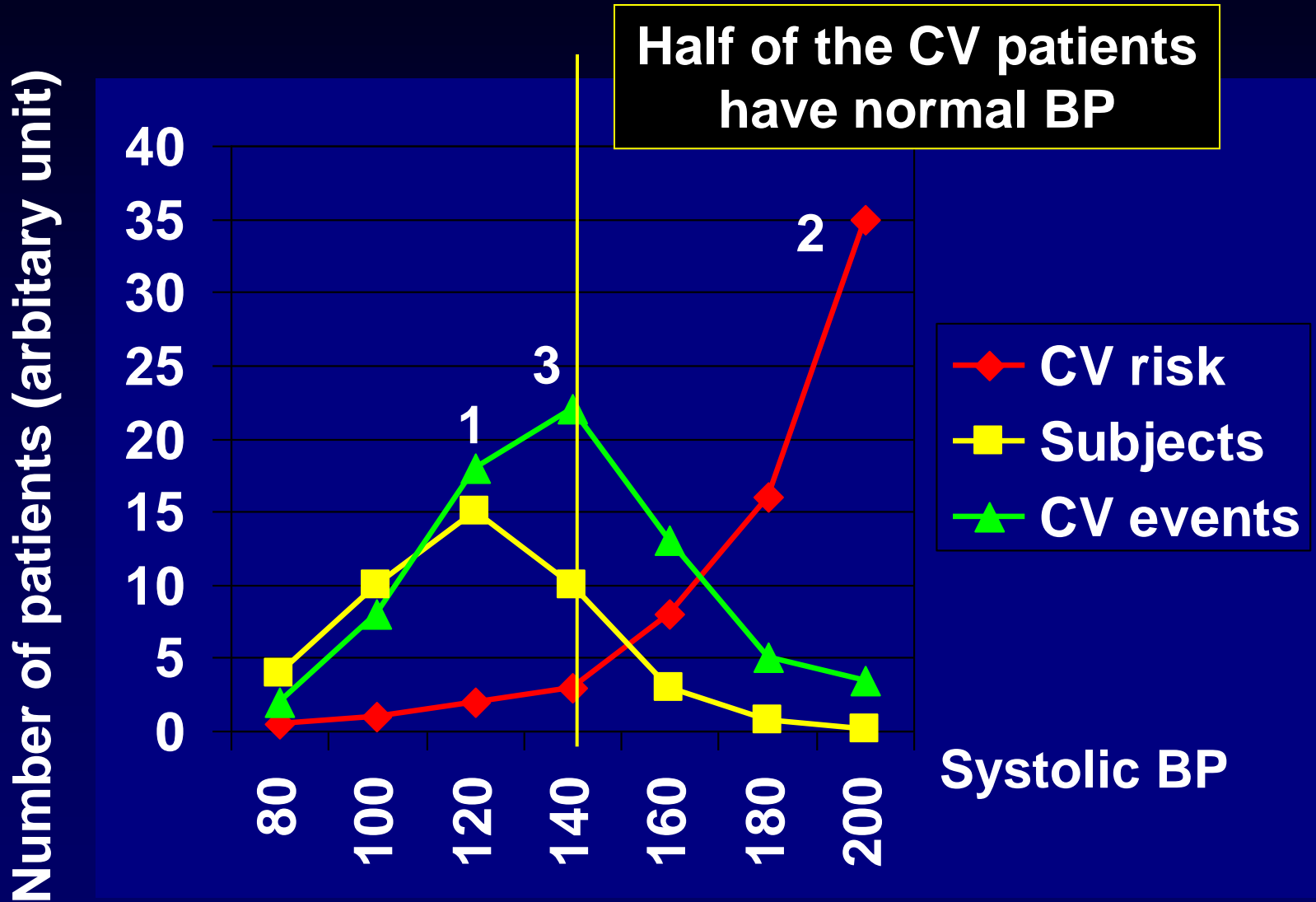


**Risk assessment models: What is to come?**  
**Role of biomarkers in improving  
risk assessment models**  
**Europrevent 2010, Prague**

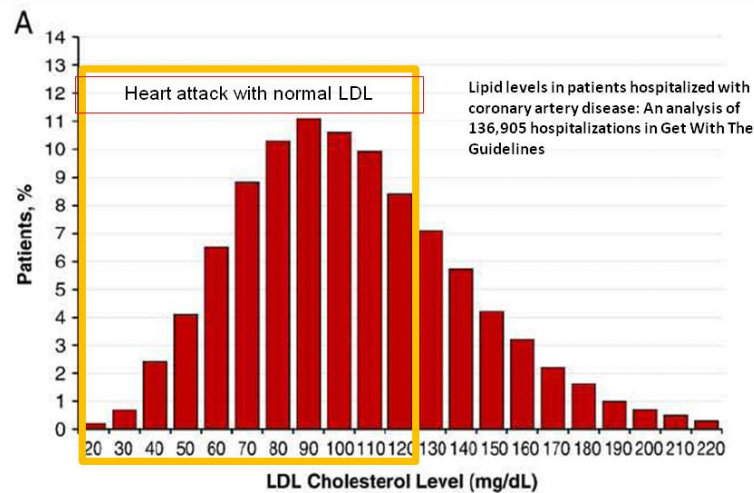
**Michael Hecht Olsen, MD, DMSc, PhD**  
**Associate professor, University of Copenhagen**  
**Chief physician, Cardiovascular Research Unit,**  
**Division of Cardiology, Dept. of Internal Medicine**  
**Glostrup University Hospital, Denmark**

# Despite prognostic importance, traditional CV risk factors have problems predicting individual CV risk



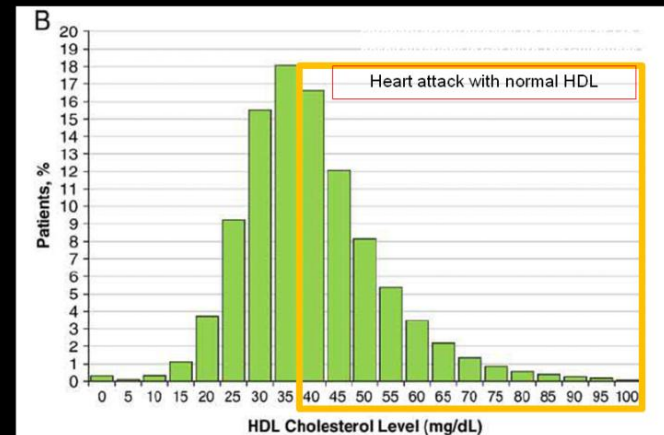
# Also lipids are normal in half of the patients hospitalized for acute myocardial infarction

Of 136,905 patients hospitalized with CAD, more than 70% had LDL levels below 130 mg/dl



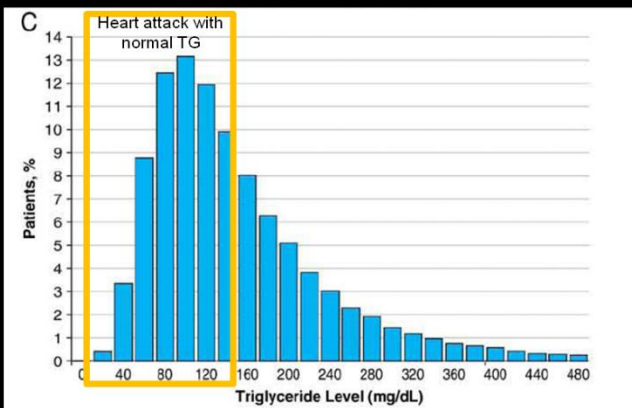
Sachdeva et al. AHJ, Vol 157, 111-117 Jan 2009

Of 136,905 patients hospitalized with CAD, more than 45% had HDL levels above 40 mg/dl



Sachdeva et al. AHJ, Vol 157, 111-117 Jan 2009

Of 136,905 patients hospitalized with CAD, more than 50% had TG levels below 160 mg/dl



