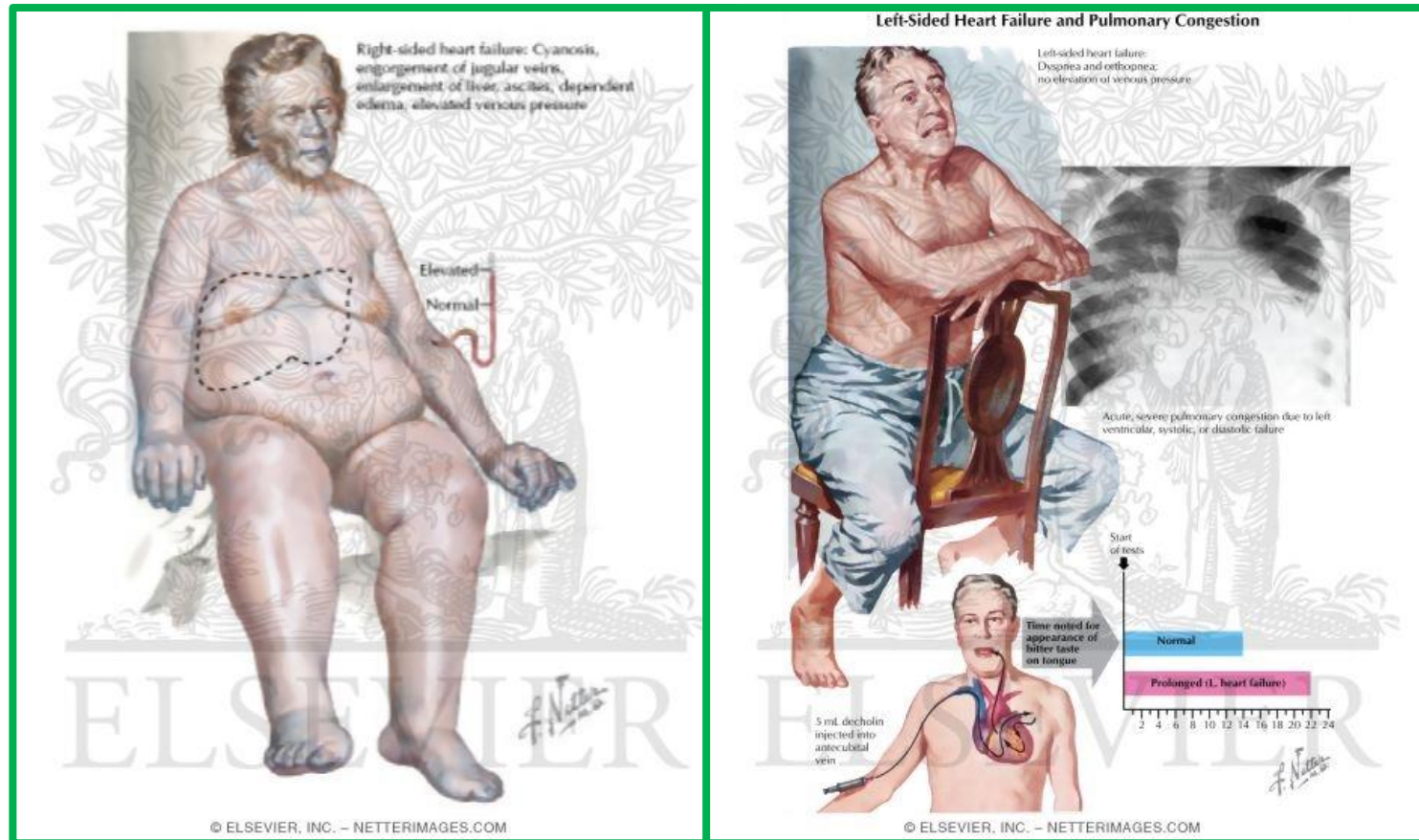




**Heart Failure:** “...a clinical syndrome characterised by symptoms (such as breathlessness, ankle swelling and fatigue) and signs (eg, raised jugular venous pressure, pulmonary crackles and peripheral oedema) caused by structural or functional cardiac abnormalities that lead to elevated intracardiac pressure or a reduced cardiac output at rest or during stress...”



## Stage A

### Medical therapy

Prevention and treatment of modifiable CV risk factors:

