

# Aldosterone and Kidney Disease

*Eberhard Ritz  
Heidelberg*



*Full Review*

**Aldosterone and kidney: a rapidly moving frontier (an update)**

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Keywords:

*NDT (2013) e-pub Nov.4th*

# Aldosterone *beyond* the classical concept

## The postclassical concept

Treatment targets beyond epithelial issues  
and synthesis beyond adrenal gland

### Treatment targets

- **Heart** (*LV hypertrophy, fibrosis in right and left ventricle*)
- **Brain** (*hypothalamus - hypertension, salt appetite*)
- **Vessel wall**
- **Kidney: structures beyond distal tubulus** →  
*glomerulus, interstitium, epithelial tubular cells*

### Synthesis

- **Aldosterone - Synthesis**  
# **adrenal gland** (*endocrine*)  
# **local synthesis in gut, skin, CNS, heart, renal cortex ...**

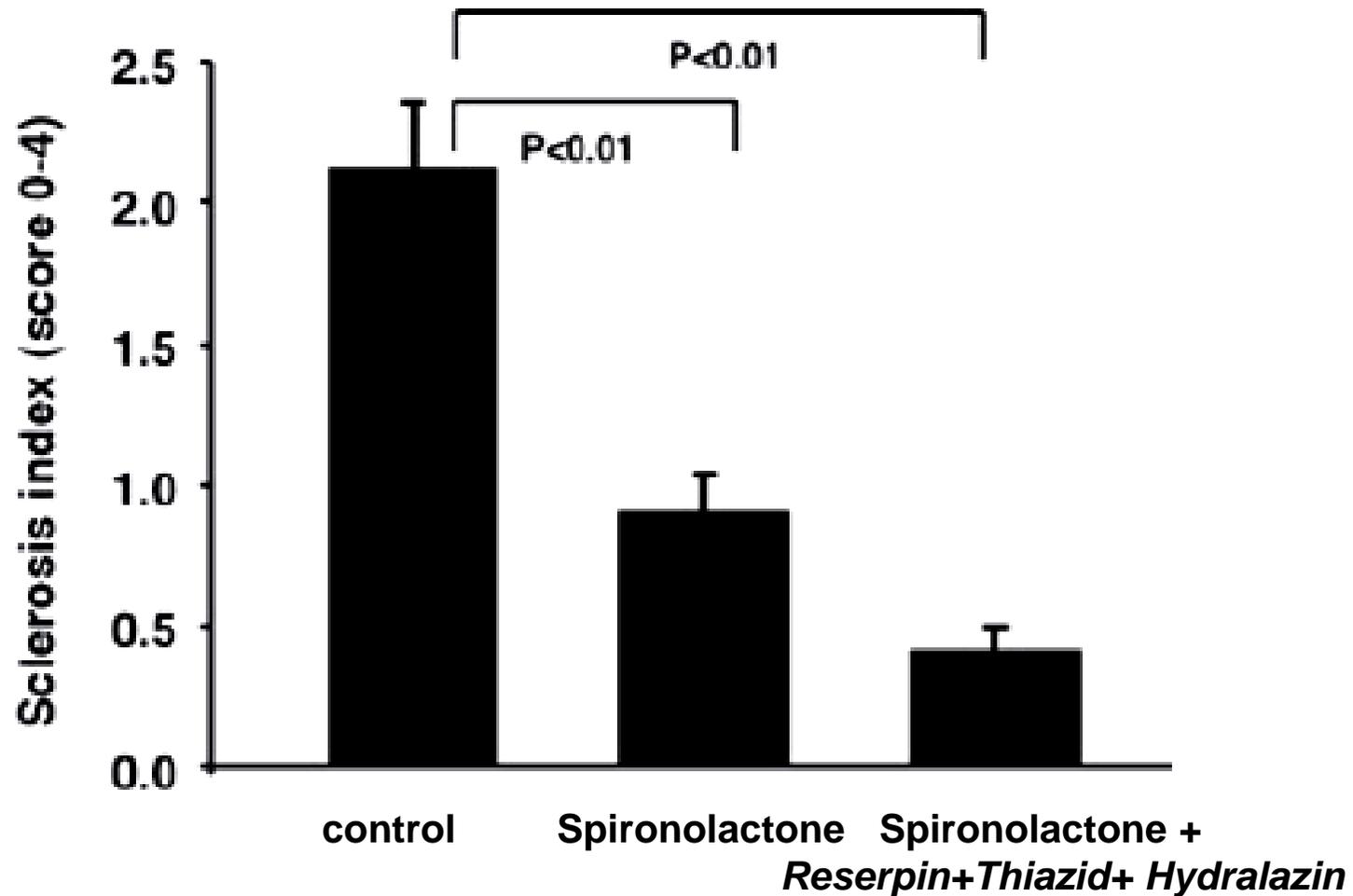
# Subtotal Nephrectomy (SNX)

**Aldosterone** overcomes the effect of **RAS blockade (ACEi+ARB)**

	p-Aldosterone (pg/ml)	Heartweight (g)	Proteinuria (mg/day)	
- Sham-op	50±12	1.03±0.05	19±6	
- SNX	526±250	1.33±0.19	203±103	
- SNX + ACEi+ARB	181±124	0.88±0.11	30±15	true for exogenous and endogenous aldosterone
- SNX + ACEi+ARB+ Aldosterone	487±114	1.28±0.12	217±71	

*Greene, J. Clin. Invest., (1996) 98:1063*

**Spironolactone :**  
in the rat model after subtotal nephrectomy :  
**regression** of established **glomerulosclerosis**



**“High salt” antagonizes the beneficial effect of aldosterone blockade on the development of:**

**# thrombotic and/or proliferative lesions in glomeruli**

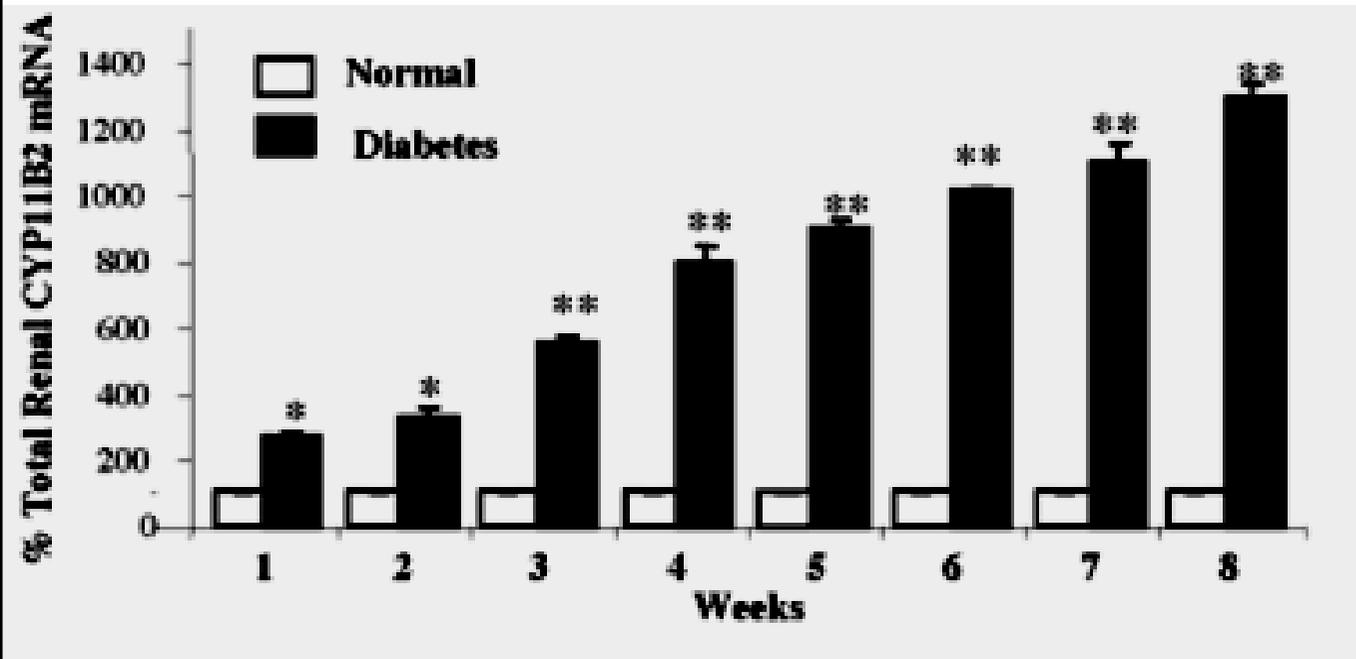
**# lesions of renal vessels**

*Rocha, Hypertension (1999) 33:232*

*Rocha, Endocrinology (2000) 141:3871*

*Terada, Clin.Exp.Nephrol.(2012) 16:81*

Beyond synthesis of aldosterone in the **adrenal gland**  
**local (!)** synthesis of aldosterone occurs in **damaged organs**  
*e.g. the **kidney** in diabetes*



**Aldosterone synthase**  
(*CYP11B2*)

in the renal cortex  
of adrenalectomised diabetic rats  
local production of aldosterone

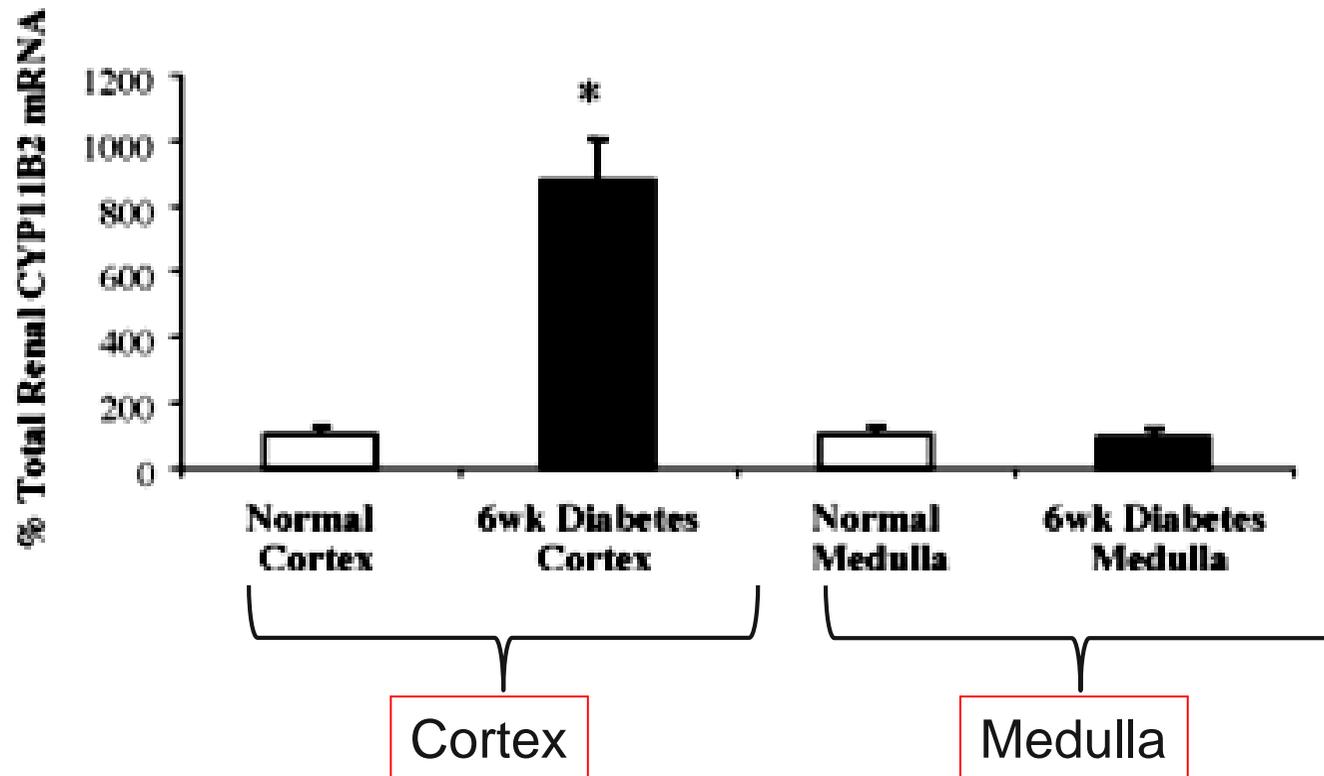
*Xue,*  
*Hypertension (2005) 46:584*

Because there is **local synthesis** of aldosterone :  
the **plasma concentration** of aldosterone is  
**not necessarily the only relevant indication** for aldosterone blockade

In adrenalectomised diabetic rats

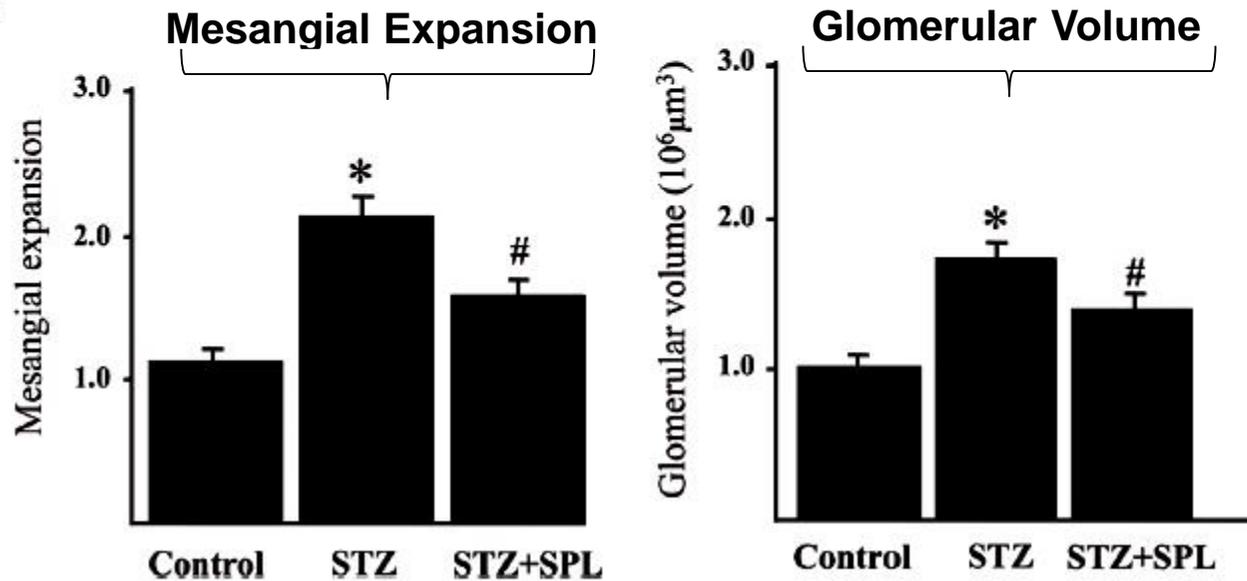
**local production** of Aldosterone restricted to the renal cortex,  
*but not does not occur in the renal medulla*

*Aldosterone-Synthase (CYP11B2)*



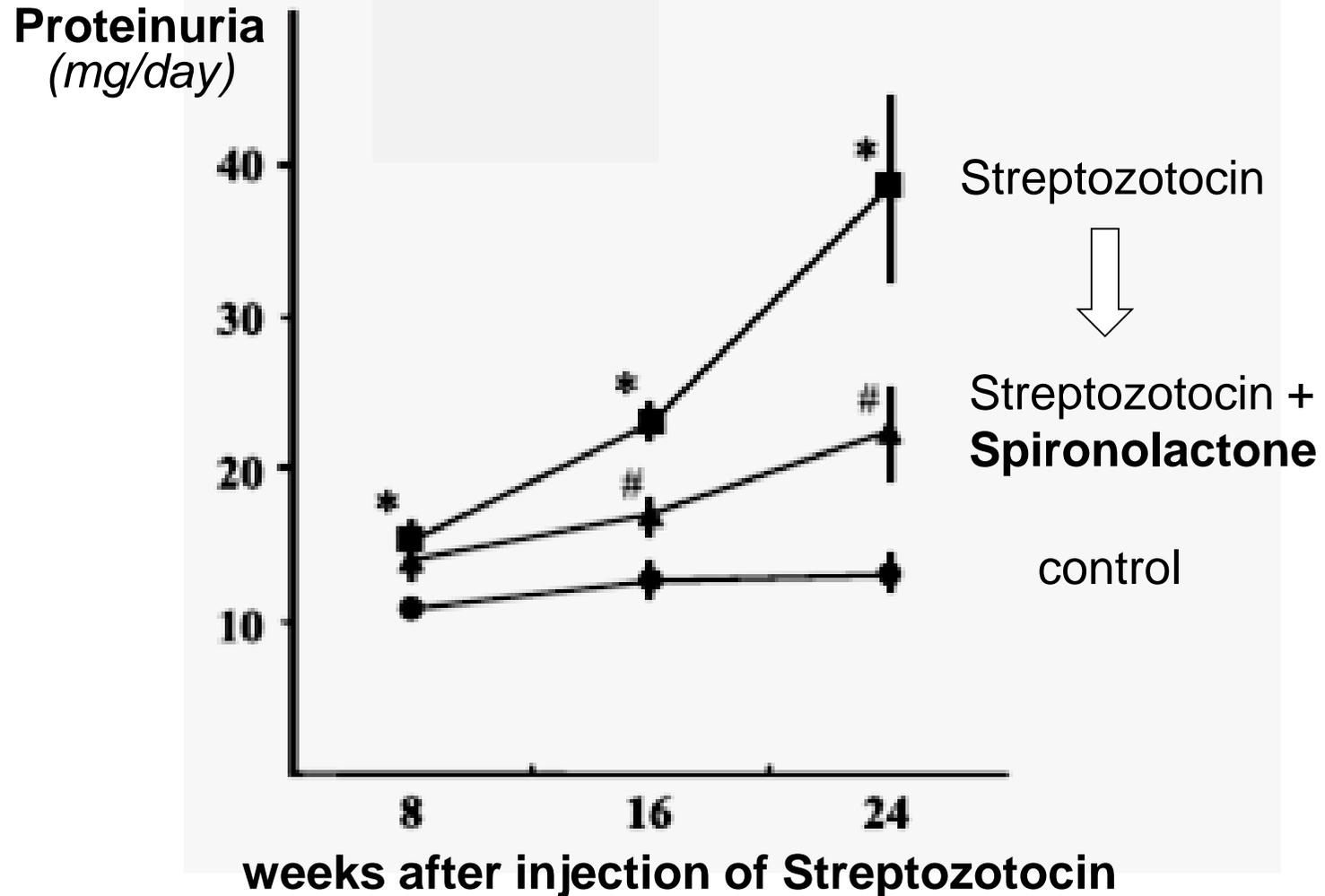
*Xue, Hypertension (2005) 46:584*

# Spironolactone mitigates ★ glomerular damage from hyperglycemia: *i.e. podocyte damage, mesangial expansion and glomerulomegaly*



*Spironolactone reduces podocyte damage caused by hyperglycemia :*

⇒ **Spironolactone thus lowers proteinuria** in diabetic rats

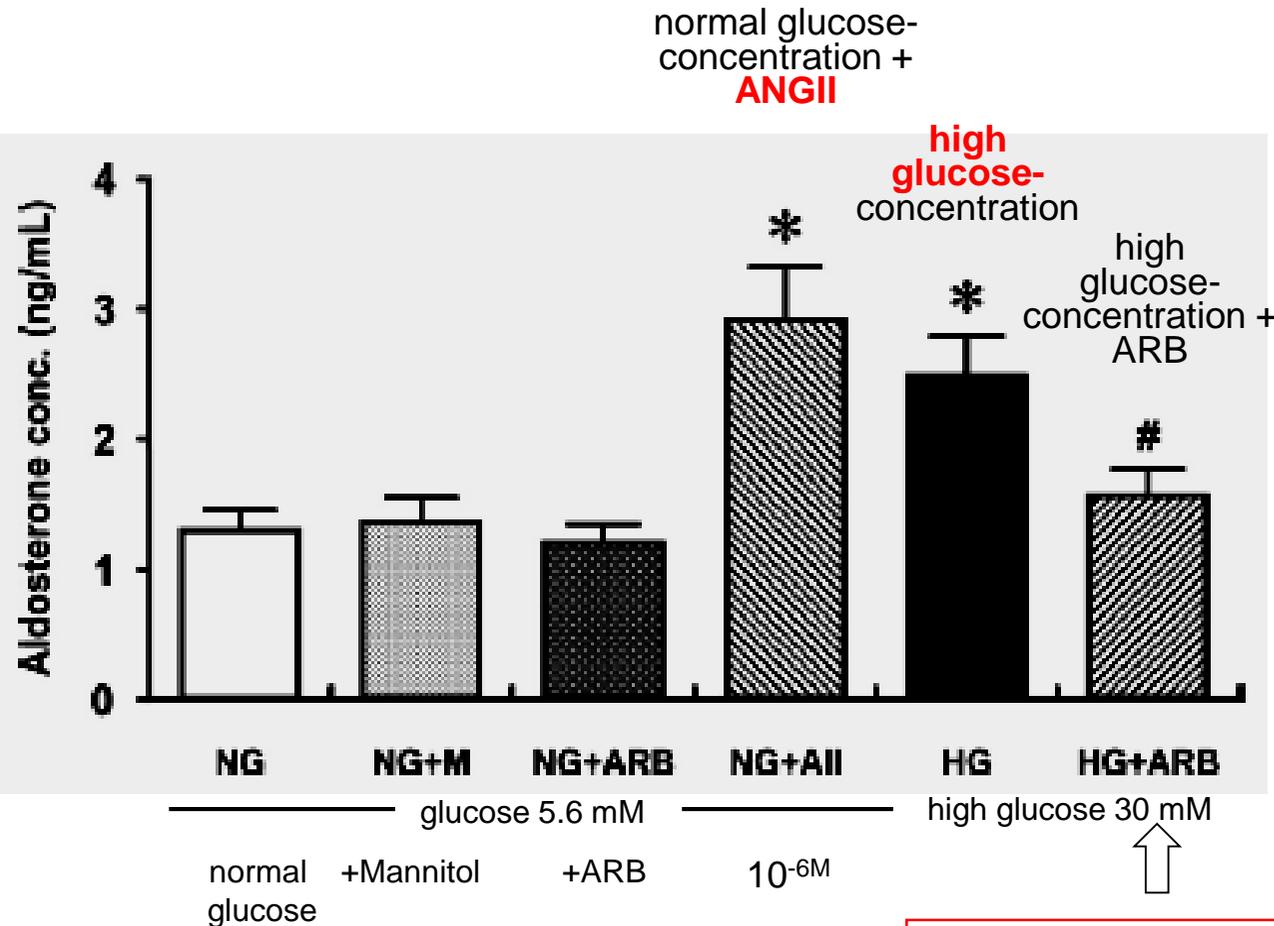


## Aldosterone synthesised by podocytes in vitro

**stimulated** by :  
# ANG II  
# high glucose concentration

**reduced** by :  
**Angiotensin-receptor-blocker**

Lee,  
*Am.J.Physiol.Renal*  
(2009) 297:F1381



Angiotensin receptor blocker  
antagonises  
glucose-induced  
aldosterone synthesis

