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***NEW GUIDELINE SBC – 2022***

# **CHAGAS HEART DISEASE**

***Anis Rassi Jr. MD, PhD, FACP, FACC, FAHA***  
***Scientific Director, Hospital do Coração Anis Rassi***  
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## Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest

I, **Anis Rassi Jr** DO NOT have a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with one or more organizations that could be perceived as a real or apparent conflict of interest in the context of the subject of this presentation.

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# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

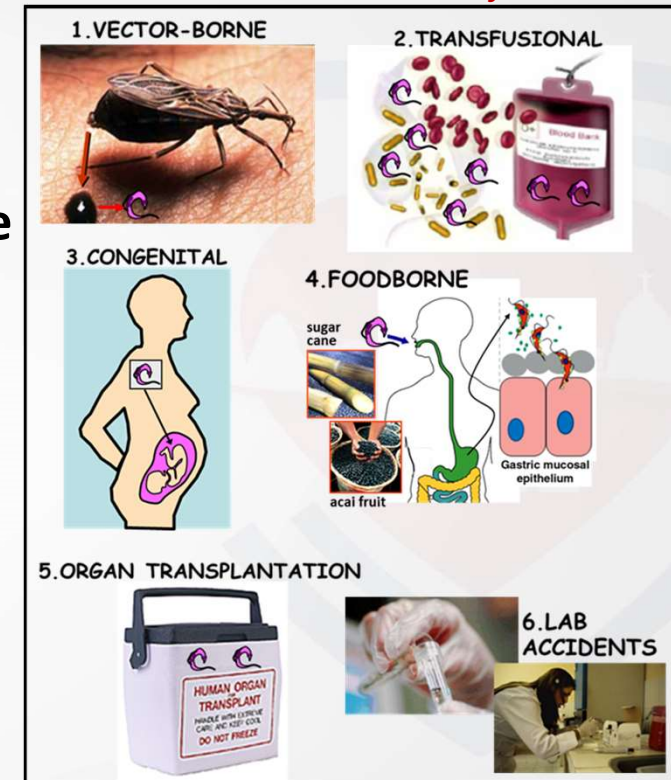
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- **Epidemiology and burden of Chagas disease**
- Pathogenesis
- Antiparasitic treatment
- Classification of Chagas disease
- Diagnosis and evaluation of patients with heart disease
- Risk stratification of patients with cardiac disease
- Treatment of heart failure
- Treatment of cardiac arrhythmias
- Challenges in Chagas disease

# Epidemiology and burden of Chagas disease

## Mechanisms of transmission

- Endemic in 21 countries of Latin America
- Non-endemic in many other countries (USA, Canada, European countries, Japan, Australia) - due to migration
- 70 million people at risk of contracting the infection worldwide
- Overall 6 to 7 million people infected with *T. cruzi*
  - Argentina: 1.5 mi
  - Brasil: 1.2 mi
  - Mexico: 0.88 mi
  - Bolivia: 0.61 mi
- Mechanisms of transmission: vectorial, mother-to-child, blood transfusion, orally, organ transplants, accidental infection
- 10,000 to 15,000 deaths each year
- Congenital transmission: 2%-5% (1.12 mi of women at childbearing age are infected)
- Oral transmission: ingestion of food or drink products contaminated with *T. cruzi* (outbreaks in the Amazon region and subtropical Andes) - higher mortality