- Liraglutide 🙄
- Empagliflozin 😊

## Stage A

At risk

Prevent,

## Stage B

Asymptomatic dysfunction

stabilize,

## Stage C

Symptomatic dysfunction

reverse or delay disease progression

Prevent premature sudden cardiac death

Optimize patient functional capacity

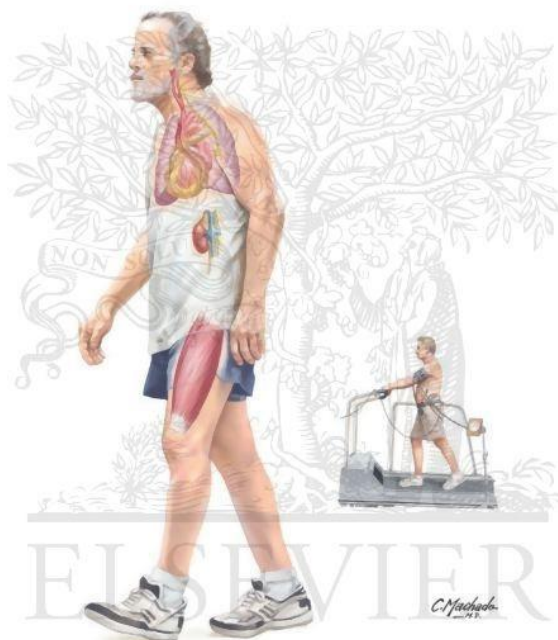
Relieve and palliate resting symptoms

Heart assist or replacement for selected patients

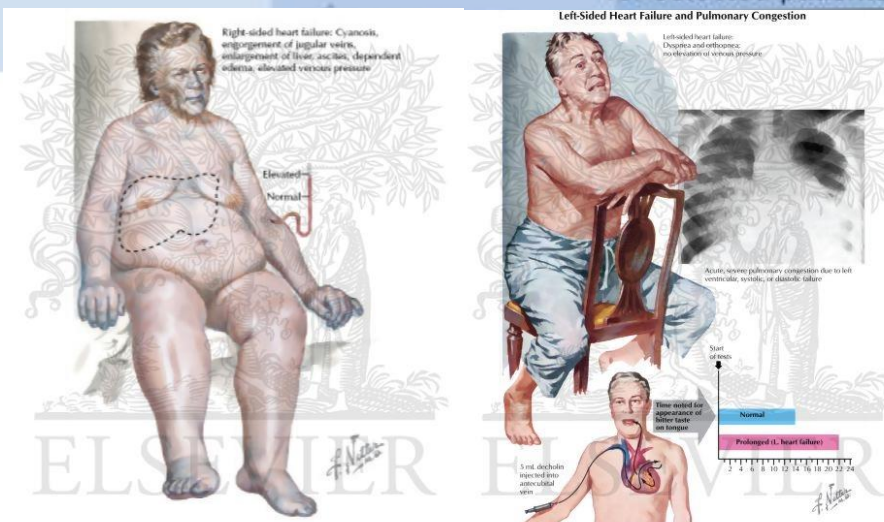
## Stage D

### Medical therapy

- Vericiguat 🙄
- Omecamtiv mecarbil 😊
- Cardiac regenerative therapy 🙄



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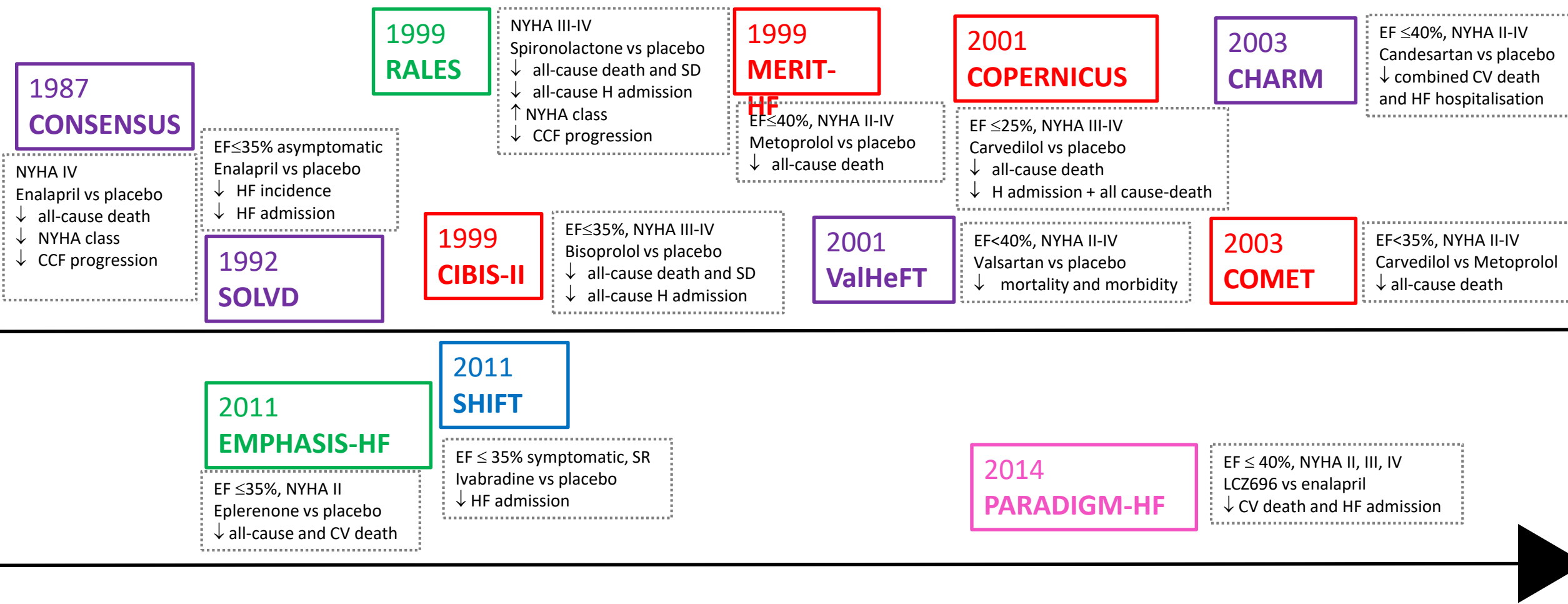
Circulation. 2016;133:2671-2686

Type of HF		HFrEF	HFmrEF	HFpEF
<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>1</b>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>
	<b>2</b>	LVEF <40%	LVEF 40–49%	LVEF ≥50%
	<b>3</b>	–	1. Elevated levels of natriuretic peptides <sup>b</sup> ; 2. At least one additional criterion: a. relevant structural heart disease (LVH and/or LAE), b. diastolic dysfunction (for details see Section 4.3.2).	1. Elevated levels of natriuretic peptides <sup>b</sup> ; 2. At least one additional criterion: a. relevant structural heart disease (LVH and/or LAE), b. diastolic dysfunction (for details see Section 4.3.2).



