, randomised, double-blind trial

David R Matthews, Päivi M Paldanius, Pieter Proot, YannTong Chiang, Michael Stumvoll, Stefano Del Prato, for the VERIFY study group

SUBITO E TUTTO

WH: “Although initial combination therapy has been suggested to offer more opportunities than a traditional stepwise approach, its validity remains to be determined”



Number at risk
(number censored)

Metformin plus vildagliptin	983	960	862	815	752	671	597	551	509	478	187
Metformin plus placebo	989	937	733	661	576	503	434	377	337	299	108

efficacy endpoint

time from randomisation to initial treatment failure

HbA1c measurement of at least 7.0% at two consecutive scheduled visits

Matthews DR et al Lancet, 2019

Prediabetes

STEP-10

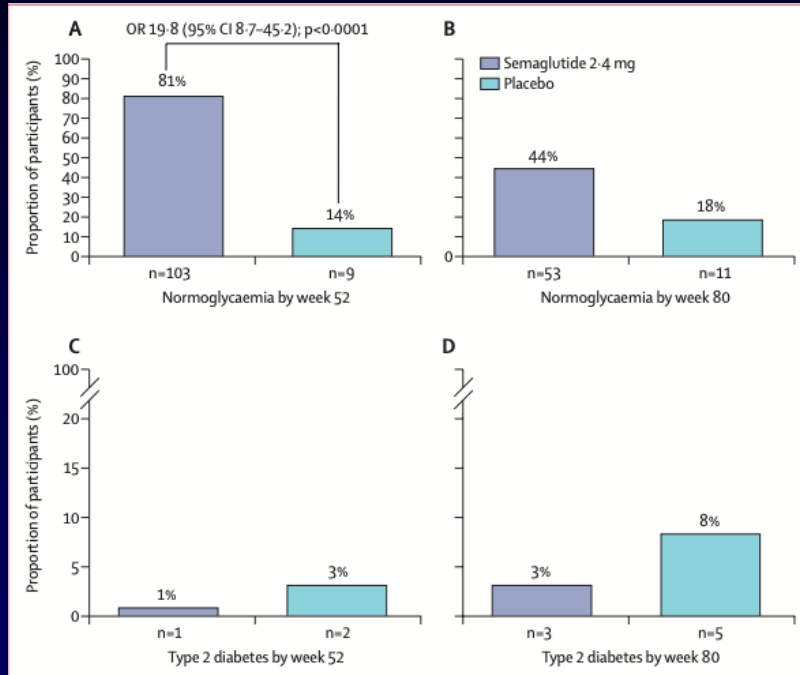


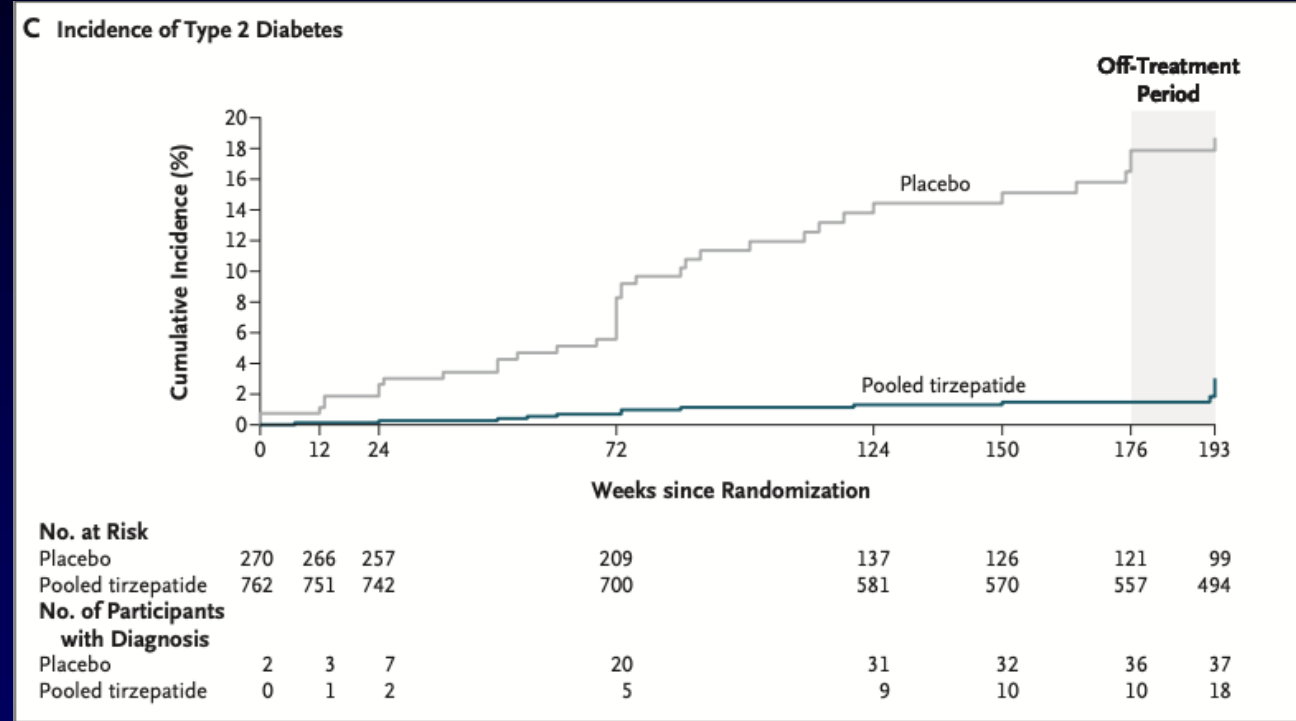
Figure 3: Proportion of participants who reverted to normoglycaemia or progressed to type 2 diabetes with semaglutide 2-4 mg versus placebo in the full analysis set during the in-trial observation period
Observed proportions of participants who reverted to normoglycaemia ($HbA_{1c} < 6.0\%$ [< 42 mmol/mol] and $FPG < 5.5$ mmol/L) at week 52 (A; OR is for the treatment policy estimand) and week 80 (B). Observed proportions of who progressed to type 2 diabetes ($HbA_{1c} \geq 6.5\%$ [≥ 48 mmol/mol] or $FPG \geq 7.0$ mmol/L, verified with a repeated blood sample within 4 weeks from baseline) at week 52 (C) and week 80 (D). OR for panel A is for the treatment policy estimand. FPG=fasting plasma glucose. OR=odds ratio.

1% vs 3%

OR 19.8; 95% CI 8.7 to 45.2; p<0.0001

McGovan B et al Lancet Diabetol Endocrinol, 2024

SURMOUNT-1



1.3% vs. 13.3%

HR 0.07; 95% CI: 0.0-0.1; P<0.001

Jastreboff AM et al N Engl J Med, 2024

alla diagnosi del DMT2 per la prevenzione delle complicanze

(non considerando la eterogeneità del DMT2)

PREVALENCE OF COMPLICATIONS: DURATION < 5 YEARS (patients with hepatic steatosis at US)

DURATION OF DIABETES (years)	1.7±1.3
Age (years)	61±13
BMI (kg/m ²)	31.4±5.6
CVD (%)	15.7%
CKD (%)	28.0%
UACR > 30 mg/g (%)	17.0%
Motor and sensory neuropathy (%)	3.4%
Retinopathy (%)	5.6%
LSM > 8 KPa (%) (if FIB-4 > 1.3)	31.0%

GRADE

Short diabetes duration (4 years)

