

**Πνευμονική Υπέρταση  
σχετιζόμενη με  
Νοσήματα του συνδετικού  
ιστού**

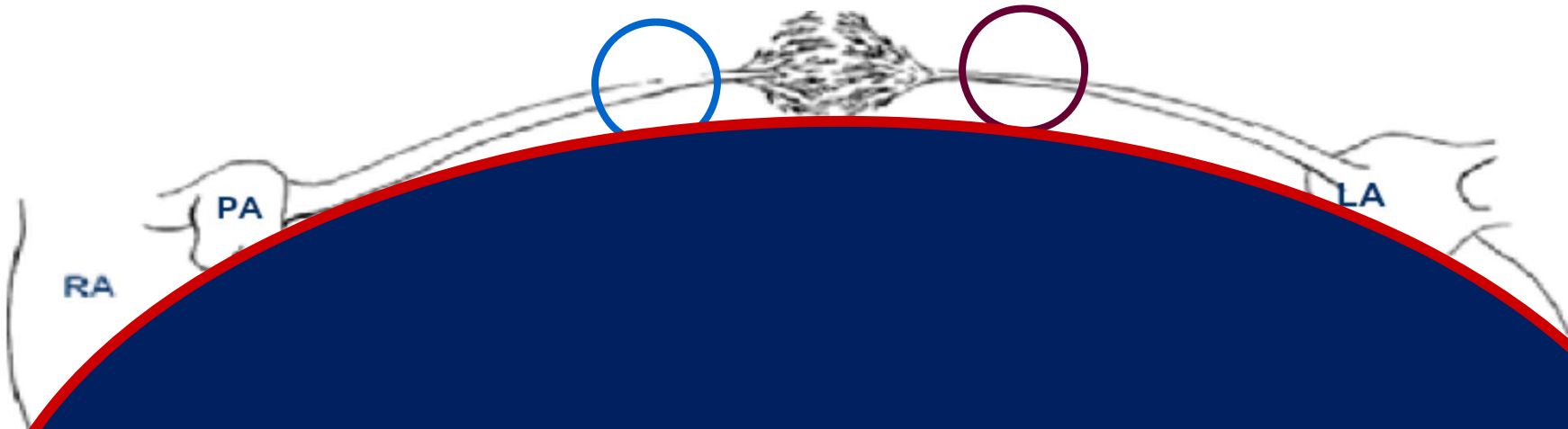
*πρώιμη διάγνωση  
και  
έγκαιρη παρέμβαση*

Ι Μητρούσκα  
Πνευμονολογική Κλινική  
Πανεπιστημιακό Νοσοκομείο Κρήτης

# Πνευμονική Υπέρταση *Ορισμός*

Αύξηση της πίεσης  
στα  
Πνευμονικά αγγεία

## Current hemodynamic classification of PH *Define the lesion*



Αύξηση της πίεσης στα πνευμονικά αγγεία η οποία μπορεί να οφείλεται:

- είτε σε μεμονωμένη αύξηση πνευμονικής αρτηριακής πίεσης (ΠΑΥ)
- είτε σε αύξηση της πνευμονικής φλεβικής και της αρτηριακής πνευμονικής πίεσης

$P_{pa}-P_{cwp} \leq 12 \text{ mmHg}$

Reactive  
 $P_{pa}-P_{cwp} > 12 \text{ mmHg}$

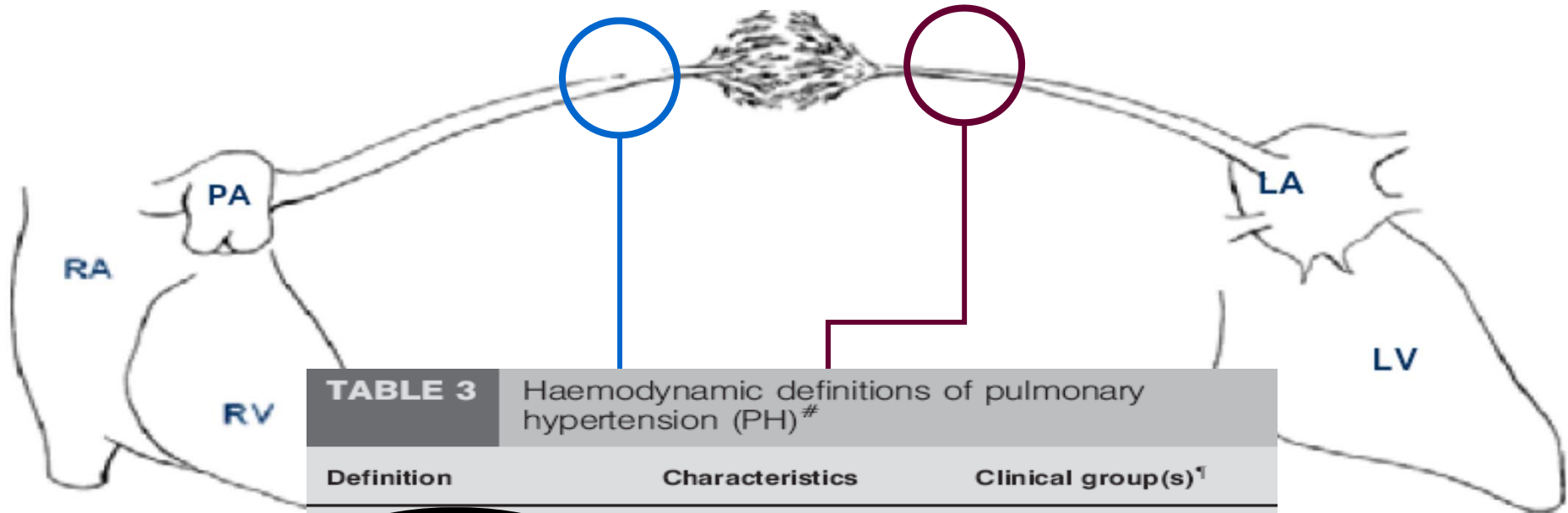
# Πνευμονική Υπέρταση

## Ορισμός

- Πνευμονική Υπέρταση ορίζεται:
- η αύξηση της μέσης Πνευμονικής Αρτηριακής Πίεσης (mPAP) σε τιμές  $\geq 25$  mmHg,
  - όταν αυτή μετράται με Καθετηριασμό Δεξιών Καρδιακών Κοιλοτήτων

Αιμοδυναμικός  
και όχι  
Κλινικός ή υπερηχογραφικός ορισμός

# Current hemodynamic classification of PH *Define the lesion*



**TABLE 3** Haemodynamic definitions of pulmonary hypertension (PH)<sup>#</sup>

| Definition                   | Characteristics   | Clinical group(s) <sup>†</sup>   |
|------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Pre-capillary PH</b>      | $\bar{P}_{pa} \geq 25$ mmHg<br>$\bar{P}_{pa} \geq 25$ mmHg<br>$P_{pcw} \leq 15$ mmHg<br>CO normal or reduced <sup>+</sup> | All<br>1. Pulmonary arterial hypertension<br>3. PH due to lung diseases<br>4. Chronic thromboembolic PH<br>5. PH with unclear and/or multifactorial mechanisms |
| <b>Post-capillary PH</b>     | $\bar{P}_{pa} \geq 25$ mmHg<br>$P_{pcw} > 15$ mmHg<br>CO normal or reduced <sup>+</sup>                                   | 2. PH due to left heart disease  |
| Passive                      | TPG $\leq 12$ mmHg  |  |
| Reactive (out of proportion) | TPG $> 12$ mmHg   |  |

## Pre-capillary PH

- $P_{pa} \geq 25$  mmHg
- $P_{cwp} < 15$  mmHg
- N or reduced CO
- All but one of the above

## Post-capillary PH

5

## Reactive

TPG  $> 12$  mmHg

**Table 1****Updated Classification of Pulmonary Hypertension \*****1. Pulmonary arterial hypertension**

- 1.1 Idiopathic PAH
- 1.2 Heritable PAH
  - 1.2.1 BMPR2
  - 1.2.2 **ALK-1, ENG, SMAD9, CAV1, KCNK3**
  - 1.2.3 Unknown
- 1.3 Drug and toxin induced
- 1.4 Associated with:
  - 1.4.1 **Connective tissue disease**
  - 1.4.2 HIV infection
  - 1.4.3 Portal hypertension
  - 1.4.4 Congenital heart diseases
  - 1.4.5 Schistosomiasis



- 1' Pulmonary veno-occlusive disease and/or pulmonary capillary hemangiomatosis
- 1'' **Persistent pulmonary hypertension of the newborn (PPHN)**

**2. Pulmonary hypertension due to left heart disease**

- 2.1 ~~Left ventricular systolic dysfunction~~
- 2.2 Left ventricular diastolic dysfunction
- 2.3 Valvular disease
- 2.4 **Congenital/acquired left heart inflow/outflow tract obstruction and congenital cardiomyopathies**

**3. Pulmonary hypertension due to lung diseases and/or hypoxia**

- 3.1 ~~Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease~~
- 3.2 Interstitial lung disease
- 3.3 Other pulmonary diseases with mixed restrictive and obstructive pattern
- 3.4 Sleep-disordered breathing
- 3.5 Alveolar hypoventilation disorders
- 3.6 Chronic exposure to high altitude
- 3.7 Developmental lung diseases

**4. Chronic thromboembolic pulmonary hypertension (CTEPH)****5. Pulmonary hypertension with unclear multifactorial mechanisms**

- 5.1 Hematologic disorders: chronic hemolytic anemia, myeloproliferative disorders, splenectomy
- 5.2 Systemic disorders: sarcoidosis, pulmonary histiocytosis, lymphangioleiomyomatosis
- 5.3 Metabolic disorders: glycogen storage disease, Gaucher disease, thyroid disorders
- 5.4 Others: tumoral obstruction, fibrosing mediastinitis, chronic renal failure, segmental PH

\*5th WSPH Nice 2013. Main modifications to the previous Dana Point classification are in bold. .  
BMPR = bone morphogenic protein receptor type II; CAV1 = caveolin-1; ENG = endoglin;  
HIV = human immunodeficiency virus; PAH = pulmonary arterial hypertension.

# Ταξινόμηση Πνευμονικής Υπέρτασης

The Three-Year Incidence of Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension  
Associated With Systemic Sclerosis in a  
Multicenter Nationwide Longitudinal Study in France

Eric Hachulla,<sup>1</sup> Pascal de Groote,<sup>2</sup> Virginie Gressin,<sup>3</sup> Jean Sibilia,<sup>4</sup> Elisabeth Diot,<sup>5</sup>  
Patrick Carpentier,<sup>6</sup> Luc Mouthon,<sup>7</sup> Pierre-Yves Hatron,<sup>1</sup> Patrick Jegou,<sup>8</sup> Yannick Allanore,<sup>7</sup>  
Kiet Phong Tiev,<sup>9</sup> Christian Agard,<sup>10</sup> Anne Cosnes,<sup>11</sup> Daniela Cirstea,<sup>12</sup> Joël Constans,<sup>13</sup>  
Dominique Farge,<sup>14</sup> Jean-François Viillard,<sup>15</sup> Jean-Robert Harle,<sup>16</sup> Frédéric Patat,<sup>17</sup>  
Bernard Imbert,<sup>6</sup> André Kahan,<sup>7</sup> Jean Cabane,<sup>9</sup> Pierre Clerson,<sup>18</sup> Loïc Guillevin,<sup>7</sup>  
Marc Humbert,<sup>19</sup> and the ItinérAIR-Sclérodermie Study Group

**Table 2.** Estimated incidence of pulmonary hypertension during the 3-year followup period\*

|  | Estimated incidence<br>(no. of cases per<br>100 patient-years) | 95% CI    |
|--|--|-----------|
| All forms of pulmonary hypertension                    | 1.37   | 0.74–2.00 |
| Pulmonary arterial hypertension                        | 0.61   | 0.26–1.20 |
| Among patients with lcSSc                              | 0.40   | 0.11–1.03 |
| Among patients with dcSSc                              | 1.25   | 0.34–3.20 |
| Postcapillary pulmonary hypertension                   | 0.61   | 0.26–1.20 |
| Pulmonary hypertension secondary to pulmonary fibrosis | 0.15   | 0.02–0.55 |

\* 95% CI = 95% confidence interval; lcSSc = limited cutaneous systemic sclerosis; dcSSc = diffuse cutaneous systemic sclerosis.

Hachulla et al. *Arthritis Rheum* 2009

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**BMPR-2:** bone morphogenetic receptor protein2 gene,

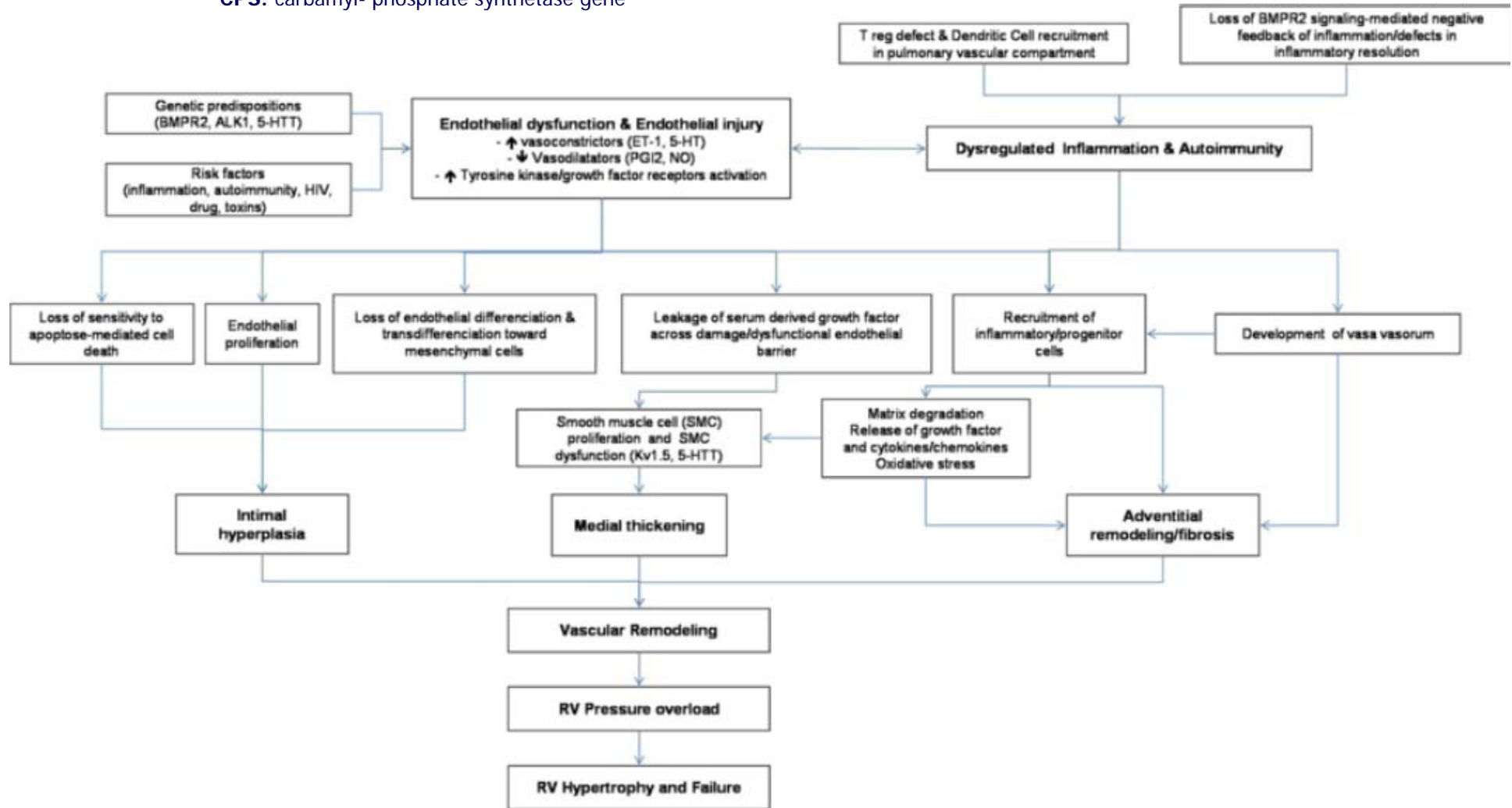
**ALK 1:** activin- receptor- like kinase 1 gene,

