

# En Que Pacientes Elijo Dronedarona?

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 Michael G. DeGroote  
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

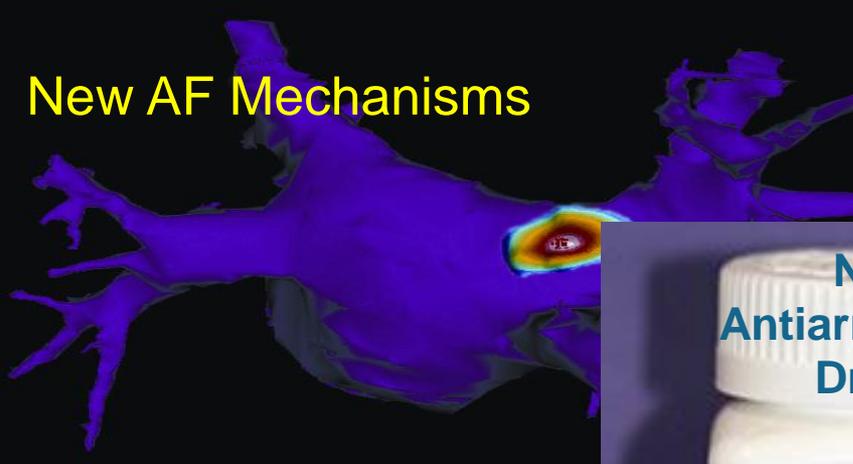
  
Hamilton Health Sciences

# Conflicts of Interest

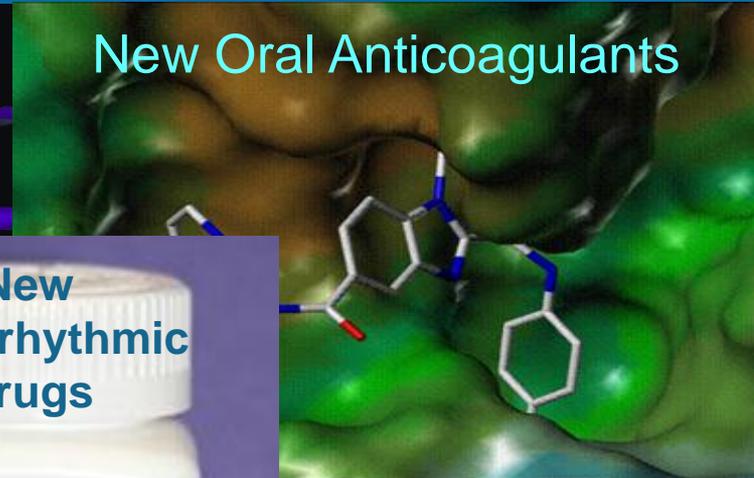
- ❖ Research Grants: Biosense Webster, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, Transoma, Juan Valdez Café de Colombia, Other Undisclosed Colombian Pharmaceutical Companies!
- ❖ Honorarium: Biosense Webster, Boston Scientific, Biotronik, Medtronic, St. Jude Medical, Transoma, Astra Zeneca, Boeringher Ingelheim, Procaps, Sanofi-Aventis, Merck, Servier.
- ❖ Advisory Boards: Medtronic, Biosense Webster, Boston Scientific, Biotronik, Transoma, Schering Plough, Boeringher Ingelheim, Sanofi Aventis, Procaps, Biocaps, Servier
- ❖ I have no stock options under my name... all under Dr. Stuart Connolly's & Salim Yusuf's names! (AIG, Merryll Lynch)
- ❖ I have received Pens, Bags, Memory sticks, tickets to ball games, hockey games, soccer games, invitations for dinner, drinks and other undisclosed entertainment.
- ❖ Nonetheless... I do have my own unbiased opinions!

# Recent Developments

New AF Mechanisms



New Oral Anticoagulants

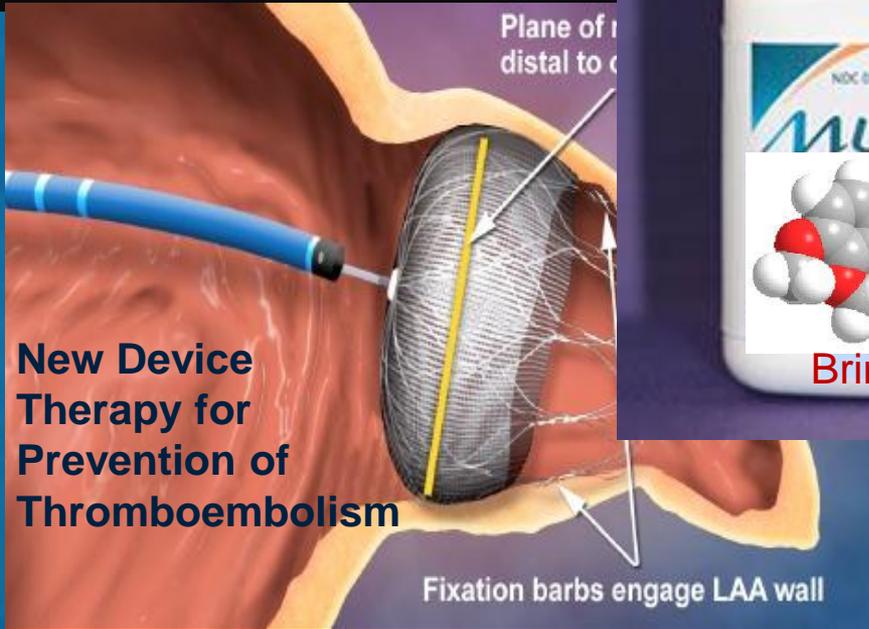


New Antiarrhythmic Drugs

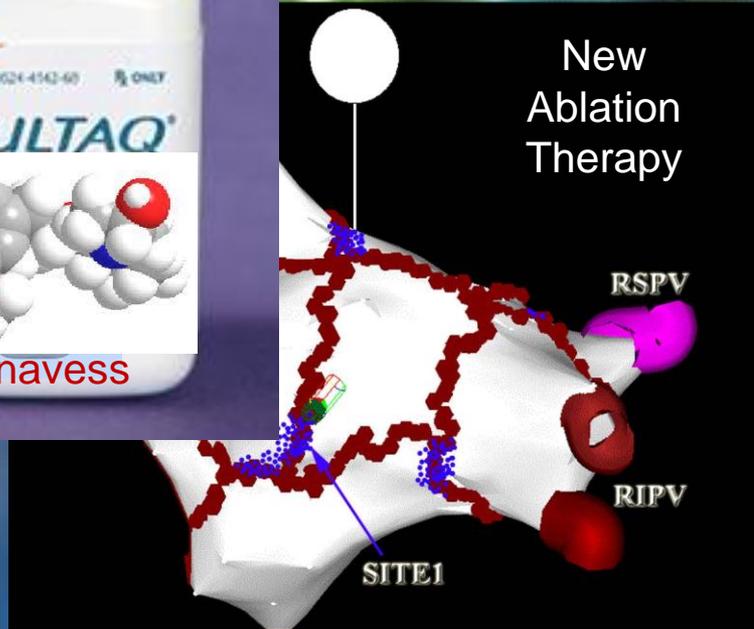


Brinavess

New Device Therapy for Prevention of Thromboembolism



New Ablation Therapy



# Caso

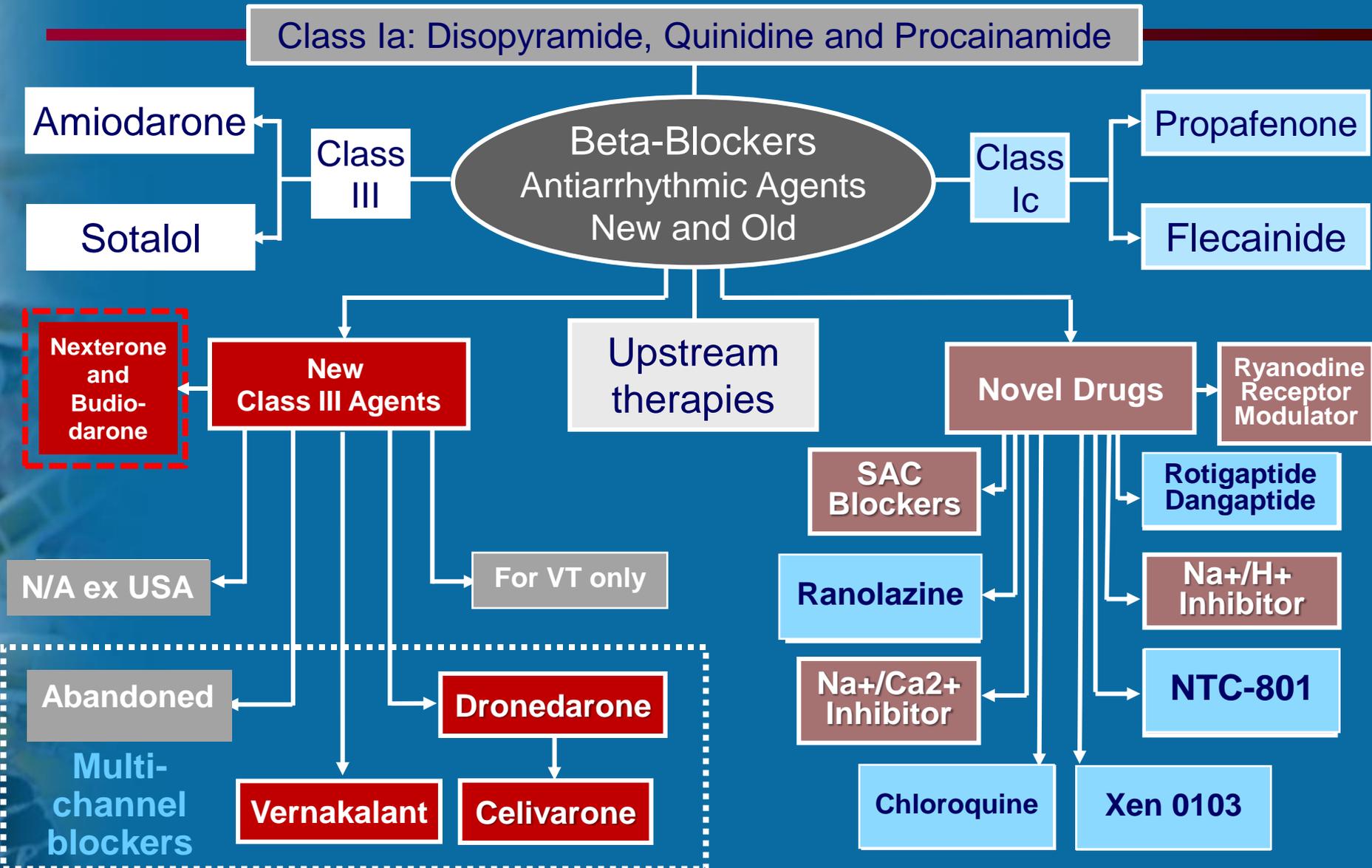
- ◆ Paciente con ECG precedidos por palpitaciones de 3 km de caminata rápida.

DOB:	26/02/1912(100)
Gender:	Female

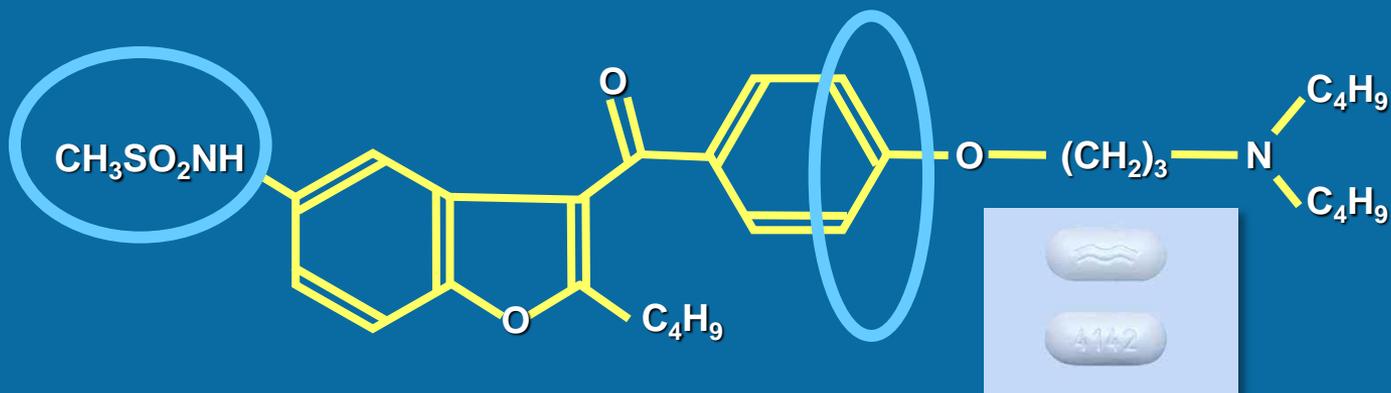


- ◆ No recibe medicaciones fuera de ASA.

