

# Needs in the Therapeutic Heart Failure Space

Todd J Brinton, MD



Edwards

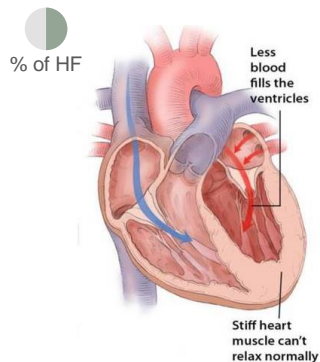
# Todd Brinton, MD

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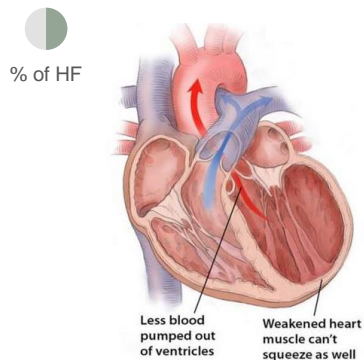
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# Two primary forms of heart failure



## Heart failure with **persevered ejection fraction** or **diastolic** heart failure (EF > 50%)

- Associated with systemic inflammation driving arterial and myocardial stiffening
- Associated with normal left ventricular volumes and evidence of diastolic dysfunction (eg, abnormal pattern of LV filling and elevated filling pressures)
- More common in women than men
- Associated with aging and complex comorbid profiles
- No mortality signal observed in any pharma trials



## Heart failure with **reduced ejection fraction** or **systolic** heart failure (EF <40%-50%)

- Driven by local cardiac injury (macro or microvascular) causing decreased cardiac output and pathologic compensatory pathways
- Characterized by increased LV volumes and reduced EF
- Higher likelihood with men
- Associated with infarctions, uncontrolled hypertension, or cardiomyopathies
- Pharma is the gold standard with several drugs with proven mortality benefit