**5-HTT:** serotonin transporter gene,

**ec-NOS:** nitric oxide synthase gene;

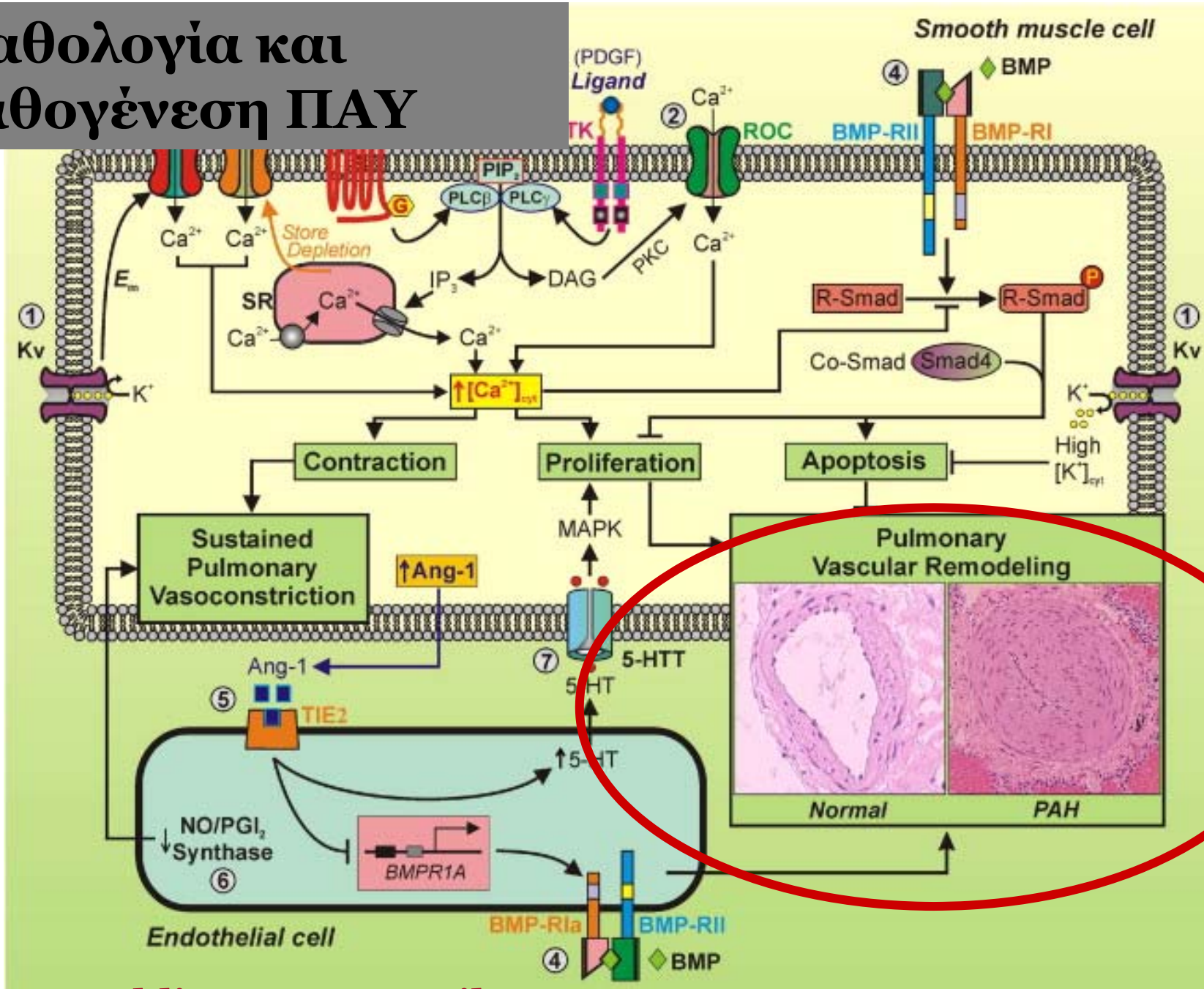
**CPS:** carbamyl- phosphate synthetase gene

# Pathophysiology of PAH 2013



**Montani D JOD 2013**

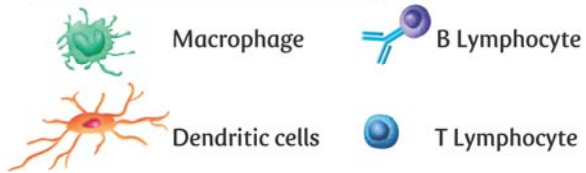
# Παθολογία και παθογένεση ΠΑΥ



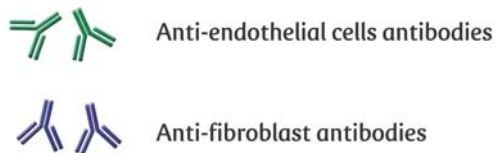
McLaughlin V JACC April 28 2009

# FOCUS ON PAH PATHOPHYSIOLOGY

## INFLAMMATORY CELLS



## AUTOANTIBODIES



## INTIMA



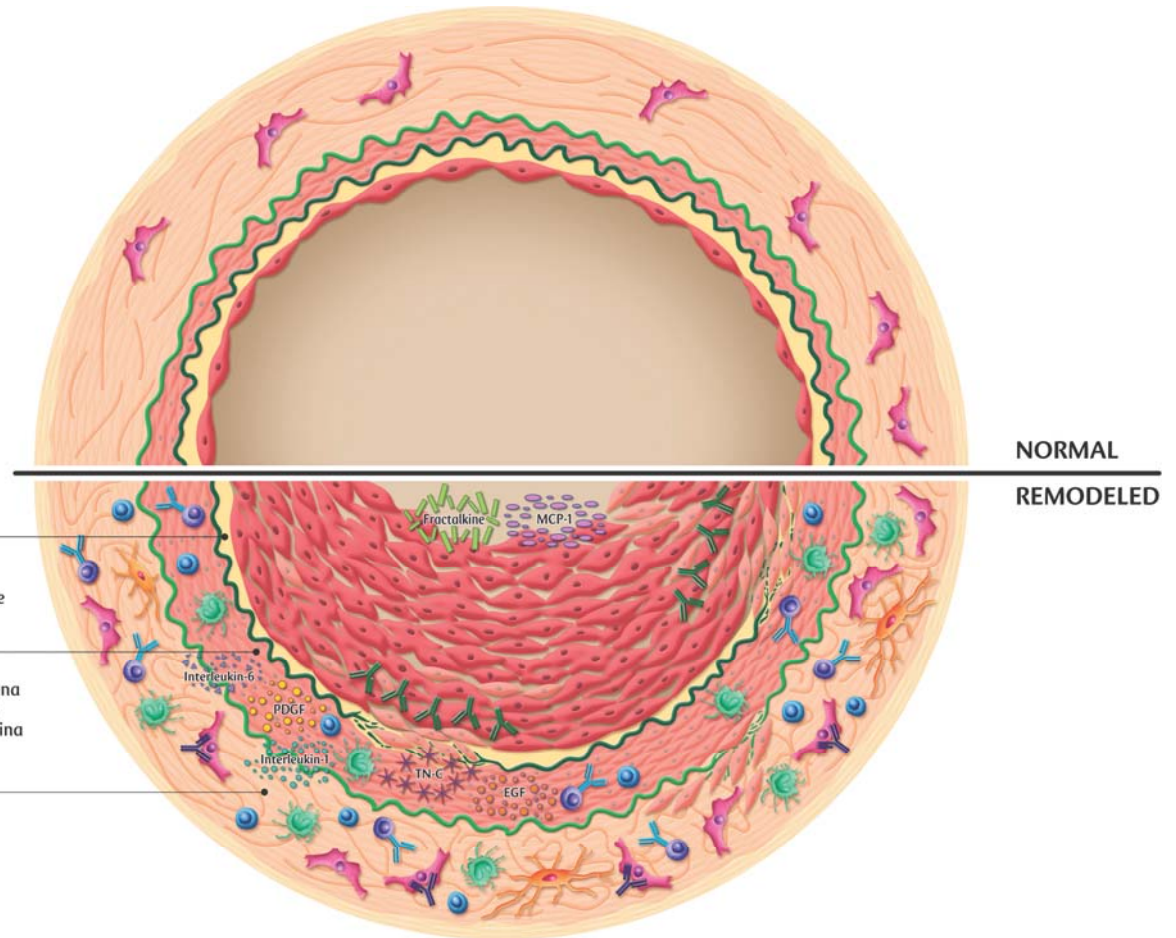
## MEDIA



## ADVENTITIA

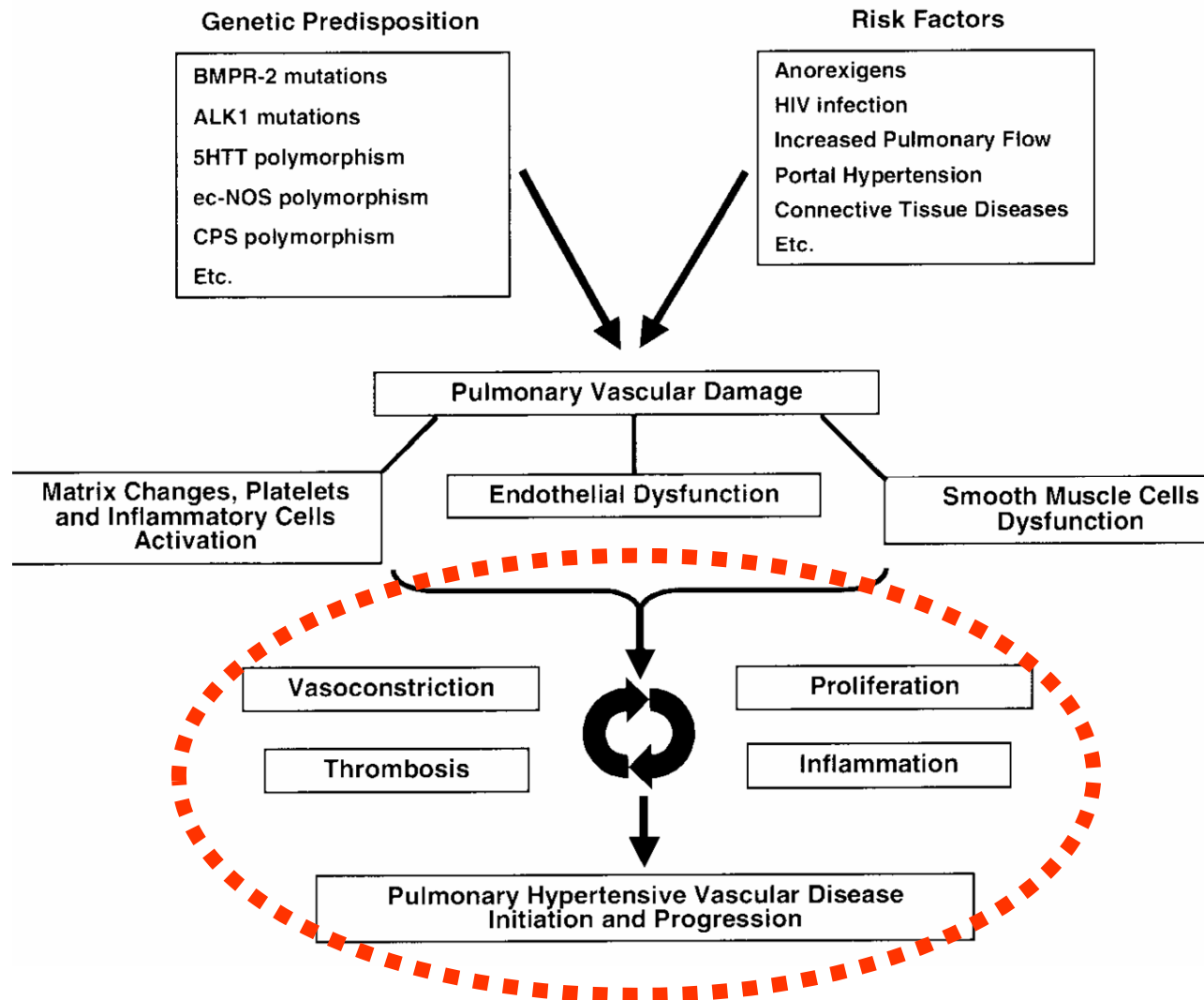


## CYTOKINES AND GROWTH FACTORS



Kherbeck et al.  
Clin Rev Allergy Immunol 2011

# Αγγειακή Αναδιαμόρφωση



**BMPR-2:** bone morphogenetic receptor protein2 gene,

**ALK 1:** activin- receptor- like kinase 1 gene,

**5-HTT:** serotonin transporter gene,

**ec-NOS:** nitric oxide synthase gene;

**CPS:** carbamyl- phosphate synthetase gene

# PAH-CTD in Registries

| Ref                        | Methodology                                      | Diagnosis | PAH prevalence |
|----------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|
| Mukerjee<br>2003<br>UK     | n=722, monocenter<br>Prospective 1998-2002       | RHC       | 12%            |
| Hachulla<br>2005<br>France | 599, multicenter<br>Prospective, transsectionnal | RHC       | 8%             |
| Phung<br>2009<br>Australia | 184, monocenter<br>Prospective, transsectionnal  | RHC       | 13%            |

# PAH-CTD in Registries

**French Registry  
(674 PAH patients)<sup>1</sup>**

|                            |       |
|----------------------------|-------|
| Idiopathic                 | 39.2% |
| CTD                        | 15.3% |
| CHD                        | 11.3% |
| Portal hypertension        | 10.4% |
| Anorexigens                | 9.5%  |
| HIV                        | 6.2%  |
| 2 co-existing risk factors | 4.3%  |
| Familial PAH               | 3.9%  |



|                                      |     |
|--------------------------------------|-----|
| SSc                                  | 76% |
| SLE                                  | 15% |
| MCTD, Sjögren's, RA,<br>polymyositis | 9%  |

**UK Registry  
(429 PAH-CTD patients)<sup>2</sup>**

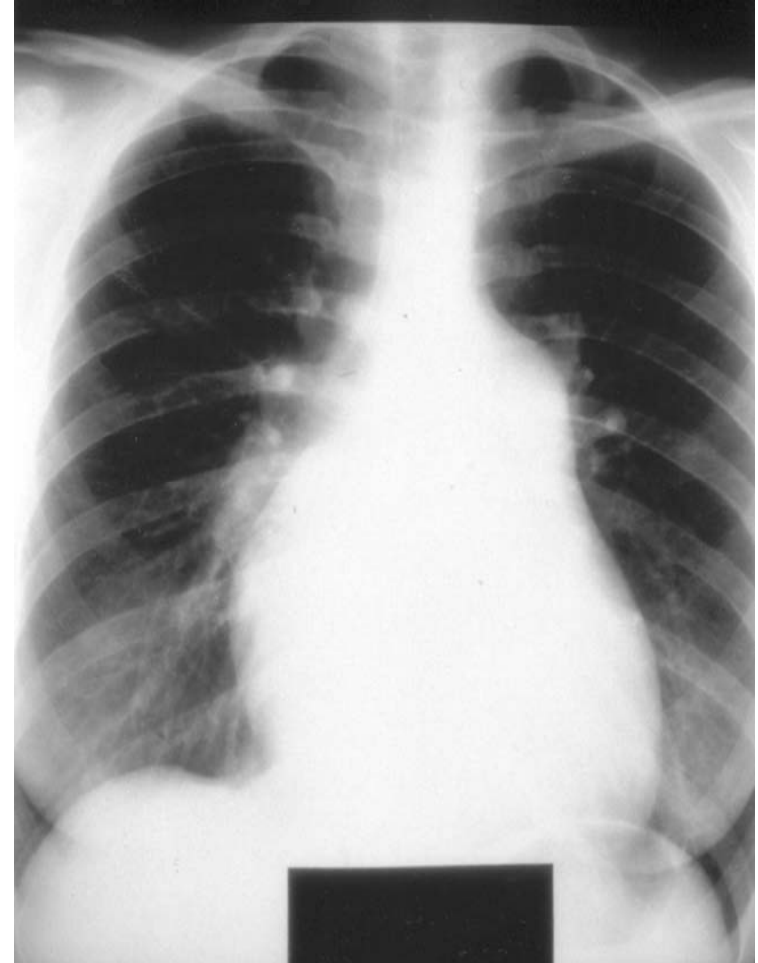
|           |     |
|-----------|-----|
| SSc       | 74% |
| MCTD      | 8%  |
| SLE       | 8%  |
| DM/PM     | 4%  |
| RA        | 3%  |
| UCTD      | 2%  |
| Sjogren's | 1%  |

1. Humbert M, et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2006; 173:1023
2. Condliffe R, et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2009; 179:151