# Antiarrhythmic medical therapies



# Dronedarone

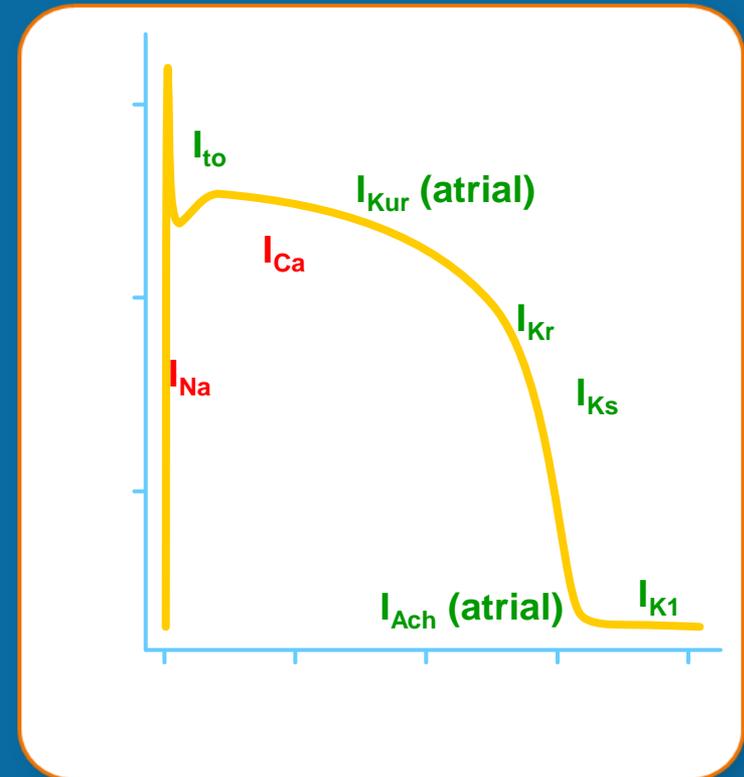


- Amiodarone-like compound lacking iodine
- Similar electrophysiological properties
- No evidence of thyroid or pulmonary toxicity
- 24-hour half-life
- Food effect (2–3 x increase in plasma levels)
- Extensive 1<sup>st</sup> pass metabolism (CYP450 3A4)
- 15% bioavailability

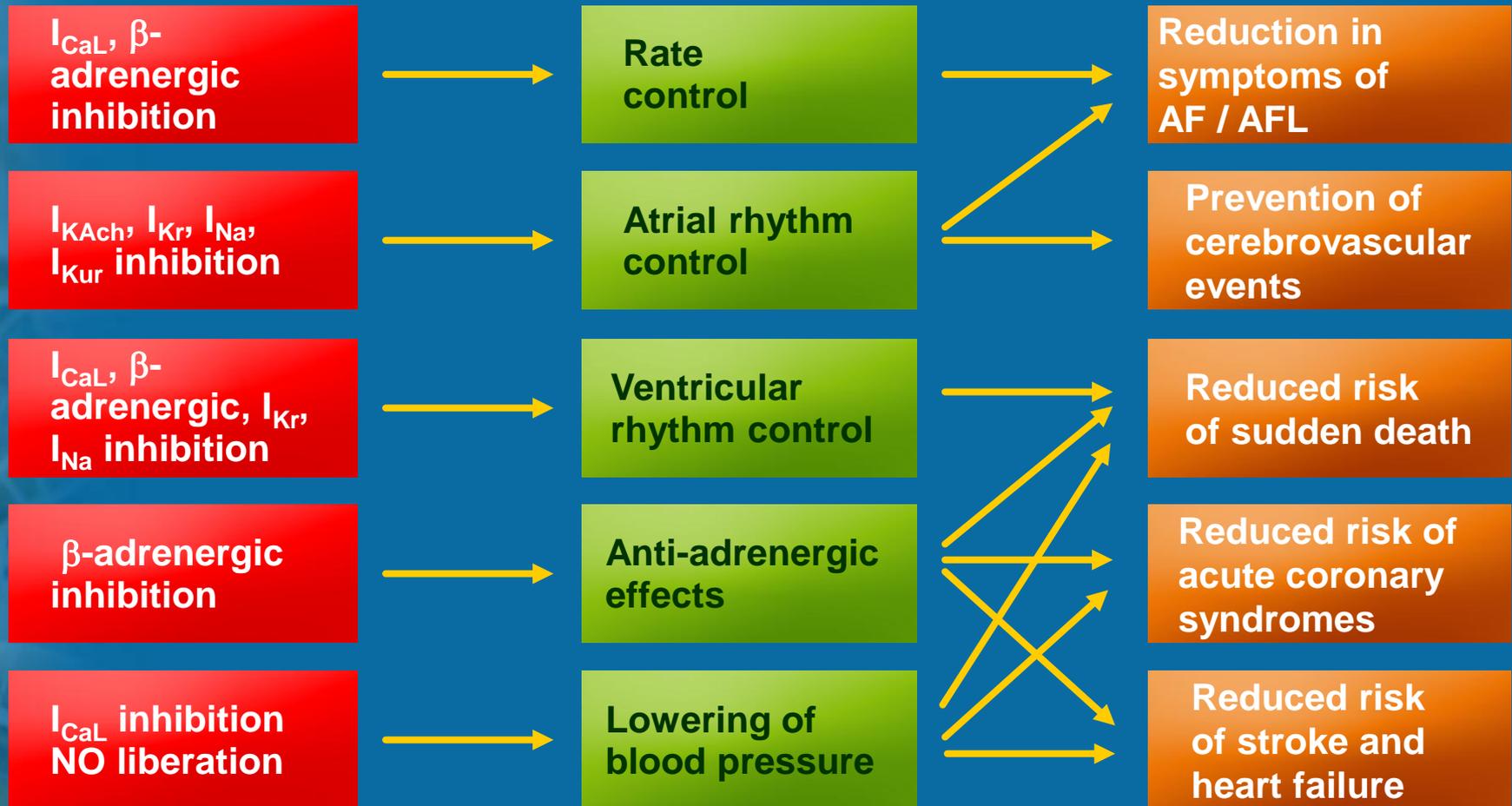


# Dronedarone is a multichannel blocker

- Dronedarone Possesses Electrophysiologic Characteristics of all Four Vaughan Williams Classes<sup>1</sup>
  - Outward currents
    - **I<sub>Kr</sub>**: rapidly activating delayed rectifier potassium current
    - **I<sub>Ks</sub>**: slowly activating delayed rectifier potassium current
    - **I<sub>K1</sub>**: inward rectifier potassium current
    - **I<sub>to</sub>**: transient outward current
    - **I<sub>K(Ach)</sub>**: muscarinic receptor-operated K<sup>+</sup> current (atria)
  - Inward currents
    - Fast sodium currents
    - Calcium channel antagonist
- Dronedarone has anti-fibrillatory effects in the ventricles and atria in animals<sup>2</sup>

