

The PIVOTAL Trial – Role of IV iron in Renal Anemia

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Management of anaemia in CKD



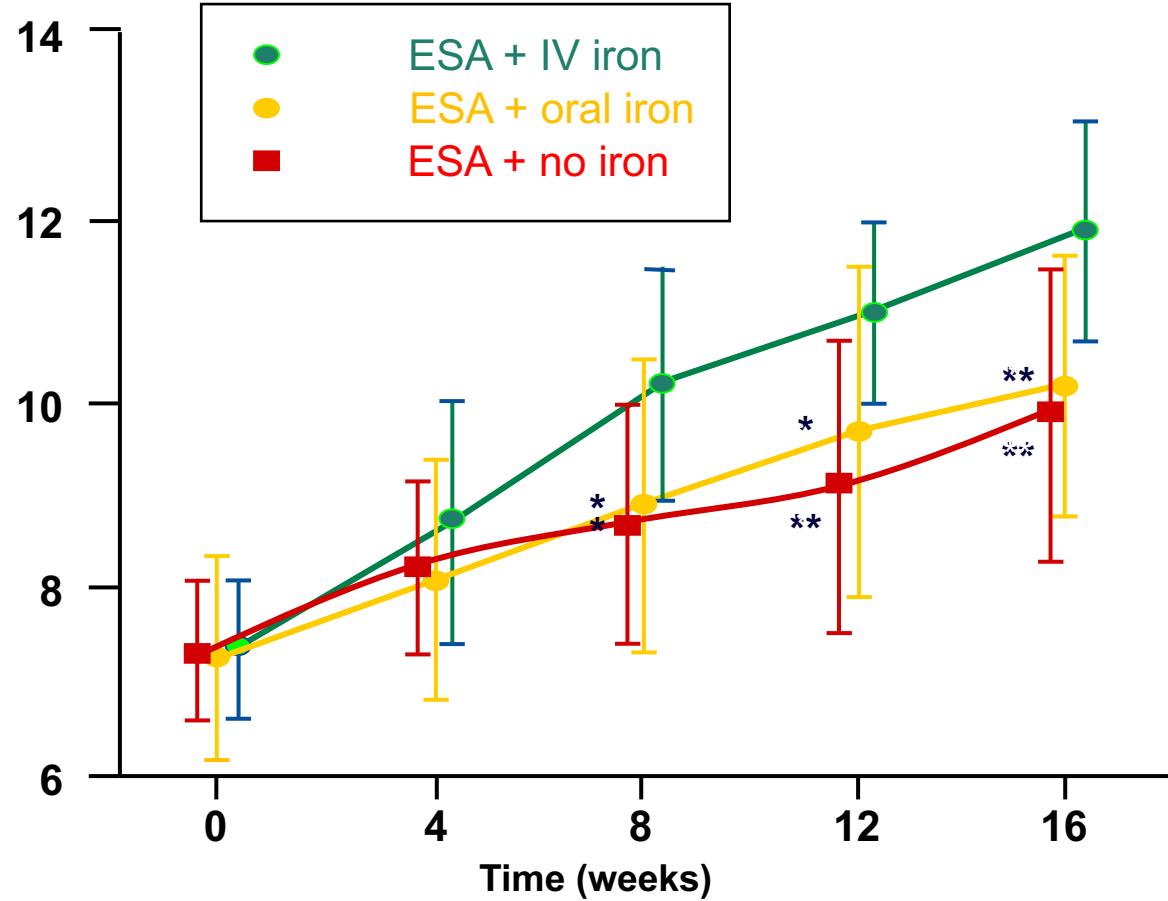
ESA therapy



IV iron

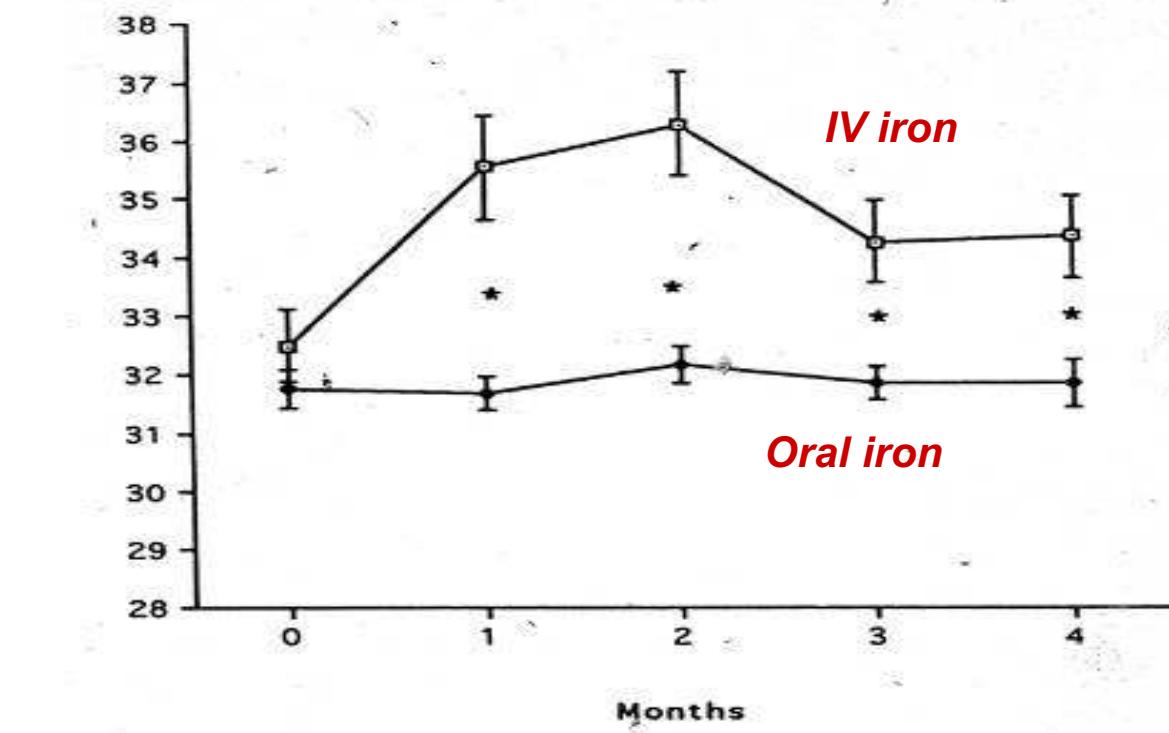
IV iron improves haemoglobin

Hb (g/dL)



Macdougall et al, *Kidney Int* (1996)

Hematocrit (%)



Fishbane et al, *Am J Kidney Dis* (1995)

IV iron reduces EPO doses

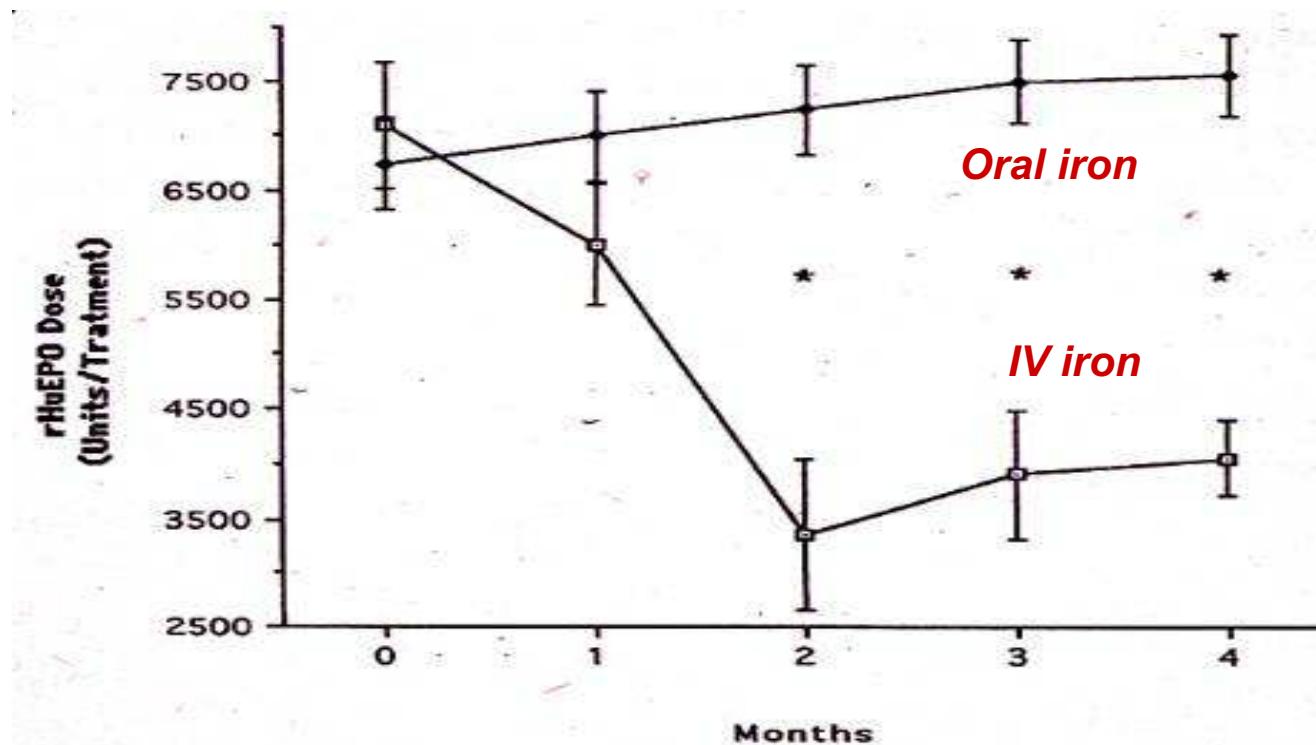
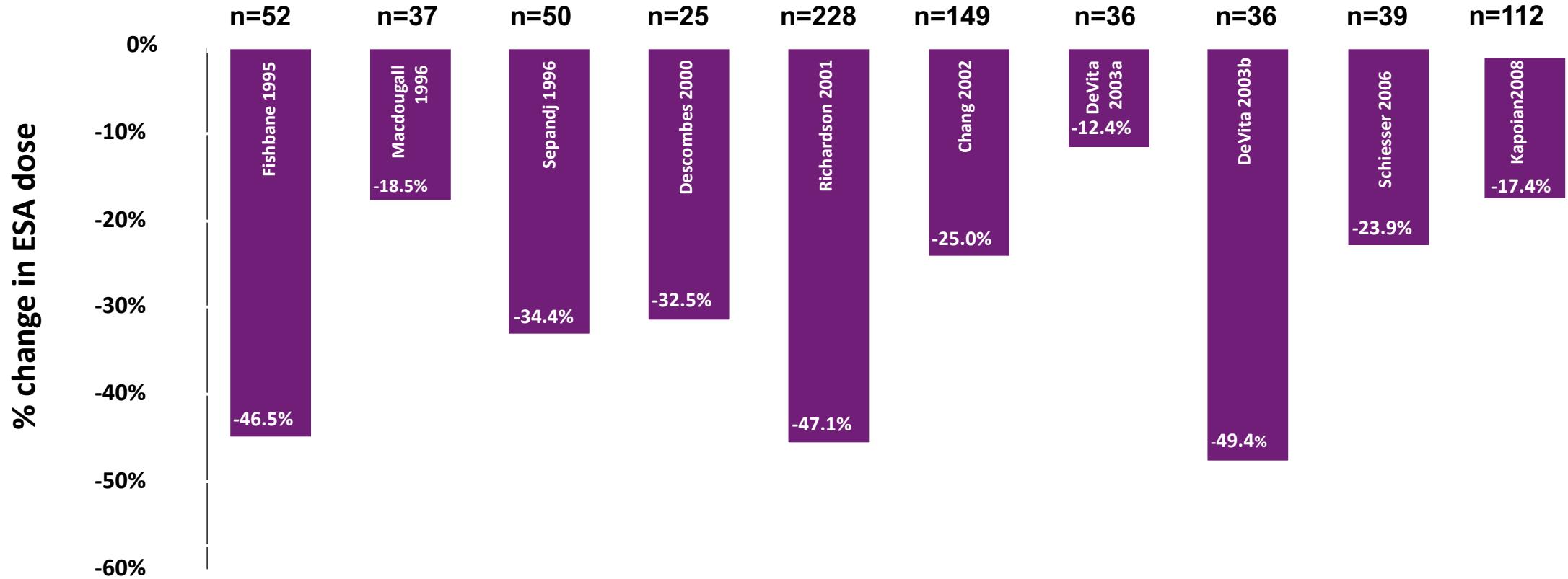


Fig 2. Mean rHuEPO dose at every month of follow-up in the two study groups. Squares indicate the intravenous group; diamonds indicate the oral group. *P < 0.05.

IV iron reduces ESA doses



Fishbane S et al. *Am J Kidney Dis* 1995;26:41–46; Macdougall I et al. *Kidney Int* 1996;50: 1694–1699; Sepandj F et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 1996;11:319–322; Descombes E & Fellay G. *Nephron* 2000;84:196–197; Richardson D et al. *Am J Kidney Dis* 2001;38:109–117; Chang CH et al. *Clin Nephrol* 2002;57:136–141; De Vita MV et al. *Clin Nephrol* 2003;60:335–340; Schiesser D et al. *Nephrol Dial Transplant* 2006;21:2841–2845; Kapoian T et al. *JASN* 2008;19:372–379

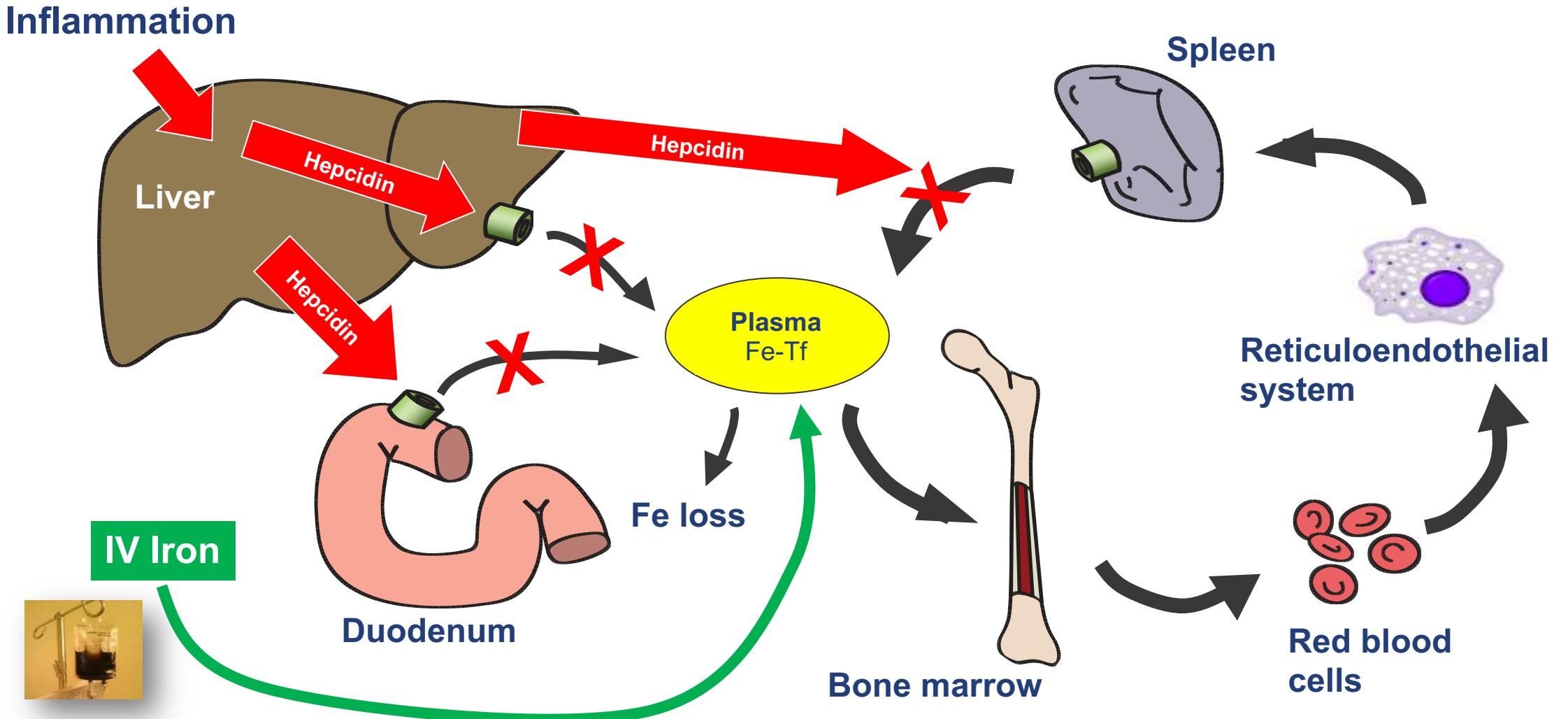
Haemoglobin, ESA, and IV iron use in US dialysis patients (1992–2005)

Table 2. Hemoglobin, Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agent, and Iron Use Trends, 1992 to 2004 (even years shown)

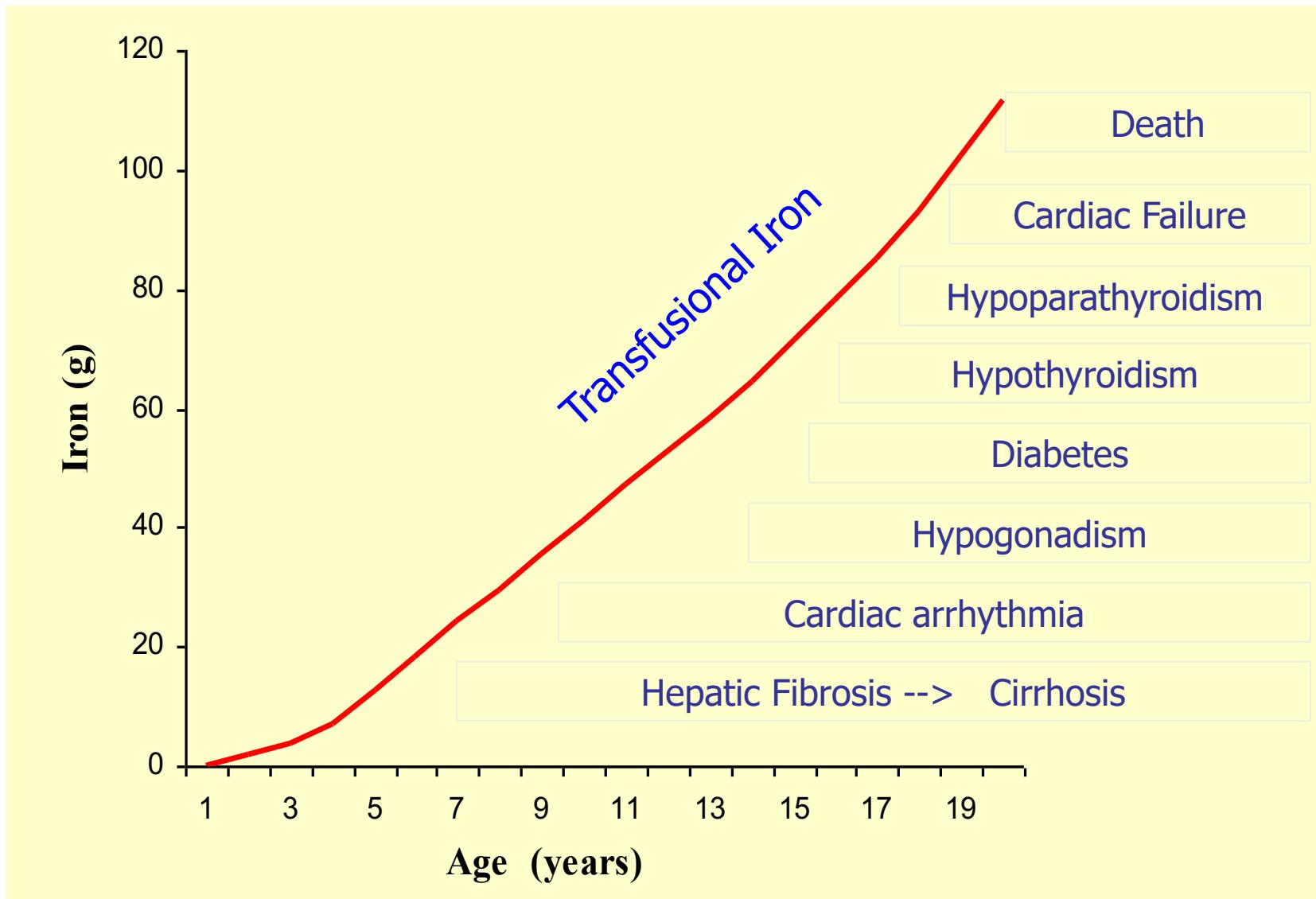
	Cohort Year						
	1992 (n = 77,347)	1994 (n = 89,815)	1996 (n = 100,540)	1998 (n = 109,685)	2000 (n = 121,133)	2002 (n = 140,227)	2004 (n = 157,960)
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	9.7 ± 1.0	10.1 ± 1.0	10.5 ± 1.0	10.9 ± 0.8	11.5 ± 1.0	11.7 ± 1.0	11.8 ± 0.9
0-<11	49,471 (64.0)	58,160 (64.8)	54,345 (54.1)	48,704 (44.4)	27,398 (22.6)	23,507 (16.8)	18,775 (11.9)
≤11-≥12	4,453 (5.8)	10,411 (11.6)	23,452 (23.3)	40,642 (37.1)	49,005 (40.5)	60,484 (43.1)	65,070 (41.2)
>12	404 (0.5)	1,071 (1.2)	3,194 (3.2)	4,599 (4.2)	30,482 (25.2)	42,073 (30.0)	60,336 (38.2)
Missing/unknown	23,019 (29.8)	20,173 (22.5)	19,549 (19.4)	15,740 (14.4)	14,248 (11.8)	14,163 (10.1)	13,779 (8.7)
Total ESA use/mo							
None	23,125 (29.9)	19,988 (22.3)	18,973 (18.9)	15,506 (14.1)	14,244 (11.8)	14,085 (10.0)	13,631 (8.6)
0-≤28,000 units	31,676 (41.0)	31,786 (35.4)	29,336 (29.2)	32,791 (29.9)	28,866 (23.8)	33,586 (24.0)	36,514 (23.1)
28,000-≤58,000 units	18,884 (24.4)	27,234 (30.3)	31,298 (31.1)	35,219 (32.1)	36,086 (29.8)	41,957 (29.9)	46,233 (29.3)
>58,000 units	3,662 (4.7)	10,807 (12.0)	20,933 (20.8)	26,169 (23.9)	41,937 (34.6)	50,599 (36.1)	61,582 (39.0)
Iron use (yes)	258 (0.3)	22,601 (25.2)	36,781 (36.6)	63,678 (58.1)	75,385 (62.2)	83,718 (59.7)	113,03 (71.6)

Note: Values expressed as mean ± SE or number (percent). Hemoglobin in g/dL may be converted to g/L by multiplying by 10.

