

Vascular Calcification: a novel mechanism for aortic stiffness in Hypertension

Eung Ju Kim

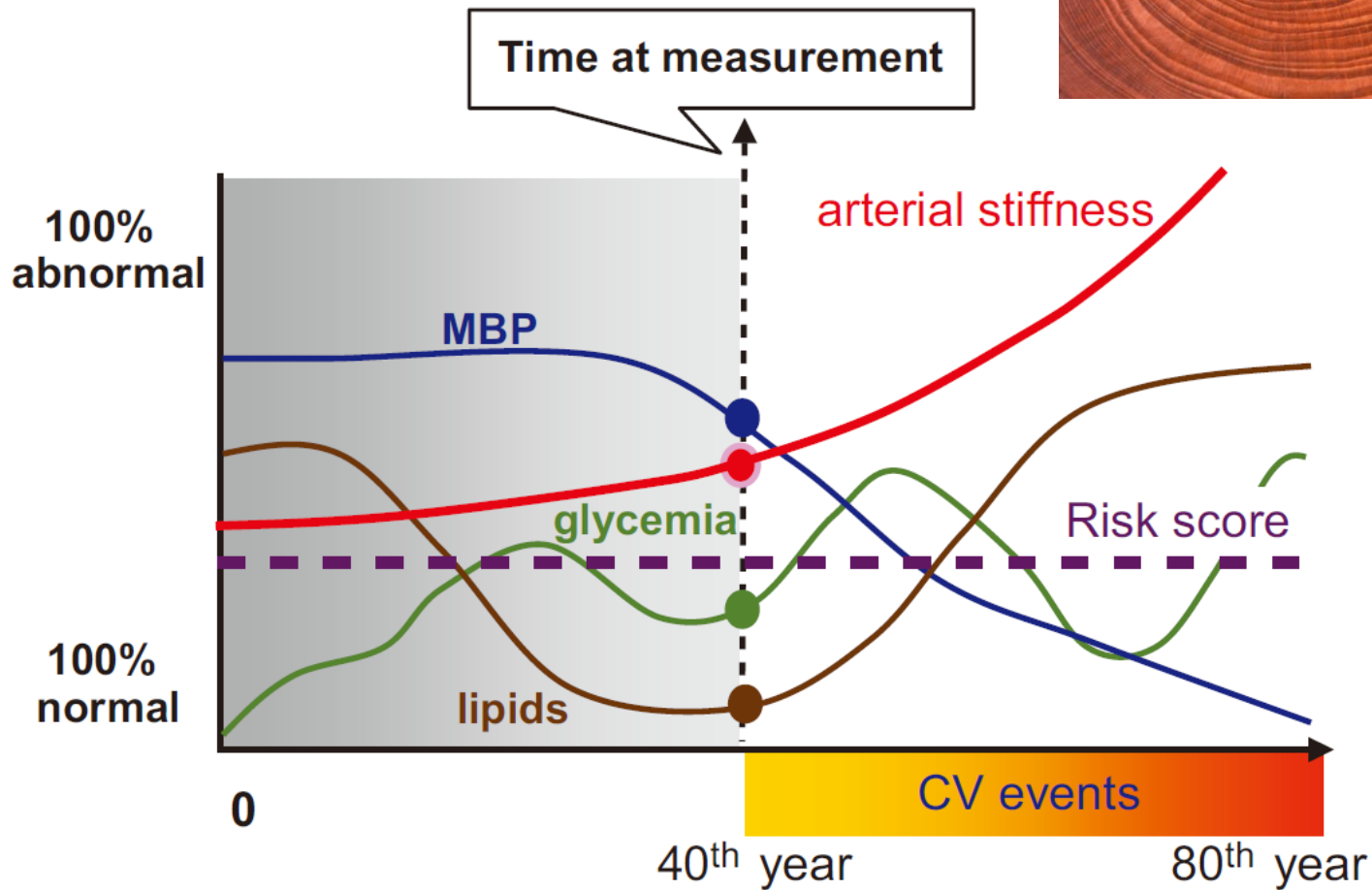
Korea University Guro Hospital
Cardiovascular Center
Seoul, Korea

Aortic Stiffness

- ▶ An **integrated** marker of the **chronological** damage of the CV risk factors on the arterial wall

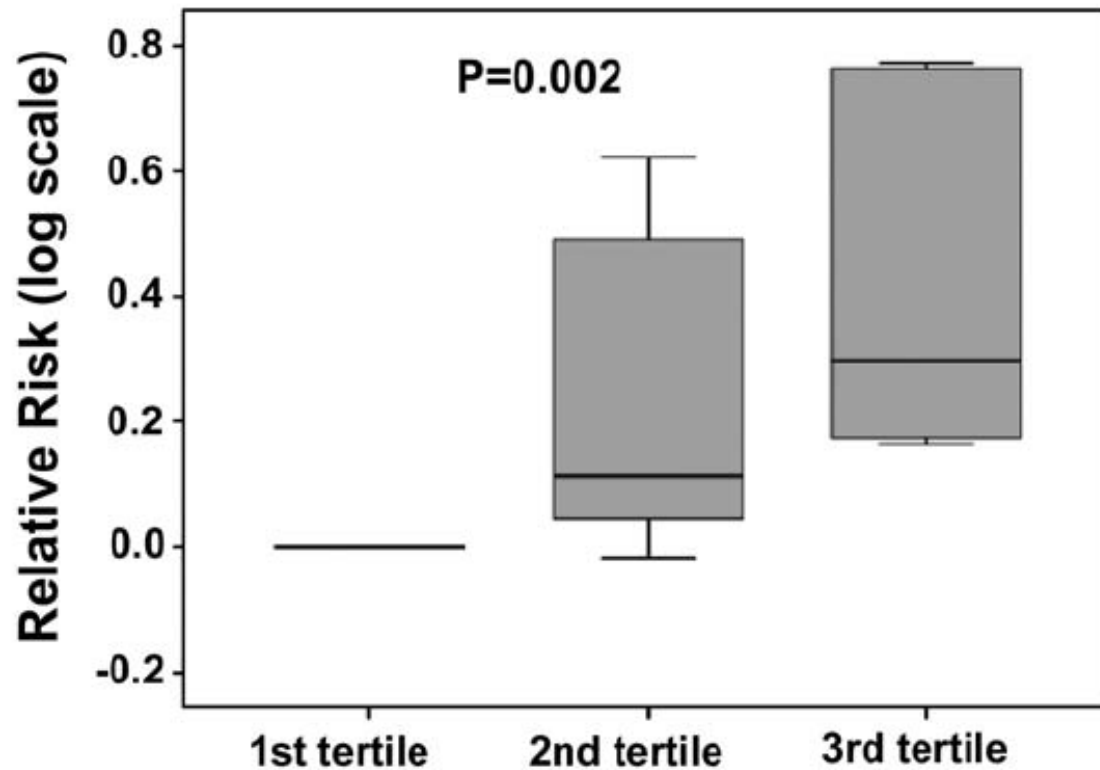


Aortic Stiffness



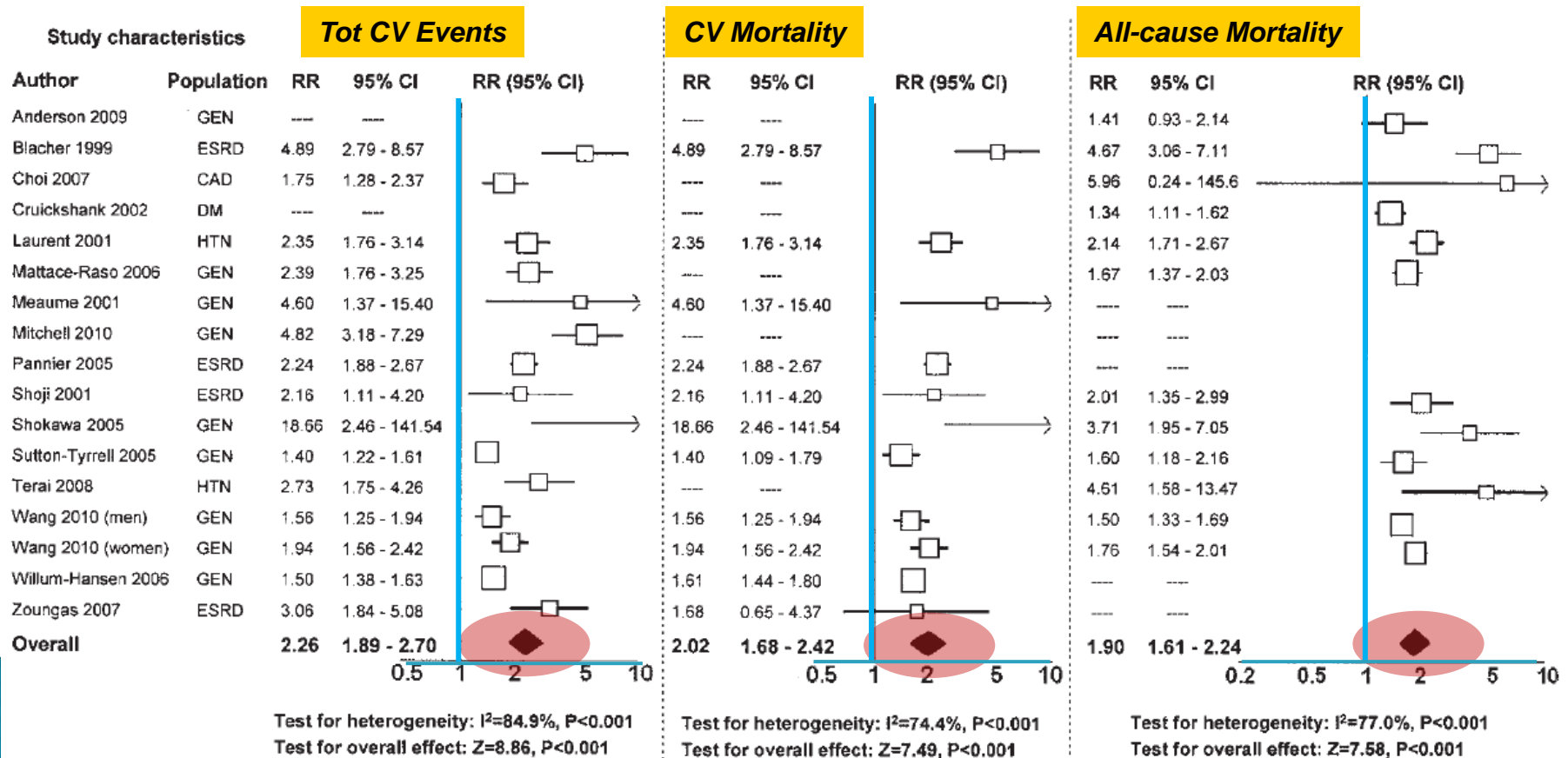
Ao Stiffness-CV outcome

a meta-analysis of 17 longitudinal studies that evaluated aortic PWV and followed up 15,877 subjects for a mean of 7.7 years



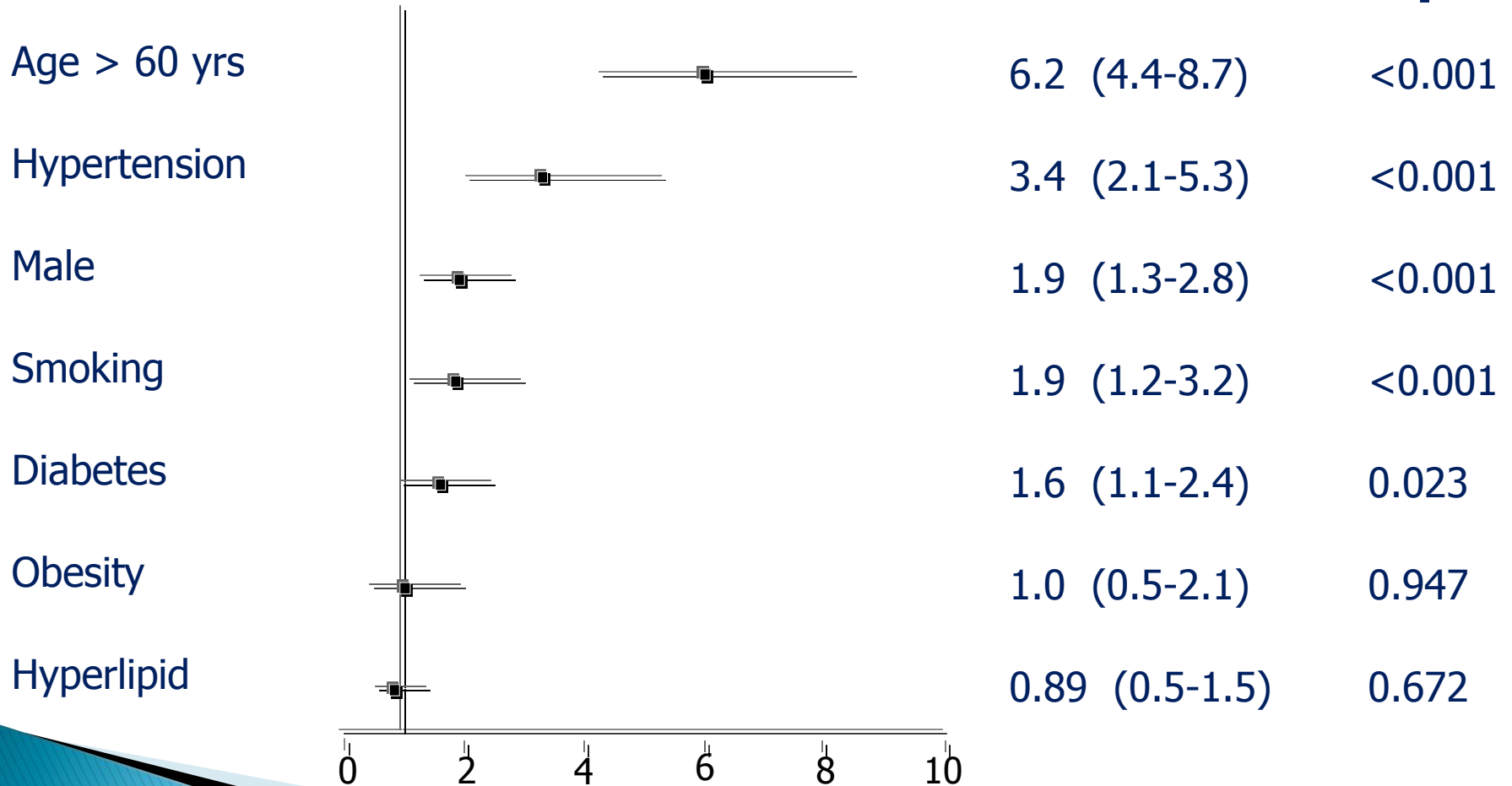
Ao Stiffness-CV outcome

a meta-analysis of 17 longitudinal studies that evaluated aortic PWV and followed up 15,877 subjects for a mean of 7.7 years



Ao Stiffness-Risk Factors

Risk factors



Early Vascular Aging (EVA)

Modifiable risk factors

Smoking

Physical inactivity

Excessive alcohol consumption

Dietary factors

Dyslipidemia/Hyperlipidemia

Elevated LDL – cholesterol

Low HDL – cholesterol

Elevated triglycerides

Obesity (abdominal)

Diabetes mellitus/hyperglycemia

High blood pressure

Thrombogenic factors

Psychosocial stress

Poor sleep and relaxation

Adverse fetal growth pattern

Nonmodifiable risk factors

Age (chronological)

Gender

Ethnicity

Medical history of CVD or diabetes

Family history of CVD or diabetes

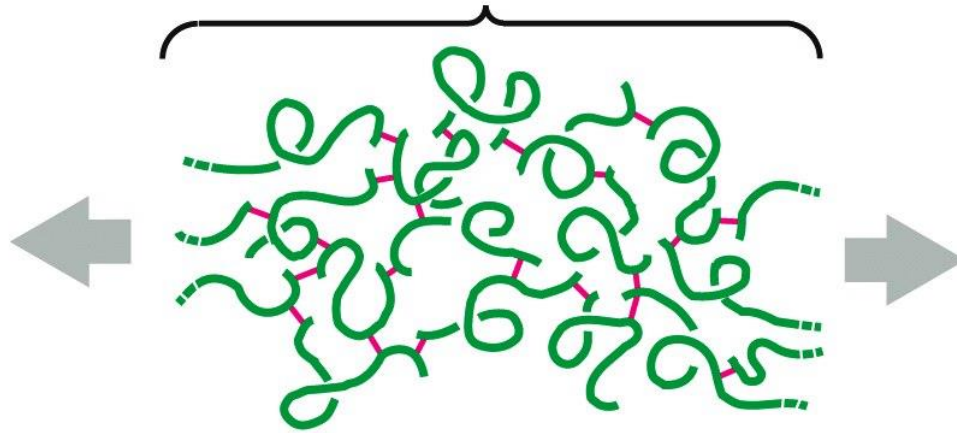
**CV
Risk
Factors**



EVA

Ao Stiffness-Mechanisms¹

elastic fiber

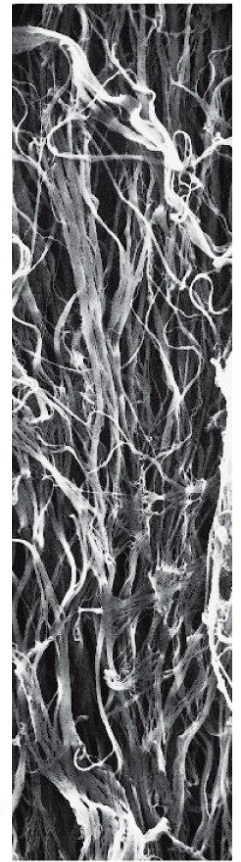
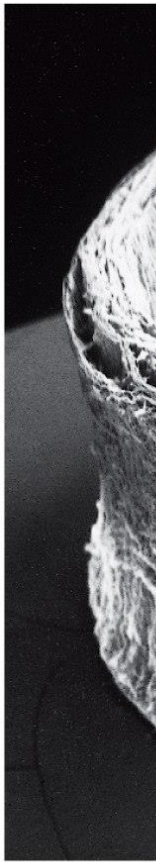
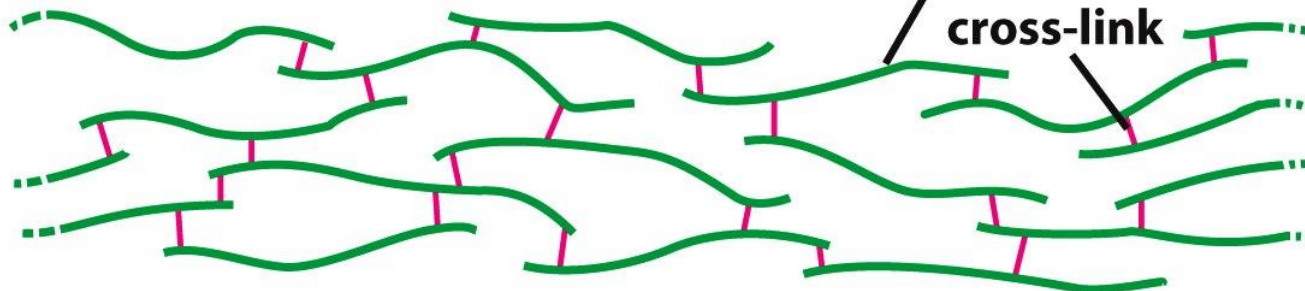