***Neurohormonal antagonists are the backbone of MT:***

ACE-i  
ARB  
MRA  
BB  
ARNI



**Timeline of principal RCT for MT in HFrEF**

Legend for drug classes:

- BB (Red)
- ACE-i/ARB (Purple)
- MRA (Green)
- ARNI (Pink)
- IVABRADINE (Blue)

# SH/fT

Systolic Heart failure treatment with the  $I_f$  inhibitor ivabradine Trial

**Setting:** HF with  $EF \leq 35\%$ , SR,  $HR \geq 70$  bpm

Ivabradine vs Placebo

**Median f-up:** 22.9 months

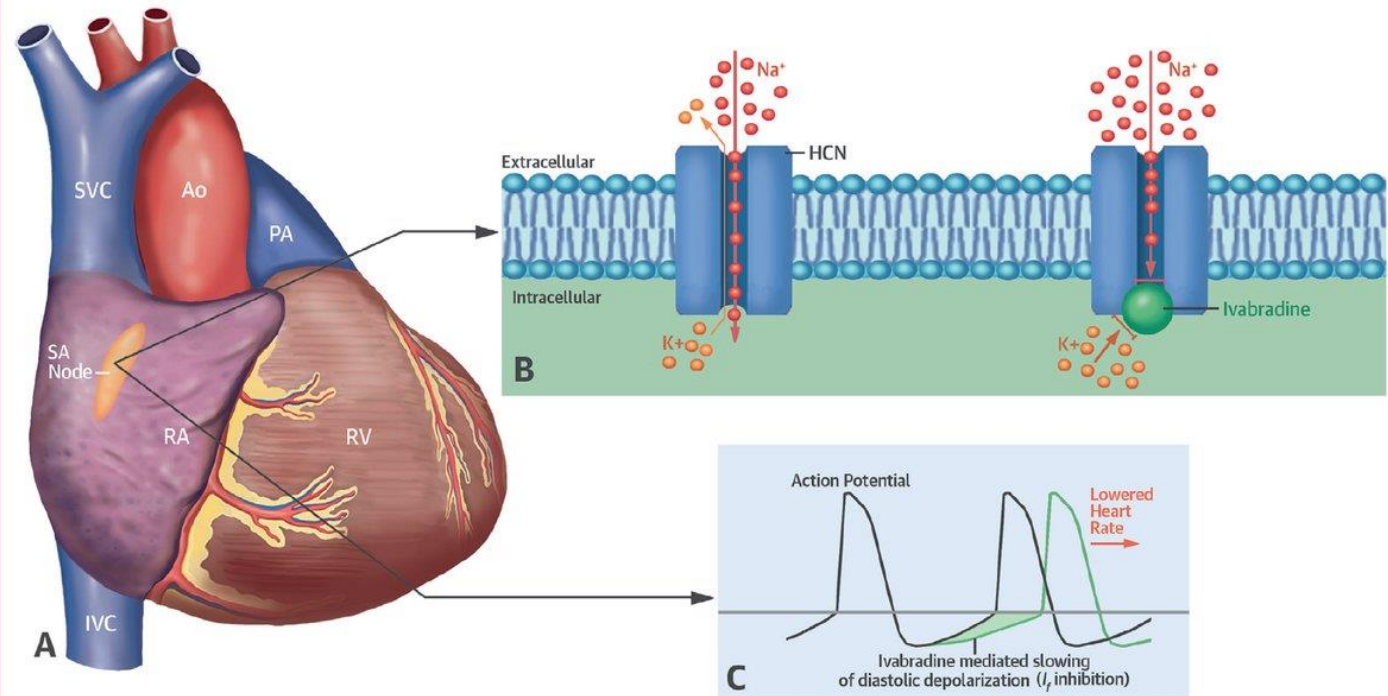
**I endpoint:** composite of CV death and HF admission

**II endpoint:** composite of CV death and HF admission in pts at  $\geq 50\%$  of the target daily dose of a BB

## Results:

- Significant  $\downarrow$  in I endpoint, mainly due to reductions in HF admissions
- In those on  $\geq 50\%$  target daily BB dose  $\rightarrow$   $\downarrow$  HF admissions, but NO  $\downarrow$  in mortality