IV iron bypasses hepcidin blockade



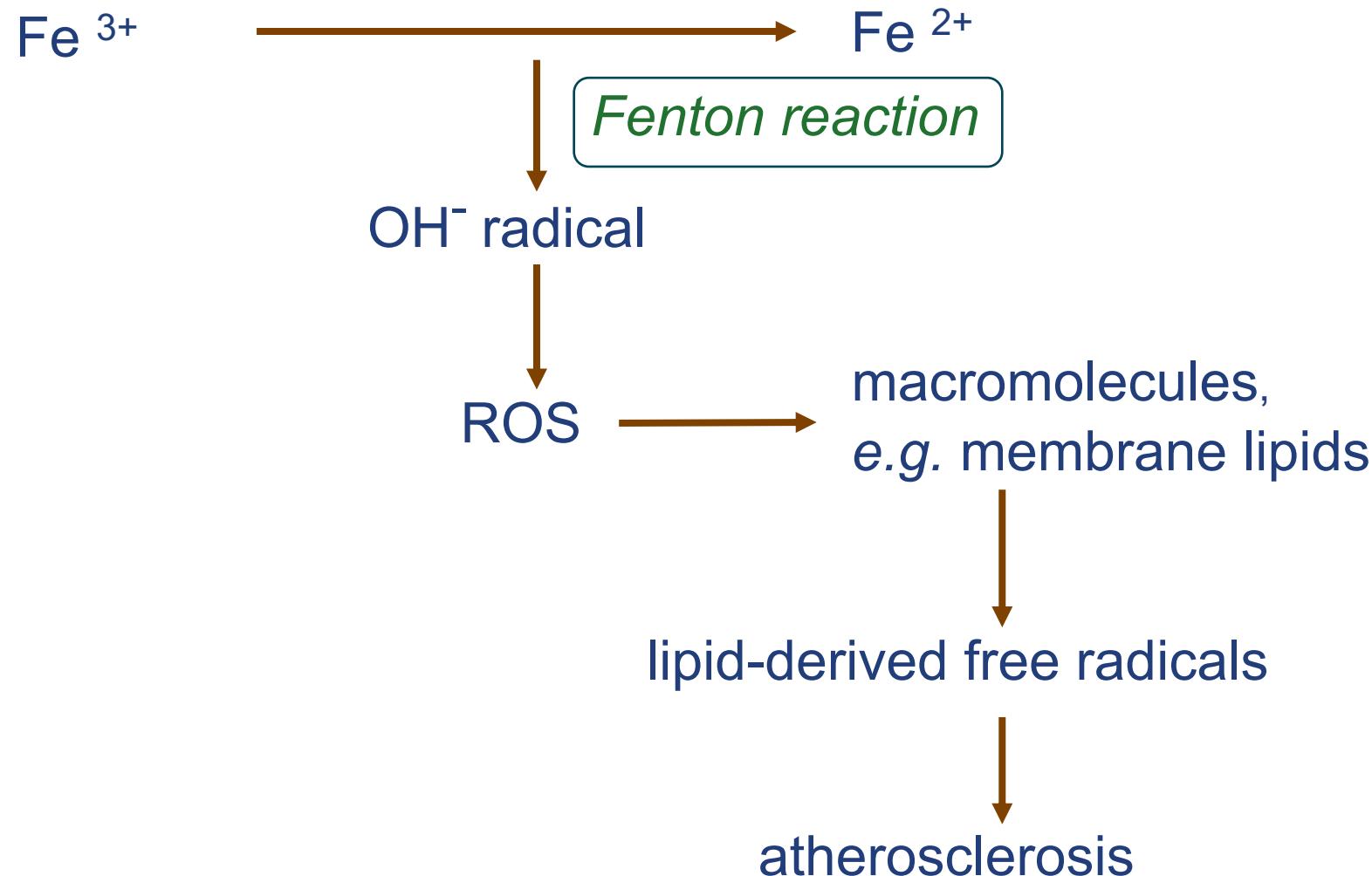
Transfusional iron overload in thalassaemia



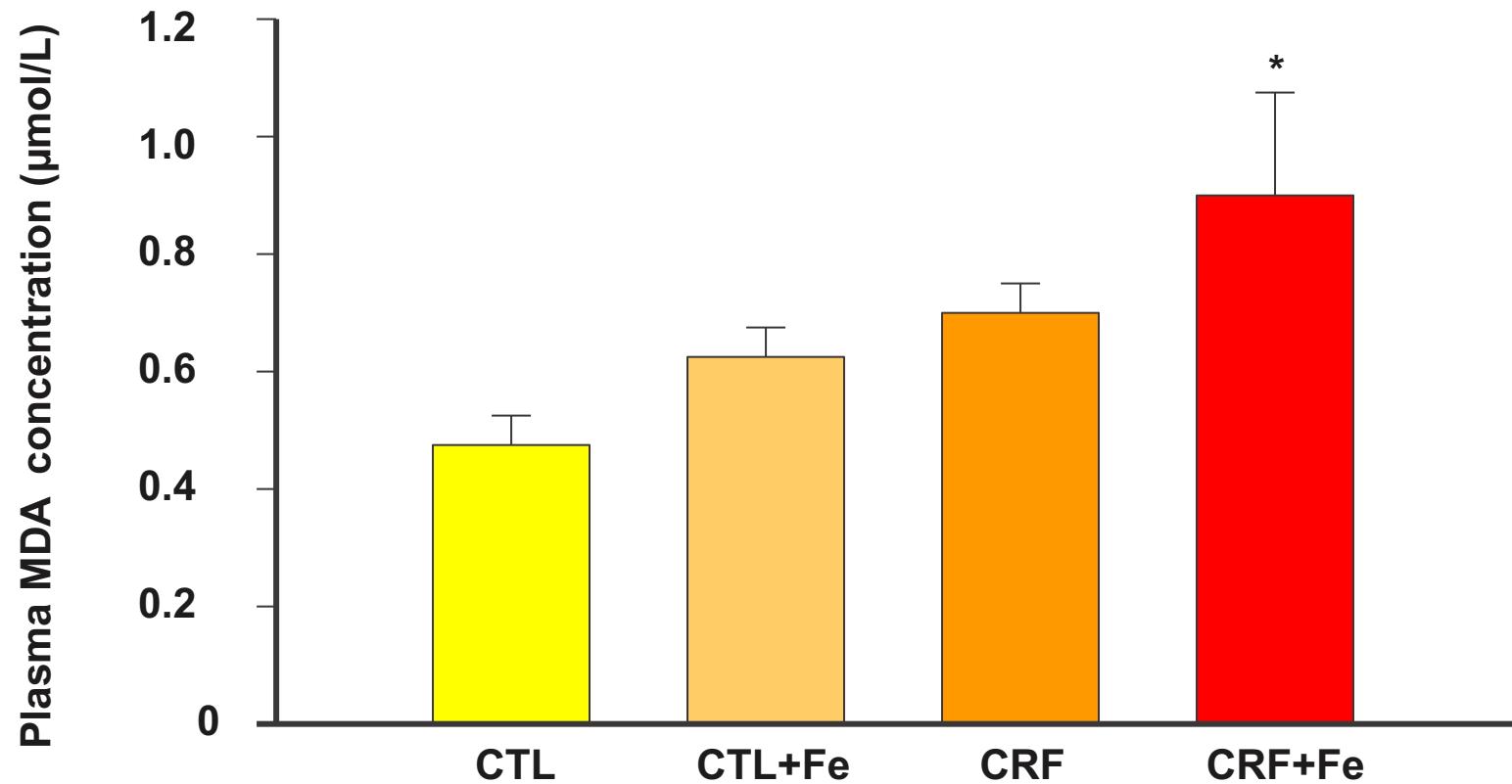
Concerns about IV iron

- Increased oxidative stress
- Increased atherogenesis
- CV toxicity
- Inflammation
- Immune dysfunction
- Cellular toxicity
- Increased infections

Iron and oxidative stress



Iron increases oxidative stress



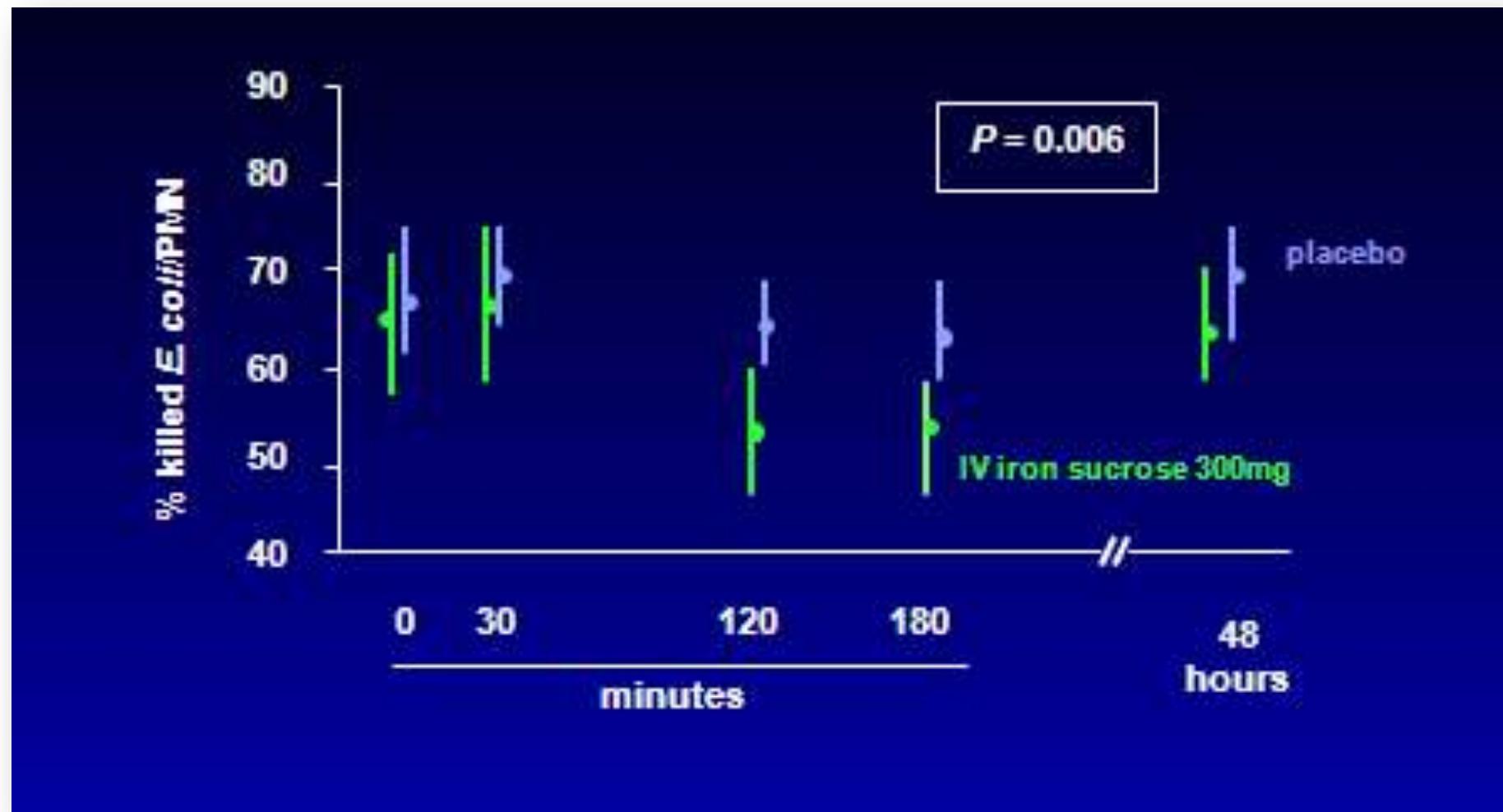
Plasma malondialdehyde (MDA) levels in control rats (CTL), Fe-injected control rats (CTL+Fe), chronic renal failure rats (CRF), and Fe-injected CRF rats (CRF+ Fe). ($N = 6$ in each group) * $P < 0.05$ vs. CTL group.

Iron and infection

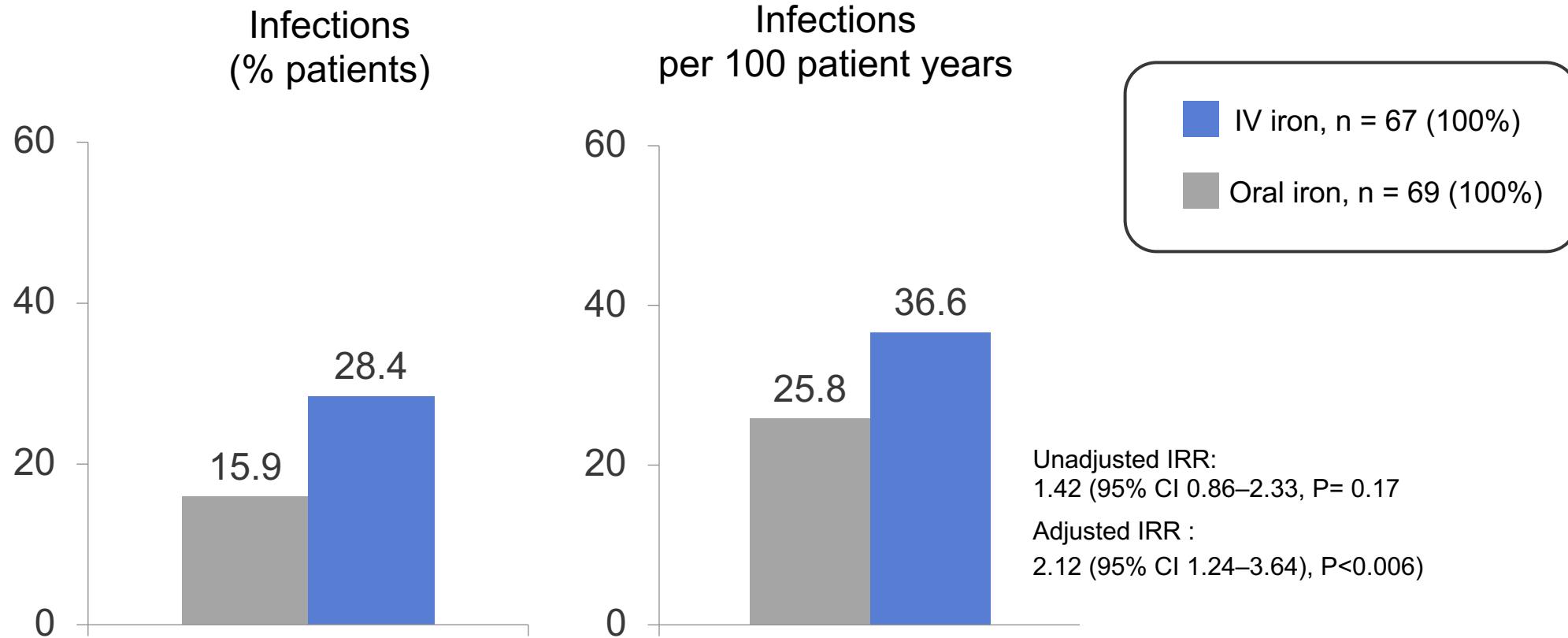
Iron overload: ↑ bacterial growth / virulence
 ↓ PMN phagocytosis / bacterial killing

Animals: parenteral iron administered to rats or mice with active infection → harmful

IV iron decreases neutrophil killing capacity



REVOKE study: *Infection-related SAEs*



- The incidence of lung and skin infections were increased 3–4 fold in the IV iron group

Data from the Dialysis Outcomes and Practice Patterns Study validate an association between high intravenous iron doses and mortality

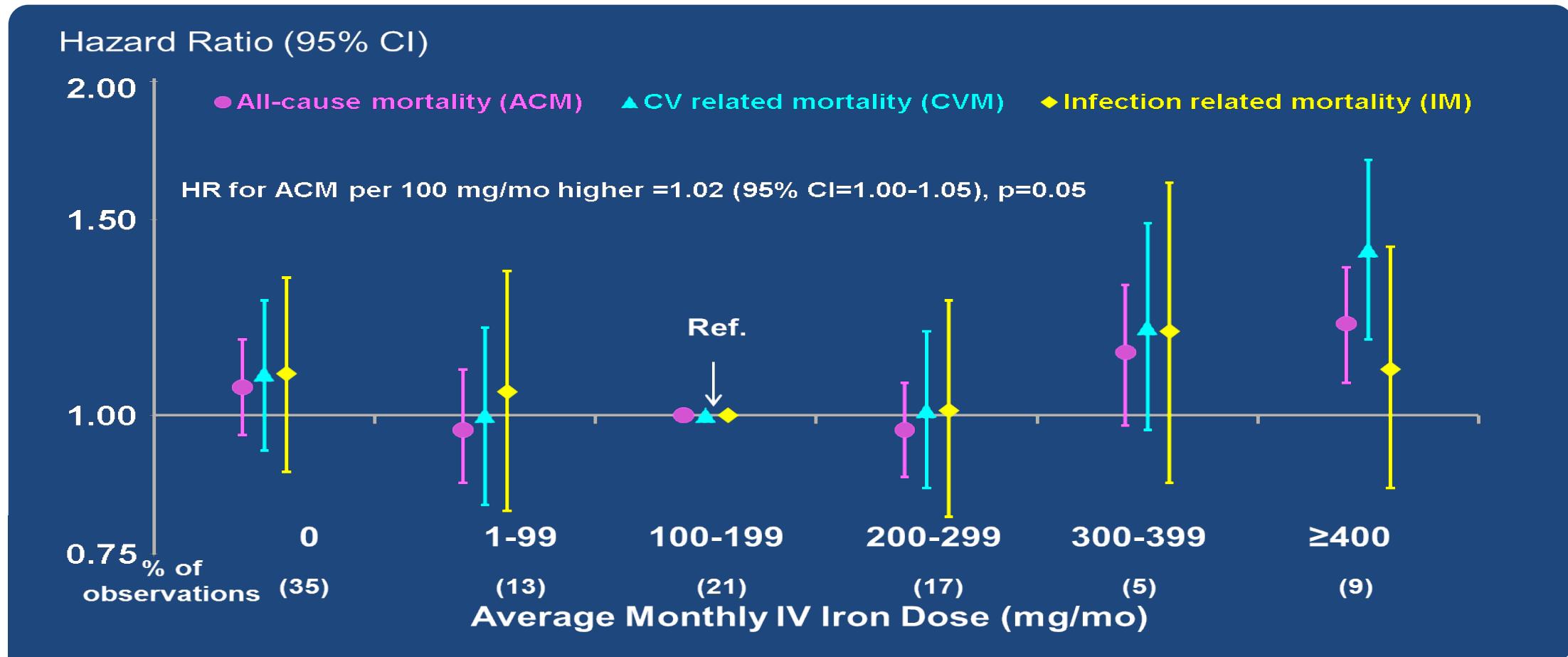
George R. Bailie¹, Maria Larkina², David A. Goodkin², Yun Li^{2,3}, Ronald L. Pisoni², Brian Bieber², Nancy Mason⁴, Lin Tong², Francesco Locatelli⁵, Mark R. Marshall⁶, Masaaki Inaba⁷ and Bruce M. Robinson^{2,3}

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⁴College of Pharmacy, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA; ⁵Department of Nephrology and Dialysis and Renal Transplant, Alessandro Manzoni Hospital, Lecco, Italy; ⁶Department of Renal Medicine, Middlemore Hospital, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand and ⁷Department of Metabolism, Endocrinology and Molecular Medicine, Osaka City University Graduate School of Medicine, Osaka, Japan

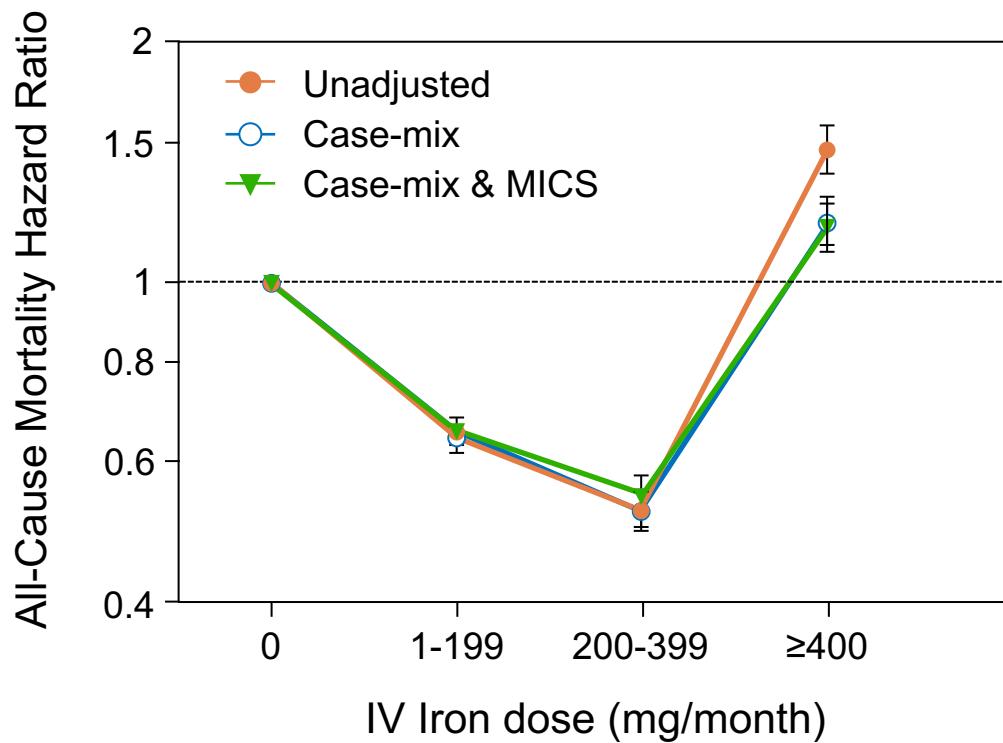
Associations between IV iron dose and mortality

DOPPS

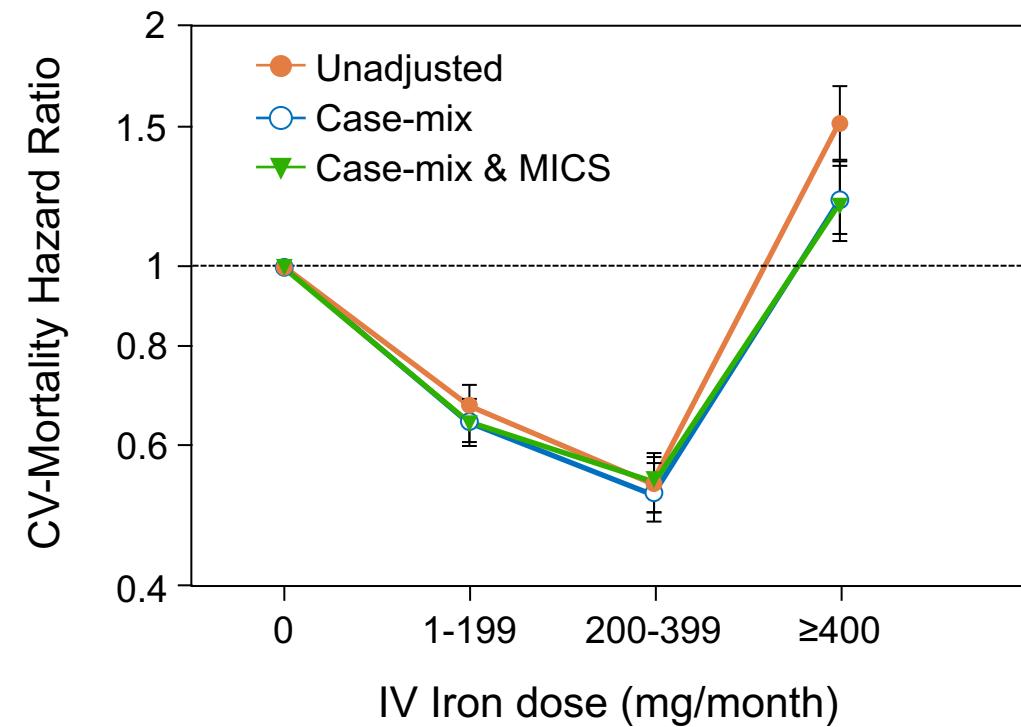


Association of IV Iron dose with Mortality

All-Cause Mortality



CV-Mortality

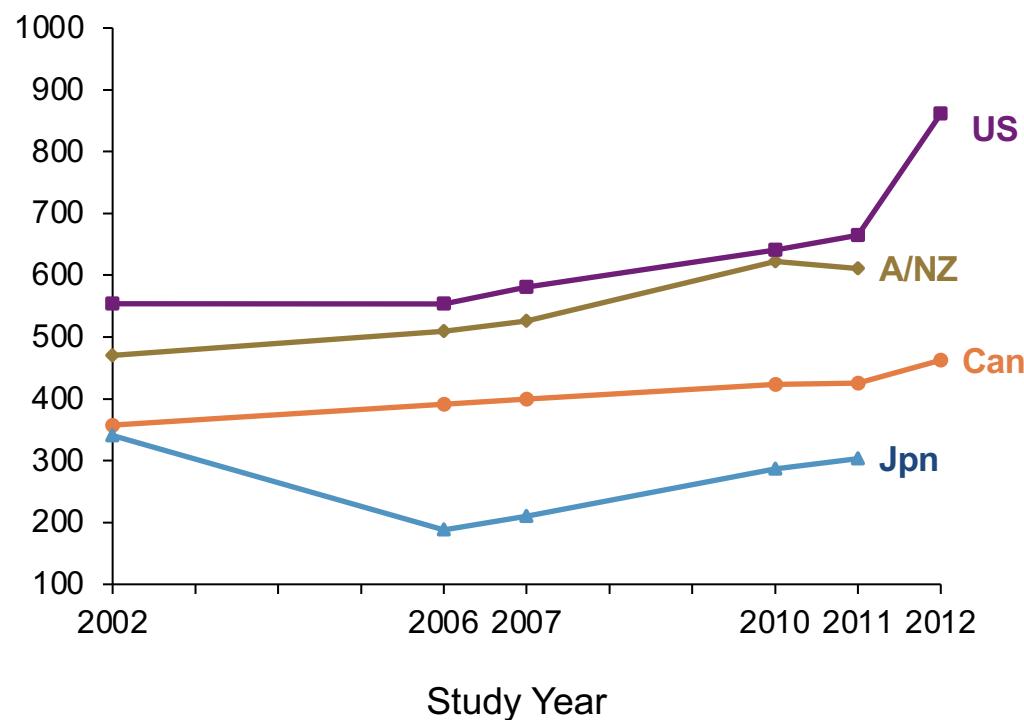


MICS=malnutrition-inflammation-cachexia syndrome.

