

# CRACKING THE CODE: MODERN APPROACHES TO CARDIAC AMYLOID

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# DISCLOSURES

- Sub-investigator for the clinical trials presented herein, conducted at Northwell Health.
- No other relevant financial or non-financial conflicts of interest to disclose.

# OBJECTIVES

- Pathophysiology
- Manifestations
- Diagnostic strategies
- Current management
- Emerging therapies

# HISTORY

- “Amyloid degeneration” was first defined by Rudolph Virchow in 1857



## The American Journal of **PATHOLOGY** Discoveries in Basic and Translational Pathobiology

### REPORT OF CASE

**CASE 2. Clinical History:** F. V., a white male, 52 years of age, was admitted to the medical service of the New York Hospital March 21, 1935. There was no history of significant disease in the family. A number of years before, he was treated for gonorrhea, complicated by urethral stricture. His general health since then had been good, however, until about 1 year before admission when he noted **dyspnea on exertion** and became more **easily fatigued**. These symptoms increased in severity during the next 9 months, and 3 months before admission he commenced to have night sweats and noticed some swelling and pulsation of the liver. There was also a chronic cough with amount of mucus. He was treated with digitalis and

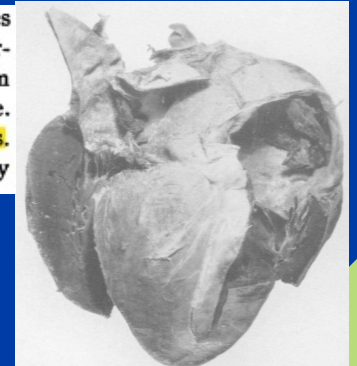
**Physical Examination:** The patient was well developed and nourished, but was **moderately dyspneic**. The percussion note was flat over the base of the right lung and breath sounds were absent in that location, as well as in the right axilla. The remainder of the lower lobe and the middle lobe were filled with **moist râles**. Similar râles were heard in the left lower lobe. The left border of the **heart extended almost to the left anterior axillary line**. The heart sounds were regular (70 per minute) and of tic-tac quality. A **faint, soft systolic murmur** was heard over the precordium. The systolic blood pressure was 125 and the diastolic 75 mm. Hg. The abdomen was slightly distended with the suggestion of a fluid wave. The **liver edge was palpable** a hand's breadth below the costal margin and was smooth and firm. There was **slight swelling of the ankles**.

## AMYLOIDOSIS OF LUNGS AND HEART \*

HENRY W. FERRIS, M.D.

(From the Department of Pathology, Cornell University Medical College, New York, N. Y.)

**Heart:** The heart weighed 650 gm. In both auricular appendages were masses of **friable thrombus**, lightly adherent to the endocardium. The valve measurements were normal. The myocardium was firm in consistence with a homogeneous, glassy cut surface. The right ventricle was 0.7 cm. and the left **2 to 2.5 cm. in thickness**. There were a few atheromatous plaques in the intima of the coronary



Ferris HW. Amyloidosis of Lungs and Heart. Am J Pathol. 1936 Sep;12(5):701-718.5. PMID: 19970296; PMCID: PMC1911015.

# CARDIAC AMYLOIDOSIS: IS IT REALLY RARE?

- 16.8% of patients with HFpEF have ATTR
- 16% of patients undergoing TAVR for severe AS have ATTR
- 11.7% of patients referred for TEER for severe MR were noted to have concomitant cardiac amyloidosis
- 9% of patients initially labelled as HCM had cardiac amyloidosis



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2. Castaño A, Narotsky DL, Hamid N, Khaliq OK, Morgenstern R, DeLuca A, Rubin J, Chiuhan C, Nazif T, Vahl T, George I. Unveiling transthyretin cardiac amyloidosis and its predictors among elderly patients with severe aortic stenosis undergoing transcatheter aortic valve replacement. *European heart journal*. 2017 Oct 7;38(38):2879-87.
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# THE EVOLVING PARADIGM

## Historical View:

A rare, terminal condition with limited diagnostic tools and no effective treatments

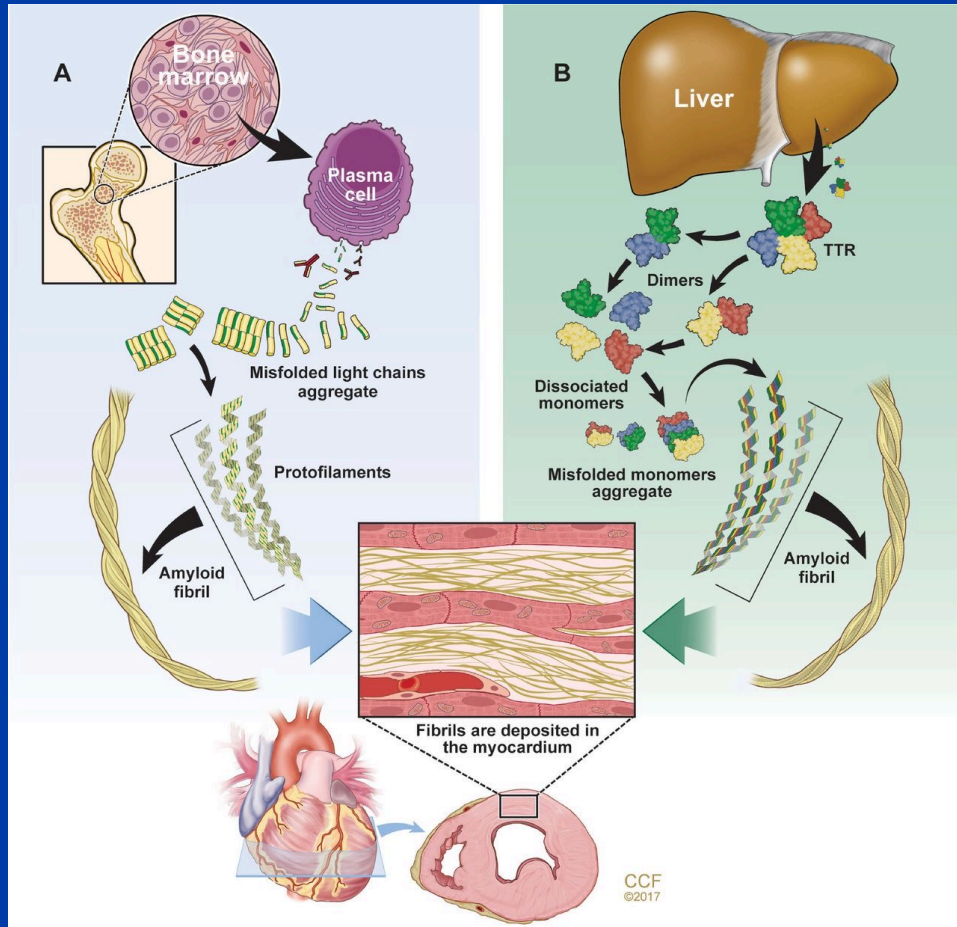


## Modern Reality (2026):

A frequently underdiagnosed cause of Heart Failure (HFpEF) and Polyneuropathy, now manageable with transformative, targeted therapies.


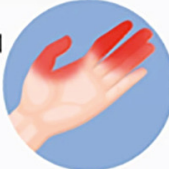











# CRACK IT EARLY.....!

# PATHOPHYSIOLOGY



- What is amyloid? Extracellular deposition of misfolded protein
- Two dozen proteins known to form amyloid fibrils in vivo
- Two predominant types affecting the heart:
  - AL (light chain) –plasma cell dyscrasia
  - ATTR – transthyretin
    - ATTRwt (wild-type, formerly senile)
    - ATTRv (hereditary/variant)

