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# 7<sup>th</sup> EMIRATES FAMILY MEDICINE SOCIETY CONGRESS 2024

DUBAI | UAE | 22 to 24 APRIL

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# Unlocking Cardiovascular Health: Spotlight on Lipid Management in Primary Care

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# CASES



**37 F**

**Asymptomatic**

**Father and parental uncle had  
premature CAD (3 vd at age 49)**

**TC 209, TG 59, HDL 64, LDL 133**

**After life style changes**

**TC 184, TG 82, HDL 50, LDL 118**

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**Meds : Pitavastatin 2, ezetimibe 10, gliclazide 120, saxagliptin 5, telmisartan 160, amlodipine 5**

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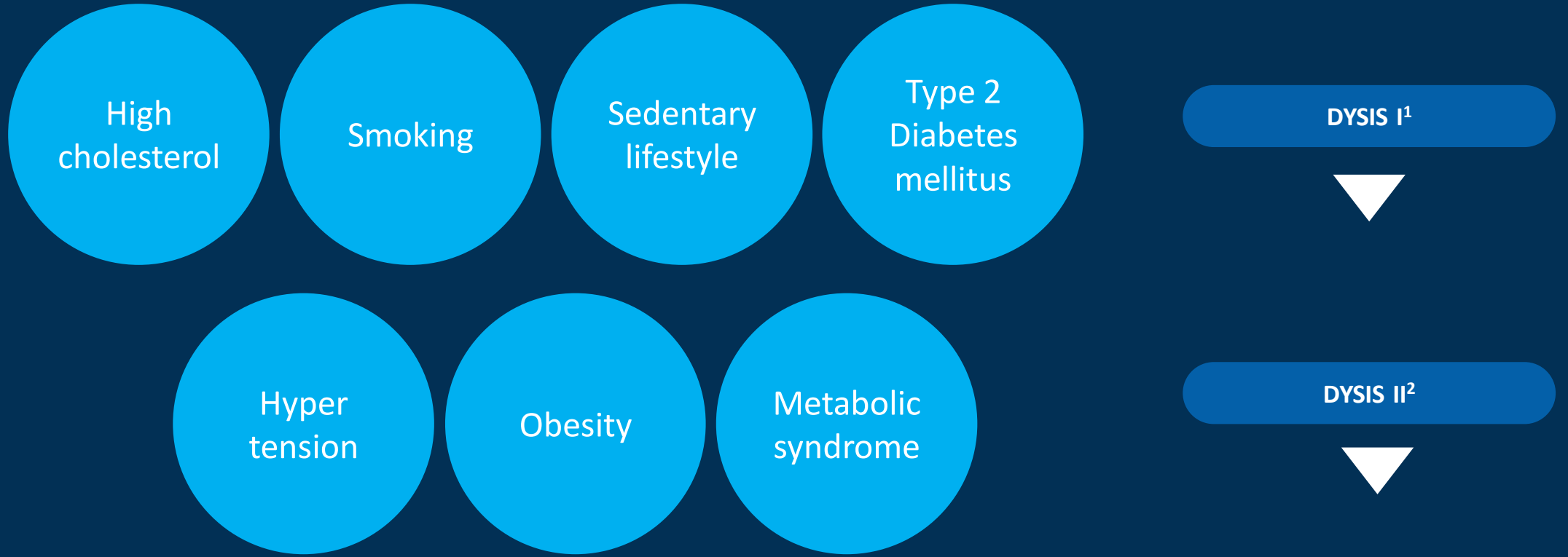
58 m

DM, HTN, CKD (eGFR 26), TVD post CABG sept 2023, PVD

**TC 206, TG 520, HDL 32, LDL 100**

Meds: atorvastatin 80, ezetimibe 10, clopidogrel 75, rivaroxaban 15, bisoprolol 2.5, amlodipine 5, insulin

# Middle East faces a heavy burden of CV risk factors



References: 1. Al Sifri SN, et al. PLoS One. 2014;9(1):e84350. 2. Al Mahmeed W, et al. Heart Views. 2019;20(2):37-46.

# UNITED ARAB EMIRATES<sup>1</sup>

2016 TOTAL POPULATION: 9 270 000  
2016 TOTAL DEATHS: 15 000

As per 2019 statistics;<sup>2</sup>



A **mortality rate due to cardiovascular diseases** reaching **147.9** per 100,000 inhabitants, up to **3 times higher than UK or Australia**



A **diabetes prevalence ratio** reaching **17.3%** (in population aged 20 to 79),  
i.e. **2 to 4 times higher than Australia or the UK**

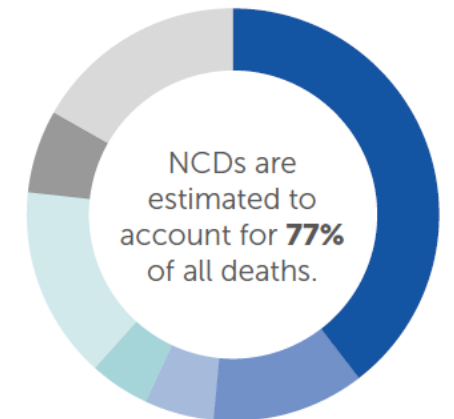
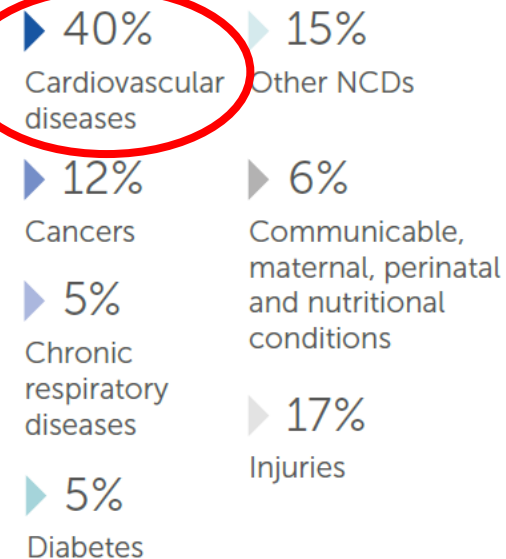


A **prevalence of overweight** in adults of **34.5%**, equivalent to **5 to 10 times the same ratio in Singapore or Japan**



A prevalence of **cigarette smoking adults** of **21.9%**, at least **3.8 pts more than in some developed countries**