# Heart failure is the number one driver of death, hospitalizations, and costs in the Medicare population

## Prevalence

**6.2M**  
(US)  **>8M**  
(By 2030)

## Hospitalizations

**~1M**  
US hospital admissions for Acute  
Decompensated Heart Failure  
(ADHF) as primary diagnosis

**2.7M**  
Physician office visits with a  
primary diagnosis of HF

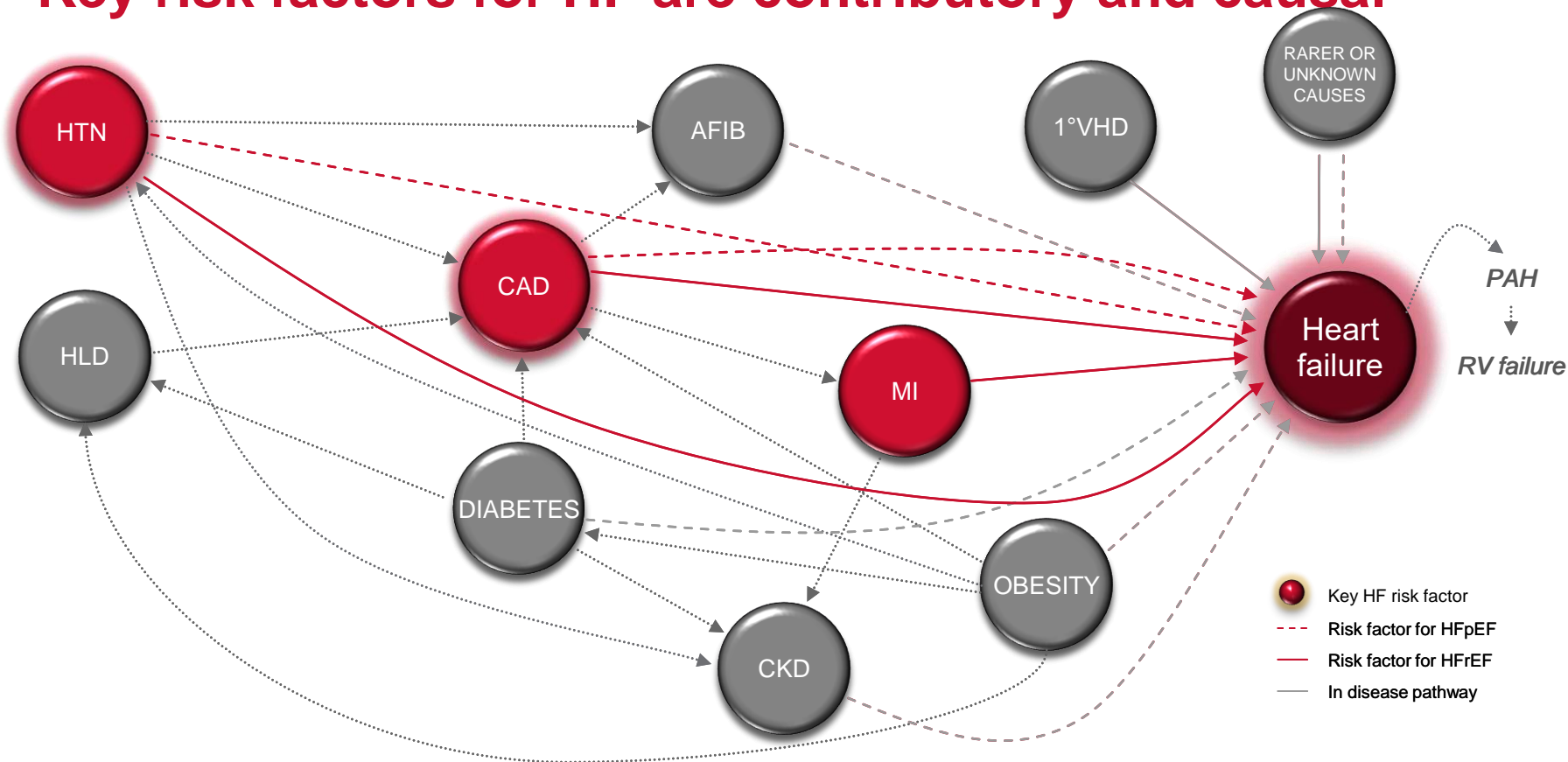
## Mortality

**22%**  
At 1 year

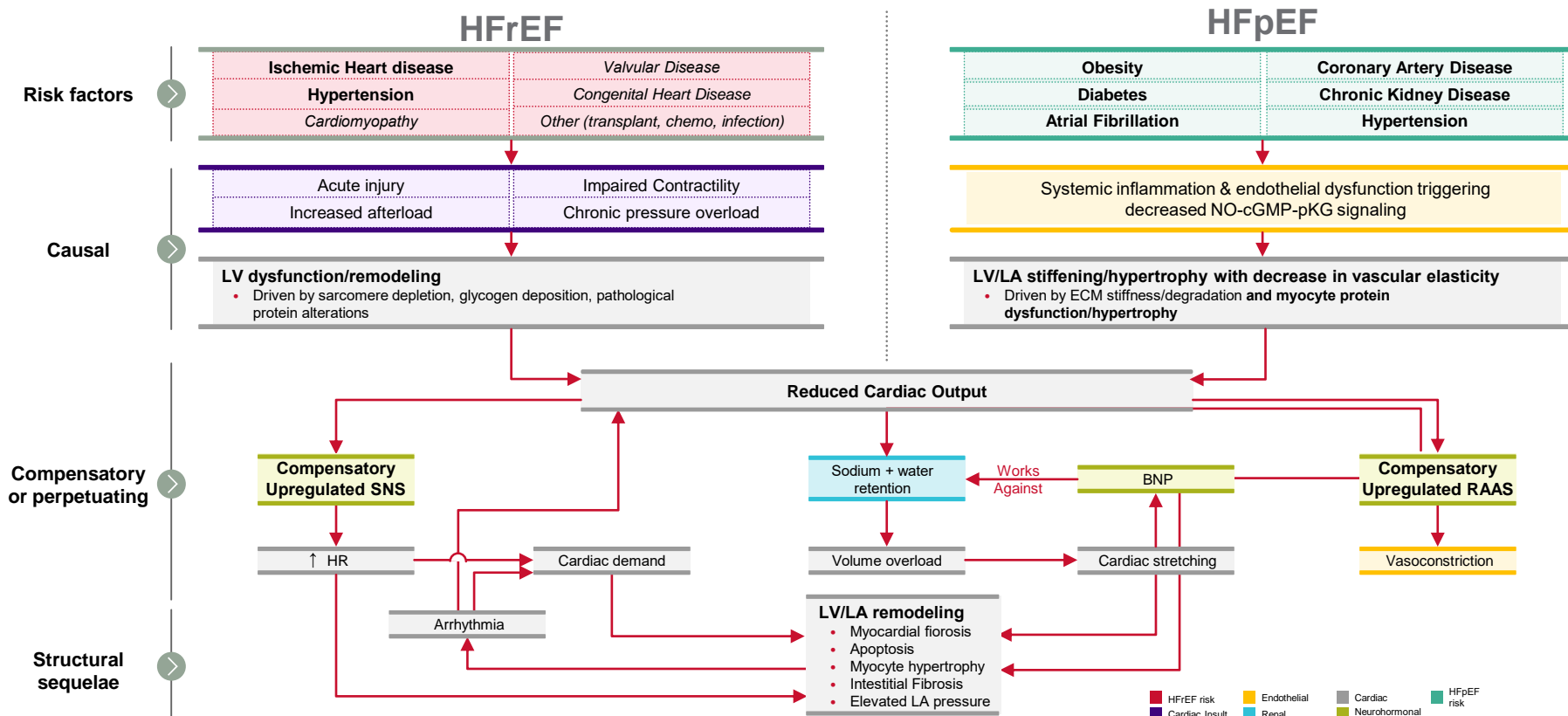
**42.3%**  
At 5 years

**\$31B direct cost to the US health system → estimated to double to \$70B by 2030**

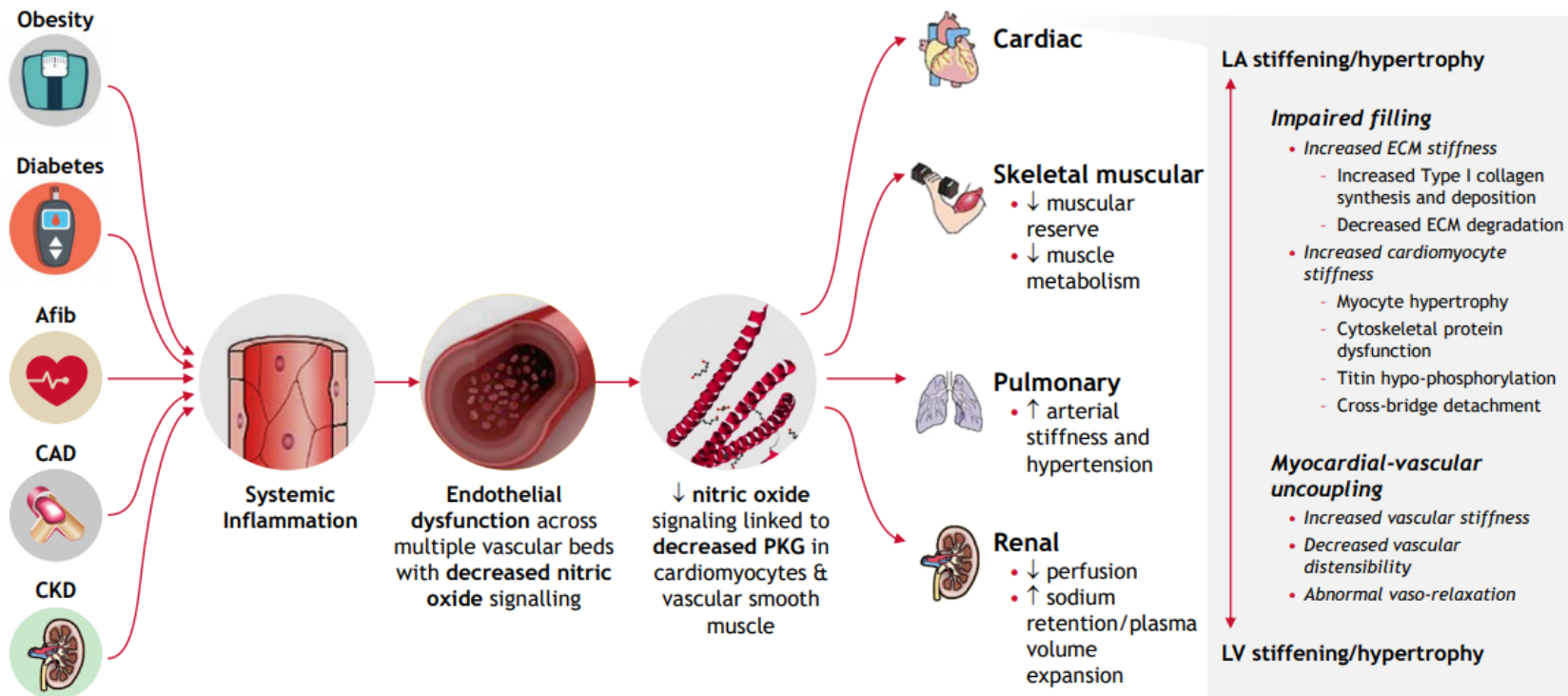
# Key risk factors for HF are contributory and causal



# Despite different drivers, compensatory/perpetuating mechanisms similar in HF



# Multiple co-morbidities create an inflammatory state that leads to endothelial dysfunction that drives HFpEF





# HEART FAILURE (HF): PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

THE INABILITY OF THE HEART  
TO PROVIDE SUFFICIENT OUTPUT TO  
MEET THE DEMANDS OF THE BODY

A VARIETY OF DISORDERS  
CAN LEAD TO LOW OUTPUT  
OR HIGH OUTPUT FAILURE

PULMONARY AND  
SYSTEMIC VENOUS  
CONGESTION

INCREASED SYMPATHETIC  
NERVOUS SYSTEM ACTIVITY

ADH SECRETION  
FROM THE BRAIN

HEY... SHOW  
THE POOR HEART  
SOME SYMPATHY.

