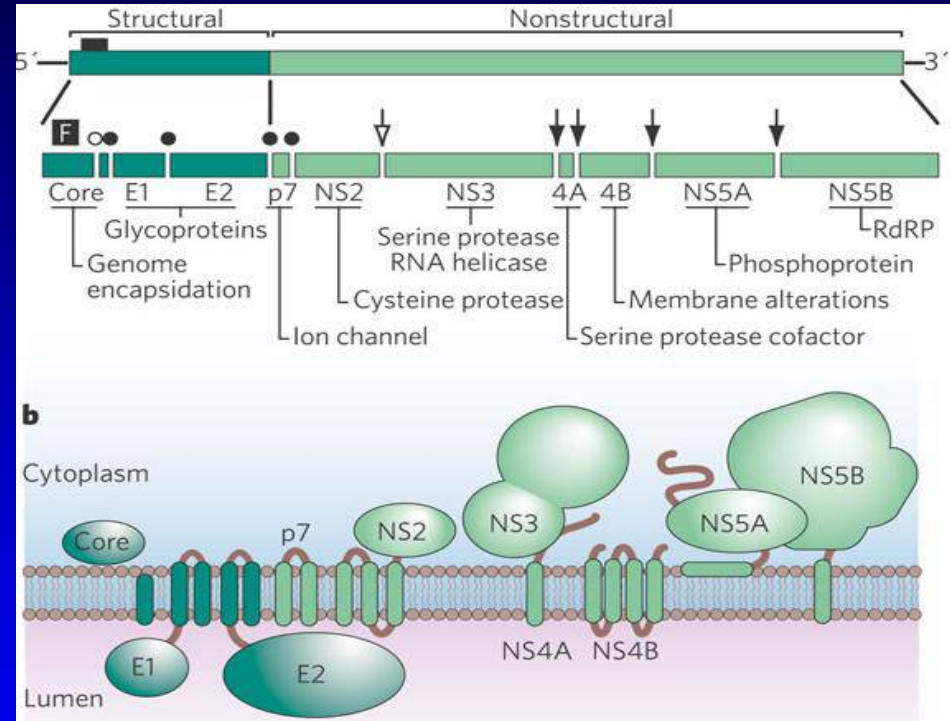
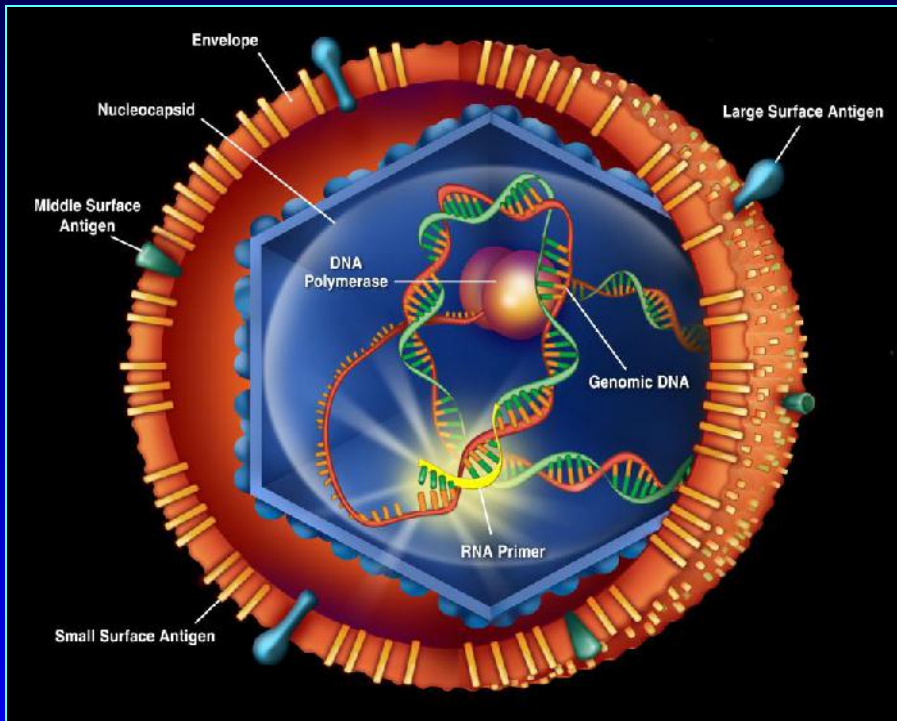


# Viral Hepatitis Update 2022

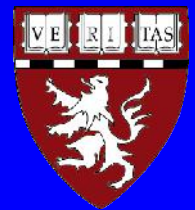


Jules L. Dienstag, M.D.

Gastrointestinal Unit

Massachusetts General Hospital

Harvard Medical School



# Disclosures regarding my presentation today

During previous two years

- Consulting (incl. Scientific Advisory Boards)
  - Chroma Medicine
- Data monitoring/adjudicating committees
  - Janssen
  - Intercept, Genzyme/Sanofi, Alynham—unrelated to my presentation

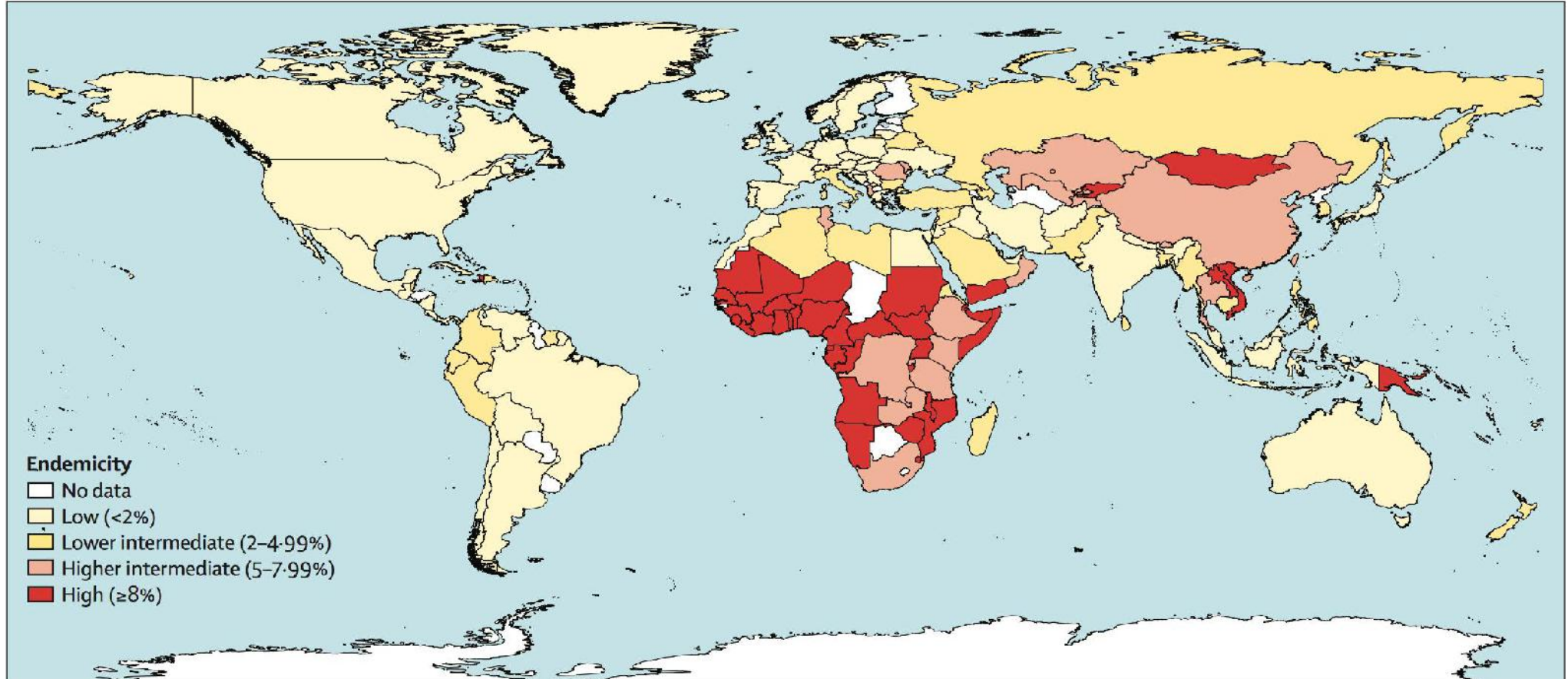
# Learning Objectives

In chronic viral hepatitis ...

1. Brief review of hepatitis virology, epidemiology.
2. Grasp the rationale for and approach to treatment (HBV vs HCV).
3. Recognize the driver of liver injury (viral replication).
4. Appreciate the impact of suppressing viral replication on natural history.
5. Understand the indications for therapy.

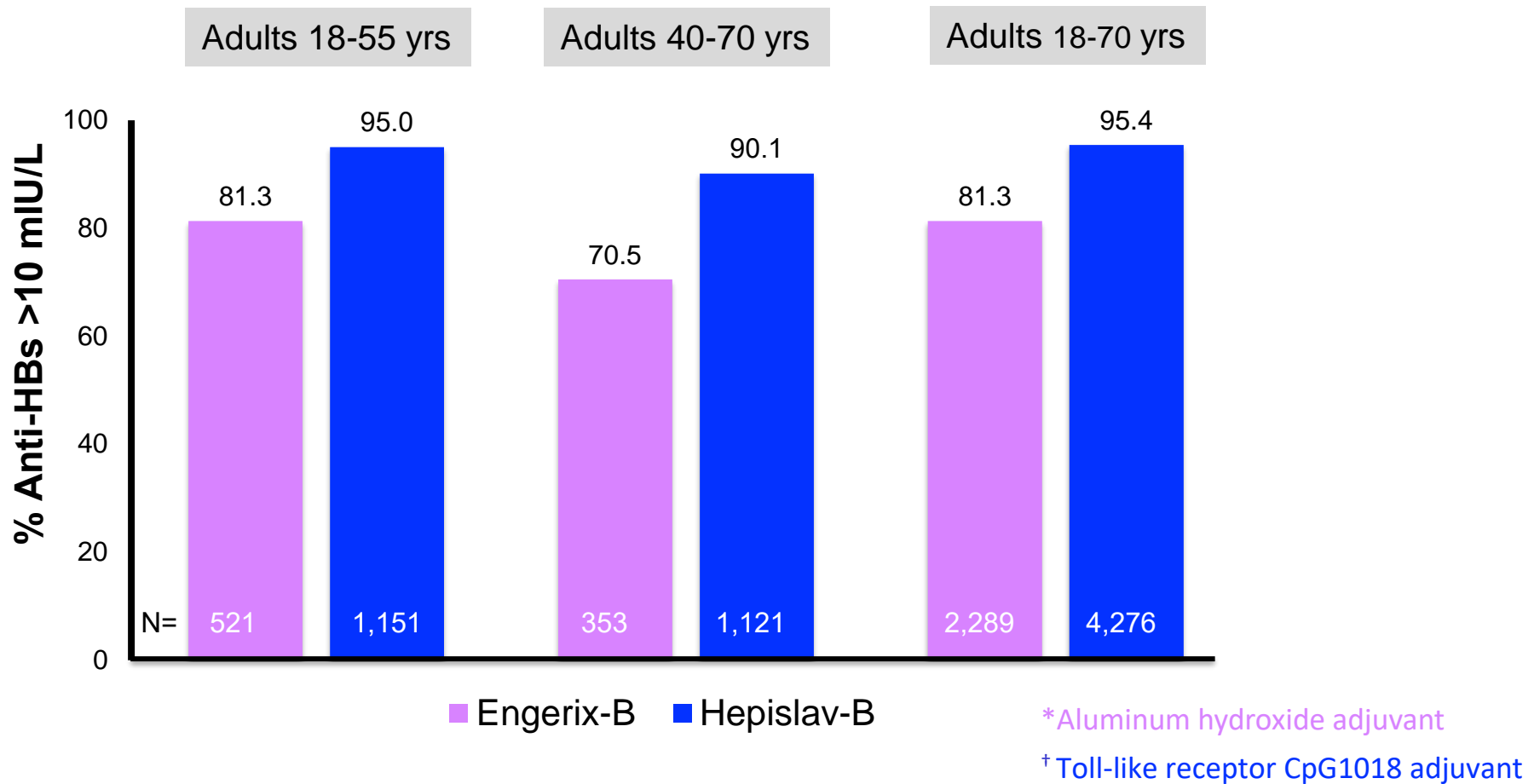
# Global Prevalence of Chronic HBV Infection: Systematic review of published data 1965-2013

Global HBsAg seroprevalence 3.6% (248 million persons in 2010)  
Highest: 8.8% Africa, 5.3% Western Pacific; lowest 0.2% Mexico; USA 0.27%



## Global endemicity 1957-2013

# Engerix-B\* (3 doses, 0, 1, & 6 mo) vs Hepislab-B† (2 doses, 0 & 1 mo)



Halperin SA, et al. Vaccine 2012; 30:2556-63.  
Heyward WL, et al. Vaccine 2013;31:5300-5.  
Jackson S, et al. Vaccine 2018;36:668-74.

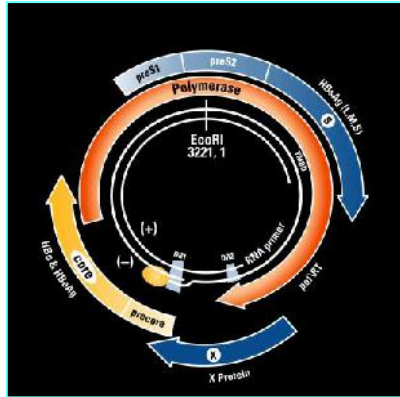
JAMA 2018;319:822-3 (reprinted from The Medical Letter 2018;60:17-8).  
MMWR 2018;67:455-8.

# A three-antigen\* vs a single-antigen hepatitis B vaccine (0, 1, 6 mo) in adults (CONSTANT): randomized, double-blind, phase-3 trial (n = 2,838, mean age 33.5 yrs)

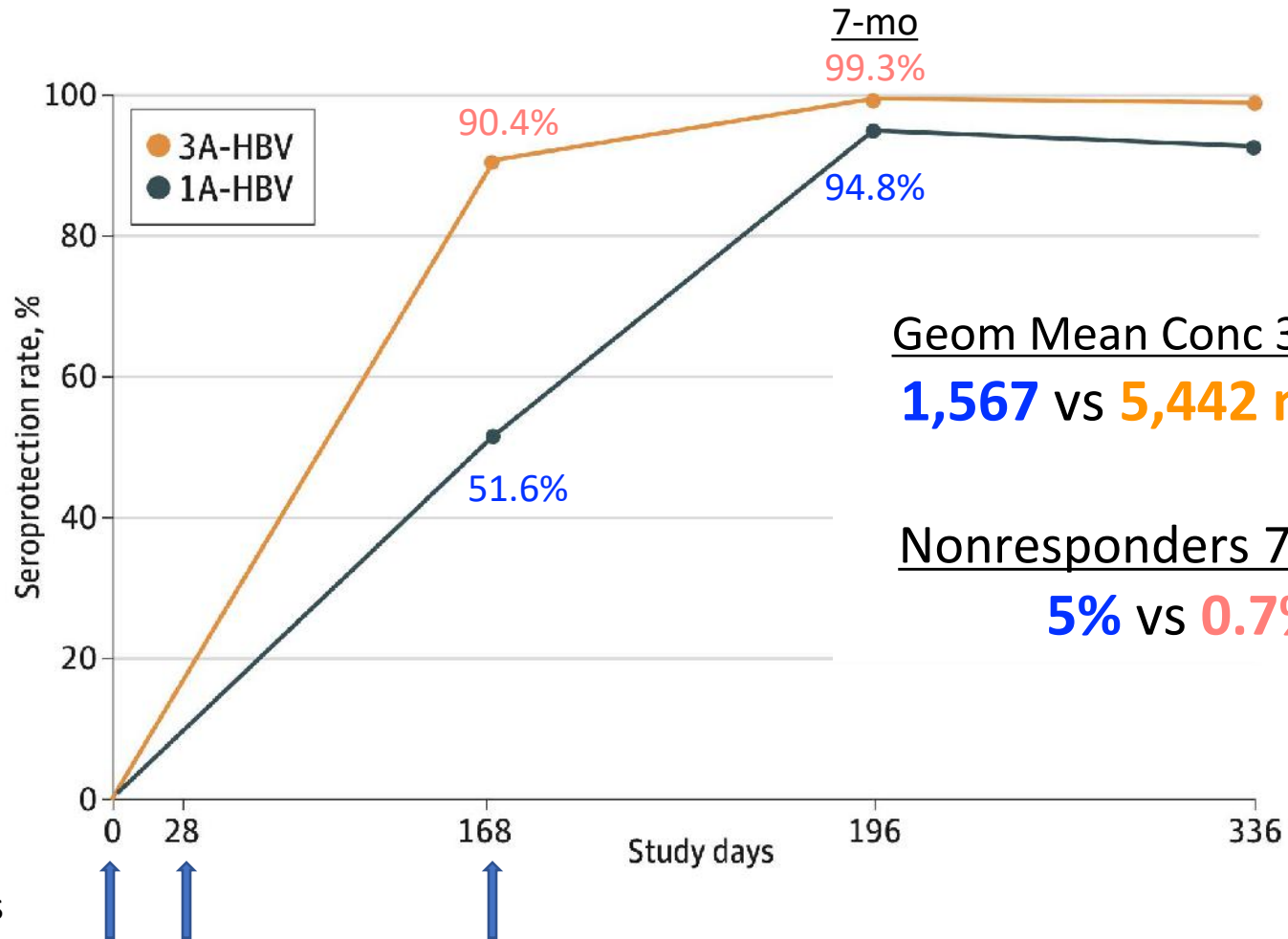
\*Pre-S1 (large), Pre-S2 (middle), S (small)

