

Defining Plaque Composition by CTA: The Latest Tool to Monitor Therapy?

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Disclosure Information

John McB. Hodgson MD, FSCAI

The following relationships exist related to this presentation:

Grant support (GS), consultant (C), speakers bureau (SB), stock options (SO), equity interest (EI):

Boston Scientific, RADI, Volcano: GS

Volcano : C

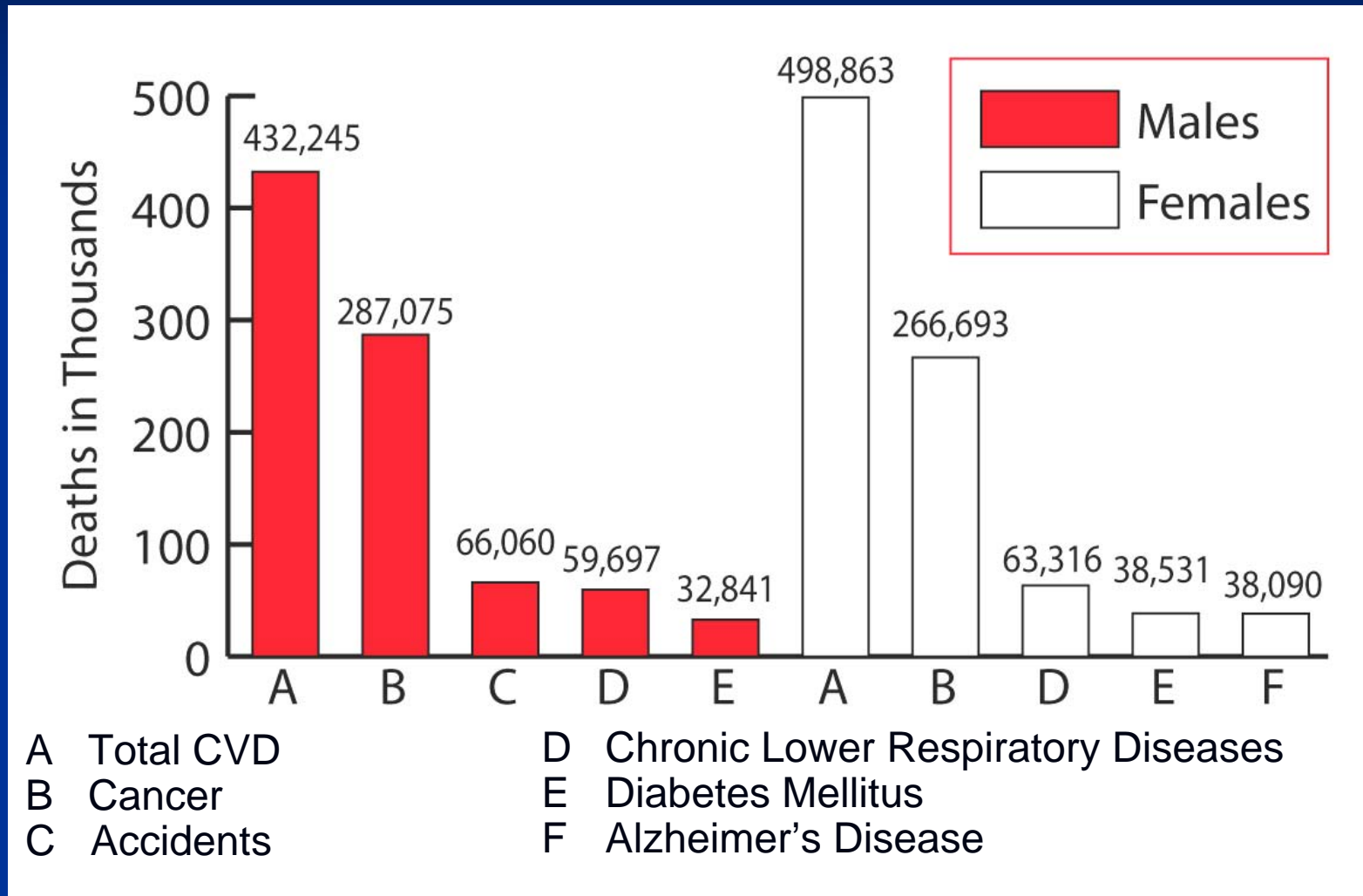
Technology Solutions Group: EI

Boston Scientific, Pfizer, GE Medical : SB

Off label use of products will be discussed in this presentation.

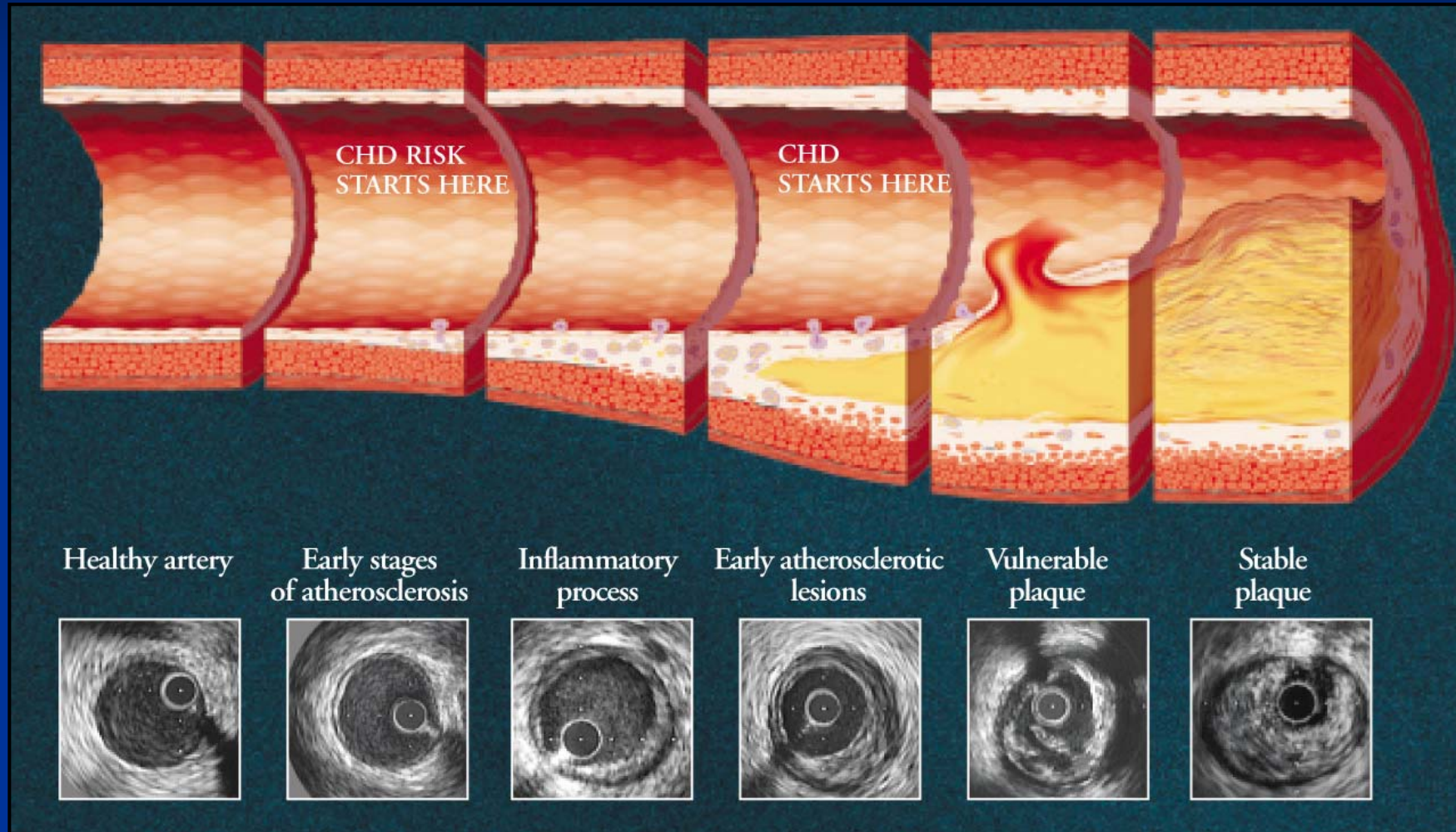
Leading Causes of Death for All Males and Females

United States: 2001



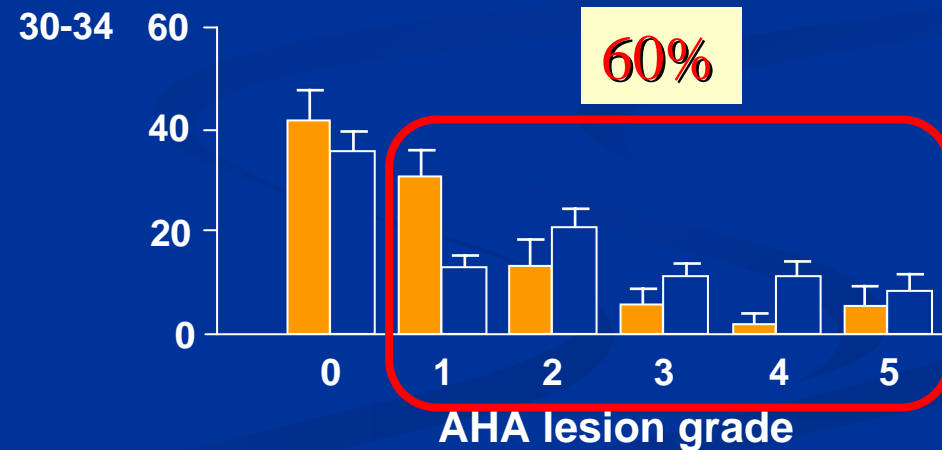
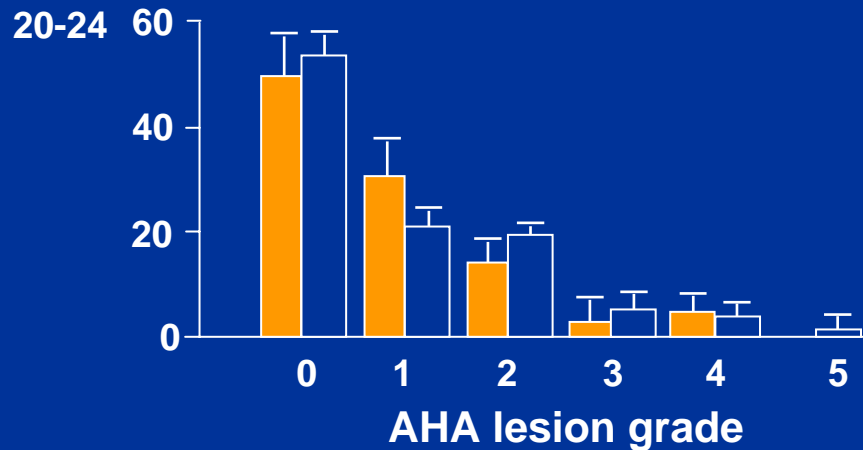
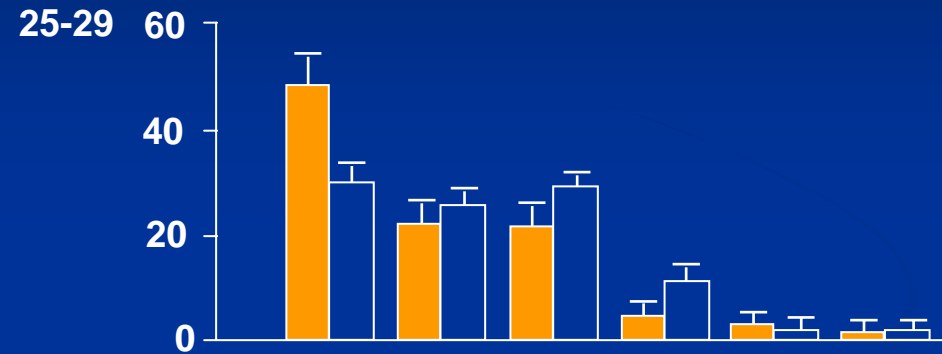
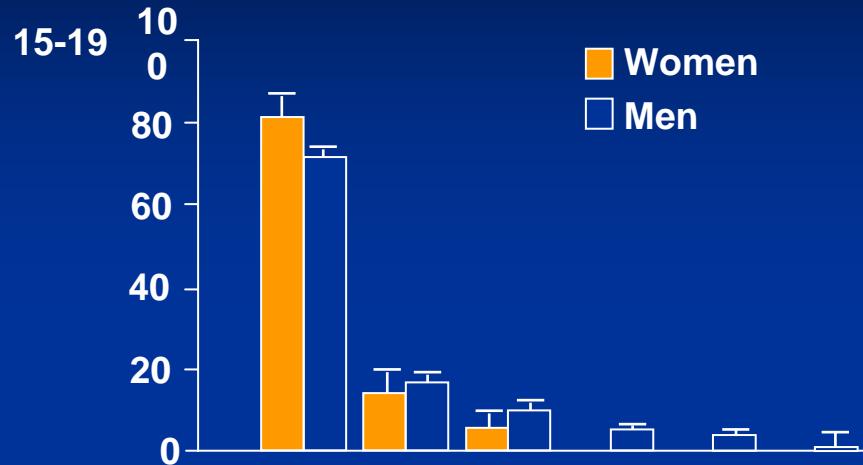
Source: CDC/NCHS.

