



**2022 Annual Convention &  
Scientific Sessions  
Oct 19-22, 2022**

# Update in Chronic Heart Failure:

## Bridging the Gap to GDMT

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## **Disclosures**

Speakers Bureau – Actelion Pharmaceuticals, J & J, BI, Astra Zeneca, Pfizer and BMS

# Summary



- Background of Heart Failure
- Heart Failure With Reduced LV Function (HFrEF) Guidelines Update
- Where we are at with Heart Failure with Preserved LV Function (HFpEF) and Clinical Trials from 2003-2022

- **Heart failure** is a global term for the physiological state in which cardiac output is insufficient for the body's needs. Heart Failure is a condition in which a problem with the structure or function of the heart impairs its ability to supply sufficient blood flow to meet the body's needs.

**Heart failure is caused by any condition which reduces the efficiency of the myocardium leading to overload on the myocardium. Over time the increased workload will produce changes to the heart:**

- Reduced contractility, or force of contraction, due to overloading of the ventricle.
- A reduced stroke volume, as a result of a failure of systole, diastole or both.
- Increased heart rate, stimulated by increased sympathetic activity in order to maintain cardiac output.
- Hypertrophy of the myocardium, caused by the terminally differentiated heart muscle fibers increasing in size in an attempt to improve contractility.
- Enlargement of the ventricles, contributing to the enlargement and spherical shape of the failing heart.

# Heart Failure Statistics



## ***Prevalence***

- Heart failure (HF) affects an estimated 5.1 million Americans  $\geq$  20 years of age.
- 400,000 new cases of heart failure are diagnosed in the United States annually.

## ***Incidence***

- One-percent of adults 50 to 60 years of age.
- Ten-percent of adults 80 years of age or older.

## ***Mortality and Morbidity***

- At 40 years of age, the lifetime risk of developing HF for both men and women is 1 in 5; at 80 years of age, the lifetime risk of developing new HF is 20%.
- Most frequent cause of hospitalizations in the elderly and is responsible for 7 to 12 percent of all hospital admissions.

# Categorization of Heart Failure



## **There are many different ways to categorize heart failure, including:**

- Which side of the heart involved (left heart failure versus right heart failure)
- Whether the abnormality is due to contraction (systolic dysfunction) or relaxation of the heart (diastolic)
- Degree of functional impairment conferred by the abnormality (as in the NYHA functional classification)
- Whether the problem is primarily increased venous back pressure (behind) the heart, or failure to supply adequate arterial perfusion (in front of) the heart (backward vs. forward failure)
- Whether the abnormality is due to low cardiac output with high systemic vascular resistance or high cardiac output with low vascular resistance (low-output heart failure vs. high-output heart failure)

# Types of Heart Failure

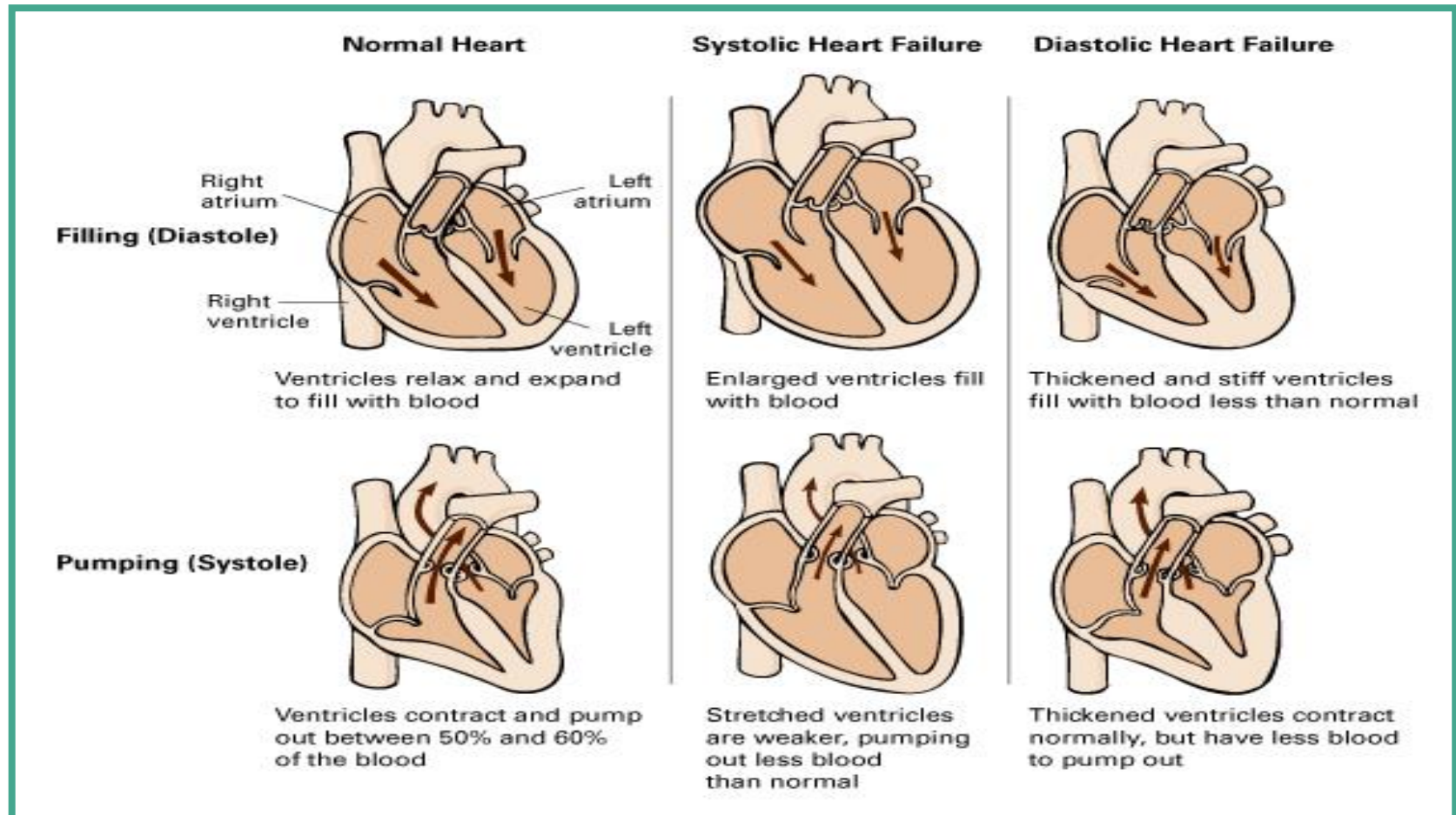


**Classification of heart failure is based on which heart function or which side of the heart is most affected by the condition.**

- **Systolic heart failure** (Correct term is HFrEF) – failure of contraction to pump blood out of the chambers. This is measured by ejection fraction (EF) or the percentage of blood that is ejected out of the ventricle. EF 39% or lower
- **Diastolic heart failure** (Correct term is HFpEF) – failure of relaxation to fill the chambers with blood- EF is 50% or greater
- **Heart failure with mid-range EF** (Correct term is HFmEF) – EF 40-49%



# HFrEF and HFpEF



# Characteristics of HFpEF as Compared with Those of HFrEF



**Table 1.** Characteristics of Diastolic Heart Failure as Compared with Those of Systolic Heart Failure.\*

Characteristic	Diastolic Heart Failure	Systolic Heart Failure
<b>Clinical features</b>		
Symptoms (e.g., dyspnea)	Yes	Yes
Congestive state (e.g., edema)	Yes	Yes
Neurohormonal activation (e.g., brain natriuretic peptide)	Yes	Yes
<b>Left ventricular structure and function</b>		
Ejection fraction	Normal	Decreased
Left ventricular mass	Increased	Increased
Relative wall thickness†	Increased	Decreased
End diastolic volume	Normal	Increased
End diastolic pressure	Increased	Increased
Left atrial size	Increased	Increased
<b>Exercise</b>		
Exercise capacity	Decreased	Decreased
Cardiac output augmentation	Decreased	Decreased
End diastolic pressure	Increased	Increased

\* The clinical features of diastolic heart failure are similar to those of systolic heart failure, but left ventricular structure and function are distinctly different.

† The descriptor of left ventricular geometry is the relative wall thickness, defined as the ratio of left ventricular wall thickness to the radius of the left ventricular cavity.

## EXPERT CONSENSUS DECISION PATHWAY

# 2021 Update to the 2017 ACC Expert Consensus Decision Pathway for Optimization of Heart Failure Treatment: Answers to 10 Pivotal Issues About Heart Failure With Reduced Ejection Fraction



A Report of the American College of Cardiology Solution Set Oversight Committee

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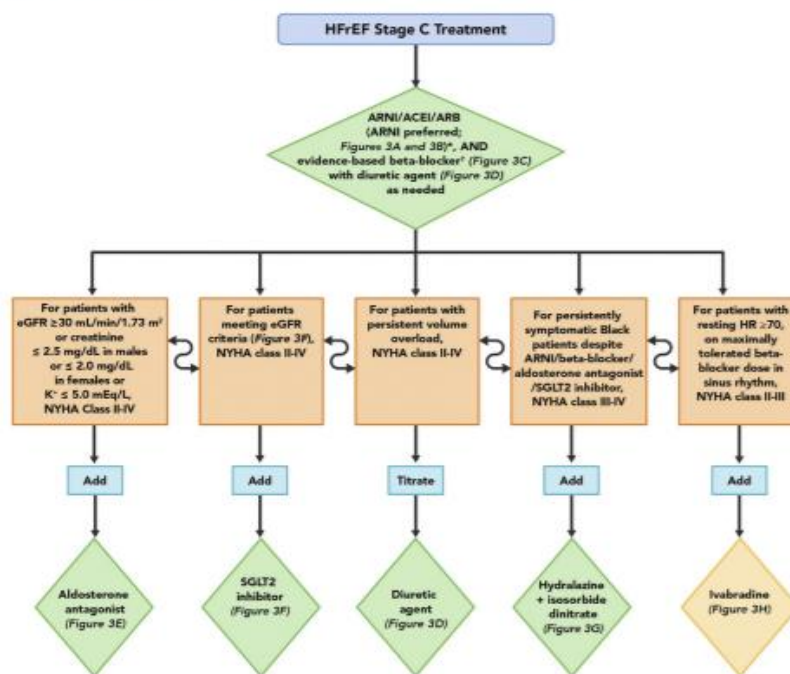
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**FIGURE 2** Treatment Algorithm for Guideline-Directed Medical Therapy Including Novel Therapies



\*ACEI/ARB should only be considered in patients with contraindications, intolerance or inaccessibility to ARNI. In those instances, please consult Figure 3 and text for guidance on initiation.

†Carvedilol, metoprolol succinate, or bisoprolol.