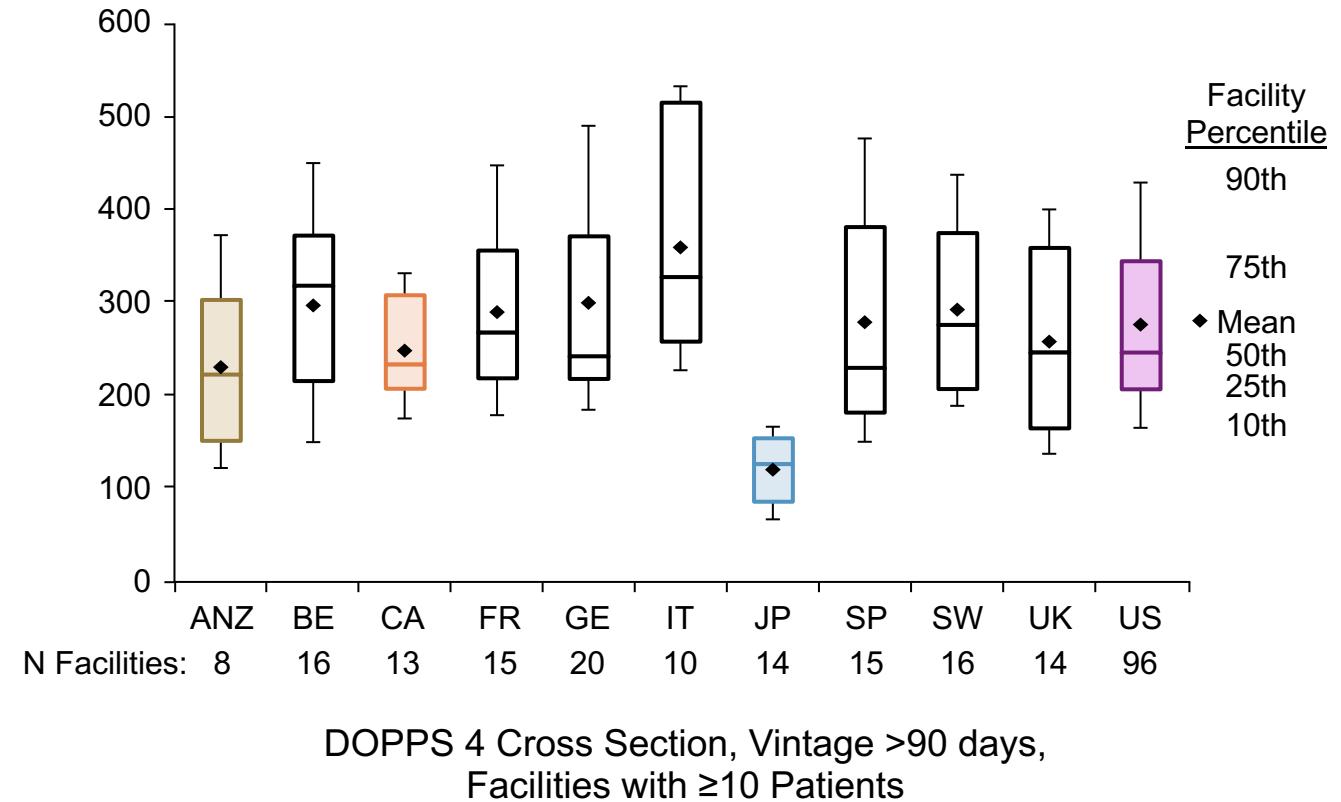
Kalantar-Zadeh K, et al. *J Am Soc Nephrol*. 2005;16(10):3070-3080.

Ferritin and IV Iron Use in DOPPS

Mean Serum Ferritin (ng/mL)



Mean IV Iron Dose (mg/month)





Proactive IV iron Therapy in haemodialysis



The NEW ENGLAND
JOURNAL of MEDICINE

N Engl J Med 2019
Jan 31;380: 447-458.

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

Intravenous Iron in Patients Undergoing Maintenance Hemodialysis

Iain C. Macdougall, M.D., Claire White, B.Sc., Stefan D. Anker, M.D.,
Sunil Bhandari, Ph.D., F.R.C.P., Kenneth Farrington, M.D., Philip A. Kalra, M.D.,
John J.V. McMurray, M.D., Heather Murray, M.Sc., Charles R.V. Tomson, D.M.,
David C. Wheeler, M.D., Christopher G. Winearls, D.Phil., F.R.C.P., and
Ian Ford, Ph.D., for the PIVOTAL Investigators and Committees*

Network of Sites

England

Queen Elizabeth Hospital, [Birmingham](#); Heartlands Hospital, [Birmingham](#); Royal Free, [London](#), King's College Hospital, [London](#); Guy's & St Thomas', [London](#); St Helier, [Surrey](#); St George's, [London](#); Royal [Liverpool](#) Hospital, University Hospital [Aintree](#); [Sheffield](#) Teaching Hospital; Lister Hospital, [Stevenage](#); Salford Royal Hospital, [Manchester](#); [Manchester](#) Royal Hospital; Queen Alexandra Hospital, [Portsmouth](#); Kent & [Canterbury](#) Hospital, [Leicester](#) General Hospital, [Hull](#) Royal Infirmary; Freeman Hospital, [Newcastle](#); Churchill Hospital, [Oxford](#); University Hospital of North Staffordshire, [Stoke-on-Trent](#); Southmead Hospital, [Bristol](#); Royal [Cornwall](#) Hospital; [Nottingham](#) City Hospital; Norfolk & [Norwich](#) Hospital; New Cross Hospital, [Wolverhampton](#); Royal [London](#) Hospital; [Wirral](#) University Teaching Hospital; Royal [Shrewsbury](#) Hospital, Royal Devon & [Exeter](#) Hospital, Royal [Preston](#) Hospital, St James' Hospital, [Leeds](#); Hammersmith Hospital, [London](#); Royal Sussex Hospital, [Brighton](#); Bradford Teaching Hospital; [Coventry](#) University Hospital; Southend University Hospital; [Gloucestershire](#) Royal Hospital; Derriford Hospital, [Plymouth](#); Royal Berkshire, [Reading](#)

Wales

Morriston Hospital, [Swansea](#); University Hospital, [Cardiff](#)

Scotland

Western Infirmary, [Glasgow](#); Victoria Hospital, [Kirkcaldy](#); Ninewells Hospital, [Dundee](#); Royal [Edinburgh](#) Hospital

N. Ireland

Belfast City Hospital, [Antrim](#) Area Hospital; Daisy Hill Hospital, [Newry](#); Altnagelvin Hospital, [Derry](#)

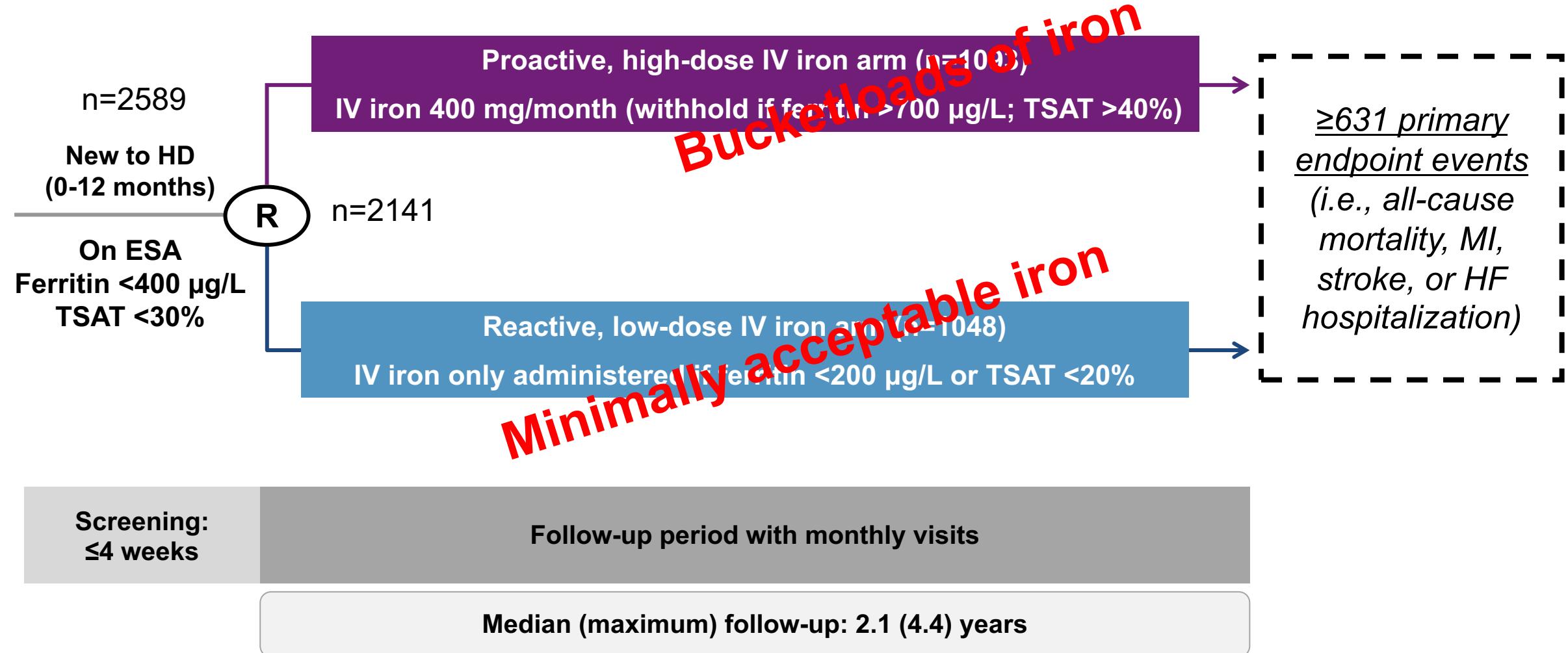
50 Participating sites



Hypothesis: Proactive, high-dose IV iron would be non-inferior to reactive, low-dose IV iron for the outcome of all cause mortality and cardiovascular events in haemodialysis patients.

Prospective Randomised, Open label, Blinded Endpoint (PROBE) design

Trial Design



Outcomes

Primary

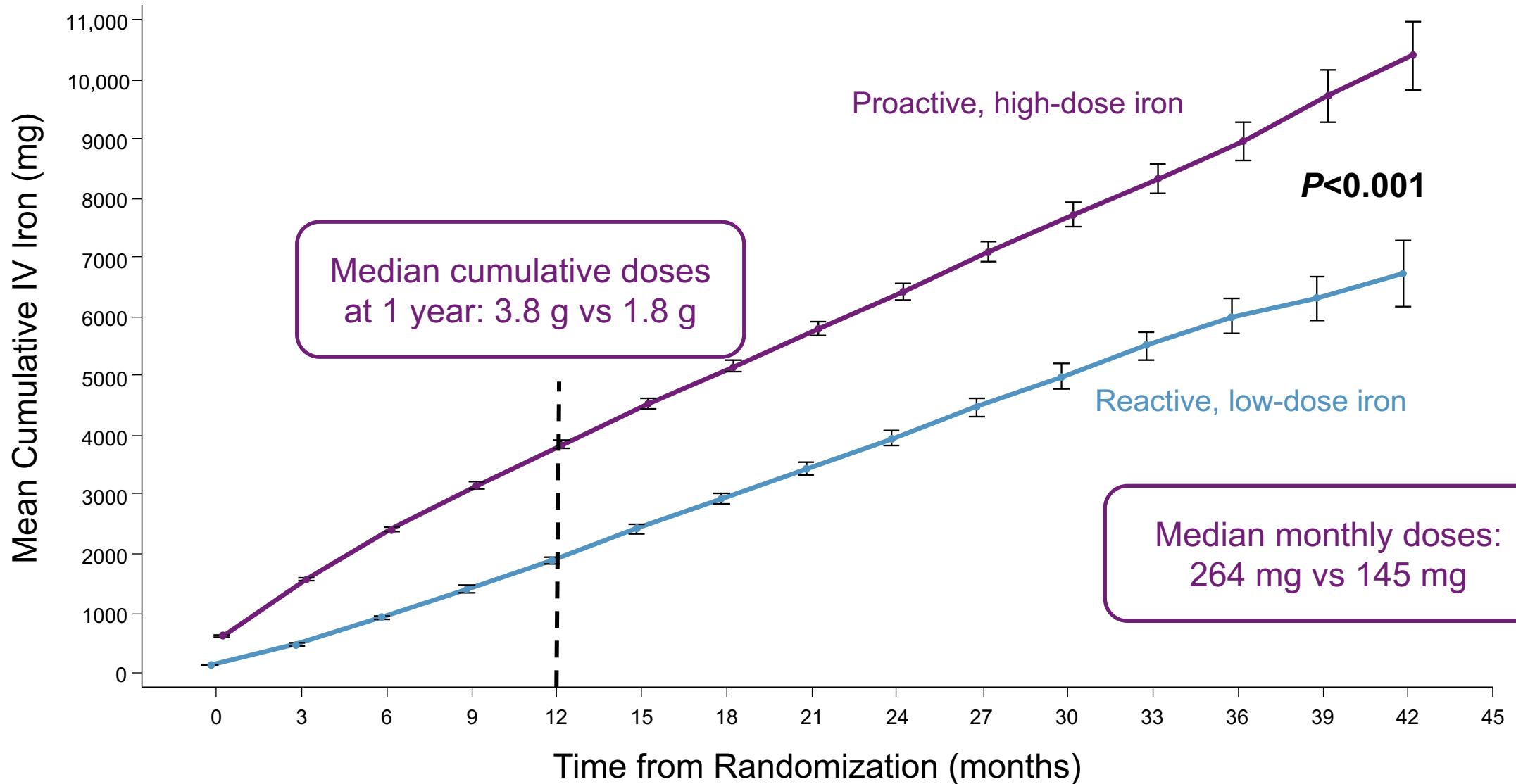
- Composite of nonfatal MI, nonfatal stroke, hospitalization for HF, or all-cause death, analyzed as time-to-first event

Secondary (efficacy)	Secondary (safety)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MI, stroke, hospitalization for HF, and deaths (first + recurrent events) All-cause death First composite CV event (MI, stroke, and hospitalization for HF) Fatal or nonfatal MI Fatal or nonfatal stroke Hospitalization for HF ESA dose requirements Transfusion requirements Quality-of-life measures 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vascular access thrombosis All-cause hospitalization Hospitalization for infection Infection episodes

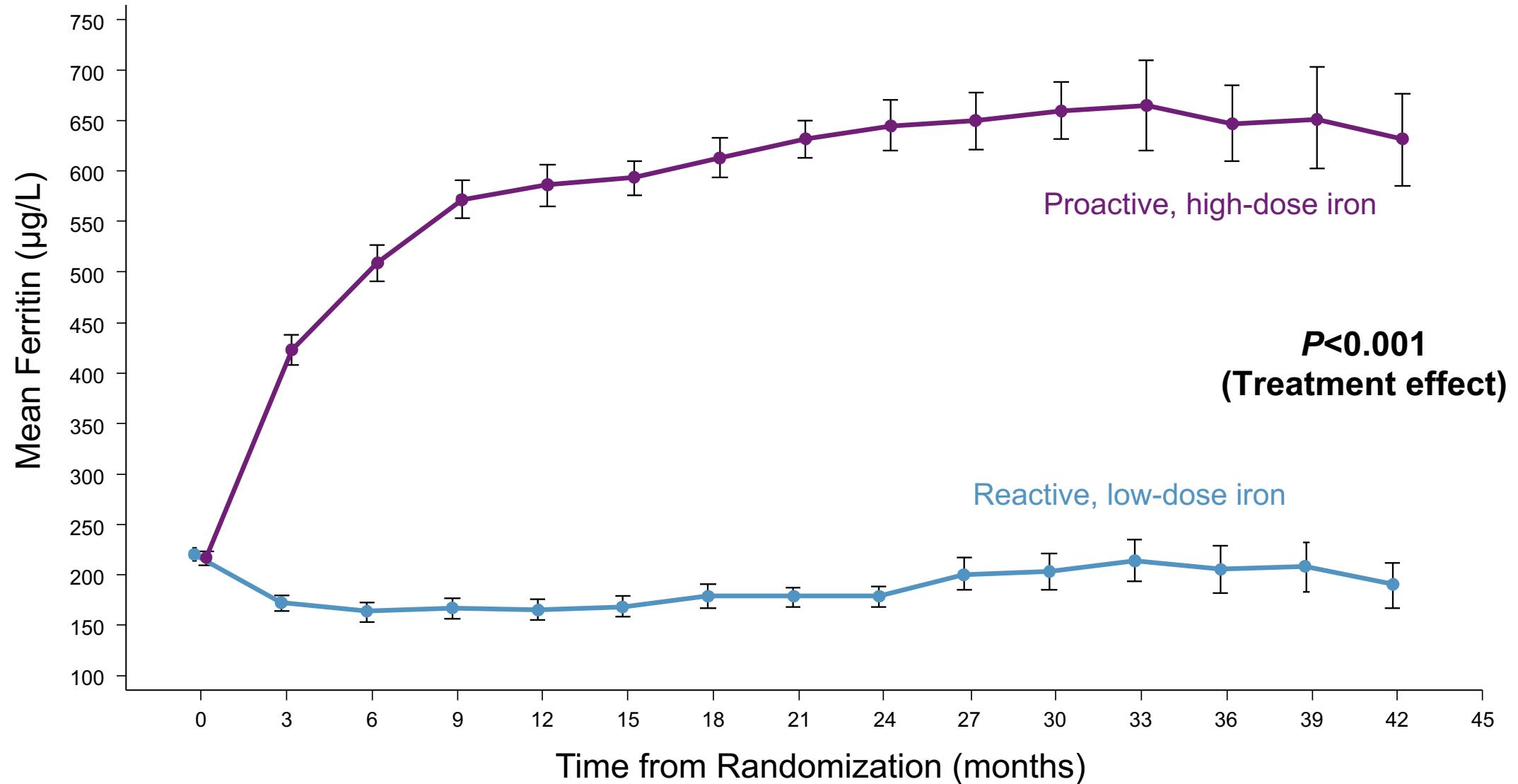
Tertiary

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cumulative dose of iron Hemoglobin concentration Serum ferritin concentration | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Platelet count Serum albumin concentration TSAT |
|---|---|

