

XI Reunión. Estado del Arte en  
**INSUFICIENCIA CARDIACA**

PRÁCTICA CLÍNICA Y MODELOS ORGANIZATIVOS

Sede: Hotel Meliá MaríaPita, A Coruña

**A CORUÑA** 27-28 SEPTIEMBRE 2024



XI Meeting. State of the Art in  
**HEART FAILURE**

CLINICAL PRACTICE AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODELS

Venue: Hotel Meliá MaríaPita, A Coruña

#ACoruñaHF2024

**A CORUÑA** 27-28 SEPTEMBER 2024

# Myocarditis: Challenges in diagnosis, risk stratification and therapy

**KING'S**  
College  
LONDON

Antonio Cannata

King's College Hospital and King's College London

King's College Hospital   
NHS Foundation Trust

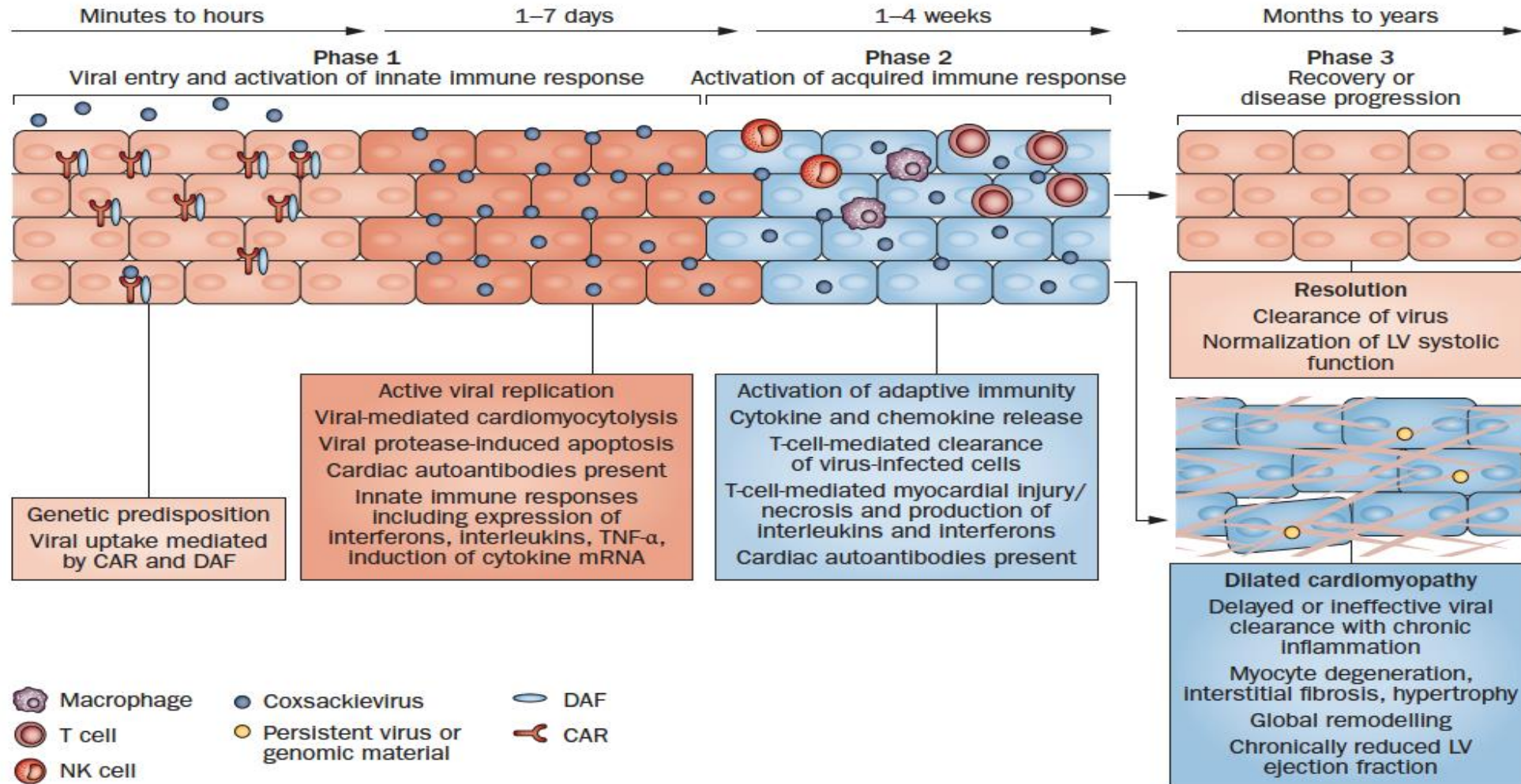


ÁREA SANITARIA  
DA CORUÑA E CEE



# Viral myocarditis—diagnosis, treatment options, and current controversies

Ari Pollack, Amy R. Kontorovich, Valentin Fuster and G. William Dec



# A new old story

## Myocarditis: Unresolved Issues in Diagnosis and Treatment

S. S. MAZE, M.B., Ch.B., R. J. ADOLPH, M.D., F.A.C.C.

Division of Cardiology, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA

Clin. Cardiol. Vol. 13, February 1990

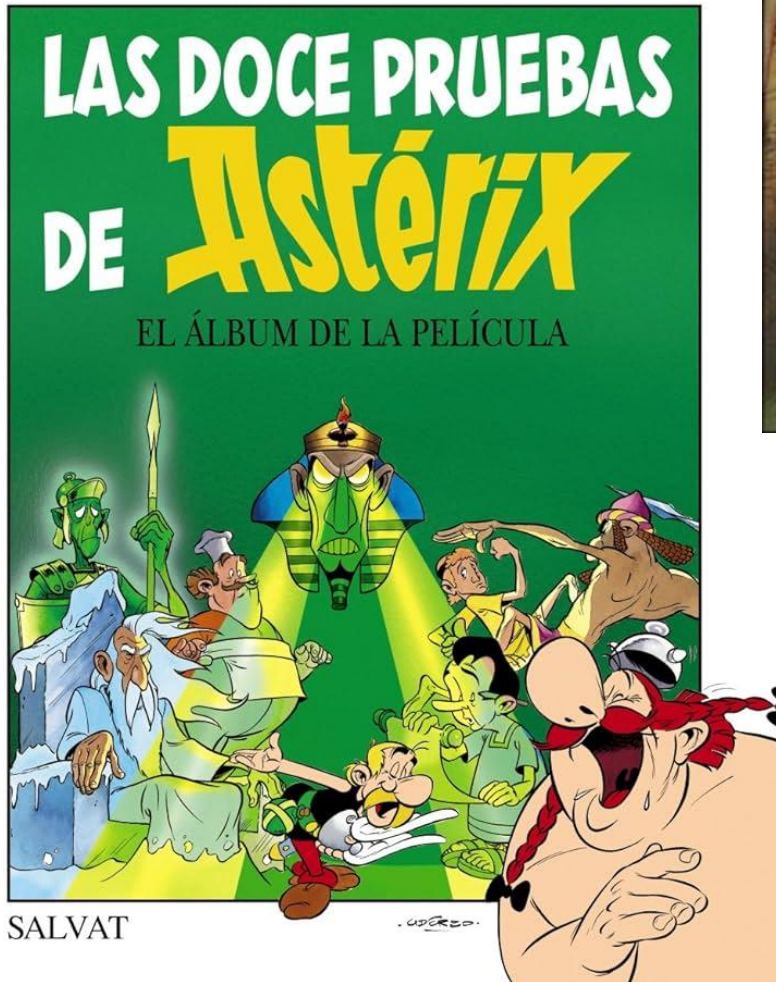


my  
'90s



# Outline of the presentation

R. GOSCINNY **Astérix** A. UDERZO

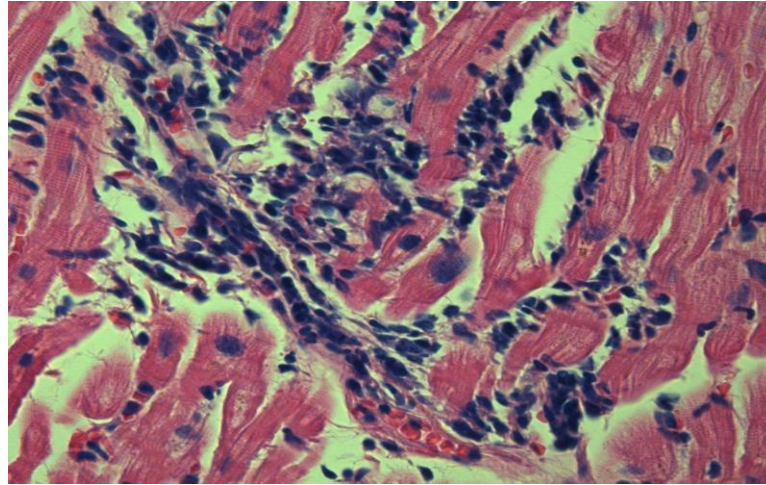


# 1<sup>st</sup> challenge: an apparently simple definition

Circulation. 1996 Mar 1;93(5):841-2.

**Report of the 1995 World Health Organization/International Society and Federation of Cardiology Task Force on the Definition and Classification of cardiomyopathies.**

Richardson P, McKenna W, Bristow M, Maisch B, Mautner B, O'Connell J, Olsen E, Thiene G, Goodwin J, Gyarfas I, Martin I, Nordet P.



