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# Invasive Assessment of the Microcirculation: *Routine Practice and Future Options*

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William F. Fearon, MD

Professor of Medicine

Director, Interventional Cardiology

Stanford University Medical Center



# Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest

*Within the past 12 months, I or my spouse/partner have had a financial interest /arrangement or affiliation with the organization(s) listed below*

**Affiliation/Financial Relationship**

**Grant/ Research Support:**

**Company**

**St. Jude Medical  
Medtronic  
Acist Medical  
CathWorks**

**Consulting Fees/Honoraria:**

**HeartFlow**

**Major Stock Shareholder/Equity Interest:**

**Royalty Income:**

**Ownership/Founder:**

**Salary:**

**Intellectual Property Rights:**

**Other Financial Benefit:**



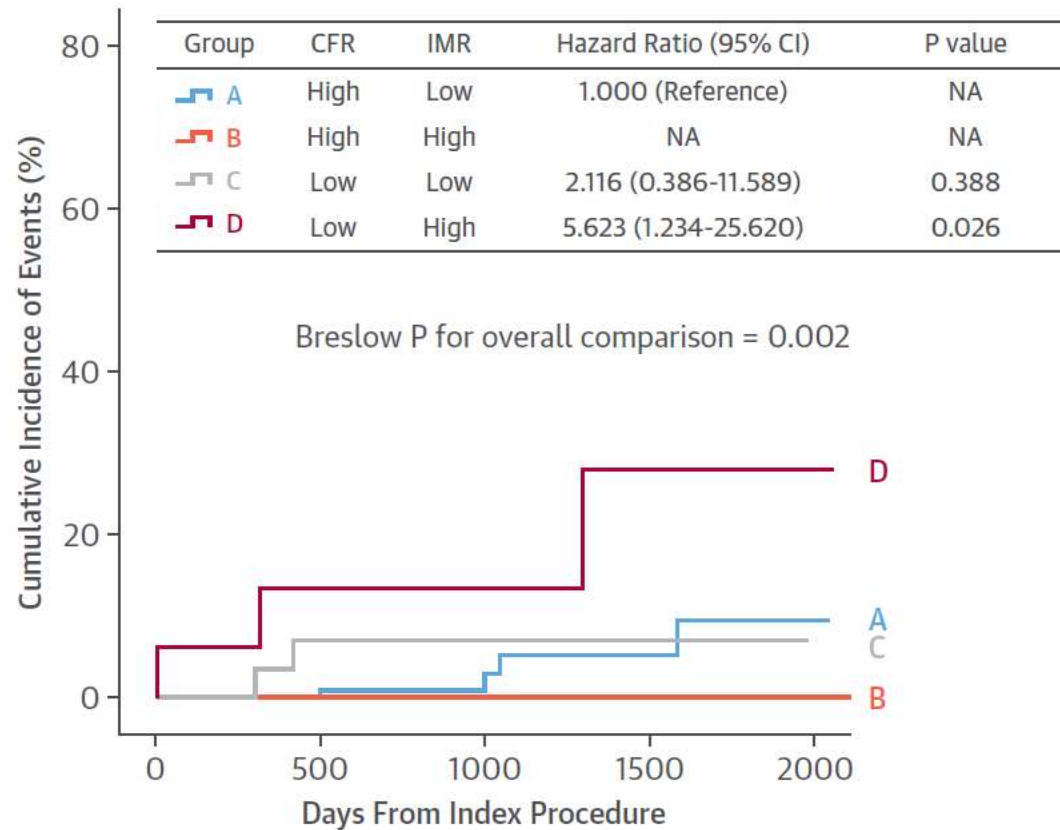
# Why is Microvascular Dysfunction Important?

- Up to 30% of patients continue to have angina despite successful coronary revascularization
- ~20% of patients with chest pain are found to have no angiographic apparent CAD
- Microvascular dysfunction predicts adverse outcomes in a variety of clinical settings

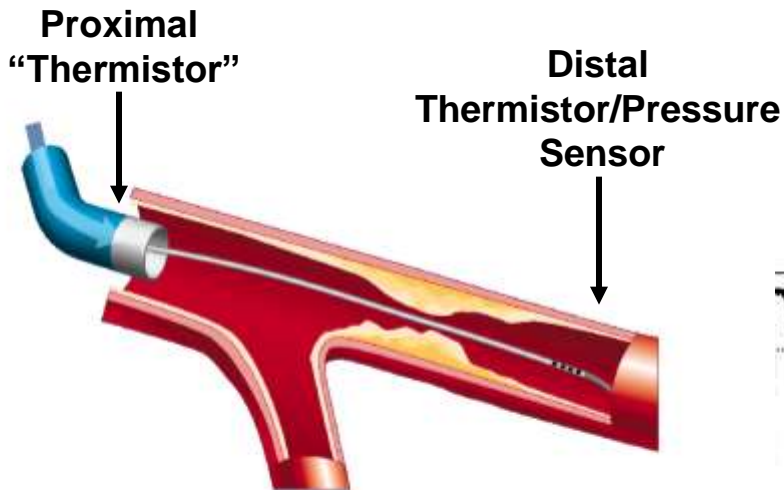


# Importance of the Microcirculation

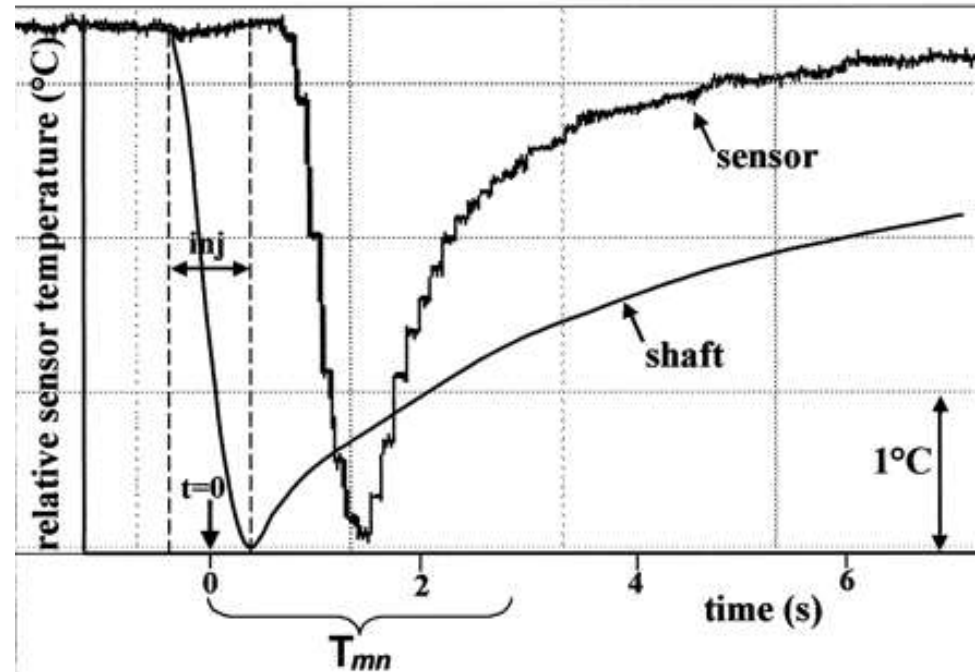
**In 313 patients with FFR>0.80, those with low CFR and high IMR (microvascular dysfunction) had significantly higher rate of death, MI, or revascularization.**