PUT A CORK IN IT.  
WE'RE RELEASING  
HORMONES.

INCREASED  
AFTERLOAD

NEURO-  
HORMONAL  
RESPONSES  
WORSEN HF

WE NEED  
BLOOD FLOW!  
TRY HARDER!

SODIUM  
AND WATER  
RETENTION

INCREASED  
PRELOAD

HELP...

WE'RE GETTING  
BACKED UP. DO  
YOUR JOB!

CARDIAC DILATION  
AND HYPERTROPHY



# Current paradigm for clinical diagnosis leaves significant room for improvement

## Framingham clinical criteria – key diagnostic

● — Two sets of criteria for HF diagnosis — ●

### Major criteria

Paroxysmal nocturnal dyspnea

Orthopnea

Elevated jugular venous pressure

Third heart sound

Cardiomegaly on chest x-ray

Pulmonary edema on chest x-ray

Weight loss  $\geq 4.5$ kg in 5 days in response to diuretics

### Minor criteria

*Bilateral leg edema*

*Nocturnal cough*

*Dyspnea on ordinary exertion*

*Hepatomegaly*

*Pleural effusion*

*Tachycardia ( $\geq 120$  beats/min)*

*Weight loss  $\geq 4.5$ kg in five days*



Diagnosis of HF requires **two major** or **one major and two minor** criteria cannot be attributed to another condition

## Clinical tests can support a HF diagnosis

### Natriuretic peptide biomarkers

**BNP (B-type natriuretic peptide) & NT-proBNP (N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide)**

- Assist in the diagnosis or exclusion of HF as a cause of symptoms (Class I recommendation)
- Elevated levels also associated with other cardiac (i.e. VHD, afib, myocarditis, ACS) & non-cardiac causes (i.e. CKD, aging, anemia, OSA)
- Gives some impression of severity although limited tie to changes in management



