



Managing heart failure in primary care: The GP perspective

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Primary Healthcare Cardiovascular Research Group: GRECAP

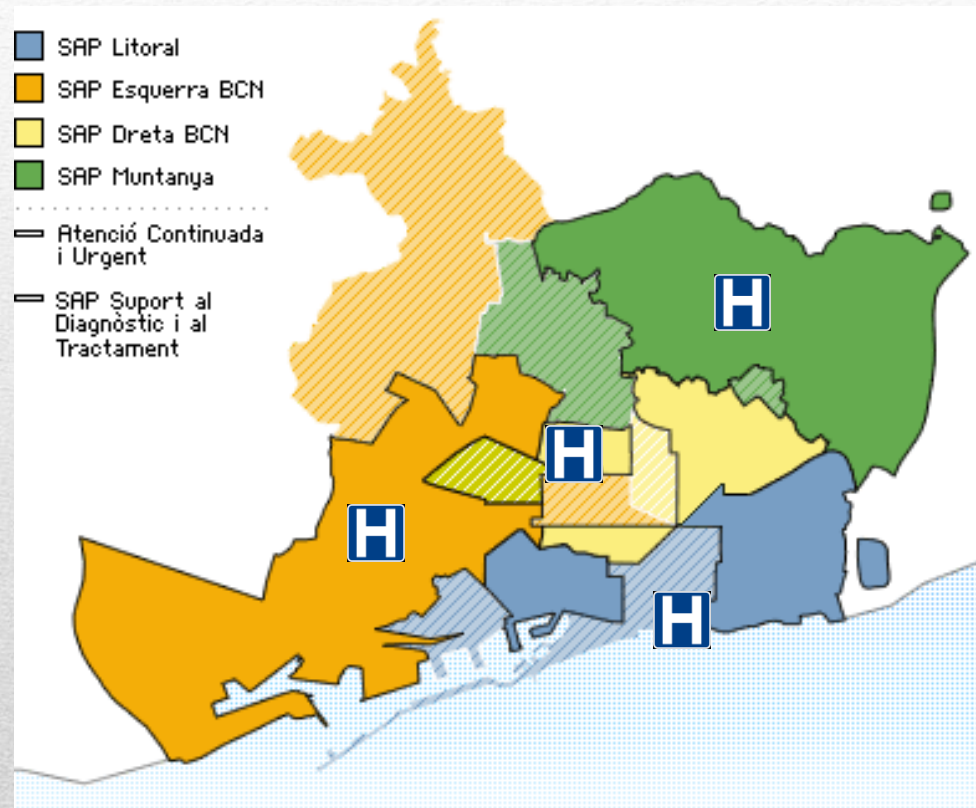
Some healthcare data from Barcelona

53 Primary
Centres

1330
patients/GP

30
HF patients /GP

14
HF visits/year



ROLE OF GP IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE

Preparing this speech I wonder.....what would you like to hear from me in this session?

What is better to my patients? = What to do

What is important not to do:
not enough evidence
evidence of harm

My limitations:

Health System

**My own skills = When
to refer my patients**

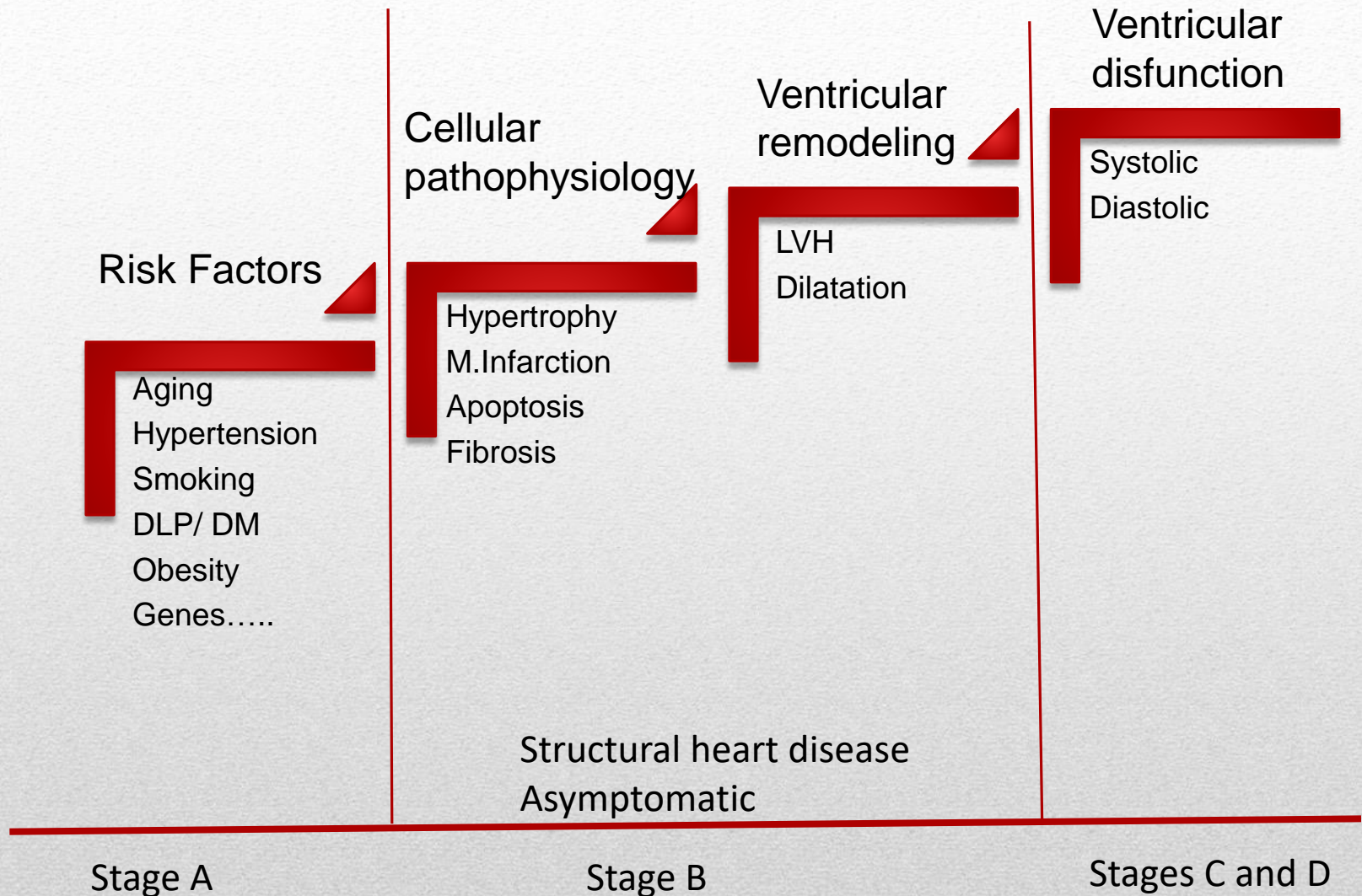
**It is important the role
of my patients in taking
decisions?
Do my patients maybe
prefer to die at home?**