Mammalian posttranslational glycosylation (native conformation)

healthy young adults



Seroprotection rate (anti-HBs  $\geq 10$  mIU/ml)



Geom Mean Conc 3 x higher  
**1,567 vs 5,442 mIU/ml**

Nonresponders 7 x lower  
**5% vs 0.7%**



# Approved Hepatitis B Vaccines

Hepatitis Vaccines Work Group, Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices, Wednesday February 23, 2022

Adult HepB vaccine*	Derivation	Adjuvant	Dose of HBs Antigens	Schedule
PreHevbrio <sup>†</sup>	mammalian (Chinese hamster ovary) Cell	alum	10µg	3 doses at 0, 1, 6 mo
Engerix-B	yeast	alum	20µg	3 doses at 0, 1, 6 mo
Recombivax HB	yeast	alum	10µg	3 doses at 0, 1, 6 mo
Heplisav-B <sup>†</sup>	yeast	CpG 1018	20µg	2 doses at 0, 1 mo

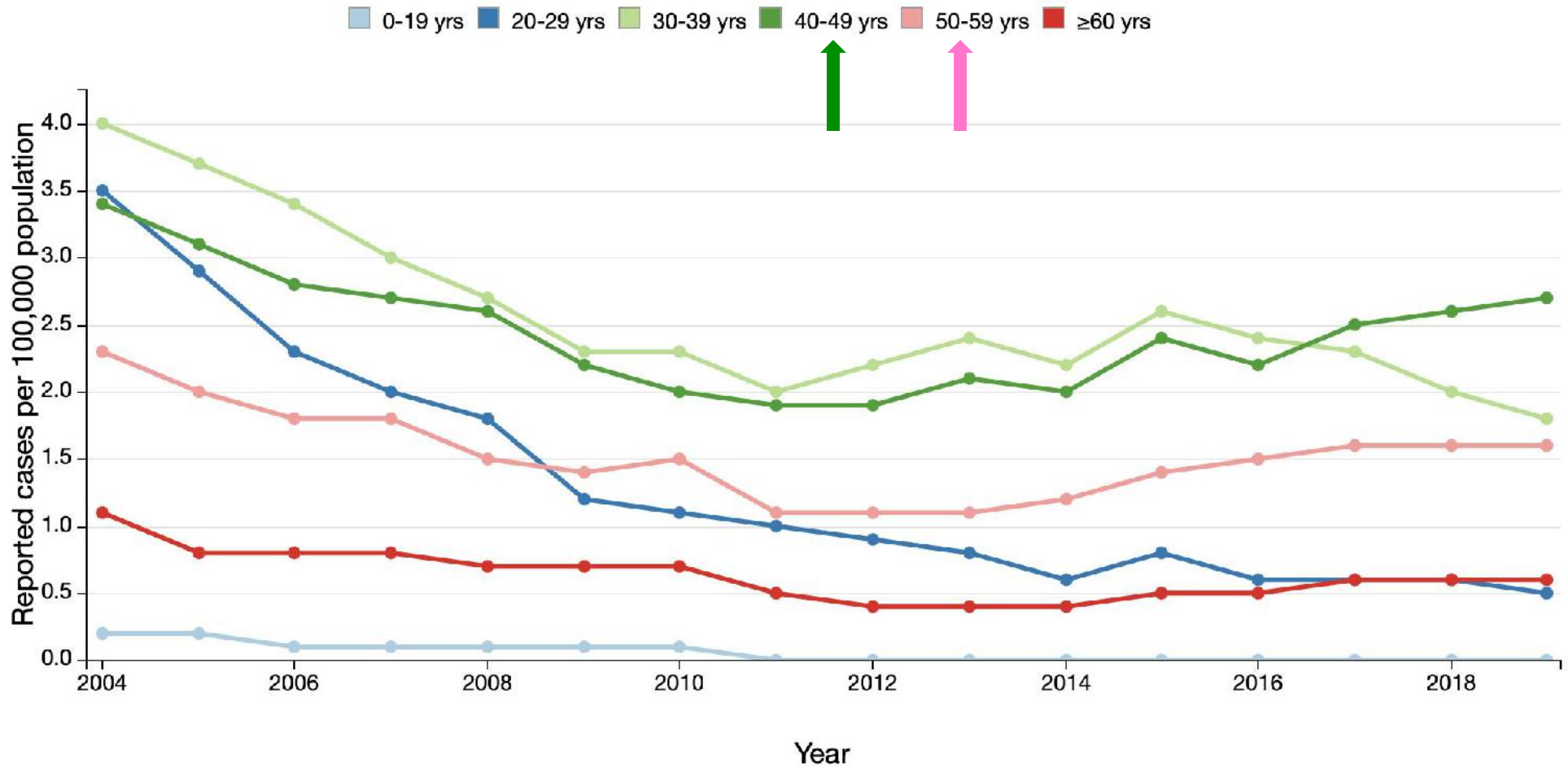
\*ACIP Recommended Immunization Schedule for Adults ≥19 Years — US, 2022  
(<http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm7107a1>)

Data on Heplisav-B and PreHevbrio currently insufficient to inform vaccine-associated risks in pregnancy—not recommended.

<sup>†</sup>Consider in reduced vaccine responsiveness: elderly, obese, DM, HIV, CLD, CKD, prior nonresponders



## Rates of reported acute hepatitis B virus infection, by age group— US, 2004–2019



Source: CDC, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.  
Weng MK, et al. MMWR 2022;71:477-83 (April 1, 2022)



# Universal Hepatitis B Vaccination in Adults Aged 19-59 Years: Updated Recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices—US, 2022

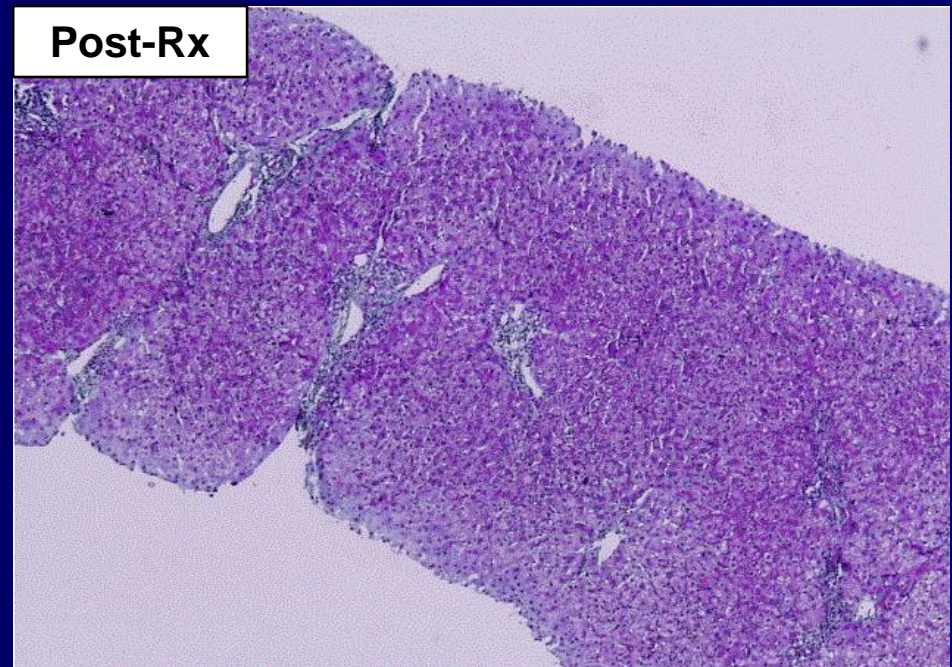
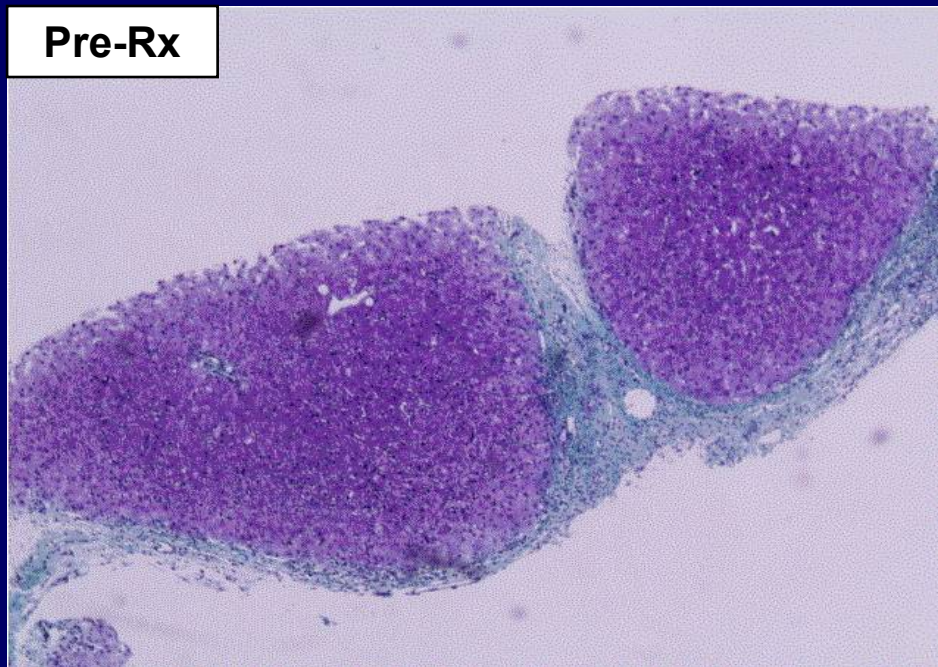
- In 2018, vaccine coverage was only 30% among US adults age  $\geq 19$ .
- Age 40-50 and 30-40 cohorts had the largest increases in reported acute hepatitis B (2014-2019).
- Hepatitis B vaccine coverage among adults with risk factors is suboptimal.
  - 37% of CDC-reported cases did not have identified risk factors.
- Risk factors assessed under prior recommendations included potential criminal or stigmatizing behavior, limiting effectiveness of risk assessment.
- Racial and ethnic disparities exist among persons with HBV infection.
- Non-US-born residents account for 69% with chronic HBV infection
  - 9 x more likely to have chronic hepatitis B than US-born persons
- Rates of hepatitis B among children and adolescents converged to a lower rate after universal vaccination implemented in this age group.
- Universal vaccination addresses these issues.\*

\* For age >60, vaccination remains based on risk factors but may be offered even without risk factors.

All the following are true for antiviral therapy of chronic hepatitis B, except...

- A. Involves very potent drugs with a high barrier to resistance
- B. Can retard fibrosis but not reverse cirrhosis
- C. Reduces the risk of hepatic decompensation and the need for liver transplantation
- D. Reduces liver-related mortality, all-cause mortality, and HCC
- E. Reduces the risk of hepatitis B reactivation after cytotoxic/immunosuppressive chemotherapy.

# Histologic improvement in cirrhosis after 3 years of lamivudine therapy



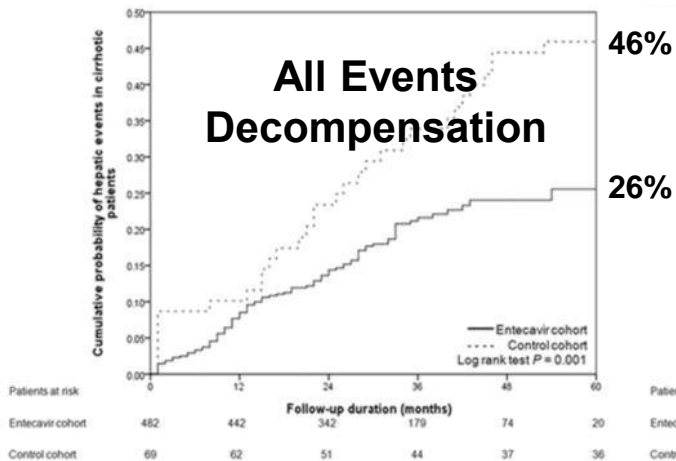
Wild-type HBV

# ETV Antiviral Therapy Reduces Decompensation and Liver-related Mortality in Cirrhotic Patients with Chronic Hepatitis B

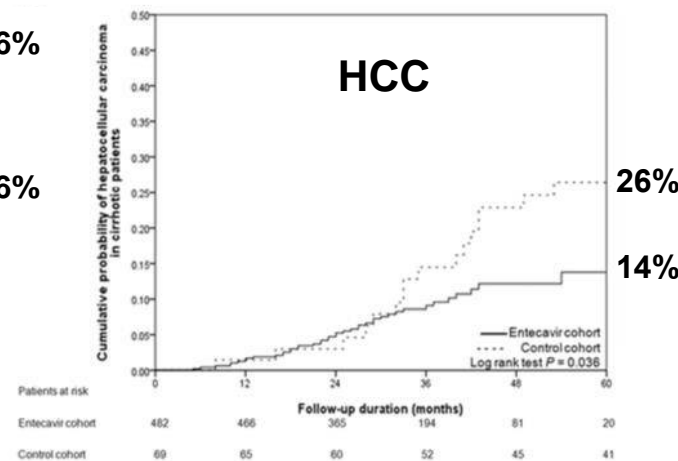
Retrospective-Pro prospective Cohort Study of 482 treated and 69 treatment-naïve patients

