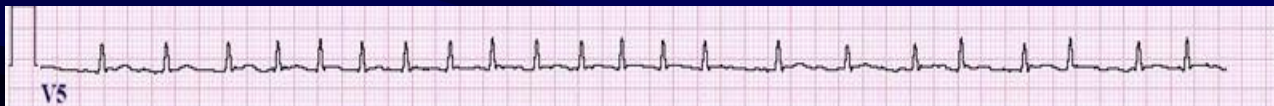


# Atrial Fibrillation in Endurance Athletes



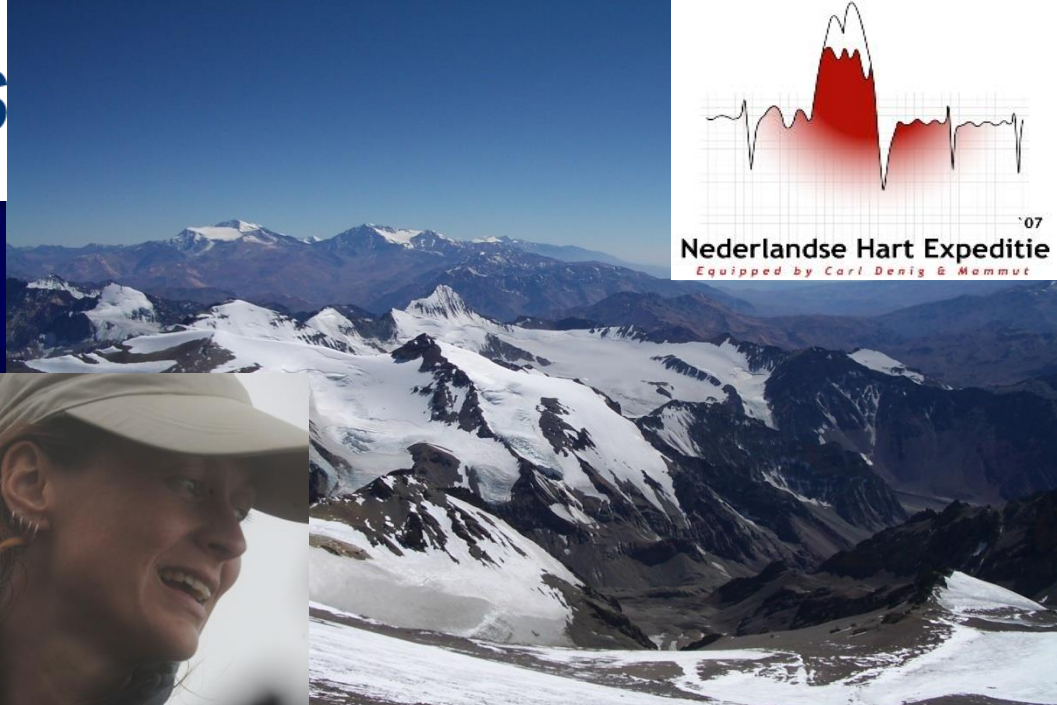
Maart 2015

- Inleiding
- Nut van bewegen
- AF
- Mogelijke oorzaken van AF
- Conclusie

## Cardiology and Sport

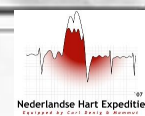


Suzanna de Vries, sportcardiologist

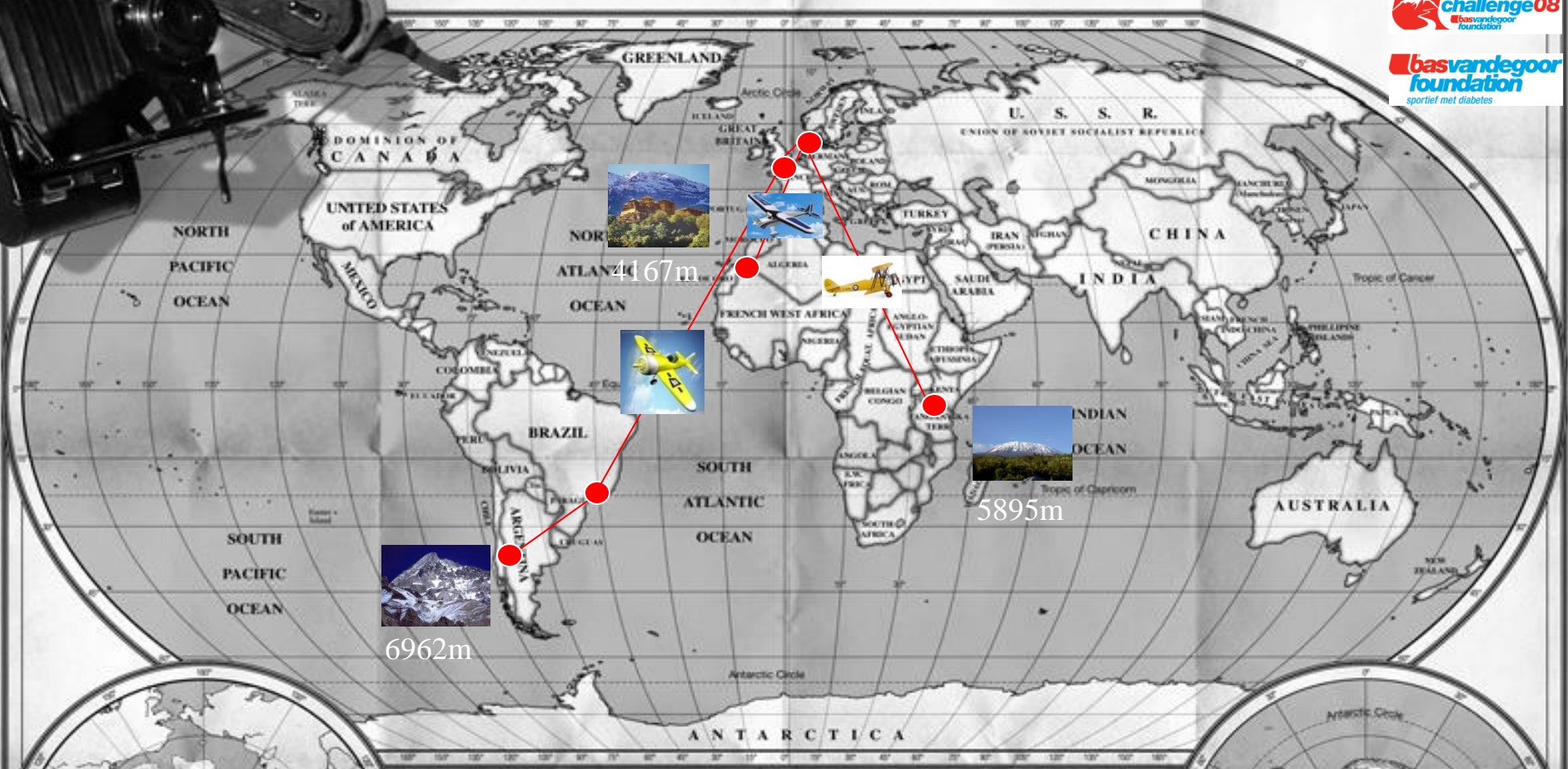


AtlasDiabetesChallenge2010

# THE WORLD



Nederlandse Hart Expeditie



4167m

5895m

6962m

COMPILED AND DRAWN FROM THE

## EMPIRE CLUB CARTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVES

K.A. Curtis, Chief Cartographer  
S.S. Long, Researcher  
Projection: Robinson

1935

NORTH  
POLAR  
REGIONS

SOUTH  
POLAR  
REGIONS

# Before our expeditions: testing, selection and training

Patients = 1 W/kg  
Not fit = 2 W/kg  
Fit = 3 W/kg  
Well trained = 4 W/kg  
Professional = 5 W/kg  
Worldclass = 6 W/kg



Dutch Heart Expedition

$$VO_2 = HF \times SV \times 1.3(Hb) \times a-vO_2$$

# The expedition: Acclimatisation



M. Meru, Tanzania  
[www.fotohoogendoorn.nl](http://www.fotohoogendoorn.nl)





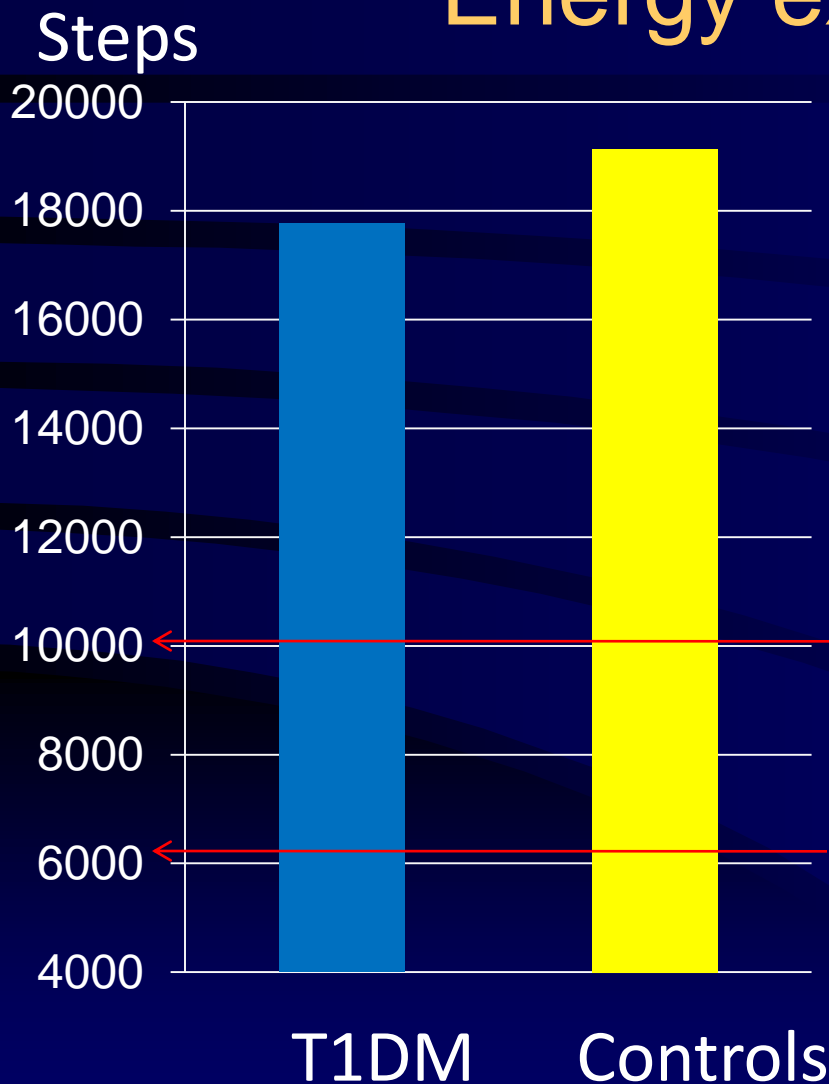




# The expedition: Research at high altitude

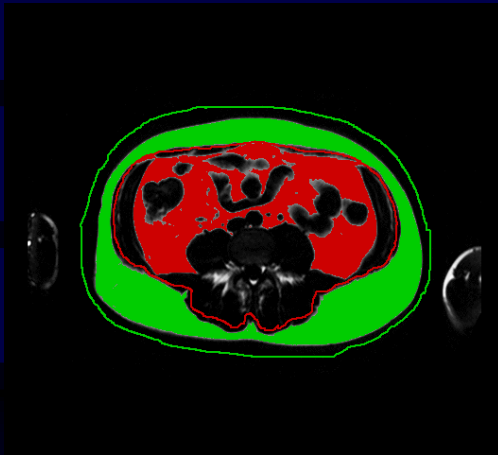


# The expedition: Energy expenditure



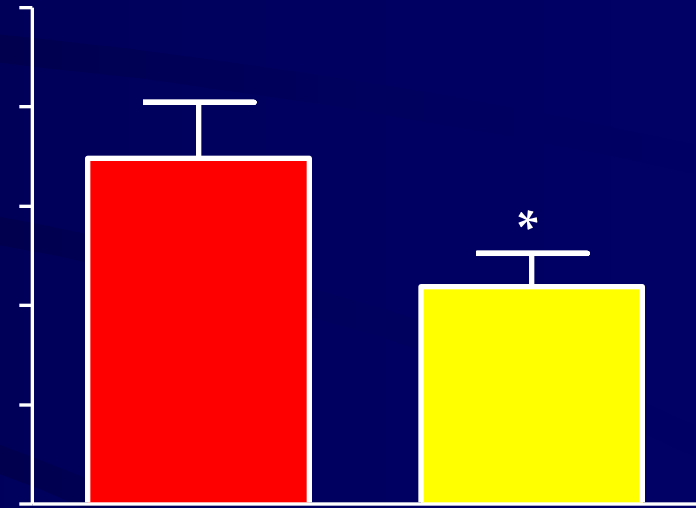
Recommended steps per day

Mean steps per day in average W-European country



Visceral abdominal (ml)