Sachdeva et al. AHJ, Vol 157, 111-117 Jan 2009

# Traditional risk factors are inadequate to predict CV events making primary prevention difficult

## How Good Is NCEP III At Predicting MI?

Akosah et al. JACC 2003;41 1475-9



**SHAPE**

Society for Heart Attack  
Prevention and Eradication

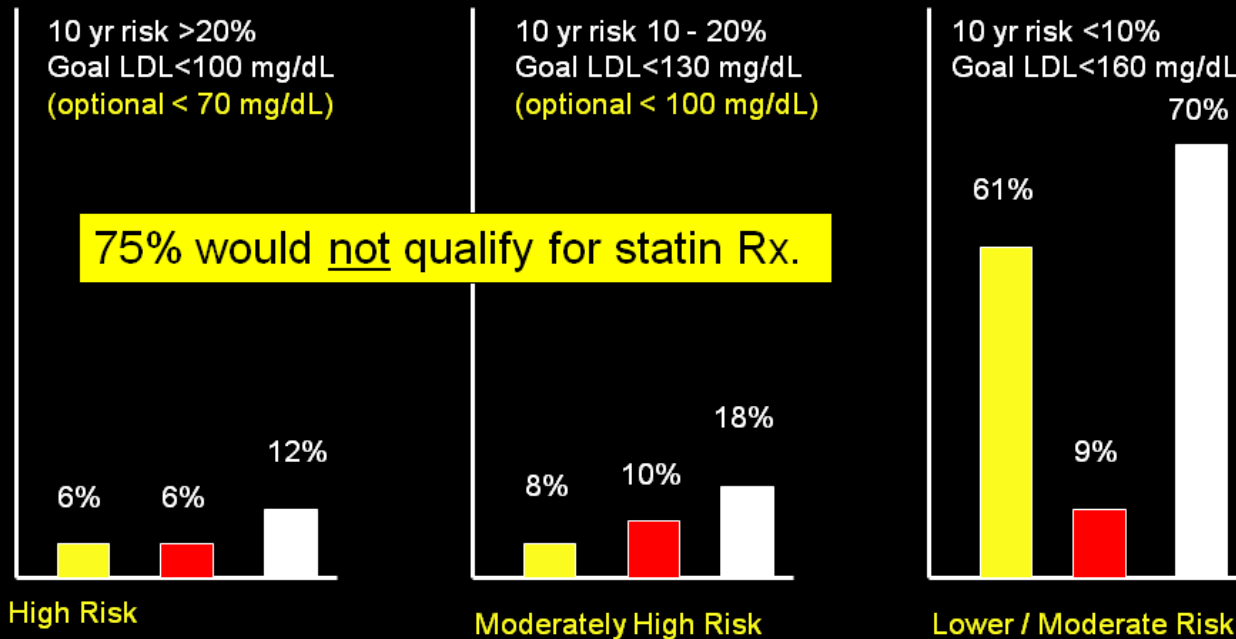
1998 – 2002. 222 patients with 1<sup>st</sup> acute MI, no prior CAD, no DM. Men <55 y/o (75%), Women <65. **40% hypertensive**

What was NCEP risk before the MI? Would they have received statin therapy or more intensive statin therapy?

% of total

would qualify for statin Rx

would not qualify for statin Rx



# The additive predictive values of non-traditional CV risk markers are also controversial

REVIEW

## Assessment of Claims of Improved Prediction Beyond the Framingham Risk Score

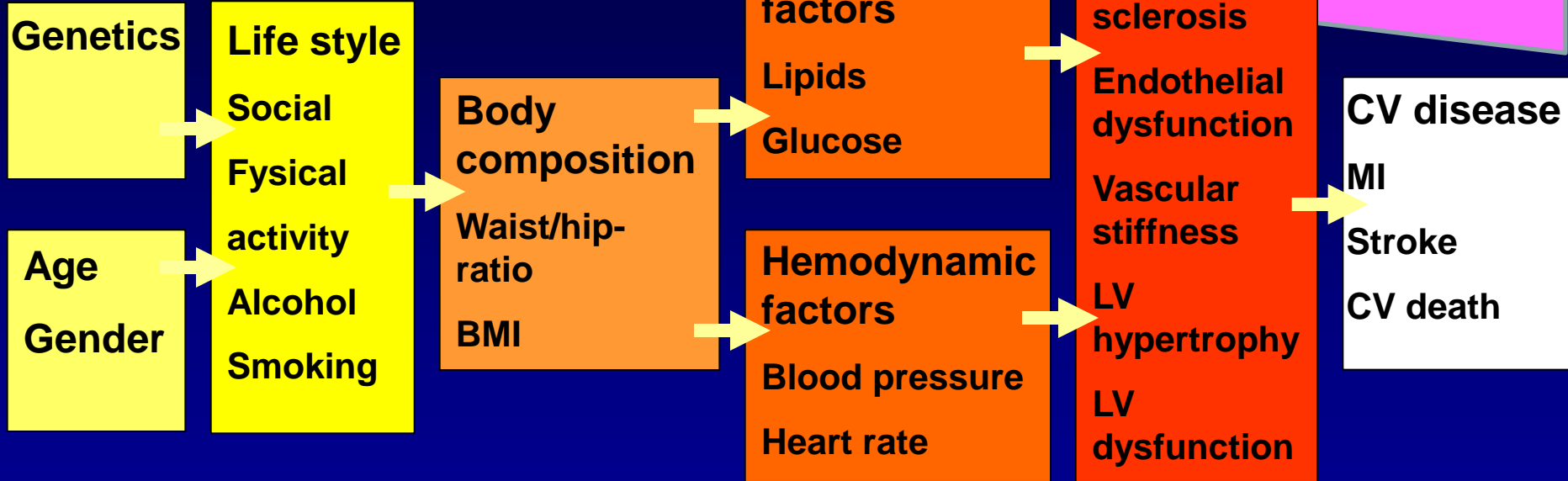
*JAMA. 2009;302(21):2345-2352*

**Results** We evaluated 79 eligible articles. Forty-nine studies (62%) did not calculate the FRS as it has been proposed, 15 (19%) modeled the additional predictor in more than 1 way and presented only the best fit or area-under-the-curve (AUC) results for only 1 model, 41 (52%) did not examine the original outcome that the FRS was developed for, 33 (42%) studied a

**Conclusion** The majority of examined studies claimed that they found factors that could offer additional predictive value beyond what the FRS could achieve; however, most had flaws in their design, analyses, and reporting that cast some doubt on the reliability of the claims for improved prediction.

# Timeline for development of CV disease

Risk of developing CV disease



Non-traditional  
CV risk markers:  
UACR, hsCRP, Nt-proBNP

Time



# Five important questions

- 1. What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?**
- 2. Do they predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors?**
- 3. Are they especially strong in certain subgroups?**
- 4. Can they supplement SCORE in selecting subjects for primary prevention?**
- 5. Do changes during treatment have prognostic importance?**

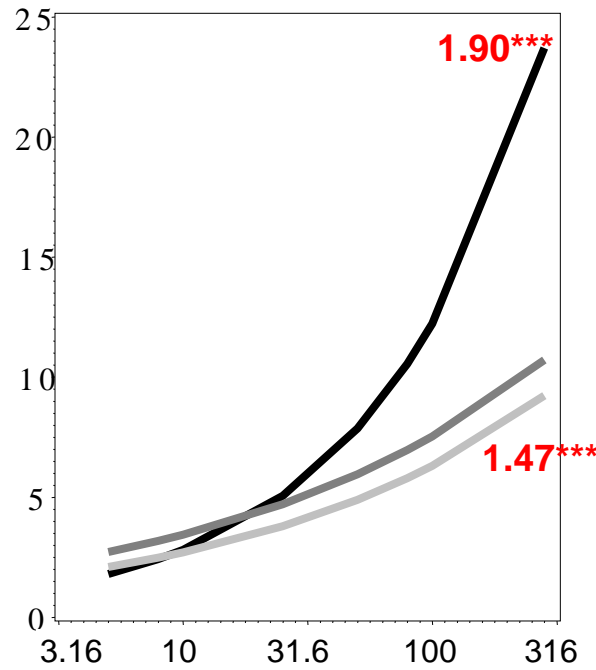
# What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?

