



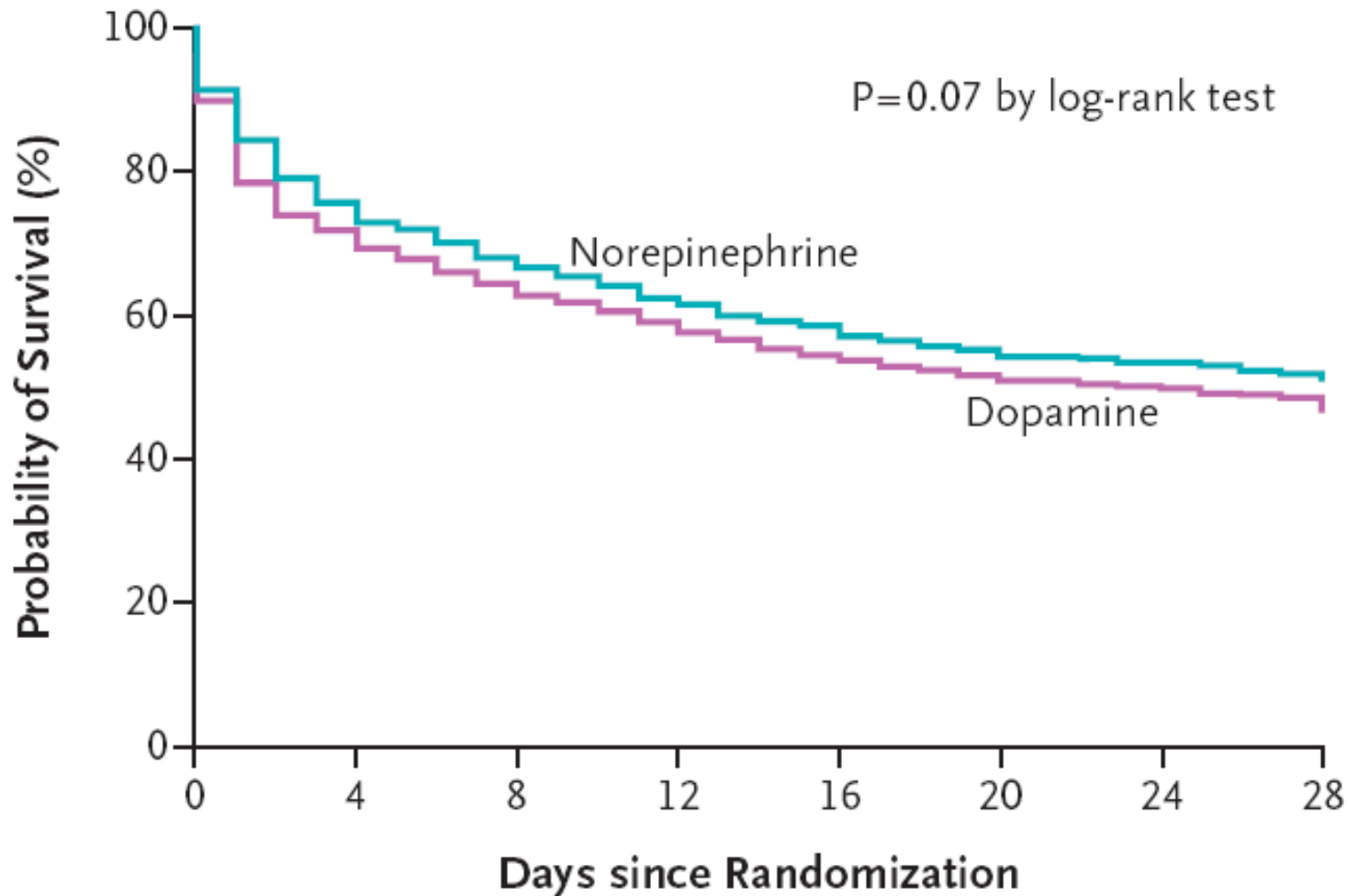
# Quelle place pour la vasopressine et les bêta-bloquants?

**Daniel De Backer**

**Head Intensive Care, CHIREC hospitals, Belgium  
Professor of Intensive Care, Université Libre de Bruxelles  
Past- President European Society of Intensive Care Medicine**

# Norepinephrine vs Dopamine in shock (SOAP investigators)

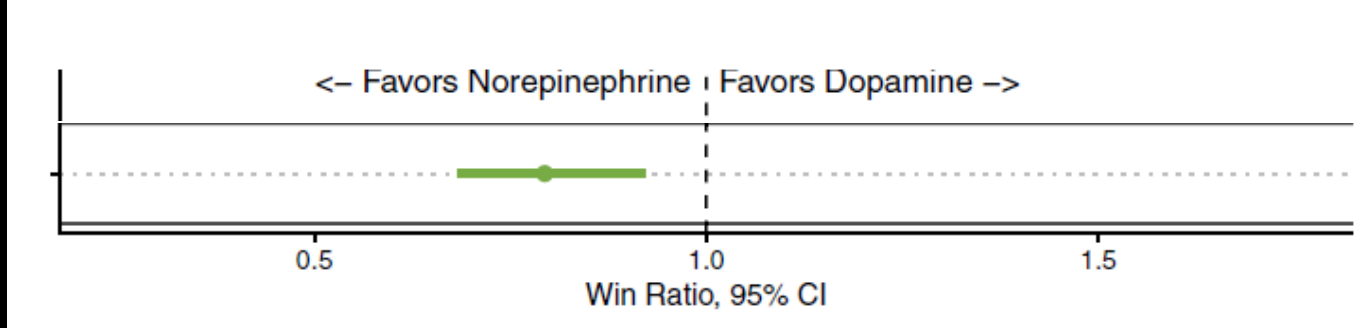
De Backer et al  
NEJM 362: 779; 2010



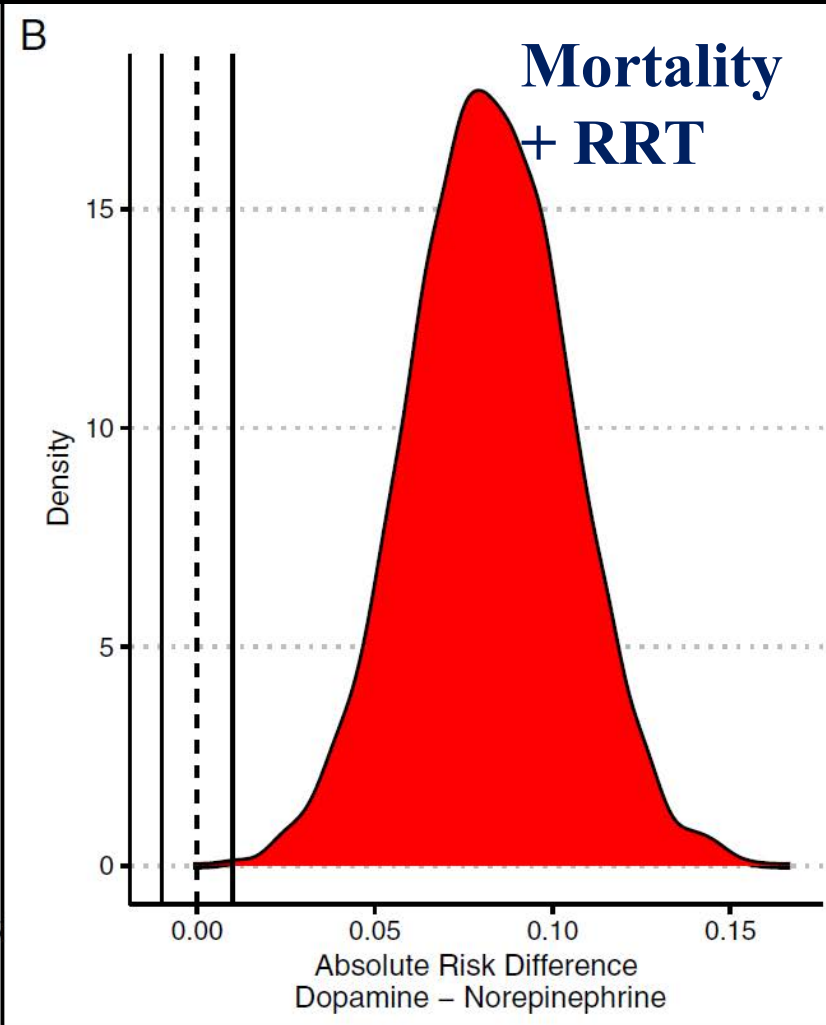
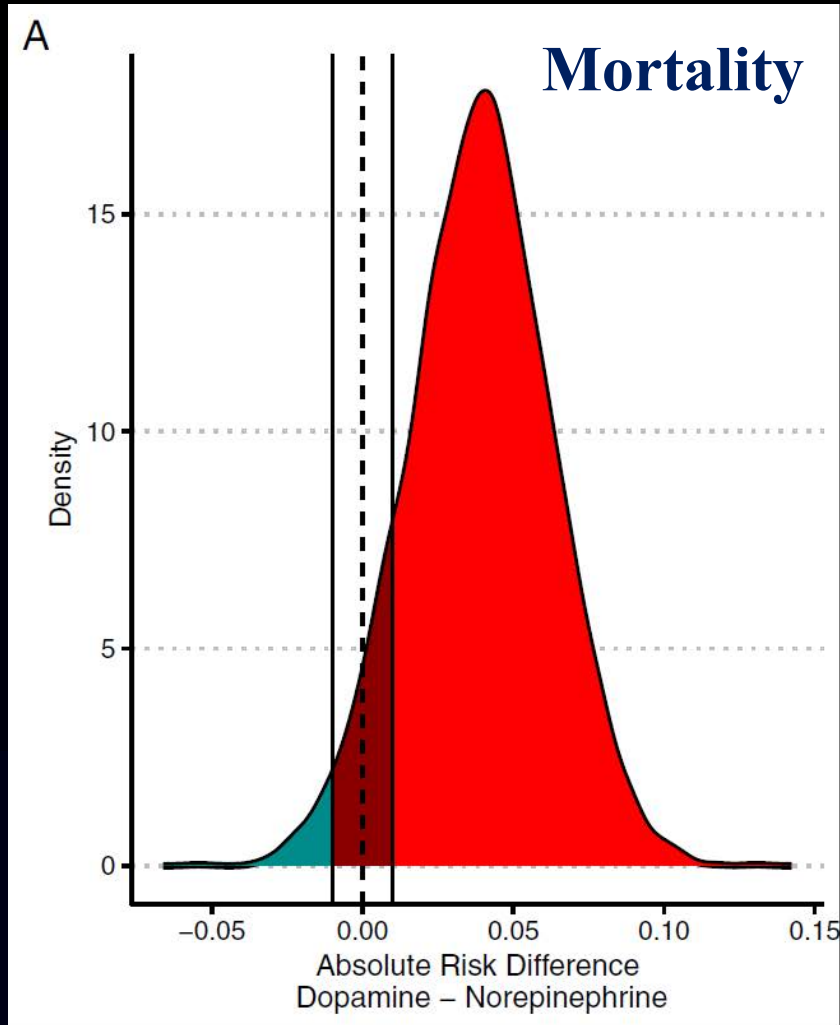
## No. at Risk

Norepinephrine	821	617	553	504	467	432	412	394
Dopamine	858	611	546	494	452	426	407	386

# Exploration of different statistical approaches in the comparison of dopamine and norepinephrine in the treatment of shock: SOAP II



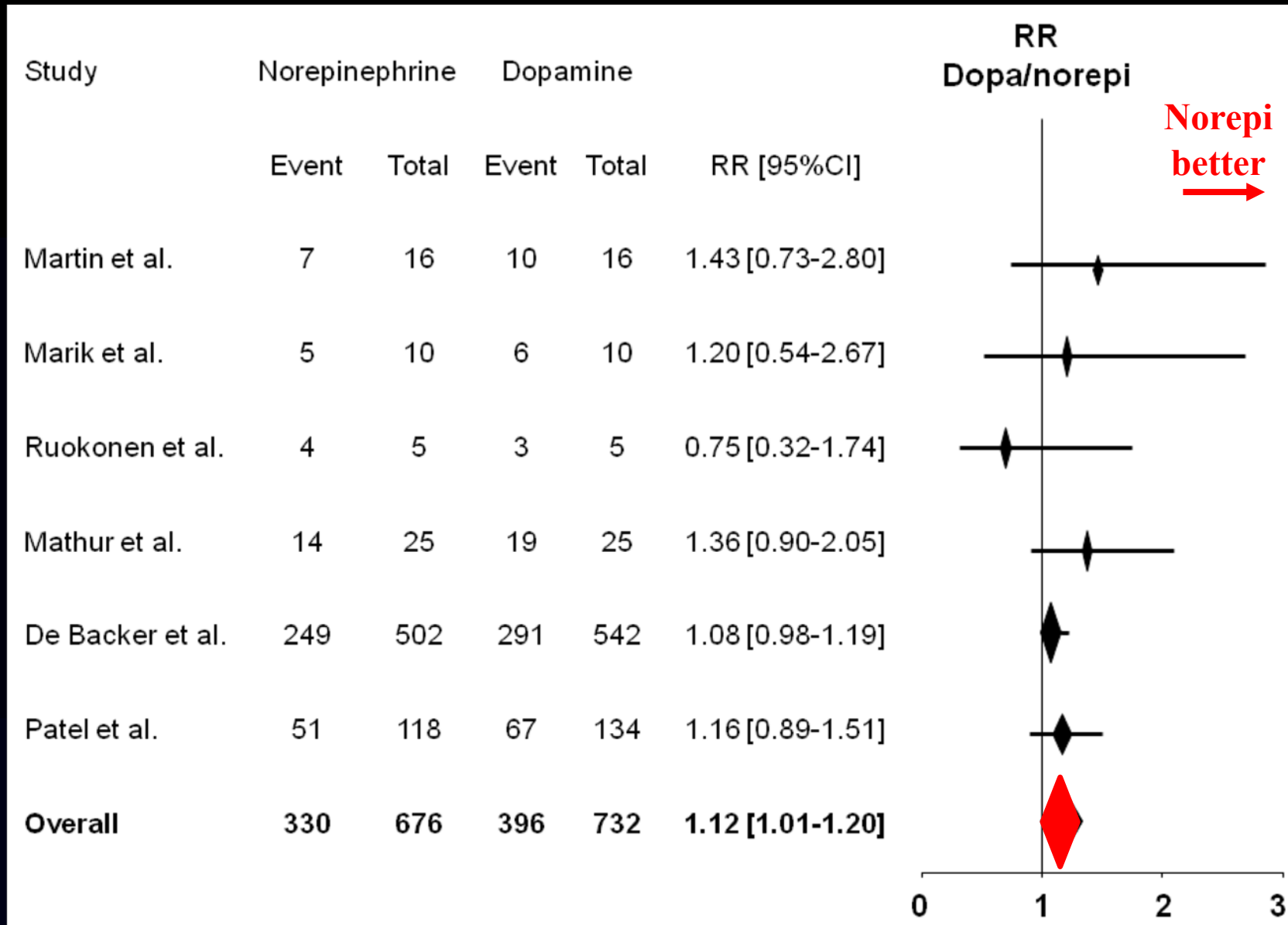
Zampieri F et al  
Crit Care 2024



# Dopamine vs norepinephrine in septic shock

## A meta-analysis

De Backer et al  
CCM 40:725:2012



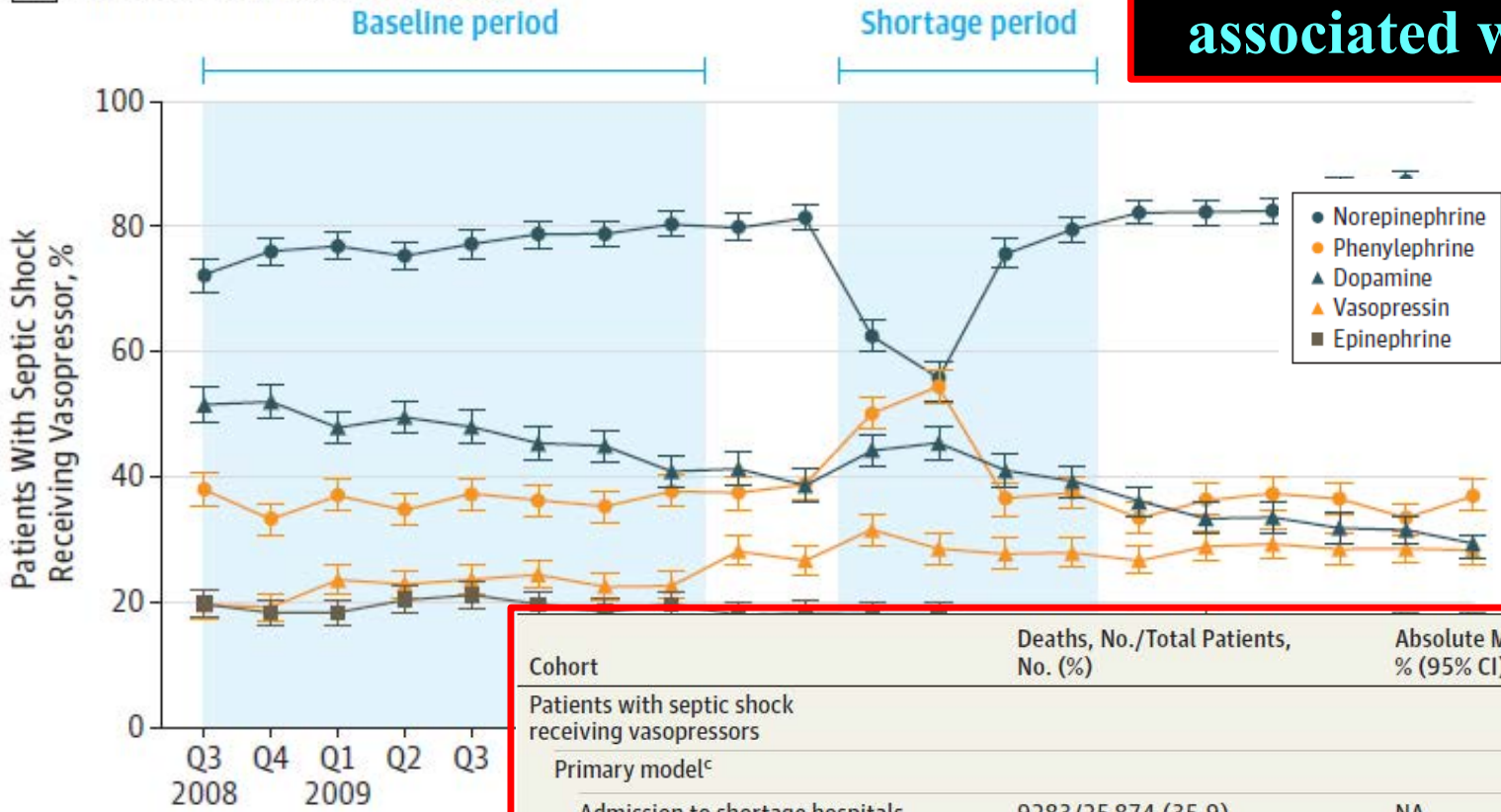
# Association Between US Norepinephrine Shortage and Mortality Among Patients With Septic Shock

Vail E et al  
JAMA 2017

Emily Vail, MD; Hayley B. Gershengorn, MD; May Hua, MD, MSc; Allan J. Walkey, MD, MSc; Gordon Rubenfeld, MD, MSc; Hannah Wunsch, MD, MSc

**Shifting from norepi to phenylephrine + dopamine was associated with increased mortality**

**B** Shortage hospitals (26 hospitals)



Cohort	Deaths, No./Total Patients, No. (%)	Absolute Mortality Difference, % (95% CI) <sup>a</sup>	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI) <sup>b</sup>	P Value
Patients with septic shock receiving vasopressors				
Primary model <sup>c</sup>				
Admission to shortage hospitals during a nonshortage quarter	9283/25 874 (35.9)	NA	1 [Reference]	
Admission to shortage hospitals during a quarter of 2011 in which norepinephrine use decreased >20% below baseline	777/1961 (39.6)	3.7 (1.5-6.0)	1.15 (1.01-1.30)	.03

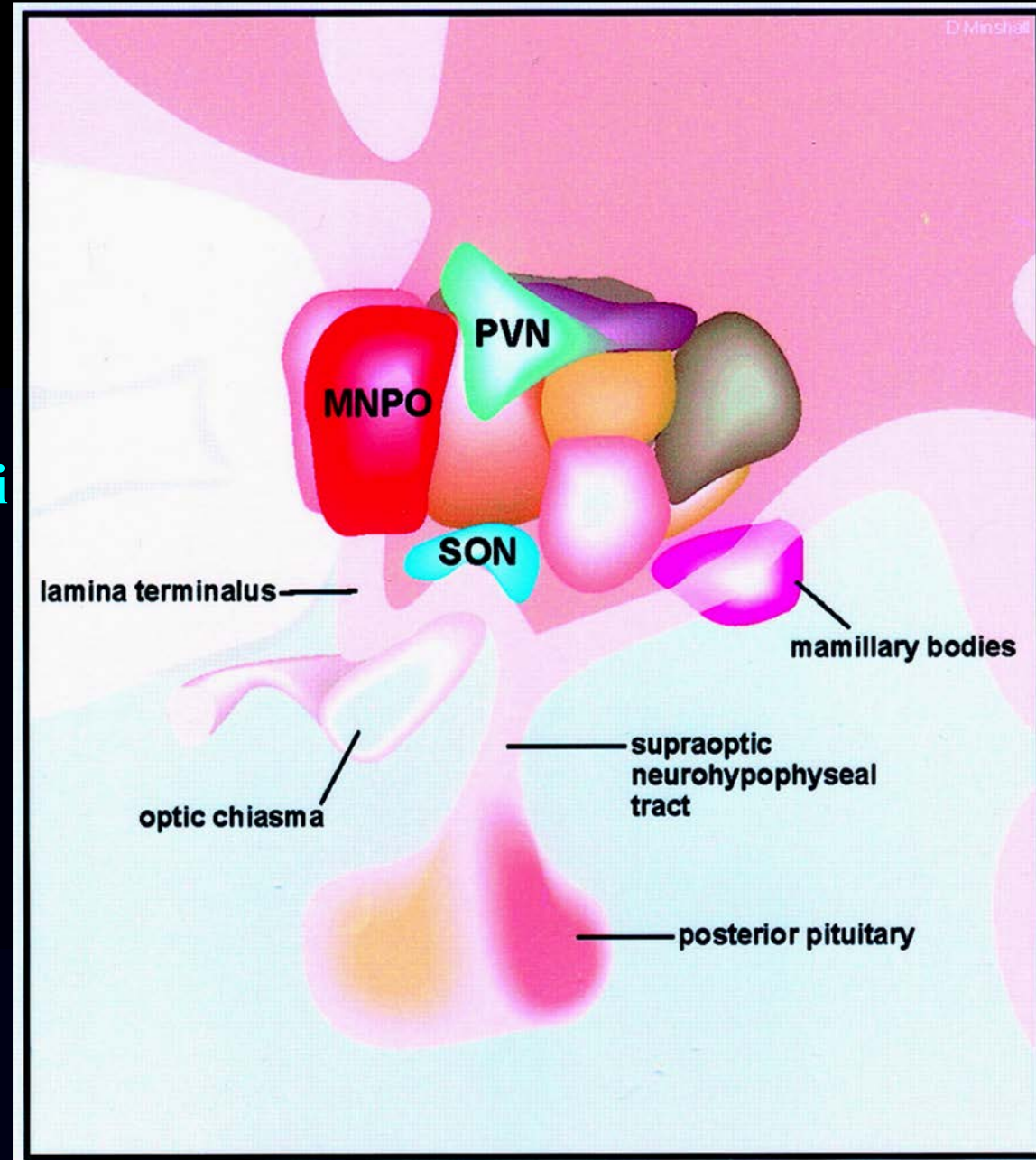
A close-up photograph of a blue and white plaid fabric. A large, textured, reddish-brown stain is visible in the center, resembling a bloodstain or a large spill. The stain has irregular, feathered edges and a mottled appearance. The plaid pattern consists of intersecting blue and white lines on a dark background.

**Vasopressin as an alternative?**

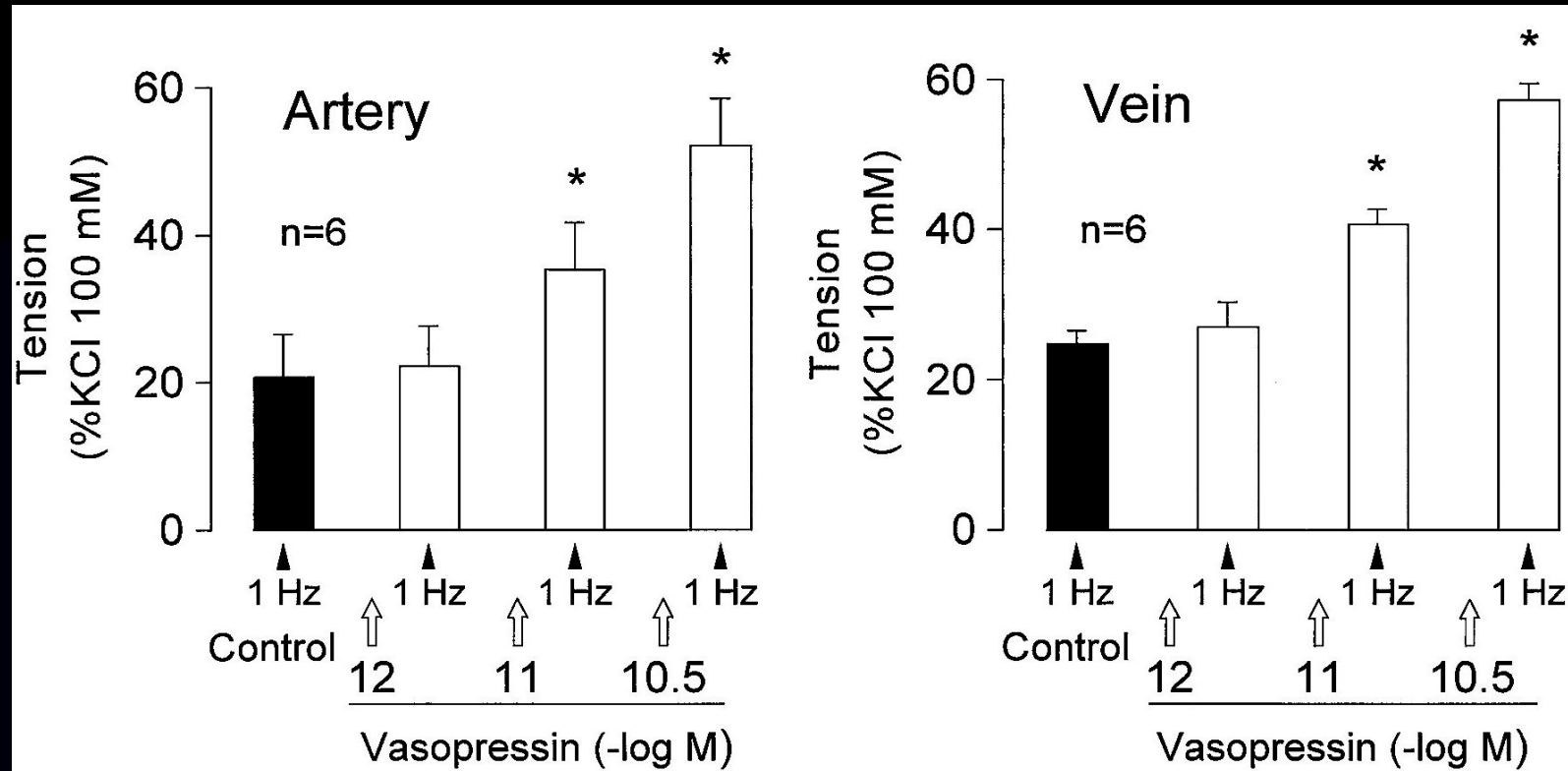
# VASOPRESSIN

Holmes et al  
Chest 120:989;2001

- Nonapeptide hormone synthesized in supraoptic and paraventricular nuclei of the hypothalamus
- Transported and stored in the posterior pituitary