STRETCH

RELAX

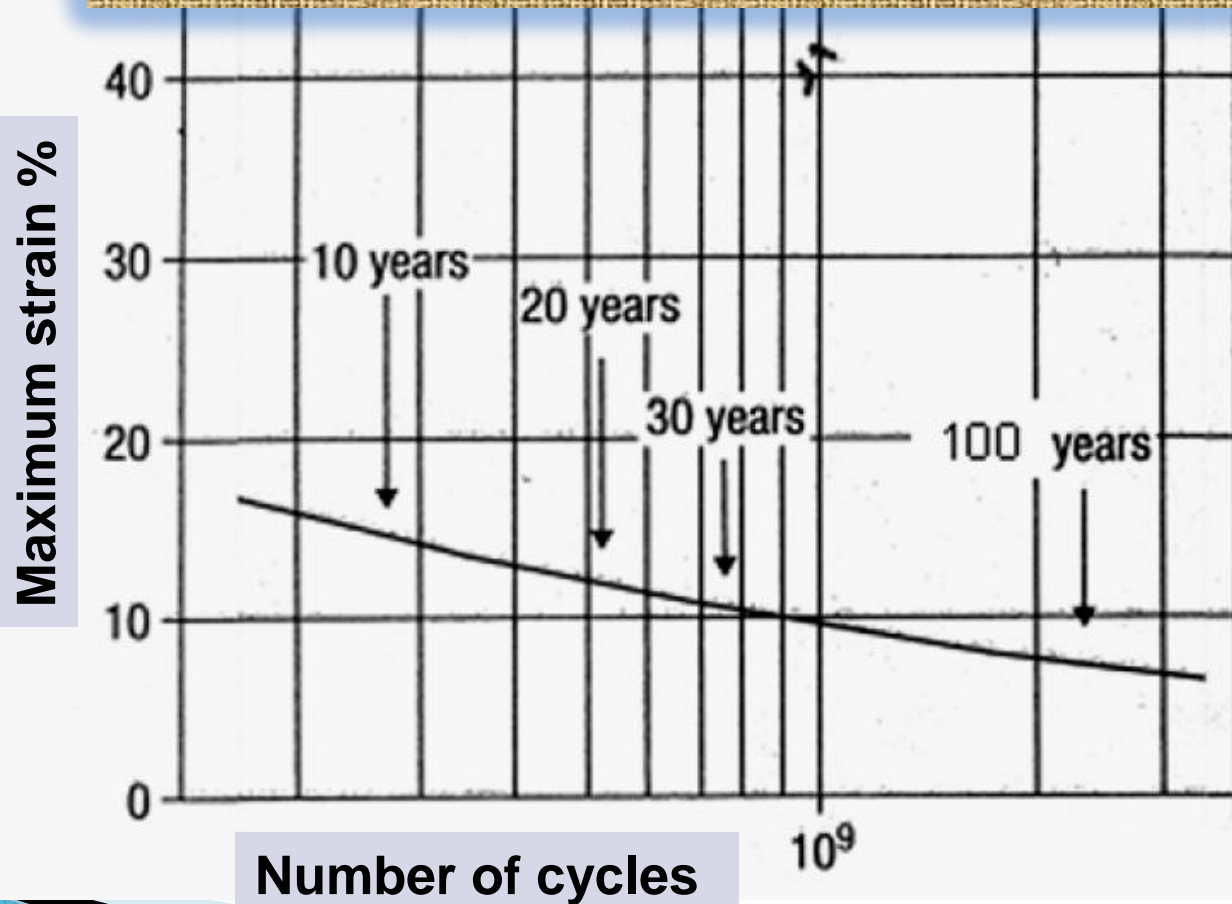
single elastin molecule

cross-link



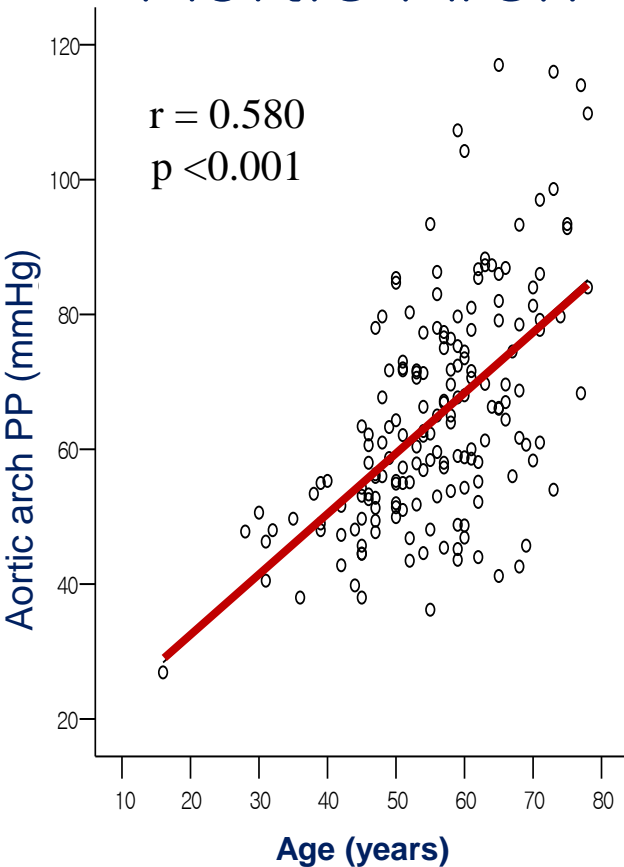
Elastin Fibers Fracture with Aging

Wear and Tear

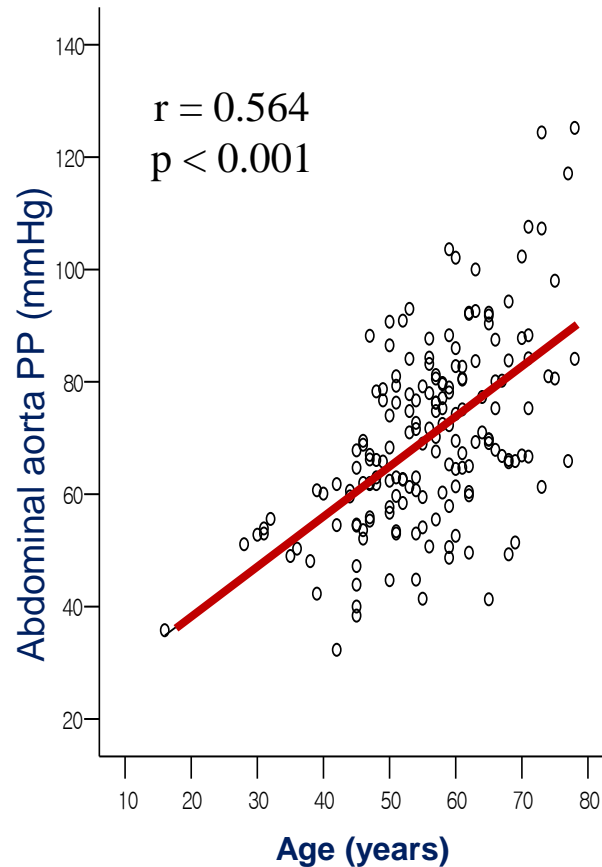


Correlation between Ageing and PP in Elastic vs. Muscular artery

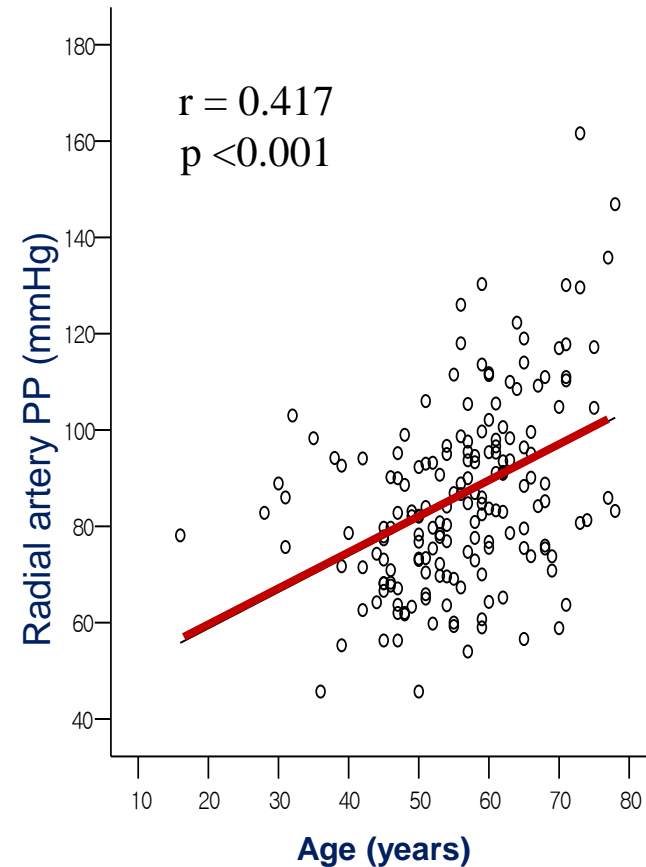
Aortic Arch



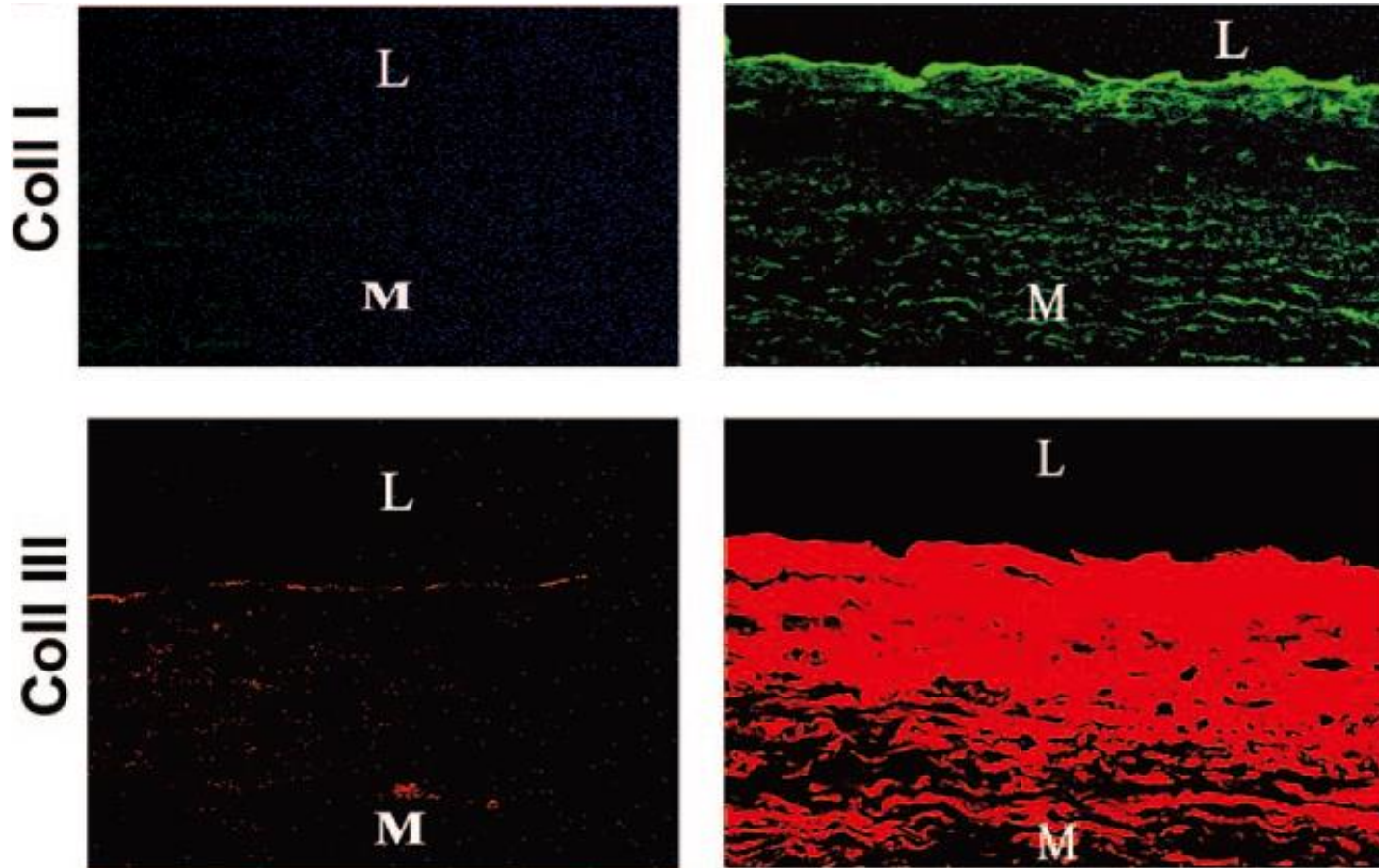
Abd Aorta



Radial A



Ao Stiffness-Mechanisms²



Ao Stiffness-Mechanisms³



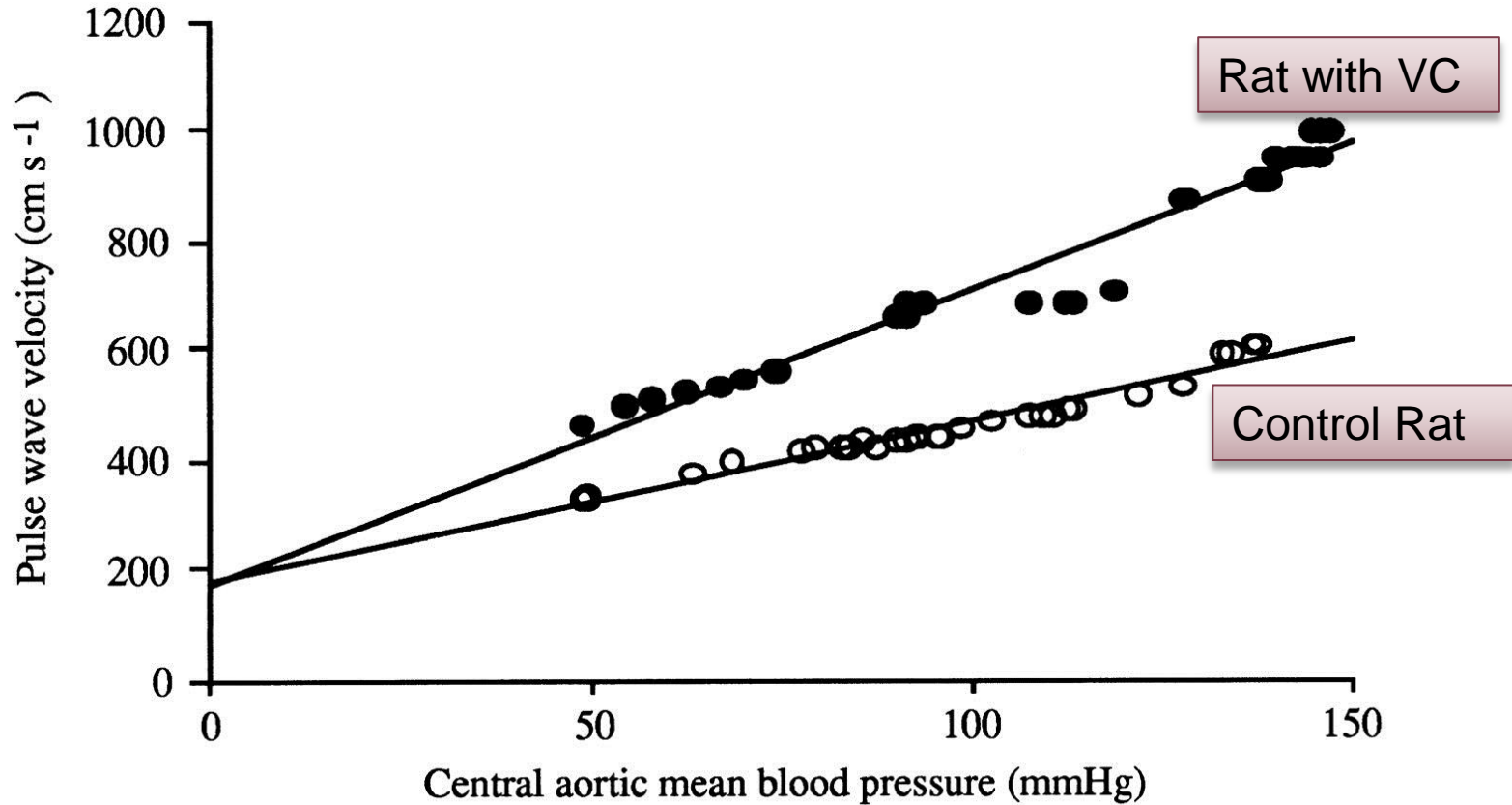
Ao Stiffness-Mechanisms⁴

- ▶ **Oxidative stress**
- ▶ **Angiotensin II system**
- ▶ **AGE and RAGE**

Vascular Calcification **and** **Aortic Stiffness**

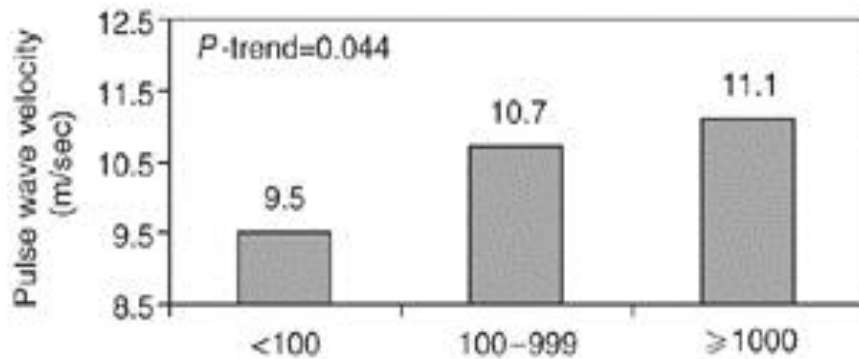


Vascular Calcification & Ao Stiffness (animal)

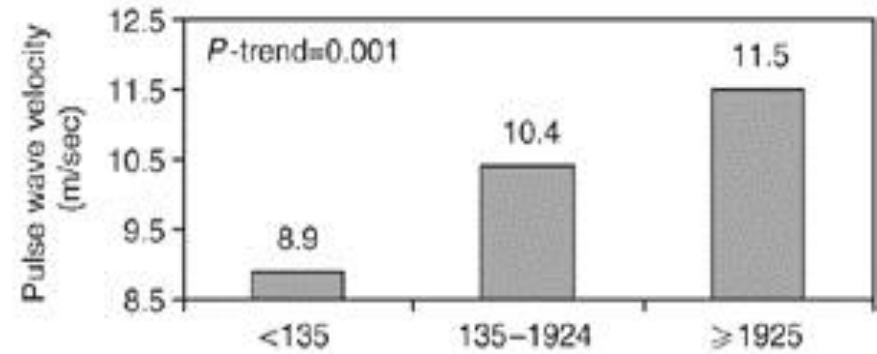


VC by vit D3+nicotine

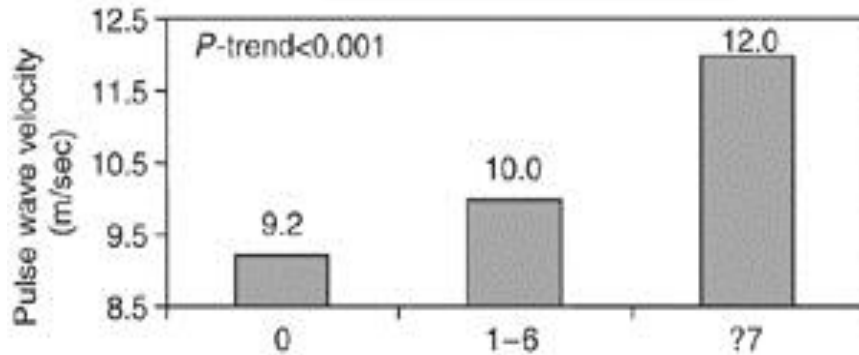
Vascular Calcification & Ao Stiffness (ESRD)