## PROPORTIONAL MORTALITY\*



**14 500 LIVES CAN BE SAVED BY 2025 BY IMPLEMENTING ALL OF THE WHO "BEST BUYS"**

1. World Health Organization - Noncommunicable Diseases (NCD) Country Profiles, 2018 [https://www.who.int/nmh/countries/are\\_en.pdf?ua=1](https://www.who.int/nmh/countries/are_en.pdf?ua=1)  
2. Dubai health Investment guide 2019 <https://www.dha.gov.ae/Asset%20Library/27012019/eng.pdf>



### **CVD is largely preventable**

Modifiable CV risk factors account for 90% of risk myocardial infarction<sup>1</sup>



### **Modifiable CVD risk factors are well defined**

BP, lipids, diabetes, smoking, abdominal obesity, psychosocial factors, physical inactivity, diet, etc<sup>1,2</sup>



### **Absolute CVD risk management most effective**

Potentially twice as many deaths from coronary heart disease prevented compared to single risk factor approach<sup>3</sup>



### **Targeting therapy to highest risk groups creates greatest benefit**

Absolute risk reduction is greatest when BP and cholesterol treatment is targeted to patients with highest baseline risk<sup>2</sup>



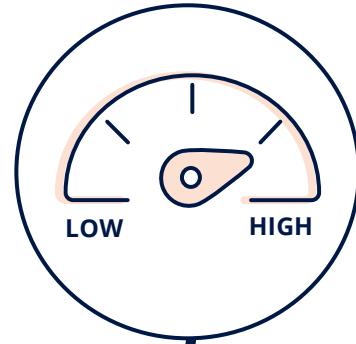
### **CVD risk calculators are essential**

Risk calculators are useful in guiding treatment and are more accurate than clinical judgement<sup>4</sup>

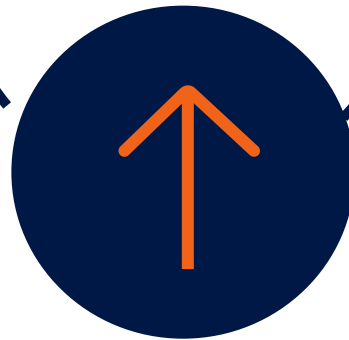
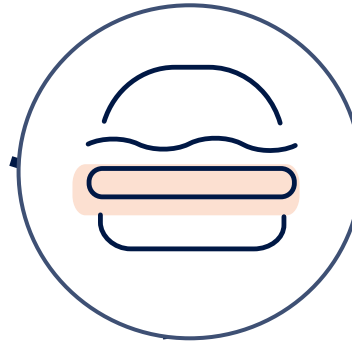


# LDL-C is one of the top modifiable risk factors\* for CVD<sup>1,2</sup>

**High systolic  
blood pressure**



**Diet**



**High LDL-C**

**Other risk factors include:**

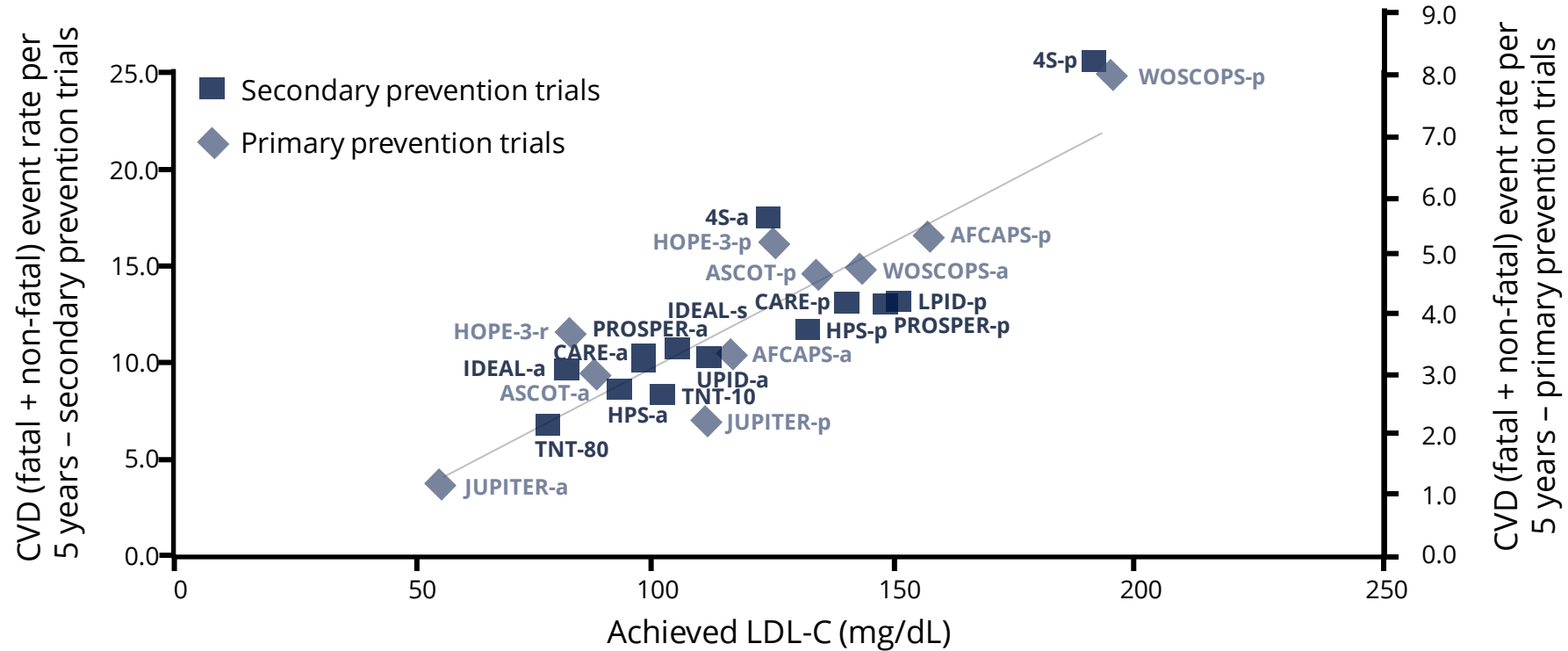
- Air pollution
- Smoking
- High body-mass index

\*2019 ranking for CVD burden attributable to modifiable risk factors: High systolic blood pressure, dietary risks, high LDL-C, air pollution, tobacco, high body-mass index, high fasting plasma glucose, kidney dysfunction, non-optimal temperature, other environmental risks, alcohol use, low physical activity.<sup>1</sup>

CVD, cardiovascular disease; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

1. Roth GA et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2020;76:2982–3021; 2. Ference BA et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2018;72:1141–56.

