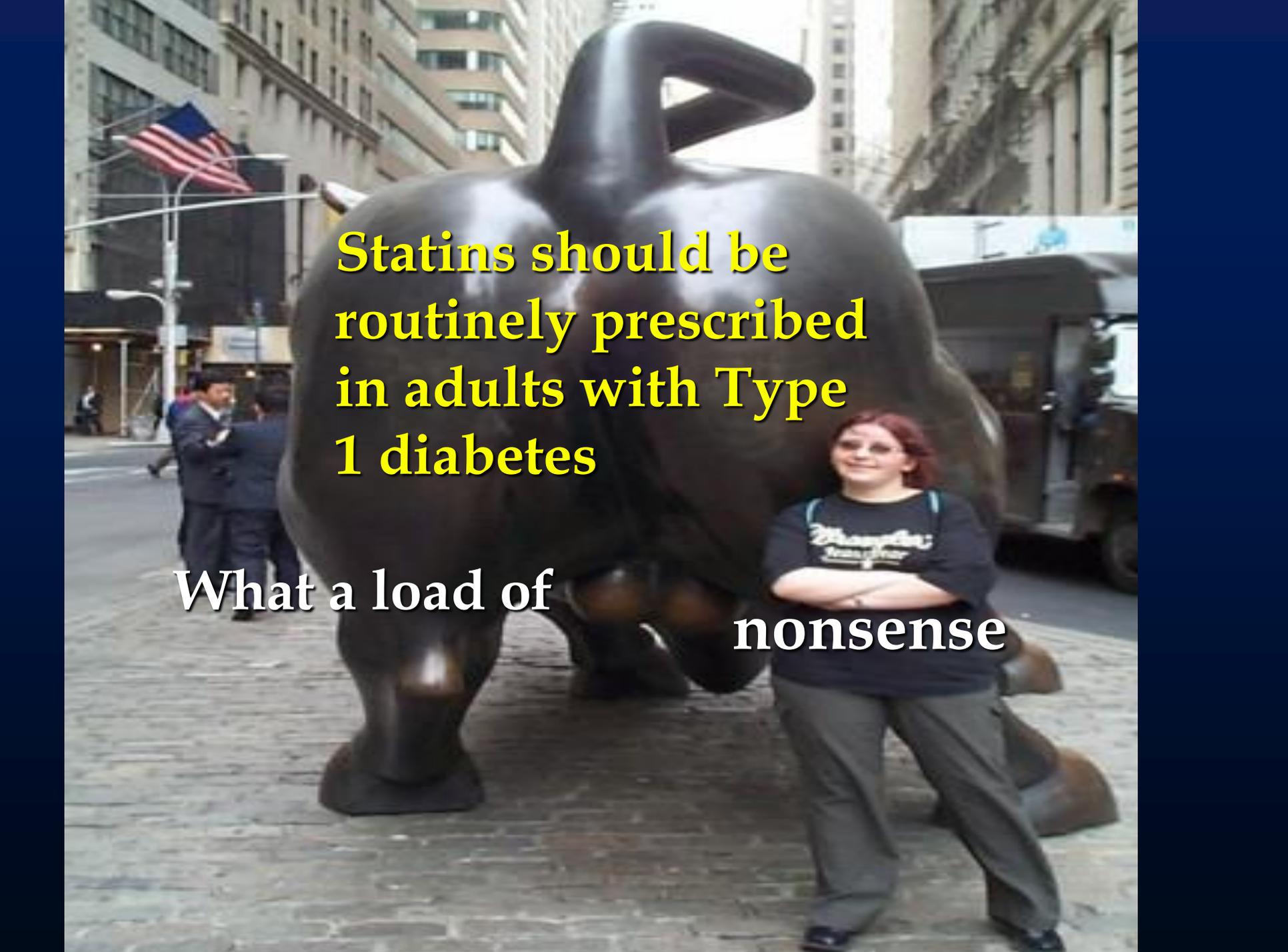


**ABCD debate**

**06042006**

**John McKnight**

A photograph of a woman with red hair and glasses, wearing a dark t-shirt and grey trousers, standing with her arms crossed next to the large, dark-colored Bull Terrier sculpture in London. The sculpture is a massive, realistic-looking dog. In the background, there are city buildings, a street with a traffic light, and an American flag on a pole. The scene is set on a cobblestone street.

**Statins should be  
routinely prescribed  
in adults with Type  
1 diabetes**

**What a load of**

**nonsense**

# Reflections

- Prescribing
  - Media
  - Politics / finance
  - Medical literature
  - Guidelines committees
  - Pharmaceutical industry

# Conflict of interest

- Pfizer
  - CARDS investigator
  - ADA with Pfizer
  - Few talks for them (local)
  - Advisory Board

Your message has been sent to [john.mcknight@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:john.mcknight@blueyonder.co.uk).



**THE SCOTSMAN**  
Tue 14 Mar 2006

Heart surgery: May be needed less frequently if further trials confirm original findings.

Picture: Julie Bull



Printer friendly



Send to friend

## Doctors discover drug to reverse heart disease

LYNDSAY MOSS

HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

- 'Holy grail' drug breaks up fat that leads to heart attacks and strokes
- Four out of five patients successfully treated; no serious side effects
- Around 2m British people affected by narrowed arteries caused by fat

**Key quote** "For the first time, we have shown that it is possible to turn the clock back in the arteries of people with heart disease" - *Dr Neal Uren, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary*

