

ΠΕΤΡΟΣ Γ.ΚΑΛΟΓΕΡΟΠΟΥΛΟΣ  
ΚΑΡΔΙΟΛΟΓΟΣ

ΙΑΤΡΕΙΟ ΥΠΕΡΤΑΣΗΣ 7<sup>ο</sup>  
ΝΟΣΟΚΟΜΕΙΟ ΙΚΑ

ΕΚΕ ΟΜΑΔΕΣ ΕΡΓΑΣΙΑΣ ΘΕΣΣΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ 2/2010

# ΓΙΑΤΙ ΧΡΗΖΕΙ ΑΞΙΟΛΟΓΗΣΗΣ Ο ΣΥΝΟΛΙΚΟΣ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΣ

- Τα καρδιοαγγειακά νοσήματα (ΚΑΝ) είναι κύρια αιτία θνητότητας και νοσηρότητας στις δυτικές βιομηχανικές χώρες .Η φροντίδα ασθενών που έχουν υποστεί μη θανατηφόρα ΑΕΕ και καρδιακές προσβολές καταναλώνει σημαντικό μέρος των δαπανών της δημόσιας υγείας και φέρει σοβαρό πλήγμα στην ποιότητα ζωής τόσο των ασθενών όσο και των συγγενών αυτών

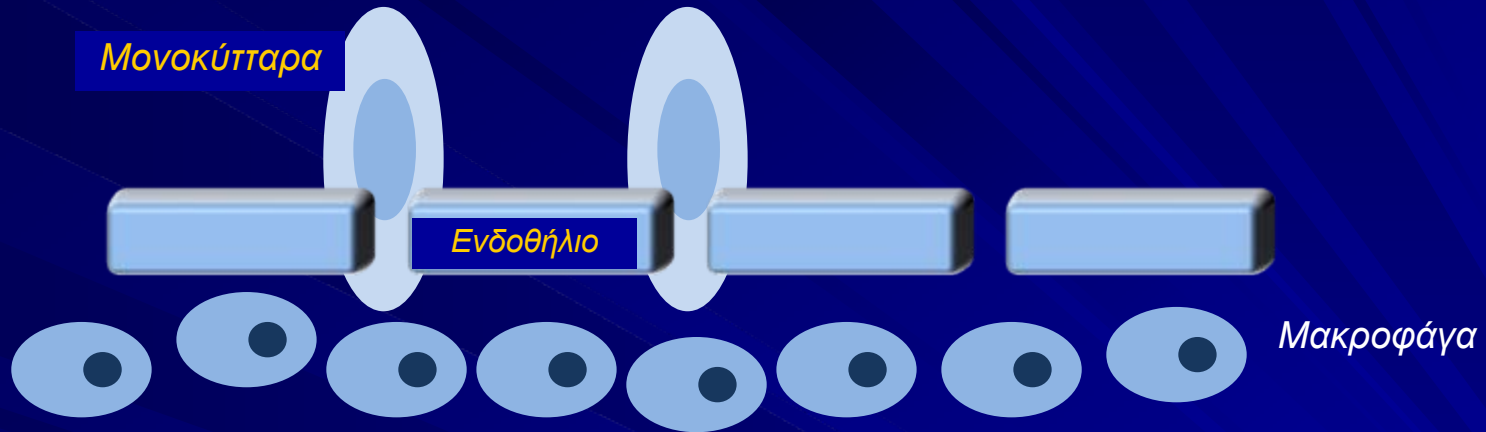
# ΠΑΡΑΓΟΝΤΕΣ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΥ ΚΛΑΣΙΚΟΙ ΚΑΙ ΝΕΩΤΕΡΟΙ

Υπέρταση      Δυσλιπιδαιμία      Διαβήτης      RAAS  
Καρ. Συχνότητα  
Κάπνισμα      Παχυσαρκία      SNS      Υπερομοκυστεϊναιμία  
CRP      Ουρικό οξύ



## ΔΥΣΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΕΝΔΟΘΗΛΙΟΥ

# ΔΥΣΛΕΙΤΟΥΡΓΙΑ ΕΝΔΟΘΗΛΙΟΥ



↑ Ενδοθηλιακή Διαπερατότητα  
↑ Επαφή LP με αγγειακό τοίχωμα  
↑ Προσκόλληση στο ενδοθήλιο  
↑ Αύξηση παραγωγής O<sub>2</sub> (Ελ. Ρίζες)  
↑ Κυτταροκίνες

↑ Πρόσληψη οξειδωμένης LDL  
↑ Ιστικός Παράγων  
↑ PAI-1  
↑ ICAN, VCAM  
↑ MCP-1

↓ eNOS  
↓ Προστακυκλίνη  
↑ Κατεχολαμίνες  
↑ Αγγειοτασίνη II  
↑ Πολλαπλασιασμός ΑΜΙ

Αγγειοσύσπαση

Κυτταρική Προσκόλληση  
και/ ή διήθηση

Πολλαπλασιασμός

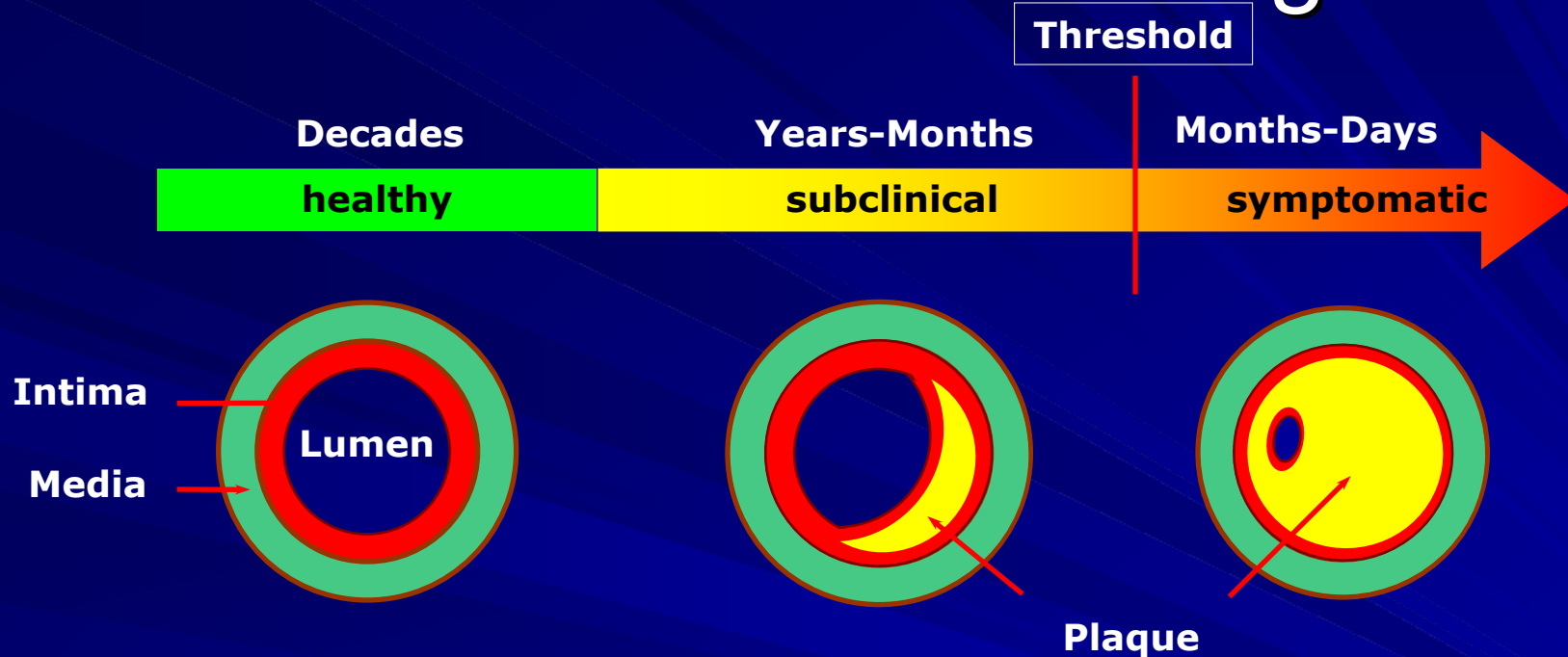
Συσσώρευση Λιπιδίων

Ισχαιμική Καρδιοπάθεια

Εγκεφαλική Αγγειακή Νόσος

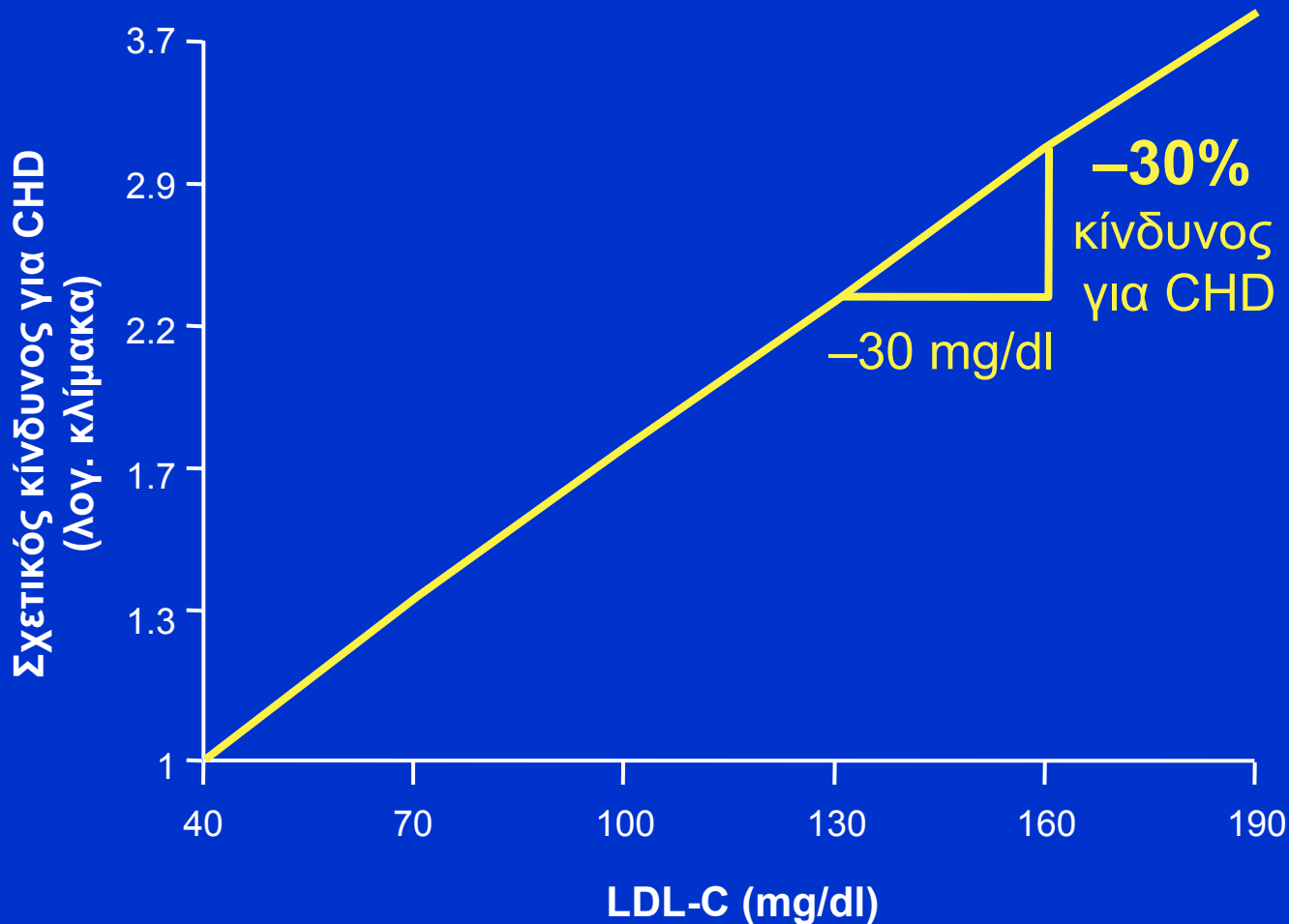
Περιφερειακή Αγγειοπάθεια

# Historical Model of Atherogenesis



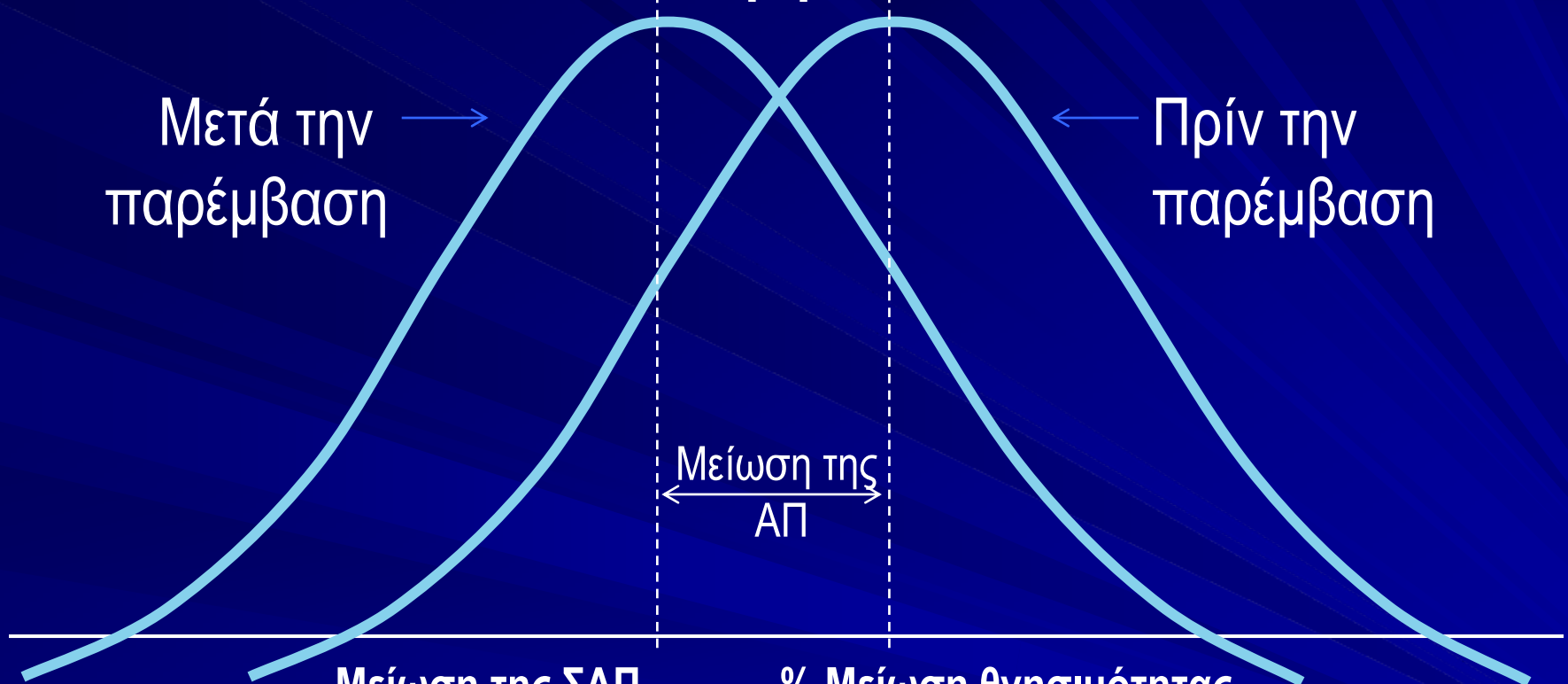
- **Stable angina**
- **Stable plaques with narrowing**
- **Simple diagnostic (ECG, angiography)**
- **Rare MI**
- **Easy to treat**

# Η μείωση της LDL-C μειώνει τον κίνδυνο για Σ.Ν.



# JNC 7 Κατανομή ΣΑΠ Population based strategy

## Κατανομή ΣΑΠ



Μείωση της ΣΑΠ  
mmHg

% Μείωση θνησιμότητας  
Εγκεφαλικά ΣΝ

Σύνολο

2

-6

-4

-3

3

-8

-5

-4

5

-14

-9

-7

# ΕΡΩΤΗΜΑ ?

ΜΕΙΩΣΗ ΤΩΝ ΕΠΙΠΕΔΩΝ ΤΗΣ CRP ΑΠΟΤΡΕΠΕΙ ΤΑ ΚΑΡΔΙΟΑΓΓΕΙΑΚΑ  
ΣΥΜΒΑΜΑΤΑ ?