Supportive

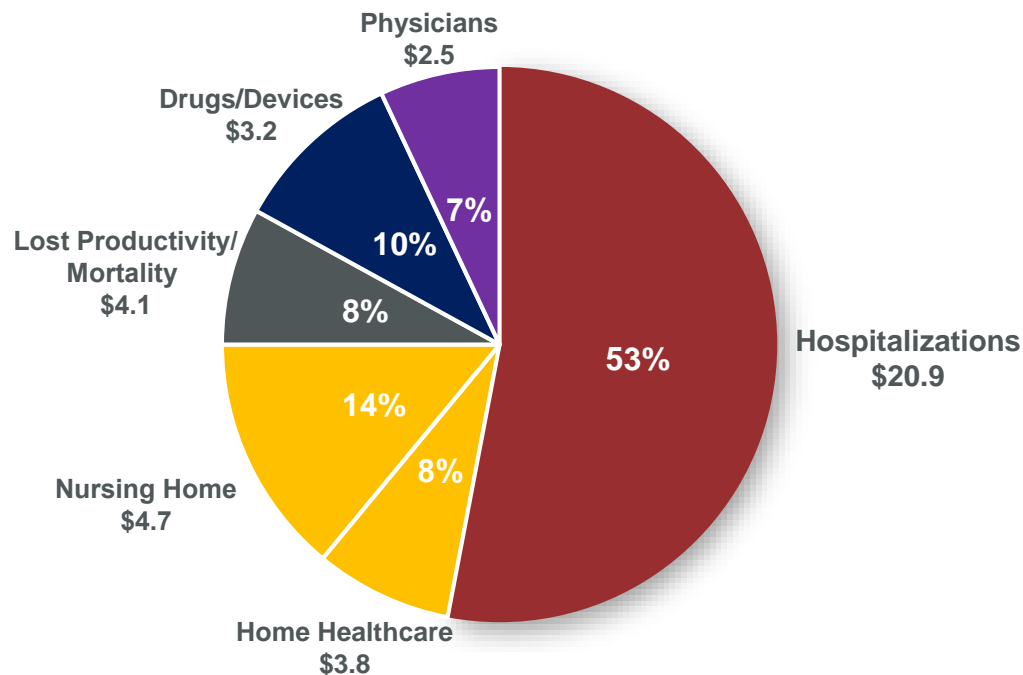


Supportive

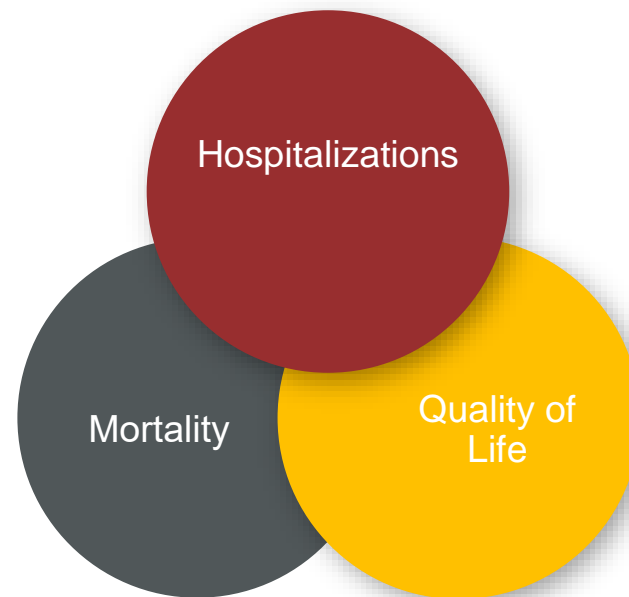
Echocardiogram is not diagnostic

# Hospitalizations account for over half of the costs in Stage C/D HF and reducing them is a key priority

Heart Failure burden

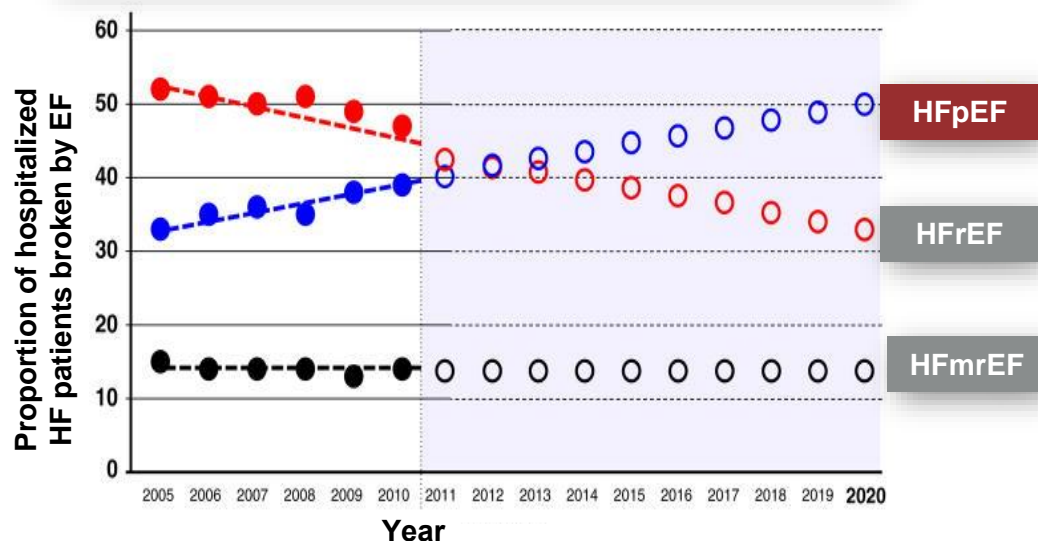


Goals of Heart Failure Therapy



# HFpEF hospitalization rate rising relative to HFrEF due to an ageing population, lesser misdiagnosis and lack of therapies

Data from a large nationwide HF hospitalization study (n>110,000)



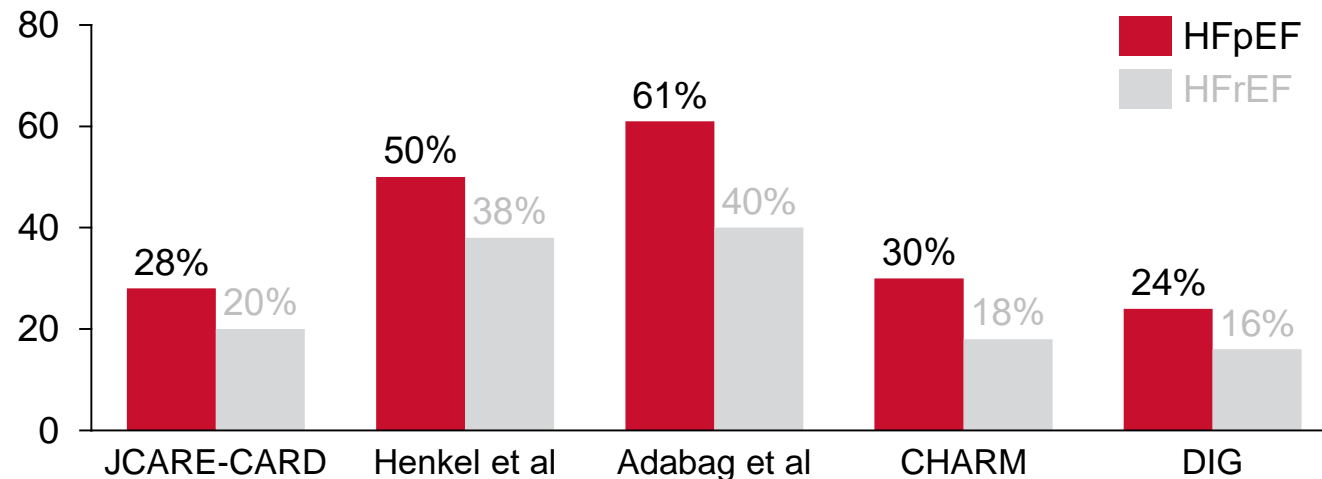
**HFpEF hospitalization rates are on the rise compared to HFrEF**

- Some hypothesis include:
  - Higher prevalence of HFpEF in an increasingly aging population with co-morbidities e.g., diabetes, HTN
  - Lesser rates of HFpEF misdiagnosis
  - Lower availability of drug treatments in HFpEF

# High co-morbidities in HFpEF postulated to cause a higher % of non-cardiac deaths vs. HFrEF

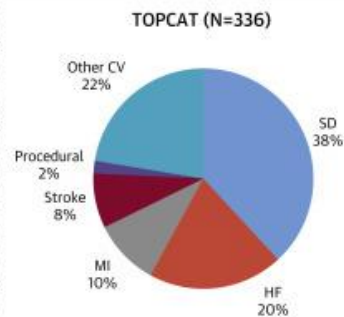
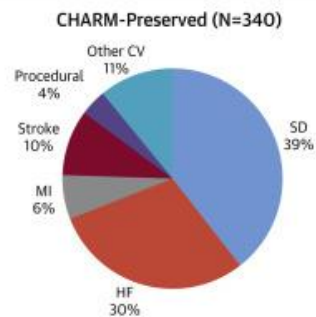
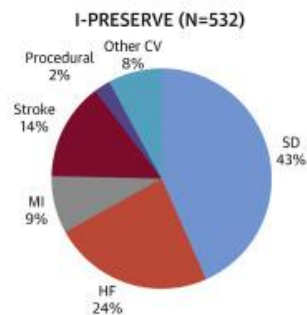
## Non-cardiac deaths

% of patients

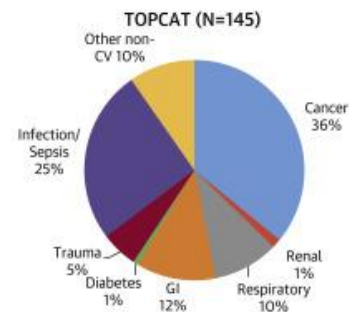
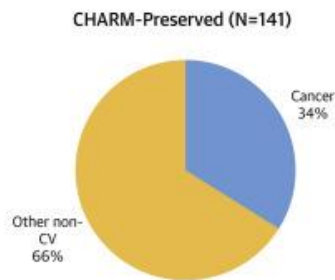
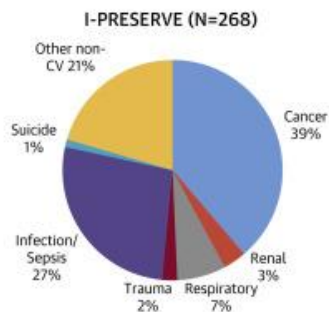


