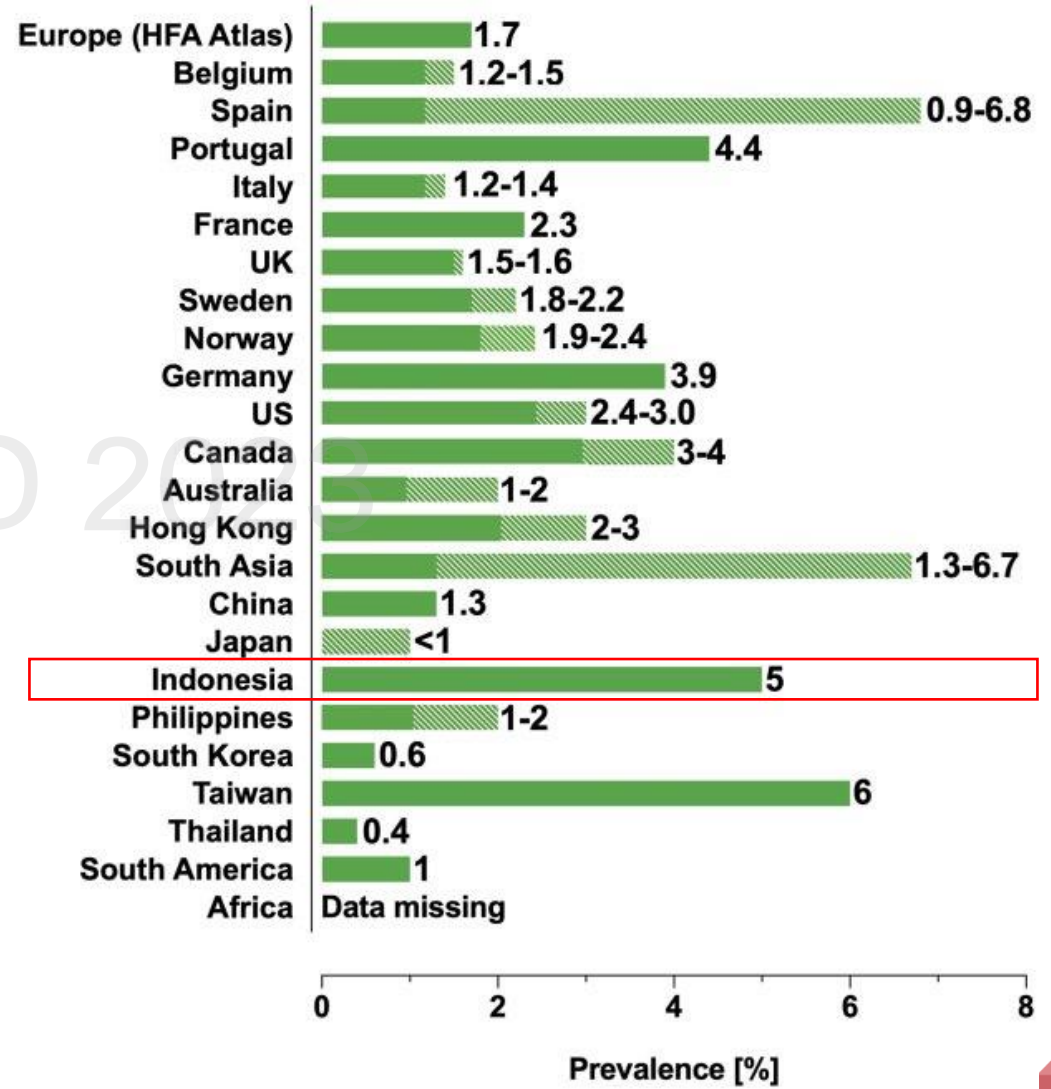
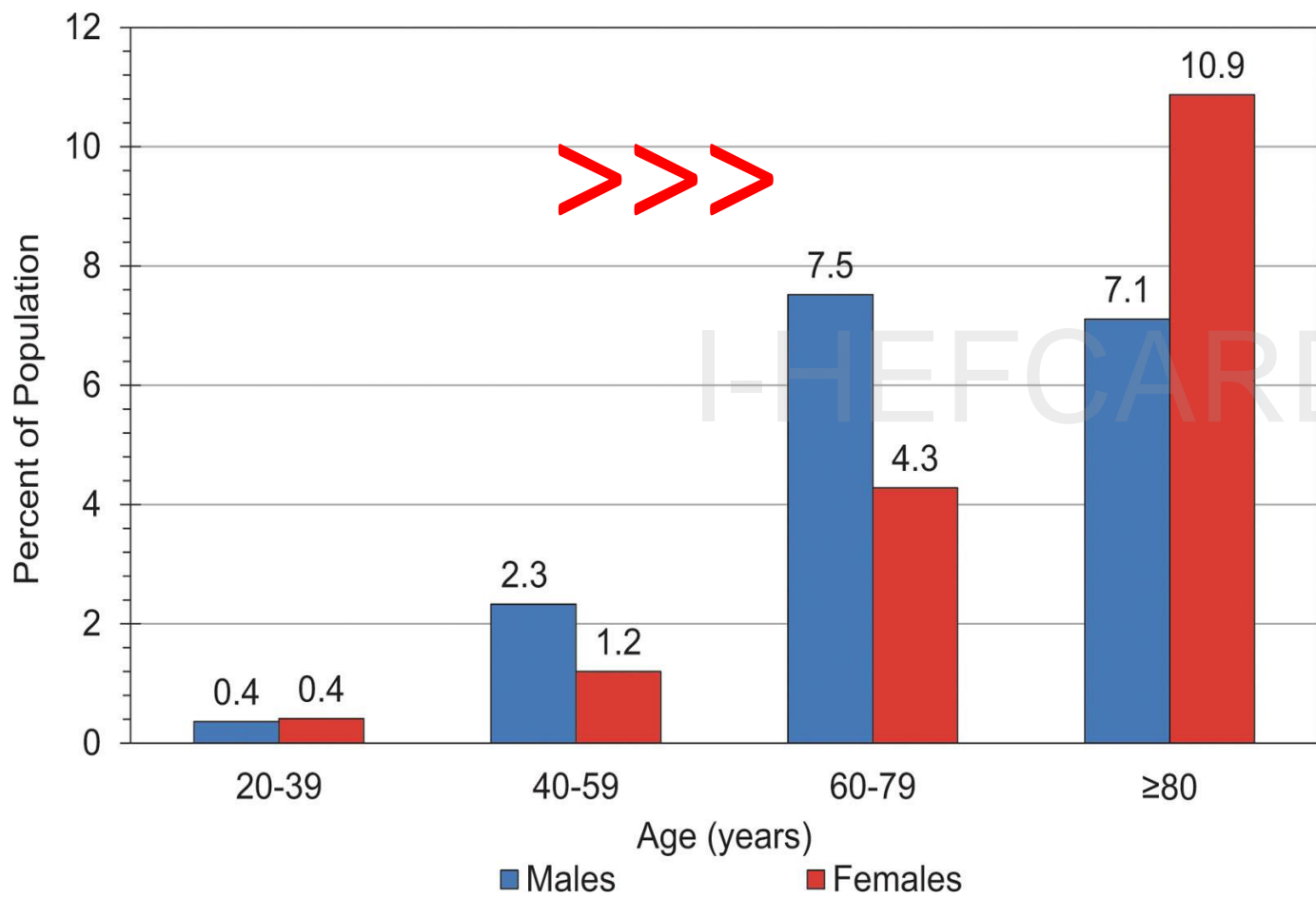