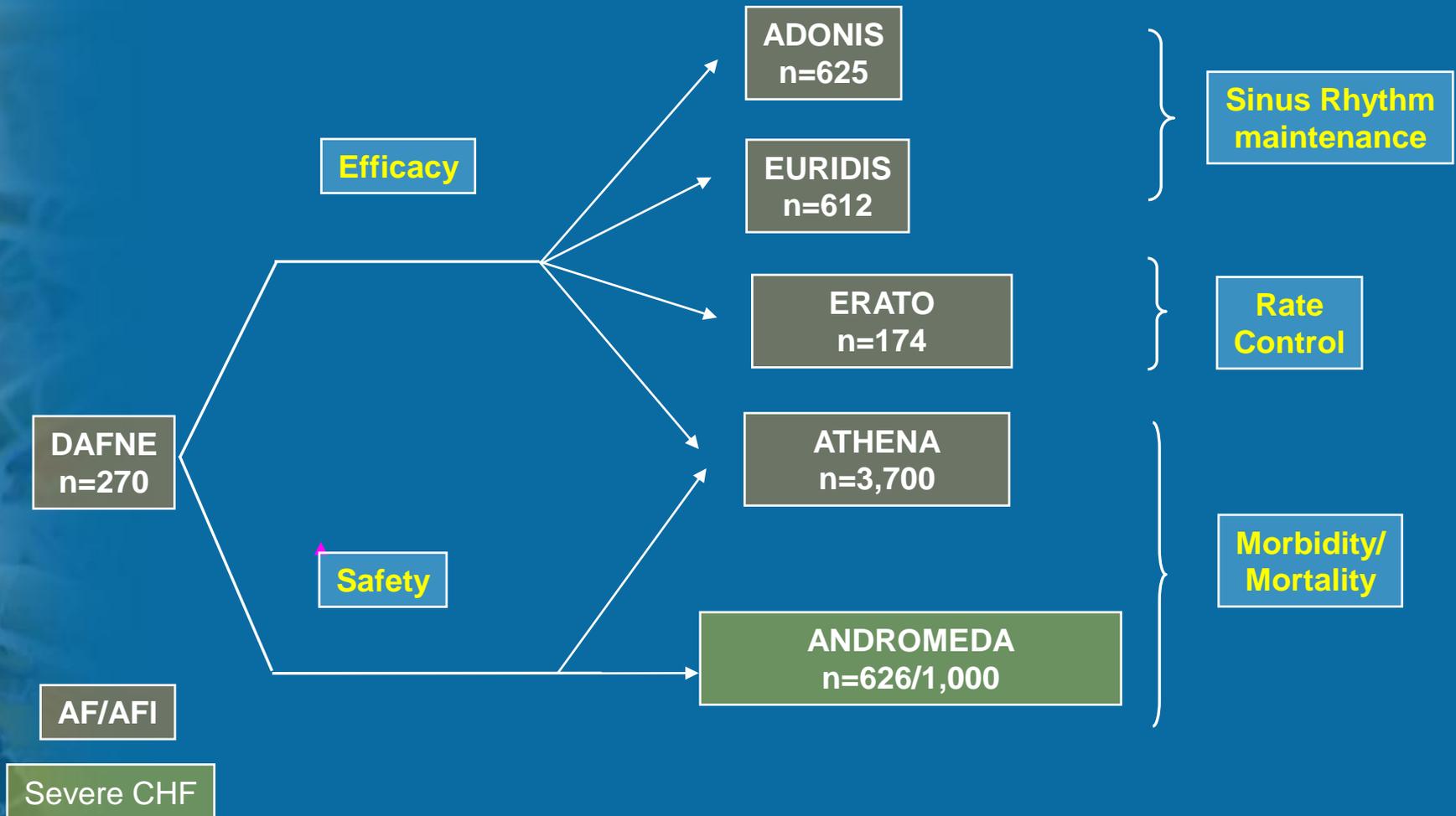


# Dronedarone: Array of pharmacological effects and possible links with clinical benefits

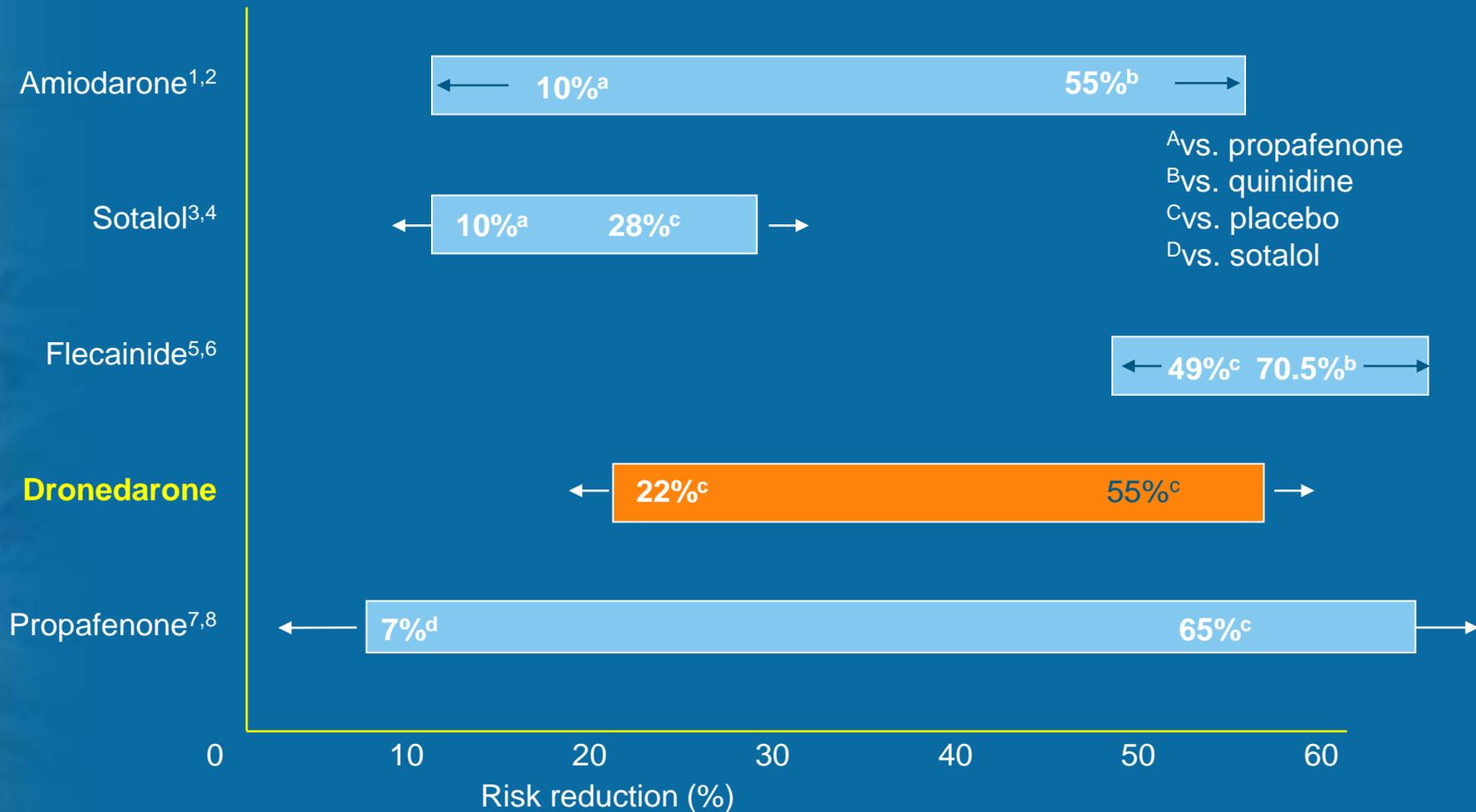


# Dronedronone Clinical Overview

## One of the Largest Clinical Trial Programs Ever Done in AF/AFL

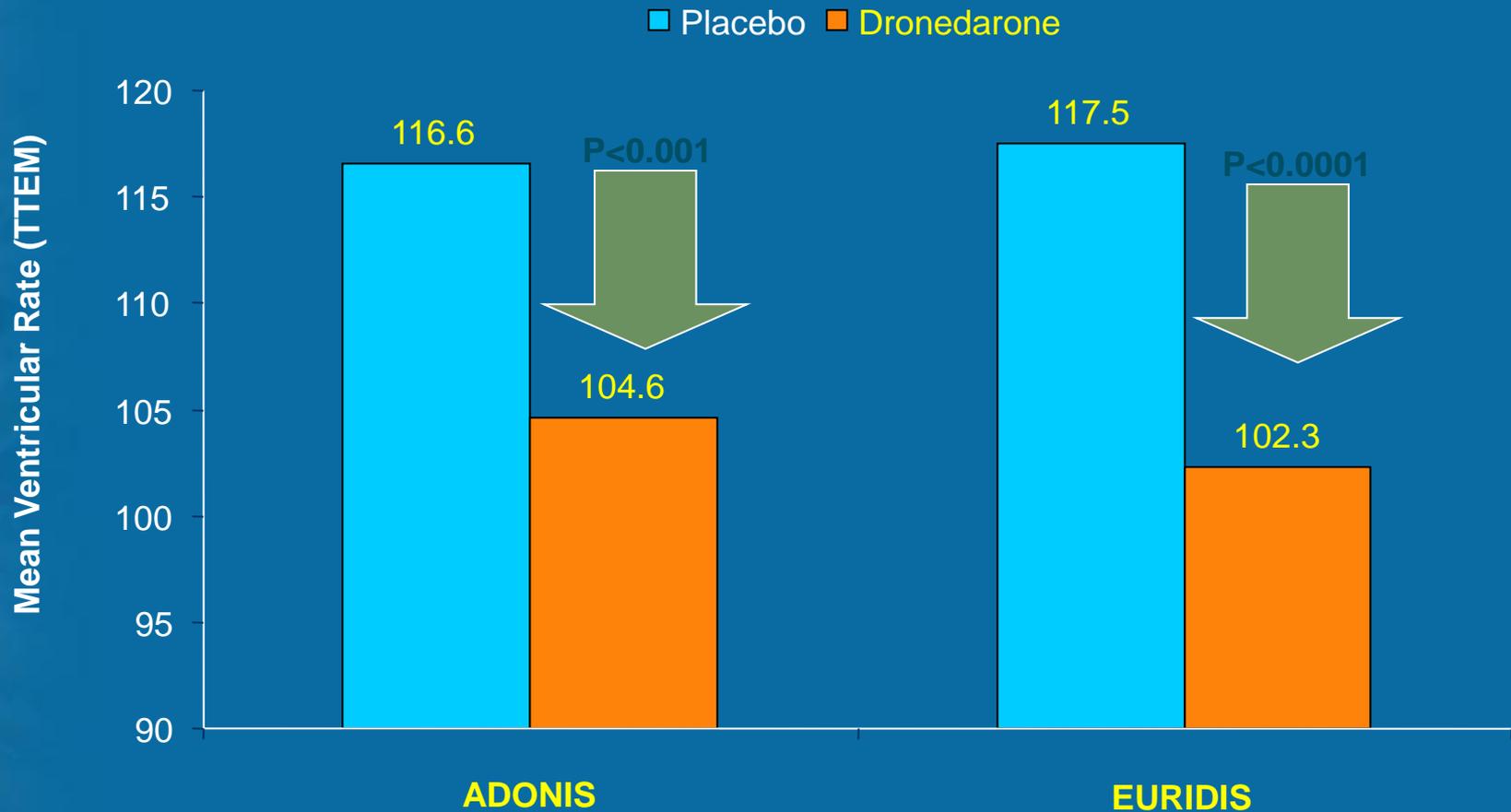


# Range of Sinus Rhythm Maintenance Relative to Comparator Drugs

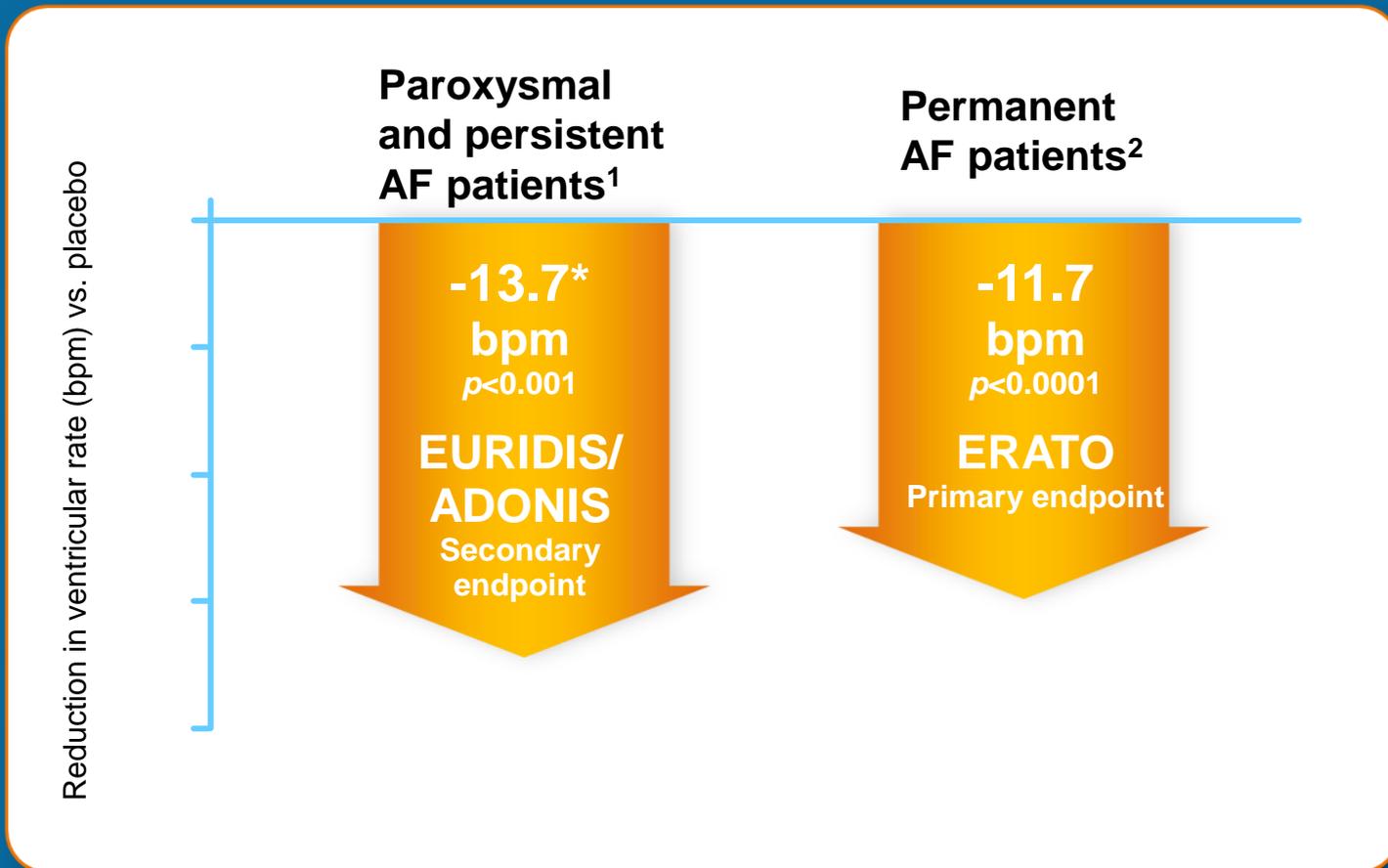


1. Kochiadakis GE, et al. *Chest* 2004;125:377–383. 2. Kerin NZ, et al. *Arch Intern Med* 1996;156:49–53. 3. *European Heart Journal* 2004;25:1385–1394. 4. Gosselink AT, et al. *JAMA* 1992;267:3289–3293. 5. Naccarelli GV, et al. *Am J Cardiol* 1996;77: 53A–9A. 6. Van Gelder IC, et al. *Am J Cardiol* 1989;64:1317–1321. 7. Reimold SC, et al. *Am J Cardiol* 1993;71:558–563. 8. Pritchett E, et al. *Am J Cardiol* 2003;92:94–946.

# EURIDIS and ADONIS: Dronedaronone Reduces Significantly and Consistently Ventricular Rate at First AF/AFL Recurrence



# Dronedarone reduces ventricular rate across the spectrum of AF patients



**Primary endpoint EURIDIS/ADONIS : time to first AF/AFL recurrence**

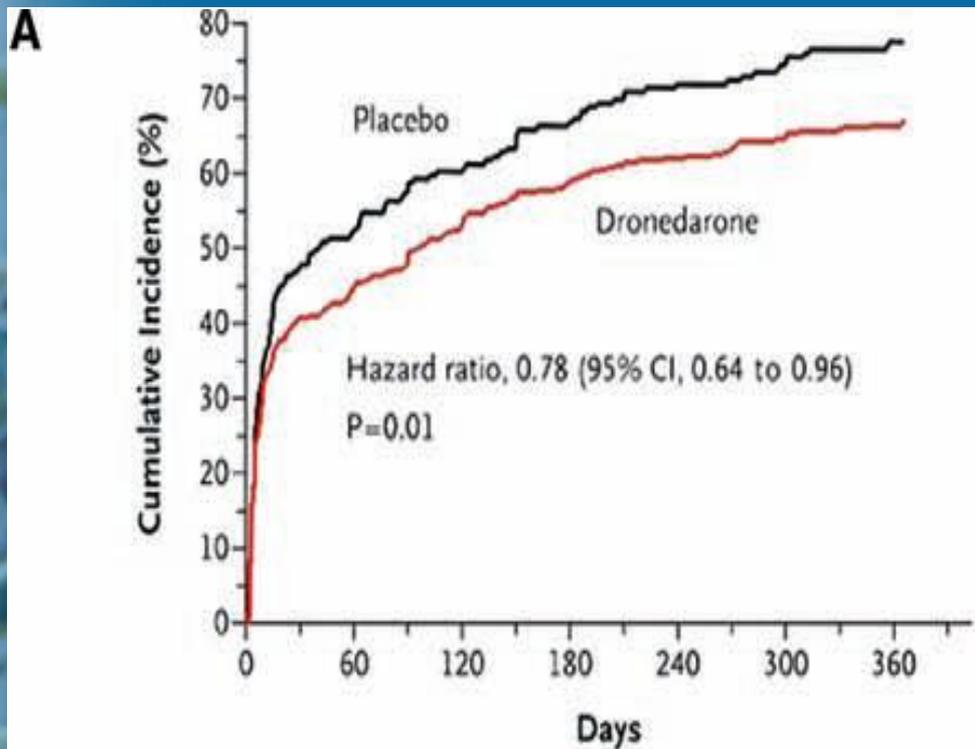
**22%/27% reduction in relative risk ( $p=0.01/p=0.002$ )**

\* MULTAQ™ : 103.4 bpm vs. Placebo: 117.1 bpm

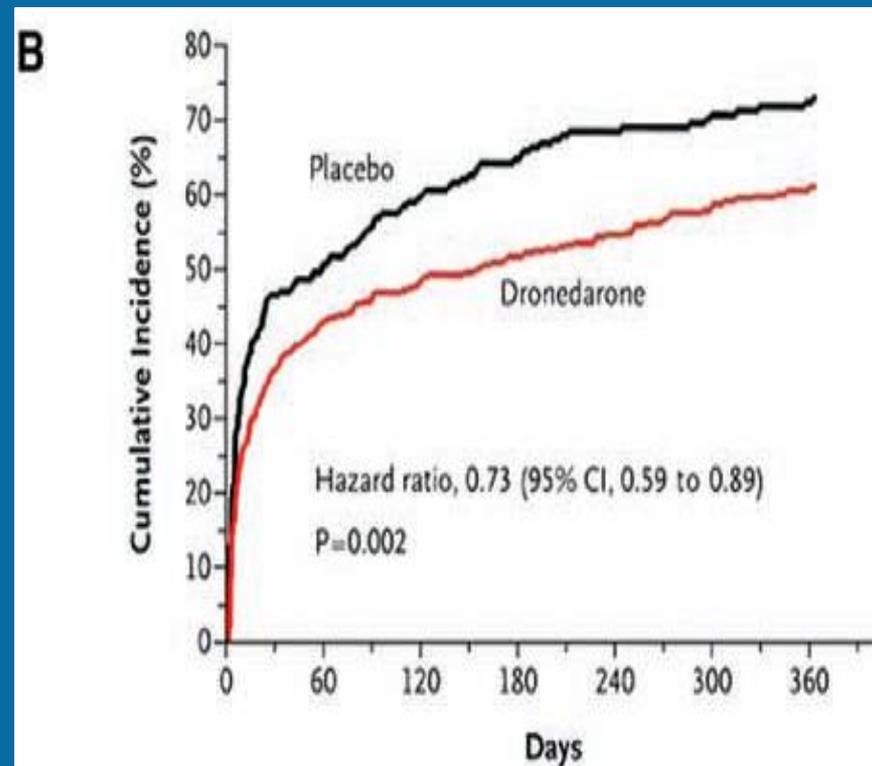
1. Singh BN et al. *N Engl J Med* 2007;357:987-99.