## Pressure regulation



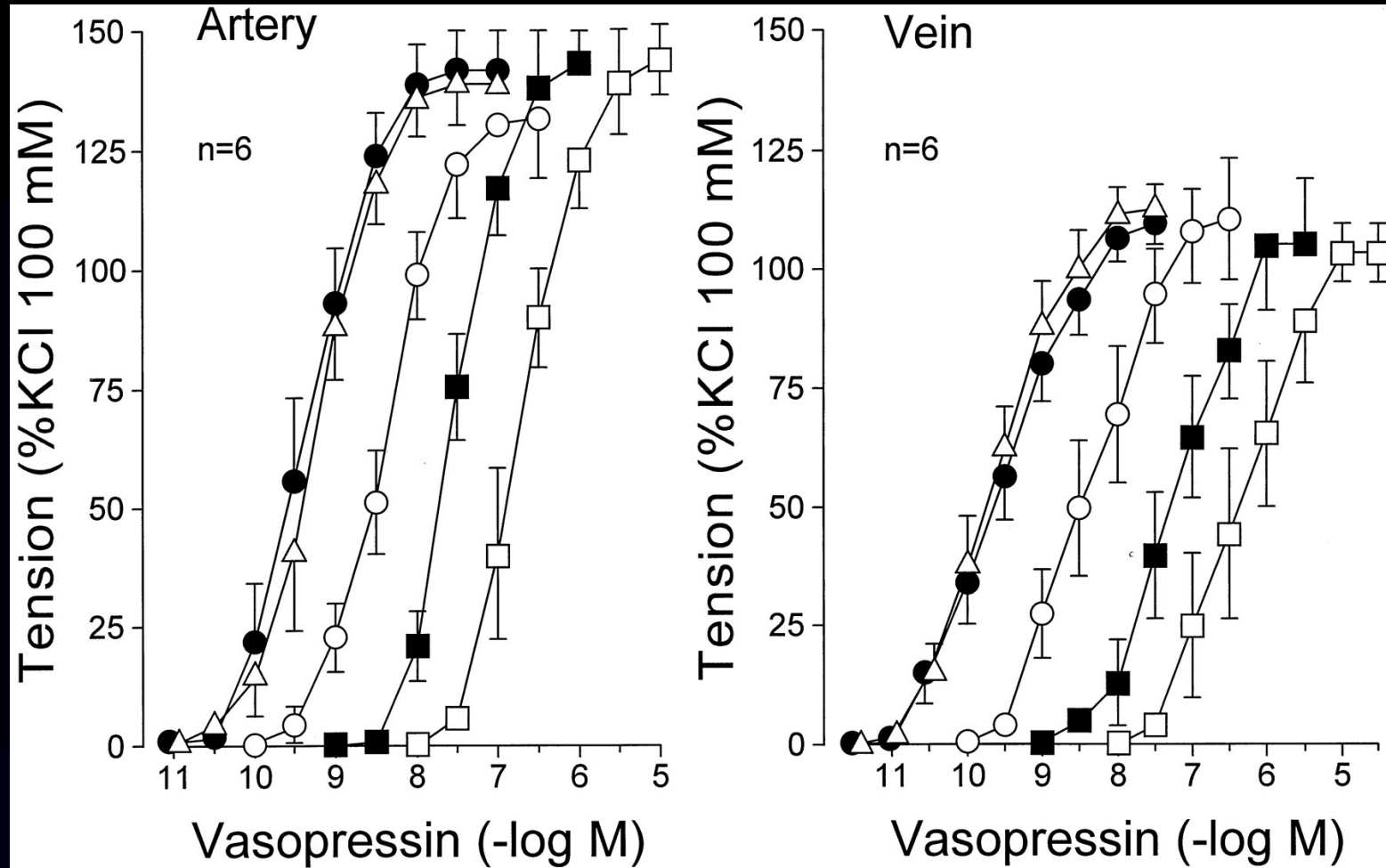
**Vasopressin induces arterial and venous constriction**



# Physiologic effects of vasopressin:

Segarra et al  
J Pharm Exp Ther  
286: 1315; 1998

**V1 receptor receptors are implicated in vasopressin induced vasoconstriction**

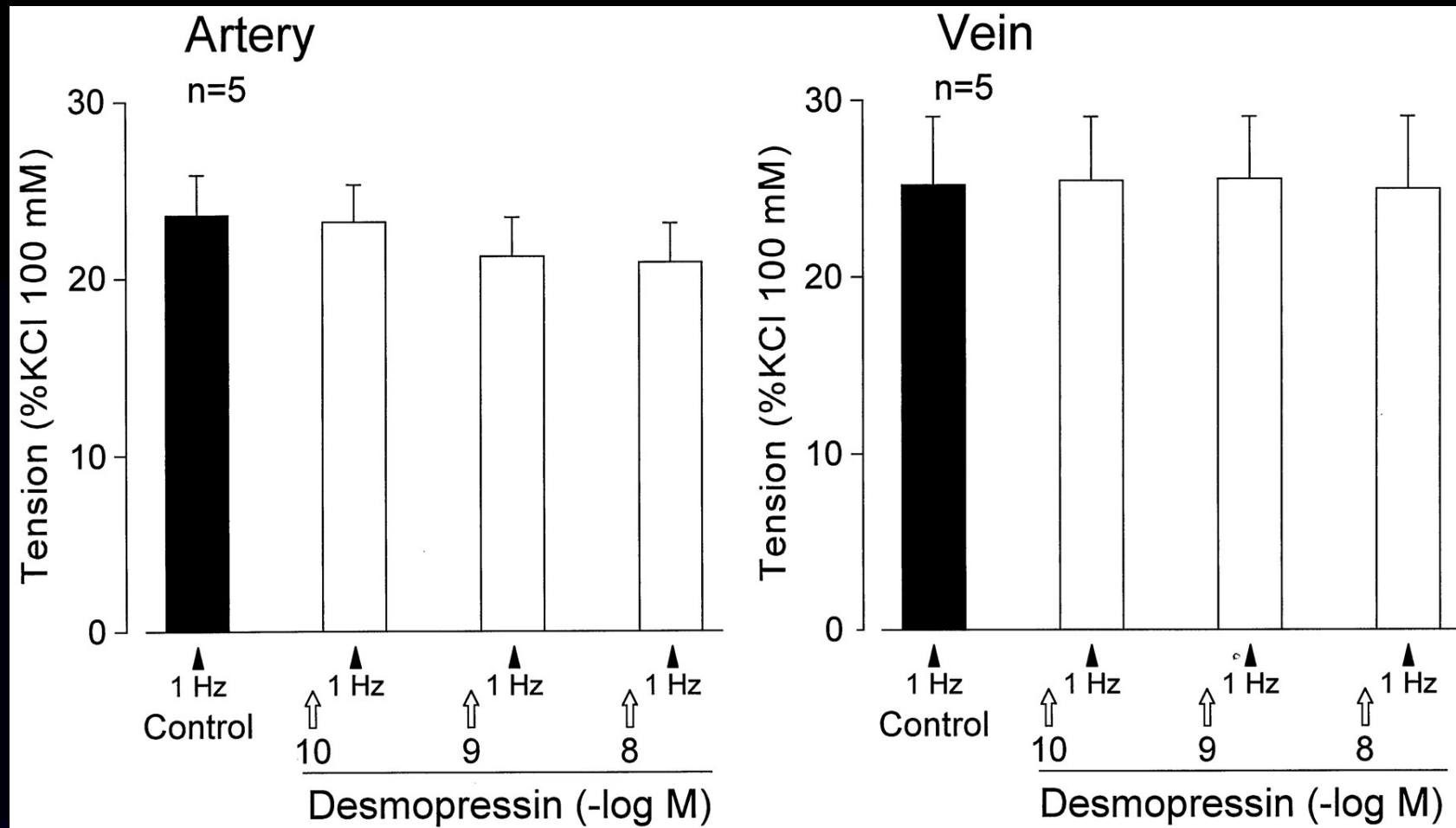


● ctrl

==> increasing dose of V1 antagonist

# Physiologic effects of vasopressin:

Segarra et al  
J Pharm Exp Ther  
286: 1315; 1998

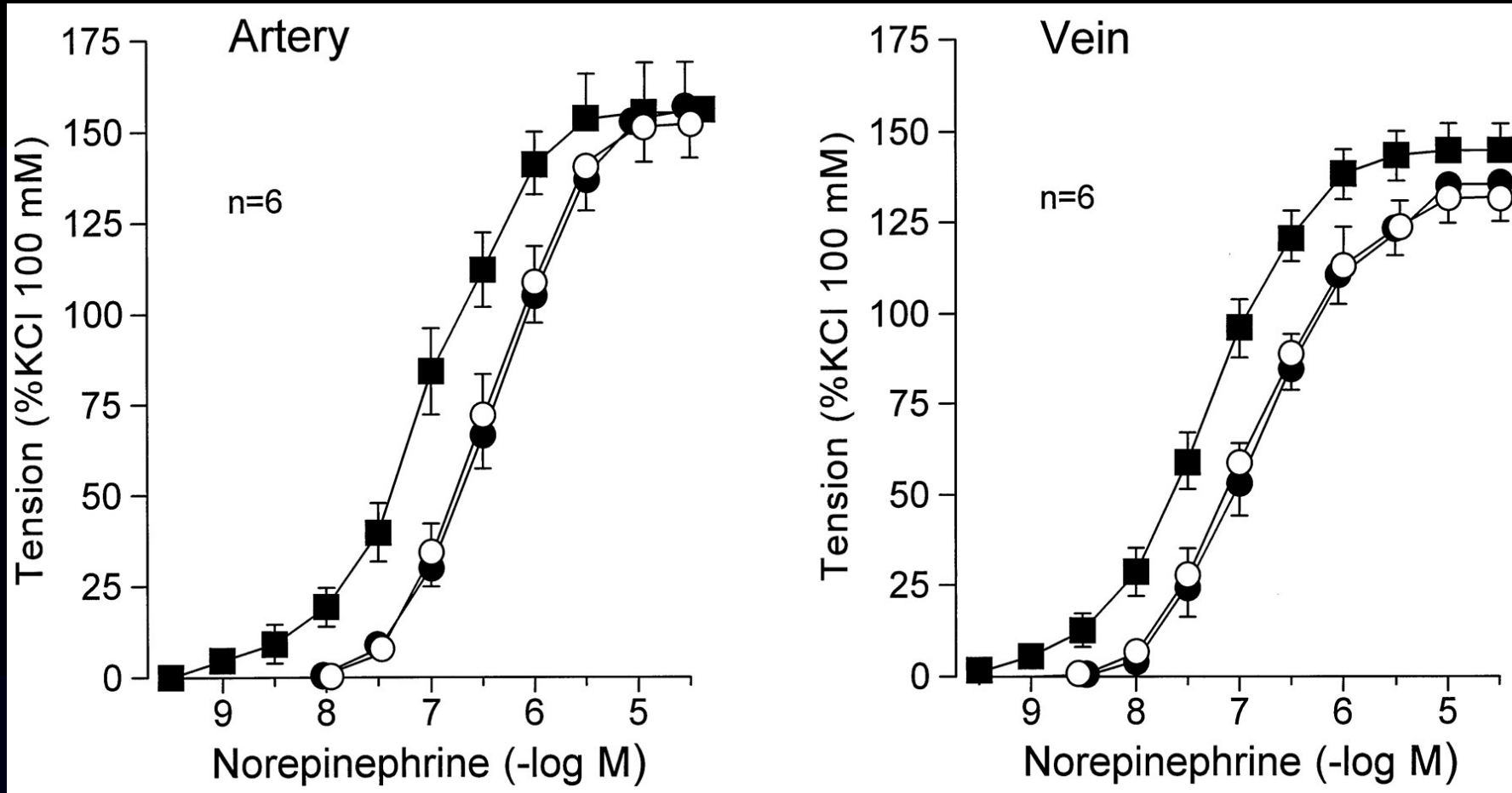


**V1 but not V2 receptor stimulation  
induces arterial and venous constriction**

# Physiologic effects of vasopressin:

**V1 receptor stimulation potentiates the pressor effects of alpha adrenergic agents**

Segarra et al  
J Pharm Exp Ther  
286: 1315; 1998



○ ctrl    ● Vasopressin antag    ■ vasopressin    DDB USI

# Physiologic effects of vasopressin:

- **V1 receptor => vasoconstriction**  
vascular smooth muscle  
kidney, platelets, uterus
- **V2 receptor**  
renal collecting duct (cAMP)  
=> **antidiuretic action**  
endothelium => **dilation (NO)**  
platelets => **aggregation**
- **V3 receptor**  
pituitary => **ACTH release**
- **OTR receptor**  
uterus => **vasoconstriction**  
endothelium => **vasodilation (NO)**

# VASOPRESSIN

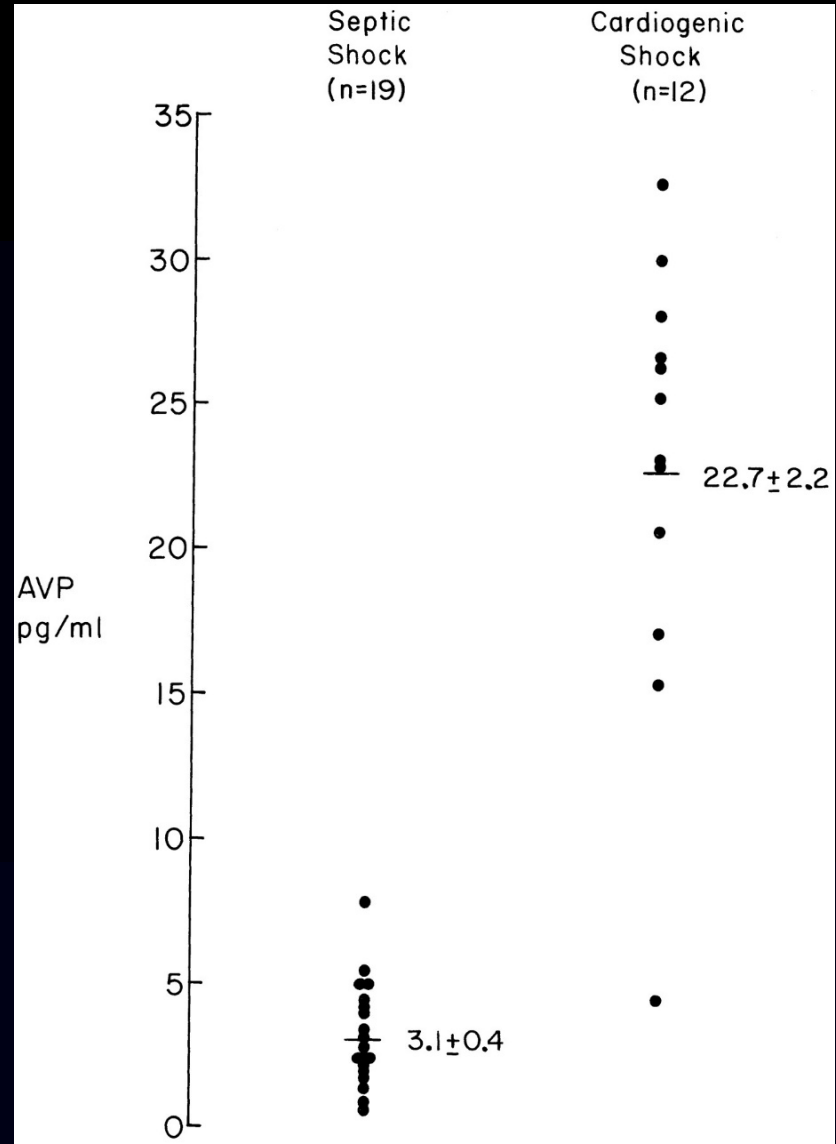
## Vasopressin deficiency in (septic) shock

- **Depletion of neurohypophysal stores**  
excessive stimulation (hypoxia, acidosis, hypotension)  
only 20% VP pool can be released
- **Decreased stimulation of VP release**  
impaired autonomic reflexes  
inhibition by atrial stretch receptor (volume loading, mech vent)
- **Inhibition of VP release**  
high NO and norepinephrine levels inhibit VP release

# VASOPRESSIN

## Vasopressin deficiency in septic shock

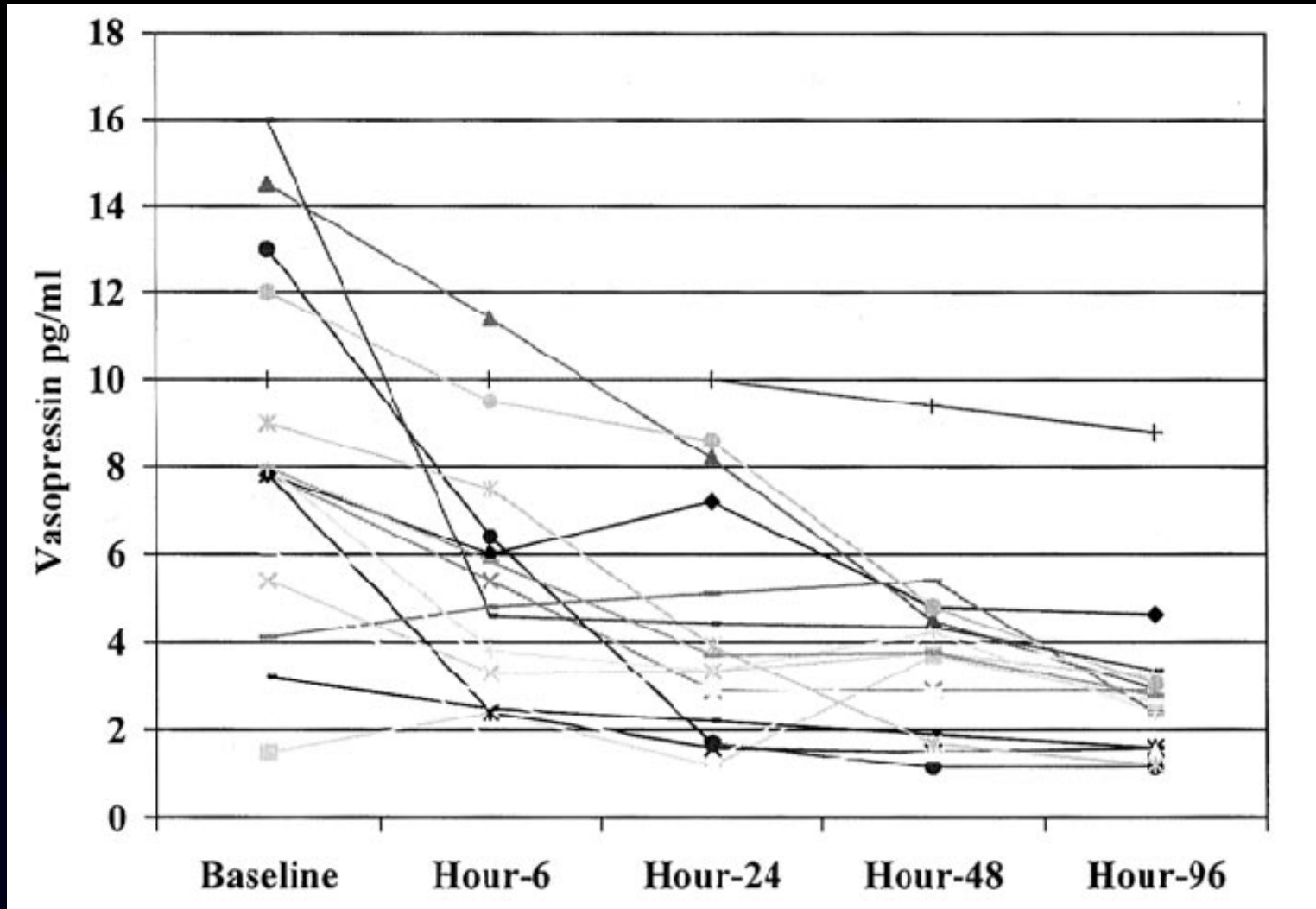
Landry et al  
Circ 95:1122;1997



# Vasopressin levels in septic shock

Sharshar et al  
CCM 31:1752;2003

VP levels decrease with time

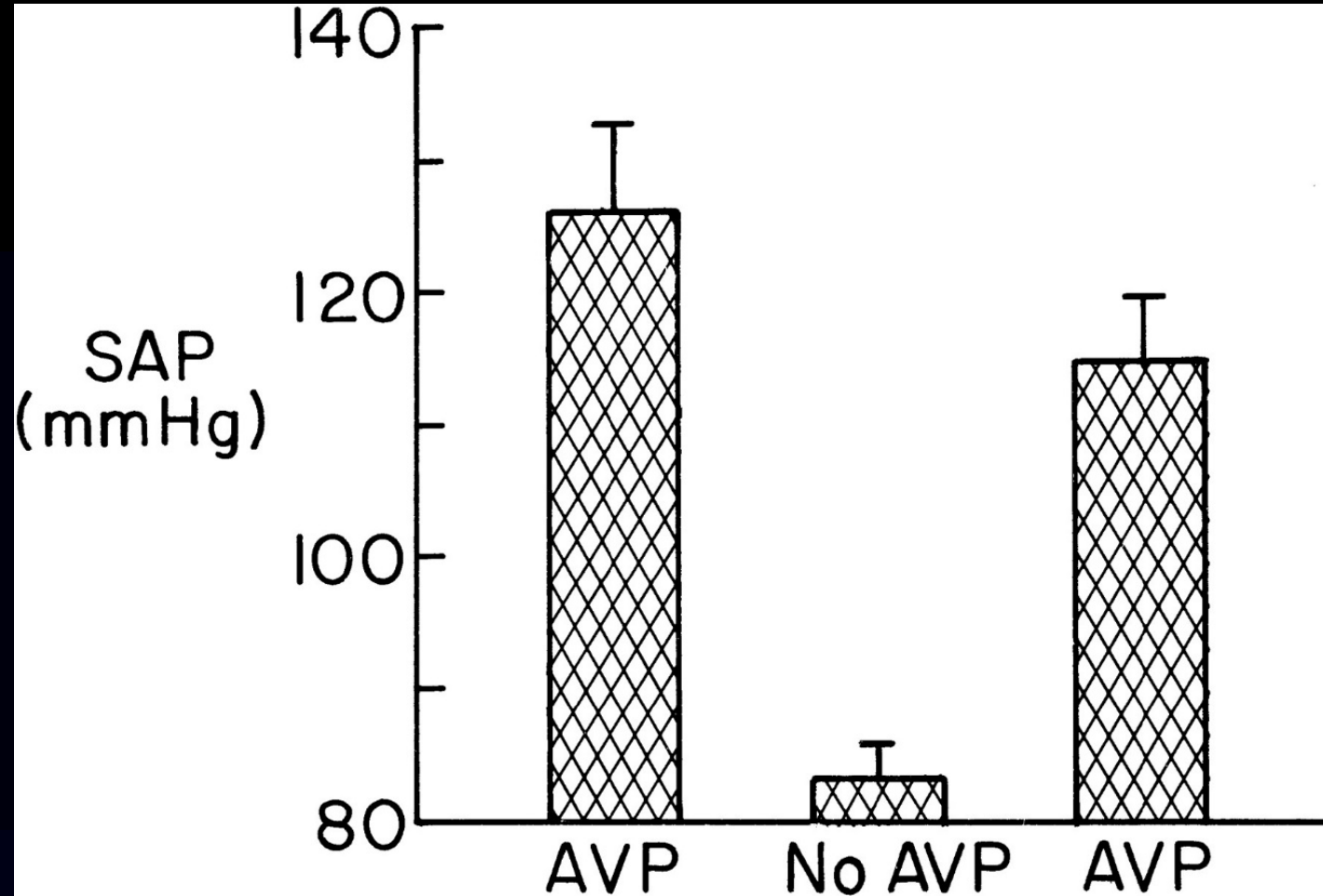


Septic shock n=18

# VASOPRESSIN

## Vasopressin deficiency in septic shock

Landry et al  
Circ 95:1122;1997

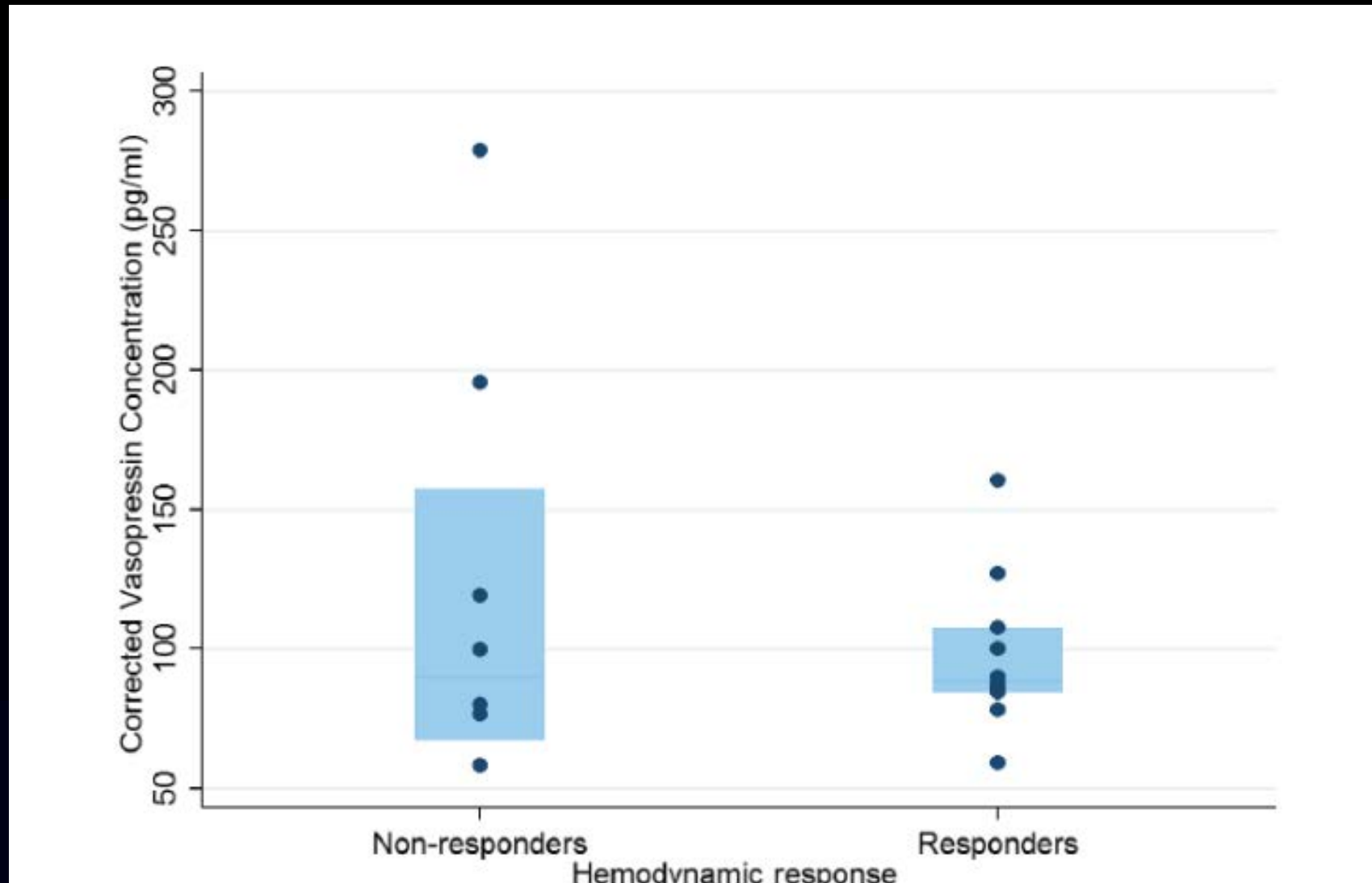


=> restoration of blood pressure by the administration of a small dose of vasopressin (0.04 u/min) normalizing VP levels



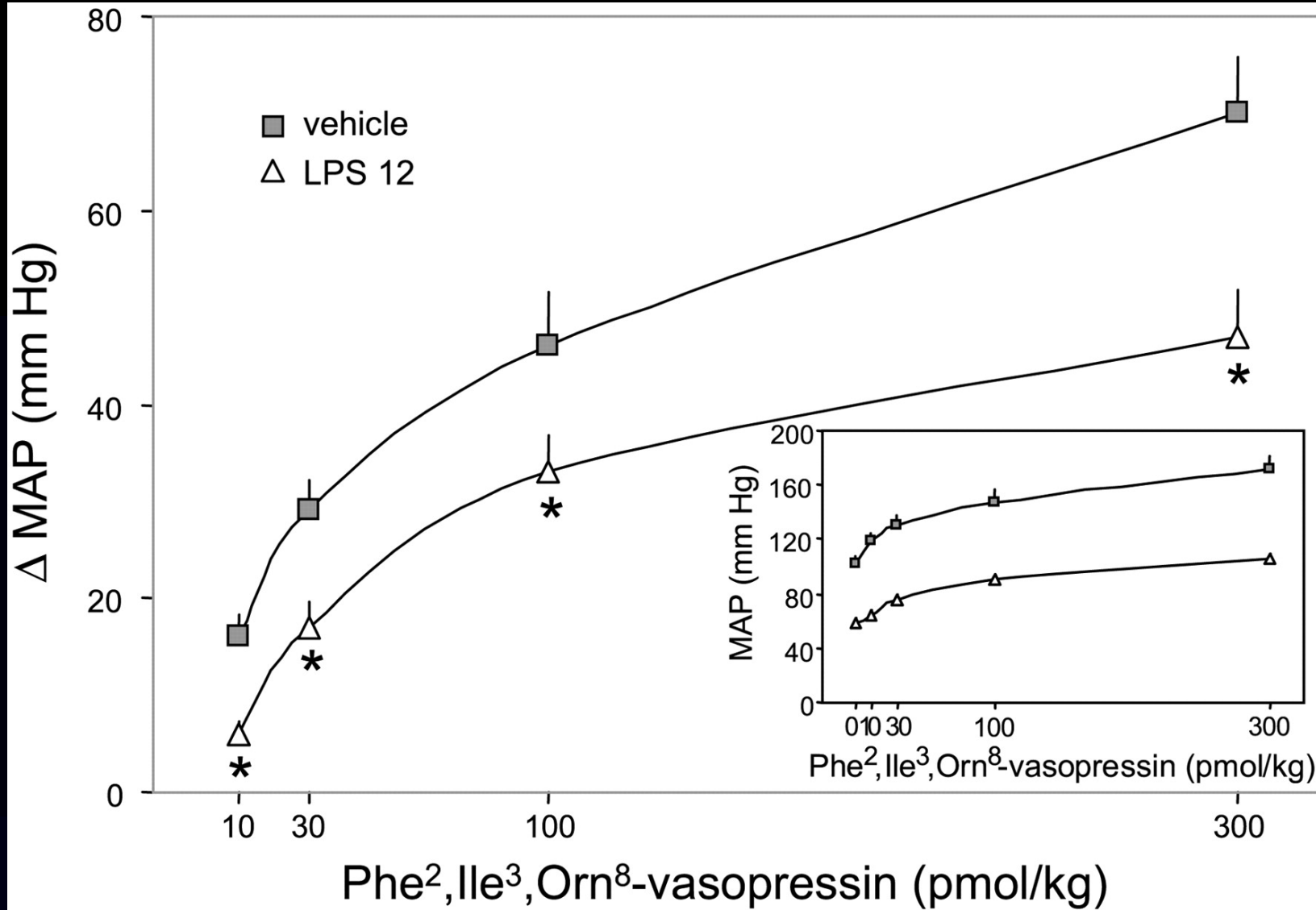
# Vasopressin Plasma Concentrations Are Not Associated with Hemodynamic Response to Exogenous Vasopressin for Septic Shock