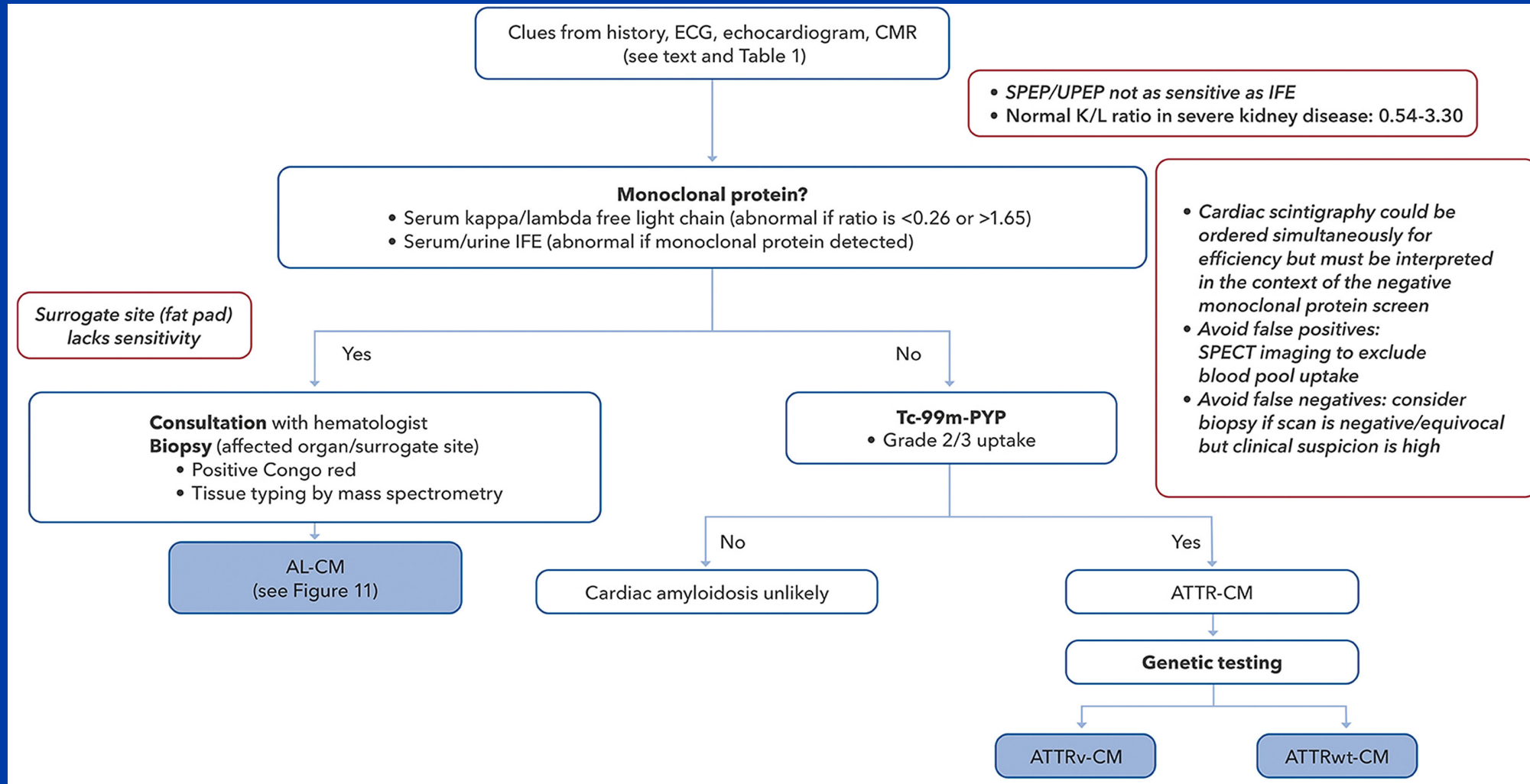
# CLINICAL MANIFESTATIONS

Cardiac	Musculoskeletal	Polyneuropathy	Autonomic Dysfunction
<p>Heart failure</p> 	<p>Carpal tunnel syndrome</p> 	<p>Painful neuropathy in hands and feet</p> 	<p>Orthostatic hypotension/intolerance to blood pressure meds</p> 
<p>Atrial fibrillation</p> 	<p>Back pain/lumbar spinal stenosis</p> 	<p>Muscle weakness, difficulty walking, and falls</p> 	<p>Chronic diarrhea/constipation/weight loss</p> 
<p>Bradycardias/conduction abnormalities/pacemakers</p> 	<p>Ruptured distal biceps tendon/Popeye sign</p> 	<p>Shoulder, knee and hip pain or surgery</p> 	<p>Erectile dysfunction</p> 
	<p>Trigger finger</p> 		

## Cardiac Red Flags:

- HFpEF without hypertension, particularly old men
- Intolerance to neurohormonal antagonists
- Elevated biomarkers (NT-proBNP / BNP and troponin) out of proportion to clinical scenario
- Low flow – low gradient aortic stenosis
- Low voltage on EKG despite LVH on echo

# DIAGNOSIS



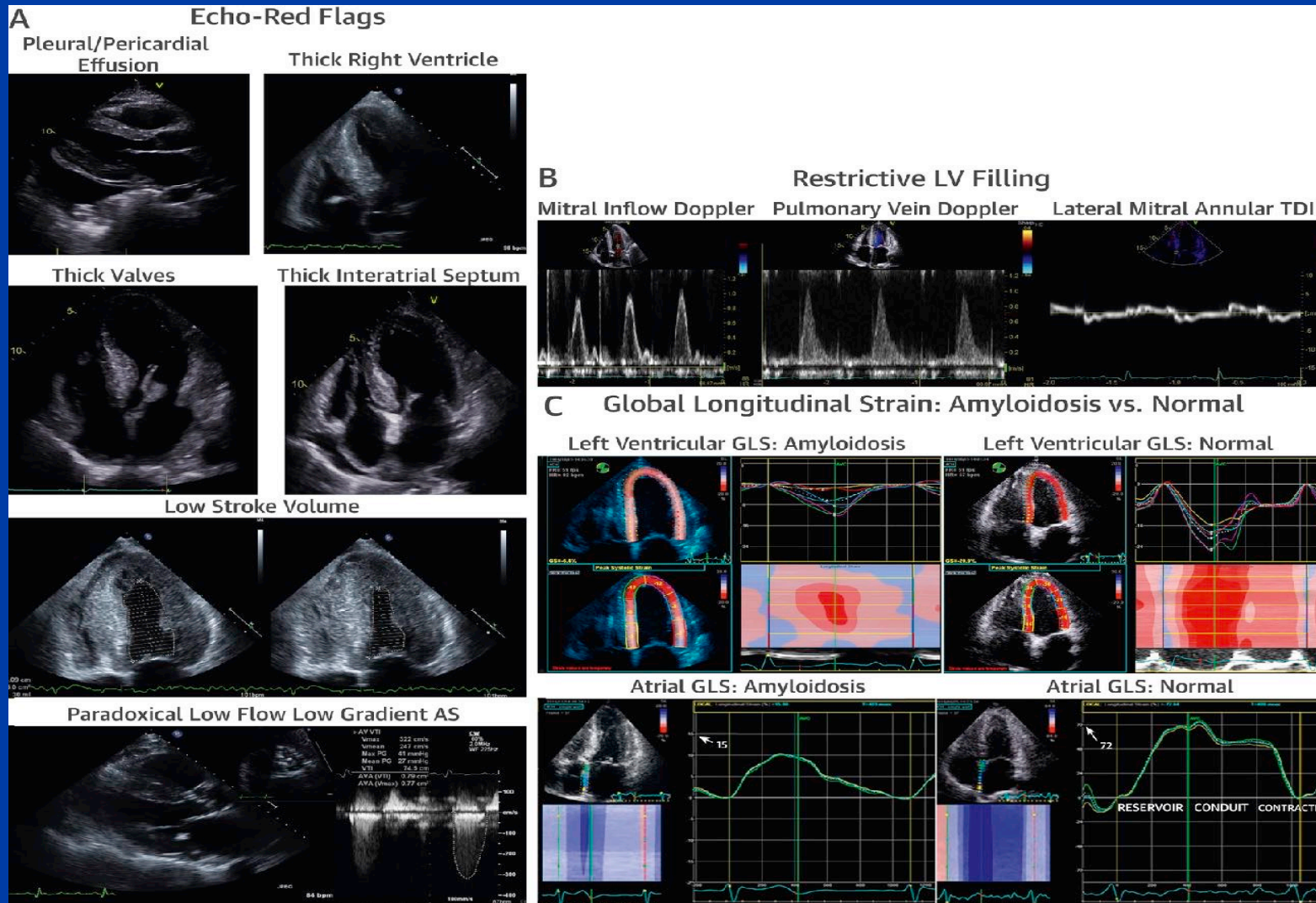
# DIAGNOSTIC CLUES: EKG

- Low voltage (45% in AL, 18-45% in ATTR)
- Pseudoinfarct pattern
- Increased PR interval
- RBBB pattern
- Discordance between LV thickness noted on echo and ECG voltage



Maurer MS, Elliott P, Comenzo R, Semigran M, Rapezzi C. Addressing Common Questions Encountered in the Diagnosis and Management of Cardiac Amyloidosis. *Circulation*. 2017 Apr 4;135(14):1357-1377. doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.116.024438. PMID: 28373528; PMCID: PMC5392416.

# DIAGNOSIS: ECHOCARDIOGRAM



# DIAGNOSIS: CARDIAC MRI

## Morphological and Functional Markers

- Appearance (increased wall thickness)
- Diastolic function

## Late Gadolinium Enhancement (LGE)

Diffuse subendocardial->transmural

## Parametric Mapping (T1 & ECV)

Increased ECV  
Increased T1 values

# DIAGNOSIS: RULE OUT AL

- Serum Kappa / lambda free light chain (abnormal if ratio is  $<0.26$  or  $>1.65$ )
- Serum IFE (abnormal if monoclonal protein detected)
- Urine IFE (abnormal if monoclonal protein detected)

