

# **Renal anemia: theory and evidence**

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# COI disclosure

*presenter: Masaomi Nangaku*

**I have the following relationships to disclose.**

Potential Financial Conflicts of Interest

- (1) Employment: No**
- (2) Stock ownership or options: No**
- (3) Patent royalties/licensing fees: No**
- (4) Research funding: Kyowa-Hakko-Kirin, Astallas, Chugai, Takeda, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Dainippon-Sumitomo, Boehringer, Novartis, Daiichi-Sankyo, Kowa, MSD, Torii, Kureha**
- (5) Honoraria: Kyowa-Hakko-Kirin, Astallas, Chugai, Takeda, Tanabe-Mitsubishi, Dainippon-Sumitomo, Boehringer, Novartis, Daiichi-Sankyo, Kowa, MSD, Pfiser, Astra Zeneca, Bayer, Ono, Shionogi, Eisai, Otsuka, Mochida, Alexion, Sanofi**
- (6) Manuscript fees: Kyowa-Hakko-Kirin, Chugai, Novartis**
- (7) Advisory board: Kyowa-Hakko-Kirin, Astallas, Chugai, JT, GSK, Takeda, Tanabe-Mitsubishi**

# **Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

**1756 born**

**1784~ hypertension, nasal bleeding,  
headache**

**1791~ depression, personality change,  
anemia, the taste of death on their tongues**

**1791.5.12 Death of uremia at the age of 35**

# Did Mozart Die of Kidney Disease? A Review From the Bicentennial of His Death<sup>1</sup>

Edward N. Guillery<sup>2</sup>

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E.N. Guillery, Division of Pediatric Nephrology, Department of Pediatrics, University of Iowa Hospitals and Clinics, Iowa City, IA.

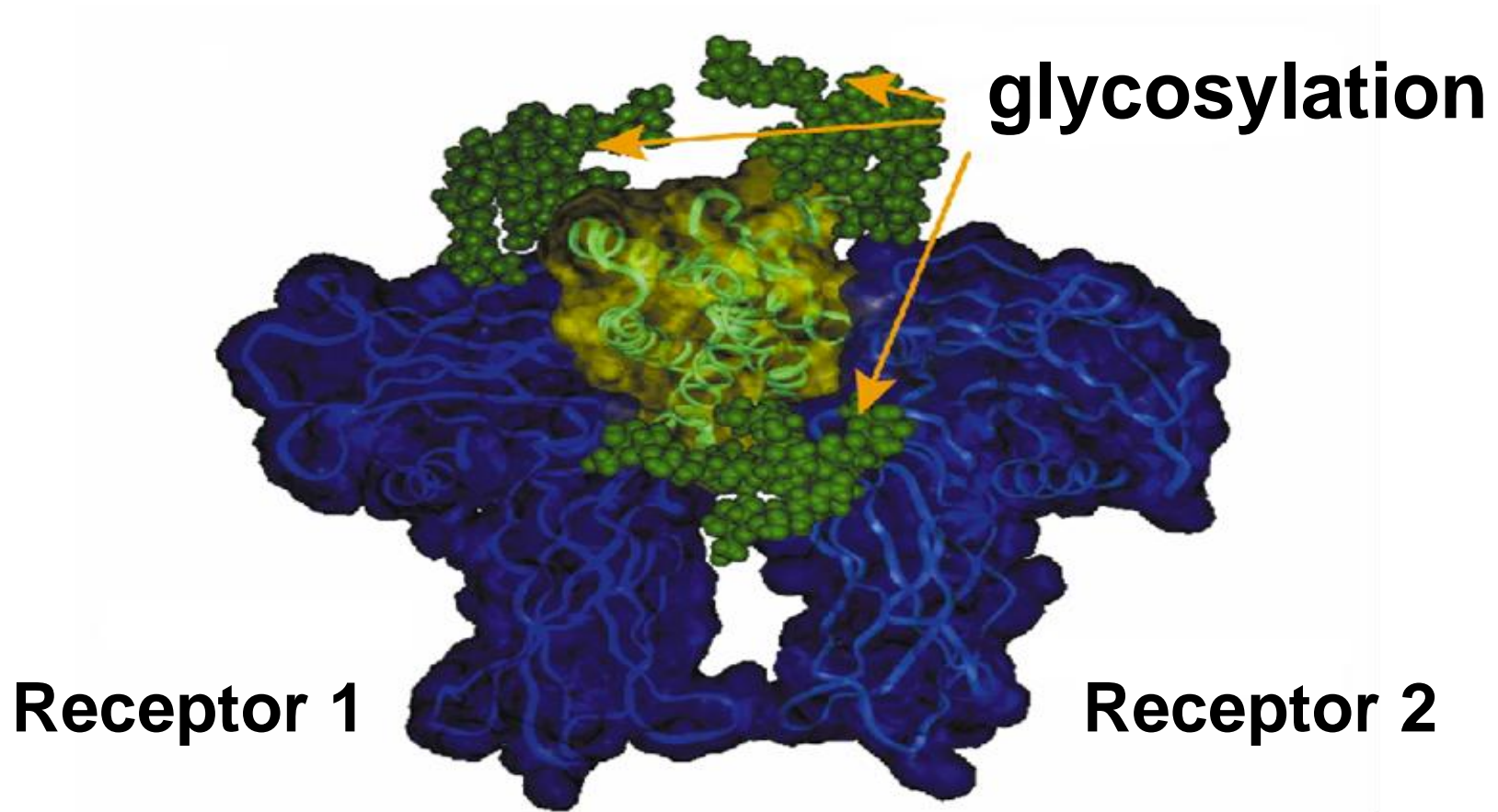
(J. Am. Soc. Nephrol. 1992; 2:1671-1676)

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and wrote that Mozart required a "night jacket which he could put on frontways, since on account of his swollen condition he was unable to turn in bed" (1). Mozart said to her "Why, I have already the taste of death on my tongue." Cold poultices were placed on Mozart's "burning head," which, it seemed to Haibel, caused him to become unconscious. in which state

# erythropoietin

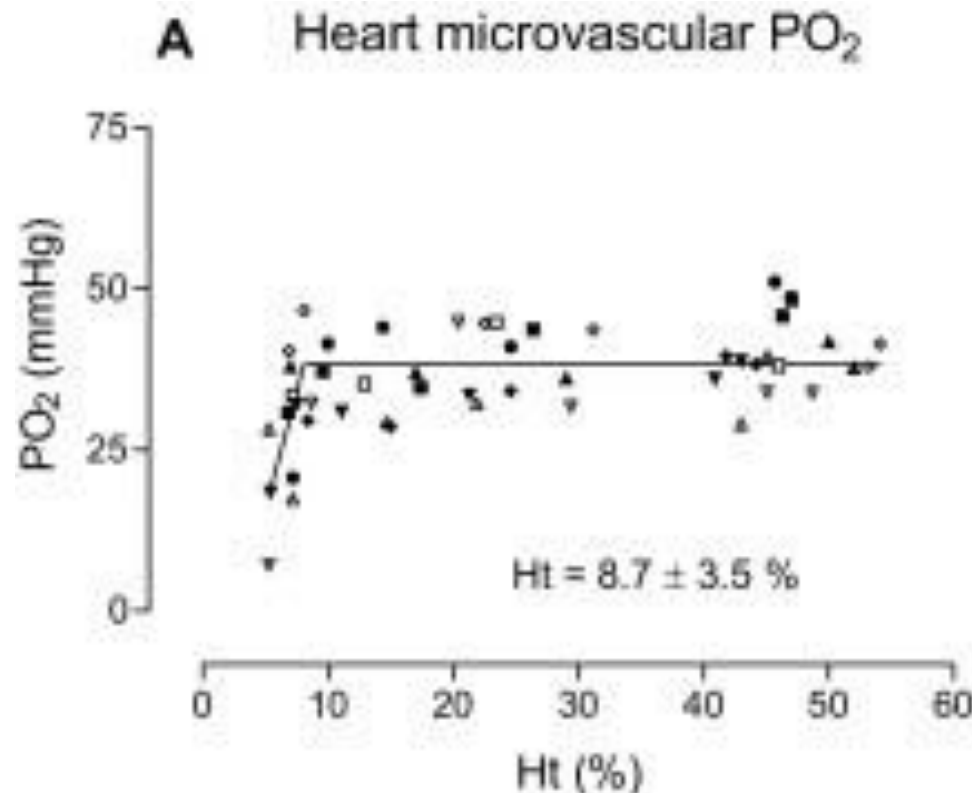
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# Heart, kidney, and intestine have different tolerances for anemia

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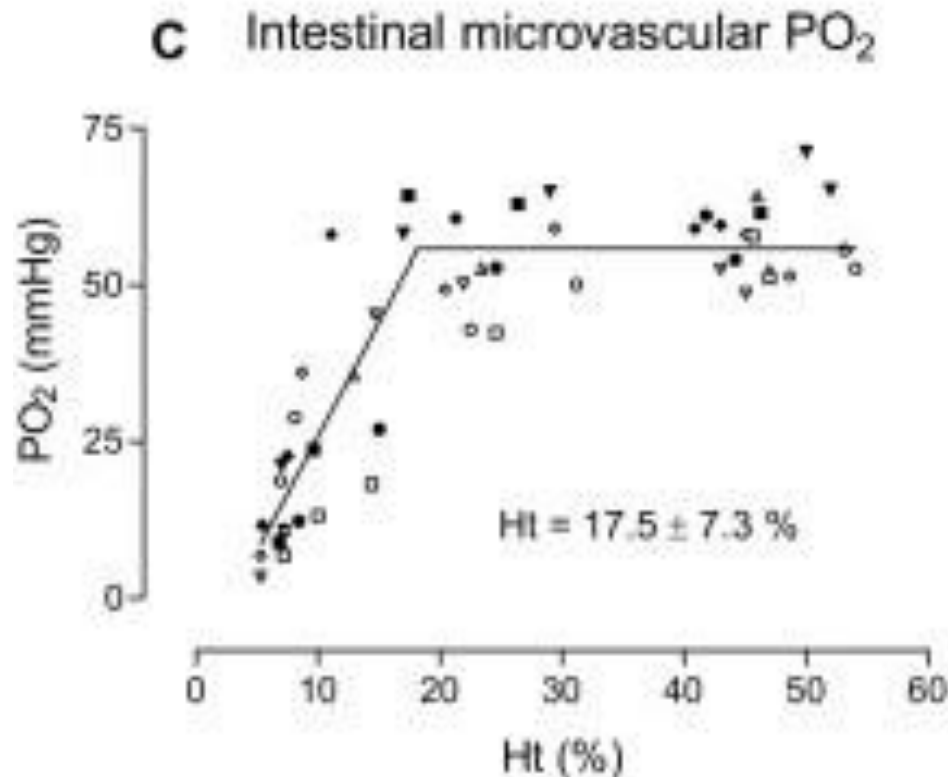
cardiac  $\mu\text{PO}_2$  ( $40 \pm 6$  mm Hg at baseline) decreased only in the ultimate stage of the experiment at Ht of  $8.7 \pm 3.5\%$



# Heart, kidney, and intestine have different tolerances for anemia

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intestinal  $\mu\text{PO}_2$  ( $59 \pm 6$  mm Hg at baseline) did not start to decrease until Ht reached  $17.4 \pm 7.1\%$

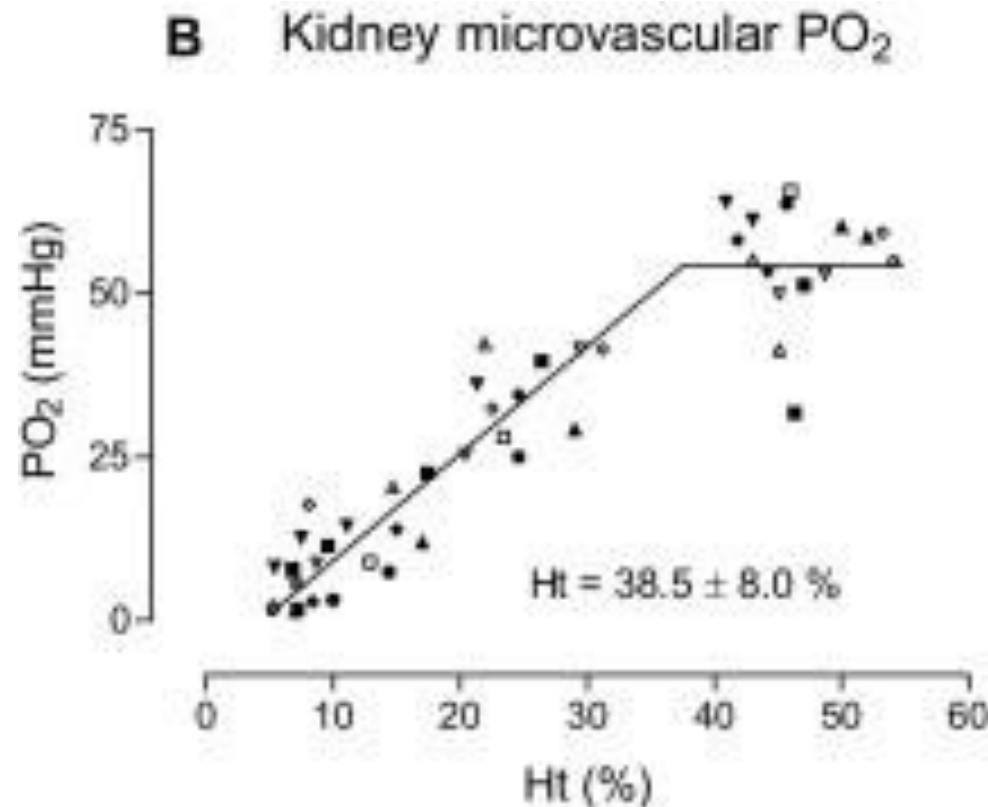


van Bommel et al. Transl Res 2008

# Heart, kidney, and intestine have different tolerances for anemia

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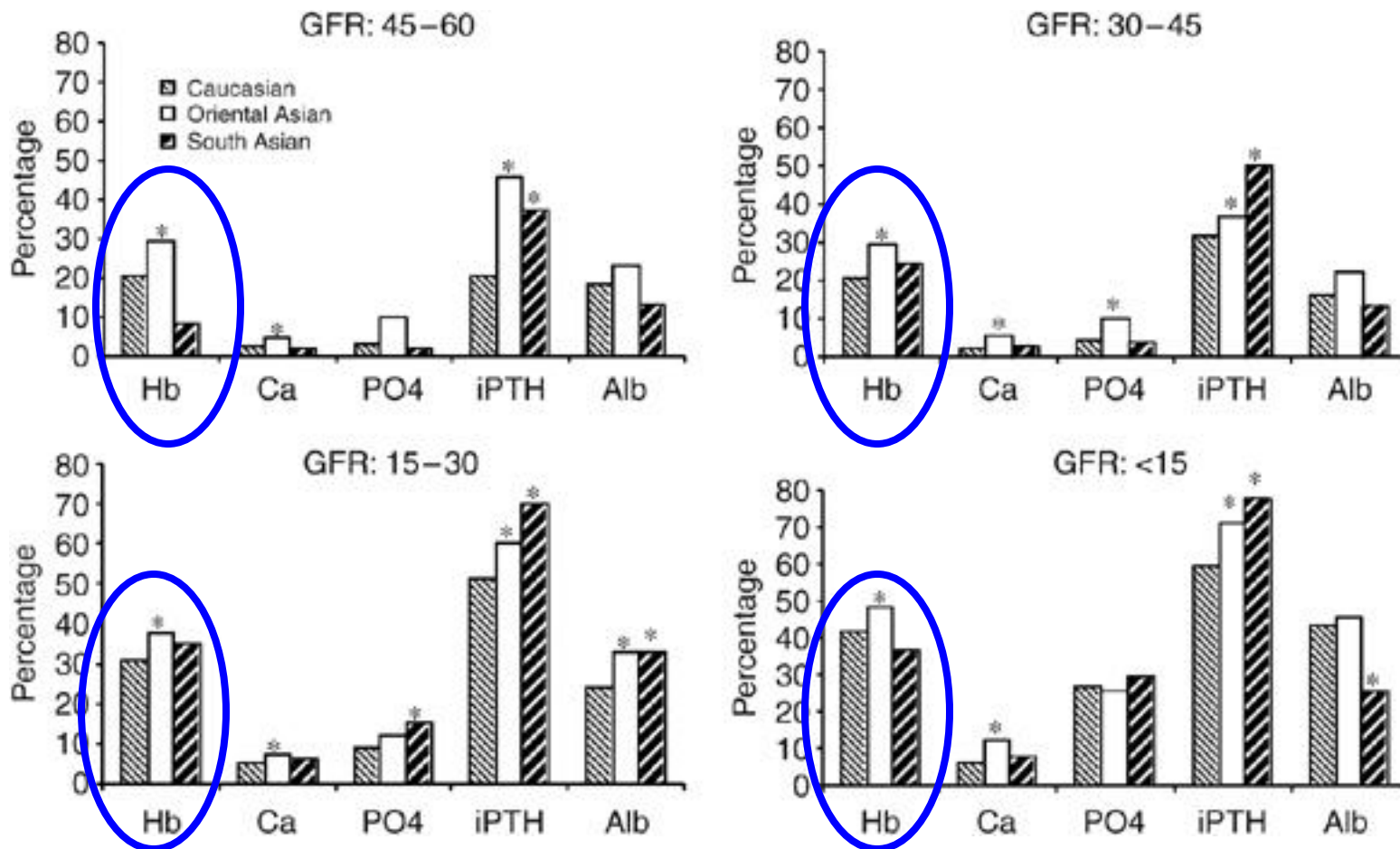
renal  $\mu\text{PO}_2$  ( $56 \pm 10$  mm Hg at baseline) started to decrease at a Ht of  $38.5 \pm 8.6\%$





# Oriental Asians tend to develop renal anemia compared with other races

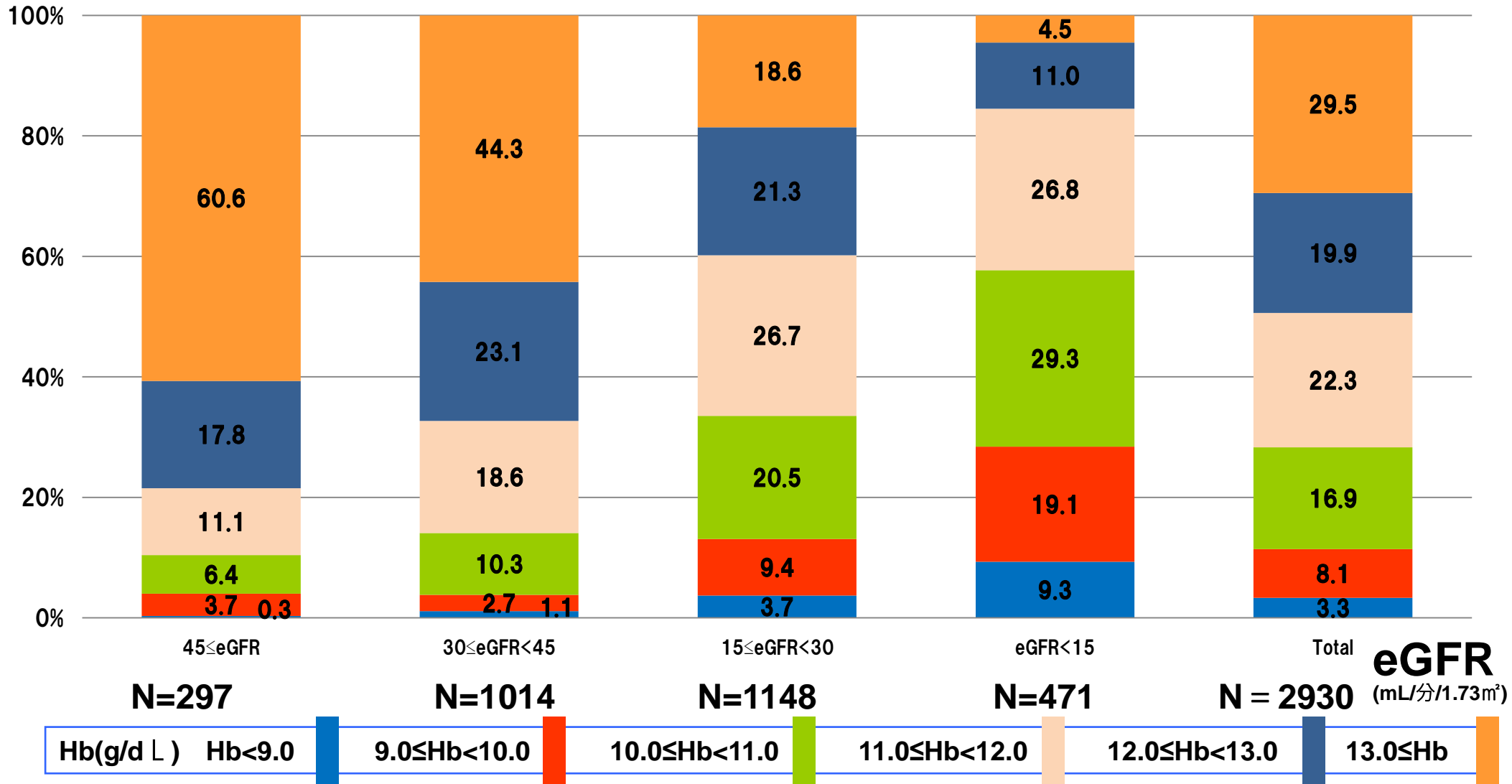
Observational cross-sectional study (n=5,322)