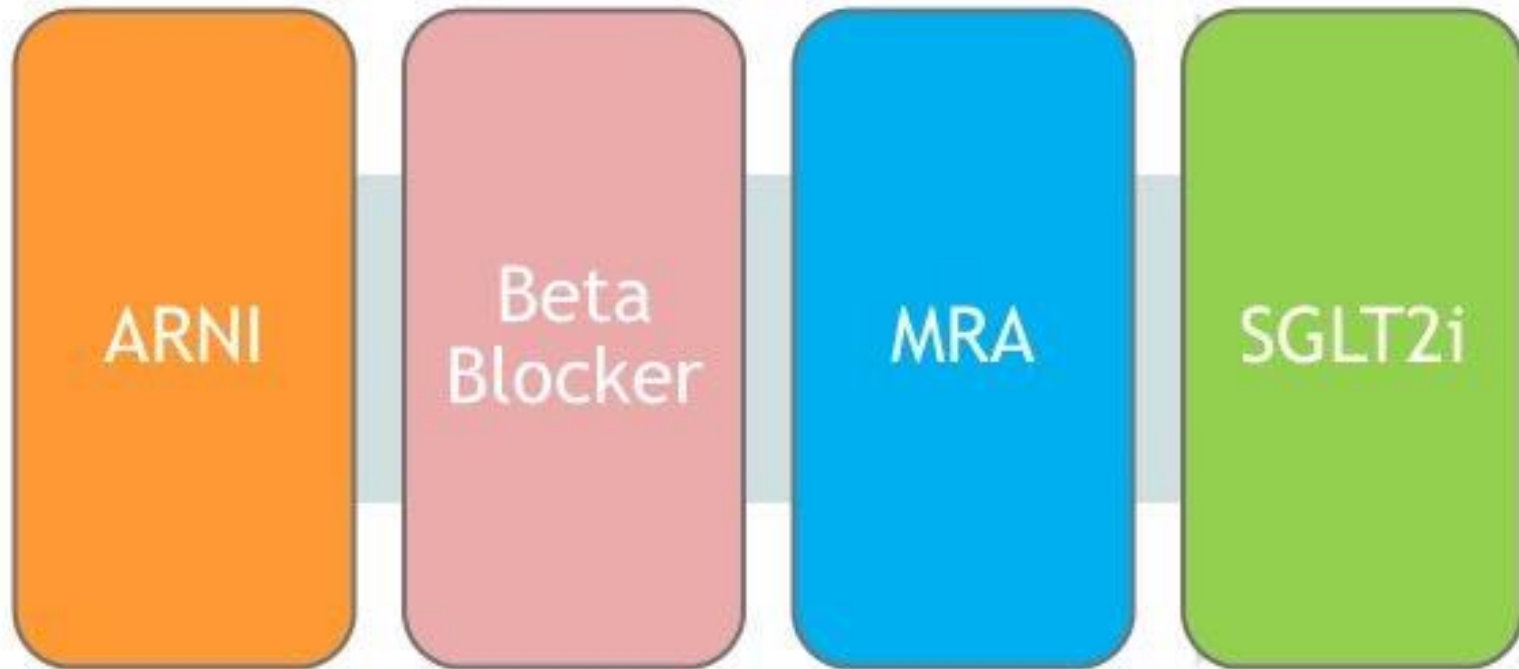
ACEI = angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors; ARNI = angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitors; ARB = angiotensin receptor blocker; eGFR = estimated glomerular filtration rate; HFrEF = heart failure with reduced ejection fraction; HR = heart rate; K<sup>+</sup> = potassium; NYHA = New York Heart Association; SGLT2 = sodium-glucose cotransporter-2.

Green color identifies a Class I therapy from clinical practice guidelines, whereas yellow color indicates a Class II therapy.

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of HFrEF



## The Four Pillars of Survival Enhancing Medical Therapy for HFrEF



Cumulative risk reduction in all-cause mortality if all four evidence-based medical therapies are used:  
Relative risk reduction 72.9%, Absolute risk reduction: 25.5%, NNT = 3.9, over 24 months

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of CHF



JCF Journal of Cardiac Failure



## 2022 AHA/ACC/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure

Heidenreich PA, et al. *J Card Fail* 2022

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of CHF



1. GDMT for HFrEF includes 4 medication classes that include SGLT2i
2. SGLT2i have a 2a recommendation in HFmrEF
3. New recommendations for HFpEF for SGLT2i (2a), MRAs (2b) & ARNi (2b)
4. Improved LVEF refers to HFrEF where LVEF is now >40%; these patients should continue HFrEF treatment
5. Value statements for recommendations where high-quality, cost-effectiveness studies have been published
6. Amyloid heart disease has new recommendations for screening, testing and treatment
7. Evidence supporting increased filling pressures is important for HF diagnosis if LVEF >40%

2022 ACC/AHA/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure - DOI: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2022.02.010



# New Recommendations for HFpEF



COR	LOE	Recommendations
2a	B - R	In patients with HFpEF, <b>SGLT2i</b> can be beneficial in decreasing HF hospitalizations and cardiovascular mortality
2b	B - R	In selected patients with HFpEF, <b>MRAs</b> may be considered to decrease hospitalizations, <u>particularly among patients with LVEF on the lower end of this spectrum</u>
2b	B - R	In selected patients with HFpEF, <b>ARNi</b> may be considered to decrease hospitalizations, <u>particularly among patients with LVEF on the lower end of this spectrum</u>

2022 ACC/AHA/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure - DOI: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2022.02.010

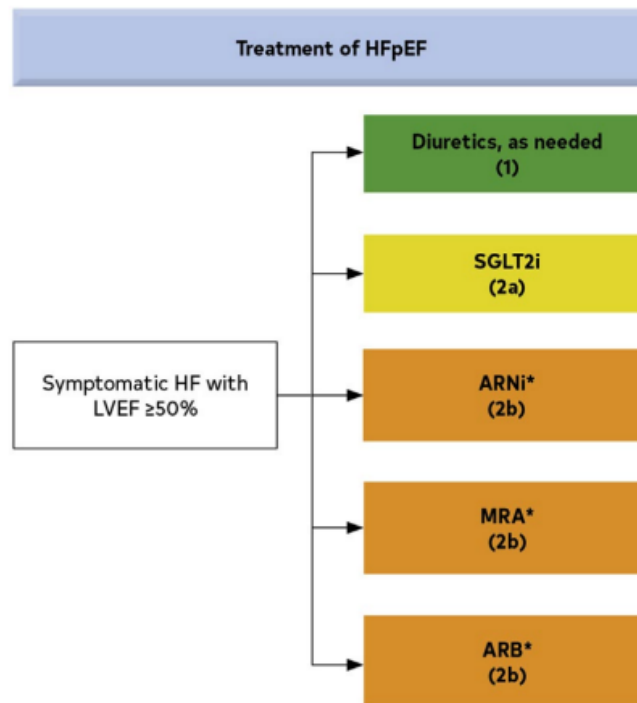


Heidenreich PA, et al. *J Card Fail* 2022





# New Recommendations for HFpEF



2022 ACC/AHA/HFSA Guideline for the Management of Heart Failure - DOI: 10.1016/j.cardfail.2022.02.010



# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF

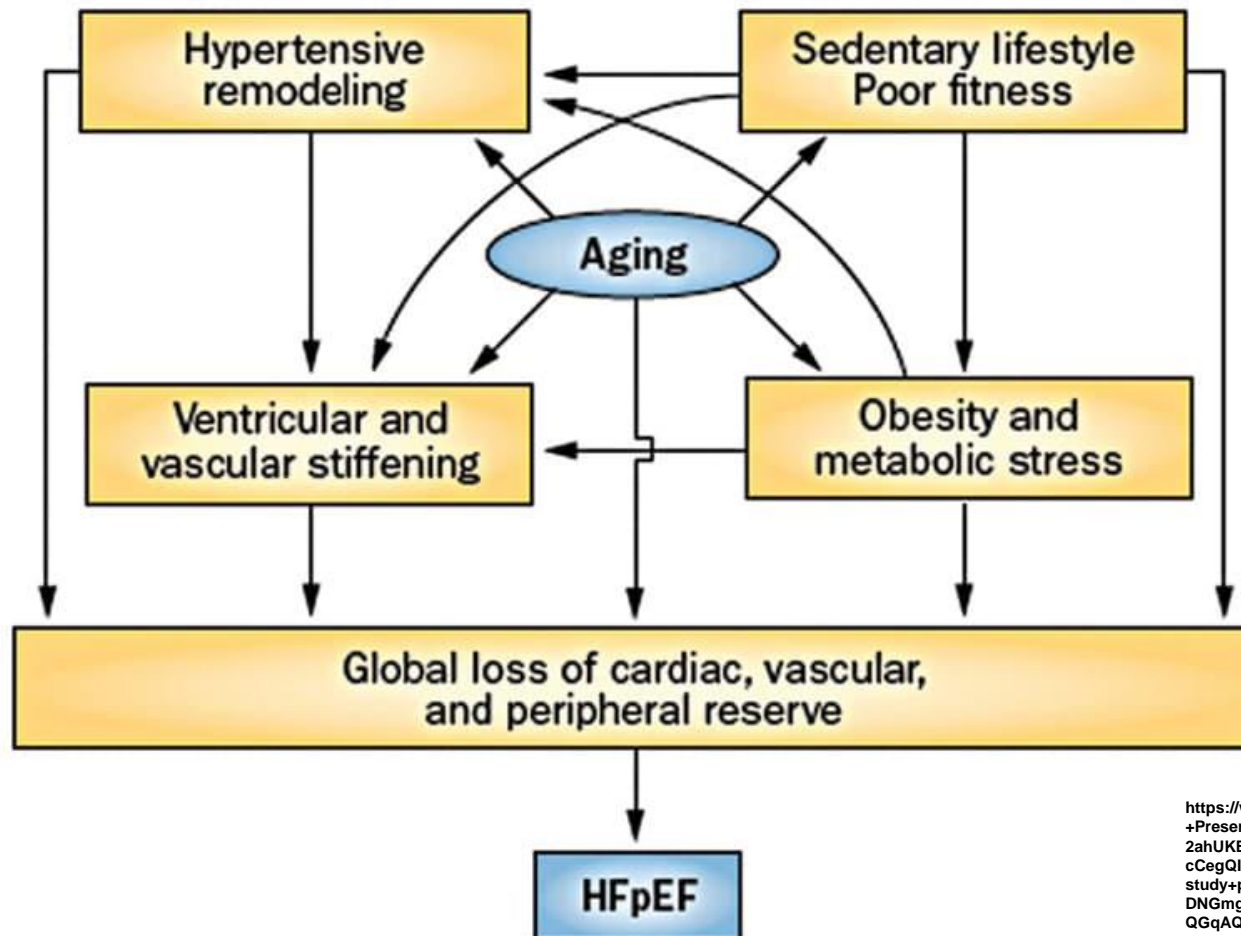


## Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

- High rates of death and hospitalizations for HF
- High burden of debilitating symptoms and physical limitations
- No therapies with Class I recommendation in guidelines
- No therapies convincingly shown to improve health status (symptoms, physical limitations and quality of life) and exercise function



# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



[https://www.google.com/search?q=dapagliflozin+the+Preserved+hf+study+ppt+slides+&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiB6\\_P1moj3AhUIb80KHx0YD9EQ2-cCegQIABAA&oeq=dapagliflozin+the+Preserved+hf+study+ppt+slides+&gs\\_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1D4BijJCmDNGmgAcAB4AIABjwKIAf4FkgEFMi4xLjKYAQcGAQGqAQnd3Mtd2I6LWltZ8ABAQ&scIent=img&ei=6iBSYoHOCYjetQb6sLyIDQ&bih=754&biw=1536#imgc=RtIBU72VTy70MM&imgdii=uOzooPAD1tZ3mM](https://www.google.com/search?q=dapagliflozin+the+Preserved+hf+study+ppt+slides+&tbm=isch&ved=2ahUKEwiB6_P1moj3AhUIb80KHx0YD9EQ2-cCegQIABAA&oeq=dapagliflozin+the+Preserved+hf+study+ppt+slides+&gs_lcp=CgNpbWcQA1D4BijJCmDNGmgAcAB4AIABjwKIAf4FkgEFMi4xLjKYAQcGAQGqAQnd3Mtd2I6LWltZ8ABAQ&scIent=img&ei=6iBSYoHOCYjetQb6sLyIDQ&bih=754&biw=1536#imgc=RtIBU72VTy70MM&imgdii=uOzooPAD1tZ3mM)

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



## Impaired LV filling

- Increased ECM stiffness
  - Increased Type I collagen synthesis and deposition
  - Decreased ECM degradation
- Increased cardiomyocyte stiffness
  - Myocyte hypertrophy
  - Cytoskeletal protein dysfunction
  - Titin hypo-phosphorylation
  - Cross-bridge detachment

Diastolic dysfunction

**HFpEF**

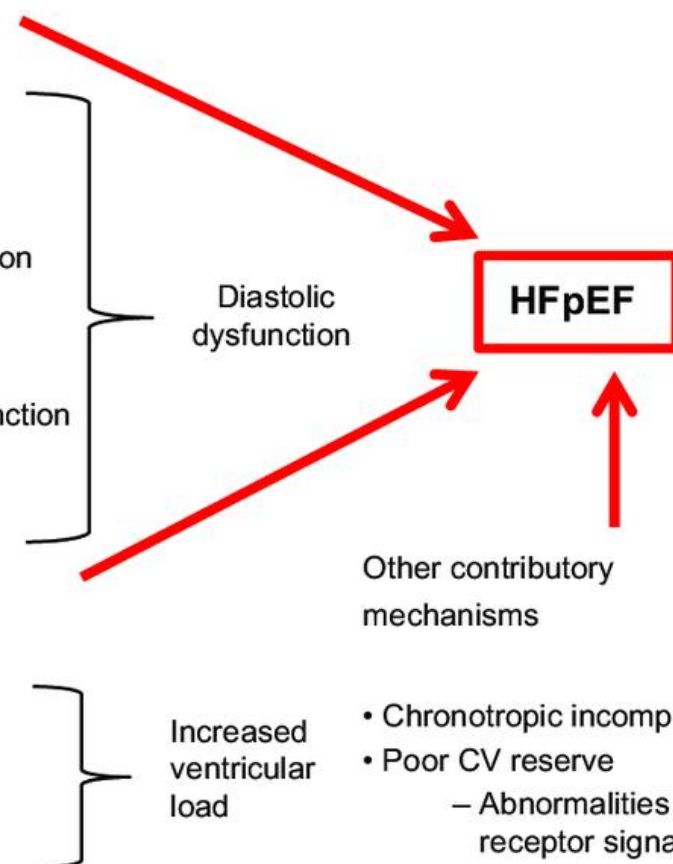
## Ventricular-vascular uncoupling

- Increased vascular stiffness
- Decreased vascular distensibility
- Abnormal vaso-relaxation

Increased ventricular load

Other contributory mechanisms

- Chronotropic incompetence
- Poor CV reserve
  - Abnormalities in beta receptor signaling
  - Myocardial ischemia
  - Abnormal myocardial energetics



# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



## GENERAL MANAGEMENT

**Goals of therapy** — For patients with HFpEF, the goals of treatment are to reduce HF symptoms, increase functional status, and reduce the risk of hospital admission. There is no clear evidence that pharmacologic therapy, diet, or other therapies reduce the risk of mortality in patients with HFpEF.

### **Ongoing evaluation and monitoring**

Chronic disease management

Exercise, diet, weight loss, and cardiac rehabilitation

Asymptomatic diastolic dysfunction

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



## MANAGEMENT OF ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS

Hypertension

Atrial Fibrillation

DM

Chronic Kidney Disease

Myocardial Ischemia

Hyperlipidemia

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



## The dawn of a new era of targeted therapies for heart failure with preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF)

• [Kenji Harada](#) & [Kazuomi Kario](#) *Hypertension Research* volume 45, pages 164–166 (2022)

Although effective treatments exist for heart failure with a reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF), there is a paucity of treatments with proven benefits for heart failure with a preserved ejection fraction (HFpEF). Detailed results from the phase III EMPEROR-Preserved trial were published in *The New England Journal of Medicine* on August 27, 2021 [1]. The EMPEROR-Preserved trial was a large, international, double-blind and placebo-controlled trial of empagliflozin, a sodium-glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitor (SGLT2-i), in patients with HFpEF (ejection fraction [EF] > 40%). In the trial's HFpEF patients, the SGLT2-i empagliflozin led to a 21% lower relative risk (hazard ratio [HR] 0.79, 95% confidence interval [CI]: 0.69–0.90) of the composite of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure, which was related mainly to a 29% lower risk (HR 0.73, 95% CI: 0.61–0.88) of heart failure hospitalization associated with empagliflozin treatment.

Sodium–glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors, originally developed as glucose-lowering agents, have been shown to reduce heart failure hospitalizations in patients with type 2 diabetes, including those without established heart failure. Moreover, in patients with heart failure and reduced left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF  $\leq 40\%$ ; HFrEF), including those with and without type 2 diabetes, both dapagliflozin and empagliflozin reduced cardiovascular death or heart failure events when added to standard therapy.

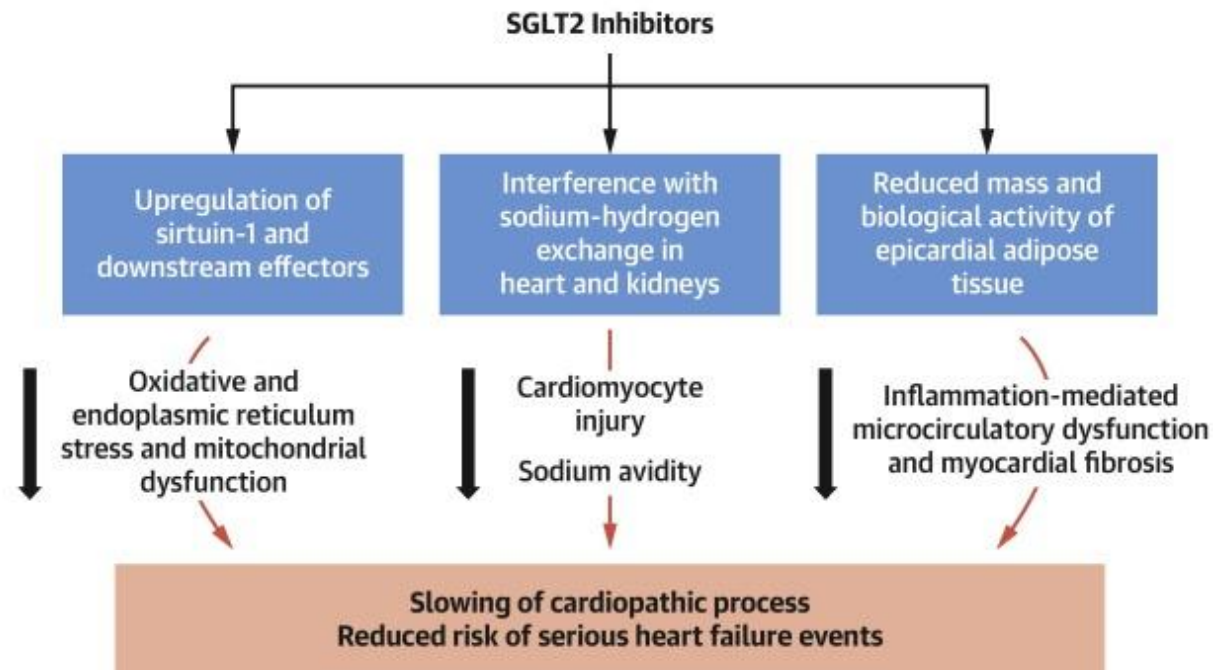


While the mechanisms by which SGLT2 inhibitors improve outcomes in heart failure continue to be investigated, they are postulated to include favorable effects on haemodynamics,<sup>6, 7</sup> improvement in myocardial energetics and loading conditions, favorable effects on endothelial function and inflammation, and slowing of the progression of kidney disease.<sup>8</sup> These effects may collectively underlie observed early and sustained improvements in filling pressures and ventricular remodeling.<sup>7, 9-11</sup>

Patients with preserved or mildly reduced ejection fraction (LVEF >40%) now represent the majority of those with heart failure, and experience a comparable burden of poor outcomes, such as death, hospitalizations and symptom burden, as those with LVEF ≤40%; yet suffer from dearth of effective therapies.

Therefore, there is a large and urgent unmet clinical need for efficacious and safe treatments in this vulnerable patient group.

## **CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Sodium-Glucose Cotransporter 2 Inhibitors Interfere With the Principal Mechanisms by Which Diabetes Can Promote the Development and Progression of Cardiomyopathy**



# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



**CHARM PRESERVED (2003)**

**TOPCAT (2013)**

**PARAGON-HF (2019)**

**EMPEROR PRESERVED (2021)**

**PRESERVED-HF (2021)**

**SOLOIST-HF/ SCORED (2021)**

**DELIVER (2022)**

**VITALITY-HFpEF (2022)**

**FINEARTS-HF (2024)**

## **CHARM-Preserved: Candesartan in Heart failure: Assessment of Reduction in Mortality and morbidity - Preserved**

### **Purpose**

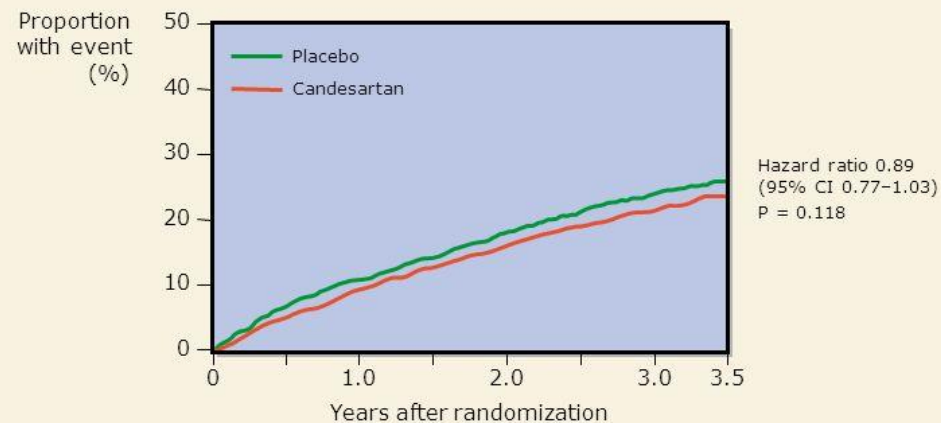
To determine whether the angiotensin II receptor blocker candesartan is beneficial in patients with chronic heart failure (CHF) and preserved left ventricular systolic function

### **Reference**

**Yusuf S, Pfeffer MA, Swedberg K, et al. for the CHARM Investigators and Committees.** Effects of candesartan in patients with chronic heart failure and preserved left-ventricular ejection fraction: the CHARM-Preserved trial. *Lancet* 2003;**362**:777-81.