# Multiple clinical trials have confirmed a correlation between LDL-C and the rate of CV events



CV, cardiovascular; CVD, cardiovascular disease; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol. .  
 Ference BA et al. *Eur Heart J*. 2017;38:2459-72.

# Target achievement is worse for secondary prevention compared to primary prevention

SECONDARY<sup>1</sup>

67%

of patients on secondary prevention in the GULF region do **not** achieve their lipid targets\*

PRIMARY<sup>1</sup>

41%

of patients on primary prevention in the GULF region do **not** achieve their lipid targets\*



\*2004 updated NCEP-ATP-III guidelines

References: 1. Arafah M, et al. Angiology. 2014;65(10):919-926.

**1. Identify risk factors:**

- Hypertension
- Diabetes mellitus
- Cigarette smoking
- Family history of CVD
- Family history of high cholesterol
- Chronic kidney disease
- Obesity

**2. Check lipid profile**

Is LDL cholesterol  
>190 mg/dL ( $\geq 4.9$  mmol/L)?

No

Assess risk  
based on age

Yes

Possible familial hypercholesterolemia:  
Treat aggressively with lifestyle changes and  
statin; consider aspirin and referral for  
genetic counselling $\Delta$

Age 20 to 39 years



- Informal CVD risk assessment<sup>◇</sup>
- Assess for risk-enhancing factors<sup>§</sup>
- Emphasize assessment of lifetime risk, in particular in patients with diabetes<sup>¥</sup>
- Reassess risk in 4 to 6 years or at age 40 years

Age 40 to 79 years



Formal estimation of 10-year CVD risk<sup>‡†</sup>

Low risk  
( $<5\%$ )

Borderline risk  
(5 to 7.4%)

Intermediate risk  
(7.5 to 19.9%)

High risk  
( $\geq 20\%$ )




# Identifying risk enhancing factors

- Family history of premature atherosclerotic CVD (men <55 years of age, women <65 years of age)
- Primary hypercholesterolemia
- Metabolic syndrome
- Chronic kidney disease with estimated glomerular filtration rate between 15 and 59 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>
- Chronic inflammatory conditions (eg, rheumatic diseases, HIV, etc)
- History of premature menopause before age 40 years or pregnancy associated conditions (eg, preeclampsia)
- High-risk race/ethnicities (eg, South Asian)
- Lipid abnormalities including elevated lipoprotein(a) ≥50 mg/dL (≥125 nmol/L) or elevated apoB ≥130 mg/dL
- Biomarkers including C-reactive protein (CRP) ≥2 mg/L and ankle-brachial index (ABI) <0.9

Which calculator to use ?!!



 AMERICAN COLLEGE of CARDIOLOGY

# ASCVD Risk Estimator Plus

**Estimate Risk** | [Therapy Impact](#) | [Advice](#)

App should be used for primary prevention patients (those without ASCVD) only.

**Current Age** <sup>ⓘ</sup> \*   
Age must be between 20-79

**Sex** \*  Male  Female

**Race** \*  White  African American  Other

**Systolic Blood Pressure (mm Hg)** \*   
Value must be between 90-200

**Diastolic Blood Pressure (mm Hg)** <sup>ⓘ</sup>   
Value must be between 60-130

**Total Cholesterol (mg/dL)** \*   
Value must be between 130 - 320

**HDL Cholesterol (mg/dL)** \*   
Value must be between 20 - 100

**LDL Cholesterol (mg/dL)** <sup>ⓘ</sup> <sup>ⓘ</sup>   
Value must be between 30-300

**History of Diabetes?** \*  Yes  No

**Smoker?** <sup>ⓘ</sup> \*  Current <sup>ⓘ</sup>  Former <sup>ⓘ</sup>  Never <sup>ⓘ</sup>

**On Hypertension Treatment?** \*  Yes  No

**On a Statin?** <sup>ⓘ</sup> <sup>ⓘ</sup>  Yes  No

**On Aspirin Therapy?** <sup>ⓘ</sup> <sup>ⓘ</sup>  Yes  No

**Do you want to refine current risk estimation using data from a previous visit?** <sup>ⓘ</sup> <sup>ⓘ</sup>



UKPDS risk calculator

UKPDS Risk Engine v2.0

Input

Age Now : 62 years      HbA1c : 8.3 %  
Duration of Diabetes : 11 years      Systolic BP : 145 mmHg  
Sex :  Male  Female      Total Cholesterol : 5.8 mmol/l  
Atrial Fibrillation :  No  Yes      HDL Cholesterol : 1.1 mmol/l  
Ethnicity : White  
Smoking : Non-Smoker

Options >

Output

10 year risk 0 15 30 100

CHD : 33.3%	
Fatal CHD : 24.4%	
Stroke : 11.6%	
Fatal Stroke : 1.8%	

*Adjusted for regression dilution*

Details      Copy      Print  
Help      Exit

# The JBS3 risk calculator

About you

Age:

Sex:  Male  Female

Ethnicity:

Postcode:

Leave blank if unknown

Clinical information -- check those that apply

Diabetic?

Had a heart attack, angina, stroke or TIA?

Angina or heart attack in a 1st degree relative < 60?

Chronic kidney disease (stage 4 or 5)?

Atrial fibrillation?

On blood pressure treatment?

Rheumatoid arthritis?


Modifiable risk factors - leave blank if unknown

	Current	What if?
Do you smoke?	<input type="text" value="Non smoker"/>	<input type="text" value="Non smoker"/>
Cholesterol/HDL ratio:	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Systolic blood pressure (mmHg):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Height (cm):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Weight (kg):	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Re-calculate


Calculate risk up to  years of age.

