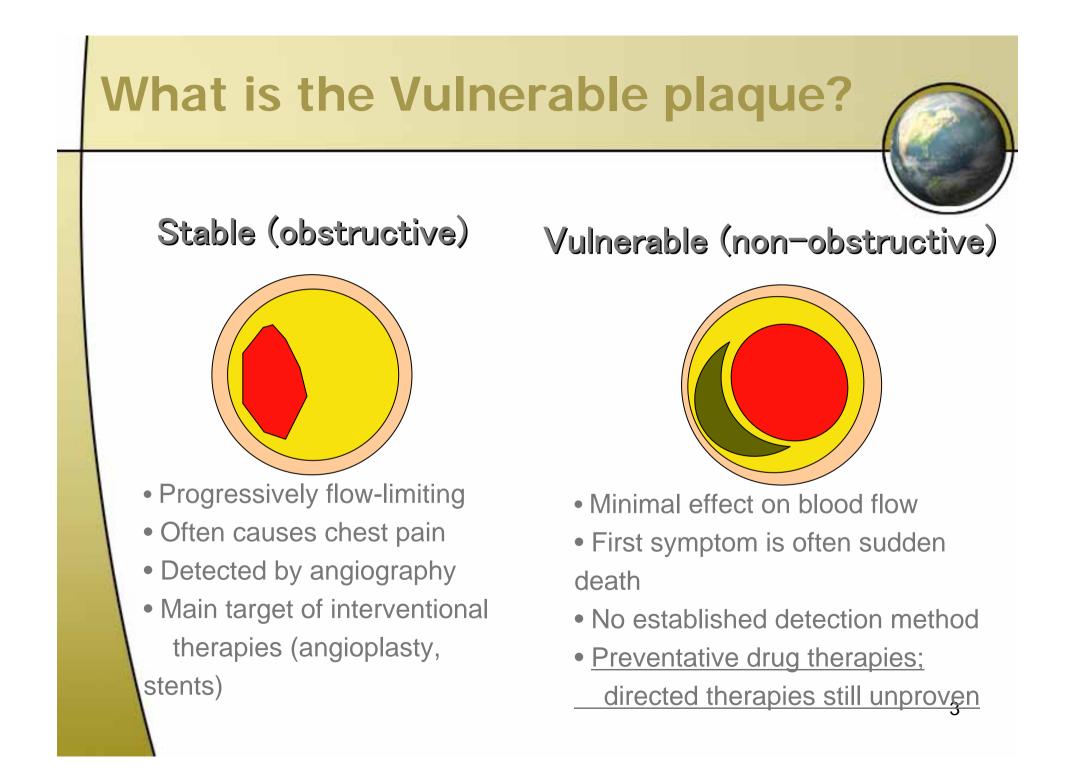
### Systemic Therapy: Pharmacological Approach or Cell/Gene Therapy

### Alan C. Yeung, MD Stanford University School of Medicine

### 20 Billions dollars question:

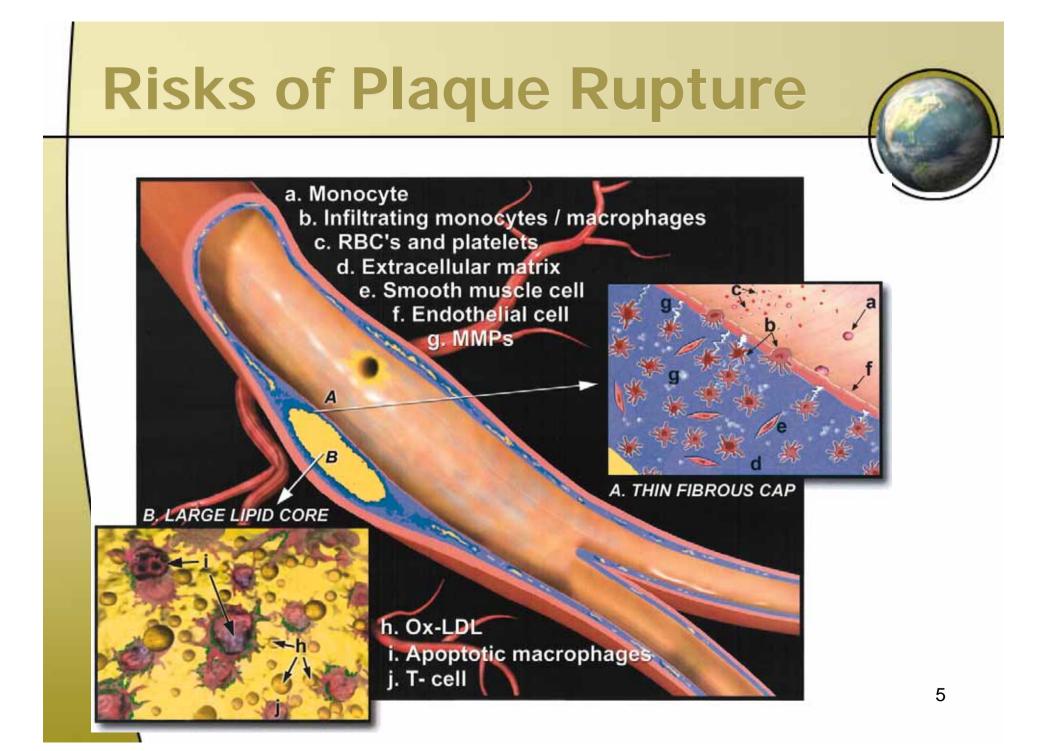
How do we find it (them) ?
When should we look for them ?
How do we treat them ?



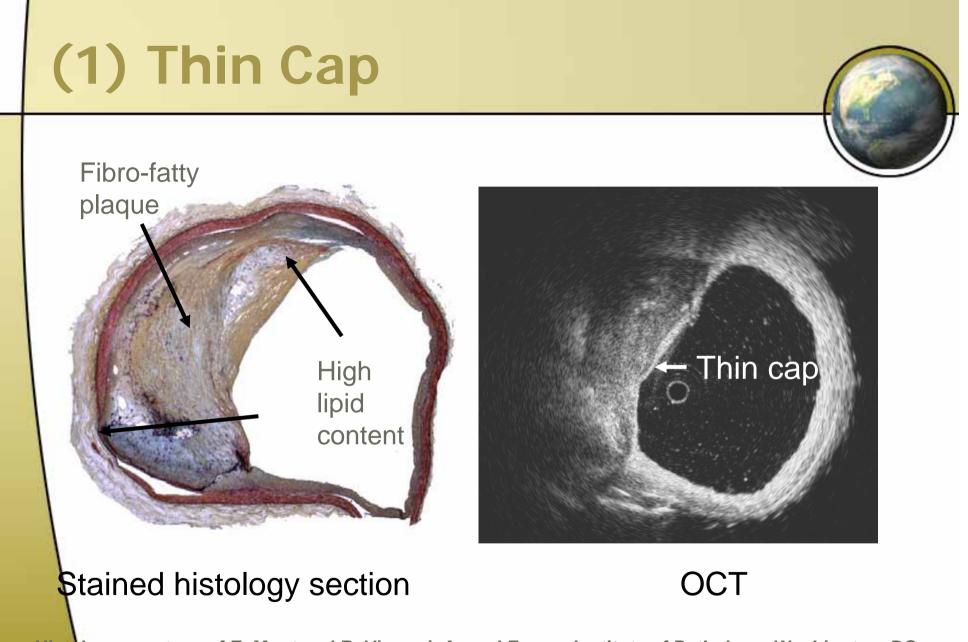


# Thin cap

- Fibrous cap < 65  $\mu$ m
- Collagen depletion (due to loss of smooth muscle)
- Inflammatory cells (macrophage, lymphocyte)
- Lipid rich plaque
  - Hemorrhagic, necrotic core (size > 1.0 mm<sup>2</sup> and/ or > 10% of the plaque area)
  - Angiogenic blood vessels into intima from the adventitia

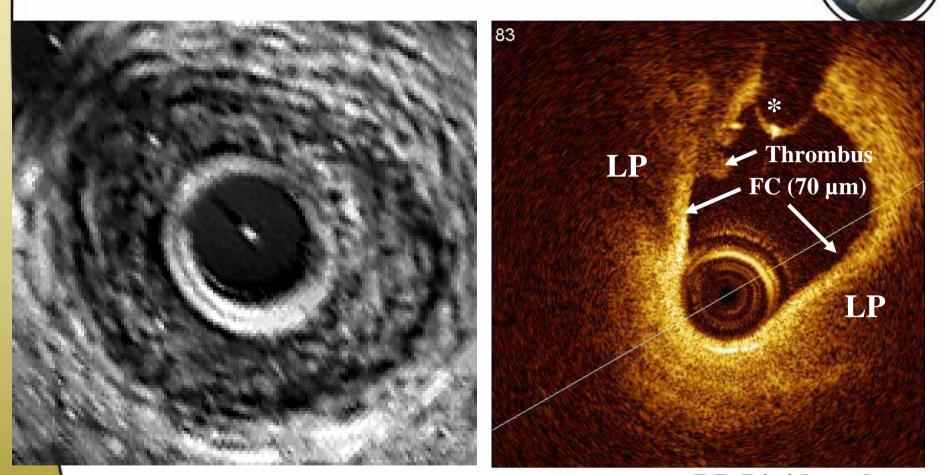


### What are the possible targets for treatment?

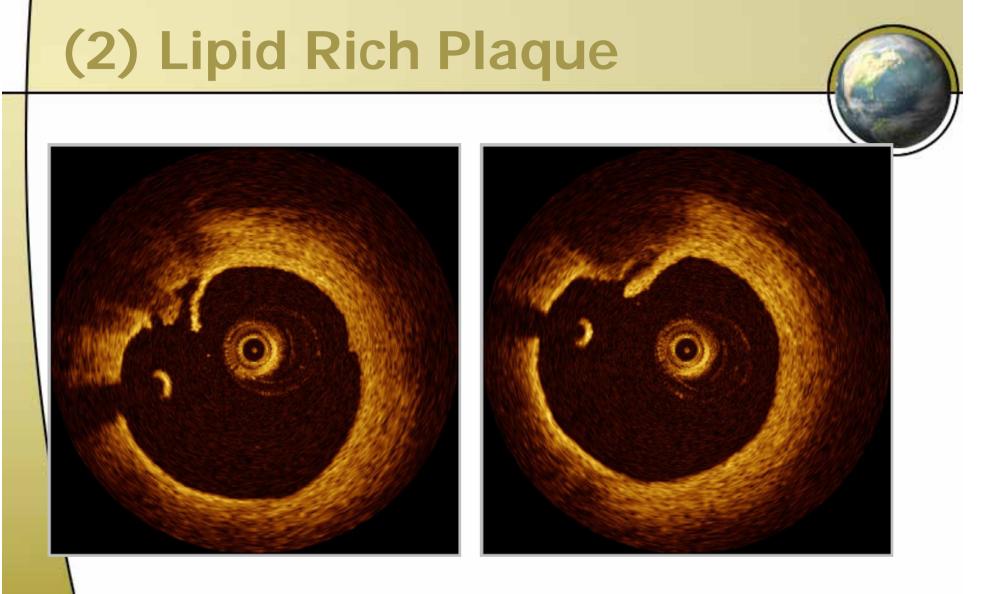


Histology courtesy of E. Mont and R. Virmani, Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, Washington, DC



