

# Recenti Acquisizioni sul Trattamento Ipolipemizzante nel Paziente con Sindrome Coronarica Acuta

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Domus De Maria (CA)  
5-10 ottobre 2015

# **Conflitto di interessi:**

**Partecipazione a Steering Committee, relatore  
o consulente per:**

**Amgen, Boston Scientific, Menarini, MSD**

# Le Mie Aspettative



# La Triste Realtà



**74**

**Congresso  
Nazionale**



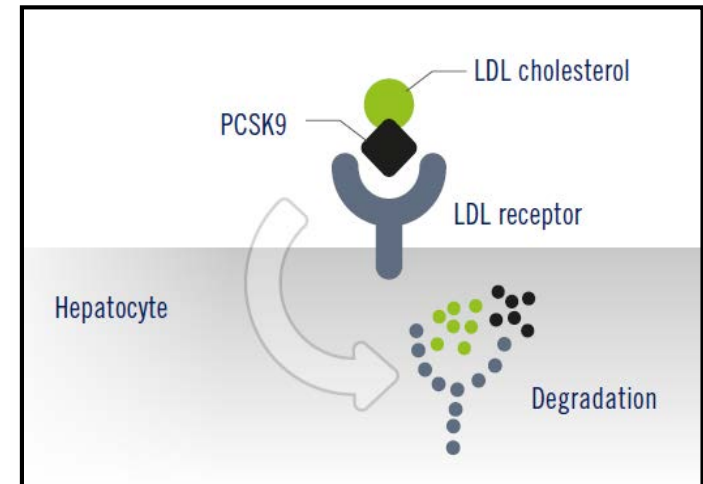
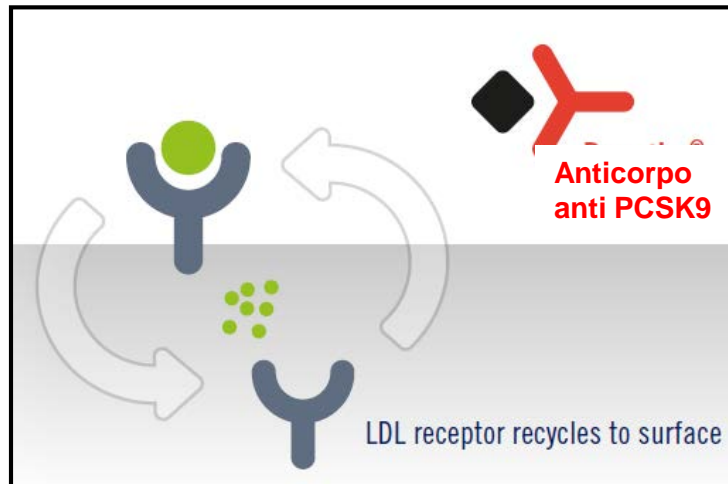
# **Recenti Acquisizioni sul Trattamento Ipolipemizzante nel Paziente con Sindrome Coronarica Acuta**

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# INIBIZIONE DI PCSK9 E RIDUZIONE DI C-LDL

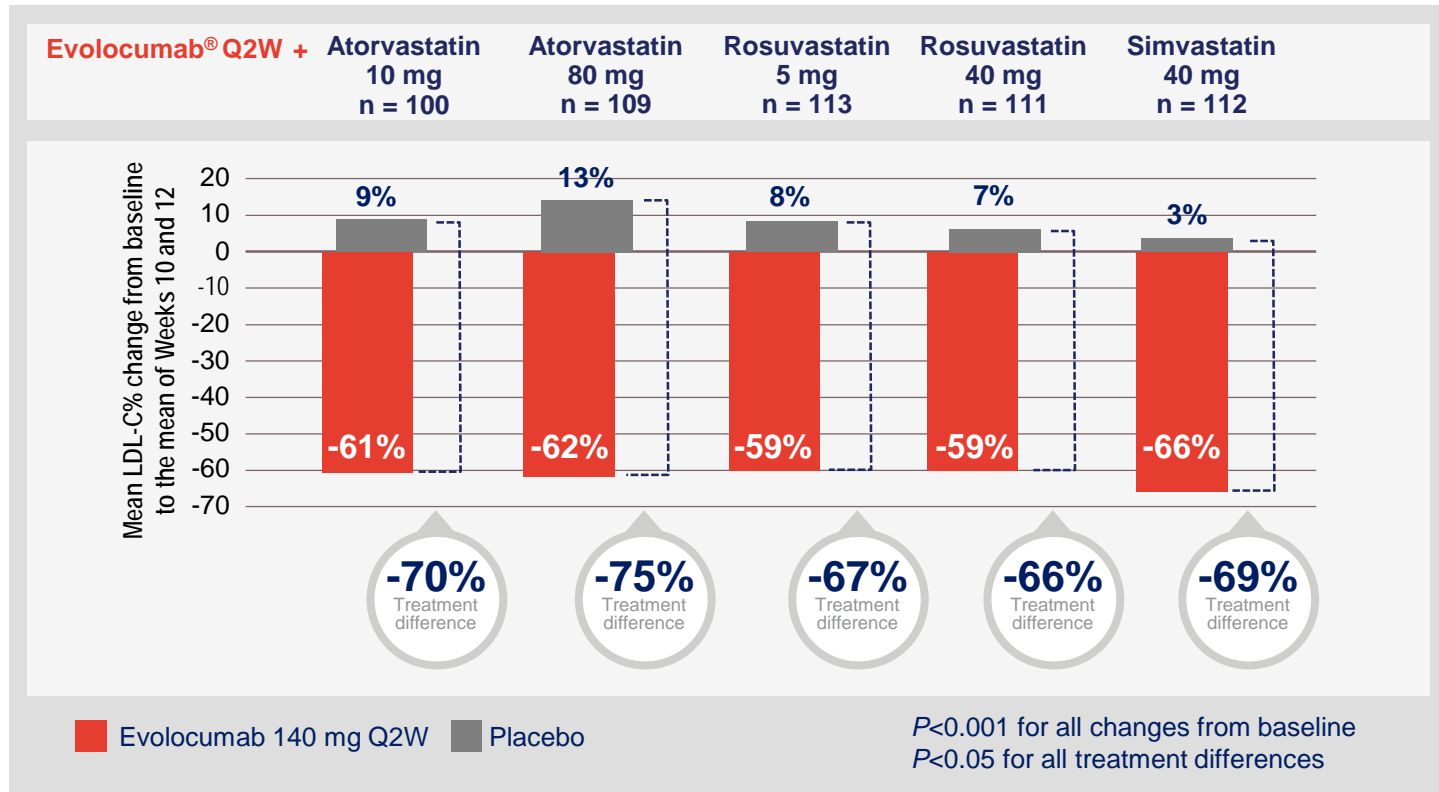
- LDL binds to the LDL receptor and is internalised into the hepatocyte<sup>1</sup>
- LDL is degraded and the receptor recycles to the surface to clear more LDL-C<sup>1</sup>
- PCSK9 is a protein expressed by the liver that binds to LDL receptors and targets them for degradation by the lysosome<sup>2</sup>



- Evolocumab lowers LDL-C levels by inhibiting PCSK9, which increases the number of LDL receptors in the hepatocyte surface, resulting in lower LDL-C plasma concentration

1. Seidah NG, et al. *Circ Res* 2014;114:1022–36.  
2. Lagace TA. *Curr Opin Lipidol* 2014;25:387–93.

# Evolocumab e LDL in Pazienti che Assumono Statine



- When added to statins, Evolocumab delivers intensive LDL-C reductions in patients with primary hypercholesterolaemia or mixed dyslipidaemia

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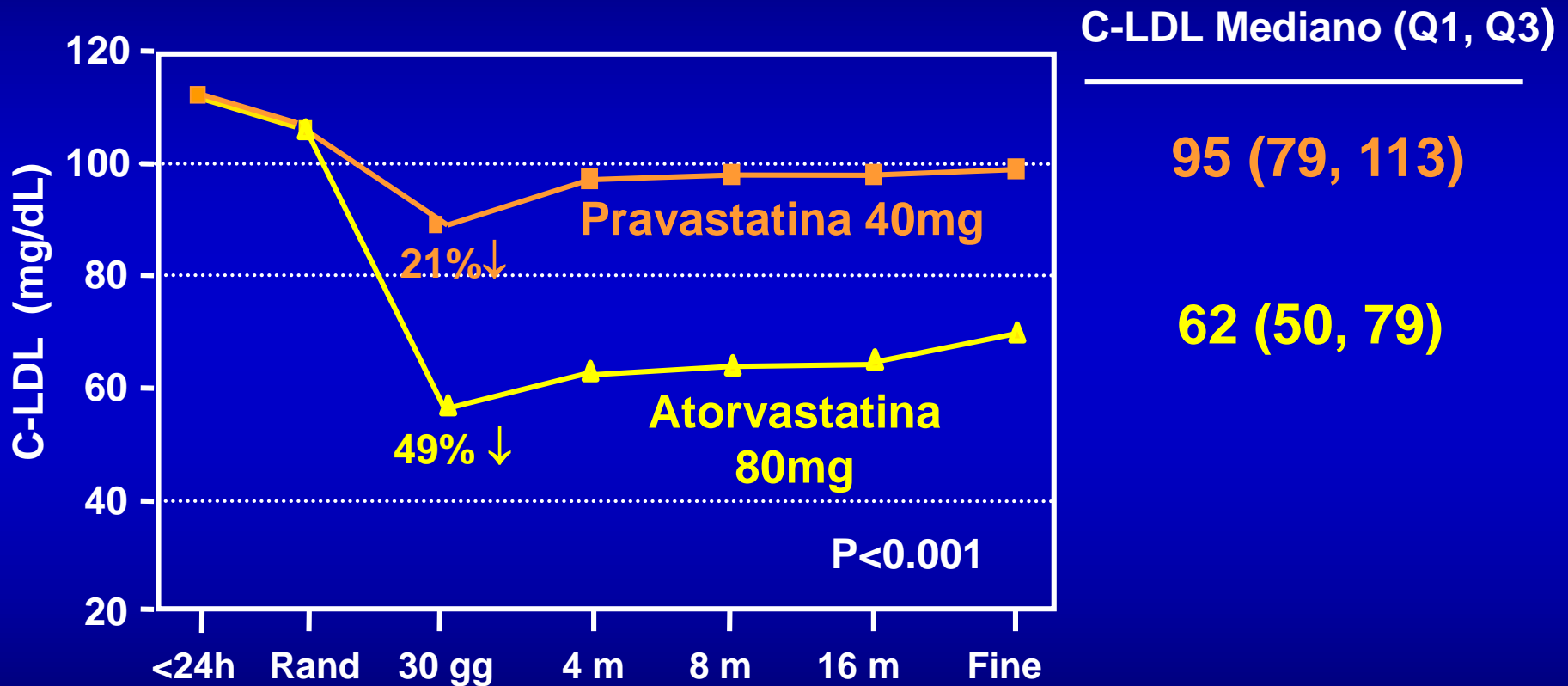


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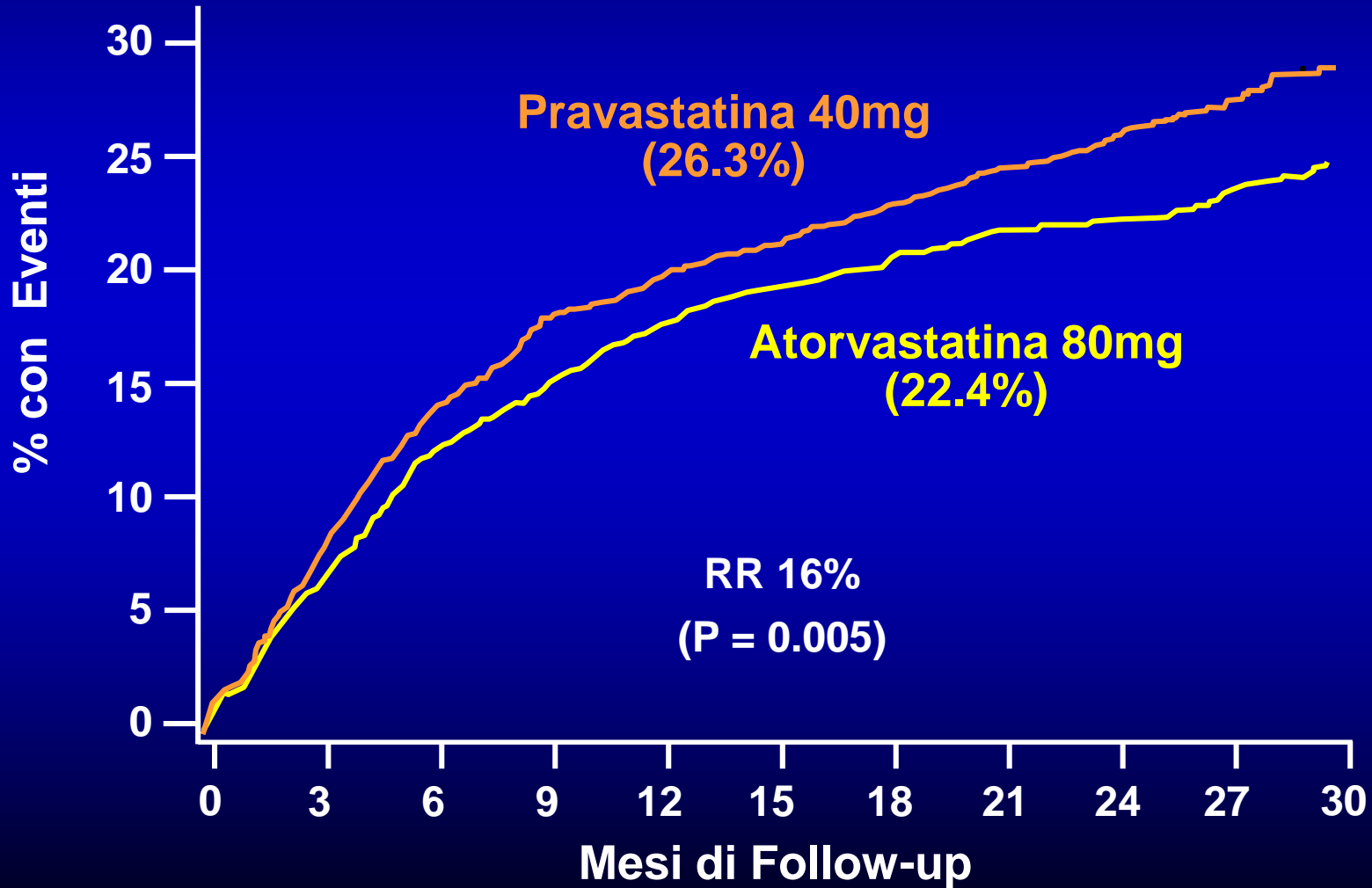


**SI PARTE DALLE STATINE  
AD ALTA POTENZA**

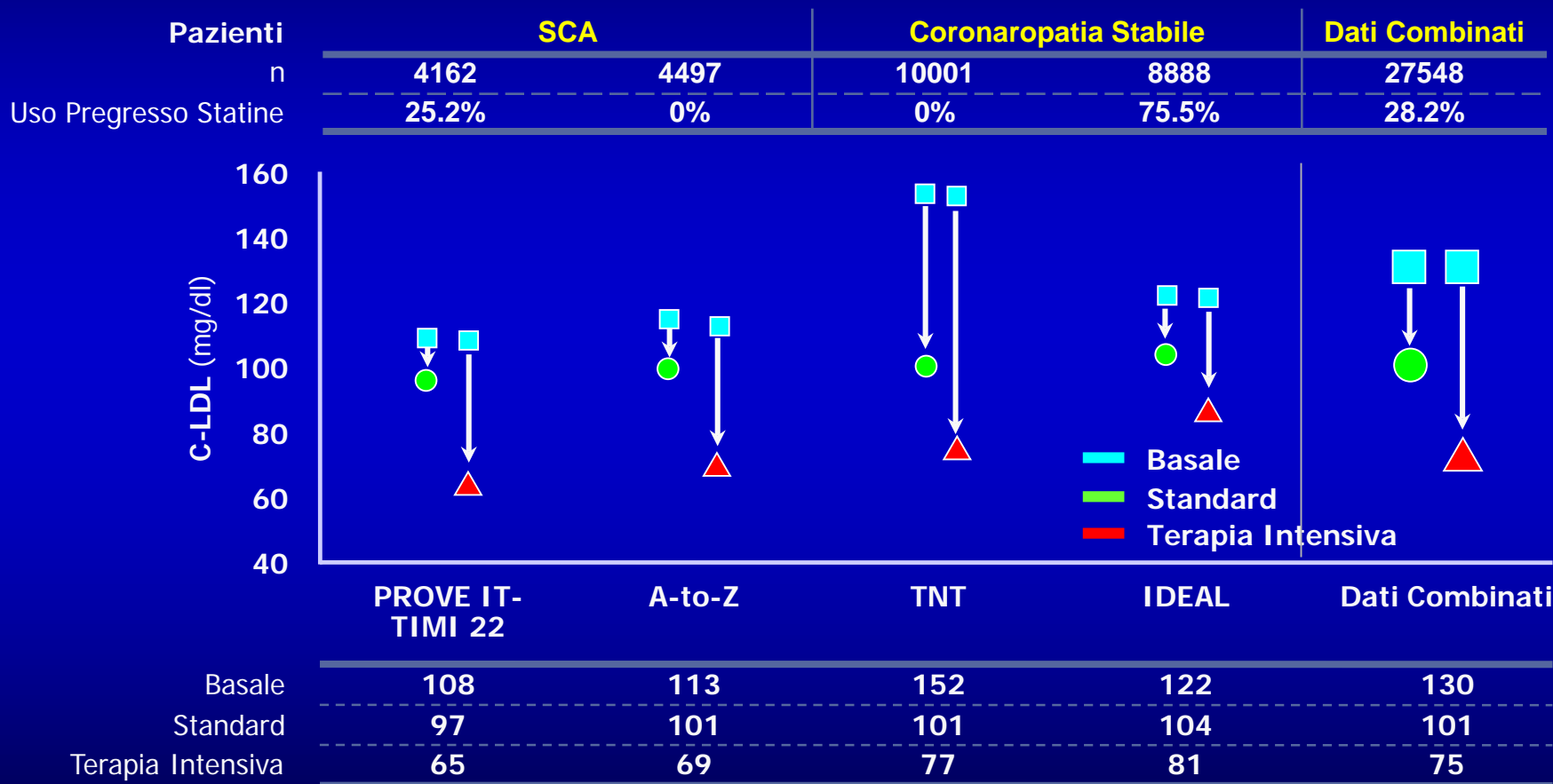
# PROVE – IT: Variazioni di C-LDL Rispetto al Basale (dopo SCA)