ΟΧΙ

Ann Inter Med. 2009 Oct 6;151(7):1-38



# AHA/CDC Panel: Recommendations for Use of hs-CRP in Clinical Practice

- hs-CRP independent marker of CVD risk
- Patients at intermediate risk (10–20% risk of CHD per 10 years):
  - hs-CRP may help direct further evaluation, therapy in primary prevention
- Patients with stable coronary disease, acute coronary syndromes:
  - hs-CRP measurement may be useful as independent marker of prognosis for recurrent events

# AHA/CDC Panel: Recommendations for hs-CRP Laboratory Testing

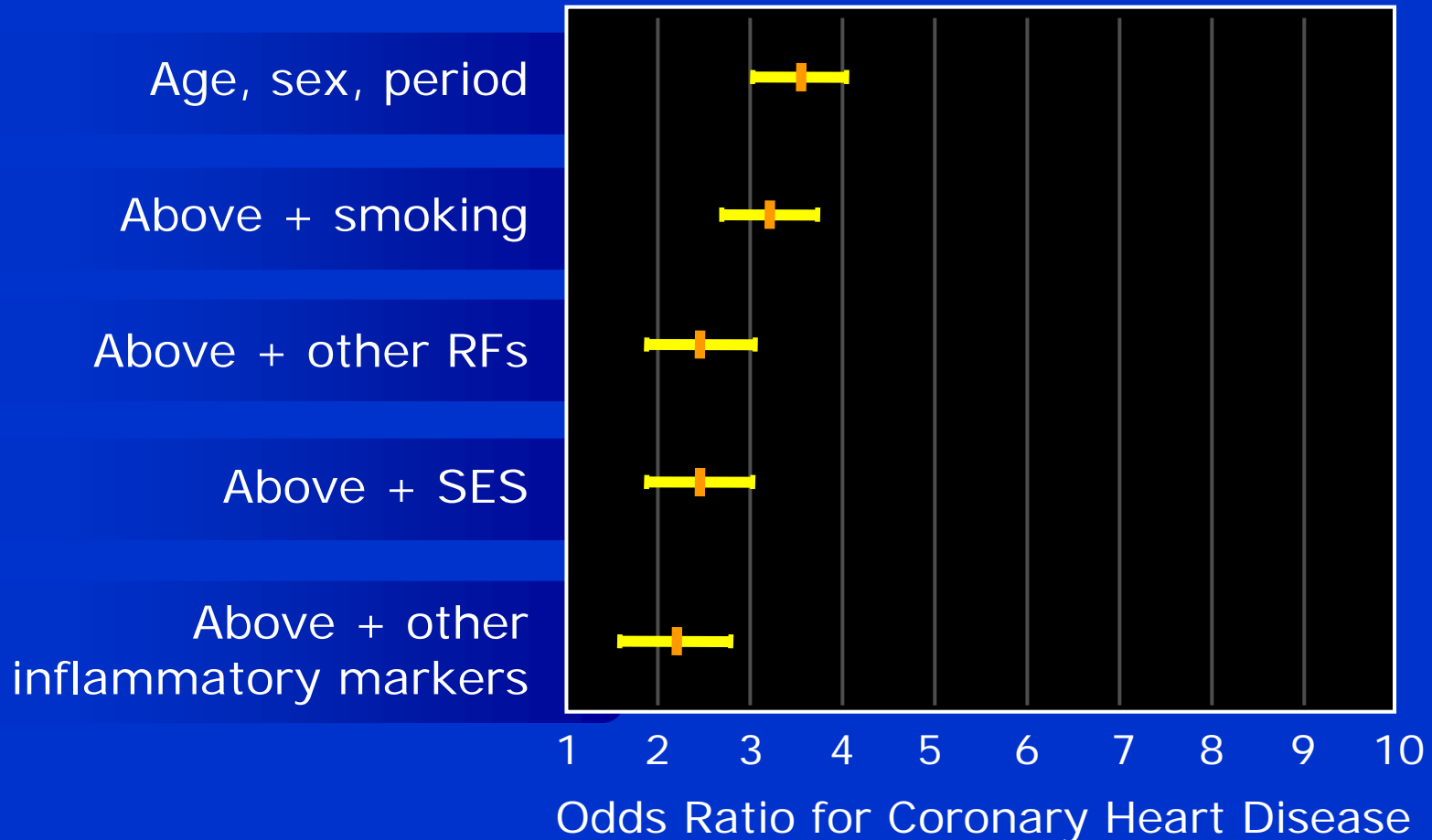
## ■ Measurements of hs-CRP:

- Should be performed twice (2 weeks apart)
- Results averaged, expressed as mg/L
- Fasting or nonfasting, in metabolically stable patients
- If level  $>10$  mg/L, test should be repeated, patient examined for sources of infection or inflammation

## ■ Relative risk categories for hs-CRP levels:

- Low  $<1$  mg/L
- Average 1–3 mg/L
- High  $>3$  mg/L

# Relative Odds of CHD for C-Reactive Protein (Top vs Bottom Tertile): Reykjavik, Iceland

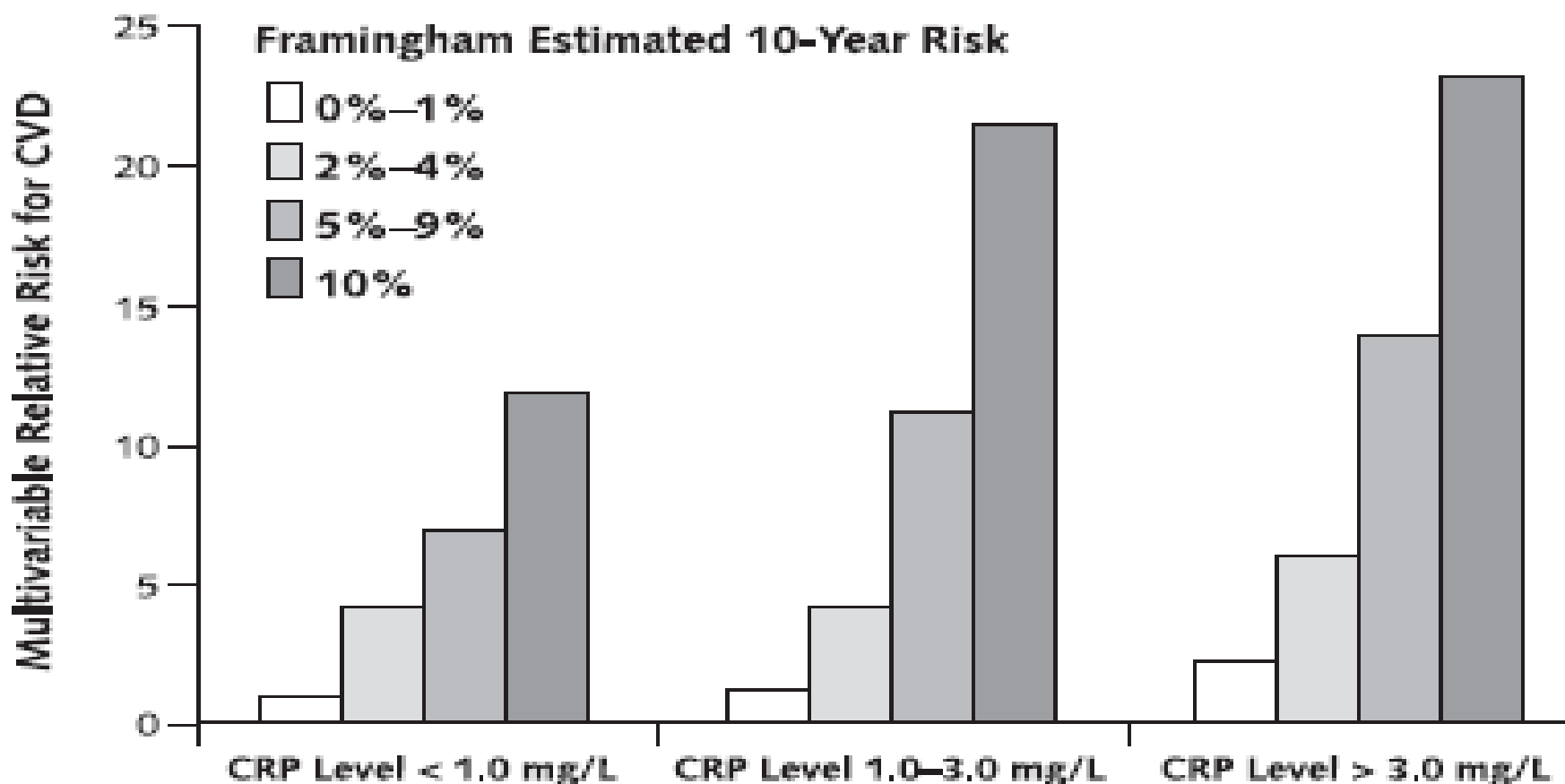


# hs-CRP and CHD Relative Risk: Nurses' Health Study—Women

	hs-CRP (mg/L)		
	<1.0	1.0–2.9	≥3.0
Model 1*	1.0	1.22 (0.77–1.93)	1.93 (1.25–2.99)
Model 2†	1.0	1.21 (0.75–1.96)	1.94 (1.21–3.10)
Model 3 (Model 2 + BMI)	1.0	1.16 (0.71–1.90)	1.71 (1.04–2.80)
Model 4 (Model 3 + TC/HDL-C)	1.0	1.09 (0.66–1.82)	1.64 (0.98–2.75)
Model 5 (Model 4 + DM + HTN)	1.0	1.17 (0.69–2.00)	1.53 (0.89–2.62)

- \* Adjusted for age, smoking status, month of blood sampling, and fasting status  
 † Also adjusted for parental history of CHD before age 60, alcohol intake, physical activity, and use or nonuse of hormone therapy among postmenopausal women

*Figure.* Multivariable relative risk for cardiovascular disease (CVD), based on level of C-reactive protein (CRP) and level of absolute predicted 10-year Framingham coronary heart disease risk in the Women's Health Study.



Data are from reference 38.

# hs-CRP and CHD Risk: ARIC Study

	hs-CRP Level (mg/L)	
	Average Risk 1.0–3.0	High Risk >3.0
Model 1 *	1.61 (1.21–2.16)	2.53 (1.88–3.40)
Model 2 †	1.31 (0.96–1.80)	1.72 (1.24–2.39)
Model 3 † (LDL-C <130 mg/dl) ‡	1.18 (0.71–1.96)	1.76 (1.01–3.03)

\* Adjusted for age, sex, and race

† Adjusted for age, sex, race, smoking, systolic BP, LDL-C, HDL-C, and diabetes

‡ 204 cases and 369 noncases

**Table 1. Cohort Mean and Hazard Rate Ratios for Incident Coronary Heart Disease Within 5 Years per 1-SD Increment for Single Novel Risk Factors From Case-Cohort Studies in the ARIC Study\***