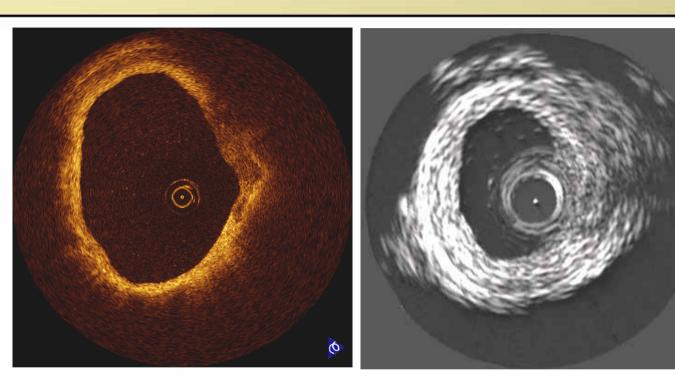


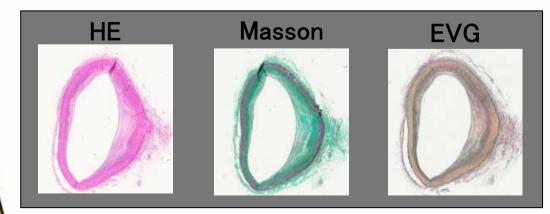
Dr. Suzuki and Dr. Katoh Toyohashi Heart Center, Japan FC:Fibrous cap \*: Guidewire artifact



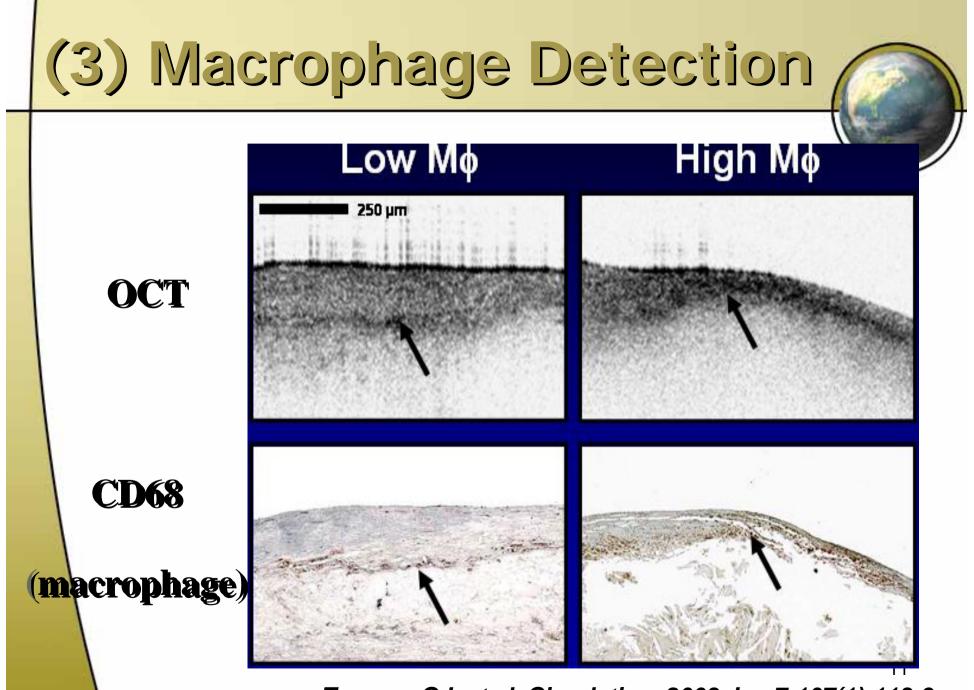
Dr. U. Gerckens and Dr. R. Müller, Herzzenturm Siegburg, Germany

# Lipid rich plaque

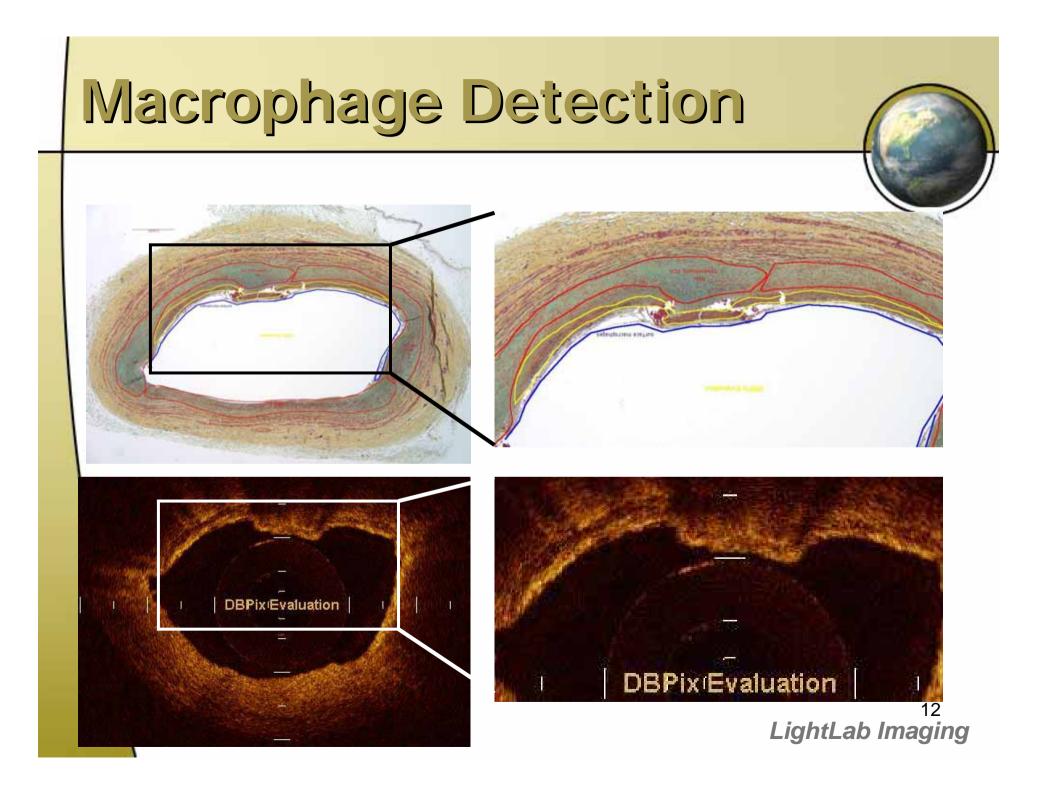




Kawasaki Medical School Hospital Akasaka M.D. Kume M.D.



Tearney GJ, et al, Circulation. 2003 Jan 7;107(1):113-9



#### • "High-Risk", "Vulnerable" and "Thrombosis-Prone" Plaque

Synonyms to describe a plaque that is at increased risk of thrombosis and rapid stenosis progression.

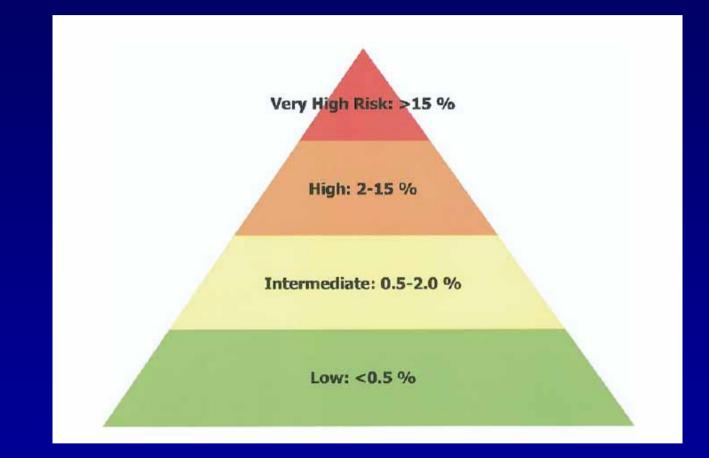
 "Inflamed Thin-cap fibroatheroma" (TCFA) -- An inflamed plaque with a thin cap covering a lipid-rich, necrotic core. An inflamed TCFA is suspected to be a high risk/vulnerable plaque.