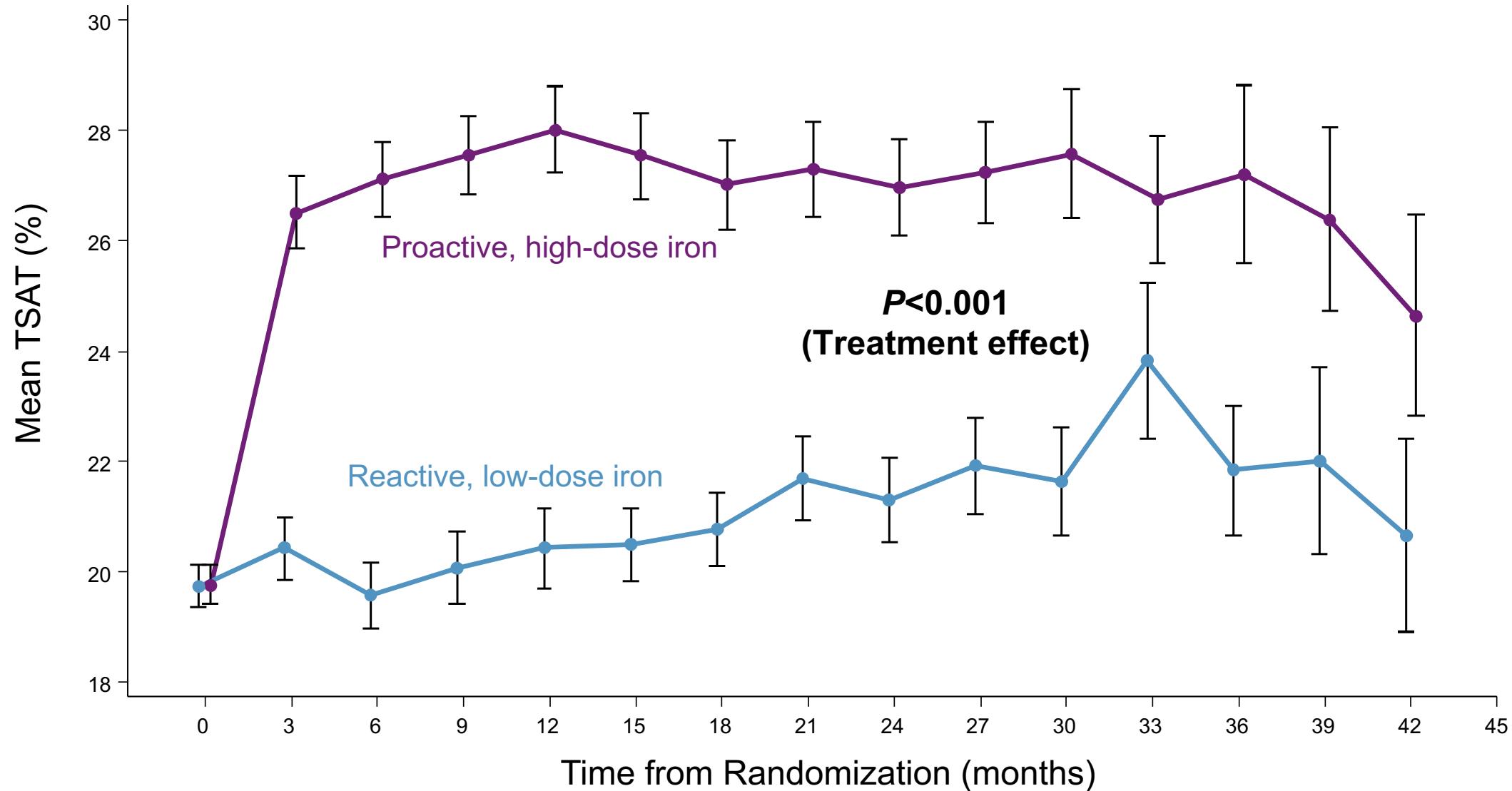
Cumulative Iron Dose



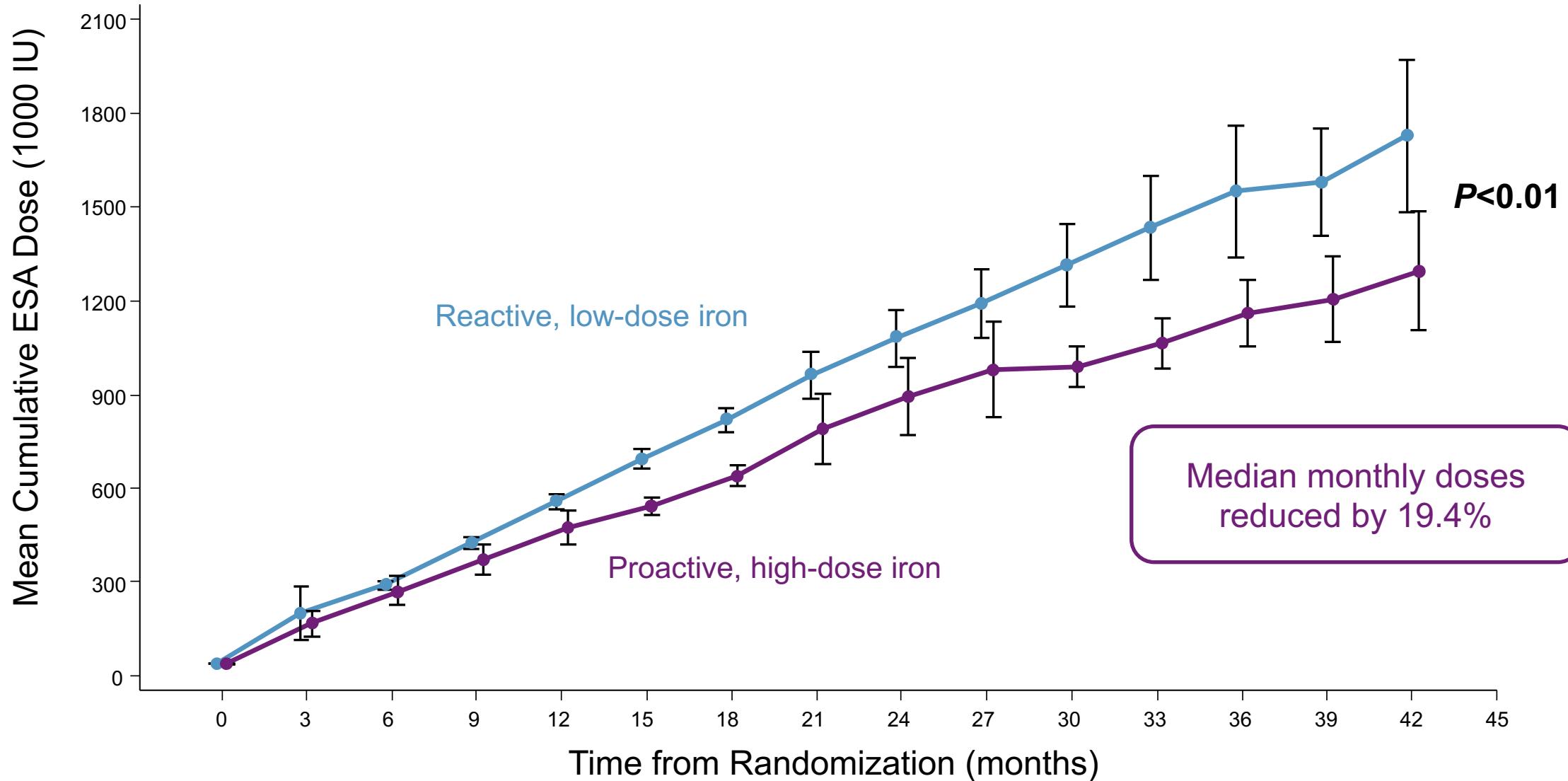
Serum Ferritin Concentration



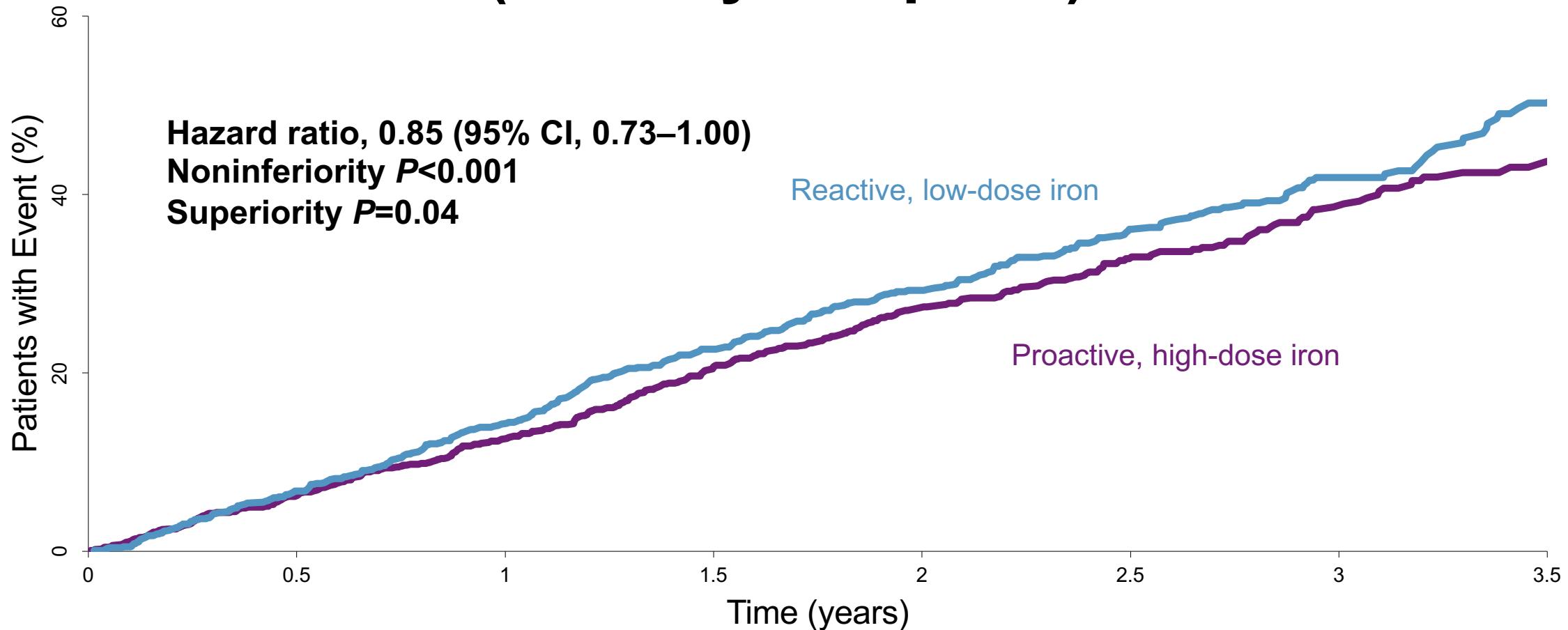
Transferrin Saturation



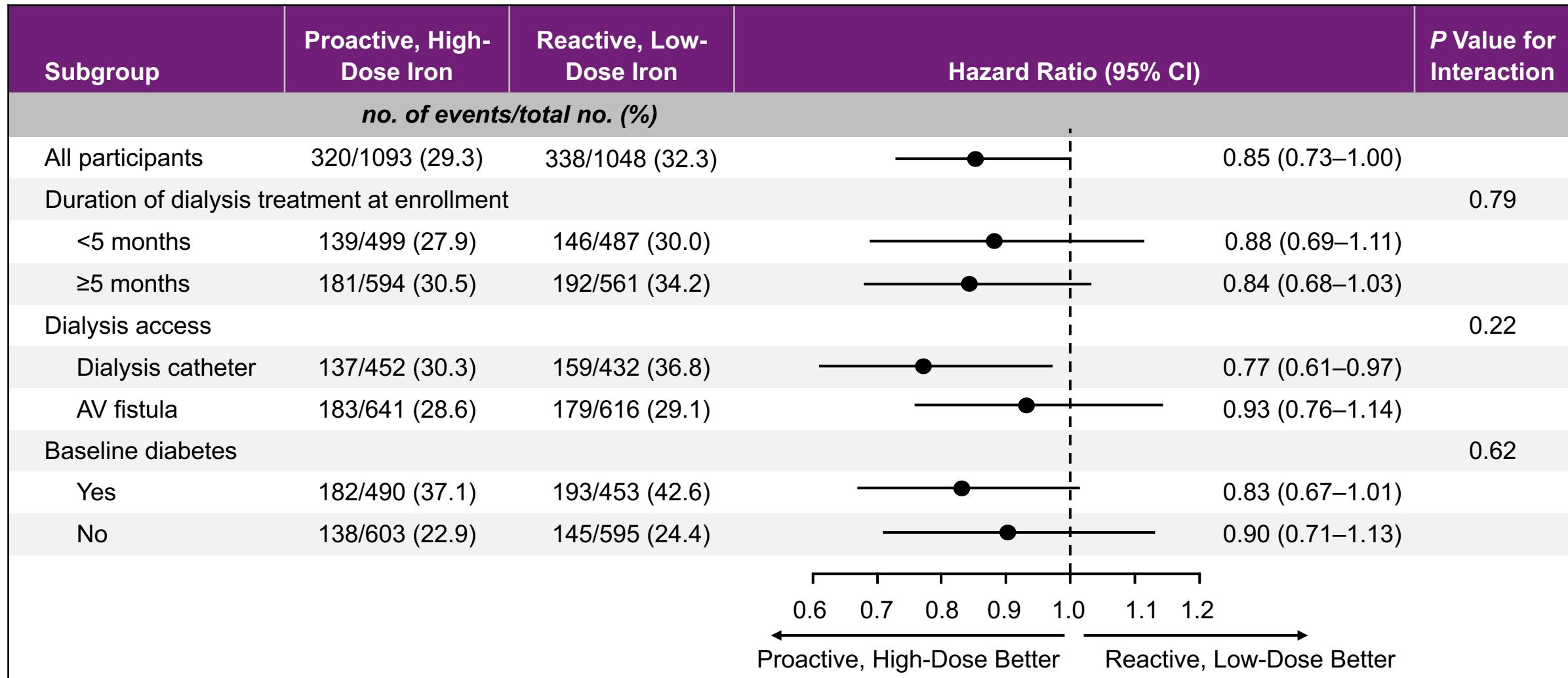
Cumulative ESA Dose



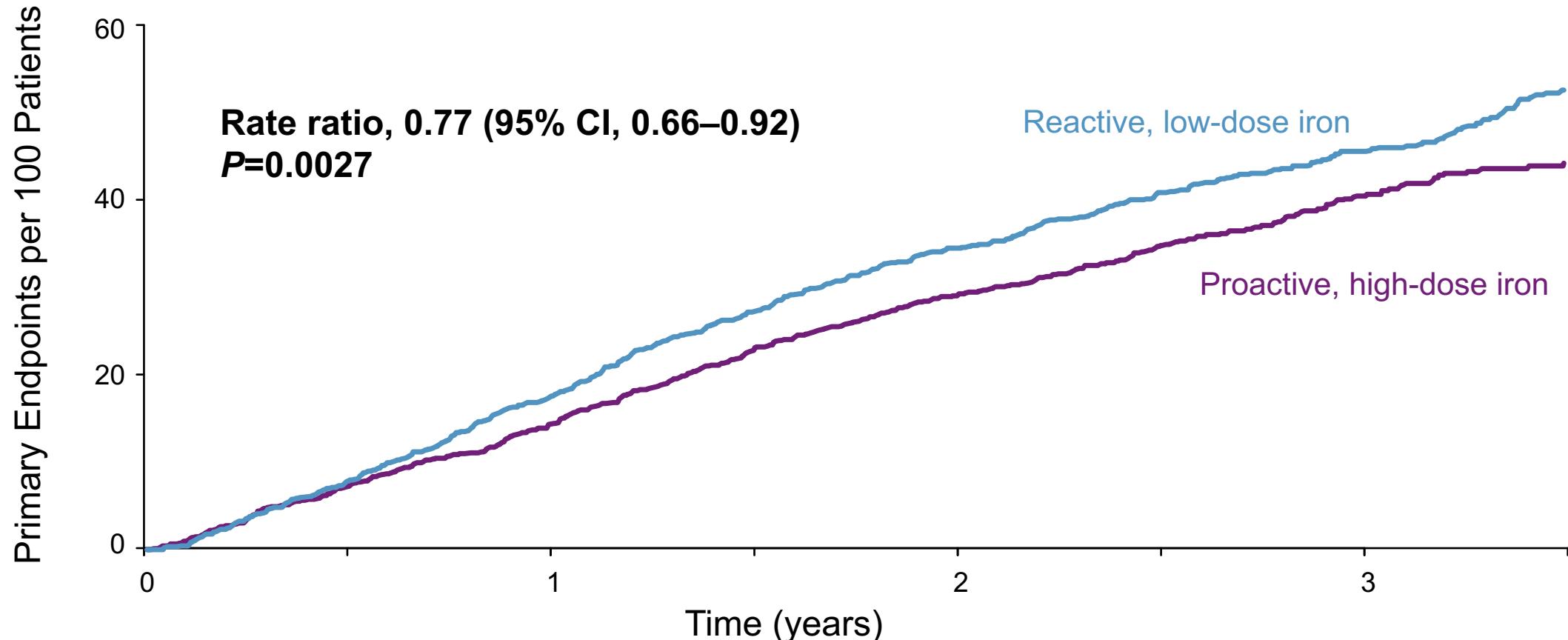
Death, MI, Stroke, or HF Hospitalization (Primary Endpoint)



Subgroup Analysis: Primary Endpoint



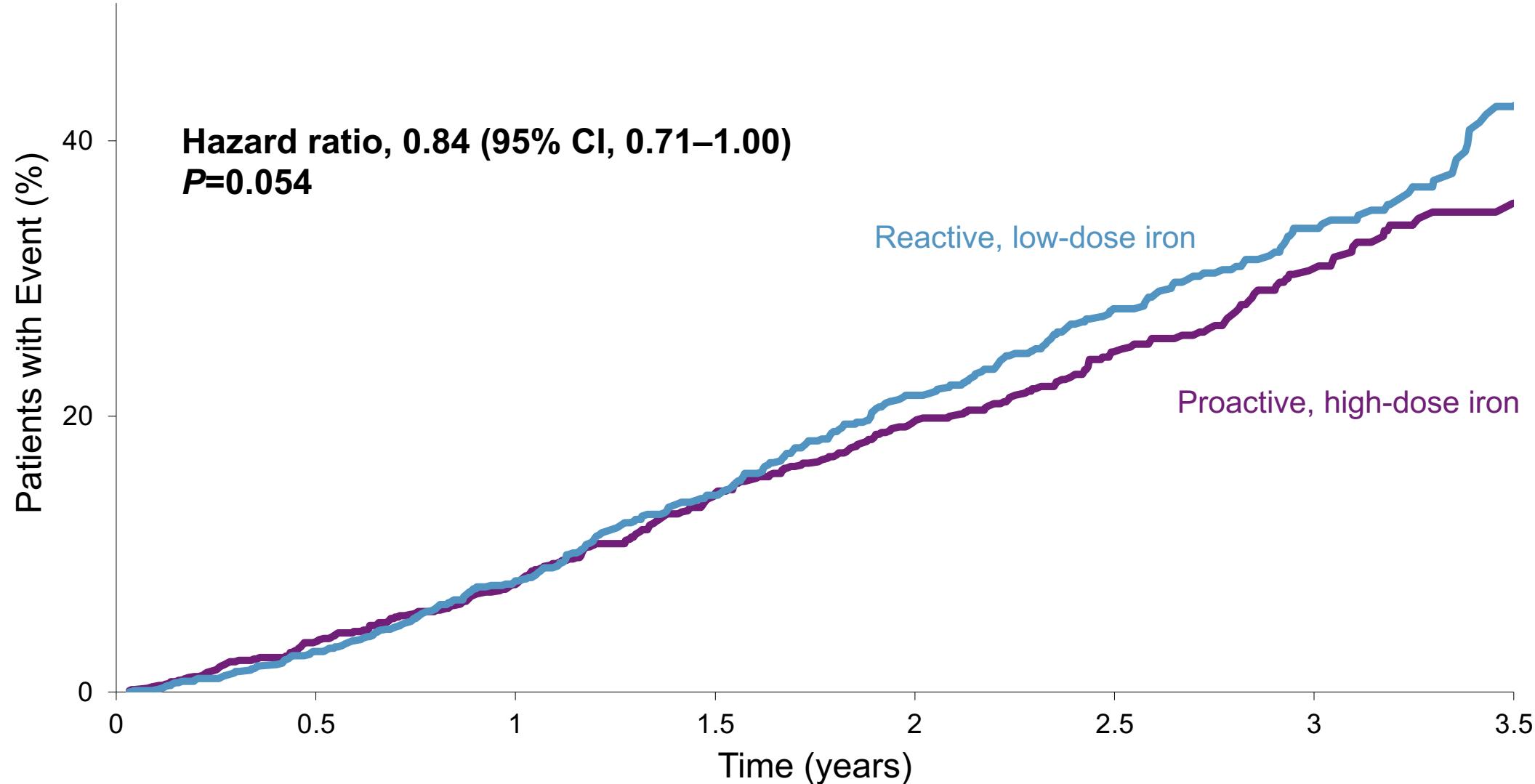
Primary Endpoint Components^a as Recurrent Events



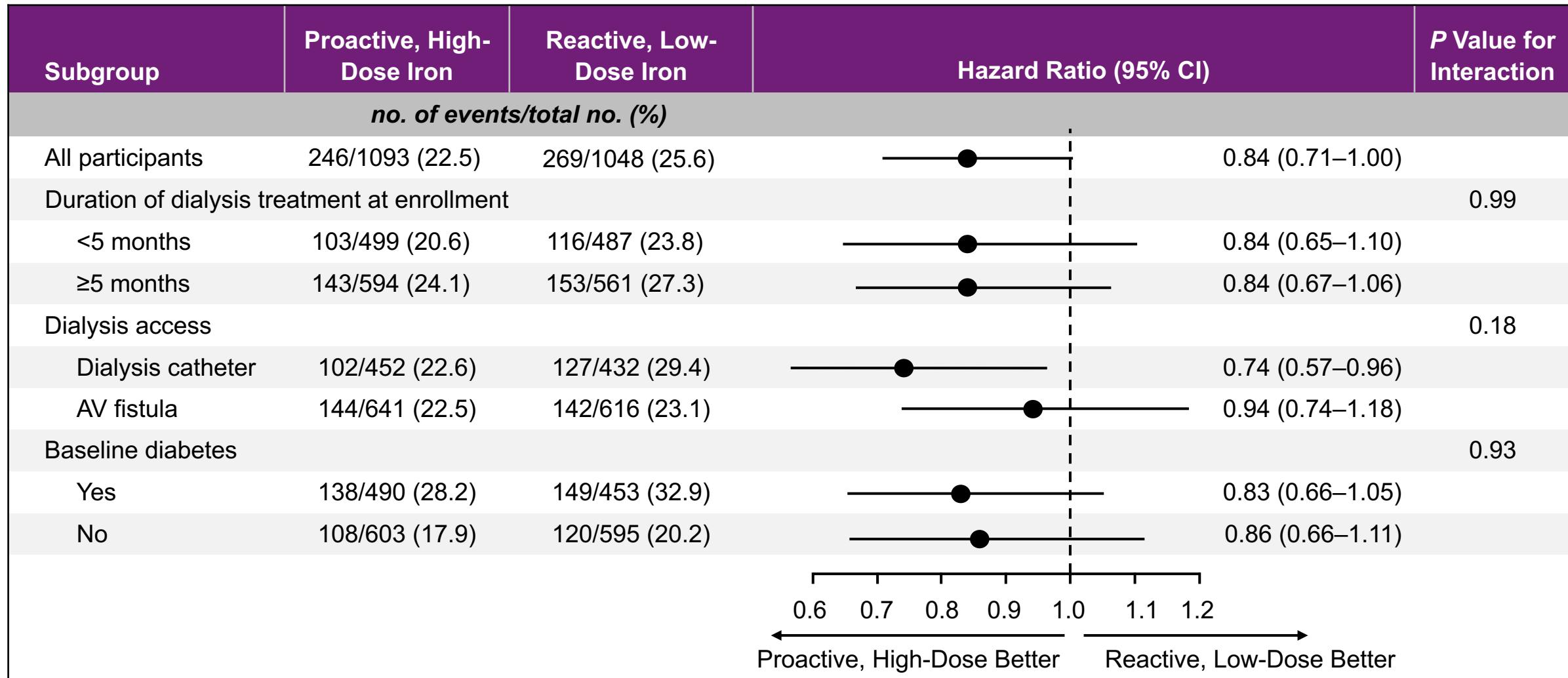
^aDeath from any cause, MI, stroke, and hospitalization for HF.

Recurrent events plotted in the form of mean frequency functions using the method of Ghosh and Lin (*Biometrics*. 2000;56:554-562.).