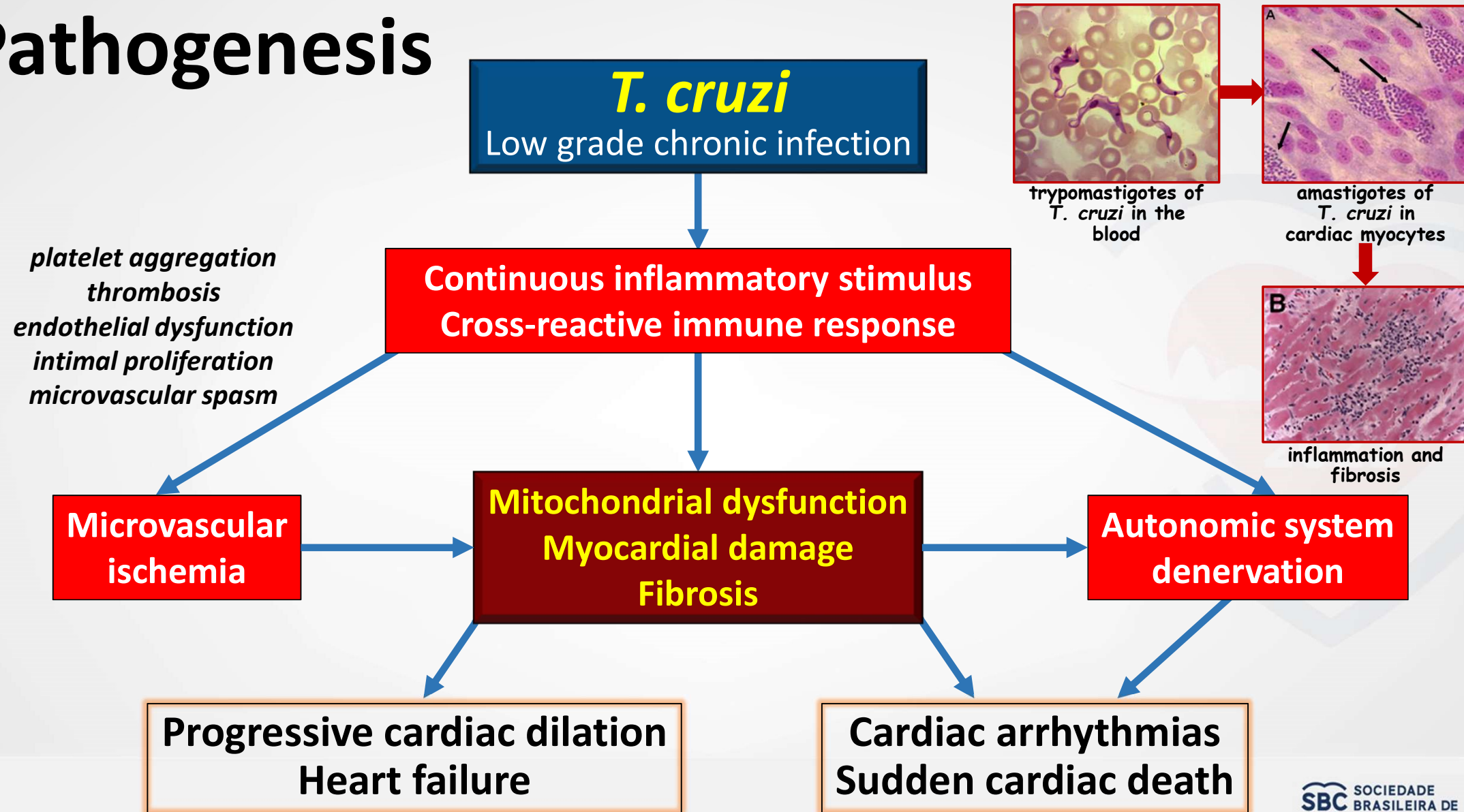


# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

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# Pathogenesis



# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

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# ANTIPARASITIC TREATMENT

## Chagas disease

### Acute phase

Vector-borne  
Transfusional  
Congenital  
Food-borne  
Accidental  
Organ transplantation

**BZN**  
(strong)

### Chronic phase

*immunosuppression*

#### Reactivation

**BZN**  
(strong)

#### Indeterminate form

Age  
< 50 yrs

**BZN**  
(strong)

Females of  
childbearing age

**BZN**  
(strong)

Age  
≥ 50 yrs

**BZN**  
(conditional)

**Cardiac and/or digestive form**  
*(except mod./severe  
cardiomyopathy and  
advanced megaesophagus with  
substantial impairment of  
swallowing)*

Any  
age

**BZN**  
(conditional)

*BZN=benznidazole*

# ANTITRYPANOSOMAL TREATMENT

CATEGORY	Symptoms improvement	Negativation of PCR	Negativation of serological tests*	Prevention or delay of heart disease progression	Prevention of congenital transmission
Congenital infection	+++	+++	95-100% (1y)	+++	-
Acute infection	+++	+++	60-80% (3-5y)	+++	-
Children ( $\leq 12$ y) w/ IF	not applicable	+++	50-60% (5-10y)	++	-
Adolescents/adults (13-50y) w/ IF	not applicable	++	25-30% (20-30y)	++	-
Females of childbearing age (15-44y) w/ IF	not applicable	++	not available	not available	+++
Adults (> 50y) w/ IF	not applicable	not available	not available	probably	-
Adults (any age) w/ mild CCCD	+	+	not available	+ (Brazil)	-
Adults (any age) w/ moderate/severe CCCD	no	not available	not available	no	-

IF: indeterminate form; CCCD: chronic cardiomyopathy of Chagas disease.