## CHARM-Preserved: Candesartan in Heart failure: Assessment of Reduction in Mortality and morbidity - Preserved - *RESULTS continued* -

Cardiovascular death or hospital admission for CHF



Yusuf et al. *Lancet* 2003;362:777-81.

**MRA** – In trials that included patients with HFpEF, MRAs reduced the risk of HF hospitalization but did not clearly reduce the risk of mortality. The benefit of MRA therapy must be weighed against the risk of hyperkalemia.

Evidence to support this approach comes from the Treatment of Preserved Cardiac Function Heart Failure with an Aldosterone Antagonist (TOPCAT) trial and from subgroup analyses that studied regional differences in trial procedures

# TOPCAT (2013)



## Treatment Of Preserved Cardiac Function Heart Failure with an Aldosterone anTagonist (TOPCAT)



**AHA Nov 18, 2013  
Late Breaking Session**

Marc A. Pfeffer MD, PhD, on behalf of the TOPCAT Investigators

### TOPCAT Trial Executive Committee

Inder Anand, Susan Assmann, Robin Boineau, Akshay Desai, Jerome Fleg,  
David Lathrop, Eldrin Lewis, Sonja McKinlay, Maureen Montrond, Marc  
Pfeffer, Bertram Pitt (Chair), Scott Solomon, George Sopko, Nancy  
Sweitzer, Song Yang.

ClinTrials.gov NCT00094302

HHS Contract # HHSN268200425207C



## Summary



	Spironolactone (N = 1722)	Placebo (N = 1723)	HR (95% CI)
Primary Outcome	320 (18.6%) 5.9/100pt-yr	351 (20.4%) 6.6/100pt-yr	0.89 (0.77-1.04) P=0.138
Hospitalization for Heart Failure	206 (12.0%) 3.8/100pt-yr	245 (14.2%) 4.6/100pt-yr	0.83 (0.69-0.99) P=0.042 Multiple HF Hosp P<0.01

## Conclusions: TOPCAT population with HFpEF:

- Rx with spironolactone did not alter the 1<sup>o</sup> composite
- Reductions in heart failure were observed
- Use of spironolactone in these patients requires careful monitoring of K<sup>+</sup> and creatinine

# TOPCAT (2013)



The TOPCAT trial randomly assigned 3445 patients with symptomatic HF and LVEF  $\geq 45$  percent (median 56 percent) to receive either spironolactone or placebo. The composite primary outcome (death from cardiovascular causes, aborted cardiac arrest, or hospitalization for HF) was lower but not statistically different with spironolactone compared with placebo (18.6 and 20.4 percent, respectively; HR 0.89, 95% CI 0.77-1.04). Hospitalization for HF was less frequent in the spironolactone group (12.0 percent) compared with the placebo group (14.2 percent; HR 0.83, 95% CI 0.69-0.99), but other components of the primary outcome occurred at similar rates in the two treatment groups. Total deaths and total hospitalizations were similar in the spironolactone and placebo groups.)



When compared with the control group, the spironolactone group had a higher rate of hyperkalemia (19 versus 9 percent) and a higher rate of increased creatinine levels (10 versus 7 percent).

CLINICAL TRIALS CASE STUDY

## Behind the Scenes of TOPCAT — Bending to Inform

Marc A. Pfeffer, M.D., Ph.D.<sup>1</sup> and Brian Claggett, Ph.D.<sup>1</sup>

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Published January 10, 2022

NEJM Evid 2022; 1 (1)

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDctcs2100007>

[Issue](#) >

In subgroup analyses focused on regional effects, the efficacy of spironolactone was greater in the Americas (primary outcome 27 versus 32 percent with placebo) when compared with Russia/Georgia (9 versus 8 percent with placebo). In addition, compliance was higher in the Americas when compared with Russia/Georgia.

These differences suggest poorer adherence to the trial procedures outside of the Americas and raise questions about the veracity of the HFpEF diagnosis in this cohort as well. In a post hoc analysis of the trial that excluded Russia/Georgia, spironolactone reduced the risk of the primary outcome (27.3 versus 31.8 percent; HR 0.82, 95% CI 0.69-0.98).

## Treatment Of Preserved Cardiac Function Heart Failure with an Aldosterone anTagonist (TOPCAT)



**AHA Nov 18, 2014  
Update on Randomized Trials**

### **Regional Variation in Patients and Outcomes in the Treatment of Preserved Cardiac Function Heart Failure With an Aldosterone Antagonist (TOPCAT) Trial**

Marc A. Pfeffer, MD, PhD; Brian Claggett, PhD; Susan F. Assmann, PhD; Robin Boineau, MD; Inder S. Anand, MD; Nadine Clausell, MD, PhD; Akshay S. Desai, MD, MPH; Rafael Diaz, MD; Jerome L. Fleg, MD; Ivan Gordeev, MD; John Heitner, MD; Eldrin F. Lewis, MD, MPH; Eileen O'Meara, MD; Jean-Lucien Rouleau, MD; Jeffrey L. Probstfield, MD; Tamaz Shaburishvili, MD, PhD; Sanjiv J. Shah, MD; Scott D. Solomon, MD; Nancy K. Sweitzer, MD, PhD; Sonja M. McKinlay, PhD; Bertram Pitt, MD  
On behalf of TOPCAT Investigators

ClinTrials.gov NCT00094302

HHS Contract # HHSN268200425207C



## Post-Hoc Analysis By Region

### • Differences in:

- ❖ Patient Populations
- ❖ Prognosis
- ❖ Responses to Spiro:
  - K+
  - Creatinine
  - Blood Pressure

-----  
**Rz to spiro associated with reduced CV death and HF hospitalizations in pts from the Americas**  
(with event rates consistent with HFpEF)

Thank you!

Circ 2014. Epub ahead of print

## Treatment Of Preserved Cardiac Function Heart Failure with an Aldosterone antagonist (TOPCAT)



Heart Failure Society of America

### Spirolactone metabolites in the TOPCAT trial: New insights into regional variation.

Eileen O'Meara<sup>1</sup>, Simon de Denuis<sup>1</sup>, Marc Pfeffer<sup>2</sup>, Brian Claggett<sup>2</sup>, Grégoire Leclair<sup>1</sup>,  
Bertram Pitt<sup>3</sup>, Eldrin Lewis<sup>2</sup>, Scott Solomon<sup>2</sup>, Jean Rouleau<sup>1</sup>, Akshay Desai<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institut de Cardiologie de Montréal and Université de Montréal, Montréal, CA;

<sup>2</sup>Cardiovascular Division, Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston, USA;

<sup>3</sup>Cardiology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, USA

The opinions expressed in this presentation have not been formally endorsed  
by the TOPCAT Executive Committee, the NHLBI, or contracting organizations

ClinicalTrials.gov NCT00094302

HHS Contract # HHSN268200425207C



## Clinical implications



- This relatively small repository uncovered further regional irregularities and unreliability of reports of study medication in Russia.
  - ❖ Impugning the veracity of the TOPCAT data from Russia
  - ❖ And by implication, Georgia.
    - Even lower event rates than Russia
    - Similar reported placebo and spironolactone doses, with less potassium response to assigned spironolactone
  - ❖ Thus, the most relevant data reflecting the impact of spironolactone in patients with HFpEF is reflected in the data from the Americas

## Angiotensin-Nepriylsin Inhibition in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction

### Hypothesis

Patient's with HFpEF will have a reduction in cardiovascular (CV) mortality and heart failure (HF) hospitalizations (first and recurrent) when taking an ARNI vs valsartan.

# PARAGON-HF (2019)



Primary outcome	Primary outcome results (rate ratio)
Composite cardiovascular (CV) mortality and hospitalization secondary to (HF)	Sacubitril-valsartan vs Valsartan: 0.87; 95% CI, 0.75 to 1.01  <b>p=0.06</b>

# PARAGON-HF (2019)



## Secondary outcomes & results (95% CI)

\*Change in NYHA class from baseline to 8 months: **OR, 1.45 (1.13-1.86)**

All-cause mortality: HR, 0.97 (0.84-1.13)

Change in KCCQ at 8 months: Difference, 1.0 (0.0-2.1)

\*Renal composite outcome: **HR, 0.50 (0.33-0.77)**

\*sacubitril-valsartan had significantly more patients with improved NYHA class, and less unchanged or worsened NYHA change from baseline sacubitril-valsartan had significantly less death from renal failure, ESRD, decrease in GFR < 50% from baseline



# PARAGON-HF (2019)



## Safety outcomes (p-value)

\*Hypotension (SBP < 100 mg Hg):  
**<0.001**

Elevated serum creatinine: 0.38

\*Elevated serum potassium: **0.04**

\*Angioedema: **0.02**

Liver-related adverse event: 0.11

## Study conclusion

Patients with HFpEF treated with sacubitril-valsartan do not have significantly reduced risk in CV morbidity and mortality or heart failure hospitalizations (first and recurrent) to those patients taking valsartan.

# Summary



- Use in patients with HFpEF is safe but is not superior to monotherapy with valsartan in preventing CV deaths and HF related hospitalizations

# Current Recommendations for Treatment of Patients with HFpEF



## Empagliflozin in Heart Failure with a Preserved Ejection Fraction

### BACKGROUND

Sodium–glucose cotransporter 2 inhibitors reduce the risk of hospitalization for heart failure in patients with heart failure and a reduced ejection fraction, but their effects in patients with heart failure and a preserved ejection fraction are uncertain.

### METHODS

In this double-blind trial, we randomly assigned 5988 patients with class II–IV heart failure and an ejection fraction of more than 40% to receive empagliflozin (10 mg once daily) or placebo, in addition to usual therapy. The primary outcome was a composite of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure.