The SCORE  
risk  
calculator

**Personal details** 

First name \*  Last name \*

Birthdate \*  /  ( month / year ) Sex \*  Male  Female


**Full Score** 

Systolic blood pressure: \*

Cholesterol: \*   
 mmol/L  mg/dl

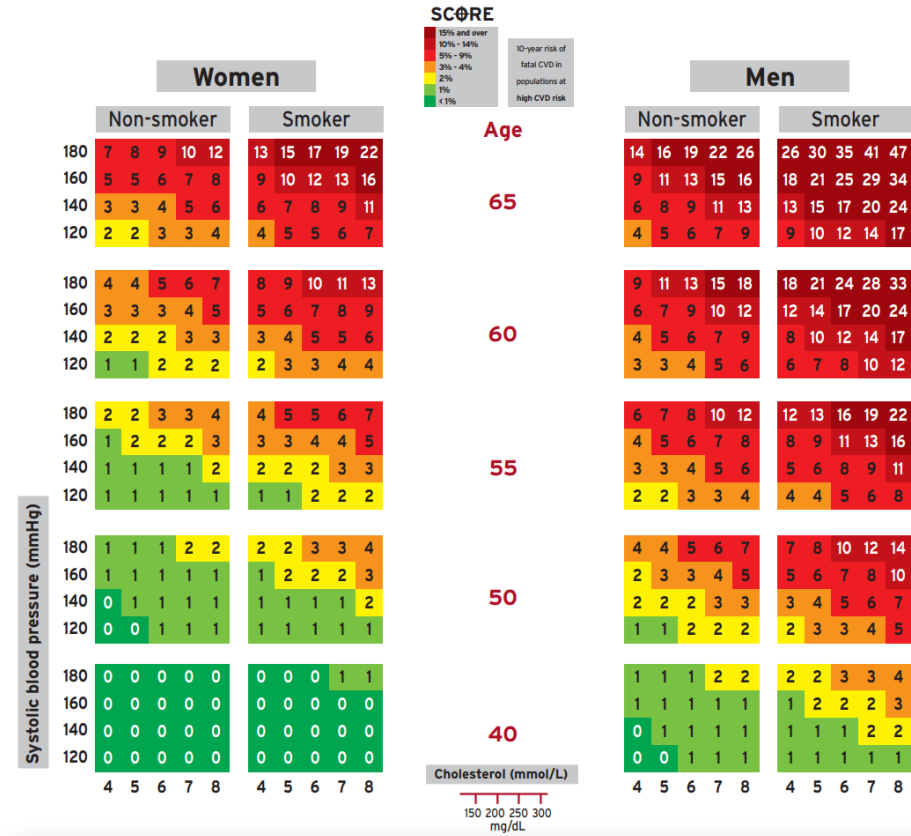
HDL Cholesterol

Smoker: \*  Yes  No



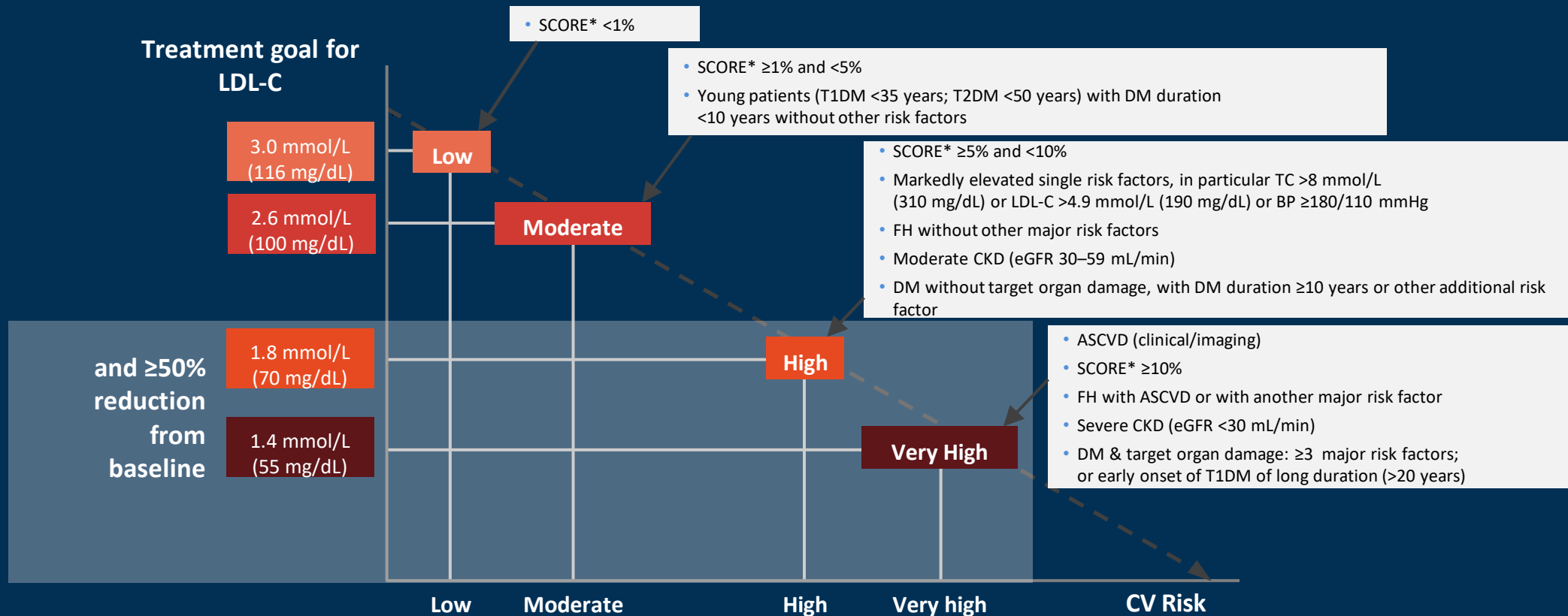
# SCORE - European High Risk Chart

10 year risk of fatal CVD in high risk regions of Europe by gender, age, systolic blood pressure, total cholesterol and smoking status



# LDL-C lowering is an integral part of 2019 ESC/EAS recommendations for ASCVD primary and secondary prevention

**Treatment goal: LDL-C reduction of  $\geq 50\%$  and LDL-C  $< 70$  mg/dL in patients at **high-risk** and LDL-C reduction of  $\geq 50\%$  and LDL-C  $< 55$  mg/dL in patients with **ASCVD** or **very high-risk****



Used with permission. Mach F, et al. *Eur Heart J.* 2020;41(1):111-188.

\*Systematic Coronary Risk Estimation (SCORE) for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.

Mach F, et al. *Eur Heart J.* 2020;41(1):111-188.

