

# **The New NCEP III Guideline**

**A Clinical Challenge to Interventional  
Cardiologists for Wider Utilization of Statins**

**Angioplasty  
Summit 2004**

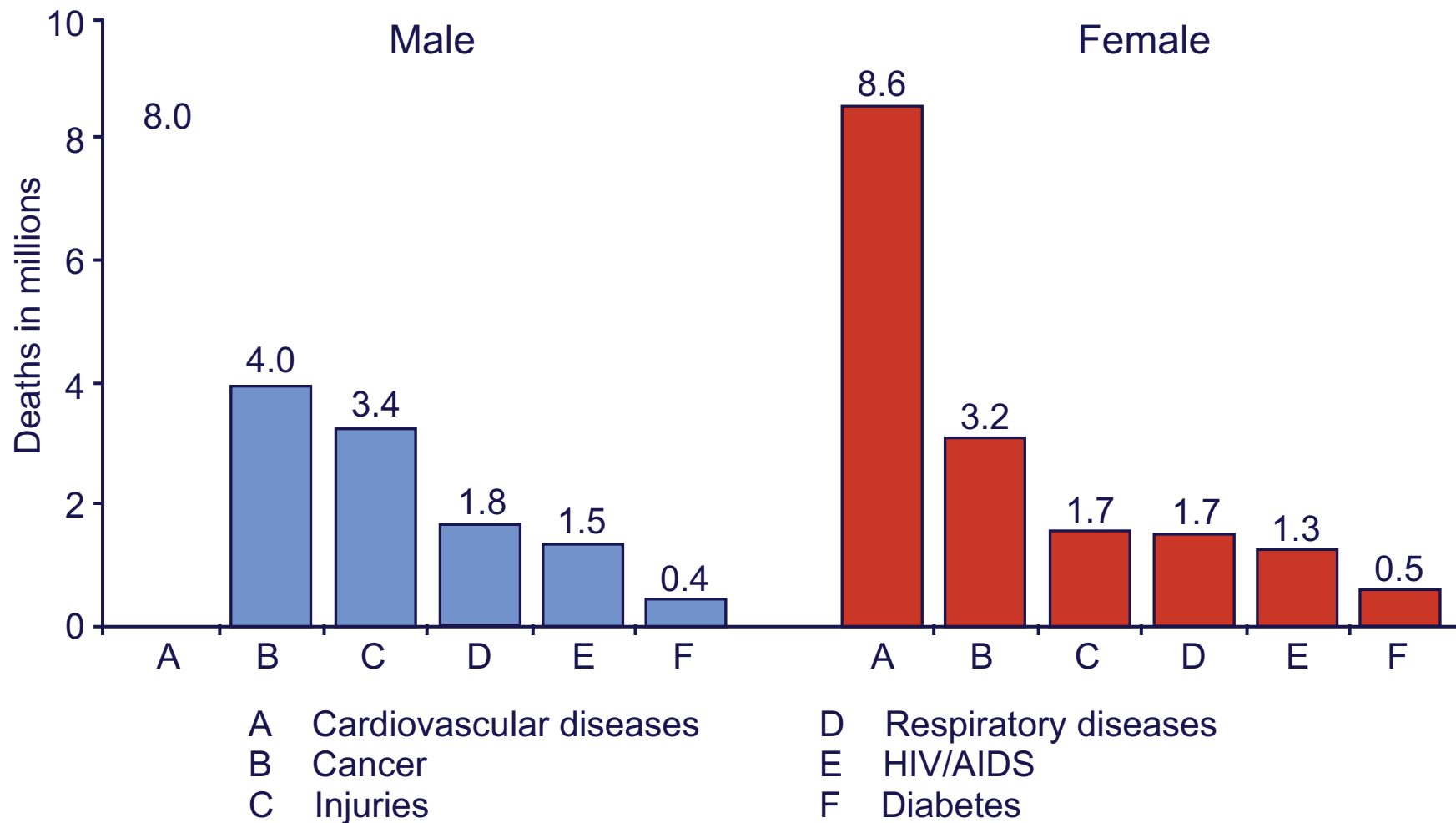


**University of Ulsan**

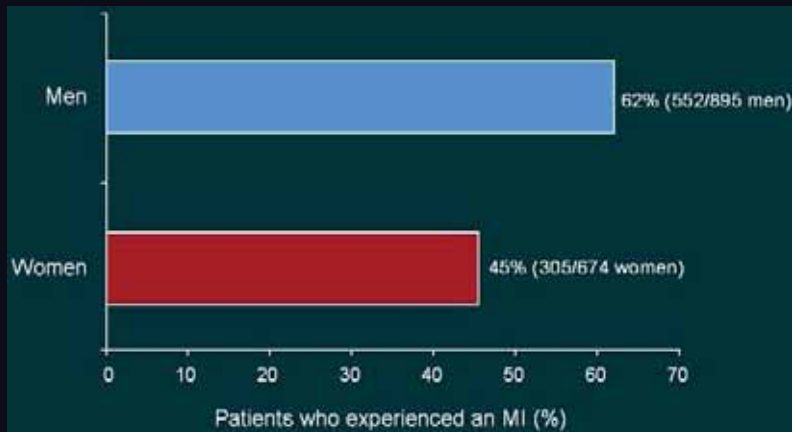
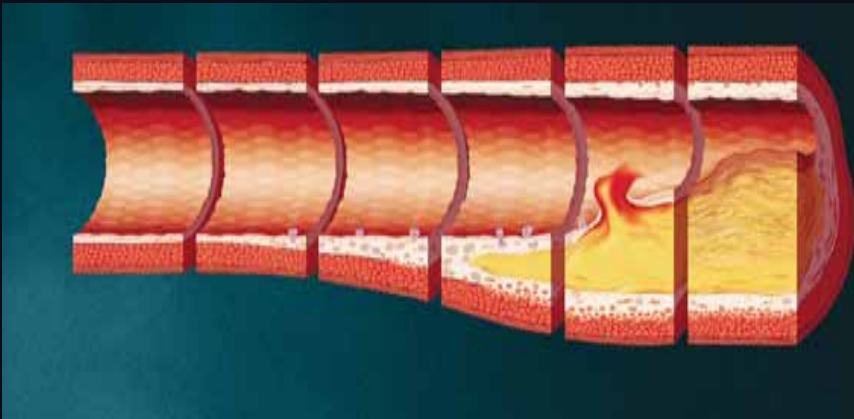
**Asan Medical Center**