# Encountering Heart Failure Patients with Frailty

**Putri Handayani, MD, FIHA**

# Epidemiology of Heart Failure: Lifetime Risk and Projected Rise in The Incidence and Prevalence



# The goals of treatment in patients with HF



## To make patients feel better

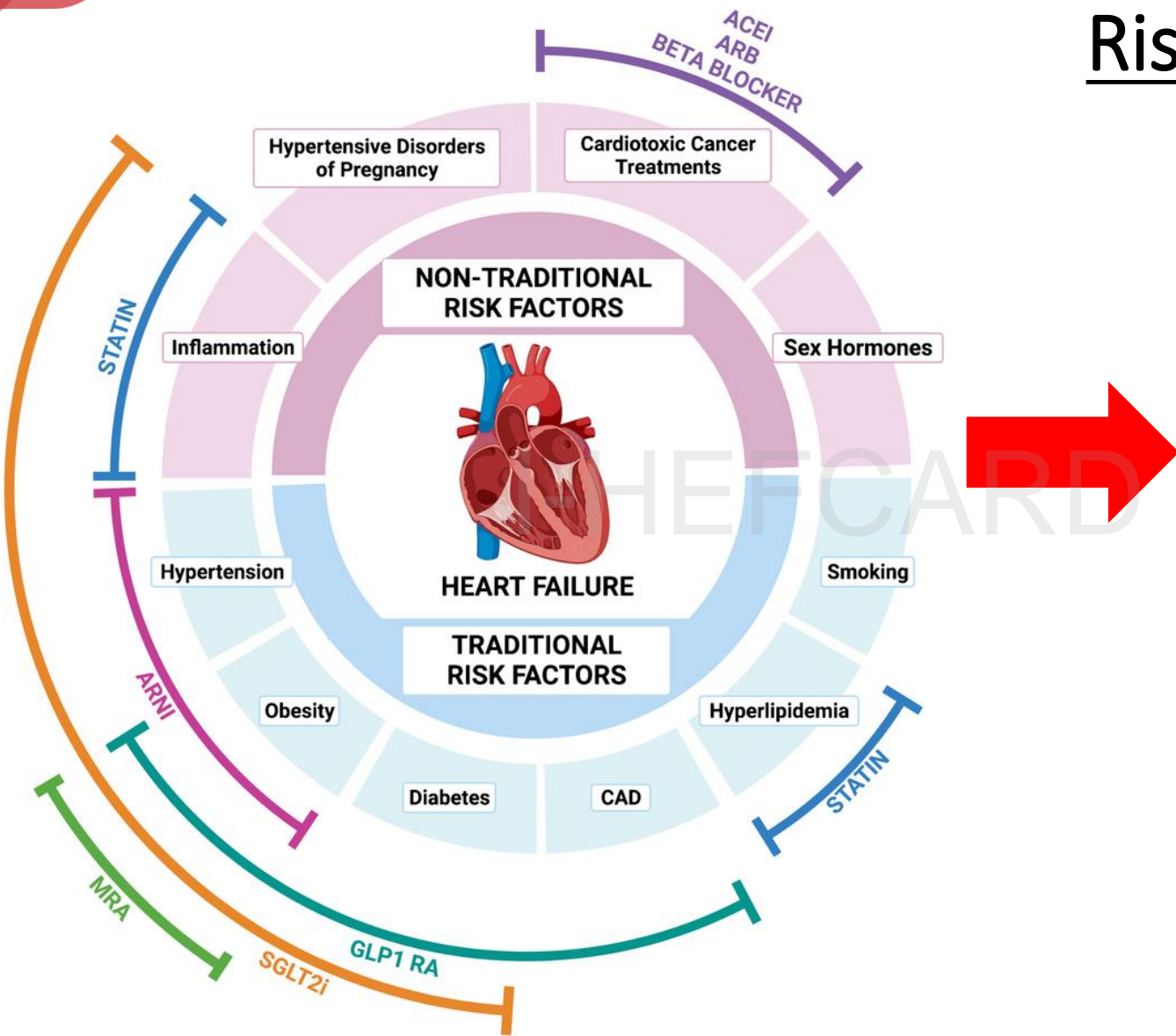


## To prevent disease progression



# To make patients live longer

# Risk Factors of Heart Failure



NON-MODIFIABLE



Advanced age



Family history



Gender



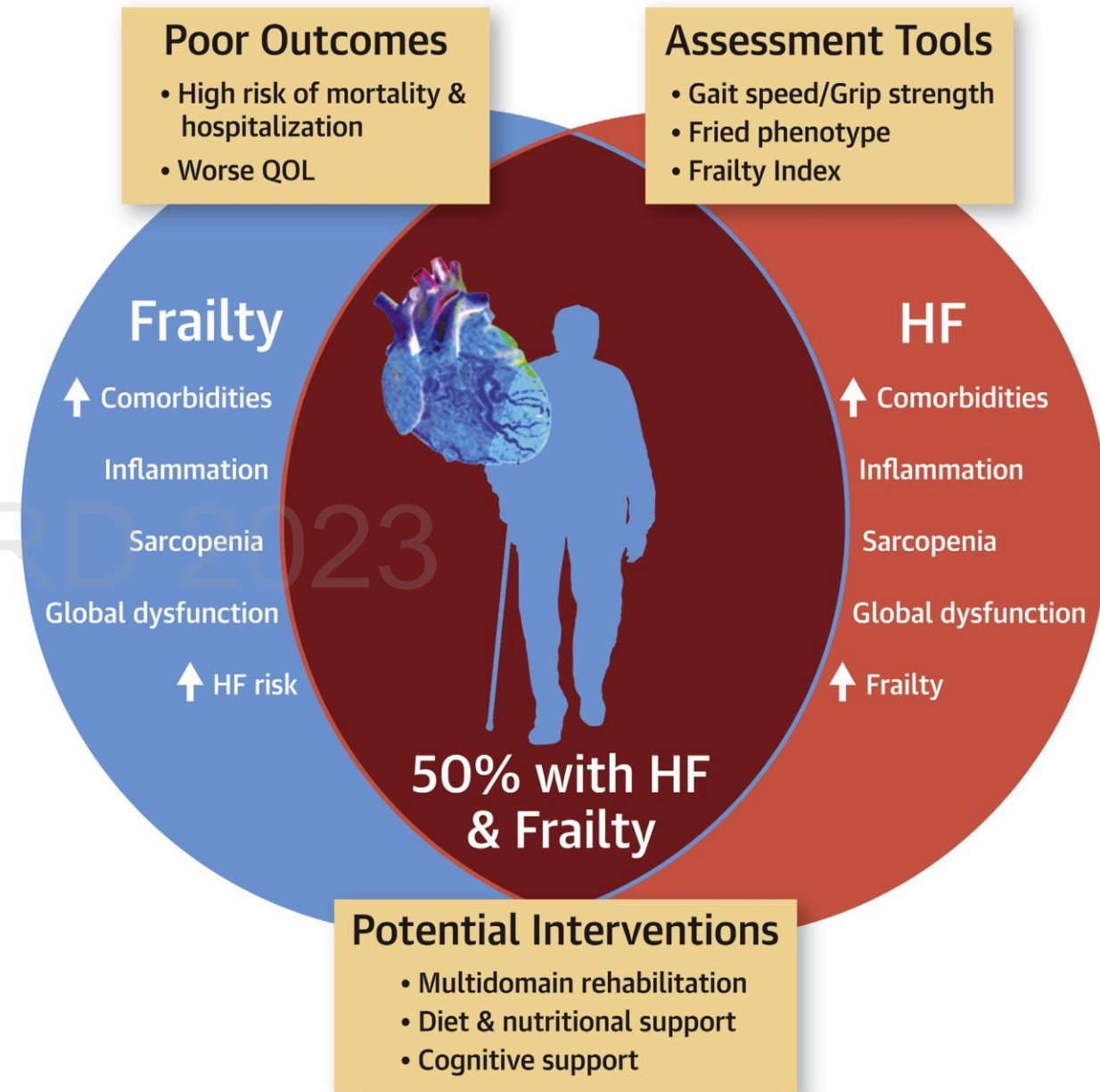
History of heart diseases

Everitt IK et al. Current atherosclerosis reports. 2022



# Elderly Patients with HF

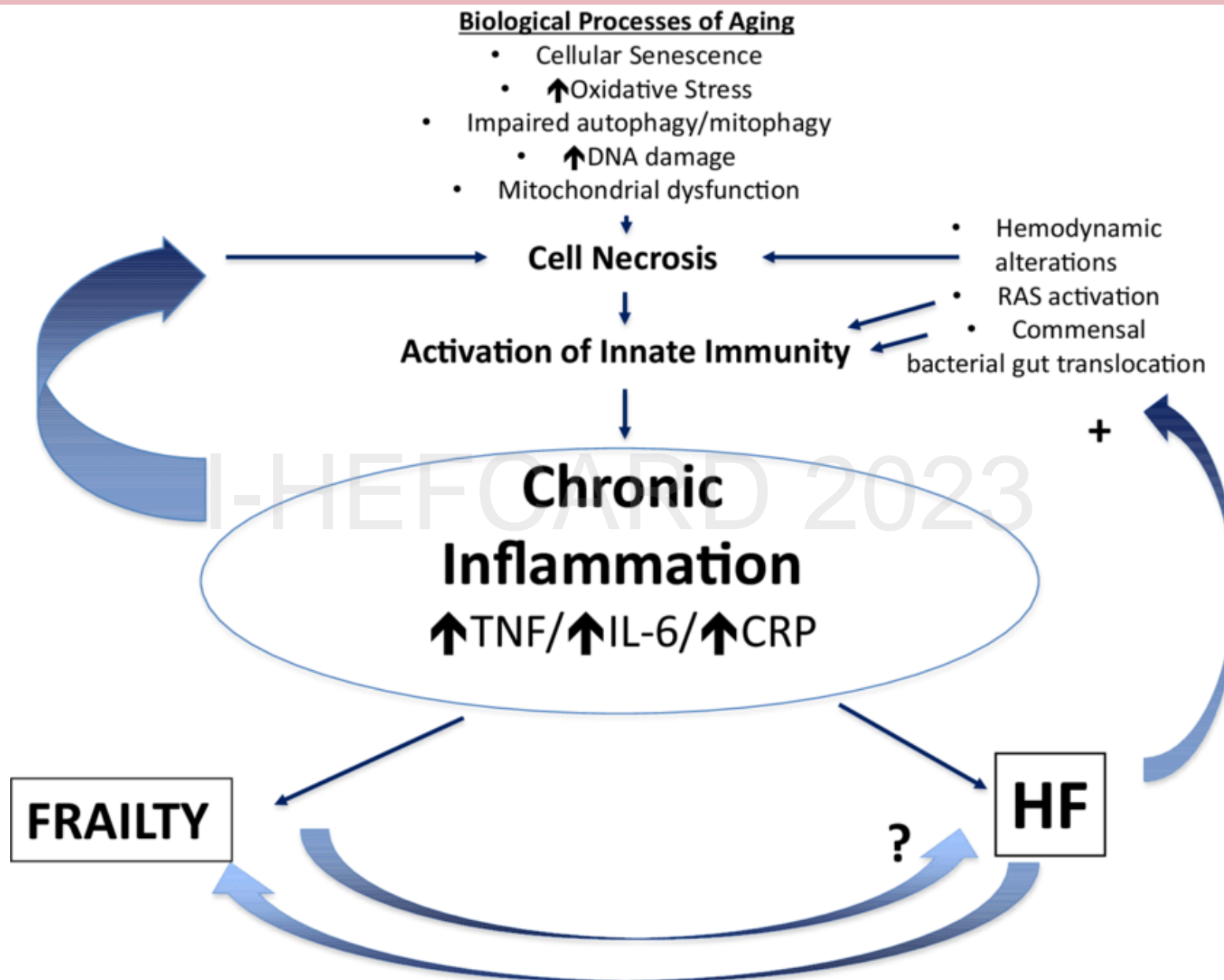
- In patients with HF, **age is associated with frailty**; leading to increased risk of cardiovascular events and mortality during short and long term follow-up
  - The imbalance between the anabolic and catabolic state in HF → **accelerate frailty**.
  - **Up to 79%** HF patients are frail and **up to 6x more** likely to be frail than the general population
- Elderly patients with HF often present with **complex comorbidities and poly-pharmacy**
- The clinical decision-making process required in these patients may be very challenging



<sup>1</sup>Butt JH et al. Journal of American College of Cardiology. 2022

<sup>2</sup>Vitale C, et al. Cardiac failure review. 2018

Pandey, A. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol HF. 2019



**Figure 1** (A) Schematic mechanisms of frailty in aging. Maximum functional capacity (blue line) decreases with age, as well as functional reserve. Frailty occurs when maximum functional capacity decreases below the level required under stressful conditions (arrow 2). In young individuals, functional capacity is sufficient to overcome stressful conditions. The slope of functional decline varies among individuals. Persons with slower decline experience successful aging and are not frail (green line, arrow 3) and those with steeper decline experience accelerated aging and greater frailty (red line and arrow 1). (B) Heart failure (HF) may alter functional capacity through a decrease functional reserve and an increase frailty (arrows 4 and 5). The effects of acute HF on frailty might be reversible after recovery.