Death from Any Cause



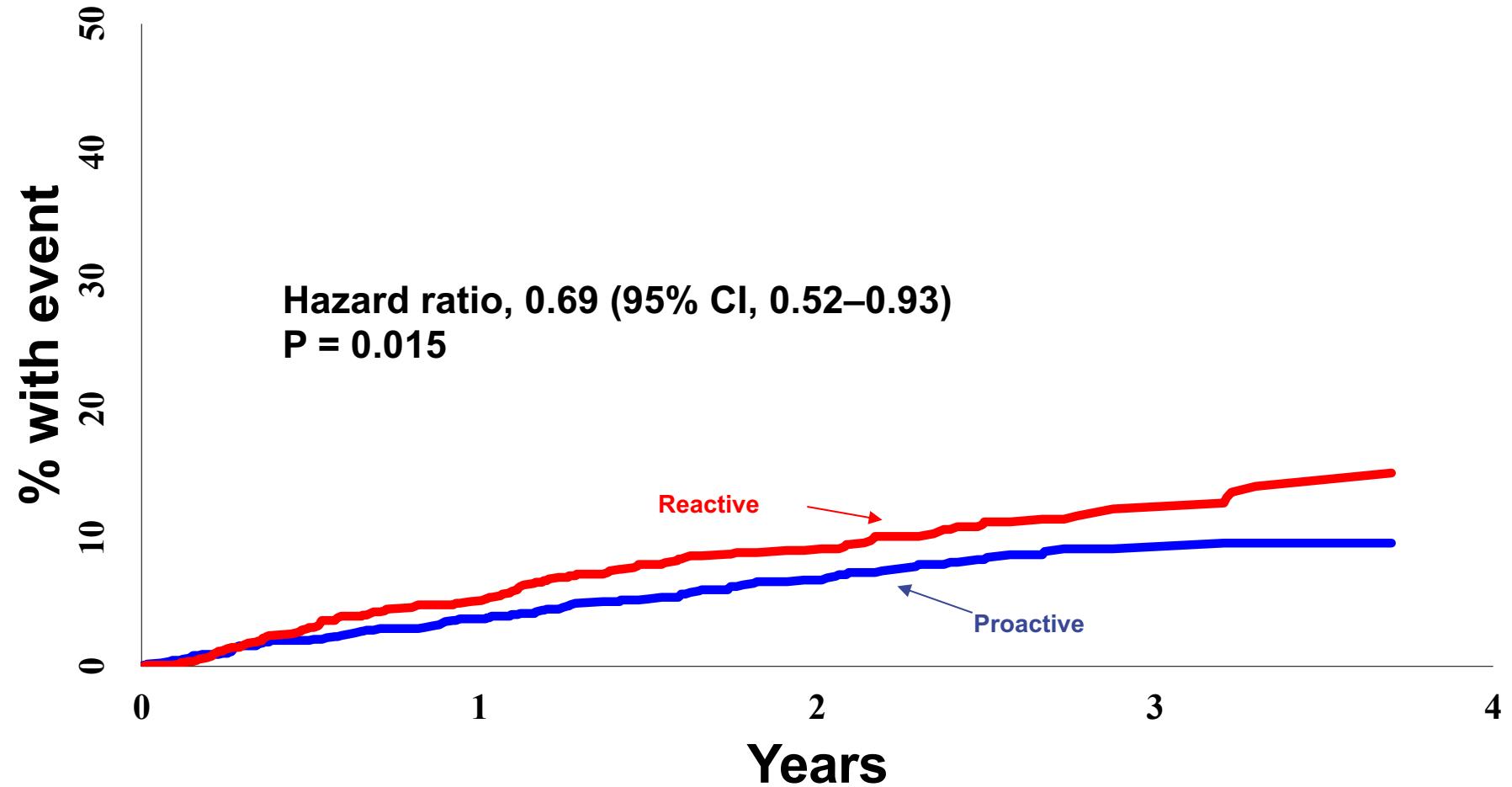
Subgroup Analysis: All-cause Death



Cardiovascular Events

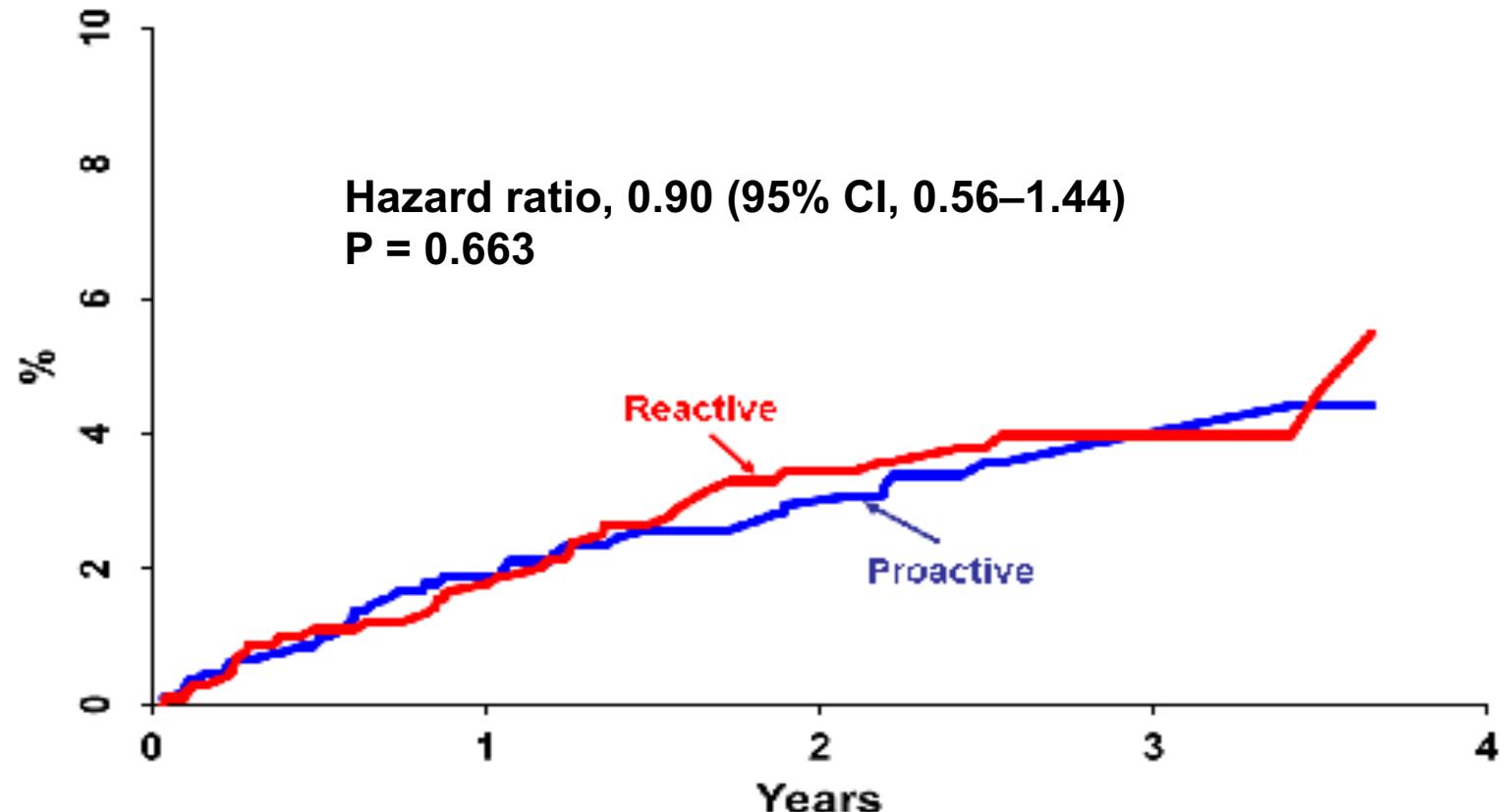
Outcome	Proactive, High-Dose IV Iron (N=1093) n (%)	Reactive, Low-Dose IV Iron (N=1048) n (%)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
Fatal or nonfatal MI, fatal or nonfatal stroke, or hospitalization for HF	149 (13.6)	168 (16.0)	0.80 (0.64–1.00)	0.049
Fatal or nonfatal MI	78 (7.1)	102 (9.7)	0.69 (0.52–0.93)	0.015
Fatal or nonfatal stroke	34 (3.1)	35 (3.3)	0.90 (0.56–1.44)	0.663
Hospitalization for HF	51 (4.7)	70 (6.7)	0.66 (0.46–0.94)	0.023

Fatal or nonfatal MI

**Numbers at risk:**

Proactive	1093	819	574	202	30
Reactive	1048	753	517	196	22

Fatal or nonfatal stroke



Numbers at risk:

Proactive	1093
Reactive	1048

831

600

219

33

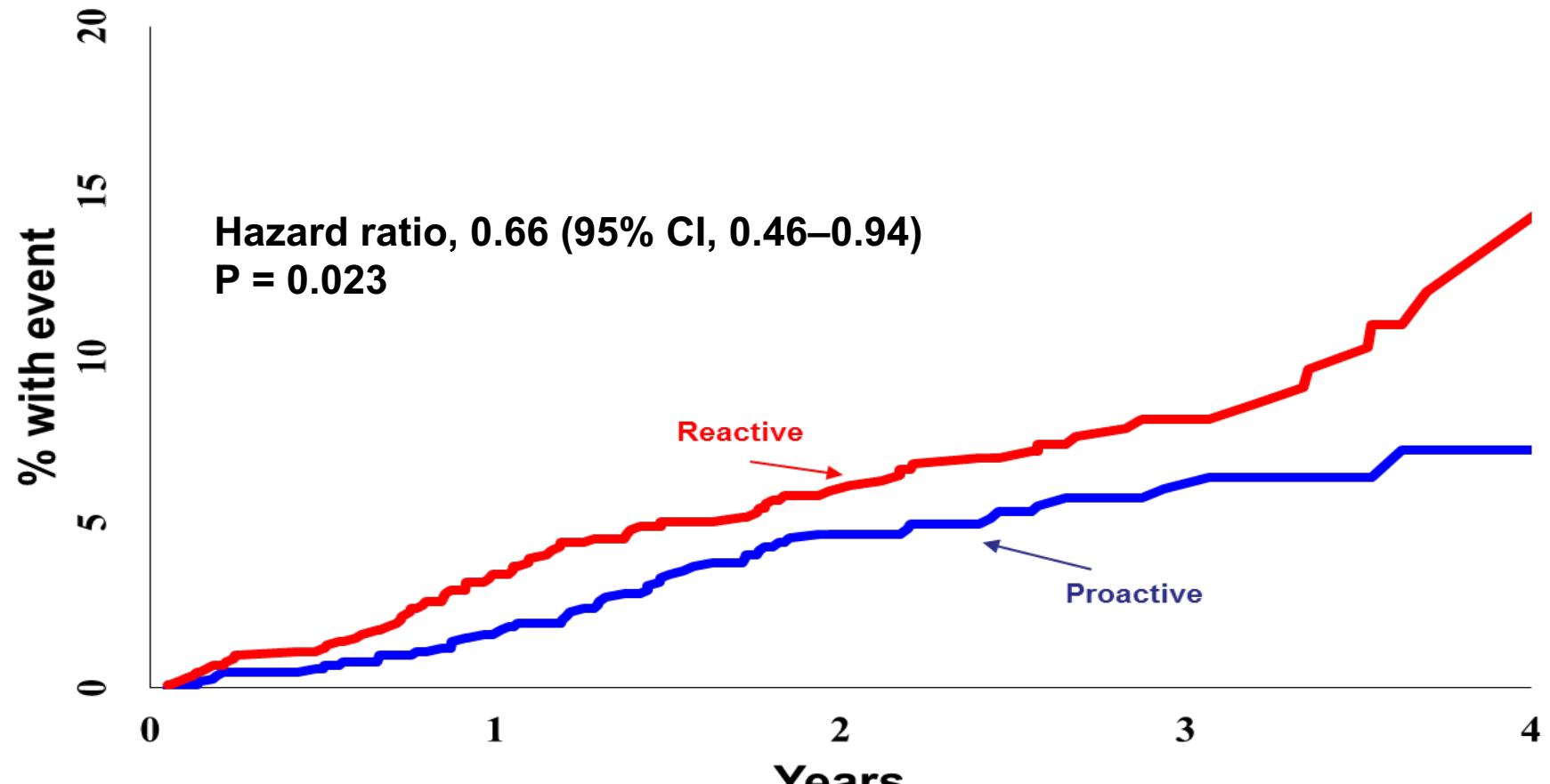
778

546

213

22

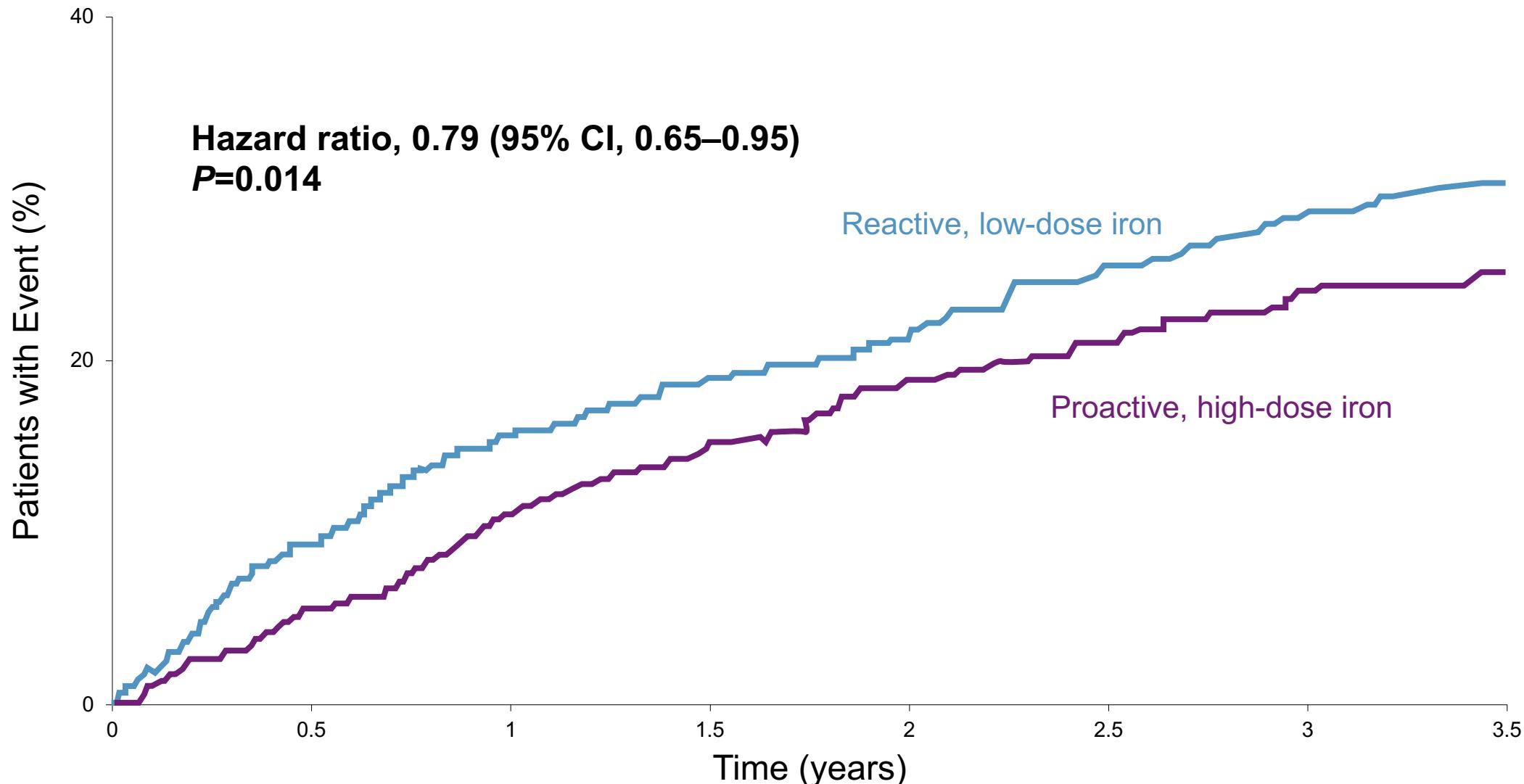
Heart failure hospitalisation



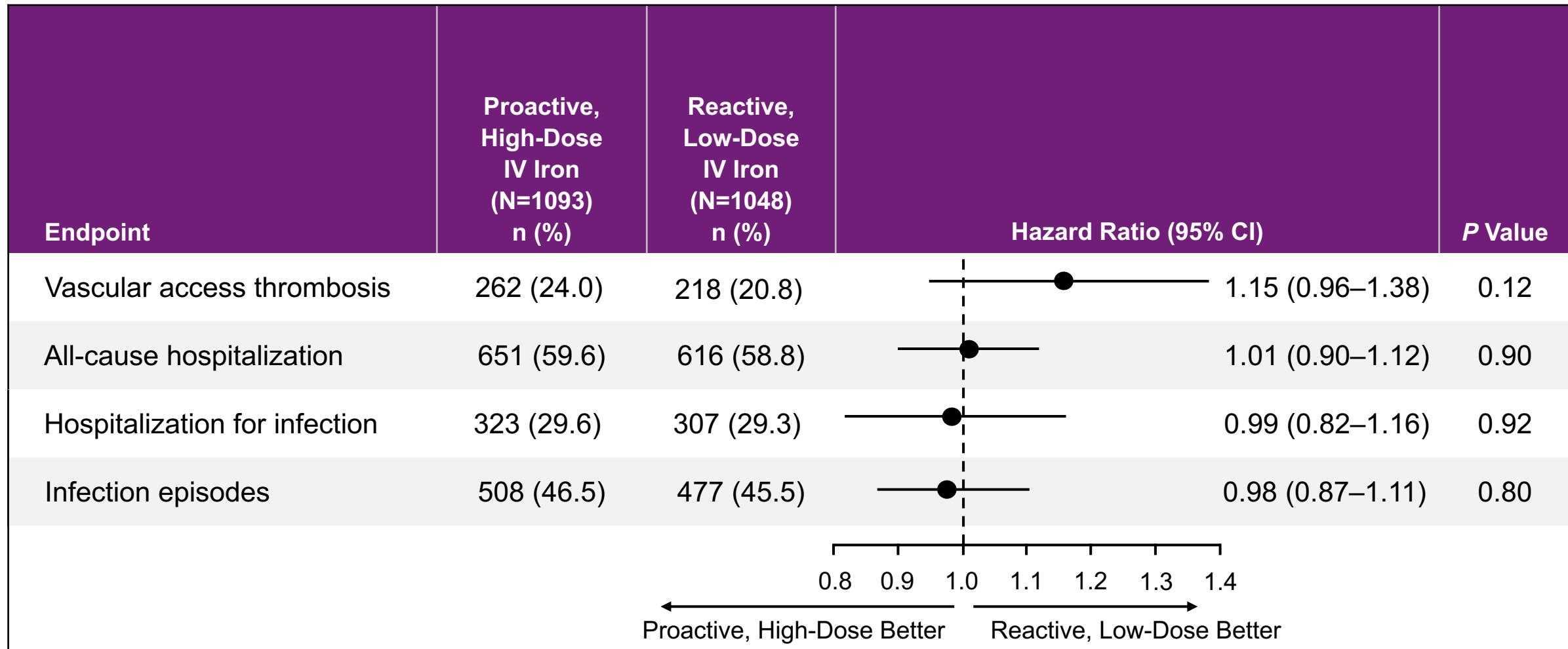
Numbers at risk:

Proactive	1093	834	586	215	32
Reactive	1048	768	532	205	22

Blood Transfusions



Safety



Conclusions

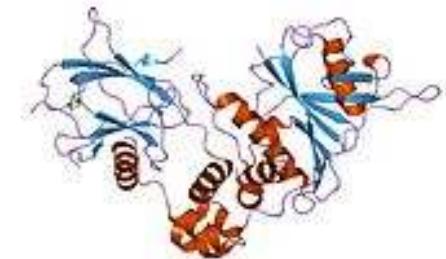
High-dose iron:-

- Significantly reduced the risk of the primary outcome of death or non-fatal CV events
- Reduced the risk of MI and hospitalisation for HF
- Was associated with a significant benefit in a recurrent event analysis
- Reduced ESA dose (19.4%) and transfusion rate (21%)
- Did not cause an increased risk of infection or hospitalisation

HIF Stabilizers: A Viable Option for Managing Renal Anemia in 2021

Steven Fishbane MD

Donald and Barbara Zucker School of Medicine at Hofstra / Northwell



COI

- Astra Zeneca – Research, consulting
- Fibrogen, consulting
- Akebia- Research

Roxadustat – FDA PDUFA Date
March 20, 2021

Introduction

- Anemia remains a common complication of CKD
- Treatment with ESAs has been helpful
 - Concerns about toxicity
- HIF-PHD inhibitors are a promising class of drugs

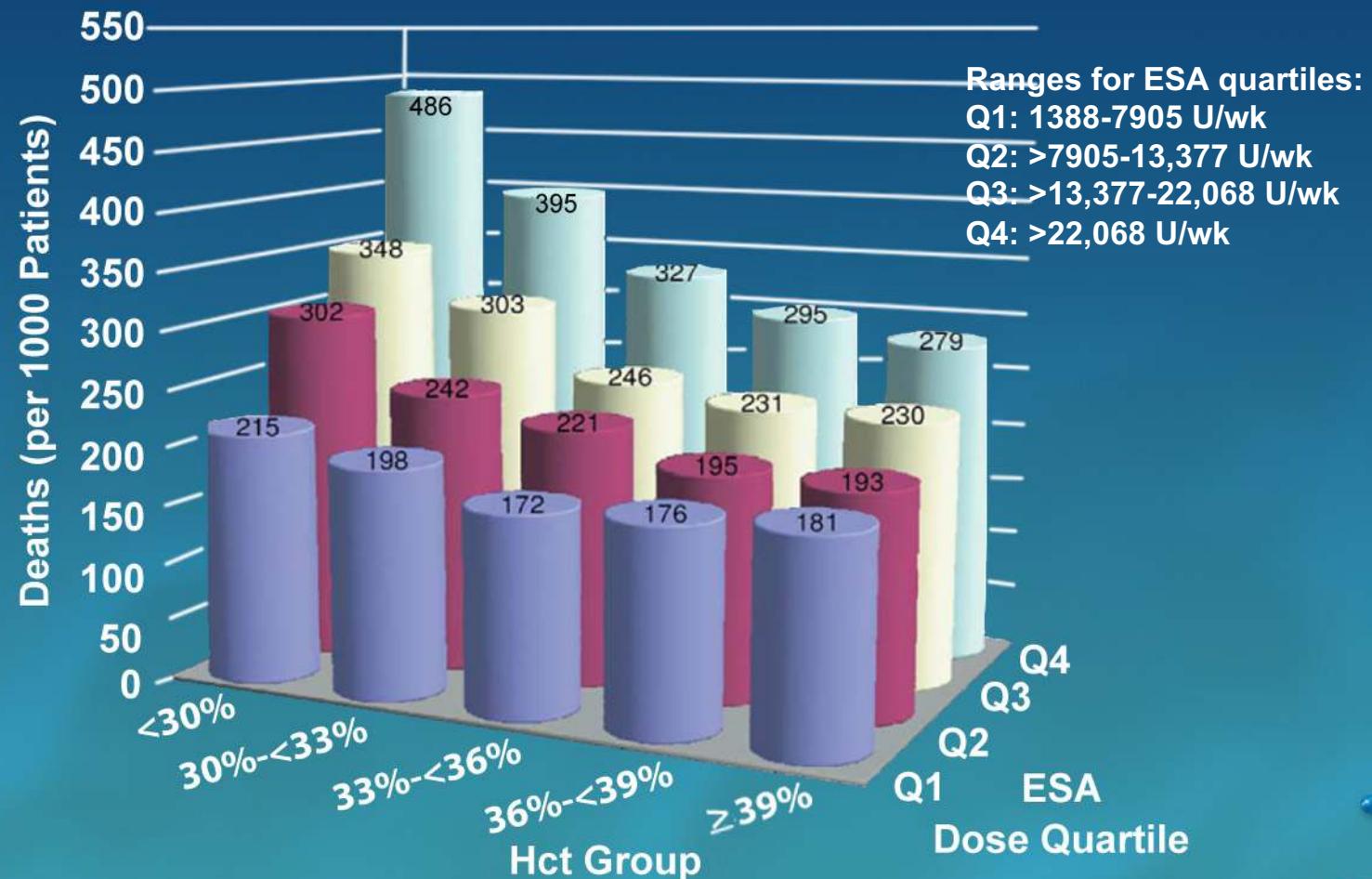
RCTs on “Normalizing” Hgb with ESAs

- Parfrey et al (n=596)- hemodialysis
 - increased stroke risk
- Drueke et al (n=600)- CKD
 - trend to increased mortality risk
- Besarab et al- (n=1233)- hemodialysis
 - trend to increased death risk, increased access clotting
- Singh et al (n=1432)- CKD
 - increased cardiovascular risk
- Pfeffer et al (n=4032)- CKD
 - increased risk stroke, cancer deaths

Why is Prolonged EPO Treatment to High Hb Targets Harmful?