2. Davy et al. *Am Heart J* 2008;156:527.e1-527.e9.

# Dronedarone EURIDIS & ADONIS

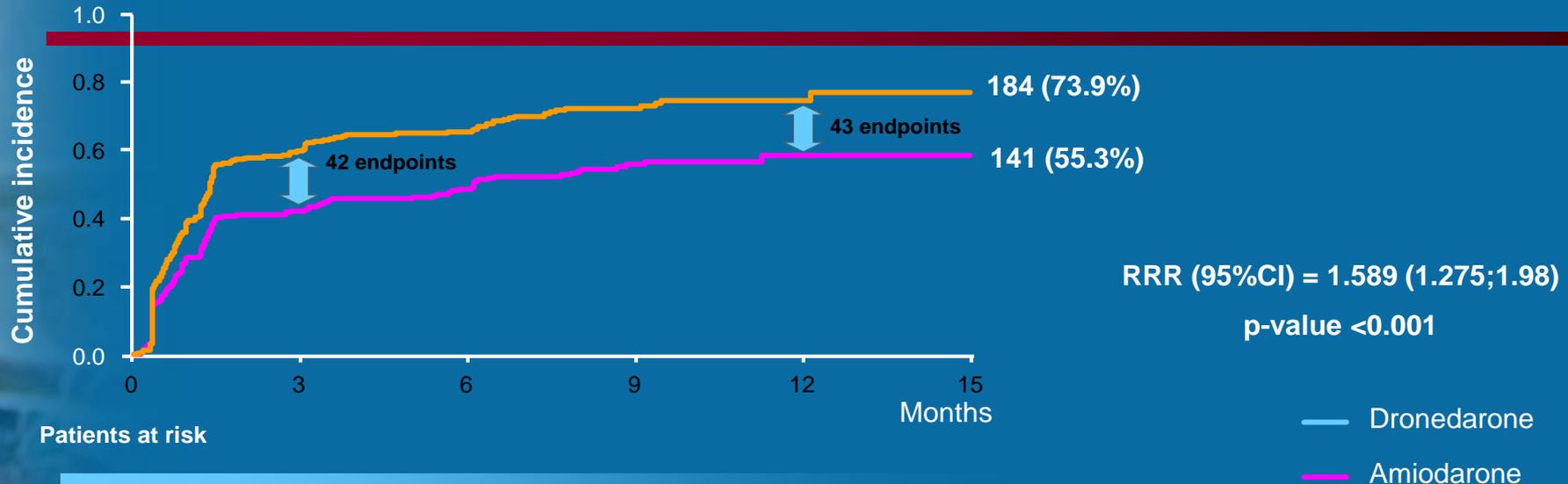


No. at Risk	0	60	120	180	240	300	360
Placebo	201	106	96	79	66	54	41
Dronedarone	411	239	222	189	164	145	125



No. at Risk	0	60	120	180	240	300	360
Placebo	208	105	96	77	67	58	49
Dronedarone	417	260	228	200	183	162	137

# Dyonisios: Primary Endpoint: More AF Events But Less Early Discontinuation With Dronedarone



Patients at risk

Time (Months)	0	3	6	9	12	15
Dronedarone	249	99	84	40	12	0
Amiodarone	255	146	126	61	13	0

	Dronedarone (n=249)	Amiodarone (n=255)
Number of patients with endpoint	184 (73.9%)	141 (55.3%)
ECG documented AF endpoint	158 (63.5%)	107 (42.0%)
Documented AF after conversion	91 (36.5%)	62 (24.3%)
Unsuccessful electrical cardioversion	29 (11.6%)	16 (6.3%)
No spontaneous conversion and no electrical cardioversion on day 10 to day 28	38 (15.3%)	29 (11.4%)
Premature study drug discontinuation	26 (10.4%)	34 (13.3%)
Lack of efficacy	1 (0.4%)	0
Intolerance	25 (10.0%)	34 (13.3%)

# ANDROMEDA – inclusion criteria

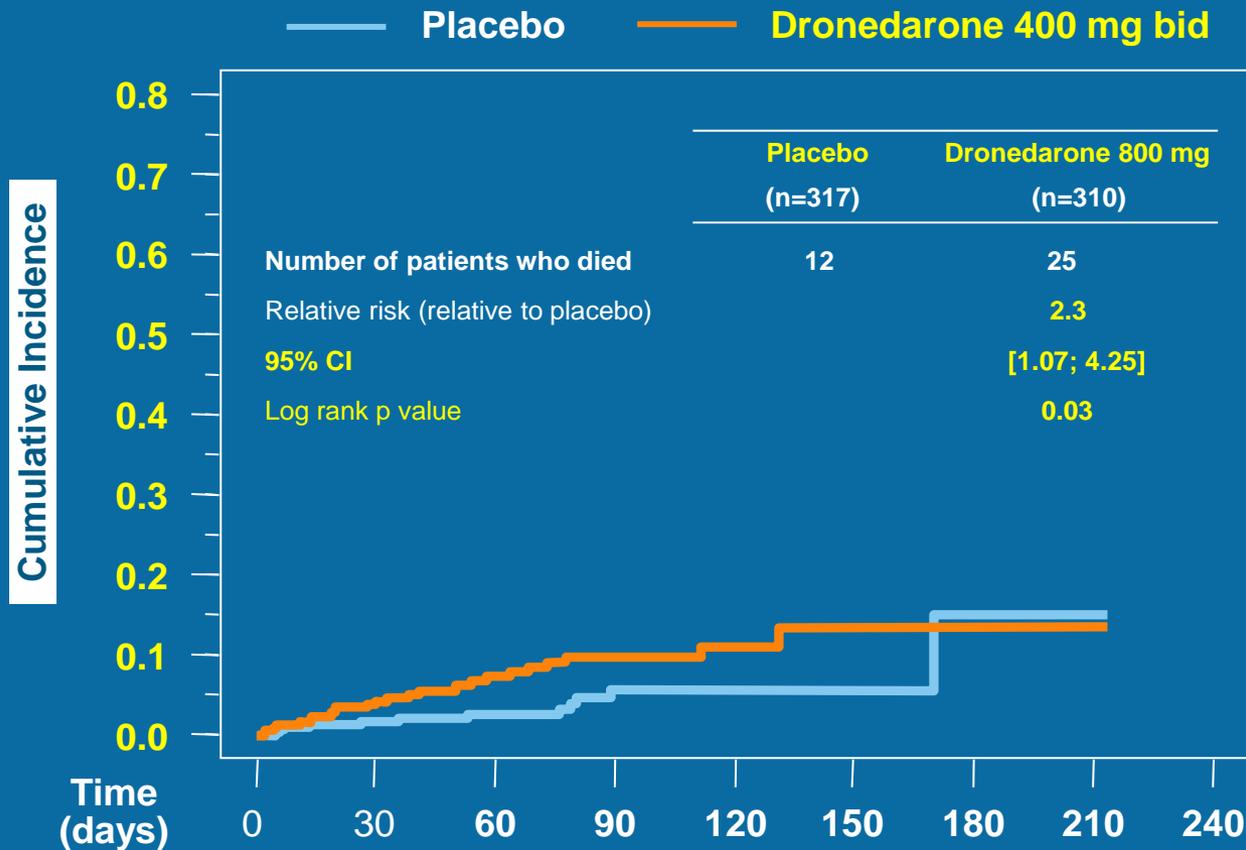
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- Consecutive hospitalized patients  $\geq 18$  years
- New/worsening HF with at least another episode of decompensation corresponding to NYHA class III–IV within the last month, and treated with a diuretic
- WMI  $< 1.2$  ~ LVEF  $< 0.35$



**Randomized  $< 7$  days after hospital admission**

# ANDROMEDA: all-cause mortality



ANDROMEDA study.  
NEJM 2008.

# ANDROMEDA: cause of death

**Table 2. Cause of Death.**

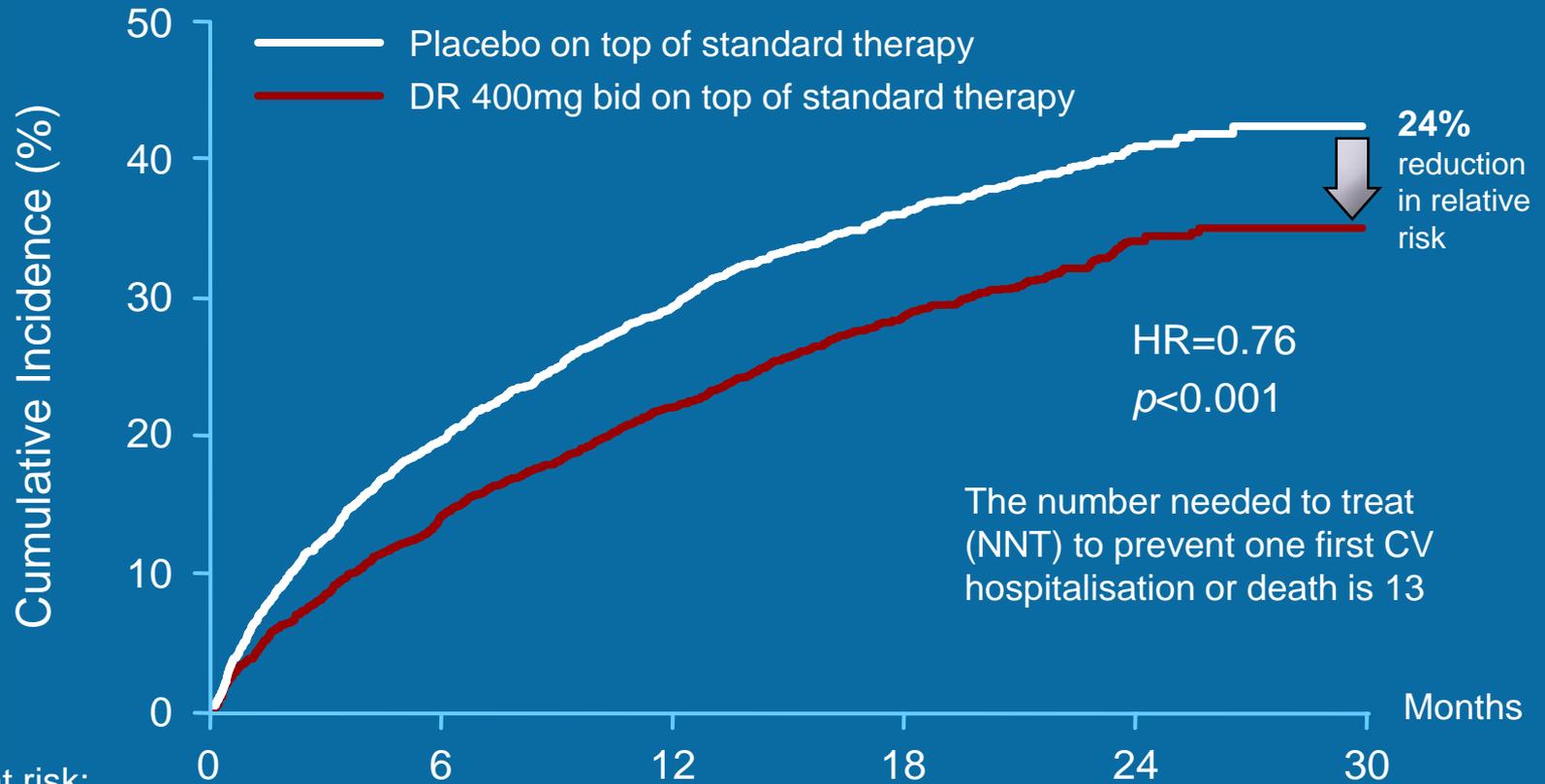
Cause	Dronedarone Group (N=310)	Placebo Group (N=317)
	<i>no. (%)</i>	
Cardiovascular	24 (7.7)	9 (2.8)
Myocardial infarction	0	2 (0.6)
Progressive heart failure	10 (3.2)	2 (0.6)
Documented arrhythmia	6 (1.9)	2 (0.6)
Other cardiovascular cause	3 (1.0)	0
Presumed cardiovascular cause	5 (1.6)	3 (0.9)
Arrhythmia or sudden death*	10 (3.2)	6 (1.9)
Noncardiovascular	1 (0.3)	3 (0.9)
Total	25 (8.1)	12 (3.8)

**Increased in patients with very low EF (WMI < 1)**

# ATHENA: Patient Characteristics

	Placebo (N=2327)	Dronedaronone (N=2301)	All patients (N=4628)
Age (mean; SD, years)	72 ± 9.0	72 ± 8.9	72 ± 9.0
Female gender	1038 (45%)	1131 (49%)	2169 (47%)
AF/AFI at baseline	586 (25%)	569 (25%)	1155 (25%)
Structural heart disease	1402 (61%)	1330 (58%)	2732 (60%)
Hypertension	1996 (86%)	1999 (87%)	3995 (86%)
Coronary heart disease	737 (32%)	668 (29%)	1405 (30%)
Valvular heart disease	380 (16%)	379 (17%)	759 (16%)
Non-ischemic cardiomyopathy	131 (6%)	123 (5%)	254 (6%)
History of CHF NYHA II/III	515 (22%)	464 (20%)	979 (21%)
LVEF < 0.45	285/2281 (13%)	255/2263 (11%)	540/4544 (12%)
LVEF < 0.35	87/2281 (4%)	92/2263 (4%)	179/4544 (4%)
Lone atrial fibrillation	139 (6%)	140 (6%)	279 (6%)
Pacemaker	243 (10%)	214 (9%)	457 (10%)