- **High sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP)**
  - Reflects the subclinical inflammation associated with development of atherosclerosis and unstable plaques
- **Urin albumin/creatinin ratio (UACR)**
  - Reflects systemic microvascular damage (not only glomeruli) with increased risk of lipid-insudation and later development of atherosclerosis
- **N-terminal pro brain natriuretic peptide (Nt-proBNP)**
  - Reflects hemodynamic load on the myocardium and thereby cardiovascular hypertrophy/fibrosis

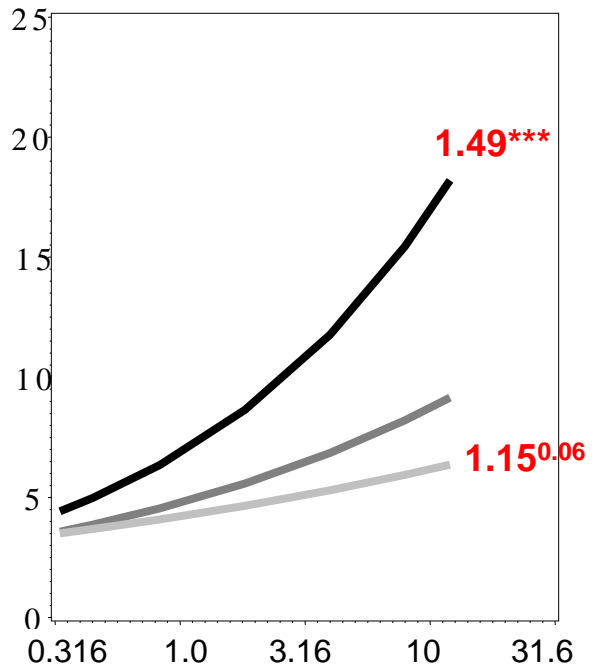
# Five important questions

1. What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?
2. Do they predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors?

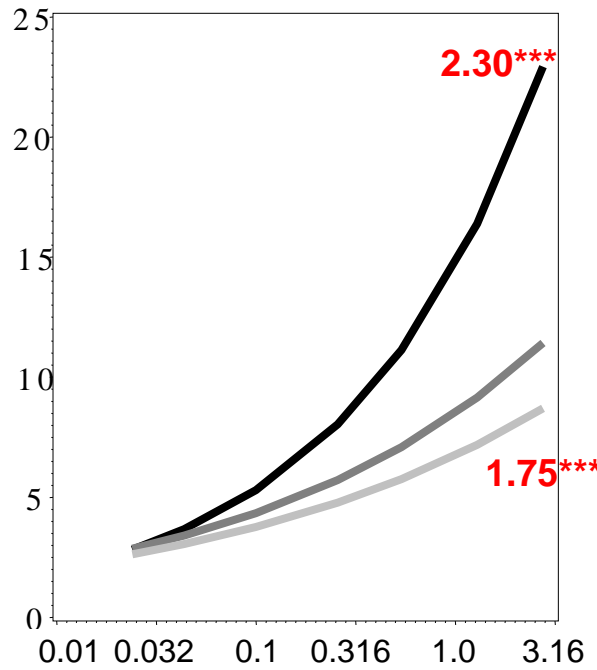
# In the general population the risk of CEP increases with increasing levels of non-traditional risk markers



**Nt-proBNP (pg/ml)**



**hsCRP (mg/l)**



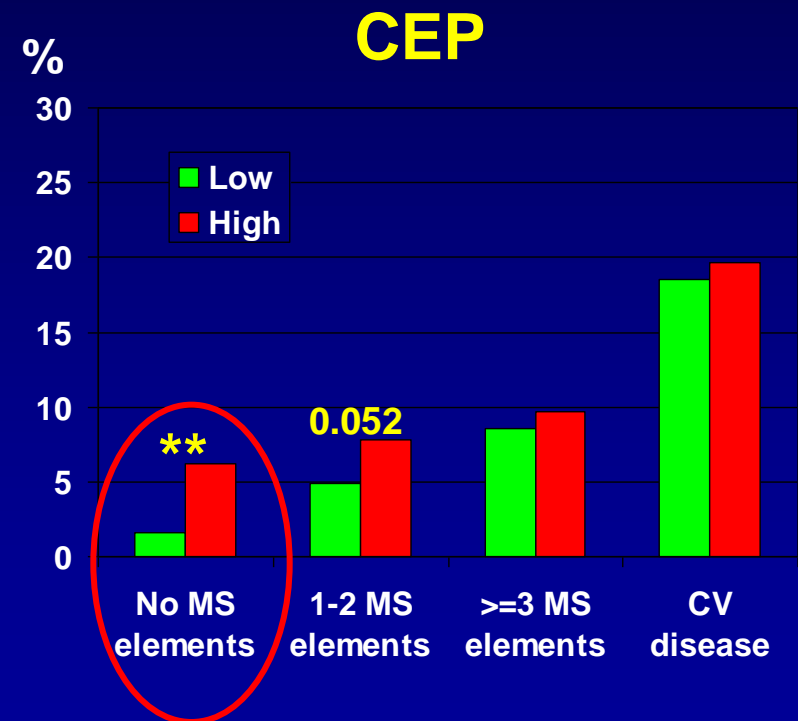
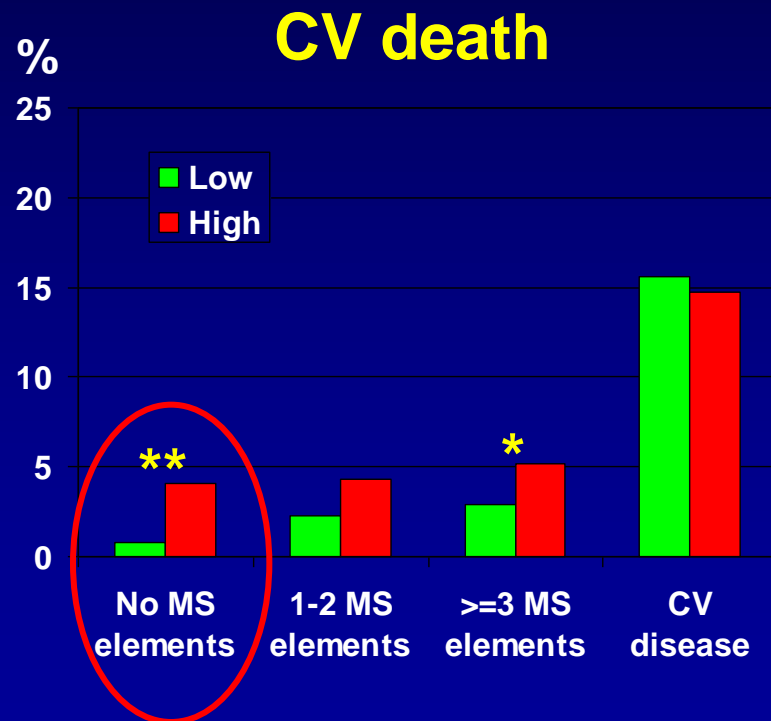
**UACR (mg/mmol)**

The calculated absolute risk of the composite endpoint as functions of log(Nt-proBNP), log(hsCRP) or logUACR unadjusted (black), adjusted for prior stroke or myocardial infarction, known diabetes, CV medication gender and mean age (dark grey), and further adjusted for smoking and mean heart rate, systolic blood pressure, plasma glucose and serum low density lipoprotein (light grey).

