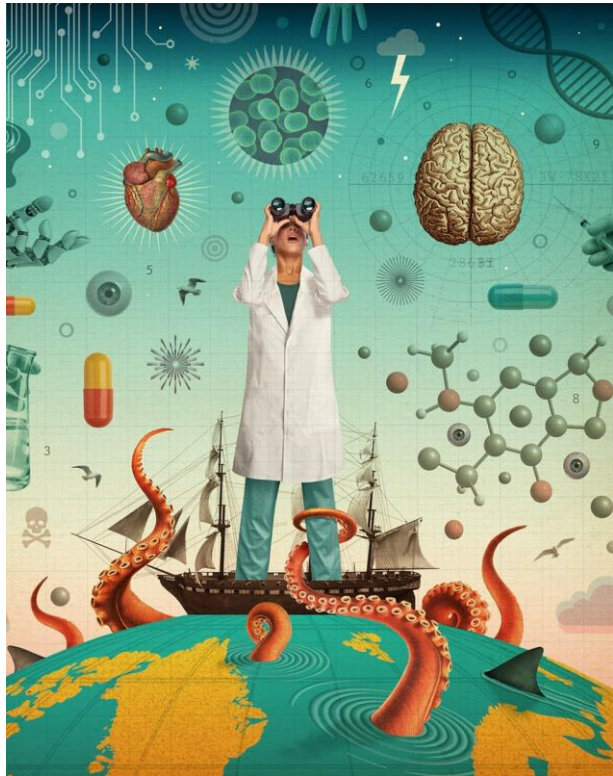


Health Outcomes, Surrogate Endpoints, and Biomarkers

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Cover of Stanford Medicine: Winter 2018

Robert M. Kaplan
Clinical Excellence Research Center
Stanford University School of Medicine

International Behavioural Trials
Network

May 25, 2018

Stanford Medical Grand Rounds: Last week and most other weeks

- The purpose of health care is to:
 - Increase length of life
 - Improve quality of life
- All other measures are only important if they are related to one of these two goals



What Do Psychologists Prefer to Measure?

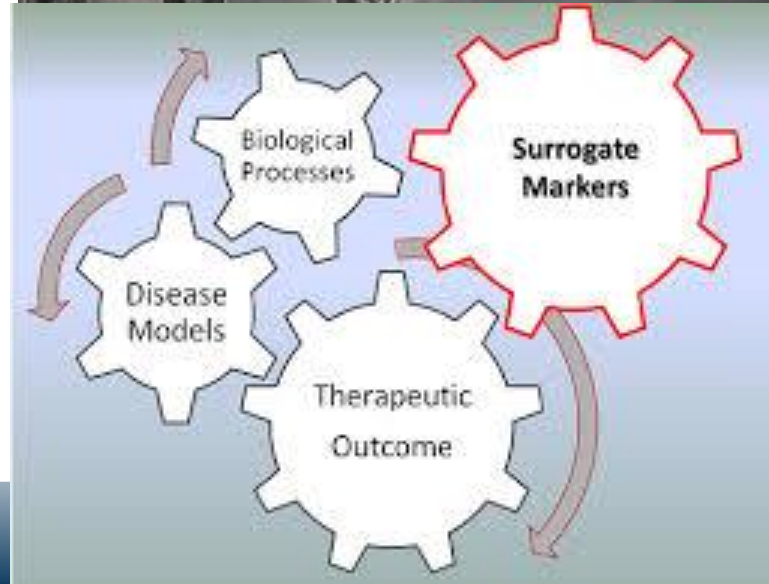
- Blood pressure
- Weight
- Glycosylated Hemoglobin
- Cortisol
- Avoid self report....
- Information is meaningful if it comes from your veins
- Not from your mouth



The Surrogate Marker Problem:

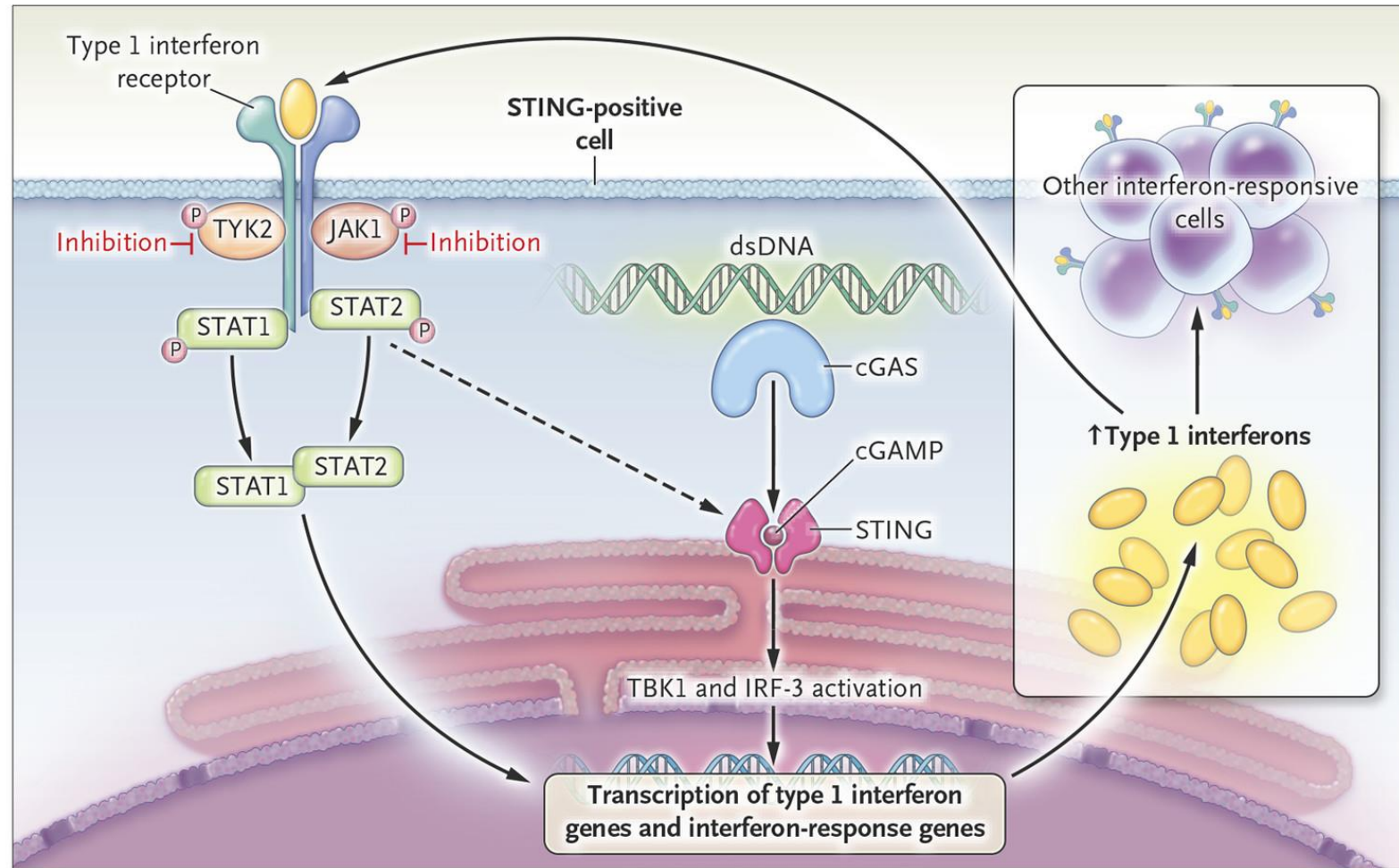
Assumes the human body functions like a machine

Surrogate Markers are assumed to be precise stand ins for health outcomes



USPSTF focuses on health outcomes
rather than on intermediate markers

The STING–Interferon- β Pathway.



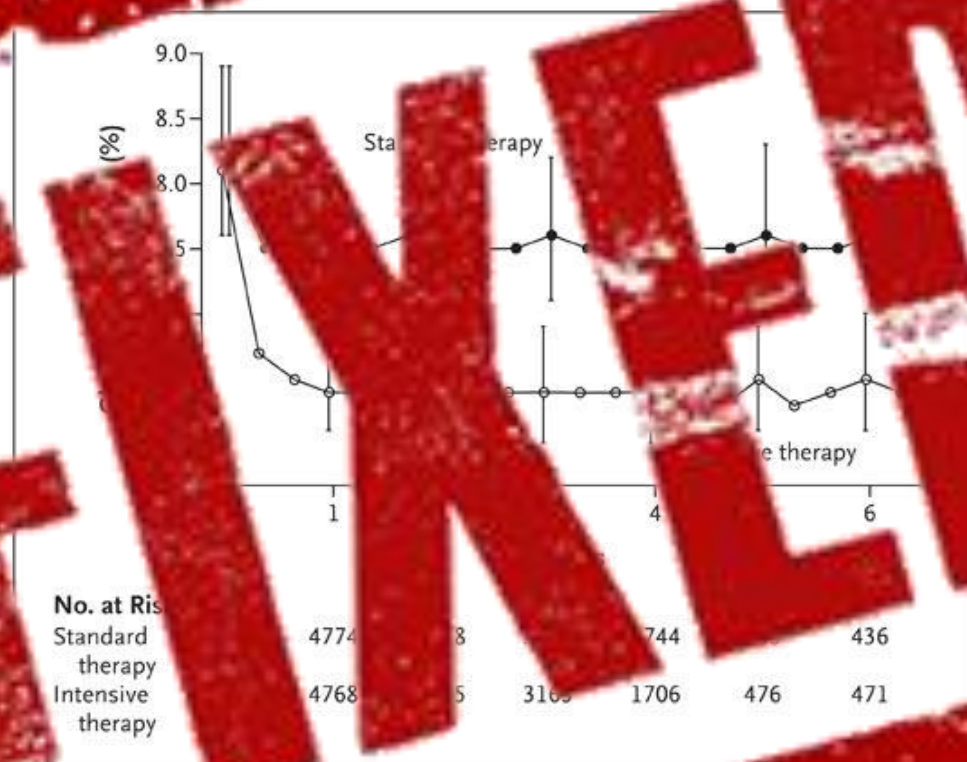
Meta-Analysis of the Effect of Lifestyle Interventions on Incidence or Progression to DM