500  
400  
300  
200  
100  
0



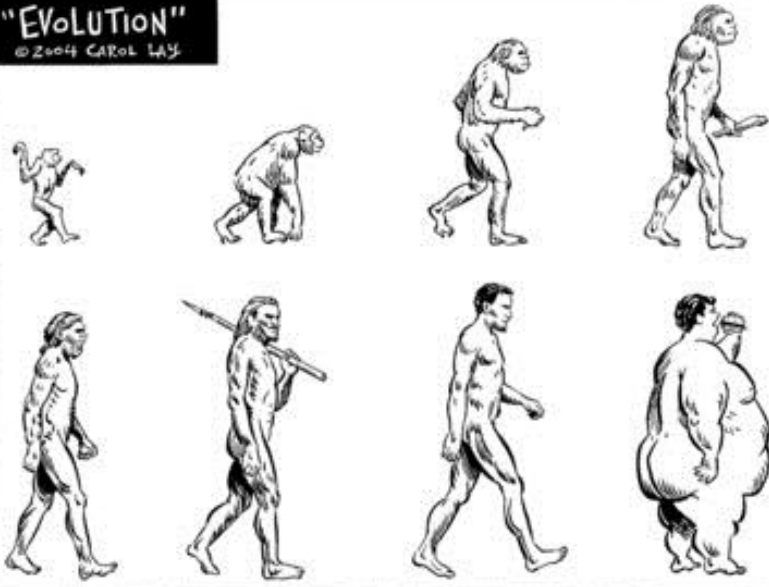
Before training

After training

Visceral fat

# Het nut van bewegen

"Evolution"  
© 2004 CAROL LAY



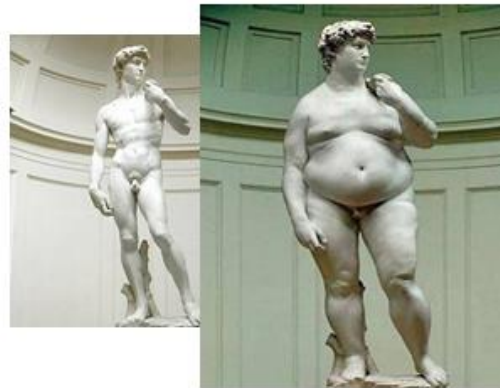
Copyright 2006 by Randy Glasbergen.  
www.glasbergen.com



"Lose some weight, quit smoking, move around more, and eat the carrot."

Reprinted from The Funny Times / PO Box 18530 / Cleveland Heights, OH 4  
phone: (216) 371-8600 / e-mail: ft@funnytimes.com

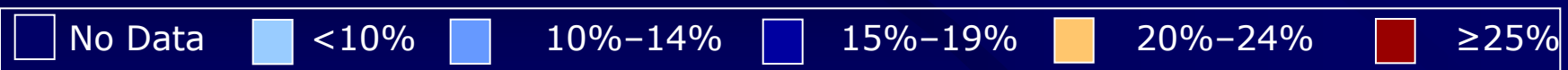
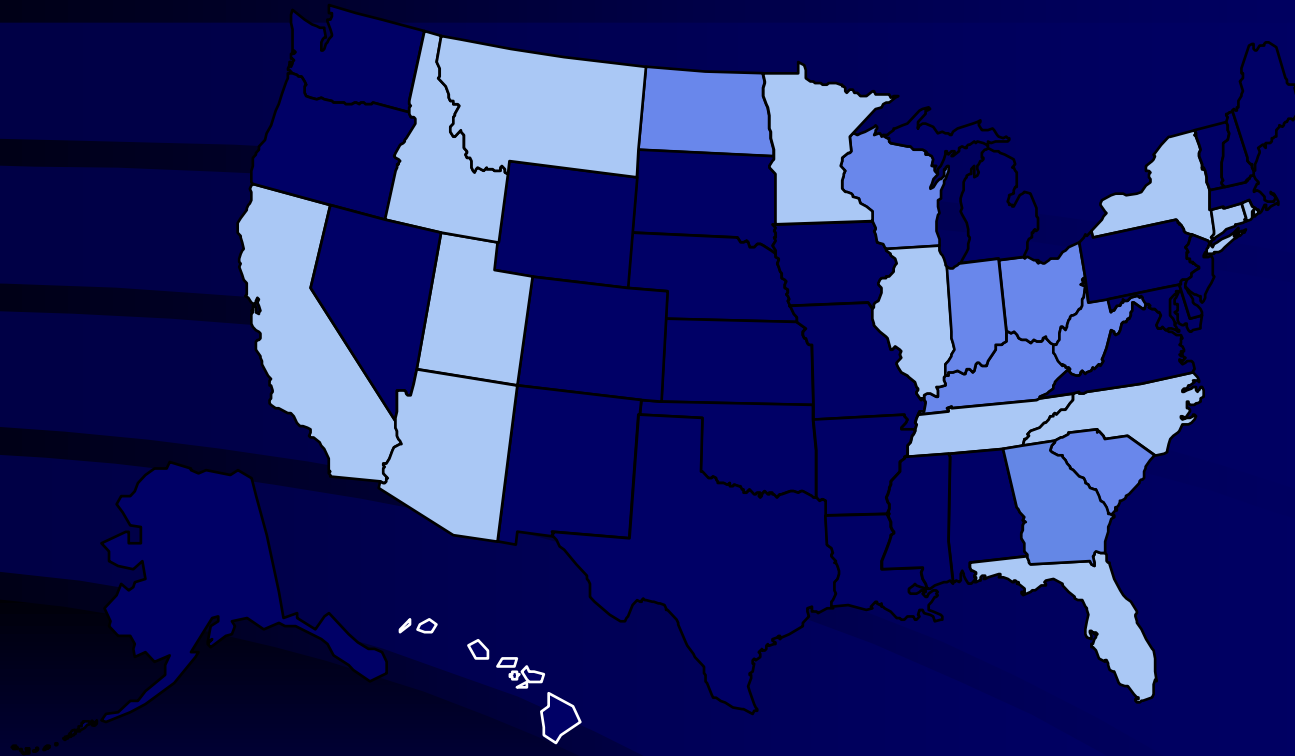
## Michelangelo na 2 jaar USA



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

## BRFSS, 1985

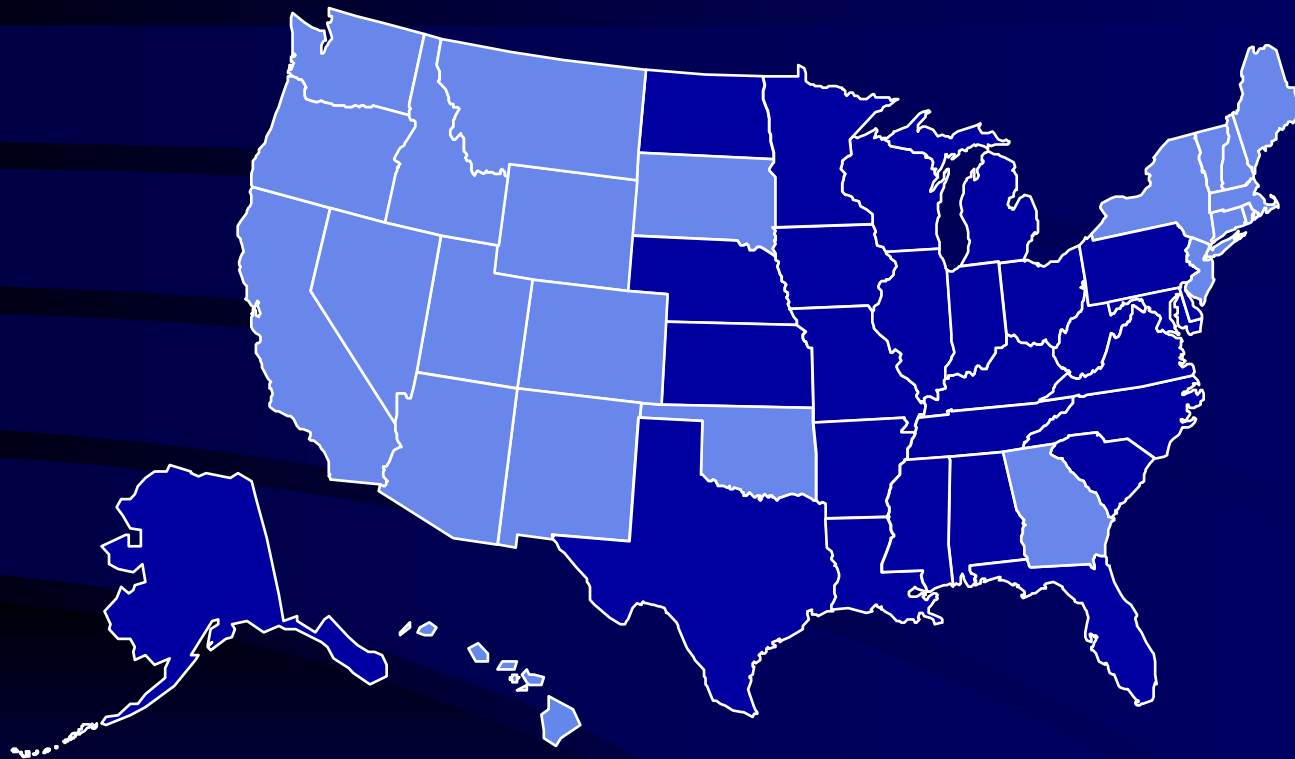
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs overweight for 5' 4" woman)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

## BRFSS, 1995

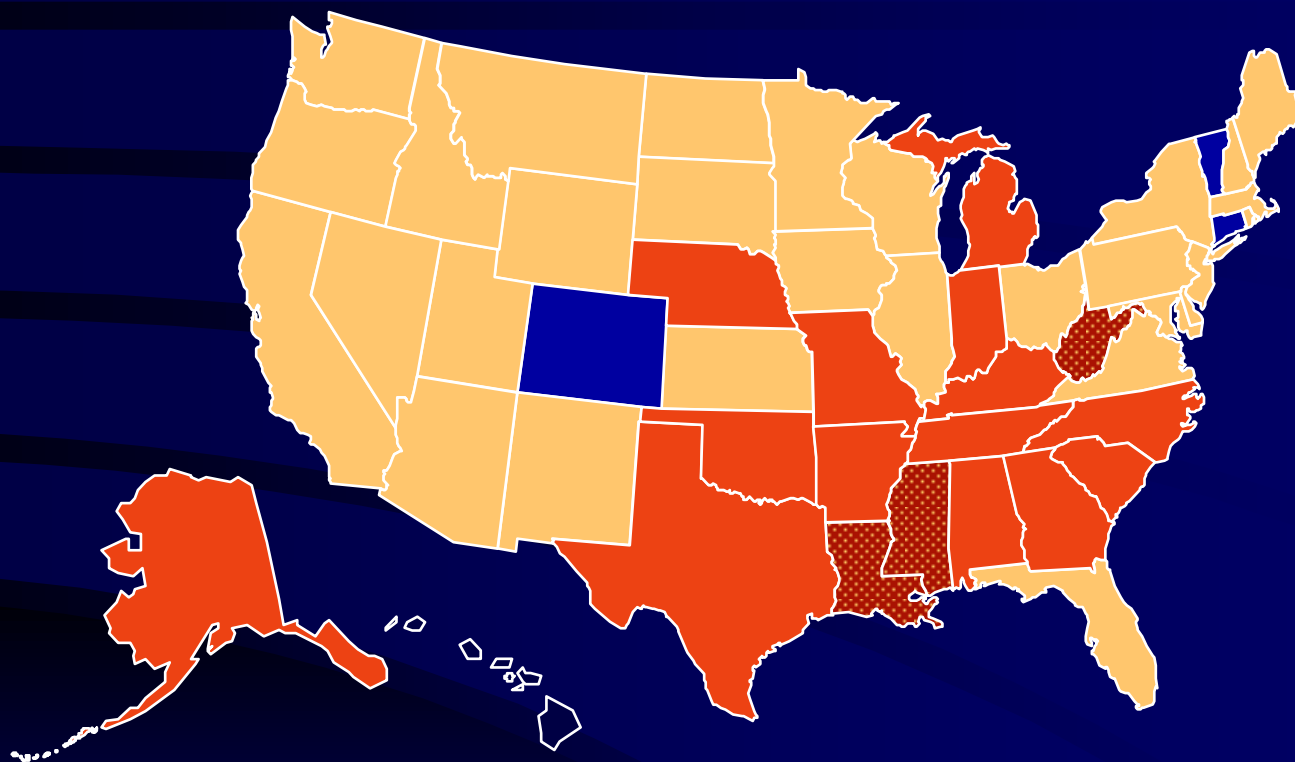
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs overweight for 5' 4" woman)