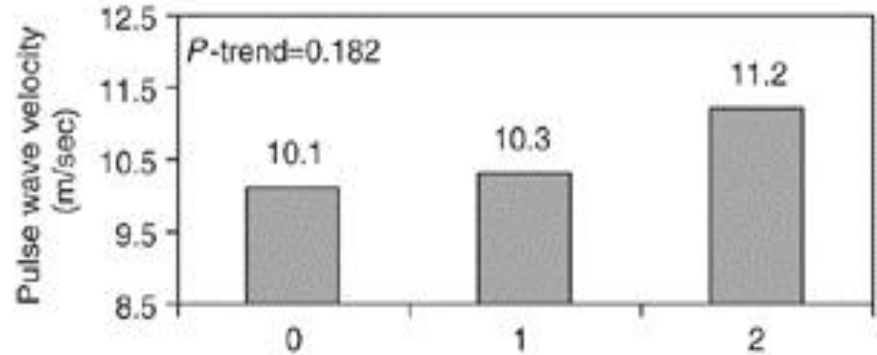
CAC



Thoracic AC

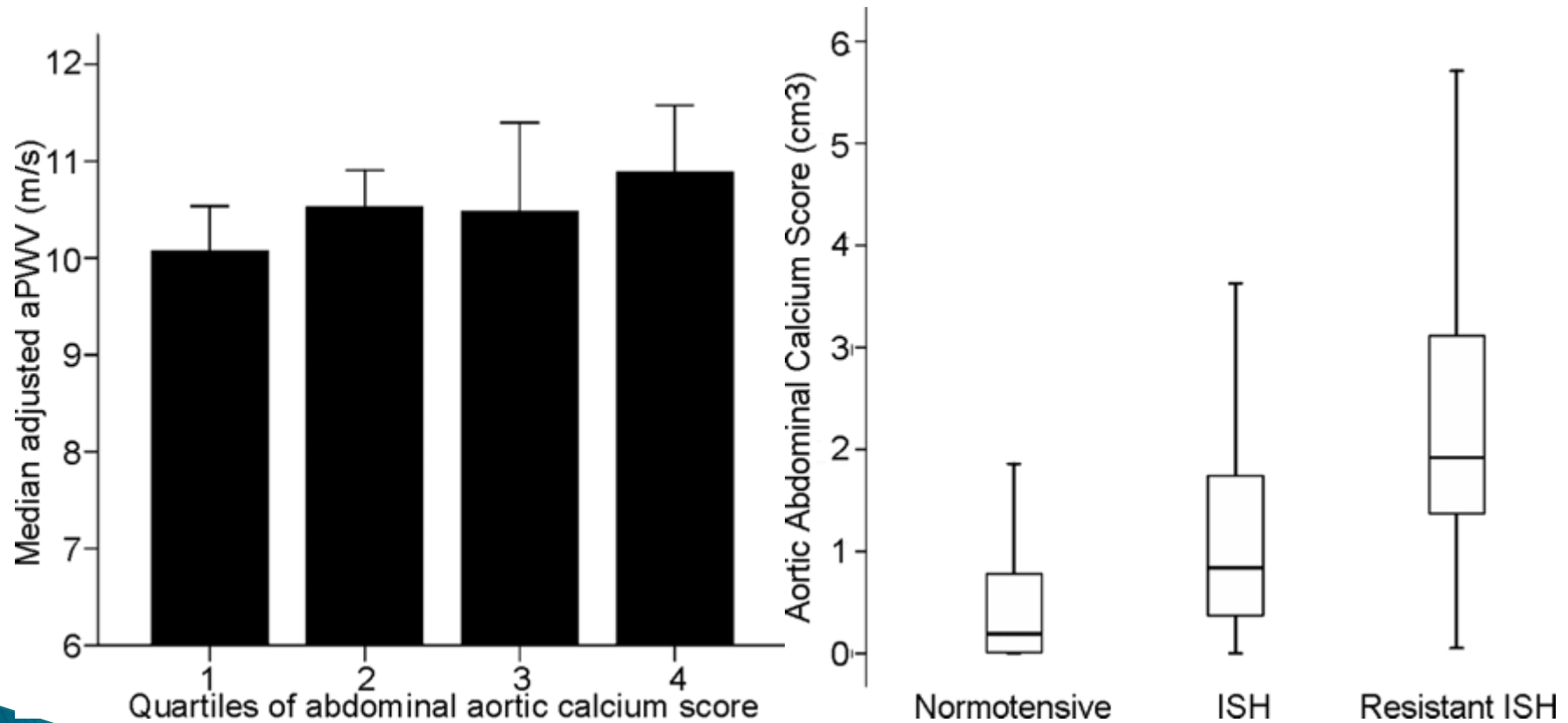


Abdominal AC



No. of calcified valve

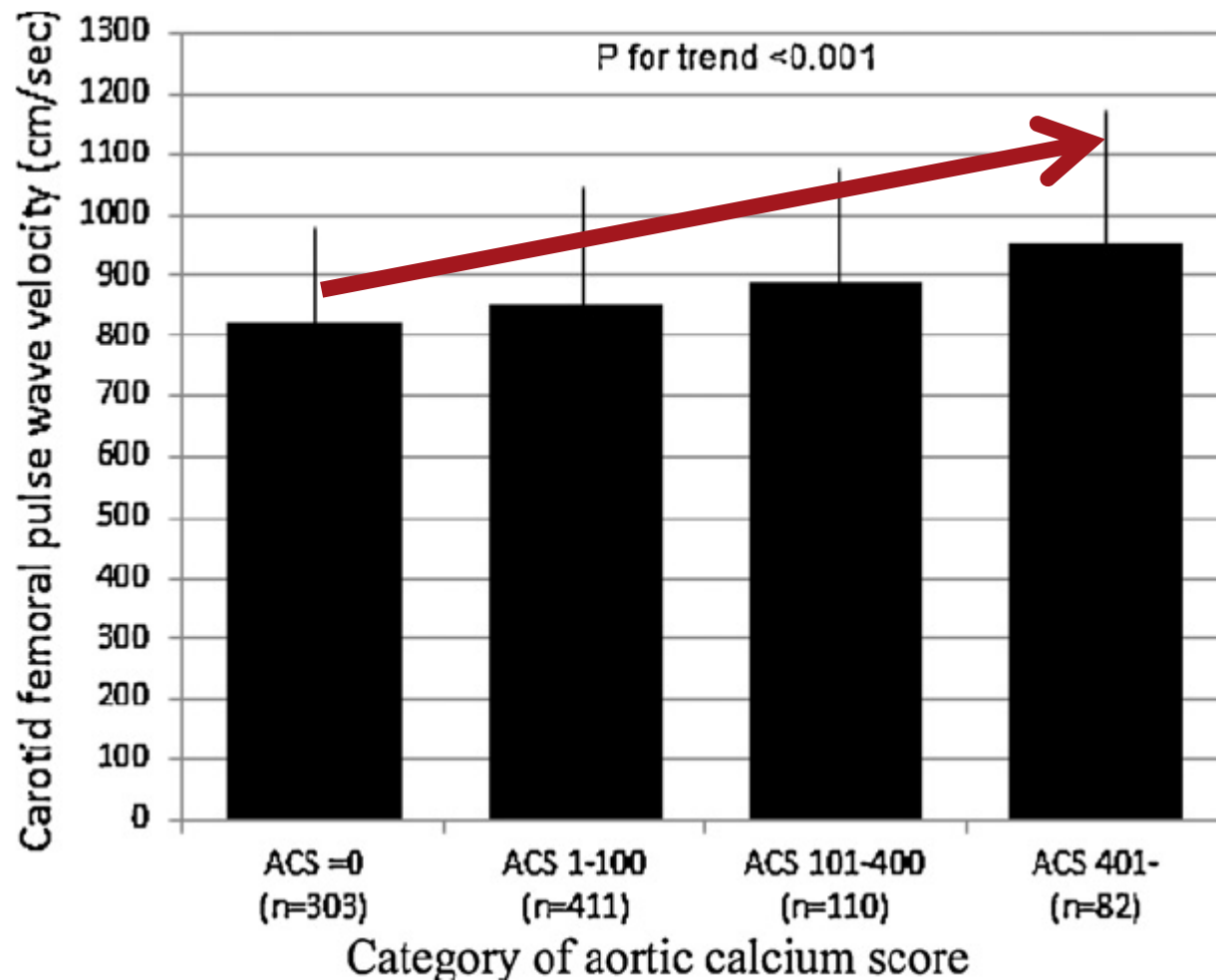
Vascular Calcification & Ao Stiffness (healthy elderly)



Vascular Calcification & Ao Stiffness (middle-aged men)

	All (n=906)	ACS=0 (n=303)	ACS 1-100 (n=411)	ACS 101-400 (n=110)	ACS 400+ (n=82)	P for trend
Age (years)	45.2 (2.9)	45.0 (2.9)	45.2 (2.9)	45.7 (2.7)	46.0 (2.7)	0.002
Race (%)						
Blacks	8.9	9.9	8.3	9.1	8.5	
JA	30.5	35.3	26.3	29.1	35.4	
Koreans	32.1	27.7	32.1	29.1	24.1	
Whites	28.5	27.1	33.3	32.7	32.1	
BP sys (mmHg)	123.8 (13.4)	121.4 (12.1)	123.8 (13.4)	121.4 (12.1)	124.5 (14.5)	0.072
BP dia (mmHg)	75.2 (10.9)	74.0 (10.9)	75.7 (11.2)	74.9 (10.9)	75.4 (11.1)	<0.001
MAP (mmHg)	91.6 (11.1)	90.5 (11.1)	91.6 (11.1)	91.6 (11.1)	91.6 (11.1)	<0.001
Heart rate (/min)	65.8 (9.5)	65.8 (9.5)	65.8 (9.5)	65.8 (9.5)	65.8 (9.5)	0.263
BMI (kg/m ²)	27.0 (4.8)	27.0 (4.8)	27.0 (4.8)	27.0 (4.8)	27.0 (4.8)	<0.001
Smoking status						
Current (%)	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	20.6	
Former (%)	25.9	25.9	25.9	25.9	25.9	
Never (%)	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	53.4	<0.001
Pack year	7.3 (11.5)	7.3 (11.5)	7.3 (11.5)	7.3 (11.5)	7.3 (11.5)	<0.001
Drinker (%)	42.2	42.2	42.2	42.2	42.2	0.540
LDL-C (mg/dL)	124.3 (34.1)	122.6 (35.4)	126.7 (34.3)	119.1 (29.4)	124.8 (33.1)	0.710
HDL-C (mg/dL)	48.6 (13.0)	51.7 (13.3)	46.5 (11.7)	47.3 (13.0)	51.8 (15.5)	0.582
TG (mg/dL)	161.6 (115.8)	142.4 (104.7)	166.4 (108.3)	177.2 (142.0)	187.8 (141.6)	0.001
Diabetes (%)	8.4	5.6	7.5	17.3	11.0	0.003
Medication						
BP (%)	11.0	7.9	10.7	17.3	15.9	0.005
Lipid (%)	10.8	9.2	9.2	17.3	15.9	0.017

Vascular Calcification & Ao Stiffness (middle-aged men)

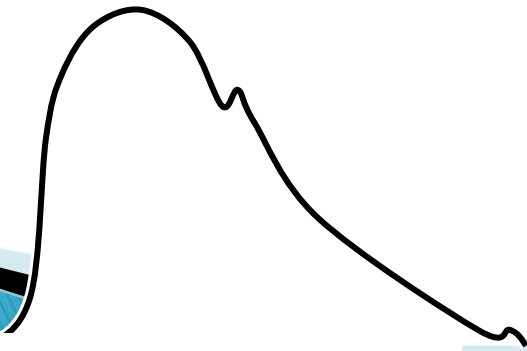


VC, Ao Stiffness & BP

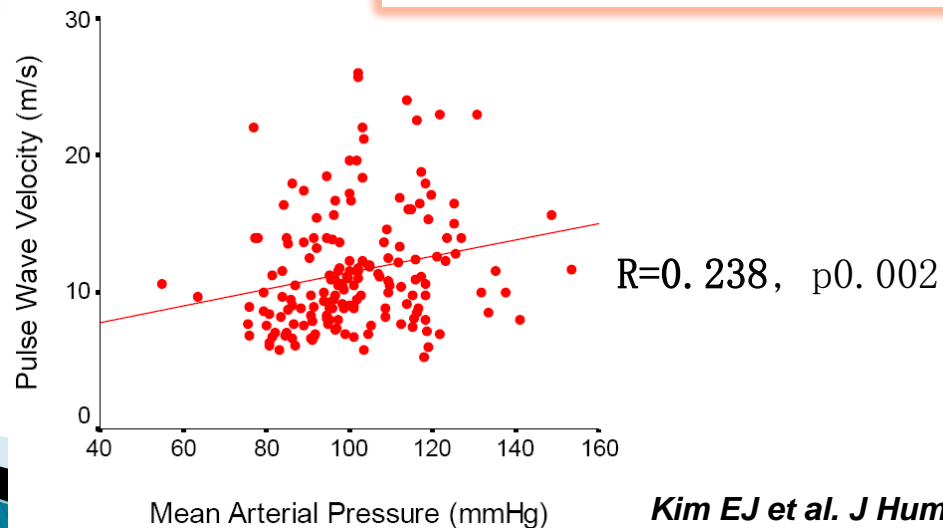
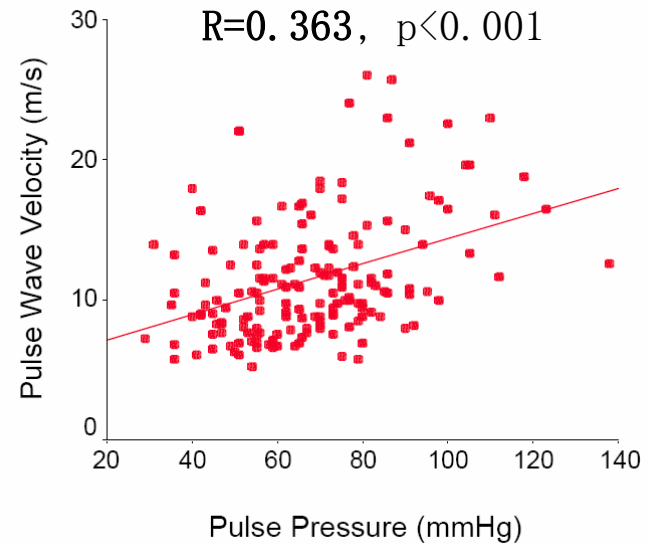
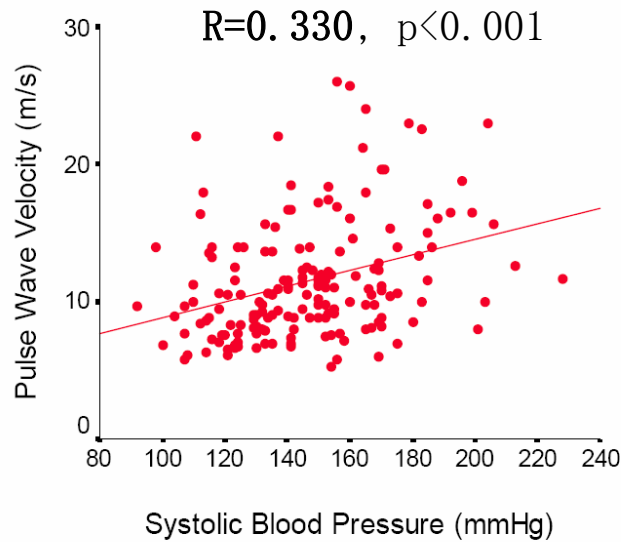


Stiff Aorta

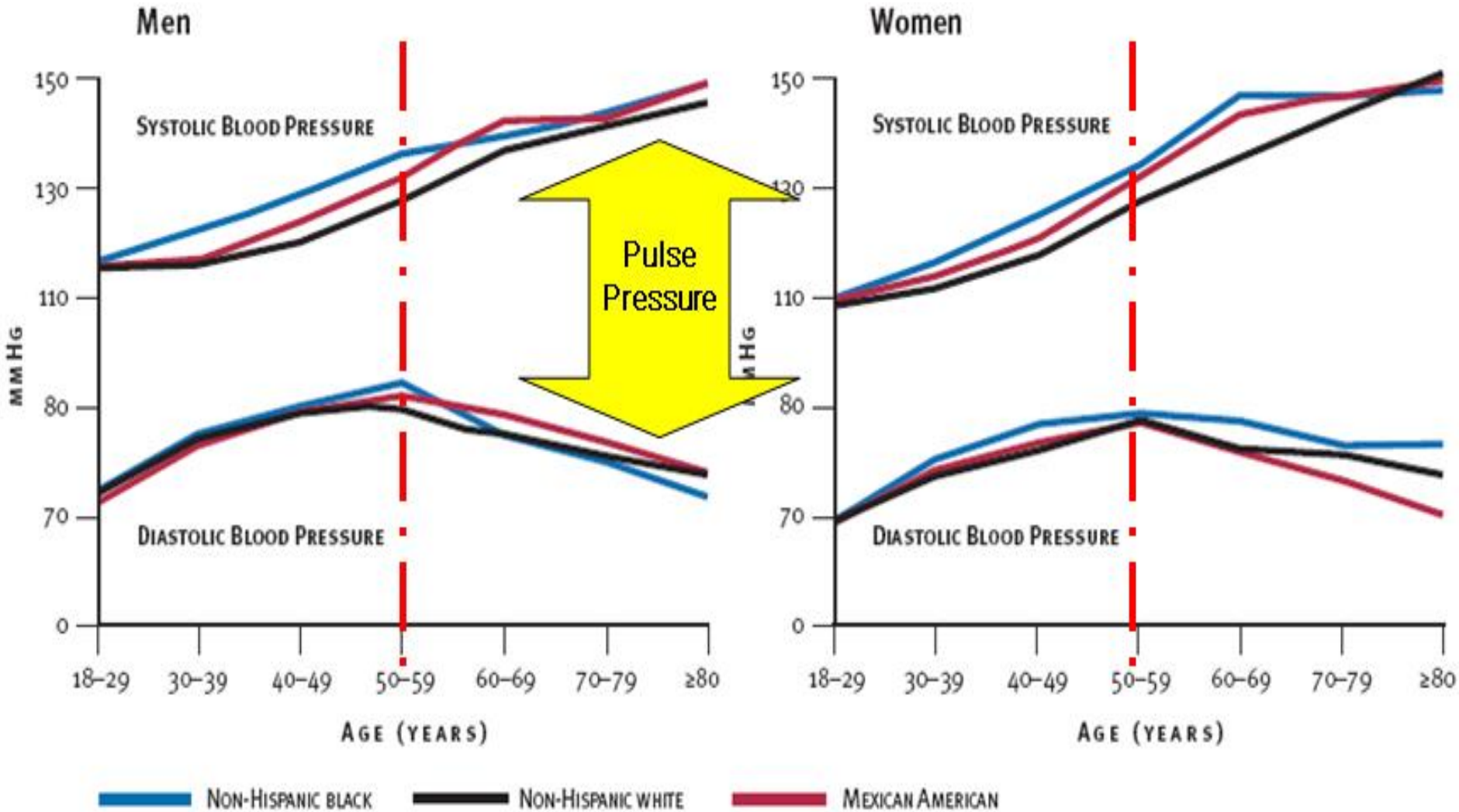
**Resistance
artery**



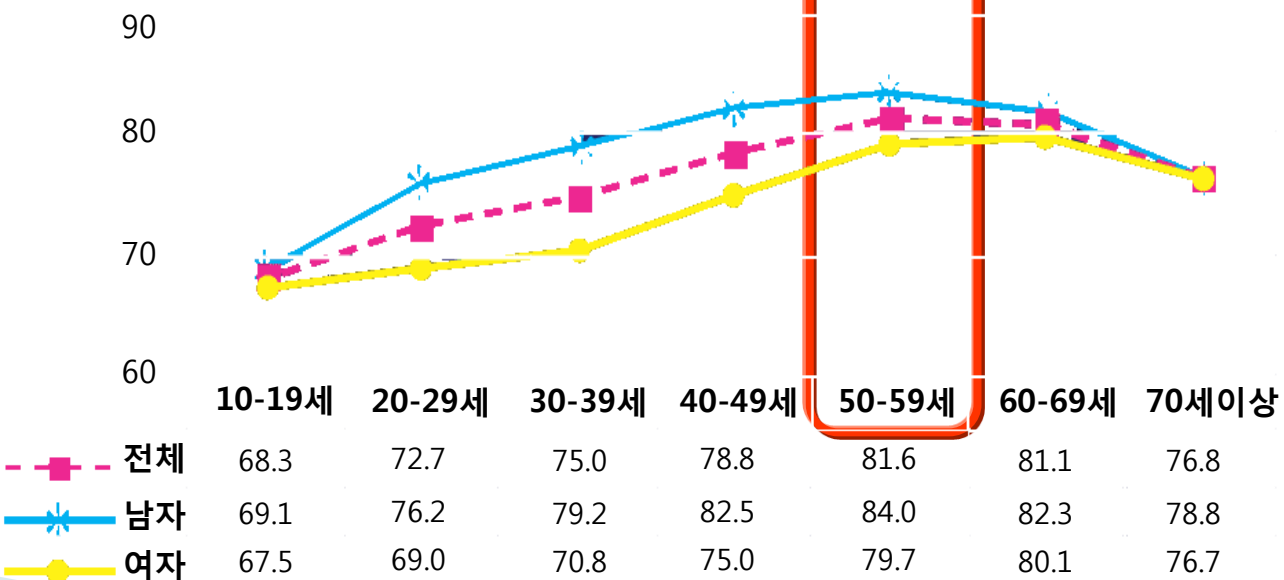
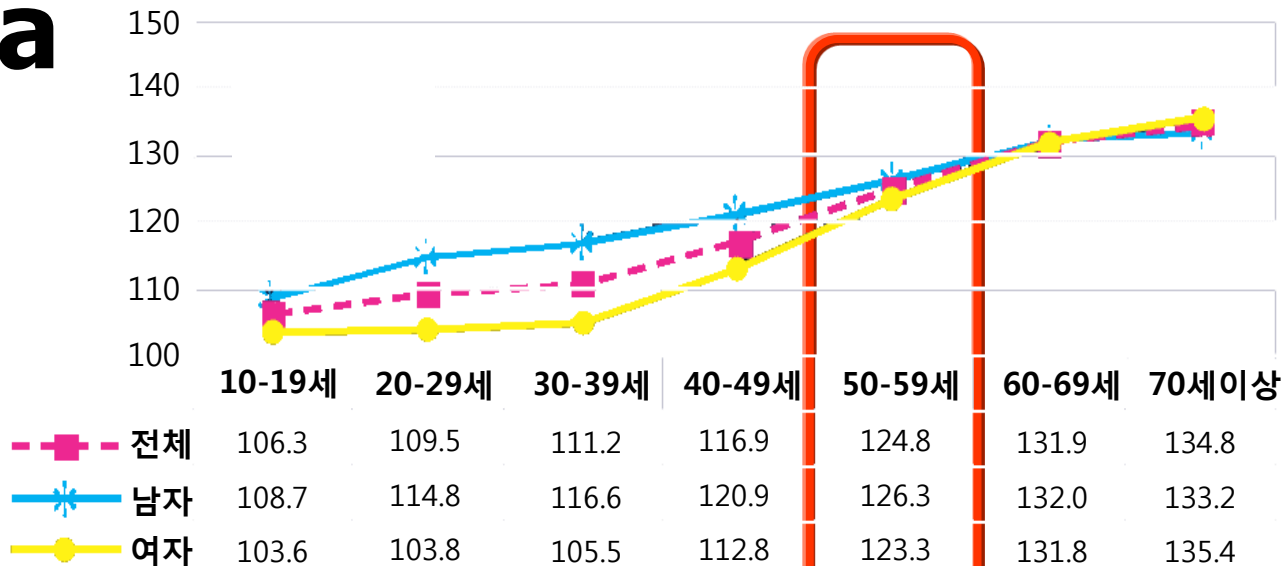
VC, Ao Stiffness & BP