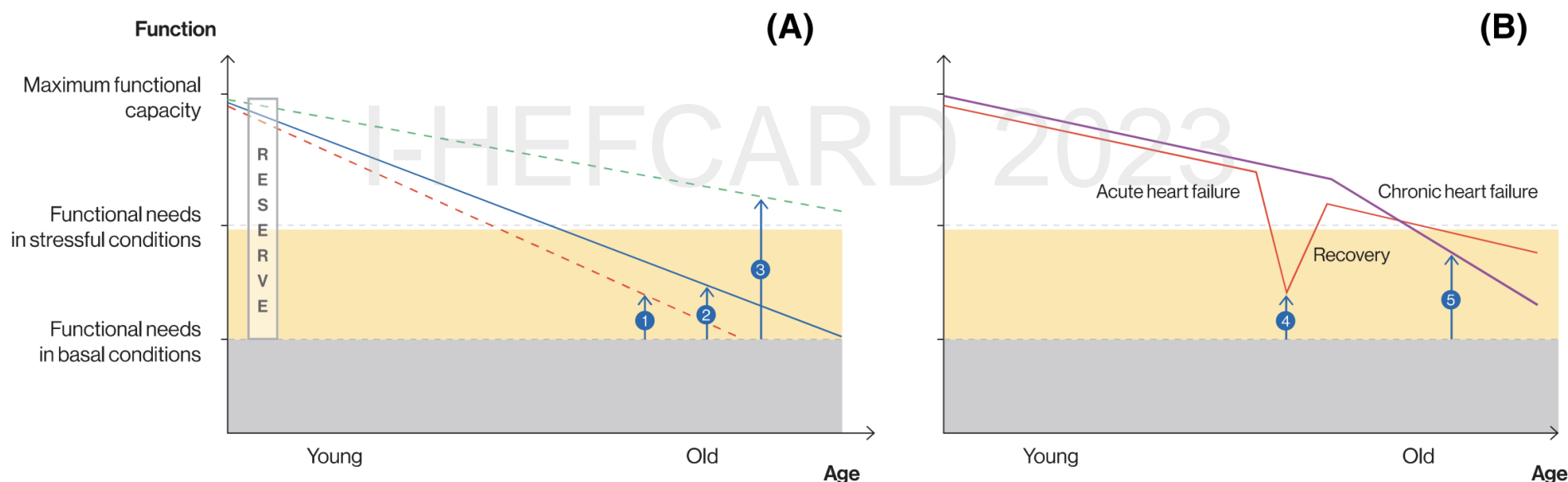
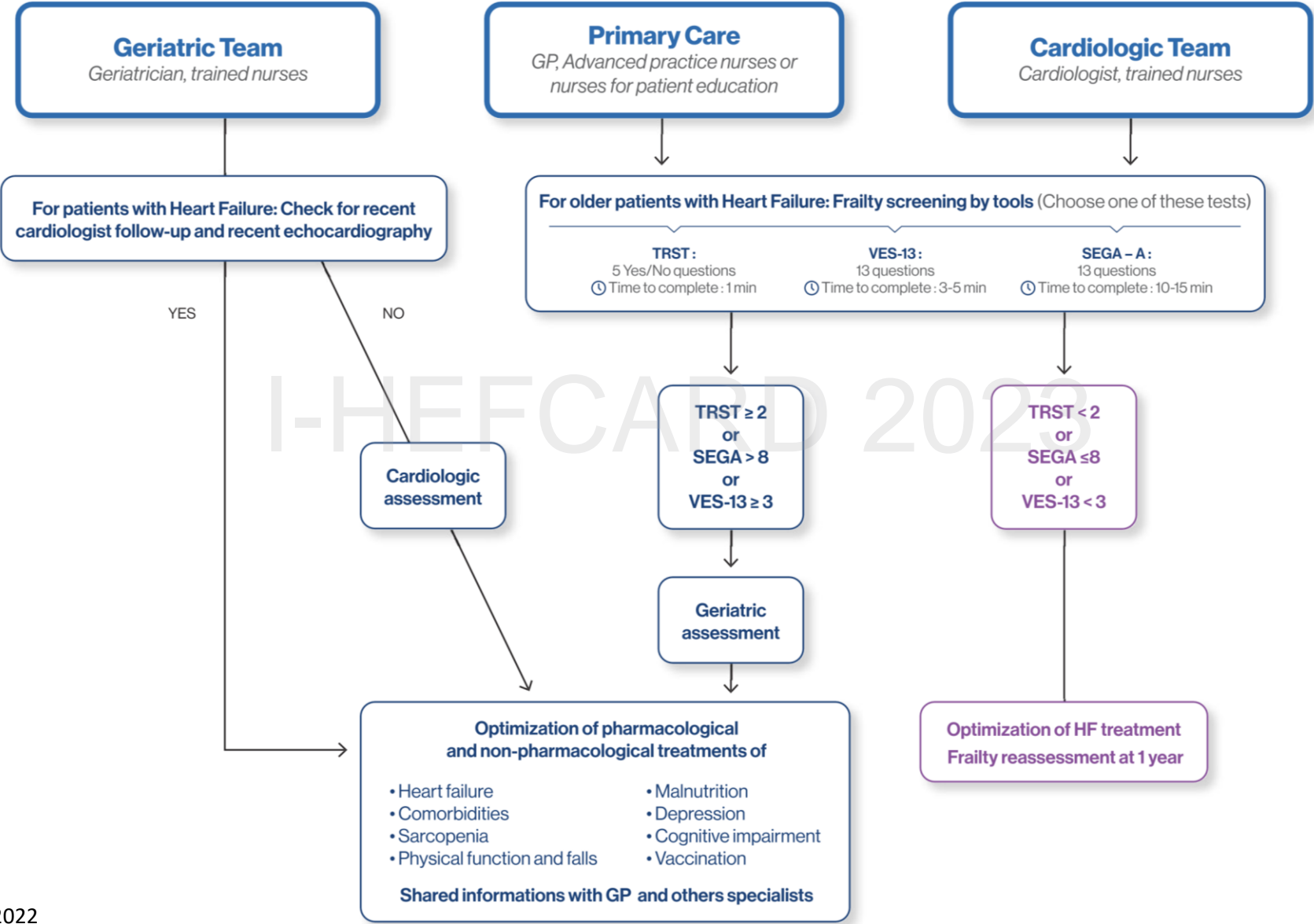


Figure 2 Collaborative care for older patients with HF.





**Table 2** Details and predictive values of frailty screening tools: TRST, SEGA-A, and VES-13

	SEGA A	VES-13	TRST
Type of instrument	Patient assessment	Questionnaire for patients or caregivers (face-to-face or telephone interview)	Patient assessment
Duration (min)	10	3–5	1–5
Number of items	13	13	5
Type of items	Age Drugs Mood Self-perception of health Falls Nutritional status Co-morbidities Incontinence Need of help for daily living activities Cognitive function	Age Self-perception of health Difficulties for 6 physical activities Limitation for 5 activities of daily living due to health problems	History or evidence of cognitive impairment Recent hospitalization or emergency visit Gait disturbances or falls Use of 5 drugs or more Independence for activities of daily living performed by a nurse, elder abuse, substance abuse, medication non-compliance
Items Scoring and Scale Threshold	Three-level Threshold > 8	Two to three-level Threshold ≥ 3	Two-level Threshold ≥ 2
Context of care of validation	Emergency, hospitalization	Community dwelling elders in primary care, hospitalization, surgery and cancer patients, emergency, inpatients of cardiology ward*	Emergency, hospitalization
Predictive values (Se, Spe) for			
Mortality	Yes <sup>45</sup>	Yes (Se: 87%, Sp: 47%) <sup>42</sup>	Yes
Institutionalization	Yes	Yes (Se: 92%, Sp: 50%) <sup>42</sup>	No
Hospitalization	Yes	No	Yes (Se: 83%, Sp: 32%) <sup>48</sup>
Functional decline	Yes	Yes (Se: 91%, Sp: 59%) <sup>42</sup>	Yes (Se: 66%, Sp: 47%) <sup>48</sup>
Strengths	Multiple predictive outcomes	Validated in numerous different settings Rapid screening tool	Simple 5 questions Short screening tool
Limitations	Require a longer time to complete	Sensitivity and specificity are unknown to predict risk of hospitalization	Sensitivity and specificity are unknown to predict risk of institutionalization

TRST, Triage Risk Screening Tool; SEGA, Short Emergency Geriatric Assessment); VES13, Vulnerable Elders Survey-13; Se, Sensitivity; Spe, Specificity.

**TABLE 4** Baseline Characteristics of Frail Vs. Non-Frail HF Patients Categorized According to Different Frailty Assessment Tools

	Frailty Assessment in Patients With HF (n = 467)									Missing
	Fried			DI			EFS			
	Non-Frail (n = 223)	Frail (n = 244)	p Value	Non-Frail (n = 302)	Frail (n = 165)	p Value	Non-Frail (n = 327)	Frail (n = 140)	p Value	
Demographics										
Age, yrs	72 (64–78)	80 (74–84)	<0.001	74 (66–80)	80 (74–85)	<0.001	74 (66–80)	80 (75–85)	<0.001	0
Male	165 (74)	148 (61)	0.002	214 (71)	99 (60)	0.02	224 (69)	89 (64)	0.30	0
HR, beats/min	70 (61–77)	71 (60–82)	0.14	70 (60–80)	70 (62–82)	0.80	70 (60–79)	70 (61–83)	0.21	0
BP systolic, mm Hg	140 (125–157)	138 (126–166)	0.17	140 (125–158)	137 (128–167)	0.15	141 (126–162)	137 (125–162)	0.79	0
BP diastolic, mm Hg	74 (67–83)	75 (65–83)	0.35	75 (67–83)	74 (65–83)	0.43	75 (67–83)	73 (64–82)	0.02	0
NYHA functional class III/IV	18 (8)	85 (35)	<0.001	40 (13)	63 (38)	<0.001	44 (14)	59 (42)	<0.001	0
HFrEF	153 (69)	138 (57)	0.007	201 (67)	90 (54)	0.10	212 (65)	79 (56)	0.09	0
HFnEF	70 (31)	106 (43)		101 (33)	75 (46)		115 (35)	61 (44)		0
Height, m	1.70 (1.64–1.76)	1.66 (1.59–1.74)	<0.001	1.70 (1.63–1.75)	1.65 (1.59–1.74)	0.001	1.69 (1.62–1.75)	1.65 (1.59–1.74)	0.003	0
Weight, kg	86 (74–102)	79 (66–96)	0.006	84 (72–99)	78 (66–97)	0.05	84 (72–99)	78 (64–97)	0.003	0
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	29.4 (26.0–33.3)	28.7 (24.4–32.8)	0.15	29.1 (25.6–33.2)	28.8 (24.3–33.1)	0.52	29.1 (25.8–33.3)	28.6 (23.6–32.7)	0.07	0
Comorbidities										
Charlson score	7 (5–9)	9 (8–11)	<0.001	7 (5–9)	10 (9–12)	<0.001	8 (6–9)	10 (8–12)	<0.001	0
MI	98 (44)	100 (41)	0.52	121 (40)	77 (47)	0.17	142 (43)	56 (40)	0.49	0
PVD	28 (13)	44 (18)	0.10	34 (11)	38 (23)	0.001	42 (13)	30 (21)	0.02	0
HTN	139 (62)	174 (71)	0.04	192 (64)	121 (73)	0.03	221 (68)	92 (66)	0.69	0
CVA/TIA	22 (10)	49 (20)	0.002	26 (9)	45 (27)	<0.001	37 (11)	34 (24)	<0.001	0
Diabetes	69 (31)	94 (39)	0.05	90 (30)	73 (44)	0.002	106 (33)	57 (41)	0.21	0
Dementia	4 (2)	44 (18)	<0.001	8 (3)	40 (24)	<0.001	5 (2)	43 (31)	<0.001	0
COPD	47 (21)	93 (38)	<0.001	73 (24)	67 (41)	<0.001	78 (24)	62 (44)	<0.001	0
Depression	28 (13)	65 (27)	<0.001	42 (14)	51 (31)	<0.001	48 (15)	45 (32)	<0.001	0
Anemia	77 (35)	141 (58)	<0.001	110 (36)	108 (66)	<0.001	126 (39)	92 (66)	<0.001	0
Recurrent falls	32 (14)	141 (58)	<0.001	63 (21)	110 (67)	<0.001	83 (25)	90 (64)	<0.001	0
Incontinence	8 (4)	25 (10)	0.005	11 (4)	22 (13)	0.001	13 (4)	20 (14)	<0.001	0

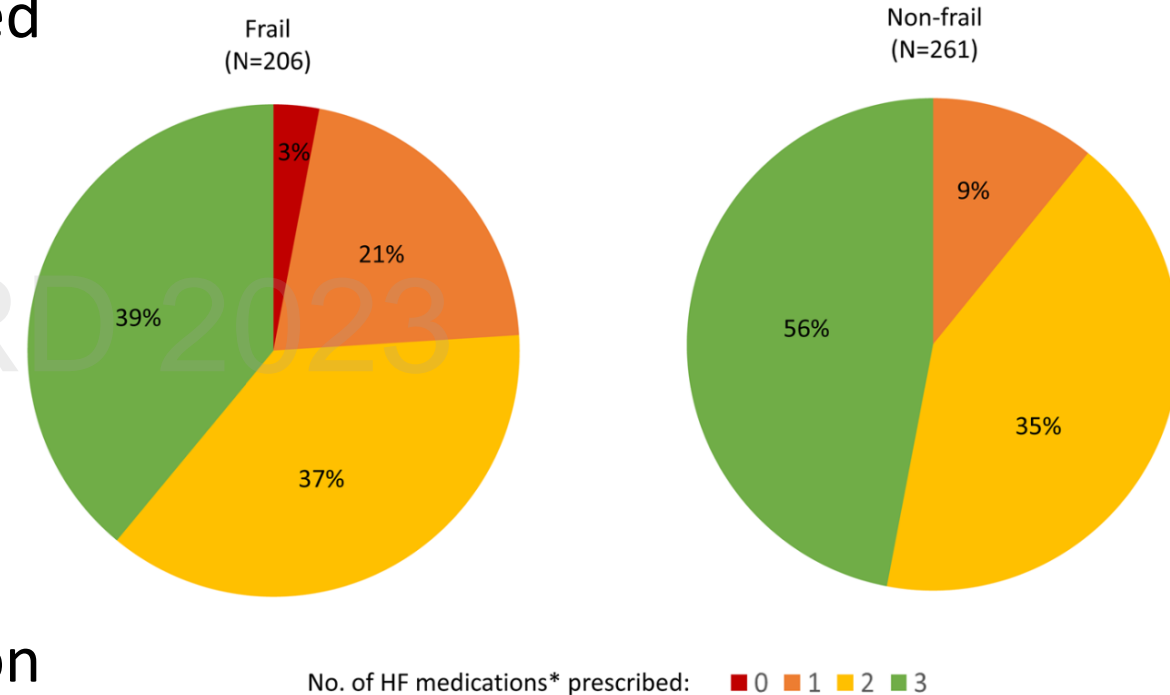
**TABLE 3** Prevalence of Frailty in Different Subgroups of Patients With CHF