ROLE OF GP IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE

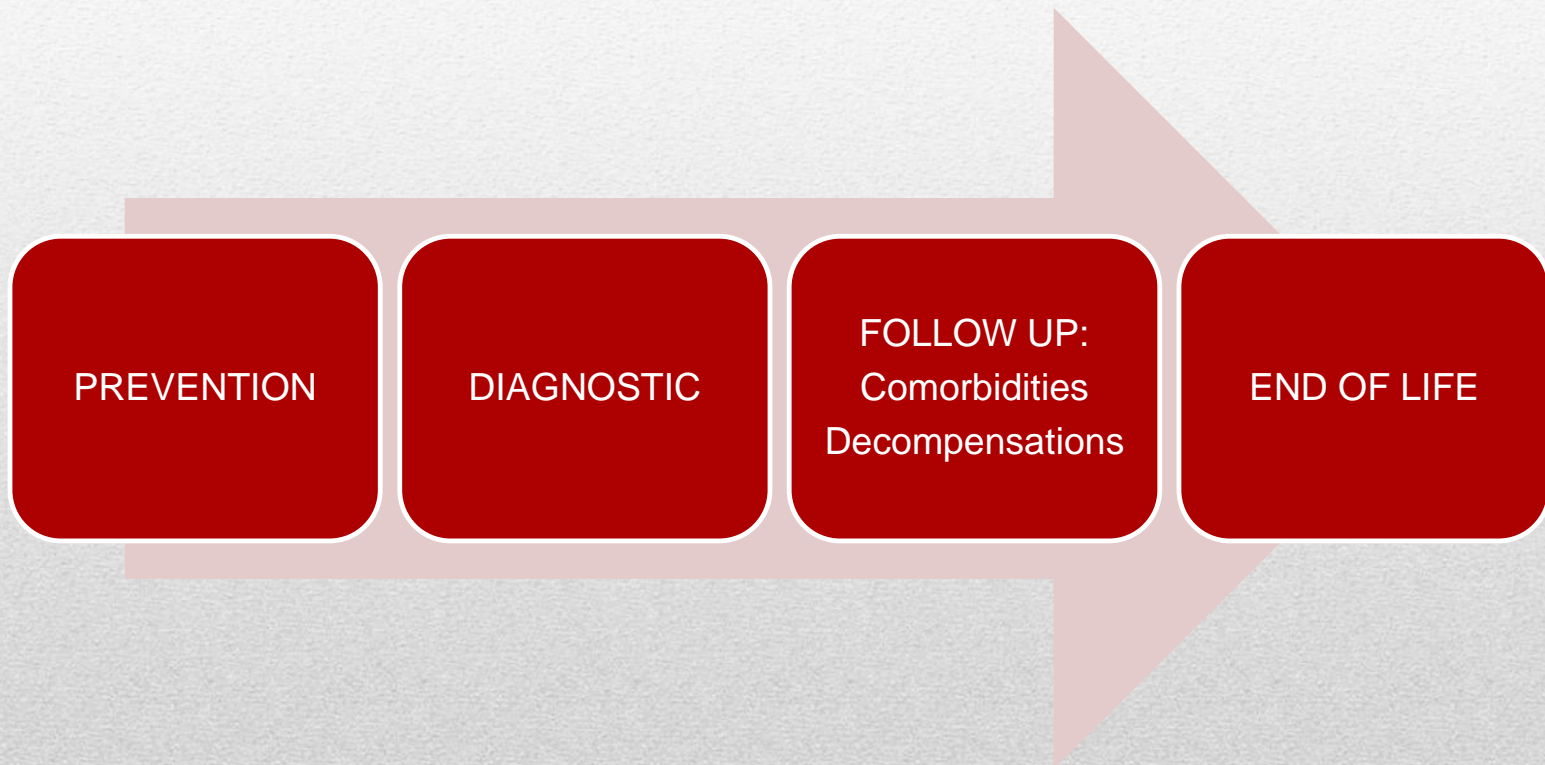
- Early diagnosis: case finding
- Ensure a right diagnosis
- Relief symptoms
- Improve prognosis: EBM
- Involving patients in self care
- Improve quality of life
- Take care of patients and their relatives until the end stages

- **Carrying out research in Primary Care**


Evolution of HEART FAILURE



ROLE OF GP IN THE MANAGEMENT OF PATIENTS WITH HEART FAILURE



PREVENTION



SUDDEN DEATH

HOW TO AVOID HEART FAILURE.

Death from heart disease strikes instantly and when least expected. Many have heart trouble and do not know it. They doctor for diseases of the lungs, kidneys, stomach or nerves, when the trouble is all in the heart. Many know it, but through neglect or delay in using my Heart Tablets their life is soon blotted out. All heart troubles, no matter how slight, are dangerous; a little strain, excitement or over-exertion may cause death. Every sufferer should send for a trial box of my HEART TABLETS. I know they will cure and to prove it will send a box by mail, postpaid, absolutely FREE OF CHARGE. There is no medicine in the world like them.

HAVE YOU ANY OF THESE SYMPTOMS OF HEART DISEASE?

Fluttering, Palpitation or skipping beats (always due to a weak or diseased heart); Shortness of Breath, from going upstairs, walking, etc.; Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the left side, in the arm or under the shoulder blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots before the Eyes, Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in the Throat, Oppressed Feeling in Chest, Cold Hands and Feet, Pain when lying on Left Side, Dropsy, Swelling of the Feet and Ankles (one of the surest signs), or Neuralgia around the Heart. Sudden death rarely results from other causes.

The TABLETS will restore you to health and strength as they are doing each day to hundreds of other men and women. Write to-day for a free trial box, sending stamp for return postage, to **Dr. F. G. KINSMAN, Box 956, Augusta, Maine**

Risk factors for heart failure

Major risk factors	Risk
Coronary Artery Disease	2-3 fold
Hypertension	2-3 fold
Diabetes Mellitus	2,5 fold (men) 5 fold (Women)
Obesity	Each unit of BMI increases 6% risk
Valvular heart disease	

Minor risk factors
Smoking
Dyslipidaemia
Chronic Kidney Disease
Others: anemia, sedentary lifestyle, psychological distress

European Journal of General Practice, 2015; Early Online: 1–7



Original Article

Impact of the sustained control of cardiovascular risk factors on first episode heart failure: The relevant role of primary care

Miguel-Angel Muñoz^{1,2,3}, Jordi Real^{2,4}, José-Luis del Val^{1,2}, Ernest Vinyoles^{1,2}, Xavier Mundet^{1,2,3}, Mar Domingo^{1,2}, Cristina Enjuanes^{5,6}, José-Maria Verdú-Rotellar^{1,2,3}

OR for the first HF hospitalization risk according to the risk factors control

Variable	OR adjusted	95% CI
Time: 12 months before heart failure episode		
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	1.06	(0.99–1.13)
Heart rate (beat/min)	1.02	(1.00–1.05)
Systolic blood pressure (mm/Hg)	1.03	(1.01–1.04)
Diastolic blood pressure (mm/Hg)	1.02	(0.98–1.05)
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.95	(0.92–0.98)
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	1.00	(0.99–1.01)
Time: between 24 and 13 months before heart failure episode		
Body mass index (kg/m ²)	1.08	(1.01–1.15)
Heart rate (beat/min)	1.02	(0.99–1.05)
Systolic blood pressure (mm/Hg)	1.01	(0.99–1.03)
Diastolic blood pressure (mm/Hg)	1.00	(0.97–1.04)
HDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	0.97	(0.94–1.00)
LDL cholesterol (mg/dl)	1.00	(0.99–1.01)