## 5-Year Cumulative Probability of Outcomes

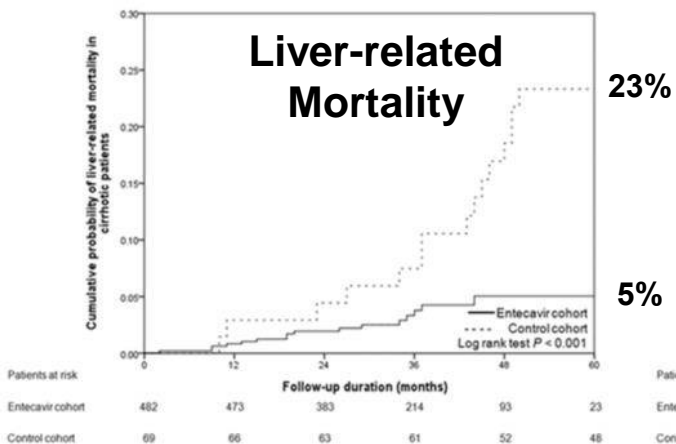
**HR\* 0.51**  
**(49% ↓)**



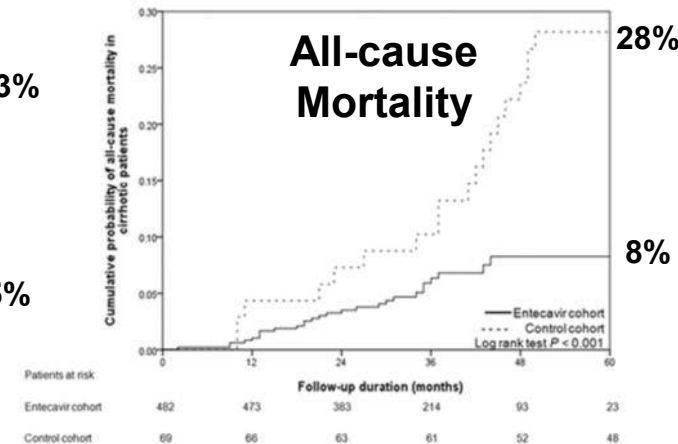
**HR 0.55**  
**(45% ↓)**



**HR 0.26**  
**(74% ↓)**

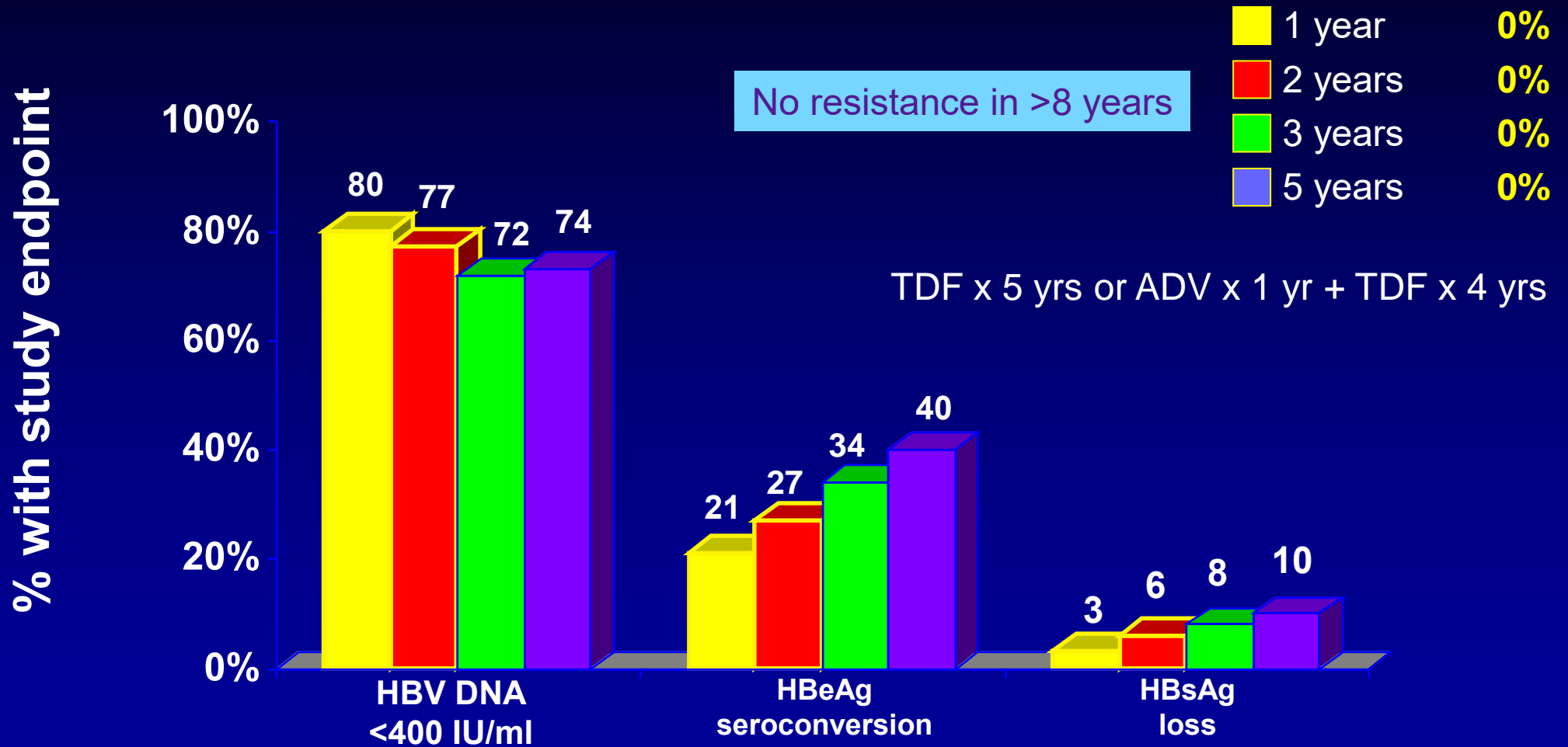


**HR 0.34**  
**(66% ↓)**



# Tenofovir x 5 Yrs in HBeAg-Positive Chronic Hepatitis B

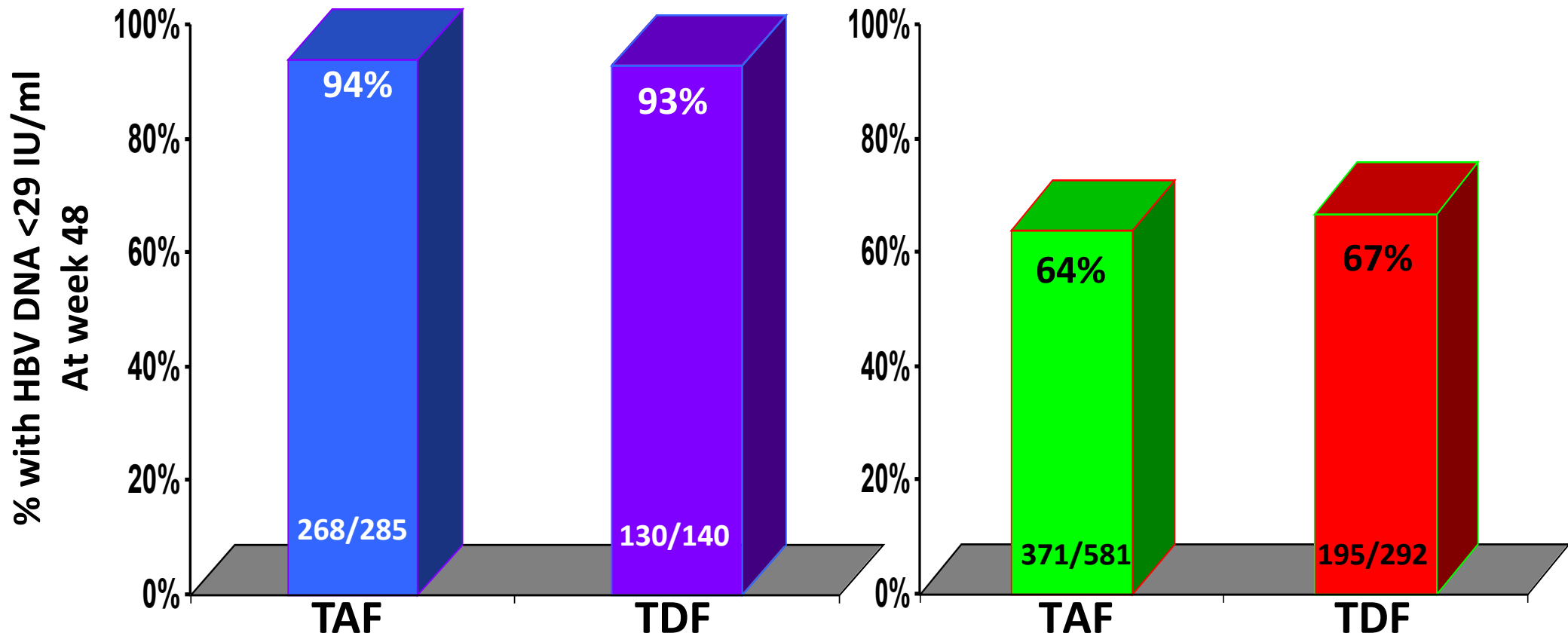
Resistance



# TAF\* vs TDF in Chronic Hepatitis B

HBeAg-negative

HBeAg-positive



Buti M, et al. Lancet Gastroenterology Hepatology 2016;1:196-206.  
Chan HLY, et al. Lancet Gastroenterology Hepatology 2016;1:185-95.

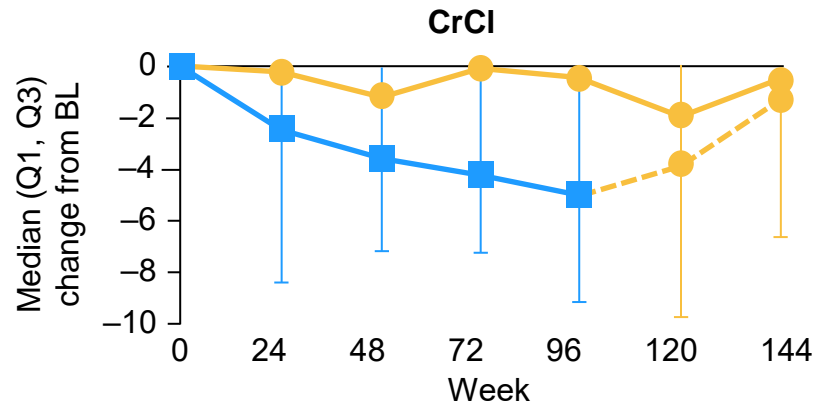
\*Tenofovir Alafenamide



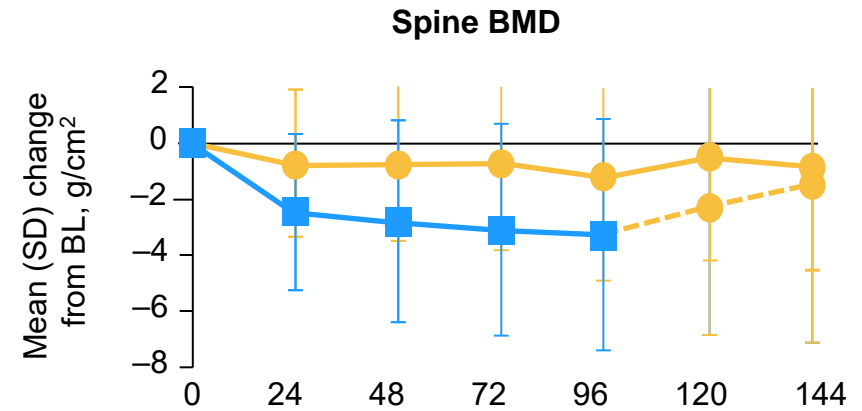
# Impact of Switching from TDF to TAF on $C_{Cr}$ and BMD

## Creatinine Clearance

- TAF (n = 360)
- TDF (n = 180)
- -●- - TDF→TAF



## Bone Mineral Density



# AASLD Hepatitis B Treatment Guidelines

HBeAg	HBV DNA	ALT	Management
+	$>2 \times 10^4$ IU/mL	$<2 \times$ ULN	Low efficacy of current Rx*
+	$>2 \times 10^4$ IU/mL	$\geq 2 \times$ ULN	Treat
-	$>2 \times 10^3$ IU/mL	$\geq 2 \times$ ULN	Treat
-	$>2 \times 10^3$ IU/mL	1- $>2 \times$ ULN	Low efficacy of current Rx*
-	$\leq 2 \times 10^3$ IU/mL	$\leq$ ULN	Observe
+/-	+	Cirrhosis	Comp: Treat, <b>regardless of ALT level</b> Decomp: Treat, coordinate with Tx center
+/-	-	Cirrhosis	Comp: Observe Decomp: <b>Treat</b> , Refer for Liver Tx

\*Consider Rx: except in patients  $>40$ , with family Hx cirrhosis or HCC, with extrahepatic manifestations, with a history of previous treatment, and/or liver biopsy (or noninvasive fibrosis determination) evidence for moderate to severe inflammation or fibrosis

# HBV Reactivation Risk Based on Serologic Status and Immunosuppressive Potency

Risk Level	Serological Risk Status	Immunosuppressive Agent Risk Status
High (>10%)	HBsAg+, high HBV DNA, or HBeAg+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ B-cell–depleting agents (e.g., Rituximab)</li> <li>▪ Systemic chemotherapy</li> <li>▪ Moderate/high-dose corticosteroids*</li> </ul>
Intermediate (1%-10%)	HBsAg- anti-HBc+ anti-HBs-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Tumor necrosis factor (TNF) inhibitors</li> <li>▪ T-cell activation inhibitors (e.g., Abatacept)</li> <li>▪ Tyrosine kinase inhibitors</li> <li>▪ Other cytokine and integrin inhibitors</li> <li>▪ Transarterial chemoembolization</li> <li>▪ Low/moderate/high-dose corticosteroids†</li> </ul>
Low (<1%)	HBsAg- anti-HBc+ anti-HBs+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Methotrexate</li> <li>▪ Azathioprine</li> <li>▪ 6-mercaptopurine</li> <li>▪ Low-dose corticosteroids‡</li> </ul>

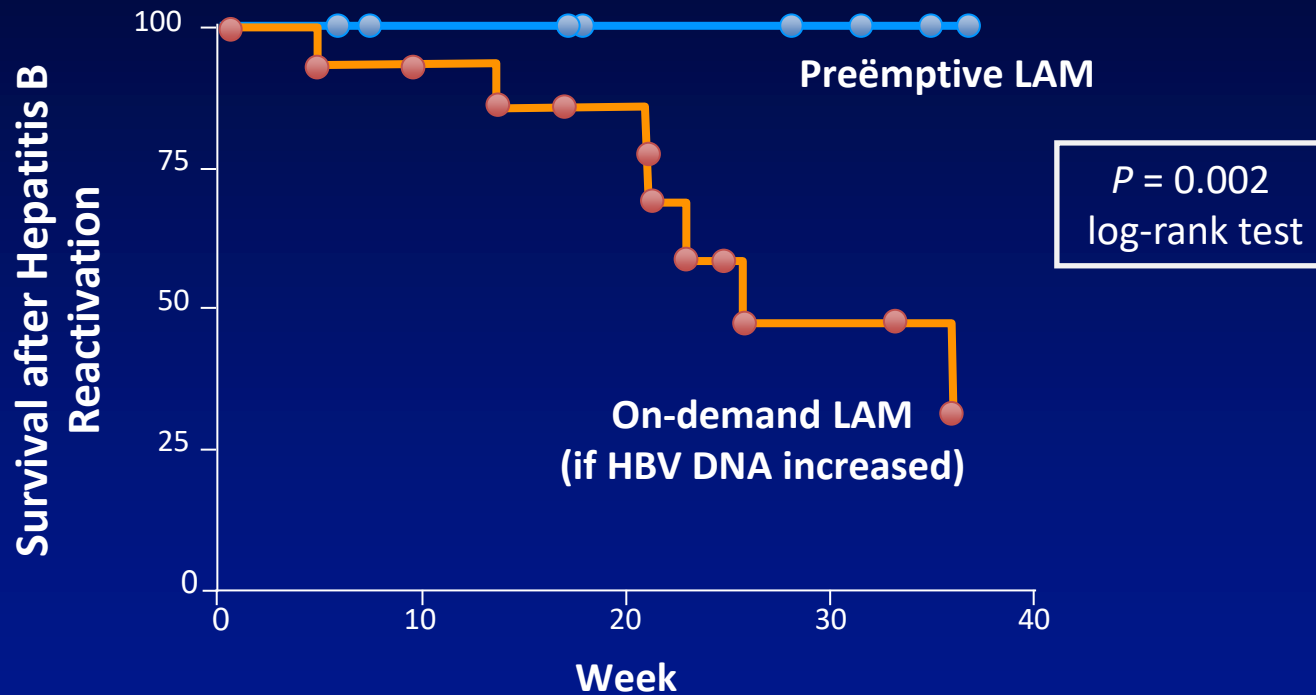
\*≥10 mg for ≥4 wks for HBsAg+/anti-HBc+

†<10 mg for ≥4 wks for HBsAg+/anti-HBc+; ≥10 mg for ≥4 wks for HBsAg-/anti-HBc+

‡<1 wk for HBsAg±/anti-HBc+; <10 mg for ≥4 wks for HBsAg-/anti-HBc+

# Preëemptive LAM Reduces Mortality in Hepatitis B Reactivation

HBsAg+ patients with lymphoma treated with high-dose chemotherapy randomized to preëemptive vs on-demand LAM



Patients at risk, n

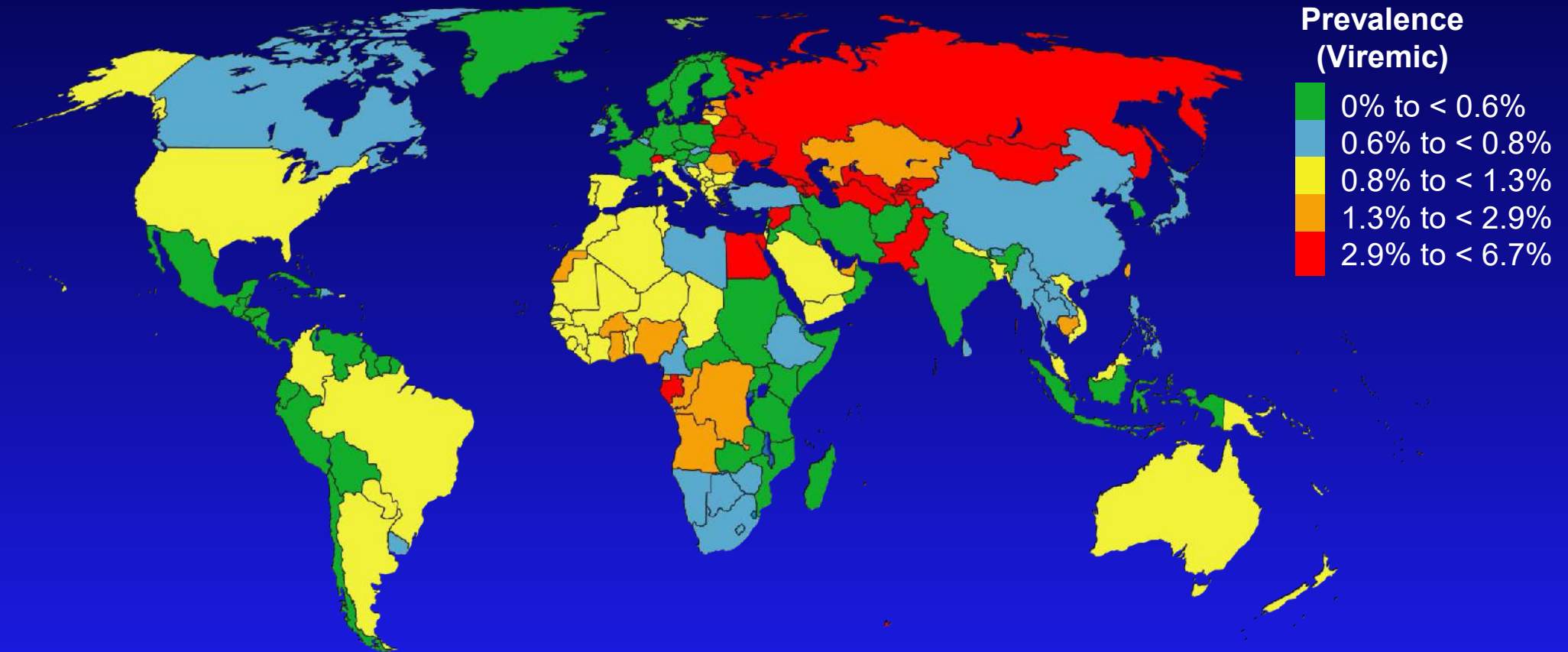
Preëemptive LAM	15	12	10	9	6
On-demand LAM	15	13	10	4	2