	Frailty					
	Assessment Tools				Screening Tools	
	Fried (n = 250)	DI (n = 165)	EFS (n = 142)	CFS (n = 209)	AFN (n = 230)	DFI (n = 230)
Heart rhythm						
SR (n = 252)	46 (116)	32 (80)	25 (64)	39 (98)	40 (100)	43 (108)
AF (n = 215)	60 (128)	40 (85)	35 (76)	50 (108)	54 (117)	54 (116)
p value (SR vs. AF)	0.004	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.001	0.02
BMI categories, kg/m <sup>2</sup>						
<24.9 (n = 111)	60 (67)	41 (46)	41 (46)	53 (59)	62 (69)	64 (71)
25.0-29.9 (n = 158)	50 (79)	30 (48)	25 (39)	42 (66)	45 (71)	54 (86)
≥30 (n = 198)	50 (98)	36 (71)	28 (55)	41 (81)	39 (77)	34 (67)
p value (BMI categories)	0.15	0.17	0.009	0.09	<0.001	<0.001
HF phenotype						
HFrEF (n = 291)	47 (138)	31 (90)	27 (79)	40 (117)	39 (114)	42 (122)
HFpEF (n = 176)	60 (106)	43 (75)	35 (61)	51 (89)	59 (103)	58 (102)
p value (HFrEF vs. HFpEF)	0.007	0.01	0.09	0.03	<0.001	0.001
NYHA functional class						
I/II (n = 364)	44 (159)	28 (102)	22 (81)	35 (128)	40 (145)	42 (154)
III/IV (n = 103)	83 (85)	61 (63)	57 (59)	76 (78)	70 (72)	68 (70)
p value (I/II vs. III/IV)	<0.001					
NT-proBNP, ng/l						
<1,000 (n = 215)	41 (88)	26 (56)	22 (47)	33 (70)	32 (68)	35 (76)
1,000-2,000 (n = 108)	55 (59)	35 (38)	30 (32)	45 (49)	52 (56)	54 (58)
>2,000 (n = 144)	67 (97)	49 (71)	42 (61)	60 (87)	65 (93)	63 (90)
p value (NT-proBNP categories)	<0.001					

Among HF subtypes, the prevalence of frailty is higher in patients with chronic stable HFpEF versus HFrEF, with up to 60% to 90% of patients with HFpEF identified as frail.

# Common Problems with Medical Therapy of HF in The Elderly with Frailty

- ❖ **Underuse** and **under-dosage** of recommended pharmacotherapies with known mortality benefit
- ❖ **Comorbidities** are common, aggravate HF, complicate therapy and increase the total HF burden
- ❖ **Response** to diuretics, ACE inhibitors, b-blockers and/or positive inotropes may be diminished
- ❖ **Frailty and cognitive impairment** are common and lead to reduced compliance



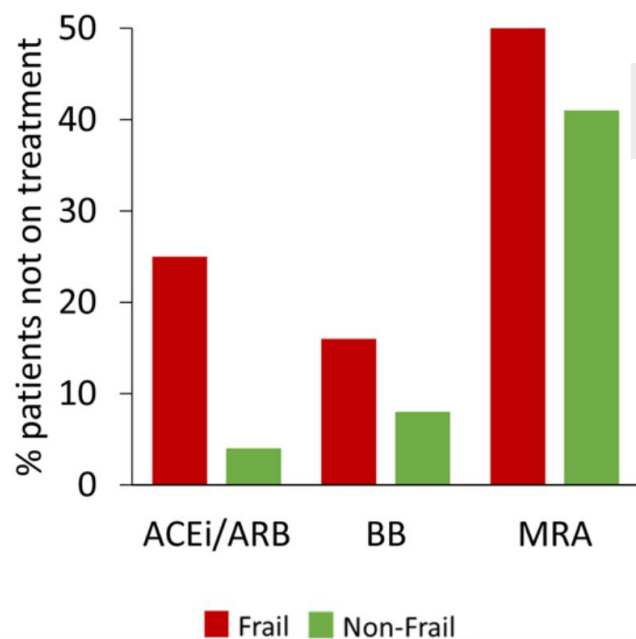
Number of HF medications prescribed for patients with HeFREF according to frailty status. \*HF medications refer to ACEi/ ARB, beta-blockers and MRA



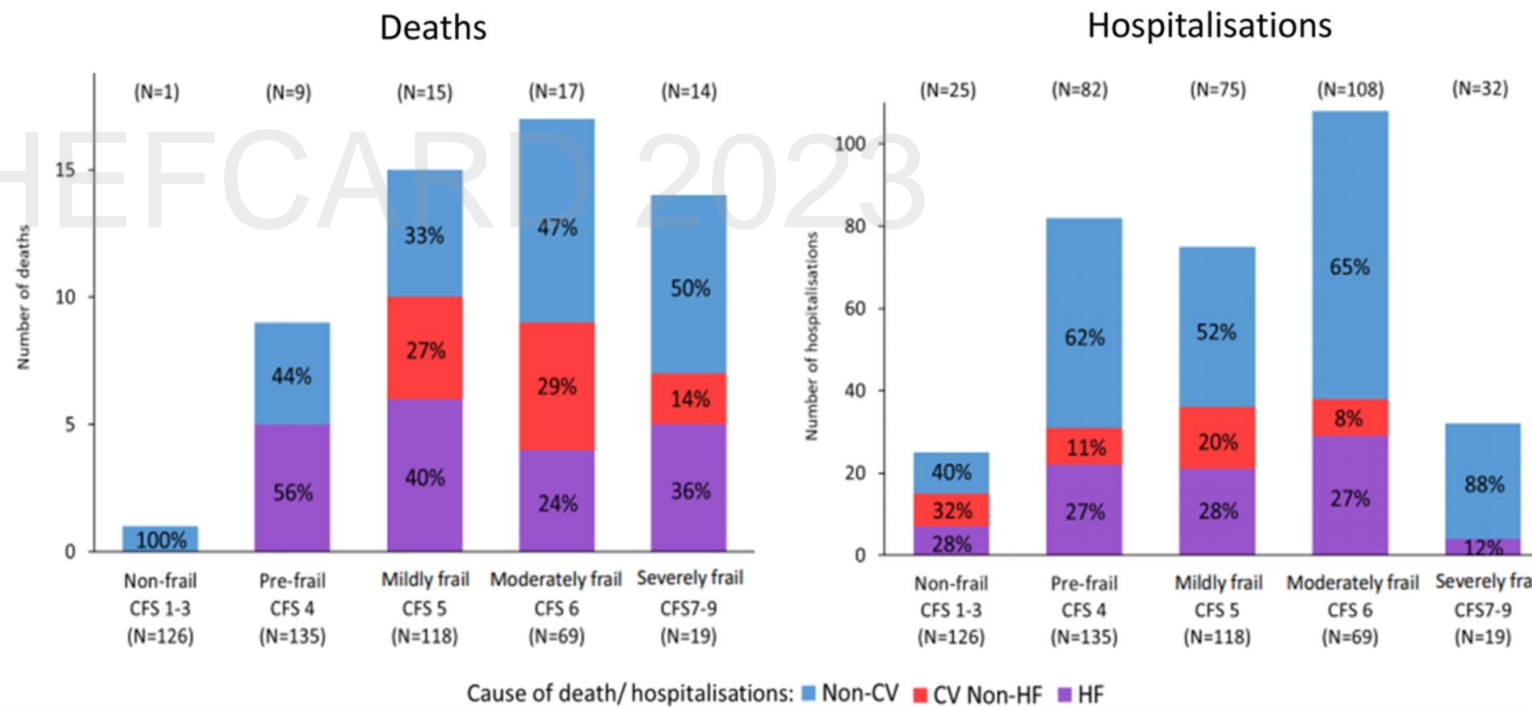
## How does frailty affect treatment, hospitalisation and death in patients with chronic heart failure ?

467 patients with CHF [median age 76 years, median NT-proBNP 1156 ng/L, **44% frail** (Clinical Frailty Scale >4)]

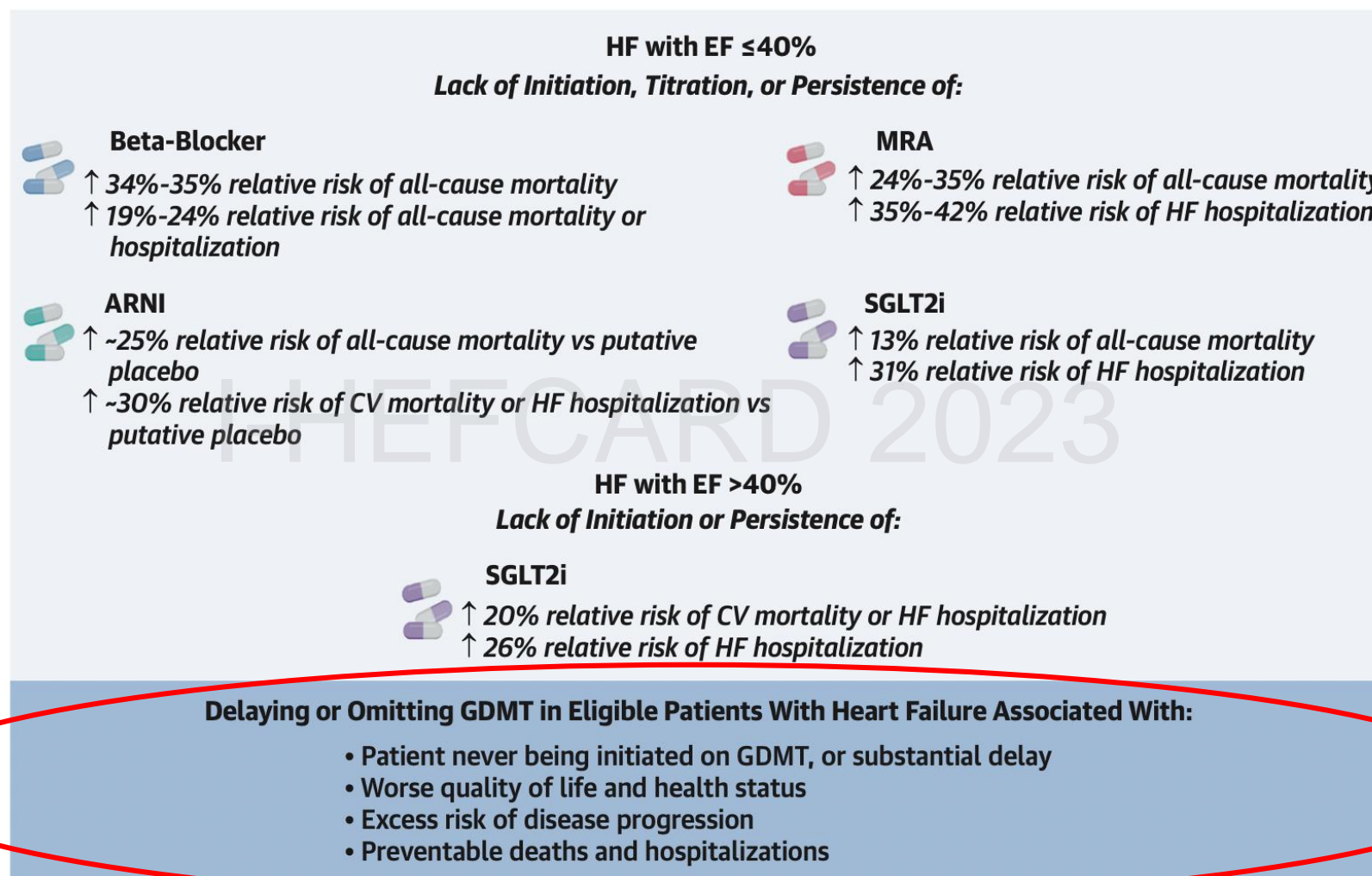
### Suboptimal medical treatment in those with reduced ejection fraction



### Higher deaths & hospitalisations at 1 year, most of which are non-cardiovascular



# The Risk of Delaying or Omitting GDMT in HF Patient



The risks of delaying or omitting guideline-directed medical therapy (GDMT) in eligible heart failure (HF) patients are substantial. ARNI = angiotensin receptor/neprilysin inhibitor; CV = cardiovascular; EF = ejection fraction; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; SGLT2i = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2 inhibitor.