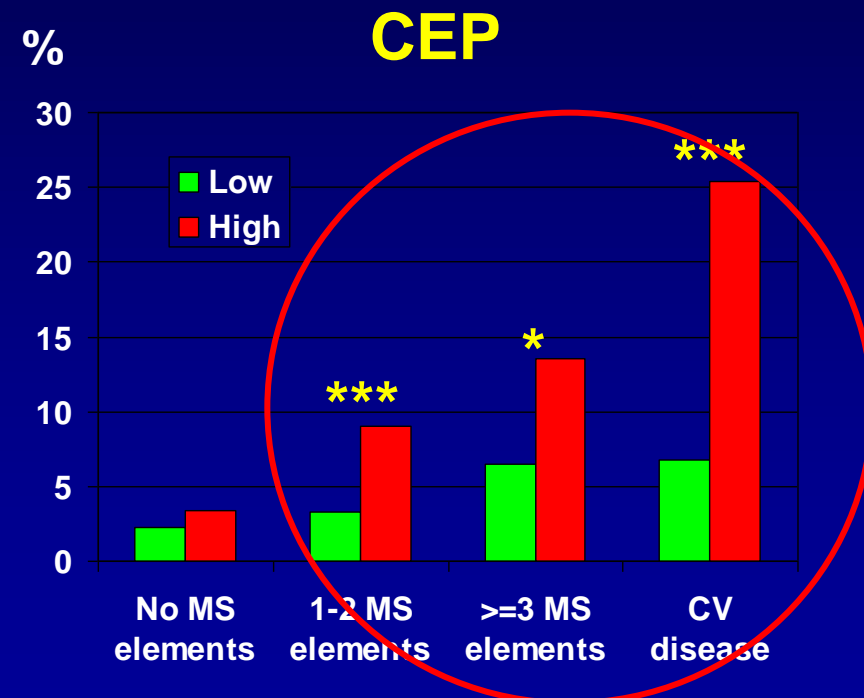
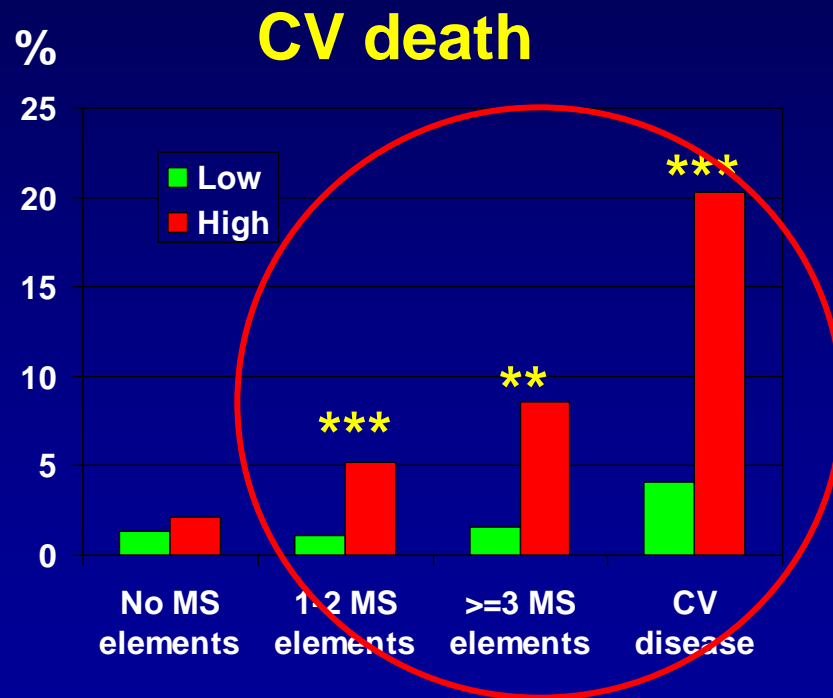
# Five important questions cont.

1. What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?
2. Do they predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors?
3. **Are they especially strong in certain subgroups?**

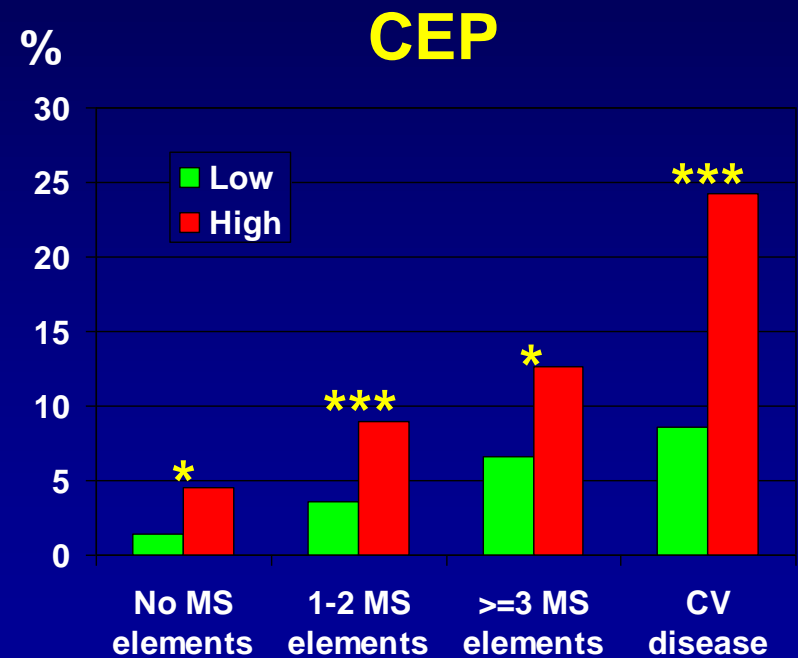
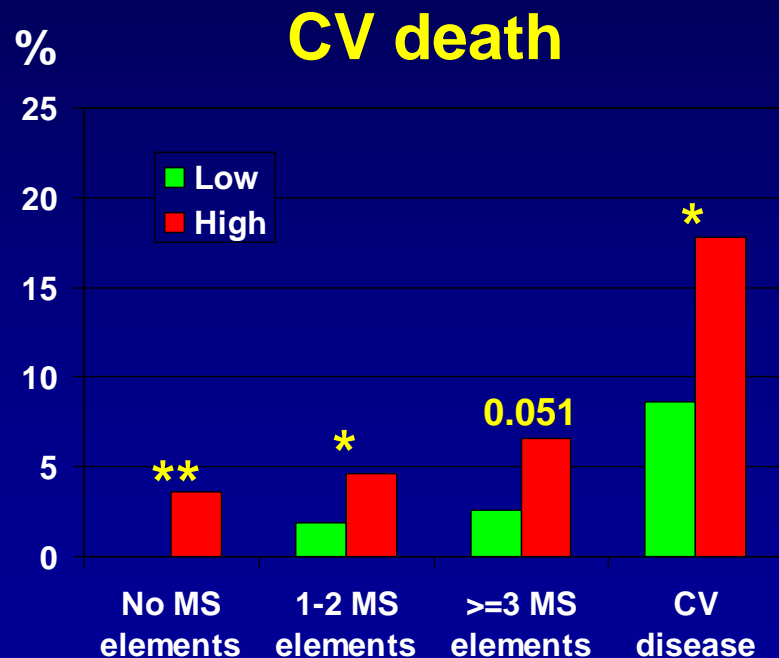
# High hsCRP predicted CV events in low risk subjects - a marker of early atherosclerosis



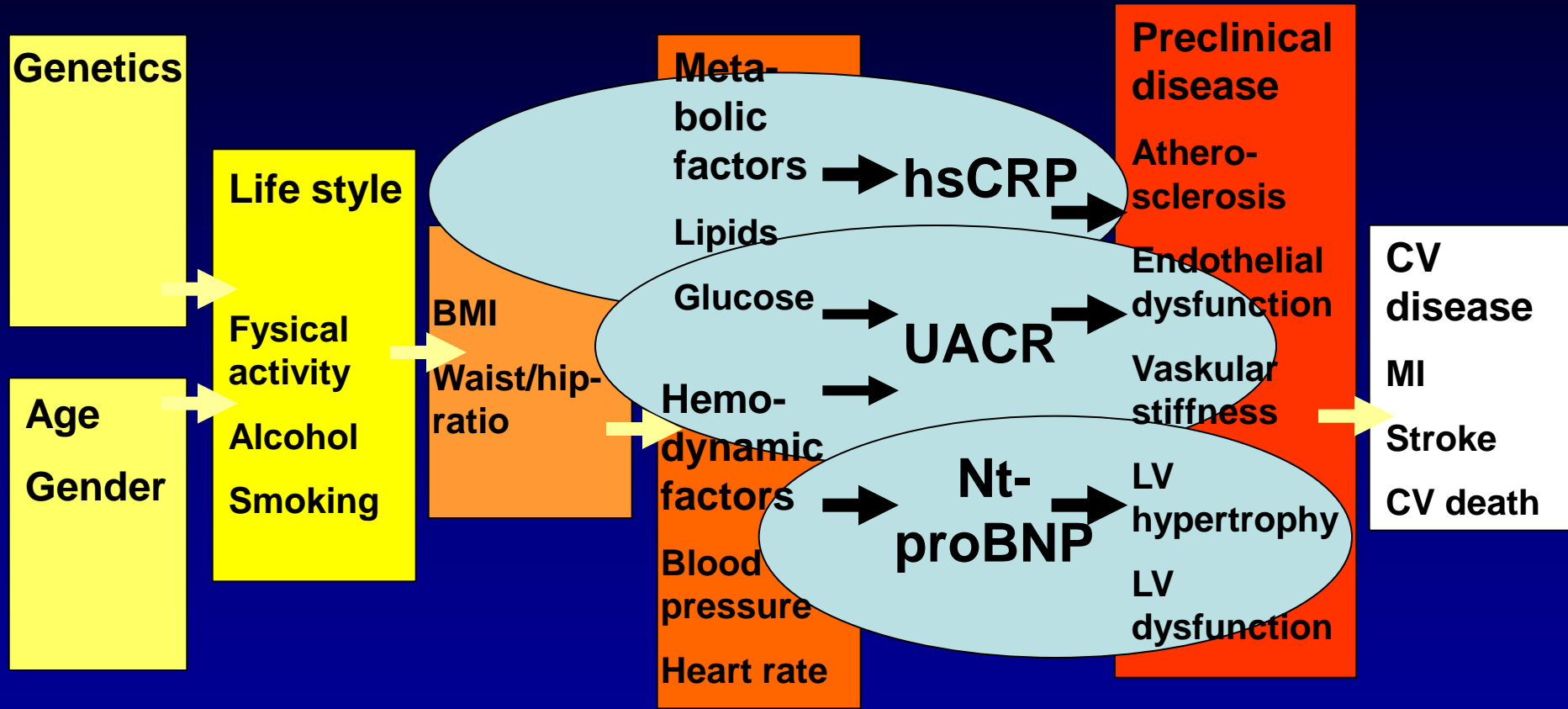
# High Nt-proBNP predicted CV events in high risk subjects – a marker of later CV damage