Progression of atherosclerosis



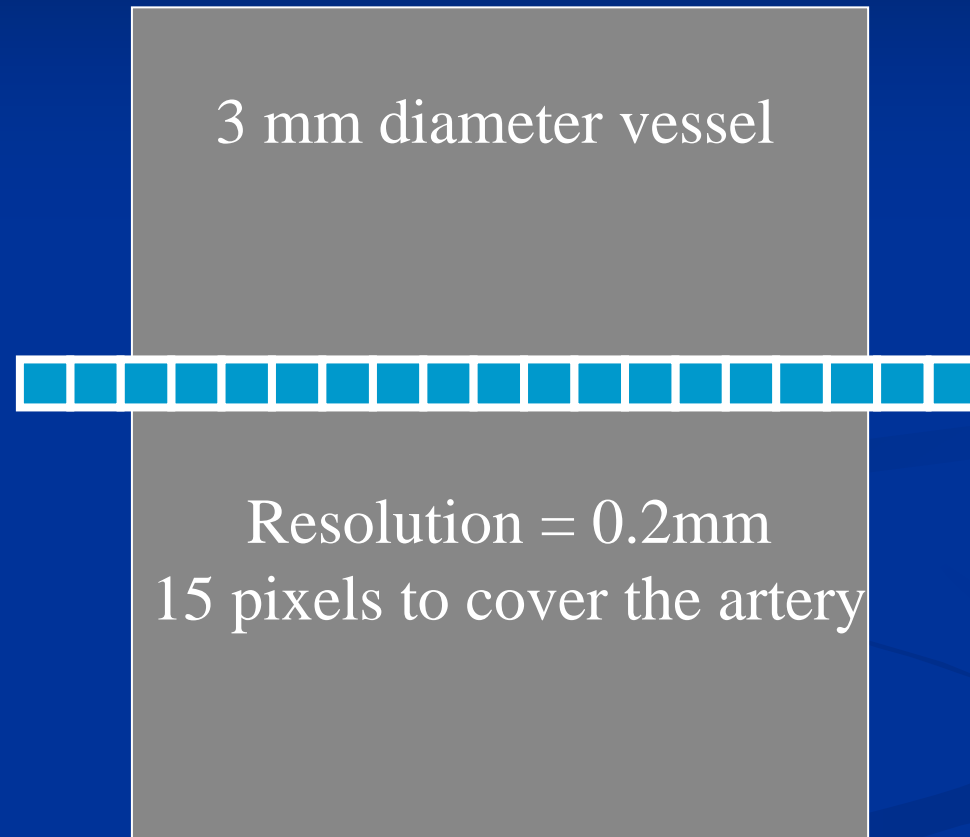
PDAY: Prevalence of Lesions in LAD

Age (y) Prevalence (%)



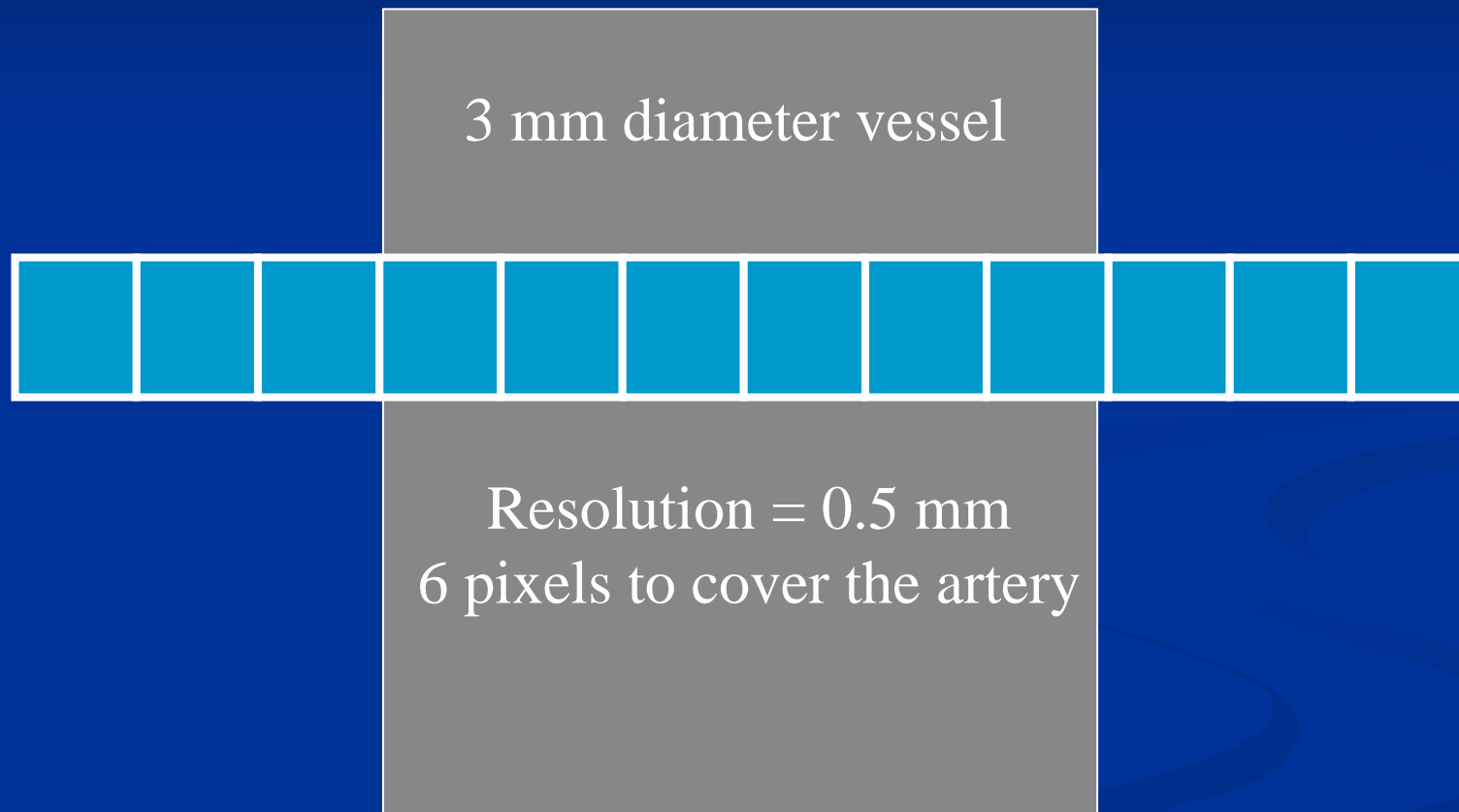
Error bar=SE.

Resolution @ 512 display



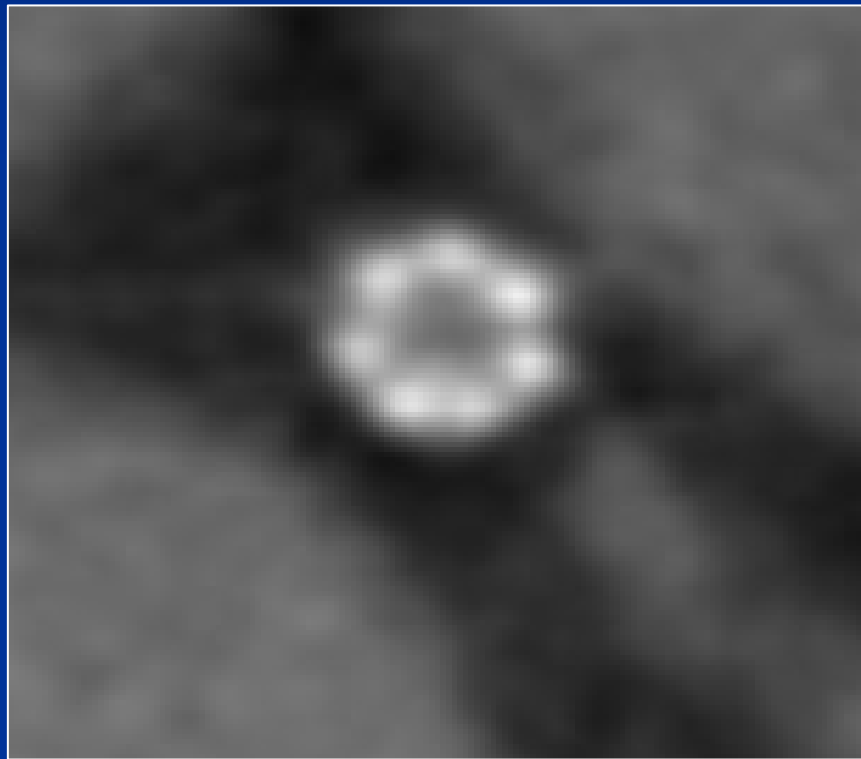
Quantitative Coronary Angiography

Resolution @ 512 display



Coronary CT Angiography

Detailed coronary anatomy

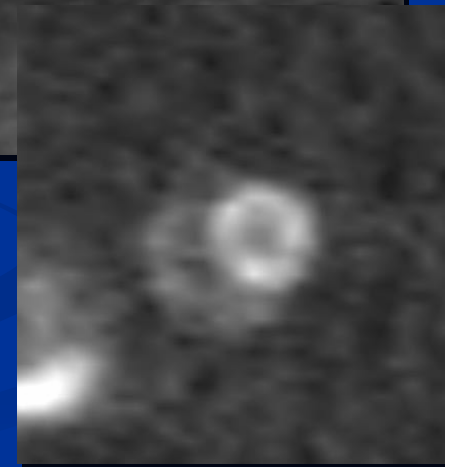
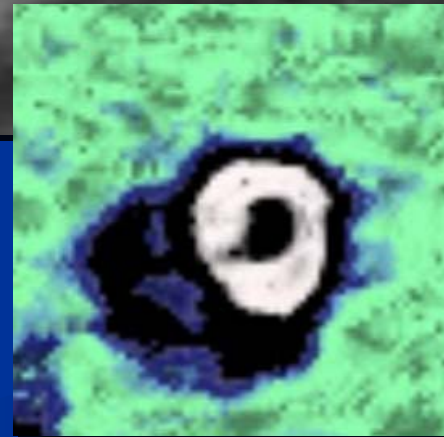