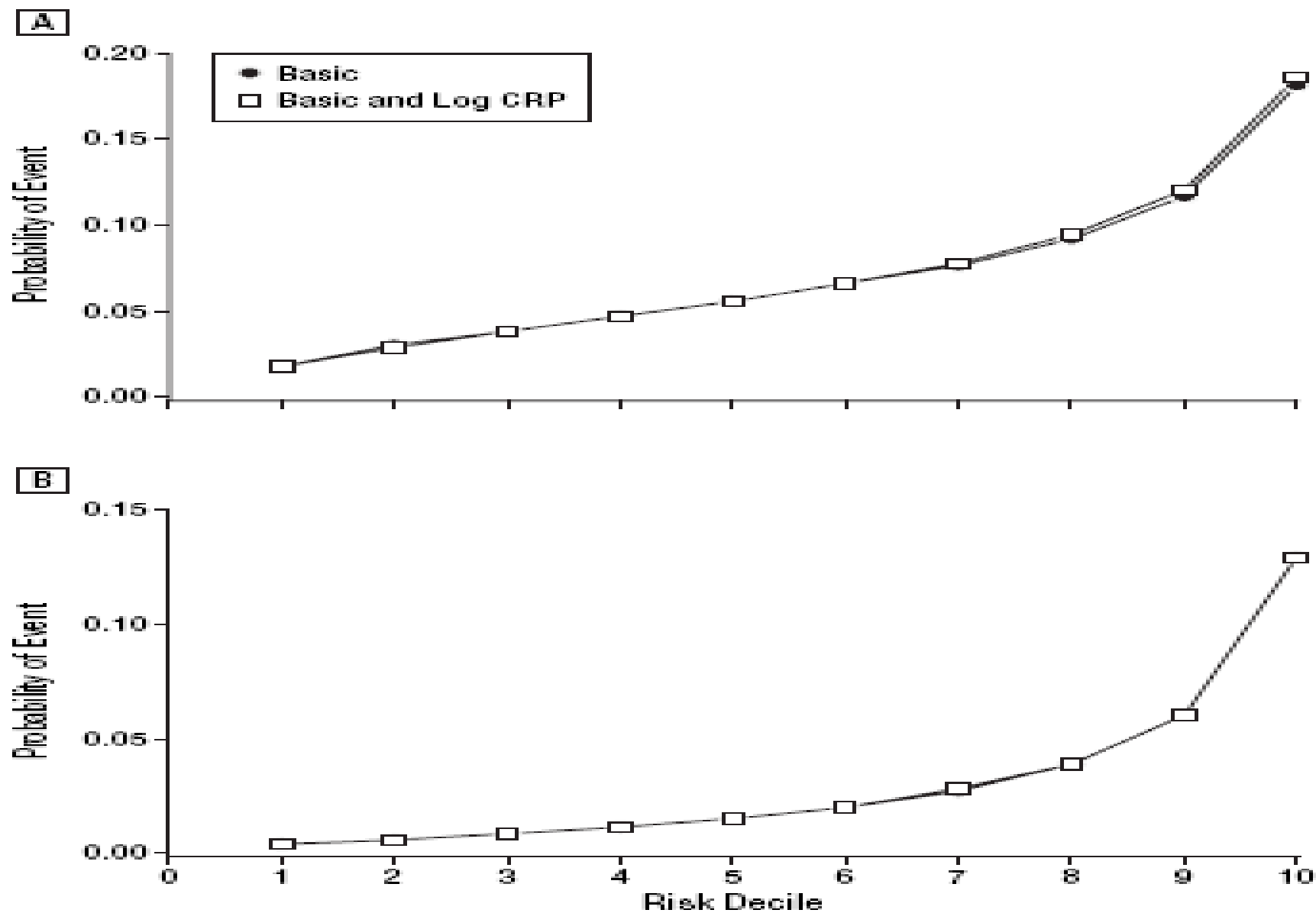
Novel Risk Factor	Mean (SD)†	Age Adjusted		Adjusted for Traditional Risk Factors	
		Hazard Rate Ratio‡	P Value	Hazard Rate Ratio§	P Value
CRP, mg/L	3.08 (3.34)	1.20	<.01	1.17	.01
log CRP, mg/L	1.14 (0.70)	1.28	<.01	1.19	<.01
LpPLA <sub>2</sub> , µg/L	0.37 (0.13)	1.49	<.01	1.17	.02
log IL-6, pg/mL	1.63 (0.60)	1.32	<.01	1.28	.03
log TIMP-1, ng/mL	6.71 (0.25)	1.36	<.01	1.24	.13
MMP-1 ≥1.7, ng/mL		1.18	.45	0.98	.95
ICAM-1, ng/mL	242 (93.2)	1.32	<.01	1.40	<.01
E-selectin, ng/mL	42.2 (26.9)	1.12	.05	1.05	.58
log D-dimer, ng/mL	5.70 (0.66)	1.07	.33	1.36	<.01
log PAI-1, ng/mL	2.52 (0.96)	1.36	<.01	0.97	.80
tPA, ng/mL	8.86 (4.82)	1.37	<.01	1.02	.89
Plasminogen, %	110 (19)	1.09	.25	1.16	.17
Soluble thrombomodulin, ng/mL	41.8 (24.5)	0.86	.13	0.65	.02
log leptin, ng/mL	2.09 (0.98)	0.81	<.01	0.99	.91
Homocysteine, µmol/L	9.23 (4.29)	1.23	<.01	1.03	.73
log folate, nmol/L	2.04 (0.85)	0.81	.03	0.91	.51
log vitamin B <sub>6</sub> , nmol/L	3.51 (1.03)	0.73	<.01	0.73	<.01
Prevalence, %					
Chlamydia (IgG positive)	55	1.57	.01	0.90	.67
CMV antibody (positive)	70	1.27	.24	1.38	.26
HSV-1 antibody (positive)	75	0.95	.82	0.76	.36

**Table 2. AUCs for Incident Coronary Heart Disease Within 5 Years for a Basic Risk Factor Model Compared With the Basic Model With a Novel Risk Factor From Case-Cohort Studies in the ARIC Study**

Novel Risk Factor	AUC at 5 Years			No. of Case-Cohort Subjects	
	Basic*	Basic and Factor†	Increment‡	CRS	CHD Cases
log CRP‡	0.767	0.770	0.003	845	666
LpPLA <sub>2</sub> ‡	0.774	0.780	0.006§	804	633
log IL-6	0.773	0.783	0.010	365	304
log TIMP-1	0.769	0.769	0.000	358	302
MMP-1	0.768	0.768	0.000	245	203
ICAM-1¶	0.805	0.806	0.001	956	421
E-selectin¶	0.805	0.804	-0.001	956	420
log D-dimer¶	0.805	0.803	-0.002	728	306
log PAI-1¶	0.804	0.801	-0.003	703	309
tPA¶	0.805	0.803	-0.002	743	311
Plasminogen¶	0.801	0.802	0.001	781	337
Soluble thrombomodulin¶	0.813	0.818	0.005	769	258
log leptin¶	0.811	0.812	0.001	753	308
Homocysteine#	0.818	0.819	0.001	534	234
log folate#	0.813	0.815	0.002	522	228
log vitamin B <sub>6</sub> #	0.813	0.824	0.011	522	228
Chlamydia (IgG positive)#	0.816	0.816	0.000	538	234
CMV antibody (positive)#	0.818	0.820	0.002	502	209
HSV-1 antibody (positive)#	0.820	0.820	0.000	497	209

Abbreviations: ARIC, Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities; AUC, area under the receiver operating characteristic curve; CHD, coronary heart disease; CMV, cytomegalovirus; CRP, C-reactive protein; CRS, cohort random sample; HSV-1, herpes simplex virus 1; ICAM-1, intracellular adhesion molecule 1; IL-6, interleukin 6; LpPLA<sub>2</sub>, lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>; MMP-1, matrix metalloproteinase 1; PAI-1, plasminogen activator inhibitor 1;





**Figure 1.** Predicted 5-year risk of an incident coronary heart disease event, comparing the basic model with the basic model plus log C-reactive protein (CRP), for men (A) and women (B) in the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study.

# Narrative Review: Assessment of C-Reactive Protein in Risk Prediction for Cardiovascular Disease

Donald M. Lloyd-Jones, MD, ScM; Klang Liu, PhD; Lu Tian, ScD; and Phillip Greenland, MD

Some experts propose C-reactive protein (CRP) as a screening tool for prediction of cardiovascular disease (CVD). Many epidemiologic studies show positive associations between elevated CRP levels and incident CVD. Assessment of the value of new prognostic tests, however, must rely on understanding of test characteristics rather than on associations measured by relative risks. In the case of CRP, test characteristics must be judged in the context of currently available CVD risk prediction algorithms. In this review of literature published before January 2006, the authors describe what is known about the additional utility of CRP in risk prediction. They find no

definitive evidence that, for most individuals, CRP adds substantial predictive value above that provided by risk estimation using traditional risk factors for CVD. Use of CRP may add to risk estimation in a limited subset of individuals who are at intermediate predicted risk according to the Framingham risk score. The authors propose that many questions still must be addressed before CRP is incorporated into risk prediction algorithms and before universal screening with CRP can be recommended.

*Ann Intern Med.* 2006;145:35-42.

For author affiliations, see end of text.

[www.annals.org](http://www.annals.org)

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**Table. Comparison of Areas under Receiver-Operating Characteristic Curve for Models with Traditional Cardiovascular Disease Risk Factors alone or with the Addition of C-Reactive Protein to the Model\***

Study, Year (Reference)	Design	Sex	Multivariate-Adjusted Relative Risk for CRP, Quartile 4 vs. Quartile 1	AUC for Traditional Risk Factors Alone	AUC with CRP Added
Women's Health Study, 2002 (38)	Prospective	Women	2.3	0.81†	0.81
Rotterdam Study, 2003 (39)	Nested case- control	Men and women	1.2	0.746‡	0.748
MONICA Augsburg Study, 2004 (40)	Prospective	Men	2.2	0.735‡	0.750
Reykjavik Cohort Study, 2004 (27)	Nested case- control	Men and women	1.4	0.64§	0.65
Framingham Offspring Study, 2004 (36)	Prospective	Men and women	1.9	0.74	0.74
Framingham Heart Study, 2005 (31)	Prospective	Men and women	1.6	0.80¶	0.80
Cardiovascular Health Study, 2005 (29)	Prospective	Men and women	NA	0.73**	0.72††

# Assessment of c-reactive Protein in Risk Prediction for Cardiovascular Disease

- Σε αυτή την ανασκόπηση της βιβλιογραφίας που είχε δημοσιευθεί πριν από τον Ιανουάριο του 2006 οι συγγραφείς περιγράφουν αυτό που είναι γνωστό με την πρόσθετη χρησιμότητα της CRP στην πρόγνωση του κινδύνου
- Οι συντάκτες προτείνουν ότι πολλά ερωτήματα πρέπει να απαντηθούν προτού ενσωματωθεί η CRP στους αλγορίθμους πρόβλεψης κινδύνου.
- Μελλοντικές μελέτες CRP και άλλων καινοτόμων δεικτών CVD πρέπει να επικεντρώνονται στα test characteristics, και όχι μόνο στο σχετικό κίνδυνο προκειμένου να ορίσει καλύτερα την χρησιμότητα τους για την πρόβλεψη κινδύνων όταν προστίθενται στους κλασικούς παράγοντες κινδύνου

- Int J Epidemiol. 2009 Feb;38(1):231-4
- Ann Intern Med.2009 Oct 6;151(7)483-95
- JAMA .2009 Dec 2;302(21):2369-70
  
- Η προσθήκη της **CRP** στο **FRS** ελάχιστα βελτιώνει την προγνωστική αξία για πρόβλεψη καρδιαγγειακών συμβαμάτων σε ασυμπτωματικούς. Η συμμετοχή του δείκτη είναι μικρή και ασυνεπής. Σε ασθενείς ενδιάμεσου κινδύνου κατά **FRS 10-20%** θα μπορούσε να αυξήσει την προγνωστική αξία του δείκτη
- Δεν υπάρχουν επαρκή στοιχεία που να δείχνουν ότι μείωση των επιπέδων της CRP προλαμβάνει καρδιαγγειακά συμβαματα

# C-reactive protein concentration and risk of coronary heart disease, stroke, and mortality: an individual participant meta-analysis

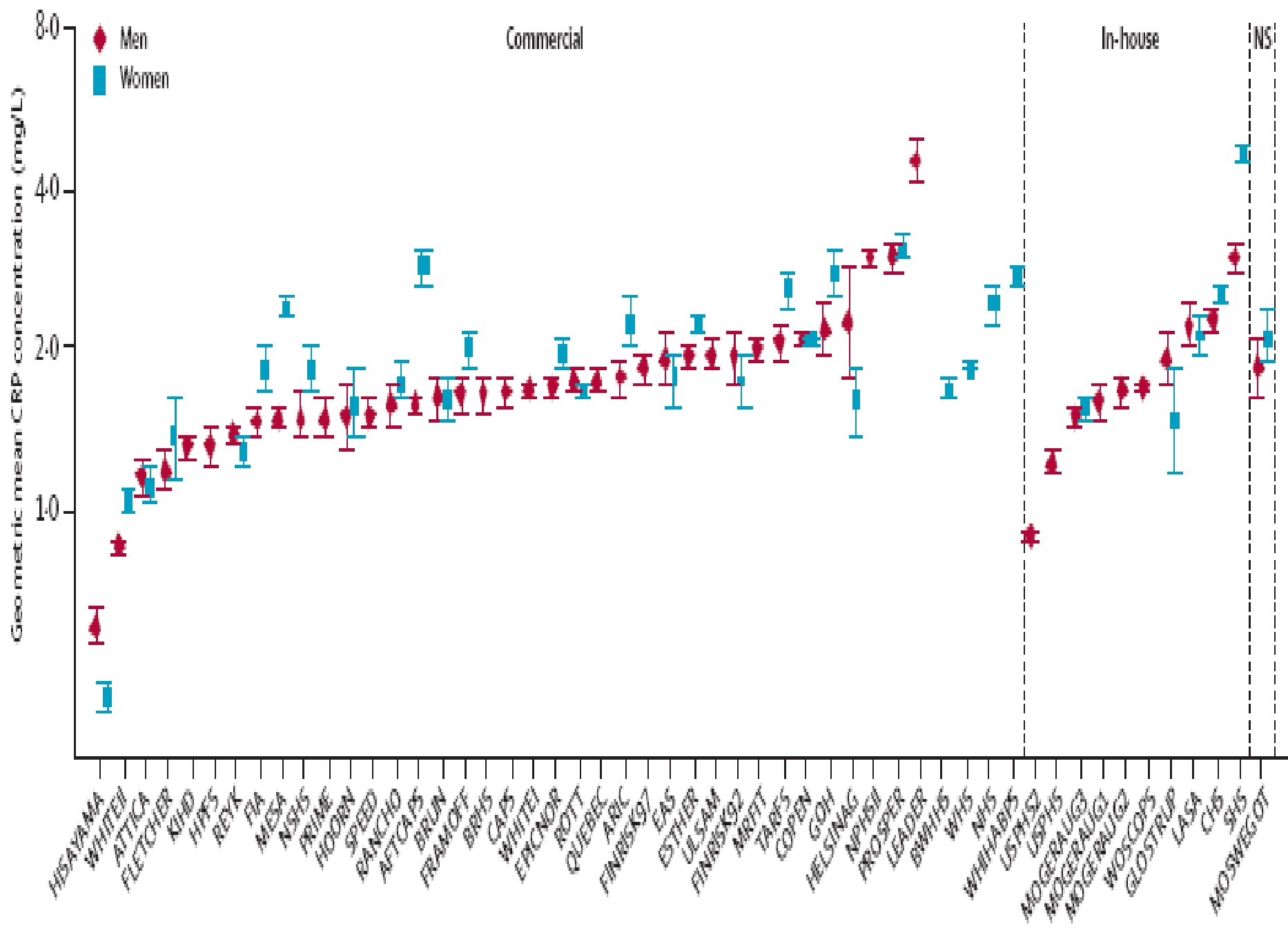
*The Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration\**

Lancet 2010 ;375:132-40

# The Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration\*

- Μετααναλυση που περιλαμβάνει 160.309 άτομα χωρίς ιστορικό καρδιαγγειακής νόσου από 54 προοπτικές μελέτες
- 27.769 θανατηφόρα και μη θανατηφόρα συμβαματα