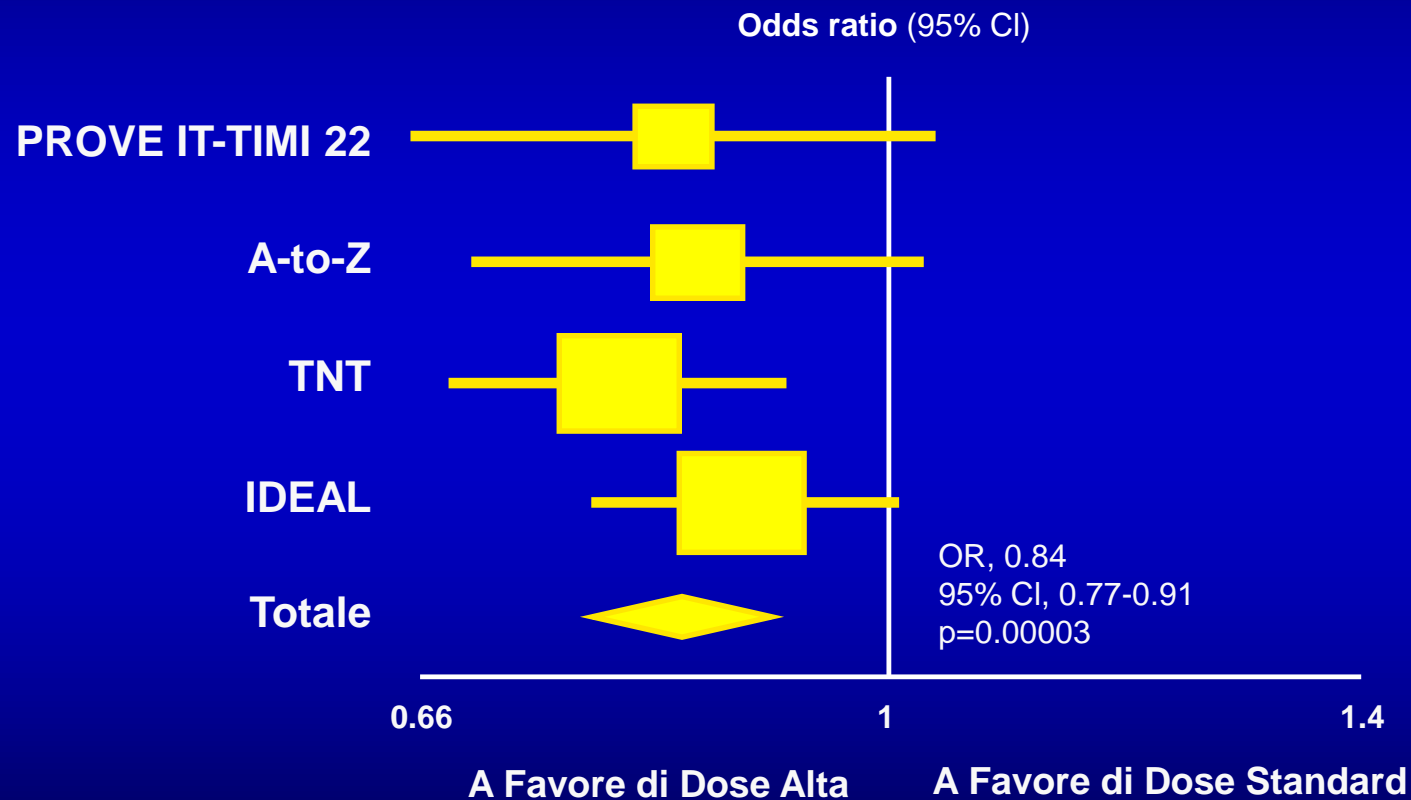
# PROVE – IT : Mortalità Totale ed Eventi CV Maggiori



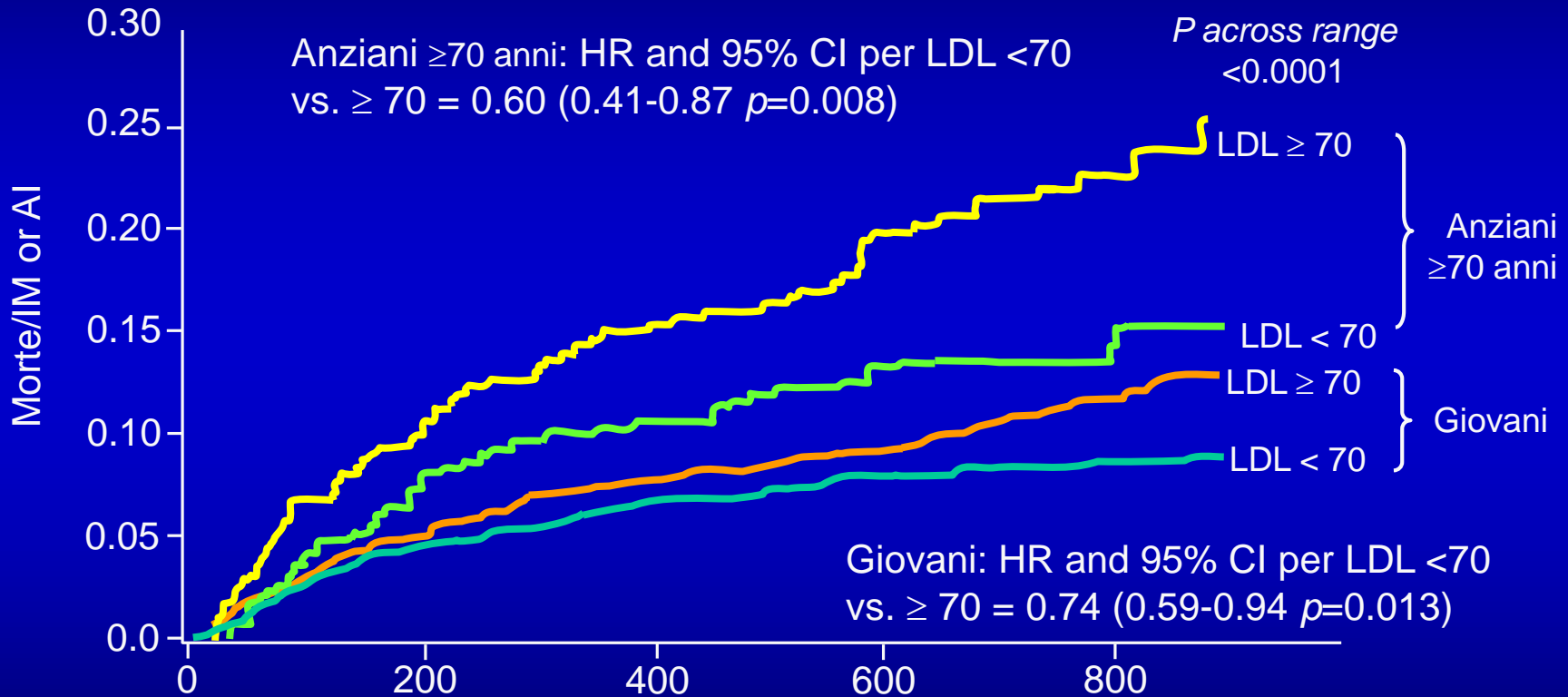
# Livelli di C-LDL negli Studi di Paragone tra Dose di Statine Alta e Standard



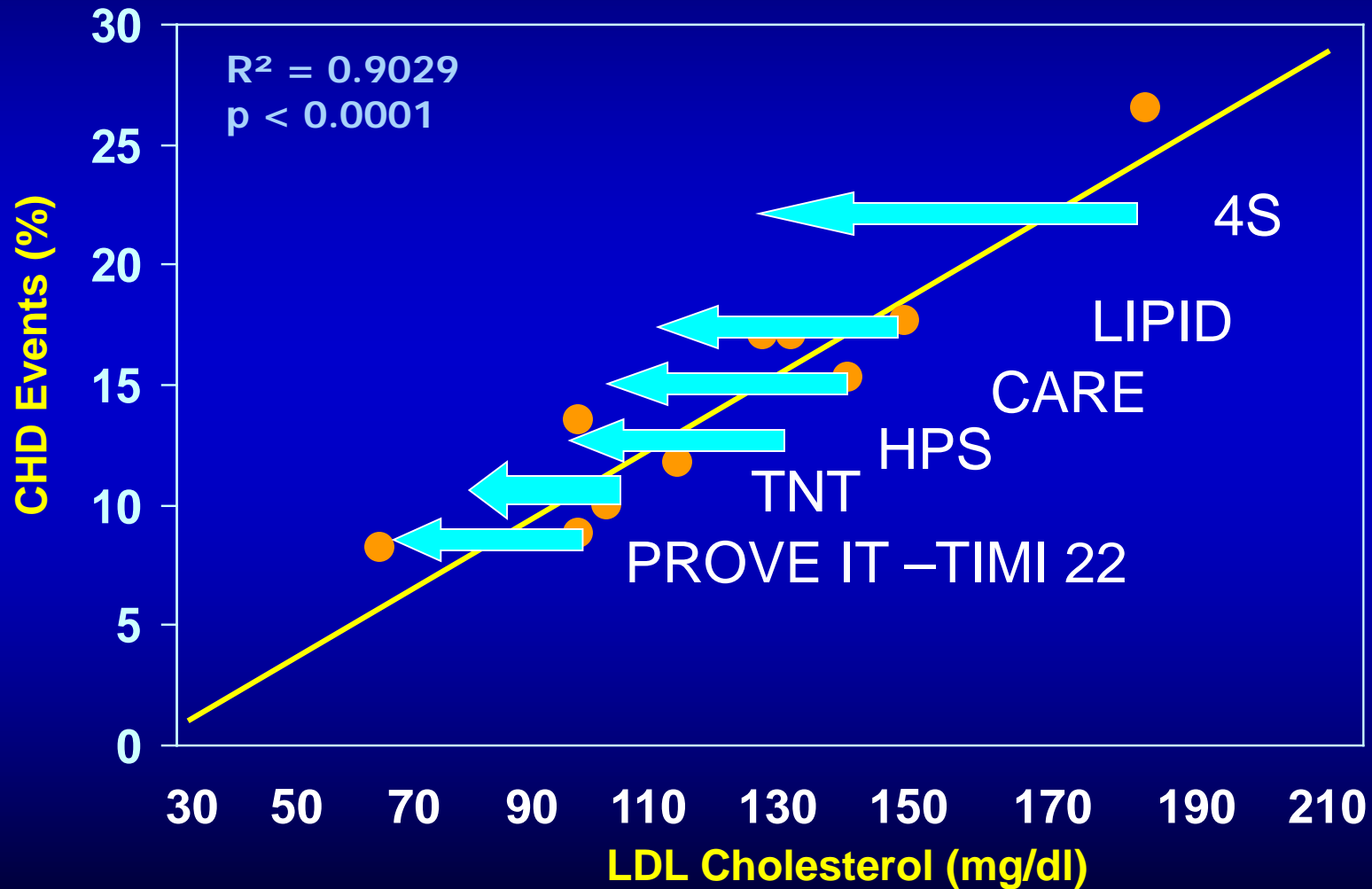
# Morte Coronarica o Infarto Miocardico Benefici di un target LDL “ambizioso”



# Raggiungimento del Target nei Giovani ed Anziani sull'Incidenza di Morte/IMA/Angina Instabile



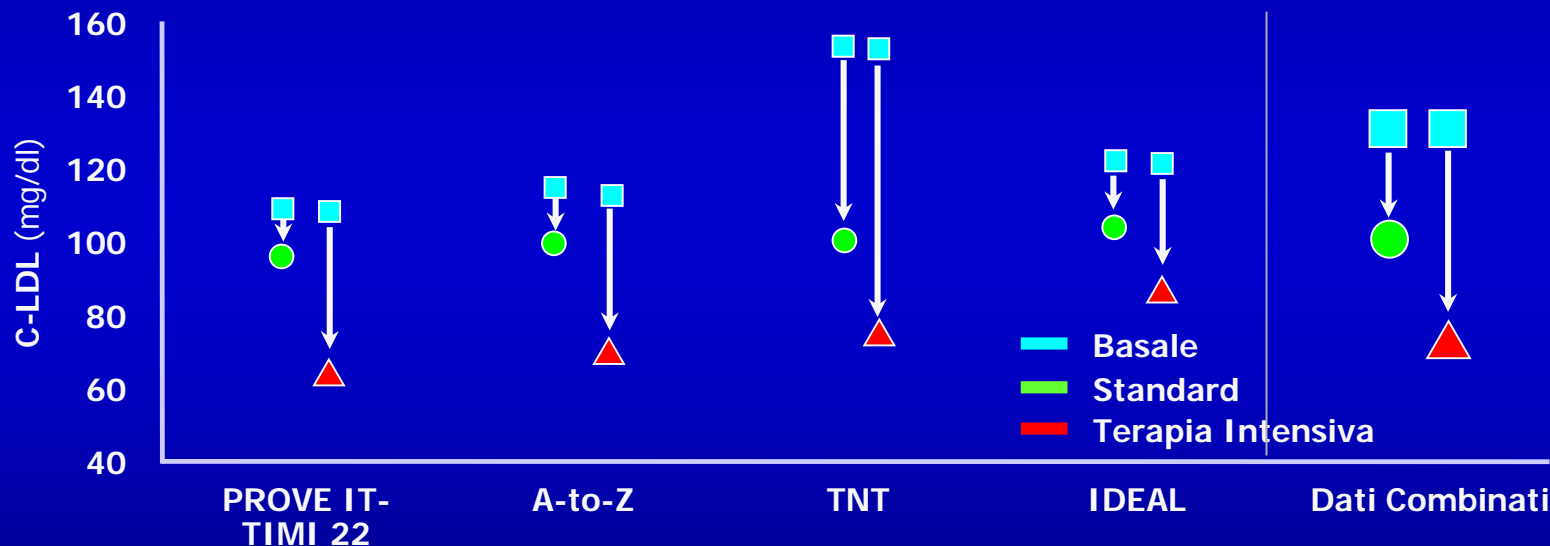
# The Statin Decade: For LDL: “Lower is Better”



Adapted and Updated from O'Keefe, J. et al., *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2004;43:2142-6.

# Livelli di C-LDL negli Studi di Paragone tra Dose di Statine Alta e Standard

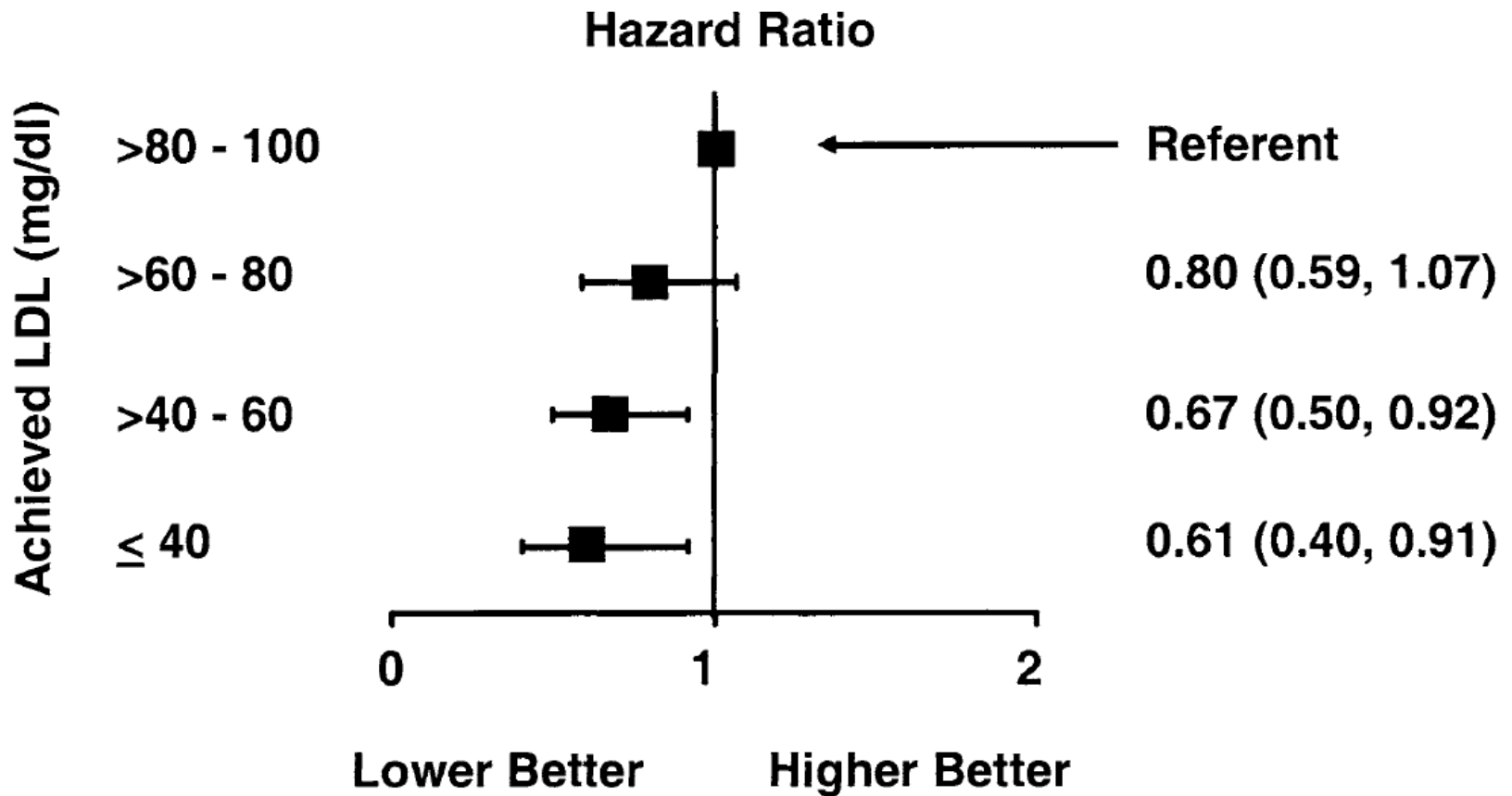
Pazienti	SCA		Coronaropatia Stabile		Dati Combinati
n	4162	4497	10001	8888	27548
Uso Pregresso Statine	25.2%	0%	0%	75.5%	28.2%