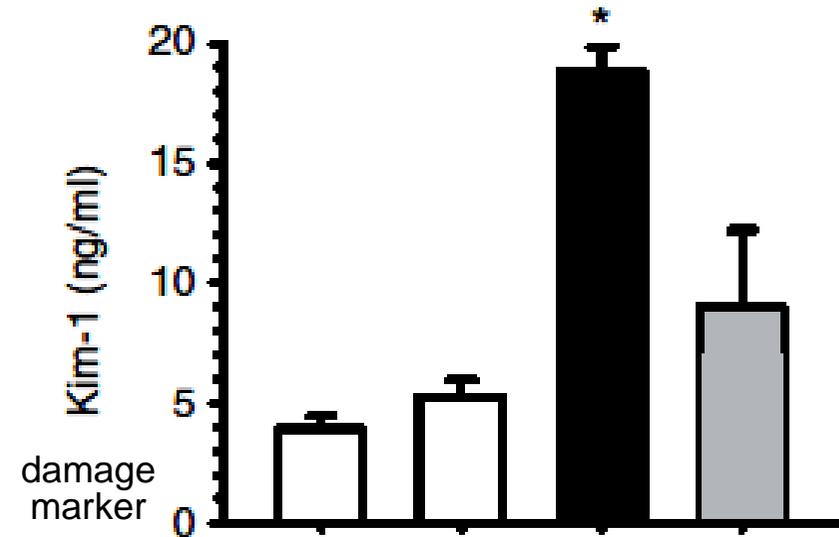
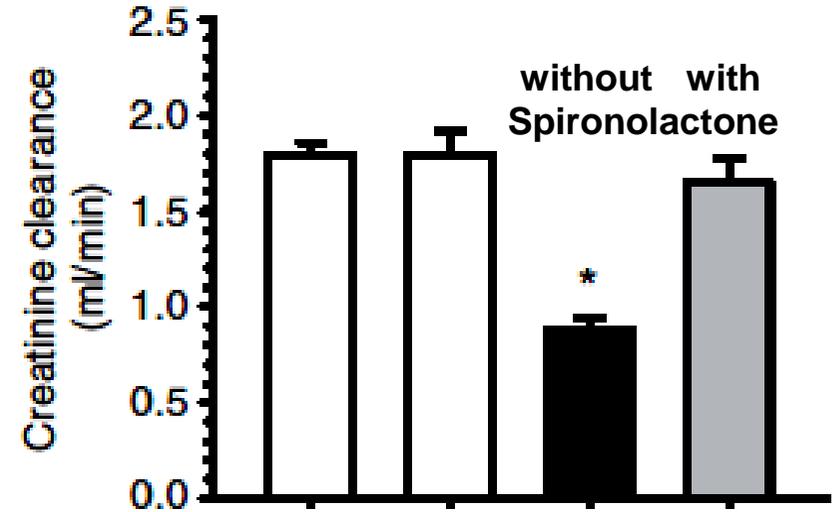
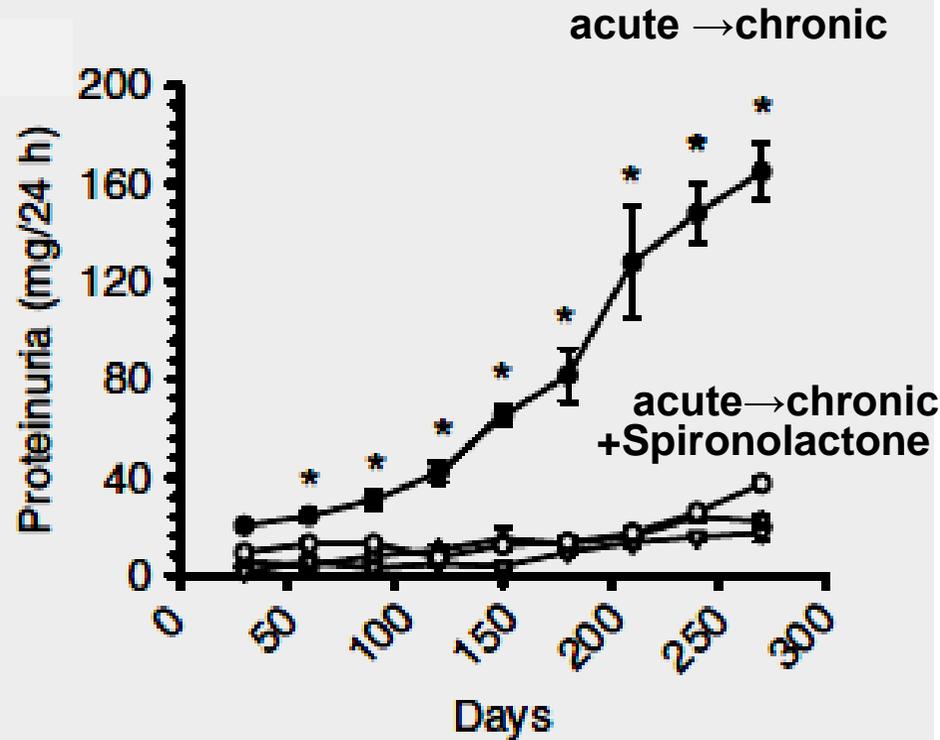
In humans :

# Aldosterone predicts incident CKD and microalbuminuria

(Framingham offspring study)

Biomarkers	P	Odds Ratio	95% Confidence Interval
<b>Incident CKD</b>			
entire panel	0.0005		
specific markers			
homocysteine	<0.0001	1.41	1.20 to 1.65
aldosterone	0.047	1.17	1.002 to 1.36
<b>Incident microalbuminuria</b>			
entire panel	0.003		
specific markers			
aldosterone	0.017	1.23	1.04 to 1.46
BNP	0.0037	1.30	1.09 to 1.54
homocysteine	0.04	1.20	1.01 to 1.42

# In rats spironolactone prevents secondary **chronic renal insufficiency** after recovery from ischemic **acute renal failure**



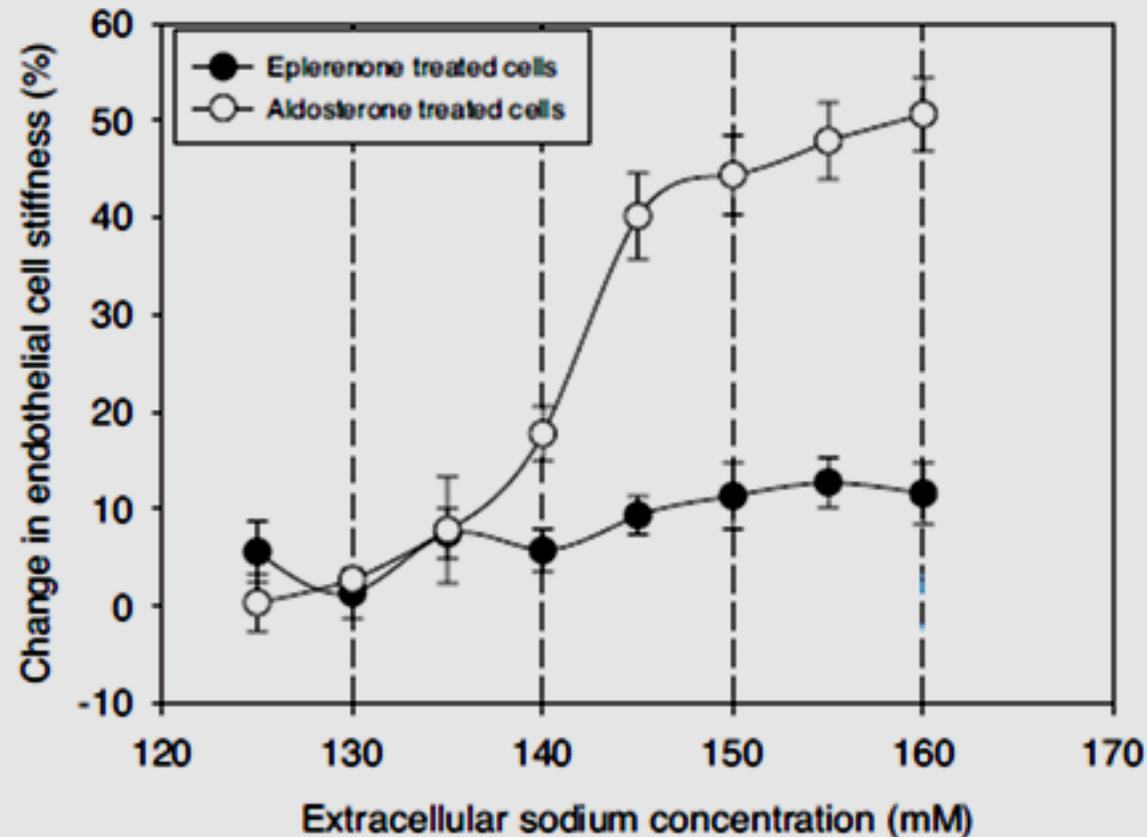
# [Na<sup>+</sup>] causes stiffening of human vascular endothelial cells in vitro

endothelial cell stiffness

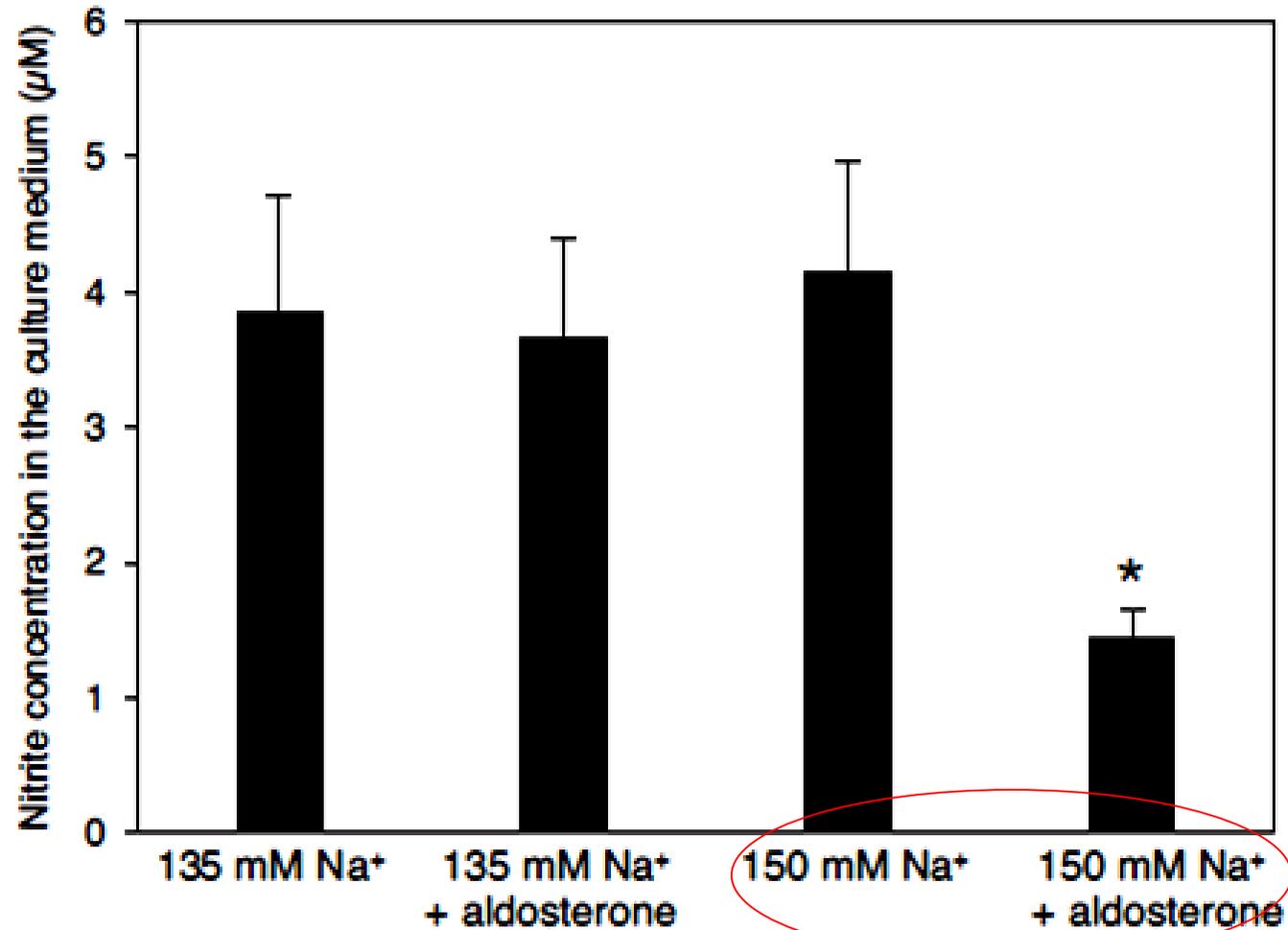
**stiffening by Aldosterone**  
**no stiffening by Eplerenone**



*presumably also relevant for renal vessels !*



Human endothelial cells :  
**high [Na<sup>+</sup>] concentration plus aldosterone :**  
**inhibition of nitrite (*dilatory*) synthesis**  
*(permissive effect)*



# Hyperfiltration in primary hyperaldosteronism *beneficial renal effect of Spironolacton/Eplerenon*

prospective multicentric study in Germany :

- # 29 patients with newly diagnosed hyperaldosteronism
- # overall cohort of 119 patients

1° aldosteronism :

- # increased **GFR** and increased **albumin/creatinin** ratio
- # after start of treatment with Spironolactone/Eplerenone
  - ⇒ **GFR** and **albuminuria** declined

*Aldosterone causes glomerular hyperfiltration and albuminuria*

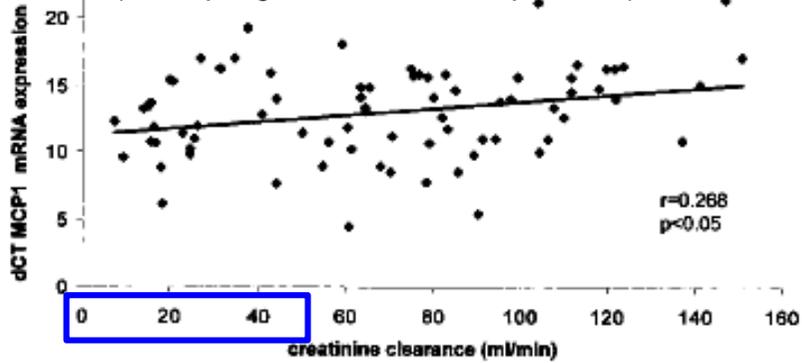
***Patients treated with well regulated blood pressure  
→ renal parameters not altered***

*Fourkiotis, Europ.J.Endocrinol.(2013)169:75*

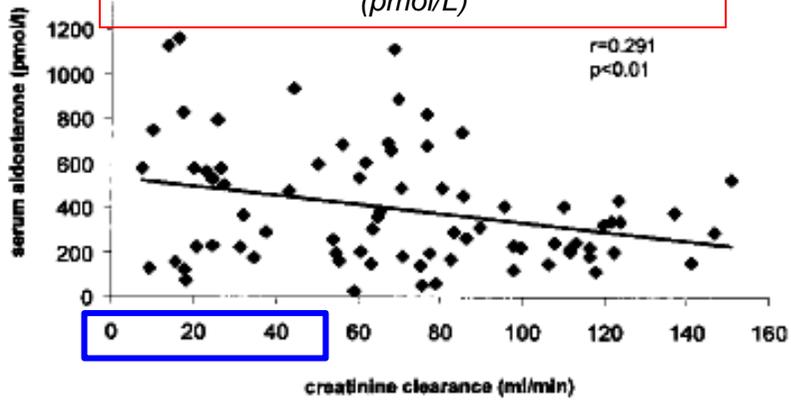
**Arbeit macht kaputt** (*work kills*)  
*Karl Marx*  
~ hyperfiltration damages the glomerulus

**MCP-1**

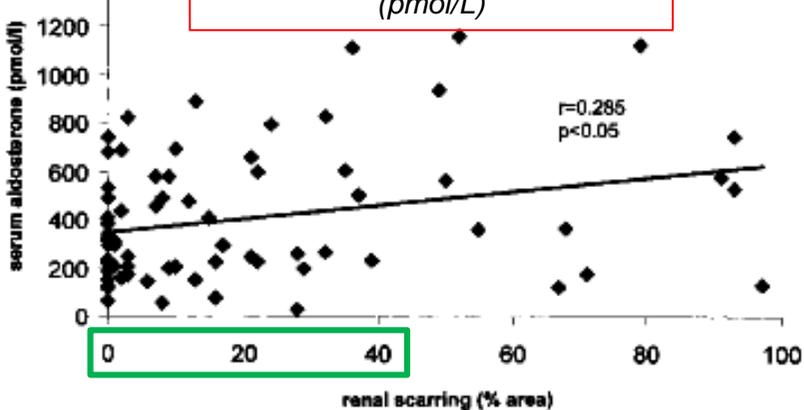
(Macrophage chemoattractant protein-1)



**S-aldosterone vs creatinine clearance**  
(pmol/L)



**S-aldosterone vs renal fibrosis**  
(pmol/L)



# CKD patients

## **Serum aldosterone concentration and renal findings**

*Renal biopsy in CKD patients with pronounced proteinuria at different creatinine clearances*

*at decreased creatinine clearance :*

# MCP1mRNA in kidney ↓

# serum aldosterone ↑

# renal fibrosis no (significant) correlation ~

Quinkler,  
*Circulation* (2005) 112:1435

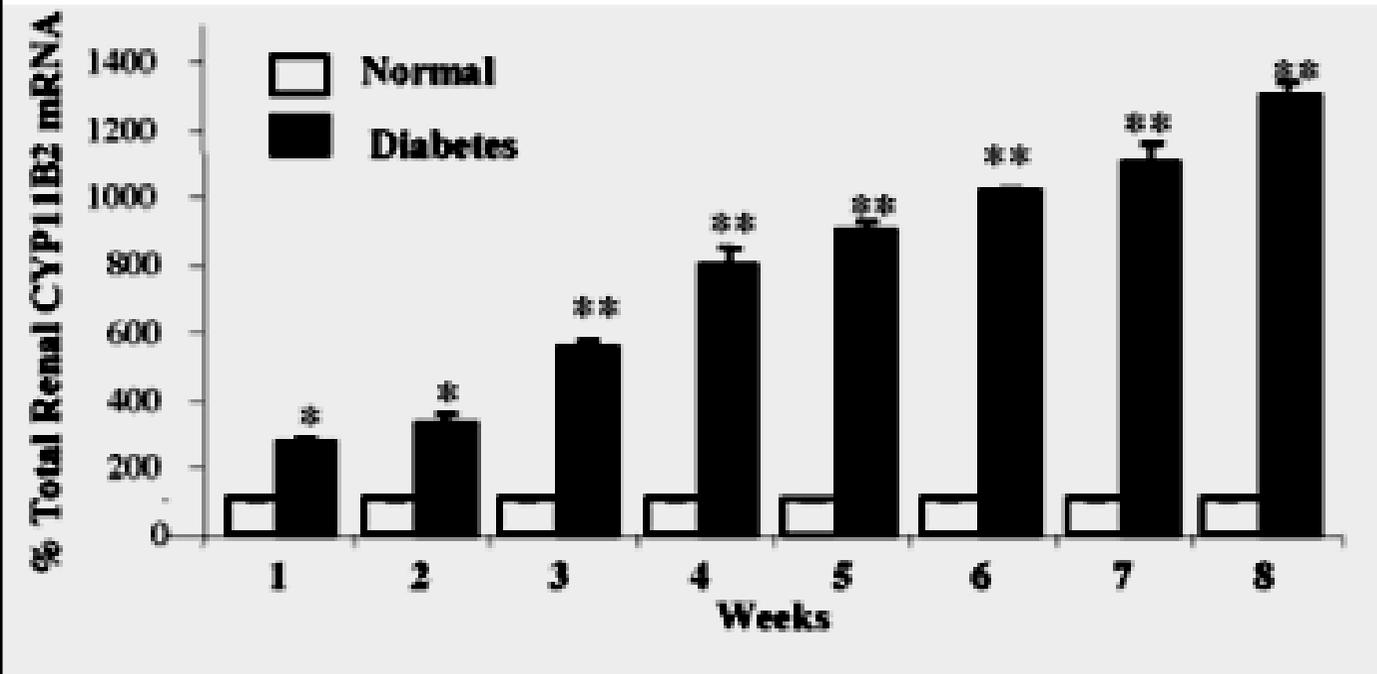
*Are only plasma aldosterone values relevant ?*

*They may underestimate the role of local aldosterone synthesis  
and the therapeutic potential of aldosterone blockade*

**Potential role of local  
aldosterone synthesis:**

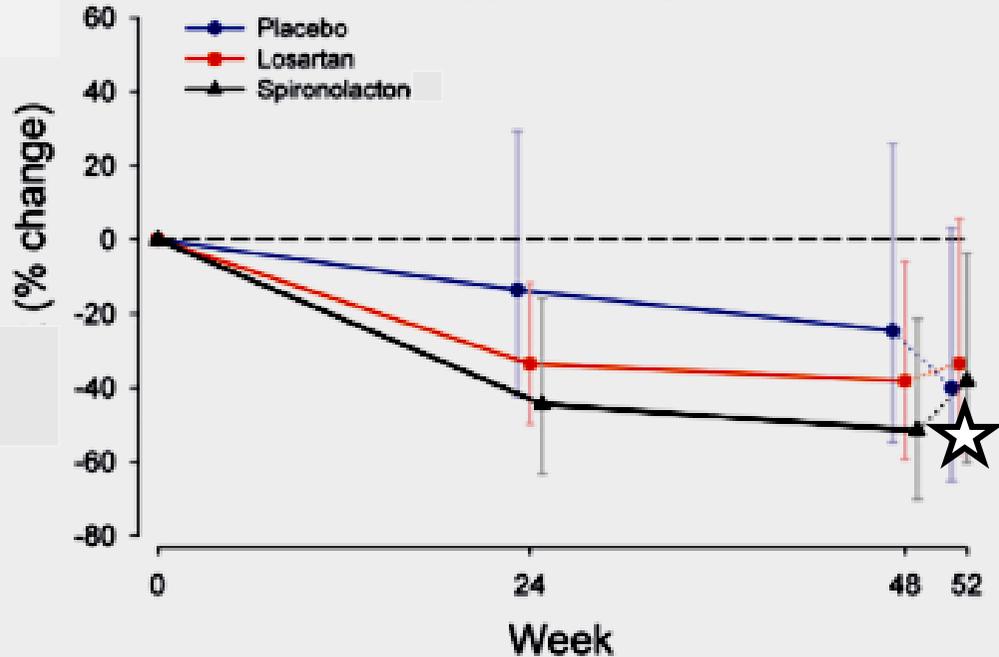
**Progressive expression  
of CYP11B2mRNA  
in the renal cortex  
of diabetic rats**