**Cheol Whan Lee, MD**

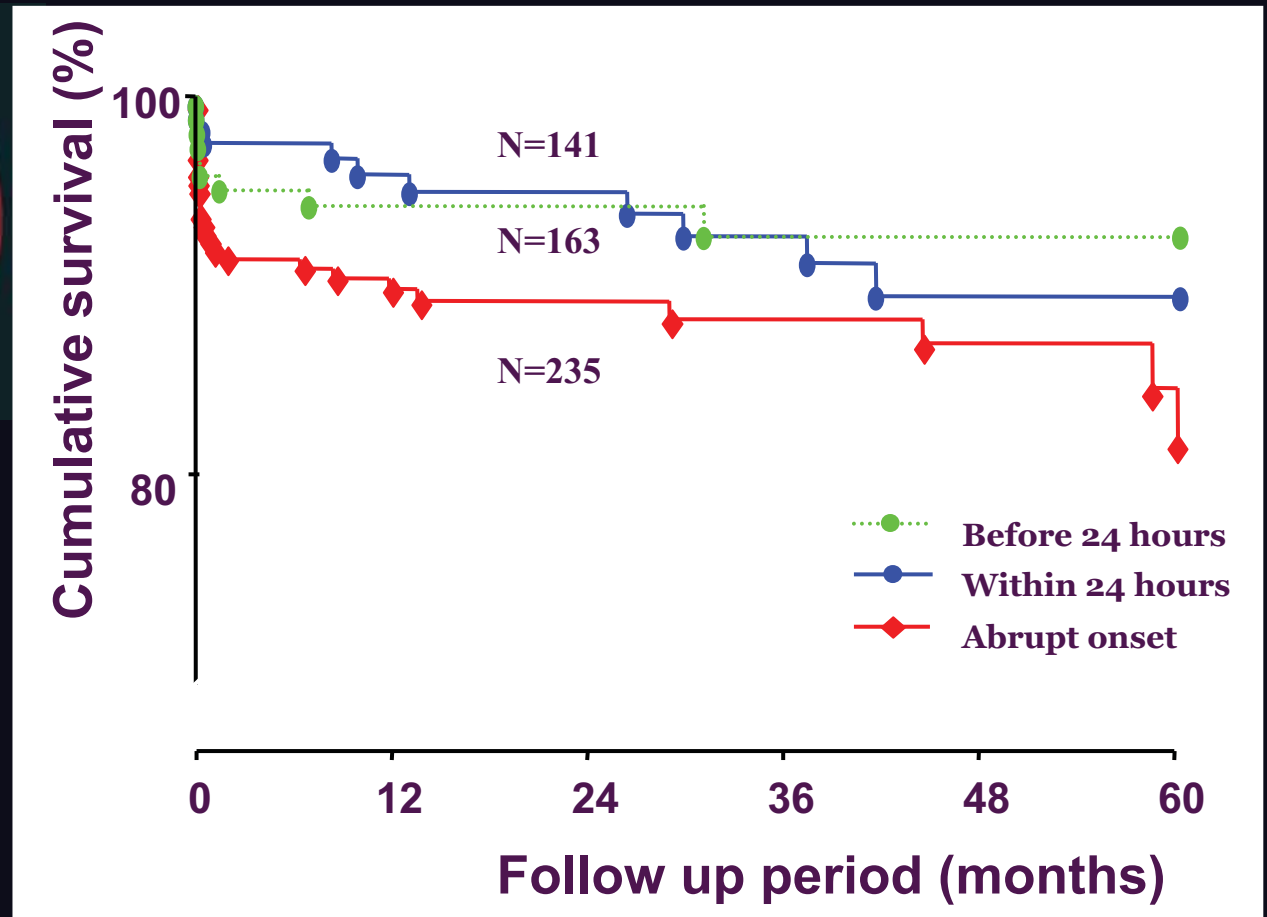
# Causes of Death Worldwide, 2001



# Atherosclerosis: Time Line

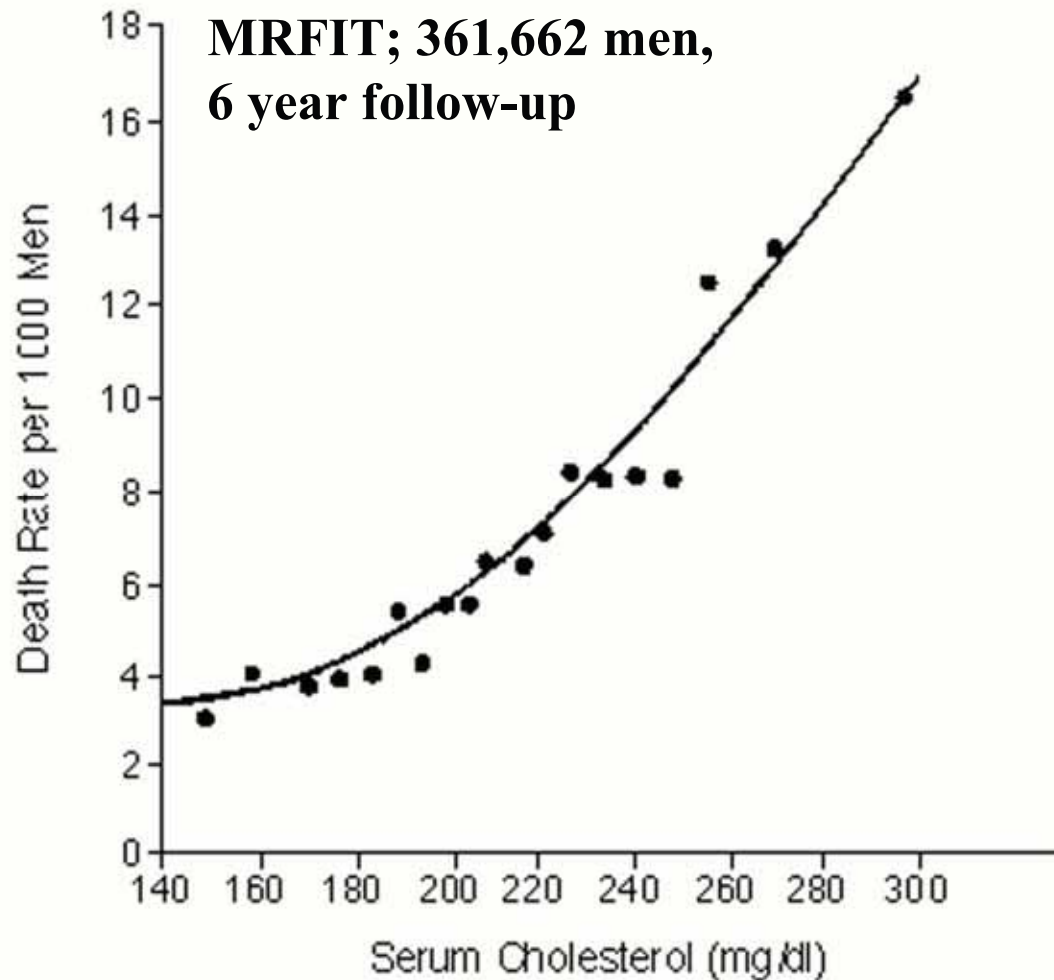


**1<sup>st</sup> sign of CHD: SCD or AMI**



**AMC Data: AMI patients treated with primary angioplasty**

# No Clear Threshold



- **ATP III Classification**