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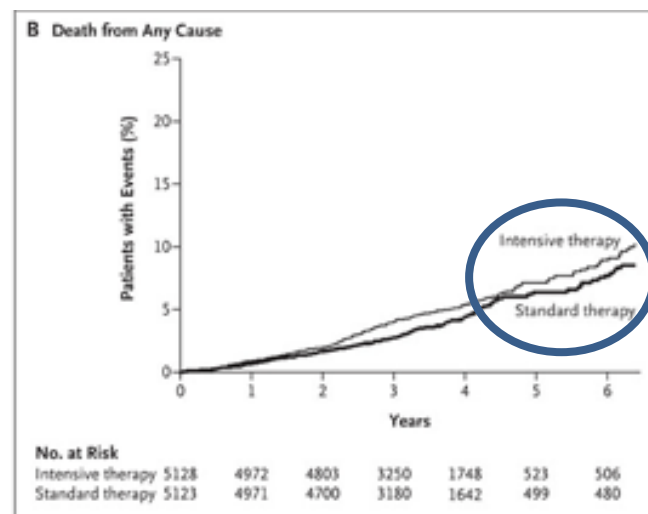
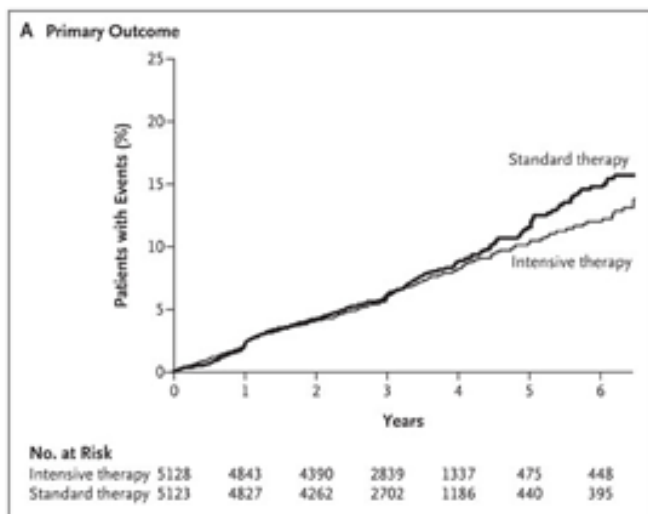


Findings on Transition to DM Are Consistent

Median Glycated Hemoglobin Levels at Each Visit ACCORD Trial (NEJM 356:2633-2641, 2007)

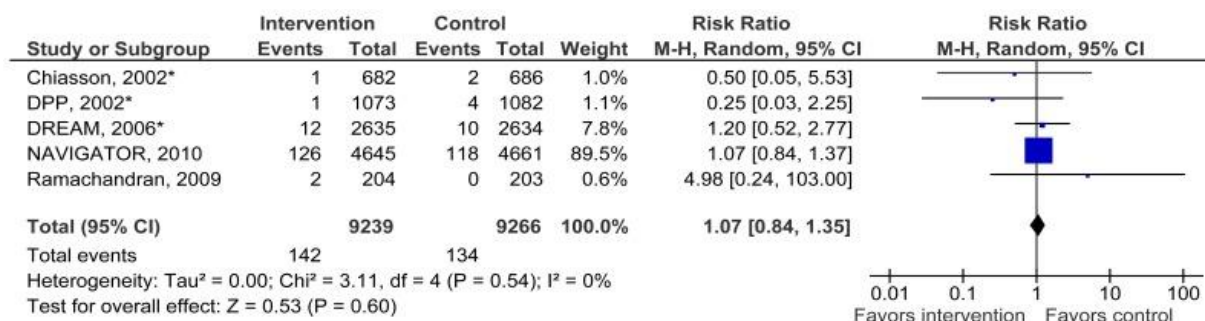


Kaplan-Meier Curves for the Primary Outcome and Death from Any Cause ACCORD Trial

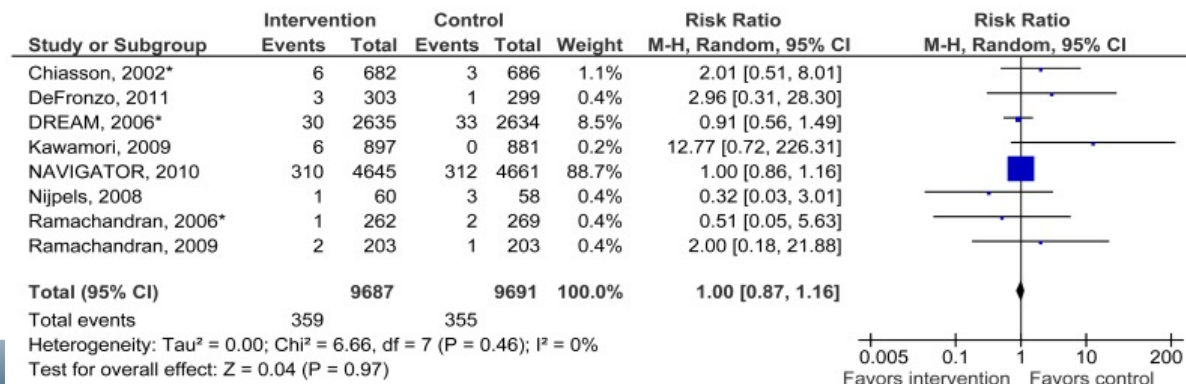


Meta Analysis of Glucose Lowering on CVD Mortality (Top) and All Cause Mortality (Bottom)

Cardiovascular Mortality



All Cause Mortality

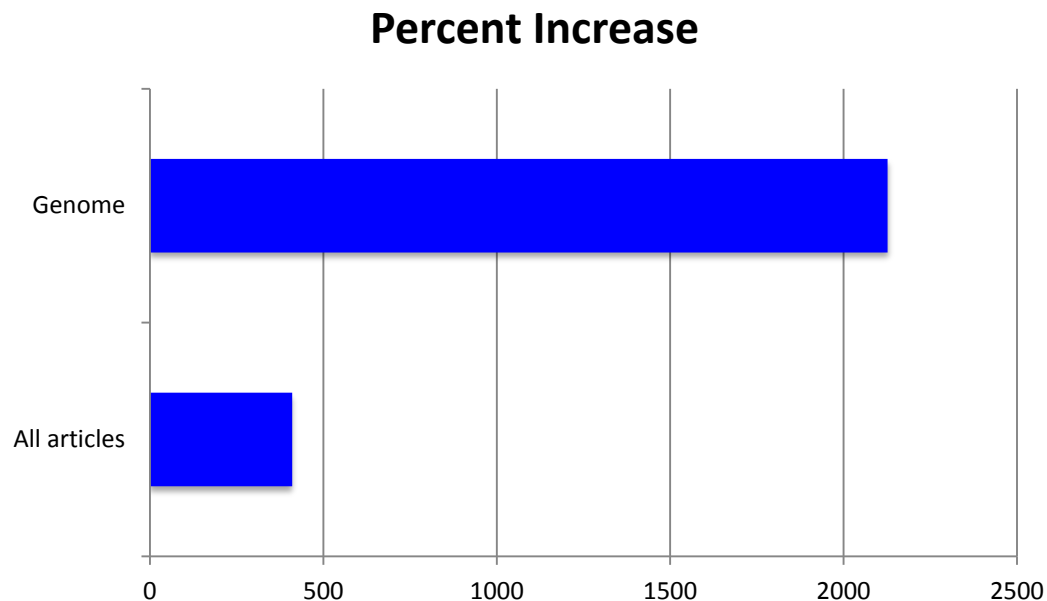


Cancer Switched Off Here: U of T is Global Leader in Molecular Cancer Research



From *The Globe and Mail*, February 28, 2017

Increase in the annual number of published articles indexed in PubMed between 1974 and 2014



Based on Joyner et al, *JAMA*. Published online July 28, 2016.

