

The Risky Business of Risk Factor modification

It's Just a Numbers Game And So Much More

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Objectives

Be able to explain what is meant by the various cardiovascular/fracture endpoints which drug therapy is aimed at improving.

Be able to select and use an appropriate risk estimation tool to help a patient understand their level of risk and chance of benefit.

Be able to conceptualize how this information could be applied to pharmacotherapeutic decision-making.

Risk ...

Risk markers - associated with a bad outcome

Risk factors - modifiable?

Risky behaviors - smoking, nutrition, activity

Risk of disease - CVD, MI, strokes, fractures

Risk of treatment - harms, costs

Risk of over diagnosis - inconvenience,
labelling, worry

Risk Factors versus Clinical Endpoints

“a risk factor/marker is a variable associated with an increased risk of disease”

Not As Important	Very Important
blood pressure	symptoms
cholesterol	heart attacks
glucose/diabetes	strokes
bone density	heart failure
heart rate	death
CRP	dialysis
proteinuria	amputation
family history	fractures
age	blindness
gender	revascularization
race	angina
FEV1	TIA's

Conditions requiring risk assessment

The main ones are hypertension, cholesterol, glucose/diabetes, osteoporosis/BMD, atrial fibrillation, cancer

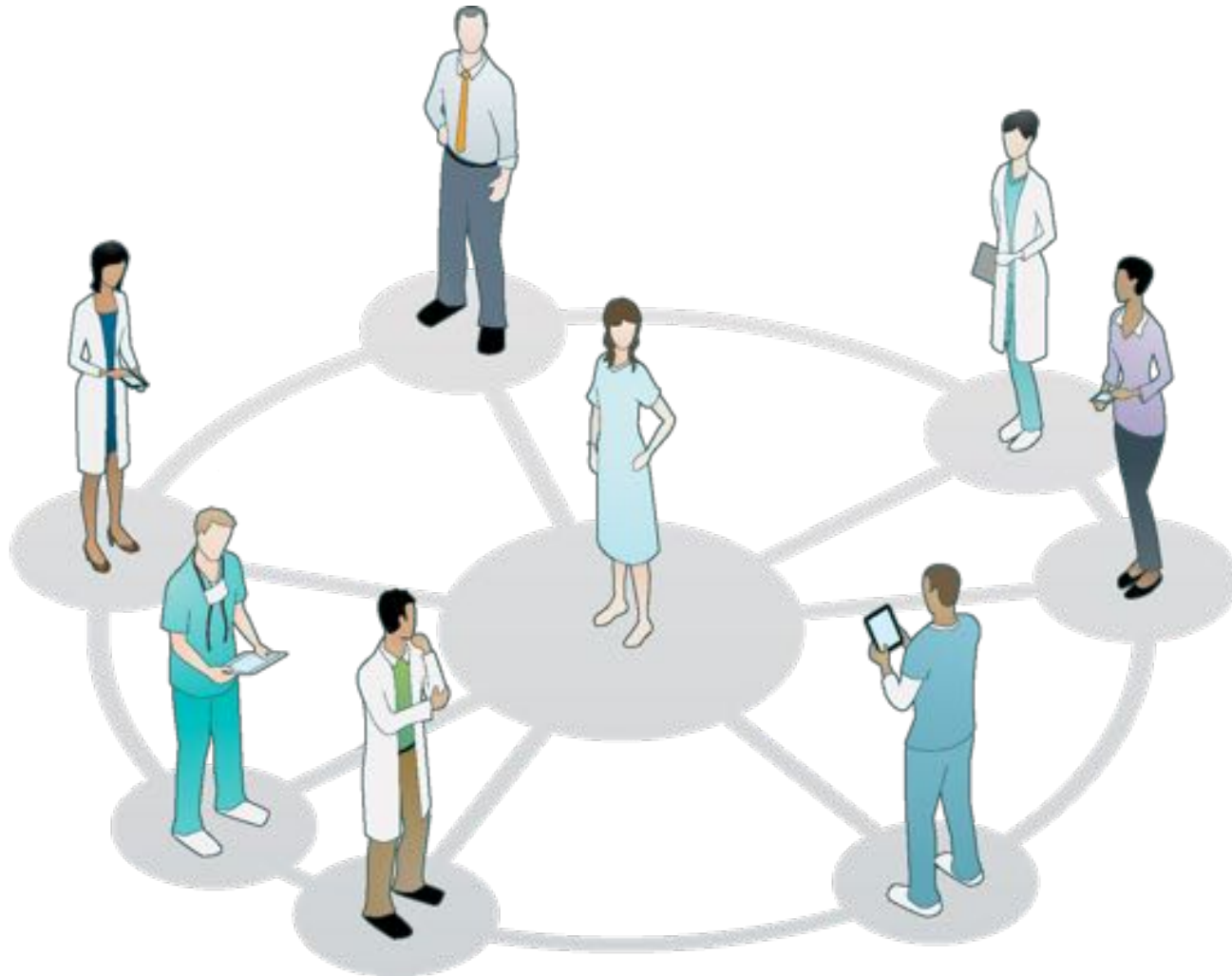
Figure out risk

Then figure out benefit

Include harm and costs and inconvenience

We are
knowledge
brokers

Patient centered



“Choice is a gift from the patient to the doctor, not the other way around”

It's all about figuring out

The Chance

WITH NO TREATMENT

VS

The Chance

WITH TREATMENT



We need minimally disruptive medicine

The burden of treatment for many people with complex, chronic, comorbidities reduces their capacity to collaborate in their care. **Carl May, Victor Montori, and Frances Mair** argue that to be effective, care must be less disruptive