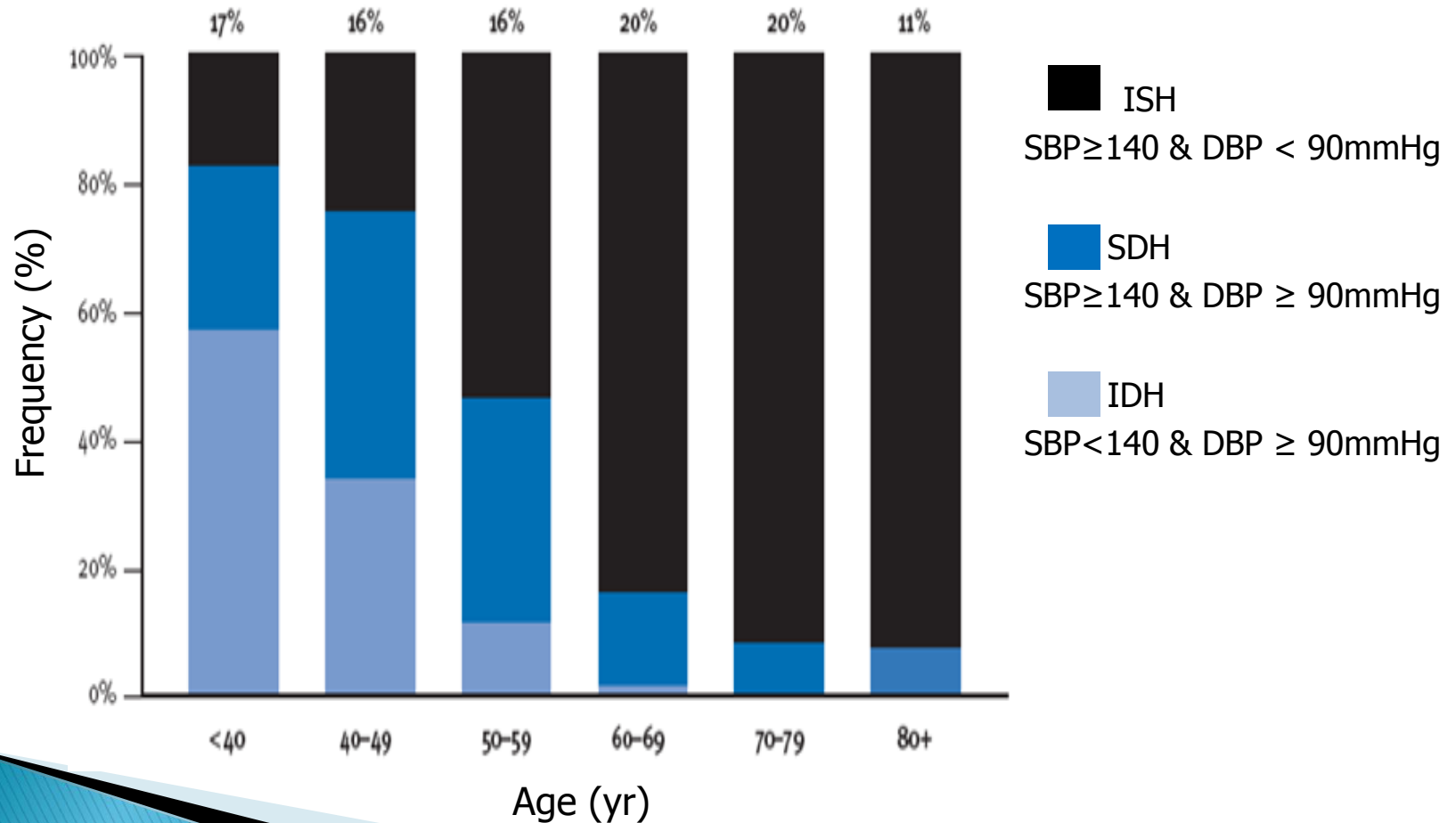
VC, Ao Stiffness & Hypertension



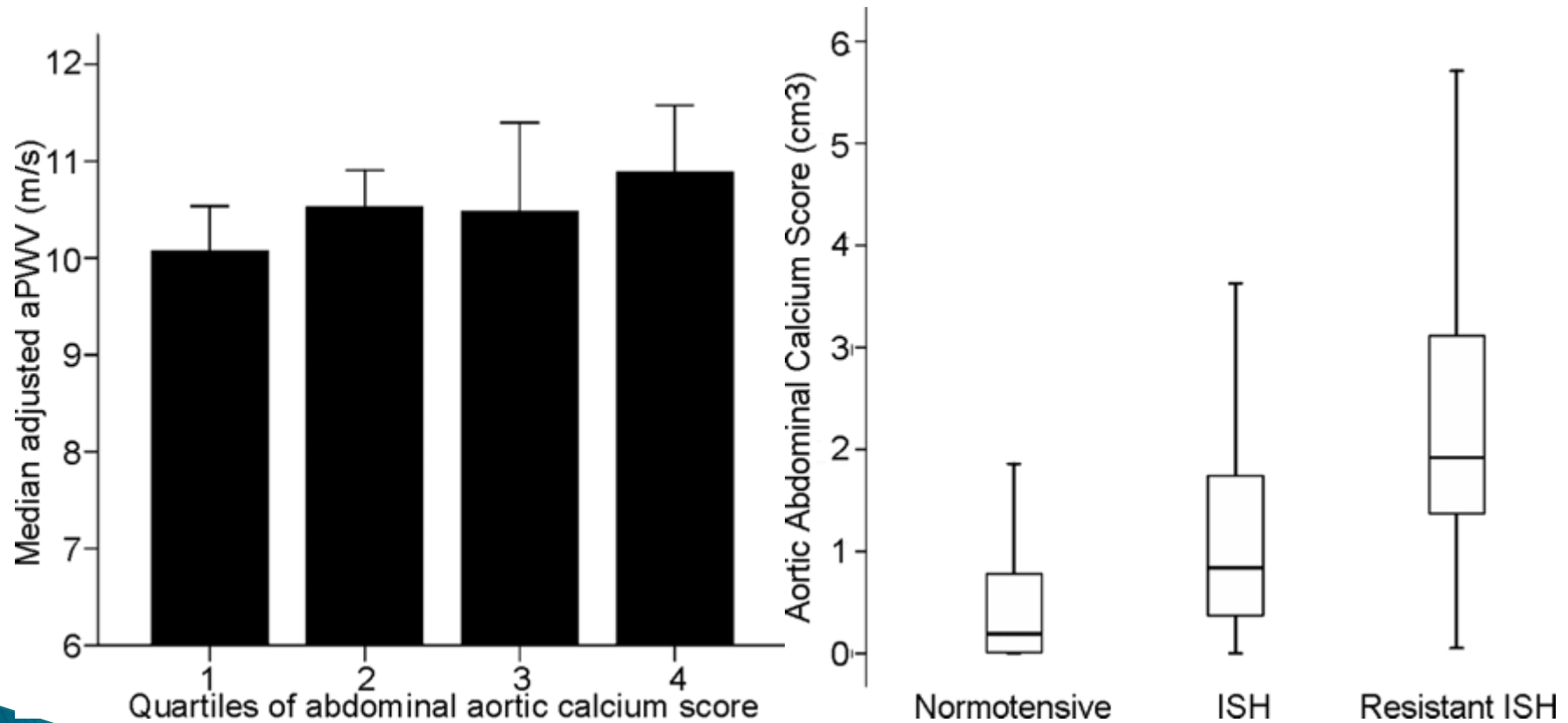
Korea



% of Isolated Systolic Hypertension

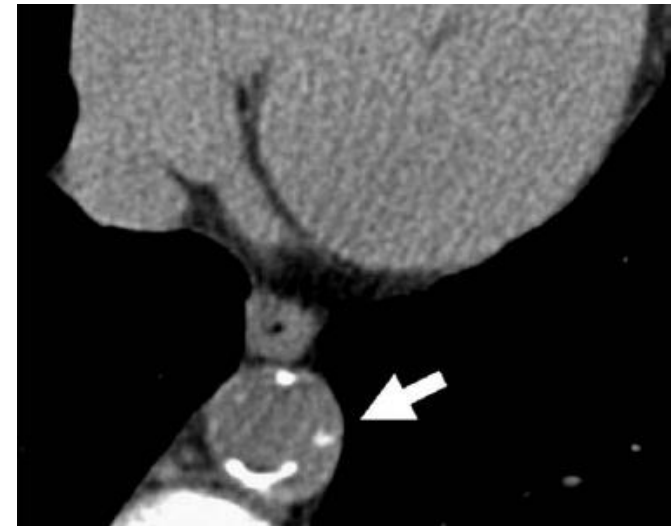


VC, Ao Stiffness & Hypertension

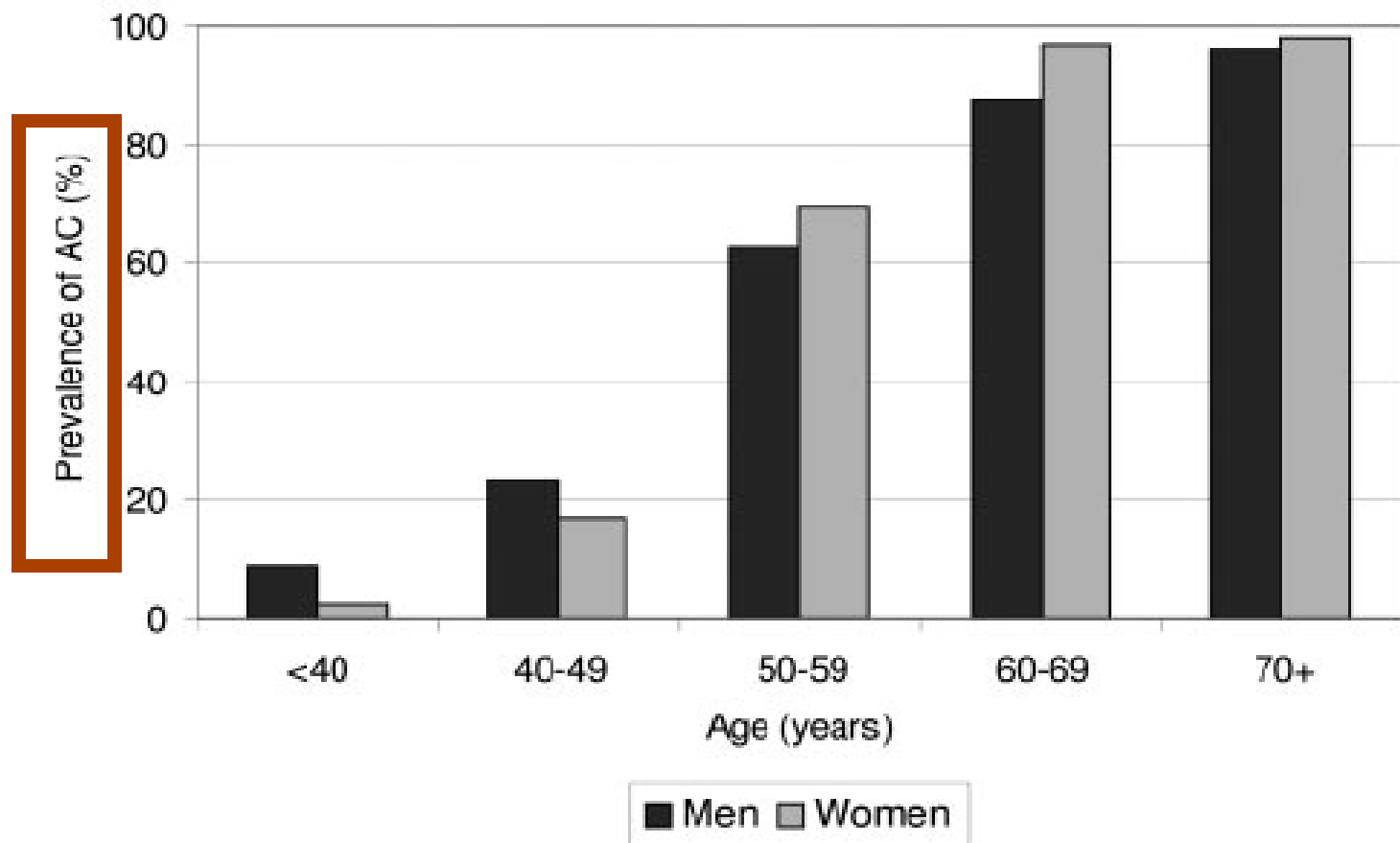


Epidemiology: Thoracic Ao Calc

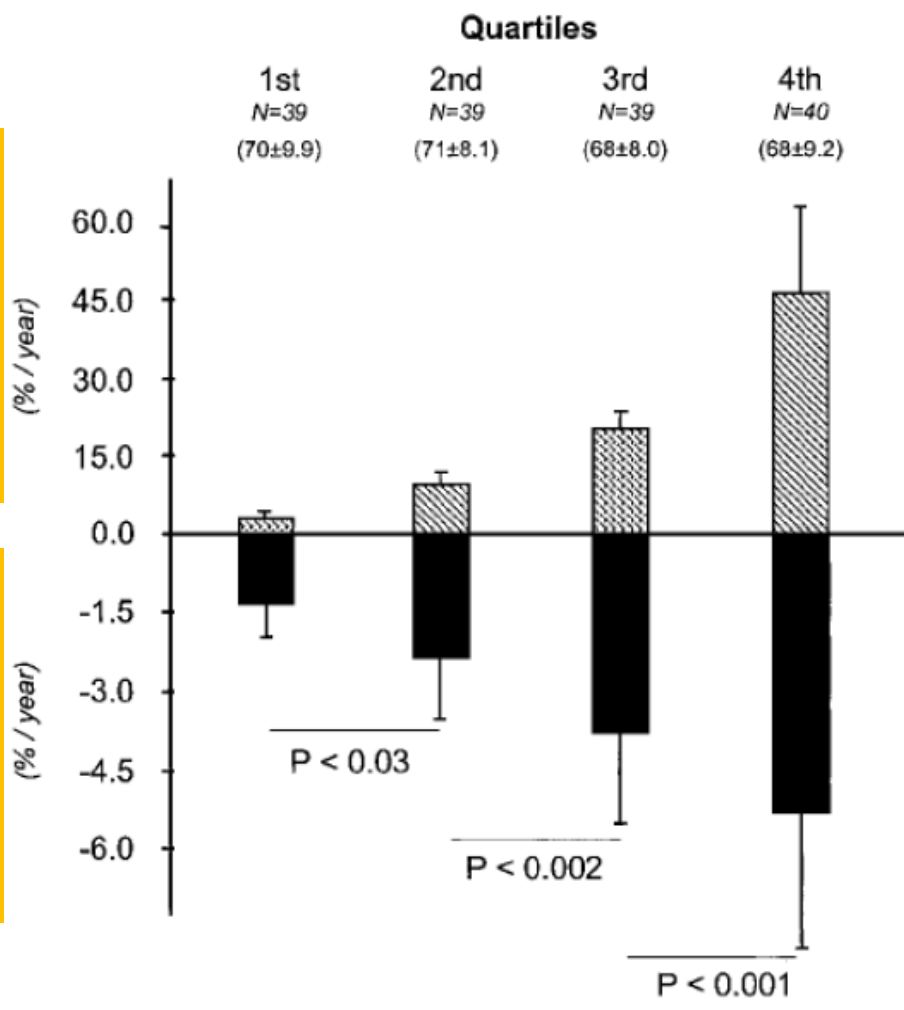
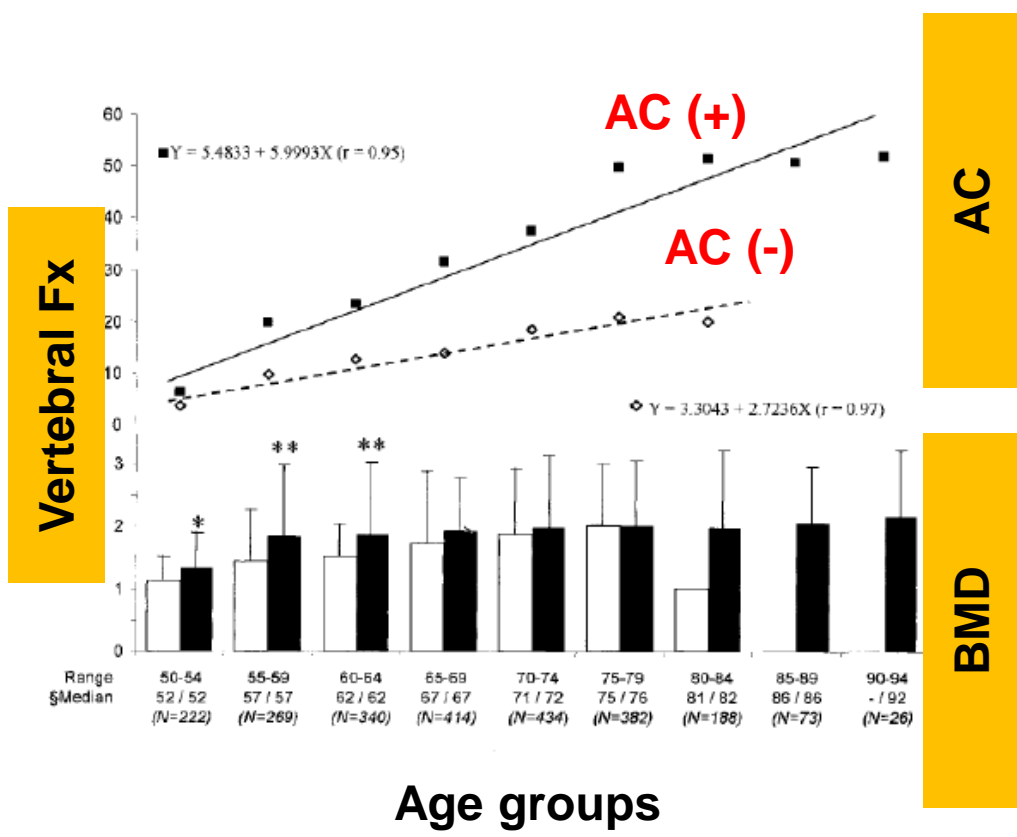
- ▶ MESA (Multi-Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis)
 - Population-based, 45-84 (mean 63) yrs, n=6814
 - Overall prevalence **28.0%**
 - Chinese & White 32.4%,
 - Hispanic 24.9%, Black 22.4%
 - Female **29.1%**, Male **26.8%**



Epidemiology: Thoracic Ao Calc



Epidemiology: Correlation between AC & BMD



Epidemiology: Correlation between CAC, AC & BMD

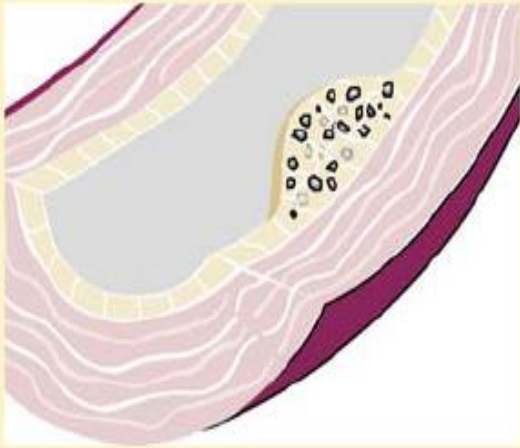
		Control		CAD	
		CAC	AC	CAC	AC
BMD	rho	-0.239 †	-0.564 ‡	-0.184*	-0.563 ‡
CAC	rho	1	0.338 ‡	1	0.506 ‡

*, <0.05; †, <0.01; ‡, <0.001

Intima vs. Media Calcification

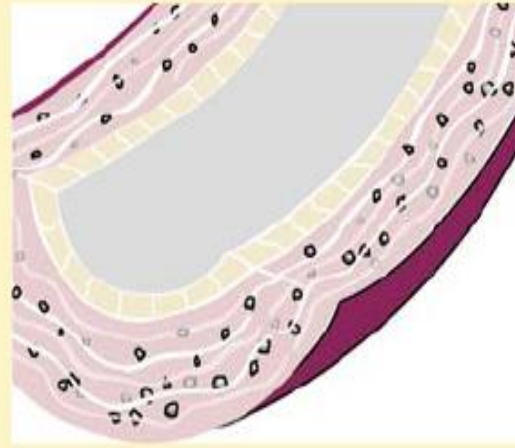
Atherosclerosis

Focal, in plaques



Arteriosclerosis or Mönckeberg's sclerosis

Generalized



Dyslipidemia, hypercholesterolemia

Lipid accumulation
Foam cell formation
Inflammation
Oxidative stress
Apoptosis

Aging, diabetes, renal failure, osteoporosis, hypertension

Transdifferentiation of VSMCs into bone-like cells
(osteoblast-chondrocyte and osteoclast-like cells)
Ca, P, vitamin D metabolism
Loss of calcification inhibitors (pyrophosphate, MGP, fetuin)

Endochondral calcification

Intramembranous ossification

Risk Factor	Intimal VC	Medial VC
Advanced age	+	+
Male sex	+	-
Diabetes mellitus	+	+
Dyslipidemia	+	-
Hypertension	+	-
Smoking	+	-
Renal failure (abnormalities of mineral metabolism)	-	+
Inflammation	+	+

VC : Mechanism

▶ **Passive process ?**

▶ **Active process ?**

Process of VC

2.5 mM (= 7.8 mg/dl)
inorg. phosphate
(Na_2HPO_4)

1.25 mM (= 5 mg/dl)
calcium
(CaCl_2)

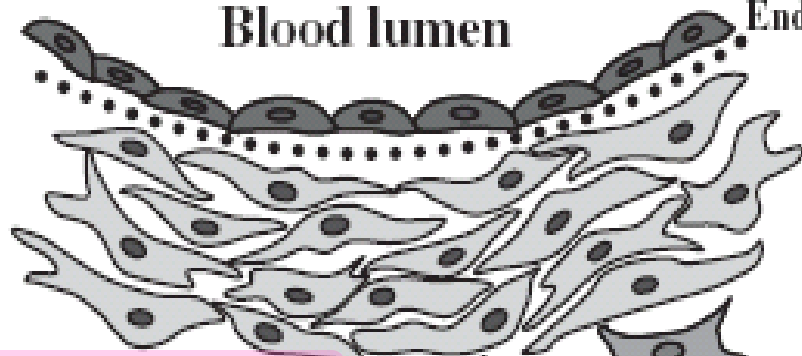
Both combined

= elevated $\text{Ca} \times \text{Pi}$ product

Passive process ?