High rate of CVD complications

Any CVD
~ 10% in 6 years

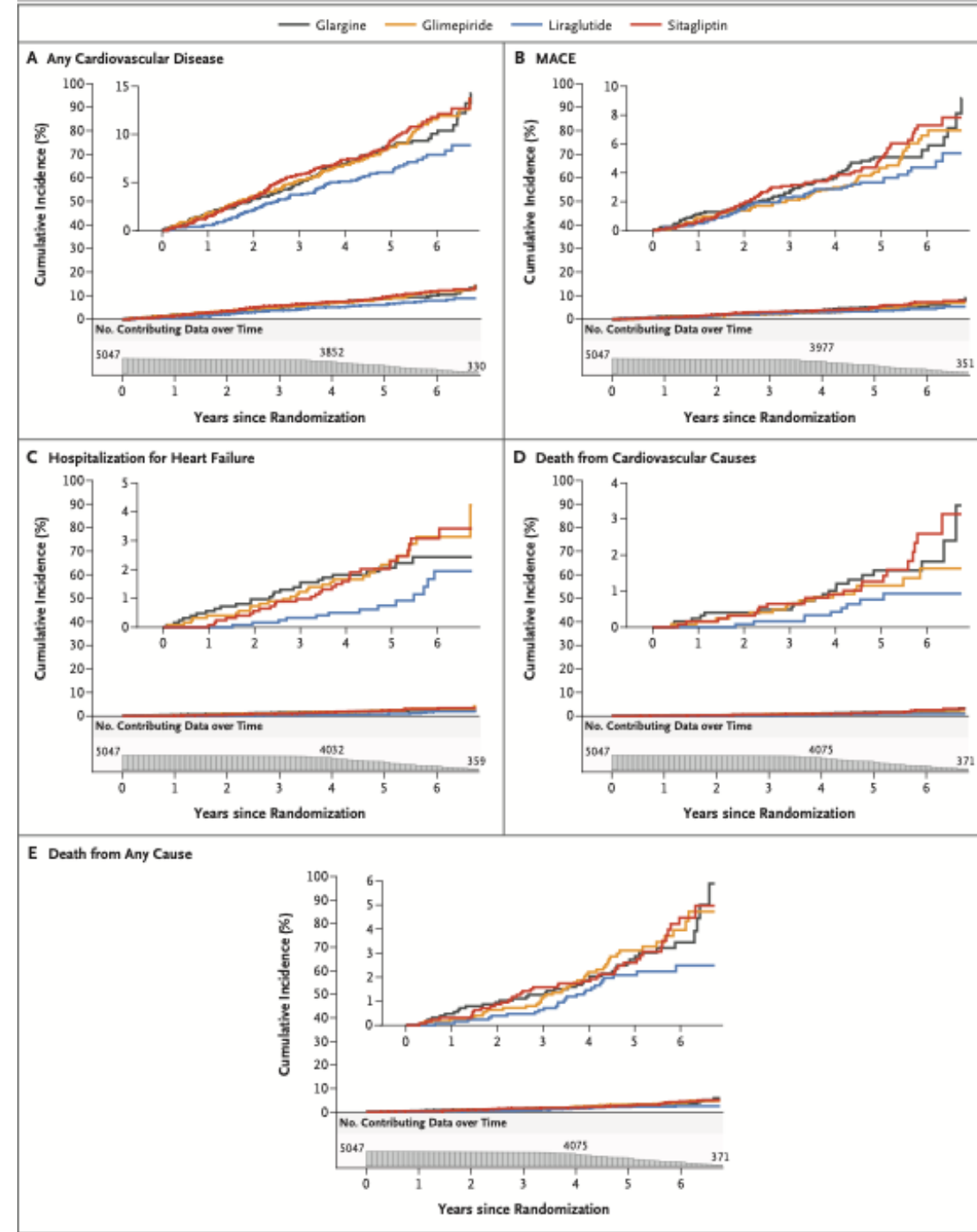
On top of metformin

Glargine
Glimepiride
Liraglutide
Sitagliptin

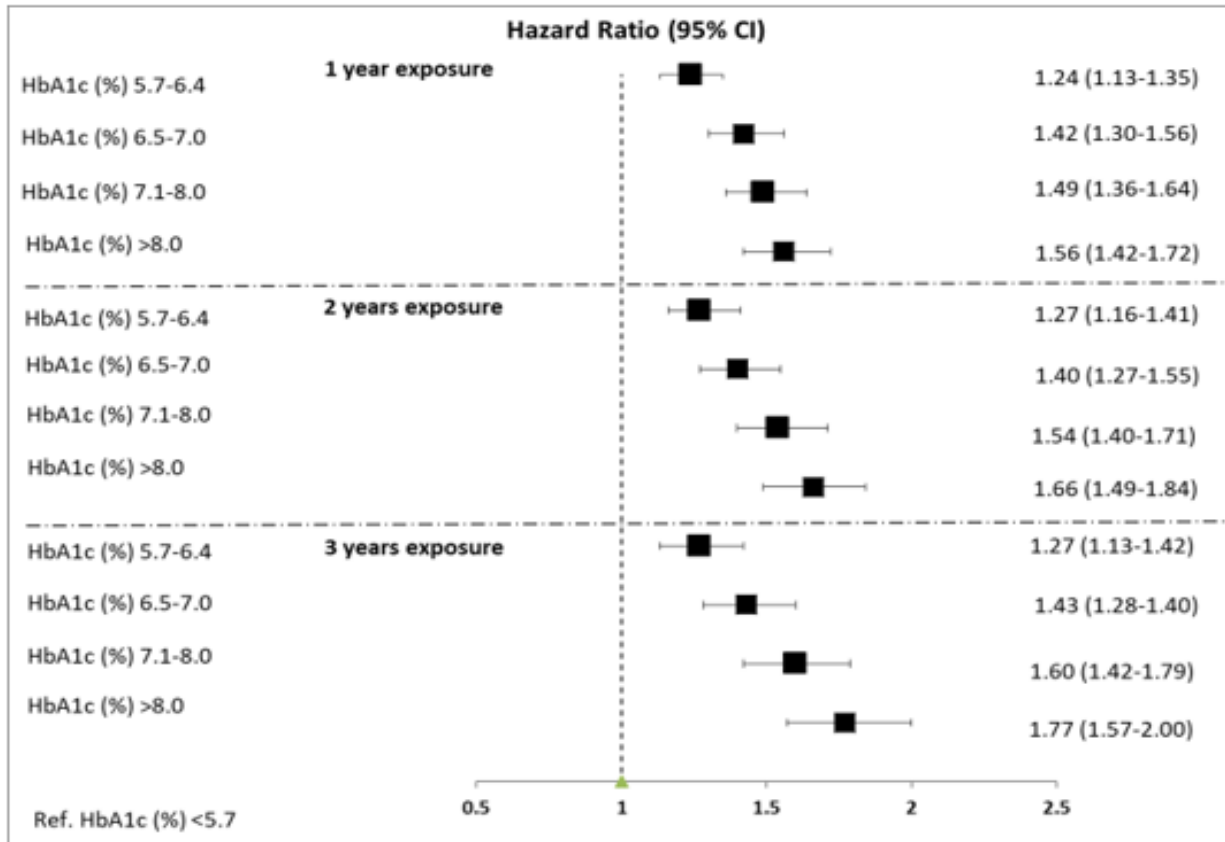
6-7% with previous stroke or AMI

Death
~ 4-5% in 6 years

The GRADE Study Research Group N Engl J Med, 2022



Controllo glicemico precoce e successivo rischio di CVD con HbA1c <5,7% come valore di riferimento



Pseudo-forest plot showing the adjusted hazard ratios (HR) with the relative 95% confidence interval (CI), derived from the Cox regression analyses exploring the associations between glycemic control and the risk of the CVD at follow-up to the degree of glycemic control in the three exposure periods assessed

- Complessivamente, il **5.7%** dei pazienti con DT2 aveva valori medi di HbA1c <5.7% nel primo anno dopo la diagnosi.
- Durante un follow-up medio di 4.6 ± 2.9 years, 13,822 pazienti (**5.5%**) hanno sviluppato un **evento cardiovascolare maggiore**.
- Rispetto ai pazienti con HbA1c media <5.7%, quelli al di sopra di questa soglia avevano un **aumentato rischio di malattie cardiovascolari al follow-up per tutti e tre i periodi di esposizione precoce e per tutti gli intervalli di controllo glicemico considerati**
- Rispetto ad una **HbA1c media <5.7% durante il primo anno** dopo la diagnosi, i pazienti con HbA1c media compresa tra il **5.7% e il 6.4%** avevano un **rischio aumentato del 24% di malattie cardiovascolari** (HR=1.24; 95%CI 1.13-1.35)

Historical HbA_{1c} Values May Explain the Type 2 Diabetes Legacy Effect: UKPDS 88

Diabetes Care 2021;44:2231–2237 | <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc20-2439>

Marcus Lind,^{1,2} Henrik Imberg,³
Ruth L. Coleman,⁴ Olle Nerman,³ and
Rury R. Holman⁴

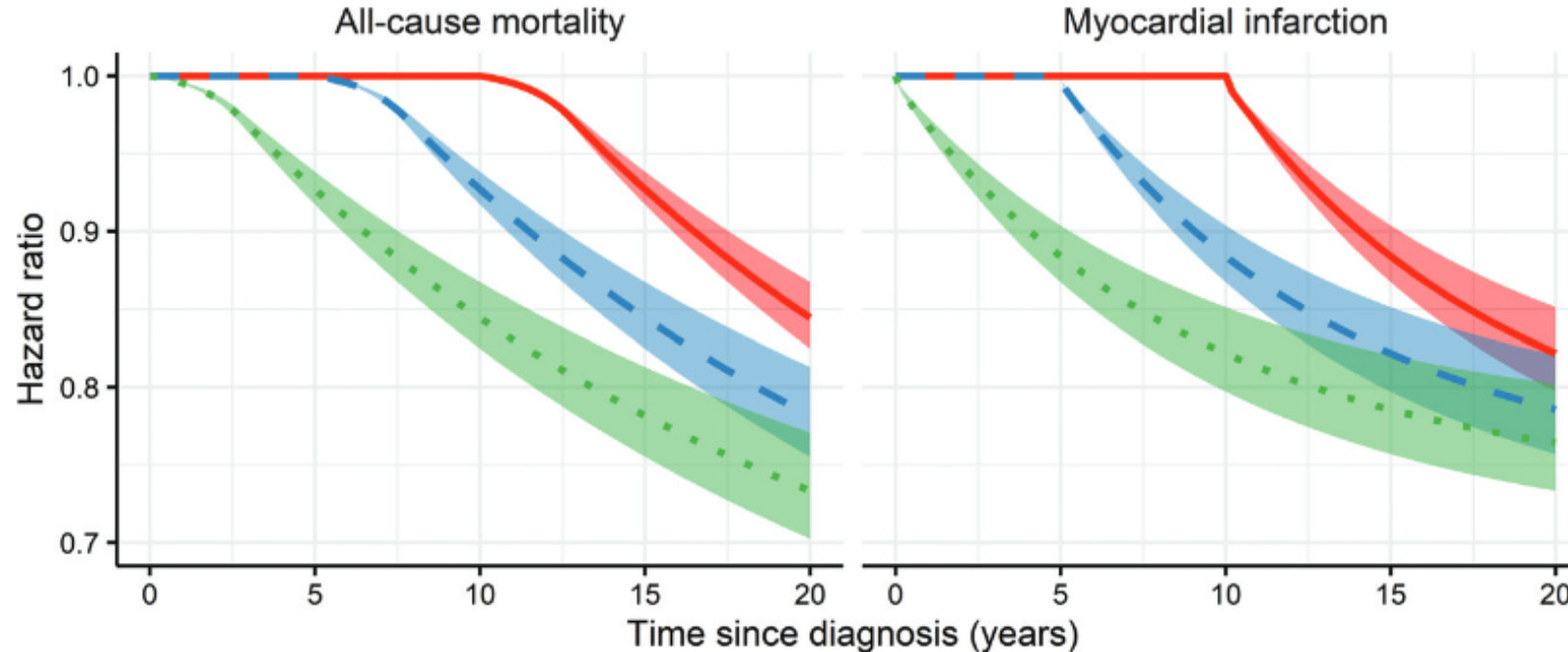


Figure 1—Time-dependent HRs for all cause-mortality (left) and myocardial infarction (right) from 0 to 20 years after diagnosis of type 2 diabetes, assuming a one percentage unit lower HbA_{1c} from diagnosis (green dotted lines), and when the same degree of HbA_{1c} lowering was imposed from 5 years (blue dashed lines), and from 10 years (red solid lines) after diagnosis. The shaded regions represent 95% confidence limits. HRs were calculated according to Eq. 6 in the Supplementary Material.