BMJ 2009;339:b2803

Risky Adjectives

HOW

low is low

moderate is moderate

high is high

Treatment thresholds are arbitrary

Not based on patient preferences

Not based on cost/benefit

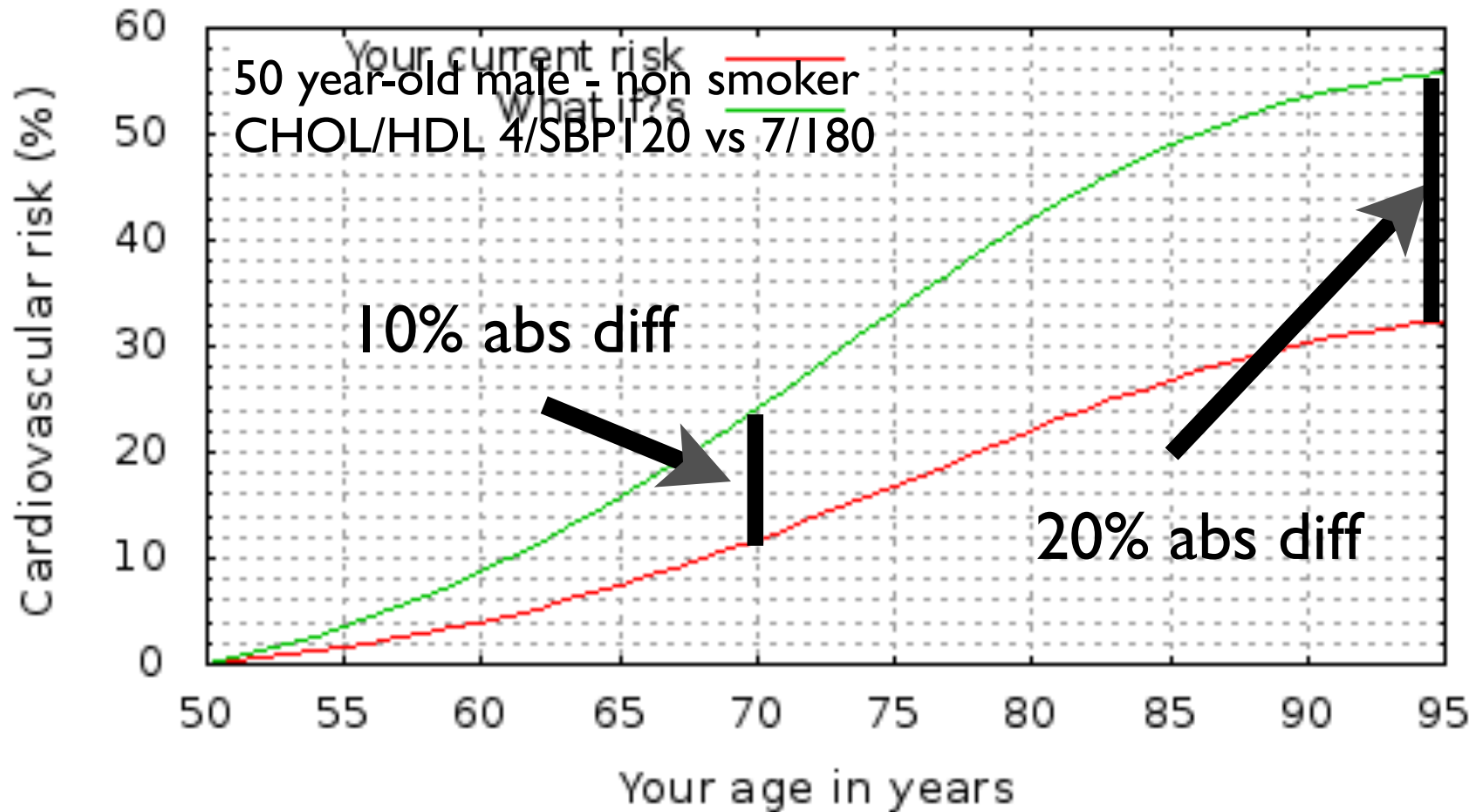
Seem to be primarily emotionally-based

Misguided beliefs

Patients believe CVD “prevention” drugs produce a 70% absolute benefit over 5 years when at most only ~ 20% benefit is possible over a lifetime

Prevention drugs

QRISK Lifetime risk of CVD



20 years \approx 90% no benefit?

45 years \approx 80% no benefit?

20 “NEGATIVE” STUDIES IN A ROW

LIPIDS

AIM-HIGH, HPS2-THRIVE (niacin)

ACCORD (fibrates)

dalOUTCOMES (dalcetrapib)

STABILITY (darapladib)

DIABETES

ACCORD, ADVANCE, VADT

(aggressive A1c lowering)

ROADMAP (olmesartan)

ORIGIN (insulin)

SAVOR-TIMI 53 (saxagliptin)

EXAMINE (alogliptin)

ALECARDIO (aleglitazar)

BLOOD PRESSURE

ALTITUDE (aliskiren)

VALISH, AASK, ACCORD

(aggressive BP lowering)

GENERAL

ACTIVE (irbesartan/afib)

CRESCENDO (rimonabant)

VISTA-16 (varespladib)

182,000+
patients



Patient

Activity
Nutrition

Measure - BP (SBP) - Chol?

Risk of cardiovascular
disease

Patient decision

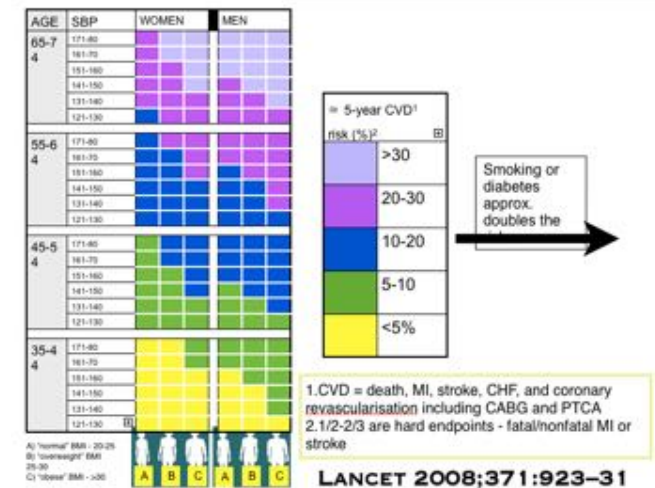
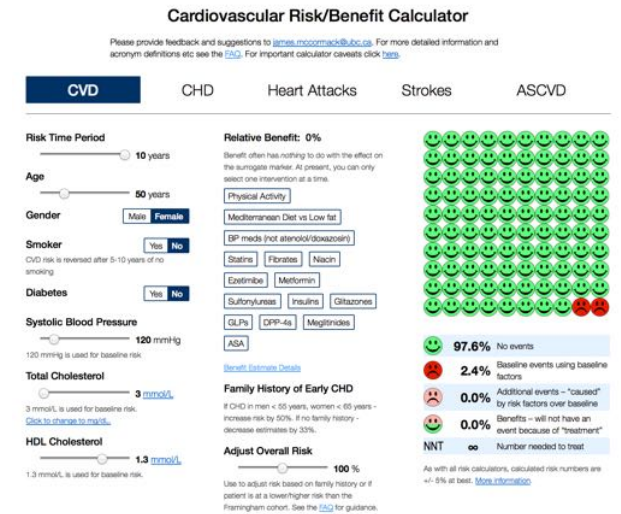
Treatment
Thiazides
ACE inhibitors
Statins etc