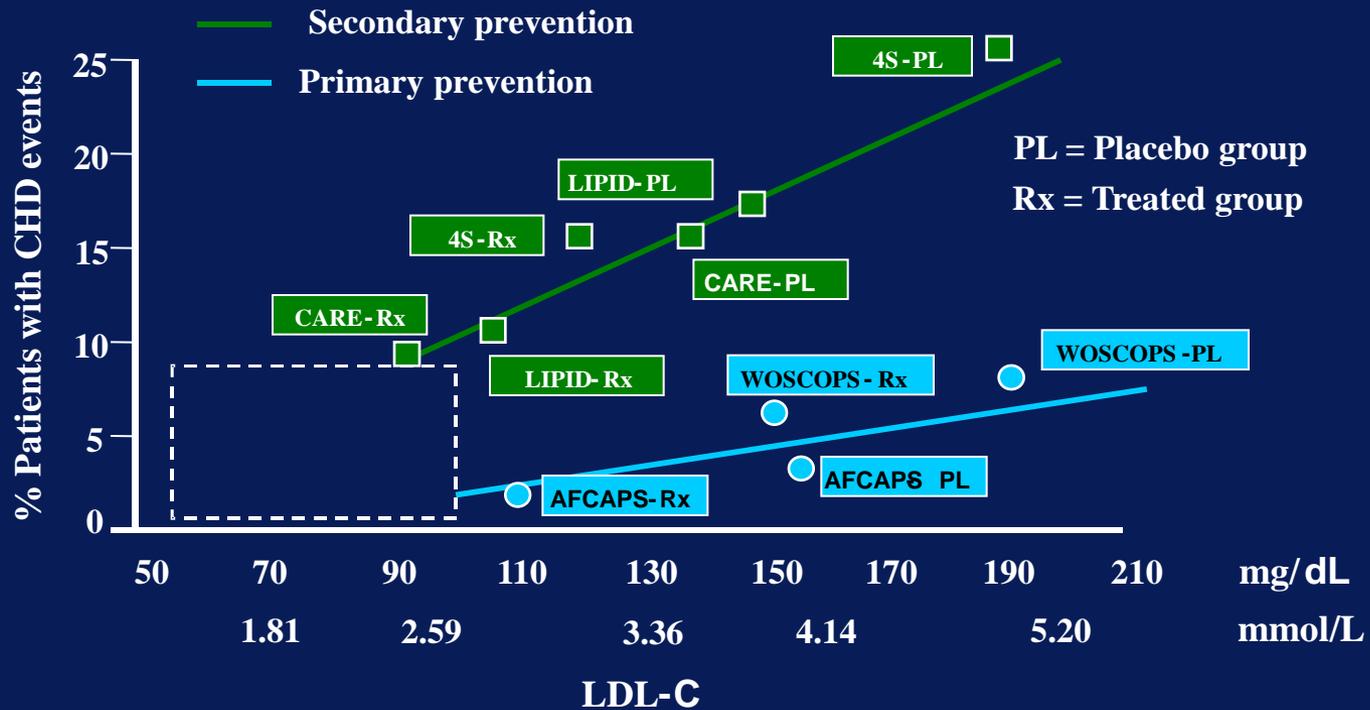
# Politics

- New GP contract
- Insulin pump therapy

# Literature

- Publication bias
- Enthusiasm of authors
- Different interpretation
- Extrapolation of results to different populations
- Information overload

# Effects of Lipid Lowering Therapy on CHD Events in Statin Trials



Adapted from Kastelein JJP. Atheroscler 1999;143 (Suppl 1):S17-S21.

# Problems with interpretation

- Events count vs individuals with an event
- Major vs minor events
  - Angina, NSTEMI vs coronary death/severe stroke
- Few truly primary prevention studies

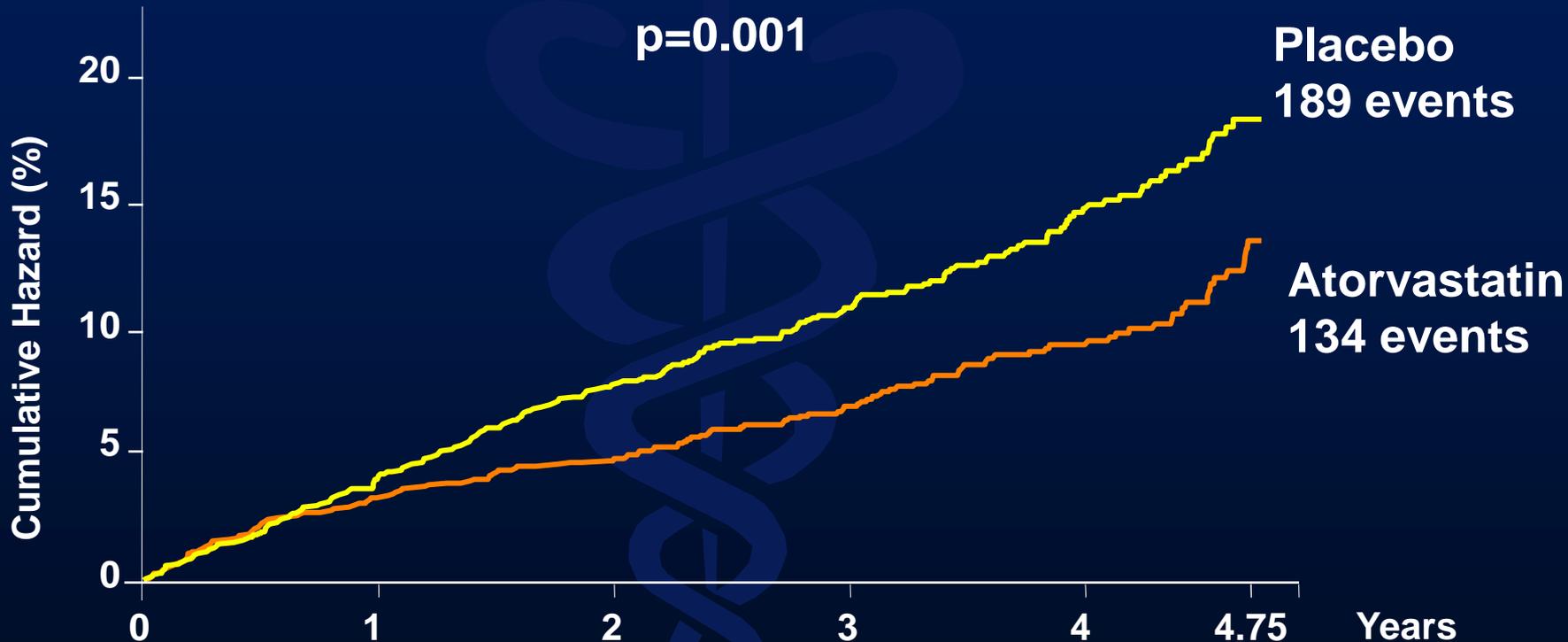
# CARDS Eligibility Criteria

- Type 2 diabetes, 40-75 years of age
- Cholesterol not very elevated
- **But high vascular risk:**
  - Hypertension defined as receiving antihypertensive treatment or SBP  $\geq$  140 mm Hg or DBP  $\geq$  90 mm Hg
  - Retinopathy
  - Microalbuminuria or macroalbuminuria
  - Current smoking

# Cumulative Hazard for Any CVD Endpoint

Relative Risk Reduction= 32% (95% CI 15-45)

p=0.001



Placebo  
189 events

Atorvastatin  
134 events

Placebo	1410	1334	1275	992	621	287
Atorva	1428	1372	1337	1040	663	306

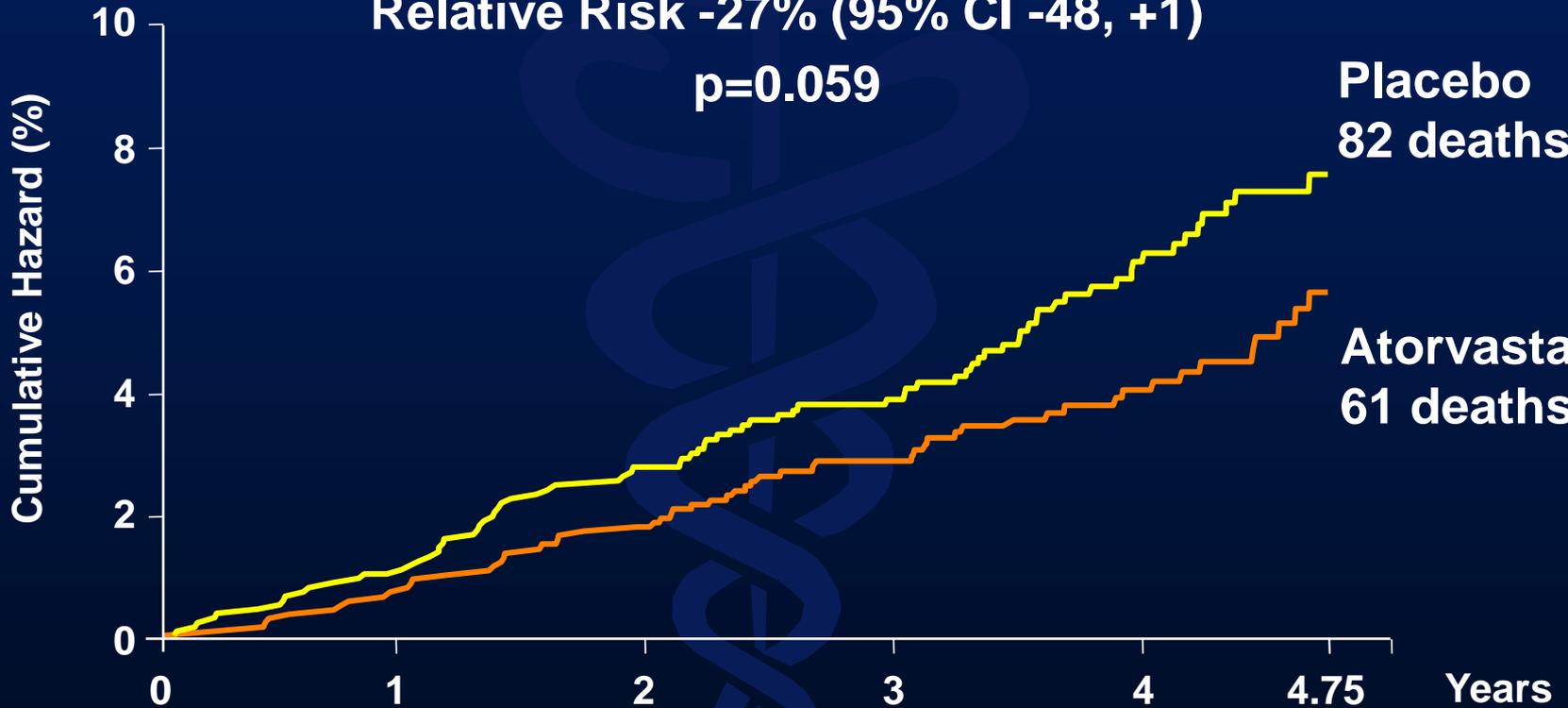
# Cumulative Hazard for All Cause Mortality