\*percentage and time after treatment



## Randomized Trial of Benznidazole for Chronic Chagas' Cardiomyopathy

C.A. Morillo, J.A. Marin-Neto, A. Avezum, S. Sosa-Estani, A. Rassi, Jr., F. Rosas, E. Villena, R. Quiroz, R. Bonilla, C. Britto, F. Guhl, E. Velazquez, L. Bonilla, B. Meeks, P. Rao-Melacini, J. Pogue, A. Mattos, J. Lazdins, A. Rassi, S.J. Connolly, and S. Yusuf, for the BENEFIT Investigators\*

### ABSTRACT

#### BACKGROUND

The role of trypanocidal therapy in patients with established Chagas' cardiomyopathy is unproven.

#### METHODS

We conducted a prospective, multicenter, randomized study involving 2854 patients with Chagas' cardiomyopathy who received benznidazole or placebo for up to 80 days and were followed for a mean of 5.4 years. The primary outcome in the time-to-event analysis was the first event of any of the components of the composite outcome of death, resuscitated cardiac arrest, sustained ventricular tachycardia, insertion of a pacemaker or implantable cardioverter-defibrillator, cardiac transplantation, new heart failure, stroke, or other thromboembolic event.

#### RESULTS

The primary outcome occurred in 394 patients (27.5%) in the benznidazole group and in 414 (29.1%) in the placebo group (hazard ratio, 0.93; 95% confidence interval [CI], 0.81 to 1.07;  $P=0.31$ ). At baseline, a polymerase-chain-reaction (PCR) assay was performed on blood samples obtained from 1896 patients; 60.5% had positive results for *Trypanosoma cruzi* on PCR. The rates of conversion to negative PCR results (PCR conversion) were 66.2% in the benznidazole group and 33.5% in the placebo group at the end of treatment, 55.4% and 35.3%, respectively, at 2 years, and 46.7% and 33.1%, respectively, at 5 years or more ( $P<0.001$  for all comparisons). The effect of treatment on PCR conversion varied according to geographic region: in Brazil, the odds ratio for PCR conversion was 3.03 (95% CI, 2.12 to 4.34) at 2 years and 1.87 (95% CI, 1.33 to 2.63) at 5 or more years; in Colombia and El Salvador, the odds ratio was 1.33 (95% CI, 0.90 to 1.98) at 2 years and 0.96 (95% CI, 0.63 to 1.45) at 5 or more years; and in Argentina and Bolivia, the odds ratio was 2.63 (95% CI, 1.89 to 3.66) at 2 years and 2.79 (95% CI, 1.99 to 3.92) at 5 or more years ( $P<0.001$  for interaction). However, the rates of PCR conversion did not correspond to effects on clinical outcome ( $P=0.16$  for interaction).

#### CONCLUSIONS

Trypanocidal therapy with benznidazole in patients with established Chagas' cardiomyopathy significantly reduced serum parasite detection but did not significantly reduce cardiac clinical deterioration through 5 years of follow-up. (Funded by the Population Health Research Institute and others; ClinicalTrials.gov number, NCT00123916; Current Controlled Trials number, ISRCTN13967269.)

The authors' full names, academic degrees, and affiliations are listed in the Appendix. Address reprint requests to Dr. Morillo at the Population Health Research Institute, Hamilton Health Sciences and McMaster University, David Braley CVSRM Rm. 3C-120, Hamilton, ON L8L2X2, Canada, or at morillo@hhsc.ca.

\*A complete list of investigators in the Benznidazole Evaluation for Interrupting Trypanosomiasis (BENEFIT) trial is provided in the Supplementary Appendix, available at NEJM.org.

Drs. Morillo and Marin-Neto contributed equally to this article.