Stent 2 mm



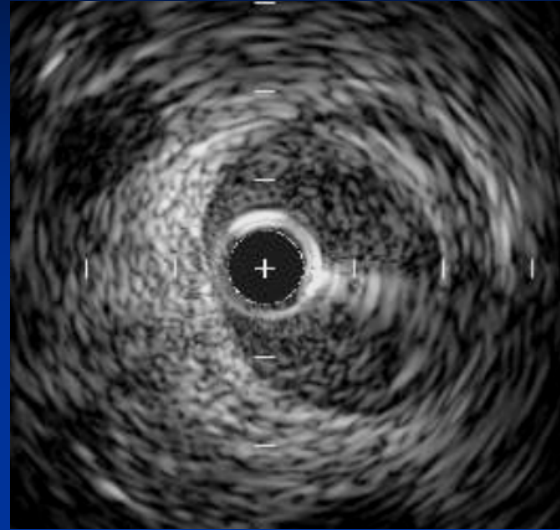
Non-calcified Plaque

High resolution coronary CTA



Courtesy, GE Medical

Noncalcified Plaque: CTA vs. IVUS

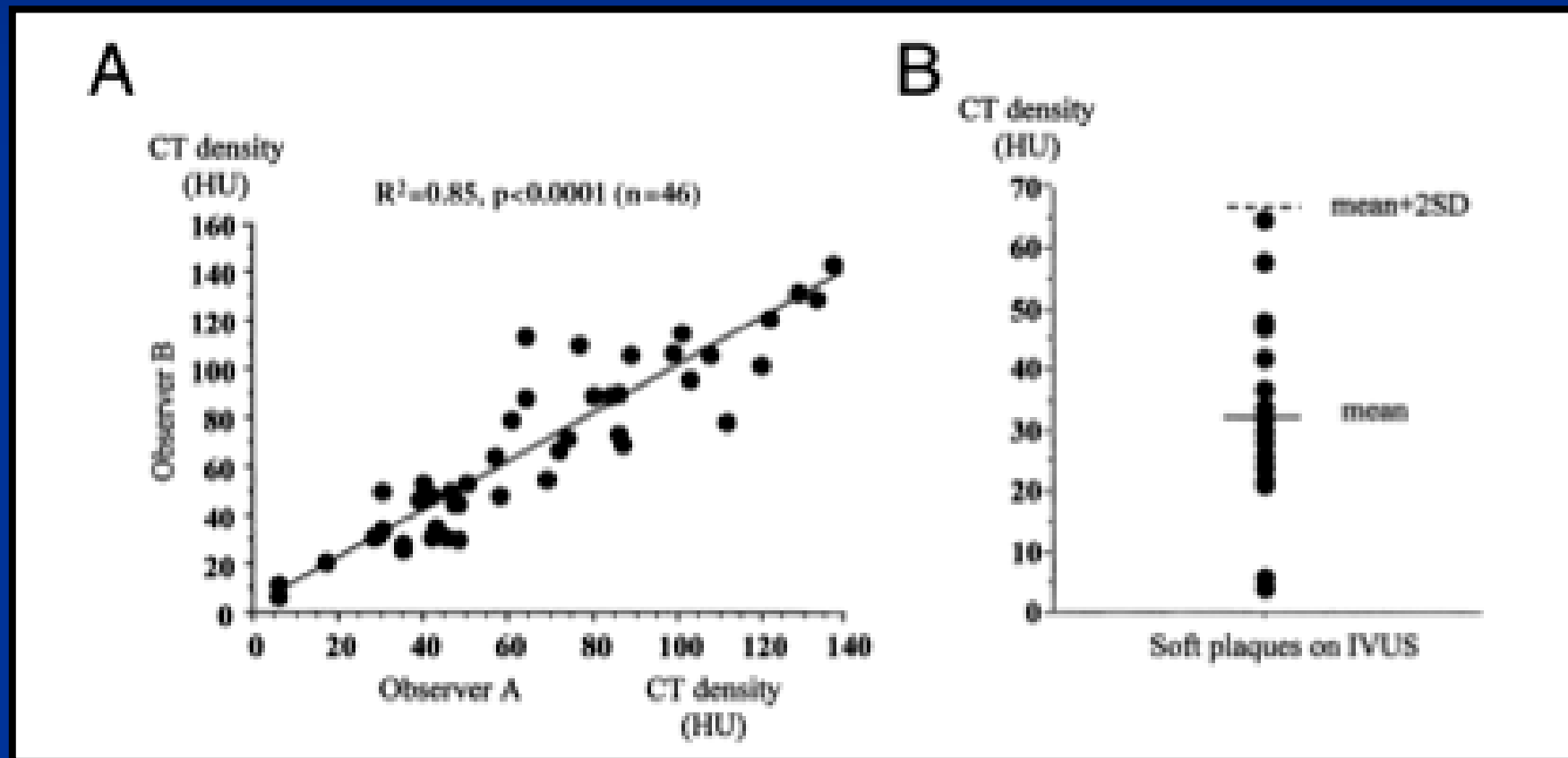


Hounsfield units (HU)



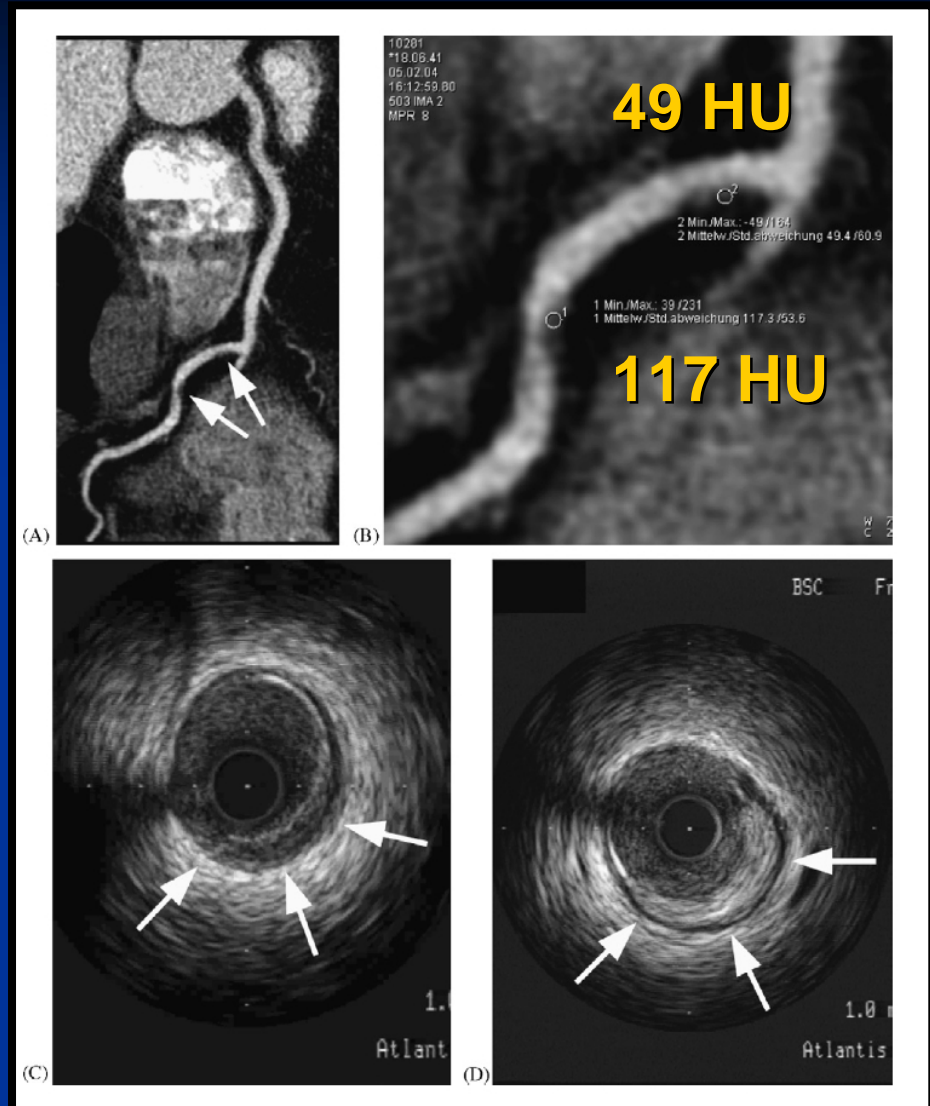
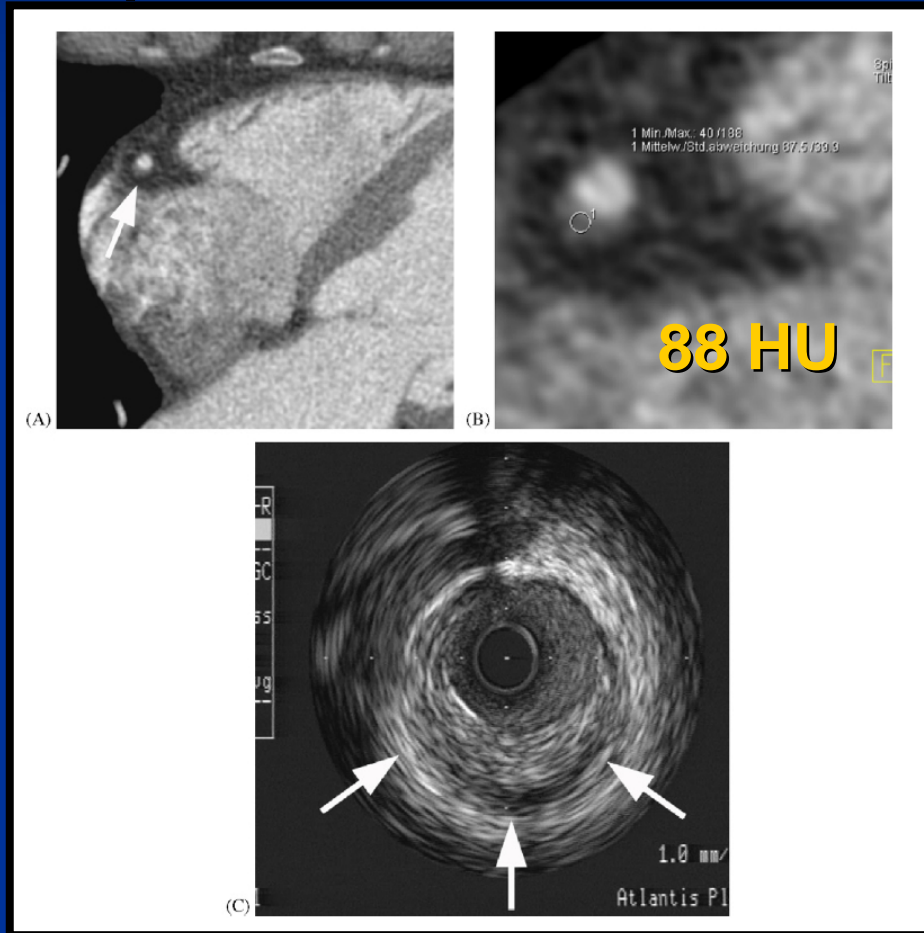
CCTA for plaque characterization