Yerke J et al  
Pharmacotherapy  
2020



# DOWN REGULATION OF VASOPRESSIN RECEPTORS

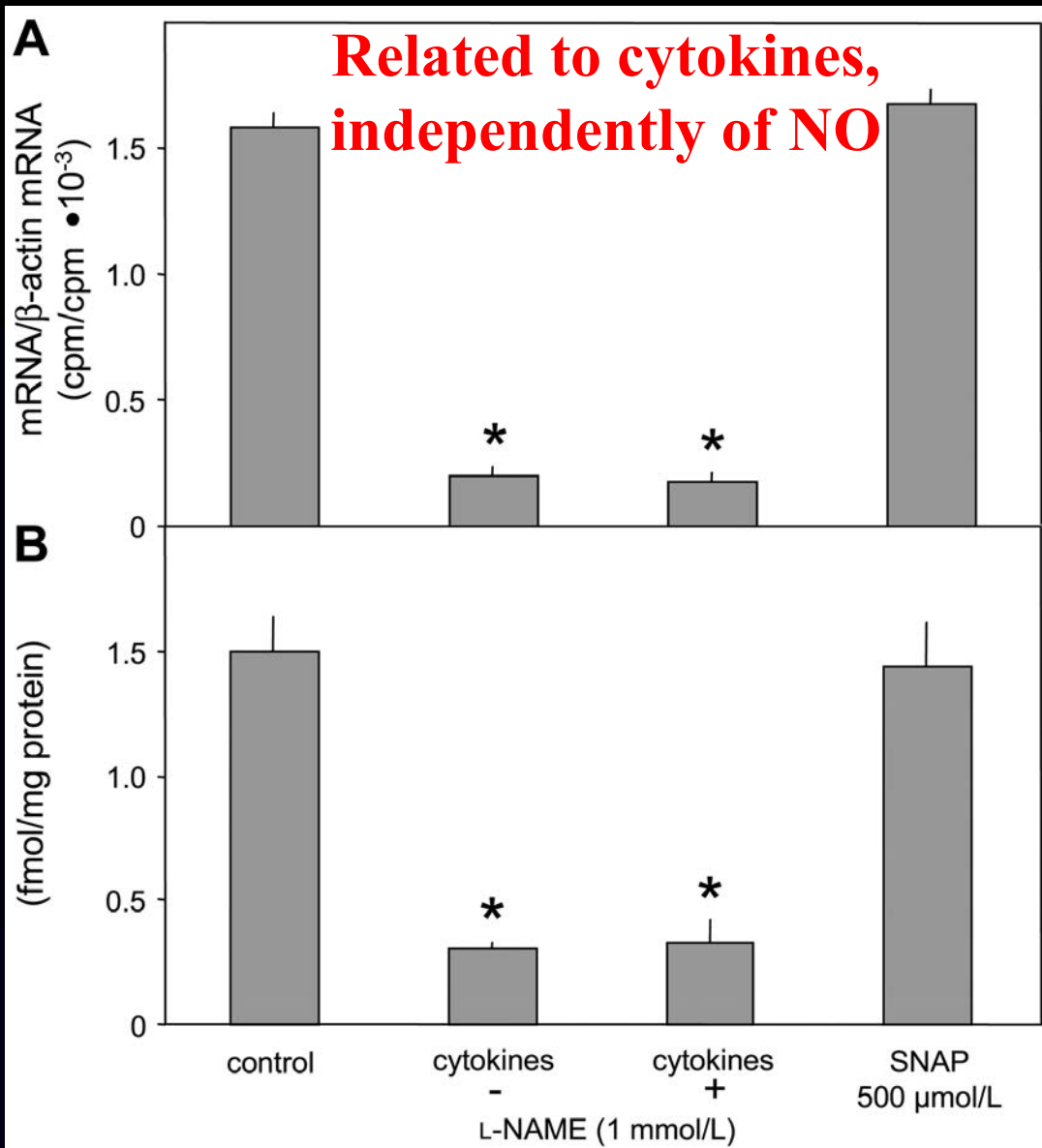
Bucher et al  
AJP 282:R979;2002



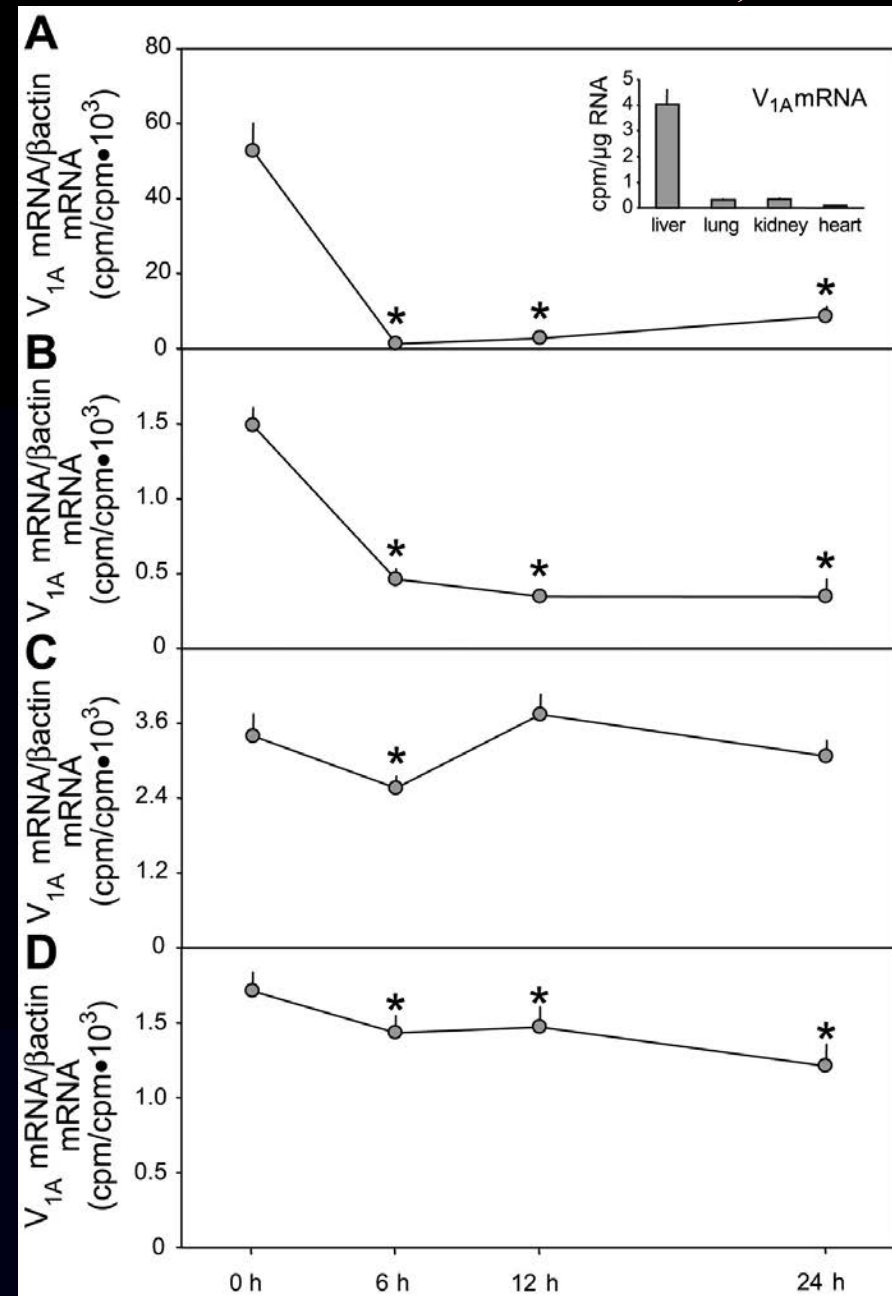
=> decreased sensibility to vasopressin in sepsis

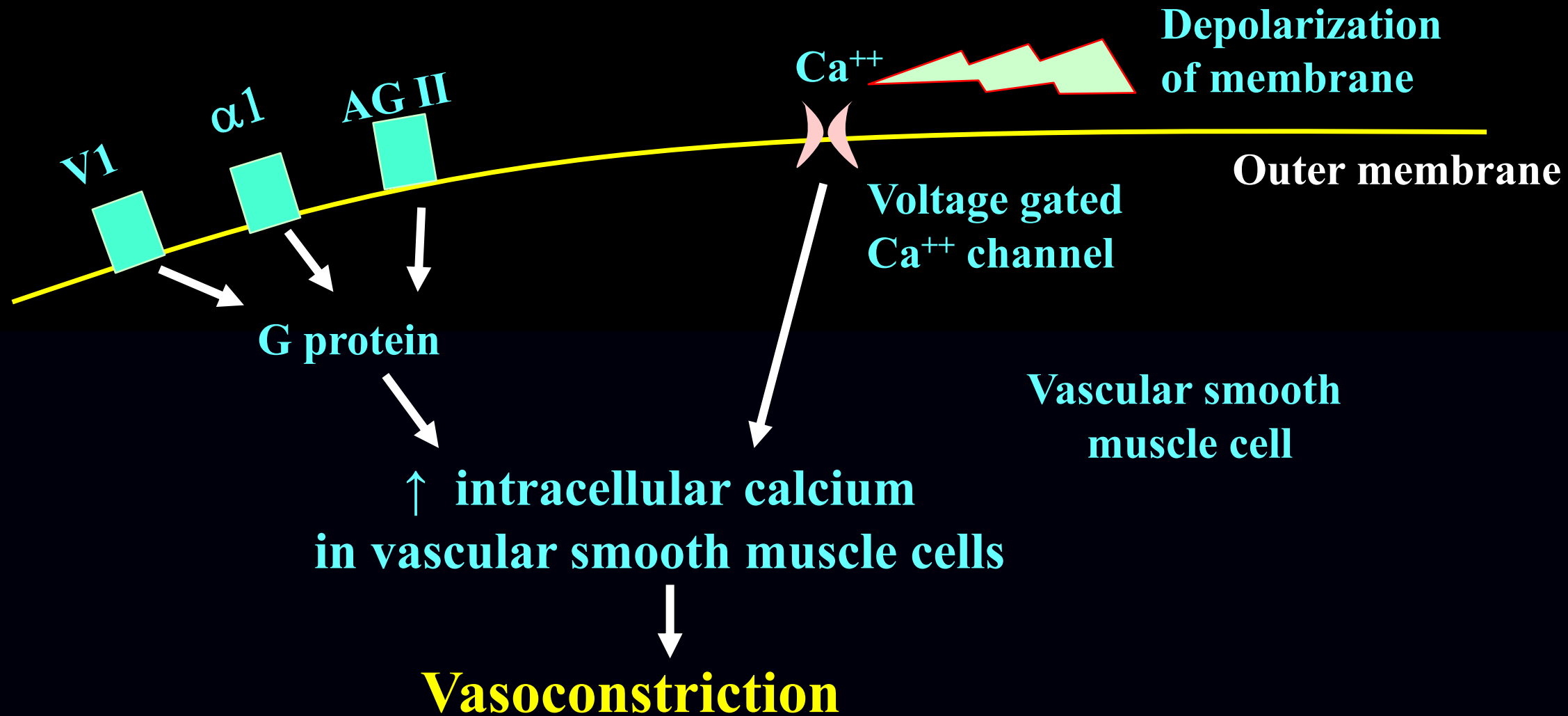
# DOWN REGULATION OF VASOPRESSIN RECEPTORS

Bucher et al  
AJP 282:R979;2002



Rapid decrease  
in V1 receptor  
mRNA  
transcription in  
various organs





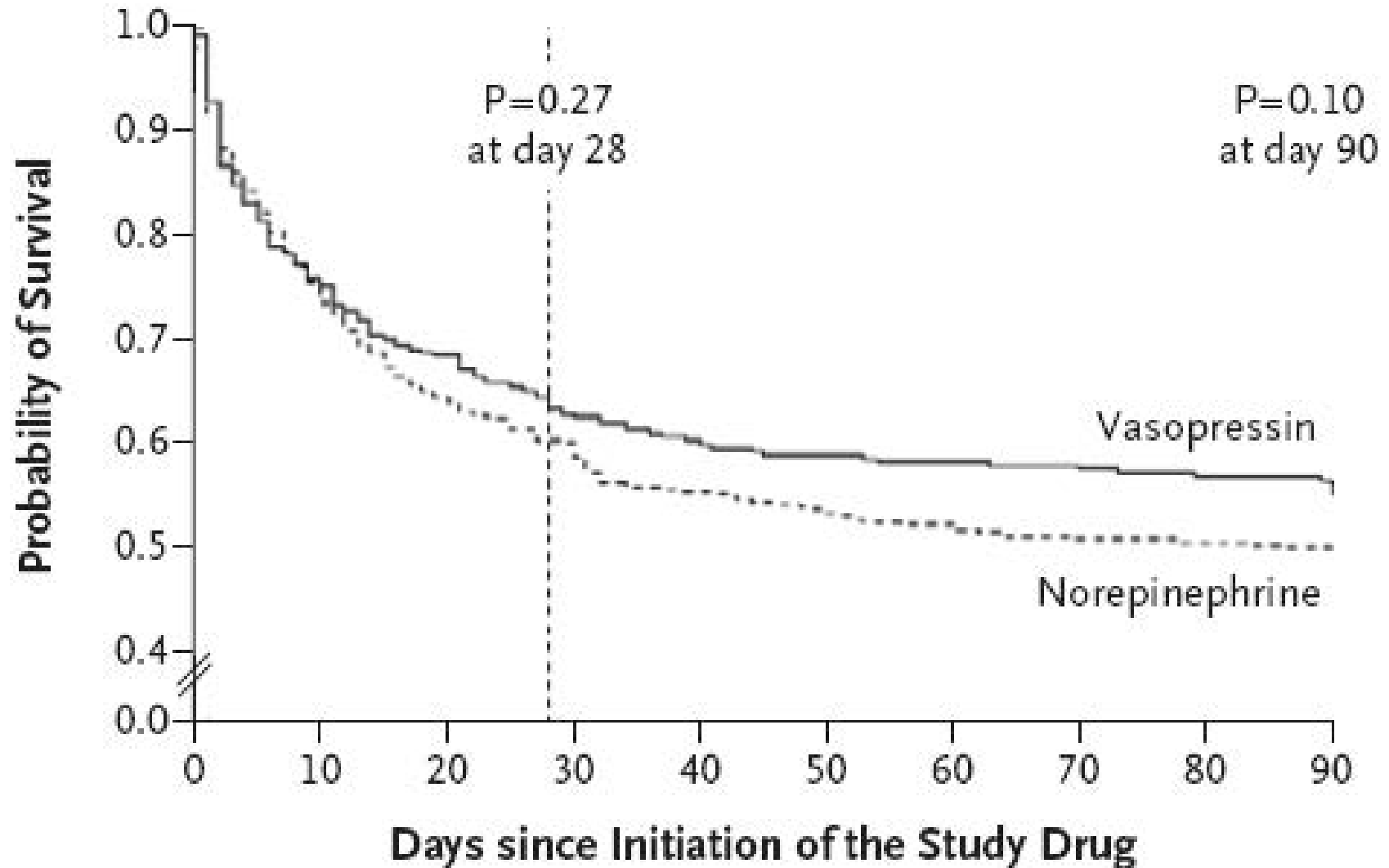
Differences arise due to receptor sensitivity and disposition in the vascular system, as well as stimulation of other receptors (beta/V2...)



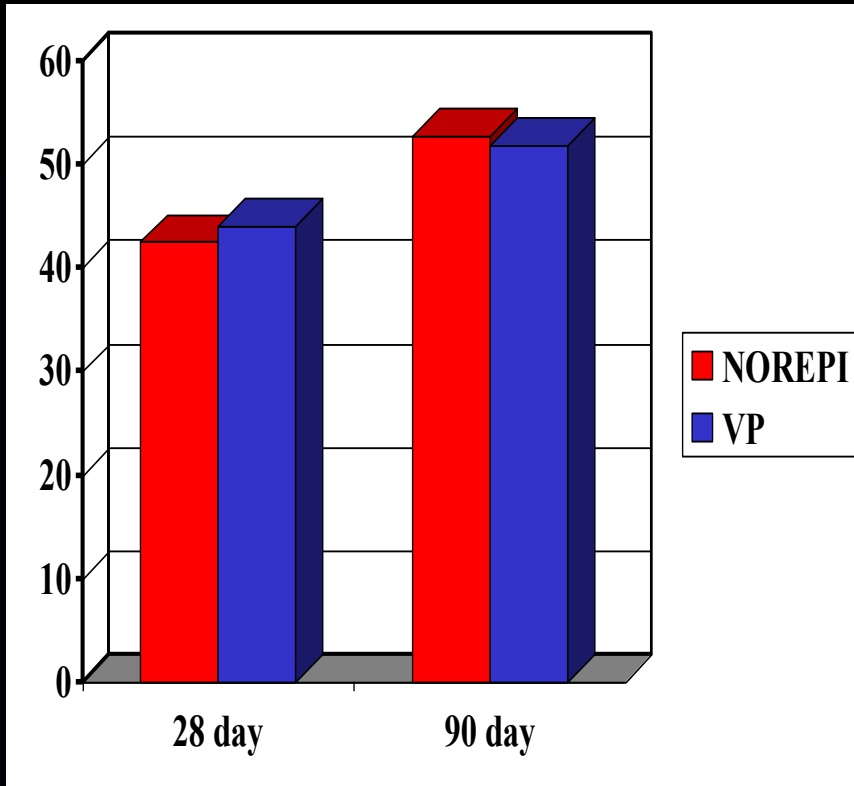
MODERATE

38

For adults with septic shock on norepinephrine with inadequate mean arterial pressure levels, we **suggest** adding vasopressin instead of escalating the dose of norepinephrine.

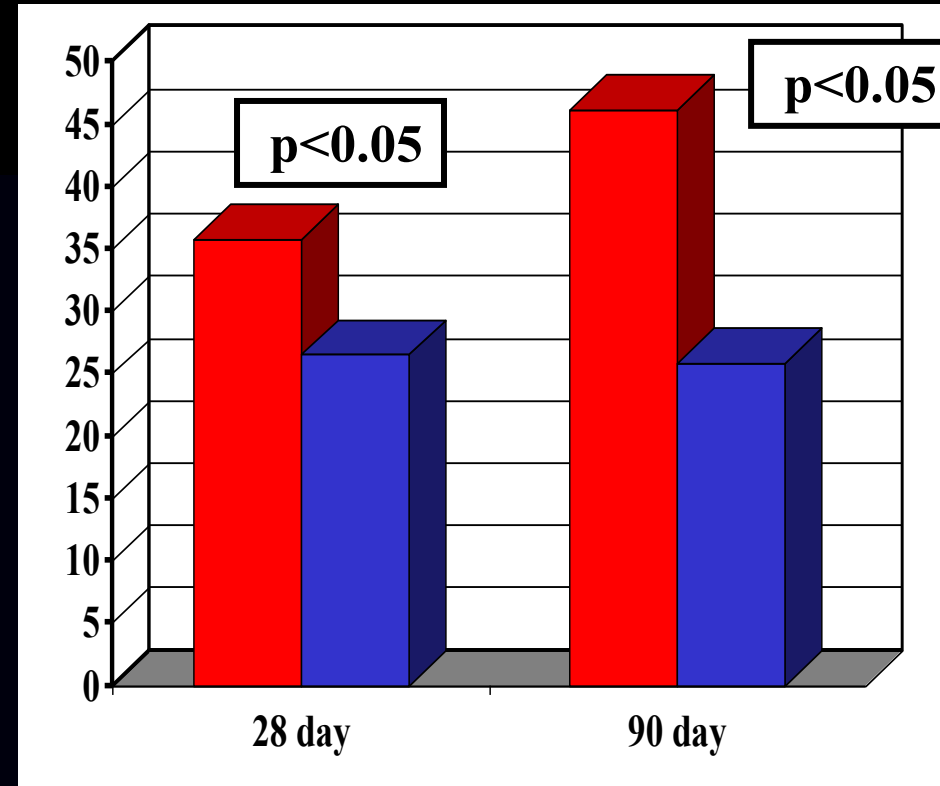


## Mortality (%) according to severity at baseline



**More severe n= 400**  
**(NE > 15 mcg/min)**

*(15 mcg/min ~0.19 - 0.21 mcg/kg.min for 80-70kg pts)*



**Less severe n= 378**  
**(NE < 15 mcg/min)**

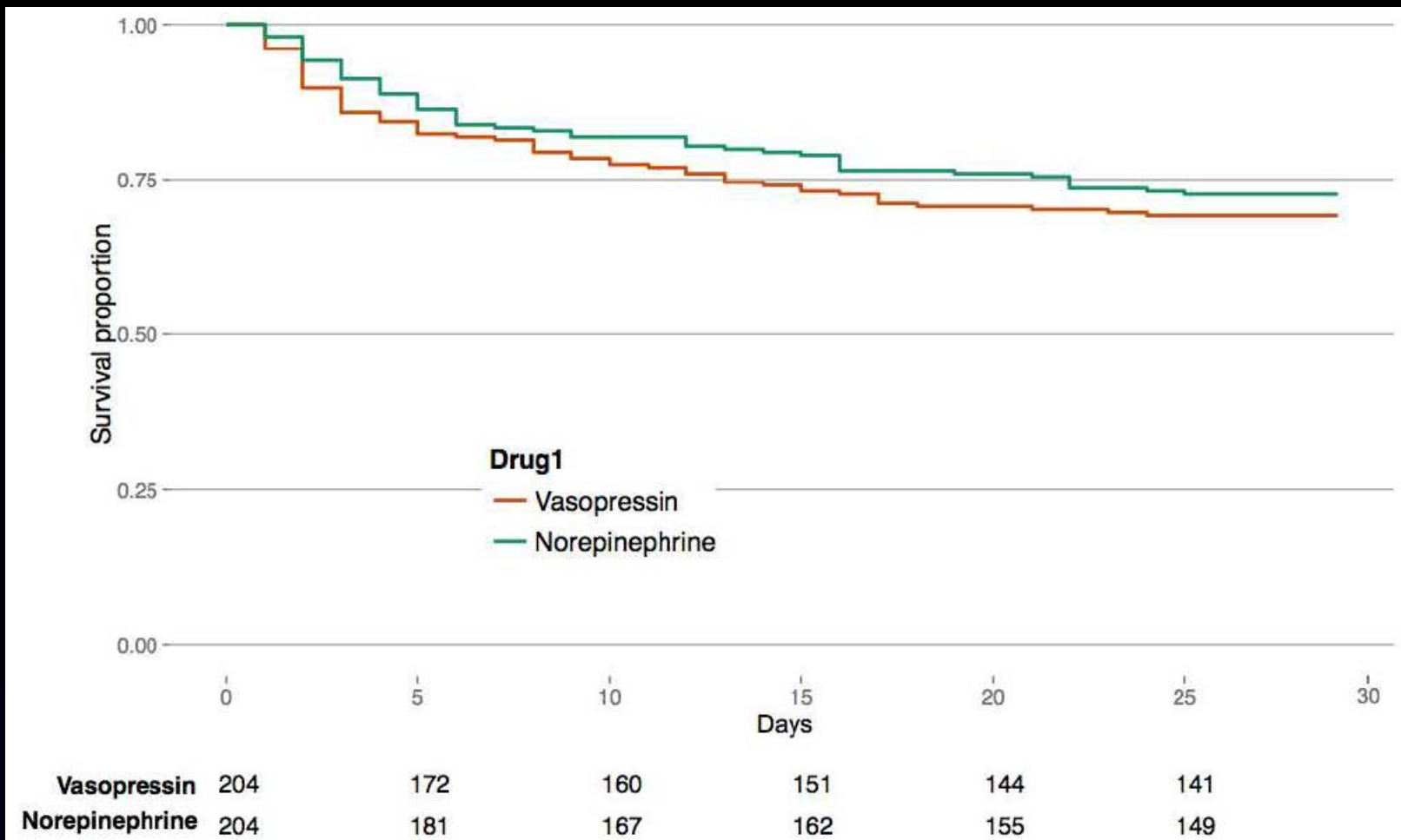
# Effect of Early Vasopressin vs Norepinephrine on Kidney Failure in Patients With Septic Shock

## The VANISH Randomized Clinical Trial

Anthony C. Gordon, MD; Alexina J. Mason, PhD; Neeraja Thirunavukkarasu, MSc; Gavin D. Perkins, MD; Maurizio Cecconi, MD; Magda Cepkova, MD; David G. Pogson, MB BCh; Hollmann D. Aya, MD; Aisha Anjum, BSc; Gregory J. Frazier, MSc; Shalini Santhakumaran, MSc; Deborah Ashby, PhD; Stephen J. Brett, MD; for the VANISH Investigators

Gordon et al  
JAMA 2016

### A double-blind randomised controlled trial of vasopressin (up to 0.06 u/min) vs noradrenaline within 6h of onset of septic shock.