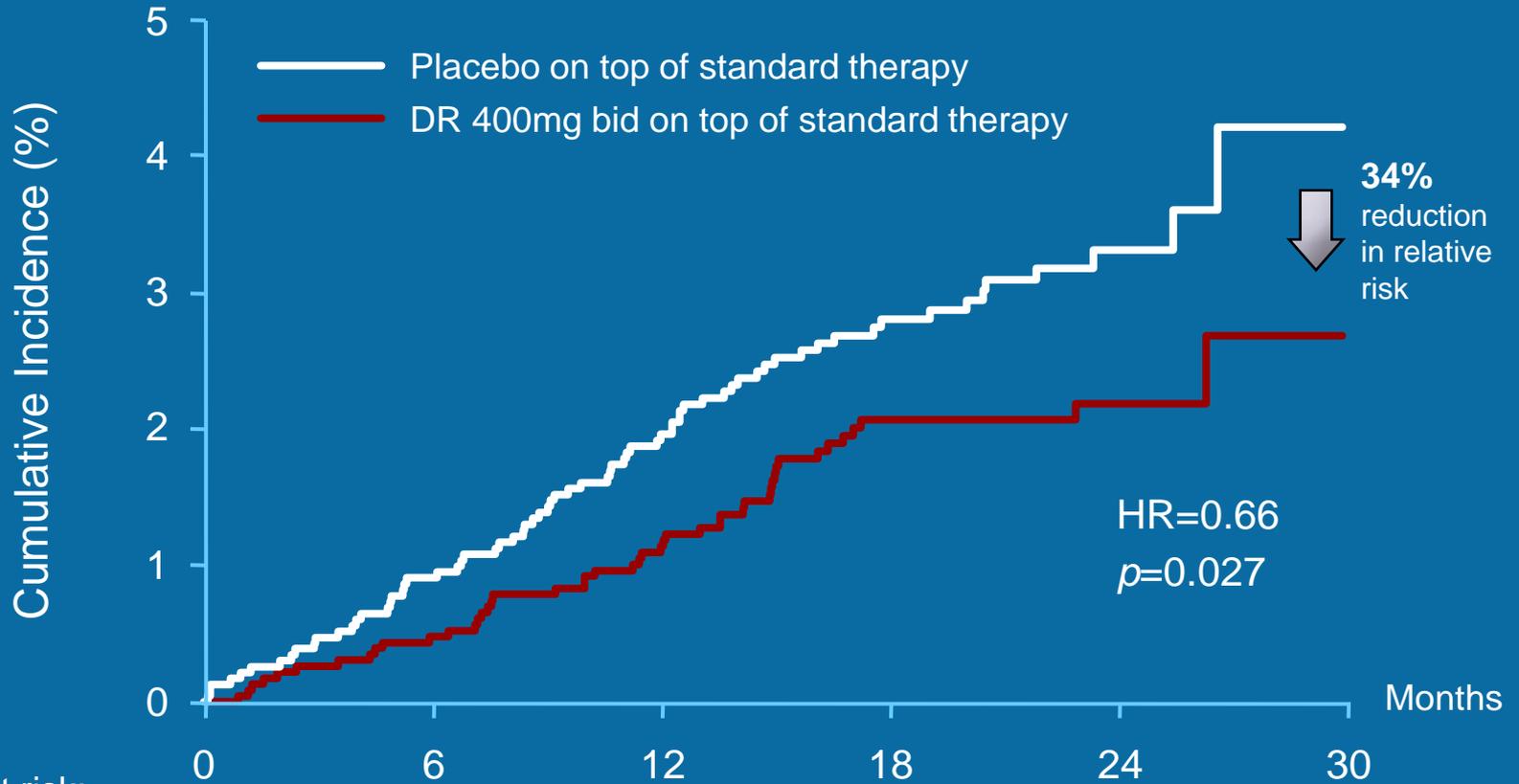
# ATHENA: Primary Outcome: Risk of unplanned CV hospitalisation or death from any cause



Patients at risk:

	0	6	12	18	24	30
<b>Placebo</b>	<b>2327</b>	<b>1858</b>	<b>1625</b>	<b>1072</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DR 400mg bid</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>1963</b>	<b>1776</b>	<b>1177</b>	<b>403</b>	<b>2</b>

## Dronedarone significantly reduced the relative risk of stroke by 34%



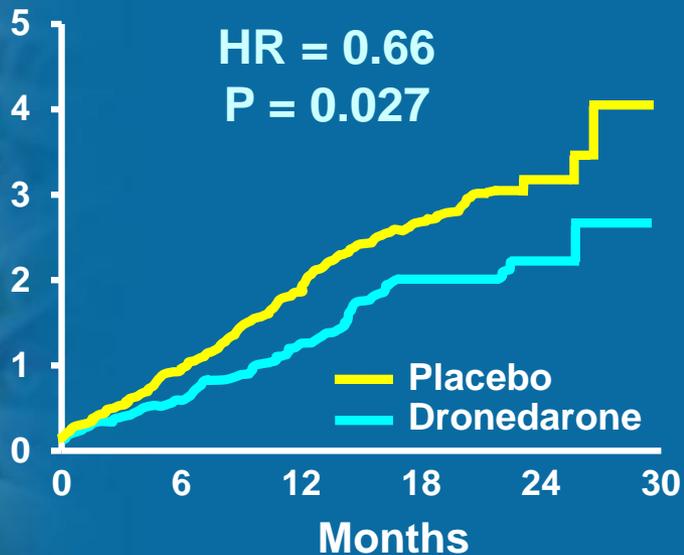
Patients at risk:

<b>Placebo</b>	<b>2327</b>	<b>2275</b>	<b>2220</b>	<b>1598</b>	<b>618</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DR 400mg bid</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>2266</b>	<b>2223</b>	<b>1572</b>	<b>608</b>	<b>4</b>

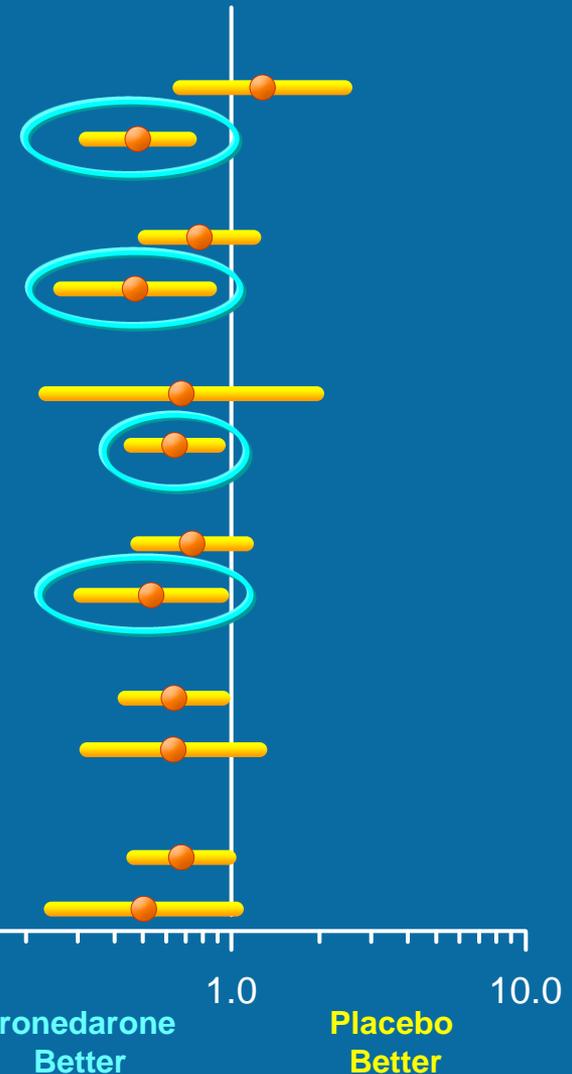
# ATHENA: Incidence of Stroke

## Post Hoc Analysis

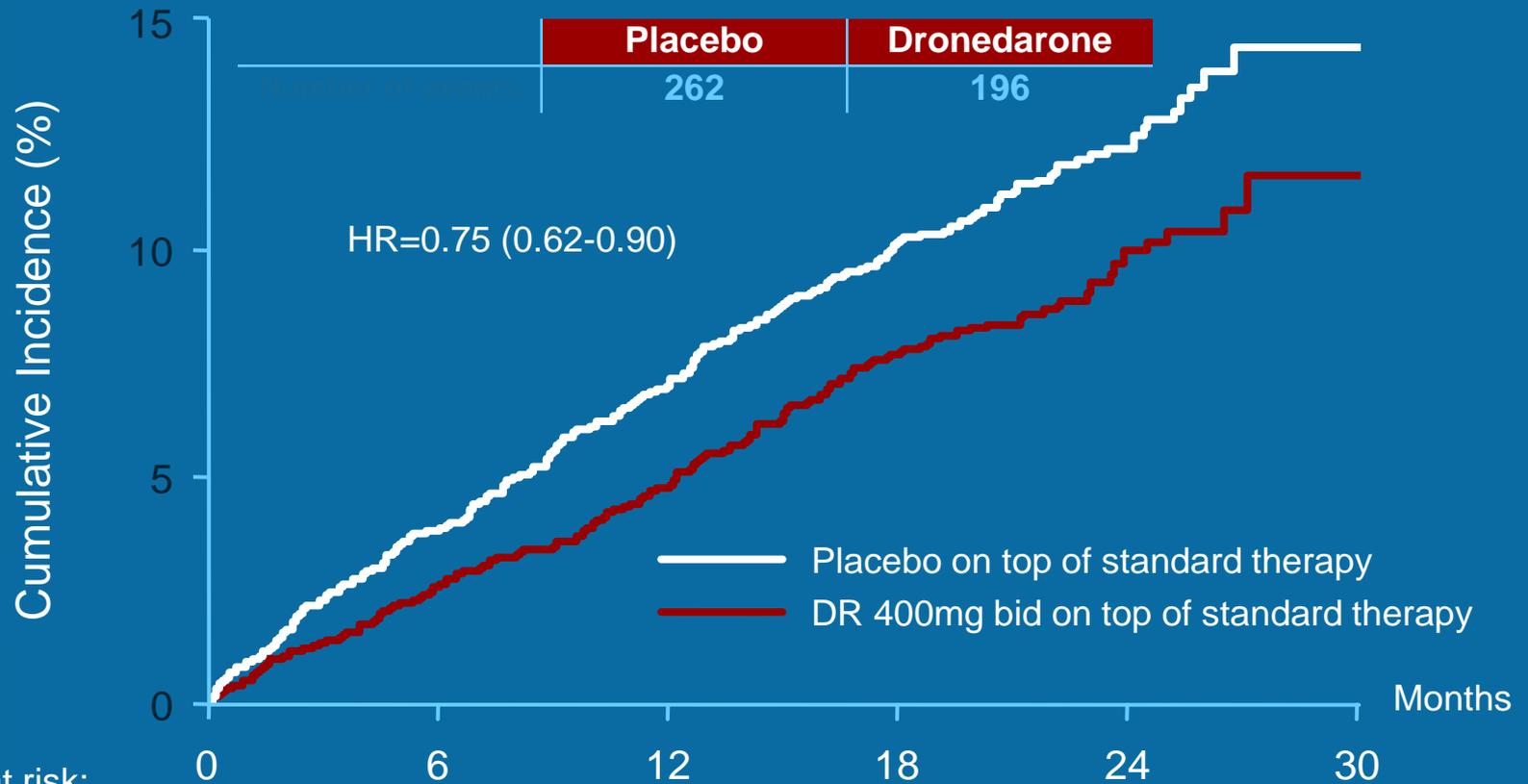
Cumulative incidence of stroke, %



<b>CHADS<sub>2</sub> score</b>
≤1
≥2
<b>CHF</b>
No
Yes
<b>Hypertension</b>
No
Yes
<b>Age in years</b>
<75
≥75
<b>Diabetes mellitus</b>
No
Yes
<b>Stroke/TIA</b>
No
Yes



## Dronedarone significantly decreased risk of all-cause mortality, stroke and ACS by 25%



Patients at risk:

	0	6	12	18	24	30
<b>Placebo</b>	<b>2327</b>	<b>2240</b>	<b>2166</b>	<b>1547</b>	<b>599</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>DR 400mg bid</b>	<b>2301</b>	<b>2243</b>	<b>2193</b>	<b>1541</b>	<b>586</b>	<b>4</b>