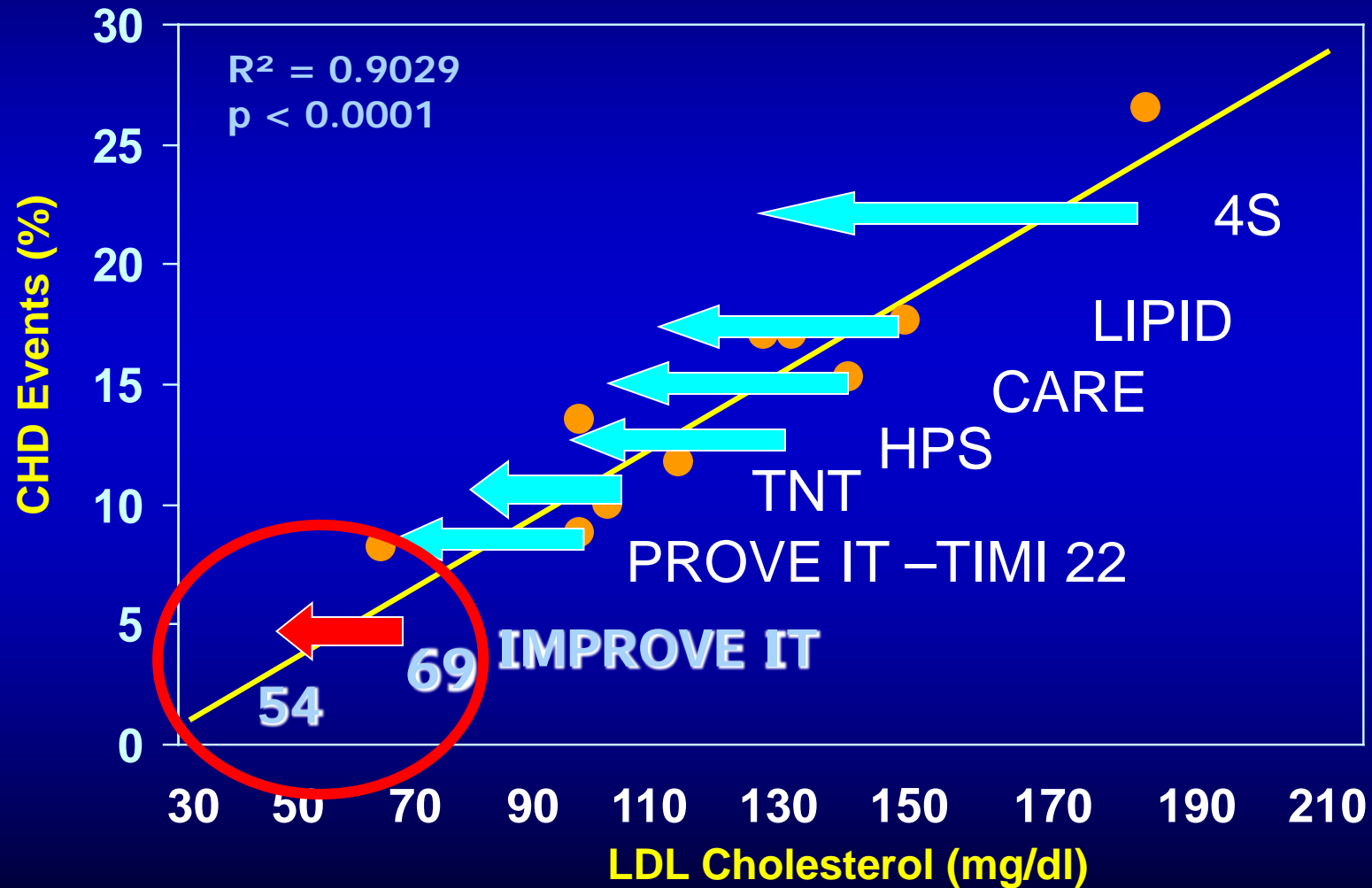
	PROVE IT-TIMI 22	A-to-Z	TNT	IDEAL	Dati Combinati
Basale	108	113	152	122	130
Standard	97	101	101	104	101
Terapia Intensiva	65	69	77	81	75



# Effetti di LDL molto basse nello studio PROVE-IT



# The Statin Decade: For LDL “Lower is Better”



Adapted and Updated from O'Keefe, J. et al., *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2004;43:2142-6.



Hic sunt leones

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

# Ezetimibe Added to Statin Therapy after Acute Coronary Syndromes

Christopher P. Cannon, M.D., Michael A. Blazing, M.D.,  
Robert P. Giugliano, M.D., Amy McCagg, B.S., Jennifer A. White, M.S.,  
Pierre Theroux, M.D., Harald Darius, M.D., Basil S. Lewis, M.D.,  
Ton Oude Ophuis, M.D., Ph.D., J. Wouter Jukema, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Gaetano M. De Ferrari, M.D., Witold Ruzyllo, M.D., Paul De Lucca, Ph.D.,  
KyungAh Im, Ph.D., Erin A. Bohula, M.D., D.Phil., Craig Reist, Ph.D.,  
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Thomas A. Musliner, M.D., Eugene Braunwald, M.D., and Robert M. Califf, M.D.,  
for the IMPROVE-IT Investigators\*

N Engl J Med 2015;372:2387-97.

# Background: Cholesterol Lowering

- Lowering LDL cholesterol (LDL-C) has been a mainstay of cardiovascular prevention
- Evidence mostly from statin trials which show reduction in morbidity and mortality
  - High-dose statins further reduce non-fatal CV events
- To date, no lipid-modifying therapy added to statins has been demonstrated to provide a clinical benefit
  - Fibrates, niacin, CETP inhibitors
- Recent ACC/AHA Guidelines have emphasized use of statin therapy
- Despite current therapies, patients remain at high risk

# Ezetimibe: Background

- **Ezetimibe inhibits Niemann-Pick C<sub>1</sub>-like 1 (NPC<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub>) protein**
  - located primarily on the epithelial brush border of the GI tract
  - resulting in **reduced cholesterol absorption**
- **When added to statin, produces ~20% further reduction in LDL-C**
- **Two recent human genetic analyses have correlated polymorphisms in NPC<sub>1</sub>L<sub>1</sub> with lower levels of LDL-C and lower risk of CV events\***

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Inactivating Mutations in *NPC1L1* and Protection from Coronary Heart Disease

The Myocardial Infarction Genetics Consortium Investigators

### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

Ezetimibe lowers plasma levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL) cholesterol by inhibiting the activity of the Niemann–Pick C1-like 1 (*NPC1L1*) protein. However, whether such inhibition reduces the risk of coronary heart disease is not known. Human mutations that inactivate a gene encoding a drug target can mimic the action of an inhibitory drug and thus can be used to infer potential effects of that drug.

#### METHODS

We sequenced the exons of *NPC1L1* in 7364 patients with coronary heart disease and in 14,728 controls without such disease who were of European, African, or South Asian ancestry. We identified carriers of inactivating mutations (nonsense, splice-site, or frameshift mutations). In addition, we genotyped a specific inactivating mutation (p.Arg406X) in 22,590 patients with coronary heart disease and in 68,412 controls. We tested the association between the presence of an inactivating mutation and both plasma lipid levels and the risk of coronary heart disease.

The authors are listed in the Appendix. Address reprint requests to Dr. Sekar Kathiresan at the Cardiovascular Research Center and Center for Human Genetic Research, Massachusetts General Hospital, 185 Cambridge St., CPZN 5.252, Boston, MA 02114, or at [skathiresan@partners.org](mailto:skathiresan@partners.org).

This article was published on November 12, 2014, at [NEJM.org](http://NEJM.org).

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Heterozygous carriers of *NPC1L1* inactivating mutations had a mean LDL cholesterol level that was 12 mg per deciliter (0.31 mmol per liter) lower than that in noncarriers ( $P=0.04$ ). Carrier status was associated with a relative reduction of 53% in the risk of coronary heart disease (odds ratio for carriers, 0.47; 95% confidence interval, 0.25 to 0.87;  $P=0.008$ ). In total, only 11 of 29,954 patients with coronary

#### CONCLUSIONS

Naturally occurring mutations that disrupt *NPC1L1* function were found to be associated with reduced plasma LDL cholesterol levels and a reduced risk of coronary heart disease. (Funded by the National Institutes of Health and others.)

# Goals

- ⑩ **IMPROVE-IT:** First large trial evaluating clinical efficacy of combination EZ/Simba vs. simvastatin (i.e., the addition of ezetimibe to statin therapy):
  - Does lowering LDL-C with the non-statin agent ezetimibe reduce cardiac events?
  - “Is (Even) Lower (Even) Better?” (estimated mean LDL-C ~50 vs. 65mg/dL)
  - Safety of ezetimibe



# Patient Population

## ⑩ Inclusion Criteria:

- Hospitalization for STEMI, NSTEMI/UA < 10 days
- Age  $\geq$  50 years, and  $\geq$  1 high-risk feature:
  - New ST chg, + troponin, DM, prior MI, PAD, cerebrovasc, prior CABG > 3 years, multivessel CAD
- LDL-C 50-125 mg/dL (50–100 mg/dL if prior lipid-lowering Rx)

## ⑩ Major Exclusion Criteria:

- CABG for treatment of qualifying ACS
- Current statin Rx more potent than simva 40mg
- Creat Cl < 30mL/min, active liver disease

# Study Design

Patients stabilized post Acute Coronary Syndrome < 10 days  
LDL  $\leq$  125 mg/dL (or  $\leq$  100 mg/dL if prior statin)

*Double-blind*

ASA + Standard Medical Therapy

*N=18,144*

Simvastatin 40 mg

Inegy 10/40 mg

Follow-Up Visit Day 30, Every 4 Months

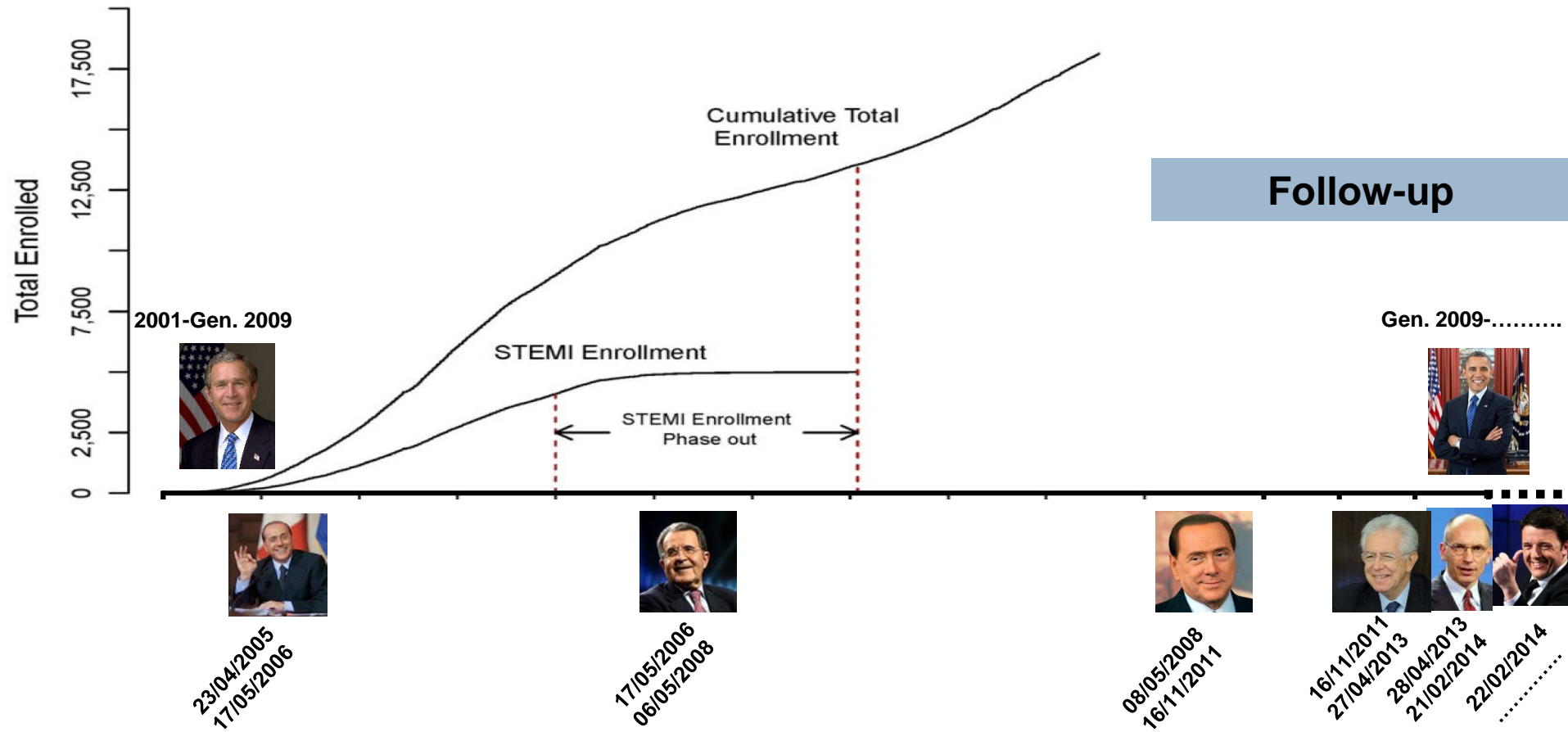
Until 5250 Primary Events

**Primary Endpoint: CV Death, MI, Hospital Admission for UA, revascularization (> 30 days after randomization), or Stroke**

# Large CV Trials

<b>Trial</b>	<b>Total N</b>	<b># Endpoints</b>	<b>1° Endpoints</b>
<b>GUSTO-1</b>	<b>41,021</b>	<b>2848</b>	<b>Death</b>
<b>ALLHAT</b>	<b>33,357</b>	<b>2956</b>	<b>CHD Death/MI</b>
<b>ISIS-4</b>	<b>58,050</b>	<b>4319</b>	<b>Death</b>
<b>ISIS-3</b>	<b>41,299</b>	<b>4321</b>	<b>Death</b>
<b>COMMIT</b>	<b>45,852</b>	<b>4431</b>	<b>Death</b>
<b>HPS</b>	<b>20,536</b>	<b>4628</b>	<b>CHD Death/MI/Stroke/Revasc</b>
		<b>2835</b>	<b>Death</b>
<b>IMPROVE-IT</b>	<b>18,144</b>	<b>5314</b>	<b>CV Death, MI, UA, Stroke, Coronary revasc</b>

# Cronologia dello Studio IMPROVE-IT



# Italian Investigators (69 sites, 593 patients)

## Coordinator:

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# Study Metrics

	Simva (N=9077)	EZ/Simva (N=9067)
Uptitration to Simva 80mg, %	27	6
Premature study drug D/C, %	42	42
Median follow-up, yrs	6.0	5.9
Withdraw consent w/o vital status, %/yr	0.6	0.6
Lost to follow-up, %/yr	0.10	0.09
Follow up for primary endpoint, %	91	91
Follow up for survival, %	97	97

Total primary endpoint events = 5314

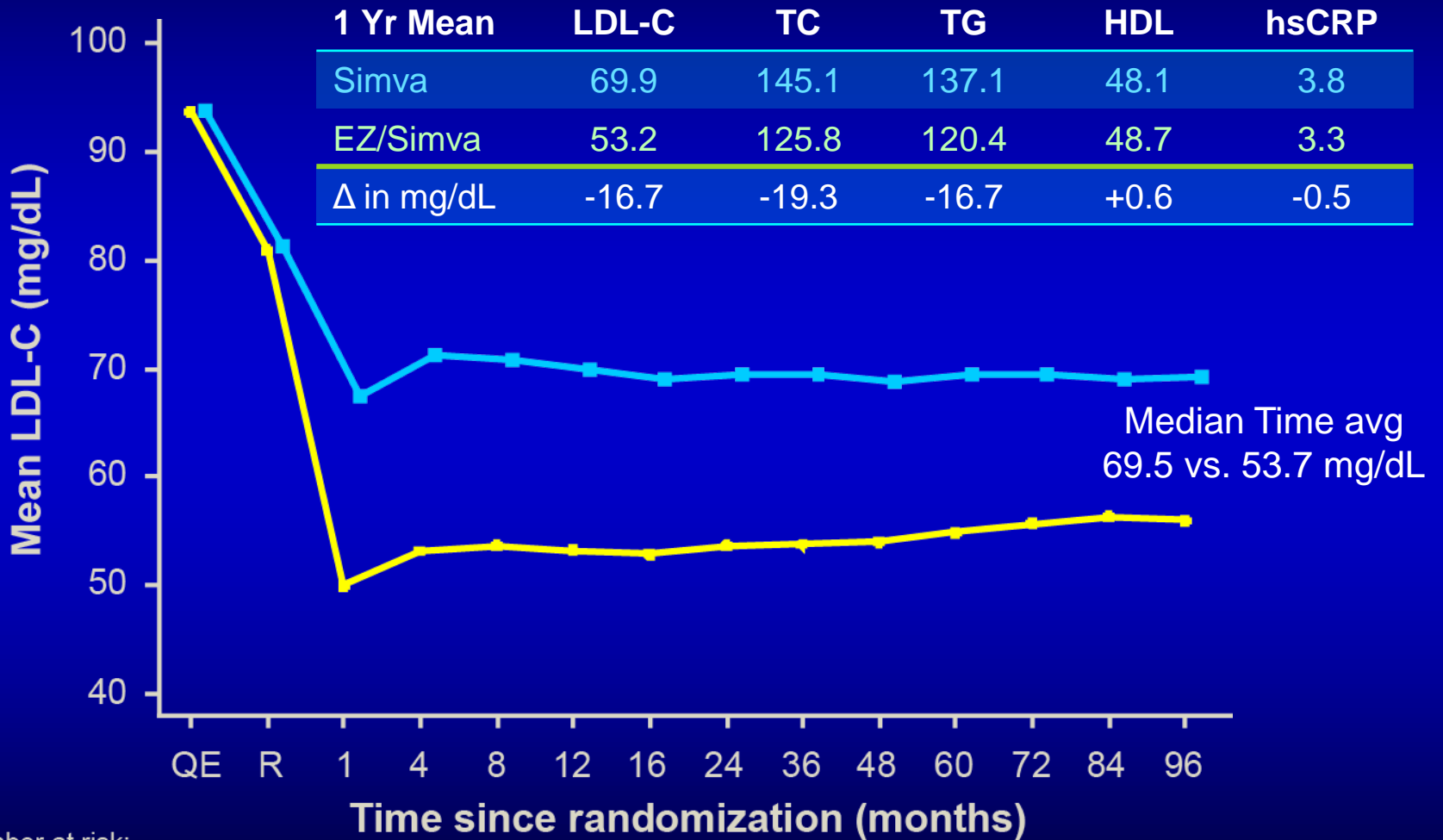
Total patient-years clinical follow-up = 97,822