# Obesity Trends\* Among U.S. Adults

## BRFSS, 2005

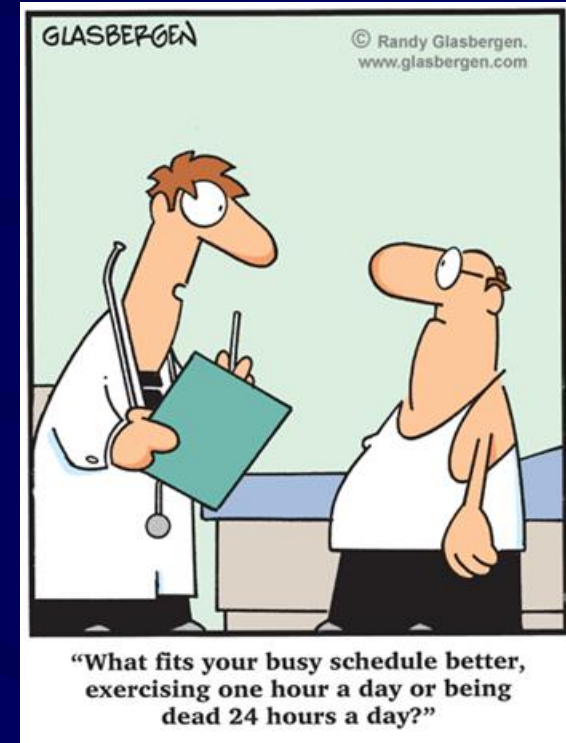
(\*BMI  $\geq 30$ , or  $\sim 30$  lbs overweight for 5' 4" person)



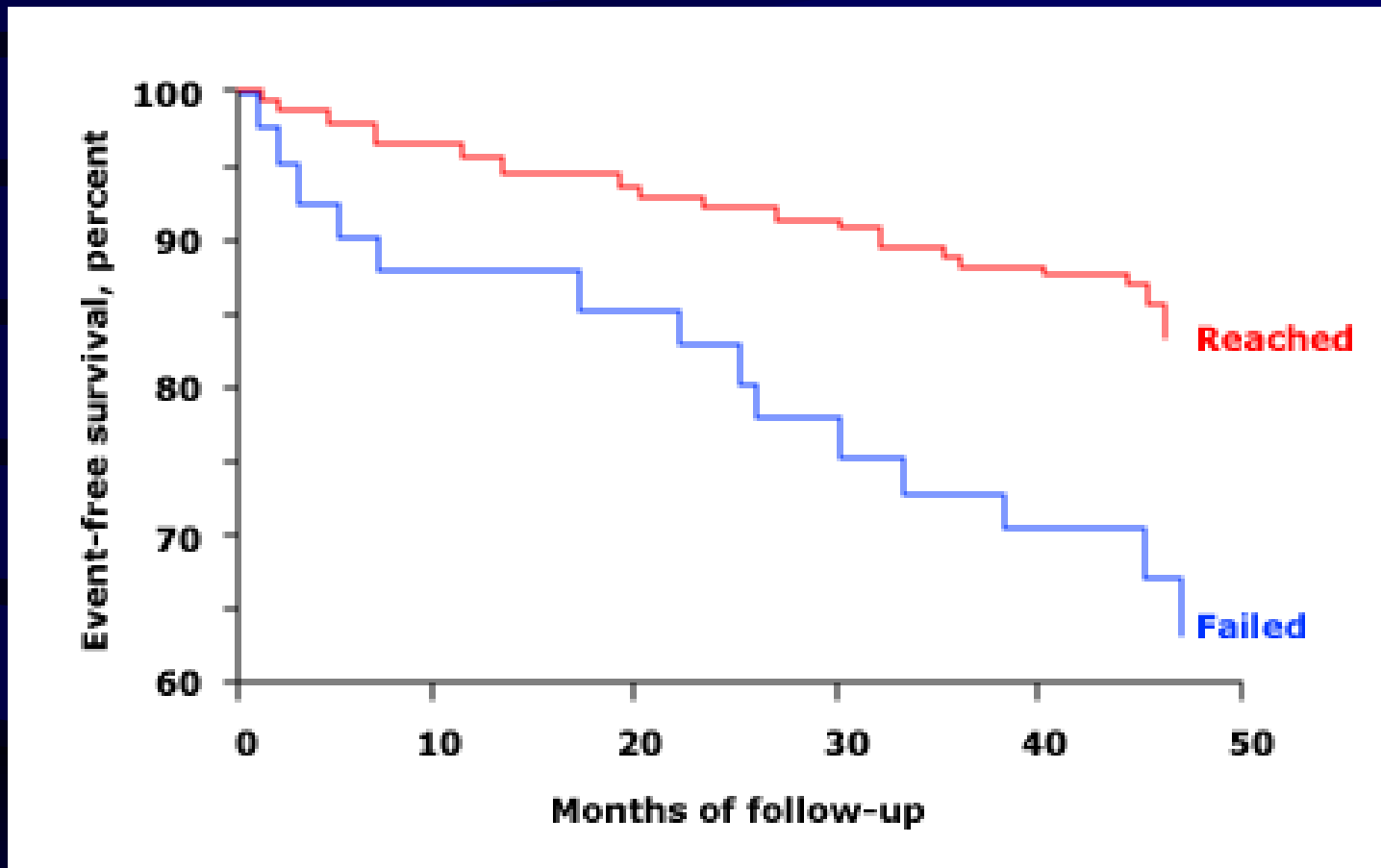


# Redenen om niet te bewegen

- I don't have the time
- I don't like to sweat
- I'll look silly
- It hurts
- I don't know what to do
- It's not important



# Het nut van bewegen



The inability to achieve at least 85% of age-related maximal heart rate was associated with a lower event-free survival compared to those who reached this heart rate. Lauer MS et al. JACC 1998

# Het nut van bewegen: Metabool syndroom

Metabolic syndrome  
(Syndrome X)

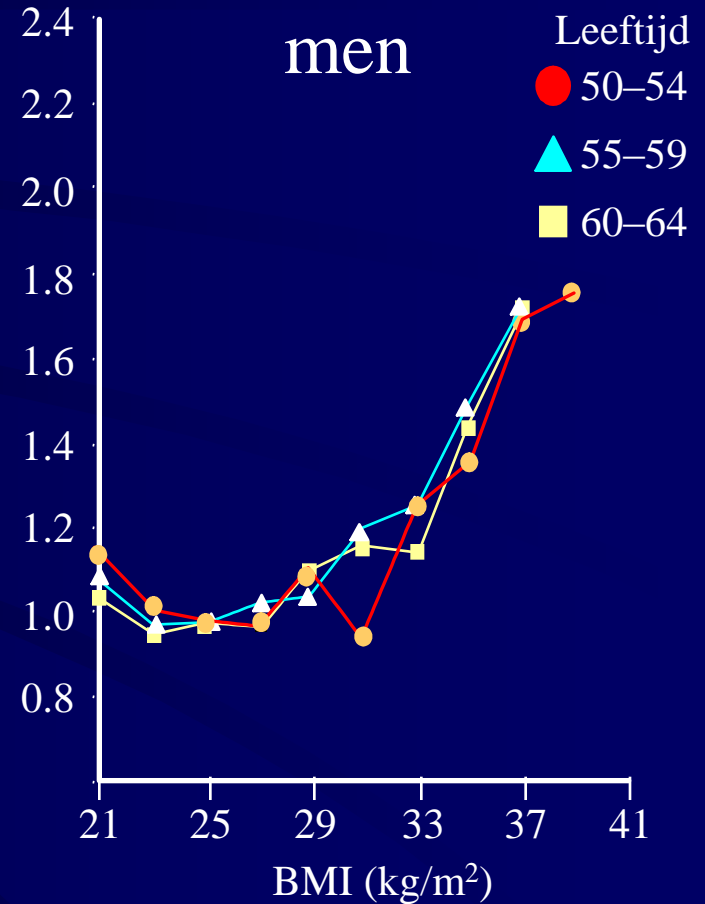
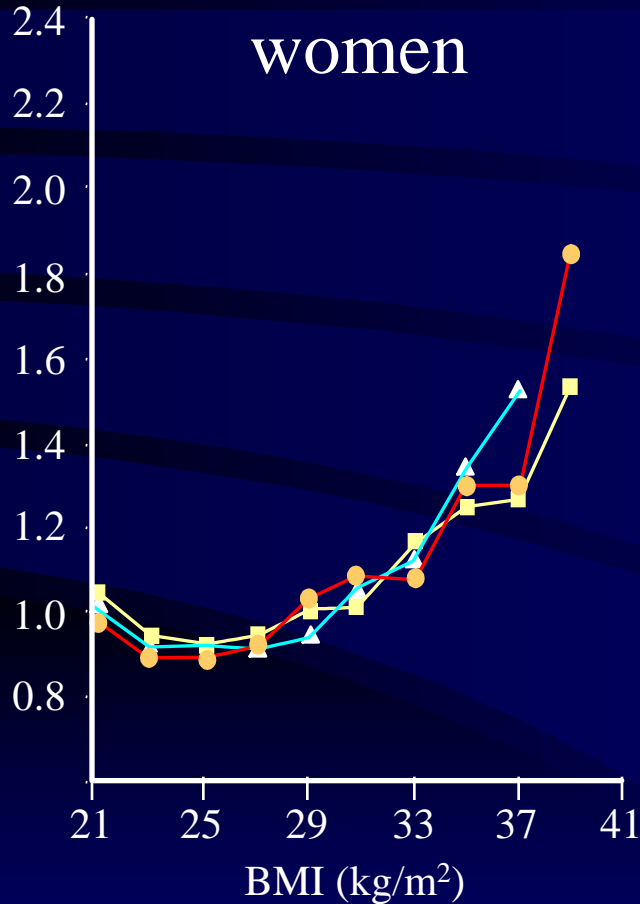
- Central obesity
- High blood pressure
- High triglycerides
- Low HDL-cholesterol
- Insulin resistance



 ADAM.

# BMI and age-related mortality

Relative risk

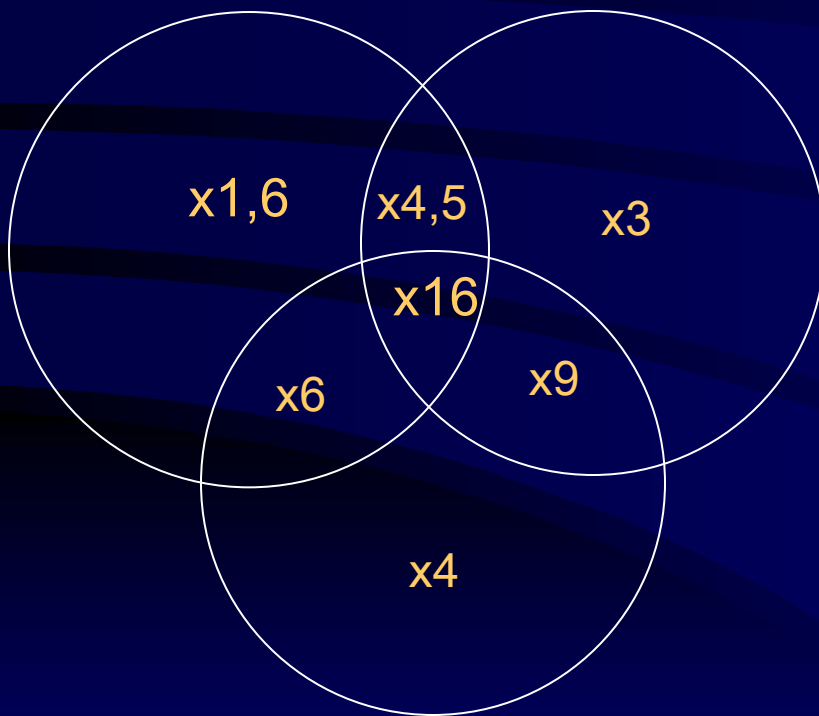


# Risicofactoren

Roken

Hypertensie

- DM: RR  $\times$  2-4

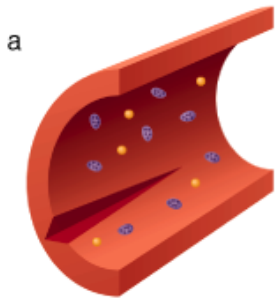


Cholesterol

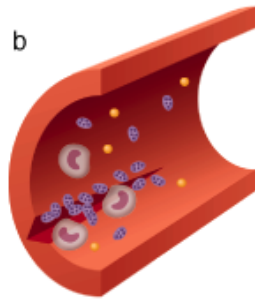
# Cardiovasculair risico management bij het metabool syndroom

- Voldoende lichaamsbeweging
- Niet roken, matig alcohol
- metformine, TZD's
- Strikte controle van:
  - glucose stofwisseling
  - bloeddruk
  - Vetspectrumafwijkingen
  - Gewichtsreductie!

