



# HOT TOPICS IN CARDIOLOGIA 2024

**27 e 28 Novembre 2024**

Villa Doria D'Angri - Via F. Petrarca 80,  
Napoli

## La strategia terapeutica ipolipemizzante basata sui siRNA: un nuovo strumento per abbattere il rischio cardio- vascolare nell'aterosclerosi

Claudio Bilato

Cardiologia, Ospedali dell' Ovest Vicentino,  
ULSS 8 Berica

# Chasing LDL cholesterol to the bottom — PCSK9 in perspective

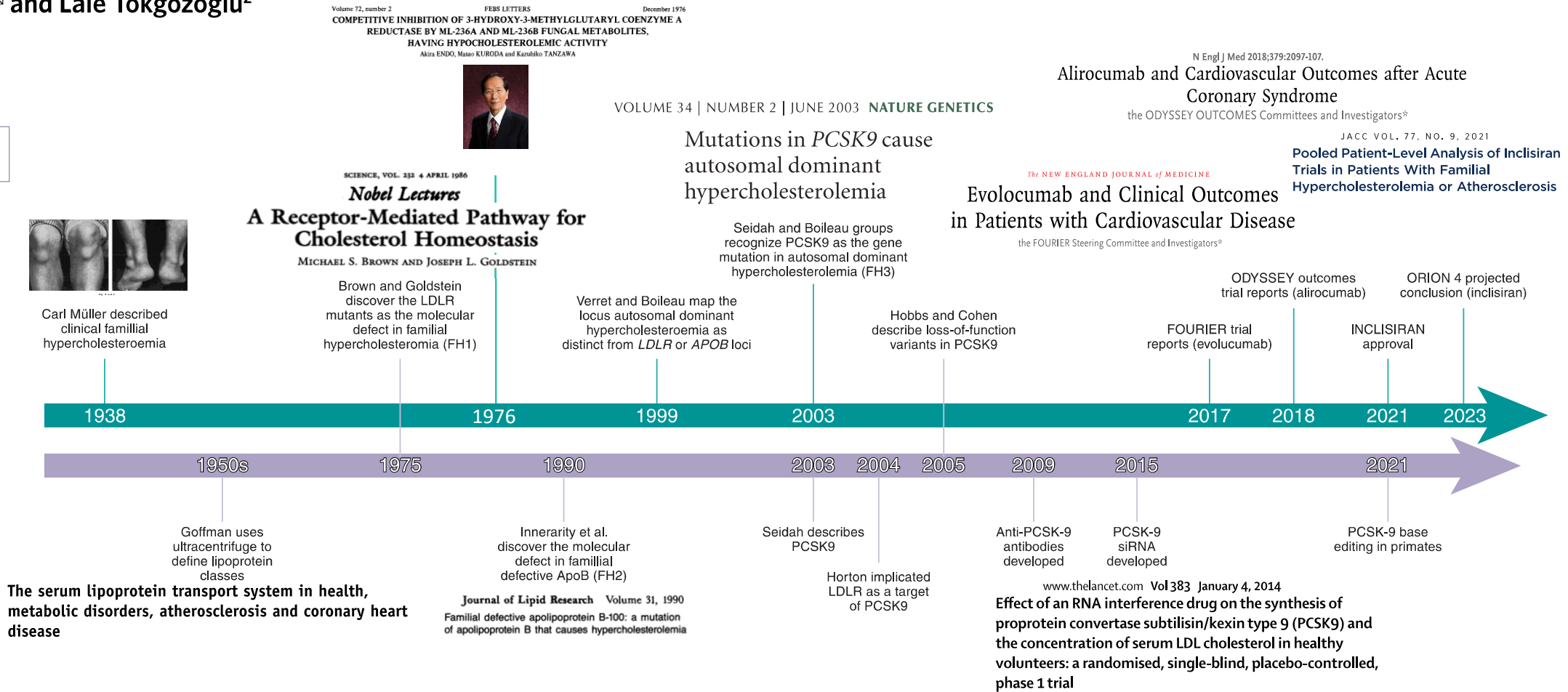
Peter Libby<sup>1</sup>✉ and Lale Tokgözoğlu<sup>2</sup>

■ Clinical milestones  
■ Laboratory milestones

**Nikolaj Nikolaevič Aničkov**  
1885-1964



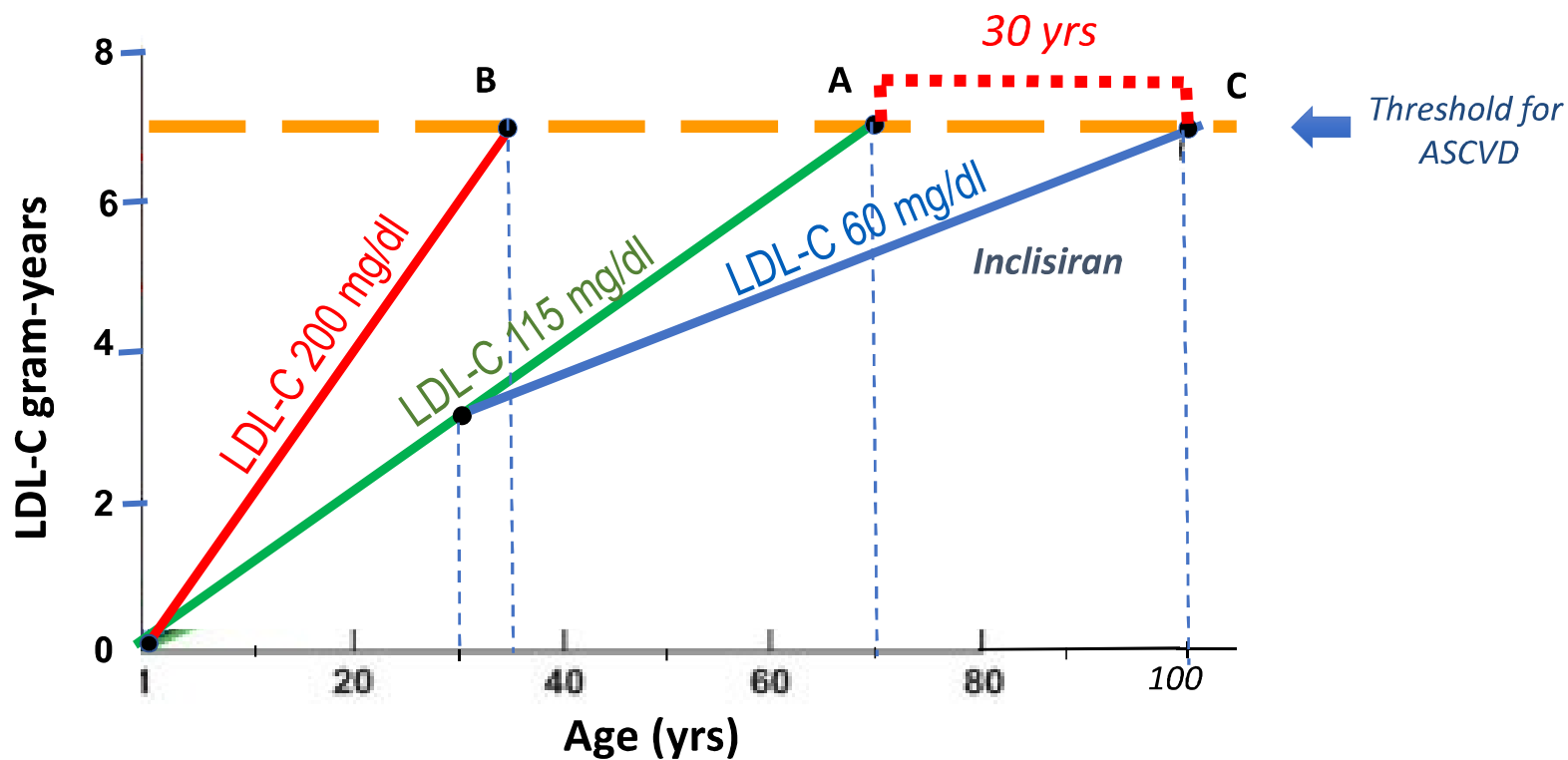
“...non ci può essere aterosclerosi senza colesterolo...”



# How to live to 100 before developing clinical coronary artery disease: a suggestion

Eugene Braunwald  <sup>1,2\*</sup>

Cumulative LDL-C burden = [LDL-C] x age



# Potent and specific genetic interference by double-stranded RNA in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

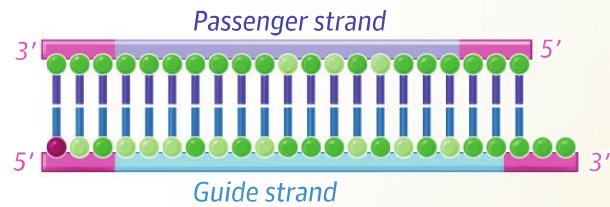
Andrew Fire\*, SiQun Xu\*, Mary K. Montgomery\*, Steven A. Kostas\*†, Samuel E. Driver‡ & Craig C. Mello‡

Experimental introduction of RNA into cells can be used in certain biological systems to interfere with the function of an endogenous gene<sup>1,2</sup>. Such effects have been proposed to result from a simple antisense mechanism that depends on hybridization between the injected RNA and endogenous messenger RNA transcripts. RNA interference has been used in the nematode *Caenorhabditis elegans* to manipulate gene expression<sup>3,4</sup>.



# siRNAs—A New Class of Medicines

**A** Small interfering RNA (siRNA) backbone modifications for chemical stabilization

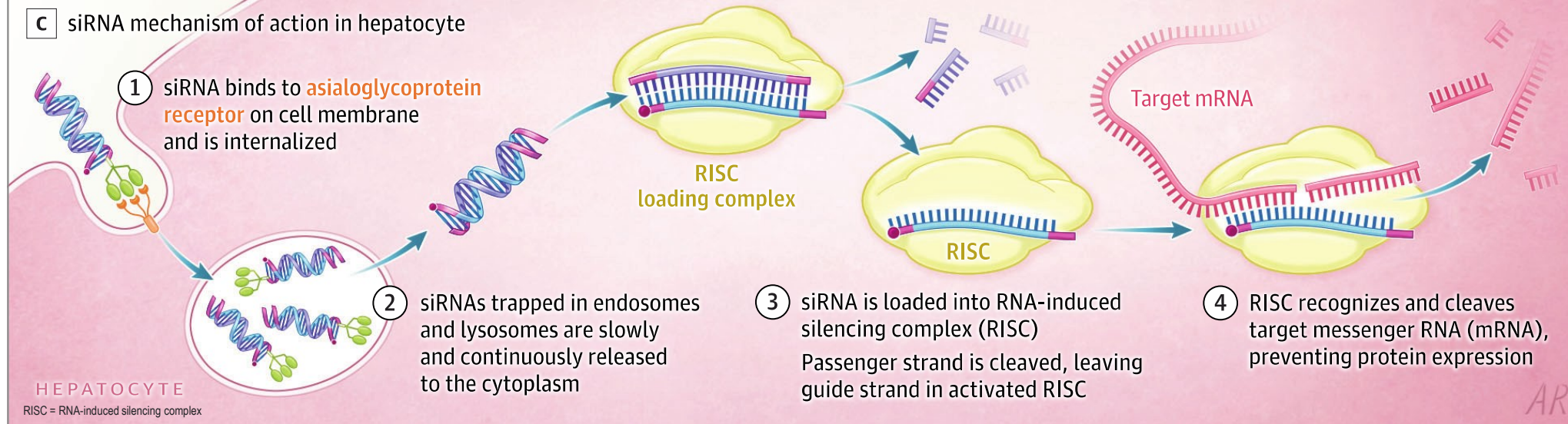


- 5' Vinyl phosphonate end on guide strand
- Phosphorothioate linkages on strand ends
- 2'-O-methyl and 2'-fluoro substitutions for ribose molecules

