

# Alterations of Cardiovascular System after Menopause

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# Men vs. Women and pre-post Menopause



Whether higher cardiovascular risk is a function of **aging**, a consequence of **menopause** and its associated loss of endogenous estrogen or **both** has been debated.

# 목차

- **Evidence of higher cardiovascular risk in women after menopause**
- **Alterations of cardiovascular system after menopause**
  - Cardiac change
  - Coronary artery disease
  - Endothelial function
  - IMT and aortic stiffness
  - Hypertension
- **Take home message**

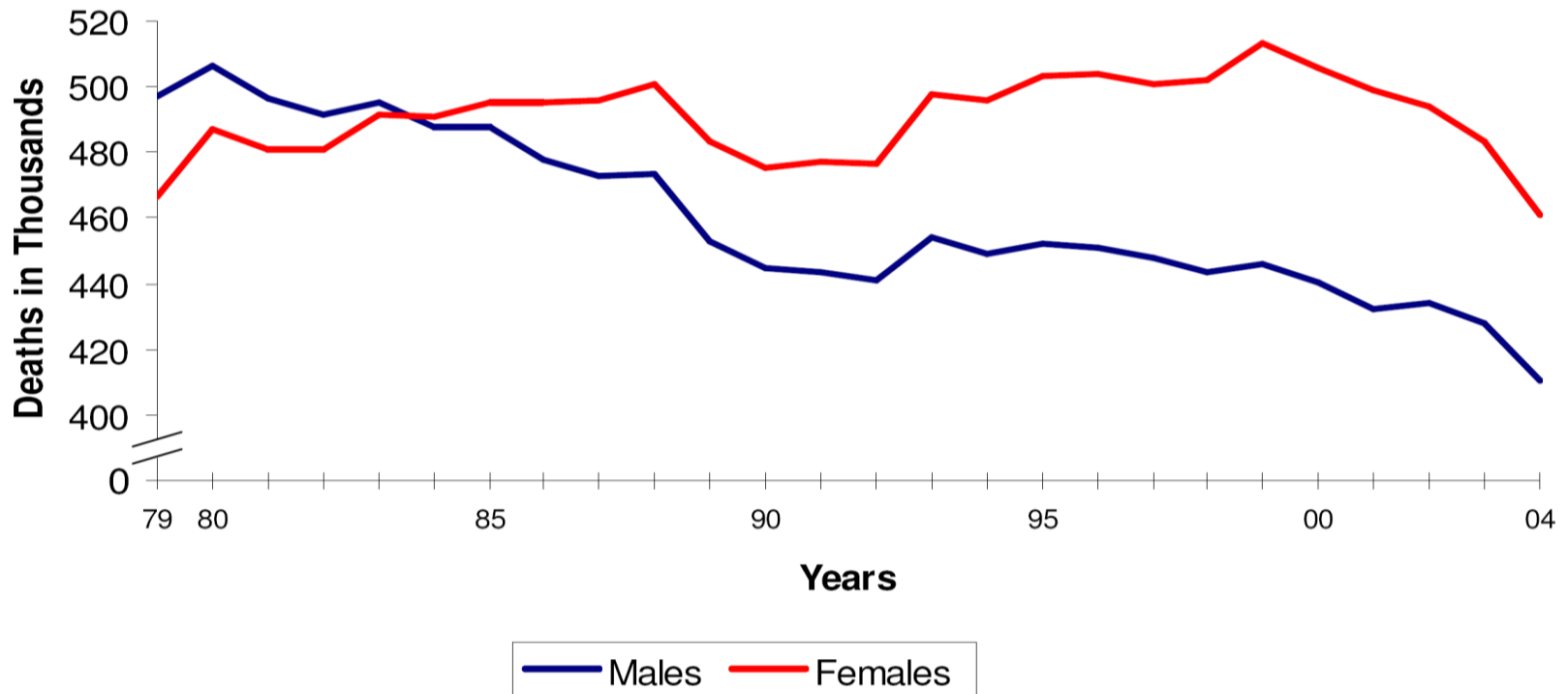
# Menopause

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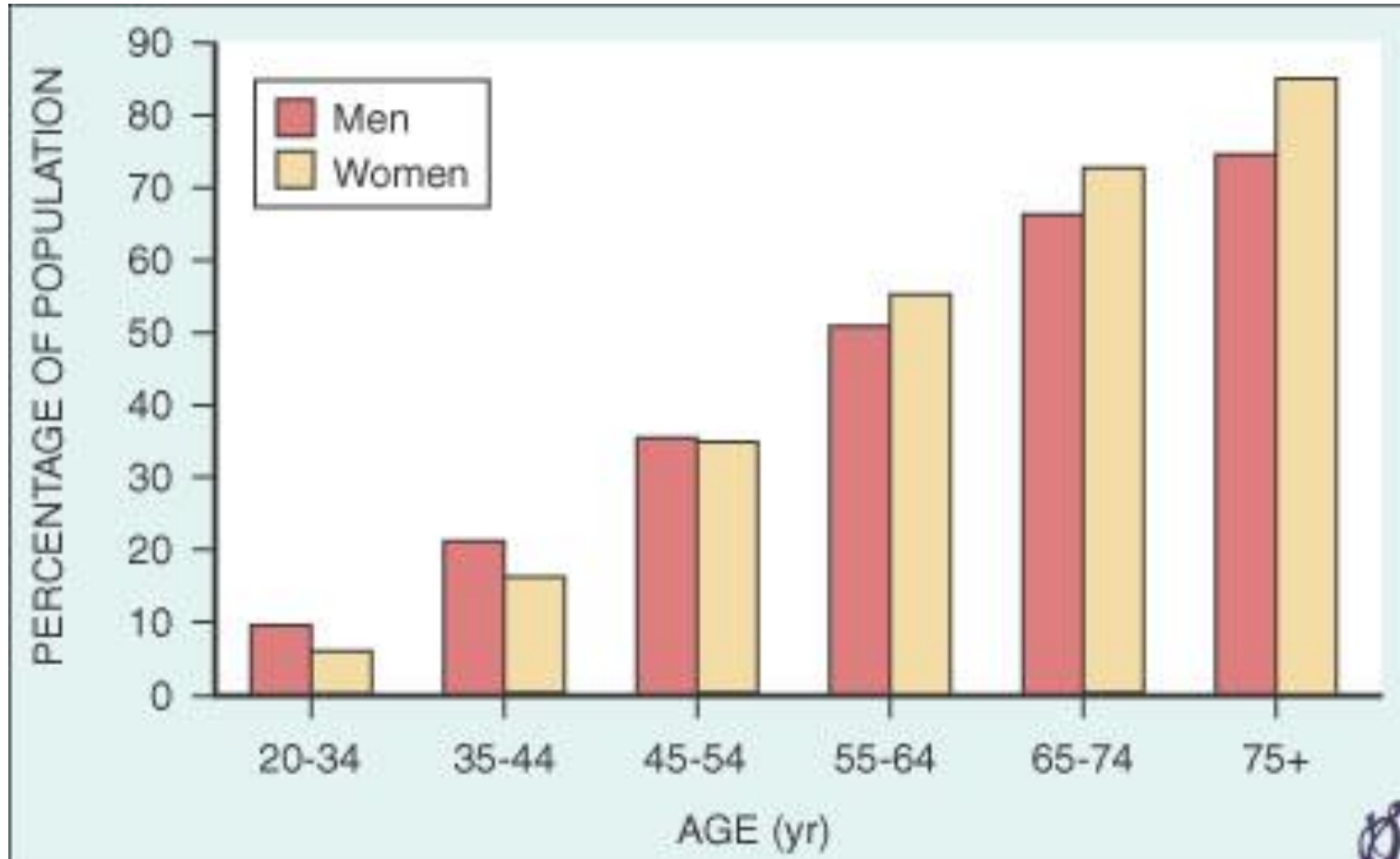
- Average age at menopause: 51.4 years
- Women in developed countries live over 1/3 of their lives in the postmenopausal state
- Global population of postmenopausal women: from 467 million in 1990 to 1,200 million in 2030
- Understanding the impact of menopause on women's health is becoming increasingly important

# More Women Die From Heart Disease Than Men

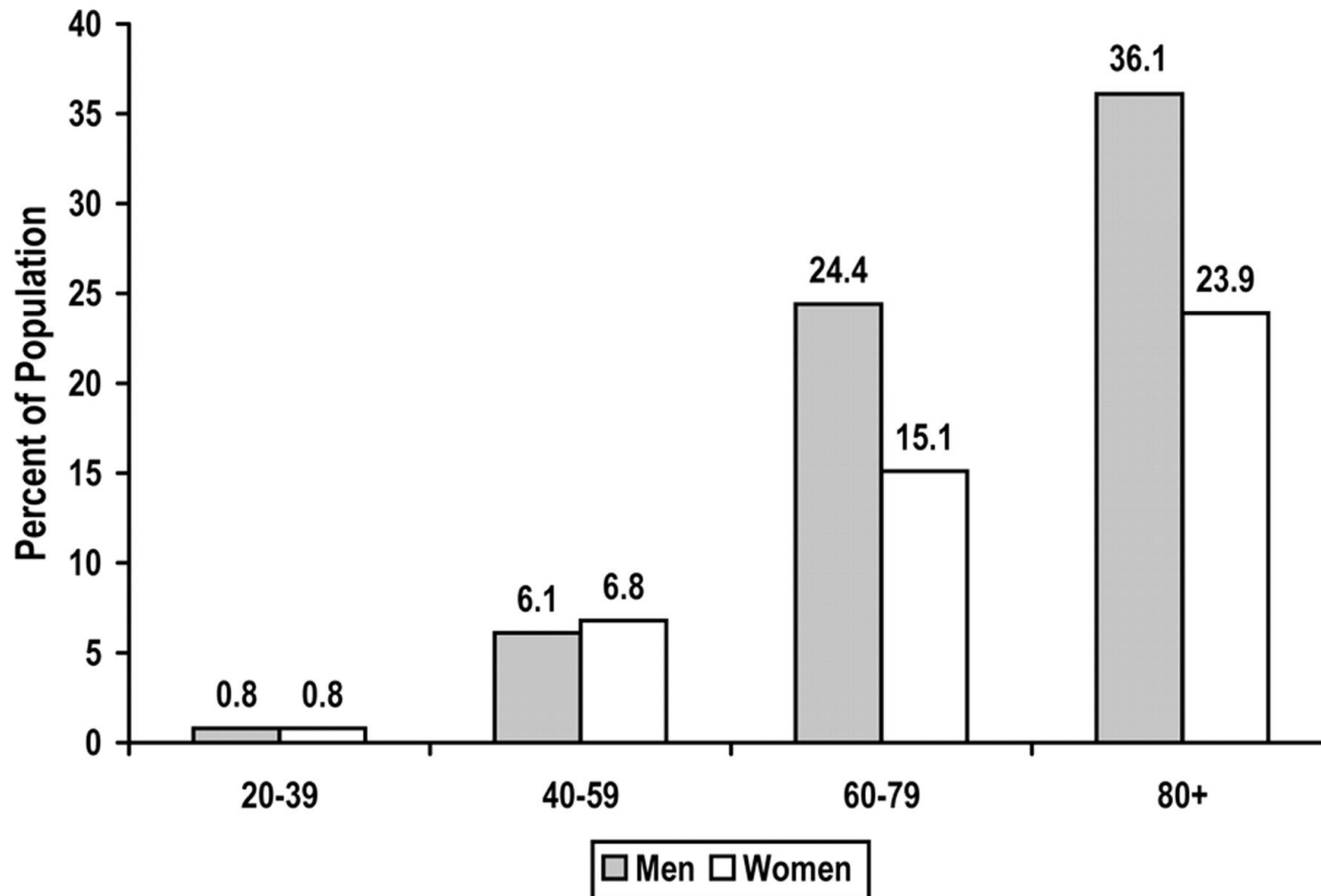
**Heart Disease Mortality in Women and Men  
Absolute Number of Deaths, 1979-2004**



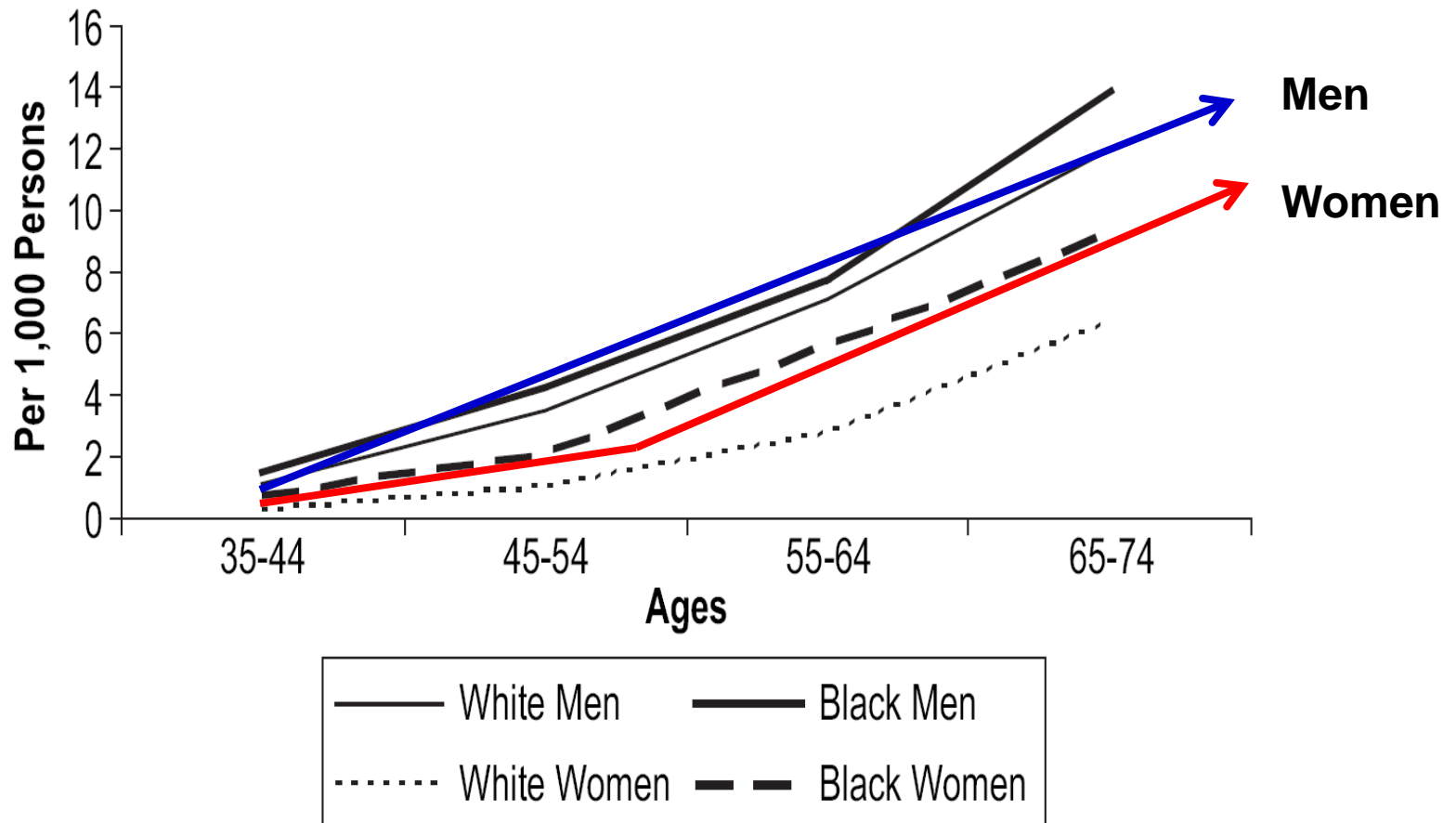
# Estimated Prevalence of Cardiovascular Disease in Americans 20 years of age and older



# Prevalence of CHD by age and sex



# Annual Rate of First Myocardial Infarctions by Age, Sex, and Race



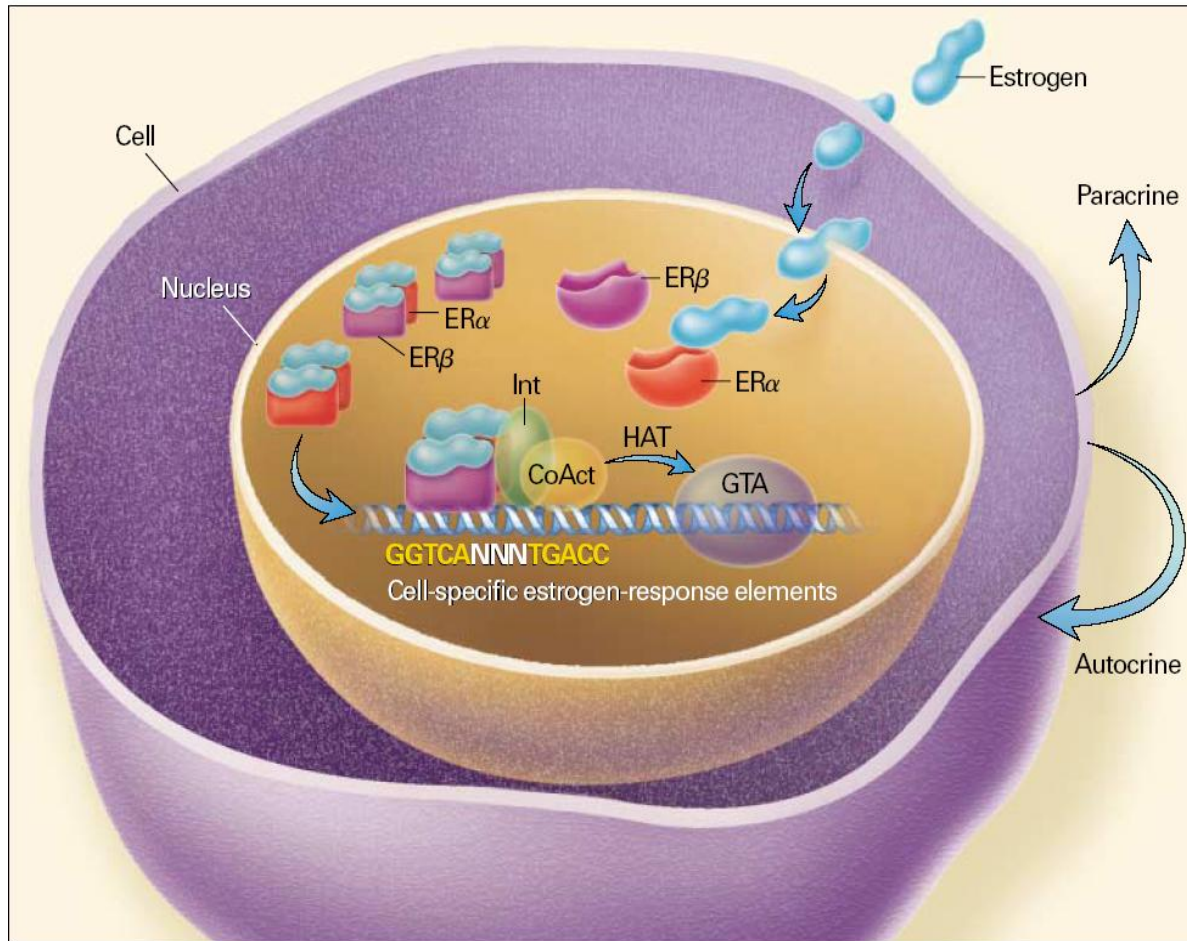


# Why CV Risk Increased After Menopause

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- The mechanisms underlying the increased cardiovascular risk after menopause are incompletely known.
- Aging process vs. Menopause (estrogen deficiency) ?