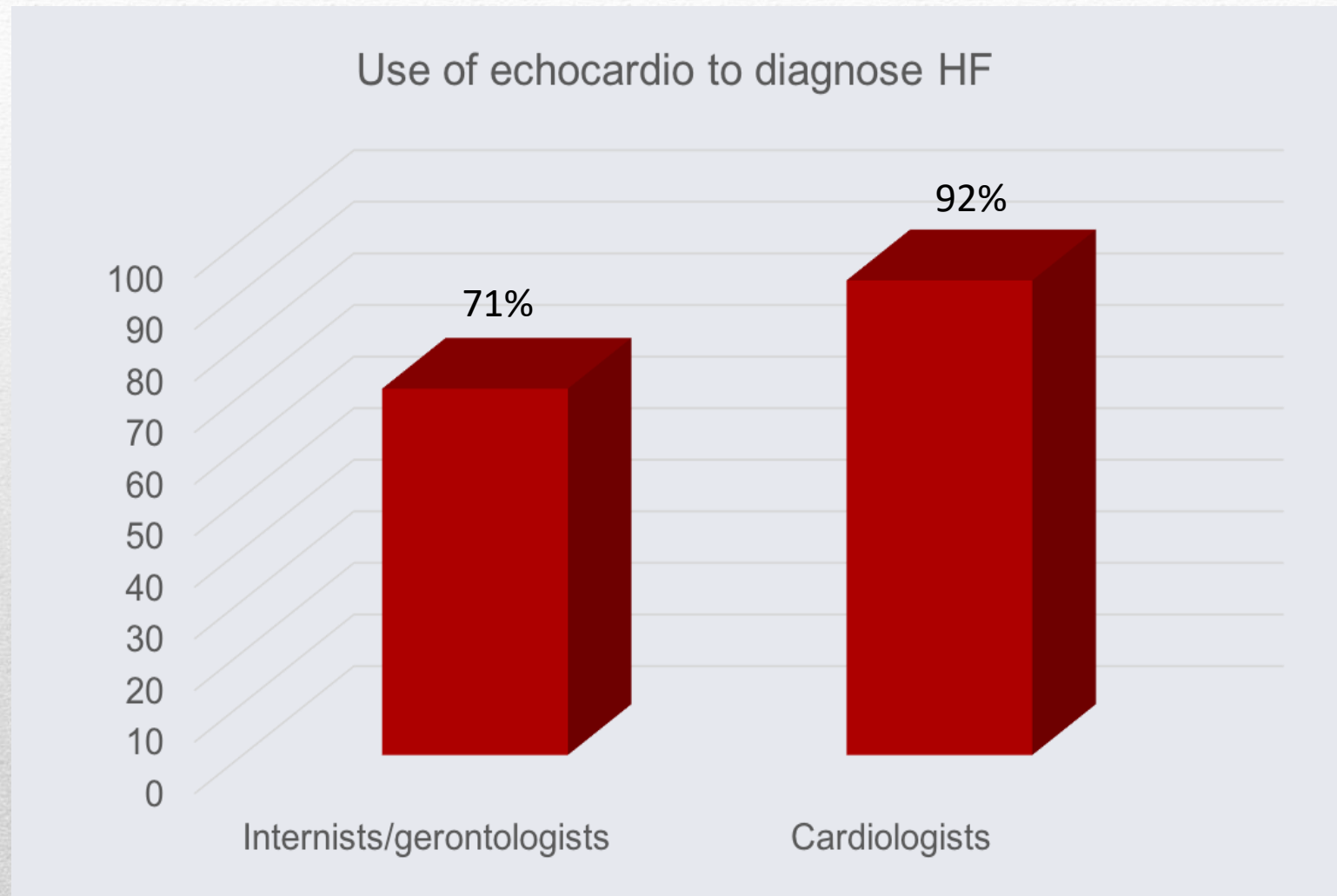


DIAGNOSIS

Awareness and perception of heart failure among European cardiologists, internists, geriatricians, and primary care physicians

Willem J. Remme^{1*}, John J.V. McMurray², F.D. Richard Hobbs³, Alain Cohen-Solal⁴, José Lopez-Sendon⁵, Alessandro Boccanelli⁶, Faiez Zannad⁷, Bernhard Rauch⁸, Karen Keukelaar¹, Cezar Macarie⁹, Witold Ruzyllo¹⁰, and Charles Cline¹¹ for the SHAPE Study Group

The Study group on HF Awareness and Perception in Europe (SHAPE)



Survey to GP:

Of those patients that you have diagnosed with heart failure, how did you come to that conclusion?

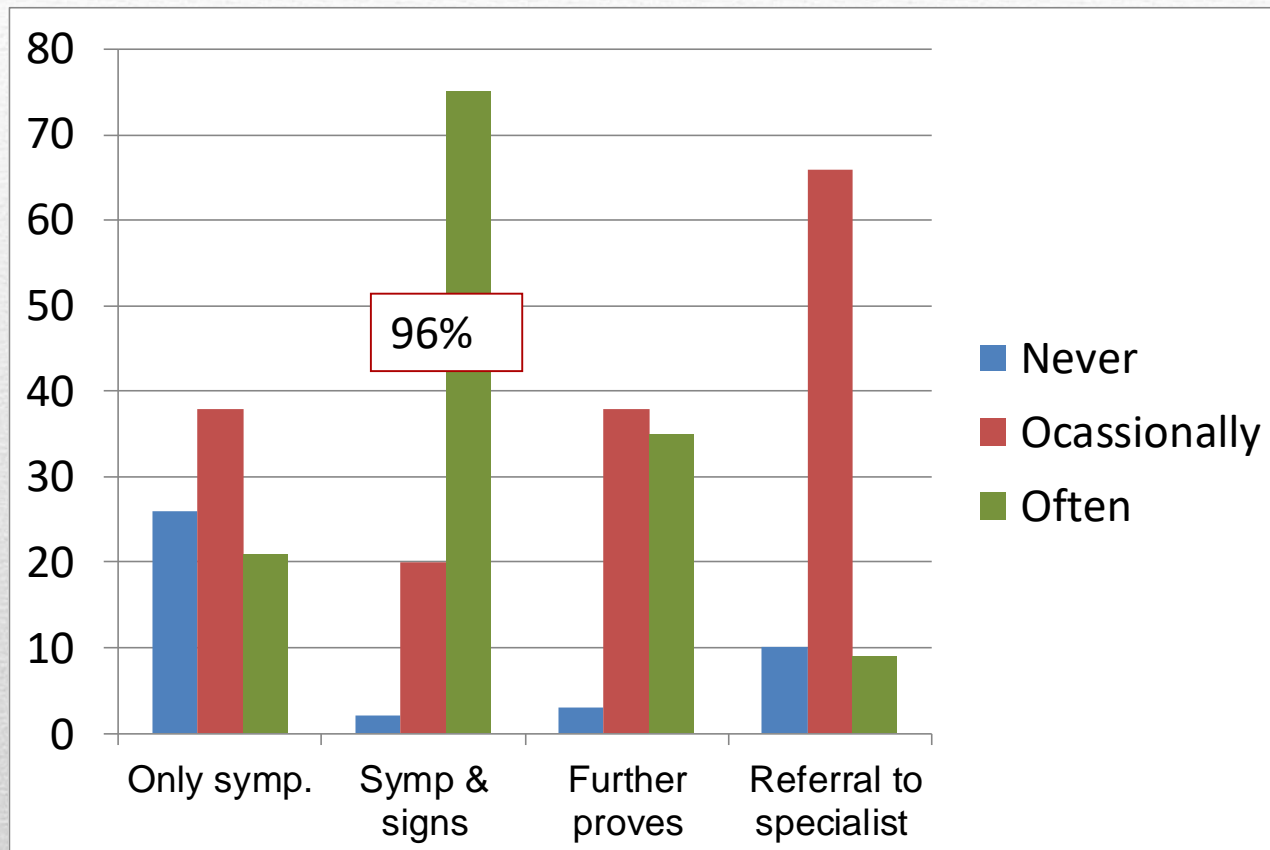


Table 6. Framingham Diagnostic Criteria for Heart Failure*

Major criteria

Acute pulmonary edema
Cardiomegaly
Hepatojugular reflex
Neck vein distension
Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea
or orthopnea
Rales
Third heart sound gallop

Minor criteria

Ankle edema
Dyspnea on exertion
Hepatomegaly
Nocturnal cough
Pleural effusion
Tachycardia (> 120
beats per minute)

*—Heart failure is diagnosed when two major criteria or one major and two minor criteria are met.

Adapted with permission from Maestre A, Gil V, Gallego J, Aznar J, Mora A, Martin-Hidalgo A. Diagnostic accuracy of clinical criteria for identifying systolic and diastolic heart failure: cross-sectional study. J Eval Clin Pract. 2009;15(1):60.

Symptoms	Signs
Typical	More specific
Breathlessness Orthopnoea Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnoea Reduced exercise tolerance Fatigue, tiredness, increased time to recover after exercise Ankle swelling	Elevated jugular venous pressure Hepatojugular reflux Third heart sound (gallop rhythm) Laterally displaced apical impulse
Less typical	Less specific
Nocturnal cough Wheezing Bloating feeling Loss of appetite Confusion (especially in the elderly) Depression Palpitations Dizziness Syncope Bendopnea ⁵³	Weight gain (>2 kg/week) Weight loss (in advanced HF) Tissue wasting (cachexia) Cardiac murmur Peripheral oedema (ankle, sacral, scrotal) Pulmonary crepitations Reduced air entry and dullness to percussion at lung bases (pleural effusion) Tachycardia Irregular pulse Tachypnoea Cheyne Stokes respiration Hepatomegaly Ascites Cold extremities Oliguria Narrow pulse pressure

unlikely:
 der other
 agnosis

About variability in diagnosis

- Does every GP know or follow the guideline recommendations?
- Does every GP has access to the BNP determinations?
- Is it feasible for GP to obtain an ecocadio in a reasonable lenght of time?