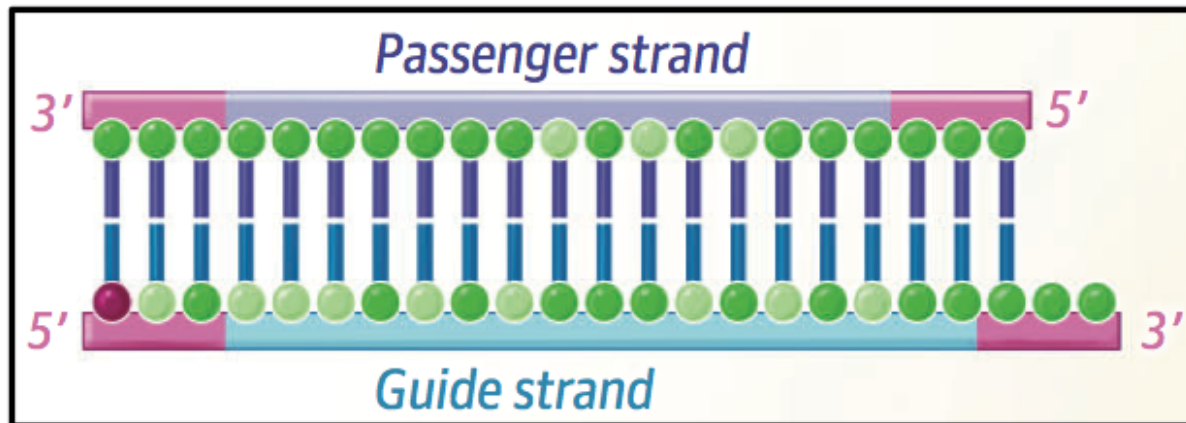
**B** siRNA modification with conjugate to optimize targeted delivery to specific target tissues

GalNAc conjugation	Lipid conjugation	Protein conjugation	Multivalency
Hepatocytes	Central nervous system (CNS), lungs, and eyes	Muscle	CNS, lungs, and eyes
Trivalent GalNAc	16-Carbon fatty acid	Transferin antibody	Multiple siRNAs linked together
	Muscle, fat, heart, and placenta		
	PC-DCA		
	22-Carbon fatty acid		

**C** siRNA mechanism of action in hepatocyte



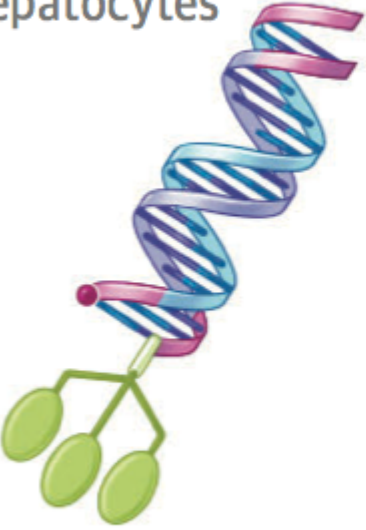
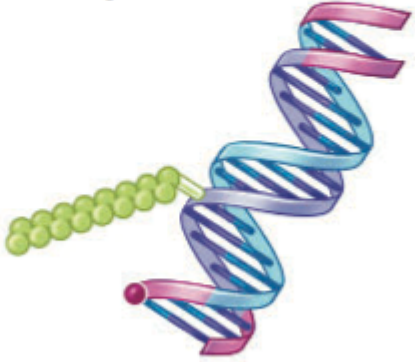
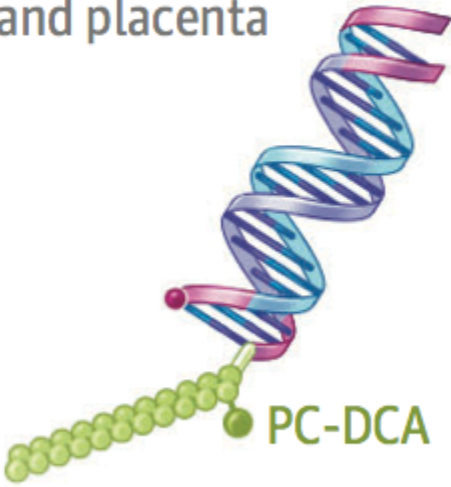

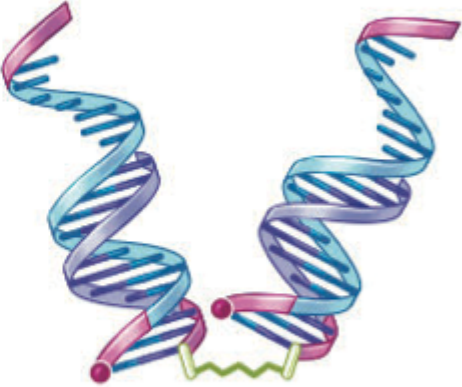
# Small interfering RNA (siRNA) backbone modifications for chemical stabilization



- 5' Vinyl phosphonate end on guide strand
- Phosphorothioate linkages on strand ends
- 2'-O-methyl and 2'-fluoro substitutions for ribose molecules

siRNA sequence defines its target, the chemical structure of an siRNA molecule drives its pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics. Therefore, **once an siRNA architecture is optimized for delivery to a tissue of interest, any known gene sequence in that tissue can be silenced by changing the siRNA sequence only.**

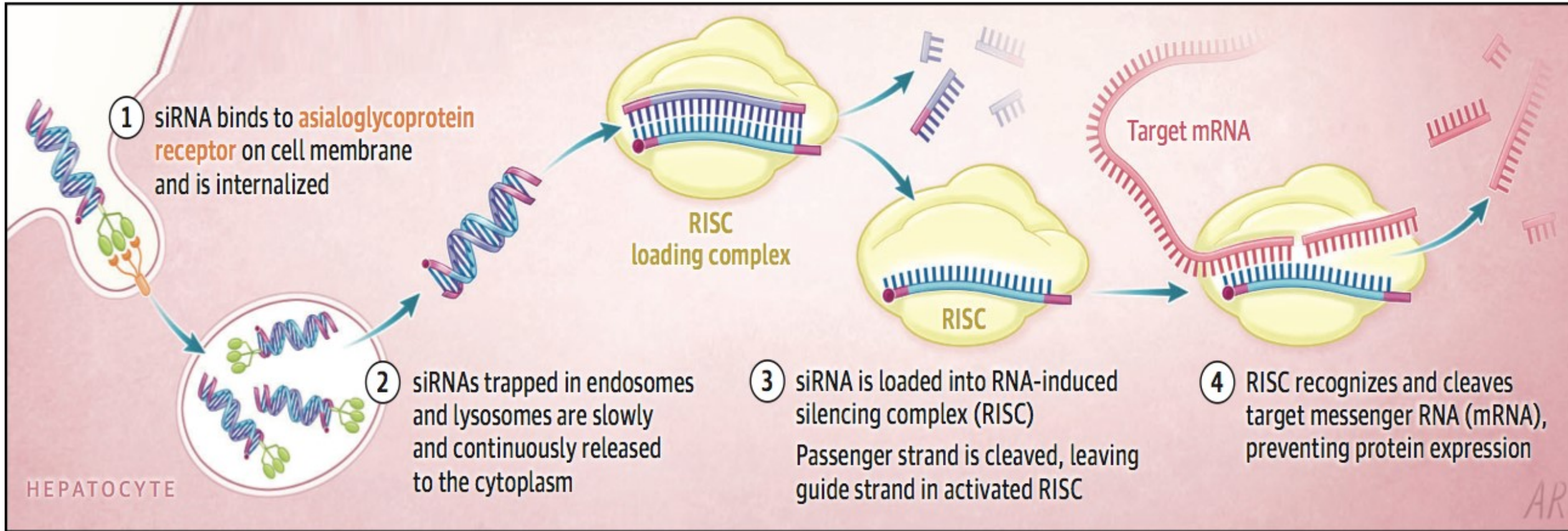
# siRNA modification with conjugate to optimize targeted delivery to specific target tissues

GalNAc conjugation	Lipid conjugation		Protein conjugation	Multivalency
Hepatocytes  <b>Trivalent GalNAc</b>	Central nervous system (CNS), lungs, and eyes  <b>16-Carbon fatty acid</b>	Muscle, fat, heart, and placenta  <b>22-Carbon fatty acid</b>	Muscle  <b>Transferrin antibody</b>	CNS, lungs, and eyes  <b>Multiple siRNAs linked together</b>

- Sugar derivative of galactose (GalNAc) is conjugated to siRNA to enable selective uptake into hepatocytes.
- Lipid conjugates (16-carbon or 22-carbon fatty acids) support broad tissue distribution, partially driven by hydrophobicity and lipid chain length.
- Protein-siRNA conjugate molecules incorporate antibodies, antibody fragments, or peptides (i.e. the siRNA–transferrin antibody conjugate robustly delivers siRNA to muscle in non human primates and is being evaluated in clinical trials for myotonic dystrophy type 1 treatment).
- Multivalency is a delivery concept that manipulates siRNA molecule size to slow clearance, increase tissue distribution, and promote cooperative cellular uptake.