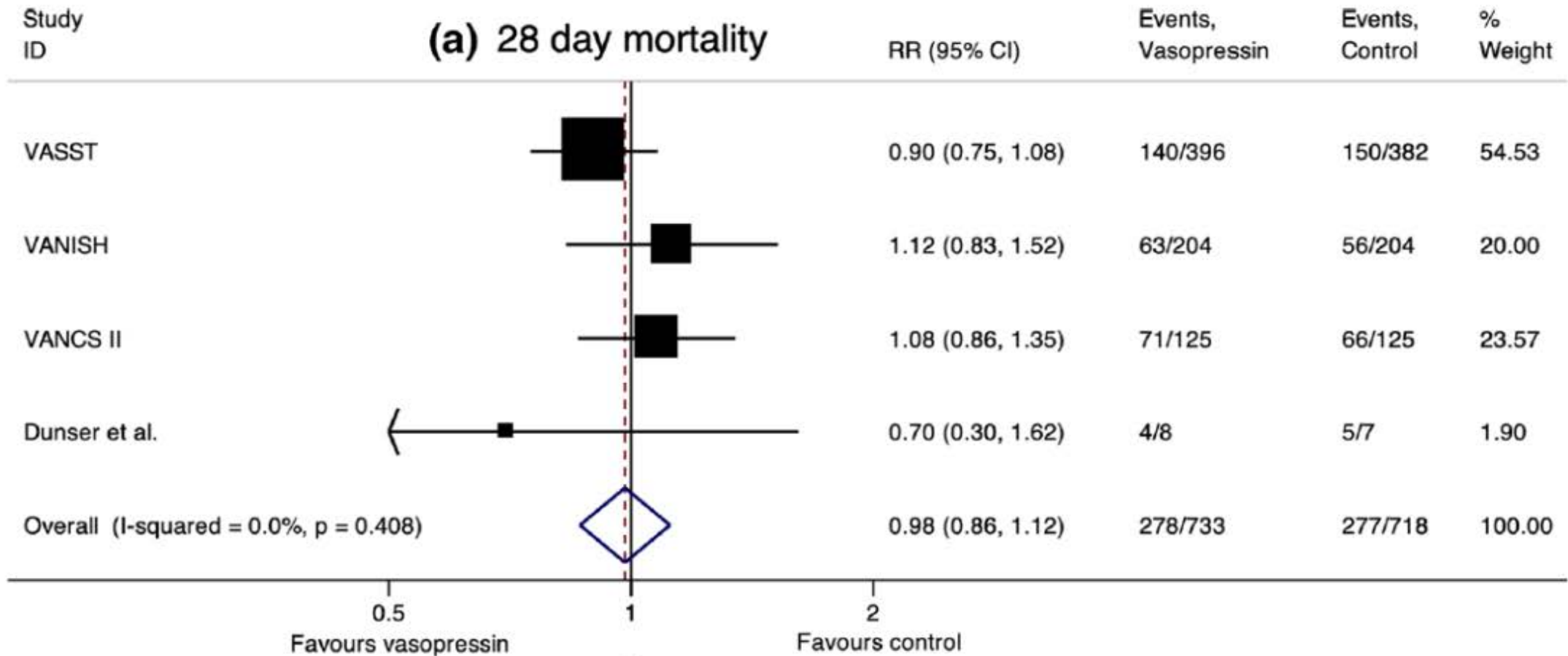
Norepi dose at randomization: 0.16 [0.10-0.31] mcg/kg.min



# Vasopressin in septic shock: an individual patient data meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials



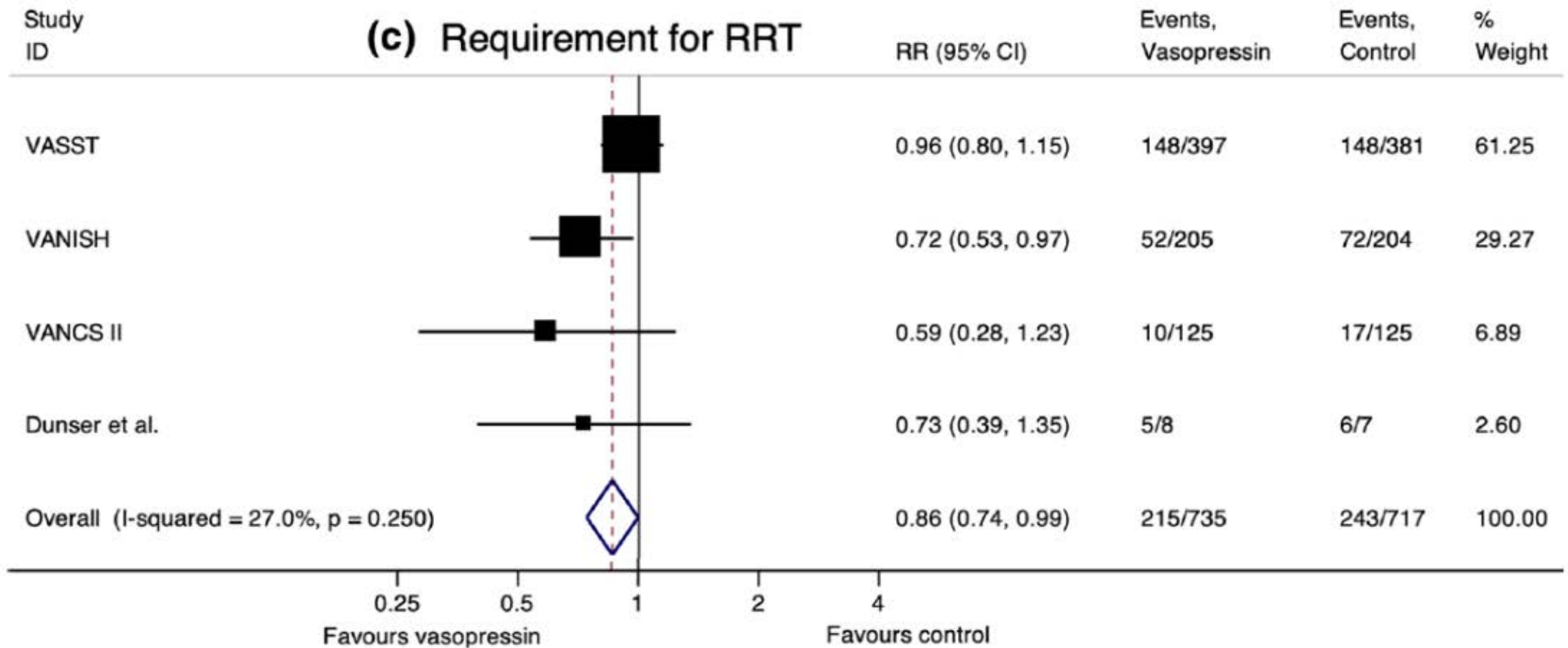
Myura Nagendran<sup>1</sup>, James A. Russell<sup>2</sup>, Keith R. Walley<sup>2</sup>, Stephen J. Brett<sup>1,3</sup>, Gavin D. Perkins<sup>4</sup>, Ludhmila Hajjar<sup>5</sup>, Alexina J. Mason<sup>6</sup>, Deborah Ashby<sup>7</sup> and Anthony C. Gordon<sup>1,3\*</sup>



# Vasopressin in septic shock: an individual patient data meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials



Myura Nagendran<sup>1</sup>, James A. Russell<sup>2</sup>, Keith R. Walley<sup>2</sup>, Stephen J. Brett<sup>1,3</sup>, Gavin D. Perkins<sup>4</sup>, Ludhmila Hajjar<sup>5</sup>, Alexina J. Mason<sup>6</sup>, Deborah Ashby<sup>7</sup> and Anthony C. Gordon<sup>1,3\*</sup>



# Association of Vasopressin Plus Catecholamine Vasopressors vs Catecholamines Alone With Atrial Fibrillation in Patients With Distributive Shock

## A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis

William F. McIntyre, MD; Kevin J. Um, BA; Waleed Alhazzani, MD, MSc; Alexandra P. Lengyel; Ludhmila Hajjar, MD; Anthony C. Gordon, MD; François Lamontagne, MD, MSc; Jeff S. Healey, MD, MSc; Richard P. Whitlock, MD, PhD; Emilie P. Belley-Côté, MD, MSc

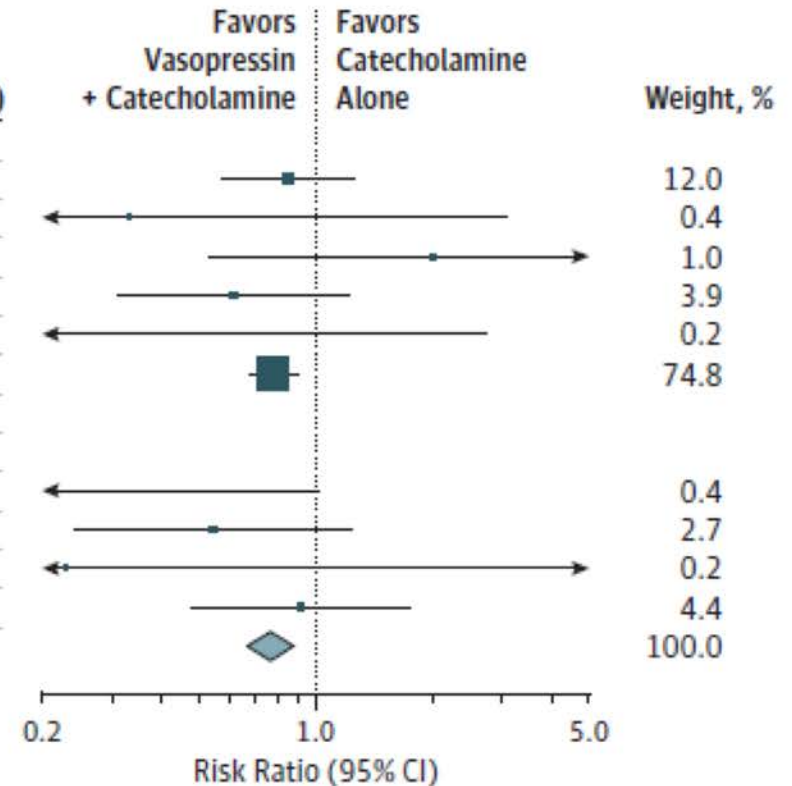
23 studies

**A** Atrial fibrillation

Source	Vasopressin + Catecholamine <sup>a</sup>		Catecholamine Alone		Risk Ratio (95% CI)
	No. With Events	Total No. of Patients	No. With Events	Total No. of Patients	
Abdullah et al, <sup>25</sup> 2012	0	17	0	17	Not estimable
Capoletto et al, <sup>38</sup> 2017	34	125	40	125	0.85 (0.58-1.25)
Choudhury et al, <sup>29</sup> 2016	1	42	3	42	0.33 (0.04-3.08)
Clem et al, <sup>30</sup> 2016	6	41	3	41	2.00 (0.54-7.46)
Dünser et al, <sup>39</sup> 2003	8	24	13	24	0.62 (0.31-1.21)
Gordon et al, <sup>20</sup> 2016	0	205	3	204	0.14 (0.01-2.73)
Hajjar et al, <sup>18</sup> 2017	95	149	124	151	0.78 (0.67-0.89)
Lauzier et al, <sup>21</sup> 2006	0	13	0	13	Not estimable
Malay et al, <sup>33</sup> 1999	0	5	0	5	Not estimable
Morelli et al, <sup>35</sup> 2009	1	30	4	15	0.13 (0.02-1.02)
Russell et al, <sup>22</sup> 2008	7	44	14	48	0.55 (0.24-1.23)
Russell et al, <sup>23</sup> 2017	0	31	1	21	0.23 (0.01-5.37)
Svoboda et al, <sup>37</sup> 2012	7	13	10	17	0.92 (0.48-1.74)
Total events (95% CI)	159	739	215	723	0.77 (0.67-0.88)

Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 0.00$ ;  $\chi^2_8 = 9.10$  ( $P = .43$ );  $I^2 = 1\%$

Overall effect:  $z = 3.79$  ( $P < .001$ )



# Terlipressin

**Half-Life 6h**

**Bolus 0.5 – 1 mg /8-6h**

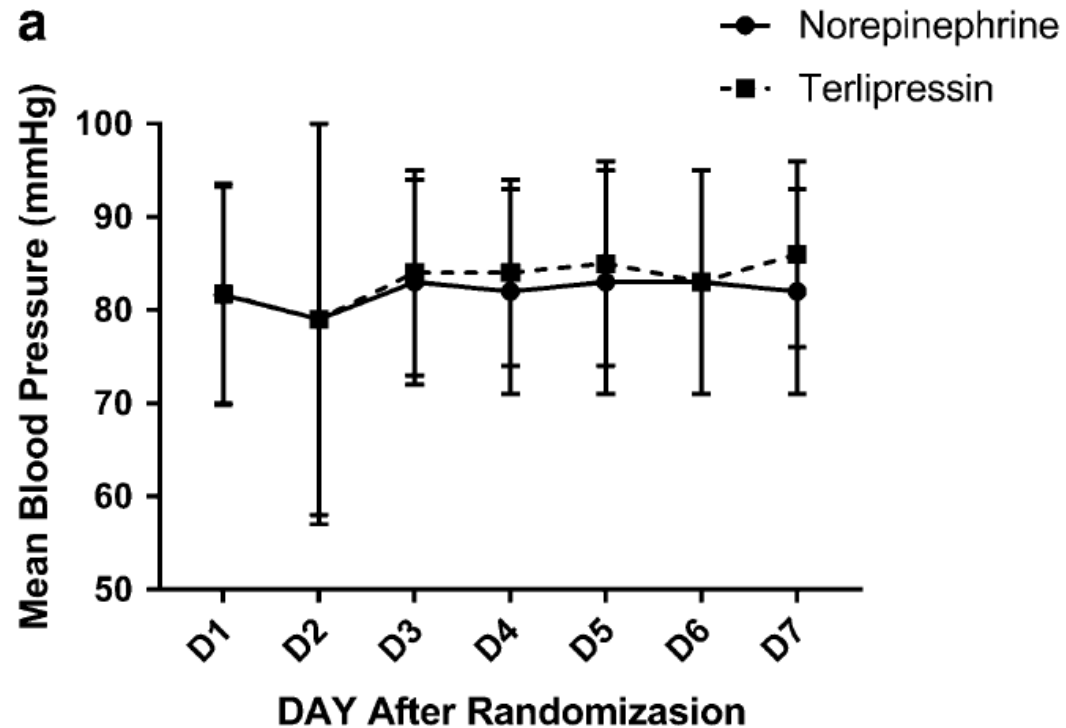
O'Brien A Singer M Lancet 2002  
Lange M et al ICM 2009

**Infusion 20 – 160 µg/h**

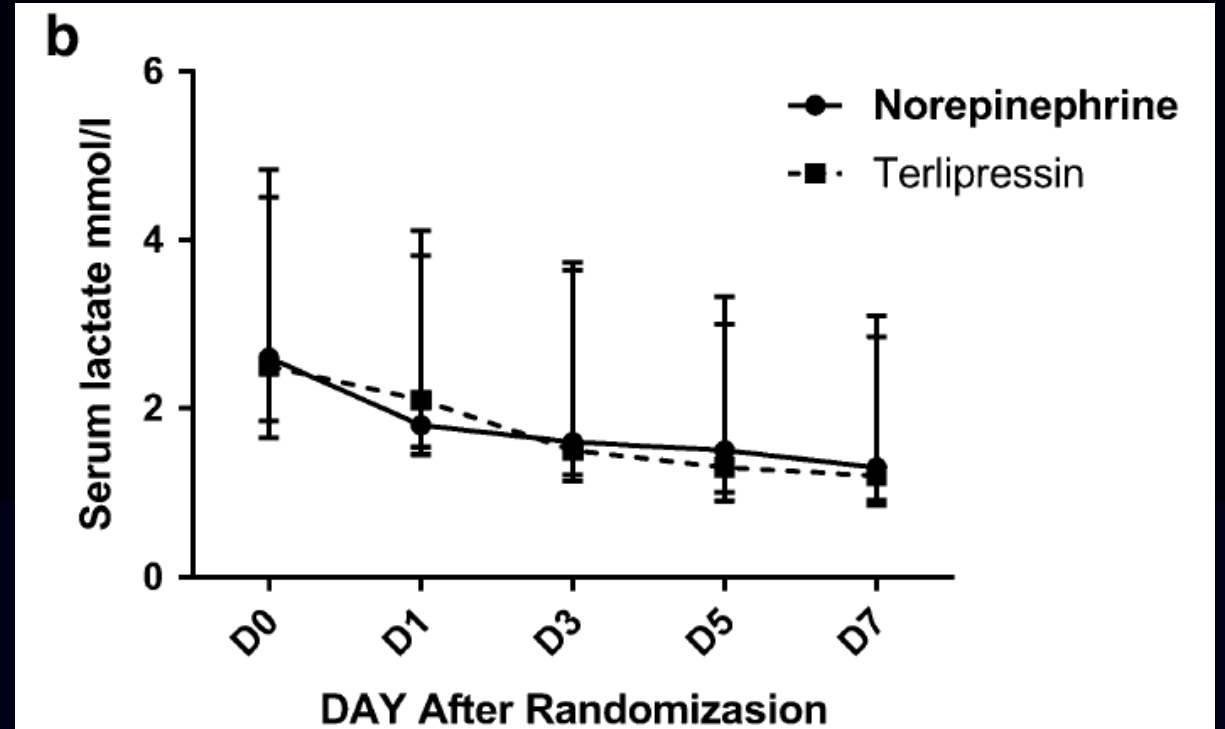
Morelli A Crit Care 2009  
Liu Z et al ICM 2018

# Terlipressin versus norepinephrine as infusion in patients with septic shock: a multicentre, randomised, double-blinded trial

Zi-Meng Liu<sup>1</sup>, Juan Chen<sup>1</sup>, Qiuye Kou<sup>2</sup>, Qinhan Lin<sup>3</sup>, Xiaobo Huang<sup>4</sup>, Zhanhong Tang<sup>5</sup>, Yan Kang<sup>6</sup>, Ke Li<sup>7</sup>, Lixin Zhou<sup>8</sup>, Qing Song<sup>9</sup>, Tongwen Sun<sup>10</sup>, Ling Zhao<sup>11</sup>, Xue Wang<sup>12</sup>, Xiandi He<sup>13</sup>, Chunting Wang<sup>14</sup>, Benquan Wu<sup>15</sup>, Jiandong Lin<sup>16</sup>, Shiyong Yuan<sup>17</sup>, Qin Gu<sup>18</sup>, Kejian Qian<sup>19</sup>, Xianqing Shi<sup>20</sup>, Yongwen Feng<sup>21</sup>, Aihua Lin<sup>22</sup>, Xiaoshun He<sup>1</sup>, Study Group of investigators and Xiang-Dong Guan<sup>1\*</sup>



**N=617**





LOW

40

For adults with septic shock, we **suggest against** using terlipressin.





# Terlipressin versus norepinephrine as infusion in patients with septic shock: a multicentre, randomised, double-blinded trial

Zi-Meng Liu<sup>1</sup>, Juan Chen<sup>1</sup>, Qiuye Kou<sup>2</sup>, Qinhan Lin<sup>3</sup>, Xiaobo Huang<sup>4</sup>, Zhanhong Tang<sup>5</sup>, Yan Kang<sup>6</sup>, Ke Li<sup>7</sup>, Lixin Zhou<sup>8</sup>, Qing Song<sup>9</sup>, Tongwen Sun<sup>10</sup>, Ling Zhao<sup>11</sup>, Xue Wang<sup>12</sup>, Xiandi He<sup>13</sup>, Chunting Wang<sup>14</sup>, Benquan Wu<sup>15</sup>, Jiandong Lin<sup>16</sup>, Shiyong Yuan<sup>17</sup>, Qin Gu<sup>18</sup>, Kejian Qian<sup>19</sup>, Xianqing Shi<sup>20</sup>, Yongwen Feng<sup>21</sup>, Aihua Lin<sup>22</sup>, Xiaoshun He<sup>1</sup>, Study Group of investigators and Xiang-Dong Guan<sup>1\*</sup>

**N=617**

Variable	Norepinephrine group (N = 266)	Terlipressin group (N = 260)	p
28-day mortality N (%)	101/266 (38%)	104/260 (40%)	0.633
Days alive and free of vasopressor	14.66 ± 11.13	15.50 ± 11.14	0.424
Change of SOFA score from D0 to D7 <sup>a</sup>	-6 (-10 to 5) <sup>b</sup>	-7 (-11 to 3) <sup>b</sup>	0.123

Variable N (%)	Norepinephrine group (n = 266)	Terlipressin group (n = 260)	p
Acute myocardial infarction or ischaemia	4 (1.39%)	2 (0.68%)	0.45
Life-threatening arrhythmia	6 (2.08%)	7 (2.38%)	1.00
Acute mesenteric ischaemia	1 (0.35%)	3 (1.02%)	0.62
Hyponatraemia	18 (6.25%)	25 (8.5%)	0.56
Digital ischaemia	1 (0.35%)	33 (12.6%)	<0.0001
Diarrhoea	1 (0.35%)	8 (2.72%)	0.037
Overall	31 (11.65%)	78 (30%)	<0.01

Variable N (%)	Norepinephrine group (n = 266)	Terlipressin group (n = 260)	p
Acute myocardial infarction or ischaemia	4 (1.39%)	2 (0.68%)	0.45
Life-threatening arrhythmia	6 (2.08%)	7 (2.38%)	1.00
Acute mesenteric ischaemia	1 (0.35%)	3 (1.02%)	0.62
Hyponatraemia	18 (6.25%)	25 (8.5%)	0.56
Digital ischaemia	1 (0.35%)	33 (12.6%)	<0.0001
Diarrhoea	1 (0.35%)	8 (2.72%)	0.037
Overall	31 (11.65%)	78 (30%)	<0.01

of 65–75 mmHg [367]. The primary outcome was death from any cause at 28 days. The 28-day mortality in the two groups was 40% for terlipressin and 38% for norepinephrine (OR 0.93; 95% CI 0.55–1.56,  $p=0.80$ ), and there were no differences in SOFA score at day 7 or vasopressor free days. More patients who received terlipressin had serious adverse events; 33 of 260 (12%) patients experienced digital ischaemia after receiving terlipressin, versus only one patient who received norepinephrine ( $p<0.0001$ ); diarrhea was also more common in the terlipressin group (2.7% versus 0.35%,  $p=0.037$ ). There were three cases of mesenteric ischaemia.

## Any difference between vasopressin and terlipressin?

Evans L et al  
ICM 2021  
CCM 2021

Vasopressin in septic shock: an individual patient data meta-analysis of randomised controlled trials  
ICM 2019

Myura Nagendran<sup>1</sup>, James A. Russell<sup>2</sup>, Keith R. Walley<sup>2</sup>, Stephen J. Brett<sup>1,3</sup>, Gavin D. Perkins<sup>4</sup>, Ludmila Alexina J. Mason<sup>6</sup>, Deborah Ashby<sup>7</sup> and Anthony C. Gordon<sup>1,3\*</sup>

Outcome	Vasopressin	Norepinephrine	ARD <sup>a</sup> (95% CI)
Serious adverse events, no./total (%)	124/735 (16.9)	120/718 (16.7)	0.2 (– 3.7 to 4.0)
Digital ischaemia	21/735 (2.9)	8/718 (1.1)	1.7 (0.3–3.2)
Mesenteric ischaemia <sup>b</sup>	14/727 (1.9)	18/711 (2.5)	– 0.6 (– 2.1 to 0.9)
Acute coronary syndrome	18/735 (2.5)	17/718 (2.4)	0.1 (– 1.5 to 1.7)
Arrhythmia	39/735 (5.3)	58/718 (8.1)	– 2.8 (– 0.2 to – 5.3)



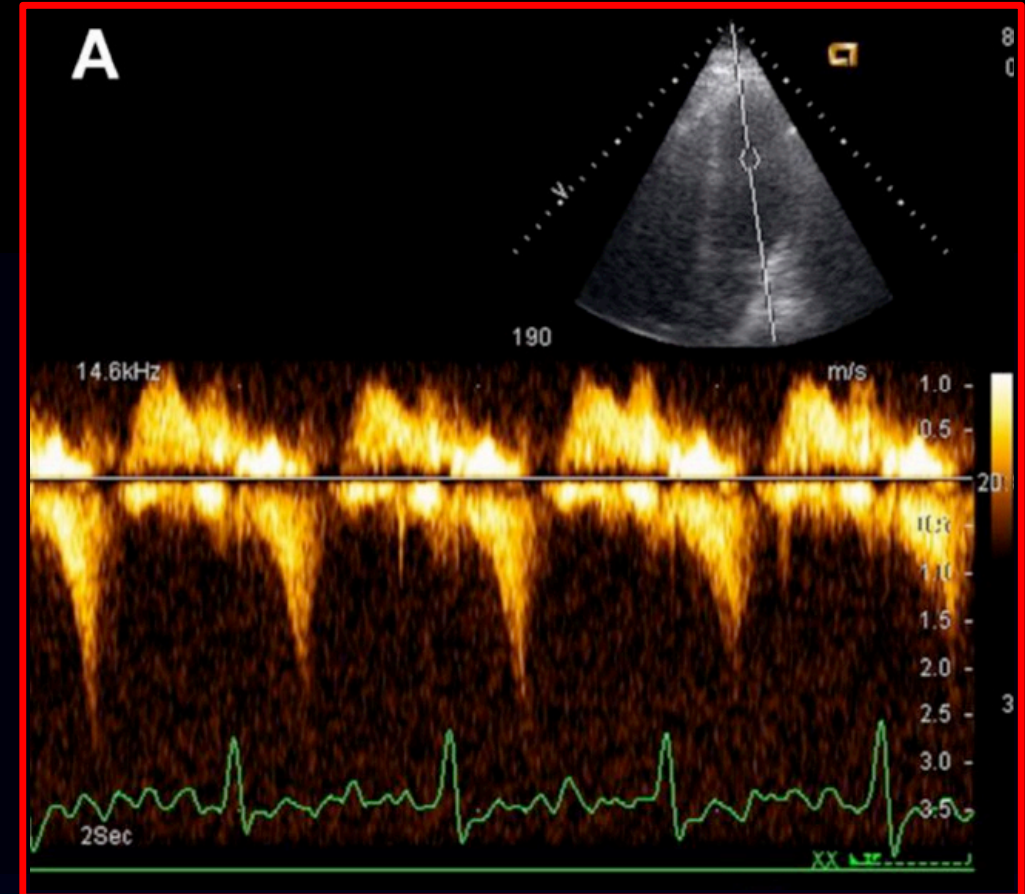
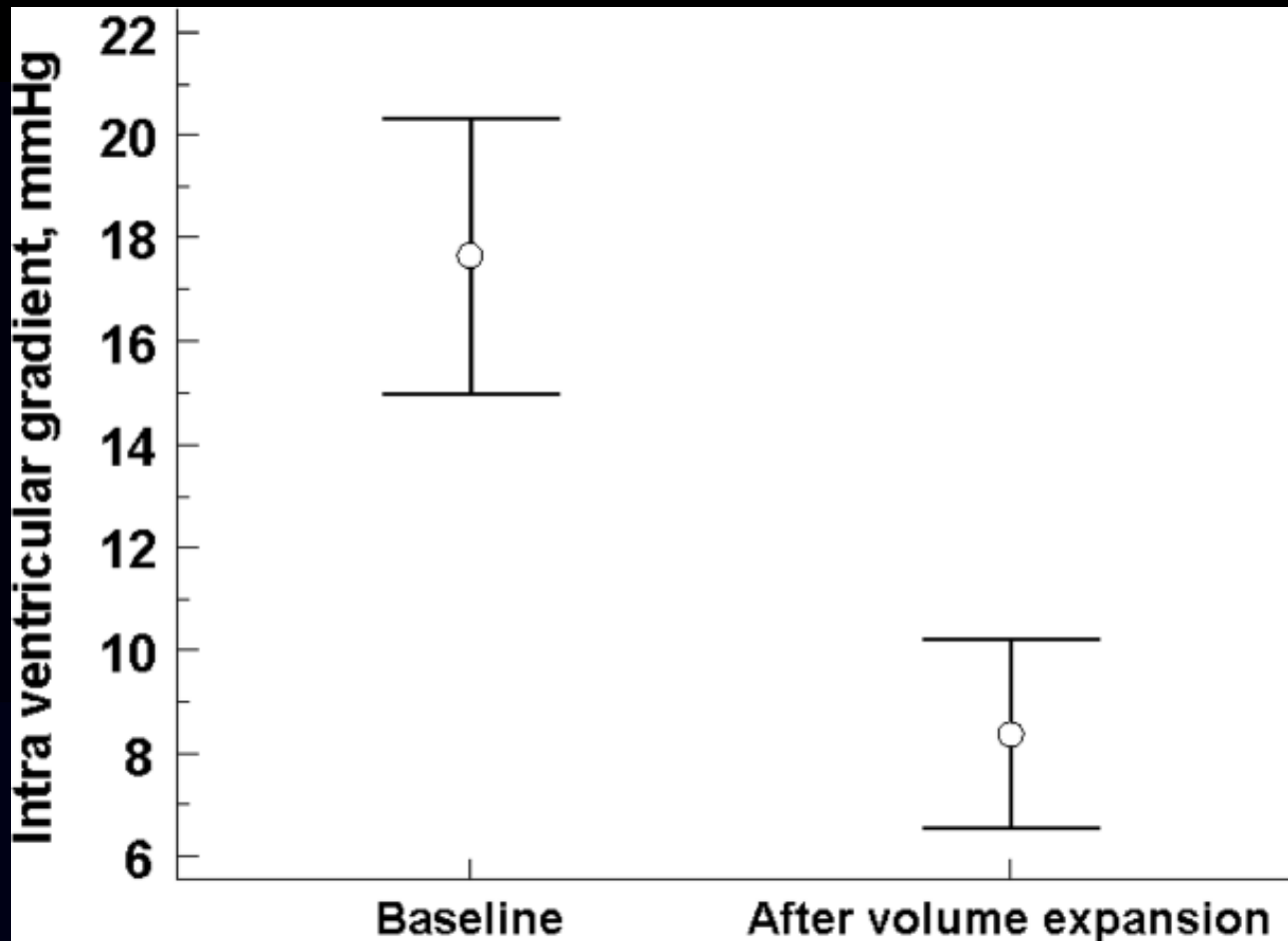
# Vasopressin in specific situations ?