Total patient-years follow-up for survival = 104,135

# Baseline Characteristics

	Simvastatin (N=9077) %	EZ/Simba (N=9067) %
Age (years)	64	64
Female	24	25
Diabetes	27	27
MI prior to index ACS	21	21
STEMI / NSTEMI / UA	29 / 47 / 24	29 / 47 / 24
Days post ACS to rand (IQR)	5 (3, 8)	5 (3, 8)
Cath / PCI for ACS event	88 / 70	88 / 70
Prior lipid Rx	35	36
LDL-C at ACS event (mg/dL, IQR)	95 (79, 110)	95 (79,110)

# LDL-C and Lipid Changes



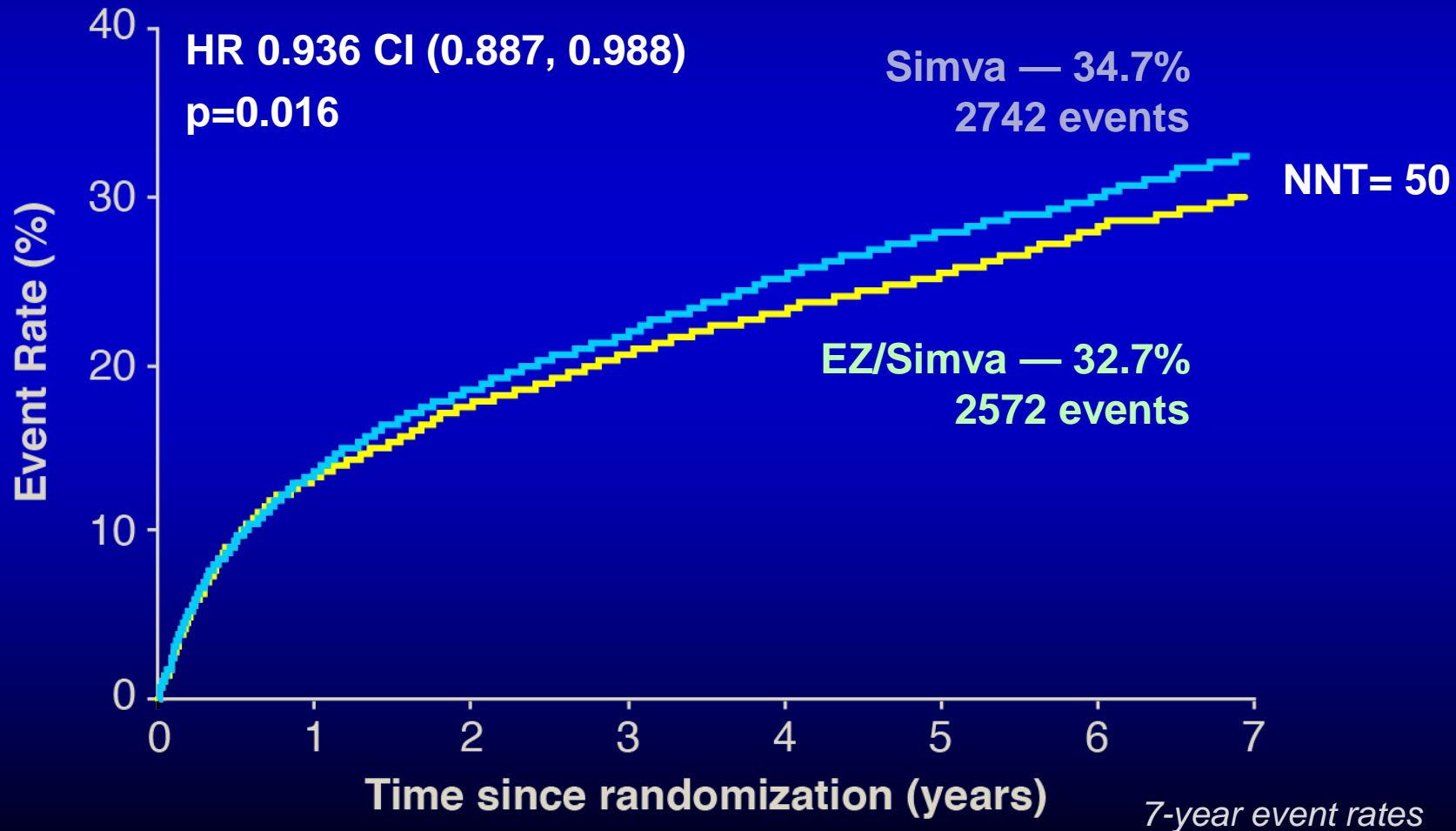
Number at risk:

EZ/Simva	8990	8889	8230	7701	7264	6864	6583	6256	5734	5354	4508	3484	2608	1078
Simva	9009	8921	8306	7843	7289	6939	6607	6192	5684	5267	4395	3387	2569	1068

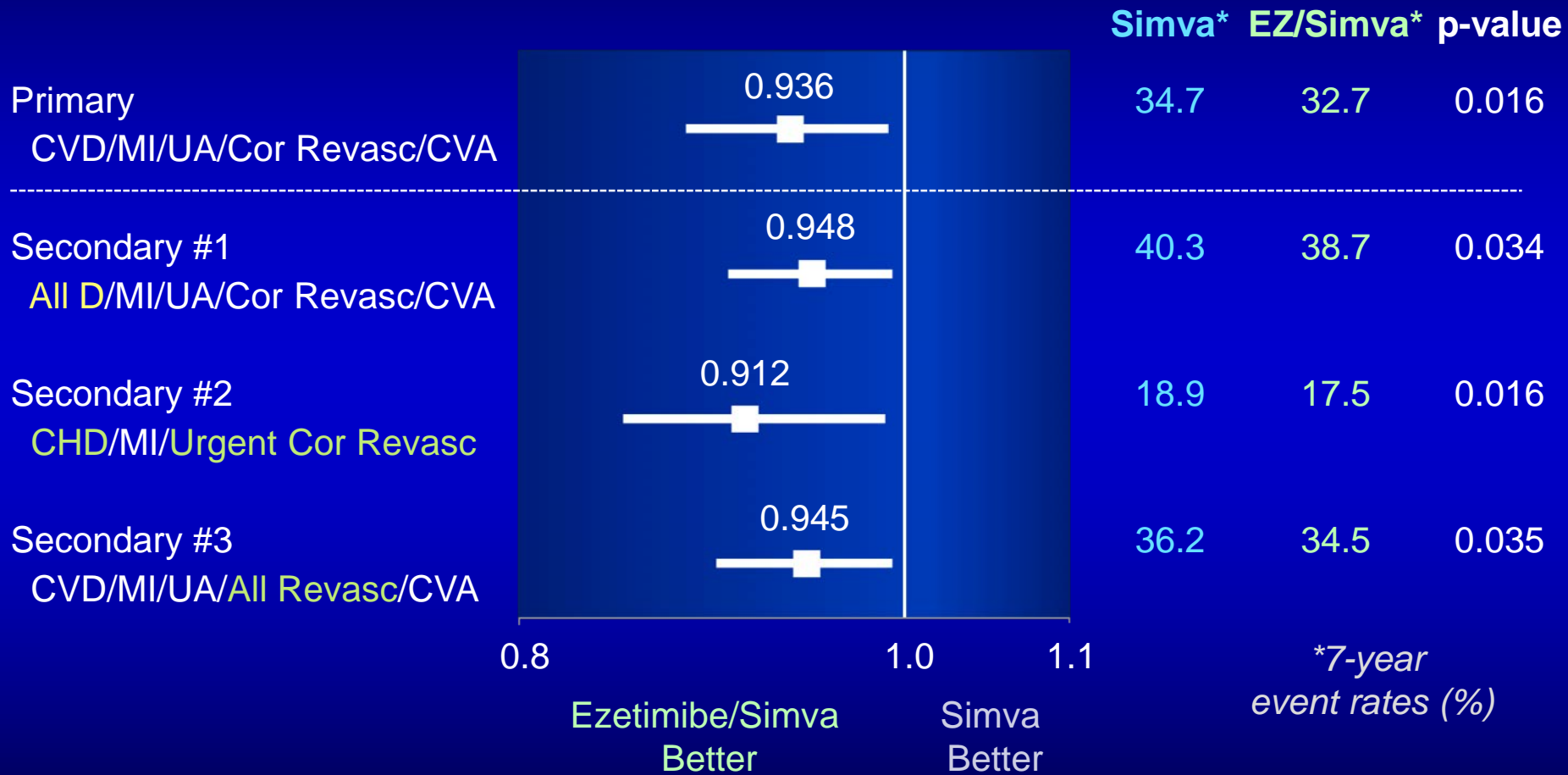


# Primary Endpoint — ITT

Cardiovascular death, MI, documented unstable angina requiring rehospitalization, coronary revascularization ( $\geq 30$  days), or stroke

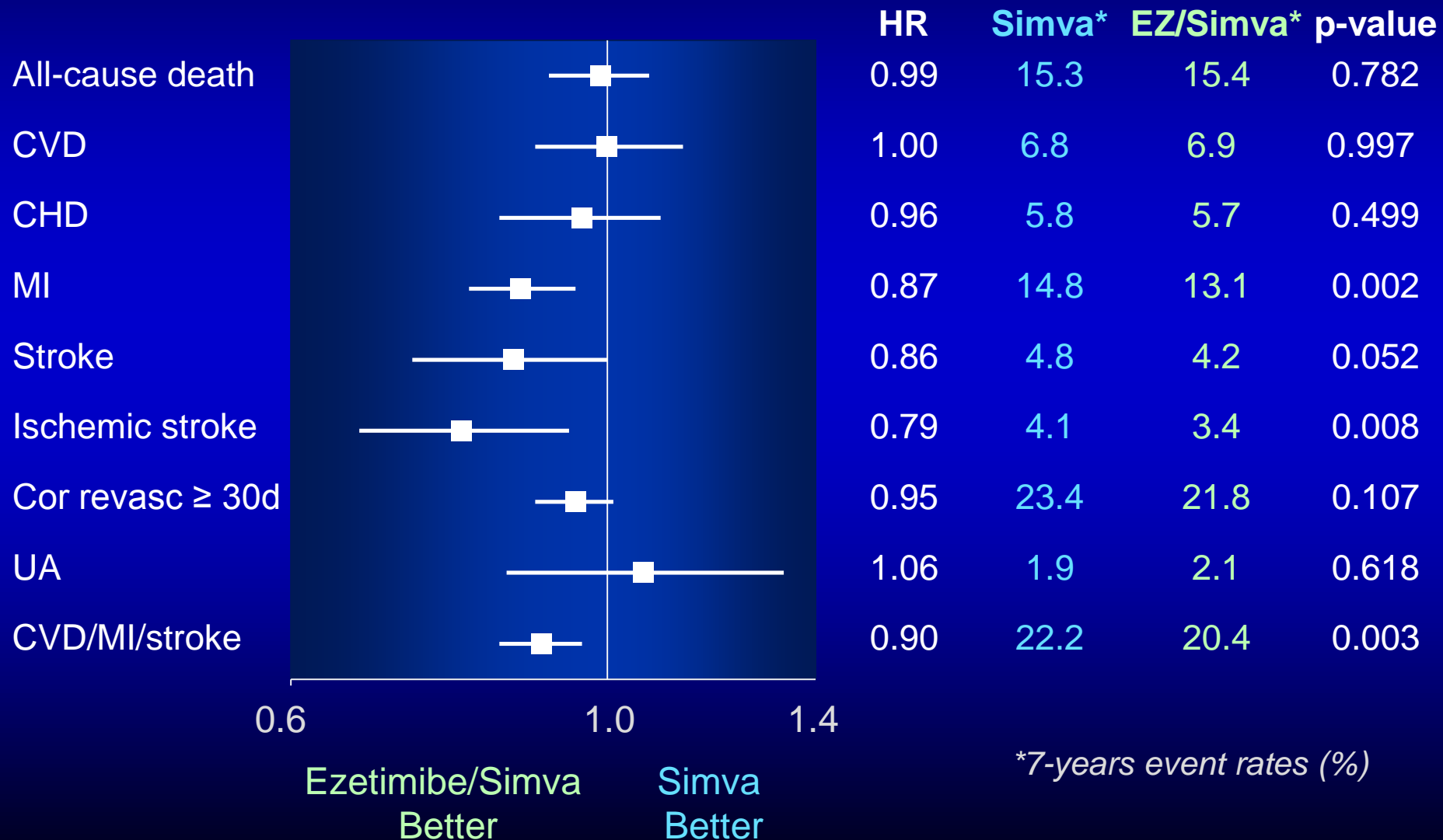


# Primary and 3 Prespecified Secondary Endpoints — ITT

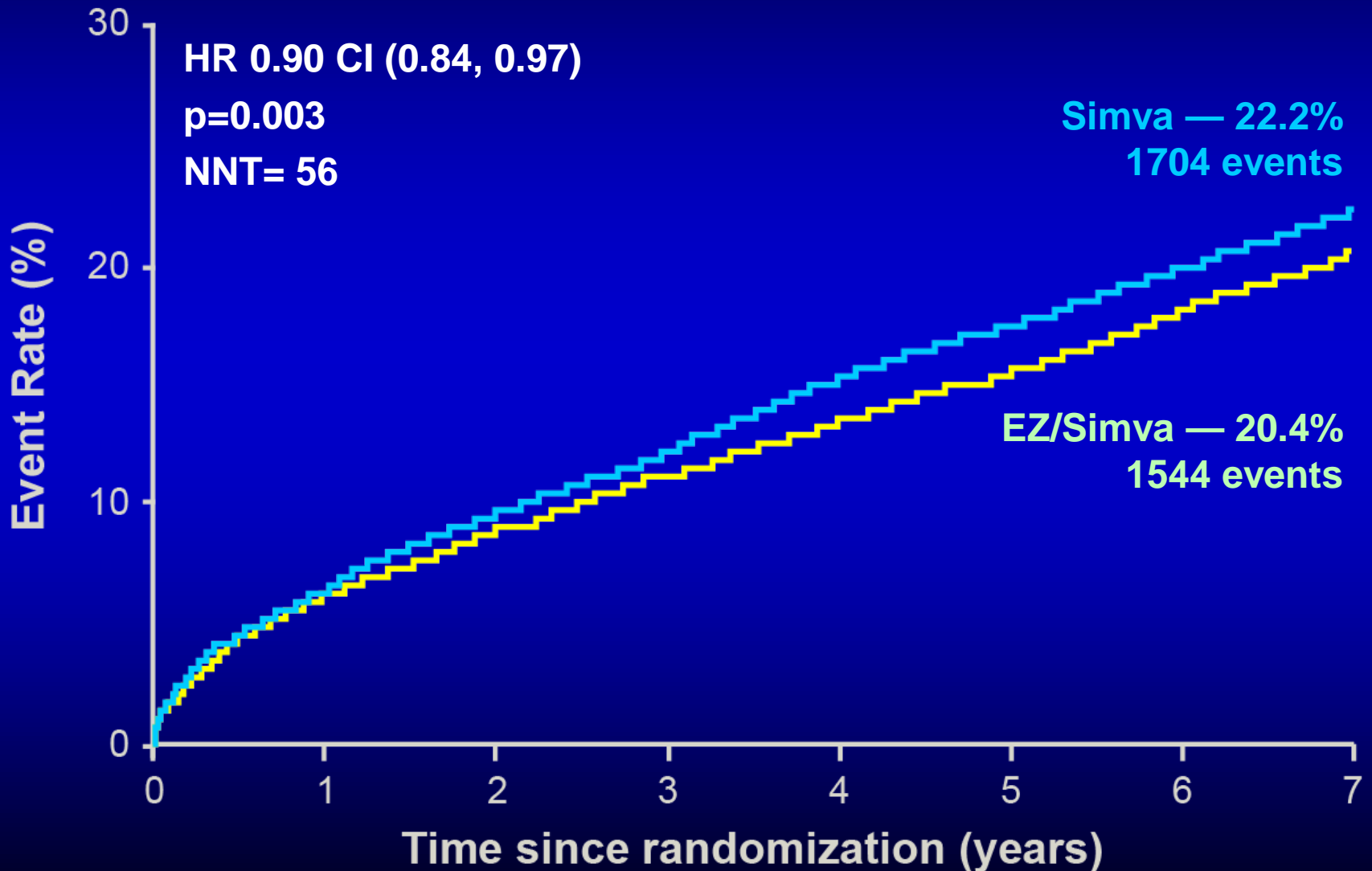


UA, documented unstable angina requiring rehospitalization; Cor Revasc, coronary revascularization (≥30 days after randomization); All D, all-cause death; CHD, coronary heart disease death; All Revasc, coronary and non-coronary revascularization (≥30 days)