# Estimation of Coronary Flow



## *Calculation of mean transit time*



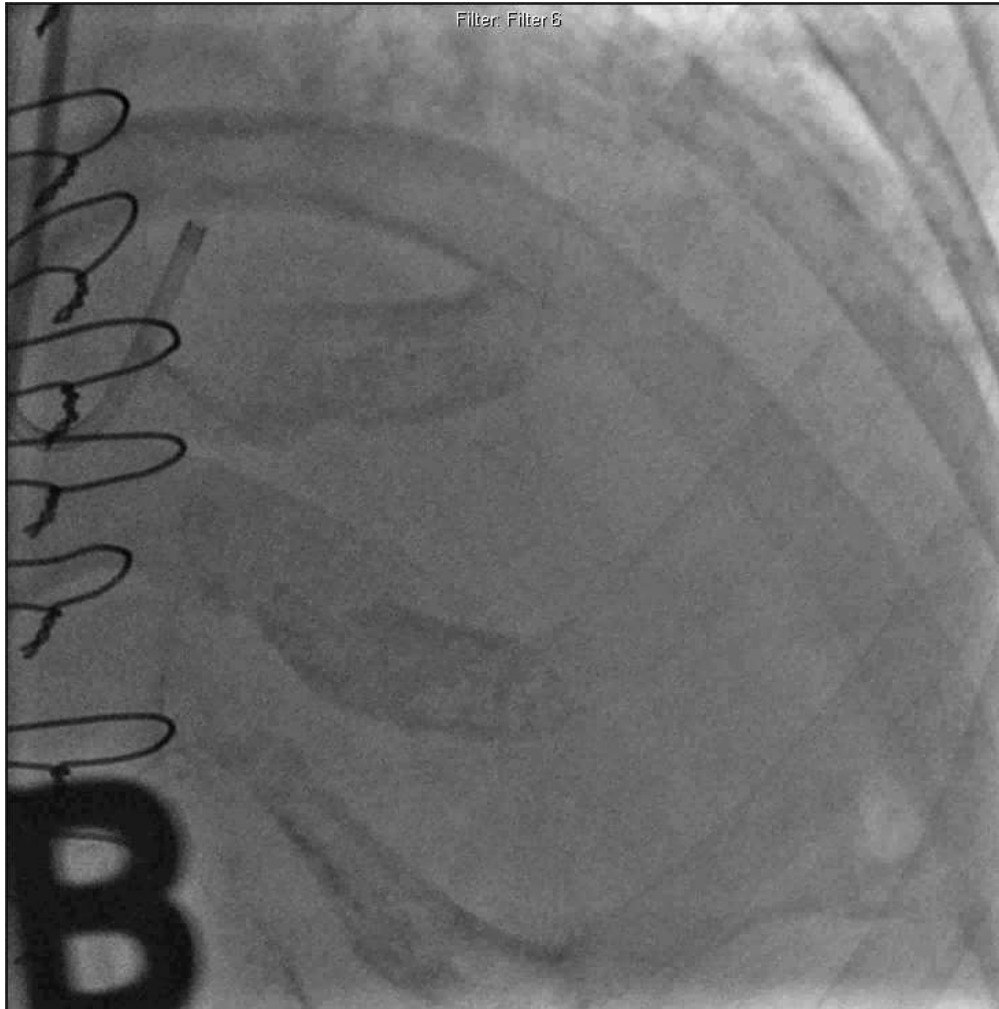
# Index of Microcirculatory Resistance:

- Resistance =  $\Delta$  Pressure / Flow
- $\Delta$  Pressure =  $P_d - P_v$       Flow  $\cong 1 / T_{mn}$
- $IMR = P_d - P_v / (1 / T_{mn})$
- **IMR =  $P_d \times T_{mn}$**       *at maximal hyperemia...*