# Evolving Hepatitis B Landscape: Take-Home Points

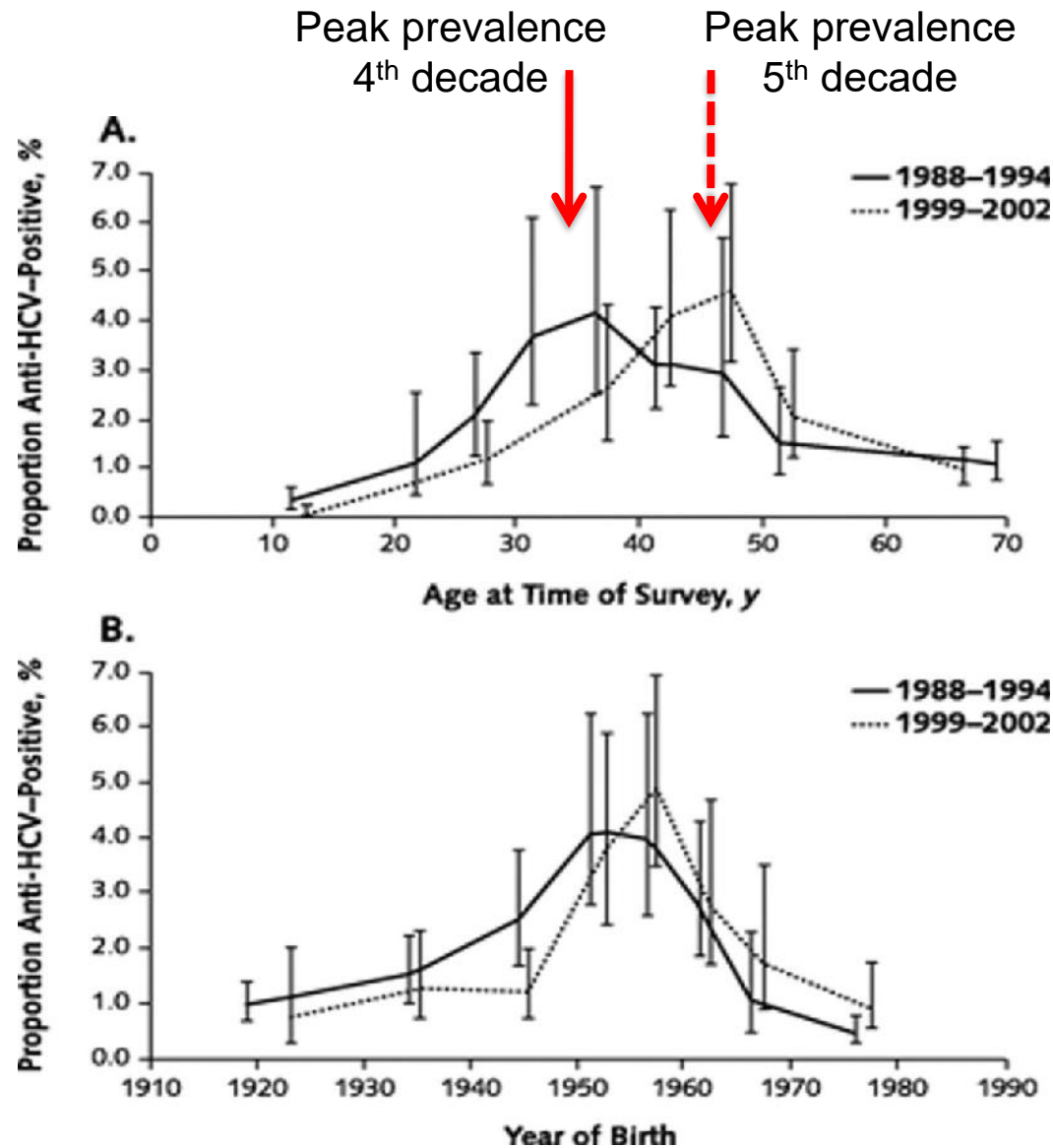
- HBV infection on the decline, but global burden remains high (250 million).
  - In the US, foreign-born persons account for the highest burden of infection.
- Hepatitis B vaccination introduced in the 1980s has reduced the prevalence, incidence, and disease burden of HBV infection.
  - In 2022, universal vaccination recommended (aged 19-59).
- Current generation antivirals—safe, well tolerated, highly potent, negligible resistance (ETV, TDF/TAF).
- Ultimately, chronic hepatitis B is a viral disease; viral suppression is the primary endpoint, but all other clinical endpoints follow.
  - Profound, durable HBV DNA suppression with oral antivirals reduces/reverses HBV-associated fibrosis progression, disease progression, HCC, and liver transplantation.
- Hepatitis B reactivation can complicate cytotoxic, immunosuppressive chemotherapy and antiviral therapy for hepatitis C—importance of preëemptive antiviral therapy.

# Estimated 71 Million Persons Living with HCV Infection





# Prevalence of HCV Infection in the US, NHANES 1988-1994 and 1999-2002



Peak prevalence  
2015

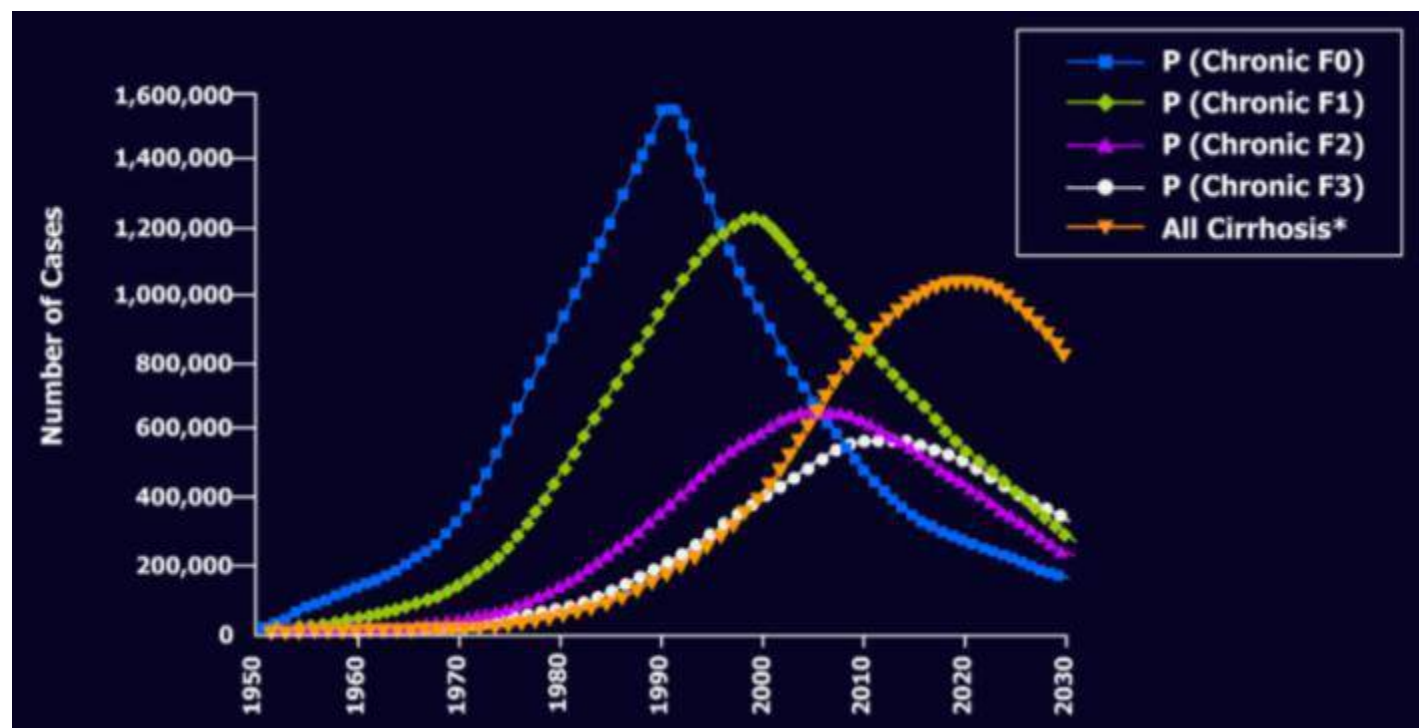
# Aging of HCV-Infected Persons in the United States: A Multiple Cohort Model of HCV Prevalence and Disease Progression

## Histologic Evolution

Cirrhosis Peak  
2020

Death Peak  
2032

↓ ↓

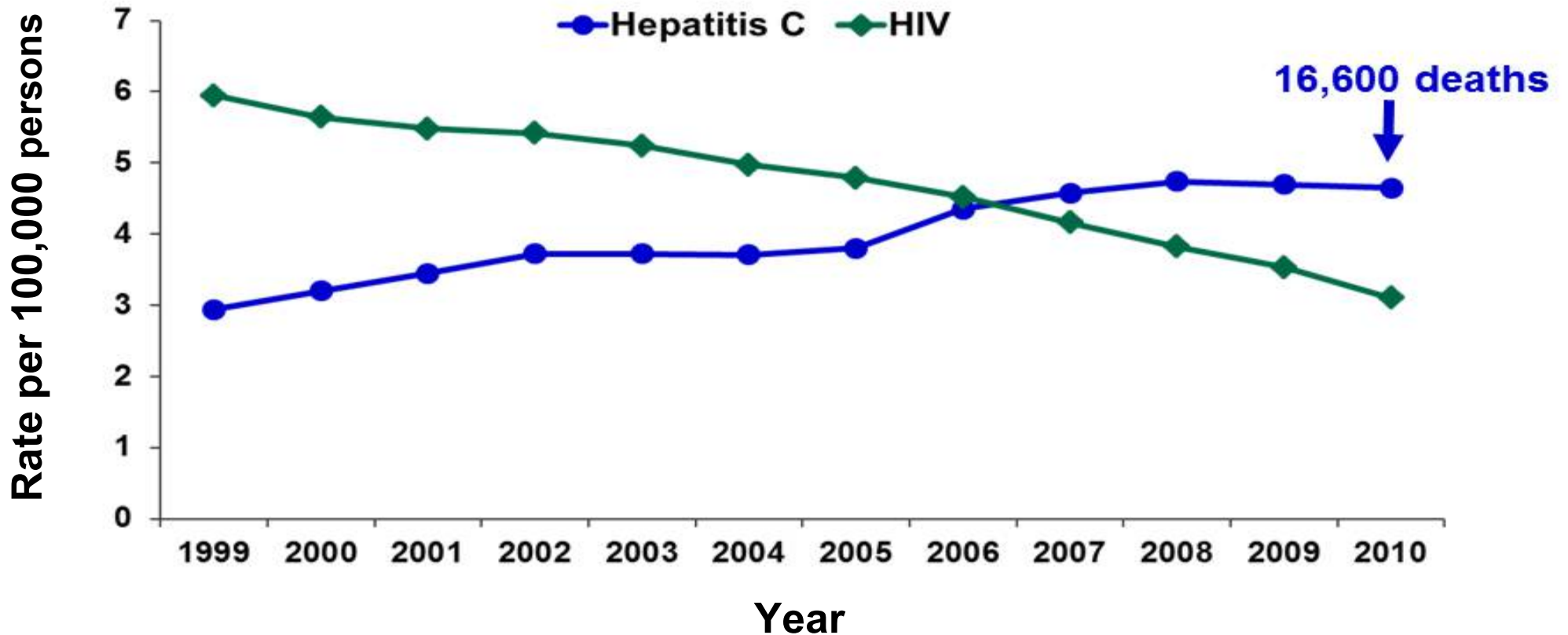


78% F0/1; 5% cirrhosis

42% F0/1; 25% cirrhosis

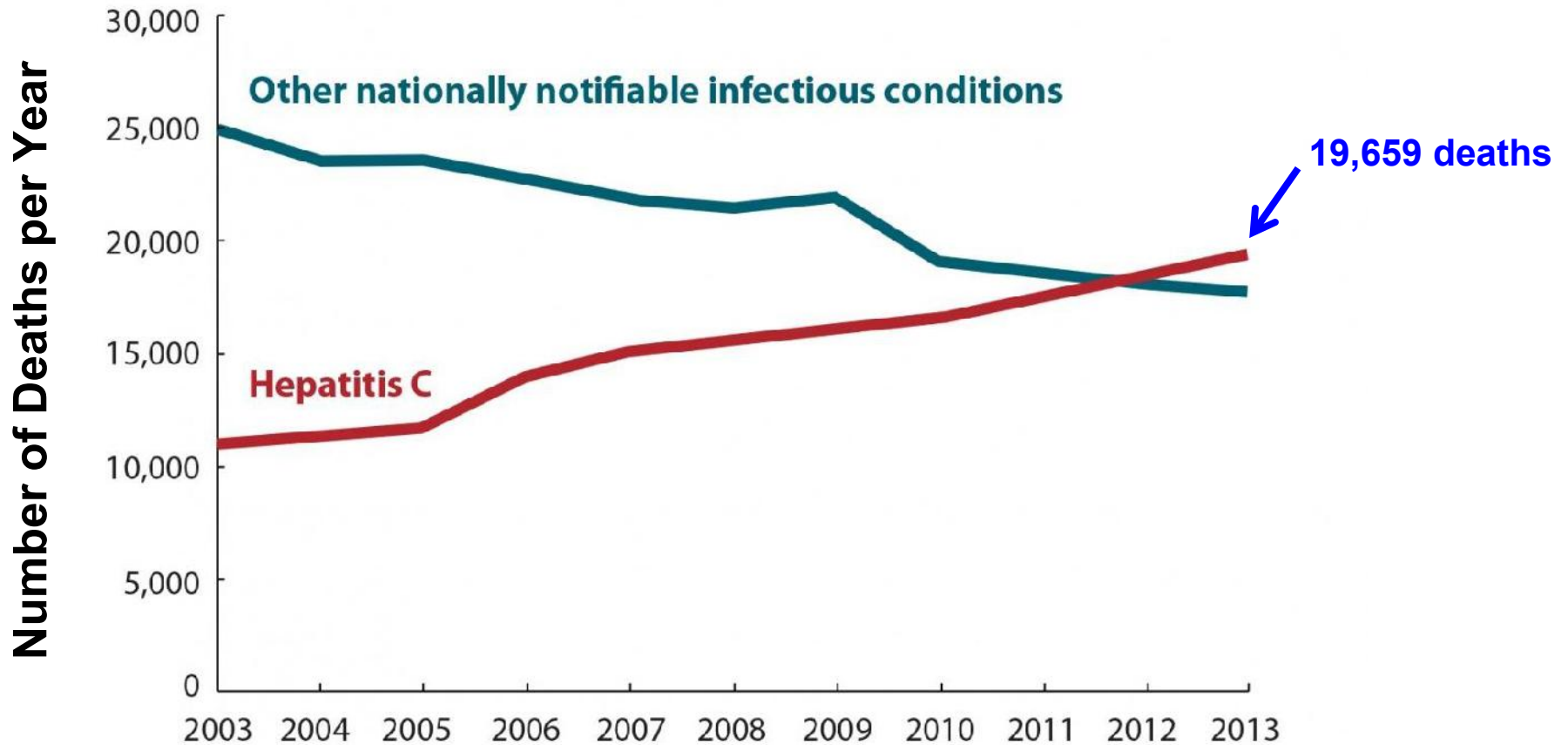
37% cirrhosis

## Annual age-adjusted mortality associated with HCV and HIV infections listed as causes of death in the United States, 1999-2010



