



# Effetto dei PCSK9 inibitori nella stabilizzazione e regressione di placca in periferia

**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



**Prof. Eugenio Stabile, MD, PhD**

Professore Ordinario Malattie Apparato Cardiovascolare

Università della Basilicata

Direttore U.O.C. Cardiologia

AOR «San Carlo» - Potenza, Melfi e Villa D'agri



**ESC**

Working Group

Aorta & Peripheral  
Vascular Diseases



**Statin therapy and long-term adverse limb outcomes in patients with peripheral artery disease: insights from the REACH registry**

Adjusted multivariate hazard ratios for 4-year systemic and adverse limb outcomes in patients who were on statins vs. those who were not

Endpoint	Multivariate adjusted model for statin non-use at baseline ( $n = 5861$ ), HR (95% CI); P-value	Multivariate adjusted model for time-varying statin use ( $n = 5006$ ), HR (95% CI); P-value
<b>Adverse limb outcomes</b>		
Worsening PAD <sup>b</sup>	0.82 (0.72–0.92); $P = 0.0013$	0.85 (0.75–0.97); $P = 0.018$
Worsening claudication or new CLI	0.82 (0.70–0.95); $P = 0.0087$	0.84 (0.72–0.99); $P = 0.037$
New revascularization procedure	0.83 (0.72–0.95); $P = 0.0079$	0.90 (0.77–1.04); $P = 0.14$
New amputation	0.64 (0.48–0.86); $P = 0.0027$	0.60 (0.44–0.82); $P = 0.0014$
<b>Systemic outcomes</b>		
CV death/MI/stroke	0.83 (0.73–0.96); $P = 0.01$	0.79 (0.67–0.93); $P = 0.0038$
All-cause mortality	0.83 (0.72–0.96); $P = 0.014$	0.79 (0.65–0.94); $P = 0.0098$
CV mortality	0.84 (0.70–1.00); $P = 0.05$	0.78 (0.61–0.98); $P = 0.034$
Non-fatal MI	0.85 (0.63–1.14); $P = 0.28$	0.80 (0.58–1.11); $P = 0.18$
Non-fatal stroke	0.74 (0.57–0.95); $P = 0.016$	0.75 (0.57–0.97); $P = 0.029$

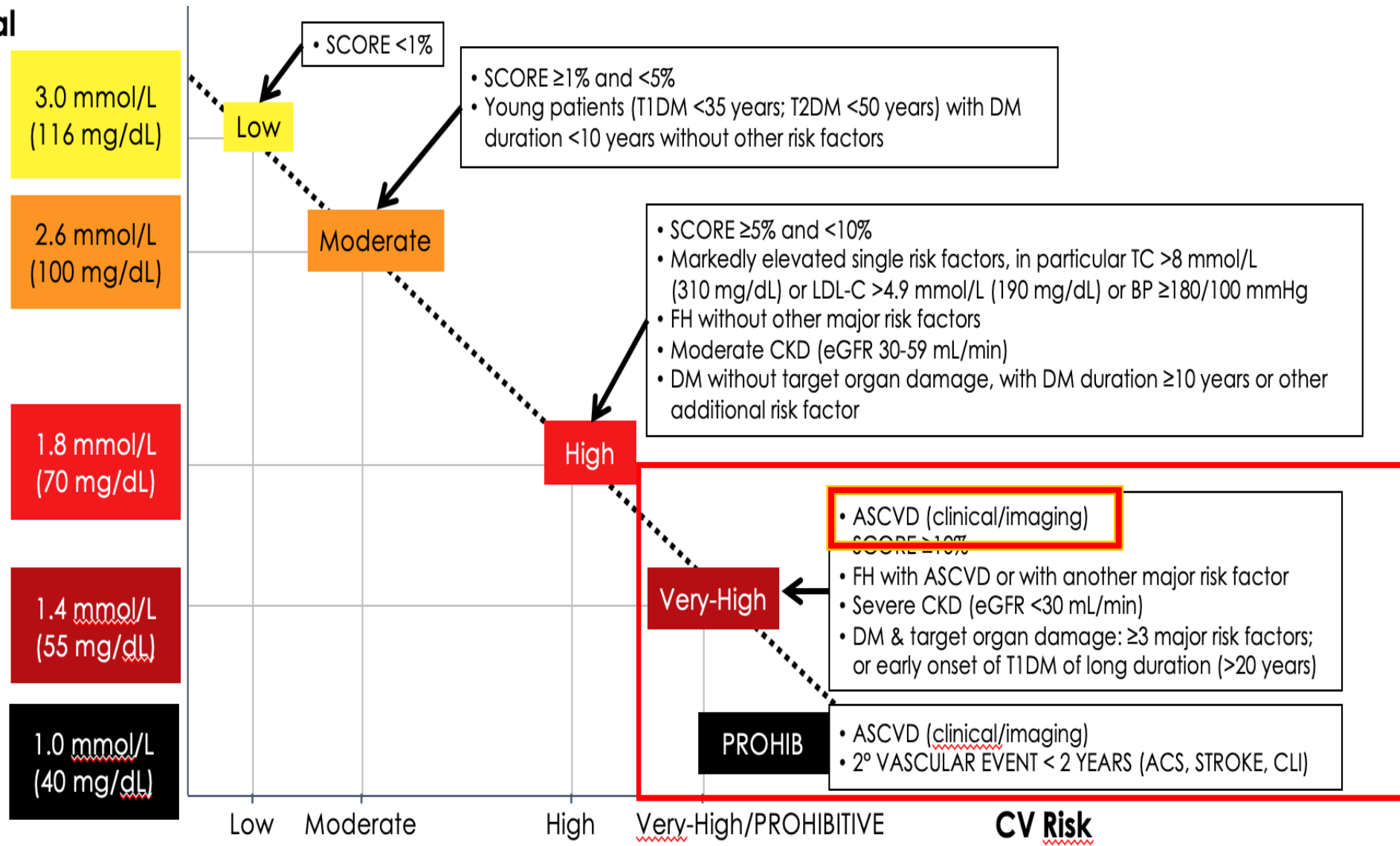




**Treatment goal for LDL-C**

Treatment goal for LDL-C

& ≥50% reduction from baseline



# Cardiovascular and Limb Outcomes Among the Overall PAD Population

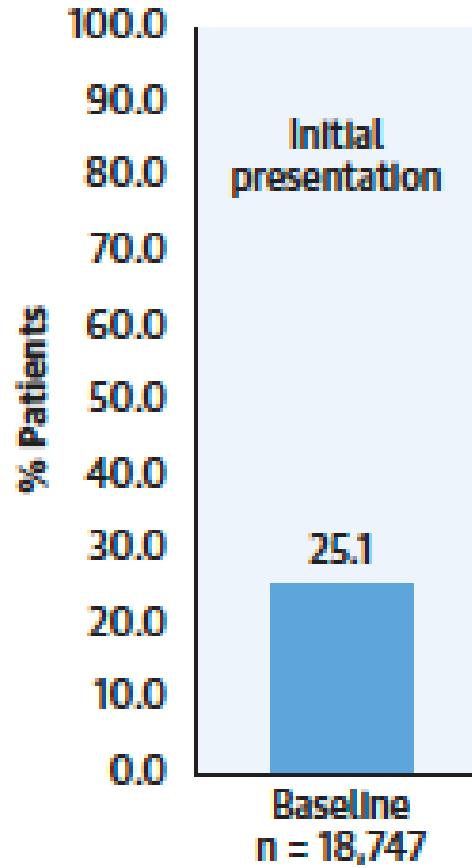
**MACE: 3.7** 100 pts/yr

**MACE +MALE: 4.7** 100 pts/yr

**Elective LLR : 6.6** 100 pts/yr

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>No. of Events</b>	<b>Person-Years</b>	<b>Incidence Rate Per 100 Patient-Years (95% CI)</b>
Myocardial infarction or ischemic stroke	12,154	337,906	3.6 (3.5-3.7)
Myocardial infarction	9,356	340,333	2.8 (2.7-2.8)
Ischemic stroke	3,121	345,196	0.9 (0.9-0.9)
Major adverse limb event*	3,023	344,727	0.9 (0.9-0.9)
Major amputation	1,642	346,355	0.5 (0.5-0.5)
Acute limb ischemia	1,524	346,057	0.4 (0.4-0.5)
Critical limb ischemia	4,976	342,301	1.5 (1.4-1.5)
Elective lower extremity revascularization	21,376	322,177	6.6 (6.6-6.7)

# Use of a High-Intensity Lipid-Lowering Strategy **After** Ischemic Events



Hess, C.N. et al.  
*J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2021

Median LDL-C: 91.0 mg/dl  
% with LDL <70 mg/dl: 24.5%

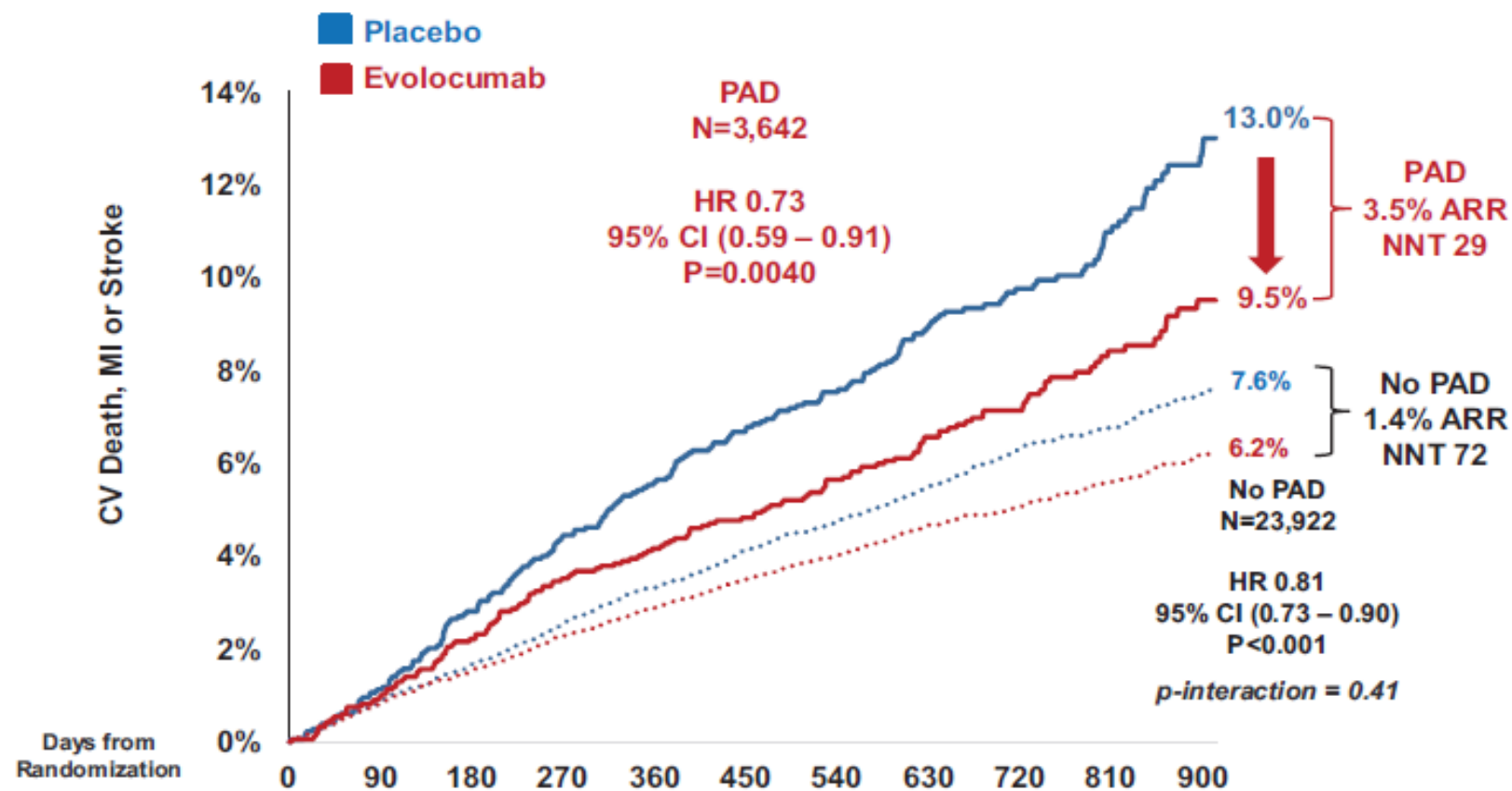
## Intensity of lipid-lowering treatment

Treatment	Average LDL-C reduction
Moderate-intensity statin	≈ 30%
High-intensity statin	≈ 50%
High-intensity statin plus ezetimibe	≈ 65%
PCSK9 inhibitor	≈ 60%
PCSK9 inhibitor plus high-intensity statin	≈ 75%
PCSK9 inhibitor plus high-intensity statin plus ezetimibe	≈ 85%

*2021 ESC Guidelines on cardiovascular disease prevention*



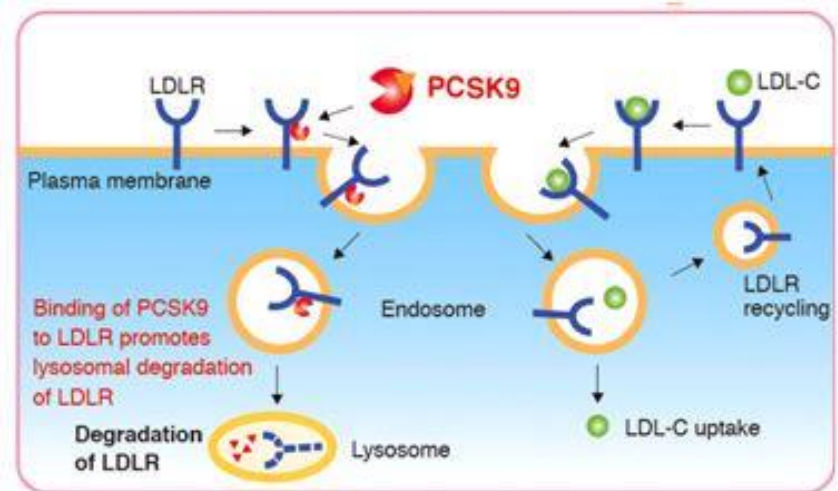
**B CV Death, MI or Stroke in Patients with and without PAD**



**Number at risk**

	0	90	180	270	360	450	540	630	720	810	900
Placebo PAD	1784	1756	1721	1685	1654	1632	1587	1332	1014	729	452
Evolocumab PAD	1858	1834	1806	1774	1758	1740	1692	1427	1091	779	480
Placebo no PAD	11996	11861	11732	11606	11494	11375	10767	9099	7167	5429	3636
Evolocumab no PAD	11926	11802	11699	11583	11490	11397	10828	9138	7258	5474	3649

**Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Lowering With Evolocumab and Outcomes in Patients With ASCVD (FOURIER Trial)**



# Alirocumab and Cardiovascular Outcomes after ACS: ODYSSEY Outcomes Trial

## RANDOMIZED, DOUBLE-BLIND, PLACEBO-CONTROLLED, PARALLEL-GROUP STUDY

>40 Y, ACS HISTORY PAST 1-12 MONTHS, ON HIGH STATIN DOSE AND INADEQUATE LIPIDS CONTROL

### ALIROCUMAB

75-150 mg  
LDL-C goal 25-50 mg/dl  
N= 9462



### PLACEBO

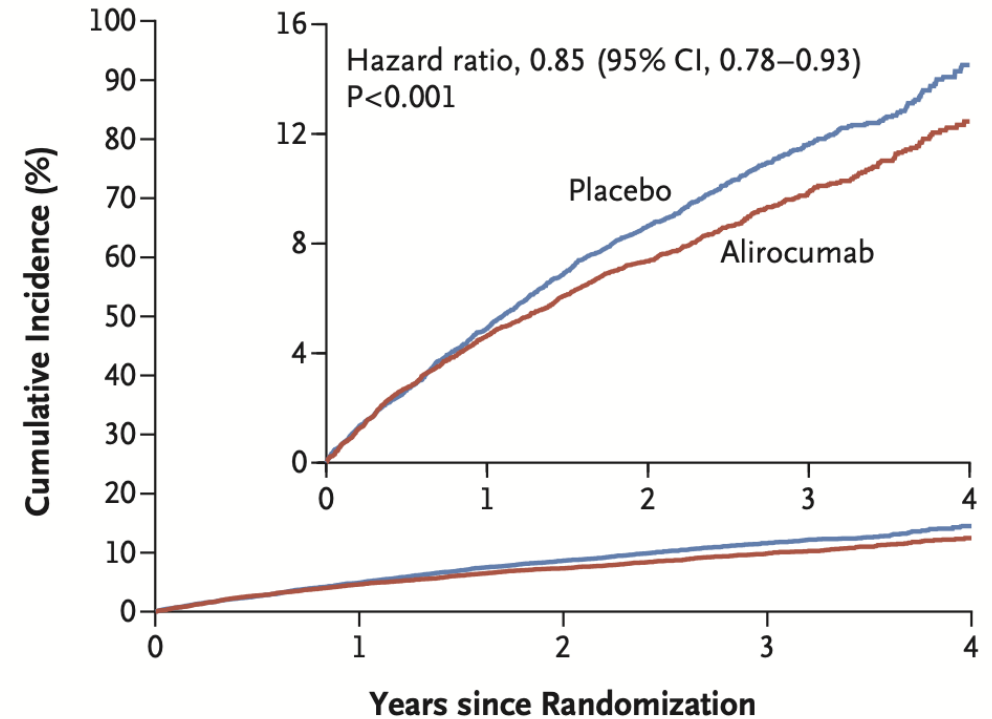
Dosed accordingly to study drug  
N= 9462