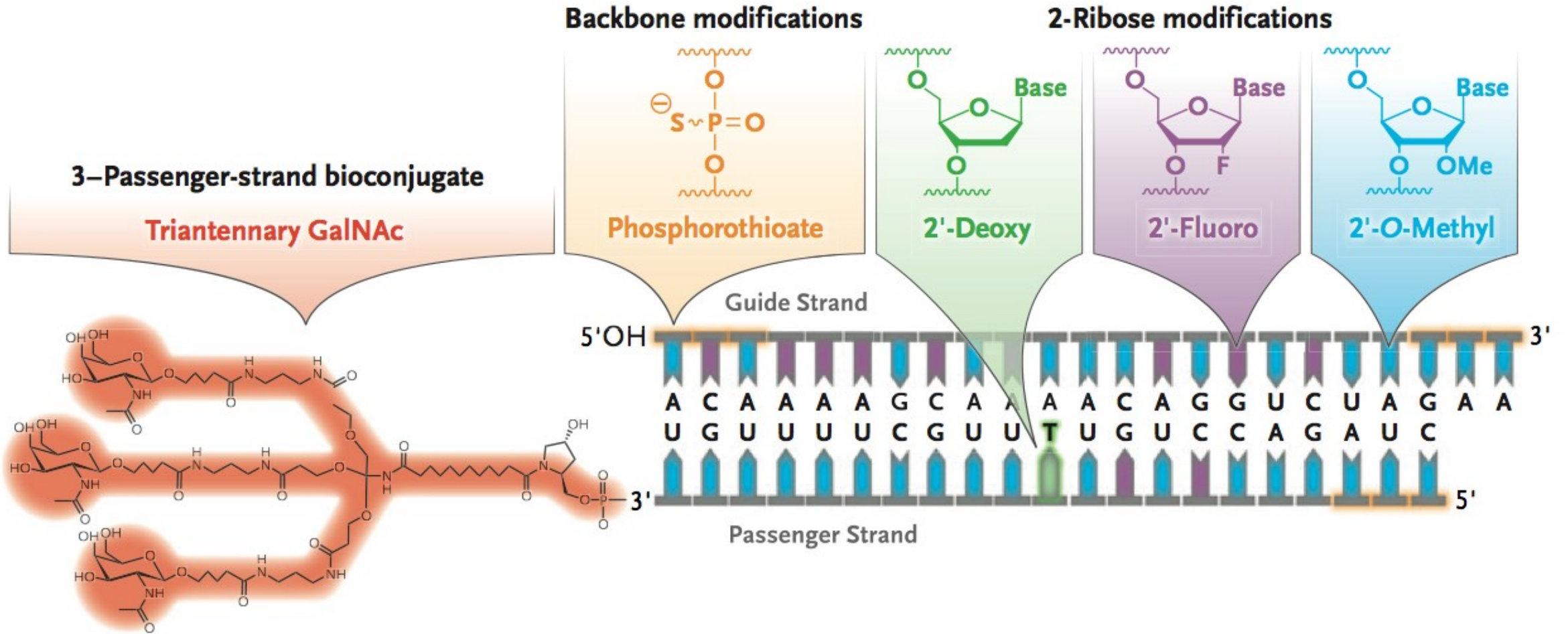
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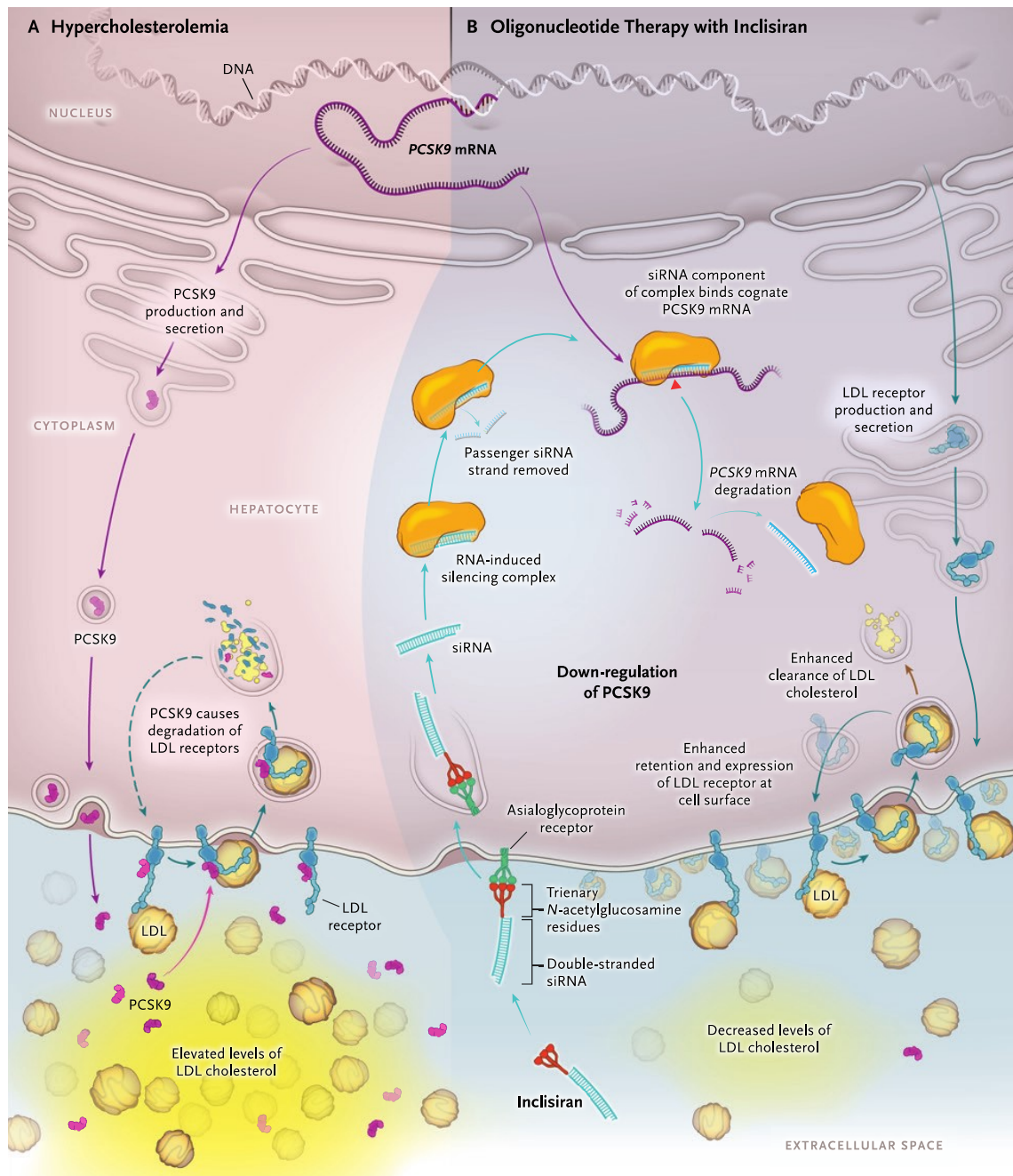
When conjugated siRNAs are administered, the first phase of distribution and clearance occurs in **a few hours**. The primary mechanism of cellular internalization independent of the conjugate is endocytosis, resulting in a large amount of siRNA cargo being trapped inside the endosomal or lysosomal compartments of cells. **This entrapment is key to the duration of effect of siRNA-based therapies**; it creates an intracellular depot of siRNA that gets slowly released over months into the cytoplasm for loading into RISC. Chemical modification of the siRNA structure is needed to prevent degradation in lysosomal environments while maintaining the ability to interact with RISC.



# Inclisiran



Alta specificità, stabilizzazione e protezione dalla degradazione da endo/esonucleasi, stabilità di legame con il RISC

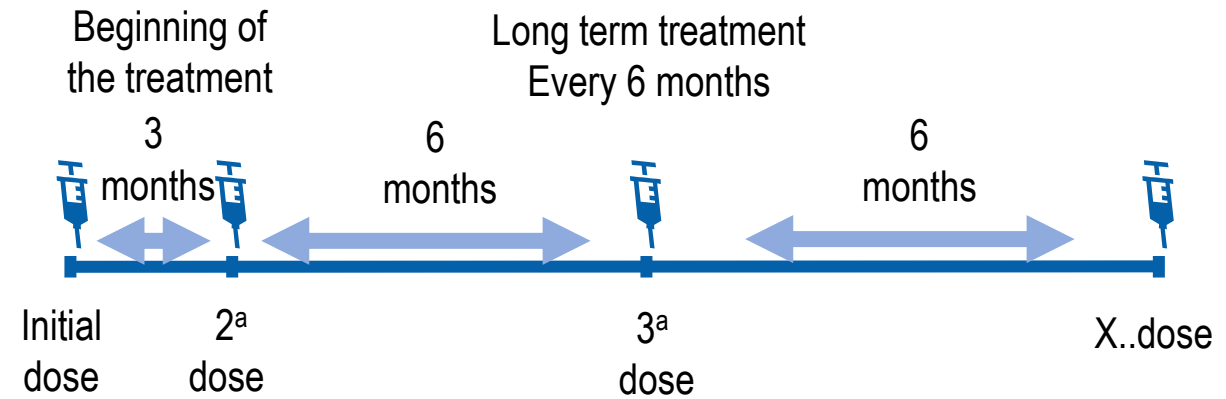
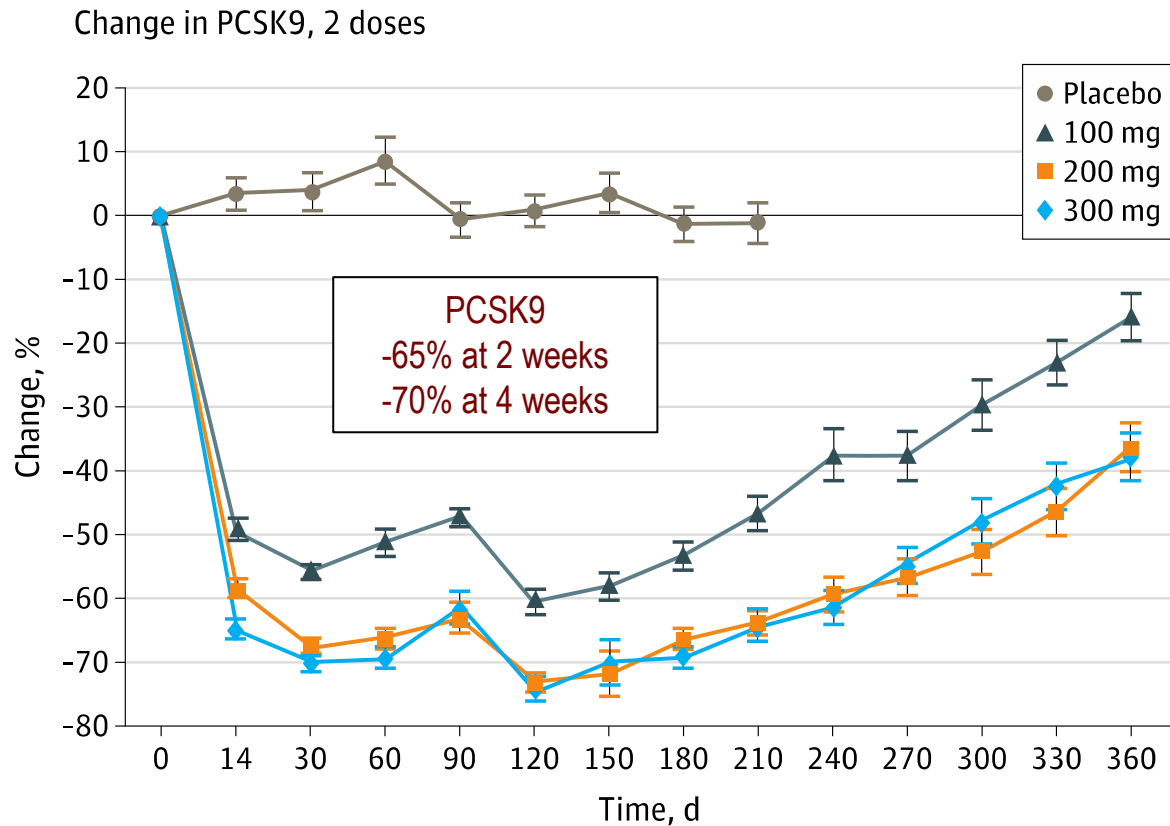


# Inclisiran

- **siRNA:** novel treatment strategy in CV disease (first in class).
- **Selectivity** and **lower dosage:** N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) conjugated to oligonucleotides binds to the asialoglycoprotein receptors (ASGPR) on hepatocytes
- **Efficacy** and **safety:** by binding with pCSK9 mRNA, inclisiran/RISC cleaves the mRNA and blocks the translation mRNA-protein of PCSK9
- **Durability:** Chemical modified to increase stability against endogenous nucleases, conferring months of therapeutic activity after each dose
- **Handling:** refrigeration is not required. Pre-filled single-use syringe. Single dosage.
- **Adherence:** 2 is better than 26. Inclisiran must be administered only by health professionals.