**>70% of HCV-associated deaths occurred in people 45-64 years old**

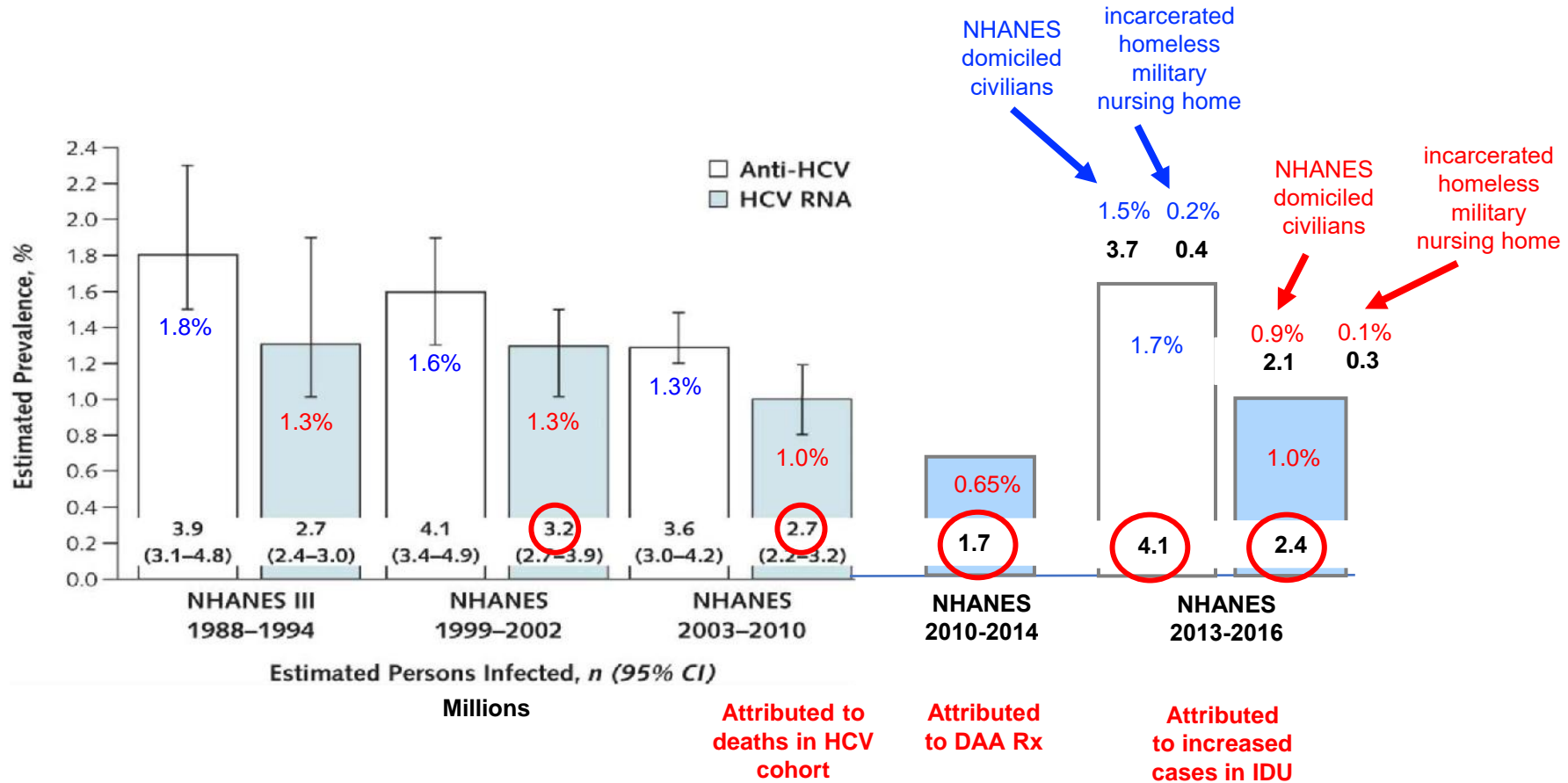
# HCV Deaths and Deaths from Other Nationally Notifiable Infectious Diseases,\* 2003- 2013



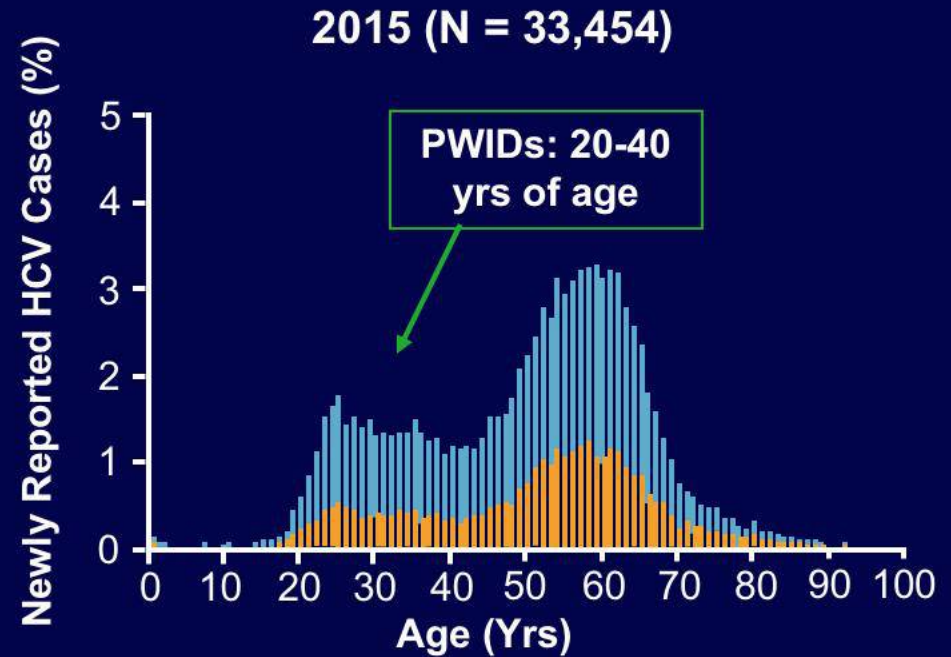
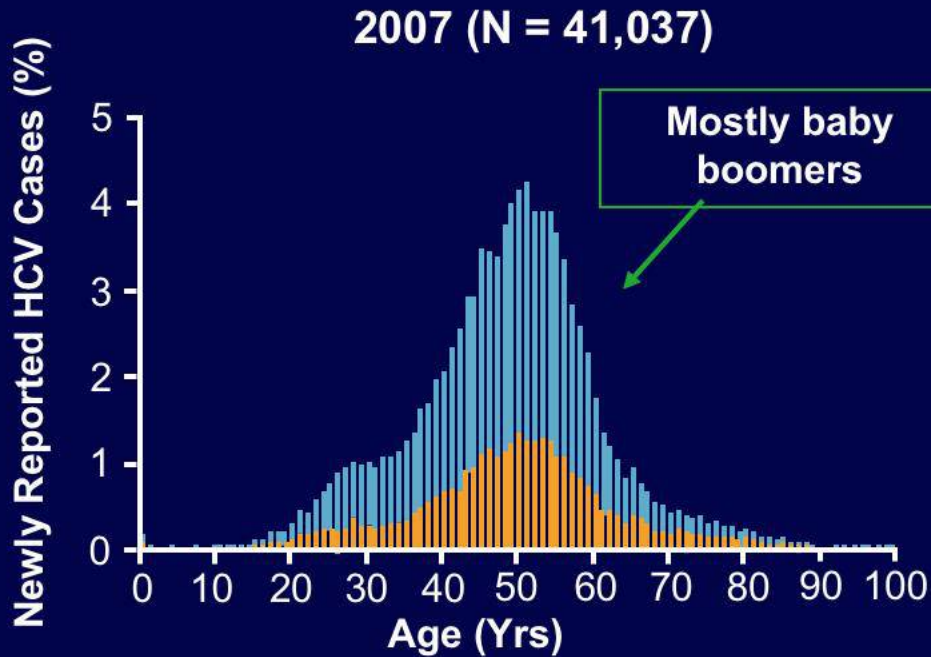
\*TB, HIV, Hepatitis B, and 57 other infectious conditions reported to CDC

# Chronic Hepatitis C Virus Infection in the United States

## National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey 2013 to 2016 Updated



# Changing Epidemiology of HCV Infection in the US

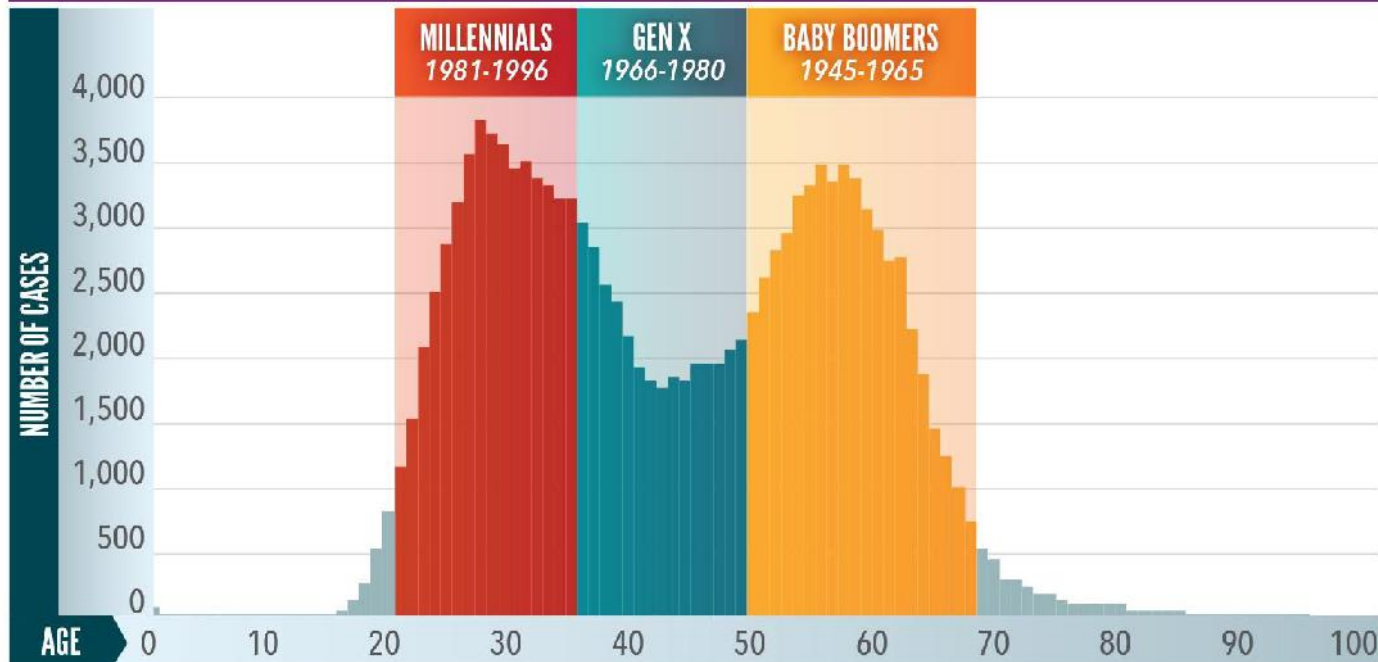


persons who inject drugs



## 2018 New Chronic Cases

### New Reports of Chronic Hepatitis C High in Multiple Generations



SOURCE: National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, 2018

36.5% of  
reported  
cases

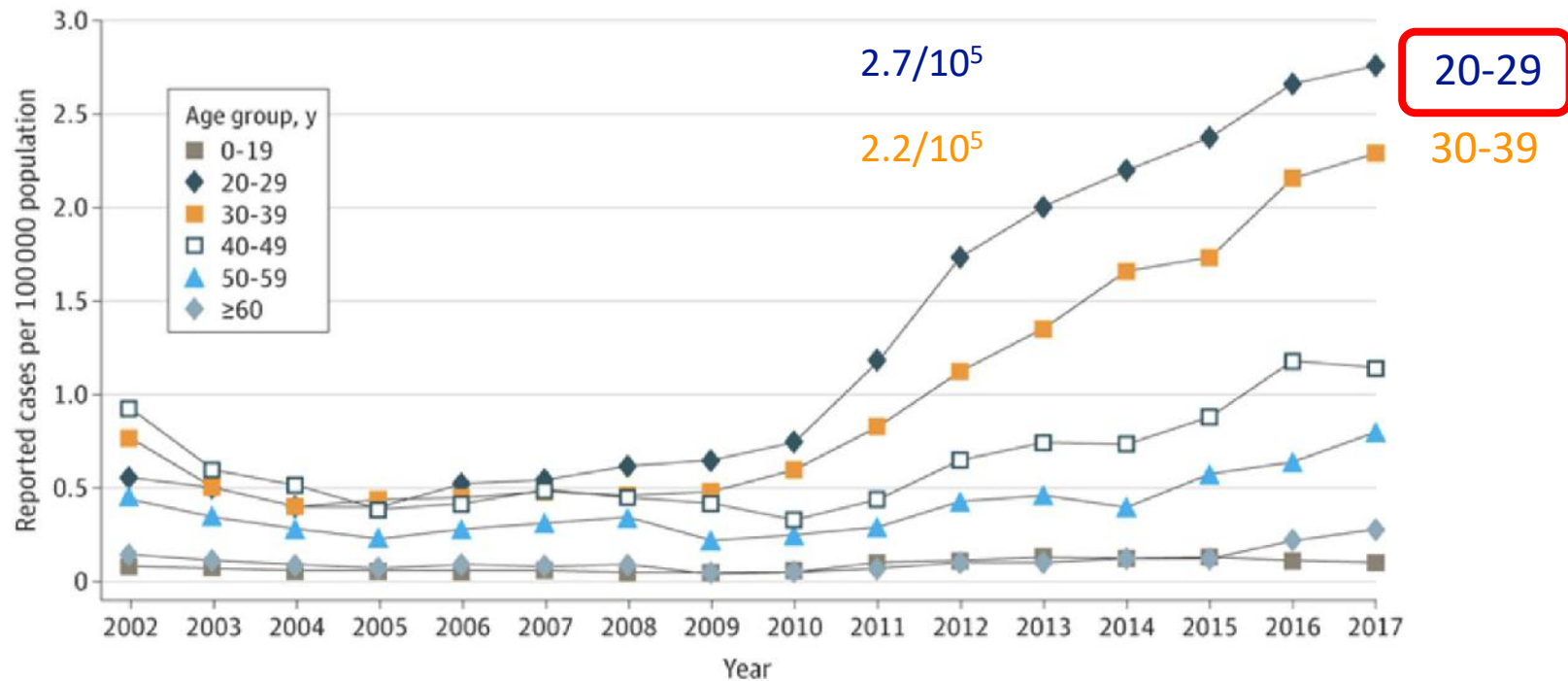
23.1% of  
reported  
cases

36.3% of  
reported  
cases

**2020 recommendation by AASLD/IDSA, USPSTF, CDC:  
Expansion of recommended hepatitis C screening to all adolescents and adults aged 18-79**

# US Preventive Services Task Force: Universal screening for HCV infection in adolescents and adults ages 18-79 JAMA 2020; 323:970-5.

Rates of reported acute hepatitis C by age group in the US, 2002-2017

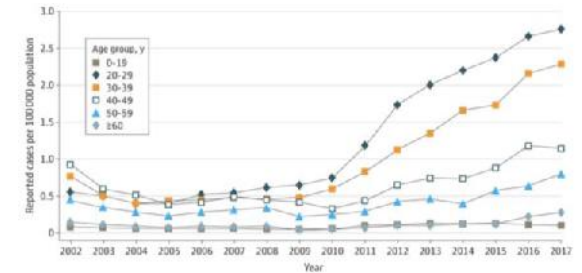


Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System.

## New recommendation by AASLD/IDSA, USPSTF, CDC: Expansion of recommended hepatitis C screening to all adolescents and adults aged 18-79

### Rationale

- Persons with chronic hepatitis C identified by 1945-1965 birth-cohort screening are older than 50—by the time they are identified, >20% already have advanced liver disease.
- Shifting demographics of HCV infection (since 2010), towards a younger population (highest, age 20-39\*) exposed through injection-drug use
- 95-99% efficacy of all-oral, well tolerated, highly effective DAAs
- DAA therapy is associated with a marked decrease in liver and all-cause mortality, cirrhosis, and HCC
- Reduction in the initially high cost of DAA therapy
- Higher cost-effectiveness of screening all adults than birth-cohort screening



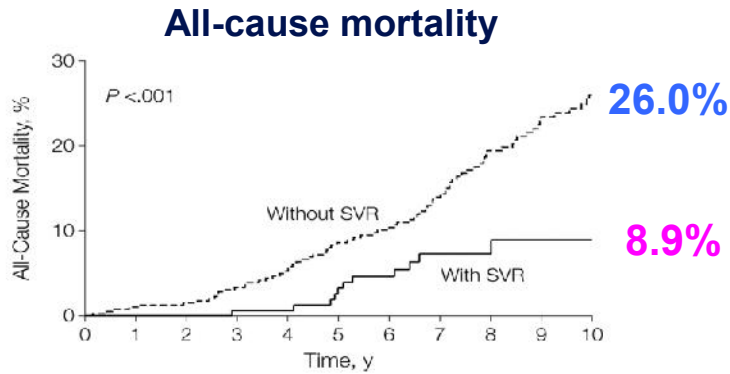
\*Child-bearing years. Screening pregnant women recommended

# Association between SVR and All-Cause Mortality among Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C and Advanced Hepatic Fibrosis

## Survival outcomes with and without sustained virologic response (SVR)

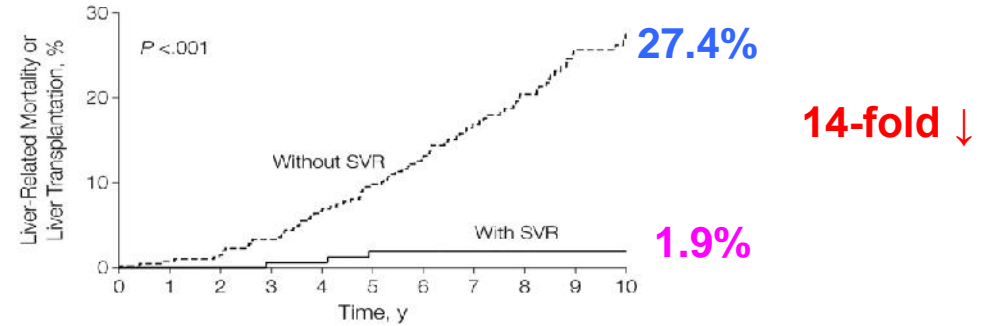
530 pts with F4-6, IFN-based Rx, median f/u 8.4 Yrs

**3-fold**



No. at risk	405	393	382	363	344	317	295	250	207	164	135
Without SVR	192	181	168	162	155	144	125	88	66	40	28
With SVR											

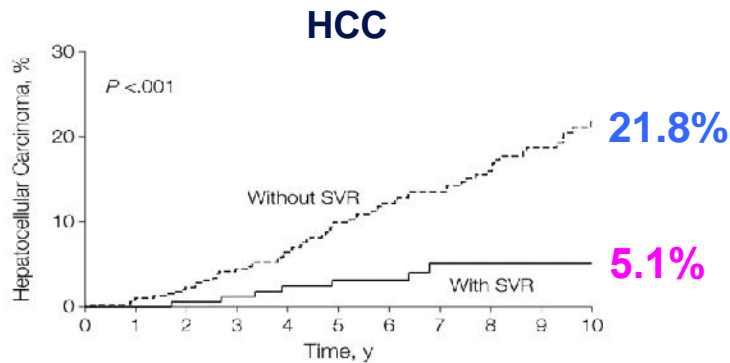
### Liver-related mortality and liver transplantation



**14-fold ↓**

No. at risk	405	392	380	358	334	305	277	229	187	146	119
Without SVR	192	181	168	162	155	144	125	88	56	40	28
With SVR											

**4-fold**



No. at risk	405	390	375	349	326	294	269	229	191	151	122
Without SVR	192	181	167	161	152	142	124	88	54	39	27
With SVR											



**14-fold ↓**

No. at risk	405	384	361	337	314	288	259	216	184	143	113
Without SVR	192	180	166	160	152	141	123	88	56	40	28
With SVR											

Direct-acting antiviral (DAA) therapy for chronic hepatitis C:  
Which statement is accurate?