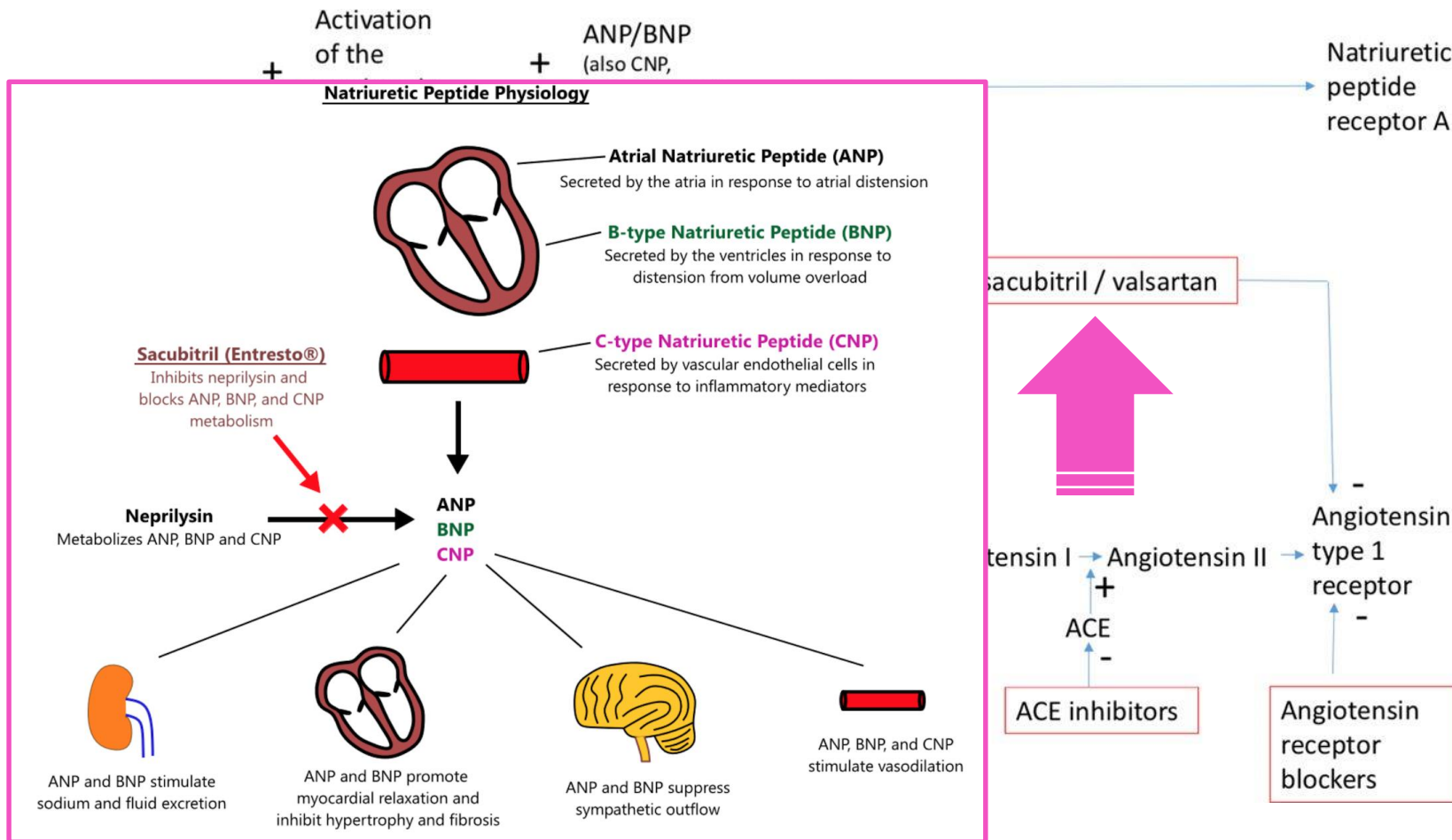
### CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION Mechanism of Action of Ivabradine



Koruth, J.S. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2017;70(14):1777-84.

(A) Ivabradine's primary mechanism of action on cardiac tissue is on the sinoatrial (SA) node, which occupies a predominantly subepicardial position at the junction of the superior vena cava (SVC) and the right atrium (RA). (B) In the sinoatrial node, ivabradine blocks the intracellular aspect of the hyperpolarization-activated cyclic nucleotide-gated (HCN) transmembrane channel, which is responsible for the transport of sodium ( $Na^+$ ) and potassium ( $K^+$ ) ions across the cell membrane, in the open state. This results in inhibition of the inward funny current ( $I_f$ ), which is specifically activated at hyperpolarized membrane potentials. (C) By selectively inhibiting  $I_f$ , there is a reduction in the slope of diastolic depolarization of the pacemaker action potential (shaded region) and an increase in the duration of diastole, without altering other phases of the action potential. This results in heart rate reduction. Ao = aorta; IVC = inferior vena cava; PA = pulmonary artery; RV = right ventricle.

PATHWAYS BLOCKED BY ACE-I, ARB AND NEPRILYSIN INHIBITORS



Angiotensin-Neprilysin Inhibition versus Enalapril in Heart Failure

**Setting:** EF ≤ 40% (than ≤ 35%), NYHA II-IV, pts taking ACE-i/ARB for at least 4 weeks  
**Median f-up:** 27 months  
**I endpoint:** composite of CV death and HF admission