# Long-term LDL-C reduction leads to proportionally greater reductions in the lifetime risk of ASCVD

Each mmol/L reduction in LDL-C reduces the relative risk of ASCVD events by:

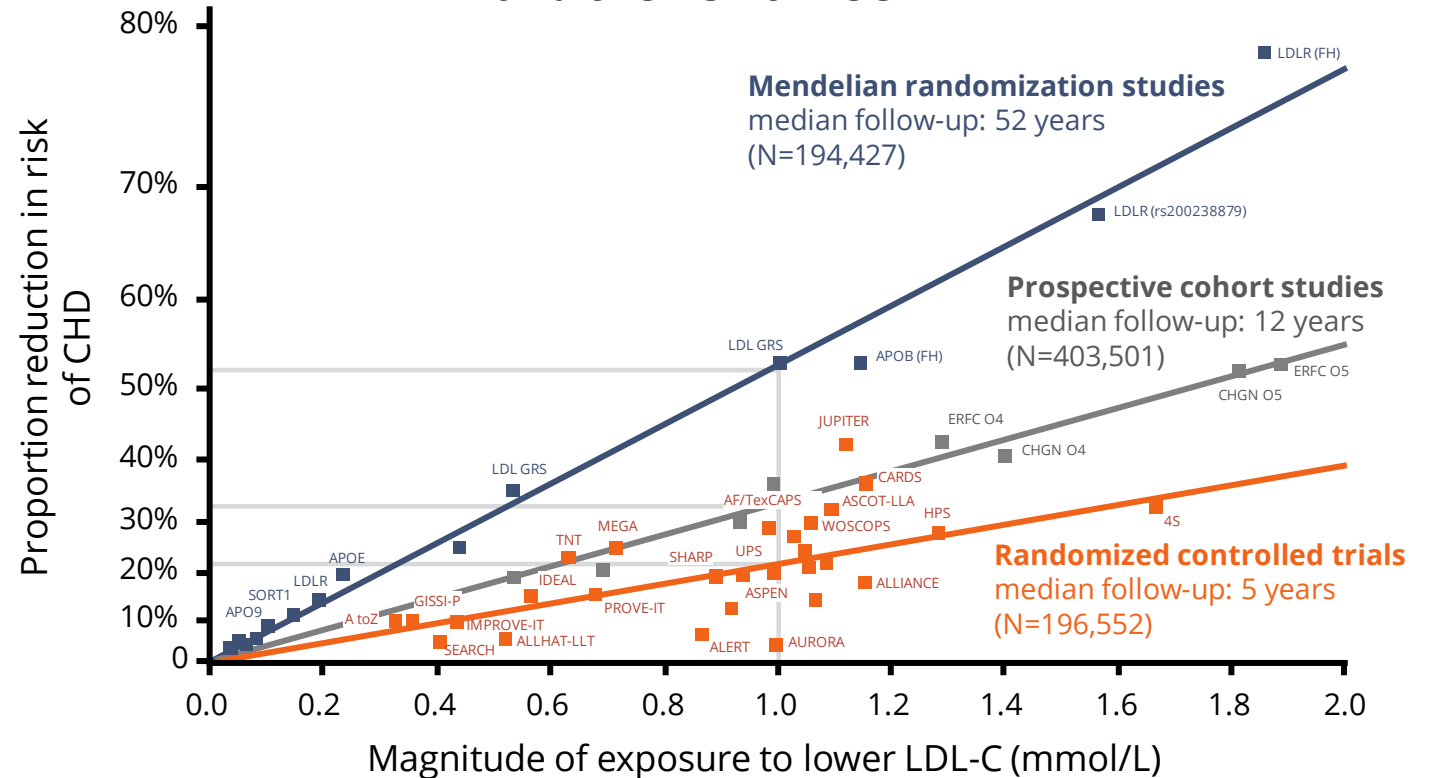
**~10%**

during the **first year**

**~50–55%**

after **40 years**

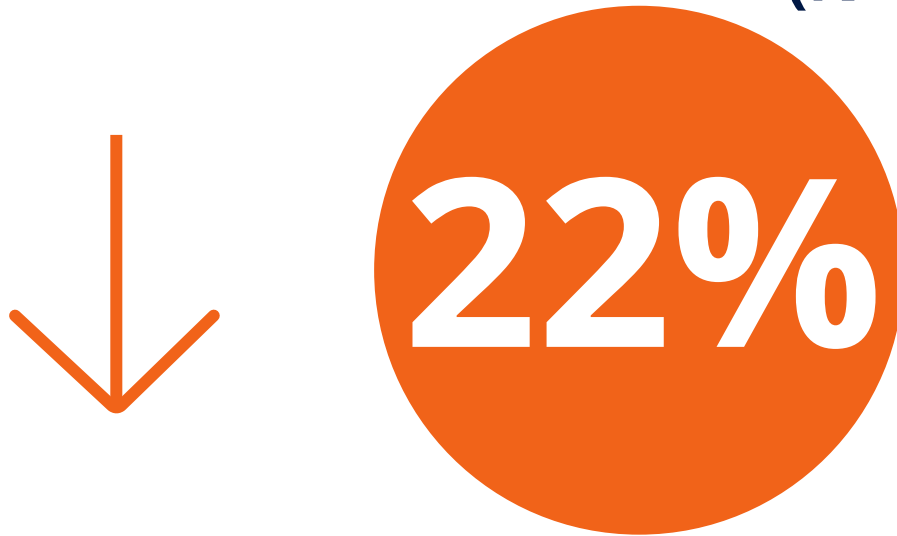
## Log-linear association per unit change in LDL-C and the risk of ASCVD



ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; CHD, coronary heart disease; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; LDLR, low-density lipoprotein receptor.  
Ference BA et al. *Eur Heart J*. 2017; 38:2459–72.

