

# Acute Renal Injury in ITU

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- ❖ Why worry?
- ❖ Definition
- ❖ Anatomy and physiology
- ❖ Markers of injury
- ❖ Pathophysiology
- ❖ Consequences of AKI
- ❖ Prevention
- ❖ Special Circumstances

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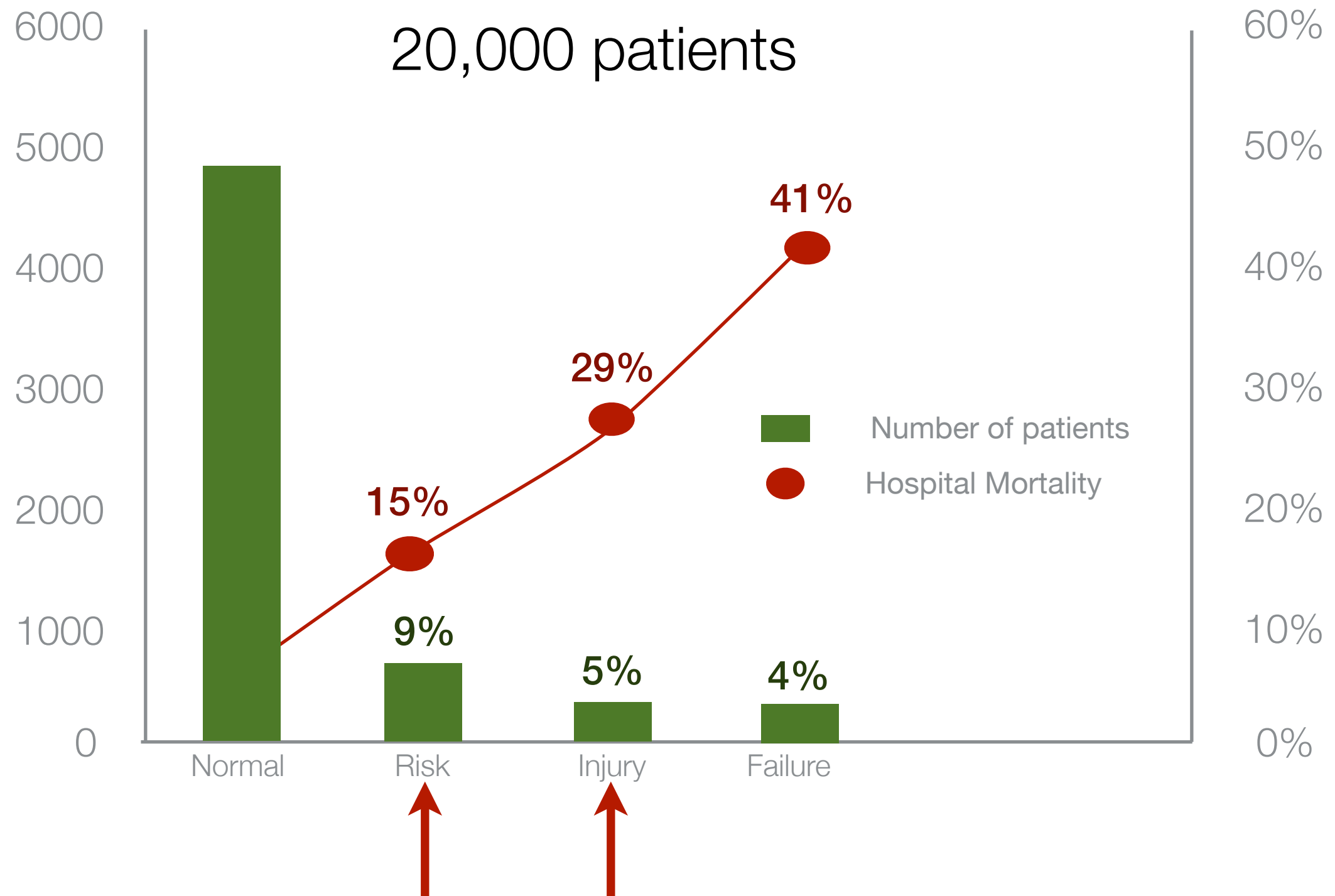
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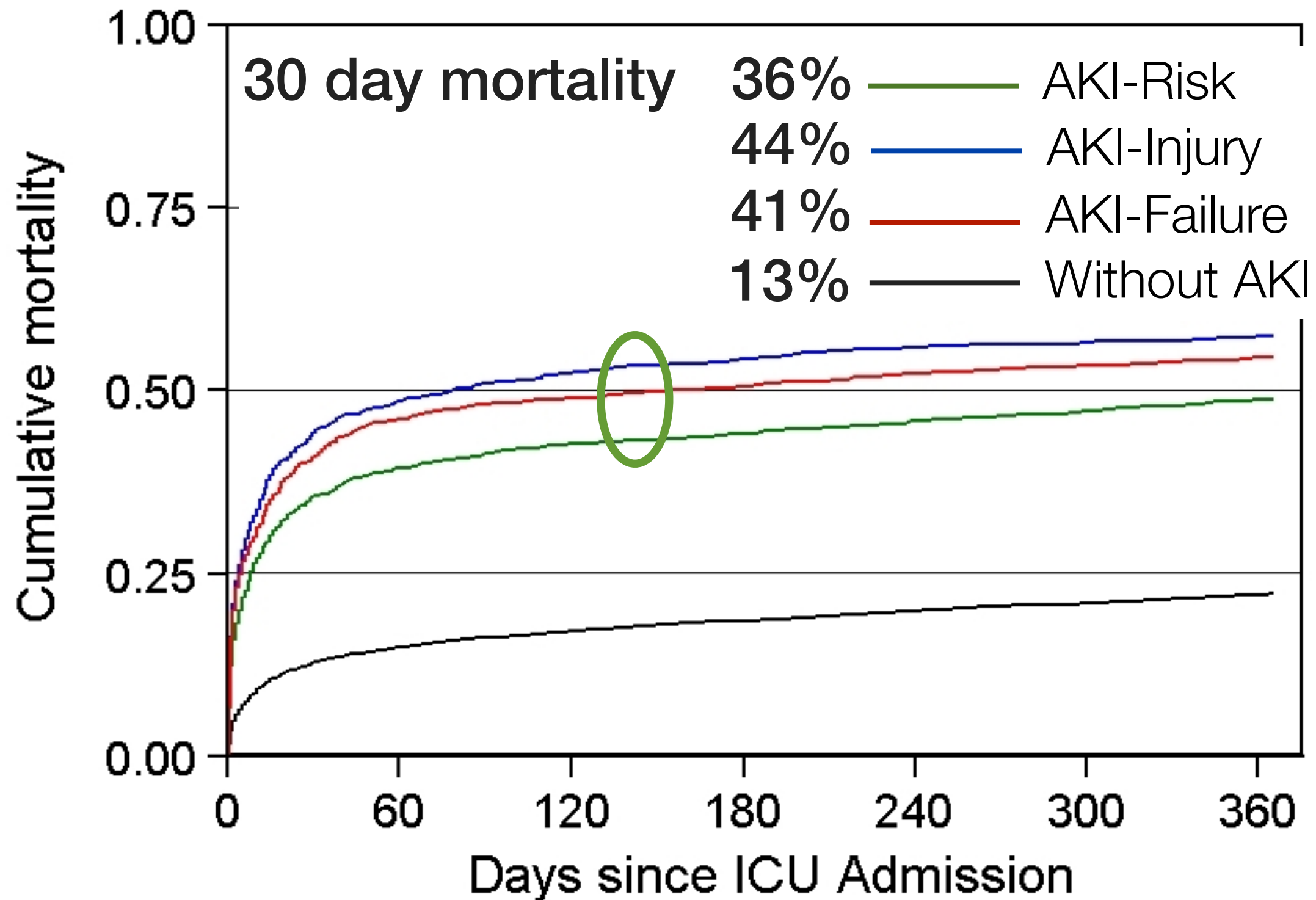
**AKI = 5.5 X hospital  
mortality!**



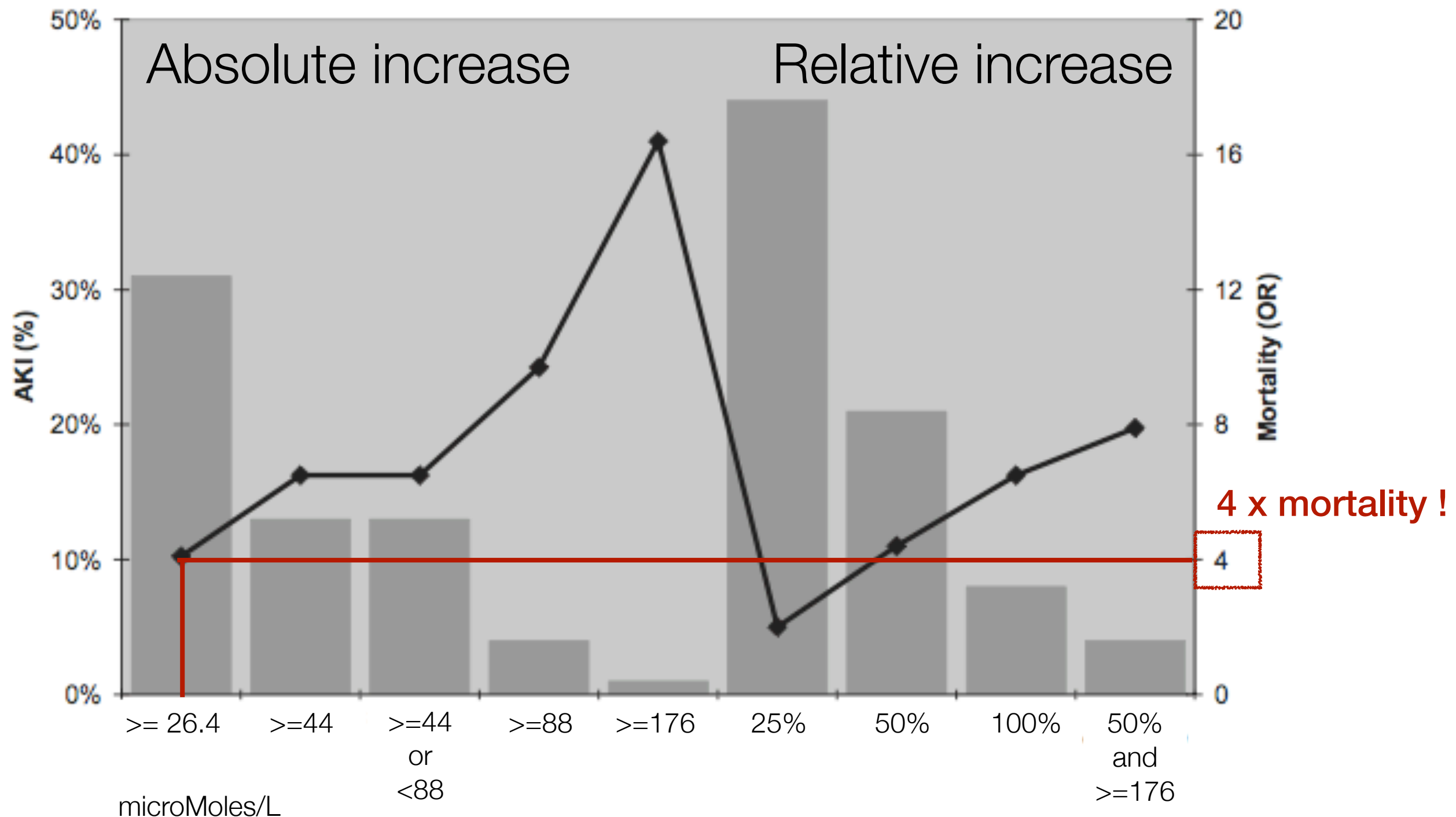
# Epidemiology of AKI



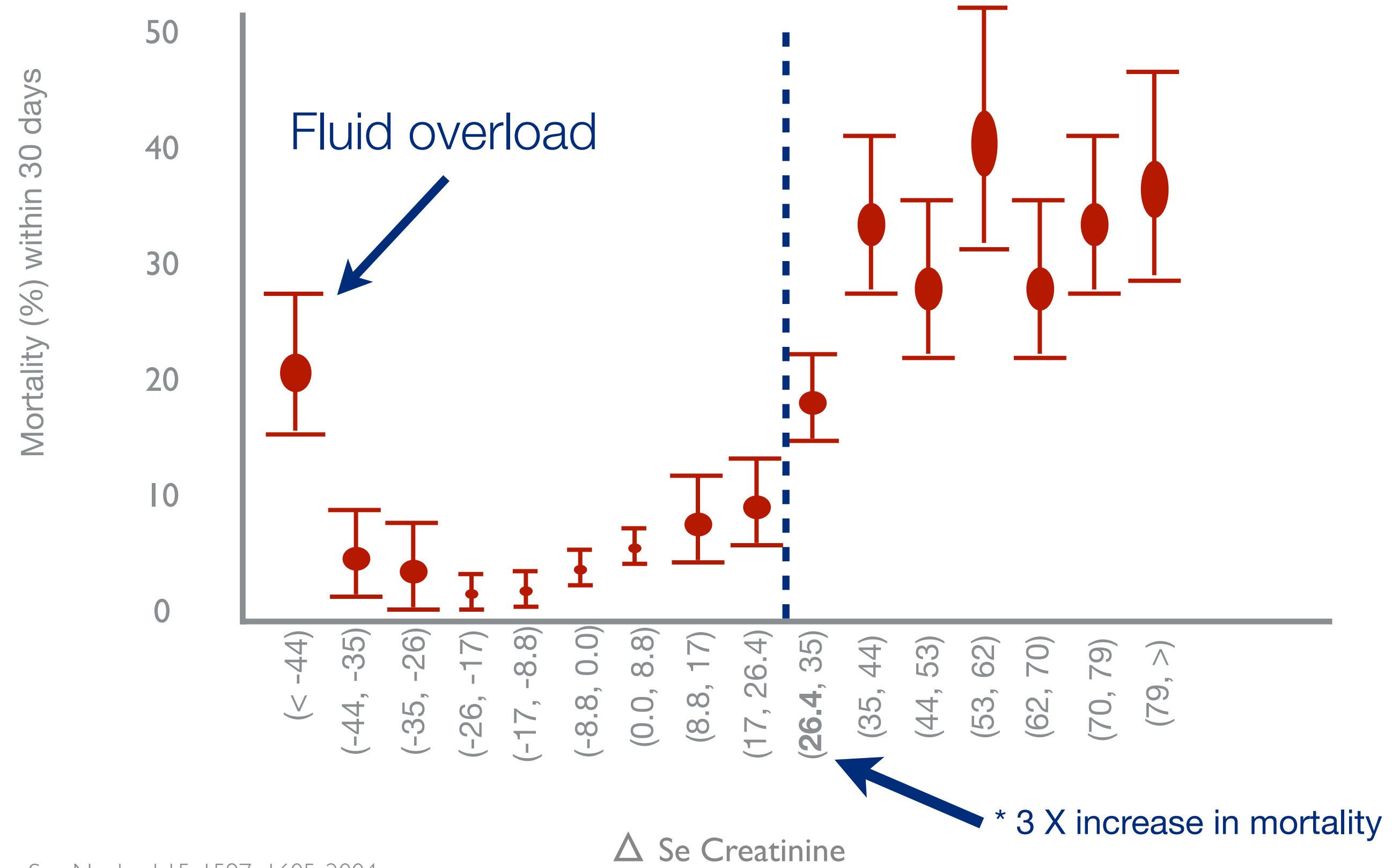
# Prognosis of Acute Kidney Injury



# Prognosis of Acute Kidney Injury

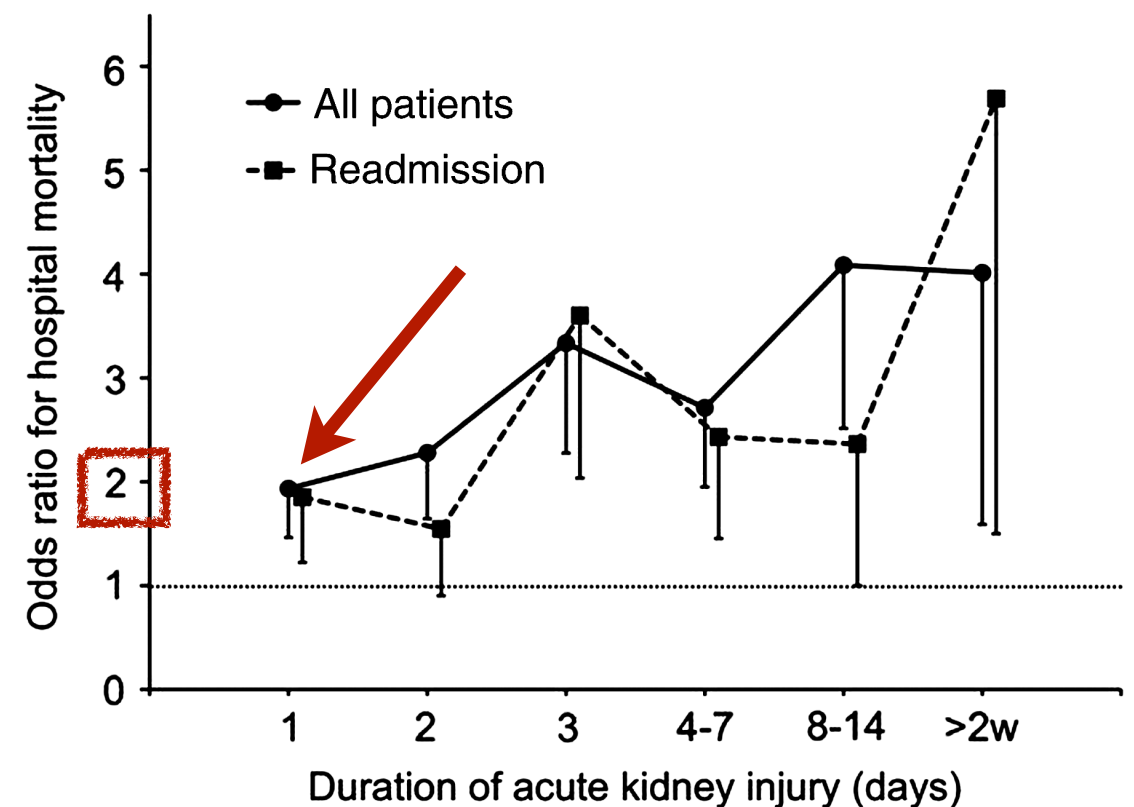
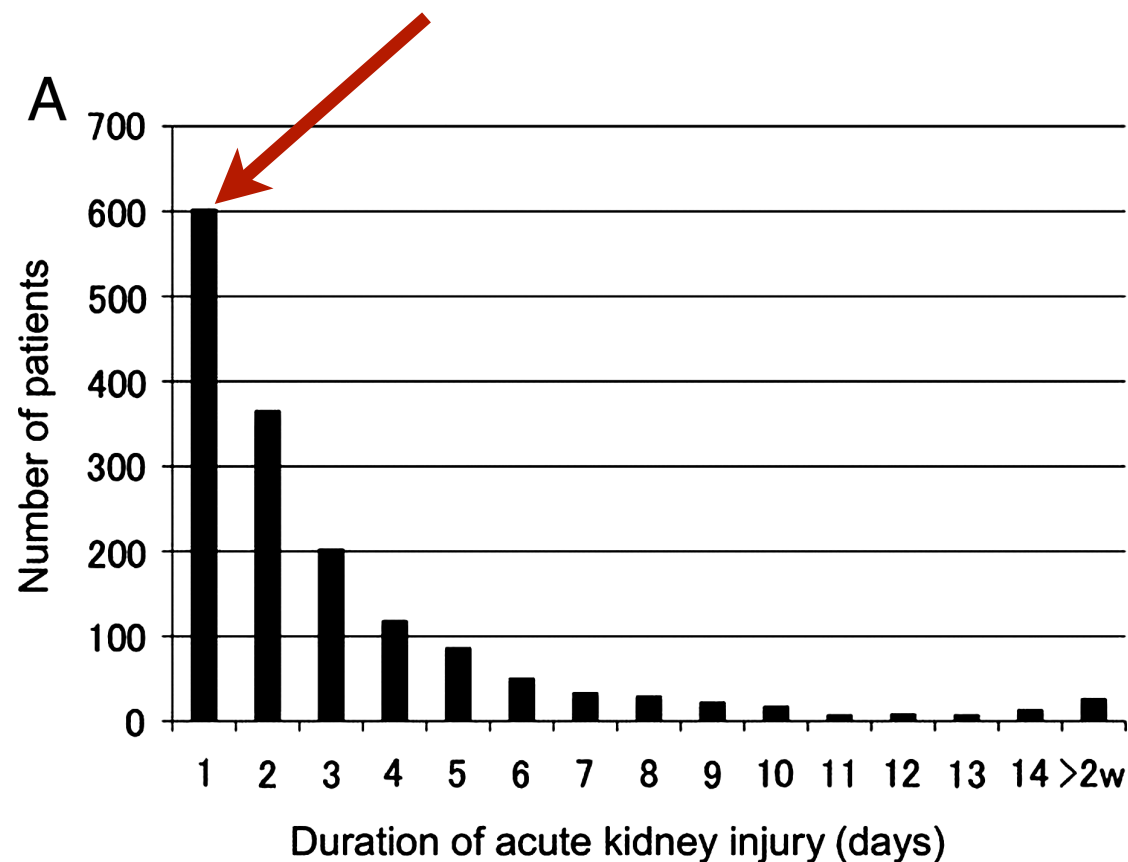


# Minimal Changes of Serum Creatinine Predict Prognosis



# Even **transient** AKI associated with increased hospital mortality

- ❖ **Transient** AKI is common in hospital patients occurring in **~6%** of admissions and accounting for almost a **third** of all cases of in-hospital AKI.
- ❖ Transient AKI had significantly higher hospital **mortality** compared to patients with no AKI
- ❖ Even 1 day of AKI had a significantly increased odds ratio for hospital mortality.



# Epidemiology of Acute Kidney Injury

- ❖ AKI covers a spectrum
  - ❖ from subclinical to organ failure
- ❖ AKI in **36% - 67%** of ITU patients
- ❖ AKI needs Renal Replacement Therapy (RRT) in ~ **6%**
- ❖ Mortality increases with increasing severity
  - ❖ If **RRT** - mortality 60% - **70%**
  - ❖ AKI increases risk of death despite adjusting for co-morbidities and severity of illness

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# Acute Renal **Failure**

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Harrison's Textbook of Medicine - 1991

“Acute Renal Failure

defined as a rapid deterioration in renal **function** sufficient to result in accumulation of nitrogenous wastes.....in intensive care units, it occurs in up to 20%.....mortality rates range from 20 to 90%.”