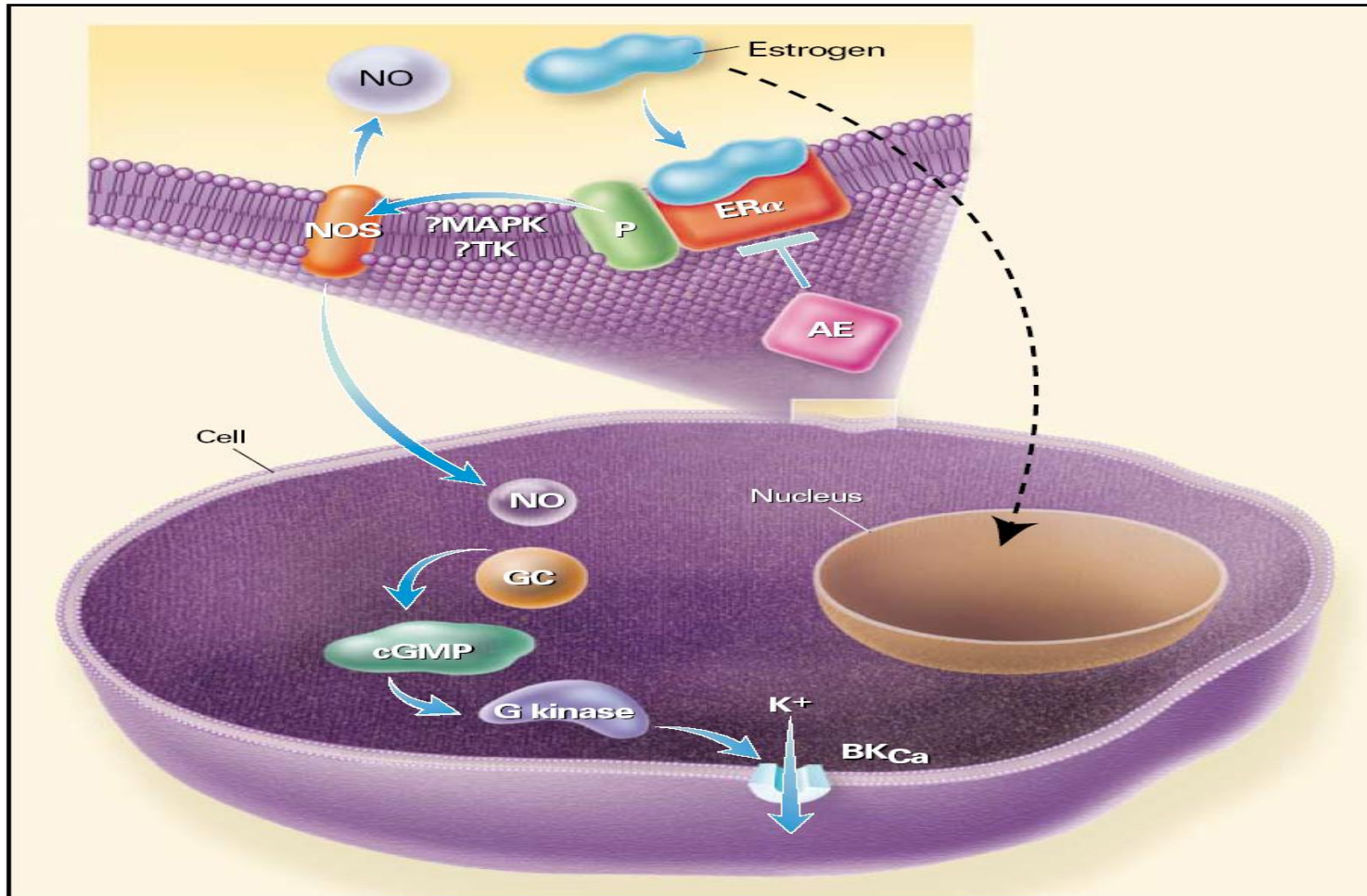
# Vascular Genomic Effects of Estrogen



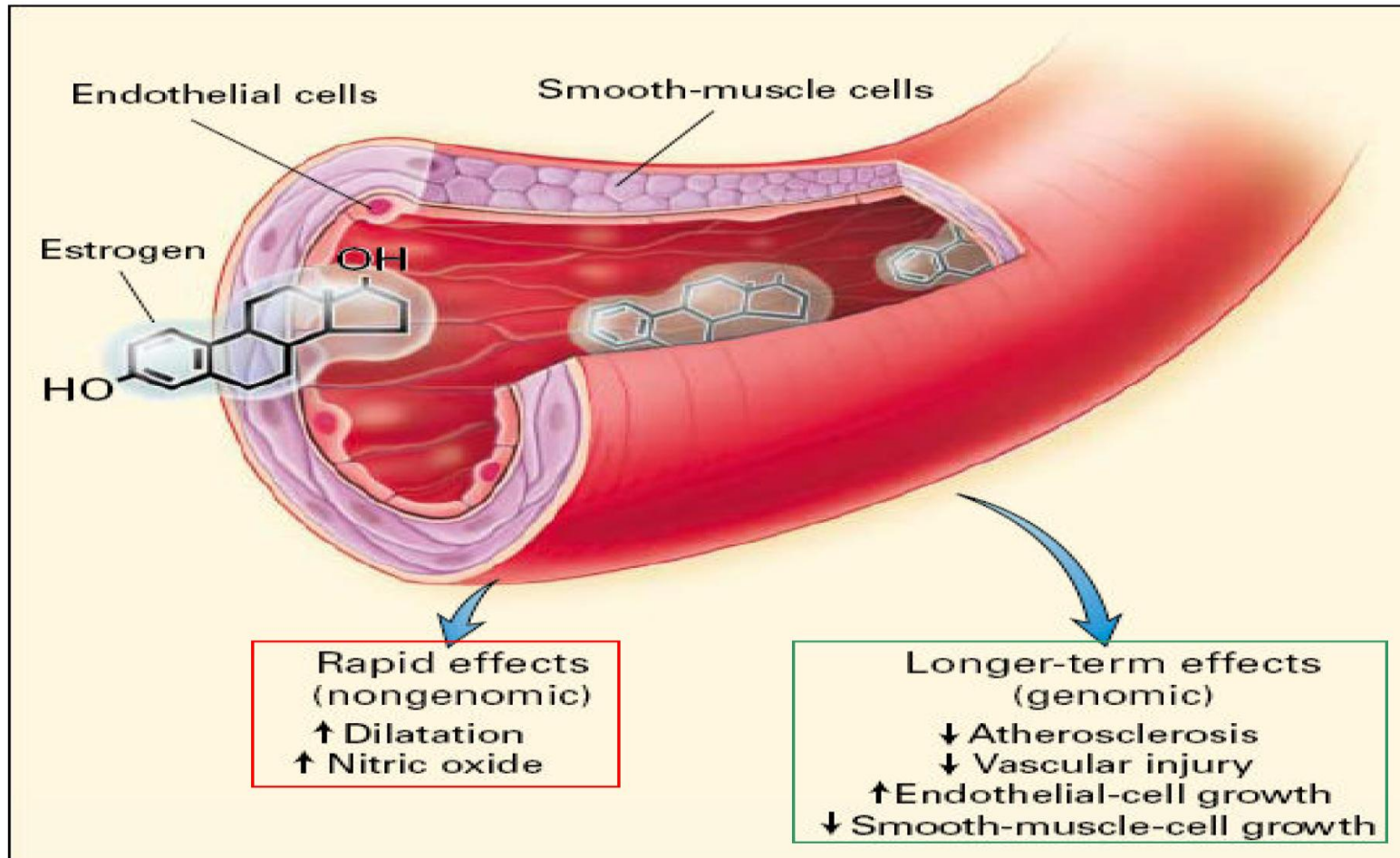
Ligand binding →

Activate or suppress  
gene transcription

# Vascular Non-genomic Effects of Estrogen



# Direct Effects of Estrogen on Blood Vessels

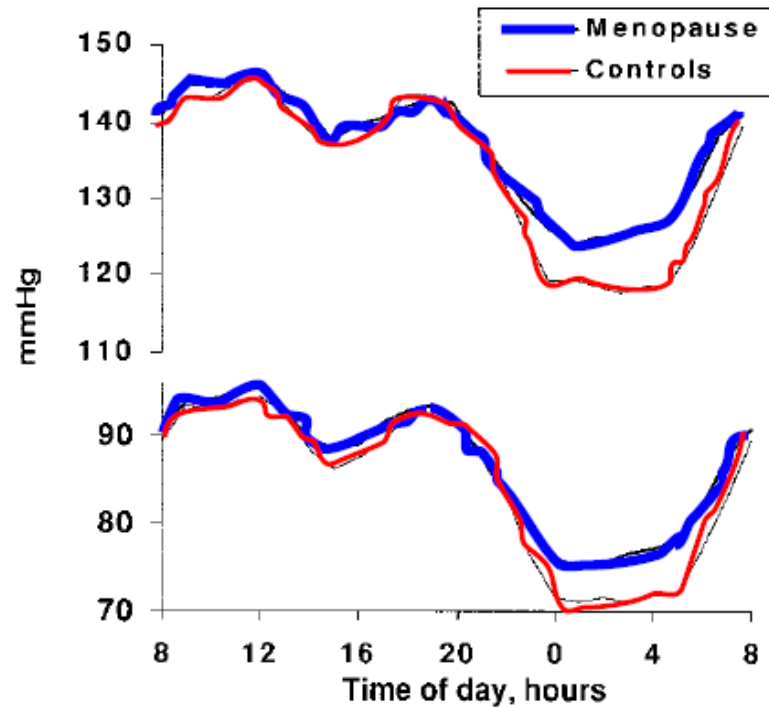


# **Cardiac change after menopause**

# Alterations of Cardiac System After Menopause

- Blunted day-night blood pressure reduction
- Impaired LV systolic performance
- Concentric LV geometric pattern

# Blunted day-Night BP Reduction



**Figure 1.** Twenty-four-hour BP profile in 76 postmenopausal women and 76 age- and BP-matched premenopausal women with essential hypertension.

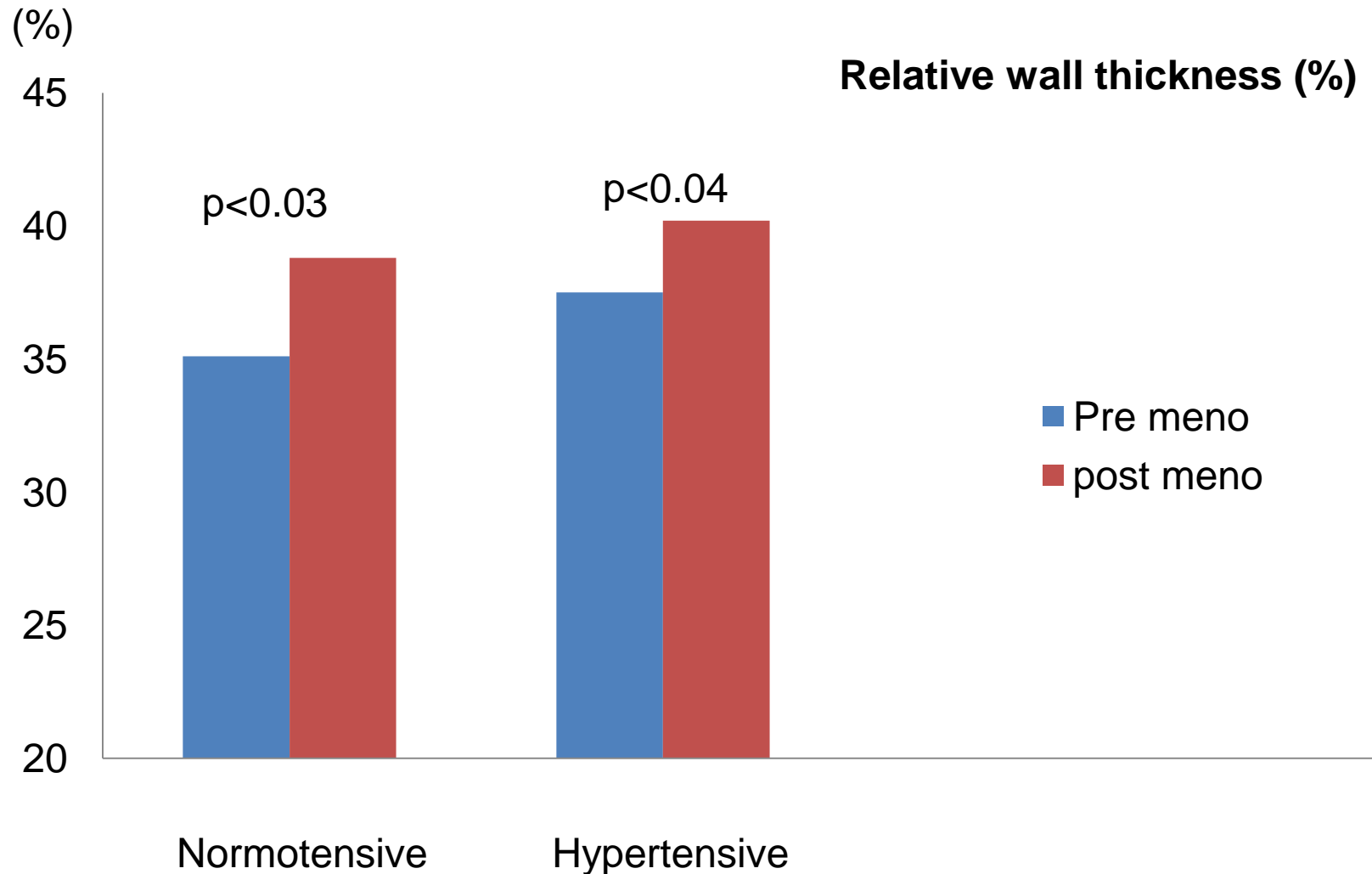
# Blunted day-Night BP Reduction

**TABLE 2** Hemodynamics at Rest, Ambulatory Blood Pressure, and Laboratory Parameters in Pre- and Postmenopausal Women

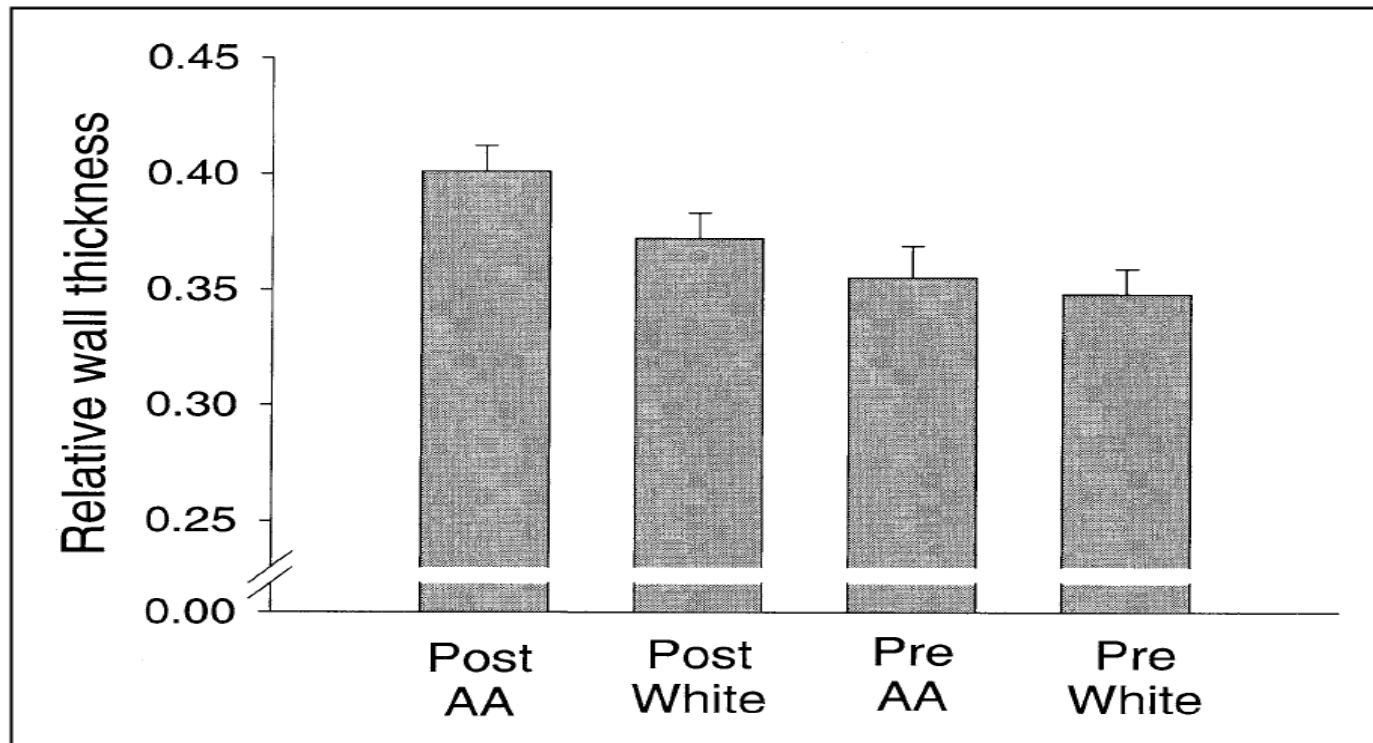
	Premenopausal	Postmenopausal	p Value
Hemodynamics at rest			
Systolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	108 ± 13	108 ± 12	NS
Diastolic blood pressure (mm Hg)	71 ± 8	72 ± 7	NS
Heart rate (beats/min)	67 ± 9	67 ± 9	NS
Cardiac index (L/min·m <sup>2</sup> )	3.10 ± 0.71	2.64 ± 0.73	<0.01
Peripheral resistance index (dyne·s·m <sup>2</sup> /cm <sup>5</sup> )	2262 ± 661	2722 ± 757	<0.01
Ambulatory blood pressure (mm Hg)			
Daytime systolic blood pressure	119 ± 11	119 ± 12	NS
Daytime diastolic blood pressure	74 ± 7	76 ± 7	NS
Systolic blood pressure during sleep	100 ± 10	104 ± 13	<0.05
Diastolic blood pressure during sleep	59 ± 8	63 ± 8	<0.05
Systolic nocturnal decrease	19 ± 8	15 ± 8	<0.01
Diastolic nocturnal decrease	15 ± 6	12 ± 6	0.05
Biochemical and hematologic data			
Follicular stimulating hormone (mIU/ml)	17 ± 21	67 ± 31	<0.01
Estradiol (pg/ml)	81 ± 78	22 ± 36	<0.01
Hematocrit (%)	38 ± 3	40 ± 2	<0.01
Total cholesterol (mg/dl)	192 ± 34	207 ± 44	<0.05
Triglycerides (mg/dl)	83 ± 40	94 ± 69	NS
Plasma renin activity (mg/ml/h)	1.92 ± 4.17	2.05 ± 3.62	NS
Creatinine (mg/dl)	0.85 ± 0.12	0.87 ± 0.11	NS
Urinary sodium excretion (mEq/24 h)	107 ± 45	110 ± 47	NS