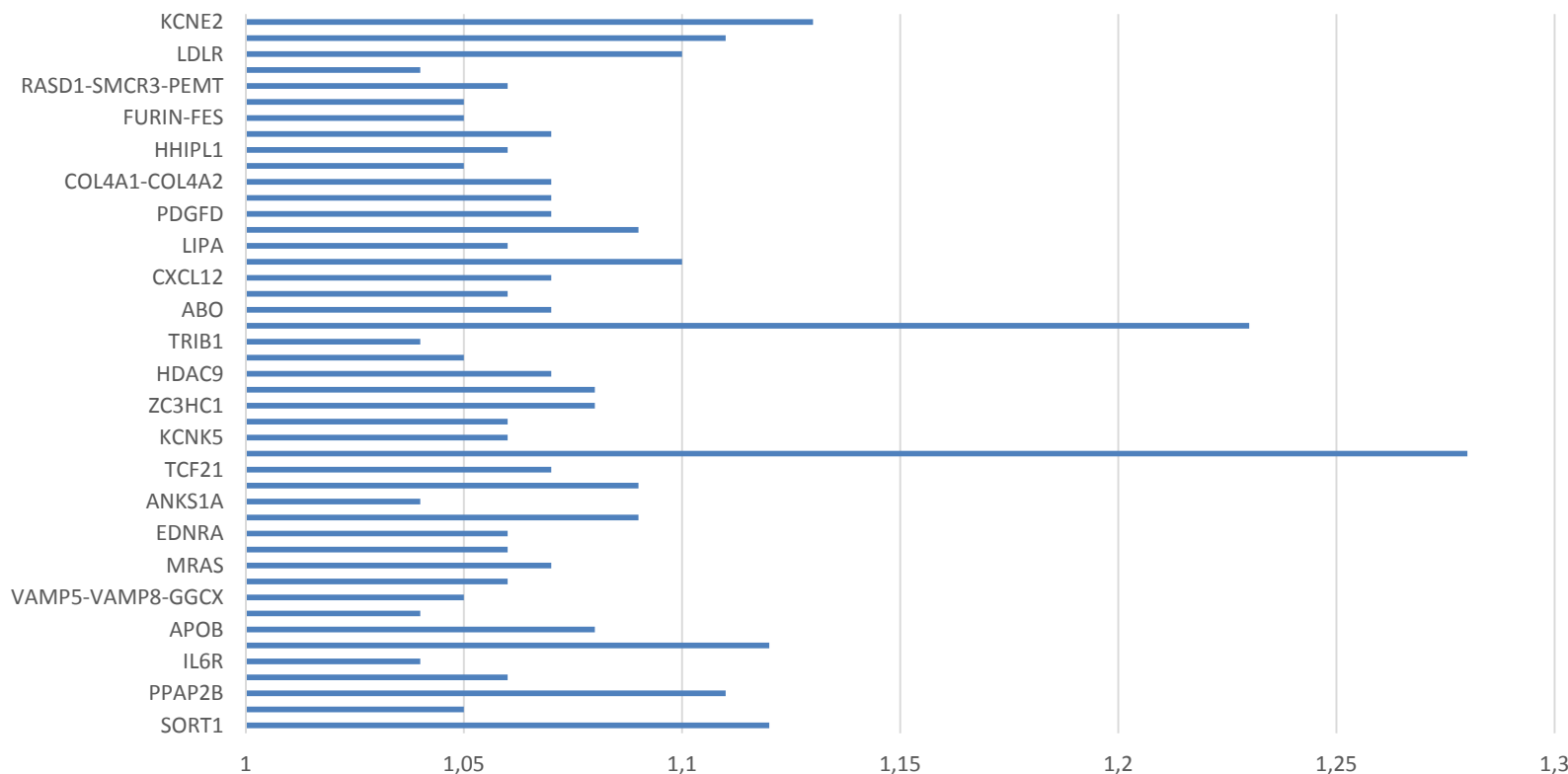
Genetic: Sequencing vs One Simple question



Did your mother, father, or both parents die of heart disease? If so, at what age?

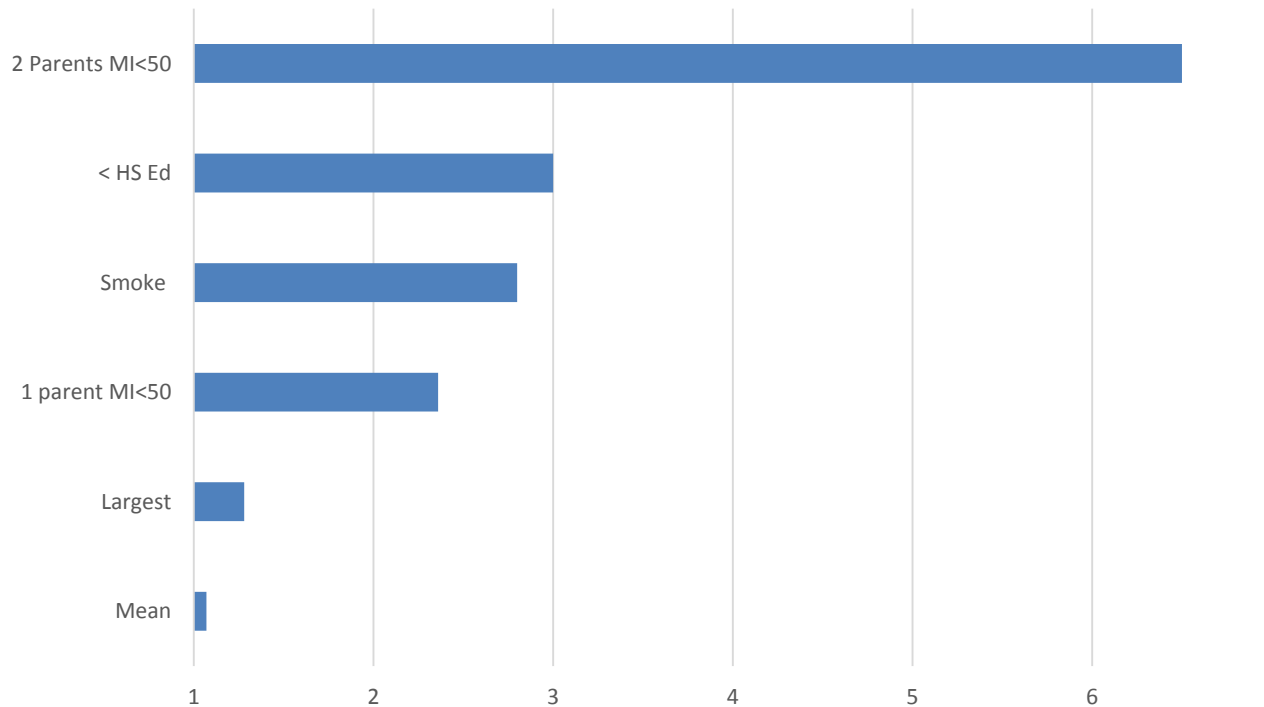


Effect Size (OR) For All Significant SNPs Known to Affect Coronary Artery Disease

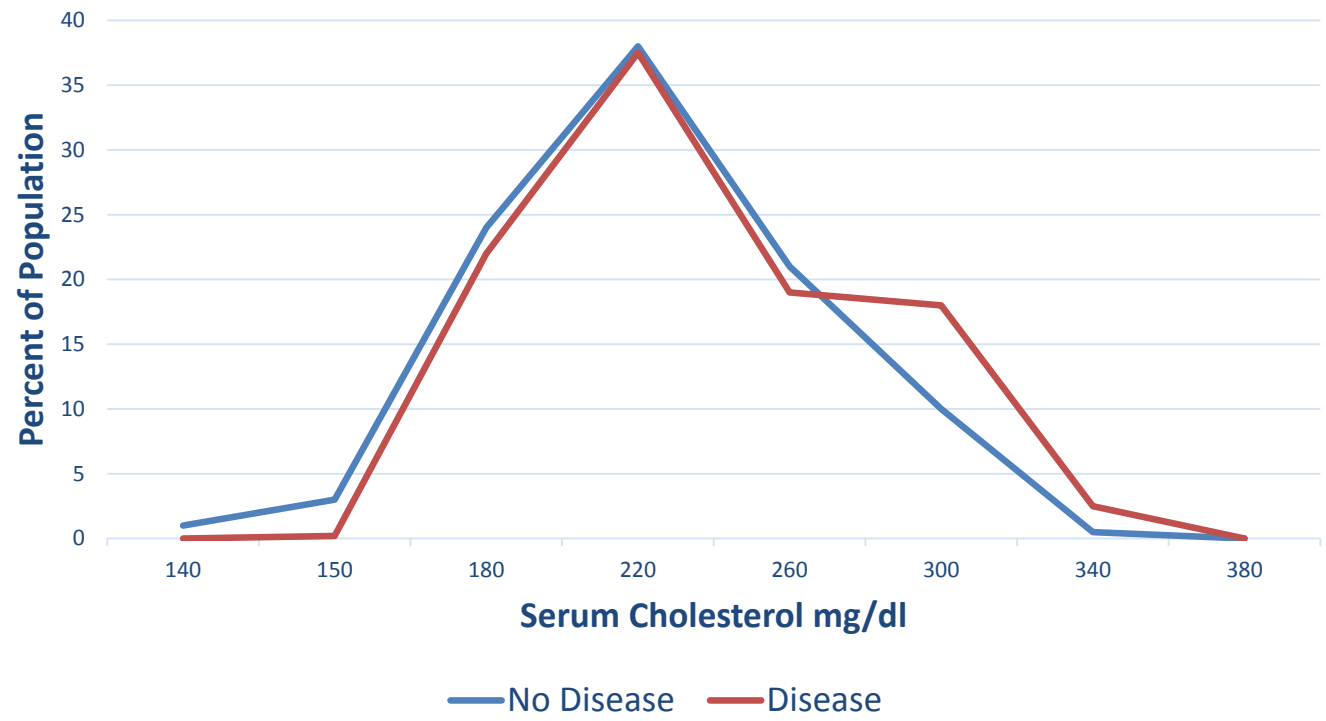


Data from Circulation. 2017 March 7; 135(10): e146–e603.