Outcome	Alirocumab (%)	Placebo (%)	HR (95% CI), p-value
<b>MAJOR ADVERSE CARDIAC EVENTS (MACE)</b>	<b>9.5%</b>	<b>11.1%</b>	HR 0.85 (0.78-0.93), p=0.0003
<b>MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION</b>	<b>6.6%</b>	<b>7.6%</b>	HR 0.86 (0.77-0.96), p=0.006
<b>ISCHEMIC STROKE</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	HR 0.73 (0.57-0.93), p=0.01
<b>ALL-CAUSE MORTALITY</b>	<b>3.5%</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	HR 0.85 (0.73-0.98), p=0.026
<b>CORONARY REVASCULARIZATION</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>8.8%</b>	HR 0.98 (0.79-0.97), p<0.001

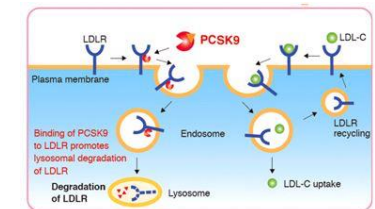
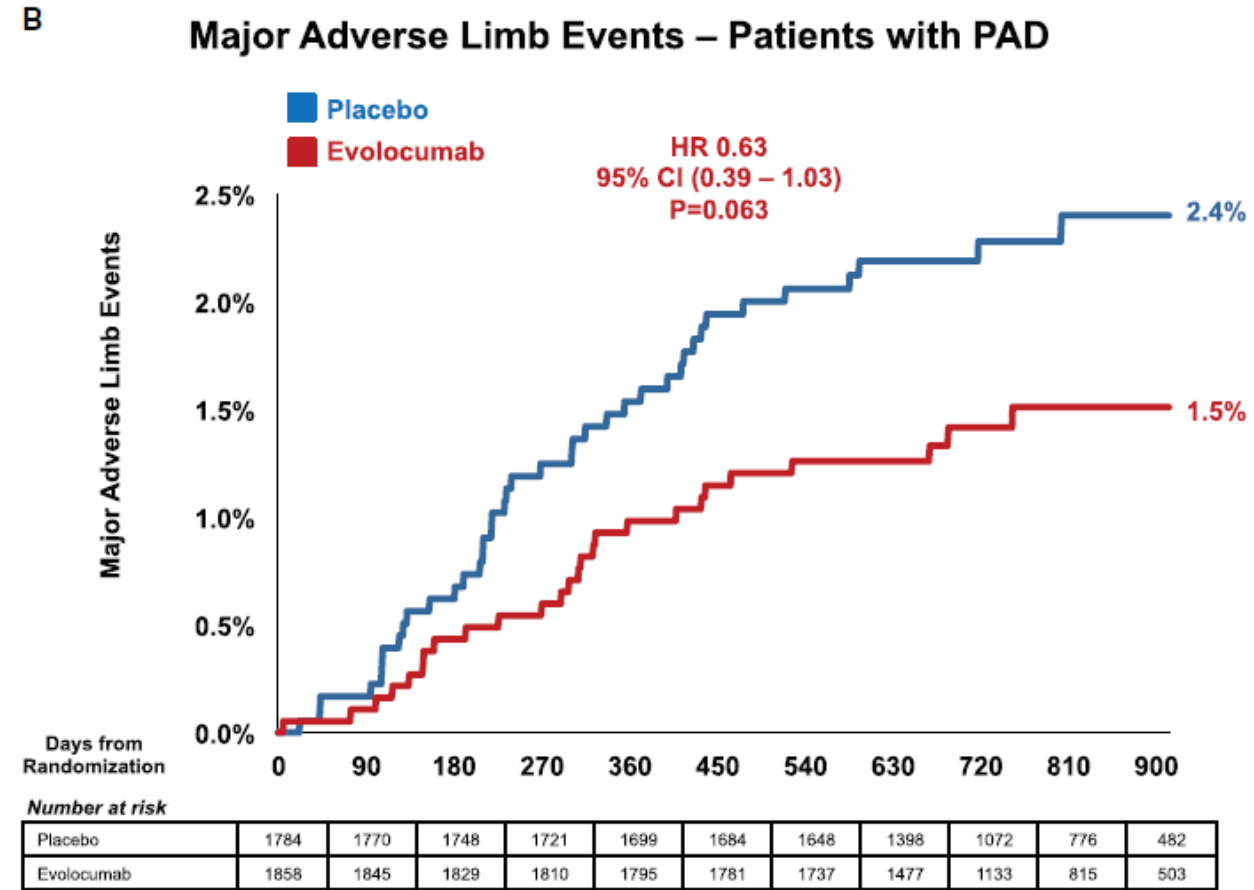
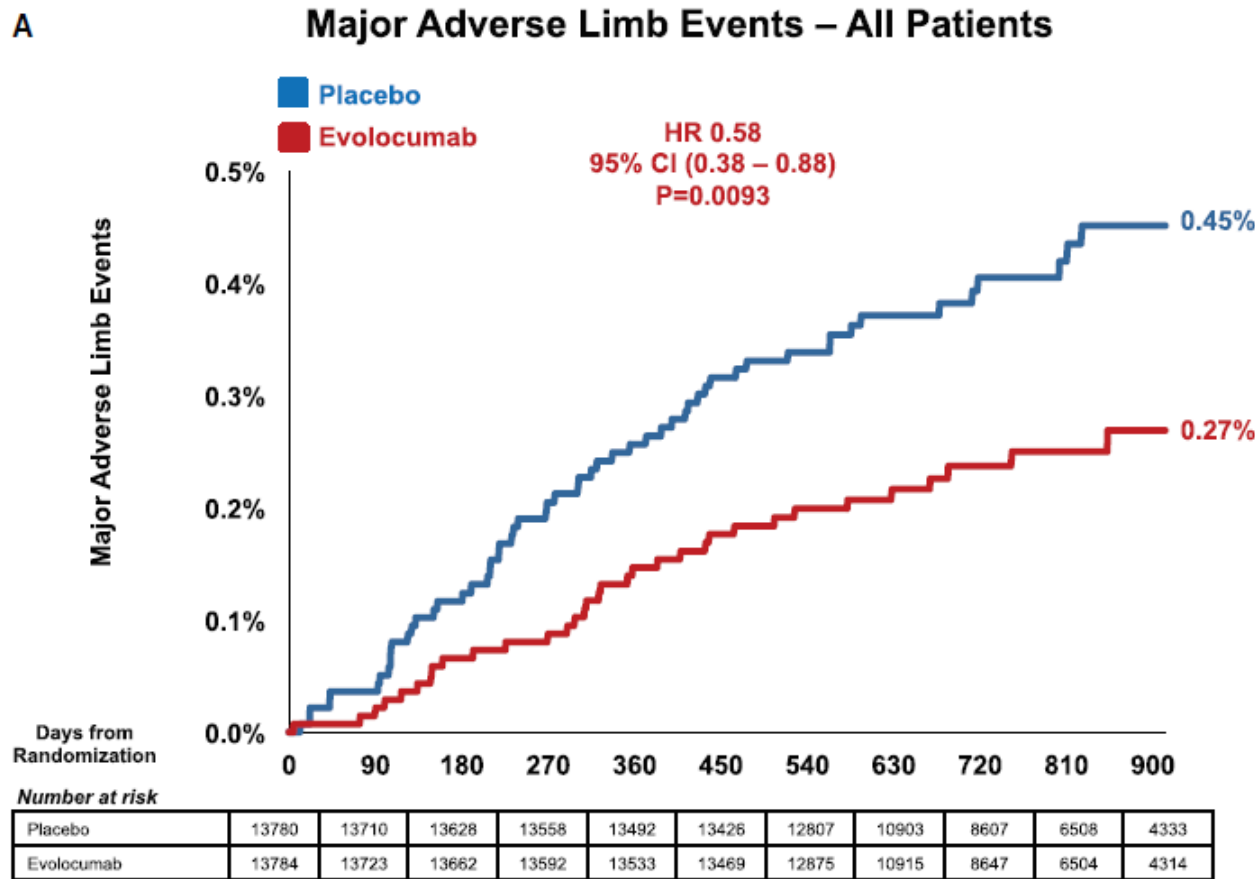
## PRIMARY EFFICACY ENDPOINT

COMPOSITE OF DEATH FROM CORONARY HEART DISEASE, NONFATAL MI, ISCHEMIC STROKE, OR UNSTABLE ANGINA





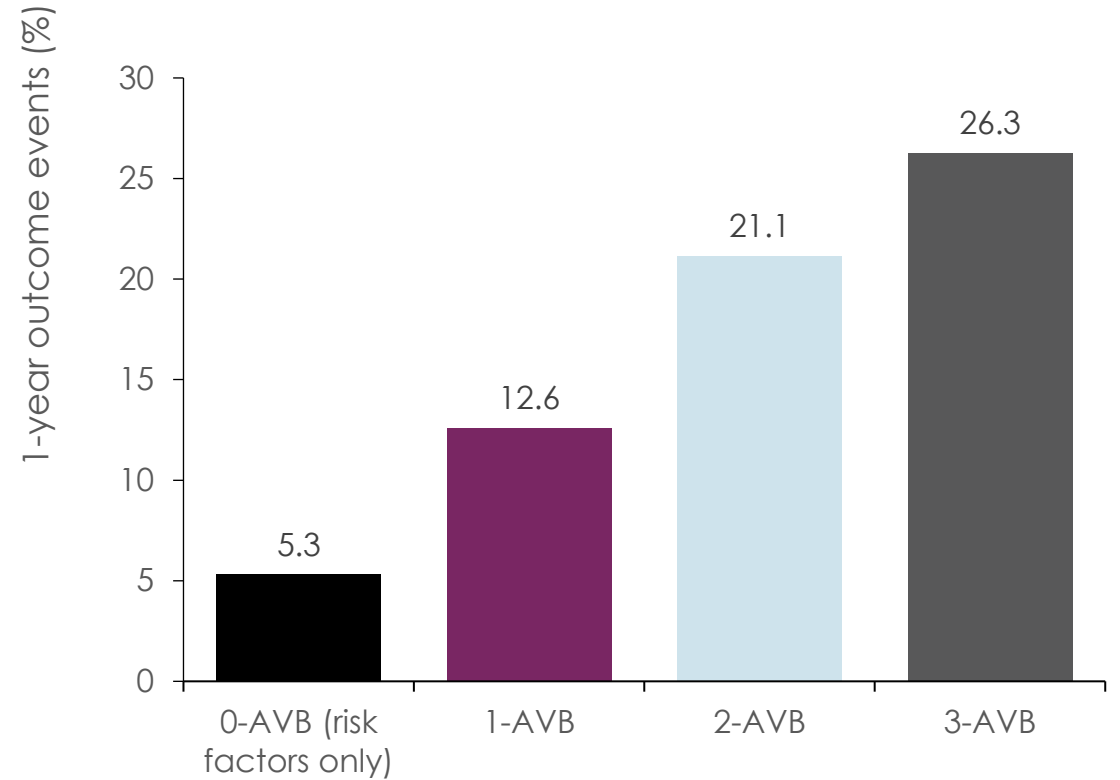
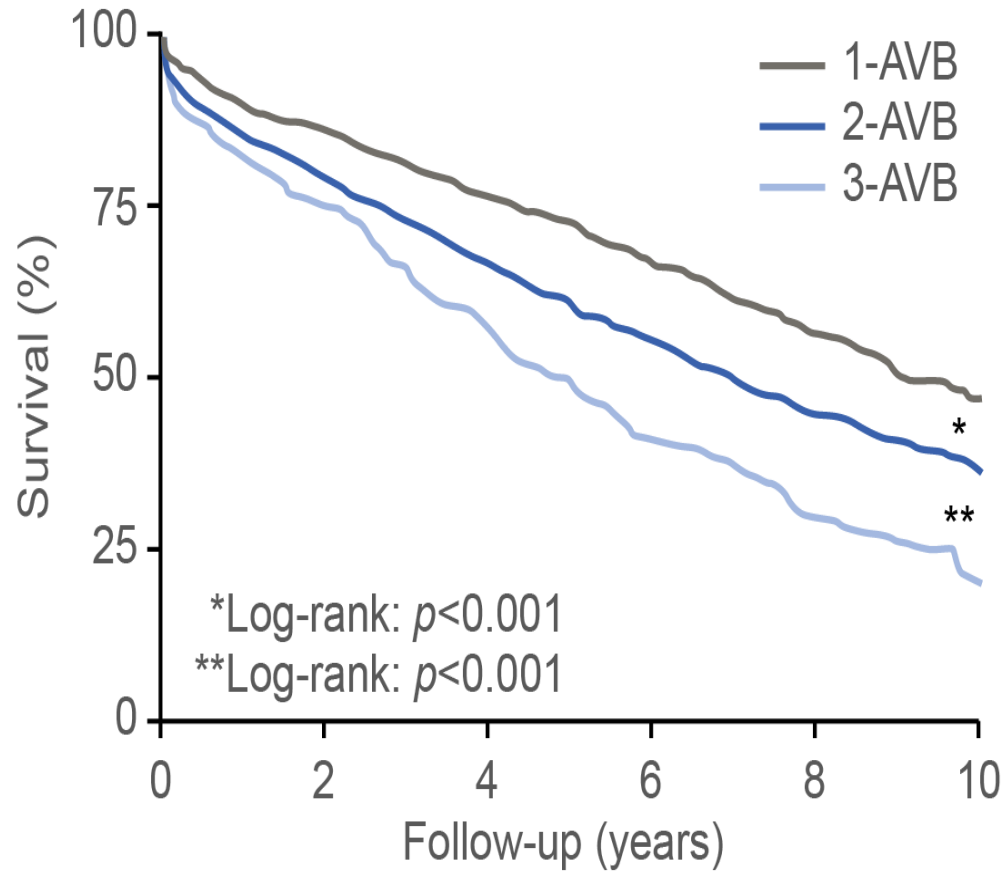
# Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Lowering With Evolocumab and Outcomes in Patients With ASCVD (FOURIER Trial)



Bonaca M at al. *Circulation* 2018



# Patients with MSAD Have High Risk of Morbidity and Mortality



Long-term all cause mortality in patients with PAD stratified according to number of affected vascular beds (AVB)<sup>1</sup>

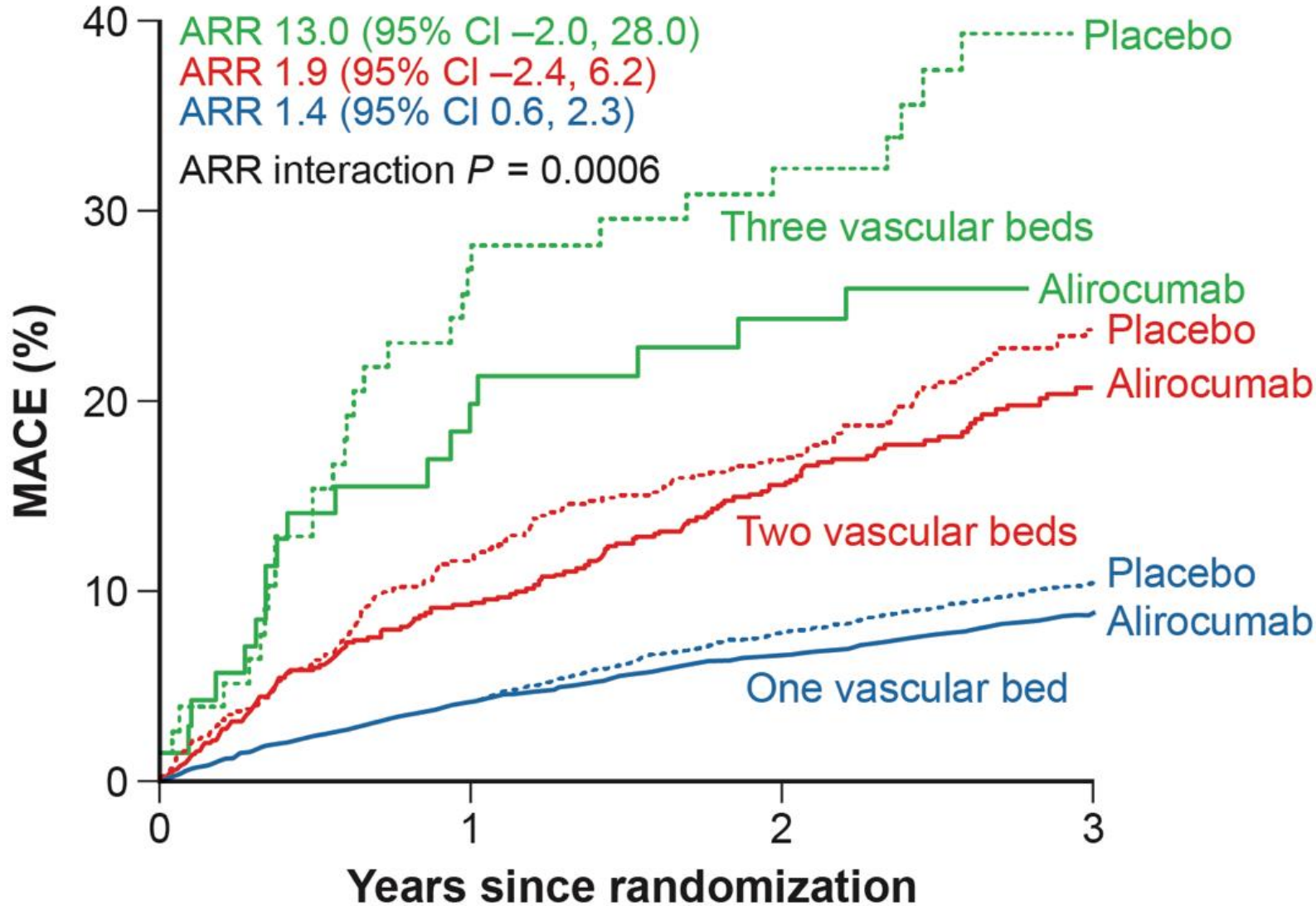
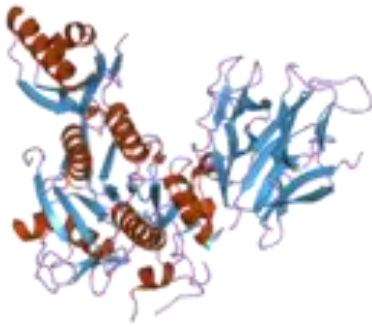
MACCE or hospitalization for atherothrombotic events according to number of AVB<sup>2</sup>

