



Case Discussions: How to Manage Diabetic Nephropathy Part 2

January 23, 2026 | Mark Canney

PRESENTER DISCLOSURE

- **Presenter:** Mark Canney
- **Relationships with commercial interests:**
 - **Grants/Research Support:** None
 - **Speakers Bureau/Honoraria:** None
 - **Consulting Fees:** None
 - **Other:** n/a
- I will discuss off-label use of medications

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

- 1) Review therapeutic options beyond RAAS inhibition**
- 2) Evaluate clinical trial evidence for different approaches**
- 3) Discuss future therapeutic options**

Follow-up visit at your clinic

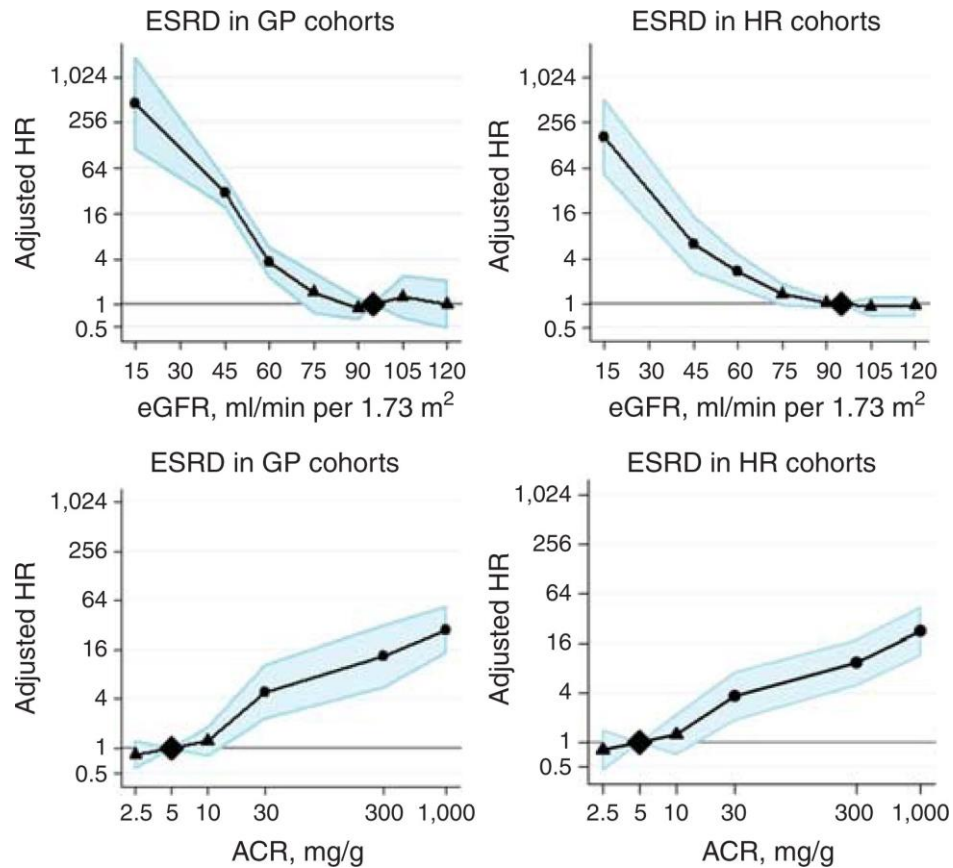
- Candesartan 16 mg daily
- Metformin 500 mg twice daily
- BP 115/70 mmHg
- HbA1C 6.8%
- Creatinine 80 $\mu\text{mol/L}$, eGFR 105 mL/min
- ACR 30 mg/mmol

What will you do next?

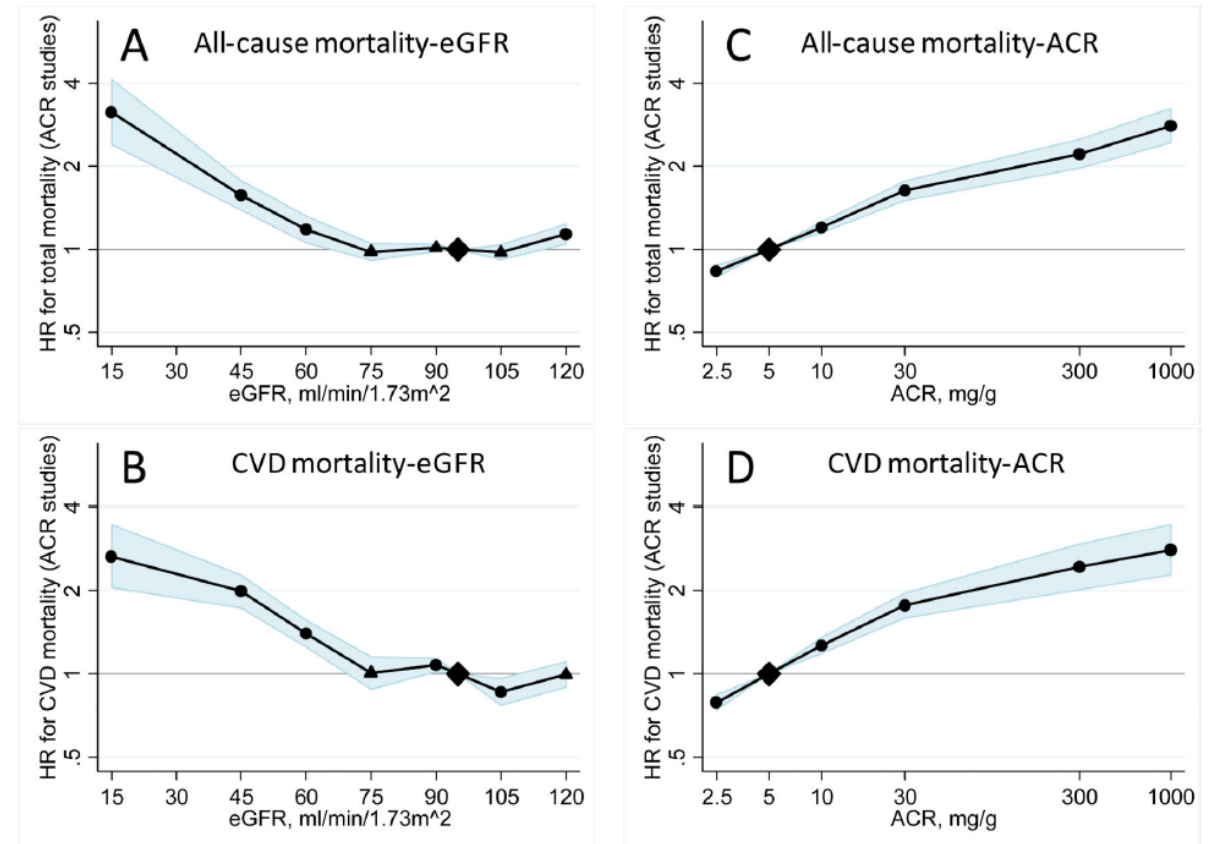
1. No changes
2. Increase Candesartan
3. Add GLP-1 receptor agonist
4. Add SGLT2 inhibitor
5. Something else

Option 1: No change

Proteinuria predicts bad things



Gansvoort et al. *Kidney International* 2011;80(1):93-104



Matsushita et al. *Lancet* 2010;375(9731):2073-2081

An ACR of 30 represents a high-risk phenotype

Prognosis of CKD by GFR and albuminuria categories: KDIGO 2012

				Persistent albuminuria categories Description and range		
				A1	A2	A3
				Normal to mildly increased	Moderately increased	Severely increased
				<30 mg/g <3 mg/mmol	30–300 mg/g 3–30 mg/mmol	>300 mg/g >30 mg/mmol
GFR categories (ml/min/1.73 m ²) Description and range	G1	Normal or high	≥90			X
	G2	Mildly decreased	60–89			
	G3a	Mildly to moderately decreased	45–59			
	G3b	Moderately to severely decreased	30–44			
	G4	Severely decreased	15–29			
	G5	Kidney failure	<15			

Option 2: Maximize the ARB

- Reasonable option
- Considerations:
 - How much additional risk reduction will that give you?
 - Will the current BP level allow the increased dose?

Option 3: Add GLP-1 RA

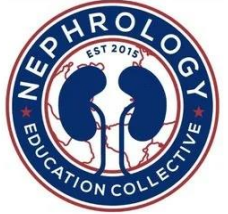
Pros

- Weight reduction
- Glycemic control
- CV health
- Reduce kidney risk

Cons

- Tolerability
- Maybe doesn't need the glycemic control
- Injections
- Cost?

Semaglutide for CKD in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes: “FLOW”ing with the Semaglu“TIDE”



METHODS



International, double-blind, placebo-controlled
28 countries



Type 2 DM and CKD:

GFR 50-75 ml/min +
ACR 300-5000 mg/g
or



GFR 25-<50 ml/min +
ACR 100-5000 mg/g



Median follow-up,
3.4 years



Major kidney
disease events



Death from
any causes



Adverse event leading
to discontinuation

Major kidney disease events- kidney failure, $\geq 50\%$ reduction in GFR, death from CV or kidney-related causes

Placebo
n = 1766



7.5 events
per 100
patient-years

279(15.8%)

211(11.9%)



HR 0.76
(95% CI, 0.66-0.88)

HR 0.80
(95% CI, 0.67-0.95)

Semaglutide
n = 1767



5.8 events
per 100
patient-years

227(12.8%)

233(13.2%)

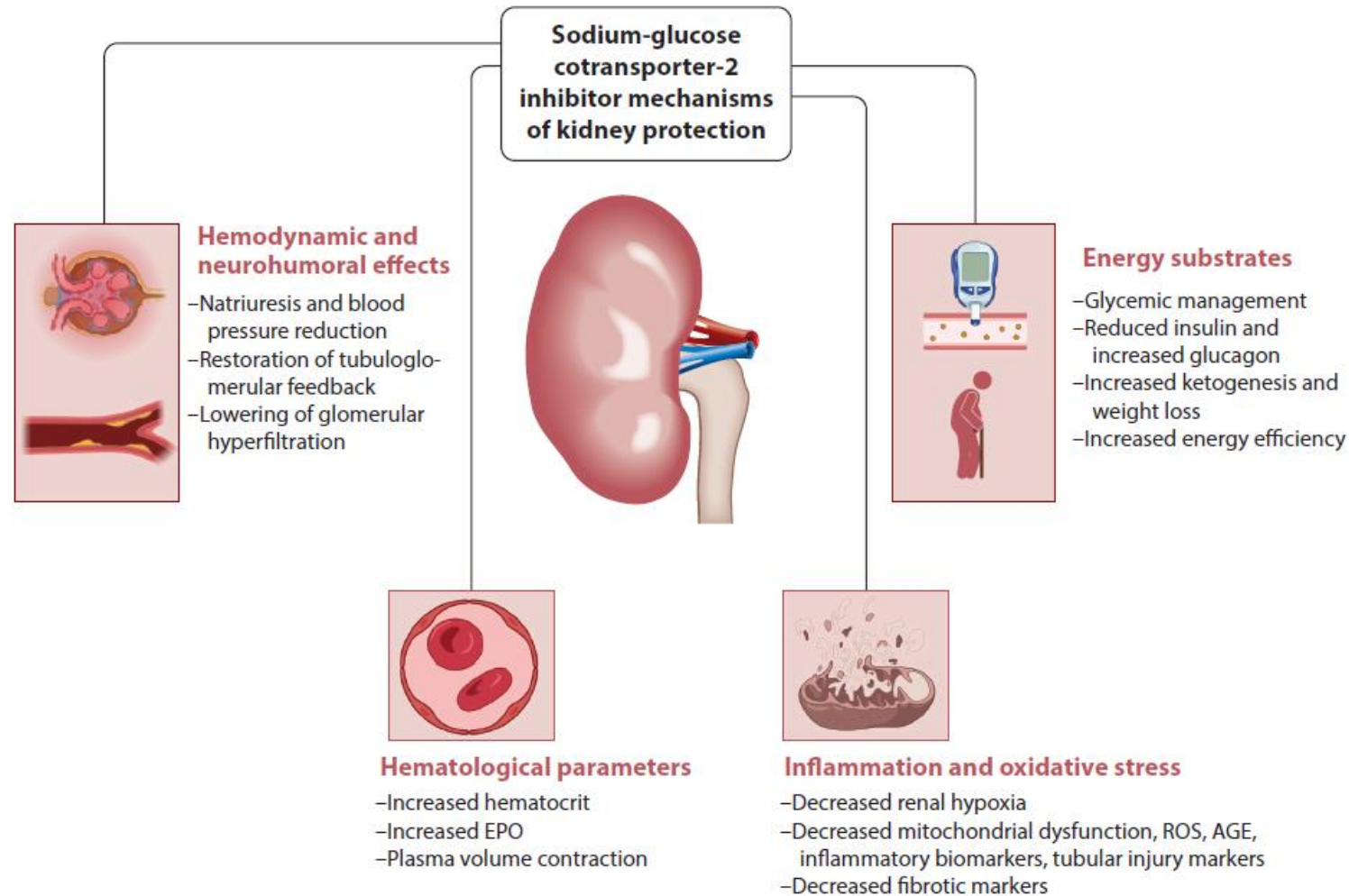
HR= Hazard ratio

Reference: Perkovic,V et al. Effects of Semaglutide on Chronic Kidney Disease in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes. NEJM, May 2024.