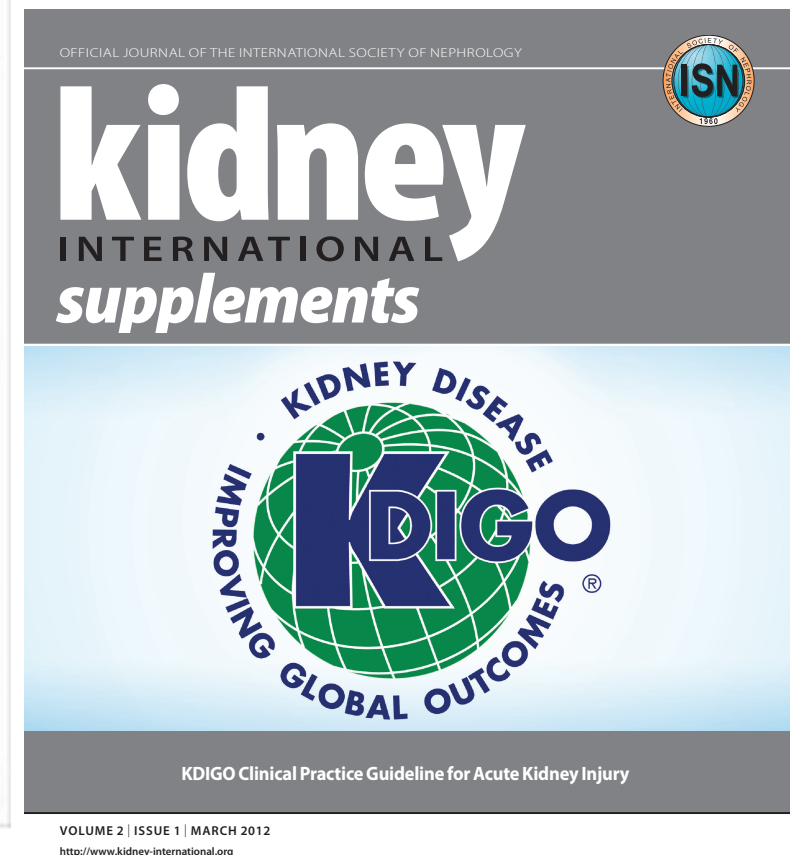
# Definition of Acute Kidney **Injury**

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- ❖ Previously 35 definitions in the literature
- ❖ **RIFLE** - Acute Dialysis Quality Initiative definition
  - ❖ simple, depends on **creatinine** and **urine output**
  - ❖ **spectrum** of injury
- ❖ **AKIN** - Acute Kidney Injury Network further modified RIFLE
  - ❖ stresses importance of **small, abrupt** increase in creatinine
- ❖ **KDIGO** - Kidney Disease: Improving Global Outcomes
  - ❖ **final**, single definition

# RIFLE - Proposed staging for AKI

|         | GFR criteria   | Urine output criteria                             |                         |
|---------|--|---|-------------------------|
| Risk    | Increased SCr x 1.5 or<br>GFR decreased >25%                       | UO < 0.5 ml/kg/hr<br>x 6 hr                       | 3 Grades<br>of severity |
| Injury  | Increased SCr x 2 or<br>GFR decreased >50%                         | UO < 0.5 ml/kg/hr<br>x 12 hr                      |                         |
| Failure | Increased SCr x 3 or<br>GFR decreased >75%<br>or Scr >= 352 µMol/l | UO < 0.3 ml/kg/hr<br>x 24 hr or<br>anuria x 2 hrs |                         |
| Loss    | Persistent ARF = complete loss<br>of kidney function > 4 weeks     |   | 2 Outcome               |
| ESKD    | End stage kidney disease<br>(>3 months)                            |   |                         |



“**K**idney **D**isease, **I**mproving **G**lobal **O**utcomes”

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

# KDIGO- Proposed staging for AKI

| Stage | Se Creatinine   | Urine output  |
|-------|---|---|
| 1     | 1.5 - 1.9 times baseline (in 7 days)<br>or<br>≥ 26.5 μmol/L increase (in 48 hrs)                      | < 0.5 mL/kg/h<br>for 6 - 12 hours                   |
| 2     | 2.0 - 2.9 times baseline  | < 0.5 mL/kg/h<br>for 12 hours                       |
| 3     | 3.0 times baseline<br>or<br>increase in se Creatinine to<br>≥ 353.6 μmol/L<br>or<br>initiation of RRT | < 0.3 mL/kg/hr for 24 hrs<br>or Anuria for ≥ 12 hrs |

**Creatinine - Urine output - Time**

# Diagnosis of AKI - Beware variations

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**Fluid balance and urine volume are independent predictors of mortality in acute kidney injury**

*Critical Care* 2013, 17:R14

**Comparison of RIFLE with and without urine output criteria for acute kidney injury in critically ill patients**

*Critical Care* 2013, 17:408

“RIFLE using Creatinine only significantly **underestimated** the presence and severity of AKI and significantly **delayed** AKI diagnosis.”

“The authors also found that RIFLESCr was associated with higher **mortality** than RIFLESCr+UO.”

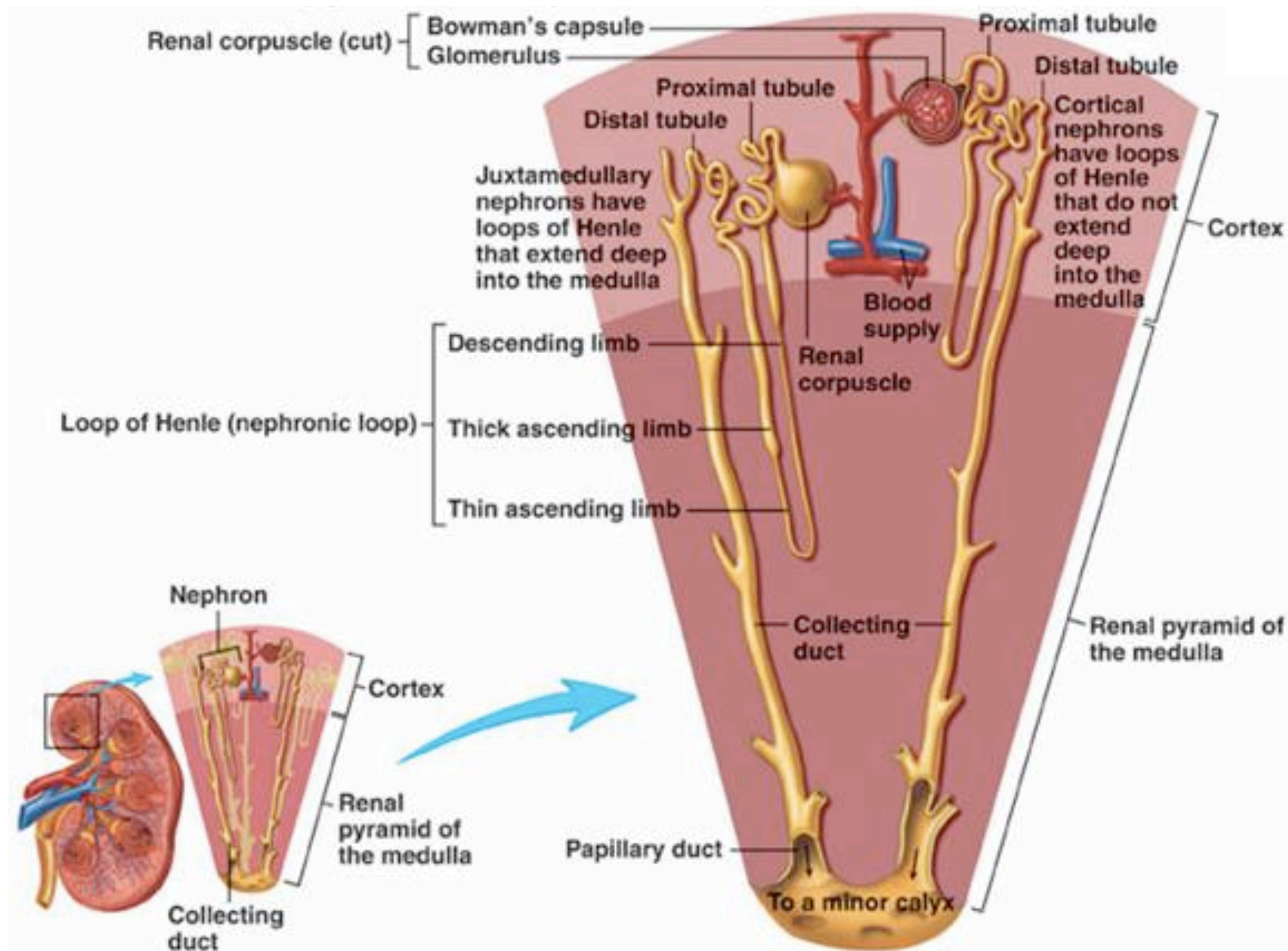
# Acute Renal Injury in ITU

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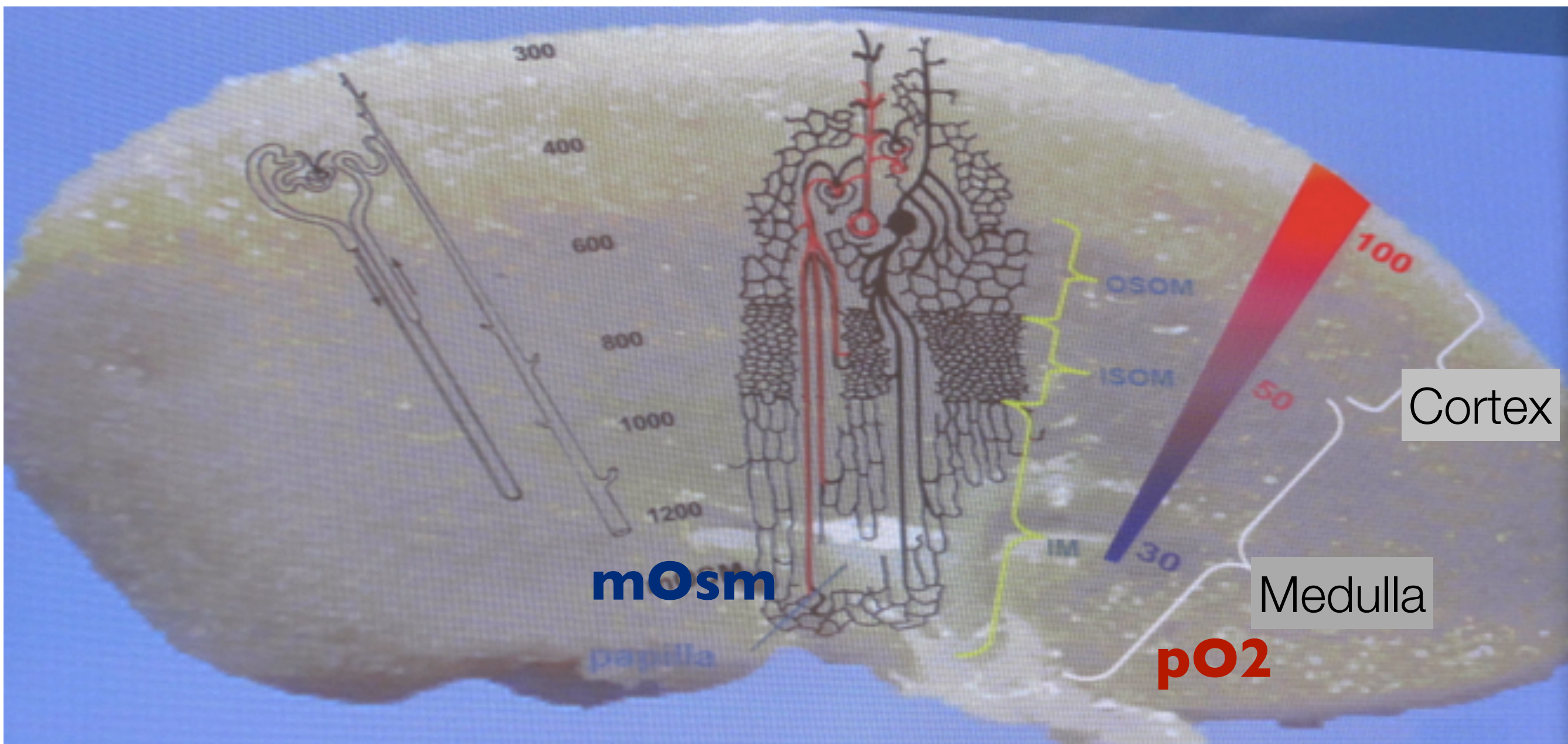
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# Anatomy of the nephron



# Physiology of the nephron

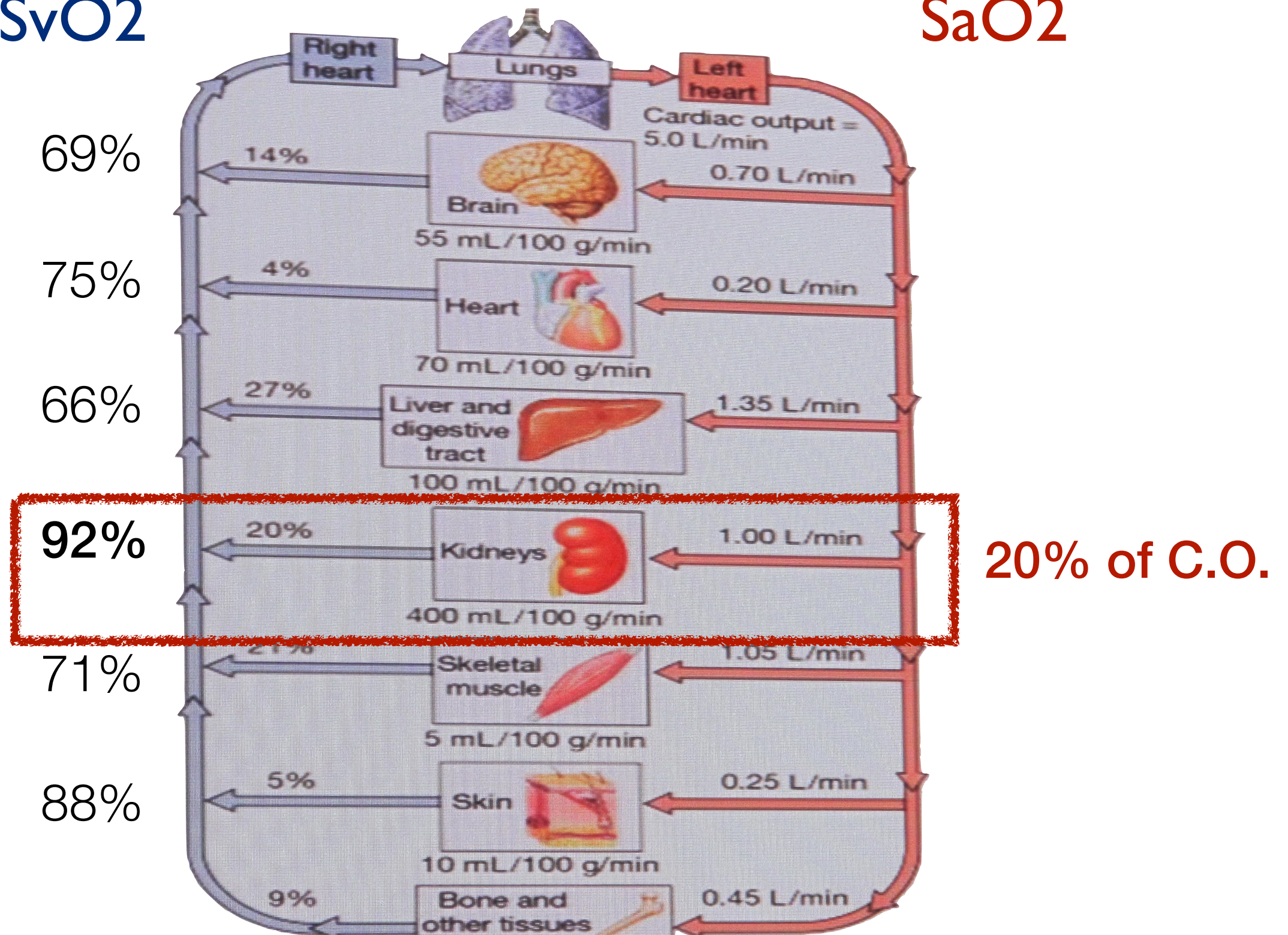




# Kidneys have a high blood flow but little O<sub>2</sub> uptake

SvO<sub>2</sub>

SaO<sub>2</sub>



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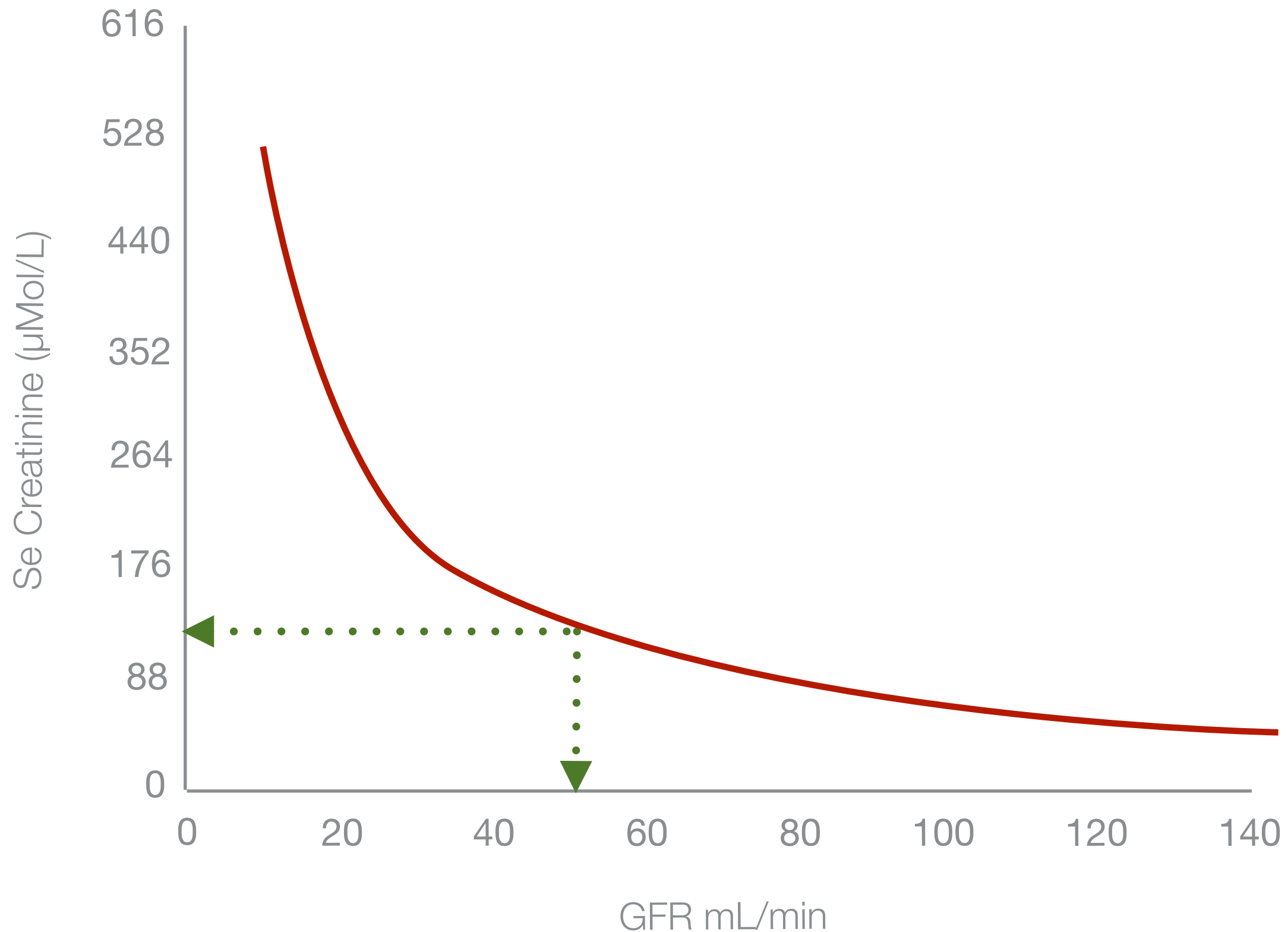
# Creatinine in Acute Kidney Injury

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Se. Creatinine key element in definition but:

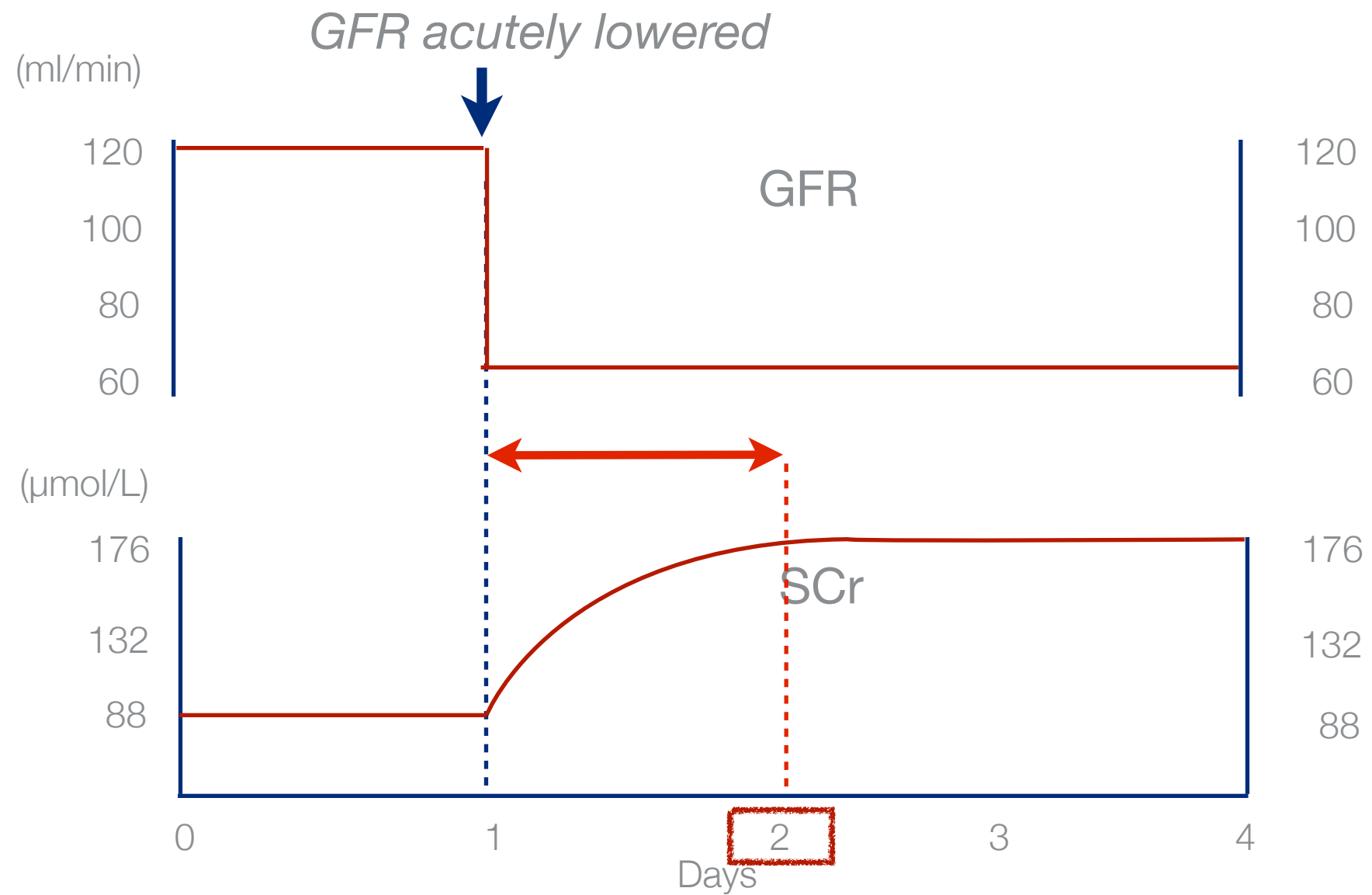
- ❖ Tests **function** not **injury**
- ❖ **Non linear** relationship
- ❖ Not steady state - **lag** behind decrease in GFR
- ❖ Depends on :
  - ❖ age
  - ❖ ethnicity
  - ❖ gender
  - ❖ muscle mass
  - ❖ volume of distribution
  - ❖ protein intake
  - ❖ medication