*Xue,  
Hypertension (2005) 46:584*

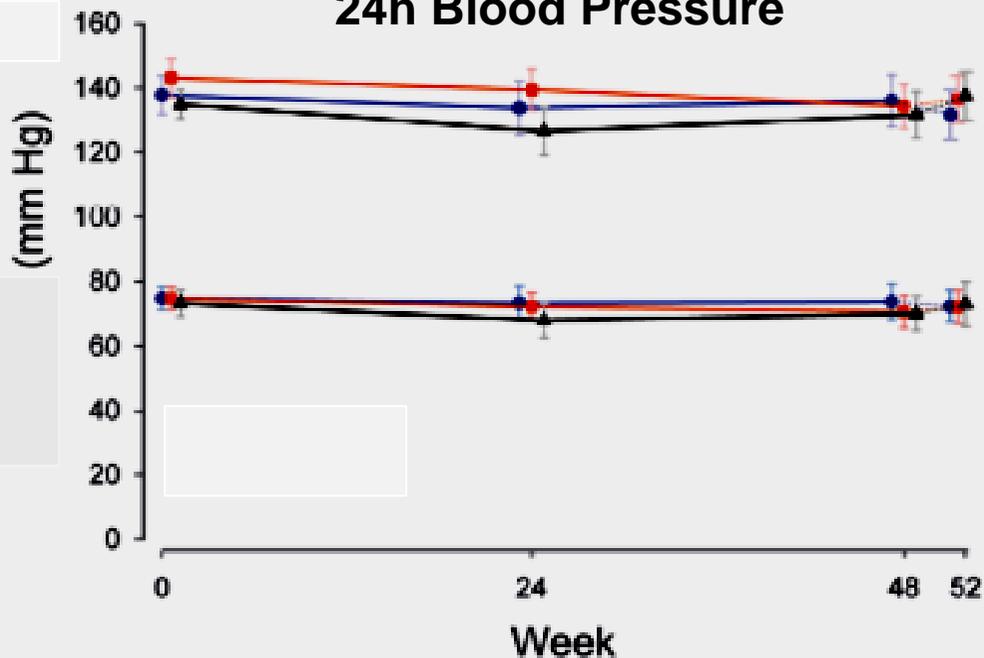


**cortex**

## Albuminuria



## 24h Blood Pressure



## Diabetic Nephropathy

aldosterone blockade effective even after  
maximal inhibition of ACE :

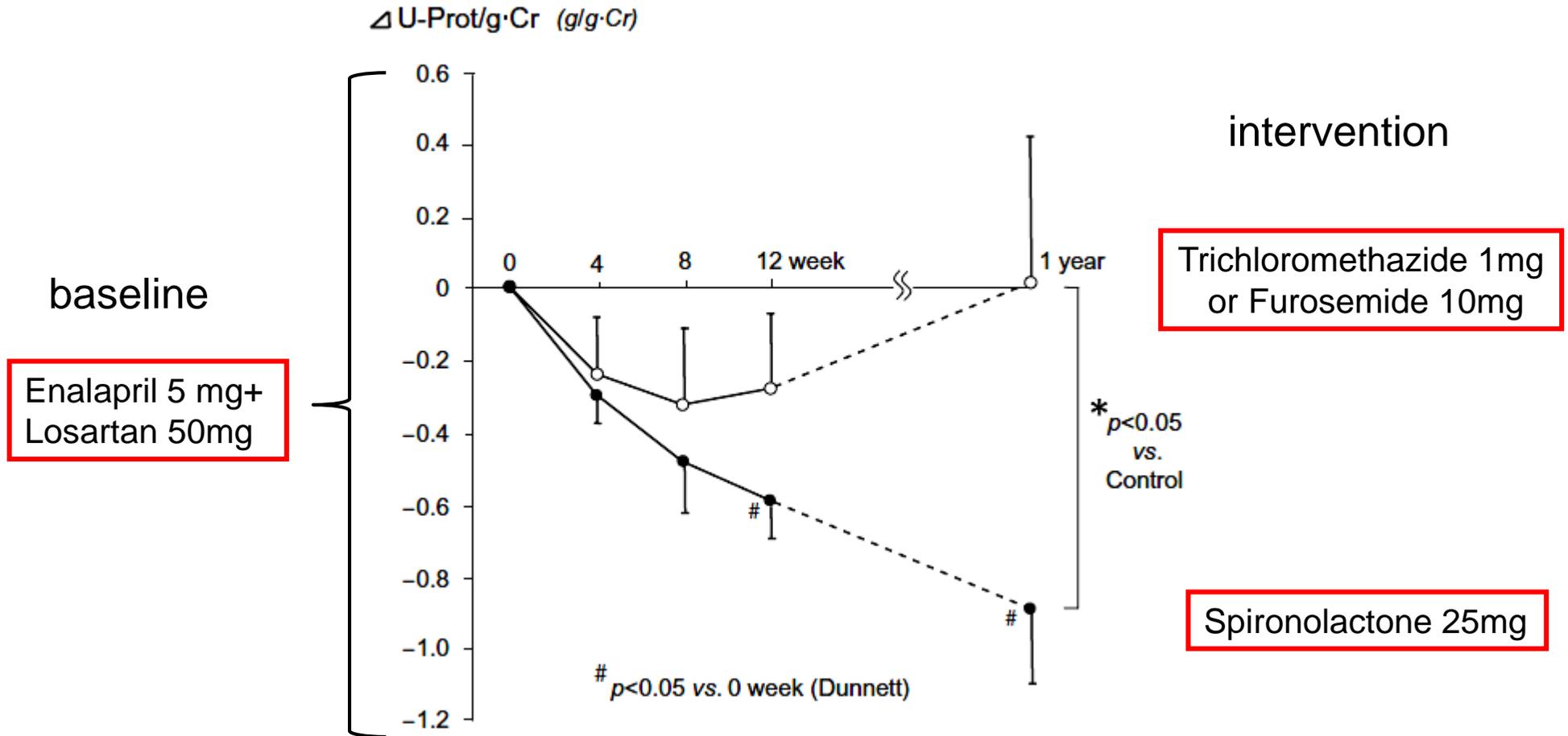
additional inhibition by mineralocorticoid  
antagonist :

- Placebo
- Angiotensinreceptor blocker
- Mineralocorticoid-antagonist ☆

Mineralocorticoid-blockade  
*additional renoprotection (albuminuria ↓)*  
*despite*  
*no further decrease of blood pressure*

Mehdi,  
*J.Am.Soc.Nephrol.(2009) 20:2641*

Nephrotic patients treated with ACEi plus ARB :  
 when **Spironolactone** (but not *Furosemide*) is added  
 ⇒ further **decrease of proteinuria** unrelated to blood pressure



**“benefit from Spironolactone not explained by its diuretic effect, but by abrogation of mineralocorticoid effect”**

*Spironolactone on top of RAS blockade – further evidence of reduction of albuminuria and GFR*

**Doppel-blind randomised placebo-controlled cross-over study**

**21 type 1 diabetics** with **microalbuminuria**

Spironolactone 25 mg/day or Placebo for 60 days

**R<sub>x</sub> Spironolactone:**

**# albuminuria** ↓ : from **90** mg/day to **35** mg/day ( $p=0.01$ )

**# GFR** ↓ : from **78** ± 6 to **72** ± 6 mL/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> ( $p=0.003$ ) (*reversal of hyperfiltration?*)

**# blood pressure** : unchanged

well tolerated, but in 2 patients S-K<sup>+</sup> rose to 5.7 mmol/L

*Nielsen, Diabet.Med.(2012) 29:e184*

In **healthy** individuals the serum-aldosterone concentration **predicts** future microalbuminuria and GFR decrease

**Framingham population**

*2345 individuals*

*9.5 years follow-up*

*endpoints: eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>*

*urine albumin/creatinin > 25 (♀) or 17 (♂) mg/g creatinin*

**Predictors :**

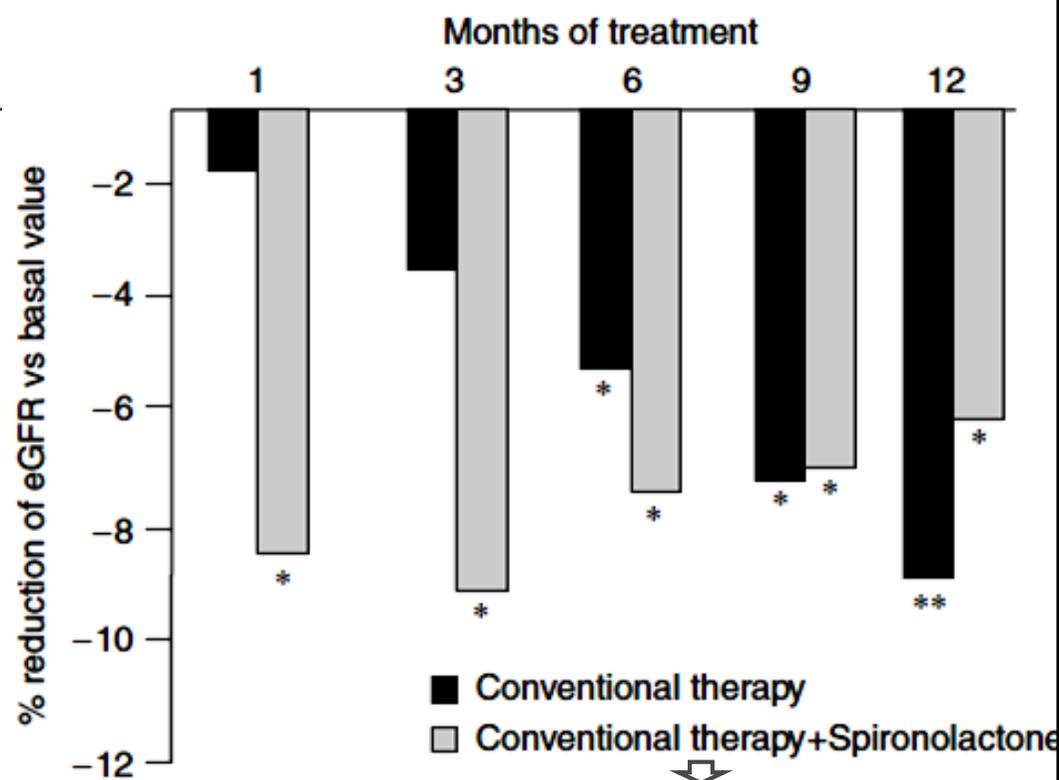
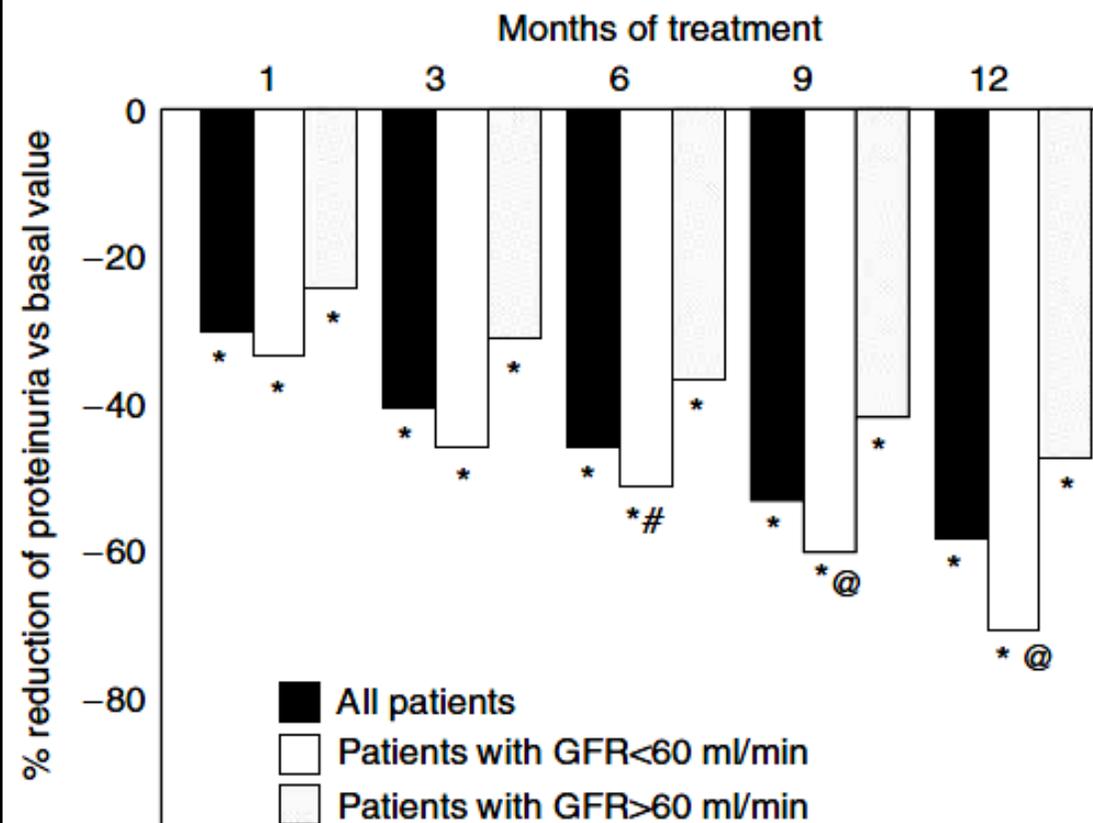
microalbuminuria : log serum *aldosterone*, BNP, homocystein

GFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup> : serum *aldosterone* and homocystein

# Spironolactone (25mg/day) – in CKD patients : progressive lowering of proteinuria and eGFR

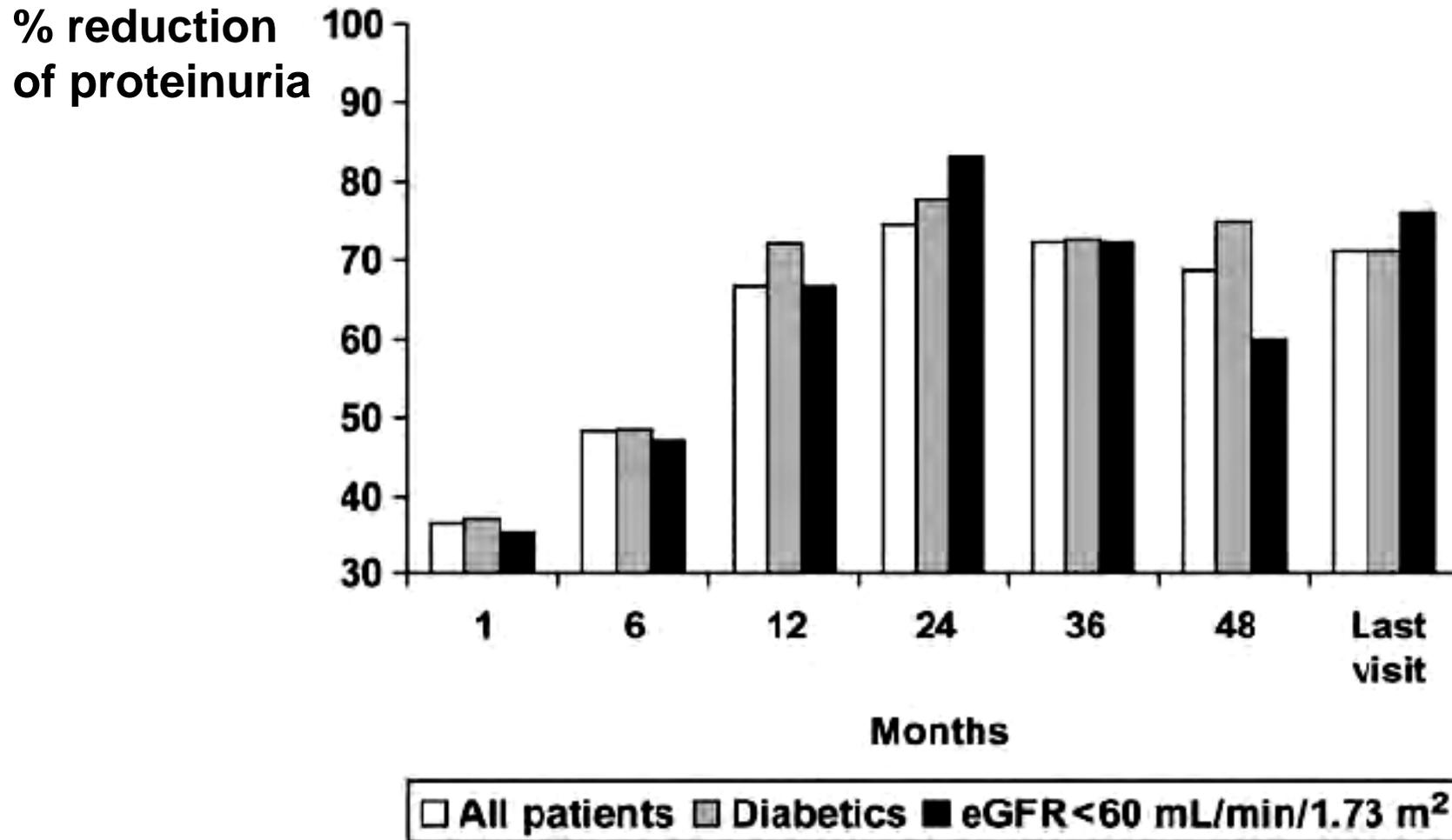
**Δ proteinuria**

**Δ eGFR**



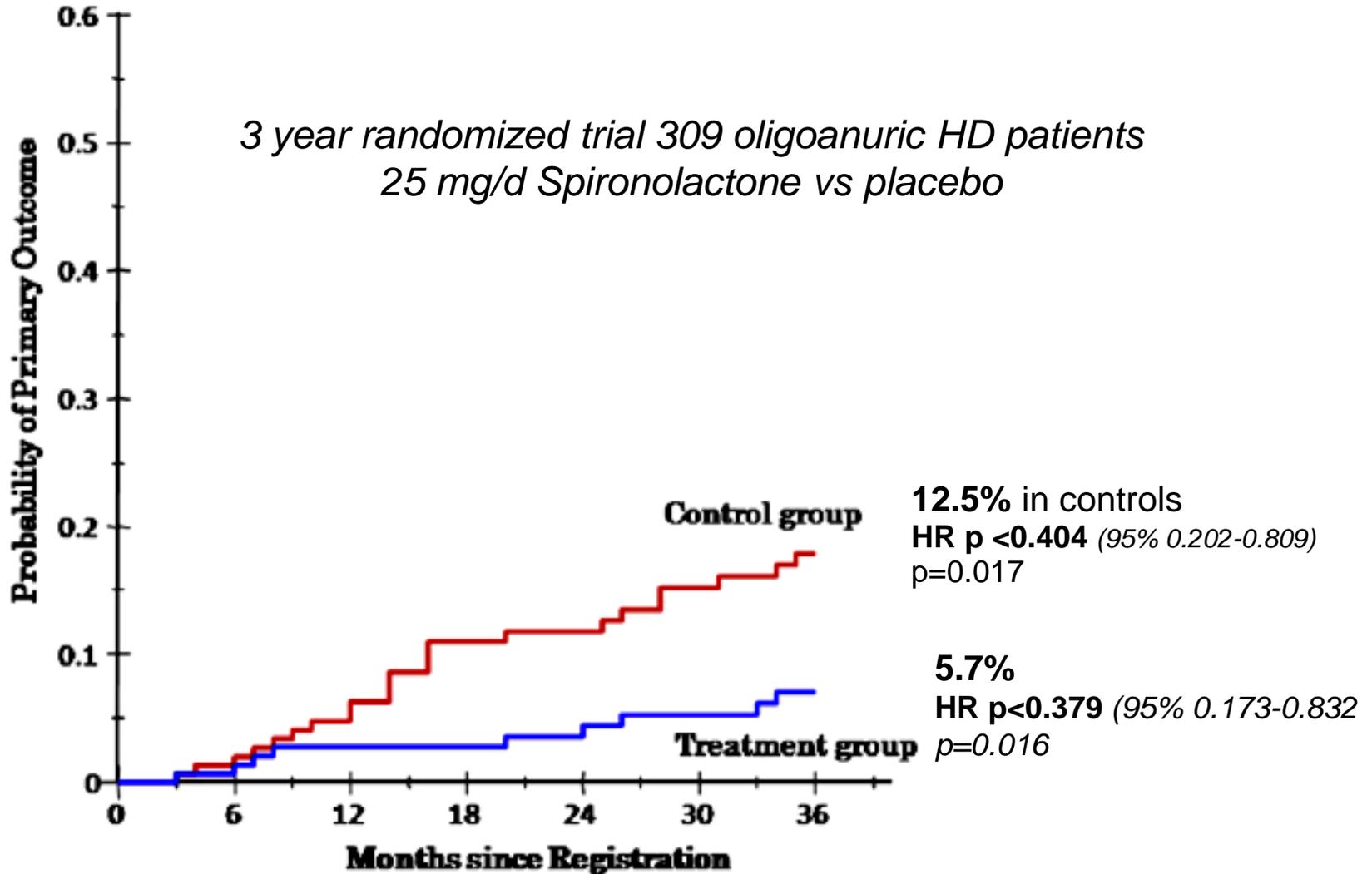
early : GFR decrease  
(reversal of hyperfiltration)  
late : less eGFR loss

# Spironolactone (25mg/d) on top of RAS blockade – again added benefit : progressive reduction of proteinuria by 61% (43-77%)



Morales, *Nephrol.Dial.Transplant.*(2013) 28:405

# CKD: Spironolactone beyond the kidney : *less cardiovascular /cerebrovascular morbidity / mortality in hemodialysed patients*



## Limitation of RAS Blockade

# Aldosterone “escape”

*first communication*

Patients with renal failure (n=10) and treated with Captopril

p-Aldosterone  
(pg/ml)

before Captopril

266 ± 30

Captopril 6 months

105 ± 16

Captopril 12 months

234 ± 31

*Ruilope, Am.J.Kid.Dis.(1989) 13:120*

# “Aldosteron escape” -

~ half of the patients with diabetic nephropathy ⇨  
**secondary increase of serum - aldosterone during RAS blockade**

63 type 1 diabetic patients, Losartan 100 mg/day  
36 months follow-up

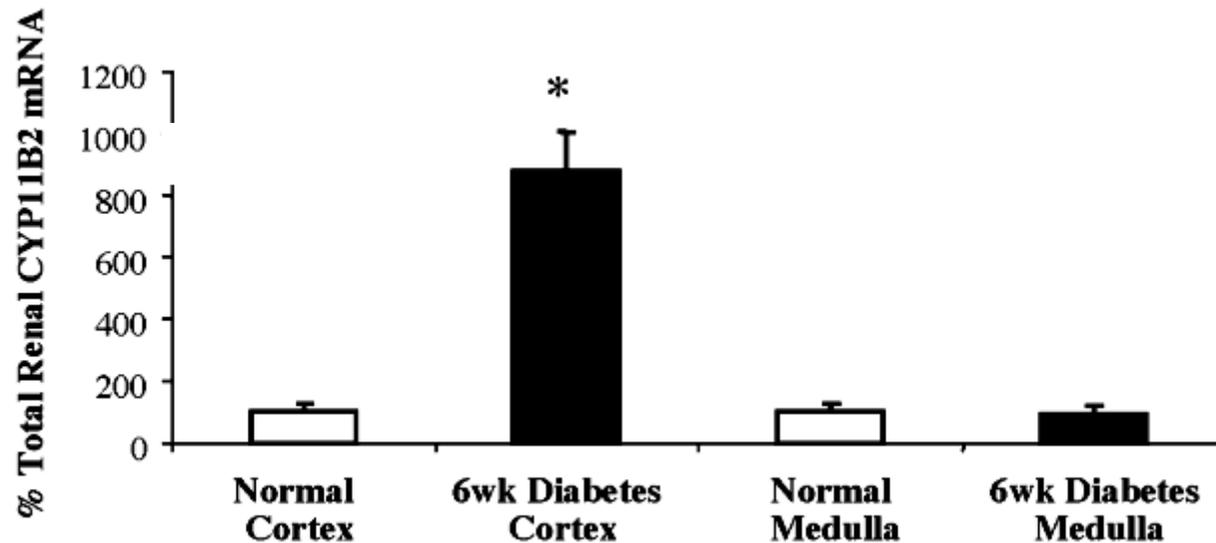
		<b>Escape</b>			<b>No Escape</b>		
		n=26			n=37		
	start	2 months	end of study	start	2 months	end of study	
p-aldosterone (pg/ml)	<b>88</b> 62-125	57 43-76	<b>102</b> 78-134	<b>70</b> 54-92	83 69-102	<b>49</b> 40-60	
GFR-decrease		<b>5 ml/min/year</b> 0.4 - 15.9		<b>2.4 ml/min/year</b> -1.6 - 11.0			

**Escape** : *more rapid loss of GFR*

Schjoedt, *Diabetologia* (2004) 47:1936

Why do we see *less progression* with aldosterone blockade even in (a proportion of) CKD patients without elevated p-aldosterone?