# Effect of 1 or 2 Doses of Inclisiran on Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Levels

## One-Year Follow-up of the ORION-1 Randomized Clinical Trial



**284 mg di inclisiran in 1,5 mL solution administered subcutaneously in the abdomen or upper arm or thigh**

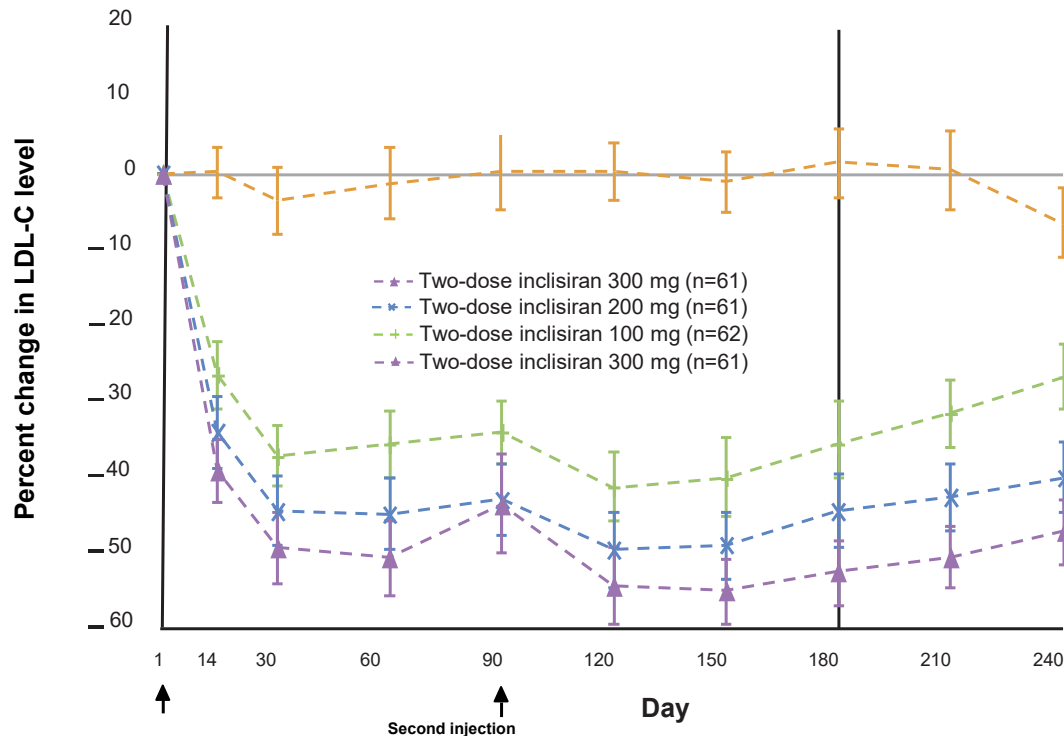


# Inclisiran in Patients at High Cardiovascular Risk with Elevated LDL Cholesterol

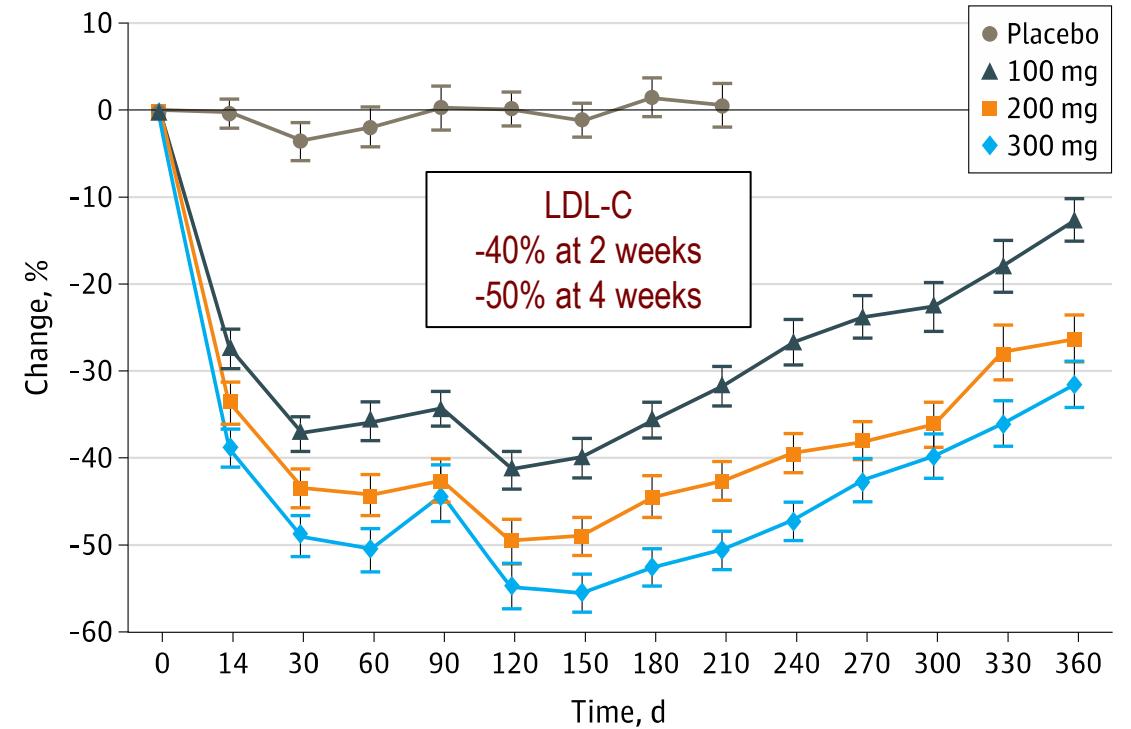
ORION-1 ClinicalTrials.gov

# Effect of 1 or 2 Doses of Inclisiran on Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Levels One-Year Follow-up of the ORION-1 Randomized Clinical Trial

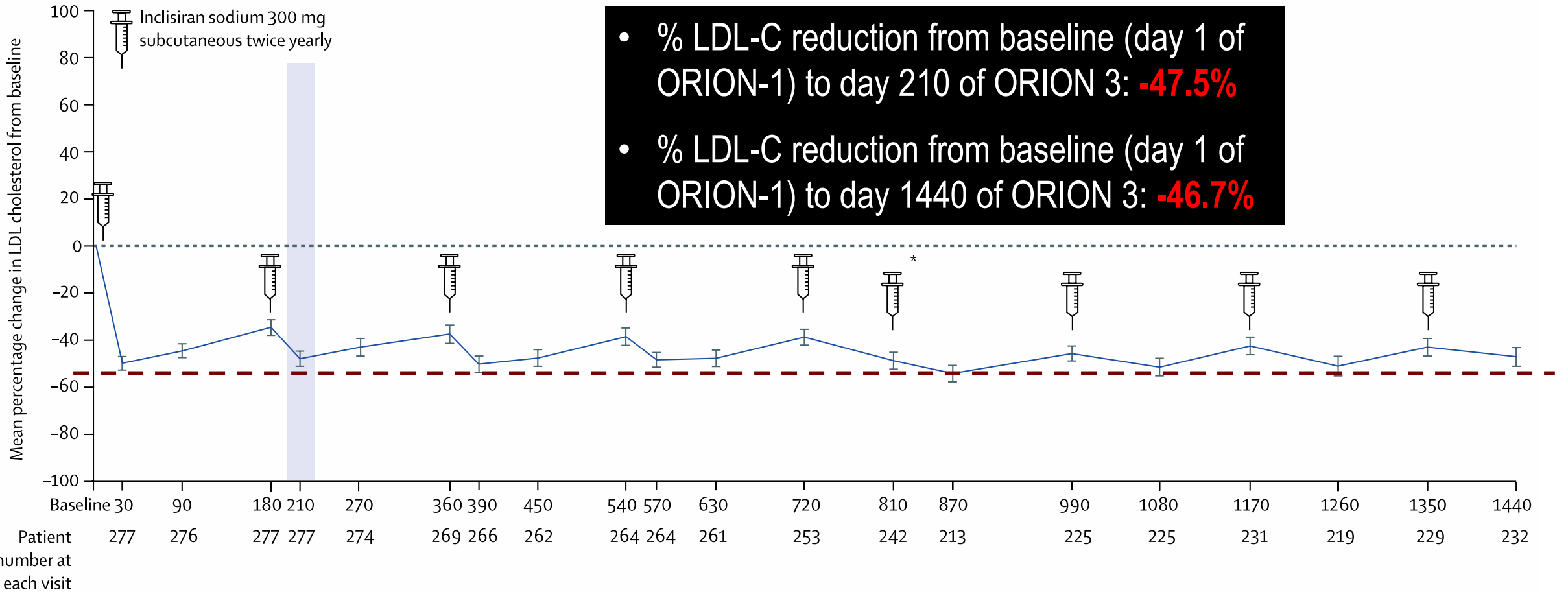
Changes in LDL-C levels in two-dose regimen



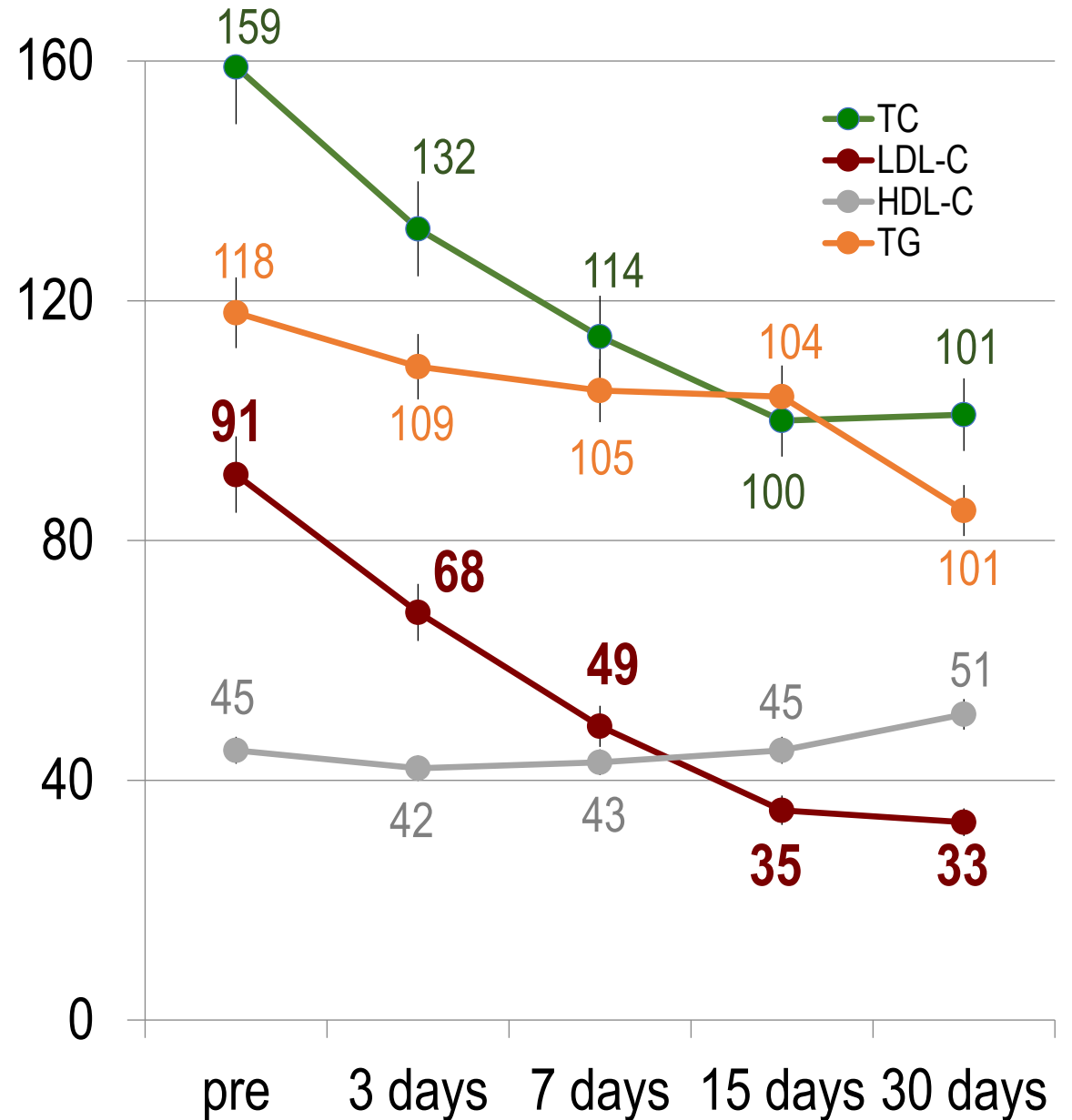
Changes in LDL-C levels in two-dose regimen