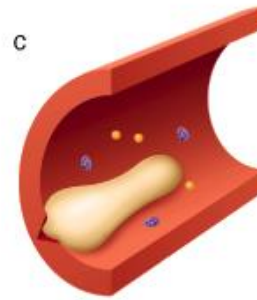
# DEVELOPMENT OF ATHEROSCLEROSIS



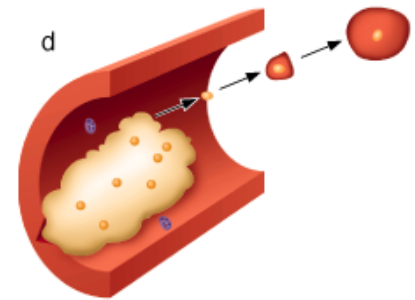
A blood-borne irritant injures or scratches the arterial wall exposing the underlying connective tissue.



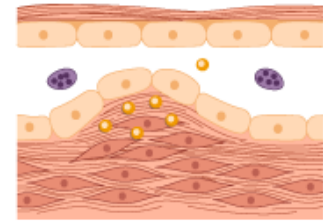
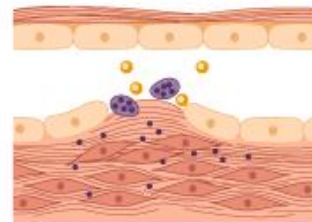
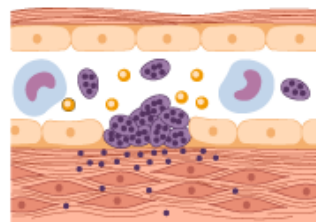
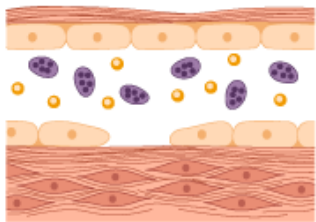
Blood platelets and circulating immune cells known as monocytes are then attracted to the site of the injury and adhere to the exposed connective tissue. The platelets release a substance referred to as platelet-derived growth factor (PDGF) that promotes migration of smooth muscle cells from the media to the intima.



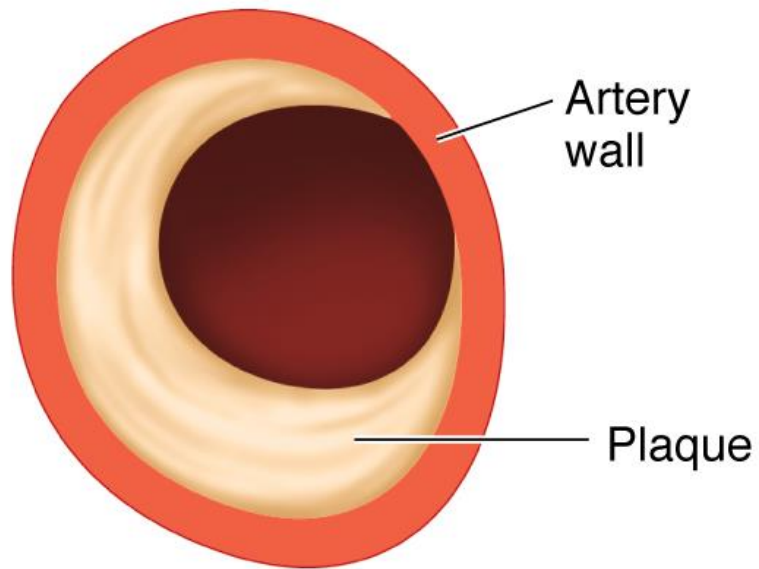
A plaque, which is basically composed of smooth muscle cells, connective tissue, and debris, forms at the site of injury.



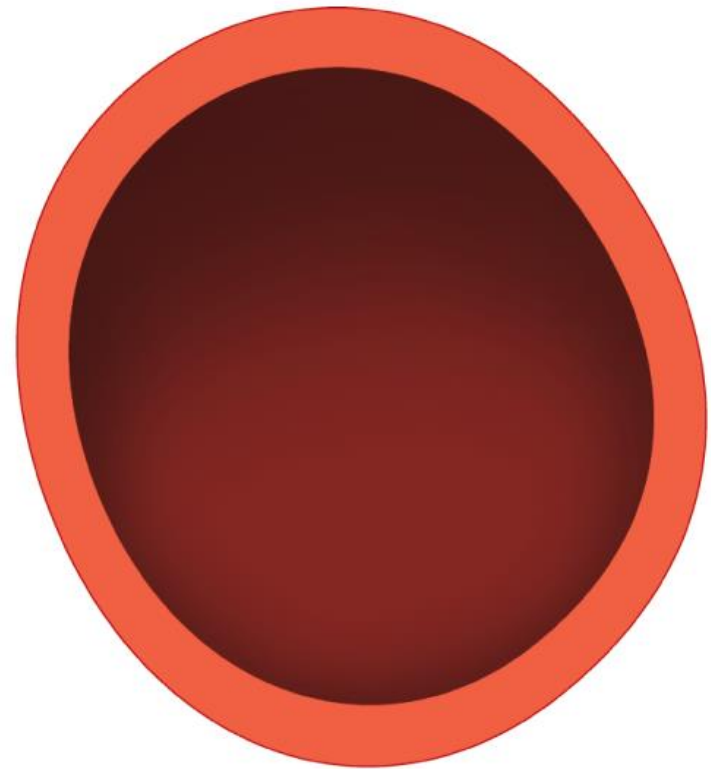
As the plaque grows, it narrows the arterial opening and impedes blood flow. Lipids in the blood, specifically low-density-lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C), are deposited in the plaque. When pieces of the plaque break loose they can start clots that lodge in other parts of the vessel.



# ARTERY COMPARISONS

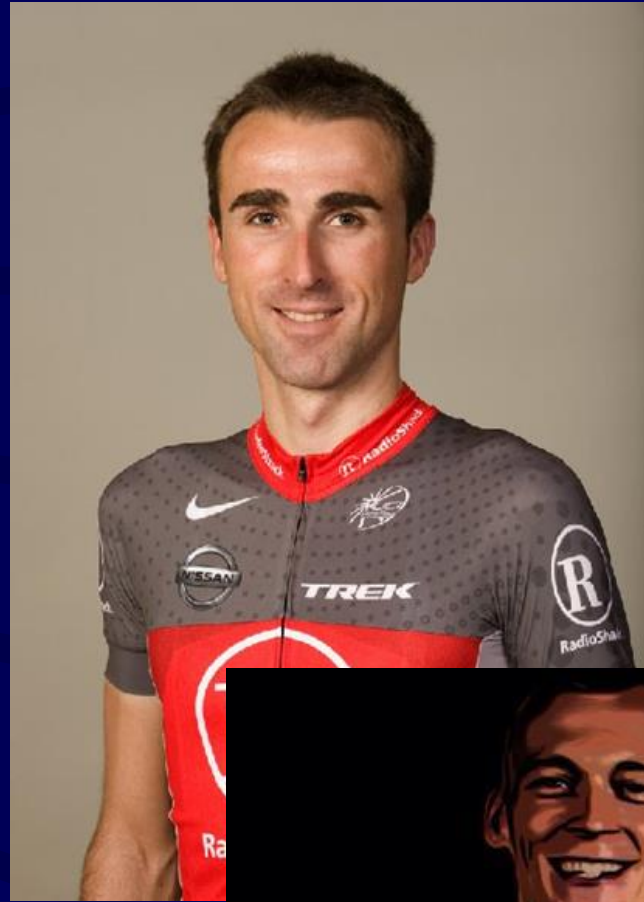


**Sedentary**



**Exercising**





# Blair River



# Blair River

(†29)

**abc NEWS** HOME VIDEO U.S. WORLD POLITICS ENTERTAINMENT TECH HEA

**NOW** SYRIA • MAYWEATHER VS. Canelo • MISS AMERICA CONTESTANTS • WORLD'S C

ADVERTISEMENT



**Weird Food Kills Blood Pressu**  
Shocking video reveals 1 weird ingredient from  
may stop Heart Disease dead in its tracks. [C

## Hefty Heart Attack Grill Spokesman Dies at 29

March 4, 2011

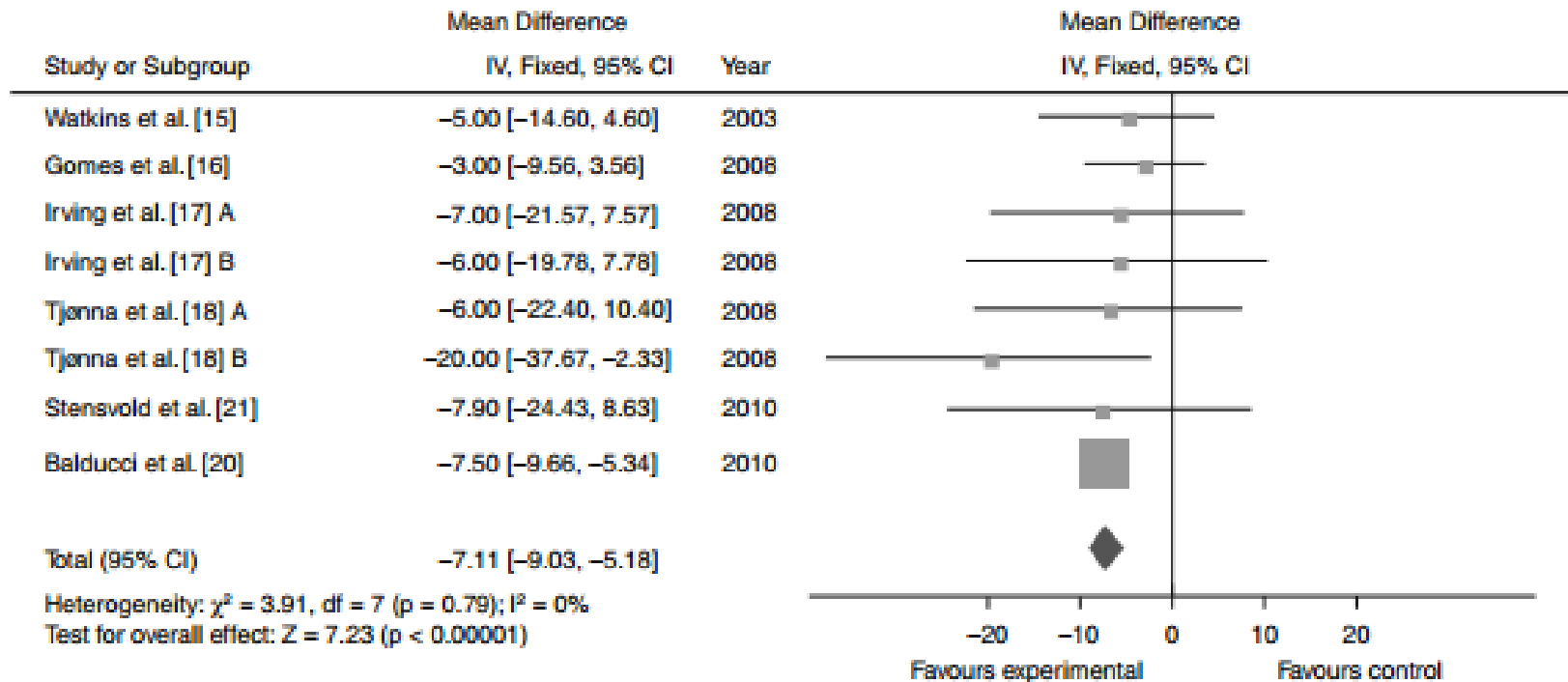
By COURTNEY HUTCHISON, ABC News Medical Unit via **NIGHTLINE**



2.4k  
Like  
914  
share  
78  
Tweet

abc NEWS

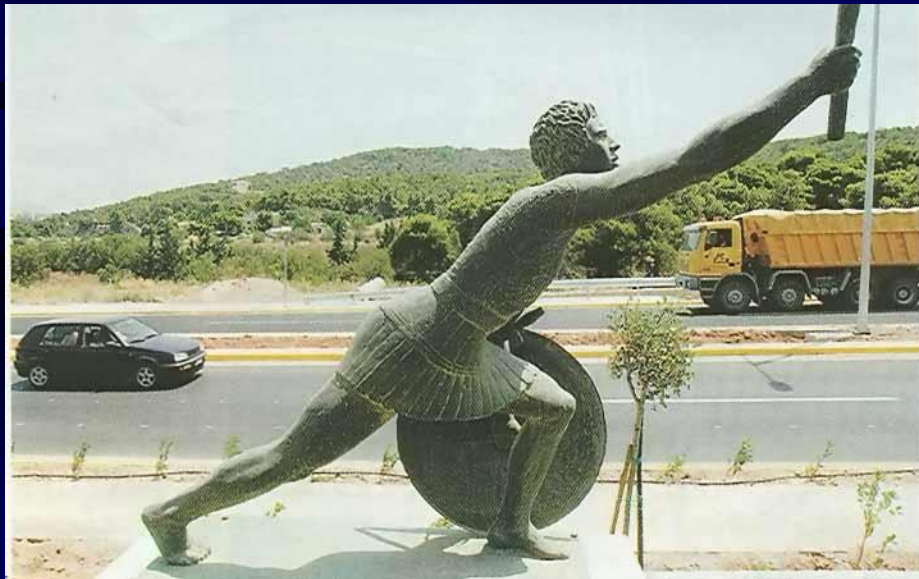
# Benefits of Exercise



RR/BMI/glucose/HDL-C

# Endurance

- Phidippides
- Marathon naar Athene



# Haimar Zubeldia

(Tour de France: 5th in 2003 and 2007, 6th in 2012, 8th in 2006)



# Haimar Zubeldia

(Tour de France: 5th in 2003 and 2007, 6th in 2012, 8th in 2006)

HOME ABOUT AFIB HEART HEALTHY POLICY DOCTORING CARDS/INTERN MED CYCLING NORMAL HEART RATE?