The glycemic legacy effects seen in T2DM are explained largely by historical HbA_{1c} values having a greater impact than recent values on clinical outcomes

Early detection of diabetes and intensive glucose control from the time of diagnosis is essential to maximize reduction of the long-term risk of glycemic complications

Look-ahead and remission (CVD & CKD)

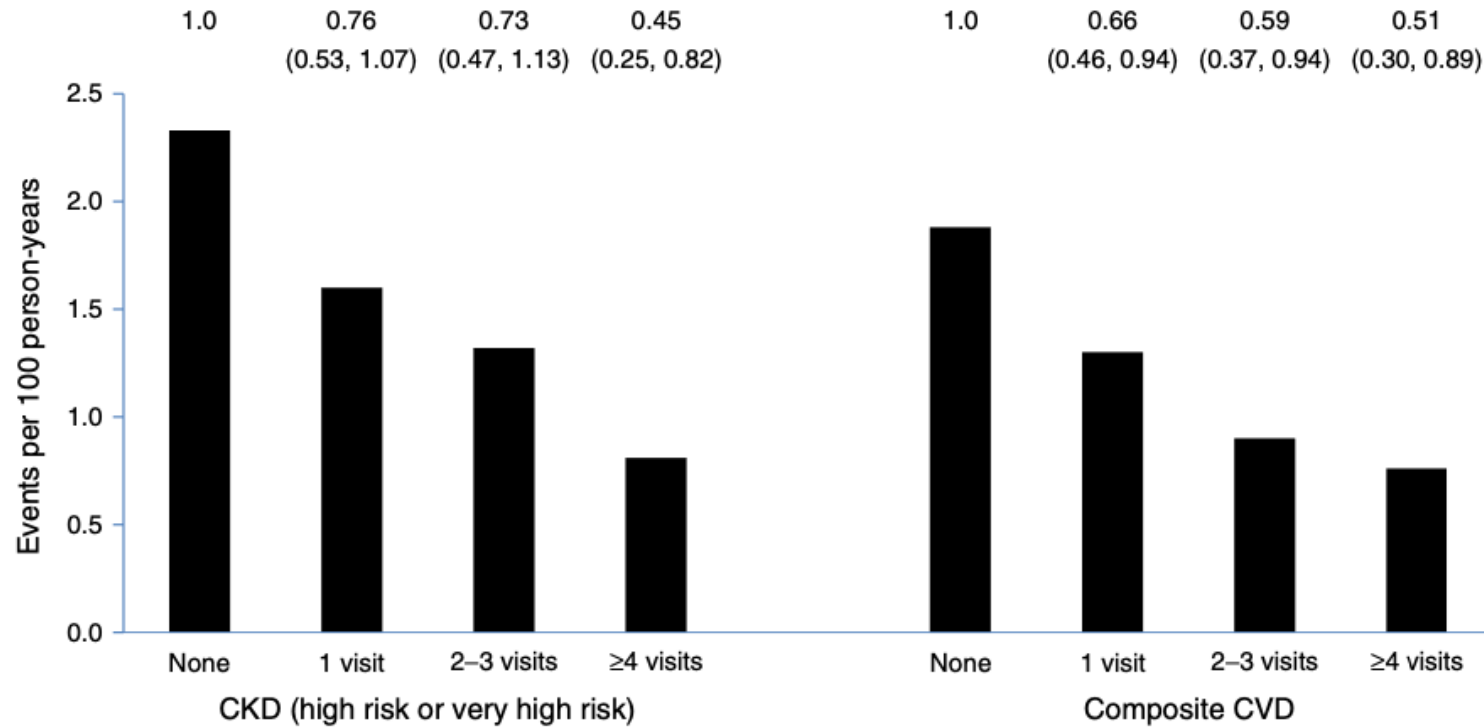


Fig. 2 Incidence of CKD and CVD based on number of visits with remission. The HR and 95% CI values are shown at the top

**Metabolic
memory**

Number of visits in remission

Gregg EW et al Diabetologia, 2024

At diagnosis in Lombardy - 2012

Within the first year?

- 1) HbA1c
- 2) lipid profile
- 3) AER
- 4) creatinine

3 categories of adherence

- | | |
|-------------------|-----|
| 1) 0-1 low | 43% |
| 2) 2 intermediate | 36% |
| 3) 3-4 high | 21% |

End-points

Complications of diabetes (time to hosp admission for short term and long term complications) - Costs for the health care system (€)

Clinical outcome

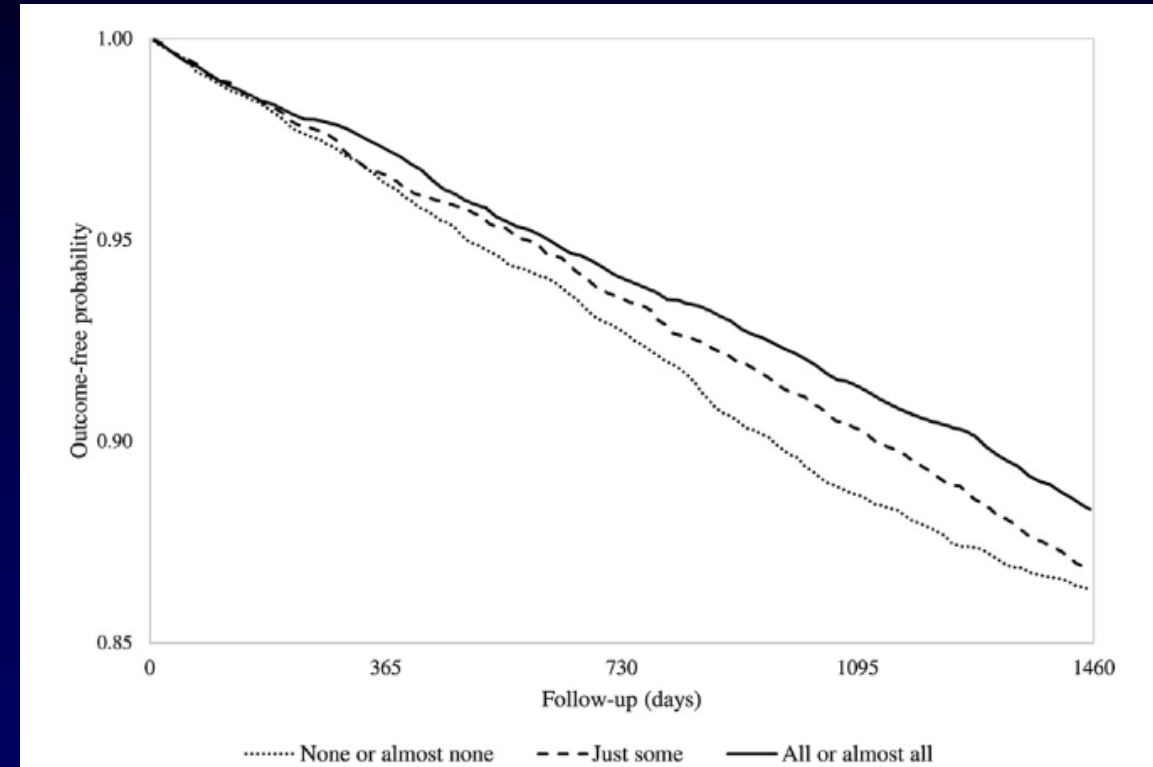


Figure 1 Time-free-to-complications among matched cohorts differentiated according to whether none or almost none, just some or all or almost all recommendations were followed. Footnote. A score of

Prediabetes remission and cardiovascular morbidity and mortality: post-hoc analyses from the Diabetes Prevention Program Outcome study and the DaQing Diabetes Prevention Outcome study

Elsa Vazquez Arreola*, Qihong Gong*, Robert L Hanson, Jinping Wang, Leontine Sandforth, Siyao He, Arvid Sandforth, Xin Qian, Mauro Giacca, Stefan R Bornstein, Andreas Fritsche, Norbert Stefan, Hubert Preissl, Edward W Gregg, Nikolaus Marx, Reiner Jumpertz-von Schwartzberg*, Guangwei Li*, Andreas L Birkenfeld*