- A. Current DAA combination therapy x 8-12 weeks can cure >95% of patients but must include a polymerase inhibitor.
- B. DAA therapy results in an increase risk of HCC after therapy.
- C. DAA therapy reduces liver-related mortality but not all-cause mortality or extrahepatic manifestations.
- D. DAA Rx increases the risk of hepatitis B reactivation in HCV-HBV-coinfected persons.
- E. DAA therapy is so expensive that it will have no impact on the disease burden of HCV infection.

# HCV Life Cycle and Direct-Acting Antiviral Targets

Receptor binding and endocytosis

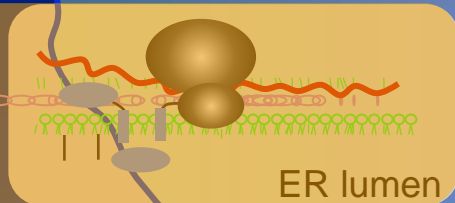
Fusion and uncoating

(+) RNA

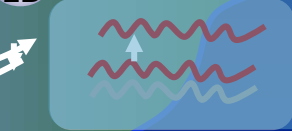
Transport and release

Virion assembly

**NS3/4 protease inhibitors**



Membranous web



**NS5B polymerase inhibitors**  
Nucleoside/nucleotide  
Nonnucleoside

**NS5A\* inhibitors**

\*Multifunctional membrane-associated phosphoprotein, essential component of the HCV RNA replication complex

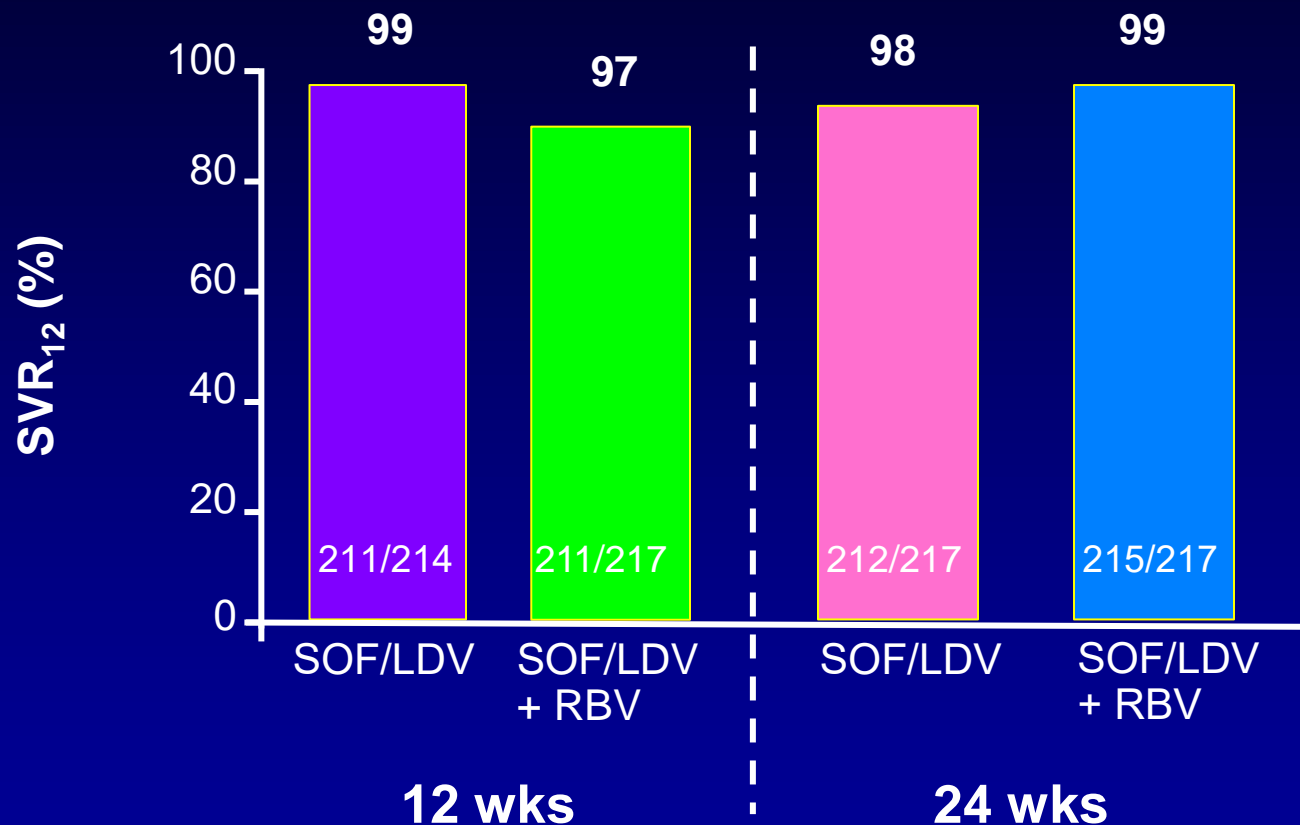
Adapted from Manns MP, et al. Nat Rev Drug Discov. 2007;6:991-1000.



# Sofosbuvir (Nuc) + Ledipasvir (NS5A) ± RBV x 12-24 wks

865 Rx-naïve,\* 16% cirrhotic, 67% GT 1a, 33% GT 1b

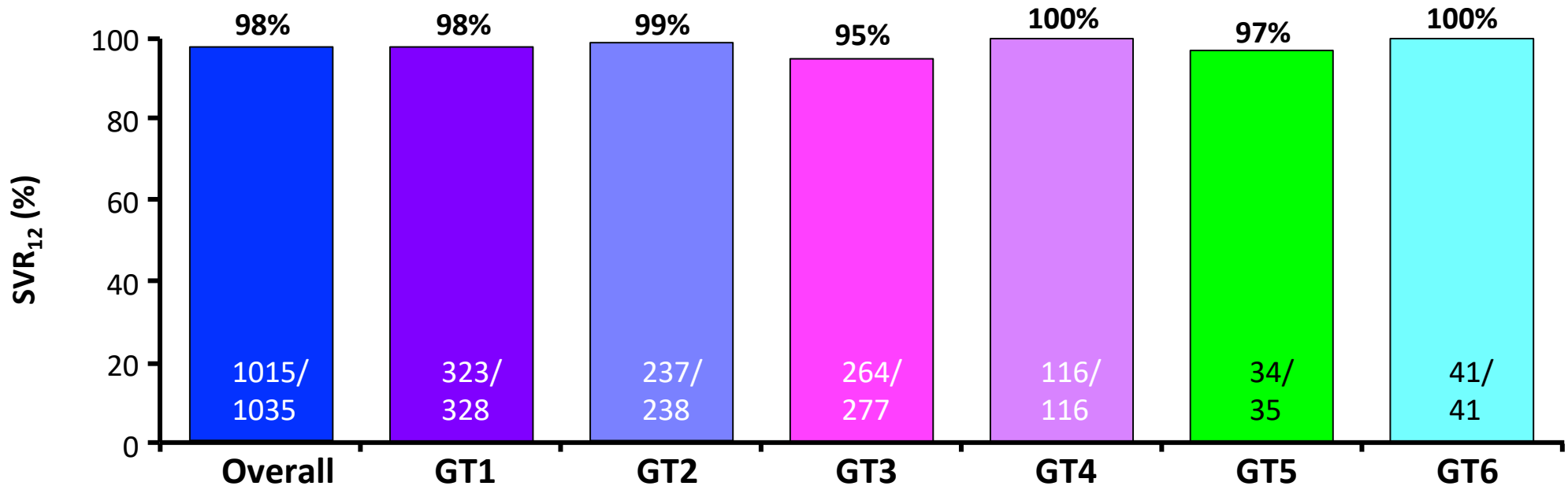
IFN-free



No additional benefit with the addition of RBV or extension of Rx to 24 wks.

# SOF/VEL x 12 Wks Effective across All HCV Genotypes

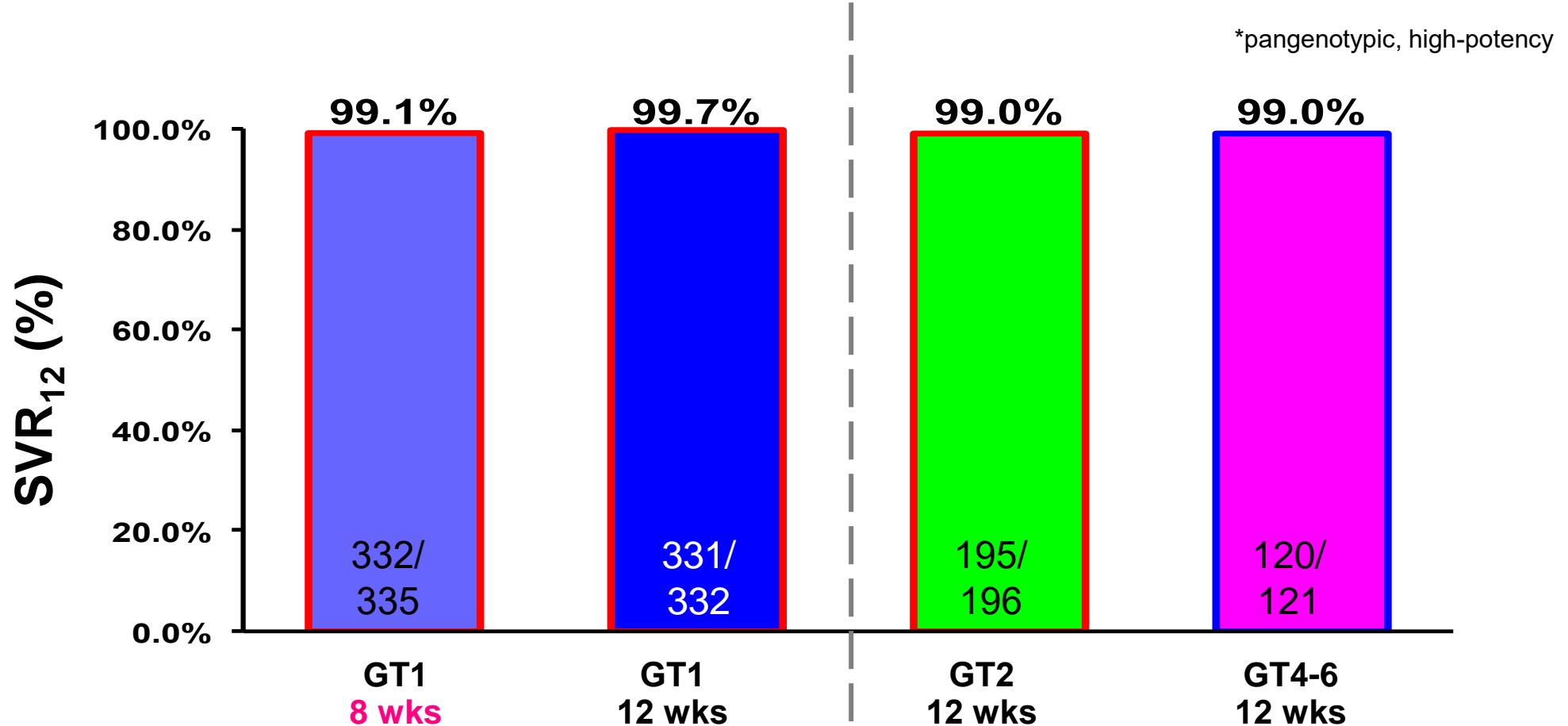
SVR<sub>12</sub> Rates in Patients With HCV GT1-6 and without or with Compensated Cirrhosis



Feld JJ et al. N Eng J Med 2015;373:2599-607.

Foster GR, et al. N Engl J Med 2015;373:2608-17.

# Phase-III Trials of PI Glecaprevir\*/NS5A Pibrentasvir\* for Treatment of Noncirrhotic GT1, 2, 4, 5, 6 (Treatment-Naïve or Treatment-Experienced)



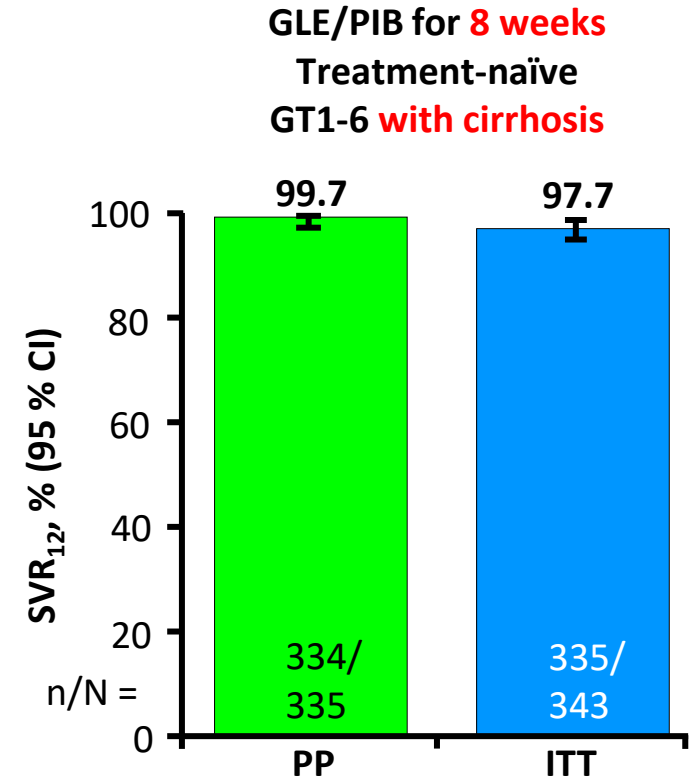
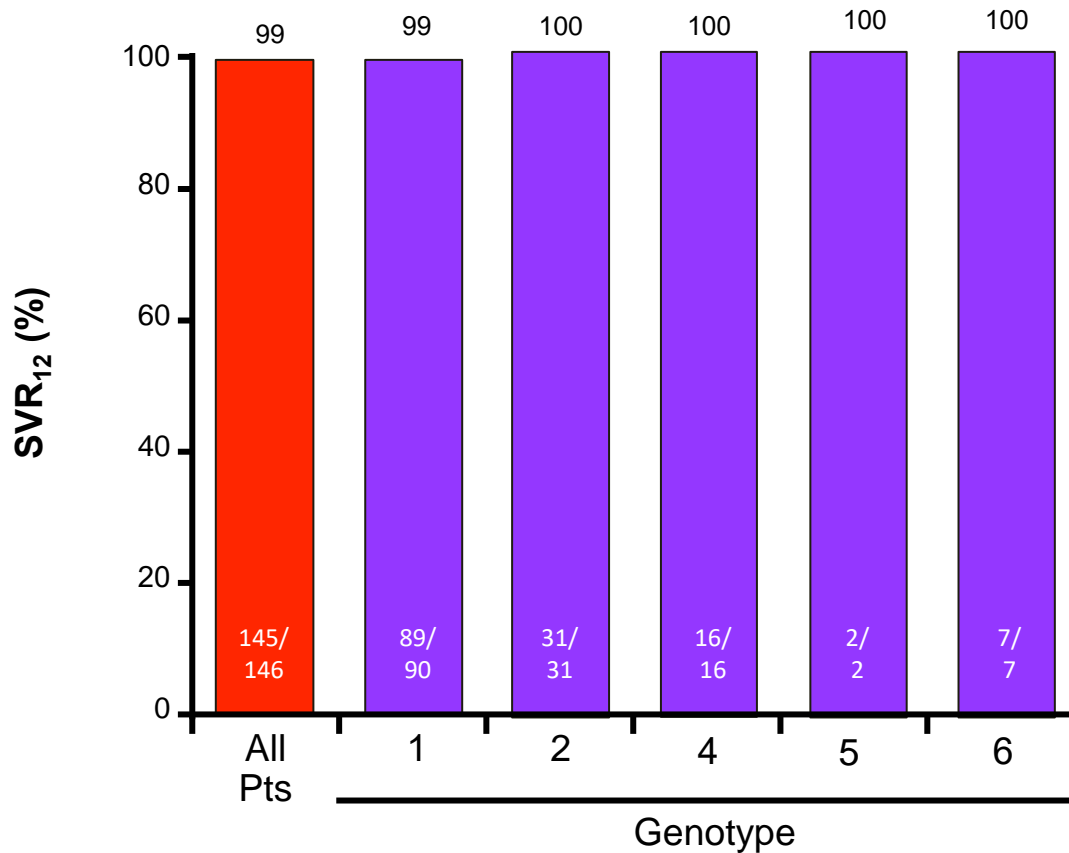
Zeuzem S, et al. N Engl J Med 2018;378:354-69.