## Case Illustration

- 76-year-old male
- NYHA fc II, last rehosp 2 mo before coming to Outpatient clin
- Loss follow up and control since COVID era
- History of ACS 2020 and PCI 2 stents LAD ( complete revasc )
- RF : ex smoker, HT
- Comorbidities : HT
- Current th/ :
  - Aspirin 80 mg
  - Atorvastatin 20 mg
  - Ramipril 5 mg
  - Digoxin 0.25 mg od
  - Bisoprolol 1. 25 mg (not routinely)
  - Spironolactone 25 mg
  - Furosemide 40 mg
  - ISDN 5 mg prn
- At OPC : BP 105/68 mmHg, HR 94 x/min, RR 22 x/min

Status NYHA fc II



## LAB Findings

- BW 65 kg
- Hb 12.4 g/dl
- Creatinin 1.3 mg/dl
- eGFR 57 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>
- HbA1c 6.2
- K 4.1 meq/L
- LDL 130 mg/dl

## ECG

- Sinus rhythm , rate 94 x/min
- Q wave at anterior

## Chest X Ray

- Cardiomegaly
- CTR 60%
- Cranialization (-)



# Echocardiography



LV EF 32% ( Simpson's Biplane )  
Regional Wall Motion Abnormality (+)  
Mild MR and TR  
Normal RV systolic fc  
Grade I diastolic dysfunction

## Diagnosis :

- Stage C HFrEF / CHF ec CAD
- History of ACS
- NYHA fc II

## Issues :

- HFrEF despite complete revasc
- Prior rehosp
- Unoptimal GDMT
- Elderly

# Question 1

**What did the Guidelines say ?**

## FOUR PILLARS OF HF TREATMENT

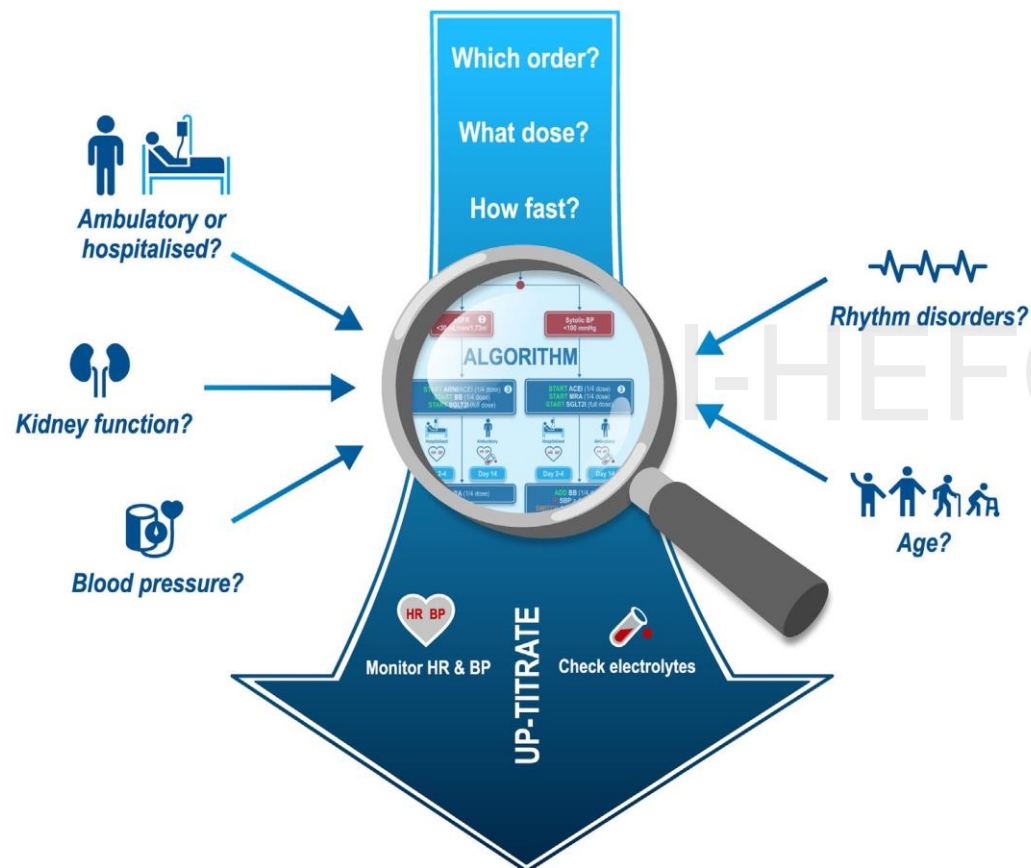
ARNI  
ACEI

BB

SGLT2i

MRA

INITIATE ALL FOUR DRUGS



# Pharmacological treatments indicated in patients with HF

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>
An ACE-I is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death. <sup>110–113</sup>	I	A
A beta-blocker is recommended for patients with stable HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death. <sup>114–120</sup>	I	A
An MRA is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death. <sup>121,122</sup>	I	A
Dapagliflozin or empagliflozin are recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death. <sup>108,109</sup>	I	A
Sacubitril/valsartan is recommended as a replacement for an ACE-I in patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death. <sup>105</sup>	I	B

ACE-I = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; HF = heart failure; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; LVEF = left ventricular ejection fraction; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NYHA = New York Heart Association.

<sup>a</sup>Class of recommendation.

<sup>b</sup>Level of evidence.

MAXIMUM TOLERATED DOSE OF ALL FOUR HF DRUGS  
WITHIN 30 DAYS

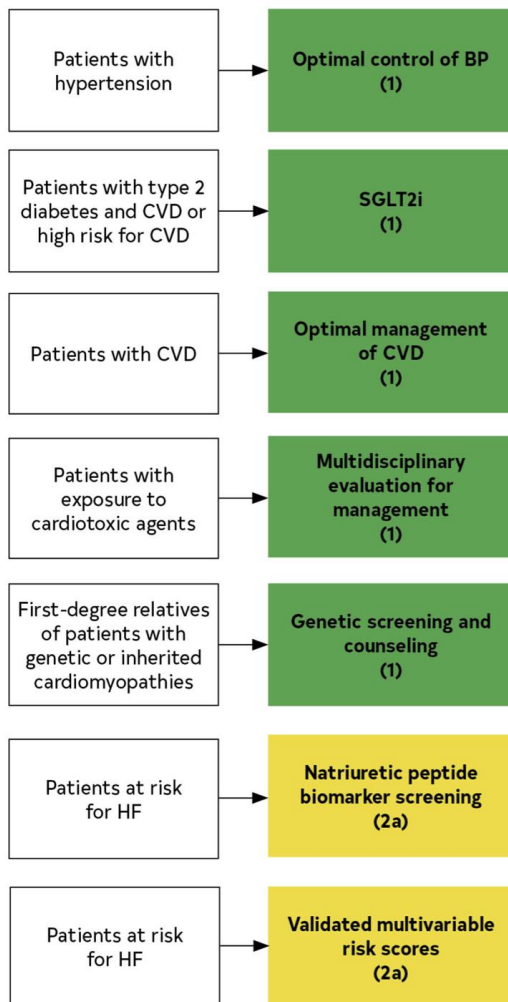
Boureau AS et al. ESC heart Failure. 2022  
McDonagh T, et al. European Heart Journal .2021

## Question 2

**What about HFmrEF?**



# At Risk for HF (Stage A)



## Pharmacological treatments to be considered in patients with (NYHA class II-IV) heart failure with mildly reduced ejection fraction



### Recommendations

Diuretics are recommended in patients with congestion and HFmrEF in order to alleviate symptoms and signs.

An ACE-I may be considered for patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.

An ARB may be considered for patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.

A beta-blocker may be considered for patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.

An MRA may be considered for patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.

Sacubitril/valsartan may be considered for patients with HFmrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.

ACE-I = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB = angiotensin-receptor blocker; HF = heart failure; HFmrEF = heart failure with mildly reduced ejection fraction; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; NYHA= New York Heart Association.

Class	Level
I	C
IIb	C
IIb	C
IIb	C
IIb	C
IIb	C

[www.escardio.org/guidelines](http://www.escardio.org/guidelines)

2021 ESC Guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic heart failure (European Heart Journal 2021 – doi:10.1093/eurheartj/ehab368)

Continue lifestyle modifications and management strategies implemented in Stage A, through Stage B

**Table 8 Evidence-based doses of disease-modifying drugs in key randomized trials in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction**

	Starting dose	Target dose
<b>ACE-I</b>		
Captopril <sup>a</sup>	6.25 mg <i>t.i.d.</i>	50 mg <i>t.i.d.</i>
Enalapril	2.5 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>	10–20 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>
Lisinopril <sup>b</sup>	2.5–5 mg <i>o.d.</i>	20–35 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Ramipril	2.5 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>	5 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>
Trandolapril <sup>a</sup>	0.5 mg <i>o.d.</i>	4 mg <i>o.d.</i>
<b>ARNI</b>		
Sacubitril/valsartan	49/51 mg <i>b.i.d.</i> <sup>c</sup>	97/103 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>
<b>Beta-blockers</b>		
Bisoprolol	1.25 mg <i>o.d.</i>	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Carvedilol	3.125 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>	25 mg <i>b.i.d.</i> <sup>e</sup>
Metoprolol succinate (CR/XL)	12.5–25 mg <i>o.d.</i>	200 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Nebivolol <sup>d</sup>	1.25 mg <i>o.d.</i>	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>

<b>MRA</b>		
Eplerenone	25 mg <i>o.d.</i>	50 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Spironolactone	25 mg <i>o.d.</i> <sup>f</sup>	50 mg <i>o.d.</i>
<b>SGLT2 inhibitor</b>		
Dapagliflozin	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Empagliflozin	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>
<b>Other agents</b>		
Candesartan	4 mg <i>o.d.</i>	32 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Losartan	50 mg <i>o.d.</i>	150 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Valsartan	40 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>	160 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>
Ivabradine	5 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>	7.5 mg <i>b.i.d.</i>
Vericiguat	2.5 mg <i>o.d.</i>	10 mg <i>o.d.</i>
Digoxin	62.5 µg <i>o.d.</i>	250 µg <i>o.d.</i>
Hydralazine/	37.5 mg <i>t.i.d.</i> /20 mg <i>t.i.d.</i>	75 mg <i>t.i.d.</i> /40 mg <i>t.i.d.</i>

ACE-I = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; *b.i.d.* = bis in die (twice daily); CR = controlled release; CV = cardiovascular; MRA = mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; *o.d.* = omne in die (once daily); SGLT2 = sodium-glucose co-transporter 2; *t.i.d.* = ter in die (three times a day); XL = extended release.

<sup>a</sup>Indicates an ACE-I where the dosing target is derived from post-myocardial infarction trials.

<sup>b</sup>Indicates drugs where a higher dose has been shown to reduce morbidity/mortality compared with a lower dose of the same drug, but there is no substantive randomized, placebo-controlled trial and the optimum dose is uncertain.

<sup>c</sup>Sacubitril/valsartan may have an optional lower starting dose of 24/26 mg *b.i.d.* for those with a history of symptomatic hypotension.