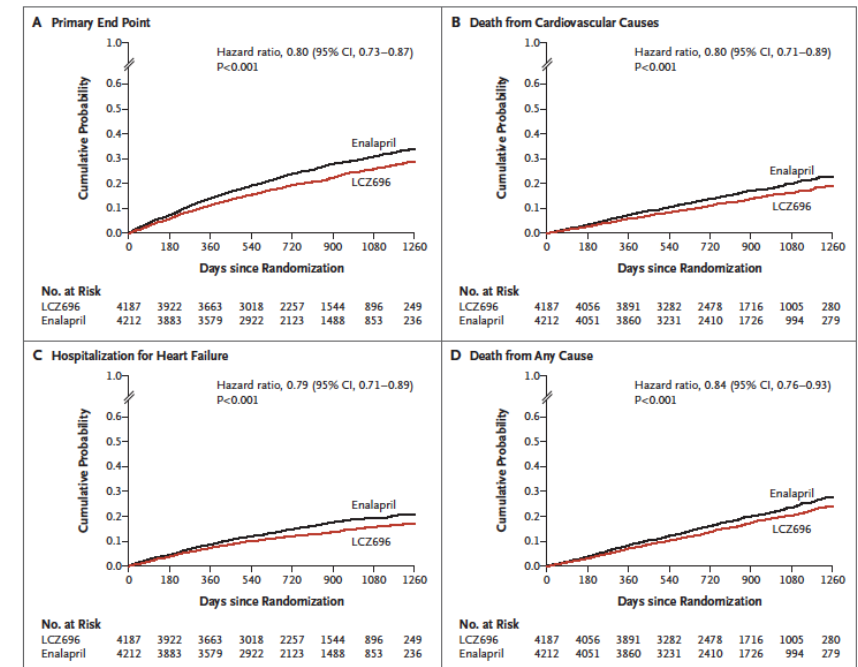
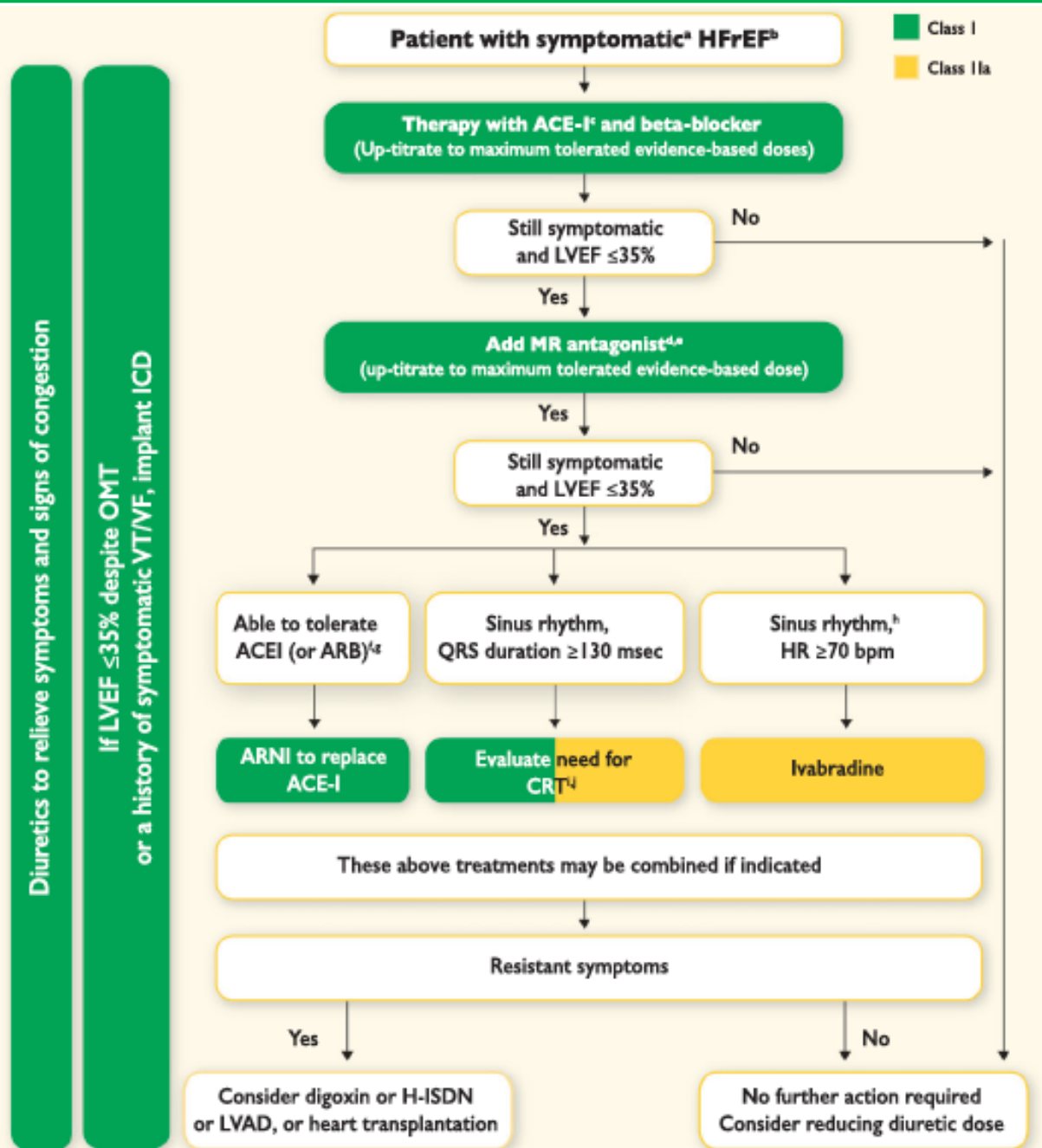


Figure 2. Kaplan-Meier Curves for Key Study Outcomes, According to Study Group. Shown are estimates of the probability of the primary composite end point (death from cardiovascular causes or first hospitalization for heart failure) (Panel A), death from cardiovascular causes (Panel B), first hospitalization for heart failure (Panel C), and death from any cause (Panel D).

**HFrEF**  
Symptoms ± Signs<sup>a</sup>  
LVEF <40%





## Beta-blockers

	Starting dose	Target dose
<b>Beta Blockers</b>		
Bisoprolol	1.25 mg once daily	10 mg once daily
Carvedilol	3.125 mg twice daily	25 mg twice daily for weight <85 kg and 50 mg twice daily for weight ≥85 kg
Metoprolol succinate	12.5-25 mg/d	200 mg daily

- Adjust dose every 2 weeks (longer time in frail pts; rapid titration in stable pts)
- Achieve target dose in 3-6 months

## MRA

<b>Aldosterone antagonists</b>		
Eplerenone	25 mg daily	50 mg daily
Spirolactone	12.5-25 mg daily	25-50 mg daily