# Cause-specific mortality in RCTs of HFpEF

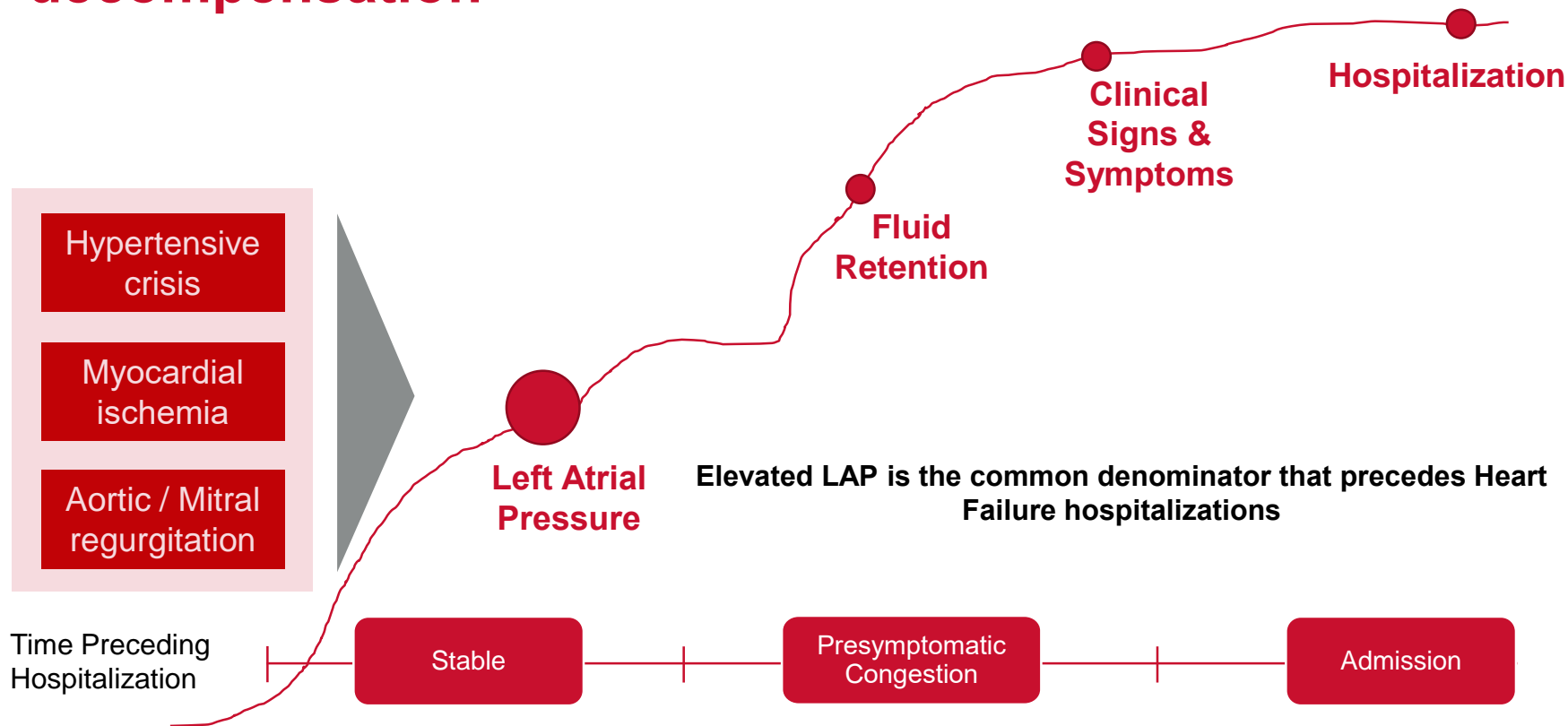
## Cardiovascular Deaths



## Non-Cardiovascular Deaths



# Left Atrial Pressure is an early predictor of clinical decompensation

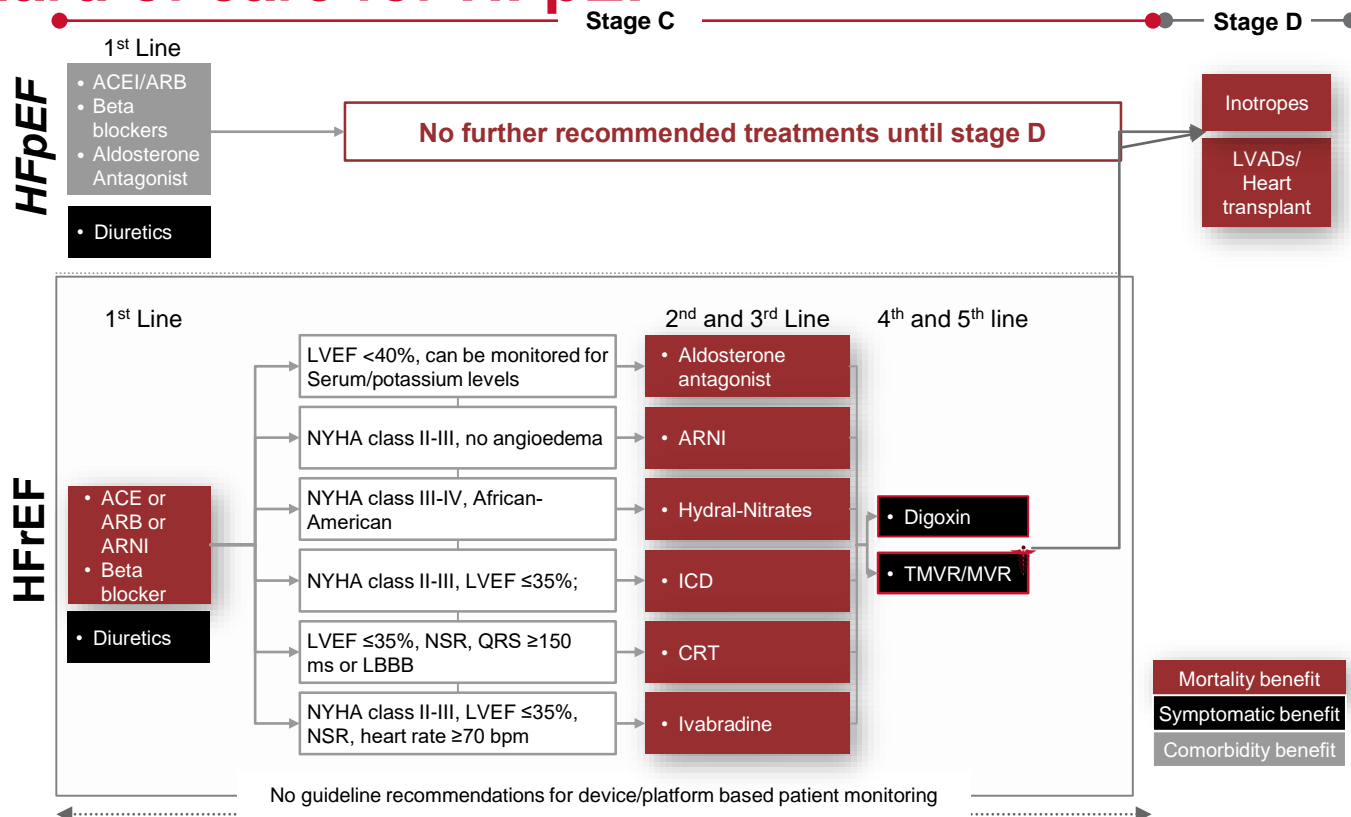


# Multitude of treatment options exist for HFrEF with