**Myocarditis is an inflammatory disease of the myocardium which involves the myocytes, the interstitium and the vasculature.**

**The diagnosis is through histopathological and histochemical criteria**

# 1<sup>st</sup> challenge: an apparently simple definition

Subacute myocarditis  
Virus-triggered myocarditis  
Sarcoiditic myocarditis  
Viral myocarditis  
Immune checkpoint-associated myocarditis  
Virus-induced myocarditis  
Active myocarditis  
Perimyocarditis  
Myocarditis with pericardial involvement  
Virus-mediated myocarditis  
Infarct-like myocarditis  
Drug-induced myocarditis  
Hypersensitivity myocarditis  
Acute myocarditis  
Lymphocytic myocarditis  
Chronic myocarditis  
Eosinophilic myocarditis  
Clinically suspected myocarditis  
Fulminant myocarditis  
Infective myocarditis  
Myopericarditis  
Probable acute myocarditis  
Borderline myocarditis  
Healing myocarditis  
Chronic inflammatory cardiomyopathy  
Giant cell myocarditis  
Complicated acute myocarditis  
Virus-positive myocarditis  
Immune-mediated myocarditis

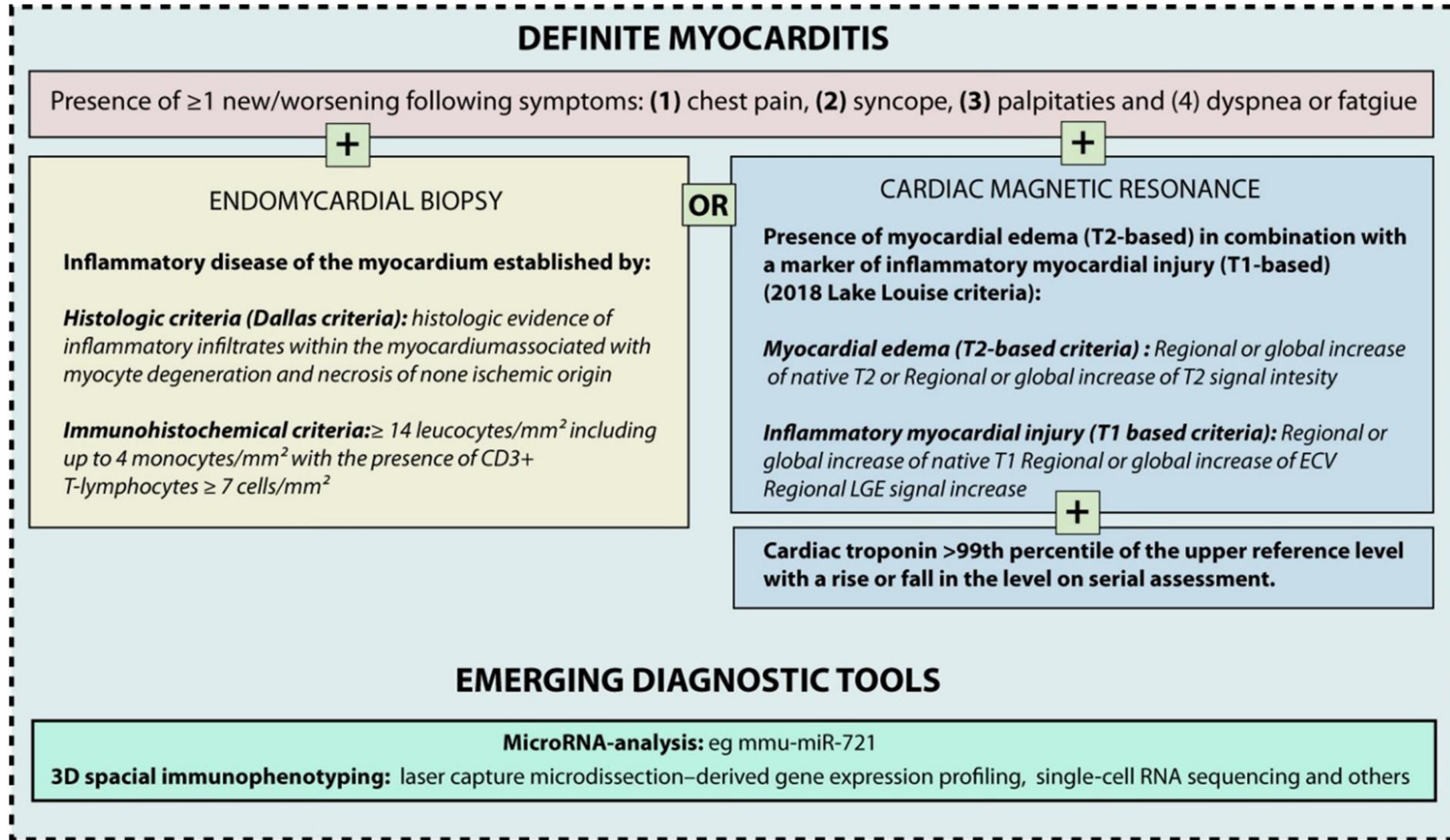
# 2<sup>nd</sup> challenge: an apparently simple classification

*According to*

- ***Predominant infiltrate:*** Lymphocytic, eosinophilic, polymorphic, giant cell myocarditis, granulomatous... (but often unknown)
- ***Aetiology:*** Viral myocarditis, autoimmune myocarditis, viral and immune myocarditis, hypersensitivity... (but often unknown)
- ***Clinical presentation:*** Infarct-like, heart failure, arrhythmia (but no evidence for treatment using these criteria)
- ***Clinical course:*** Fulminant, acute, subacute/healing, chronic, complicated/uncomplicated (but no evidence for treatment using these criteria)
- ***Risk of adverse events:*** low-risk, intermediate, high-risk (but no evidence for treatment using these criteria)

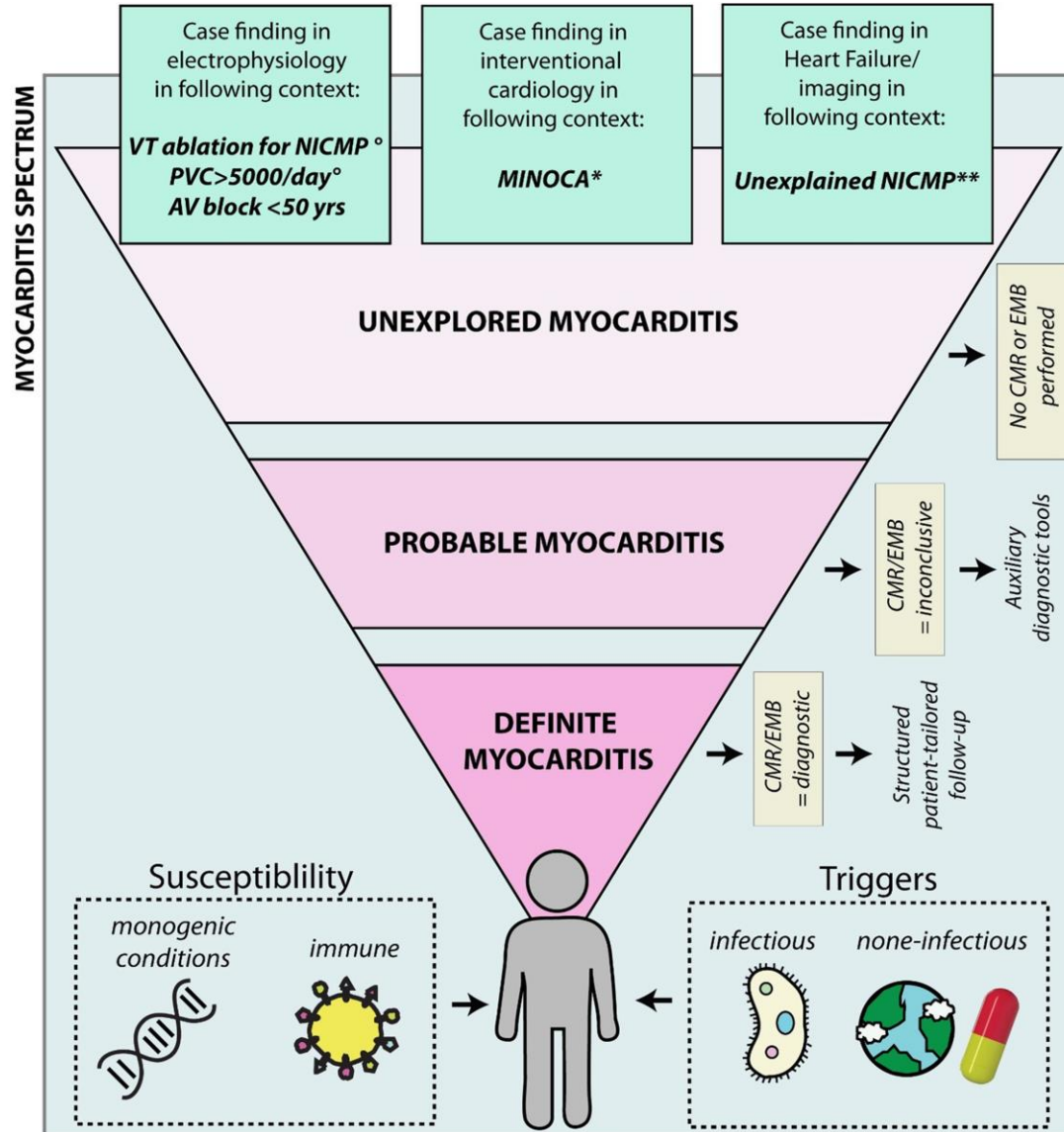


# 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge: an apparently simple diagnosis



Martens P et al. J Am Heart Assoc. 2023;12:e031454.