Blood lumen

Endothelial cells



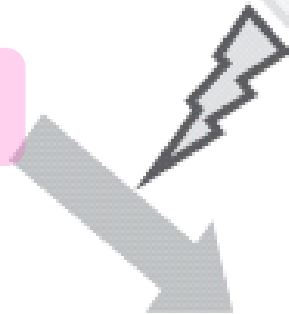
Smooth muscle cells

Microvascular Pericytes

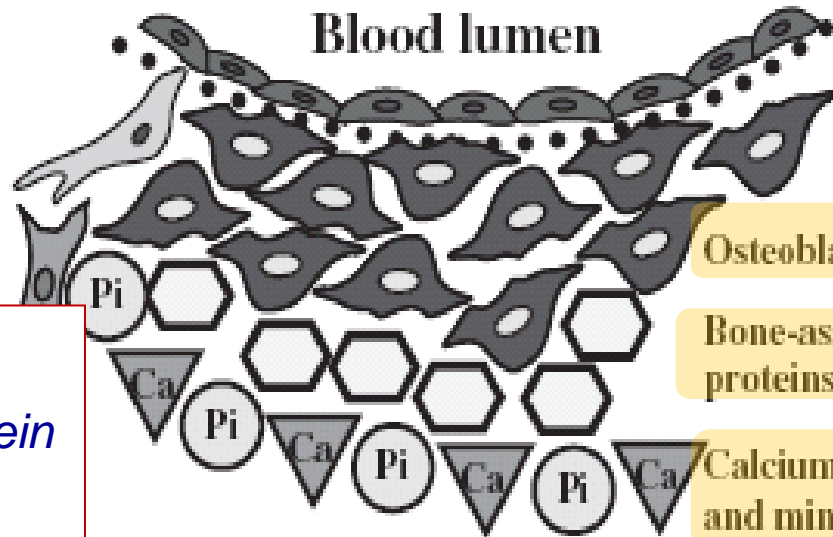
myofibroblast

Calcifying vascular cells (CVC)

Atherosclerosis
Aging
Chronic renal failure
Diabetes etc



Blood lumen



Osteoblast-like cells

Bone-associated proteins

Calcium, phosphate and mineral

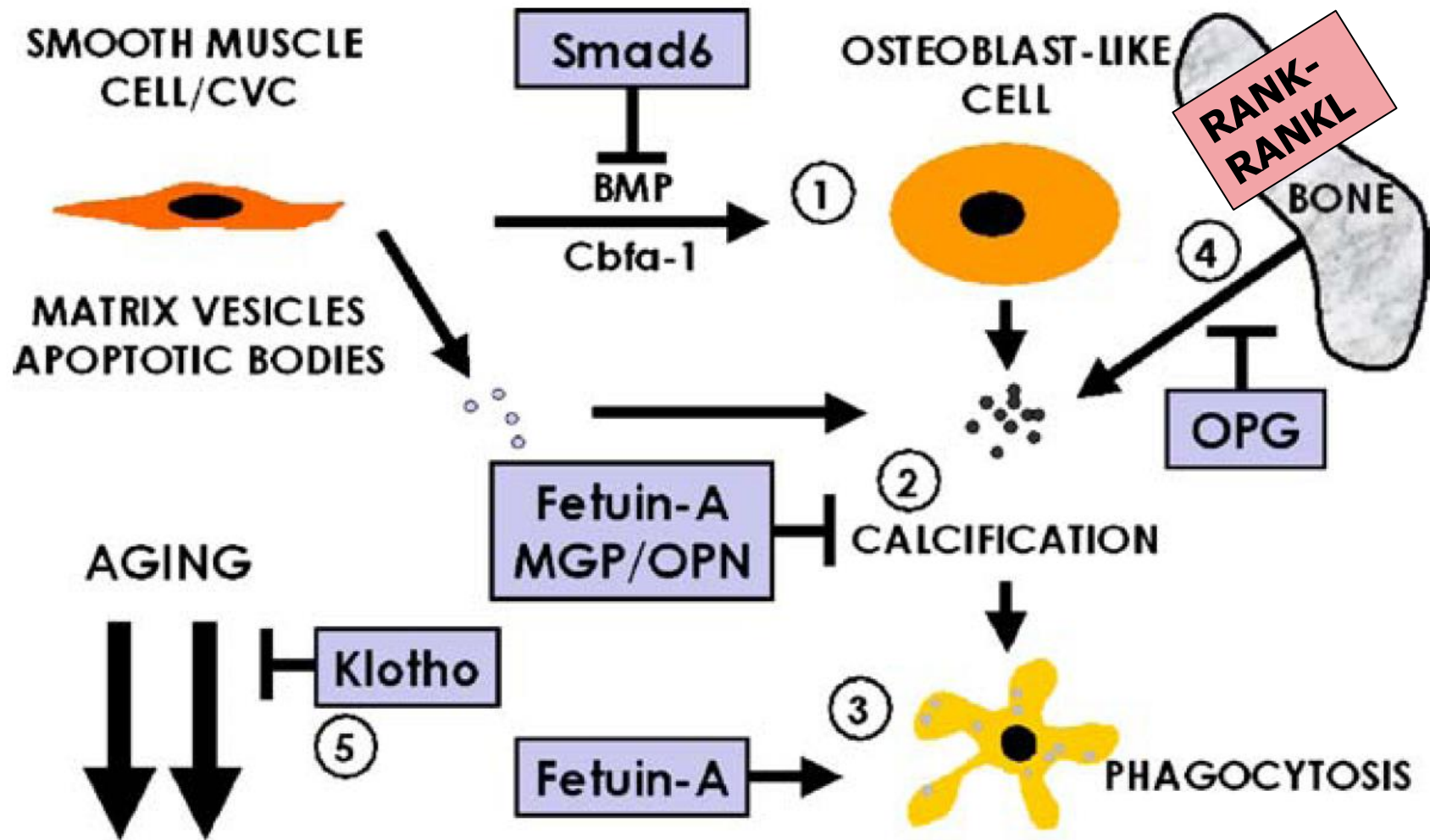
Stage 1 Osteoblastic differentiation

Stage 2 Expression of bone-asso. protein

Stage 3 Mineralization

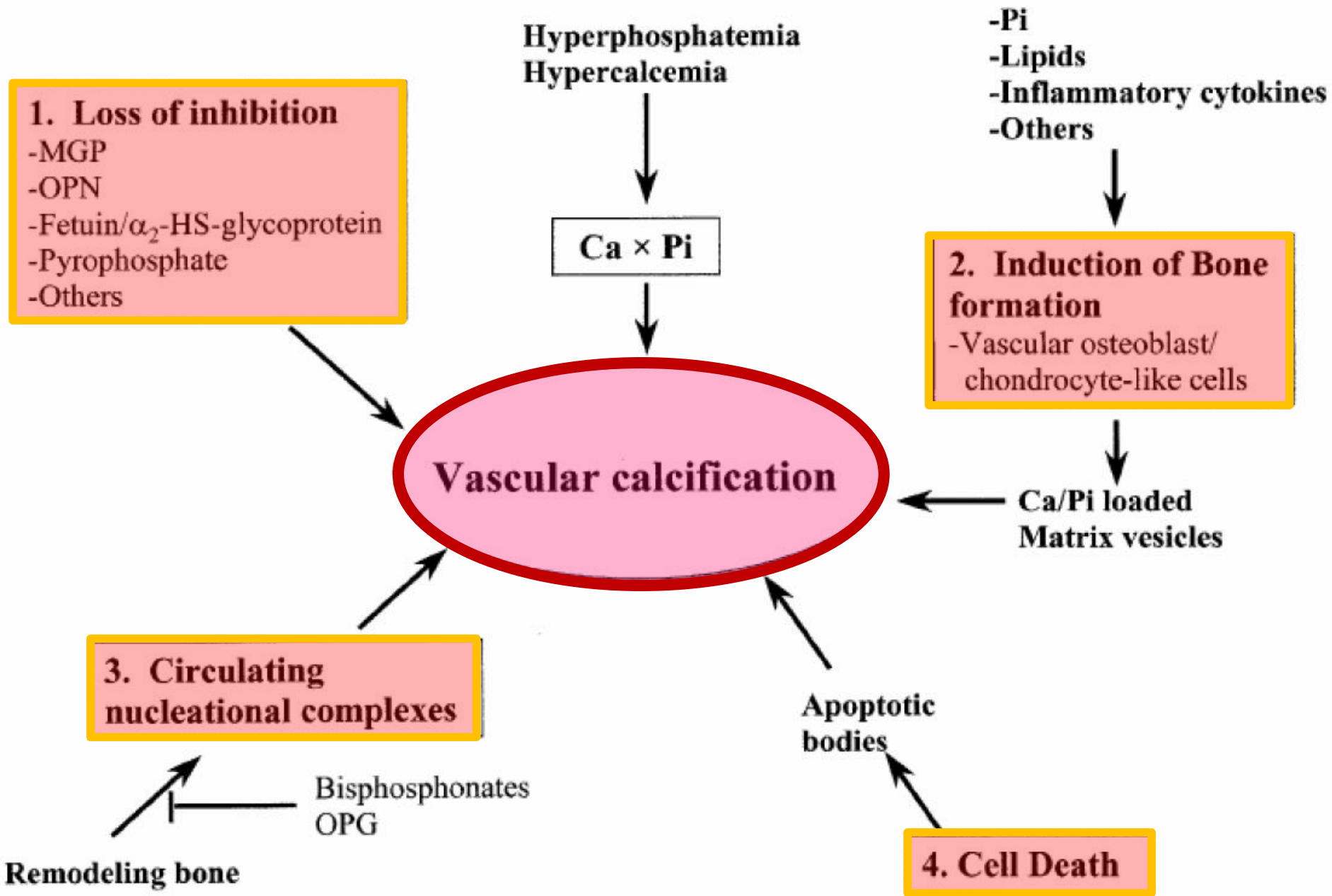
Vascular Calcification

Unifying Hypothesis of AC & Osteoporosis



Vascular Calcification

- ▶ A **regulated Active Process**, which parallels many aspects of **calcification in bone** !



To halt Vascular Calcification

Anti-VC may improve aortic stiffness

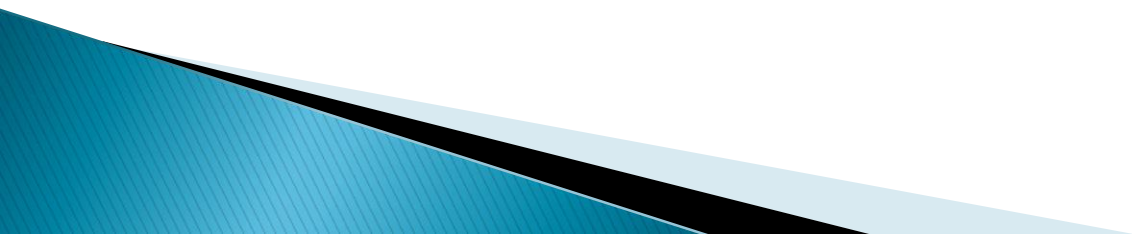
- ▶ ACEi
- ▶ Cross-link breakers
- ▶ Bisphosphonate
- ▶ Calcimimetics
- ▶ Phosphate binder
- ▶ Recombinant OPG (denosumab) ...

Summary

- ▶ Ao stiffness is an integrated marker of the chronological damage of the CV risk factors on the arterial wall
- ▶ Ao stiffness is better predictive of CV outcomes
- ▶ VC is one of the mechanisms of Ao Stiffness
- ▶ VC-Ao Stiffness contributes to hypertension
- ▶ Targeting VC mechanisms may improve Ao Stiffness

A close-up, slightly blurred photograph of a field of green grass, likely a meadow or pasture. The grass is vibrant green and appears to be blowing in the wind, creating a sense of movement. The background is out of focus, emphasizing the texture of the grass in the foreground.

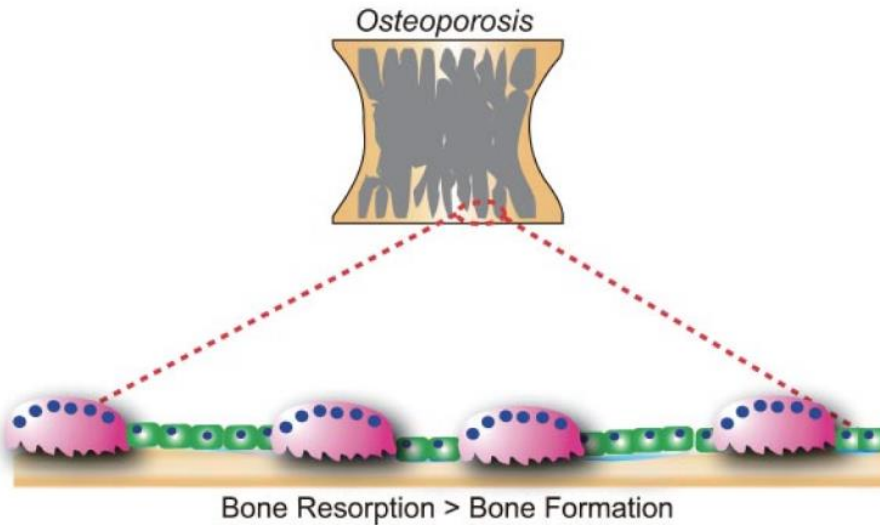
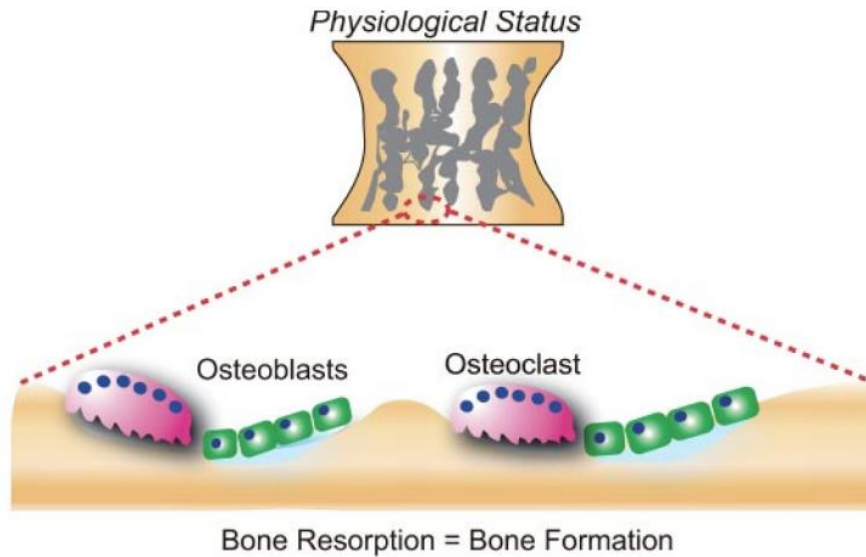
Thank you !



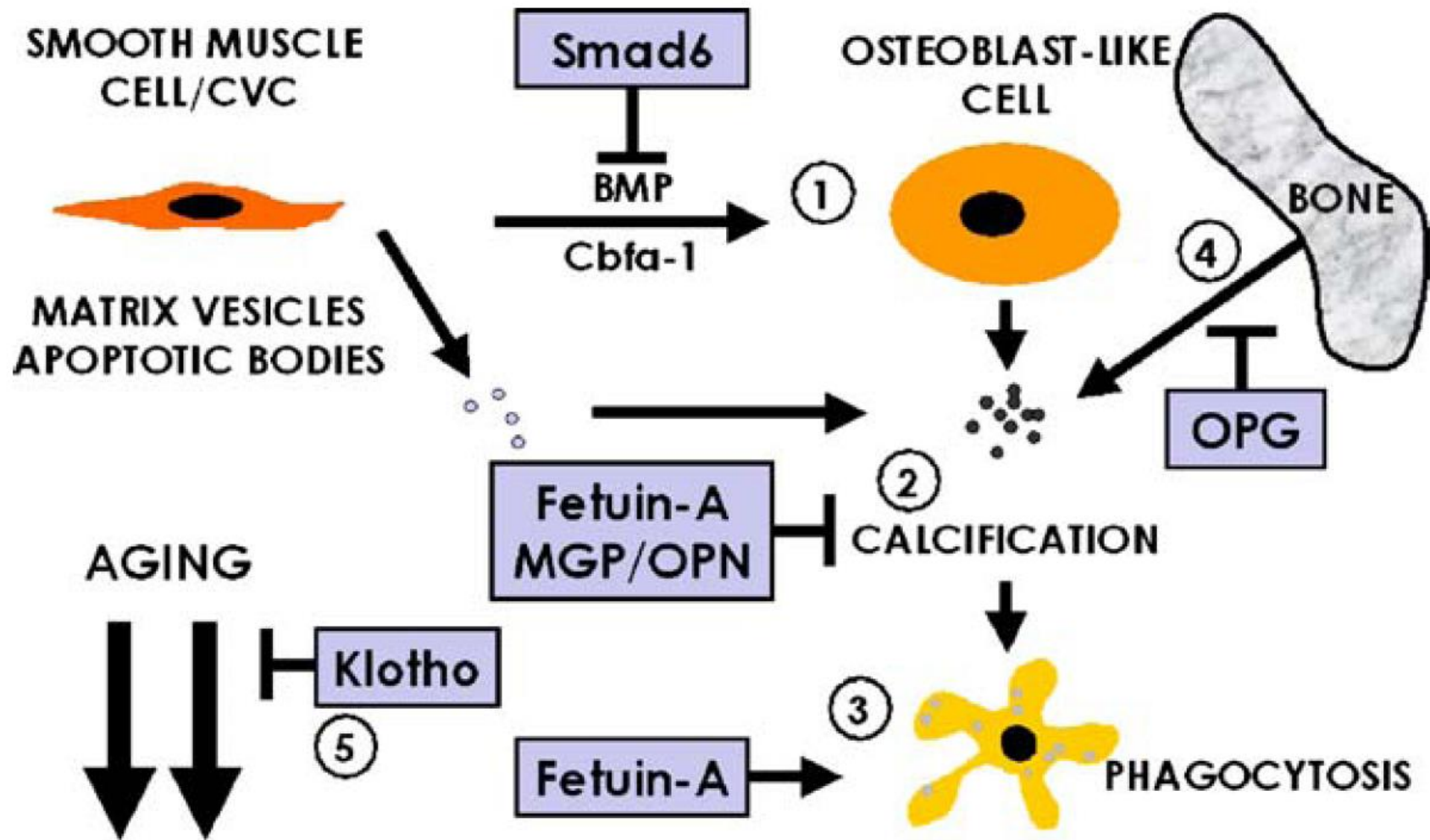
Common Mechanisms in the pathogenesis of osteoporosis & AC

- ▶ Age
- ▶ Chronic inflammation (e.g. RA)
- ▶ Smoking
- ▶ DM
- ▶ Estrogen deficiency
- ▶ Vit C, D & K ↓
- ▶ Oxidized lipids & free radicals
- ▶ Renal failure

Role of Bone cells in Bone remodeling



Unifying Hypothesis of AC & Osteoporosis



Vascular Calcification & Osteoporosis

- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Risk factors and Mechanisms
- ▶ **Clinical implication**
- ▶ Therapeutic, Preventive challenges
- ▶ Summary

Clinical Implication: CAC

AHA Scientific Statement

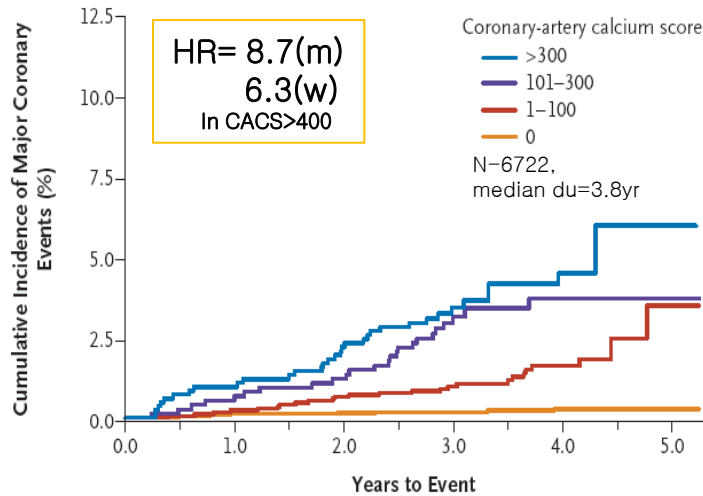
Assessment of Coronary Artery Disease by Cardiac Computed Tomography

TABLE 5. Sensitivity and Specificity of Diagnostic Tests for Evaluation of CAD

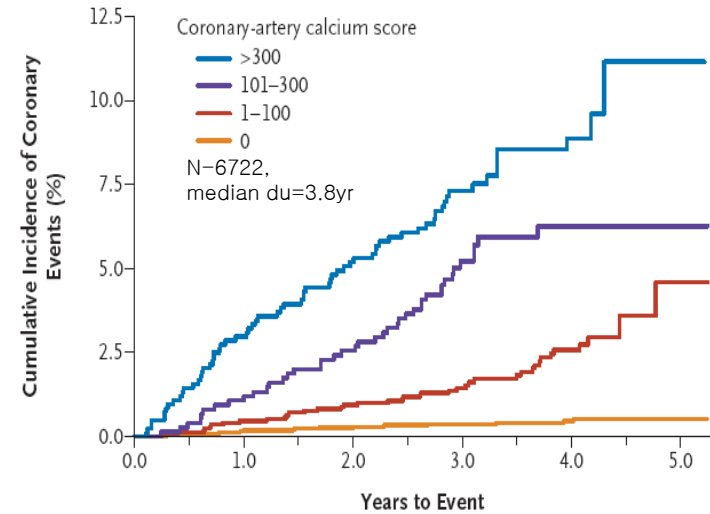
	No. of Patients	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %
Stress treadmill ⁸⁵	2456	52	71
Exercise SPECT ^{85,86}	4480	87	73
Stress echocardiography ⁸⁵	2637	85	77
EBCT calcium ^{22,23,89}	5730	85	75

CAC as a Predictor of Coronary Events & Survival

MACE (MI & CHD death)