N=21 ACS, 53 stable pts; non-culprit lesions; 16 slice

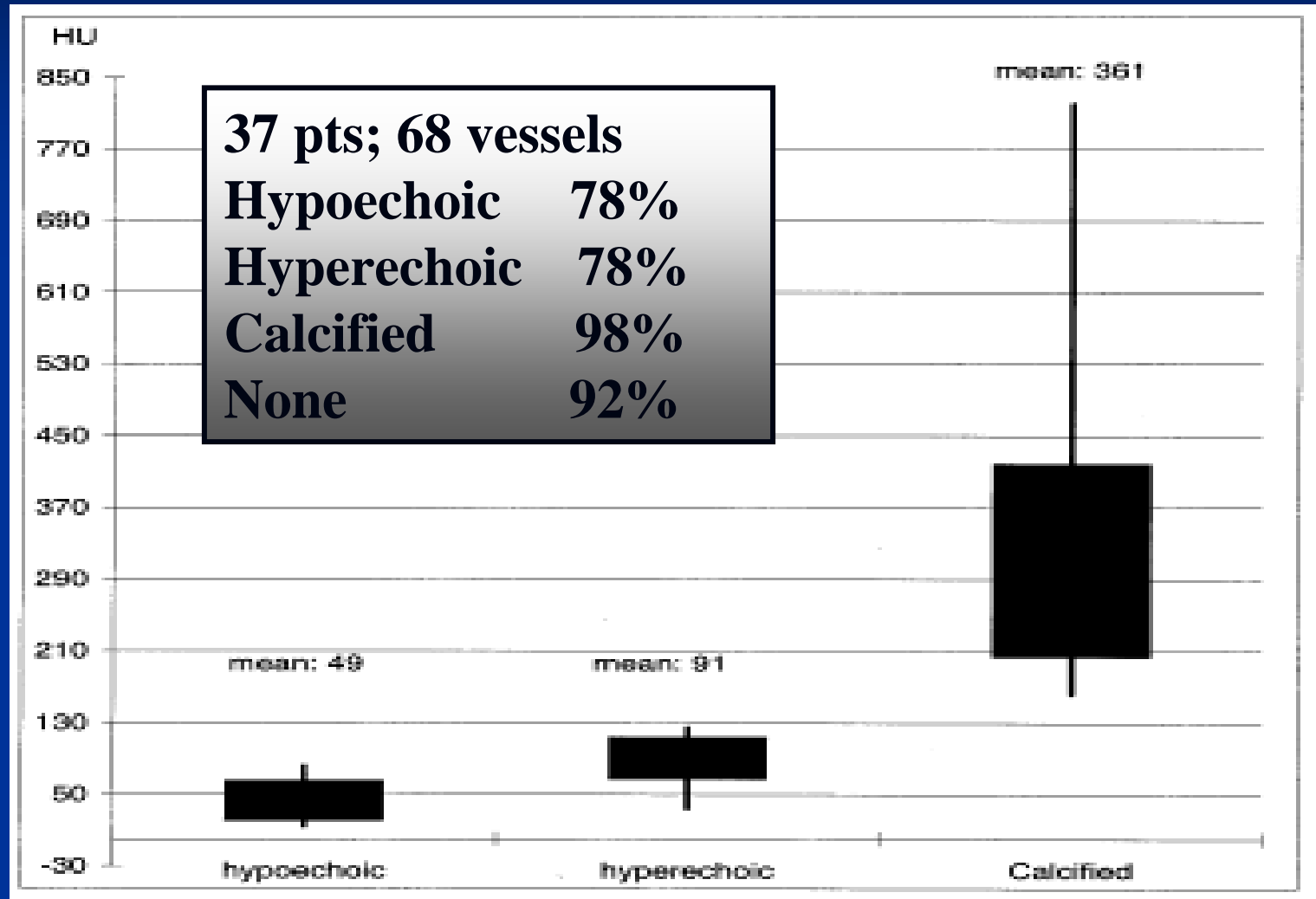


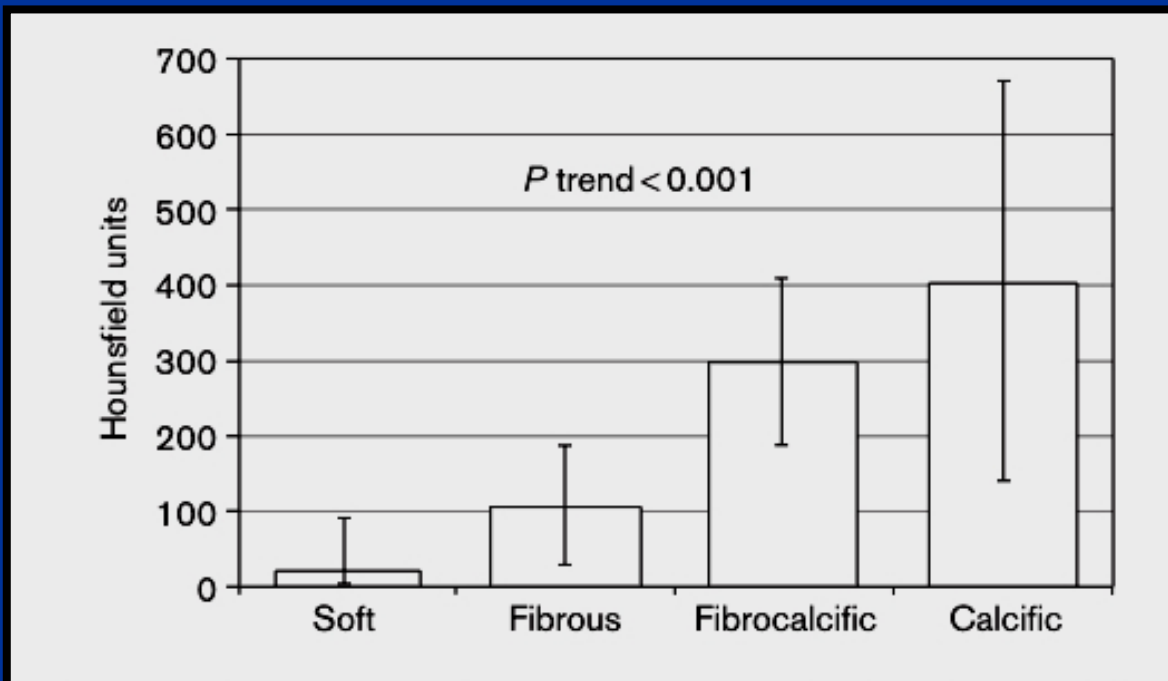
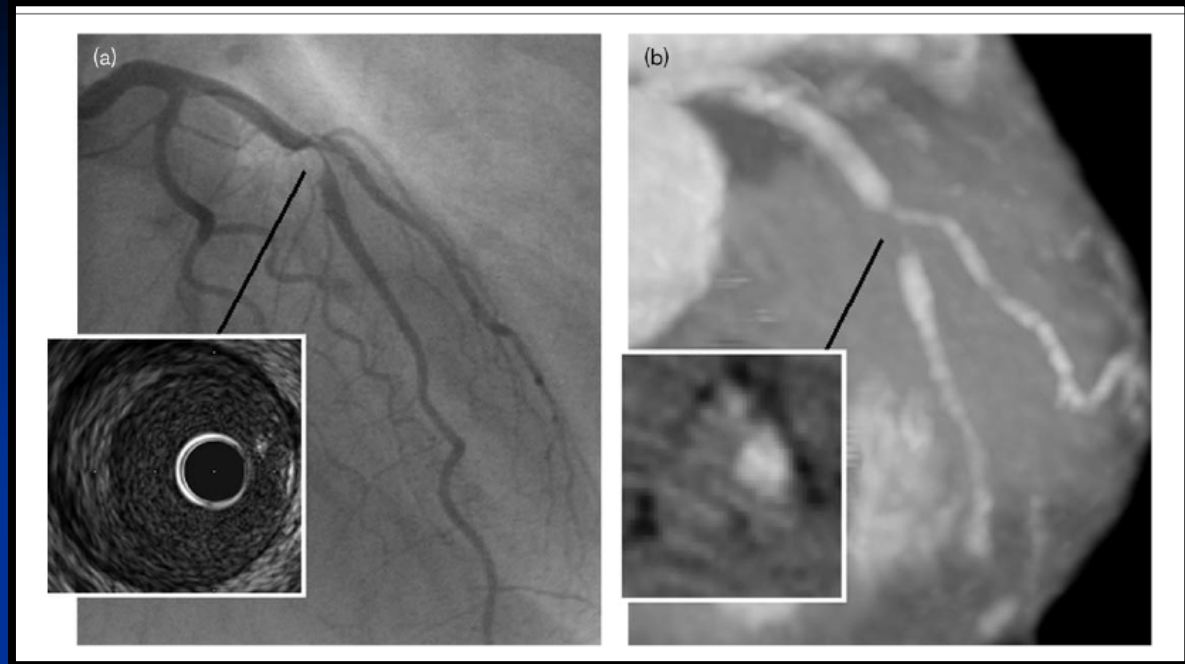
IVUS-CTA

n=32 pt; 252 sites; 16 slice
qualitative IVUS vs. HU



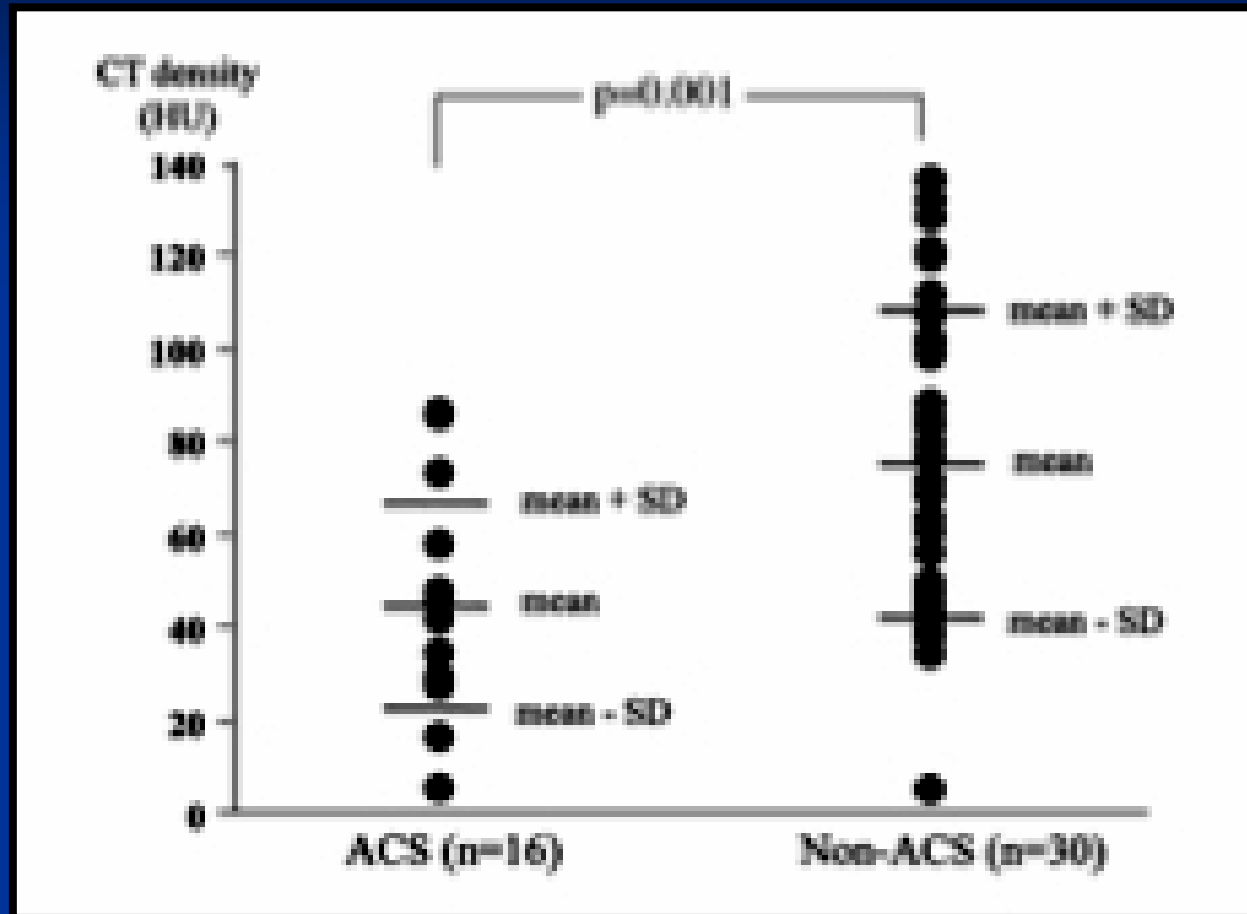
Detection of Calcified and Noncalcified Plaque: 16 Slice CTA vs IVUS



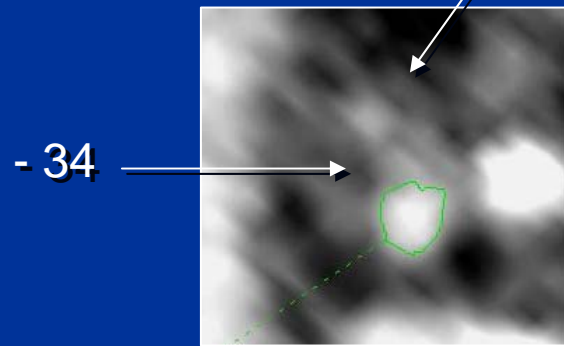
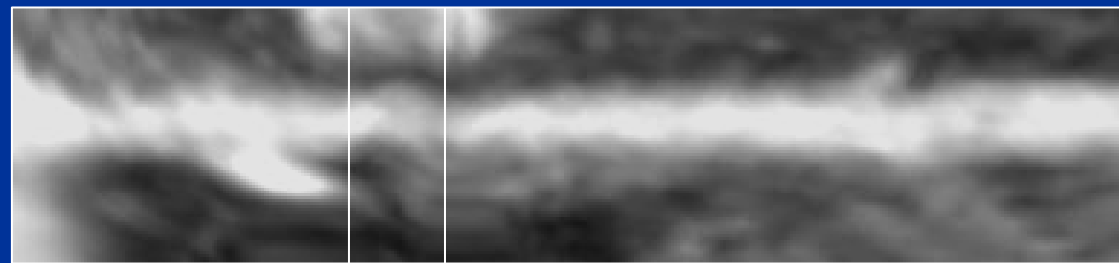
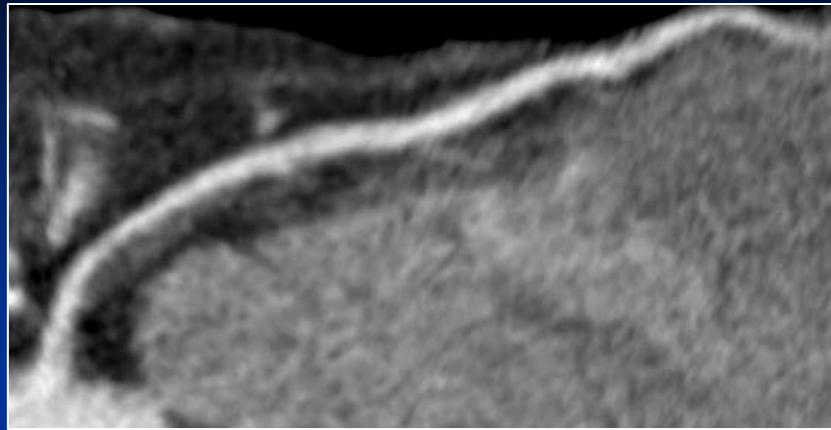


Rasouli, et al Coron
Artery Dis 2006;
17:359-364

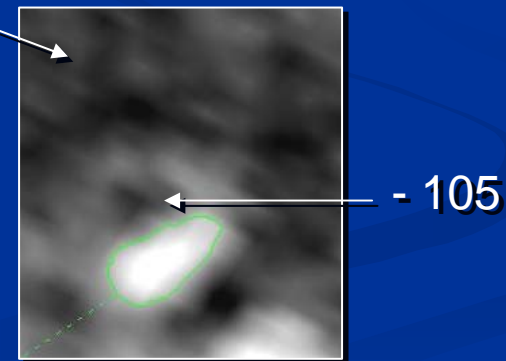
Detection of Vulnerable plaque



“low density” < 68 HU based on IVUS correlation



MLA 2.8 mm²



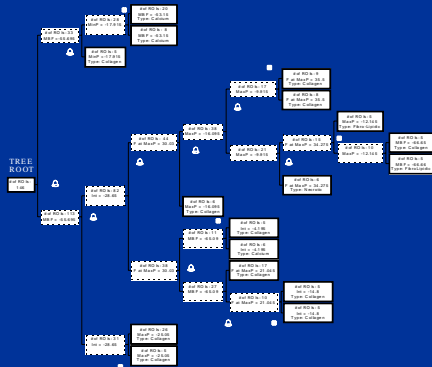
5.2 mm²

TCFA ?