### RESULTS

Over a median of 26.2 months, a primary outcome event occurred in 415 of 2997 patients (13.8%) in the empagliflozin group and in 511 of 2991 patients (17.1%) in the placebo group (hazard ratio, 0.79; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.69 to 0.90;  $P < 0.001$ ). This effect was mainly related to a lower risk of hospitalization for heart failure in the empagliflozin group. The effects of empagliflozin appeared consistent in patients with or without diabetes. The total number of hospitalizations for heart failure was lower in the empagliflozin group than in the placebo group (407 with empagliflozin and 541 with placebo; hazard ratio, 0.73; 95% CI, 0.61 to 0.88;  $P < 0.001$ ). Uncomplicated genital and urinary tract infections and hypotension were reported more frequently with empagliflozin.

### CONCLUSIONS

Empagliflozin reduced the combined risk of cardiovascular death or hospitalization for heart failure in patients with heart failure and a preserved ejection fraction, regardless of the presence or absence of diabetes. (Funded by Boehringer Ingelheim and Eli Lilly; EMPEROR-Preserved ClinicalTrials.gov number, [NCT03057951](https://clinicaltrials.gov/ct2/show/study/NCT03057951). [opens in new tab](#)).

# EMPEROR PRESERVED (2021)

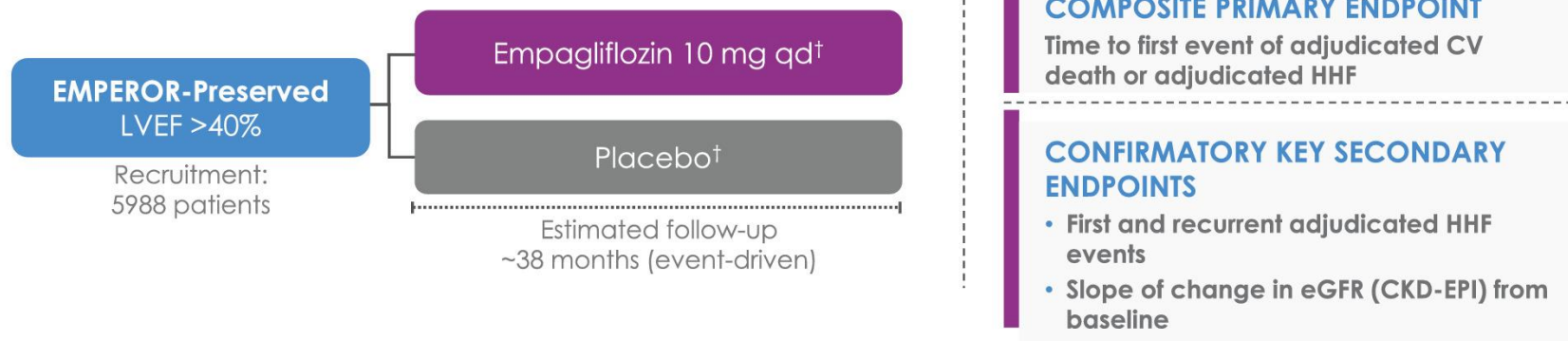


## EMPEROR-Preserved

### Phase III randomised double-blind placebo-controlled event driven trial

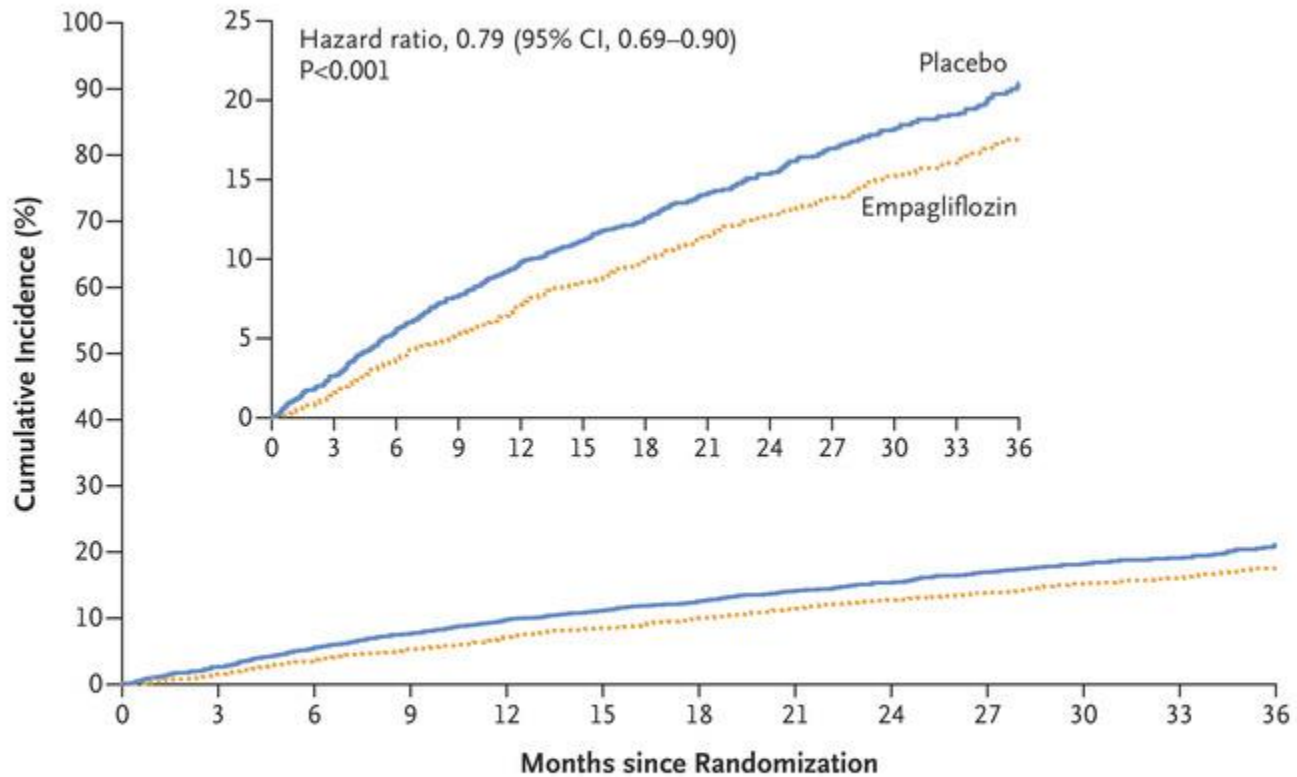
**Key Inclusion Criteria:** T2D and non-T2D, aged  $\geq 18$  years, chronic HF (NYHA class II–IV) with LVEF  $>40\%$ , elevated NT-proBNP concentrations and structural heart changes or documented HHF within 12 months.

**Key Exclusion Criteria:** Symptomatic hypotension and eGFR  $<20$  mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>.



†Guideline-directed medical therapy

# EMPEROR PRESERVED (2021)



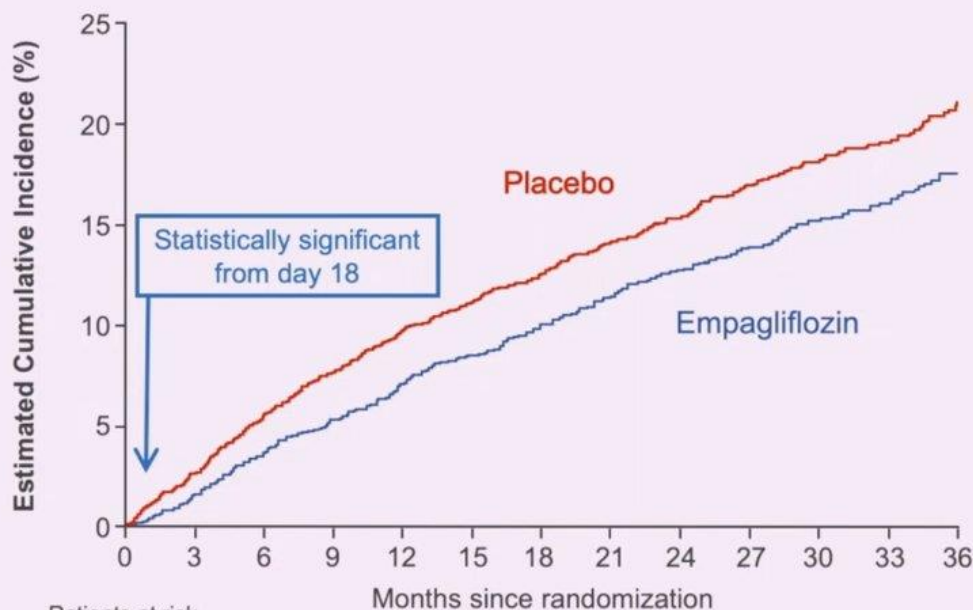
**No. at Risk**

Placebo	2991	2888	2786	2706	2627	2424	2066	1821	1534	1278	961	681	400
Empagliflozin	2997	2928	2843	2780	2708	2491	2134	1858	1578	1332	1005	709	402

# EMPEROR PRESERVED (2021)



## Primary Endpoint – Composite of Cardiovascular Death or Heart Failure Hospitalization



	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	24	27	30	33	36
Placebo	2991	2786	2627	2466	2306	2146	1986	1826	1666	1506	1346	1186	1026
Empagliflozin	2997	2843	2708	2564	2420	2276	2132	1988	1844	1700	1556	1412	1268

**HR 0.79**  
(95% CI 0.69, 0.90)  
P = 0.0003

**Placebo:**  
511 patients with event  
Rate: 8.7 per 100 patient-years

**Empagliflozin:**  
415 patients with event  
Rate: 6.9 per 100 patient-years

**RRR**  
21%

**NNT=31**  
During a median  
trial period of  
26 months.

# EMPEROR PRESERVED (2021)



Efficacy Outcomes	Empagliflozin	Placebo	Hazard ratio/difference (95% confidence interval)
Death from any cause	14.1%	14.3%	1.00 (0.87-1.15)
CV death	7.3%	8.2%	0.91 (0.76-1.09)
Death or hospitalization	45.2%	47.8%	<b>0.92 (0.85-0.99); -2.6%</b>
Total* hospitalizations for any cause	2566	2768	0.93 (0.85-1.01)
Total* HF hospitalizations	407	541	<b>0.73 (0.61-0.88)</b>
1° outcome (Time to 1 <sup>st</sup> HF hospitalization or CV death)	13.8%	17.1%	<b>0.79 (0.69-0.90); -3.3%</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> HF hospitalization	8.6%	11.8%	<b>0.71 (0.60-0.83); -3.2%</b>
Change in KCCQ clinical summary score at 1 y	+4.5	+3.2	<b>+1.3 (+0.45 to +2.2)</b>
eGFR mean change/y	-1.25	-2.62	<b>+1.36 (+1.06-1.66)</b>

\*First & recurrent

## **The PRESERVED-HF Study**

Effects of Dapagliflozin on Symptoms and Functional Status in Patients With Heart Failure and Preserved Ejection Fraction