⇒ **Local** synthesis of aldosterone in kidney cortex ?  
*e.g. high salt, diabetes ...*



*Xue, Hypertension (2005) 46:584*

# Aldosterone and allograft function

*153 transplant recipients*

*5 year follow-up; yearly s-aldosterone*

**Higher serum plasma aldosterone ↗**  
**significantly higher risk of ESRD**

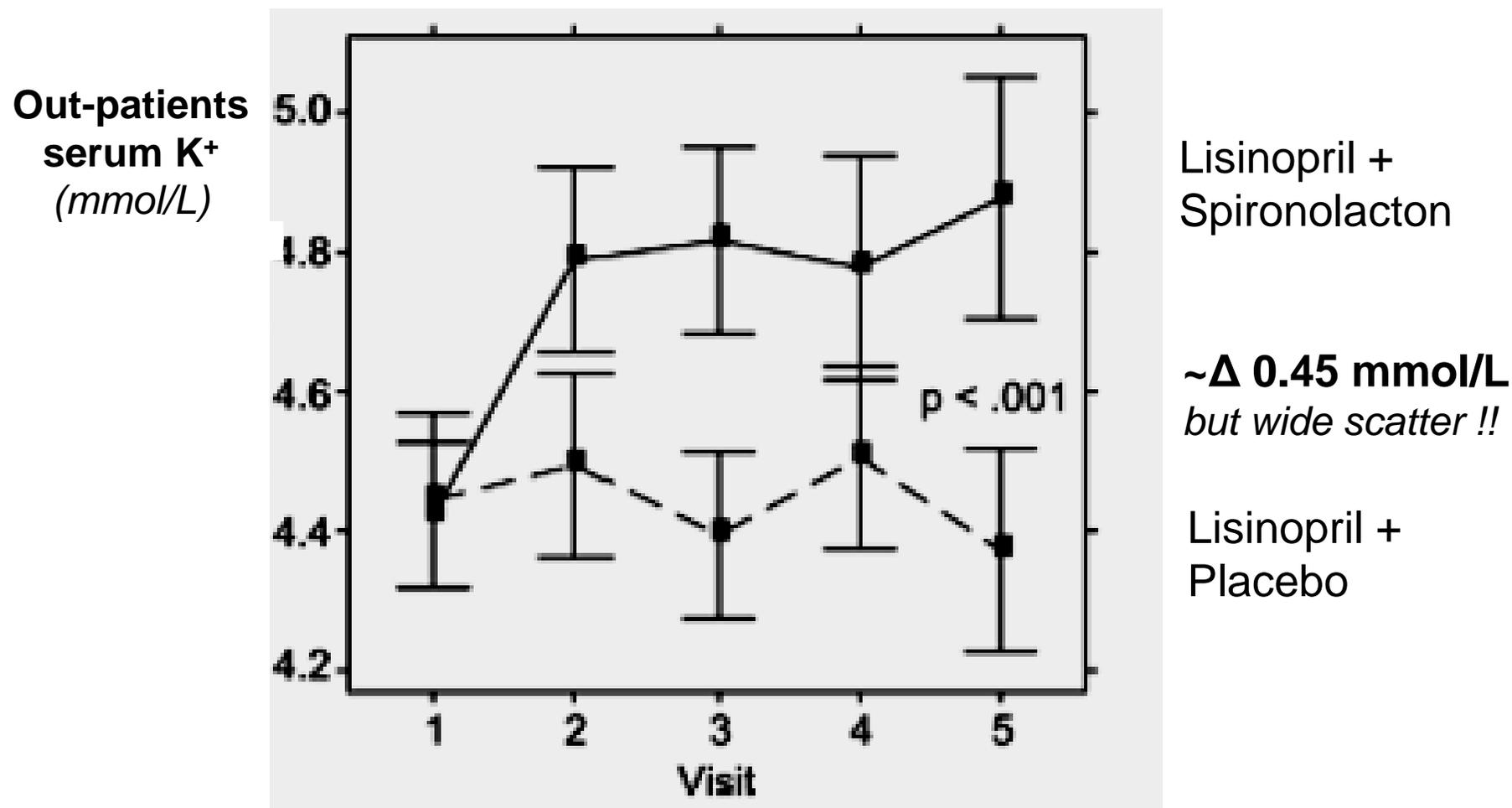
**HR 1.01** (95% CI 1.00-1.02)

*even though systemic aldosterone  
does not reflect the intrarenal system*

*Issa, Kidn.Internat.(2014) 85:404*

Why had we been in the past so hesitant to use RAS plus aldosterone blockade in advanced CKD? Justified concern of hyperkalemia !

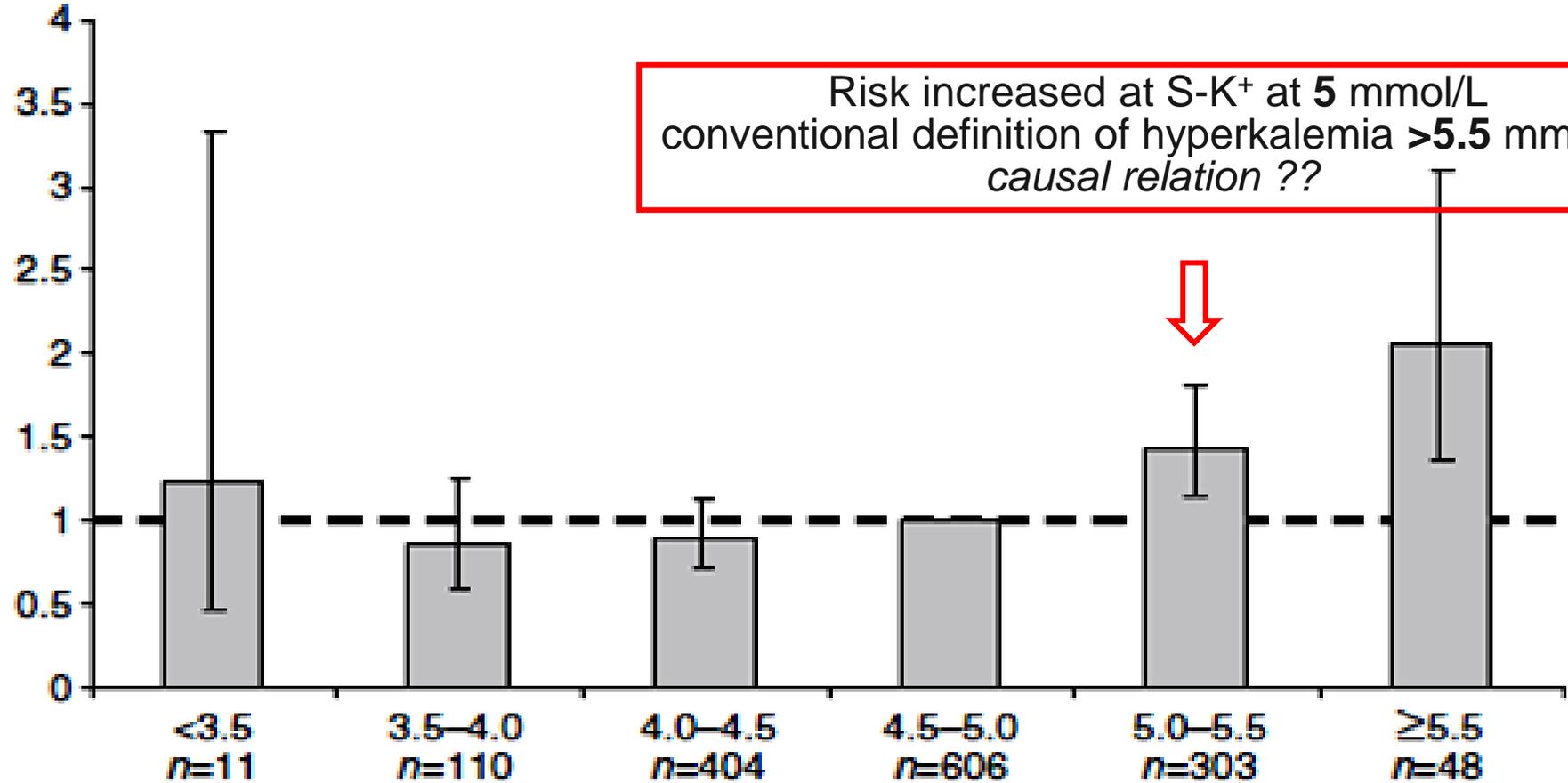
## Serum K<sup>+</sup> of CKD patients on ACE inhibitors with or without Spironolactone



**Type 2 diabetic patients with nephropathy :  
increased risk of endstage renal disease or doubling of S-creatinine  
even at serum-K<sup>+</sup> values in the **highnormal** range**

*(RENAAL study)*

Risk:doubling  
s-creatinine or  
ESRD



Mean serum potassium during follow-up (mmol/l)

*Miao, Diabetologia (2011) 54:44*

**K<sup>+</sup> handling in CKD patients  
treated with ARB blockade plus Aldosterone blockade**

**safety ?**

randomized cross-over 4 week trial  
40 mg **L**isinopril + 25mg **S**pironolactone vs placebo  
18 participants GFR 25.7 ml/min

at 4 week (study end) 35 mmol oral K<sup>+</sup> challenge :  
S-K<sup>+</sup> **4.87** mmol/l (**L/S**) vs **4.37** (controls);  $p < 0.001$

after oral K<sup>+</sup> :  
only modest 0.44 mmol/h increase of K<sup>+</sup> excretion,  
but 0.67 mmol/L increase in serum K<sup>+</sup>

:

*Preston, Hypertension (2009) 53:754*

**Beneficial effect and safety of Spironolactone**  
*added on top of recommended antihypertensive treatment*  
*in diabetic nephropathy*

22 patients type 2 diabetes with nephropathy  
randomized double-masked cross-over study

in randomized order :

Spironolactone 25 mg/d vs matched placebo for 8 weeks

during addition of **Spironolactone** :

albuminuria - 33%

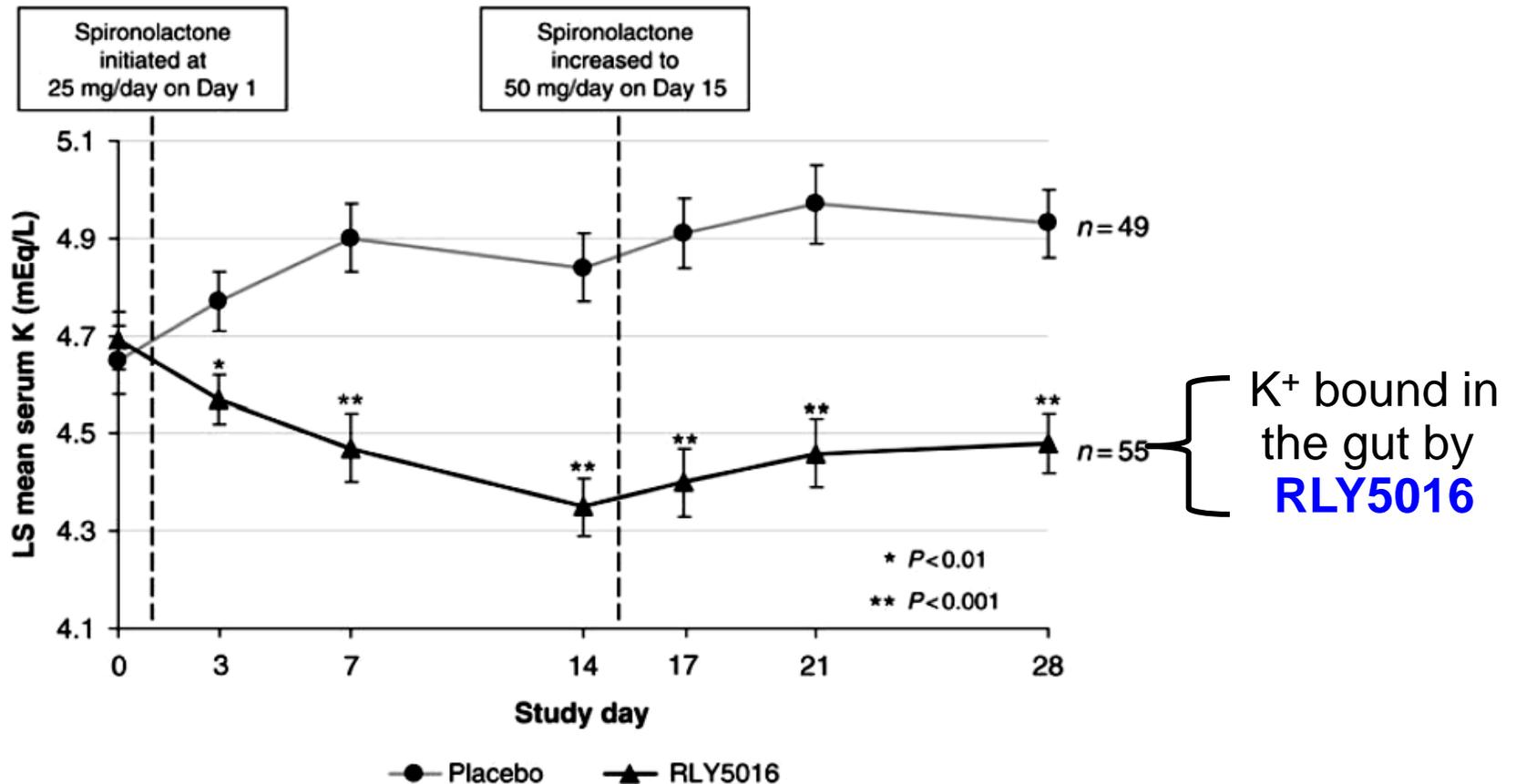
24h ambulatory BP : - 6 mmHg systolic; - 4mmHg diastolic

only 1/22 patients had to be excluded because of hyperkalemia

*Rossing, Diabetes Care (2005) 28:2106*

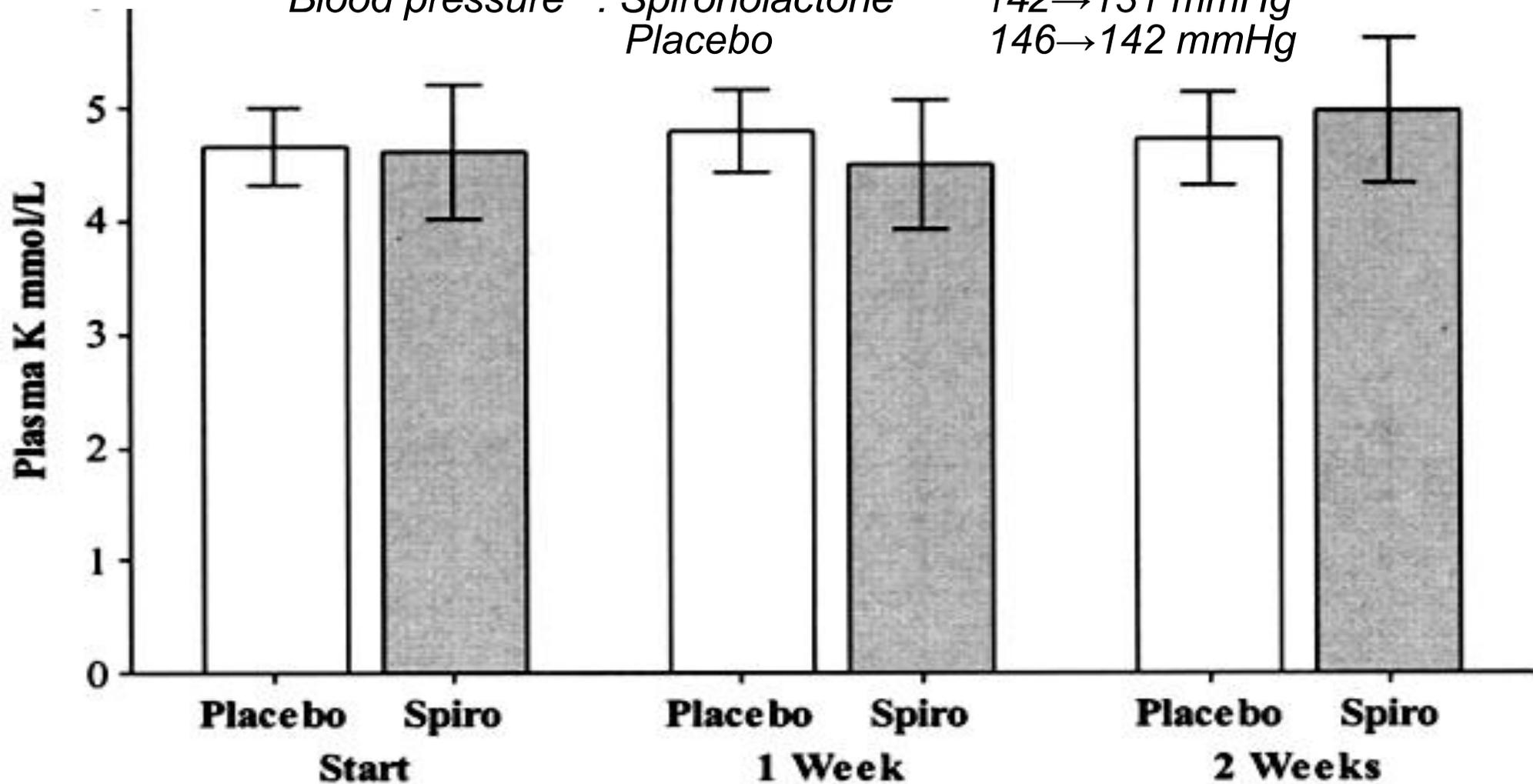
# Evaluation of the efficacy and safety of RLY5016, a polymeric potassium binder, in a double-blind, placebo-controlled study in patients with chronic heart failure (the PEARL-HF) trial

Bertram Pitt<sup>1\*</sup>, Stefan D. Anker<sup>2,3</sup>, David A. Bushinsky<sup>4</sup>, Dalane W. Kitzman<sup>5</sup>, Faiez Zannad<sup>6</sup>, and I-Zu Huang<sup>7</sup>, on behalf of the PEARL-HF Investigators

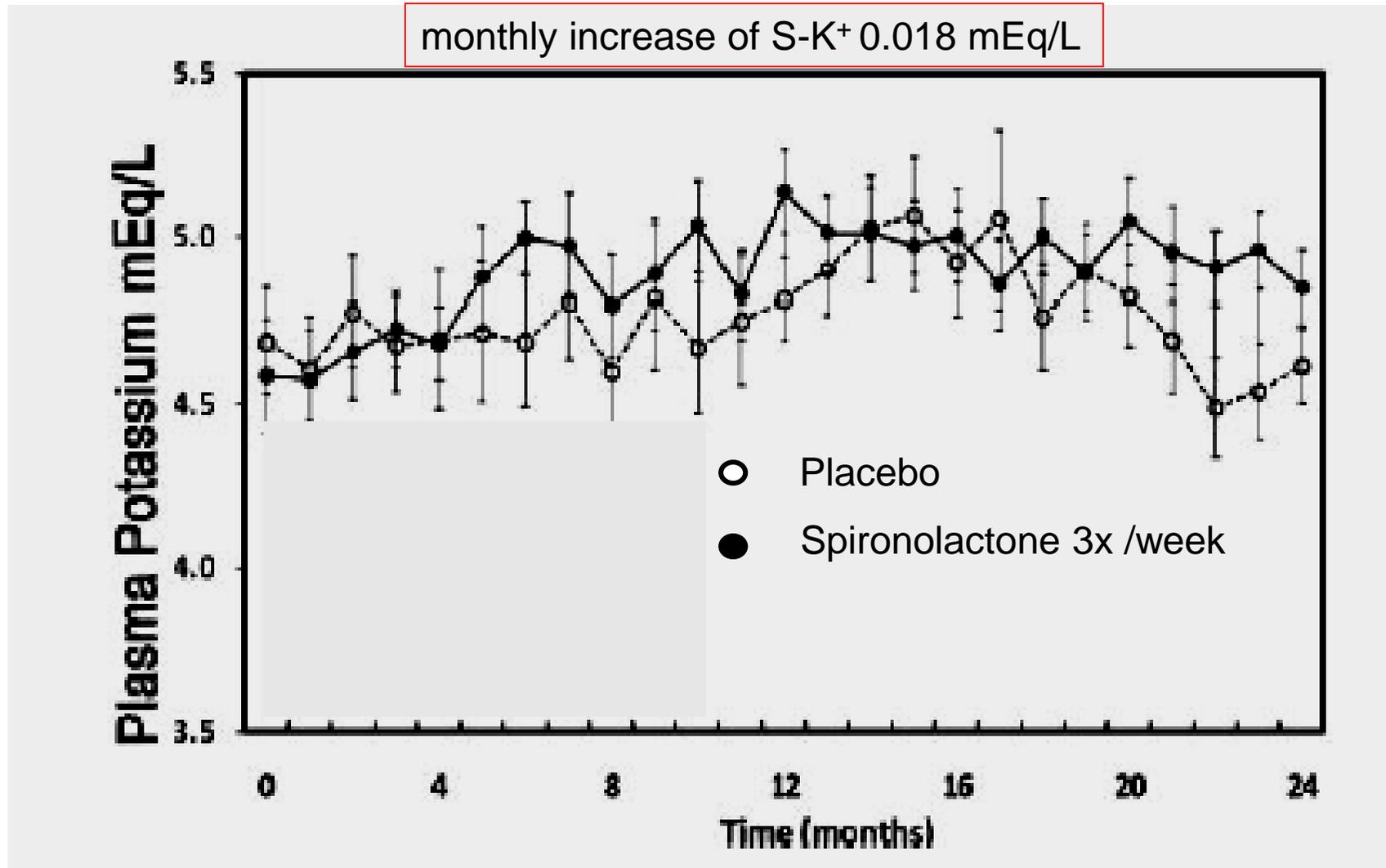


**50 mg Spironolactone lowers blood pressure**  
**even in anuric (!) hemodialysis patients**  
*without significant change of S-K<sup>+</sup>*