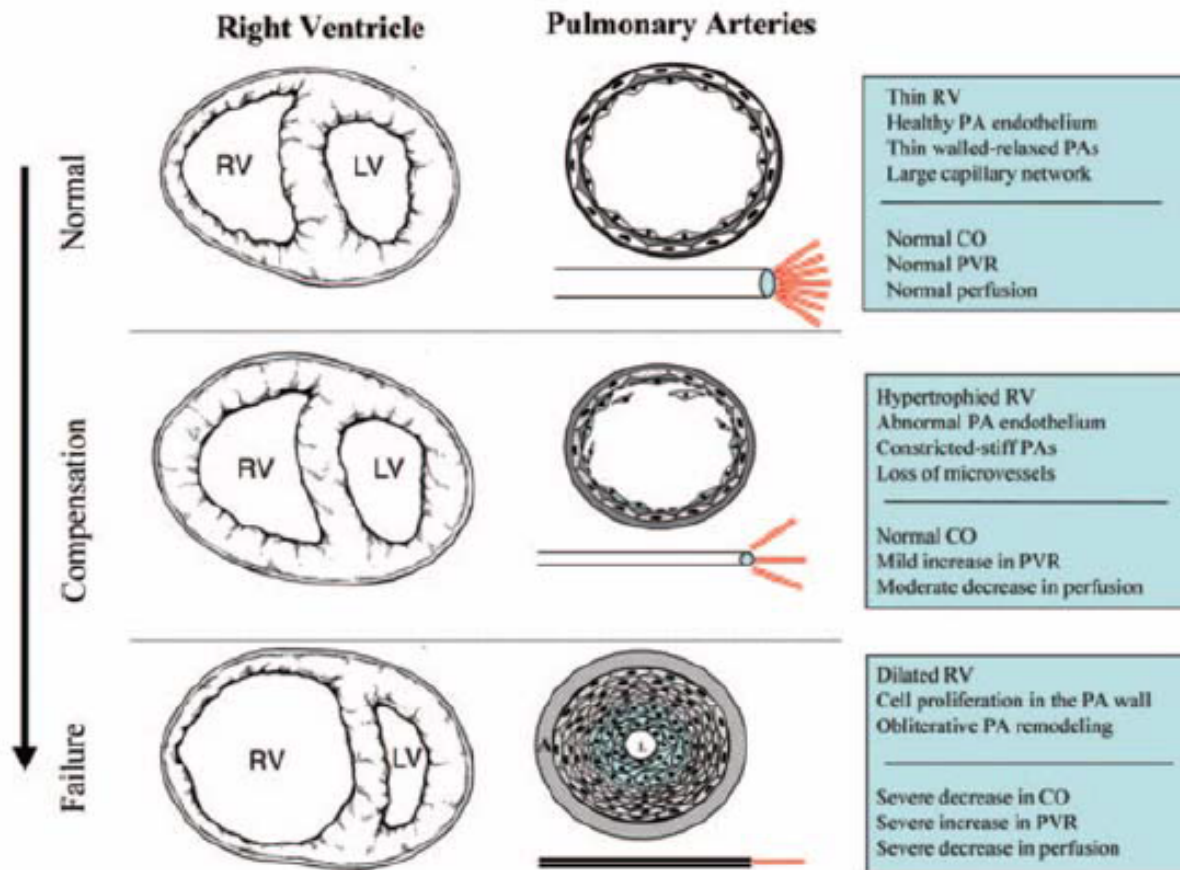
# *Εστιάζουμε στην Πνευμονική Αρτηριακή Υπέρταση*

## *Προτριχοειδική Πνευμονική Υπέρταση*

- **Hemodynamic definition (right-heart cath)**
  - Mean PAP  $\geq 25$  mmHg at rest
  - Wedge PAP  $\leq 15$  mmHg
  
- **Consequences**
  - Right ventricular hypertrophy
  - Right heart failure
  - Dyspnea, chest pain, (pre-)syncope
  - (Sudden) death

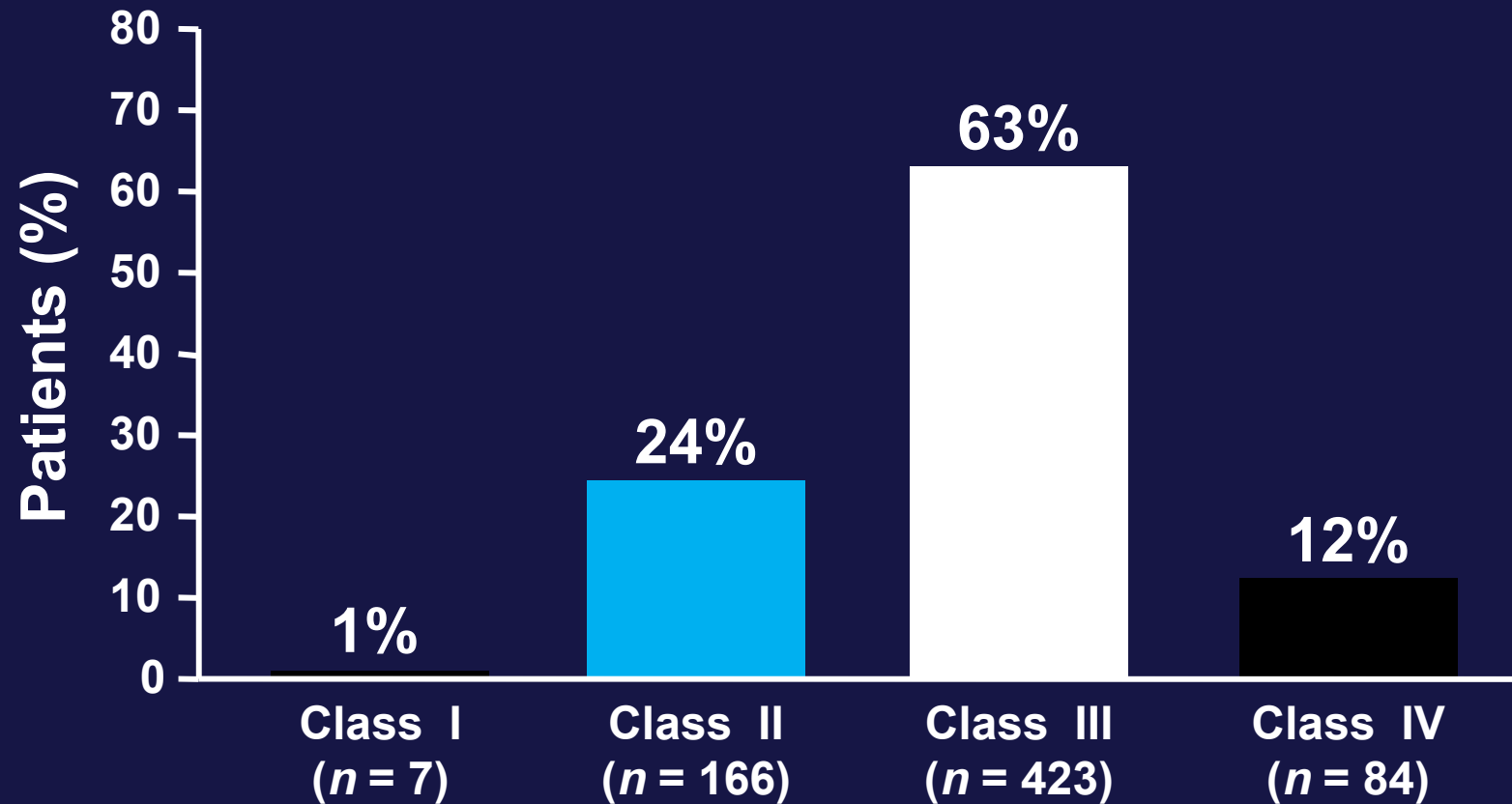


# Progression of vascular disease



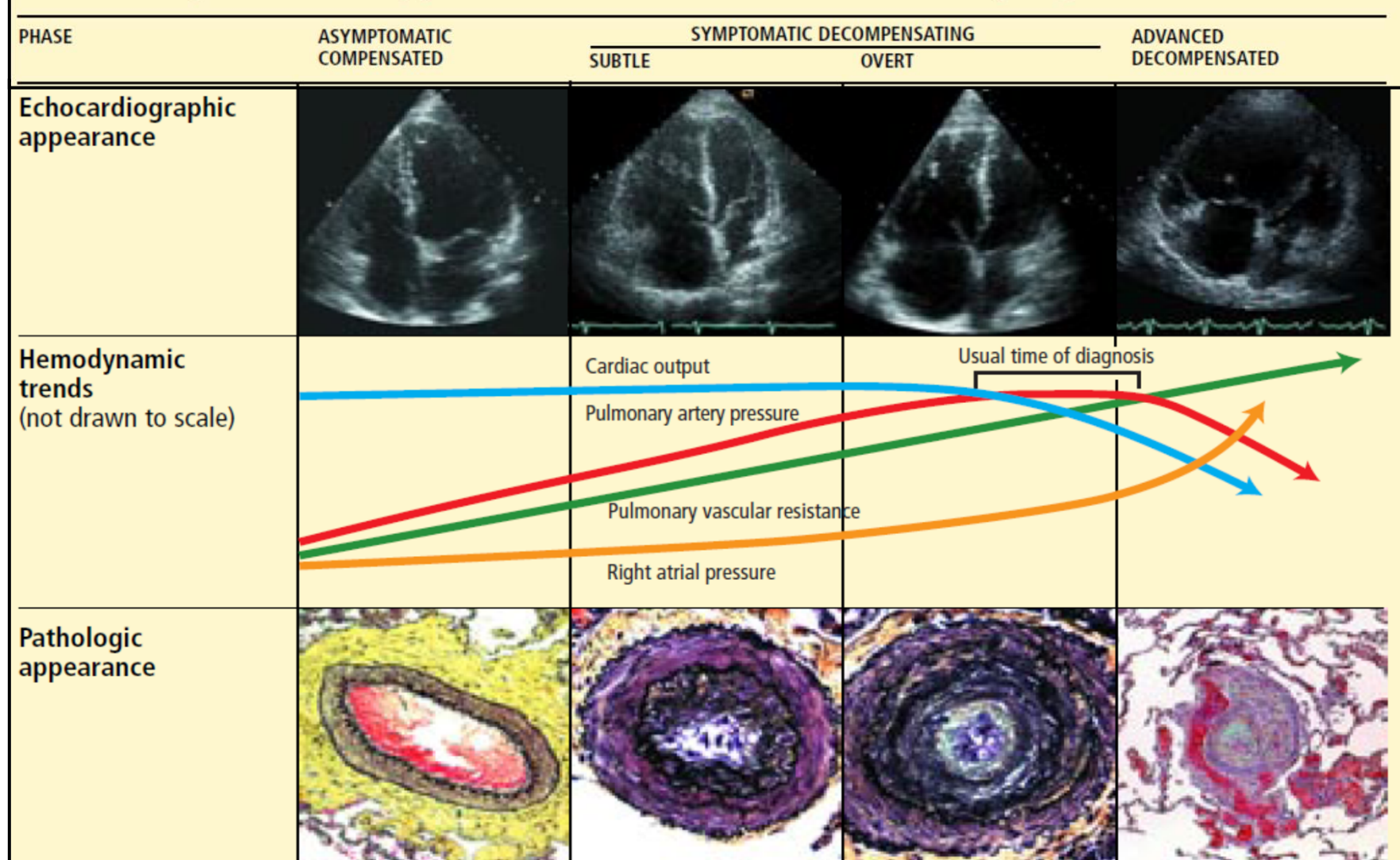


# Λειτουργική κατάσταση NYHA/WHO στην διάγνωση



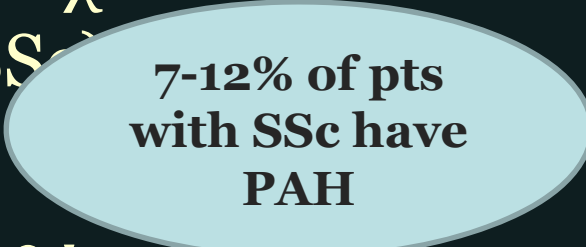
**Humbert M, et al. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2006; 173:1023-30.**

## Pulmonary arterial hypertension: Clinical course and progression

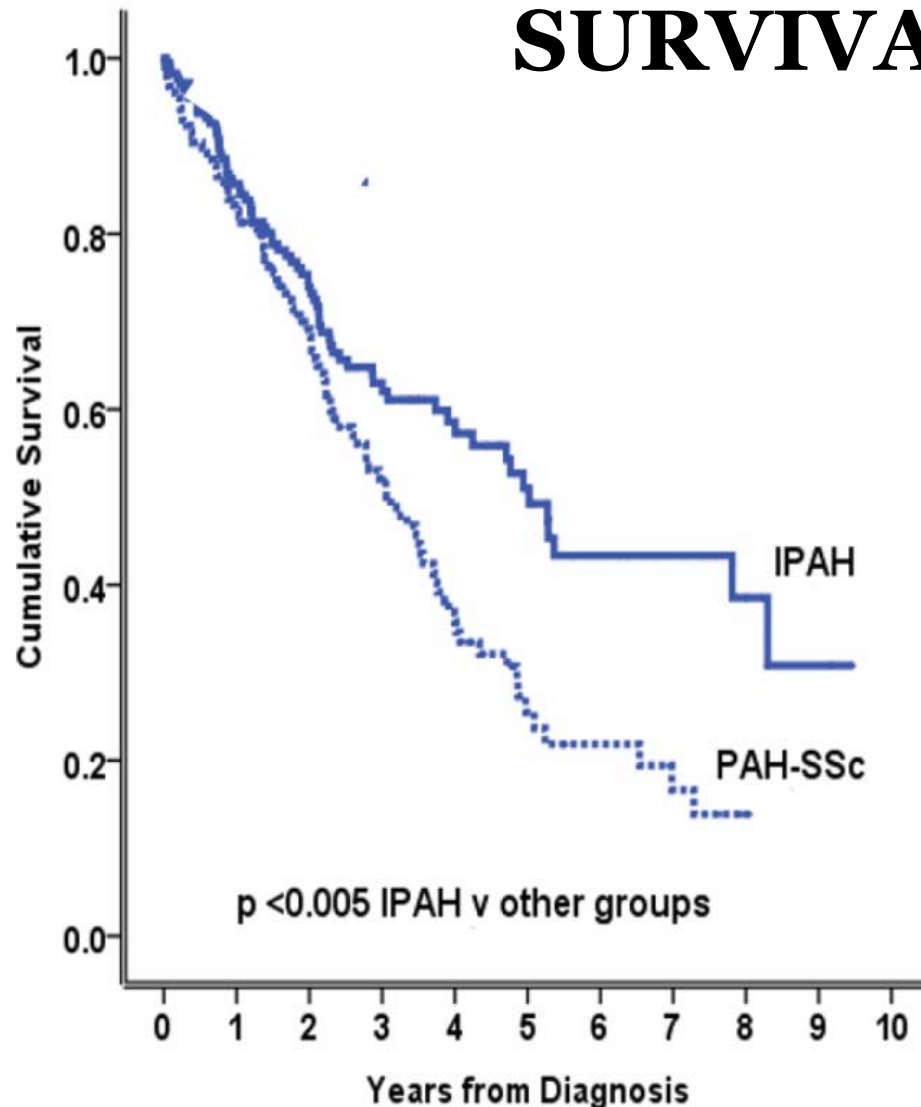


*Cl C J M 2007;74:737-47*

# Επιδημιολογία

- Η Πνευμονική Αρτηριακή Υπέρταση (ΠΑΥ) προσβάλλει 0.5-15% των ασθενών με νοσήματα του συνδετικού ιστού [connective tissue diseases (CTD) and mixed connective tissue diseases (MCTD)]
- Οι περισσότεροι ασθενείς με ΠΑΥ που σχετίζεται με νόσημα του συνδετικού ιστού πάσχουν από σκληρόδερμα (Systemic sclerosis-SSc)  

- Η καρδιοπνευμονική συμμετοχή ευθύνεται για > 50% των θανάτων σε ασθενείς με SSC

# SURVIVAL in PAH



## Potential reasons

Age

Pulmonary vasculopathy  
(arter, venules)

Right ventricle  
(reduced contractility)

Left ventricle  
(S/D dysfunction)