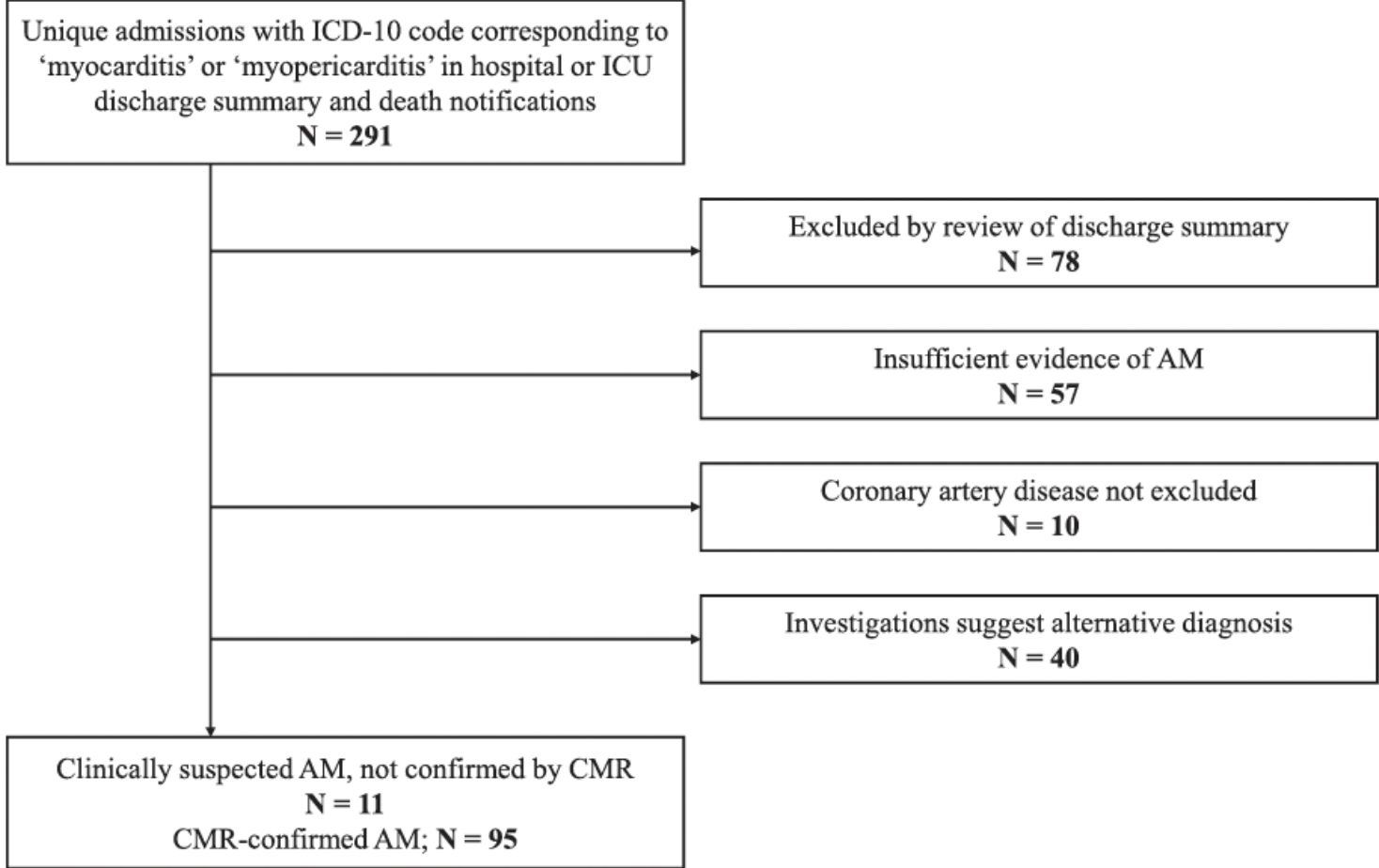
# 3<sup>rd</sup> challenge: an apparently simple diagnosis



Martens P et al. J AHA. 2023;12:e031454.

# 4<sup>th</sup> challenge: an apparently accurate diagnosis

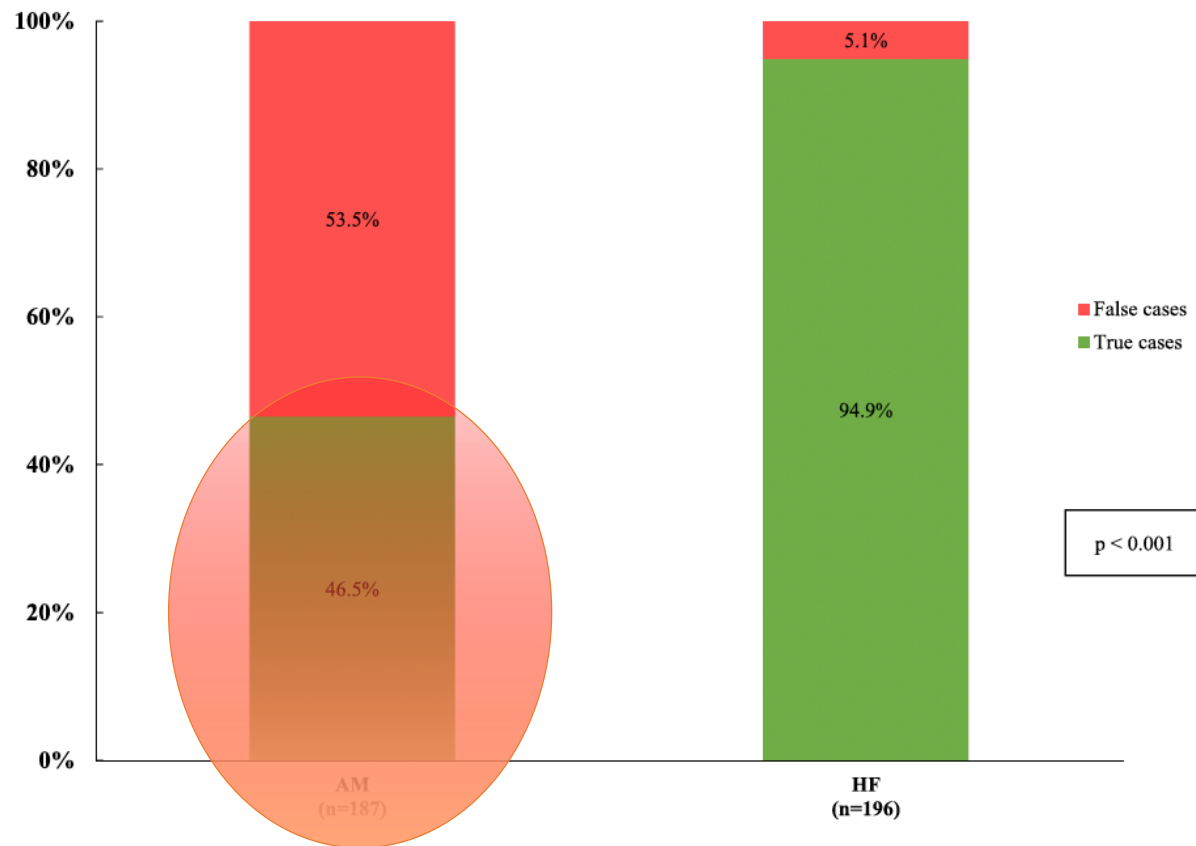
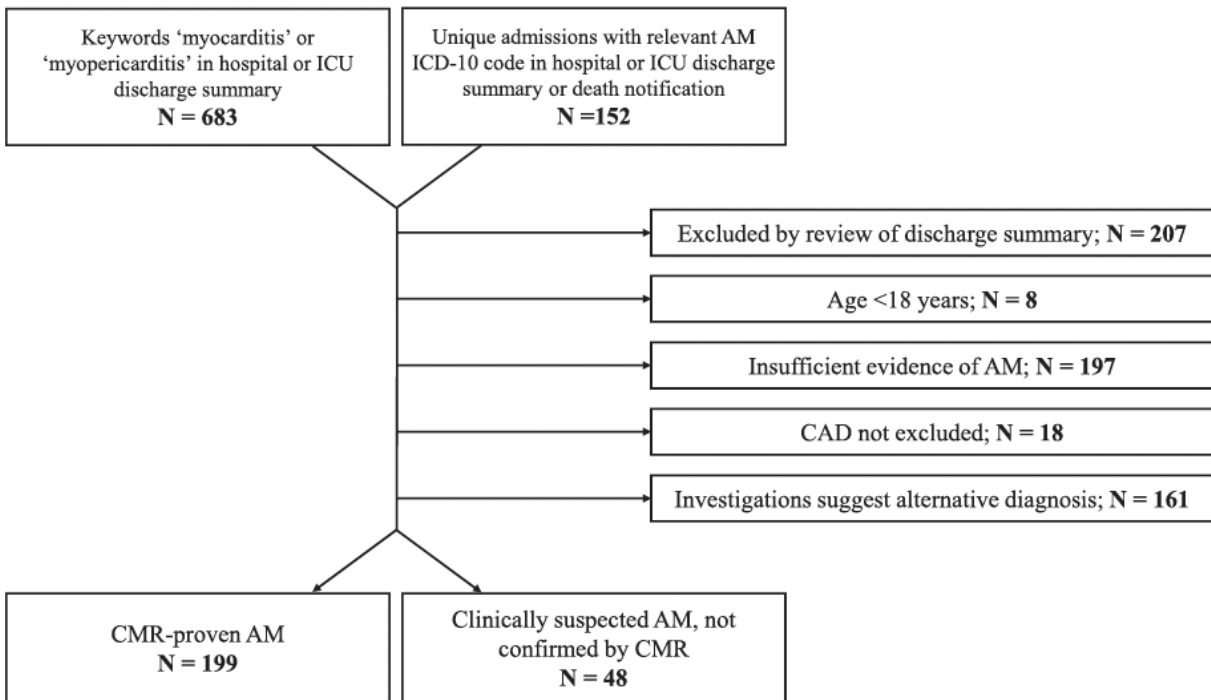
33%