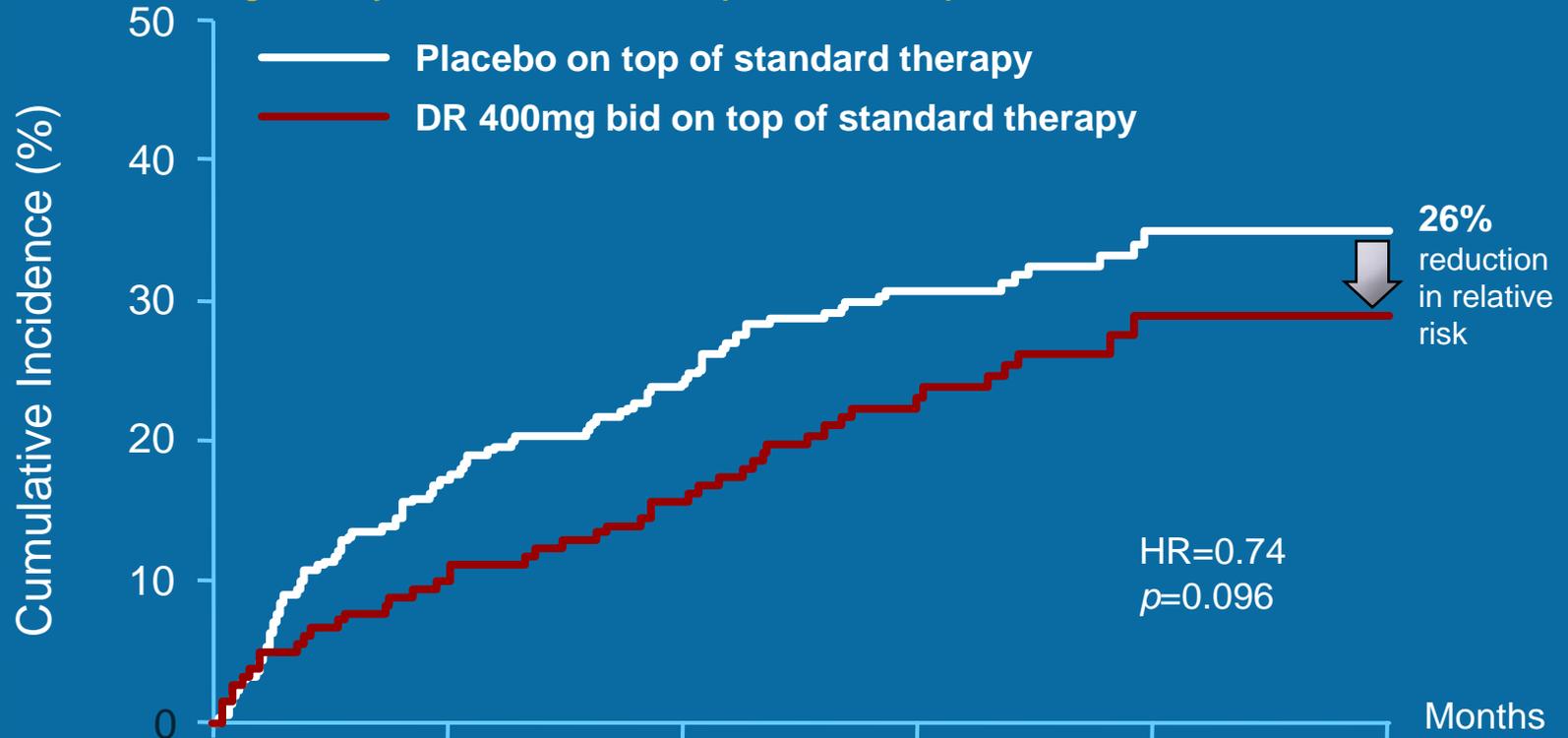
## ATHENA:

Dronedarone significantly decreased risk of arrhythmic death by 45% and CV death by 29%

	Placebo n=2327	Dronedarone n=2301	HR	95% CI	<i>p</i> value
All death	139	116	0.84	0.66; 1.08	0.18
Non-cardiovascular death	49	53	1.10	0.74; 1.62	0.65
Cardiovascular death	90	63	0.71	0.51; 0.98	0.03
Cardiac non-arrhythmic death	18	17	0.95	0.49; 1.85	0.89
Cardiac arrhythmic death	48	26	0.55	0.34; 0.88	0.01
Vascular non-cardiac	24	20	0.84	0.47; 1.52	0.57

# Benefits of dronedarone in 'permanent'\* patients consistent with overall population

- Dronedarone Non-significantly Reduced the Risk of Unplanned CV Hospitalisation or Death in "Permanent" AF Patients



Patients at risk:

	0	6	12	18	24	30
<b>Placebo</b>	295	244	224	151	60	0
<b>DR 400mg bid</b>	178	160	150	110	47	1

Mean follow-up 21 ±5 months.  
 Page R, et al. *AHA Scientific Sessions* 2008.  
 Page R, et al. *Circulation*. 2008;118:S\_827.

## Benefits of dronedarone consistent in patients with heart failure and reduced LVEF versus overall population

### Unplanned CV hospitalization or all-cause death

Patient Group	Placebo (n)	Dronedarone (n)	Hazard ratio	95% confidence interval	p value for interaction
Patients without CHF	1634	1629	0.76	0.68 - 0.86	0.22
Patients with CHF NYHA I/II	584	581	0.80	0.67 - 0.96	
Patients with CHF NYHA III	109	91	0.56	0.38 - 0.82	
Patients with LVEF ≤0.40	184	154	0.72	0.51 - 1.00	0.67
Patients with LVEF >0.40	2097	2109	0.77	0.69 - 0.85	

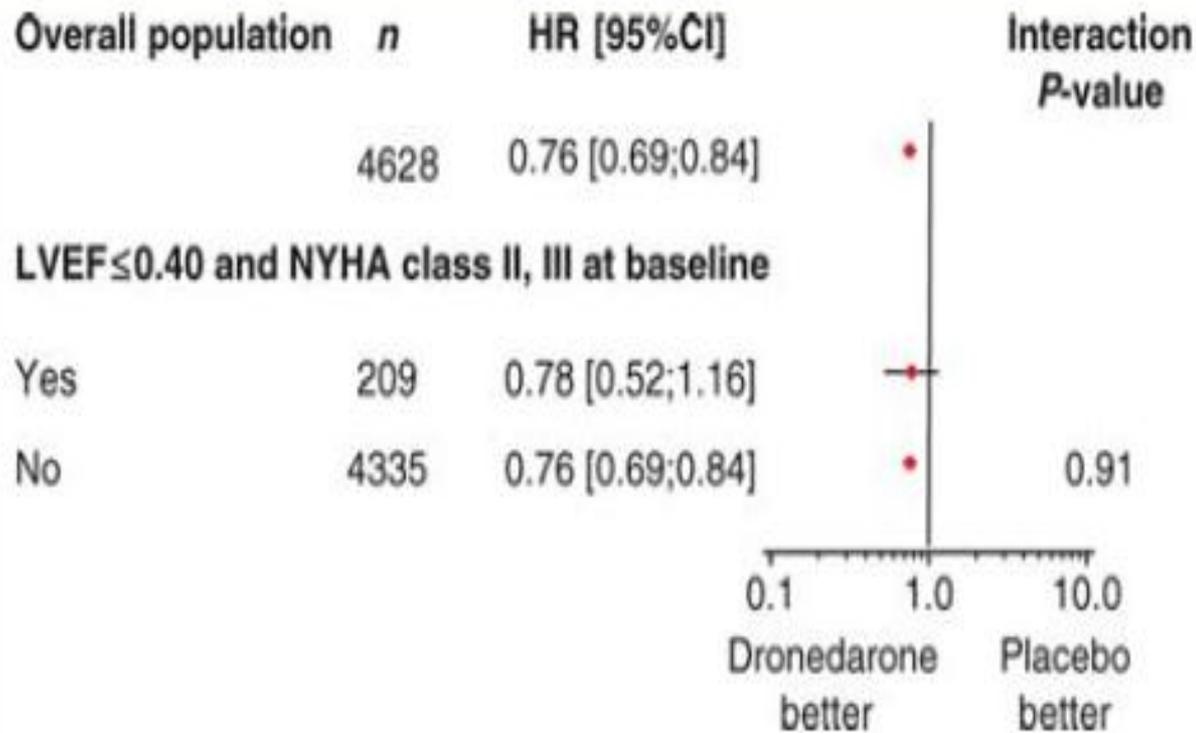
ATHENA exclusion criterion: recently decompensated CHF and CHF NYHA class IV

# Dronedarone in patients with congestive heart failure: insights from ATHENA

**Table 1** Ha  
or absence of

Patient group  
.....  
Patients without  
Patients with C  
Patients with C  
Patients with L  
Patients with L