Comparison of Gene Effects Versus Other Influences on CAD



Serum Cholesterol for Framingham Heart Study Participants who developed or did not develop heart disease



Praluent®
(alirocumab) Injection 75mg/mL
150mg/mL
THE FALL OF HIGH CHOLESTEROL

[Patient Information](#)[Prescribing Information](#)[Healthcare Professionals Site](#)[C](#)

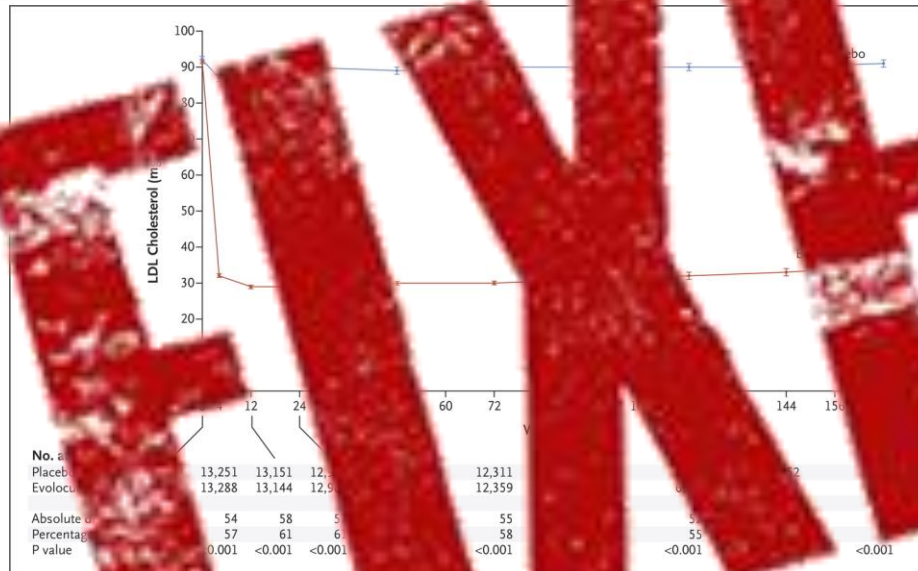
Still struggling to lower your high cholesterol?

When diet and the highest tolerated dose of a statin are not enough, adding PRALUENT® (alirocumab) could make your bad cholesterol **PLUNGE**.

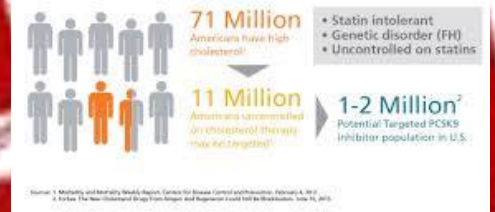
It's THE FALL OF HIGH CHOLESTEROL.



Low-Density Lipoprotein (LDL) Cholesterol Level

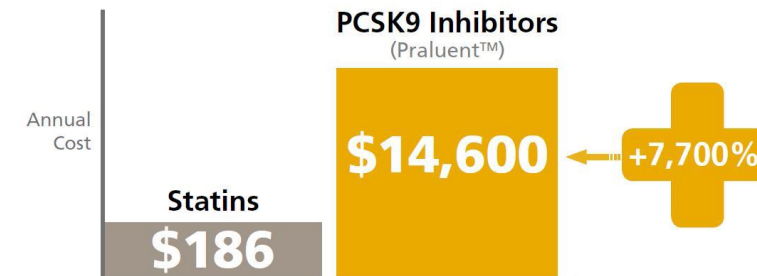


Who may need PCSK9 Inhibitors?



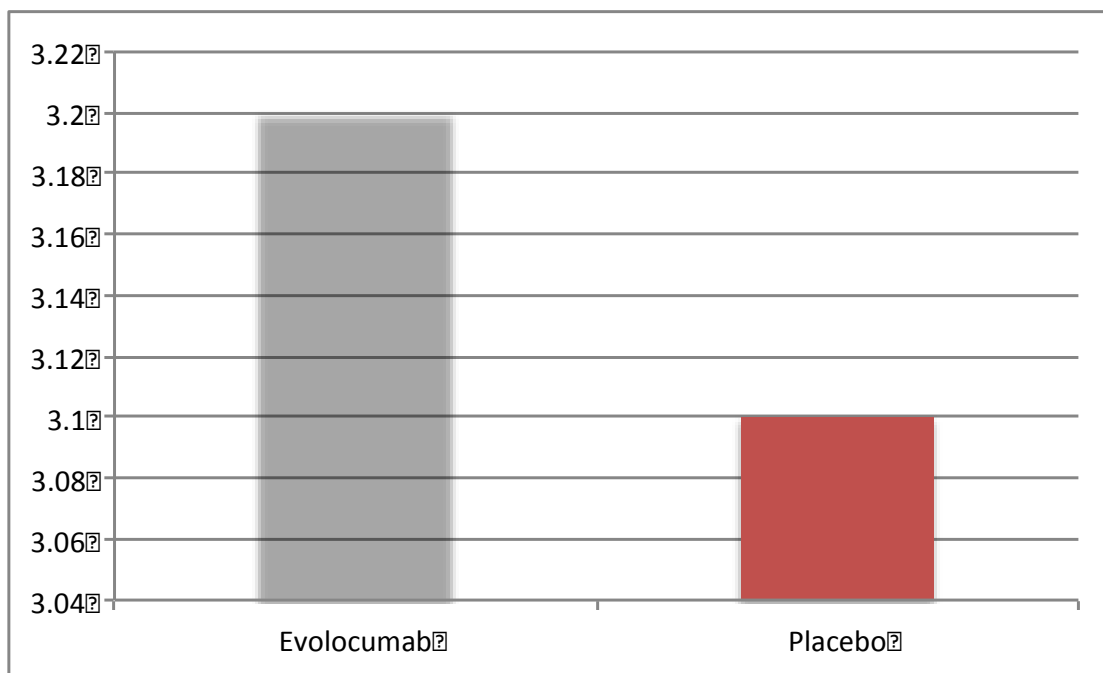
Average Annual Cost of Therapy

Costs could soar with widespread use of PCSK9 Inhibitors



Statin cost: WAC drug costs for atorvastatin. OptumRx Q2-2015 utilization data.
Reuters. New heart drugs come in more expensive than expected. Jul 27, 2015.

All Cause Mortality



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Angioplasty
with

Plaque ent
LBI

W



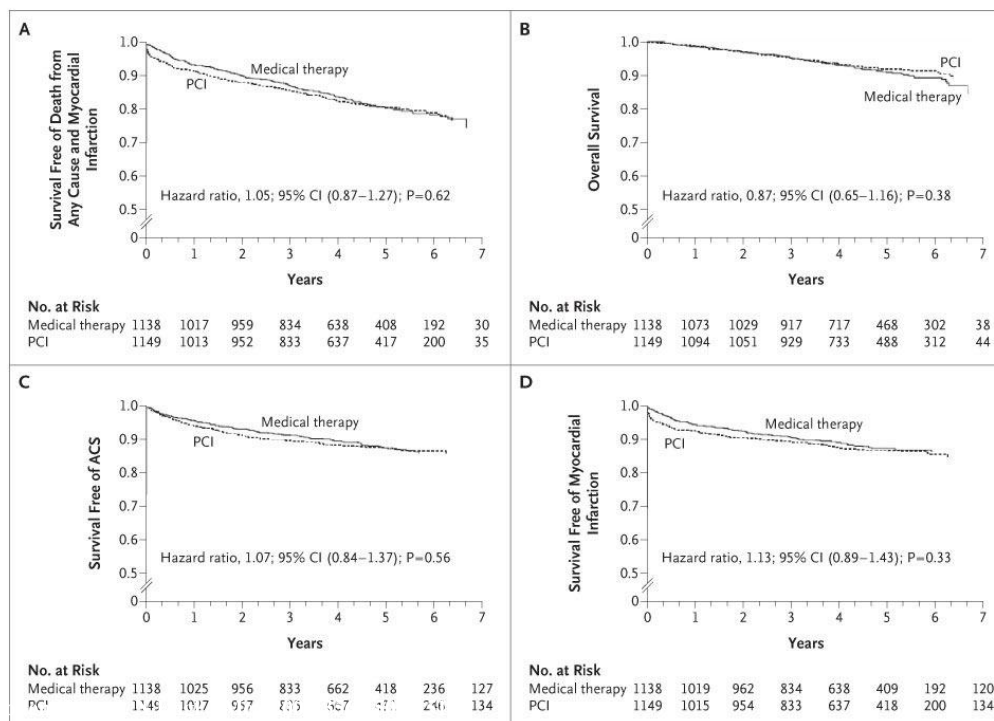
Clinical Outcomes Utilizing Revascularization and Aggressive Drug Evaluation (COURAGE) Boden et al, NEJM 356:1503-1516

- 2287 patients who had objective evidence of myocardial ischemia and significant coronary artery disease randomly assigned to patients to undergo
 - PCI with optimal medical therapy (PCI group)
 - optimal medical therapy alone (medical-therapy group).
- Primary outcome was death from any cause and nonfatal myocardial infarction during a follow-up period of 2.5 to 7.0 years (median, 4.6)