<sup>d</sup>Indicates a treatment not shown to reduce CV or all-cause mortality in patients with heart failure (or shown to be non-inferior to a treatment that does).

<sup>e</sup>A maximum dose of 50 mg twice daily can be administered to patients weighing over 85 kg.

<sup>f</sup>Spironolactone has an optional starting dose of 12.5 mg in patients where renal status or hyperkalaemia warrant caution.

## Question 3

**When and how should we start  
GDMT in frailty patients?**

# ALL PATIENTS AGED > 75 YEARS

Triage Risk Screening Tool (TRST)

TRST <2

TRST ≥2

Follo  
main algorithm  
(figure 1)

TRST score  
1. Cognitive impairment  
2. Recent hospitalisation(< 3 months)  
3. Walking disorders or falls  
4. Polypharmacy (≥ 5 drugs)  
5. Loss of autonomy for activities of daily living  
Each item corresponds to 1 point

## CGA

- Comorbidities
- Cognitive function
- Risk of falls
- Autonomy
- Nutritional status
- Polypharmacy
- Depression
- Vaccination status
- Social isolation

eGFR ≥ 30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>  
AND SBP ≥ 100 mmHg ①

START SGLT2i  
START ARNI/ACEi (1/4 dose) ②



Day 2-4

ADD BB (1/4 dose)



Day 7-14

INCREASE ARNI/ACEi (1/2 dose)  
INCREASE BB (1/2 dose)



Day 7-14

ADD MRA (1/4 dose)

eGFR < 30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

START SGLT2i  
START ARNI/ACEi (1/4 dose) ②



Day 2-4

ADD BB (1/4 dose)



Day 7-14

INCREASE BB (1/2 dose)  
eGFR > 30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>  
INCREASE ARNI/ACEi (1/2 dose)



Day 7-14

eGFR > 30 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>  
ADD MRA (1/4 dose)

SBP < 100 mmHg

START SGLT2i  
START ACEi (1/4 dose)  
If SBP < 90 mmHg or HR > 80 bpm  
Prefer BB (1/4 dose)



Day 2-7

ADD BB (1/4 dose) OR ACEi (1/4 dose)  
If not already started



Day 7-14

SBP > 100 mmHg  
ADD MRA (1/4 dose)



Day 7-14

SBP > 100 mmHg  
SWITCH ACEi to ARNI (1/4 dose)

- ✓ LIFESTYLE MODIFICATION
- ✓ TREAT OTHER COMORBIDITIES
- ✓ ACHIEVE TARGETS

Objective at discharge or 30 days after treatment start

SGLT2i: full dose  
ARNi and BB: 1/2 dose (or full dose if tolerated)  
MRA: 1/4 dose (or 1/2 dose if tolerated)

## TITRATION OF THE FOUR MEDICATIONS ③

- UP-TITRATE EVERY 2 weeks until maximum tolerated dose is reached.
- INCREASE 1 - 2 MEDICATIONS AT THE SAME TIME.
- REDUCE DIURETICS whenever possible.
- CHECK RENAL FONCTION and SERUM POTASSIUM between each titration visit.
- CONSIDER TELEMONITORING for treatment optimisation.



Perform blood monitoring within 7 days of EACH drug introduction or escalation step.



Monitor heart rate and blood pressure following EACH medication change.

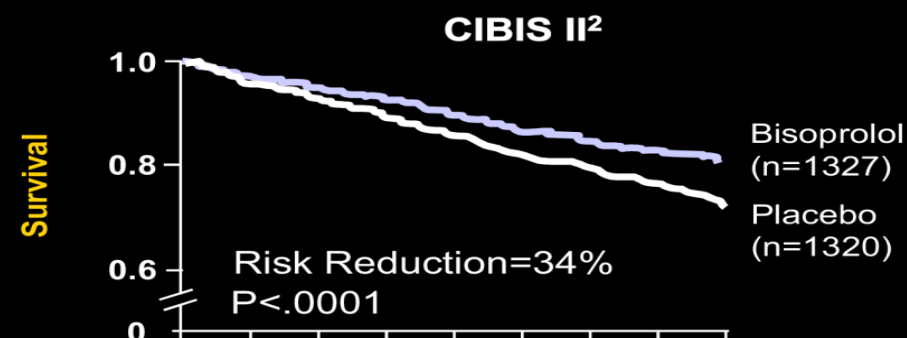
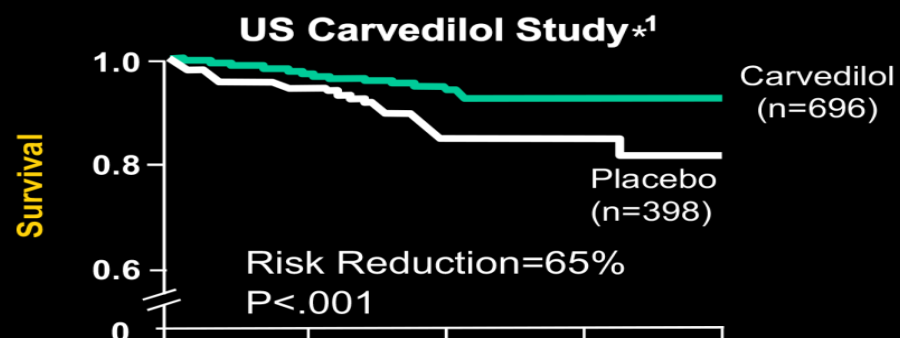




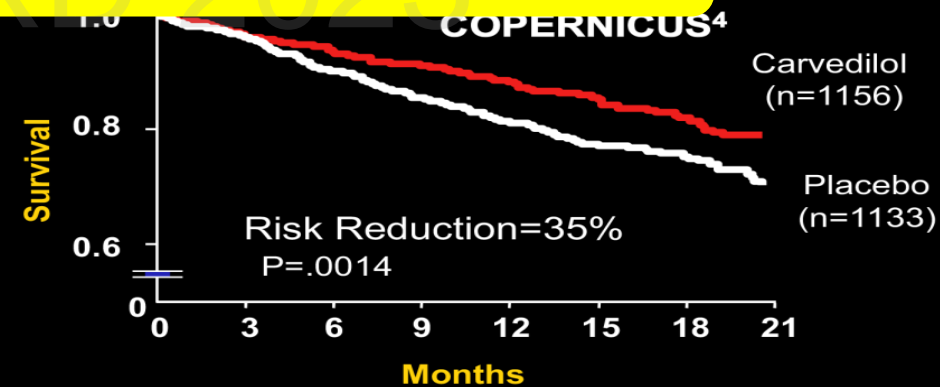
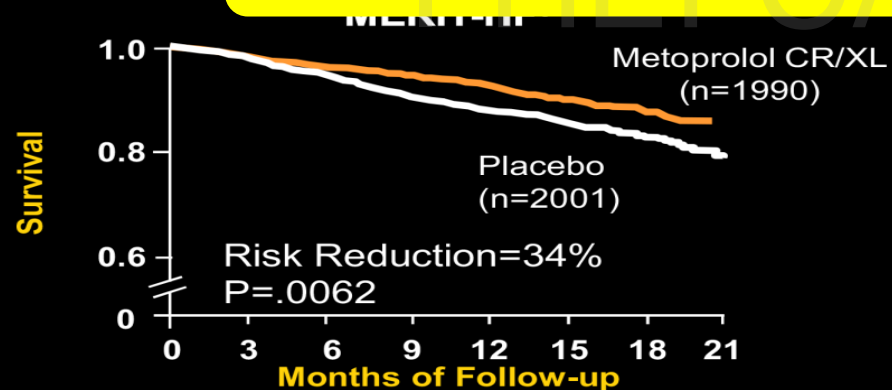
# Question 4

**Why should we use BB?**

# $\beta$ -blocker Evidence: Benefit in HF and LVSD



**Mortality Risk Reduction  $\pm$  34%**



<sup>1</sup>Packer M et al. N Engl J Med.1996;334:1349-1355. <sup>2</sup>CIBIS II Investigators and Committees. Lancet. 1999;353:9-13.

<sup>3</sup>MERIT-HF Study Group. Lancet.1999;353:2001-2007.

# Age of Patients in Major Trials of $\beta$ -Blocker in HF

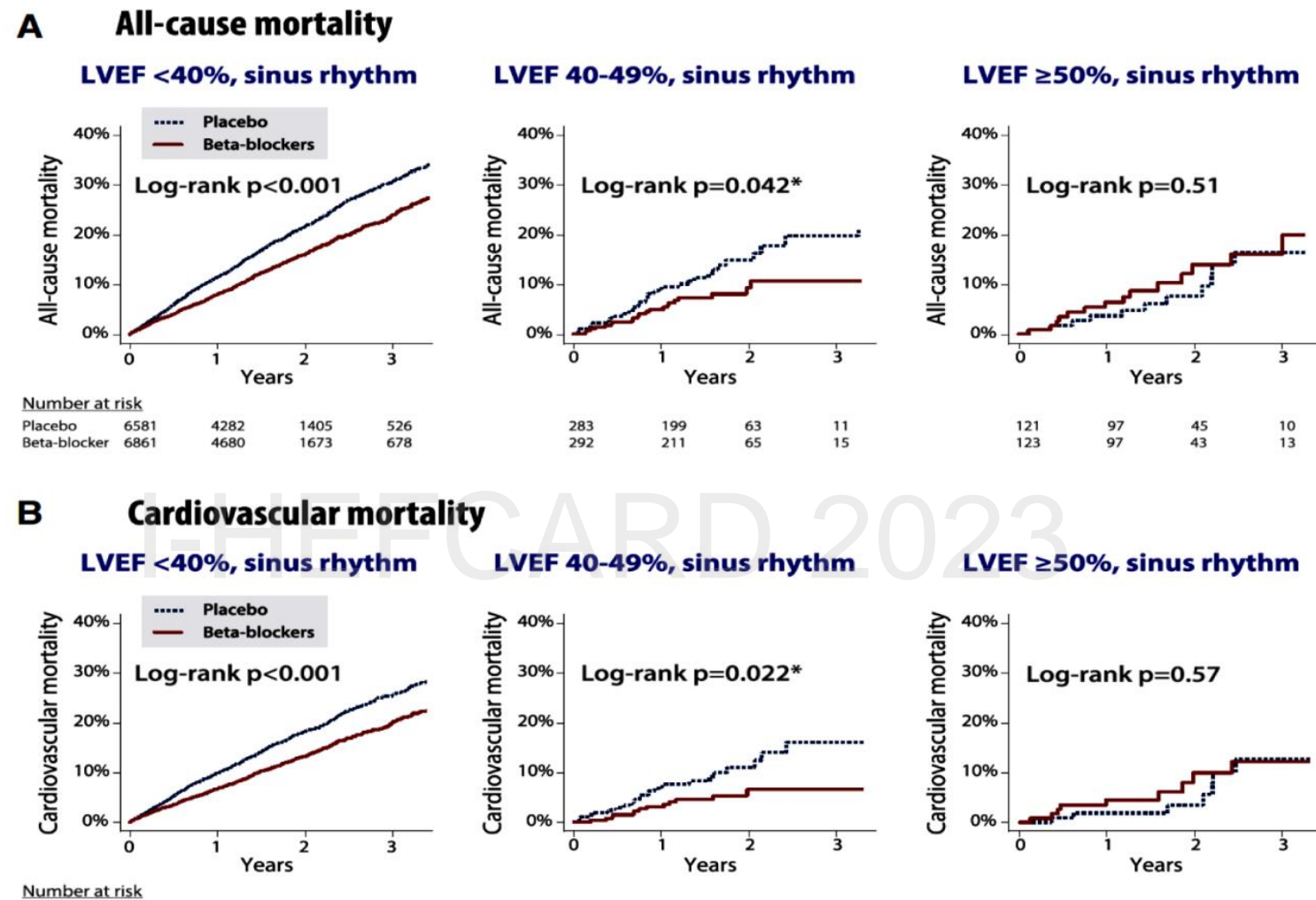
Trial	$\beta$ -Blocker	N	Mean Age	% Females	EF(%)
COPERNICUS	Carvedilol*	2289	63	21	19.9
MERIT-HF	Metoprolol*	3991	64	23	28.0
US Carvedilol	Carvedilol*	1094	58	22	22.6
CIBIS-II	Bisoprolol	2647	61	20	27.5
Mean			61	21.5%	24.9

US Heart Failure Population
77
50
>50%\*\*

\* Agents approved for the treatment of HF in the US
\*\* Percentage of US population with preserved ejection fraction

MERIT-HF Study Group. *Lancet*. 1999;353:2001-2007; Packer *N Engl J Med*. 2001;344:1651-1658; Colucci WS. *Circulation*. 1996;94:2800-2806; CIBIS Investigations and Committees. *Lancet* 1999;353:9-13; The Beta-Blocker Evaluation of Survival Trial Investigators. *N Engl J Med*. 2001;344:1659-1667; Heiat et al. *Arch Intern Med*. 2002;162:1682-1688.