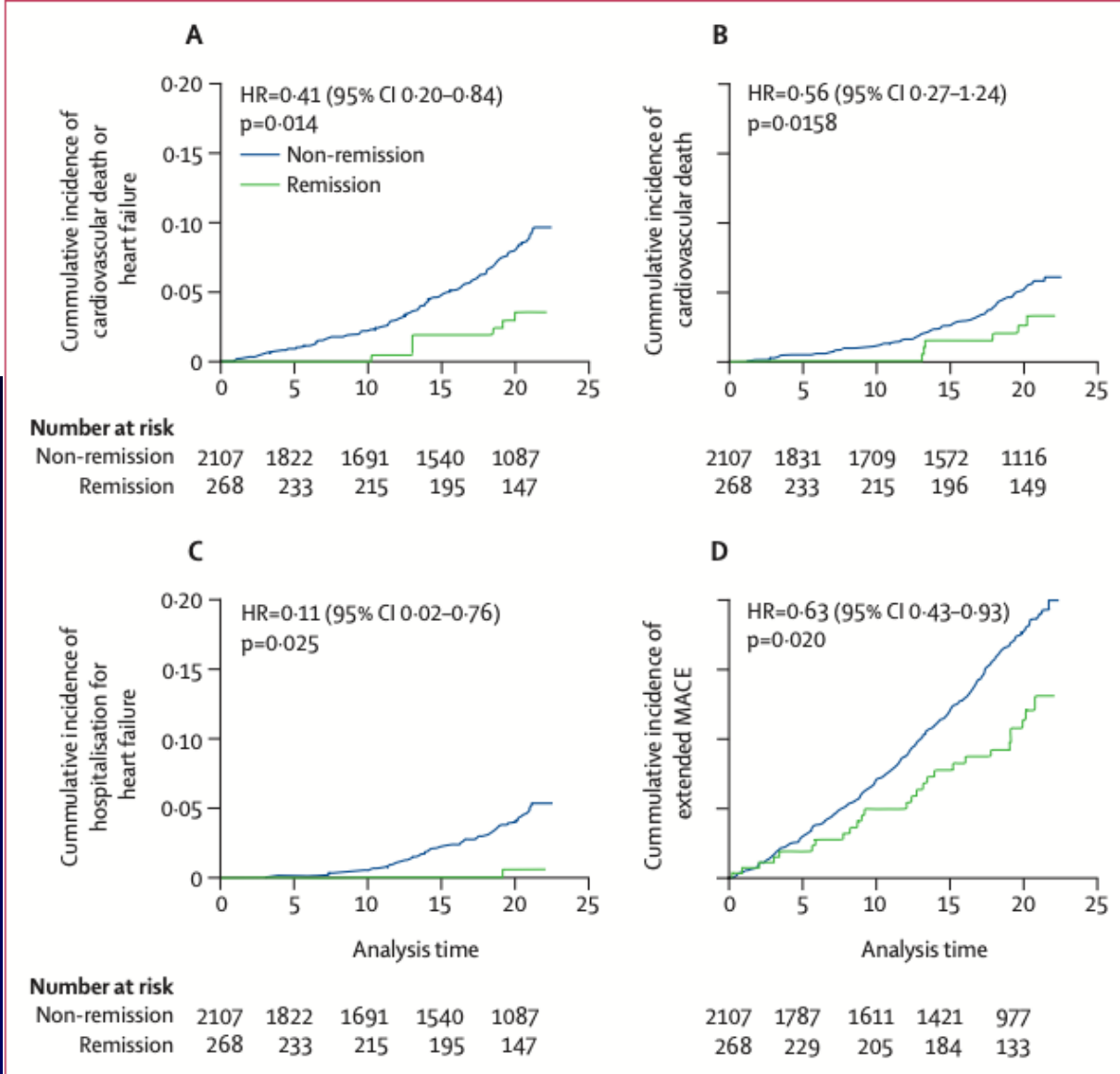


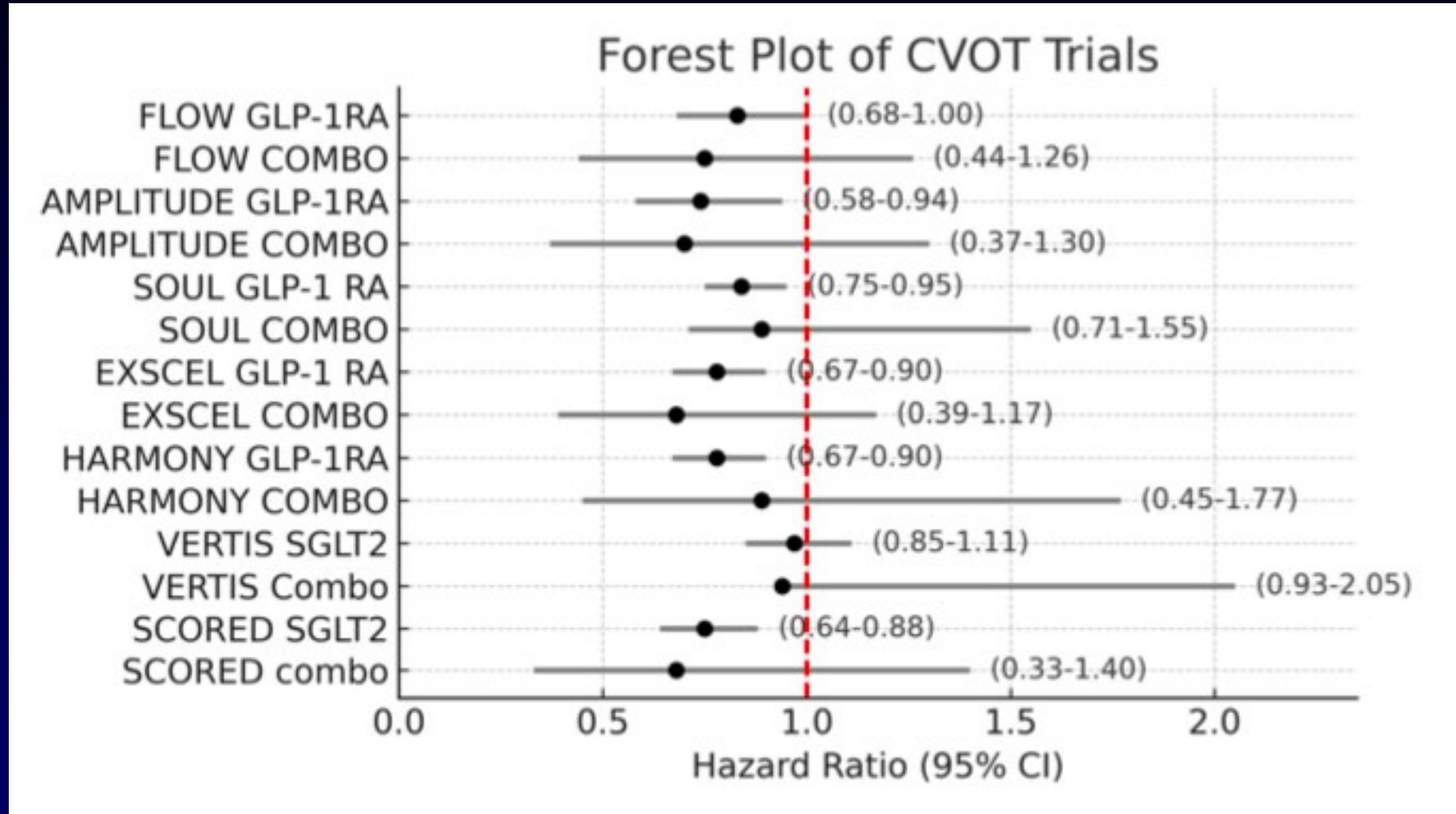
Figure 1: DPPOS: Kaplan-Meier curves for risk of composite endpoint cardiovascular death or hospitalisation for heart failure (A), cardiovascular death (B), hospitalisation for heart failure (C), and extended MACE (D) by remission status after 1 year of lifestyle intervention and over up to 20 years of follow-up

Remission status was determined according to ADA criteria. Extended MACE included cardiovascular death, non-fatal myocardial infarction, non-fatal stroke, coronary or peripheral revascularisation, hospitalisation for heart failure or unstable angina, new diagnosis of coronary heart disease, or silent myocardial infarction. DPPOS=Diabetes Prevention Program Outcomes Study. MACE=major adverse cardiovascular event.

Vazquez Arreola E et al
Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol, 2026

nel paziente con malattia CVD

Benefit of combination therapy: GLP1-RA & SGLT2-i



SOUL: Oral Semaglutide CV Outcomes by SGLT2i Use

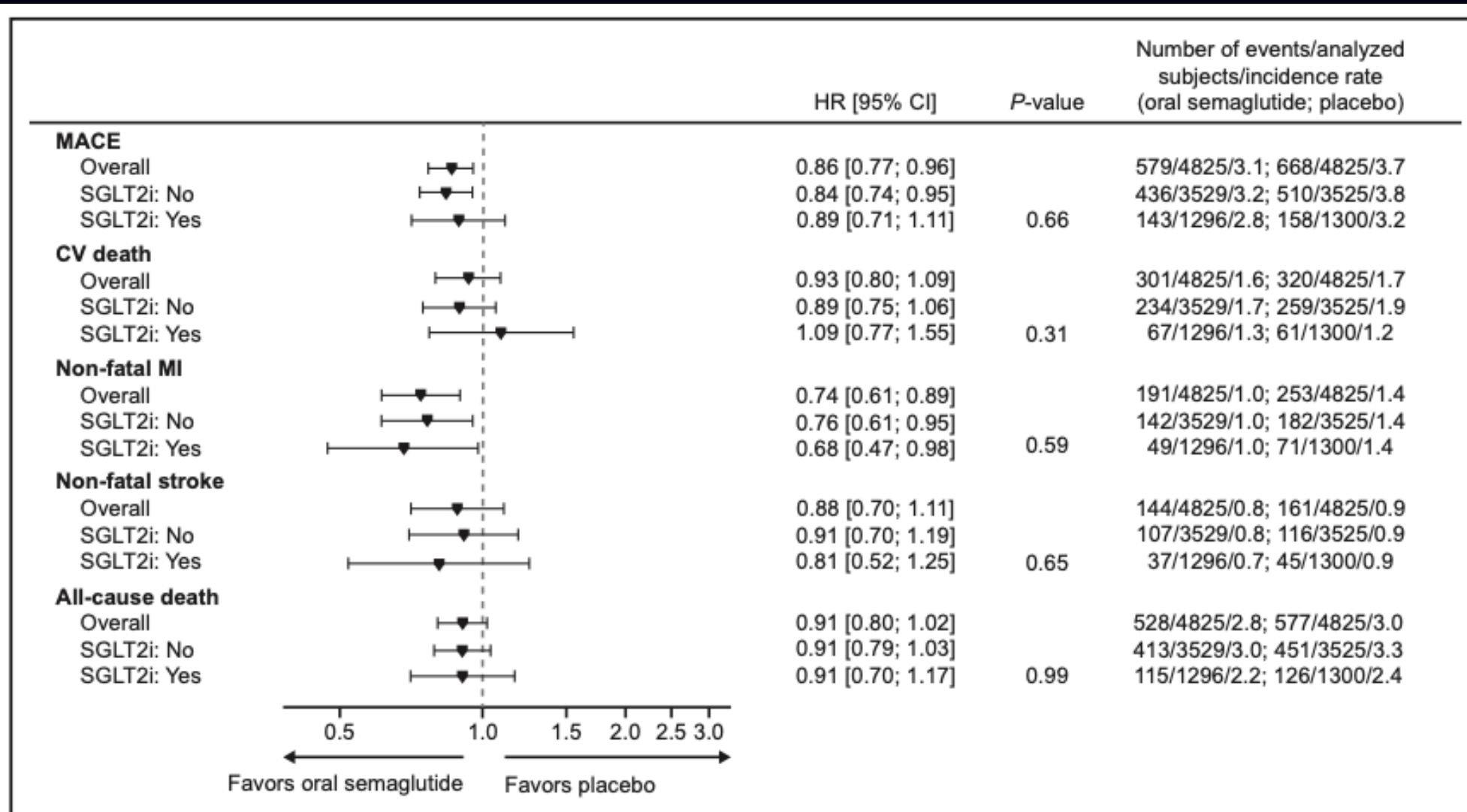


Figure 2. Forest plot: primary outcomes, components and all-cause death according to SGLT2i use at baseline.