# DIAGNOSIS: NUCLEAR IMAGING

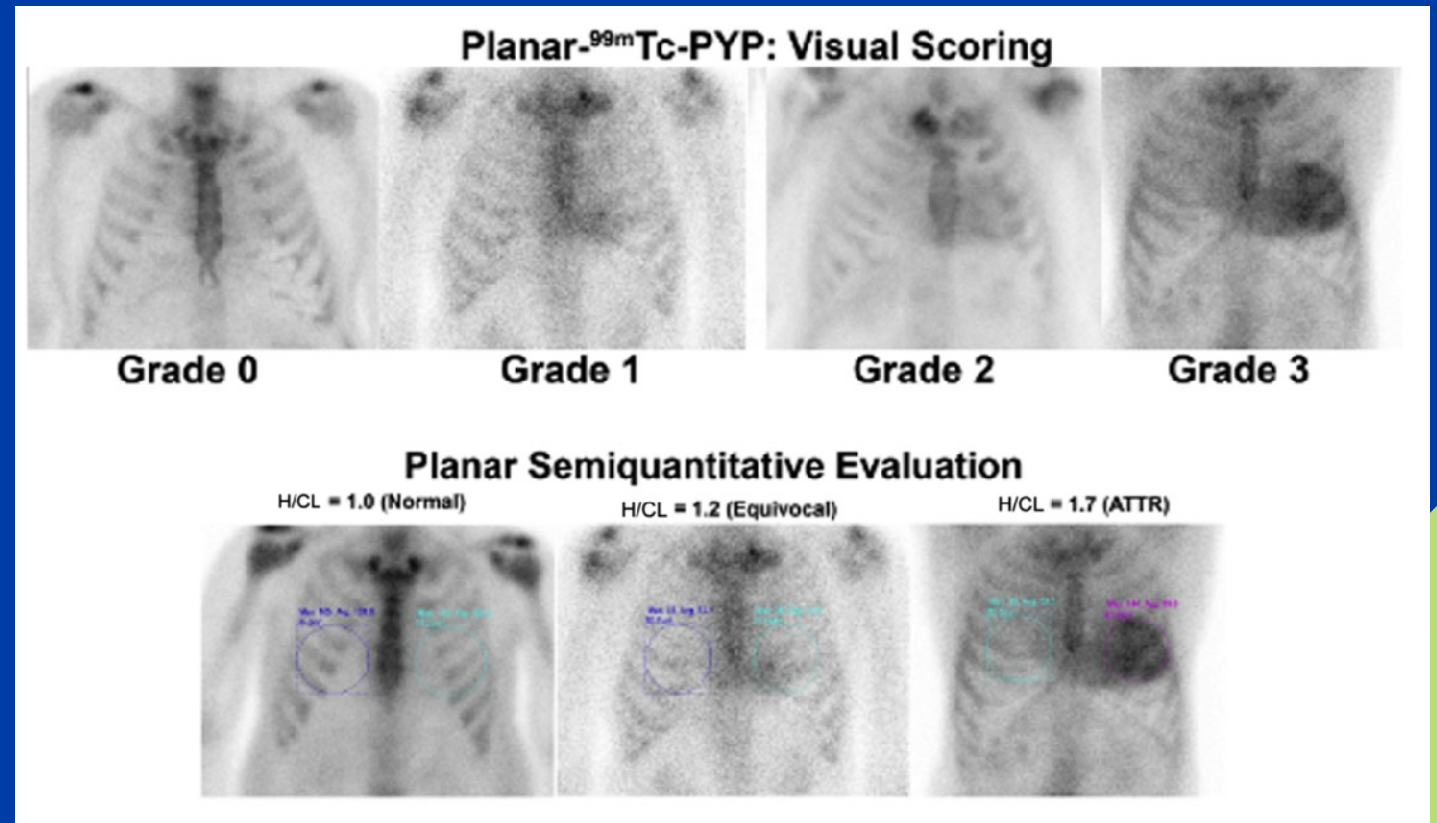
- Three Technetium labeled nuclear agents:
  - $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -pyrophosphate [ $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -PYP]
  - $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -3,3-diphosphono- 1,2-propanodicarboxylic acid [ $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -DPD]
  - $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -hydroxymethylene diphosphonate [ $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ - HMDP].
- Bind avidly to TTR deposits in the heart
- Injection is followed by planar and SPECT imaging at 1 and 3 hrs

# DIAGNOSIS: NUCLEAR IMAGING

## Planar imaging (2D)

Perugini Scale:

Grade	Description
Grade 0	No myocardial uptake and normal bone uptake.
Grade 1	Mild myocardial uptake, but significantly less than bone uptake.
Grade 2	Myocardial uptake equal to or greater than bone uptake.
Grade 3	Intense myocardial uptake with much-reduced or absent bone uptake.



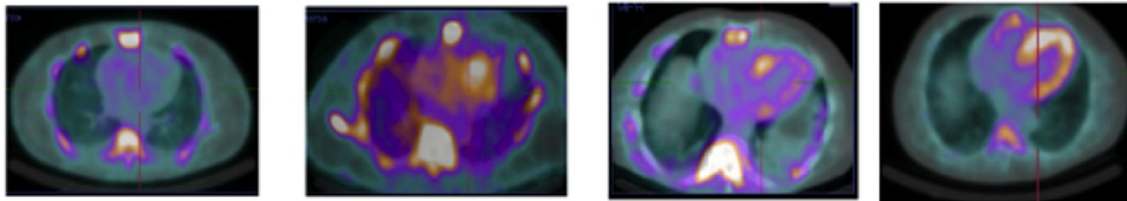
# DIAGNOSIS: NUCLEAR IMAGING

## SPECT / SPECT CT (3D)

**SPECT-<sup>99m</sup>Tc-PYP: Visual Scoring**



**SPECT/CT-<sup>99m</sup>Tc-PYP: Visual Scoring**



**Grade 0**

**Grade 1**

**Grade 2**

**Grade 3**

Feature	Planar Imaging	SPECT	SPECT/CT
Dimension	2D (Flat)	3D (Slices)	3D (Slices) + Anatomy
Primary Use	Initial Perugini Scoring	Confirming Myocardial Location	Highest precision; clearing artifacts
False Positives	High (due to blood pool)	Low	Lowest
Vessel/Rib Overlap	Significant	Minimized	Eliminated

Non-ATTR causes of positive PYP scan: AL amyloidosis, blood pooling, rib fracture, hydroxychloroquine toxicity, acute MI, other rare causes of CA

# DIAGNOSIS: NUCLEAR IMAGING

JACC: CARDIOVASCULAR IMAGING  
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VOL. 16, NO. 11, 2023

ORIGINAL RESEARCH

## Cardiac Amyloid Detection by PET/CT Imaging of Iodine (<sup>124</sup>I) Evuzamitide (<sup>124</sup>I-p5+14)

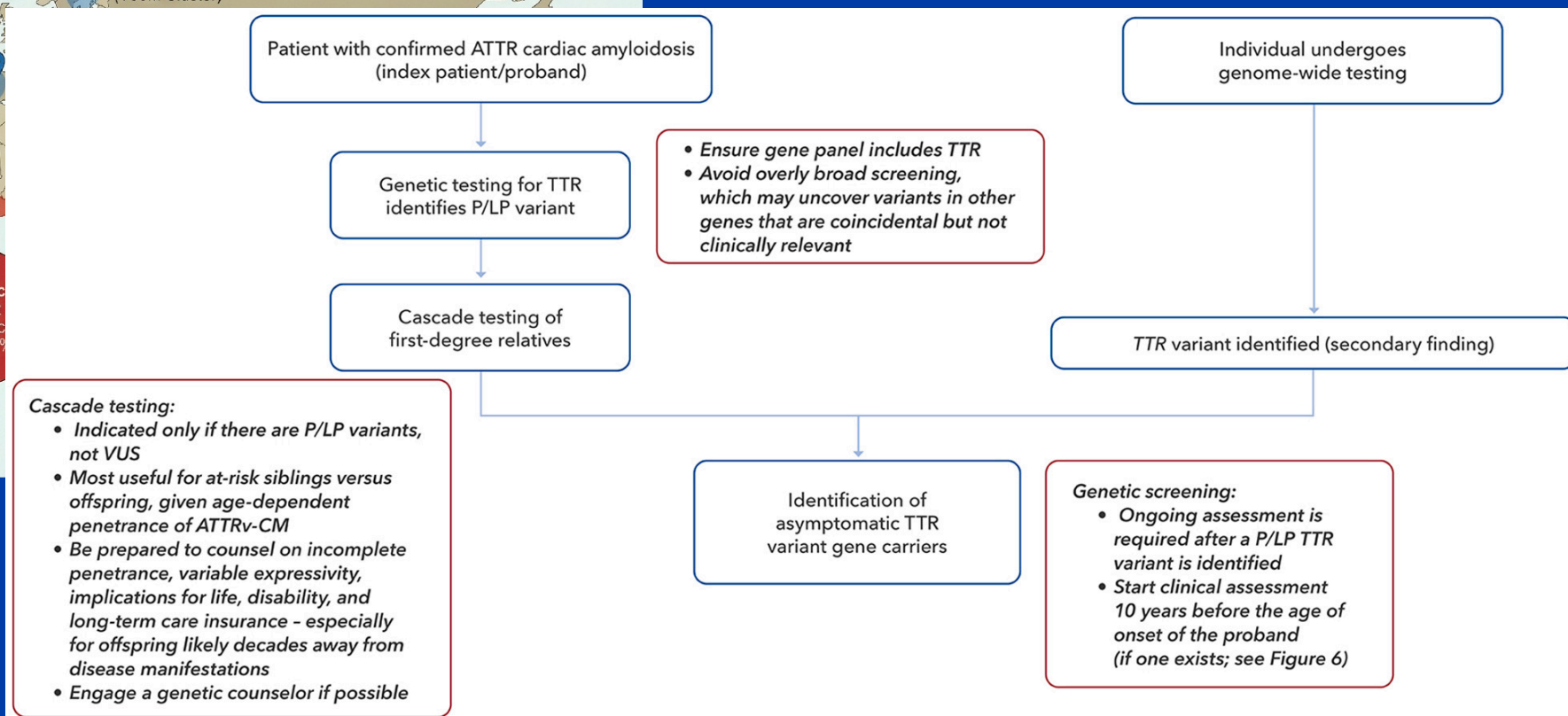
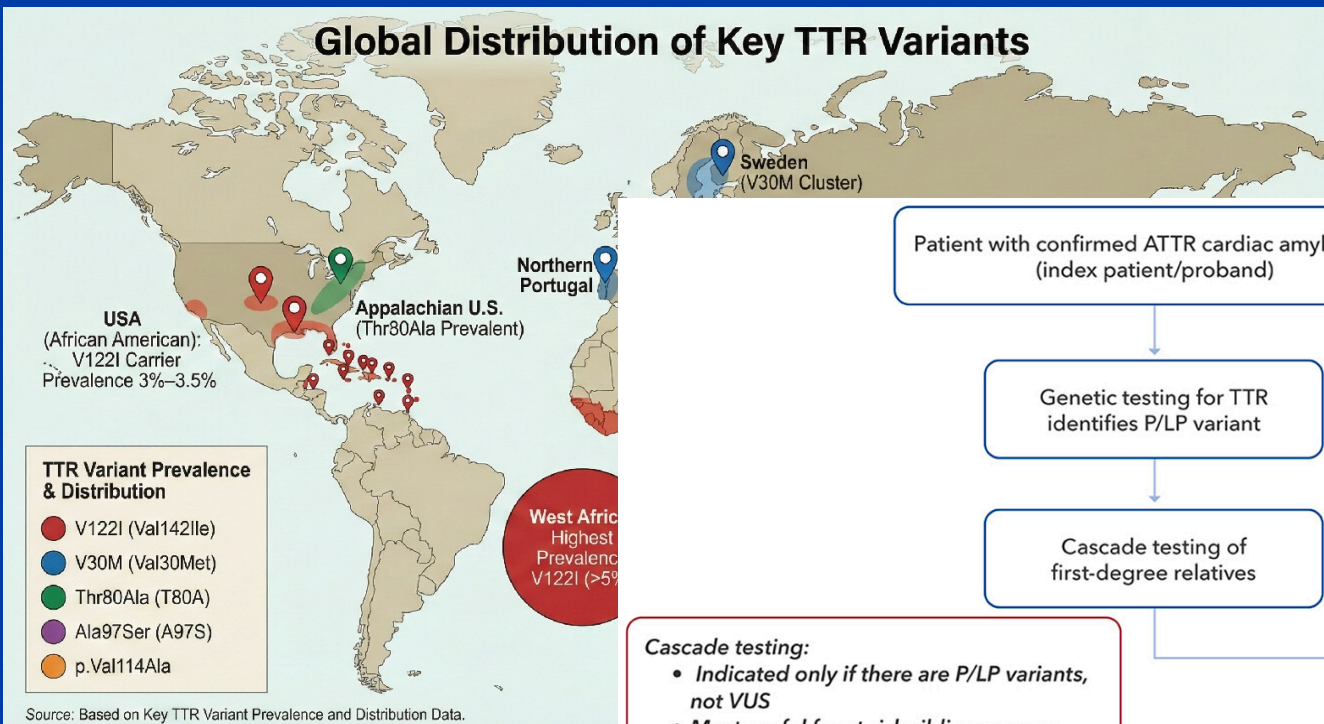
A Phase 1/2 Study