a lack of standard of care for HFpEF

Guideline directed medical therapy (GDMT) defined by heart failure subtype

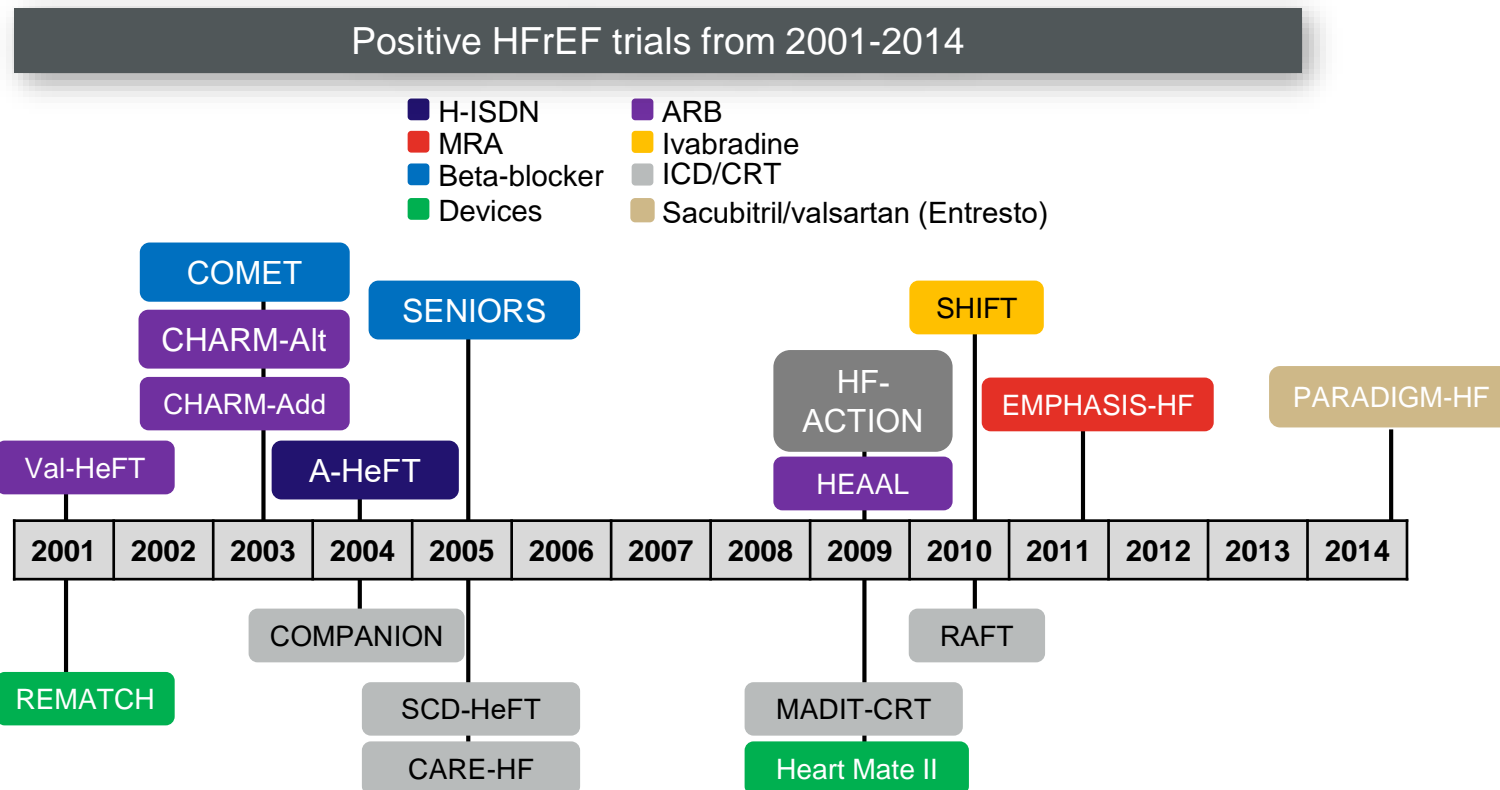
**GDMT in HFpEF:**  
diuretics

**GDMT in HFrEF:**  
ACE/ARB/ANRI, beta blocker, and diuretics

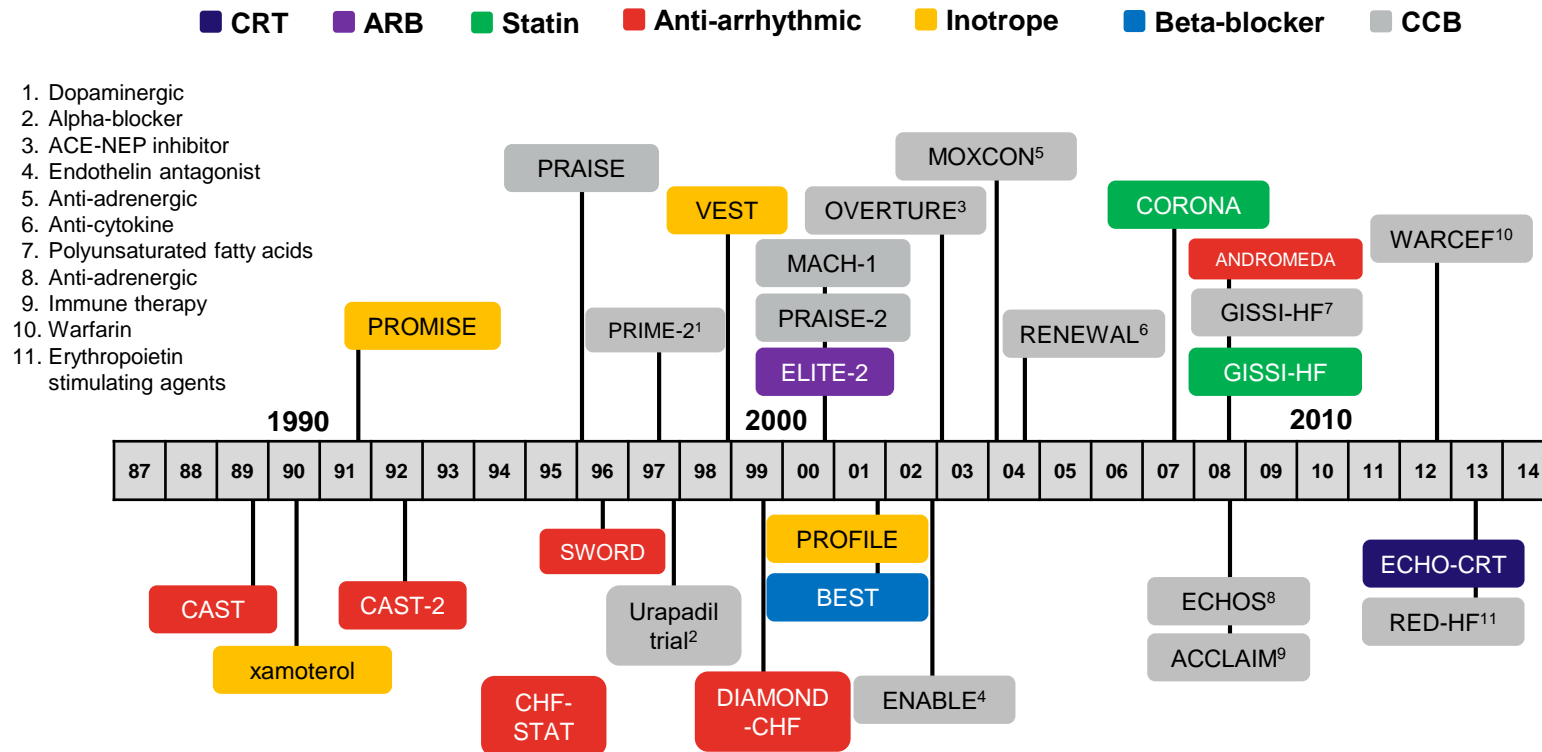




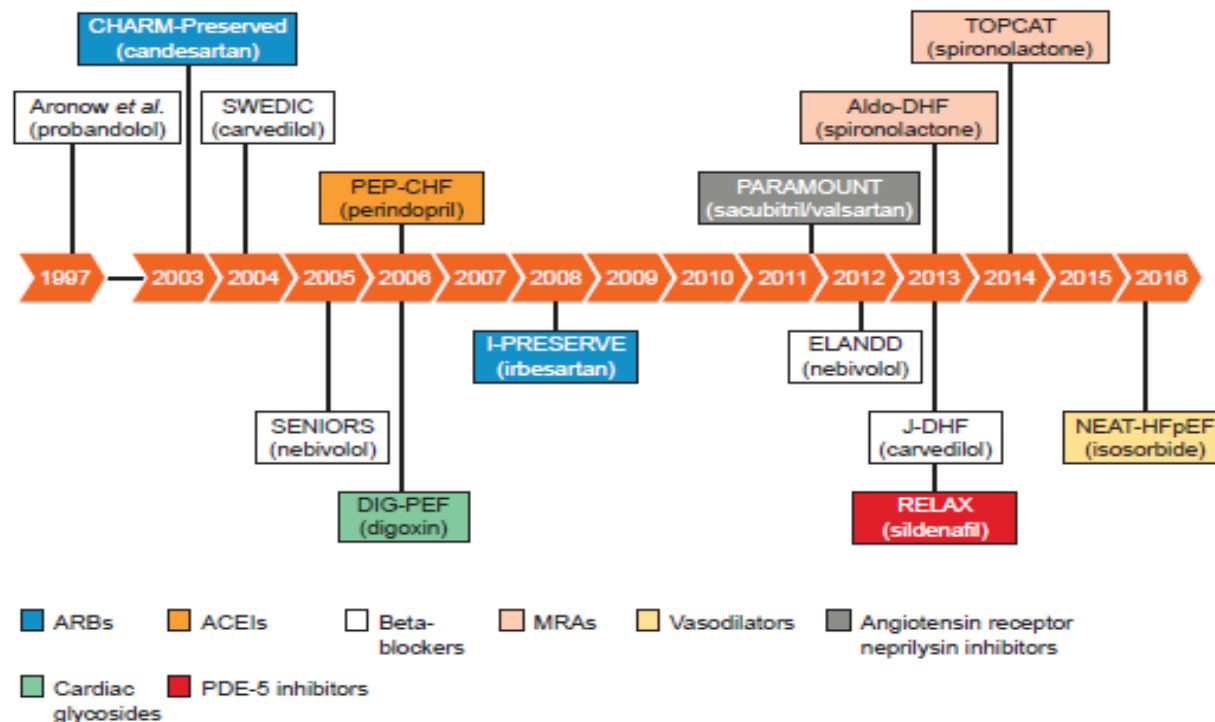