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# BENEFIT Trial (n=2,854)

Brazil, Argentina, Colombia, Bolivia, and El Salvador

224 *Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz, Rio de Janeiro, Vol. 112(3): 224-235, March 2017*

## Chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy: a review of the main pathogenic mechanisms and the efficacy of aetiological treatment following the BENznidazole Evaluation for Interrupting Trypanosomiasis (BENEFIT) trial

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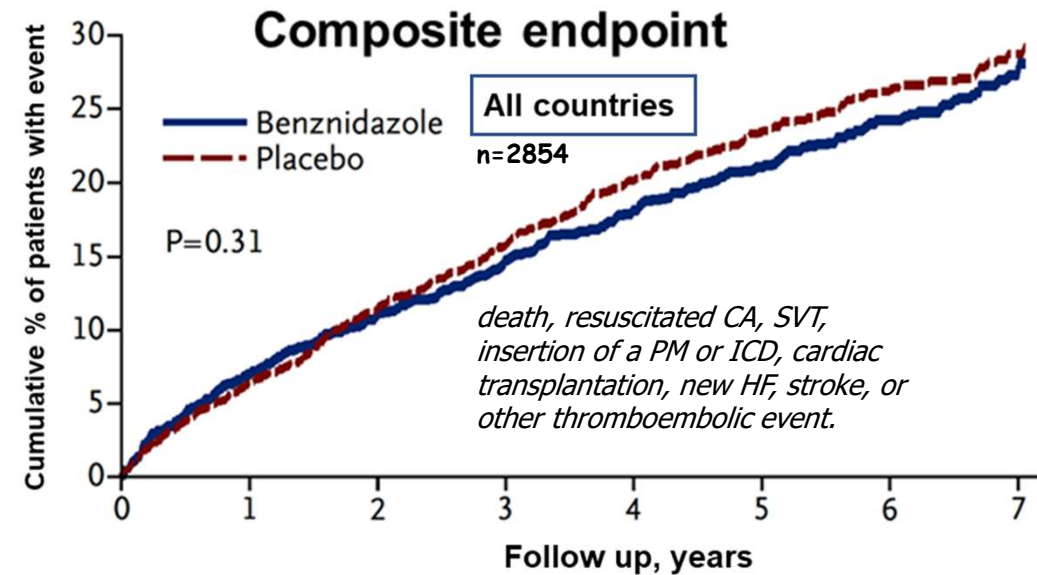


Chagas cardiomyopathy is the most frequent and most severe manifestation of chronic Chagas disease, and is one of the leading causes of morbidity and death in Latin America. Although the pathogenesis of Chagas cardiomyopathy is incompletely understood, it may involve several mechanisms, including parasite-dependent myocardial damage, immune-mediated myocardial injury (induced by the parasite itself and by self-antigens), and microvascular and neurogenic disturbances. In the past three decades, a consensus has emerged that parasite persistence is crucial to the development and progression of Chagas cardiomyopathy. In this context, antiparasitic treatment in the chronic phase of Chagas disease could prevent complications related to the disease. However, according to the results of the BENEFIT trial, benznidazole seems to have no benefit for arresting disease progression in patients with chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy. In this review, we give an update on the main pathogenic mechanisms of Chagas disease, and re-examine and discuss the results of the BENEFIT trial, together with its limitations and implications.

Key words: chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy - Chagas heart disease - pathogenesis - aetiological treatment - Benznidazole - BENEFIT trial