Jonathan S. Wall, PhD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Emily B. Martin, PhD,<sup>a,\*</sup> Ronald Lands, MD,<sup>a</sup> Radhakrishnan Ramchandren, MD,<sup>b</sup> Alan Stuckey, CNMT,<sup>a</sup> R. Eric Heidel, PhD,<sup>c</sup> Bryan Whittle, CNMT,<sup>d</sup> Dustin Powell, MD,<sup>e</sup> Tina Richey, MS,<sup>a</sup> Angela D. Williams, MS,<sup>a</sup> James S. Foster, MS,<sup>a</sup> Spencer Guthrie, MPH, MBA,<sup>f</sup> Stephen J. Kennel, PhD<sup>a</sup>



- Evuzamitide (specifically 124I-evuzamitide, also known as AT-01)
- FDA Breakthrough Designation: In August 2024, the FDA granted 124I-evuzamitide Breakthrough Therapy Designation
- Pan-Amyloid Detection: It can identify multiple types of amyloid deposits, including AL (light chain) and ATTR (transthyretin), in the heart, kidneys, liver, and spleen.
- High Sensitivity: Clinical trials reported a 96.2% sensitivity for detecting cardiac involvement, making it significantly more accurate than many current non-invasive methods.
- Early disease detection

# DIAGNOSIS: GENETIC TESTING



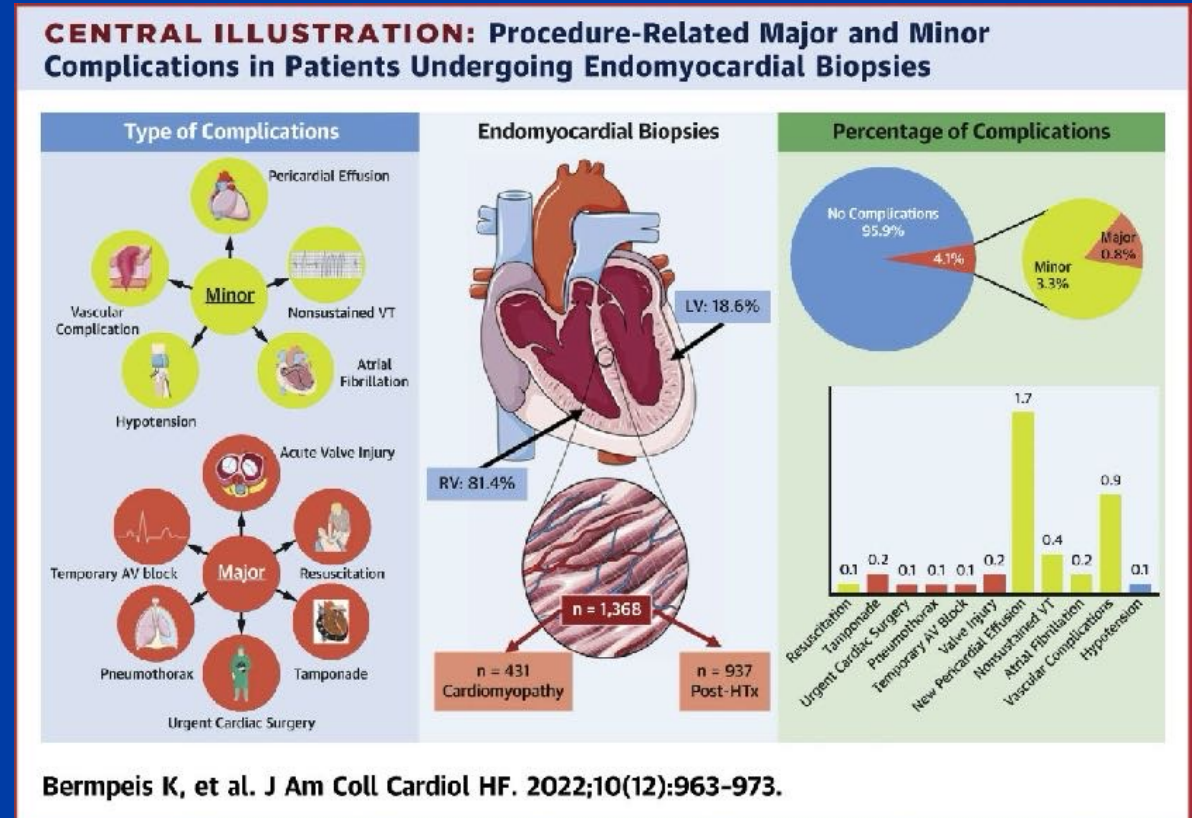
# DIAGNOSIS: NON-INVASIVE DIAGNOSIS OF ATTR-CA

Currently the accepted definition of a noninvasive diagnosis of ATTR-CM requires **all** of the following:

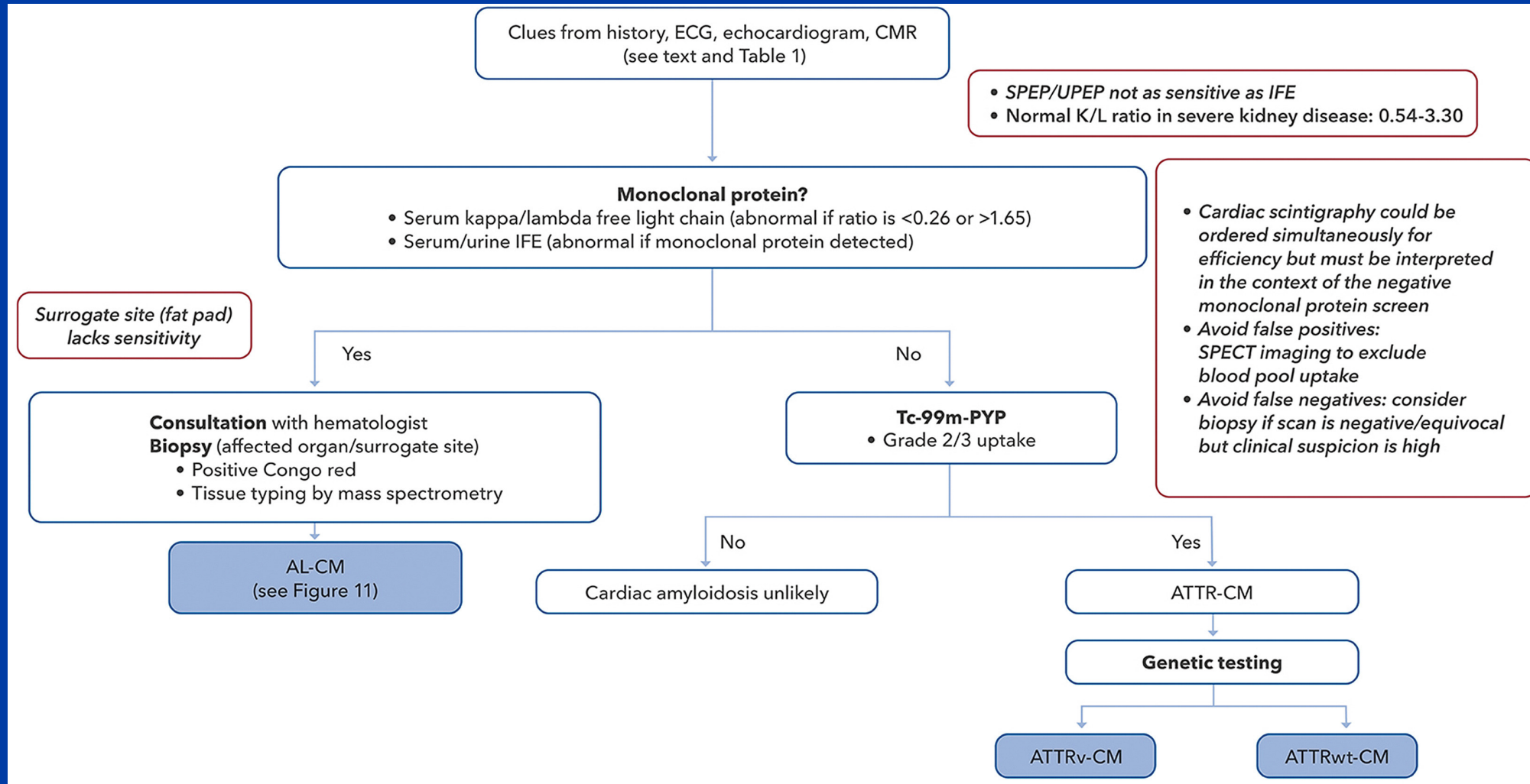
- Unexplained heart failure or carrier status of a pathogenic TTR mutation
- Echocardiographic and/or cardiac MRI findings suggestive of cardiac amyloidosis
- **The absence of a monoclonal gammopathy by serum free light chain assay and serum and urine Immunofixation**
- The presence of  $\geq$  grade 2 uptake on ( $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -PYP,  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -DPD,  $^{99m}\text{Tc}$ -HDMP) *confirmed by SPECT imaging*