## Tour de France cyclist comes back from Atrial Fibrillation

JULY 22, 2012

Tweet 14

in AF ABLATION, ATRIAL FIBRILLATION, CYCLING WED

I thought this was interesting:

Six-placed Tour finisher Haimar Zubeldia, who rides for the US-based RadioShack/Nissan/Trek team, disclosed that he sat out for three months earlier this season for "persistent atrial fibrillation."

As reported by [Cyclingnews.com](#), Mr Zubeldia said this in his statement:

"I had four weeks of complete rest and treatment."

Fortunately, "everything went well," and he thanked his doctor, family, friends and team, and now "I can enjoy cycling like never before."

He said that his team "was aware of my situation at all times," but the same can't be said of the public. "Some of you asked me then why I did not race during that time and I answered that I had a hamstring injury ... I could not say anything else and I hope you understand."



**John Mandrola, MD**

I am a cardiac electrophysiologist practicing in Louisville KY. I am also a husband to a palliative care doctor, a father, and a bike racer.

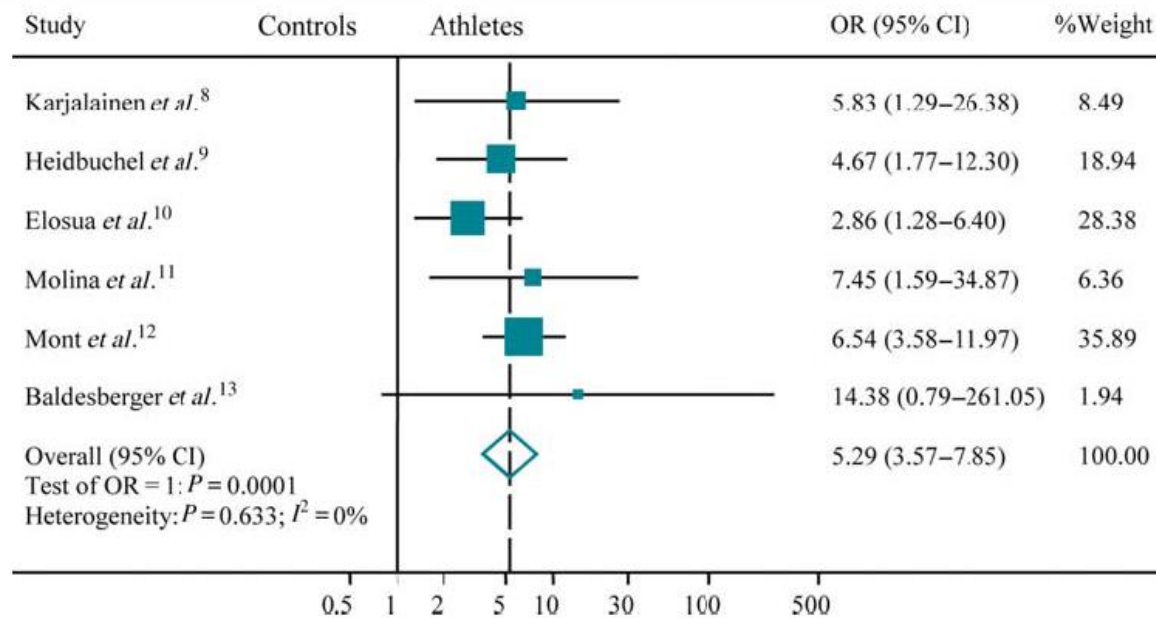
*Welcome, Enjoy, Interact.*

# Risk factors for AFIB

- Age
- Structural heart disease
  - eg LVH/ atrial dil.
- Hypertension
- Hyperthyroidism
- DM
- Exercise ????



# AF in Athletes

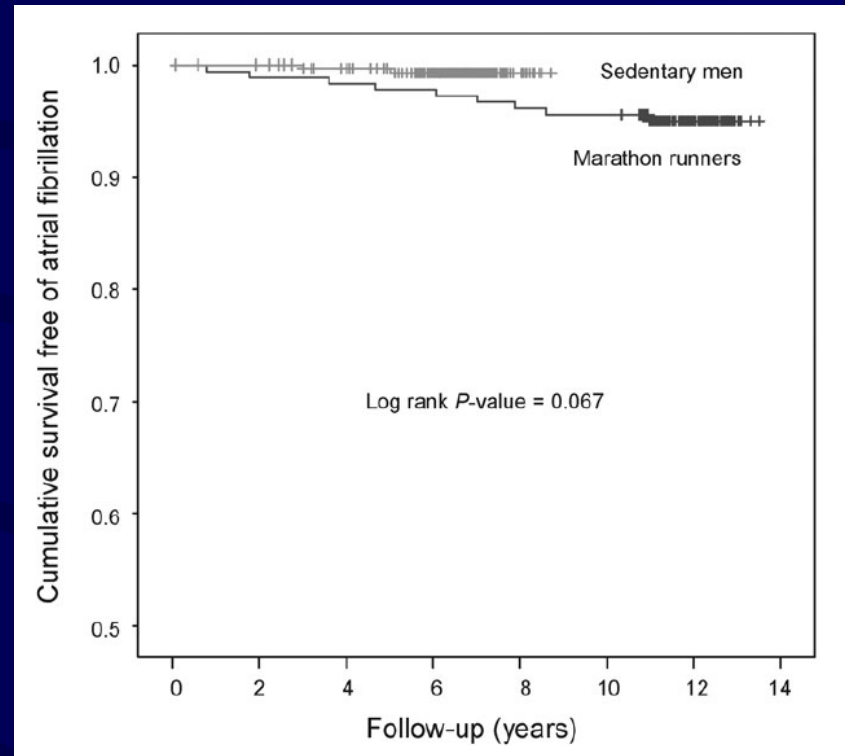


**Figure 2** Meta-analysis of AF risk in athletes compared with controls.

# AF and Marathon Running

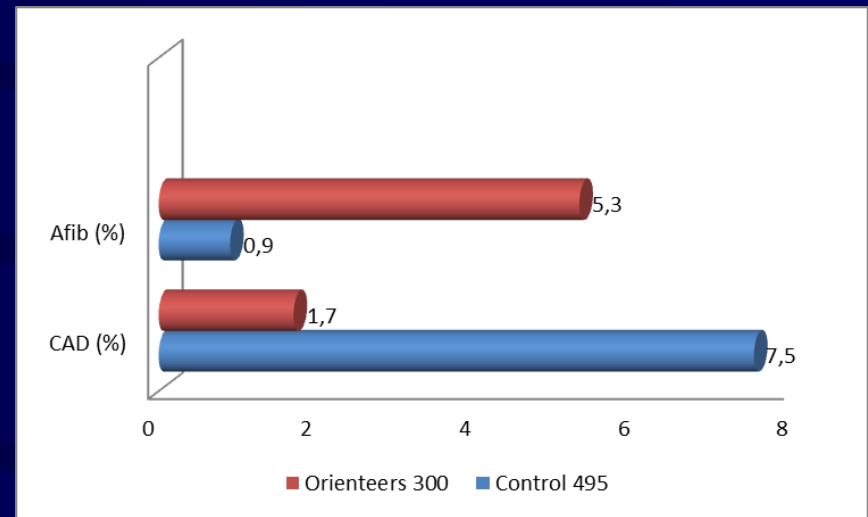


Retrospective cohort study  
1990-2003 Barcelona Marathon  
n=252 marathon runners  
n=205 sedentary  
Hazard ratio 8.8



*Molina – Europace 2008;10*

# AF in Orienteering



Retrospective study

1984-1995

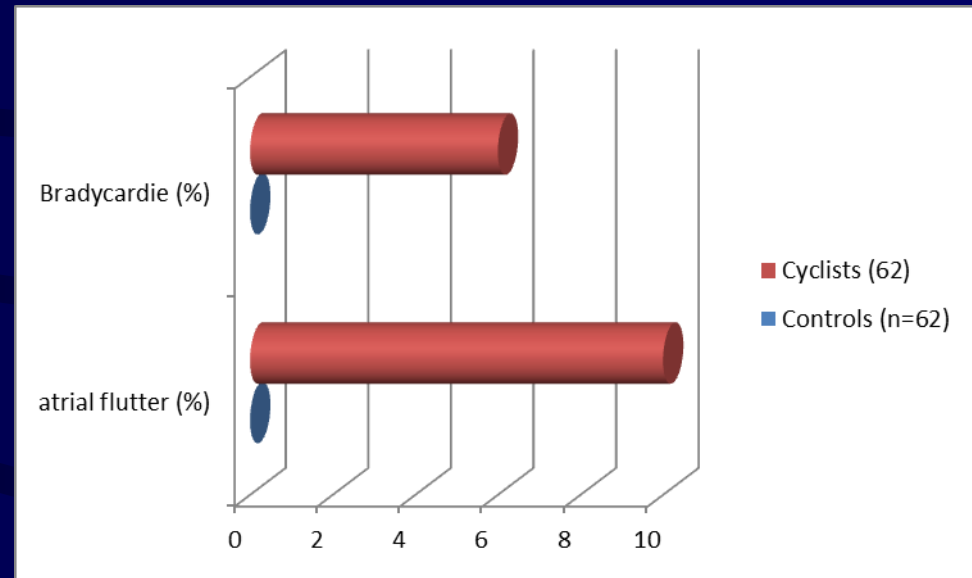
n=300 top ranked veteran orienteers

n=495

RR 5.5

*Karjalainen – BMJ 1998-3*

# AF in Cycling (vs Golf)



Retrospective study

1955-1975

n=134 swiss professional cyclists

n=62 male golfers

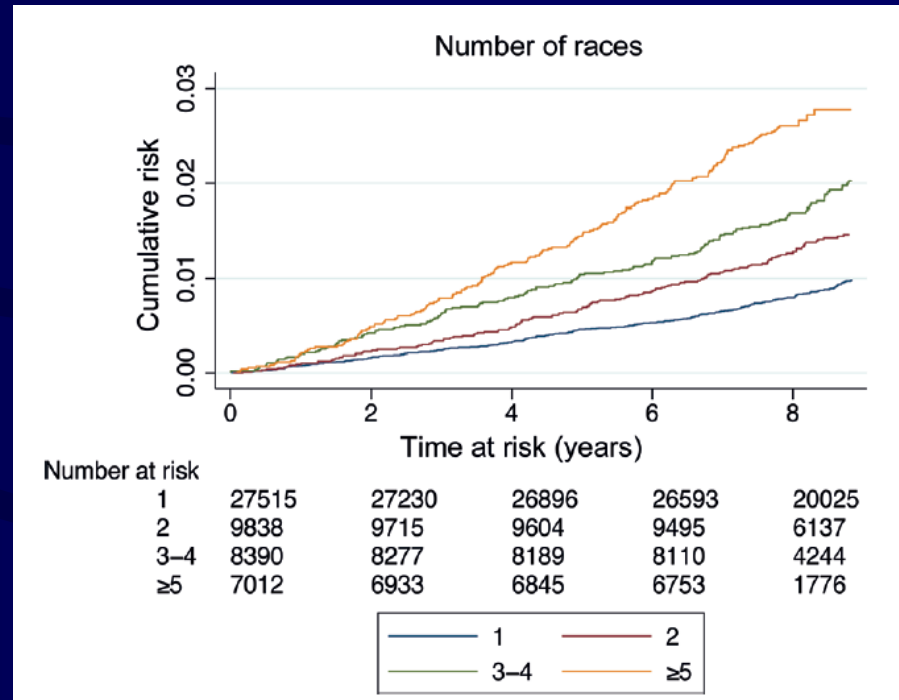
P=0.028

*Baldesberger – EHJ 2008;29*

# AF and Cross Country skiing



Retrospective study  
Vasaloppet race (90km)  
1989-2005  
n=52755  
RR 1.2

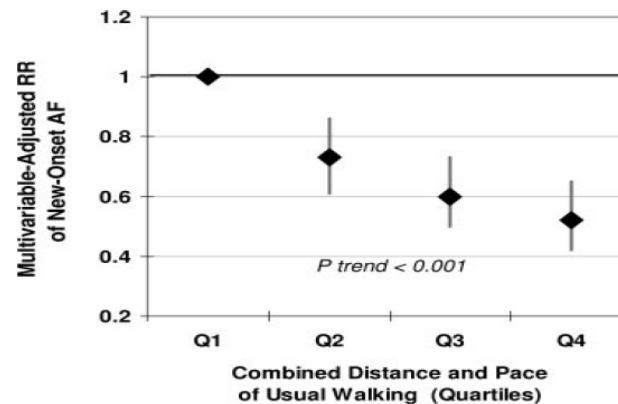


# Afib Athletes and AGE



No higher incidence of Afib in younger athletes  
(n=1777/ age 24 +/- 6/ incidence 0.3%).