# Long-term efficacy and safety of inclisiran in patients with high cardiovascular risk and elevated LDL cholesterol (ORION-3): results from the 4-year open-label extension of the ORION-1 trial



	LDL-C (mg/dL, -Δ%)				
Patient	pre	3 days	7 days	15 days	30 days
# 1 (eze/prava 30)	120	-39%	-75%	-80%	-85%
# 2 (eze/prava 20)	70	-8%	-26%	-49%	-51%
# 3 (eze/atorva40)	90	-23%	-43%	-70%	-63%
# 4 (eze)	82	-23%	-39%	-38%	-43%
<b>Overall</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>-25%</b>	<b>-46%</b>	<b>-61%</b>	<b>-64%</b>





# ORION 9-10-11 studies

## 18 months follow-up, double blind doppio-cieco, randomized versus placebo

ORION-9, ORION-10 and ORION-11: Patient population<sup>1,2</sup>  
To assess efficacy and safety of Inclisiran 300 mg compared to placebo



\*Coronary heart disease, peripheral arterial disease, cerebrovascular disease,  
<sup>§</sup>Type 2 diabetes mellitus, familial hypercholesterolemia, or a 10-year CV risk  $\geq 20\%$  (assessed by the Framingham Risk Score)  
ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol

### Common key inclusion criteria:

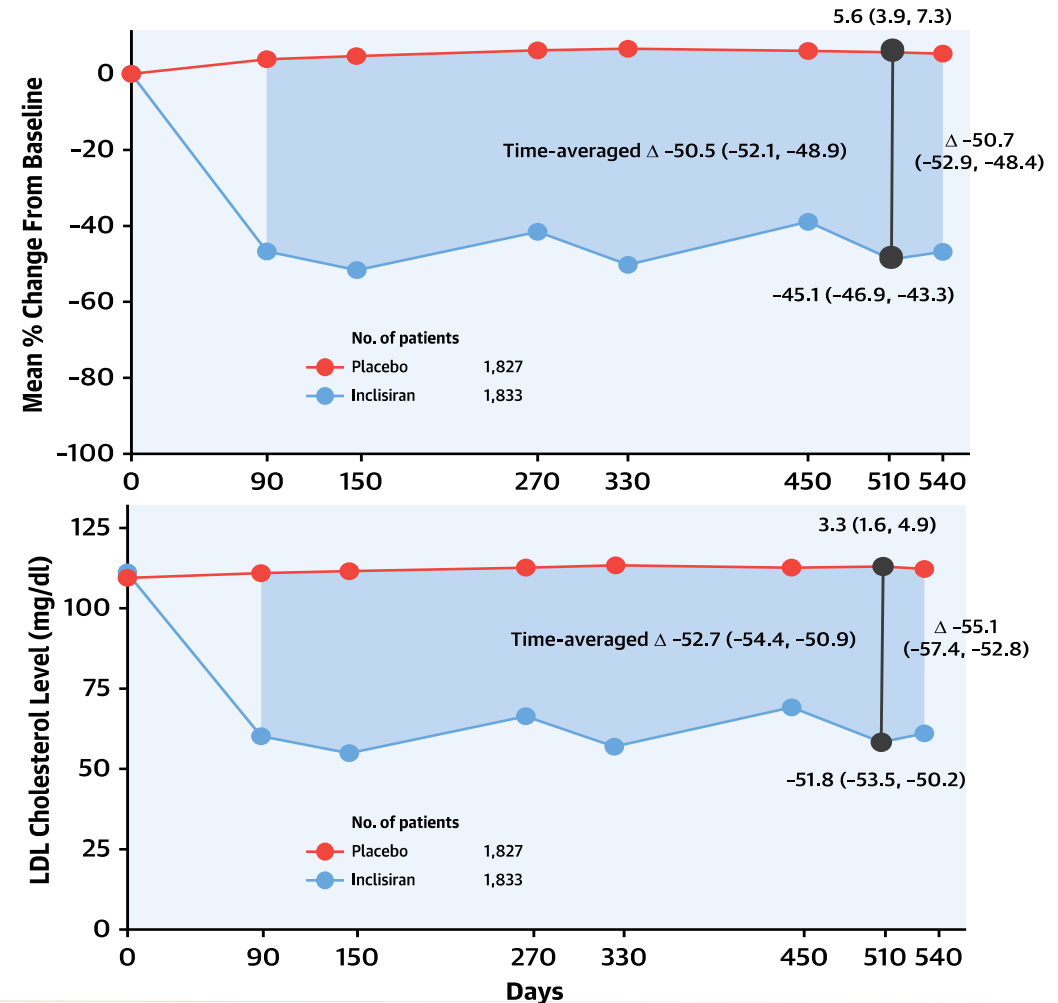
$\geq 18$  years of age; fasting triglyceride  $< 4.52$  mmol/L ( $< 400$  mg/dL) at screening; had received statin treatment at the maximally tolerated dose or demonstrated documented intolerance. Ezetimibe therapy was allowed.

### Common key exclusion criteria:

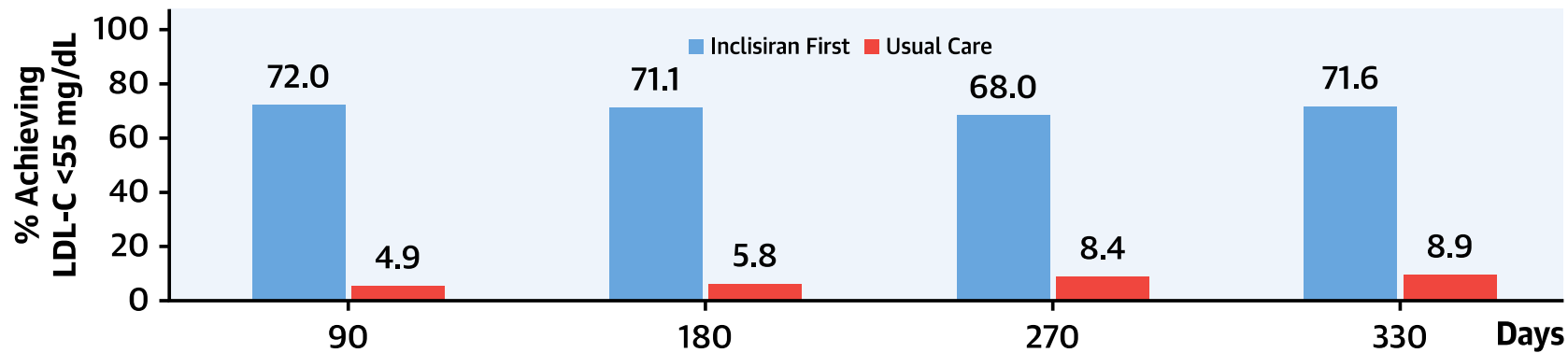
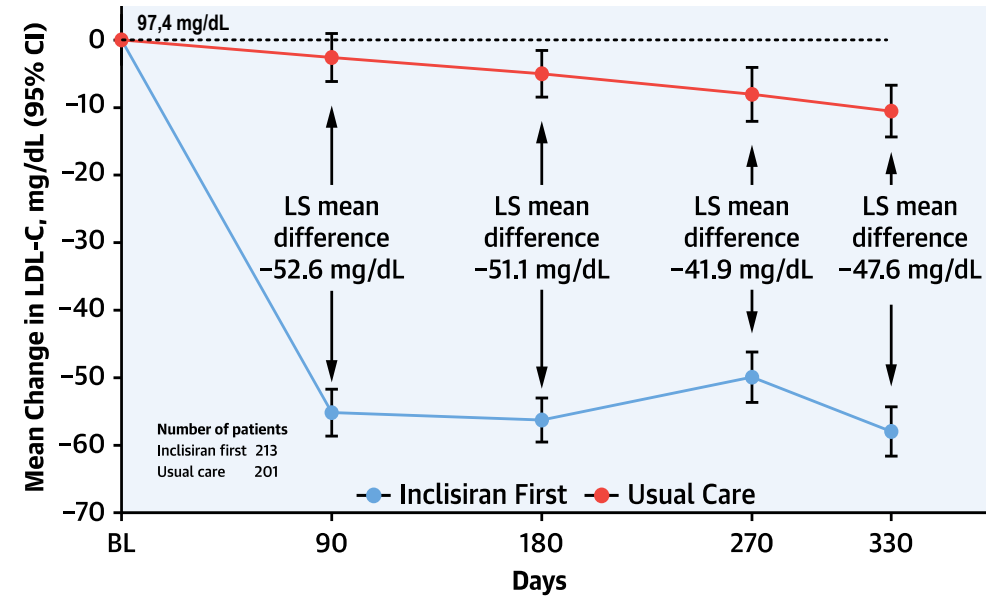
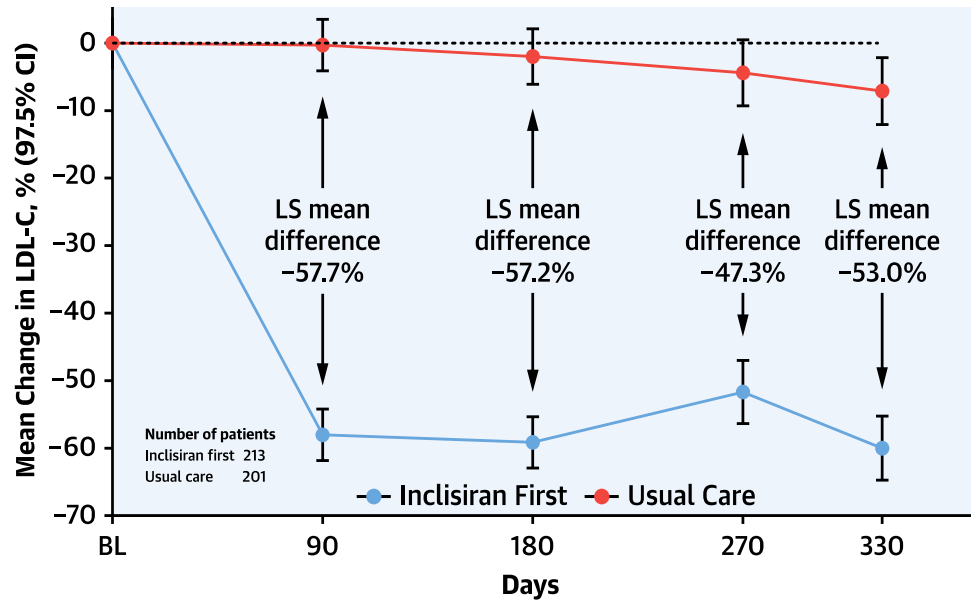
Prior or planned use of a PCSK9 mAb; MACE within 3 months of randomization; had prior/planned use of other investigational drugs; NYHA class IV heart failure or LVEF  $< 25\%$ ; uncontrolled severe hypertension; severe concomitant non CV disease; fasting TG  $\geq 4.52$  mmol/L (400 mg/dL).