# DIAGNOSIS: ROLE OF ENDOMYOCARDIAL BIOPSY

- Remains gold standard for diagnosis
- Important to consider in patients with high likelihood despite negative non-invasive testing
- Relatively safe
- Highly sensitive and specific
- Risk of major complications < 0.5 %

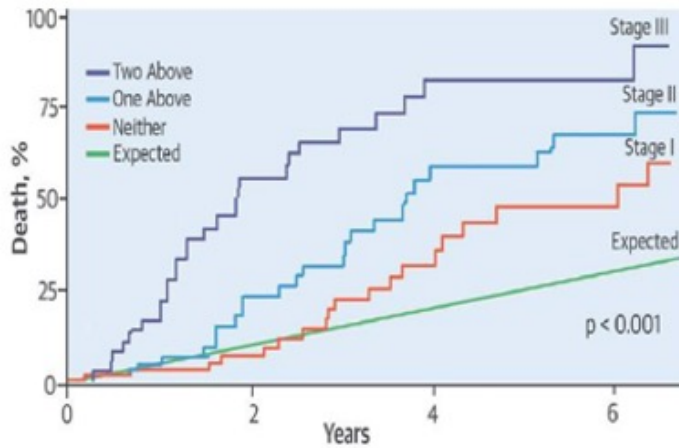


# DIAGNOSIS



# MANAGEMENT: RISK STRATIFICATION

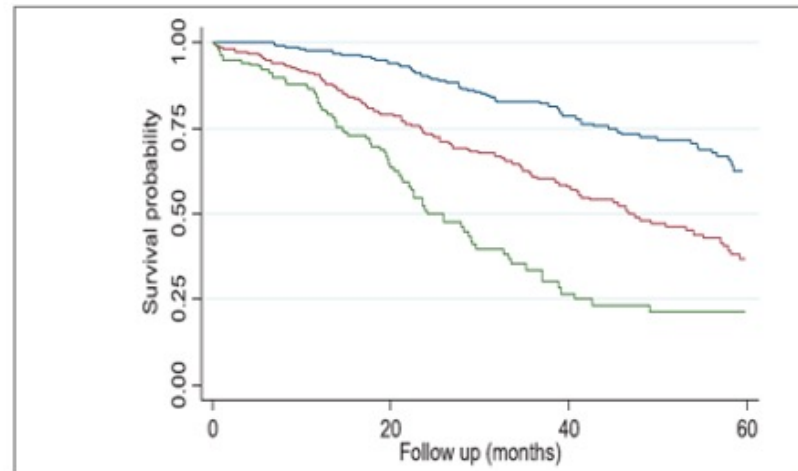
Mayo Staging 2012  
ATTRwt Cardiac Amyloidosis



**JACC.2016;68(10):1014-20**

Stage I: NT-proBNP  $\leq$ 3000 ng/L & Troponin T  $<$ 0.05  
 Stage II: NT-proBNP  $>$ 3000 ng/L or Troponin T  $>$ 0.05  
 Stage III: NT-proBNP  $>$ 3000 ng/L & Troponin T  $>$ 0.05

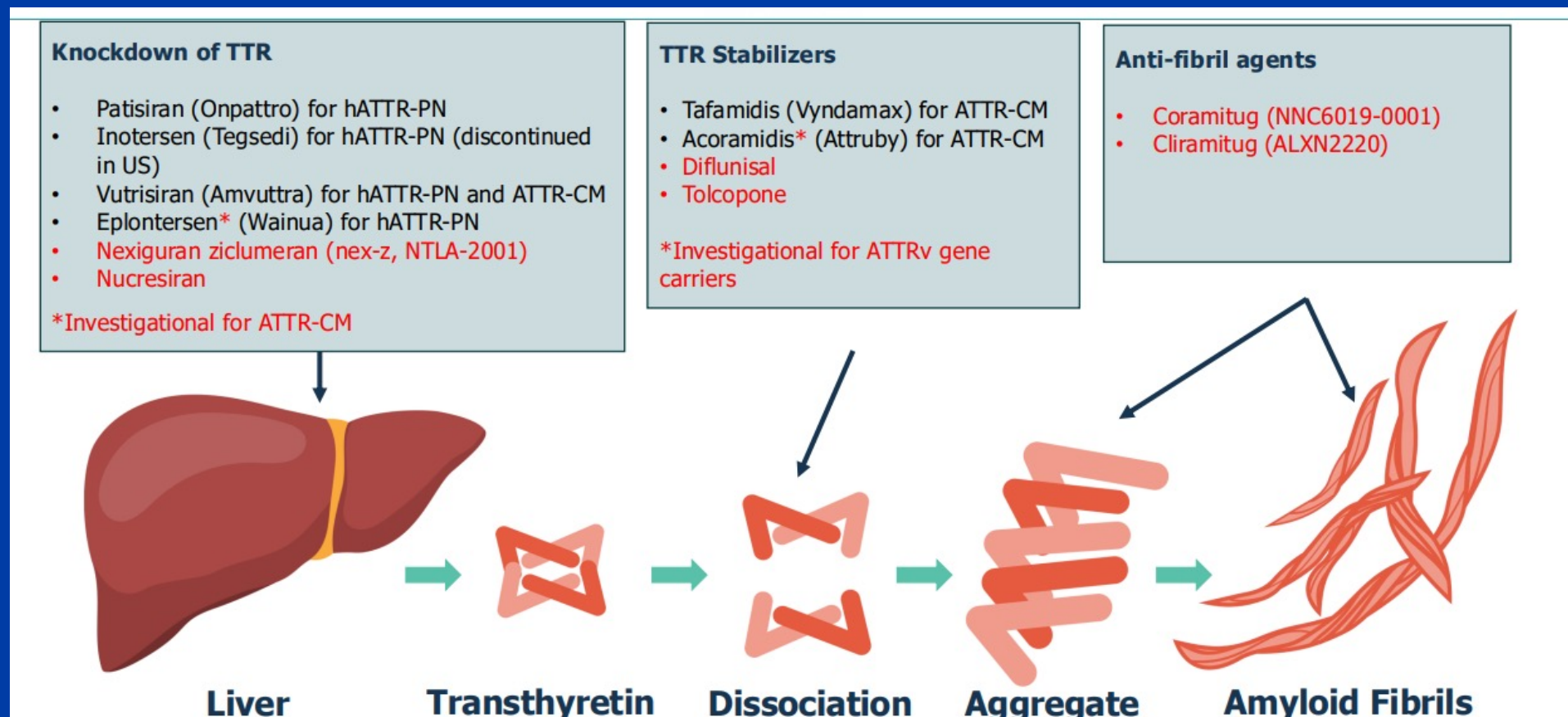
UK NAC Staging System (2017)  
ATTR Cardiac Amyloidosis



**EHJ. 2018;39(30):2799-2806**

Stage I: NT-proBNP  $\leq$ 3000 ng/L & eGFR  $\geq$ 45ml/min  
 Stage II: NT-proBNP  $>$ 3000 ng/L or eGFR  $<$ 45ml/min  
 Stage III: NT-proBNP  $>$ 3000 ng/L & eGFR  $<$ 45ml/min

# MANAGEMENT: PHARMACOTHERAPY



# MANAGEMENT: STABILIZER - TAFAMIDIS

- Mechanism of action: Stabilizer that blinds to thyroxine binding site of TTR, thus stabilizing tetramers and decreasing amyloid deposits
- Most effective early in disease process
- Dose:
  - Tafamidis (Vyndamax): 61 mg once daily.
  - Tafamidis meglumine (Vyndaqel): 80 mg once daily – discontinued in USA on 12/31/2025



## Attach

VYNDAMAX attaches to the TTR protein.



## Stabilize

VYNDAMAX stabilizes TTR, helping it stay together.