VA by Anjana Gopal X @anjanagopal9

Conclusion: Semaglutide reduced the risk of clinically important kidney outcomes and death from cardiovascular causes in patients with type 2 diabetes and chronic kidney disease.

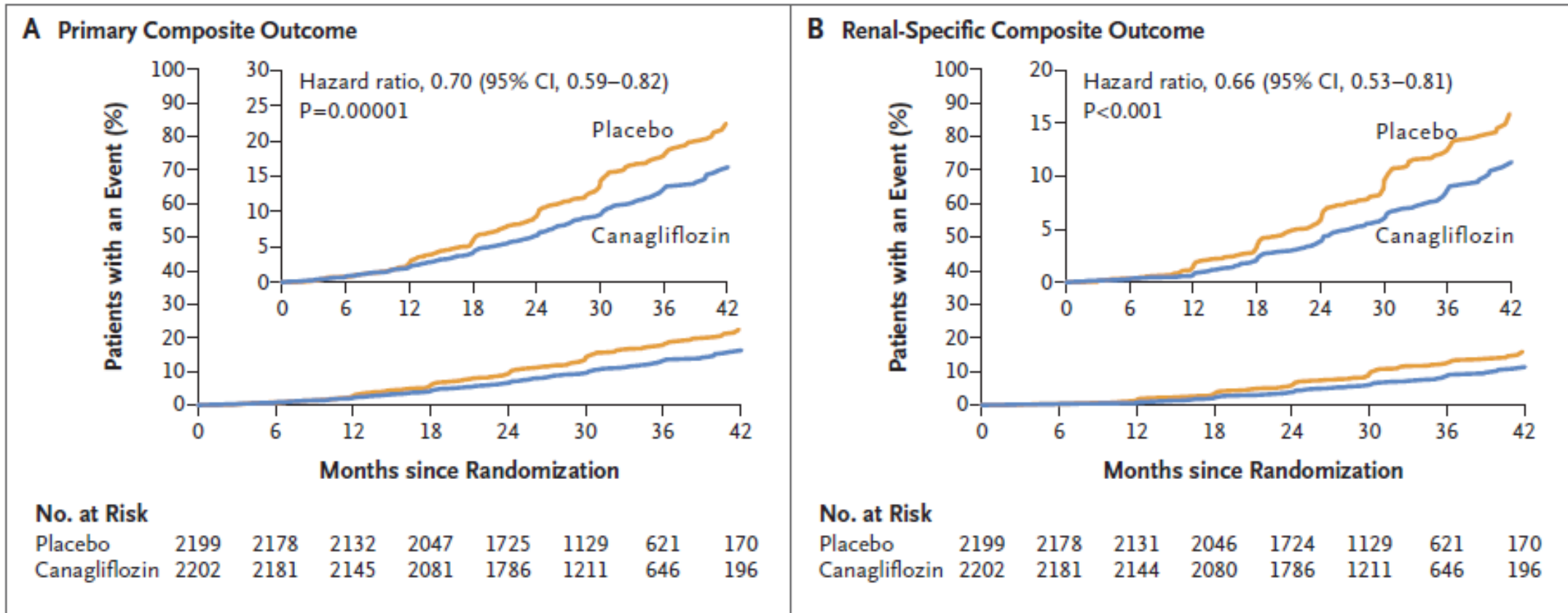
Option 4: Add SGLT2i



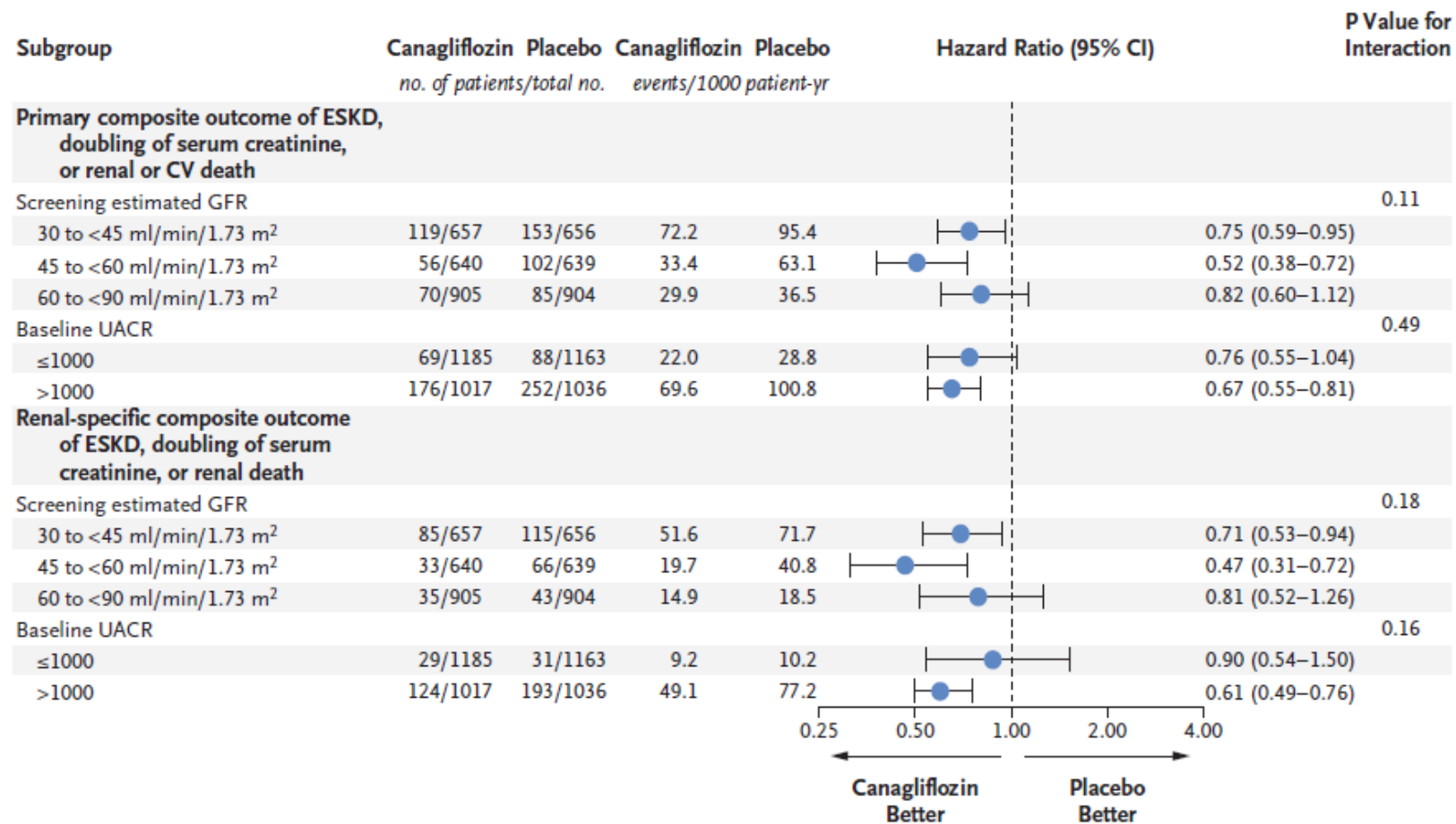
SGLT2i: The 3 big kidney trials

	CREDENCE	DAPA-CKD	EMPA-CKD
Year	2019	2020	2023
N	4401	4304	6609
Diabetes (%)	100	68	46
eGFR	56 (18)	43 (12)	37 (14)
eGFR <30 (%)	0	15	34
Eligibility	eGFR 30-90 uACR 300-5000	eGFR 25-75 uACR 200-5000	eGFR 20-45 OR eGFR 45-90 with uACR >200