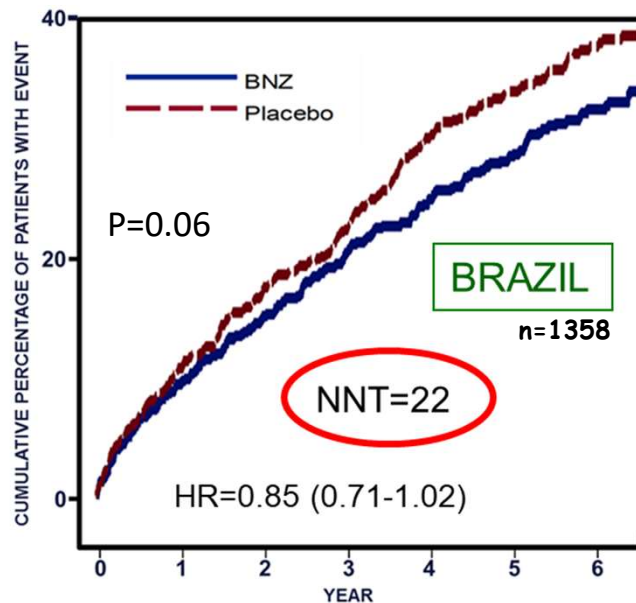


# BENEFIT trial



**Table 2. Primary Outcome and Its Components, Hospitalizations, and Deaths.**

Outcome	Benznidazole (N=1431)	Placebo (N=1423)	Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P Value
	<i>number (percent)</i>			
Primary composite outcome	394 (27.5)	414 (29.1)	0.93 (0.81–1.07)	0.31
Death	246 (17.2)	257 (18.1)	0.95 (0.79–1.13)	—
<b>Hospitalization</b>				
Any	358 (25.0)	397 (27.9)	0.89 (0.77–1.03)	0.11
<b>For cardiovascular causes</b>	<b>242 (16.9)</b>	<b>286 (20.1)</b>	<b>0.83 (0.70–0.98)</b>	<b>0.03</b>
Death from cardiovascular causes	194 (13.6)	203 (14.3)	0.94 (0.77–1.15)	0.55
Death from or hospitalization for cardiovascular causes	348 (24.3)	380 (26.7)	0.89 (0.77–1.03)	0.13



	<b>BENZNI-DAZOLE<sup>+</sup></b>	<b>PLACE-BO</b>	<b>HR</b>	<b>OR</b>	<b>95% CI</b>
<b>Primary outcome (5.4y)</b>	<b>33.2%</b> NNT=22	<b>37.6%</b>	<b>0.85</b>		<b>0.71-1.02</b>
<b>Negativation of PCR (EOT)</b>	<b>86.3%</b> NNT=2	<b>24.3%</b>		<b>7.20</b>	<b>4.53-11.4</b>

<sup>+</sup>EOT=end of treatment (5mg/Kg/day for 60 days).

N Engl J Med 2015;373:1295-306.  
Mem Inst Oswaldo Cruz. 2017;112:224-35.

# BENEFIT Trial: Adverse Events of Benznidazole

N=2.854  
Age: 55±11 years

Table 3. Adverse Events and Laboratory Abnormalities.\*

Cohort and Event	Adverse Events Leading to Drug Interruption			Serious Adverse Events Leading to Drug Interruption		
	Benznidazole (N=1431) no./total no. (%)	Placebo (N=1423) no./total no. (%)	P Value	Benznidazole (N=1431) no./total no. (%)	Placebo (N=1423) no./total no. (%)	P Value
Patients completing follow-up visits through end of study-treatment period	1429/1431 (99.9)	1422/1423 (99.9)		1429/1431 (99.9)	1422/1423 (99.9)	
Any adverse event	342/1429 (23.9)	135/1422 (9.5)	<0.001	119/1429 (8.3)	20/1422 (1.4)	<0.001
Cutaneous rash	137/1429 (9.6)	18/1422 (1.3)	<0.001	58/1429 (4.1)	2/1422 (0.1)	<0.001
Gastrointestinal symptoms	112/1429 (7.8)	41/1422 (2.9)	<0.001	26/1429 (1.8)	9/1422 (0.6)	0.004
Nervous system symptoms including peripheral neuropathy	52/1429 (3.6)	19/1422 (1.3)	<0.001	14/1429 (1.0)	6/1422 (0.4)	0.07
Leukopenia†	2/1429 (0.1)	2/1422 (0.1)	1.0	1/1429 (0.1)	0	NA
Permanent treatment discontinuation	192/1429 (13.4)	51/1422 (3.6)	<0.001	96/1429 (6.7)	15/1422 (1.1)	<0.001
Patients completing 60-day visit‡	1123/1431 (78.5)	1194/1423 (83.9)		0	0	NA
Alanine aminotransferase >2× ULN	55/1123 (4.9)	19/1194 (1.6)	<0.001	0	0	NA
Alanine aminotransferase >3× ULN	20/1123 (1.8)	9/1194 (0.8)	0.03	0	0	NA

\* NA denotes not applicable, and ULN upper limit of the normal range.

† Leukopenia was defined as a neutrophil count of less than 1900 cells per cubic millimeter.