Relative Risk -27% (95% CI -48, +1)

p=0.059

Placebo  
82 deaths

Atorvastatin  
61 deaths



Placebo	1410	1395	1370	1094	709	332
Atorva	1428	1418	1401	1110	730	351

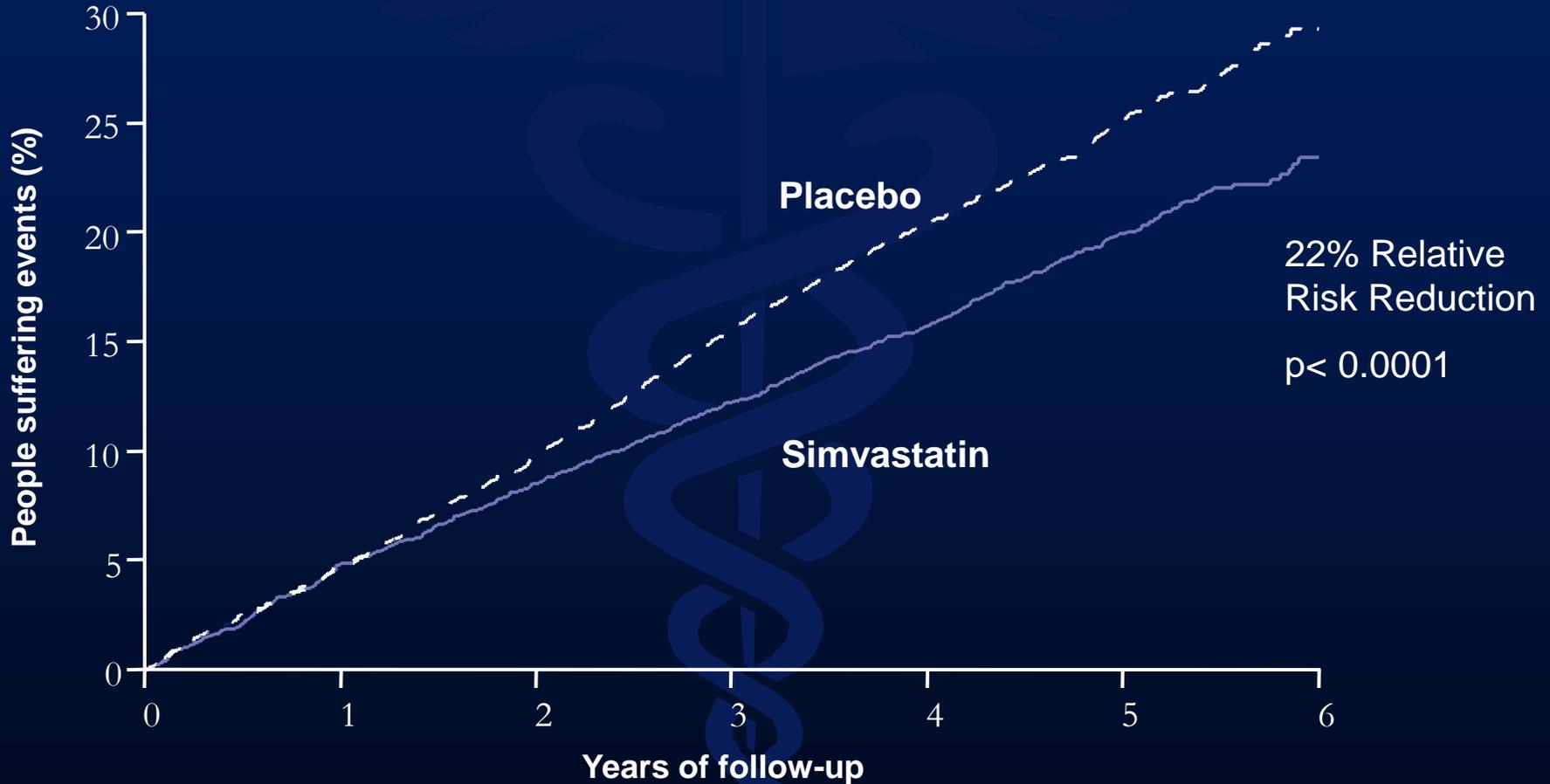
# Cause of Death By Treatment Arm

	Placebo	Atorvastatin
<b>Total deaths</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>61</b>
Coronary	25	21
Other cardiac	3	1
Cerebrovascular	7	1
Other cardiovascular	2	2
<b>Total cardiovascular deaths</b>	<b>37 (2.6%)</b>	<b>25 (1.8%)</b>
Diabetes related death	1	2
Cancer death	30	20
Suicide,accident or violent death	3	4
Other death	11	10
<b>Total non-cardiovascular deaths</b>	<b>45 (3.2%)</b>	<b>36 (2.5%)</b>