EVIDENCE FOR, AND
MAGNITUDE OF, THE
reduction in cardiovascular
outcomes

Side effects

Repeat BP and chol??

Reevaluate need



Relative Risk and Absolute Benefit - recap

Baseline Risk of a heart attack = 50% over 5 years

RR - Relative benefit = 0.8 or 20% reduction

With Treatment = 40%

Absolute difference = 10%

NNT = 10

Baseline Risk of a stroke = 2% per year

RR - Relative benefit = 0.25 or 75% reduction

With Treatment = 0.5%

Absolute difference = 1.5%

NNT = 67

Baseline risk of cancer = 10% lifetime

RR - Relative harm = 2.5 or 150% increase

With Treatment = 25%

Absolute difference = 15%

NNH = 7

Cardiovascular Endpoints

Risk of What and over How Long

WHAT

CVD is cardiovascular disease

Typically = CHD + cerebrovascular

CHD = coronary heart disease = fatal and non-fatal MIs and sometimes angina

Cerebrovascular disease = fatal and non-fatal strokes - and sometimes TIAs

CVD sometimes includes other conditions - heart failure, peripheral vascular disease

HOW LONG - 5 or 10 years

What a calculator should do

IDEALLY

“the calculator selected by a clinician should be derived from a population similar to the patient he or she sees or adjusted to match that, and then updated regularly”

“The calculator should give absolute risks, provide a graphic representation for patients, and preferably provide an estimate of the benefit of key interventions”

“all risk estimates, benefits, and harms of interventions should be used and discussed with patients as part of the shared decision-making process.”

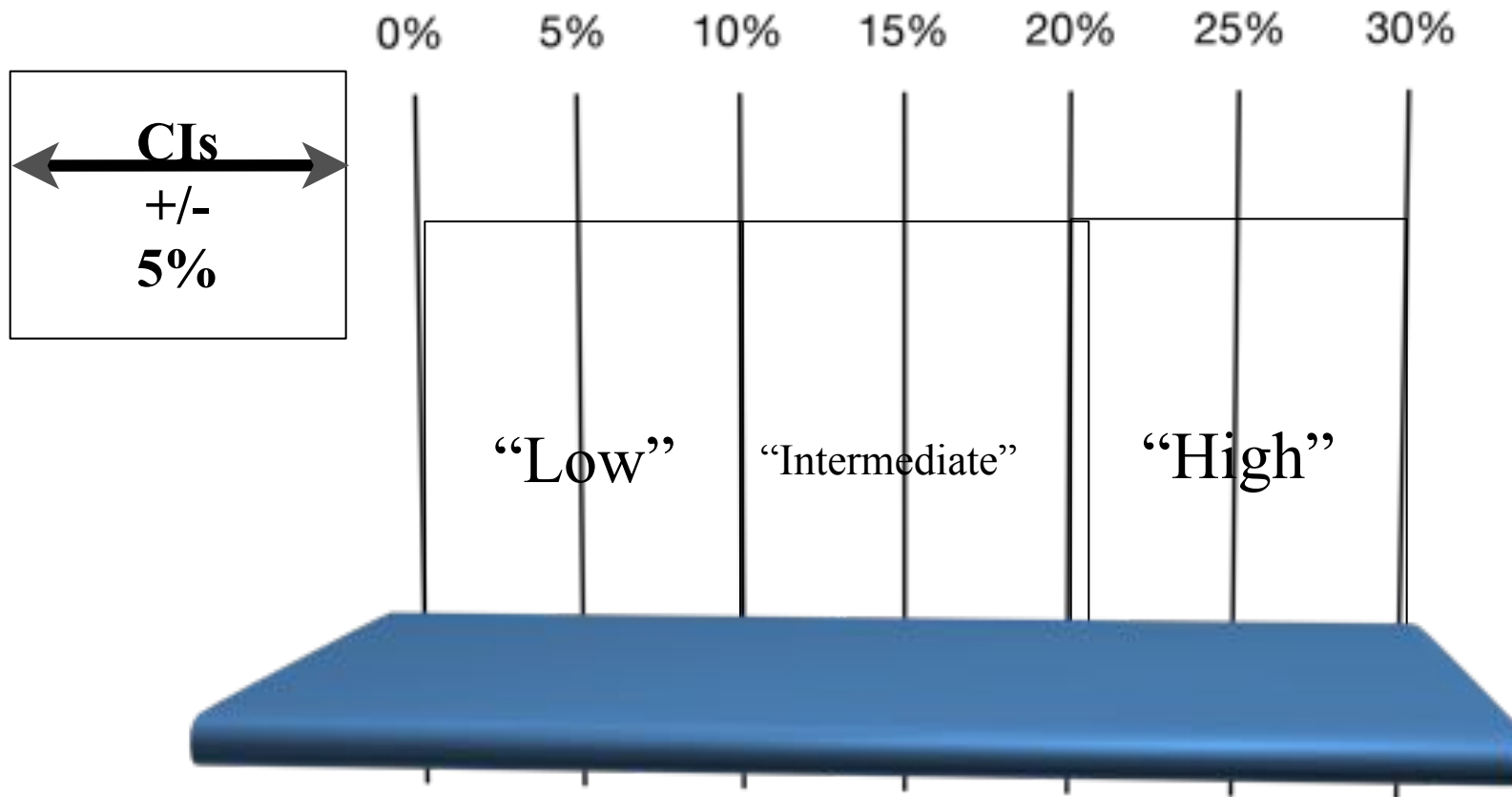
Epidemiology and Prevention

Agreement Among Cardiovascular Disease Risk Calculators

G. Michael Allan, MD; Faeze Nouri, MD; Christina Korownyk, MD; Michael R. Kolber, MD, MSc;
Ben Vandermeer, MSc; James McCormack, PharmD

Circulation 2013;127:1948–56

How accurately can we predict risk?