ORIGINAL INVESTIGATIONS

# Alirocumab in Patients With Polyvascular Disease and Recent Acute Coronary Syndrome

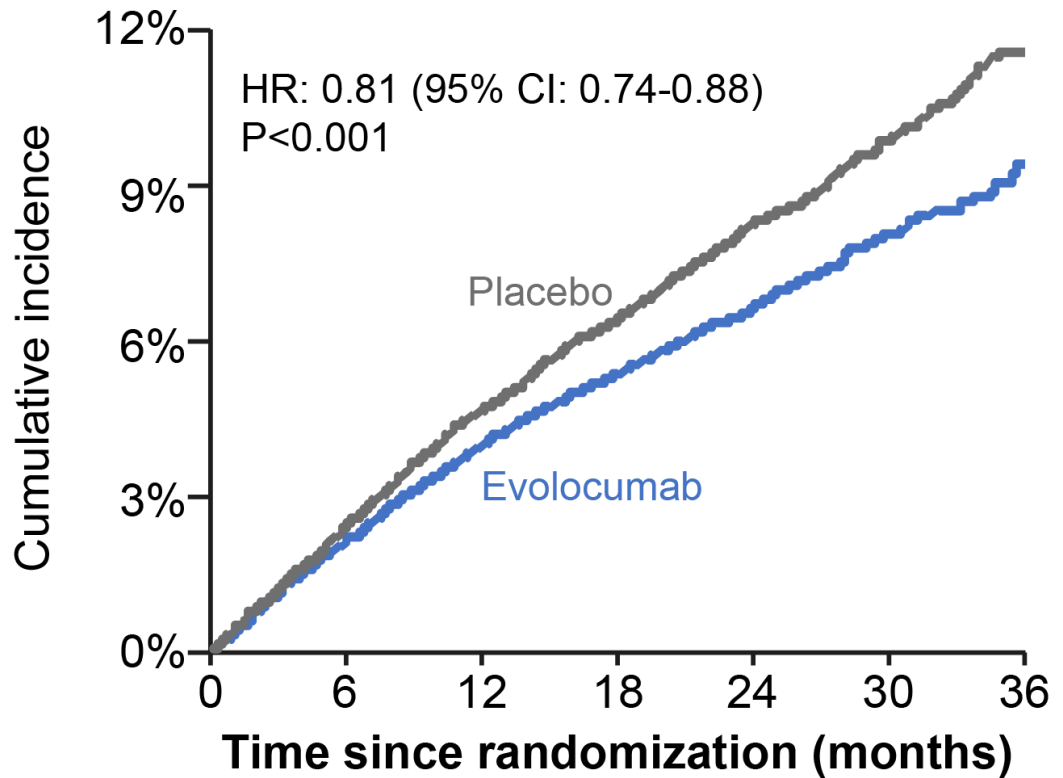
ODYSSEY OUTCOMES Trial

CAD  
PAD  
CVD

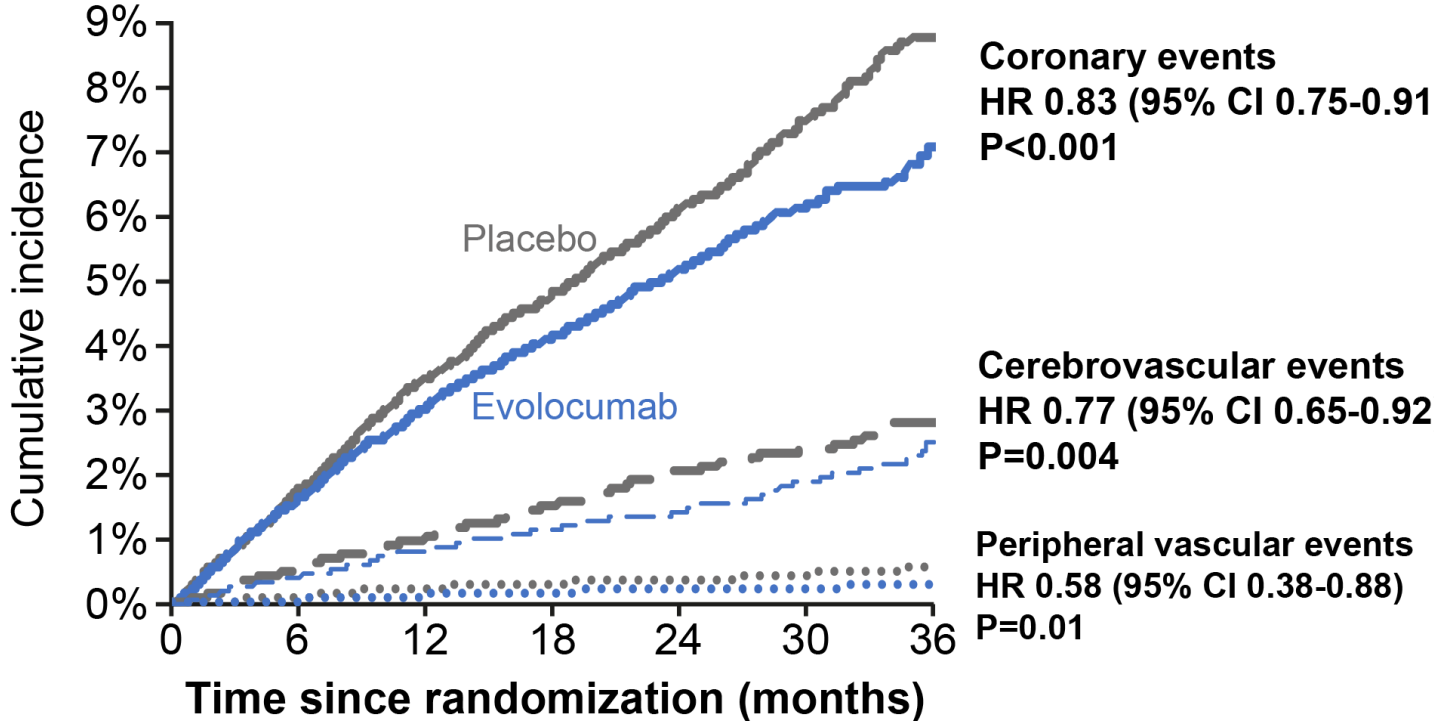


# Effect of Evolocumab on acute arterial events across all vascular territories: A Panvascular effect

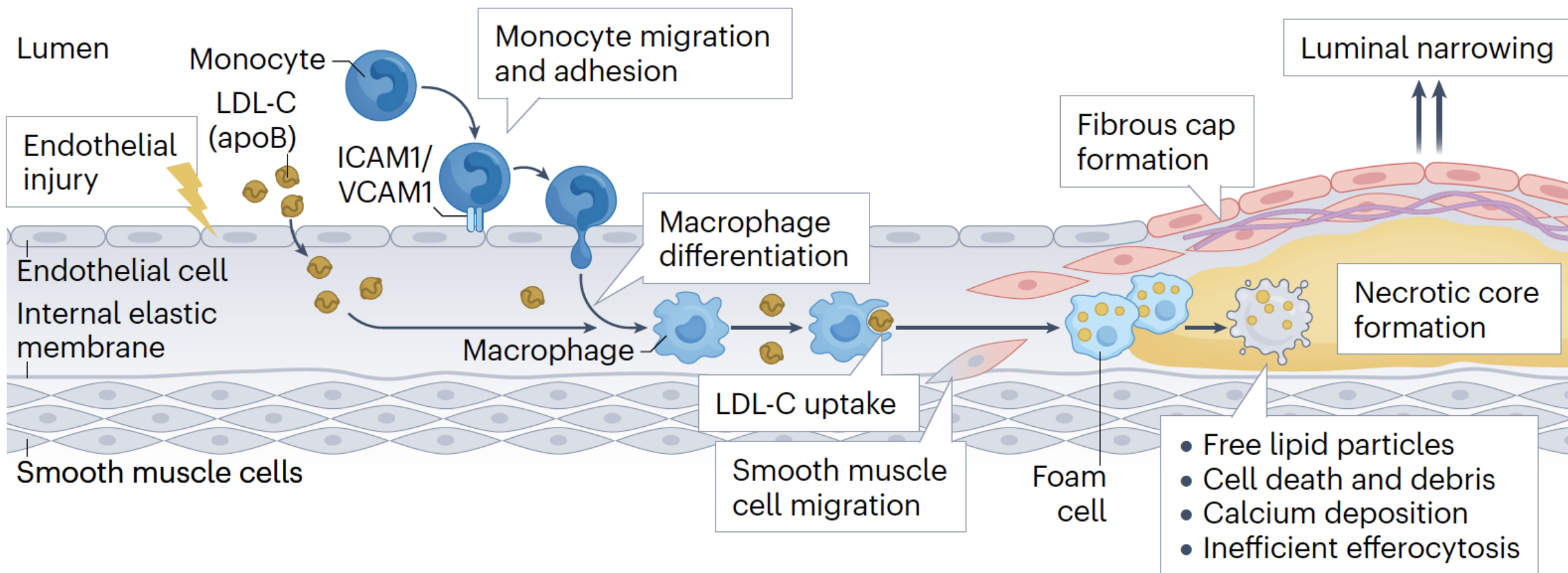
### Acute arterial events across all vascular beds



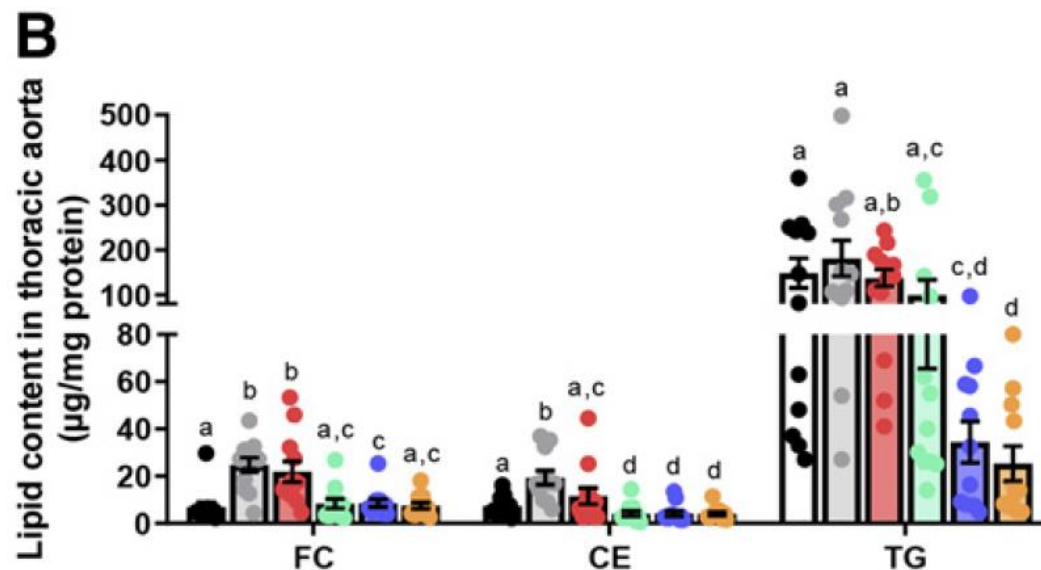
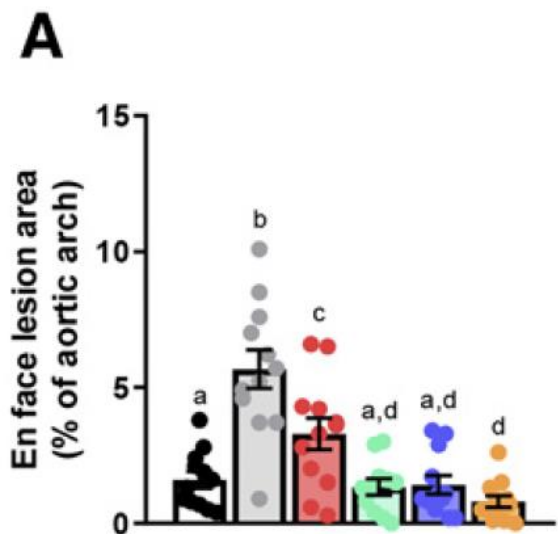
### Acute arterial events in individual vascular beds



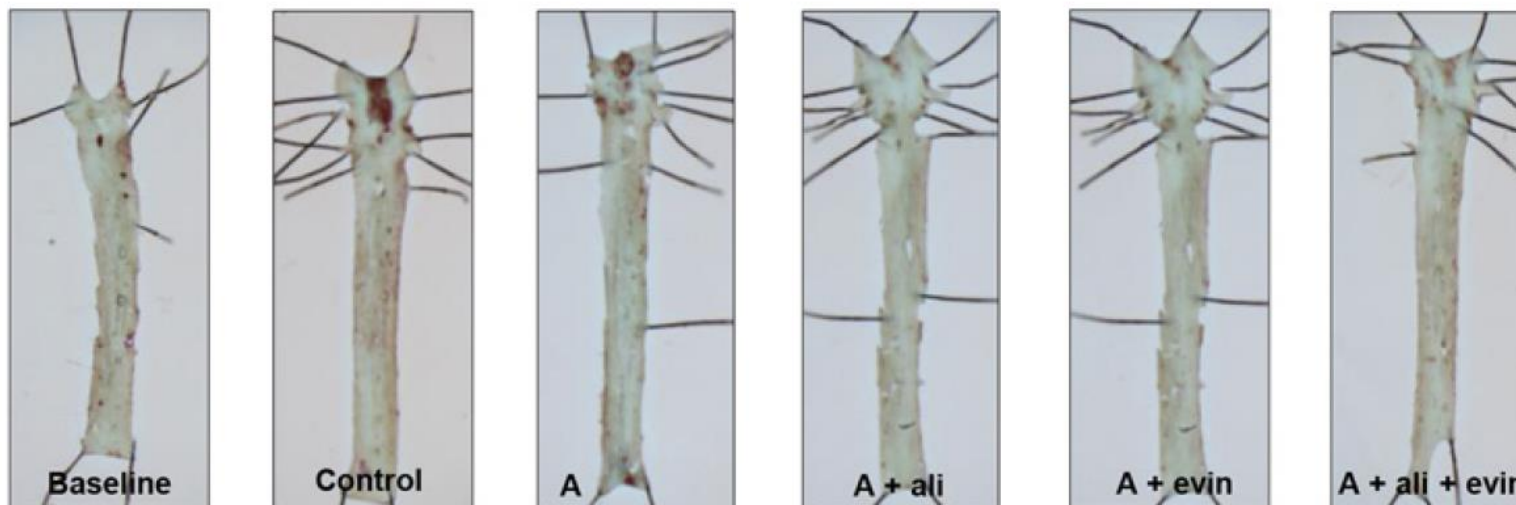
# Development of an atherosclerotic plaque