67%

Roy R, Cannata A, Bromage D. EHI: QCCO 2023

# 4<sup>th</sup> challenge: an apparently accurate diagnosis



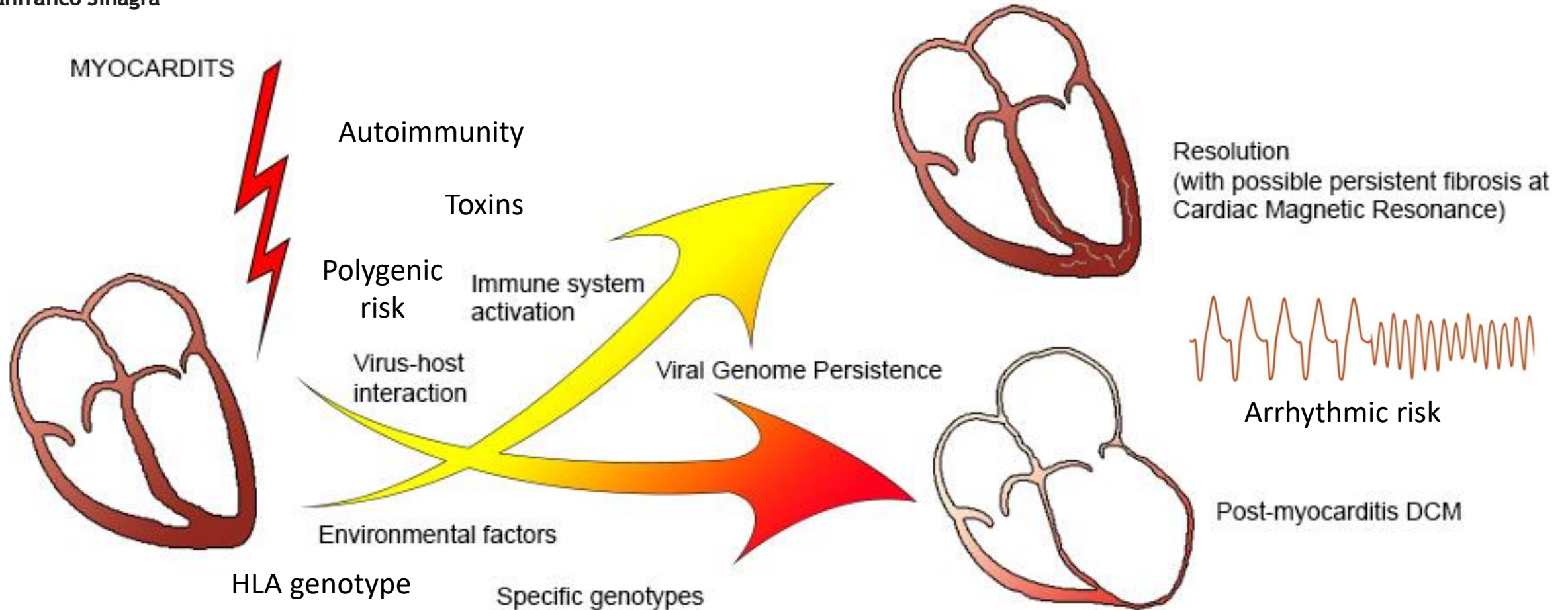
Roy R, Cannata A, Bromage D. EHJ: QCCO 2023

# 5<sup>th</sup> challenge: a communicable disease

Myocarditis evolving in cardiomyopathy: when genetics and offending causes work together

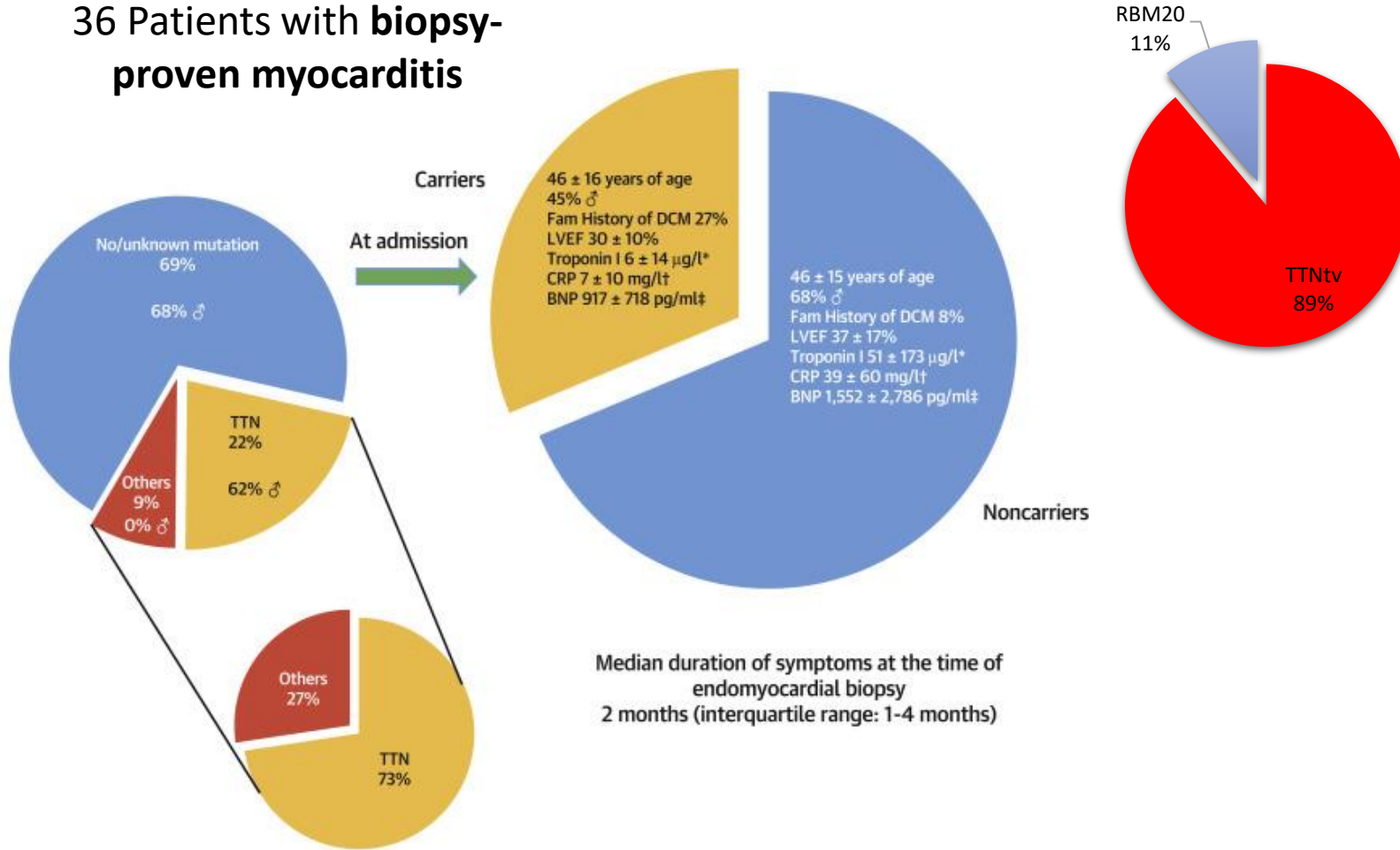
European Heart Journal Supplements 2019;21:B90–B95

Antonio Cannata', Jessica Artico, Piero Gentile, Marco Merlo, and Gianfranco Sinagra



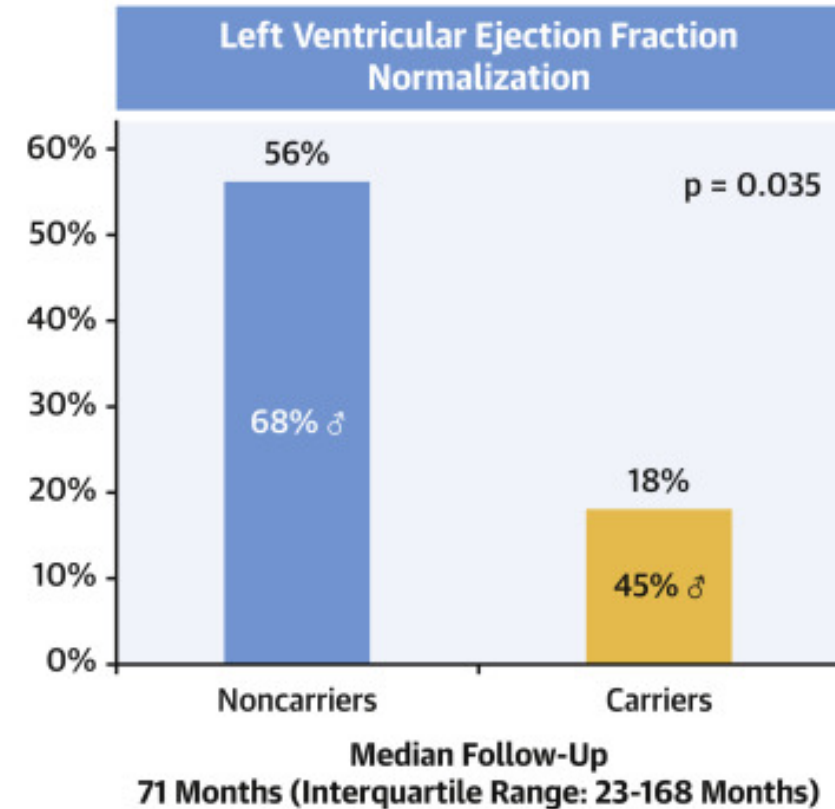
# 5<sup>th</sup> challenge: a communicable disease

## 36 Patients with biopsy-proven myocarditis



## Lymphocytic Myocarditis

A Genetically Predisposed Disease?