Courtesy: Harvey Hecht

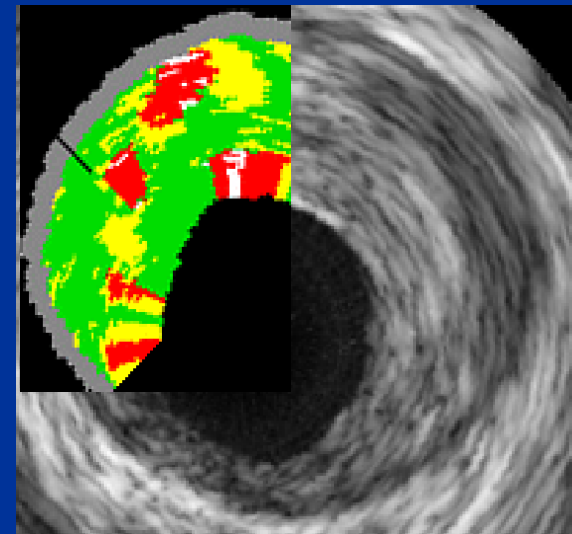
VH-IVUS

Classification Tree

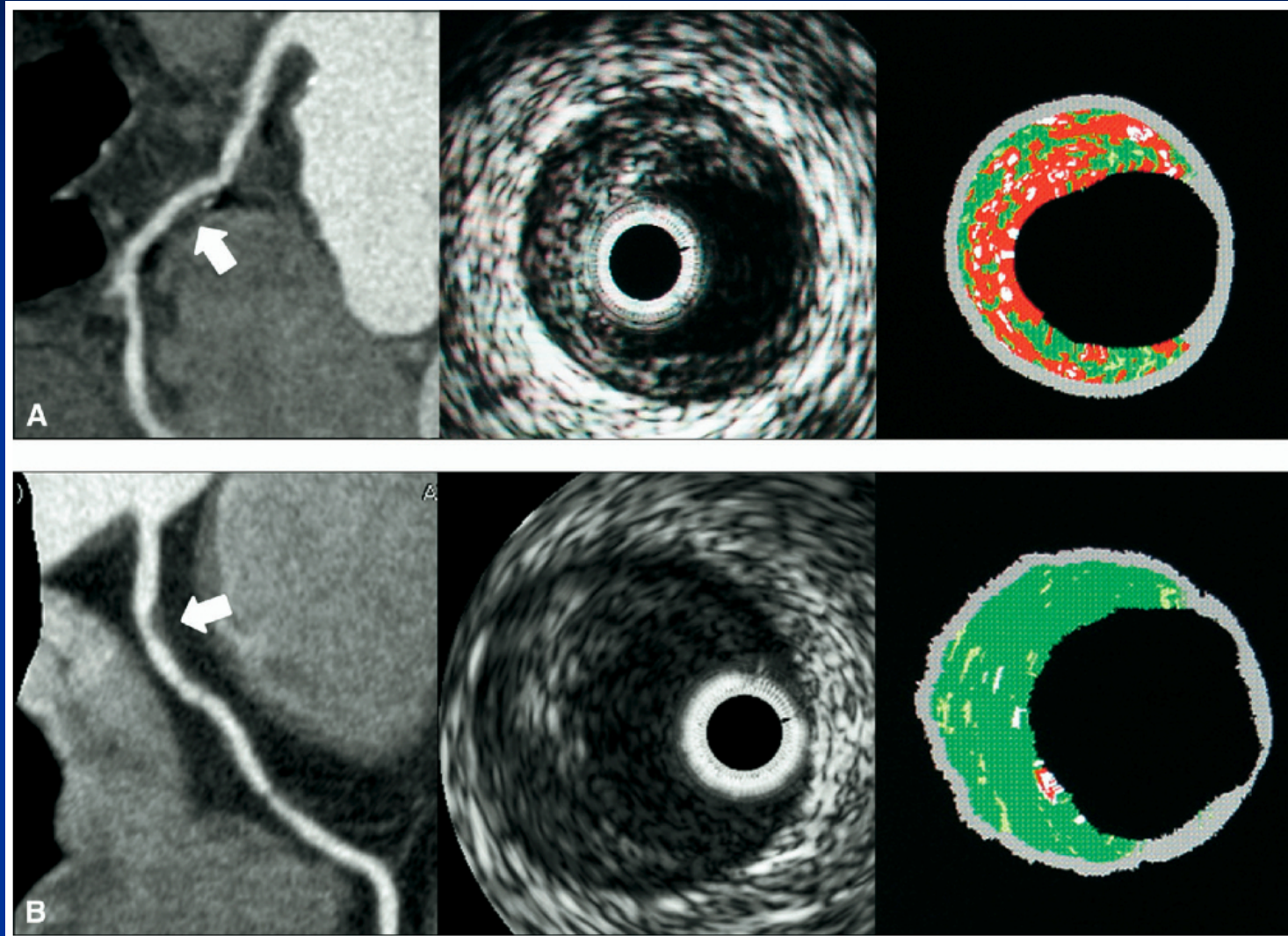


VH Legend

MEDIA	
FIBROUS	
FIBROLIPIDIC	
CALCIUM	
NECROTIC CORE	



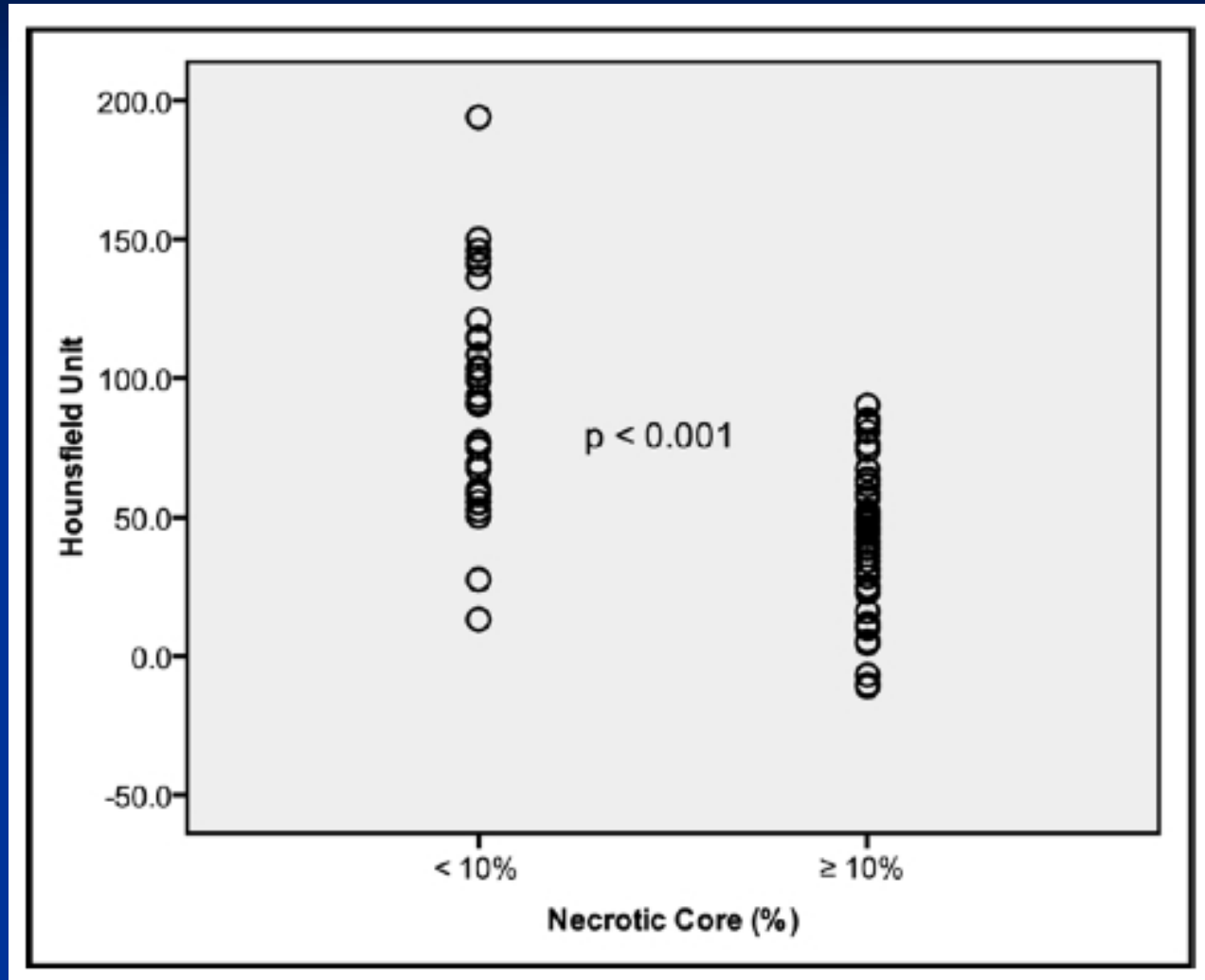
Correlation of CT and VH-IVUS



N=59 pts, 80 lesions

Am J Cardiol 2008;102:988-993

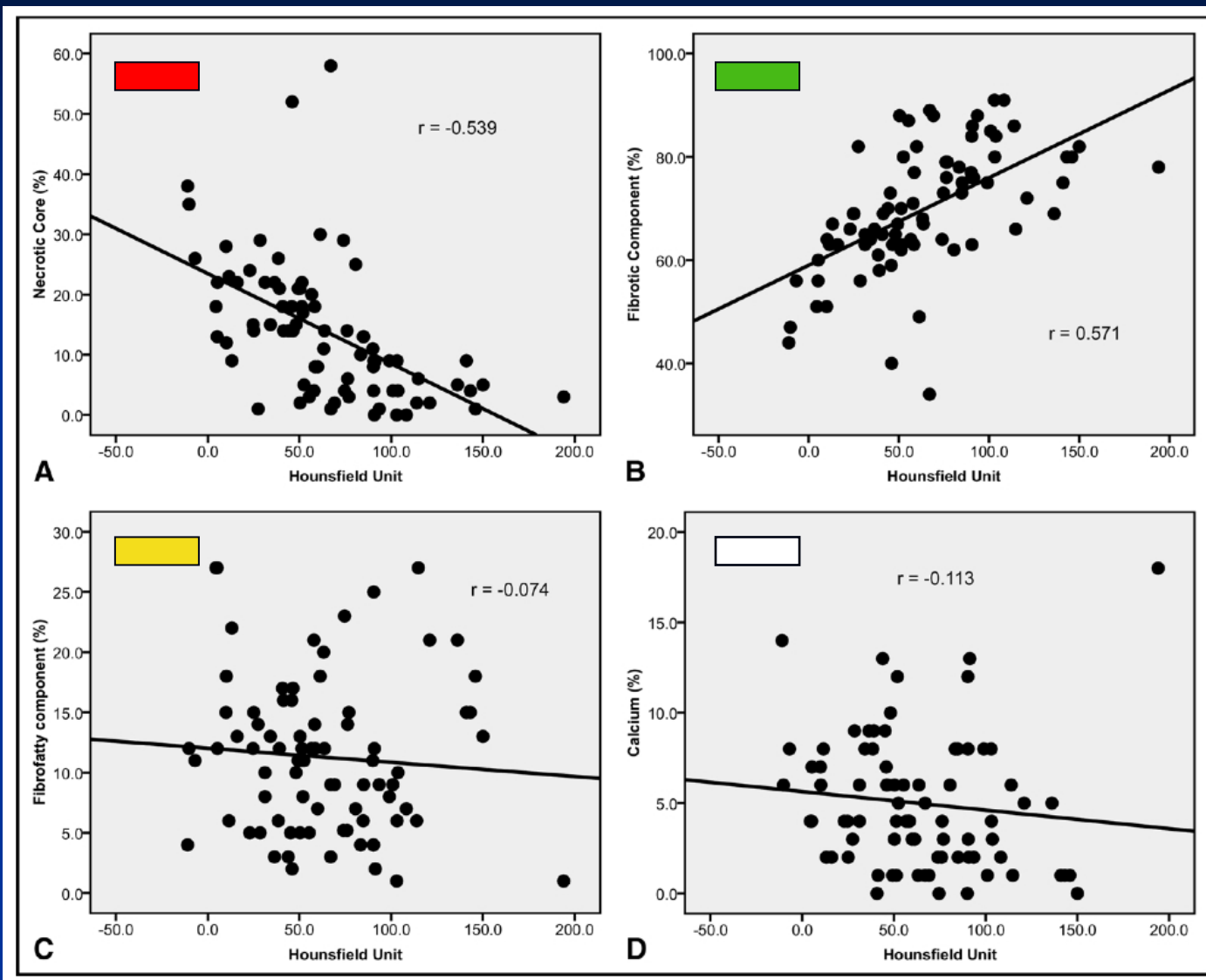