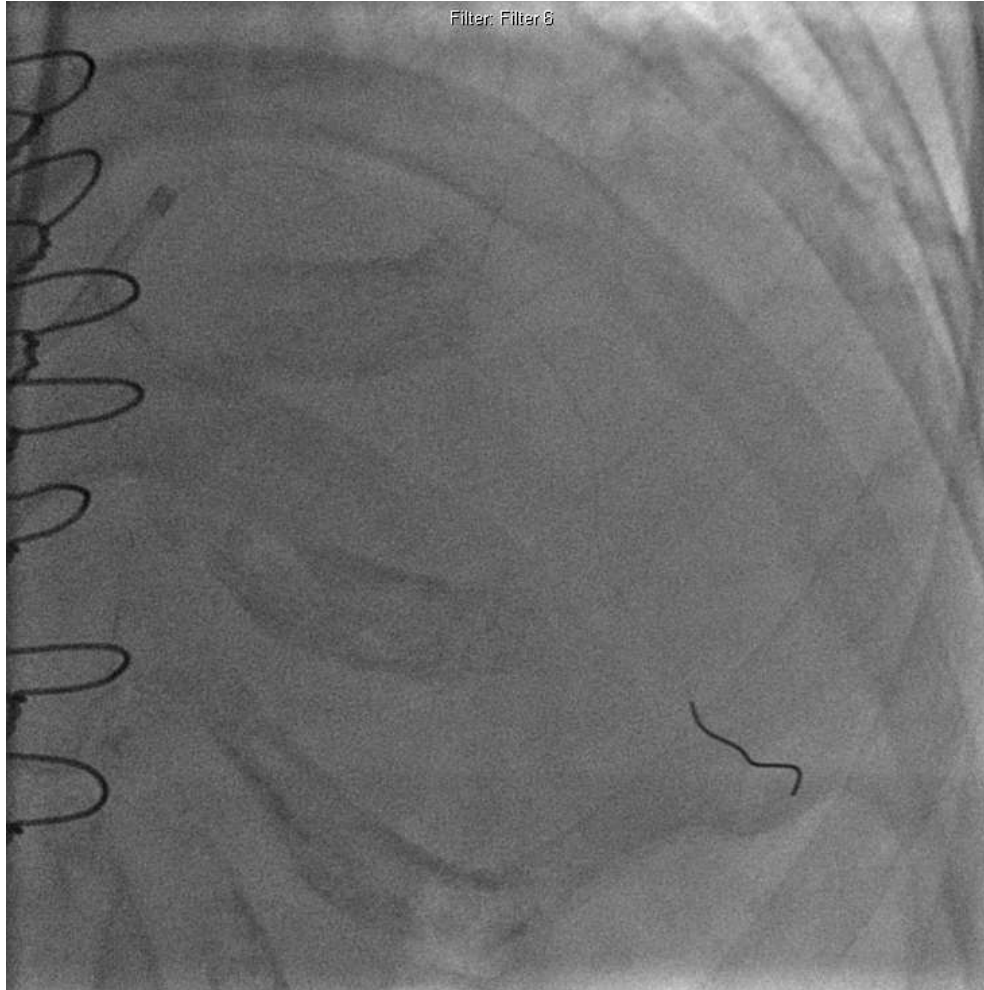
# IMR Case Example

*Cardiac transplant recipient enrolled in study evaluating ACE inhibition*



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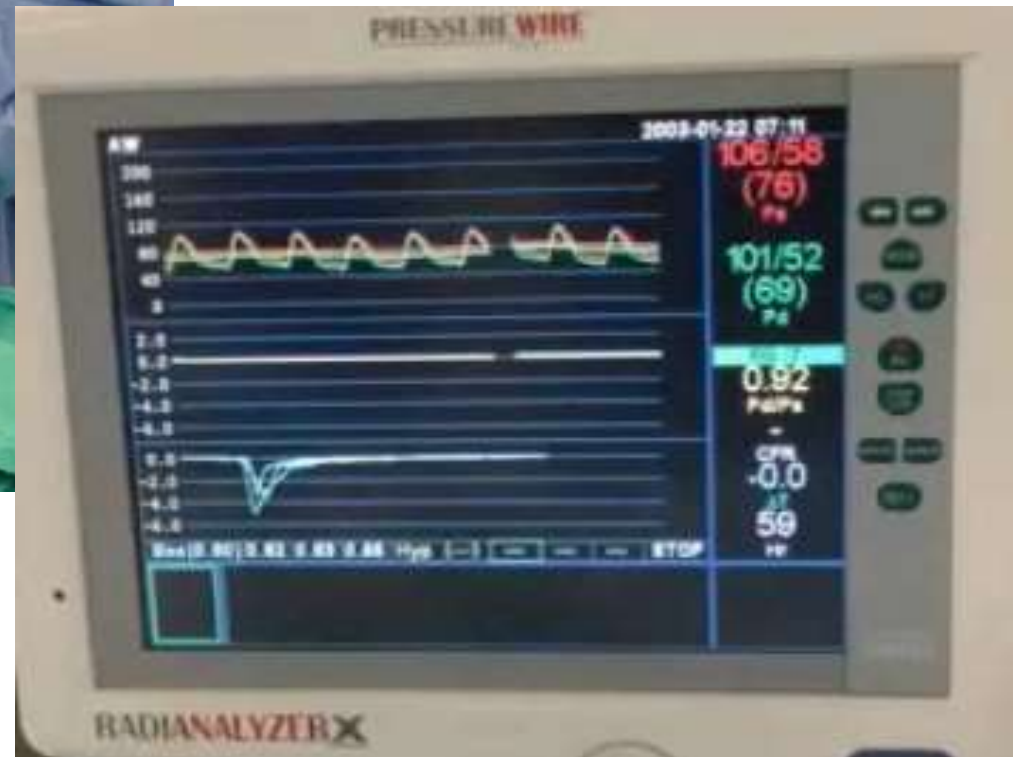




# Flushing the System



# Hyperemic $T_{mn}$ Measurements



# Practical Measurement of IMR



# IMR: *Normal Value*

***An IMR < 25 is considered normal***

- The mean IMR measured in 15 subjects (22 arteries) without any evidence of atherosclerosis and no/minimal risk factors was  $19 \pm 5$ .
- The mean IMR measured in 18 subjects with normal stress tests and normal coronary angiography was  $18.9 \pm 5.6$ .
- The mean IMR in 20 subjects with no CAD or risk factors was 14.0 with all values <23.

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Melikian, et al. Eurointervention 2010;5:939-945.

Luo, et al. Circ Cardiovasc Interv 2014;7:43-48.

Solberg, et al. Eurointervention 2014;9:1069-75.



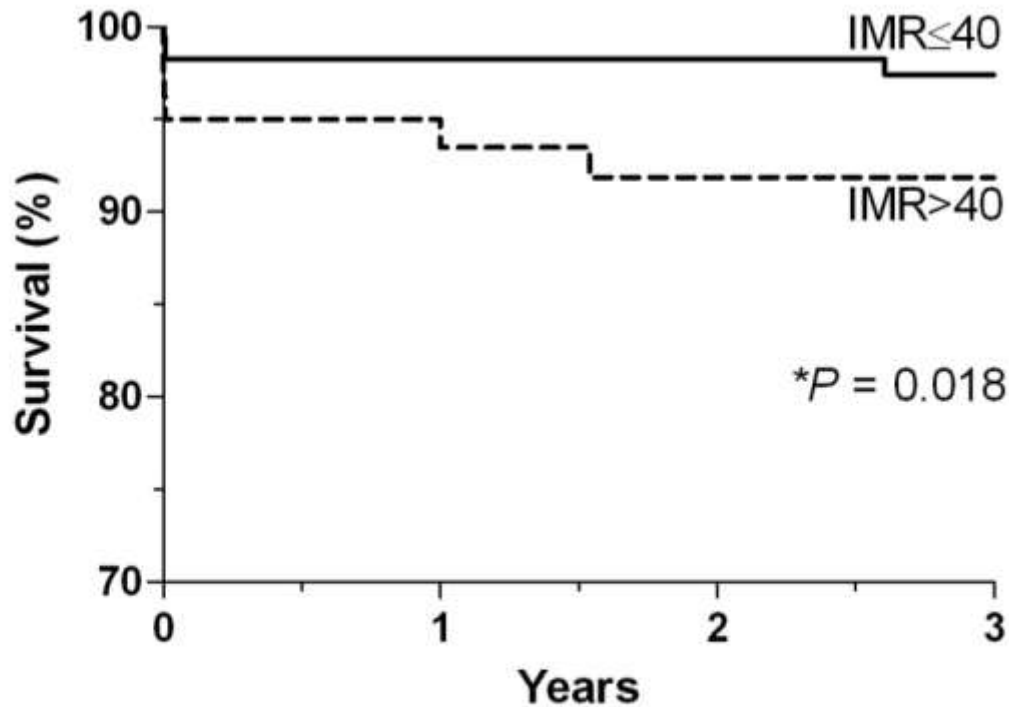
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# When should we be thinking about microvascular dysfunction?



# IMR and Outcomes post STEMI

*Multicenter study evaluating relationship between IMR and longer-term outcomes in 253 STEMI patients*



No. at risk:

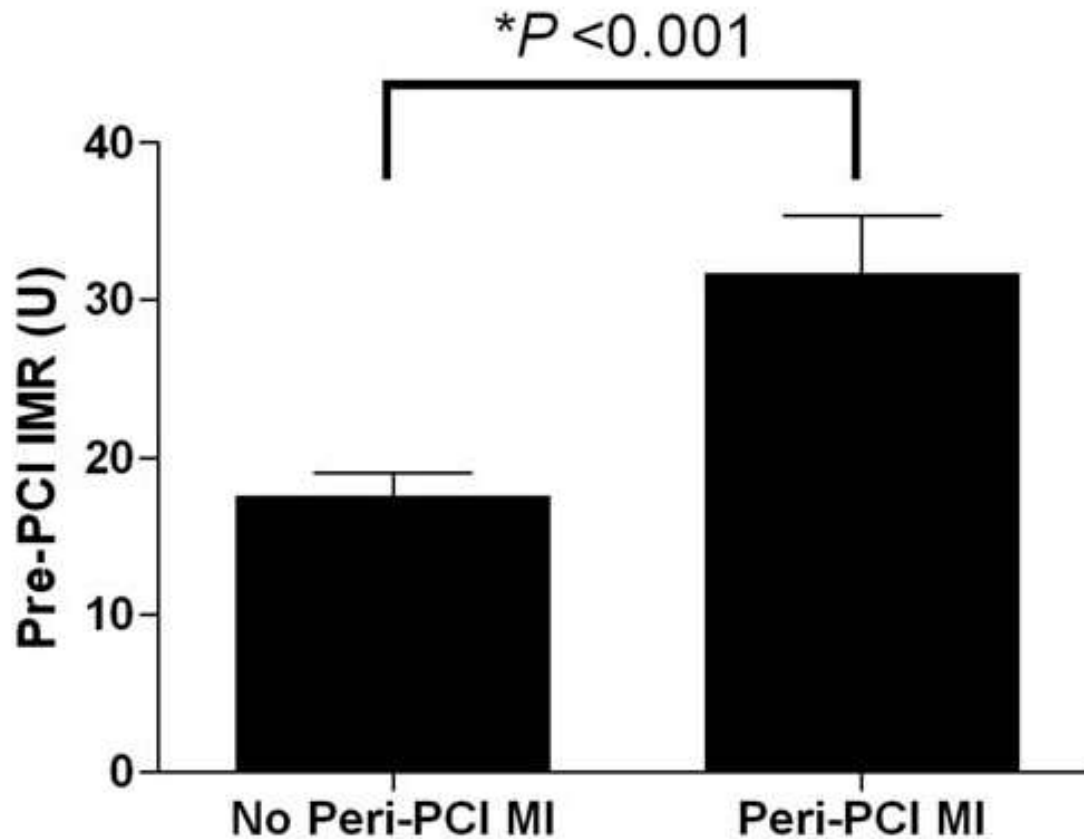
IMR ≤ 40	173	154	149	84
IMR > 40	80	69	63	33