Artico J et al. JACC 2020;75:3098–3099

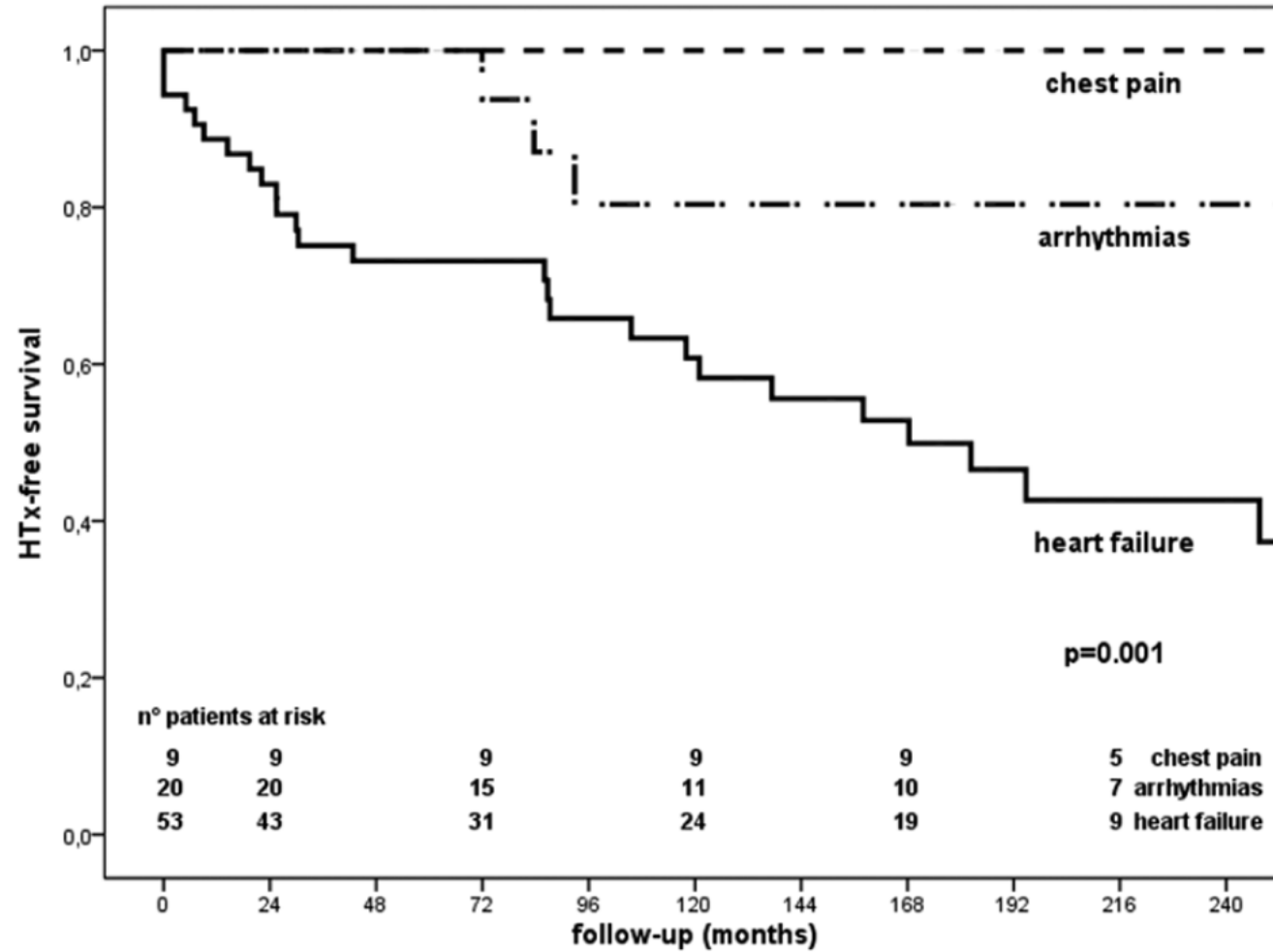
# 6<sup>th</sup> challenge: an apparently dire prognosis

**Circulation**  
JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION



**Long-Term Evolution and Prognostic Stratification of Biopsy-Proven Active Myocarditis**  
 Marco Anzini, Marco Merlo, Gastone Sabbadini, Giulia Barbati, Gherardo Finocchiaro, Bruno Pinamonti, Alessandro Salvi, Andrea Perkan, Andrea Di Lenarda, Rossana Bussani, Jozef Bartunek and Gianfranco Sinagra

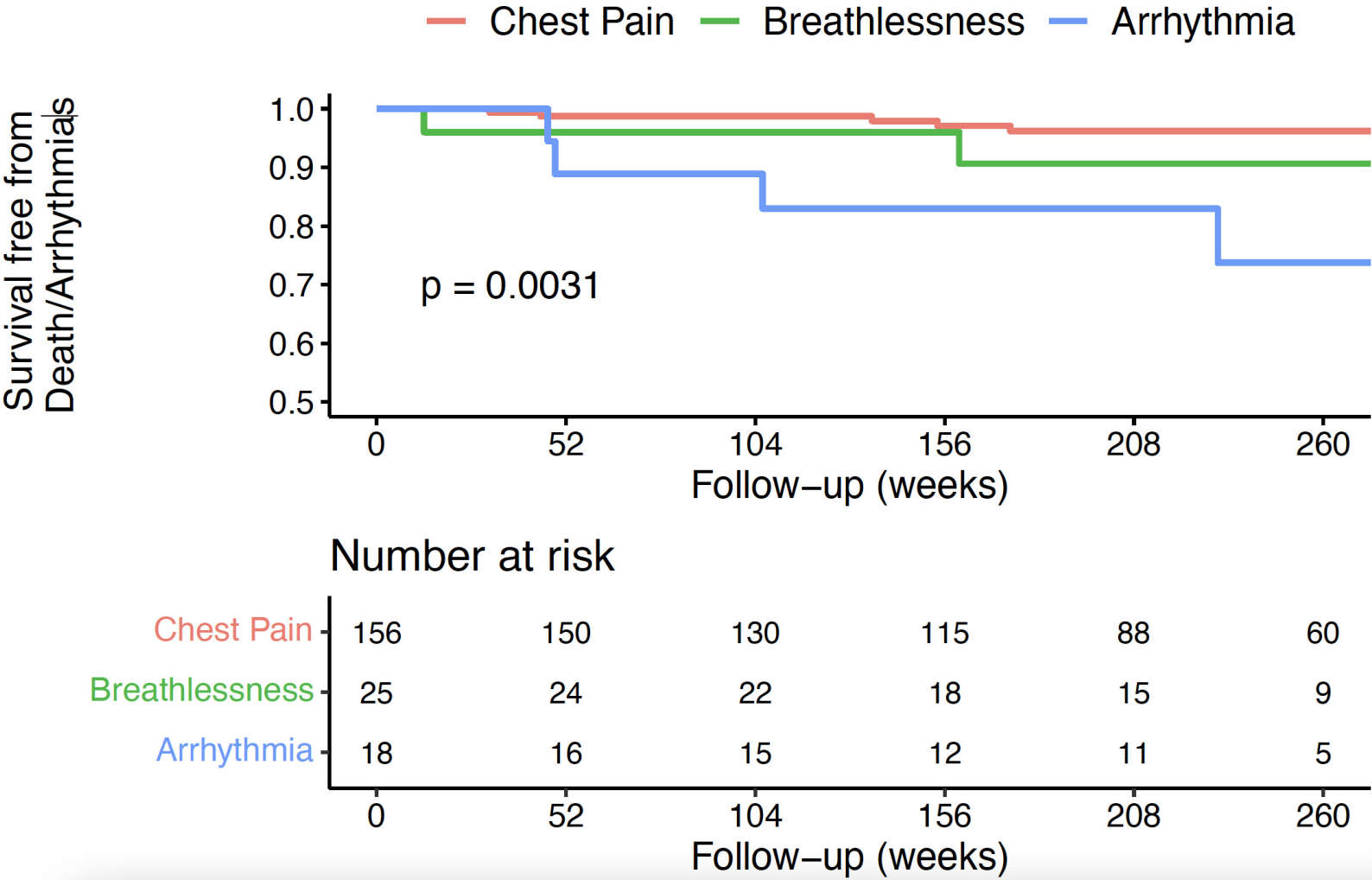
*Circulation.* 2013;128:2384-2394; originally published online October 1, 2013;  
 doi: 10.1161/CIRCULATIONAHA.113.003092



**82 pts; Fup 147 mo;  
 53% 6 mo impr/norm LVEF**

Biopsy proven myocarditis

# 7<sup>th</sup> challenge: a “benign” contemporary prognosis



Prognostic relevance of demographic factors in cardiac magnetic resonance-proven acute myocarditis: A cohort study