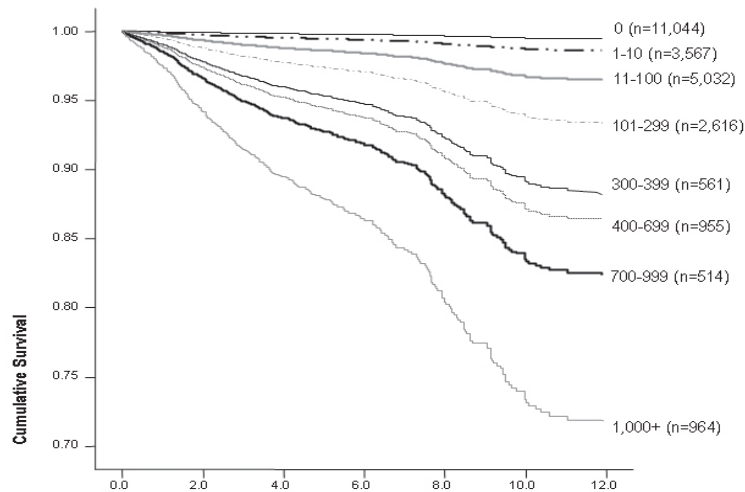


Any coronary events



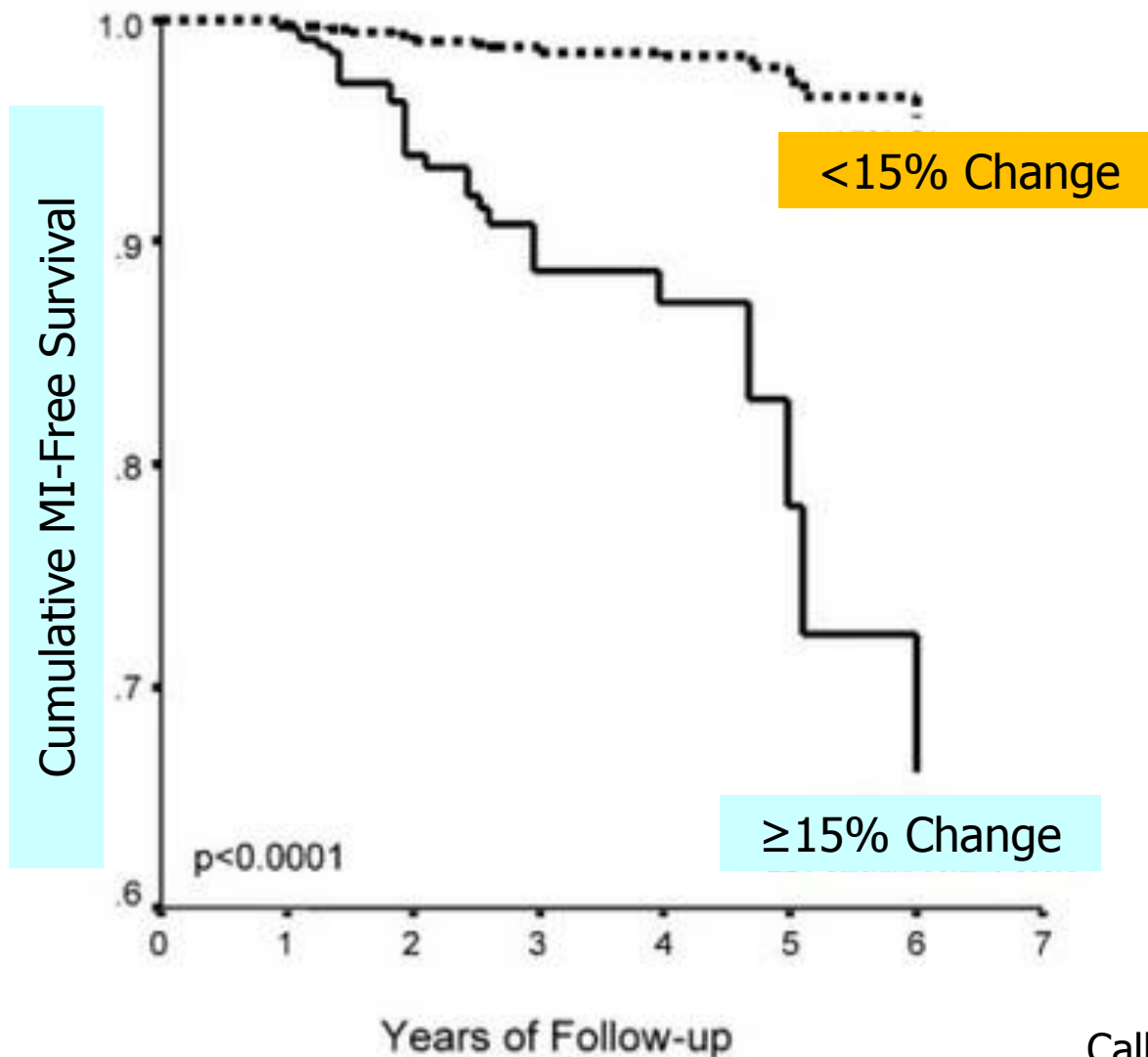
Detrano et al. N Engl J Med 2008;358:1336-45.

Survival

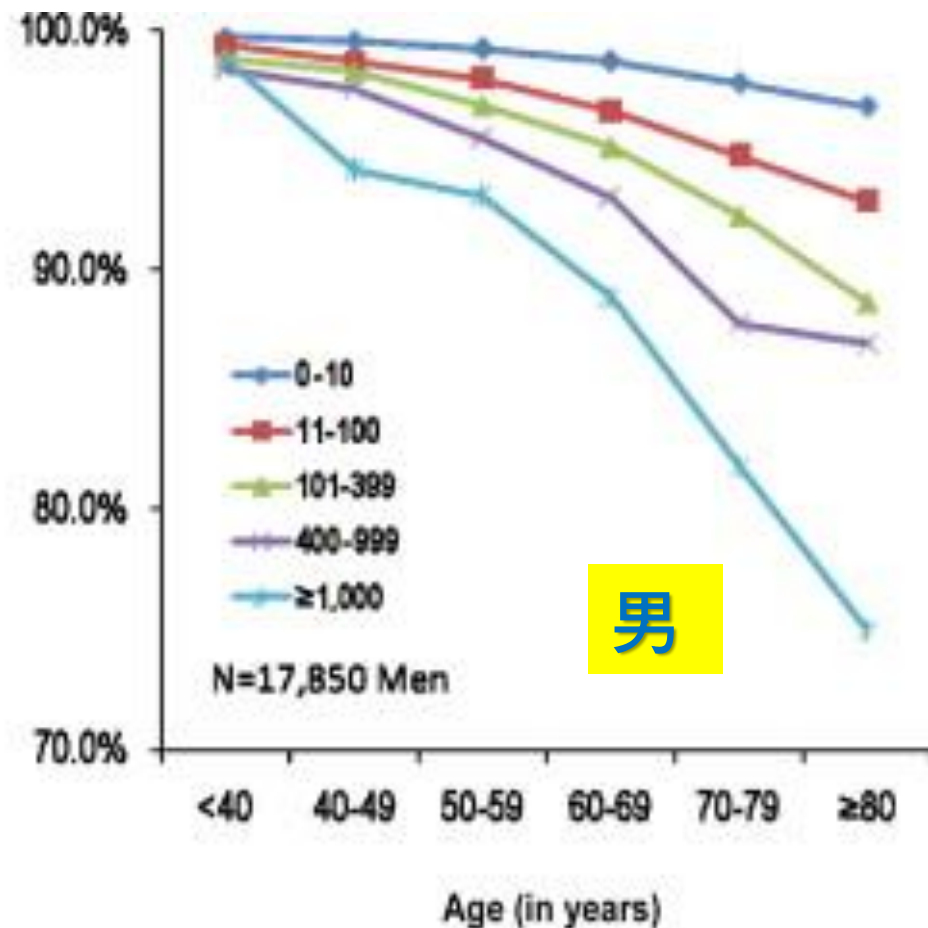
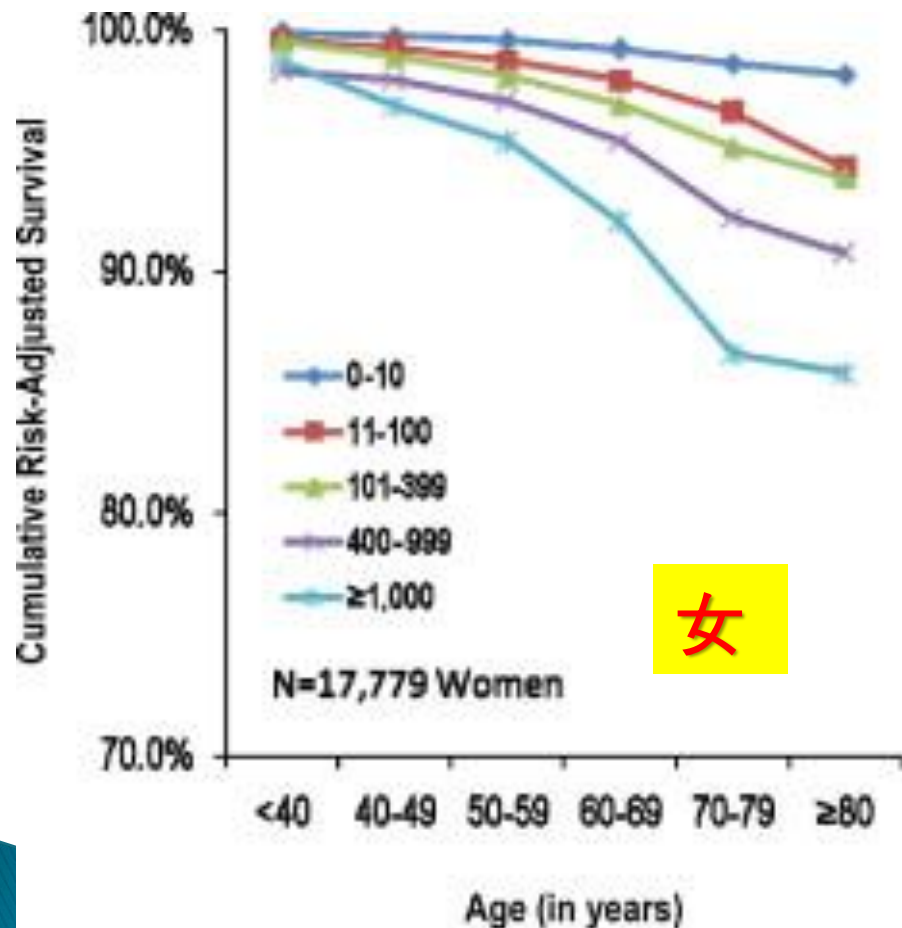


Budoff et al. Vascul Health Risk Manage
2008;4:315-24

Time to AMI for patients with a yearly calcium volume score change



Risk-adjusted survival by CAC across age deciles in women and men.



Clinical Implication: AC

Aortic Arch Calcification

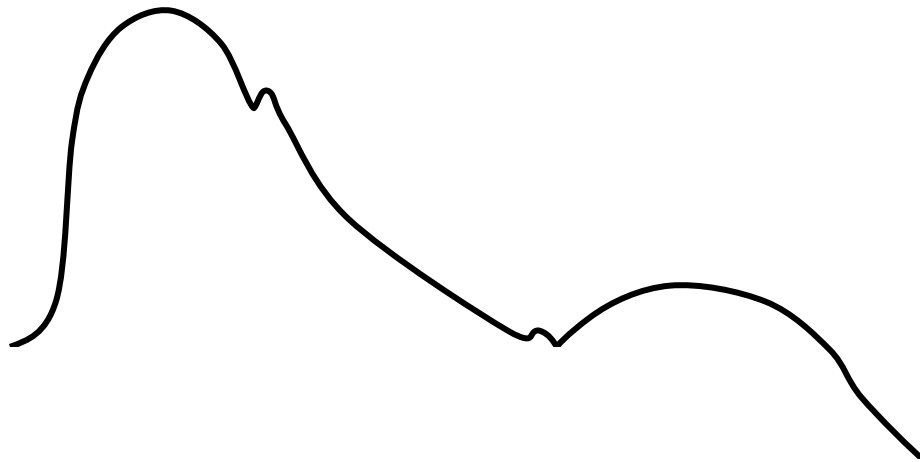
Outcome	Aortic Arch Calcification			
	Men (n = 55 916)		Women (n = 60 393)	
	None	Present	None	Present
Coronary heart disease				
No events	7954	242	4901	264
Rate per 1000 person-years	7.6	14.6	4.1	9.6
Relative risk (95% confidence interval)				
Age-adjusted		1.25 (1.09-1.42)		1.22 (1.07-1.39)
Multivariate-adjusted†		1.27 (1.11-1.45)		1.22 (1.07-1.38)
Ischemic stroke				
No events	3089	110	3243	258
Rate per 1000 person-years	2.9	6.6	2.7	9.3
Relative risk (95% confidence interval)				
Age-adjusted		1.17 (0.96-1.42)		1.50 (1.32-1.71)
Multivariate-adjusted†		1.17 (0.97-1.42)		1.46 (1.28-1.67)



Young normal aorta



**Resistance
artery**

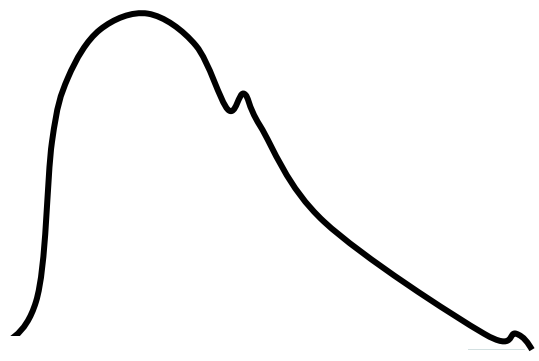




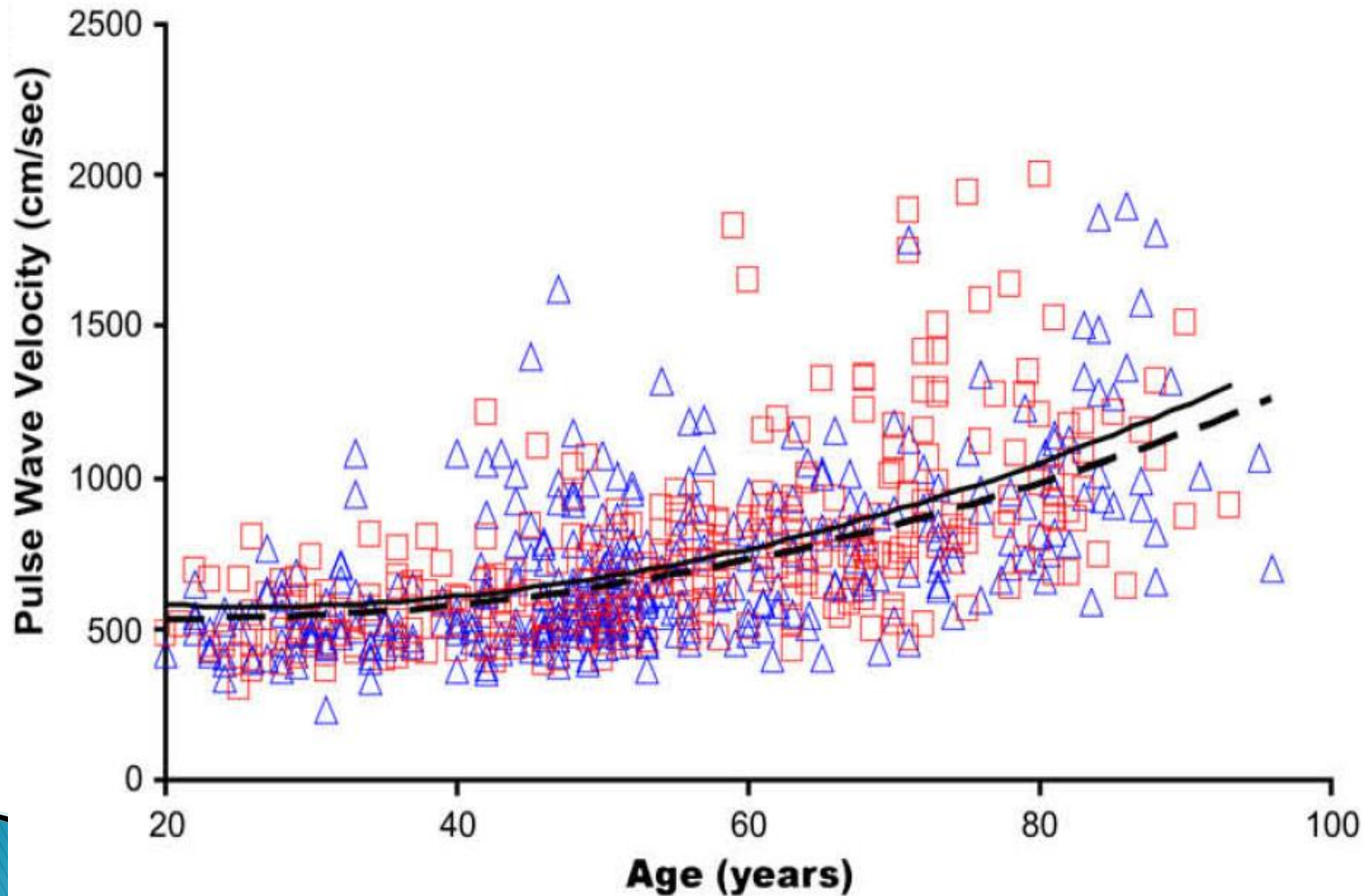
Old stiff aorta



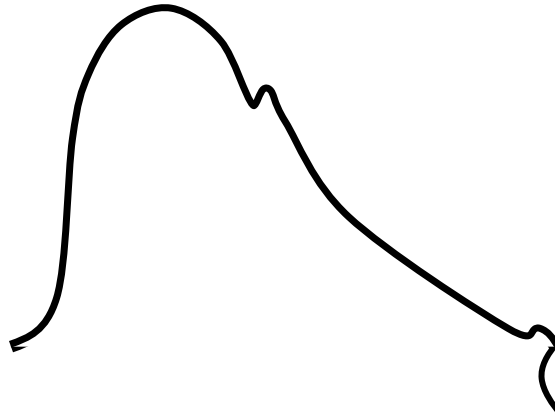
**Resistance
artery**



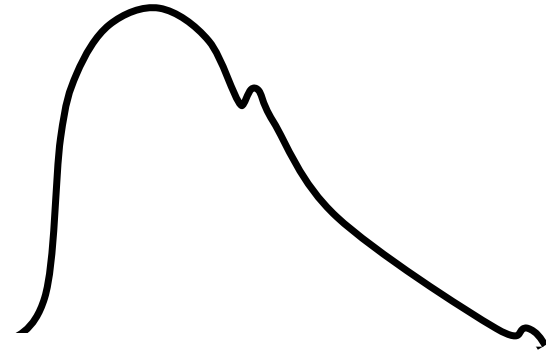
Clinical Implication: A Stiffening (AC) with Aging