Serraju and Nissen. *Nat Rev Cardiol* 2024



**C**

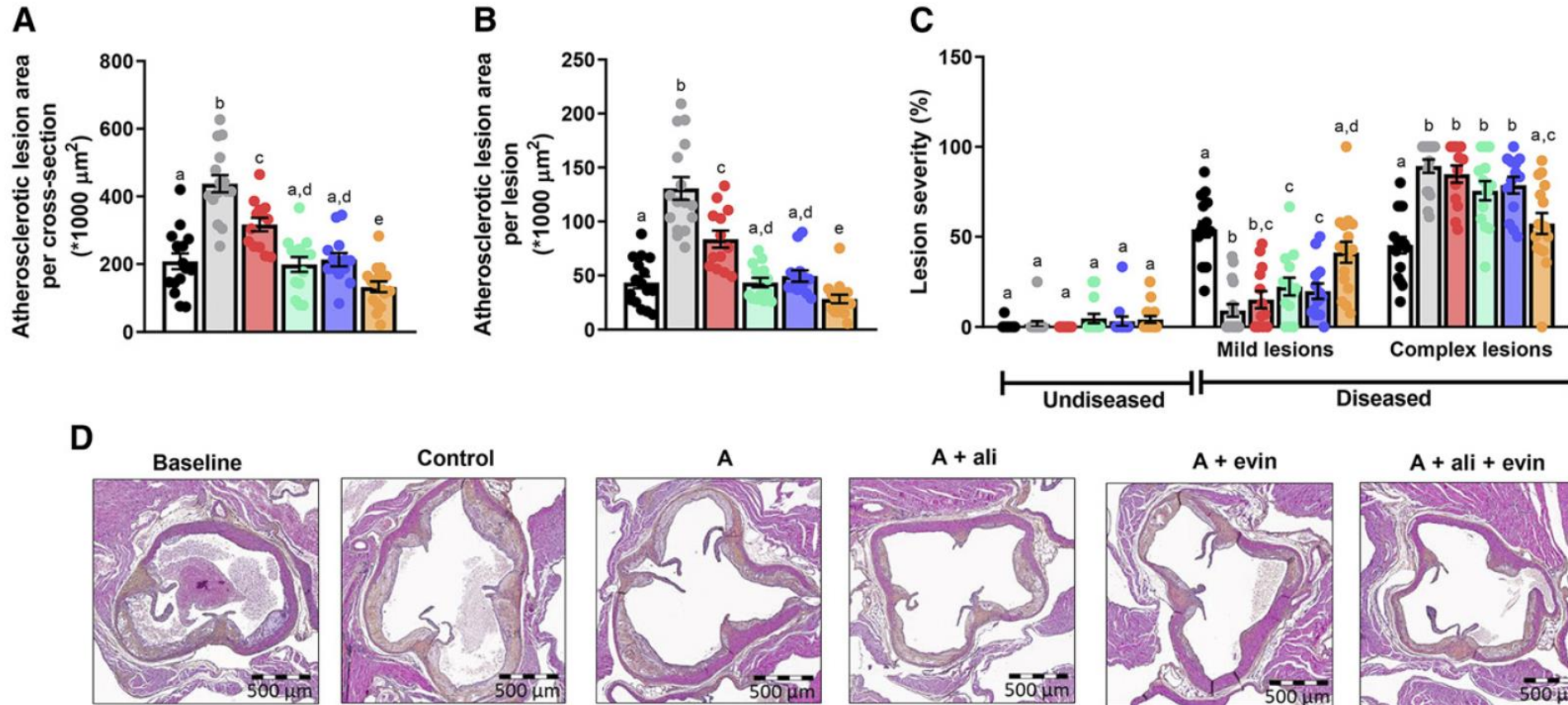


**Alirocumab, evinacumab,  
 and atorvastatin triple  
 therapy regresses plaque  
 lesions and improves  
 lesion composition in  
 mice**

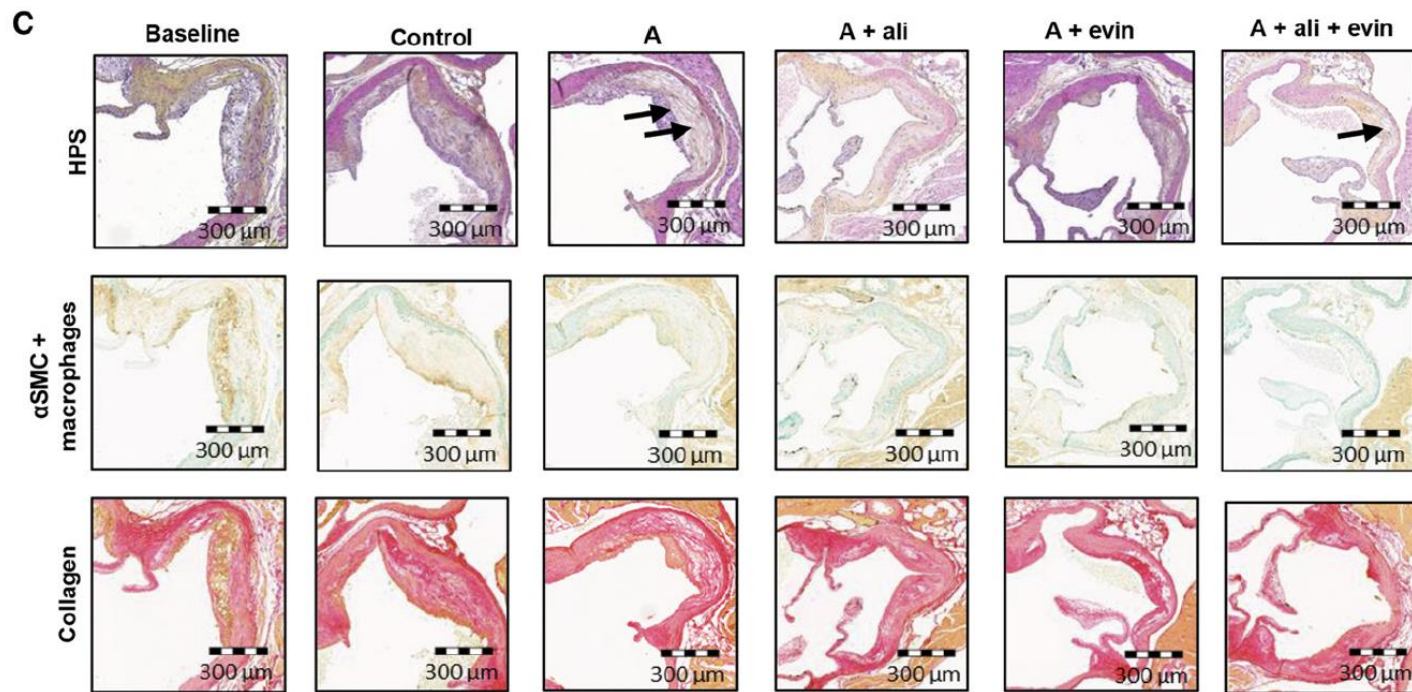
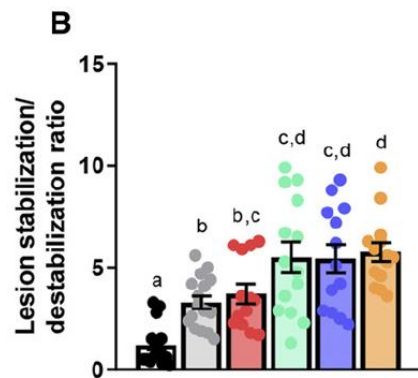
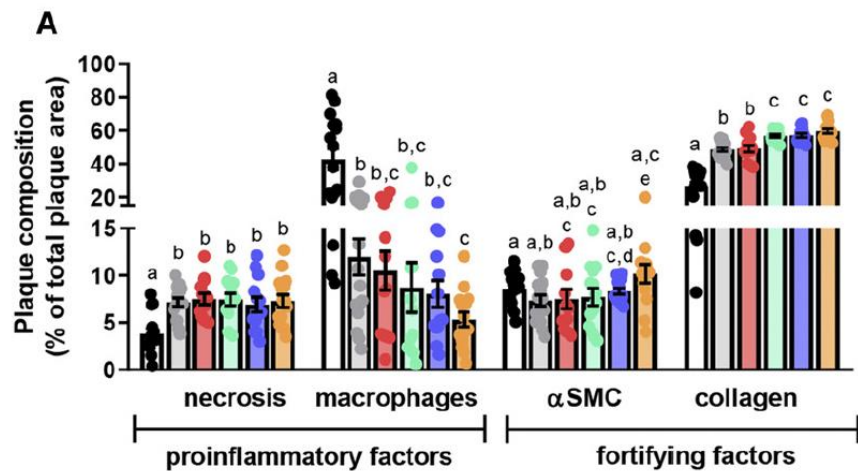
Pouwer MG et al.  
*Journal of Lipid Research* 2020

# Alirocumab, evinacumab, and atorvastatin triple therapy regresses plaque lesions and improves lesion composition in mice

- Baseline
- Control
- Atorvastatin
- Atorvastatin + alirocumab
- Atorvastatin + evinacumab
- Atorvastatin + alirocumab + evinacumab



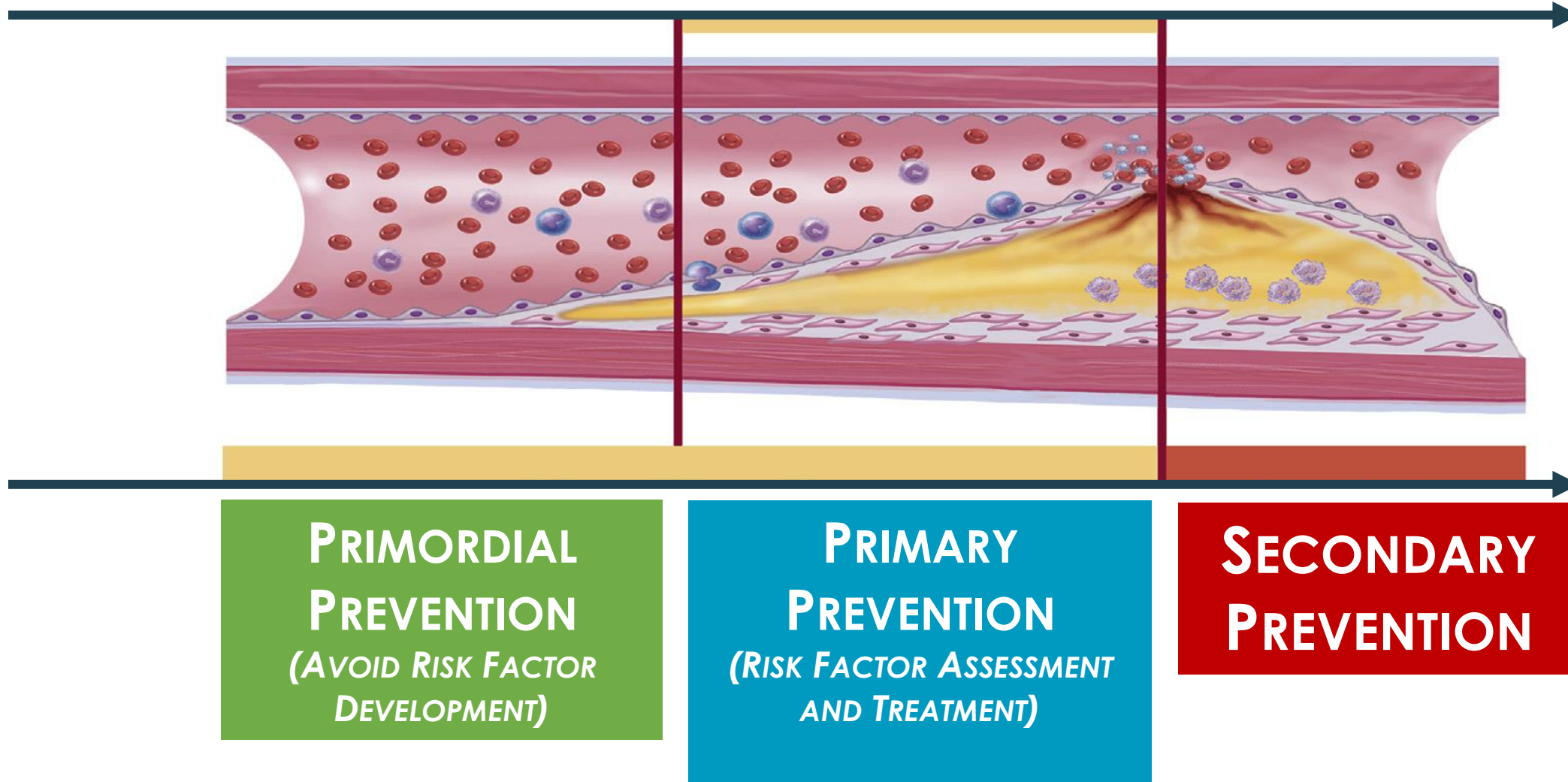
Pouwer MG et al. *Journal of Lipid Research* 2020



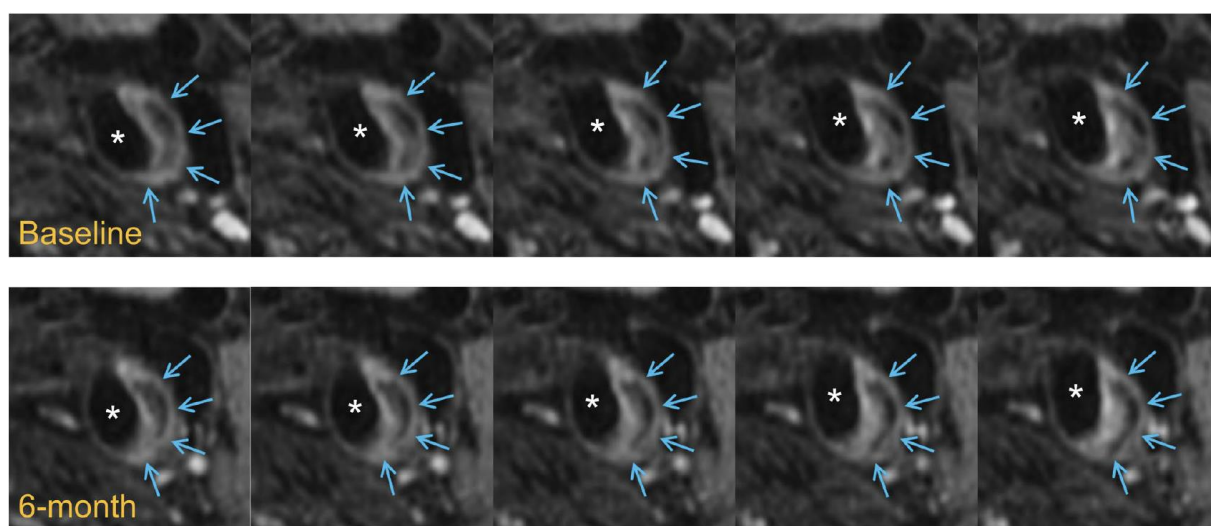
**Alirocumab, evinacumab,  
 and atorvastatin triple  
 therapy regresses plaque  
 lesions and improves  
 lesion composition in  
 mice**

*Power MG et al.  
 Journal of Lipid Research 2020*





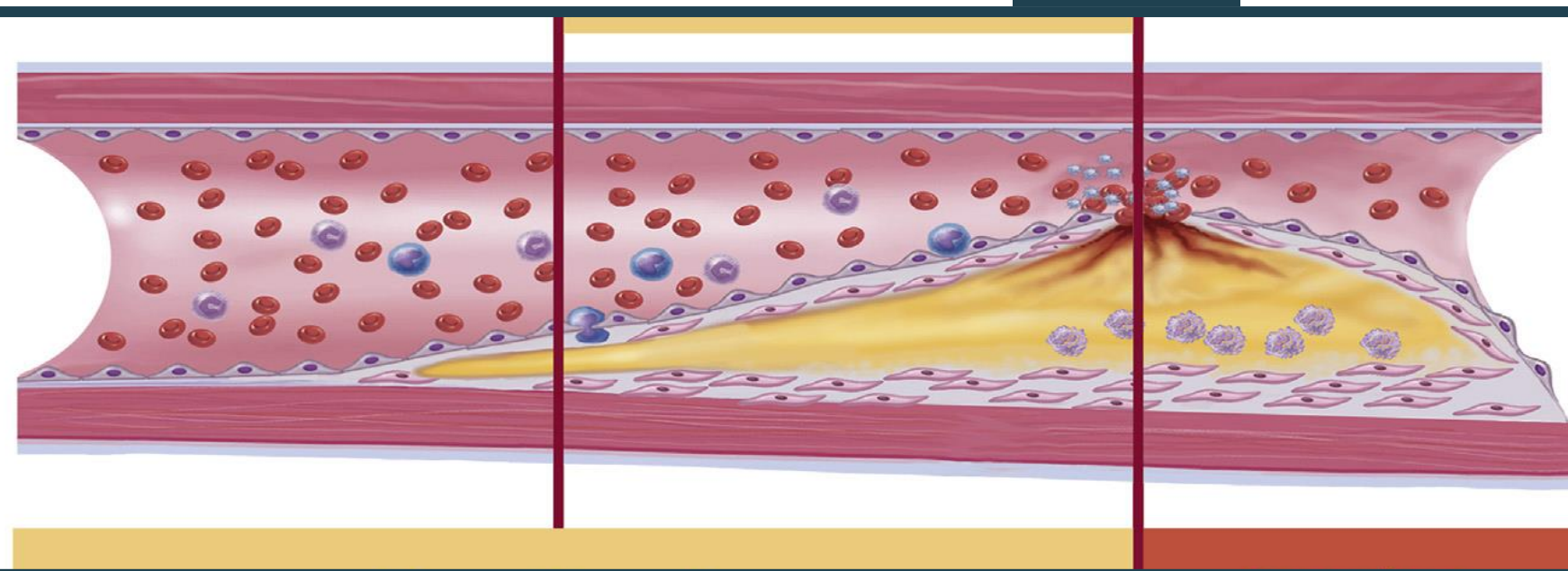
Ahmadi et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019



## Serial magnetic resonance imaging detects a rapid reduction in plaque lipid content under PCSK9 inhibition with alirocumab

	Baseline <sup>a</sup>	6-Month <sup>a</sup>	Absolute change	
			Mean (95% CI)	<i>p</i> value <sup>b</sup>
<b>Plaque burden</b>				
Mean lumen area, mm <sup>2</sup>	36.1 ± 15.9	36.8 ± 16.8	0.7 (− 0.6, 2.1)	0.88
Mean wall area, mm <sup>2</sup>	38.5 ± 9.8	37.9 ± 9.4	− 0.6 (− 1.7, 0.5)	0.57
Mean total vessel area, mm <sup>2</sup>	74.6 ± 21.8	74.7 ± 22.3	0.1 (− 1.3, 1.5)	0.71
<b>Plaque composition</b>				
Percent lipid-core, %	9.9 (5.9, 14.3)	8.2 (4.6, 13.6)	− 2.1 (− 3.5, − 0.7)	0.005
Percent calcification, %	2.2 (0.4, 4.5)	2.3 (0.0, 5.3)	0.2 (− 0.6, 1.0)	0.81
Percent fibrous tissue, %	87.2 (80.1, 91.5)	88.1 (83.4, 92.5)	1.9 (0.6, 3.2)	0.003