*Pellica – JACC 2005;46*



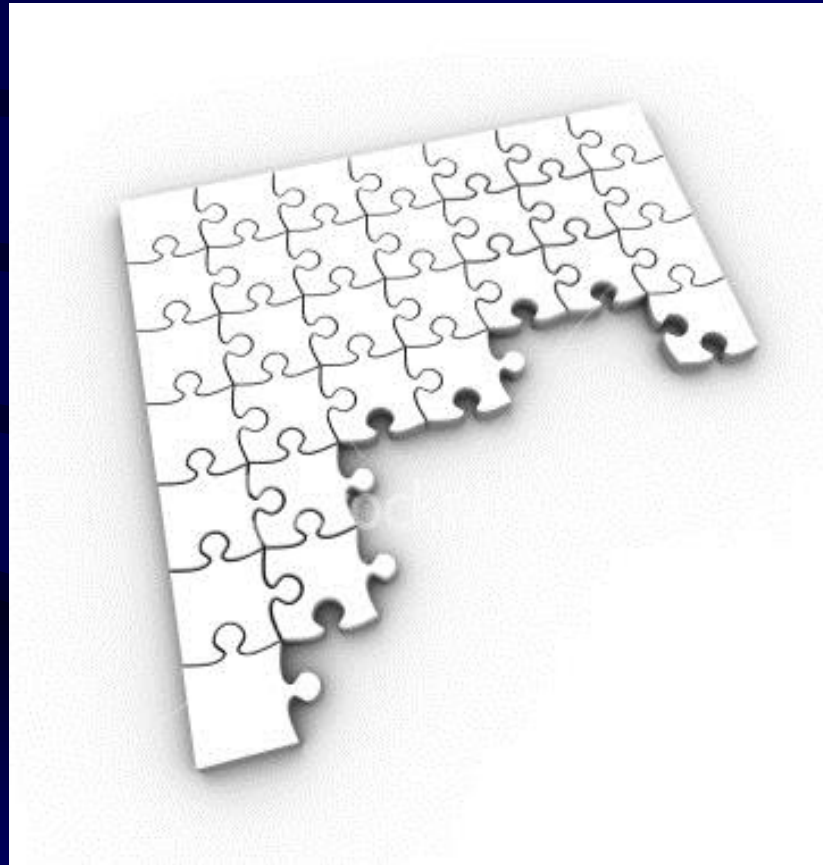
Decrease in Afib  
By exercise  
(Age 72 +/- 5.6 yrs)

*Mozzaffarian  
– Circ 2008;118*

# Demographics

- Endurance sports
- Increases with training/race load
- Mainly middle aged

# Pathophysiology

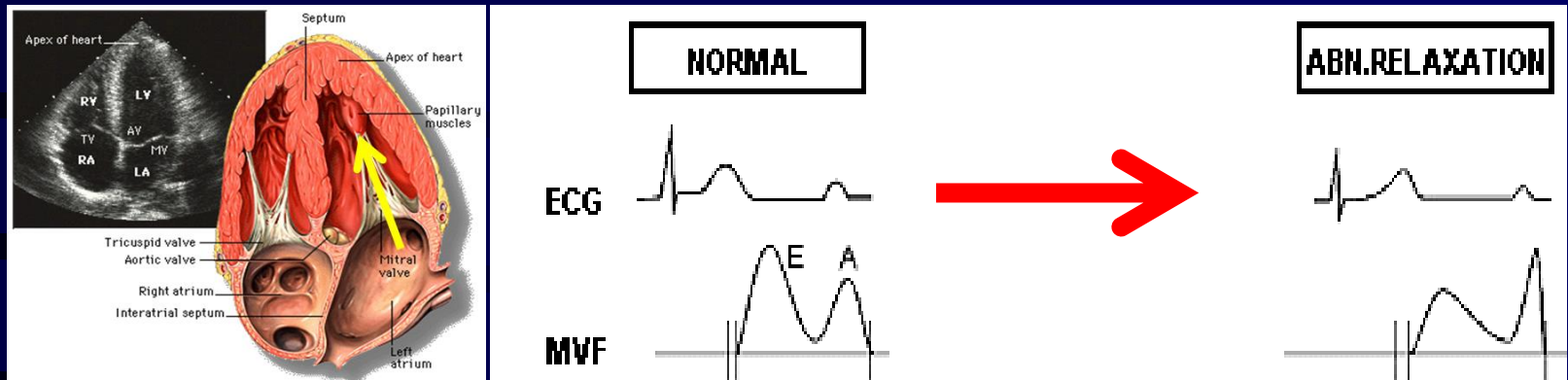




# Pathophysiology

- Acute Effects
  - Diastolic dysfunction
  - Cardiac and inflammatory markers
- Persistent Effects
  - Fibrosis -LVH
  - Atrial enlargement
  - Autonomic nervous system

# Pathophysiology - Diastolic dysfunction



n=50 recreational marathon runners

Significant change in diastolic function

decrease E wave

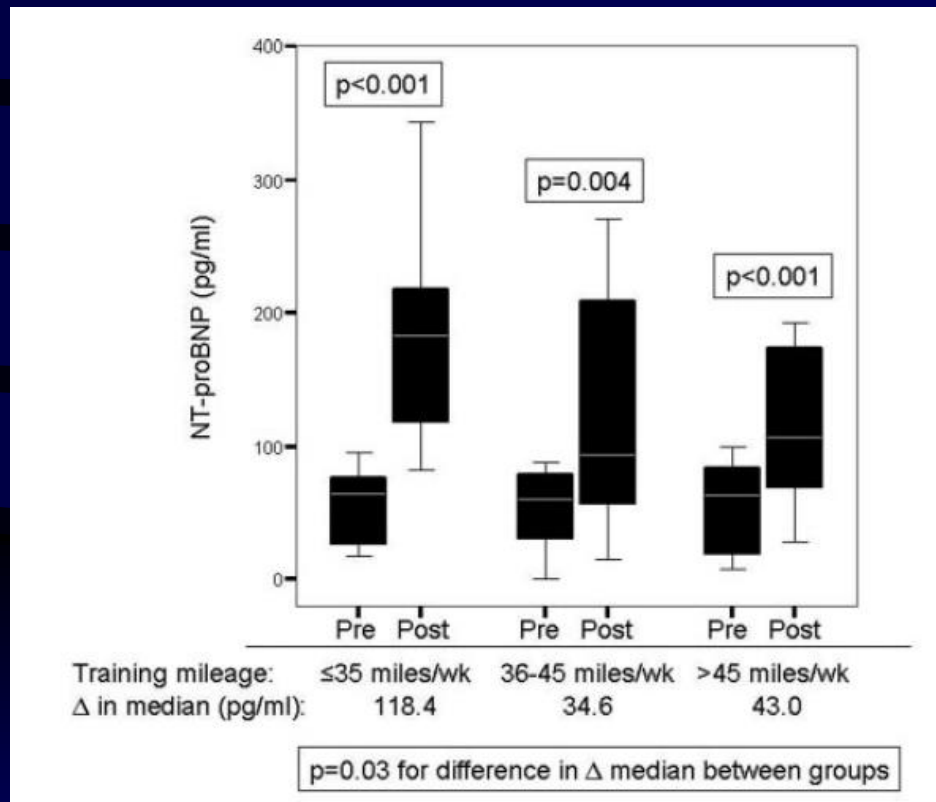
increase A wave

increase E/A ratio

*White – Clin Science 2005; 108*

# Pathophysiology

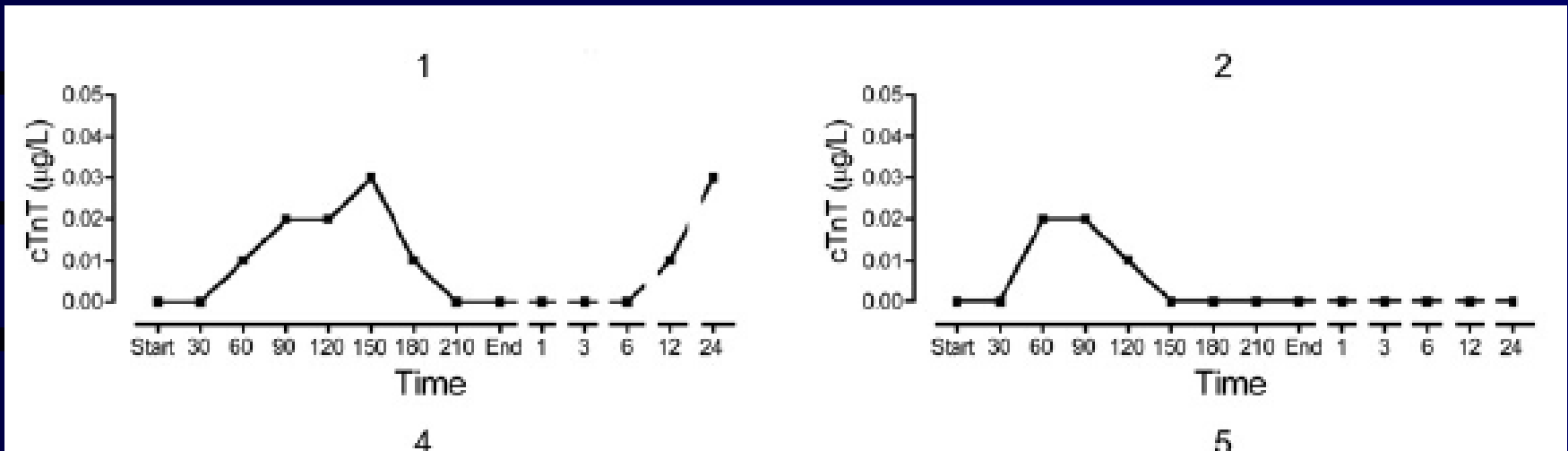
## - HF parameters



Significant increase  
NT-Pro BNP after marathon  
(n=60 Boston marathon 2005)  
correlates with LV diastolic  
dysfunction

# Pathophysiology

## – *Myocardial markers*



Significant increase Troponin after marathon completion

*Middelton – JACC 2008;5*

# Pathophysiology

## – Myocardial markers

**Table 1** Recent Studies Examining Post-Exercise cTn Levels

Activity	Distance	Number of Participants	Troponin Isoform Measured	cTn Diagnostic Threshold	Prevalence of Positive cTn Observed
<b>Walking</b>					
Eijsvogels et al. (48)	30–50 km (4 consecutive days)	103	cTnI	>0.01 ug/ml >0.2 ug/ml	18% 6%
<b>Running</b>					
Lippi et al. (45)	HM	17	cTnT	0.03 ng/ml	0%
Jassal et al. (49)	HM	61 (HM)	cTnT	"Detectable"	HM: 30.6% immediately after race; 45.9% at 1 h after
	FM	68 (FM)			FM: 35.7% immediately after race; 52.8% at 1 h after
Mingels et al. (36)	FM	85	hs-cTnT	>99th percentile	86%
			cTnI	>99th percentile	45%
Fortescue et al. (37)	FM	482	cTnT	>0.01 ng/ml	68%
Mousavi et al. (38)	FM	14	cTnT	>0.01 ng/ml	100%
Middleton et al. (2)	FM	9	cTnT	>0.01 ug/ml	100%
Scott et al. (50)	160 km	25	cTnT	>0.01 ug/ml	20%
Giannitsis et al. (51)	216 km	10	hs-cTnT	>99th percentile	50%
<b>Cycling</b>					
Serrano-Ostariz et al. (52)	206 km	91	cTnI	>0.04	43%
<b>Triathlon</b>					
La Gerche et al. (53)	IM	26	cTnI	>0.16 ng/ml	58%

# Pathophysiology

## – *Myocardial markers*

- Physiological mechanisms
  - Increase permability *Mc Neil - Am J Pathol 1992;140*
  - Cross reaction degraded troponins *Feng – Circ 2001;103*
- Myocardial cell necrosis ?