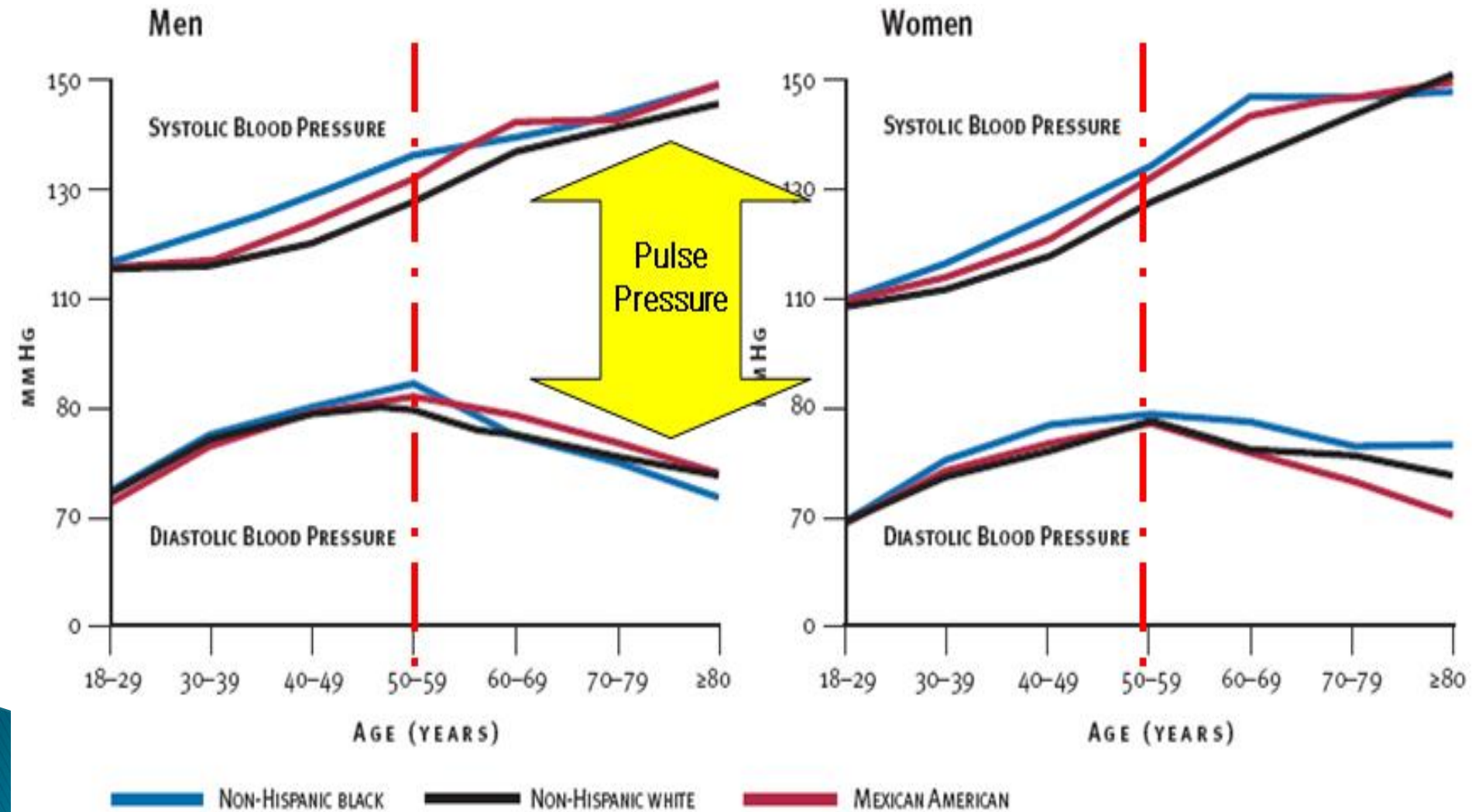
Young normal aorta



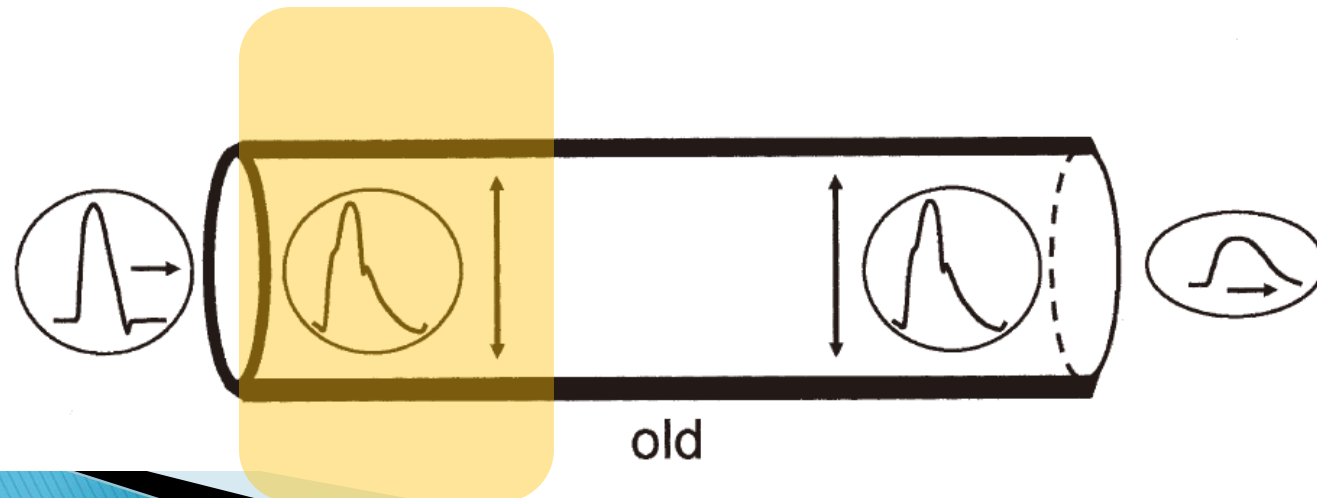
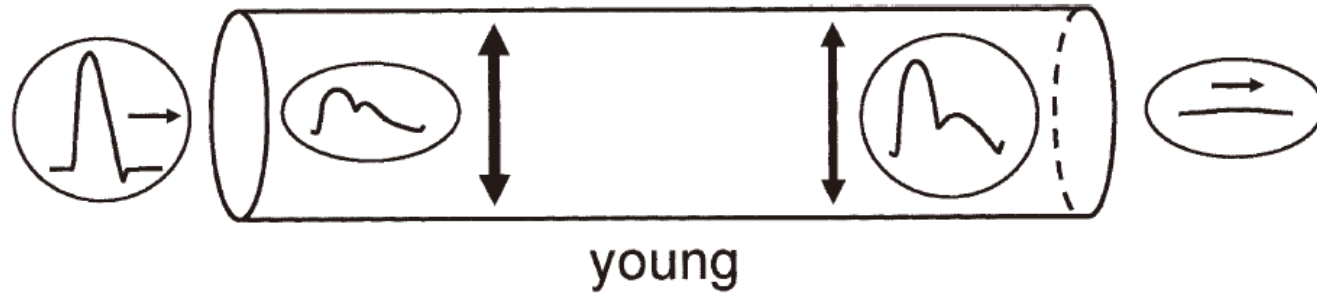
Old stiff aorta



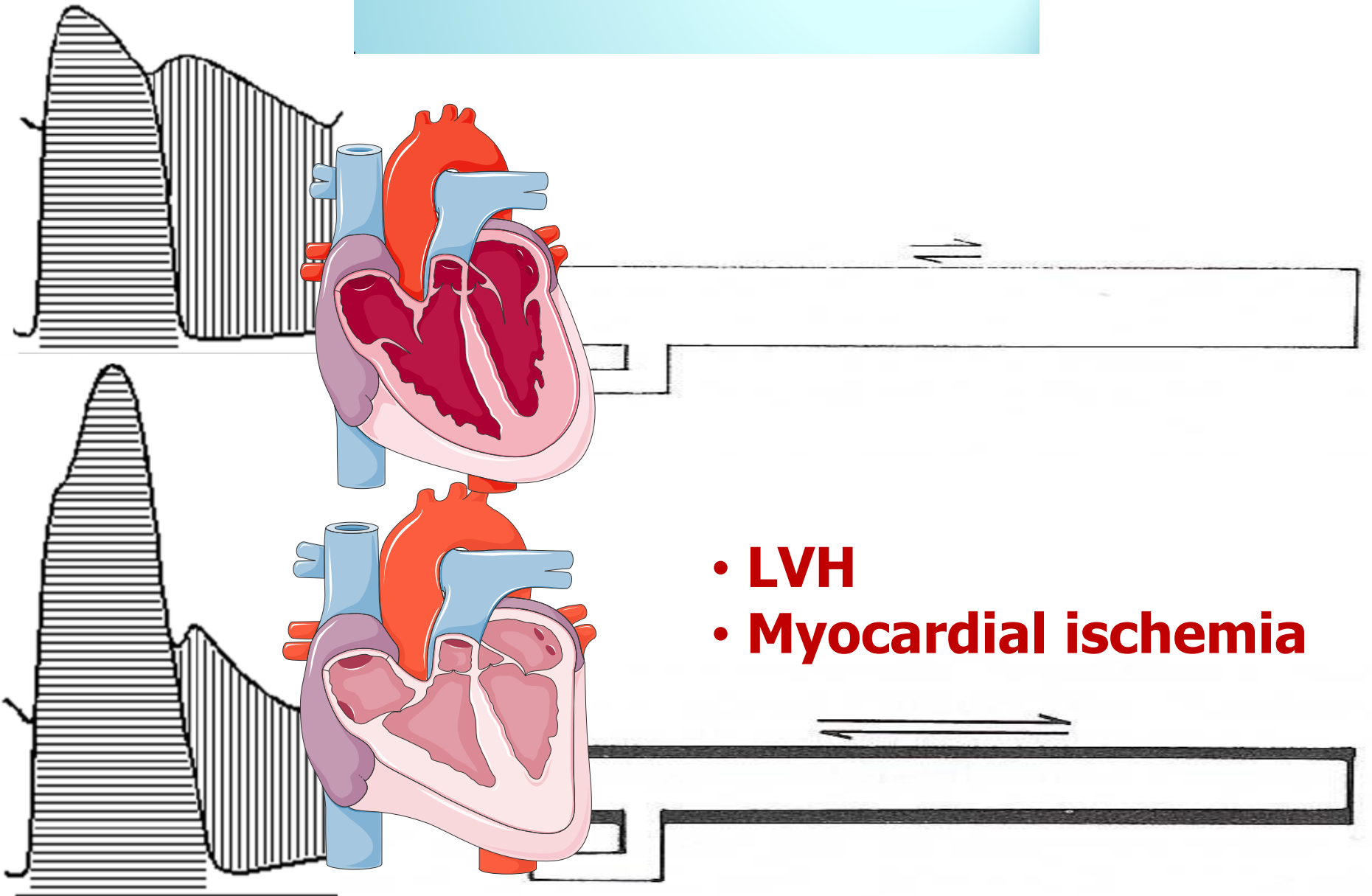
Clinical Implication: A Stiffening (AC) & Blood pressure with Aging



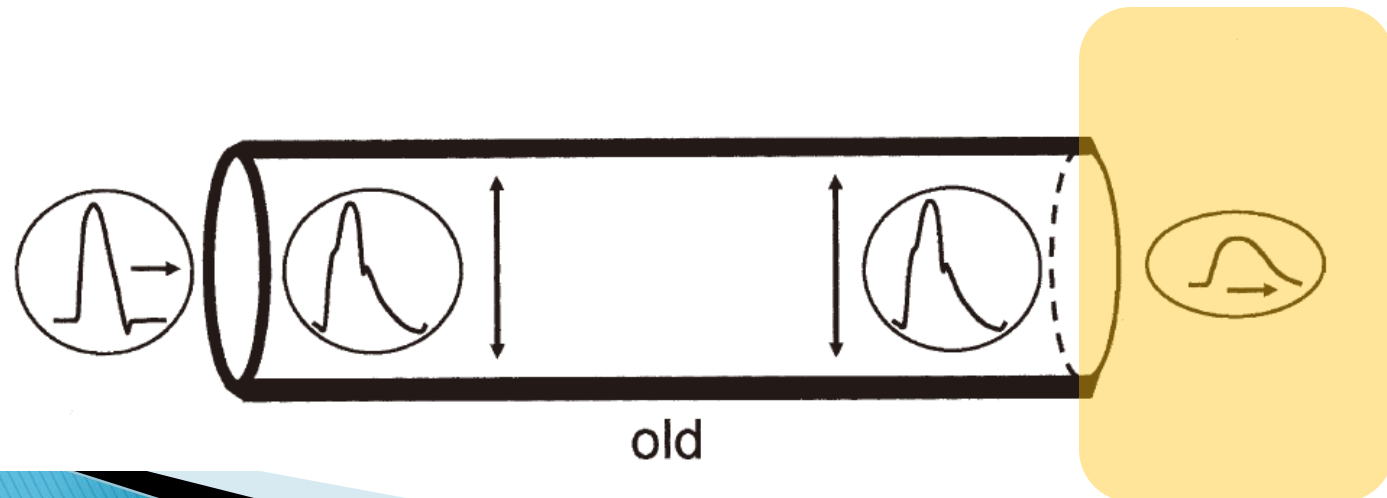
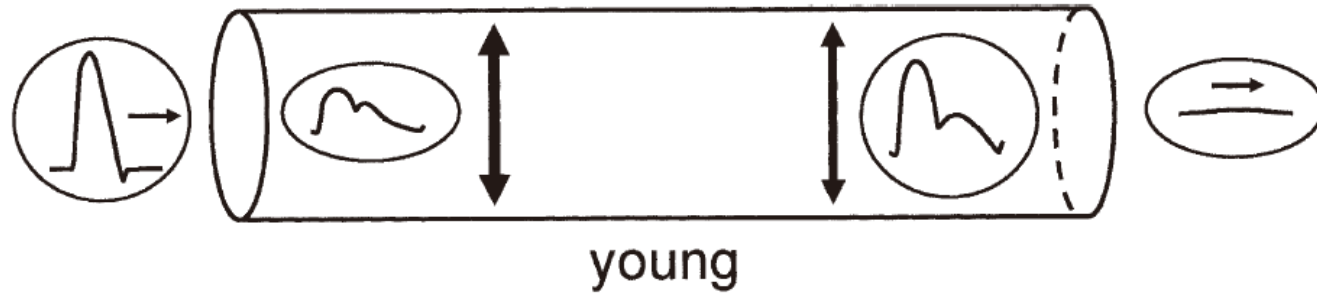
Altered Cushion & Conduit Function



On Heart



Altered Cushion & Conduit Function

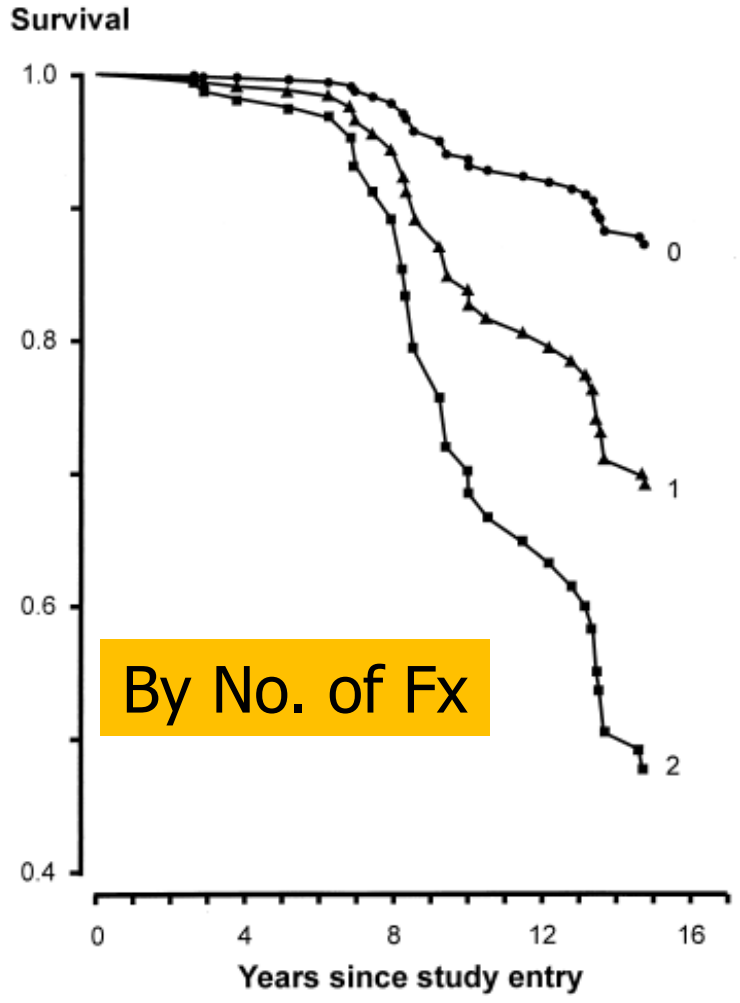
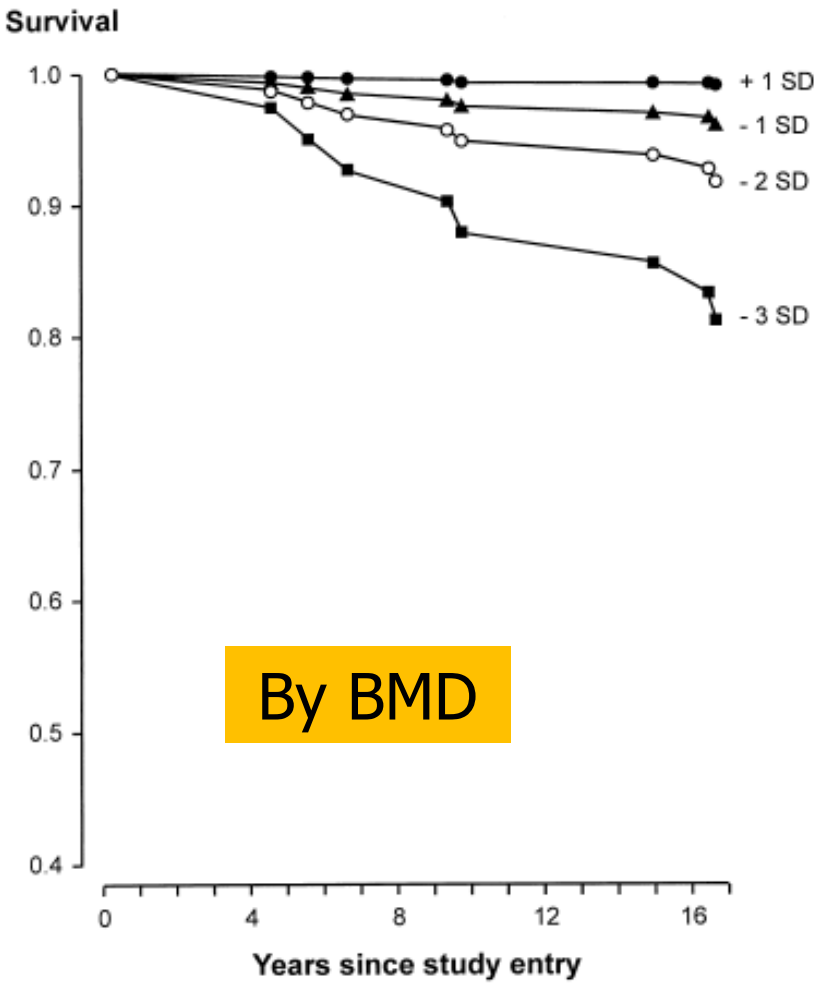


Osteoporosis for CAD

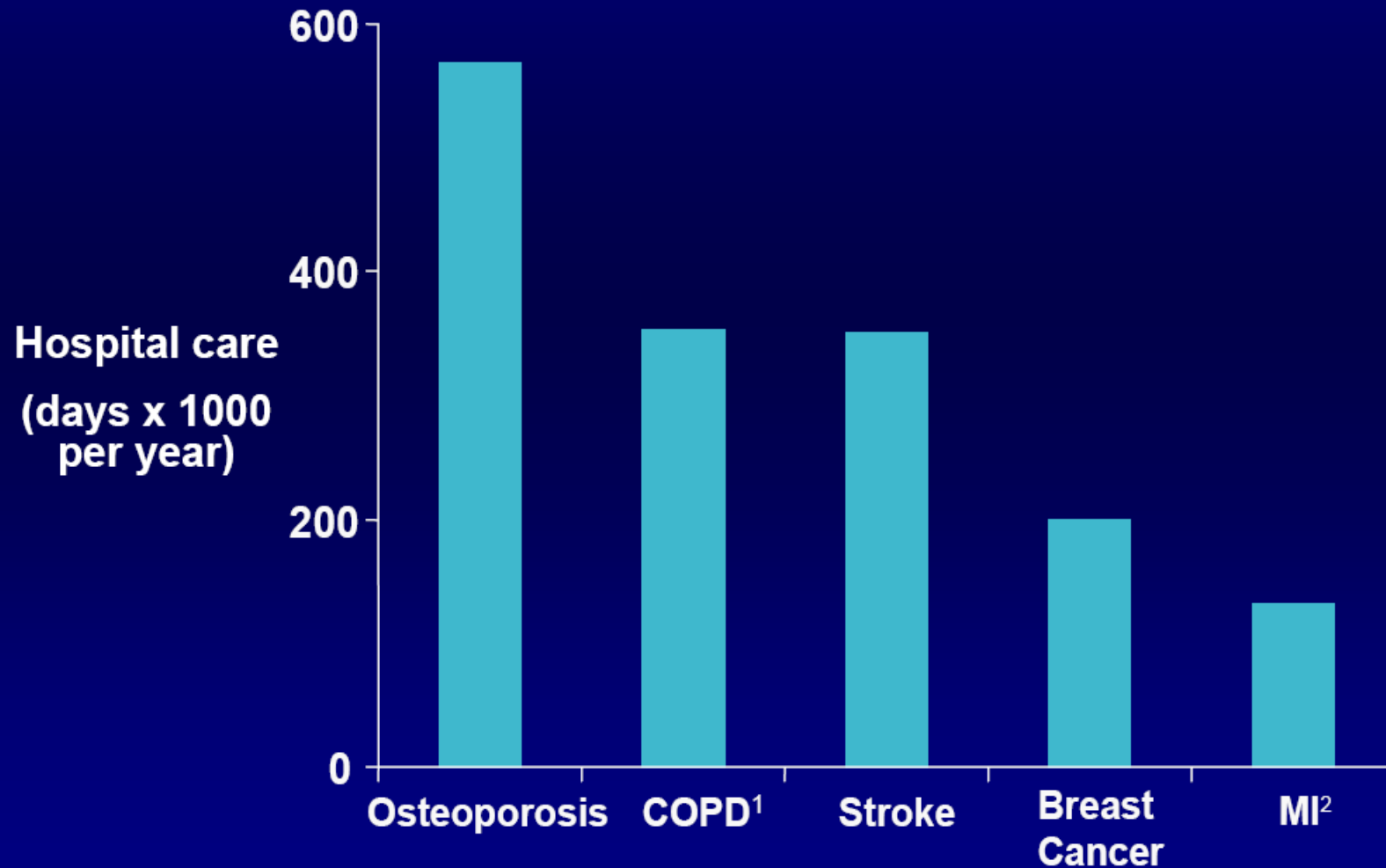
Multivariable model of association between bone density and coronary artery disease

Variables	OR of CAD ≥50%	95% CI	p Value
Osteoporosis	5.58	2.59–12.0	<0.0001
Hypertension	3.92	1.81–8.45	0.0005
Family history of premature CAD	2.99	1.39–6.46	0.0052
Serum glucose level >110 mg/dl	3.28	1.64–6.58	0.0008

BMD & Survival free of CV death



Osteoporosis-related Hospital Care

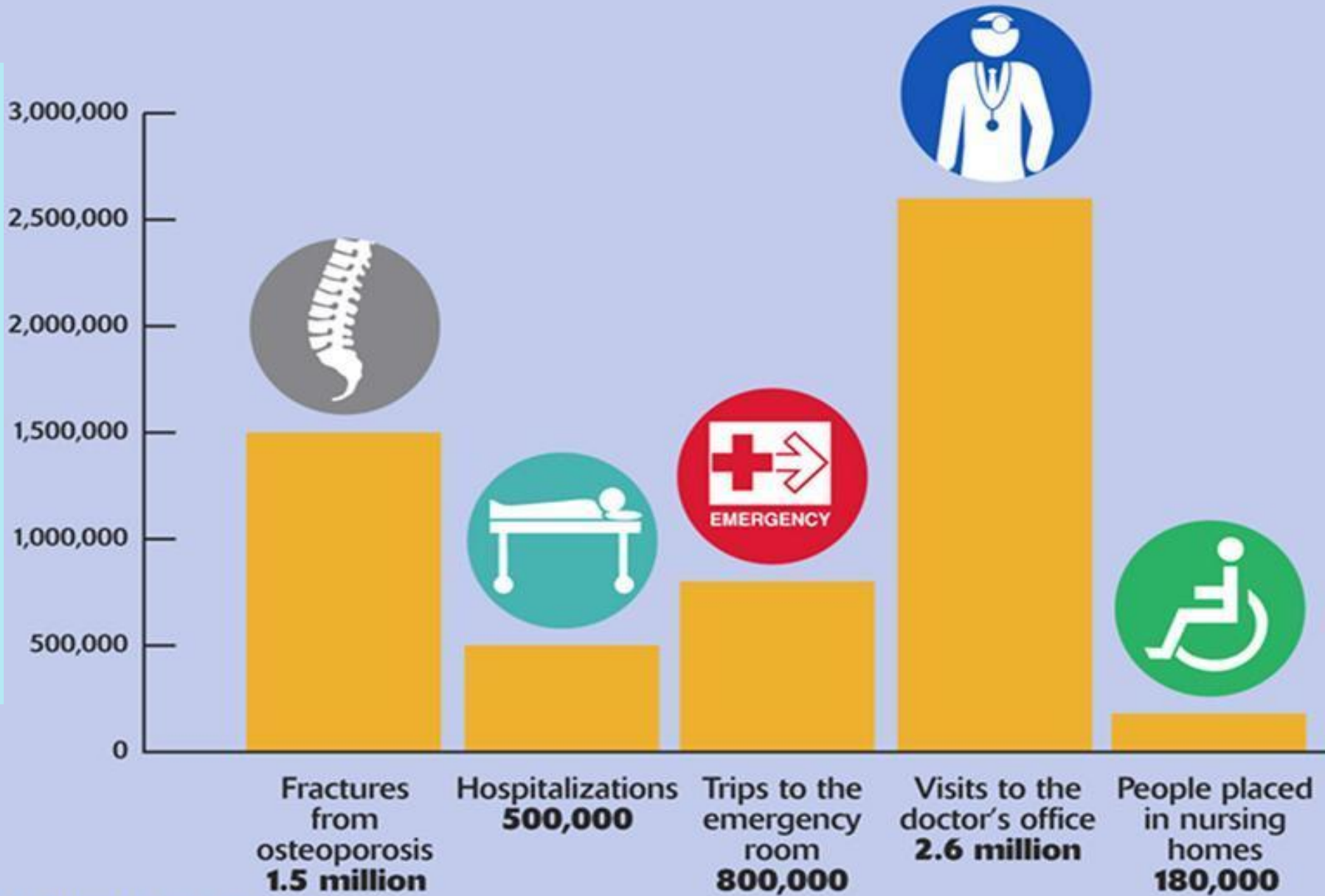


¹Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

²Myocardial infarction

Poor bone health is common and costly.