Conclusion, the new paradigm

Weight loss may be associated with overall health improvements in:

Magnitude of weight loss (%)

0–5%

- Hypertension¹
- Hyperglycemia¹

5–10%

- PCOS¹
- NAFLD¹
- Prevention of T2D¹
- Dyslipidemia¹

10–15%

- OSAS¹
- GERD¹
- NASH¹
- Cardiovascular disease¹
- Urinary stress incontinence²
- Knee osteoarthritis¹

15–20%

- CV mortality³
- T2D remission⁴
- Hepatic steatosis⁵

>20%

- HFpEF⁶
- Advanced T2D remission^{7,8*}
- Postural instability⁹

**Greater weight loss
= better health
outcomes**

*T2D remission rates have been found to plateau at 20–25% total weight loss where 25% total weight loss did not confer additional benefits; ¹Speaker opinion

BP, blood pressure; CV, cardiovascular; GERD, gastro-oesophageal reflux disease; HbA1c, glycated hemoglobin; HFpEF, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; NAFLD, non-alcoholic fatty liver disease; NASH, non-alcoholic steatohepatitis; OSAS, obstructive sleep apnoea syndrome; PCOS, polycystic ovary syndrome; PwO, people with obesity; T2D, type 2 diabetes; TG, triglycerides. 1. Horn D et al. Postgrad Med. 2022;134:359–75; 2. Garvey WT et al. Endocr Pract. 2016;22(Suppl. 3):1–203; 3. Look AHEAD Research Group, Gregg EW et al. Lancet Diabetes Endocrinol. 2016;4:913–21; 4. Lean ME et al. Lancet. 2018;391:541–51; 5. Sundström J et al. Circulation. 2017;135:1577–85; 6. Benraoune F & Litwin SE. Curr Opin Cardiol. 2011;26:555–61; 7. Meerasa A & Dash S. Diabetes Care 2022;45:28–30; 8. Teasdale, N et al. Int J Obes 2007;31:153–160; 9. Ryan DH and Yockey SR. Curr Obes Rep 2017;6:187–94.

TUTTO & SUBITO : it works but it's a challenge

Life-style intervention: very restrictive and difficult to maintain over the long term (in DiRECT at 5 years remission dropped to 13%)

Intensive drug treatment: probably rapidly diminishes when the drug is discontinued and level of patients' acceptability may be low

Bariatric surgery: level of patients' acceptability is low and there is time-dependent loss of efficiency

Also, consider you need to achieve the target of LDL-cholesterol and blood pressure “*early*” and using “*combination therapy approaches*”

Patients must be informed and very well motivated

Metabolic Memory

Cultural change



Acknowledgments



Endo/Diabetes Clinic

Silvia Perra
Francesca Zerbini
Eleonora Bianconi
Emanuele Muraca
Stefano Ciardullo (UNIMIB)
Laura Rossi
Rosa Cannistraci

Clinical Nutrition

Alice Iltolini
Alessia Bongo
Giulia Rossini

R.N.

Paola Parmeggiani (Education)
Carmen Miccoli
Lucia Mastria

Clinical Psychology

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Giovanna Castoldi

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Marco Carbone

UNIVR

Alessandro Mantovani
Giovanni Targher

Department of Statistics

UNIMIB (Motive Project PRIN2017)

Federico Rea
Matteo Compagnoni
Laura Savarè
Giovanni Corrao

Hypertension Unit

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Guido Grassi
Giuseppe Mancia

Papa Giovanni XXIII - BG

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Roberto Trevisan

H Niguarda

Federico Bertuzzi

IRCCS Monzino

Stefano Genovese

PRIN 2022

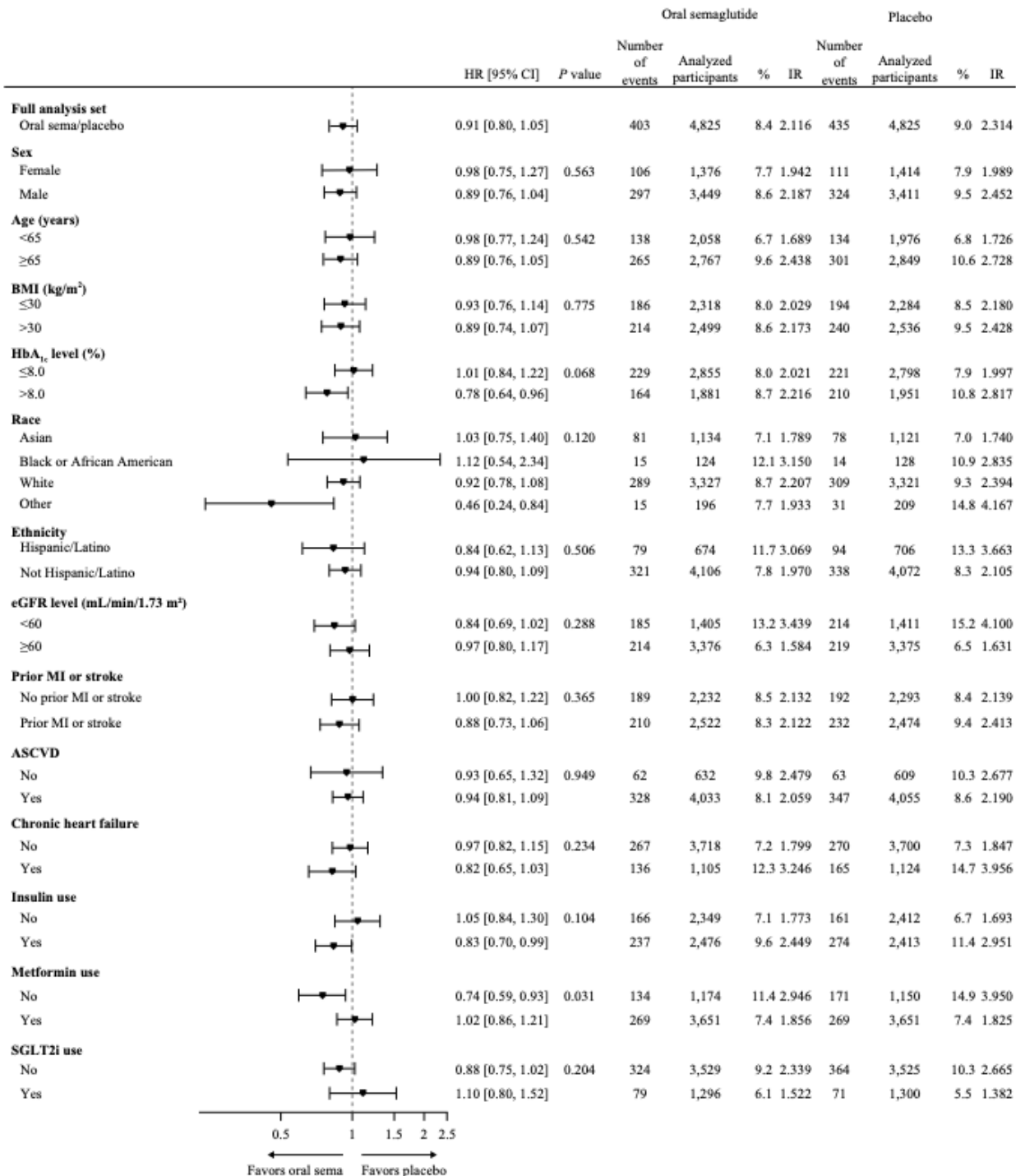
Anna Solini (UNIFI)
Milena Raffi (UNIBO)

FUNDIAB PRIN 2022

Giuseppe Bellelli (UNIMIB)
Stefano Volpato (UNIFE)
Angelo Scuteri (UNICA)



SOUL: Oral Semaglutide kidney outcomes by SGLT2i Use



Mann JFE et al. Diabetes Care, 2026

Comparative effectiveness of combination therapy with SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs compared with SGLT-2 inhibitors in individuals with type 2 diabetes: A prevalent new-user cohort study

RWD

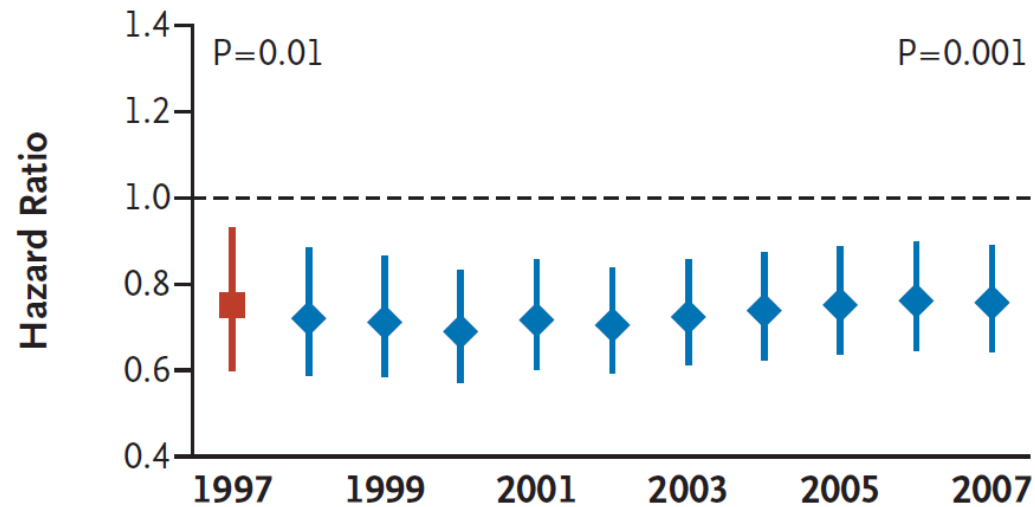
TABLE 2 Results for the primary and secondary outcomes for combination therapy with SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs compared with continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy after matching on hybrid exposure set and time-conditional propensity scores.