# LDL-C lowering is a reliable surrogate for improving CV outcomes

Meta-analysis of 26 randomized trials of statin therapy  
(N=170,000)\*



**risk reduction** in major vascular events for every 1 mmol/L (39 mg/dL) reduction in LDL-C (95% CI, 20–24%;  $p < 0.0001$ )

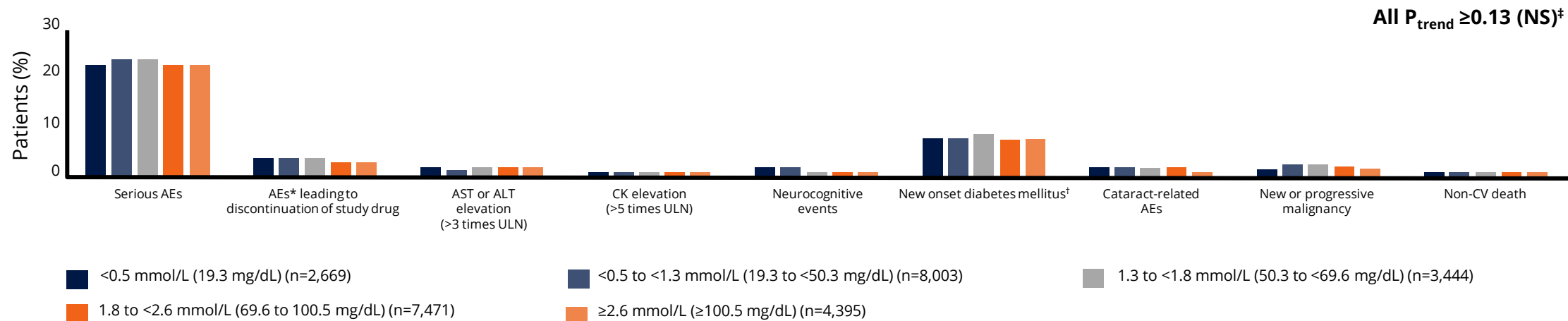
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\*More intensive versus less intensive statin regimen (n=5) or statin versus control (n=21).  
CI, confidence interval; CV, cardiovascular; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.  
Cholesterol Treatment Trialists (CTT) Collaboration. *Lancet*. 2010;376:1670–81.

# No significant association has been observed between very low levels of LDL-C and safety outcomes

Results from the FOURIER trial (N=25,982) showed that there were no safety concerns with very low LDL-C levels (beyond the lowest recommended current targets)<sup>1</sup>

## Safety events by achieved LDL-C levels, over a median of 2.2 years<sup>1</sup>



\*Excludes 17 patients with injection-site reactions; <sup>†</sup>Denominator excludes patients who were diagnosed with diabetes mellitus before the Week 4 visit; <sup>‡</sup>Adjusted for baseline characteristics.

AE, adverse event; ALT, alanine aminotransferase; AST, aspartate aminotransferase; CK, creatine kinase; CV, cardiovascular; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; NS, not significant; ULN, upper limit of normal.

1. Giugliano RP et al. *Lancet*. 2017;390:1962–71.



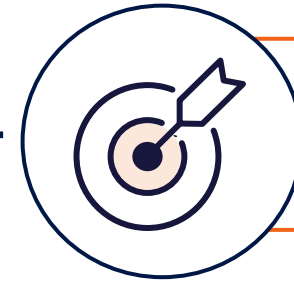
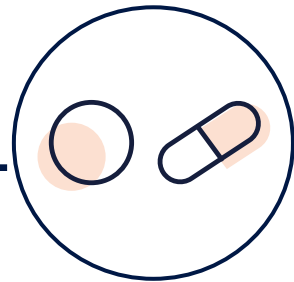
# Many patients are unable to achieve and maintain LDL-C goals with current ASCVD therapies

## DA VINCI study<sup>1\*</sup>



Statins were the mainstay of therapy with **94% of primary prevention** patients and **94% of patients with established ASCVD** on statins

Most frequent regimen across all risk categories was **moderate-intensity statins as monotherapy**



Only **33%** of patients attained overall **2019 ESC/EAS LDL-C treatment goal**

### Potential reasons for failure to achieve guideline recommended LDL-C values included:

- Lack of HCP familiarity with guidelines
- Patient reluctance to be treated with high-intensity therapies
- High cost of some medications
- Concern about statin-related AEs

\*Cross-sectional study of patients receiving lipid-lowering therapies (LTT) between June 2017 and November 2018 across 18 European countries (N=5,888 [3,000 primary prevention and 2888 secondary prevention])

AE, adverse event; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; EAS, European Atherosclerosis Society; ESC, European Society of Cardiology; HCP, healthcare professional; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

1. Ray KK et al. *Eur J Prev Cardiol.* 2021;28:1279–89.

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Father and parental uncle had premature CAD (3 vd at age 49)

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ASCVD risk calculator doesn't apply but if using age 40 : 10 y risk 0.4%

Qriskscore: 0.7%

SCORE2: 1.5%

LPa : 312 nmol/l

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**Qriskscore: 20%**

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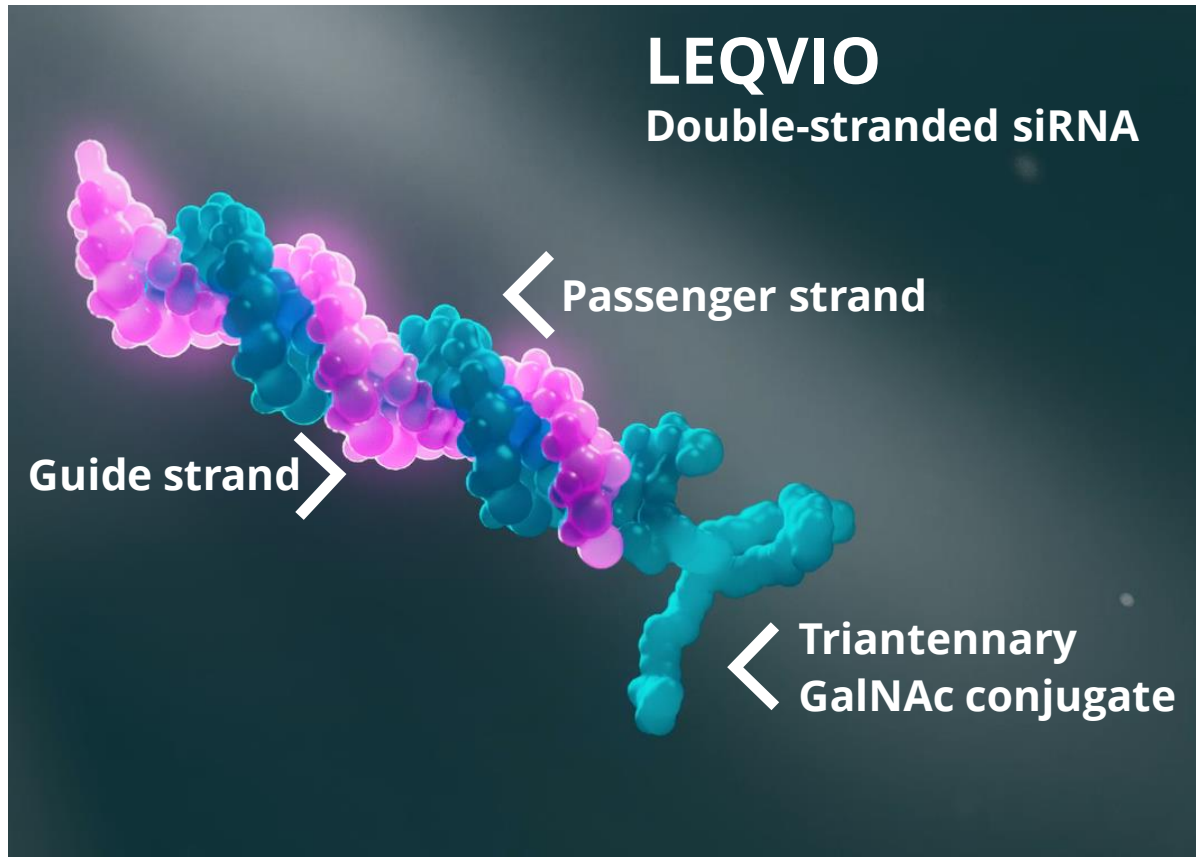
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TC 206, TG 520, HDL 32, LDL 100