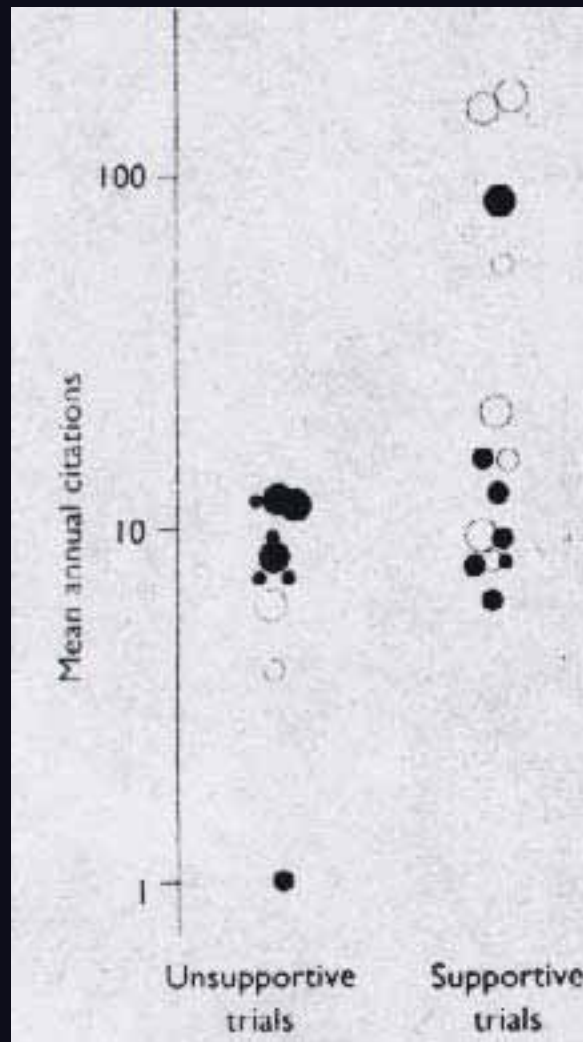
LDL-C < 100mg/dl optimal

T-Chol < 200mg/dl desirable

HDL-C < 40mg/dl low

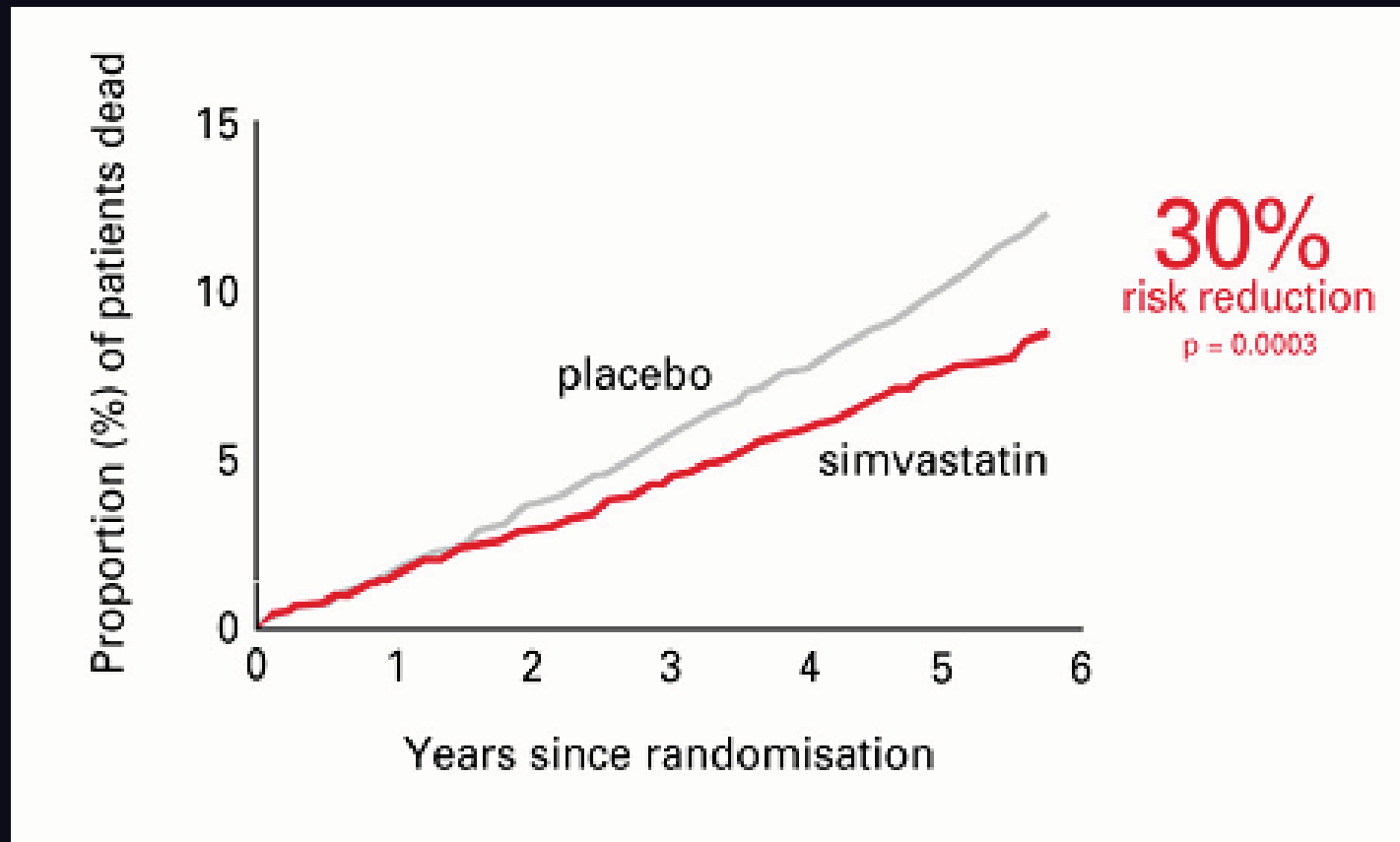
- The relation between LDL-C levels and CHD risk is continuous over a broad range of LDL levels from low to high