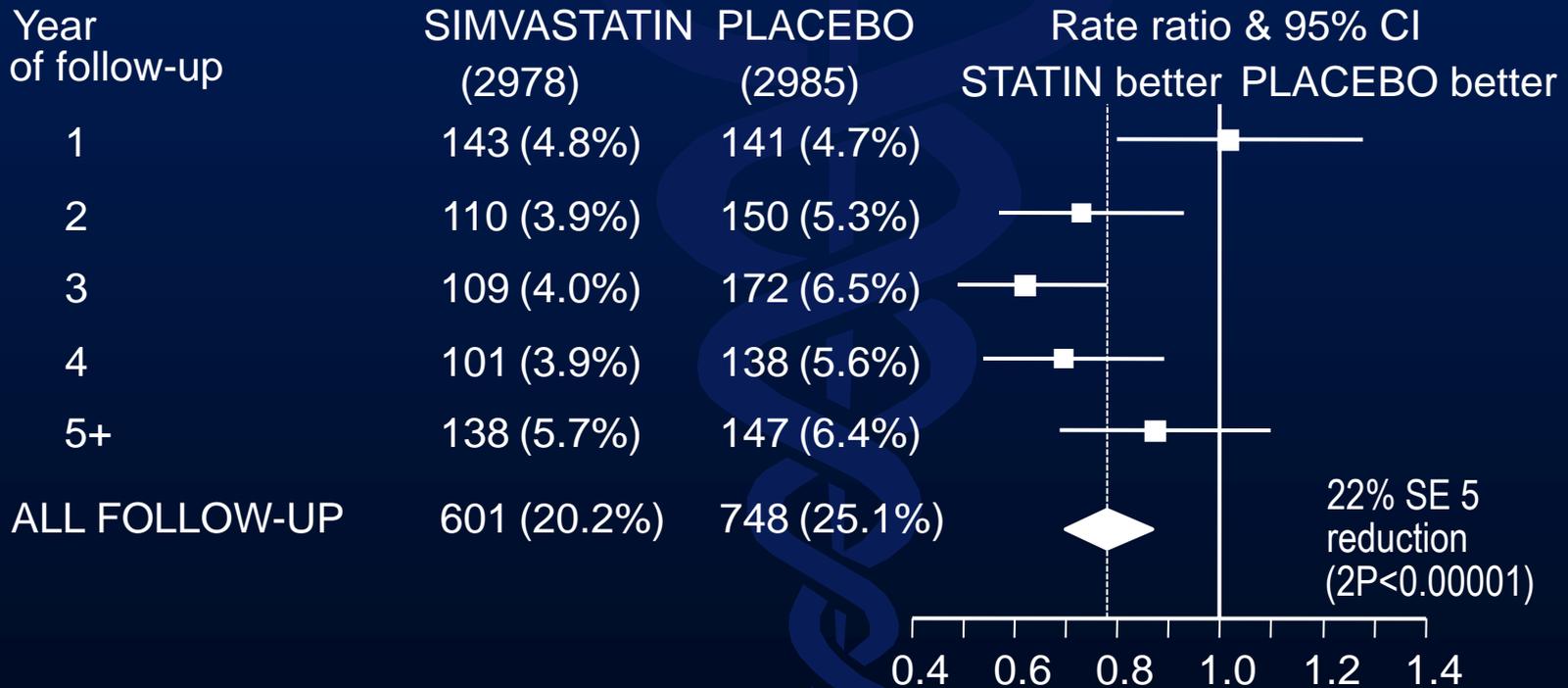
# Baseline characteristics of HPS with diabetes

- 5963 patients
- Men 70 %
- Smokers 13 %
- Vascular disease present 51 %

# HPS - Major Vascular Events by Year in Diabetic Patients



# SIMVASTATIN: MAJOR VASCULAR EVENT by YEAR in DIABETIC PATIENTS



# Conclusions

- HPS
  - Statin therapy should be now be considered routinely for all diabetic patients **at sufficiently high risk of major vascular events.....**

# Conclusions

- HPS

- Statin therapy should now be considered routinely for all diabetic patients at sufficiently high risk of major vascular events.....

- CARDS

- The debate about whether all people with this disorder warrant statin treatment should now focus on whether any patients are at sufficiently low risk for this treatment to be withheld

# Negative aspects

- Harm
  - Side effects
  - Labelling
- Financial cost
- Wrong emphasis
- Compliance

# Guidelines, targets and consensus statements



# Guidelines/ targets

- 'Value is almost always a round number made up by international jet-setting, moralistic time-expired self appointed gurus producing glossy consensus statements.
- The higher the moral ground the lower the value'

David Matthews RCPE

# Targets

- We're always told we must have a target, or otherwise no-one will know what we are aiming at.
- Fine – you tell me a number and I'll better it by telling you in a serious voice that **you are far too conservative**, and if you were **as good a doctor as I am** you'd certainly be aiming lower than that.

# SIGN Guidelines

## Methodological Principles

- Development is carried out by multidisciplinary, nationally representative groups
- A systematic review is conducted to identify and critically appraise the evidence
- Recommendations are explicitly linked to the supporting evidence

# GOBSAT methodology

- Advantages
  - Cheap, quick, fits the hierarchical nature of the medical profession
- Disadvantages
  - Unreliable, could be open to bias, outdated

# Risk reduction of 25 %

- Sufficient risk
- CVD risk charts
  - Predict risk of non-fatal MI or stroke, coronary or stroke death or new onset of angina
- Treat those at 20 % risk

# Benefit depends on absolute risk

- 100 patients at 20 % risk over 10 years
- 80 don't have an event
- 20 have an event
- Treat 100 patients at 20 % risk over 10 years
- 80 don't have an event
- Of 20 who would have an event
  - 15 still do
  - **5 events prevented**

**NNT 20**

# 'Benefit' or NNT depend on absolute risk

## 25 % risk reduction

- Risk 1 % in 10 years
- Risk 40 % in 10 year
- NNT 400 to prevent one event
- NNT 10

# The question is:

Which (if any) patients with type 1 diabetes are at sufficient risk to require intervention?

20 % 10 yr risk

# JBS 2 (Diabetes)

- All patients above 40 yr
- 18 to 39 with
  - **Retinopathy**
  - **Nephropathy or microalbuminuria**
  - **HbA1c >9 %**
  - **Treated HT**
  - **Total chol >6 mmol/l**
  - **Metabolic syndrome**
  - **FH of premature CVD in 1<sup>st</sup> degree relative**

*That's more than  
half of my patients  
aged 20 to 40!*

# Diabetes UK Cohort

- 22,848 patients - England and Scotland
- Date of entry 1972 - 1993
- Flagged at NHSCR - Death  
Emigration  
Cancer
- Follow-up to June 2004  
Deaths = 1944

Laing SP et al, Diabetologia 2003  
Stroke 2003

# Mortality rates and SMRs for all-cause deaths

All ages 1-84	No. deaths	Rate Type 1	Rate Gen pop	SMR
Males	1163	469	160	2.9*
Females	781	357	86	4.1*