# High UACR predicted CV events in all subjects – a marker of early (endothelial dysfunction) and later (microvascular damage) atherosclerosis



# Non-traditional risk markers predict events partly independently of the traditional risk factors



**But do they provide additive information leading to clinical changes in daily practise?**

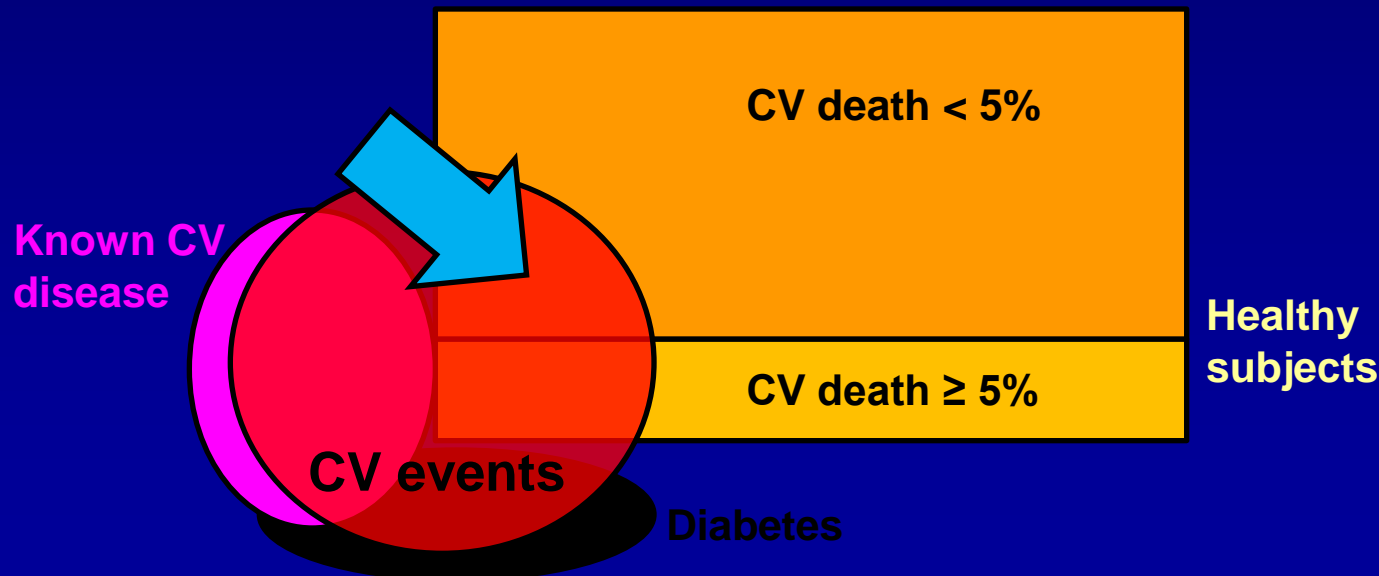


# Five important questions cont.

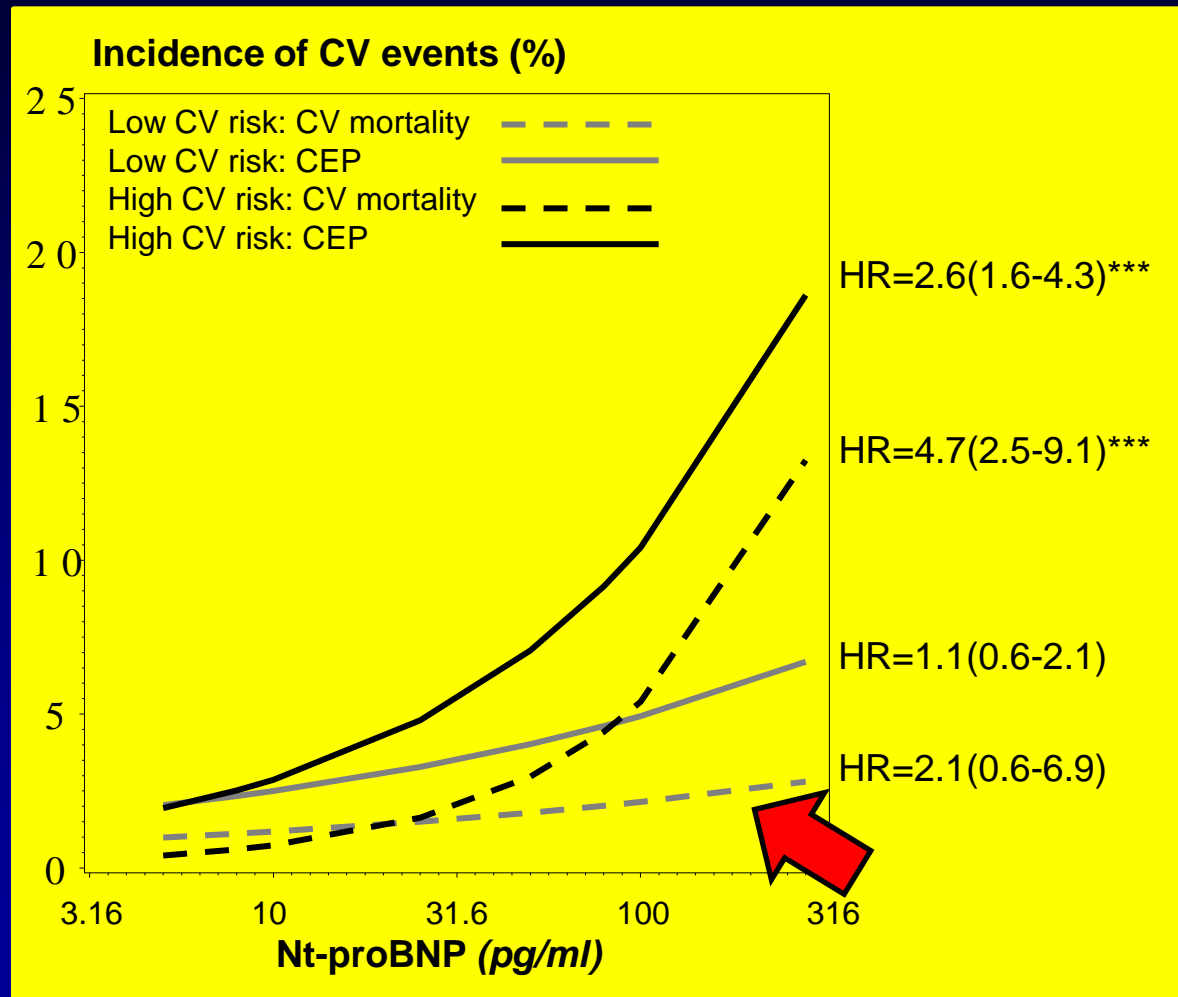
1. What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?
2. Do they predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors?
3. Are they especially strong in certain subgroups?
4. **Can they supplement SCORE in selecting subjects for primary prevention?**