# Cholesterol Lowering Trials



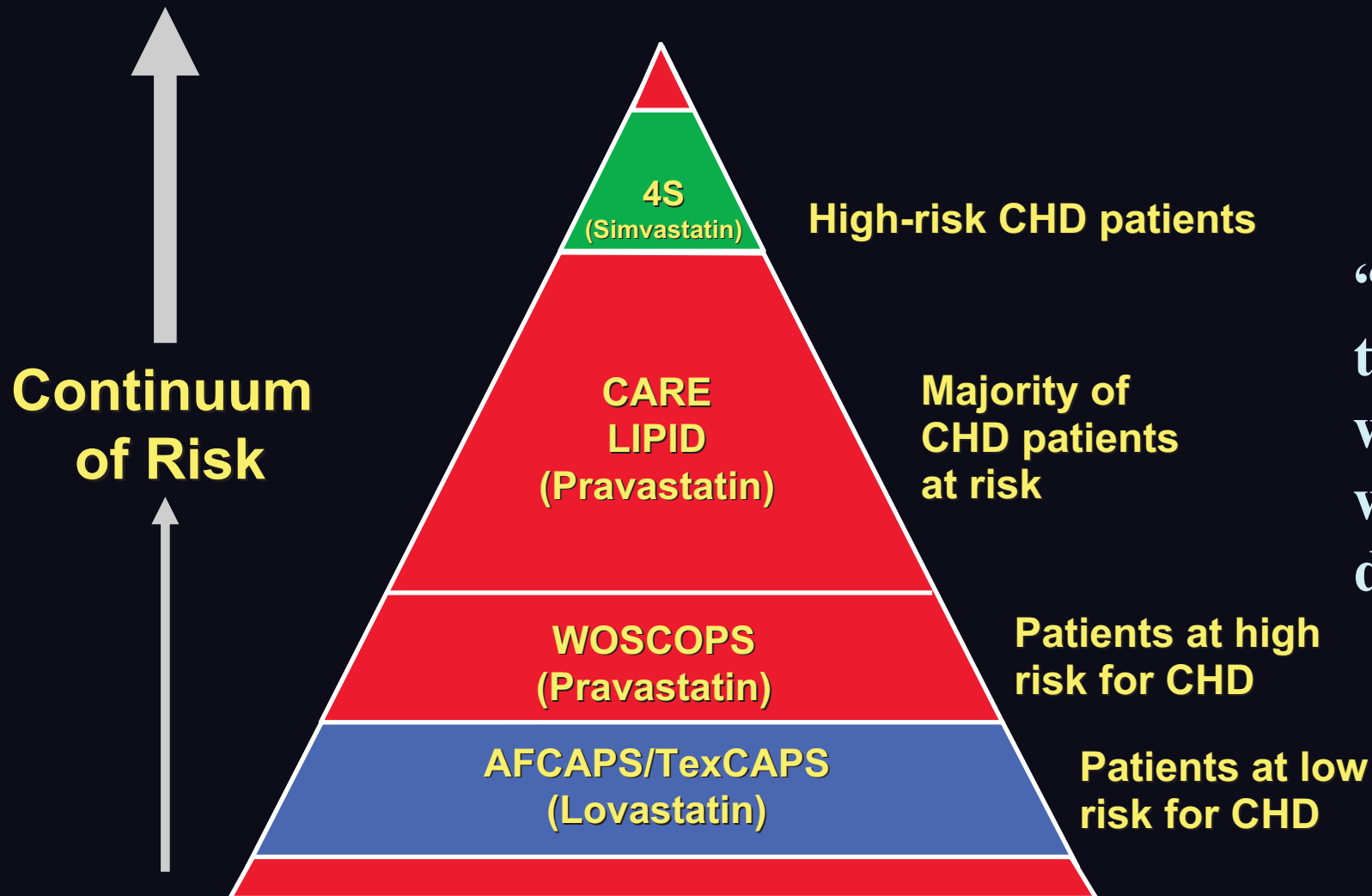
**Lowering serum cholesterol concentrations does not reduce mortality and is unlikely to prevent coronary heart disease.**

# Scandinavian Simvastatin Survival Study (4S)



Long-term treatment with simvastatin is safe and improves survival in CHD patients.