# Non linear relationship between Creatinine and GFR

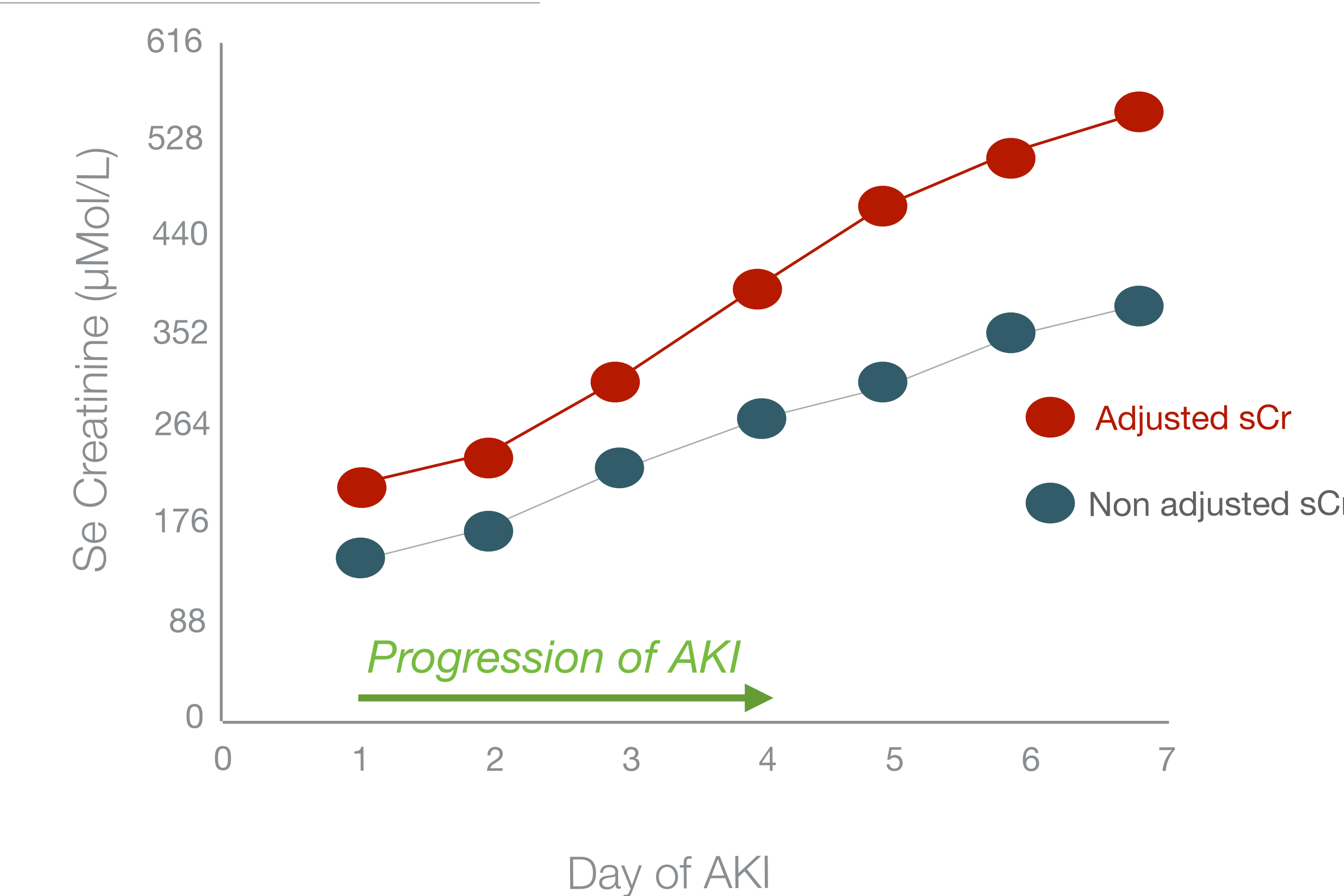




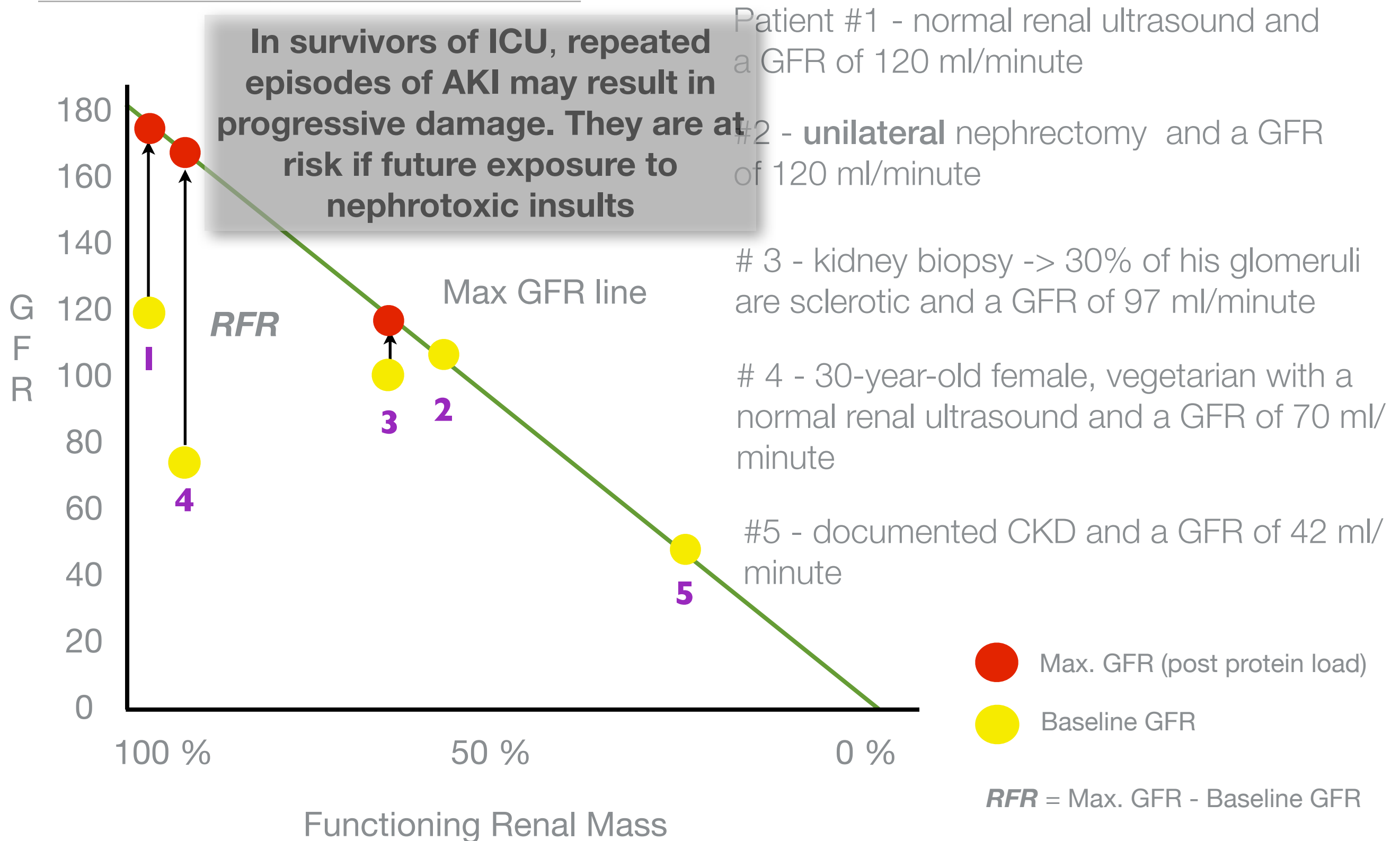
# Creatinine rise lags GFR drop!



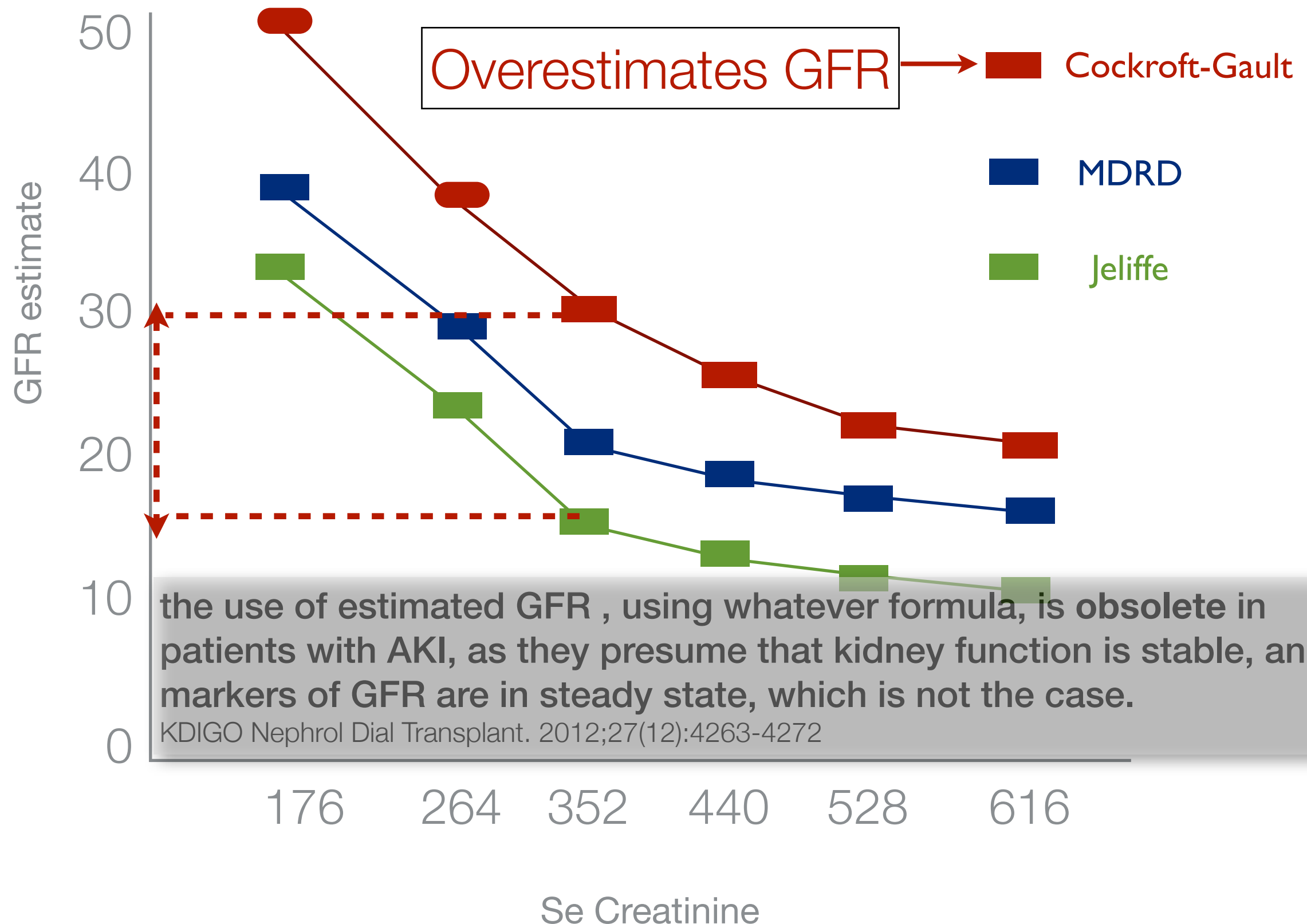
# Fluid accumulation underestimates severity of AKI in ITU patients



# Acute kidney injury and renal reserve



# Different techniques for **estimating** GFR in ITU patients with AKI





# Other Bio markers

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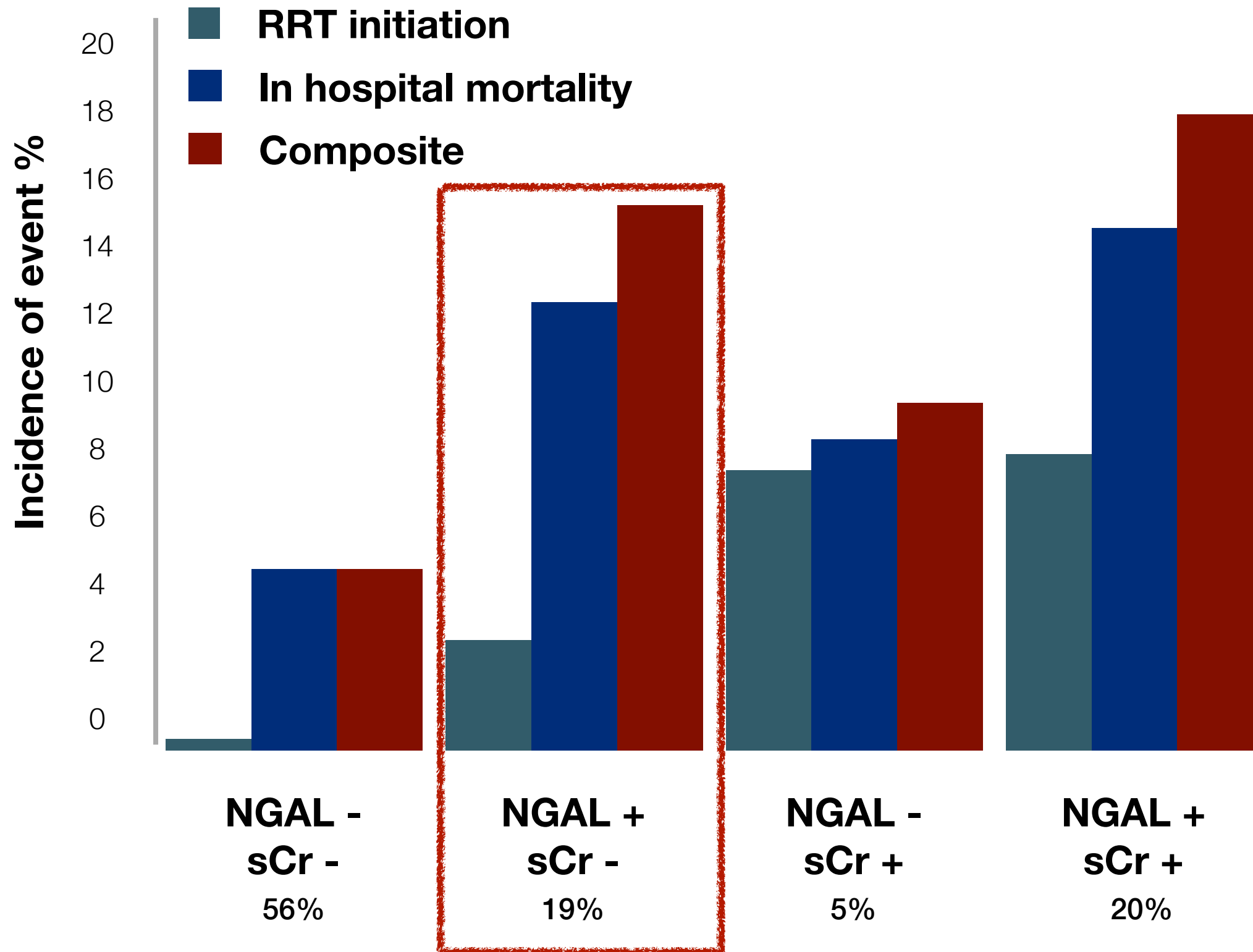
# Creatinine negative AKI

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- ❖ AKI implies **damage** but not necessarily **dysfunction**.
- ❖ The human kidney has an important reserve, dysfunction seen when **>50% of the renal mass is compromised**.
- ❖ Even slight changes in serum creatinine still represents a **functional** criterion for AKI, this is a **late** phenomenon
- ❖ An **early** diagnosis of AKI by using tubular **damage** biomarkers **preceding** filtration **function** loss even in the absence of subsequent dysfunction.
- ❖ Tubular damage **without** glomerular function loss leads to worse renal and overall outcomes
- ❖ This challenges the traditional view that a kidney problem is a loss of filtration function.
- ❖ A new domain of AKI diagnosis could then include **functional** criteria and **damage** criteria.

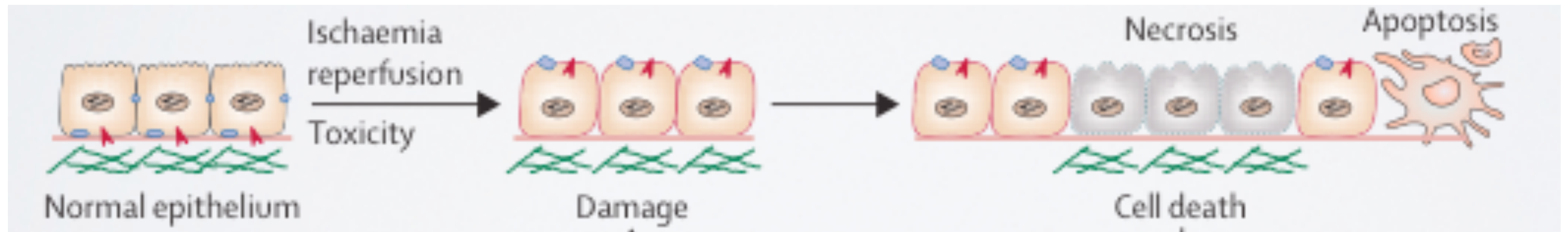
The kidney's answer to troponin

# Prognosis of creatinine negative AKI



# Acute kidney injury biomarkers

## Biomarkers



Potential urinary biomarkers  
for **early** diagnosis of AKI

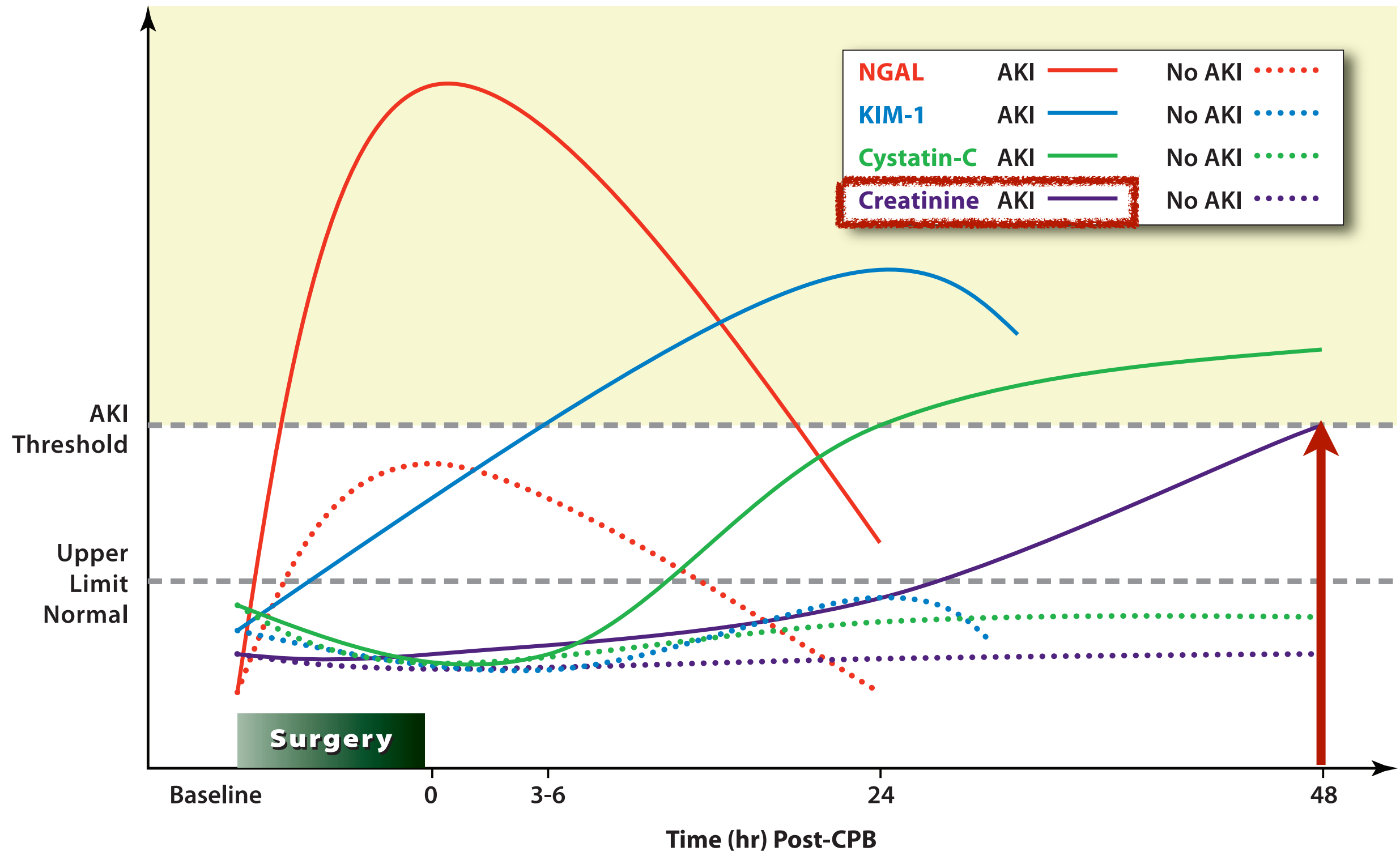
NGAL  
Cystatin C  
KIM-1  
Microalbumin  
NAG  
IL-18  
etc, etc

Decreased GFR

**Delayed** biomarkers  
for diagnosis of AKI

Increase S Creatinine  
Increase Urea

# Acute kidney injury biomarkers

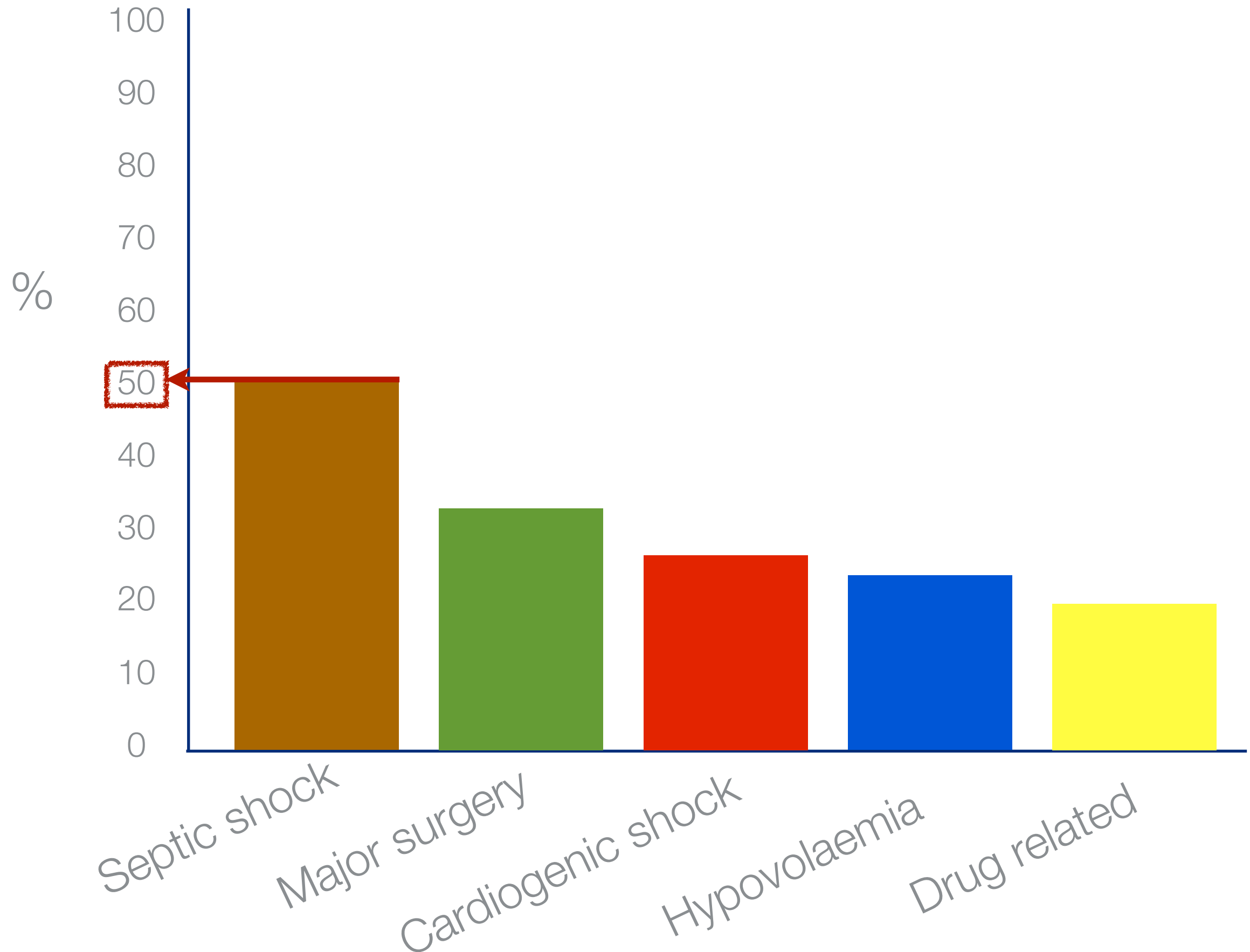


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# Aetiology of AKI in the ITU - “BEST KIDNEY Study”