# Concentric LV geometric pattern

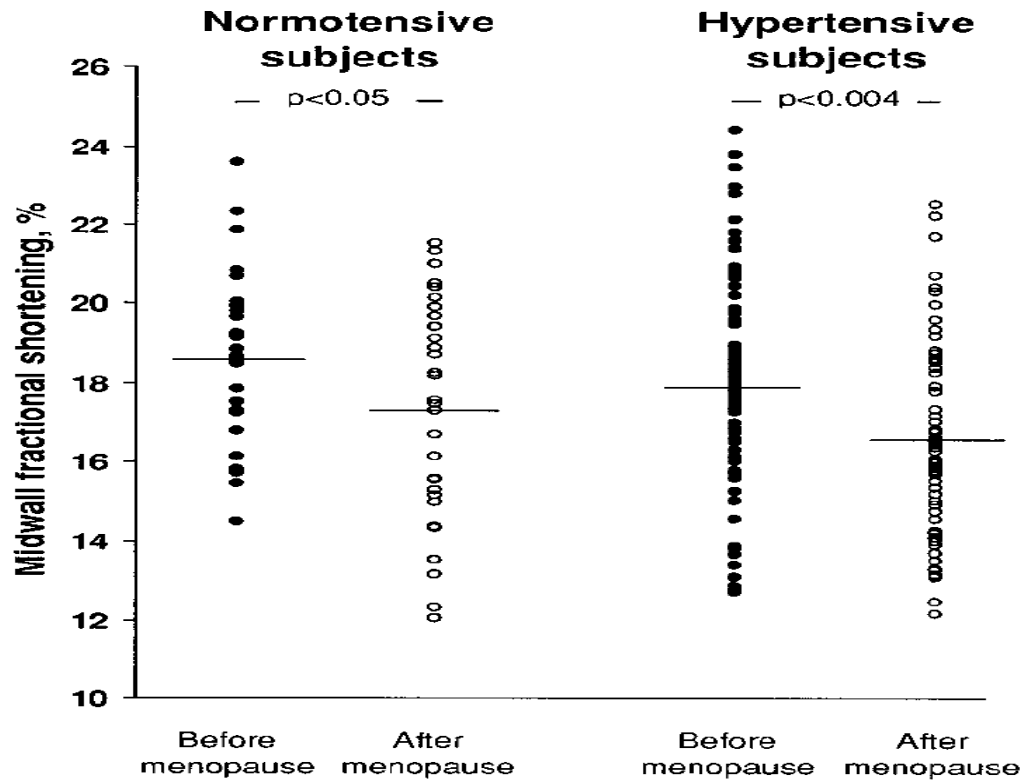


# Concentric LV geometric pattern



**FIGURE 1.** Left ventricular wall thickness in subgroups by menopause status and ethnicity. AA = African-American; Post = postmenopausal; Pre = premenopausal. Values represent mean  $\pm$  SE.

# Reduced LV systolic performance



**Figure 2.** LV fractional shortening assessed at the midwall level in age- and BP-matched premenopausal (●) and postmenopausal (○) women.

# **CAD in pre, post menopausal women**

# Sex differences in atheroma burden and endothelial function in patients with early coronary atherosclerosis

**Seung Hwan Han<sup>1,2</sup>, Jang Ho Bae<sup>1,3</sup>, David R. Holmes Jr<sup>1</sup>, Ryan J. Lennon<sup>4</sup>,  
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*Received 23 October 2007; revised 19 February 2008; accepted 13 March 2008; online publish-ahead-of-print 18 April 2008*

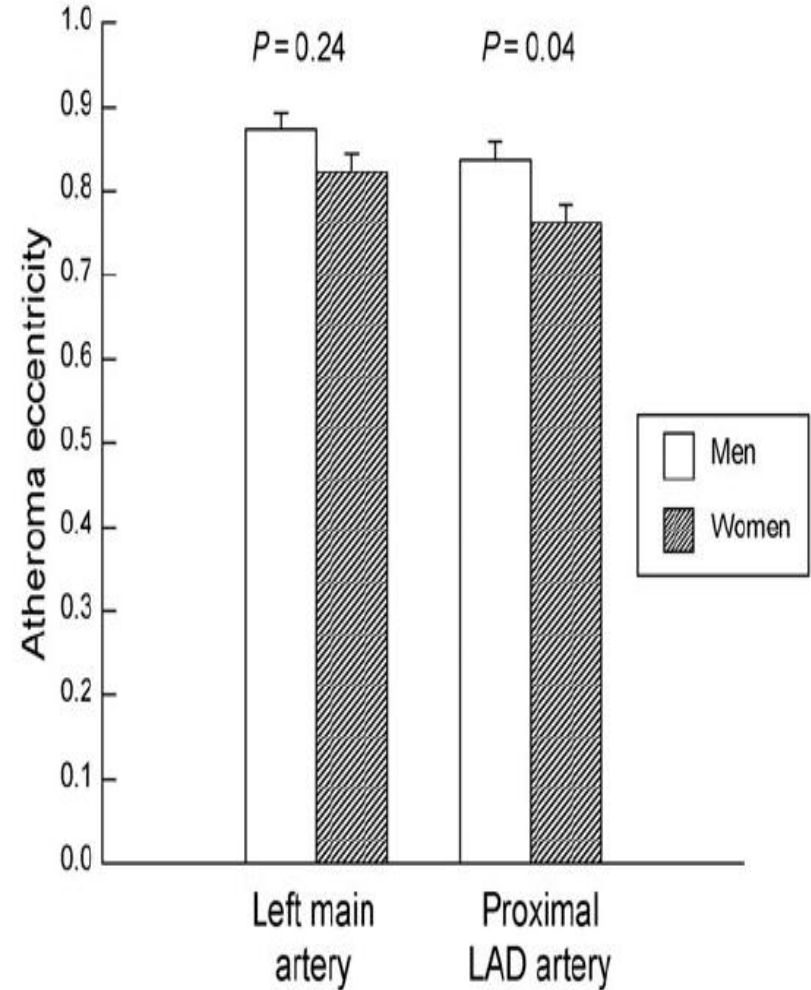
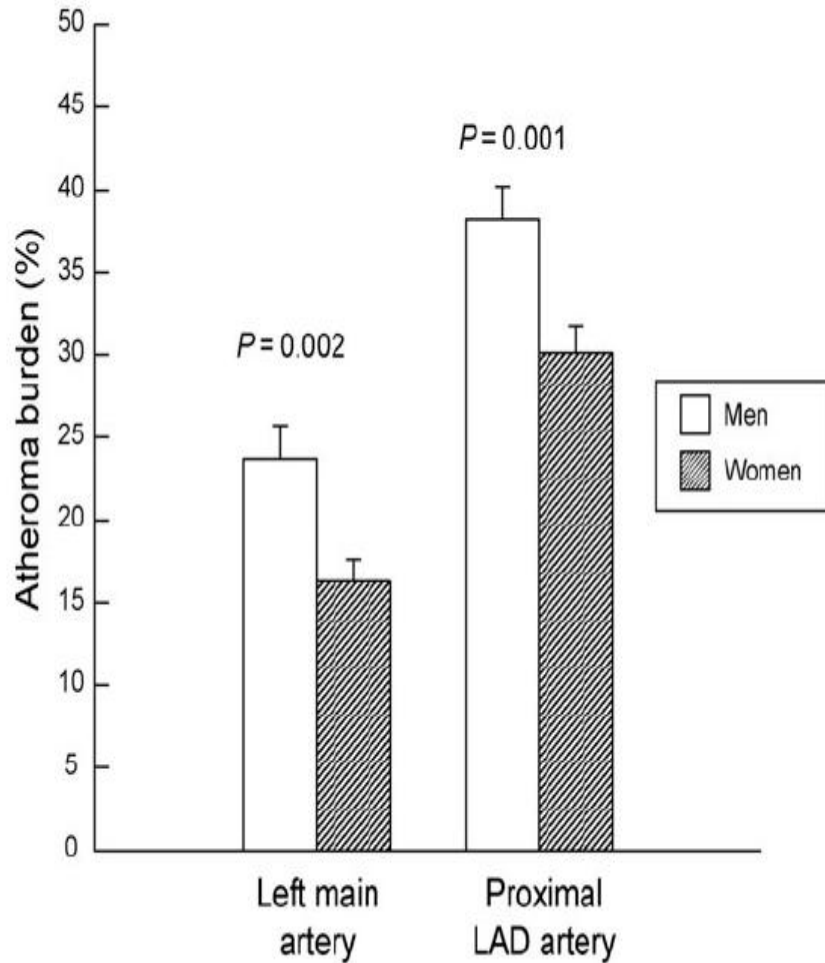
**Table 1** Patient characteristics<sup>a</sup>

Characteristic	Patients		P-value
	Men (n = 53)	Women (n = 89)	
Age (year)	45.2 ± 11.0	51.7 ± 11.5	0.001
Hypertension	30 (56.6)	44 (49.4)	0.41
Diabetes mellitus	3 (5.7)	10 (11.2)	0.27
Hyperlipidemia	32 (60.4)	54 (60.7)	0.74
Current smoking	8 (15.1)	10 (11.2)	0.20
Body mass index (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	28.23 ± 4.42	30.14 ± 6.78	0.04
Mean arterial pressure (mmHg)	96.56 ± 14.00	99.29 ± 15.23	0.31
Ejection fraction (%)	65.18 ± 4.28	64.10 ± 5.62	0.24
Creatinine (mg/dL)	1.10 ± 0.21	0.91 ± 0.13	<0.001
Haemoglobin (g/dL)	13.98 ± 1.04	12.96 ± 1.11	<0.001
Glucose (mg/dL)	94 (89–101)	94 (86–104)	0.56
Total cholesterol (mg/dL)	175.28 ± 36.48	190.44 ± 37.57	0.02
LDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	106.73 ± 32.08	109.09 ± 33.10	0.68
HDL cholesterol (mg/dL)	41.48 ± 10.33	57.98 ± 16.41	<0.001
Triglycerides (mg/dL)	129 (86–166)	98 (64–147)	0.05
C-reactive protein (mg/dL)	0.16 (0.07–0.40)	0.36 (0.14–0.90)	0.01
<b>Medications</b>			
Aspirin	31 (58.5)	45 (50.6)	0.36
β-Blockers	17 (32.1)	28 (31.5)	0.94
ACE inhibitors	13 (24.5)	17 (19.1)	0.44
Calcium-channel antagonists	20 (37.7)	35 (39.3)	0.85
Lipid-lowering agents	23 (43.4)	35 (39.3)	0.63

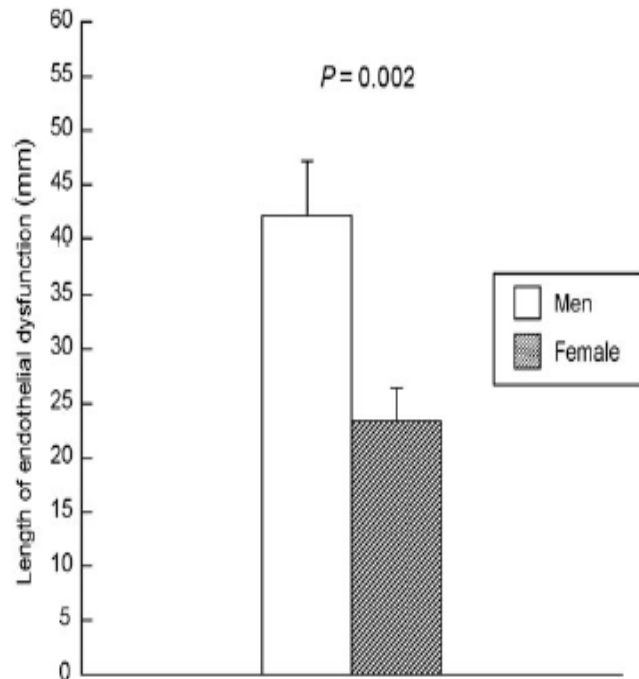
ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme; HDL, high-density lipoprotein; LDL, low-density lipoprotein.

<sup>a</sup>Values are no. of patients (%), mean ± SD, or median (interquartile range).

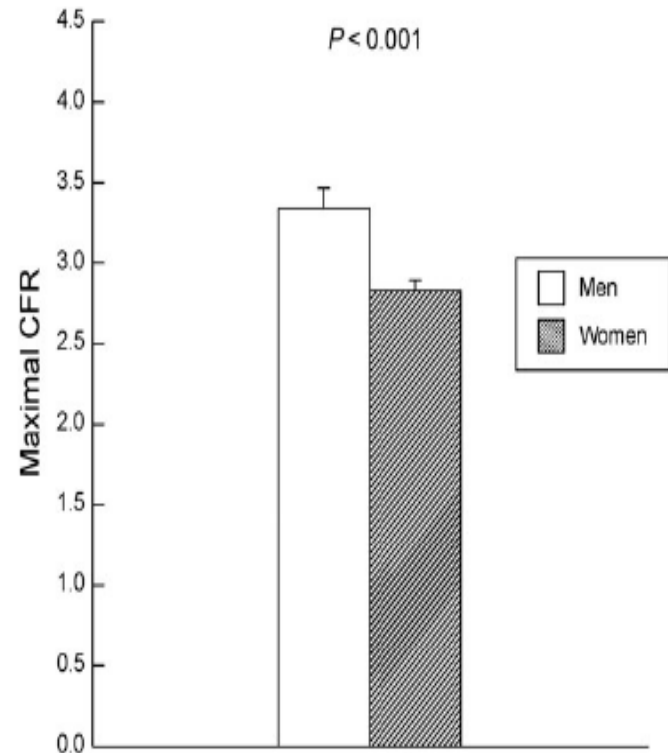
# Atheroma Between Gender



# Epicardial and Microvascular Function Between Gender



**Figure 2** Graph shows the length of the coronary segments with epicardial endothelial dysfunction after intracoronary acetylcholine infusion. The segments were significantly longer in men than women ( $P = 0.002$ ). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

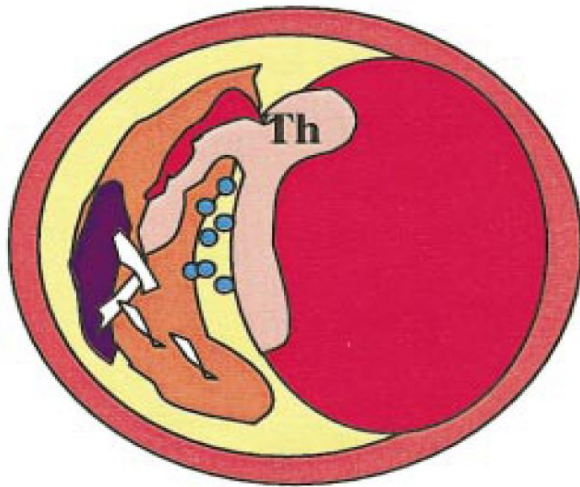


**Figure 3** Maximal coronary flow reserve (CFR) after intracoronary infusion of adenosine was significantly decreased in women compared with men ( $P < 0.001$ ). Data are expressed as mean  $\pm$  SEM.