## Inclusion Criteria

- HF with NYHA class II-IV symptoms (with or without T2D)
- Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction  $\geq 45\%$
- NTproBNP  $\geq 225$  pg/mL (or BNP  $\geq 75$  pg/mL)\*
- Requirement for diuretic therapy
- At least one of the following
  - Recent HF hospitalization or urgent HF visit requiring IV diuretic
  - Elevated filling pressures by right or left heart catheterization
  - Structural heart disease by echocardiography

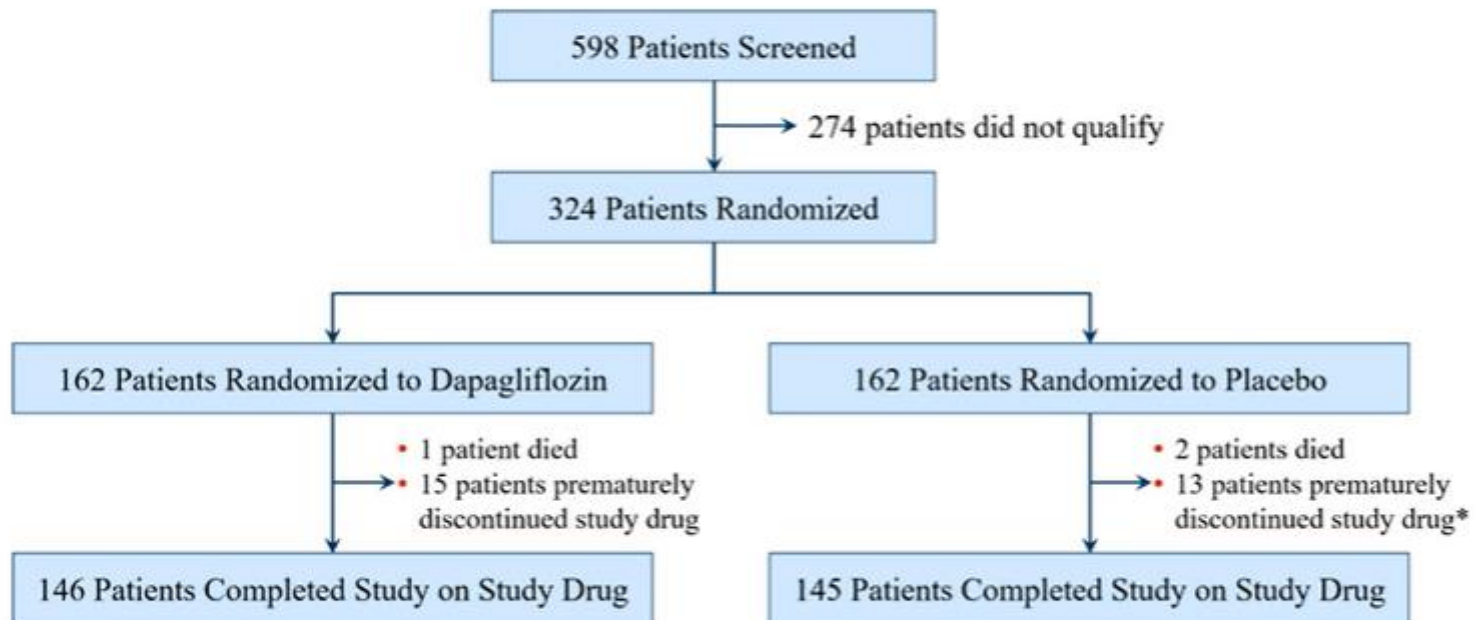


\*in patients with Atrial Fibrillation, NTproBNP  $\geq 375$  pg/mL or BNP  $\geq 100$  pg/mL



**PRESERVED-HF**  
Effects of Dapagliflozin on Biomarkers,  
Symptoms and Functional Status in Patients  
with PRESERVED Ejection Fraction Heart Failure

## PRESERVED-HF: Patient Disposition



\*2 patients in placebo group without available data on adherence with study medication at 12 weeks



**PRESERVED-HF**  
Effects of Dapagliflozin on Biomarkers,  
Symptoms and Functional Status in Patients  
with PRESERVED Ejection Fraction Heart Failure

## Baseline Characteristics

Baseline Characteristics	Dapagliflozin (n = 162)	Placebo (n = 162)	P-Value
<b>Demographics</b>			
Age (years)	69 (64, 77)	71 (63, 78)	0.44
Women	92 (57%)	92 (57%)	1.00
White	108 (67%)	109 (69%)	0.91
African American	50 (31%)	47 (30%)	
<b>Medical History</b>			
Duration of Heart Failure (years)	3.0 (1.1, 6.5)	3.2 (1.0, 6.6)	0.20
Prior Hospitalization for Heart Failure	98 (61%)	83 (51%)	0.09
Ejection Fraction (%)	60 (55, 65)	60 (54, 65)	0.89
Ischemic Heart Disease	32 (20%)	31 (19%)	0.89
Type 2 Diabetes	90 (56%)	91 (56%)	0.91
Atrial Fibrillation	82 (51%)	89 (55%)	0.44
ICD	7 (4%)	9 (6%)	0.61

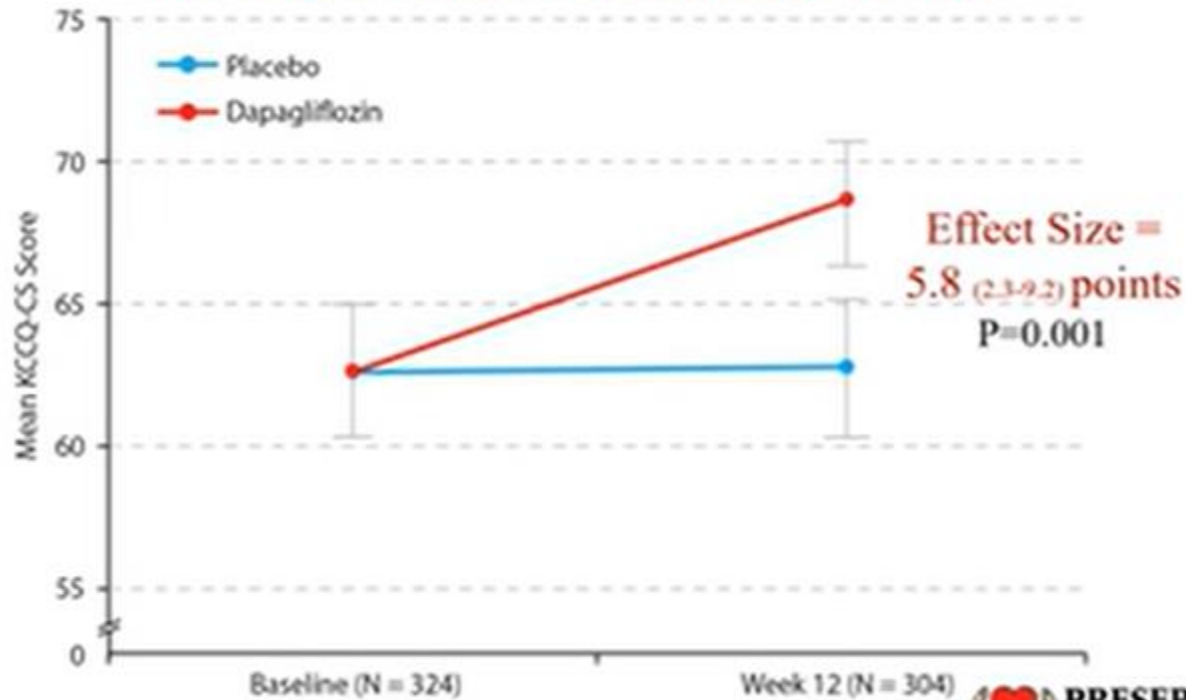


## Baseline Characteristics *Baseline HF/CV Medications*

Baseline Characteristics	Dapagliflozin (n = 162)	Placebo (n = 162)	P-Value
<b>Baseline HF/CV Medications</b>			
ACE Inhibitor/ARB	98 (61%)	98 (61%)	1.00
ARNI	2 (1.2%)	3 (1.9%)	
Beta Blockers	119 (74%)	116 (72%)	0.71
Hydralazine	25 (15%)	18 (11%)	0.25
Long Acting Nitrates	34 (21%)	27 (17%)	0.32
MRA	50 (31%)	68 (42%)	0.04
Loop Diuretics	151 (93%)	135 (83%)	0.01
Lipid Lowering Agents	132 (82%)	127 (78%)	0.49
Anticoagulant Agents	71 (44%)	84 (52%)	0.15



## KCCQ Clinical Summary Score



## Safety\*

	Dapagliflozin (n = 162)	Placebo (n = 162)
All reported adverse events	44 (27%)	38 (24%)
Serious adverse event	31 (19%)	22 (14%)
Adverse events resulting in discontinuation of study medication	18 (11%)	15 (9%)
Drug adverse events	7 (4%)	8 (5%)
All cause death	1 (0.6%)	2 (1.2%)
Non-fatal MI	0 (0%)	1 (0.6%)
Stroke	0 (0.0%)	1 (0.6%)
Acute kidney injury	5 (3%)	5 (3%)
Diabetic ketoacidosis	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Volume depletion events	11 (7%)	7 (4%)
Severe hypoglycemic events	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Lower limb amputations	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

\*patients with events



## Summary

- Dapagliflozin significantly improved symptoms and physical limitations in patients with HFpEF in just 12 weeks
- The treatment effect was large, clinically meaningful and statistically significant
- Effects were consistent across all key subgroups, including participants with and without Type 2 Diabetes, and those with ejection fraction above and below 60%
- Dapagliflozin well tolerated, with no new safety signals



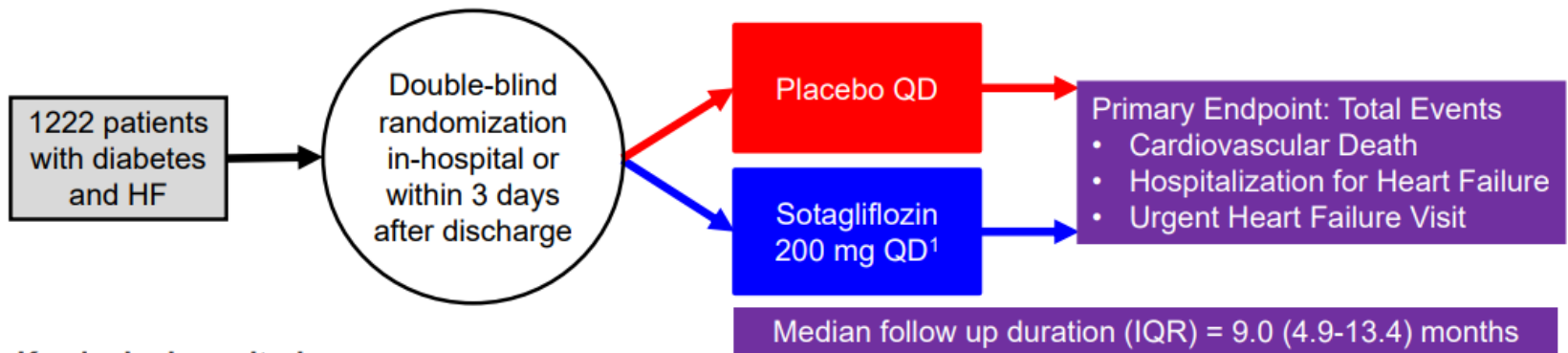
## What Are the Clinical Implications?