#### "Vulnerable Patient"

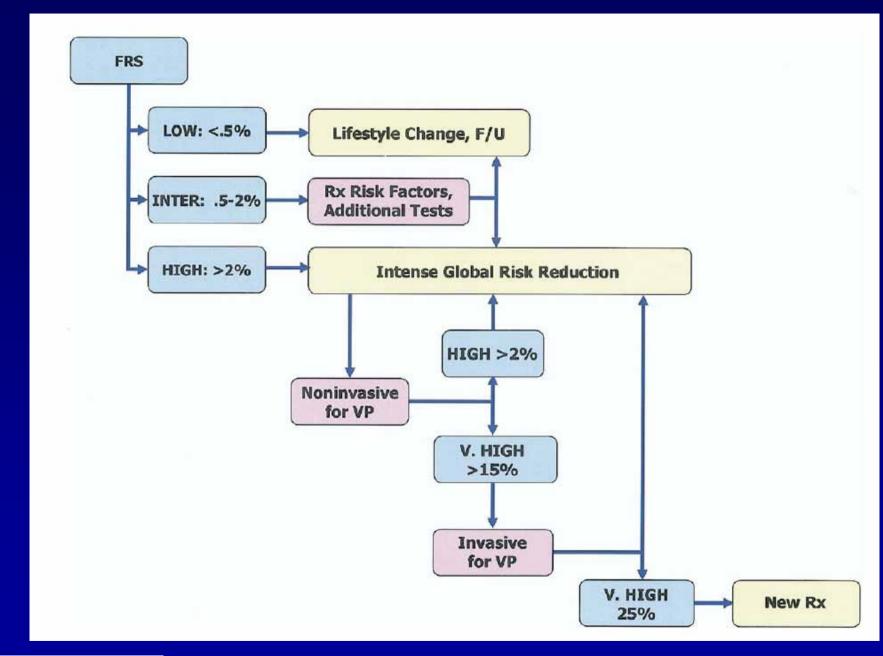
A patient at high risk (vulnerable, prone) to experience a cardiovascular ischemic event due to a high atherosclerotic burden, high risk/vulnerable plaques, and/or thrombogenic blood.

**Figure 1.** A two-day meeting of more than 30 investigators active in the vulnerable plaque field was held on the island of Santorini in Greece, 2003. The investigators came to a consensus on the proposed terminology for the vulnerable plaque field shown in the figure. Modified from Schaar et al. (15).

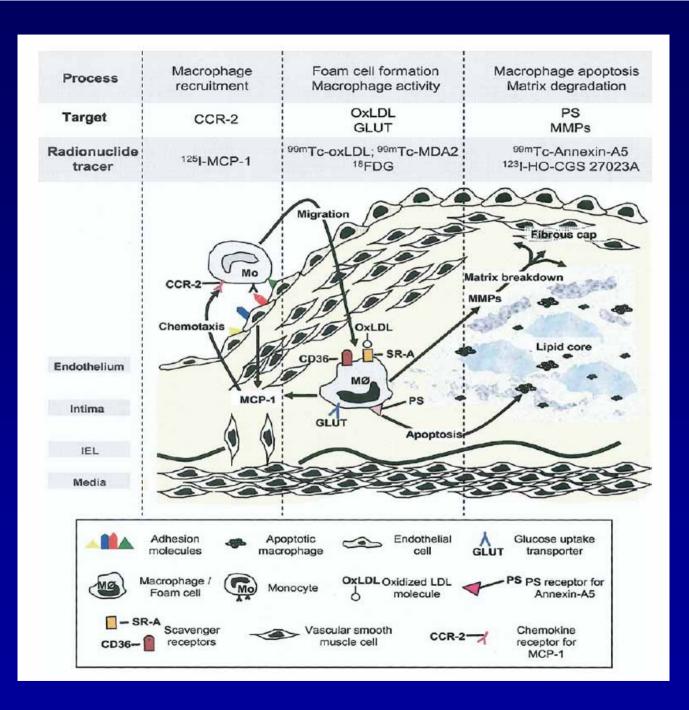
JACC Vol. 47, No. 8 Suppl C April 18, 2006:C2-6



JACC Vol. 47, No. 8 Suppl C April 18, 2006:C101-3



JACC Vol. 47, No. 8 Suppl C April 18, 2006:C101-3 15



## What are the possible systemic therapy?

- Thin Cap: MMP inhibitors
- Atheroma: Lipid therapy
- Inflammation: CRP reduction
- Genetic: LD

### Clinical and Biochemical Results of the Metalloproteinase Inhibition with Subantimicrobial Doses of Doxycycline to Prevent Acute Coronary Syndromes (MIDAS) Pilot Trial

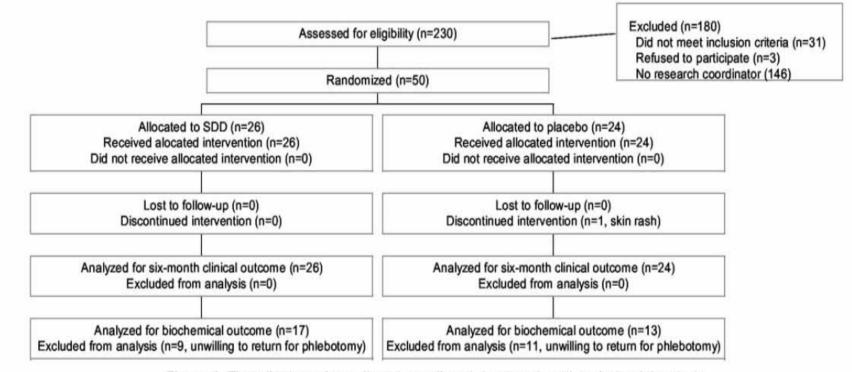


Figure 1. Flow diagram of recruitment, enrollment, treatment, and analysis of the study.

Variable	Placebo (n=24)	Doxycycline (n=26)	Р
Sudden death (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Fatal MI (%)	0 (0)	4.2 (1)	0.322
Non-fatal MI (%)	0 (0)	4.2 (1)	0.322
Unstable angina (%)	0 (0)	0 (0)	
Composite endpoint (%)	0 (0)	8.4 (2)	0.491

#### TABLE 3. Six-Month Outcomes of the Study Population

### TABLE 4. Inflammatory Mediators, Cytokines, and Matrix Metalloproteinases in the Study Population Before and After Treatment

	Placebo (n=13)			Doxycycline (n=17)		
	Baseline	6 Months	Р	Baseline	6 Months	Р
hsCRP (mg/L)	5.2±0.8	4.9±0.7	0.789	4.8±0.6	$2.6 \pm 0.4$	0.007
IL-6 (pg/mL)	$22.8 \pm 3.5$	$17.4 \pm 3.7$	0.209	22.1±3.7	14.7±1.8	0.025
IL-10 (pg/mL)	$0.9 \pm 0.4$	$0.5 \pm 0.5$	0.156	$1.3 \pm 0.6$	$0.5 \pm 0.3$	0.313
IL-1β (pg/mL)	ND	ND		ND	ND	
TNF- $\alpha$ (pg/mL)	ND	ND		ND	ND	
MMP-9 protein (ng/mL)	20.4±2.8	$13.6 \pm 1.5$	0.086	$17.9 \pm 2.7$	12.8±1.4	0.235
MMP-9 92 kDa+higher MW (units)	$595 \pm 82$	597±61	0.982	$550 \pm 103$	276±79	0.011
MMP-9 92 kDa only (units)	$343 \pm 45$	$338 \pm 50$	0.945	417±76	$238 \pm 56$	0.028
MMP-2 activity (units)	137±32	$134 \pm 35$	0.983	96±21	60±21	0.248

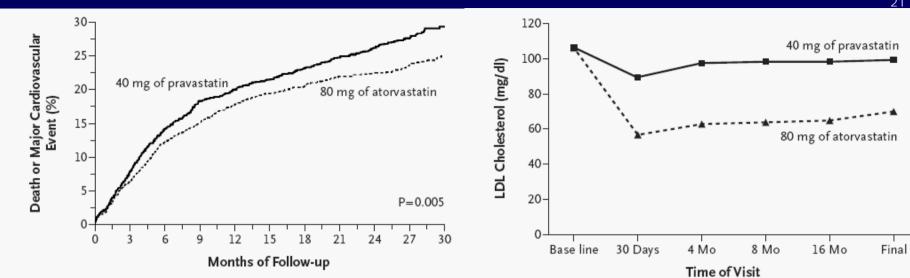
hsCRP indicates high-sensitivity C-reactive protein; IL, interleukin; TNF, tumor necrosis factor; MMP, matrix metalloproteinase; ND, not detected; MW, molecular weight.

### Intensive versus Moderate Lipid Lowering with Statins after Acute Coronary Syndromes

Christopher P. Cannon, M.D., Eugene Braunwald, M.D., Carolyn H. McCabe, B.S., Daniel J. Rader, M.D., Jean L. Rouleau, M.D., Rene Belder, M.D., Steven V. Joyal, M.D., Karen A. Hill, B.A., Marc A. Pfeffer, M.D., Ph.D., and Allan M. Skene, Ph.D., for the Pravastatin or Atorvastatin Evaluation and Infection Therapy–Thrombolysis in Myocardial Infarction 22 Investigators\*

> Cannon CP, Braunwald E, McCabe CH, et al. Intensive versus moderate lipid lowering with statins after acute coronary syndromes. N Engl J Med. 2004;350: 1495-1504.

> LaRosa JC, Grundy SM, Waters DD, et al; Treating to New Targets (TNT) Investigators. Intensive lipid lowering with atorvastatin in patients with stable coronary disease. *N Engl J Med.* 2005;352:1425-1435.
>  Pedersen TR, Faergeman O, Kastelein JJ, et al; Incremental Decrease in End Points Through Aggressive Lipid Lowering (IDEAL) Study Group. High-dose atorvastatin vs usual-dose simvastatin for secondary prevention after myocardial infarction: the IDEAL study: a randomized controlled trial. *JAMA*. 2005;294:2437-2445.



2-Yr Event Rates End Point Hazard Ratio (95% CI) **Risk Reduction** Atorvastatin Pravastatin percent Death from any cause 28 2.2 3.2 Death from CHD 30 1.4 1.1 Death from other causes 1.8 27 1.2 MI 13 6.6 7.4 Death or MI 10.0 18 8.3 Death from CHD or MI 16 7.2 8.3 Revascularization 14 16.3 18.8 MI, revascularization, or death 14 19.7 22.3 from CHD Unstable angina requiring 29 3.8 5.1 hospitalization Stroke 1.0 1.0 -9 0.50 1.00 1.50 High-Dose Standard-Dose Atorvastatin Better Pravastatin Better

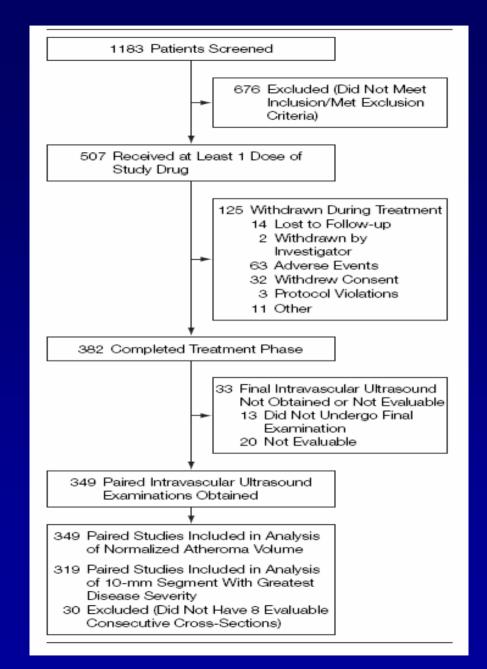
21

Cholesterol Lowering ASTEROIDS STUDY

• Can we regress atherosclerosis ?