**ASCVD  
EVENT**



**PRIMORDIAL  
PREVENTION**  
(AVOID RISK FACTOR  
DEVELOPMENT)

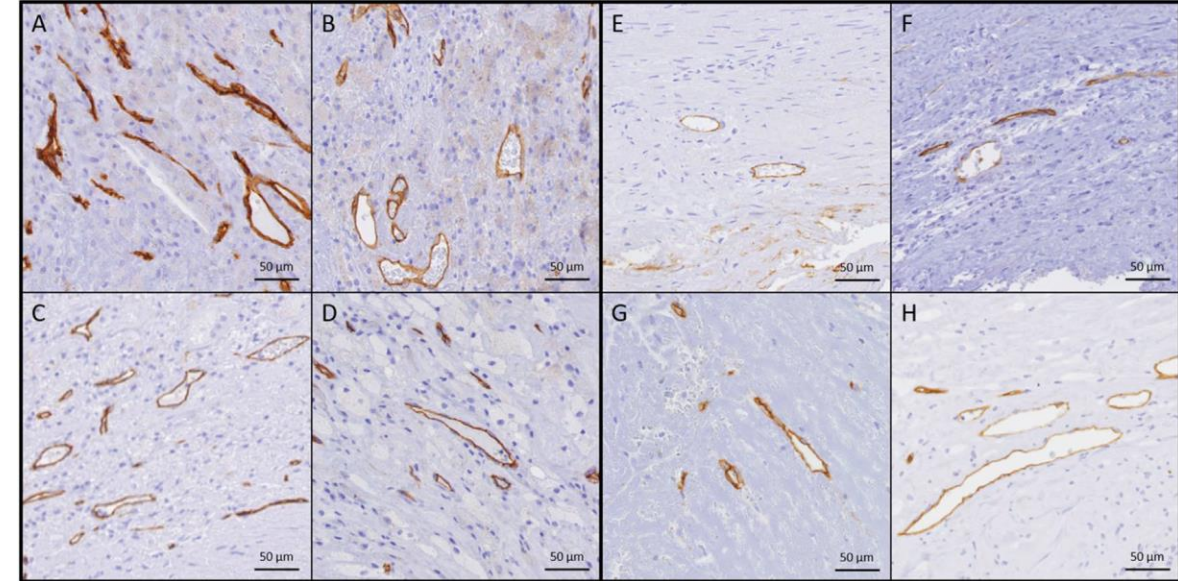
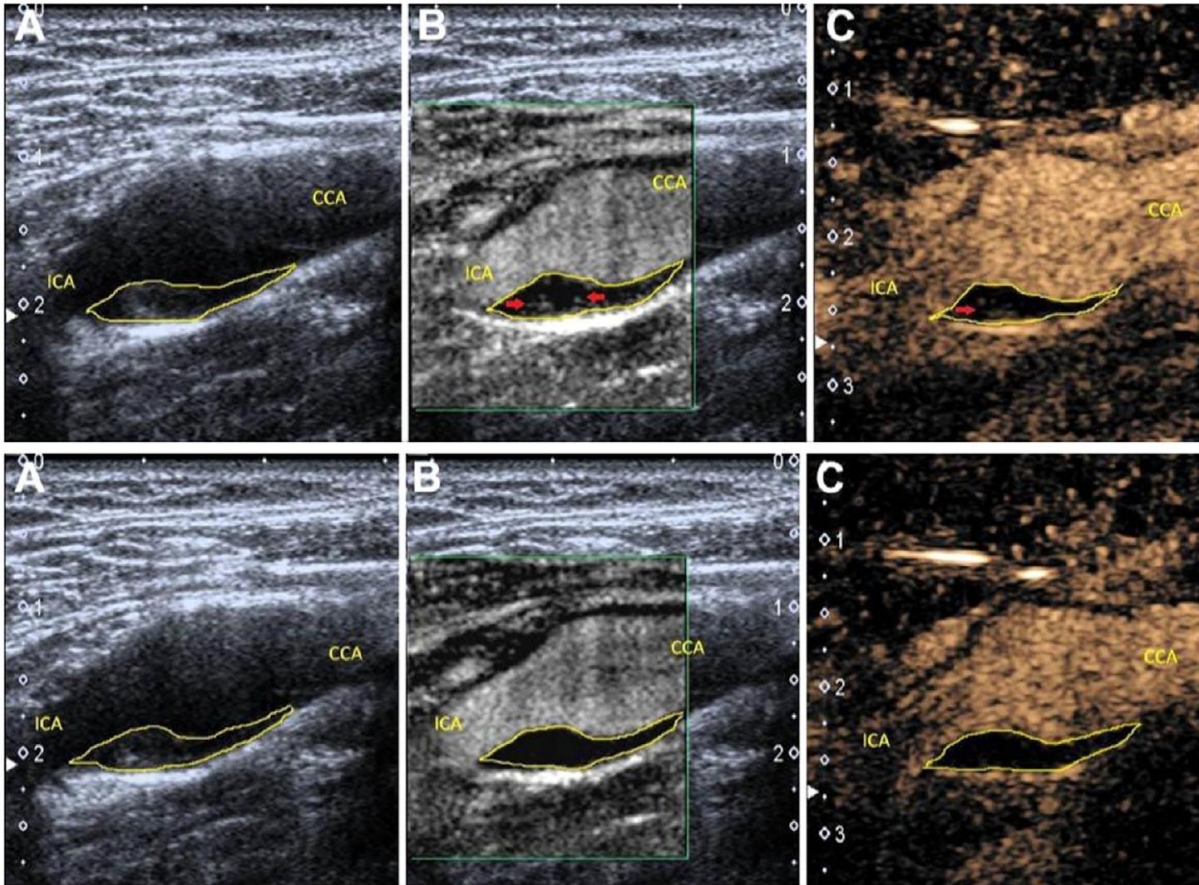
**PRIMARY  
PREVENTION**  
(RISK FACTOR ASSESSMENT  
AND TREATMENT)

**SECONDARY  
PREVENTION**

Ahmadi et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019



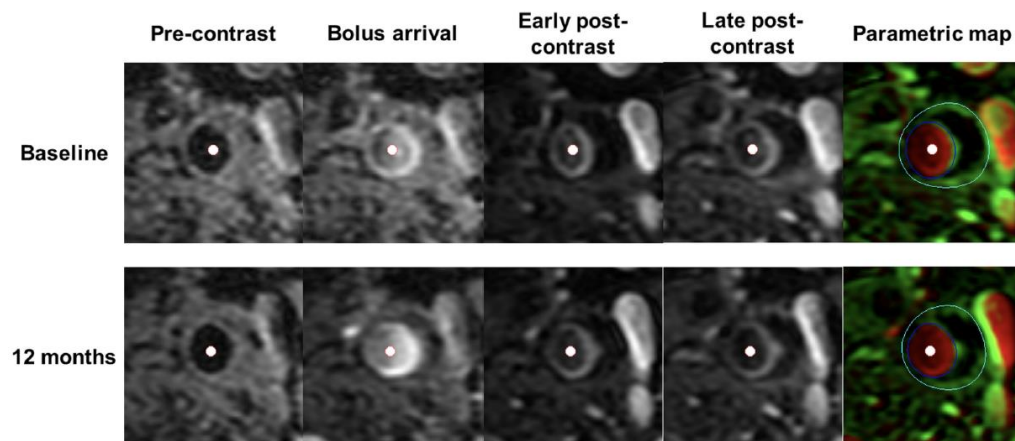
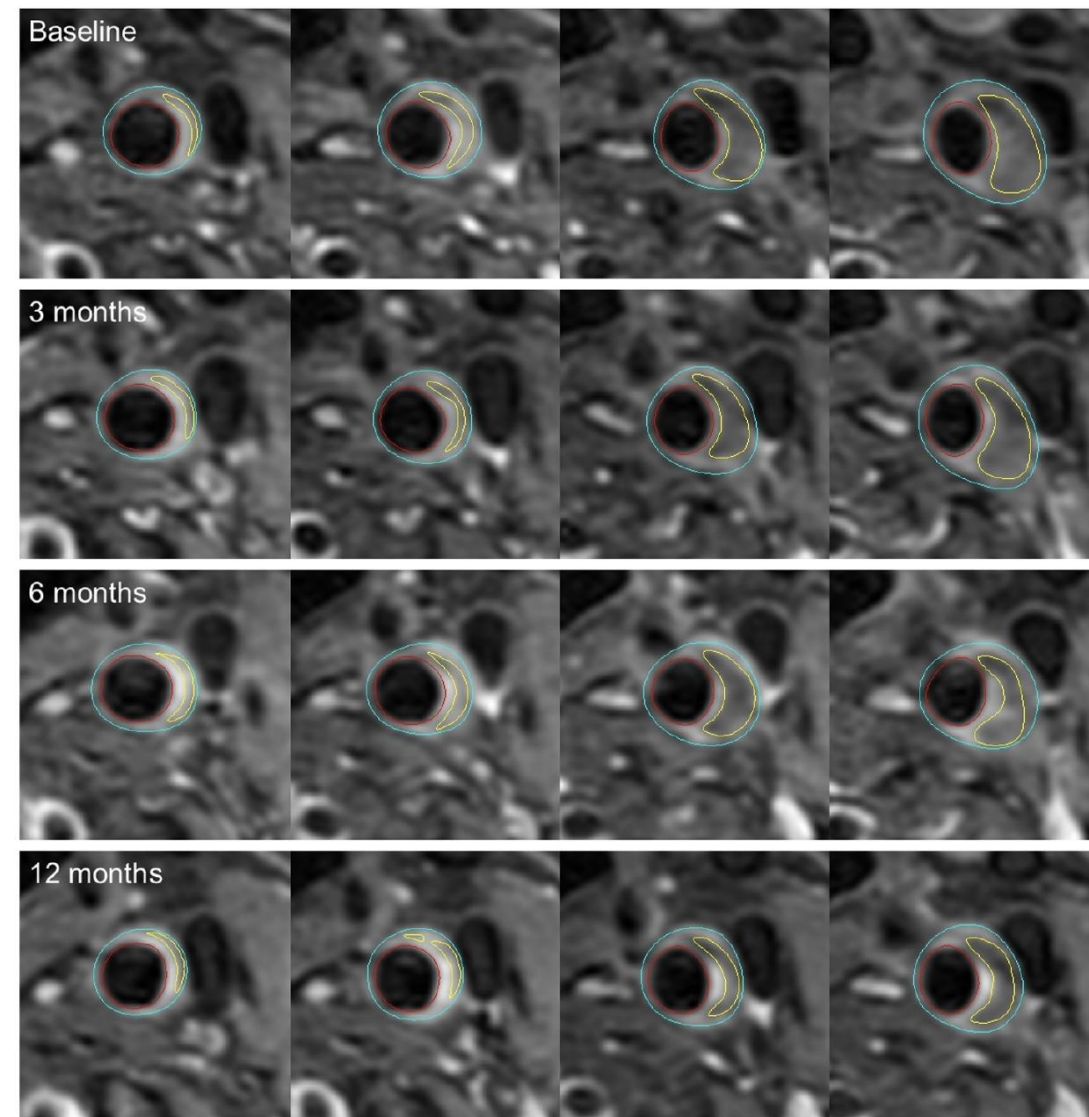
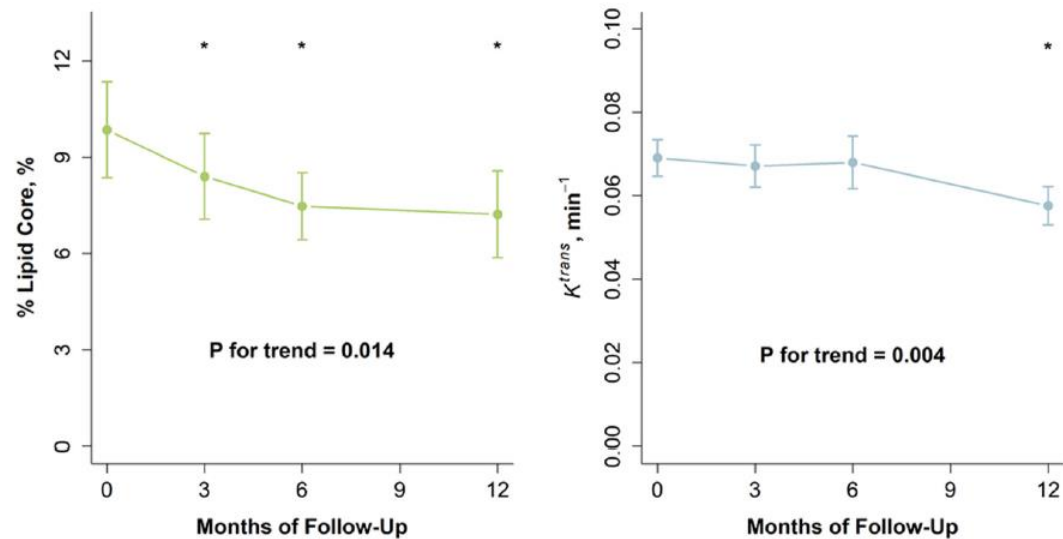
# Effect of pharmacologic anti-atherosclerotic therapy on carotid intraplaque neovascularization



Zhu YC et al. Evaluating the Efficacy of Atorvastatin on Patients with Carotid Plaque by an Innovative Ultrasonography. *J Stroke Cerebrovasc Dis Off J Natl Stroke Assoc* 2019

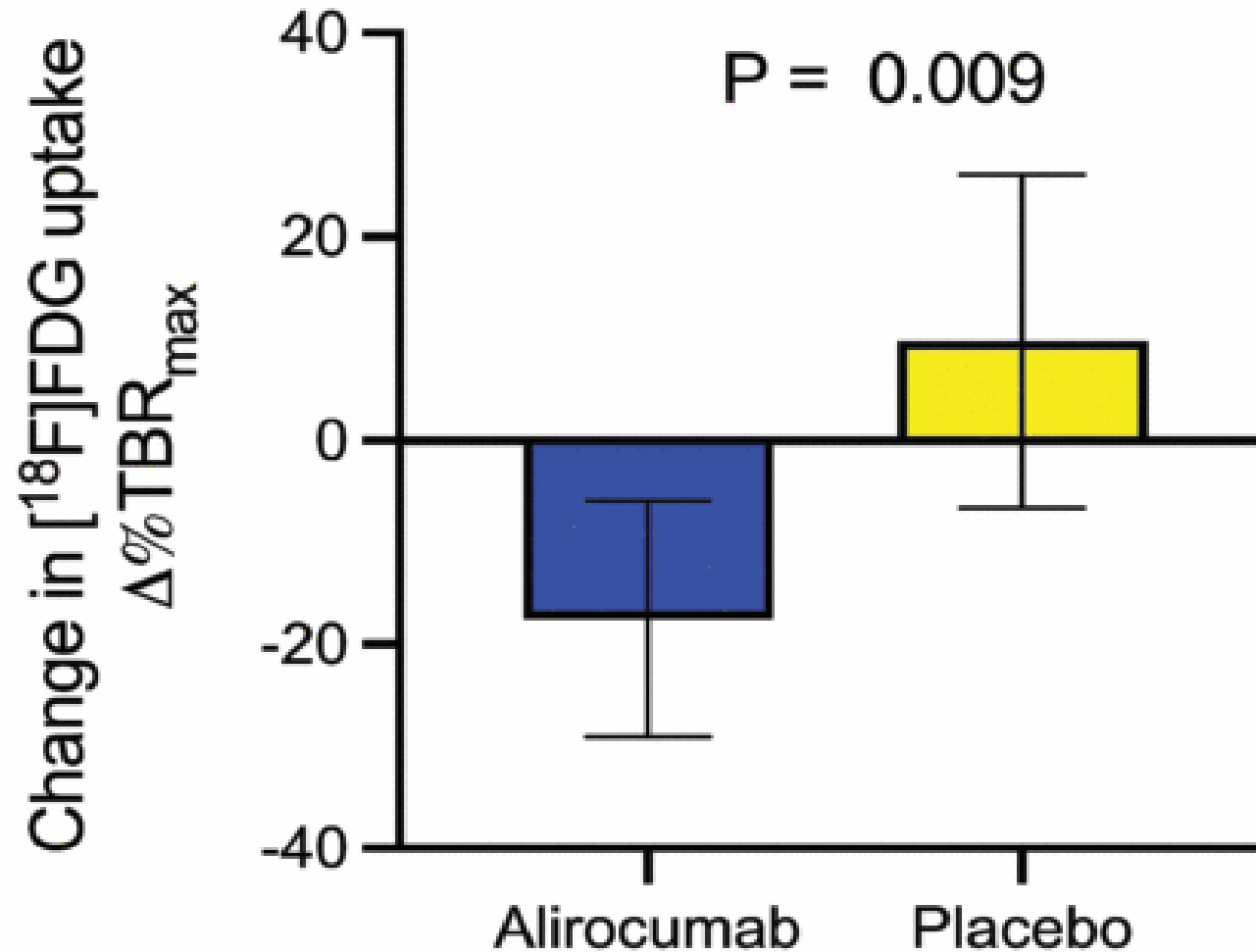
Konishi T et al. Stabilization of symptomatic carotid atherosclerotic plaques by statins: a clinico-pathological analysis. *Heart Vessels* 2018