J Cardiovasc Risk 2002;9:183-90

“Non-traditional” Risk Factors

C-reactive protein

ankle–brachial index

leukocyte count

fasting blood glucose

periodontal disease

carotid intima–media thickness

coronary artery calcification score on CT

homocysteine

lipoprotein(a)

“There is at present no
place for adding
additional risk factors to
the present risk
prediction models”

Circulation 2013;127:1948–56

USPSTF. Ann Intern Med 2009;151:474-82

For Primary Prevention

The Absolute CVD Risk/Benefit Calculator

Framingham
Heart attacks + angina/coronary insufficiency + heart failure + strokes + intermittent claudication

QRISK
Heart attacks + strokes

ACC/AHA ASCVD
CHD death + nonfatal heart attacks + fatal/nonfatal strokes

Age

50 years

Gender

Male ☐ Female ☒

Smoker

Yes ☐ No ☒
CVD risk is reversed after 5-10 years of no smoking

Diabetes

Yes ☐ No ☒

Systolic Blood Pressure

120 mmHg
120 mmHg is used for baseline risk

Total Cholesterol

3 mmol/L
3 mmol/L is used for baseline risk.
[Click to change to mg/dL](#)

HDL Cholesterol

1.3 mmol/L
1.3 mmol/L is used for baseline risk.

Relative Benefit: 0%

Benefit often has nothing to do with the effect on the surrogate marker. At present, you can only select one intervention at a time.

Physical Activity

Mediterranean Diet vs Low fat

Vitamin/Omega-3 supplements

BP meds (not atenolol/doxazosin)

Low-mod intensity statins

High intensity statins

Fibrates

Niacin

Ezetimibe

Metformin

Sulfonylureas

Insulins

Glitazones

GLPs

DPP-4s

Meglitinides

ASA

[Benefit Estimate Details](#)

Family History of Early CHD

If mother (< 65 yrs) increase risk 60%

If father (< 55 yrs) increase risk 75%

Risk Time Period

10 years

Adjust Overall Risk

100 %

The amount of risk conferred from a family member to a patient depends on: (1) how close a relative, (2) age of a relative, (3) number of affected family members.

48 smiley faces (47 blue, 1 red)

97.6% No event

2.4% Total with an event

0.0% Number who benefit from treatment

NNT ∞ Number needed to treat

2.4% Baseline events using baseline factors alone

0.0% Additional events "caused" by risk factors

As with all risk calculators, calculated risk numbers are +/- 5% at best. [More information](#)

cvdcalculator.org

55 y/o white M

BP 145/90 BMI 27 (172 cm, 80kg)

TChol 5.0. HDL 1.0. CRP 5.0

PMH: none

fam CV hx: none

67 y/o white F

BP 135/85. BMI 33 (160 cm, 82kg)

TChol 6.1. HDL 1.3. CRP 8.5

PMH: type 2 diabetes x 3y (HgB A1C 7.5%)

fam CV hx: none

“I find this one of the best risk calculator tools available.

It’s easy to use and to understand, the user can select to use the Framingham or the AHA/ACC risk model, and to predict various outcomes (CHD, MI, Stroke, ASCVD).

The background material is also excellent – providing data on how the risks were calculated.

I also love the way you can explore the effect of various interventions, and the simple, intuitive way that the effects of interventions are displayed.

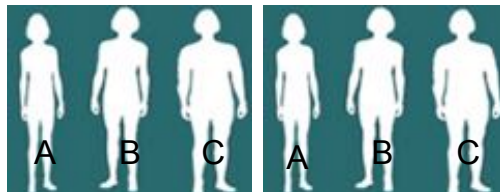
I think this is one of the best sites to use if you want to show patients a visual of how their risk might change with interventions.”



Deborah Grady
Deputy Editor of JAMA Internal Medicine

AGE	SBP	WOMEN			MEN		
65-74	171-80						
	161-70						
	151-160						
	141-150						
	131-140						
	121-130						
55-64	171-80						
	161-70						
	151-160						
	141-150						
	131-140						
	121-130						
45-54	171-80						
	161-70						
	151-160						
	141-150						
	131-140						
	121-130						
35-44	171-80						
	161-70						
	151-160						
	141-150						
	131-140						
	121-130						

A) "normal" BMI - 20-25
 B) "overweight" BMI 25-30
 C) "obese" BMI - >30



\approx 5-year CVD ¹ risk (%) ²	
	>30
	20-30
	10-20
	5-10
	<5%

Smoking or
diabetes
approx.
doubles the
risk



1.CVD = death, MI, stroke, CHF, and coronary revascularisation including CABG and PTCA
 2.1/2-2/3 are hard endpoints - fatal/nonfatal MI or stroke

Lancet 2008;371:923–31

For Type 2 diabetes (A1c)

UKPDS Risk Engine v2.0

Input

Age Now : 62 years HbA1c : 8.3 %
Duration of Diabetes : 11 years Systolic BP : 145 mmHg
Sex : ☒ Male ☐ Female Total Cholesterol : 5.8 mmol/l
Atrial Fibrillation : ☒ No ☐ Yes HDL Cholesterol : 1.1 mmol/l
Ethnicity : White
Smoking : Non-Smoker