A



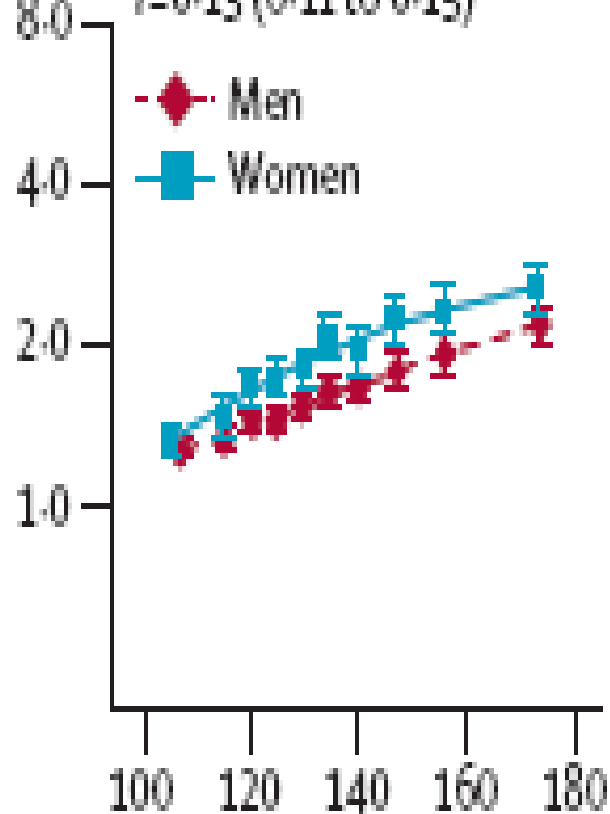


Systolic BP (mm Hg)

$r=0.13$  (0.11 to 0.15)

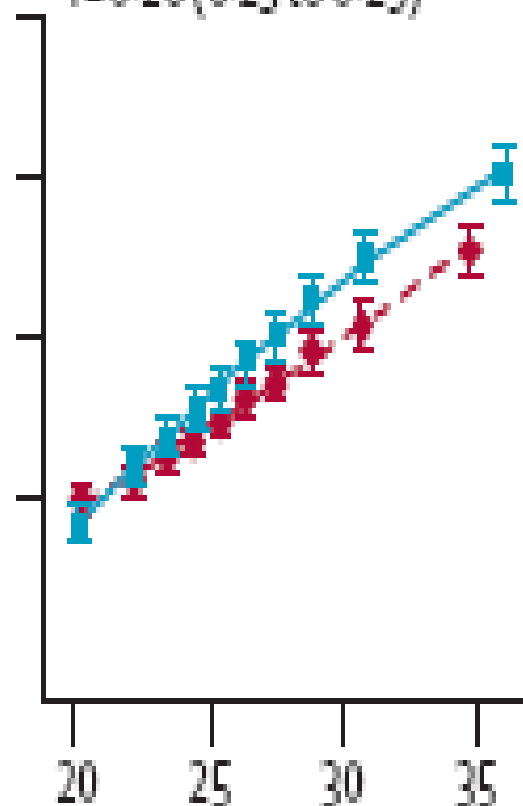
Men

Women



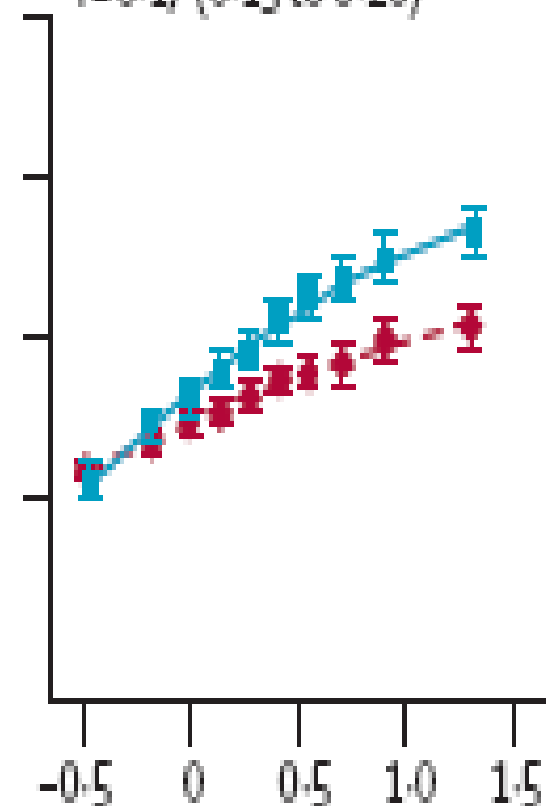
Body-mass index (kg/m²)

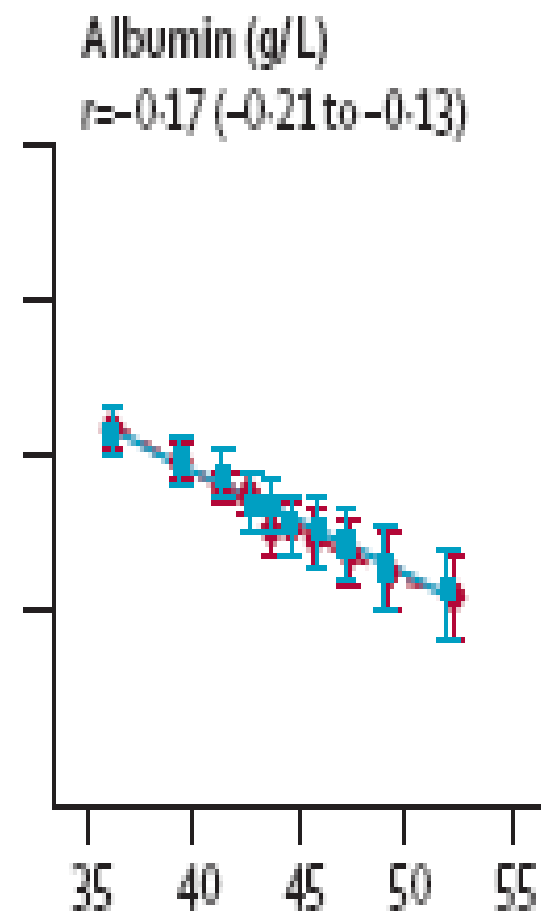
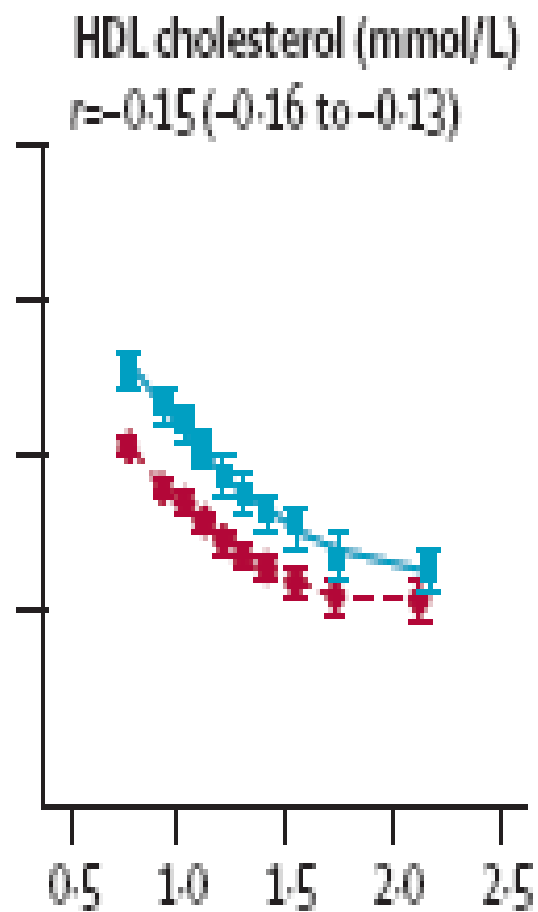
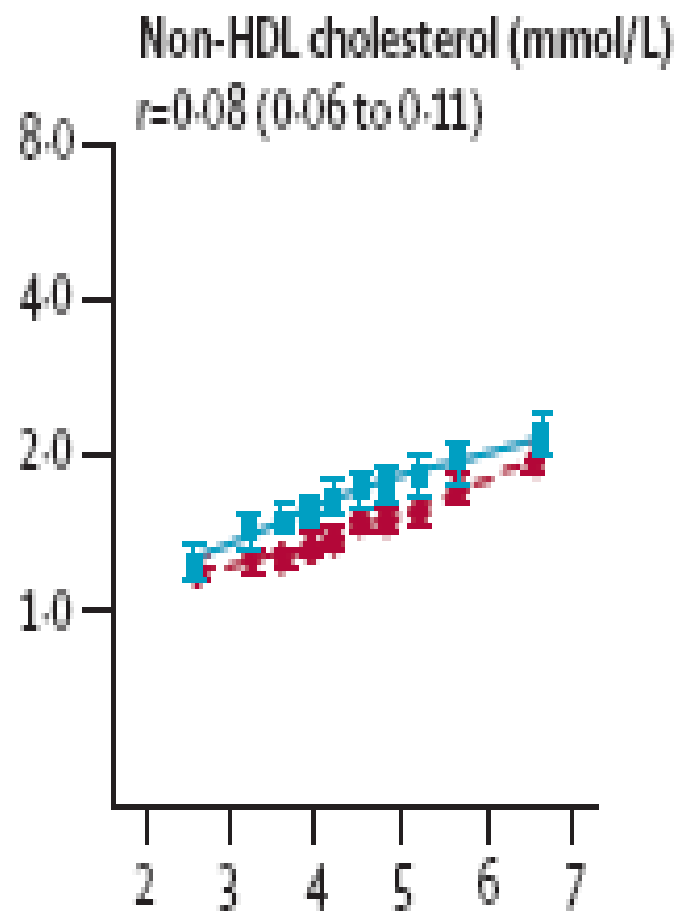
$r=0.26$  (0.23 to 0.29)

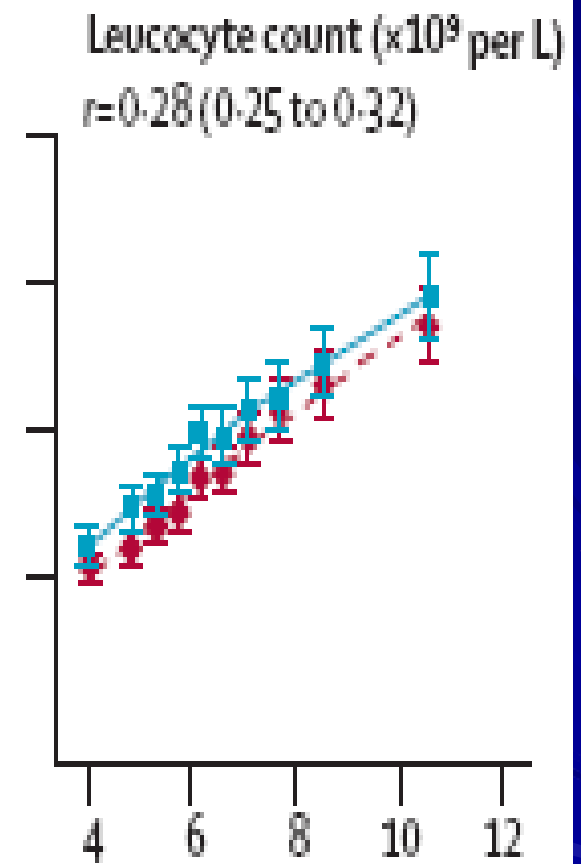
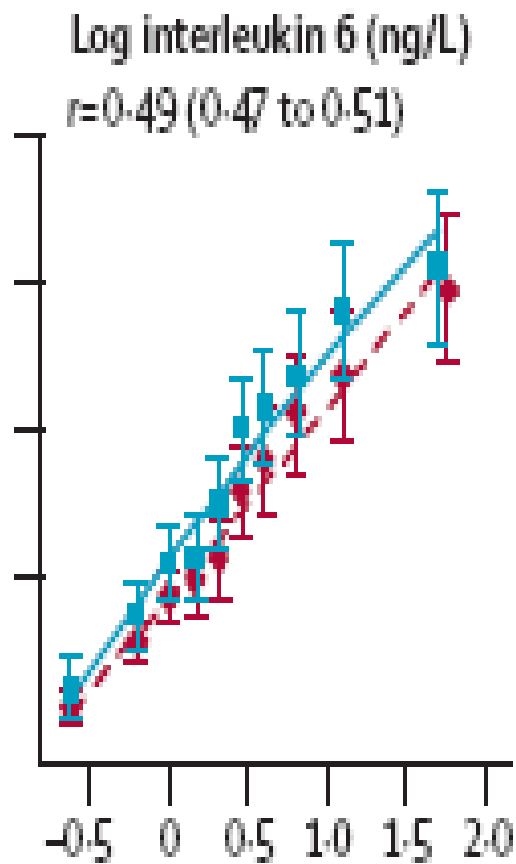
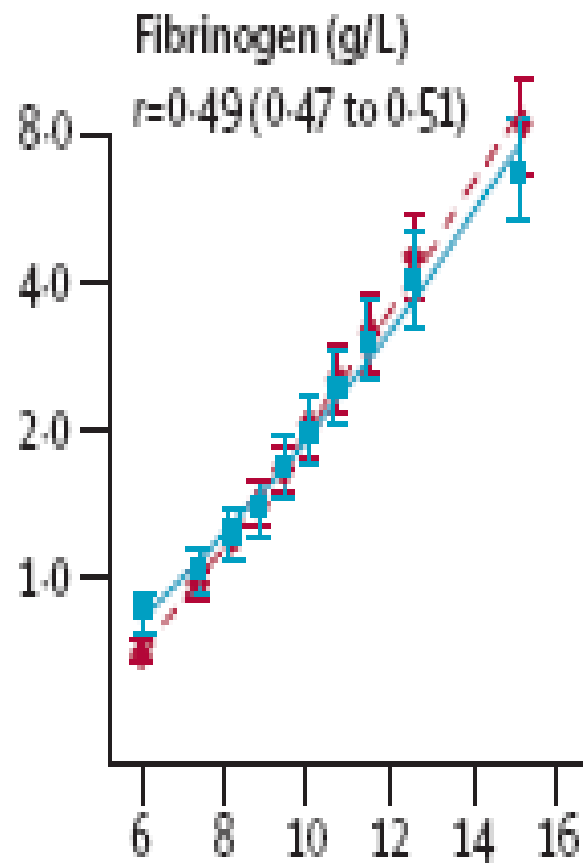