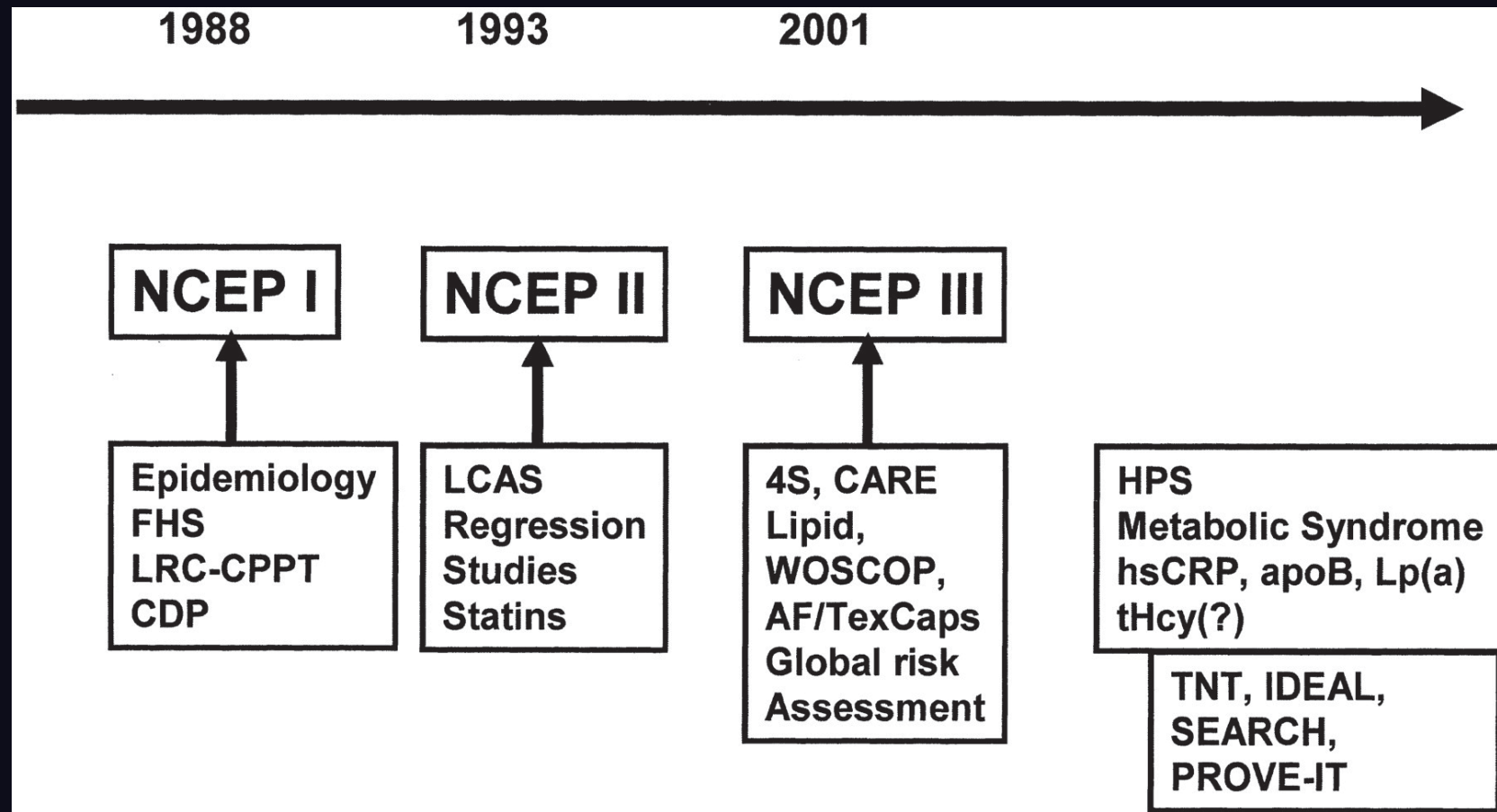
# Landmark Clinical Event Trials: Relevance to Clinical Practice



“The statins are to atherosclerosis what penicillin was to infectious disease”

# NCEP

## Evidence-based guidelines on the management of patients with elevated blood cholesterol



Through all reports, 2 fundamental principles have been maintained:

- 1) LDL-C as the primary target of cholesterol-lowering therapy
- 2) The intensity of LDL-C lowering therapy adjusted as the absolute risk of the patients



# What's New in ATP III?

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## Pre-ATP III

Primary Prevention  
Secondary Prevention  
Counting Risk Factors  
Relative Risk Reduction



## ATP III

Global Risk Assessment  
(low,mod,high)  
CHD Risk Equivalent  
Absolute Risk Reduction  
The Metabolic Syndrome

# What Is High-Risk Status?

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- Presence of CHD
- Other clinical forms of atherosclerotic disease  
(PAD, abd aortic aneurysm symptomatic CAD)
- Diabetes
- Multiple risk factors (10-y risk for CHD >

\* **20%** risk factors to define the core risk status:  
age (M>45, F>55), hypertension, smoking, low HDL(<40mg/dl),  
family history of premature CHD

# How to Assess Risk Status

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The number of risk factors is counted.