P, placebo; D, dro

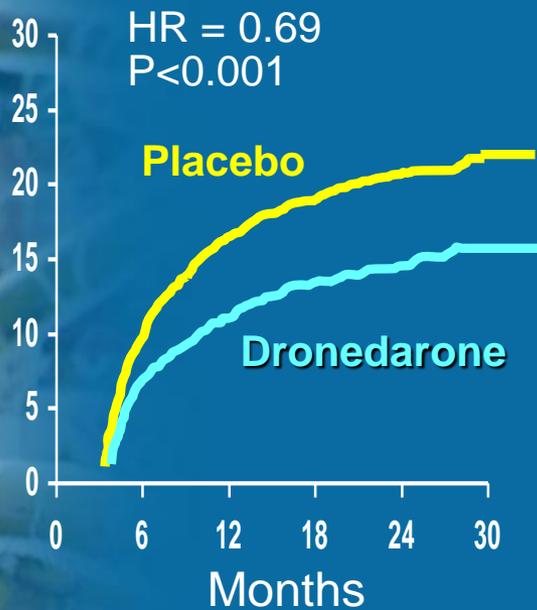


the presence  
.....  
or interaction

# ATHENA: ? an Antiarrhythmic Effect

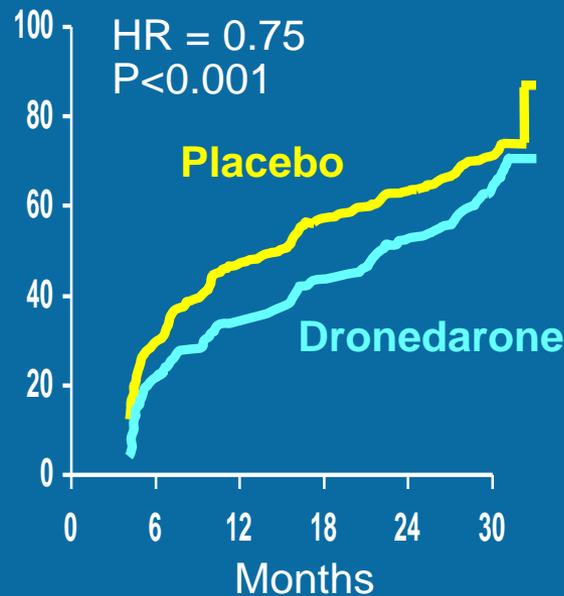
## Time to 1<sup>st</sup> DCV

Cumulative incidence, %



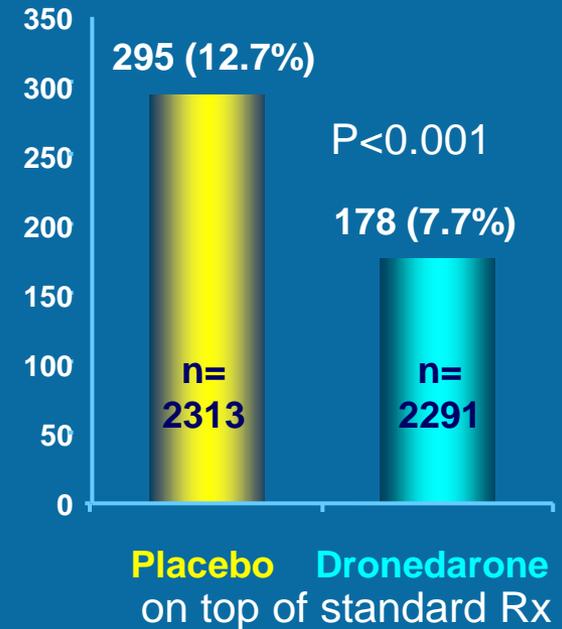
## Time to 1<sup>st</sup> AF/AFL

Cumulative incidence of AF/AFL, %

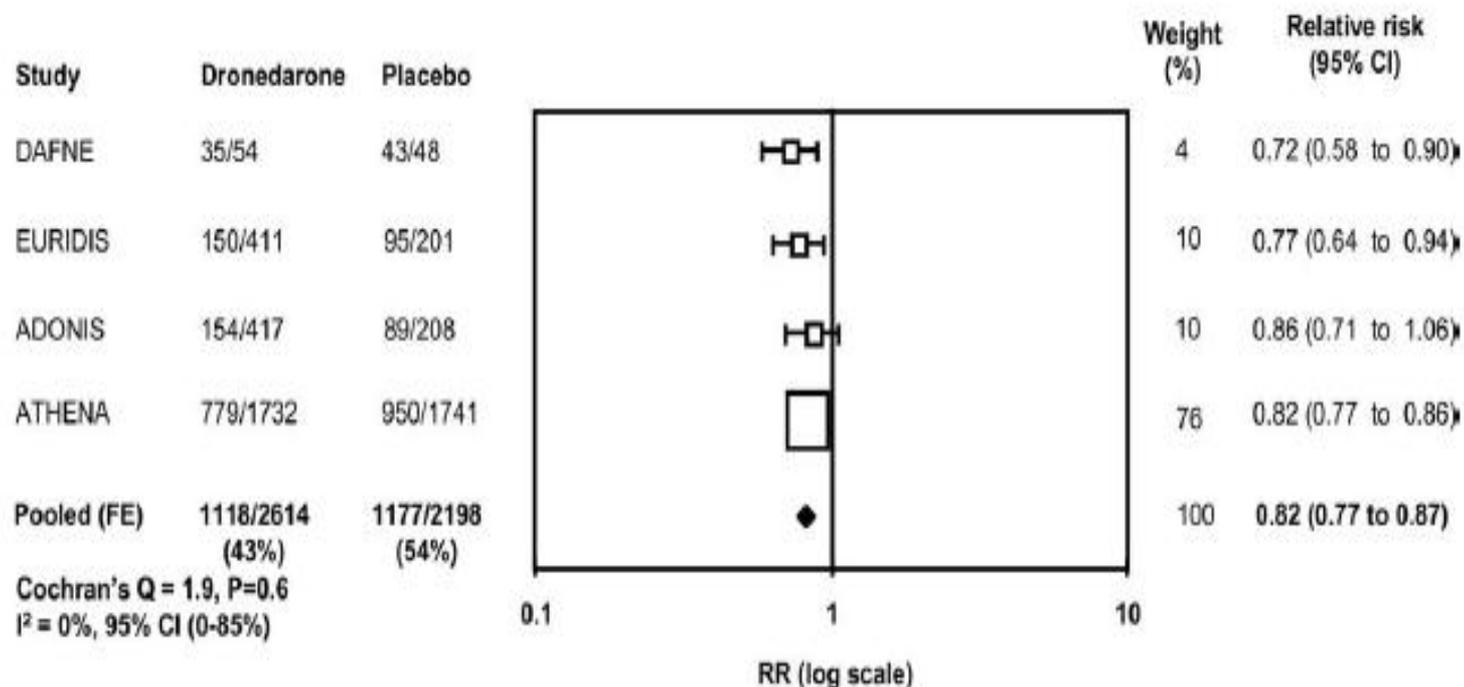


## No. in Permanent AF

Number of Patients



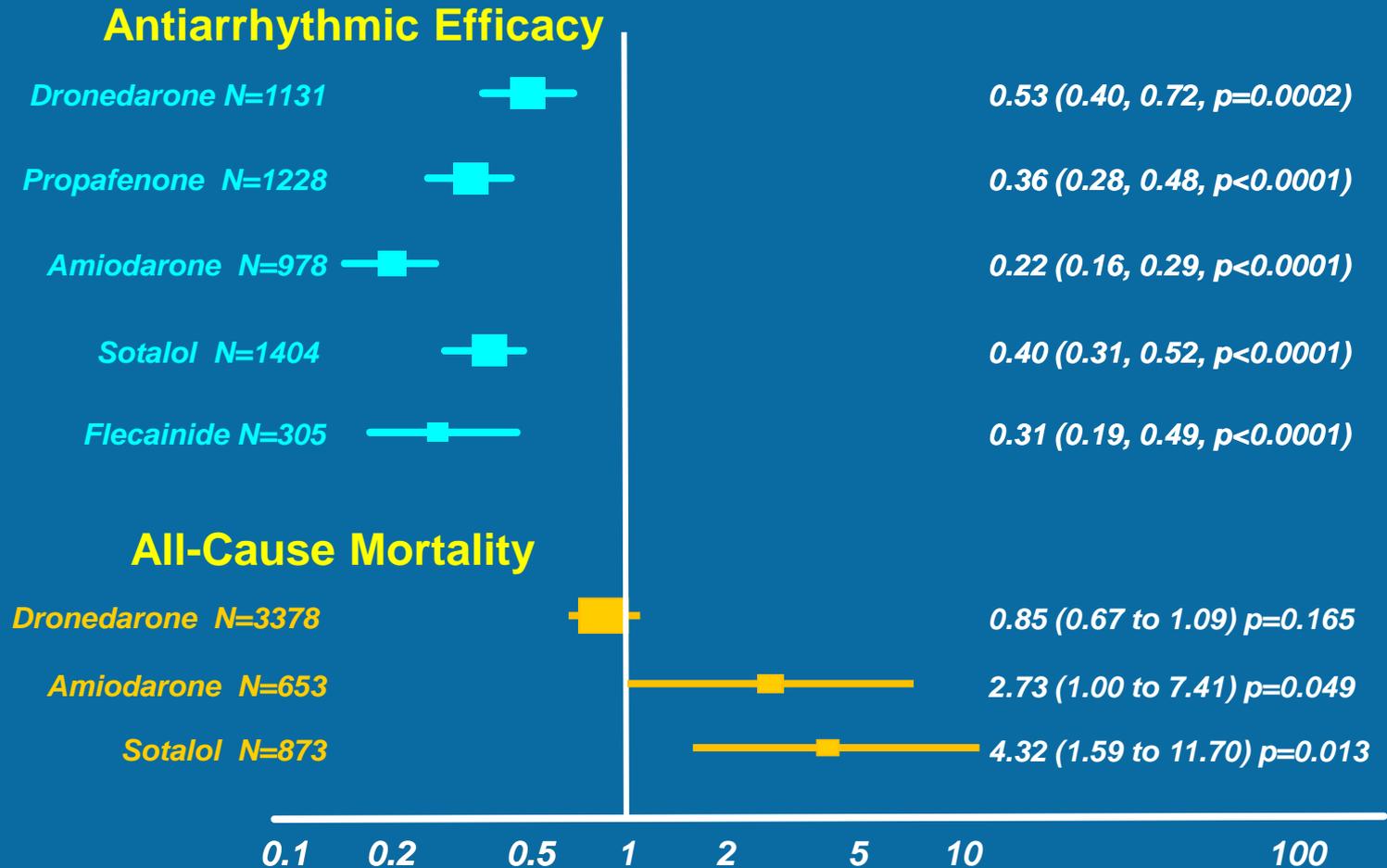
# Dronedarone Efficacy Summary



**Figure 1** RR of AF Recurrence With Dronedarone Versus Placebo

# AF Recurrence and All-Cause Mortality

Odds Ratios compared with Placebo



# Permanent AF is associated with increased CV risk

- Permanent AF can develop over time among patients initially diagnosed with paroxysmal or persistent forms of the disease<sup>1</sup>.
- Approximately 50 percent of patients with AF have permanent AF<sup>2, 3</sup> which is associated with an increased rate of major adverse cardiovascular events<sup>4</sup>.

1. Kato T, Yamashita T, Sagara K, Linuma H, Fu L. Progressive Nature of Paroxysmal Atrial Fibrillation; Observations From a 14-Year Follow-up Study. *Circulation* 2004; 68:568-572
2. Levy, S Maarek M, Coumel P, et al., Characterisation of different subsets of atrial fibrillation in general practice in France: the ALFA study, *Circulation*, 1999;99:3028-35.
3. EU Intention to Rx study (Dec.08); US ATU Tracking (June 09)
4. Lloyd-Jones et al. Lifetime Risk for Development of Atrial Fibrillation: The Framingham Heart Study *Circulation*. 2004; 110:1042-1046.

# Permanent AF is associated with a high risk of events

- Findings from Euro Heart survey\*

Major adverse events during 1 year	First Detected (n=708) [n, proportion]	Paroxysmal (n=1170) [n, proportion]	Persistent (n=886) [n, proportion]		p-value
All cause death	43 (5.7)	43 (3.5)	27 (3.0)	100 (8.2)	<0.001
CV death	14 (1.9)	15 (1.3)	19 (2.1)	43 (3.6)	0.001
Ischemic stroke	9 (1.3)	22 (1.9)	11 (1.2)	19 (1.6)	0.582
TIA	5 (0.7)	9 (0.8)	12 (1.4)	30 (2.5)	0.001
Coronary artery disease	46 (6.6)	63 (5.6)	38 (4.3)	71 (6.1)	0.005
Heart failure	66 (9.5)	109 (9.6)	75 (8.5)	195 (16.6)	<0.001



Hoga

# PALLAS: Objectives

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- Primary

- To demonstrate the efficacy of dronedarone in patients with permanent atrial fibrillation and additional risk factors in preventing:

- Major cardiovascular events (stroke, systemic arterial embolism, myocardial infarction or cardiovascular death)
- First unplanned cardiovascular hospitalization or death from any cause

- Secondary

- To demonstrate the efficacy of dronedarone in preventing cardiovascular death
- To assess that dronedarone is well tolerated in this population

# PALLAS: Sample Size Calculation on MACE Endpoints

1. Construction of a prognostic index to split the placebo ATHENA population in risk groups for the composite endpoint of stroke, ACS or CV death

	Low	Medium	High
<b>Risk Factors</b>	<b>0 to 2</b>	<b>2 or 3</b>	<b>≥ 3</b>

- Medium considered as the minimal population at risk in PALLAS

Treatment effect for CV death or ACS or stroke according level of risk

	Low risk (N= 681)	Medium risk (N= 810)	High risk (N= 836)
Number of events, n	28	59	130
Patient years at risk	1185	1382	1344
Cumulative incidence of events at 1 year [95% CI]	0.026(0.014-0.039)	0.045(0.030-0.059)	0.103(0.083-0.124)

- Placebo group event rate expected at one year = 4.5

# Dronedarone in High-Risk Permanent Atrial Fibrillation

10.1056/NEJM081109867 NEJM.ORG

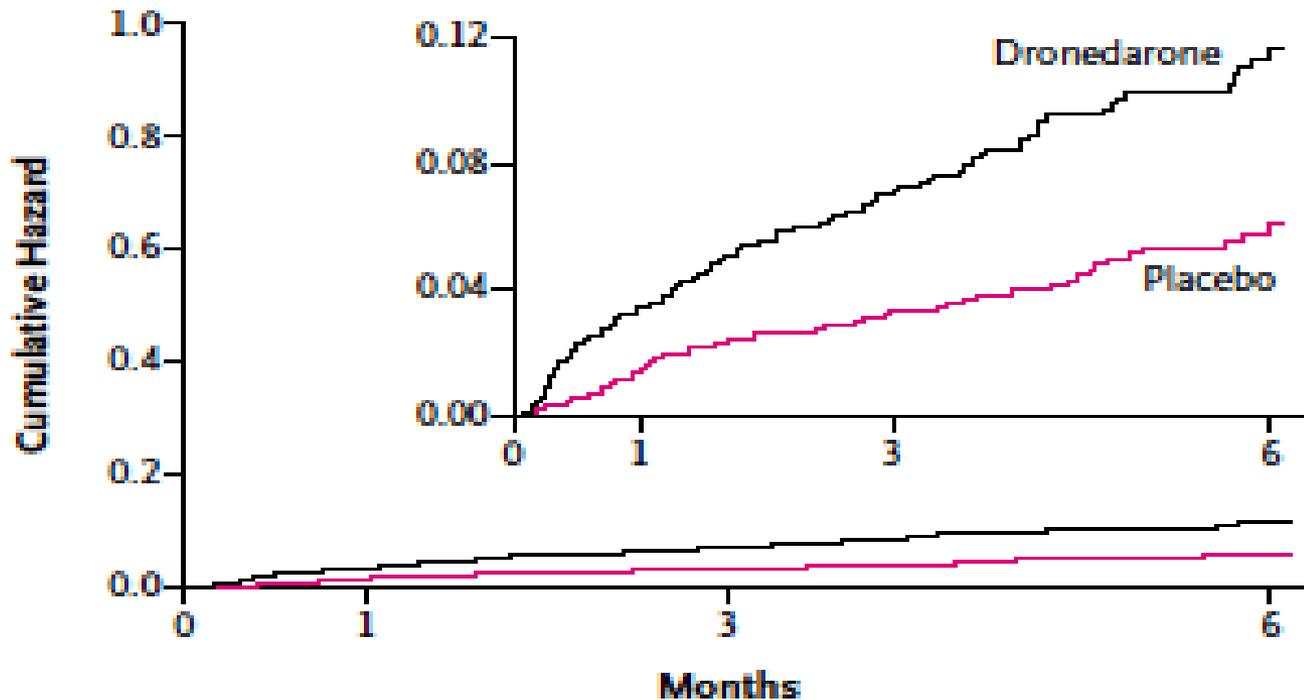
**Table 1** Characteristics of the Patients at Baseline \*

**Table 2. Study Outcomes.\***

Outcome	Dronedarone		Placebo		Hazard Ratio (95% CI) <sup>†</sup>	P Value
	No. of Events	Rate/100 Patient-Yr	No. of Events	Rate/100 Patient-Yr		
First coprimary outcome	43	8.2	19	3.6	2.29 (1.34–3.94)	0.002
Second coprimary outcome	127	25.3	67	12.9	1.95 (1.45–2.62)	<0.001
<b>Death</b>						
From any cause	25	4.7	13	2.4	1.94 (0.99–3.79)	0.049
From cardiovascular causes	21	4.0	10	1.9	2.11 (1.00–4.49)	0.046
From arrhythmia	13	2.5	4	0.8	3.26 (1.06–10.0)	0.03
<b>Stroke</b>						
Any <sup>‡</sup>	23	4.4	10	1.9	2.32 (1.11–4.88)	0.02
Ischemic	18	3.4	9	1.7	2.01 (0.90–4.48)	0.08
Systemic embolism	1	0.2	0	0.0	NA	NA
Myocardial infarction or unstable angina	15	2.9	8	1.5	1.89 (0.80–4.45)	0.14
Myocardial infarction	3	0.6	2	0.4	1.54 (0.26–9.21)	0.63
Unplanned hospitalization for cardiovascular causes	113	22.5	59	11.4	1.97 (1.44–2.70)	<0.001
Hospitalization for heart failure	43	8.3	24	4.6	1.81 (1.10–2.99)	0.02
Heart-failure episode or hospitalization <sup>§</sup>	115	23.2	55	10.7	2.16 (1.57–2.98)	<0.001
Duration of permanent atrial fibrillation >2 yr — no. (%)	1119 (69.1)		1124 (69.3)			