# Pooled Patient-Level Analysis of Inclisiran Trials in Patients With Familial Hypercholesterolemia or Atherosclerosis

	Inclisiran (n = 1,833)	Placebo (n = 1,827)
Age, yrs	64.1 ± 9.98	63.9 ± 9.87
Male	1,226 (66.9)	1,244 (68.1)
White race*	1,670 (91.1)	1,708 (93.5)
Concomitant lipid modifying therapy		
Statin	1,686 (92.0)	1,675 (91.7)
High-intensity statin	1,356 (74.0)	1,345 (73.6)
Ezetimibe	251 (13.7)	270 (14.8)
Cardiovascular risk factors		
ASCVD	1,552 (84.7)	1,555 (85.1)
ASCVD risk equivalent†	281 (15.3)	272 (14.9)
Risk score >20% for 10-yr risk of CV event	54 (19.2)	60 (22.1)
Congestive heart failure	213 (11.6)	227 (12.4)
Smoker (current)	311 (17.0)	271 (14.8)
Hypertension	1,456 (79.4)	1,463 (80.1)
Diabetes	687 (37.5)	631 (34.5)
Familial hypercholesterolemia	340 (19.3)	352 (20.2)
Lipid measures, mg/dl		
LDL cholesterol	111.9 ± 44.9	110.8 ± 43.6
Total cholesterol	190.1 ± 50.7	188.6 ± 49.3
Non-HDL cholesterol	141.5 ± 49.3	140.5 ± 48.1
HDL cholesterol	48.6 ± 15.0	48.0 ± 14.1
Apolipoprotein B	99.3 ± 29.4	98.7 ± 28.4
Lipid measures		
Lipoprotein(a), nmol/l	50.0 (18-185)	46.5 (19-185)
Triglycerides, mg/dl	130 (93-179)	130 (96-183)
PCSK9, µg/l	396.3 ± 146.1	389.3 ± 129.3



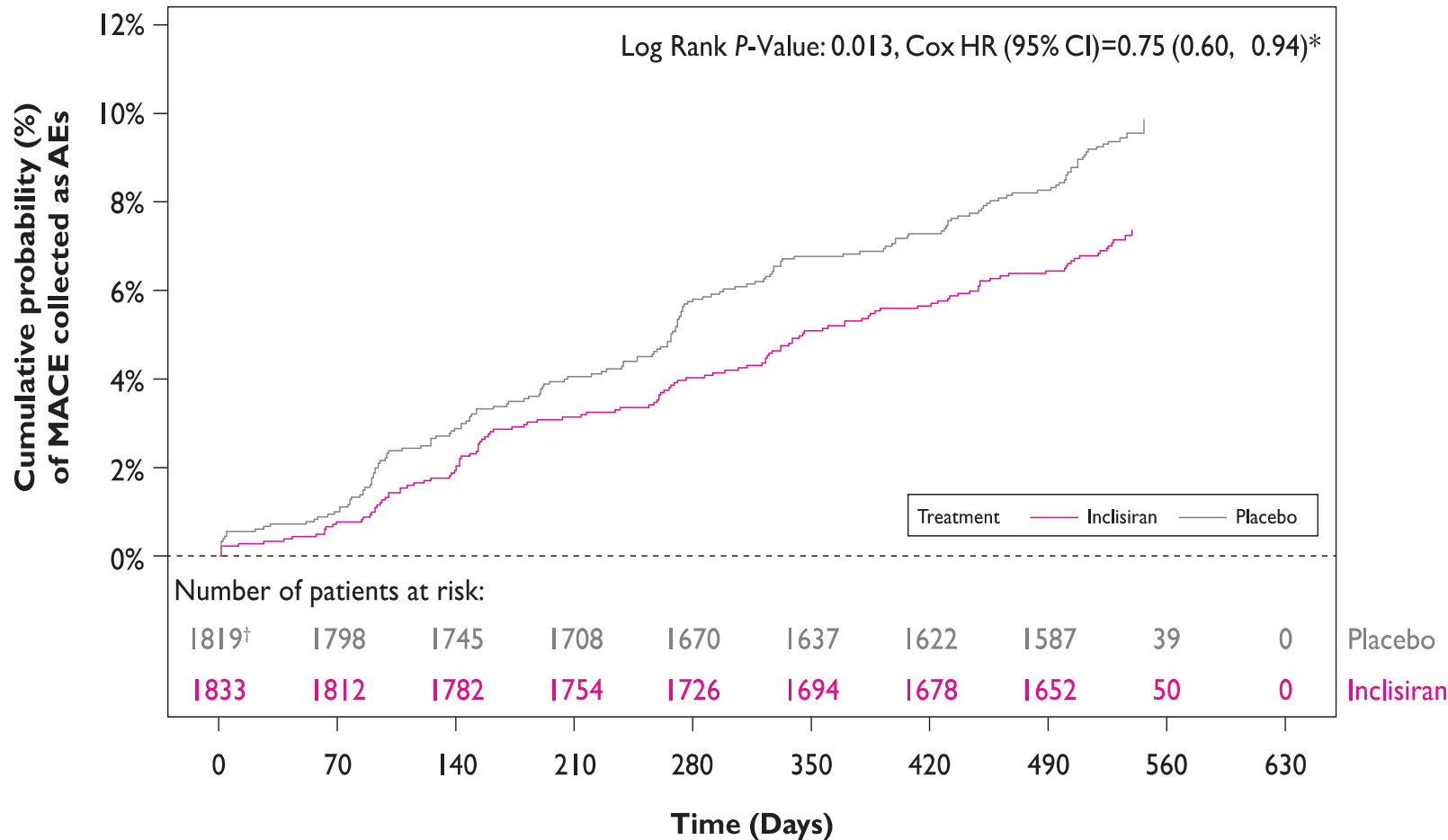
# An Inclisiran First Strategy vs Usual Care in Patients with Atherosclerosis



VICTORION-INITIATE is a prospective, randomized, US-based, multicenter, parallel-group, open-label, Phase 3b trial evaluating the effectiveness of an “inclisiran first” implementation strategy compared with usual care in 450 adults (≥18 years) patients with a history of coronary heart disease, cerebrovascular disease, or peripheral artery disease, and with LDL-C ≥70 mg/dL (or non-HDL-C ≥100 mg/dL) and fasting TG <500 mg/dL, receiving (90% of pts) maximally tolerated statin therapy.



# Inclisiran and cardiovascular events: a patient-level analysis of phase III trials



- Patient-level, pooled analysis of ORION-9, 10 and 11.
- Prespecified exploratory endpoint of MACEs included **CV death, cardiac arrest, non-fatal MI, and fatal and non-fatal stroke.**
- Although not prespecified, total fatal and non-fatal MI, and stroke were also evaluated.

# VictORION

**A dynamic clinical trial program co-created with healthcare partners worldwide to generate evidence on the impact of cholesterol lowering with inclisiran**



60,000

patients being enrolled



across

>50

countries



in

>30

trials

## Key trials

**ORION-4**

**VictORION-1-PREVENT**

**VictORION-2-PREVENT**



Charles Everett Koop (October 14, 1916 – February 25, 2013)  
13th Surgeon General of the United States under President Ronald  
Reagan from 1982 to 1989.

*Drugs don't work  
in patients who  
won't take them*

Treatment ADHERENCE is as  
important as therapy EFFICACY

# Pooled Patient-Level Analysis of Inclisiran Trials in Patients With Familial Hypercholesterolemia or Atherosclerosis

## Similar Safety to Placebo



- In this safety analysis: 3,655 patients with approximately 2,653 person years of exposure to inclisiran



- Similar safety profile between inclisiran and placebo



- Modest excess of self-limited mild-to-moderate TEAE at the injection site and bronchitis



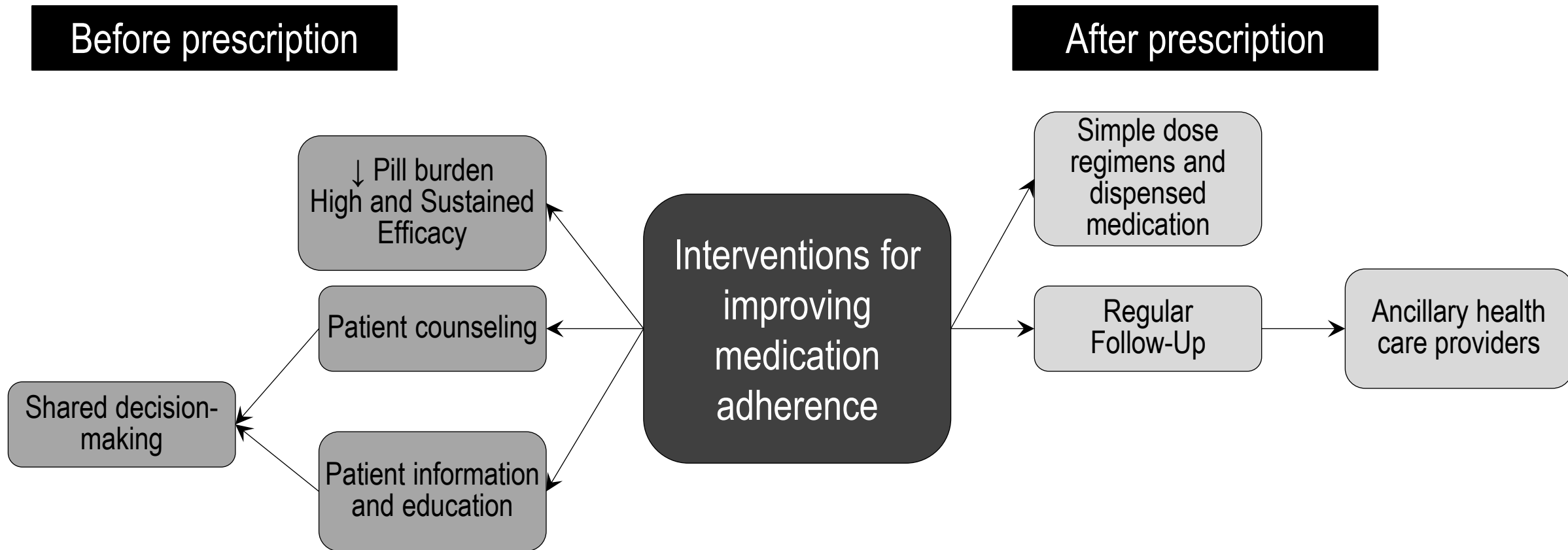
- No difference between groups in liver, muscle, or hematological parameters

## Patient-level pooled analysis of inclisiran efficacy and safety in the ORION phase 3 program

In a pooled analysis of patients from ORION-9, -10, and -11, inclisiran achieved a mean LDL-C reduction of 50.7% and a mean PCSK9 reduction of 80.9% after 17 months of treatment, with a **safety profile similar to placebo, except for an excess of self-limiting, mild-to-moderate treatment-emergent adverse events at the injection site and bronchitis.**

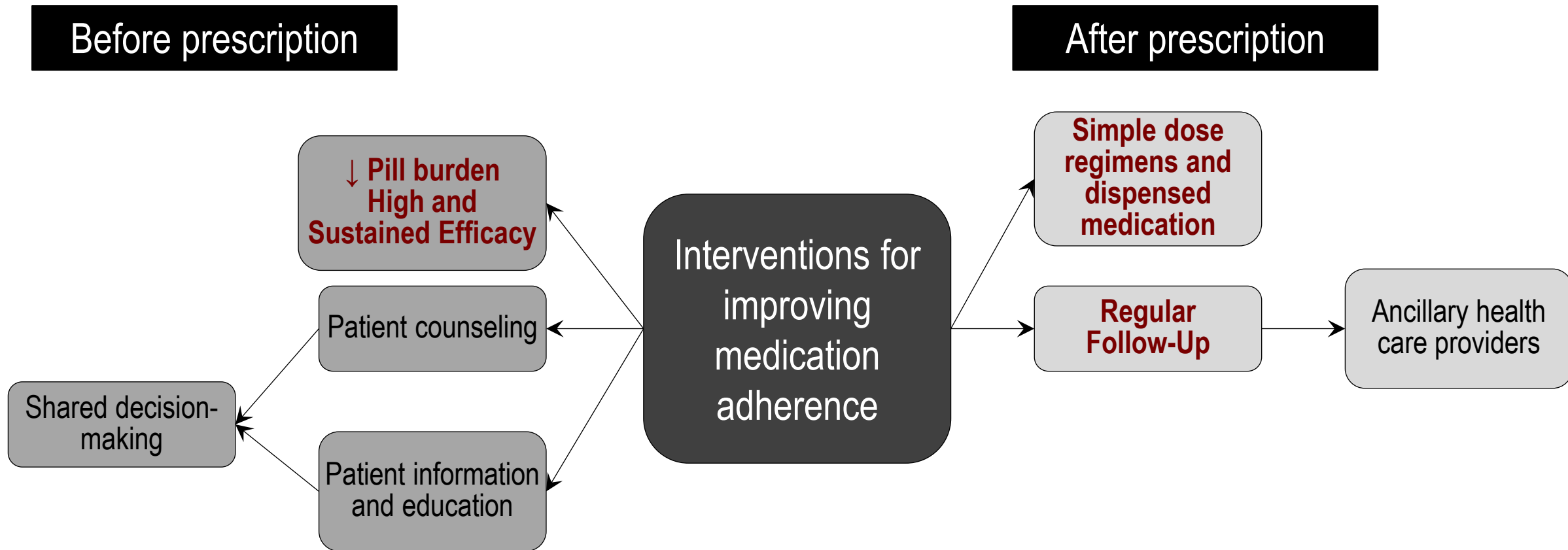


# The Best Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence



Interventions can be 'before' and 'after' prescriptions are given.  
Effective approaches involve strong partnerships between patients and health providers.