Asselah T, et al. Clin Gastroenterol Hepatol 2018;16:417-26.

Asselah T, et al. Lancet Gastroenterol Hepatol 2019;4:45-51.

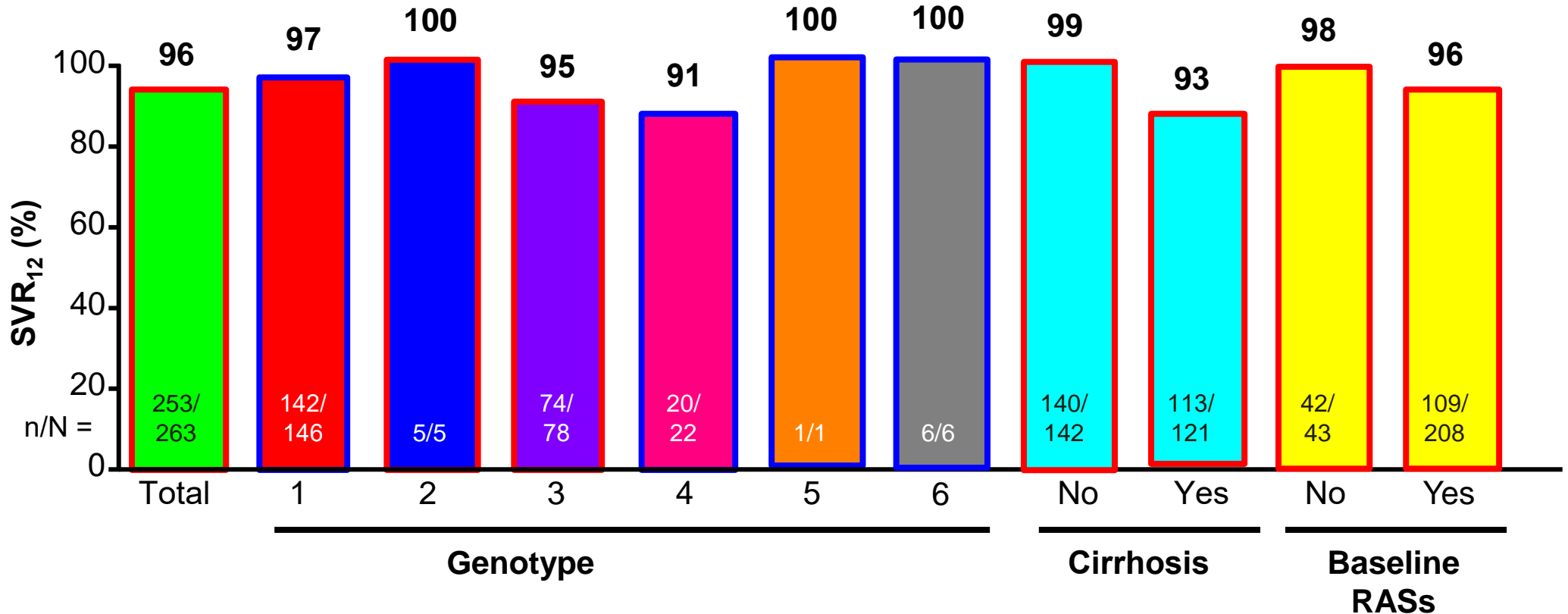
# Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir x 12 Weeks in GT1, 2, 4, 5, and Compensated Cirrhosis\*

*Treatment-naïve and treatment-experienced pts*



9/26/2019: FDA expanded GLE/PIB approval to 8 weeks in compensated cirrhosis.

# SOF/VEL/VOX Retreatment for 12 Wks after NS5A Failure in GT 1-6; Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled phase III trial



# Recommended First-line DAA Regimens: Treatment-naïve Patients, GT1a

## Without Cirrhosis

## Simplified regimens

Recommended and alternative regimens listed by evidence level and alphabetically for:  
Treatment-Naïve Genotype 1a Patients Without Cirrhosis

RECOMMENDED	DURATION	RATING <sup>i</sup>
Daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir (300 mg)/pibrentasvir (120 mg) <sup>a</sup>	8 weeks	I, A
Daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg)	12 weeks	I, A
Daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg) for patients who are HIV-uninfected and whose HCV RNA level is <6 million IU/mL	8 weeks	I, B
Daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg)	12 weeks	I, A

## Compensated cirrhosis

Recommended regimens listed by evidence level and alphabetically for:  
Treatment-Naïve Genotype 1a Patients With Compensated Cirrhosis<sup>a</sup> <sup>i</sup>

RECOMMENDED	DURATION	RATING <sup>i</sup>
Daily fixed-dose combination of ledipasvir (90 mg)/sofosbuvir (400 mg)	12 weeks	I, A
Daily fixed-dose combination of sofosbuvir (400 mg)/velpatasvir (100 mg)	12 weeks	I, A
Daily fixed-dose combination of glecaprevir (300 mg)/pibrentasvir (120 mg) <sup>b</sup>	8 weeks	I, B

# A Minimal Monitoring Approach for the Treatment of HCV Infection (“MINMON”)

- Phase-4, open-label, single-arm trial
- 400 participants (399 initiated Rx)
  - 38 sites (US, Brazil, South Africa, Thailand, Uganda)
  - Eligibility criteria
- sofosbuvir + velpatasvir
- Minimal monitoring approach:
  1. No pre-treatment testing
  2. Full course of treatment
  3. No scheduled laboratory testing
  4. Two remote contacts (weeks 4 [adherence] and 22 [schedule SVR testing])
- $SVR_{24}$  in 379/399 = **95%** [CI 92.4-96.7]

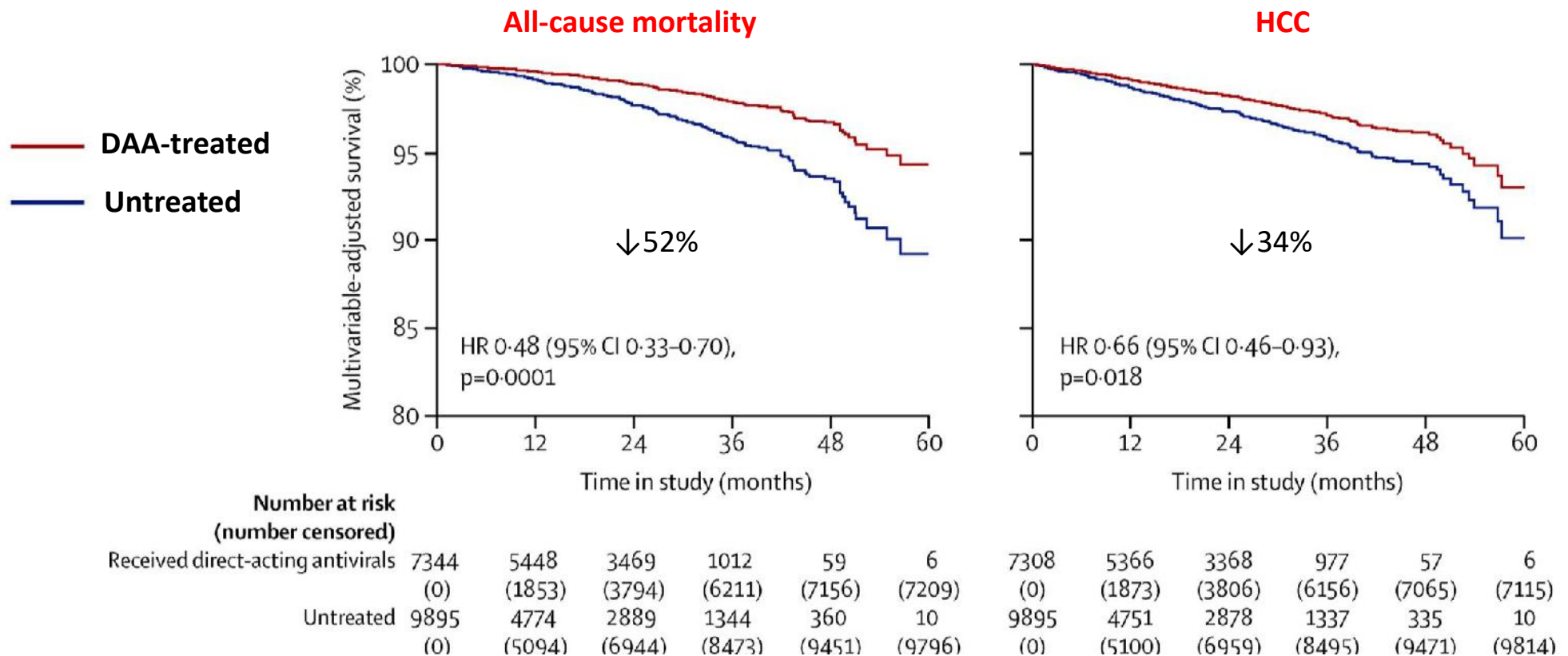




# Clinical Outcomes in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C after DAA Rx: A Prospective Cohort Study

Prospective 32-center cohort study in 10,166 French patients  
Aug 2012-Dec 2015, median f/u 33.4 months

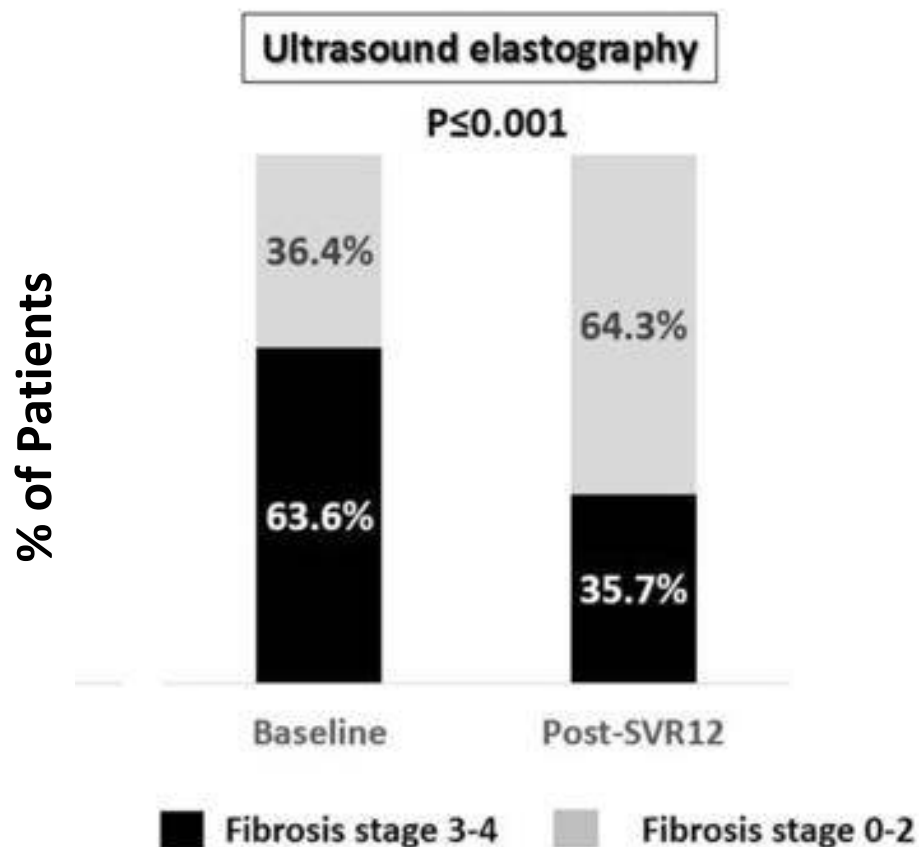
All patients analyzed multivariable-adjusted survival



# Cirrhosis/Fibrosis Regression after SVR to Antiviral Therapy in Patients with Chronic Hepatitis C

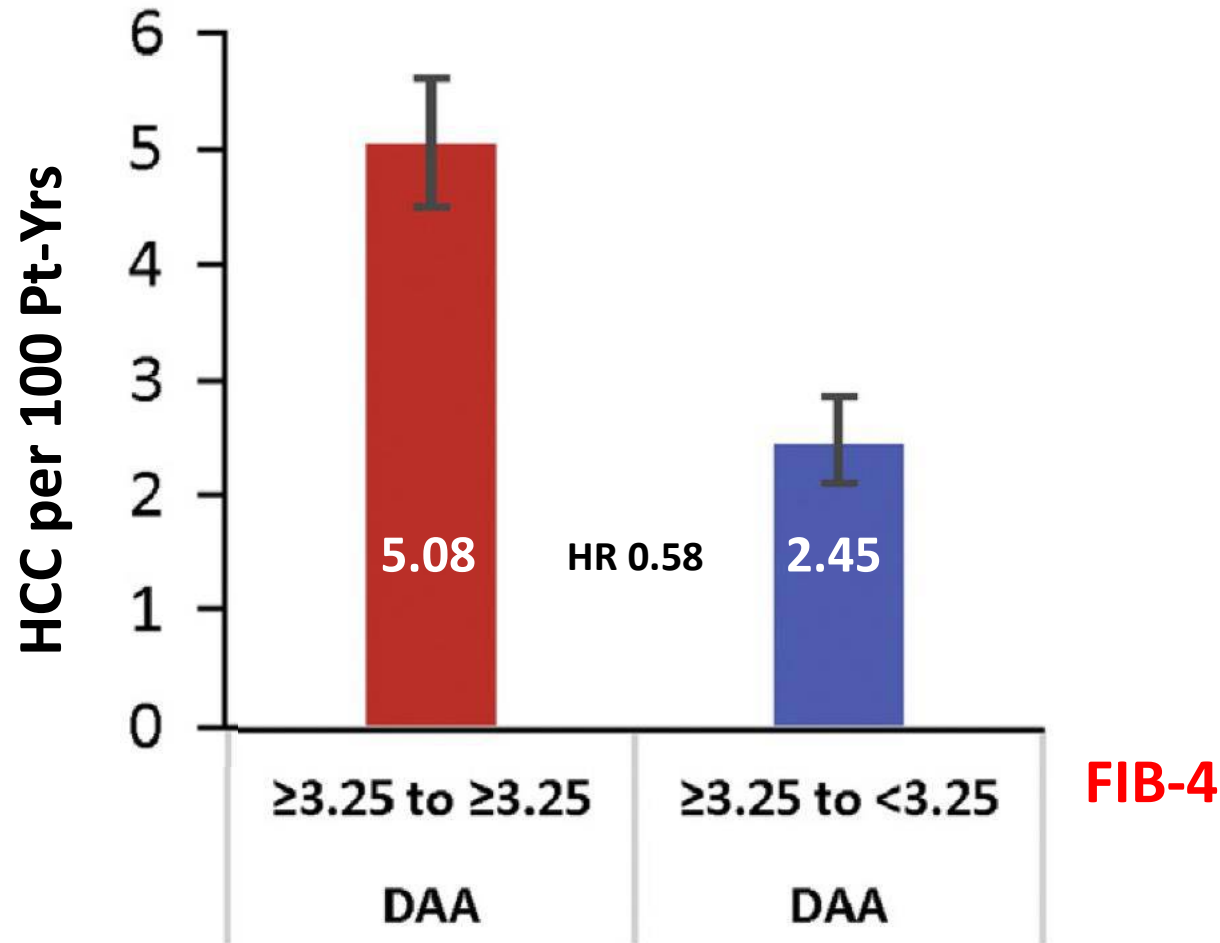
Prospective study in 89 Thai patients\* with SVR<sub>12</sub> after DAA therapy (2017-2018)  
Pre-Rx and 1 year after beginning Rx