# Regression in carotid plaque lipid content and neovasculature with PCSK9 inhibition: A time course study



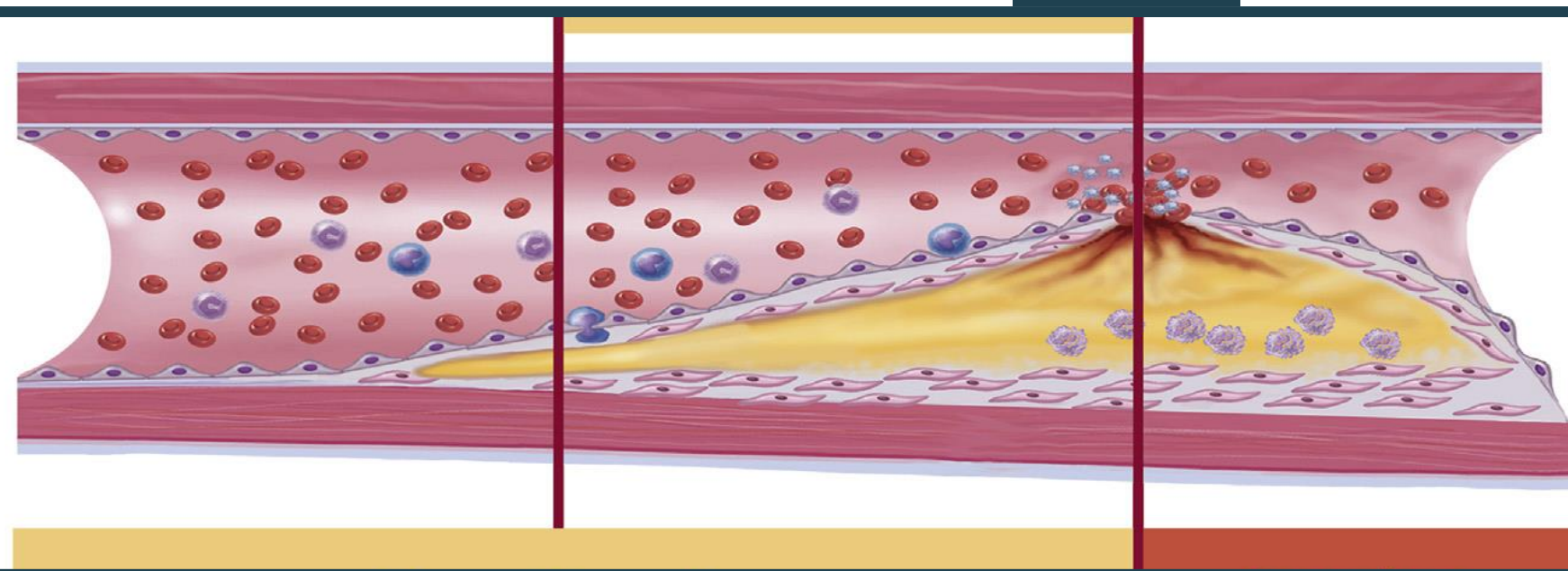
Lepor NE et al. Atherosclerosis 2020

# alirocumab treatment was associated with decreased carotid inflammation by FDG-PET in patients with AMI



Bang et al. Abstract ACC2024

**ASCVD  
EVENT**



**PRIMORDIAL  
PREVENTION**  
(AVOID RISK FACTOR  
DEVELOPMENT)

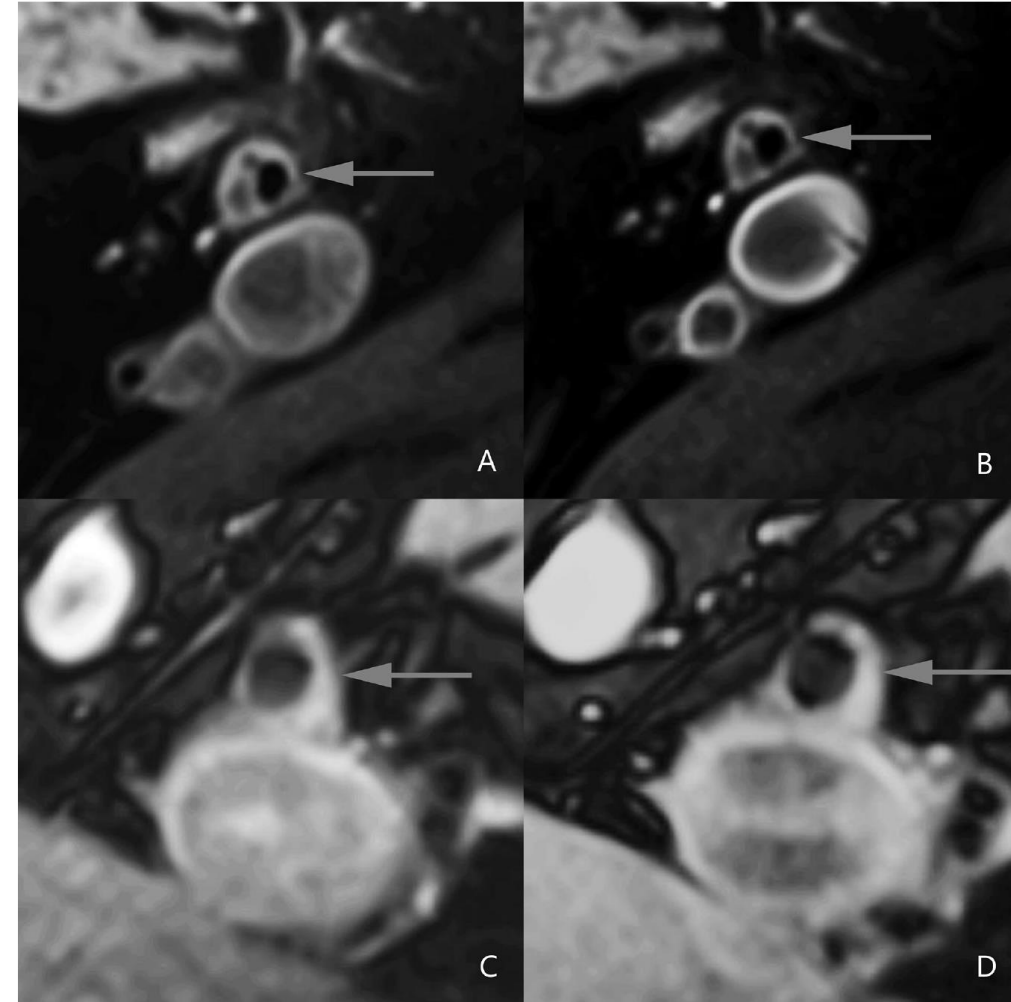
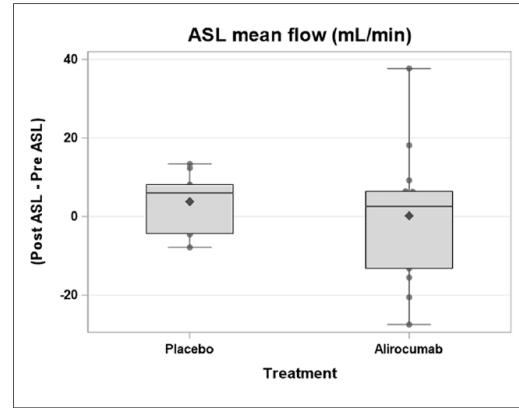
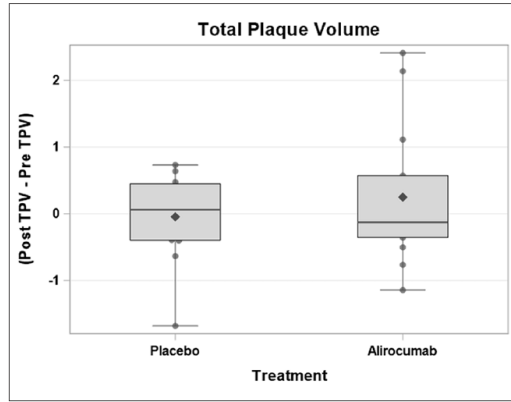
**PRIMARY  
PREVENTION**  
(RISK FACTOR ASSESSMENT  
AND TREATMENT)

**SECONDARY  
PREVENTION**

Ahmadi et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019



# Alirocumab and plaque volume, calf muscle blood flow, and walking performance in peripheral artery disease: A randomized clinical trial

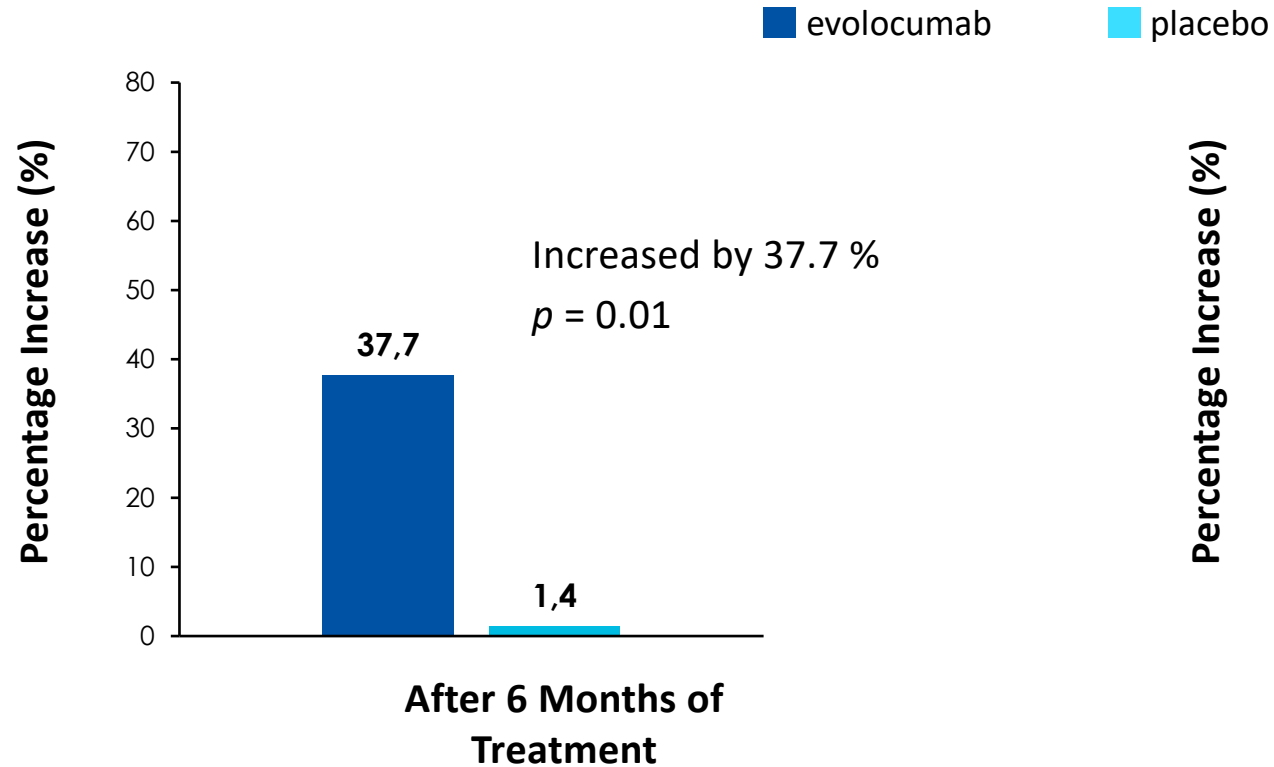


End point	Alirocumab			Placebo			Drug – placebo	95% CI of difference
	Baseline	Final	Change	Baseline	Final	Change		
TPV	2.61	2.86	0.25	3.07	3.03	-0.04	-0.29	(-0.98, 0.40)
ASL	17.84	18.05	0.22	12.61	16.43	3.81	3.59	(-7.67, 14.86)
6MWD	1188.53	1180.82	-7.71	924.88	890.44	-34.44	-26.73	(-130.40, 76.89)
TC	176.61	125.50	-51.11	180.82	166.47	-14.35	36.76	(13.39, 60.12)
LDL	107.56	57.72	-49.83	106.35	98.65	-7.71	42.13	(22.50, 61.76)
TG	131.17	117.22	-13.94	148.76	117.12	-31.64	-17.70	(-57.48, 22.08)
hsCRP	6.16	5.84	-0.32	6.44	7.63	1.18	1.50	(-5.02, 8.03)
Lp(a)	79.35	75.18	-4.18	84.35	88.71	4.35	8.53	(-0.41, 17.47)
Fibrinogen	380.61	389.89	9.28	389.53	408.18	18.65	9.37	(-59.38, 78.12)

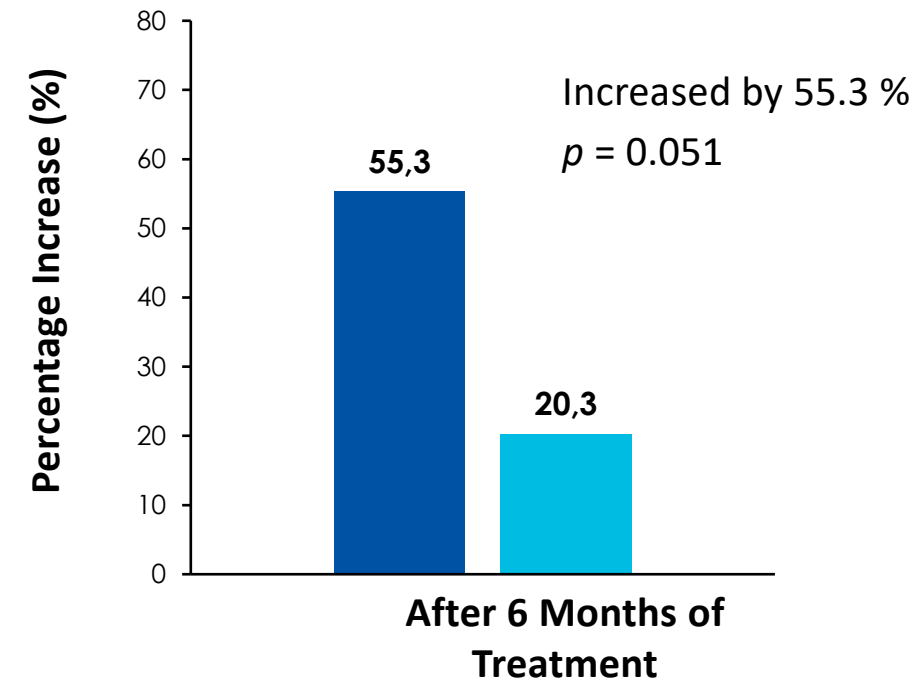


# Evolocumab addition to maximal tolerated statin therapy improves walking performance in patients with PAD and intermittent claudication (EVOL-PAD)

## Maximal walking time (MWT)

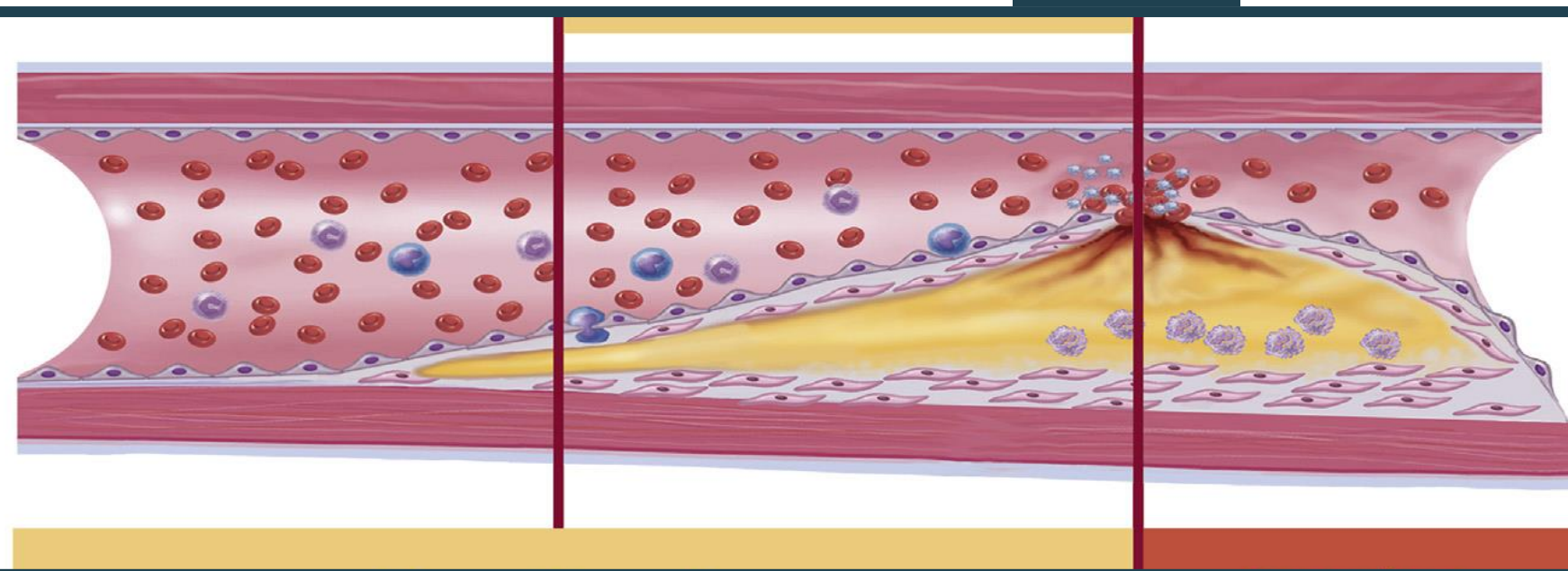


## Pain free walking time (PFWT)



A double-blind, randomized, placebo-controlled study to compare maximal walking time (MWT) and pain free walking time (PFWT) in patients with PAD and claudication treated with monthly evolocumab 420 mg (n=35) or placebo (n=35).