About variability in diagnosis

Research

Mark J Valk, Arend Mosterd, Berna DL Broekhuizen, Nicolaas PA Zuithoff, Marcel AJ Landman, Arno W Hoes and Frans H Rutten

Overdiagnosis of heart failure in primary care:

a cross-sectional study

Abstract

Background

Access to echocardiography in primary care is limited, but is necessary to accurately diagnose heart failure (HF).

Aim

To determine the proportion of patients with a GP's diagnosis of HF who really have HF.

Design and setting

A cross-sectional study of patients in 30 general practices with a GP's diagnosis of heart failure, based on the International Classification of Primary Care (ICPC) code K77, between June and November 2011.

Method

Electronic medical records of the patients' GPs were scrutinised for information on the diagnosis. An expert panel consisting of two

INTRODUCTION

Heart failure (HF) is a chronic progressive disease mainly affecting older people.¹ Pharmacological treatment, devices, and HF management programmes can reduce morbidity and mortality in patients who have HF with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF).¹ In this study the authors defined HFrEF as symptoms and/or signs suggestive of heart failure, and a left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) $\leq 45\%$ with echocardiography. In patients who have HF with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF) clear evidence-based disease-modifying treatment is still lacking, but, importantly, symptoms may be reduced with adequate titration of diuretics during periods of fluid retention.¹ This study defined HFpEF as symptoms and/or signs suggestive of heart failure, and

referral for echocardiography of individuals with suggestive symptoms and who in addition have natriuretic levels above the exclusionary threshold. Nevertheless, this strategy has not been completely implemented yet,^{2,4,6} resulting in the risk of over- and underdiagnosis of HF if GPs consider the clinical assessment only. Multiple studies have measured underdiagnosis of HF in primary care,⁷⁻¹¹ but exact data on overdiagnosis setting are lacking.¹¹

The authors wanted to quantify the overdiagnosis of HF in primary care and therefore evaluated whether patients with a GP's diagnosis of HF really had HF according to an expert panel that used the criteria of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) HF guidelines. Additionally,

Expert panel:

Validate if BNP or Ecocardio or Hospital admission

Concluded:

one-third of PC HF may be overdiagnosed

Valk et al. Br J Gen Pract 2016; DOI: 10.3399/bjgp16X685705



EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF
GENERAL PRACTICE



European Journal of General Practice

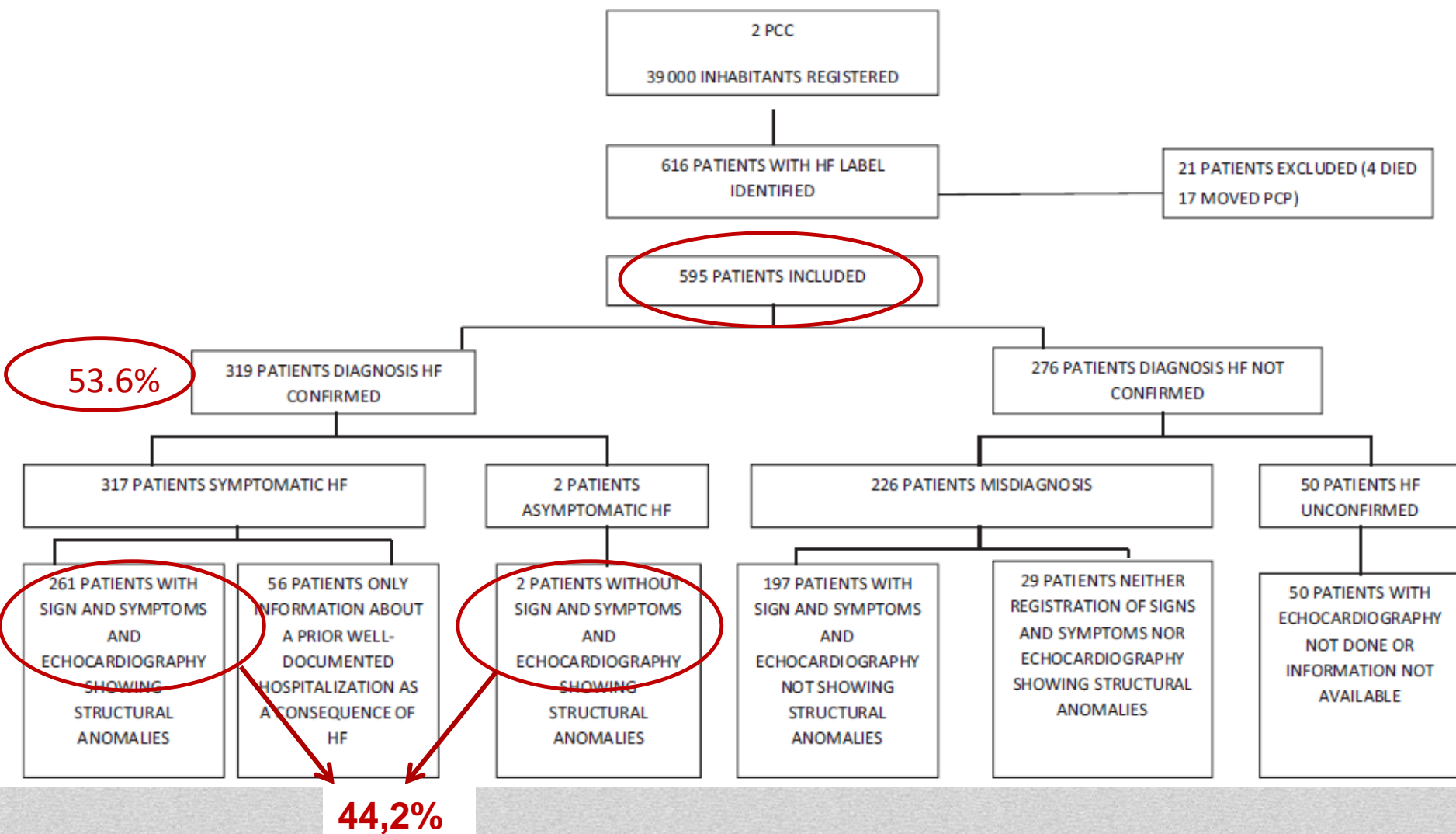


ISSN: 1381-4788 (Print) 1751-1402 (Online) Journal homepage: <http://www.tandfonline.com/loi/igen20>