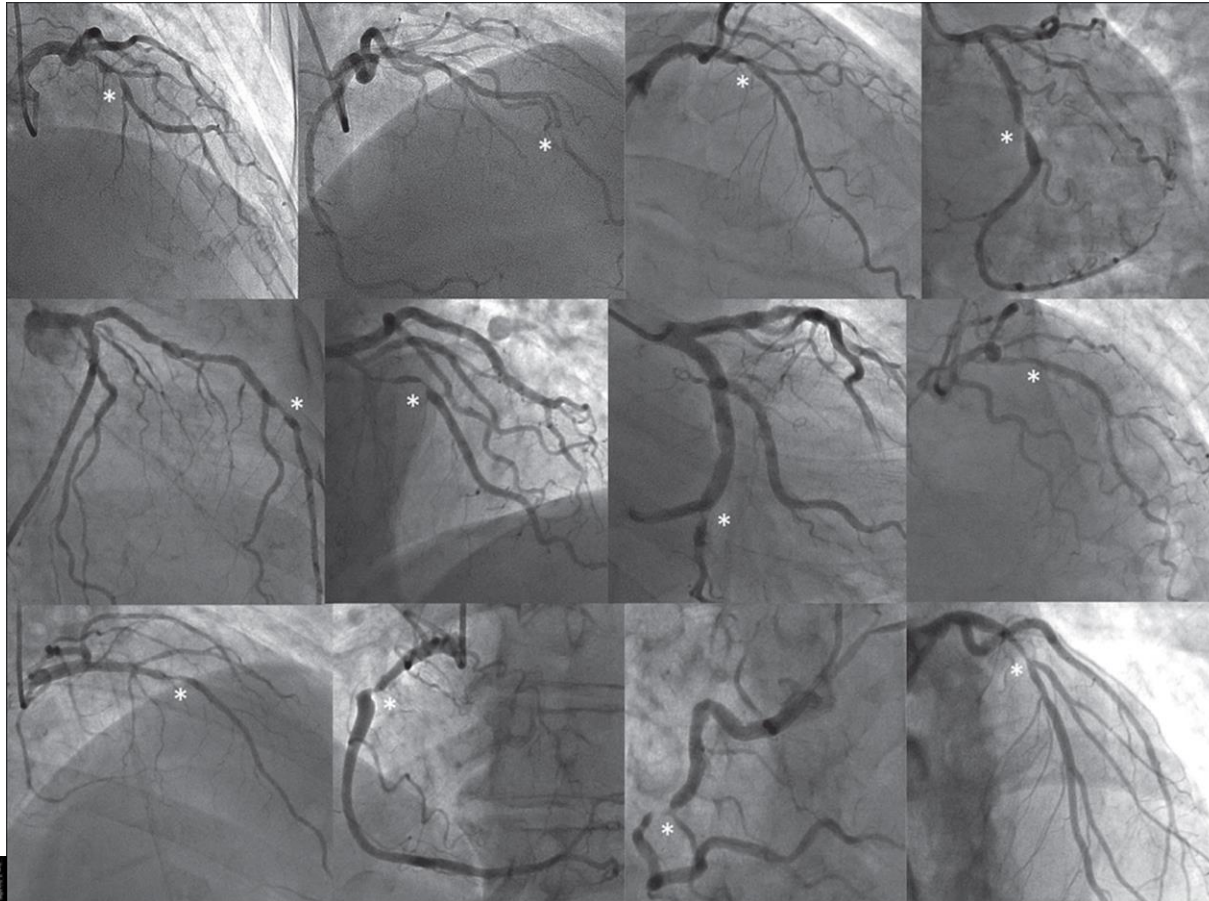


COURAGE TRIAL

Kaplan-Meier Survival Curves



ORBITA: Coronary angiograms of the first 12 consecutively randomized patients



Effects of PCI on Primary and Secondary Outcomes in ORBITA

	PCI	Placebo
Exercise time (s)		
Patients assessed	104	90
Pre-randomisation	528.0 (178.7)	490.0 (195.0)
Follow-up	556.3 (178.7)	501.8 (190.9)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	28.4	11.8
	(95% CI -11.6 to 45.1)	(95% CI -7.8 to 31.3)
Difference in increment between groups	16.6	-
	(95% CI -8.9 to 42.0)	-
p value	0.200	-
Time to 1 mm ST depression (s)		
Patients assessed	479.7 (141.4)	475.1 (128.7)
Pre-randomisation	27	18
Follow-up	473.7 (129.1)	470.1 (176.0)
Patients assessed	23	21
p value between groups	0.164	-
Peak oxygen uptake (mL/min)		
Patients assessed	99	89
Pre-randomisation	1715.0 (638.1)	1707.4 (567.0)
Follow-up	1713.0 (583.7)	1718.3 (550.4)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	-2.0	10.9
	(95% CI -54.1 to 50.1)	(95% CI -47.3 to 69.0)
Difference in increment between groups	-12.9	-
	(95% CI -99.2 to 64.3)	-
p value	0.741	-
SAQ physical limitation		
Patients assessed	100	88
Pre-randomisation	71.3 (22.5)	69.1 (24.7)
Follow-up	78.6 (24.0)	78.1 (24.7)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	7.4	9.0
	(19.7; 95% CI 3.5 to 11.3)	(21.2; 95% CI 0.5 to 9.5)
Difference in increment between groups	2.4	-
	(95% CI -3.5 to 8.3)	-
p value	0.420	-
SAQ angina frequency		
Patients assessed	103	90
Pre-randomisation	63.2 (20.4)	60.0 (25.1)
Follow-up	74.4 (21.4)	67.7 (22.1)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	11.2	7.7
	(20.3; 95% CI 7.2 to 15.1)	(22.7; 95% CI 2.9 to 12.4)
Difference in increment between groups	3.5	-
	(95% CI -2.6 to 9.6)	-
p value	0.260	-
SAQ angina stability		
Patients assessed	102	89
Pre-randomisation	64.7 (25.5)	68.5 (24.3)
Follow-up	60.5 (23.7)	63.5 (25.6)
Increment (Pre-randomisation to follow-up)	-4.2	-5.1
	(33.4; 95% CI -10.7 to 2.4)	(31.6; 95% CI -11.7 to 1.6)
Difference in increment between groups	0.9	-
	(95% CI -8.4 to 10.2)	-
p value	0.851	-
ES-SF-SL-QoL		
Patients assessed	103	89
Pre-randomisation	0.80 (0.21)	0.79 (0.22)
Follow-up	0.83 (0.21)	0.82 (0.20)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	0.03	0.03
	(0.14; 95% CI 0.00 to 0.06)	(0.17; 95% CI 0.00 to 0.07)
Difference in increment between groups	0.00	-
	(95% CI -0.04 to 0.04)	-
p value	0.994	-
Peak stress wall motion index score		
Patients assessed	91	70
Pre-randomisation	1.08 (0.12)	1.07 (0.11)
Follow-up	1.02 (0.05)	1.09 (0.14)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	-0.05	0.02
	(0.12; 95% CI -0.08 to -0.03)	(0.10; 95% CI -0.01 to 0.04)
Difference in increment between groups	-0.07	-
	(95% CI -0.11 to -0.04)	-
p value	<0.0001	-
Duke treadmill score		
Patients assessed	104	90
Pre-randomisation	4.24 (4.82)	4.18 (4.65)
Follow-up	5.46 (4.79)	4.28 (4.58)
Increment (pre-randomisation to follow-up)	1.22	0.10
	(4.36; 95% CI 0.03 to 2.40)	(5.08; 95% CI -0.99 to 1.19)
Difference in increment between groups	1.12	-
	(2.08; 95% CI 0.03 to 2.21)	-
p value	0.002	-

- No effect for primary outcome (Exercise time)
- No effect for 7 of 8 secondary outcome measures
- Effect for wall motion significant

Logic

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death
- High cholesterol predicts death from heart disease
- Dietary habits contribute to high serum cholesterol
- National programs to modify diet will reduce deaths from heart disease



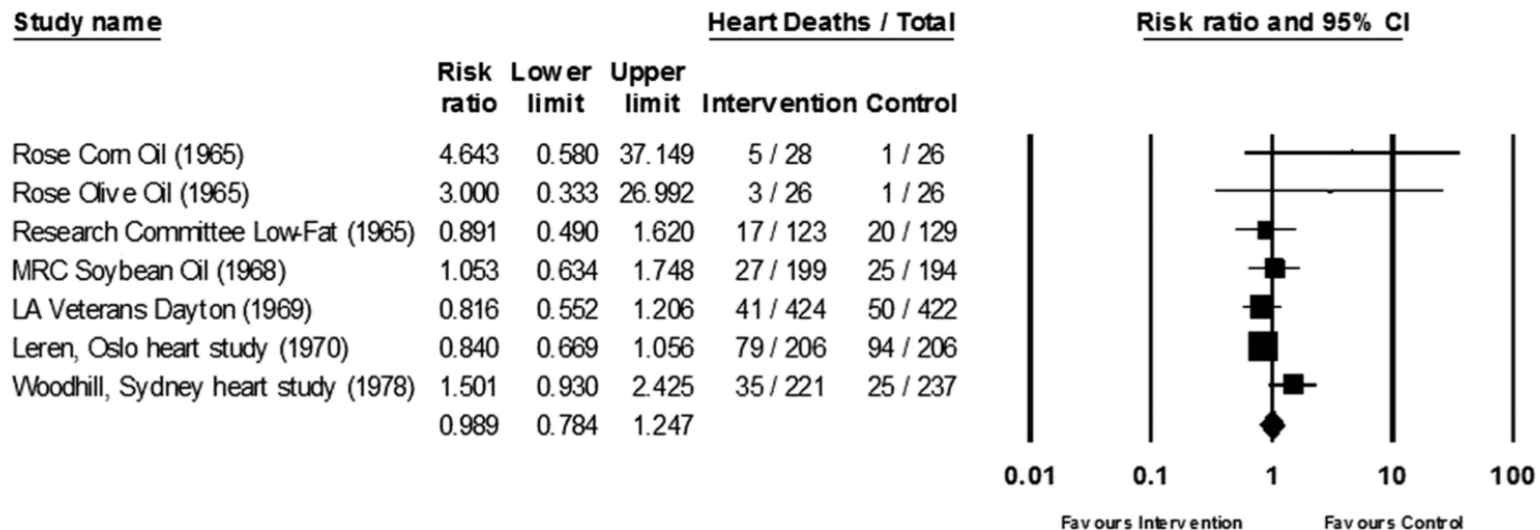
Harcomb et al, 2015

2467 males participated in six dietary trials: five secondary prevention studies and one including healthy participants

- 2467 males participated in six dietary trials: five secondary prevention studies and one including healthy participants.
- All cause mortality: The risk ratio (RR) from meta-analysis was 0.996 (95% CI 0.865 to 1.147).
- CHD Mortality: 207 and 216 deaths in the intervention and control groups, respectively. The RR was 0.989 (95% CI 0.784 to 1.247).