# Other causes of ARI in the ICU

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- ❖ Hepatorenal syndrome
- ❖ Trauma
- ❖ Cardiopulmonary bypass
- ❖ Abdominal compartment syndrome
- ❖ Rhabdomyolysis/Hemolysis
- ❖ Obstruction
- ❖ Intrinsic renal disease



# Pathophysiology- Septic AKI

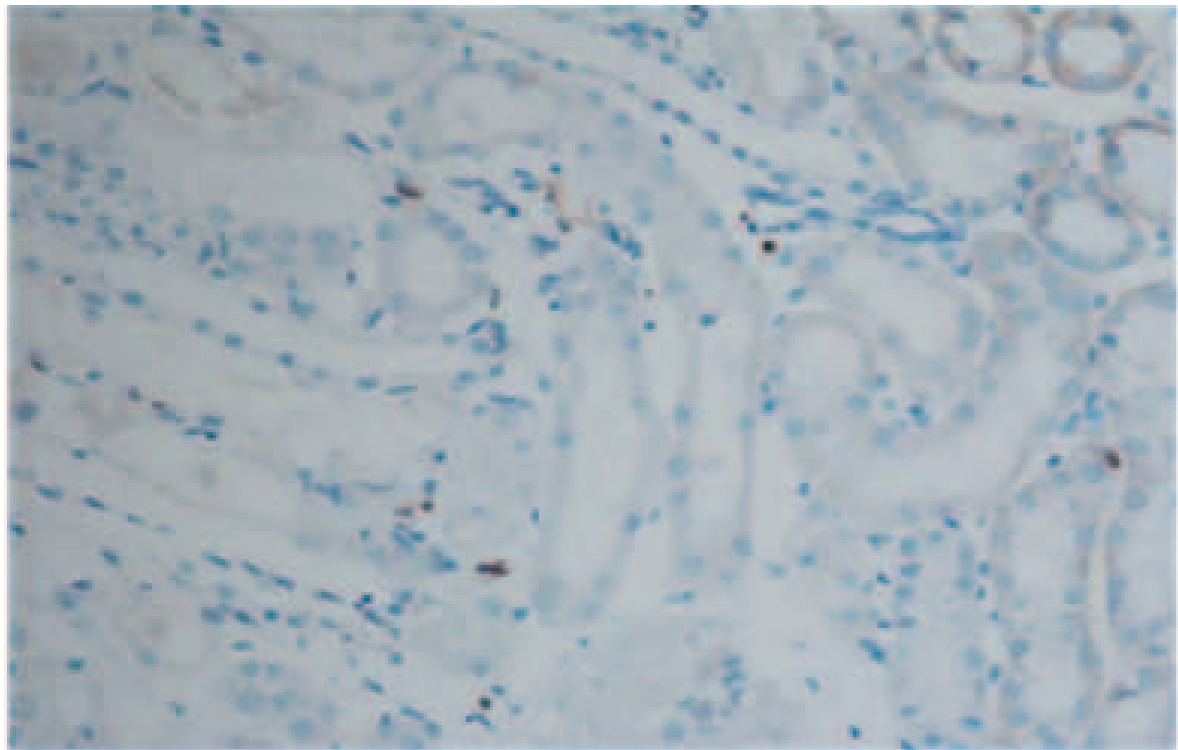
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- ❖ Pathogenesis of septic acute kidney injury is **different** from that of ischemia/reperfusion
- ❖ Systemic arterial dilatation and intense renal vasoconstriction were considered the cause of septic AKI. This “haemodynamically mediated ischaemic paradigm” is probably **wrong!**
- ❖ Several studies have shown the loss of glomerular filtration rate was accompanied by **increased** renal blood flow
- ❖ Post-mortem studies of septic kidneys show **apoptosis**, rarely overt acute tubular necrosis
- ❖ Data showed a link between apoptosis, immune **suppression**, and the development of acute kidney injury during sepsis
- ❖ Tissue inflammation was **not** evident in septic acute kidney injury. Unlike I/R injury, neutrophil or macrophage infiltration was **minimal** in septic kidney

*“The pathophysiology of septic AKI is completely different and does not result from a classical ‘ischaemic paradigm.’”*

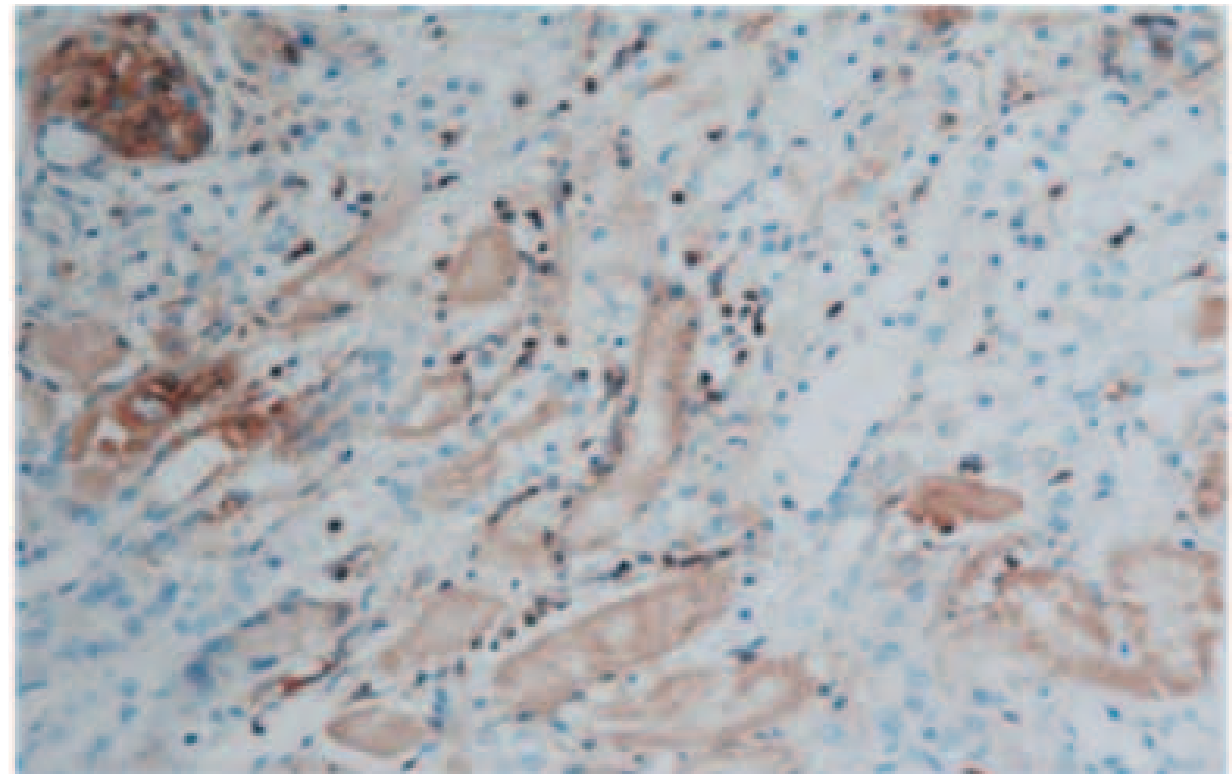
# Pathophysiology- Septic AKI

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**septic kidneys**

were characterised by **lack** of neutrophil or macrophages infiltration



**ischaemic kidneys**

**infiltration** of neutrophil or macrophages infiltration

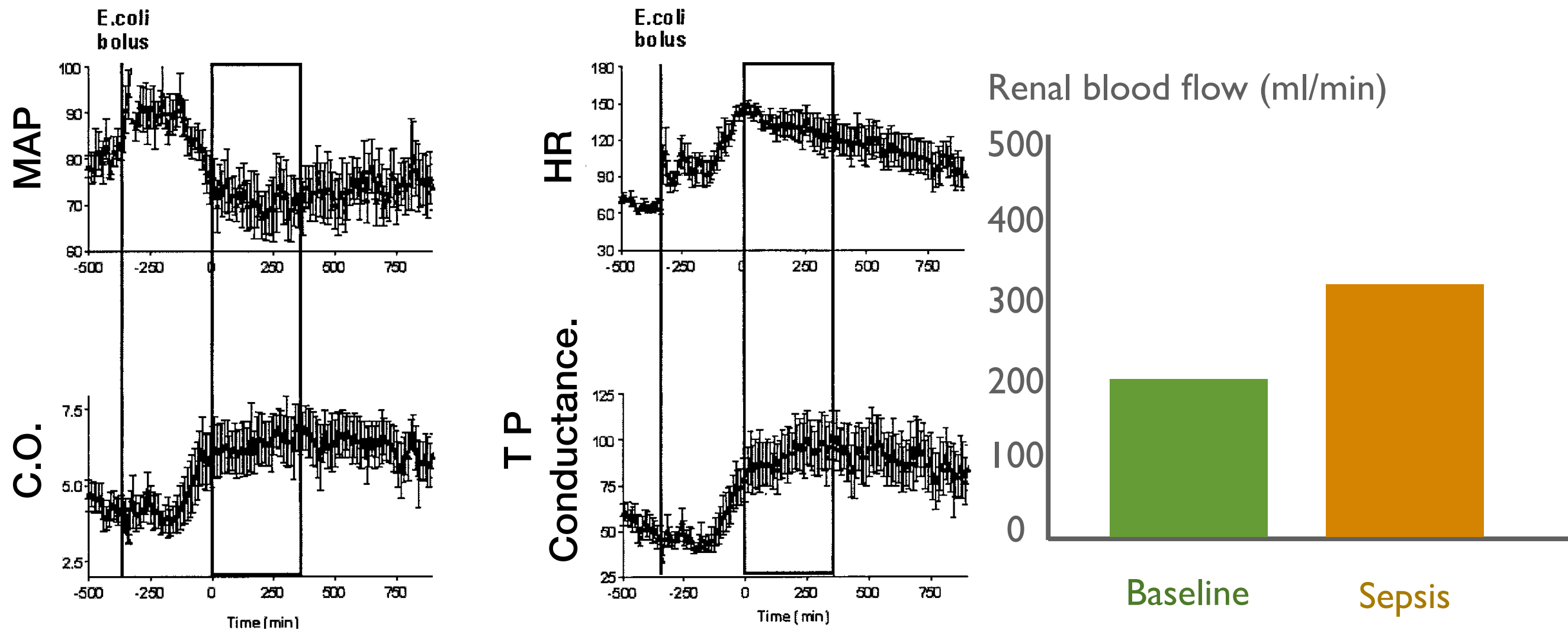
# Pathophysiology- Septic AKI

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- ❖ Tubular cells require large supply of energy for electrolyte and fluid reabsorption
- ❖ Tubular injury should thus cause **polyuria**, but:
  - ❖ Oliguria more common
  - ❖ Necrosis rare
  - ❖ <10% AKI survivors require long term dialysis
- ❖ Renal **dysfunction** during sepsis/inflammation, rarely structural damage
- ❖ Bioenergetic dysfunction leads to decrease of GFR (altered NO and tubulo-glomerular feedback)
- ❖ AKI seems to be a disease of the **micro-circulation**
  - ❖ Massive therapeutic implications
    - ❖ Efforts were concentrated on increasing renal flow by **increasing cardiac flow** and perfusion **pressure**
    - ❖ If so, large amounts of fluids might do more **harm** than good

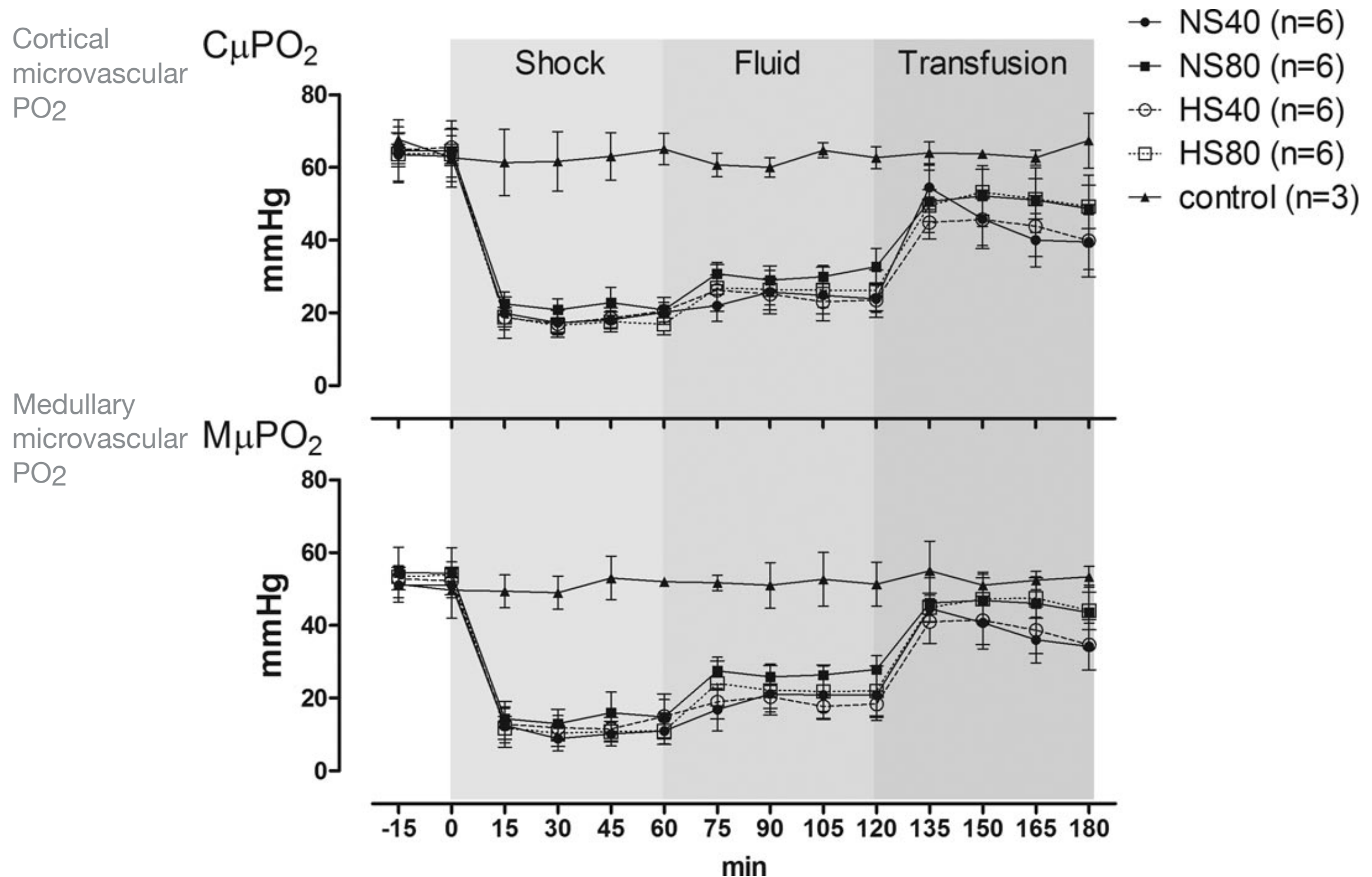
# Vital organ blood flow during hyperdynamic sepsis

*“During hyperdynamic sepsis, renal dysfunction is not explained by global ischemia.”*



# Pathophysiology- ischaemic AKI

Resuscitation to normal BP does not guarantee normal renal perfusion

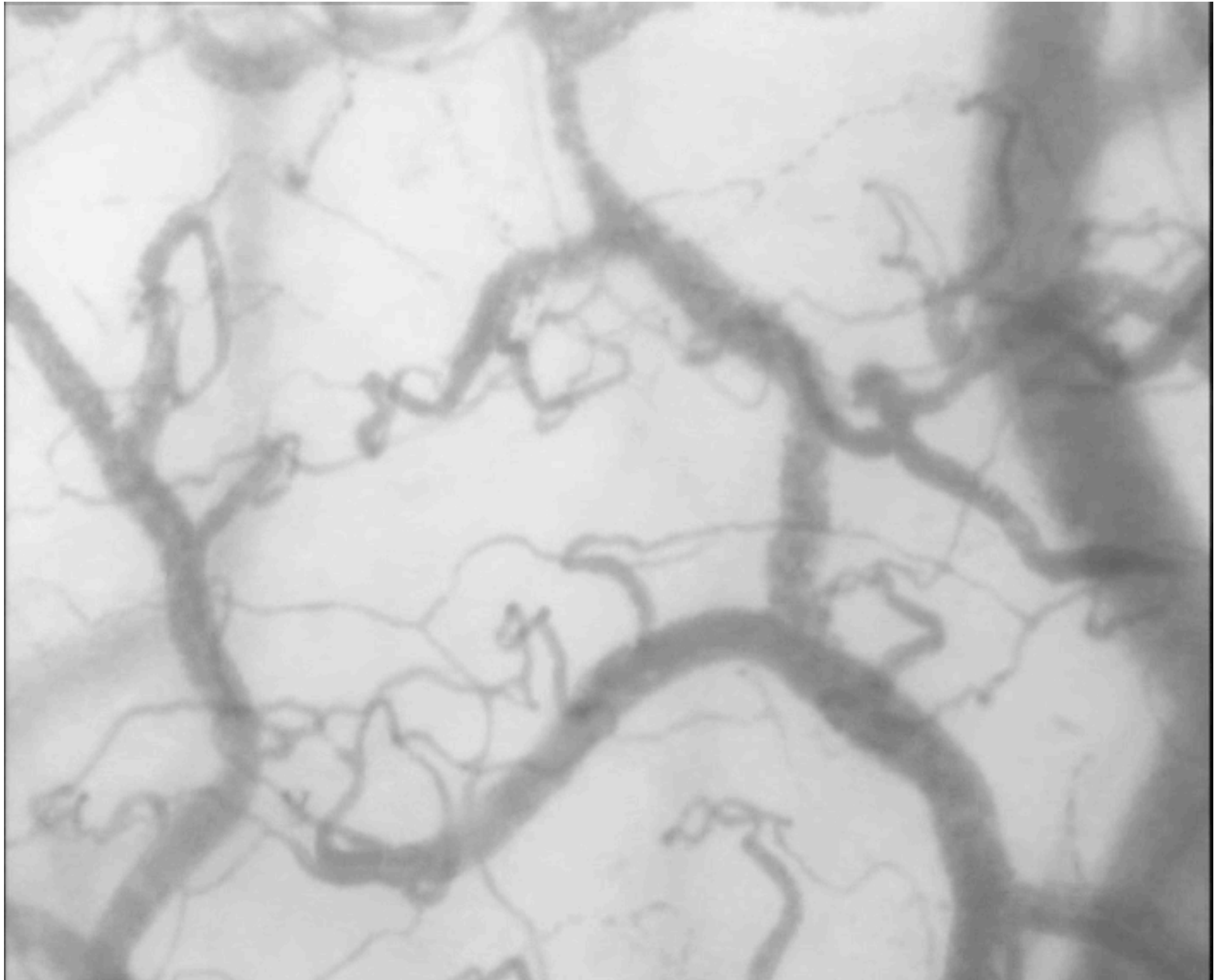


# Microcirculation and ARI

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# Microcirculation - Normal

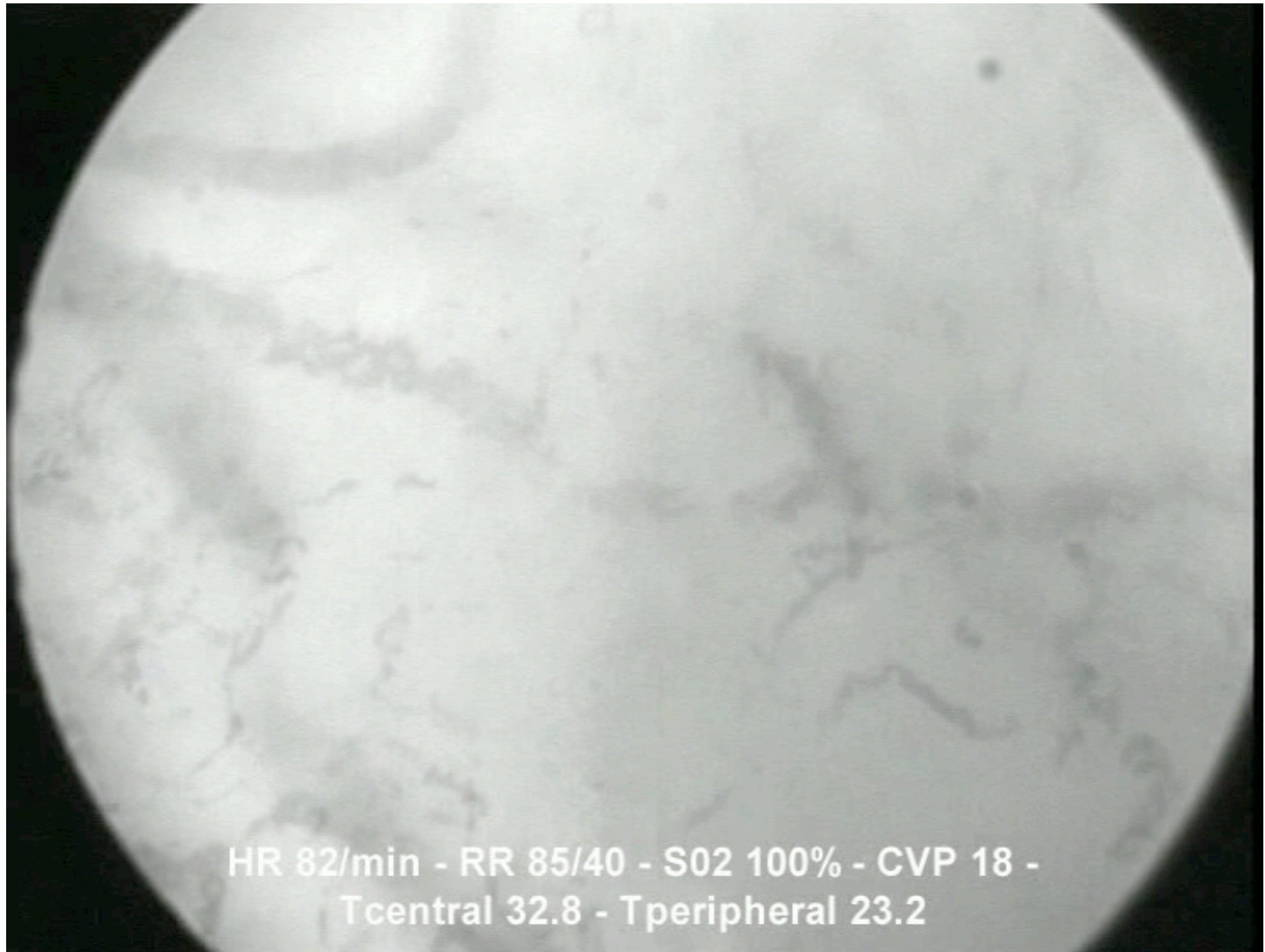
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# Microcirculation - Sepsis