**ASCVD  
EVENT**



**PRIMORDIAL  
PREVENTION**  
(AVOID RISK FACTOR  
DEVELOPMENT)

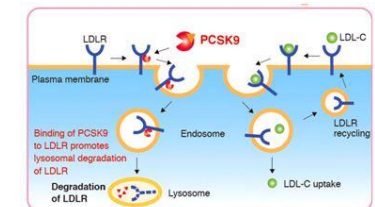
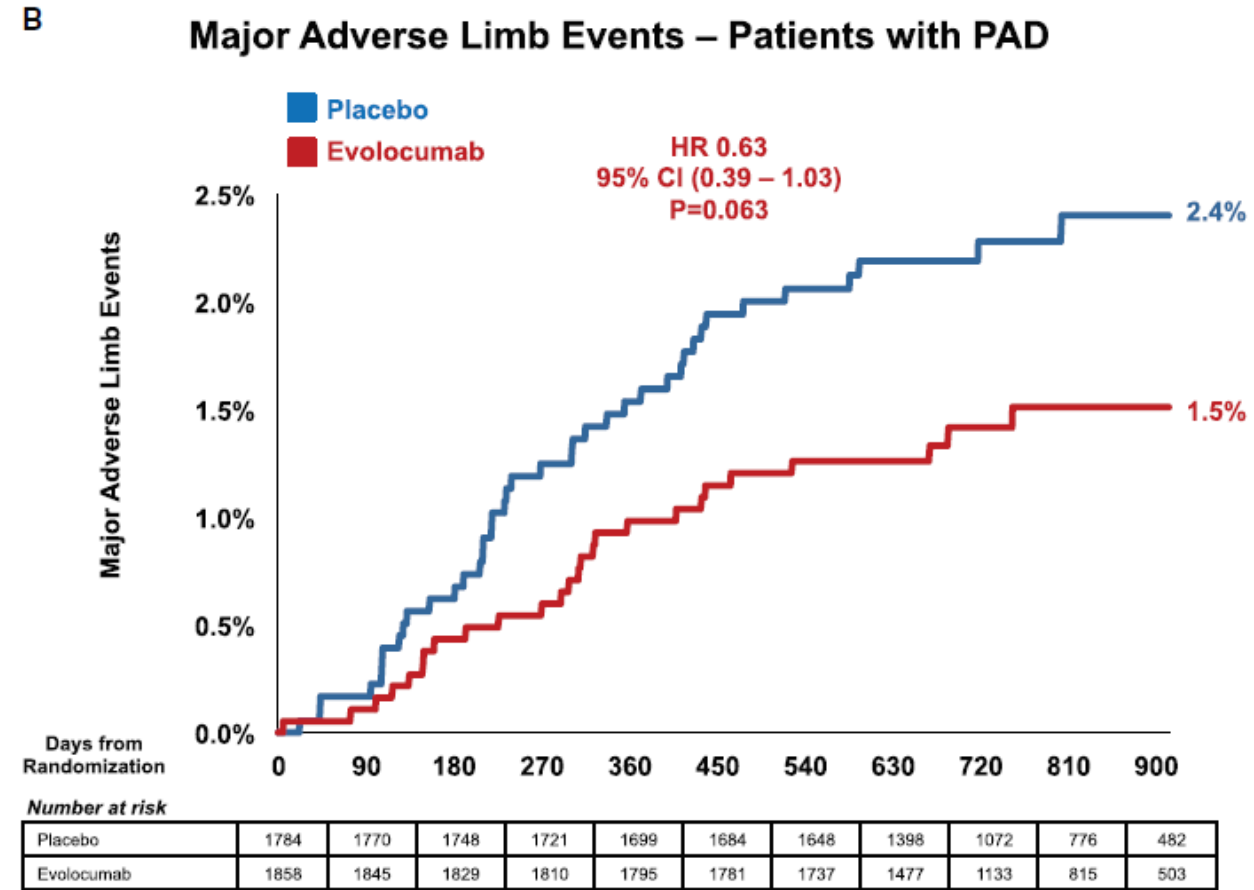
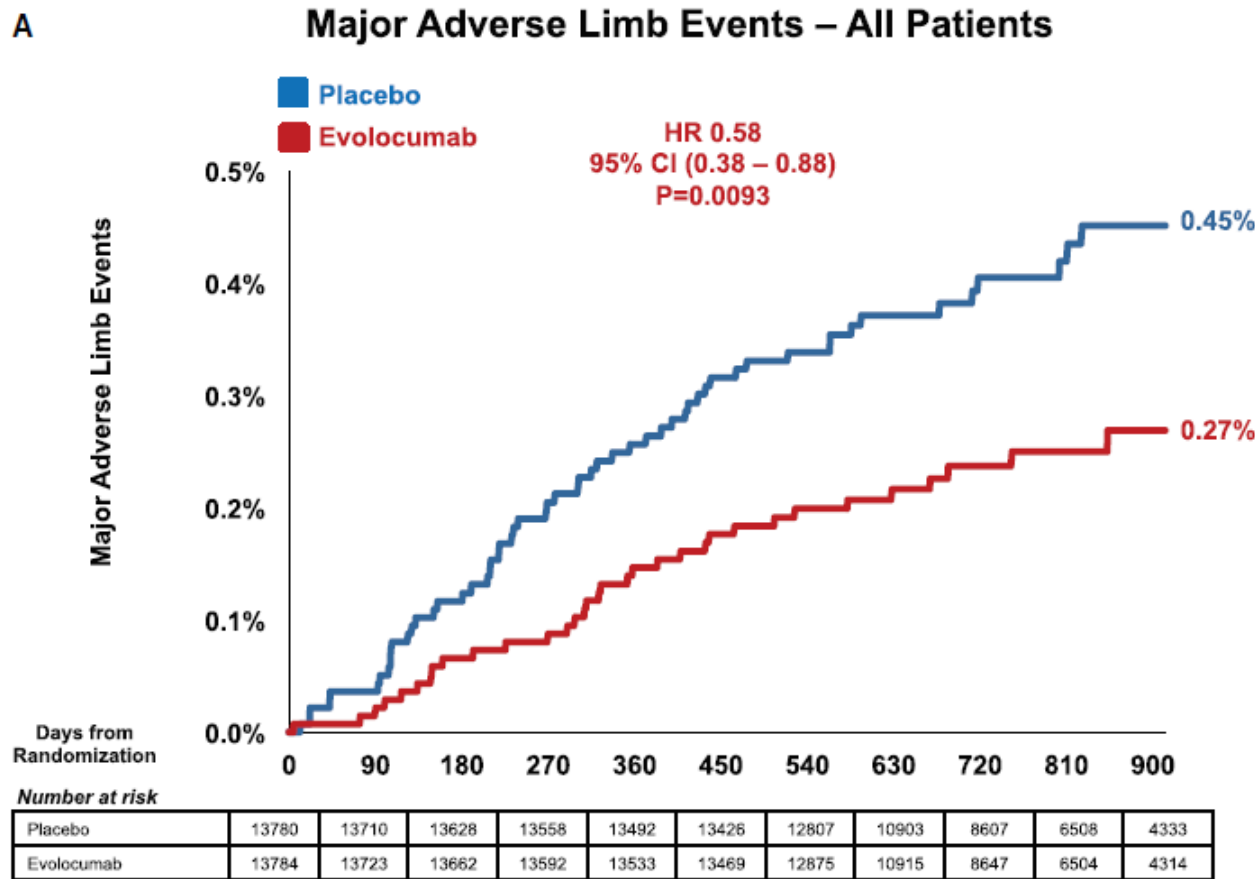
**PRIMARY  
PREVENTION**  
(RISK FACTOR ASSESSMENT  
AND TREATMENT)

**SECONDARY  
PREVENTION**

Ahmadi et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol* 2019



# Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Lowering With Evolocumab and Outcomes in Patients With ASCV (FOURIER Trial)



Bonaca M at al. *Circulation* 2018



# Evolocumab Was Associated With an Improved AFS in Patients With Severe PAD at 1 Year

Single-center prospective observational analysis of patients with chronic limb-threatening ischemia in Japan

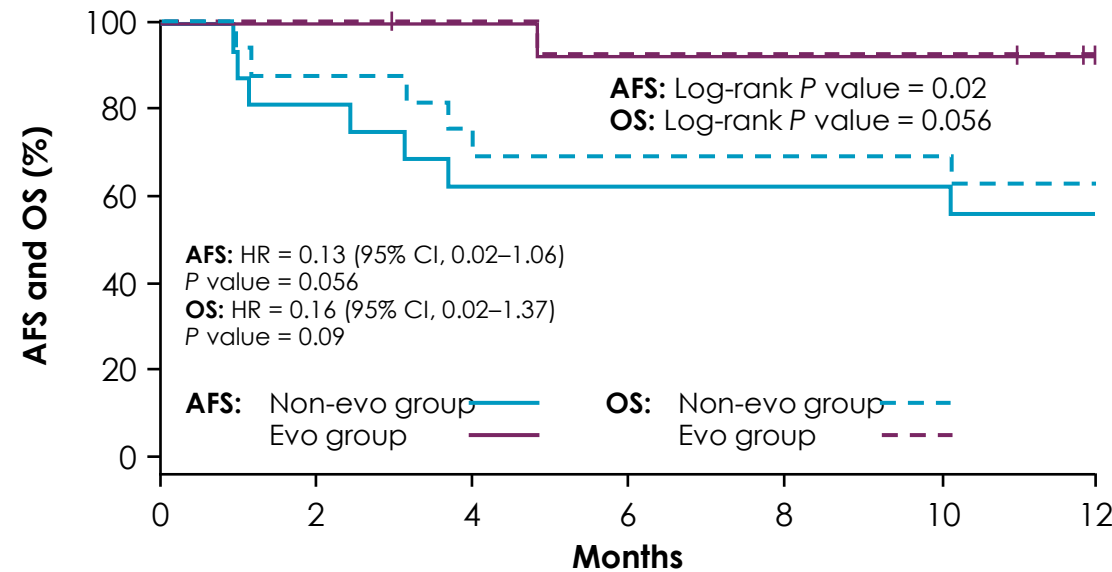
Patients: N = 30

Mean follow-up: 18 months

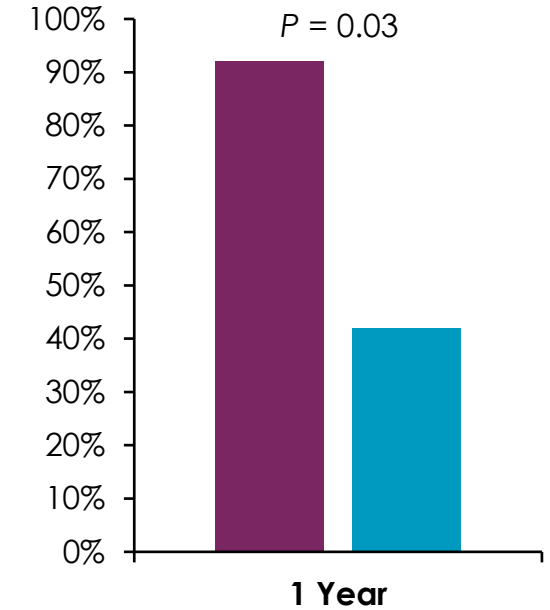
Primary outcome: 1 year free from major amputation

Secondary outcomes: 1 year AFS, OS, and wound-free limb salvage

1 Year AFS and OS in Evolocumab vs Non-Evolocumab Groups



Wound-Free Limb Salvage\*

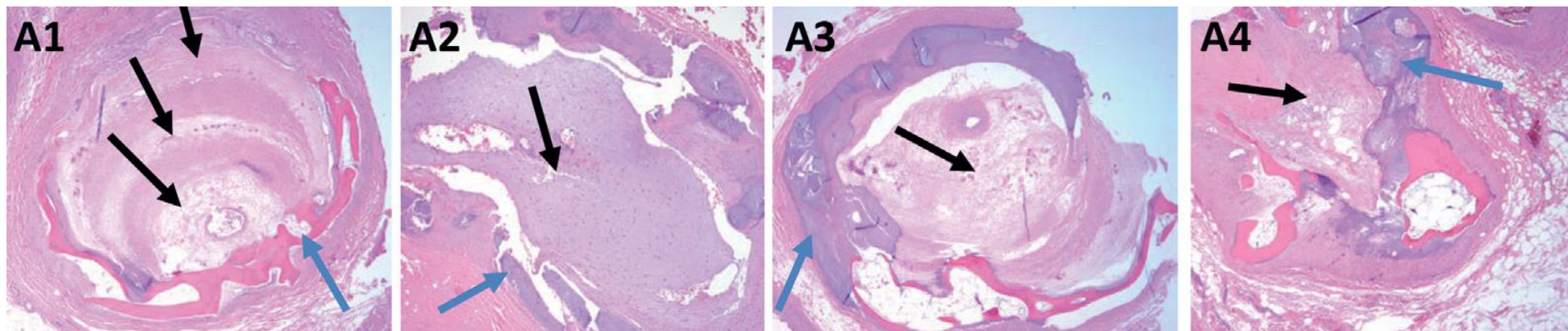
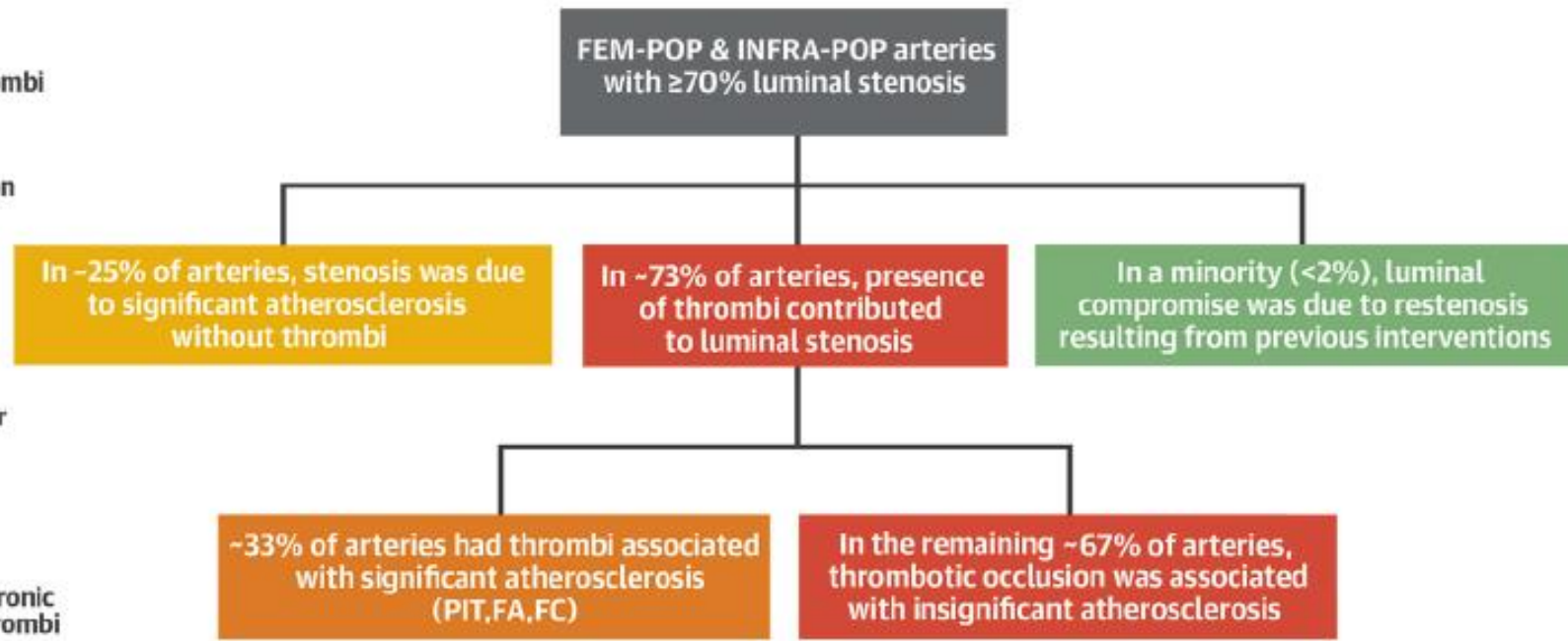
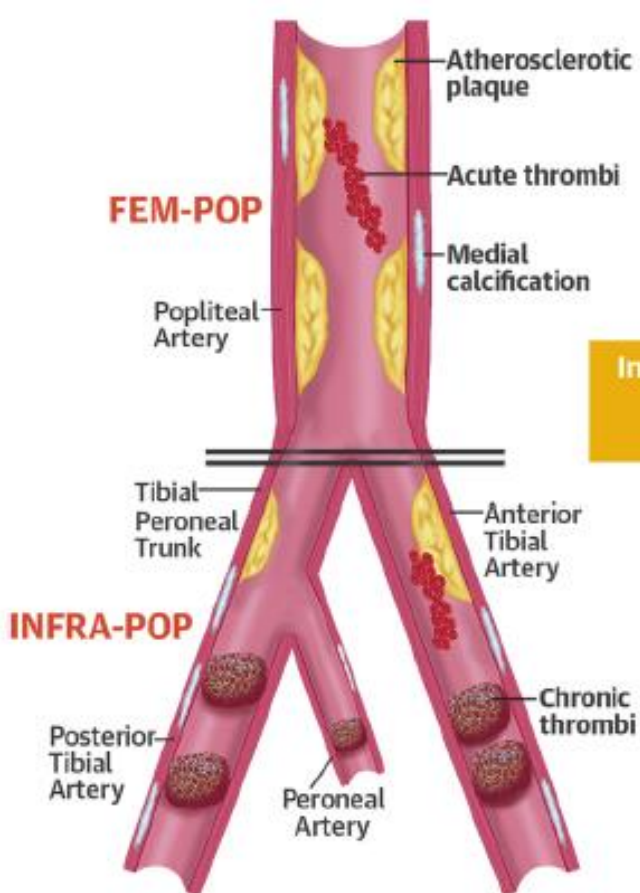


No. at risk	0	2	4	6	8	10	12
AFS non-evo group	16	13	10	10	10	10	9
AFS evo group	14	14	13	12	12	12	9
OS non-evo group	16	14	12	11	11	11	10
OS evo group	14	14	13	12	12	12	9

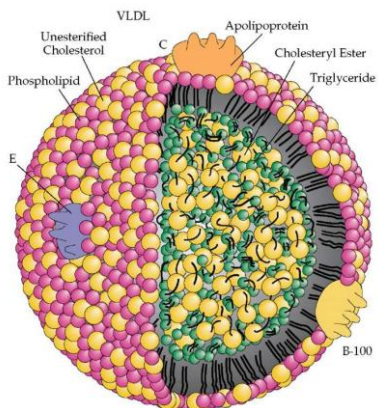
Administration of evolocumab for 1 year contributed to an improvement in the proportion of patients with AFS, wound-free limb salvage, and a tendency toward improving OS

\*Rutherford classifications of 5 and 6.