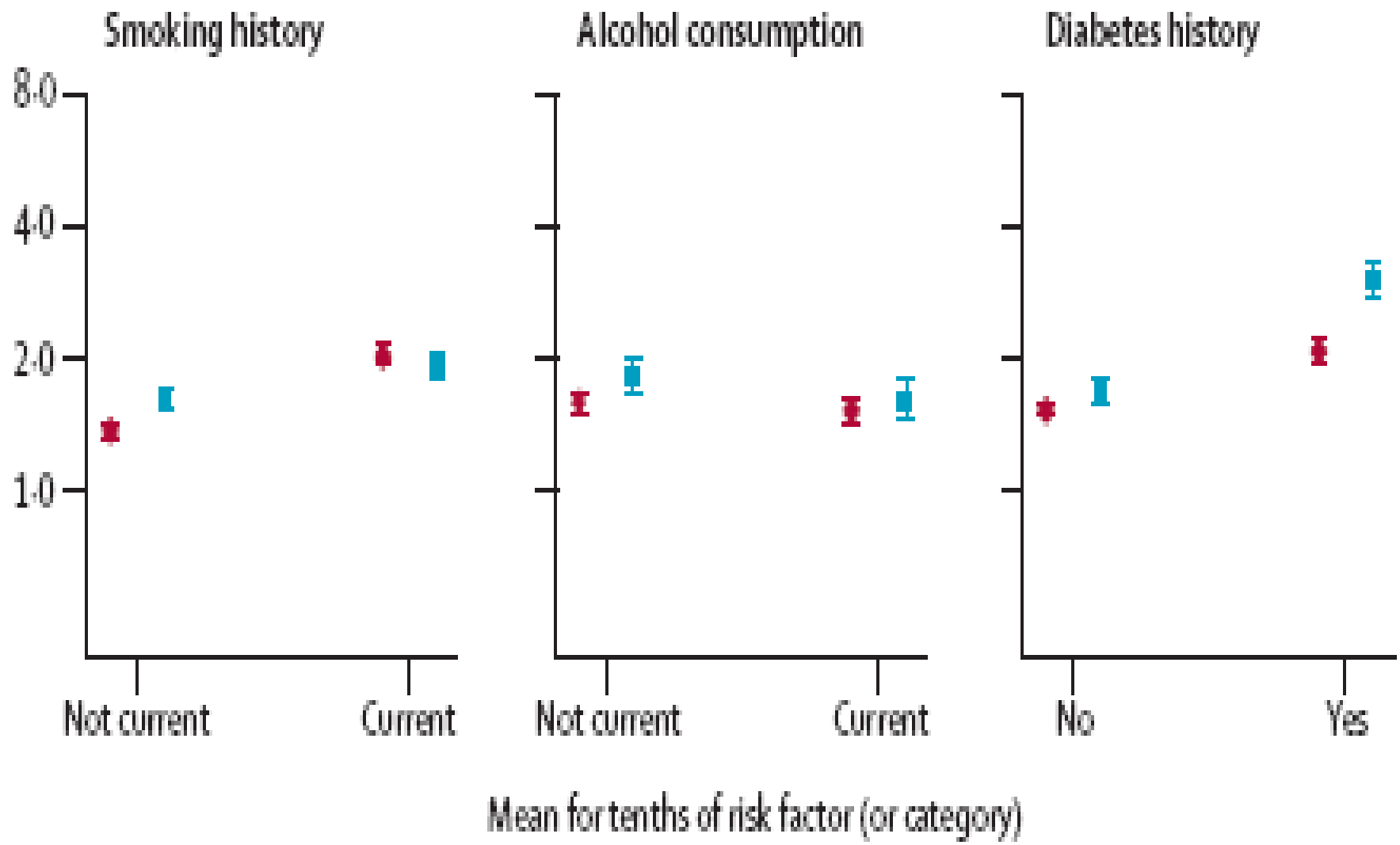
Log triglycerides (mmol/L)

$r=0.17$  (0.13 to 0.20)



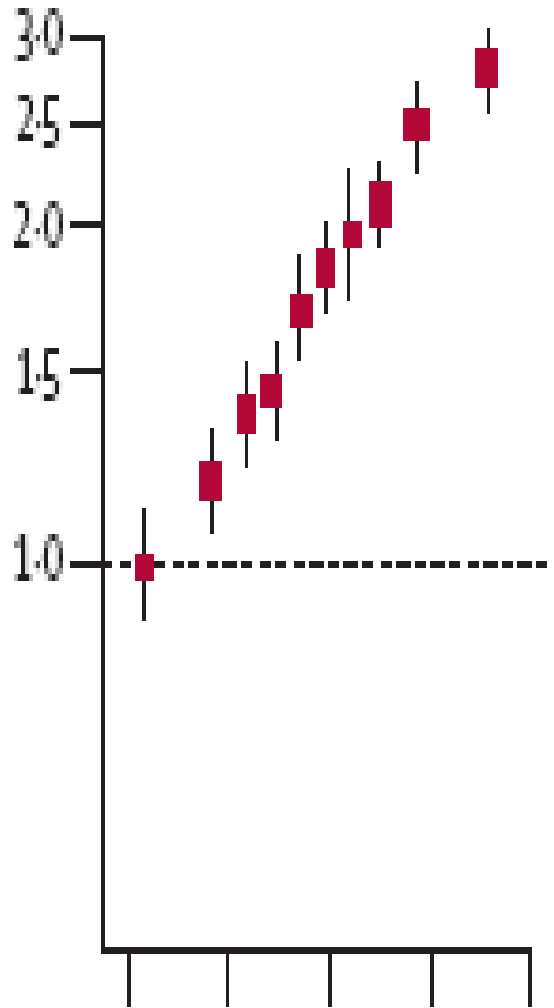




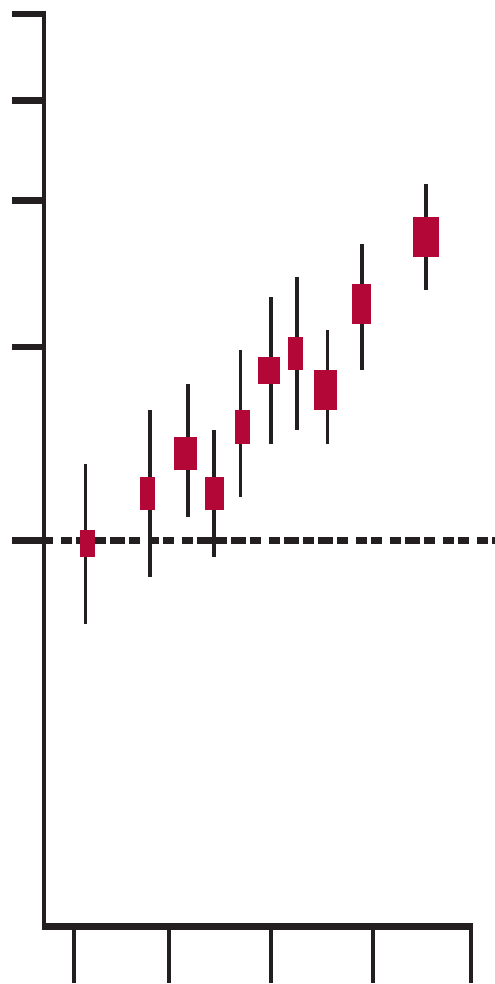


# Coronary heart disease

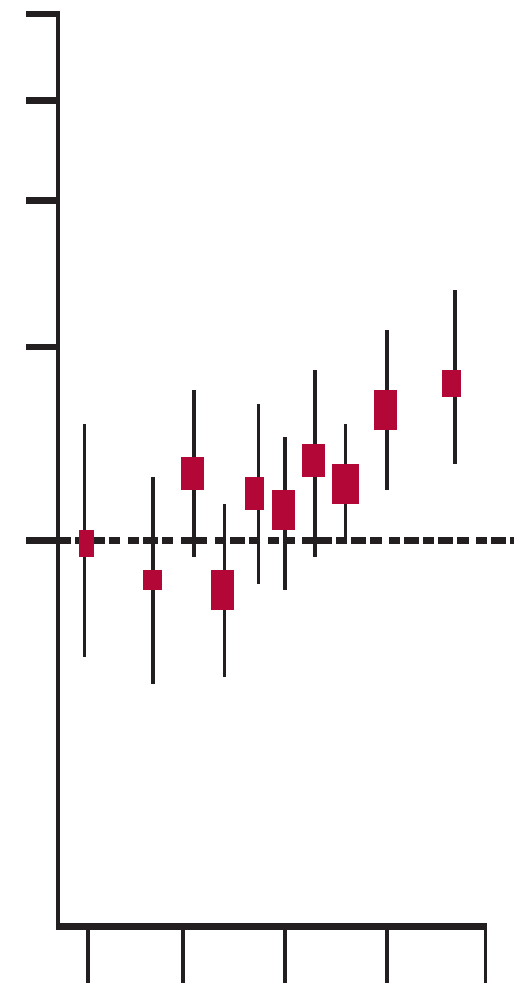
**A** 48 studies, 10341 cases



**B** 31 studies, 5373 cases



**C** 20 studies, 3062 cases



RRs 1,63

1,37

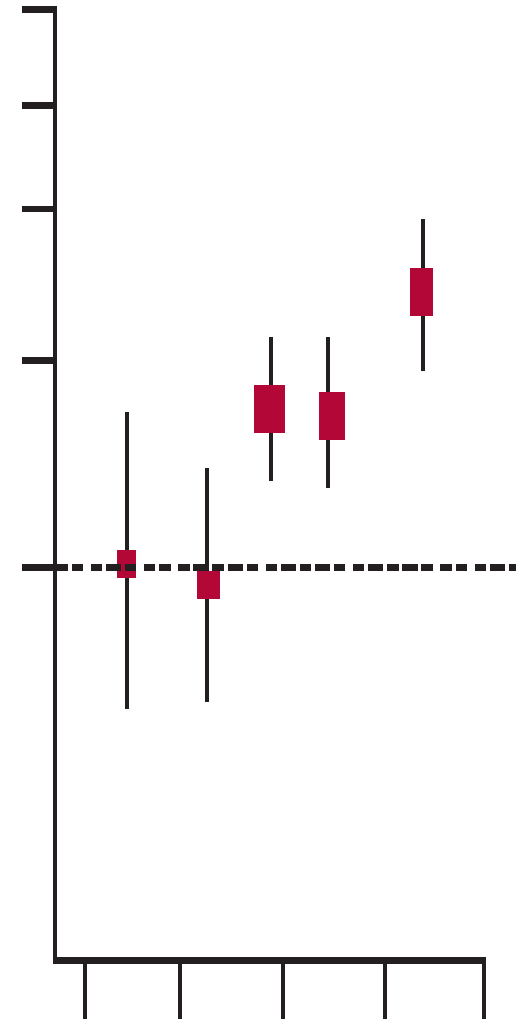
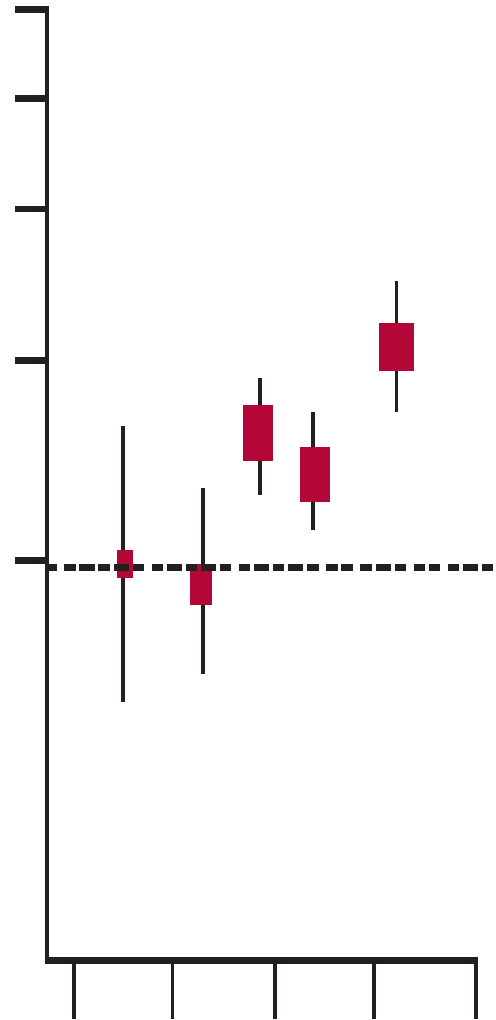
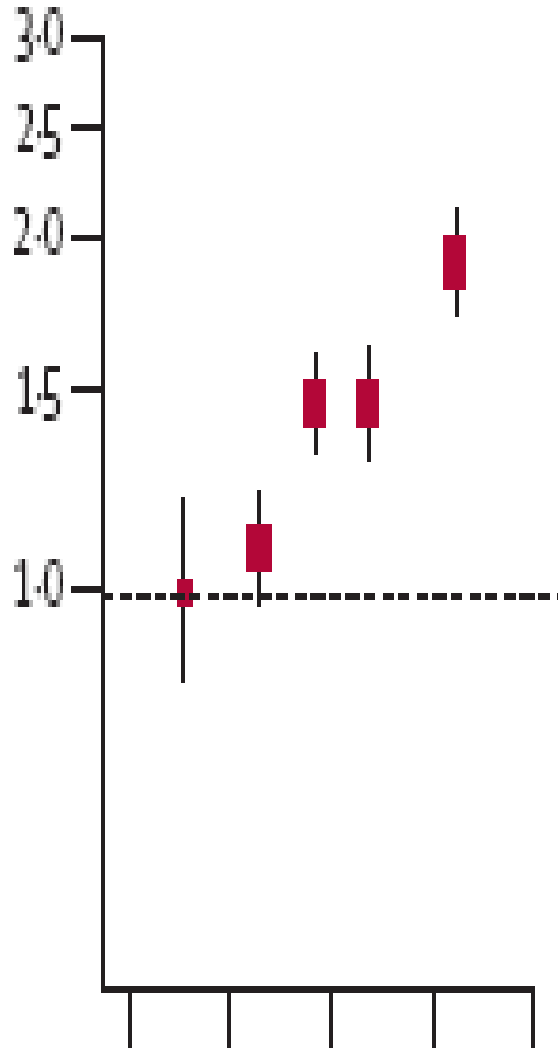
1,23