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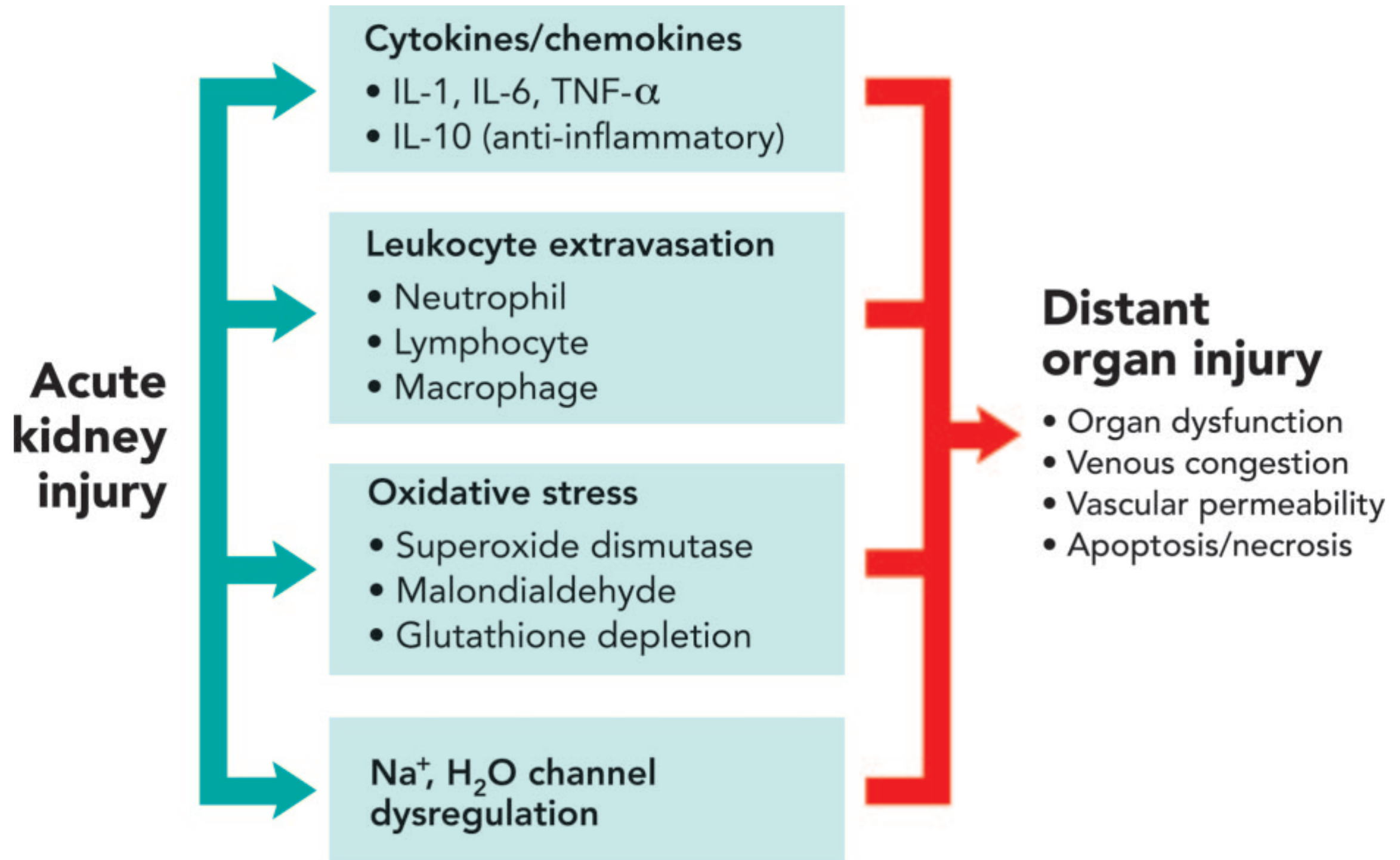
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# Acute renal injury and organ cross talk

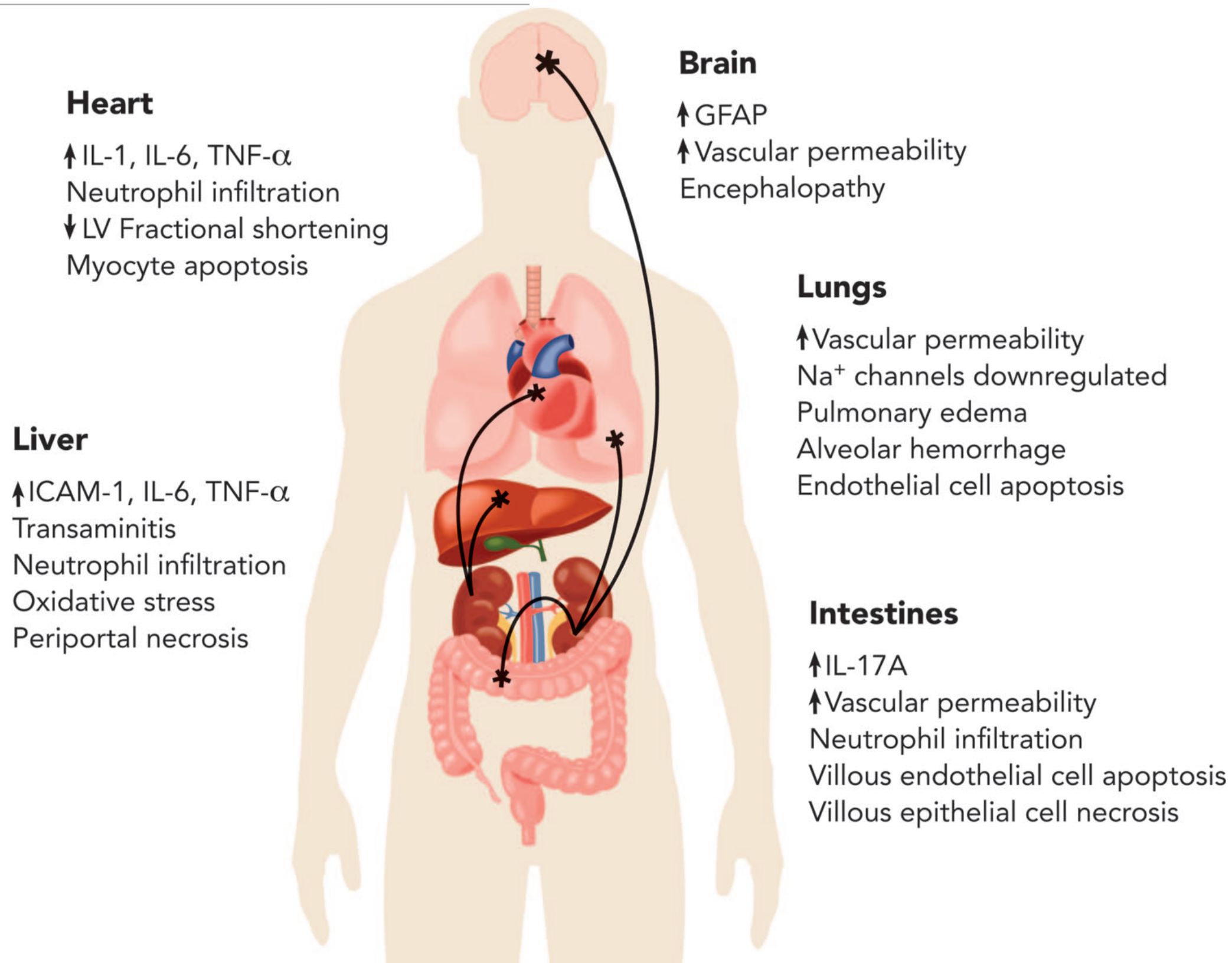
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# AKI is a systemic disorder

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# AKI is a systemic disorder

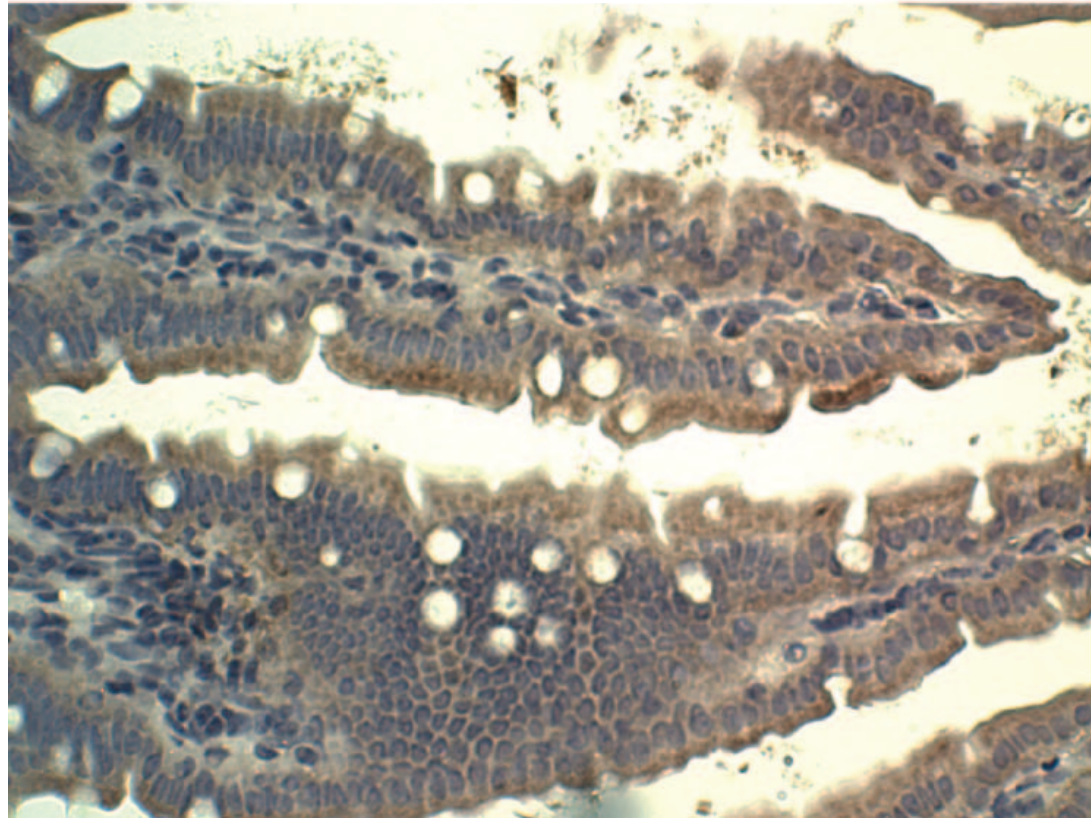




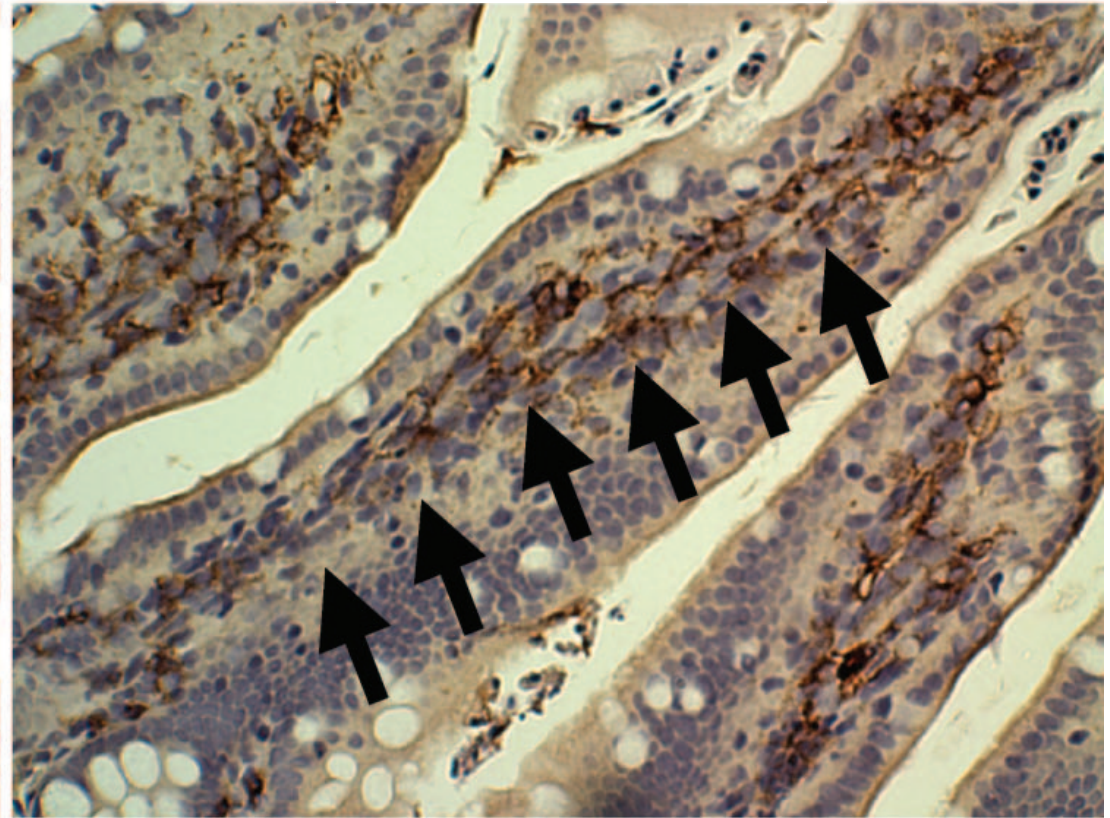
# AKI is a systemic disorder

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**A** Sham surgery



**B** AKI



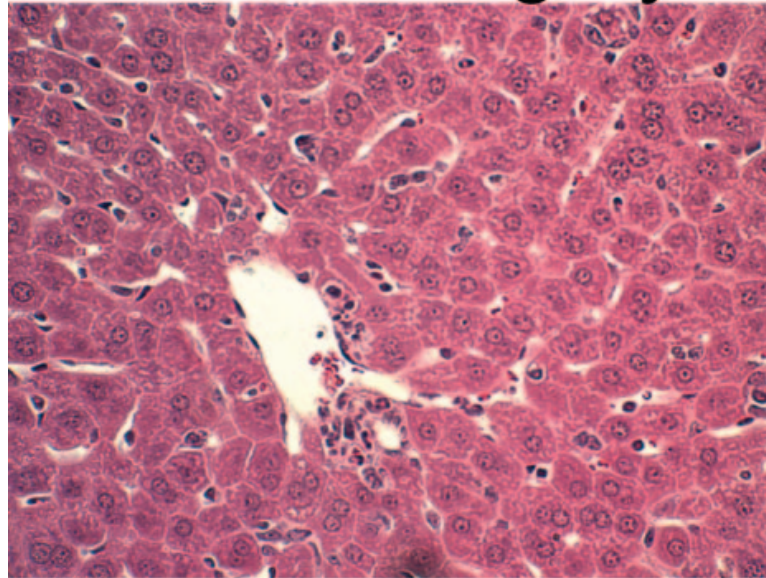
Increased **small intestinal** macrophage infiltration after acute kidney injury (AKI).



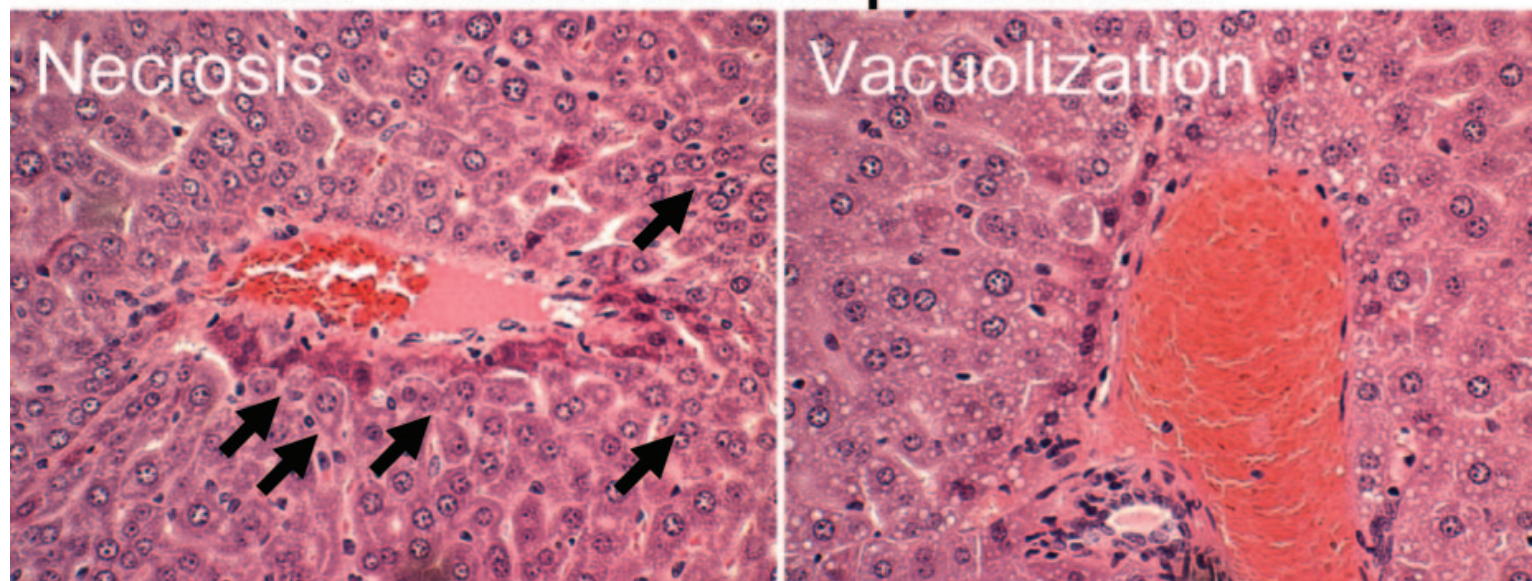
# AKI is a systemic disorder

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## **A Sham Surgery**



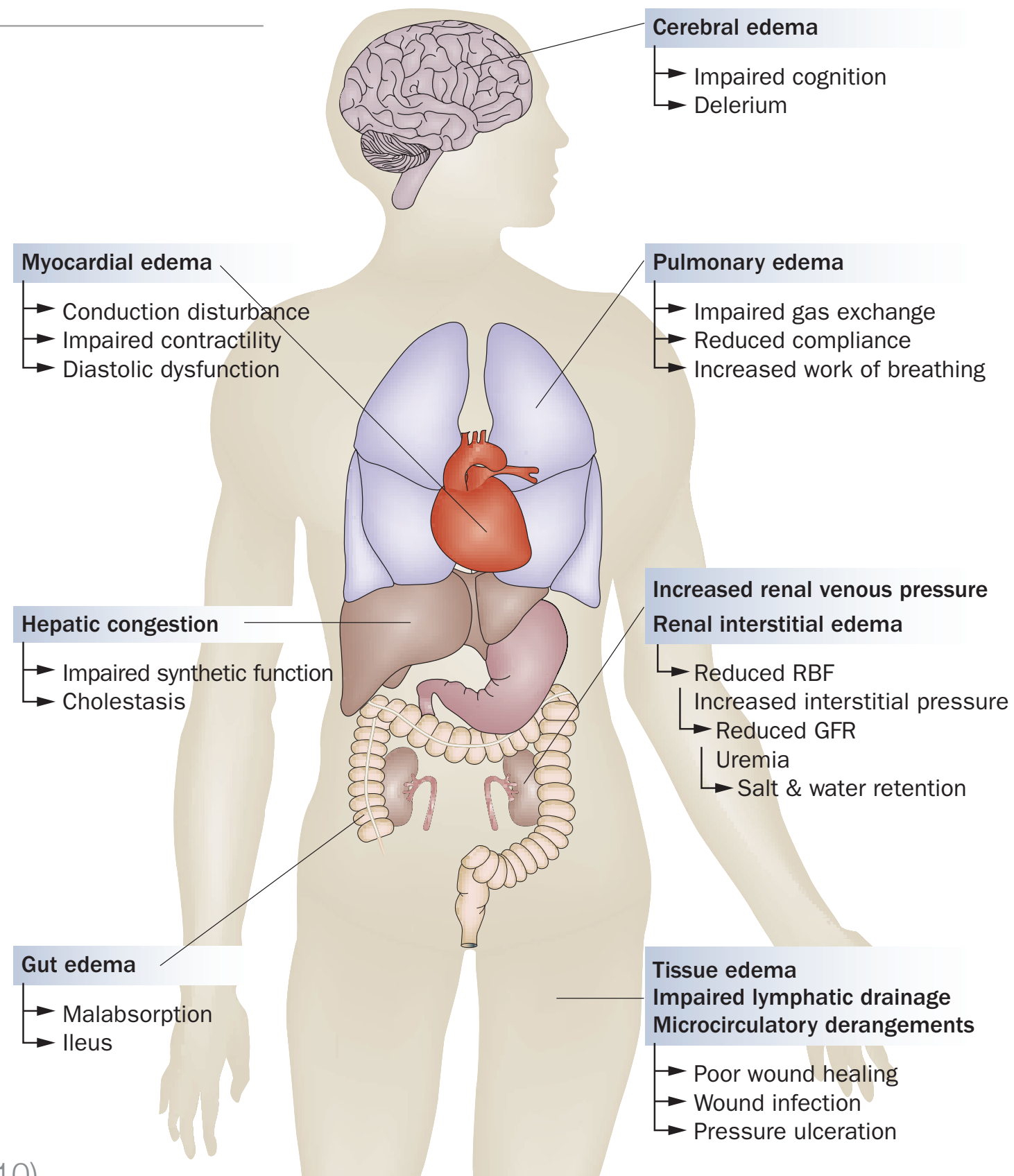
## **B Renal Ischemia Reperfusion**



Hepatic injury after acute kidney injury  
(30 min ischaemia - 24 hr reperfusion)