# Pathophysiology - Inflammation

**Table 1.** Studies of Serum CRP After Strenuous Exercise

Study	Participants	Type of Exercise	Baseline Mean CRP Before Exercise†	Maximum Mean CRP After Exercise*	p Value
Weight et al. (7)	70 ♂ and 20 ♀ trained runners	Marathon race, 42 km	1.1 ± 4.4	22.7 ± 15.9	<0.01
Taylor et al. (8)	18 ♂ trained athletes	160-km triathlon	13.9 ± 6.7	50.8	<0.05
Siegel et al. (9)	55 ♂ marathon runners	Marathon race, 42 km	0.343 ± 0.611	0.762 ± 0.973	<0.001
Fallon (10)	7 ♂ and 1 ♀ trained runners	6-day ultramarathon	1.9	37.5	<0.005
Castel et al. (11)	20 ♂ trained runners	Marathon race, 42 km	3.3	15	0.05
Drenth et al. (12)	7 ♂ and 3 ♀ trained runners	5-km race	0.2	0.5	0.0115
Strachan et al. (13)	38 trained runners	15- to 88-km races	<3	27†	—
Leisen et al. (15)	8 ♂ subjects	3-h run	2	12	—

Significant increase in C-reactive protein after strainous exercise

# Pathophysiology

## - Inflammatory markers

**Table 2.** Changes in endothelial dysfunction and inflammation markers in all subjects (n=24). Data are mean (±Standard error of mean).

Markers	baseline	100 km	200 km	308 km
sVCAM-1 (ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	870.51 (37.08)	1233.17 (78.11) *	921.80 (46.26) †	953.65 (41.96) *†
sE-Selectin (ng·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	30.21 (2.09)	40.14 (2.75) *	44.55 (2.94) *	48.08 (4.04) *†
TNF- $\alpha$ (pg·mL <sup>-1</sup> )	3.68 (.15)	4.00 (.20)	3.37 (.18) †	4.50 (.36) *‡
CK (U·L <sup>-1</sup> )	113.92 (8.65)	1311.35 (246.02) *	8528.82 (1409.54) *†	9368.97 (1652.07) *†
hs-CRP (mg·L <sup>-1</sup> )	.40 (.10)	5.06 (1.46) *	25.56 (3.82) *†	21.87 (3.49) *†
Leukocyte (x10 <sup>6</sup> / $\mu$ L)	6.20 (.32)	13.10 (.61) *	13.10 (.53) *	12.86 (.93) *‡
Hb (gm/dL)	14.28 (.28)	14.76 (.27) *	13.91 (.26) †	13.15 (.24) *†‡
Hct (%)	41.89 (.75)	42.87 (.66)	40.24 (.68) *†	38.49 (.65) *†‡

Significant increase in inflammatory markers during ultra marathon



# Pathophysiology - hypertrophy

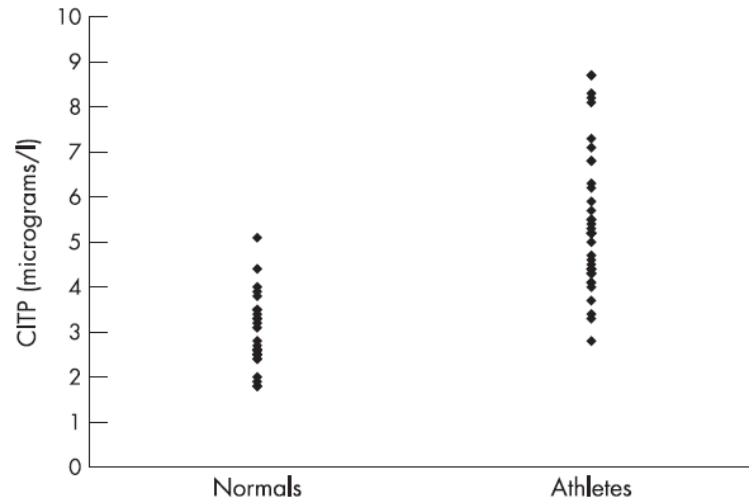
**Table 1. Clinical and echocardiographic characteristics before and after incremental endurance exercise training**

Variables	Before IEET	After IEET	*p
Age, years	21.6±2.0	N/A	-
Body surface area, m <sup>2</sup>	1.91±0.14	1.88±0.13	<0.001
Body mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	24.7±2.3	24.1±2.1	<0.001
Heart rate, beat/min	68.4±9.1	64.1±8.7	0.001
Systolic blood pressure, mmHg	112±15	115±14	0.24
Diastolic blood pressure, mmHg	69±11	70±10	0.49
LV ejection fraction, %	66.9±4.0	67.2±3.6	0.64
LV end-diastolic diameter, cm	4.69±0.29	4.78±0.33	0.02
LV end-systolic diameter, cm	2.82±0.36	2.94±0.34	0.02
LV posterior wall thickness, cm	0.9 (0.8-1.0)	1.0 (0.9-1.0)	0.001
LV septal wall thickness, cm	0.92±0.11	1.0±0.10	0.001
LV relative wall thickness	0.39±0.04	0.41±0.03	0.002
LV mass index, g/m <sup>2</sup>	77.3±16.6	89.1±15.8	0.001

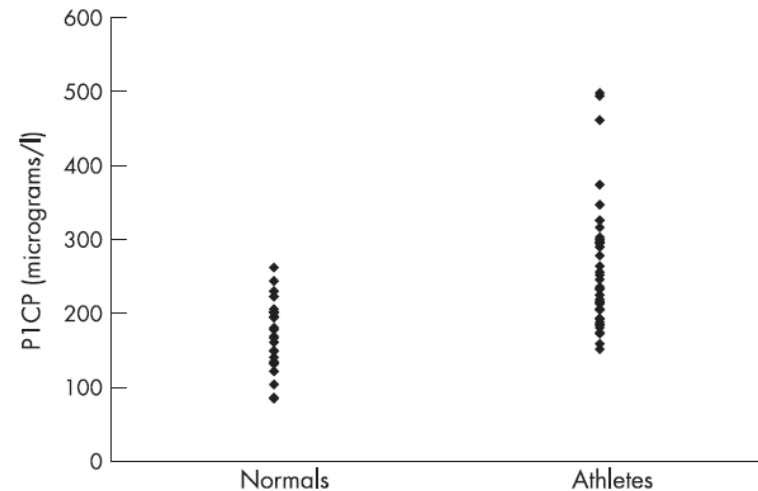
n=43 students of dep. of athletics/ 6 month intensive endurance training program.

# Pathophysiology

## - *Inflam. Markers Fibrosis*



**Figure 2** Data points show plasma carboxyterminal telopeptide of collagen type I concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ) in athletes and normal volunteers (normals).



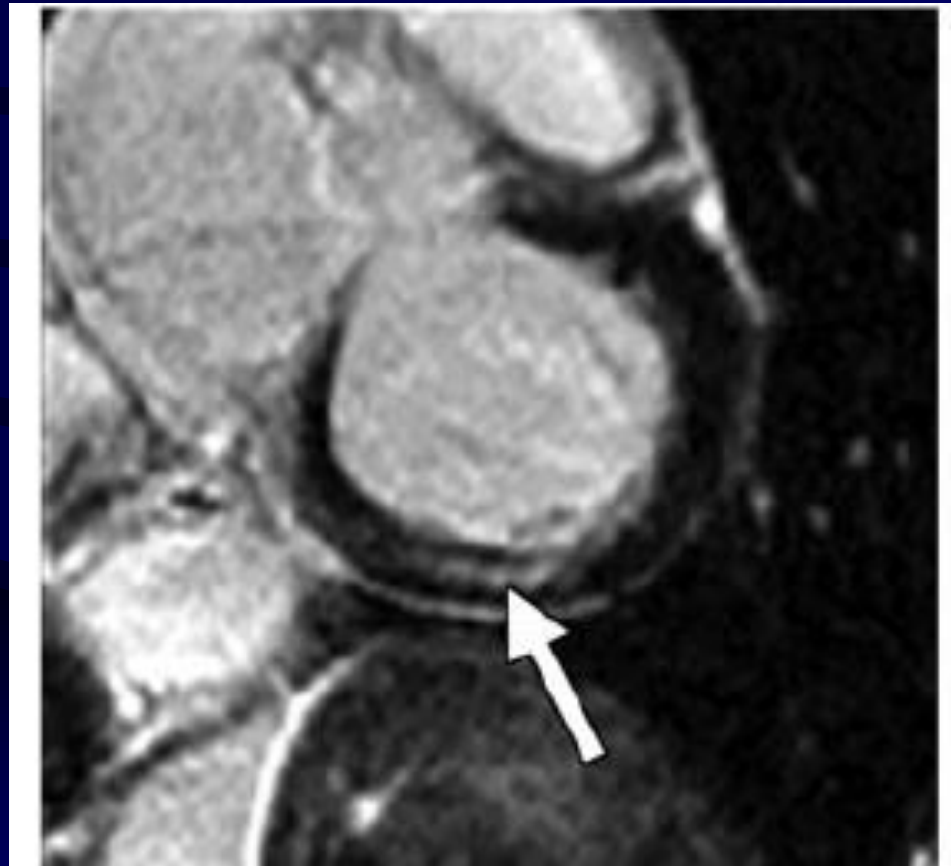
**Figure 3** Data points show plasma carboxyterminal propeptide of collagen type I (PICP) concentrations ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{l}$ ) in athletes and normal volunteers (normals).

n=45 veteran endurance athletes/ n=45 sedentary subjects

Markers of disruption of collagen inducing fibrosis (CTIP/ PICP)

# Pathophysiology

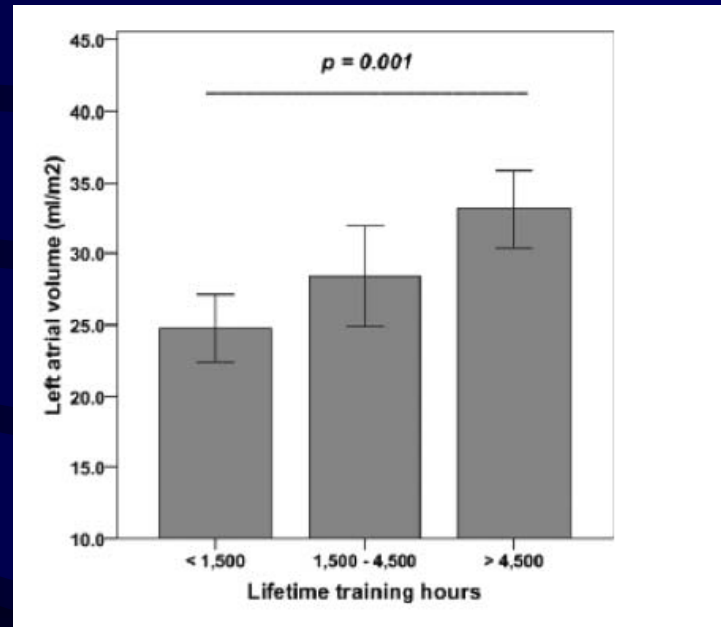
## - *MRI Fibrosis*



*Breuckmann – Radiology 2009;251*  
*J Appl physiol 2010;128*

# Pathophysiology

## - *Left atrial dilatation*

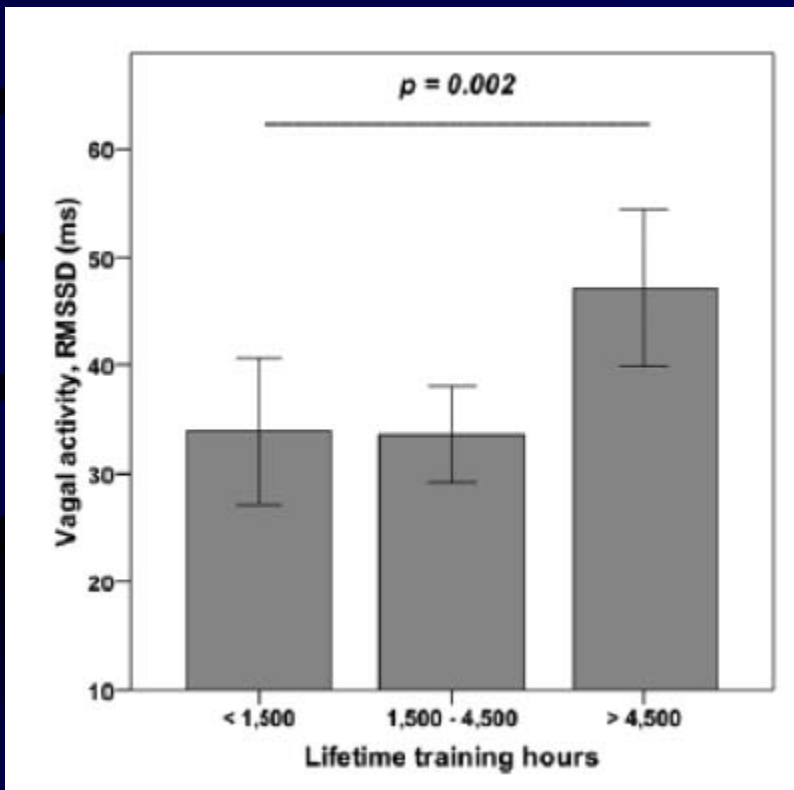


Veteran marathon runners have a significant increase in LA/RA dimensions and volumes