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# The Best Interventions to Improve Medication Adherence

Before prescription

After prescription

Interventions for improving medication adherence

↓ Pill burden  
High and Sustained Efficacy

Patient counseling

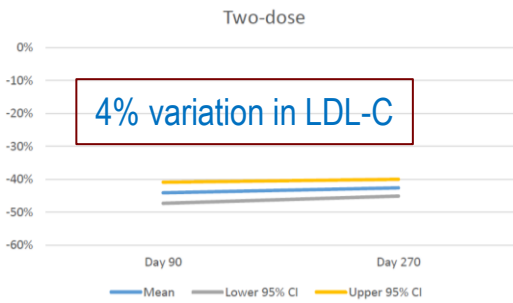
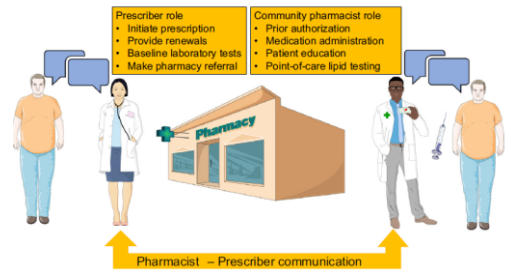
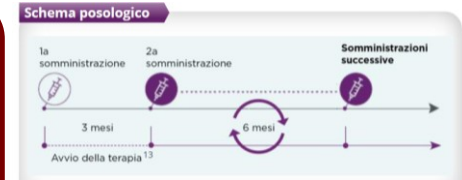
Patient information and education

Shared decision-making

Simple dose regimens and dispensed medication

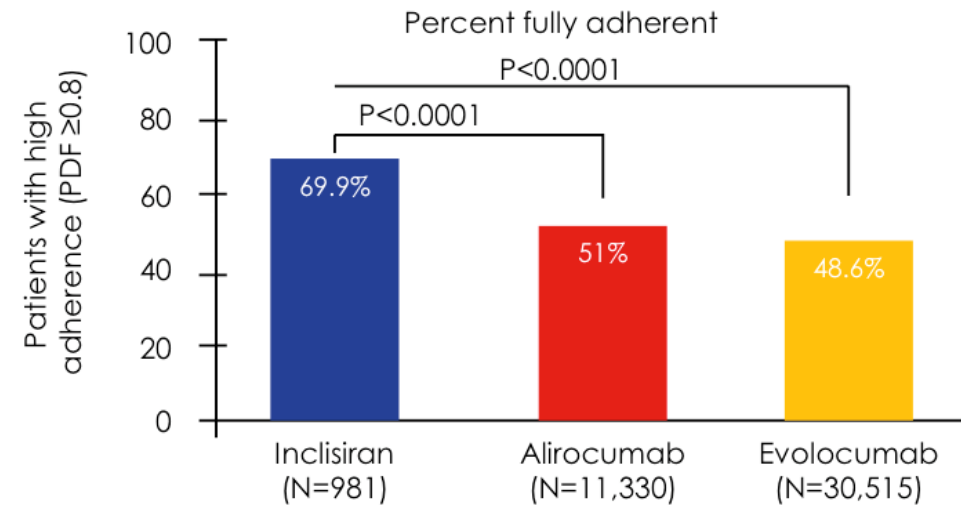
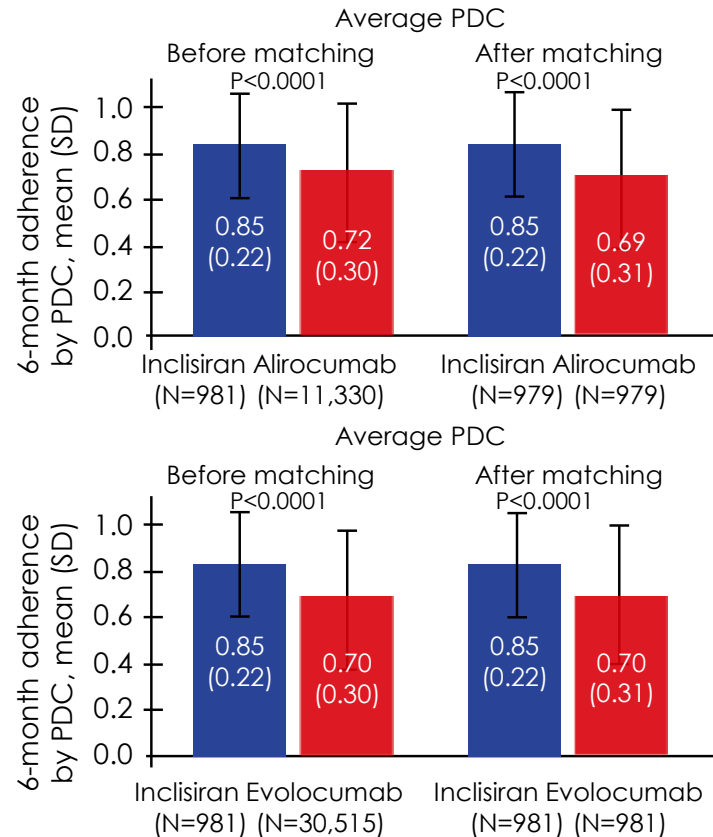
Regular Follow-Up

Ancillary health care providers



Interventions can be 'before' and 'after' prescriptions are given. Effective approaches involve strong partnerships between patients and health providers.

# Six-Month Adherence Among Early Inclisiran Initiators vs. Anti PCSK9 mAbs Users: A Retrospective Analysis of US Claims Databases



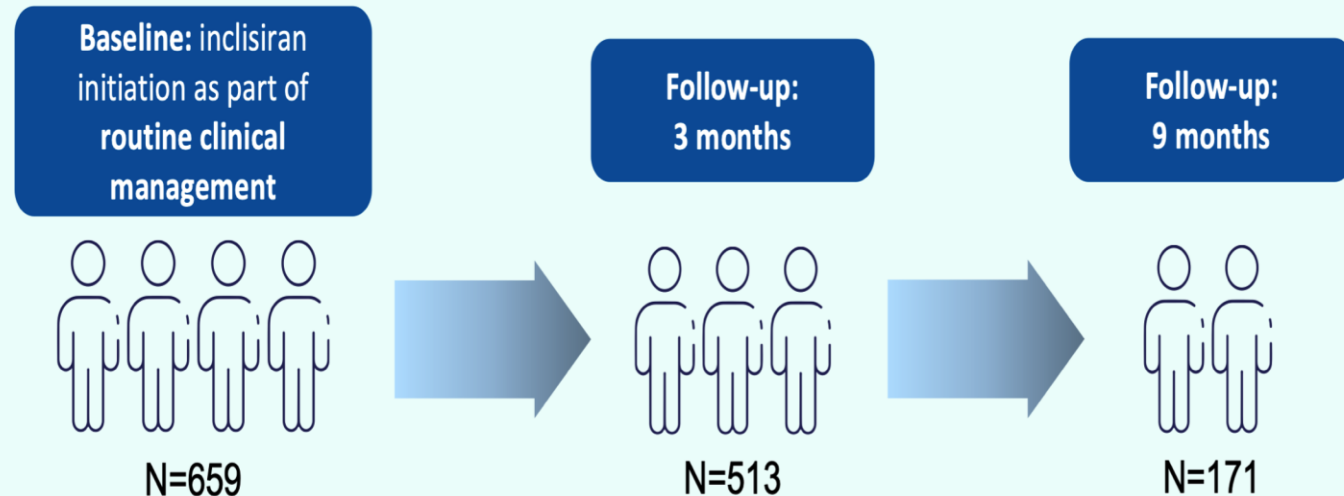
- US individuals (*Komodo Health database*) from jan 2021 to feb 2023. Adherence if > 80% *percentage of days covered*.
- *Propensity score matching* to compare anti PCSK9 population (n = 41,845) with inclisiran-treated patients (n = 981)



# Efficacy and Safety of Inclisiran in Real-World: A Single Country, Multicenter, Observational Study (CHOLINET Registry)

Paola Gargiulo; Federica Marzano; Mario Crisci; Rossella Marcucci; Dario Bruzzese; Alessandro Maloberti; Filippo Maria Sarullo; Gennaro Galasso; Ciro Indolfi; Giuseppe Musumeci; Antonella Corleto; Ferdinando Varbella; Paolo Calabrò; Stefano Carugo; Gavino Casu; Giuseppe Colonna; Marco Matteo Ciccone; Claudio Bilato; Alberto Polimeni; Francesco Giallauria; Raffaele Napoli; Angelo Catalano; Leonardo De Luca; Giampaolo Niccoli; Elio Venturini; Marco Pepe; Roberta Montisci; Natale Brunetti; Giuseppe Patti; Italo Porto; Cosmo Godino; Marina Floresta; Saverio Muscoli; Matteo Cameli; Giuseppe Andò; Costantino Mancusi; Monica Franzese; Ornella Affinito; Luca Gallo; Mariafrancesca Di Santo; Ermanno Nardi; Stefania Paolillo; Giovanni Esposito; Alberto Corsini; Pasquale Perrone-Filardi.