Outcome	Individuals, n	Events	Person-years	IR ^a (95% CI)	HR ^b (95% CI)
Primary outcome					
All-cause mortality					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	410	30 660	13.4 (12.1–14.7)	0.71 (0.63–0.80)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	868	46 626	18.6 (17.4–19.9)	Reference
Secondary outcomes					
Modified cardiovascular composite					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	740	30 279	24.4 (22.7–26.3)	0.81 (0.74–0.88)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	1372	45 877	29.9 (28.3–31.5)	Reference
Myocardial infarction					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	190	30 447	6.2 (5.4–7.2)	0.95 (0.79–1.14)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	302	46 264	6.5 (5.8–7.3)	Reference
Stroke					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	187	30 488	6.1 (5.3–7.1)	0.86 (0.72–1.04)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	319	46 234	6.9 (6.2–7.7)	Reference
Heart failure					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	304	30 421	10.0 (8.9–11.2)	0.78 (0.68–0.89)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	562	46 073	12.2 (11.2–13.2)	Reference
Nephropathy					
Combination therapy (SGLT-2 inhibitors and GLP-1 RAs)	21 664	32	30 629	1.0 (0.7–1.5)	1.23 (0.76–1.99)
Continued SGLT-2 inhibitor therapy	21 664	36	46 600	0.8 (0.5–1.1)	Reference

UKPDS: un controllo glicemico precoce ed intensivo riduce il rischio di complicanze croniche a lungo termine nel DMT2

Effetto legacy

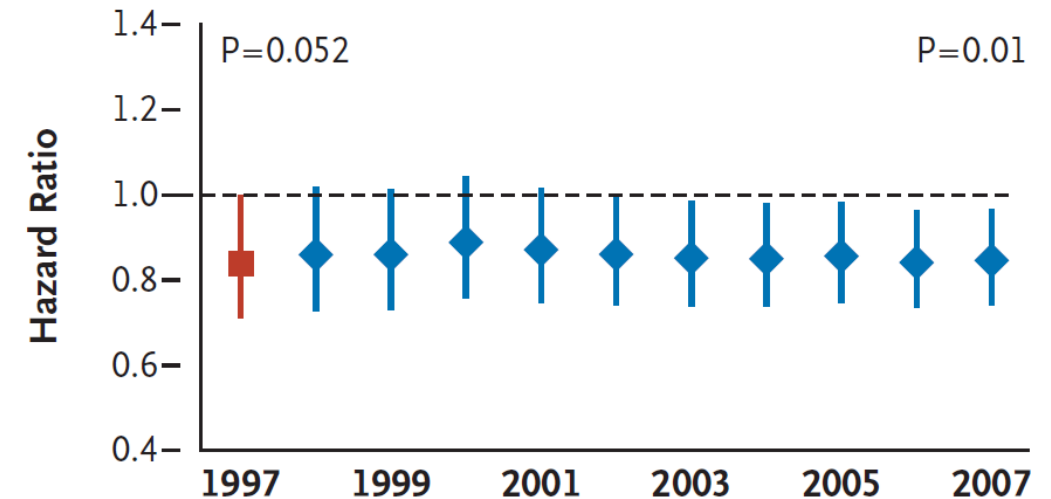
E Microvascular Disease



No. of Events

Conventional therapy	121	155	187	205	212	222
Sulfonylurea-insulin	225	277	338	378	406	429

C Myocardial Infarction



No. of Events

Conventional therapy	186	212	239	271	296	319
Sulfonylurea-insulin	387	450	513	573	636	678

Timing of cardiovascular protection

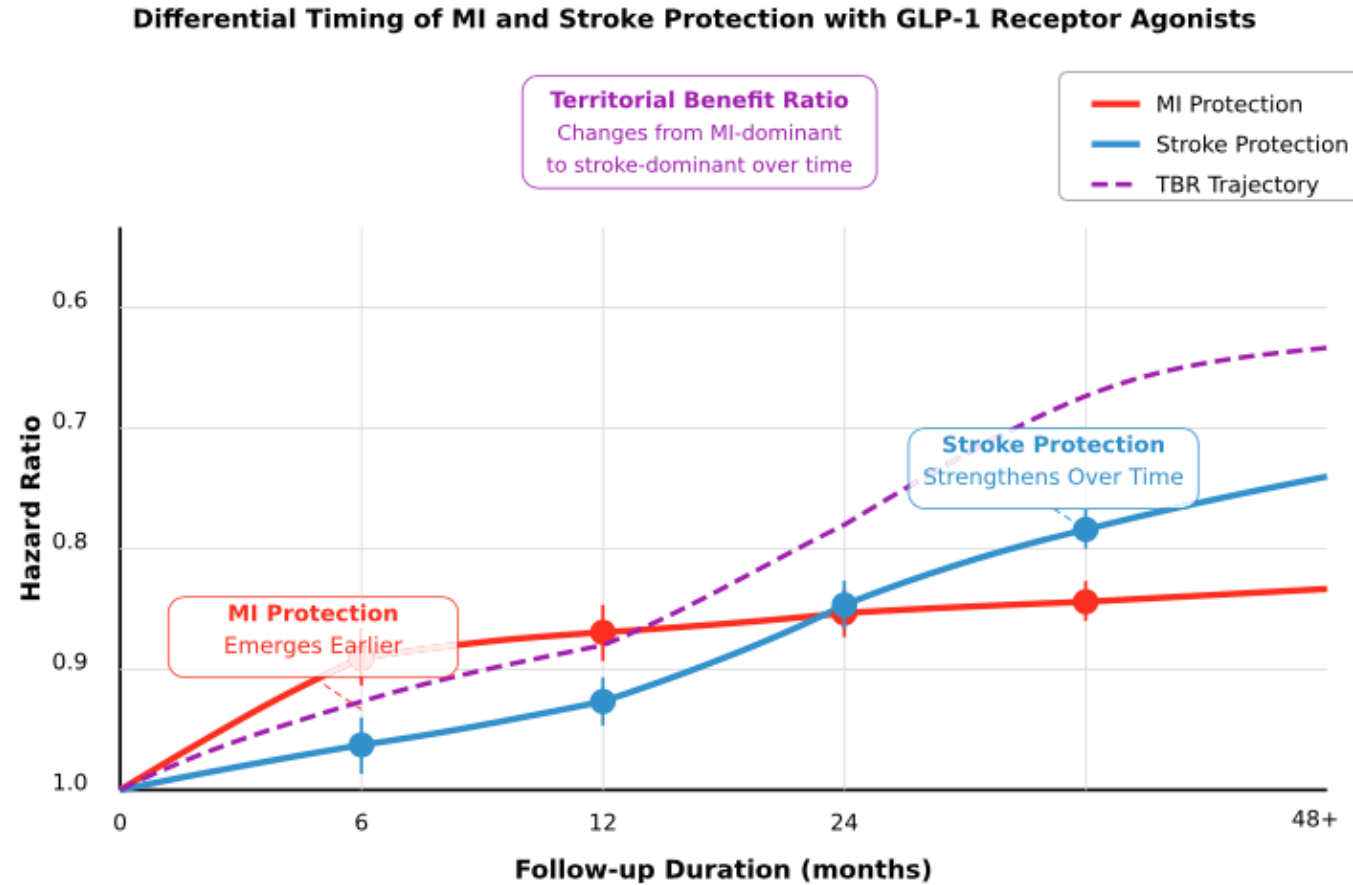


FIGURE 2 Differential timing of myocardial infarction and stroke protection with GLP-1 receptor agonists.

Definition of prediabetes

Diabetologia

Table 1 Definitions of prediabetes

Definition	ADA Prediabetes	WHO Intermediate hyperglycaemia	IDF IFG, IGT
IFG			
FPG in mmol/l	5.6–6.9	6.1–6.9	6.1–6.9
FPG in mg/dl	100–125	110–125	110–125
IGT			
2 h PG in mmol/l	7.8–11.0	7.8–11.0	7.8–11.0
2 h PG in mg/dl	140–199	140–199	140–199
HbA _{1c}			
mmol/mol	39–47		–
%	5.7–6.4		–

2 h PG, 2 h plasma glucose during 75 g OGTT; FPG, fasting plasma glucose

What is the key question?

- Is prediabetes associated with health outcomes, and how strong is the certainty of evidence?

Prediabetes and risk of mortality, diabetes-related complications and comorbidities: umbrella review of meta-analyses of prospective studies

Sabrina Schlesinger^{1,2}  · Manuela Neuenschwander^{1,2}  · Janett Barbaresko¹  · Alexander Lang¹ · Haifa Maalmi^{2,3}  · Wolfgang Rathmann^{1,2}  · Michael Roden^{2,3,4}  · Christian Herder^{2,3,4} 

Conclusions Prediabetes was associated with a higher relative risk of all-cause mortality and higher incidences of CV events, CHD, stroke, heart failure, atrial fibrillation, chronic kidney disease, total cancer, liver cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, breast cancer and all-cause dementia with moderate certainty of evidence. Effect estimates were lower than comparable effect estimates for type 2 diabetes as exposure, suggesting a dose–response gradient in the relationship with complications.