\*43 (48.3%)  
cirrhotic at baseline



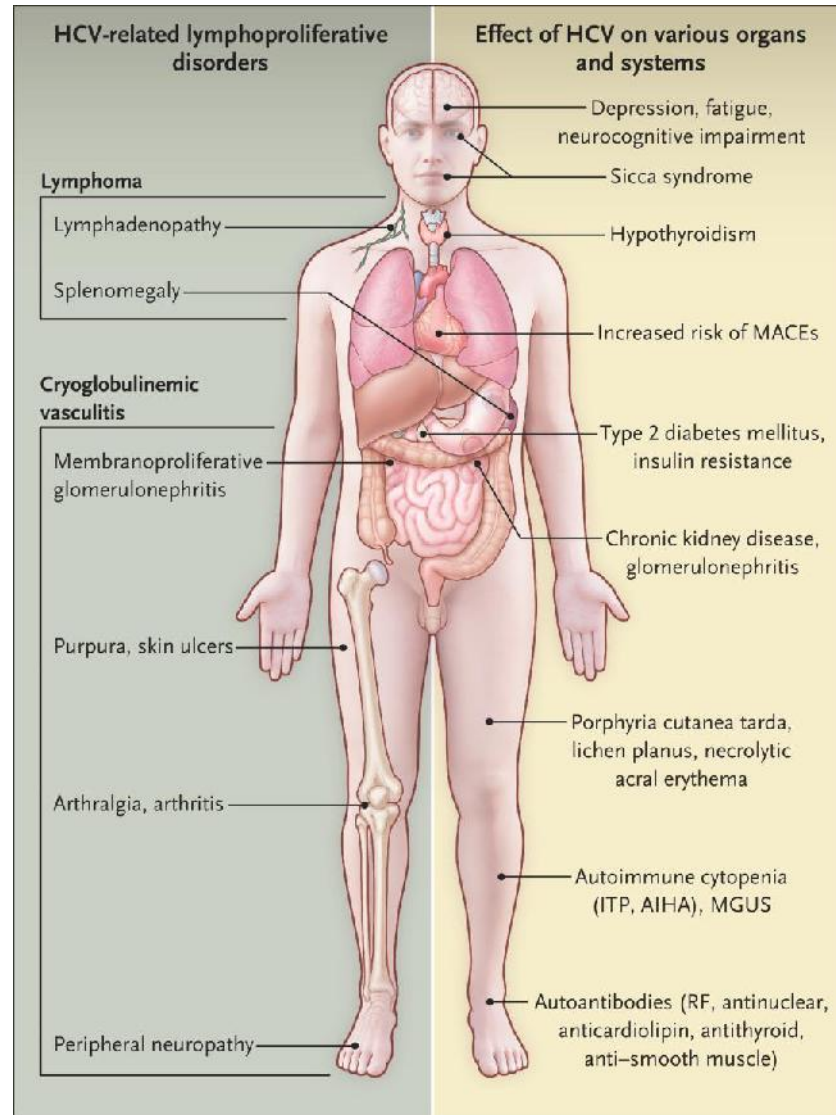
**Fibrosis regression  
in 44%**

## Persistently Increased HCC Risk up to 10 Years after SVR in 48,135 VAH Patients with Baseline Cirrhosis (2000-2015)



$$\text{FIB-4} = \frac{\text{Age (yrs)} \times \text{AST (U/L)}}{\text{PLT (10}^6\text{/L)} \times \sqrt{\text{ALT (U/L)}}}$$

# Extrahepatic Manifestations of Chronic HCV Infection

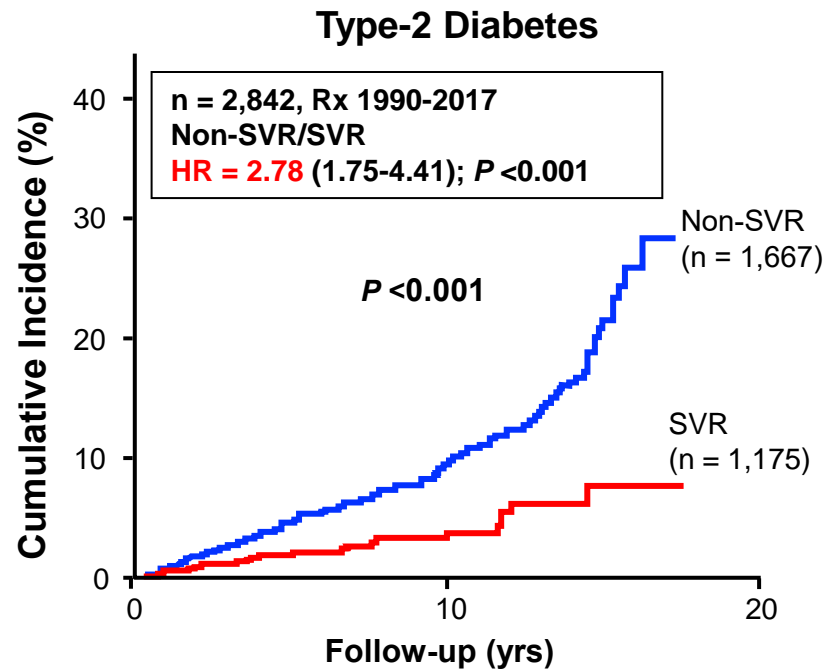


major adverse cardiac events

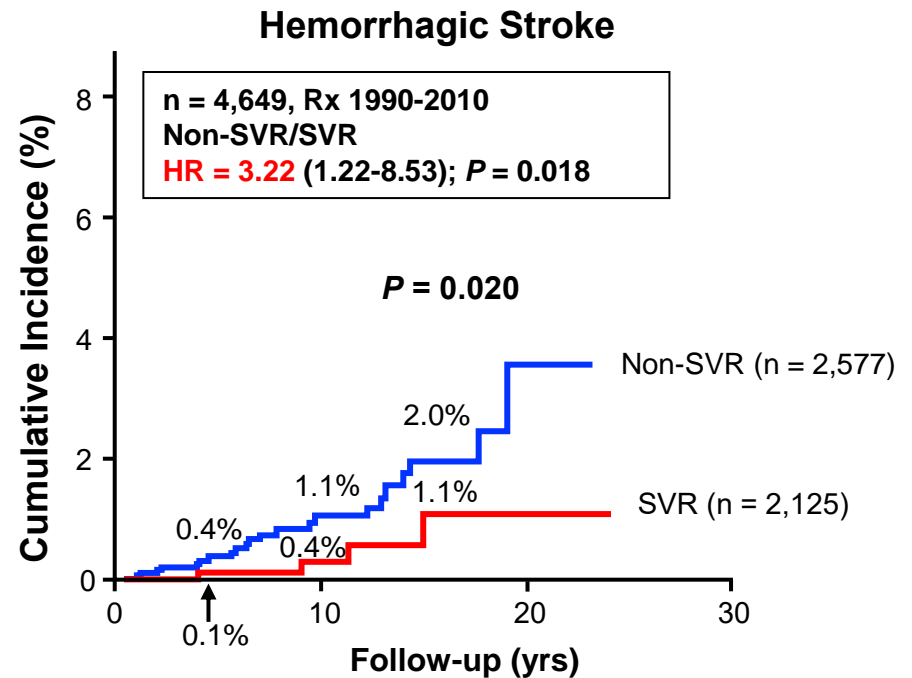
monoclonal gammopathy of undetermined significance  
autoimmune hemolytic anemia

# SVR associated with Lower Incidence of HCV-Related Nonhepatic Comorbidities

Retrospective studies in Japan among IFN-based-treated patients



Arase Y, et al. Hepatology 2009;49:739-44.



Arase Y, et al. J Med Virol 2014;86:169-75

# DAA Therapy and HCC Risk

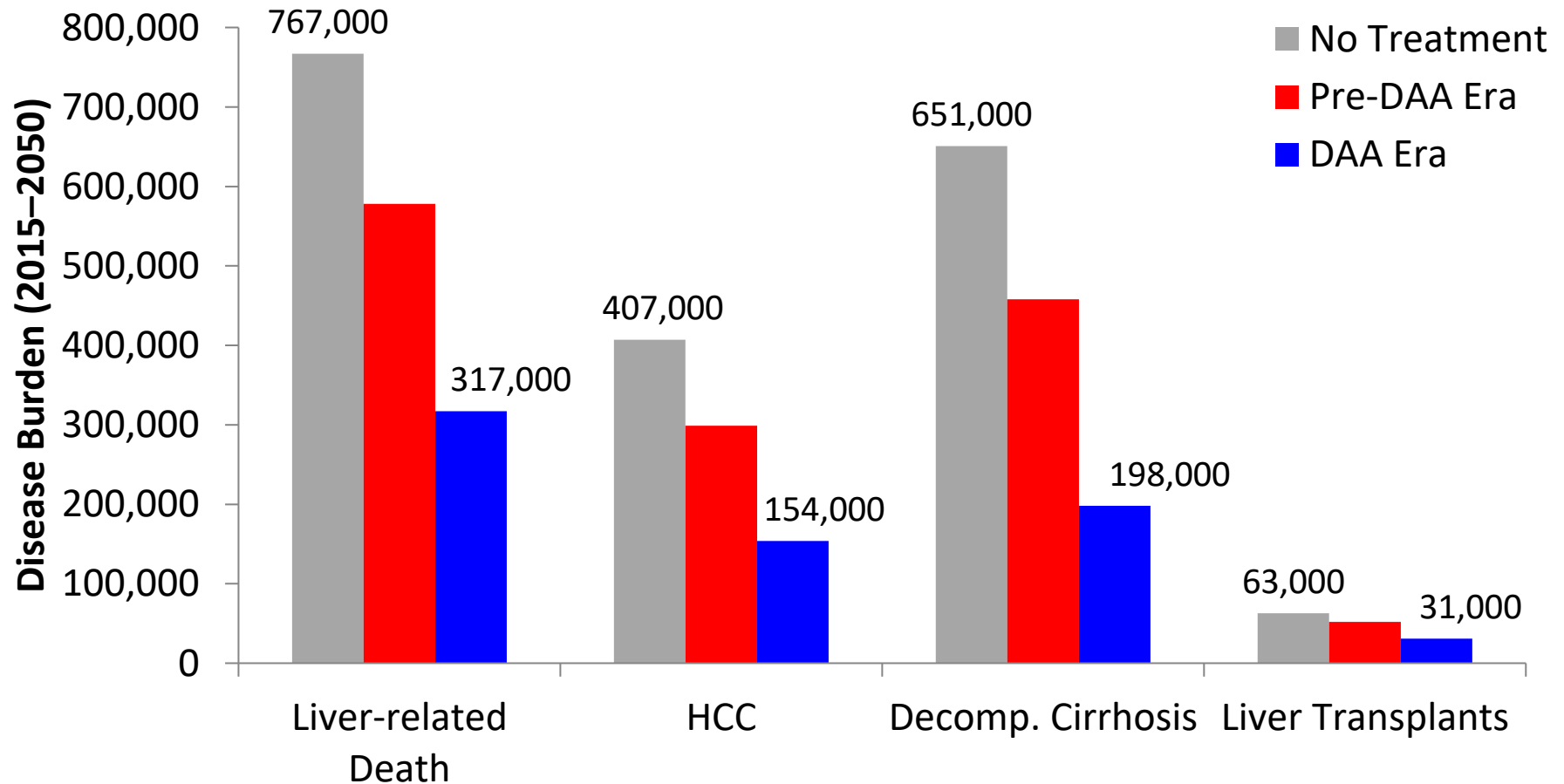
- HCC observed after DAA Rx in patients with advanced fibrosis (F3-4)
  - Early reports from Spain and Italy—raised concern.
  - Multiple studies (Australia, North America, UK, France, Italy) failed to confirm the finding.
  - Meta-analyses and systematic literature reviews did not show a DAA-associated risk that exceeded expected rates based on fibrosis stage.
  - Patients treated with DAAs tend to be **older and sicker** (more advanced fibrosis stage, including decompensated cirrhotics) than patients treated in the past with IFN-based regimens (a cohort bias).
    - *Confounding risk factors (more advanced liver disease), not DAA Rx, account for observation.*
- The opposite is supported by exhaustive data—DAA Rx reduces the risk of HCC.

# HBV Reactivation after DAA-associated SVR

- 24 cases reported by FDA
  - 22/24 cases HBsAg<sup>+</sup> at baseline
  - 3 cases with fulminant hepatitis/death (1 with isolated anti-HBc)
  - During weeks 4-12 of DAA therapy
- Accurate frequency unknown
- Mechanism not defined
  - ? competitive relation between viruses
  - ? altered immunologic milieu after DAA Rx
- HBV status (HBsAg) should be assessed in all patients.
- HBsAg<sup>+</sup> patients should be carefully followed or treated.
  - Rely on criteria for HBV treatment in HBV-monoinfected persons



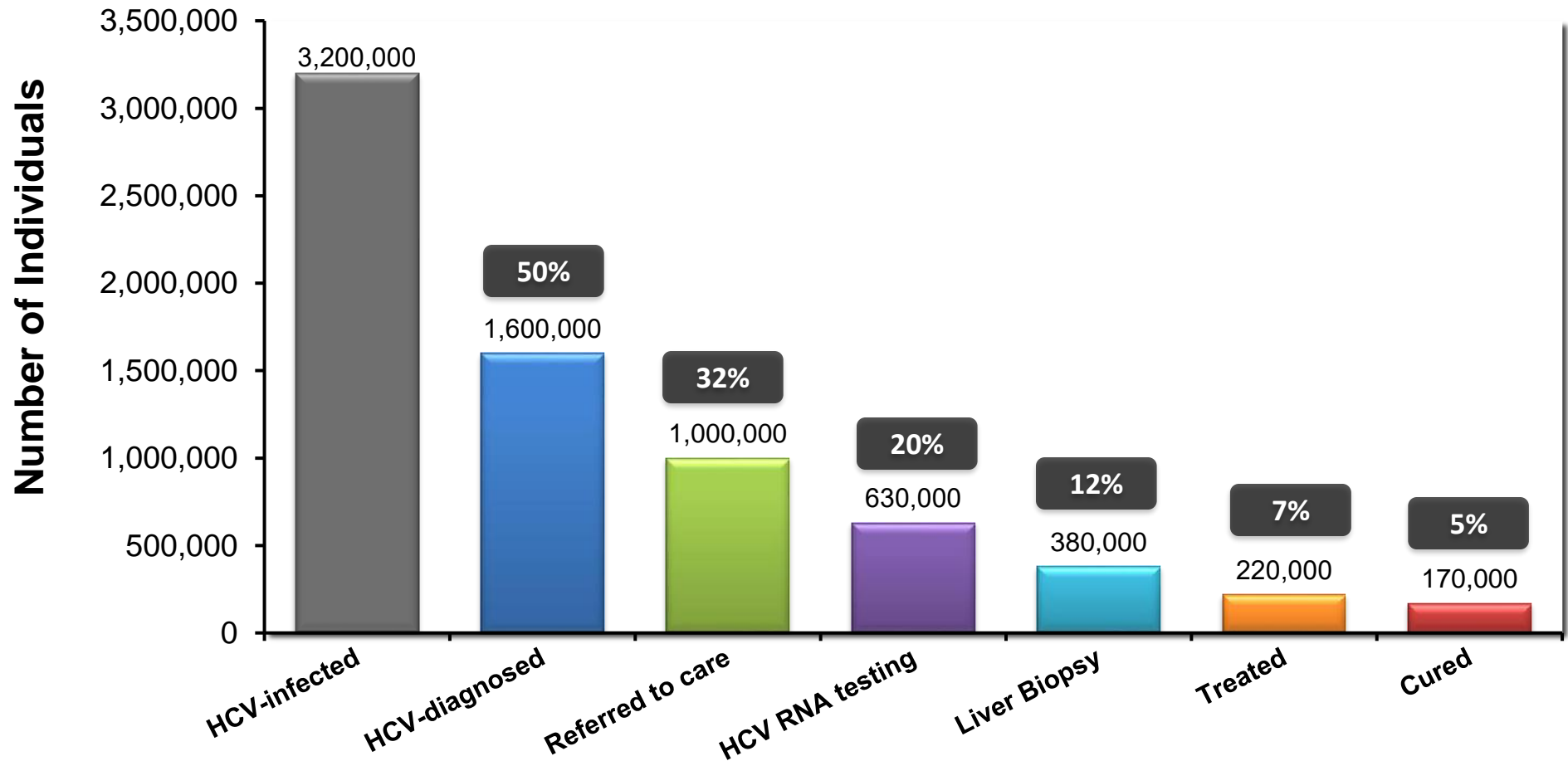
# Modeling HCV-Associated Disease Burden (2015–2050)



**50–70% reduction in HCV-associated disease burden**

# “Porous” HCV Cascade of Care – United States

## The Chronic Hepatitis Cohort Study



# Marginalized Populations and Hepatitis C: Social Determinants of Disease

- Limited access to health care
  - Ethnic/racial minorities
  - Persons who use drugs
  - People experiencing homelessness
  - Neighborhood poverty, lower educational status, language barriers
  - Uninsured, underinsured
- Covid-19 pandemic impact
  - Even more limited access to health care
  - 1-yr 40% reduction in prescriptions for DAA Rx; estimated impact...
    - 72,300 xs HCV liver-related deaths\*
    - 44,800 xs HCC cases\*
  - Affected marginalized populations disproportionately
    - Contributed to by limited internet and telemedicine access

NHANES 2013-2016<sup>‡</sup>  
Nonhispanic blacks:  
12% of US population  
23% of HCV infections

<sup>‡</sup> Bradley H, et al. Hepatology Communic 2020;4:355-70.

\*Blach S, et al. J Hepatol 2021;74:31-6.

# Hepatitis C: Take-Home Points

- From discovery to cure in a quarter century
- The only human chronic viral infection that can be cured
  - GT1-6, naïve, experienced, RASs, cirrhosis, decomp cirrhosis, ESRD, acute, HIV co-infection
- Standard of care **2022\***: Combination, orally administered DAAs (wks)
  - **VEL/SOF** (12); **Glecaprevir/Pibrentasvir** (8) for all genotypes
- Guidelines [www.hcvguidelines.org](http://www.hcvguidelines.org)
- Patients with advanced fibrosis require imaging/endoscopic monitoring after “cure.”
- The SVR rate exceeds 90-95% and approaches 100%.
- The duration of therapy can be truncated to 12 and 8 weeks.
- Remaining challenge – implementation (“cascade of care”)

*\*Simplified treatment algorithm for treatment-naïve, noncirrhotic, cirrhotic, GT 1-6*