 Corollary: Will vulnerable plaque will also become more stable ?

LDL of 60mg/dl

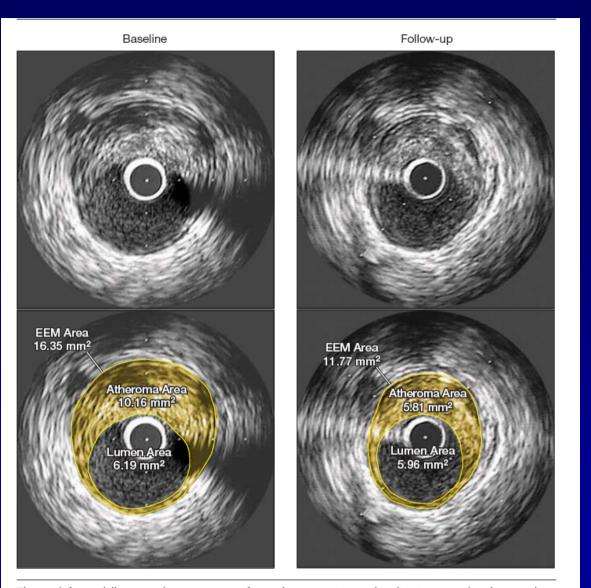


#### Table 3. Baseline and Follow-up Intravascular Ultrasound Results

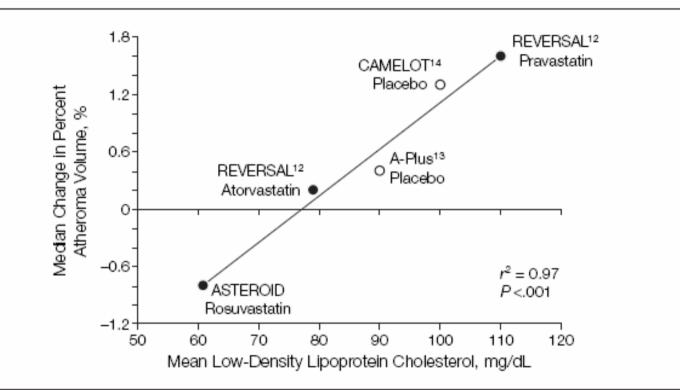
	Baseline	Follow-up	Change	Percent Change	No. (%) With Regression
Primary efficacy parameters Percent atheroma volume (n = 349)					222 (63.6)
Mean (SD)	39.6 (8.5)	38.6 (8.5)	-0.98 (3.15)	NA	
Median (IQR)	39.9 (33.8-45.3)	38.5 (32.6-44.3)	-0.79 (-1.21 to -0.53)*†	NA	
Atheroma volume in most diseased 10-mm subsegment, mm <sup>3</sup> (n = 319)					249 (78.1)
Mean (SD)	65.1 (27.0)	59.0 (24.5)	-6.1 (10.1)	-8.5 (13.7)	
Median (IQR)	65.1 (45.2-82.2)	58.4 (40.6-76.3)	–5.6 (–6.82 to –3.96)*†	-9.1 (-10.83 to -7.23)*†	
Secondary efficacy parameter Normalized total atheroma volume, mm <sup>3</sup> (n = 349)					272 (77.9)
Mean (SD)	212.2 (81.3)	197.5 (79.1)	-14.7 (25.7)	-6.7 (11.1)	
Median (IQR)	204.7 (146.0-259.8)	186.8 (135.1-243.8)	-12.5 (-15.08 to -10.48)*‡	-6.8 (-7.82 to -5.60)*‡	

\*P<.001 by Wilcoxon signed rank test for all comparisons between baseline and follow-up. †Data in parentheses are distribution-free 97.5% confidence intervals for the median. ‡Data in parentheses are distribution-free 95% confidence intervals for the median.

JAMA, April 5, 2006—Vol 295, No. 13



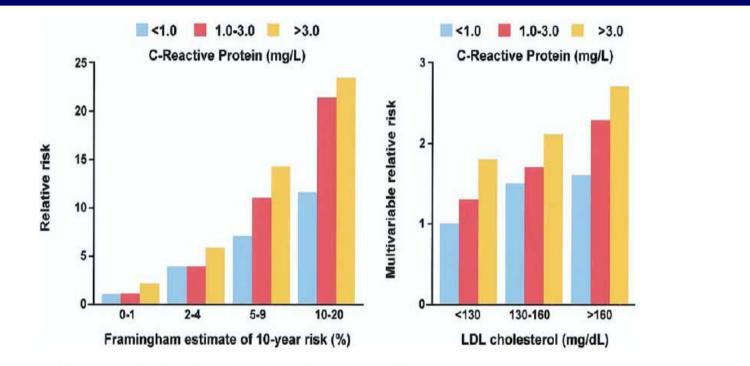
The top left panel illustrates the appearance of a single cross-section at baseline intravascular ultrasound examination, while the top right panel shows the same cross-section after 24 months of treatment. The bottom 2 panels illustrate the same cross-sections, but with measurements superimposed. Atheroma area was reduced from 10.16 mm<sup>2</sup> to 5.81 mm<sup>2</sup>. EEM indicates external elastic membrane. **Figure 3.** Relationship Between Mean Low-Density Lipoprotein Cholesterol Levels and Median Change in Percent Atheroma Volume for Several Intravascular Ultrasound Trials

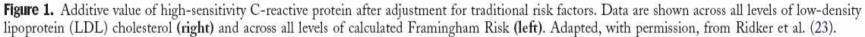


There is a close correlation between these 2 variables ( $r^2=0.97$ ). REVERSAL indicates Reversal of Atherosclerosis With Aggressive Lipid-Lowering<sup>12</sup>; CAMELOT, Comparison of Amlodipine vs Enalapril to Limit Occurrences of Thrombosis<sup>14</sup>; A-Plus, Avasimibe and Progression of Lesions on Ultrasound<sup>13</sup>; and ASTEROID, A Study to Evaluate the Effect of Rosuvastatin on Intravascular Ultrasound-Derived Coronary Atheroma Burden.

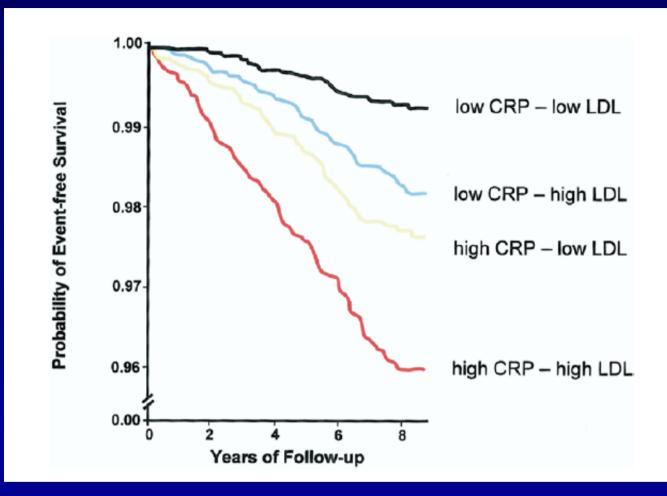
JAMA, April 5, 2006-Vol 295, No. 13

### **Hs C-Reactive Protein**

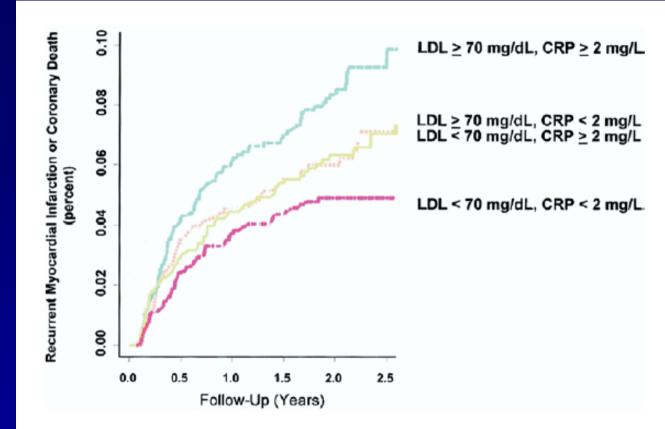




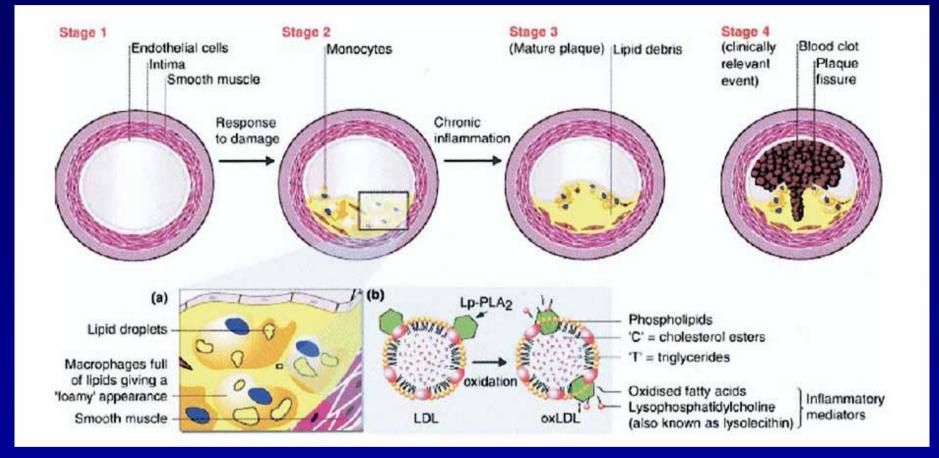
JACC Vol. 47, No. 8 Suppl C April 18, 2006:C19-31