**IMR was an independent predictor of long-term mortality, while CFR, TMPG, and cTFC were not.**



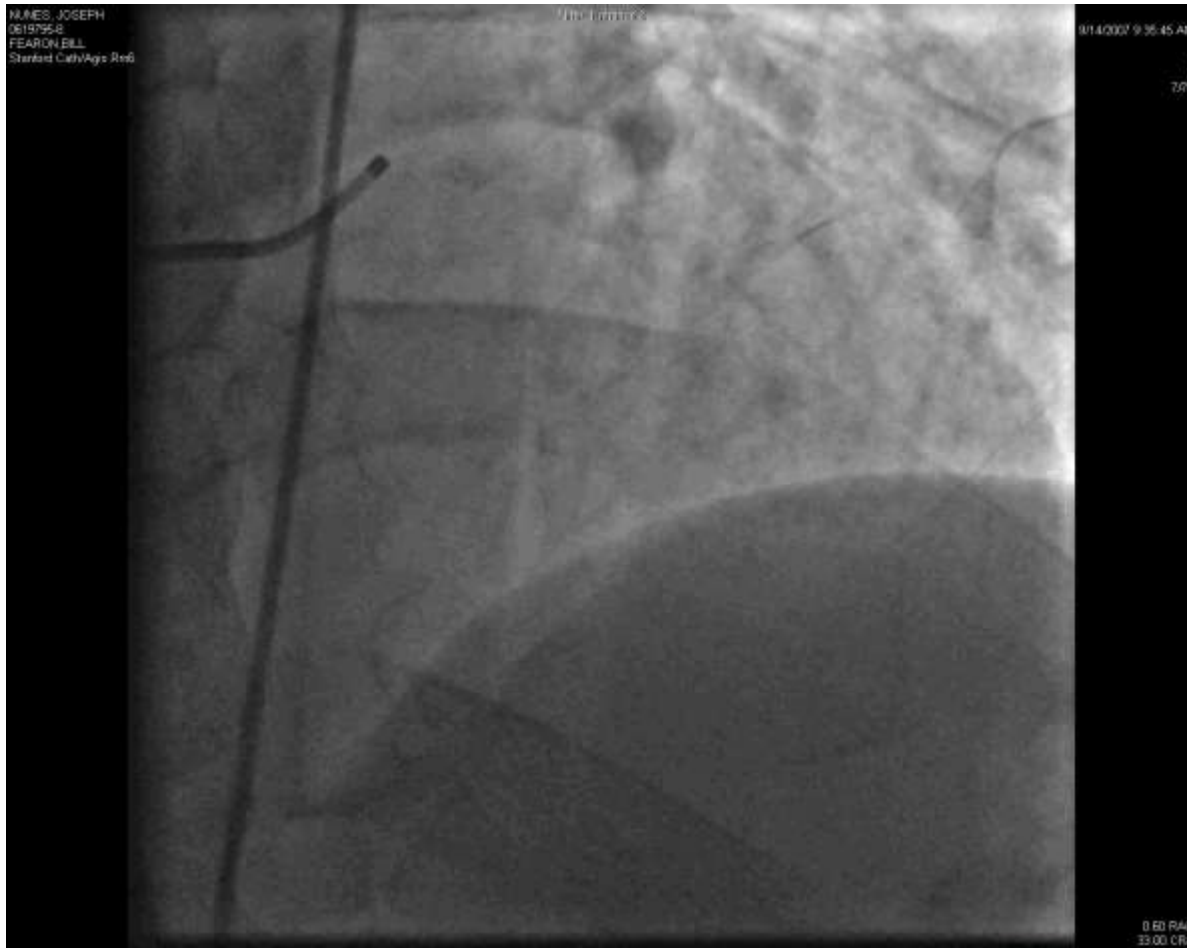
# IMR Before PCI in Stable Patients

*IMR measured before PCI in 50 stable patients undergoing LAD PCI*



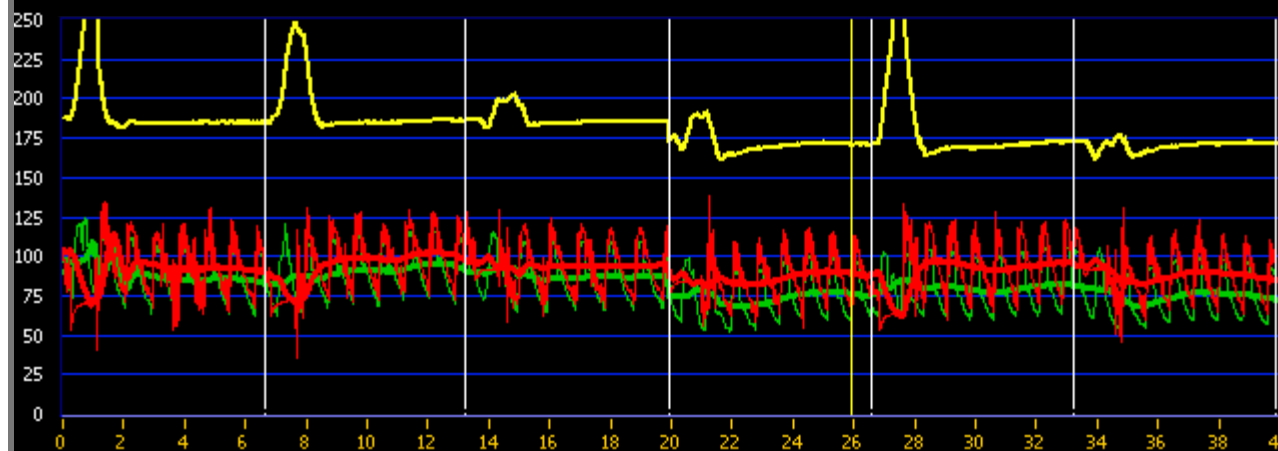
# Clinical Application of IMR

***59 year old man with HTN, dyslipidemia and chest pain with emotional stress and septal ischemia on Nuclear Scan***





$$\text{IMR} = 76 \times 0.70 = 53$$



**(89)**

Pa mean