*Blood pressure : Spironolactone 142→131 mmHg*  
*Placebo 146→142 mmHg*



# Spironolactone 50mg 3x / week : impact on predialytic S-K<sup>+</sup> in **hemodialysed** patients



# Renal aspirin: will all patients with chronic kidney disease one day take spironolactone?

Andrew S Bomback\*, Abhijit V Kshirsagar and Philip J Klemmer

Nature Clin.Practice Nephrol. (2009) 5: 74

**Proposal appears rational :**

*but in view of experimental and scarce controlled clinical data  
better documentation of safety is still necessary*

# Aldosteron

*in renal patients :  
primary treatment target  
kidney*

*but in renal patients  
also treatment targets of Aldosterone  
beyond the kidney*

**Patients with modest reduction of eGFR :**  
**cardiovascular mortality correlated to plasma aldosterone**  
(LURIC study)

*3,153 patients, age  $62.7 \pm 10.6$  years, no primary kidney disease  
follow-up 7.75 years*

Pat. with eGFR < 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>

**cardiovascular mortality**

**HR 1.08**

(95%CI 1.02-1.13)

*p=0.004*

**“sudden death“**

**HR 1.18**

(95%CI 1.08-1.29)

*p=0.001*

higher P-aldosterone  
aggravates CV risk  
even in CKD patients

eGFR > 60 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>

higher aldosterone : CV events not significantly higher

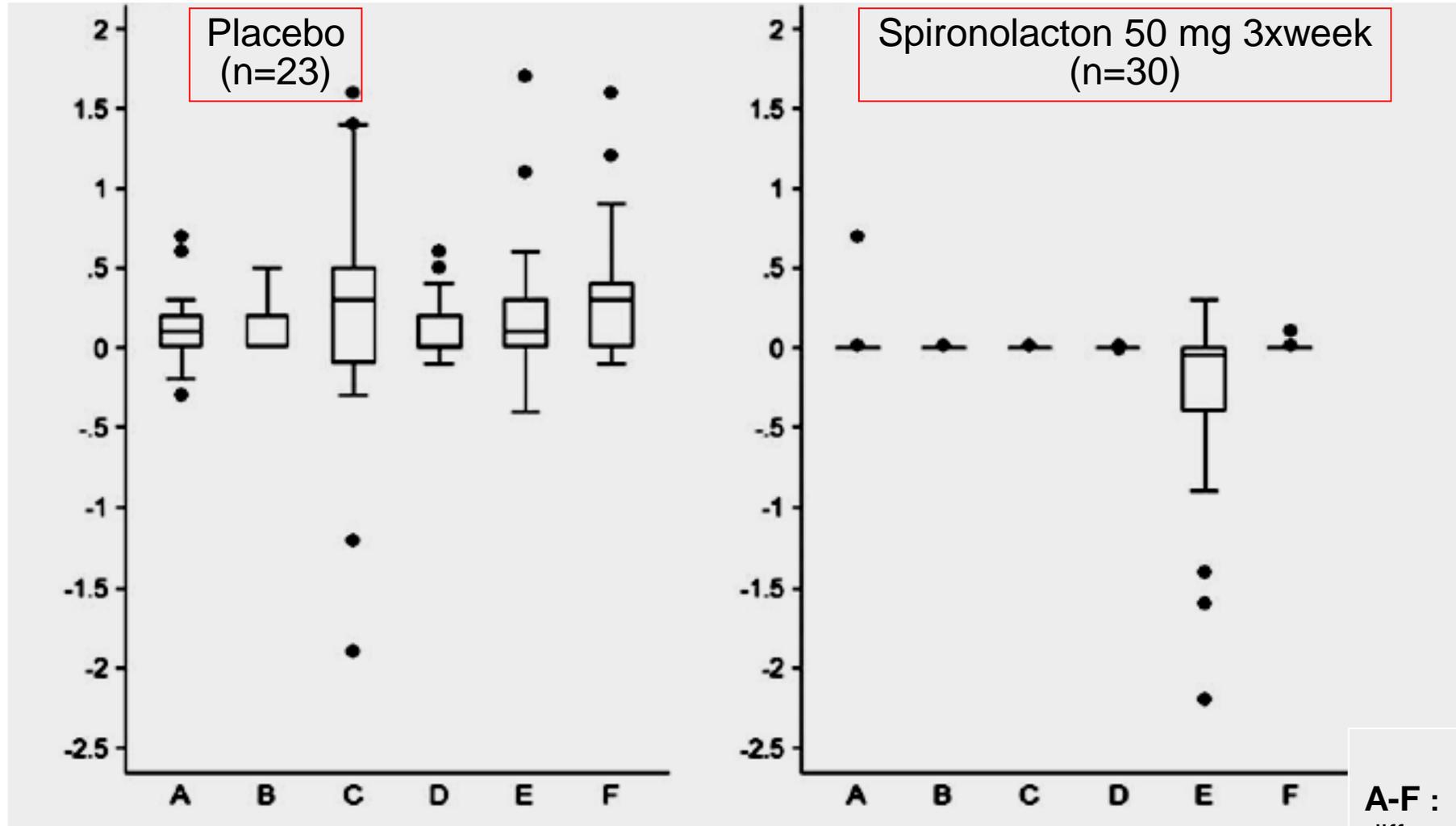
*Tomaschitz, AJKD (2011) 57:403*

# Spirolacton :

## less thickening of **carotid**- intima/media in hemodialysis-patients

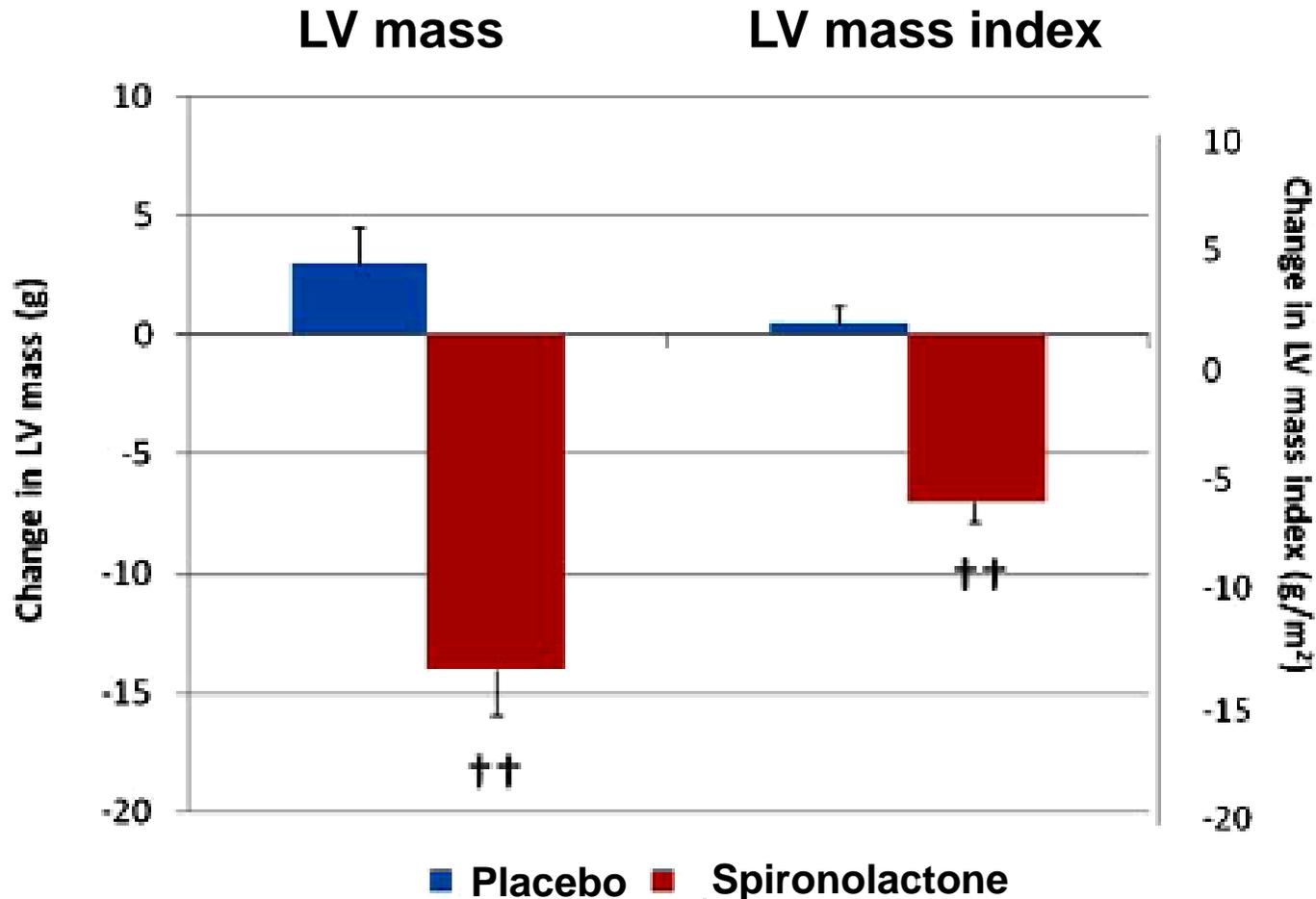
*randomised doubleblind Placebo-controlled study*

$\Delta$  IMT (mm)  
after 2 years



# Spironolactone reduces LVM in patients with CKD 2-3

112 pat. CKD 2,3 and *ABPM* < 130/85 mmHg on *RAS blockade*  
Spironolactone 25 mg/day or Placebo

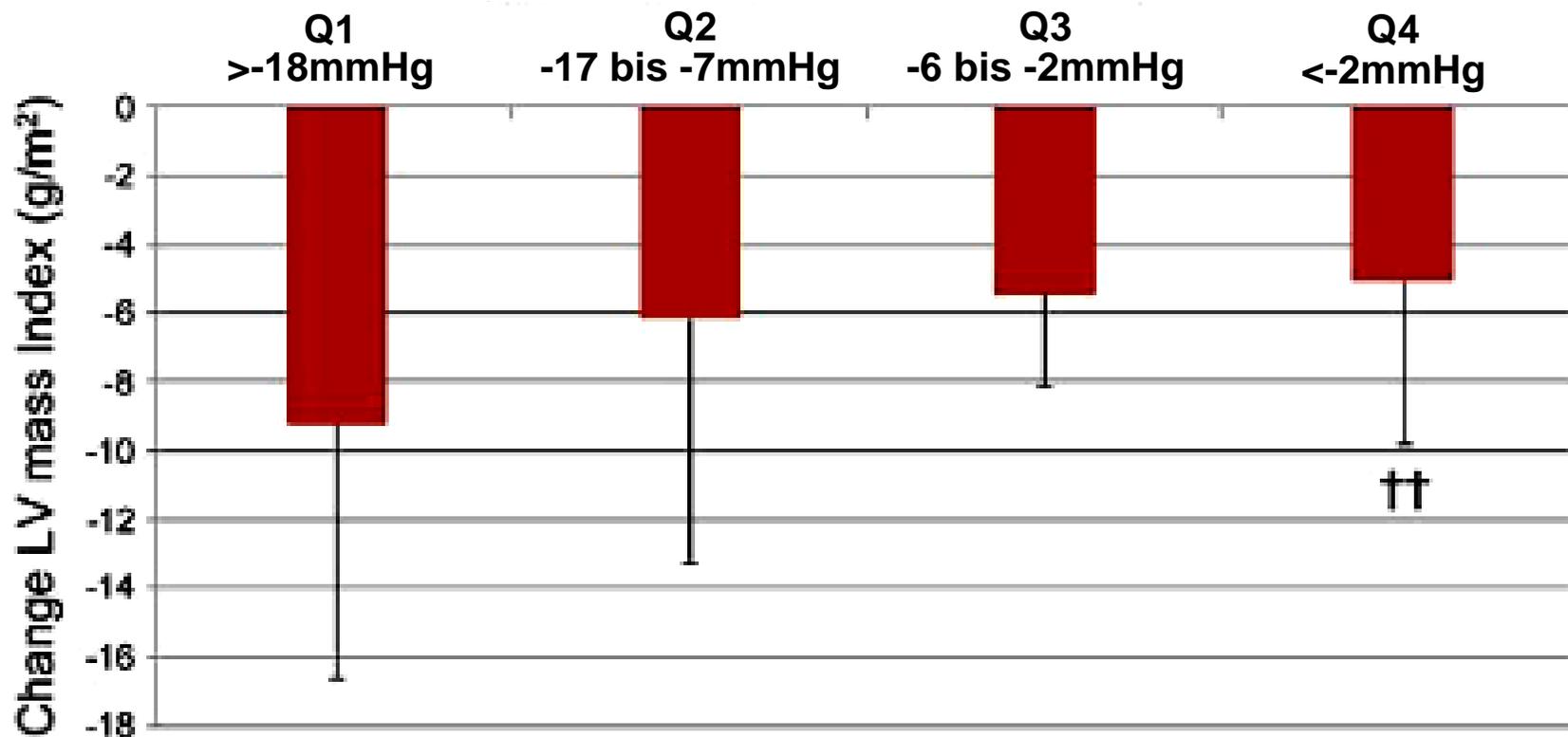


*Edwards, J.Am.Coll.Cardiol.(2009) 54: 505*

# Spironolactone reduces **LVM** in patients with CKD 2-3 – in all quartiles of central blood pressure changes

112 pat. CKD 2,3 and daytime ABPM < 130/85 mmHg on RAS blockade  
addition of Spironolactone 25 mg/day or Placebo

## Quartiles of reduction of central blood pressure



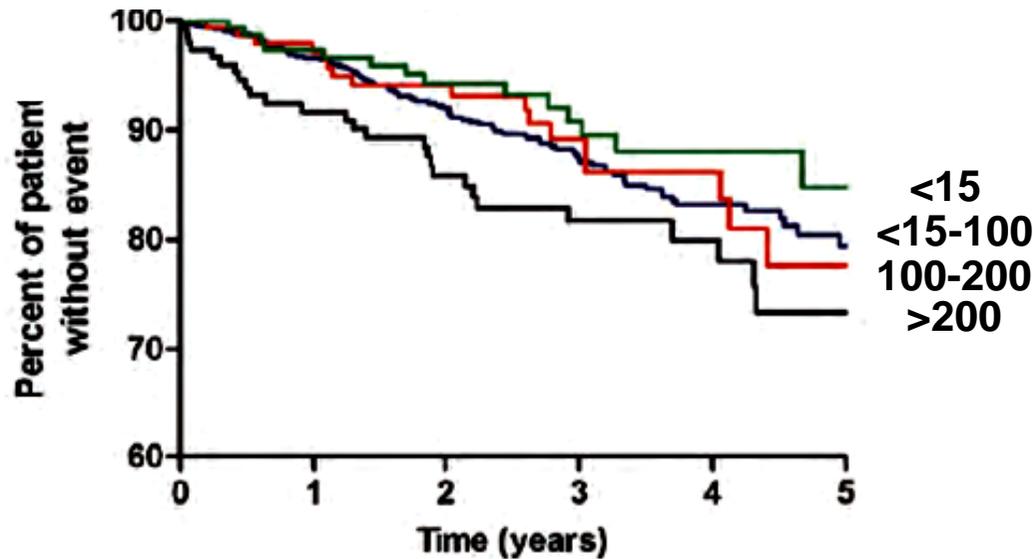
# Plasma aldosterone **plus** cortisol

Interaction :

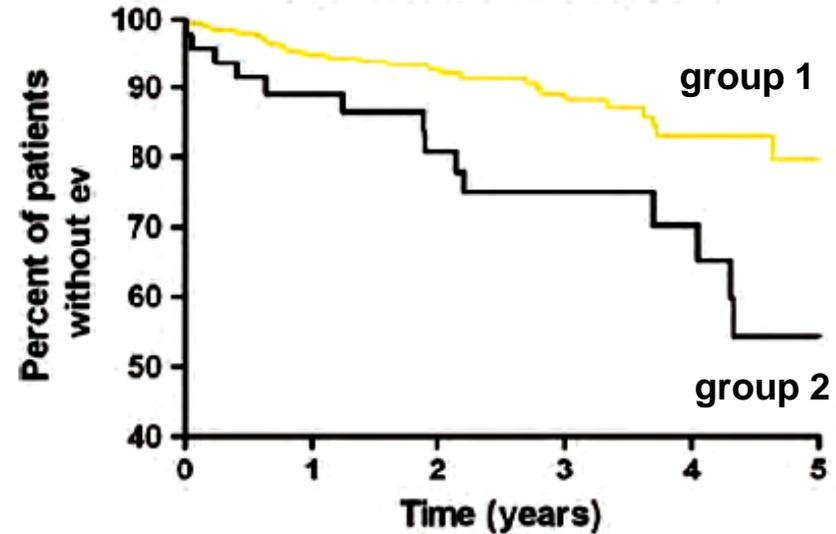
**increased risk of *sudden death* in type 2 diabetics on *hemodialysis***  
(4D study)

Drechsler , *Eur.Heart J.*,(2013) 34:578

Aldosterone  
(pg/ml)

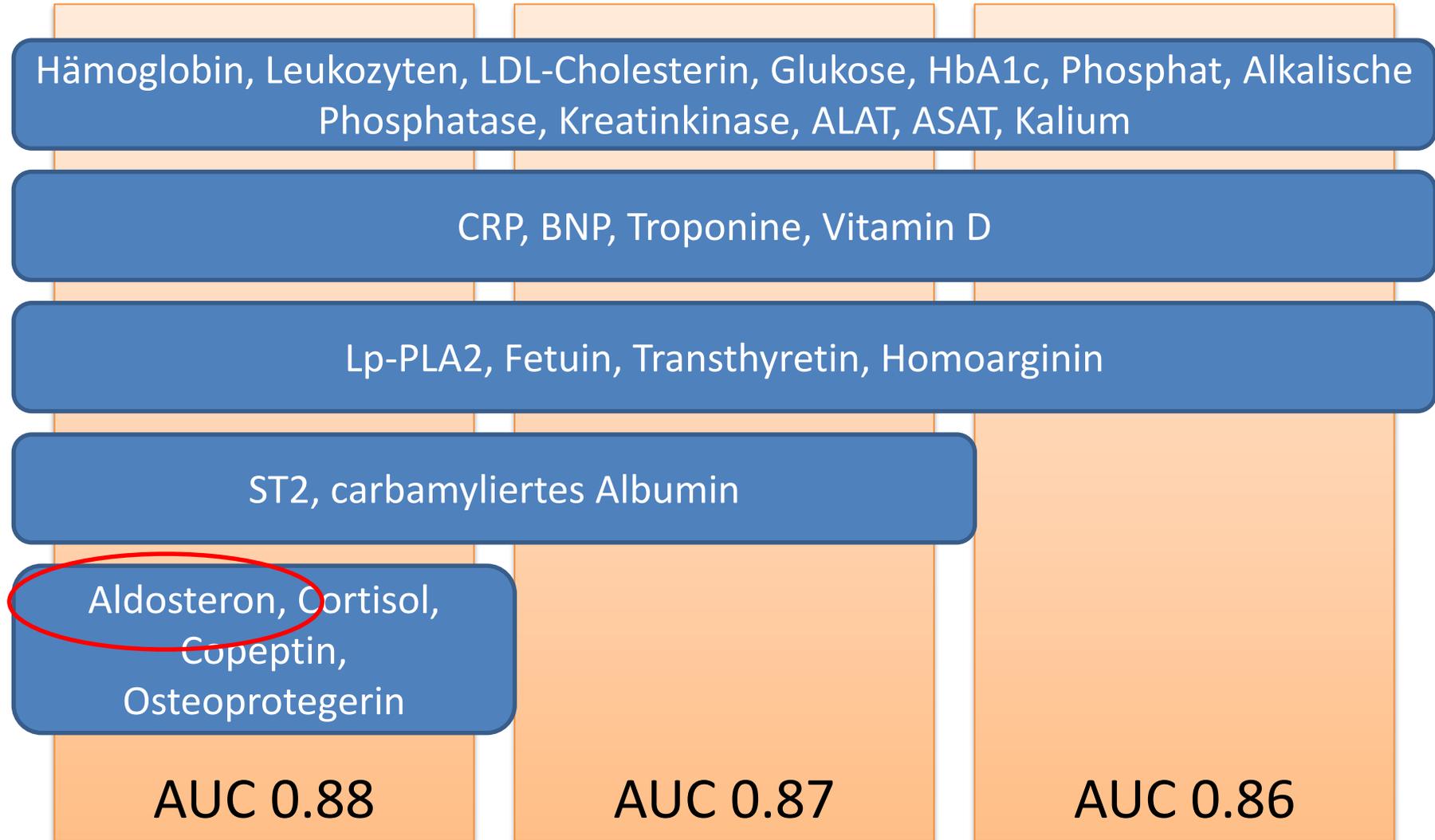


high Aldosterone plus high Cortisol  
particularly high CV risk



group 1 : Aldosteron < 15 pg/ml; Cortisol < 13.2 mg/dl  
group 2 : Aldosteron > 200 pg/ml; Cortisol > 21.1 µg/dL

**Aldosterone** (*in the normal range*)  
one of the factors **predicting** 1 year **mortality**  
(*4D study, hemodialysed diabetic patients*)



*courtesy Prof. Maerz*

***New consideration !***

**Spirolactone :**  
***Prevention of **vascular calcification** in early renal failure ?***

in smooth muscle cells of the human aorta :

**Aldosterone increases :**

**phosphate transporter **PiT-1****, as well as TnF $\alpha$ , Cbfa1/Runx2, alkal.phosphatase

⇒ vascular calcification

this is prevented by :

**Spirolactone**

*Voelkl et al,*

Spirolactone ameliorates PIT1-dependent vascular osteoinduction in klotho -/- mice  
*J.Clin.Invest .(2013) 123. 812*

*Lang,Ritz,Voelkl,Alesutan*

***Vascular calcification – is aldosterone the culprit ?***

*Nephrol.Dial.Transplant. (2013) 28:1080*

# Aldosterone synthase inhibition in humans

Michel Azizi<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Laurence Amar<sup>1,2,3</sup> and Joël Menard<sup>1,2,3</sup>

*Nephrol.Dial.Transplant.(2013) 28:36*

Inhibition of Aldosterone effects:

# *not only with **Spironolactone**,*

*but also with*

# *aldosterone **synthase inhibitors***

*or*

# ***nonsteroidal receptor antagonists***

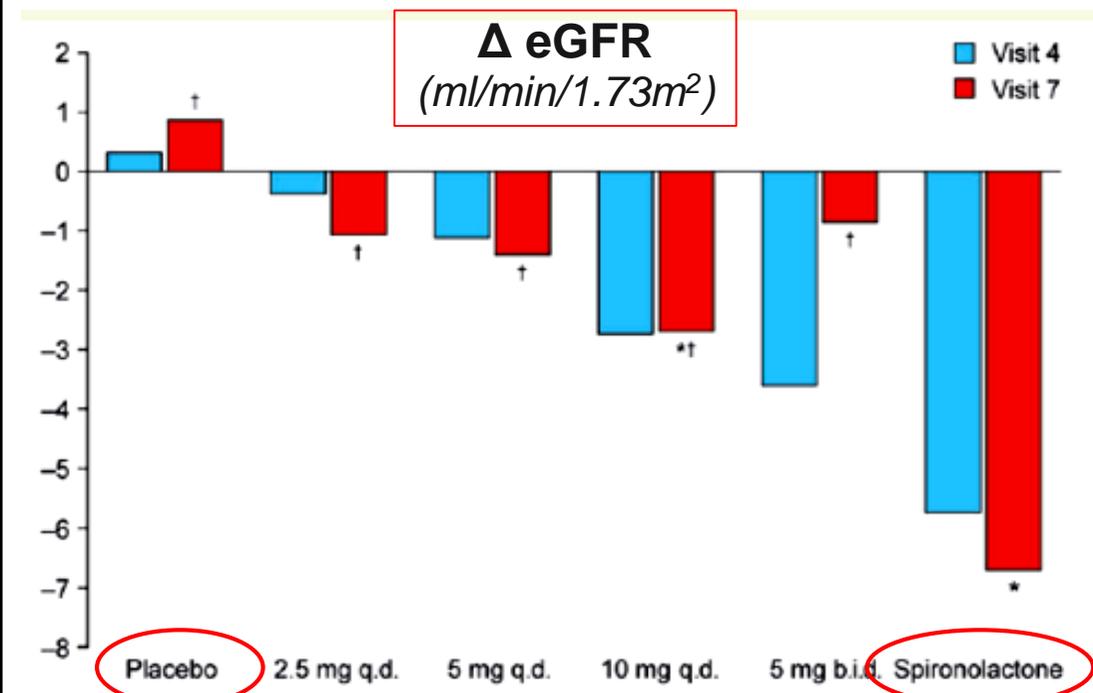
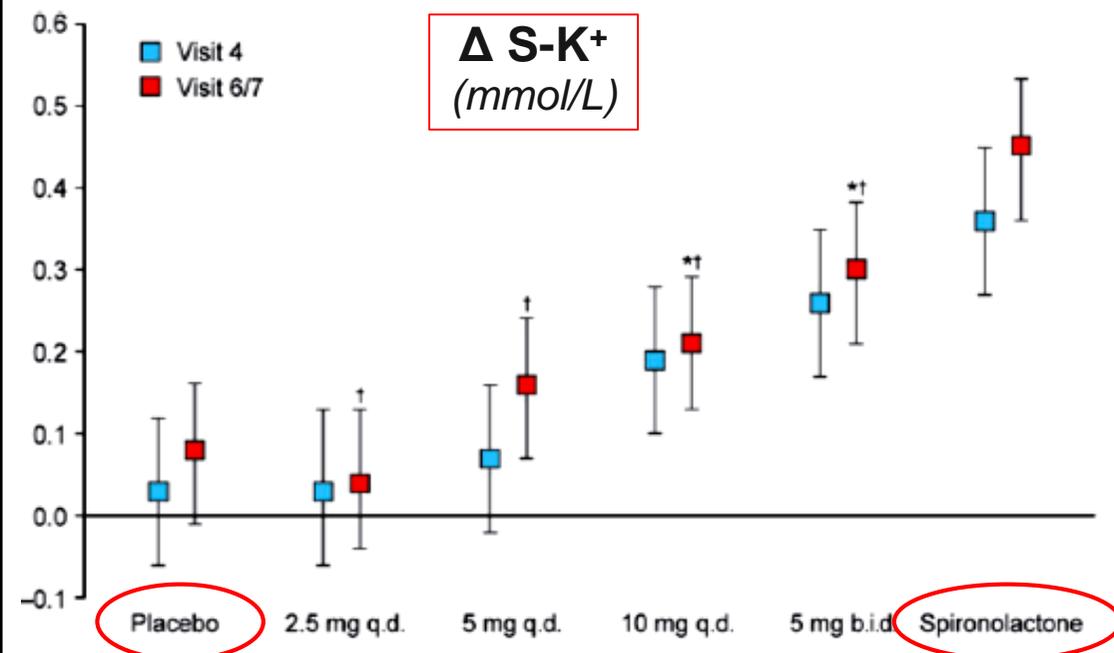
# Discovery of BAY 94-8862: A Nonsteroidal Antagonist of the Mineralocorticoid Receptor for the Treatment of Cardiorenal Diseases

*Bärfacker, Chem.Med.Chem.(2012) 7:1385*

**Safety ( $S-K^+$ ) and tolerability ( $\Delta eGFR$ ) of the novel nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist (*BAY94-8862*) in patients with heart failure**

*note: also more moderate reduction of eGFR (perhaps reversal of hyperfiltration)*

*Pitt, Eur.Heart J. (2013) 34:2453*



# What did he say ?

## *new insights into the role of aldosterone in kidney damage :*

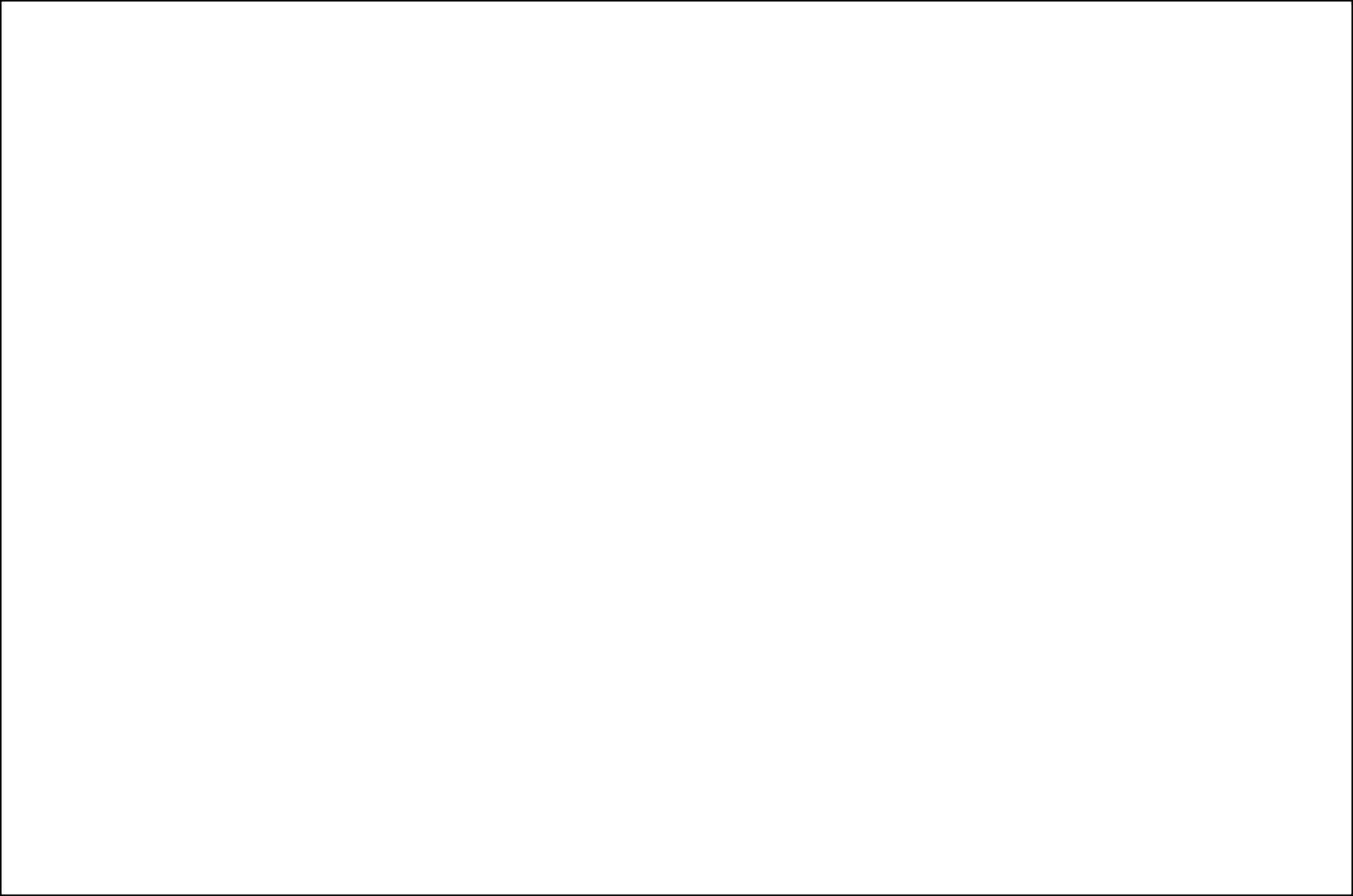
- # renal damage caused **not only** via **systemic** aldosterone ,  
but also via **local aldosterone production**
- # aldosterone : crucial role in the “**escape** phenomenon“ of kidney disease  
*(incl.secondary increase of proteinuria)*
- # **aldosterone** induced tissue **damage** is aggravated by **salt**
- # novel role of aldosterone in **vascular calcification**
- # **novel drugs** to block aldosterone effects  
*(nonsteroidal mineralocorticoid antagonists; mineralocorticoid receptor blockers)*



*Old bridge in Heidelberg*

*The aldosterone/kidney interaction  
has become a new frontier  
in nephrology*

**Thank you for your attention**



# Aldosterone “escape” during RAS Blockade

⇒ *higher risk of progression* (loss of GFR)

63 hypertensive patients; type 1 diabetes and diabetic nephropathy

Losartan 100 mg/day, 35 months follow-up

## p- Aldosterone concentration

increase 26 Pat. (57 → 102 pg/ml) – “escape”

decrease 37 Pat. (83 → 49 pg/ml)

## Decrease of GFR

aldosterone escape 5.0 ml/min/year (0.4-15.9)

no aldosterone escape 2.4 ml/min/year (-2-11.0)

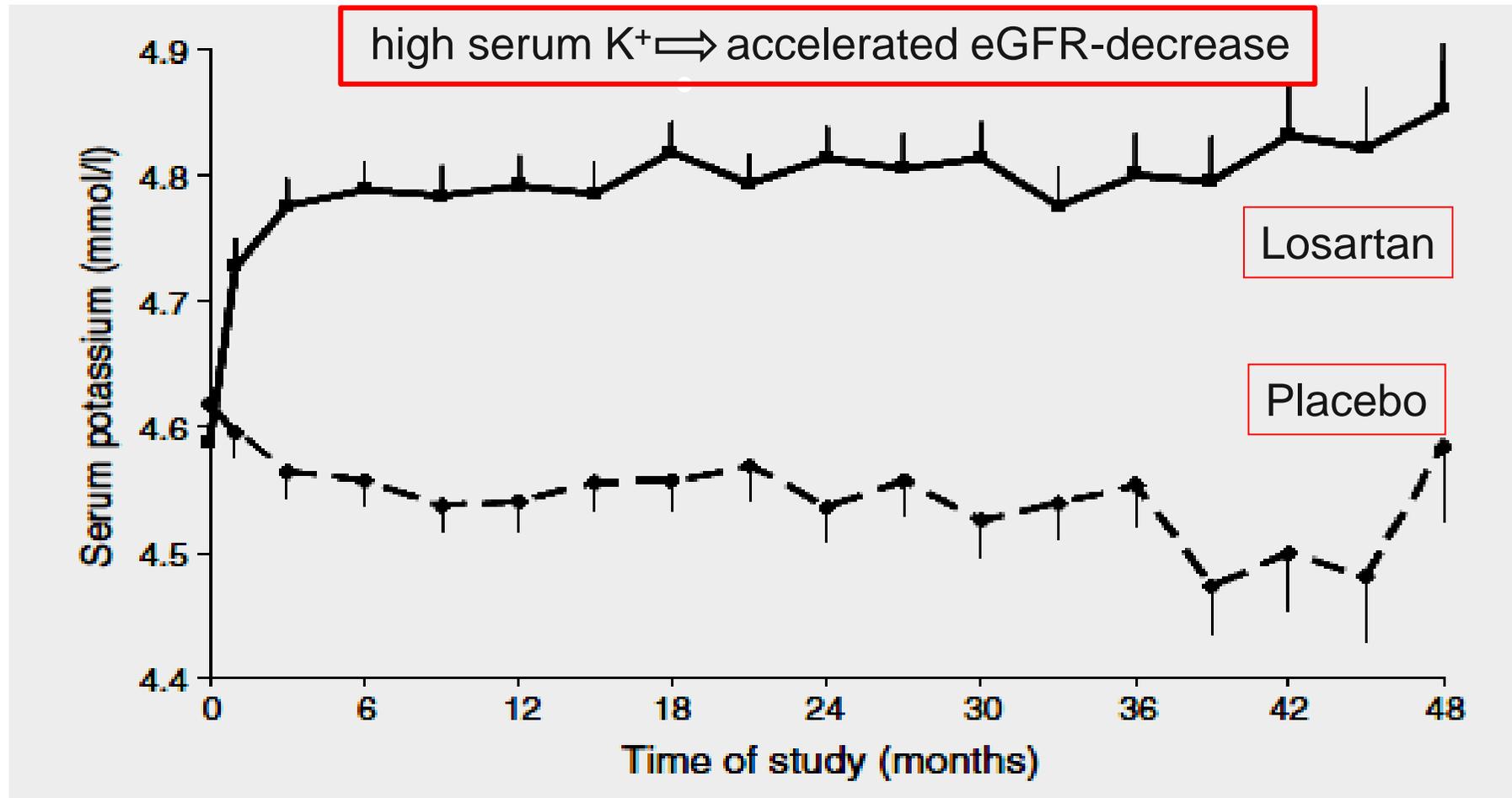
**Correlation** : *the higher aldosterone – the greater GFR loss*

$\Delta$  plasma-aldosterone  $\uparrow$  /  $\Delta$  GFR- decrease  $\downarrow$

*Schjoedt, Diabetologia (2004) 47:1936*

*Limiting side effect :  
increased plasma K<sup>+</sup> in patients with RAS blockade plus Aldosteron blockade*

## Losartan increases serum- K<sup>+</sup> in Type 2 diabetic patients with reduced renal function (RENAAL study)



*Miao, Diabetologia (2011) 54:44*

# **Spironolactone**

## ***in mild to moderate chronic kidney disease : safety and tolerability***

115 patients with non-diabetic early stage CKD  
(*eGFR 30-89 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>* )

Spironolactone 25 mg/day for 4 weeks,  
subsequently randomization to :  
# placebo or # continuing treatment for 36 weeks

serious hyperkalemia (>6mmol/L) was < 1%  
S-K<sup>+</sup> 5.5-5.9 mmol/L in 9 pat on Spironolactone

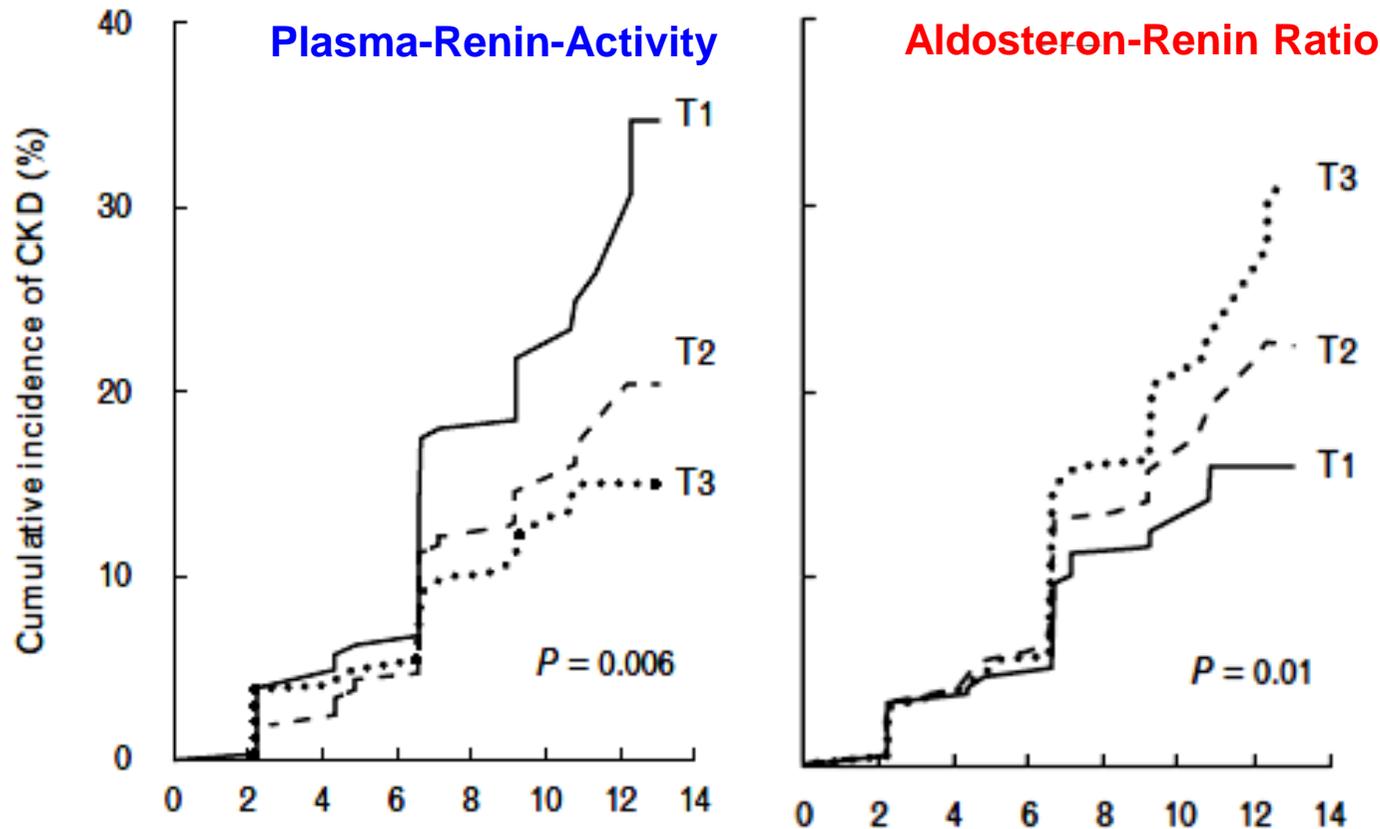


Spironolactone reasonably tolerated in selected patients  
with early stage CKD

# Plasma-Renin-Activity (PRA) and Aldosteron-Renin Ratio (ARR) : both correlated with new onset CKD

Ohasama study

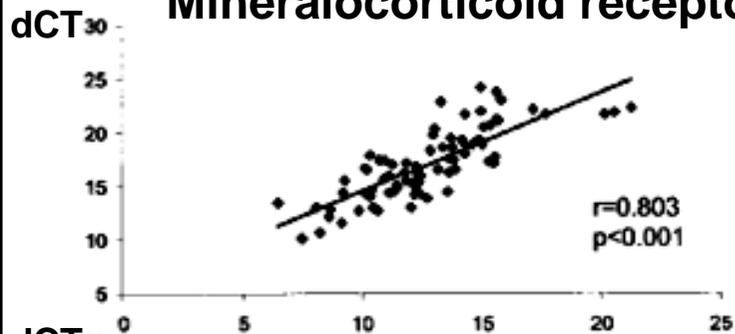
689 participants in Japanese population, mean age 58 years,  
no medication at start; of study; duration of study **9.1 years** :  
118 participants with new onset of CKD



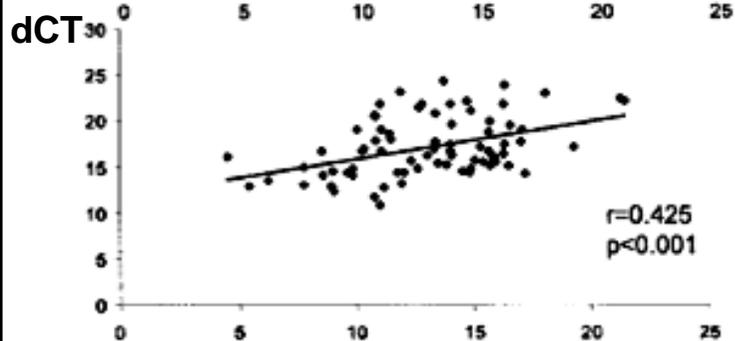
Kaplan-Meier survival-function for cumulative onset of CKD  
in tertiles of PRA and ARR

Terata, *J.Hypertens.* (2012) 30:1632

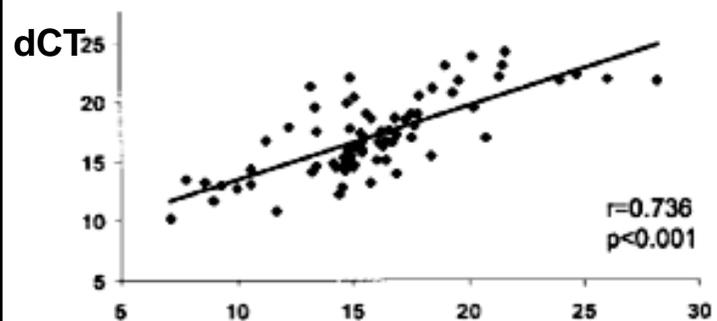
# Mineralocorticoid receptor mRNA



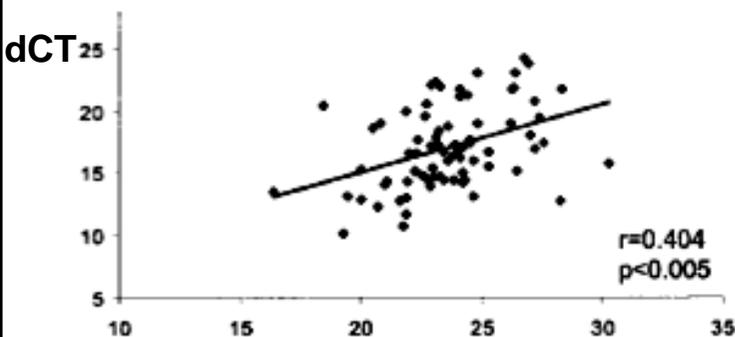
# **sgk-1**  
(serum-and  
glucocorticoid  
regulated kinase)