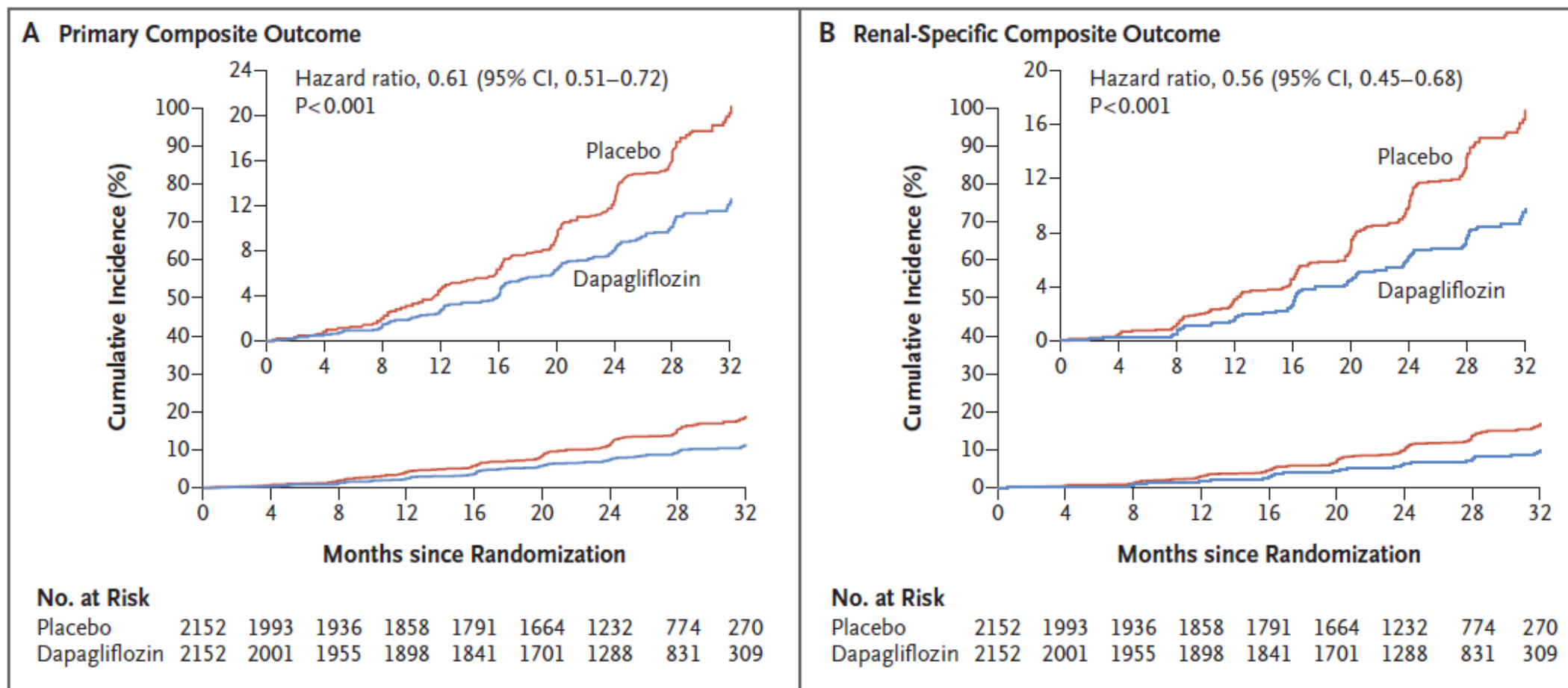
CREDENCE



CREDENCE

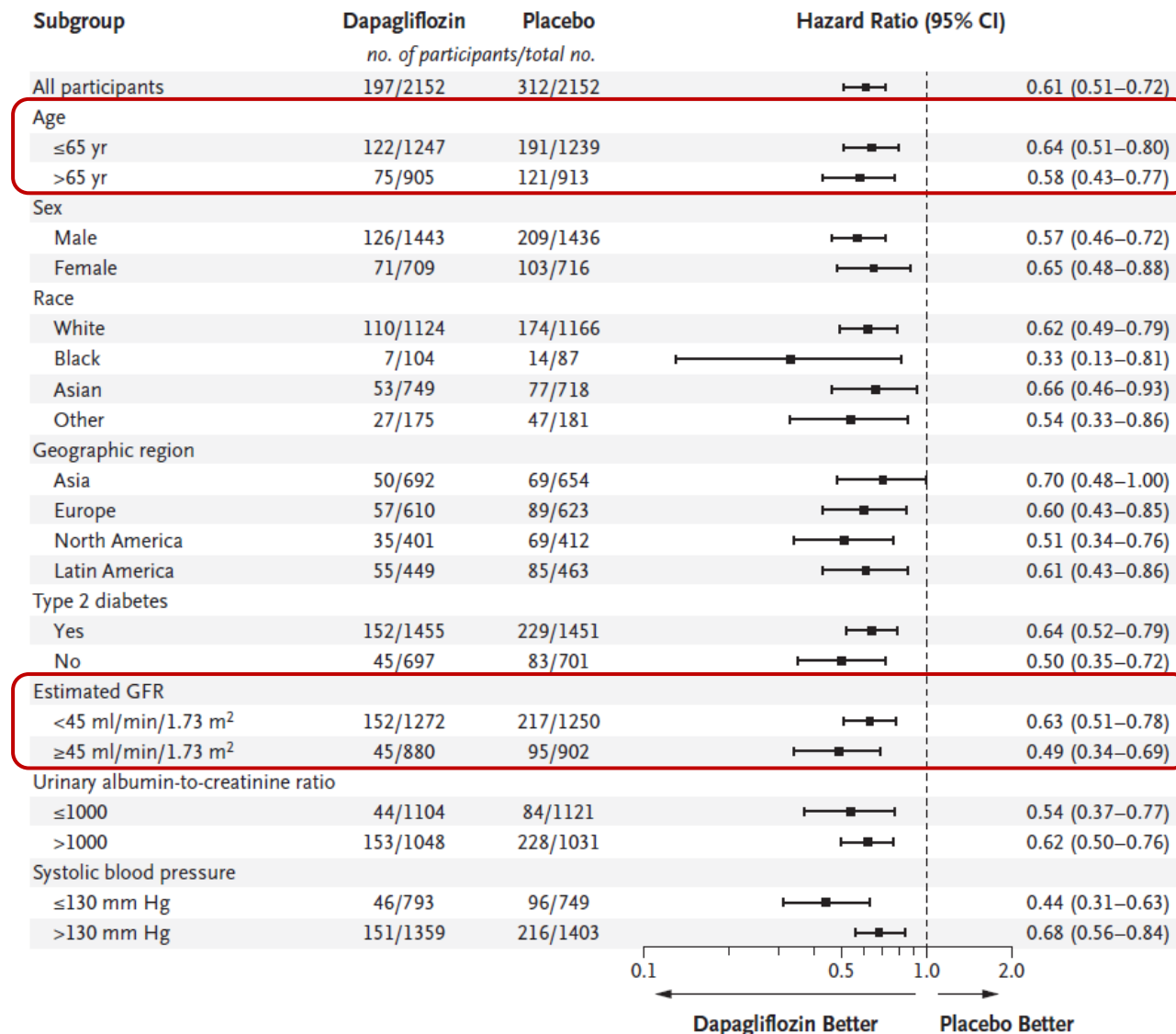


DAPA-CKD

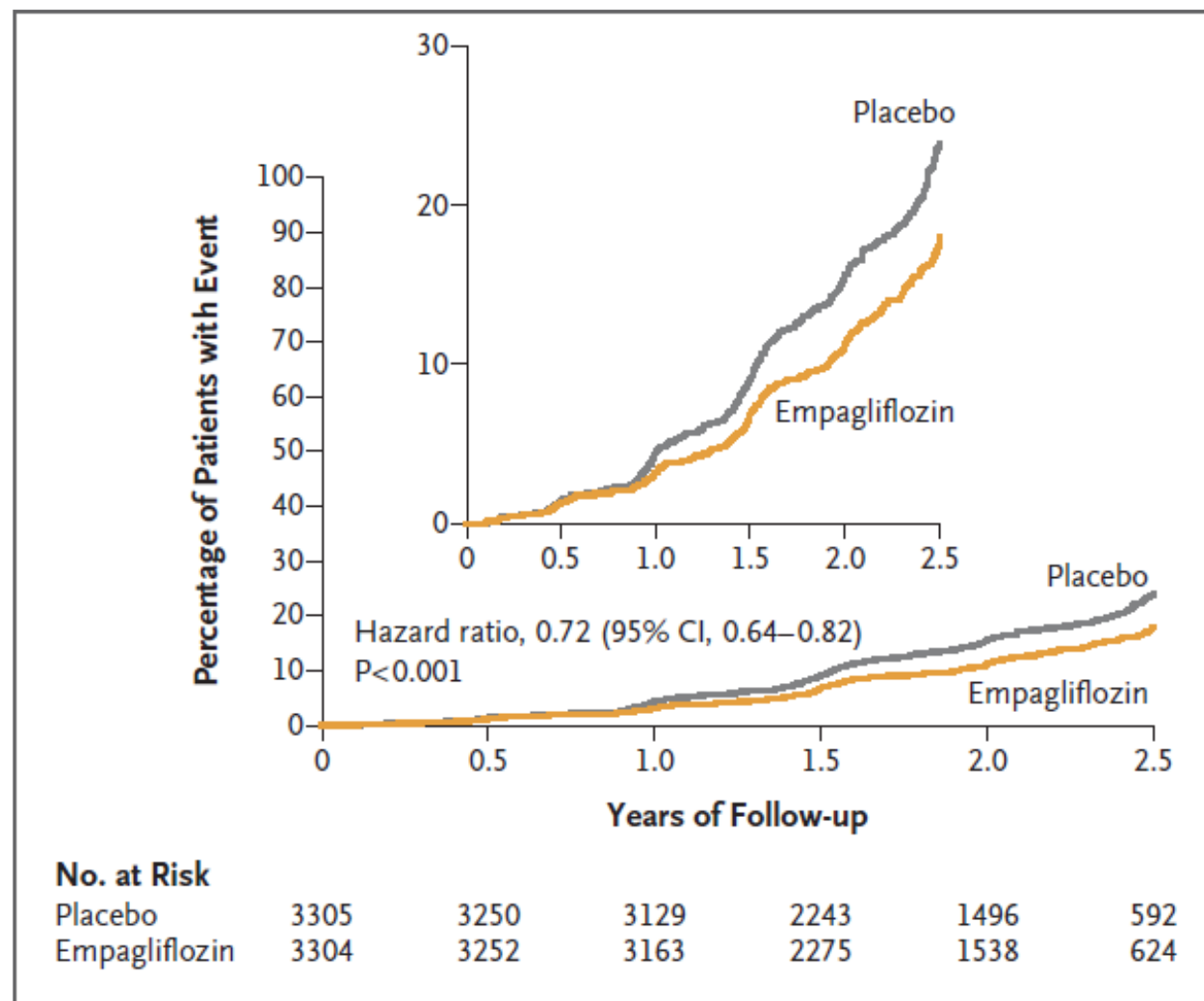


DAPA-CKD

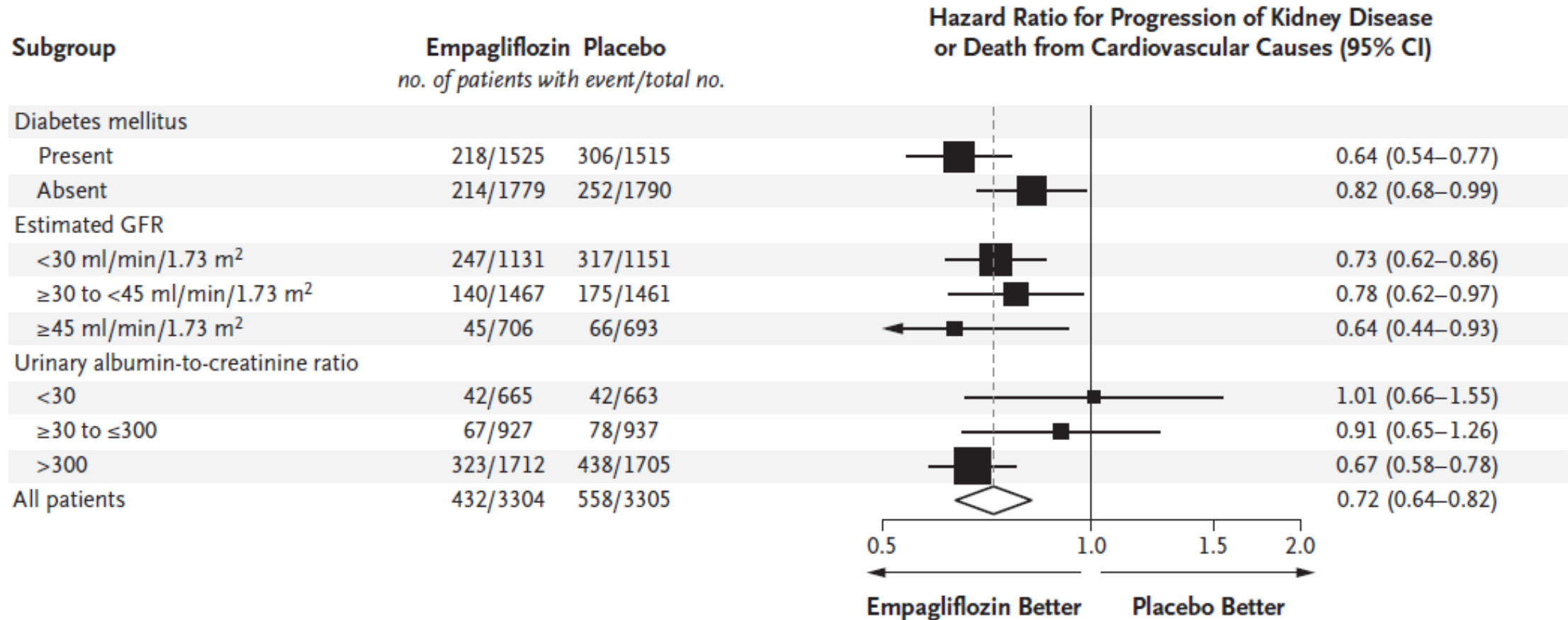
Heerspink et al. NEJM 2020;383:1436-1446