Schlesinger S et al Diabetologia, 2021

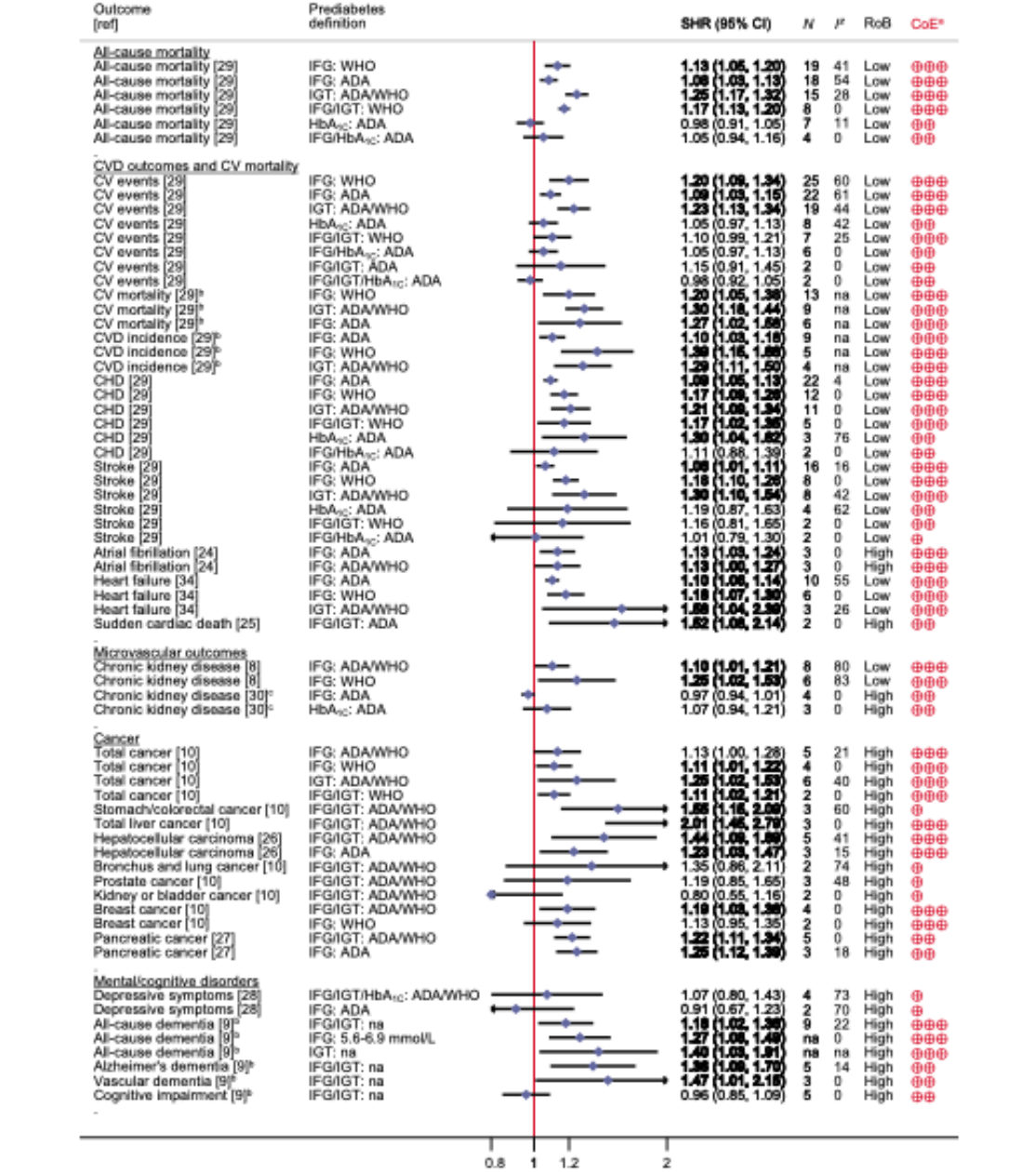


Fig. 2 Associations between prediabetes and risk of diabetes-related complications, comorbidities and mortality among the general population. *Interpretation of the certainty of evidence is denoted by crossed circles: four symbols, high; three symbols, moderate; two symbols, low; and one symbol, very low. ^bCould not be recalculated because of missing information. ^cIndividuals with diabetes at follow-up were excluded. Boldface indicates that the 95% CI does not include the null value and findings are precisely estimated. CoE, certainty of evidence; CV, cardiovascular; N, number of primary studies; na, not available; RoB, risk of bias

Glycated Hemoglobin, Prediabetes, and the Links to Cardiovascular Disease: Data From UK Biobank

Diabetes Care 2020;43:440–445 | <https://doi.org/10.2337/dc19-1683>

Claire Welsh,¹ Paul Welsh,¹
Carlos A. Celis-Morales,¹ Patrick B. Mark,¹
Daniel Mackay,² Nazim Ghouri,¹
Fredrick K. Ho,² Lyn D. Ferguson,¹
Rosemary Brown,¹ James Lewsey,²
John G. Cleland,² Stuart R. Gray,¹
Donald M. Lyall,² Jana J. Anderson,²
Pardeep S. Jhund,¹ Jill P. Pell,²
Darren K. McGuire,³ Jason M.R. Gill,¹ and
Naveed Sattar¹

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODS

UK Biobank participants without baseline CVD or known diabetes ($n = 357,833$) were included. Associations of HbA_{1c} with CVD was assessed using Cox models adjusting for classical risk factors. Predictive utility was determined by the C-index and net reclassification index (NRI). A separate analysis was conducted in 16,596 participants with known baseline diabetes.

In conclusion, in this very large well-phenotyped cohort with central laboratory assessment of HbA_{1c}, we show that HbA_{1c} minimally improves CVD risk prediction in patients without diabetes. The same is also true for the subset with prediabetes. The near twofold higher unadjusted risk for CVD in prediabetes is driven mainly by abnormal levels of conventional CVD risk factors. As such, and as recommended (14), this group would benefit from lifestyle advice to prevent diabetes and from having all conventional CVD risk factors assessed and, where relevant, treated.

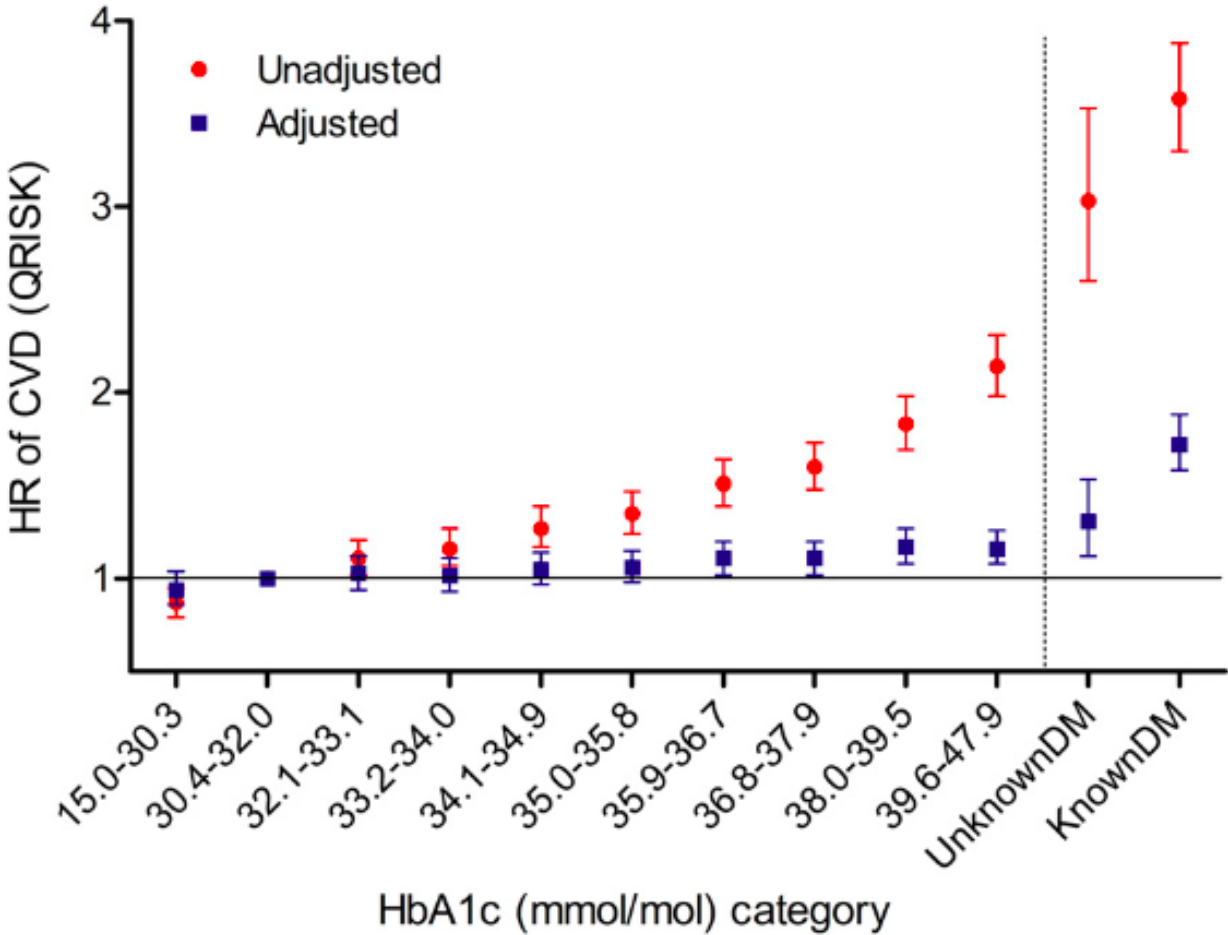


Figure 1—Unadjusted and adjusted (for QRISK3 risk factors) HRs of composite fatal/nonfatal CVD by deciles of baseline HbA_{1c} in those without baseline diabetes ($n = 355,260$) and in participants with undiagnosed diabetes ($n = 2,573$) or diagnosed diabetes ($n = 16,596$). For simplicity, categories are depicted only as mmol/mol. The dashed line represents ≥ 48 mmol/mol (6.5%). Please note all results referent to decile 2 (30.4–32.0 mmol/mol).