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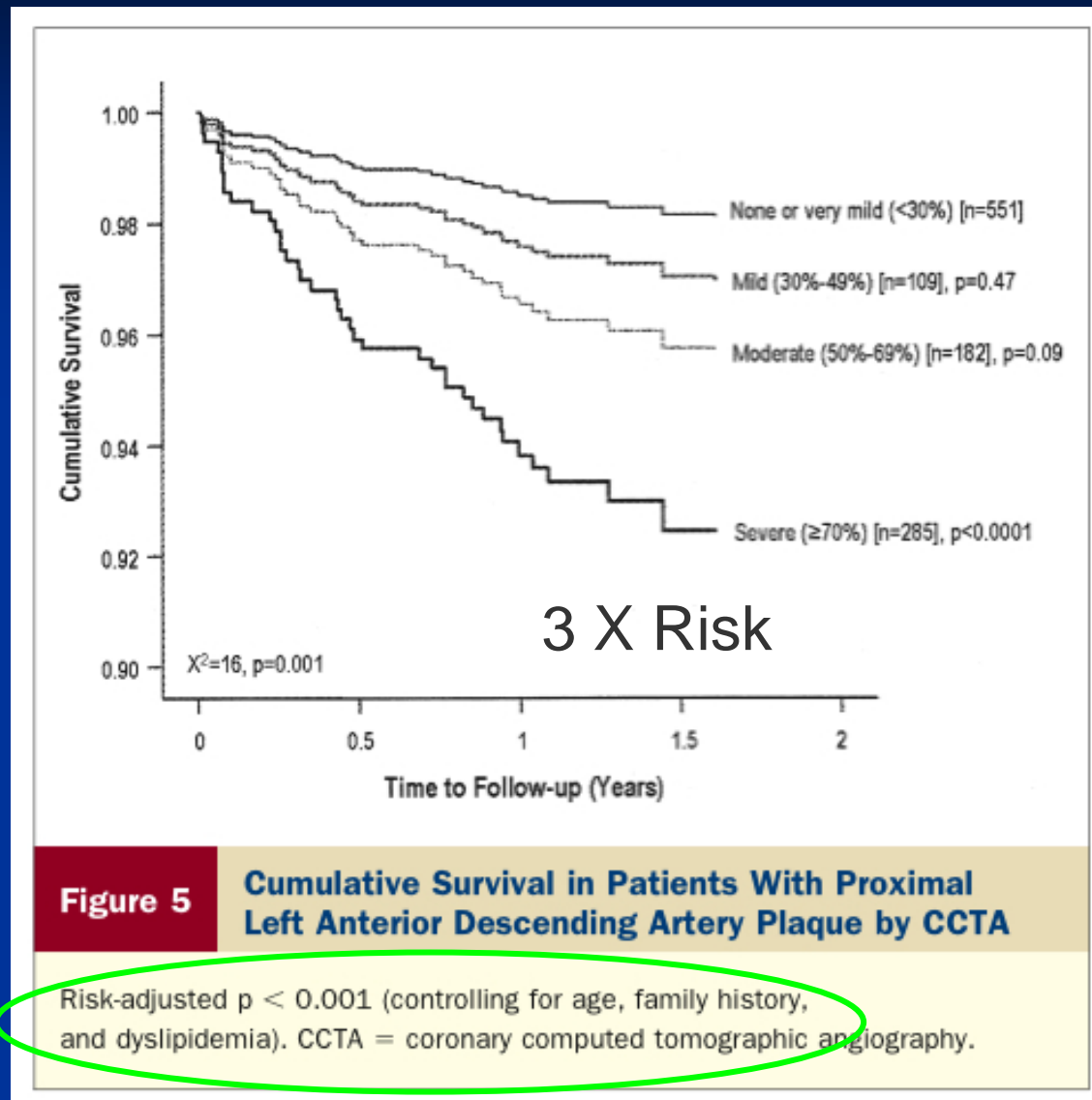
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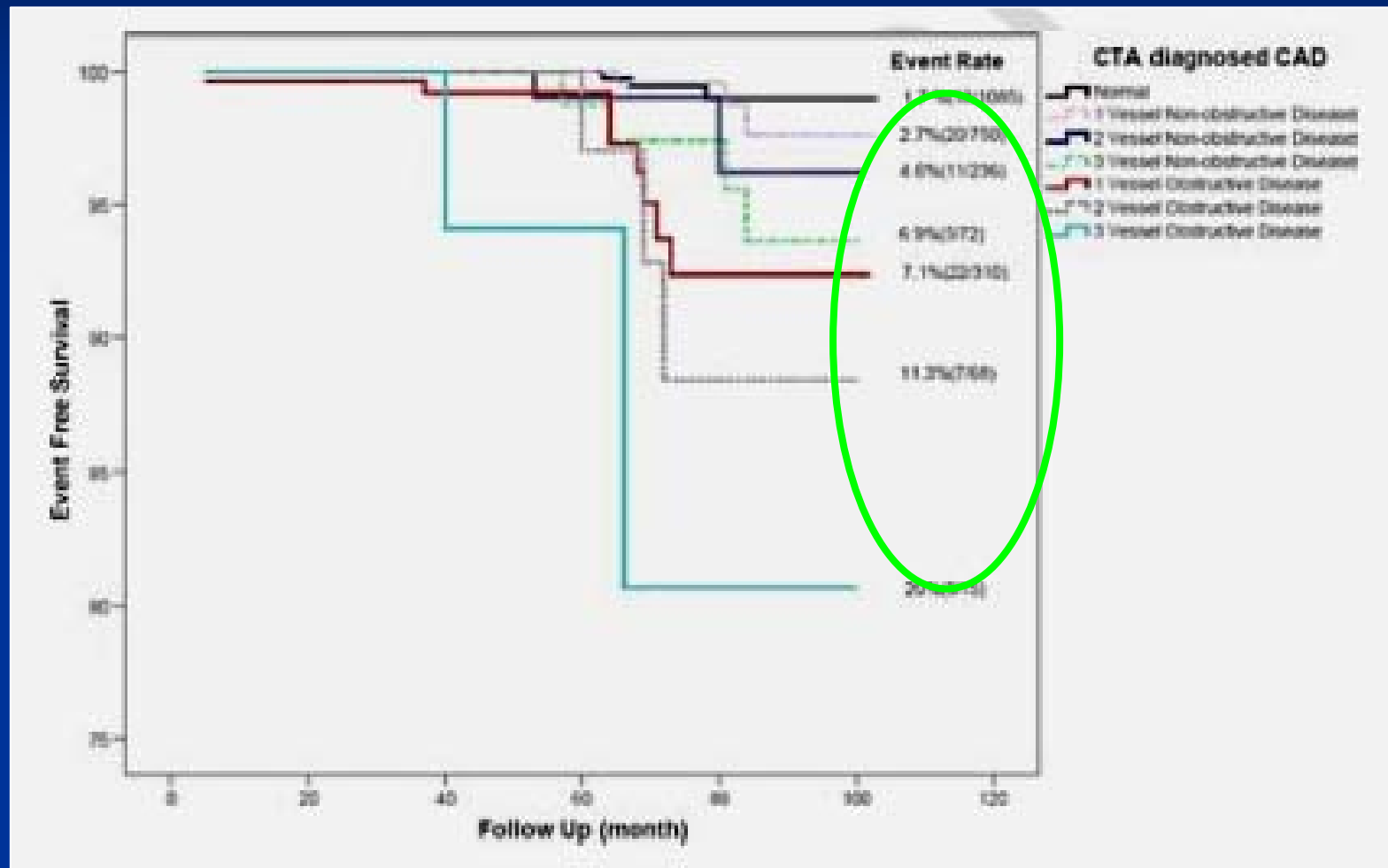
Am J Cardiol 2008;102:988-993

Plaque burden important



CTA and prognosis

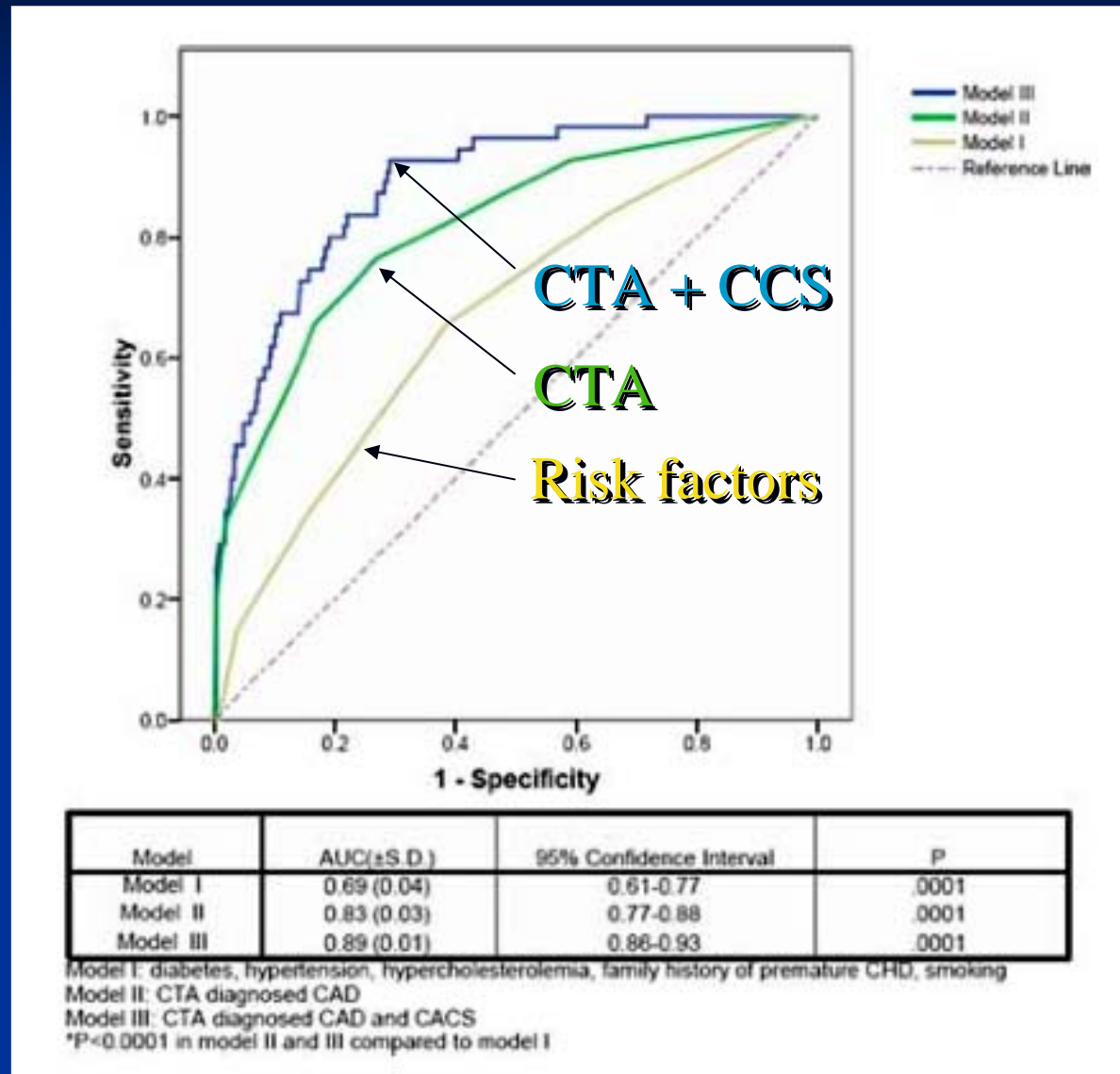
2538 pts; referred by MD; 15 year follow-up; all cause mortality