EMPA-CKD

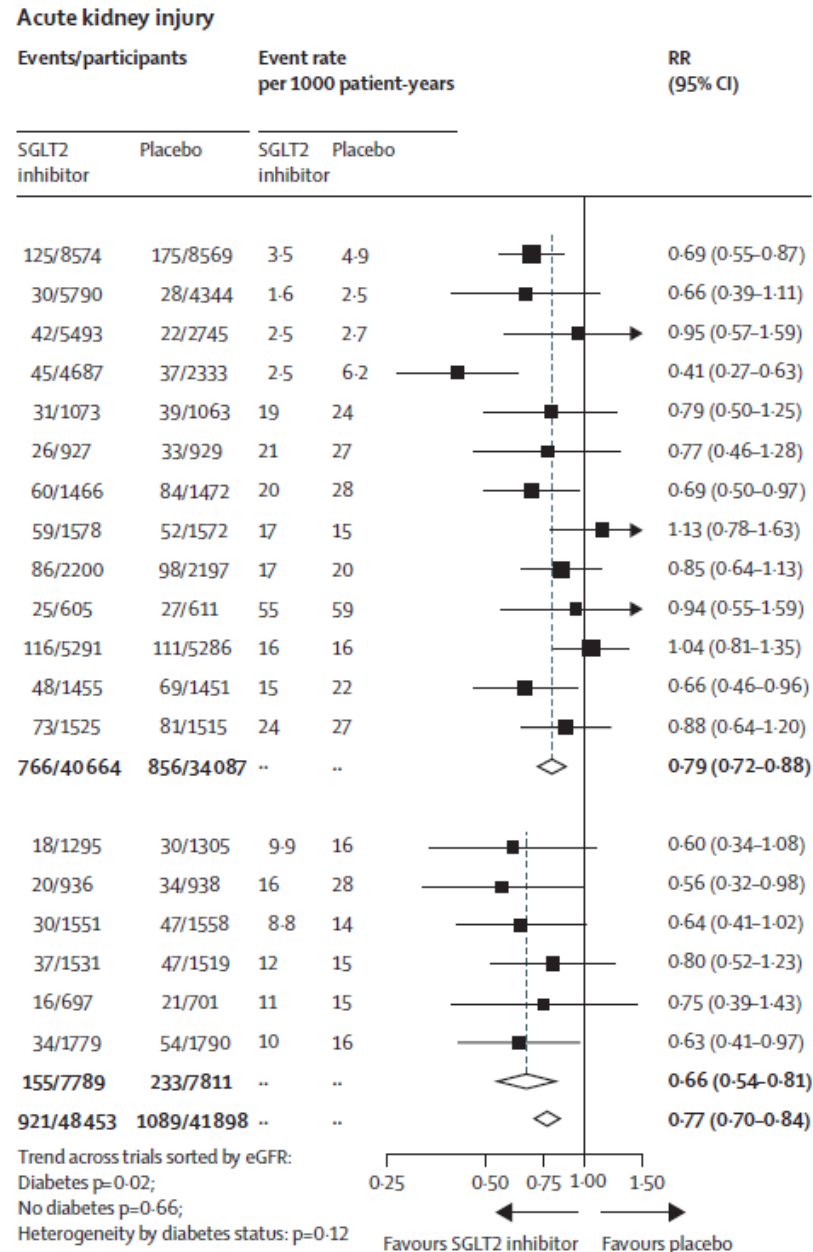


EMPA-CKD



Does it matter which one I use?

- The evidence is strong across the board
- Dapa is available as a generic
- Doses used in the trials:
 - Cana 100 mg daily
 - Empa 10 mg daily
 - Dapa 10 mg daily

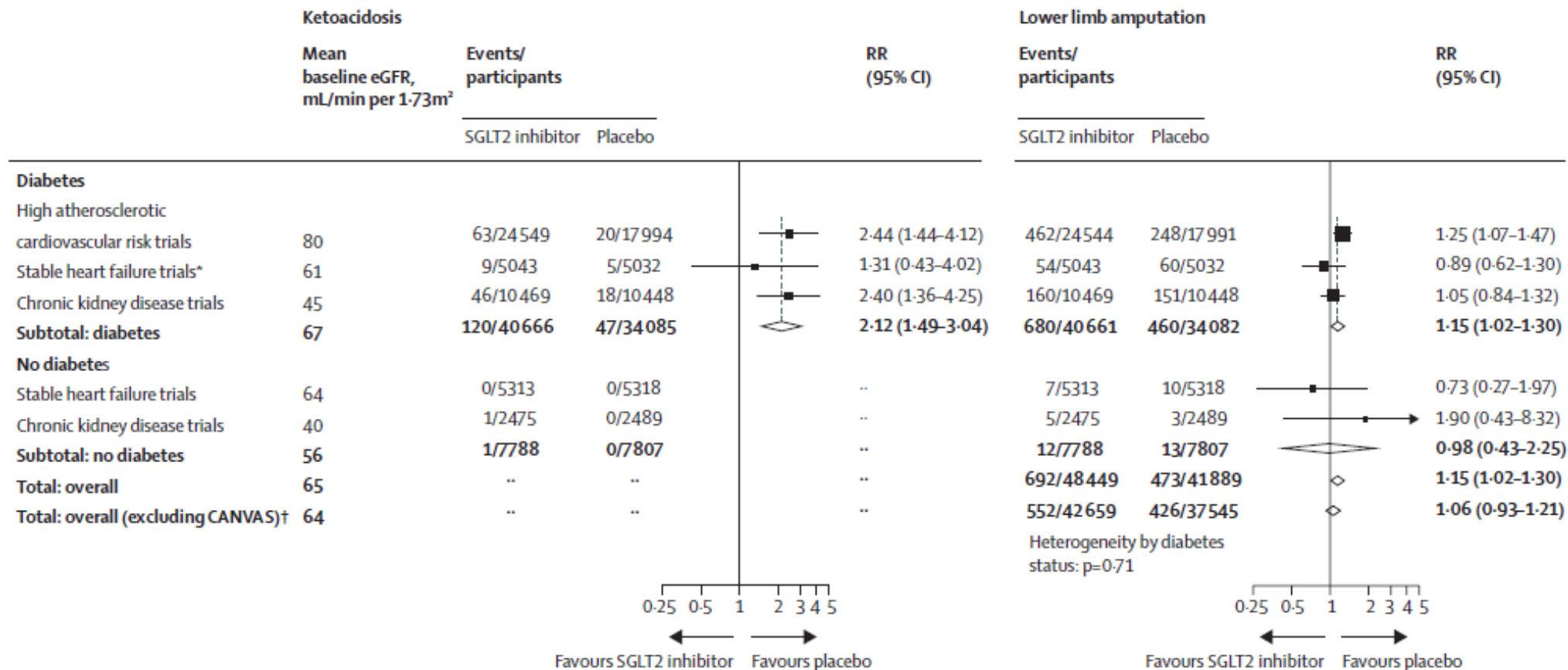


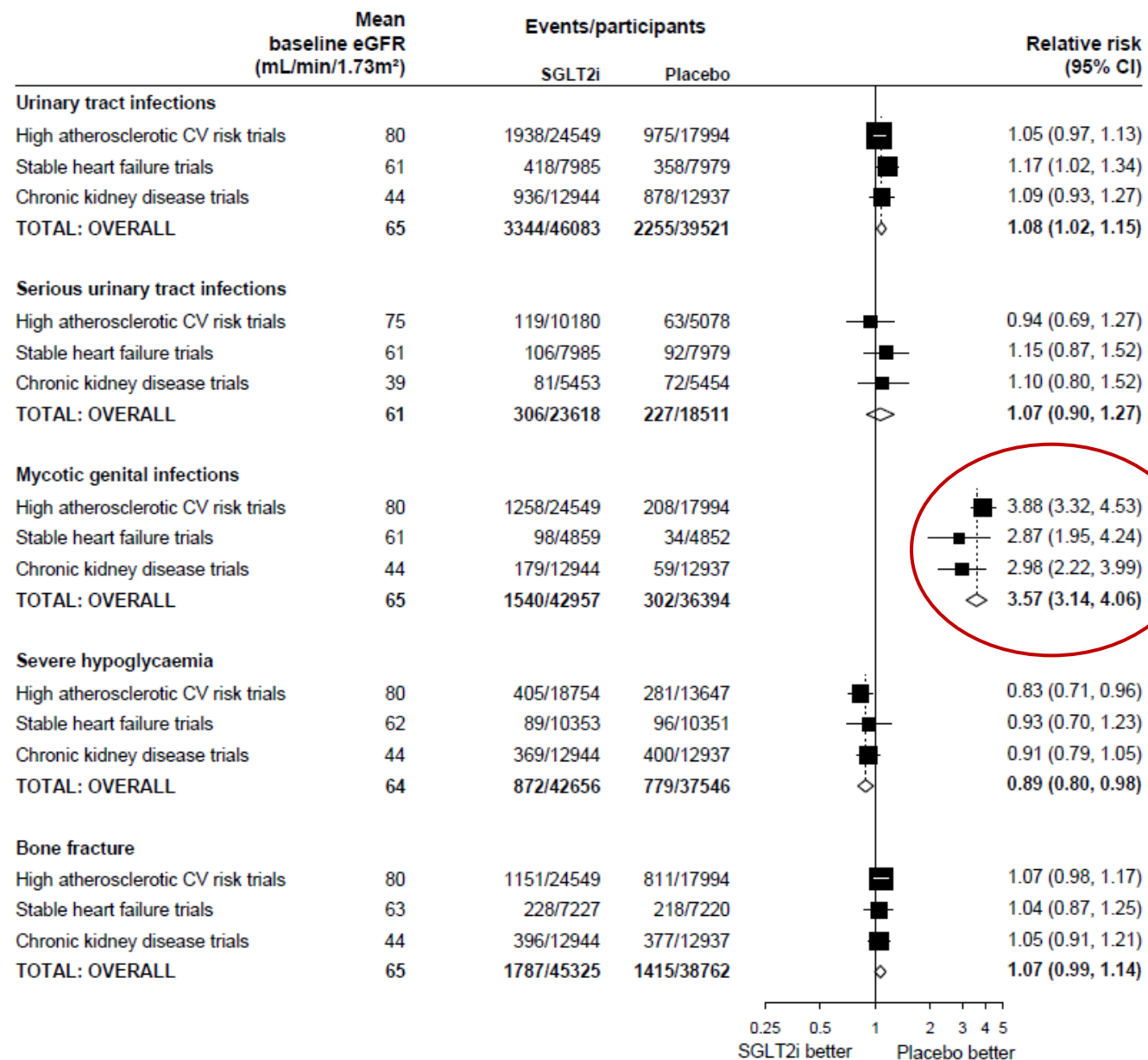
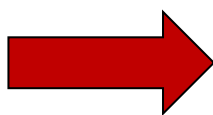
Should I be worried about causing AKI?

Diabetes
RR 0.79 (0.72-0.88)

No diabetes
RR 0.77 (0.70-0.84)

Major complications





Summary of what we know about flozins

- Consistent kidney and cardiac benefit in all trials
- No effect modification by level of eGFR
- We have efficacy data for eGFRs down to 20 mL/min
- We have safety data for eGFRs below 20 mL/min
- There are some safety concerns but these are small in absolute terms (e.g., 0.2 per 1000 person years for ketoacidosis)