*Wilhelm – Am J Cardiol 2012; 44*  
*Molina - Europace 2008;10*

# Pathophysiology

## - *Autonomic nervous system*



Vagus tonus increased with  
Lifetime training hours

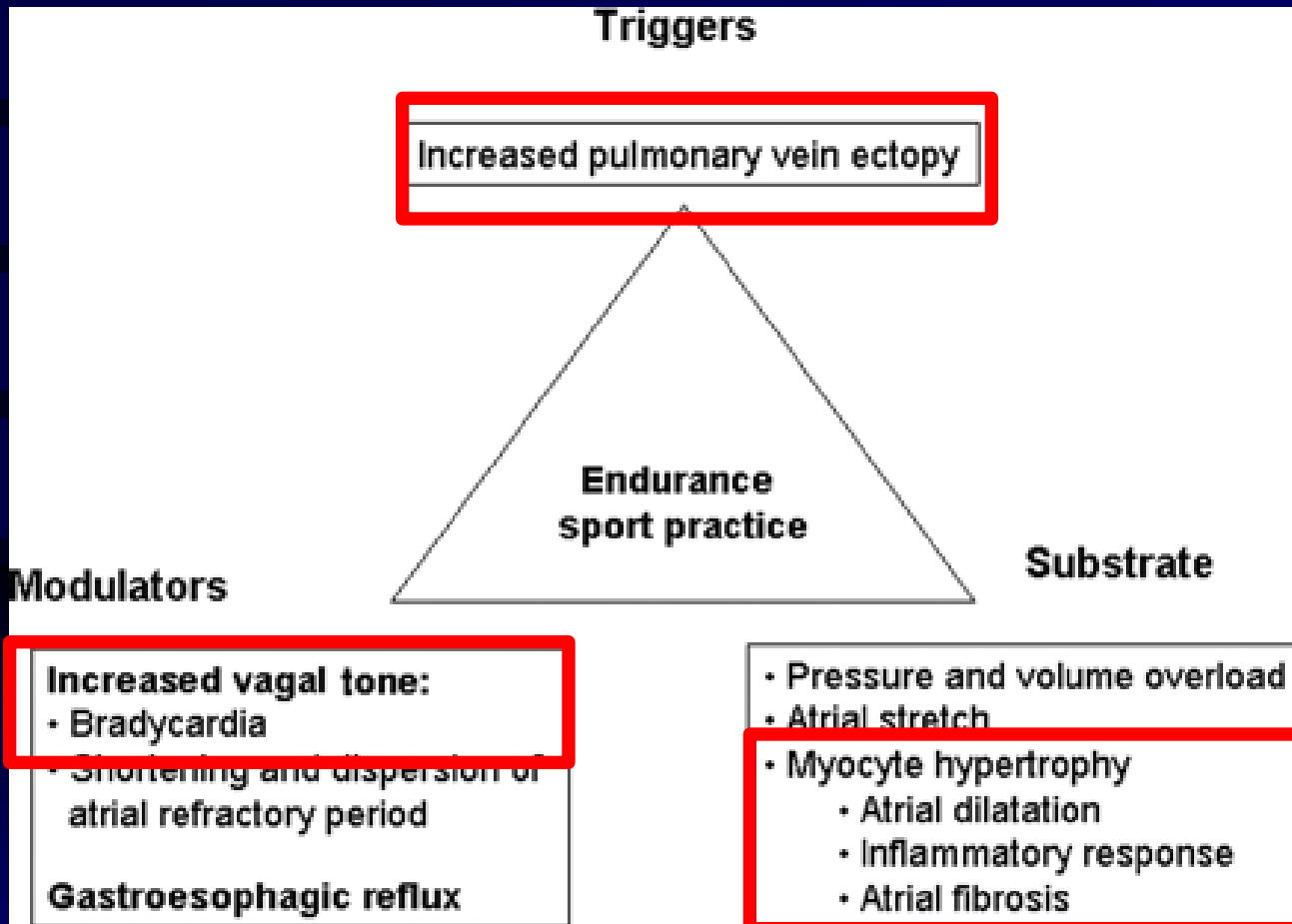
*Wilhelm – AmJCard 2011;108*

Bradycardie and long PQ  
Time are predictors in  
Endurance athletes for AF

*Grimso – Eur J cardi prev reh 2010-17*

# Pathophysiology

## - *atrial remodeling*

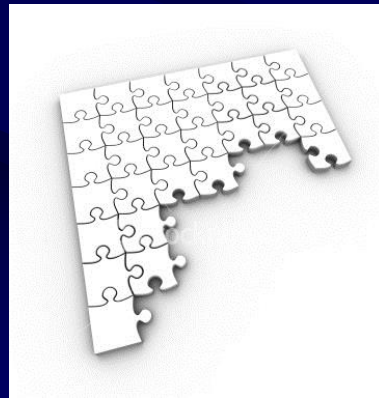


# Pathophysiology

Autonomic nervous system

Myocardial injury – Inflammation – fibrosis

Diastolic dysfunction - Atrial remodeling

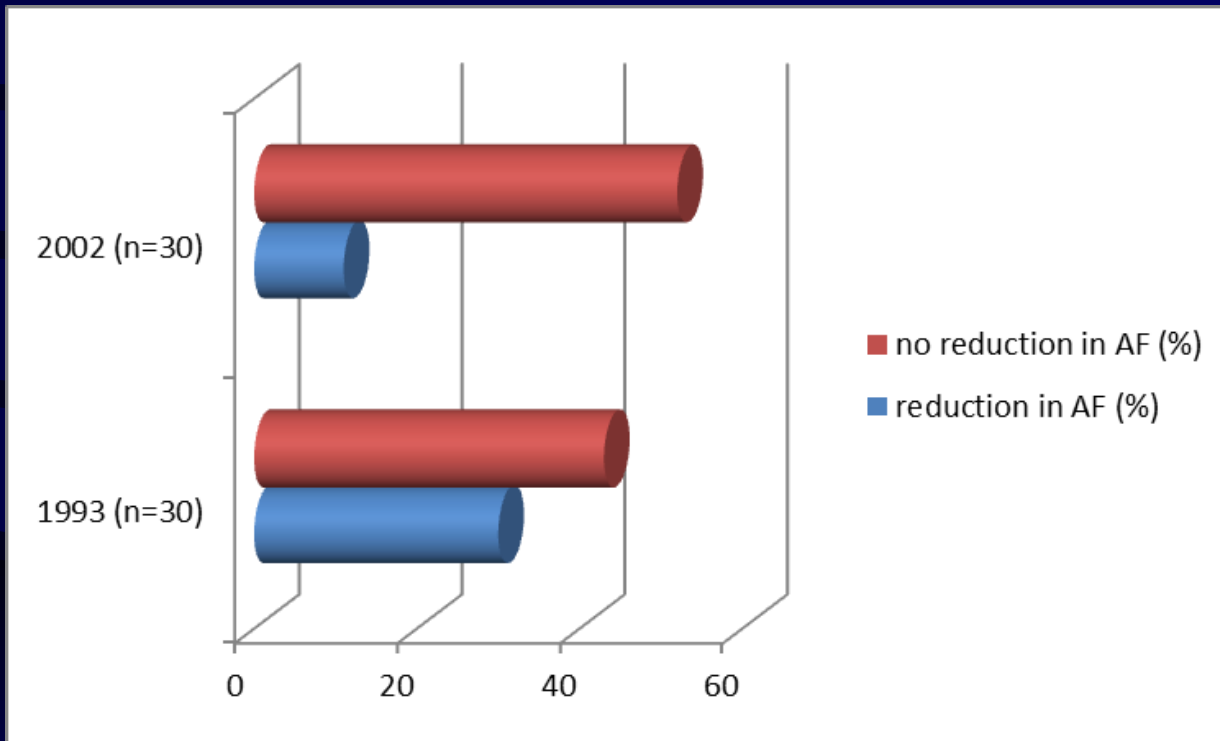


# Management

- Sport activity reduction
- Pharmacological
- Pulmonary vein or isthmus ablation
- Anticoagulation



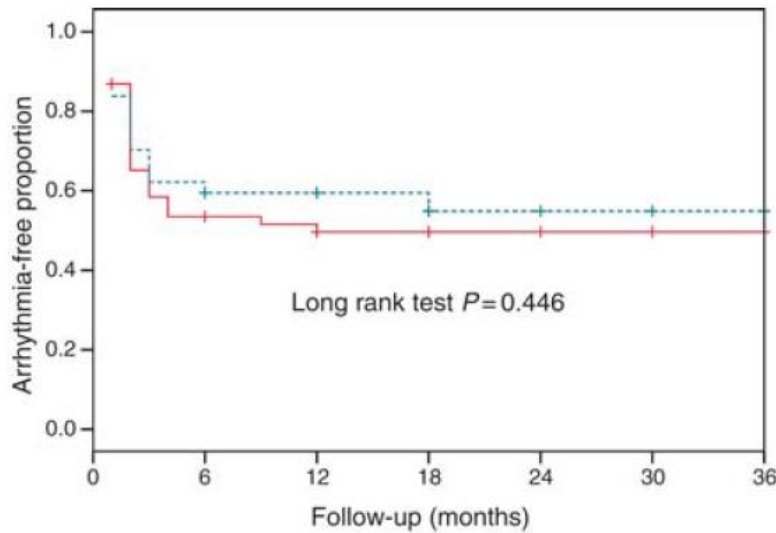
# Sport Activity Reduction



# Pharmacological

- Class Ic antiarrhythmica
- Combination verapamil (1:1 flutter)
- Pill in the pocket

# Pulmonary vein ablation



Number of patients at risk

Control g.	140	69	60	57	51	44	42
sport g.	42	23	17	13	9	7	5

**Table 3** Relationship between each baseline variable and arrhythmia recurrence after a single ablation procedure

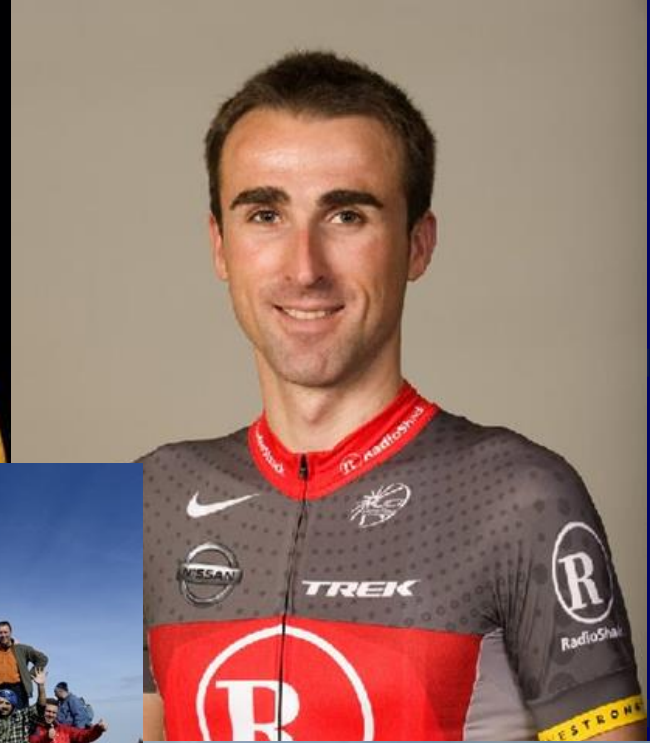
	Hazard ratio (95% CI)	P-value
Age (years)	1.004 (0.983–1.025)	0.742
Male gender	1.048 (0.598–1.838)	0.869
Hypertension	1.181 (0.743–1.877)	0.482
Paroxysmal AF	0.535 (0.344–0.831)	0.005
Structural heart disease	0.931 (0.501–1.729)	0.821
AF duration (months)	1.00 (0.997–1.003)	0.940
LAD (mm)	1.057 (1.013–1.104)	0.011
LVEDD (mm)	1.014 (0.962–1.069)	0.609
LVESD (mm)	1.036 (0.997–1.077)	0.070
LVEF (%)	0.974 (0.953–0.996)	0.020
Sport practice	0.821 (0.475–1.419)	0.479

# Anticoagulation

- Exclude individuals from sports with a risk of trauma

# Conclusie

- Demografics
  - middle aged endurance sporters
- Pathofysiology
  - inflammation – fibrosis – LAD/ LVH
- Treatment
  - reduction in exercise, class I anti-arrytmica, catheter ablation



Michelangelo na 2 jaar USA