ILD

Multisystem disease

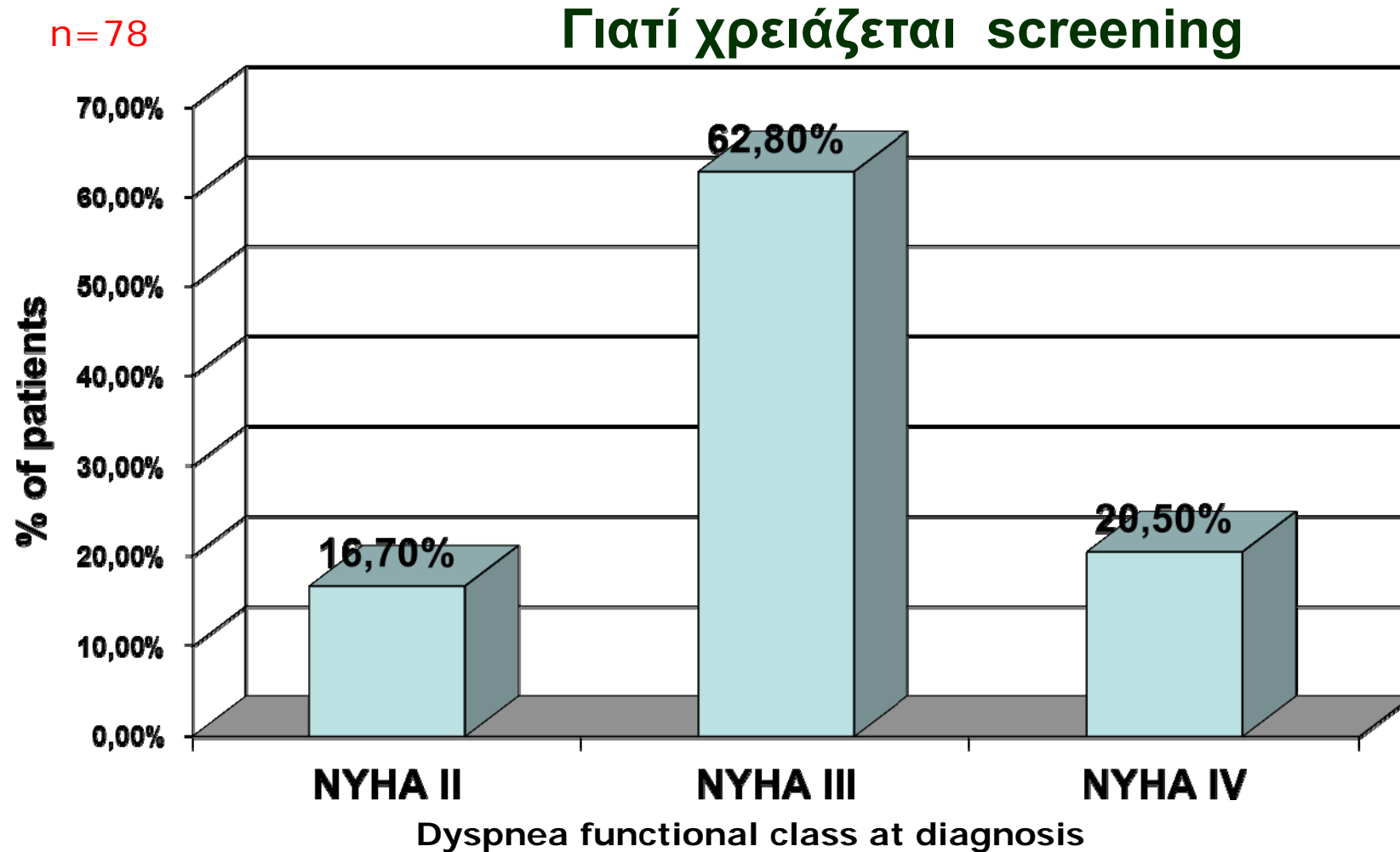
Antibodies

|     |     |     |     |     |    |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 108 | 98  | 85  | 67  | 46  | 32 |
| 175 | 143 | 102 | 67  | 44  | 30 |
| 156 | 123 | 83  | 51  | 31  | 14 |
| 439 | 364 | 270 | 185 | 121 | 76 |

PAH-Eisenmenger's  
IPAH  
PAH-SSc  
Total

**Condliffe R 2015**

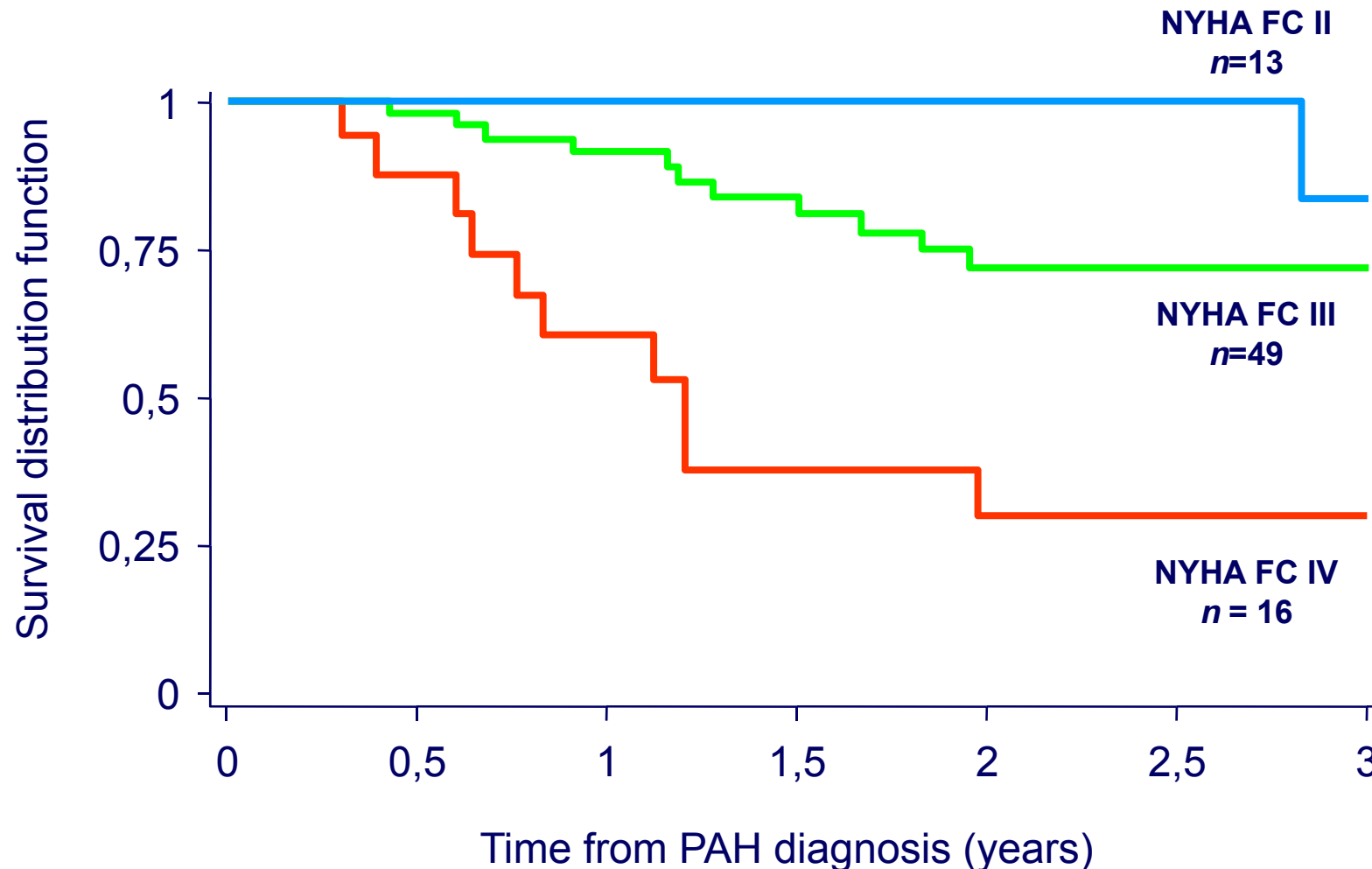
## Most of SSc-PAH patients have severe symptoms



# Γιατί χρειάζεται screening

## Survival depends on NYHA FC at diagnosis

n=78 incidence cases



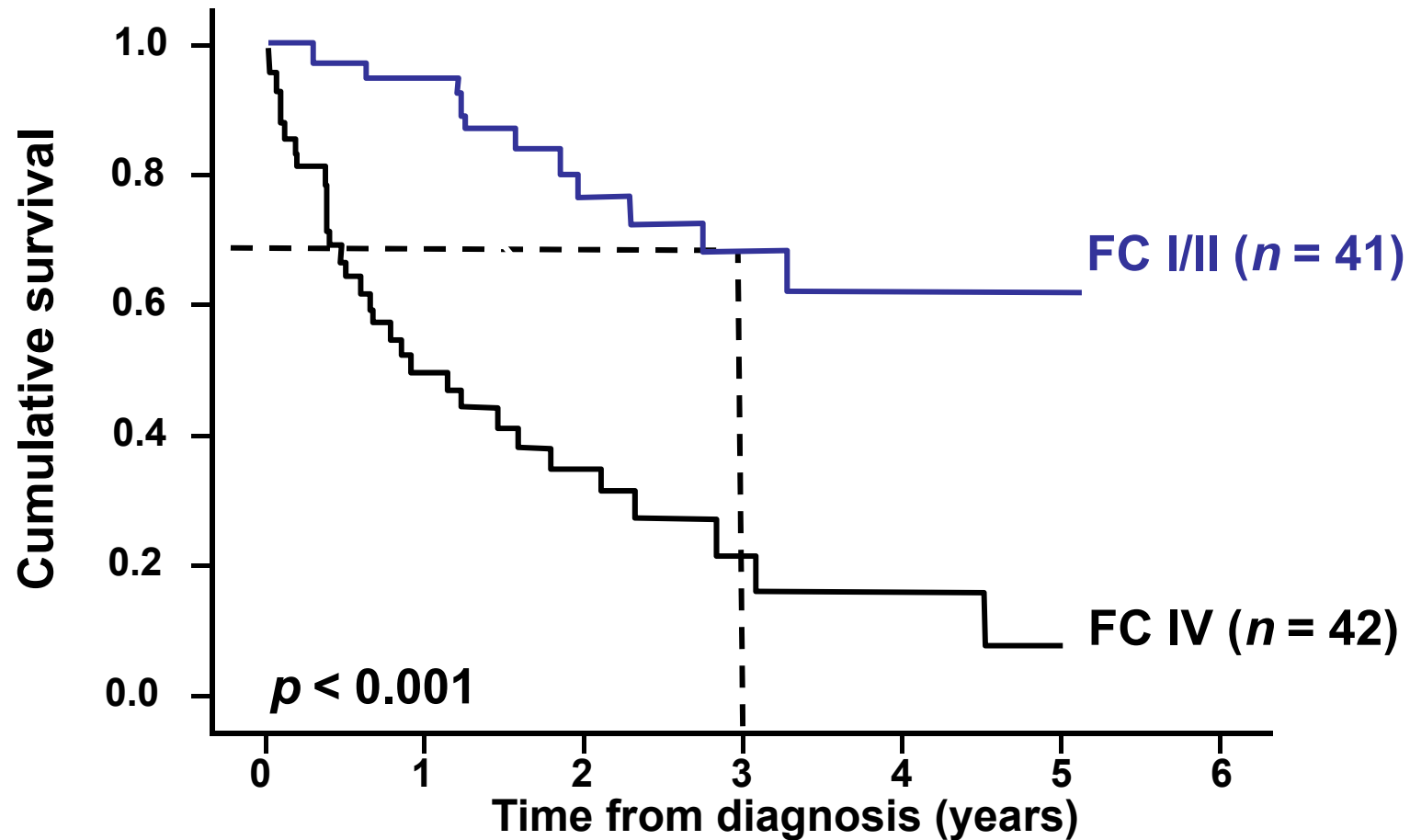
Log rank test  $p=0.002$

Hachulla E. Chest 2009; 136: 1211

# Γιατί χρειάζεται screening

Survival depends on NYHA FC at diagnosis

UK national registry of all incident cases of PAH-SSc



Condliffe R. Am J Respir Crit Care Med 2009; 179:151

Condliffe R ERJ 2012

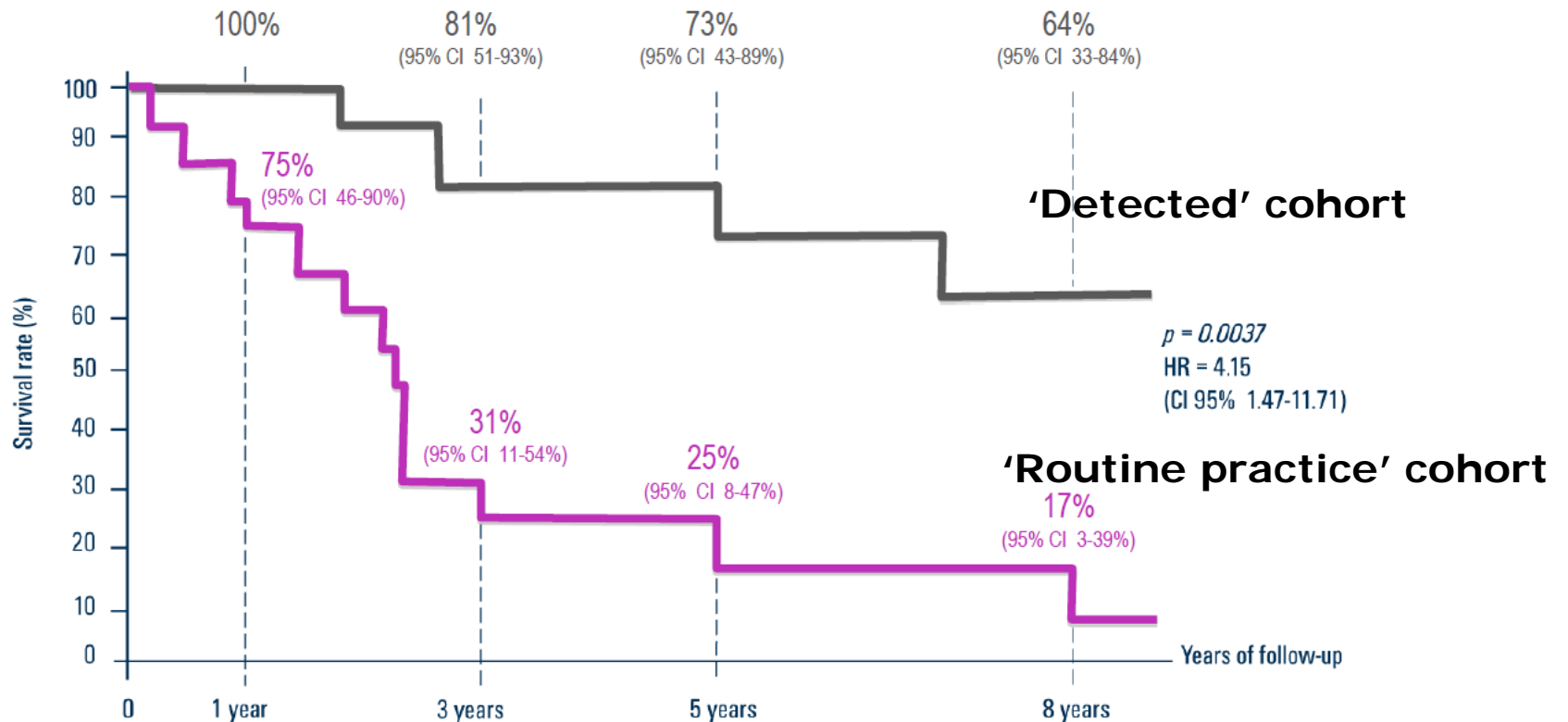
# Clinical Features screening

- ***Risk factors for the development of PAH in SSc patients:***
  - Late-onset disease
  - An isolated reduction in DLCO
  - An FVC%/DLCO% ratio greater than 1.6 or
  - A combined decreased DLCO/alveolar volume with elevation of serum N-terminal pro-natriuretic peptide levels



# A screening programme may improve the prognosis

## 8-year survival of incident PAH patients (from diagnostic right heart catheterization)



**Αρχική εκτίμηση ασθενών με SSc  
και  
νοσήματα στο φάσμα του σκληροδέρματος**

- Πνευμονικές δοκιμασίες (PFTs) **High QE**
  - Σπυρομέτρηση με στατικούς όγκους
  - Μέτρηση διαχυτικής ικανότητας (DLCO)
- Διαθωρακικός υπέρηχος καρδιάς **High QE**
- N-terminal pro-B-type natriuretic peptide (NT-ProBNP) **Moderate QE**
- DETECT αλγόριθμος αν DLCO <60% pred και διάρκεια νόσου > 3 έτη **Moderate QE**

# Πώς πρέπει να ελέγχονται οι ασθενείς;;

## Echocardiography: the best screening tool

**Table 9** Arbitrary criteria for estimating the presence of PH based on tricuspid regurgitation peak velocity and Doppler-calculated PA systolic pressure at rest (assuming a normal right atrial pressure of 5 mmHg) and on additional echocardiographic variables suggestive of PH

|  | Class <sup>a</sup> | Level <sup>b</sup> |
|--|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Echocardiographic diagnosis: PH unlikely</b>  |                    |                    |
| Tricuspid regurgitation velocity $\leq 2.8$ m/s, PA systolic pressure $\leq 36$ mmHg, and no additional echocardiographic variables suggestive of PH | I                  | B                  |

**PAH-CTD screening:  
ESC/ERS recommendations**

**Table 26** Recommendations for PAH associated with connective tissue disease

| <b>Statement</b>  | <b>Class<sup>a</sup></b> | <b>Level<sup>b</sup></b> |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Echocardiographic screening for the detection of PH is recommended in symptomatic patients with scleroderma spectrum of diseases        | I                        | B                        |
| Echocardiographic screening for the detection of PH is recommended in symptomatic patients with all other CTDs                          | I                        | C                        |
| Echocardiographic screening for the detection of PH may be considered in asymptomatic patients with the scleroderma spectrum of disease | IIb                      | C                        |

<sup>a</sup>Class of recommendation.