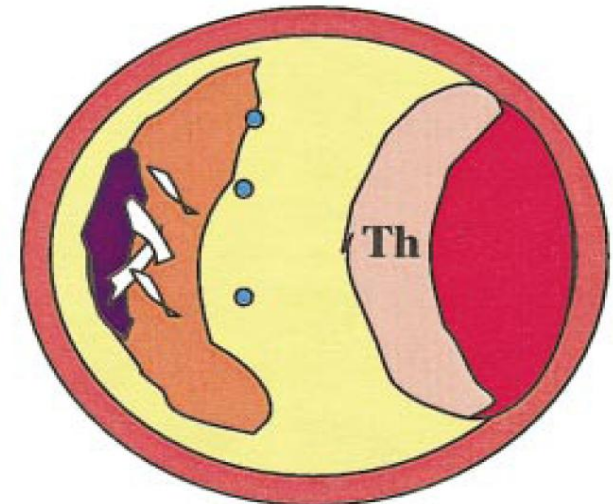


# Gender Differences in Physiology in Myocardial Infarction

## Plaque Rupture



## Plaque Erosion



Young women  
Smoker

# Effect of Menopause on Plaque Morphologic Characteristics in Coronary Atherosclerosis

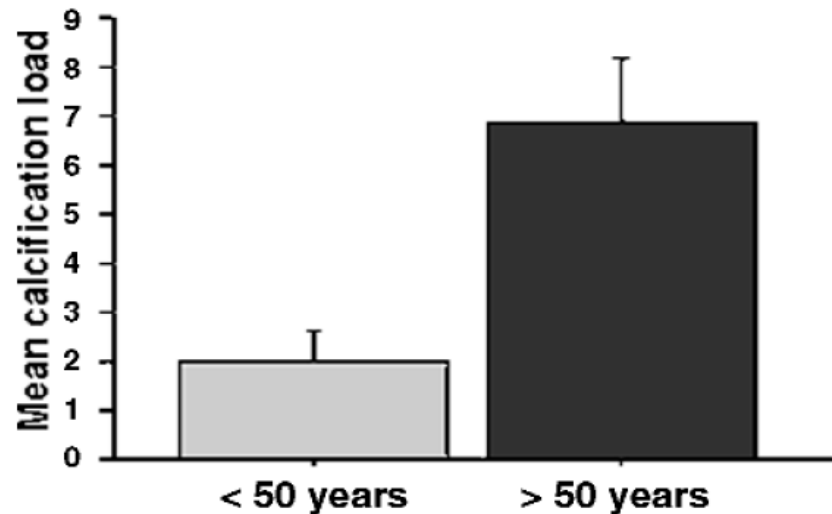
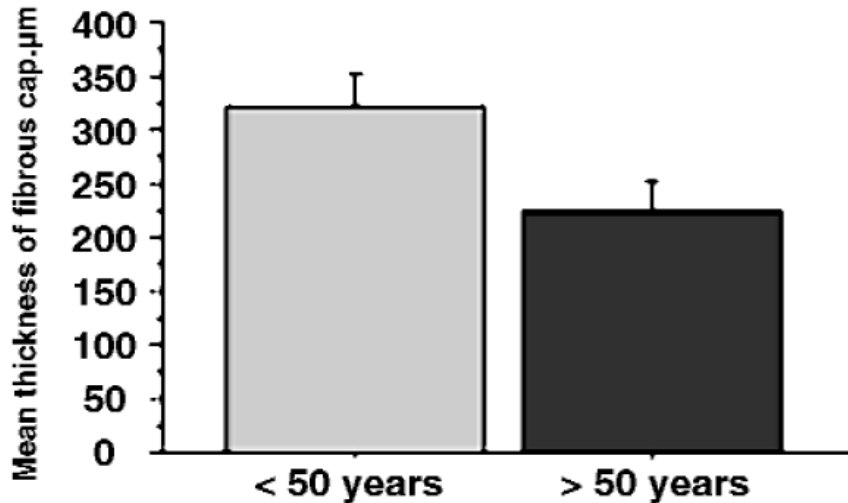
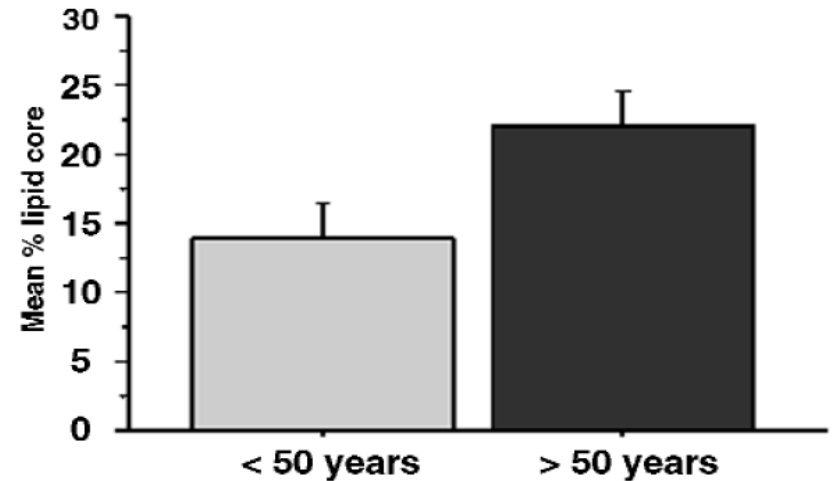
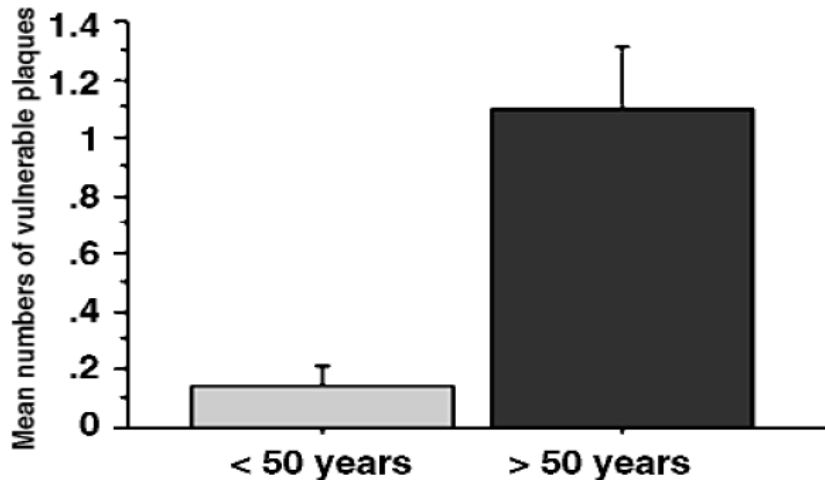
**Table I.** Mechanism of death and risk factors in 51 women who died suddenly from severe coronary artery disease

Mechanism of death (n)	Age >50 y (%)	TC (mg/dL)	Body mass index	Glycohemoglobin (mean %)	Cigarette smokers (n)
Plaque erosion (n = 18)	3 (17%)	191 ± 68	27 ± 4.3	6.7 ± 0.7	14 (78%)
Plaque rupture (n = 8)	7 (87%)	272 ± 61	31 ± 4.4	8.8 ± 4.4	4 (50%)
Stable plaque, no infarct (n = 7)	2 (29%)	178 ± 57	30 ± 10.6	8.0 ± 4.5	2 (29%)
Stable plaque, healed infarct (n = 18)	9 (50%)	198 ± 61	28 ± 9.0	10.2 ± 5.0	9 (50%)
<i>P</i> value	.001, rupture vs erosion; .03, rupture vs stable plaque, no infarct	.01, rupture vs stable plaque; .01, rupture vs stable plaque, healed infarct; .02, rupture vs erosion	.02, rupture vs eroded plaque	.001, stable plaque, healed infarct vs eroded plaque	

51 women who died suddenly from severe CAD

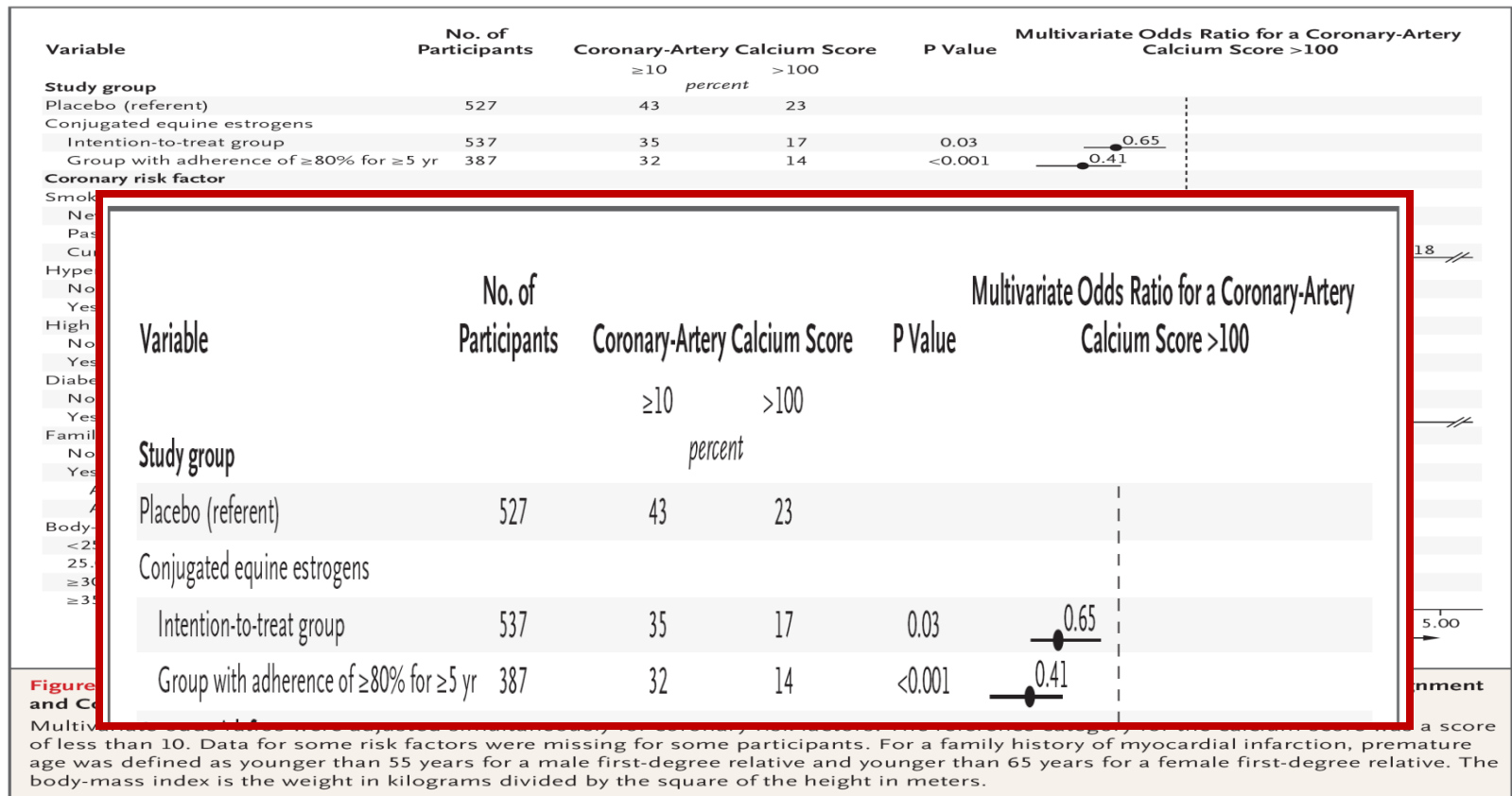
Burke AP, Virmani R. Am H J 2001;141:S58

# Effect of Menopause on Plaque Morphologic Characteristics in Coronary Atherosclerosis



51 women who died suddenly from severe CAD  
Burke AP, Virmani R. Am H J 2001;141:S58

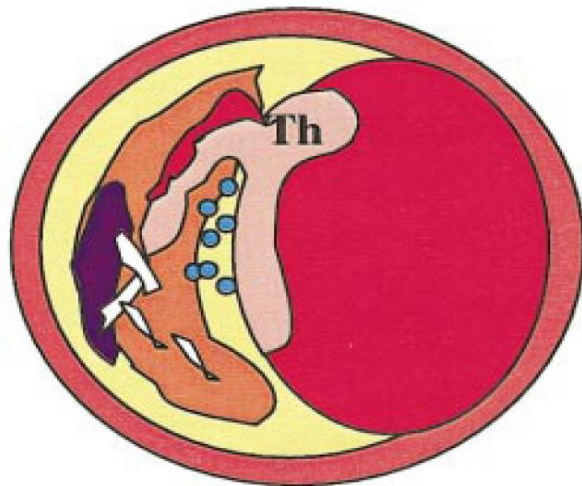
# Estrogen Therapy and Coronary Artery Calcification



Women's Health Initiative Trial, Conjugated equine estrogen (0.625mg/d), Undergone hysterectomy

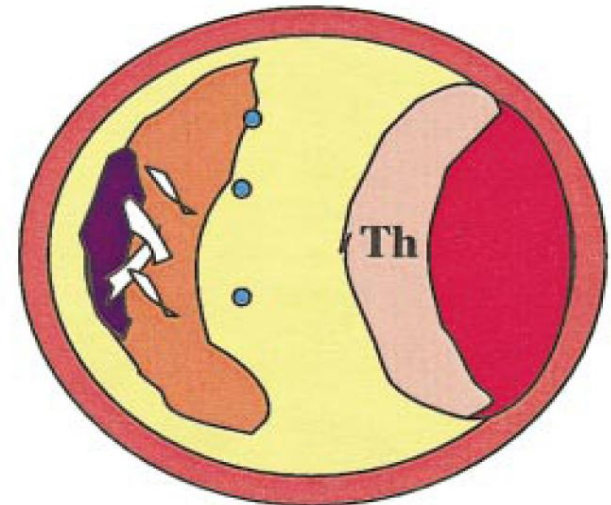
# Gender Differences in Physiology in Myocardial Infarction

**Plaque Rupture**



**Older Women**

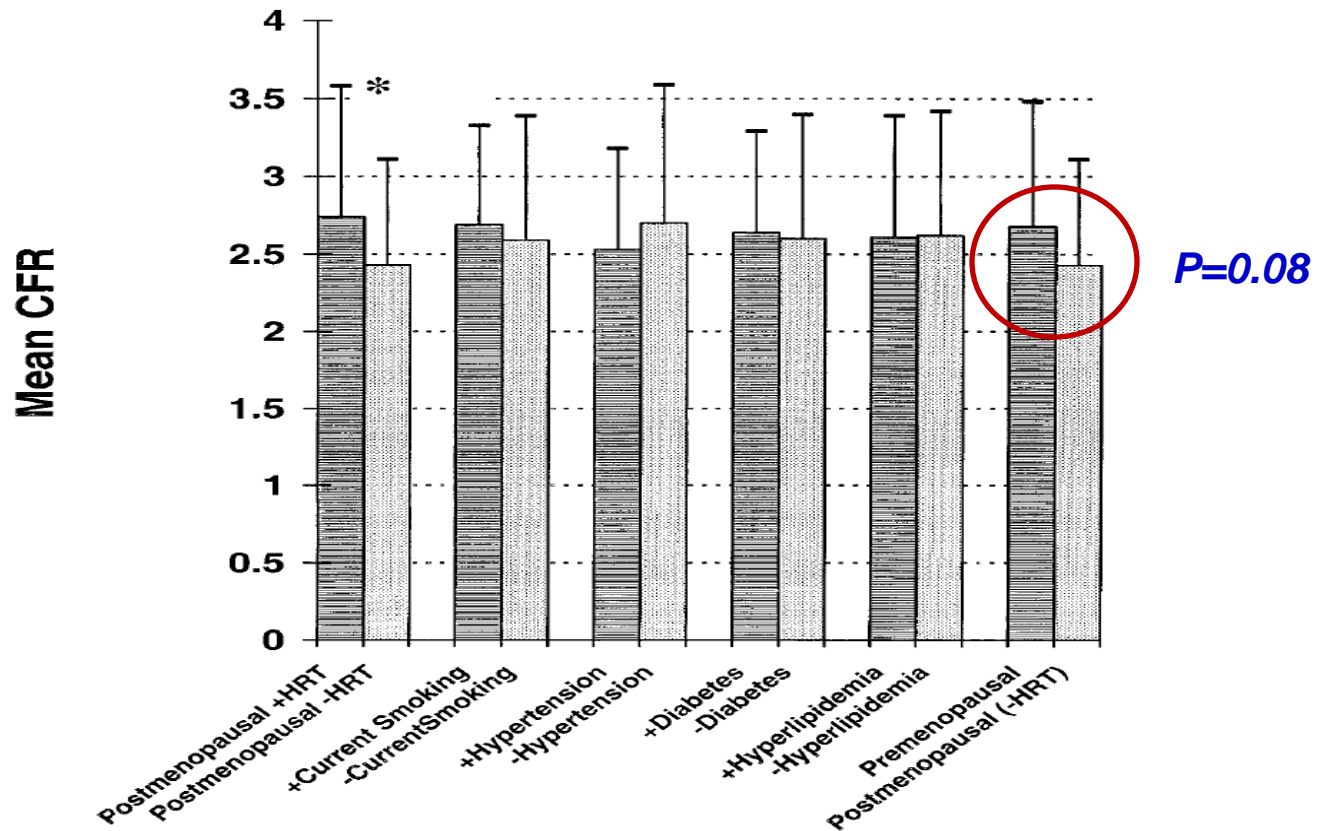
**Plaque Erosion**



Young women  
Smoker

# Microvascular dysfunction after menopause

Figure 1



Coronary flow velocity reserve in women with and those without traditional cardiac risk factors. Error bars denote standard deviation. CFR, Coronary flow velocity reserve; HRT, hormone replacement therapy in postmenopausal women. Asterisk,  $P = .017$ .