For persons with multiple(2+) risk factor,

10-year risk assessment with Framingham scoring



<10%

10-19%

≥20%

Lifestyle  
Therapy

Clinical  
Judgment

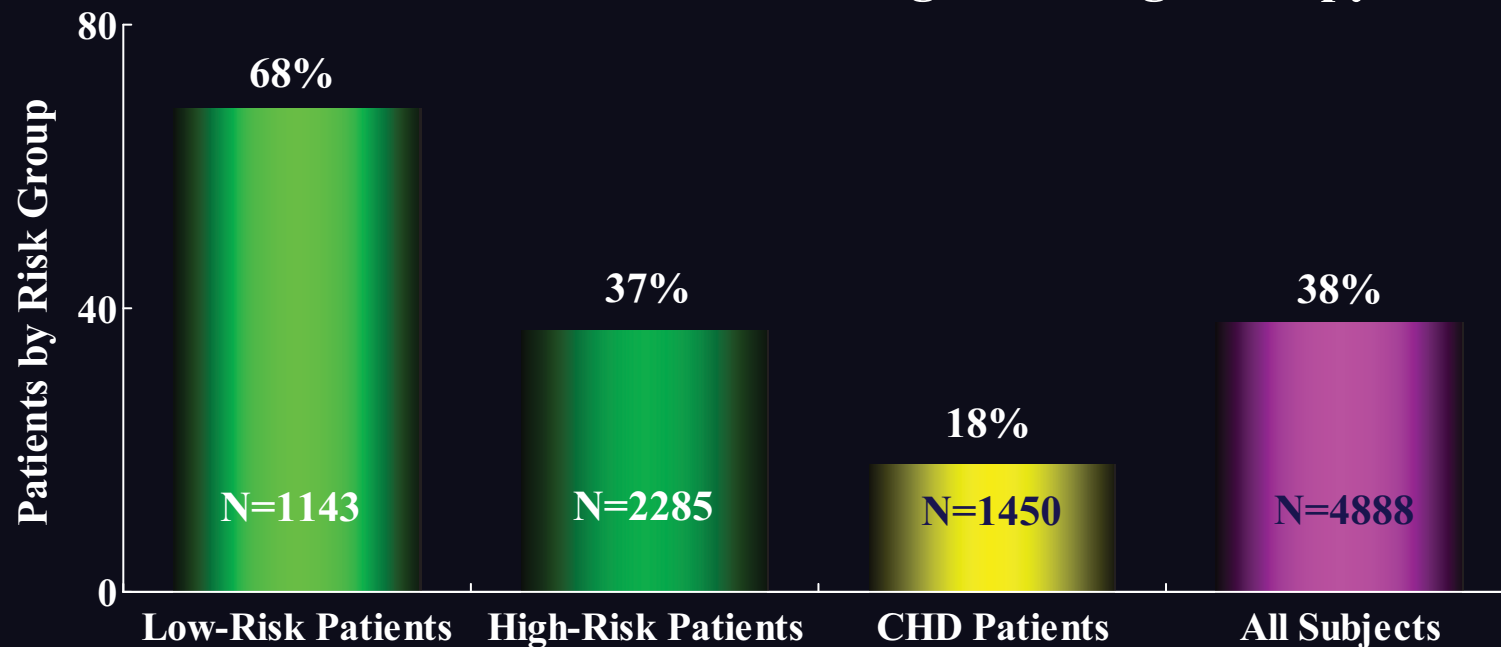
Drug  
Therapy

### 3 Categories of Risk That Modify LDL Goals

Risk Category	LDL Goal (mg/dl)	Initial TLC (mg/dl)	Consider Drug Therapy (mg/dl)
CHD or CHD Risk Equivalent (10-y risk > 20%)	< 100	≥ 100	≥ 130 (100-129: optional)
2+ Risk Factors (10-y risk ≤ 20%)	< 130	≥ 130	10-y 10-20%: ≥ 130 10-y <10%: ≥ 160
0-1 Risk Factor	< 160	≥ 160	≥ 190 160-189: optional

# Few Treated Patients Achieve NCEP LDL-C Goals

L-TAP: Patients on Nondrug and Drug Therapy



- Elevated cholesterol remains as one of the most prevalent and undertreated medical conditions in the world today.
- Patients, caregivers, and the health care system need to work together to improve effectiveness of treatments.

# Heart Protection Study

*Statins are the new aspirin.*

Baseline Feature	STATIN (10269)	PLACEBO (10267)	Risk ratio and 95% CI	
			STATIN better	STATIN worse

LDL (mg/dl)

< 100 (2.6 mmol/l)

285

360

≥ 100 < 130

670

881

≤ 130 (3.4 mmol/l)

1087

1365

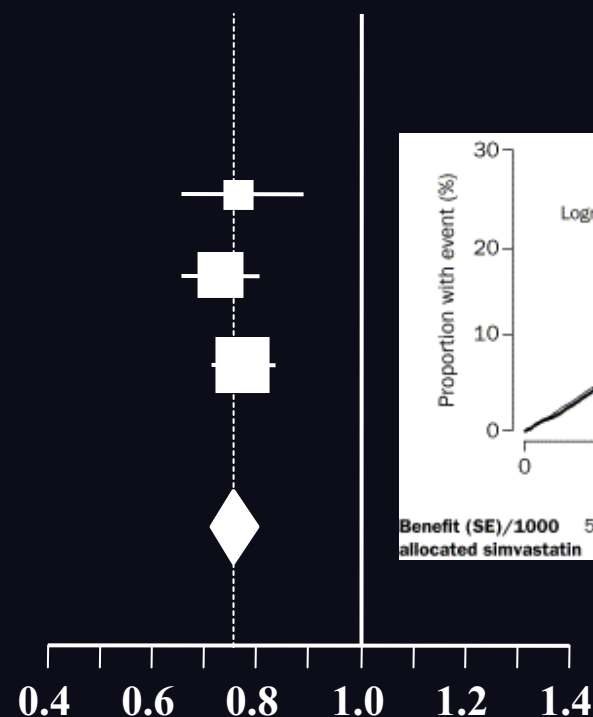
ALL PATIENTS

2042

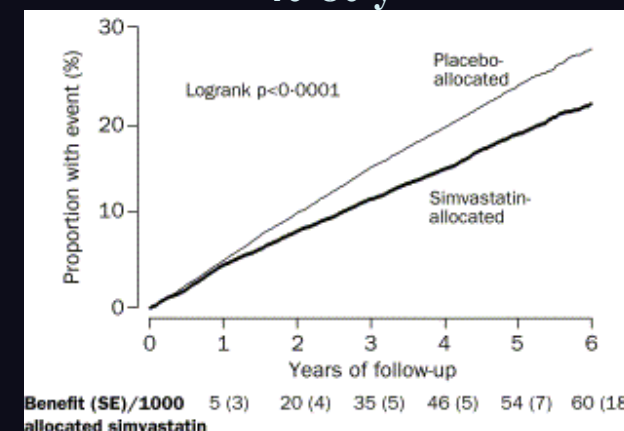
2606

(19.9%)

(25.4%)