Rate per 100,000 person years

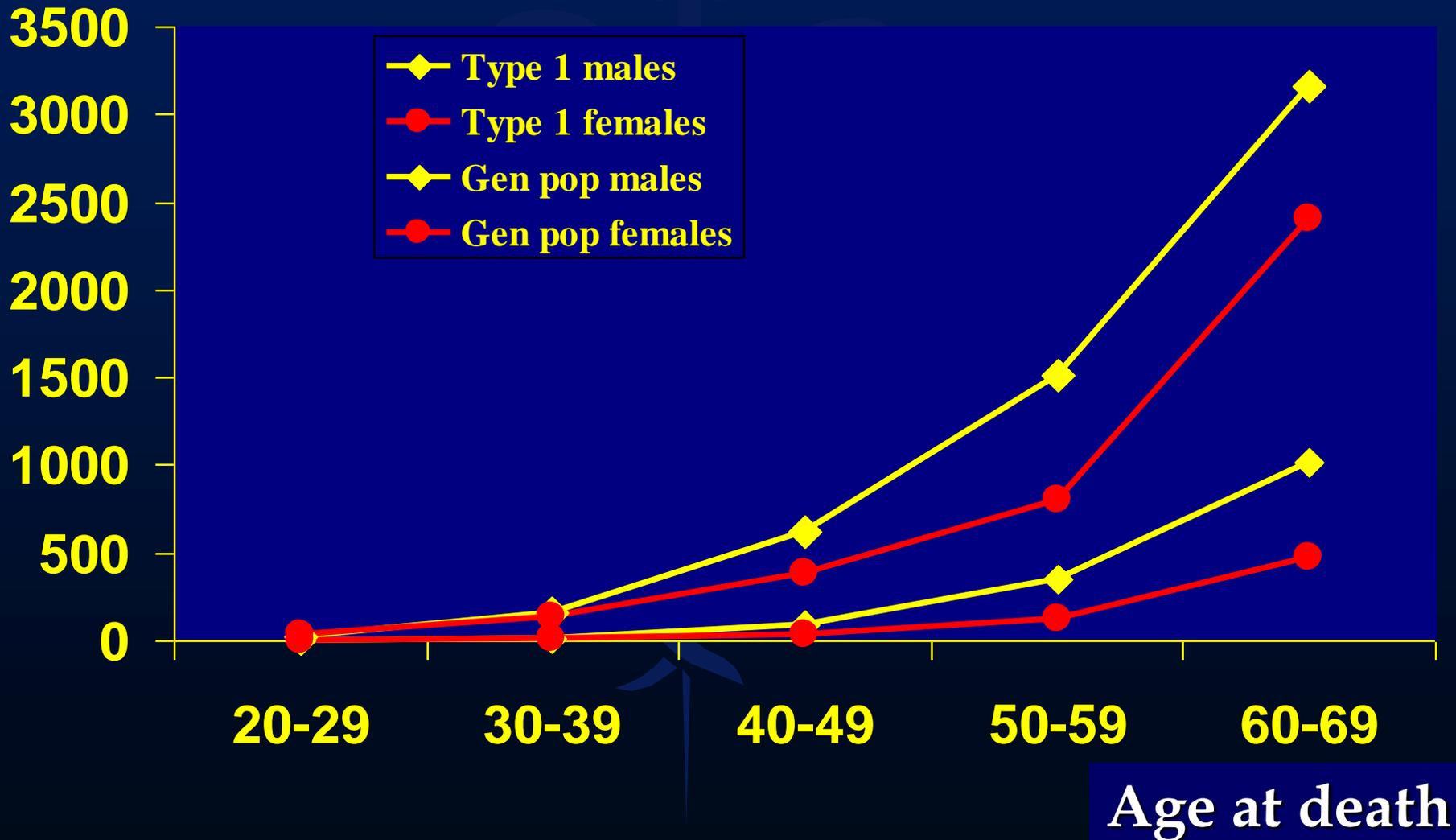
# Cardiovascular mortality

## Type I diabetes

- Males n=438
  - IHD n=312 (71%)
  - Other heart n=45
  - Cerebrovascular n=60 (14%)
  - Other n=21
- Females n=295
  - IHD n=193 (65%)
  - Other heart n=29
  - Cerebrovascular n=60 (18%)
  - Other n=19

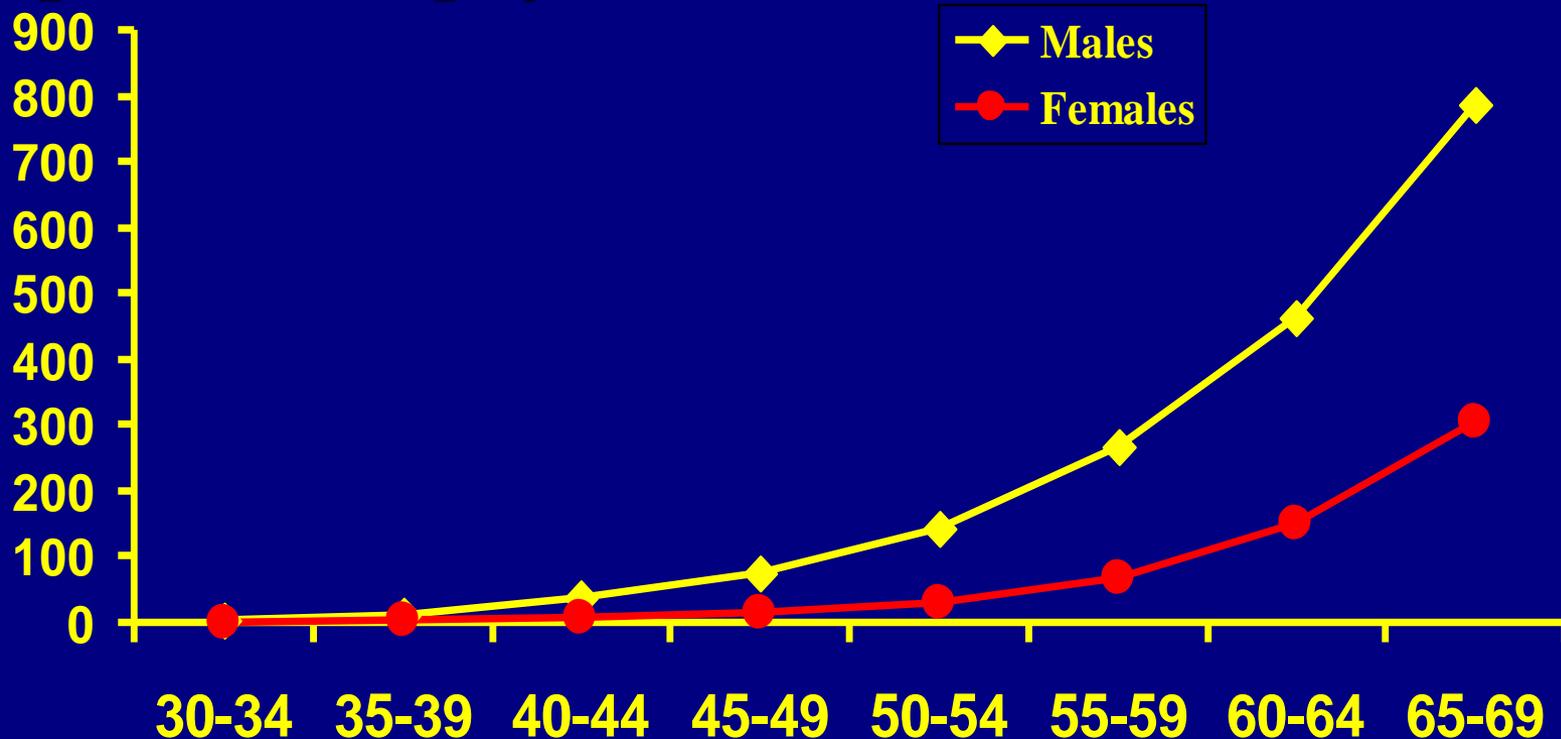
# CVD mortality in patients with Type 1 diabetes

Rate (per 100,000 patient years)