# **MCP-1**  
(monocyte  
chemoattractant  
protein-1)



# **TGFβ1**



# **Interleukin 6**

In renal biopsies  
**mineralocorticoid - receptor mRNA**

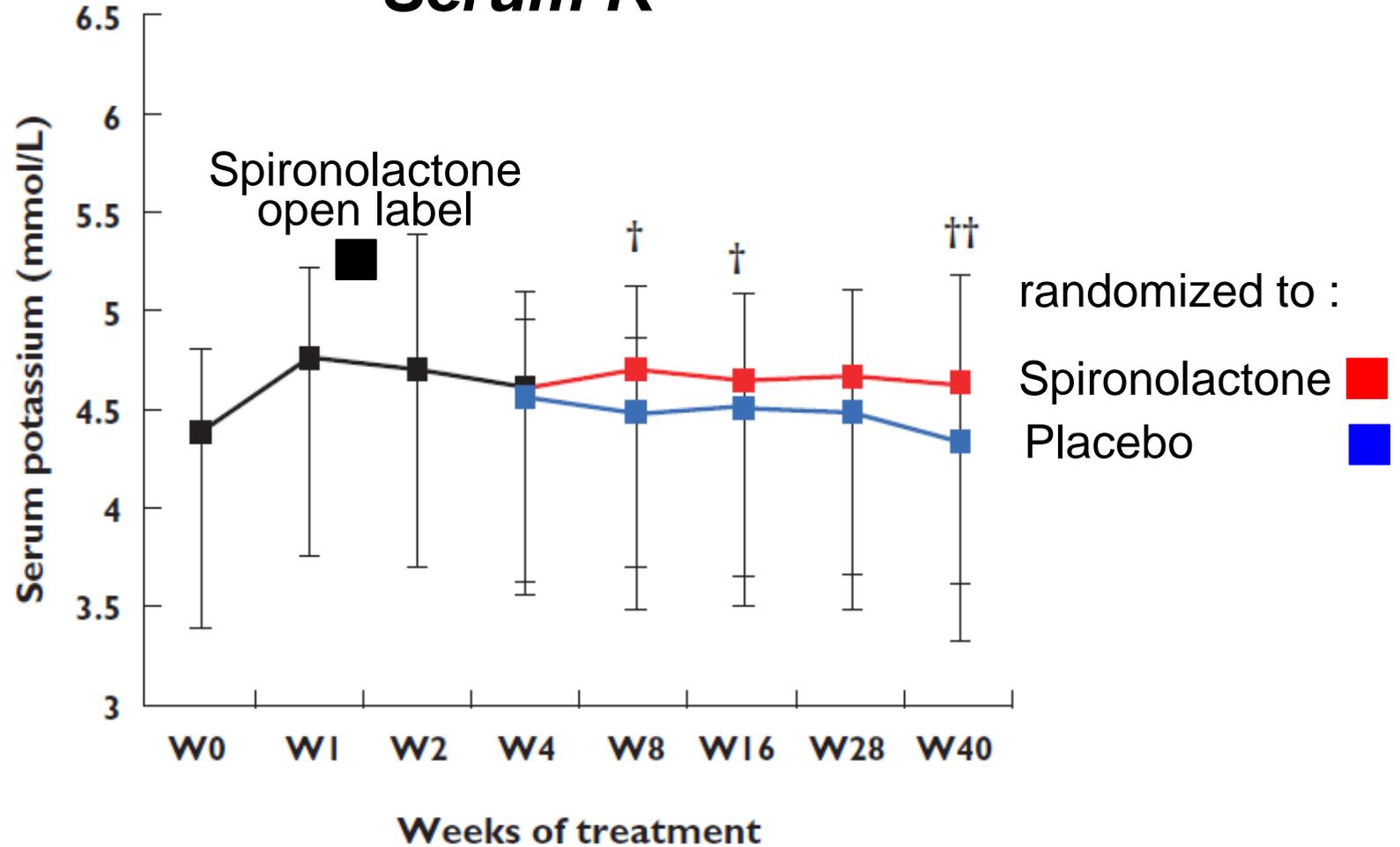
correlated with  
# **sgk-1**  
and with mRNA of  
# **mediators** of kidney injury  
(MCP-1; TGFβ1; interleukin 6)

Quinkler, *Circulation* (2005) 112:1435

numbers of necessary cycles (=low concentration – higher number of cycles necessary)

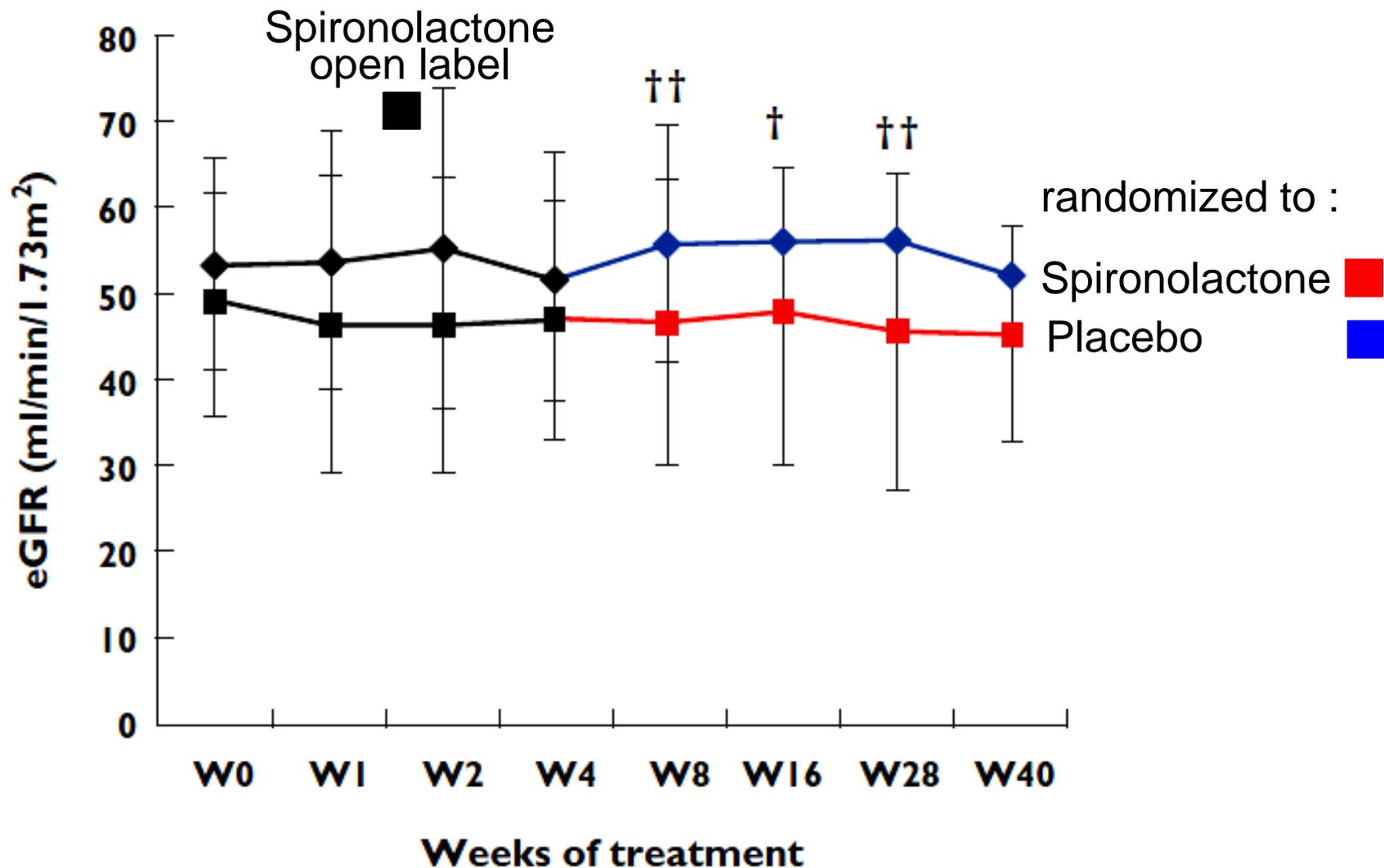
# Spirolactone in mild to moderate chronic kidney disease on top of ACEi or ARB

## Serum $K^+$



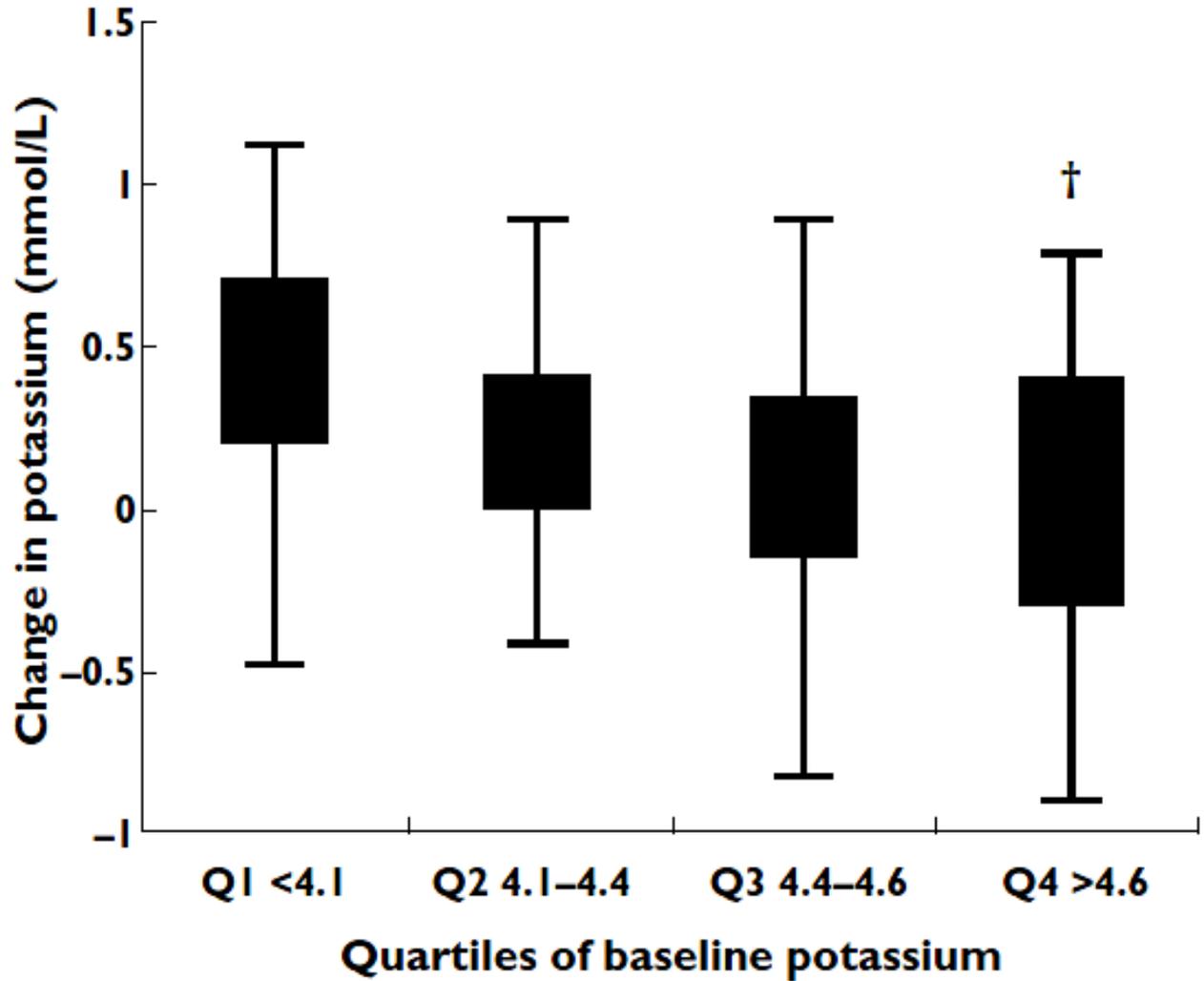
Edwards, *Brit.J.Clin.Pharmacol.*(2012) 73:447

# Spironolactone in mild to moderate chronic kidney disease on top of ACEi or ARB *eGFR*



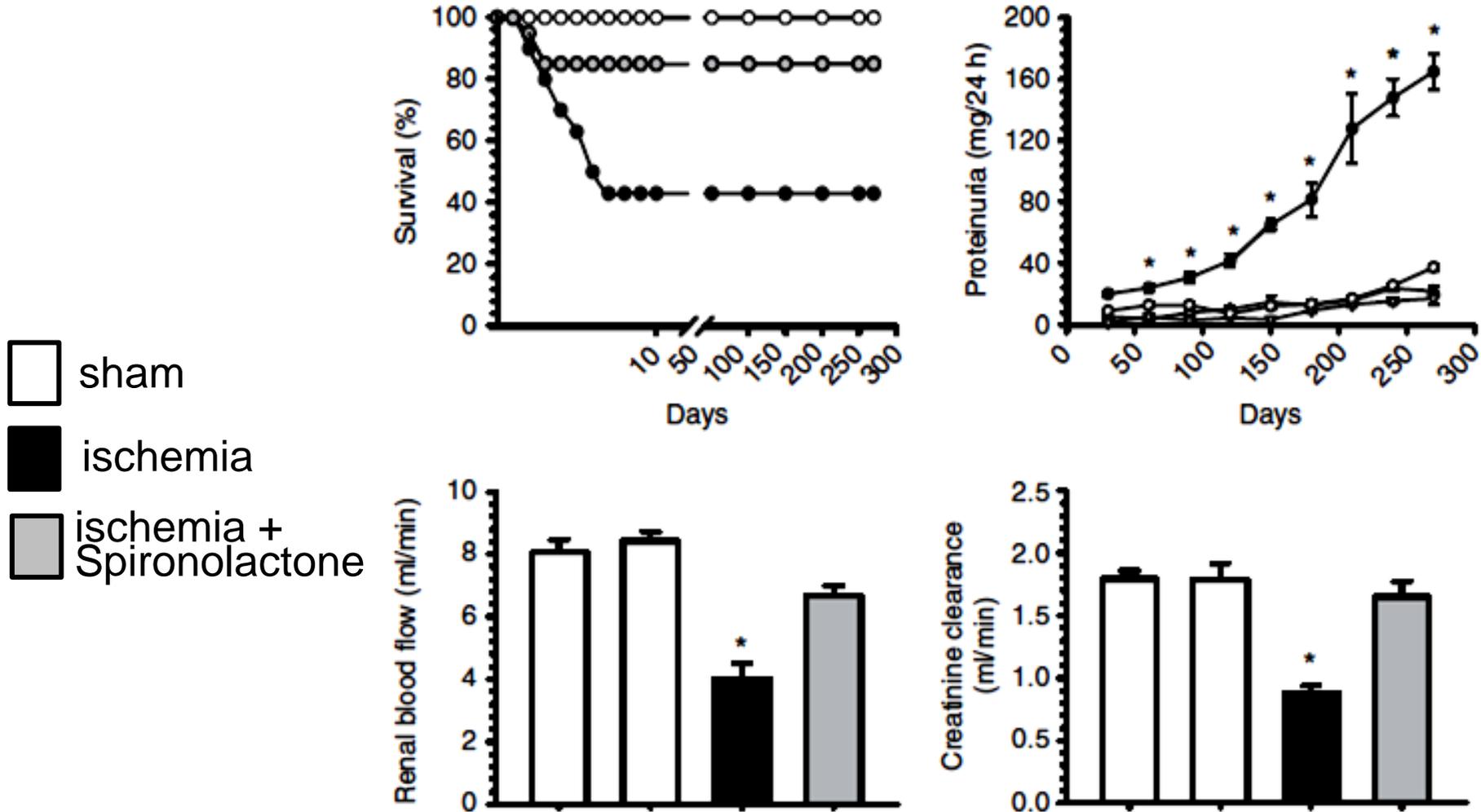
Edwards, *Brit.J.Clin.Pharmacol.*(2012) 73:447

# **Spirolactone in mild to moderate chronic kidney disease** *change in S-K<sup>+</sup> according to baseline S-K<sup>+</sup>*



*Edwards, Brit.J.Clin.Pharmacol.(2012) 73:447*

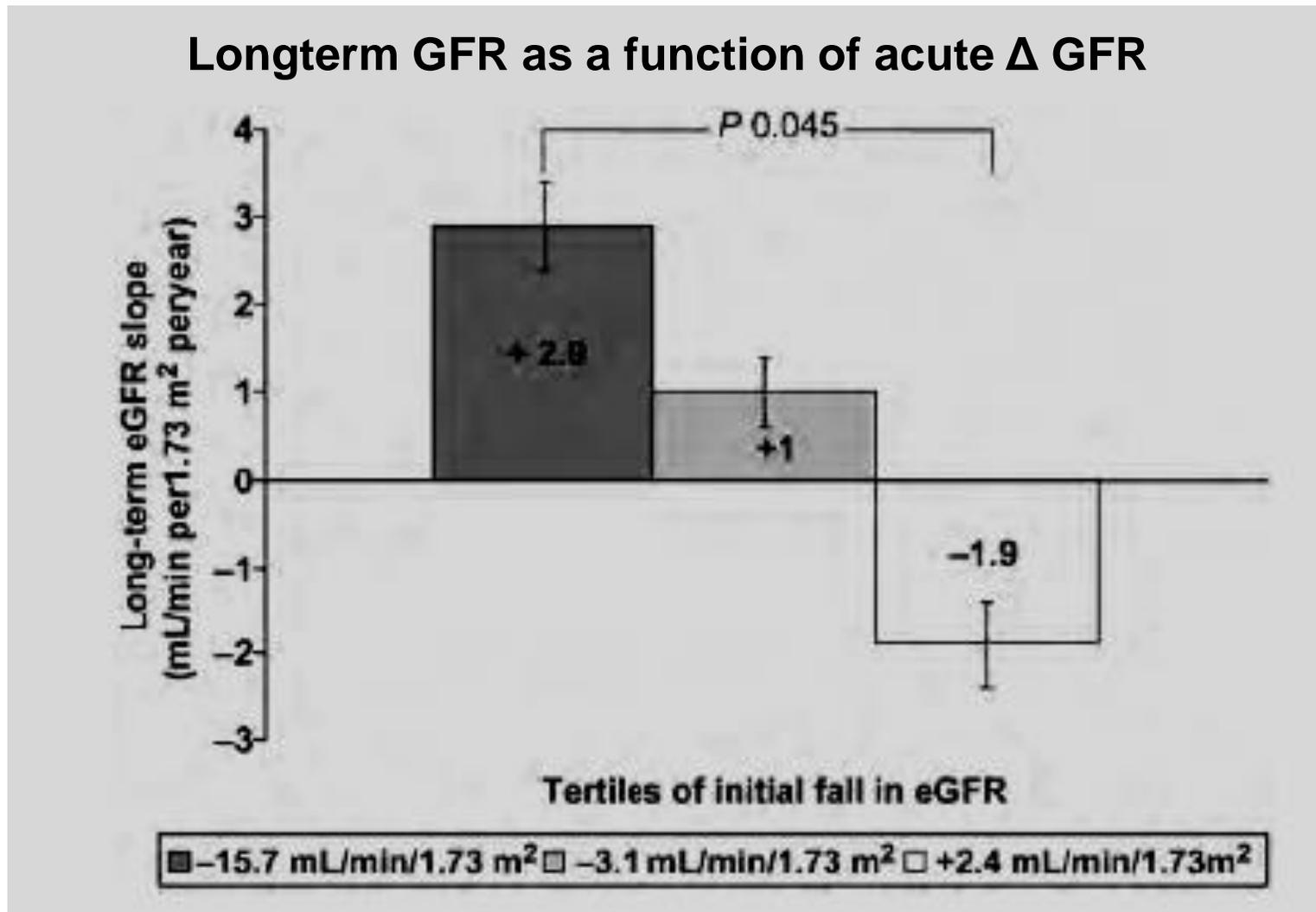
# Acute kidney injury *prevented by Spironolactone in rats*



# Spironolactone (25 mg/day)

Renoprotection in 87 patients with proteinuric kidney disease (>1g/day)  
follow-up 25 months

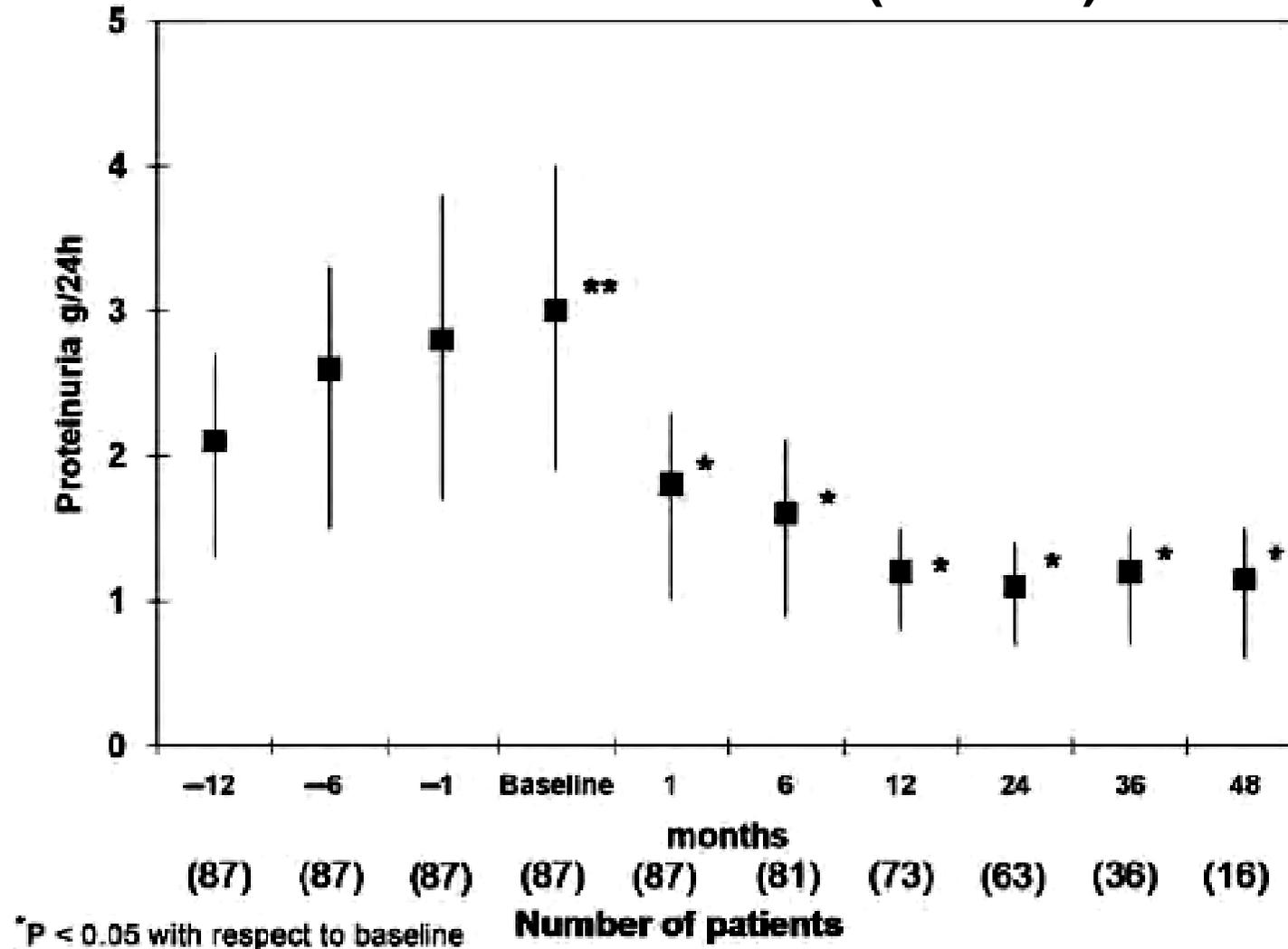
the higher the initial eGFR fall, the better longterm evolution of eGFR