Meds: atorvastatin 80, ezetimibe 10, clopidogrel 75, rivaroxaban 15, bisoprolol 2.5, amlodipine 5, insulin

Risk score doesn't apply as patient has documented ASCVD : very high risk

# LEQVIO is the first and only LDL-C-lowering siRNA therapy that selectively targets the liver



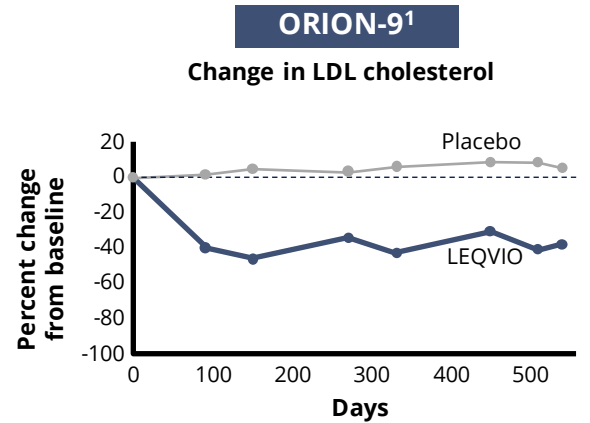
By preventing the production of the target protein (PCSK9), LEQVIO **increases hepatic uptake of circulating LDL-C**, thereby **reducing LDL-C levels in the bloodstream**<sup>1,2</sup>

- LEQVIO **mimics the body's natural process of RNA interference** to selectively target PCSK9 production<sup>1,2</sup>
- LEQVIO consists of two strands: the guide strand and the passenger strand<sup>1,2</sup>
  - The **passenger strand** is attached to GalNAc, which allows for targeted delivery of LEQVIO to the liver cell
  - The **guide strand** targets the mRNA by complementary base pairing and allows targeted degradation
- The target mRNA is subject to degradation in the cytoplasm and not in the nucleus<sup>1,2</sup>

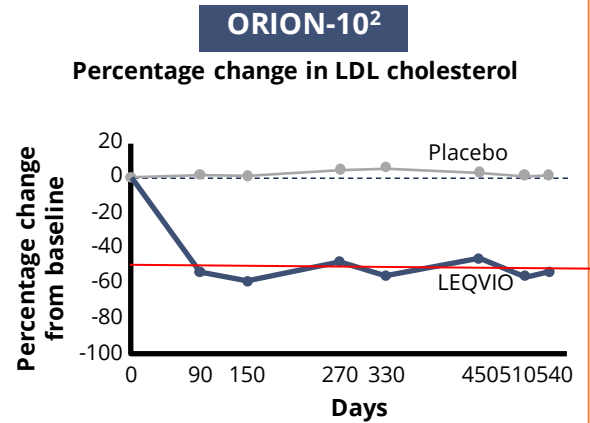
# Phase 3 ORION-9, -10, and -11

## LEQVIO provides effective and sustained LDL-C lowering over 18 months

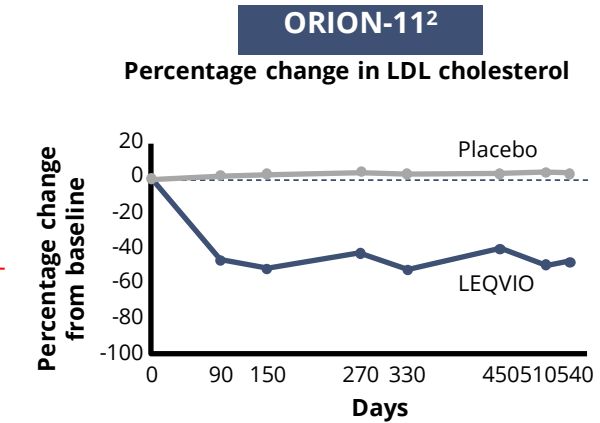
### Percent change in LDL-C over time



No. of patients	Day 100		Day 150		Day 250		Day 300		Day 450		Day 500	
Placebo	240	237	238	235	233	233	229	232	233	229	232	232
LEQVIO	242	240	239	240	237	237	231	232	237	231	232	232



No. of patients	Day 90		Day 150		Day 270		Day 330		Day 450		Day 510		Day 1054	
Placebo	780	762	745	724	715	698	666	670	698	666	670	698	666	670
LEQVIO	781	758	757	737	731	721	691	705	721	691	705	721	691	705



No. of patients	Day 90		Day 150		Day 270		Day 330		Day 450		Day 510		Day 1054	
Placebo	807	797	785	774	773	764	739	749	764	739	749	764	739	749
LEQVIO	810	790	796	778	773	768	724	742	778	773	768	724	742	742

Used with permission. Raal FJ, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382(16):1520-1530.

Used with permission. Ray KK, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382(16):1507-1519.