**(76)**

Pd mean

**0.85**

FFR

**2.9**

CFR

**-0.05**

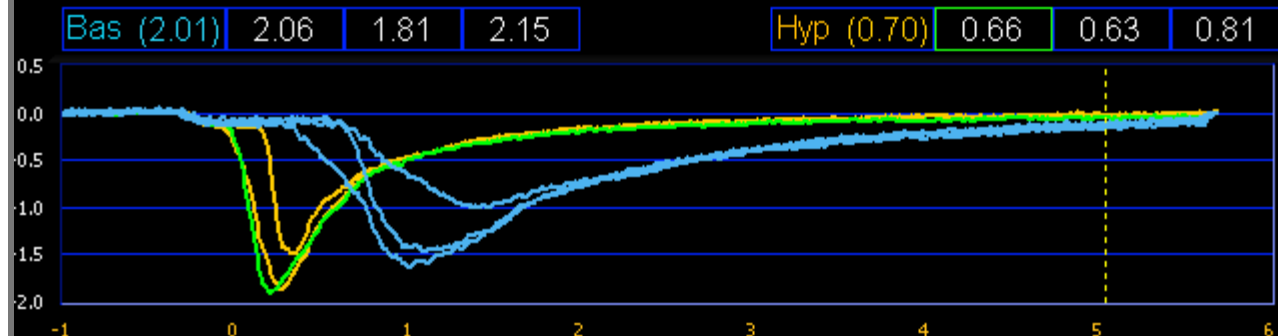
dT

**5.04**

CURSOR



RESET



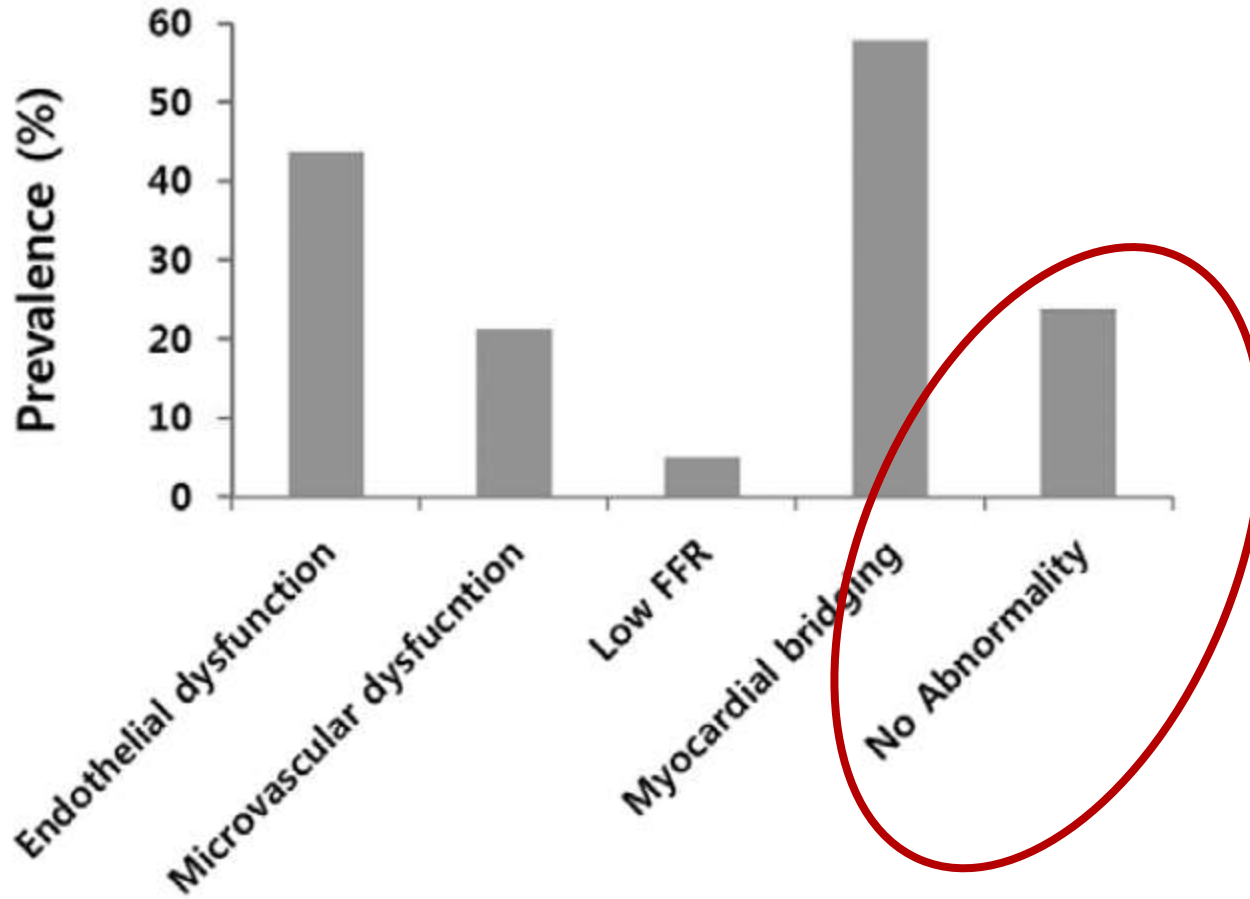
# Chest Pain and “Normal Coronaries”

- 139 patients referred for coronary angiography because of symptoms and/or abnormal stress test and found to have “normal” appearing coronaries
- FFR, IMR, CFR, IVUS and acetylcholine challenge were performed down the LAD



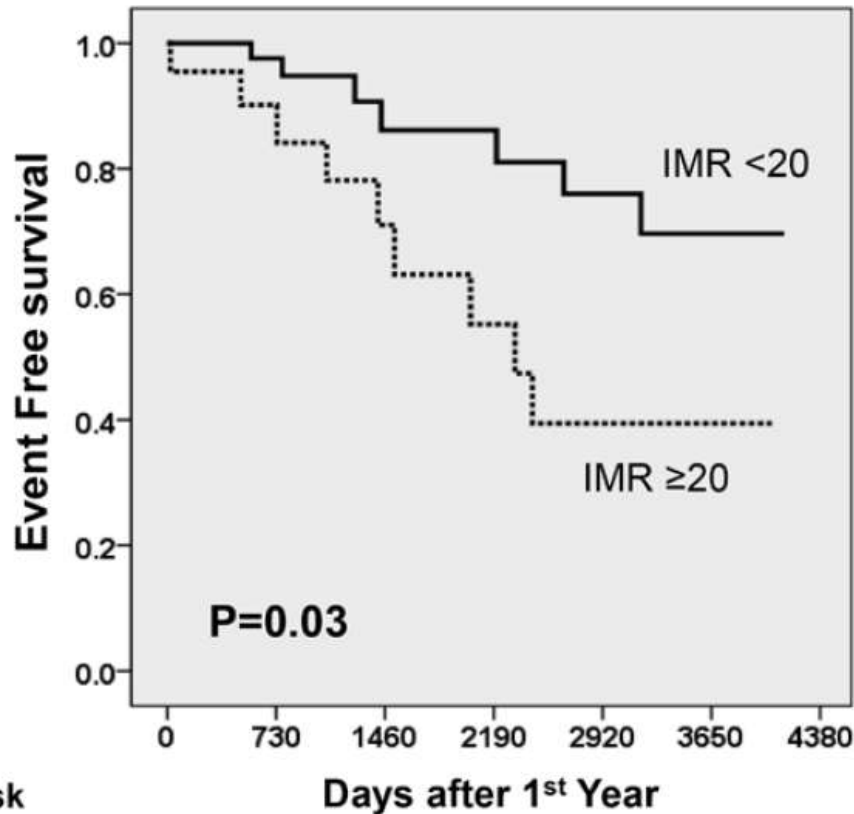
# Chest Pain and “Normal Coronaries”