# Individual Cardiovascular Endpoints and CVD/MI/Stroke

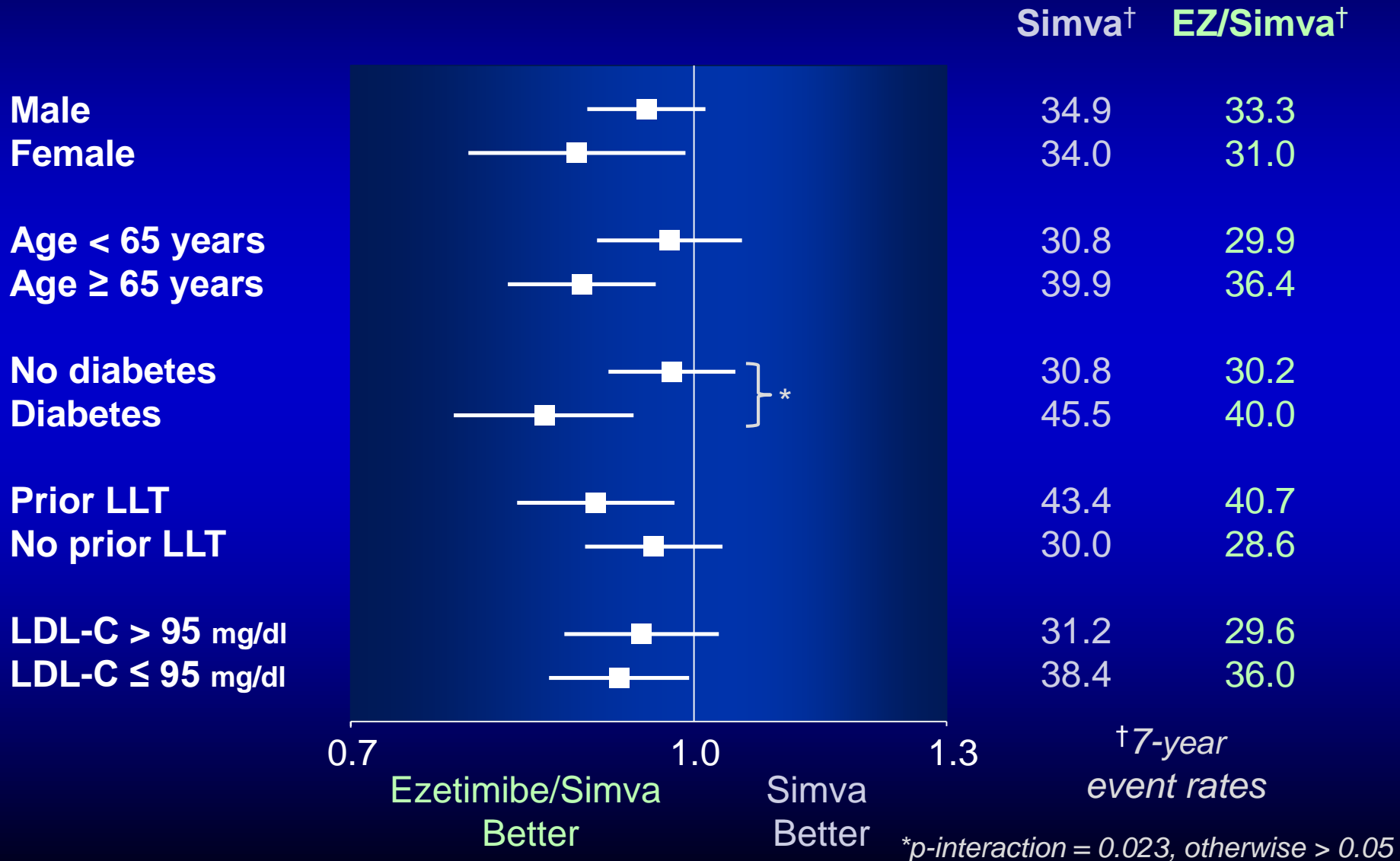


# CV Death, Non-fatal MI or Non-fatal Stroke

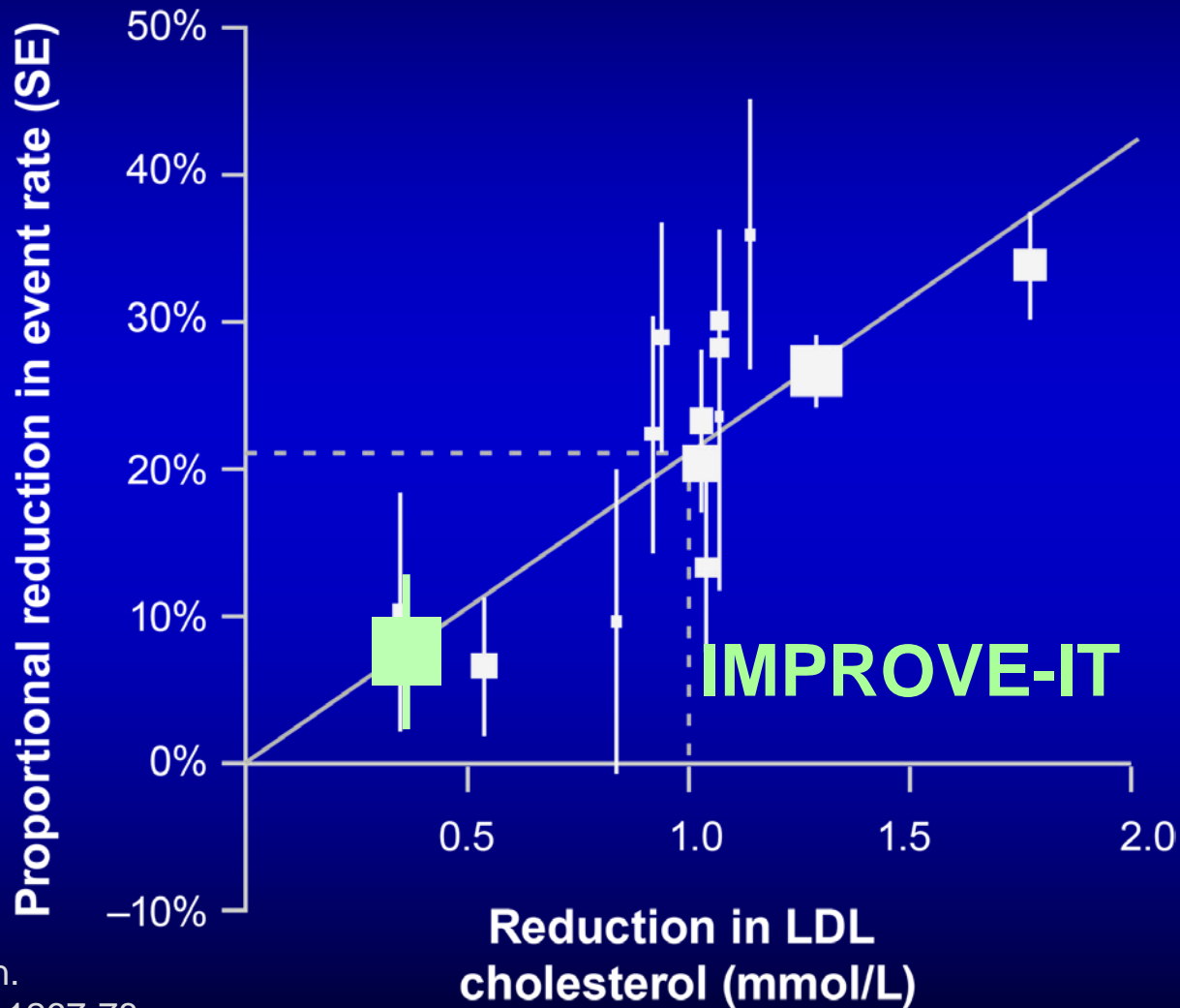


7-year event rates

# Major Pre-specified Subgroups



# IMPROVE-IT vs. CTT: Ezetimibe vs. Statin Benefit



CTT Collaboration.  
Lancet 2005; 366:1267-78;  
Lancet 2010;376:1670-81.

# Safety — ITT

⑩ No statistically significant differences in cancer or muscle- or gallbladder-related events

	Simva n=9077 %	EZ/Simva n=9067 %	p
ALT and/or AST $\geq$ 3x ULN	2.3	2.5	0.43
Cholecystectomy	1.5	1.5	0.96
Gallbladder-related AEs	3.5	3.1	0.10
Rhabdomyolysis*	0.2	0.1	0.37
Myopathy*	0.1	0.2	0.32
Rhabdo, myopathy, myalgia with CK elevation*	0.6	0.6	0.64
Cancer* (7-yr KM %)	10.2	10.2	0.57

\* Adjudicated by Clinical Events Committee

% = n/N for the trial duration

# Conclusions

⑩ **IMPROVE-IT**: First trial demonstrating incremental clinical benefit when adding a non-statin agent (ezetimibe) to statin therapy:

✔ **YES:** Non-statin lowering LDL-C with ezetimibe reduces cardiovascular events

✔ **YES:** Even Lower is Even Better  
(achieved mean LDL-C 53 vs. 70 mg/dL at 1 year)

✔ **YES:** Confirms ezetimibe safety profile

➡ ⑩ **Reaffirms the LDL hypothesis**, that reducing LDL-C prevents cardiovascular events

➡ ⑩ Results could be considered for future guidelines

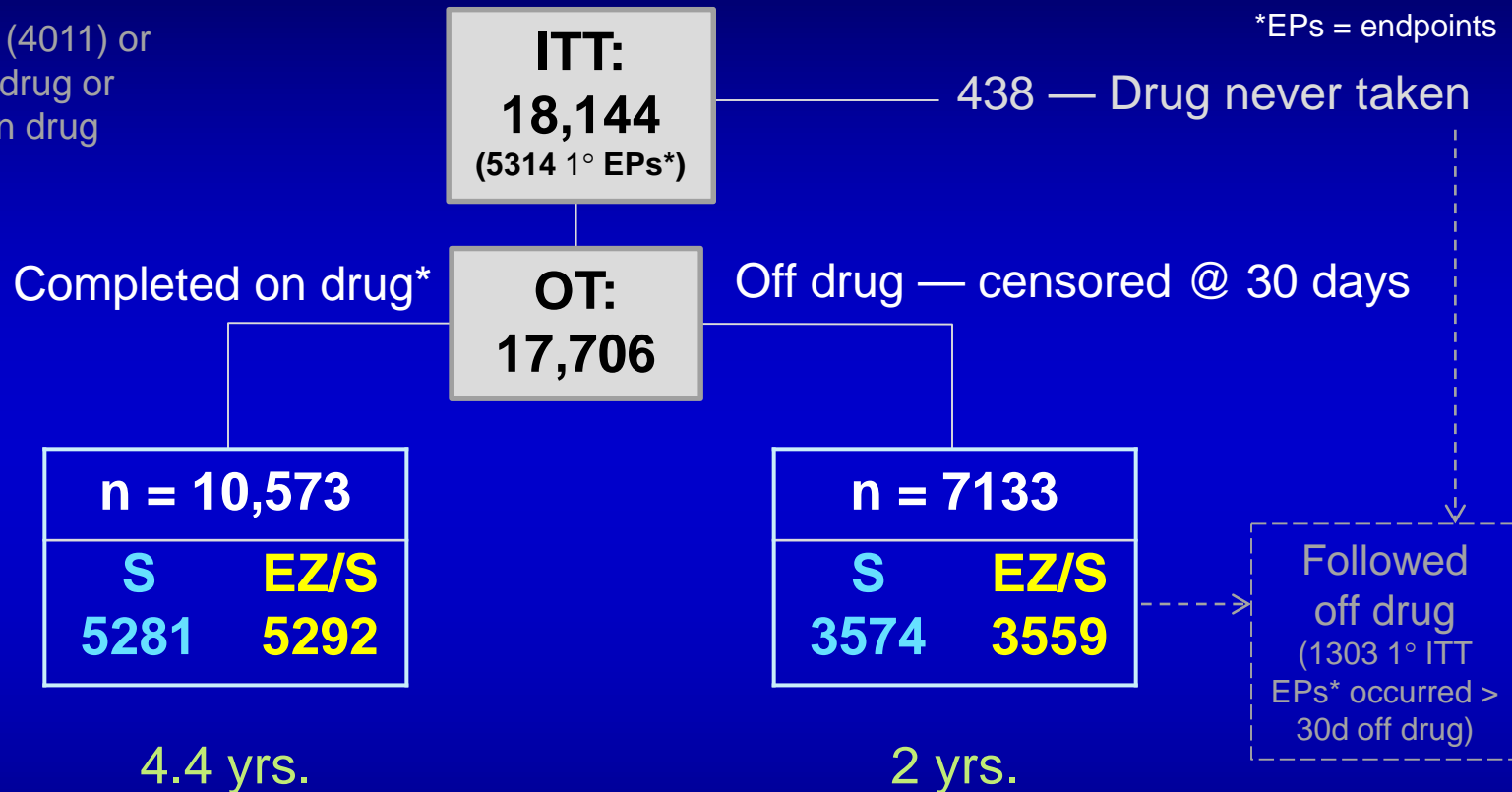


# DATI AGGIUNTIVI

# Participant Disposition for 1° Endpoint — OT Population

\*1° event on drug (4011) or non-CV death on drug or full assessment on drug during closeout

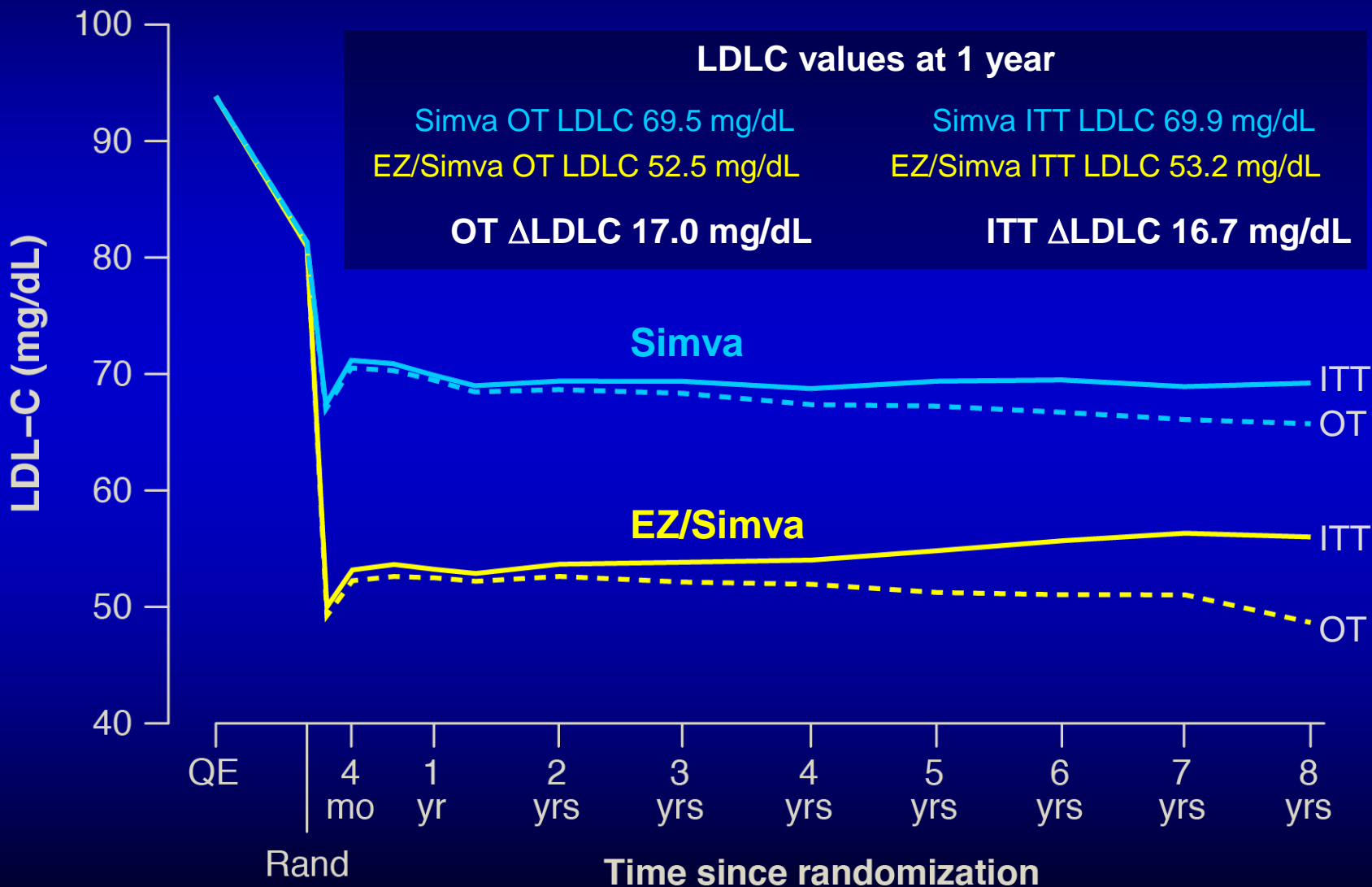
\*EPs = endpoints



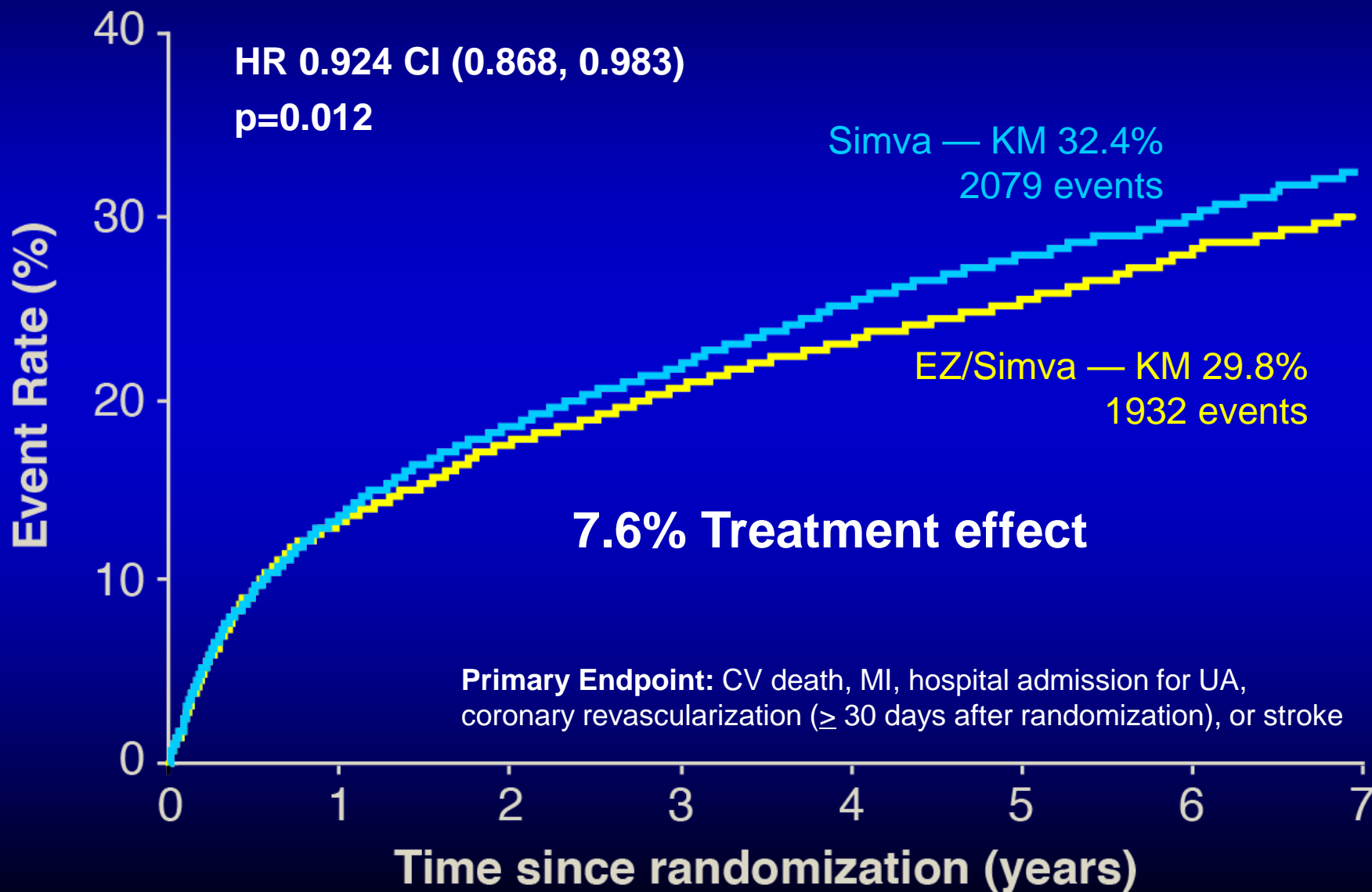
**= 60,298 total patient-years of F/U OT**