# **Endothelial function in menopausal women**

# Endothelial Dysfunction: The Risk of Risk Factors

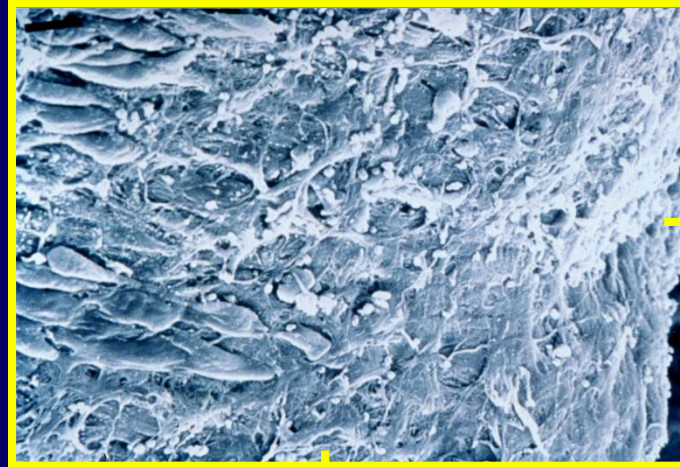
Smoking

Hypertension

Hypercholesterolemia

Diabetes

New risk factors



Genomic predisposition

**Endothelial dysfunction: The risk of the risk factors**

Dementia

Heart failure

Stroke

Acute Coronary syndrome

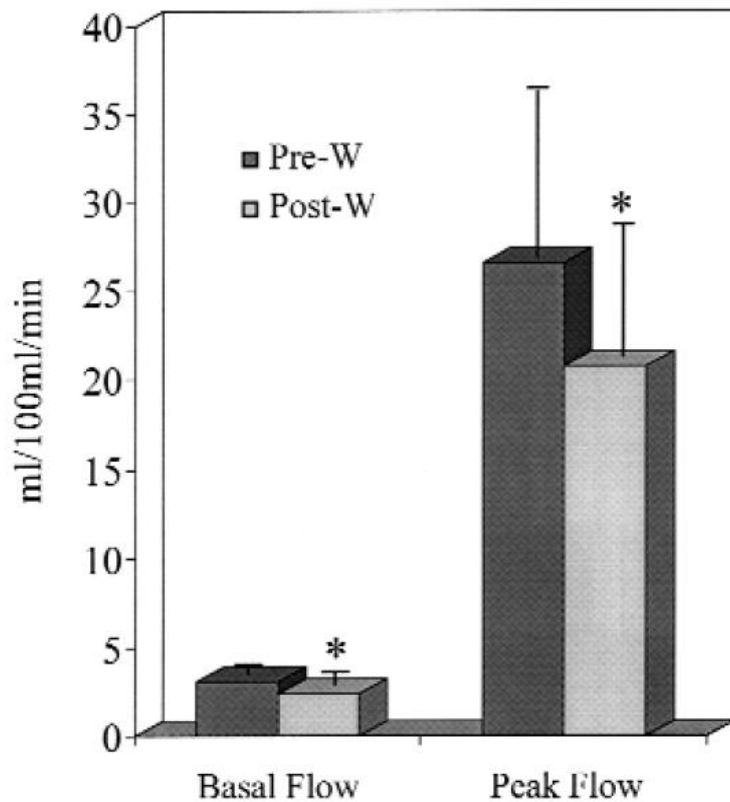
Sudden death

Impotence

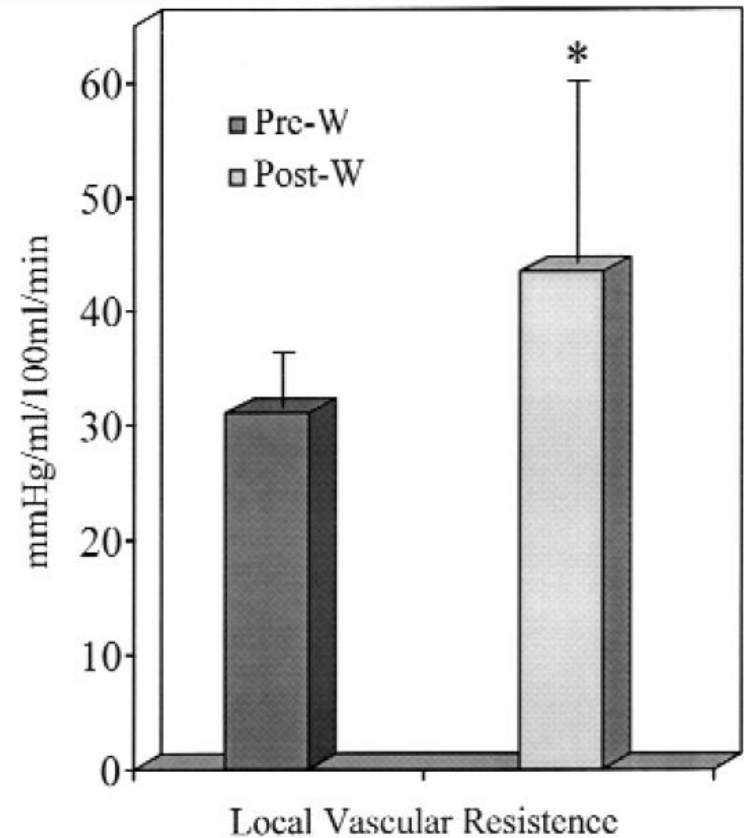
Sleep apnea



# Impaired Forearm Blood Flow and Vasodilator Reserve in Healthy Postmenopausal Women

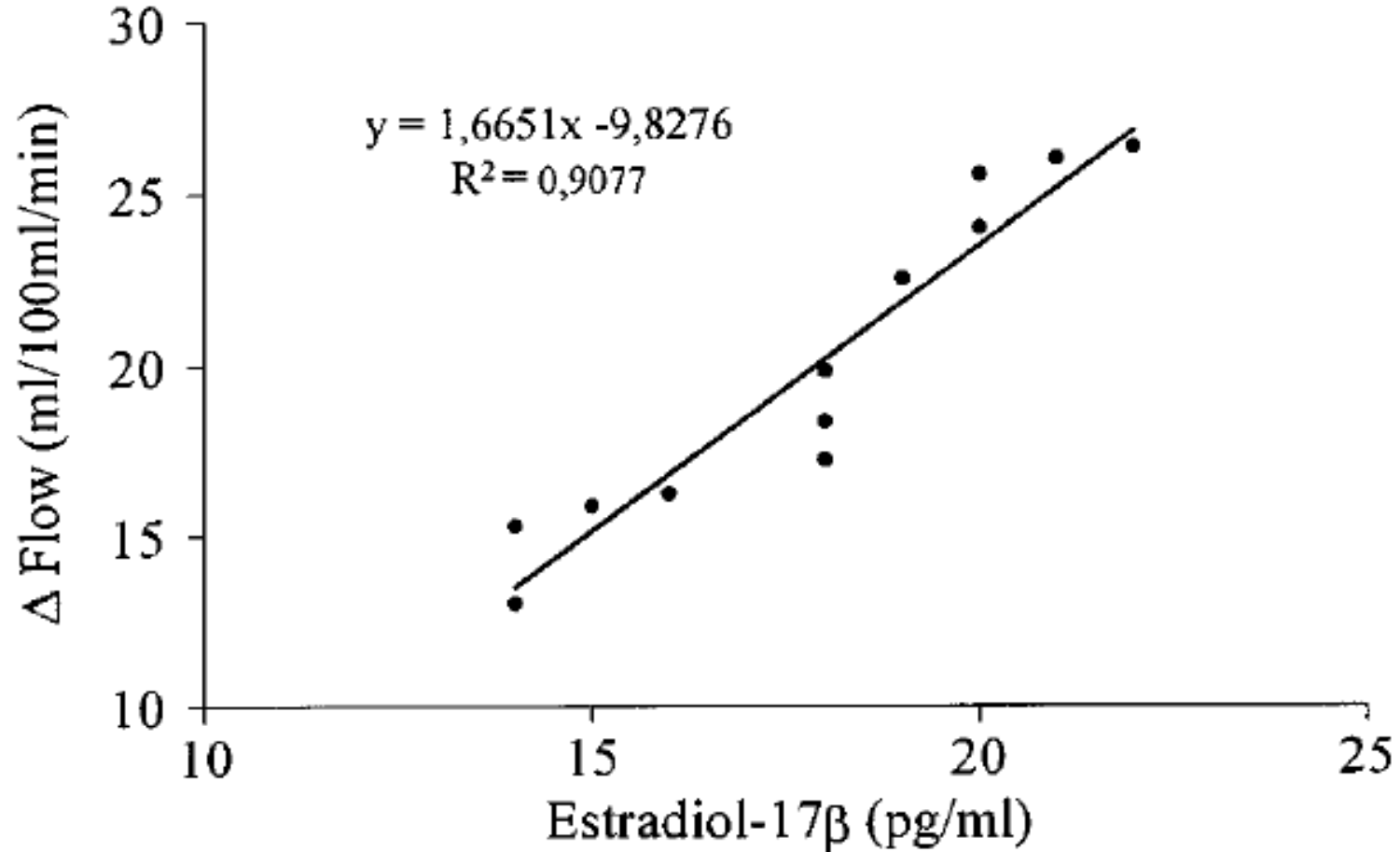


**Forearm blood flow**

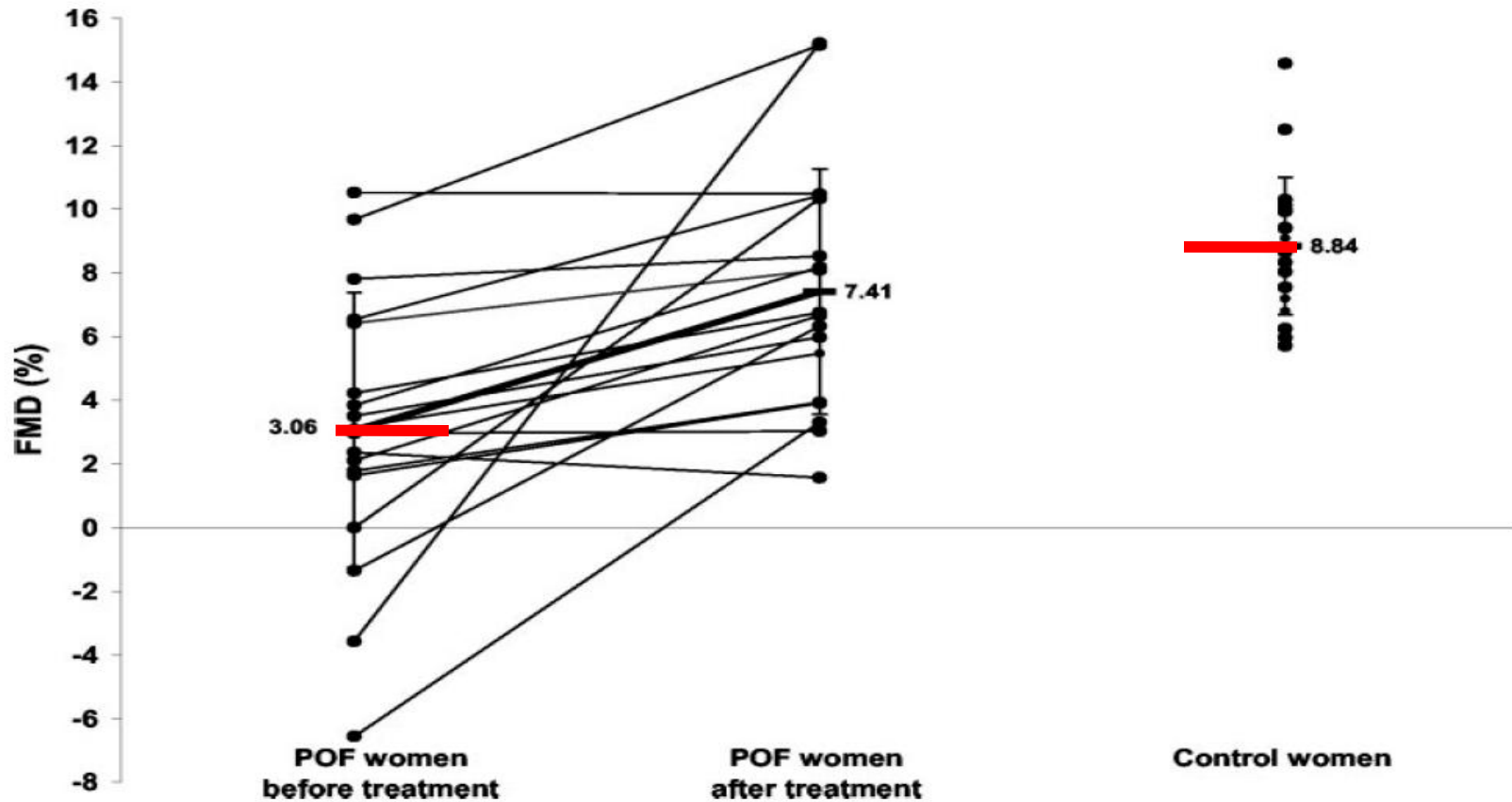


**Vascular Resistance**

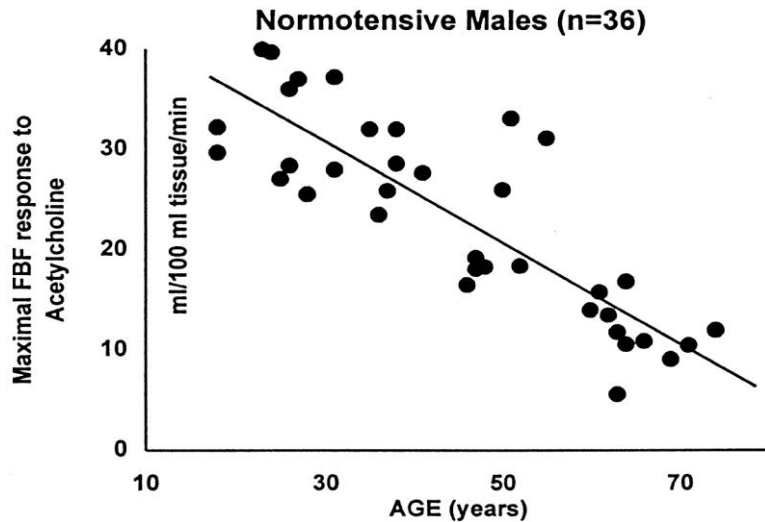
# Impaired Forearm Blood Flow and Vasodilator Reserve in Healthy Postmenopausal Women



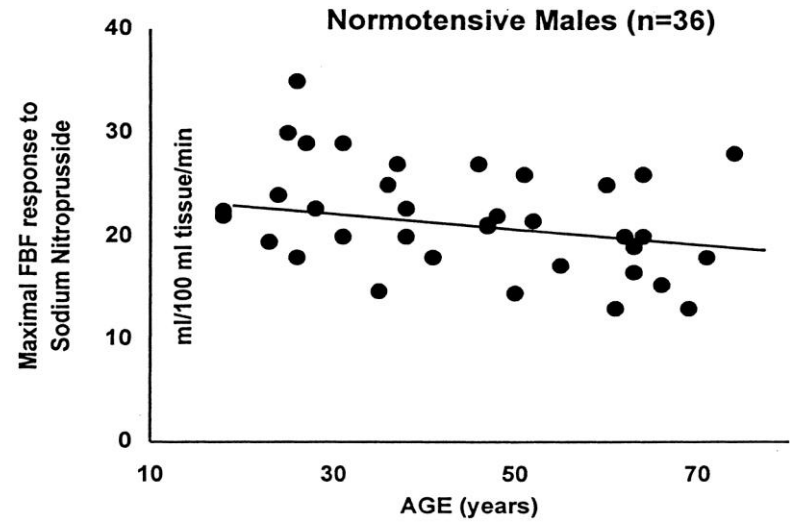
# Impaired Endothelial Function in young women with premature ovarian failure



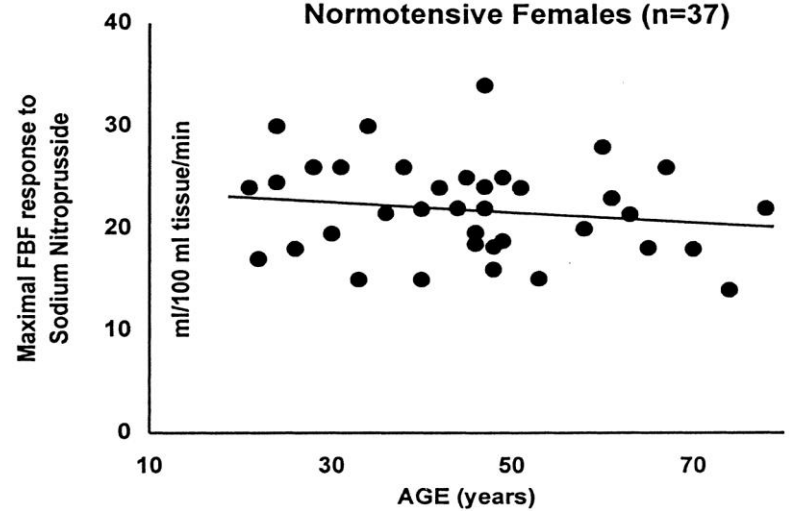
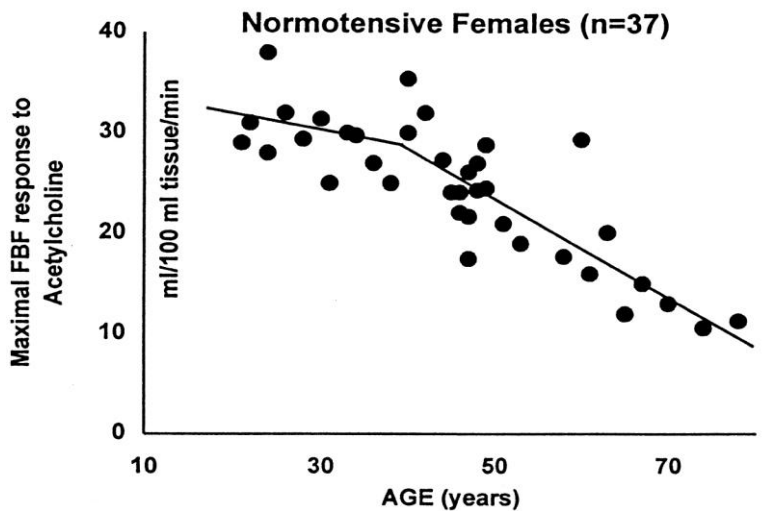
# Menopause is associated with endothelial dysfunction in women



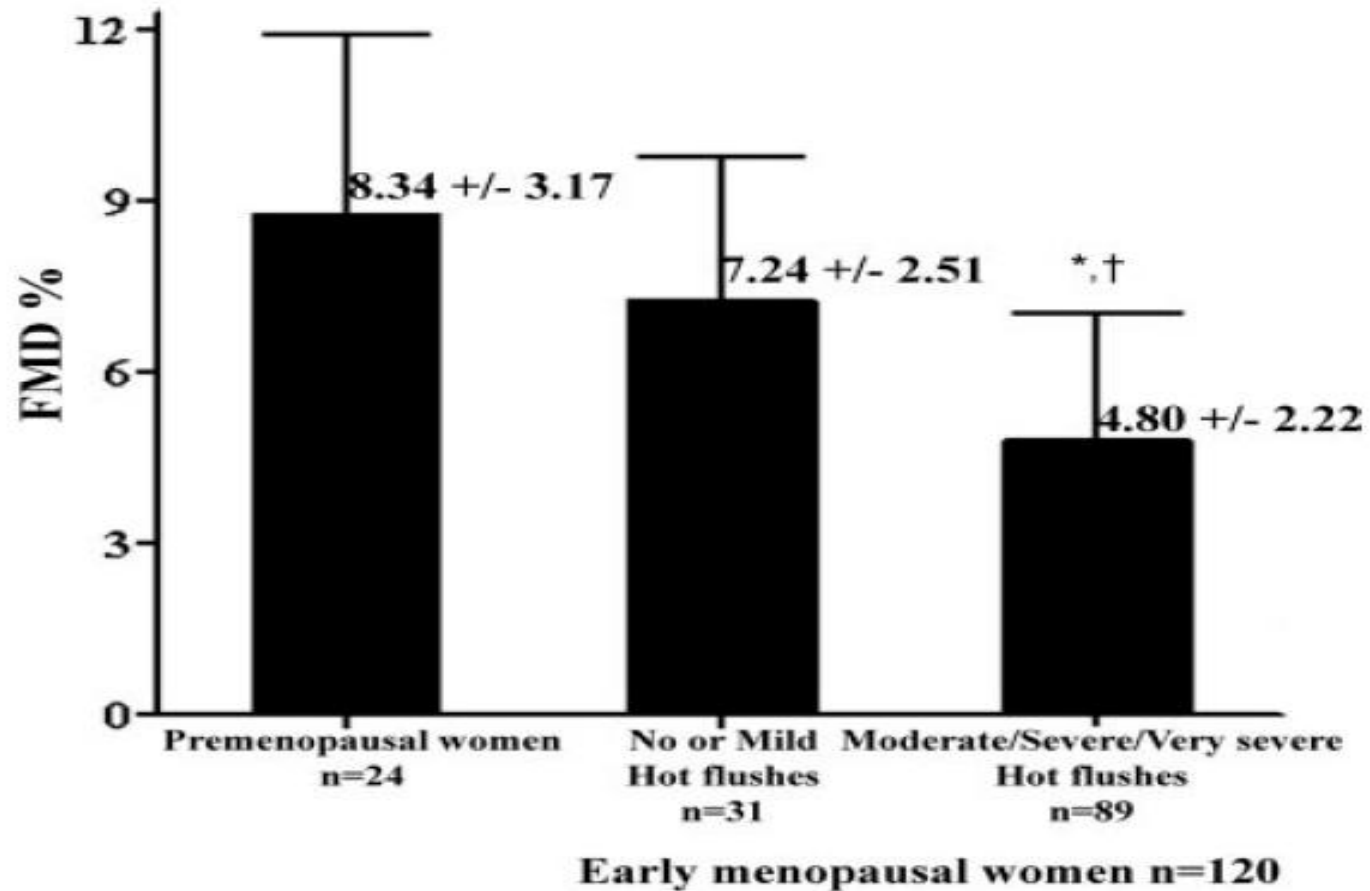
**Acetylcholine**



**Nitroprusside**



# FMD and Early Menopause



# Menopause tends to downregulate NO-cGMP pathway resulting in endothelial dysfunction

**Table 1**

Platelet nitric oxide levels in platelet rich plasma and plasma nitric oxide levels, c-GMP and estradiol levels in study and control groups.