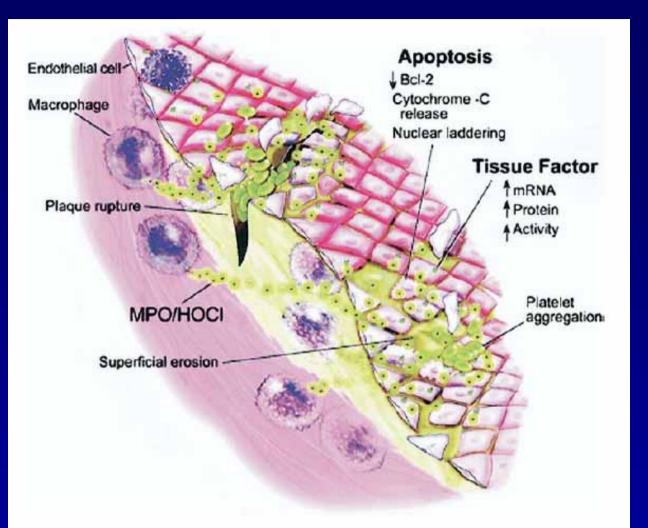


JACC Vol. 47, No. 8 Suppl C April 18, 2006:C19-31 **Figure 2.** Cardiovascular event-free survival in apparently healthy American women according to plasma levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL)cholesterol and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (CRP). Adapted, with permission, from Ridker et al. (23).

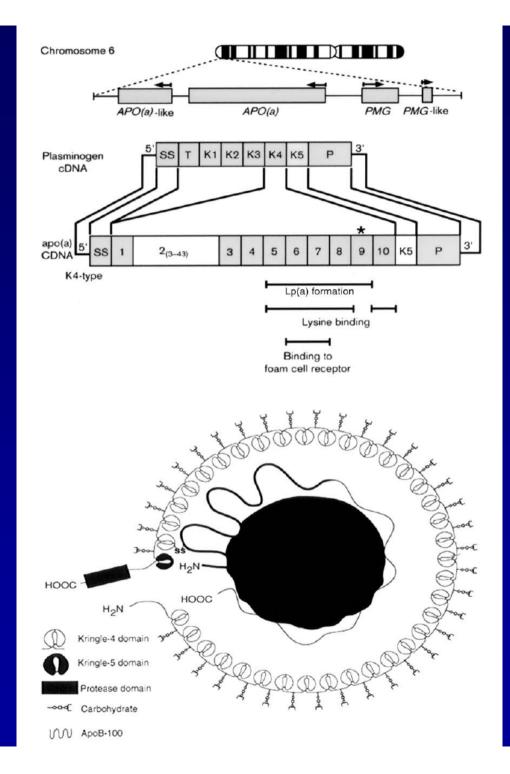


**Figure 3.** Rates of recurrent myocardial infarction and cardiovascular death among acute coronary syndrome patients treated with statin therapy according to achieved levels of low density lipoprotein (LDL)-cholesterol and high sensitivity C-reactive protein (CRP) in the Pravastatin or Atorvastatin Evaluation and Infection Therapy–Thrombolysis In Myocardial Infarction 22 trial. Adapted, with permission, from Ridker et al. (40).





**Figure 5.** The role of myeloperoxidase in plaque vulnerability. Reprinted, with permission, from Hazen (66). HOCl = hypochlorous acid; MPO = myeloperoxidase; mRNA = messenger ribonucleic acid.



# Can we manipulate e.g. CRP?

	Fold Change in CRP			
	(95% CI)	Partial R <sup>2</sup> †	Р	
Age, per 10 y	1.16 (1.12–1.21)	0.02*	< 0.0001	
Sex, female vs male	1.17 (1.08–1.26)	0.01*	< 0.0001	
Body mass index, per 5 kg/m <sup>2</sup>	1.46 (1.42–1.51)	0.15	< 0.0001	
Hormone replacement therapy, yes/no	1.79 (1.62–1.97)	0.03	< 0.0001	
Cigarette smoking, yes/no	1.45 (1.32–1.61)	0.02	< 0.0001	
Total/HDL cholesterol ratio	1.06 (1.02-1.09)	0.01	< 0.0001	
Hypertension treatment, yes/no	1.19 (1.10–1.29)	0.01	< 0.0001	
Lipid-lowering therapy, yes/no	0.77 (0.71–0.85)	0.004	< 0.0001	
Prevalent CVD, yes/no	1.28 (1.15–1.42)	0.01	< 0.0001	
Triglycerides, per 100 mg/dL	1.08 (1.03–1.14)	0.003	0.0009	
Systolic blood pressure, per 20 mm Hg	1.07 (1.03-1.12)	0.002	0.01	
Diastolic blood pressure, per 10 mm Hg	0.95 (0.91–0.99)	0.001	0.02	

### TABLE 2. Clinical Correlates of Log-CRP Level: Stepwise Linear Regression Model $R^2$ =0.26

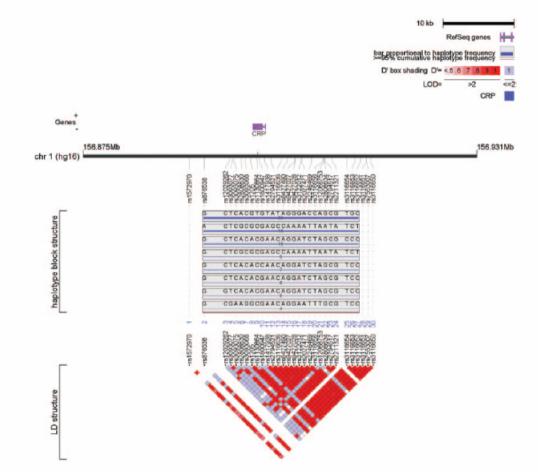
CRP indicates C-reactive protein.

\*Age and sex were forced into the multivariable model.

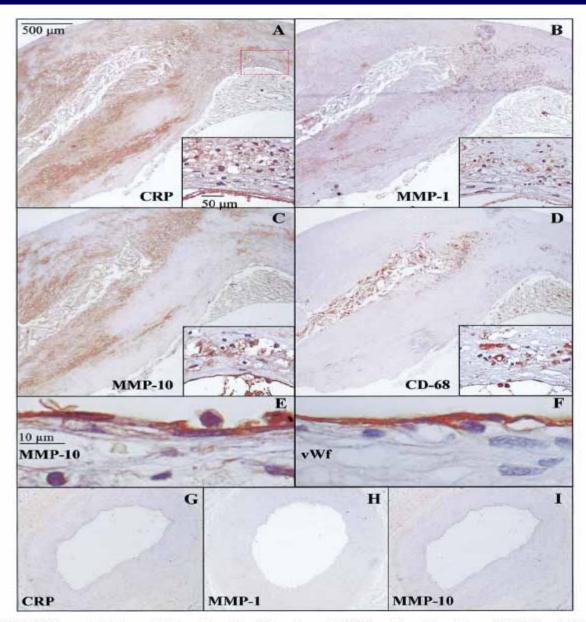
#### Kathiresan et al Clinical and Genetic Correlates of Serum CRP Level

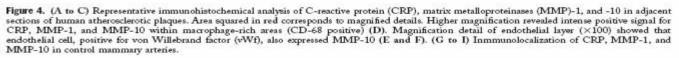
#### Circulation. 2006;113:1415-1423.

### Linkage Disequilibrium



LD structure at the *CRP* gene locus in a reference panel. Chr 1 panel depicts the *CRP* position on chromosome 1 in the human genome July 2003 assembly (hg16). Haplotype block structure panel shows that 26 SNPs fell into a single haplotype block. LD structure panel displays the LD relations between pairs of markers in the region, with each square representing the pairwise strength and significance of LD. Red indicates no or minimal evidence of historical recombination, white indicates weak LD, and blue indicates uninformative LD. Note that the triallelic SNP rs3091244 was not genotyped in the reference panel and thus is not displayed here. The chromosomal position of SNP rs3091244 falls between SNP 11 and SNP 12. Figure prepared with LocusView 2.0 (T. Petryshen et al, Broad Institute; available at: http://www.broad.mit.edu/mpg/locusview/).





Montero *et al.* CRP Induces Endothelial MMP-1 and -10

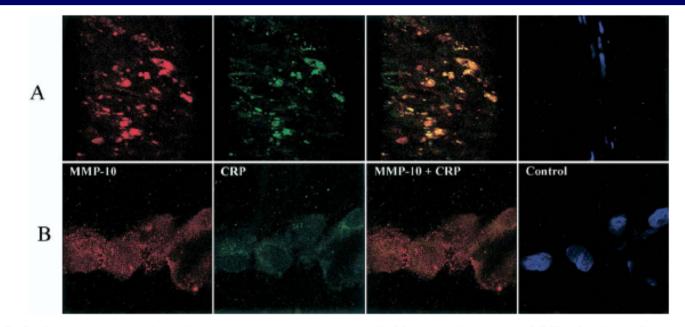
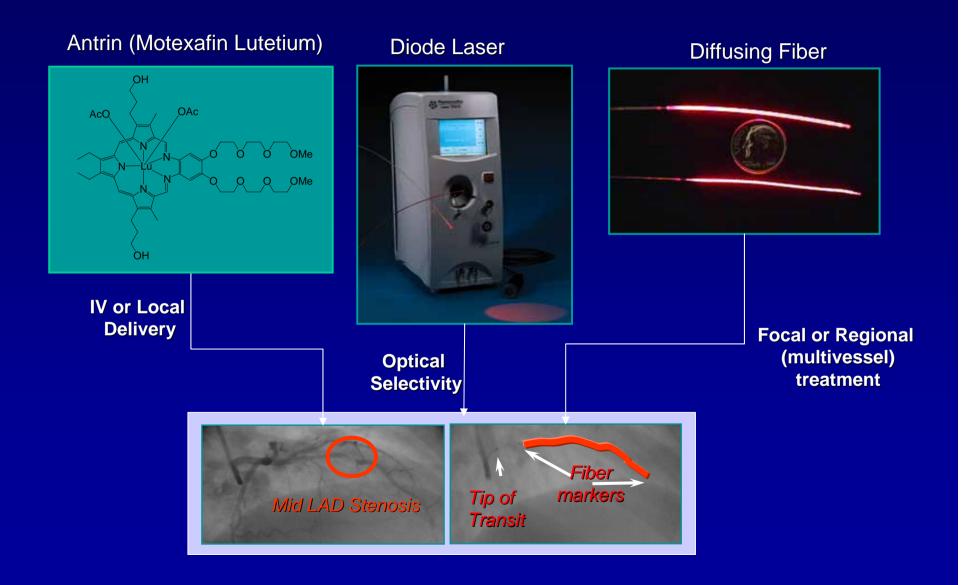
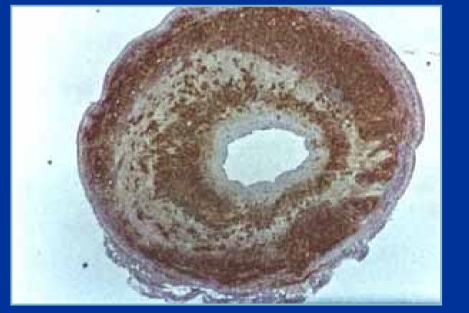