# Dronedarone in High-Risk Permanent Atrial Fibrillation

10.1056/NEJM081109867 NEJM.ORG

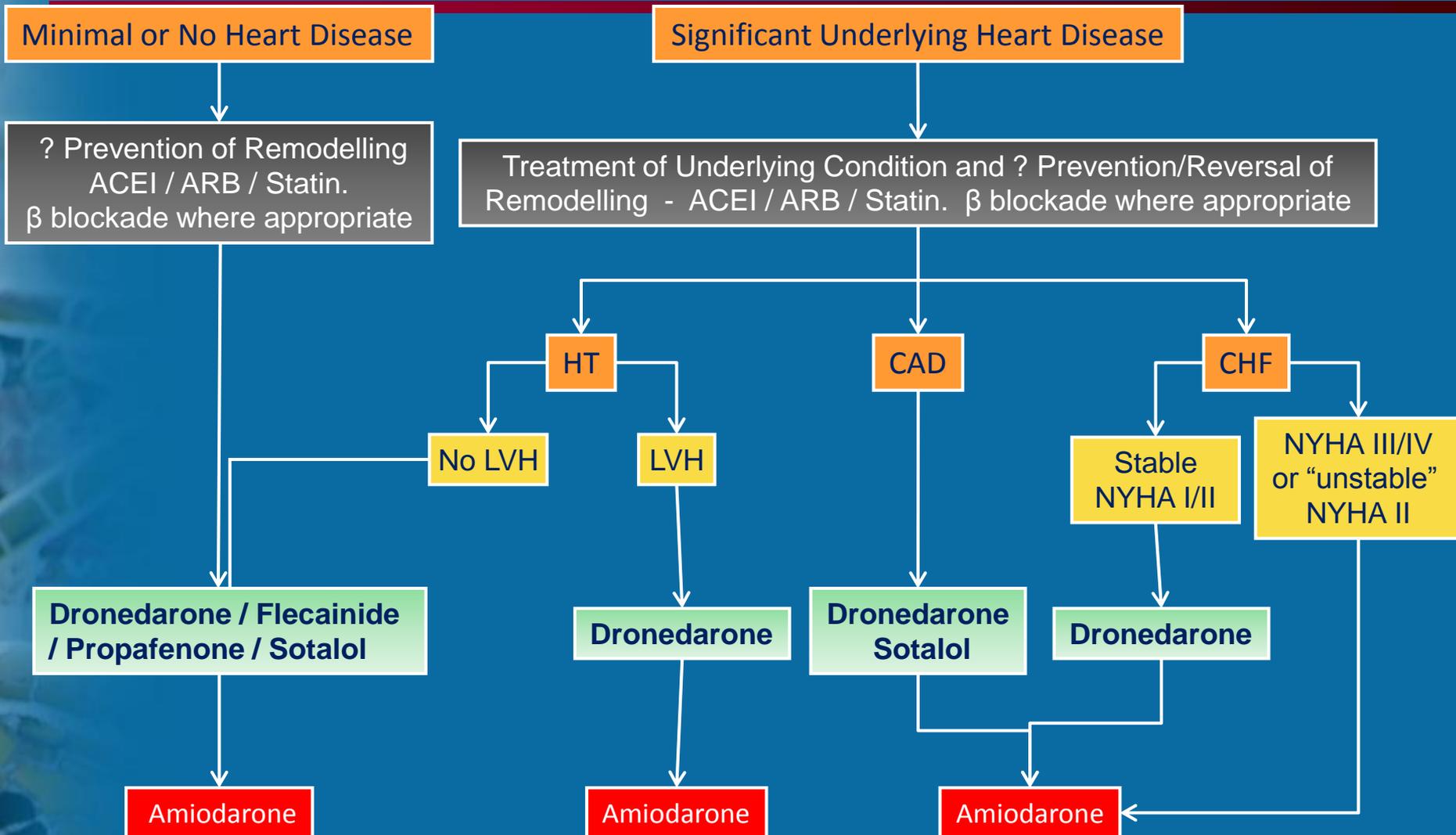


## No. at Risk

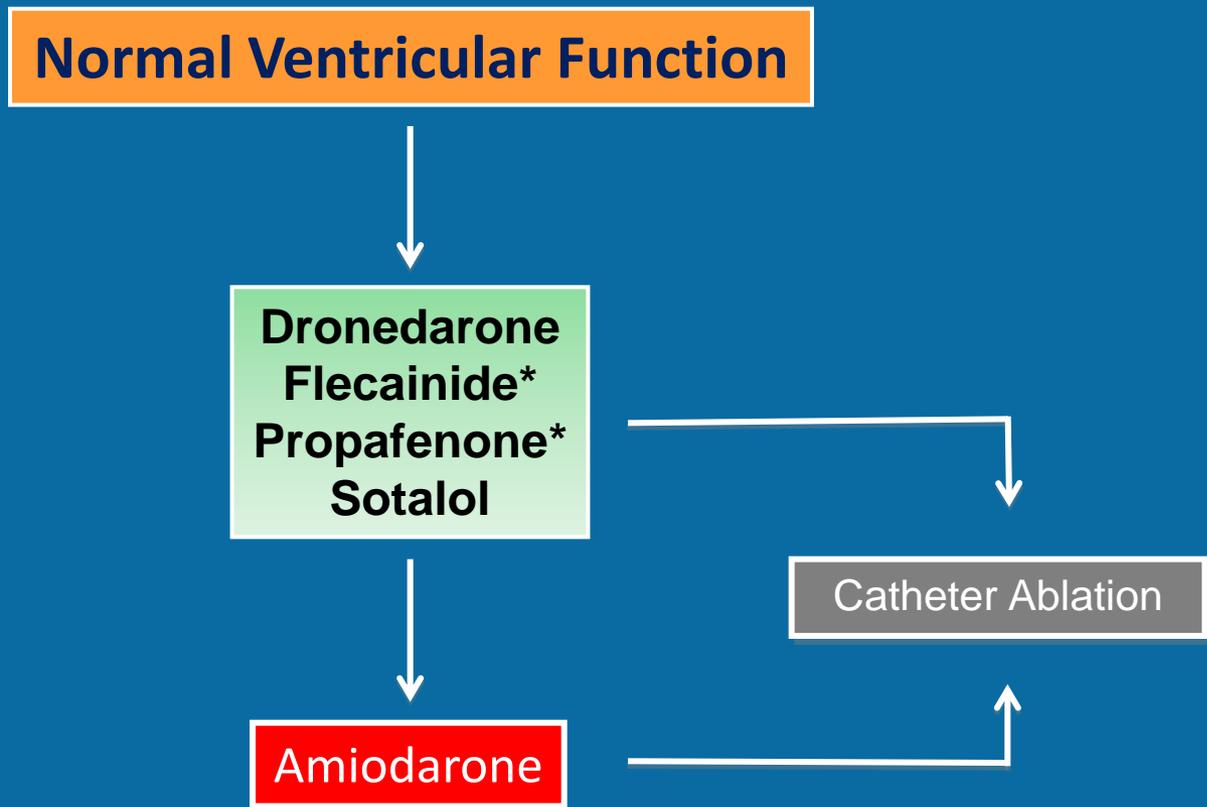
Placebo	1617	1429	882	361
Dronedarone	1619	1389	879	334

**Figure 2.** Risk of the Second Coprimary Outcome (Unplanned Hospitalization for Cardiovascular Causes or Death).

# Antiarrhythmic Drugs for AF Management

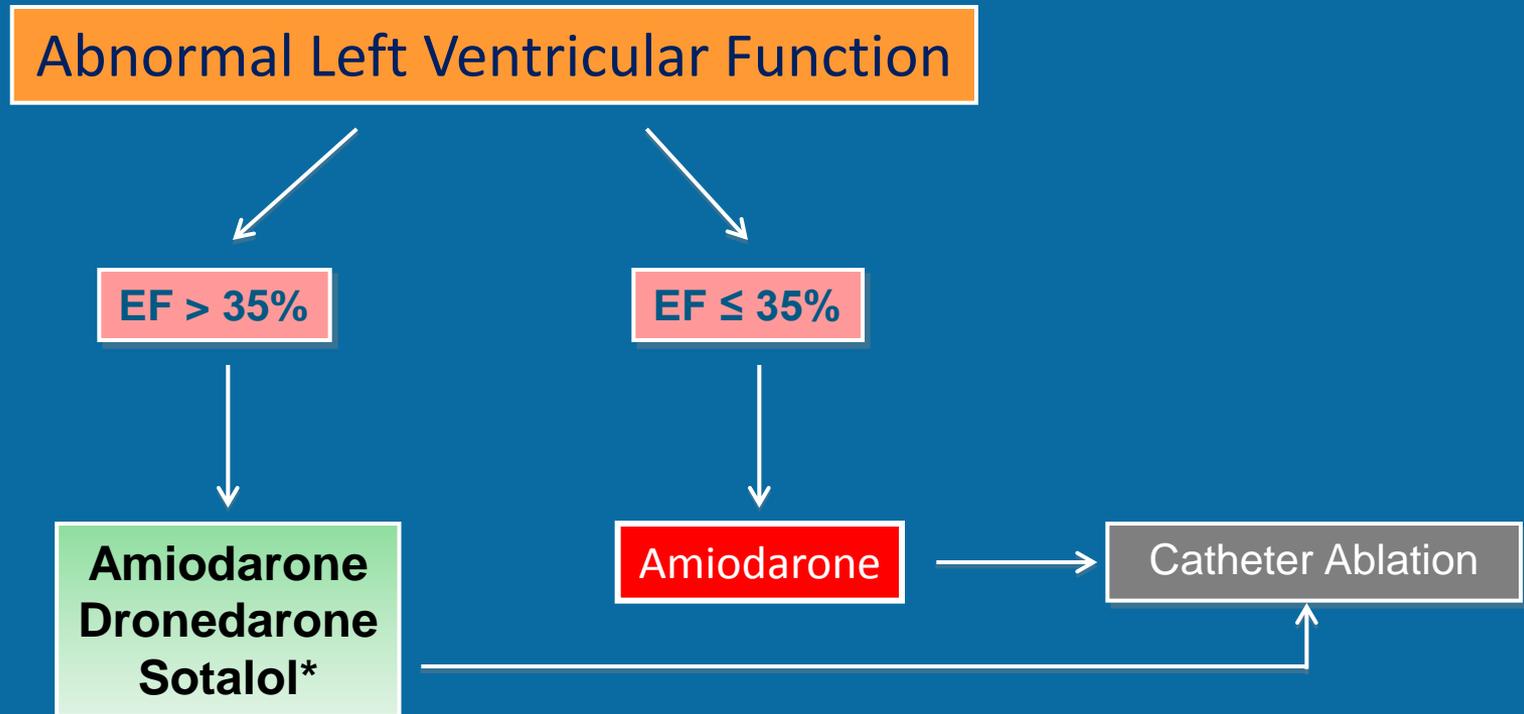


# Canadian Cardiovascular Society Antiarrhythmic Drugs – Normal EF



- *Class I agents should be AVOIDED in CAD  
They should be combined with an AV-nodal  
blocking agents*

# Canadian Cardiovascular Society Antiarrhythmic Drugs – Low EF



*\* Sotalol should be used with caution with EF 35-40%  
Contra-indicated in women >65 years taking diuretics*

## Rhythm-Control Choices Normal Systolic Function No Hx of CHF

Practical tip. Dronedarone is a reasonable choice for rhythm control in selected patients with AF. Typically, these would be patients with nonpermanent (predominantly paroxysmal) AF with minimal structural heart disease. Consideration should be given to monitoring for liver enzyme elevations within 6 months of initiating therapy with dronedarone.

Drugs are listed in alphabetical order

- \* Dronedarone should be used with caution in combination with digoxin
- † Class I agents should be AVOIDED in CAD and should be COMBINED with AV-nodal blocking agents
- ‡ Sotalol should be used with caution in those at risk for torsades de pointes VT (eg, female, age > 65 yr, taking diuretics)

# Summary

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- Dronedarone significantly prolongs time to first cardiovascular hospitalization or death in moderate to high risk elderly AF patients.
- All-cause mortality was not increased in patients receiving dronedarone.
- Cardiovascular mortality, specifically arrhythmic death, was lower in the dronedarone compared to the placebo group.
- The reduction in CV hospitalization was mainly due to fewer admissions for AF and acute coronary syndromes.
- Discontinuation of study drug was similar in both groups, indicating good tolerability of dronedarone.

# Alternatives a MBE

Fundamento Decision Clinica	Marcador	Forma de Medicion	Unidad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Evidencia</li> <li>Eminencia</li> </ul>	RCT Brillo pelo blanco	Meta-analisis Luminometro	Razon Relativa Densidad Optica
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vehemencia</li> </ul>	Nivel de estridencia	Audiometro	Decibeles
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Elocuencia/ Score Elegancia</li> </ul>	Labia/ calidad ropa	Teflometro	Adesina
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Providencia</li> </ul>	Fervor religioso	Sextante mide angulo de genuflexión	UI de piedad
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Difidencia</li> </ul>	Nivel depresión	Nihilometro	Suspiros/min
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Paranoia</li> </ul>	Temor a ser demandado	Exámenes Todos!	Cuenta Banco
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AutoConfianza*</li> </ul> <p>* Exclusivo Cirujanos CV</p>	Verraquera!	Test Sudoración	Sudor/cm

# Alternatives to EBM

Basis for clinical decisions	Marker	Measuring device	Unit of measurement
Evidencia	RCT	Meta-analyses	Odds ratio

Evidencia tipo SC Sentido Comun!