AFS, amputation-free survival; CI, confidence interval; evo, evolocumab; HR, hazard ratio; OS, overall survival.



***“it is vital that we rid the system of its most potent toxin: LDL-C, a metabolite responsible for the death and disability of more people than any other known product of human physiology”***



***“...No reasonable clinician would wait for kidney damage or a cerebrovascular event before treating hypertension, delay managing hyperglycaemia until kidney failure or retinal haemorrhage, hold off on an antibiotic for pneumonia or cellulitis or let joints deteriorate before treating rheumatoid arthritis. In contrast, addressing hypercholesterolemia is frequently delayed until after a cardiovascular event occurs...”***



**ASPC**  
The American Society for Preventive Cardiology



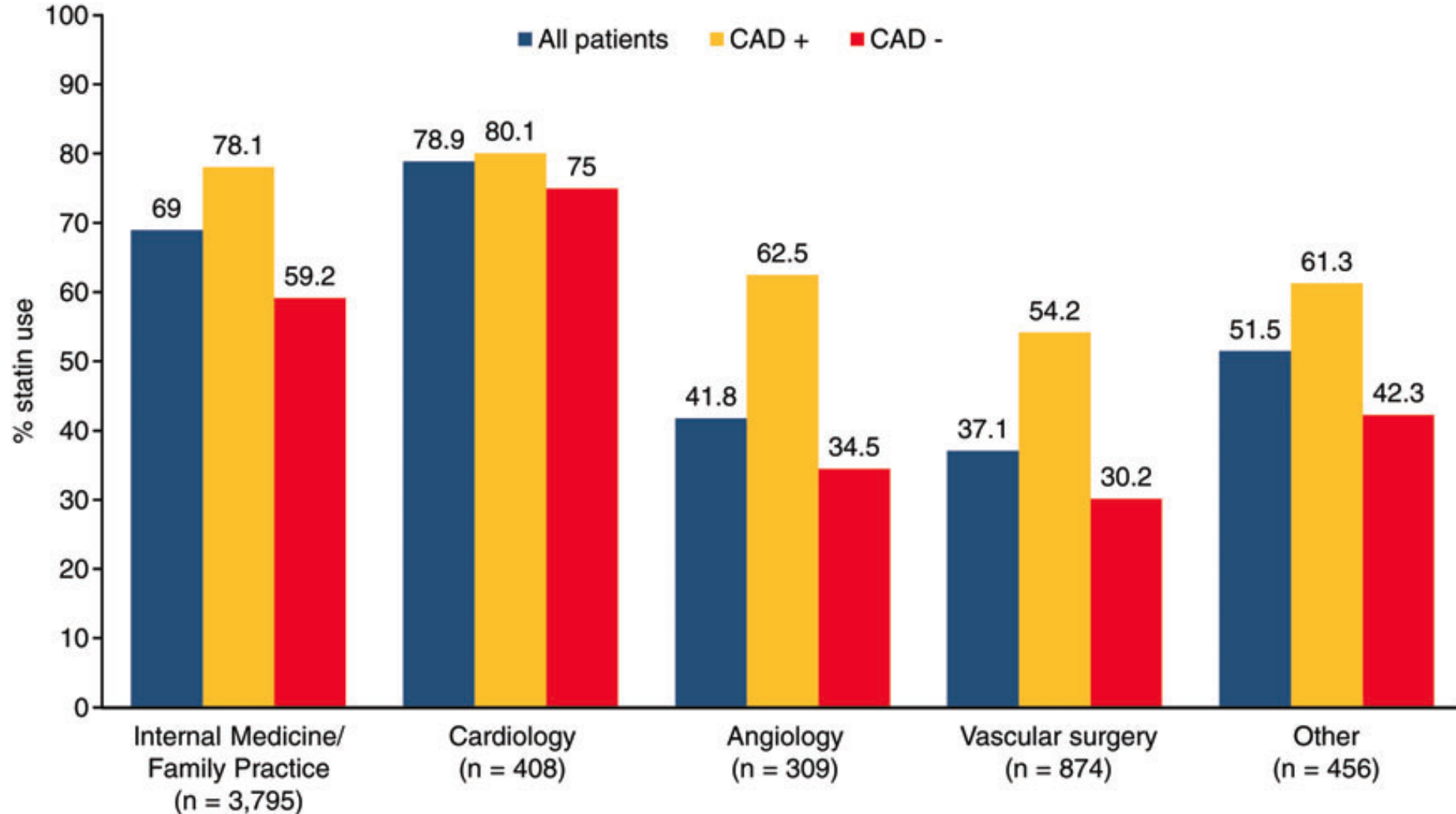
 **ESC**  
Working Group  
Aorta & Peripheral  
Vascular Diseases



Prof. Eugenio Stabile, MD, PhD

## Statin therapy and long-term adverse limb outcomes in patients with peripheral artery disease: insights from the REACH registry

## Proportion of patients on statins at enrolment based on enrolling investigator's subspecialty

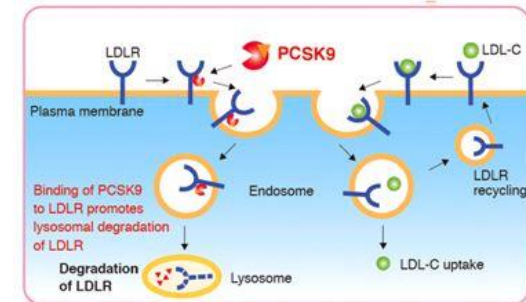
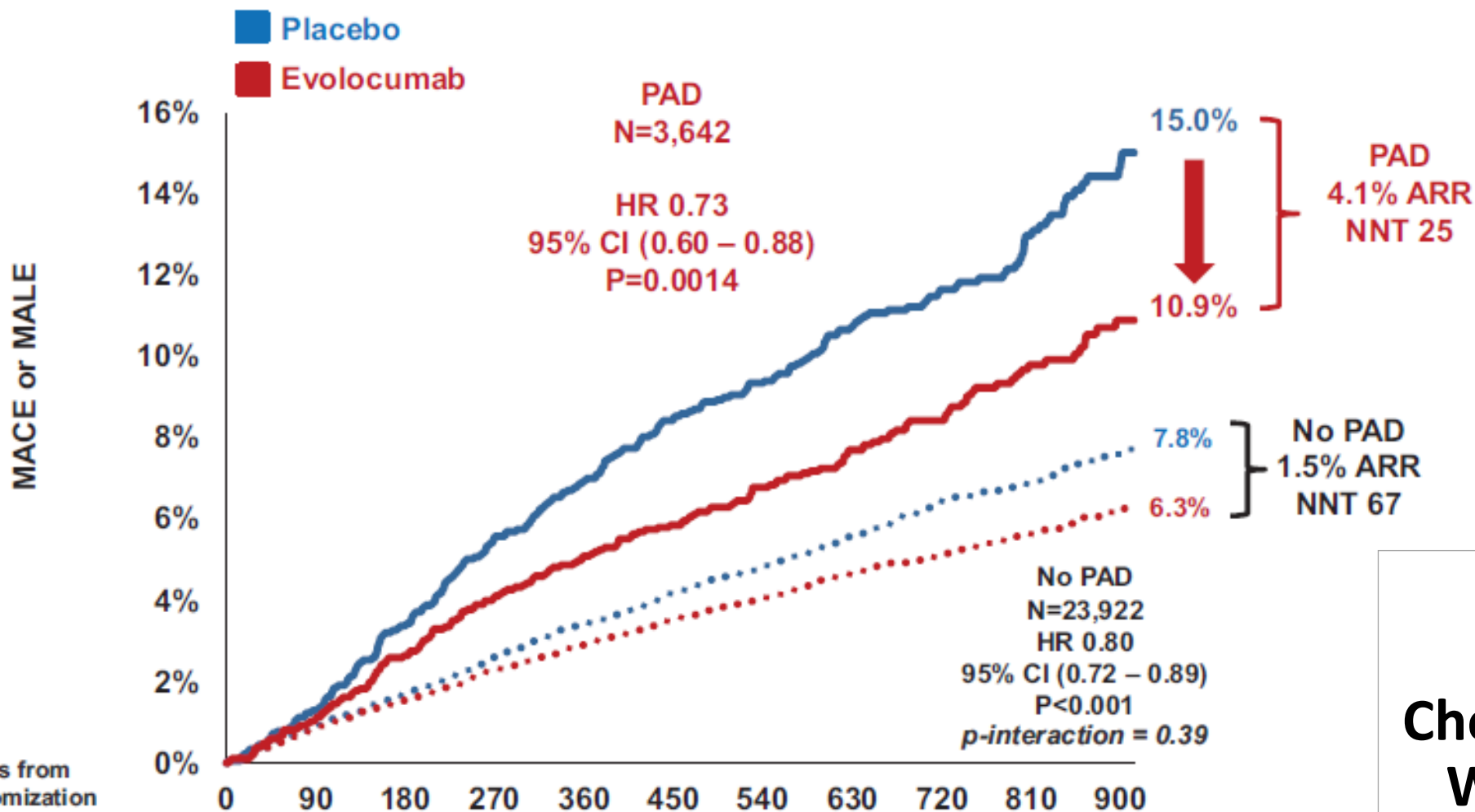


Khumbani et al .

*Eur Heart Journal* 2014



# MACE or MALE in Patients with and without PAD



**Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Lowering With Evolocumab and Outcomes in Patients With ASCVD (FOURIER Trial)**

Bonaca M at al. *Circulation* 2018

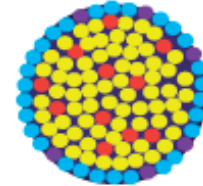


# Elevated remnant cholesterol increases the risk of peripheral artery disease, myocardial infarction and ischaemic stroke: a cohort-based study

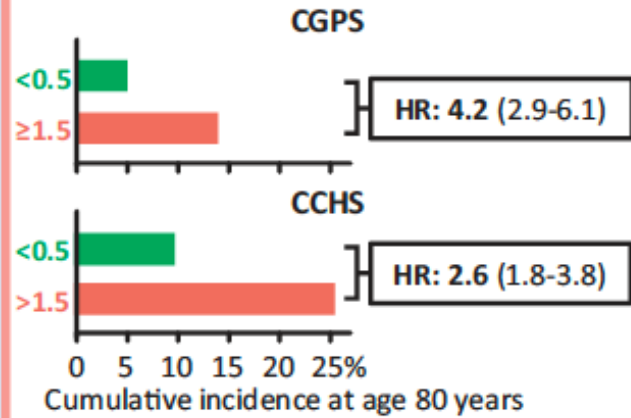
CGPS: Copenhagen General Population Study (106,937 individuals)

CCHS: Copenhagen City Heart Study (13,974 individuals)

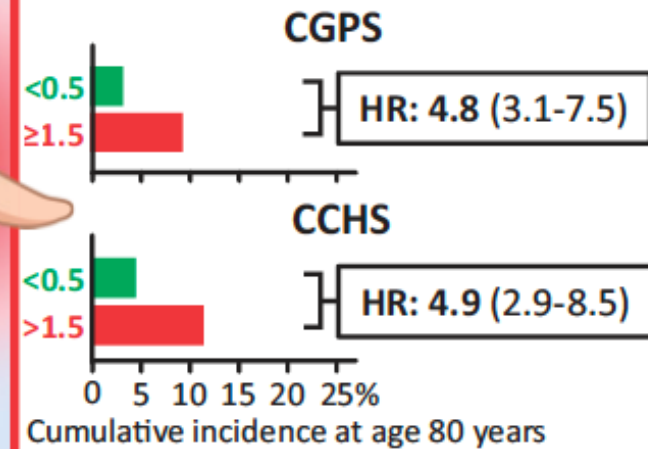
**Elevated  
remnant cholesterol**  
≥1.5 vs. <0.5 mmol/L



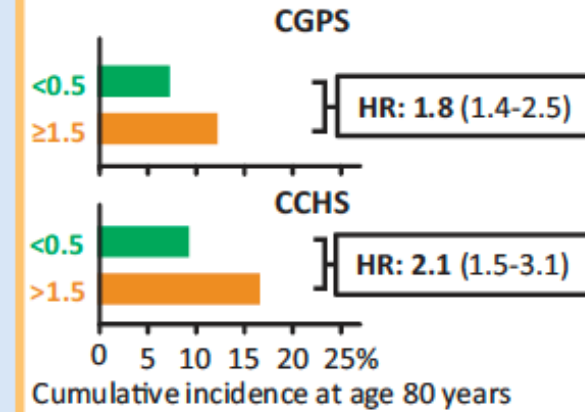
## Myocardial infarction



## Peripheral artery disease

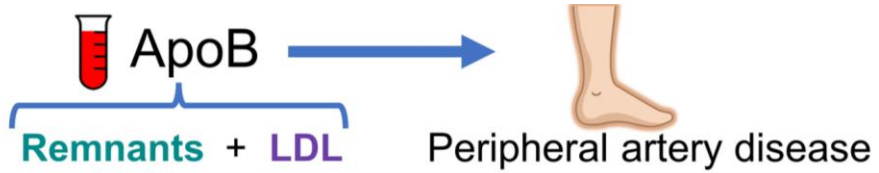


## Ischaemic stroke



Wadstrom BN et al. *European Heart Journal* 2022

## Background

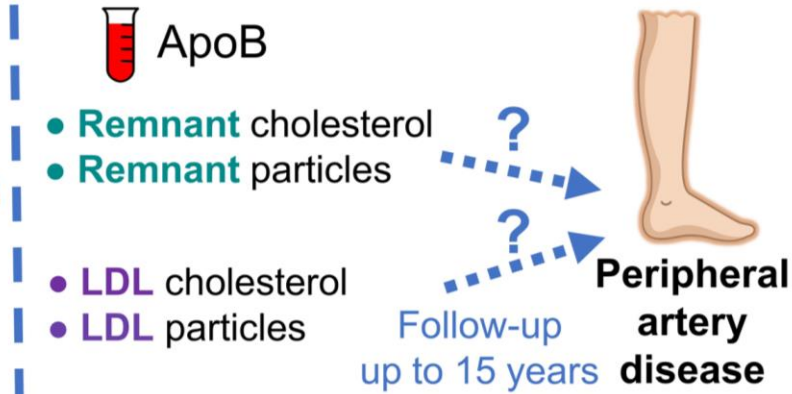


## Methods

• ApoB and remnant + LDL cholesterol levels measured with standard clinical assays in 93,461 individuals



• Remnant + LDL particle numbers measured with nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy in 25,347 of the individuals



## Results

Fraction of peripheral artery disease risk conferred by apoB explained by:

Remnant cholesterol  
73% (95%CI: 32-100%)

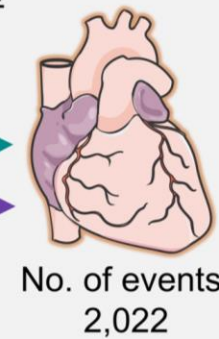
LDL cholesterol  
8% (95%CI: 0-46%)



Fraction of myocardial infarction risk conferred by apoB explained by:

Remnant cholesterol  
41% (95%CI: 27-55%)

LDL cholesterol  
69% (95%CI: 38-70%)



PAD risk conferred by elevated apoB-containing lipoproteins was explained mainly by elevated remnants, while myocardial infarction risk was explained by both elevated remnants and LDL.

Wadstrom BN et al.  
*Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol* 2024