199 patients with CMR-proven myocarditis

3-year event free survival 96%

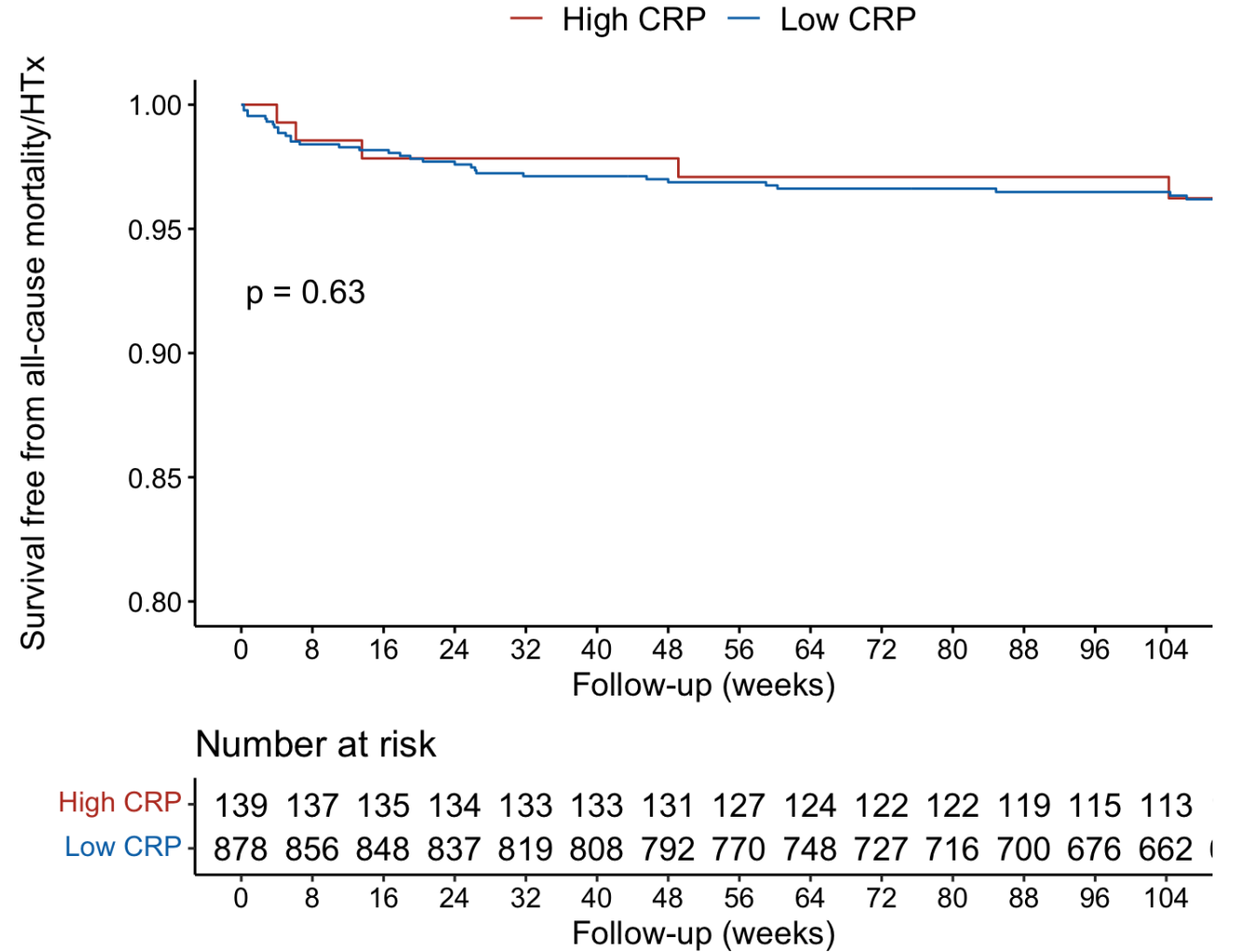
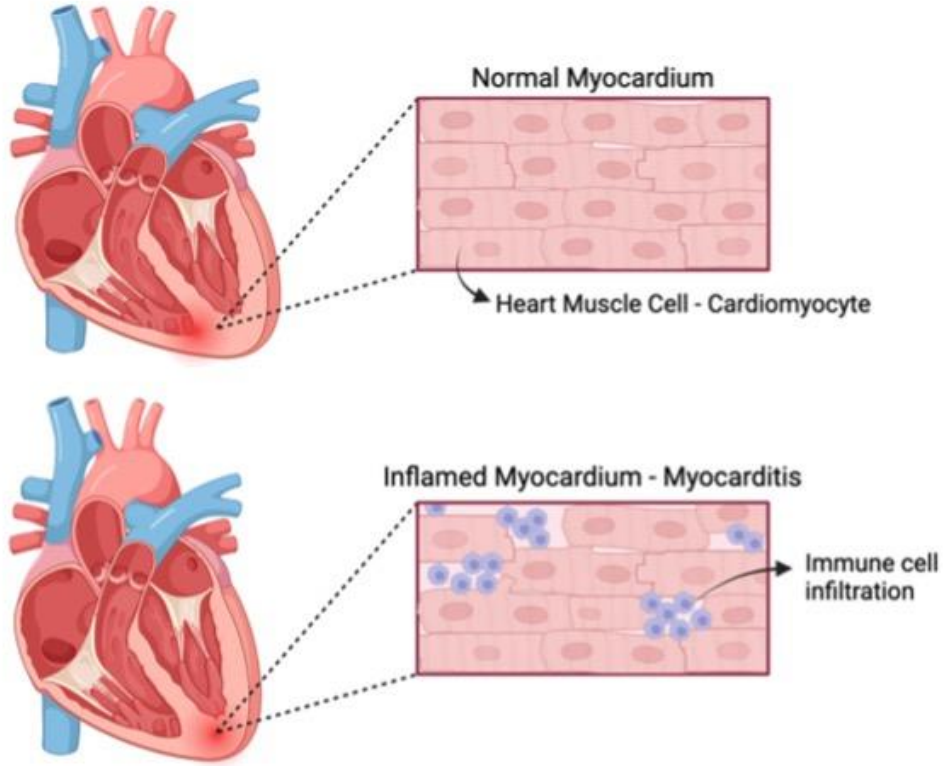
- 98% chest pain
- 96% breathlessness
- 89% arrhythmia

Cannata, Bromage. *Front. Cardiovasc. Med.* 2022. 9:1037837



# 8<sup>th</sup> challenge: quantify the risk of inflammation

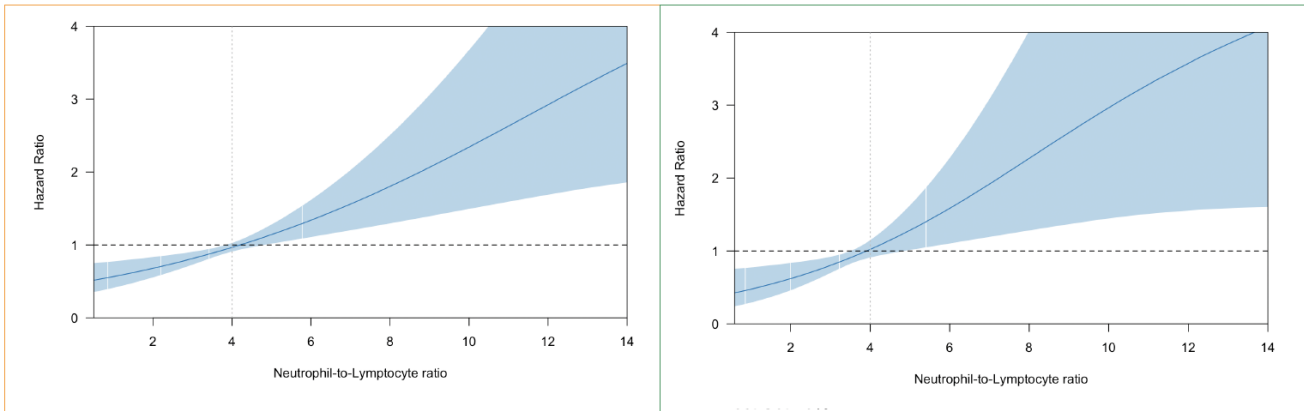
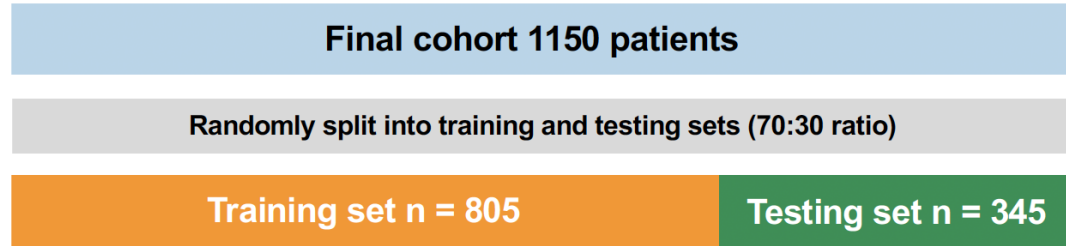
## Myocarditis



Cannata, Bromage. Under review

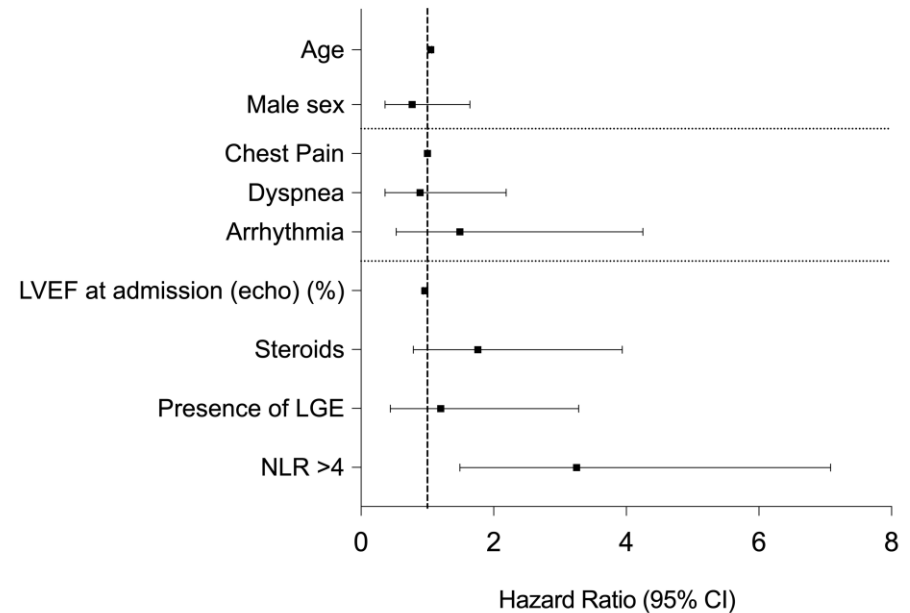
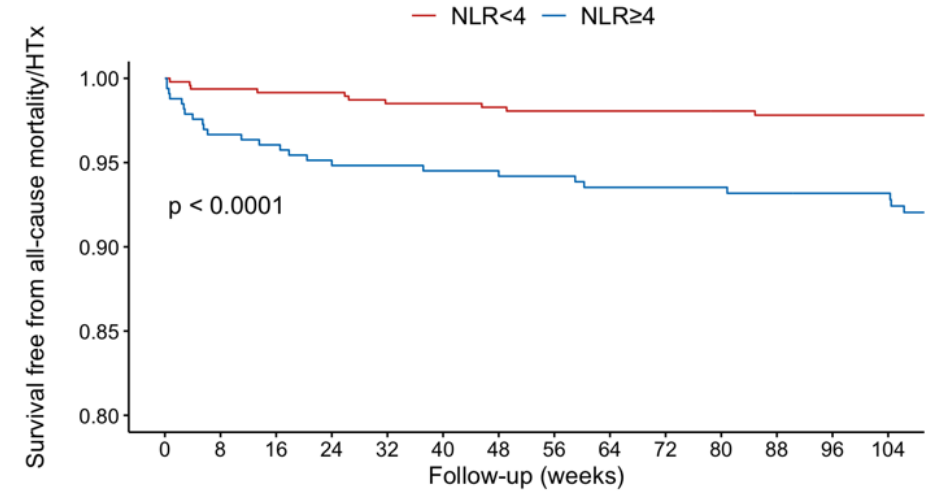
# 8<sup>th</sup> challenge: quantify the risk of inflammation