Output

10 year risk 0 15 30 100

CHD :	33.3%	
Fatal CHD :	24.4%	
Stroke :	11.6%	
Fatal Stroke :	1.8%	

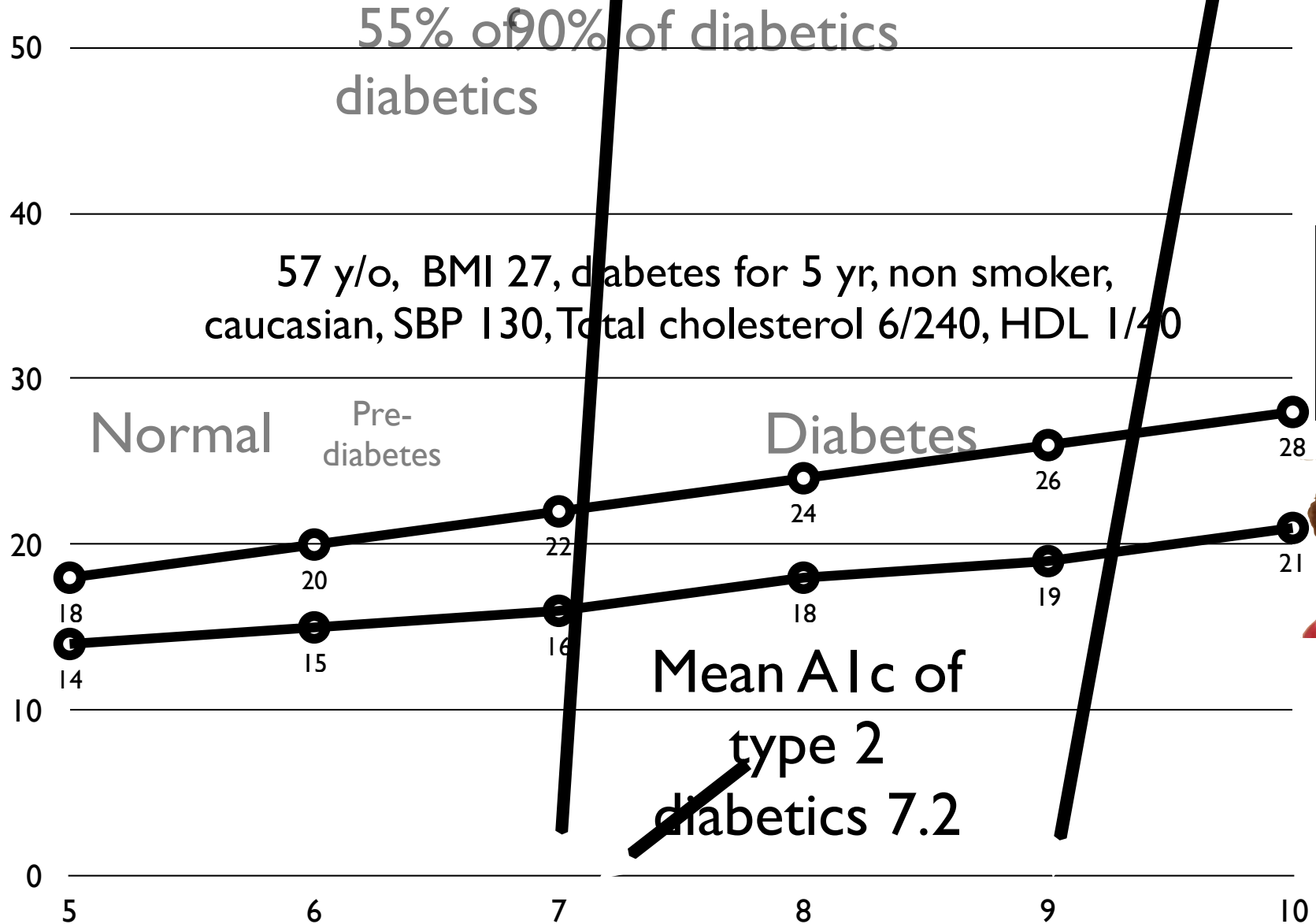
Adjusted for regression dilution

Details Copy Print
Help Exit

<http://www.dtu.ox.ac.uk/riskengine/>

Treatment targets Noticeable symptoms?

10 yr Risk of Cardiovascular Disease (%)