- Goals of therapy in HFpEF include reducing death and hospitalizations, and *enabling patients to feel better and do more*
- PRESERVED-HF is the first trial to demonstrate that SGLT2 inhibitor dapagliflozin significantly improves symptoms, physical limitations and 6-minute walking distance in HFpEF
  - Benefit evident at 12 weeks
- Findings highly complementary to those of large outcome trials
- Collectively, these results support the use of SGLT2 inhibitors as a new treatment option in patients with HFpEF – a morbid condition with few therapeutic options
- Important implications for guidelines, clinical practice





## SOLOIST-WHF Trial Design



### Key inclusion criteria:

- Admission with signs and symptoms of HF
- Treatment with intravenous diuretics
- Stabilized, off oxygen, transitioning to oral diuretics
- BNP  $\geq 150$  pg/mL ( $\geq 450$  pg/mL if afib) or NT-proBNP  $\geq 600$  pg/mL ( $\geq 1800$  pg/mL if afib)
- Type 2 diabetes

### Key exclusion criteria:

- End-stage HF
- Recent ACS, stroke, PCI, or CABG
- eGFR  $< 30$  mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Goal of dose increase to 400 mg QD

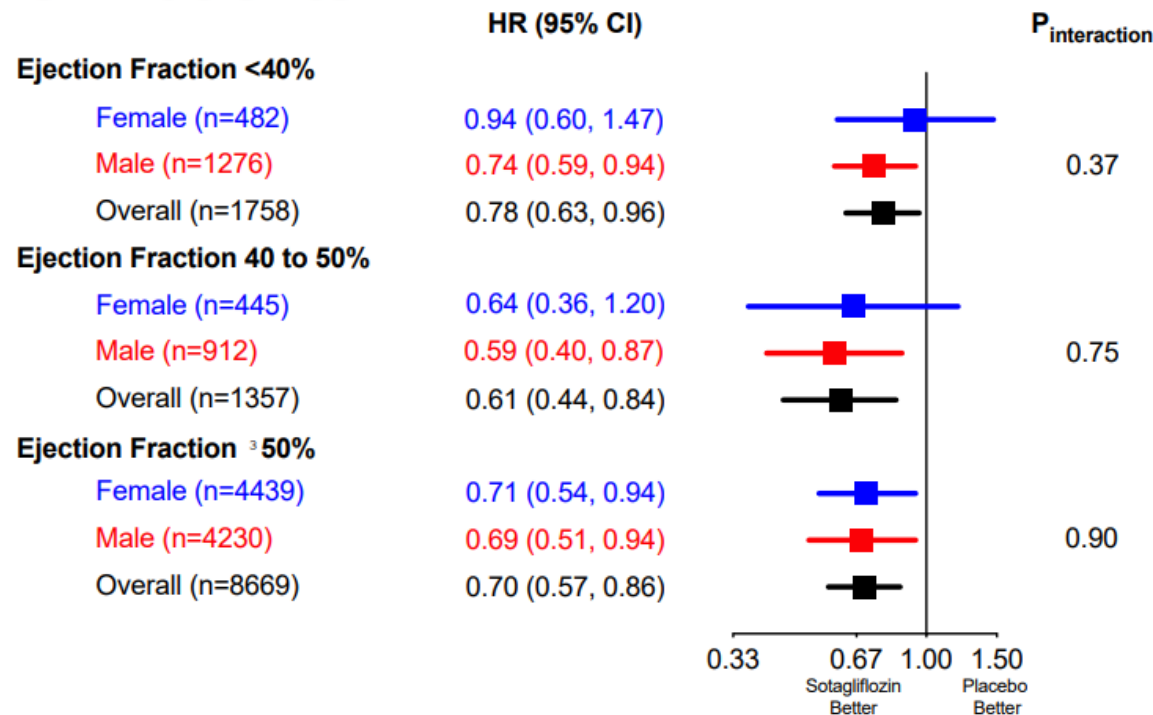
# SOLOIST-HF (2021)



In the SOLOIST-HF trial, recently hospitalized patients with type 2 diabetes and either HFpEF (20 percent of patients) or HFrEF were randomly assigned to treatment with sotagliflozin (a combined SGLT2/SGLT1 inhibitor) or placebo

At a median follow-up of 7.7 months, the primary endpoint of cardiovascular death, hospitalization, or urgent visit for HF was lower in the sotagliflozin group (51 versus 76 events per 100 patient-years; HR 0.67, 95% CI 0.52-0.85). The effect was driven entirely by a reduction in hospitalization and urgent visits for HF (40 versus 64 events per 100 patient-years; HR 0.64, 95% CI 0.49-0.83).

## Pooled Data: SOLOIST and SCORED Total CV Death, HHF, and Urgent HF Visit in 11,784 Patients



Bhatt DL. ACC 2021, virtual.

## Conclusions



**Sotagliflozin** robustly and significantly reduced the composite of total cardiovascular deaths, hospitalizations for heart failure, and urgent visits for heart failure across the full range of ejection fraction, including in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction.

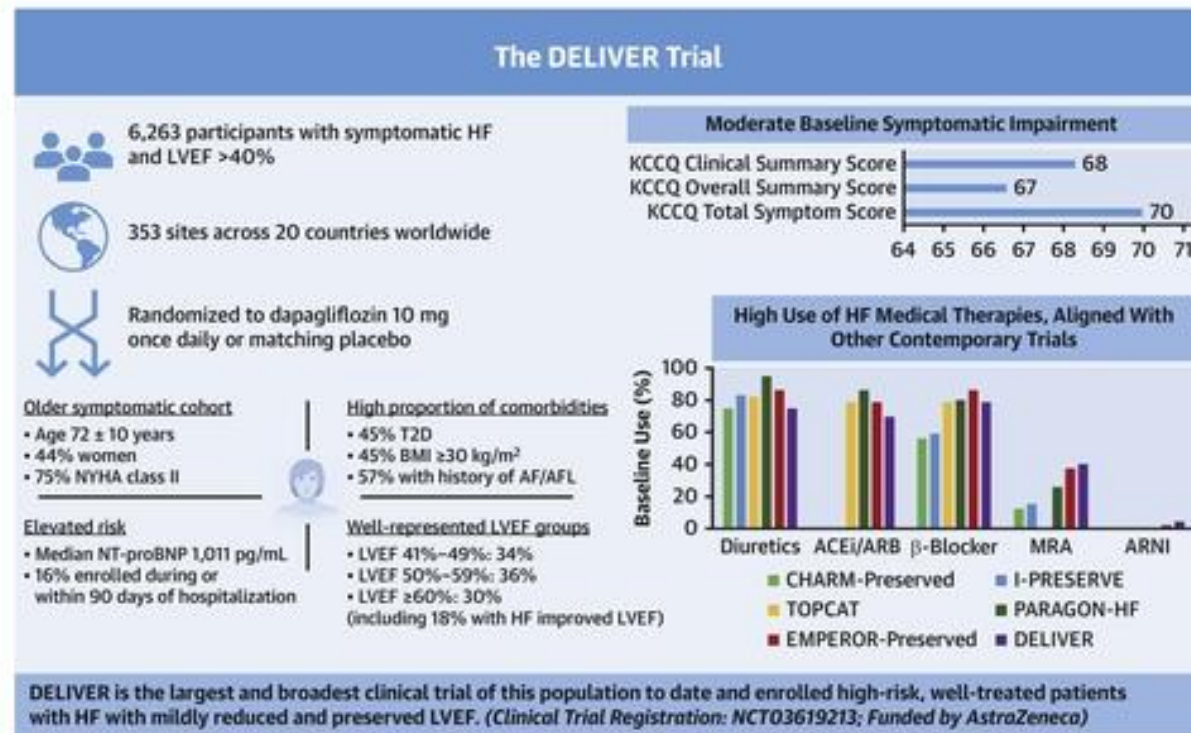
As well, in on-treatment analyses, **sotagliflozin** demonstrated a significant reduction in cardiovascular death.

These are the first randomized data from a prespecified analysis of clinical trials to show a significant effect of a therapy on heart failure with preserved ejection fraction, additionally demonstrating a consistent and significant benefit in women.

## **Dapagliflozin in heart failure with preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction: rationale and design of the DELIVER trial**

Sodium–glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitors, originally developed as glucose-lowering agents, have been shown to reduce heart failure hospitalizations in patients with type 2 diabetes without established heart failure, and in patients with heart failure with and without diabetes. Their role in patients with heart failure with preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction remains unknown.

## CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION: Baseline Characteristics of Participants Enrolled in DELIVER



Solomon, S.D. et al. J Am Coll Cardiol HF. 2022;10(3):184-197.

## **Dapagliflozin in heart failure with preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction: rationale and design of the DELIVER trial**

### Methods

Dapagliflozin Evaluation to Improve the LIVEs of Patients With PReserved Ejection Fraction Heart Failure (DELIVER) is an international, multicentre, parallel group, event-driven, randomized, double-blind trial in patients with chronic heart failure and left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) >40%, comparing the effect of dapagliflozin 10 mg once daily, vs. placebo, in addition to standard of care. Patients with or without diabetes, with signs and symptoms of heart failure, a LVEF >40%, elevation in natriuretic peptides and evidence of structural heart disease are eligible. The primary endpoint is time-to-first cardiovascular death or worsening heart failure event (heart failure hospitalization or urgent heart failure visit), and will be assessed in dual primary analyses – the full population and in those with LVEF <60%. The study is event-driven and will target 1117 primary events. A total of 6263 patients have been randomized.

## **Dapagliflozin in heart failure with preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction: rationale and design of the DELIVER trial**

### Conclusions

DELIVER will determine the efficacy and safety of the SGLT2 inhibitor dapagliflozin, added to conventional therapy, in patients with heart failure and preserved and mildly reduced ejection fraction.