# Progress made in HFrEF over the years has led to a decrease in morbidity and mortality



# However, HFrEF trials also saw a number of early disappointments: 1987 - 2013



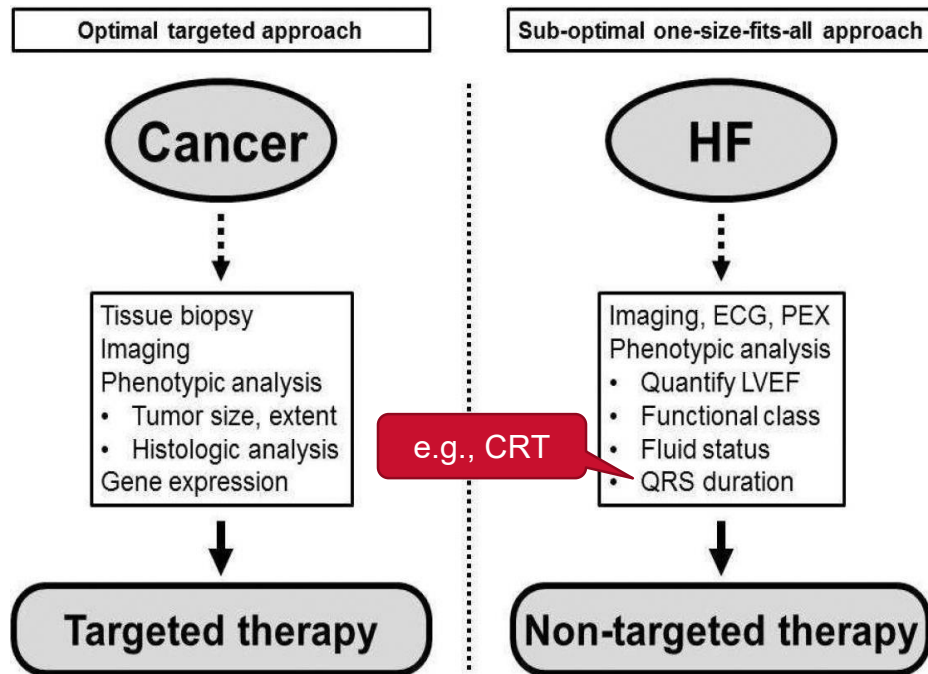
# In comparison, HFpEF has been studied in fewer trials, with limited success