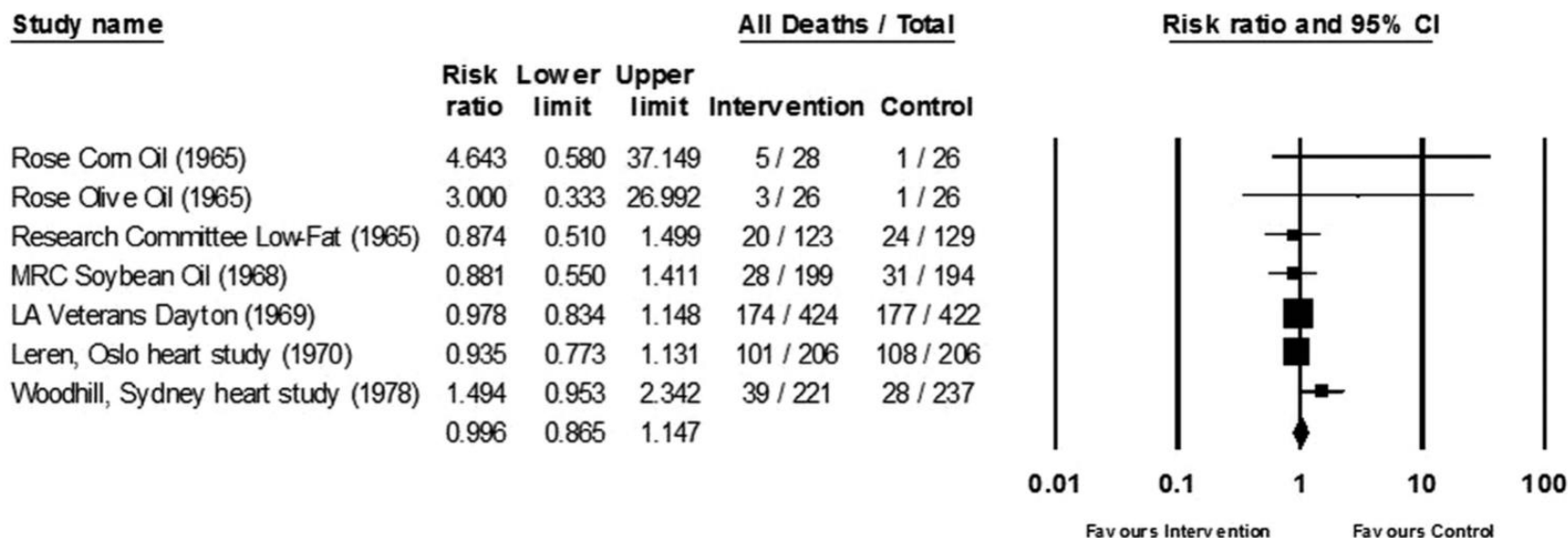
Harcombe et al (2015). Trials on dietary guidelines and heart disease deaths

Dietary Intervention & Heart Deaths



Harcombe et al (2015). Trials on dietary guidelines and all cause deaths

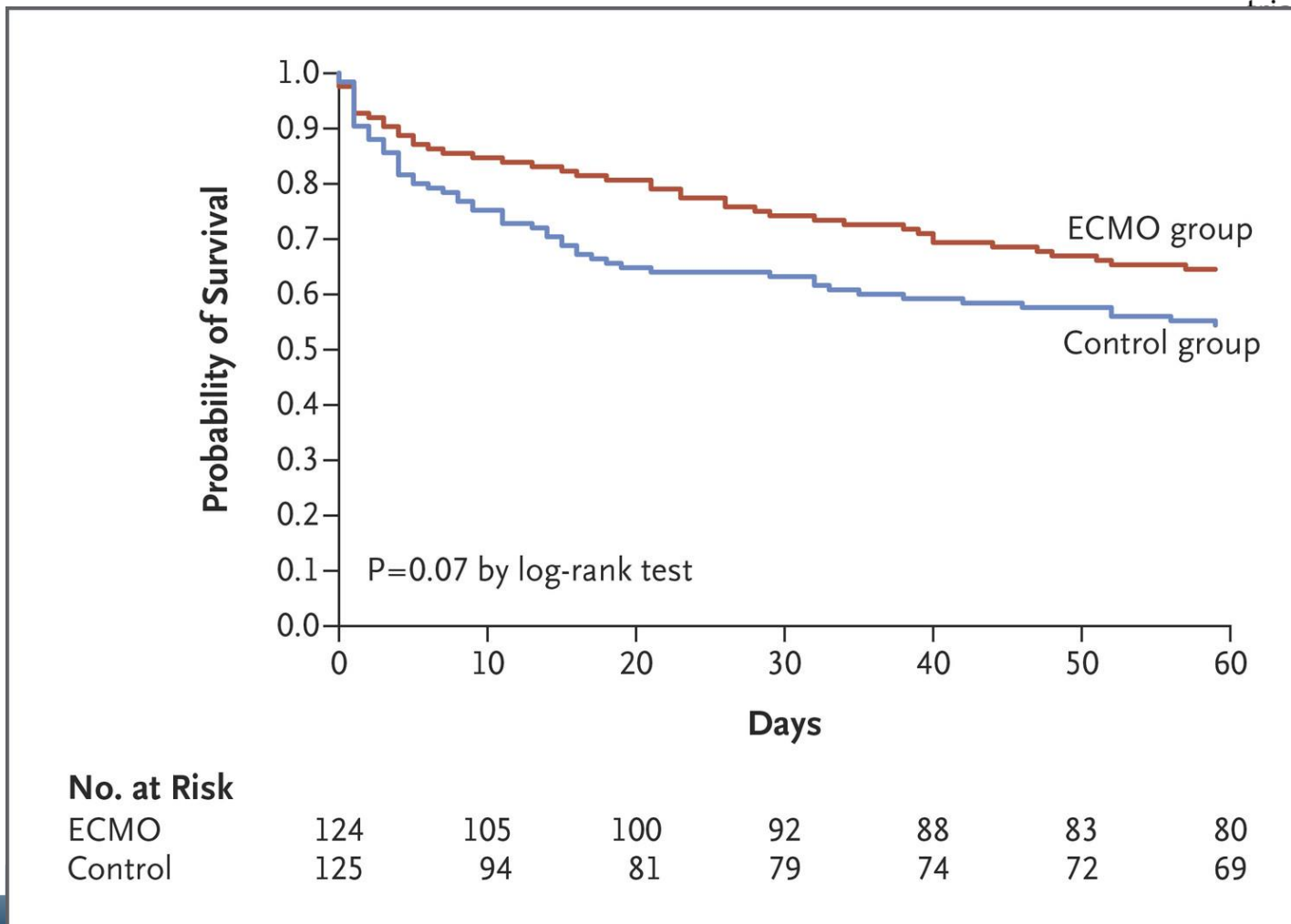
Dietary Intervention & All Deaths



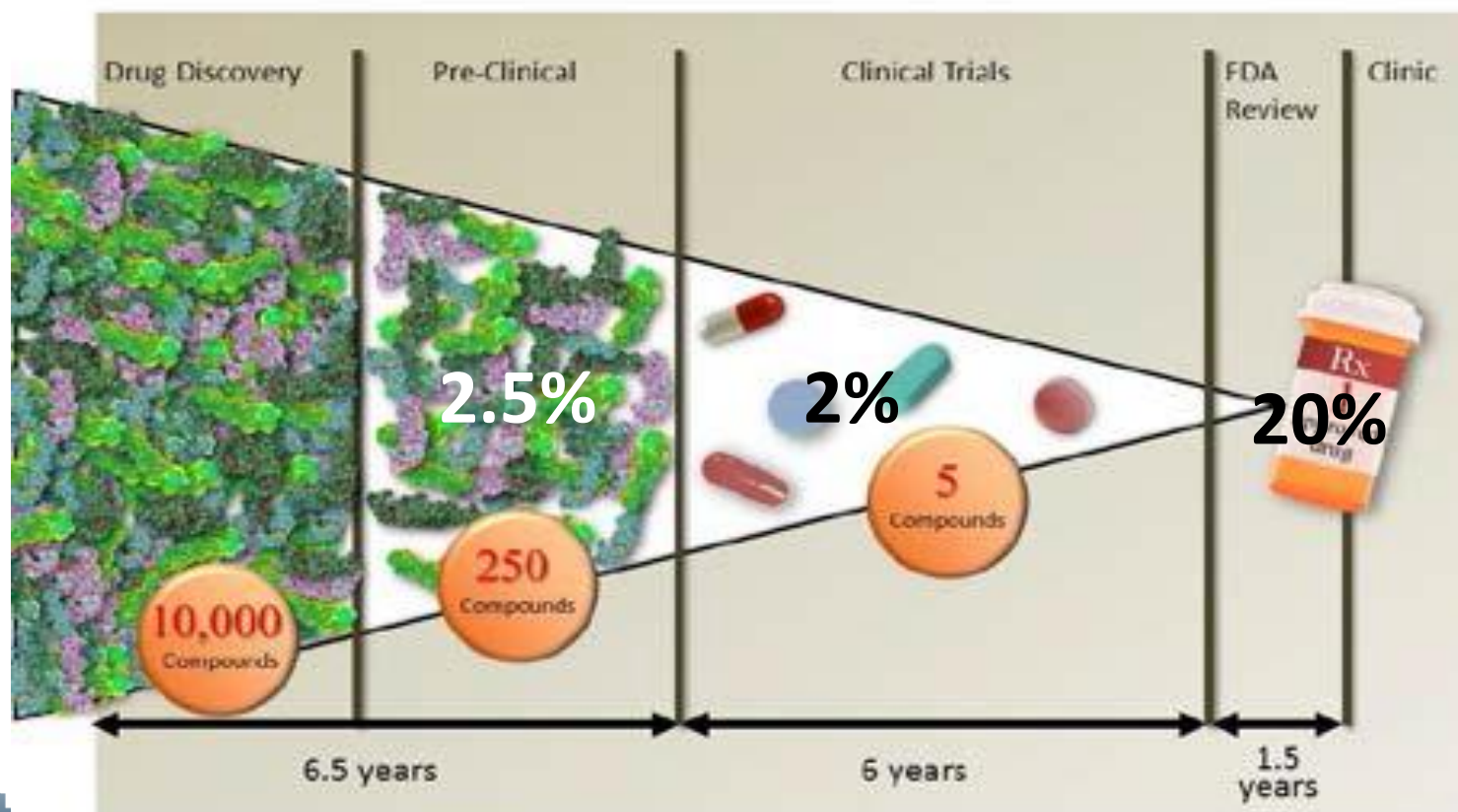
Today's NEJM

- International clinical trial randomly assigned patients with very severe ARDS to
 - receive immediate venovenous ECMO (ECMO group) or
 - continued conventional treatment (control group)
 - The primary end point was mortality at 60 days

Today's NEJM : Kaplan–Meier Survival Estimates in the Intention-to-Treat Population during the First 60 Days of the Trial.