*80,286 patient years follow up for primary endpoint in ITT*

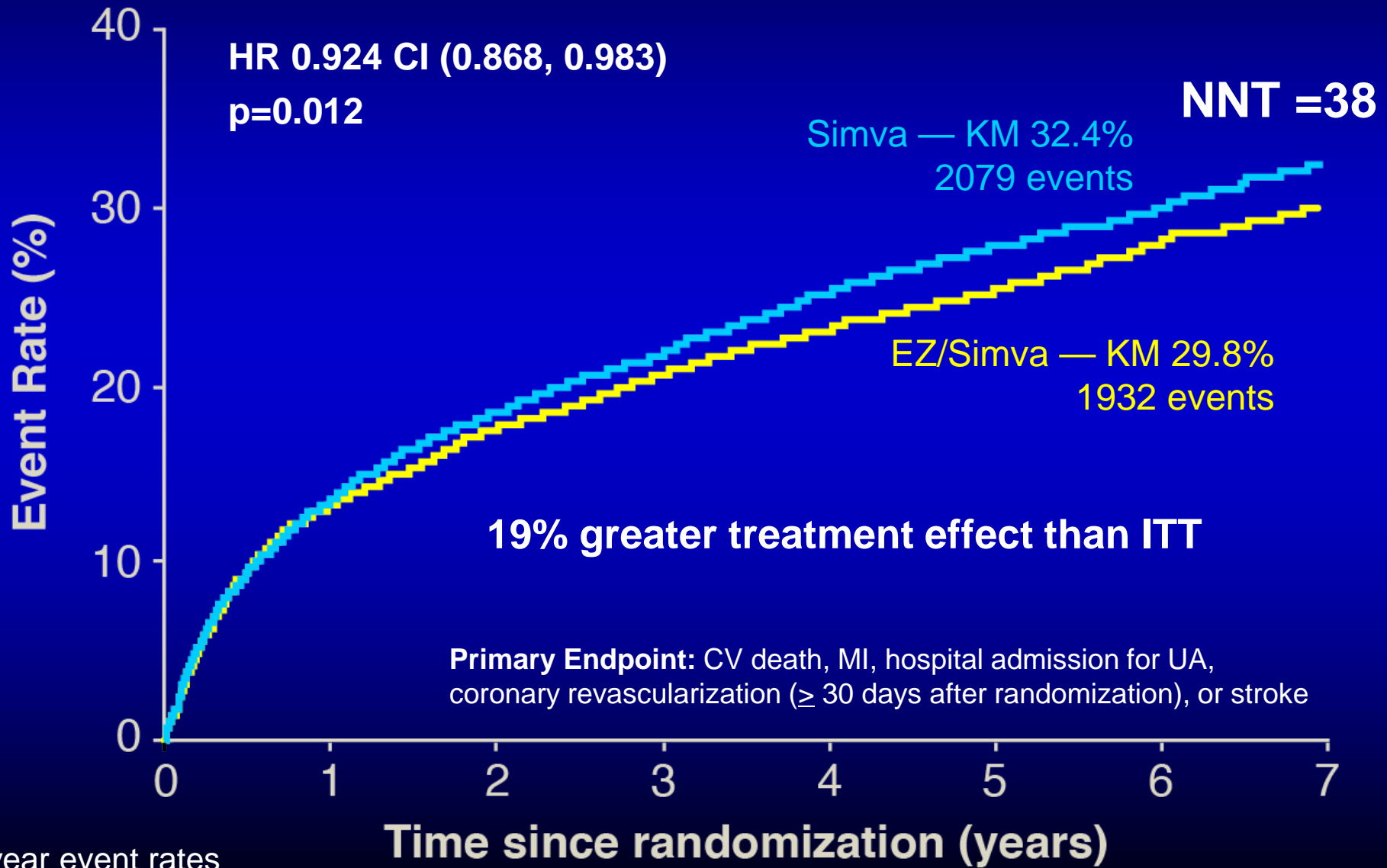
# Mean LDL-C at 1 Year OT & ITT



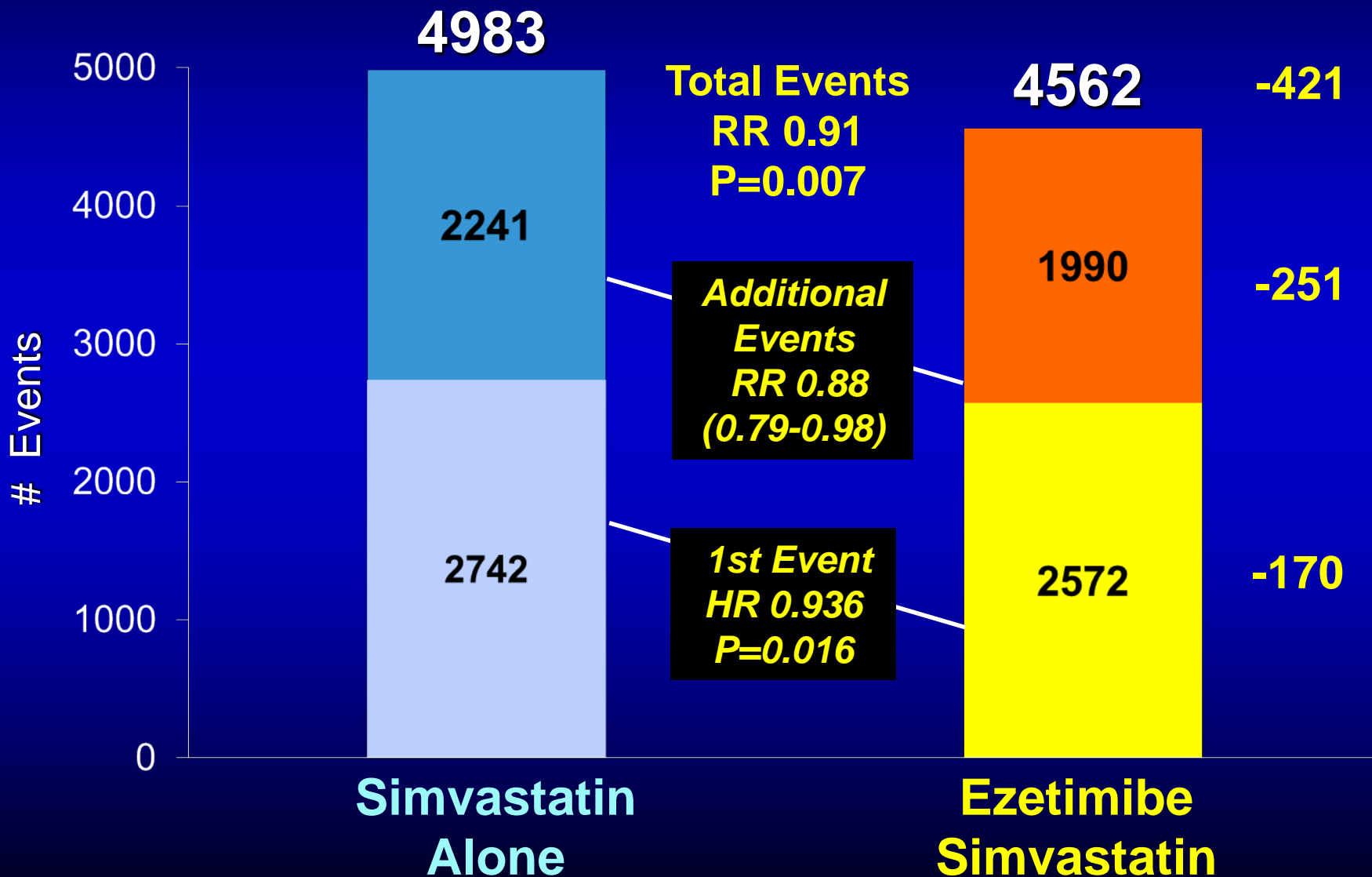
# Primary Endpoint On-Treatment



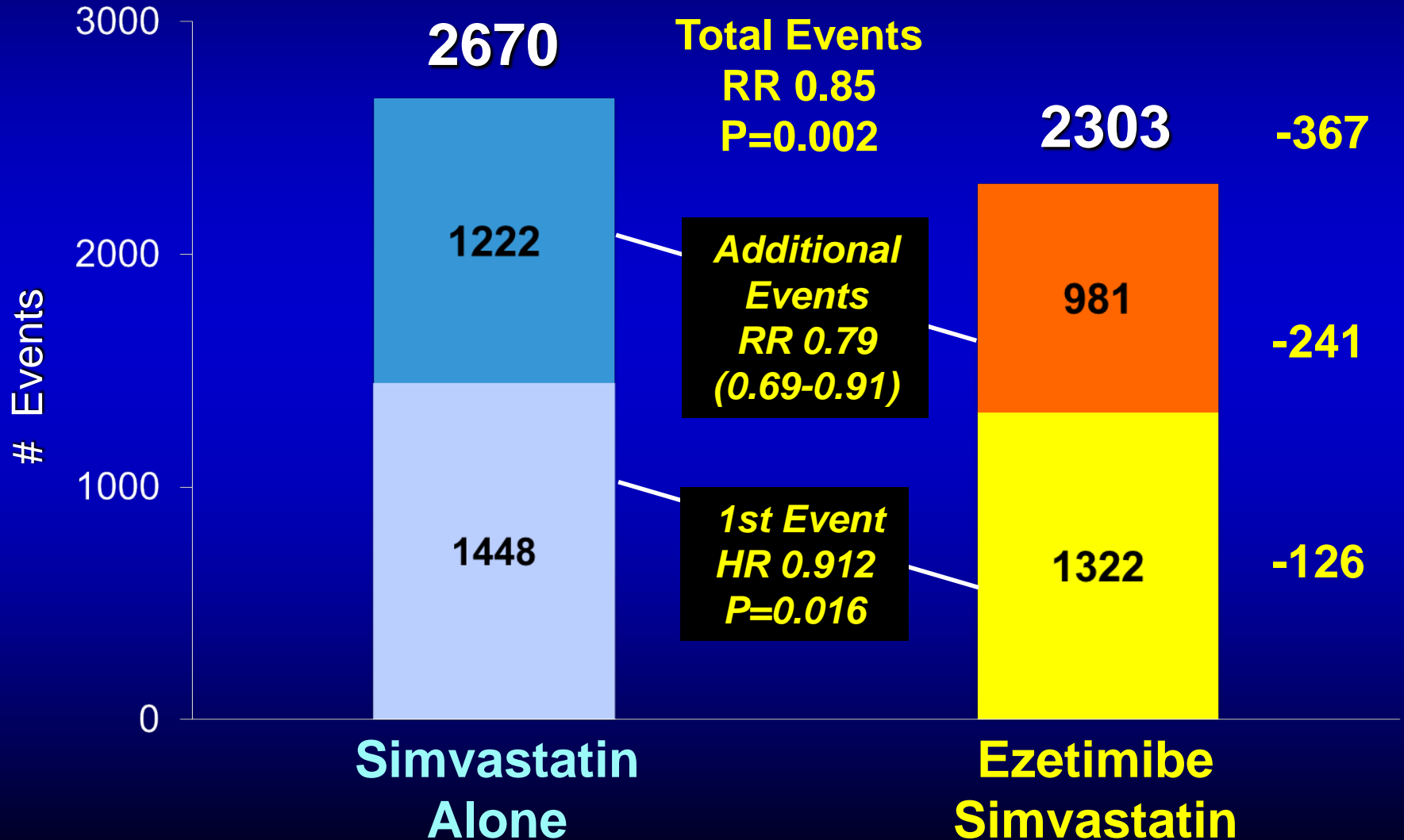
# Primary Endpoint On Treatment



# Total Primary Endpoint Events



# Secondary EP: CHD death, MI, urgent revascularization Events



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EDITORIAL



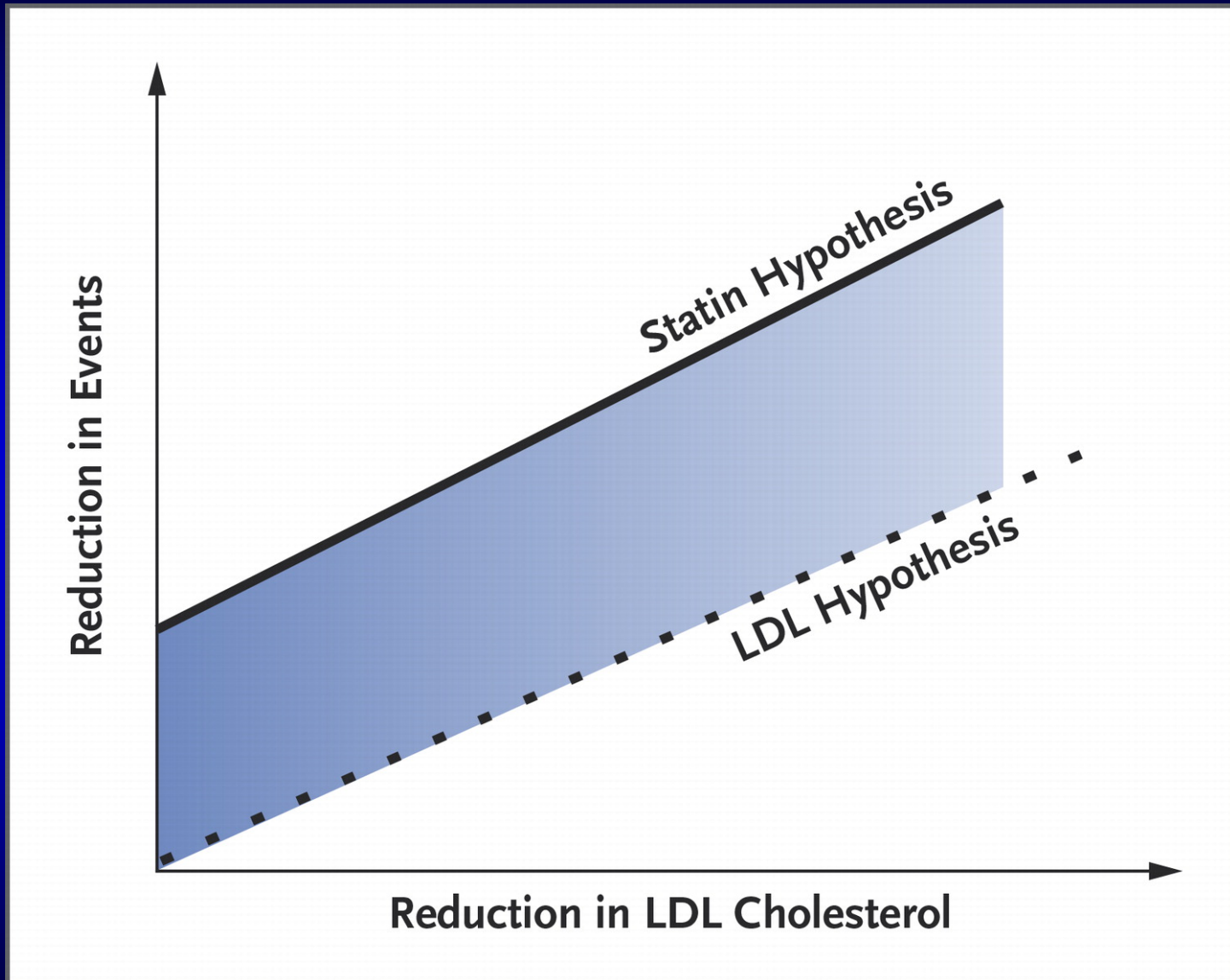
**Proof That Lower Is Better — LDL Cholesterol  
and IMPROVE-IT**

John A. Jarcho, M.D., and John F. Keaney, Jr., M.D.