# HFpEF's diverse etiology is similar to cancer and may require a more targeted patient classification and therapy

## Challenges of treating HFpEF

- Diverse etiology and pathophysiology compared to HFrEF
- Heterogeneity of HFpEF even in a **single patient** may explain failure of clinical trials
- **Improved / nuanced classification** should lead to more targeted approaches and better outcomes



# Clinicians have proposed multiple HFpEF segmentations to better understand patient population

1

Clinical  
classification

2

Clinical  
phenotype

3

Latent-class  
analysis

4

Pheno-  
mapping

5

Presentation  
phenotype



**Common themes amongst these classifications may help identify unmet needs and therapeutic opportunities**

# So what does all this mean from a clinical trial standpoint?

1

Clinical  
classification I

"Garden-variety"

CAD-HFpEF

RHF-HFpEF

Afib-HFpEF

HCM-like HFpEF

High output

Valvular HFpEF

Rare HFpEF

2

Clinical  
phenotype

Ageing  
phenotype

Obesity  
phenotype

PH phenotype

CAD  
phenotype

3

Latent-class  
analysis

Young males +  
CAD

Young females  
+ low BNP

Obesity + DM +  
CKD + anemia

Obese females

Older males +  
CAD

Old females +  
low BMI + Afib

4

Pheno-  
mapping

BNP deficiency  
syndrome

Obesity-  
cardiometabolic  
phenotype

RV failure +  
cardiorenal  
phenotype

5

Presentation  
phenotype

Exercise-  
induced diastole  
dysfunction

Volume  
overload

PH + RV failure

## Negative trials in HFpEF showcase the importance of matching patient segments with interventions and endpoints

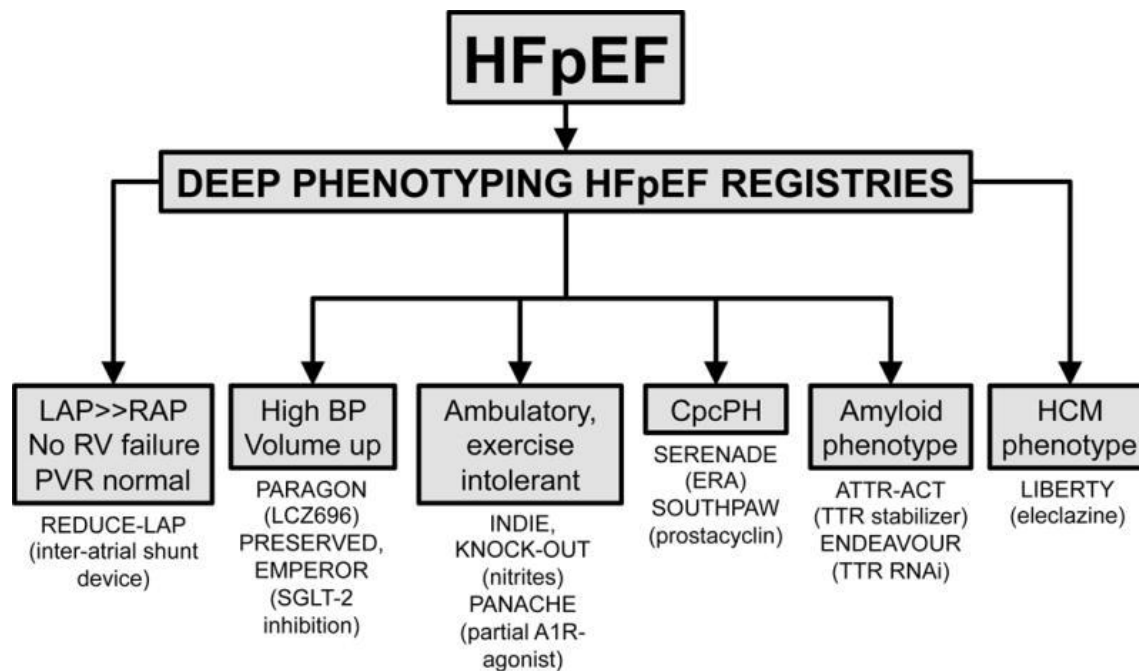
Trial	Intervention	HFpEF patient type	Primary endpoint	Trial result	Commentary
ALDO-DHF	Spironolactone	Exercise-induced DD	Peak VO2	Negative	Did not match Spironolactone to “volume overload” patients (prior trials showed no change in exercise capacity)
ELANDD	Nerbivolol	Exercise-induced DD	6MWT	Negative	Given vasodilation effects, maybe best suited for “volume overload” patients
J-DHF	Carvedilol (low-dose)	Exercise-induced DD	Death or HFH	Negative	
RAAM-PEF	Eplerenone	Volume overload	6MWT	Negative	Right drug, right patient, wrong end-point?
RELAX	Sildenafil	Volume overload	Peak VO2	Negative	PDE5i has history of treating PAH; maybe better suited for RVD / PH patients



## Successful trials in HFpEF showcase the importance of matching patient segments with interventions and endpoints

Trial	Intervention	HFpEF patient type	Primary endpoint	Trial result	Commentary
Komsala et al.	Ivabradine	Exercise-induced DD	Peak VO2	Positive	Ivabradine's lusitropic effects best suited for improving exercise capacity
CHAMPION	CardioMEMS	Volume overload	HFH	Positive	Monitoring best suited to affect congestion
Guazzi et al.	Sildenafil	RHF / PH	Pulmonary Hemodynamics	Positive	PDE5 previously shown to be beneficial for PAH
Kitzman et al	Exercise testing	Exercise-induced DD	Peak VO2	Positive	Focus on exercise in patient selection / endpoint
PARAMOUNT	ARNI	Volume overload	NT-proBNP	Positive	High BNP cutoff recruitment

# “Precision medicine” used in HFpEF registries: patients are deep-phenotyped and allocated to appropriate trials



60  
Years of  
Discovery



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