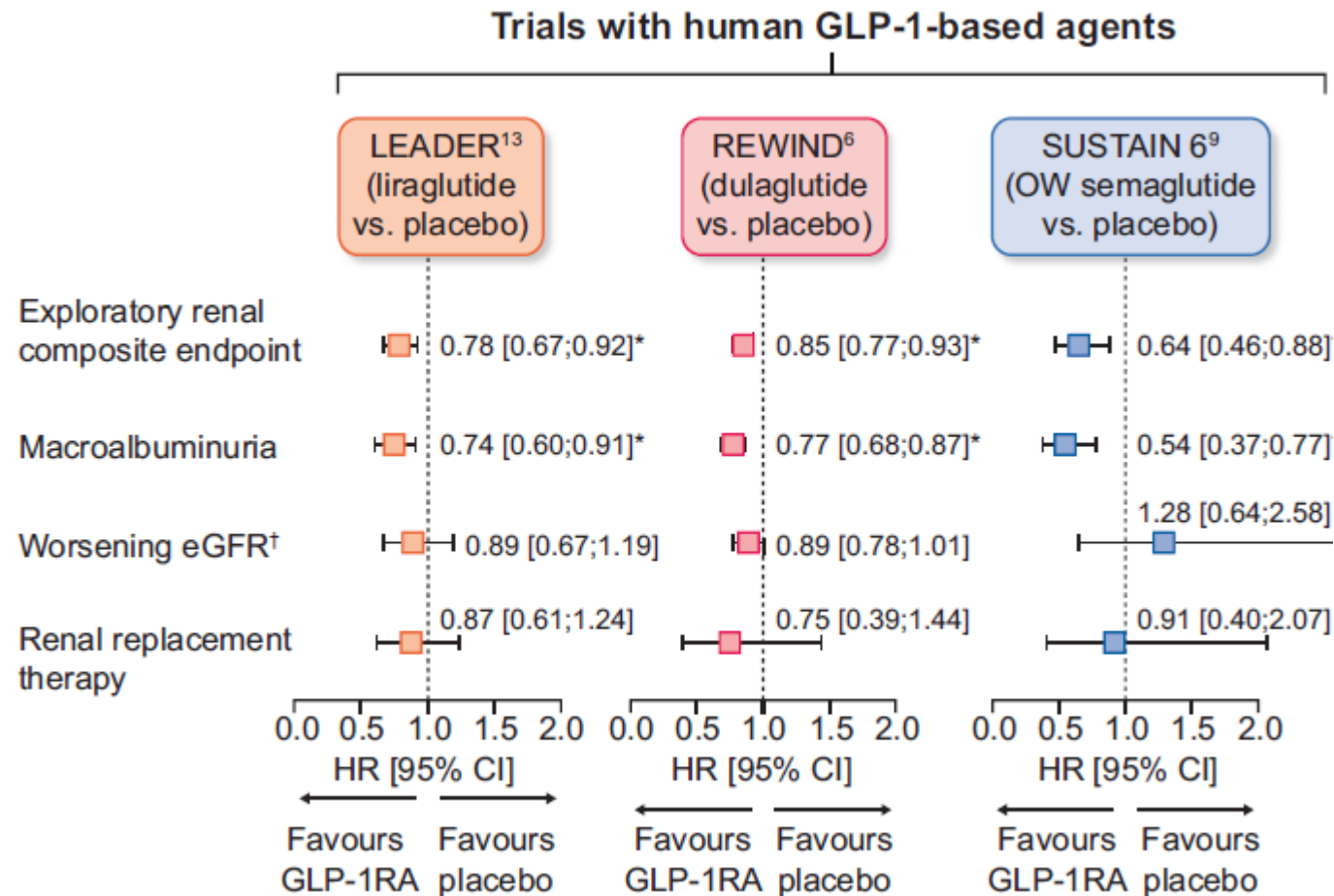
A couple of years later...

- Not doing so great
- Weight gain, not checking sugars
- HbA1C drifting up 8.0%
- ACR now 50 mg/mmol
- BP 135/80 despite Candesartan 32 mg daily
- eGFR 75 mL/min
- Referred to Nephrology – recommended GLP1-RA

Who should prescribe Semaglutide?

1. Nephrologist
2. Family physician
3. Refer to Endocrinology

GLP-1 Receptor Agonists: Kidney benefit observed in CV outcome trials



Benefits not explained by indirect effects e.g., weight loss, lower BP, better glycemic control

Possible direct effects:
 Anti-inflammatory
 Less oxidative stress
 Hemodynamic effects

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL *of* MEDICINE

ESTABLISHED IN 1812

JULY 11, 2024

VOL. 391 NO. 2

Effects of Semaglutide on Chronic Kidney Disease in Patients with Type 2 Diabetes

Vlado Perkovic, M.B., B.S., Ph.D., Katherine R. Tuttle, M.D., Peter Rossing, M.D., D.M.Sc.,
Kenneth W. Mahaffey, M.D., Johannes F.E. Mann, M.D., George Bakris, M.D., Florian M.M. Baeres, M.D.,
Thomas Idorn, M.D., Ph.D., Heidrun Bosch-Traberg, M.D., Nanna Leonora Lausvig, M.Sc., and
Richard Pratley, M.D., for the FLOW Trial Committees and Investigators*

Characteristic	Semaglutide (N=1767)	Placebo (N=1766)	Total (N=3533)
Age — yr	66.6±9.0	66.7±9.0	66.6±9.0
Female sex — no. (%)	519 (29.4)	550 (31.1)	1069 (30.3)
Geographic region — no. (%)			
Asia	478 (27.1)	434 (24.6)	912 (25.8)
Europe	472 (26.7)	491 (27.8)	963 (27.3)
North America	423 (23.9)	442 (25.0)	865 (24.5)
Other	394 (22.3)	399 (22.6)	793 (22.4)
Race or ethnic group — no. (%)†			
White	1155 (65.4)	1168 (66.1)	2323 (65.8)
Asian	439 (24.8)	407 (23.0)	846 (23.9)
Black	78 (4.4)	82 (4.6)	160 (4.5)
Other	95 (5.4)	109 (6.2)	204 (5.8)
Hispanic or Latinx ethnic group — no. (%)†			
Yes	273 (15.4)	283 (16.0)	556 (15.7)
No	1421 (80.4)	1411 (79.9)	2832 (80.2)
Not reported	73 (4.1)	72 (4.1)	145 (4.1)
Glycated hemoglobin level — %	7.8±1.3	7.8±1.3	7.8±1.3
Body-mass index‡	31.9±6.1	32.0±6.5	32.0±6.3
Body weight — kg	89.5±19.8	89.8±21.2	89.6±20.5
Systolic blood pressure — mm Hg	138.9±16.1	138.4±15.4	138.6±15.8
Diastolic blood pressure — mm Hg	76.8±10.0	76.1±10.0	76.4±10.0
Diabetes duration — no. (%)			
<15 yr	774 (43.8)	753 (42.6)	1527 (43.2)
≥15 yr	992 (56.1)	1013 (57.4)	2005 (56.8)
Previous myocardial infarction or stroke — no. (%)	405 (22.9)	403 (22.8)	808 (22.9)

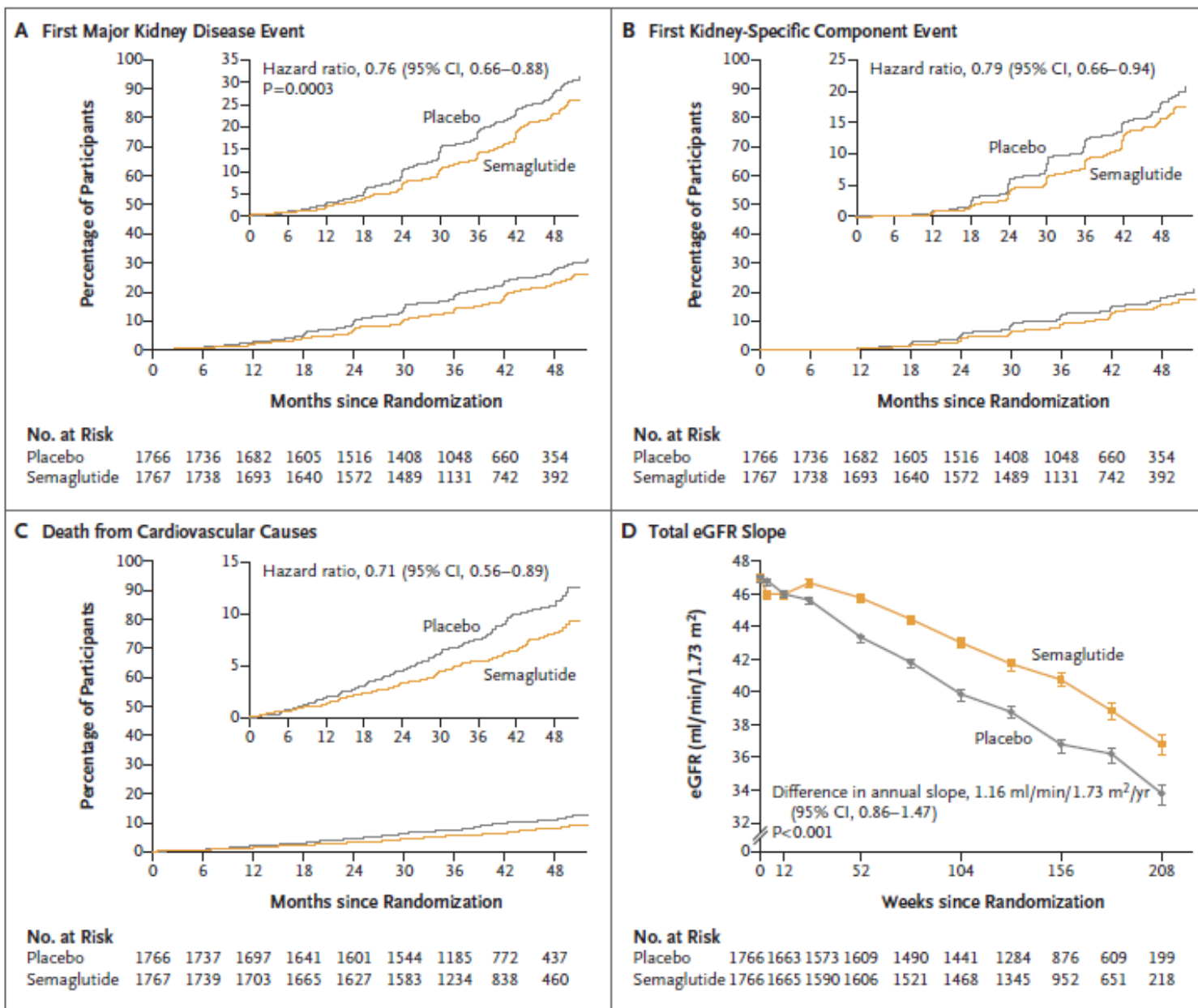
Mean age 66 years
Mostly white or Asian
HbA1C 7.8%
BMI 32
Long duration of diabetes

eGFR — ml/min/1.73 m ² ¶	46.9±15.6	47.1±14.7	47.0±15.2
eGFR distribution — no. (%)¶			
≥60 ml/min/1.73 m ²	366 (20.7)	353 (20.0)	719 (20.4)
≥45 to <60 ml/min/1.73 m ²	515 (29.1)	540 (30.6)	1055 (29.9)
≥30 to <45 ml/min/1.73 m ²	667 (37.7)	691 (39.1)	1358 (38.4)
<30 ml/min/1.73 m ²	218 (12.3)	182 (10.3)	400 (11.3)
Median urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio¶	582.3	557.8	567.6
Category of albuminuria — no. (%)**			
A1, normoalbuminuria	52 (2.9)	57 (3.2)	109 (3.1)
A2, microalbuminuria	509 (28.8)	495 (28.0)	1004 (28.4)
A3, macroalbuminuria	1205 (68.2)	1214 (68.7)	2419 (68.5)

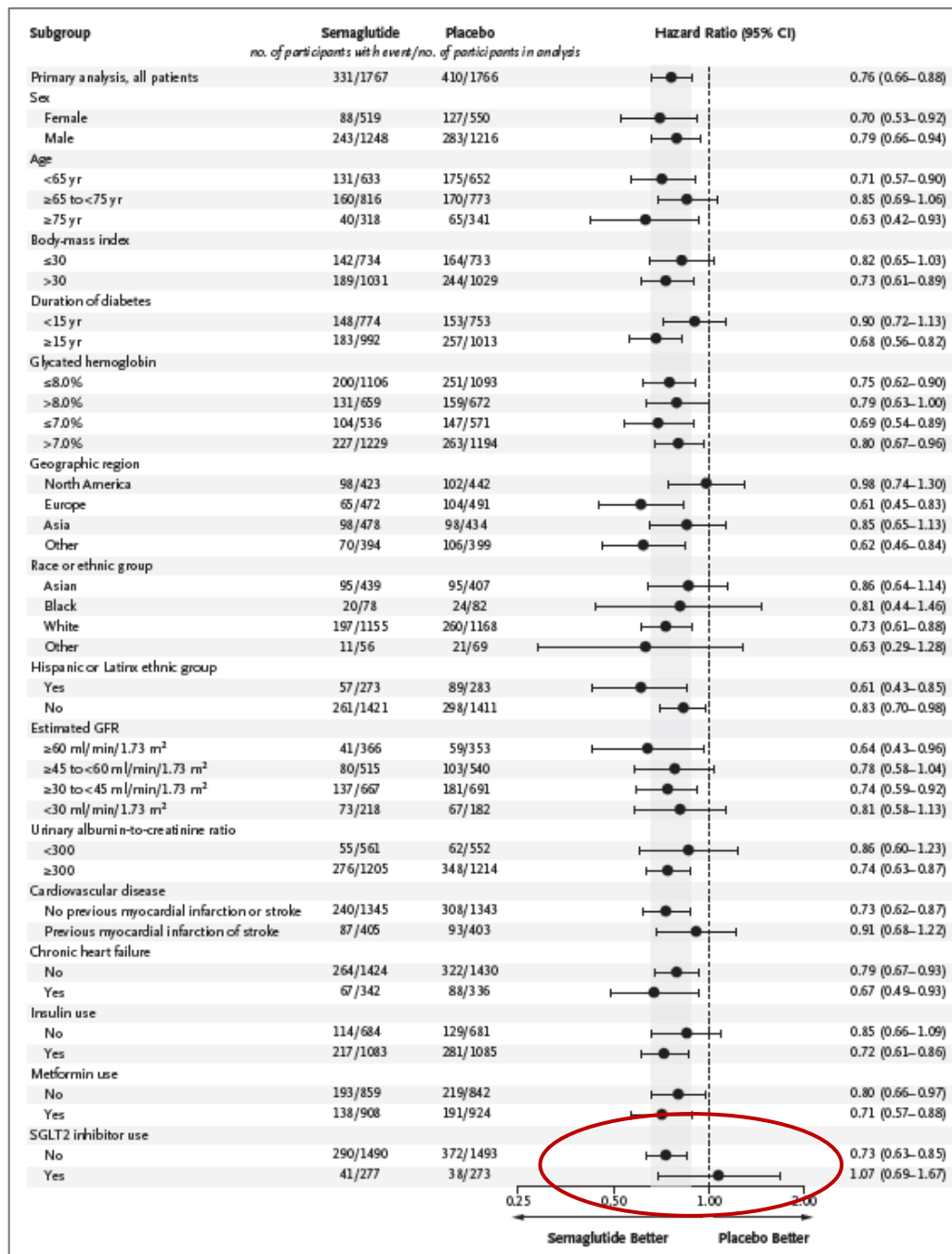
Mean eGFR 47 mL/min
50% under 45 mL/min
High grade albuminuria