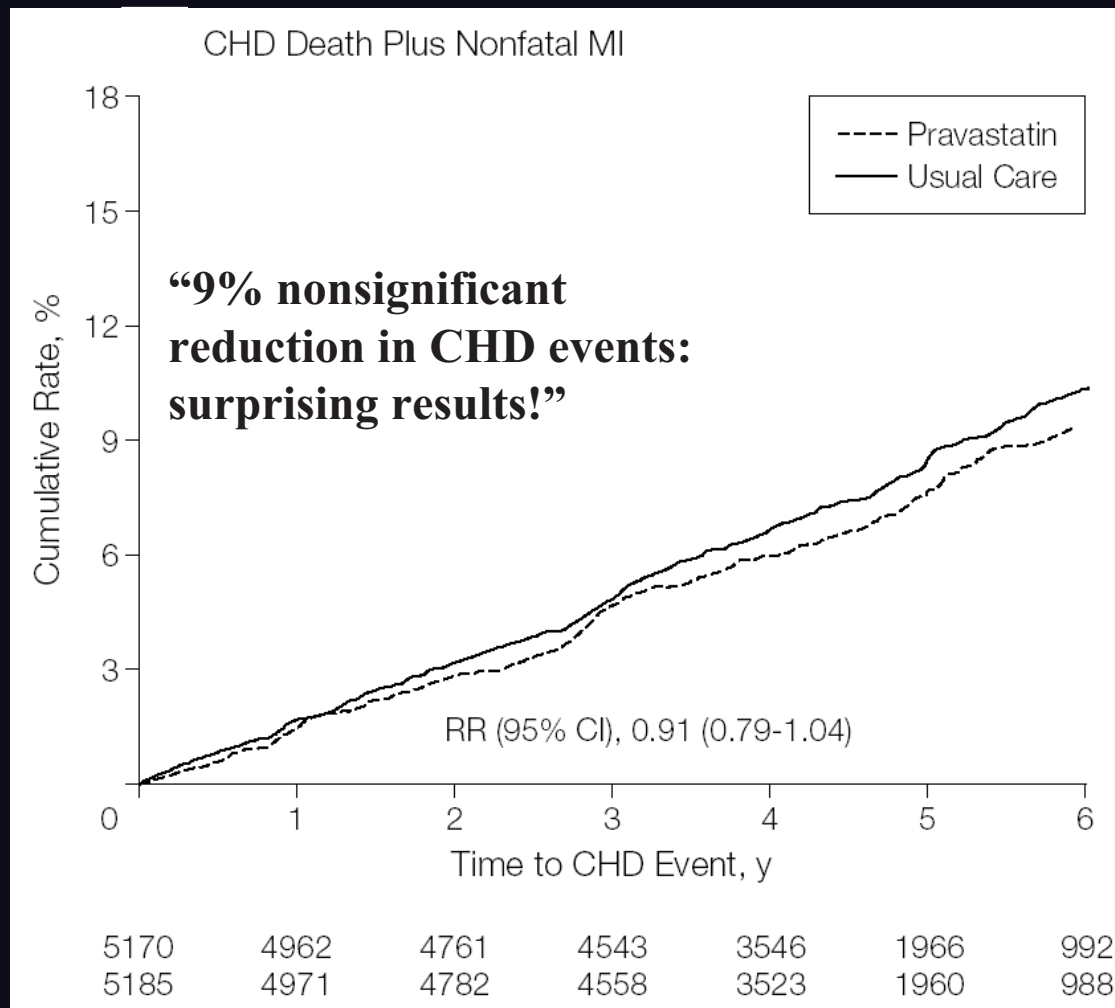


n=20,536  
40-80 y



*The second-largest lipid-lowering trial yet reported.*

# The ALLHAT Lipid Lowering Trial—Statins Do Not Work?



**N = 10 355,  $\geq$  aged 55 y**  
**LDL-C: 120-189 mg/dL**  
**(100 to 129 mg/dL if known CHD)**  
**Pravastatin 40mg vs usual care**

**LDL-C levels: reduced by 28% with pravastatin vs 11% with usual care**

**Pravastatin did not reduce either all-cause mortality or CHD significantly when compared with usual care in older participants with well-controlled hypertension and moderately elevated LDL-C.**

# **What Are The Lessons of ALLHAT-LLT ?**

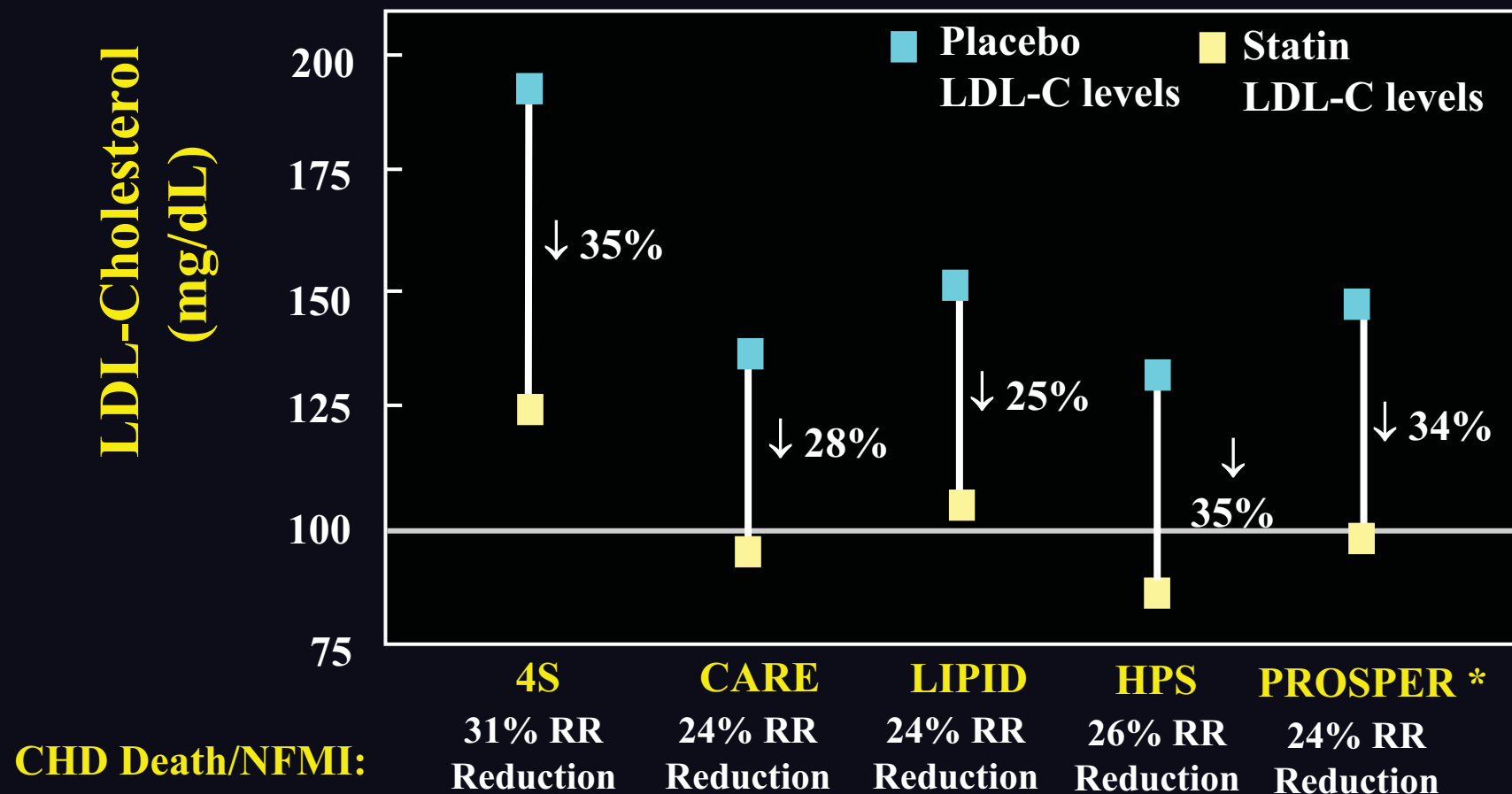
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- Usual care group had 26.1% statin use, but this is not much different from HPS placebo group
- ALLHAT-LLT should not be viewed as a negative trial for pravastatin.  
→ Less cholesterol lowering produces less benefit in clinical outcomes.
- If less is less, is it necessarily true that more is more?  
Thus far, not for certain.