Figure 5. Confocal microscopy in advanced human atherosclerotic plaques (n = 5). Matrix metalloproteinases (MMP)-10 (red) and C-reactive protein (CRP) (green) colocalized (yellow to orange) in macrophage-rich areas (A) and endothelial layer (B). No signal was detected in the absence of the primary antibodies (control). Nuclei were counterstained with TOPRO-3 (blue).

# Antrin<sup>®</sup> Photodynamic Therapy



## Antrin Phototherapy (PT) depletes vascular macrophages in NZW rabbit injury model, local Antrin



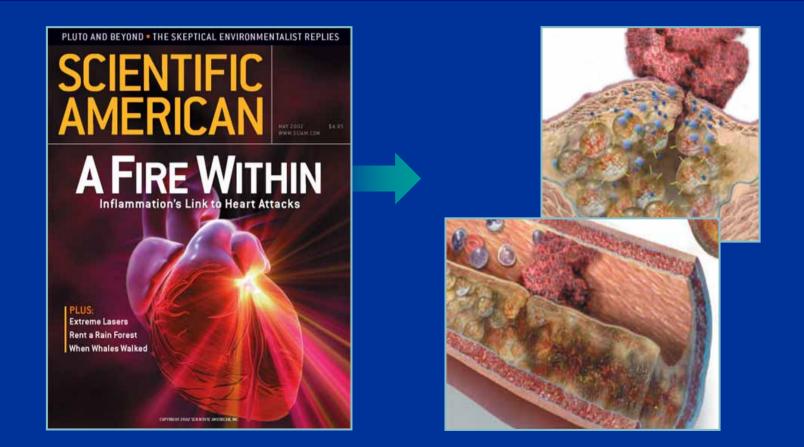
Control



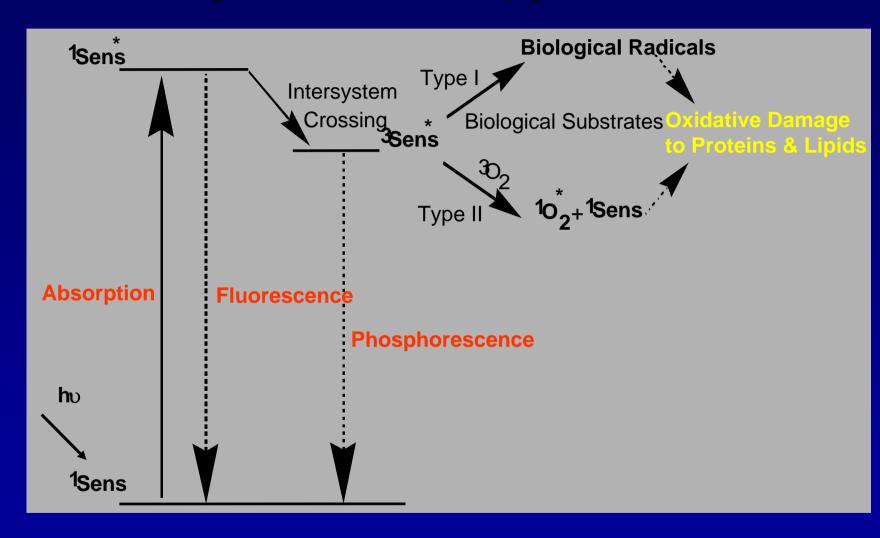
Treated

Hayase et al, Cardiovascular Research 2001, 49, 449-455.

# Vulnerable Plaque



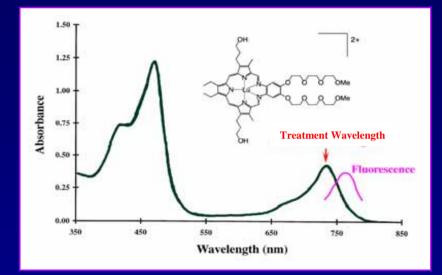
# Photodynamic Therapy

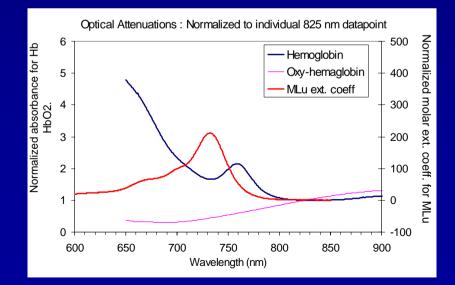


Cell death occurs only if both light and drug present

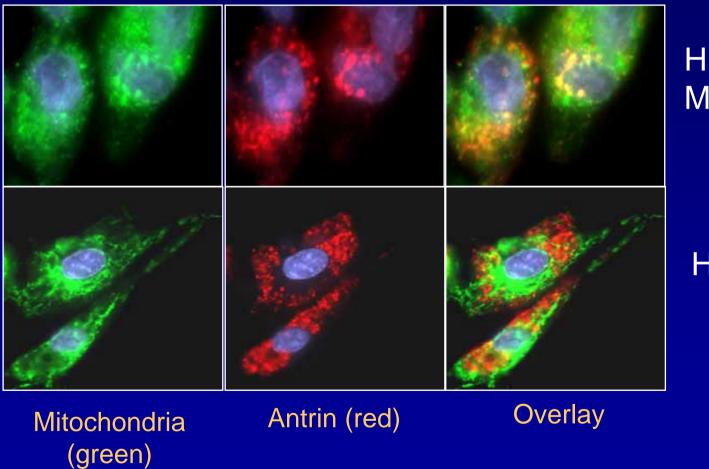
# Antrin® (Motexafin Lutetium)

- Selective accumulation in atherosclerotic plaques
- Rapid clearance from plasma and normal tissues
- Light activation produces singlet O<sub>2</sub> (very short path length) causing cell death
- Activation at 732 nm penetrates blood and tissue better than other photosensitizers in development
- Fluorescence detected at 750 nm with 460-480 nm excitation