# General Population UK - IHD mortality 30-69 years

Rate per 100,000 pt yrs

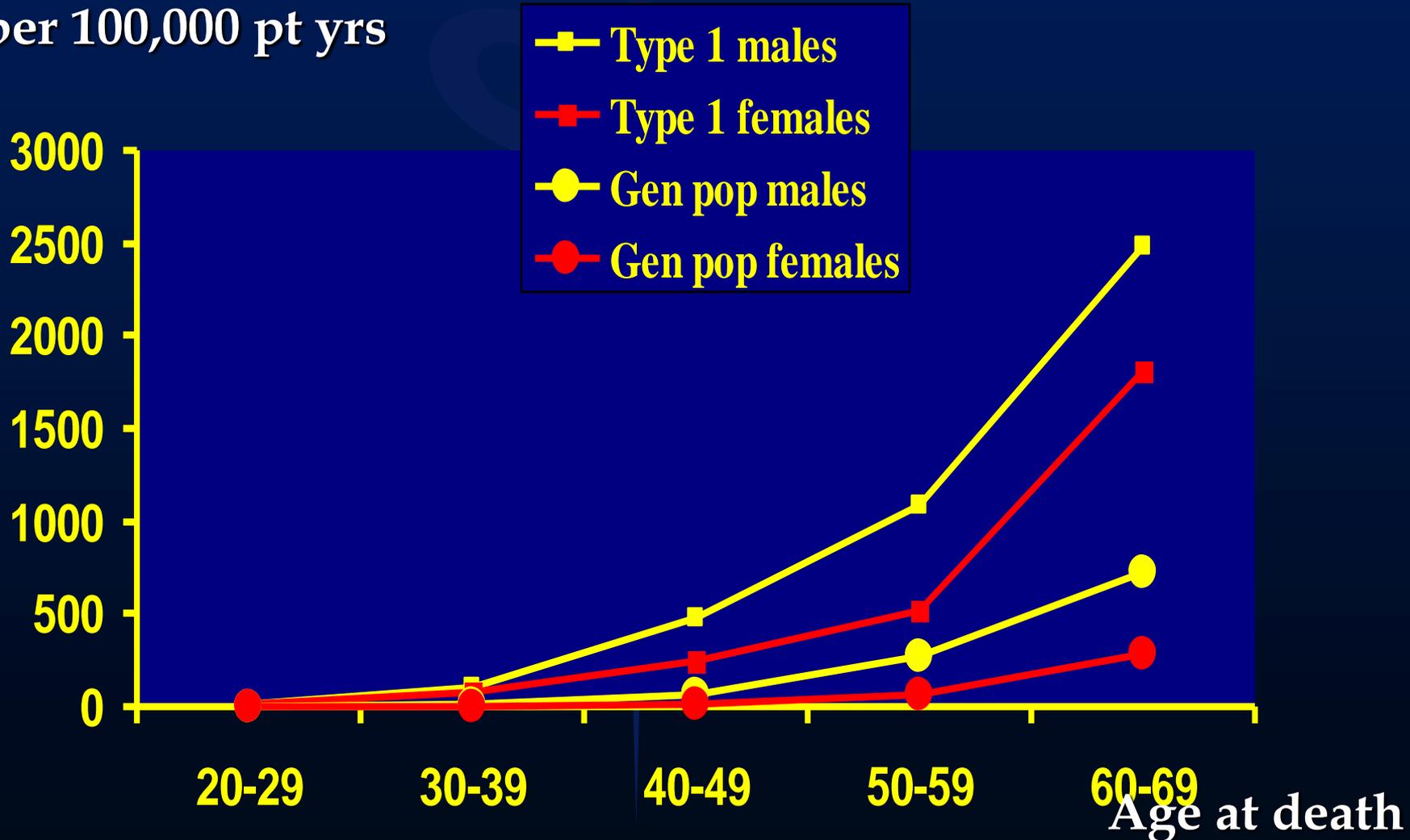


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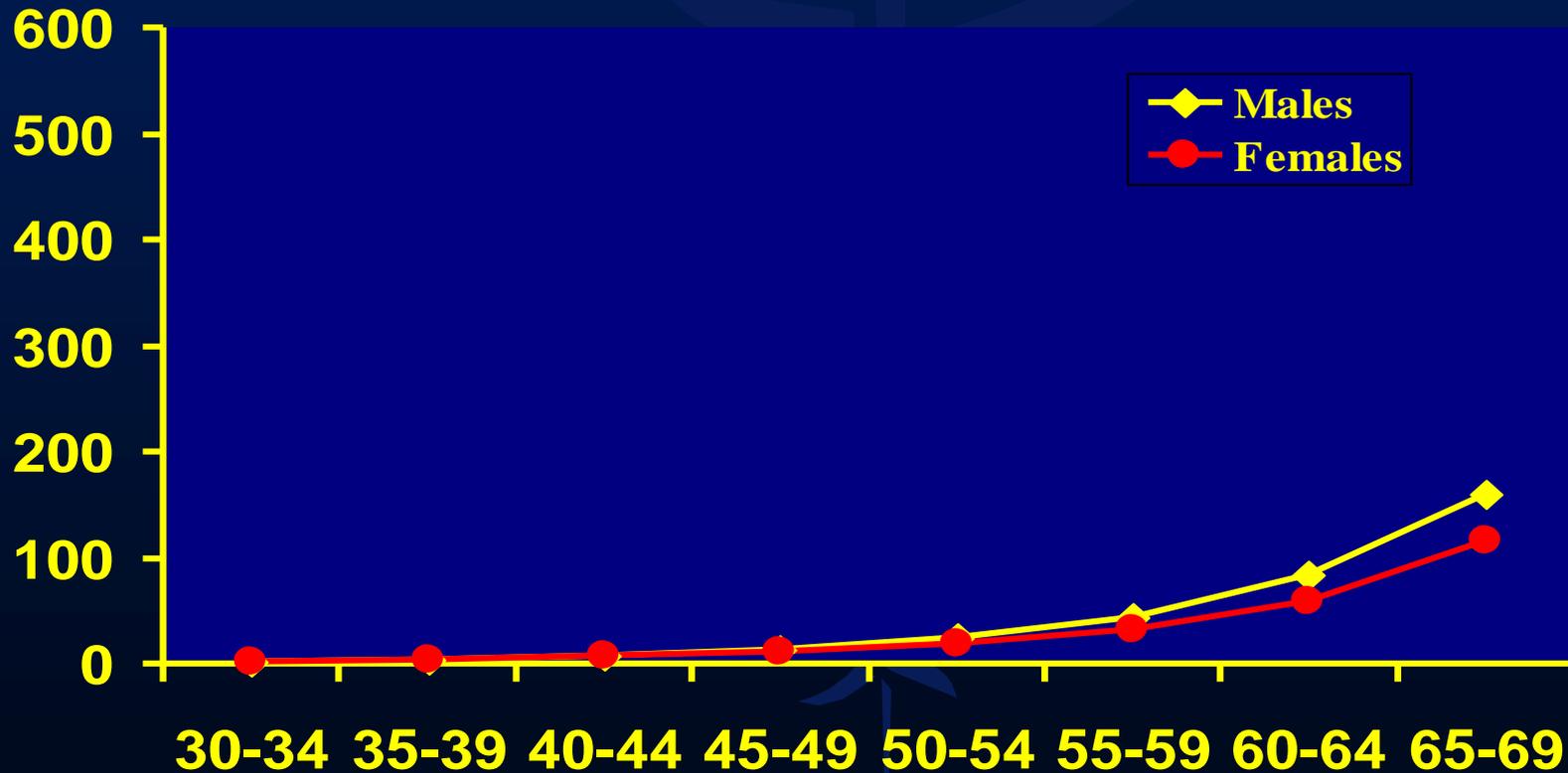
Age at death