## Maintain

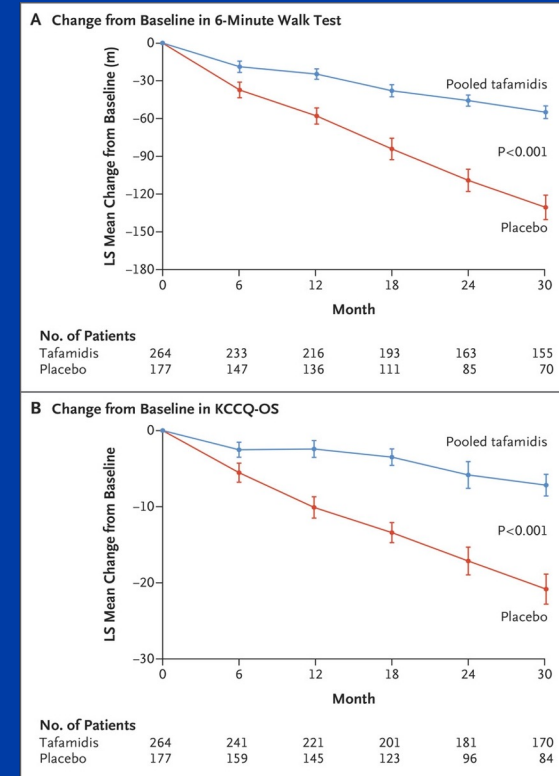
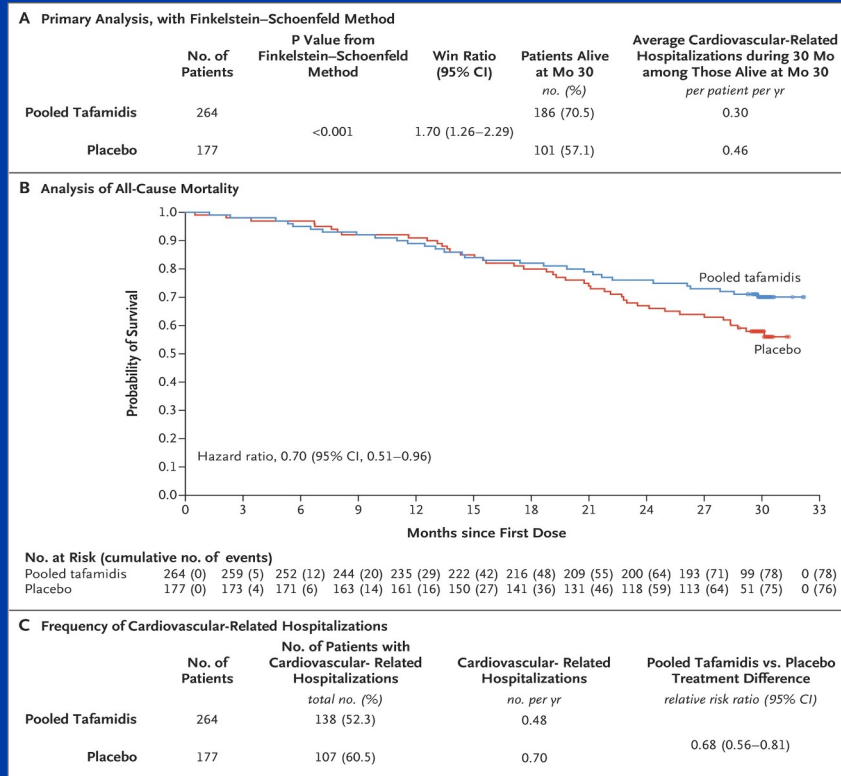
By stabilizing TTR, VYNDAMAX slows the breakdown and buildup of dangerous deposits, which can help to slow the progression of ATTR-CM.

# MANAGEMENT: STABILIZER - TAFAMIDIS

## Tafamidis Treatment for Patients with Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy

Mathew S. Maurer, M.D., Jeffrey H. Schwartz, Ph.D., Balarama Gundapaneni, M.S., Perry M. Elliott, M.D., Giampaolo Merlini, M.D., Ph.D., Marcia Waddington-Cruz, M.D., Arnt V. Kristen, M.D., Martha Grogan, M.D., Ronald Witteles, M.D., Thibaud Damy, M.D., Ph.D., Brian M. Drachman, M.D., Sanjiv J. Shah, M.D., et al., for the ATTR-  
ACT Study Investigators\*

- Multi-center, double blind, phase three placebo- controlled trial
- 441 patients
- 2:1:2 ratio to receive 80 mg of tafamidis, 20 mg of tafamidis, or placebo for 30 months
- Primary outcome: all-cause mortality and CV-hospitalizations (hierarchically assessed)
- Secondary outcomes:
  - from baseline to month 30 for the 6-minute walk test
  - Score on KCCQ-OS



# MANAGEMENT: STABILIZER - ACORAMADIS

- Mechanism of action: Stabilizer that binds TTR at thyroxine-binding sites and slows dissociation of the TTR tetramer into its constituent monomers, thus reducing amyloid deposits.
- Dose: 712 mg twice daily.

# MANAGEMENT: STABILIZER - ACORAMADIS

- Multi-center, double blind, phase three placebo- controlled trial
- 441 patients
- 2:1 randomized to receive acoramidis 800 mg vs placebo
- 30 month
- Primary outcome: hierarchical analysis included death from any cause, cardiovascular-related hospitalization, the change from baseline in the NT-proBNP level, and the change from baseline in the 6-minute walk distance.

The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Efficacy and Safety of Acoramidis in Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy

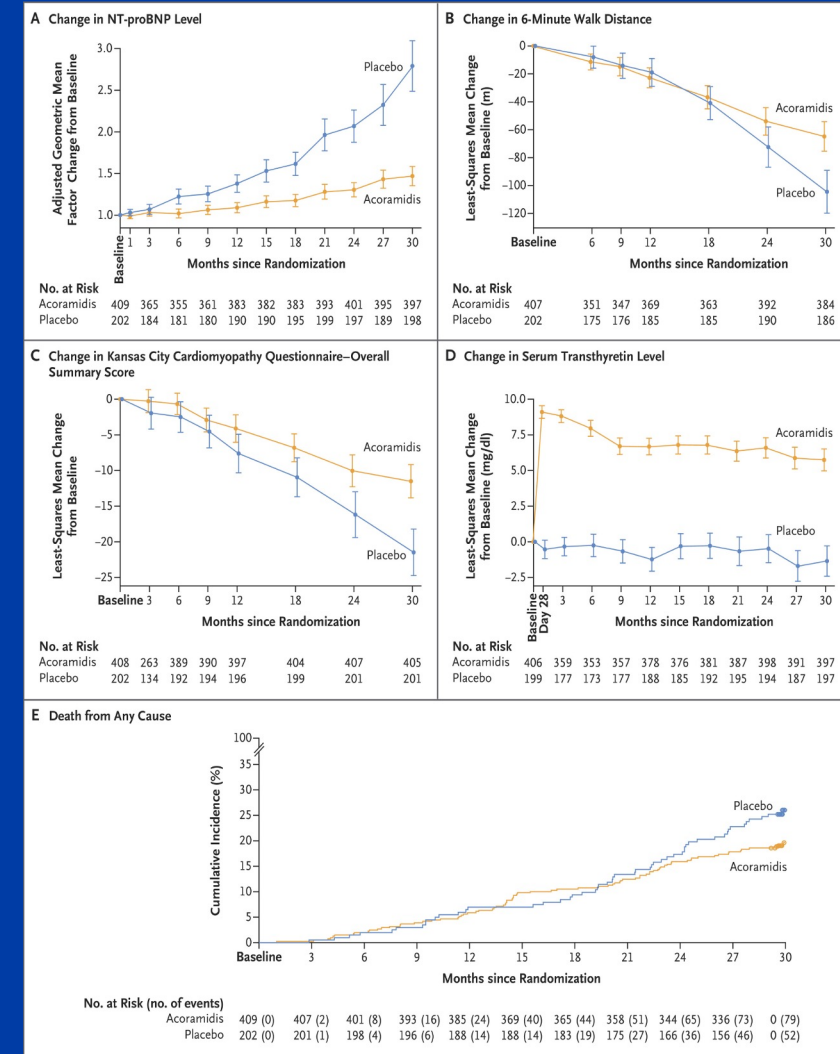
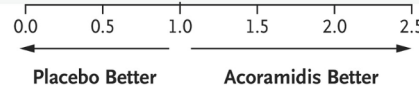
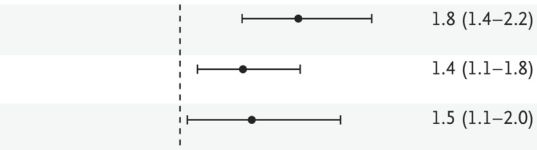
J.D. Gillmore, D.P. Judge, F. Cappelli, M. Fontana, P. Garcia-Pavia, S. Gibbs, M. Grogan, M. Hanna, J. Hoffman, A. Masri, M.S. Maurer, J. Nativi-Nicolau, L. Obici, S.H. Poulsen, F. Rockhold, K.B. Shah, P. Soman, J. Garg, K. Chiswell, H. Xu, X. Cao, T. Lystig, U. Sinha, and J.C. Fox, for the ATTRIBUTE-CM Investigators\*

### Hierarchical Components

Death from any cause, cardiovascular-related hospitalization, NT-proBNP, 6-min walk distance  
 Death from any cause, cardiovascular-related hospitalization, 6-min walk distance  
 Death from any cause, cardiovascular-related hospitalization

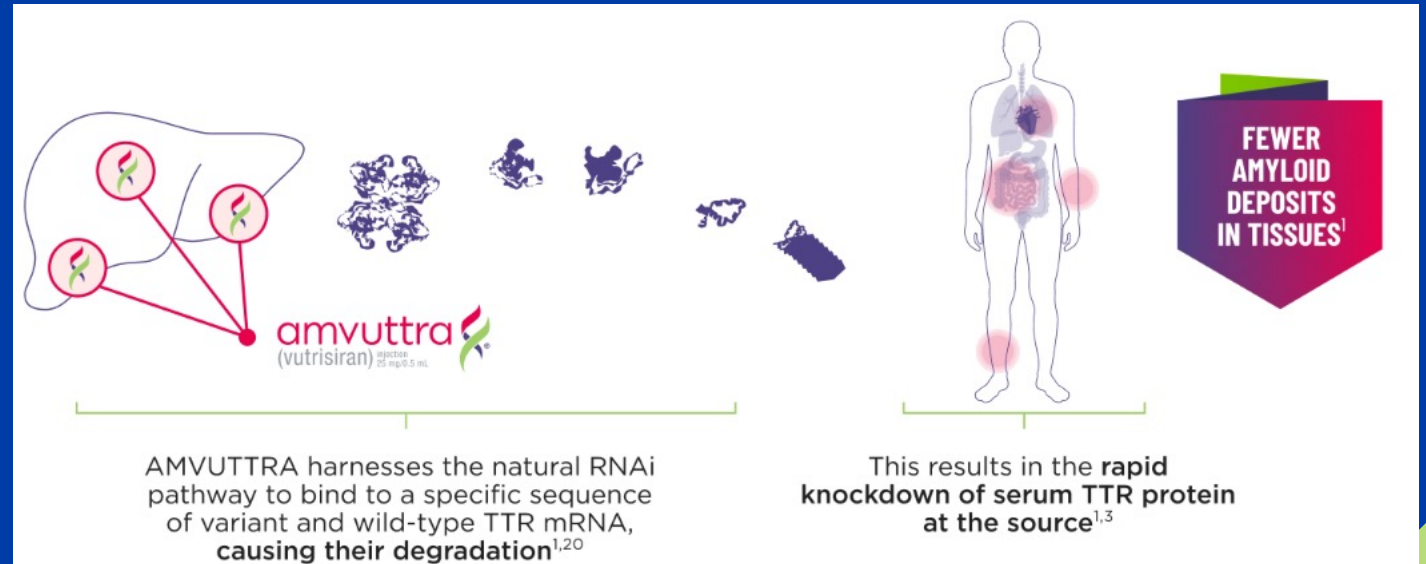
### Win Ratio (95% CI)

### P Value



# MANAGEMENT: SILENCER - VUTRISIRAN

- Mechanism of action: double-stranded small interfering ribonucleic acid (siRNA)-N-acetylgalactosamine (GalNAc) conjugate that causes degradation of mutant and wild-type transthyretin (TTR) messenger RNA (mRNA) through RNA interference, which results in a reduction of serum TTR protein and TTR protein deposits in tissues.
- **Dose:** 25 mg once every 3 months.
- Provide vitamin A supplementation at the recommended daily allowance during therapy. If patients develop ocular symptoms consistent with vitamin A deficiency (eg, night blindness), refer to an ophthalmologist.