# Intracellular Localization of Antrin

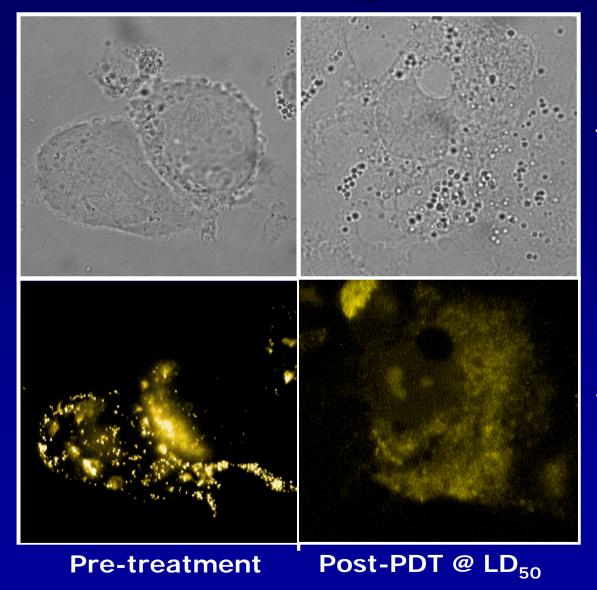


### Human Macrophages

HCASMC

Woodburn et al., ACC 2002

# Lysosomal Instability after Phototherapy

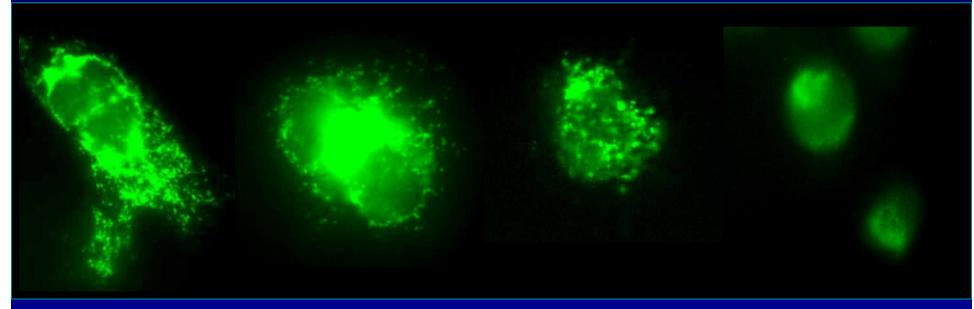


THP-1 Macrophages

THP-1 Macrophages + Acridine Orange

Woodburn et al., ACC 2002

## Antrin Phototherapy Induces Apoptosis in Human Macrophages



Control

20 ug/ml Antrin 2 J/cm<sup>2</sup> Light

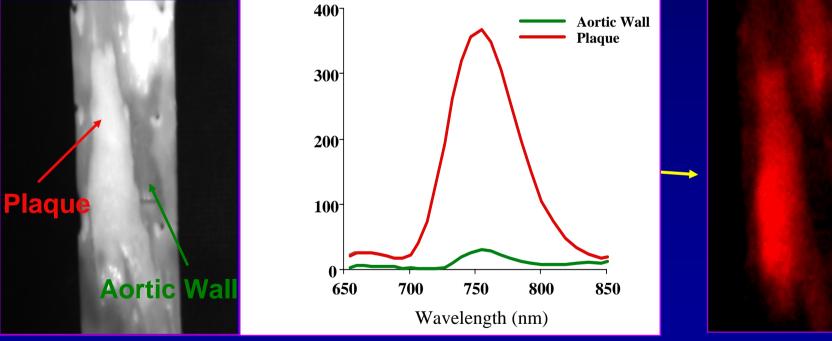
Antrin + Light

Cytochrome C immunoreactivity assay in human THP-1 cells

Woodburn et al., ACC 2002

# Antrin Biolocalization in Atheromatous Plaque

NZW Rabbit aorta, 10 mg/kg iv administration, analysis at 24h



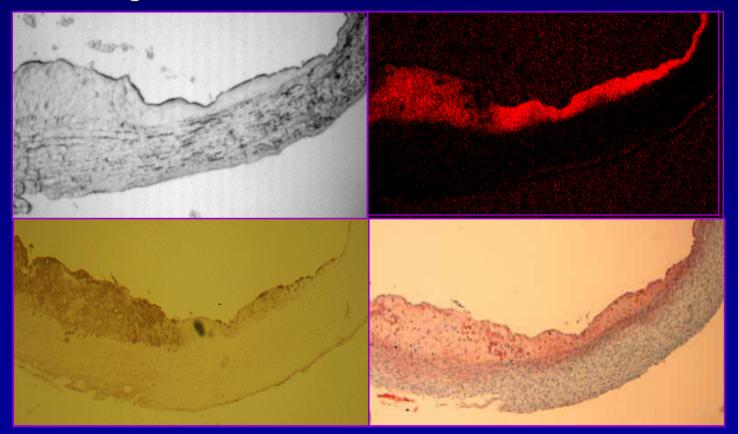
**Fluorescent image** 

Rockson SG et al., Circulation 2000; 102:591-6

# Texaphyrin Uptake in Rabbit Atheromas

#### B/W image

#### Fluorescence

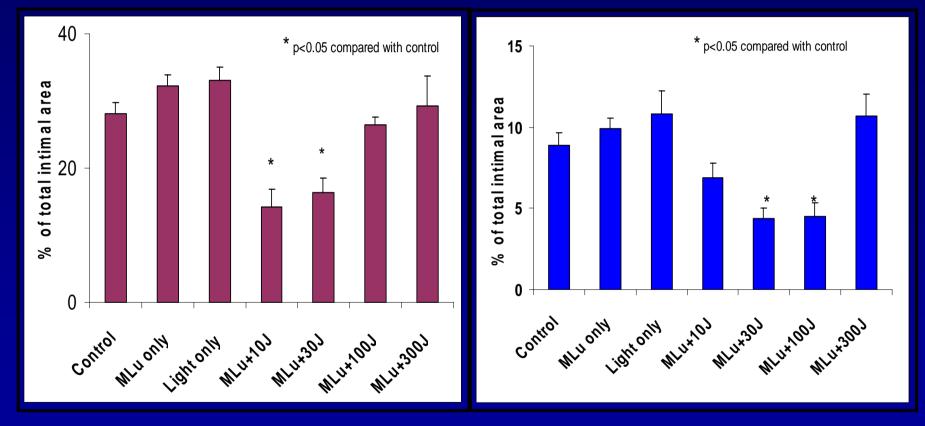


#### RAM-11 (macrophage)

#### Oil Red O (neutral lipids)

# Macrophage depletion in Fat-Fed New Zealand White (NZW) Rabbit; iv Antrin

#### Macrophage Burden as % of total intima and media

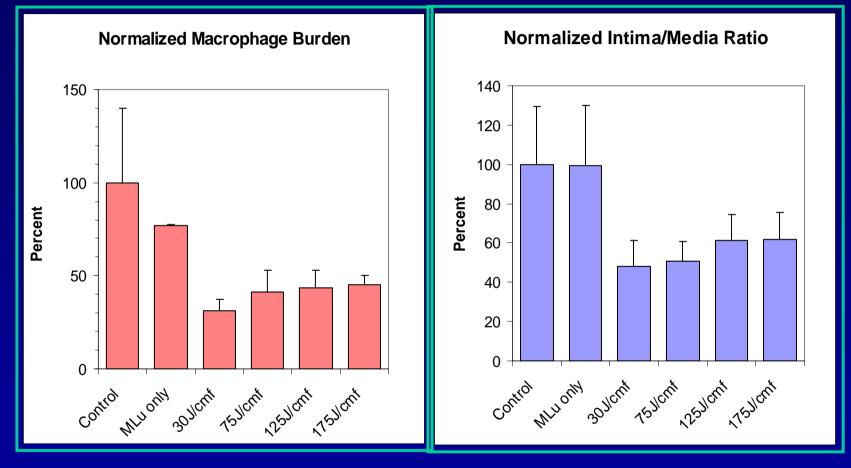


Intraballoon Illumination

#### **Bare Fiber Illumination**

YP Sun, ACC 2003 Poster Presentation

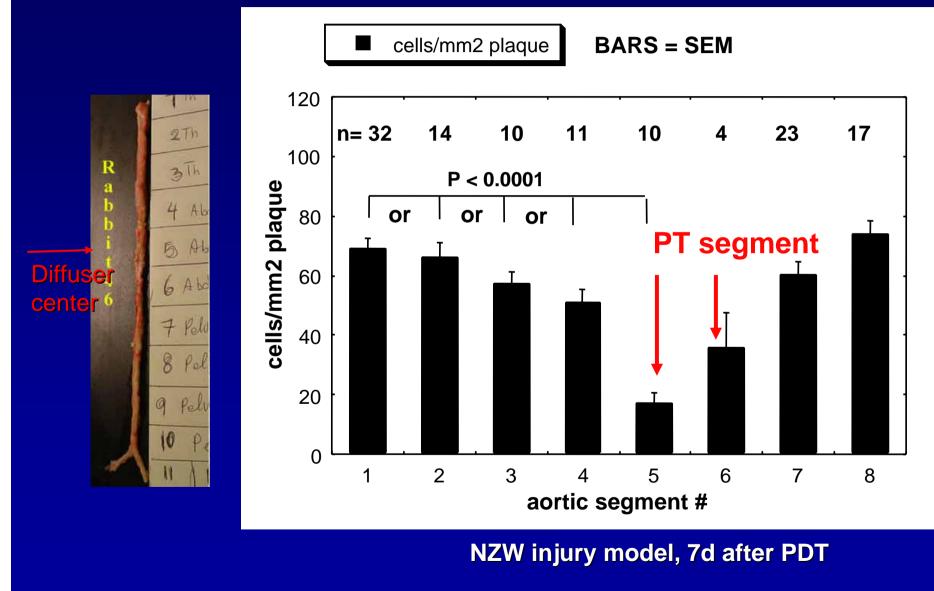
## Watanabe Hereditary Hyperlipidemic Rabbit (WHHL) Fat-Fed Model of Atherosclerosis



Control vs all Antrin-PT, p<0.072

Control vs all Antrin-PT, p: 0.001~0.009

# Reduces cell density post-Antrin PT



Hamblin, et. al, Wellman Labs, MGH, Boston

## Preclinical Findings

- Antrin localizes intracellularly in mitochondria and lysosomes
- Antrin is selective to plaques rich in macrophages and neutral lipids
- Antrin Phototherapy:
  - Reduces macrophages in all rabbit models studied
  - Produces significant plaque accellularity within days post-PT
  - Downregulates cytokines involved in monocyte migration
  - > Appears to maintain or increase smooth muscle area
  - Suggests some collagen remodeling of PT lesion
  - > Does not traumatize normal vessel walls.
  - Potentially remodels and stabilizes unstable plaque
- Allows both focal and regional treatment of diseased vessels.

## Antrin Clinical Development

#### Peripheral Arterial Disease (PAD)

Phase I: Dose ranging for safety. Completed. Rockson et. al. Circulation 2000; 102:2322

Phase II: Multi-center, double-blind, randomized trial for prevention of restenosis and treatment of de novo lesion. Study Completed. No adverse safety signals.

#### Coronary Arterial Disease (CAD)

Phase I: Drug and light dose escalation in subjects with CAD undergoing PCI with stent placement. Completed. Kereiakes, et. al. Circulation 2003; 103:1310

## Antrin Phototherapy Phase 1 Coronary Artery Disease Angiographic Results

- Enrollment: 79 patients
- Design: Drug and light dose escalation for safety
- Safety: No serious adverse effects
- Results: Optimum regimen identified
- Publication: Kereiakes, et. al. Circulation 2003; 103:1310



"The present phase 1 coronary study supports the apparent safety and tolerability of this treatment and materially extends our understanding of this emerging therapy in several ways.

# Phase I CAD Participating Investigators & Centers

**Dean Kereiakes** *The Lindner Center, Cincinnati* 

**Daniel Simon** Brigham and Women's Hospital, Boston

Arthur M. Szyniszewski Michigan Heart & Vascular, Ann Arbor

Alan Yeung Stanford Medical Center, Palo Alto

Paul Kramer Mid-America Heart Institute, Kansas City

Howard Herrmann Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania

Wendy Shear Minneapolis VA Medical Center Jeffry Popma OCA Core Lab, Boston, MA

Peter Fitzgerald IVUS Core Lab, Stanford, CA

## CAD Phase I Design

Dose-escalation safety trial in subjects with CAD undergoing PCI with stent placement

- Eligibility: Patients With Coronary Arterial Disease
- Design: IV ANTRIN Followed 18-24 Hours Later by Phototherapy. Drug escalation (0.05 – 4 mg/kg) Light escalation (100-600 J/cm<sup>f</sup>)

Safety Objectives:

- \* Extent of restenosis in Antrin PT-treated lesions (QCA, IVUS)
- \* Pharmacokinetics in this CAD pop.