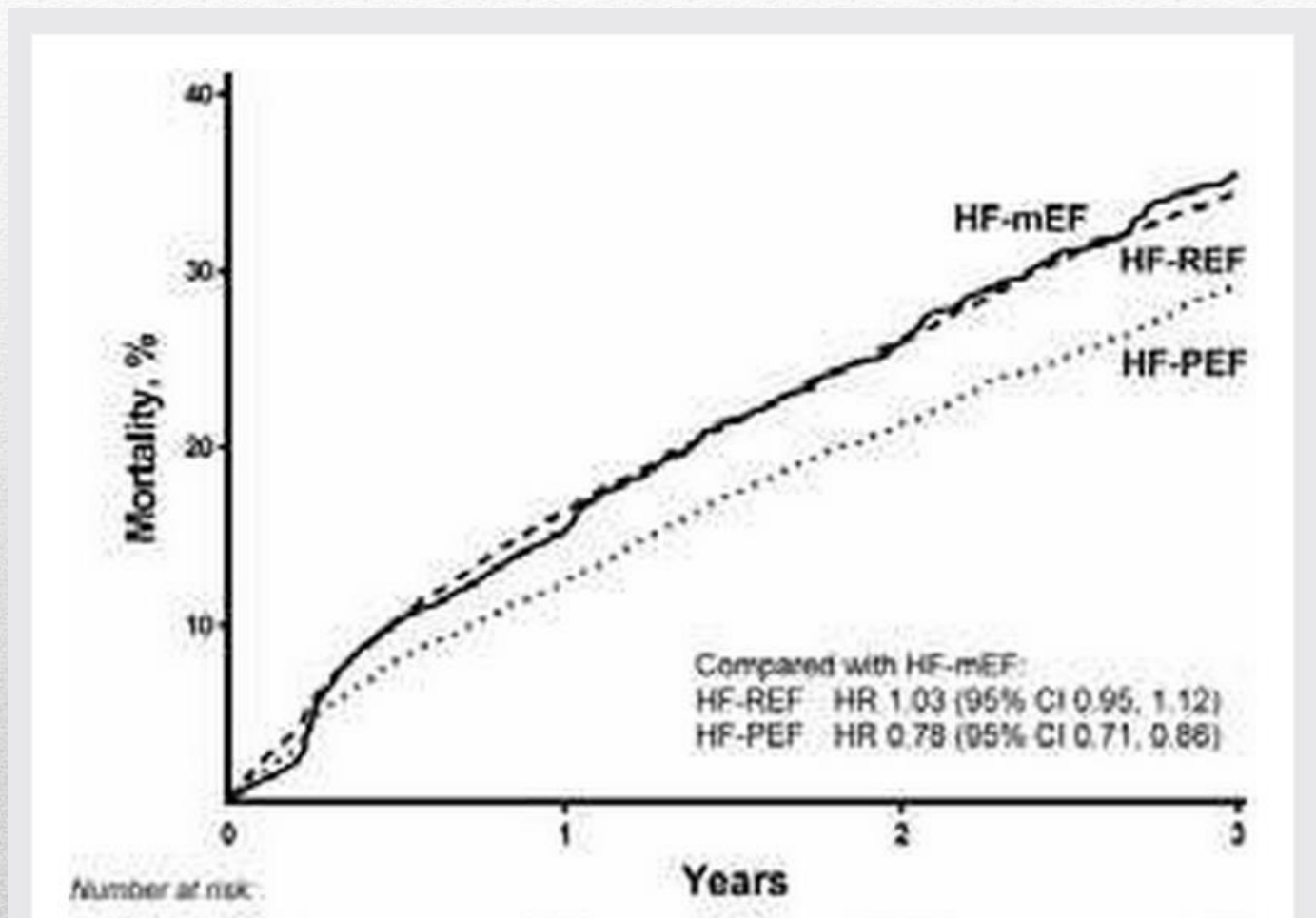
Validation of heart failure diagnosis registered in primary care records in two primary care centres in Barcelona (Spain) and factors related. A cross-sectional study

Jose María Verdú-Rotellar, Eva Frigola-Capell, Rosa Alvarez-Pérez, Daniela da Silva, Cristina Enjuanes, Mar Domingo, Amparo Mena & Miguel-Angel Muñoz

Validación del diagnóstico de IC.



Known and missing left ventricular ejection fraction and survival in patients with heart failure: a MAGGIC meta-analysis report



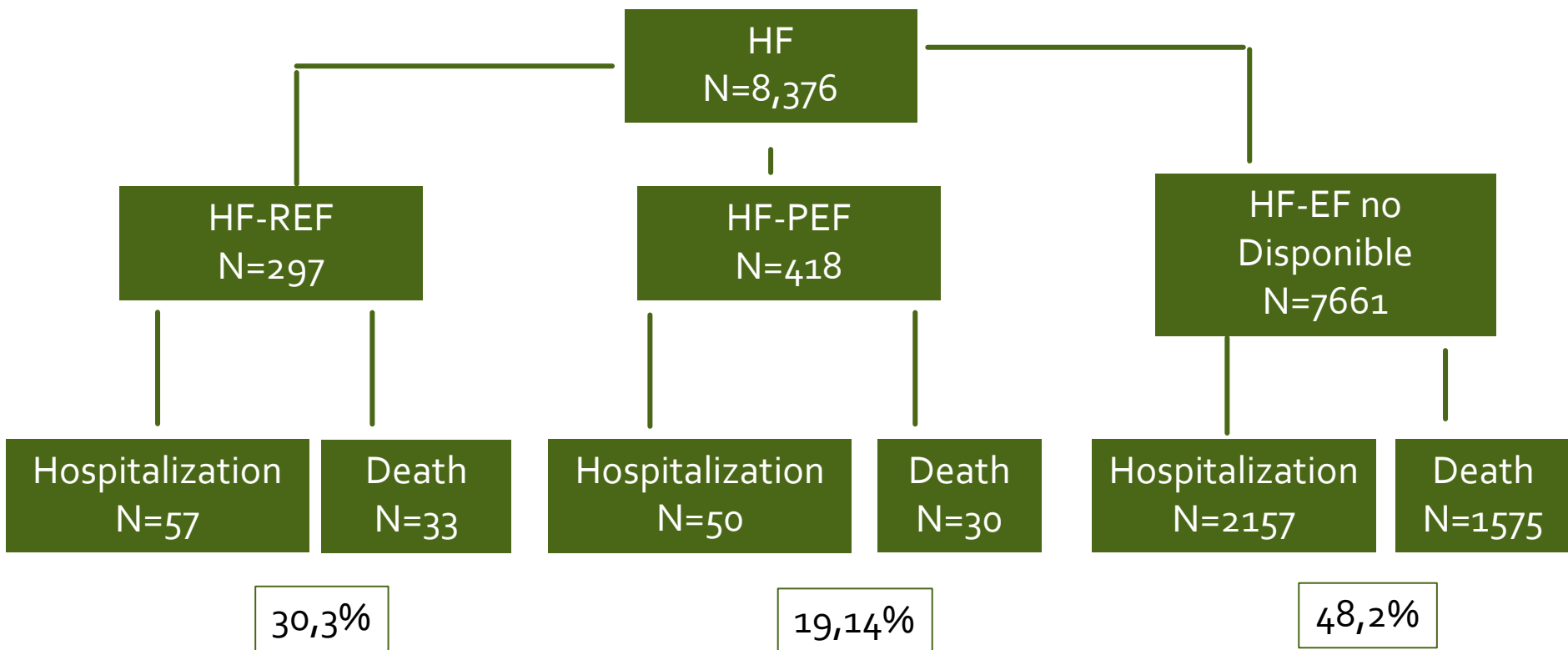
RESEARCH ARTICLE

Open Access



Heart failure labelled patients with missing ejection fraction in primary care: prognosis and determinants

Miguel-Angel Muñoz^{1,2,3}, Xavier Mundet-Tuduri^{1,2,3*}, Jordi Real^{2,6}, José-Luis Del Val^{1,2}, Mar Domingo^{1,2}, Ernest Vinyoles^{1,2,5}, Ester Calero^{1,2}, Caterina Checa^{2,4}, Nuria Soldevila-Bacardit^{1,2} and José-María Verdú-Rotellar^{1,2,3}



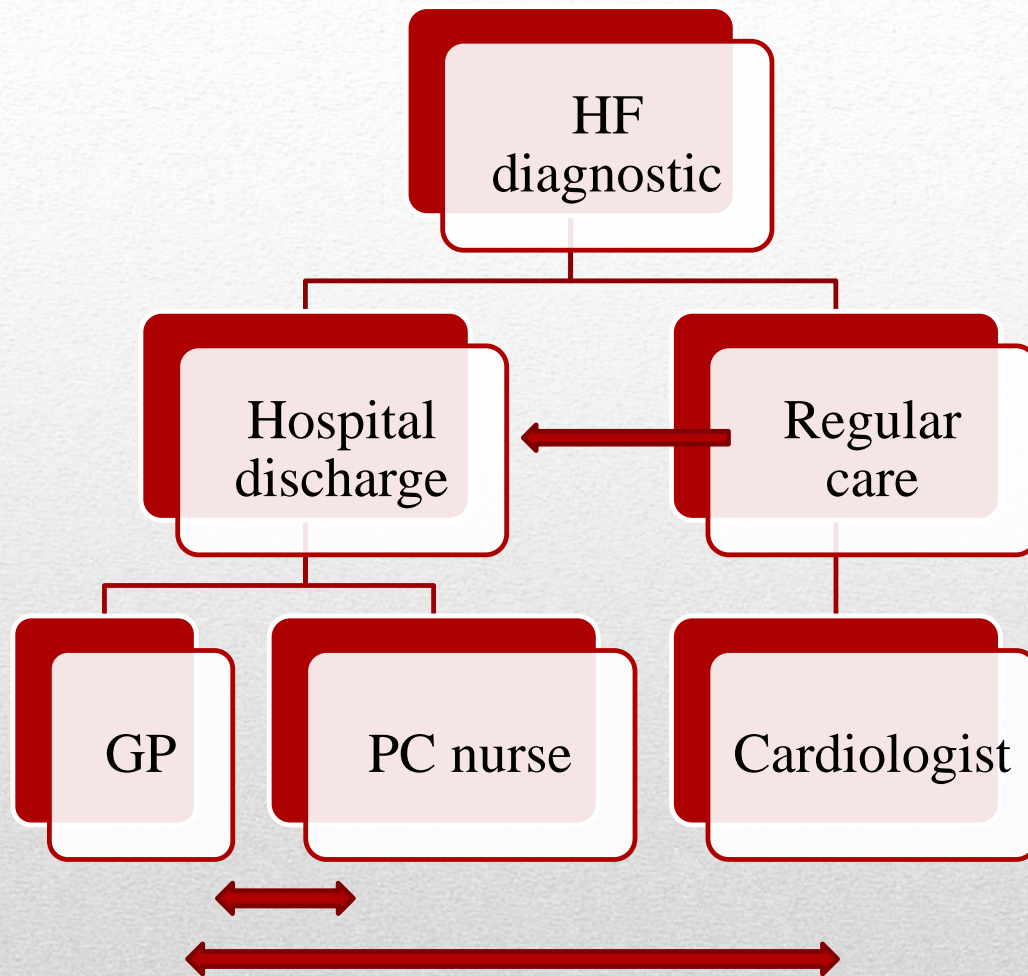
HR for hospitalization or death according to the registration of HF in EMR