# IHD mortality in patients with Type 1 diabetes, 20-69 years

Rate per 100,000 pt yrs



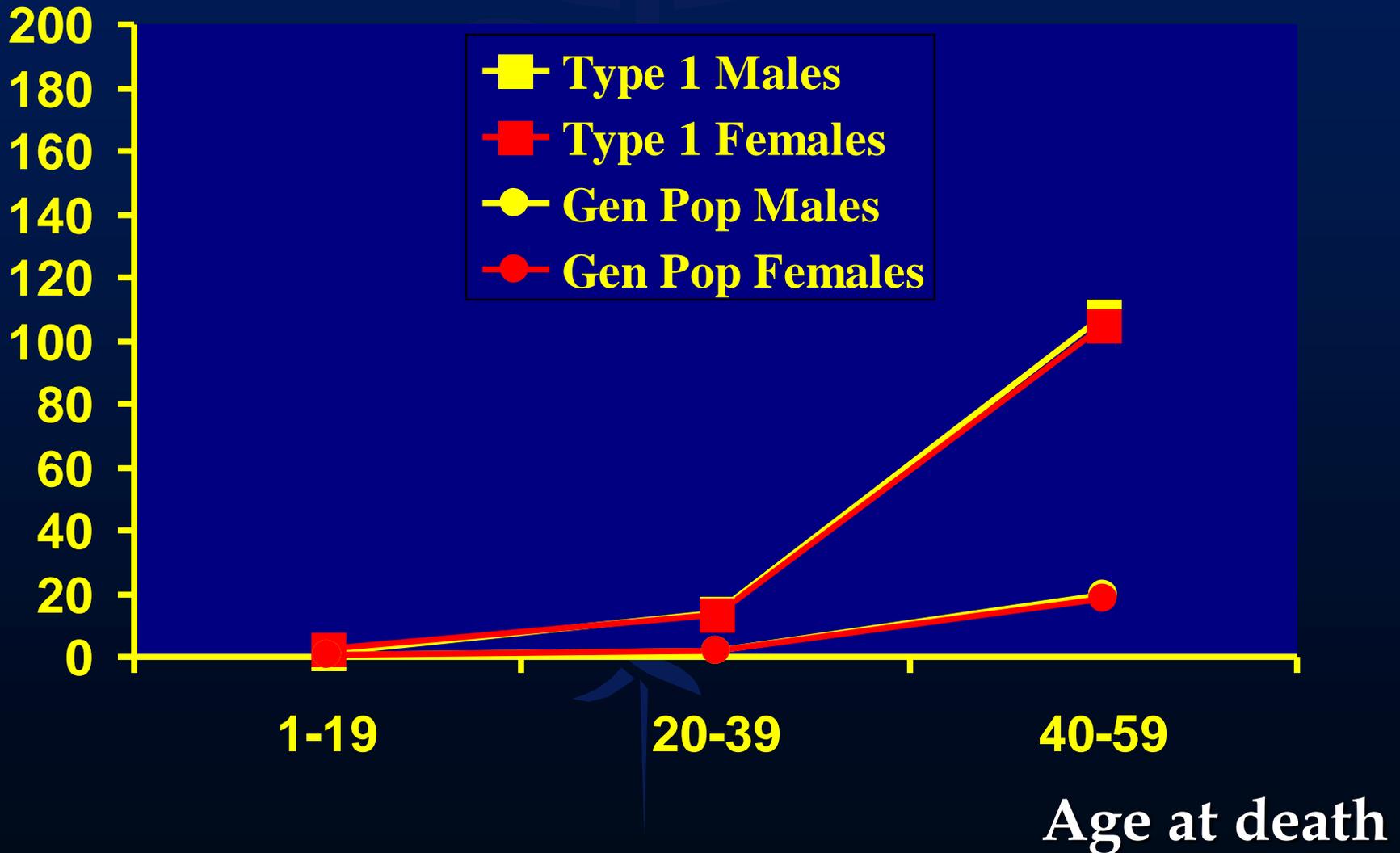
# General Population UK - Cerebrovascular mortality 30-69 years (per 100,000 pt years)



Age at Death

# Cerebrovascular mortality <60 years

Rate per 100,000 pt yrs



# Ischaemic heart disease mortality by age

Age		Rate Type 1	Rate Gen pop	SMR
20-29		12		
30-39	M	98	8	12.1*
	F	83	2	42.1*
40-49	M	478	64	7.5*
	F	240	14	17.4*
50-59	M	1080	265	4.1*
	F	519	70	7.5*
60-69	M	2483	729	3.4*
	F	1815	287	6.3*

# Summary.... (Death)

Age range	Stroke/IHD mortality rate (100,000 pt yr)	10 Yr risk (%)	NNT for 10 yrs to prevent one death
20 -29	26	0.26	1538
30-39	104	1.04	385
40-49	462	4.62	87
50-59	2340	23.4	17

# Summary.... (Death)

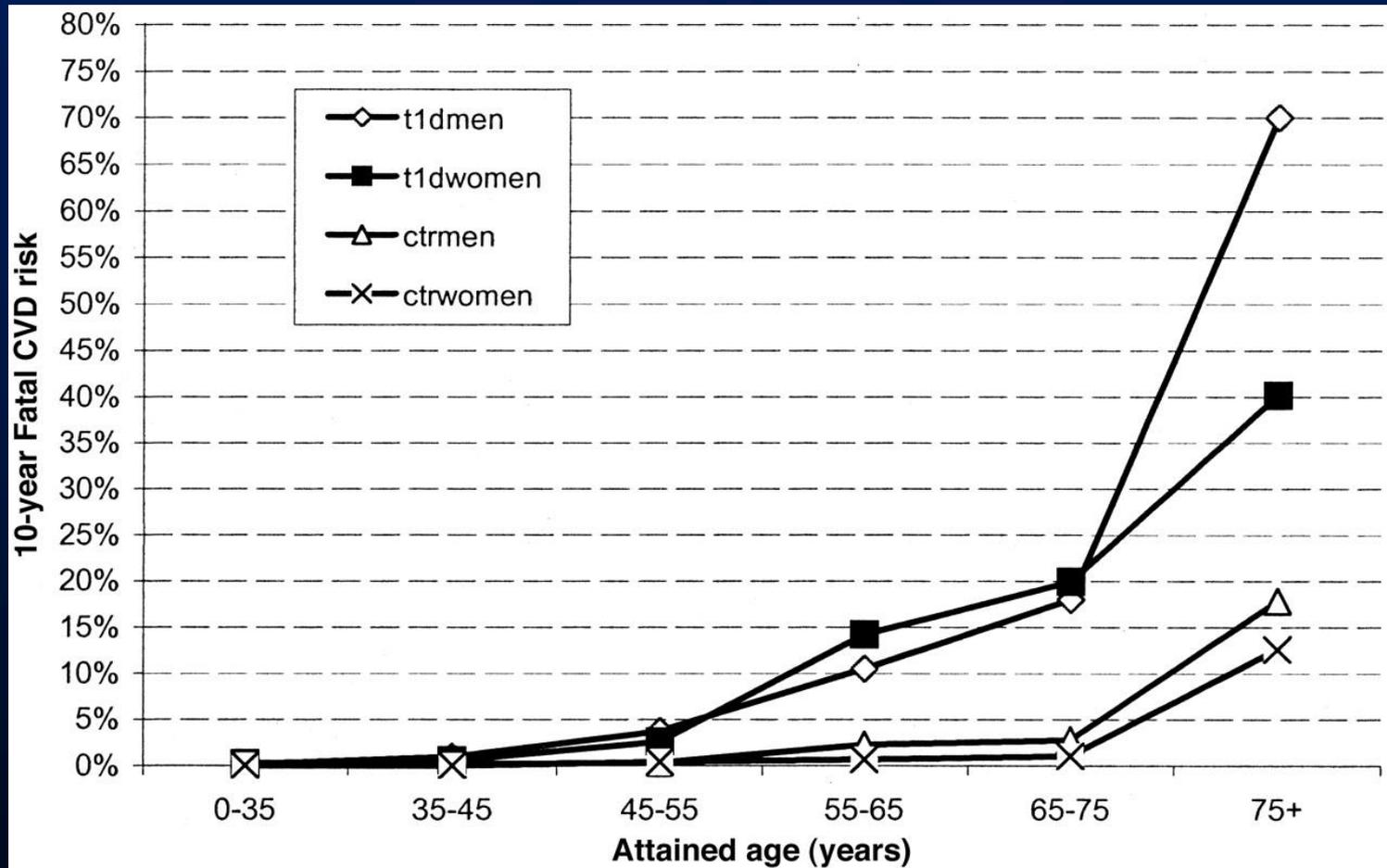
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**Figure 1 – Estimated 10-year fatal CVD risk by current (or attained) age in type 1 diabetic (t1d) men and women compared with nondiabetic comparison group (ctr).**