<sup>b</sup>Level of evidence.

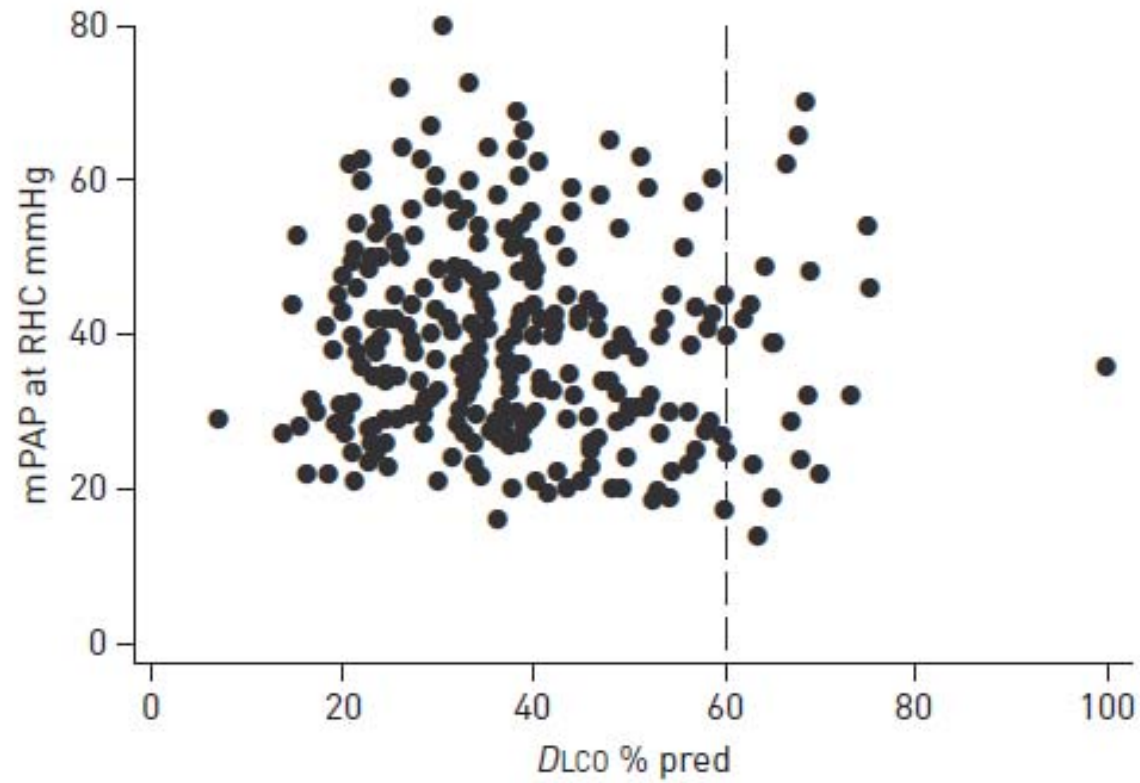
# Πώς πρέπει να ελέγχονται οι ασθενείς;

## **DLCO/VA; NT-proBNP: a PAH predictive factor ?**

Table 2. Results of univariate and multivariate analyses of candidate predictors of PAH, by model analyzed\*

| Model, variable        | Univariate analysis |                   | Multivariate analysis |                   |
|------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
|                        | <i>P</i>            | HR (95% CI)       | <i>P</i>              | HR (95% CI)       |
| Main model             |                     |                   |                       |                   |
| DLco/VA <70%           | 0.0043              | 21.3 (2.5–181.3)  | 0.014                 | 18.81 (1.7–206.8) |
| High NT-proBNP         | 0.0048              | 10.1 (1.96–51.72) | 0.053                 | 6.35 (0.94–82.8)  |
| Systolic PAP >40 mm Hg | 0.0078              | 1.08 (1.63–30.87) | 0.54                  | 0.40 (0.02–7.79)  |
| ESR >28 mm/hour        | 0.015               | 5.6 (1.35–23.01)  | 0.15                  | 6.19 (0.49–76.9)  |

# DLCO IN CTD-PAH



Schwaiger J ERV 2013;22:515

# Πώς πρέπει να ελέγχονται οι ασθενείς;

## Doppler echocardiography

Threshold study

**NO threshold for either ECHO-derived systolic PAP (m/s)  
Or  
DLCO could be identified which could (Hg)**

**CONFIDENTLY EXCLUDE  
Pulmonary Hypertension**

Unlikely  
PH

suspected PH

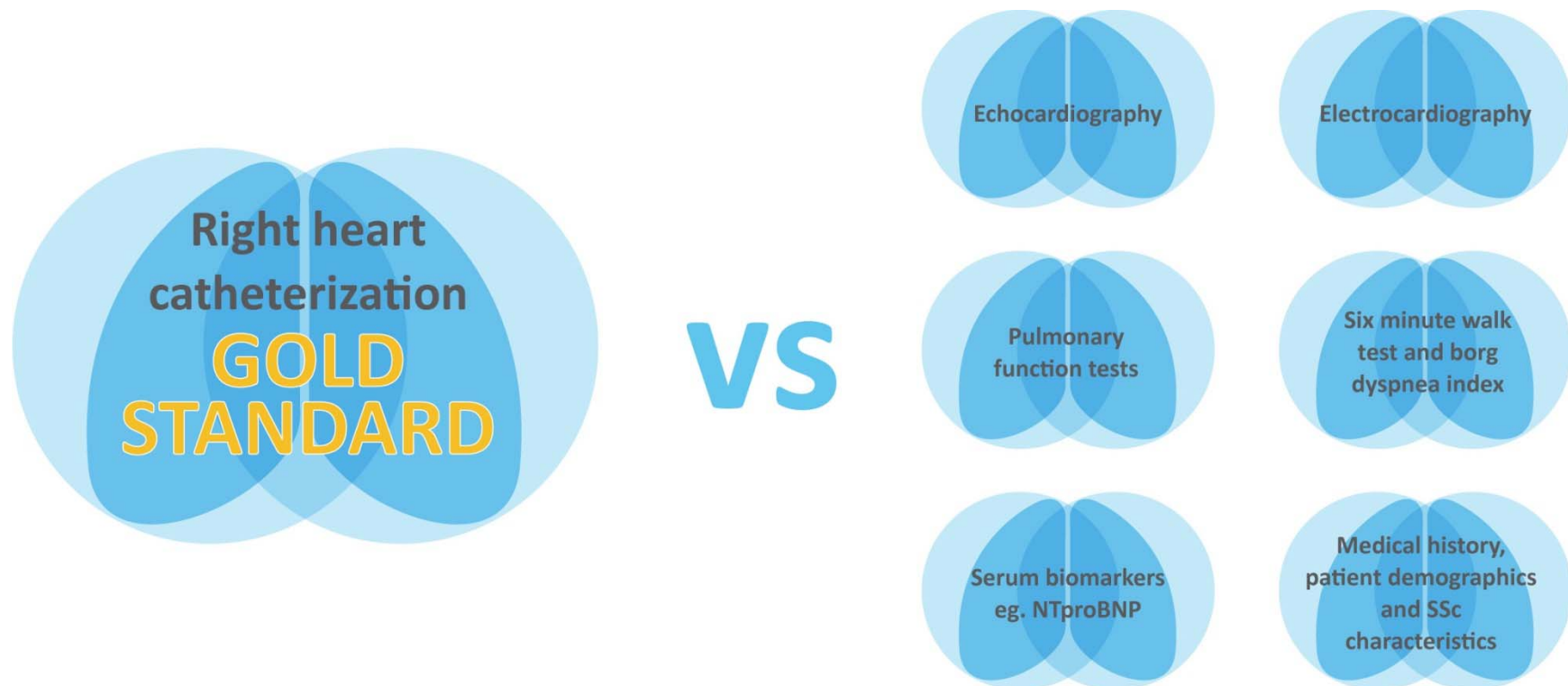
TJV= tricuspid jet velocity

# Πώς πρέπει να ελέγχονται οι ασθενείς;

Combination predictive factors ?

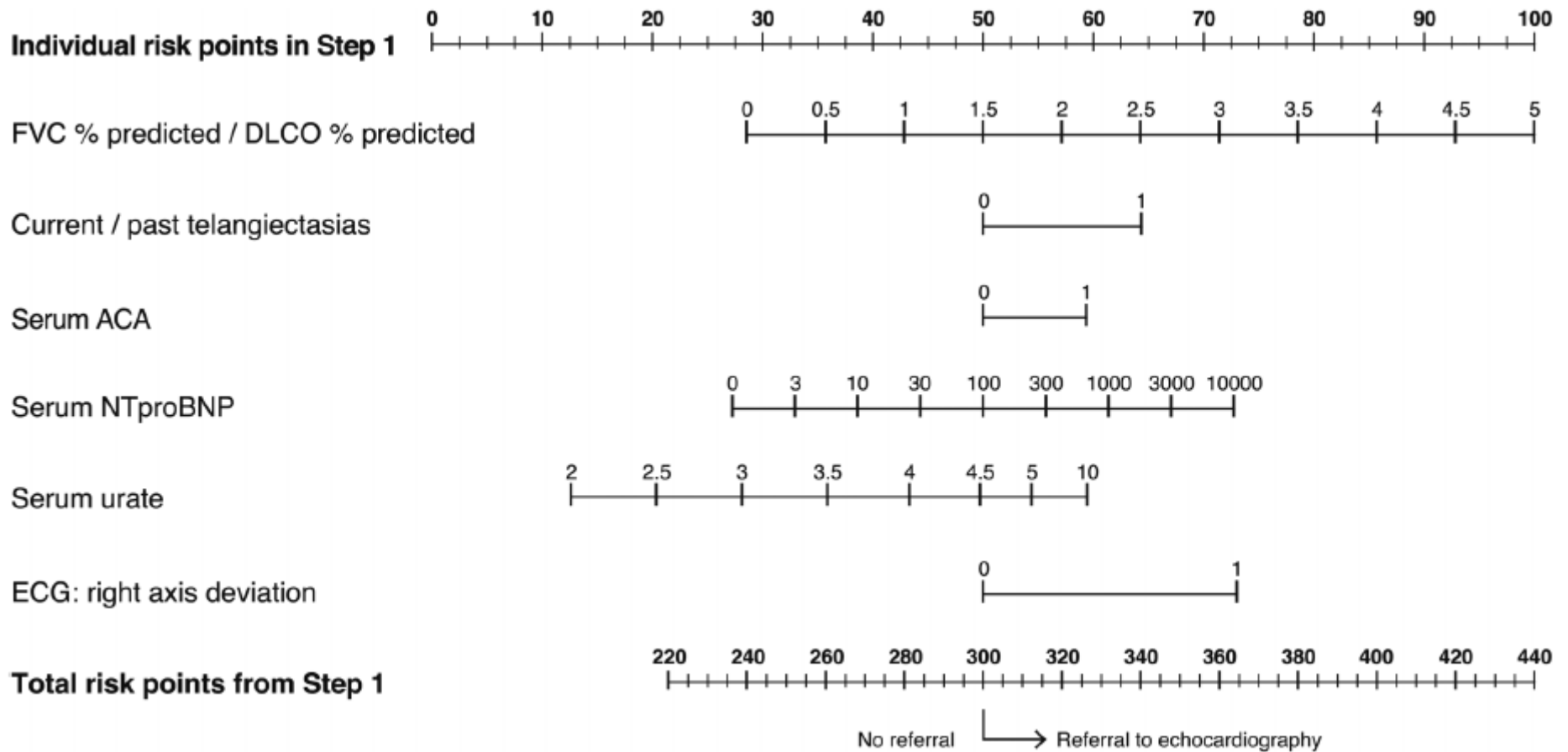
## The DETECT Study

- DETECT will evaluate more than 10 screening tools and their combinations against the confirmatory gold standard diagnostic test for PAH in SSc patients having a DLCO < 60%

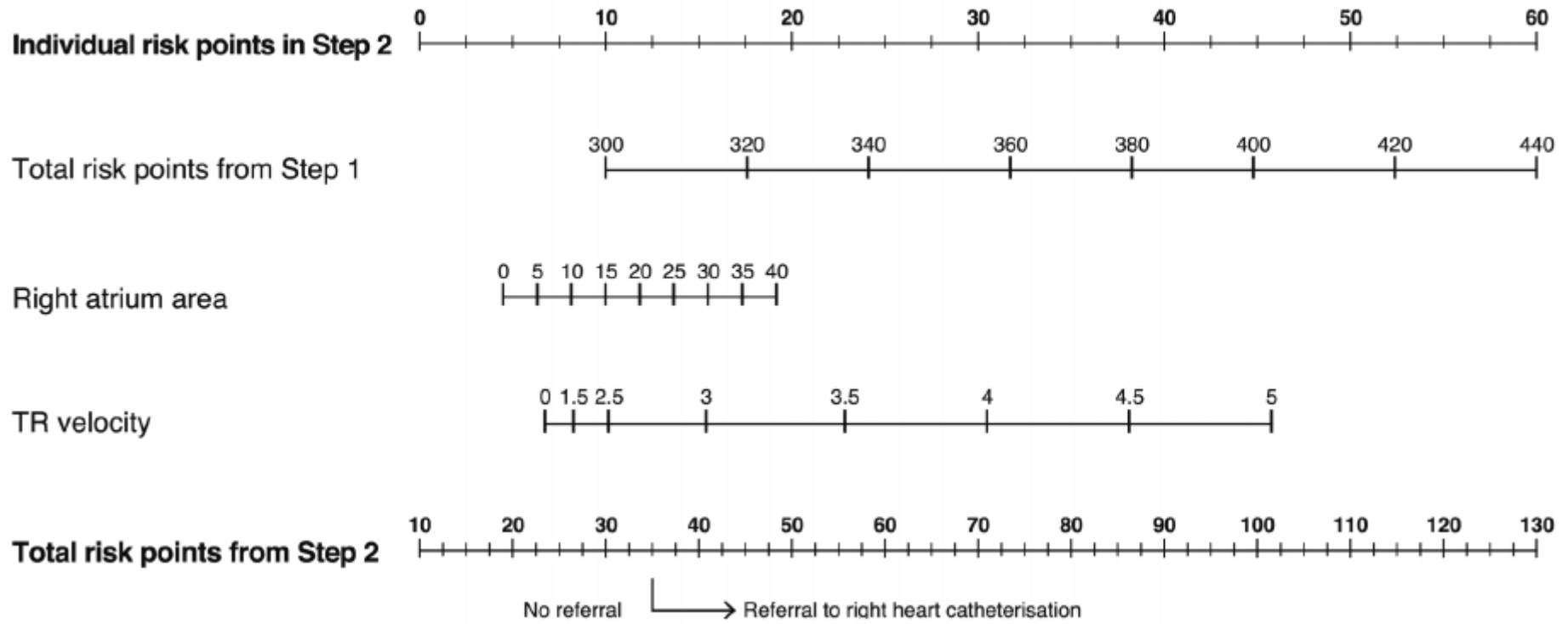


Seibold et al. American College of Rheumatology 2008; Distler et al. Swiss Society for Pulmonary Hypertension 2009; Vonk et al. Systemic Sclerosis World Congress 2010



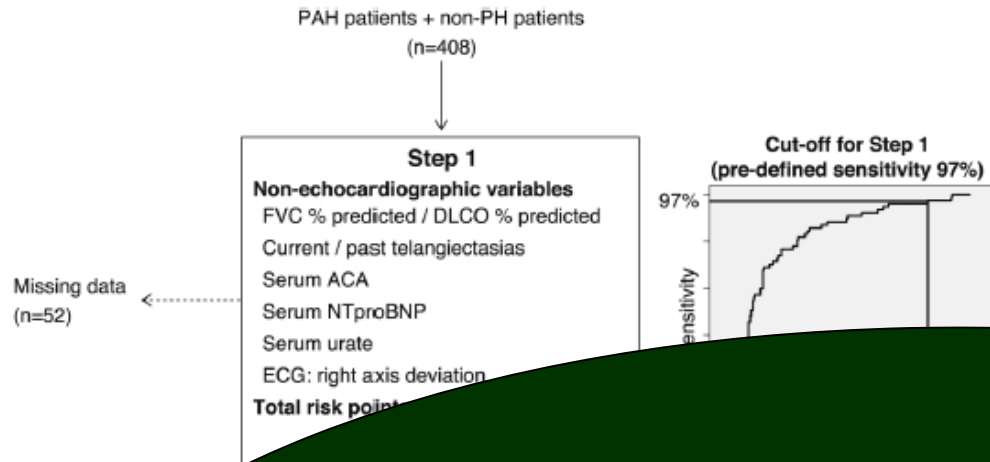


## DETECT study



## DETECT study

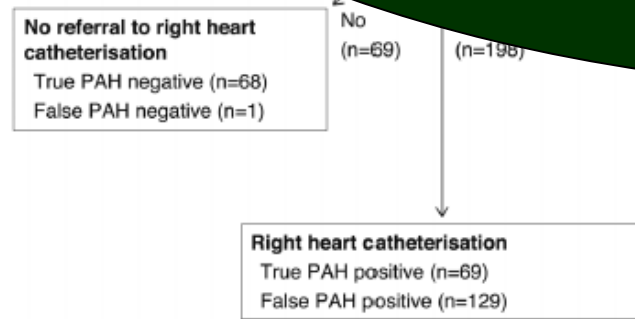
**DETECT study**  
**Coghlan JG Am Rheum Dis**  
**2013;00 1-10**