Barbour et al. Kidney Int 2008

# Distribution of Hb range based on eGFR CKD-JAC

## Distribution of Hb range



# **Case 63-year-old male**

## **【History】**

**1993 Diagnosed as diabetes mellitus**

**1999 Started insulin treatment**

**The control of HbA1c was around 7-8%, and her kidney function deteriorated.**

**2007 Admission on foot for the evaluation of the IHD**

**149cm, 42.7kg (BMI 19.2), BT 36.8°C,  
BP 160/92mmHg, PR 82/min, SpO2 98%(room air)  
Chest Xp: CTR 47.6% CPAngle sharp  
ECG: ST elevation at V2,V3 (no change)**



**Hb 8.9 (MCV 96, MCH 33, MCHC 34),  
WBC 5600 (Seg 75%, Mono 8%, Lymph 14%),  
Plt 200,000  
BUN 40 mg/dL Cr 3.1 mg/dL eGFR 17.1 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>  
Na 131 K 4.2 Cl 94 cCa 9.1 mg/dL iP 3.8 mg/dL  
Fe 63 µg/dL TIBC 165 µg/dL ferritin 333 ng/ml**

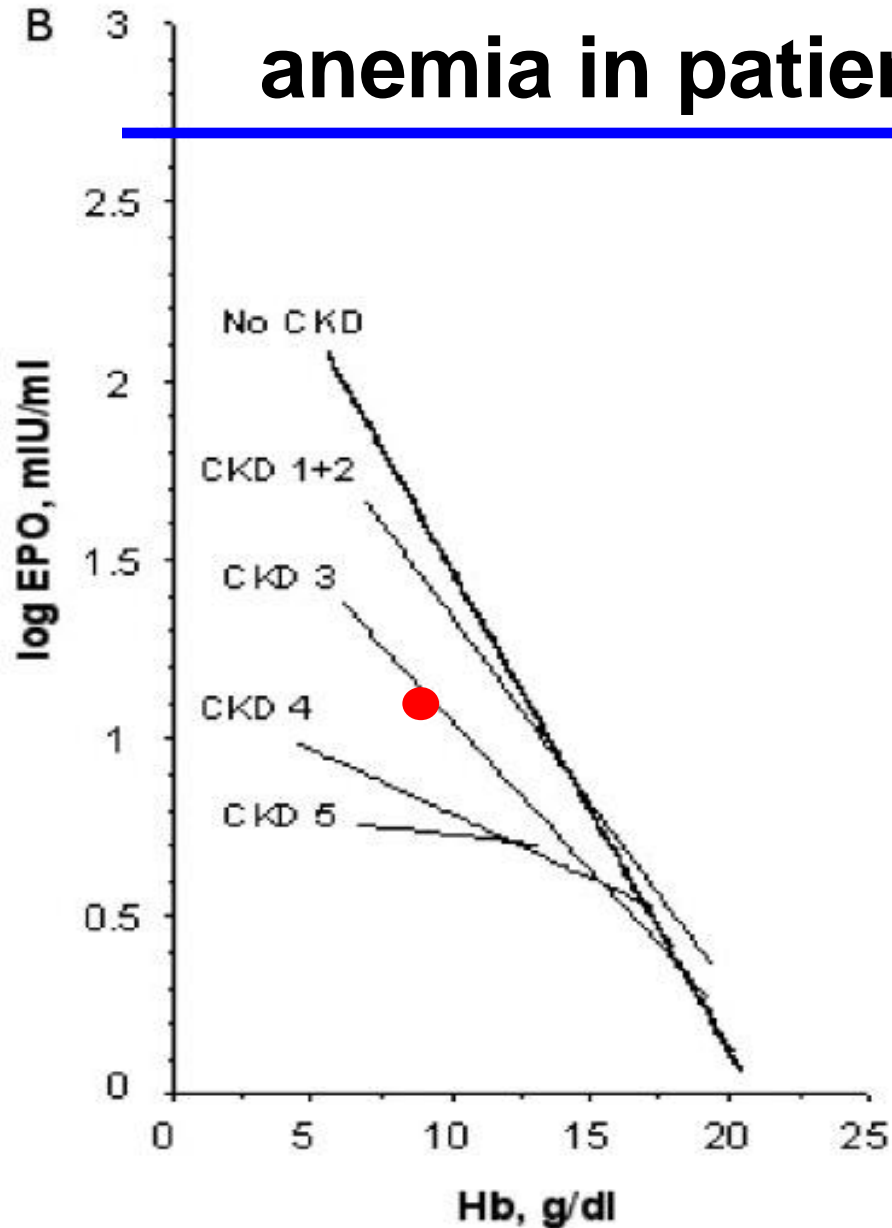
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Na 131 K 4.2 Cl 94 cCa 9.1 mg/dL iP 3.8 mg/dL  
Fe 63 µg/dL TIBC 165 µg/dL ferritin 333 ng/ml  
EPO 14.1 mIU/mL (normal range: 8.0 ~ 36.0)**

# Serum EPO concentrations and responses to anemia in patients with or without CKD

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**This case**

**EPO 14.1 mIU/ml**

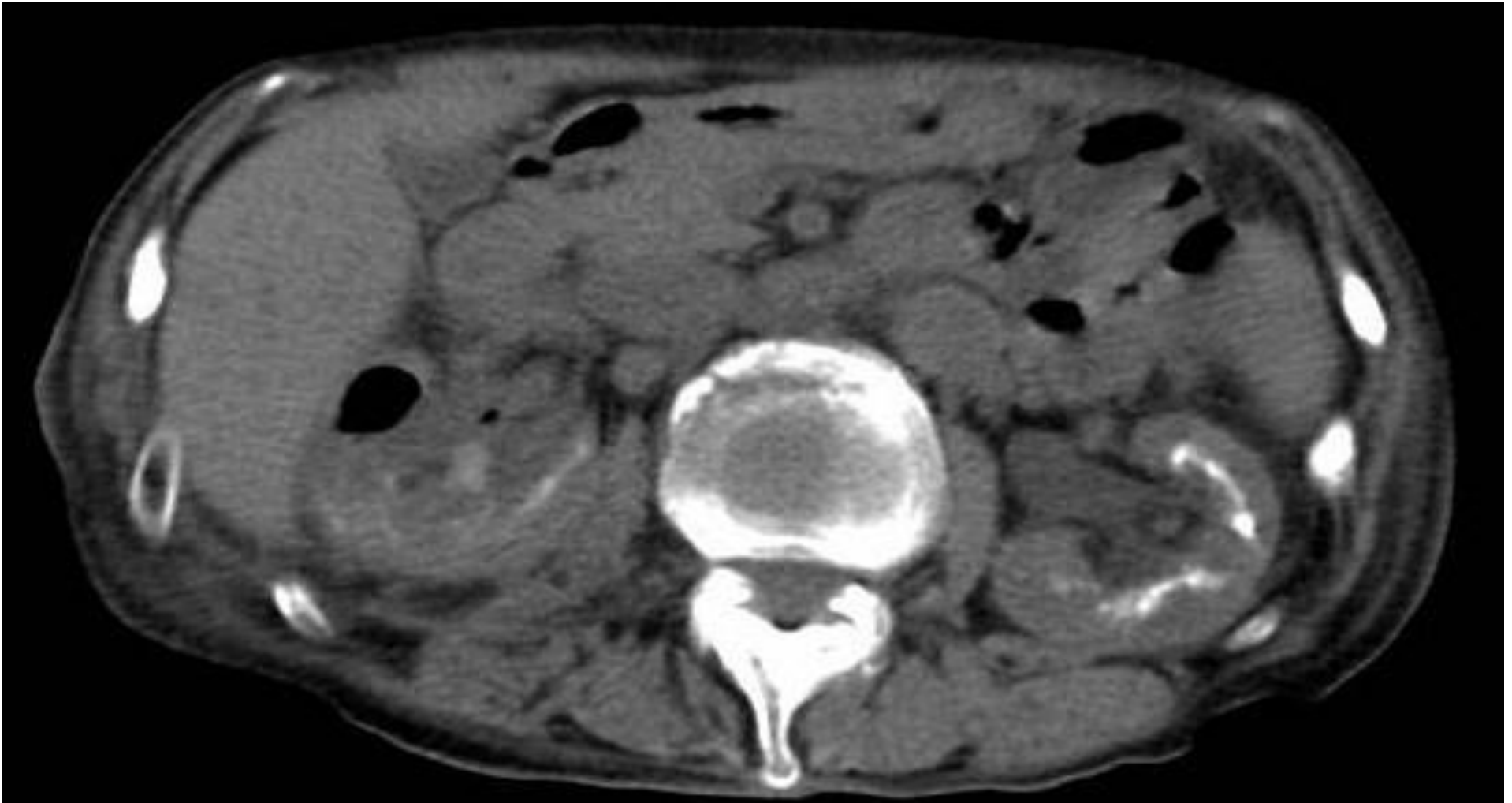
**$\text{Log}_{10} 14.1 = 1.15$**

**Hb 8.8g/dl**

# **Case 72-year-old female**

**CKD due to medullary sponge kidney**

**Diagnosis was made at the age of 50**



**Referred from the urology department to investigate  
a cause of anemia**

**s> dyspnea, no abdominal discomfort or abnormal bowel  
movements**

**o> BP 90/56**

**Hb 5.4 (MCV 90.2, MCH 29.5, MCHC 32.7),**

**WBC 6100 (Band 2, Seg 55, Mono 4, Lymph 39),**

**Plt 141000**

**BUN 26.9 mg/dL Cr 1.92 mg/dL eGFR 20.6 ml/min./1.73m<sup>2</sup>**

**Na 140 K 4.0 Cl 112 cCa 9.0 mg/dL iP 4.8 mg/dL**

**CRP 1.43**

**Fe 121 µg/dL TIBC 151 µg/dL ferritin 344 ng/mL**



**EPO 27.7 mU/ml (8.0-36.0)**

**vitamin B12 218 pg/ml (233-914)**

**folate 2.5 pg/ml (3.6-12.9)**

**Bone marrow aspiration**

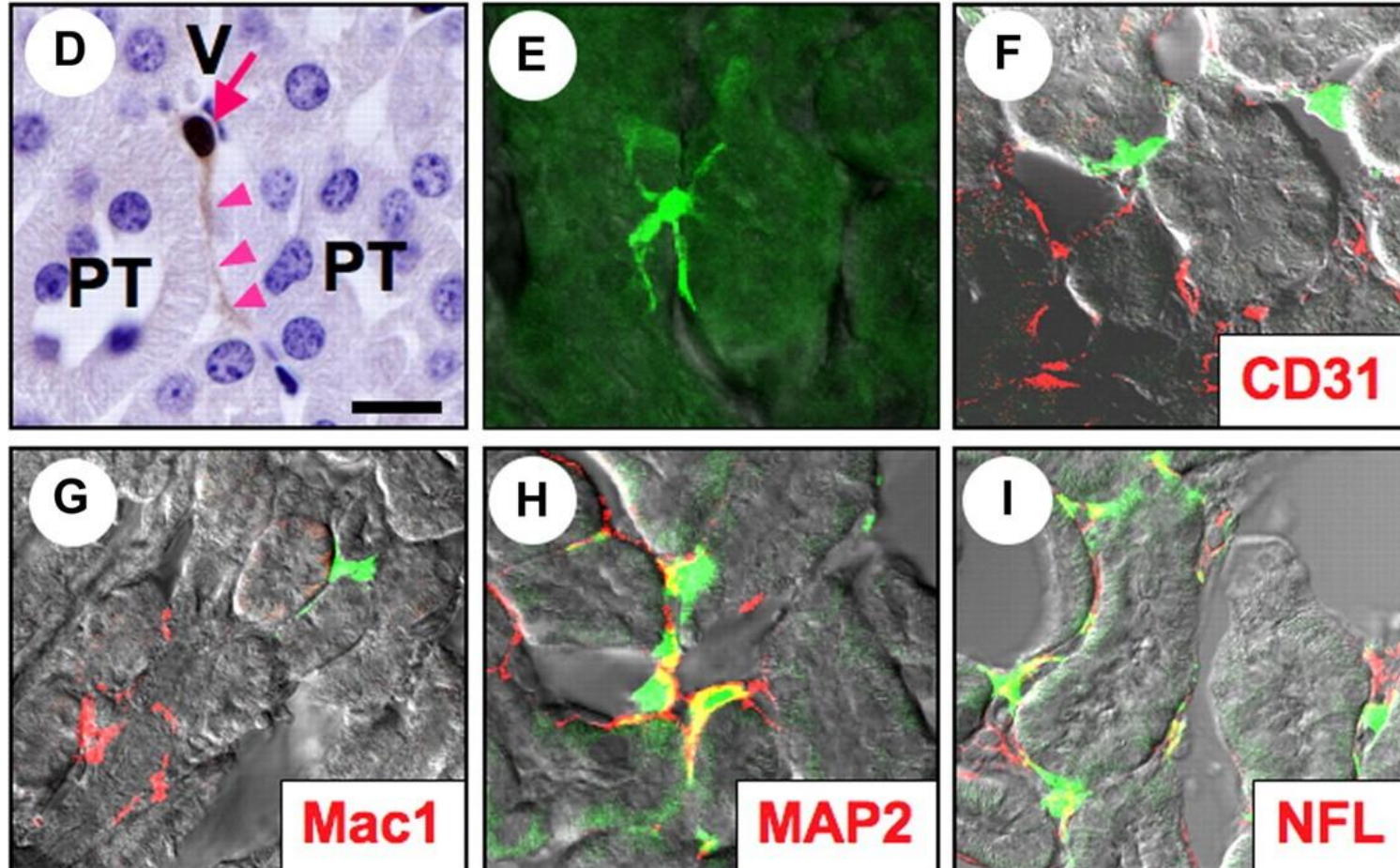
**Normoplastic marrow NCC 93000/ $\mu$ l, MgK 60/ $\mu$ l micromegakaryocyte, a decrease in erythroblasts, abnormal nuclear division**

**=> Diagnosis: MDS RCMD (refractory cytopenia with multi-lineage dysplasia)**

# **Mechanisms of EPO production and its disturbance**

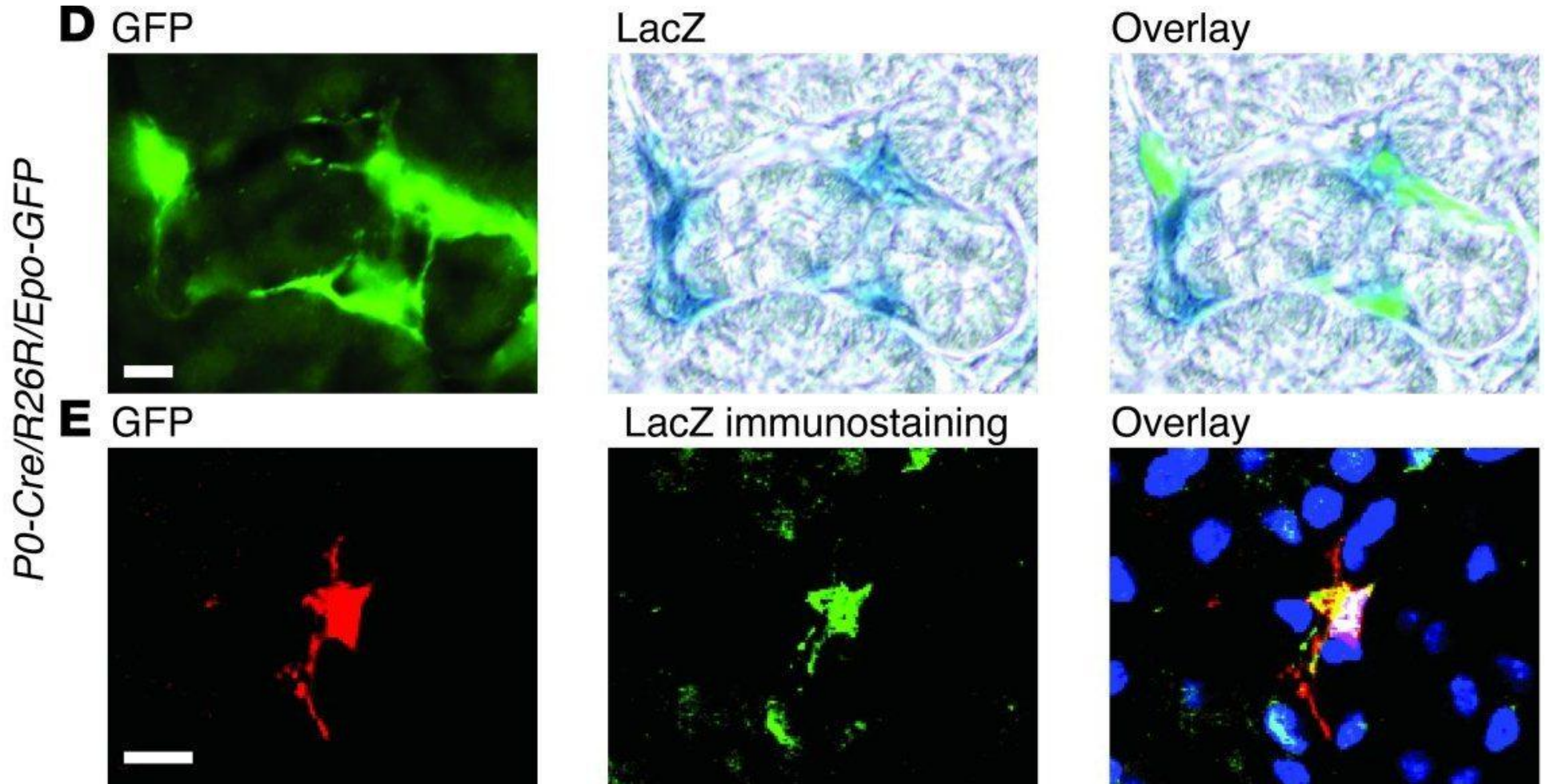
# Identification of EPO producing cells

transgenic mice expressing GFP under the control of a 180-kb mouse *Epo* gene locus



Obara et al. Blood 2008

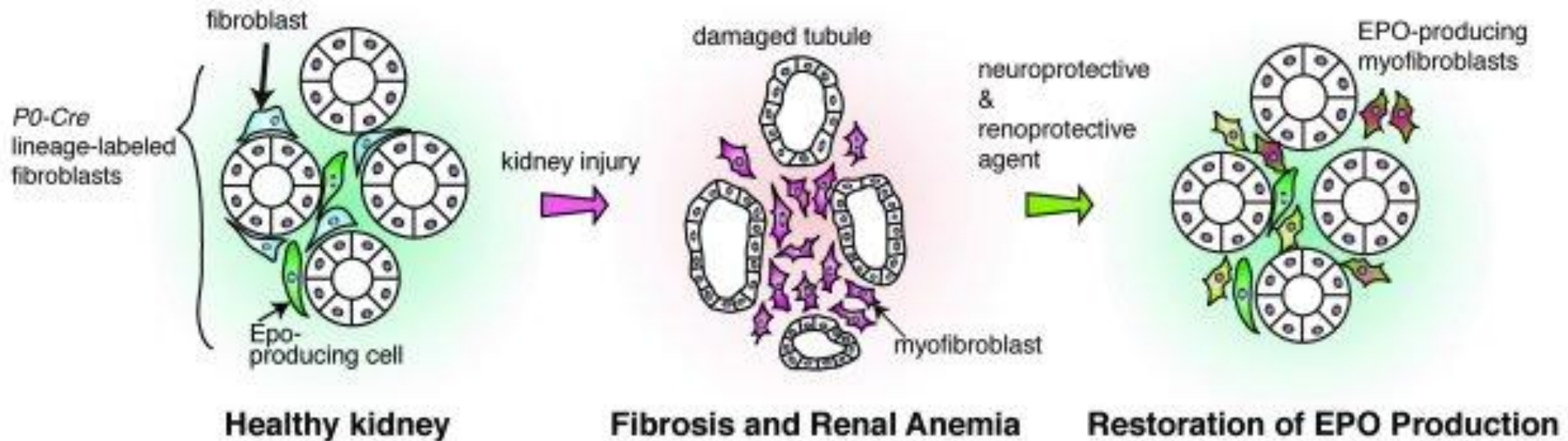
# EPO producing cells contribute to fibrosis of the kidney