*77% of patients had at least one occult coronary circulatory abnormality*



# IMR after Heart Transplantation

*74 transplant recipients had FFR and IMR measured at baseline and 1 year*



Number at risk

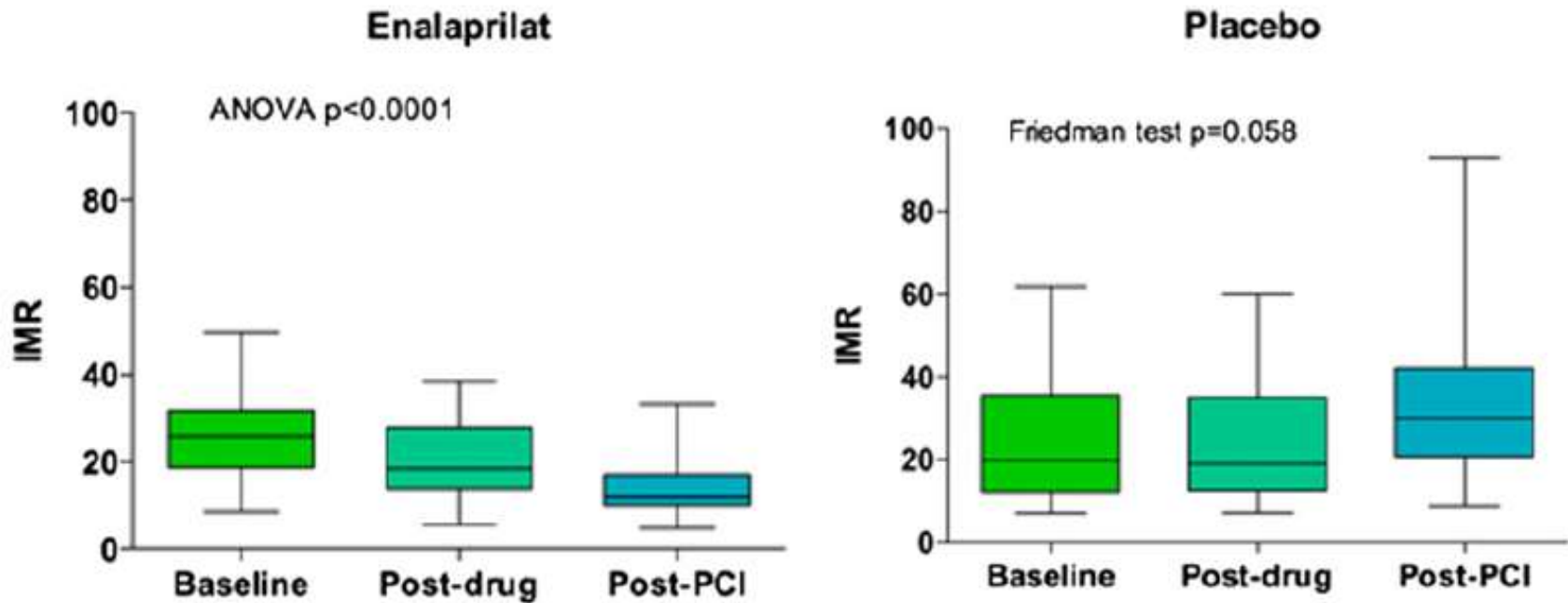
IMR <20	52	36	18	17	15	4
IMR ≥20	22	15	9	7	5	1

**IMR ≥ 20 at one year was an independent predictor of long-term death or retransplantation, while IVUS parameters were not.**



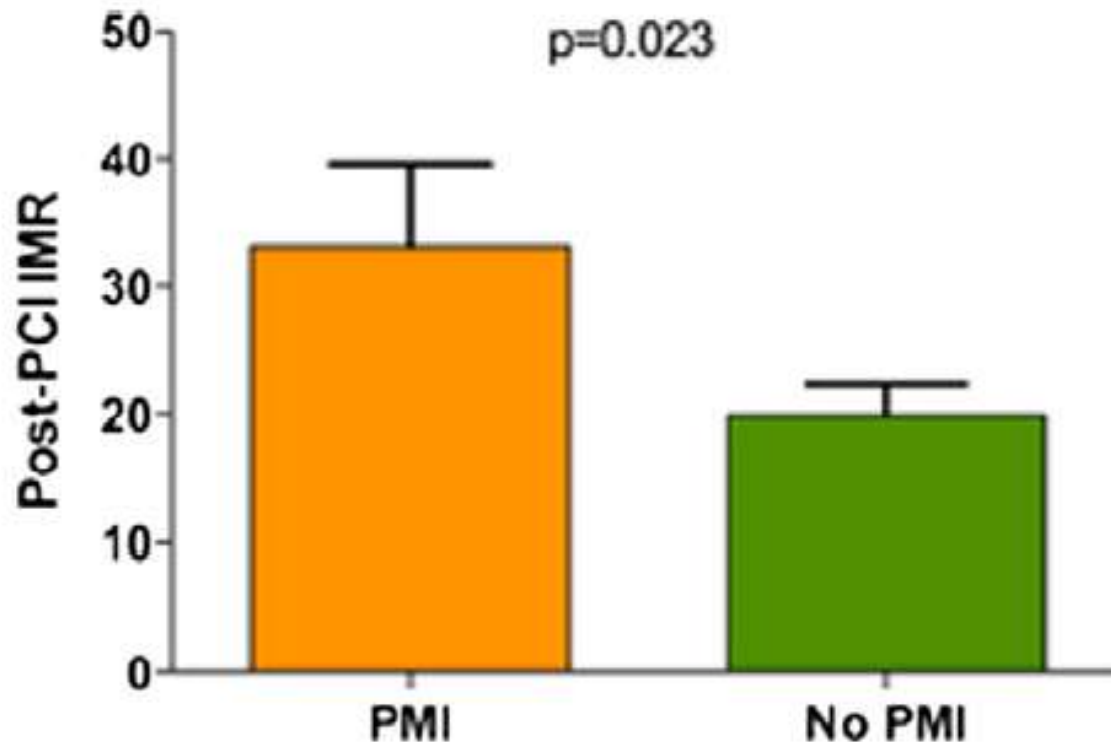
# Effects of ACE I on the Microvasculature

*Randomized comparison of IC enalaprilat vs. placebo in 40 patients peri-PCI*



# Effects of ACE I on the Microvasculature

*Randomized comparison of IC enalaprilat vs. placebo in 40 patients peri-PCI*



*Post-PCI IMR predicts myocardial infarction*



# Ramipril after Heart Transplant

*Randomized comparison of ramipril vs. placebo early after cardiac transplantation*

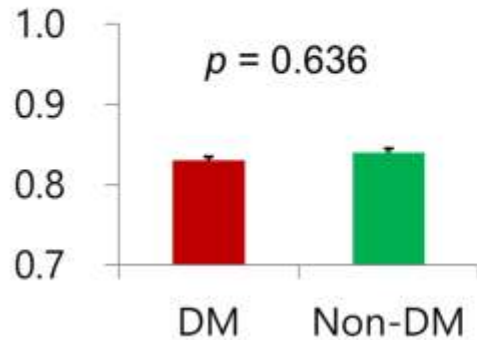
Variable	Baseline	One year	p value
<b>Placebo, n = 23</b>			
FFR	0.89 ± 0.04	0.90 ± 0.04	0.39
CFR	4.1 ± 1.8	4.1 ± 2.2	0.60
IMR*	17.4 ± 8.4	21.5 ± 20.0	0.72