- Not necessary to achieve target or maximally tolerated doses of other drugs before adding MRA
- Contraindicated if eGFR<30mL/min or K<sup>+</sup>>5mEq/dL



### Agents that affect renal function:

If decrease in eGFR of >30% or hyperkalemia are noted → reduce dose

## ACE-i/ARB

<b>ACEI</b>		
Captopril	6.25 mg 3x daily	50 mg 3x daily
Enalapril	2.5 mg twice daily	10-20 mg twice daily
Lisinopril	2.5-5 mg daily	20-40 mg daily
Ramipril	1.25 mg daily	10 mg daily
<b>ARB</b>		
Candesartan	4-8 mg daily	32 mg daily
Losartan	25-50 mg daily	150 mg daily
Valsartan	40 mg twice daily	160 mg twice daily

- Adjust dose every 2 weeks (rapid titration in stable pts)
- Achieve target dose in 3-6 months
- Assess renal function and K<sup>+</sup> within 1-2 weeks of the initiation or dose increase of ACE-I/ARB

## IVABRADINE

<b>Ivabradine</b>		
Ivabradine	2.5-5 mg twice daily	Titrate to heart rate 50-60 bpm. Maximum dose 7.5 mg twice daily

- Adjust dose every 2 weeks in pts with HR≥70bpm already on target or maximally tolerated dose of BB
- NO Hypotension

## ARNI

## ARNI

Sacubitril/valsartan	24/26 mg-49/51 mg twice daily	97/103 mg twice daily
----------------------	----------------------------------	-----------------------

**Who should be prescribed?**

- Outpatient with  $EF \leq 40\%$ ; NYHA II-IV; SBP > 100 mmHg
- NOT recommended in pt with severe liver disease

**How should be prescribed?**

- 36 hrs wash out from ACE-i before starting ARNI
- Standard dose: 49/51 mg bid; lower dose in certain groups

**How should be titrated?**

- Increase dose every 2-4 weeks to allow time for adjustment to the vasodilatory effects
- Monitor BP, renal function, K<sup>+</sup>; BNP monitoring is useless

**Population****Initial Dose**

Moderate- or high-dose ACEI <i>Equivalent of enalapril <math>\geq 10</math> mg twice daily</i>	<b>49/51 mg twice daily</b>
Moderate- or high-dose ARB <i>Equivalent of valsartan <math>\geq 80</math> mg twice daily</i>	
Low dose ACEI <i>Equivalent of <math>&lt; 10</math> mg of enalapril twice daily</i>	<b>24/26 mg twice daily</b>
Low dose ARB <i>Equivalent of valsartan <math>\leq 80</math> mg twice daily</i>	
ACEI/ARB naïve*	
Severe renal impairment† (eGFR $< 30$ mL/min/1.73 m <sup>2</sup> )	
Moderate hepatic impairment (Child-Pugh Class B)	
Elderly (age $\geq 75$ years)	

- No targeted therapy → we treat all HFrEF pts with the same therapies, titrated to the same target doses
- Existing **therapies are underutilised** in the real world:

	MADIT ('96)		MADIT II ('02)		CAT ('02)		AMIOVIRT ('03)		DEFINITE ('04)		SCD-HeFT ('05)		
	OMT	ICD	OMT	ICD	OMT	ICD	Amio	ICD	OMT	ICD	Amio	Placebo	ICD
ACE-i	51%	57%	68%	72%	98.1%	94%	81%	90%	87.3%	83.8%	85%	88%	86%
ARB									8.7%	13.5%			
BB	14%	31%	70%	70%	3.7%	4%	50%	53%	84.3%	85.6%	72%	79%	82%
MRA							19%	20%			28%	33%	32%

n	305	686	639	470	200	1062	581	257
Mortality rate, % (n)	29% (89)	25% (172)	14% (92)	15% (70)	27% (53)	22% (233)	16% (93)	17% (44)
Mortality and/or HF-hospitalization rate, % (n)	50% (152)	39% (267)	29% (185)	29% (137)	41% (82)	36% (286)	31% (182)	35% (91)
HR Mortality	1.76 (1.54–1.98)	1.50 (1.33–1.67)	0.82 (0.61–1.02)	–	2.41 (2.13–2.68)	1.91 (1.74–2.08)	1.29 (1.07–1.51)	–
HR Mortality and/or HF-hospitalization	1.77 (1.61–1.94)	1.23 (1.09–1.36)	0.86 (0.71–1.00)	–	1.51 (1.29–1.72)	1.27 (1.15–1.39)	1.04 (0.89–1.20)	–

- lower HR
- lower DBP
- more signs of congestion

**MRA:**

- lower eGFR
- Hyperkalaemia

**2) Clinician inertia**

## HOW TO GUIDE OMT

- Remember: target doses are associated with better outcomes; **titration should occur even if the pt appears “stable”**
- When facing clinical scenarios that limit the ability to use target doses of all relevant therapies, a top priority should be to address the factor(s) limiting OMT:
  - **Worsenig renal function or hyperkalaemia** → discontinue aldosterone antagonist if  $eGFR < 30 \text{ mL/min}$  or  $K^+ > 5.5 \text{ mEq/dL}$
  - **Symptomatic hypotension** → first exclude other causes of low BP (overdiuresis, autonomic dysfunction, other vasoactive medications, ...), than use best-tolerated dose of MT
  - **Scarce tolerability and side effects** → start at low doses and up-titrate according to tolerability. Pt education and frequent contact will shorten the time to achieve optimal therapy

Type of HF		HFrEF	HFmrEF	HFpEF
CRITERIA	1	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>	Symptoms ± Signs <sup>a</sup>
	2	LVEF <40%	LVEF 40–49%	LVEF ≥50%
	3	–	1. Elevated levels of natriuretic peptides <sup>b</sup> ; 2. At least one additional criterion: a. relevant structural heart disease (LVH and/or LAE), b. diastolic dysfunction (for details see Section 4.3.2).	1. Elevated levels of natriuretic peptides <sup>b</sup> ; 2. At least one additional criterion: a. relevant structural heart disease (LVH and/or LAE), b. diastolic dysfunction (for details see Section 4.3.2).