1 detection of  
hypertension

No ref  
T  
M  
(n=3

**LIMITATIONS**  
**Protocol not validated**  
**Patients < 3 years from diagnosis**  
**DLCO > 60%**  
**Compared with other holistic approach (echo, symptoms, DLCO)**  
**How practical is?**

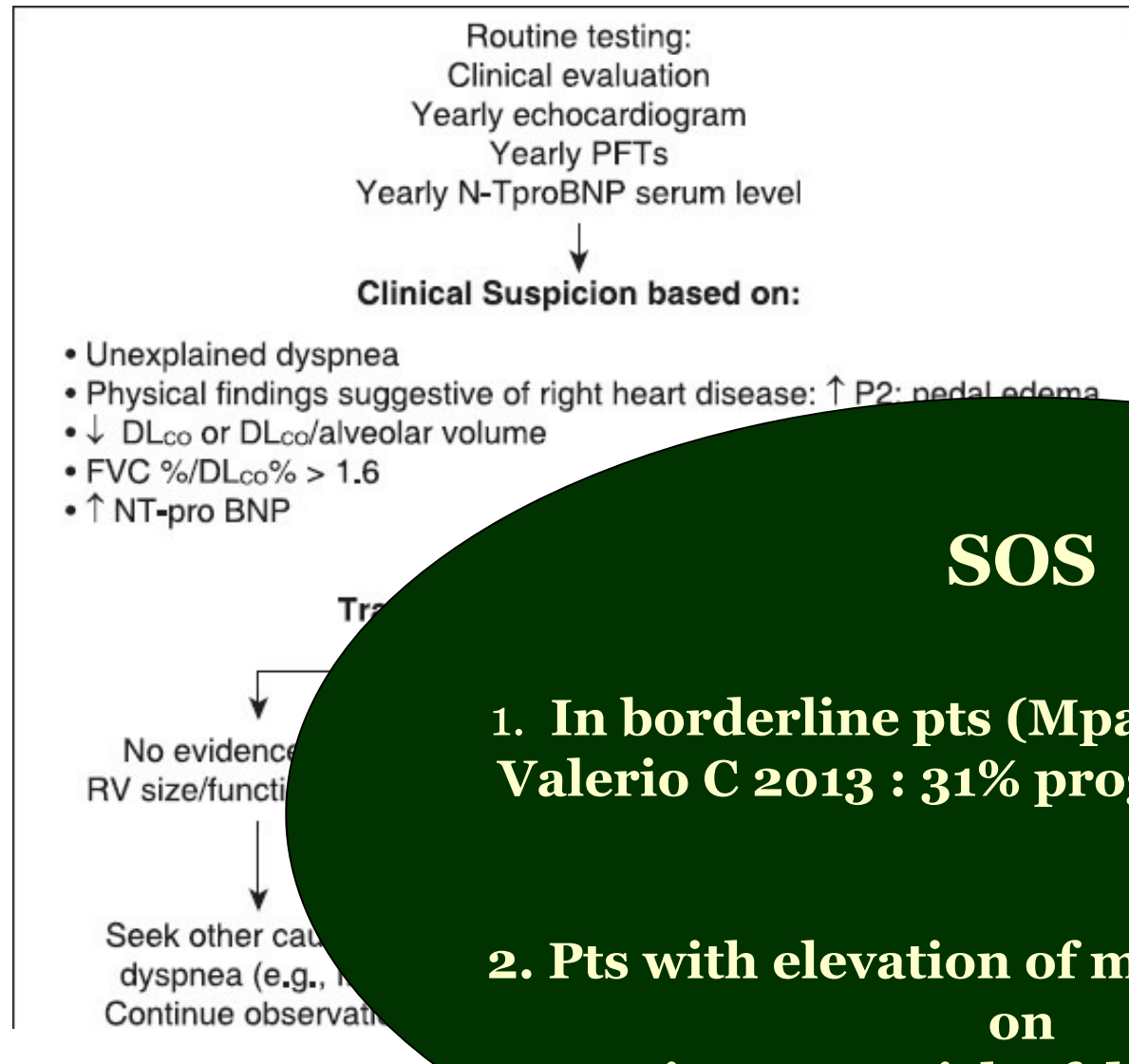


red

# Σύσταση για Καθετηριασμό Δεξιών Κοιλοτήτων

|   | Signs or symptoms required for RHC† | Quality of evidence |
|---|-------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Transthoracic echocardiogram  |                                     |                     |
| TR jet velocity   |                                     |                     |
| 2.5–2.8 meters/second   | Yes                                 | High                |
| >2.8 meters/second  | No                                  | High                |
| Right atrial or right ventricular enlargement (right atrium major dimension >53 mm and right ventricle midcavity dimension >35 mm), irrespective of TR jet velocity | No                                  | High                |
| PFTs  |                                     |                     |
| FVC:DLco ratio >1.6 and/or DLco <60% predicted‡   | Yes                                 | High                |
| FVC:DLco ratio >1.6 and/or DLco <60% predicted and NT-proBNP >2 times upper limit of normal‡  | No                                  | High                |
| Composite measure   |                                     |                     |
| Meets DETECT algorithm in patients with DLco <60% predicted and disease duration >3 years‡  | No                                  | Moderate            |

# Guidelines PAH in CTD 2014



## SOS

**1. In borderline pts (Mpap= 21-24mmhg)  
Valerio C 2013 : 31% progression to PAH**

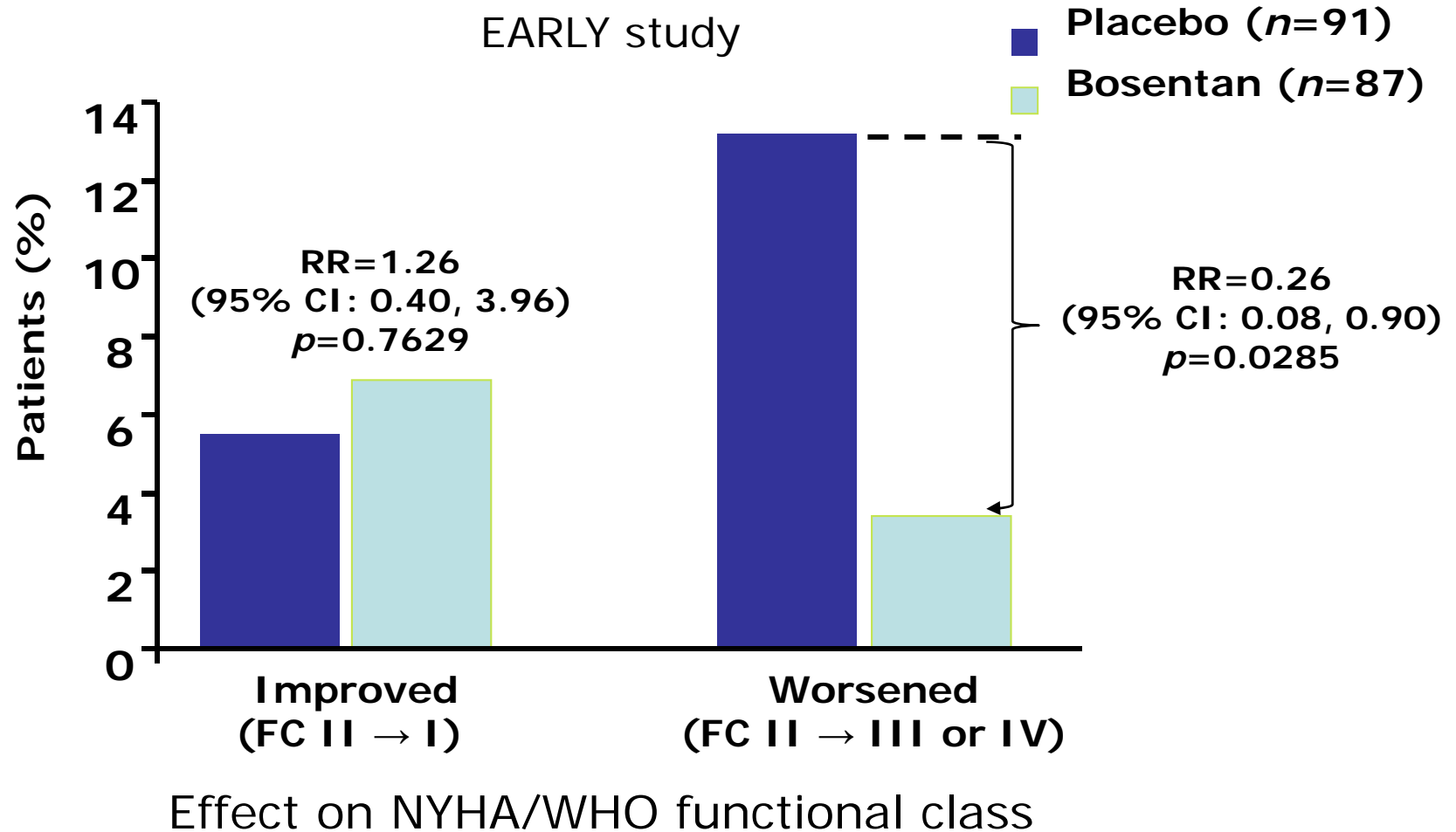
**2. Pts with elevation of mPAP >30 mmHg  
on  
exercise are at risk of developing PAH**

## Prognosis of SSc-PAH in selected major registries

| Registry    | Year | n   | Age (yrs) | Incident cases (%) | WHO FC I&II/III/IV (%) | mPAP (mmHg) | PVR (dysn.s.cm5) | 1 yr survival (%) | 3 yr survival(%) |
|-------------|------|-----|-----------|--------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| UK [26]     | 2009 | 259 | 64        | 100                | 16/68/16               | 42          | 715              | 78                | 47               |
| REVEAL [20] | 2010 | 399 | 62        | 18                 | 25/60/15               | 45          | 768              | 82                | n/a              |
| ASPIRE [25] | 2012 | 156 | 66        | 100                | 19/67/14               | 43          | 678              | 82                | 52               |
| French [27] | 2013 | 85  | 65        | 100                | 21/67/12               | 41          | 680              | 90                | 56               |
| PHAROS [28] | 2014 | 131 | 60        | 100                | 56/38/6                | 36          | 448              | 93                | 75               |