In Previous BB trials, populations were younger with Lower EF, meanwhile HF prevalence mostly in older patient with good LVEF



Previous Beta blocker only decerased all cause mortality and Cardiovascular mortality in HF reduced and midrange EF



# SENIORS

## Study of Effects of Nebivolol Intervention on Outcomes and Rehospitallisation in Seniors with Heart Failure

**A randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III study**

**Table 2.** Summary of randomized control clinical trials in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction. LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction, NYHA: New York Health Association.

Trial	Year	Type of $\beta$ -Blockers	n <sup>o</sup> of Patients	Inclusion Criteria	Effects on Mortality
CIBIS	1994	Bisoprolol	641	LVEF < 40%, NYHA class III-V	No significant difference in mortality between the two groups
MERIT HF	1999	Metoprolol	3991	LVEF < 40%, NYHA class II-IV	34% relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality
CIBIS II	1999	Bisoprolol	2647	LVEF < 35%, NYHA class III-IV	34% relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality
CAPRICORN	2001	Carvedilol	1959	Previous AMI and LVEF < 40%	23% relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality
COPERNICUS	2001	Carvedilol	2289	LVEF < 25% and NYHA class III-IV	31% relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality
COMET	2003	Metoprolol vs Carvedilolo	2309	LVEF < 35% and NYHA class II-IV	17% relative risk reduction in all-cause mortality in carvedilol group
SENIORS	2005	Nebivolol	2128	LVEF < 35%, NYHA class II-IV, age > 7o years	No significant difference in mortality between the two groups

# *The Rationale* for the **SENIORS** Trial

SENIORS explored **different population** from previous BB studies:

I-HEFCARD 2023

New subset population → based on Euro and US HF Population Studies (**women, older ,despite EF**)

## Nebivolol, unlike other selective $\beta_1$ -antagonists:

- maintains stroke volume<sup>1</sup>
- maintains cardiac output (despite the bradycardi effect)<sup>1</sup>
- reduces systemic vascular resistances<sup>2</sup>
- increases the ejection fraction<sup>3</sup>
- improves early diastolic relaxation<sup>2</sup>
- causes less pronounced heart rate and cardiac contractility reductions<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Münzel T, Gori T. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2009;54:1491-9.

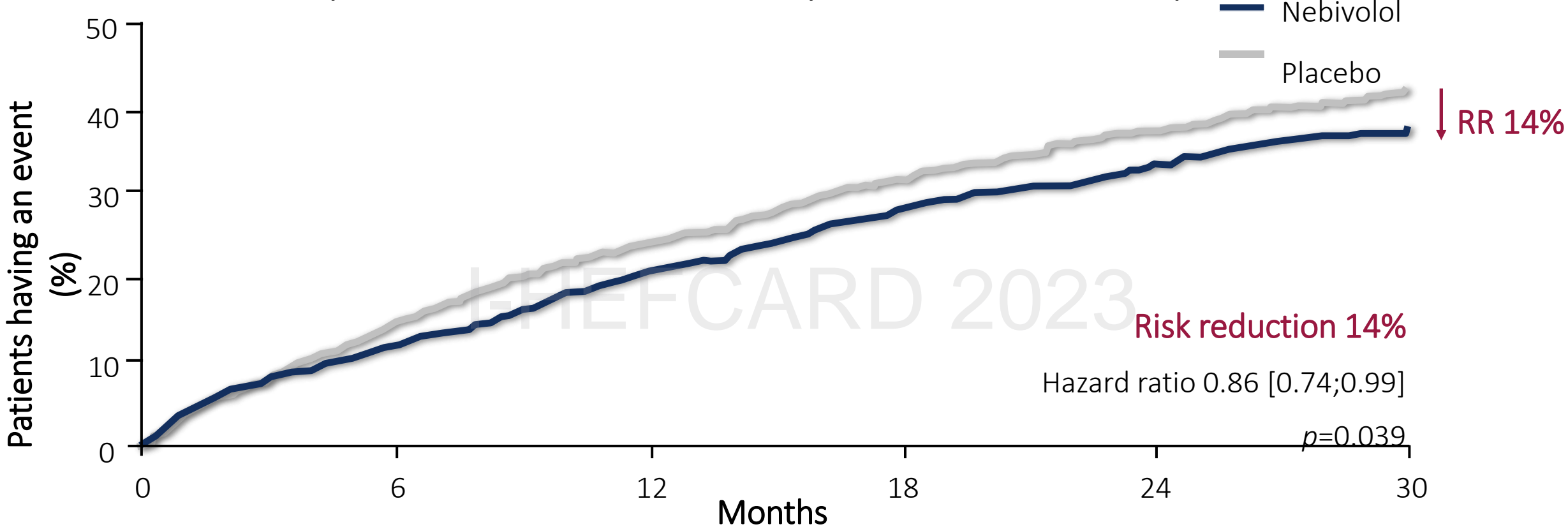
<sup>2</sup>Nodari S, et al. *Eur J Heart Failure* 2003;5:621-7.

<sup>3</sup>Brehm BR, et al. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2002;4:757-63.

<sup>4</sup>Agabiti Rosei E, Rizzoni D. *Drugs.* 2007;67:1097-107

# Seniors Trial

Primary Outcome: All-cause mortality or cardiovascular hospital admission

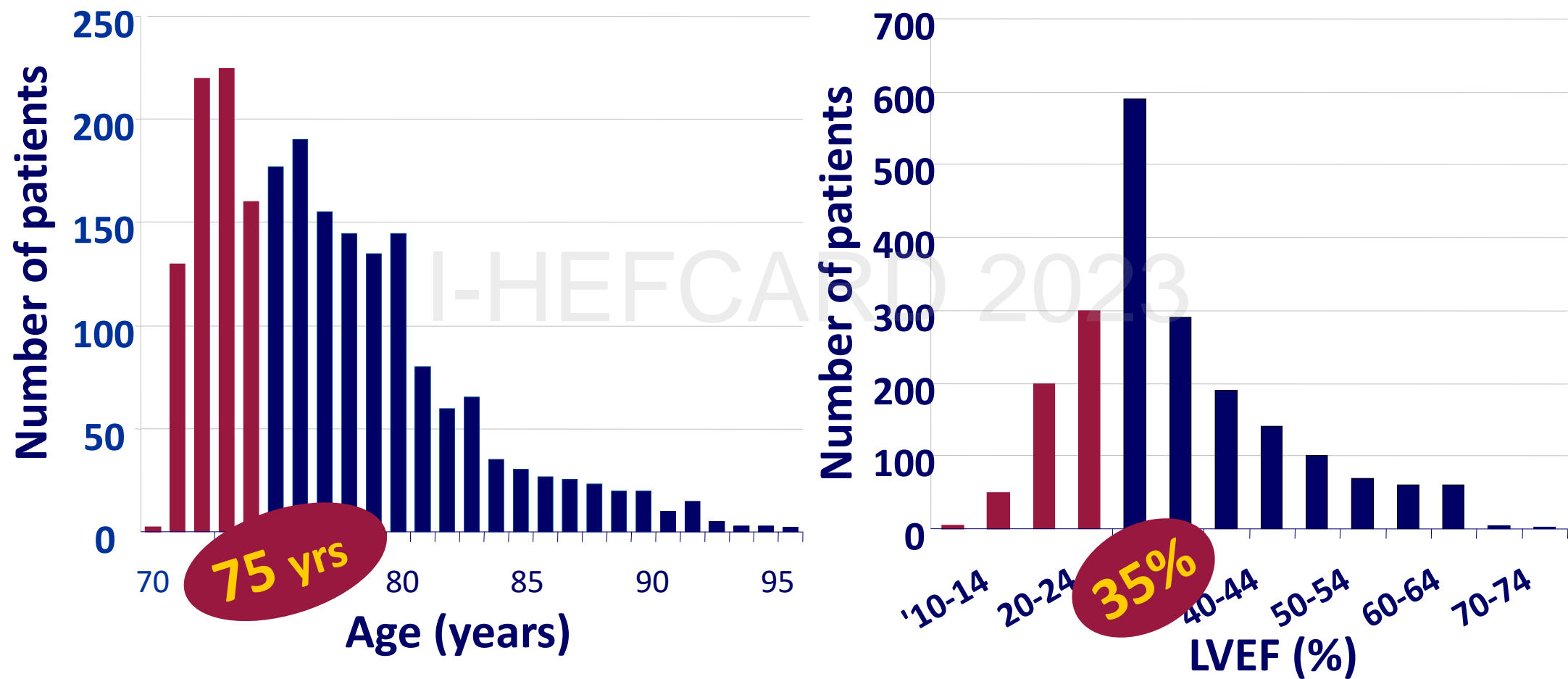


N. of events:  
nebivolol 332 (31.1%); placebo 375 (35.3%)

Study aim: to assess effects of nebivolol in patients 70 years with a history of heart failure (n=2128), regardless of ejection fraction. Parallel group, randomised, double-blind, multicentre, international trial. Patients were randomly assigned to nebivolol (titrated from 1.25 mg once daily to 10 mg once daily, n=1067) or placebo (n=1061). Mean duration of follow-up was 21 months.