The pathophysiology underlying HFpEF is heterogeneous, and it is associated with different phenotypes including concomitant **cardiovascular diseases** (e.g. AF, arterial hypertension, CAD, pulmonary hypertension) and **non-cardiovascular diseases** (diabetes, CKD, anaemia, iron deficiency, COPD and obesity). Unfortunately, at present, **no treatment** has yet been shown, convincingly, to **reduce morbidity or mortality in these patients**.

2003  
CHARM

EF > 40%, NYHA II-IV  
Candesartan vs placebo  
NO ↓ combined CV death + HF hospitalisation

2008  
I-PRESERVE

EF at least 45%, NYHA II-IV  
Irbesartan vs placebo  
NO ↓ all cause death and H admission

2014  
TOPCAT

EF ≥ 35%  
Spironolactone vs placebo  
NO ↓ combined CV death + HF hospitalisation + aborted CA

2017  
EDIFY

EF ≥ 45%, NYHA II-II, SR, HR ≥ 70bpm  
Ivabradine vs placebo  
NO ↓ E/E' o NTproBNP, no ↑ 6MWT

2019...  
PARAGON-HF

EF ≥ 45%, NYHA II-IV  
ARNI vs Valsartan alone  
?

***Timeline of principal RCT for MT in HFpEF***

■ BB      ■ IVABRADINE  
■ ACE-i/ARB  
■ MRA  
■ ARNI

....and SO???

- **Symptoms improvement** remains a primary goal of treatment in these pts
- Proper **treatment of comorbidities** is strongly advised

#### WHAT ABOUT THIS THERAPEUTIC FRUSTRATION?

For many years it was thought that HFpEF was predominantly, if not completely, driven by abnormalities in diastolic function ...but there is more...

- Chronotropic incompetence
- Abnormal oxygen extraction by peripheral skeletal musculature
- Inflammatory and cytokine effects on myocytes, cardiac interstitium and myocardial microvasculature

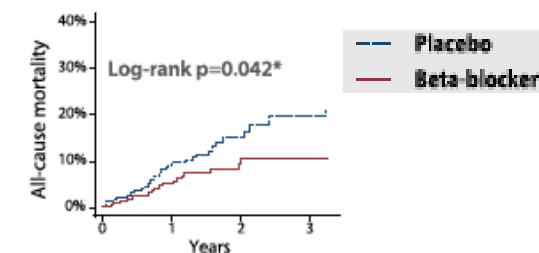
Type of HF	HFrEF	HFmrEF	HFpEF
CRITERIA	1	Symptoms ± Signs*	Symptoms ± Signs*
	2	LVEF <40%	LVEF 40–49%
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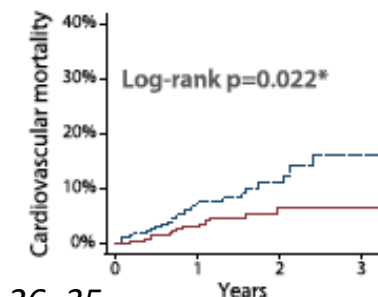
- More than 20% of pts with HF
- CHARM mid range (EJHF 2018): Candesartan ↓ composite of CV death and HF hospitalization in pts with EF 40-49%
- Metanalysis (EHJ 2018): BB ↑LVEF and prognosis in pts with EF 40-49% and SR

European Journal of Heart Failure (2018) doi:10.1002/ejhf.1149

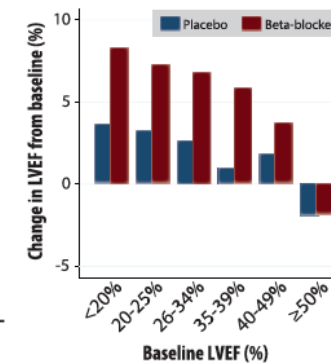
LVEF 40-49%, sinus rhythm



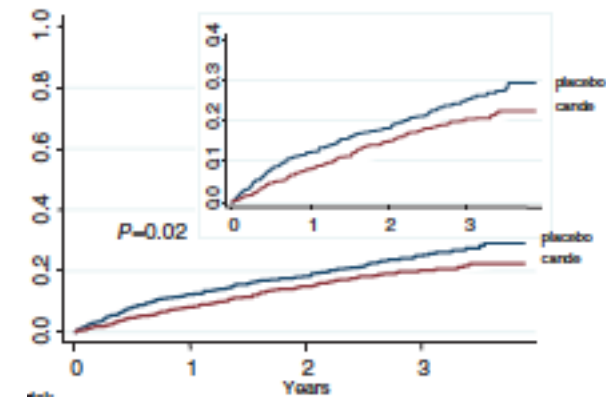
LVEF 40-49%, sinus rhythm



A Sinus rhythm



HFmrEF: HR 0.76 (0.61-0.96) P=0.02



European Heart Journal (2018) 39, 26–35

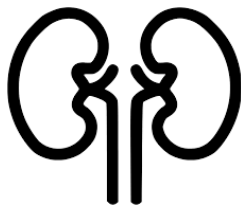


# ACUTE HEART FAILURE

	CONGESTION (-)	CONGESTION (+) Pulmonary congestion, orthopnoea/paroxysmal, nocturnal dyspnoea, peripheral (bilateral) oedema, jugular venous dilatation, congested hepatomegaly, gut congestion, ascites, hepatojugular reflux
HYPOPERFUSION (-)	WARM-DRY	WARM-WET
HYPOPERFUSION (+) Cold sweaty extremities, Oliguria, Mental confusion, Dizziness, Narrow pulse pressure	COLD-DRY	COLD-WET

Hypoperfusion is not synonymous with hypotension, but often hypoperfusion is accompanied by hypotension.