# Indications for prevention

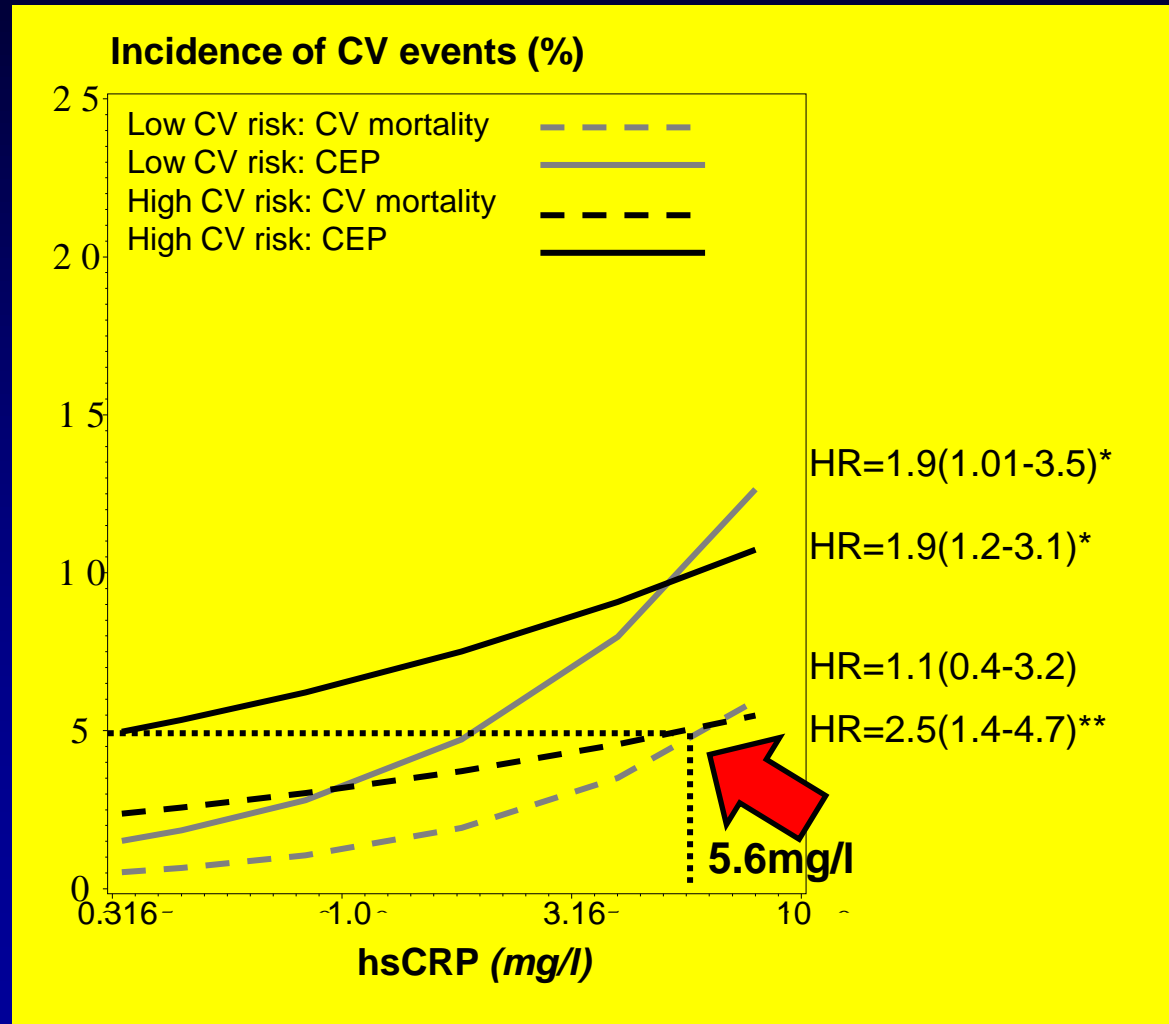
- **Secondary prevention**
  - Known CV disease
- **Primary prevention**
  - Diabetes
  - Healthy subjects with a 10-year risk of CV death  $\geq 5\%$  as estimated by SCORE



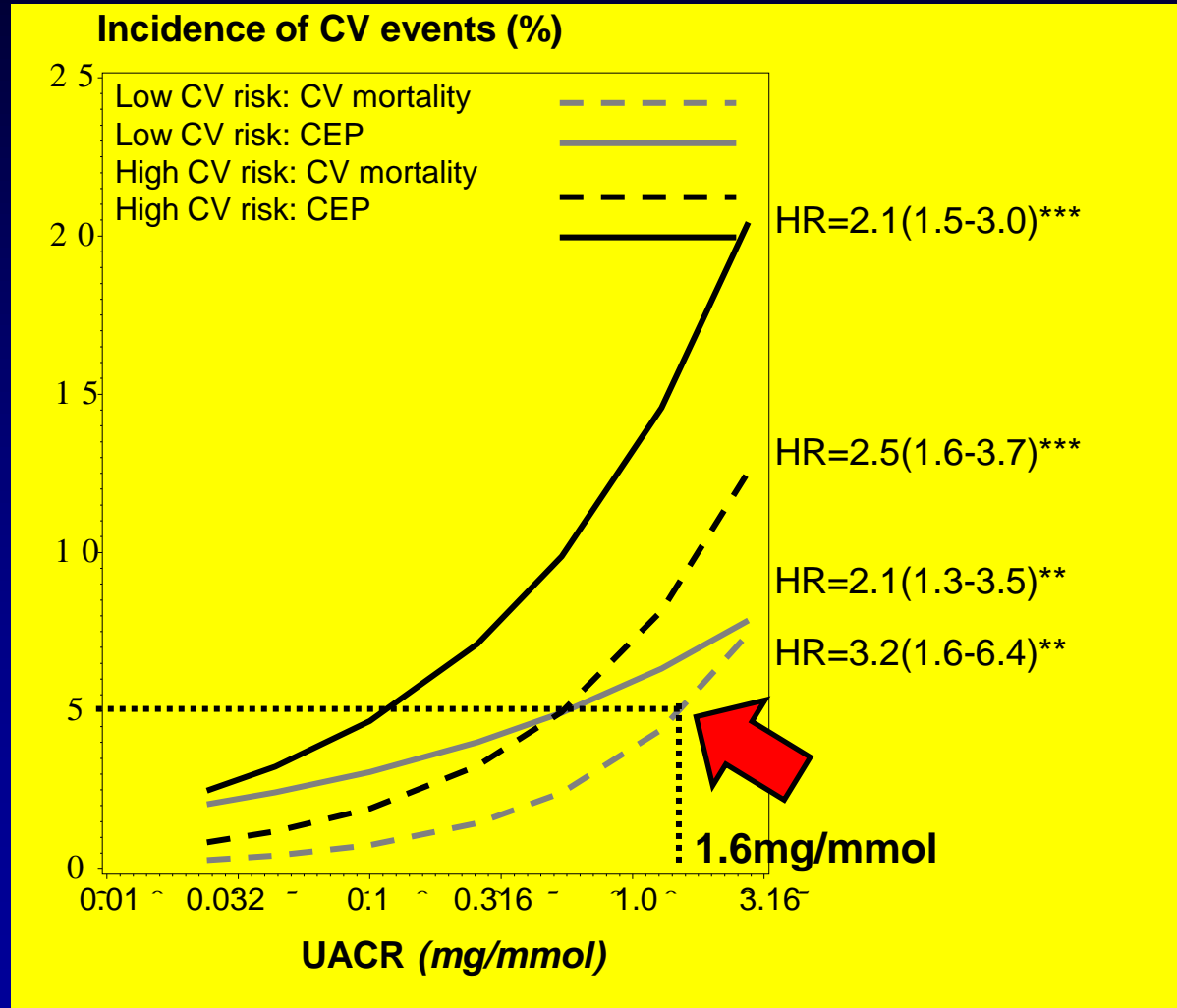
# Nt-proBNP was not associated with CV risk in the low-moderate risk group (SCORE < 5%)