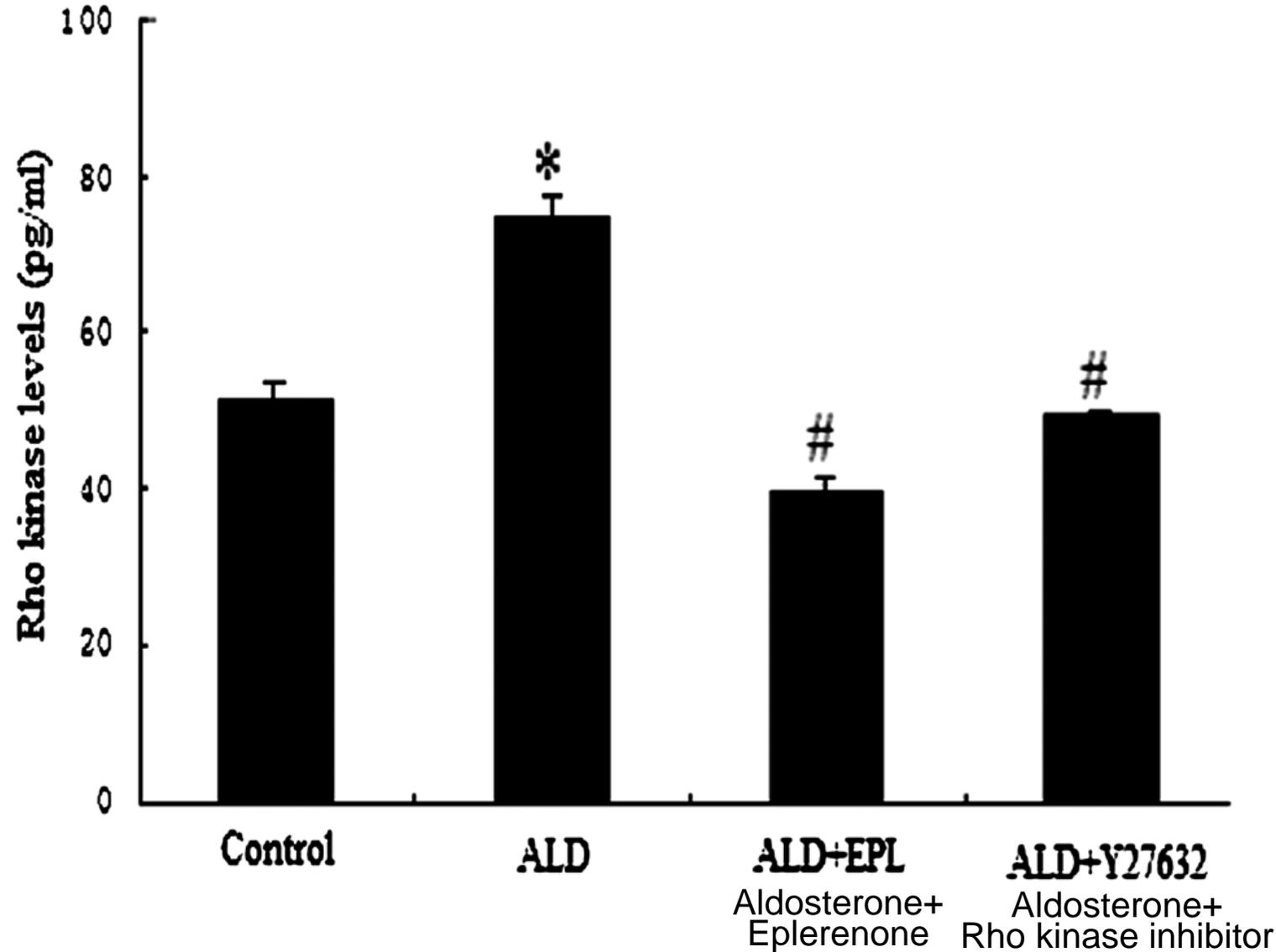
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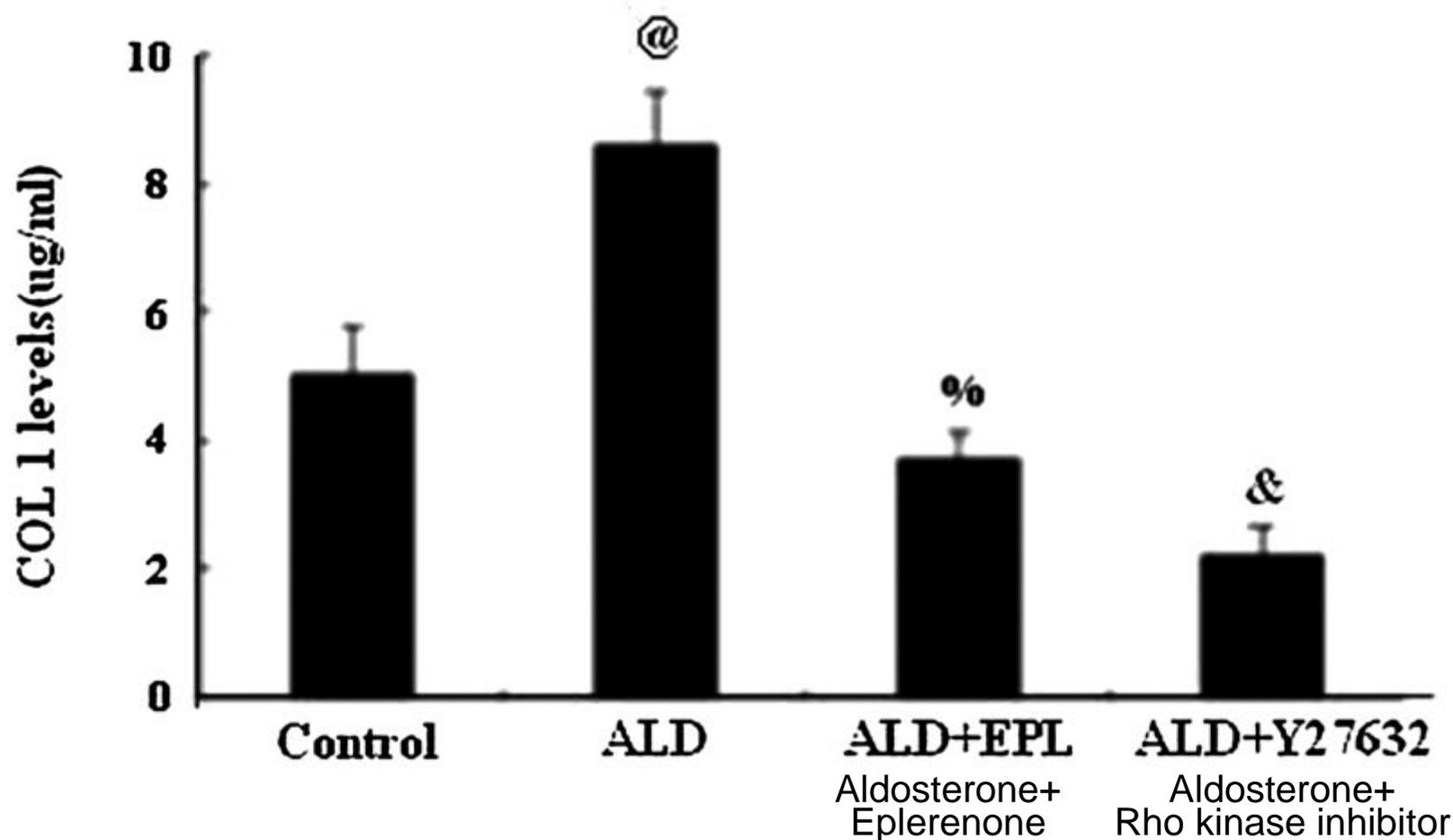
Proteinuria – 61% (43-77%)



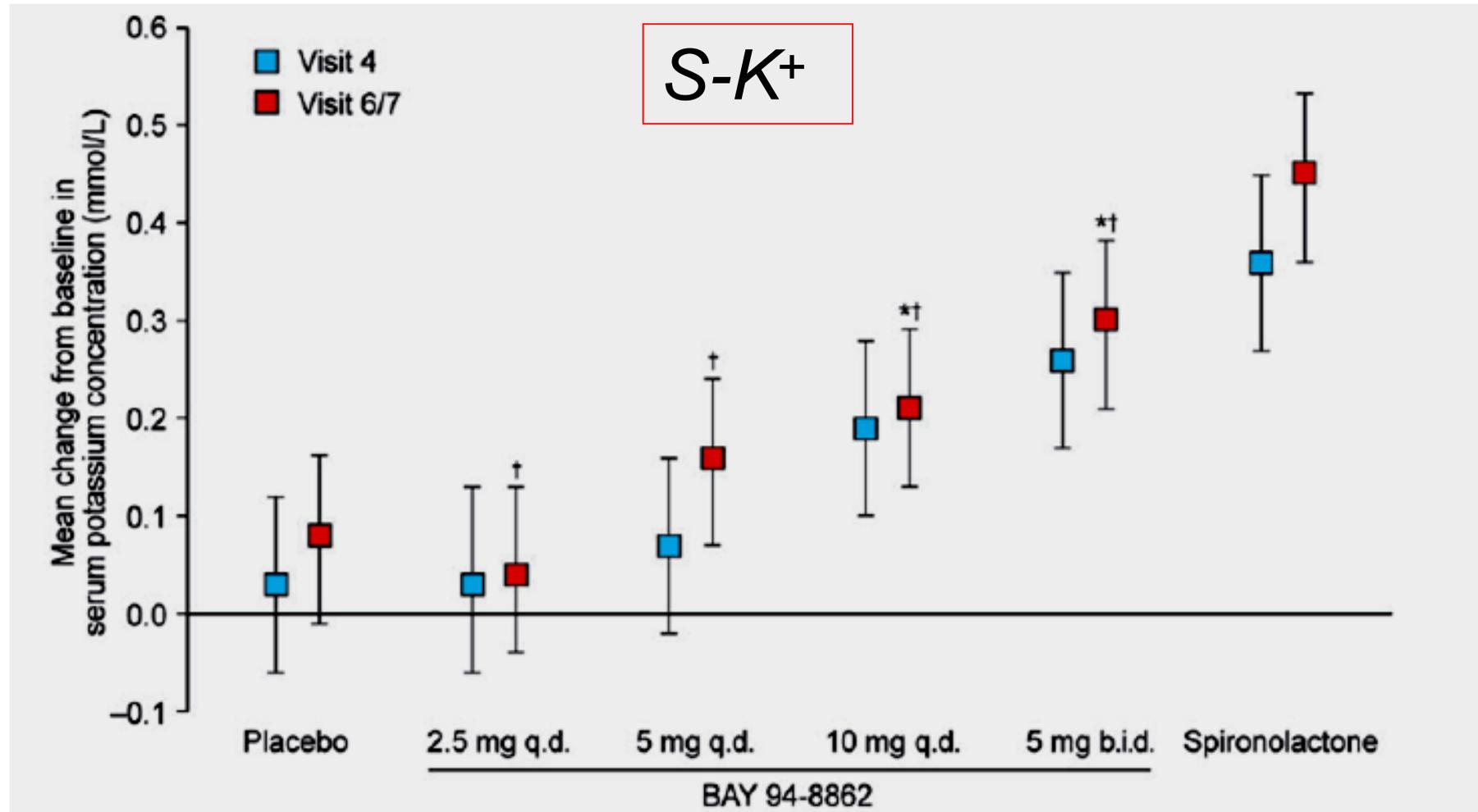
# The role of Rho-kinase pathway for profibrotic differentiation of renal epithelial cells by EMT (*epithelial-mesenchymal transition*)



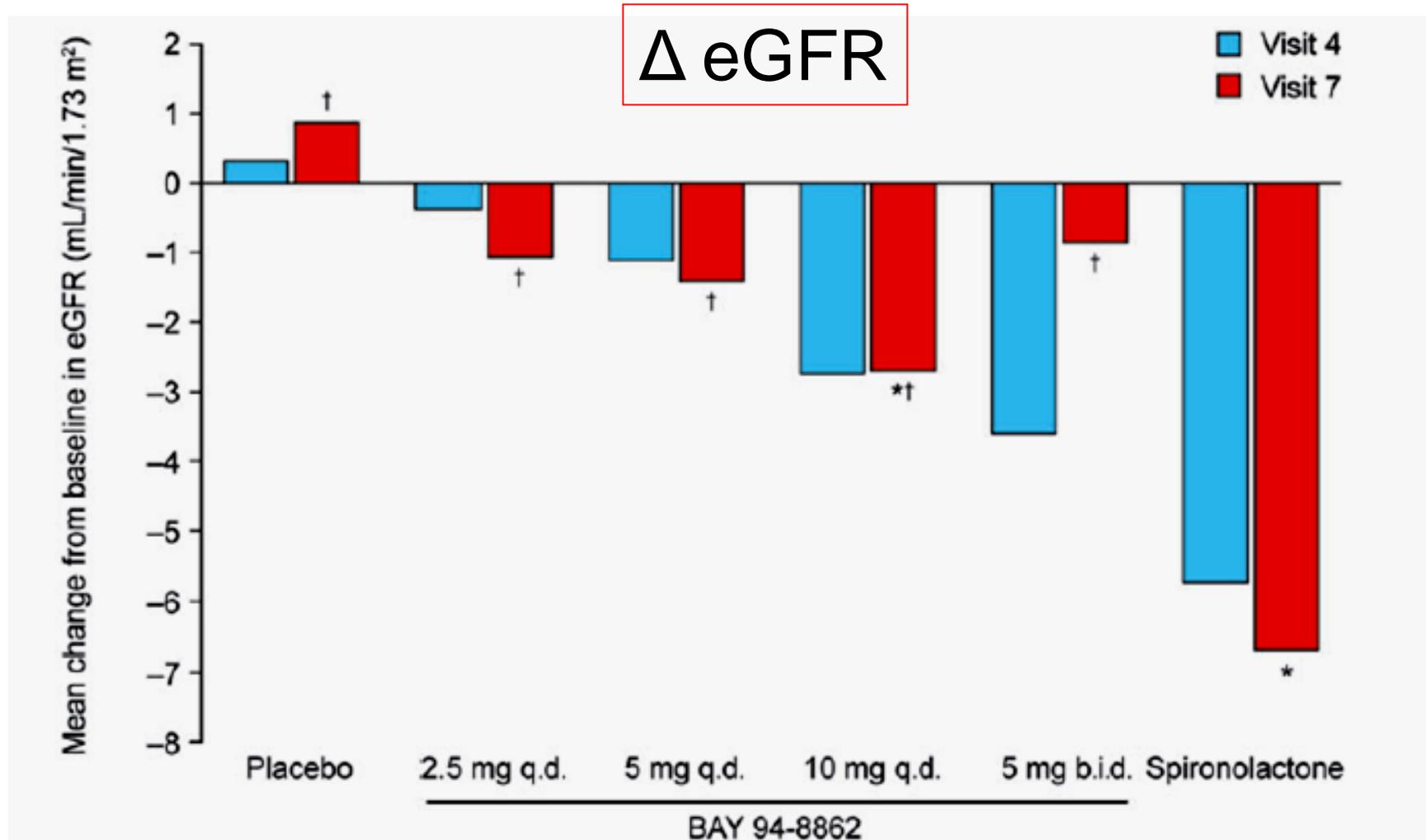
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# The novel non-steroidal mineral receptor antagonist **BAY 94-8862** in patients with chronic heart failure and mild/moderate CKD



# The novel non-steroidal mineral receptor antagonist **BAY 94-8862** in patients with chronic heart failure and mild/moderate CKD



*Pitt, Eur.Heart J.(2013) 34:2453*

# **Spirolactone + ACE inhibitors or ARB in chronic glomerular disease**

221 patients with chronic glomerular disease

Spirolactone 20 mg/day on top of ACEi or ARB

proteinuria, S-creatinine, S-K<sup>+</sup>, plasma aldosterone, BP

4 weekly for 16 weeks :

significant reduction of proteinuria,

no significant differences :

eGFR, S-K<sup>+</sup> , plasma aldosterone and BP

*Wang, Exp. Ther. Med. (2013) 6:1527*

# S-K<sup>+</sup> with RAS blockade and with Spironolactone in diabetic nephropathy

Blinded, 3 arm, placebo controlled clinical trial  
80 participants with diabetic nephropathy  
randomized to :

Spironolactone (25mg/d), to Losartan (100mg/d) or Placebo  
VII 2003-XII 2006

S-K<sup>+</sup> (mEq/L)  
on Spironolactone 5.0;  
on Losartan 4.7;  
on Placebo 4.5

despite similar renal Na<sup>+</sup> and K<sup>+</sup> excretion

⇒ Role of extrarenal K<sup>+</sup> homeostasis

*van Buren, CJASN (2014) 9:205*

# Safety of Mineralocorticoid Receptor Antagonists in Patients Receiving Hemodialysis

- in studies with Spironolactone doses ranging from 25mg 3 times/week after dialysis to 300 mg/day ... have shown little increases in serum K<sup>+</sup> particularly with the lower doses.
- the literature base is limited by methodological weaknesses, low patient numbers, short follow-up and lack of blinded control group.
- Mineralocorticoid receptor antagonists may be used safely in patients with ESRD receiving hemodialysis, although additional large controlled trials are needed before definitive treatment recommendations can be made

*Baker, Annals Pharmacotherapy (2012) 46:889*

# **Beneficial impact of Spironolactone on nephrotic range proteinuria in diabetic nephropathy**

20 Caucasian diabetic patients with nephrotic range proteinuria (>2500 mg/d) despite recommended antihypertensive treatment (incl. ACEi or ARB)

in random order on top of Rx :

Spironolactone 25 mg/day or placebo for 2 months

Spironolactone : reduction of albuminuria 32% (CI 21-42%)  
from 3718 (2910-4749) mg/24h on placebo

*Schjoedt, Kidn.Internat.(2006) 70:536*

# **Spironolactone diminishes albuminuria in type 1 diabetics with microalbuminuria**

*(double-blind, randomized placebo-controlled crossover trial)*

21 type 1 diabetic patients with microalbuminuria  
25 mg or placebo once daily for 60 days  
on top of standard antihypertensive Rx

Spironolactone treatment :

# albuminuria reduced 60% (*range 21-80%*)  $p=0.01$

# no change in blood pressure

# GFR decrease from 78 to 71 ml/min/1.73m<sup>2</sup>  $p=0.003$

Rx well tolerated, but 2 patients S-K 5.7 mmol/L

*Nielsen, Diabet.Medicine (2012) 29:e184*

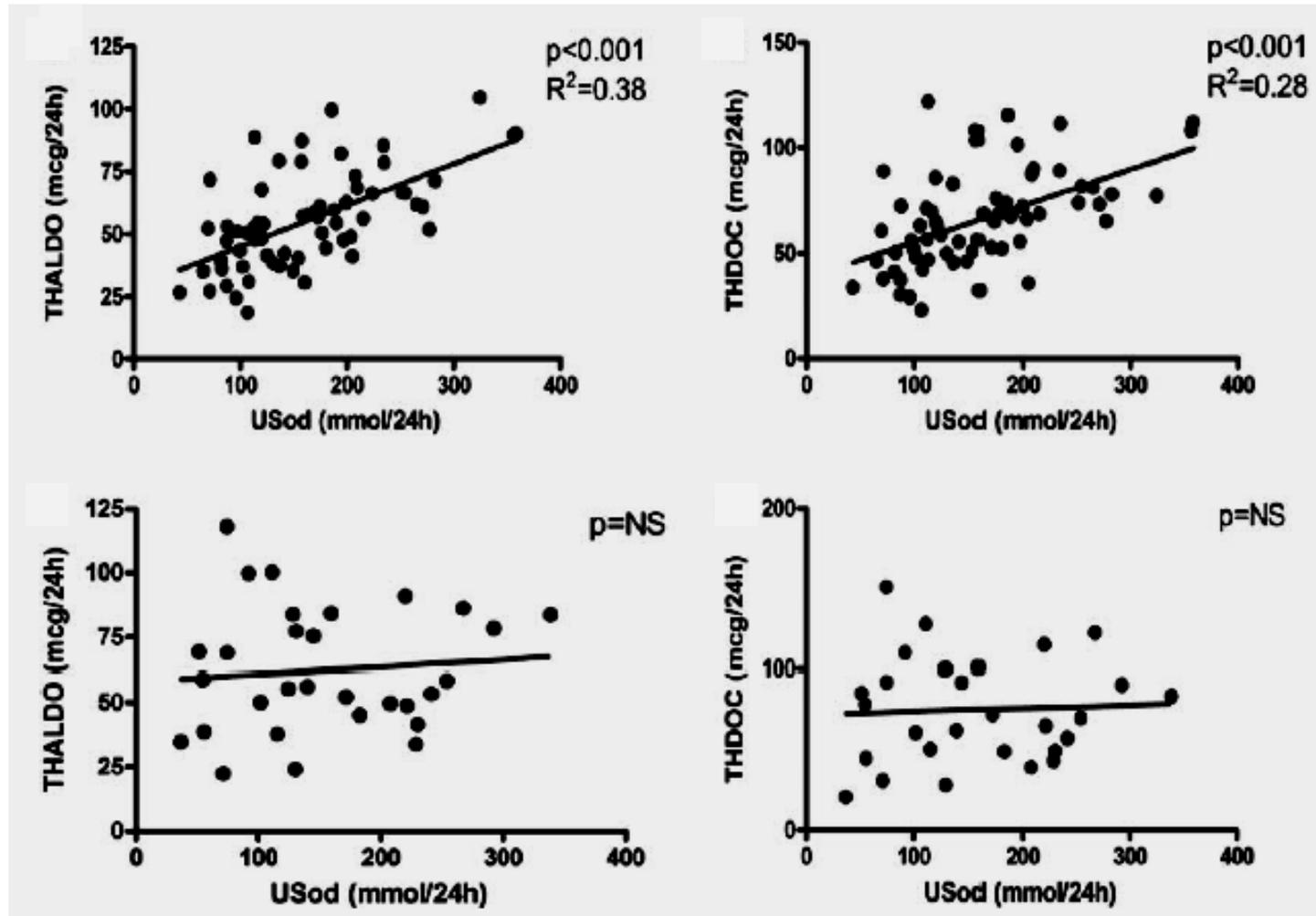
In **CKD** (but not in primary hypertension) :

urinary-**sodium**-excretion determines excretion of **mineralocorticoid**-metabolites :

Thaldo (tetrahydroaldosterone)

THDOC (tetrahydrocorticosterone)

CKD 3/4



primary hypertension