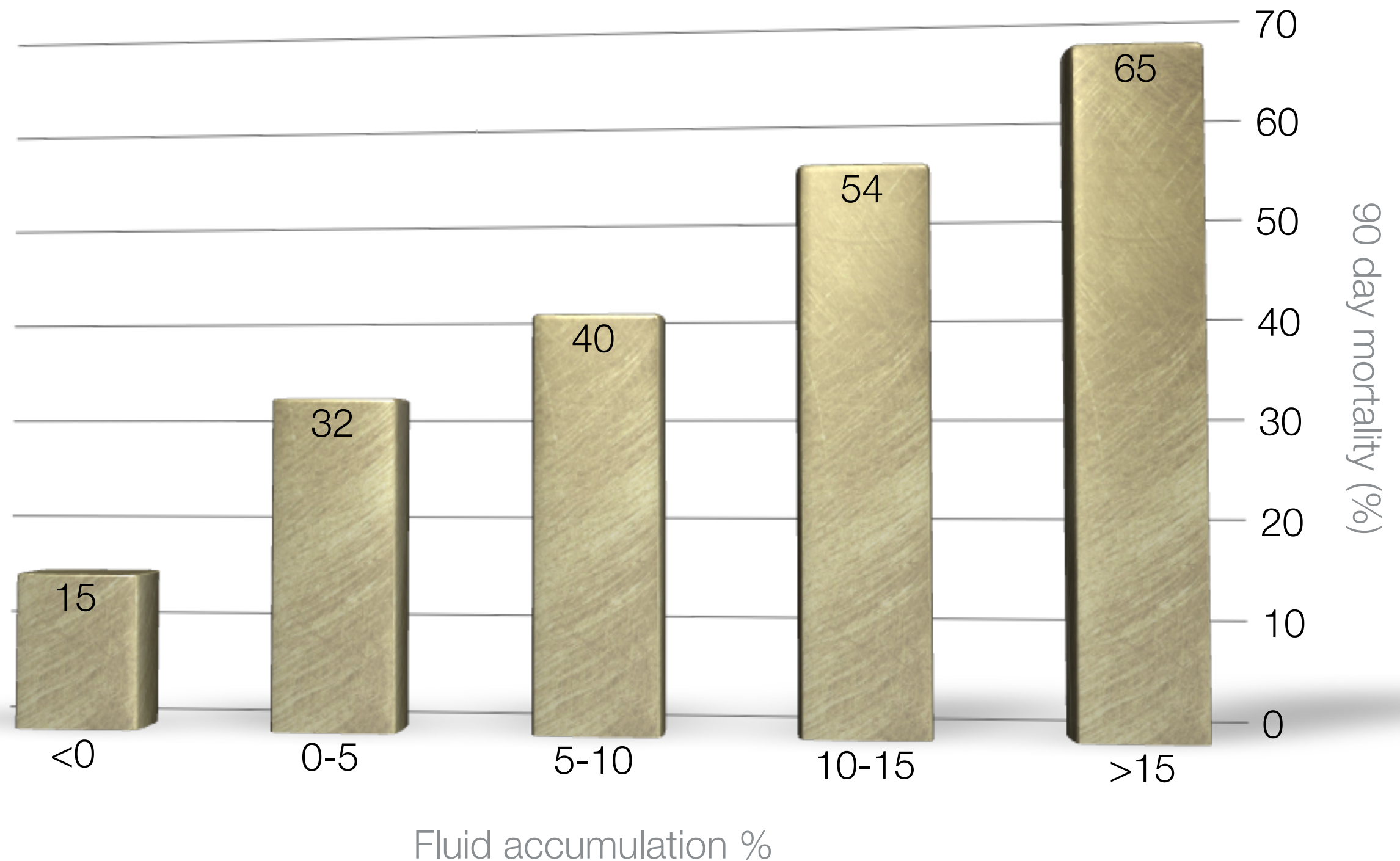
## Other effects - Fluid overload

# Effect of Fluid Overload

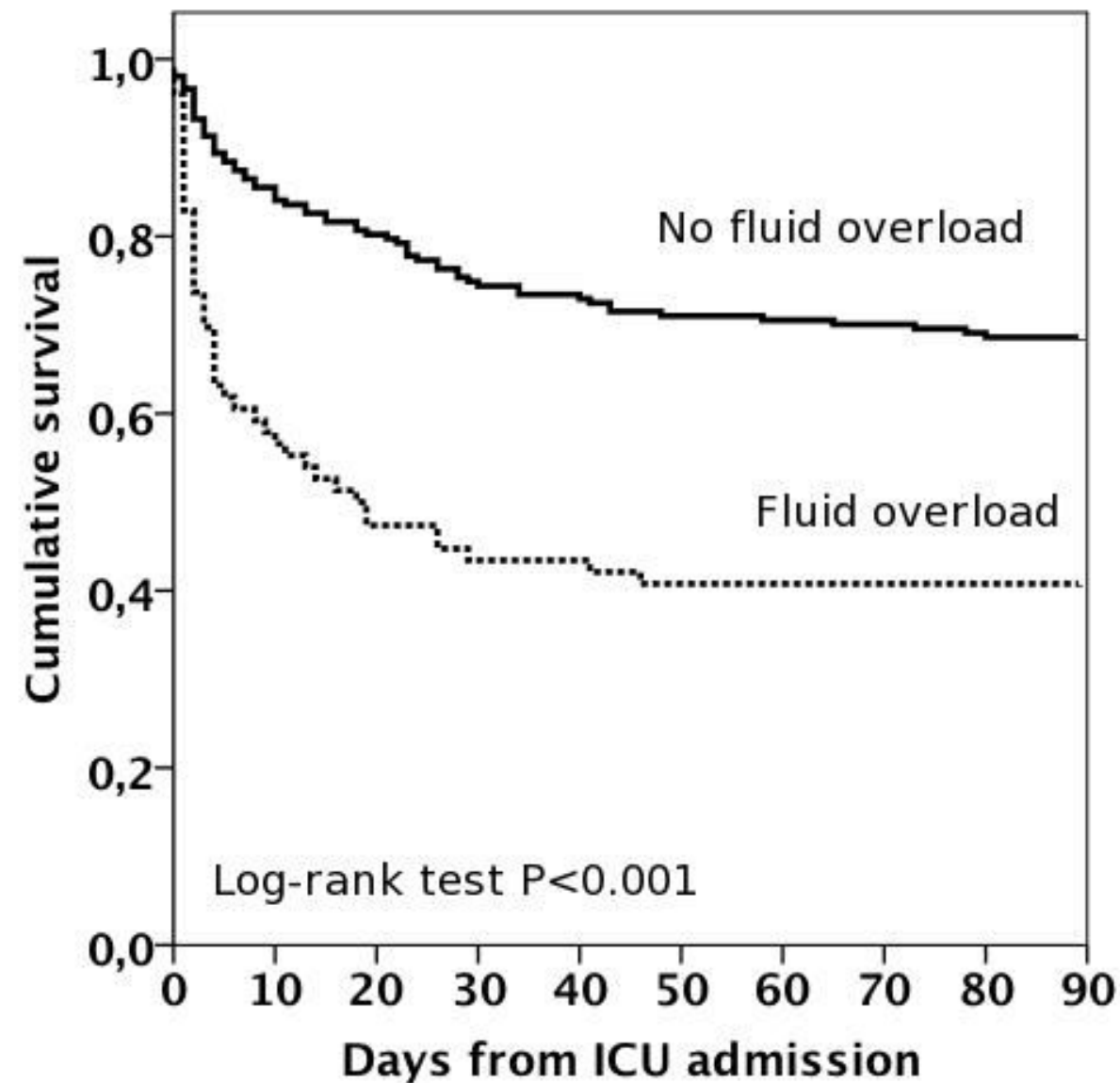




# Fluid overload and mortality in ITU patients on RRT



# Fluid overload and mortality in ITU patients on RRT



“Patients with fluid overload at RRT initiation had **twice** as high crude 90-day **mortality** compared to those without.

Fluid overload was associated with increased risk for 90-day mortality even after adjustments for other factors.”

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# Management of AKI

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## Risk stratify

- ❖ 50% of ARI occur in the **wards**, not ITU
  - ❖ Watch for: **pre-existing proteinuria** , DM, CCF, Liver disease and **CKD**
  - ❖ Exclude a.s.a.p. **reversible** causes: hypovolaemia, post-renal causes and nephrotoxic drugs
- 
- ❖ Monitor urinary output (ex. per shift) and creatinine in hospitalised patients outside the ICU, in at risk for AKI.
- 
- ❖ Although rare, a minimal work-up for the presence of underlying rapidly progressive forms of glomerular disease should also be performed, especially in the absence of other potential explanations.

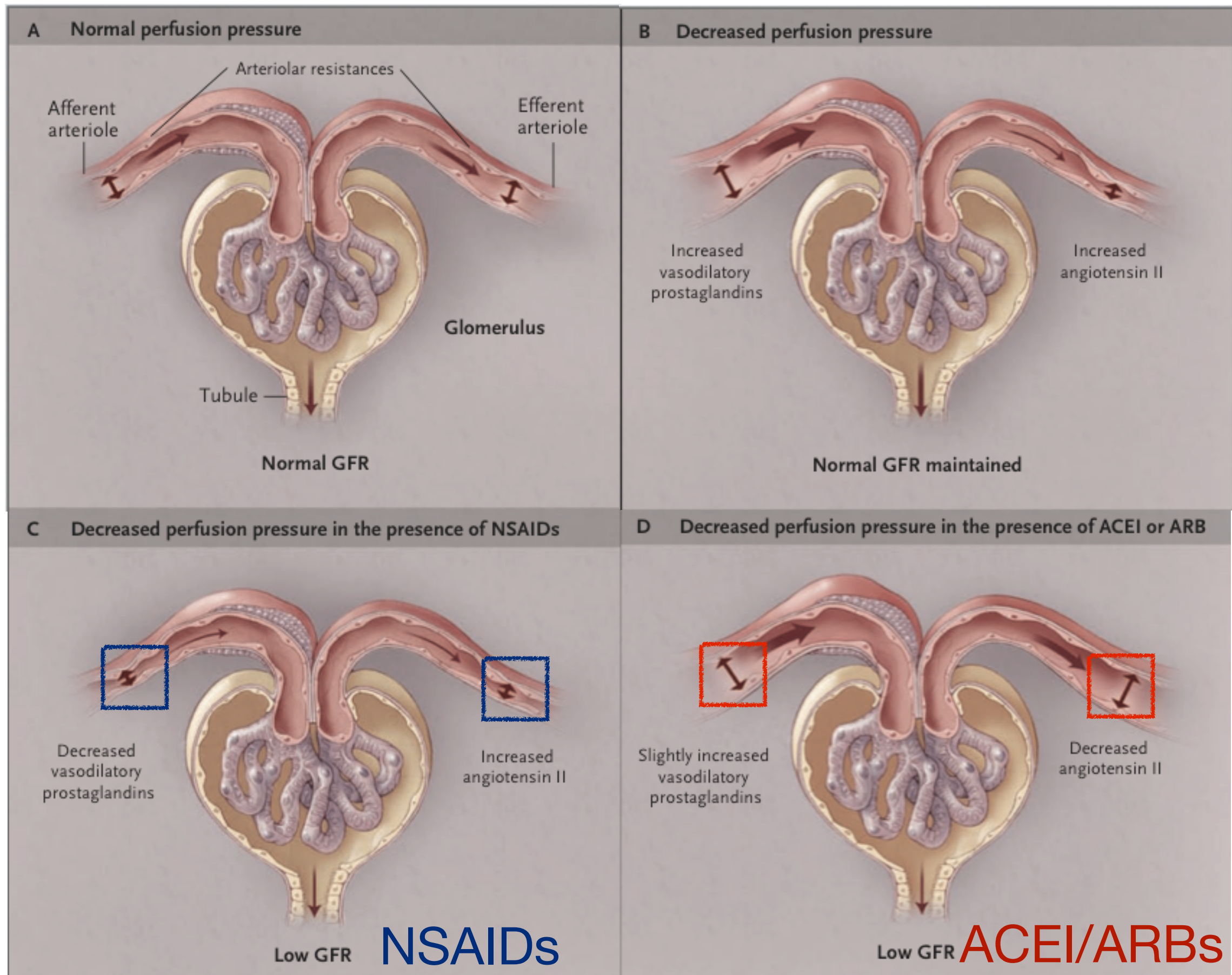
# Avoid nephrotoxic agents

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# Common Nephrotoxins in the ICU

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- ❖ NSAIDS
- ❖ ACEI
- ❖ Antimicrobials
  - ❖ Aminoglycosides
  - ❖ Amphotericin
  - ❖ Acyclovir
- ❖ Chemotherapeutic agents
- ❖ Radiocontrast dye



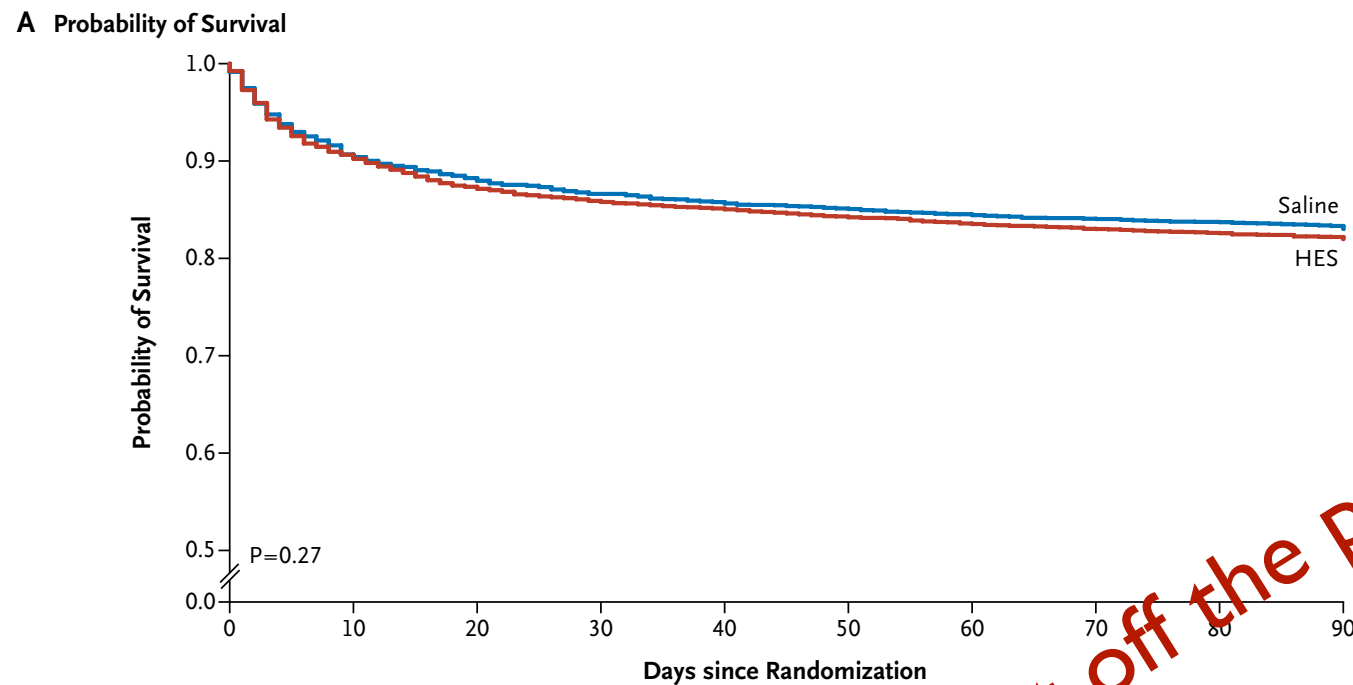


# Aminoglycosides

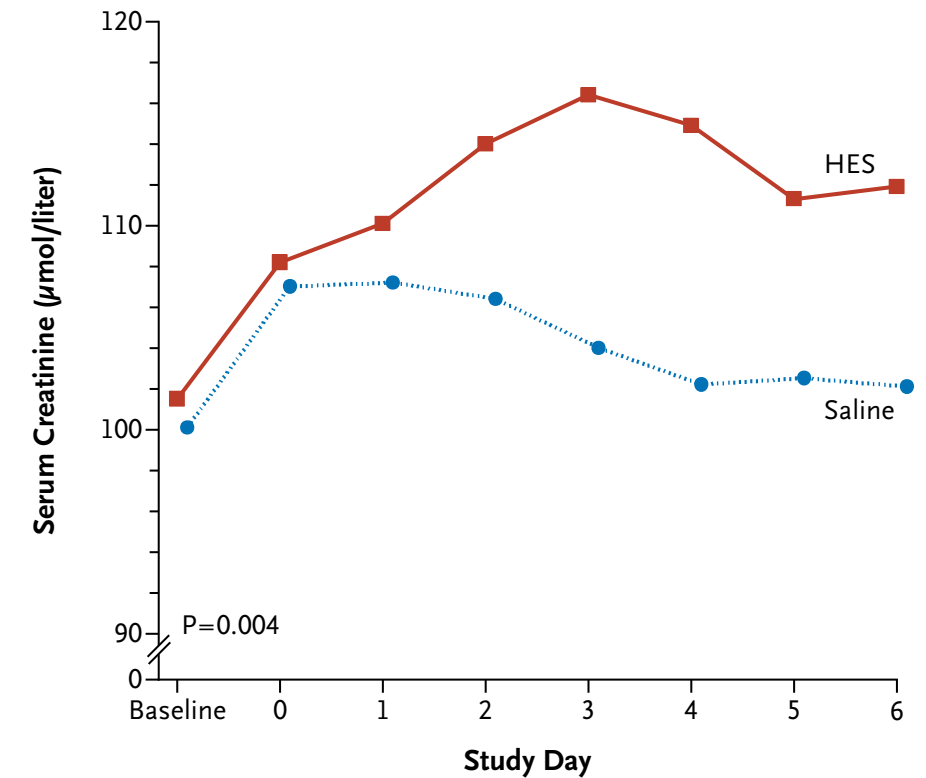
- ❖ tubular damage
- ❖ non oliguric renal failure
- ❖ hypo-osmolar urine
- ❖ rare after 1 dose
- ❖ recovery upon drug discontinuation usual



# Hydroxyethyl Starch or Saline for Fluid Resuscitation in Intensive Care



**A Serum Creatinine**



**No. at Risk**

|        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |     |
|--------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-----|
| HES    | 3260 | 2197 | 2899 | 2111 | 1576 | 1238 | 998  | 851 |
| Saline | 3283 | 2253 | 2916 | 2196 | 1614 | 1291 | 1026 | 857 |

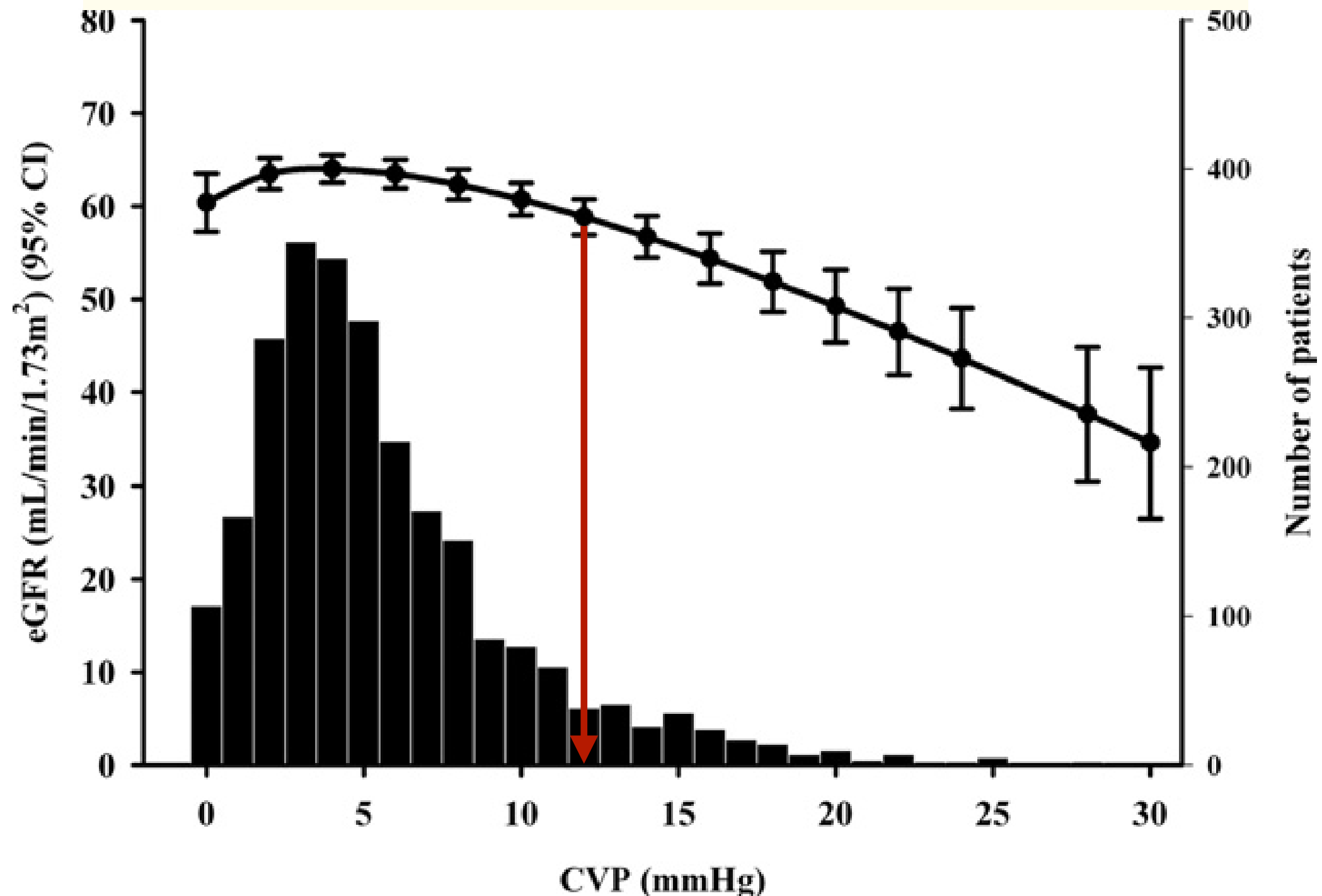
“no significant difference in 90-day mortality between patients resuscitated with 6% HES (130/0.4) or saline.”

“..more patients who received resuscitation with HES were treated with renal-replacement therapy.”

# Care if high CVP

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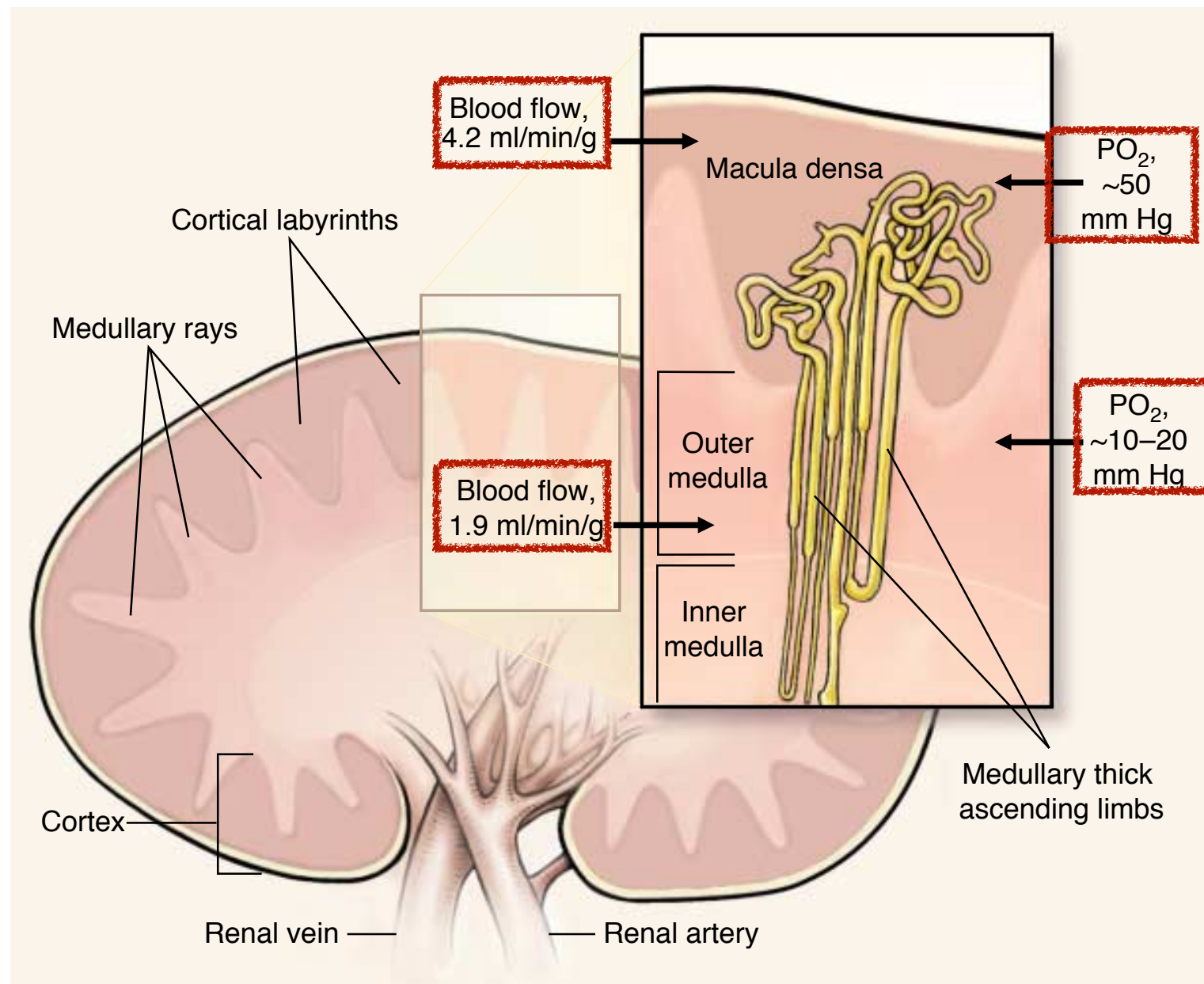
# Increased Central Venous Pressure Is Associated With Impaired Renal Function and Mortality in a Broad Spectrum of Patients With Cardiovascular Disease



# Prevention - Diuretics?

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# WHY DIURETICS?



The medulla, whose meagre blood supply optimises the concentration of urine, is poorly oxygenated. Medullary hypoxia results both from countercurrent exchange of oxygen within the vasa recta and from the consumption of oxygen by the medullary thick ascending limbs.

Renal medullary hypoxia is an obligatory part of the process of urinary concentration.