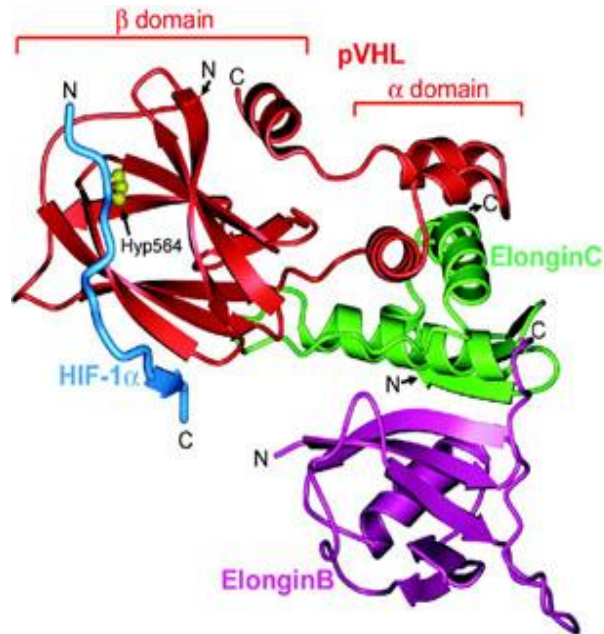
# EPO producing cells contribute to fibrosis of the kidney

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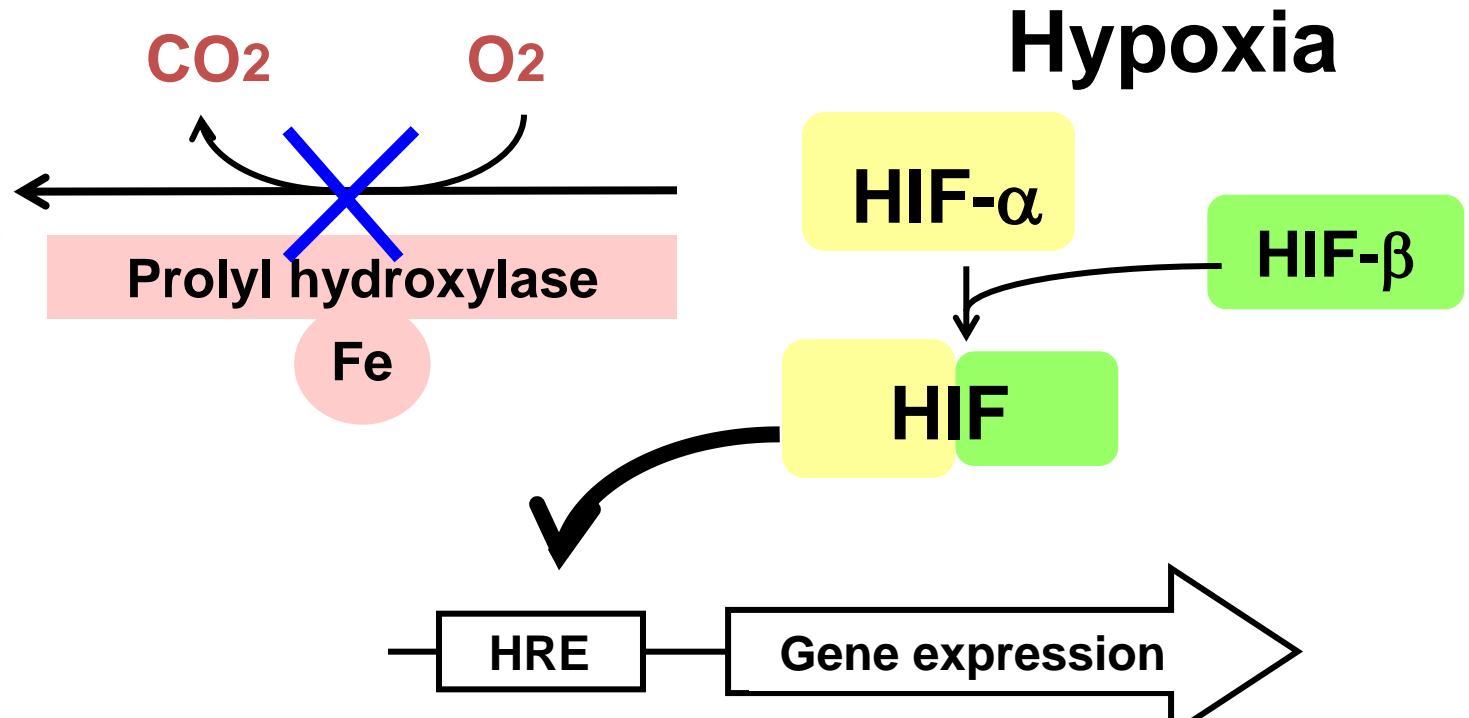


Asada et al. J Clin Invest 2011

# Cellular responses against hypoxia



(Min et al. Science 2002)



Oxygen transport (**EPO**, Transferrin)

Vascular regulation (VEGF, adrenomedullin, HO-1)

Glucose uptake and glycolysis (Glut-1, Aldolase A)

Anti-oxidative enzymes (SODs, catalase)

Mimura & Nangaku. Nature Rev Nephrol 2010

HIF-1 $\alpha$



HIF-2 $\alpha$



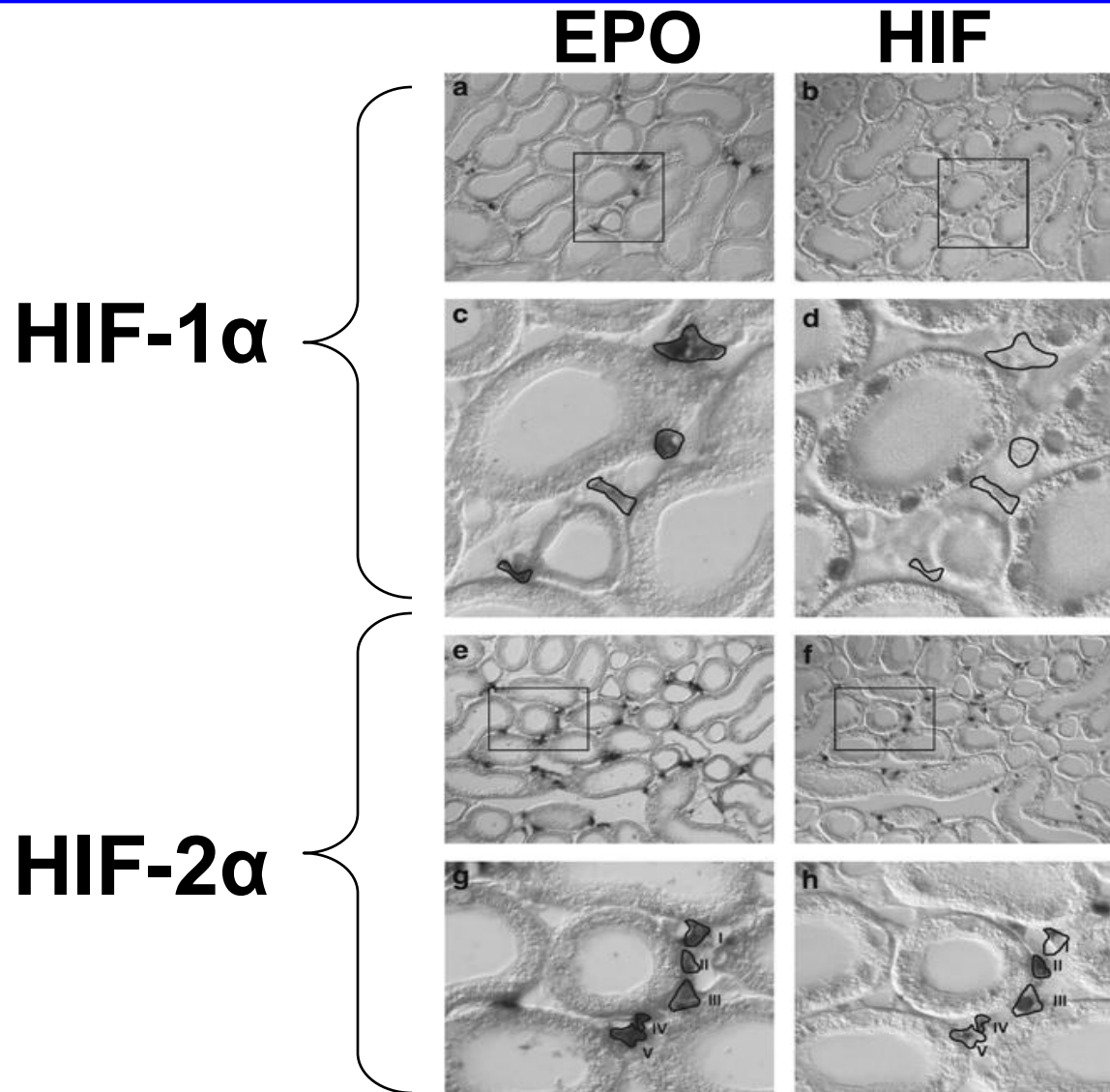
HIF-3 $\alpha$



HIF-1 $\beta$ (ARNT)



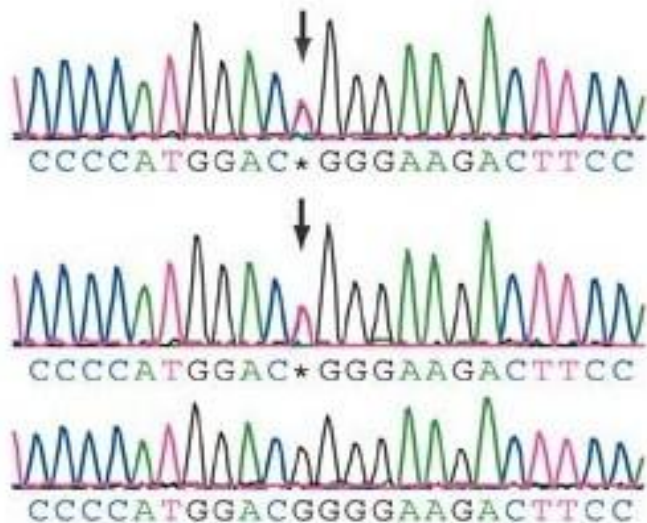
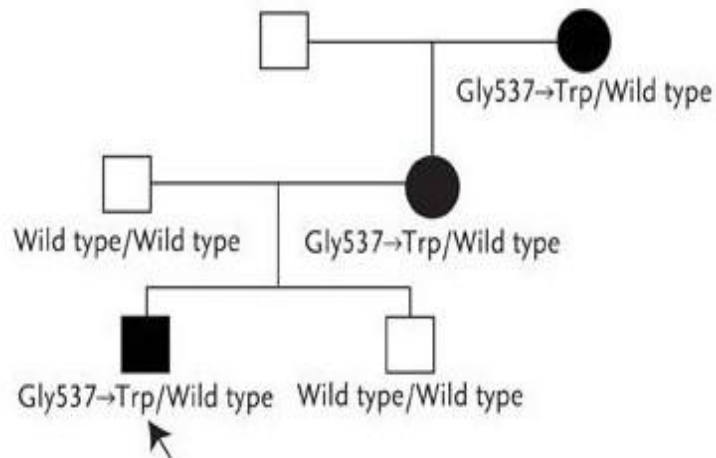
# EPO mRNA colocalizes with HIF-2 $\alpha$ in the interstitial cells, but not with HIF-1 $\alpha$



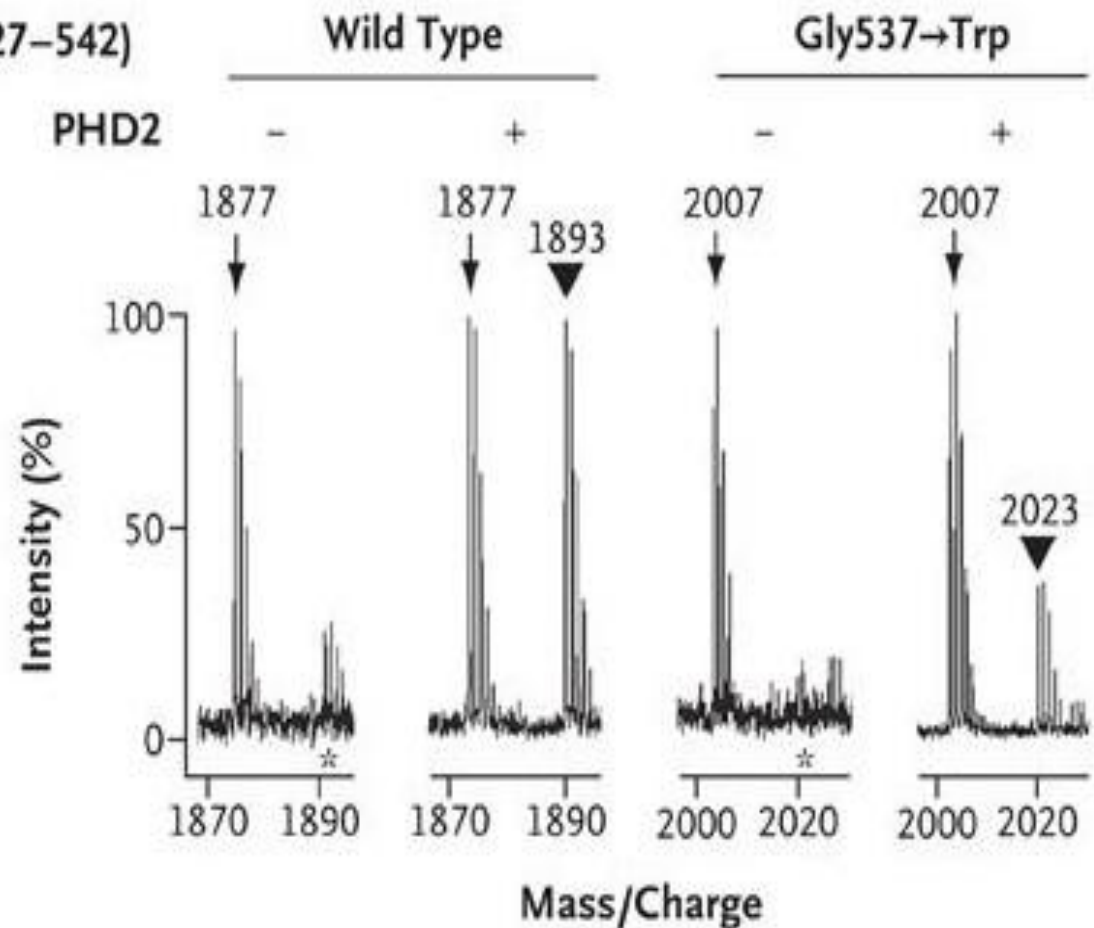
Paliege et al. Kidney Int 2010



# HIF-2 $\alpha$ gain-of-function mutation is a cause of familial polycythemia



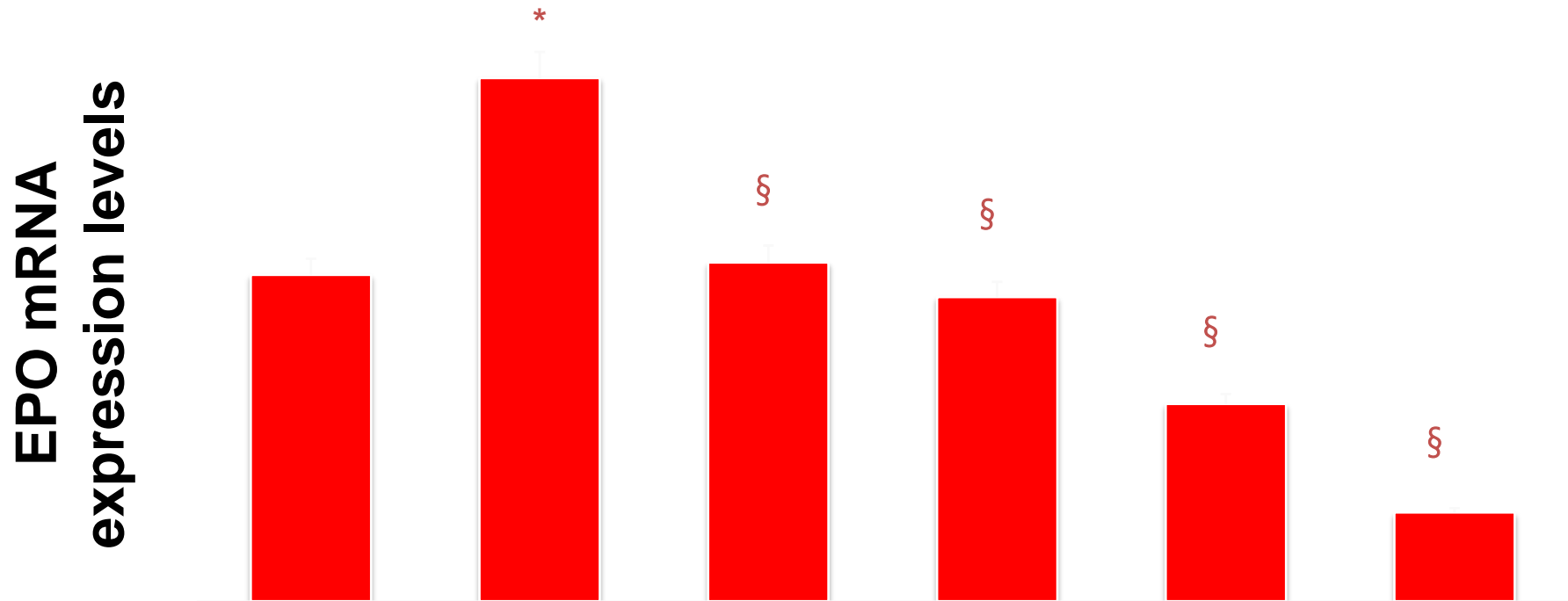
HIF-2 $\alpha$  (527–542)



Percy et al. N Engl J Med 2008

# Suppression of EPO expression by indoxyl sulfate: *in vitro*

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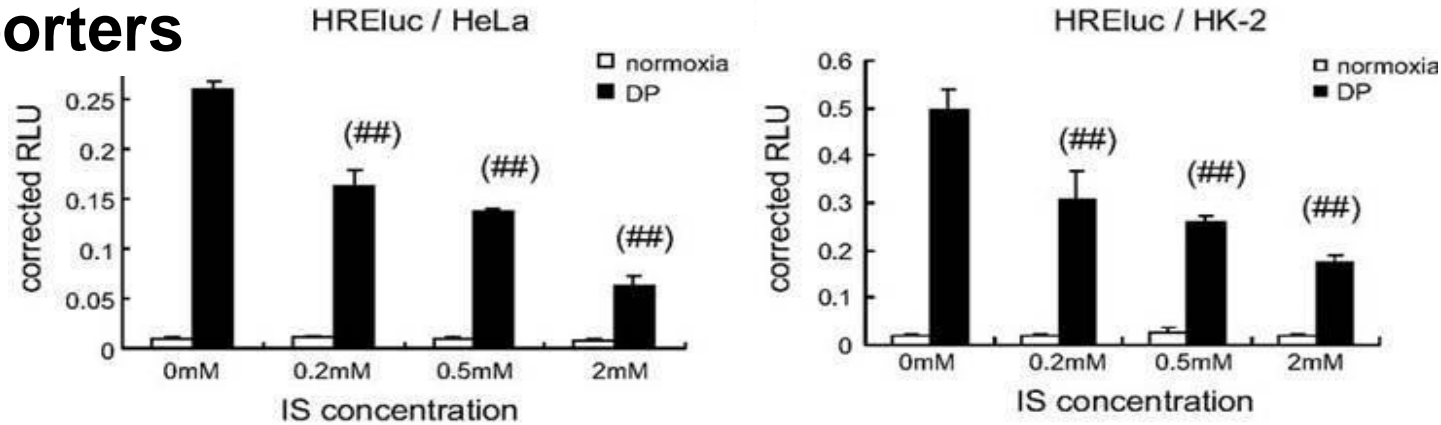