# Vascular risk, not death

- Myocardial infarction, acute coronary heart disease death, revascularisation or stroke
- New angina

# Soedamah-Muthu et al; Diabetes Care 2006; 29: 798

- 7,479 Pts with Type 1 diabetes
- 1992 –1999
- Incident major CVD events
  - **Myocardial infarction, acute coronary heart disease death, revascularisation or stroke**

# Absolute risk for major CVD in Type 1 diabetes (% 10 year risk)

Age band	Males	Females
≤ 35	0.8	0.5
35 -45	4.8	3.5
45 - 55	10.6	10.2
55 - 65	39.4	22.8
65 - 75	35.2	38.7
> 75	122	87.3

Diabetes Care 2006; 29: 798

# 'Numbers needed to treat' to prevent one major CV event

Age band	Males Risk	Males NNT	Females Risk	Females NNT
≤ 35	0.8	500	0.5	800
35 -45	4.8	83	3.5	114
45 - 55	10.6	38	10.2	39
55 - 65	39.4	10	22.8	18
65 - 75	35.2	11	38.7	10
> 75	122	3?	87.3	5?

# Can we predict sub-groups at higher risk?

- Nephropathy
  - Overt more than microalbuminuria
- Retinopathy – confounded by nephropathy
- HbA1c
- Metabolic syndrome
- Hypertension
- Smoking
- Family history

# Predicting Risk in Type 1 Diabetes

- RCPE diabetes register
  - Six clinics in Scotland
- Patients with type 1 diabetes
- Excluded those with pre-existing macrovascular disease
- Six to nine years follow up

# RCPE diabetes register

- n = 2136
- 55 % male
- Aged

- < 35	1476
- 35 to 45	433
- 45 +	227

# Outcome SMR link

- Stroke ● 19
- TIA ● 7
- Angina ● 49
- MI ● 38
- Intermittent claudication ● 24
- PVD surgery ● 36
- Cardiac surgery ● 10
- Any macrovascular disease ● 110
- Died due to macrovascular disease ● 30

# Significant associations

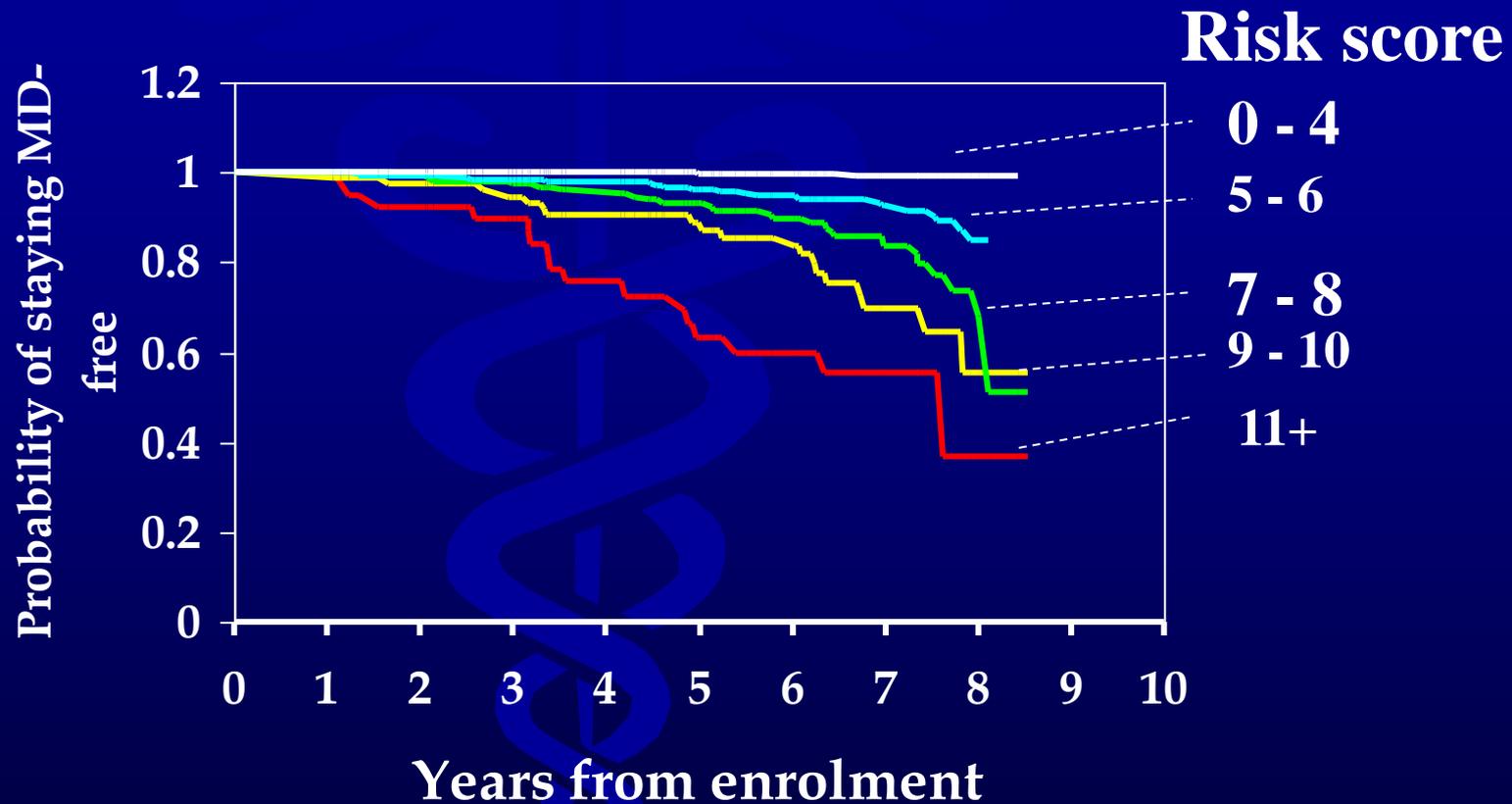
- Age
- Blood pressure
- Albuminuria
- HbA1c
- Cholesterol
- Smoking status

**All P < 0.001**

# Categorisation of variables for proportional hazards regression analysis and their derived risk scores

● <b>Age</b>		● <b>Albuminuria</b>	<b>4</b>
– < 30.....	0	● <b>HbA1c quartile</b>	
– 30 – 40	2	● 0	
– 40 – 50.....	4	● 0	
– 50 – 60	6	● 1	
– > 60	8	● 2	
● <b>BP</b>		● <b>Cholesterol</b>	
– <140/90	0	– 5 – 6	2
– >140/90	2	– > 6	3
		● <b>Smoking</b>	<b>2</b>

# Kaplan-Meier event free survival for different levels of summed macrovascular risk scores



# Predicting risk

- Age 30 0
- BP >140/90 2
- Albuminuric 4
- HbA1c 3<sup>rd</sup> quart 1
- Smoking 2
- Cholesterol >5 2

**Score > 7 treat**

# Conclusions

- There is now sufficient information to estimate vascular risk in adults with Type 1 diabetes
- We should use this information to aid our decision making with patients

# Conclusions

- Young adults with type 1 diabetes are at low risk and are likely to attain little benefit from routine use of statins
- There may be a few that would derive benefit
- There is a potential to cost money and cause harm

**Statins should**

**NOT**

**be routinely prescribed in adults  
with Type 1 diabetes**