## Neutrophil-to-lymphocyte Ratio (NLR): a marker of inflammation



### 10 International Centres

2 UK; 5 Italy; 1 Germany; 1 Israel; 1 Sweden; 1 Switzerland



Cannata, Bromage. Under review

# 9<sup>th</sup> challenge: Risk stratification

## ACUTE CLINICAL PRESENTATION

BP & AHF SYMPTOMS 	LVEF REDUCTION 	VT/VF or AVB 
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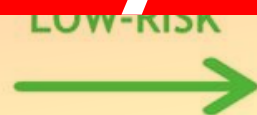
Cardiogenic shock (FM)	Severe (<30%)	PRESENT/ ABSENT
AHF symptoms	Low (30-40%)	PRESENT



AHF symptoms	Low (30-40%)	ABSENT
Mild AHF symptoms	Moderate (41-49%)	PRESENT



Absent	Mild -Normal (>50%)	ABSENT
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## INITIAL MANAGEMENT

REFER TO HUB CENTERS 	t-MCS 	EMB 	CMRI 	STERIODS* 
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BEFORE discharge	CONSIDER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BE prepared	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	BEFORE discharge	CONSIDER

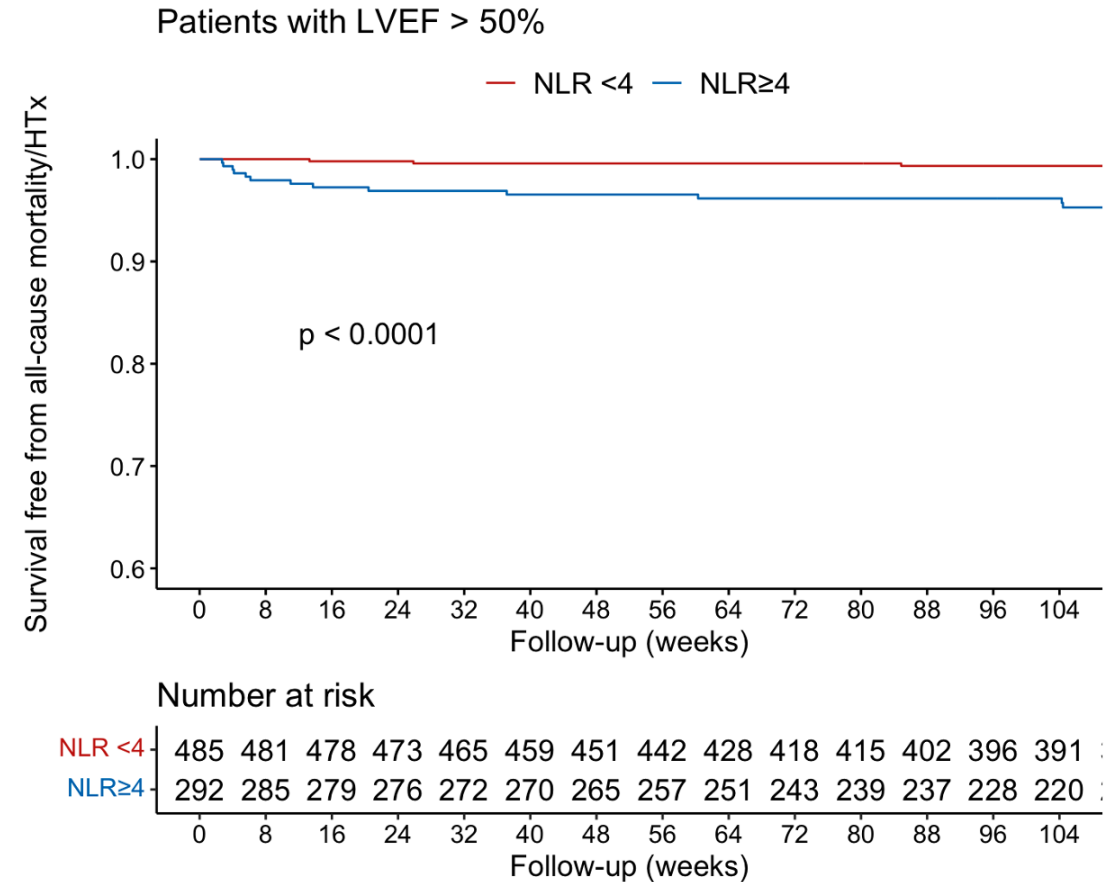
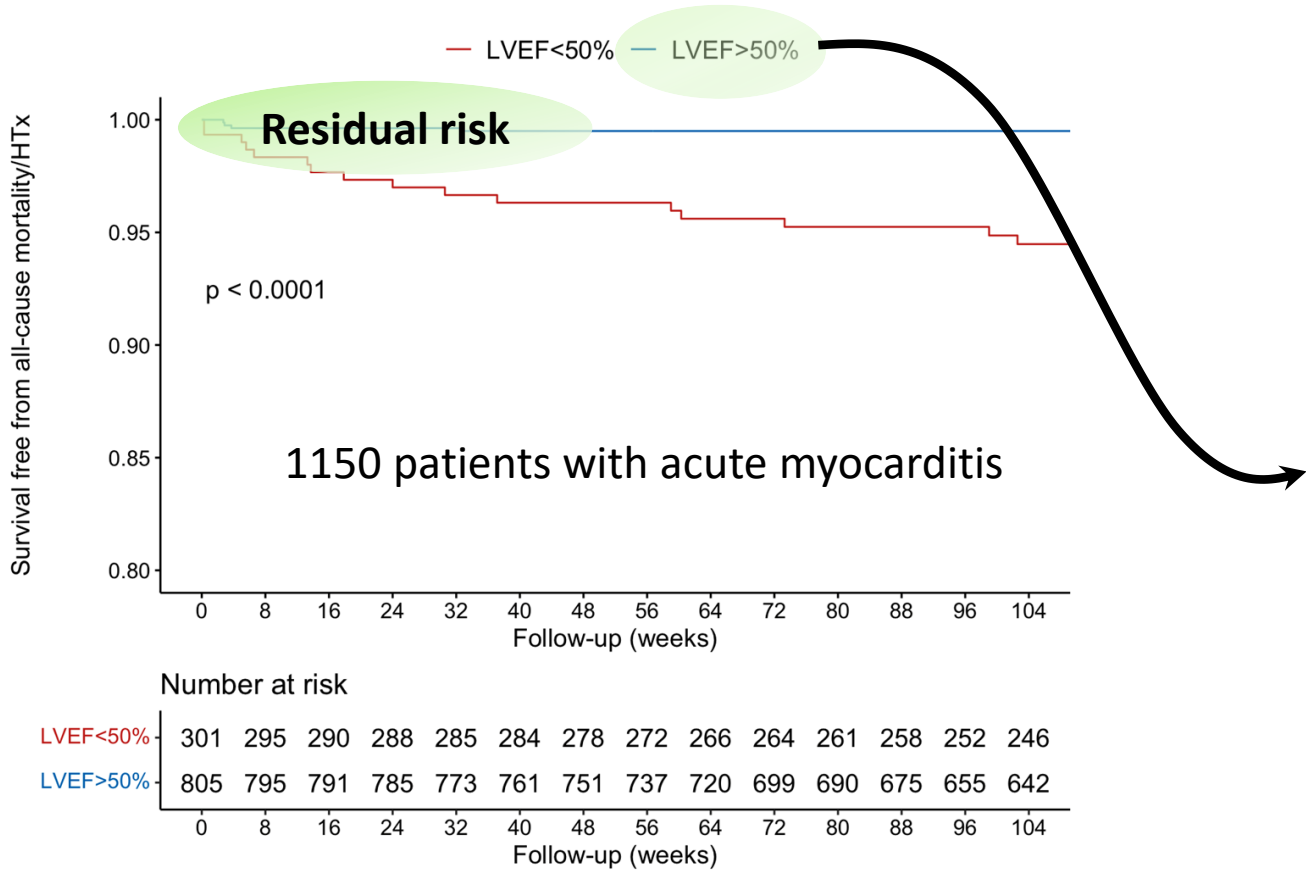
CONSIDER	Rarely needed	CONSIDER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In specific cases
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NOT NEEDED	NOT NEEDED	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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**The majority of patients**

Ammirati et al. Circ Heart Fail. 2020;13:e007405.