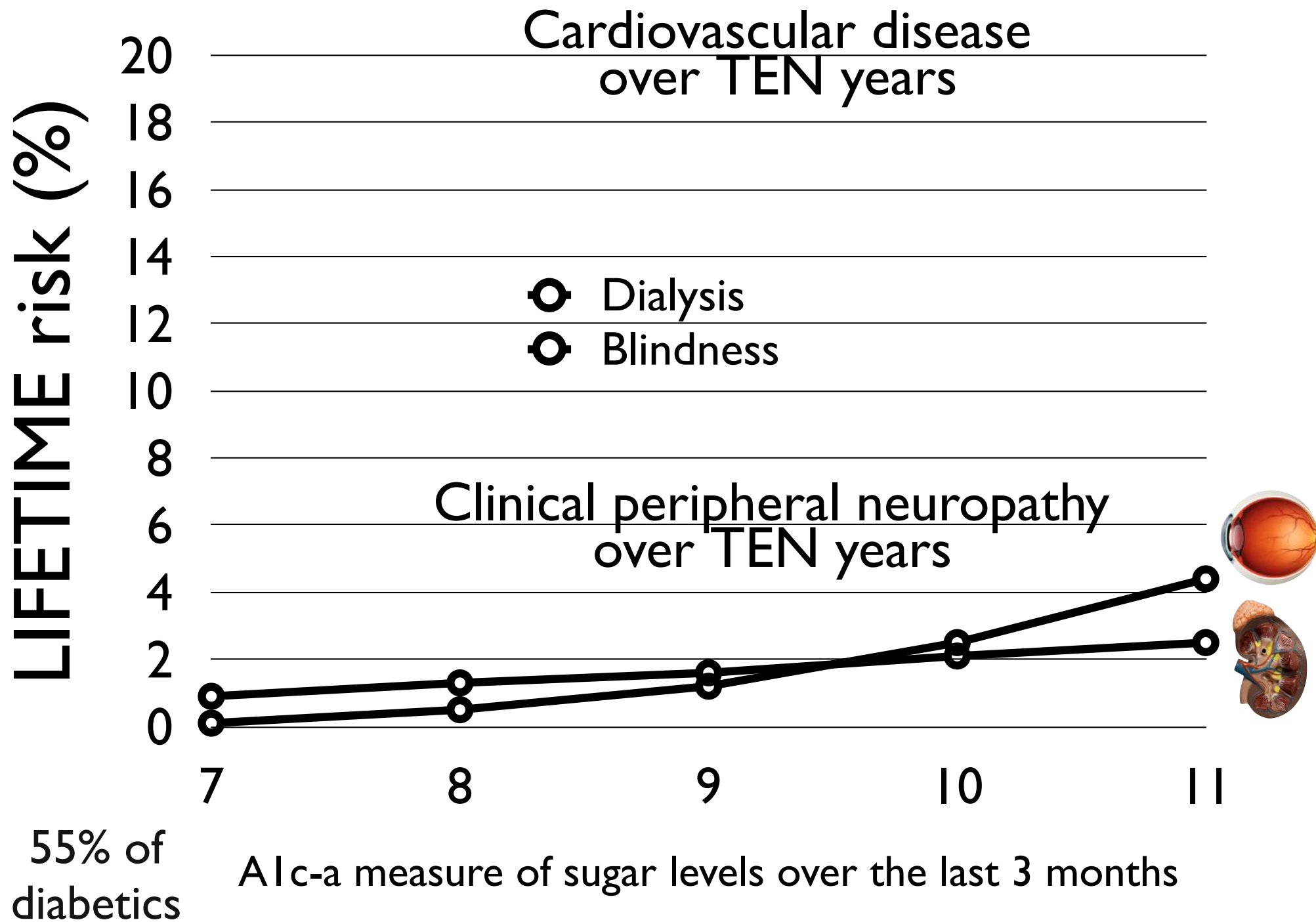


A1c-a measure of sugar levels over the last 3 months

<http://youtu.be/jOxxHbdyXcg>

Diabetes Care 2008;31:81-6

UKPDS RISK ENGINE



ALL LOWER GLUCOSE							
	Key RCTs patients/years		MA (# of studies)				
METFORMIN - Glucophage, Glumetza, generic	700/11	7%	13				
SULFONLYUREAS - Gliclazide (Diamicon, generic), Glimepiride (Amaryl), Glyburide (Diabeta, Euglucon, generic)	4,000/10		4-11		3%		
		COMBO					
INSULIN	12,000/6 4,000/10		None done				
		COMBO					
DPP4s - Sitagliptin (Januvia), Saxagliptin (Onglyza), Linagliptin	5,000/1.5 16,000/2		None done				
GLITAZONES - Pioglitazone (Actos), Rosiglitazone (Avandia)	4,400/4 5,200/3	?	42	?CHF harm	?	?	?
GLPs - Exenatide (Byetta) Liraglutide (Victoza)	? - not studied		?		?	?	?
MEGLITINIDES - Nateglinide (Starlix), Repaglinide (GlucoNorm)	? - not studied		?		?	?	?
Tight control	10,000/3.5 1,800/5.5 11,000/5	? Mortality harm	3				
					2%	2%	2%

T2DM - Lifetime Treatment Benefits - absolute risk reduction

	Age	ESRD	Vision Loss	Amputation	First MI
Metformin at diagnosis	45	6.5	2.1	2.7	2.6
	55	4.2	1.6	2.2	4.0
	65	2.1	1.0	1.5	3.7
	75	0.7	0.5	0.8	2.7
Switch to Insulin after 10 years	45	1.3	0.4	0.4	1.0
	55	0.7	0.2	0.3	0.8
	65	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.6
	75	0.1	0	0.1	0.3

UKPDS -
most optimistic

JAMA Intern Med. doi:10.1001/jamainternmed.2014.2894

Relative risk reductions with different interventions in DM2

	Treat BP	Treat Lipid	Treat Sugar
CVD events	~ 50%	~20-25%	~ 12.5%
Mortality	16%	8%	NSS

Diabetes Care 2010;33(1): S11-61, Ann Intern Med 2008;148:846-54, Lancet 2009;373:1765–72, Lancet 2008; 371:117–25, Ann Intern Med 2003;138:587-92

Afib

Stroke Endpoints

For Afib and stroke

SPARC - Stroke Prevention in Atrial Fibrillation Risk Tool

for estimating risk of stroke and benefits & risks of antithrombotic therapy in patients with chronic atrial fibrillation

[references/notes](#)

version 6.21, March 2013

Developed by Peter Loewen, ACPR, Pharm.D., FCSHP

peter.loewen@ubc.ca

In your patient with atrial fibrillation, which of the following stroke or bleeding risk factors are present?

CHADS2 CRITERIA

- CHF/LV dysfunction (diagnosed at any time in the past) ☐
- Hypertension (controlled or uncontrolled) ☐
- Age > 75 ☐
- Diabetes (Type I or II) controlled or uncontrolled ☐
- TIA or stroke at any time in the past ☐

CHADS2 SCORE (0-6):0

CHA2DS2-VASc CRITERIA

- Prior MI, peripheral artery disease, or aortic plaque ☐
- Age 65-75 ☐
- Female ☐

CHA2DS2-VASc SCORE (0-9):0

HAS-BLED CRITERIA*

- Abnormal renal function ☐
- Abnormal liver function ☐
- History of major bleeding (any cause) ☐
- History of labile INR (time in therapeutic range <60%) ☐
- Current "excess" use of alcohol ☐
- Currently taking antiplatelet drug(s) or NSAID(s) ☐

HAS-BLED SCORE (0-9)*:0

*no studies have observed major bleeding in patients with score>5, so these must be interpreted as "risk probably >10%".