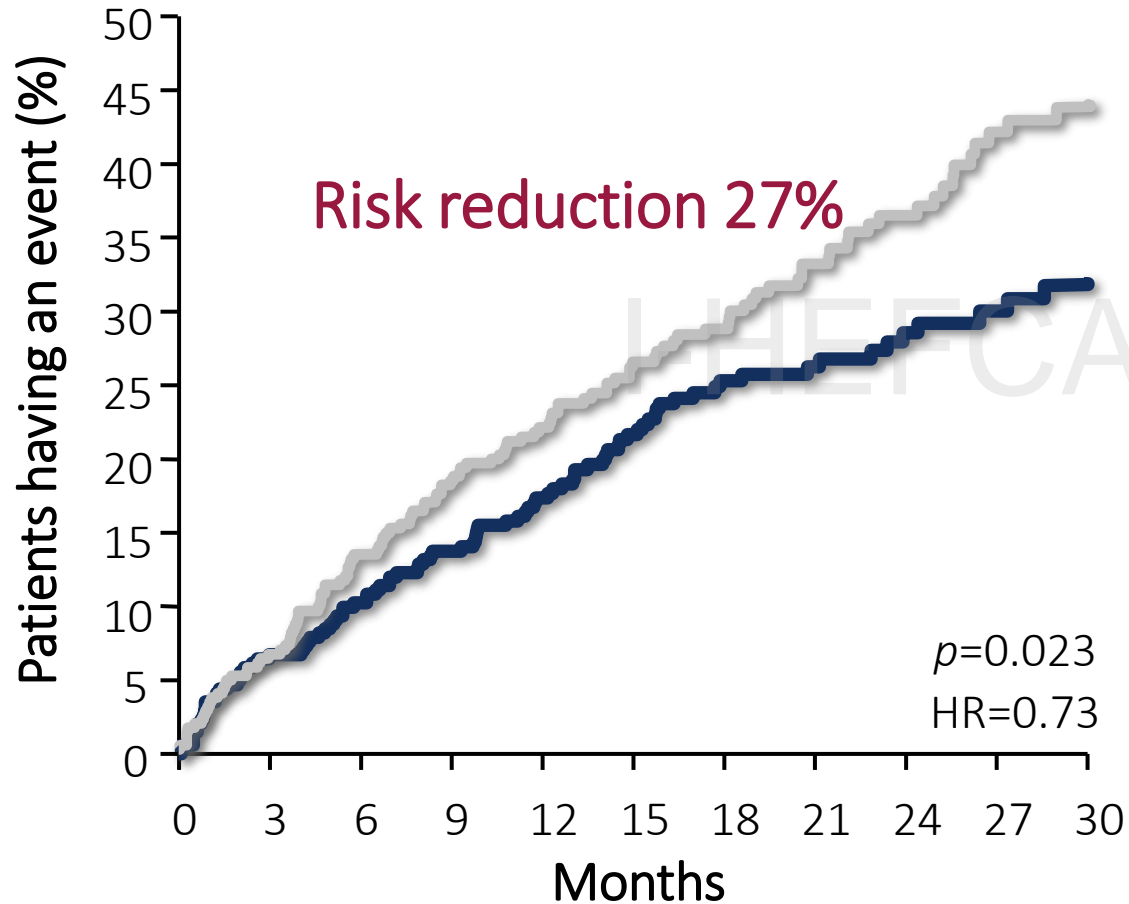
# SENIORS subgroups which most closely resemble previous studies



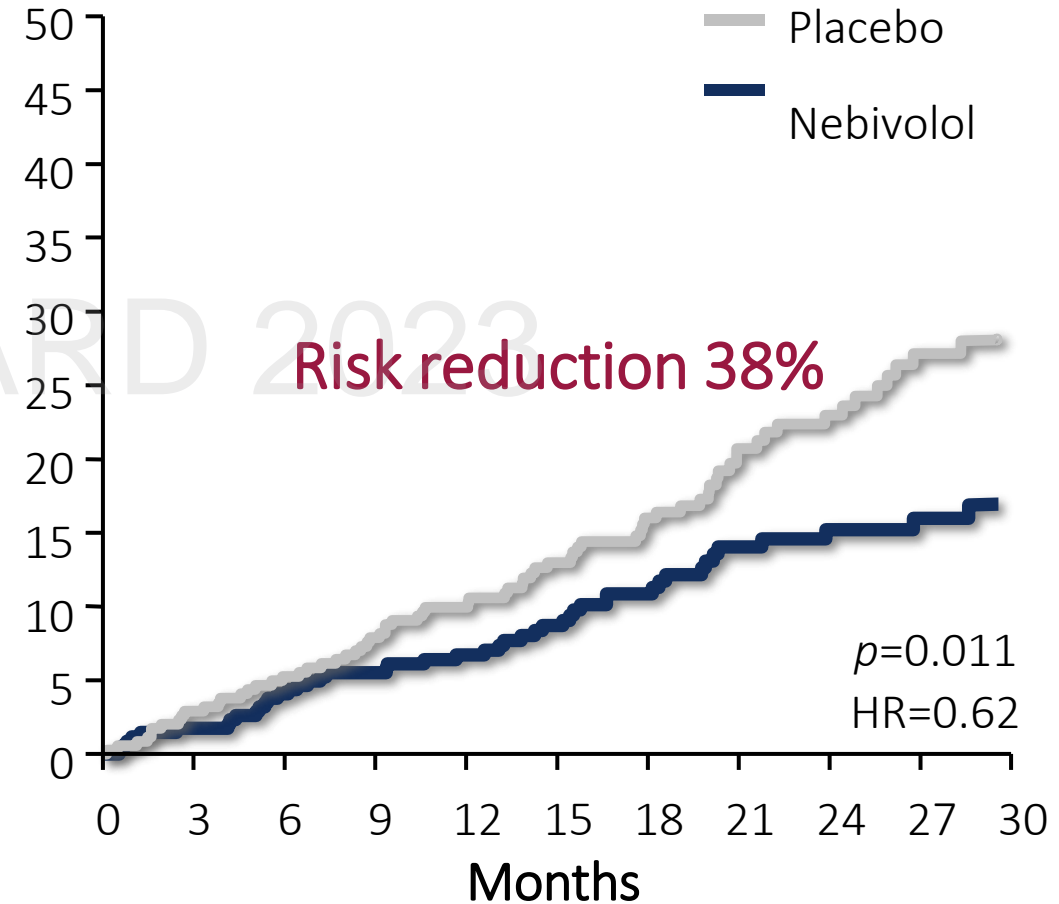
Study aim: to assess effects of nebivolol in patients 70 years with a history of heart failure (n=2128), regardless of ejection fraction. Parallel group, randomised, double-blind, multicentre, international trial. Patients were randomly assigned to nebivolol (titrated from 1.25 mg once daily to 10 mg once daily, n=1067) or placebo (n=1061). Mean duration of follow-up was 21 months.

# The SENIORS trial - subgroup analysis: age < 75.2 years and LVEF ≤ 35%

All-cause mortality or CV hospitalisation

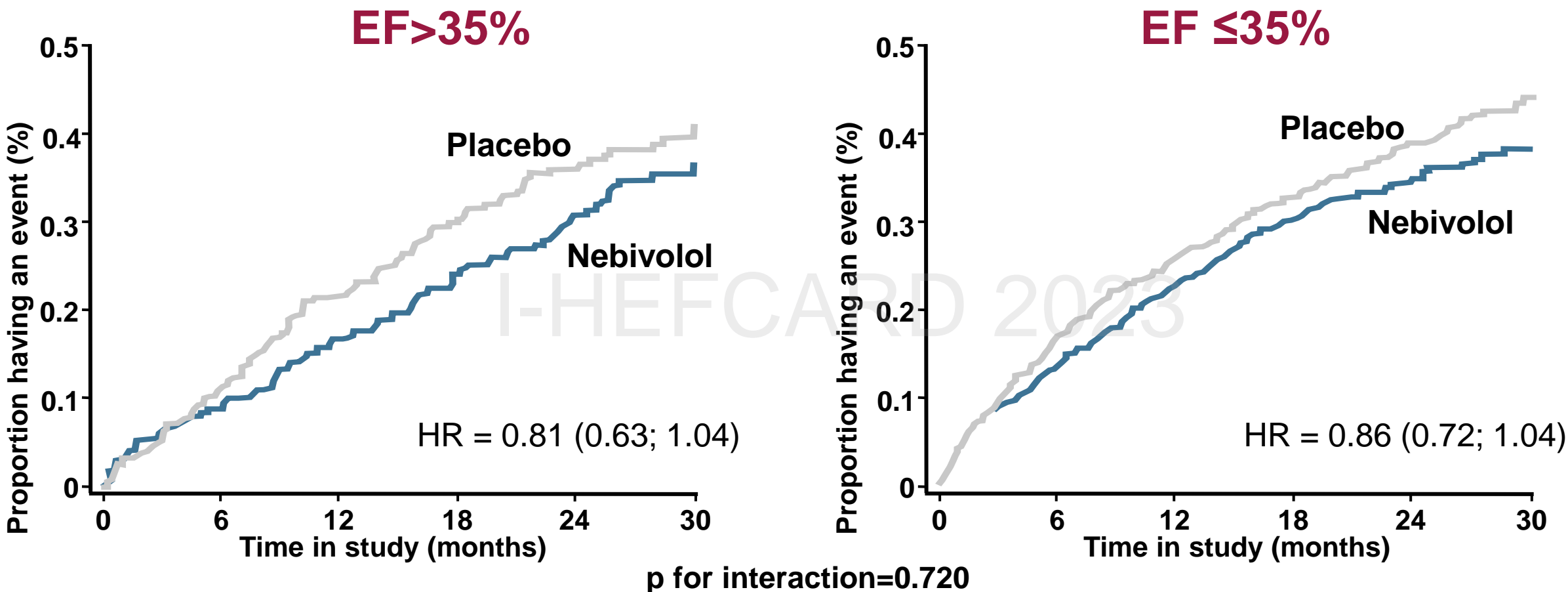


All-cause mortality



Study aim: to put the results of SENIORS (a parallel group, randomised, double-blind, multicentre, international trial. Patients were randomly assigned to nebivolol [titrated from 1.25 mg once daily to 10 mg once daily, n=1067] or placebo (n=1061). Mean follow-up: 21 months) in the context of previous beta-blocker trials, data were extracted for 684 HF patients treated with nebivolol 1.25 mg to 10 mg od (n=342) or placebo (n=342).

# SENIORS – All-cause mortality or CV hospitalisation according to EF



There was no difference in the effect of nebivolol versus placebo between HF patients with impaired ejection fraction (EF) and patients with preserved EF. Although the SENIORS trial was not powered to show a statistically significant effect of nebivolol in the EF subgroups, the Hazard Ratios are similar with no apparent evidence of interaction in any subgroup analysis, which supports the hypothesis that there is a similar beneficial effect in patients with impaired and preserved EF.

**Initial condition :**

BP 105/68 mmHg, HR 94 x/min

A1c 6.2 / Cr 1.3 / eGFR 57 / **recent re hosp/****Underuse and under-dosage GDMT**

Th/

- Aspirin 80 mg
- Atorvastatin 20 mg
- Ramipril 5 mg
- Digoxin 0.25 mg od
- Bisoprolol 1.25 mg (not routinely)
- Spironolactone 25 mg
- Furosemide 40 mg
- ISDN 5 mg prn

**2 mos post initiation :**

BP 98/75 mmHg

HR 78 x/min

WBC 6100/mm3

Cr 1.4 mg/dl

eGFR 52 ml/min/1.73m2

Glycosuria (-)

Uptitrate nebivolol to 2,5 mg

Not using digoxin

**Monitoring :**

BP 95-110/60-72 mmHg

HR 60-68x/min

Cr 1.2 – 1.5 mg/dl

eGFR 48-62 ml/min/1.73m2

A1C 5.4 – 5.8

No signs of Hypoglycemia / Hypovolemia

EF 32-36% ( simpson's Biplane )

**No history of hosp**

2020

2022

2023

**CASE STUDY****1 mo post routinely nebivolol 1,25 mg :**

BP 98/75 mmHg

HR 82 x/min

WBC 6500/mm3

Cr 1.6 mg/dl

eGFR 45 ml/min/1.73m2

Adding SGLT2i

**Current Medication :**

- Aspirin 80 mg
- Atorvastatin 20 mg
- Ramipril 10 mg
- Nebivolol 5 mg
- Spironolactone 25 mg
- Dapagliflozin 10 mg

**No Diuretic  
No History of hosp**

# Beta Blocker SUMMARY

## WHY

BB is indicated to improve QoL, reduce the risk of HF rehospitalization, and reduce mortality

## WHEN

BB should be initiated as quickly and safe as possible

## WHO

BB should be initiated in all symptomatic HFrEF patients (include elderly patients)

## HOW

BB starts low, goes slow

## WHERE

In safety considerations, pasien should have stable hemodynamic and clinical status. Patient not in inotropic drug (inhospitalised) or outpatients setting

## WHAT TO MONITOR

For long term monitoring, assess renal function, body weight, and heart rate, blood pressure



# Take Home Messages

- Frailty is common in older patients with heart failure, and both frailty and heart failure share common mechanistic features, including strong relations with a high burden of comorbidities, inflammation, and sarcopenia.
- Frailty is associated with worse clinical, functional, and quality of life outcomes in older patients with heart failure.
- Frailty should be considered for routine assessment by using well-validated assessment tools to better inform prognosis.
- Do not delay or omitting GDMT in HF patients with frailty



Thank You