# Ischaemic stroke

23 studies, 2611 cases

15 studies, 1931 cases

11 studies, 1481 cases



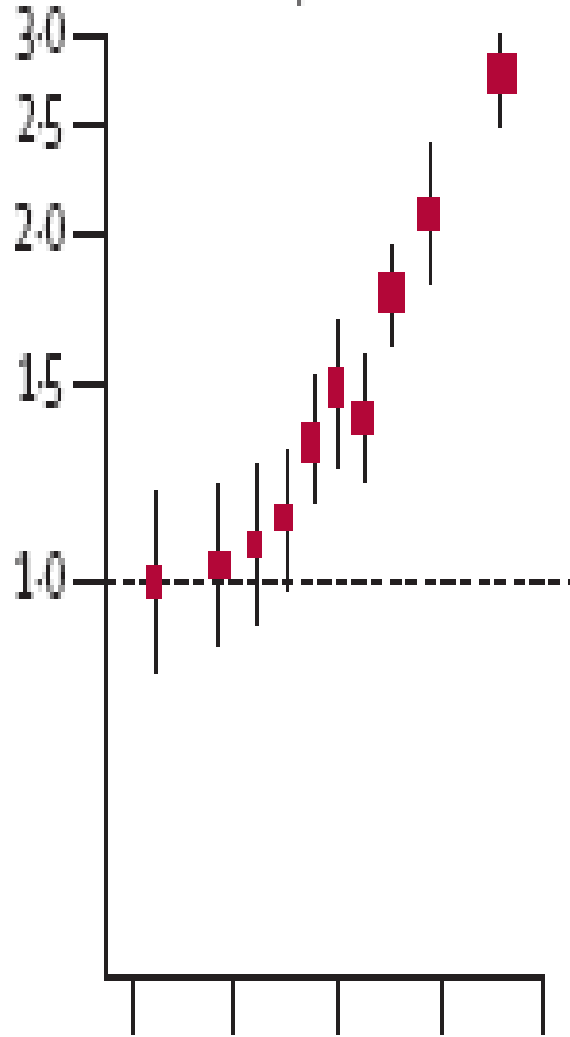
RRs 1,44

1,27

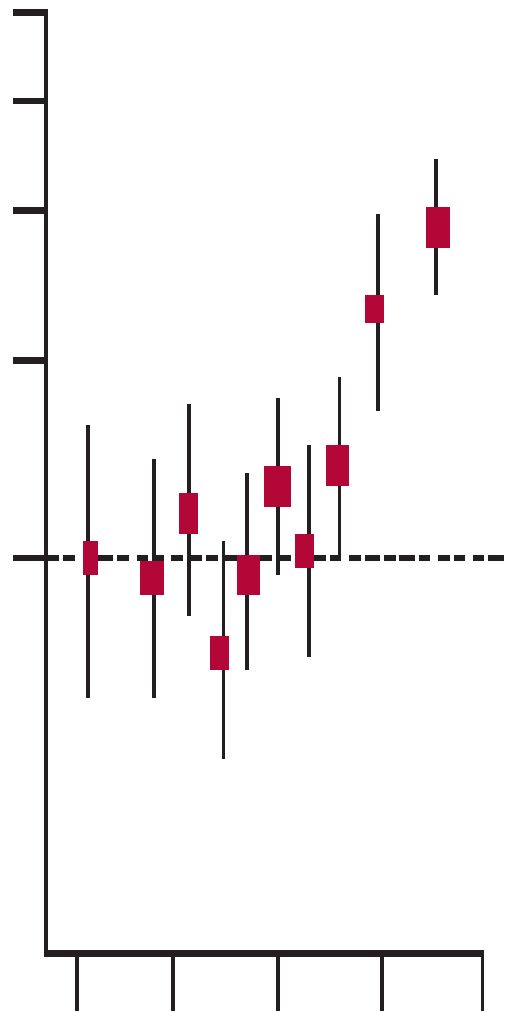
1,32

# All vascular deaths

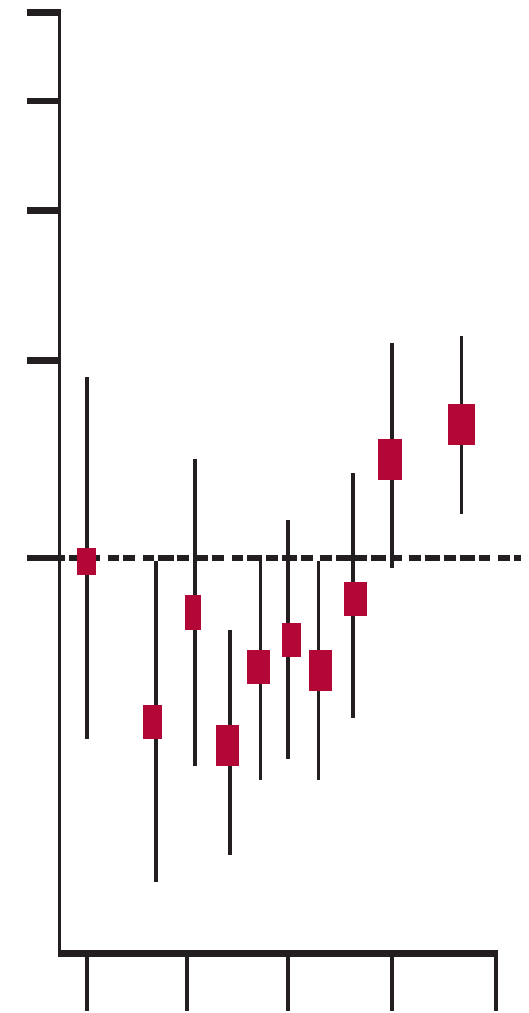
37 studies, 3430 cases



23 studies, 1544 cases



17 studies, 1138 cases

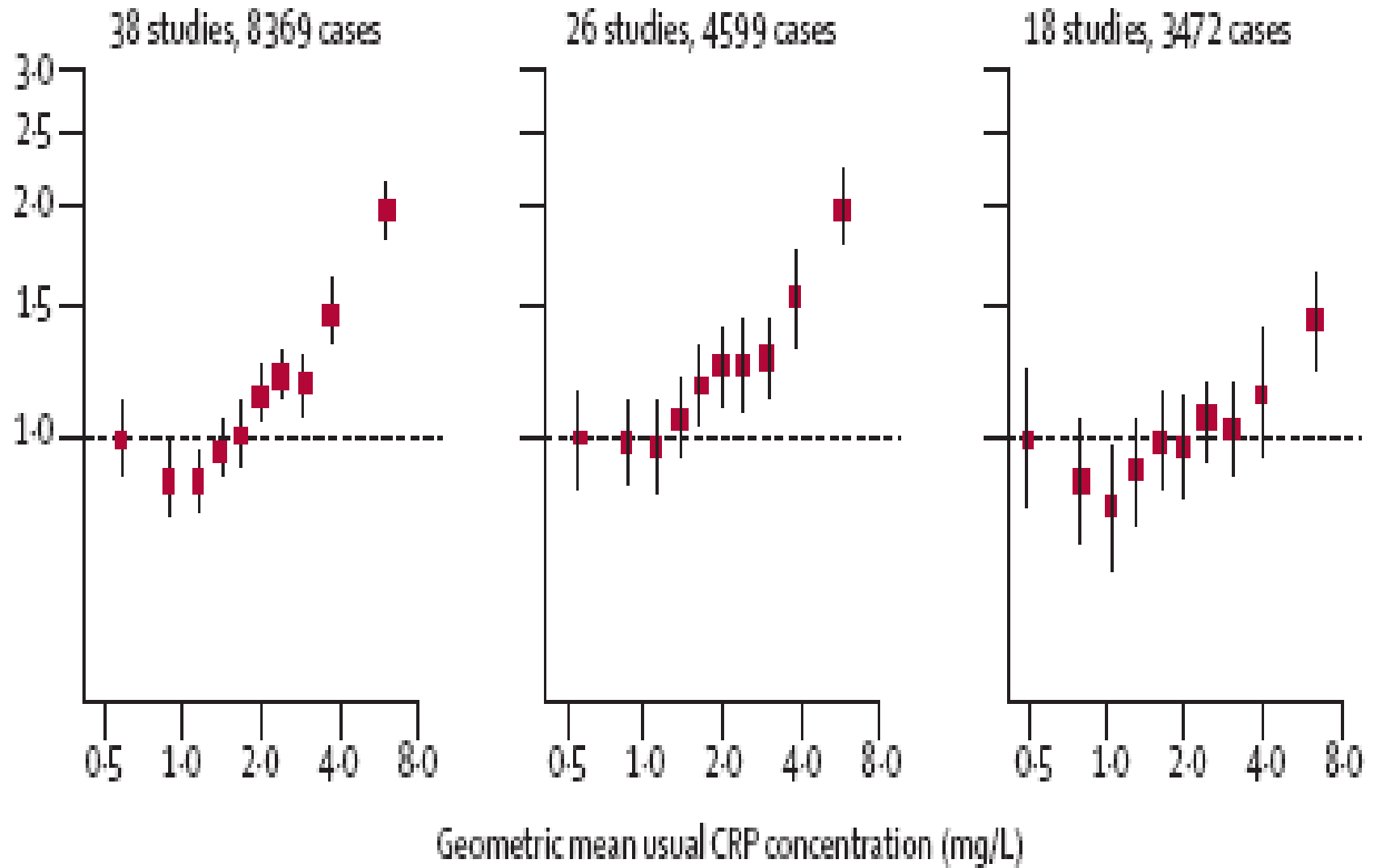


RRs 1,71

-1,55-

1,34

### All non-vascular deaths



RRs 1,55-

1,54

-1,34

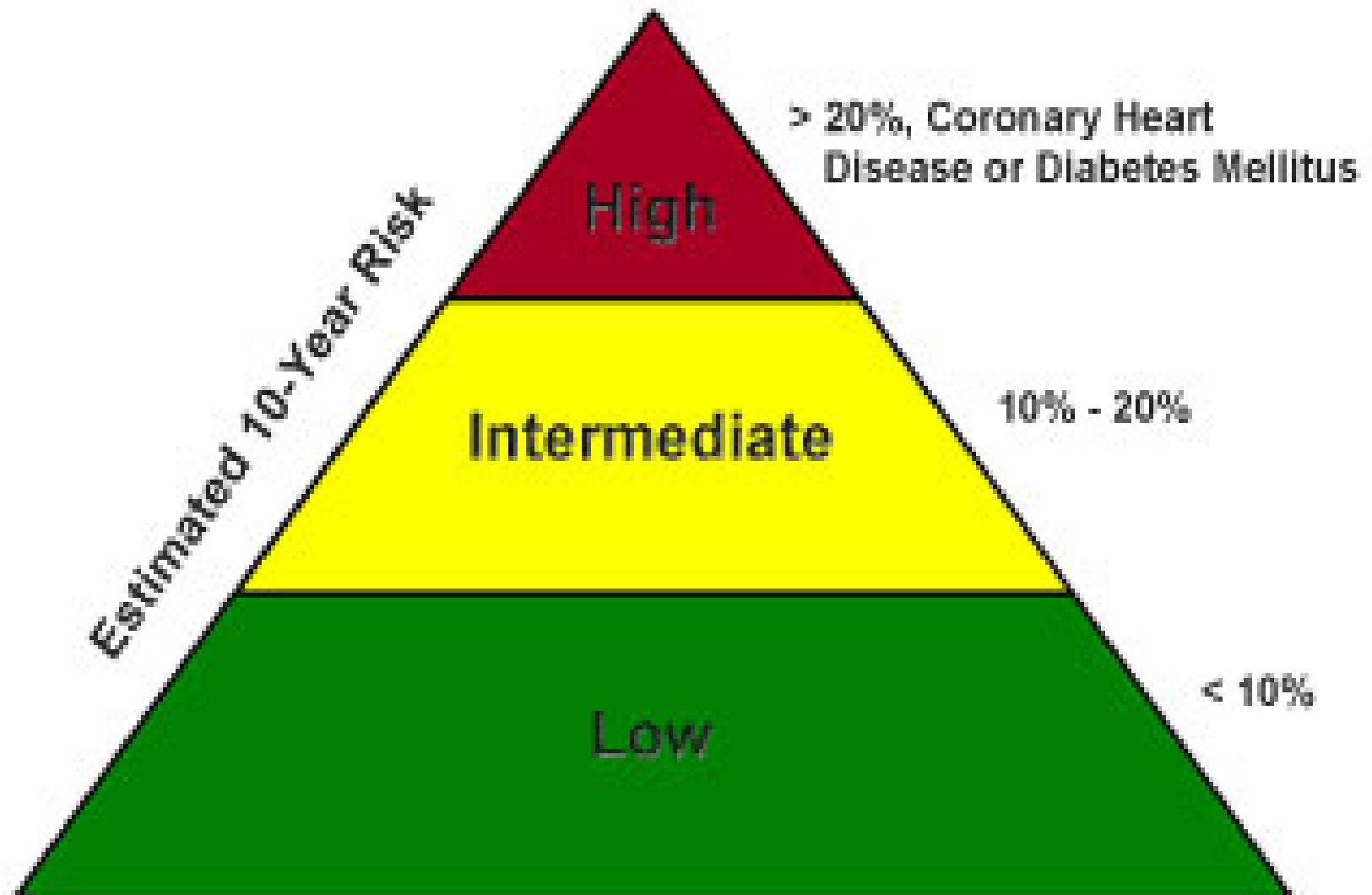


# The Emerging Risk Factors Collaboration

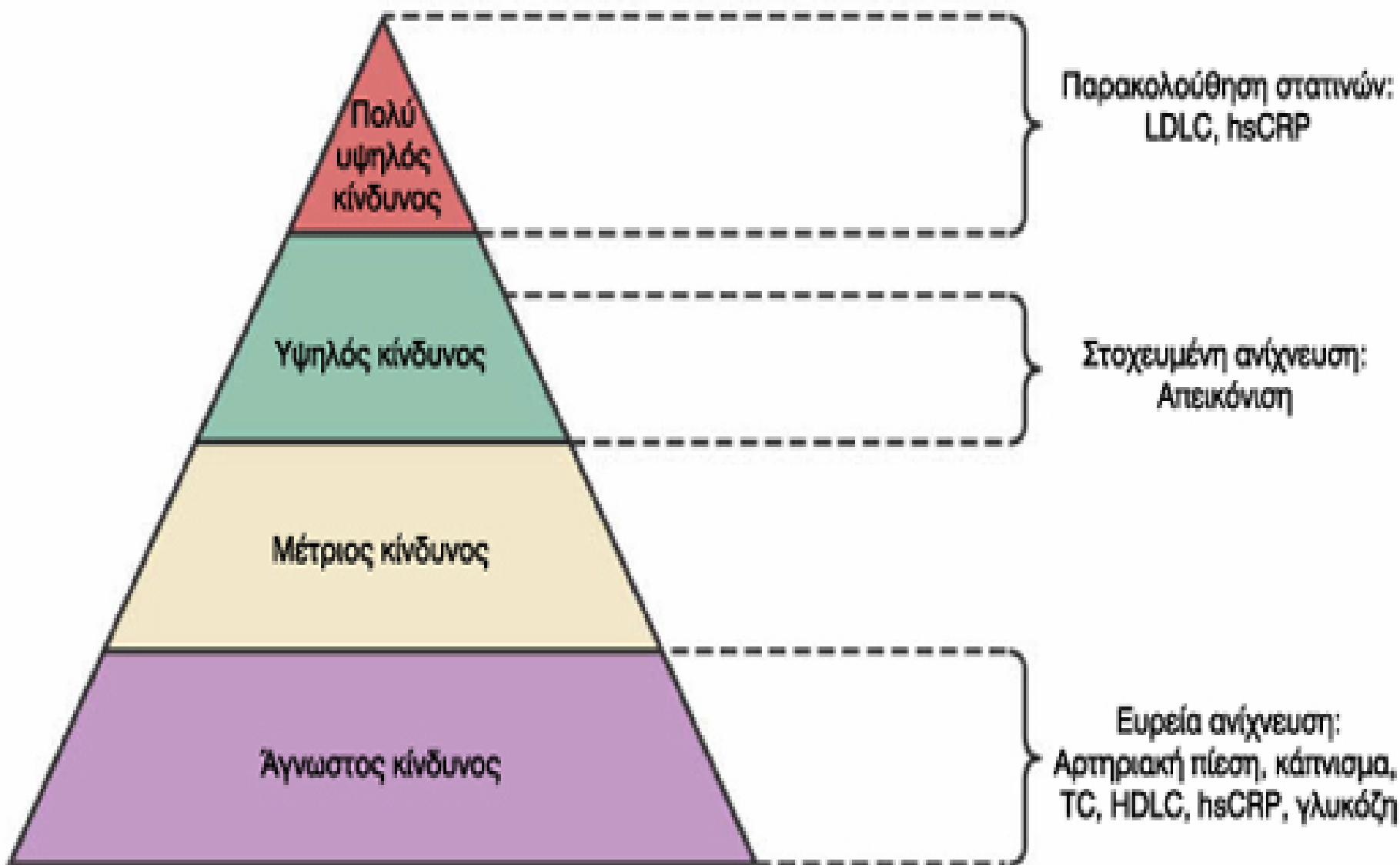
- Δεν προκύπτει αιτιολογική σχέση μεταξύ των επιπέδων CRP και καρδιοαγγειακής νόσου
- Παρά την συνεχή γραμμική συσχέτιση των επιπέδων της CRP με τον κίνδυνο για καρδιακά ισχαιμικά επεισοδια, ισχαιμικά εγκεφαλικά, αγγειακή θνητότητα και θάνατο από καρκίνο, και παθήσεις του πνεύμονα η συσχέτιση της CRP με τις διαταραχές είναι ασαφής
- Η ισχαιμική αγγειακή νόσος εξαρτάται από τους κλασικούς παράγοντες κινδύνου και άλλους δείκτες φλεγμονής

# Risk Prediction

## The Coronary Heart Disease Prevention Iceberg



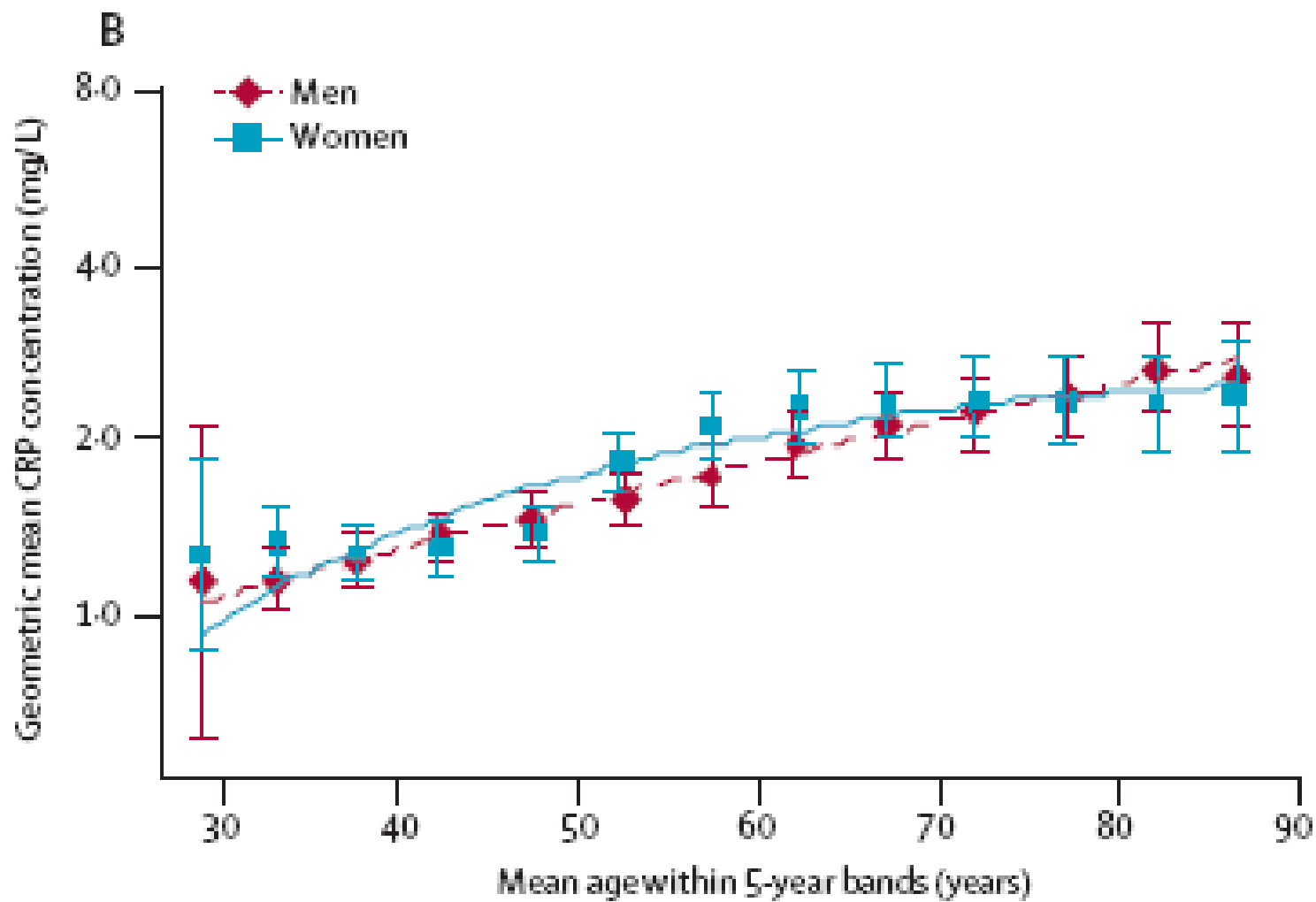
# ΜΙΑ ΟΙΚΟΝΟΜΙΚΑ ΑΠΟΔΟΤΙΚΗ ΠΡΟΣΕΓΓΙΣΗ ΤΗΣ ΑΝΙΧΝΕΥΣΗΣ ΤΟΥ ΚΑΡΔΙΑΓΓΕΙΑΚΟΥ ΚΙΝΔΥΝΟΥ



**ΕΙΚΟΝΑ 39-15** Μια οικονομικά αποδοτική προσέγγιση στην ανίχνευση του καρδιαγγειακού κινδύνου.

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ ΠΟΛΥ ΓΙΑ  
ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ΣΑΣ

ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ ΠΟΛΥ ΓΙΑ  
ΤΗΝ ΠΡΟΣΟΧΗ ΣΑΣ



# An Assessment of Incremental Coronary Risk Prediction Using C-Reactive Protein and Other Novel Risk Markers

## *The Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study*

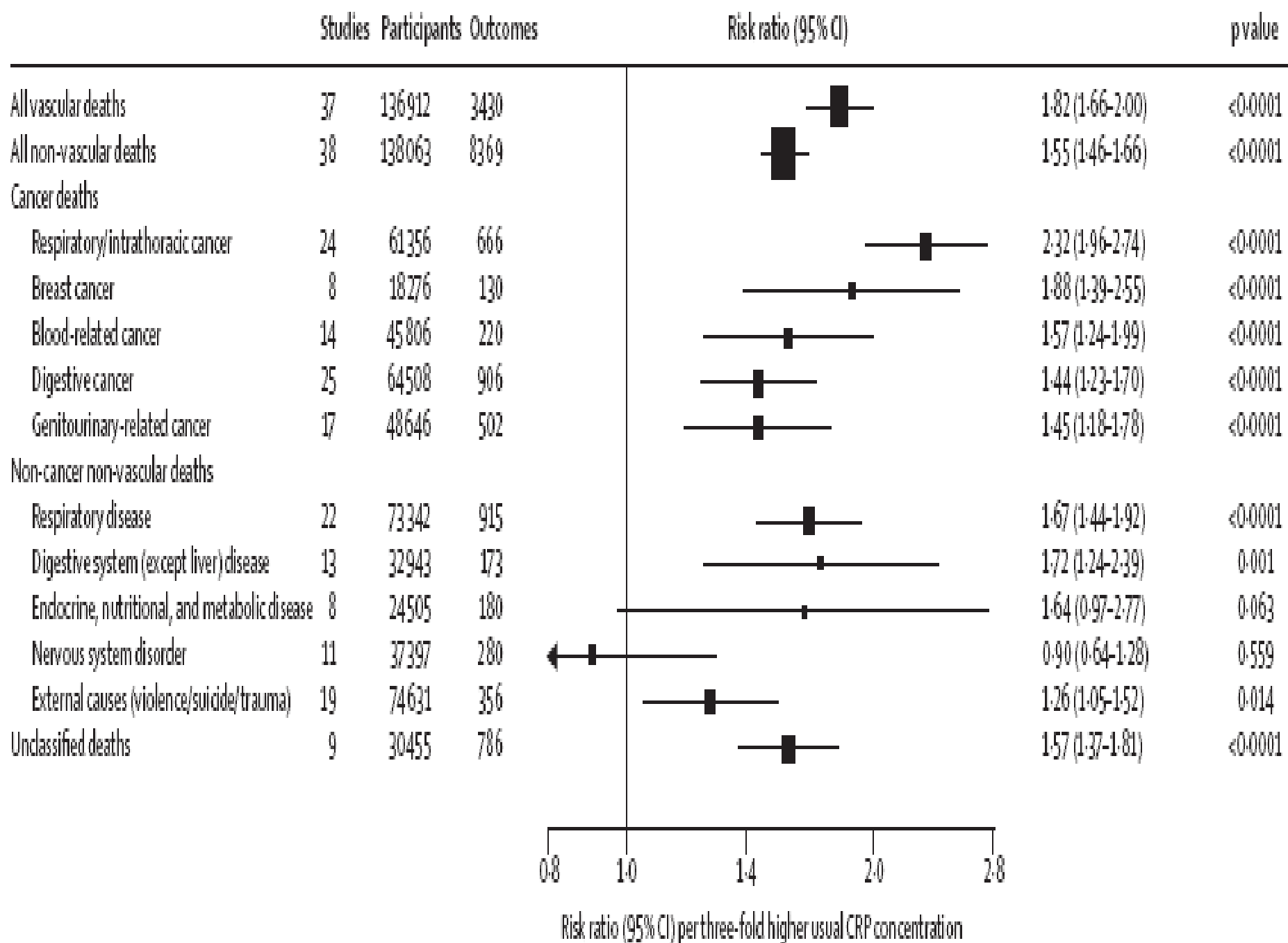
Aaron R. Folsom, MD, MPH; Lloyd E. Chambless, PhD; Christie M. Ballantyne, MD; Josef Coresh, MD, PhD; Gerardo Heiss, MD; Kenneth K. Wu, MD, PhD; Eric Boerwinkle, PhD; Thomas H. Mosley, Jr, PhD; Paul Sorlie, PhD; Guoqing Diao, PhD; A. Richey Sharrett, MD, DrPH