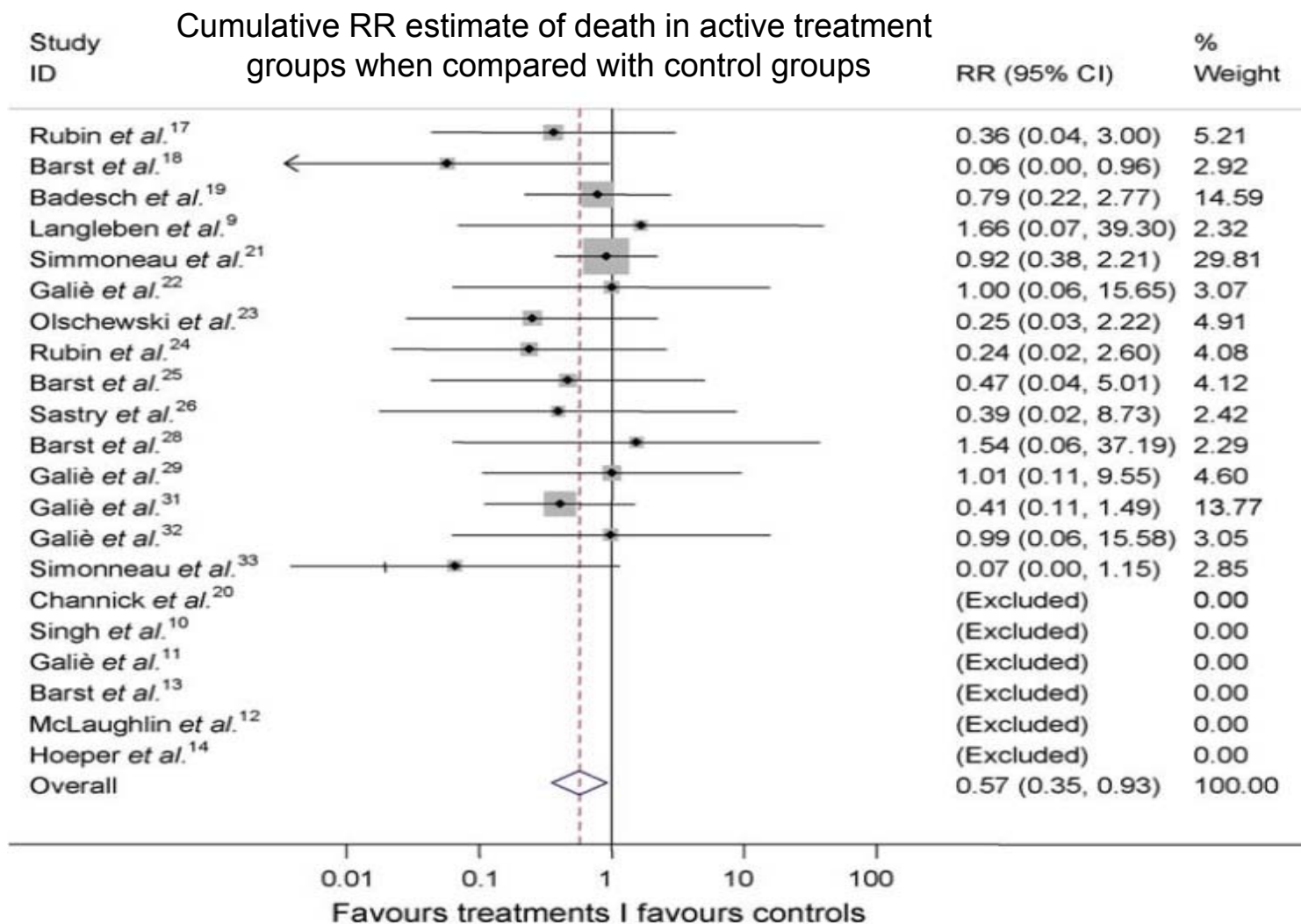
**Condliffe R 2015**

# Early PAH management may improve the prognosis



# Γιατί χρειάζεται screening

## Effective PAH targeted therapies are available

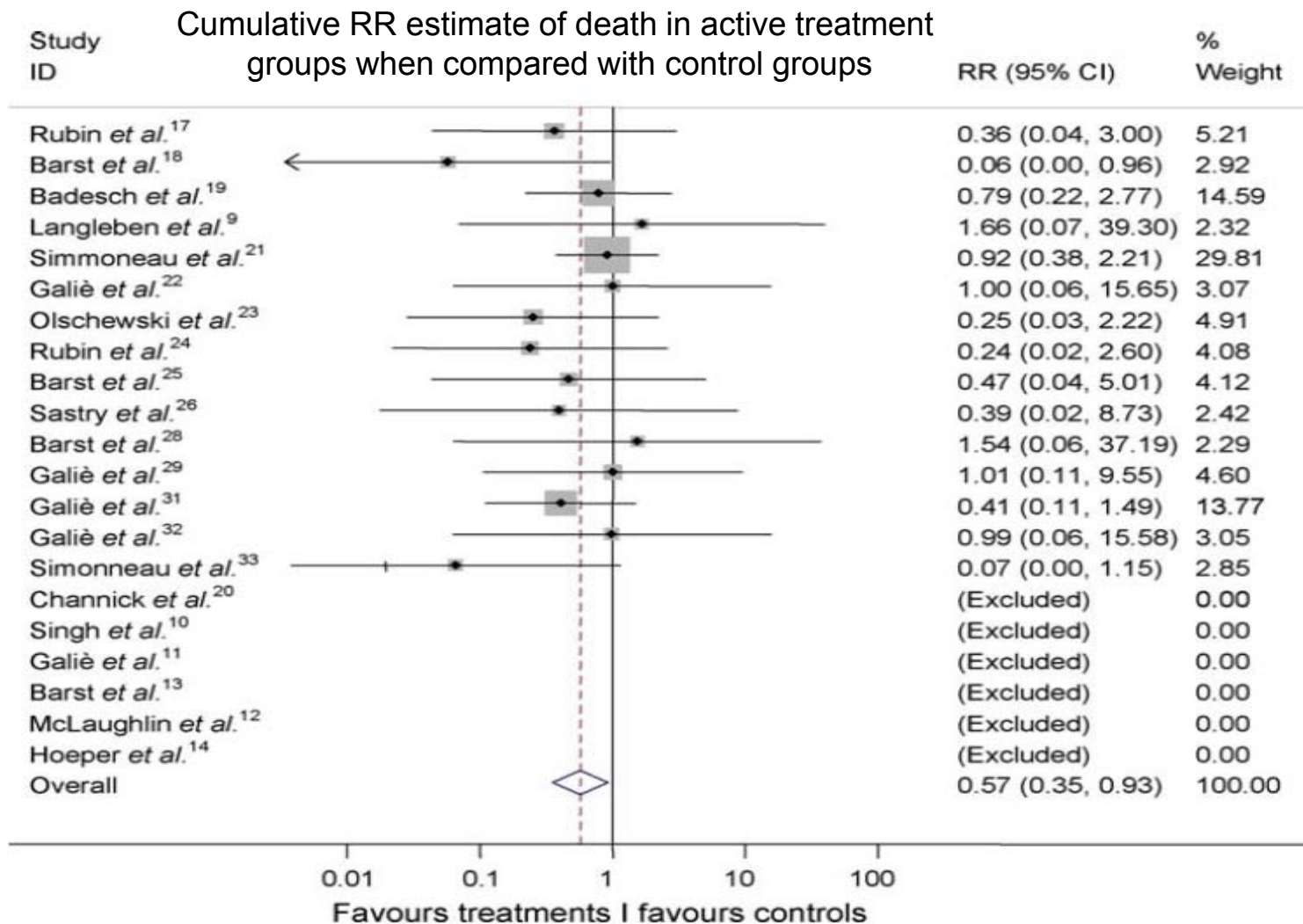


Galiè N. Eur Heart J 2009; 30: 394

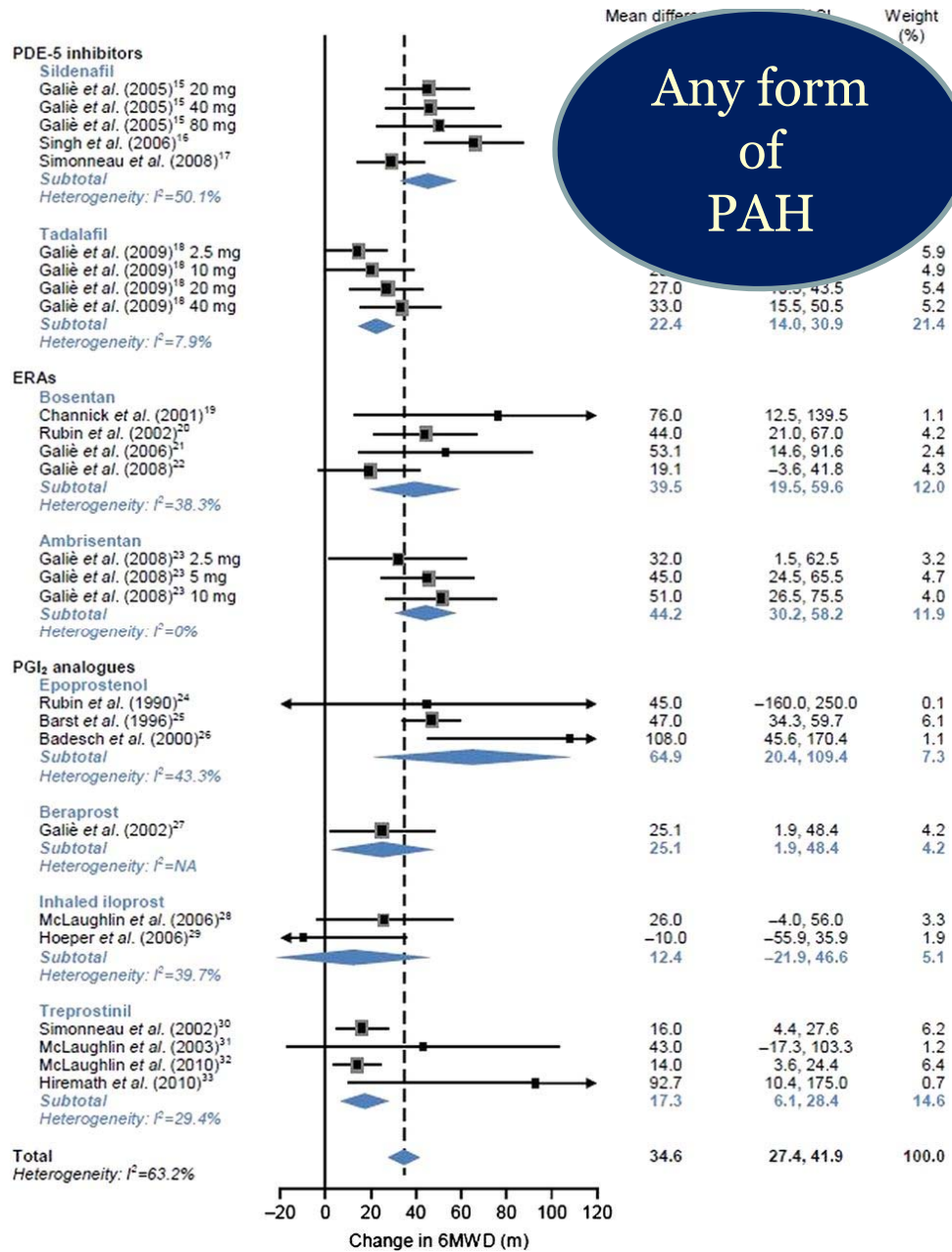


# Γιατί χρειάζεται screening

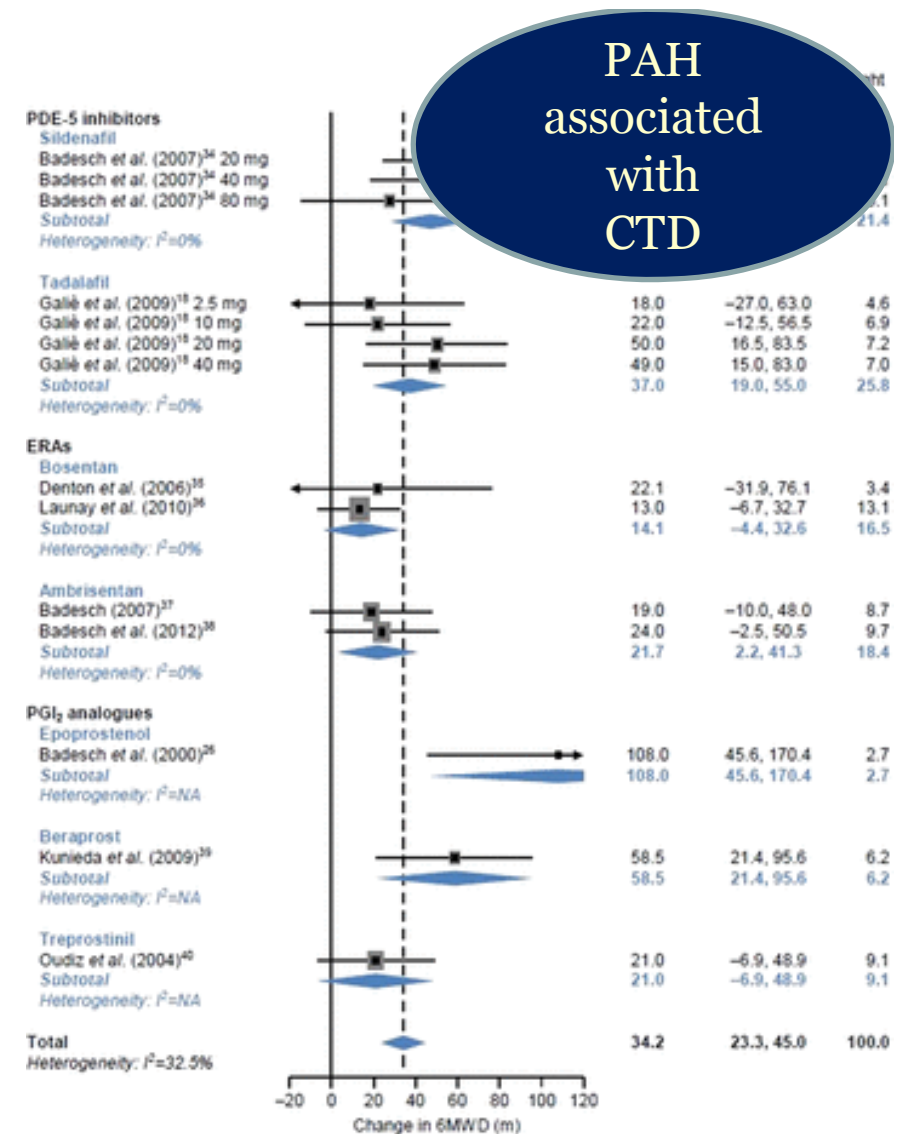
## Effective PAH targeted therapies are available



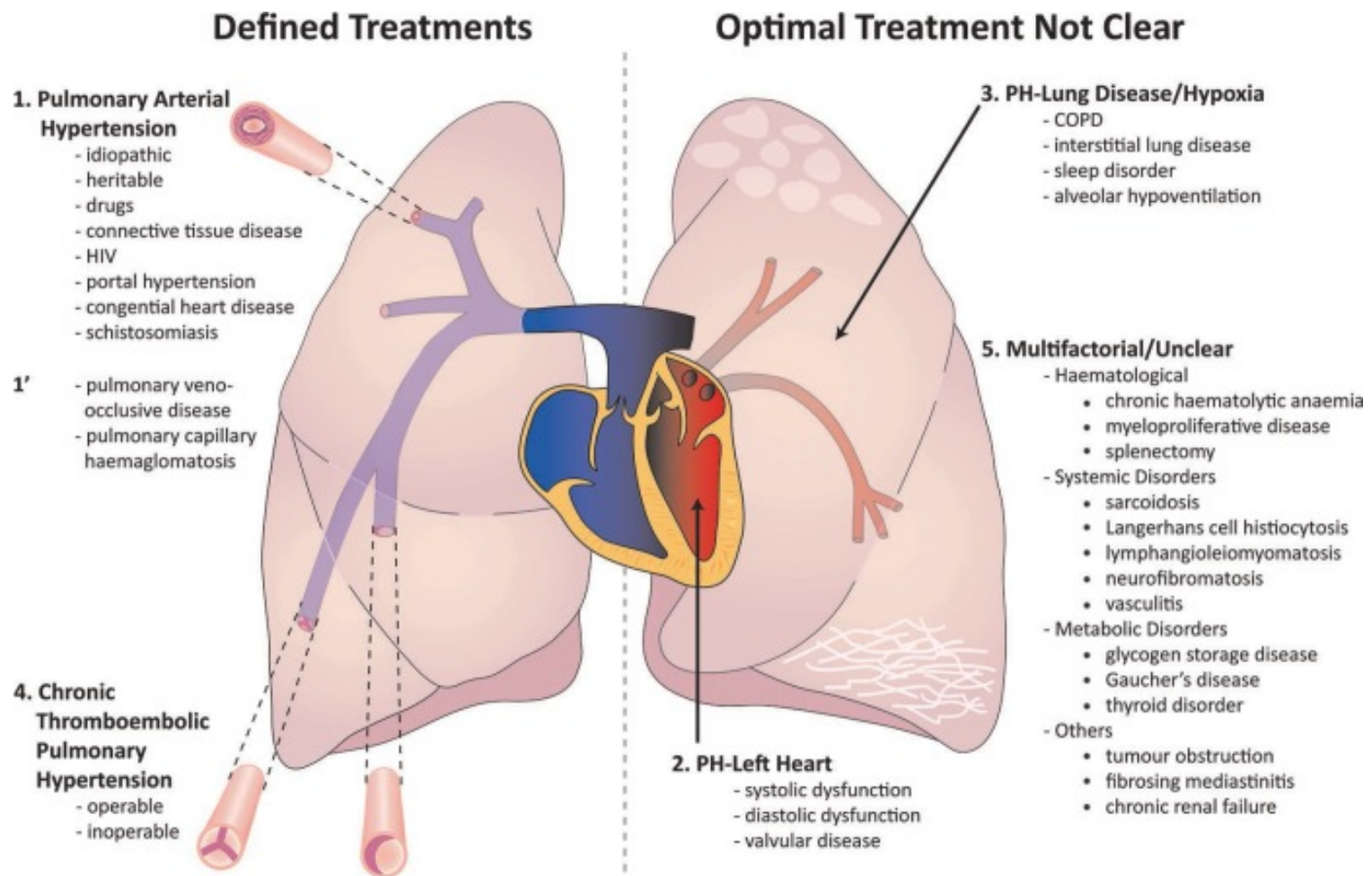
reduction in mortality of 43%



Any form of PAH

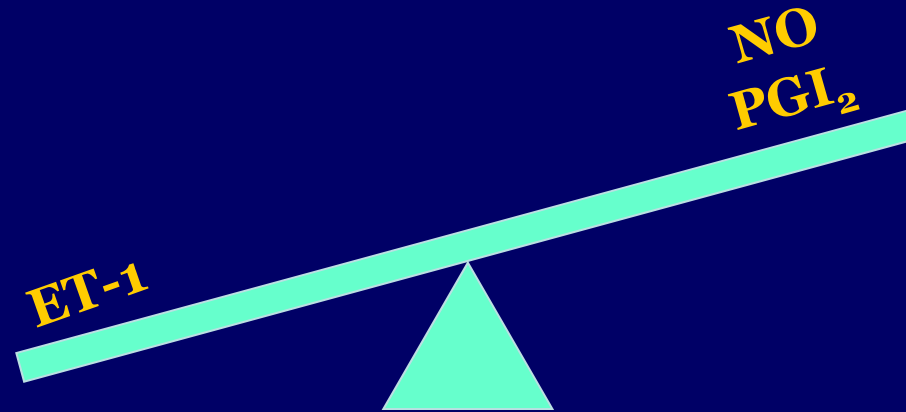


PAH associated with CTD



**Condliffe R 2015**

# Endothelial Cell Dysfunction in PAH



**ET-1 is elevated (+)**

**Vasoconstriction**

**Cell proliferation / Hypertrophy**

**NO and PGI<sub>2</sub> are reduced (-)**

**Vasodilation**

**Anti-proliferation**

**Anti-inflammation**

Avoid pregnancy (I-C)  
 Influenza and pneumococcal immunization (I-C)  
 Supervised rehabilitation (IIa-B)  
 Psycho-social support (IIa-C)  
 Avoid excessive physical activity (III-C)

General measures and supportive therapy

Expert Referral (I-C)

Acute vasoreactivity test  
 (I-C for IPAH)  
 (IIb-C for APAH)

Diuretics (I-C)  
 Oxygen\* (I-C)  
 Oral anticoagulants:  
 IPAH, heritable PAH and PAH due to anorexigens (IIa-C)  
 APAH (IIb-C)  
 Digoxin (IIb-C)

VASOREACTIVE

NON VASOREACTIVE

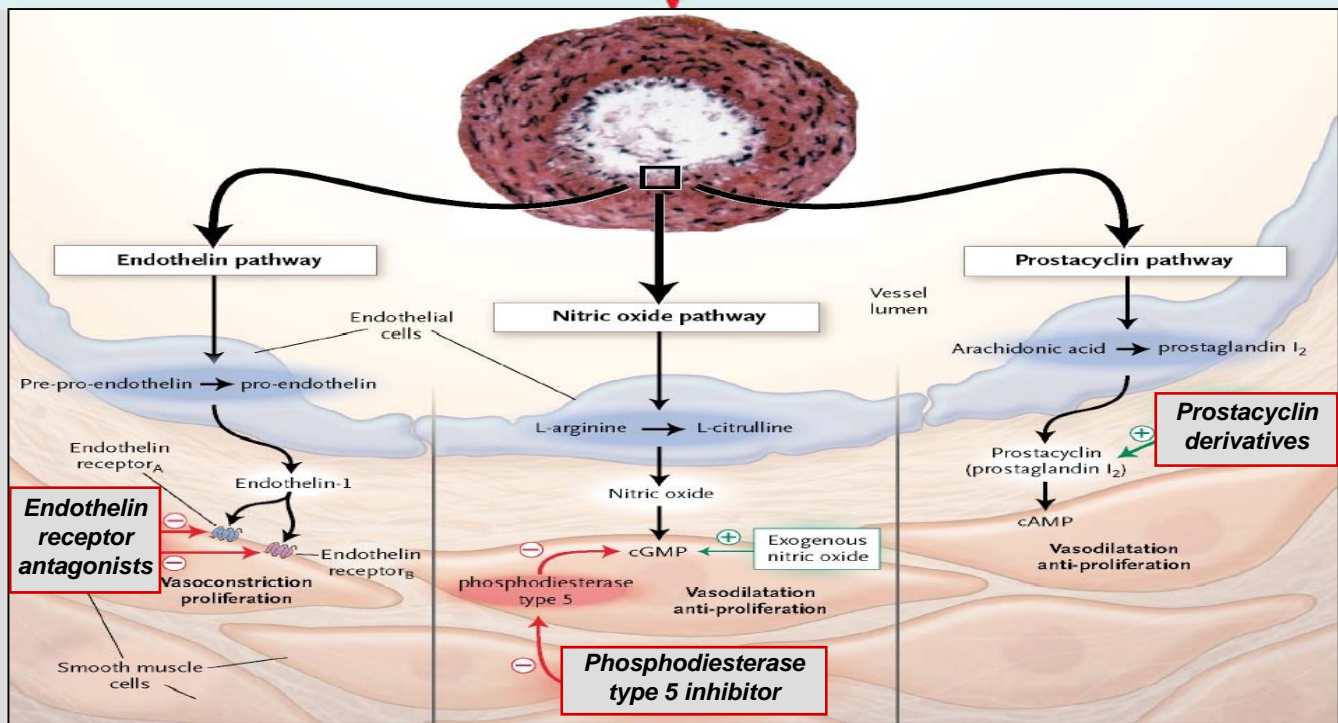
WHO-FC I-III  
 CCB (I-C)