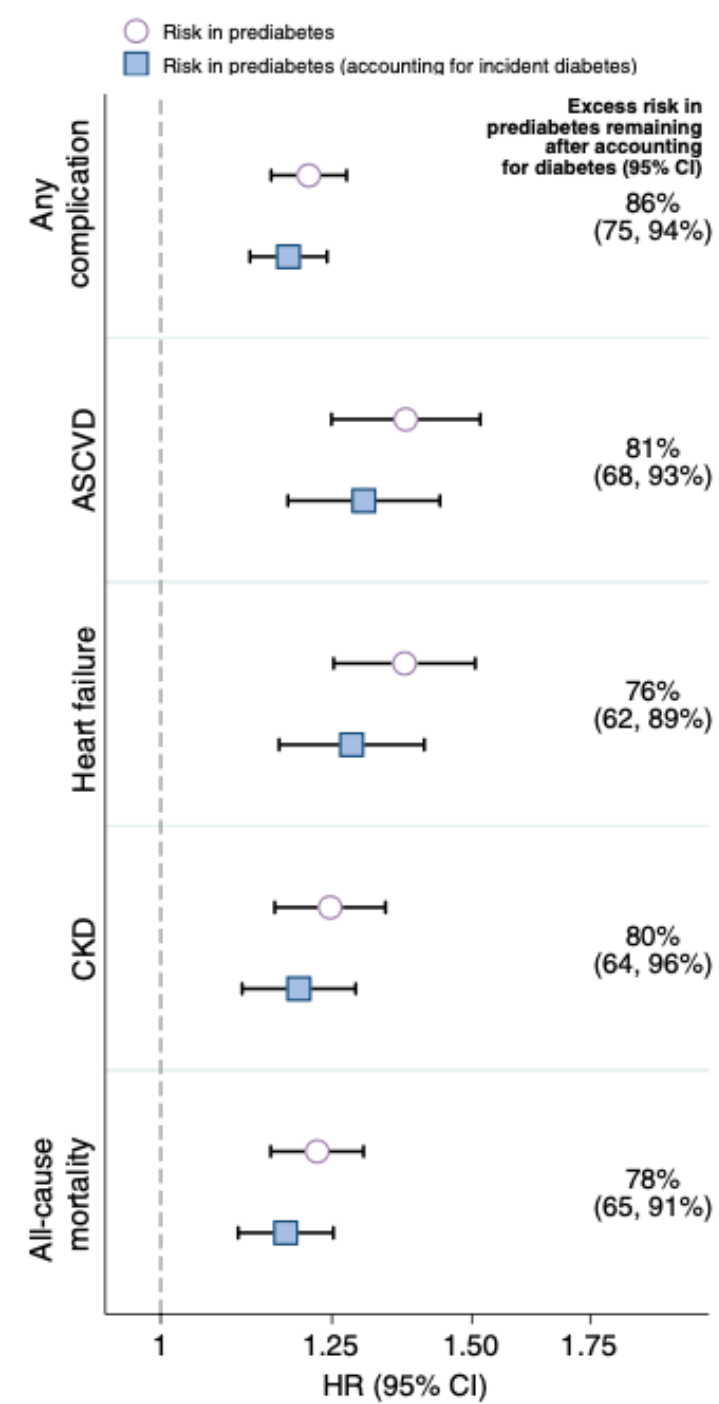
Prediabetes is associated with elevated risk of clinical outcomes even without progression to diabetes

Mary R. Rooney^{1,2}  · Amelia S. Wallace^{1,2} · Justin B. Echouffo Tcheugui^{2,3} · Michael Fang^{1,2} · Jiaqi Hu^{1,2,4}  · Pamela L. Lutsey⁵ · Morgan E. Grams⁶ · Josef Coresh⁷ · Elizabeth Selvin^{1,2}

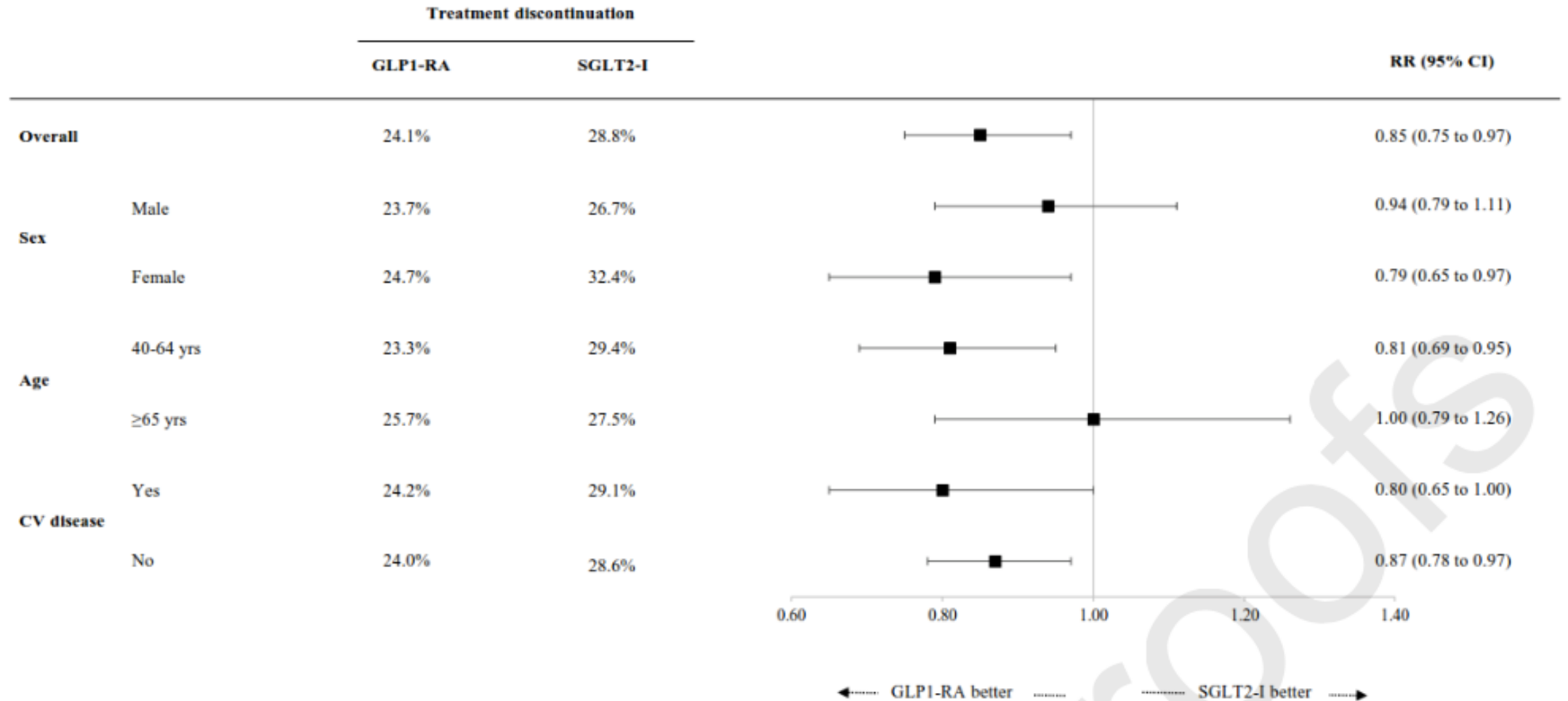
10310 participants from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study without diabetes at baseline (1990–1992)

Follow-up: 30 years

For the first time analysis was adjusted for incident diabetes



High discontinuation rate

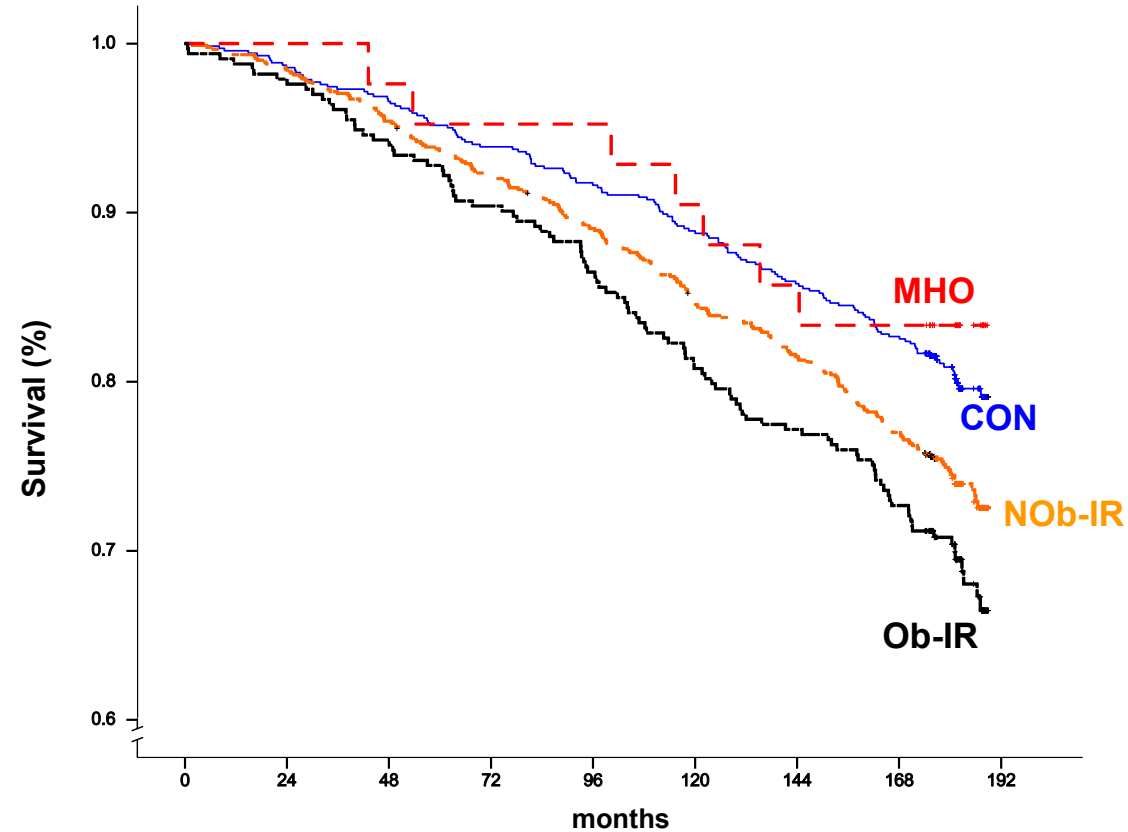


Prognosis of obese metabolically-healthy individuals the Cremona Study

All-cause
mortality

The total number of deaths
after 15 years was 495

CVD: 221
cancer: 180



Non-obese insulin sensitive (CON)	708	693	679	662	645	625	603	581	366
Non-obese insulin resistant (NOb-IR)	923	899	872	841	812	769	741	699	462
Metabolically healthy obese (MHO)	43	43	41	40	40	38	35	35	27
Obese insulin resistant (Ob-IR)	337	325	313	301	288	269	257	242	171

obese insulin-resistant (HR: 1.37; 95% CI: 1.09-1.72; P=0.01)
obese metabolically healthy (HR: 0.98; 95% CI: 0.46-2.07; P=0.95)

Calori G et al Diabetes Care, 2011

Relationship of DM Duration and HR for CVD Events with Intensive Therapy