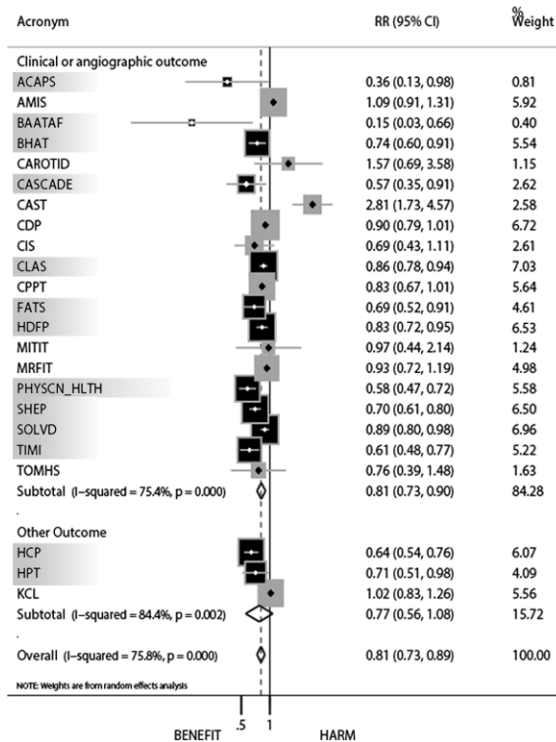


Therapeutic Development Pipeline



How often are trials null for primary outcomes?: Since 2000, most of the time

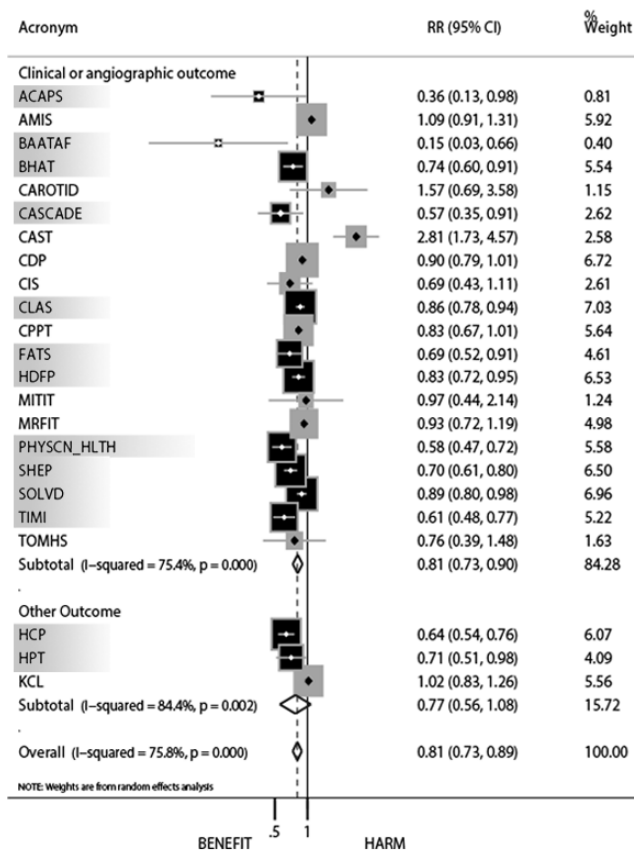
Panel A. Meta-analysis of drug and supplement RCT primary outcomes
Published Pre-2000 prior to registration



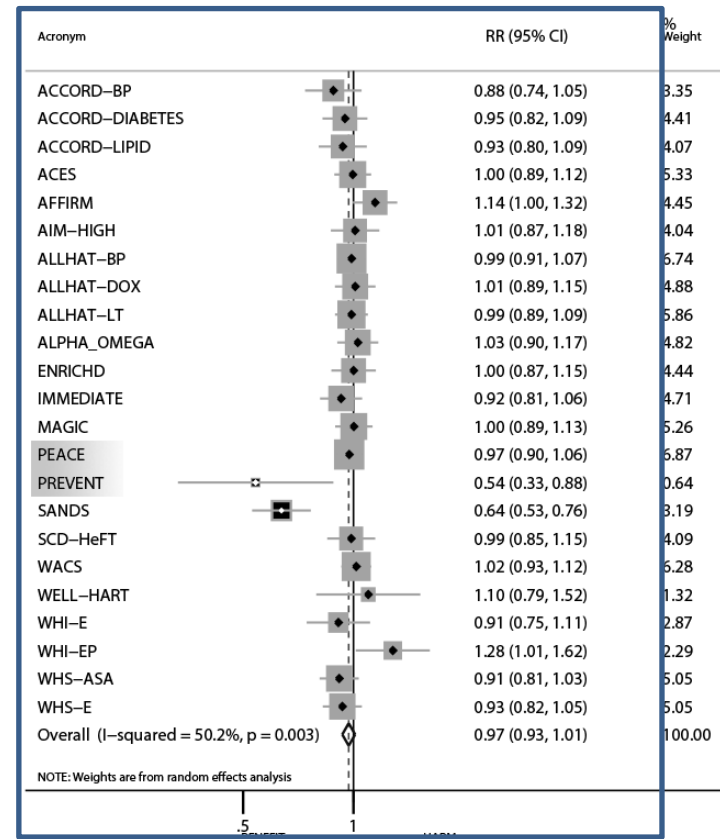
- FDA Modernization ACT of 1997
- Created high transparency reporting standards
- Initiated Clinical Trials.gov
- NHLBI required all clinical trials grantees to register by 2000

How often are trials null for primary outcomes?: Since 2000, most of the time

Panel A. Meta-analysis of drug and supplement RCT primary outcomes
Published Pre-2000 prior to registration



Panel B. Meta-analysis of drug and supplement RCT primary outcomes
Published 2000 or later after registration



Sweeping plan to revamp biomedical innovation: The 21st Century Cures Act

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- A U.S. House of Representatives panel today released a widely anticipated proposal for speeding, the development of new medical treatments. The massive, 393-page document, dubbed the 21st Century Cures Act....



Sweeping plan to revamp biomedical innovation: The 21st Century Cures Act includes controversial ideas for NIH



kids
FOR THE CURE®

- Focus on Surrogate endpoints
 - Speeds up process
- Dormant Therapies Act, takes aim at drugs for complex diseases, such as Alzheimer's, that are particularly time-consuming to develop and test.

Public Policy: Zuckerman reviewed all recent FDA cancer drug approvals.

- Among 54 new drug licenses for cancer therapeutics, 36 had been approved on the basis of surrogate markers. Typically tumor shrinkage was used as a surrogate for prolonging life
- Among the 36 drugs approved on the basis of surrogates,
 - For 31 of 36 there was no evidence of improved life expectancy.
 - 15 of the 18 drugs did not improve quality of life and the remaining two drugs actually made quality-of-life worse
 - One of the drugs that reduces quality of life and does not increase life expectancy is sold for approximately \$170,000 per person per year.

How are surrogate endpoints treated in public policy?

- USPSTF requires evidence relevant to outcomes rather than surrogate markers
- Very few papers in the behavioral medicine literature report health outcomes, most use surrogate markers
- FDA was trending toward requiring health outcomes, but 21st Century Cures Act will allow a return to approvals based on surrogate markers
- Trump administration argues that relaxing FDA standards will lower drug prices.



Final Teaser

- Is a cancer diagnosis a health outcome?