**Background:** There has been interest in recent years in whether additional, and in particular novel, risk factors or blood markers, such as C-reactive protein, can enhance existing coronary heart disease (CHD) prediction models.

**Methods:** Using a series of case-cohort studies, the prospective Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities (ARIC) Study assessed the association of 19 novel risk markers with incident CHD in 15 792 adults followed up since 1987-1989. Novel markers included measures of inflammation, endothelial function, fibrin formation, fibrinolysis, B vitamins, and antibodies to infectious agents. Change in the area under the receiver operating characteristic curve (AUC) was used to assess the additional con-

density lipoprotein cholesterol levels, systolic blood pressure, antihypertensive medication use, smoking status, and diabetes), predicted CHD well, as evidenced by an AUC of approximately 0.8. The C-reactive protein level did not add significantly to the AUC (increase in AUC of 0.003), and neither did most other novel risk factors. Of the 19 markers studied, lipoprotein-associated phospholipase A<sub>2</sub>, vitamin B<sub>6</sub>, interleukin 6, and soluble thrombomodulin added the most to the AUC (range, 0.006-0.011).

**Conclusions:** Our findings suggest that routine measurement of these novel markers is not warranted for risk assessment. On the other hand, our findings rein-





	Studies	Outcomes	RR* (95% CI) usual log, CRP concentration	Wald $\chi^2$ ,	I <sup>2</sup> (95% CI)
<b>Coronary heart disease</b>					
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=66 117)	20	3062	1.65 (1.48–1.84)	80	57% (30–74)
Plus conventional risk factors†	20	3062	1.36 (1.22–1.52)	29	36% (0–63)
Plus fibrinogen	20	3062	1.23 (1.07–1.42)	8	57% (30–74)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=32 958)	12	2689	1.66 (1.48–1.86)	78	52% (7–75)
Plus conventional risk factors†	12	2689	1.44 (1.29–1.62)	40	35% (0–67)
Plus albumin	12	2689	1.38 (1.26–1.51)	47	15% (0–54)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=21 917)	11	2688	1.68 (1.48–1.91)	65	60% (22–79)
Plus conventional risk factors†	11	2688	1.42 (1.26–1.60)	32	37% (0–69)
Plus log <sub>e</sub> leucocyte count	11	2688	1.30 (1.16–1.45)	20	36% (0–68)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=19 016)	7	1547	1.77 (1.37–2.28)	19	83% (67–91)
Plus conventional risk factors†	7	1547	1.42 (1.15–1.74)	11	59% (5–82)
Plus log <sub>e</sub> interleukin 6	7	1547	1.19 (1.01–1.41)	4	31% (0–70)

# Critical appraisal of CRP measurement for the prediction of coronary heart disease events: new data and systematic review of 31 prospective cohorts.