THERAPY	PERCENT PER YEAR			
	Stroke / Embolism		Major Bleeding	
	CHADS2	CHA2DS2-VASc	Pop.Avg.	HAS-BLED
NO THERAPY	1.2%	0.7%	0.6%	
ASPIRIN	0.9%	0.5%	1.1%	
ASPIRIN+CLOP	0.7%	0.4%	3.8%	
WARFARIN	0.4%	0.2%	3.8%	1.2%
DABIGATRAN 110	0.4%	0.2%	3.0%	1.0%
DABIGATRAN 150	0.3%	0.2%	3.8%	1.2%
RIVAROXABAN	0.4%	0.2%	3.8%	1.2%
APIXABAN	0.3%	0.2%	2.6%	0.8%

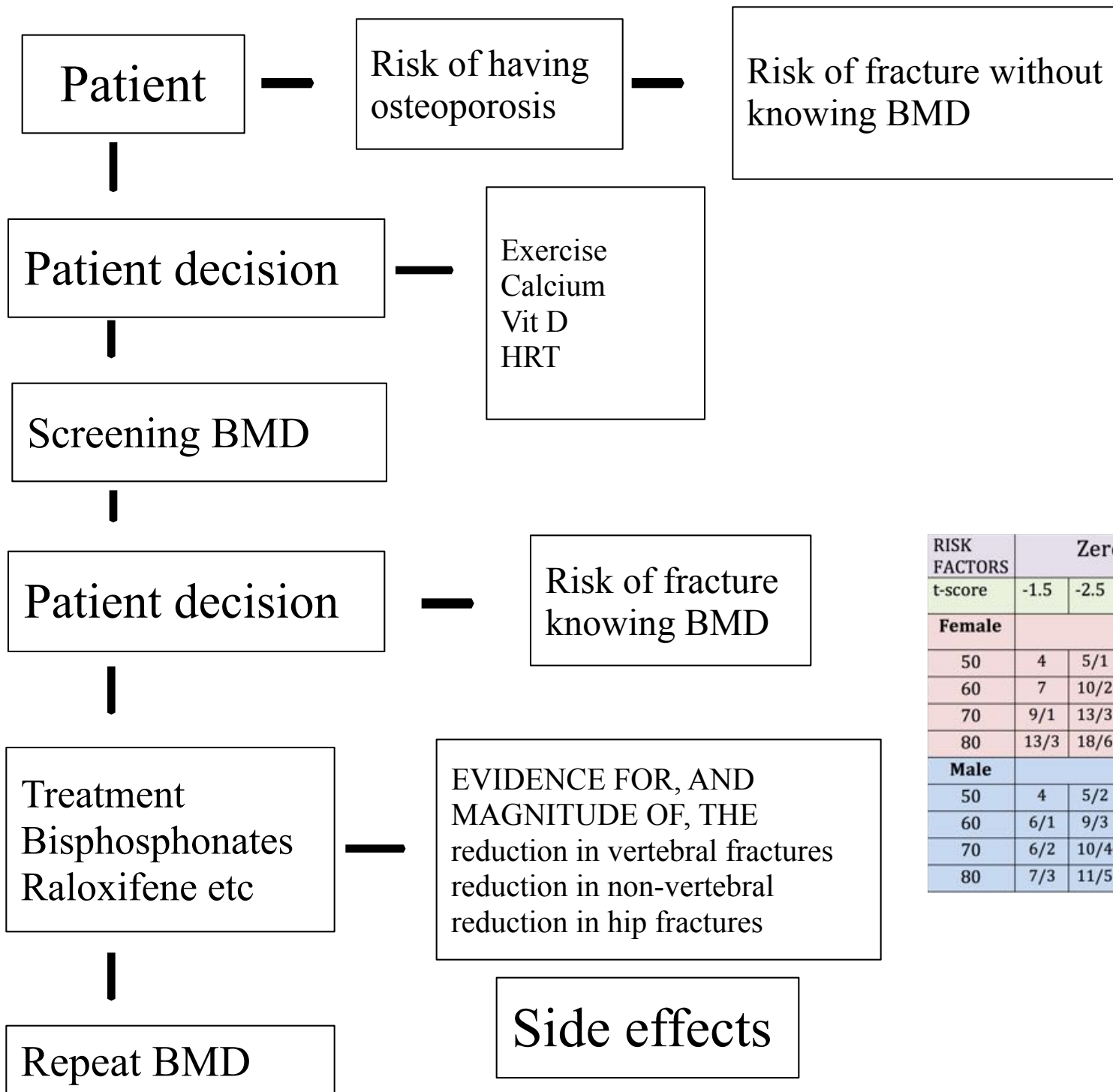
<http://www.sparctool.com>

An easy A fib table

CHADS ₂ Score	Patient's ANNUAL risk (%) of ischemic stroke			Difference in benefit between ASA and OAC
	No therapy	ASA	OAC	
0	1.9	1.5	0.6	0.9
1	2.8	2.2	0.9	1.3
2	4	3.1	1.3	1.8
3	5.9	4.6	1.9	2.7
4	8.5	6.6	2.8	3.8
5	18	14	6	8

An even easier A fib table

CHADS₂ Score	Patient's ~ ANNUAL risk (%) of ischemic stroke			Difference in benefit between ASA and OAC
	No therapy	ASA	OAC	
0	2	1.5	0.5	~1
1	3	2.5	1	~1.5
2	4	3	1	~2
3	6	5	2	~3
4	9	7	3	~4
5	18	14	6	~8



Does your patient have osteoporosis?

(Osteoporosis Self-assessment Tool)

Age – weight (kg) = ????

CHANCE OF OSTEOPOROSIS

- > 20 – approx 50-60%
- 0-20 – approx 15-20%
- <0 – less than 5%

An example
60 years old
130 lbs = 60 kg
Score = 0

Valid in men as well
Mayo Clin Proc 2003;78:723-7

Mayo Clin Proc. 2002;77:629-637
The Singapore Family Physician Jul-Sep 2003;29:12
MOH Osteoporosis clinical practice guidelines - Singapore Mar 2002

RISK FACTORS	Zero			One			Two		
t-score	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5
Female									
50	4	5/1	9/4	6	8/2	14/7	8	12/3	21/11
60	7	10/2	16/6	10/1	14/3	23/9	14/1	20/5	32/14
70	9/1	13/3	21/7	12/1	18/4	30/11	16/2	25/6	41/16
80	13/3	18/6	29/14	17/6	26/12	40/24	24/10	35/20	52/37
Male									
50	4	5/2	11/6	5	8/3	16/10	8/1	12/5	24/16
60	6/1	9/3	15/8	8/1	12/4	21/11	12/2	18/6	29/17
70	6/2	10/4	16/8	9/3	14/6	22/13	12/4	19/10	31/20
80	7/3	11/5	16/9	11/5	16/9	23/16	15/9	22/15	32/25

A simple tool for assessing
the chance of your patient
having osteoporosis

Does your patient have osteoporosis?