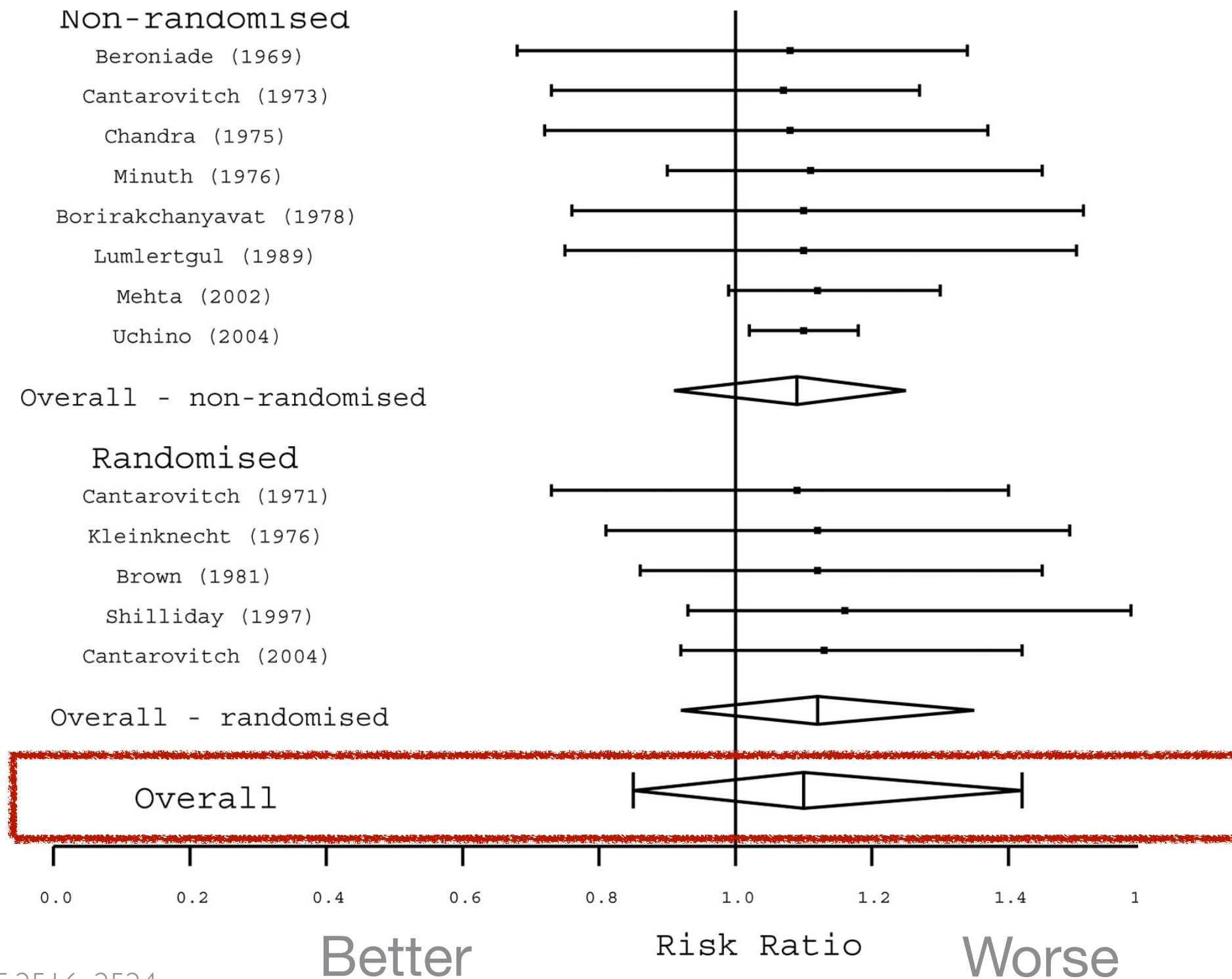
# WHY DIURETICS?

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“The work of concentrating the urine predisposes a person to medullary hypoxic damage, reducing this work may prevent medullary injury.”

“Furosemide, which inhibits reabsorptive transport in the medullary thick ascending limb, increased medullary PO<sub>2</sub> from 16 to 35 mmHg without altering cortical PO<sub>2</sub>. This effect was directly due to decreased tubular O<sub>2</sub> consumption.”

# So do loop diuretics protect in acute renal failure?





Online article and related content  
current as of March 30, 2009.

## Diuretics, Mortality, and Nonrecovery of Renal Function in Acute Renal Failure

Ravindra L. Mehta; Maria T. Pascual; Sharon Soroko; et al.

*JAMA*. 2002;288(20):2547-2553 (doi:10.1001/jama.288.20.2547)

### Conclusions

“the Devil’s drug” .....Dr Paul Marik

“The use of diuretics in critically ill patients with acute renal failure was associated with an **increased risk of death** and nonrecovery of renal function.....

....the widespread use of diuretics in critically ill patients with acute renal failure should be **discouraged.**”



# So diuretics or not ?

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- ❖ We recommend **not** using diuretics to prevent AKI. (1B)
- ❖ We suggest **not** using diuretics to treat AKI, except in the management of volume overload. (2C)



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# Renal Injury-Special Circumstances

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- ❖ Contrast induced nephropathy
- ❖ Hepatorenal syndrome
- ❖ Rhabdomyolysis

# Contrast Induced Nephropathy - Definition

3 components

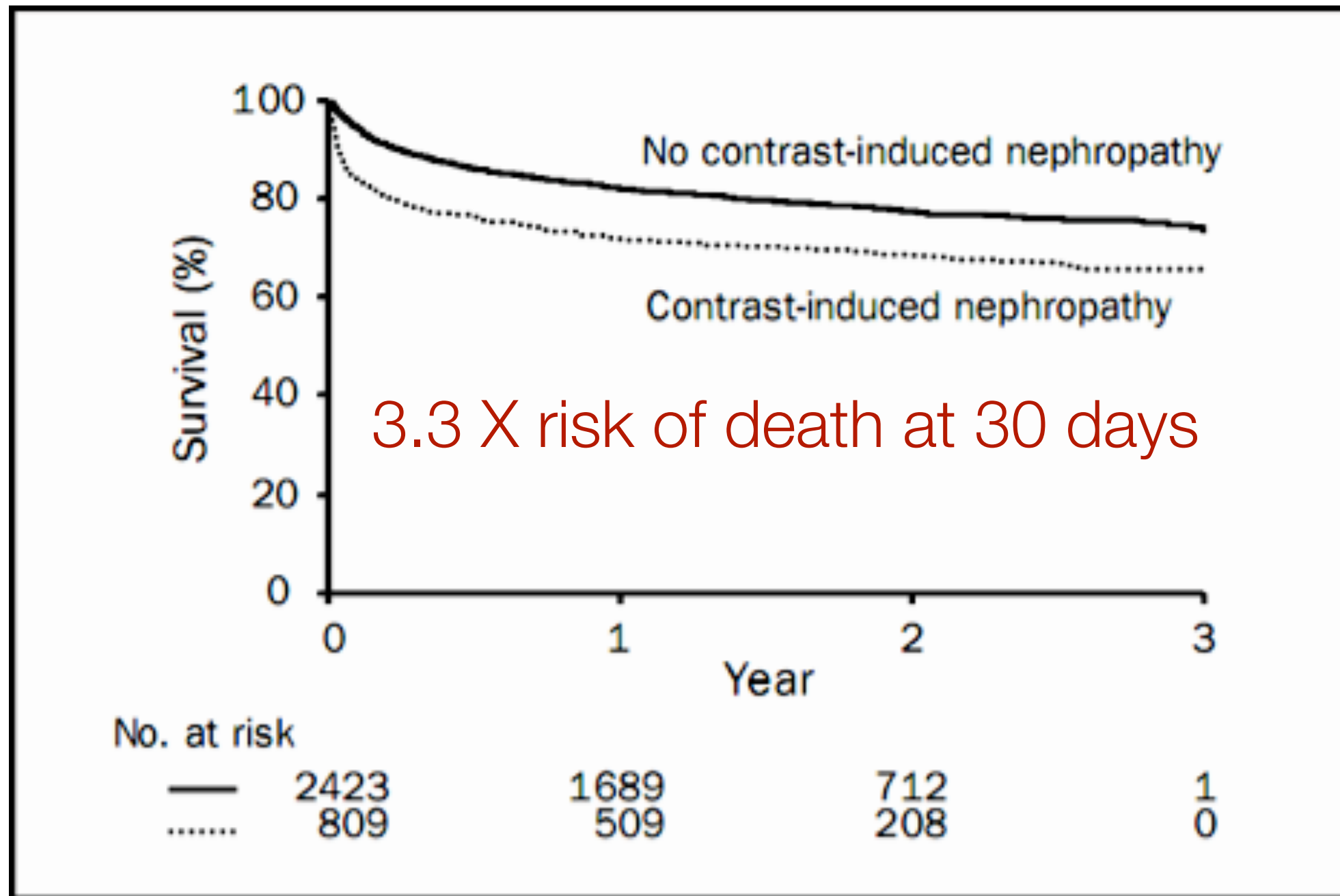
- ❖ Diagnosis of AKI using KDIGO criteria
- ❖ Within 48-72 hours
- ❖ Exclude
  - ❖ Cholesterol embolism, hypotension, sepsis, etc

# Contrast Induced Nephropathy - Who's at risk

## Risk factors

- ❖ Hypotension (5)
- ❖ CCF (5)
- ❖ >75 years (4)
- ❖ Diabetes (3)
- ❖ Anaemia (3)
- ❖ Contrast volume (1 for each 100 mL)
- ❖ Se Creatinine > 132 (4)

# Contrast Induced Nephropathy - Mortality



# Contrast Induced Nephropathy - N-acetyl cysteine

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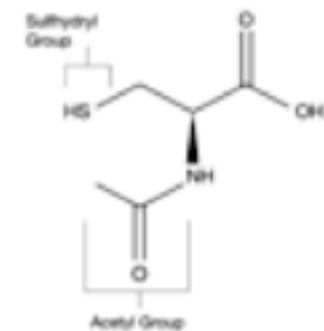
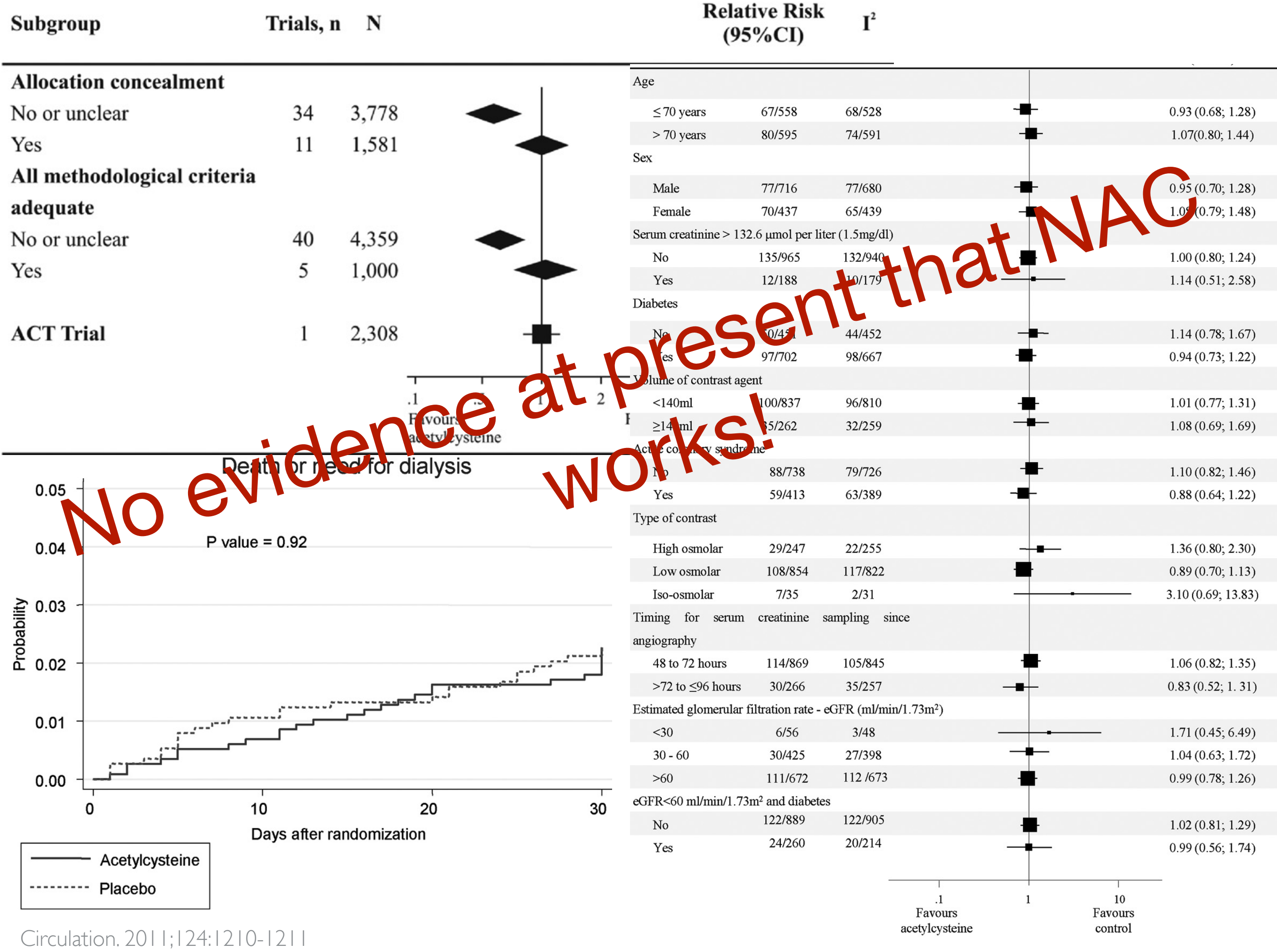


Figure 1. Structure of N-acetylcysteine.

- ❖ Potent anti-oxidant
- ❖ Scavenger of oxygen derived free radicals
- ❖ Prevent direct oxidative tissue damage





## Before “tossing out” NAC, consider:

- ❖ All forms of intravascular iodinated contrast are taken up by renal tubular cells, and retained for **>7 days**

-> direct oxidative cellular damage and acute tubular dysfunction.

“Researchers have always used **short**-term N-acetylcysteine .... stimulate researchers to study **longer** durations of therapy to match the time iodinated contrast is present in the renal tubular cells...”

# Before “tossing out” NAC, consider:

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- ❖ Oral NAC is poorly absorbed with a bioavailability of 3-20%

(but glutathione values higher after oral)

- ❖ Most trials did not use NAC with adequate fluid loading
- ❖ Contrast agents themselves may decrease creatinine secretion thereby increasing se creatinine

- ❖ Conversely, NAC in the absence of contrast has been shown to decrease serum creatinine levels through increased tubular secretion in volunteers
  - ❖ NAC-induced decreases in serum creatinine not associated with changes in Cystatin C which may be a more accurate indicator of GFR

# Before “tossing out” NAC, consider:

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Glucocorticoids plus N-Acetylcysteine in Severe Alcoholic Hepatitis

*so giving more for longer may work ???*

The prednisolone–N-acetylcysteine group received intravenous N-acetylcysteine on day 1 (at a dose of 150, 50, and 100 mg per kilogram of body weight ... on days 2 through **5** (100 mg per kilogram per day in 1000 ml of 5% glucose solution).

Death due to the hepatorenal syndrome was less frequent in the prednisolone + N-acetylcysteine group than in the prednisolone-only group at 6 months (**9% vs. 22%**)

The dose, duration, and administration route used were the same as those used for the treatment of drug intoxication.

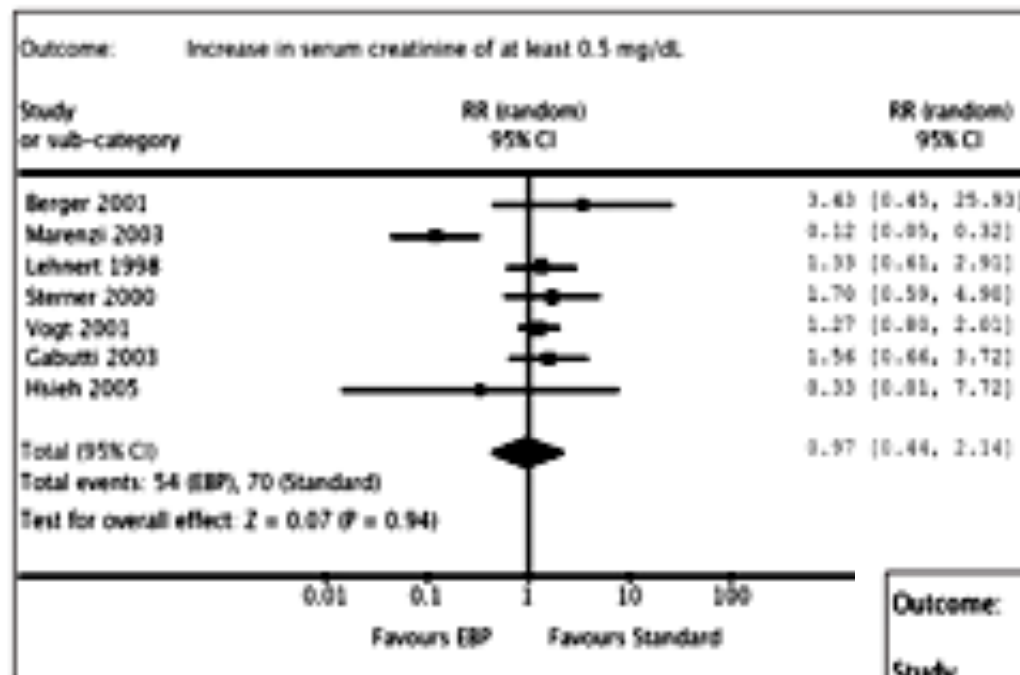
# Hemofiltration and prevention of contrast induced nephropathy

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“We wonder why hemofiltration, with its low clearance of radiocontrast material, should have prevented nephropathy, since many believe that renal injury occurs on initial exposure to radiocontrast material.”

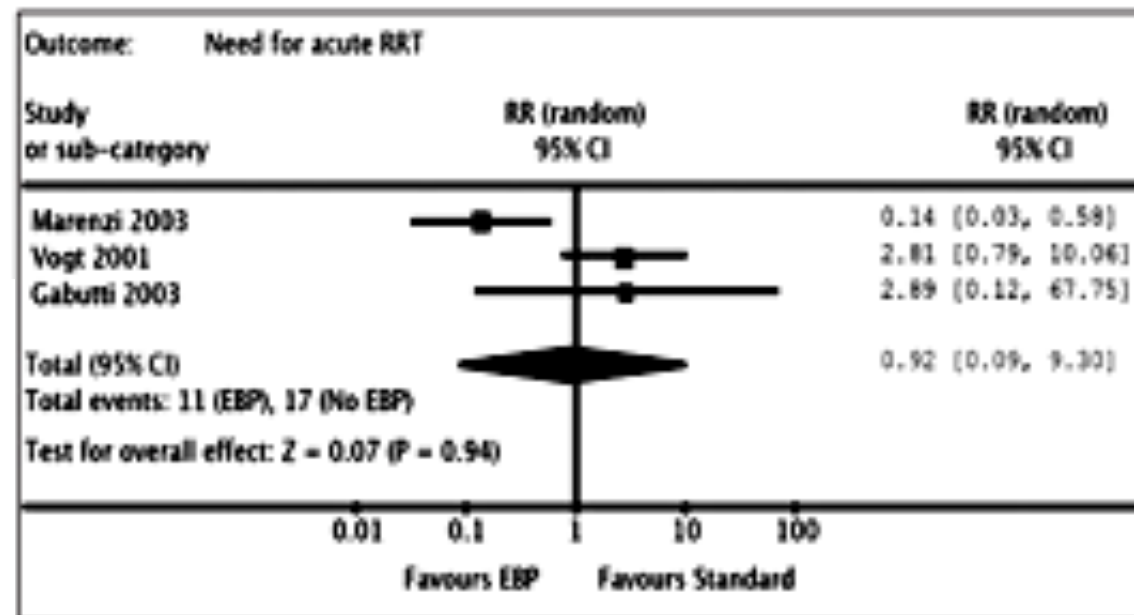
“We have reported that prophylactic hemodialysis had **no benefit** in preventing radiocontrast-agent–induced nephropathy and associated morbidity.”

# Haemofiltration to prevent CIN



**Fig. 1** - Relative risk (RR) for radiocontrast-induced nephropathy with 95% confidence interval (95% CI). EBP: extracorporeal blood purification.

It doesn't work!



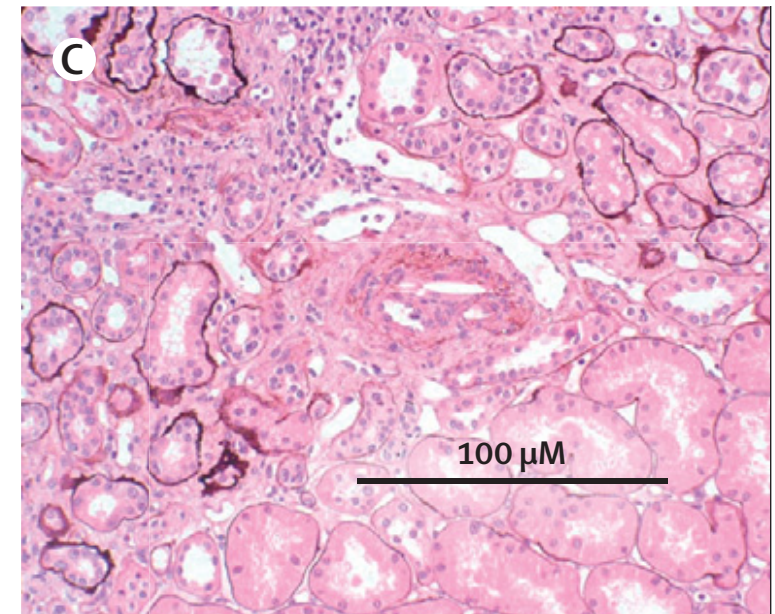
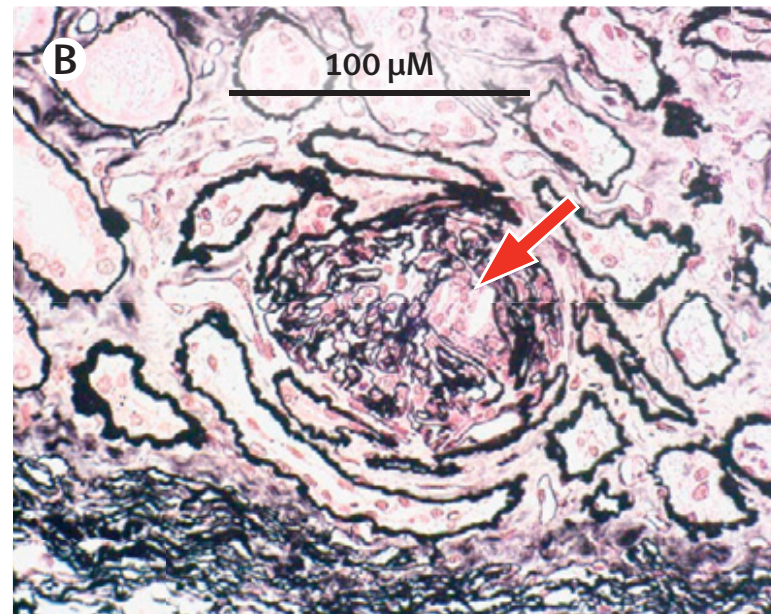
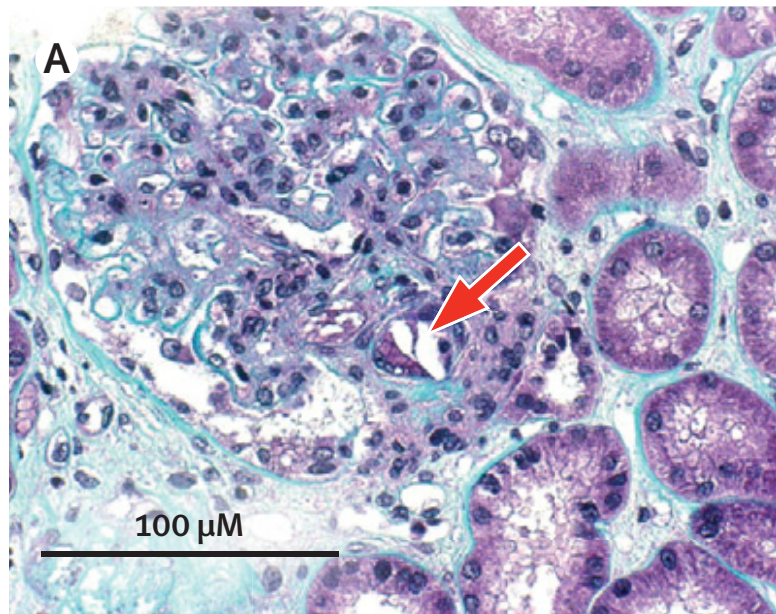
**Fig. 2** - Relative risk (RR) for need for acute temporary renal replacement therapy (RRT), with 95% confidence interval (95% CI). EBP: extracorporeal blood purification.