# ACUTE HEART FAILURE



## DIURETICS

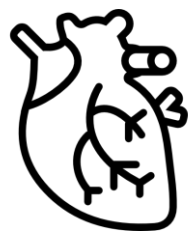
Intravenous loop diuretics are recommended for all patients with AHF admitted with signs/symptoms of fluid overload to improve symptoms. It is recommended to regularly monitor symptoms, urine output, renal function and electrolytes during use of i.v. diuretics.

In patients with new-onset AHF or those with chronic, decompensated HF not receiving oral diuretics the initial recommended dose should be 20–40 mg i.v. furosemide (or equivalent); for those on chronic diuretic therapy, initial i.v. dose should be at least equivalent to oral dose.

It is recommended to give diuretics either as intermittent boluses or as a continuous infusion, and the dose and duration should be adjusted according to patients' symptoms and clinical status.

Combination of loop diuretic with either thiazide-type diuretic or spironolactone may be considered in patients with resistant oedema or insufficient symptomatic response.

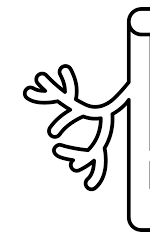
- NO difference between **bolus** and **continuous infusion** (DOSE study)
- If **resistance** → sequential nephron blockade (+ thiazides or thiazide-like diuretics)
- Ultrafiltration: still debated
  - CARESS-HF study: no benefit
  - AVOID-HF trial: ↓ in HF admission



## INOTROPES

	Bolus	Infusion
Dobutamine <sup>a</sup>	No	2–20 µg/kg/min (beta+)
Dopamine	No	3–5 µg/kg/min; Inotropic (beta+)
		>5 µg/kg/min: (beta+), vasopressor (alpha+)
Milrinone <sup>a,b</sup>	25–75 µg/kg over 10–20 min	0.375–0.75 µg/kg/min
Enoximone <sup>a</sup>	0.5–1.0 mg/kg over 5–10 min	5–20 µg/kg/min
Levosimendan <sup>a</sup>	12 µg/kg over 10 min (optional) <sup>c</sup>	0.1 µg/kg/min, which can be decreased to 0.05 or increased to 0.2 µg/kg/min
Norepinephrine	No	0.2–1.0 µg/kg/min
Epinephrine	Bolus: 1 mg can be given i.v. during resuscitation, repeated every 3–5 min	0.05–0.5 µg/kg/min

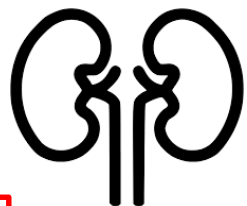
- Except for digoxin (IIbB), they should be only used in pts with CS (SBP < 90 mmHg)
- When inotropes are needed → STOP BB



## VASODILATORS

Vasodilator	Dosing
Nitroglycerine	Start with 10–20 µg/min, increase up to 200 µg/min
Isosorbide dinitrate	Start with 1 mg/h, increase up to 10 mg/h
Nitroprusside	Start with 0.3 µg/kg/min and increase up to 5 µg/kg/min
Nesiritide <sup>a</sup>	Bolus 2 µg/kg + infusion 0.01 µg/kg/min

- Relief symptoms in pts with SBP ≥ 100 mmHg



**2017  
ATHENA-HF**

AHF regardless of EF  
 100 mg **spironolactone** vs 25 mg placebo or for 96 hrs  
 I endpoint: change in NTproBNP from baseline to 96 hrs  
 II endpoint: clinical congestion score, dyspnea assessment, net urine output, and net weight change  
 NO improvement



**2016  
ATOMIC-AHF**

**Omecamtiv mecarbil** 48hrs infusion vs placebo in AHF pts with EF≤40%  
 Increase systolic ejection time  
 Improve dyspnea only in the high-dose group

**Istaroxime** infusion in AHF vs placebo  
 ↓ PCWP, HR, ESV, EDV; ↑ IC, SBP  
 ↓ E/E', DT E wave

**2008  
HORIZON**



**2017  
BLAST-HF**

Phase IIb study  
 3 different dosage of **TRV027** vs placebo  
 NO improvement of clinical status at 30 days



**2017  
TRUE-AHF**

Continuous iv infusion of **Ularitide** (natruretic peptide) vs placebo for 48 hrs did not affect CV death

**Ongoing  
RELAX-AHF2**

**Serelaxin** infusion in addition to ST in pts with AHF will be able to reduce CV death at 180 days and worsening HF through day 5?

## TAKE HOME MESSAGES

### CHF:

- **Neurohormonal antagonists** are known since the dawn of time and they proved to be effective, but we have to use them well → **don't forget to titrate!!!!**
- With the publication of **PARADIGM-HF** trial we may be entering a new era of treatment for HFrEF

### AHF:

- At present NO treatment for AHF has proved to increase outcome
- New molecules are currently under investigation; numerous studies have failed, but we hope for the future...

Thank you for your attention!