#### Primary Outcome Variables

- \* Dose-limiting toxicities associated with Antrin Injection and/or illumination
- \* Phototherapy-related procedural adverse events
- \* Death, Stroke, CK or CK-MB > 3 x ULN

## CAD Phase I Design

Secondary Outcome Variables

- \* Late lumen loss/index (QCA; IVUS) at 6 months
- \* Angiographic restenosis rate (> 50%)
- \* TLR, TVR, TVF
- \* Pharmacokinetics

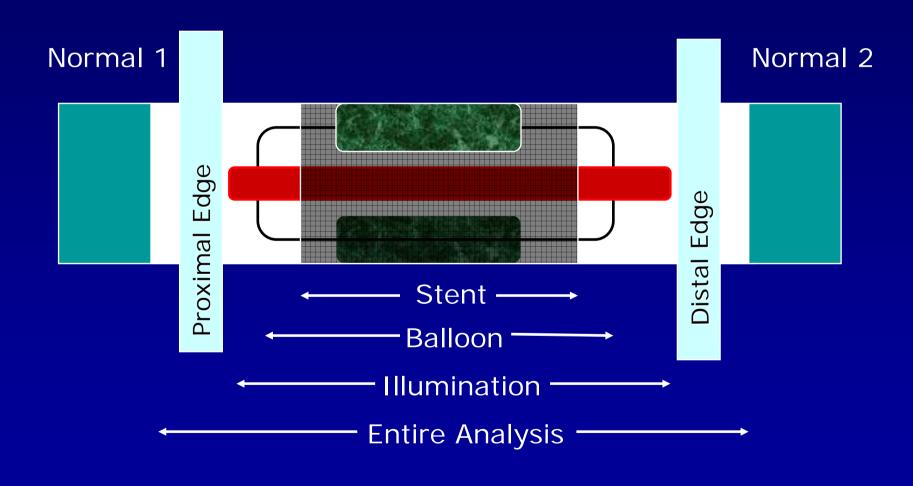
**Inclusion** Criteria:

- \* Target lesion stenosis >50% needing PCI
- \* Target lesion for PCI < 30 mm long
- \* Men or women > 18 yrs old
- \* Give informed consent

**Exclusion Criteria:** 

- \* Target lesions with previously placed stent
- \* Target lesions involving left main or ostial left anterior descending arteries

# Angiographic Analysis Plan BWH Angiography Core Lab – J. Popma



# CAD Phase I Study Demographics (n=79)

Median Age, yrs	64.0 (43-85)
Men, %	70.9%
Diabetes, %	20.3%
Prior PCI, %	16.5%
Prior MI, %	51.9%
NYHA Class I, %	31.6%
NYHA Class II, %	68.4%

# CAD Phase I Study Target Vessel Characteristics

Target Vessel, %

> LAD	40 %
≻ LCX	28 %
> RCA	32 %
Stent Diameter (mm; mean)	3.33
Stent Length (mm; mean)	19.1

# CAD Phase I Study Procedure and Device Performance

Device Success*	100%
Procedural Success**	96.2%
<ul> <li>Interrupted Illumination</li> <li>Fiber could not be delivered</li> <li>Bailout procedure <pre>[left main disease; angioplasty dissection]</pre></li> </ul>	0% 0% 3.8% (n=3)
GP IIb/IIIa Use	51%

\*Successful delivery of the illuminating fiber when attempted \*\*No in-hospital MACE

# CAD Phase I Study Preliminary Acute Safety (30 days)

Emergent CABG	0 %
Death	0 %
Stroke	0 %
Total CK Elevation (>3xULN)	1.3 %
Total CK-MB Elevation (>3xULN)	10.3 %
Target vessel revascularization	1.3 %
Stent Thrombosis	0 %

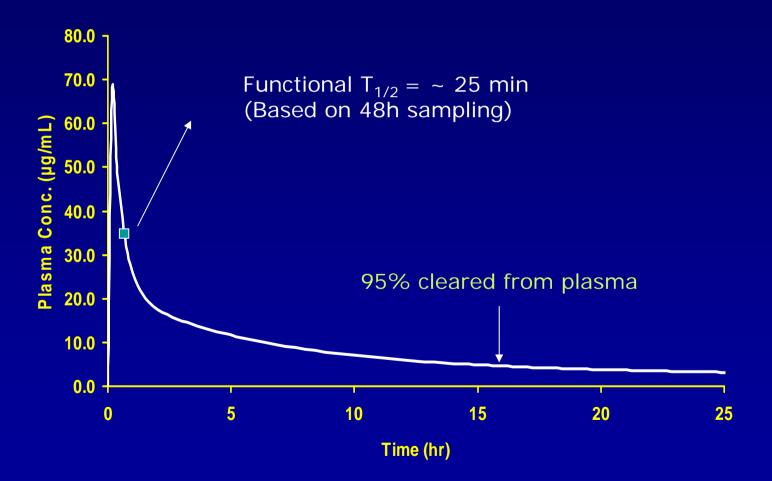
# Antrin CAD Phase I Study Infusion Related Events

Dose	N	Peripheral	Rash*
(mg/kg)		Paresthesia*	
0.05	5	1 (20.0%)	0 (0)
0.15	5	0 (0%)	0 (0)
0.5	6	0 (0%)	0 (0)
1	6	1 (16.7%)	1 (16.7)
2	21	10 (47.6%)	3 (14.3)
3	26	14 (53.8%)	5 (19.2)
4	10	6 (60.0%)	3 (30.0)

\* Rashes were not phototoxic reactions. Duration of paresthesias and rashes ranged from 0-46 days, and 0-51 days, respectively. All were mild to moderate in severity

# Antrin (MLu) Pop Pharmacokinetics Rapid Clearance from Plasma

Across all drug doses: 0.05-4 mg/kg

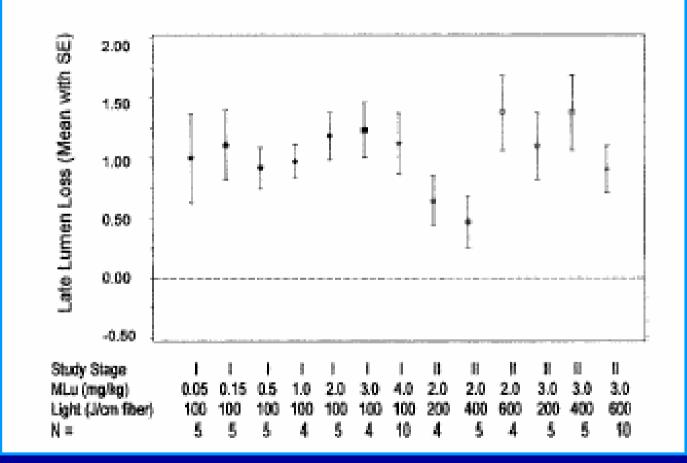


# Follow-Up Angiography Quantitative Results

There were no clinically significant differences between the stent, balloon injury, illumination and analysis segments

	Overall % (95% CI)
Stent Segment (Binary Restenosis)	24/71, 33.8 % (23.0, 46.0)
Stent Segment MLD (mm)	1.75
Stent Segment Late lumen loss (mm)	1.02
Edge segments	2/70 (2.9 %) (0.3, 9.9)
Pre-PCI % stenosis (median)	66.0 %
Post-PCI % stenosis (median)	6.8 %
Pre / Post- ref. vessel diameter (mean)	2.93 / 2.94 mm

Mean (SE) late lumen loss by quantitative coronary angiography stratified by study stage, MLu dose, and light fluence.



# Qualitative Assessment by IVUS (N=39)

Incomplete apposition

Preserved incomplete apposition: 2

Resolved incomplete apposition: 1

Late incomplete apposition: 0

#### Stent edge dissection

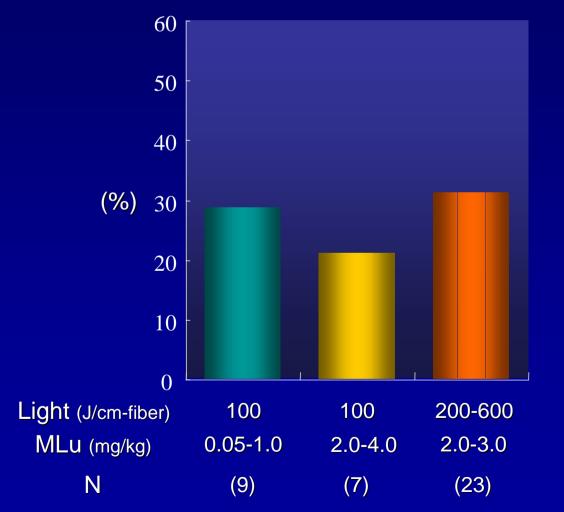
B	aseline	6-month follow-up
	4	0

#### Intraluminal thrombus

Baseline	6-month follow-up
0	0

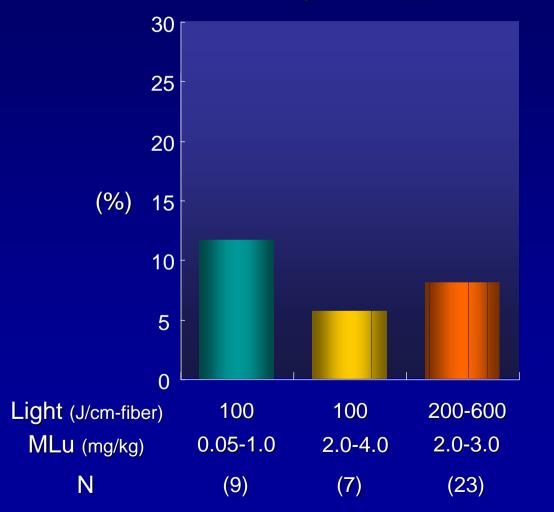
# Quantitative Assessment by IVUS (N=39)

#### Percent Neointima Volume Obstruction



# Quantitative Assessment by IVUS (N=39)

Percent Change in Plaque Volume



Hongo, et. al., manuscript under preparation

# Safety Summary - CAD

- ANTRIN Phototherapy is feasible, well-tolerated and safe in >250 trial patients to date.
  - No drug/light dose-limiting toxicities
  - Self-limited paresthesias with > 2.0 mg/kg
  - Successful and safe intravascular light delivery
- Absence of late incomplete stent apposition with PT
- Very low incidence of geographical miss
- No evidence of deleterious edge effects
- No reported treatment-related aneurysms
- No observed subacute stent thrombosis or proliferative fibrosis within the reference segment