- **CONCLUSIONS:** CRP does not perform better than the Framingham risk equation for discrimination. The improvement in risk stratification or reclassification from addition of CRP to models based on established risk factors is small and inconsistent. Guidance on the clinical use of CRP measurement in the prediction of coronary events may require updating in light of this large comparative analysis



Online article and related content  
current as of February 2, 2010.

## Novel and Conventional Biomarkers for Prediction of Incident Cardiovascular Events in the Community

Olle Melander; Christopher Newton-Cheh; Peter Almgren; et al.

*JAMA*. 2009;302(1):49-57 (doi:10.1001/jama.2009.943)

**Conclusions** Selected biomarkers may be used to predict future cardiovascular events, but the gains over conventional risk factors are minimal. Risk classification improved in intermediate-risk individuals, mainly through the identification of those unlikely to develop events.

*JAMA*. 2009;302(1):49-57

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

Ann Intern Med. 2009 Oct.

## C-reactive protein as a risk factor for coronary heart disease: a systematic review and meta-analyses for the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force.

- **CONCLUSION:** Strong evidence indicates that CRP is associated with CHD events. **Moderate**, consistent evidence suggests that adding CRP to risk prediction models among initially intermediate-risk persons improves risk stratification. **However, sufficient evidence that reducing CRP levels prevents CHD events is lacking.**

JAMA. 2009 Dec 2;302(21):2345-52.

## **Assessment of claims of improved prediction beyond the Framingham risk score.**

Tzoulaki I, Liberopoulos G, Ioannidis JP.

Department of Epidemiology and Public Health, Imperial College of Medicine, London, England.

Comment in:

JAMA. 2009 Dec 2;302(21):2369-70.

**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.

## Ischaemic stroke

Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=47 353)	11	1481	1.49 (1.34-1.67)	49	16% (0-57)
Plus conventional risk factors†	11	1481	1.32 (1.18-1.47)	24	0 (0-60)
Plus fibrinogen	11	1481	1.32 (1.18-1.49)	22	0 (0-60)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=19 382)	6	890	1.37 (1.23-1.52)	35	0 (0-75)
Plus conventional risk factors†	6	890	1.28 (1.14-1.44)	16	0 (0-75)
Plus albumin	6	890	1.21 (1.07-1.35)	10	0 (0-75)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=14 076)	7	1252	1.40 (1.26-1.55)	42	0 (0-71)
Plus conventional risk factors†	7	1252	1.25 (1.11-1.41)	13	0 (0-71)
Plus log <sub>10</sub> leucocyte count	7	1252	1.15 (1.02-1.29)	5	0 (0-71)
Adjusted for age, sex, and study (n=9918)	3	480	1.63 (1.15-2.29)	8	63% (0-89)
Plus conventional risk factors†	3	480	1.47 (1.09-1.98)	6	42% (0-83)
Plus log <sub>10</sub> interleukin 6	3	480	1.18 (0.98-1.41)	3	0 (0-90)

# High-sensitivity C-reactive protein is only weakly related to cardiovascular damage after adjustment for traditional cardiovascular risk factors

Michael H. Olsen<sup>a,b</sup>, Marina K. Christensen<sup>c</sup>, Tine W. Hansen<sup>a</sup>, Finn Gustafsson<sup>d</sup>, Susanne Rasmussen<sup>a</sup>, Kristian Wachtell<sup>b</sup>, Knut Borch-Johnsen<sup>e</sup>, Hans Ibsen<sup>f</sup>, Torben Jørgensen<sup>a</sup> and Per Hildebrandt<sup>d</sup>

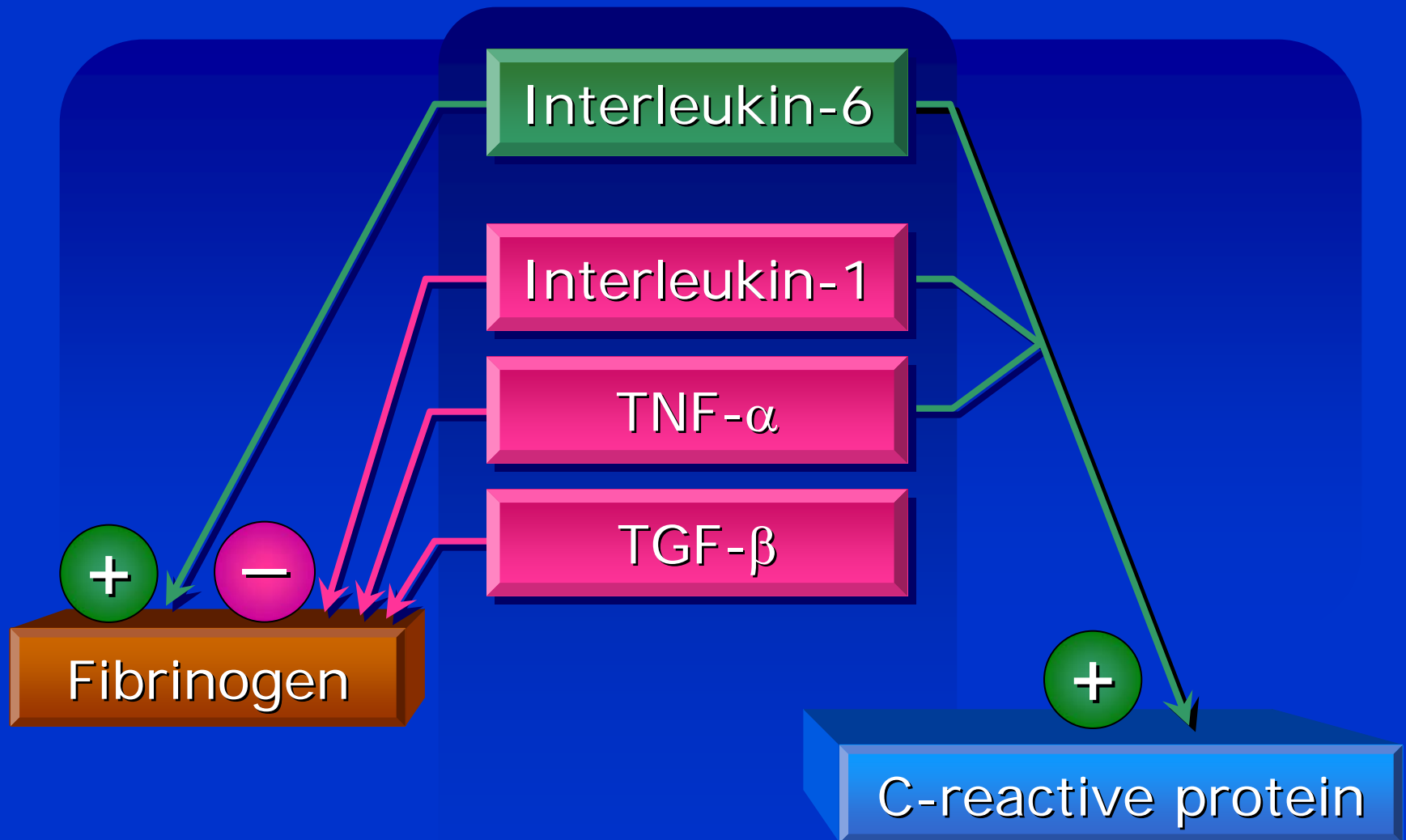
**Background** The independent prognostic value of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein (hsCRP) has been questioned, and consequently we decided to investigate whether hsCRP was associated with subclinical cardiovascular (CV) damage independently of traditional CV risk factors.

**Methods** In a population-based sample of 2028 apparently healthy individuals without prior stroke or myocardial infarction not receiving any CV, anti-diabetic or lipid-lowering treatment, aged 41, 51, 61 or 71 years, we measured in 1993 serum hsCRP, traditional CV risk factors (lifestyle, metabolic and hemodynamic) and assessed subclinical CV damage [atherosclerotic plaques in the carotid arteries, pulse wave velocity (PWV), urine albumin/creatinine ratio (UACR), left ventricular (LV) mass and

index ( $\beta = 0.14$ ), higher heart rate ( $\beta = 0.06$ , all  $P < 0.01$ ); and higher log(plasma glucose) ( $\beta = 0.05$ ,  $P < 0.05$ ) (adj.  $R^2 = 0.19$ ,  $P < 0.001$ ).

**Conclusion** After adjustment for traditional CV risk factors hsCRP was only associated with PWV and atherosclerotic plaques, indicating a possible effect of low-grade inflammation on macrovascular damage. The close relationship between traditional CV risk factors and hsCRP suggested that hsCRP was an integrated CV risk marker early in the development of atherosclerosis. *J Hypertens* 24:655–661 © 2006 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

# Interleukin and Vascular Inflammation



Gabay C et al. *N Engl J Med* 1999; 340: 448-454.

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# C-Reactive Protein Determinants

## Increase

Smoking

---

Chronic  
inflammation

---

Obesity

---

Estrogen

## Decrease

Aspirin

---

Statins

---

Thiazolidinediones

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# hs-CRP and CHD Relative Risk: Health Professionals Follow-up Study—Men

	hs-CRP (mg/L)		
	<1.0	1.0–2.9	≥3.0
Model 1*	1.0	1.90 (1.34–2.71)	2.20 (1.46–3.32)
Model 2†	1.0	1.88 (1.31–2.69)	2.17 (1.43–3.31)
Model 3 (Model 2 + BMI)	1.0	1.85 (1.28–2.68)	2.08 (1.34–3.23)
Model 4 (Model 3 + TC/HDL-C)	1.0	1.71 (1.17–2.49)	1.91 (1.22–3.00)
Model 5 (Model 4 + DM + HTN)	1.0	1.60 (1.09–2.34)	1.79 (1.14–2.83)

\* Adjusted for age, smoking status, and month of blood sampling

† Also adjusted for parental history of CHD before age 60, alcohol intake, and physical activity

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therapy.<sup>25,26</sup> Based on the totality of evidence, however, CRP level does not emerge as a clinically useful addition to basic risk factor assessment for identifying patients at risk of a first CHD event.

**Conclusion** After adjustment for traditional CV risk factors hsCRP was only associated with PWV and atherosclerotic plaques, indicating a possible effect of low-grade inflammation on macrovascular damage. The close relationship between traditional CV risk factors and hsCRP suggested that hsCRP was an integrated CV risk marker early in the development of atherosclerosis. *J Hypertens* 24:655–661 © 2006 Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Journal of Hypertension 2006, 24:655–661

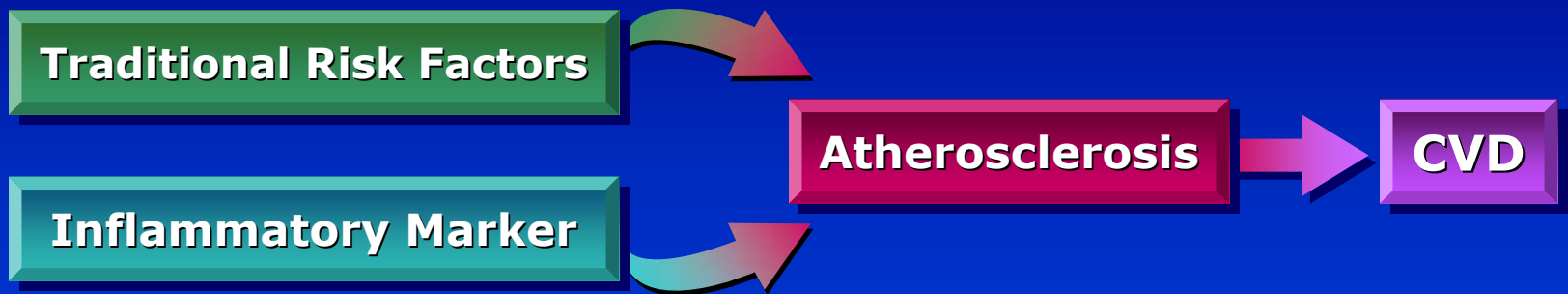
**Table 3 Levels of high-sensitivity C-reactive protein in subjects with increasing amounts of atherosclerotic plaques in the carotid arteries**

Number of plaques	Number of subjects	Level of hsCRP
0	1559	1.47 (0.72–3.15)
1	192	1.79 (0.85–4.47)*
2	120	2.05 (0.94–5.10)**
> 2	153	2.26 (1.19–4.06)***

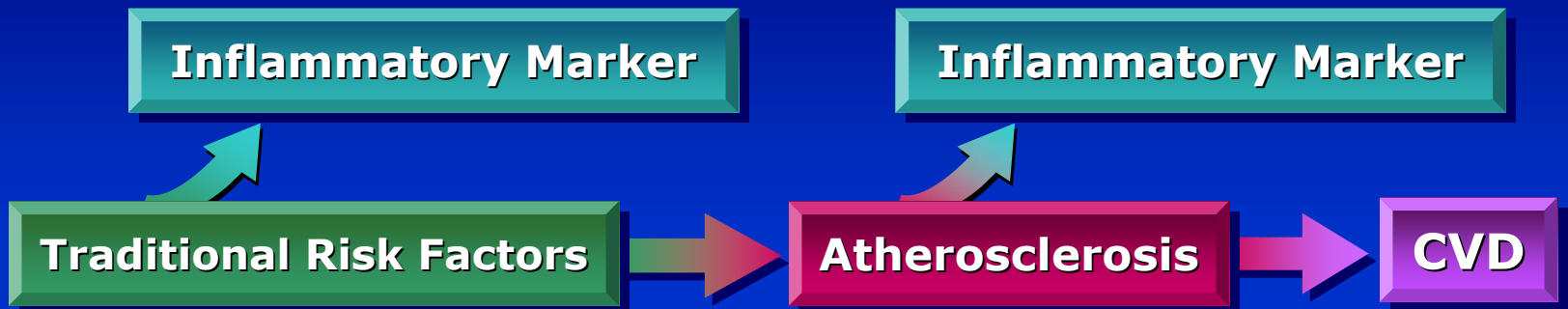
hsCRP, high-sensitivity C-reactive protein. Median values and inter-quartile ranges. One-way ANOVA:  $P < 0.001$ . Post-hoc compared to 0 plaque: \* $P < 0.05$ , \*\* $P < 0.01$ , \*\*\* $P < 0.001$ .

# Alternative Models for Role of Inflammatory Markers in CVD

## Risk **Factor** Model



## Risk **Marker** Model



Pearson TA et al. *Circulation* 2003; 107:499-511.

# Summary

- Growing body of evidence that inflammatory markers are important determinants of vascular disease risk
- Evidence includes leukocyte count, fibrinogen, CRP, and other biomarkers
- hs-CRP now considered an independent marker of CVD risk
- Debate continues for utility of CRP to assess CHD risk over and above traditional risk factors