Parameters	Study group (n=50) (mean ± S.E.M.)	Control group (n=50) (mean ± S.E.M.)	p-Value
Estradiol (pg/ml)	22.14 ± 2.77	50.62 ± 6.52	<0.01
Plasma NO (µM/L)	7.31 ± 1.11	11.15 ± 0.90	0.000
c-GMP (pmol/ml)	1.02 ± 0.15	2.22 ± 0.66	0.000

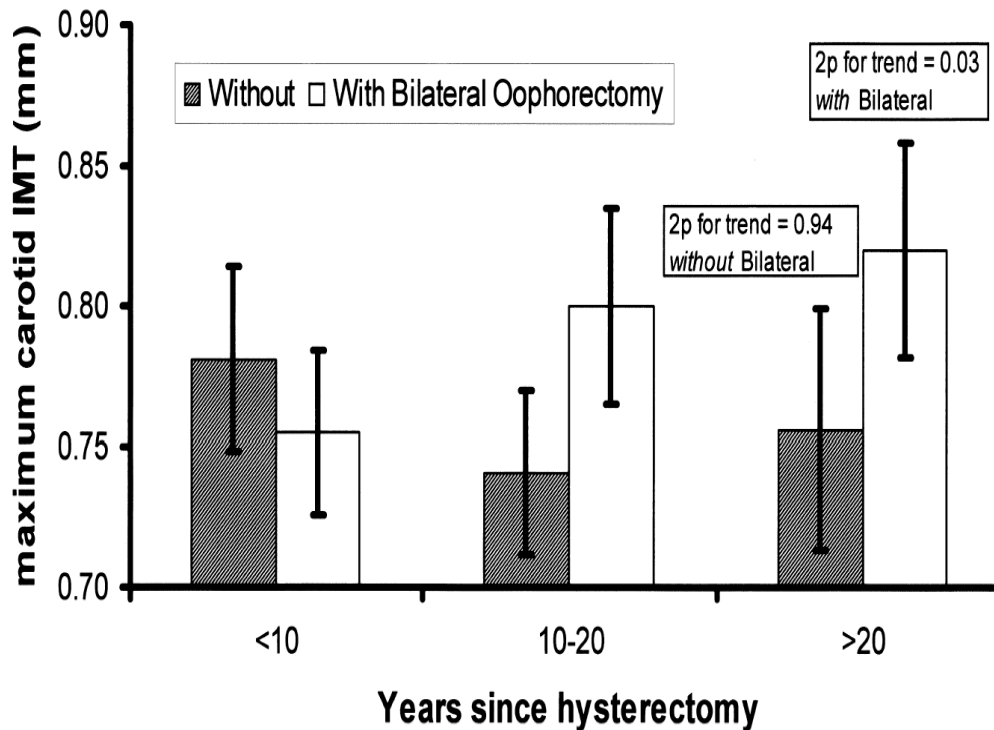
**Table 3**

Correlation of age and estrogen levels with lipid profile and nitric oxide–c-GMP levels.

	Study group		Control group	
	Age (years)	Estradiol levels	Age (years)	Estradiol levels
Plasma NO (µM/L)	$r = -0.09, p = 0.54$	$r = 0.389, p = 0.021$	$r = 0.269, p = 0.11$	$r = 0.466, p = 0.002$
c-GMP (pmol/ml)	$r = 0.080, p = 0.58$	$r = 0.293, p = 0.08$	$r = 0.210, p = 0.18$	$r = 0.352, p = -0.04$
Serum cholesterol	$r = 0.231, p = 0.16$	$r = -0.409, p = 0.011$	$r = -0.088, p = 0.63$	$r = -0.267, p = 0.229$
Serum triglycerides	$r = 0.262, p = 0.11$	$r = 0.186, p = 0.316$	$r = 0.093, p = 0.62$	$r = 0.172, p = 0.443$
Serum LDL (mg/dl)	$r = 0.162, p = 0.38$	$r = -0.451, p = 0.024$	$r = -0.131, p = 0.55$	$r = -0.285, p = 0.223$
Serum VLDL (mg/dl)	$r = 0.28, p = 0.08$	$r = 0.196, p = 0.298$	$r = 0.065, p = 0.72$	$r = 0.094, p = 0.671$
Serum HDL (mg/dl)	$r = 0.027, p = 0.87$	$r = 0.060, p = 0.75$	$r = -0.224, p = 0.22$	$r = -0.120, p = 0.568$
Serum apolipoprotein B	$r = -0.15, p = 0.43$	$r = -0.214, p = 0.303$	$r = 0.062, p = 0.724$	$r = 0.214, p = 0.266$

# **Carotid IMT after menopause**

# Carotid IMT and Years Since Bilateral Oophorectomy

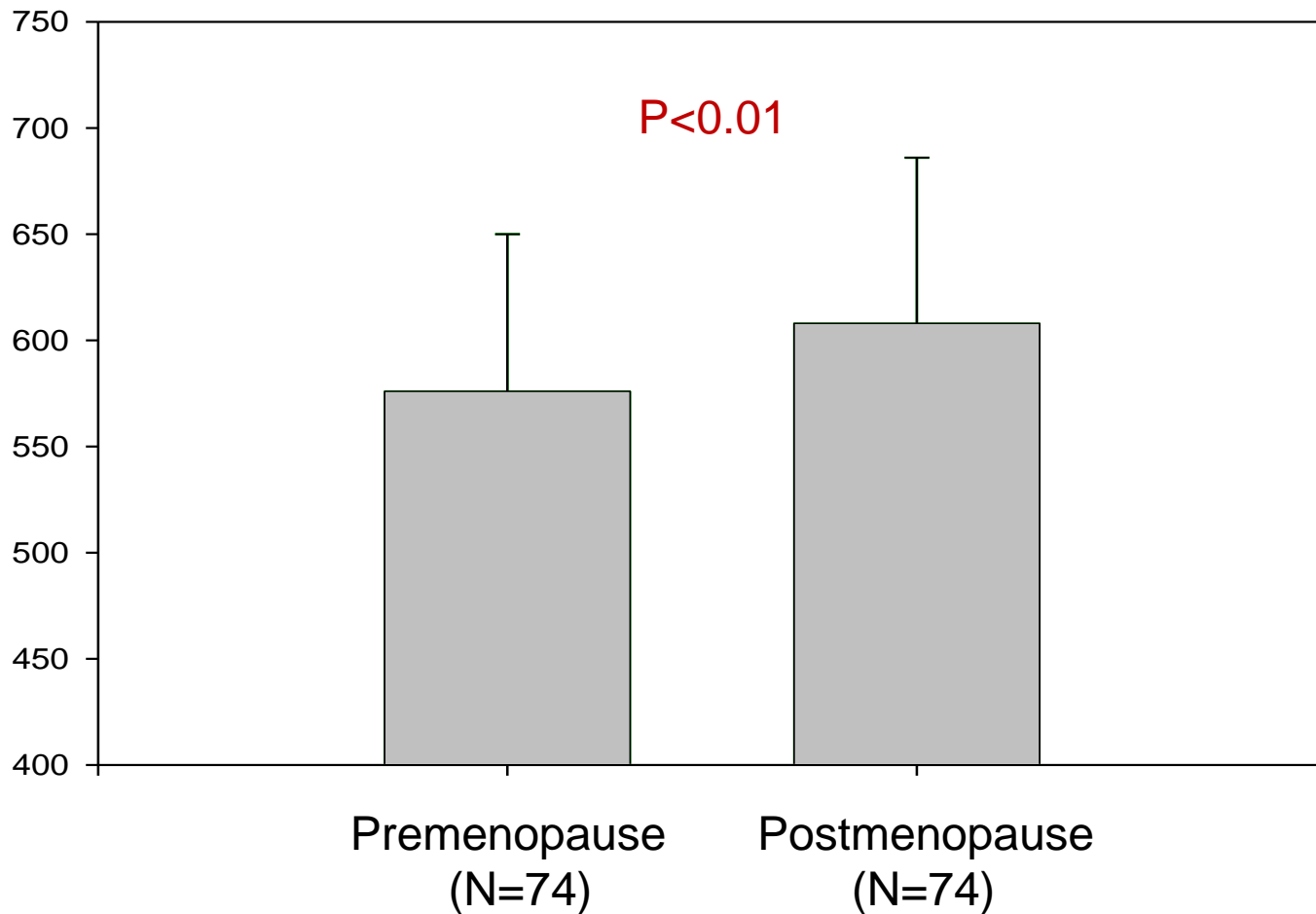


**FIGURE 1.** Carotid atherosclerosis and number of years since hysterectomy, The Los Angeles Atherosclerosis Study, 1995–1996. Error bars represent standard errors. The sample size in each group, according to years since hysterectomy, is as follows. Women without bilateral oophorectomy (hatched bars): <10,  $n = 12$ ; 10–20,  $n = 22$ ; >20,  $n = 8$ . Women with bilateral oophorectomy (white bars): <10,  $n = 21$ ; 10–20,  $n = 19$ ; >20,  $n = 15$ . IMT, intima-media thickness.



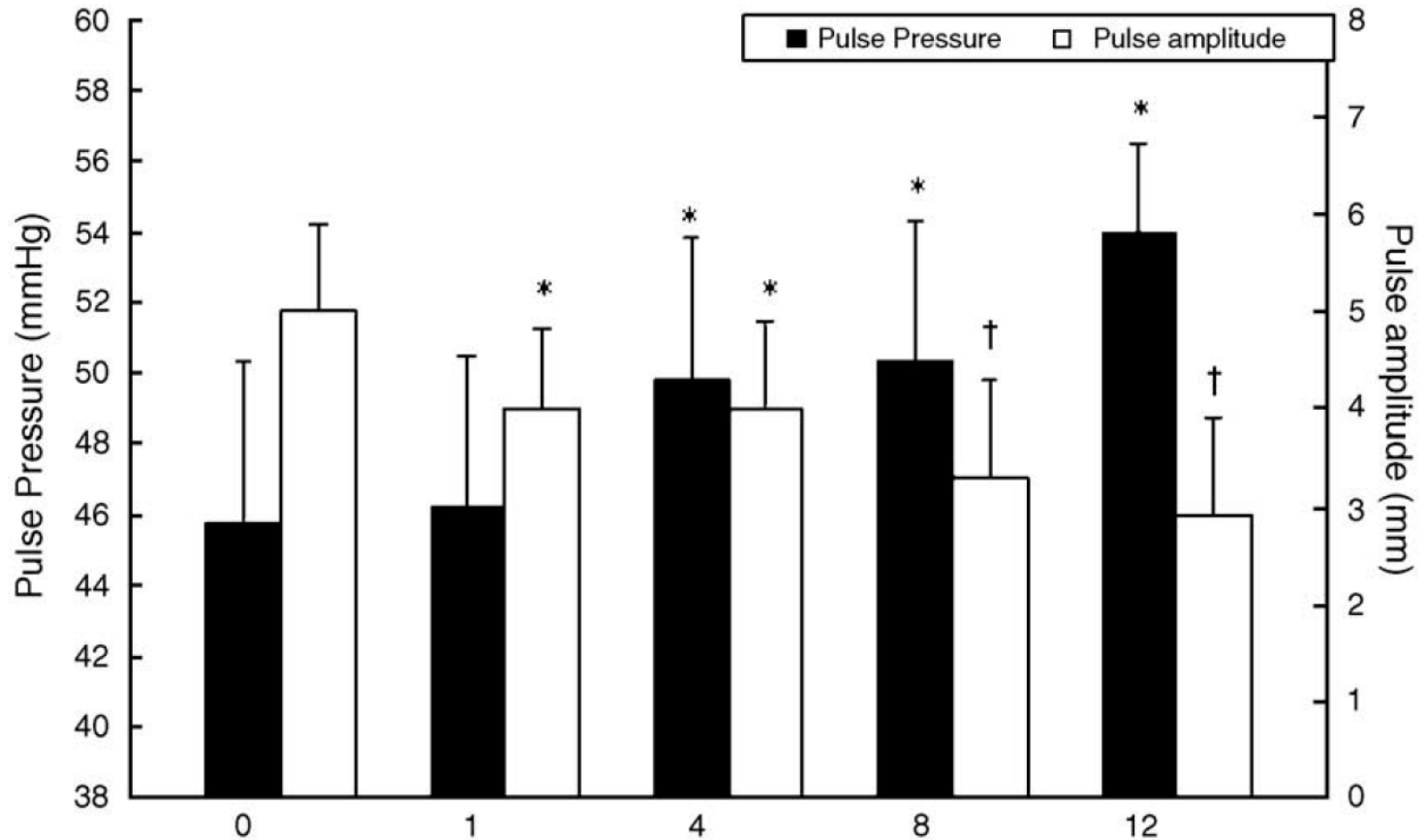
# Common Carotid IMT After Menopause

Micro m



# **Aortic Stiffness after menopause**

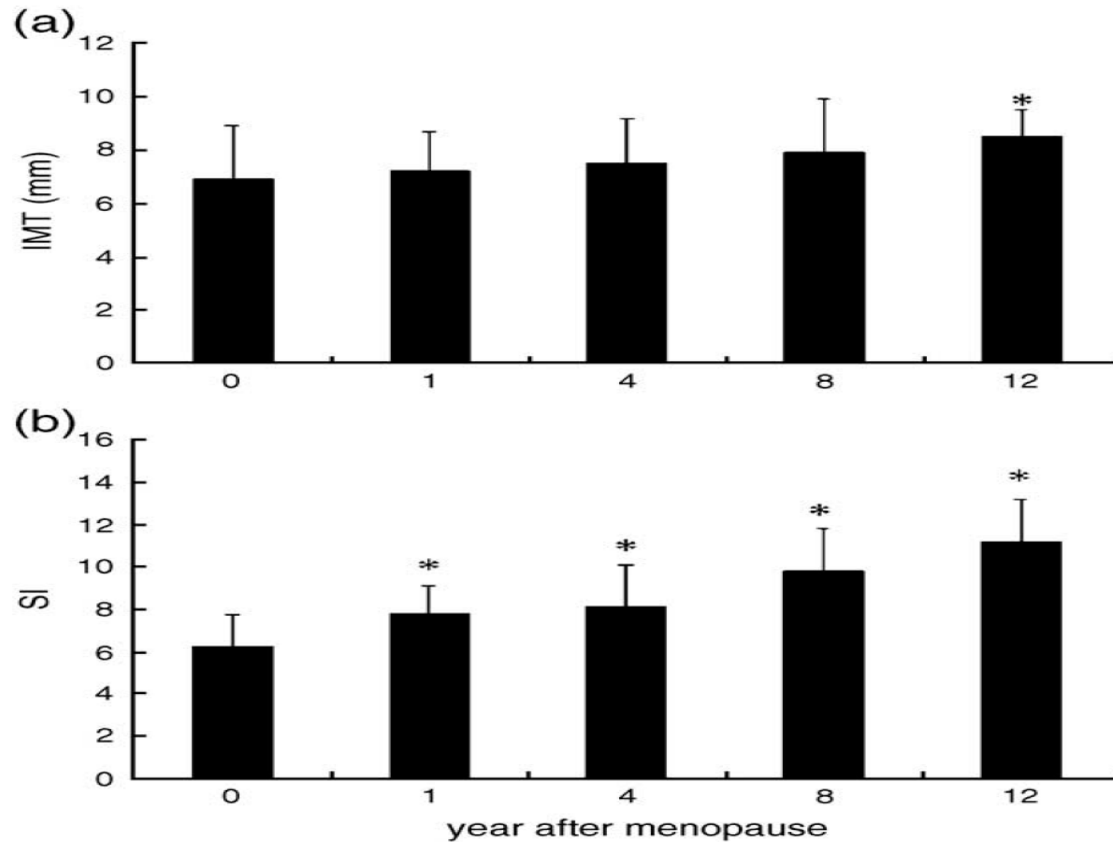
# Pulse Pressure Changes after menopause



Small cross-sectional study: Women without diabetes, HTN, thromboembolic dz, cancer, or other chronic illness

*Izumi S, et al. Life Sciences 2006;78:1696*

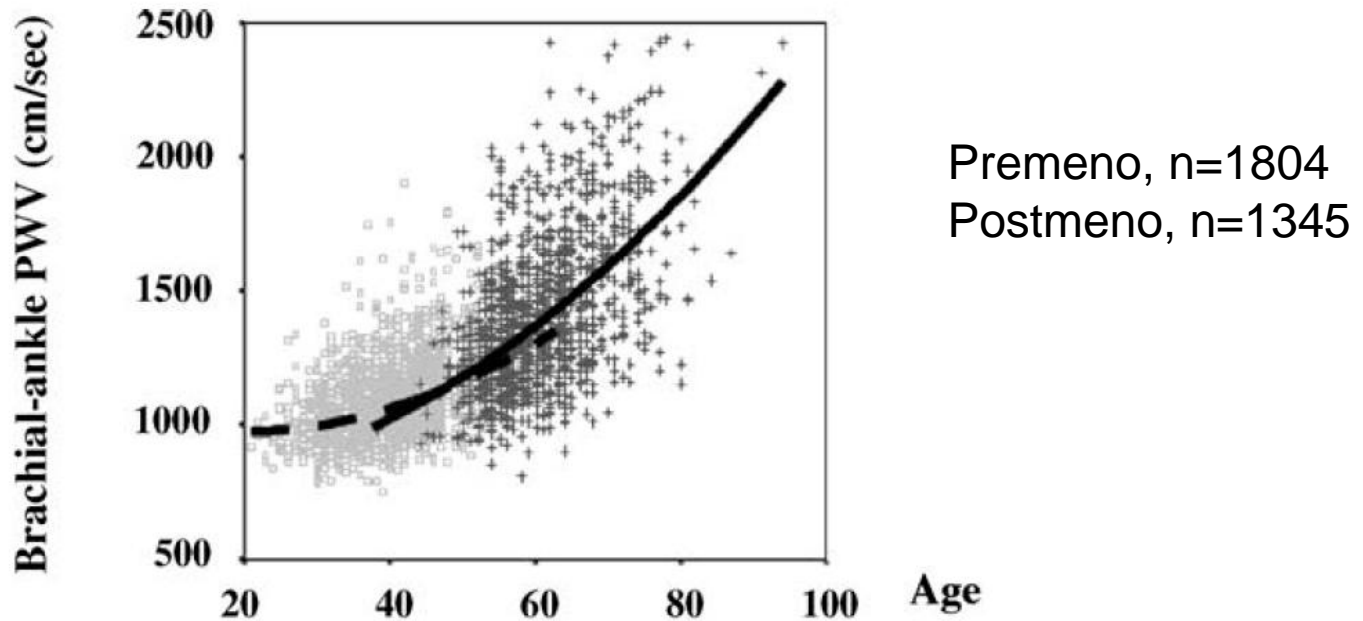
# IMT and Stiffness Index (SI) in postmenopausal Women