# MANAGEMENT: SILENCER - VUTRISIRAN

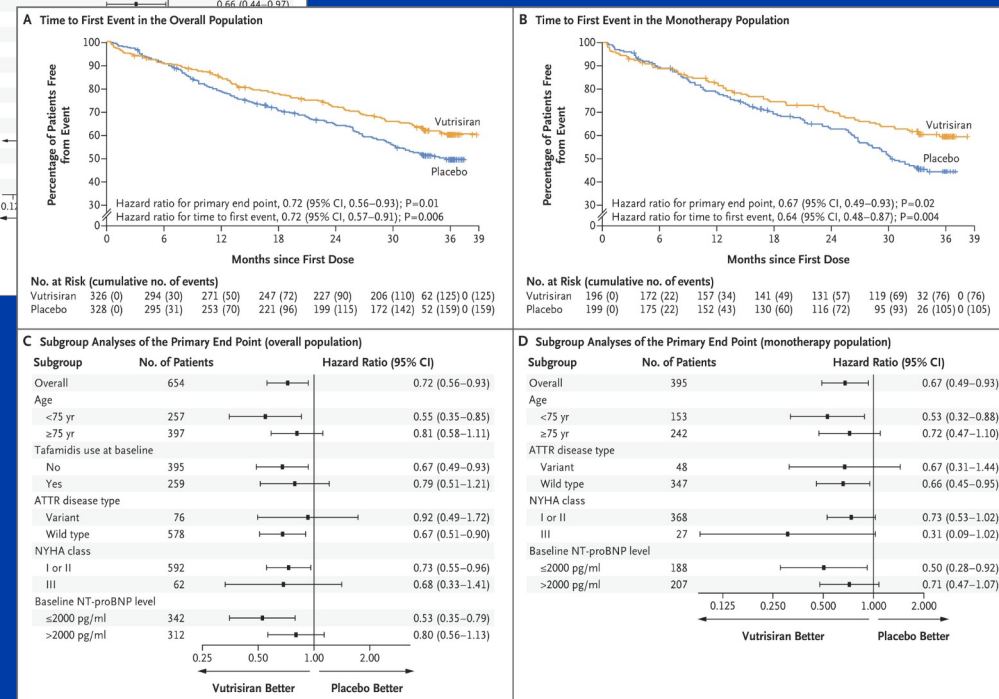
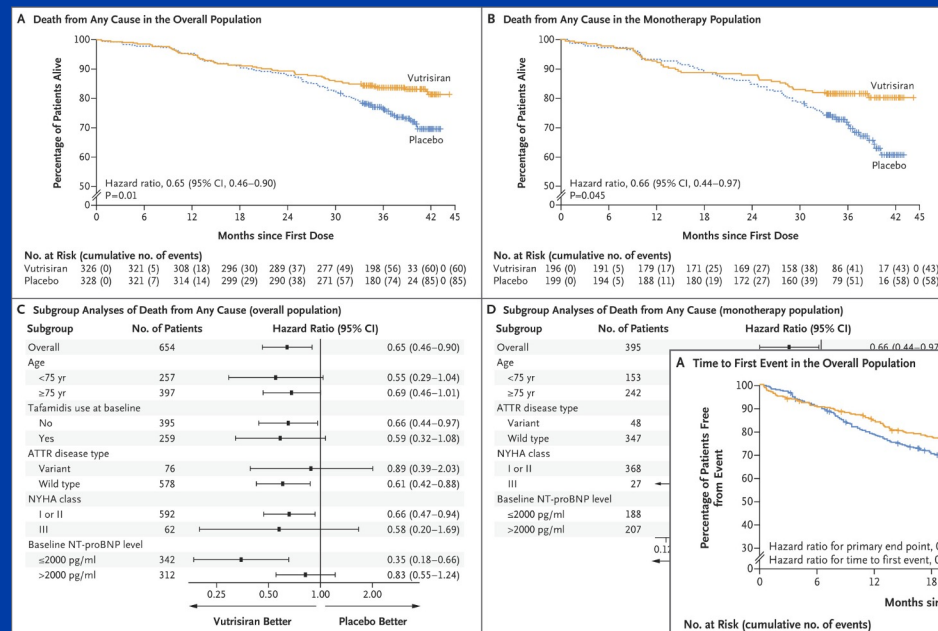
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Vutrisiran in Patients with Transthyretin Amyloidosis with Cardiomyopathy

M. Fontana, J.L. Berk, J.D. Gillmore, R.M. Witteles, M. Grogan, B. Drachman, T. Damy, P. Garcia-Pavia, J. Taubel, S.D. Solomon, F.H. Sheikh, N. Tahara, J. González-Costello, K. Tsujita, C. Morbach, Z. Pozsonyi, M.C. Petrie, D. Delgado, P. Van der Meer, A. Jabbour, A. Bondue, D. Kim, O. Azevedo, S. Hvitfeldt Poulsen, A. Yilmaz, E.A. Jankowska, V. Algalarrondo, A. Slugg, P.P. Garg, K.L. Boyle, E. Yureneva, N. Silliman, L. Yang, J. Chen, S.A. Eraly, J. Vest, and M.S. Maurer, for the HELIOS-B Trial Investigators\*

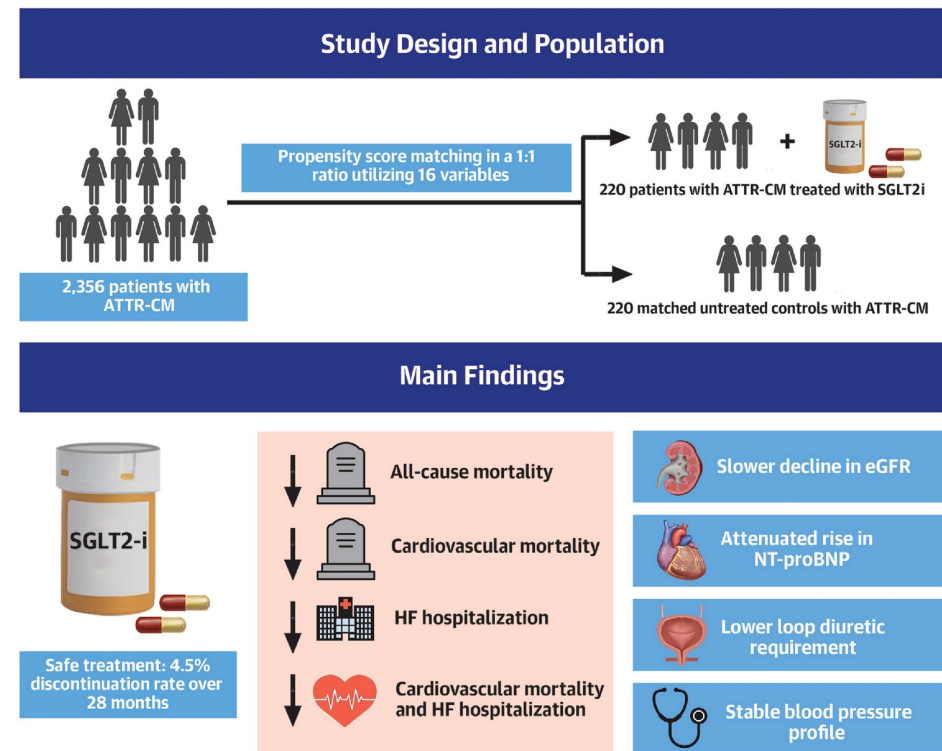
- Multi-center, double blind, phase three placebo- controlled trial
- 654 patients
- Randomized 1:1 to receive vutrisiran 25 mg vs placebo
- 40% patients already taking tafamidis and additional 12% were started on tafamidis during the study period
- 36 months
- Primary endpoint: composite of death from any cause and recurrent cardiovascular events



# MANAGEMENT : HEART FAILURE MANAGEMENT

- If HFrEF: limited evidence for traditional GDMT
- Loop diuretics for decongestion
- Often BB not well tolerated in advanced disease -  
> this is due to fixed stroke volume, though this is generally in later stage amyloid
  - Often diagnosed earlier these days
- In AL CCBs bind to amyloid fibrils and can lead to HB
- Observational studies with potential benefit for SGLT2i and MRA

## CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 Inhibitors in Transthyretin Amyloid Cardiomyopathy



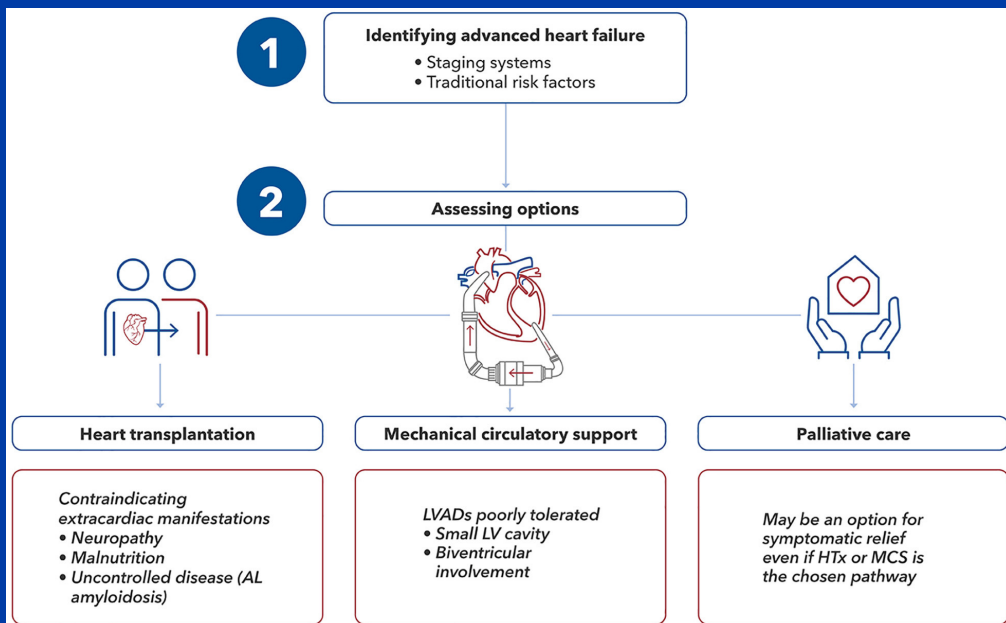
Porcari A, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol. 2024;83(24):2411-2422.

Ioannou A, Massa P, Patel RK, Razvi Y, Porcari A, Rauf MU, Jiang A, Cabras G, Filisetti S, Bolhuis RE, Bandera F, Venneri L, Martinez-Naharro A, Law S, Kotecha T, Virsinskaite R, Knight DS, Emdin M, Petrie A, Lachmann H, Wechelakar A, Petrie M, Hughes A, Freemantle N, Hawkins PN, Whelan C, McMurray JJV, Gillmore JD, Fontana M. Conventional heart failure therapy in cardiac ATTR amyloidosis. Eur Heart J. 2023 Aug 14;44(31):2893-2907. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehad347. Erratum in: Eur Heart J. 2024 Apr 7;45(14):1251. doi: 10.1093/eurheartj/ehae140. PMID: 37216684; PMCID: PMC10424879.

# MANAGEMENT : ARRHYTHMIA MANAGEMENT

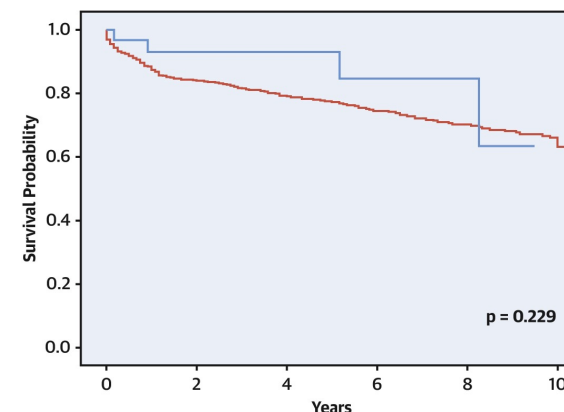
- Atrial Fibrillation
  - Anticoagulation regardless of CHA2DS2-VASc
  - Often do not tolerate AF well
  - No evidence for rhythm vs rate control
- Conduction system disease
  - Monitoring recommended at least with EKG
  - IIb recommendation for ICD in patients with amyloid CM and NSVT on monitoring
    - No recommendation for primary prevention
  - CRT may be helpful in PPM-dependent patients given pre-existing myocardial dysfunction

# MANAGEMENT : ADVANCED THERAPIES



In carefully selected patients with cardiac amyloidosis, heart transplantation can be an effective therapeutic option with outcomes like those transplanted for other causes of heart failure.

**CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Survival After Heart Transplantation for Patients With Amyloid and Non-Amyloid Cardiomyopathy**



Number at Risk:	0	2	4	6	8	10
Amyloid	31	25	18	7	5	0
Non-Amyloid	599	415	308	233	178	113

Barrett, C.D. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol HF. 2020;8(6):461-8.

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# THE ROAD AHEAD: EMERGING THERAPIES

Clinical Trials available at Northwell for ATTR-CA

- TRITON-CM : Phase 3 - Evaluate the efficacy of nucesiran compared to placebo on reducing all-cause mortality and cardiovascular events, on additional assessments of cardiovascular events and/or death, and on patient-reported health status and health-related quality of life. ACTIVELY ENROLLING.
- CLEOPATTRA: Phase 3 - Evaluate whether treatment with coramitug can help reduce the risk of heart-related death and illness in participants with ATTR-CM. EXPECTED START 05/2026.
- MAESTTRO: Non-interventional, Prospective, Multi-country Study Collecting Real-world Data on the Characteristics, Treatment Patterns, and Outcomes of Patients With Transthyretin (ATTR) Amyloidosis. ACTIVELY ENROLLING.

# CONCLUSIONS

## It is NOT rare

- 16.8% of patients with HFpEF have ATTR
- 16% of patients undergoing TAVR for severe AS have ATTR
- 11.7% of patients referred for TEER for severe MR were noted to have concomitant cardiac amyloidosis
- 9% of patients initially labelled as HCM had cardiac amyloidosis

## Recognize clinical clues

- Orthopedic: carpal tunnel, lumbar stenosis, tendon rupture
- Cardiac: Increased LV wall thickness, apical sparing on strain, low voltage on EKG
- Neurological: Polyneuropathy, autonomic dysfunction

## Essential to rule out AL

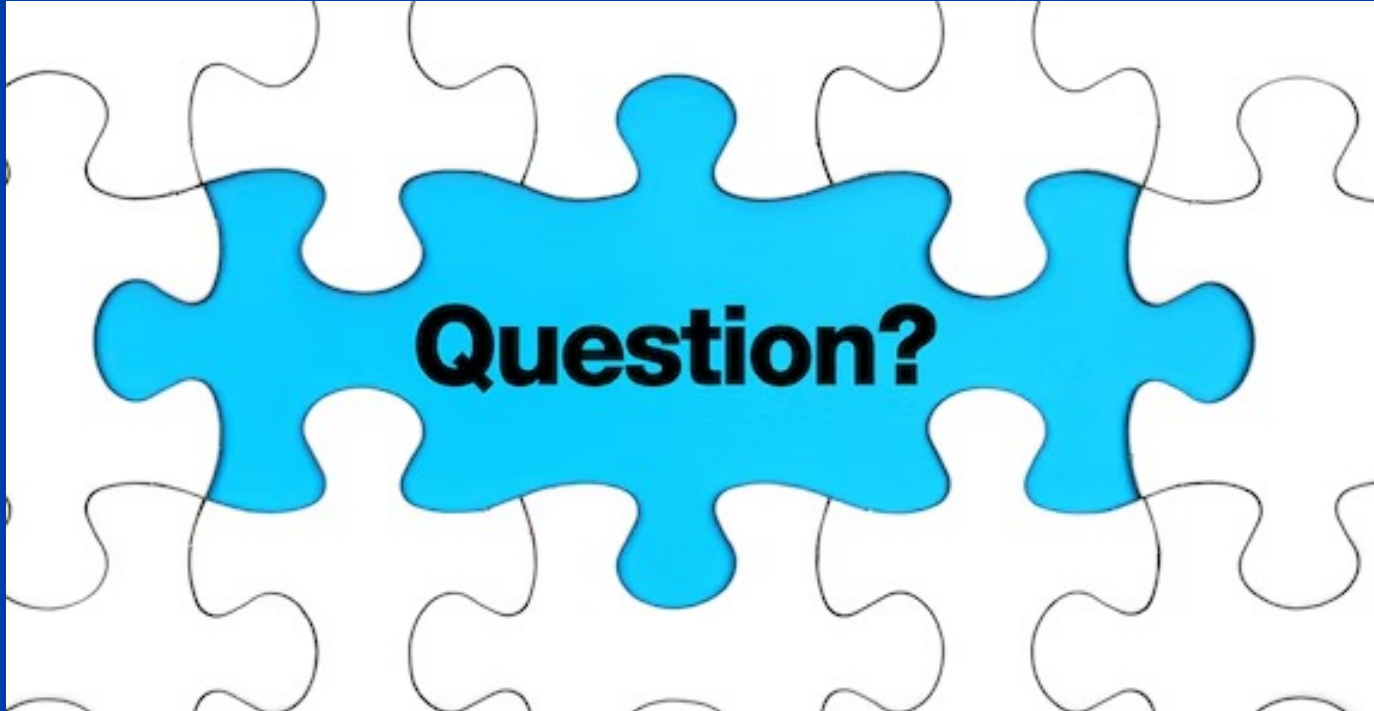
- Requires IFE of urine and serum, serum free light chain assay
- Negative AL testing has high NPV for AL
- Negative AL & PYP + → non-invasive diagnosis of ATTR

## Early diagnosis

- Screen high-risk patients
- Use multi-modality imaging (Echo w / strain, Nuclear scan, Cardiac MRI)
- Approved treatments for ATTR-CM: Stabilizer (tafamidis, acoramidis), Silencer (Vutrisiran)
- Clinical trials: Silencer (Eplonterson), Degraders (Coramitug), Gene therapy (CRISPR-CAs9)

“From nothing we can do to a treatable disease”

# WE ARE TRULY CRACKING THE CODE



Contact information:

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Email: [duppal@northwell.edu](mailto:duppal@northwell.edu)

**THANK YOU**