# Not all ARI post-angio is from contrast - Atheroembolic renal disease

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...”estimated that 5–10% of all cases of acute renal failure could be due to atheroembolism”



**Intraglomerular cholesterol crystals**

**cholesterol crystals  
in renal arteriole**



# Contrast Induced Nephropathy - reducing the risk

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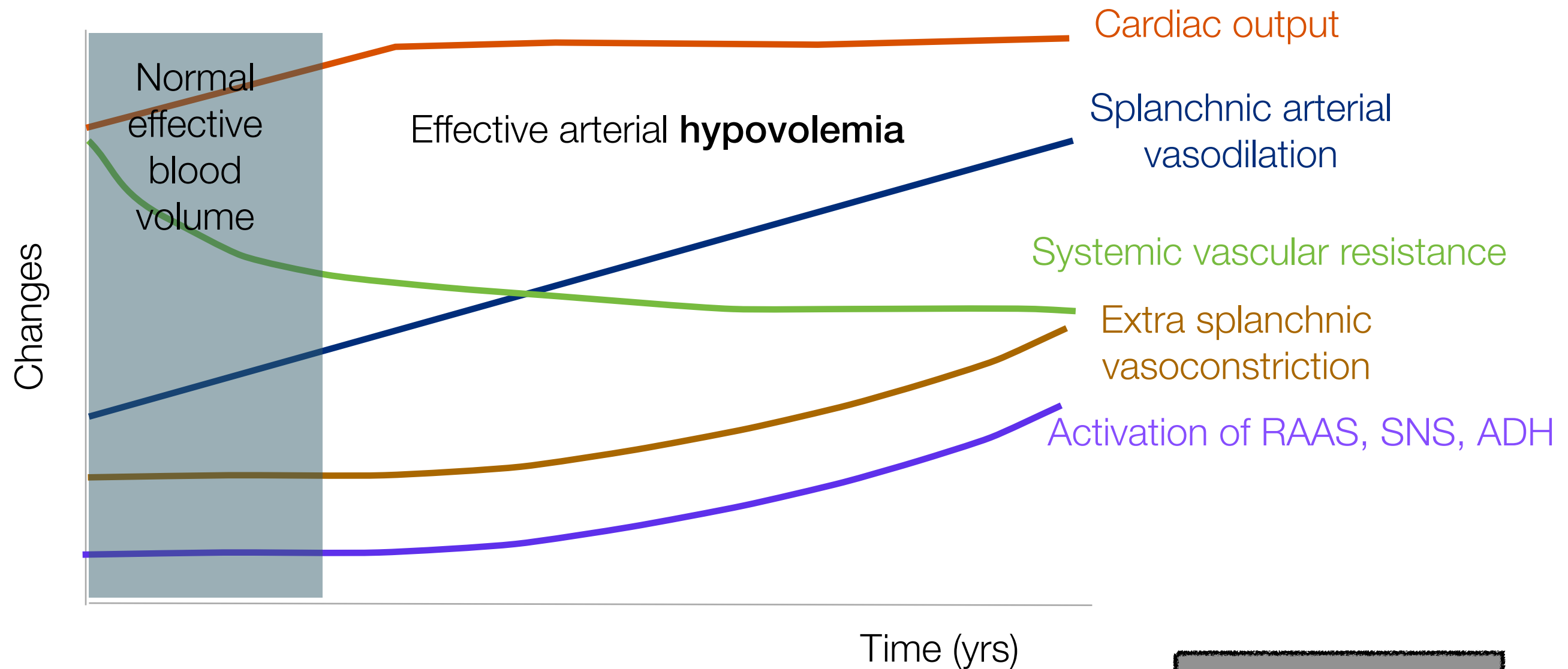
- ❖ Alternative imaging methods
- ❖ Lowest possible dose of contrast
- ❖ Either iso-osmolar (iodixanol) or low-osmolar iodinated contrast (Grade 1B)
- ❖ Intravenous volume expansion with isotonic fluids
  - ❖ either NaCl or Na bicarbonate (Grade 1A)
- ❖ Do not use prophylactic hemofiltration for contrast removal (Grade 2C)
- ❖ oral NAC- evidence of benefit not overwhelming, but low risk and cheap (Grade 2D)



# Hepato-Renal Syndrome

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# Peripheral arterial vasodilation hypothesis



Compensated  
cirrhosis

Ascites

Hyponatremia

Type2 HRS

**Vasoconstriction:**

kidneys  
brain  
muscle

# Hepatorenal syndrome -

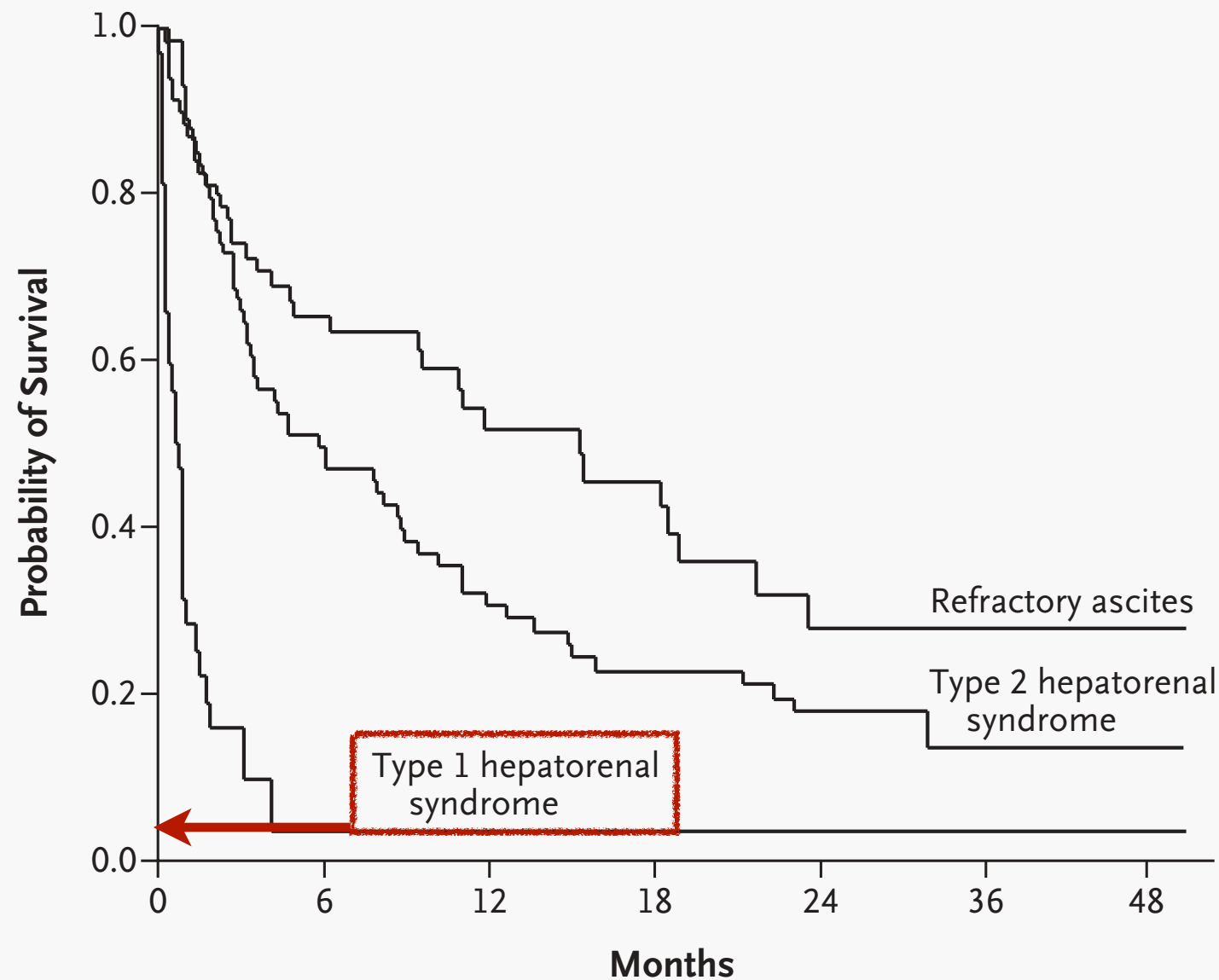
- ❖ Profound renal vasoconstriction
- ❖ Low RBF and GFR
- ❖ Marked Na and water retention
- ❖ “Pre-renal” chemistries

# Types of the Hepatorenal syndrome

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- ❖ Type 1 HRS
  - ❖ **Rapid** impairment in renal function - < 2 weeks
  - ❖ **Deadly**- untransplanted-median survival time of approximately 3 months
- ❖ Type 2 HRS
  - ❖ **Slowly** progressive impairment of renal function - better prognosis
- ❖ Diagnosis of **exclusion**
  - ❖ Remember, **most** patient with cirrhosis and acute renal failure do **not** have HRS
    - ❖ Acute Tubular Necrosis - 42%
    - ❖ Pre-renal failure - 38%
    - ❖ HRS - 20%

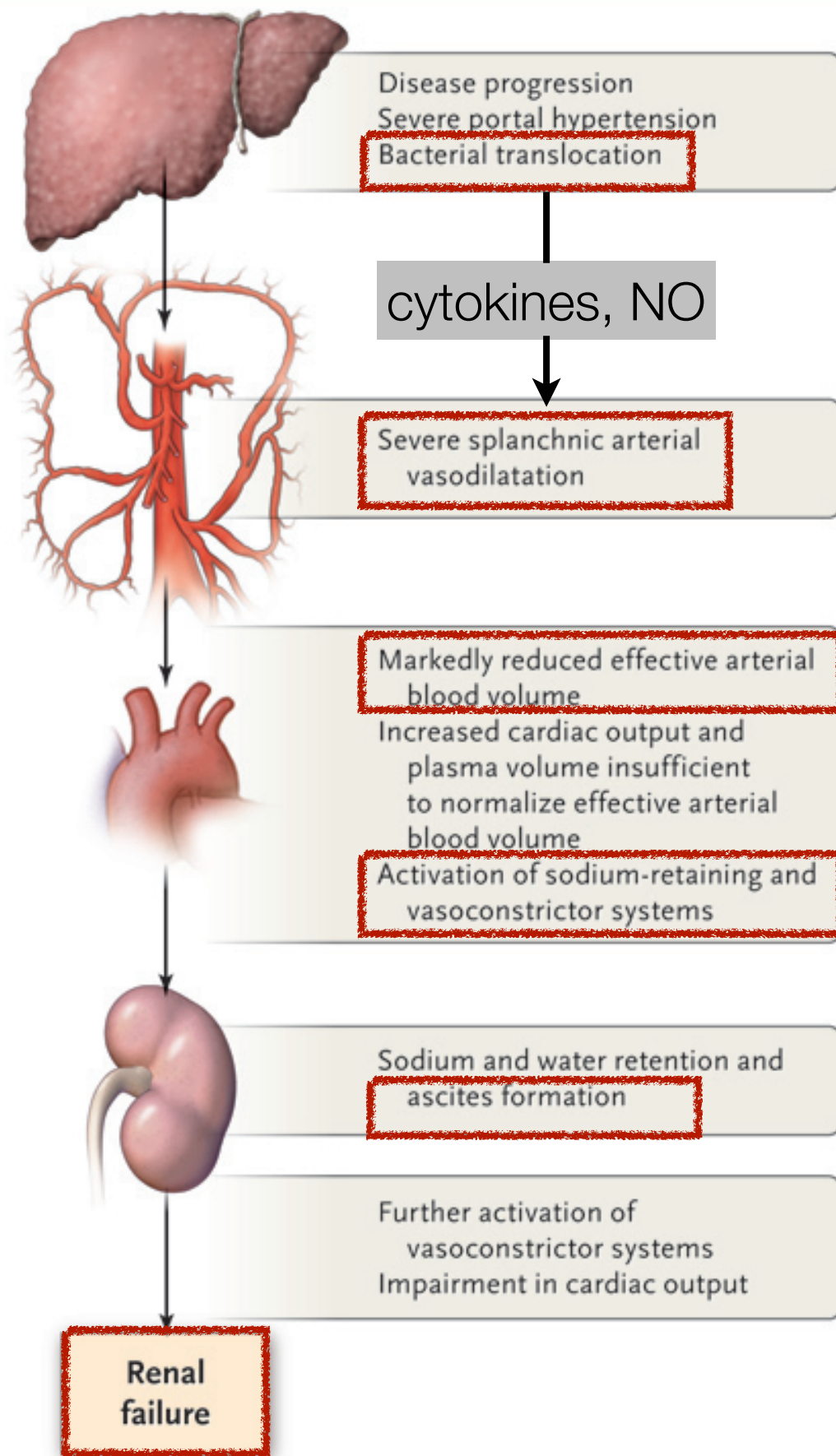
# Hepatorenal syndrome - Prognosis + Treatment



## Treatment

- ❖ **Albumin**
  - 1g/kg day 1
  - 20-40g/day thereafter
- ❖ **Vasoconstrictor**
  - ❖ Terlipressin/Noradrenaline
- ❖ **Paracentesis**
  - ❖ Replace albumin (8 gm /Litre removed)
- ❖ **Liver transplant**
  - ❖ Definitive treatment
  - NB. transplanted kidneys still work!

## Decompensated Cirrhosis

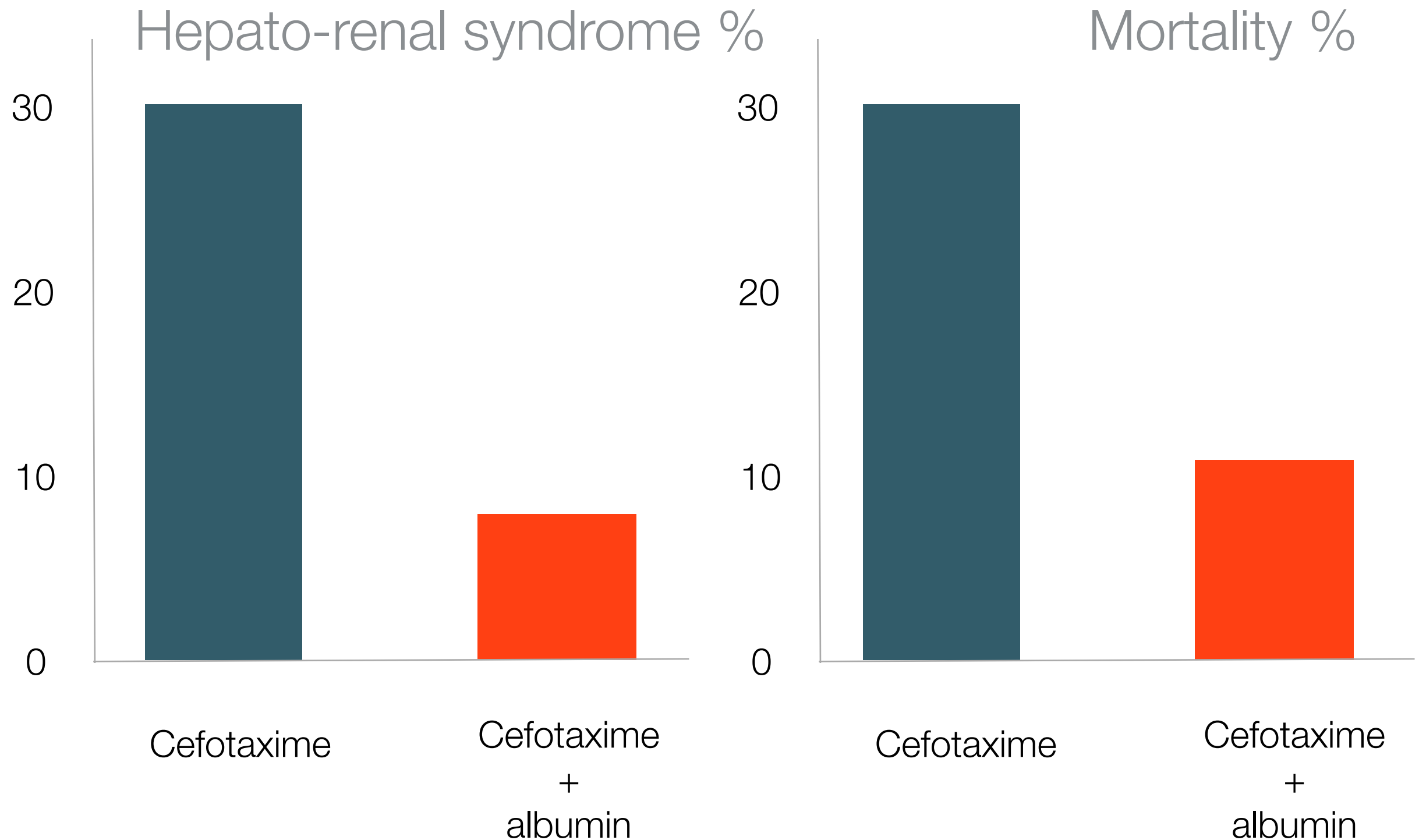


Beware of:

- ❖ **Infection**
  - ❖ ex. SBP
- ❖ **Blood loss**
  - ❖ ex. GI bleed
- ❖ **Large volume paracentesis**
- ❖ **Drug toxicity**



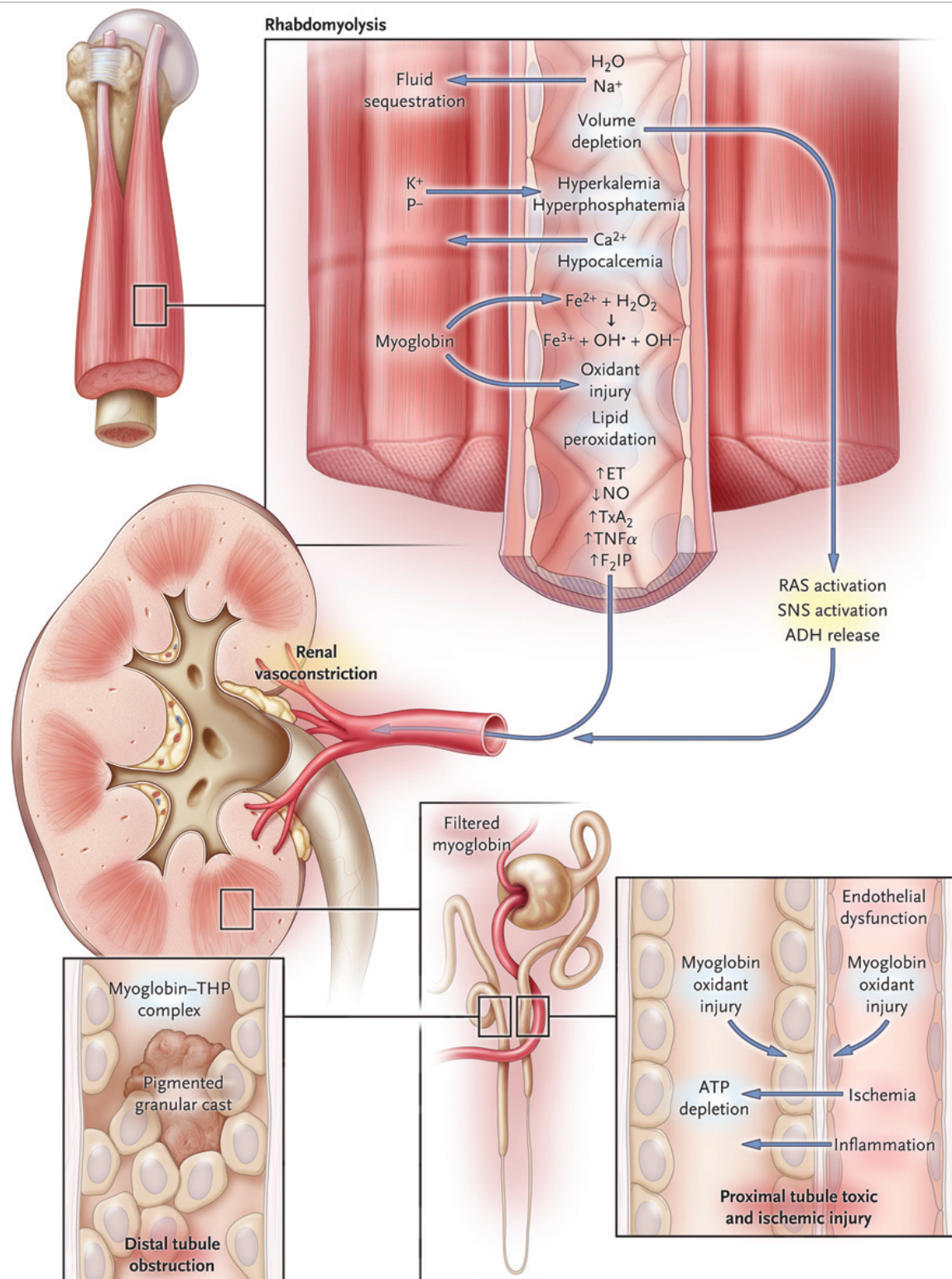
# Effects of volume expansion with albumin in **SBP**



# ARI and Rhabdomyolysis

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# Pathophysiology of ARI and Rhabdomyolysis



- ❖ Fluid sequestration in injured muscle induces volume depletion
- ❖ -> Activation of the SNS, ADH, and RAS
- ❖ -> **Vasoconstriction**
- ❖ -> **Tubular injury**
- ❖ Ischaemia due to renal vasoconstriction
- ❖ **Direct toxicity**
  - ❖ Myoglobin-associated oxidative injury
  - ❖ Tubule obstruction due to
    - ❖ protein-myoglobin complex
    - ❖ sloughed tubular cells forming cellular casts.

# Treatment of ARI and Rhabdomyolysis

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- ❖ Check volume status (often need ~10 L/ day)
- ❖ Measure creatine kinase (risk of ARI low if < 15,000 U/L)
- ❖ Measure plasma and urine creatinine, K<sup>+</sup>, Na<sup>+</sup>, Ca<sup>++</sup>, Mg, PO<sub>4</sub> and albumin
- ❖ Urine dipstick and urine sediment (+ for blood in myoglobinuria and haemoglobinuria)
- ❖ Initiate volume repletion with normal saline at ~400 mL/hr
- ❖ Target urine output >200 mL/hr
- ❖ Check K<sup>+</sup> frequently
- ❖ Only correct Ca<sup>++</sup> if symptomatic (beware malignant precipitation of CaPO<sub>4</sub>)
- ❖ Treat cause of rhabdomyolysis
- ❖ If urine pH <6.5, alternate each liter of saline with Na bicarbonate
- ❖ Maintain diuresis until myoglobin is cleared (clear urine, urine dipstick negative for blood)
- ❖ Consider RRT if resistant hyperkalaemia, anuria, volume overload resistant acidosis

# Renal transplant as a last resort

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**China 'kidney for iPad' trial begins in Hunan**

# Acute kidney injury-Recap

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- ❖ Acute kidney injury is **common and deadly**
- ❖ Experimental models have defined pathophysiology of AKI
- ❖ AKI leads to **distant** organ dysfunction
- ❖ Risk stratify and watch for **reversible** causes as soon as possible -
  - ❖ hypovolaemia
  - ❖ nephrotoxic drugs
  - ❖ post-renal causes
- ❖ Diuretics - “the Devil’s drug”



# ???



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