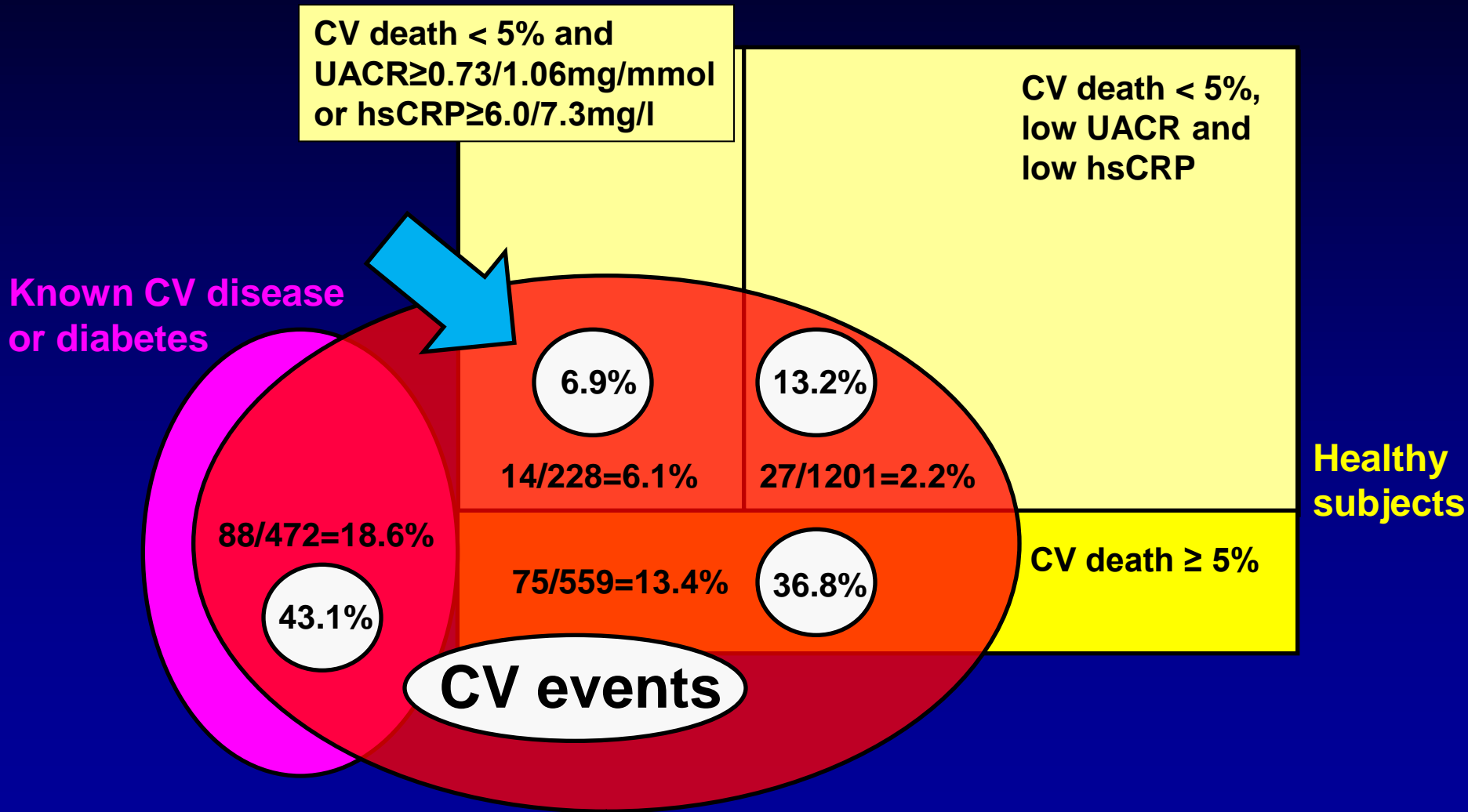
# HsCRP was associated with CV events in the low-moderate risk group, and risk of CV death $\geq 5\%$ for $\text{hsCRP} > 5.6 \text{ mg/l}$



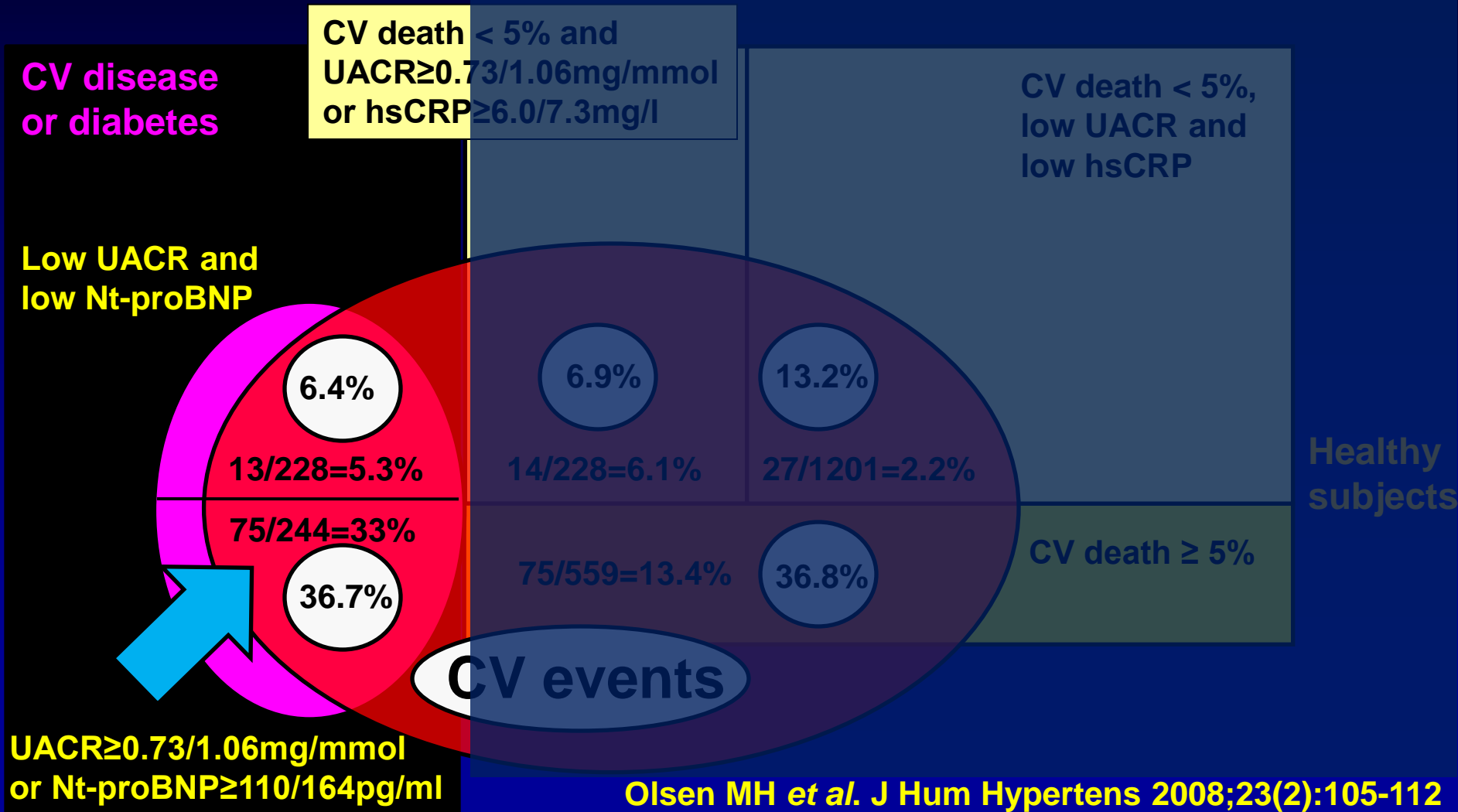
# UACR var associeret med CV events independently of CV risk, and CV death $\geq 5\%$ in the low-moderate risk group for UACR $>1.6\text{mg}/\text{mmol}$