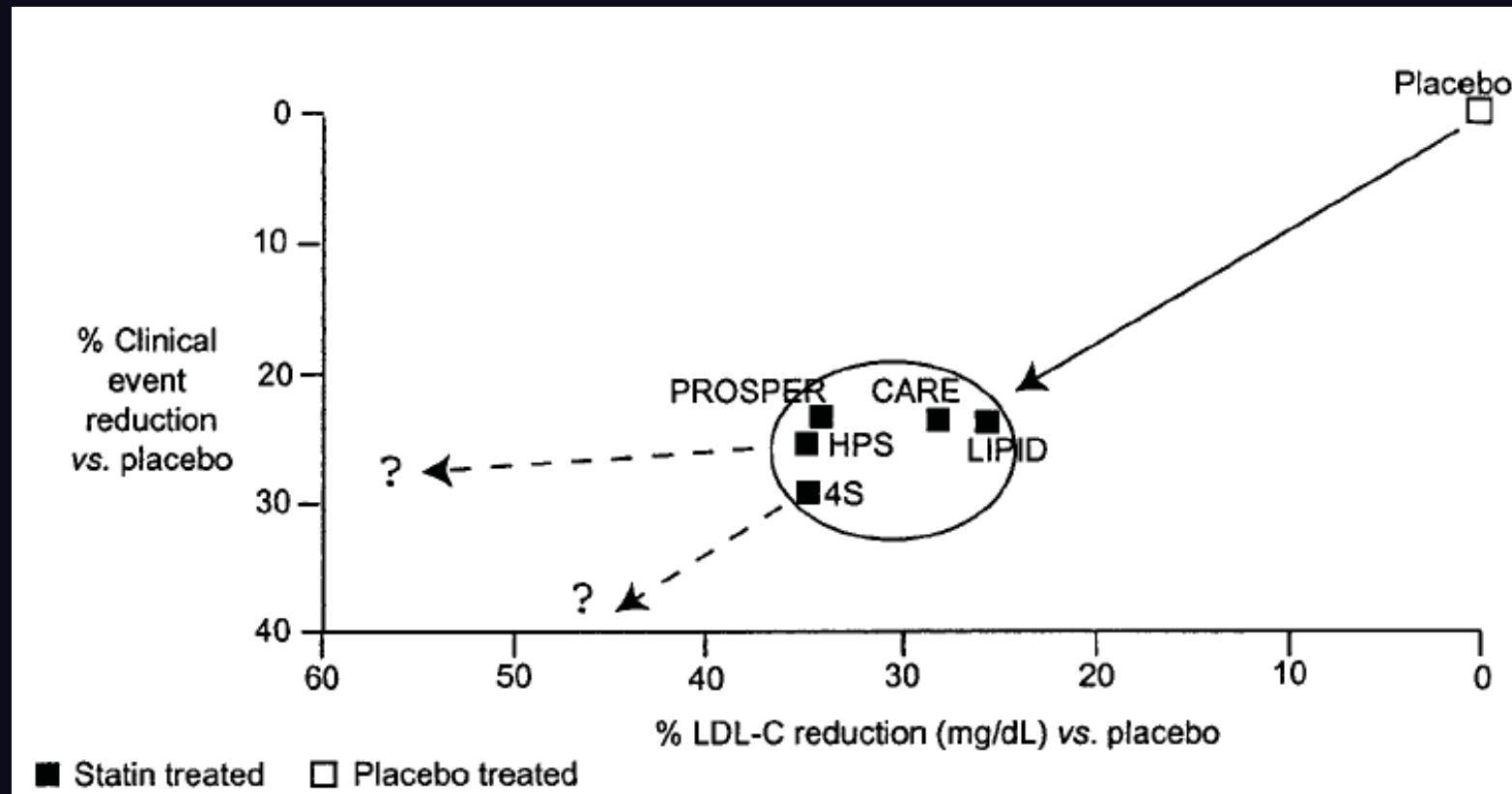
# Despite Varying Degrees of LDL-C Lowering and Achieved LDL-C Levels; Statins Demonstrate Similar Reduction in Clinical Events

## Secondary Prevention Trials



*“No significant differences in clinical event rates when lowering LDL-C between 25% and 35%.”*

# How Far Will the Benefits Go?



- It is not unclear whether lowering lipid levels further would increase the clinical benefit.
- HPS is not designed to answer the question of whether a lower LDL-C is better:  
The comparison (statin vs placebo) can only address the question of whether treatment better than no treatment. → We must consider treatment vs treatment.

# **Is Aggressive LDL-C Lowering More Effective in Reducing Clinical Events?**

## **Trials in ACS**

- **PROVE-IT**
- **A-to-Z**

**Evaluate the effects of  
plaque stabilization and  
intermediate term clinical  
outcomes in ACS patients  
(2 years)**

## **Trials in Chronic Stable Angina**

- **TNT**
- **SEARCH**
- **IDEAL**

**Evaluate the long term effects  
on clinical outcomes in  
patients with chronic stable  
atherosclerosis (5 years)**

# **It's the LDL, stupid. It is the drug as well ?**

- **Statins as a class reduce mortality and morbidity.**  
→ All members of a drug class are interchangeable.
- **PROVE-IT and REVERSAL**  
→ Lower is better ?  
→ **Statin differences: The statins do not have like effect?**  
  
LDL-C reduction alone does not explain all of the differences in efficacy.

# **A Sea Change in CV Medicine**

- **To Open or Not To Open ?**
  - **drug-eluting stents**  
**PTCA is like going to the dentist**  
**not cure, but control**
- **Beyond angioplasty (the event rate to towards zero)**
  - **Intensive statin therapy ?**  
**The future guidelines will help make treatment more effective, more widespread and more specific.**