- High Hb itself- increased blood viscosity?
 - High Hb in patients with vascular disease?
 - High EPO doses required to get to normal Hb?
 - Other?
-
- No clear answer

Greater ESA Dose Is Associated With Mortality (Observational Data)

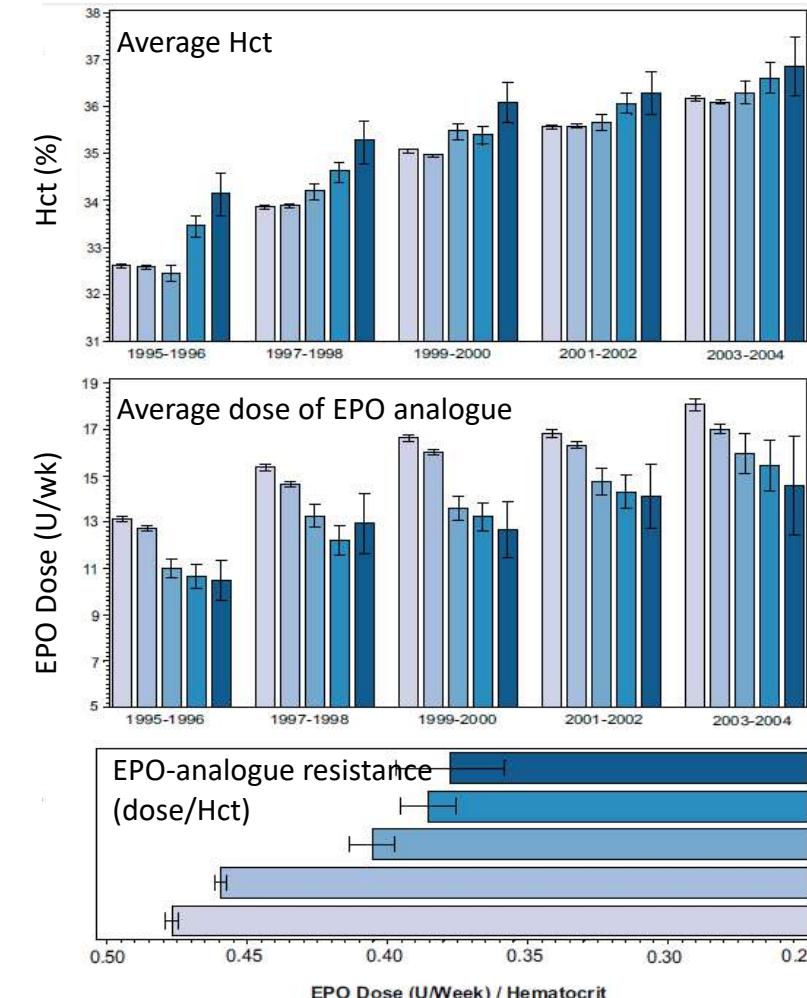
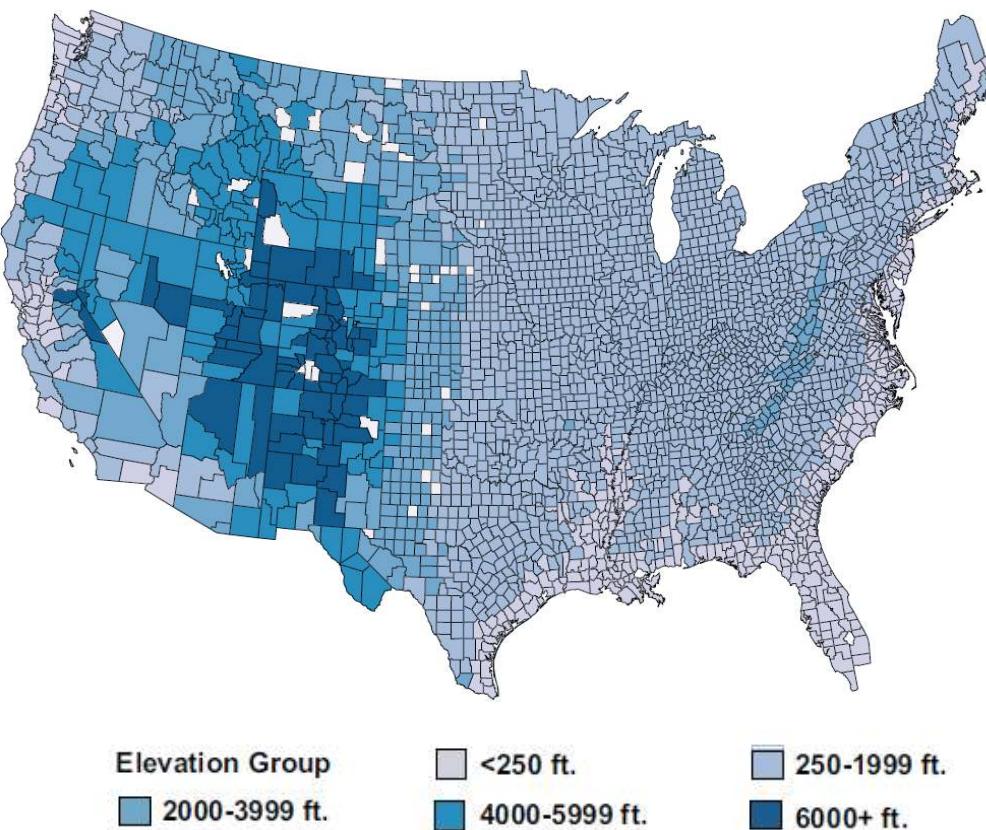


New in Anemia Treatment

- If higher erythropoietin doses harmful, can anemia be treated with more physiologic changes in serum erythropoietin?
- Prolyl Hydroxylase Inhibitors

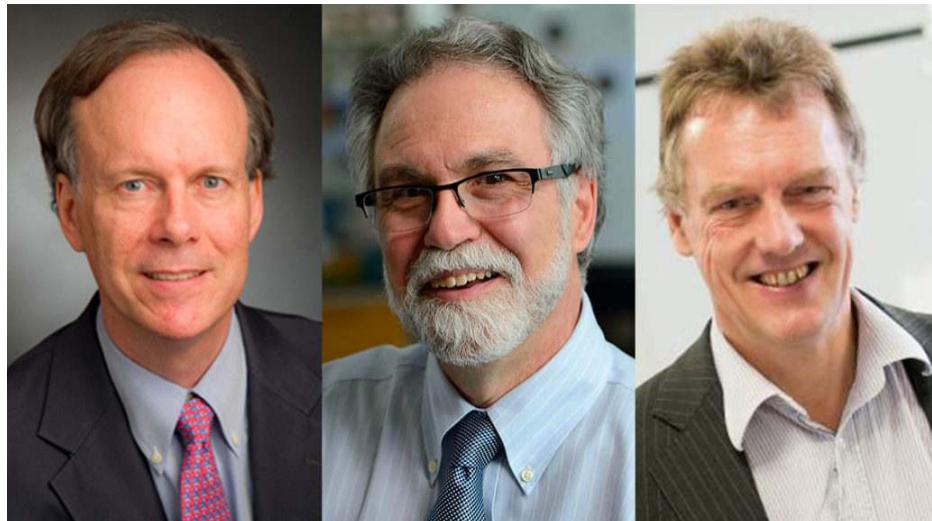
Altitude and EPO-Analogue Response

US Renal Data System (N=341,737 incident HD patients) combined with elevation data from the US Geological Survey

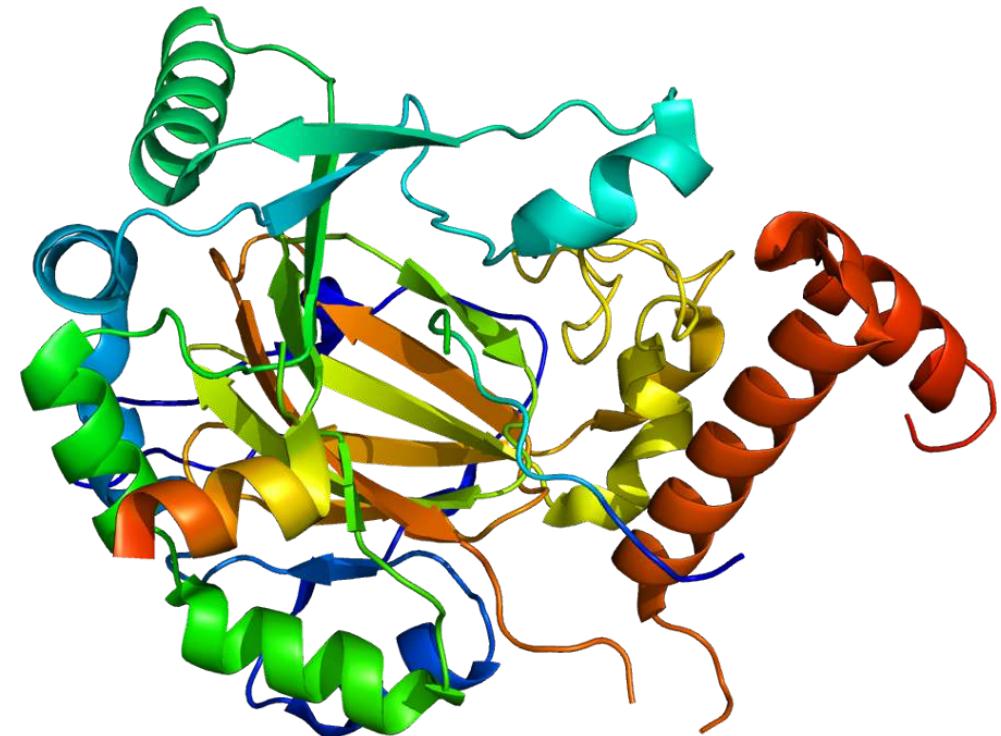


Hypoxia Inducible Factor (HIF)

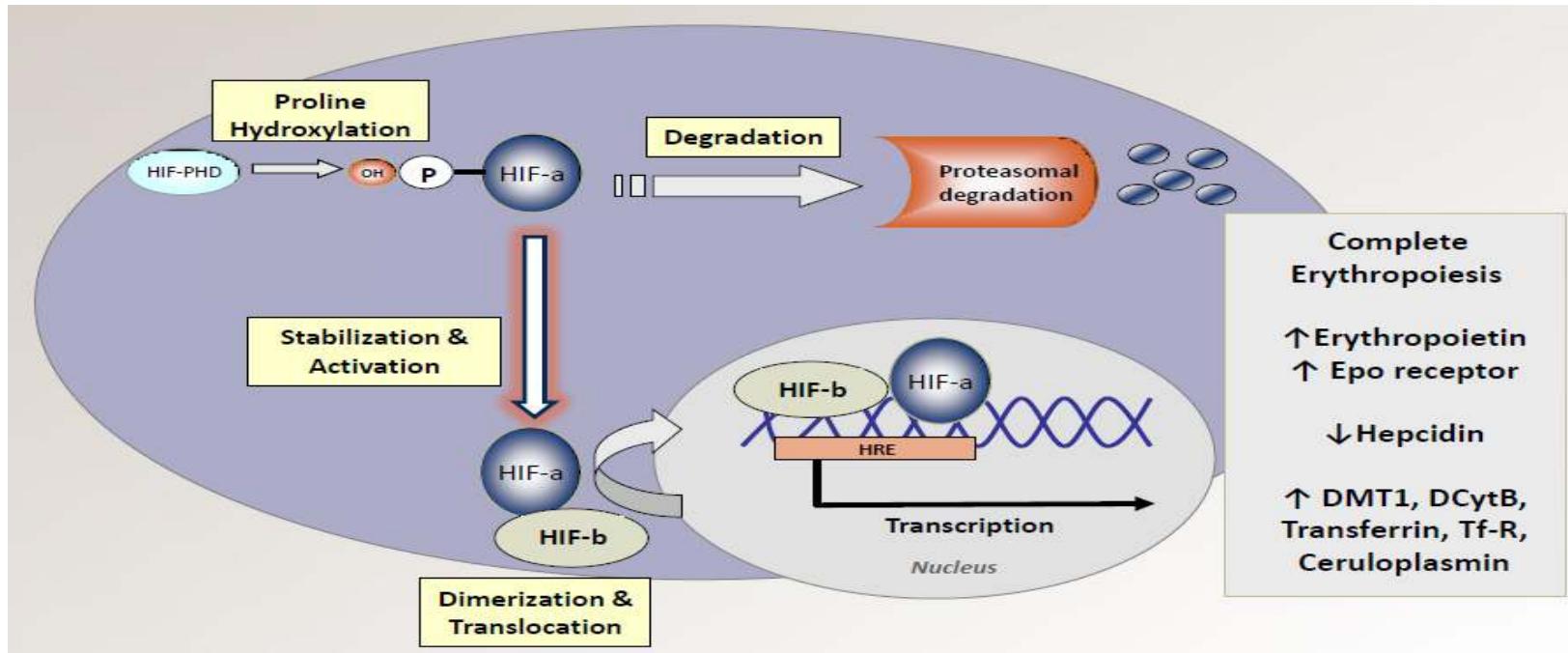
- Oxygen-sensitive transcription factors



Nobel prize 2019



HIF Overview

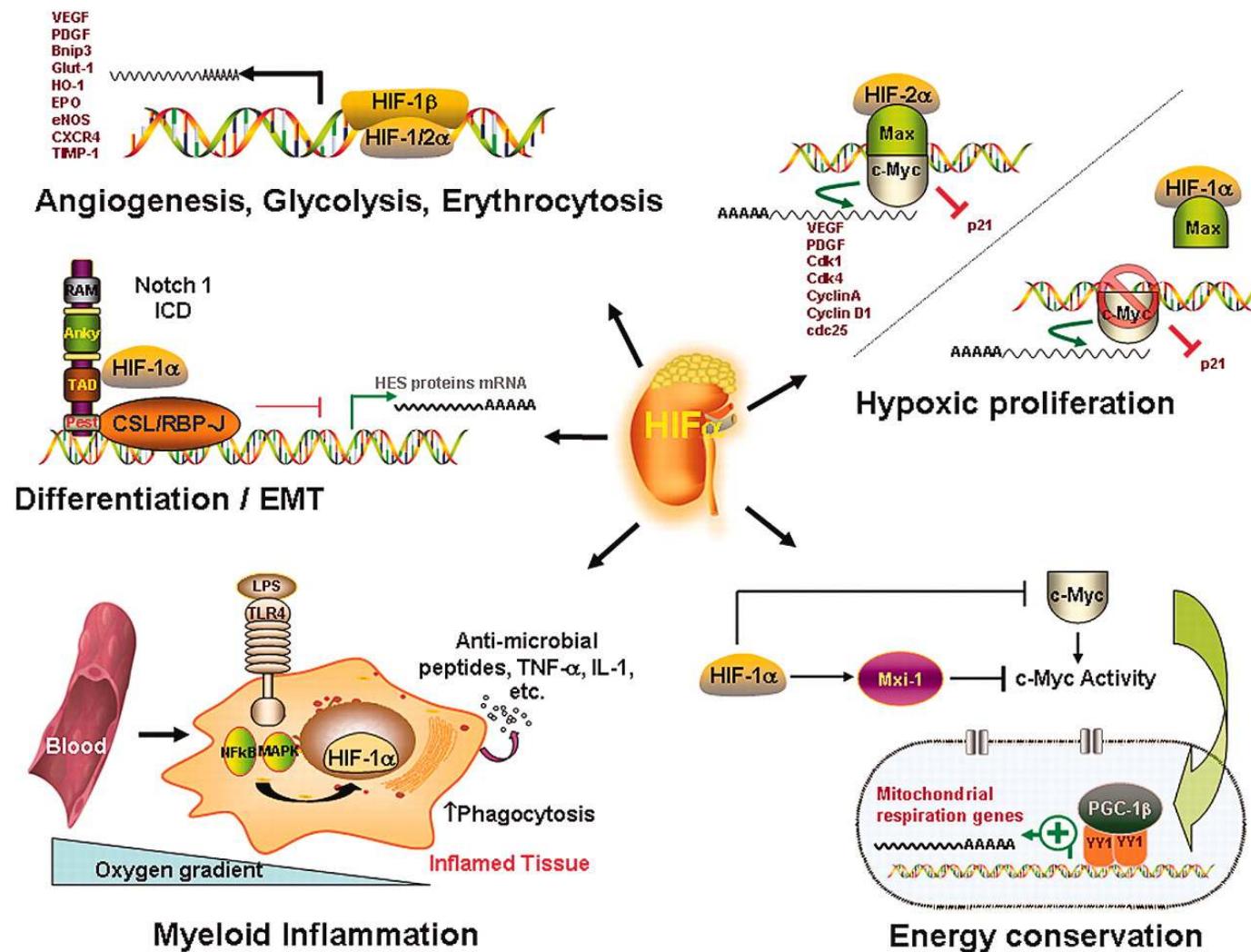


- HIF-a regulated by HIF-PH enzymes that promote its rapid degradation in presence of oxygen

HIF Drugs – Potential Benefits

- Oral
- Cause much lower peak EPO levels in blood than ESAs
- Increase iron availability
- May have beneficial effects on BP and Cholesterol
- Other

HIF Activity



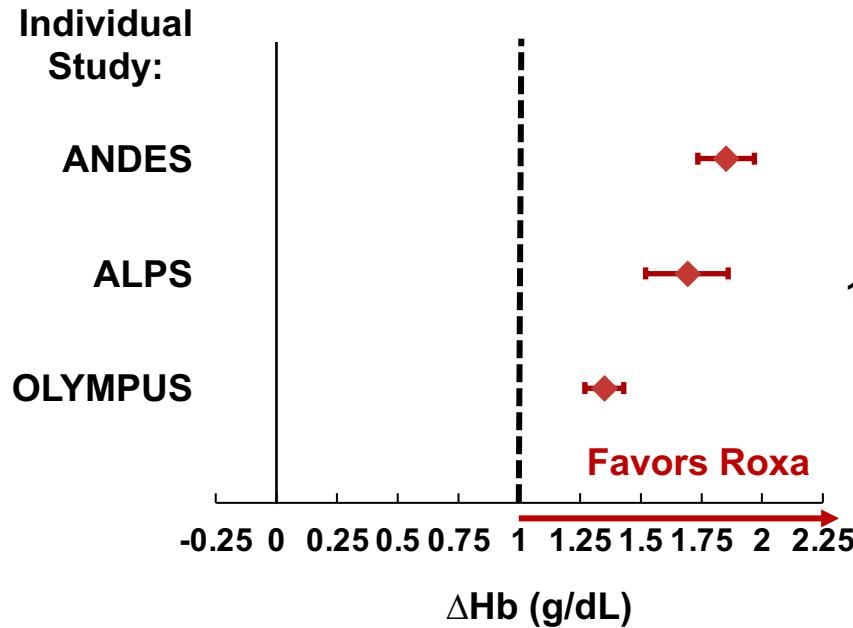
HIF-PHIs: Pharmacologic Profiles

	Roxadustat	Vadadustat	Daprodustat
Effective Daily Oral Doses in Phase II Trials	0.7-2.5 mg/kg	150-600 mg	5-25 mg (50 and 100 mg also examined)
Dosing Schedule	3x weekly	Daily (3x weekly)	Daily
Half-Life (hours)	12-15	4.7-9.1	~1-7
Plasma EPO (IU/L)	113 and 397, 130	32	24.7 and 34.4, 82.4
Metabolism	CYP2C8	NR	CYP2C8 with minor CYP3A4
Rel. Activity, IC50 for PHD2 (μM)	PHD1,2,3 equally, 0.027	PHD3>PHD1>PHD2, 0.029	PHD3>PHD1>PHD2, 0.067

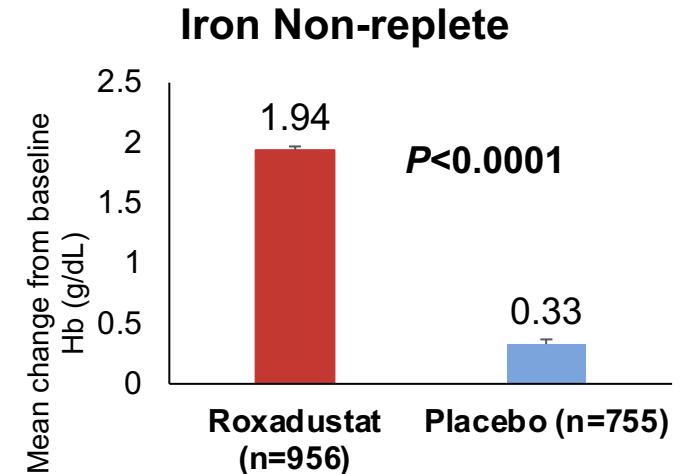
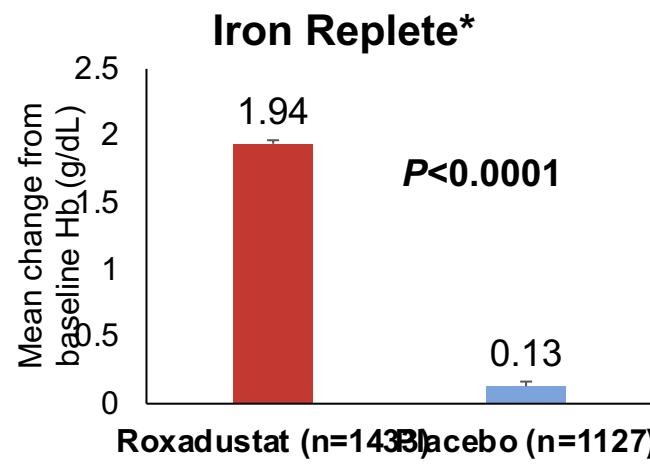
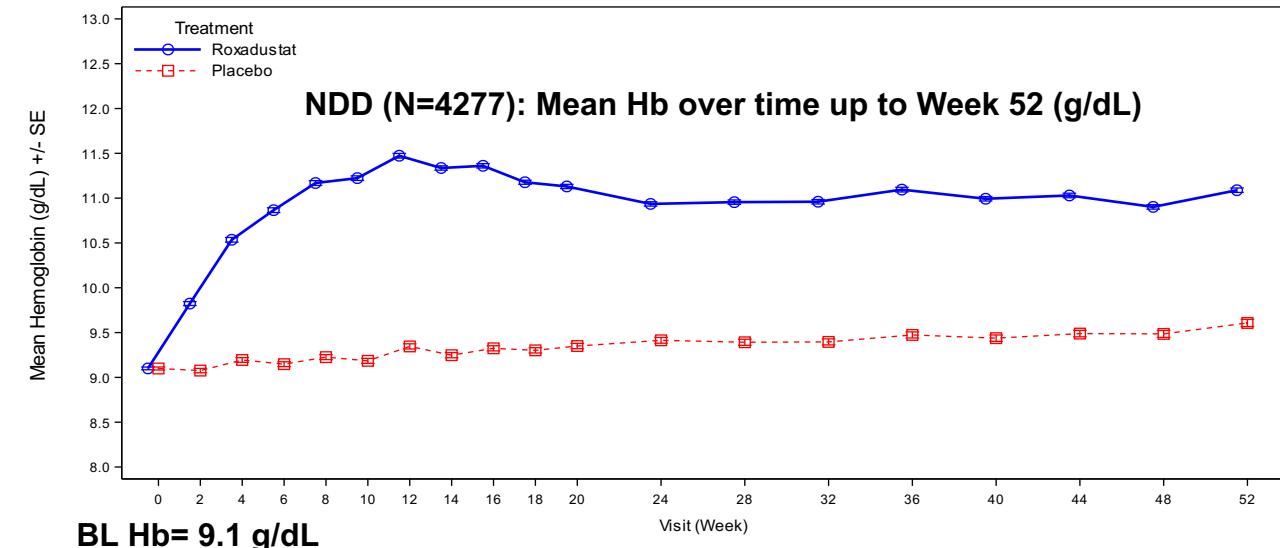
HIF-PHI - Study Results