**Significant reductions in LDL-C percent change with LEQVIO vs placebo on top of maximally tolerated statin dose at Day 510 (range, -47.9% – 52.3%)**

# LEQVIO allows effective and sustained LDL-C lowering with two doses a year

LEQVIO is dosed initially, again at 3 months, and then once every 6 months;<sup>1</sup> LDL-C reduction was maintained during each 6-month dosing interval<sup>2,3</sup>



- **Subcutaneous injection administered by a healthcare provider<sup>1</sup>**
  - Flat-dose prefilled syringe
  - No refrigeration required
  - No pre or post injection monitoring required

- **No dose adjustments for renal impairment or mild-to-moderate hepatic impairment\*<sup>1</sup>**
- **The safety profile of LEQVIO was similar in patients with normal and impaired renal function<sup>1</sup>**

- **Specific uptake by the liver<sup>1</sup>**
  - LEQVIO plasma concentrations decline within 24 hours
  - Levels are undetectable within 48 hours

\*LEQVIO should be used with caution in patients with severe renal impairment due to limited experience and in patients with severe hepatic impairment; hemodialysis should not be performed for at least 72 hours after dosing.

LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol.

1. LEQVIO SmPC. Available at: <https://www.ema.europa.eu/en/medicines/human/EPAR/leqvio> [Accessed December 2021]; 2. Raal FJ, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382:1520–30;

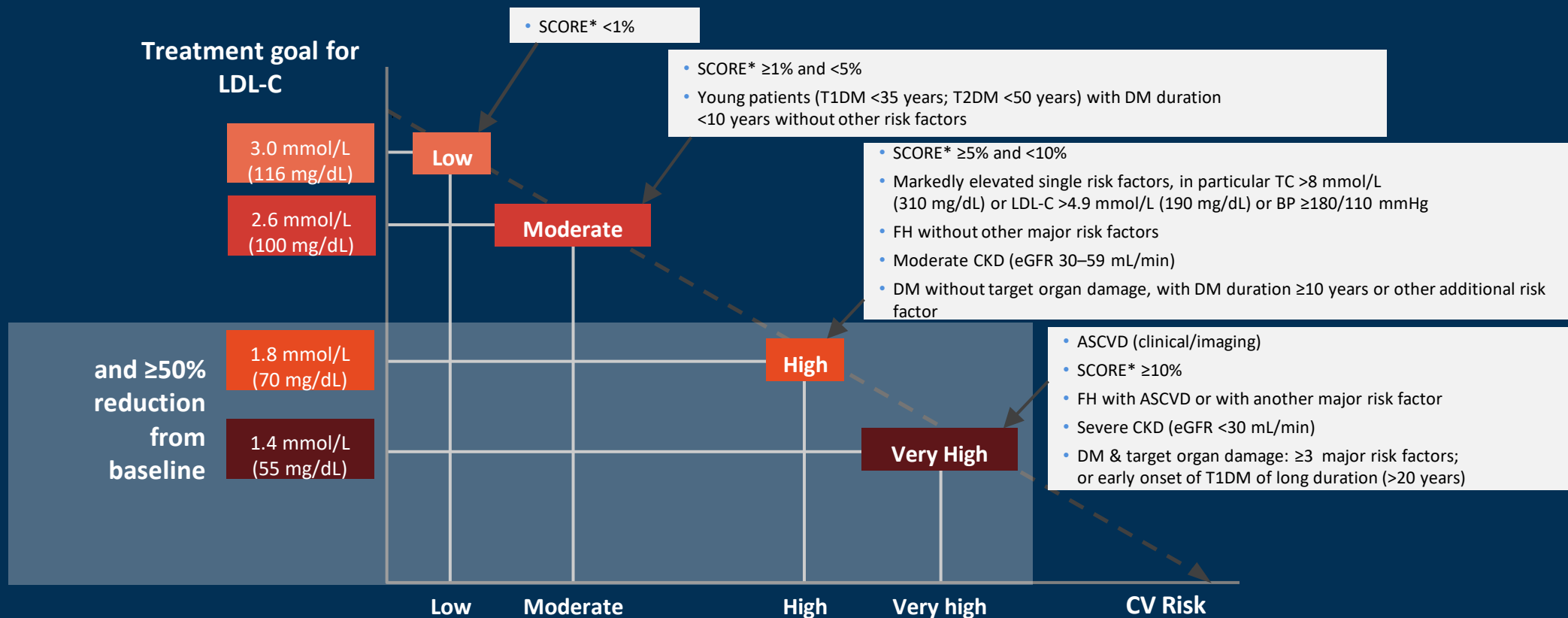
3. Ray KK, et al. *N Engl J Med.* 2020;382:1507–19; 4. Wright RS et al. *Mayo Clin Proc.* 2020;95:77–89.

# **Take home message**



# LDL-C lowering is an integral part of 2019 ESC/EAS recommendations for ASCVD primary and secondary prevention

**Treatment goal: LDL-C reduction of  $\geq 50\%$  and LDL-C  $< 70$  mg/dL in patients at **high-risk** and LDL-C reduction of  $\geq 50\%$  and LDL-C  $< 55$  mg/dL in patients with **ASCVD** or **very high-risk****



Used with permission. Mach F, et al. *Eur Heart J.* 2020;41(1):111-188.

\*Systematic Coronary Risk Estimation (SCORE) for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.

Mach F, et al. *Eur Heart J.* 2020;41(1):111-188.

# References

1. [Kavousi M, Leening MJ, Nanchen D, et al. Comparison of application of the ACC/AHA guidelines, Adult Treatment Panel III guidelines, and European Society of Cardiology guidelines for cardiovascular disease prevention in a European cohort. JAMA 2014; 311:1416.](#)
2. [Grundy SM, Stone NJ, Bailey AL, et al. 2018 AHA/ACC/AACVPR/AAPA/ABC/ACPM/ADA/AGS/APhA/ASPC/NLA/PCNA Guideline on the Management of Blood Cholesterol: A Report of the American College of Cardiology/American Heart Association Task Force on Clinical Practice Guidelines. Circulation 2019; 139:e1082.](#)
3. [DeFilippis AP, Young R, Carrubba CJ, et al. An analysis of calibration and discrimination among multiple cardiovascular risk scores in a modern multiethnic cohort. Ann Intern Med 2015; 162:266.](#)
4. [Bazo-Alvarez JC, Quispe R, Peralta F, et al. Agreement Between Cardiovascular Disease Risk Scores in Resource-Limited Settings: Evidence from 5 Peruvian Sites. Crit Pathw Cardiol 2015; 14:74.](#)
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Thank you