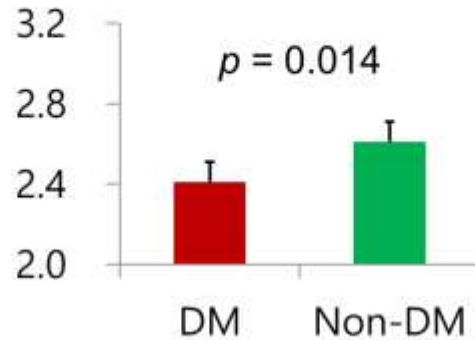
# Microvascular Dysfunction and DM

*IMR, CFR and FFR measured in 681 propensity matched patients (227 with DM)*

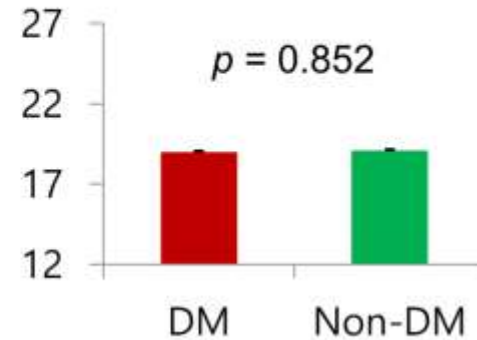
**A. FFR**



**B. CFR**



**C. IMR**

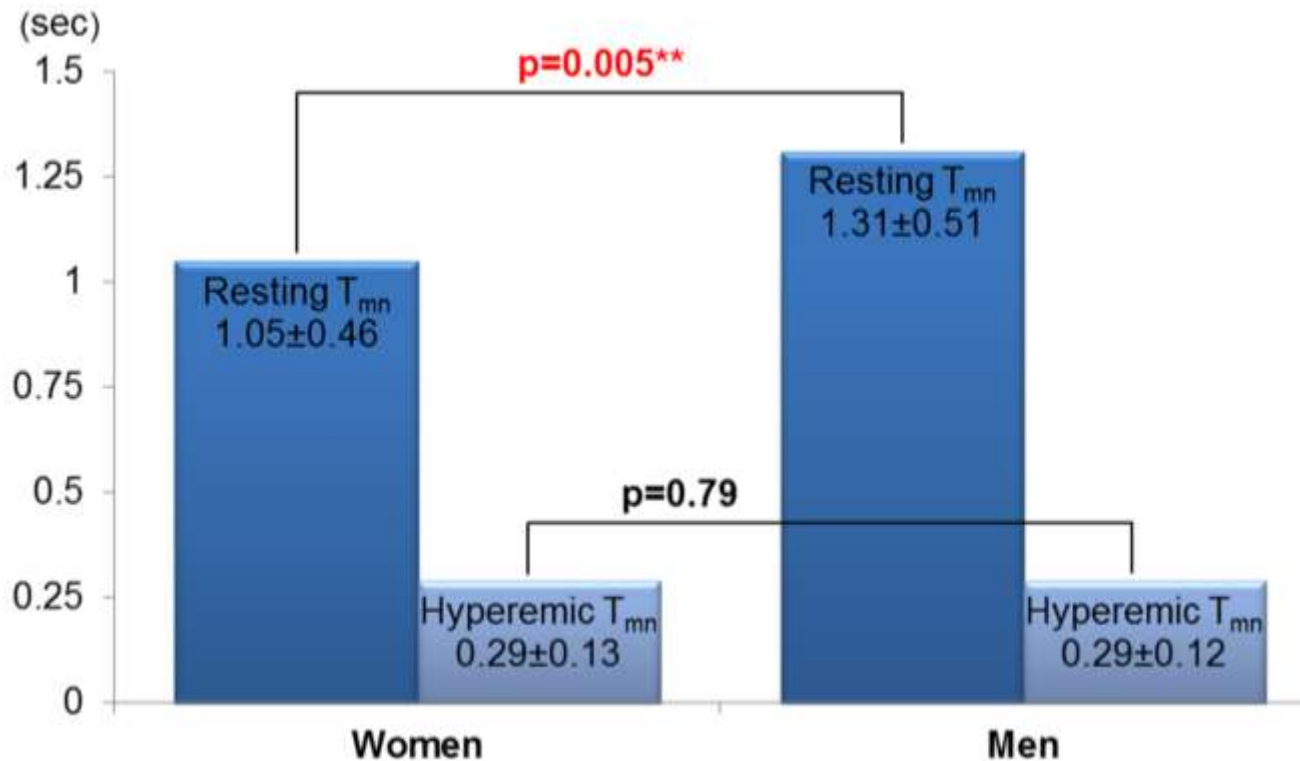




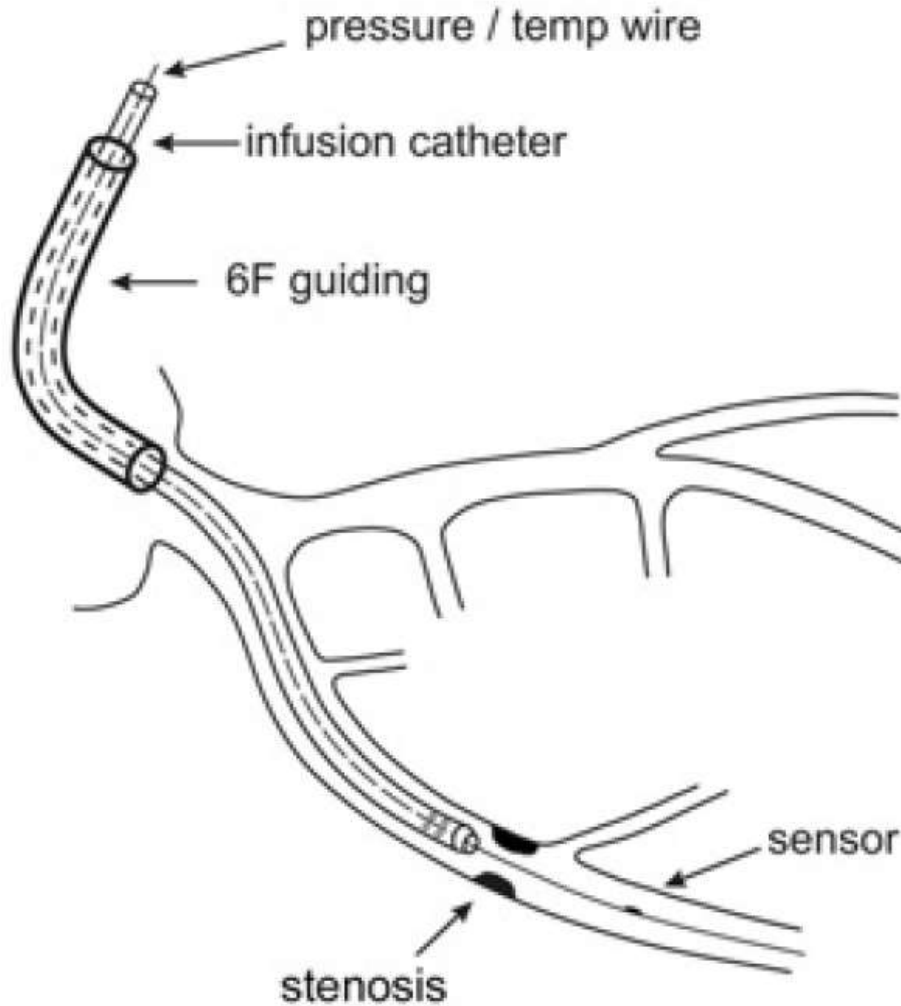
# Microvascular Dysfunction and DM

**IMR and CFR measured in 157 patients (40 men) with “normal” coronaries**

- IMR was similar between the sexes ( $20.7 \pm 9.8$  vs.  $19.1 \pm 8.0$ ,  $p=0.45$ ), but CFR was lower in women ( $3.8 \pm 1.6$  vs.  $4.8 \pm 1.9$ ,  $p=0.004$ ).