Use of EBCT

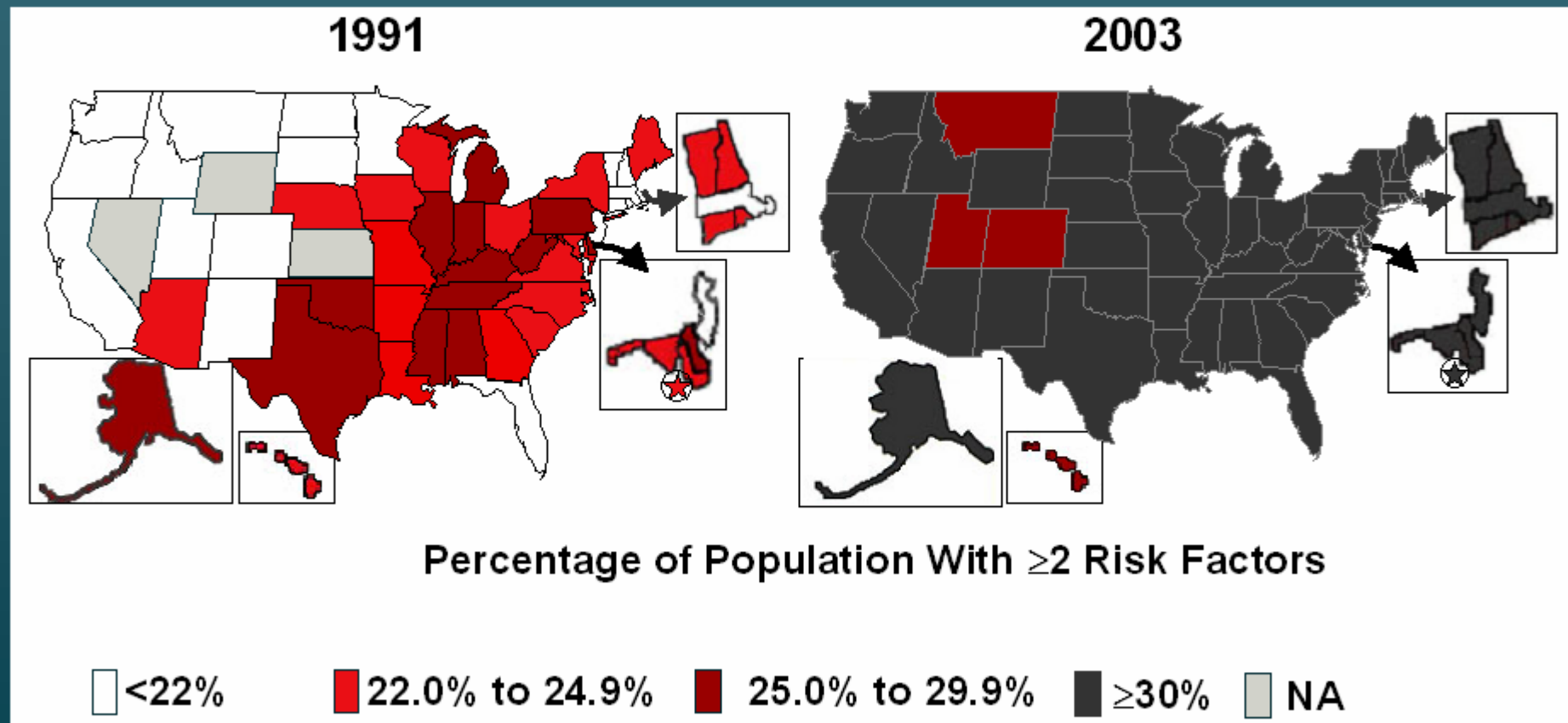
Ostrom JACC 2008; in press

CTA and prognosis



Percentage of the US Population With ≥ 2 Risk Factors*

Risk Factors=High BP, High Cholesterol, Diabetes,[†] Obesity, Smoking

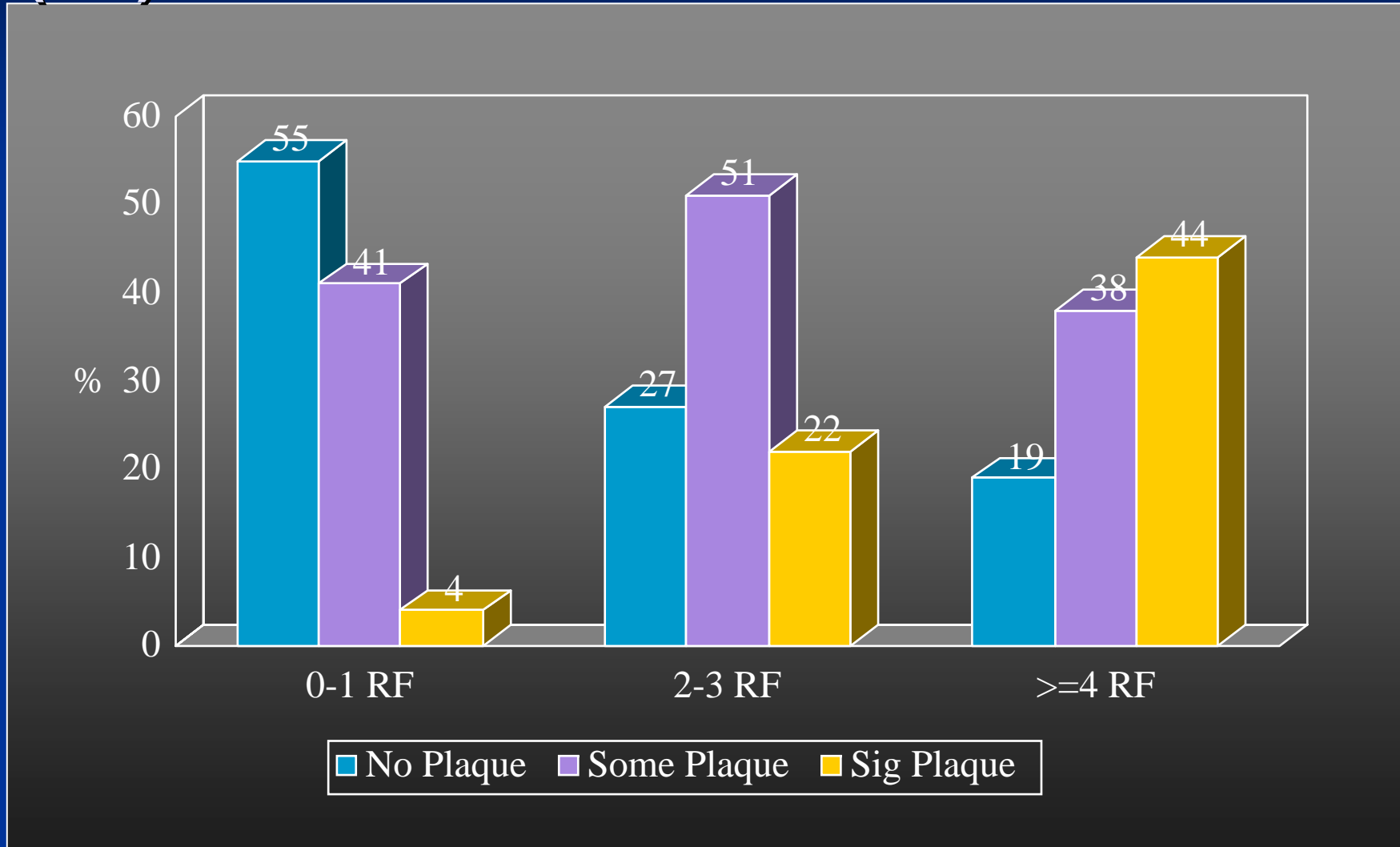


*Risk factors are self-reported. [†]Diabetes is a CHD risk equivalent.

Greenlund et al. *Arch Intern Med.* 2004;164:181-188.

13 CDC. *MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep.* 2005;54:113-117.

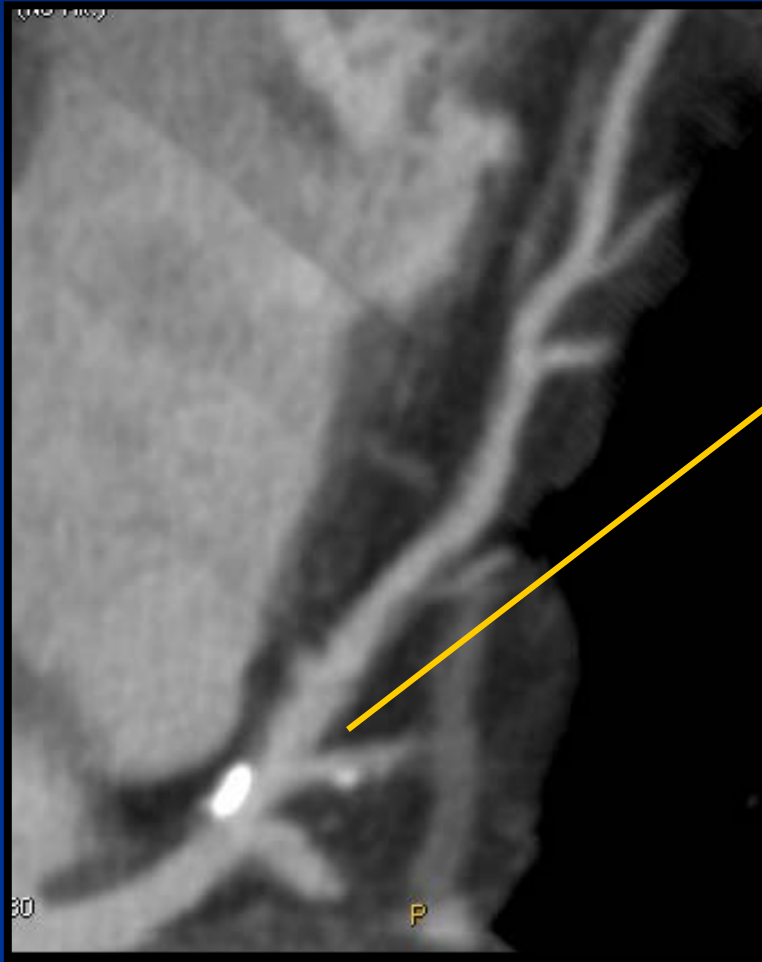
Prevalence of plaque by Risk Factors (RF)