# Look carefully for LVOT obstruction !

Chauvet JL et al  
Crit Care 2015

218 pts septic shock  
=> 47 pts with LVOT



# Vasopressin in Patients with Septic Shock and Dynamic Left Ventricular Outflow Tract Obstruction

Balik M et al  
Cardiovasc Drug Ther  
2020

Parameter	LVOT CW gradient [mmHg]	MR [0–4 scale]	SAM [present /all]	NE dosage [ $\mu$ g/kg.min]	HR [b/min]	Lactate arterial [mmol/l]	paO <sub>2</sub> /FiO <sub>2</sub> [mmHg]
Pre AVP	78 [56–123]	3 [2–4]	10/10	0.58 [0.40–0.78]	98 [90–120]	2.5 [2.1–4.6]	103 [88–128]
Post AVP	35 [24–60] *	2 [1–2] *	3/10	0.18 [0.14–0.30] *	93 [82–100]	1.7 [1.5–2.2] *	174 [125–213] *

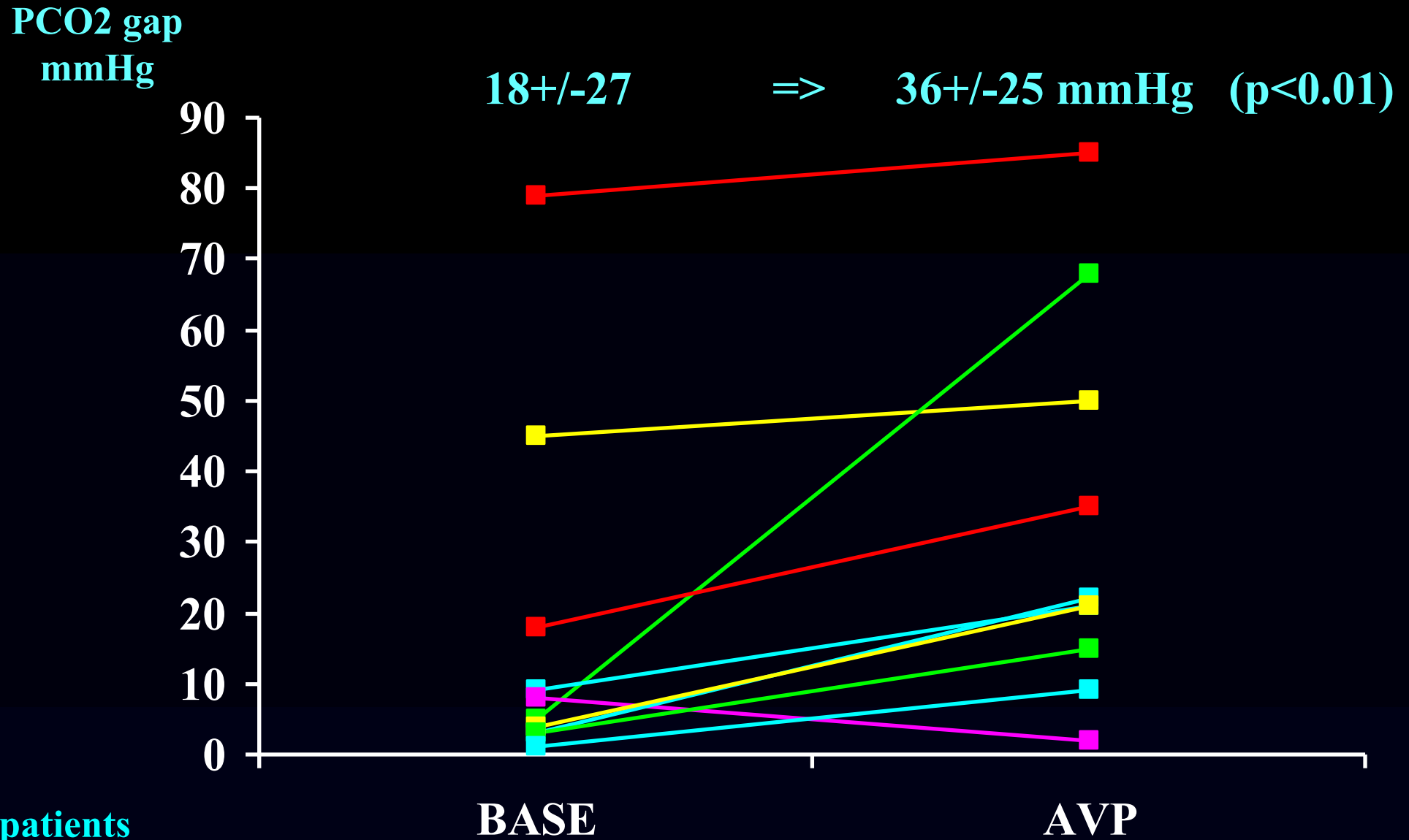
**10 septic shock pts with severe LVOTO  
(among 527 pts with septic shock over 29 months)**

# **Vasopressin and splanchnic ischemia ?**



# VASOPRESSIN AND SPLANCHNIC PERFUSION

Klinzing et al  
CCM 31:2646;2003

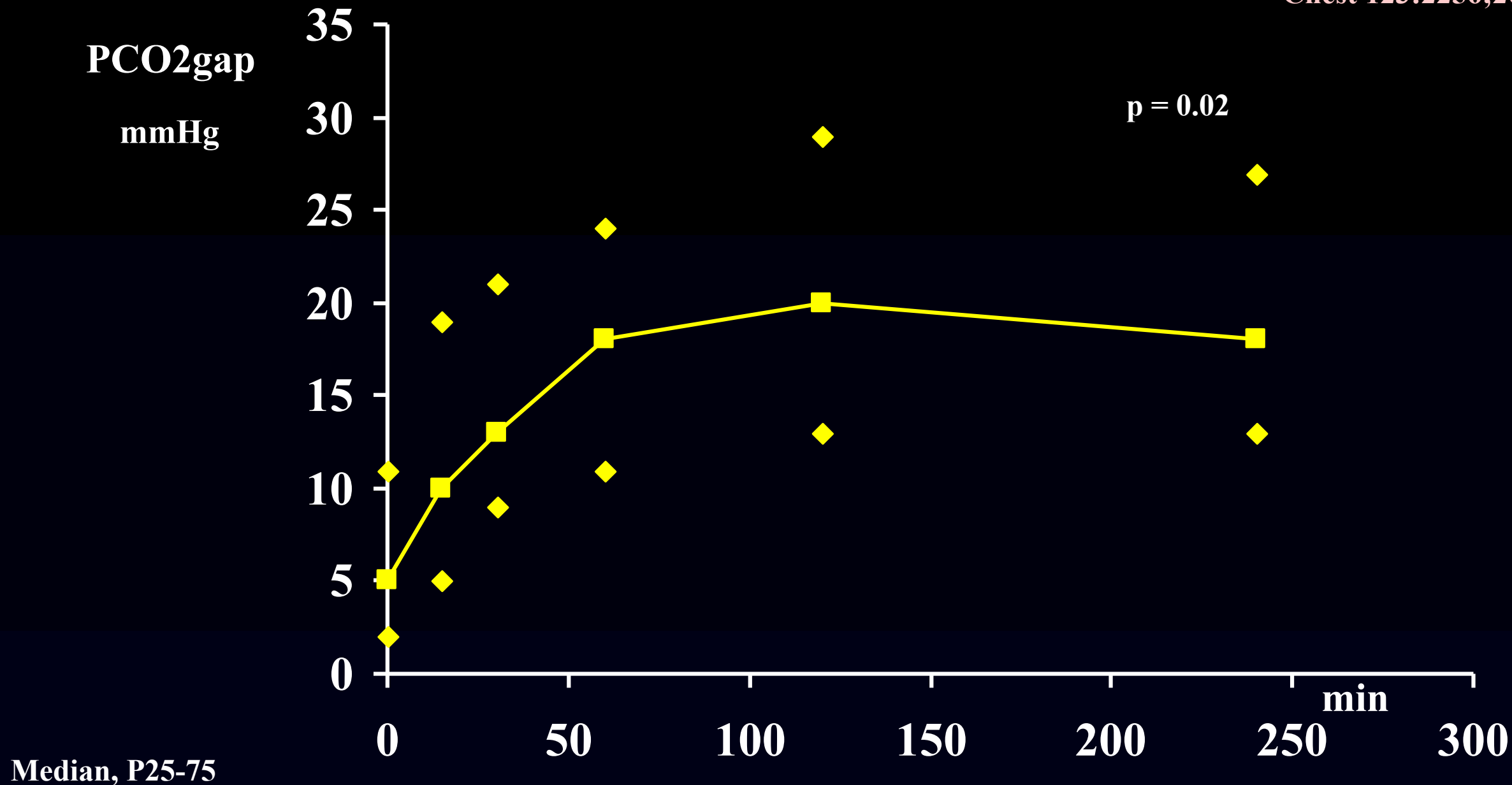


12 septic shock patients

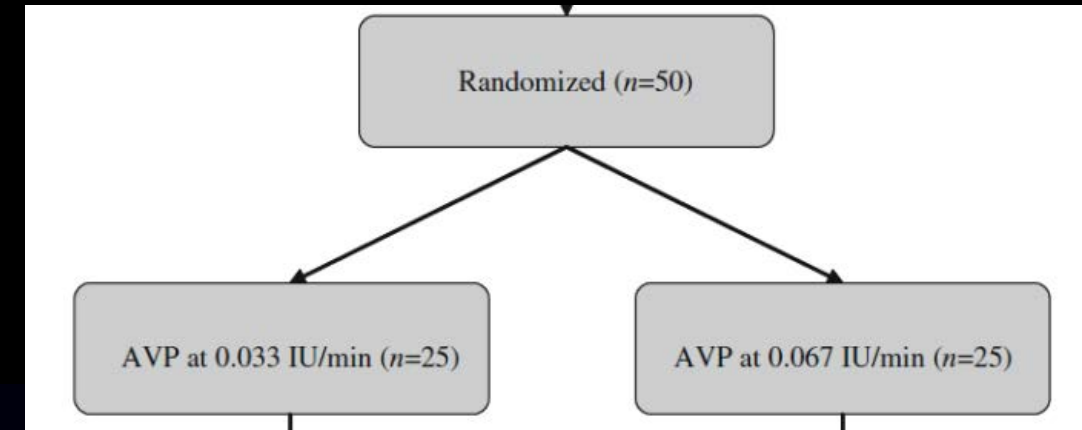
NE 0.56 µg/kg.min => AVP 0.47 u/min

# VASOPRESSIN AND SPLANCHNIC PERFUSION

Van Haren et al  
Chest 123:2256;2003



**Comparing two different arginine vasopressin doses in advanced vasodilatory shock: a randomized, controlled, open-label trial**



	0.033 IU/min	0.067 IU/min	P-value
Decrease in cardiac index, <i>n</i> (%)	4 (25)	7 (50)	0.26
Increase in serum transaminases, <i>n</i> (%)	10 (47.6)	15 (65.2)	0.36
Increase in total bilirubin, <i>n</i> (%)	4 (19)	6 (26.1)	0.72
Decrease in platelet count, <i>n</i> (%)	15 (71.4)	17 (73.9)	1

**The higher dose of VP increased more blood pressure but it was associated with more adverse effects compared to the lower dose**



**Putting all together**



# Vasopressin in septic shock

- **Norepinephrine as first line vasopressor agent. It is usually well tolerated and is associated with favorable hemodynamic effects.**

- **Vasopressin derivatives are excellent adjunctive and in some cases alternative to norepinephrine**

- **Caution in hepatosplanchnic ischemia**
  - **Benefits in AKI and AF**





$\beta$ -bloquants?



ELSEVIER

Contents lists available at [ScienceDirect](https://www.sciencedirect.com)

## Journal of Intensive Medicine

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/jointm](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/jointm)



### Viewpoint

## The pros and cons of beta-blockers in sepsis: Where do we stand in 2024?

Daniel De Backer<sup>1,\*</sup>, Dechang Chen<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Department of Intensive Care, CHIREC Hospitals, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels B-1160, Belgium

<sup>2</sup> Department of Critical Care Medicine, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China

<sup>3</sup> Department of Critical Care Medicine, Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China

<sup>4</sup> Department of Intensive Care, CHIREC Hospitals, Université Libre de Bruxelles, Brussels B-1160, Belgium

DANIEL DE BACKER<sup>1,\*</sup>, DECHANG CHEN<sup>3</sup>

## The pros and cons of beta-blockers in sepsis: Where do we stand in 2024?

### Viewpoint

# The different Beta-blockers

Floria M et al  
Pharmaceutics 2024

Property	Landiolol [26]	Esmolol [26]	Metoprolol [27]	Nebivolol [28]	Bisoprolol [28]	Atenolol [29]	Carvedilol [30]	Propranolol [31]
Drug class	Ultra-short-acting selective $\beta$ -1 blocker	Short-acting selective $\beta$ -1 blocker	Selective $\beta$ -1 blocker	Highly cardio selective $\beta$ -1 blocker with vasodilator properties	Highly cardio-selective $\beta$ -1 blocker	Cardio selective $\beta$ -1 blocker	Non-selective $\beta$ blocker with alpha-1 blocking activity	Non-selective $\beta$ blocker
Half-life	Very short (about 4 min)	Very short (about 9 min)	3–7 h	10–12 h	10–12 h	6–7 h	7–10 h	4–6 h
Pharmacokinetics	Rapid onset and offset of action	Rapid onset and offset of action	Rapidly and completely absorbed	Absorbed rapidly and extensively metabolized	Slowly and completely absorbed	Absorbed slowly but almost completely	Extensive ly metabolized	Rapidly and completely absorbed

Differ by half-life and  $\beta$ 1selectivity

# Comparison of the $\beta$ -Adrenergic Receptor Antagonists Landiolol and Esmolol: Receptor Selectivity, Partial Agonism, and Pharmacochaperoning Actions

Nasrollahi-Shirazi S et al  
J Pharm Exp Ther 2016

	human $\beta_1$ -receptor	human $\beta_2$ -receptor	Selectivity ratio ( $K_i \beta_2/K_i \beta_1$ )
landiolol	$90 \pm 16$ nM	$19.4 \pm 5.5$ $\mu$ M	216
esmolol	$194 \pm 7$ nM	$5.8 \pm 2.1$ $\mu$ M	30

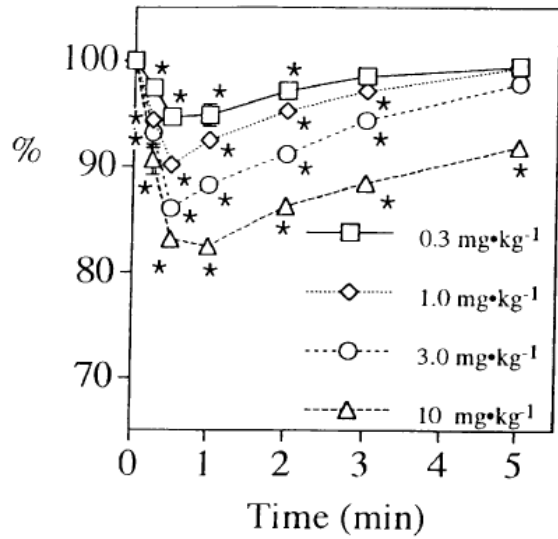
# Heart Rate

Sasso J et al  
Can J Anesth 2001

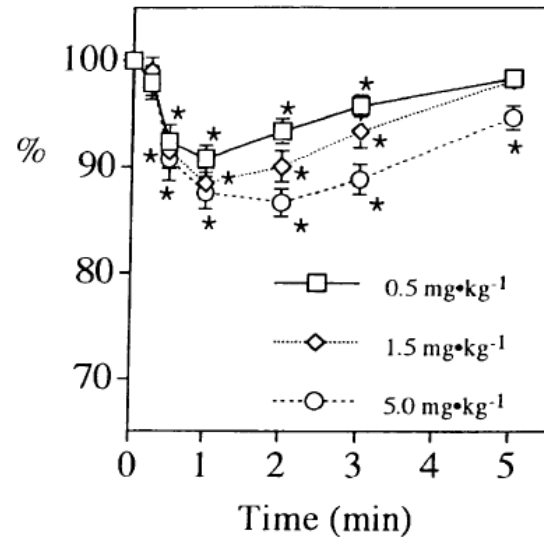
# Differences between selective $\beta_1$ Beta-blockers

## Mean Arterial Pressure

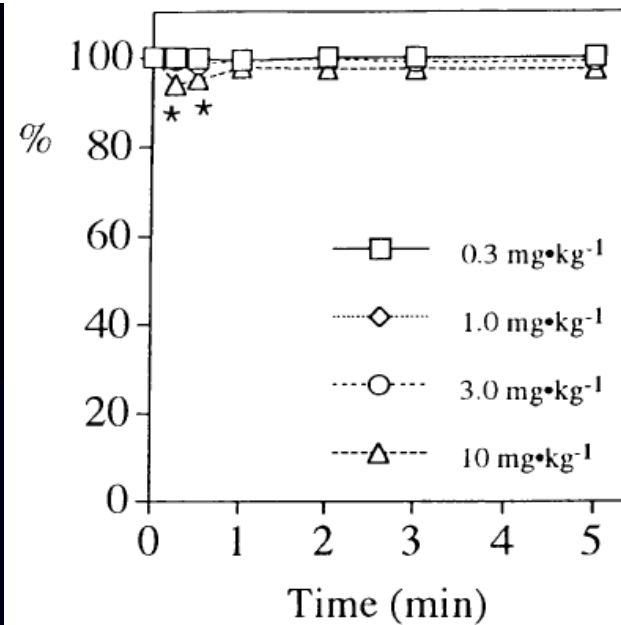
### Landiolol



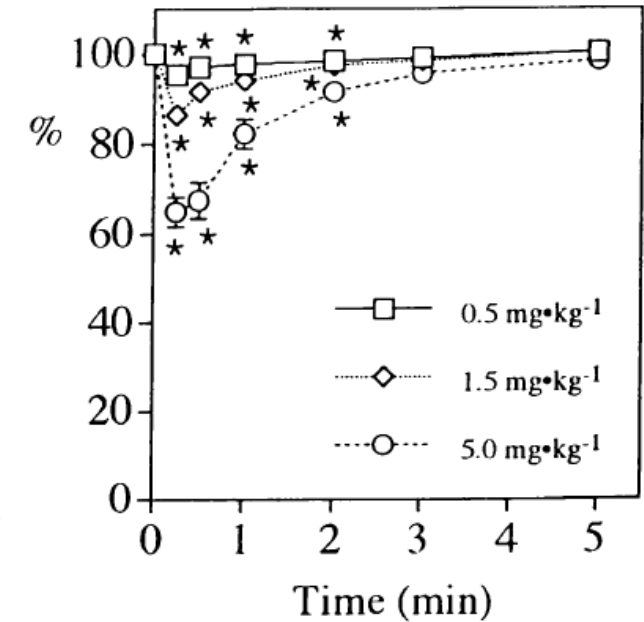
### Esmolol



### Landiolol



### Esmolol

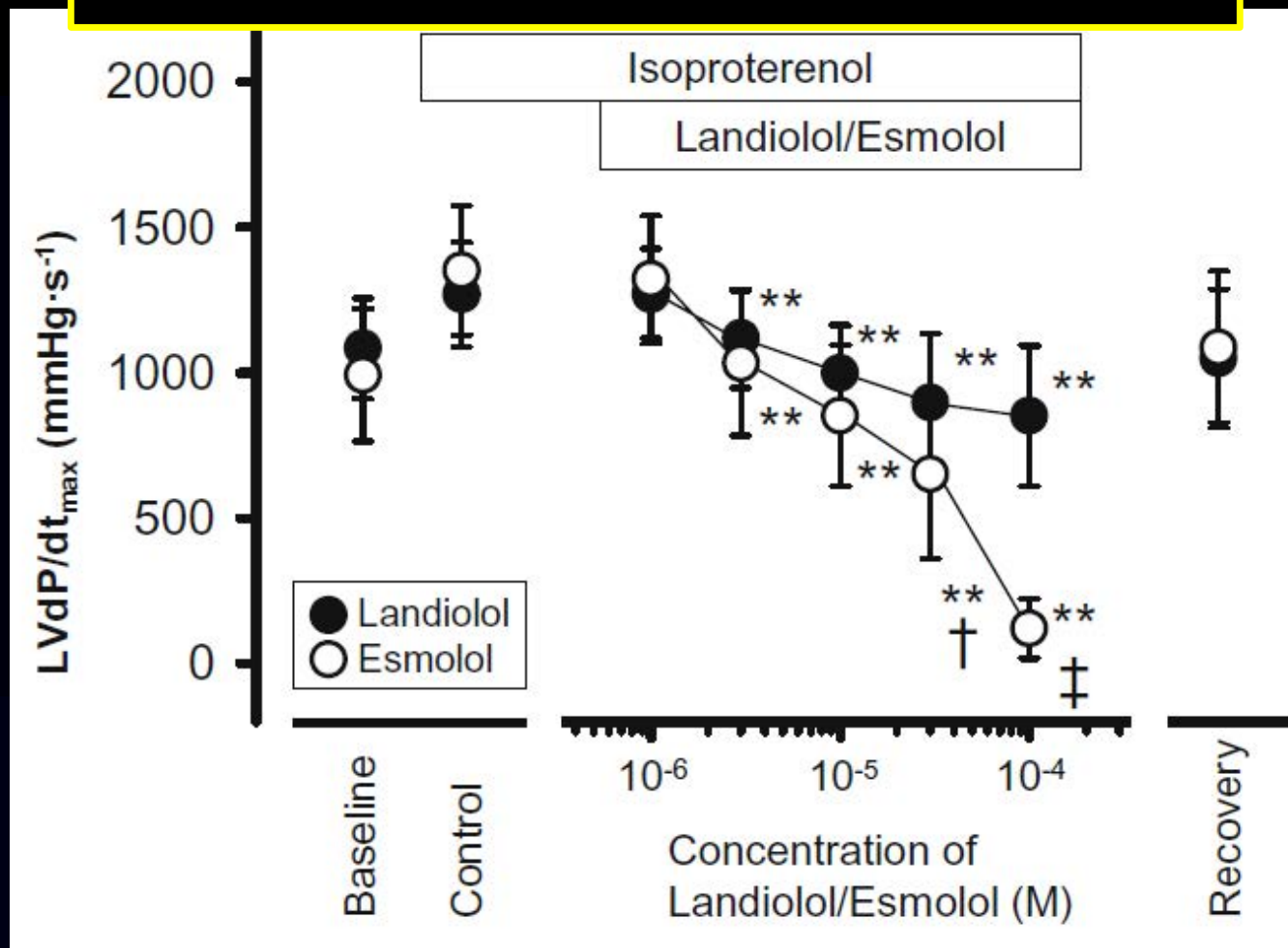
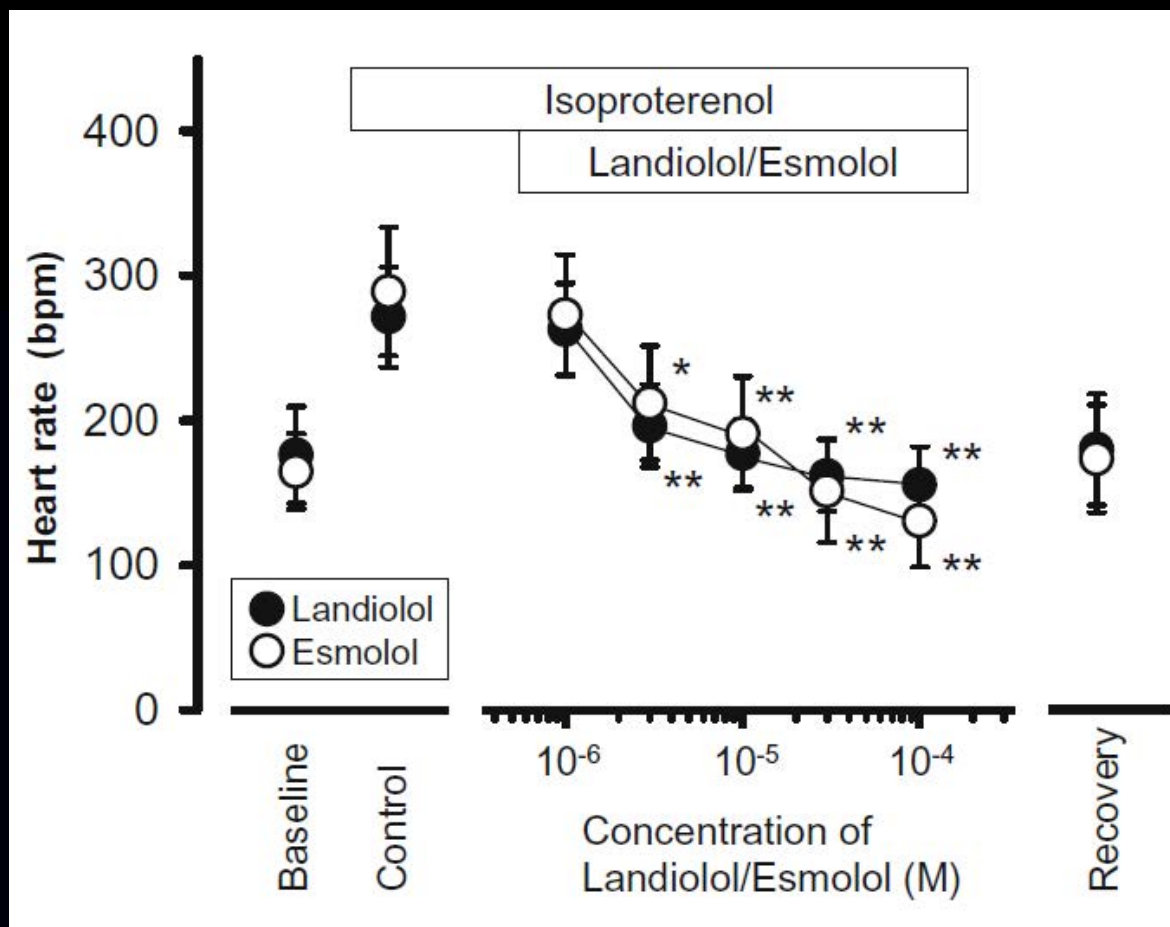


Bolus  
Rabbits

# Landiolol has a less potent negative inotropic effect than esmolol in isolated rabbit hearts

Sasso J et al  
J Anesthesia 2001

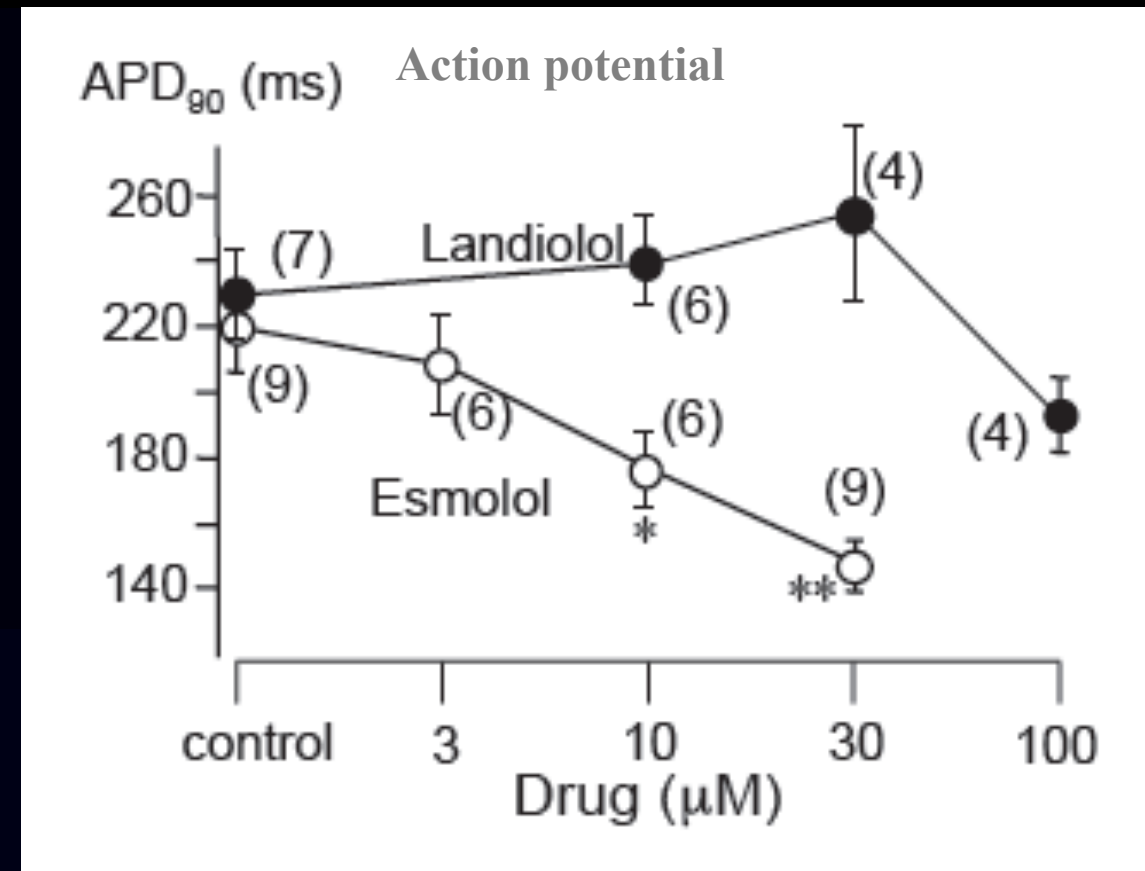
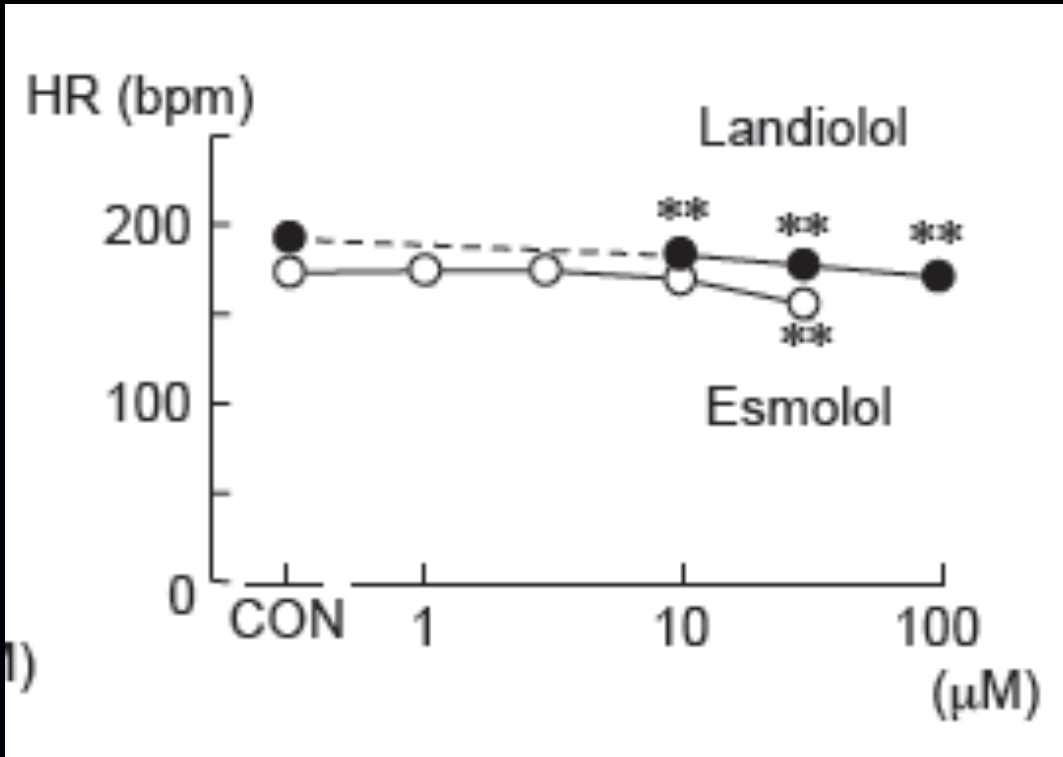
Decreased contractility with esmolol but not with landiolol for similar heart rate control



Rabbits

# Direct Effects of Esmolol and Landiolol on Cardiac Function, Coronary Vasoactivity, and Ventricular Electrophysiology in Guinea-Pig Hearts