CoCL <sub>2</sub> (100μM)	-	+	+	+	+	+
Indoxyl sulfate (mM)	-	-	0.5	1.0	2.5	5.0

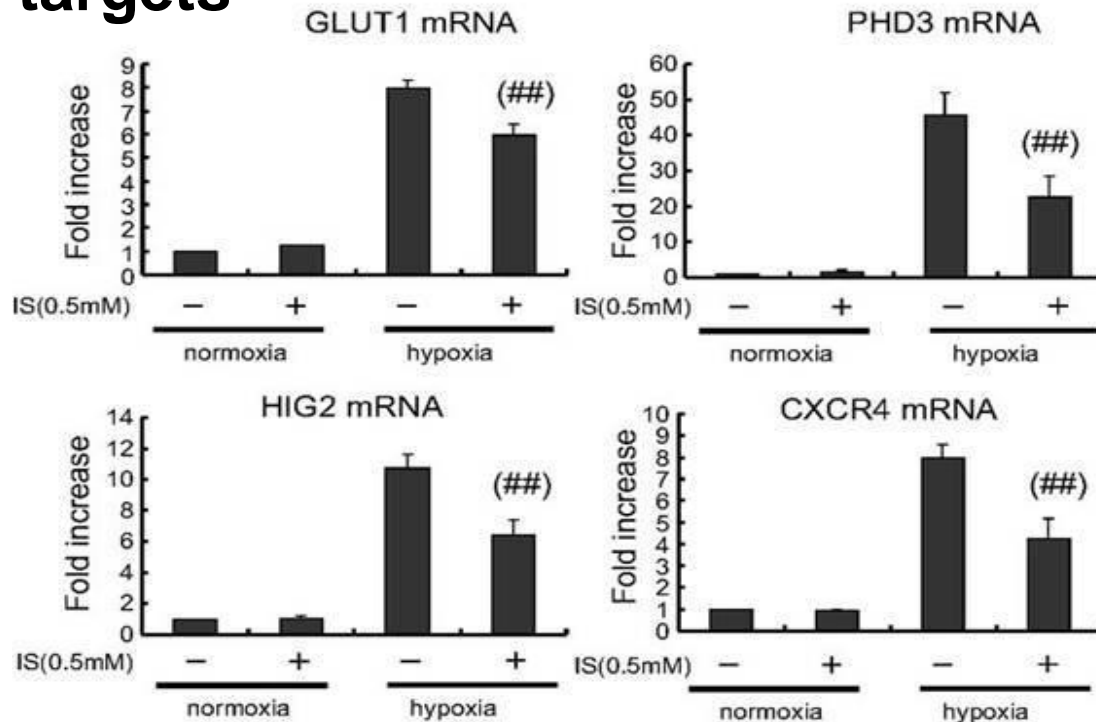
Chiang, Nangaku, Inagi et al. Lab Invest 2011

# indoxyl sulfate inhibits HIF activity

## reporters



## HIF targets

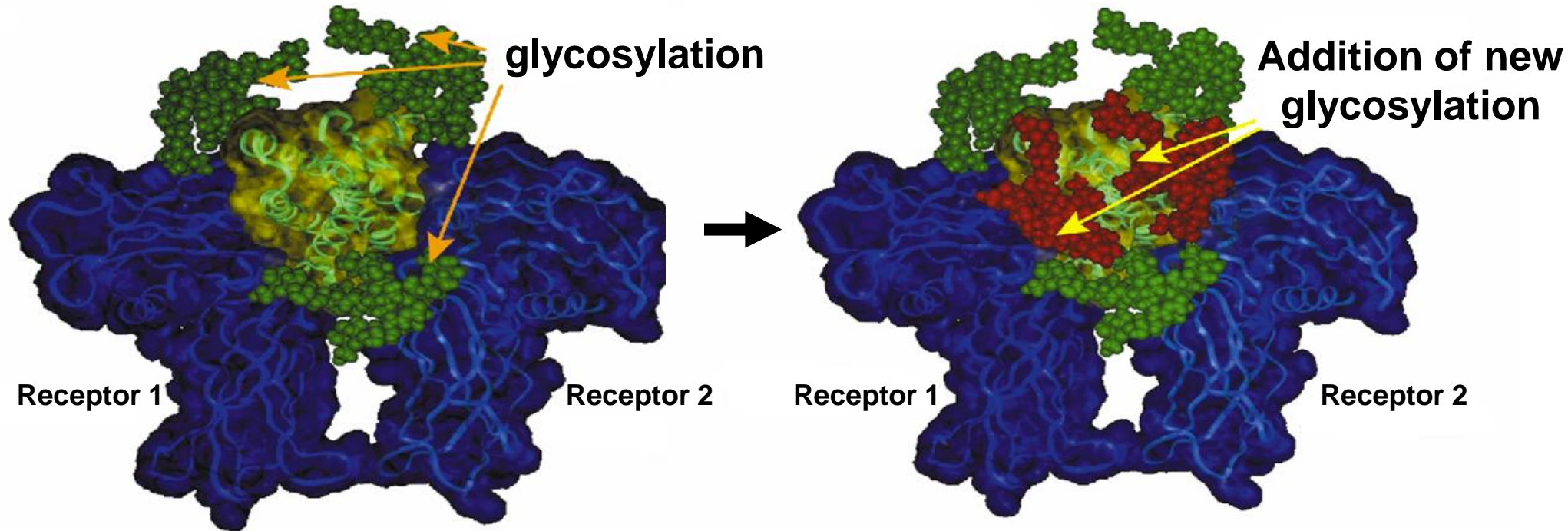


IS: indoxyl sulfate

Tanaka, Nangaku et al.  
FASEB J 2013

# Long-acting EPO darbepoetin / Novel Erythropoiesis Stimulating Protein

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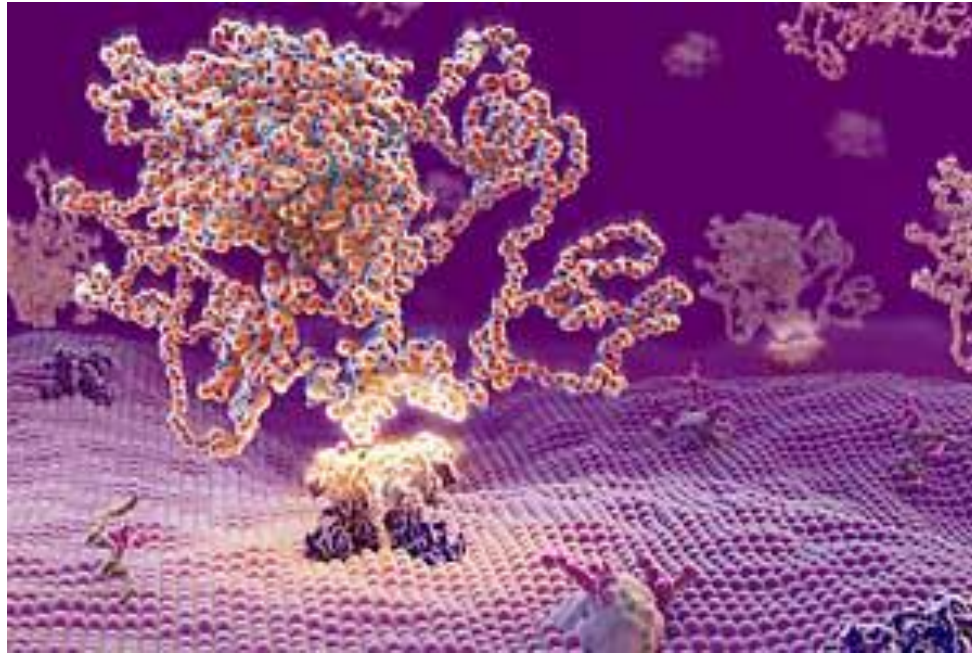
Australia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, New Zealand,  
Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand

# **Long-acting EPO**

## **Mircera /**

### **Methoxy polyethylene glycol-epoetin beta**

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**Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam**



# Biosimilar recombinant EPO induces the production of neutralizing antibodies

**Table 1 | Patients' characteristics and issues related to the use of biosimilar r-HuEpo and laboratory results**

	Anti-r-HuEpo positive	Anti-r-HuEpo negative	P
Numbers of patients (cases)	23	7	—
Gender, male/female (case/case)	13/10	3/4	0.526
Age, years $\pm$ s.d.	61.1 $\pm$ 21.4	52.8 $\pm$ 4.8	0.784
CKD status, cases (%)			0.647
Predialysis	8 (34.8)	2 (28.6)	
Hemodialysis	14 (60.9)	4 (57.1)	
Peritoneal dialysis	1 (4.3)	1 (14.3)	
Etiology of CKD, cases (%)			0.393
Diabetic nephropathy	5 (26.1)	3 (42.9)	
Chronic glomerulonephritis	3 (13.0)	0	
Unknown	14 (60.9)	4 (57.1)	
r-HuEpo exposure duration, months $\pm$ s.d. (range in months)	12.1 $\pm$ 7.8 (3–36)	22.3 $\pm$ 19.8 (6–60)	0.001*
r-HuEpo dose, U/kg/week $\pm$ s.d.	149 $\pm$ 82	171 $\pm$ 91	0.991
Hb before LOE, g/dl $\pm$ s.d.	10.8 $\pm$ 1.6	11.4 $\pm$ 0.7	0.458
Hemoglobin by the time of LOE, g/dl $\pm$ s.d.	5.6 $\pm$ 0.9	7.3 $\pm$ 0.7	<0.001*
Reticulocytes, cell/mm <sup>3</sup> $\pm$ s.d.	5978 $\pm$ 1217	13,128 $\pm$ 3,456	<0.001*
Serum ferritin, ng/ml $\pm$ s.d.	368.6 $\pm$ 83.1	370.3 $\pm$ 93.7	0.967
Transferring saturation, % $\pm$ s.d.	28.3 $\pm$ 6.6	28.8 $\pm$ 5.2	0.821
Serum folate, pg/ml $\pm$ s.d.	12.8 $\pm$ 4.5	12.5 $\pm$ 4.3	0.526

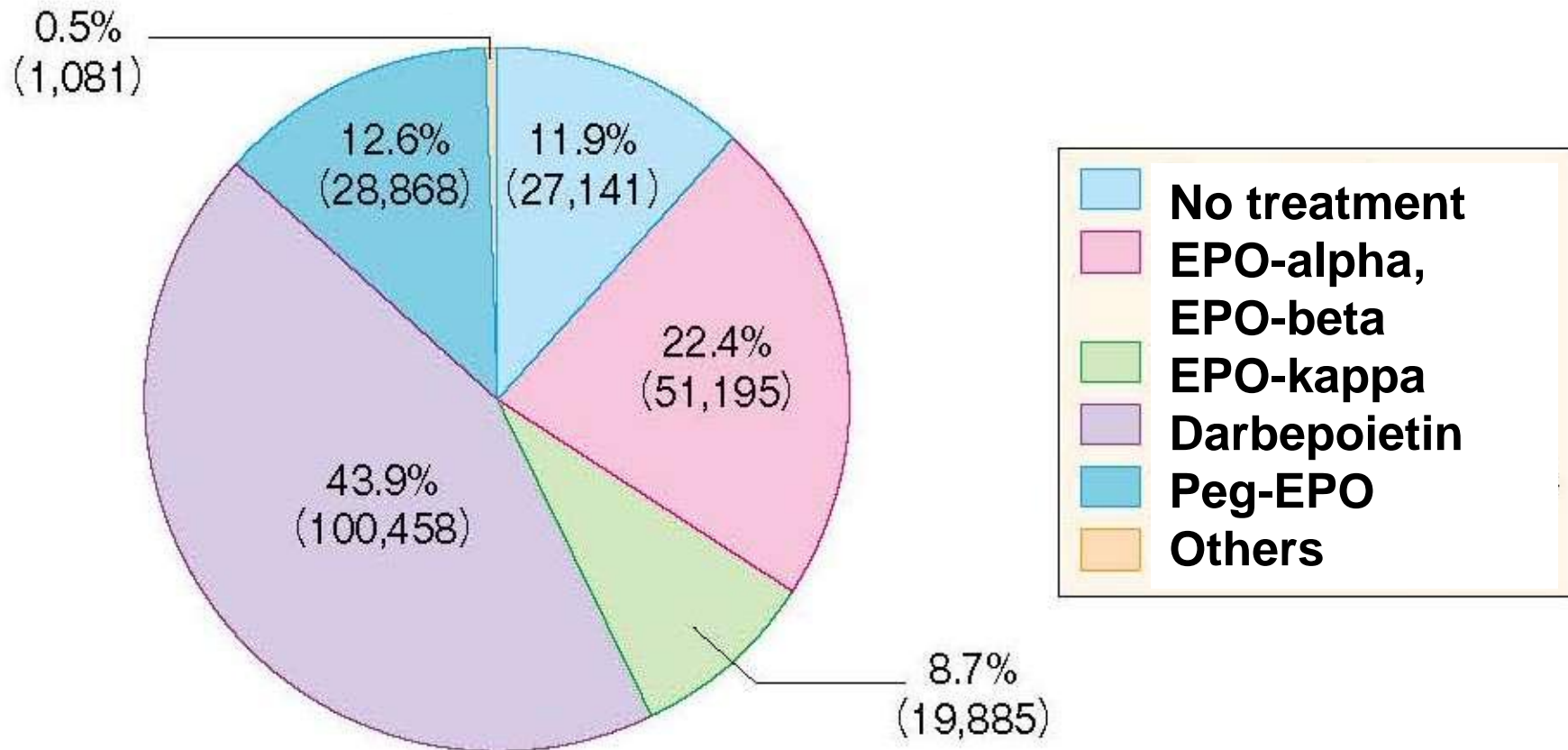
**n = 30 patients with CKD treated with biosimilar Epo and who developed a sudden loss of efficacy**

**Praditpornsilpa et al. Kidney Int 2011**

# How the Japanese dialysis patients are treated

## Database of JSDT

### Ratios of various ESAs



# Hb levels of the Japanese dialysis patients

## Database of JSDT



year

2012

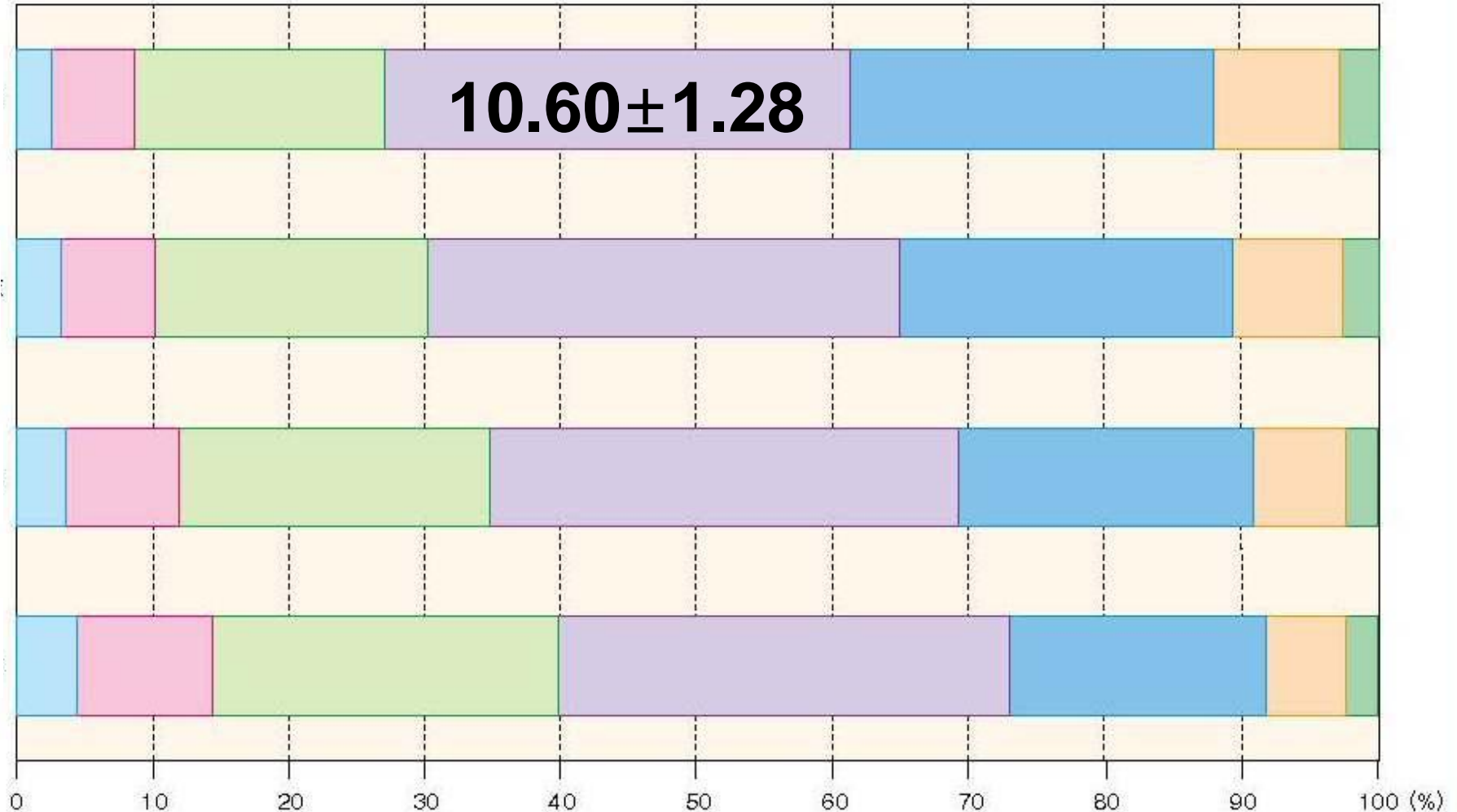
2010

2008

2006

8未満 8～ 9～ 10～ 11～ 12～ 13～ (g/dL)