	HR	95% Confidence interval
Ejection Fraction (EF)		
HFpEF(>50)	1	
HFrEF (<=50)	1.36	0.99-1.88
Unknown EF	1.84	1.45-2.33
Previous hospitalization HF	1.81	1.68-1.95

Factors related to the probability of having an ejection fraction in electronic medical records

	OR ^a	95% Confidence interval
Age (quintiles)		
<=71 (reference)	1	
72 - 78	0.86	0.68-1.08
79 - 82	0.71	0.55-0.92
83 - 86	0.81	0.63-1.05
87+	0.50	0.37-0.68
Home care	0.71	0.56-0.88

FOLLOW UP



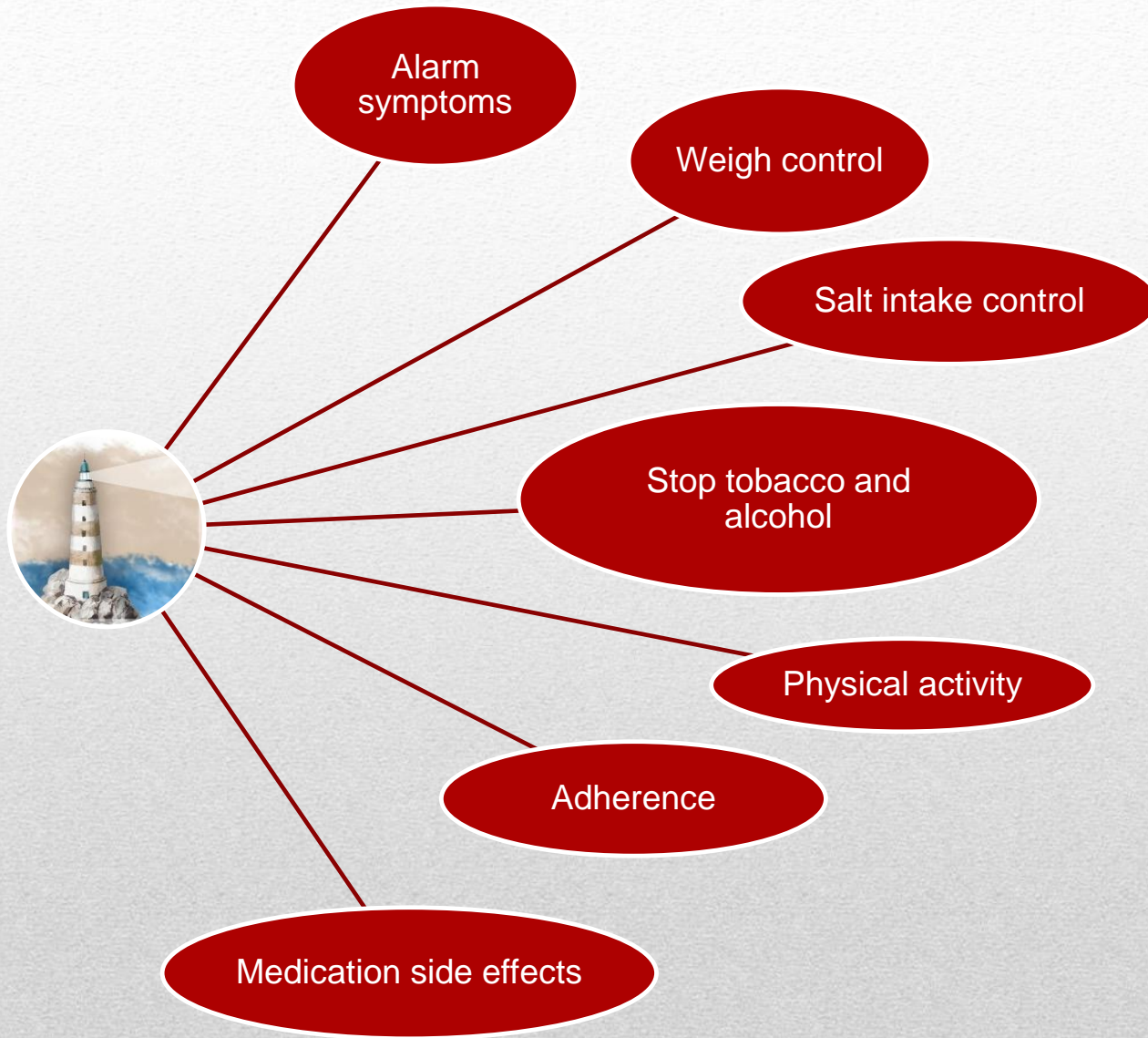
The screenshot displays the 'IC MPOC' (COPD) clinical pathway interface. The top navigation bar includes tabs for 'Sequimen', 'Actuacion', 'S. Analític', 'Imatges', 'Resum', 'Altres Full:', 'IC MPOC', and 'hefe'. A red arrow points to the 'IC MPOC' tab. Below the navigation bar, there is a section for 'Unitats HC3' and 'Unitats E...'. The main area contains a list of clinical variables on the left, a timeline of dates at the top, and a right-hand panel with a filter and a list of clinical signs. The 'Edema' variable is highlighted in yellow. The right-hand panel shows a list of clinical signs: COL, DM2, HTA, HIPOTIF, RETDIAI, and MRENAI, each with a status indicator (D, T, S). The bottom of the interface shows a status bar with 'Talla: 145', 'Braç Control PA:', and 'Actual: 10 Total: 16'.

FOLLOW UP SCHEDULE

	MONTHS							
	0	1		3		6		9
	person	phone		P/Phone		phone		person
Clinical exploration								
Weight	X	X		X		X		X
Blood pressure	X	X		X		X		X
Heart Rate	X	X		X		X		X
NYHA Functional class	X	X		X		X		X
Oedemas	X	X		X		X		X
Alarm signs								
Dyspnoea	X	X		X		X		X
Orthopnoea /par.noct.dyspnoea	X	X		X		X		X
Worsening NYHA	X	X		X		X		X
Weigh gain	X	X		X		X		X
Laboratory tests (Hb, Na,K,Creatinin, GFR)								
	X			X				X
Other proves								
Ecocardio	X							
Chest X-ray	X							
ECG	X							
O2 Saturation	X			X				X
Education and prevention								
Adherence (medication,diet)	X	X		X		X		X
Selfcare	X	X		X		X		X
Lifestyles counseilling	X	X		X		X		X
Vaccinations (Influenza, pneumococcical)	X							