Table 1. (Continued.)			
Characteristic	Semaglutide (N=1767)	Placebo (N=1766)	Total (N=3533)
Medication use — no. (%)			
SGLT2 inhibitor	277 (15.7)	273 (15.5)	550 (15.6)
ACE inhibitor	625 (35.4)	615 (34.8)	1240 (35.1)
ARB	1066 (60.3)	1061 (60.1)	2127 (60.2)
Lipid-lowering drug	1418 (80.2)	1416 (80.2)	2834 (80.2)
Diuretic agent	870 (49.2)	910 (51.5)	1780 (50.4)
Insulin	1083 (61.3)	1085 (61.4)	2168 (61.4)

95% on ACEi/ARB
15% on SGLT2i

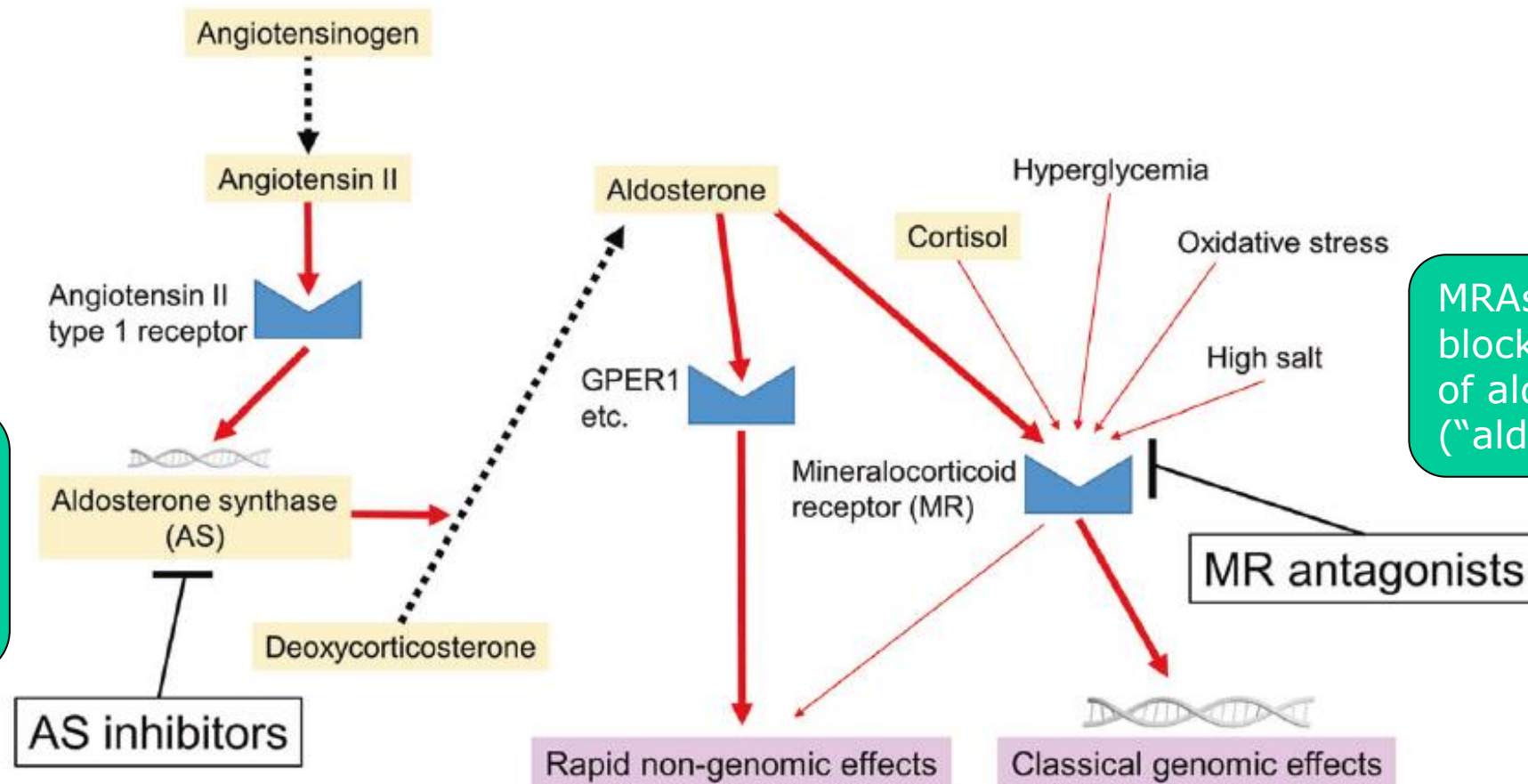


Consistent benefit across all subgroups



Emerging therapies

Different ways to target Aldosterone



Aldosterone synthase has a high AA sequence similarity to that of cortisol synthase

MRAs do not fully block the effects of aldosterone ("aldo escape")

Phase 2 data for BI 690517 (Vicadrostat)

Efficacy and safety of aldosterone synthase inhibition with and without empagliflozin for chronic kidney disease: a randomised, controlled, phase 2 trial



Katherine R Tuttle, Sibylle J Hauske*, Maria Eugenia Canziani, Maria Luiza Caramori, David Cherney, Lisa Cronin, Hidde J L Heerspink, Christian Hugo, Masaomi Nangaku, Ricardo Correa Rotter, Arnold Silva, Shimoli V Shah, Zhichao Sun, Dorothea Urbach, Dick de Zeeuw, Peter Rossing*, on behalf of the ASi in CKD group†*

Summary

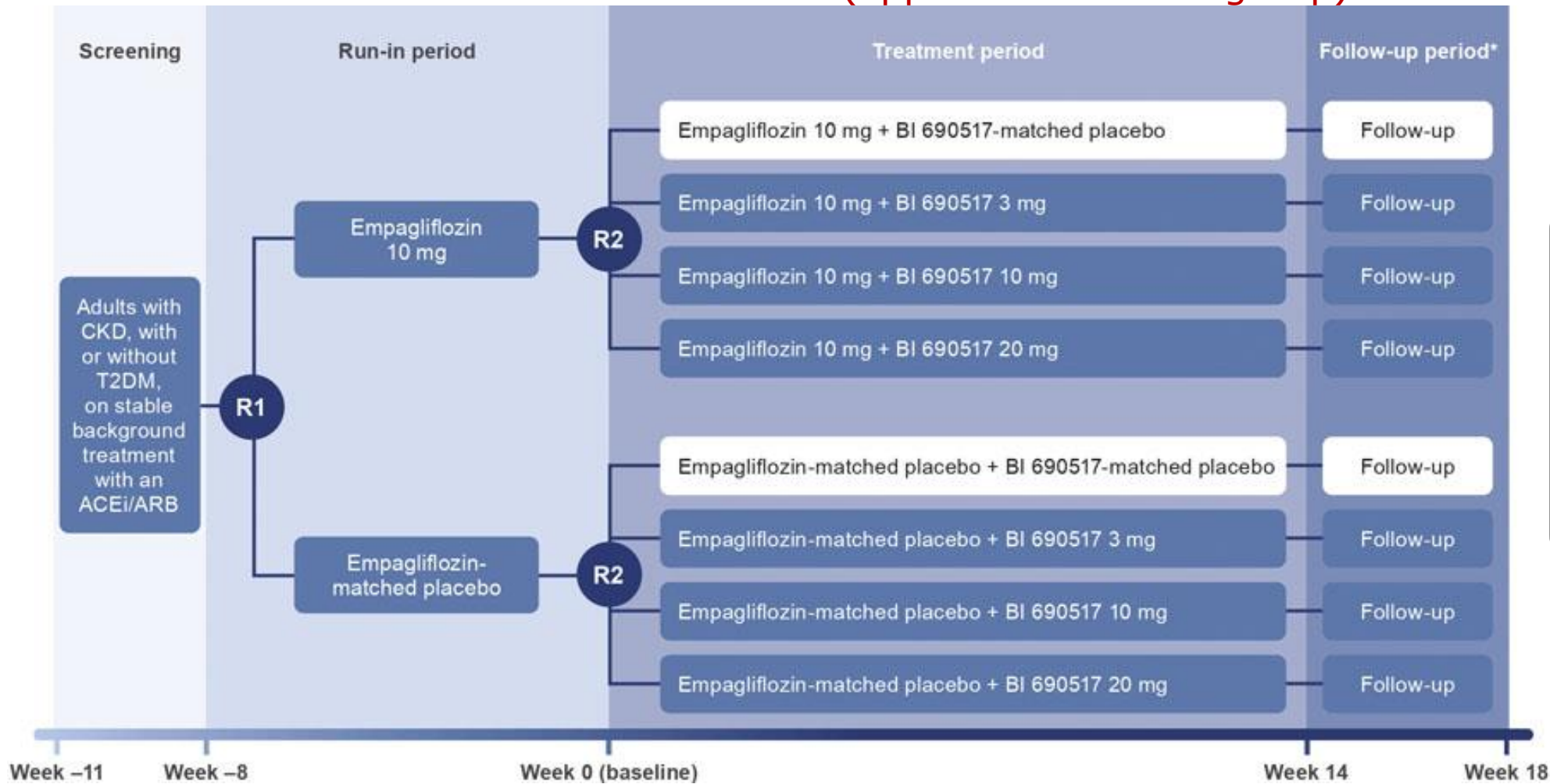
Background Excess aldosterone accelerates chronic kidney disease progression. This phase 2 clinical trial assessed BI 690517, an aldosterone synthase inhibitor, for efficacy, safety, and dose selection.