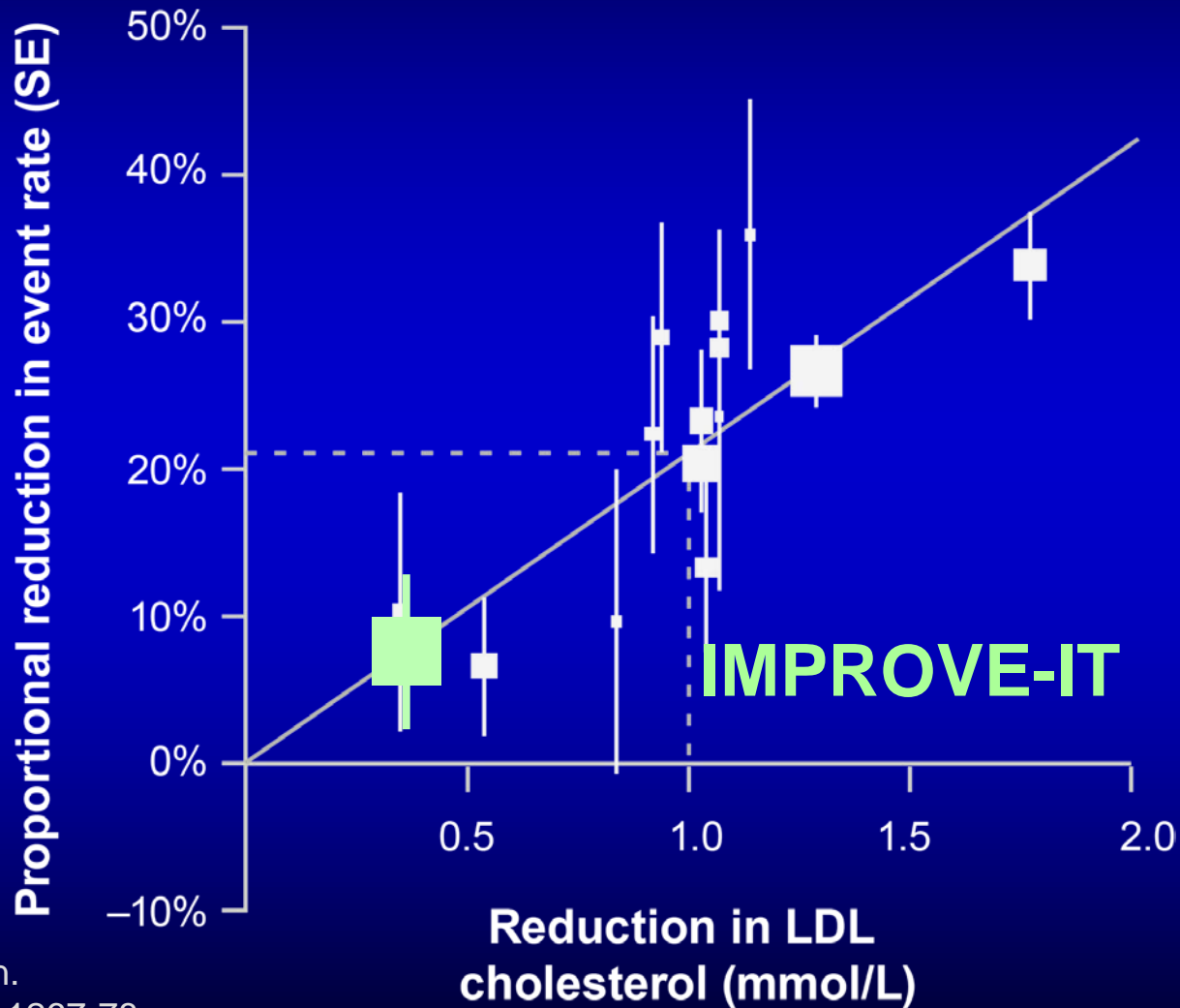
N ENGL J MED 372;25 NEJM.ORG JUNE 18, 2015



# Schematic Depiction of the Statin Hypothesis



# IMPROVE-IT vs. CTT: Ezetimibe vs. Statin Benefit



CTT Collaboration.  
Lancet 2005; 366:1267-78;  
Lancet 2010;376:1670-81.

***“IMPROVE-IT is a landmark study in that it is the first clinical trial to show a benefit of adding a nonstatin lipid-modifying agent to statin therapy.”***

*Jarcho JA, Keaney JF Jr. N Engl J Med 2015;372:2448-2450*

***“The results of IMPROVE-IT should, at a minimum, reinforce the recommendation of adding of a nonstatin agent...”***

*Jarcho JA, Keaney JF Jr. N Engl J Med 2015;372:2448-2450*

***.....the LDL hypothesis should now  
be considered the “LDL principle.”***

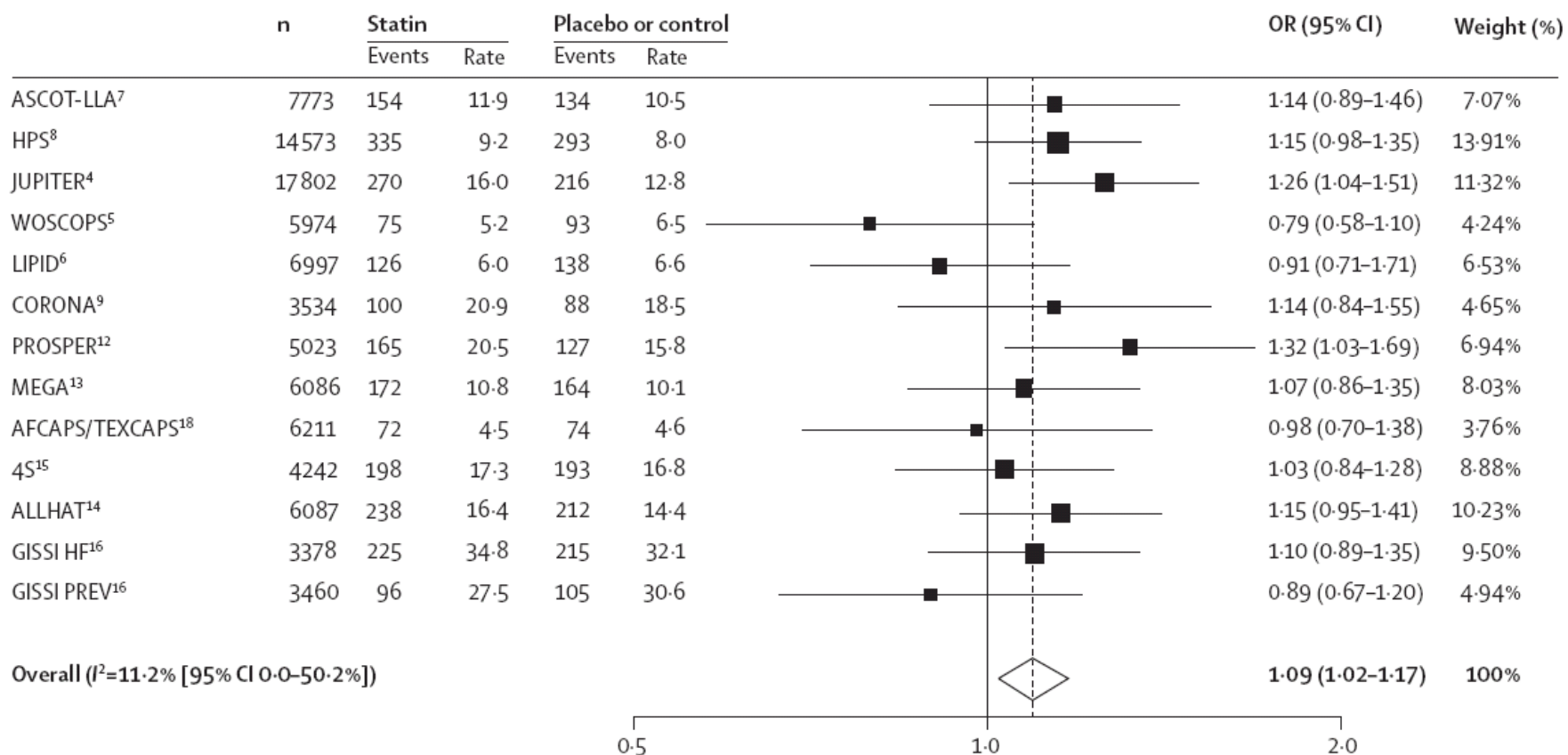
*Jarcho JA, Keaney JF Jr. N Engl J Med 2015;372:2448-2450*

# Focus sul diabete

# Il mondo si sta Boterizzando

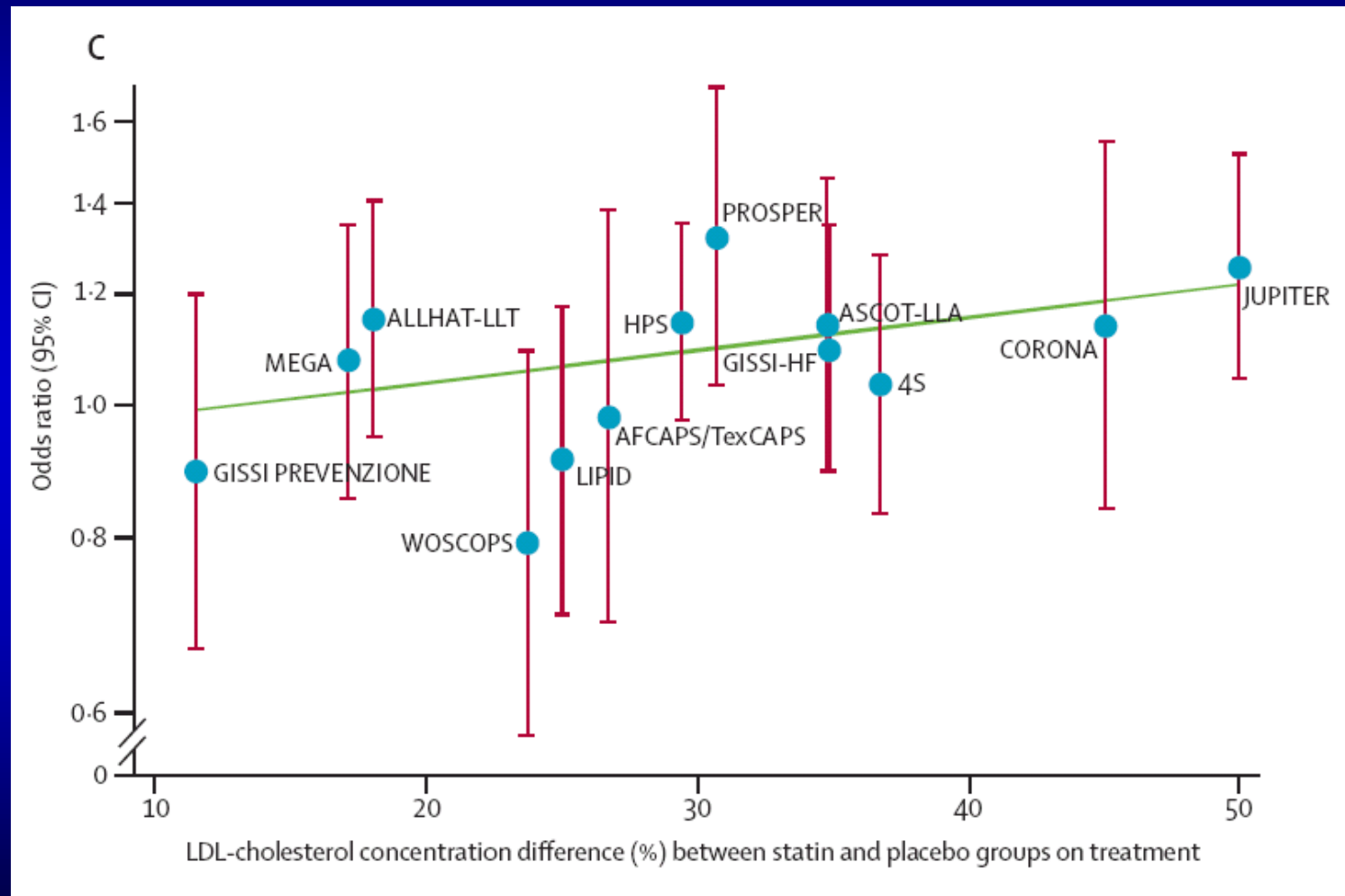


# Association between statin therapy and incident diabetes in 13 major cardiovascular trials



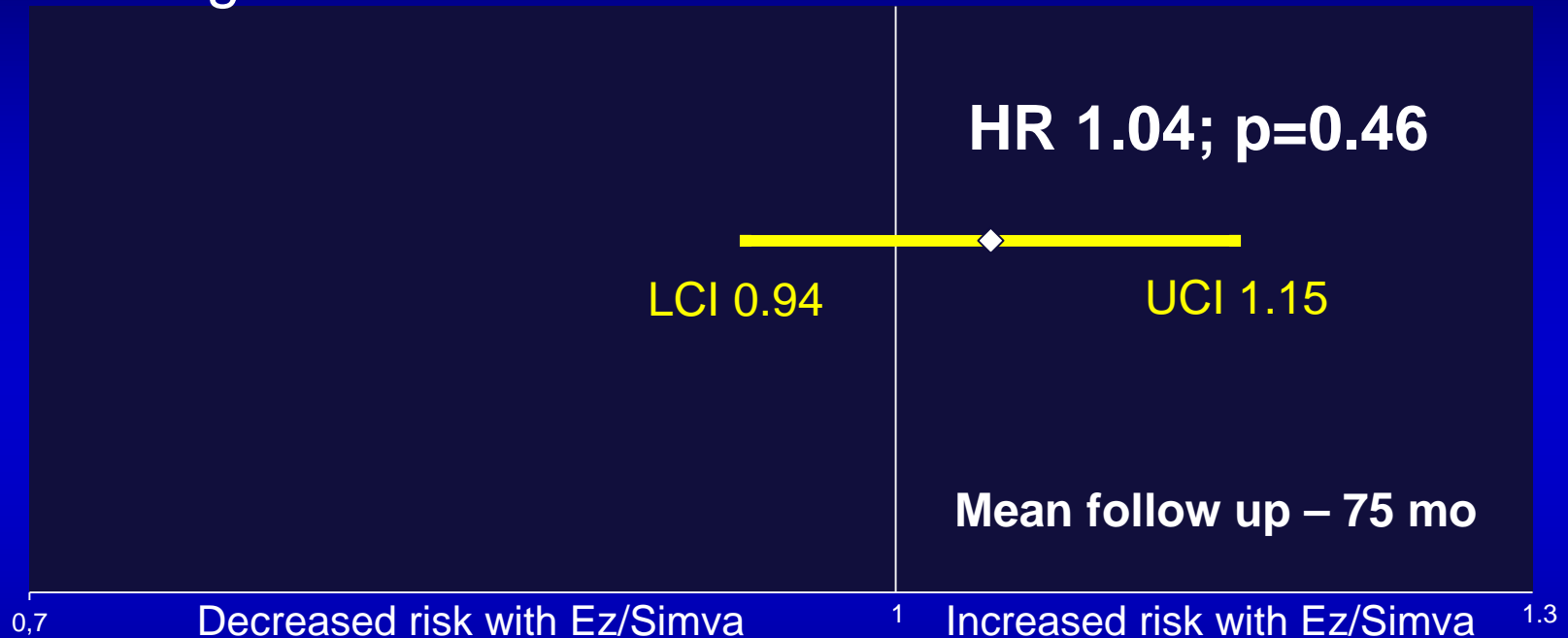


# Meta-regression of on-treatment percentage reduction in LDL-cholesterol concentration for incident diabetes



# Primary outcome - NODM

Magnified view



**1,414 (13.3%) patients with NODM**

**EZ/S = 720 S = 694**

**NODM = antihyperglycemic med and/or 2 fasting glucoses  $\geq 7$  mmol/L**

# Baseline Characteristics

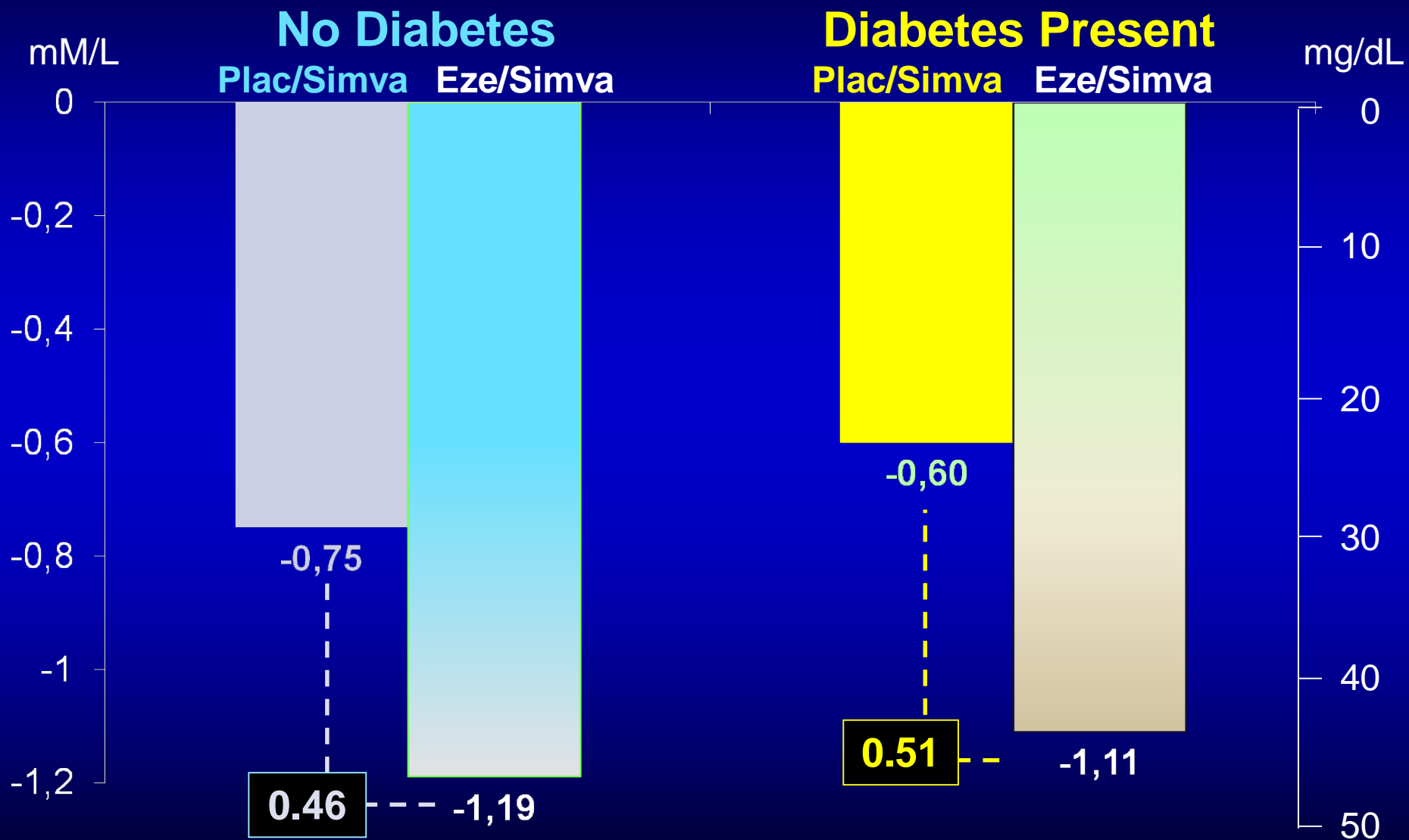
	No DM (N=13,202)	DM (N=4933)
Age (years)	64	65
Female	23	29
Body mass index (Kg/M <sup>2</sup> )	27	29
MI prior to index ACS	19	26
PCI / CABG prior to index ACS	18 / 8	24 / 14
Hypertension	55	78
Aspirin prior to index ACS	38	54
Statin prior to index ACS	30	47
B-blocker / RAA inhibitor prior	31 / 34	44 / 60
Current smoker	36	24
ST-Elevation MI	32	21