## Study population



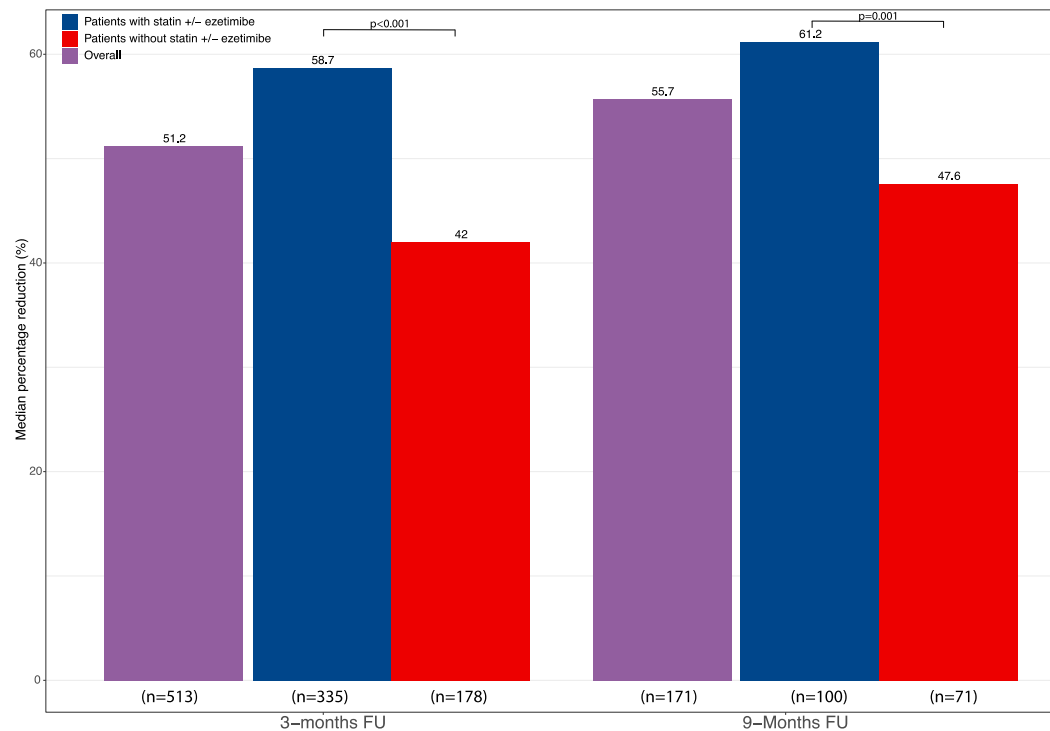
At three-months follow-up 513 patients received their second dose of inclisiran  
 At nine-months follow-up 171 patients received their third dose of inclisiran

Age, years, mean (SD)	<b>63.1</b> (10.2)
Female, n (%)	202 ( <b>30.7</b> )
Hypertension, n (%)	485 (73.6)
Type 2 DM, n (%)	129 (19.6)
Current smokers, n (%)	169 (25.6)
ASCVD, n (%)	556 ( <b>84.4</b> )
ACS, n (%)	284 ( <b>43.1</b> )
Ambulatory setting prescription n (%)	571 (87.4)
Very-high CV Risk	614 ( <b>93.2</b> )
Statin n (%)	53 (8.1)
Statin+ezetimibe, n (%)	418 ( <b>63.4</b> )
Ezetimibe, n (%)	103 (15.6)
Statin Intolerance, n (%)	240 (36.4)
LDL-C mg/dL median (Q1, Q3)	<b>103</b> (80, 149.5)

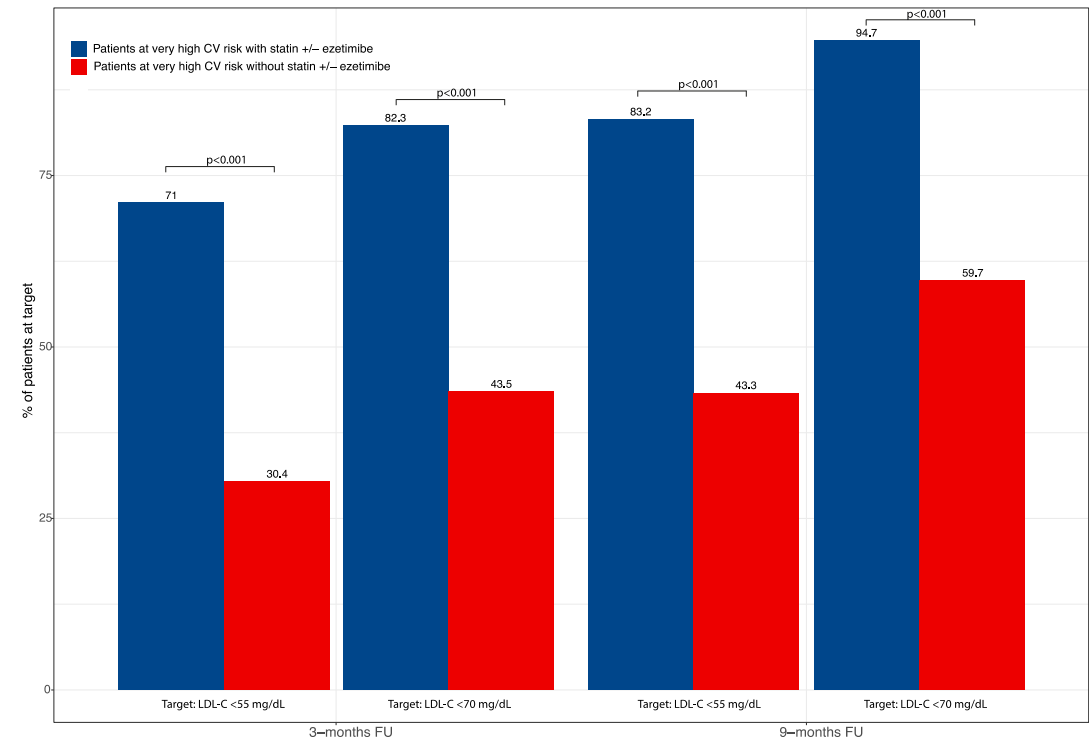
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## median % reduction of LDL-C



## % of very high-risk patients achieving LDL-C targets



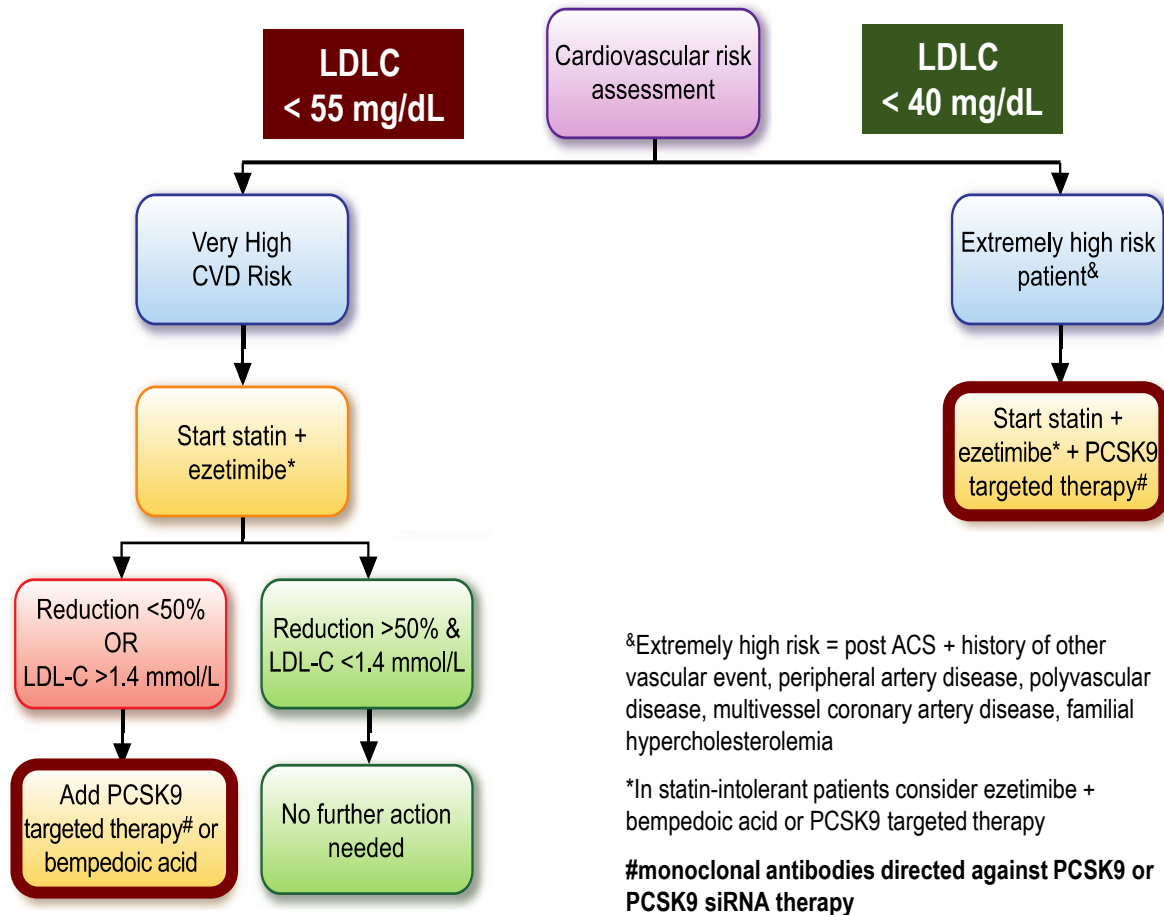
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## Predictors of achievement of LDL-C target at three-months follow-up

Variable	Univariate			Multivariable		
	OR	95% CI	P	OR	95% CI	P
Diabetes mellitus	1.53	0.99 to 2.37	0.058	1.2	0.71 to 2.05	0.495
Chronic Coronary Syndrome	2.35	1.63 to 3.38	<0.001	0.74	0.45 to 1.22	0.241
Male Sex	1.64	1.12 to 2.39	0.011	0.89	0.55 to 1.45	0.636
Age (10 years increase)	1.4	1.17 to 1.67	<0.001	1.25	0.99 to 1.58	0.06
Hypertension	1.89	1.27 to 2.82	0.002	1.2	0.71 to 2.02	0.496
Previous exposure to PCSK9i	0.47	0.28 to 0.81	0.006	0.57	0.29 to 1.1	0.093
Familial Hypercholesterolemia	0.19	0.11 to 0.32	<0.001	0.47	0.23 to 0.95	<b>0.036</b>
LLT - Statin alone	4.07	1.6 to 10.34	0.003	2.73	0.94 to 7.96	0.066
LLT - Statin and ezetimibe combination	6.33	3.65 to 11	<0.001	4.14	2.23 to 7.69	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
LLT - Ezetimibe alone	1.49	0.79 to 2.83	0.217	1.07	0.52 to 2.18	0.854

# Combination lipid-lowering therapy as first-line strategy in very high-risk patients



## INCLISIRAN preferibile

- Pazienti per i quali con l'**aderenza terapeutica** può rappresentare un problema rilevante:
  - Pazienti che assumono un **elevato numero** di farmaci,
  - Pazienti con **limitata autonomia**,
  - Pazienti **lontani** da centri di riferimento/prescrizione
- Persone con **attività lavorative** caratterizzate da spostamenti/viaggi frequenti
- Situazioni ove sia difficile mantenere la **catena del freddo**
- **Giovani HeFH** ove sia essenziale una riduzione persistente di LDL-C e schema posologico snello (qualità di vita)



# Particella lipidica

# molecola

# target

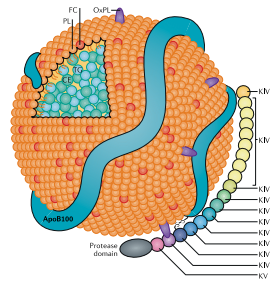
LDL



**Inclisiran**

**PCSK9**

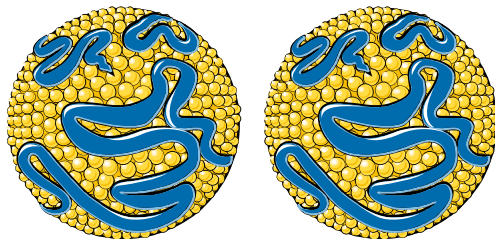
Lp(a)



**Olpasiran**  
**Lepodisiran**  
**Zerlasiran**

**apo(a)**  
**apo(a)**  
**apo(a)**

TRL



**Plozasiran**  
**Zodasiran**

**apo C-III**  
**ANGPTL3**



# HOT TOPICS IN CARDIOLOGIA 2024

**27 e 28 Novembre**

Università degli studi di Napoli Parthenope  
Villa Doria D'Angri - Via F. Petrarca 80,  
Napoli

**Presidente del congresso: Dr. Ciro Mauro**

Direttore UOC di Cardiologia UTIC con emodinamica  
AORN Cardarelli, Napoli

# Grazie 10000!!

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