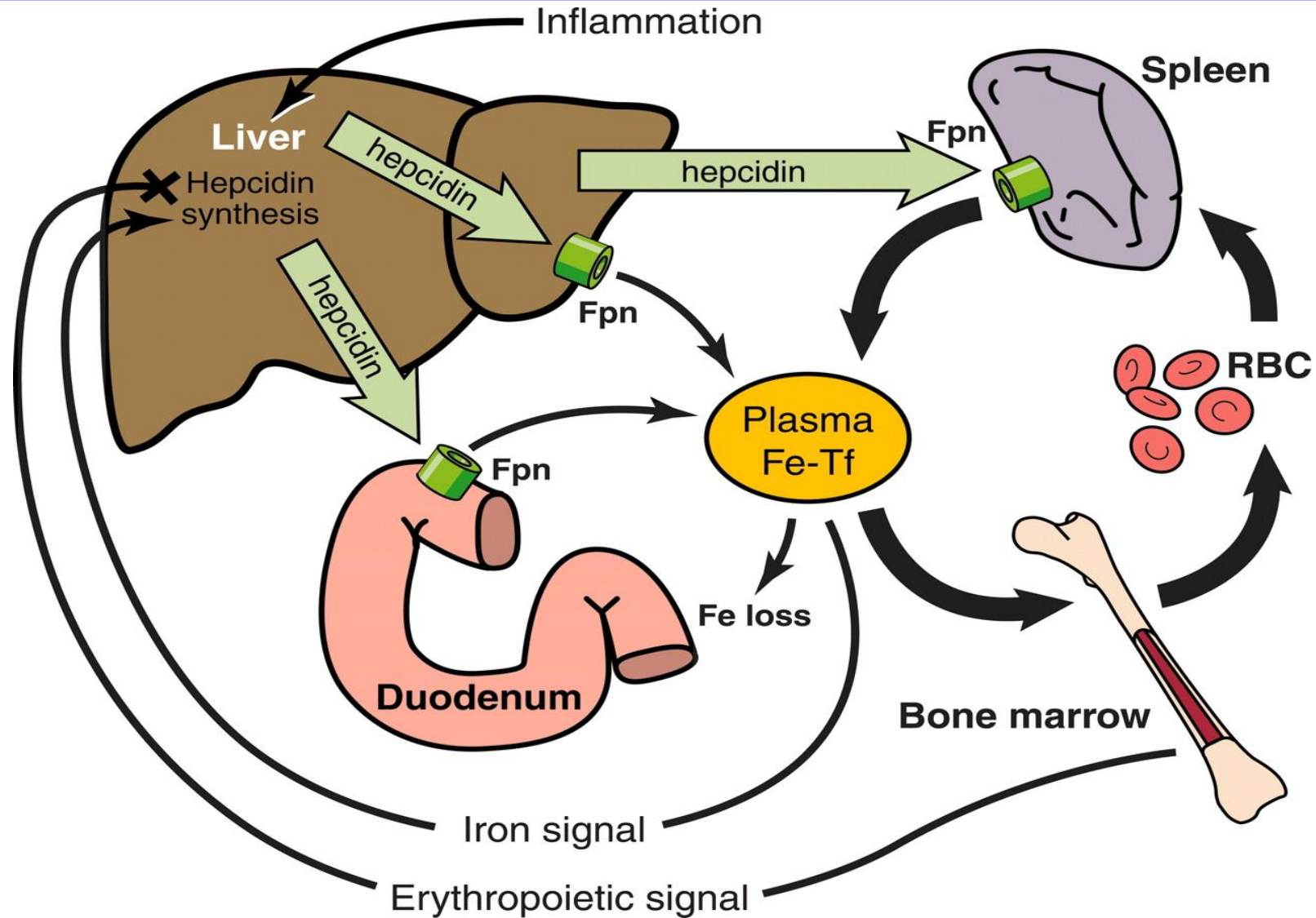
$10.60 \pm 1.28$





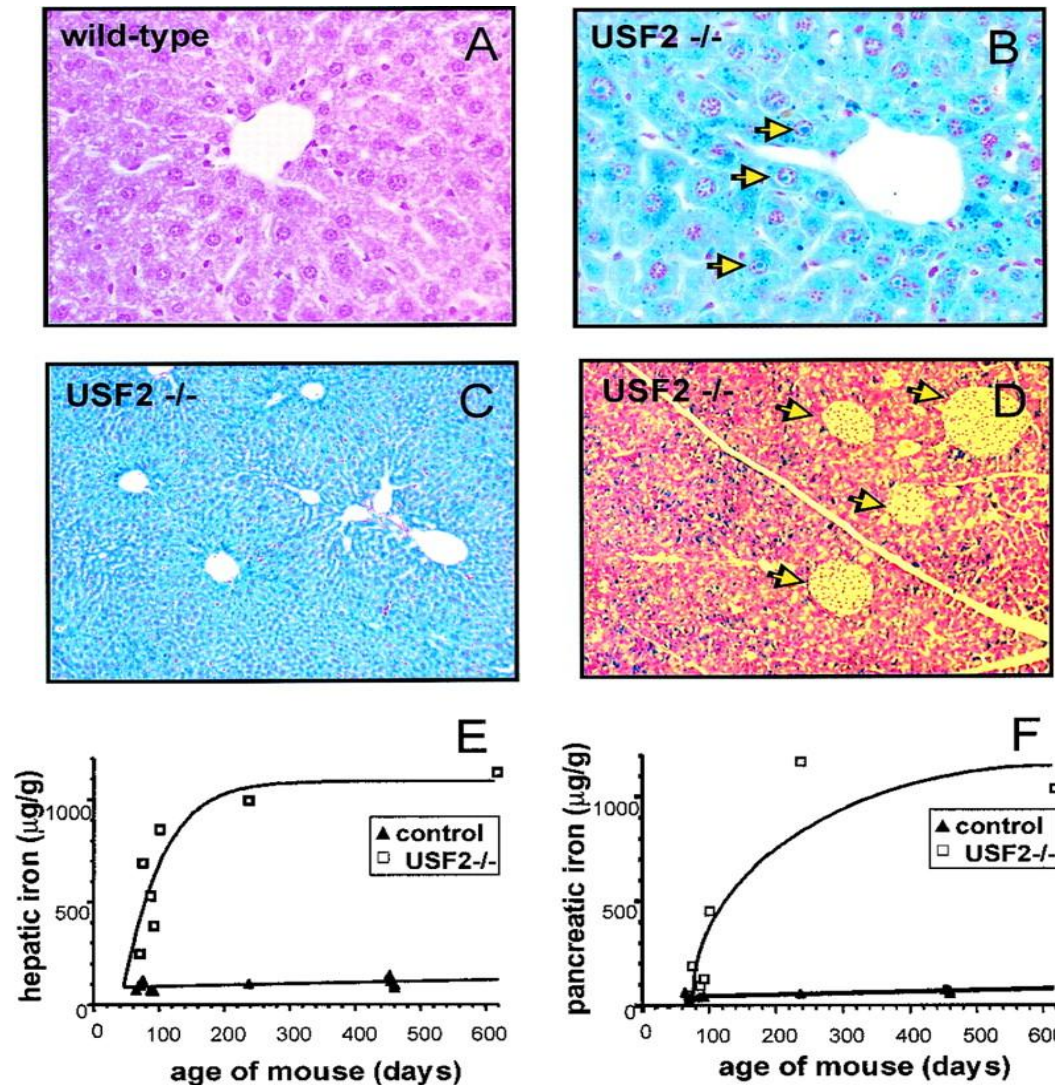
**IRON**

# Iron homeostasis



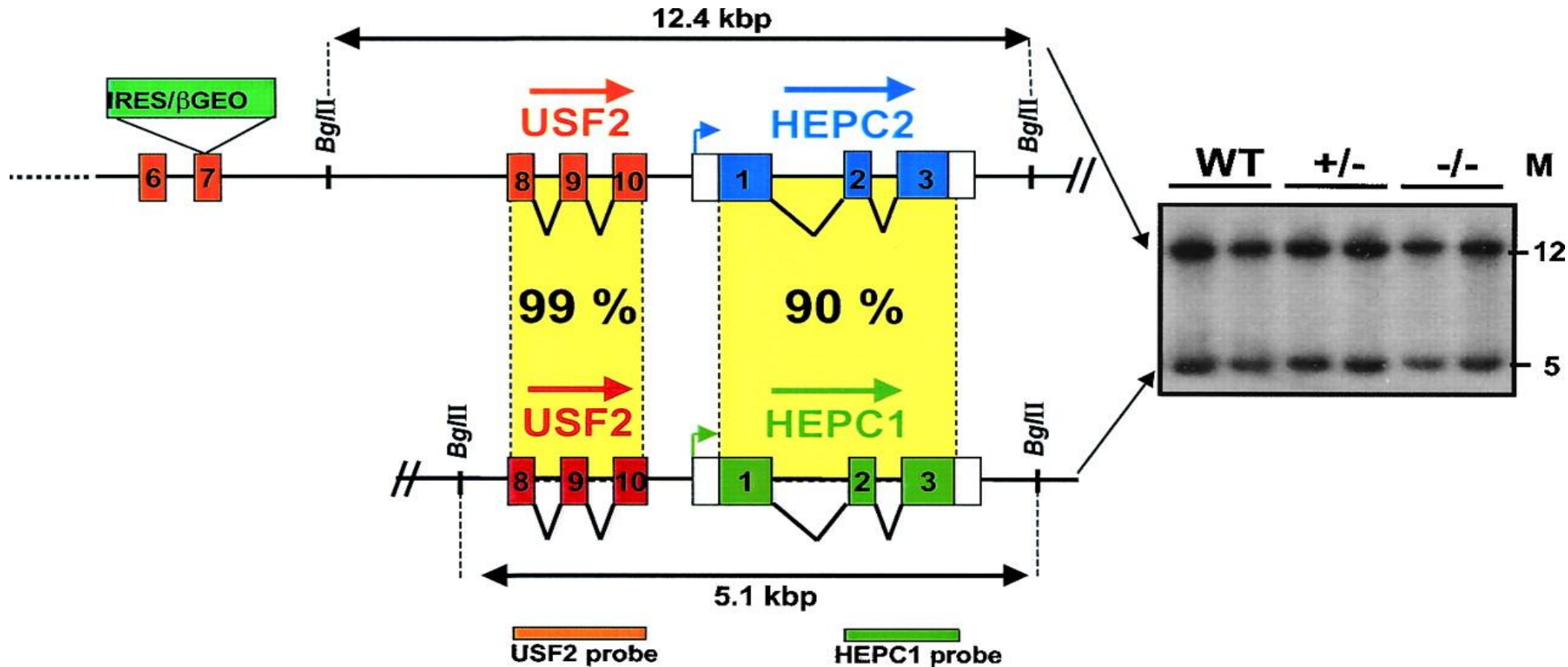
Ganz. J Am Soc Nephrol 2007

# Iron deposition in USF2-KO mice

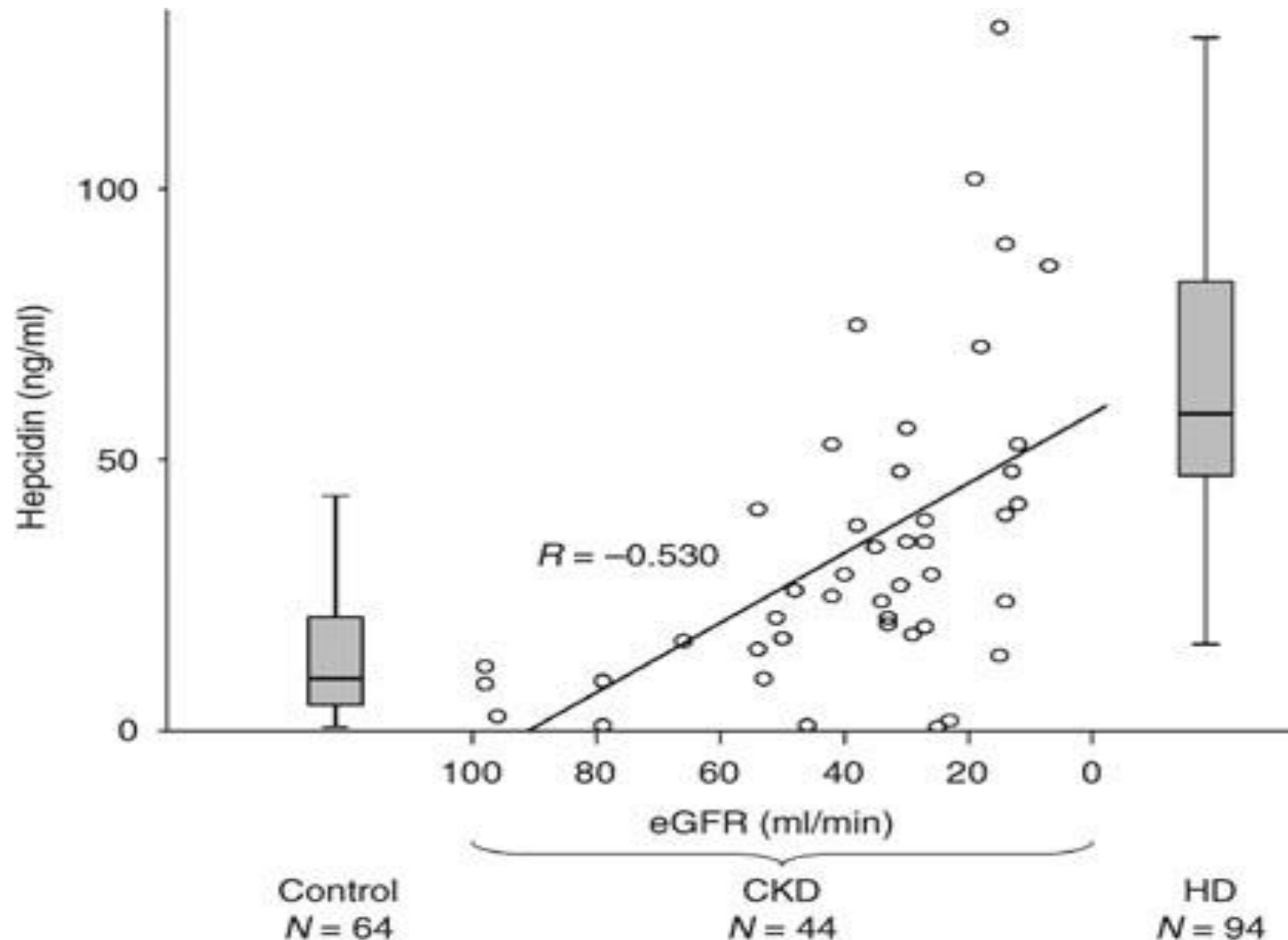


Nicolas et al. Proc Natl Acad Sci 2001

# Hepcidin was also knocked out in USF2-KO mice



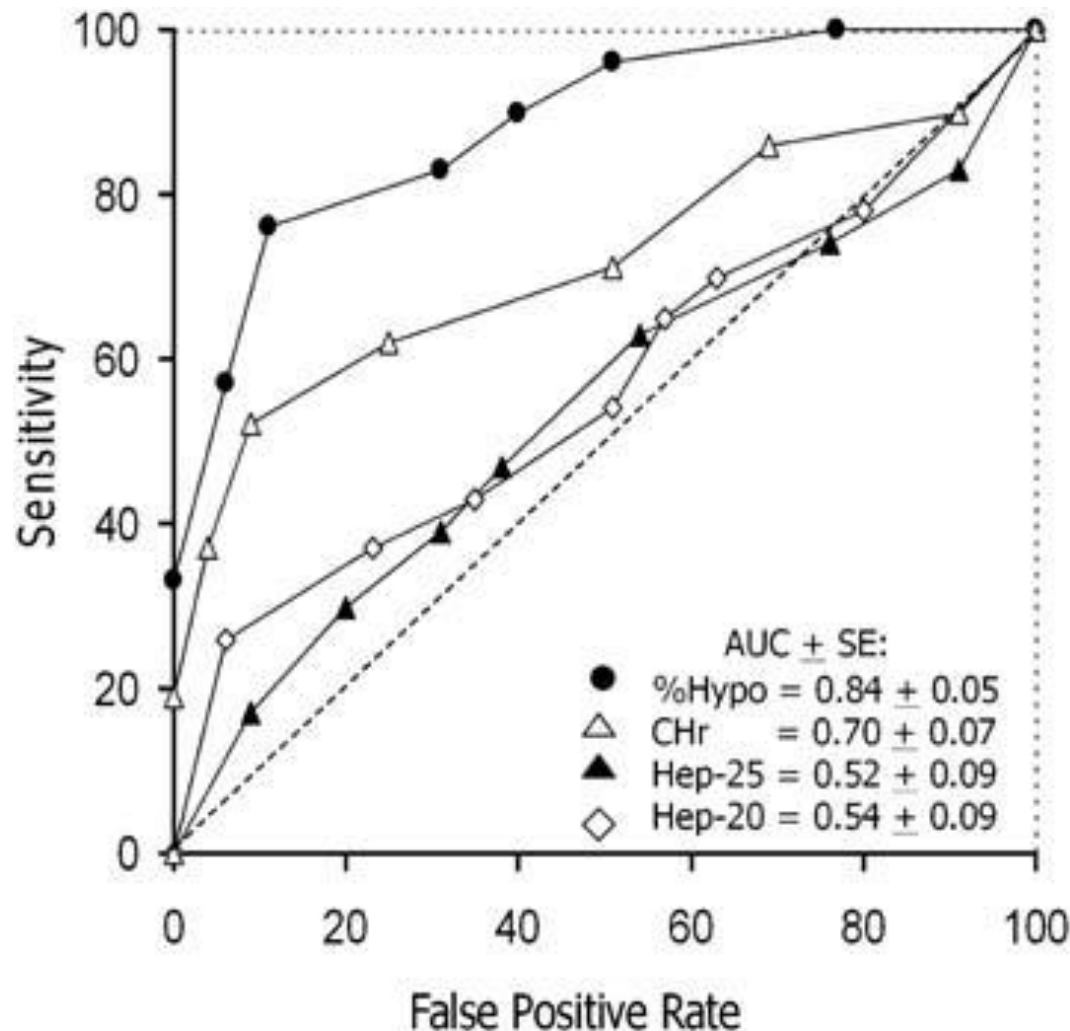
# hepcidin is increased in CKD patients



Ashby et al. Kidney Int 2009



# hepcidin does NOT predict iron responsiveness



**Diagnostic accuracy for iron responsiveness by ROC curve analysis**

**%Hypo:**

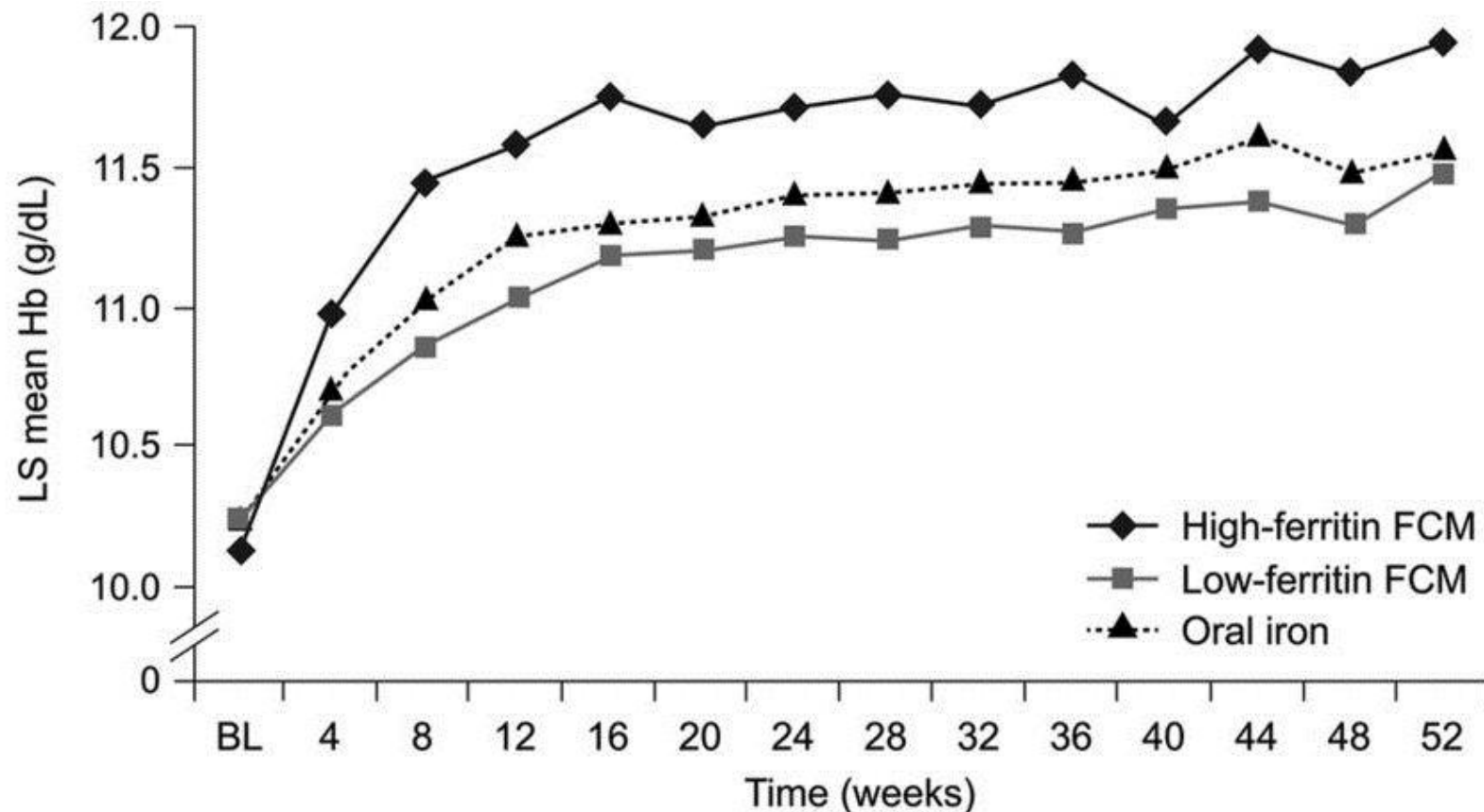
**% of hypochromic RBC**

**CHr:**

**reticulocyte Hb content**

# FIND-CKD: a randomized trial of intravenous ferric carboxymaltose versus oral iron in patients with CKD and iron deficiency anemia

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Macdougall et al. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2014

# NICE Anaemia Management in CKD 2011

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People receiving ESA maintenance therapy should be given iron supplements to keep their:

- serum ferritin levels between 200 and 500 µg/l** in both HD and non-HD patients, and either
  - **TSAT above 20%** (unless ferritin is greater than 800 µg/l) or
  - percentage hypochromic red cells (%HRC) less than 6% (unless ferritin is greater than 800 µg/l).