Sustained response  
 (WHO-FC I-II)

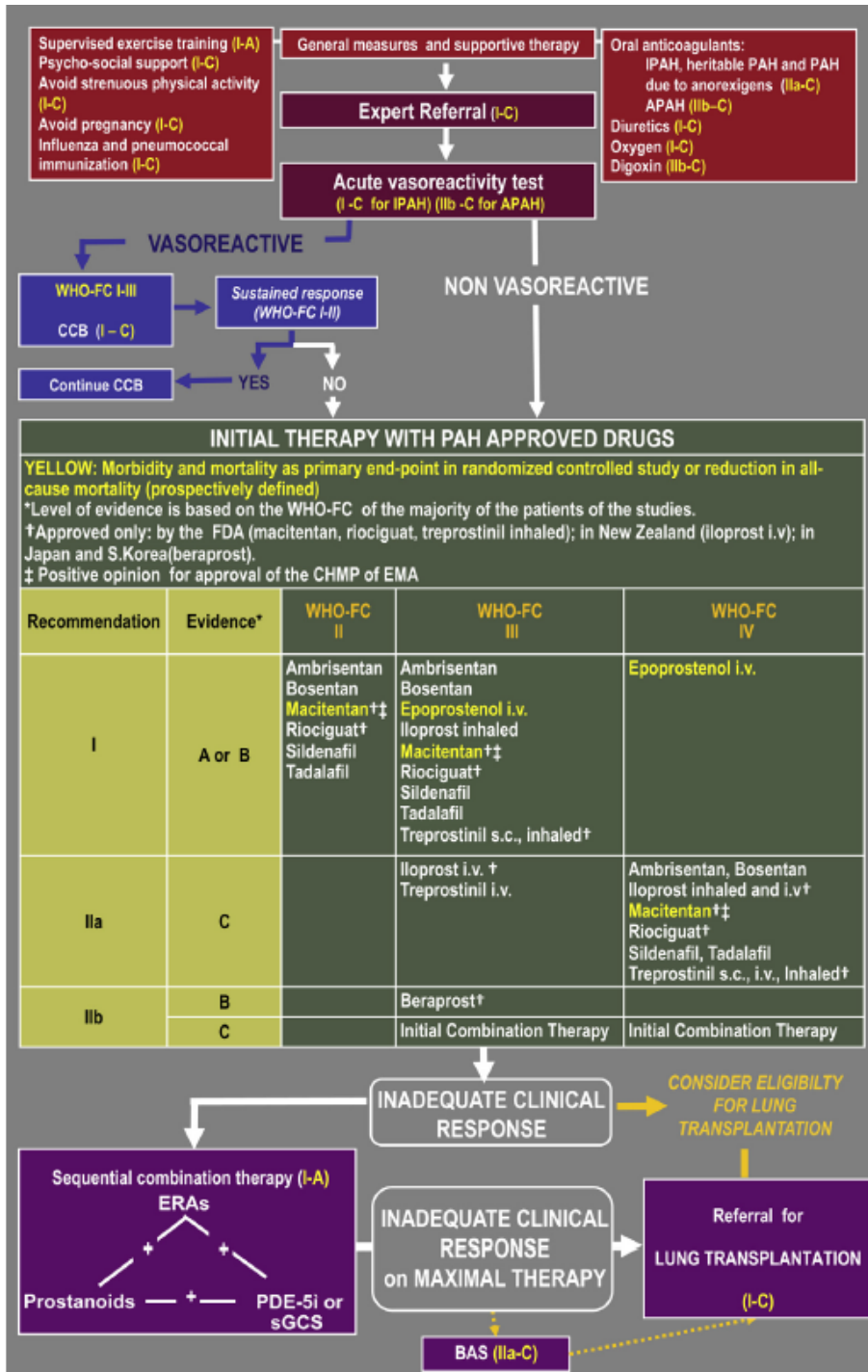
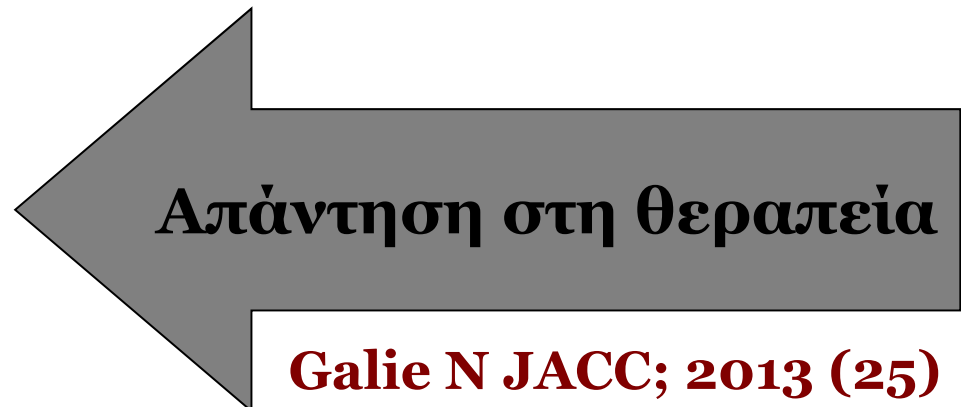
YES

NO

Continue CCB



# Θεραπευτικός Αλγόριθμος ΠΑΥ



Galie N JACC; 2013 (25)

# Derived treatment goals from risk stratification

| Assessment parameter            | Stable and satisfactory                           | Stable and not satisfactory                                   | Unstable and deteriorating                        |
|---------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Clinical evidence of RV failure | No  | Only some of the "green" parameters are fulfilled (Grey zone) | Yes   |
| Rate of progression             | Slow  |   | Rapid   |
| Syncope                         | No  |   | Yes   |
| WHO-FC                          | I, II   |   | IV  |
| 6-MWD                           | Longer (> 500 m)                                  |   | Shorter (< 300 m)                                 |
| CPET                            | Peak VO <sub>2</sub> > 15 ml/min/kg               |   | Peak VO <sub>2</sub> < 12 ml/min/kg               |
| BNP/NT-proBNP plasma levels     | Normal or near-normal                             |   | Very elevated and rising                          |
| Echocardiographic findings      | No pericardial effusion<br>TAPSE > 2.0 cm         |   | Pericardial effusion<br>TAPSE < 1.5 cm            |
| Haemodynamics                   | RAP < 8 mmHg<br>and CI ≥ 2.5 l/min/m <sup>2</sup> |   | RAP > 15 mmHg<br>or CI ≤ 2.0 l/min/m <sup>2</sup> |

# Γενικές αρχές έγκαιρης διάγνωσης Πνευμονικής αρτηριακής υπέρτασης σε Νοσήματα του Συνδετικού Ιστού

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All patients with SSc should be screened for PAH

Patients with mixed CTD or other CTD with scleroderma features (referred to as scleroderma spectrum disorders) should be screened in a similar way to patients with SSc

Screening of asymptomatic patients is not recommended for mixed CTD or other CTD patients without features of scleroderma (including systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory myositis and Sjögrens syndrome)

All SSc and scleroderma spectrum patients with a positive, noninvasive screening (as presented in these recommendations) should be referred for RHC

RHC is mandatory for diagnosis of PAH

Acute vasodilator testing is not required as part of the evaluation of PAH in patients with SSc, scleroderma spectrum disorders or other CTD

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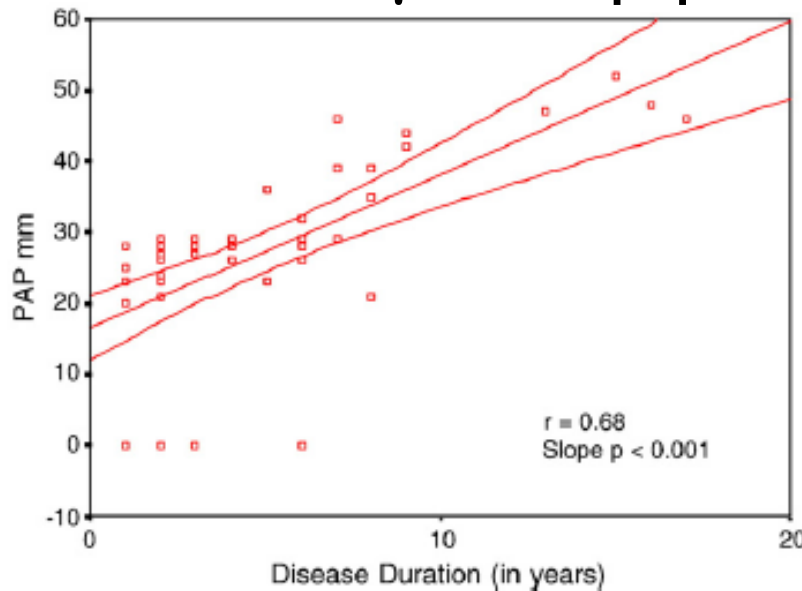
## Πνευμονική υπέρταση σε ασθενείς με ΣΕΛ:

1. Low prevalence of PH
2. Screening in asymptomatic lupus patients are not recommended
3. Two consecutive PAP values  $\geq 40$  mmHg by echocardiogram is the best screening cutoff for starting investigations in SLE patients with suspected PH

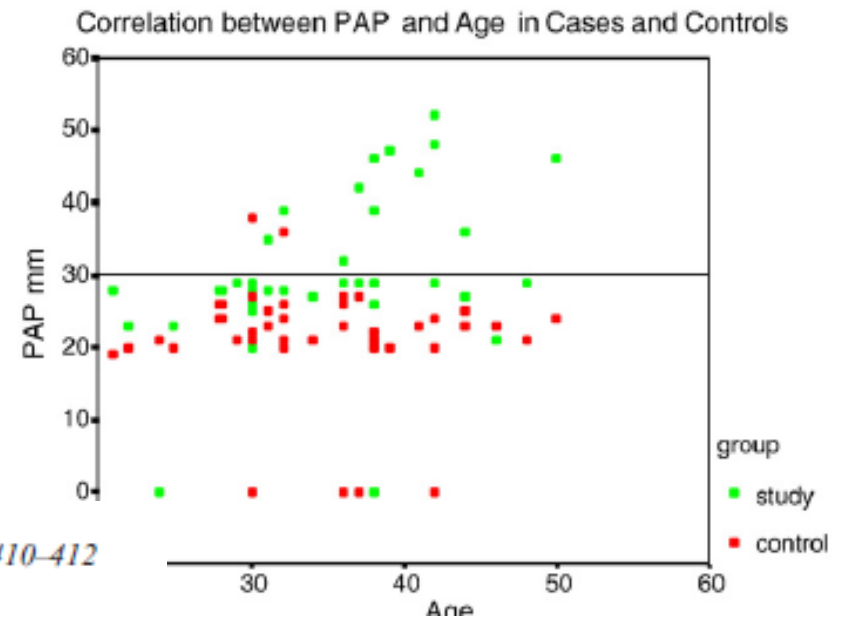
Πνευμονική υπέρταση σε ασθενείς με  
MCTD: ~50% (περιστασιακά απαντούν στα  
ανοσοκατασταλτικά)

ρSS: Σπάνια  
Γυναίκες 50 ετών

RA: 1. Μεγαλύτερη ηλικία  
2. Μεγαλύτερη διάρκεια νόσου



*N. Udayakumar et al. / International Journal of Cardiology 127 (2008) 410-412*



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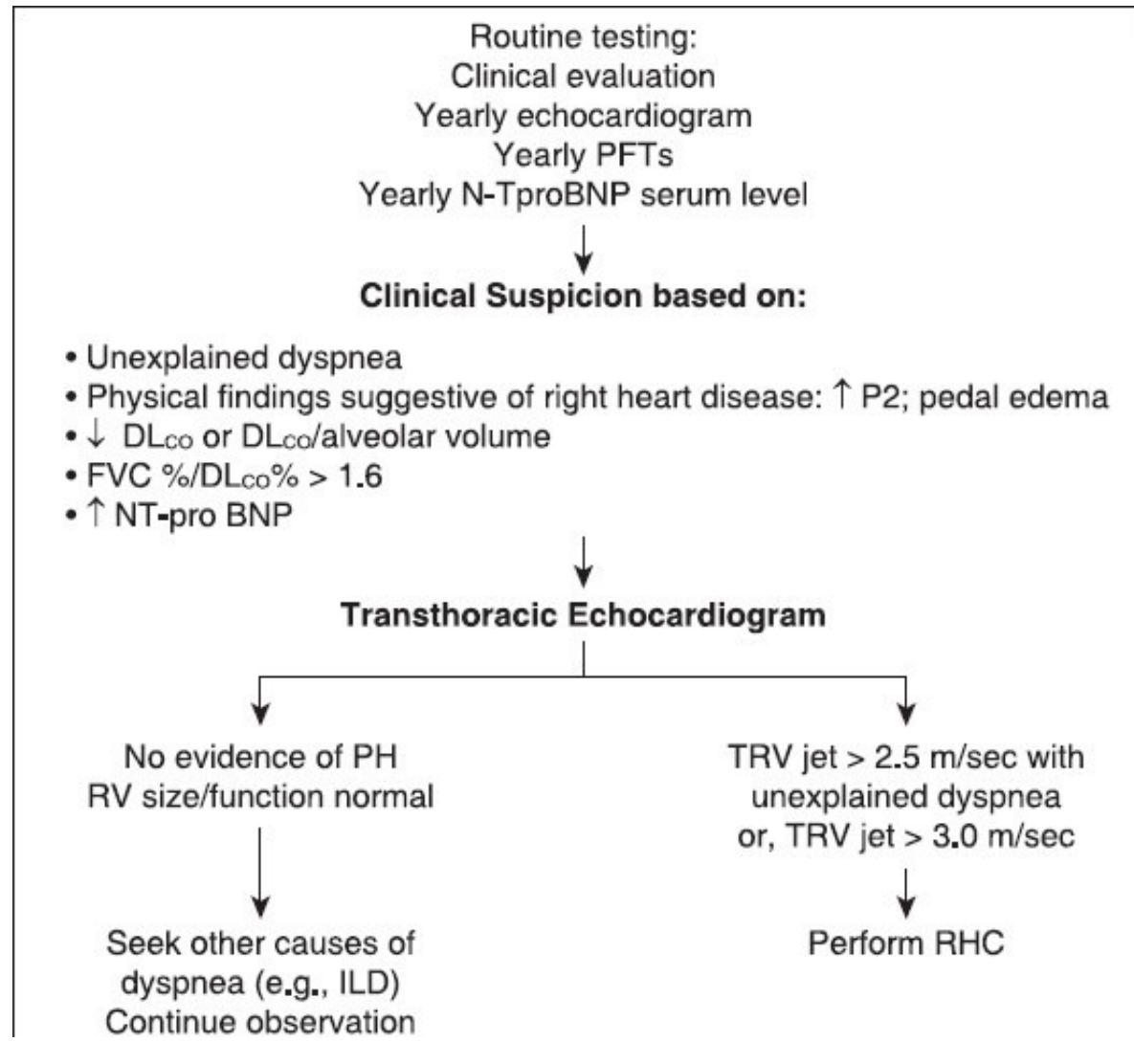
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# Guidelines PAH in CTD 2014



**Boueiz A Ann Thor Med 2014**

# Take home messages

- **PAH prevalence in SSc is about 8-10%**
- **Current survival of SSc-PAH patients is not acceptable**
- **Diagnosis of PAH in FC I or II dyspnea is challenging**
- **Echocardiography is so far the most effective screening tool to suspect PAH in SSc**
- **Early diagnosis and intervention may translate into better long-term outcomes**