## Vericiguat in Heart Failure with Preserved Ejection Fraction: The VITALITY-HFpEF Trial

**Trial to evaluate the efficacy and safety of the oral sGC stimulator vericiguat to improve physical functioning in activities of daily living in patients with HFpEF**

Paul W. Armstrong, MD, Carolyn S.P. Lam, MD, Kevin J. Anstrom, PhD, Justin Ezekowitz, MBBCh, Adrian F. Hernandez, MD, MHS, Christopher M. O'Connor, MD, Burkert Pieske, MD, Piotr Ponikowski, MD, PhD, Sanjiv J. Shah, MD, Scott D. Solomon, MD, Adriaan A. Voors, MD, Lilin She, PhD, Vanja Vlajnic, MS, MAS, Francine Carvalho, MD, PhD, Luke Bamber, MSc, Robert O. Blaustein, MD, PhD, Lothar Roessig, MD, and Javed Butler, MD, MPH, MBA  
on behalf of the VITALITY-HFpEF Study Group



Canadian **VIGOUR** Centre  
Bridging Hearts and Minds



**Duke** Clinical Research Institute

## sGC and Physical Function in HFpEF

- Patients with HFpEF have substantially reduced functional capacity and quality of life<sup>1</sup>
- No treatment exists to address this major unmet need<sup>2</sup>
- Physiologic stimulation of sGC by NO is disrupted in HFpEF due to comorbidity-related inflammation<sup>3</sup>
- Soluble guanylate cyclase (sGC) has a unique mechanism enhancing heart, vessel, muscle, and renal function
- **SOCRATES-PRESERVED suggested improvement in KCCQ-PLS with vericiguat in HFpEF**

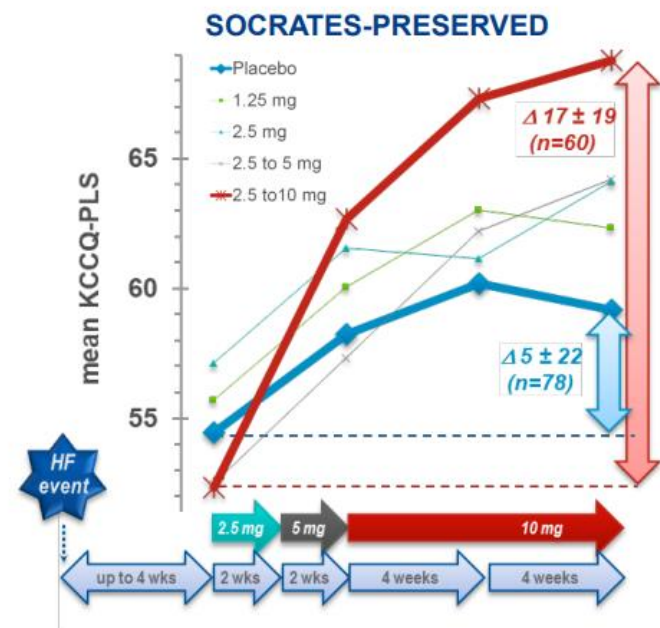
<sup>1</sup> Butler et al. *Circ Heart Fail.* 2016 Nov;9(11)

<sup>2</sup> Yancy CW et al. *J Am Coll Cardiol.* 2017 Aug 8;70(6):776-803

<sup>3</sup> Shah S et al. *Circulation.* 2016;134:73-90



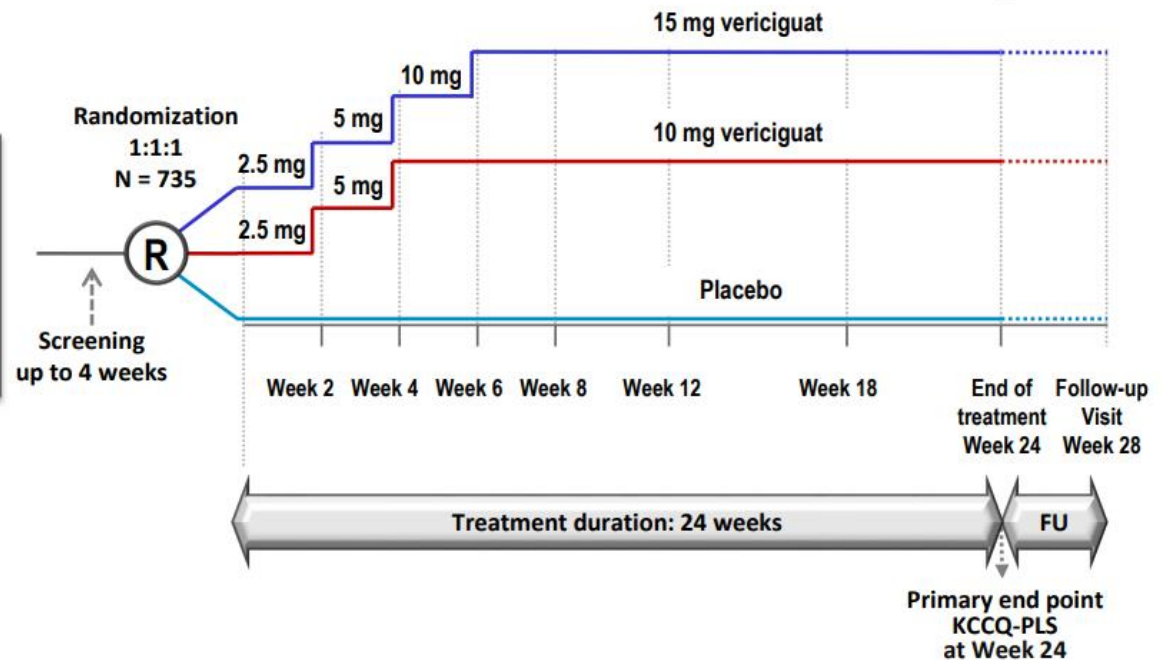
Full analysis set excluding subjects with incorrectly assigned doses  
 Filippatos et al. *Eur J Heart Fail.* 2017 Jun;19(6):782-791



## VITALITY Study Design



Previous diagnosis of chronic HF  
 HF event within 6mos  
 Elevated NT-proBNP/BNP  
 EF  $\geq$ 45%  
 And  
 LVH and/or LAE  
 NYHA class II/III



## Summary



- Vericiguat in target doses of 10 and 15 mg did not improve the primary outcome of KCCQ PLS nor the secondary outcome of 6-minute walking distance in a typical HFpEF population.
- Tendency for more symptomatic hypotension & syncope with both 10 and 15 mg doses suggests a pharmacodynamically active dose studied.
- Although there were more CV deaths in the vericiguat groups, the limited duration of follow up and numbers are too small for definitive conclusions.

## Conclusion

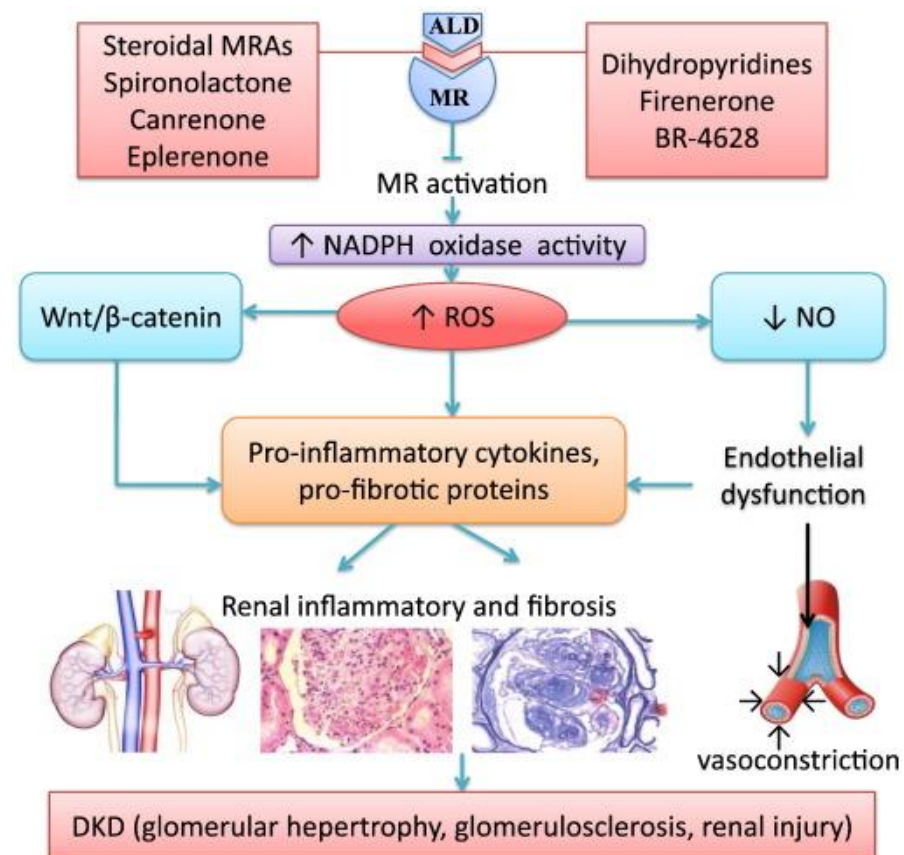


- In the VITALITY-HFpEF trial, vericiguat (10 or 15 mg) compared with placebo did not improve KCCQ PLS scores or 6MWD.
- SOCRATES PRESERVED findings were not confirmed in larger population studied with two doses for a longer time
- VITALITY aligned with prior studies of the NO-sGC-cGMP pathway that did not improve HFpEF
- Further studies are needed to identify effective interventions to improve outcomes in patients with HFpEF

**Study to Evaluate the Efficacy (Effect on Disease) and Safety of Finerenone on Morbidity (Events Indicating Disease Worsening) & Mortality (Death Rate) in Participants With Heart Failure and Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction (Proportion of Blood Expelled Per Heart Stroke) Greater or Equal to 40% (FINEARTS-HF)**

## Finerenone mechanism of action

Finerenone is a selective antagonist of the mineralocorticoid receptor (MR). **Activated by aldosterone and cortisol, the nonsteroidal MRA regulates gene transcription.** The overexpression of the MR is believed to contribute to fibrosis and inflammation



In patients with HFpEF (LVEF  $\geq$ 50 percent) who have New York Heart Association (NYHA) class II to III symptoms and who have an elevated B-type natriuretic peptide level (BNP; ie, BNP >100 pg/dL or N-terminal pro-BNP [NT-proBNP] >300 pg/dL).

Recommend treatment with both a sodium-glucose co-transporter 2 (SGLT2) inhibitor and a mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (MRA) rather than no HFpEF-specific therapy, either treatment alone, or other agents (eg, [sacubitril-valsartan](#), angiotensin converting enzyme [ACE] inhibitors).



In patients with preexisting therapies for diabetes and/or chronic kidney disease (CKD) is guided by the following general principles:

- Recommend starting an SGLT2 inhibitor first and then add the MRA two weeks later if the patient tolerates initial therapy.

- Consider monotherapy if HF symptoms resolve or if the BNP decreases in response to initial therapy.

No direct data to suggest that use of both therapies has an additive effect in reducing the risk of HF hospitalization.

Regardless of which agent is used first, monitor for intolerance to the initial agent for approximately two weeks before starting a second agent.

In patients in whom starting an SGLT2 inhibitor or an MRA would interfere with an existing treatment, start a HFpEF-specific therapy if the benefit of the HFpEF-specific therapy is greater than the benefit of the therapy that it would replace.

The need to consider this tradeoff is commonly encountered in patients with diabetes and/or CKD

**Thank You For Your Attention!**