(Osteoporosis Self-assessment Tool)

Age – weight (kg) = ????

CHANCE OF OSTEOPOROSIS

> 20 – approx 50-60%

0-20 – approx 15-20%

<0 – less than 5%

An example

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MOH Osteoporosis clinical practice guidelines - Singapore Mar 2002

Fracture Endpoints

A simple tool for estimating
chance of fractures without
a BMD

Simple is better

“Simple models based on age and BMD alone or age and fracture history alone predicted 10-year risk of hip, major osteoporotic, and clinical fracture as well as more complex FRAX models”

Arch Intern Med 2009;169:2087-94

Calculation Tool

Please answer the questions below to calculate the ten year probability of fracture with BMD.

Country: **Canada**

Name/ID:

[About the risk factors](#)

Questionnaire:

1. Age (between 40 and 90 years) or Date of Birth

Age:

Date of Birth:

Y:

M:

D:

2. Sex

☐ Male

☐ Female

3. Weight (kg)

4. Height (cm)

5. Previous Fracture

☒ No

☐ Yes

6. Parent Fractured Hip

☒ No

☐ Yes

7. Current Smoking

☒ No

☐ Yes

8. Glucocorticoids

☒ No

☐ Yes

9. Rheumatoid arthritis

☒ No

☐ Yes

10. Secondary osteoporosis

☒ No

☐ Yes

11. Alcohol 3 or more units/day

☒ No

☐ Yes

12. Femoral neck BMD (g/cm²)

Select BMD



Clear

Calculate



Weight Conversion

Pounds kg

Convert

Height Conversion

Inches cm

Convert

00293126

Individuals with fracture risk
assessed since 1st June 2011

<http://www.shef.ac.uk/FRAX/tool.aspx?country=19>



10 year fracture risk %

Major osteoporotic fracture (clinical spine, forearm, hip or shoulder fracture)/Hip

RISK FACTORS	Zero				One				Two			
BMI	35	30	25	20	35	30	25	20	35	30	25	20
Female												
50	2	3	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	8/1
60	5	6	6	7/2	7	9	10/1	10/4	11/1	13/2	14/2	16/6
70	8/1	9/2	10/2	11/4	11/2	13/3	15/4	17/7	16/4	18/6	21/7	25/12
80	14/4	16/5	19/7	16/11	20/8	23/10	27/13	24/20	28/14	33/18	38/22	35/32
Male												
50	2	2	2	2	3	3	4	4	4	5	6	6
60	3	4	4	4	5	6	6	7/1	7	8	10/1	10/2
70	4	5/1	6/1	6/2	6	7	8/2	9/4	8	10	12/4	13/6
80	6/2	7/3	9/4	9/5	9/4	11/5	13/7	14/10	13/7	16/9	19/12	21/16

Risk factors - Previous fracture “atraumatic”, Parent hip fracture, Smoker, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glucocorticoids - now or more than 3 months, >3 drinks a day

FRAX[®]

WHO Fracture Risk Assessment Tool

A simple tool for estimating
chance of fractures with a
BMD



10 year fracture risk %

Major osteoporotic fracture (clinical spine, forearm, hip or shoulder fracture)/Hip

RISK FACTORS	Zero			One			Two		
t-score	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5	-1.5	-2.5	-3.5
Female									
50	4	5/1	9/4	6	8/2	14/7	8	12/3	21/11
60	7	10/2	16/6	10/1	14/3	23/9	14/1	20/5	32/14
70	9/1	13/3	21/7	12/1	18/4	30/11	16/2	25/6	41/16
80	13/3	18/6	29/14	17/6	26/12	40/24	24/10	35/20	52/37
Male									
50	4	5/2	11/6	5	8/3	16/10	8/1	12/5	24/16
60	6/1	9/3	15/8	8/1	12/4	21/11	12/2	18/6	29/17
70	6/2	10/4	16/8	9/3	14/6	22/13	12/4	19/10	31/20
80	7/3	11/5	16/9	11/5	16/9	23/16	15/9	22/15	32/25

Risk factors - Previous fracture “atraumatic”, Parent hip fracture, Smoker, Rheumatoid arthritis, Glucocorticoids - now or more than 3 months, >3 drinks a day

FRAX[®]

WHO Fracture Risk Assessment Tool

• Osteoporosis Drugs Benefit - 2-3 years •

RELATIVE BENEFITS	FRACTURE RISK REDUCTION*		
	Vertebral	Non-vertebral	Hip
Bisphosphonates**	~ 50%	~ 20%	~40%
Raloxifene	~ 40%	NS	NS
Teriparatide	~ 70%	~ 40%	NS
Vitamin D usually with calcium	~15-25%	~15-25%	~15-30%
Denosumab	~ 70%	~ 20%	~40%
Strontium	~40%	~ 15%	NS
ALL DRUGS	~50%	~20%	~25%

ABSOLUTE BENEFITS	FRACTURE RISK REDUCTION*		
	Vertebral	Non-vertebral	Hip
Bisphosphonates**	~4-8%	~2%	~0.5-1%
Raloxifene	~4%	NS	NS
Teriparatide	~10%	~4%	NS
Vitamin D usually with calcium	1-2%	1-2%	~1%
Denosumab	~5%	~2%	~0.5%
Strontium	~8%	~2%	NS
ALL DRUGS	~5%	~2%	~0.5%

* ~ 50% of the studies enrolled patients with a history of fractures with the exception of the VitaminD/calcium studies where this was ~ 30%

** etidronate has only been shown to reduce vertebral fractures in secondary prevention