Shibata S et al  
J Pharmacol Sci 2012

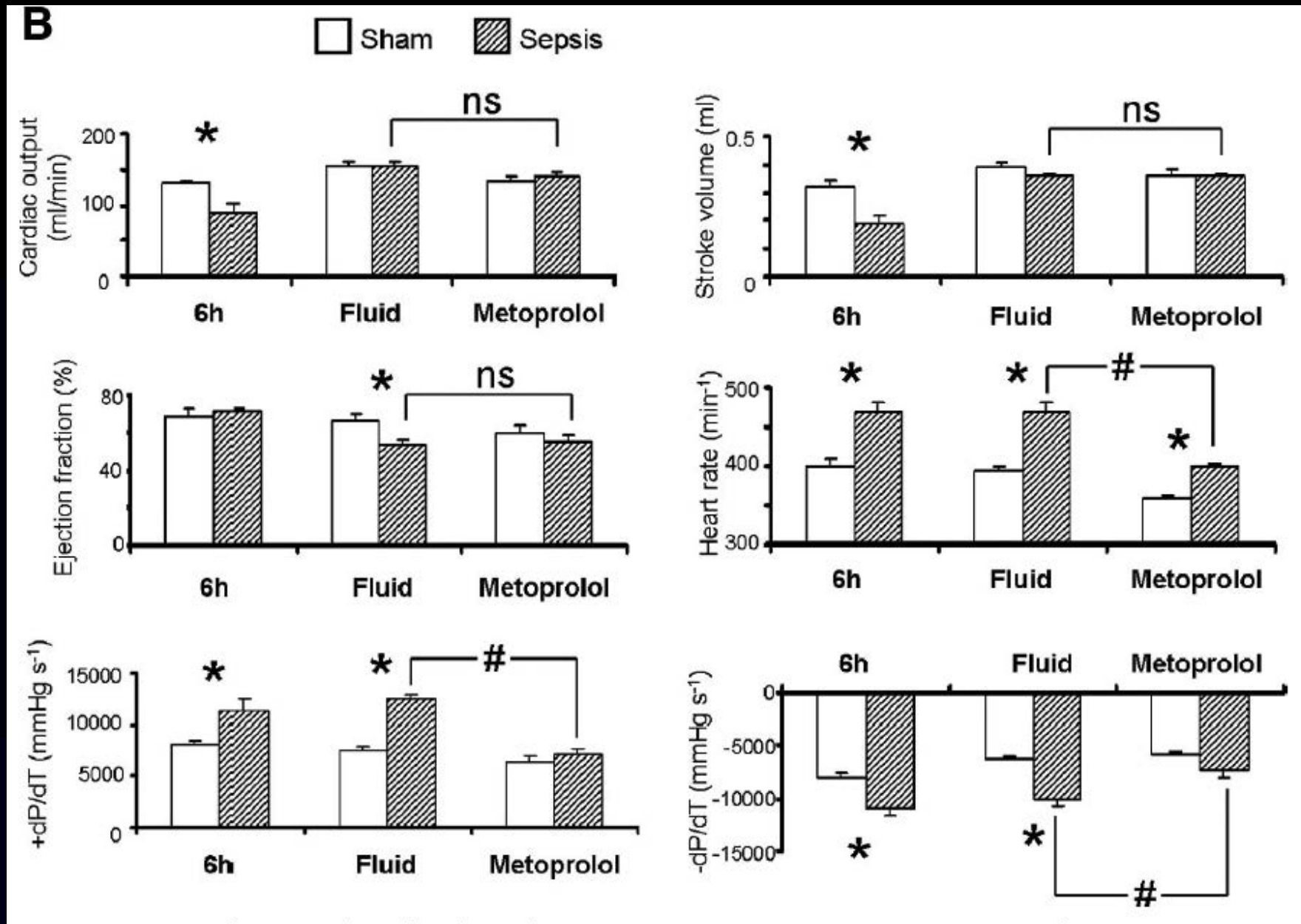


Decreased contractility with esmolol for similar heart rate control



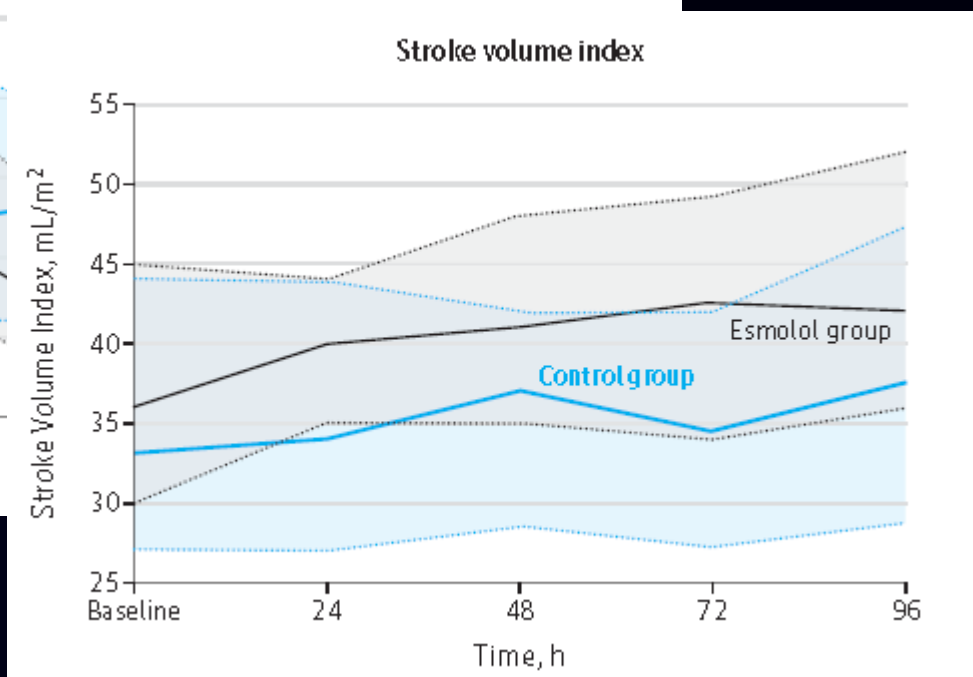
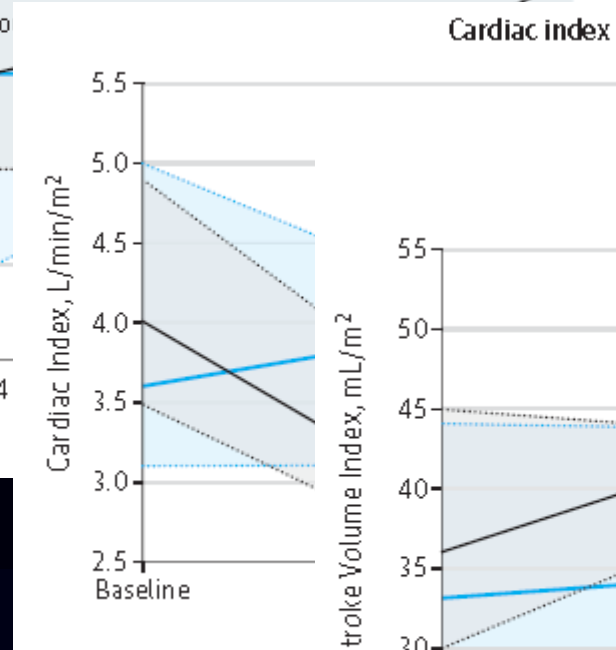
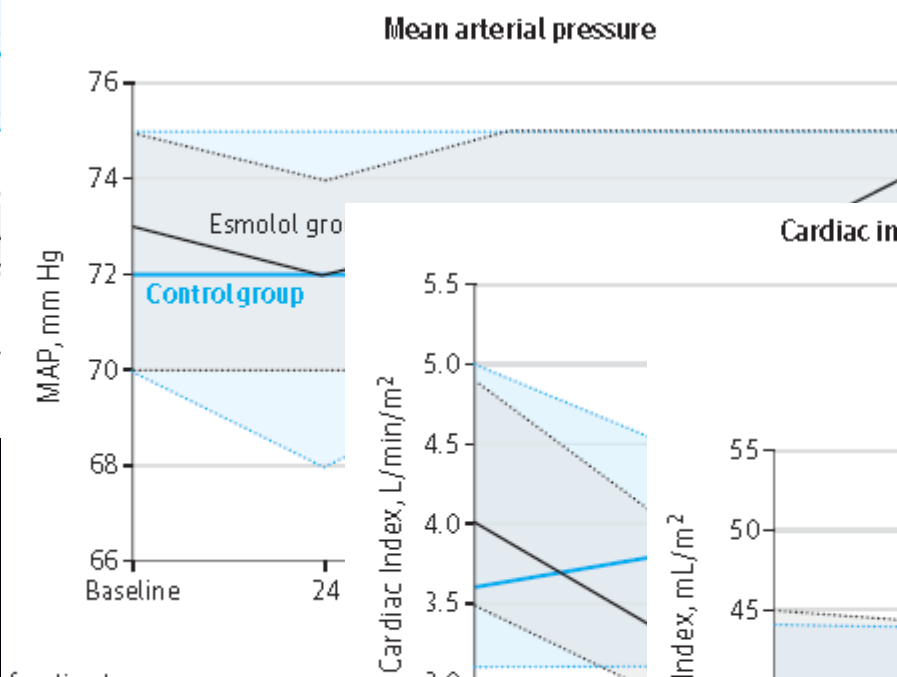
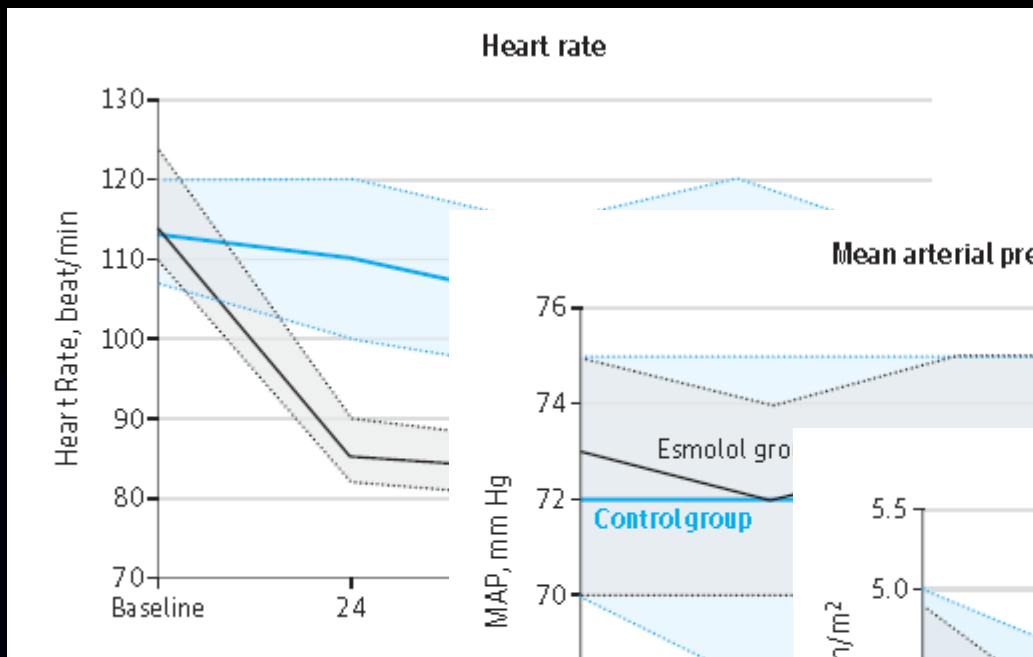


**Beta-blockers may have  
beneficial effects in sepsis**



# Beta-blockers in septic shock

Morelli et al  
JAMA 2013



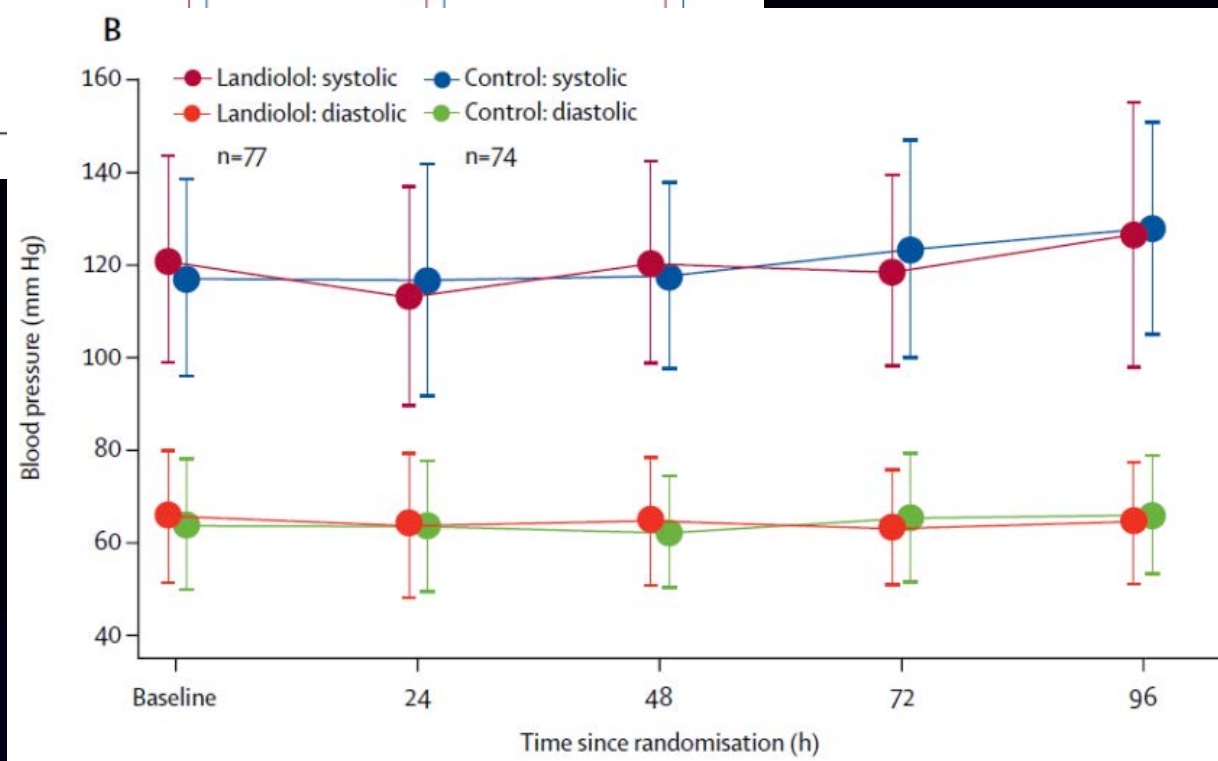
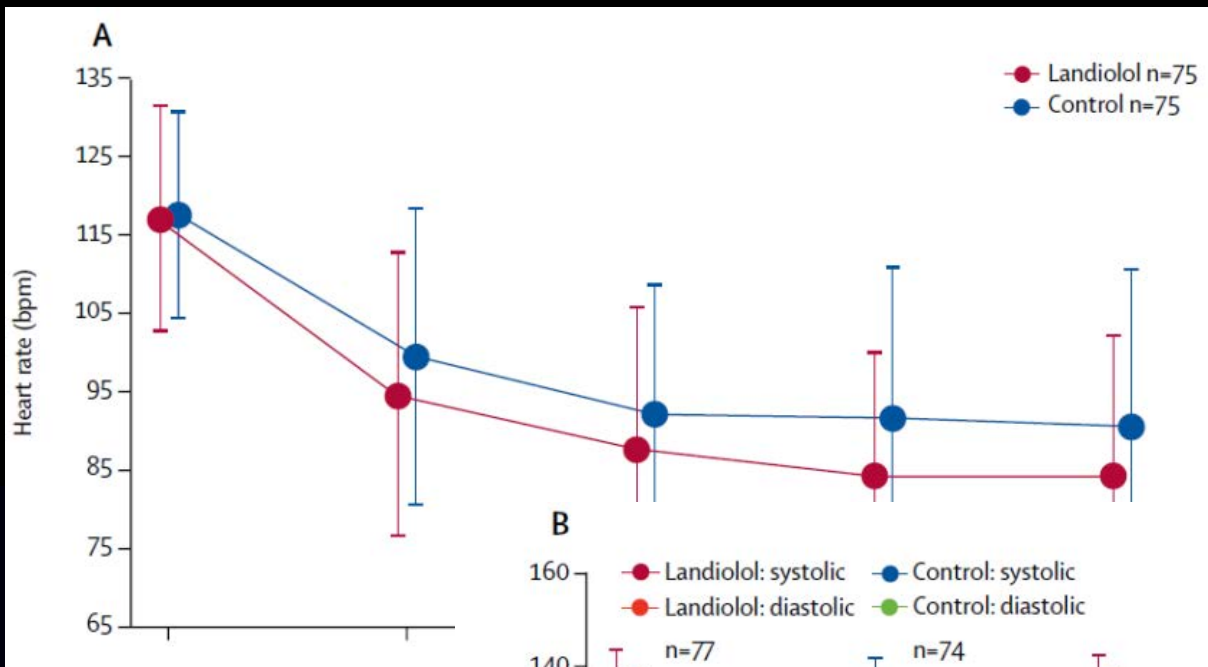
**Effect of Heart Rate Control With Esmolol on Hemodynamic and Clinical Outcomes in Patients With Septic Shock: A Randomized Clinical Trial**

*Preliminary Communication | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT*

Andrea Morelli, MD, et al

Sebastian Rehberg, MD; Tim Kampmeier, MD; Sandra Ligges, PhD; Annalia D'Egidio, MD; Fiorella D'Ippoliti, MD; Cristina Raffone, MD; Fabio Guarracino, MD; Mervyn Singer, MD, FRCP; Alexander Mebazaa, MD; Paolo Pietropaoli, MD; Martin Westphal, MD; Mervyn Singer, MD, FRCP

RCT 154 patients septic shock



Efficacy and safety of landiolol, an ultra-short-acting  $\beta_1$ -selective antagonist, for treatment of sepsis-related tachyarrhythmia (J-Land 3S): a multicentre, open-label, randomised controlled trial

Yasuyuki Kakihana, Osamu Nishida, Takumi Taniguchi, Masaki Okajima, Hiroshi Morimatsu, Hiroshi Ogura, Yoshitsugu Yamada, Tetsuji Nagai, Eiichiro Morishima, Naoyuki Matsuda, on behalf of the J-Land 3S Study Group\*

RCT 151 patients sepsis and septic shock



**Some adverse signals were reported.....**

	Landiolol (N=77)*	Control (N=74)
Patients with an adverse event	49 (64%)	44 (59%)
Patients with any serious adverse event	9 (12%)	8 (11%)
Adverse events leading to study drug discontinuation	9 (12%)	..
Hypotension†	9 (12%)	0
Delirium	7 (9%)	3 (4%)
Constipation	5 (6%)	3 (4%)
Diarrhoea	5 (6%)	2 (3%)
Hypokalaemia	5 (6%)	1 (1%)
Contact dermatitis	4 (5%)	4 (5%)
Atrial fibrillation	3 (4%)	4 (5%)
Insomnia	2 (3%)	5 (7%)
Hypophosphataemia	2 (3%)	3 (4%)
Erythema	0	3 (4%)

Data are n (%). Analyses were done on an as-assigned basis (safety analysis set).  
\*Includes one patient who was assigned to the control group but received landiolol. †Including blood pressure decrease.

and eight (11%) in the control group. Serious adverse events related to landiolol occurred in five (6%) of 77 patients, with blood pressure decreases in three (4%) patients and cardiac arrest, heart rate decreased, and ejection fraction decreased in one (1%) patient each. These events resolved or improved with dose reduction of landiolol, withdrawal, or other action. There were no

# Some signals for undesired effects....

Variable	Group	Baseline	24 h	48 h	72 h	96 h
Lactate [mmol·L <sup>-1</sup> ]	Esmolol	1.5 [1.1; 2.7]	1.5 [1.1; 2.0]	1.5 [1.0; 2.0]	1.5 [1.1; 2.3]	1.5 [1.1; 2.3]
	Control	1.9 [1.1; 3.1]	2.1 [1.3; 2.9]	1.9 [1.1; 3.2]	1.7 [1.2; 3.1]	1.5 [1.0; 2.6]

DO <sub>2</sub> I [ml·min <sup>-1</sup> ·M <sup>-2</sup> ]	Esmolol	560 [440; 684]	426 [364; 519]	419 [330; 539]	447 [355; 530]	439 [364; 530]	-100 [-211; -38]	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
	Control	479 [395; 658]	486 [388; 620]	461 [371; 568]	418 [358; 561]	452 [377; 579]	-32; [-108; 21]	

# Heart rate reduction with esmolol is associated with improved arterial elastance in patients with septic shock: a prospective observational study

A. Morelli<sup>1\*</sup>, M. Singer<sup>2</sup>, V. M. Ranieri<sup>1</sup>, A. D'Egidio<sup>1</sup>, L. Mascia<sup>4</sup>, A. Orecchioni<sup>1</sup>, F. Piscioneri<sup>1</sup>, F. C. E. Greco<sup>1</sup>, M. Peruzzi<sup>4</sup>, G. Biondi-Zoccai<sup>4,5</sup>, G. Frati<sup>4,5</sup> and S. M. Romano<sup>6</sup>

Variable	Baseline	4 h	p value
CO <sup>th</sup> (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	5.4 ± 1.3	5.1 ± 1.4	0.11
SV <sup>th</sup> (mL)	48 ± 14	59 ± 18	<0.001
CO <sup>p</sup> (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	5.1 ± 1.3	5.0 ± 1.3	0.77
SV <sup>p</sup> (mL)	47 ± 12	59 ± 16	<0.001
HR (min <sup>-1</sup> )	115 ± 11	88 ± 9 <sup>a</sup>	<0.001
SVR (Dyn s <sup>-1</sup> cm <sup>-5</sup> )	1234 ± 293	1102 ± 260	0.001
MAP (mmHg)	80 ± 12	75 ± 10	0.005
MPAP (mmHg)	30 ± 7	28 ± 6	0.001
PAOP (mmHg)	16 ± 3	16 ± 4	0.74
CVP (mmHg)	12 ± 3	12 ± 3	0.86
Ea <sup>p</sup> (mmHg l <sup>-1</sup> )	2.2 ± 0.7	1.7 ± 0.5	<0.001
Ea <sup>th</sup> (mmHg l <sup>-1</sup> )	2.0 ± 0.6	1.55 ± 0.5	<0.001
LVEF (%)	52 ± 11	53 ± 11	0.17
Art. dP/dt <sub>max</sub> (mmHg ms <sup>-1</sup> )	1.08 ± 0.32	0.89 ± 0.29	0.0009
CCE (units)	-0.15 ± 0.5	-0.01 ± 0.4	0.002
CPwO (W)	0.53 ± 0.14	0.63 ± 0.24	0.007
NE dosage (μg kg <sup>-1</sup> min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.7 ± 0.7	0.58 ± 0.55	0.01

↓ Ea 23%  
↓ MAP 6%  
↑ SV 25%

=EF

↓ dP/dt 18%

↑ EDV ~25%??



# Hemodynamic and anti-inflammatory effects of early esmolol use in hyperkinetic septic shock: a pilot study

Levy B et al  
Crit Care 2021

	H0	H6	$\Delta$ H0-H6 (H6-H0)	<i>p</i> value
LVEF (%)	53 (50; 55)	45 (30; 57)	- 8 (- 18; 2)	0.074
LVEDV	89 (56; 114)	100 (44; 119)	9 (- 21; 43)	0.38
VTI (cm)	17 (15; 17)	14 (12; 16)	- 2 (- 3; - 1)	0.008
TDSa (cm/s)	11.0 (8.0; 13.0)	9.0 (7.0; 12.0)	- 1.0 (- 2.1; 0.0)	0.031
Peak E wave velocity (m/s)	0.90 (0.70; 1.00)	0.84 (0.80; 1.00)	0.00 (- 0.10; 0.12)	0.95
Peak E' wave velocity (m/s)	0.11 (0.09; 0.12)	0.09 (0.08; 0.10)	- 0.01 (- 0.03; - 0.01)	0.023
Peak A wave velocity (m/s)	0.77 (0.68; 1.03)	0.57 (0.47; 0.75)	- 0.21 (- 0.27; - 0.06)	0.016
E/A	0.91 (0.80; 1.33)	1.52 (0.97; 1.88)	0.47 (0.20; 0.62)	0.031
E/E'	7.6 (6.5; 9.0)	9.5 (8.4; 12.3)	2.6 (1.0; 3.3)	0.023
DTI S' (cm/s)	9.0 (7.2; 14.0)	9.0 (8.0; 11.0)	- 1.0 (- 3.0; 0.0)	0.16
TAPSE (mm)	17.5 (16.0; 21.5)	15.5 (14.0; 16.5)	- 1.0 (- 4.0; - 0.5)	0.031

# Effect of Heart Rate Control With Esmolol on Hemodynamic and Clinical Outcomes in Patients With Septic Shock

A Randomized Clinical Trial

Morelli et al  
JAMA 2013

Exclusion criteria were age younger than 18 years,  $\beta$ -blocker therapy prior to randomization, pronounced cardiac dysfunc-

tion (ie, cardiac index  $\leq 2.2$  L/min/m<sup>2</sup> in the presence of a pulmonary arterial occlusion pressure  $>18$  mm Hg), significant valvular heart disease, and pregnancy.

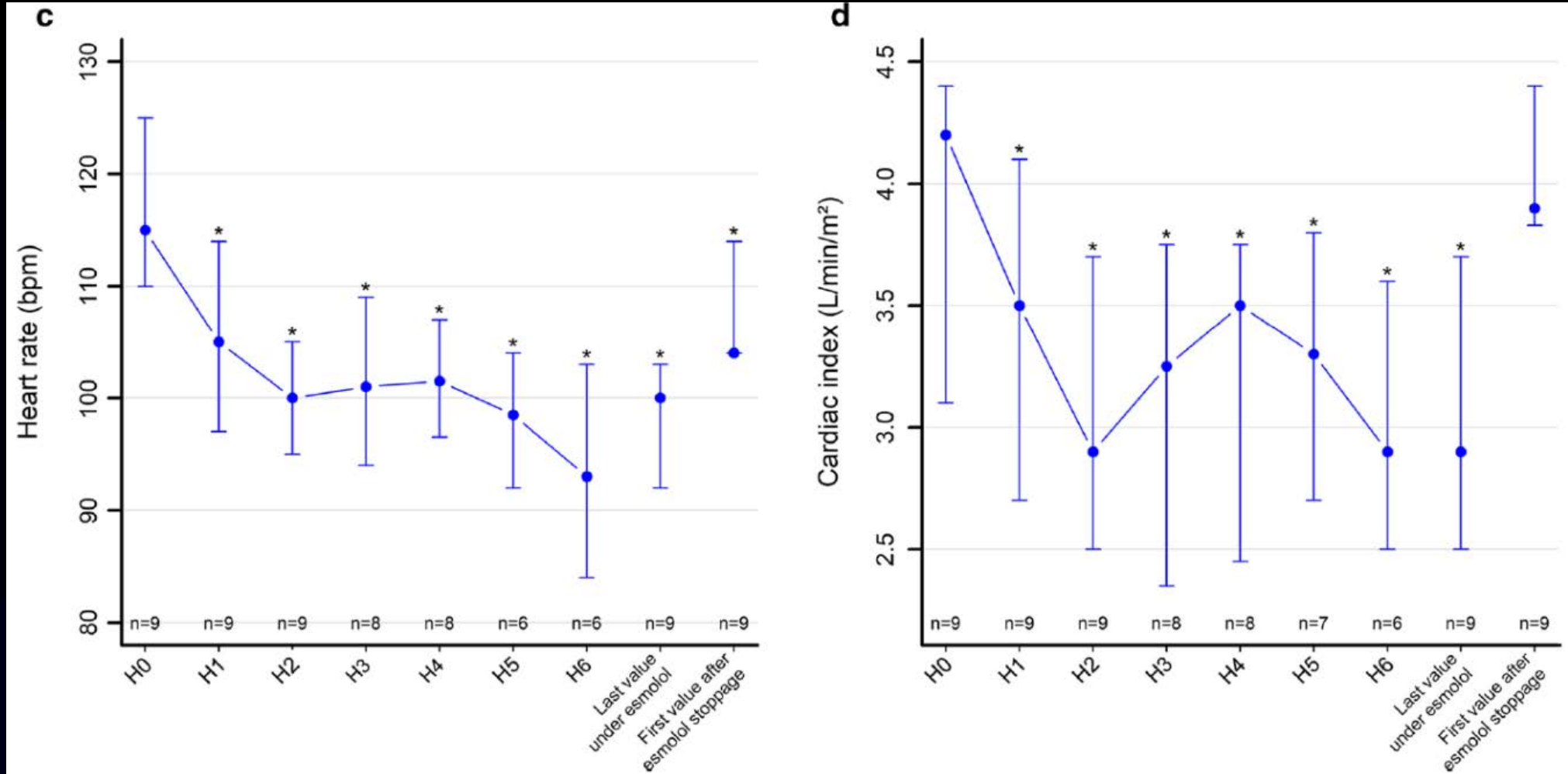
Morelli A et al  
BJA 2020

Variable mean (SD)		High $\text{artdp/dt}_{\text{max}}$ after esmolol (n=23)	Low $\text{artdp/dt}_{\text{max}}$ after esmolol (n=22)	P-value
CO (L min <sup>-1</sup> )	Baseline	5.3 (1.3)	5.0 (1.3)	0.59
	4 h	5.7 (1.1)	4.4 (1.0)*	<0.001
SV (ml)	Baseline	48 (12)	46 (13)	0.59
	4 h	67 (14)*	50 (12)	<0.001
HR (beats min <sup>-1</sup> )	Baseline	113 (10)	116 (11)	0.33
	4 h	87 (10)*	90 (6)*	0.19
MAP (mm Hg)	Baseline	80 (12)	82 (13)	0.72
	4 h	76 (11)	74 (8)*	0.40

- **Despite exclusion of patients with low cardiac index, 22/45 (50%) patients did not tolerate introduction of beta-blockers.**