# KDIGO Clinical Practice Guideline for Anemia in CKD 2012

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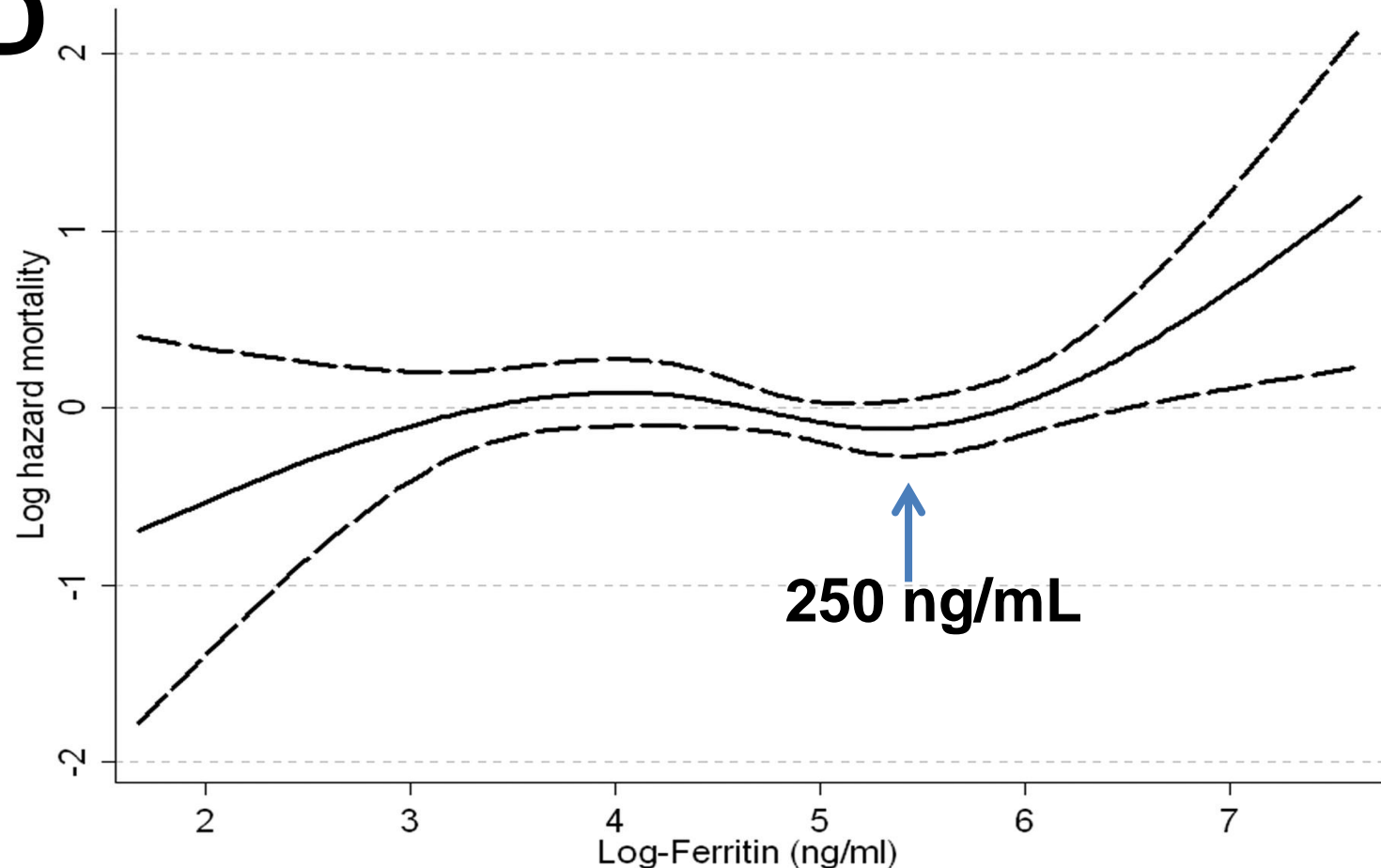
**For adult CKD patients with anemia not on iron or ESA therapy we suggest a trial of iron therapy**

**if an increase in Hb concentration without starting ESA treatment is desired and **TSAT is  $\leq 30\%$  and ferritin is  $\leq 500$  ng/ml ( $\leq 500$  mg/l)****

# Multivariable adjusted log-hazards of all-cause mortality associated with levels of natural-log-transformed serum ferritin concentration

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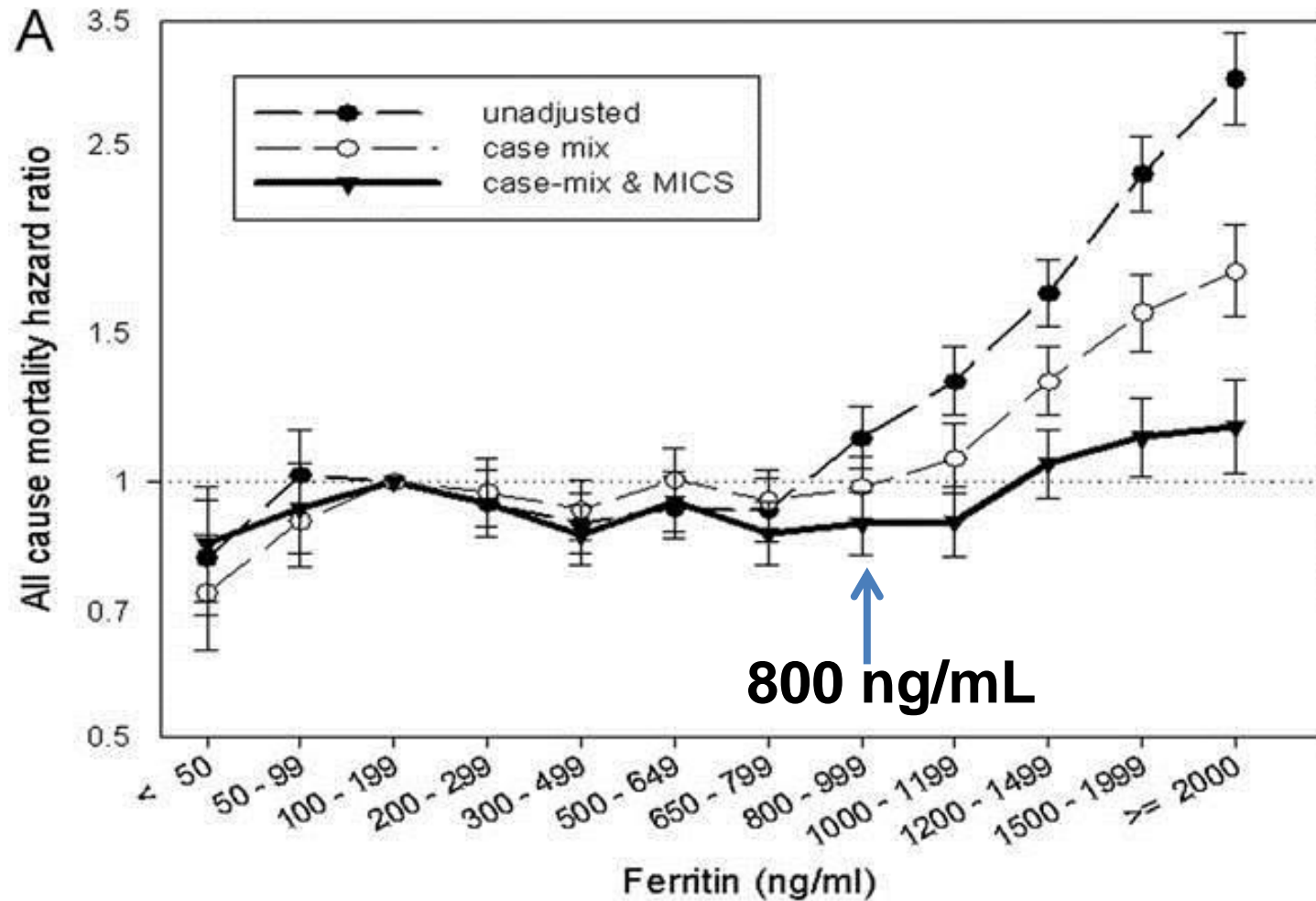
**non-HD**



**Kovesdy et al. CJASN 2009**

# Association between serum ferritin and all-cause mortality

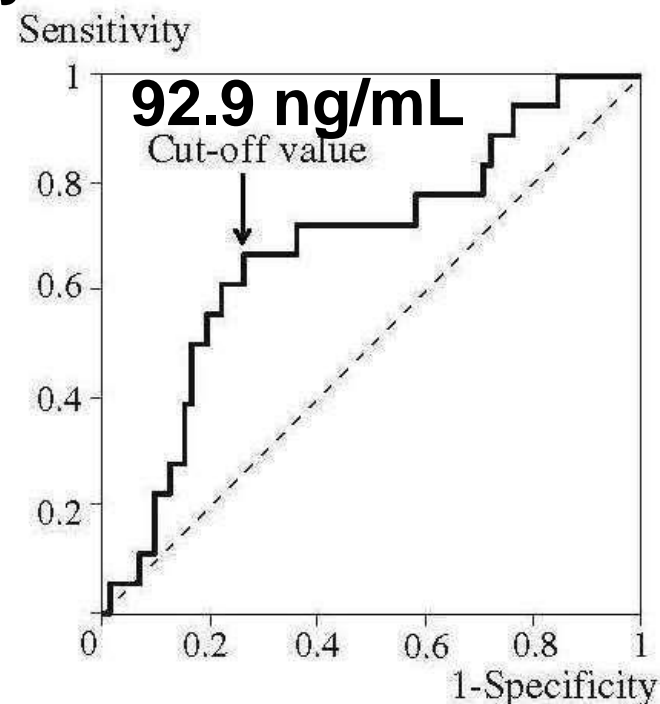
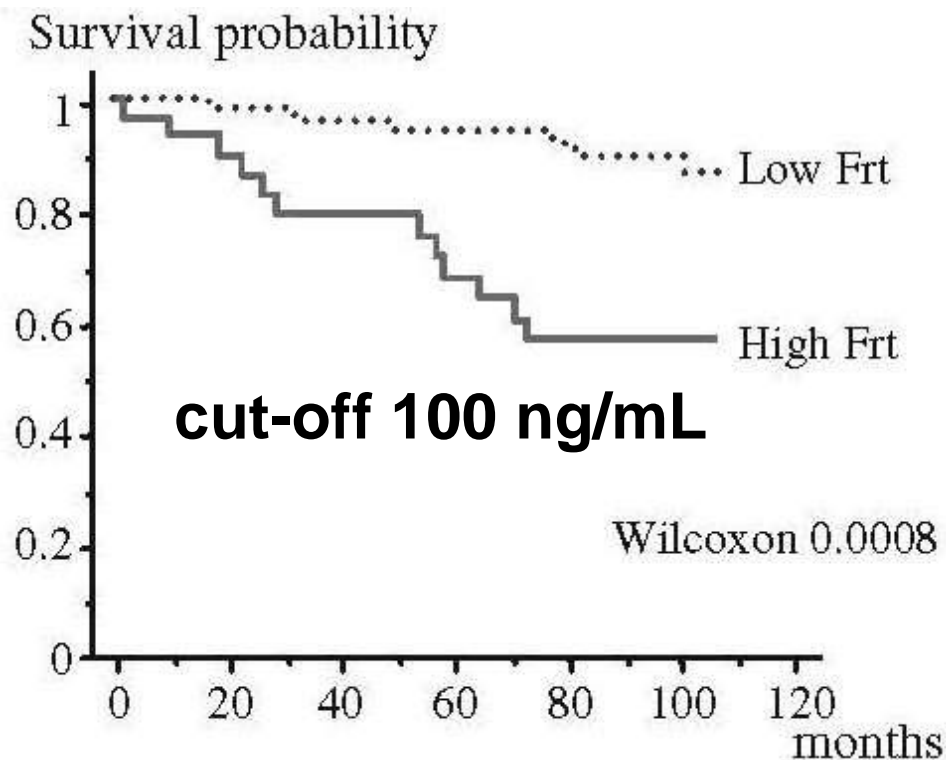
HD



# Association between high risk of death with high serum ferritin levels

## the Nishinomiya Study

**HD**



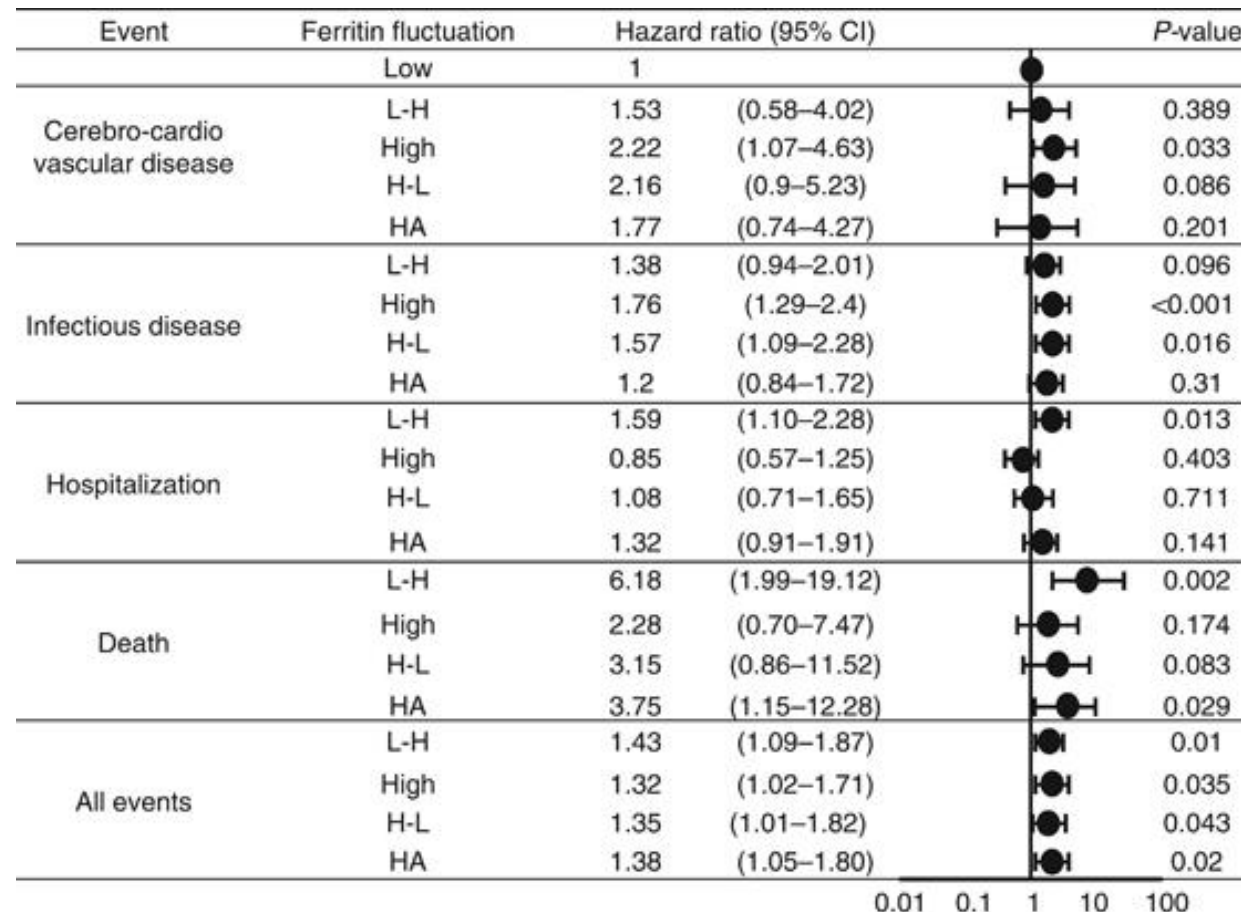
Cut-off value of ferritin	92.9 ng/ml
Sensitivity	0.667
Specificity	0.736
Area under the curve	0.683
P value	0.017
95%CI	0.543 - 0.822

**Hasuike et al. Clin Exp Nephrol 2010**

# Association between adverse events with high serum ferritin levels (>100 ng/mL) and with high-amplitude ferritin fluctuations

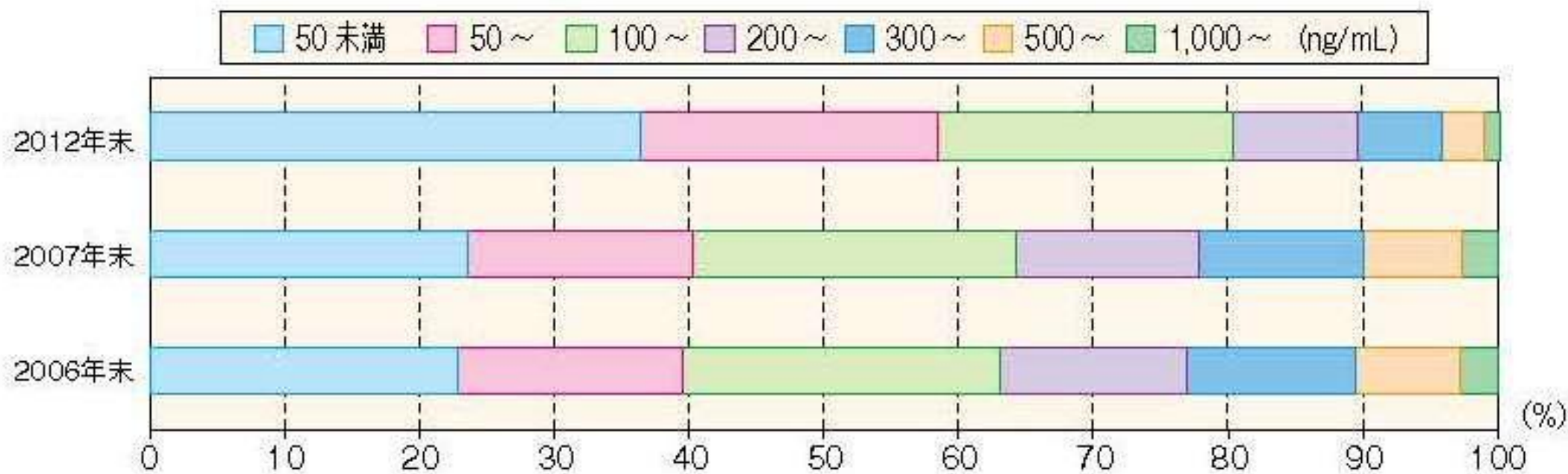
## Treatment for Renal Anemia on Prognosis (TRAP) study

HD



# Serum ferritin of the Japanese dialysis patients

## Database of JSDT



# **New anemia guideline: JSN & JSDT**

**Iron supplementation should be started in patients with serum ferritin  $\leq 50$  ng/mL in patients NOT treated with ESA.**

**Iron supplementation should be started in patients with TSAT  $\leq 20$  % or serum ferritin  $\leq 100$  ng/mL in patients treated with ESA.**

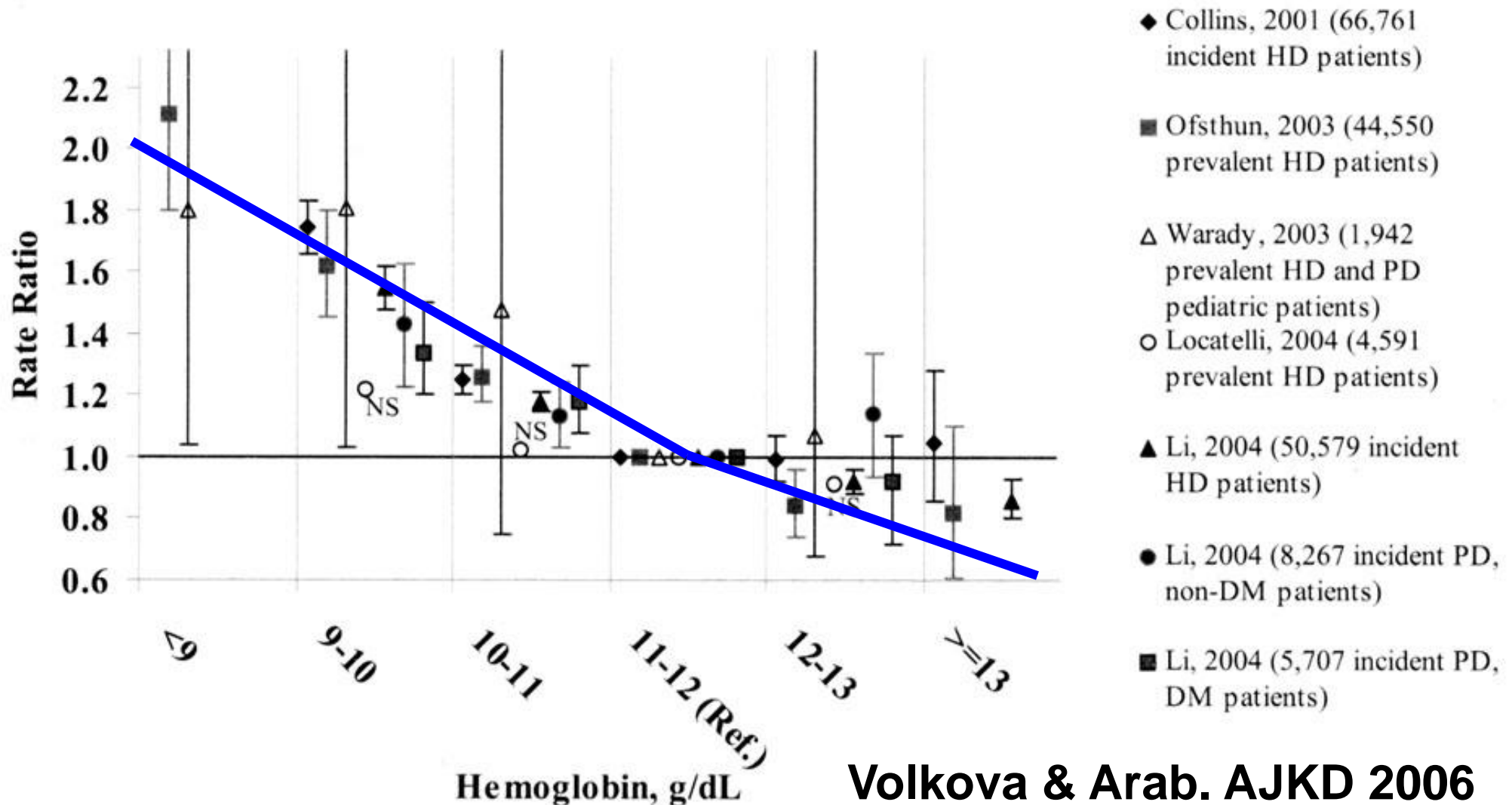
**Serum ferritin should not exceed 300 ng/mL or 500 ng/mL.**