Data shown are % unless otherwise indicated

P < 0.001 for each No DM vs DM comparison;

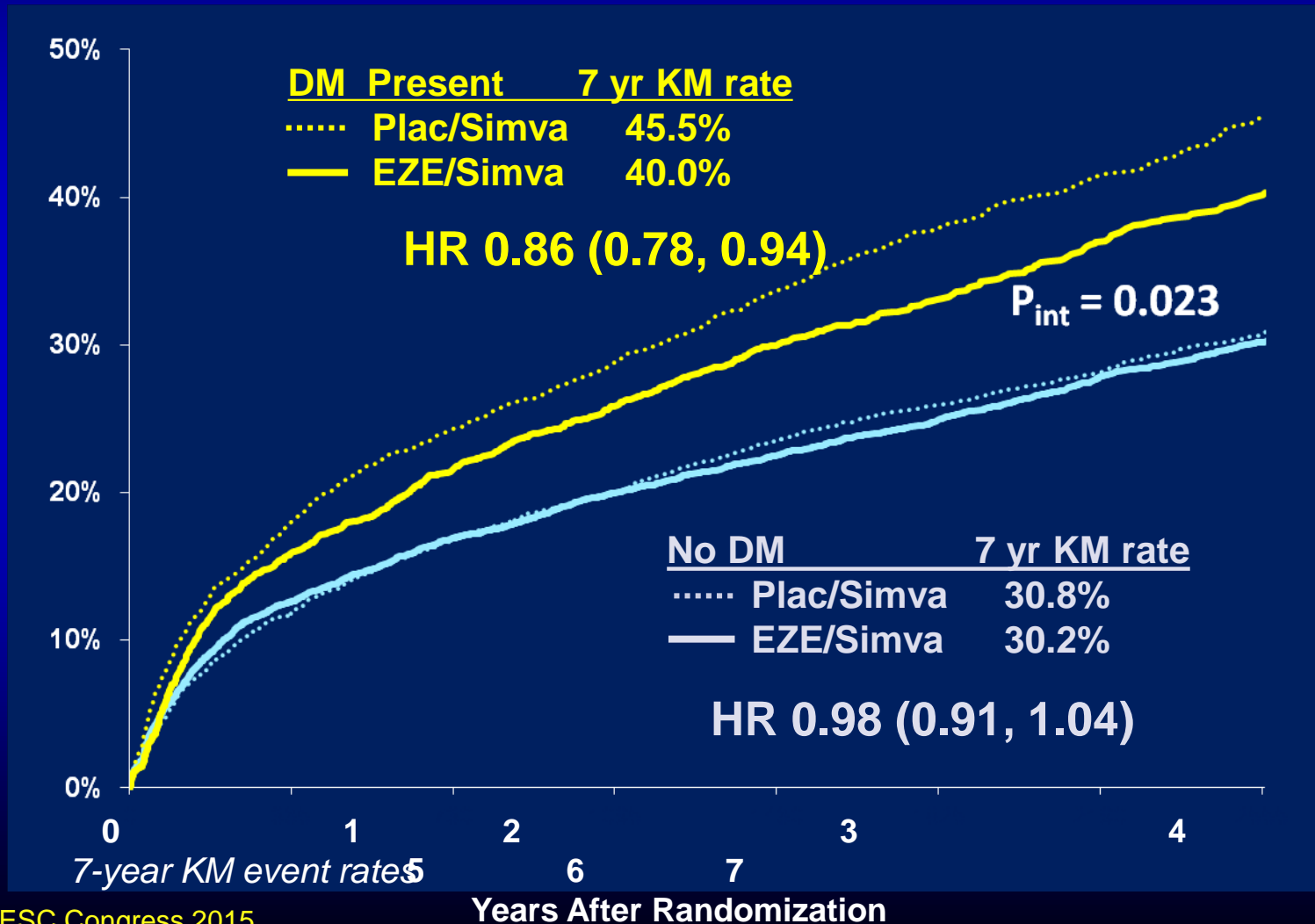
P=NS for comparisons by randomized Rx, stratified by DM

# Decreases in LDL-C from Admission to Year 1

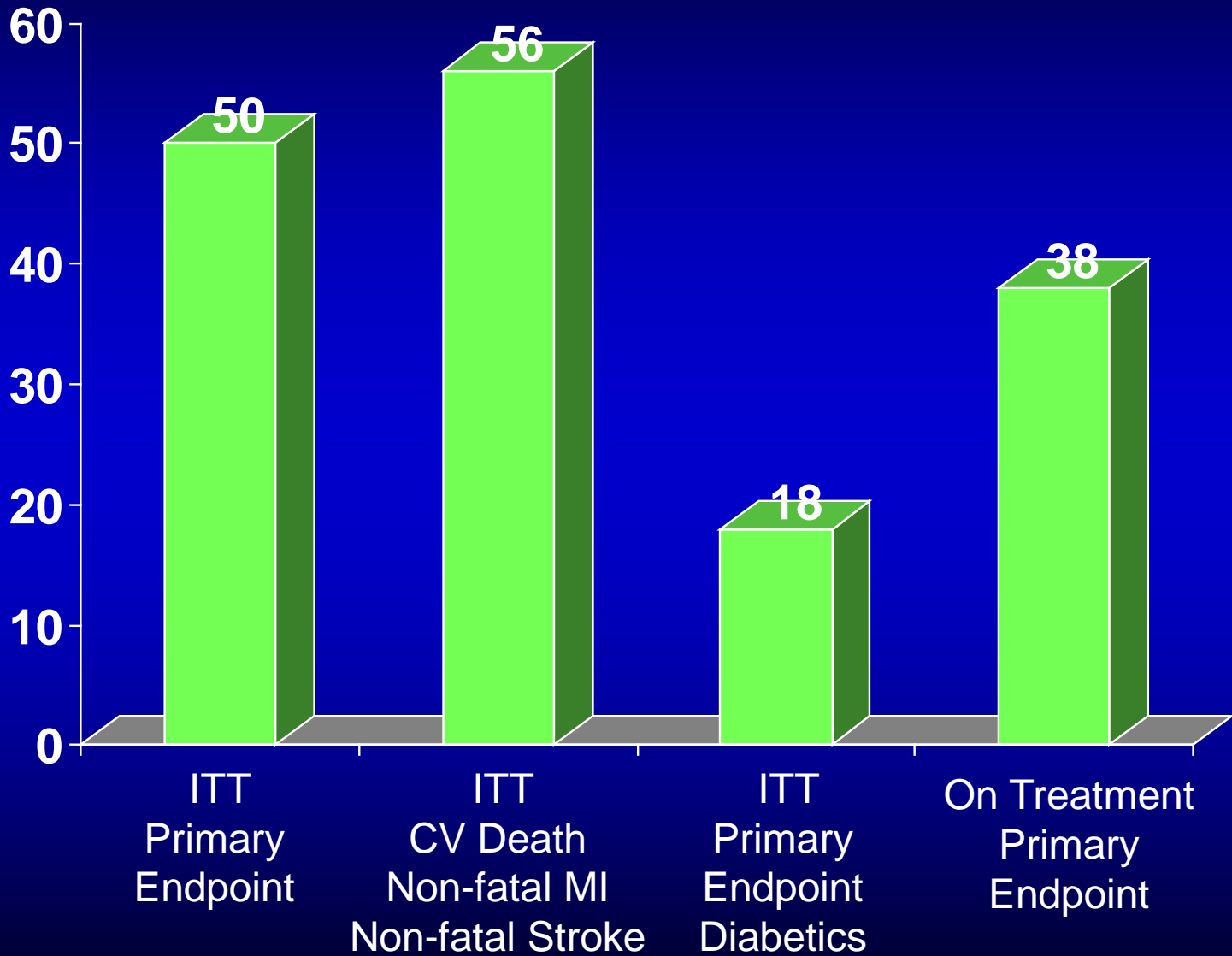


# Primary Endpoint — ITT

*Cardiovascular death, MI, documented unstable angina requiring rehospitalization, coronary revascularization (≥30 days), or stroke*



# NNT per Prevenire Evento





# Median Lab Values at Admission

	No DM (N=13,202)	DM (N=4933)
LDL-C (mM/L)	2.5	2.3
HDL-C (mM/L)	1.1	1.0
Triglycerides (mM/L)	1.3	1.5
High-sensitivity CRP* (mg/L)	5.0	5.6
Creatinine clearance (ml/min)	84	86

\*measured at randomization

P < 0.001 for each,  
except CrCl P=0.03

P=NS for all comparisons by randomized  
treatment within each DM subgroup



# Treatment Differences in Lipids and hs-CRP During the Trial

Placebo-adjusted differences between treatments in the changes from baseline\* to the time-weighted average during the trial†

Parameter	No Diabetes ( $\Delta E/S - \Delta P/S$ )	DM Present ( $\Delta E/S - \Delta P/S$ )	$P_{int}$
LDL-C	-0.37 mM/L	-0.43 mM/L	0.03
Triglycerides	-0.09 mM/L	-0.13 mM/L	0.59
HDL-C	+0.013 mM/L	+0.008 mM/L	0.30
hs-CRP*	-0.05 mg/L	-1.09 mg/L	0.03

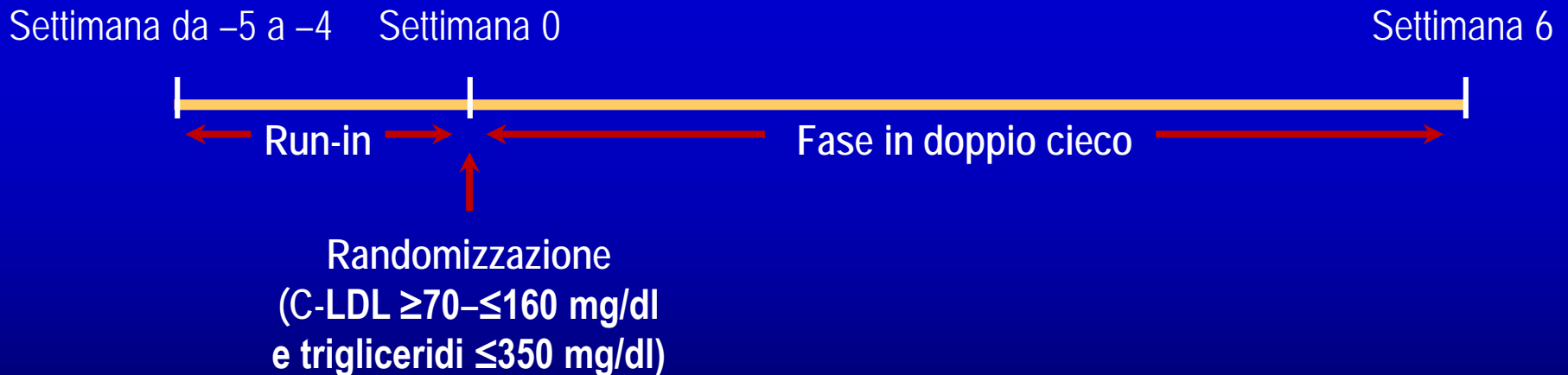
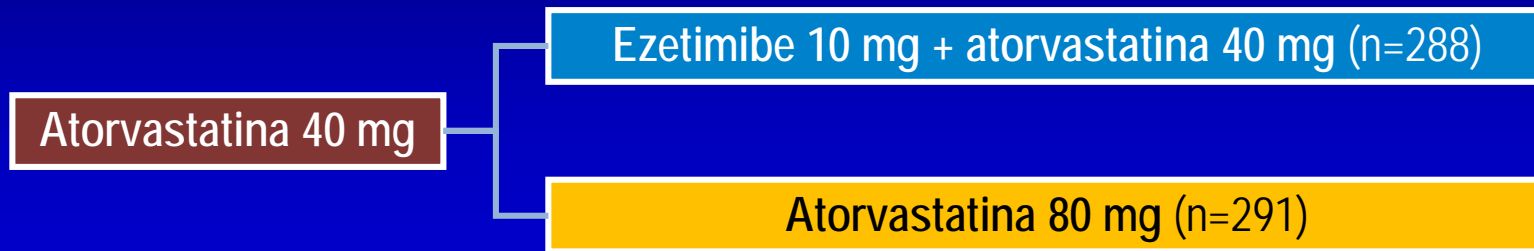
\* baseline hs-CRP at randomization; baseline lipids obtained at admission

† from month 1 to end of trial

# Tolleranza Zero agli Eccessi di LDL

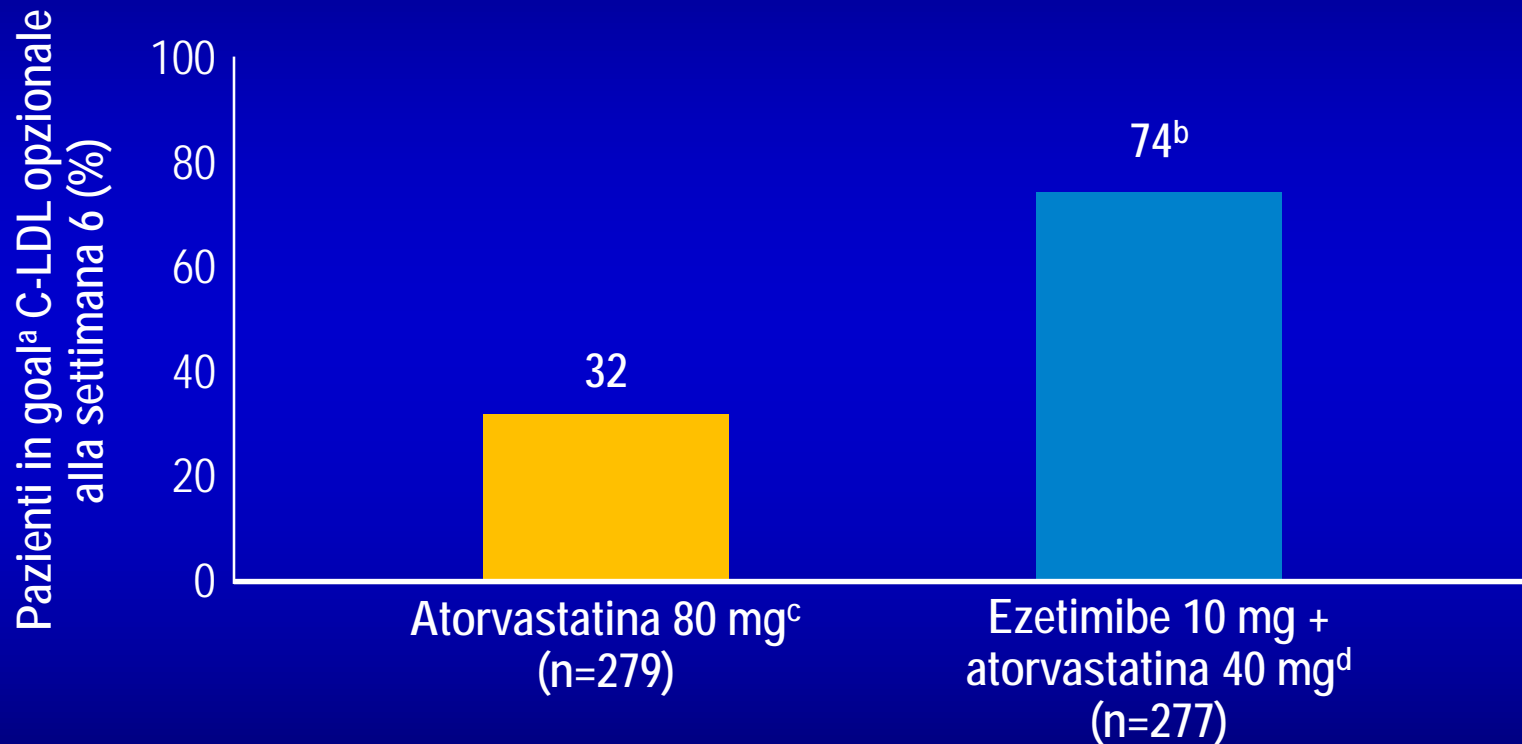


# Disegno dello Studio EZ-PATH



# Studio EZ-PATH

Confronto tra raddoppio di atorvastatina e aggiunta di ezetimibe nel raggiungere l'obiettivo di C-LDL <70 mg/dl



<sup>a</sup><70 mg/dl (<1,8 mmol/l); <sup>b</sup>p <0,001 vs atorvastatina 80 mg; <sup>c</sup>C-LDL basale = 90 mg/dl; <sup>d</sup>C-LDL basale = 89 mg/dl

The even lower the even better

**Q & A**