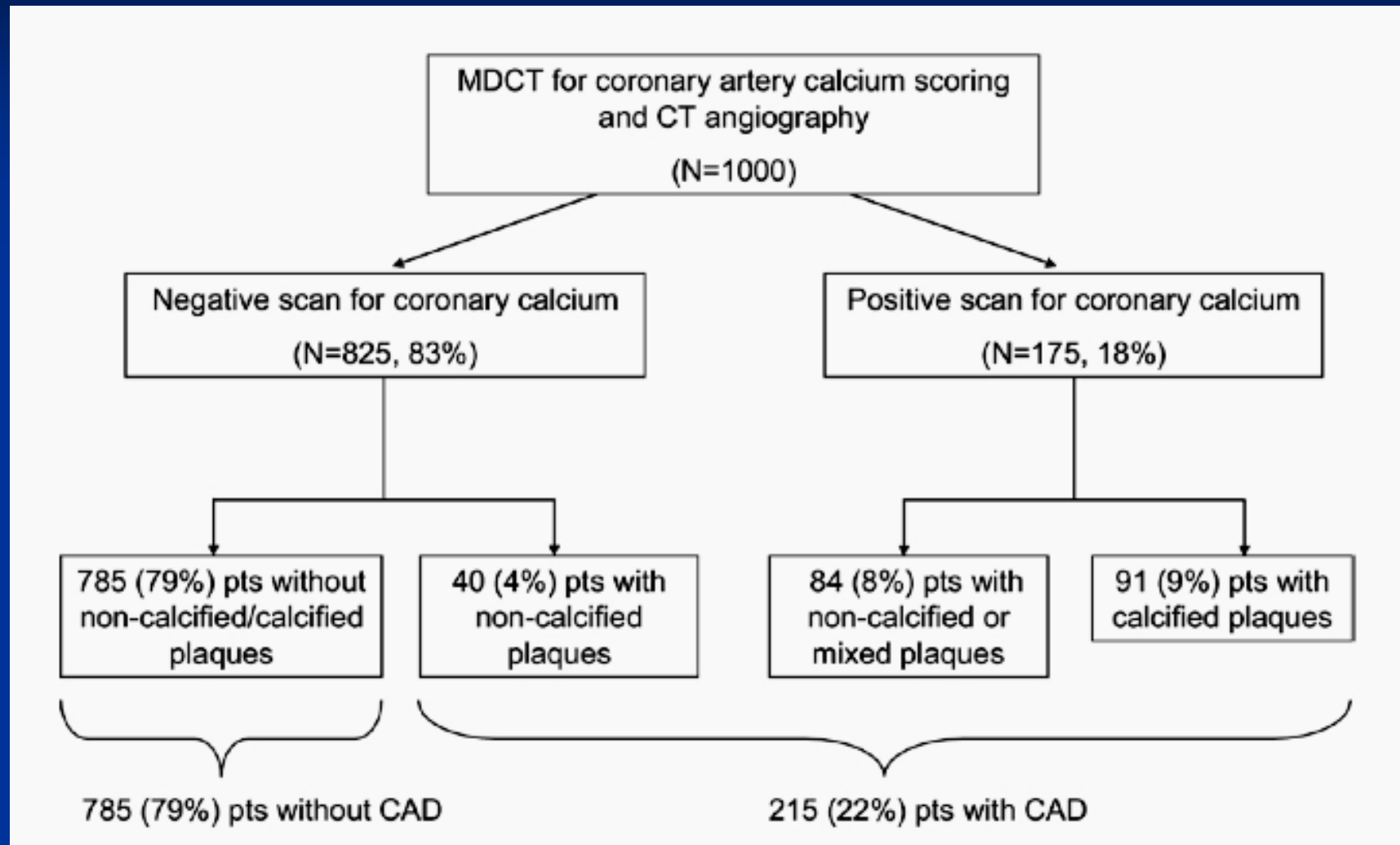
N= 163 symptomatic pts, age 65

Radiol Med. 2008;113:363-72

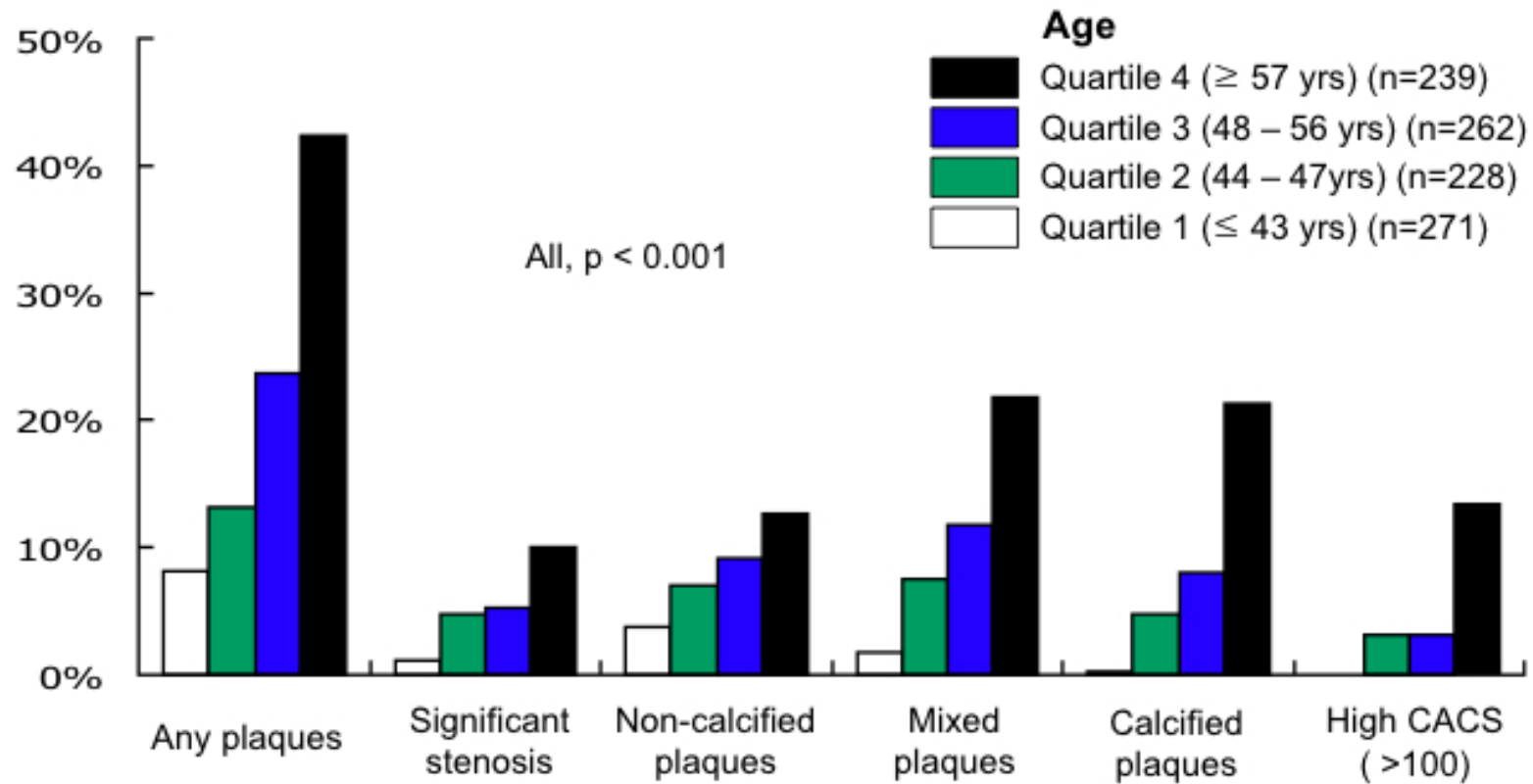
Routine screening-asymptomatic



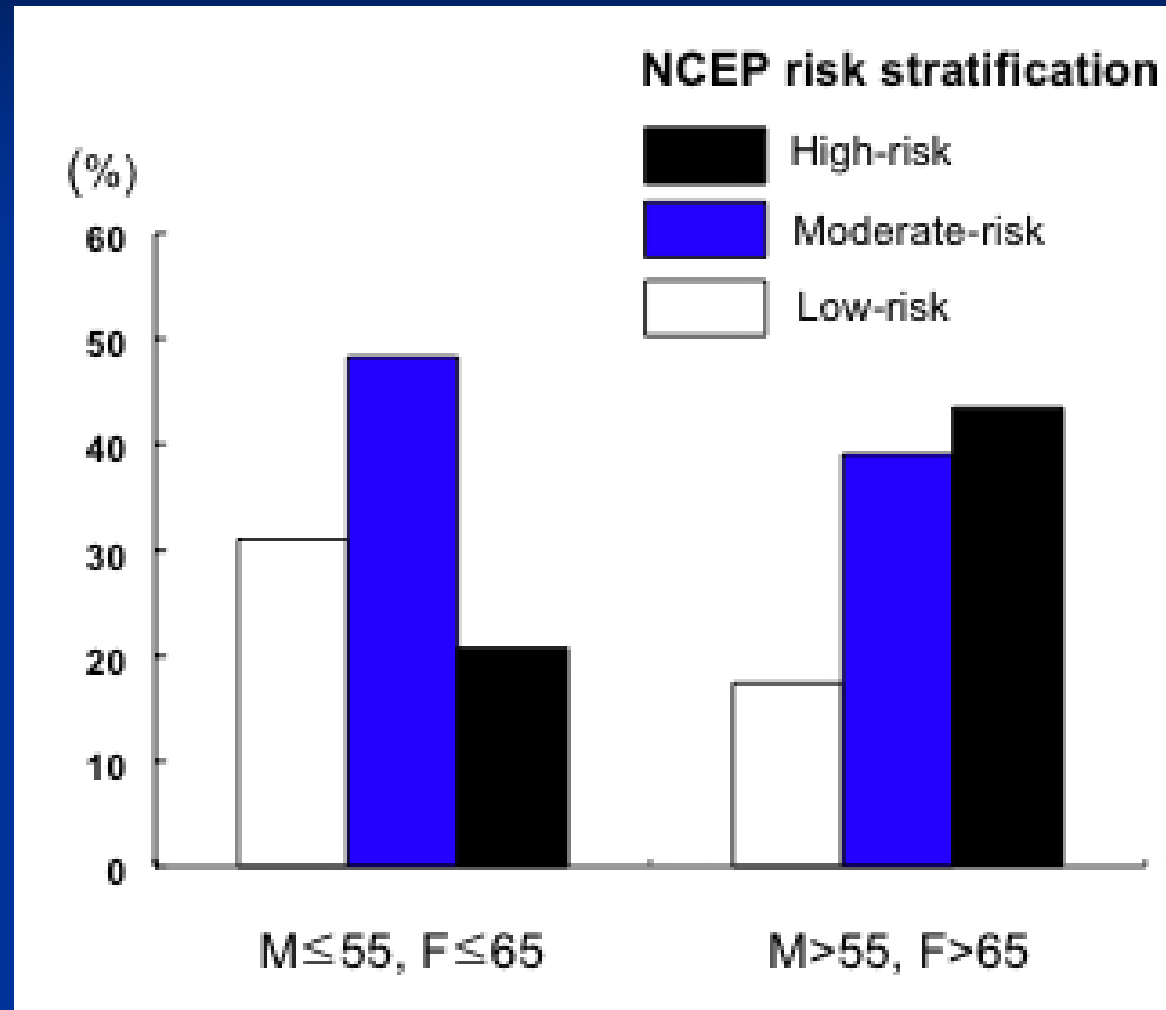
Asymptomatic screening



Asymptomatic: frequent disease



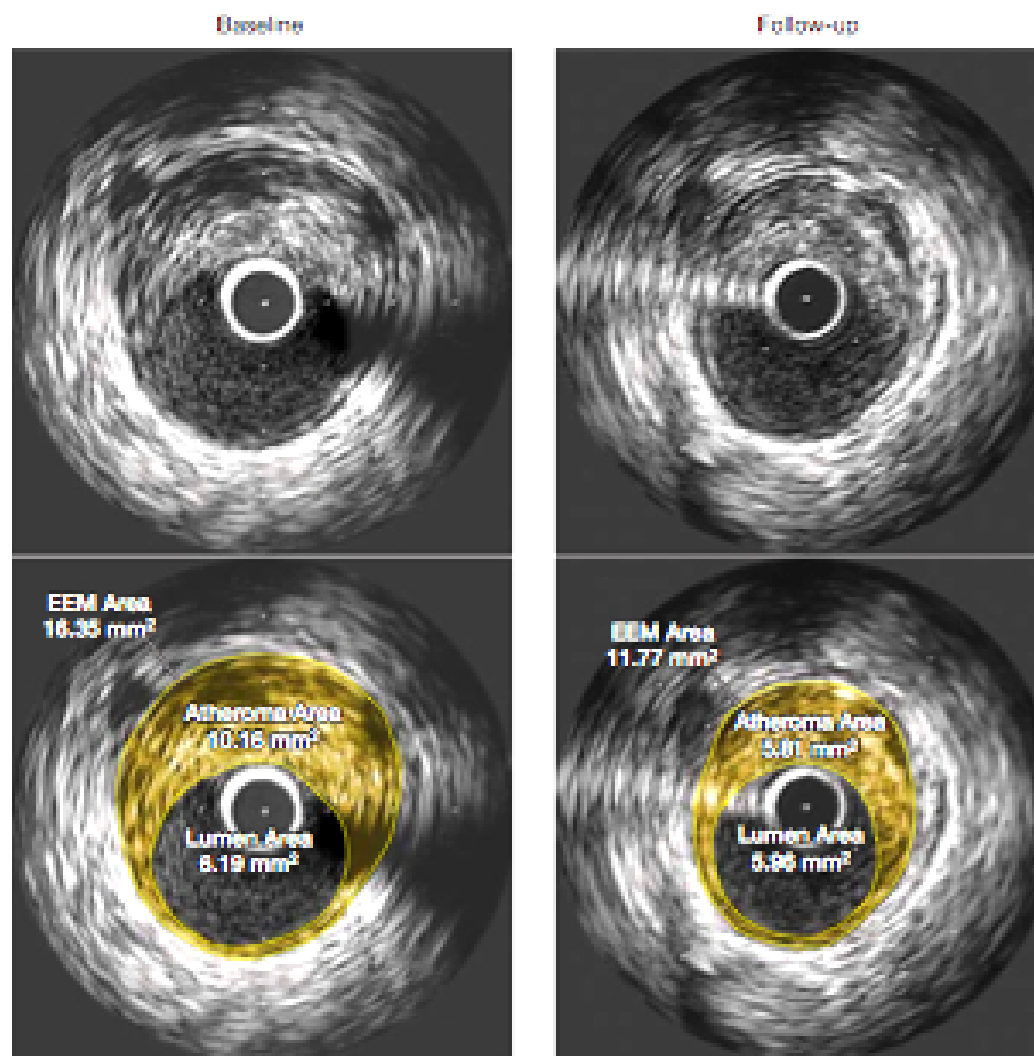
Asymptomatic: failure of classic risk factors to identify significant stenoses



Asteroid

Rosuvastatin 40 mg
24 months
LDL: 61 mg/dl
Volume down 6.8%

Figure 2. Example of Regression of Atherosclerosis in a Patient in the Trial



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 mm² to 5.81 mm². EEM indicates external elastic membrane.

Effect of Statins on Fibroatheroma

- Randomized Fluvastatin 60mg/d vs. control (n=80)
- Fibroatheromas detected by VH-IVUS
- Re-study at 12 months

Laboratory data and IVUS measurements

	Fluvastatin Baseline	Fluvastatin after 12 mo	p value	Control Baseline	Control after 12 mo	p value
Low-density lipoprotein-cholesterol, mg/dl	134±37	101±34	0.0008	122±22	126±39	0.69
Average length of FA, mm	12.4±5.9	12.9±7.1	0.78	15.5±9.3	15.8±8.8	0.66
Remodeling Index	1.13±0.12	1.14±0.12	0.88	1.13±0.15	1.20±0.19	0.01
Vesicle area, mm ²	15.3±3.7	14.8±4.1	0.0001	16.4±4.3	16.7±4.3	0.56
Lumen area, mm ²	6.4±1.9	7.0±2.2	0.001	7.5±2.3	6.6±2.0	0.001
Plaque area, mm ²	8.8±2.3	7.6±2.1	0.001	8.8±2.5	10.1±2.9	0.001
Fibrous area, mm ²	3.19±1.20	2.54±1.23	<0.0001	3.16±1.30	3.79±1.52	0.0001
Fibro-fatty area, mm ²	1.36±0.86	0.65±0.38	0.0001	1.27±0.77	1.16±0.83	0.26
Necrotic core area, mm ²	0.61±0.43	0.65±0.38	0.34	0.55±0.34	1.01±0.56	<0.0001
Dense calcium area, mm ²	0.25±0.23	0.35±0.27	0.01	0.33±0.28	0.59±0.42	0.0001

Reports of the future:

On the AJR Digital Viewbox

DOI:10.2214/AJR.05.2070

**Regression of Coronary
Atherosclerotic Plaque as Shown by
CT Arteriography**

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Summary

- Angiography limited to luminal pathology
- Stress testing *by definition* cannot find subclinical disease
- Anatomic plaque quantification now easily possible with CCS, CTA, IVUS, OCT, etc.
- Plaque modification with medication possible
- CT adds value for early diagnosis and monitoring (my bias!)
- Transition to preventative treatment