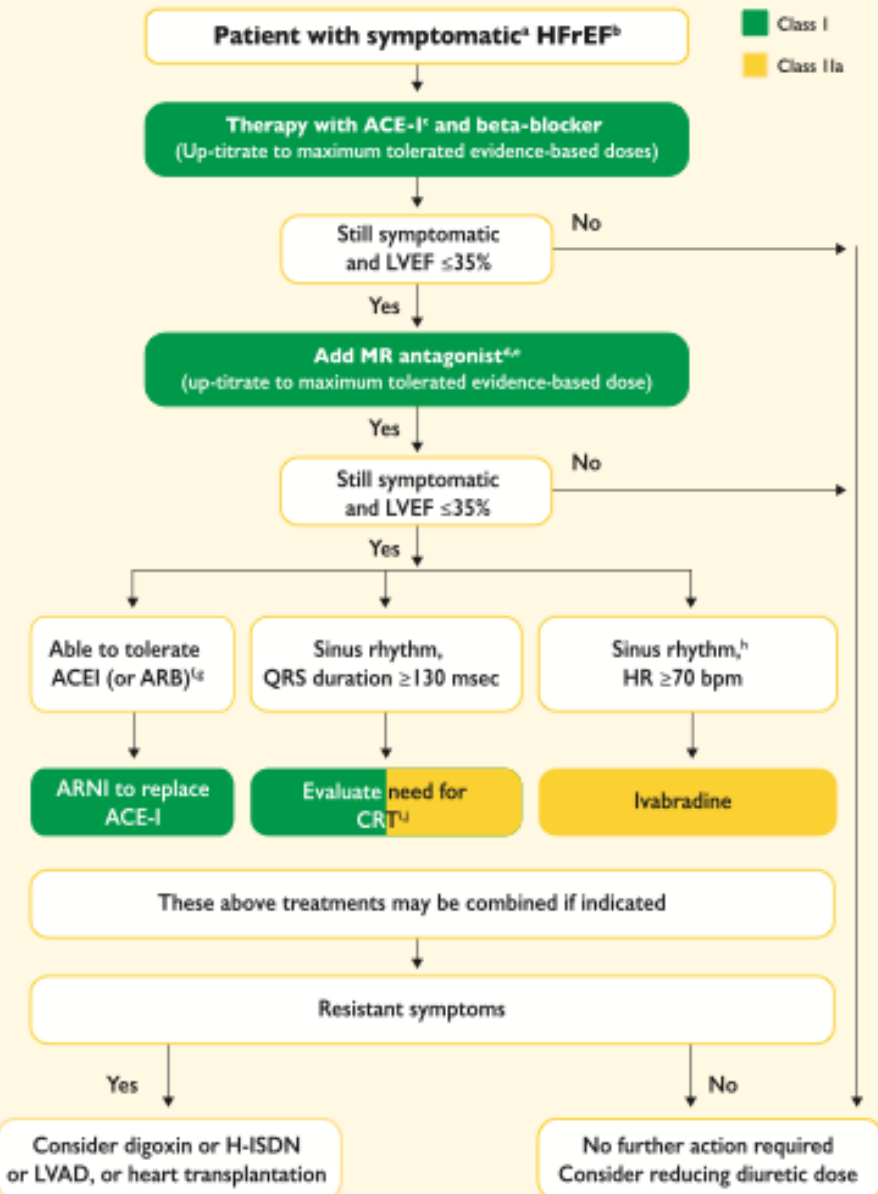
Further:
Every 4 months

Self care and educational measures



Diuretics to relieve symptoms and signs of congestion

If LVEF $\leq 35\%$ despite OMT
or a history of symptomatic VT/VF, implant ICD



DECOMPENSATIONS

- NYHA worsening
- Weight gain > 1 kg in a period of 24 h or >2 kg in 72 h.
- Increased ankle edema



ASSESS SEVERITY AND TRIGGERS

Symptoms:

Chest pain , resting dyspnoea, orthopnoea, paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnoea, syncope

Signs :

HR >130 /min or <40/min ; Systolic BP >200 or <80 mmHg; O2 saturation < 90%.



NO



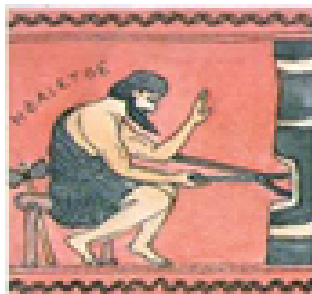
Increase oral diuretic
Endovenous furosemide :

20mg/20' until 60 mg + HCLTZ oral



YES





Hefestos Study (Heart Failure Outpatients Study)

Dr. José M^º Verdú-Rotellar M.D. Ph. D

Hefestostudy@[gmail.com](mailto:Hefestostudy@gmail.com)

Hefestos

Objectives

- To develop and validate a **predictive model** based on clinical variables easy to be measured in general practice **to predict short-term hospitalization or mortality in primary care** as a consequence of a Heart Failure (HF) **decompensation**.
 - Identify the most **common precipitants of decompensation** of HF patients in the primary care setting.
-

9 European countries

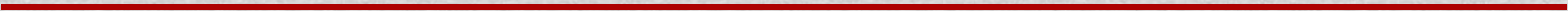




My limitations:

Health System : BNP, Ecocardio

**My own skills = When to refer my
patients to cardiologist?**



Initial diagnoses before 60 years old or diagnoses doubts

Ischaemic or valvular etiology

Symptoms worsening in spite of optimal treatment

Renal function worsening

Patients in NYHA class III-IV

More than 3 hospital admissions or 12 emergency room stages in previous year

Implantable cardioverter defibrillator:

(FEVI < 35%) (ischaemic origin or dilated cardiomyopathy)

Resincronization:

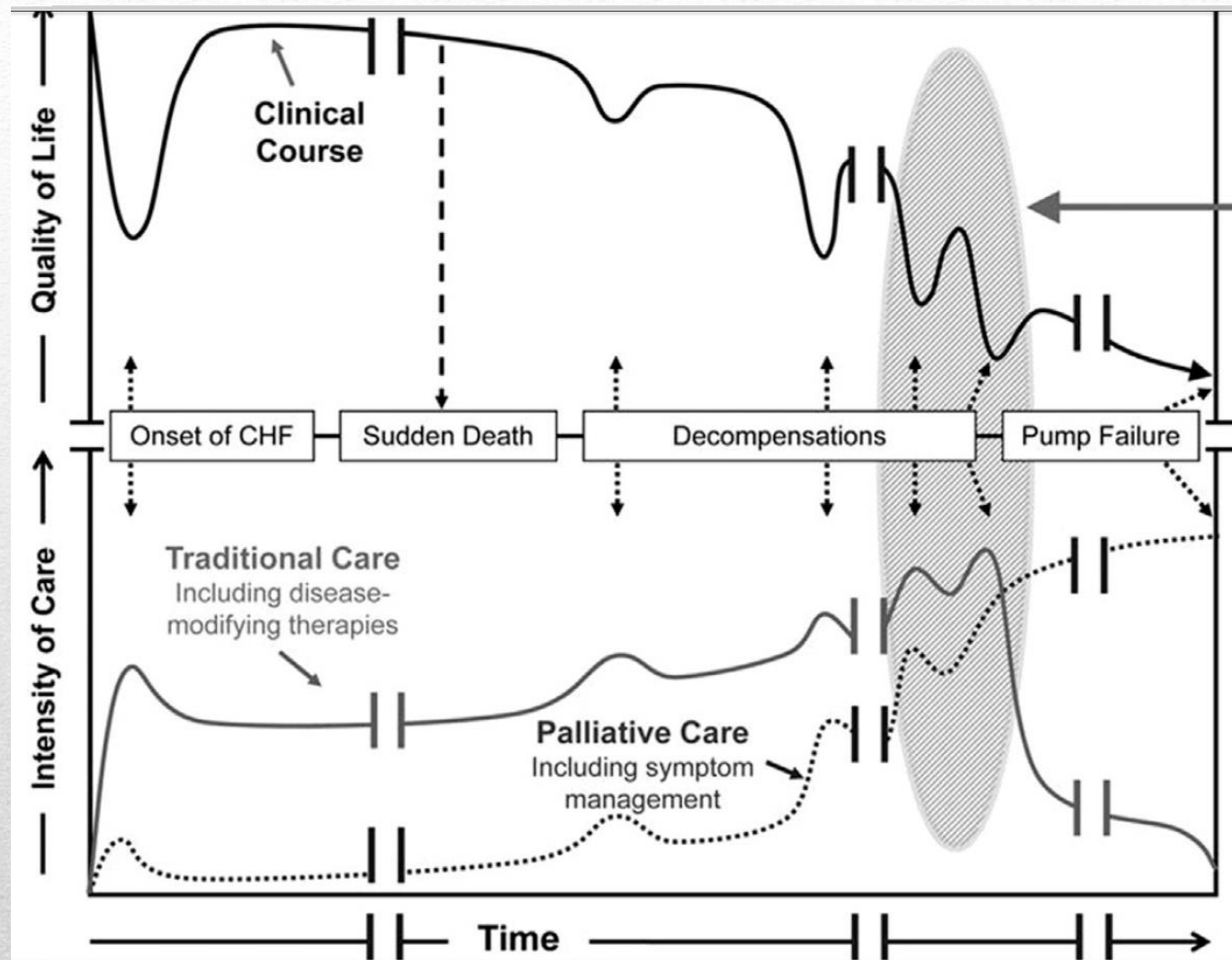
▪(FEVI < 35%) + (QRS > 0,150) +LBBB

Cardiac transplantation

- End-stage HF with severe symptoms*
- No remaining options*
- < 65 years old*

End of Life

Evolution of Heart Failure



Source: Allen LA et al. Circulation 2012.125 (5): 125(15):1928-52

Patients with heart failure in whom end of life care should be considered

Progressive functional decline (physical and mental) and dependence in most activities of daily living.

Severe heart failure symptoms with poor quality of life despite optimal pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies.

Frequent admissions to hospital or other serious episodes of decompensation despite optimal treatment.

Heart transplantation and mechanical circulatory support ruled out.

Cardiac cachexia.

Clinically judged to be close to end of life.

Key components of palliative care service in patients with heart failure

Focus on improving or maintaining the quality of life of a patient and his/her family as well as possible until he/she dies.

Frequent assessment of symptoms (including dyspnoea and pain) resulting from advanced heart failure and other co-morbidities and focus on symptom relief.

Access for the patient and his/her family to psychological support and spiritual care according to need.

Advanced care planning, taking account of preferences for place of death and resuscitation (which may include deactivating devices, such as pacemaker and/or implantable cardioverter defibrillator).

43



HADES study



Objective:

To determine variables which most likely predict death at one year in patients in advanced stages of heart failure (NYHA IV)

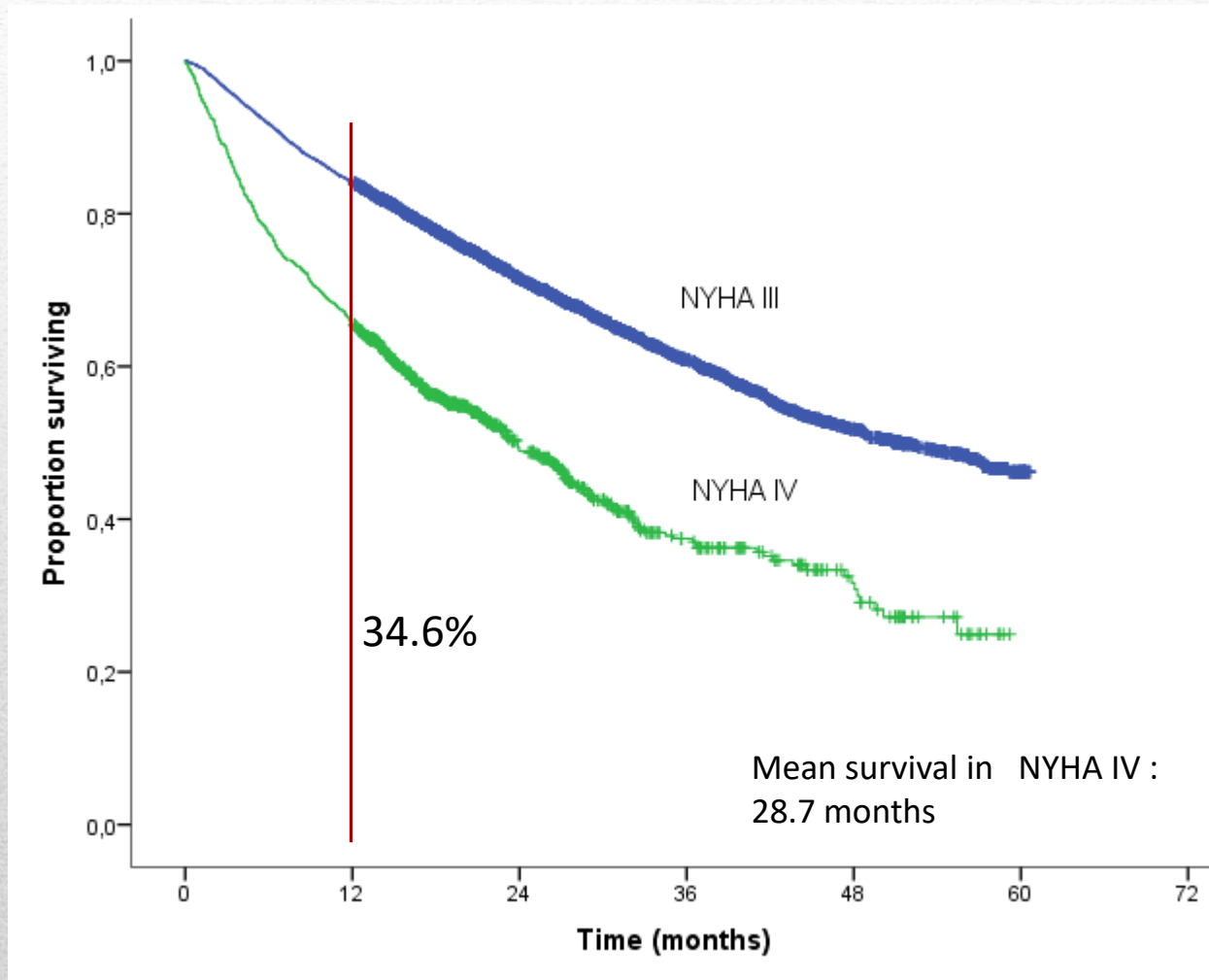
Design: retrospective cohort study

Period: 1st Jan 2010 to 31st Dec 2014

Data source :

primary care electronic medical records (SIDIAP)

Mortality in NYHA IV patients attended in primary care: HADES study (Heart failure in ADvancEd Stages)



Mortality in heart failure patients after reaching NYHA IV

	Six months N=259				One year N=397			
	N	HR	95% CI		N	HR	95% CI	
Men	1148	1,60	1,17	2,20	1148	1,77	1,33	2,34
Age (years)	1148	1,05	1,03	1,07	1148	1,05	1,03	1,07
Barthel Index <20	734	1,62	0,95	2,74	734	1,35	0,84	2,19
Cancer	1148	1,50	1,06	2,15	1148	1,60	1,15	2,23
SBP <=90 mm/Hg	1070	2,80	1,33	5,88	1070	2,49	1,19	5,20
BMI <=20 kg/m ²	855	4,42	2,08	9,38	855	3,68	1,76	7,69
Chalson>=6	816	1,73	1,07	2,81	1148	1,37	0,93	2,01
Glomerular filtration <30	783	0,94	0,85	1,04	816	1,86	1,21	2,87
Haemoglobin	1148	1,60	1,17	2,20	783	0,93	0,85	1,01

Unanswered questions

- Active case finding, when and in which patients?
- What is the best cut off for Natriuretic Peptides (NT pro BNP) to rule out HF (Nice guidelines 400 pg/mL, ESC 125 pg/mL, own research 280 pg/mL)
- What is the prognoses and evolution of HFmEF ?
- What is the better treatment for HEpEF patients?
- Role and management of comorbidities.
- How can patients in the end stages be better identified and managed ?

Adapted from Rutten et al. Practical Guidance on Heart Failure Diagnosis and Management in Primary Care. EPCCS.

Take home messages

GP must know the best options for treating their patients according to their structural limitations.

GP should be committed to continuously learn and be up dated

GP have to be aware that each patient is, in many ways different to the other ones and may have different needs and wishes.

GP must do research to generate evidences coming from our own setting