# 9<sup>th</sup> challenge: risk stratification in "low-risk" patients



Cannata, Bromage. Under review

# 10<sup>th</sup> challenge: specific therapy and immunosuppression

Suggested conventio

## Chest pain

- No treatment if normal LVEF and no arrhythmias
- Associated pericarditis
- Exercise restriction

## Arrhythmias

- Bradyarrhythmia
  - temporary
- Non sustained VT
- Life threatening arrhythmias
  - HF treatment
  - Case by case
  - Antiarrhythmic drugs
  - ICD evaluation

## Heart failure

- Guideline guided
- Oxygen/ventilator
- Inotropic support
- Immunosuppression
- Mechanical assisted devices for refractory heart failure

Study or Subgroup	Corticosteroids	Events
Aziz 2010		
Latham 1989		
Maisch 1995		
Mason 1995		
Wojnicz 1999		
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>		
Total events:		
Heterogeneity: Tau <sup>2</sup> = 0.00; Chi <sup>2</sup> = 0.00, I <sup>2</sup> = 0.0%		
Test for overall effect: Z = 0.37, P = 0.71		
Test for subgroup differences: I <sup>2</sup> = 0.0%		

## MYTHS TRIAL

### MYocarditis Therapy with Steroids

Study duration: 3 years Study Start: Oct. 2021 Follow up: 6 months

Single blind, randomized controlled, multicenter, international, phase III trial – Coordinating center: Niguarda hospital, Milan, ITALY  
PI: Dr. Enrico Ammirati



Suspected AM complicated by acute HF/cardiogenic shock (LVEF<41% & LVEDD <56 mm on echo)



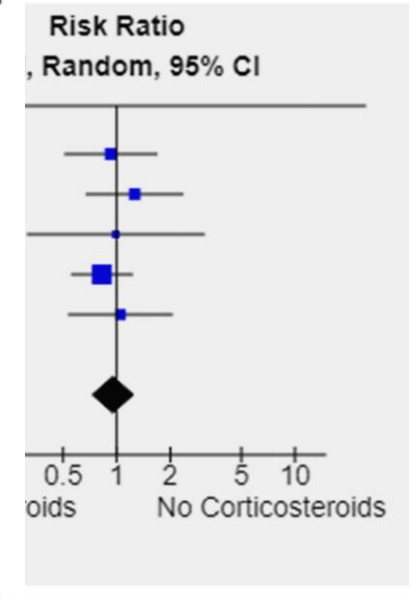
Control arm (n=144)  
(placebo)

Intervention arm (n=144)  
(i.v. methylprednisolone 1g x 3d)

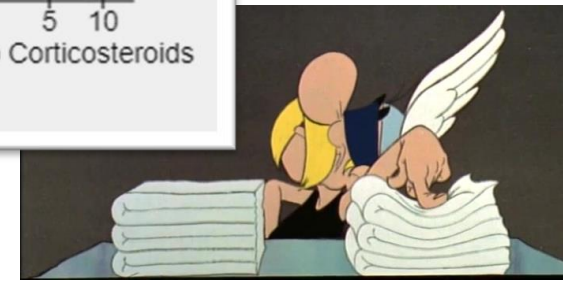


#### Primary endpoint:

To demonstrate a reduction in the rate of all-cause death, HTx, LVAD implant, need for upgrading t-MCS, VA treated with DC shock, hospitalization due to HF, VA, AVB



Empiric steroids?



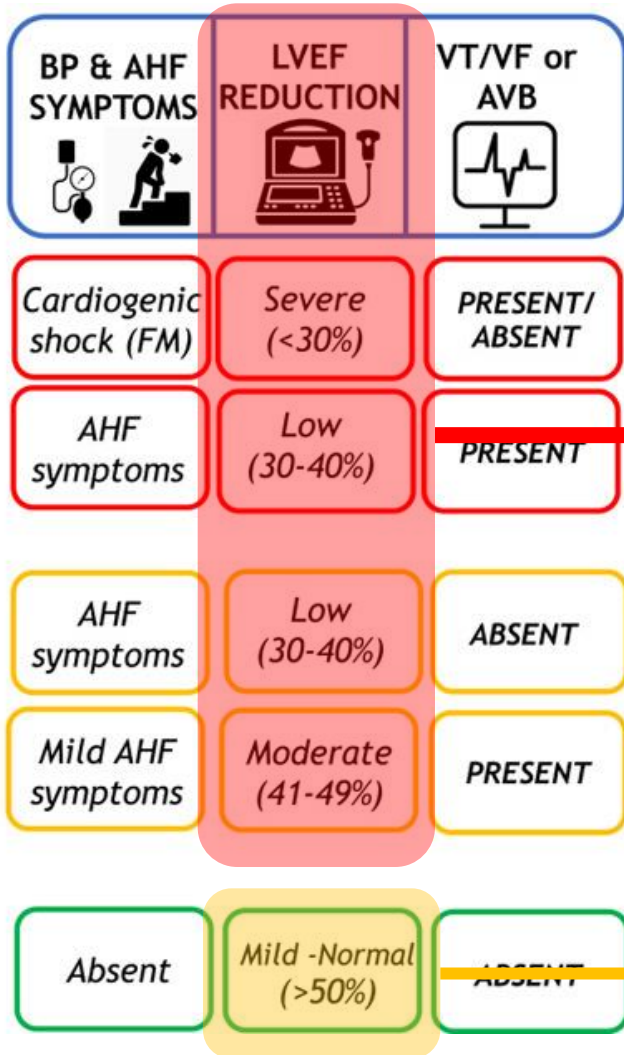
Clinicaltrials.gov: NCT05150704

Funded by the Italian Ministry of Health (GR-2019-12368506)

Ferone E, Bromage D, Cannata A. J Cardiovasc Pharmacol. 2024; 85(5):504-510.

Chen et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev.2013(10):CD004471

# 11<sup>th</sup> challenge: conventional treatment



Recommendations	Class	Level
An ACE-I is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
A beta-blocker is recommended for patients with stable HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
An MRA is recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A
Dapagliflozin or empagliflozin are recommended for patients with HFrEF to reduce the risk of HF hospitalization and death.	I	A



McDonagh T et al. Eur Heart J. 2021 Sep 21;42(36):3599-3726

Ammirati et al. Circ Heart Fail. 2020;13:e007405.

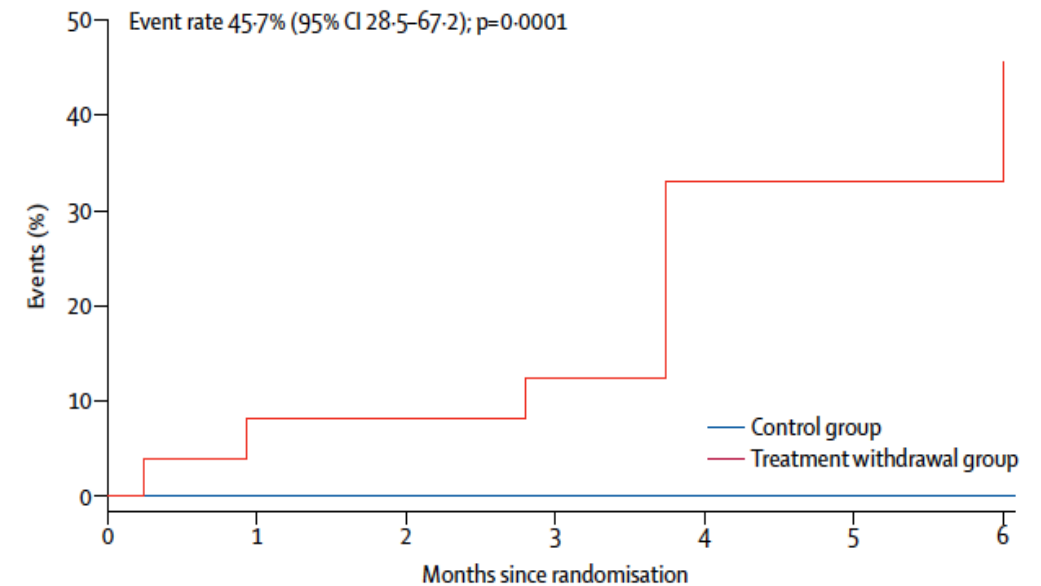
# 12<sup>th</sup> challenge: withdrawing treatment

As myocarditis may have a reversible precipitant, is it safe to withdraw (heart failure) treatment?

In heart failure, some evidence comes from the pilot TRED-HF

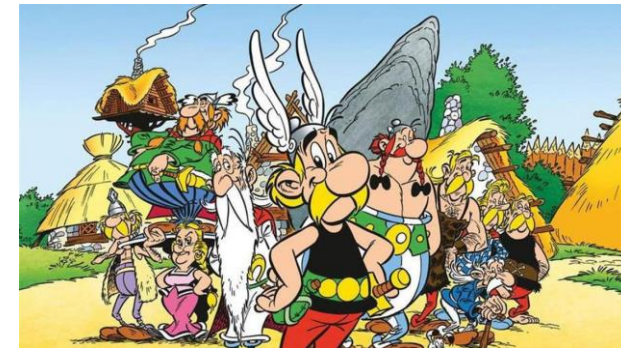
- Withdrew medical treatment in patients with non-ischaemic DCM with partial to complete recovery of LVEF
- Relapse within 6 months observed in 44% of patients
- Only **one (... 1 ...)** patient had previous myocarditis

**Need more evidence...**



# Conclusions

- Myocarditis is a **heterogeneous** disease with an overall favourable prognosis
- Two-thirds of patients with AM present with ACS-like symptoms, and this is associated with a **benign prognosis**
- **Lots of unknowns**, largely related to difficulty conducting trials in this area
- Specific forms of myocarditis may require **targeted therapies**
- **Risk stratification** is important, and new (and old) biomarkers are required to better characterise patients
- Don't forget the **gene-environment** interaction (!)
- Don't forget the **long-term implications** of our actions (!)





*Prof Theresa McDonagh  
Dr Sue Piper  
Dr Daniel Bromage  
Mrs Hannah Simmons  
Dr Matthew Sadler  
Prof Mauro Giacca  
Dr Dan Sado  
Dr Adam Nabeebaccus  
Dr George Amin Youssef*

**Thank you for your kind attention!**  
see you in London...

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