Global Roxadustat Pooled Phase 3 NDD Efficacy

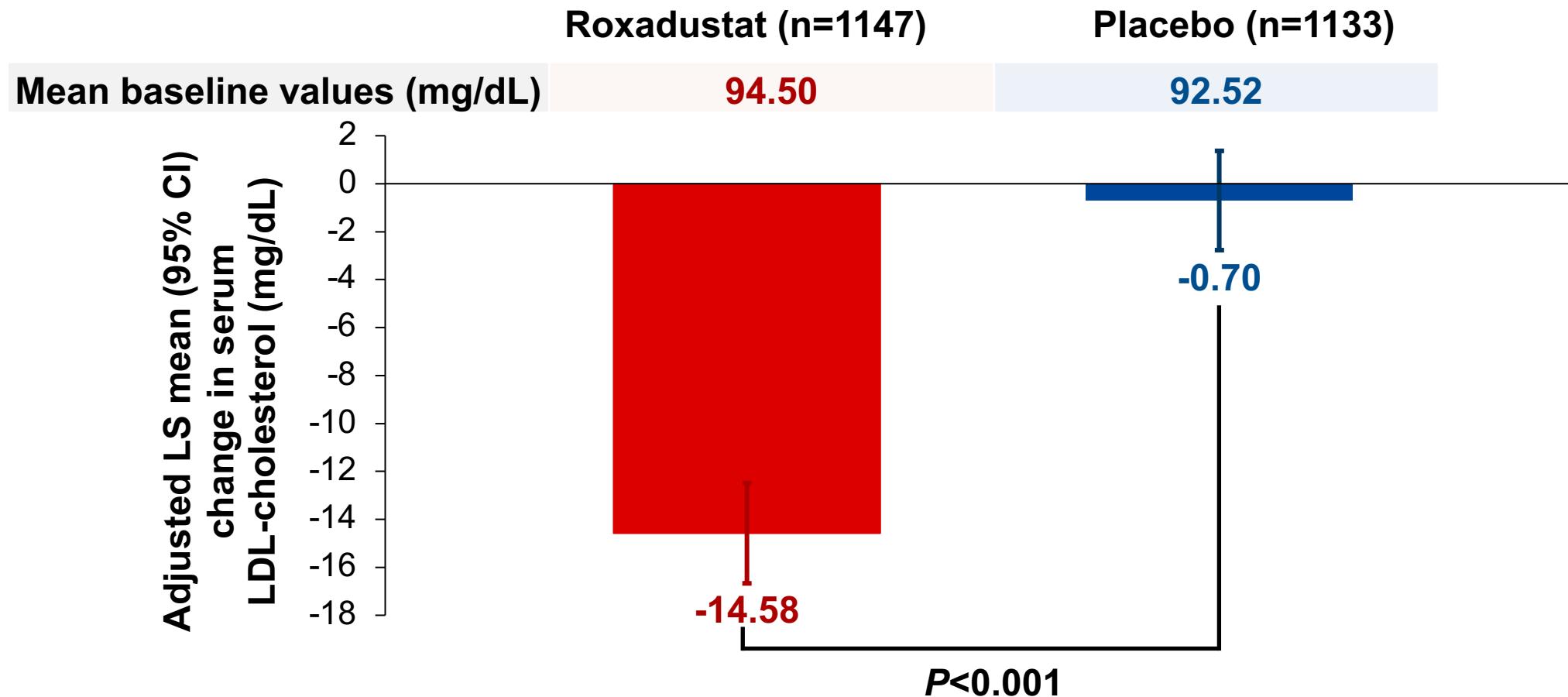
Hb change from baseline to Week 28–52



CI, confidence interval; Hb, hemoglobin;
*Iron Replete: TSAT \geq 20% and ferritin \geq 100 ng/mL. TSAT, transferrin saturation



Change in Serum LDL-Cholesterol*



*From baseline to Week 24.

Baseline is defined as the last measurement prior to randomization. Intent-to-treat analysis set

17 CI, confidence interval; LDL, low-density lipoprotein

Common Adverse Events (ITT*)

AE category	Roxadustat (N=1384)			Placebo (N=1377)		
	n	%	Pts w/ Events/ 100 P-Y	n	%	Pts w/ Events/ 100 P-Y
Most reported AEs						
End stage renal disease	209	21.0	11.7	282	20.5	11.8
Urinary tract infection	177	12.8	6.8	110	8.0	4.2
Pneumonia	165	11.9	6.2	130	9.4	4.9
Hypertension	159	11.5	6.1	125	9.1	4.8
Most reported SAEs						
End stage renal disease	199	14.4	7.7	201	14.6	8.1
Pneumonia	113	8.2	4.1	88	6.4	3.3
Azotemia	61	4.4	2.2	60	4.4	2.2
Sepsis	49	3.5	1.8	23	1.7	0.8
Acute kidney injury	41	3.0	1.5	32	2.3	1.2
Hyperkalemia	41	3.0	1.5	25	1.8	0.9

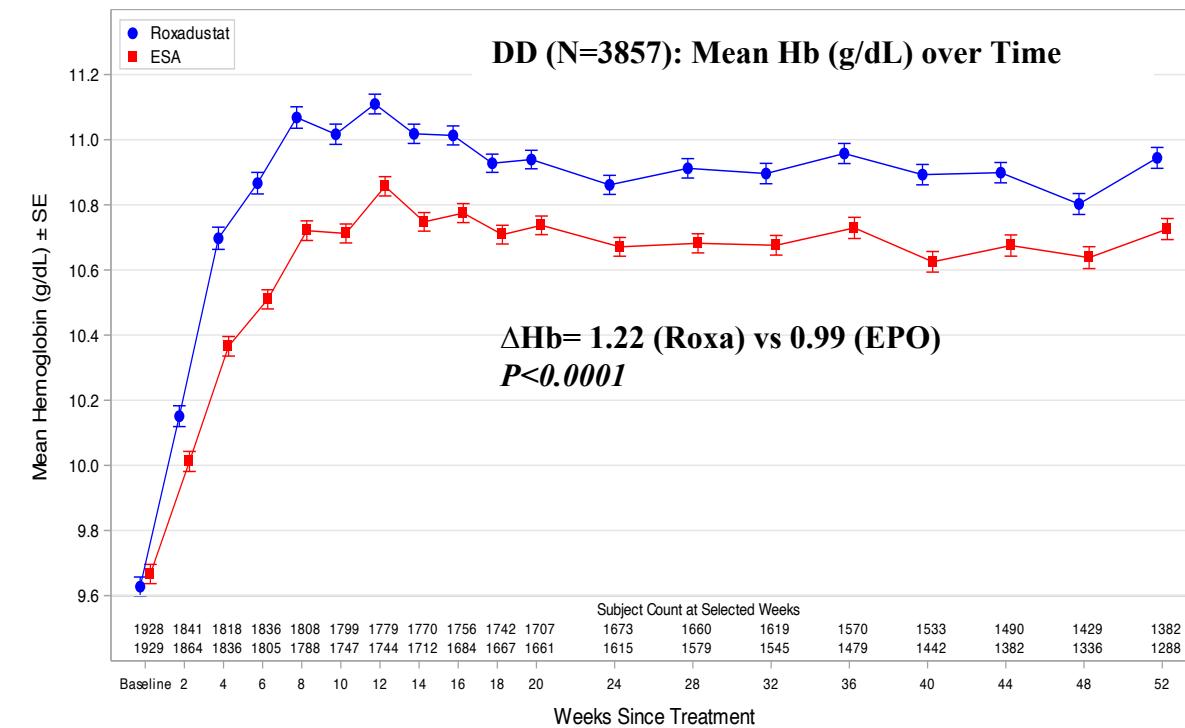
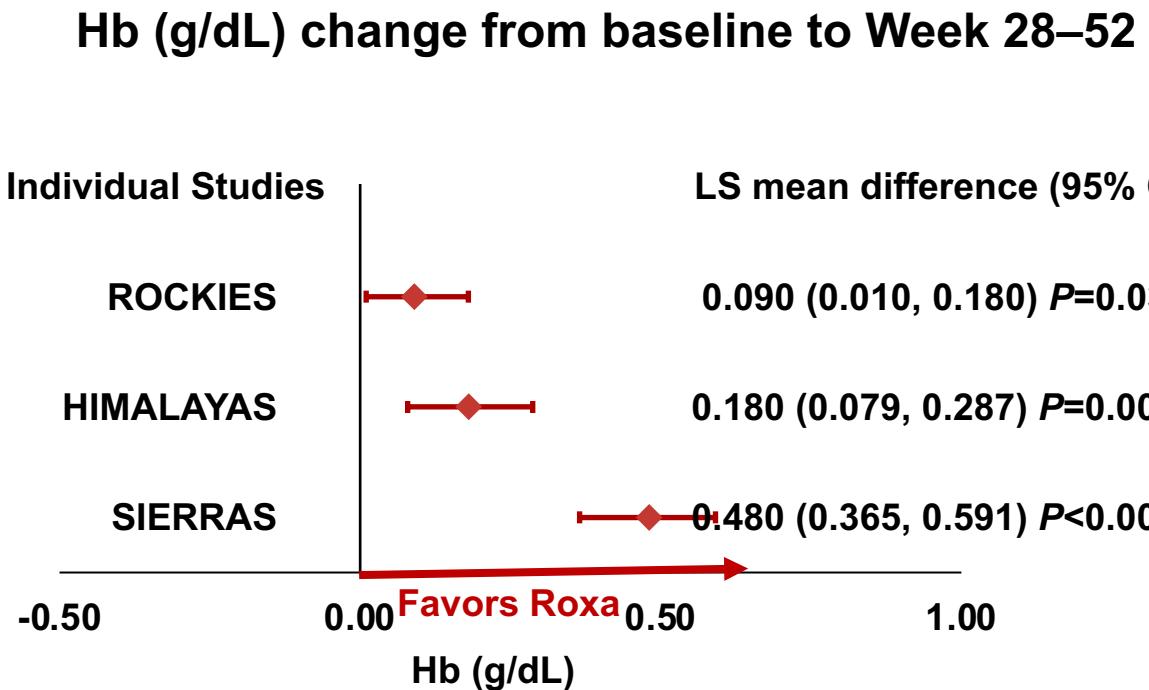
*ITT analysis – include events on treatment + off-treatment in long term follow-up until study end date.

¹⁸ **Pts w/Events/100 PY- Calculated by Follow-up Adjusted Incidence Rate (FAIR).

AE, adverse event; pts, patients; P-Y, patient years

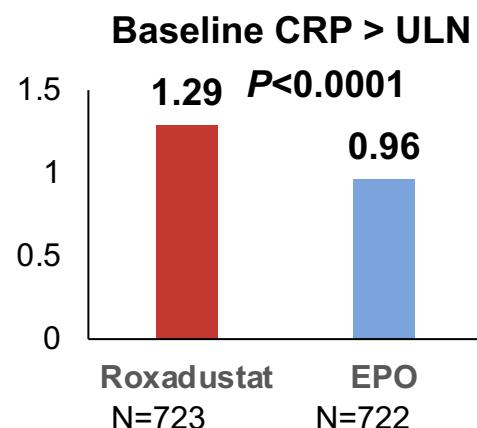
DD: Roxadustat Global Pooled Analysis

Primary efficacy endpoint (change in Hb from baseline to Hb averaged over Weeks 28 to 52):

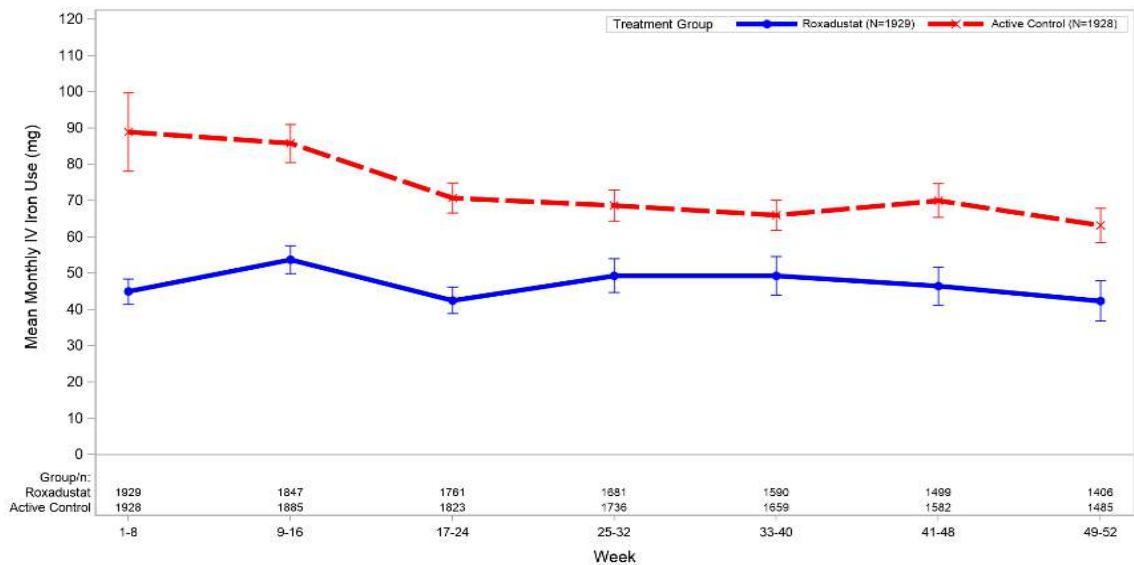


DD: Roxadustat Efficacy / Inflammation and Iron

DD: Hb (g/dL) change from baseline to Weeks 28–52



DD: Less Monthly IV Iron Use in Roxadustat Patients Than in EPO Patients

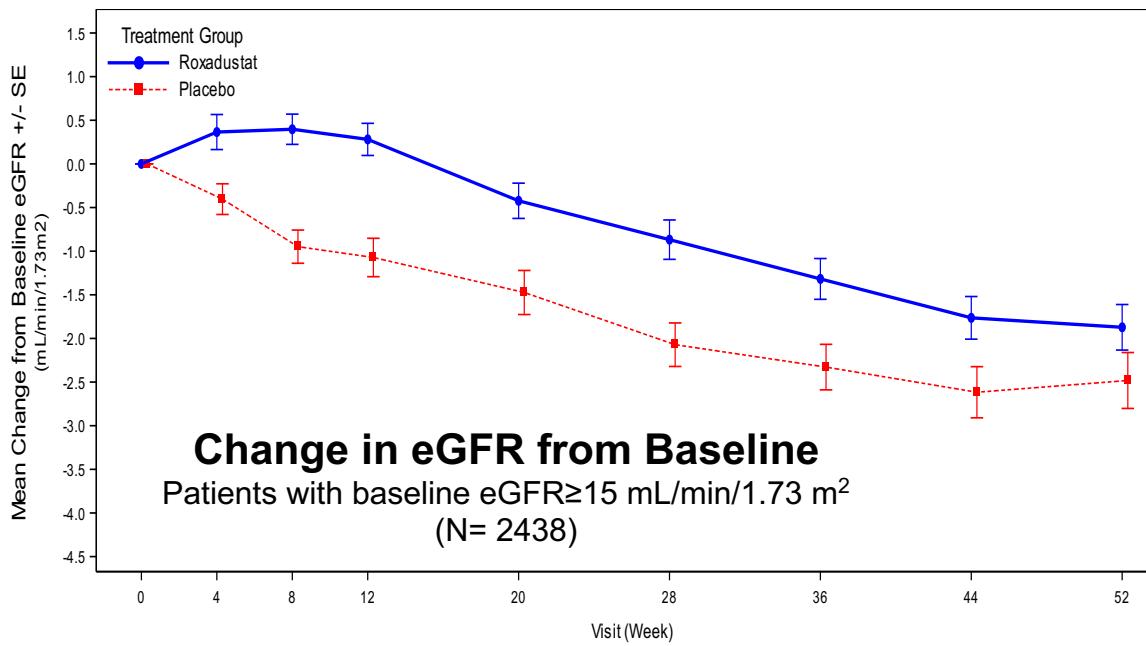


CI, confidence interval; CRP, C-reactive protein; DD, dialysis-dependent; EPO, erythropoietin; Hb, hemoglobin;
20 IV, intravenous; TSAT, transferrin saturation; ULN, upper limit of normal

Roxadustat Other Outcomes in NDD

Renal function: NDD

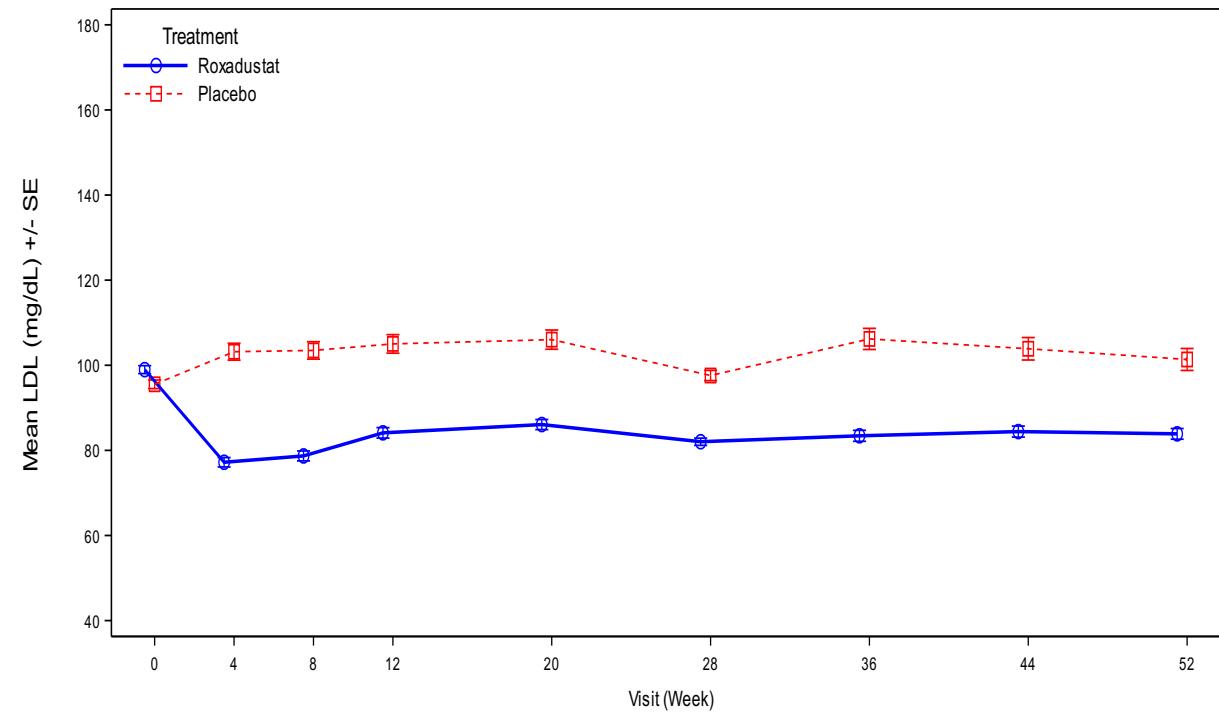
- **Change in eGFR in first year:** -2.8 (Roxa) vs -4.4 (Placebo)
 - Treatment difference: 1.6 mL/min/1.73 m², $P <0.0001$



Roxadustat	1373	1311	1269	1236	1189	1150	1086	1038	990
Placebo	1065	1017	979	936	863	819	760	706	657

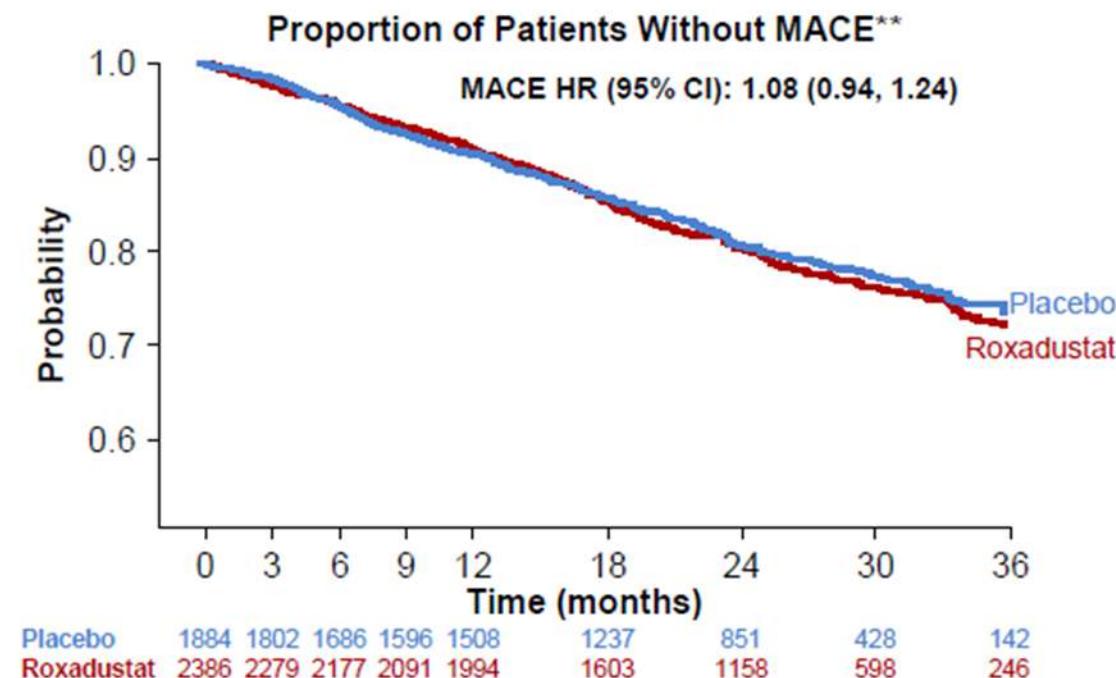
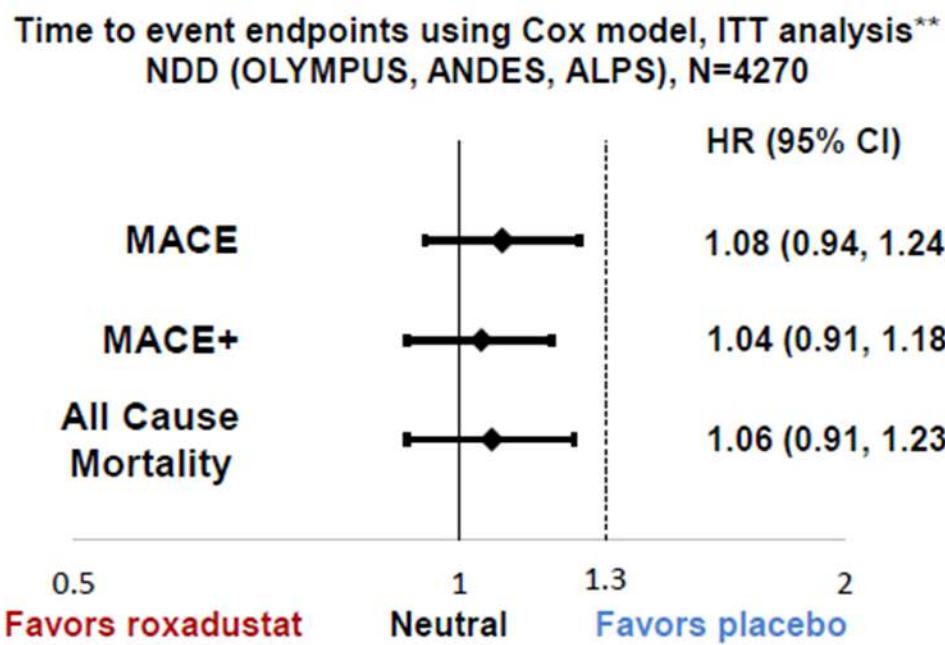
Reduction in LDL cholesterol: NDD