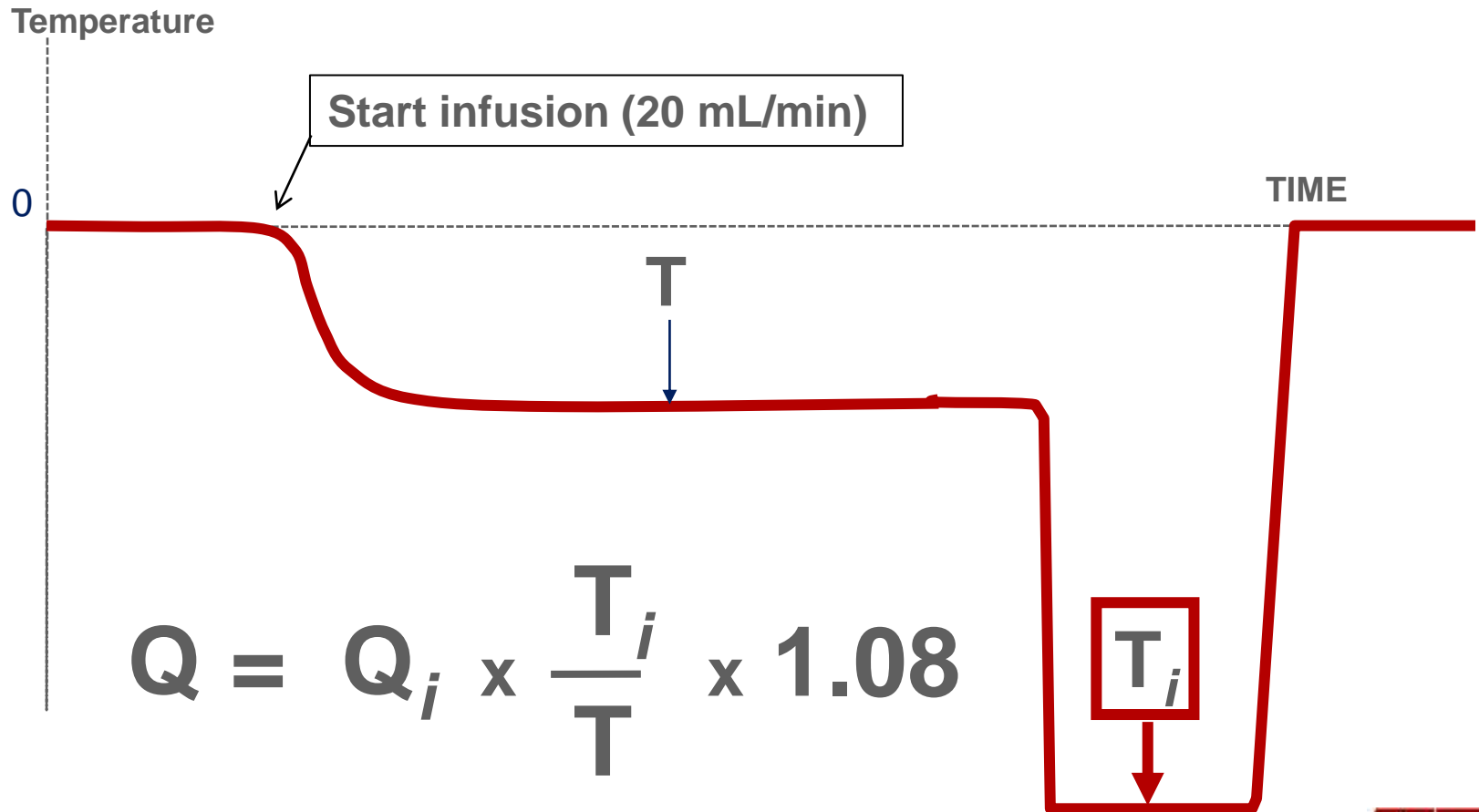


# Absolute Coronary Flow

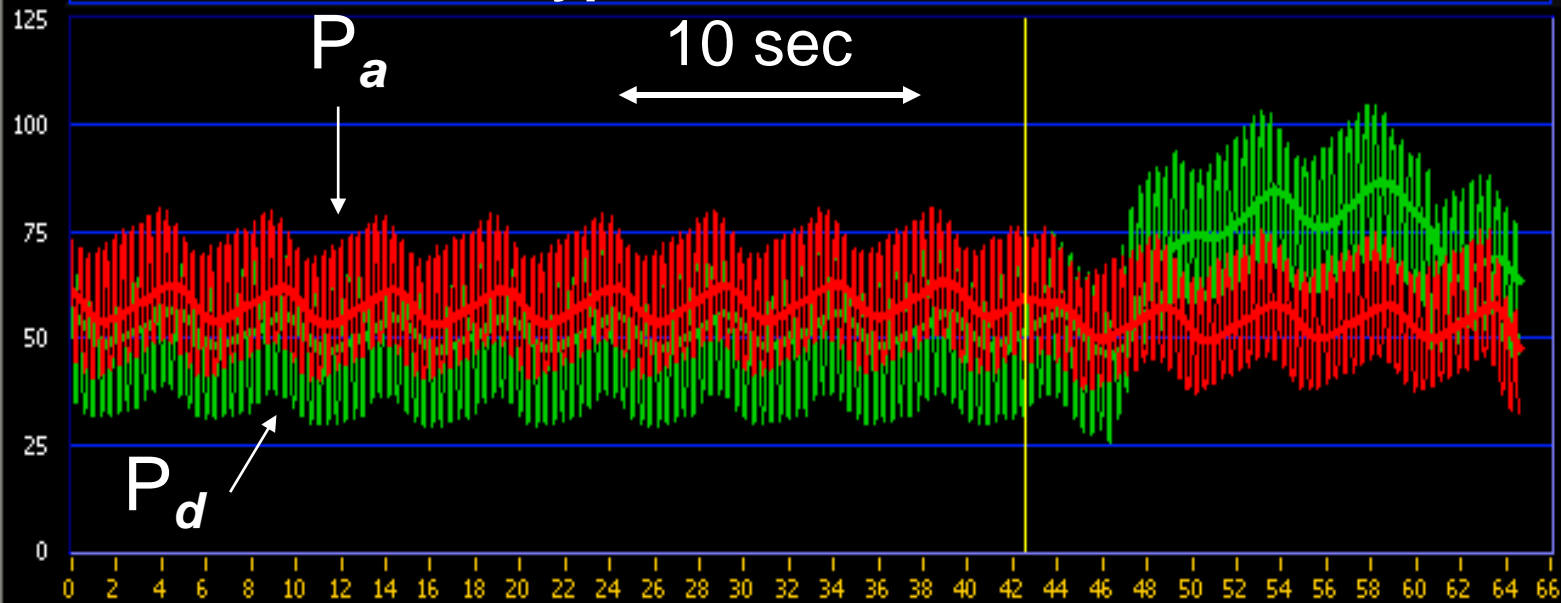


# Absolute Coronary Flow

## *Indicator Dilution Theory: Continuous Infusion*



# maximum hyperemia

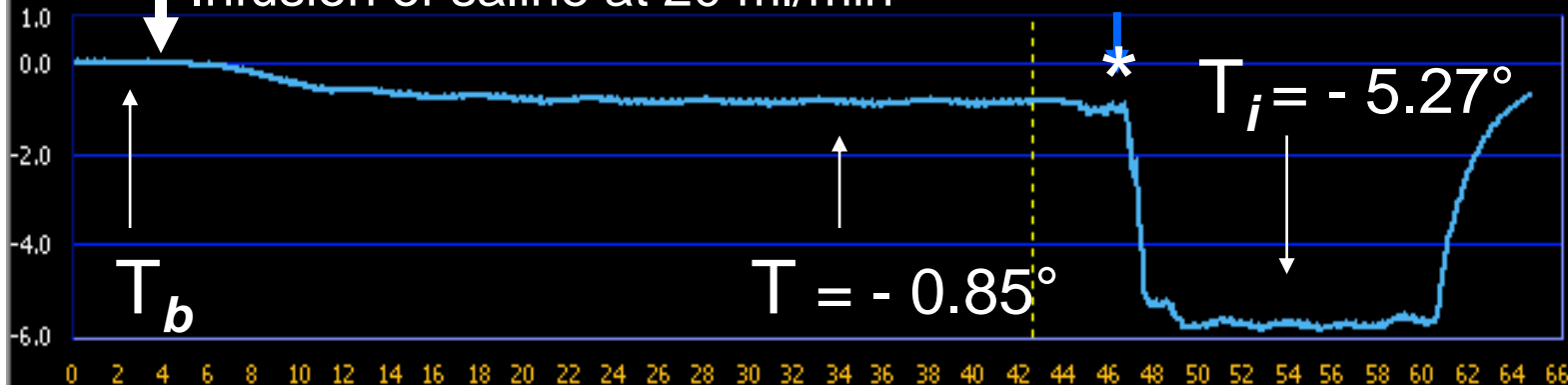


**59**  
Pa mean  
**51**  
Pd mean  
**0.86**  
FFR

**-0.85**  
dT  
42.5  
CURSOR



# Infusion of saline at 20 ml/min



$$Qb = 20 \times (-5.27 / -0.85) \times 1.08 = 134 \text{ ml/min}$$



# Conclusion

- Microvascular dysfunction is an important contributor to adverse outcome
- We now can rapidly and easily assess microvascular function by measuring IMR
- IMR is predictive of adverse outcomes in a number of settings
- Measuring absolute coronary flow may further refine our ability to assess the microvasculature