American Cancer Society On Women Who Question Screening

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Crazy not to be screened

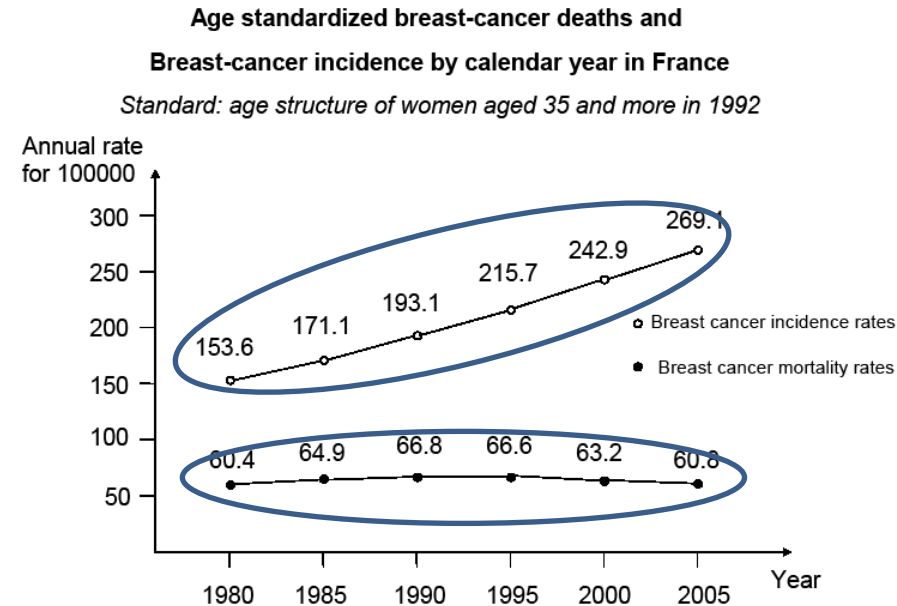
National Poll Results



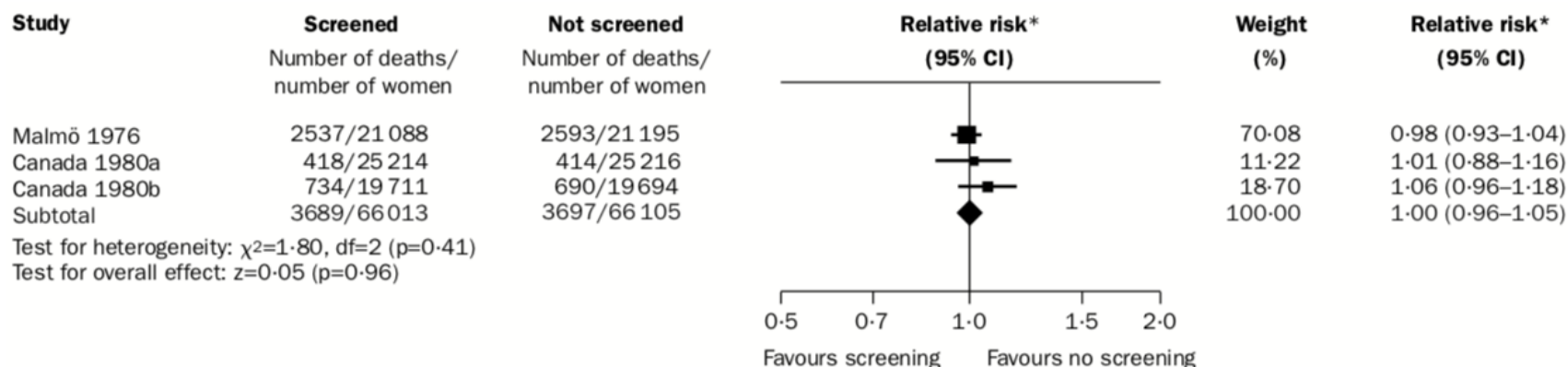
- Cancer screening is almost always a good idea -- 87%
- Finding cancer early saves lives--74%
- An 80 year old woman who decides not to get a mammogram is irresponsible - -41%
- Had a false positive, but still glad I was tested -- 98%

The French Story (Junod, Kaplan, Olsen, Greenland, 2010)

- Screening increases the number of cases detected.
- But, screening has not effect on number of deaths.
- Adjusted for population size, there has been no change in death rates for more than 50 years.



Cochrane Review of Mammography Trials for All Cause Mortality

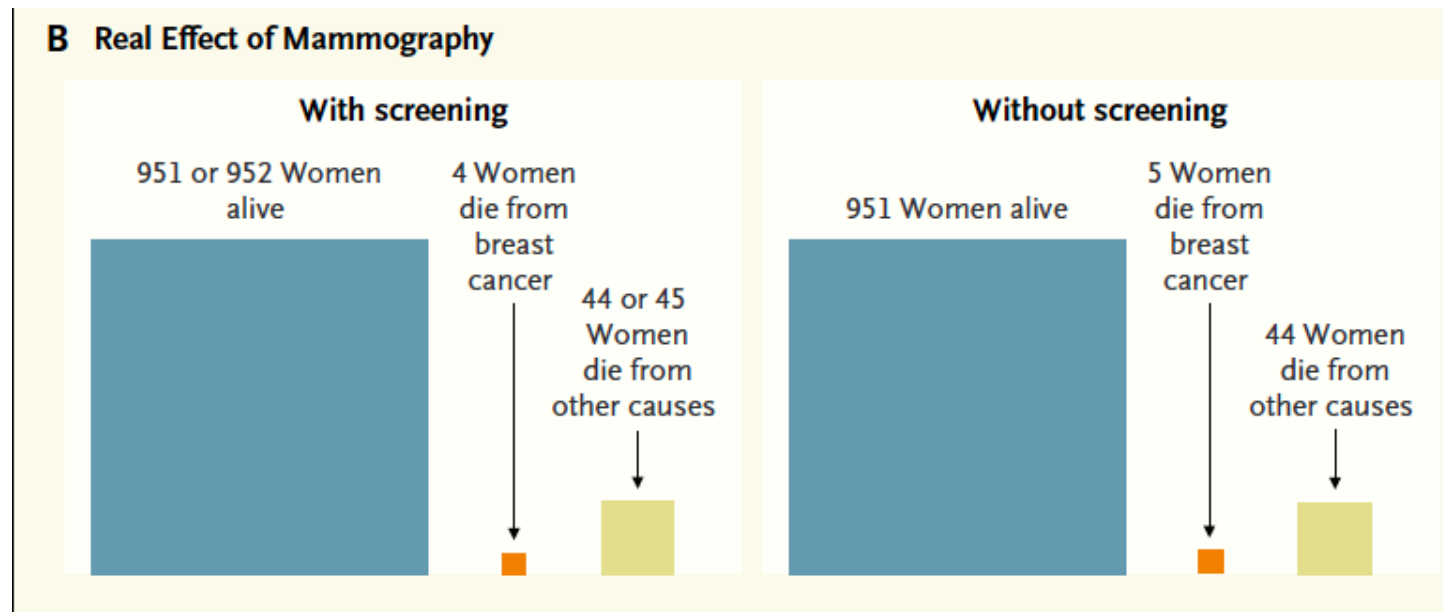


All-cause mortality in medium-quality screening trials after 13 years

*Fixed-effects model.

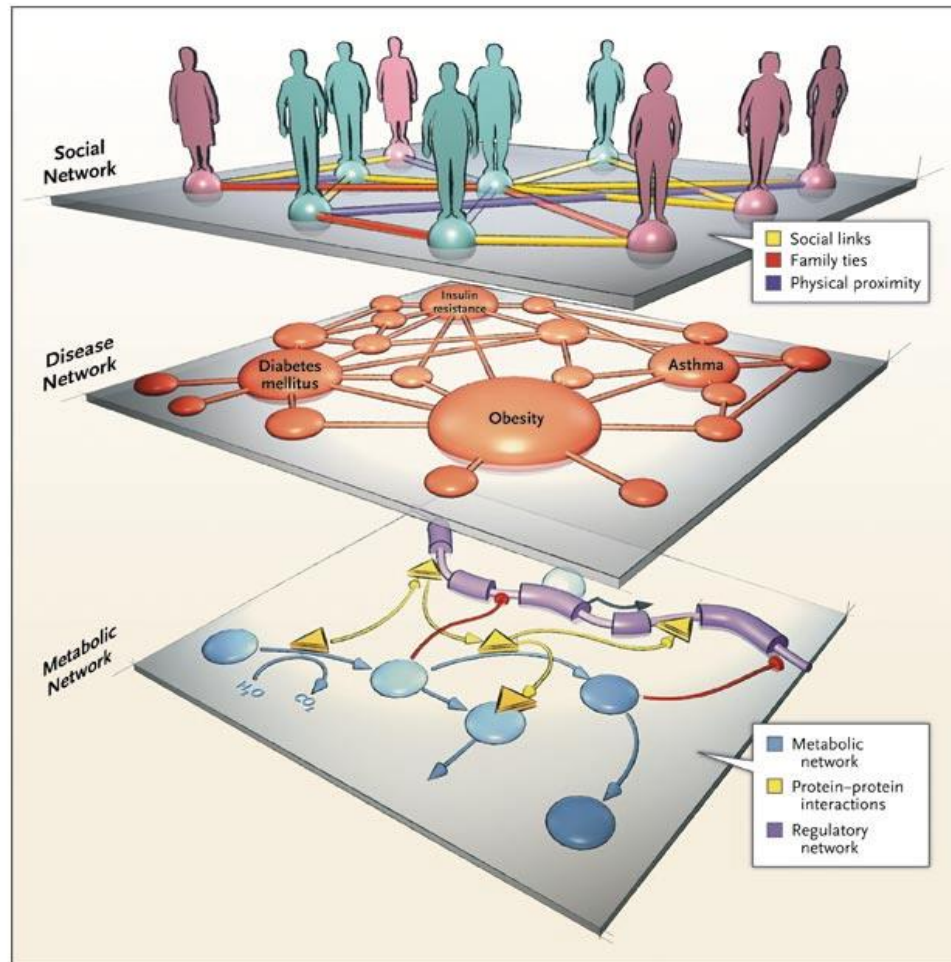
Cancer Screening: A View from the Swiss Medical Board

The actual effect of mammography screening on breast-cancer deaths, with numbers calculated from breast-cancer mortality data for 2008 from the National Cancer Institute and U.S. mortality statistics for 2008, assuming a relative risk reduction of 20% for breast-cancer mortality in women invited to undergo screening



Complex Networks of Direct Relevance to Network Medicine

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Conclusions

- There are only two important outcomes in health care
 - Length of Life
 - Quality of life
- Blood pressure, cholesterol, cortisol, CRP.... are not outcomes, they are surrogate endpoints
- Surrogate end points are meaningful only when shown to be associated with outcomes
- Behavioral medicine needs to shift focus of attention away from surrogate markers and toward outcomes.



What Went Wrong?

- Goal of health care is to increase length of life and quality of life
- Human bodies rarely work like precise machines
- Medications typically do not have just one biological effect
 - They often create cascades of compensatory reactions
 - Measuring single surrogate measures often offers an incomplete picture