# Hemodynamic and anti-inflammatory effects of early esmolol use in hyperkinetic septic shock: a pilot study

Levy B et al  
Crit Care 2021

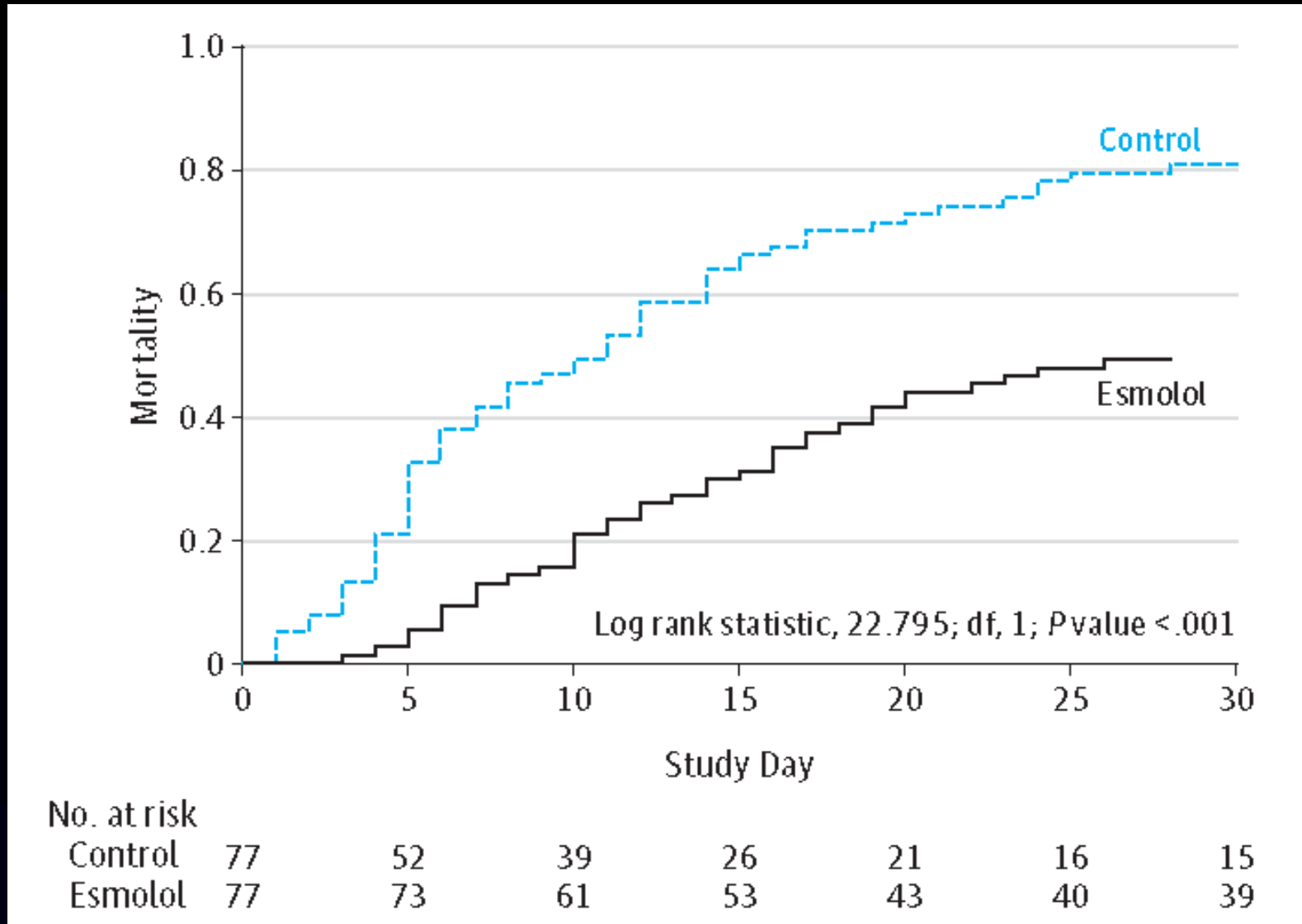




**Despite some adverse signals,  
survival benefit might be observed !**

# Beta-blockers

Morelli et al  
JAMA 2013



RCT 154 patients septic shock



**Survival benefit might be observed ??**

JAMA | Original Investigation | CARING FOR THE CRITICALLY ILL PATIENT

# Landiolol and Organ Failure in Patients With Septic Shock The STRESS-L Randomized Clinical Trial

Tony Whitehouse, MD; Anower Hossain, PhD; Gavin D. Perkins, MD; Anthony C. Gordon, MD; Julian Bion, MD; Duncan Young, MD; Danny McAuley, MD; Mervyn Singer, MD; Janet Lord, PhD; Simon Gates, PhD; Tonny Veenith, MD; Niall S. MacCallum, PhD; Joyce Yeung, MD; Richard Innes, MD; Ingeborg Welters, MD; Nafisa Boota, MSc; Emma Skilton, BSc; Belinder Ghuman, BSc; Maddy Hill, MPH; Scott E. Regan, BA; Dipesh Mistry, PhD; Ranjit Lall, PhD; for the STRESS-L Collaborators

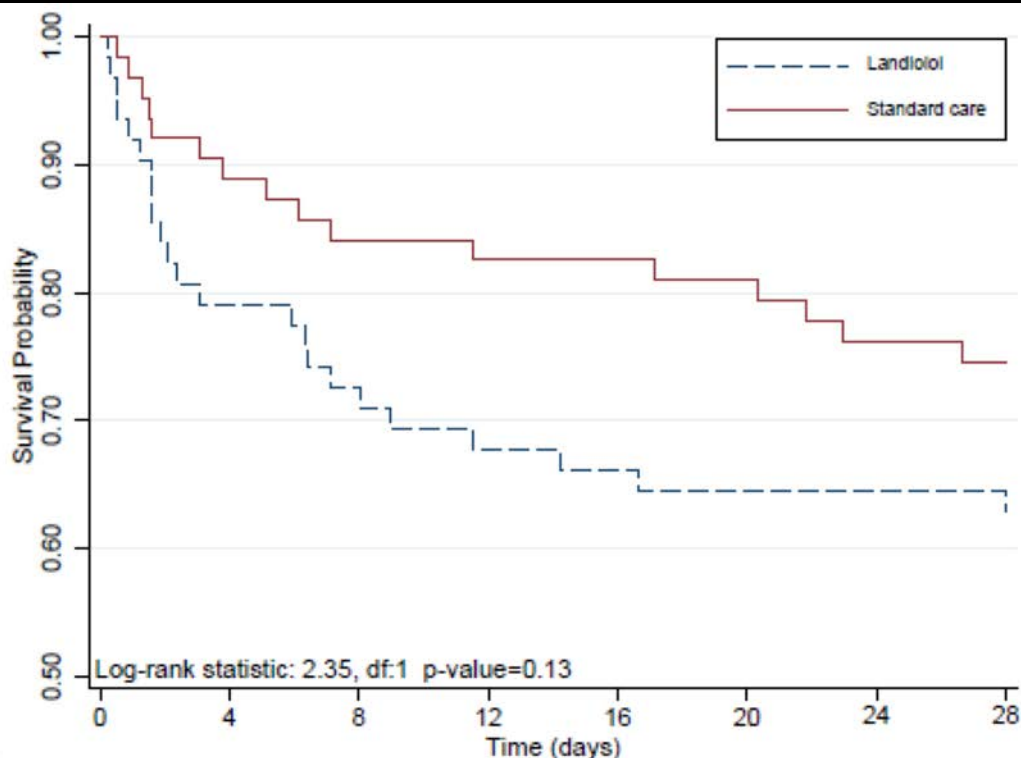
Dipesh Mistry, PhD; Ranjit Lall, PhD; for the STRESS-L Collaborators  
Nafisa Boota, MSc; Emma Skilton, BSc; Belinder Ghuman, BSc; Maddy Hill, MPH; Scott E. Regan, BA;  
Tonny Veenith, MD; Niall S. MacCallum, PhD; Joyce Yeung, MD; Richard Innes, MD; Ingeborg Welters, MD;  
Duncan Young, MD; Danny McAuley, MD; Mervyn Singer, MD; Janet Lord, PhD; Simon Gates, PhD;  
Tony Whitehouse, MD; Anower Hossain, PhD; Gavin D. Perkins, MD; Anthony C. Gordon, MD; Julian Bion, MD;

THE STRESS-L RANDOMIZED CLINICAL TRIAL  
LANDIOLOL AND ORGAN FAILURE IN PATIENTS WITH SEPTIC SHOCK

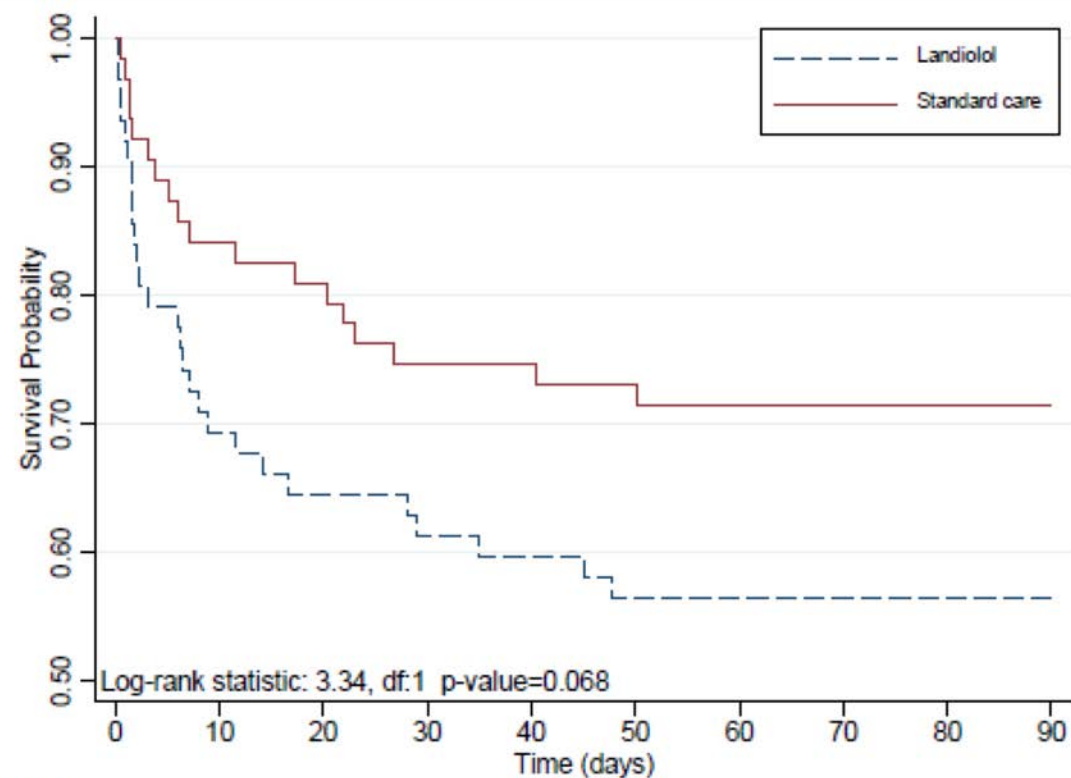
# Landiolol and Organ Failure in Patients With Septic Shock

## The STRESS-L Randomized Clinical Trial

Whitehouse T et al  
JAMA 2023



Number at risk		0	4	8	12	16	20	24	28
Landiolol	62	49	45	42	41	40	40	40	39
Standard care	63	56	53	52	52	51	48	47	47



Number at risk		0	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90
Landiolol	62	43	40	38	37	35	35	35	35	35	35
Standard care	63	53	51	47	47	46	45	45	45	45	45

RCT 126 patients septic shock



**But patients were not evaluated for cardiac output or cardiac function prior to inclusion in the trial...**

**Whitehouse T et al  
JAMA 2023**

### **Trial Participants**

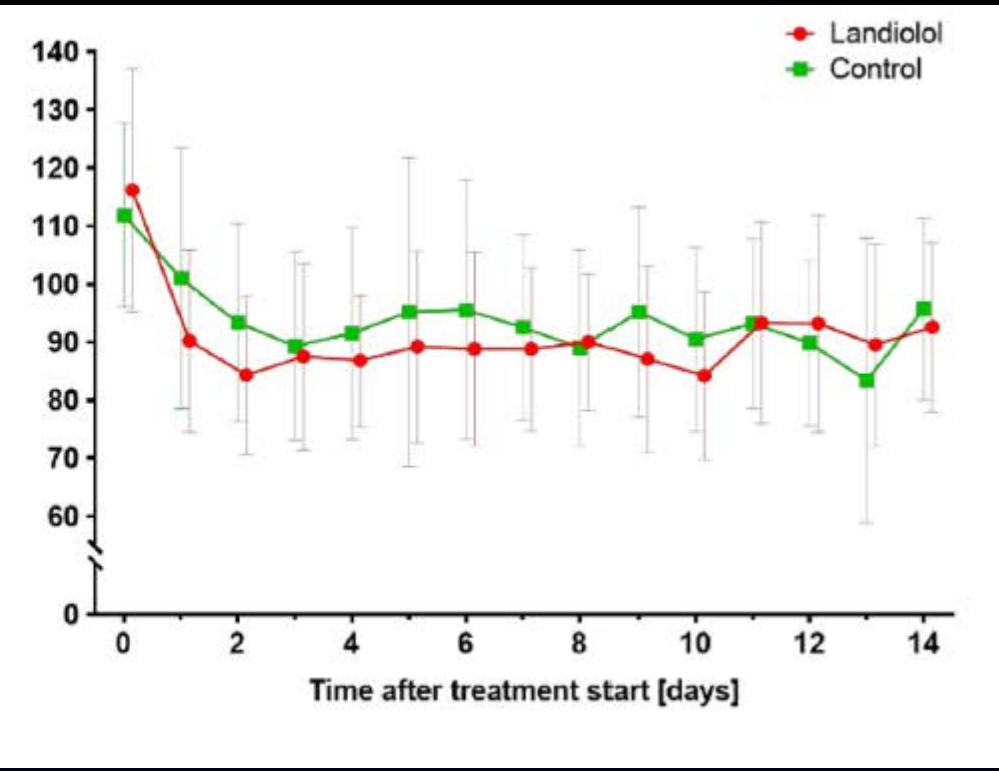
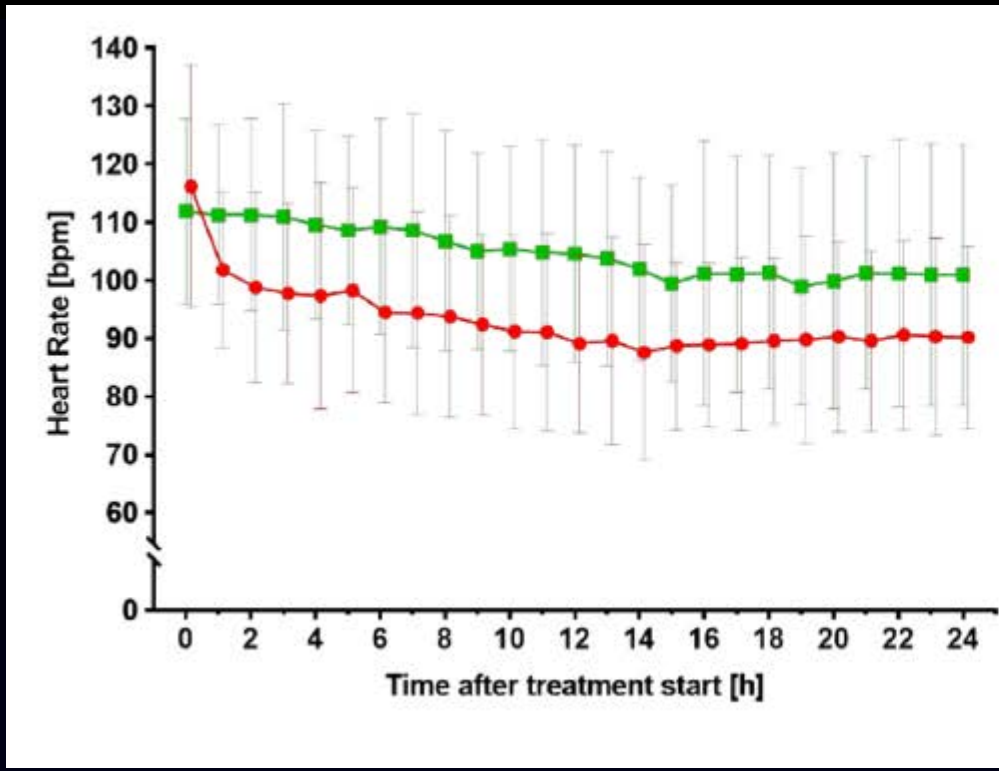
The study recruited adult patients ( $\geq 18$  years) in an ICU diagnosed with septic shock, defined by consensus criteria (Sepsis-3),<sup>14</sup> who having received adequate fluid resuscitation, were being treated with  $0.1 \mu\text{g}/\text{kg}/\text{min}$  or more of norepinephrine (for  $>24$  hours but  $<72$  hours) at the time of randomization and were tachycardiac with a heart rate of 95/min or more. Sepsis-3 criteria were met if the patient had known or suspected infection, a Sequential Organ Failure Assessment (SOFA) score change of 2 or more from baseline, a blood lactate of  $18 \text{ mg}/\text{dL}$  ( $>2 \text{ mmol}/\text{L}$ ) at any point during shock resuscitation, and vasopressor therapy to maintain a mean arterial pressure either predefined by the clinician or at 65 mm Hg or higher. Patients were excluded if they had tachycardia because of pain or discomfort or had any noninfective form of vasodilatory shock (see trial protocol for extended inclusion and exclusion criteria [Supplement 1](#)).

# Landiolol for heart rate control in patients with septic shock and persistent tachycardia. A multicenter randomized clinical trial (Landi-SEP)



Rehberg-S  
ICM 2024

Sebastian Rehberg<sup>1\*</sup>, Sandra Frank<sup>2</sup>, Vladimír Černý<sup>3,4,12,23,24</sup>, Radek Cihlár<sup>5</sup>, Rainer Borgstedt<sup>1</sup>, Gianni Biancofiore<sup>6</sup>, Fabio Guarracino<sup>7</sup>, Andreas Schober<sup>8</sup>, Helmut Trimmel<sup>9</sup>, Thomas Pernerstorfer<sup>10</sup>, ...



RCT 186 pts in septic shock

Landiolol for heart rate control in patients with septic shock and persistent tachycardia. A multicenter randomized clinical trial (Landi-SEP)

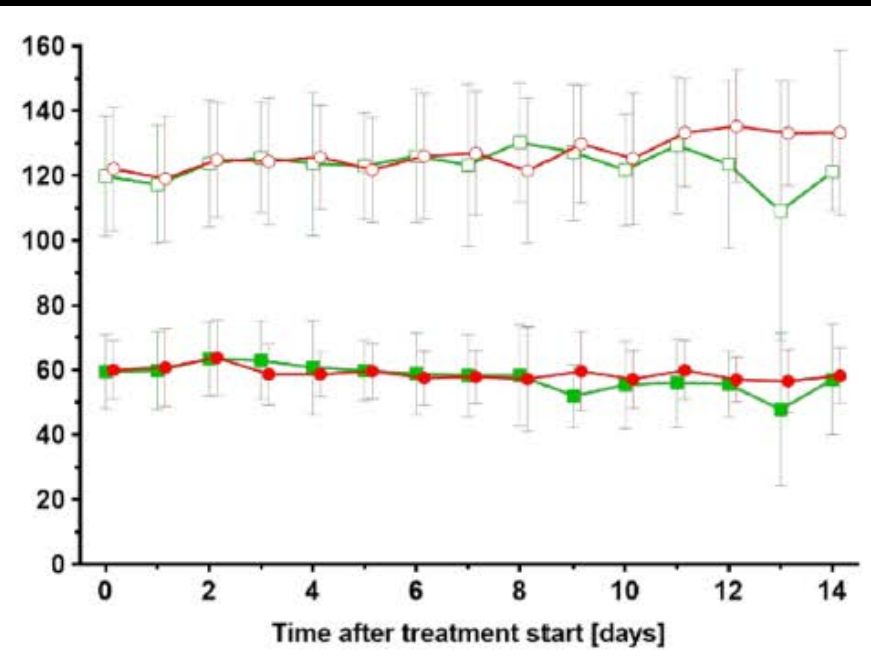
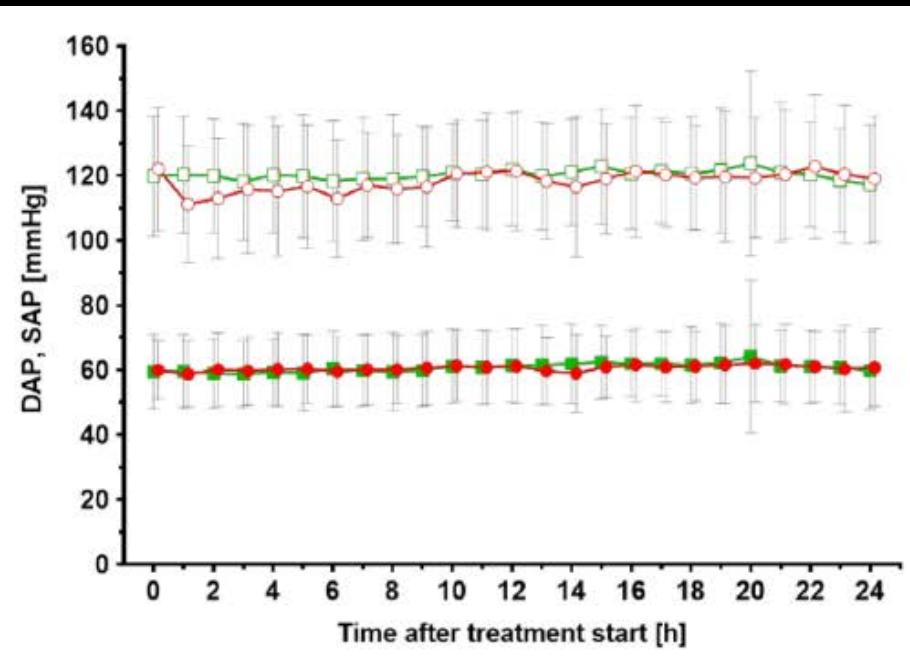


**Primary outcome:**

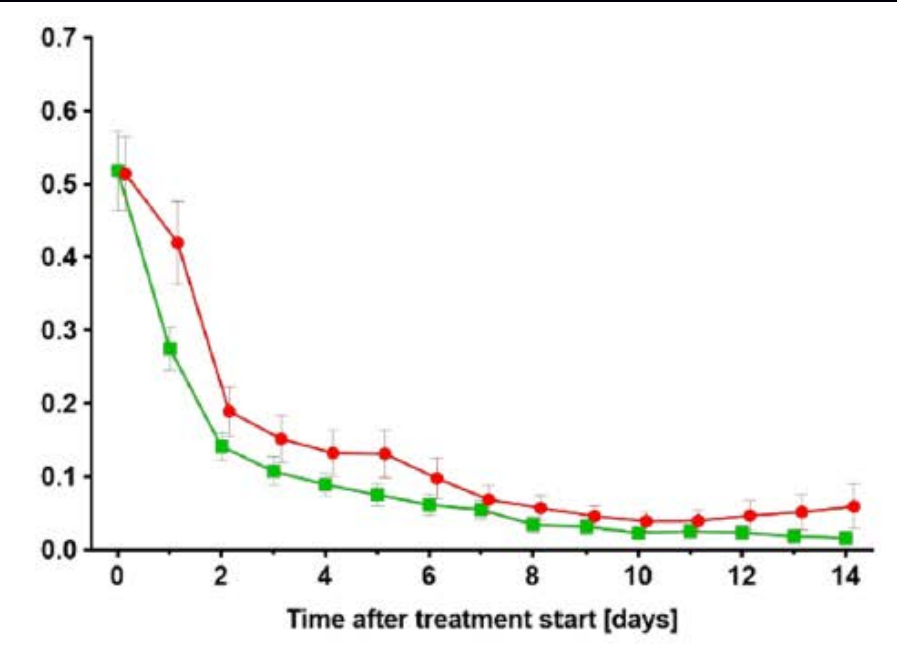
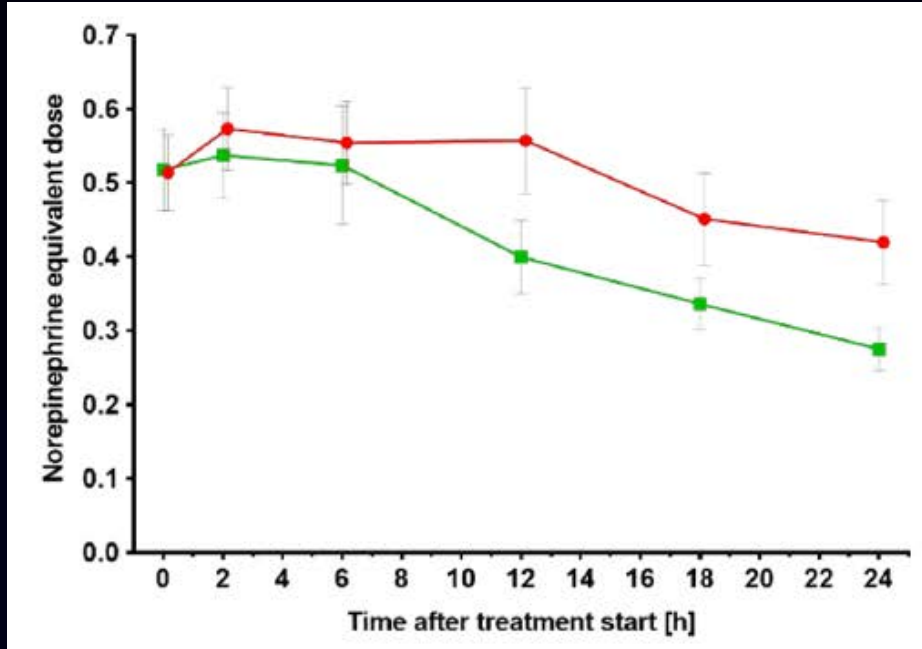
- 1. Achieving target HR 80-94 bpm each hour for 3 hours**
- 2. Maintaining this target for 3 more hours**
- 3. No increase in vasopressor requirements within 24h**

Response	Landiolol group (n = 98)	Control group (n = 98)	Overall (n = 196)	Effect estimate (95% CI)	P value
Primary response (multi-component) <sup>a</sup> , n (%)	39 (39.8)	23 (23.5)	62 (31.6)	MD, 16.5% (3.4–28.8%)	0.01
Components of primary endpoint					
HR response (target HR reached and maintained) <sup>b</sup> , n (%)	57 (58.2)	29 (29.6)	86 (43.9)	MD, 29% (15.1–41.3%)	<0.001
HR response (target HR reached, not necessarily maintained) <sup>c</sup> , n (%)	74 (75.5)	42 (42.9)	116 (59.2)	MD, 33% (19.4–44.9%)	<0.001
Vasopressors response <sup>d</sup> , n (%)	56 (57.1)	65 (66.3)	121 (61.7)	MD, – 9.2% (– 22 to 4.4%)	0.19

**N = 186**



No difference in  
blood pressure  
but slower  
decrease in  
vasopressors



# Landiolol for heart rate control in patients with septic shock and persistent tachycardia. A multicenter randomized clinical trial (Landi-SEP)



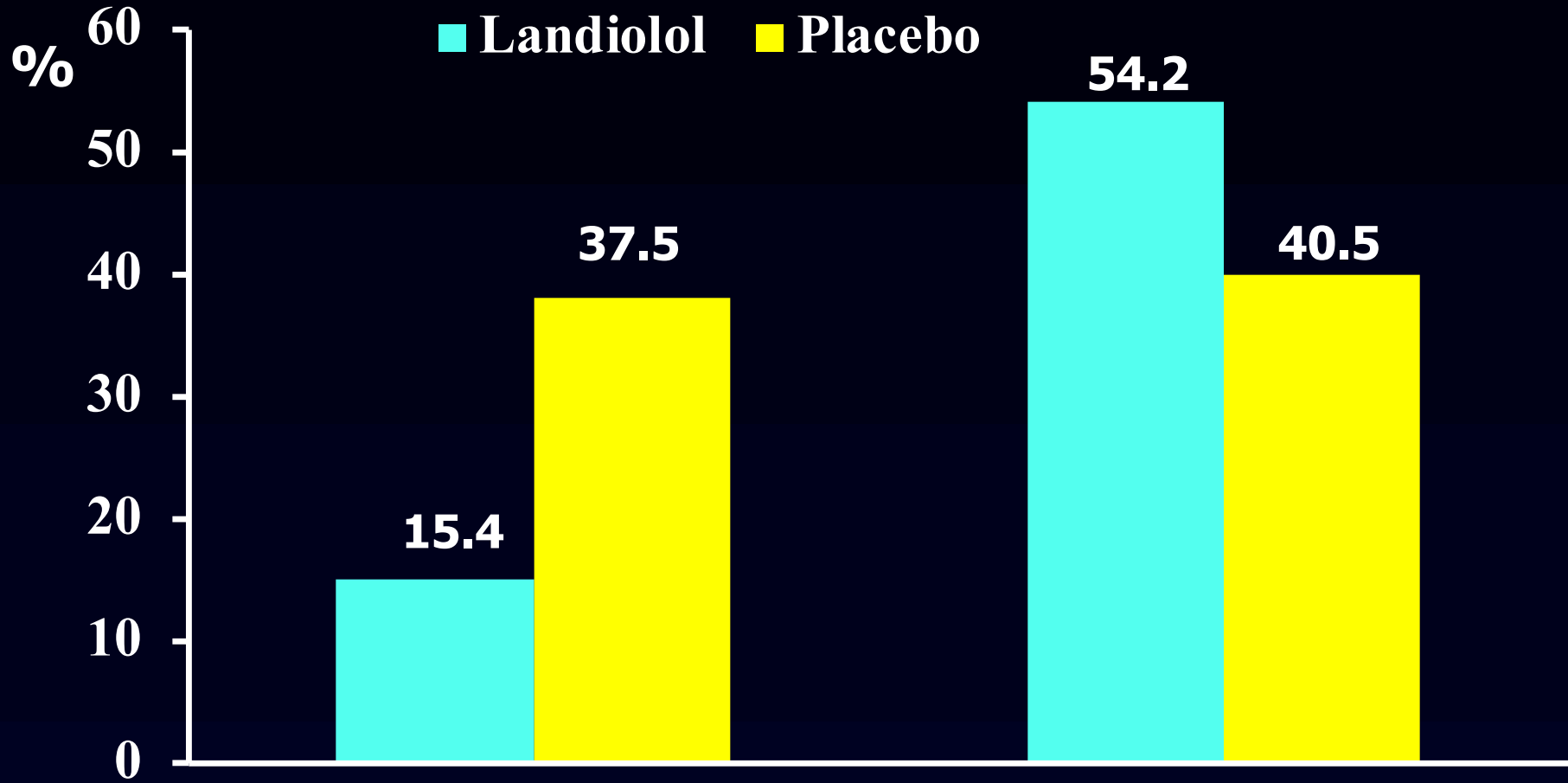
## Secondary outcomes

Response	Landiolol group (n = 98)	Control group (n = 98)	Overall	Effect estimate (95% CI)	P value
28-day mortality, n (%) <sup>a</sup>	43 (43.9)	39 (40.2)	82 (42.1)	MD, 3.8% (– 9.9 to 17.3%)	0.60
ICU mortality, n (%) <sup>b</sup>	43 (43.9)	33 (34)	76 (39)	MD, 9.9% (– 3.8 to 23%)	0.16
Duration of ICU stay for patients alive on day 28, median (95% CI), days	14 (10.2–15.3)	13.9 (10.2–20.4)	–	HR, 1.17 (0.70–1.94)	0.55
Duration of hospital stay for patients alive on day 28	–	–	–	HR, 0.80 (0.41–1.54)	0.50