# 1/3 of CVD events start from subjects with hsCRP moderate risk subjects with elevated UACR or high hsCRP



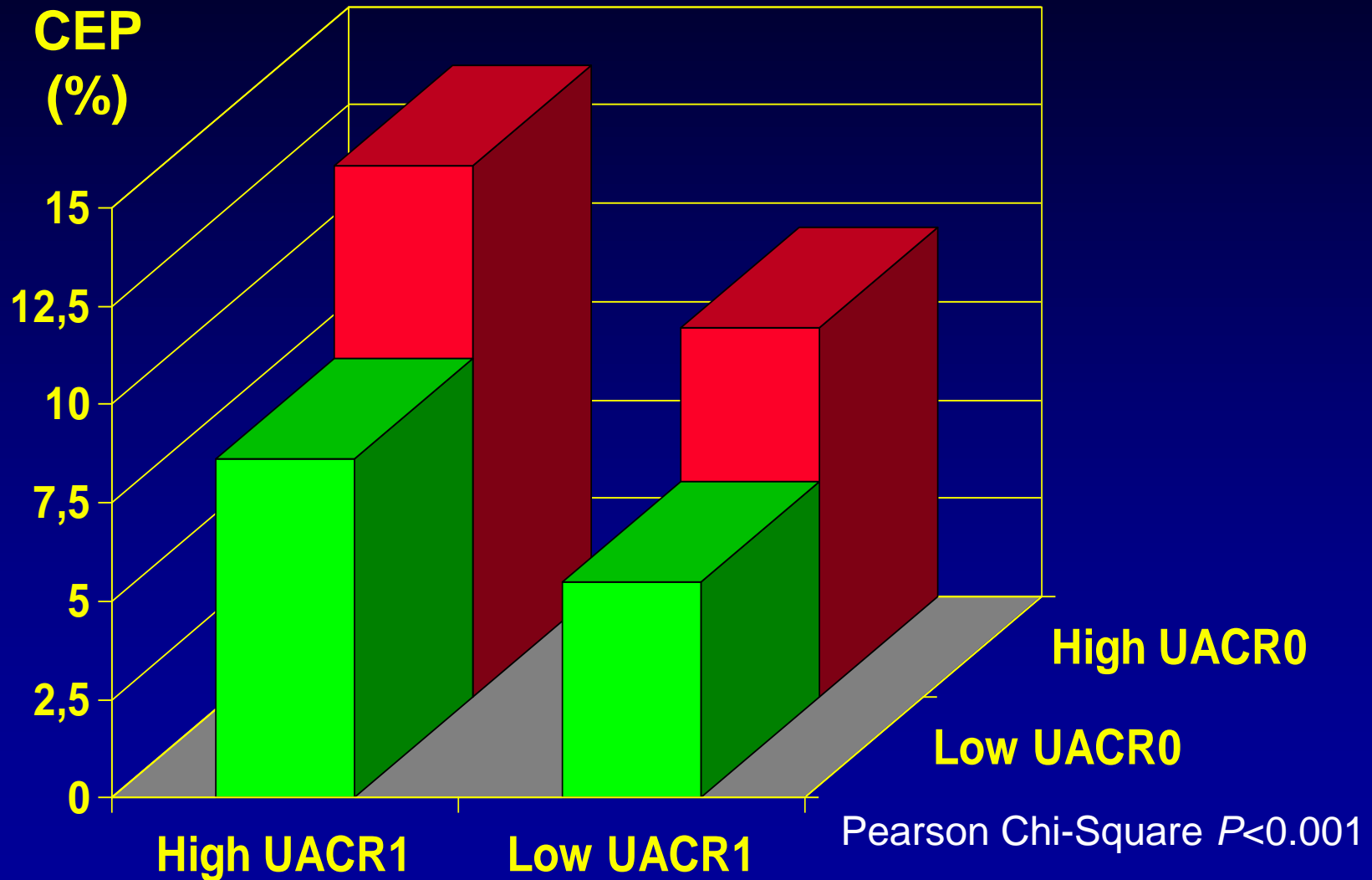
# 85% of CV events in AS subjects with KNBN in subjects with known CV disease or diabetes was predicted by high UACR or high Nt-proBNP



# Five important questions cont.

1. What do these non-traditional risk markers reflect?
2. Do they predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors?
3. Are they especially strong in certain subgroups?
4. Can they supplement SCORE in selecting subjects for primary prevention?
5. **Do changes during treatment have prognostic importance?**

# Baseline as well as 1-year UACR has prognostic importance



# Five important answers

- 1. These 3 non-traditional risk markers reflect different aspects of cardiovascular damage**
- 2. They predict outcome independently of traditional CV risk factors, but do not in general provide additional clinically relevant prognostic information**
- 3. They are stronger in selected subgroups**
- 4. They may supplement SCORE in selecting subjects for primary prevention**
- 5. Changes in UACR during treatment have prognostic importance**

# Conclusion

- 1. The impact of new non-traditional CV risk factors/markers are dependent on which part of the CV disease process they reflect**
- 2. Therefore, better understanding of the complex mechanisms leading to CV disease is essential.**
- 3. Thereby identifying the right risk markers/factors with the right cut-off values for the right populations**
- 4. Leading to improved risk assessment, better targeted prevention and more individualized treatment**

# Criteria for evaluation of novel markers of cardiovascular risk: a scientific statement from the American Heart Association.

Hlatky MA, Greenland P, Arnett DK, Ballantyne CM, Criqui MH, Elkind MS, Go AS, Harrell FE Jr, Hong Y, Howard BV, Howard VJ, Hsue PY, Kramer CM, McConnell JP, Normand SL, O'Donnell CJ, Smith SC Jr, Wilson PW; American Heart Association Expert Panel on Subclinical Atherosclerotic Diseases and Emerging Risk Factors and the Stroke Council.

**Circulation. 2009 May 5;119(17):2408-16**

## 1. Design and outcomes according to accepted standards

## 2. Risk stratification based on traditional cardiovascular risk factors

## 3. Associated risk of the non-traditional risk marker:

- a) Relative risk, odds ratio, or hazard ratio conveyed by the non-traditional risk marker alone, with the associated confidence limits and *P*-value (standardized hazard ratios)
- b) Relative risk, odds ratio, or hazard ratio for non-traditional risk marker after statistical adjustment for traditional risk factors, with the associated confidence limits and *P*-value (standardized hazard ratios)
- c) *P*-value for addition of the non-traditional risk marker to a model of traditional risk factors (The likelihood ratio partial  $\chi^2$ )

## 4. Discrimination of the non-traditional marker:

- a) C-index and its confidence limits for model with traditional risk factors
- b) C-index and its confidence limits for model including non-traditional risk marker and traditional risk factors
- c) Integrated discrimination index (correctly revises upward/downward the predicted risk in cases/non-cases)
- d) Graphic or tabular display of predicted risk in cases and non-cases separately, before and after inclusion of the non-traditional risk marker

## 5. Accuracy of the non-traditional risk marker:

- a) Display observed vs. expected event rates across the range of predicted risk for models without and with the non-traditional risk marker (Goodness-of-fit test)
- b) Using generally and clinically recognized risk thresholds, report the number of subjects reclassified and the event rates in the reclassified groups (clinical utility)

## 6. Clinical outcome (randomized) and Cost-effectiveness analyses

I hope to see many of you in Oslo



20th EUROPEAN MEETING  
**ON HYPERTENSION**

OSLO - NORWAY, JUNE 18 - 21, 2010

[www.esh2010.com](http://www.esh2010.com)

# The predictive values for CEP using predefined gender specific cut-off values

	Nt-proBNP			hsCRP			UACR		
<b>Specificity (%)</b> <i>Part of cont. healthy with low risk</i>	75	90	95	75	90	95	75	90	95
<b>Sensitivity (%)</b> <i>Part of future sick with high risk</i>	45	23	15	45	19	8	47	30	20
<b>Positive PV (%)</b> <i>Part of high risk getting an event</i>	10.1	12.8	16.2	10.1	10.9	9.9	10.5	15.8	20.5
<b>Negative PV (%)</b> <i>Part of low risk avoiding an event</i>	96	95	95	96	95	94	96	95	95

Cut-off values at 90% specificity for

**Nt-proBNP** (men/women): 110/164 pg/ml

**HsCRP:** (men/women): 6.0/7.3 mg/l

**UACR:** (men/women): 0.73/1.06 mg/mmol