People /yr by Osteoporosis



Vascular Calcification & Osteoporosis

- ▶ Epidemiology
- ▶ Risk factors and Mechanisms
- ▶ Clinical implication
- ▶ **Therapeutic, Preventive challenges**
- ▶ Summary

Clinical Factors on Bone & Artery Mineralization

Factor	Calcification	
	Bone	Artery
Estrogen	↑	↑
Bisphosphonates	—	↓
Diabetes	↓	↑
Hyperlipidemia	↓	↑
Hyperparathyroidism	↓	↑
Uremia	↓	↑
Warfarin*	↓	↑

*Includes vitamin K deficiency.

Therapeutic Options for Dual- purposes

Clinical

Statins

Anti-atherogenic

Evidence for enhanced bone density

Fracture reduction uncertain

Bisphosphonates

Anti-resorptive, enhance bone density,
reduce fractures

Diminish arterial calcification and in-stent
intimal hyperplasia

Thiazolidinediones

Anti-atherogenic

Increase adipogenesis and decrease
osteoblastogenesis;

Limit TNF- α effects on bone loss. Needs to
be studied clinically for bone effects

Experimental

Enzyme 12/15 LO

Pharmacological inhibition increases bone density

OCN

Anti-atherogenic

Modifying LRP5

Deficient genetic expression increases bone density

Deleting Wnt antagonist

To induce high bone mass

Therapy with OPG

Increases bone density

Mouse model deficient in low-density

Increases bone density

LRP treated with PTH

Increases bone density, decreases aortic
valve calcification

Adiponectin

Improves diabetic state, anti-atherogenic

Pros & Cons of BP in Atherosclerosis

Pros: inhibit the development of atherosclerosis

- Rosenblum IY, Flora L, Eisenstein R. The effect of disodium ethane-1-hydroxy-1,1-diphosphonate (EHDP) on a rabbit model of atheroarteriosclerosis. *Atherosclerosis* 1975; 22: 411–424.
- Krams DM, Chan CT. The effect of agent interfering with soft tissue calcification and cell proliferation on calcific fibrous-fatty plaques in rabbits. *Circ Res* 1978; 42: 562–571.
- Krams DM, Aspen AJ, Rozler LJ. Atherosclerosis: prevention by agents not affecting abnormal levels of blood lipids. *Science* 1981; 213:1511–1512.
- Ylitalo R, Oksala O, Yla-Herttuala S, Ylitalo P. Effects of clodronate (dichloro-methylene bisphosphonate) on the development of experimental atherosclerosis in rabbits. *J Lab Clin Med* 1994; 123:769–776.
- Zhu B-Q, Sun Y-P, Sievers RE, Isenberg WM, Moorhead TJ, Parmley WW. Effects of etidronate and lovastatin on the regression of atherosclerosis in cholesterol-fed rabbits. *Cardiology* 1994; 85:370–377.
- Price PA, Faus SA, Williamson MK. Bisphosphonates alendronate and ibandronate inhibit arterial calcification at doses comparable to those that inhibit bone resorption. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 2001; 21:817–824.

Cons: not inhibit the development of atherosclerosis

- J.F. Bukowsky, C.C. Dascher, H. Das, 2005. Alternate bisphosphonate targets and mechanisms of action. *Biochem. Biophys. Res. Commun.* 328 (2005) 746–750.
- V. Kunzmann, E. Bauer, J. Feurle, et al., Stimulation of c/dT cells by aminobisphosphonates and in induction of antiplasma cell activity in multiple myeloma cells, *Blood* 96 (2000) 384–392.
- Shimshi M, Abe E, Fisher EA, Zaidi M, Fallon JT. Bisphosphonates induce inflammation and rupture of atherosclerotic plaques in apolipoprotein-E null mice. *Biochem Biophys Res Comm* 2005; 328:790–793.
- Tanko LB, Qin G, Alexandersen P, Bagger YZ, Christiansen C. Effective doses of ibandronate do not influence the 3-year progression of aortic calcification in elderly osteoporotic women. *Osteoporosis Int* 2005; 16:184–190.

Statin & Arterial Calcification

Statin vs. Placebo

Effect of *Simvastatin (80 mg)* on **Coronary and Abdominal Aortic Arterial Calcium** (from the Coronary Artery Calcification Treatment with Zocor [CATZ] Study)

“Simvastatin treatment does not reduce progression of CAC or AAC compared with placebo.”

Intensive (80mg) vs. Standard (10mg)

Effect of Intensive Versus Standard Lipid-Lowering Treatment With *Atorvastatin* on the Progression of **Calcified Coronary Atherosclerosis** Over 12 Months
A Multicenter, Randomized, Double-Blind Trial

“Intensive atorvastatin therapy was unable to attenuate CAC progression compared with standard atorvastatin therapy.”

Estrogen Therapy & CAC

- WHI-CACS
- 1064 with hystrectomy at 50-59 yr
- 8.7 yr f/u

Coronary-Artery Calcium Score	Conjugated Equine Estrogens	Placebo	Odds Ratio (95% CI)		Multivariate P Value
			Unadjusted	Multivariate	
<i>no. (%)</i>					
Intention-to-treat analyses†					
	N = 537	N = 527			
0 (referent)	299 (55.7)	266 (50.5)	1.00	1.00	
>0	238 (44.3)	261 (49.5)	0.81 (0.64–1.03)	0.78	0.09
<10 (referent)	348 (64.8)	302 (57.3)	1.00	1.00	
≥10	189 (35.2)	225 (42.7)	0.73 (0.57–0.93)	0.74	0.04
<100 (referent)	448 (83.4)	408 (77.4)	1.00	1.00	
≥100	89 (16.6)	119 (22.6)	0.68 (0.50–0.93)	0.69	0.04

•Esp. in ≥80% adherence to study medication

CAC	OR	P
>0	0.64	0.01
≥10	0.55	<0.001
≥100	0.46	0.001

HRT & CAC in Postmenopausal

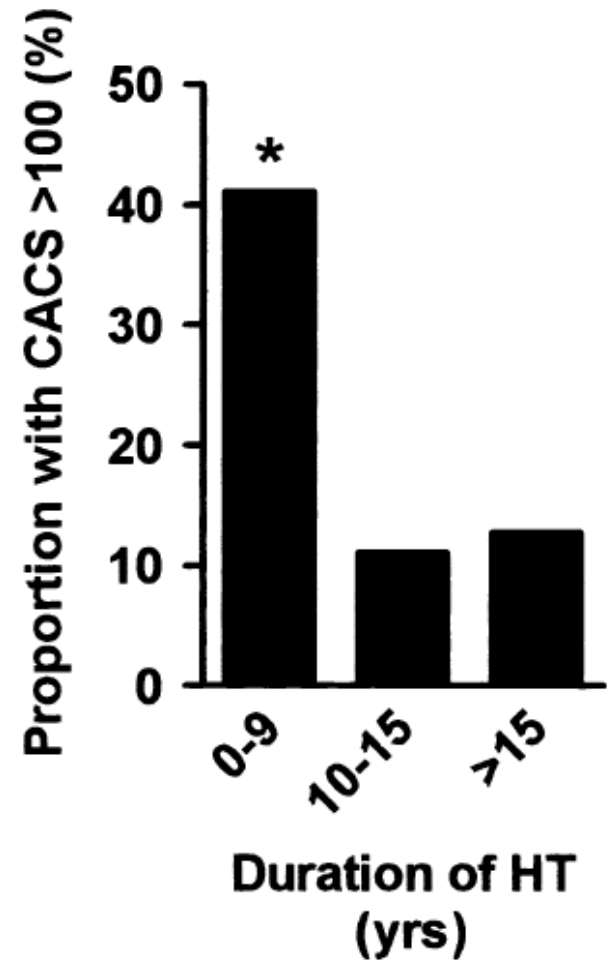
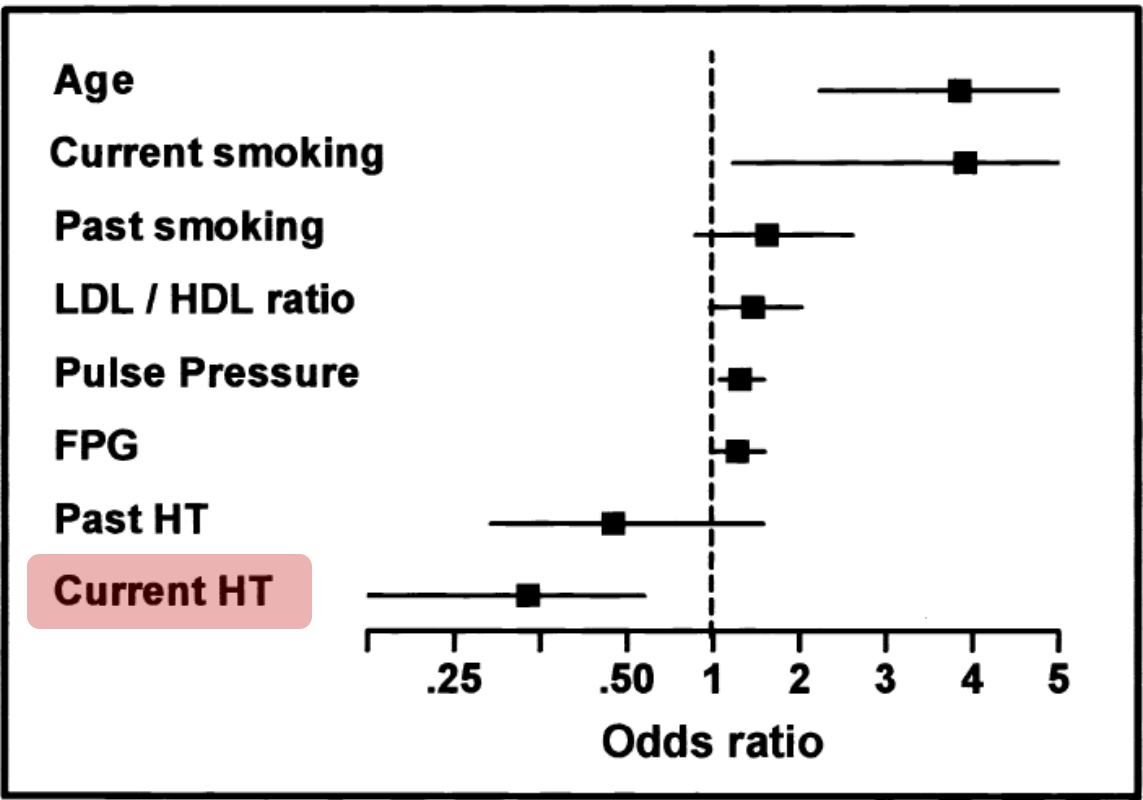
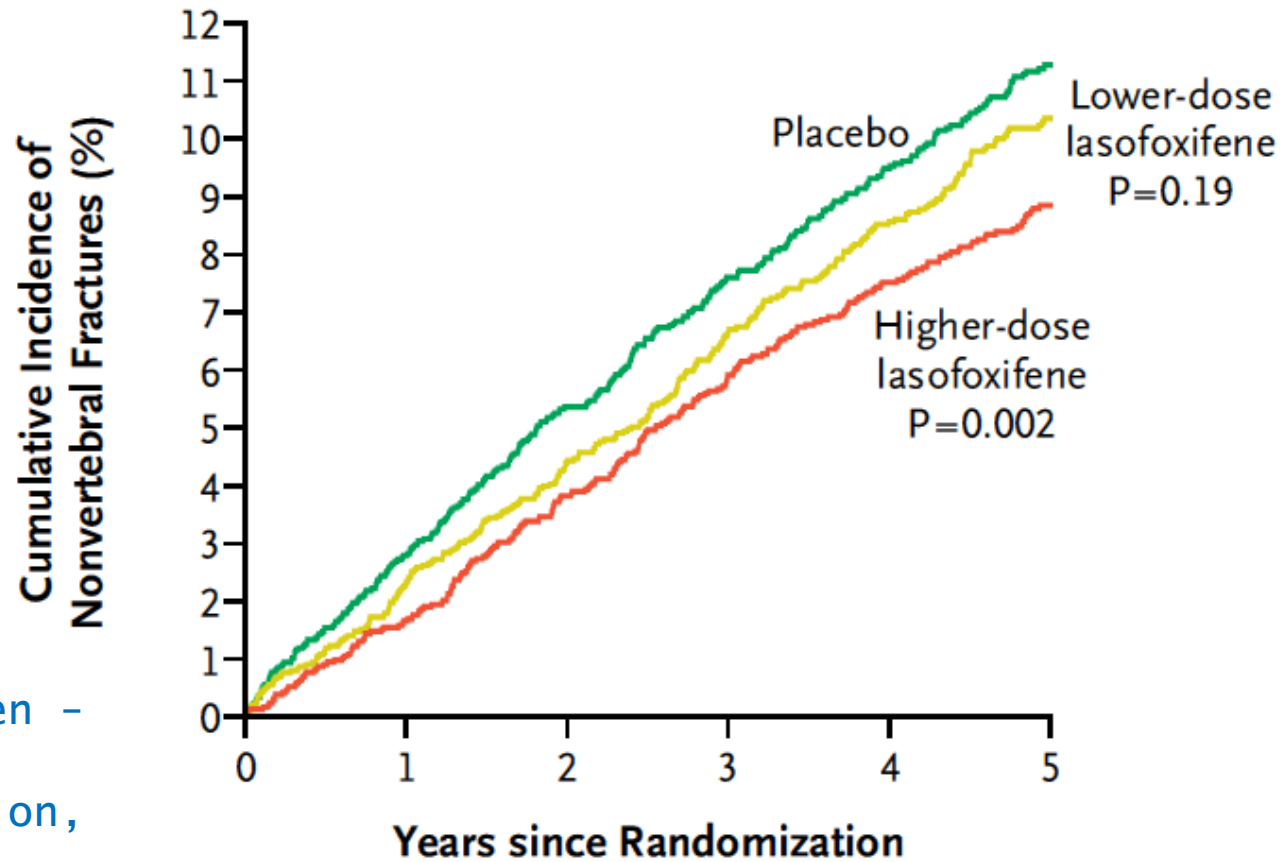


FIG. 1. Odds ratios for the association of *current* and *past vs never* HT and other CHD risk factors with increasingly severe coronary artery calcification among 204 asymptomatic postmenopausal women. Units: age = 10 y; LDL/HDL ratio = 1; pulse pressure = 10 mm Hg; FPG (fasting plasma glucose) = 20 mg/dL; current smoking = *yes* vs *no*.

SERM in Postmenopausal Osteoporosis

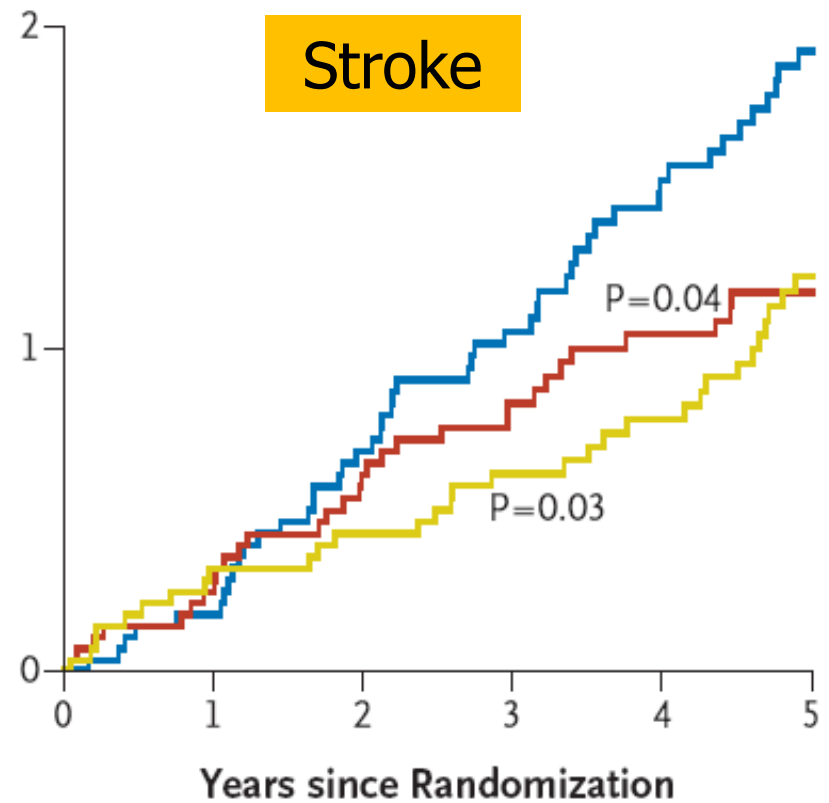
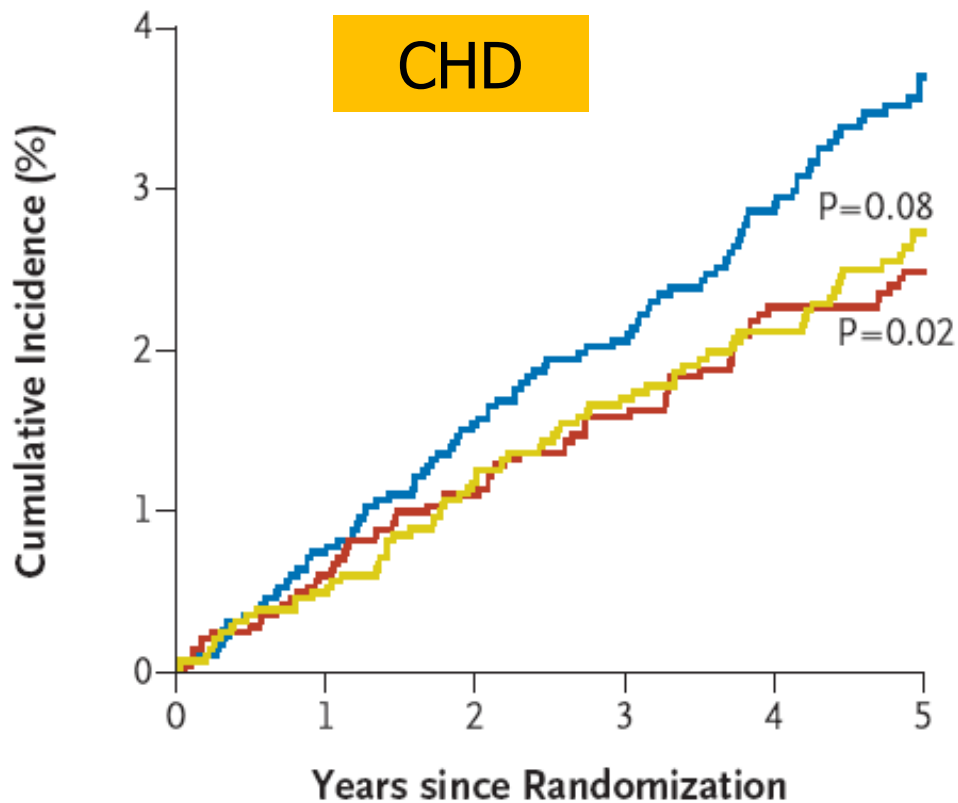
- PEARL trial
- 8556 women, 59-80 yr
- 5 yr f/u
- Lasofoxifene; newer selective estrogen-receptor modulator



*SERM: selective estrogen - receptor modulator ; Decrease bone resorption, bone loss, LDL-C
*PEARL: postmenopausal Evaluation and Risk-Reduction with Lasofoxifene

SERM in Postmenopausal Osteoporosis

— Lasofoxifene, 0.25 mg — Lasofoxifene, 0.5 mg — Placebo



SERM in Postmenopausal Osteoporosis

— Lasofoxifene, 0.25 mg — Lasofoxifene, 0.5 mg — Placebo