- Change in LDL from baseline:**
-17.06 (Roxa) vs 1.30 (Placebo)
Treatment difference: -19.83 mg/dL, $P <0.001$



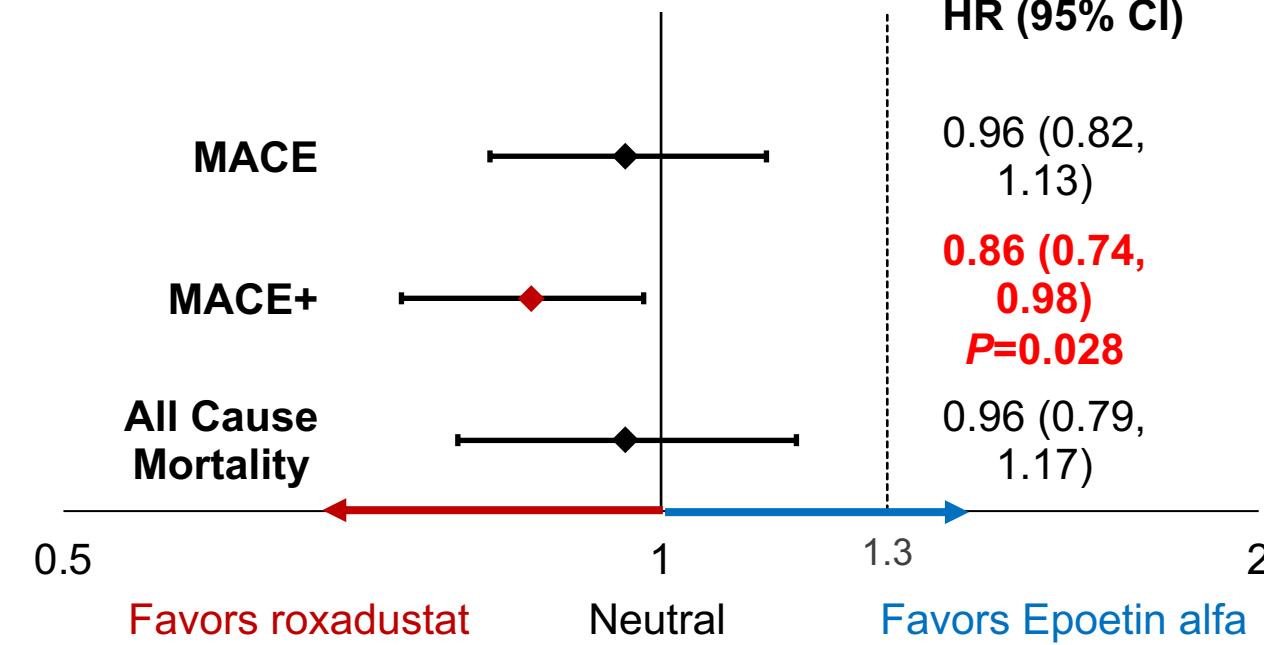
eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; NDD, non-dialysis-dependent; SE, standard error

NDD Pool: Cardiovascular Safety Endpoints MACE, MACE+, All-cause Mortality



DD Pooled: Cardiovascular Safety Endpoints

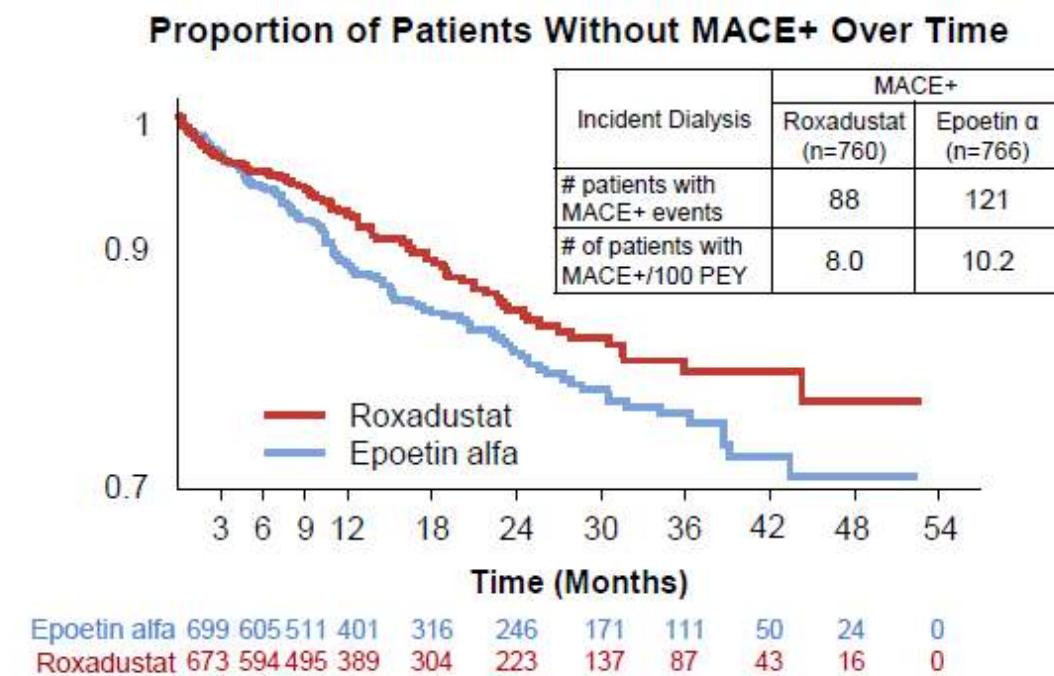
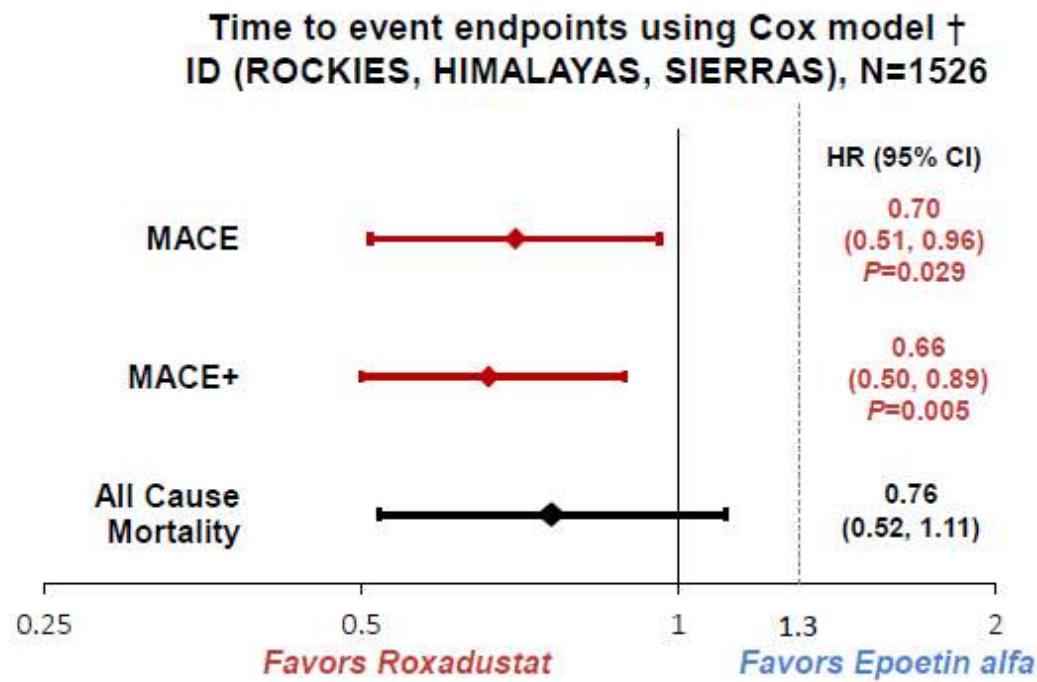
Time to event endpoints using Cox model,
DD (ROCKIES, HIMALAYAS, SIERRAS), N=3880



MACE+ Components Incidence Rates, N (%)		
Events	Roxadustat	Epoetin alfa
n	1940	1940
Death (all-cause mortality)	207 (10.7%)	232 (12.0%)
Myocardial Infarction	103 (5.3%)	109 (5.6%)
Stroke	45 (2.3%)	50 (2.6%)
Unstable angina	18 (0.9%)	22 (1.1%)
Congestive heart failure	120 (6.2%)	166 (8.6%)

Incident Dialysis Pool: Cardiovascular Safety Endpoints

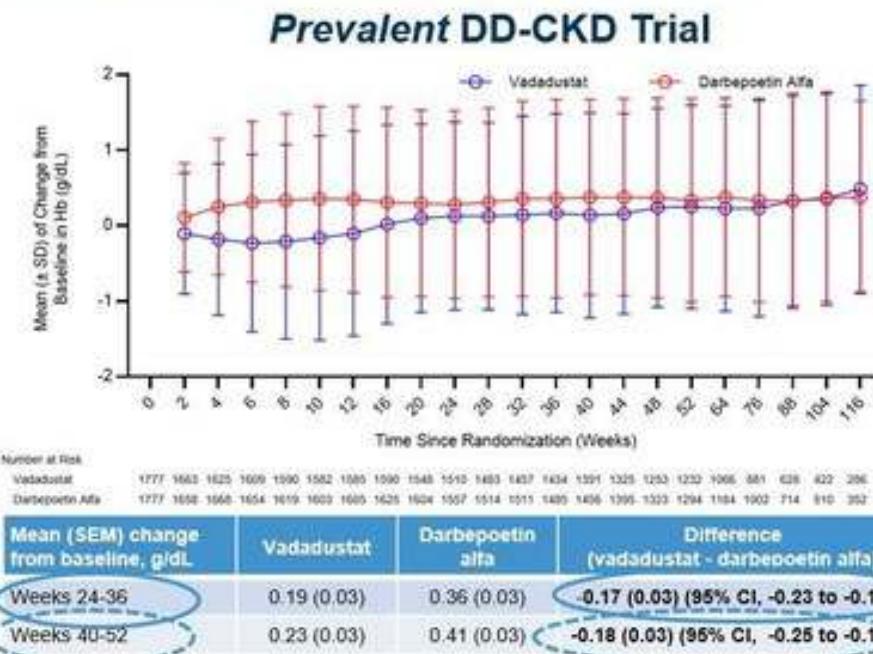
Roxadustat had 30% lower risk of MACE and 34% lower risk of MACE+ than epoetin alfa* and with a trend towards lower all-cause mortality relative to epoetin alfa, in incident dialysis patients



Vadadustat Innovate Dialysis Trial

Primary and Key Secondary Efficacy Endpoint

Mean change^a from baseline in Hb levels in randomized populations



→ vadadustat noninferior to darbepoetin alfa

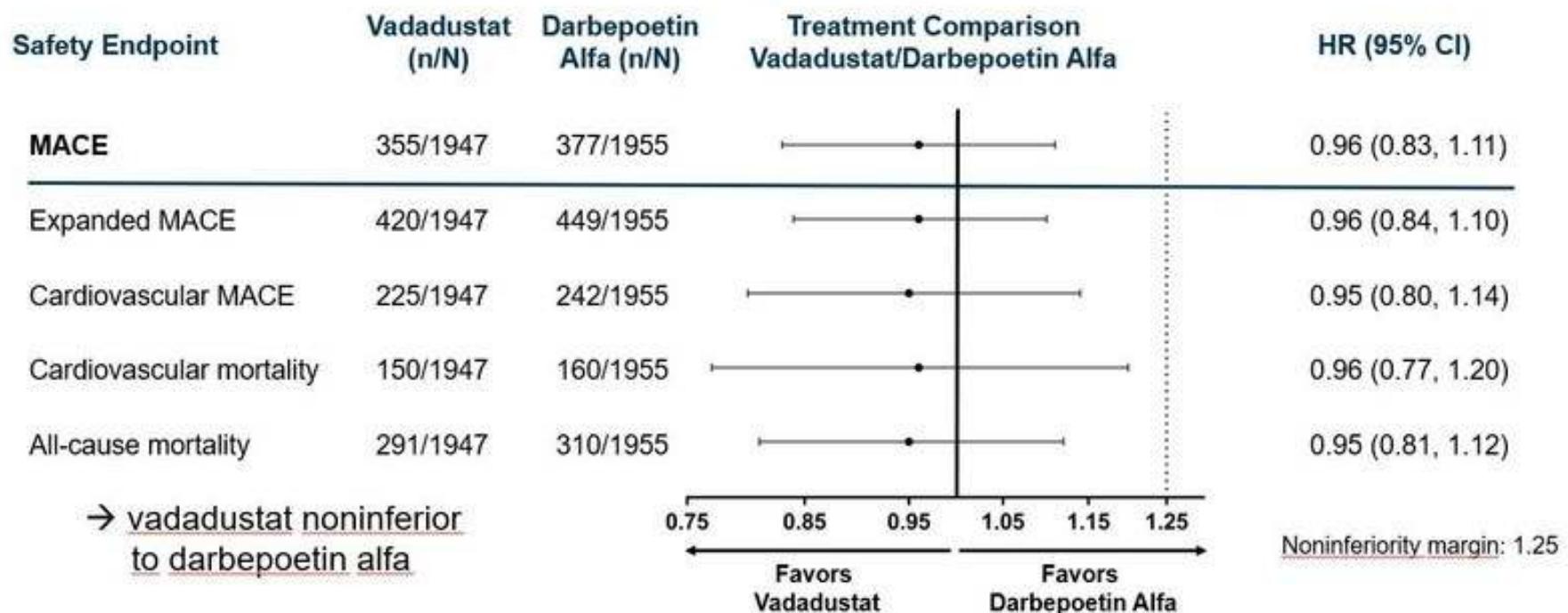
Noninferiority margin: -0.75

^aMean ± SD is presented here to show the extent of variability, given the large sample size.

DD-CKD, dialysis-dependent chronic kidney disease; Hb, hemoglobin; SD, standard deviation; SEM, standard error of the mean.

Vadadustat – ASN Innovate Dialysis Safety

Primary and Key Secondary Safety Endpoints



MACE: all cause mortality, non-fatal MI or non-fatal stroke

Expanded MACE: MACE plus hospitalisations for heart failure or thromboembolic events (excluding access failure)

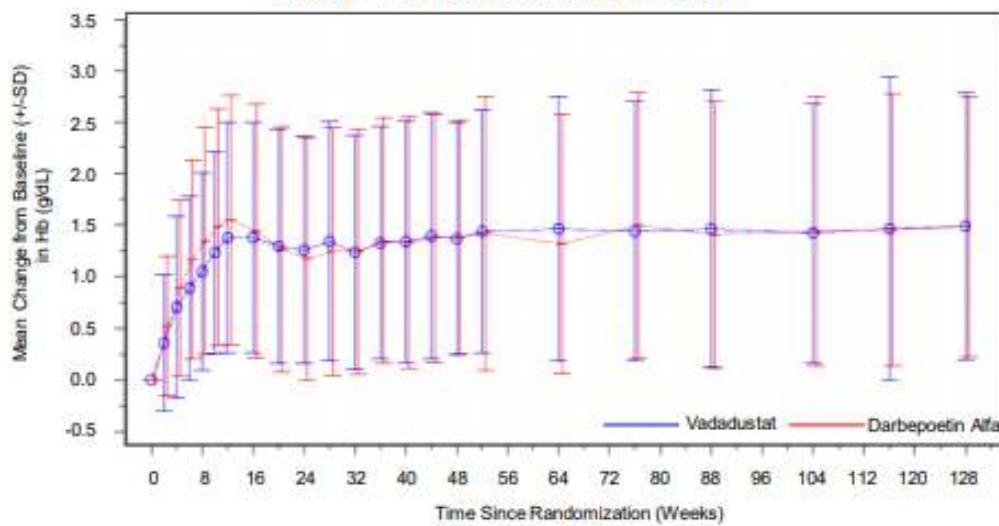
Cardiovascular MACE: cardiovascular mortality, non-fatal MI or non-fatal stroke

CI, confidence interval; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event (all-cause mortality, nonfatal myocardial infarction, or nonfatal stroke).

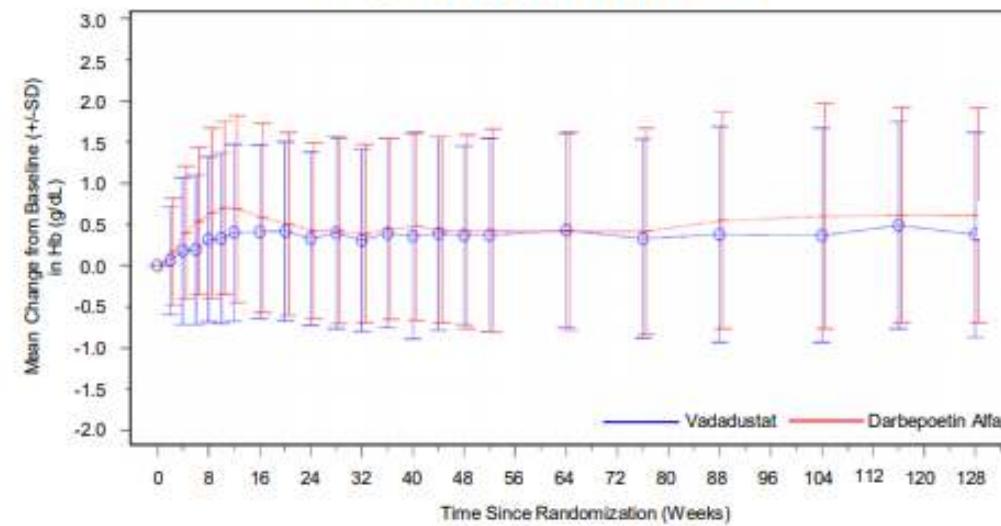
Vadadustat PROTECT ND-CKD Efficacy

Mean change from baseline in Hb levels in randomized populations

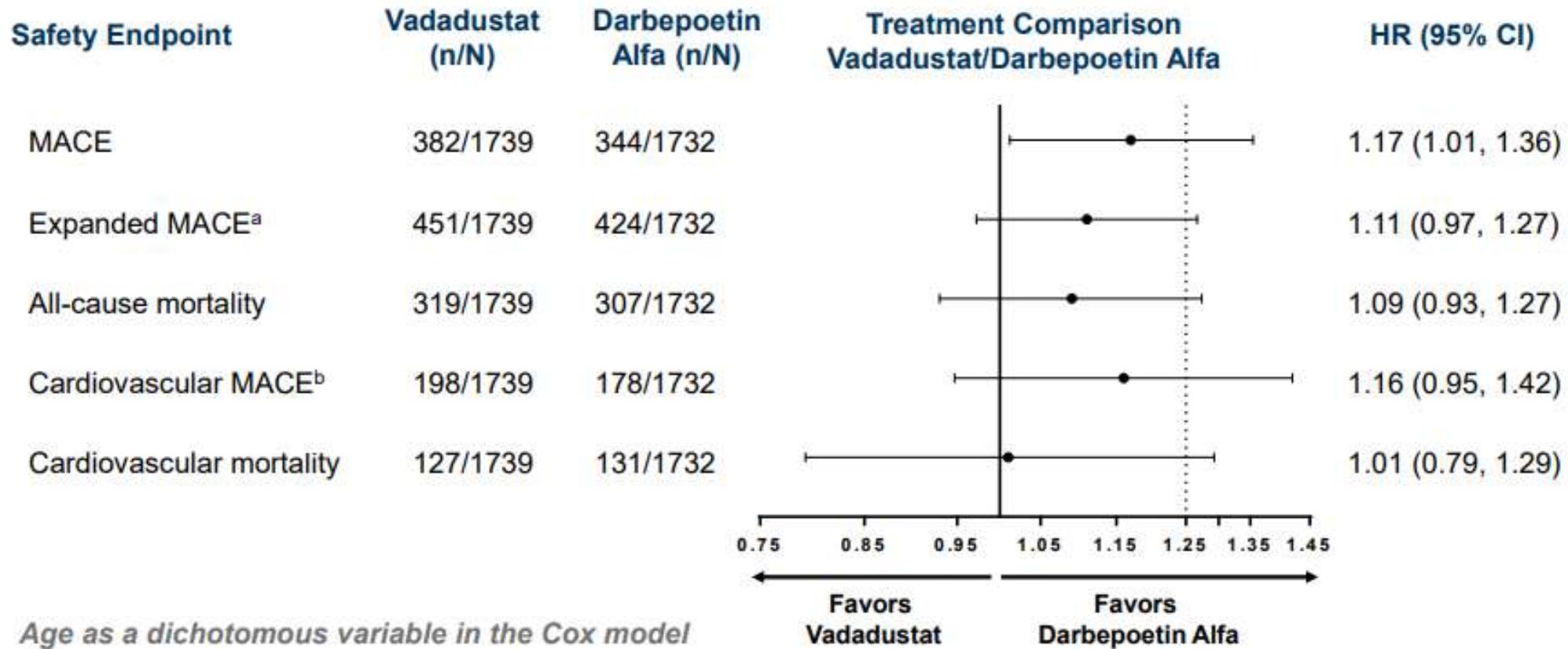
ESA-untreated NDD-CKD



ESA-treated NDD-CKD



Vadadustat ND-CKD Safety



Daprodustat Japan Phase 3 Hemodialysis

Does oral daprodustat treat anemia as well as injectable darbepoetin in dialysis patients?

CJASN
Clinical Journal of American Society of Nephrology



Conclusions Oral daprodustat was noninferior to darbepoetin alfa as measured by mean hemoglobin over weeks 40-52 in Japanese hemodialysis patients switched from EPO. (ClinicalTrials.gov: NCT02901656)

Tadao Akizawa, Masao Miengaku, Taeko Yonekura, Nobuhiko Okuda, et al.
Efficacy and Safety of Daprodustat Compared with Darbepoetin Alfa in Japanese Hemodialysis Patients with Anemia. CJASN doi:
10.2215/CJN.10011219. Visual Abstract by Joel Toft, MD FACP

Summary HIF-PHI

- All HIF-PHI have clearly demonstrated efficacy
 - Side aspects
 - Iron, ESA hyporesponsiveness, LDL
- Safety
 - CV
 - Roxadustat
 - Vadadustat
 - Not fully established
 - Malignancy
 - Other

Practical – Where will HIF-PHIs be used?

- ND-CKD
- HD
- PD
- HHD
- Other

Conclusion

- HIF-PHIs have great potential for improving CKD Anemia treatment
- Not yet proven by published studies to date
- Oral formulation has important practical implications
- Some residual safety concerns