**Target Hb**



**Epidemiological studies showed  
correlation between high Hb and  
good prognosis**

# Anemia and prognosis of CKD patients meta-analysis

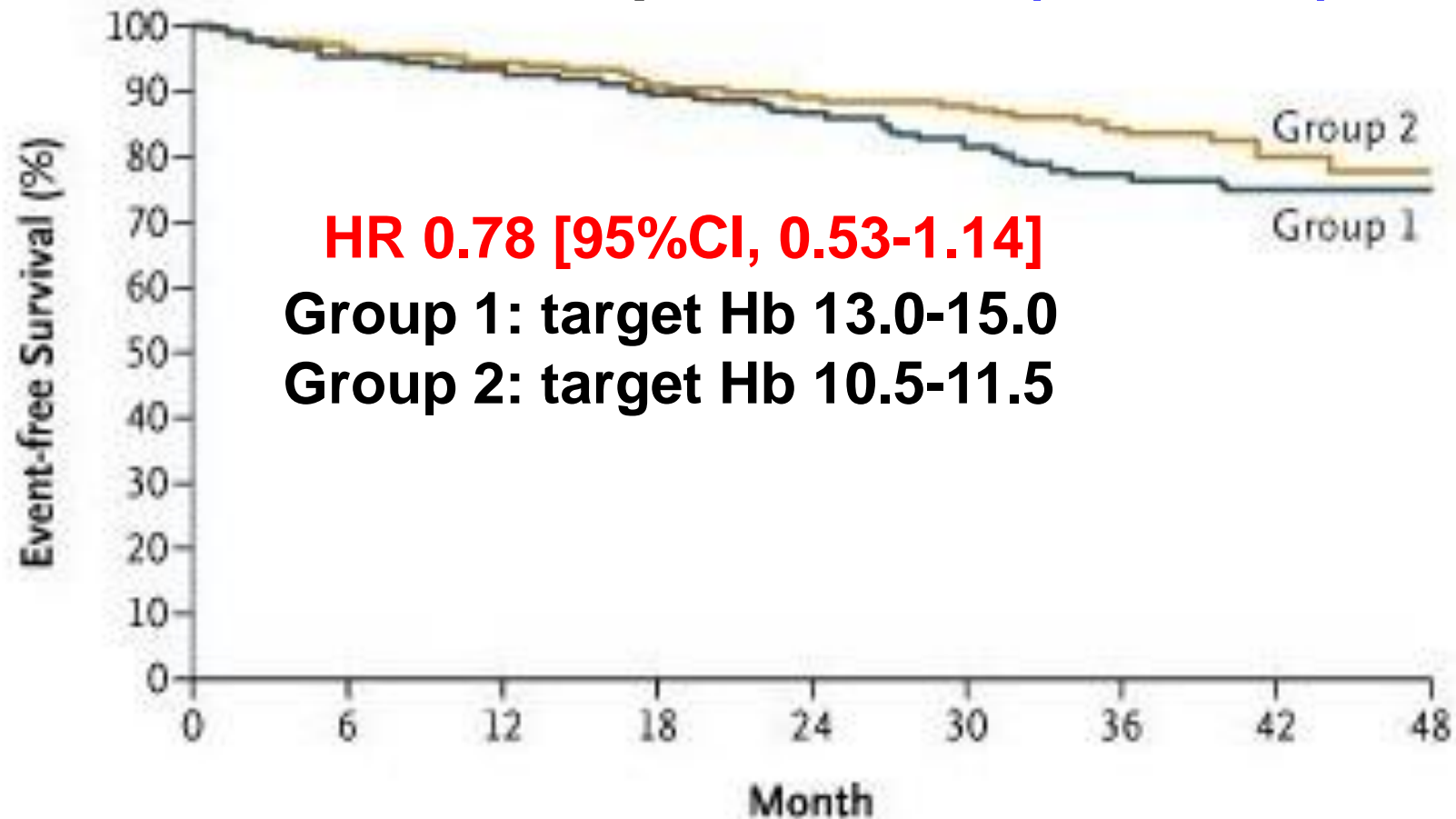


**Prospective trials showed that high  
Hb does not necessarily improve  
cardiovascular outcome**

# CREATE: primary endpoint

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## Cardiovascular Risk Reduction by Early Anemia Treatment with Epoetin Beta (CREATE)



Drueke et al. N Engl J Med 2006

# TREAT: Composite and Component End Points

**Table 2. Composite and Component End Points.\***

End Point	Darbepoetin Alfa (N = 2012) <i>number (percent)</i>	Placebo (N = 2026) <i>number (percent)</i>	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value†
<b>Primary end points</b>				
Cardiovascular composite end point‡	632 (31.4)	602 (29.7)	1.05 (0.94–1.17)	0.41
Death from any cause	412 (20.5)	395 (19.5)	1.05 (0.92–1.21)	0.48
Myocardial infarction§	124 (6.2)	129 (6.4)	0.96 (0.75–1.22)	0.73
Stroke§	101 (5.0)	53 (2.6)	1.92 (1.38–2.68)	<0.001
Heart failure§	205 (10.2)	229 (11.3)	0.89 (0.74–1.08)	0.24
Myocardial ischemia	41 (2.0)	49 (2.4)	0.84 (0.55–1.27)	0.40
Renal composite end point (ESRD or death)	652 (32.4)	618 (30.5)	1.06 (0.95–1.19)	0.29
ESRD	338 (16.8)	330 (16.3)	1.02 (0.87–1.18)	0.83
<b>Additional adjudicated end points</b>				
Death from cardiovascular causes	259 (12.9)	250 (12.3)	1.05 (0.88–1.25)	0.61
Cardiac revascularization	84 (4.2)	117 (5.8)	0.71 (0.54–0.94)	0.02

\* ESRD denotes end-stage renal disease.

† P values have not been adjusted for multiple comparisons.

‡ A patient may have had multiple cardiovascular events of different types. The cardiovascular composite end point reflects only the first occurrence of any of the components.

§ This category includes both fatal and nonfatal events.

# Difference of cardiovascular events between Japan and Western countries

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## A21 trial 秋澤忠男 et al. 腎と透析. 2014

Past history	AMI (%)	CABG (%)	PAD (%)
High Hb group	5.6	0.6	6.2
Low Hb group	3.1	0.6	3.8

## CHOIR

Past history	AMI (%)	CABG (%)	PAD (%)
High Hb group	16.4	17.4	16.4
Low Hb group	15.0	13.5	16.4

# Difference of cardiovascular events between Japan and Western countries

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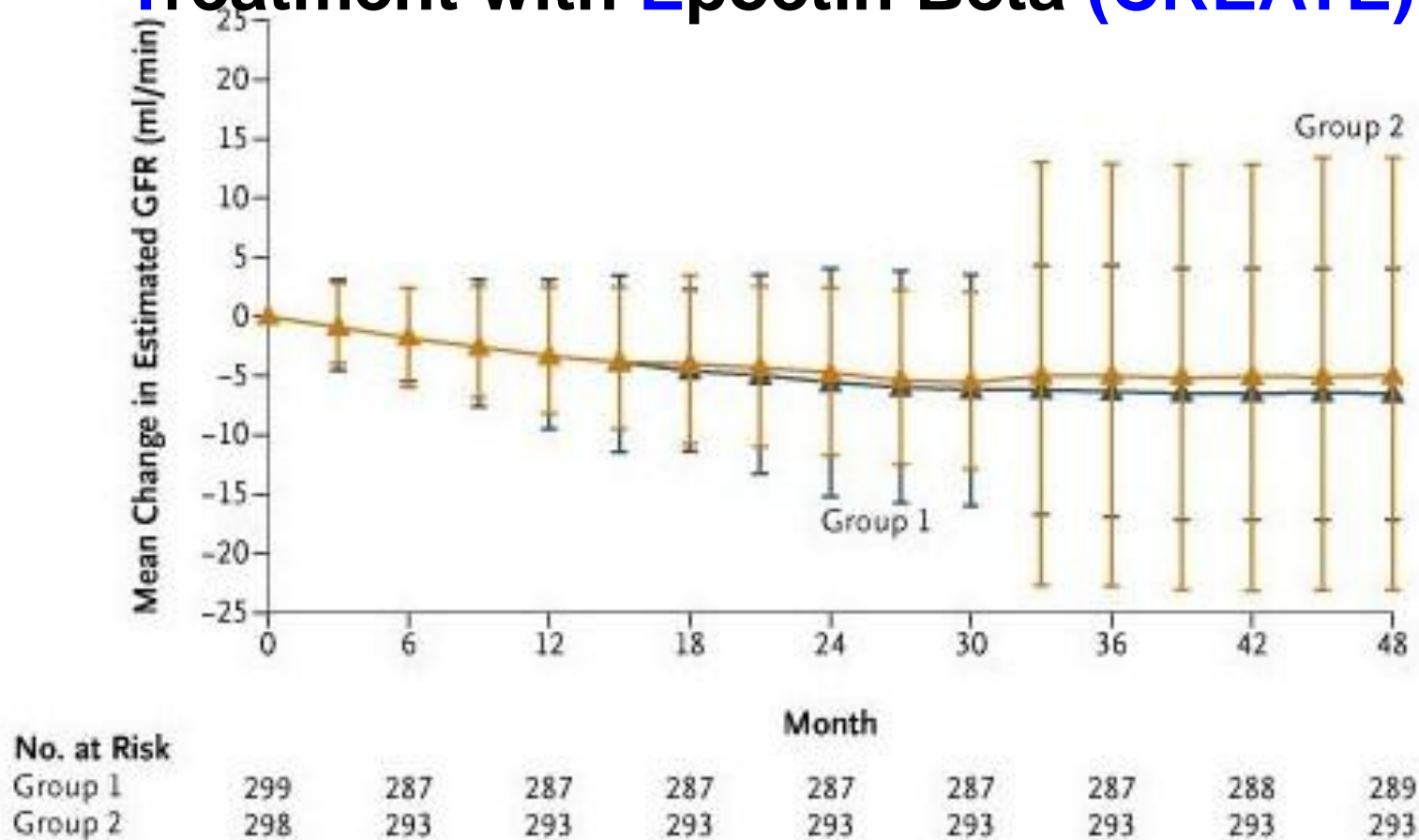
	Cardiovascular events (/1000 person · year)	apoplexy (/1000 person · year)
CHOIR	51.7	5.4
CREATE	58.0	7.2
TREAT	76.4	9.5
A21	15.6	2.1
Gonryo (G3-5)	21.8	8.6



# **Renal outcome in prospective trials**

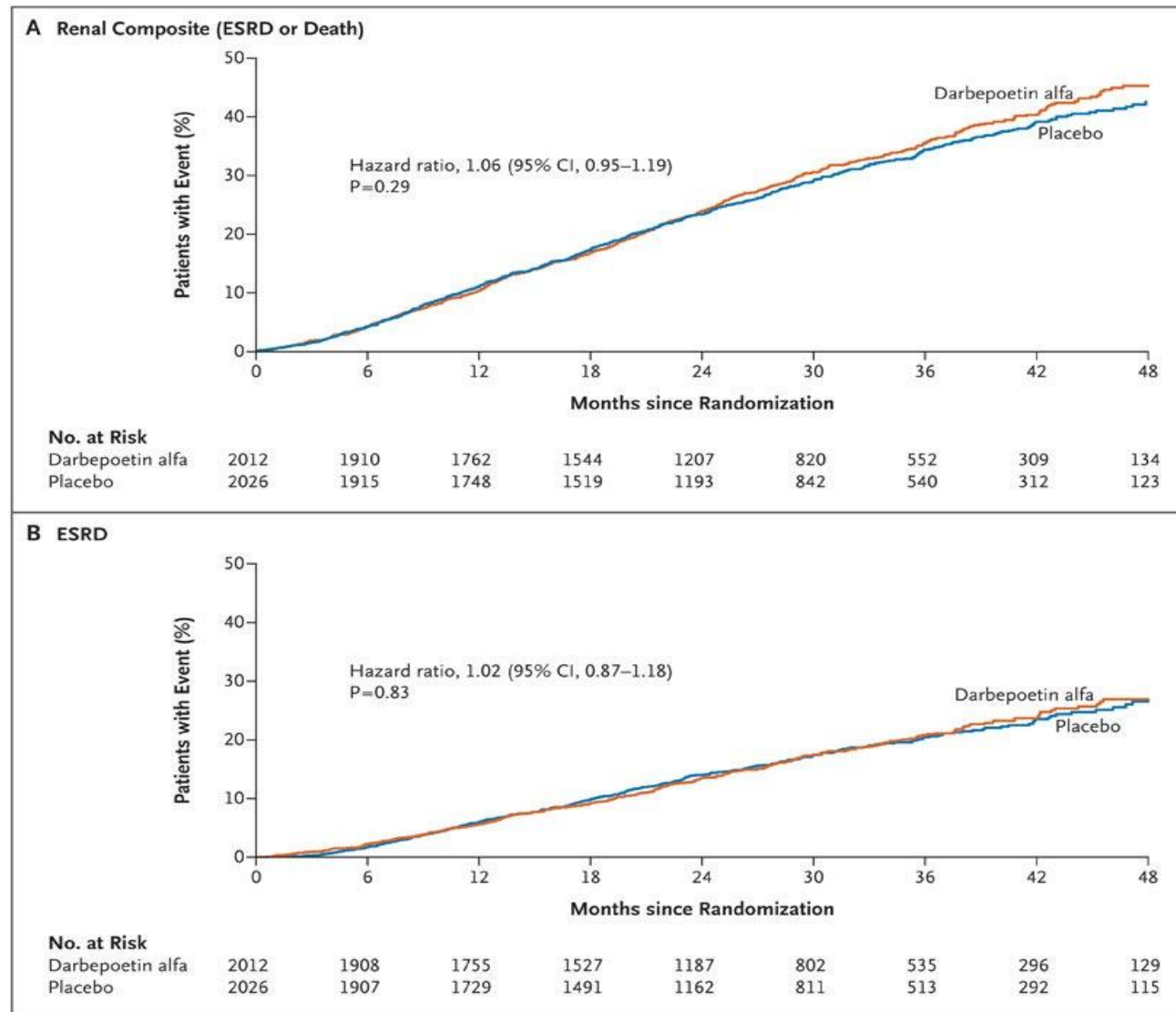
# CREATE: secondary endpoint

## Cardiovascular Risk Reduction by Early Anemia Treatment with Epoetin Beta (CREATE)



Drueke et al. N Engl J Med 2006

# TREAT: secondary endpoint of renal outcomes



# Difference of kidney outcomes between Japan and Western countries

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## Incident dialysis

	eGFR (mL/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	reason
A21	5.16	uremia
CREATE	12	heart failure/ volume overload
USRDS	11.1	heart failure/ volume overload

# A21 STUDY

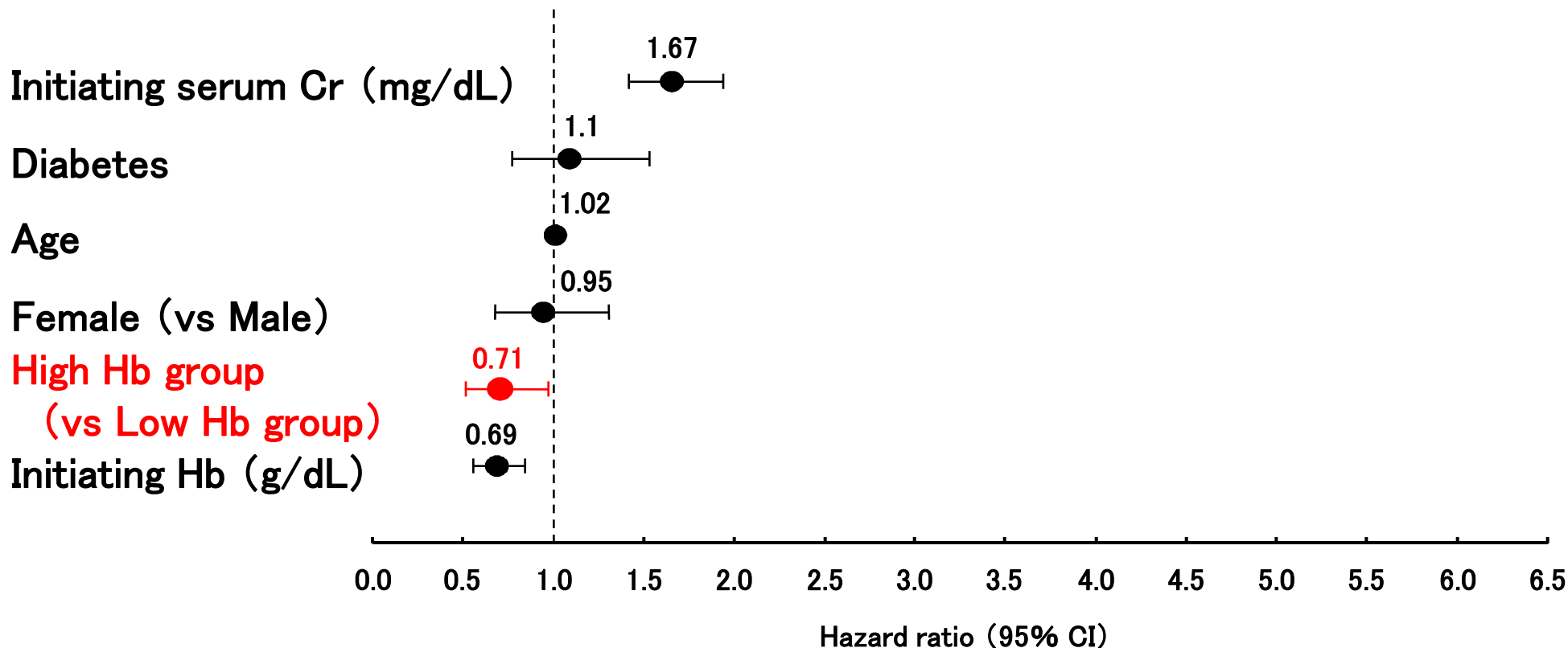
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Design	Multi-center, prospective, randomized, open-labeled trial
	CKD patients (Age $\geq 20$ ) Hb $< 10.0$ g/dL, serum Cr : 2.0~6.0 mg/dL
	High Hb group (target Hb 11.0~13.0g/dL): treated with darbepoietin Low Hb group (target Hb 9.0~11.0g/ dL ): treated with EPO Iron is supplemented to keep transferrin saturation $> 20\%$ and ferritin $> 100$ ng/mL