Lancet 2024; 403: 379–90

Published Online
December 15, 2023

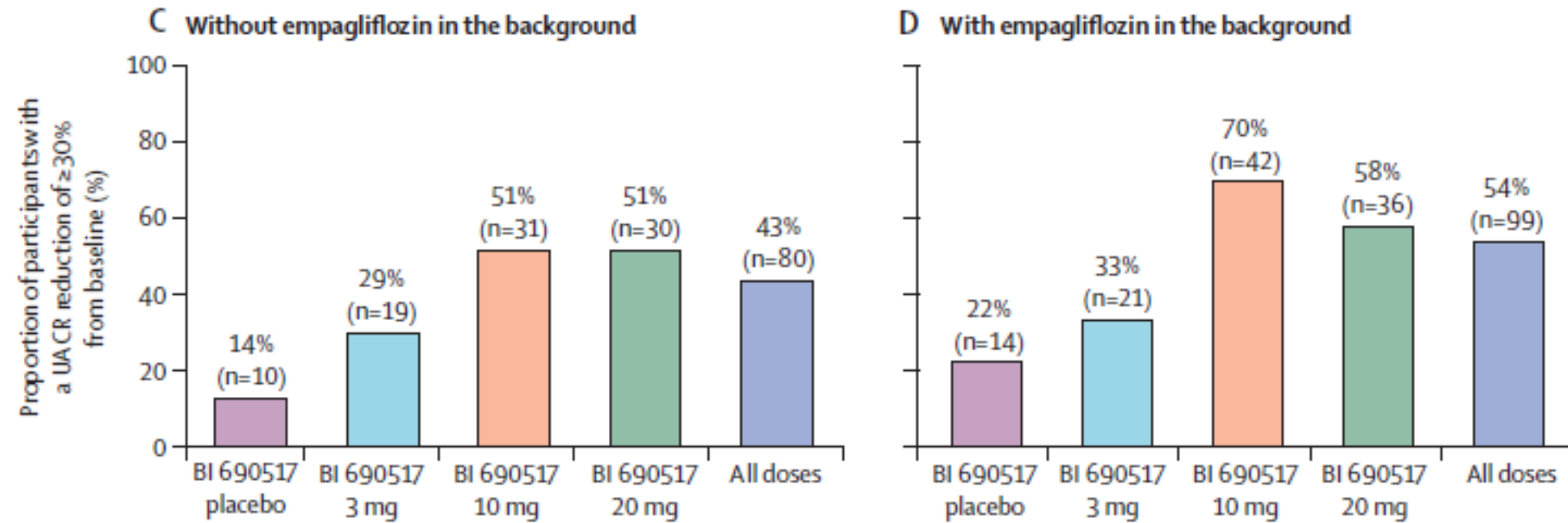
N = 714

N = 586 (approx. 75 in each group)

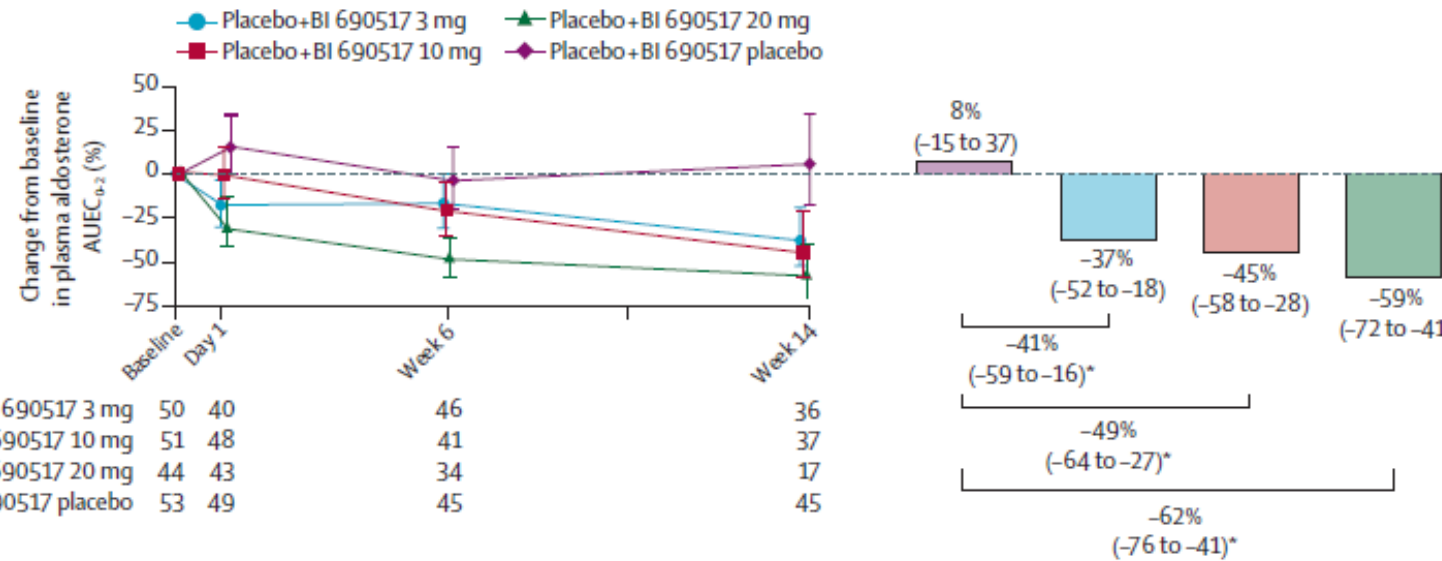


At Baseline:

- 33% female
- Age 63.8 years
- 71% T2DM
- SBP 133.8 mmHg
- K 4.3 mmol/L
- GFR 52 mL/min
- ACR 426 mg/g

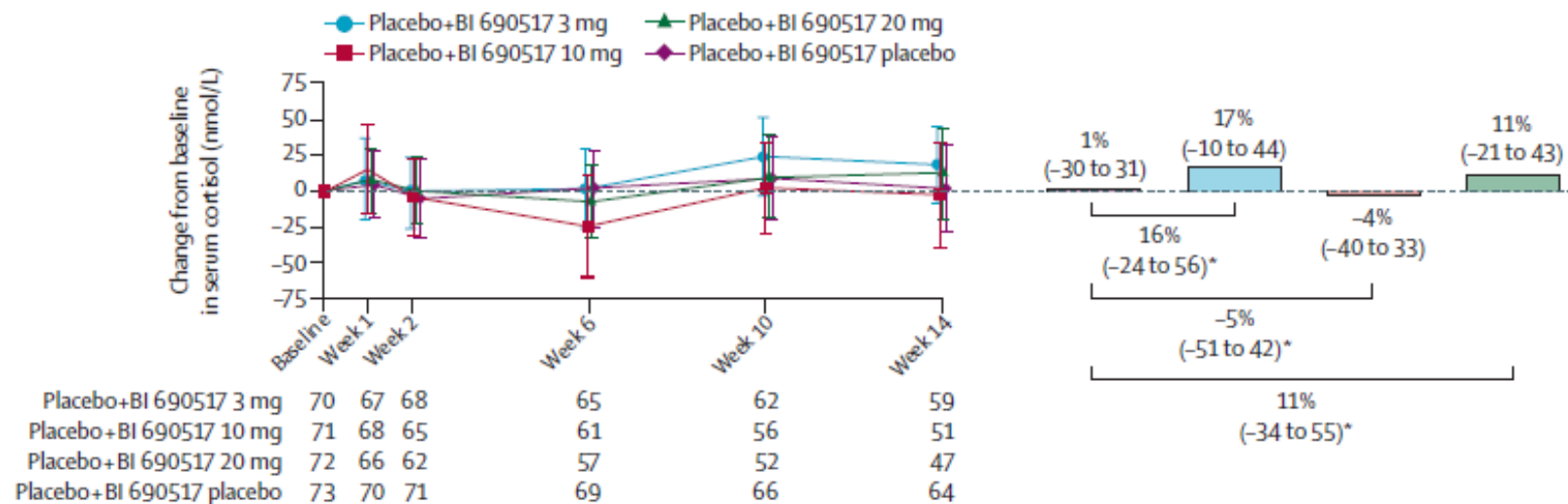


A



Dose-dependent reduction in plasma aldosterone

C



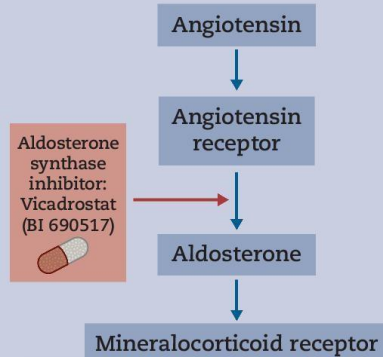
Without suppressing cortisol production



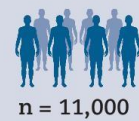
The potential for improving cardio-renal outcomes in chronic kidney disease with the aldosterone synthase inhibitor vicadrostat (BI 690517): a rationale for the EASi-KIDNEY trial

Trial aim was to assess safety and cardiorenal efficacy of aldosterone synthase inhibition in a broad range of patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD), with and without type 2 diabetes.

Targeting aldosterone overactivity



Trial design



n = 11,000



Key inclusion:

eGFR ≥ 20 and < 45 or
 ≥ 45 and < 90 + uACR ≥ 200 mg/g



Key exclusion:

K⁺ > 5.2 mmol/L

Background therapy

EMPAGLIFLOZIN
and clinically
appropriate RAS
inhibitor*

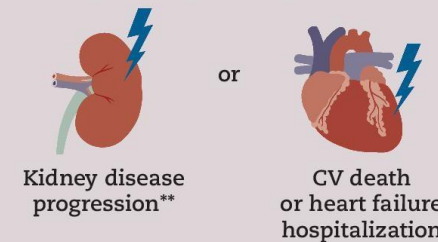
*where indicated/tolerated

1:1 randomization

Vicadrostat 10mg

Placebo

Composite primary outcome

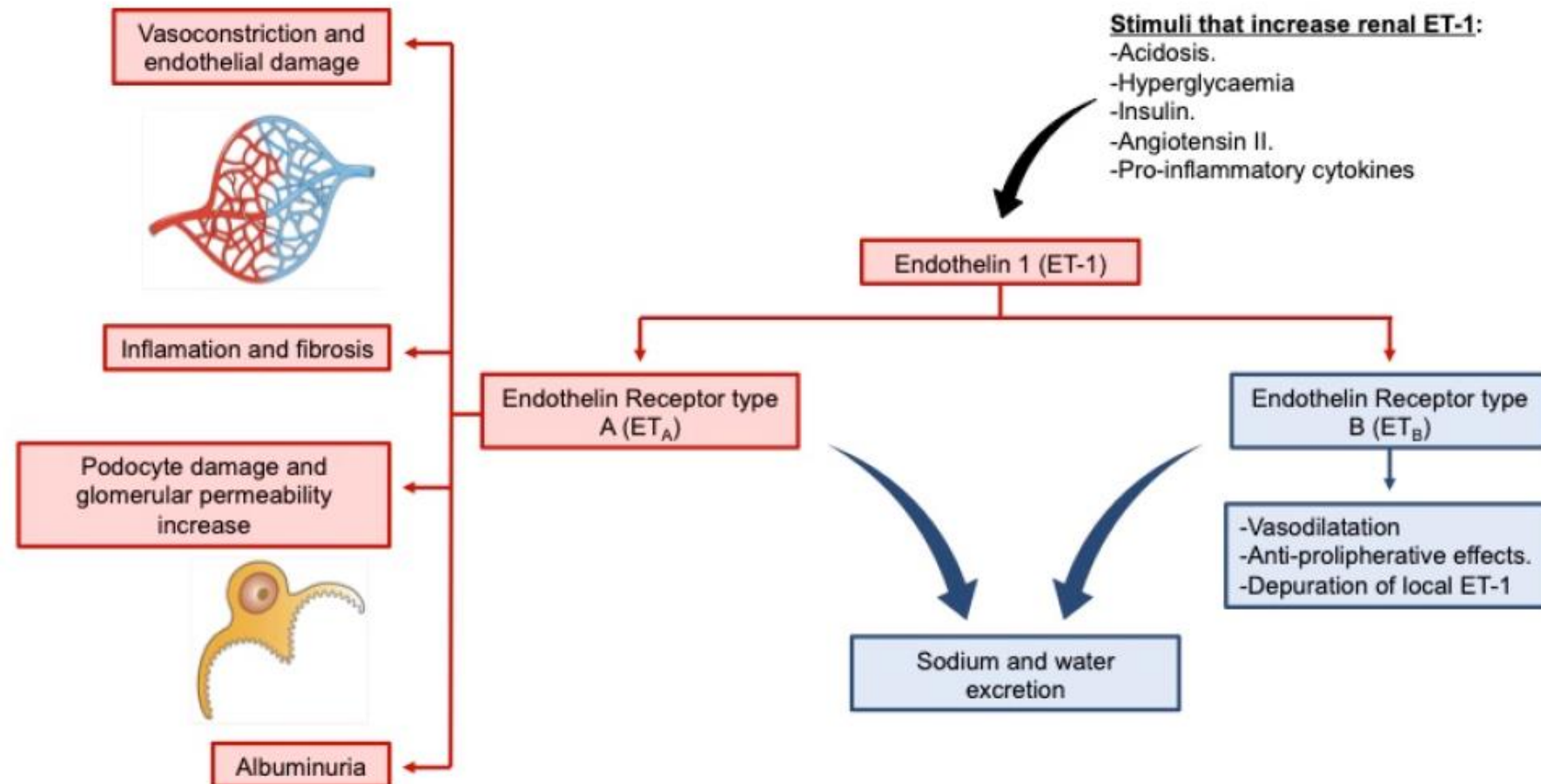


**Maintenance dialysis or kidney transplant, death from kidney failure, sustained eGFR < 10 or $\geq 40\%$ eGFR decline

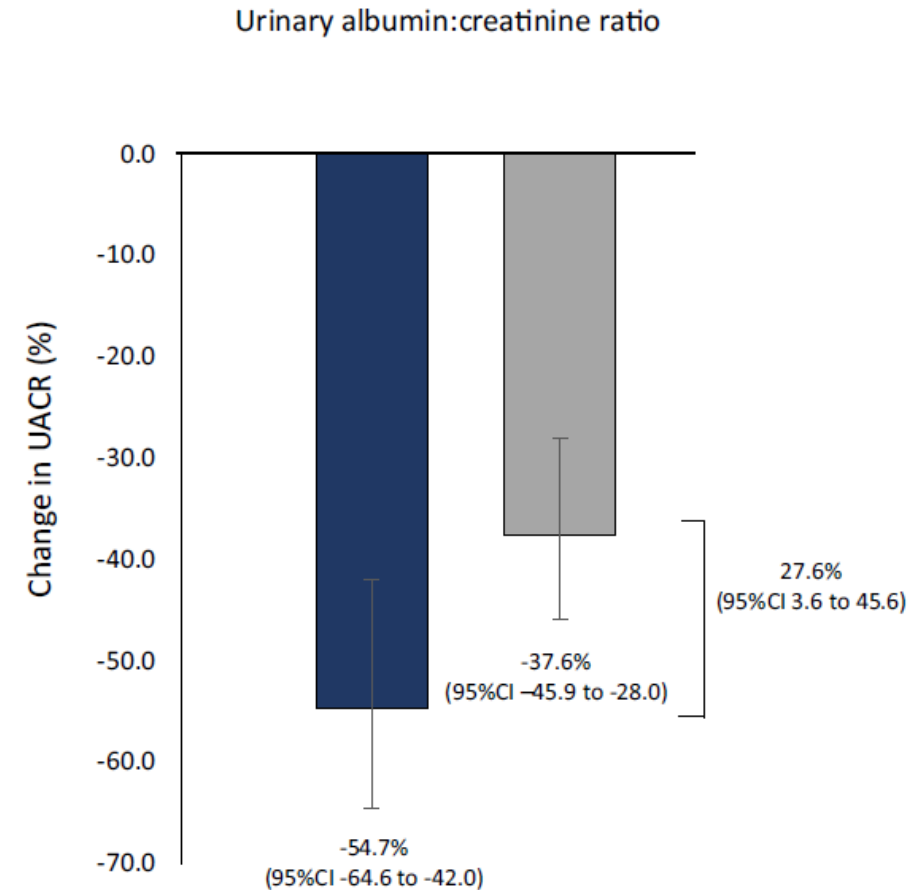
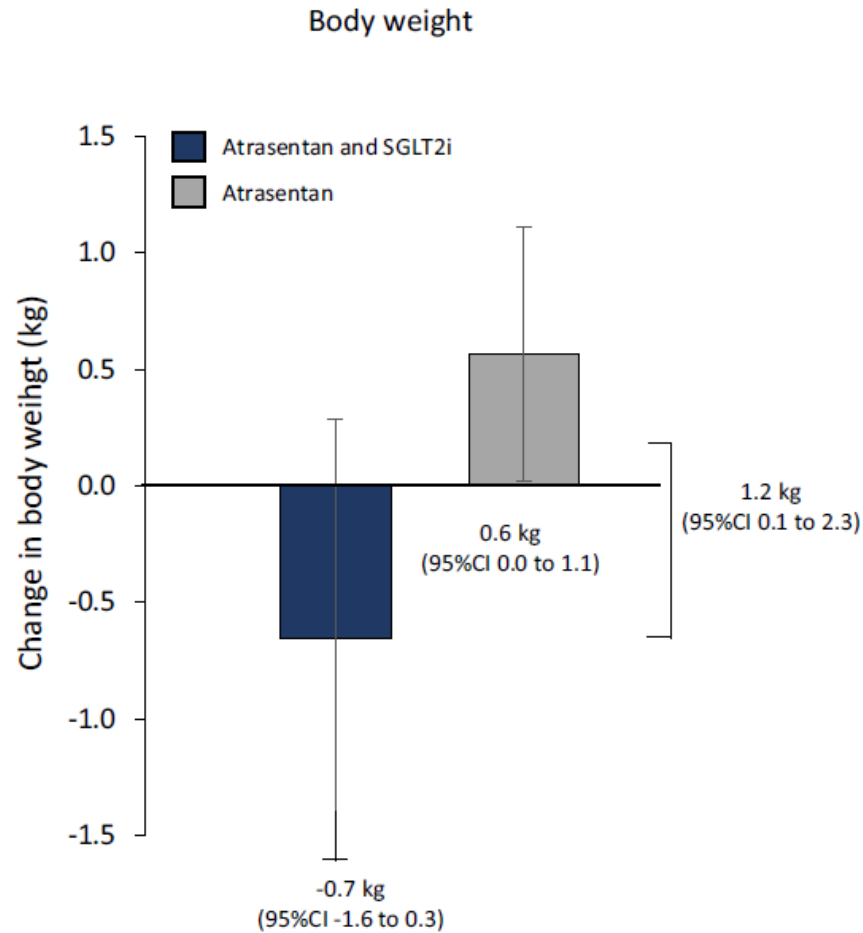
The EASi-KIDNEY
Collaborative Group
NDT (2024)
@NDTSocial

The EASi-KIDNEY trial will assess the cardiorenal efficacy and safety of combining SGLT2 and aldosterone synthase inhibition in a large population with CKD at risk of progression (powered to assess effects in those with and without diabetes separately).

Role of Endothelin in CKD progression



Post-hoc analysis from the SONAR trial



Zibotentan: Highly selective ET-A antagonist



Zibotentan in combination with dapagliflozin compared with dapagliflozin in patients with chronic kidney disease (ZENITH-CKD): a multicentre, randomised, active-controlled, phase 2b, clinical trial

Hiddo J L Heerspink, Arihiro Kiyosue, David C Wheeler, Min Lin, Emma Wijkmark, Glenn Carlson, Anne-Kristina Mercier, Magnus Åstrand, Sebastian Ueckert, Peter J Greasley, Phil Ambery

Summary

Lancet 2023; 402: 2004–17

Published Online

November 3, 2023

<https://doi.org/10.1016/>

Background In patients with chronic kidney disease, SGLT2 inhibitors and endothelin A receptor antagonists (ERAs) can reduce albuminuria and glomerular filtration rate (GFR) decline. We assessed the albuminuria-lowering efficacy and safety of the ERA zibotentan combined with the SGLT2 inhibitor dapagliflozin.

Is Zibotentan Safe and Efficacious in Retarding Chronic Kidney Disease Progression? (ZENITH-CKD)

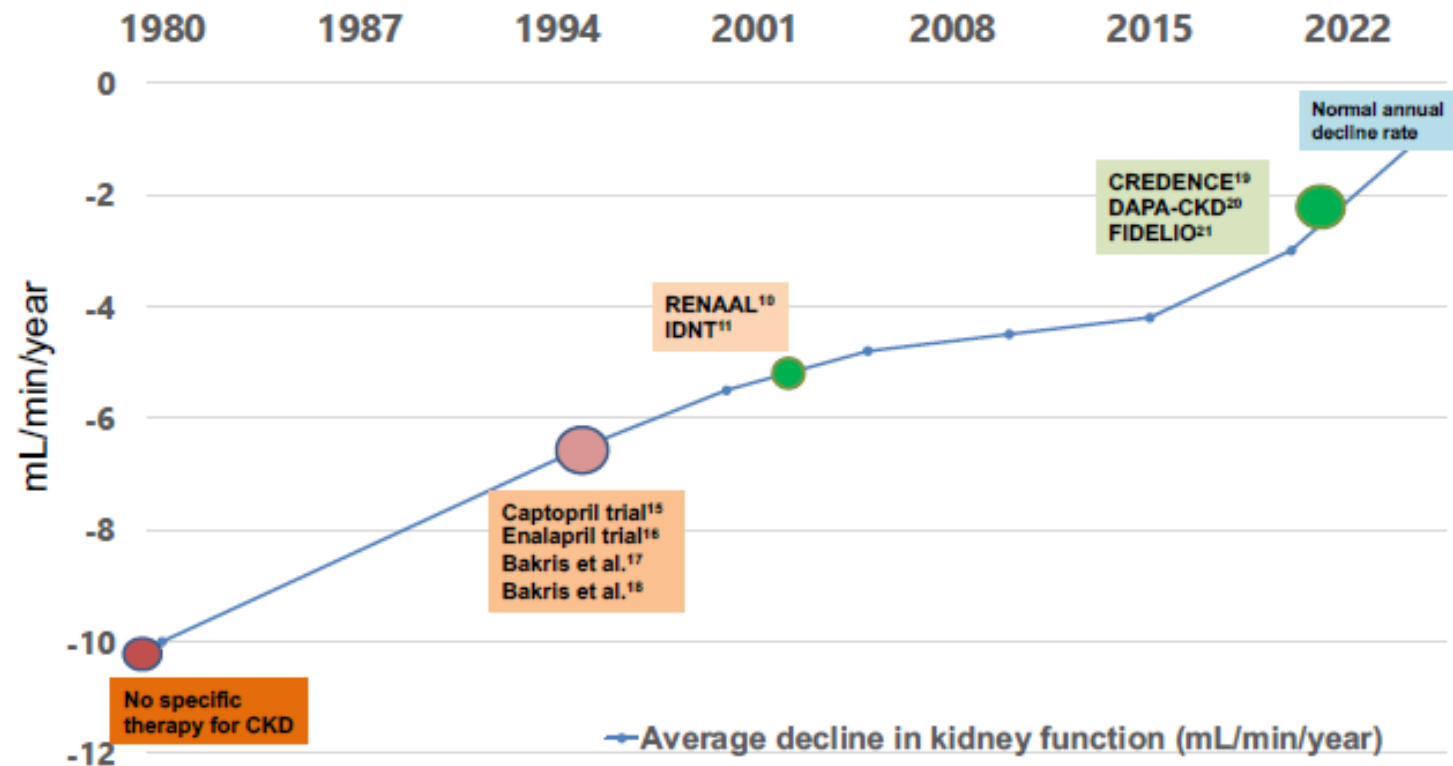


18 countries Randomized, Double blinded Age ≥ 18 to ≤ 90 (Median age 62.8 years) eGFR ≥ 20 ml/min UACR 150-5000 mg/g (Median – 565 mg/g) April 2021 – Jan 2023 Stable dose of ACEi or ARBs for 4 weeks	Randomized into three groups			All were on Dapagliflozin 10 mg		
	2:1:2			Zibotentan 1.5 mg	Zibotentan 0.25 mg	Placebo
	Number of patients 			179	91	177
	% Mean change in UACR (baseline to 12 weeks) 			-52.5% (-59 to -44.9) (P<0.0001)	-47.7% (-55.7 to -38.2) (P=0.0022)	-28.3% (-37.8 to -17.4) (ref)
	Fluid retention events 			18%	9%	8%

Conclusion: Zibotentan reduced albuminuria with an acceptable tolerability and safety profile in chronic kidney disease patients already receiving currently recommended therapy

Heerspink HJL et al, Lancet
2023
VA by
Dr Sabarinath S MD DM FASN
X @sabarivenus

Reasons to be hopeful



Thank you for your attention

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