Small cross-sectional study : Women without diabetes, HTN, thromboembolic dz, cancer, or other chronic illness

*Izumi S, et al. Life Sciences 2006;78:1696*

# Menopause is an independent factor augmenting the age-related increase in arterial stiffness in the early postmenopausal phase



**Postmenopausal group:**

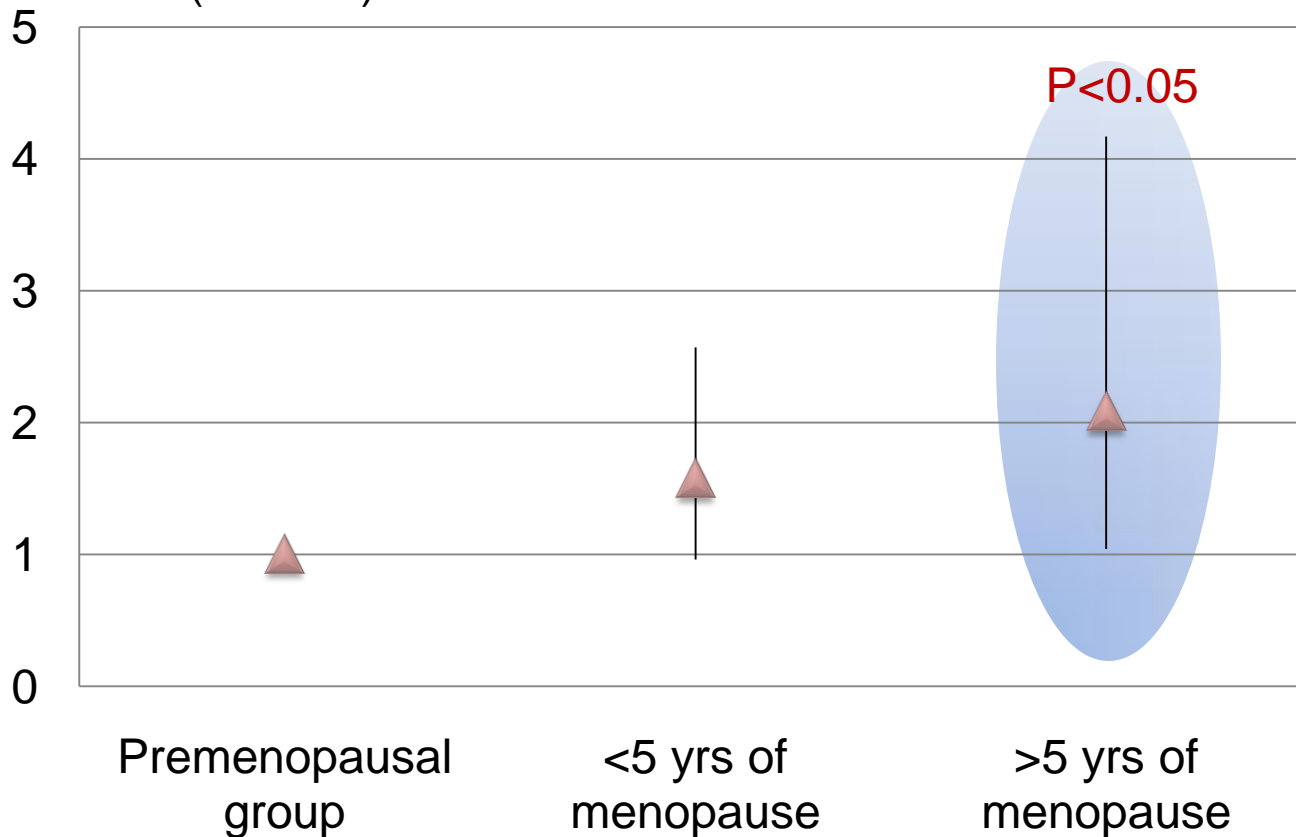
**brachial-ankle PWV =  $0.23 \times \text{age}^2 - 8.92 \times \text{age} + 1058$ ,  $r = 0.41$ ,  $p < 0.01$**

**Premenopausal group:**

**brachial-ankle PWV =  $0.17 \times \text{age}^2 - 0.58 \times \text{age} + 812$ ,  $r = 0.56$ ,  $p < 0.01$**

# The >5 years postmenopausal category was a significant risk factor for belonging to the highest baPWV tertile, even after adjustments for age and other conventional atherosclerotic risk factors

Adjusted RR (95% CI)

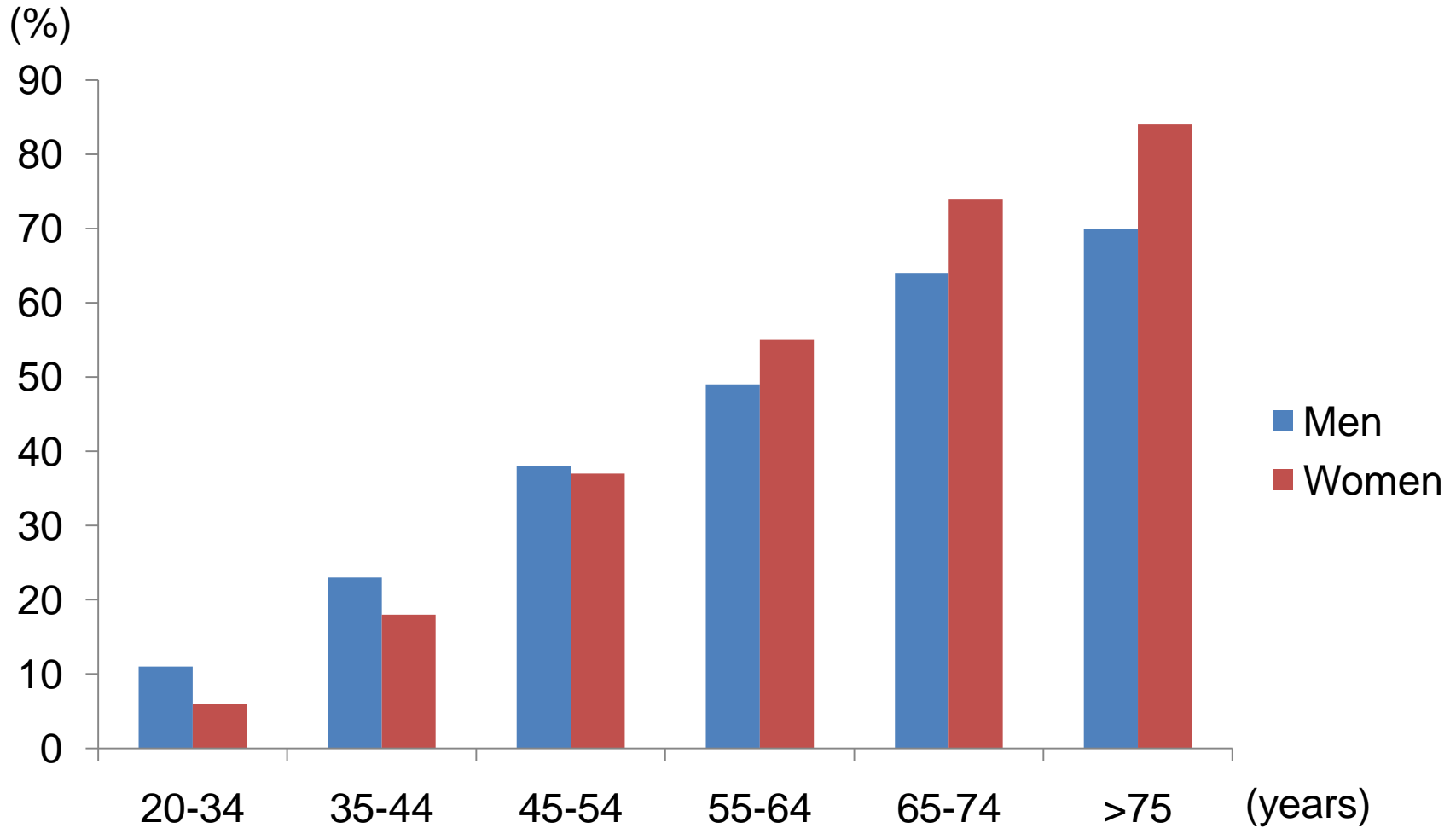


Subjects age between 45-56 years

Zaydun G, et al. Atherosclerosis 2006;184:137

# HTN after menopause

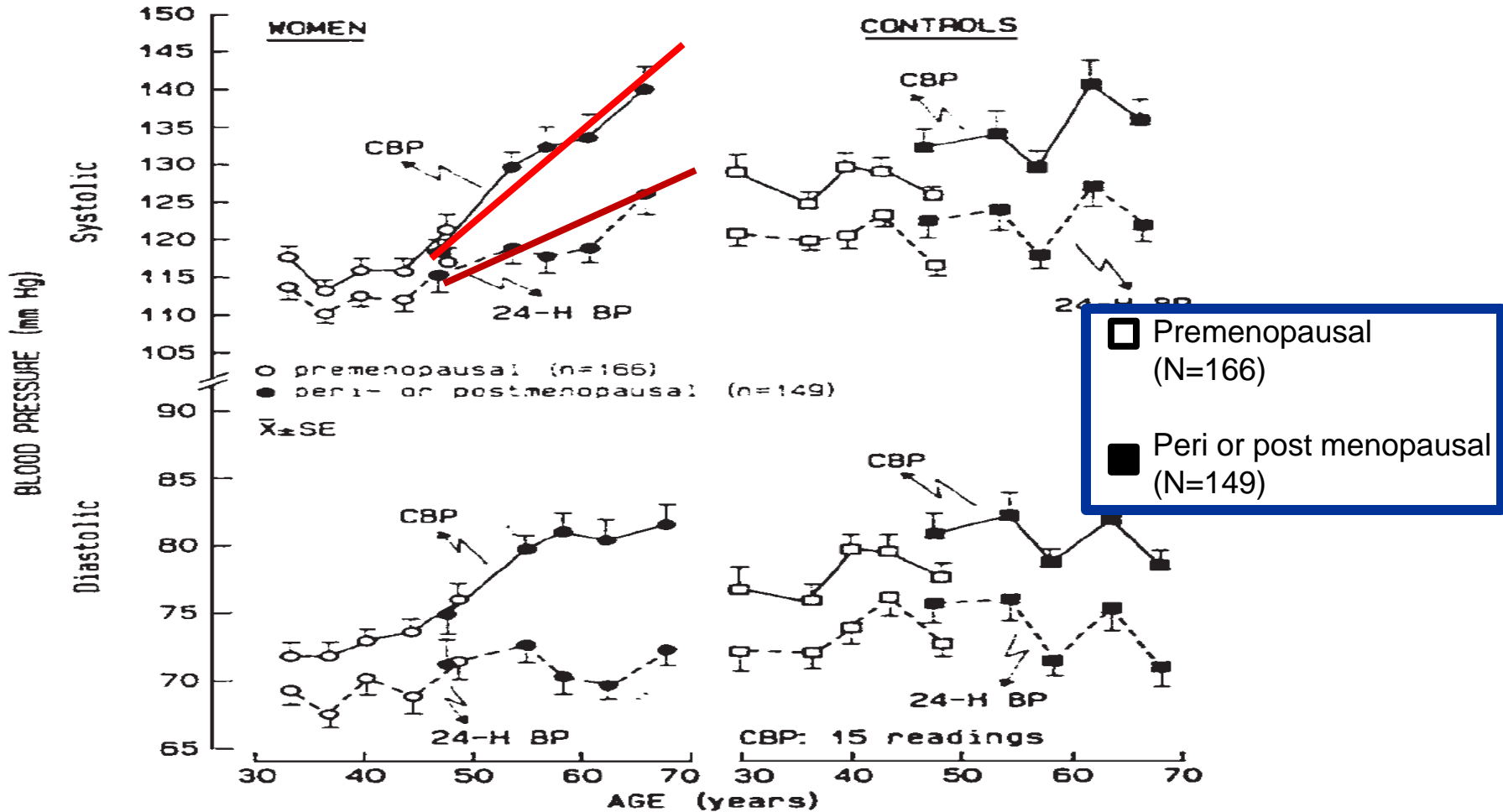
# Sexual Dimorphism in Blood Pressure





# Menopause and Hypertension

Changes in BP from baseline to f/u (mean 5.2 years)



# Menopause and Hypertension: An Age-Old Debate

## Association with HTN

- Cross-sectional study:  
Weiss 1972 (897),  
Staessen 1989 (462),  
Owens 1993 (34),  
Zanchetti (19),  
Prospective study:  
Staessen 1997 (315),  
Scuteri 2001 (226)

## No association with HTN

- Prospective study:  
Casiglia 1996 (568),  
Luoto 2000 (30),  
1997 (30),  
Colditz 1987 (121,700)

## Association with lower

- Prospective study:  
van Berestejn 1989 (193)

**The Effect of menopause on BP is controversial.**

# Bilateral Oophorectomy increases BP Within a Few Weeks

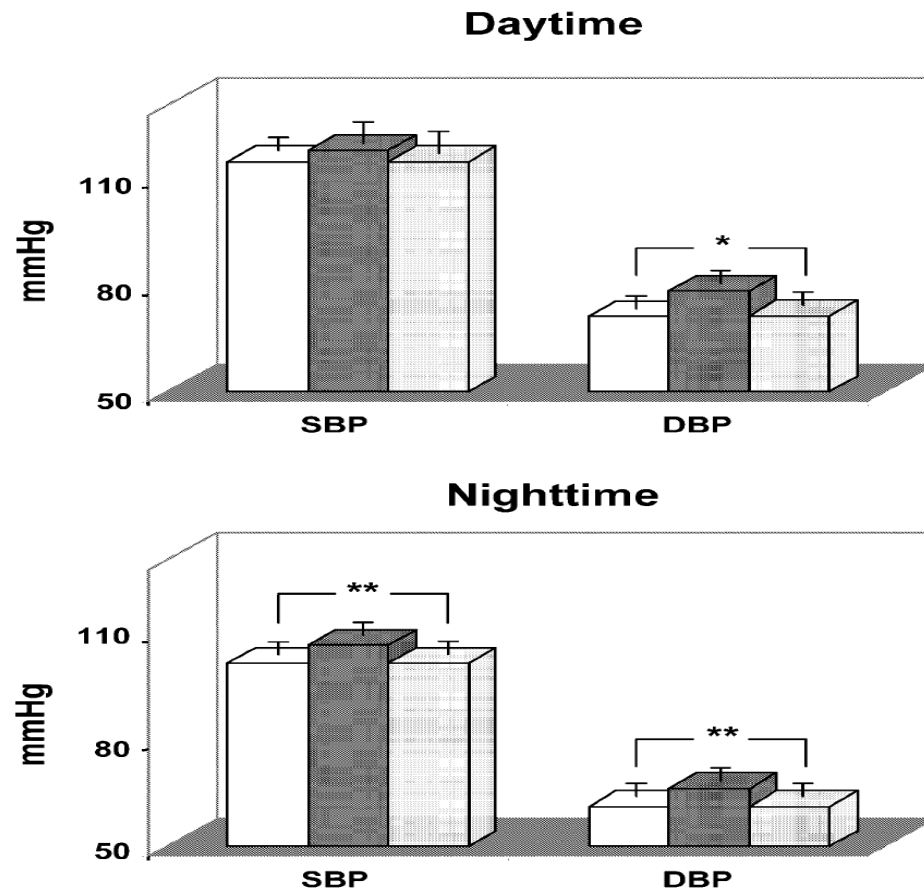
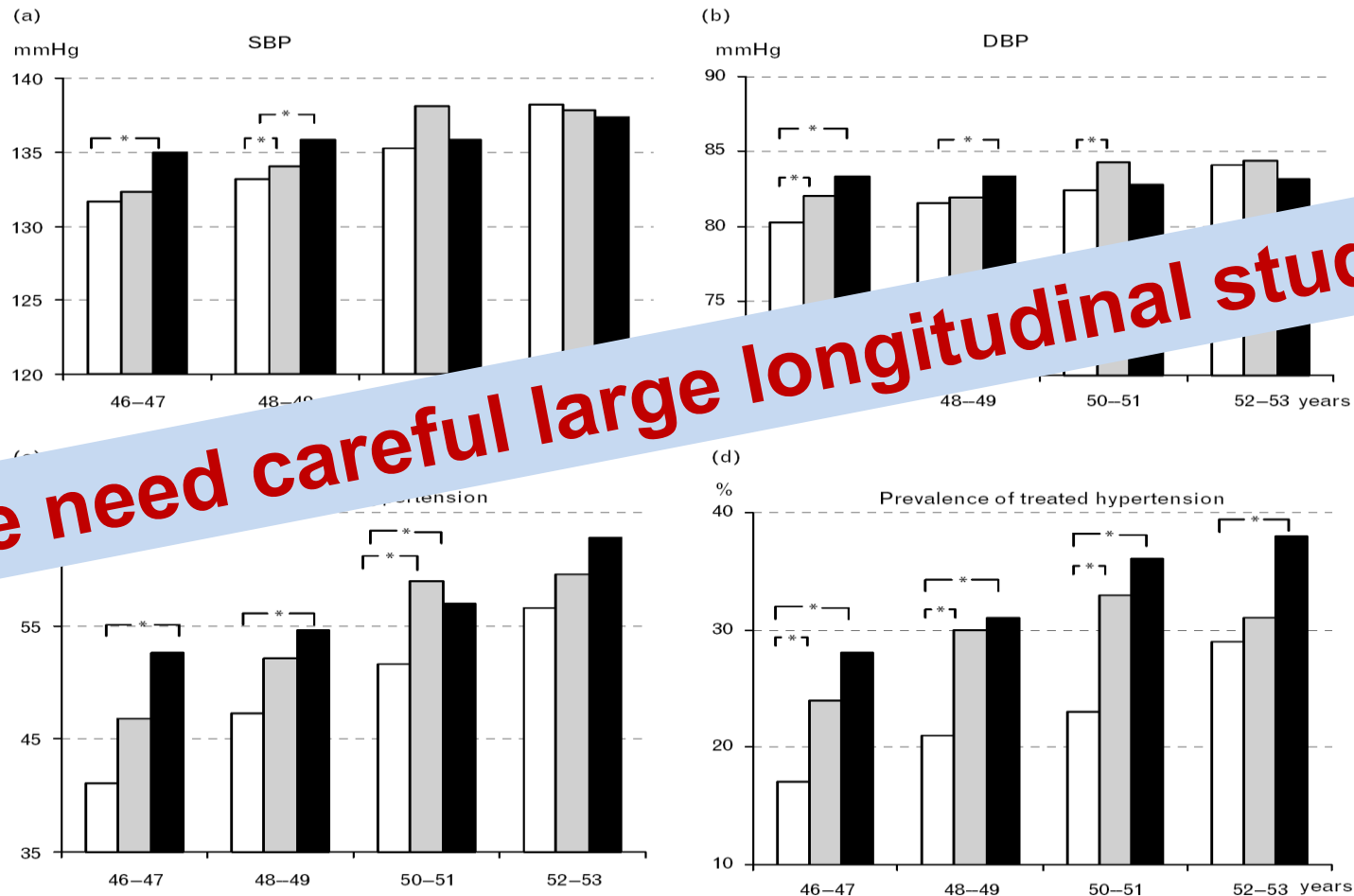


Fig. 2. Systolic and diastolic blood pressure at baseline (open bars), after oophorectomy (dark gray bars) and after 3 months of ERT (light gray bars) during daytime (top) and nighttime (bottom) period. ( $n=16$ ) \*  $P < 0.05$ , \*\*  $P < 0.01$  vs. baseline and ERT.