## Primary endpoint

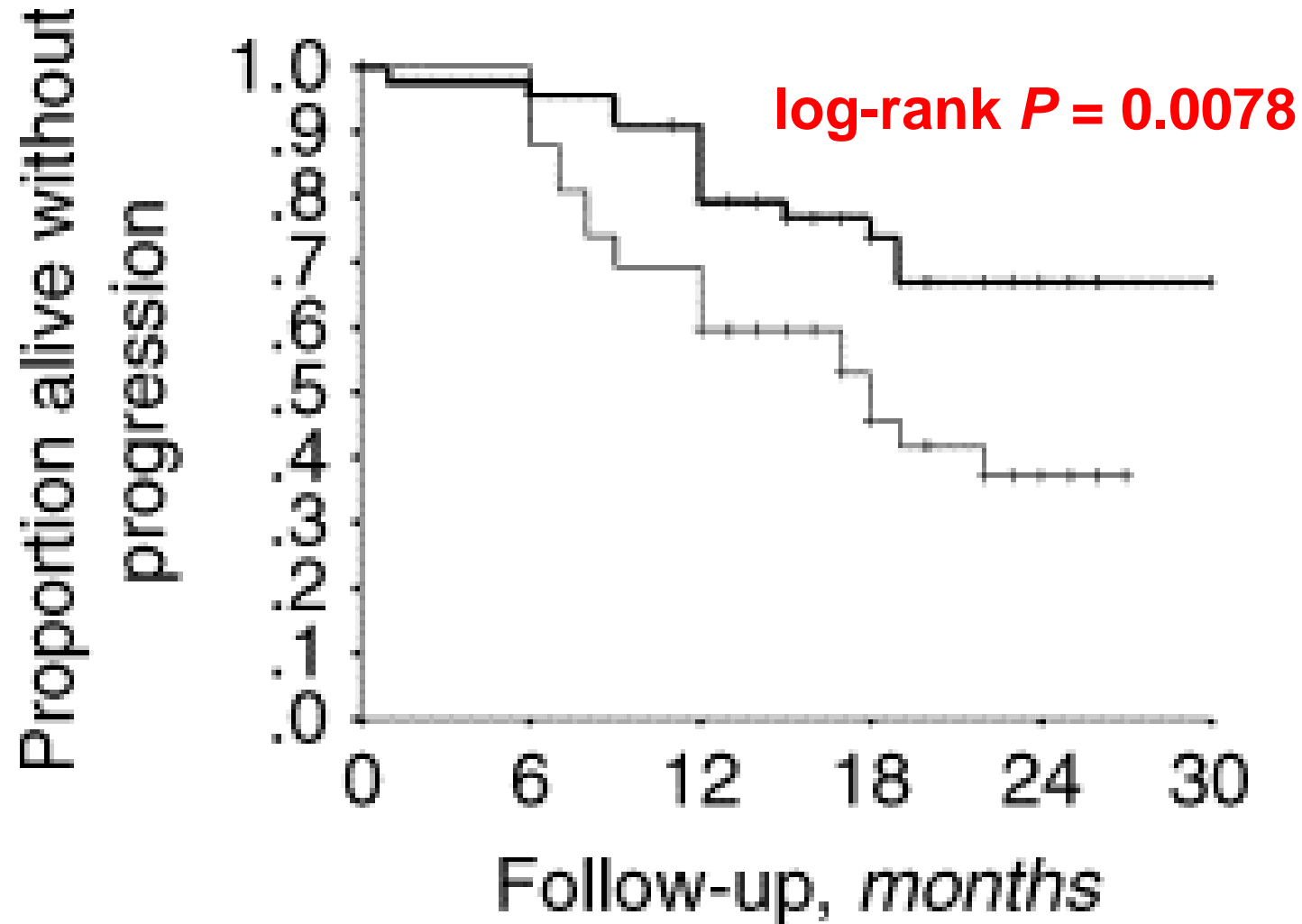
- ✓ Time to doubling of serum Cr, incident dialysis, kidney transplantation, or death

# Hazard ratio of renal survival



# Gouva trial : primary endpoint

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Gouva et al. Kidney Int 2004



**non-  
HD**

		JSDT(2008)	NICE (2011)	KDIGO(2012)	ERBP(2013)
non- HD	Start	11		10	10 (9~12 according to risks )
	Target	11~13	10~12	~11.5	~12
	Upper limit	13 (12 for those with severe cardiovascular complications )		13	13
HD	Start	10 (11 for young and active)		9~10	10 (9~12 according to risks )
	Target	10~11 (11~12 for young and active)	10~12	~11.5	~12
	Upper limit	12 (13 for young and active)		13	13

# **New anemia guideline: JSN & JSDT**

**Target Hb should be 11~13 g/dL for non-HD CKD patients and PD patients, and 10~12 g/dL for HD patients, respectively.**

**Target Hb should be individualized based on the personal conditions of the patient.**

**ESA**  
**hyporesponsiveness**

ORIGINAL ARTICLE


# Erythropoietic Response and Outcomes in Kidney Disease and Type 2 Diabetes

Scott D. Solomon, M.D., Hajime Uno, Ph.D., Eldrin F. Lewis, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Kai-Uwe Eckardt, M.D., Julie Lin, M.D., M.P.H.,  
Emmanuel A. Burdmann, M.D., Ph.D., Dick de Zeeuw, M.D., Ph.D.,  
Peter Ivanovich, M.D., Andrew S. Levey, M.D., Patrick Parfrey, M.D.,  
Giuseppe Remuzzi, M.D., Ajay K. Singh, M.D., Robert Toto, M.D.,  
Fannie Huang, M.S., Jerome Rossert, M.D., Ph.D., John J.V. McMurray, M.D.,  
and Marc A. Pfeffer, M.D., Ph.D., for the Trial to Reduce Cardiovascular Events  
with Aranesp Therapy (TREAT) Investigators

# Based on changes of Hb during the 1<sup>st</sup> month

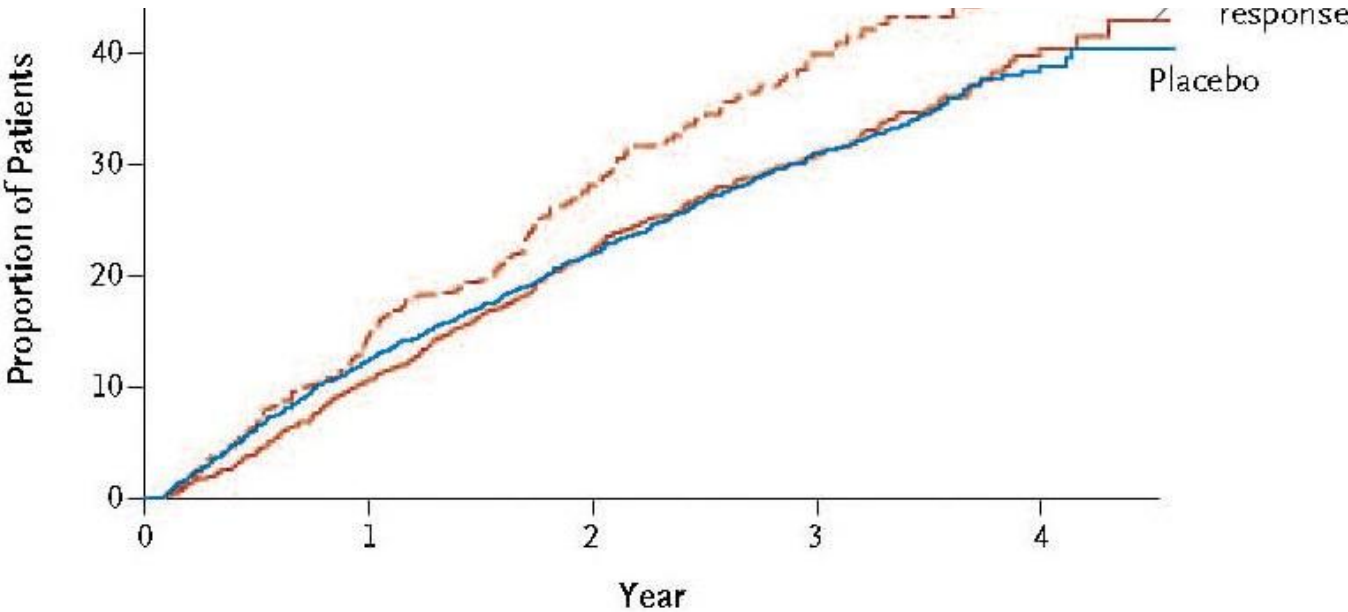
**Poor response**

**Better response**



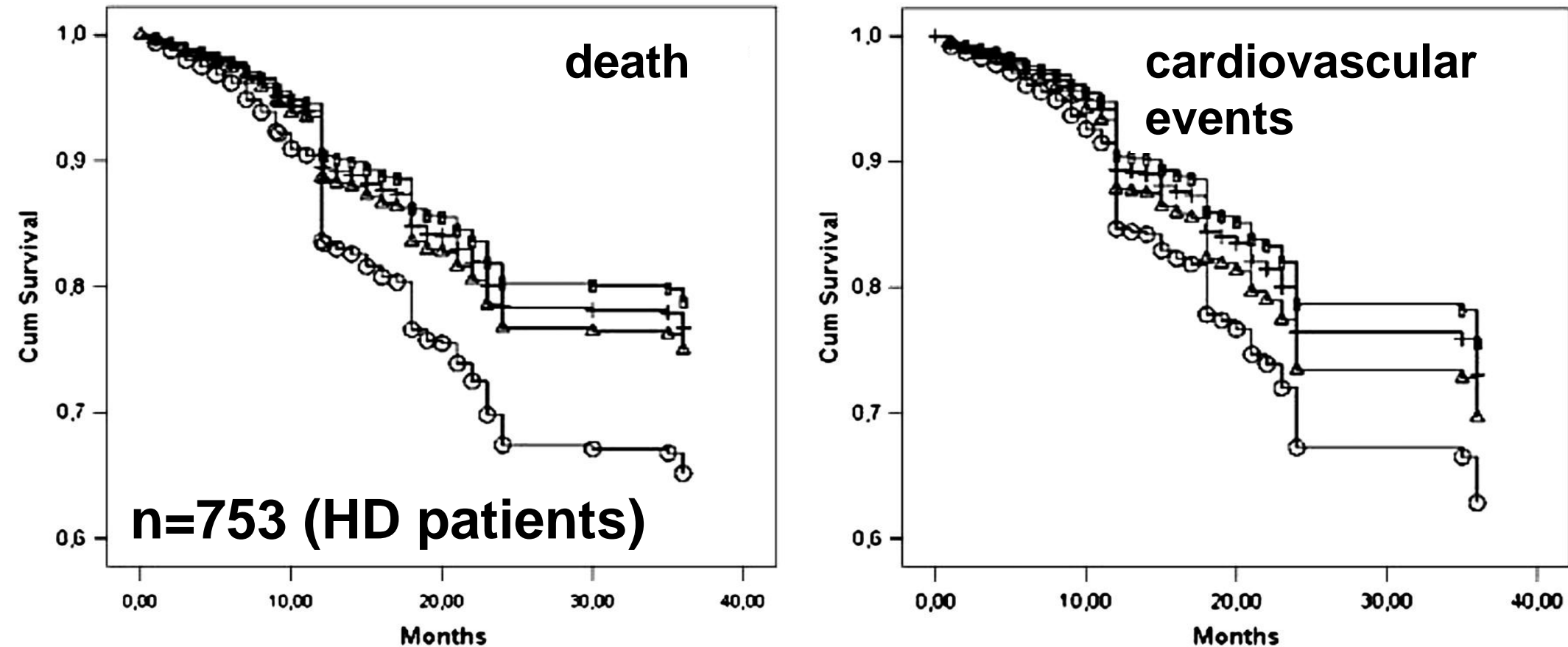
	Quartile 1	Quartile 2	Quartile 3	Quartile 4
<b>Hb change (%)</b>	<b>&lt;2</b>	<b>2 to &lt;8</b>	<b>8 to &lt;15</b>	<b>≥15</b>
<b>Median (g/dl)</b> <b>(interquartile range)</b>	<b>-0.2</b> <b>(-0.7 to 0.0)</b>	<b>0.5</b> <b>(0.4 to 0.7)</b>	<b>1.2</b> <b>(1.0 to 1.4)</b>	<b>2.0</b> <b>(1.7 to 2.6)</b>

# Death, myocardial infarction, apoplexy, heart failure, or hospitalization due to cardiac ischemia



No. at Risk					
Poor initial response	471	394	272	125	30
Better initial response	1401	1234	854	408	94
Placebo	1889	1611	1138	514	117

# EPO hyporesponsiveness : RISCVID study

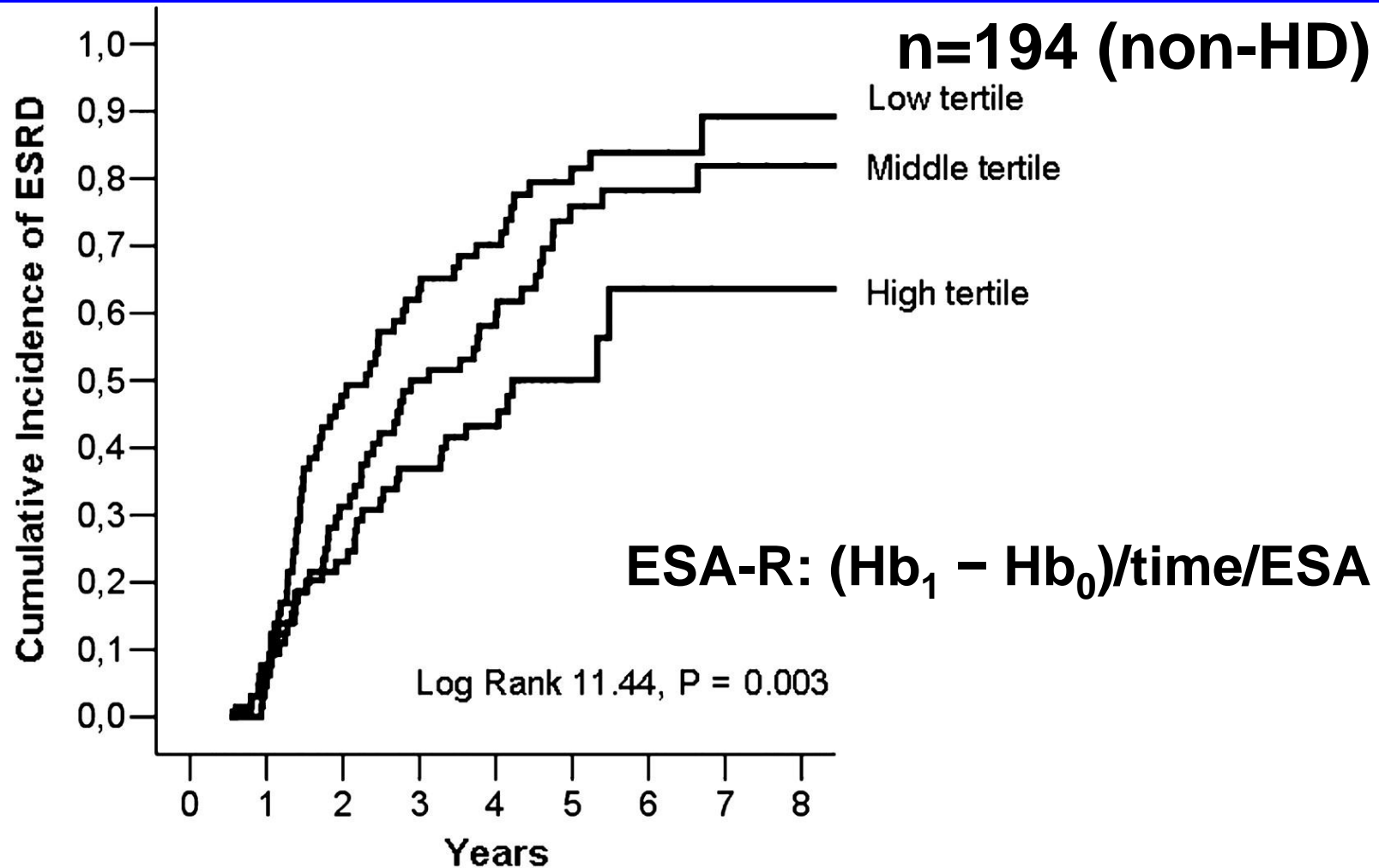


**ESAs resistance index (ERI): the weekly ESAs dose / kgBW / Hb (g/dL)**

**Panichi et al. Nephrol Dial Transplant 2011**



# EPO hyporesponsiveness and risk of ESRD



# **New anemia guideline: JSN & JSdT**

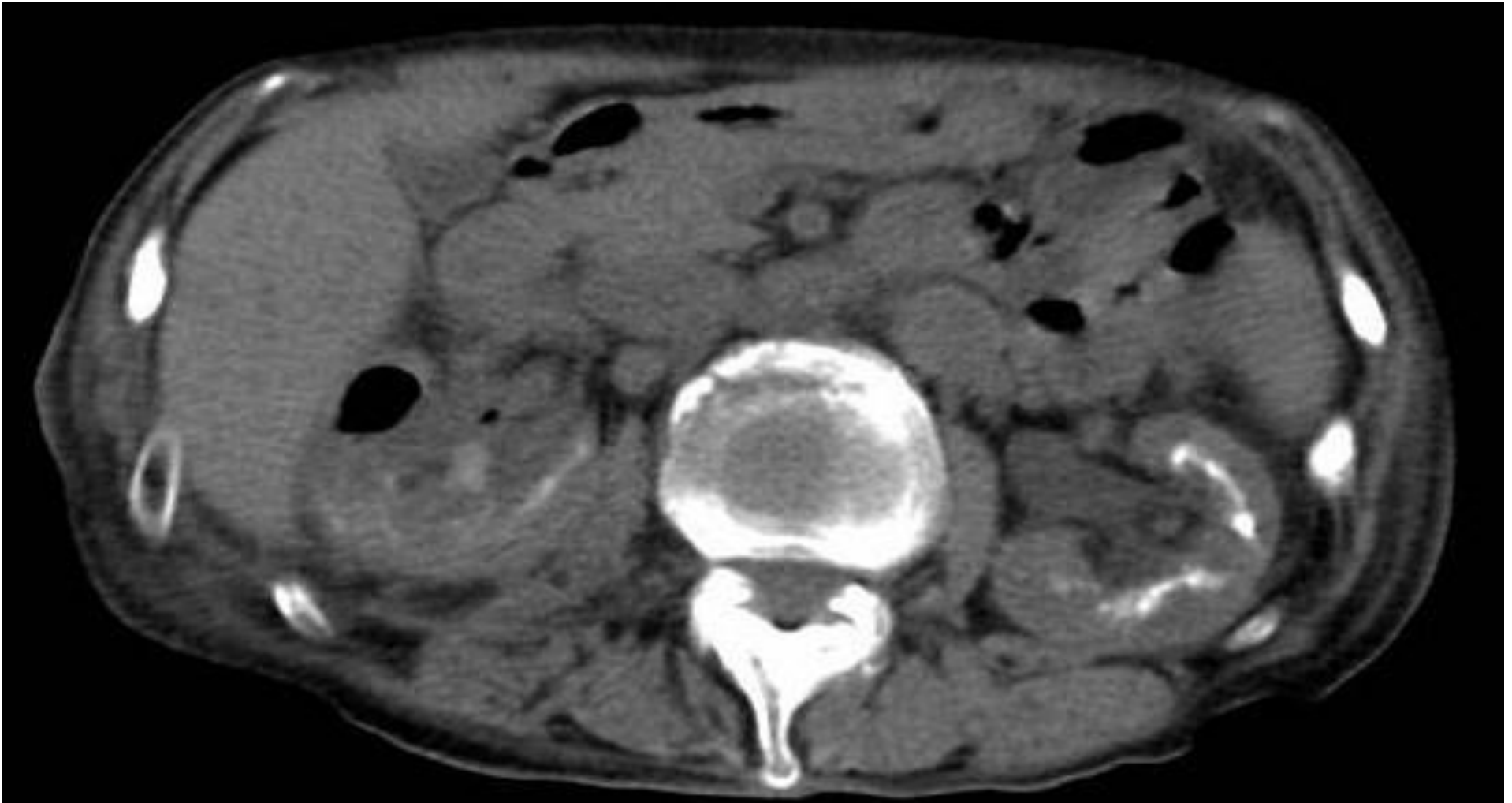
**The definition of “ESA hyporesponsiveness” remains unclear.**

**Failure of achievement of target Hb with the dose of ESA approved by the administration authorities or the government suggests “ESA hyporesponsiveness”.**

**A cause of “ESA hyporesponsiveness” should be investigated before increasing the dose of ESA.**

# **Case 72-year-old female**

**CKD due to medullary sponge kidney  
with renal anemia and MDS**



# **Clinical management of myelodysplastic syndromes: Japanese Society of Hematology guideline**

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**40–60,000 U of EPO (once to three times per week) (grade A) is recommended**

# **Clinical management of myelodysplastic syndromes: update of SIE, SIES, GITMO practice guidelines**

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**Fixed, rather than weight-adjusted, weekly subcutaneous doses of 60–80,000 U of EPO (once-a-week or subdivided in two doses) (grade A) or 300 µg darbepoetin (once-a-week) should be used (grade B) for at least 12 weeks, possibly more than 20 (grade B).**

# ESAs are not associated with increased risk of thrombosis in patients with MDS

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Variables	Unadjusted model 12-week exposure window (n=212)			12-week exposure window (n=212)			Adjusted model 8-week exposure window (n=234)			4-week exposure window (n=246)		
	ORs	95% CI		ORs	95% CI		ORs	95% CI		ORs	95% CI	
ESA use	1.368	0.757	2.472	1.209	0.603	2.426	1.236	0.636	2.402	1.312	0.721	2.388
RBC				4.598	2.29	9.229	6.712	3.126	14.41	5.194	2.429	11.106
Catheterization				6.465	2.373	17.615	21.499	4.576	101	13.274	2.986	59.006

*Note: 12 weeks (or 4 weeks) in the comparator and hazard periods with a 24-week gap.*

Smith et al. Haematologica 2012

**Anemia treatment should be  
individualized based on the  
personal conditions of the  
patient.**





日本腎臓学会は腎臓学研究の進歩と知識の普及、国民への還元を目的としています。

一般社団法人日本腎臓学会 Japanese Society of Nephrology