**N = 186**

# Secondary analyses of LANDI-SEP: Atrial fibrillation

28-day  
mortality



**N =**  
**186**

n=2  
6

n=2  
4

n=7  
2

n=7  
4

# **(Un)Expected side effects of beta blockers in sepsis:**

**how to manage them?**

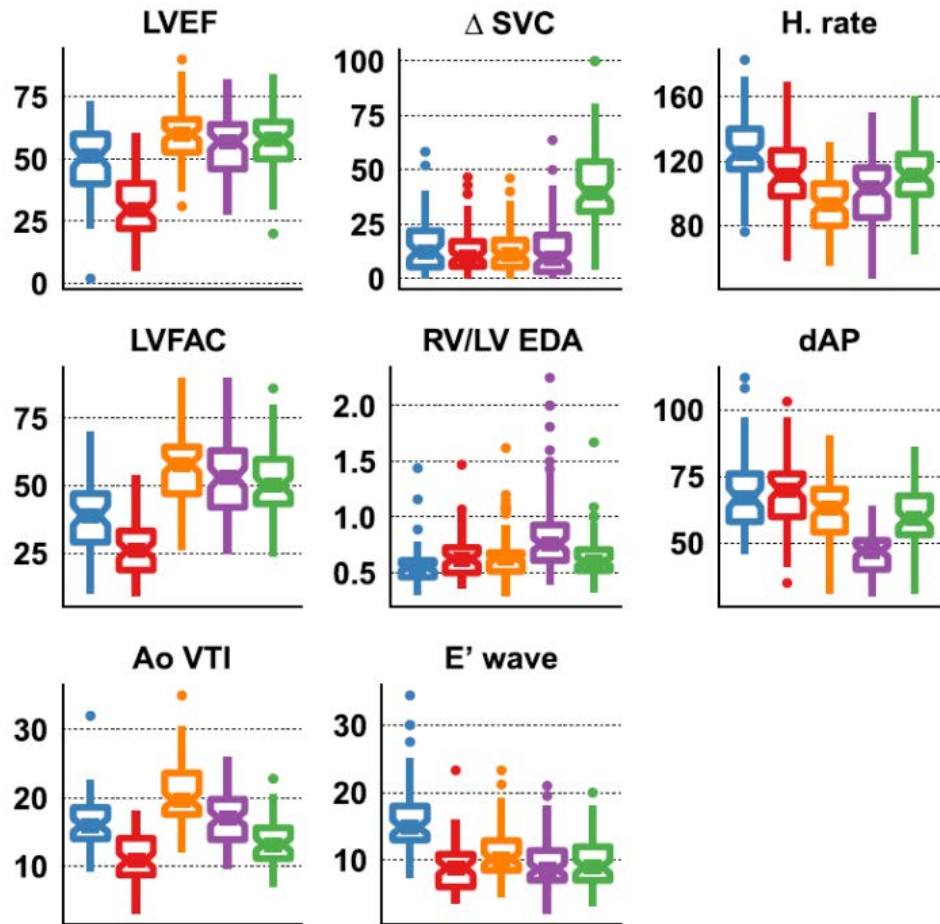
**Identification of the right patient**



**Ideally before administration  
of beta-blockers**

# Cardiovascular clusters in septic shock combining clinical and echocardiographic parameters: a post hoc analysis

Geri G et al  
ICM 2019



➤ **LV systolic dysfunction 64(18%)**

LVEF <40% & Ao VTI <14cm & LVFAC <33%

➤ **RV failure 81(23%)**

RV/LV EDA >0.8 & sABP <100mmHg & dABP <51mmHg

➤ **Still hypovolemic 70(19%)**

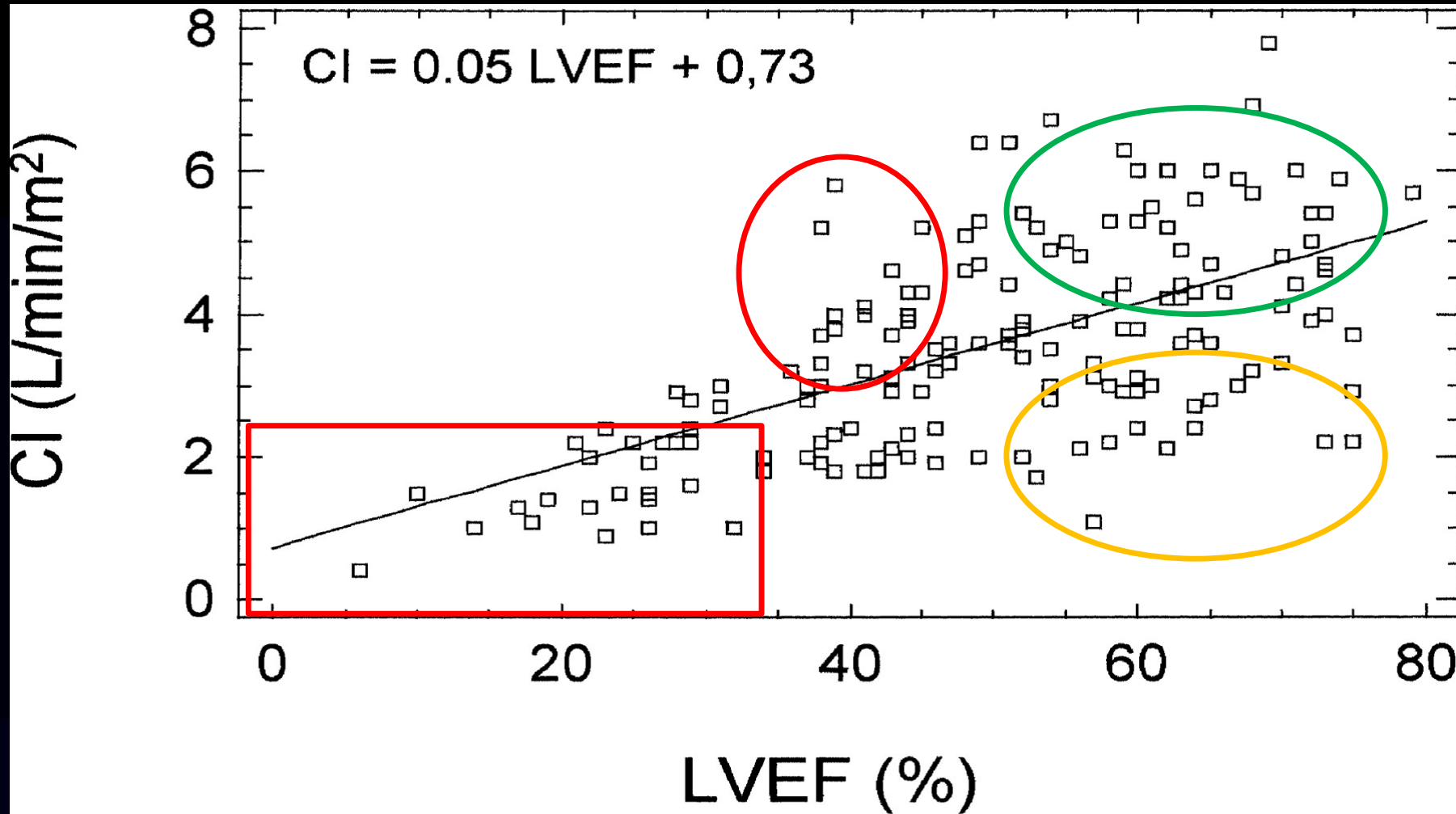
Ao VTI < 16 cm & E wave < 67 cm/s & SVC > 39 %

N= 360



# Which patients for beta-blockers?

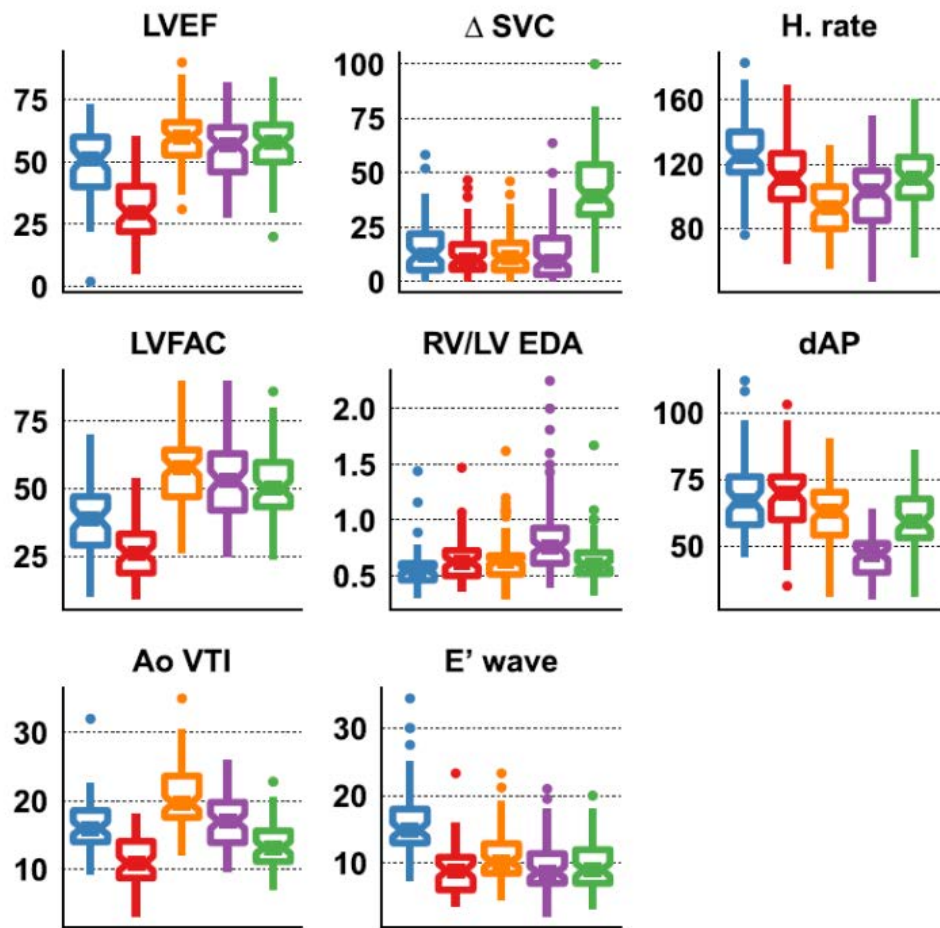
Vieillard-Baron et al  
AJRCCM 168:1270;2003



Patients with septic shock

# Cardiovascular clusters in septic shock combining clinical and echocardiographic parameters: a post hoc analysis

Geri G et al  
ICM 2019



➤ **Well resuscitated** 61(17%)

➤ **LV systolic dysfunction** 64(18%)

LVEF <40% & Ao VTI <14cm & LVFAC <33%

➤ **Hyperkinetic** 84(23%)

Ao VTI >20cm & Heart rate <106bpm & LVFAC >58%

➤ **RV failure** 81(23%)

RV/LV EDA >0.8 & sABP <100mmHg & dABP <51mmHg

➤ **Still hypovolemic** 70(19%)

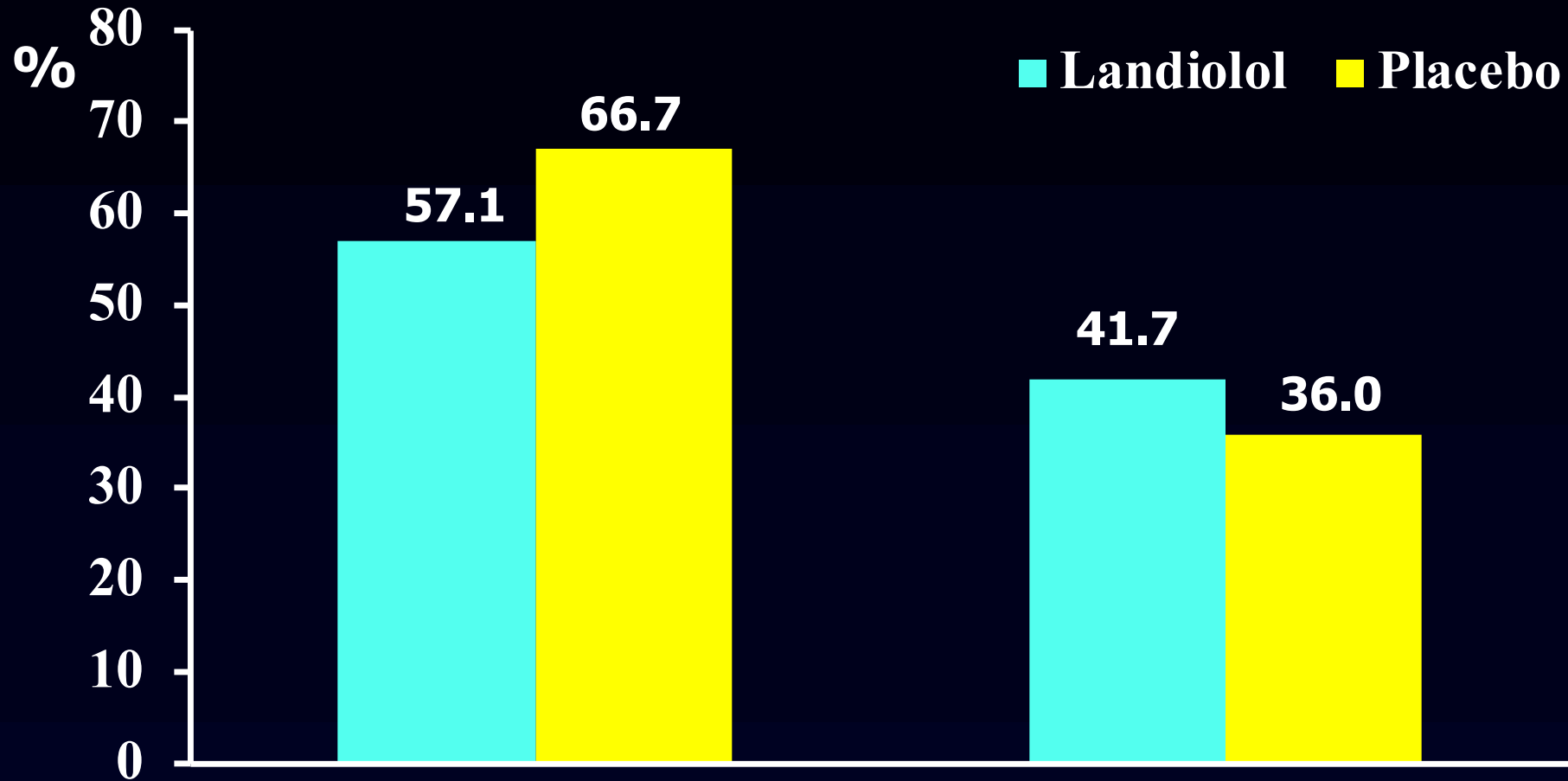
Ao VTI < 16 cm & E wave < 67 cm/s & SVC > 39 %

N= 360

# Secondary analyses of LANDI-SEP: Hyperkinetic (high EF)

Rehberg-S  
ICM 2024

28-day  
mortality



**N =**  
**186**

**LVEF >65**

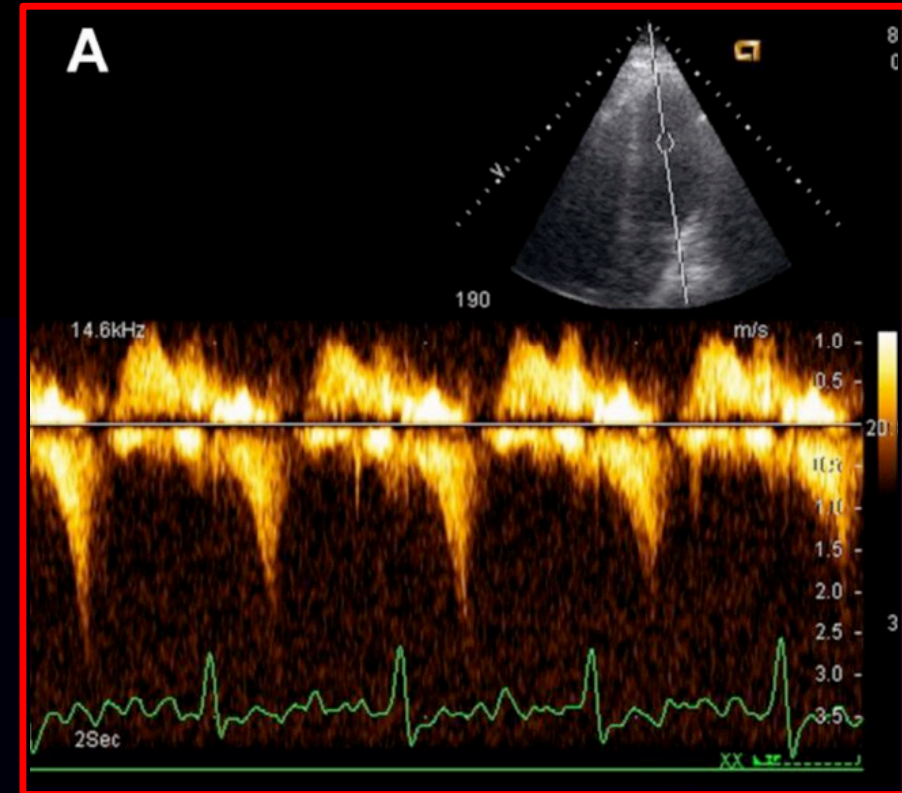
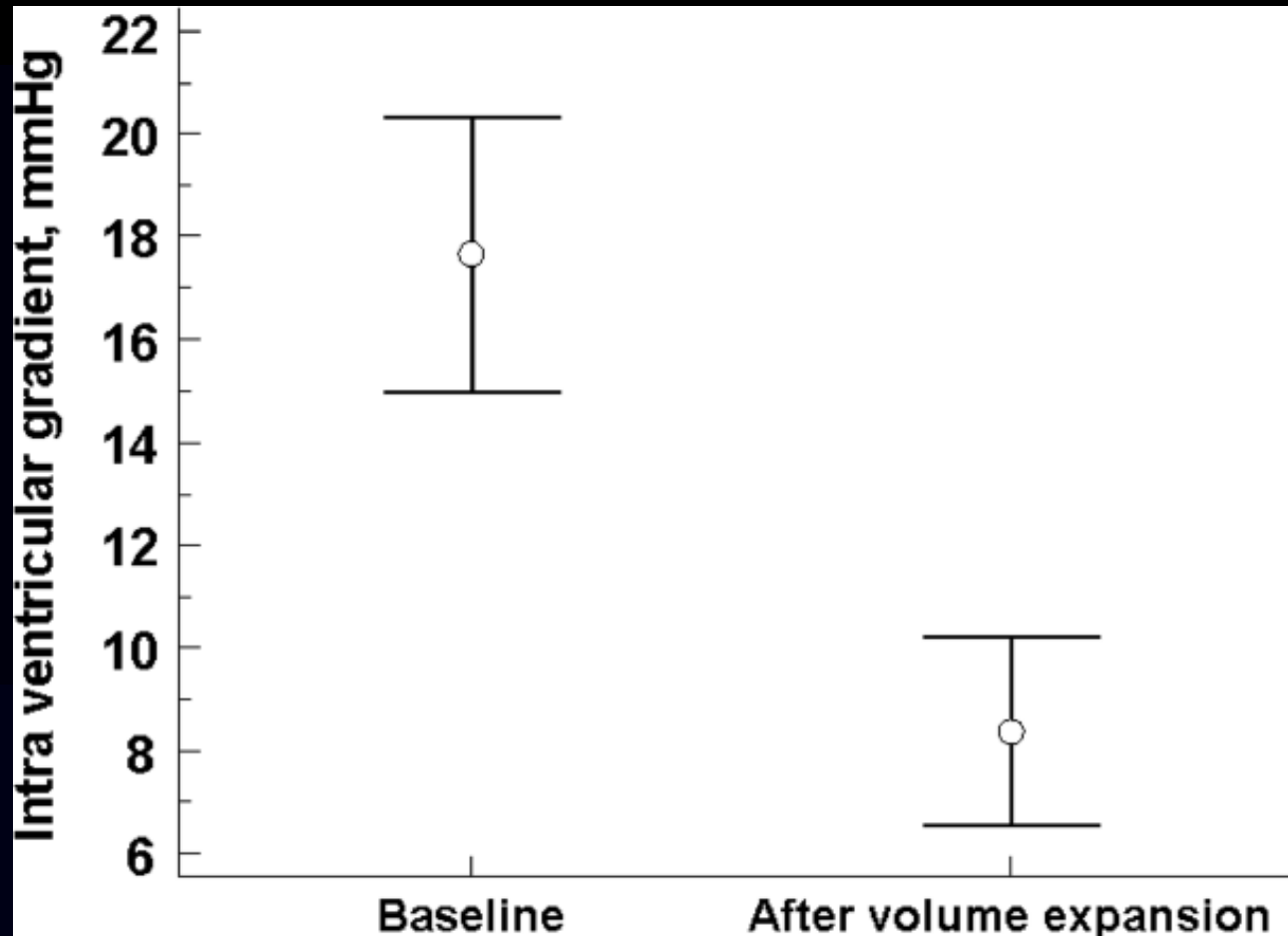
**n=1**  
**4**      **n=1**  
**2**

**LVEF <65**

**n=8**  
**4**      **n=8**  
**6**

# Patients with LVOT obstruction may be excellent candidates !

218 pts septic shock  
=> 47 pts with LVOT



Chauvet JL et al  
Crit Care 2015

# How to evaluate cardiac function with echo ?

## LV systolic

- Ejection fraction
- S wave Mitral annulus
- dP/dT
- Strain rate

## LV diastolic

- Mitral annulus E and A
- Strain rate

## RV

- Dimension
- Shape (D shape)
- IV septum
- Tricuspid annulus
  - TAPSE
  - S wave
- Strain rate

## Efficacy and Safety of Esmolol in Treatment of Patients with Septic Shock

Wei Du, Xiao-Ting Wang, Yun Long, Da-Wei Liu

Department of Critical Care Medicine, Peking Union Medical College Hospital, Peking Union Medical College, Chinese Academy of Medical Sciences, Beijing 100730, China

Variables	With SV increase ( <i>n</i> = 42)	Without SV increase ( <i>n</i> = 21)	<i>t</i>	<i>P</i>
Age (years)	49.4 ± 17.0	52.4 ± 13.0	-0.2	0.474
Sex (male, %)	47.6	47.6	-0.1	0.924
APACHE II	16.1 ± 5.5	14.3 ± 4.2	0.3	0.542
Mechanical ventilation (%)	73.5	66.9	0.1	0.679
Baseline cardiac function (%)			-0.1	0.982
NYHA I	54.8	52.4		
NYHA II	35.7	38.1		
NYHA III	9.5	9.5		
NE dose (μg·kg <sup>-1</sup> ·min <sup>-1</sup> )	0.45 ± 0.18	0.48 ± 0.19	-0.1	0.487
Maximum dose of esmolol (mg/h)	110.6 ± 76.8	116.4 ± 89.9	-0.2	0.237
Total dose of esmolol (mg)	197.6 ± 108.7	184.5 ± 113.9	0.2	0.458
Time to achieve target heart rate (h)	1.7 ± 0.3	1.7 ± 0.5	0.1	0.786

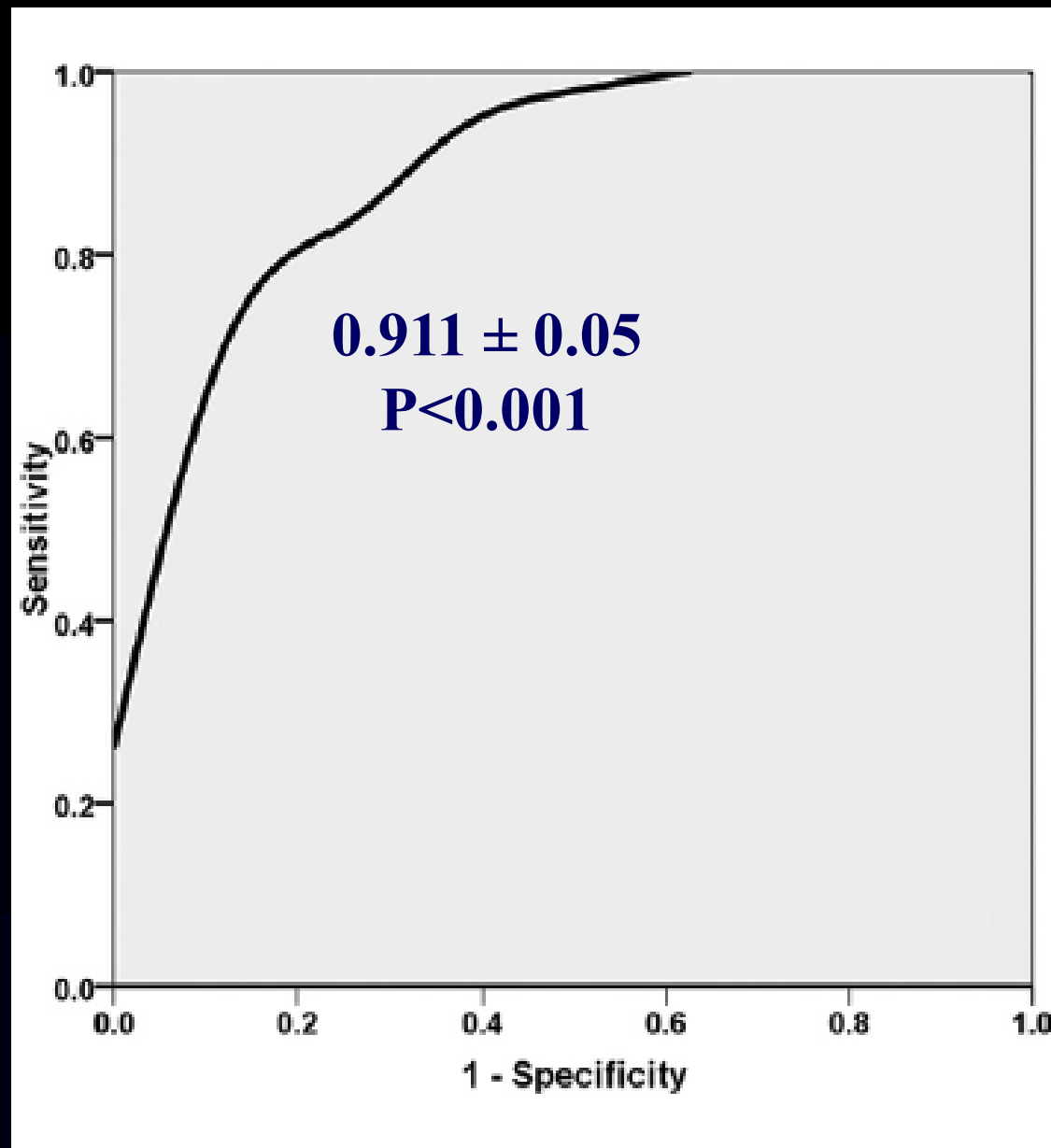
SV: Stroke volume; APACHE: Acute Physiology and Chronic Health Evaluation; NYHA: New York Heart Association; NE: Norepinephrine.

**No obvious difference in clinical patterns  
between responders and non responders**

**MAPSE lat  
predicts the response of SV  
to esmolol**

**MAPSE lat 1.32**

**N=84**



## **Do not forget other basic interventions before institution of Beta-blockers in sepsis**

- **Optimize fluid status**
- **Vasopressin derivatives instead of norepinephrine  
(and avoid epinephrine!)**
- **Temperature control**
- **Pain management**



## **Beta-blockers in sepsis:**

- **The initial potentially beneficial effects of beta-blockers in sepsis are far from confirmed.**
- **Even after excluding patients with low cardiac output, up to 50% of the patients may fail to tolerate introduction of beta-blockers.**
- **Echocardiography may be particularly useful to identify patients who may / may not tolerate beta-blockers.**
- **If administered, the effects of Beta-blockers should be carefully evaluated, if possible in well conducted clinical trials.**

Thank you