# SIMONA Epidemiological Study

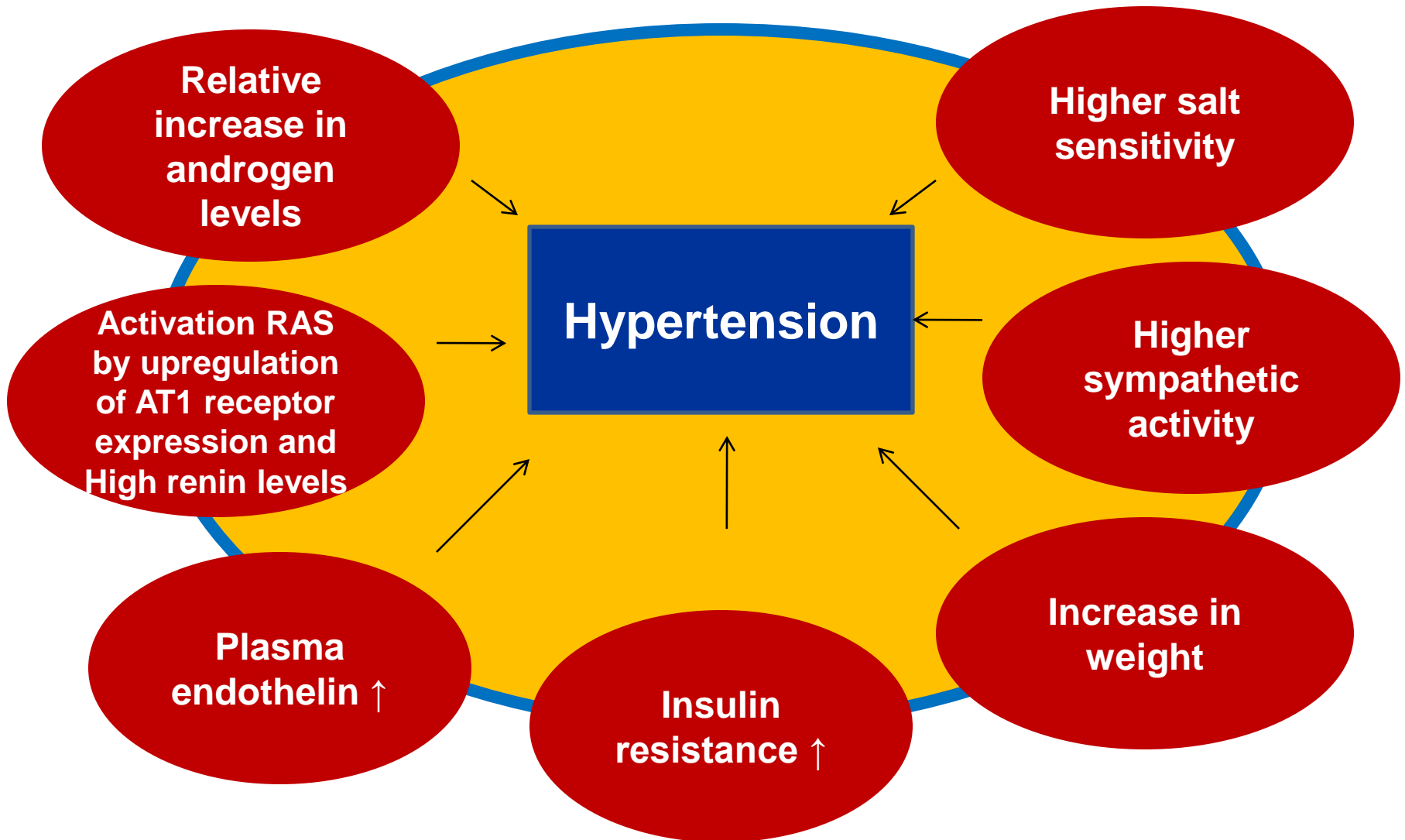
Fig. 1



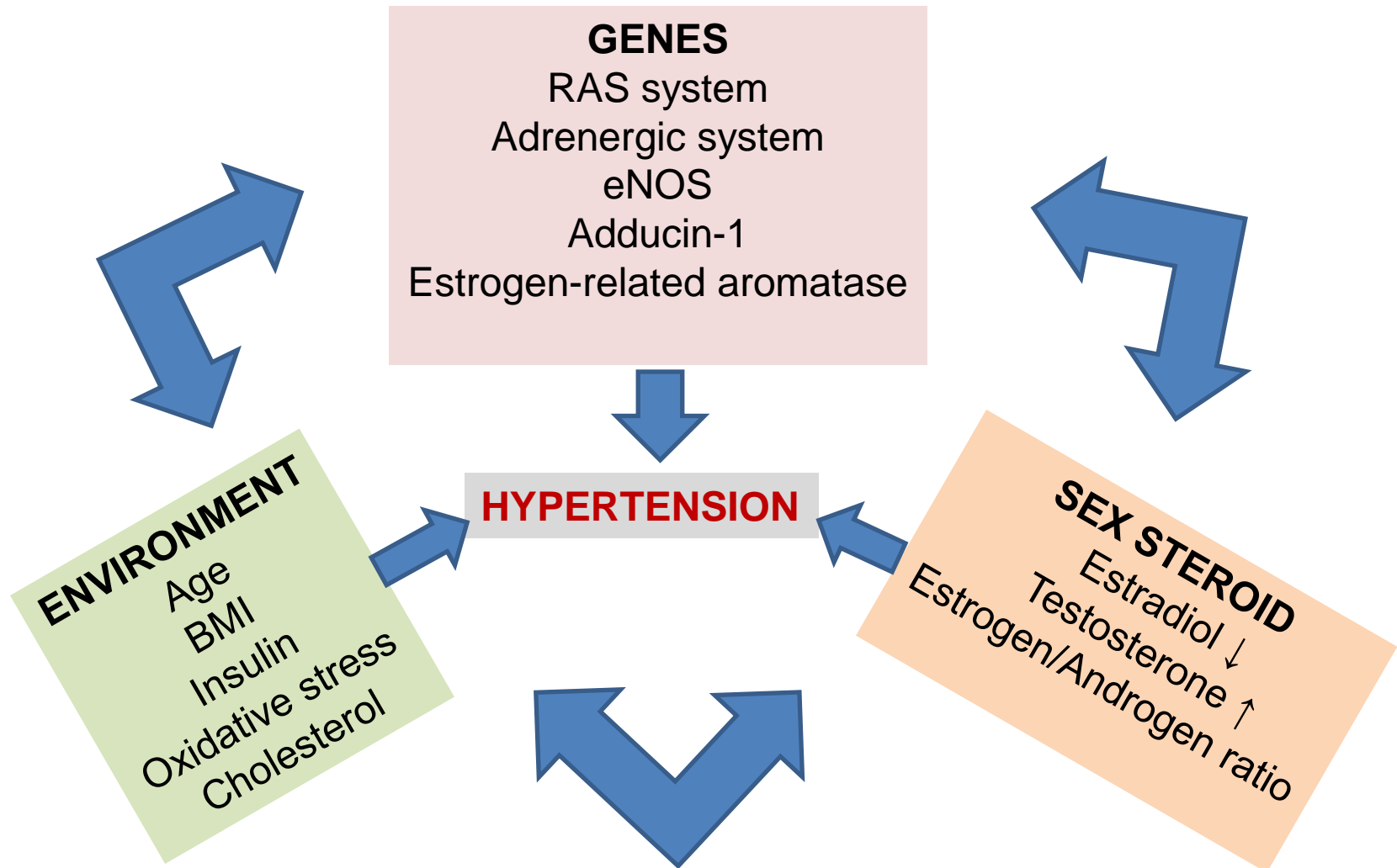
**We need careful large longitudinal studies**

(a) Systolic blood pressure (SBP); (b) diastolic blood pressure (DBP); (c) prevalence of hypertension; and (d) prevalence of treated hypertension in premenopausal (white columns), perimenopausal (grey columns) and postmenopausal (black columns) women in four subsequent age strata. The asterisk indicates  $P < 0.05$ .

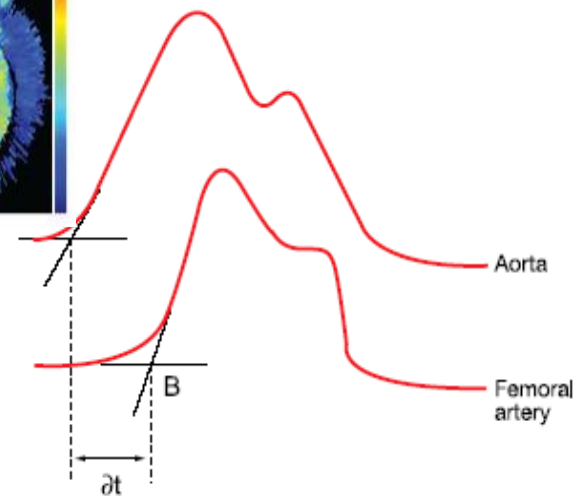
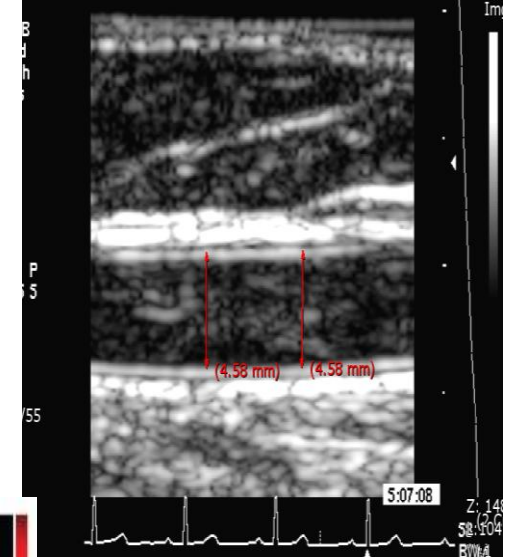
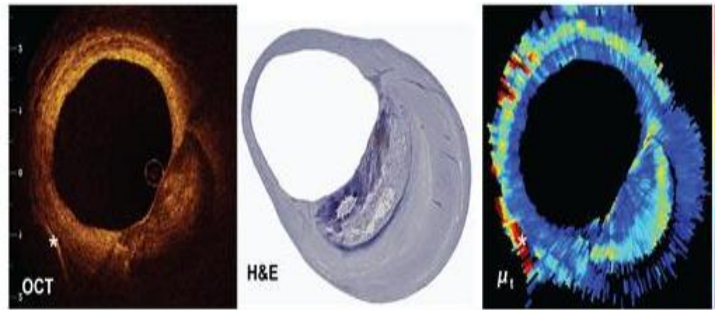
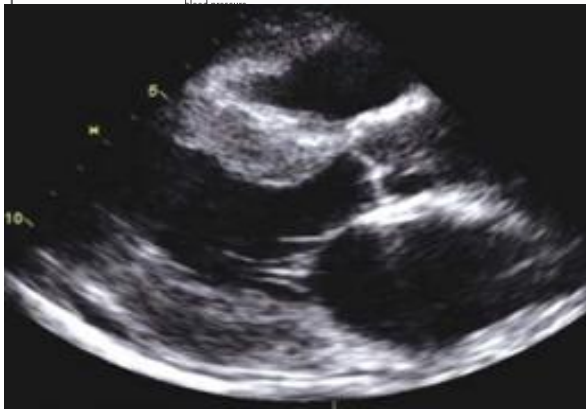
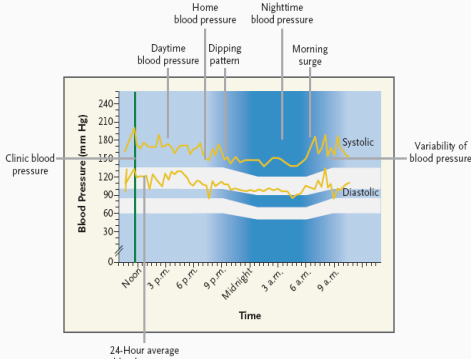
# Suggested Mechanisms of Estrogen Deficiency on Hypertension



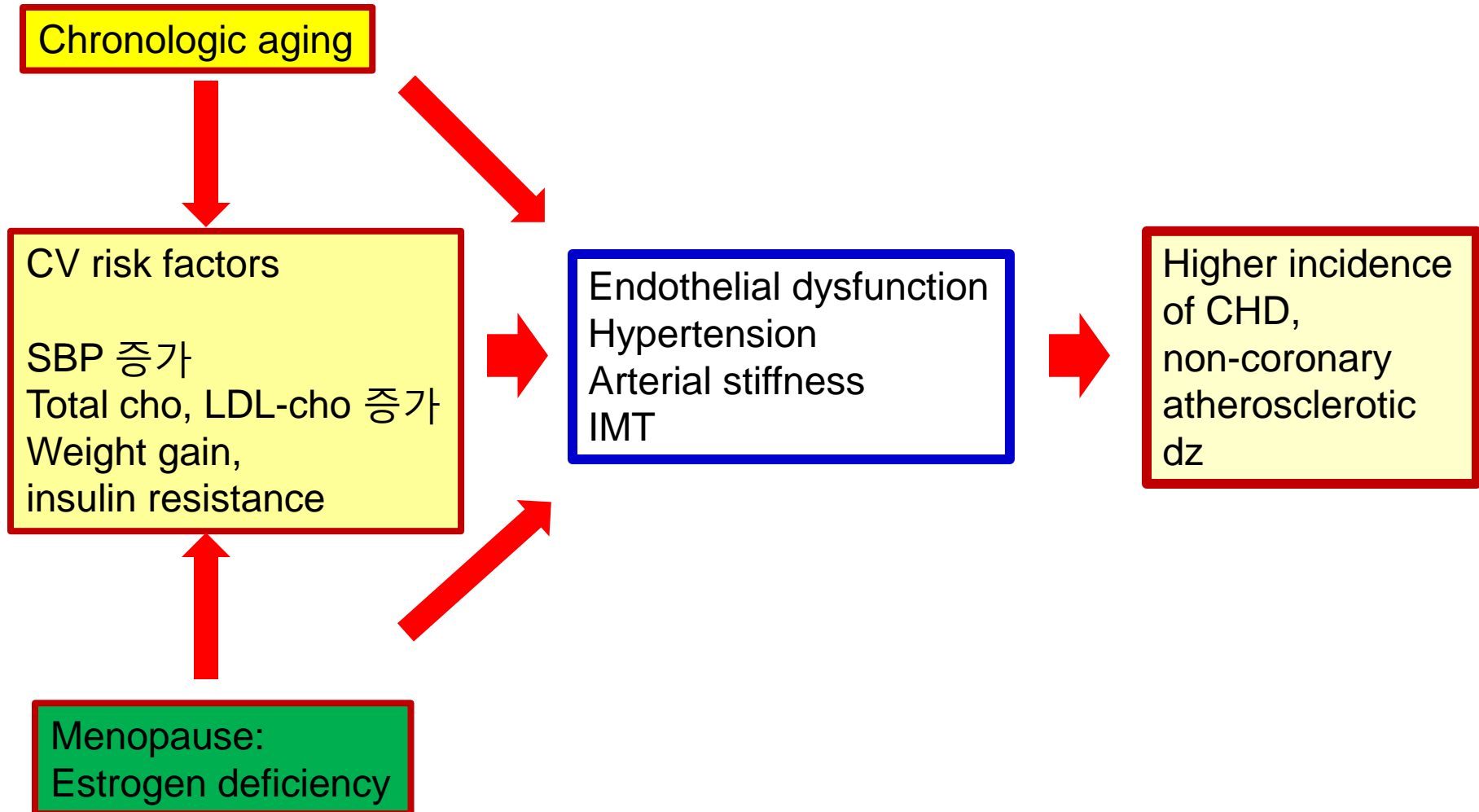
# Factors Contributing to HTN in Postmenopausal Women



# Take Home Messages (I)



# Take Home Messages (II)





# Take Home Messages (III)

Chronologic aging

CV risk factors

SBP 증가  
LDL-cho 증가  
Insulin resistance

Frequent regular  
Health check-up

BP control

ACE-I, ARB  
Statin  
Insulin resistance  
control

Improvement of

Endothelial  
dysfunction  
Hypertension  
Arterial stiffness  
IMT

Prevention of  
CHD and  
Non-coronary  
atherosclerotic  
dz in post-  
menopausal  
women

Menopause:  
Estrogen deficiency

HRT

ELITE study  
KEEPS trial



# HRT: Further Study

- **ELITE Study** (Early versus Late Intervention Trial with Estradiol): oral 17 estradiol, carotid IMT, perimenopausal women vs. those 6 years after menopause
- **KEEPS trial** (kronos Early Estrogen Prevention Study): carotid IMT or coronary calcium in women, enrolled who are within 36 months of final menstrual period

# Pharmacologic Therapy in hypertensive Women

- **Thiazide:** (Class I, Level A): component of initial therapy  
high prevalence of salt-sensitive hypertension in postmenopausal women, JNC-7 guideline

High risk: CHD, cerebrovascular dz, peripheral dz, AAA, CKD, DM, 10-year Framingham risk  $\geq$  20%  
Initial tx should be  **$\beta$ -blockers and/or ACE-I / ARB**

- **ACE-inhibitor, ARB:**  
useful to antagonize the activation of the RAS observed after menopause  
especially in postmenopausal women with the metabolic syndrome  
**should not used in pregnant women**

Evidence-based guidelines for cardiovascular disease prevention in women  
Circulation 2007;115;1481  
2007 ESC/ESH guidelines for management of hypertension  
JNC-VII