‡ Data are shown for patients who completed the 60-day study visit and had available values for alanine aminotransferase at that visit.

*N Engl J Med 2015;373:1295-306.*



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# Chagas Heart Disease

## Normal Systolic Function and Classification of Heart Failure (HF) by Left Ventricular Ejection Fraction (LVEF)

<b>CATEGORY</b>	<b>CRITERIA</b>
<b>Preserved global systolic function</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LVEF <math>\geq</math> 55%</li><li>- without segmental WMA</li><li>- with segmental WMA</li></ul>
<b>HF with mildly reduced EF (HFmrEF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LVEF 41%-54%</li></ul>
<b>HF with reduced EF (HFrEF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• LVEF <math>\leq</math> 40%</li></ul>
<b>HF with improved EF (HFimpEF)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Baseline LVEF <math>&lt;</math> 40%, with a second measurement of LVEF <math>&gt;</math> 40% and at least a 10 point increase from baseline</li></ul>

# EVOLUTIVE STAGES OF CHRONIC CHAGAS DISEASE

	INDETERMINATE FORM	CHRONIC CHAGAS CARDIOMYOPATHY			
	Stage A	Stage B1	Stage B2	Stage C	Stage D
Characteristics	Asymptomatic; No heart disease or gastrointestinal involvement; At risk for heart disease (30%)	Structural heart disease; Normal global LV function; No symptoms or signs of HF	Structural heart disease; Impaired global LV function; No symptoms or signs of HF	Structural heart disease; Impaired global LV function; Symptoms or signs of HF (current or prior)	Structural heart disease; Impaired global LV function; Refractory HF, despite OMT, and need of specialized therapy
ECG	Normal	Abnormal	Abnormal	Abnormal	Abnormal
Segmental WMA	Usually absent	Can be present	Can be present	Can be present	Usually absent
LVEF (Eco – Simpson)	≥ 55%	≥ 55%	< 55% (usually 41%-54%)	< 55% (usually ≤ 40%)	Usually ≤ 25%
Functional class (NYHA)	Not applicable	I	I	I, II, III or IV	IV
Cardiomegaly (Chest X-ray)	Absent	Absent	Can be present	Usually present	Present
Complex ventricular arrhythmias (Holter 24h)	Usually absent	Can be present	Usually present	Present	Present
Myocardial fibrosis (LGE at MRI)	Can be present	Usually present	Usually present	Present	Present

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Patient with suspected chronic Chagas disease

- contact with kissing bugs
- endemic region
- mother/siblings with Chagas disease
- previous blood transfusion or organ transplant
- clinical syndrome compatible with disease

Confirm *T. cruzi* infection with  $\geq$  2 serologic tests

Complete H&P and ECG

Normal

Annual H&P and ECG

Symptoms or signs c/w Chagas cardiomyopathy

Complete cardiac evaluation

- Echocardiogram
- 24-h Holter and exercise test
- Other tests as indicated

Symptoms c/w GI Chagas disease

Barium studies, other evaluation as indicated



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# Diagnostic steps for cardiac evaluation in Chagas disease

- **Step 1**                      **Serological tests (ELISA, IIF, HAI)**
- **Step 2**                      **History, physical exam, ECG**
- **Step 3**                      **Chest X-ray and echo ⊕**  
**24-hr Holter and exercise test**

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- **Step 4**                      **Other tests as needed (cardiac MRI, BNP, tissue doppler echo, EPS, scintigraphy, coronary angiography etc)**



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Risk of Chronic Cardiomyopathy Among Patients With the Acute Phase or Indeterminate Form of Chagas Disease

**Acute Phase  
Confirmed**

*JAMA Network Open. 2020;3(8):e2015072*

Meta analysis of  
9 studies

Annual risk of  
developing  
cardiomyopathy

**4.6%**

(95% CI: 2.7-7.9%)

**Chronic  
Indeterminate Form**

*JAMA Network Open. 2020;3(8):e2015072*

Meta analysis of  
23 studies

Annual risk of  
developing  
cardiomyopathy

**1.9%**

(95% CI: 1.3-3.0%)

Risk of Death Among Patients With the Chronic Cardiac Form of Chagas Disease

**Chronic Cardiac  
Form**

*ESC Heart Fail. 2021;8(6):5466-81*

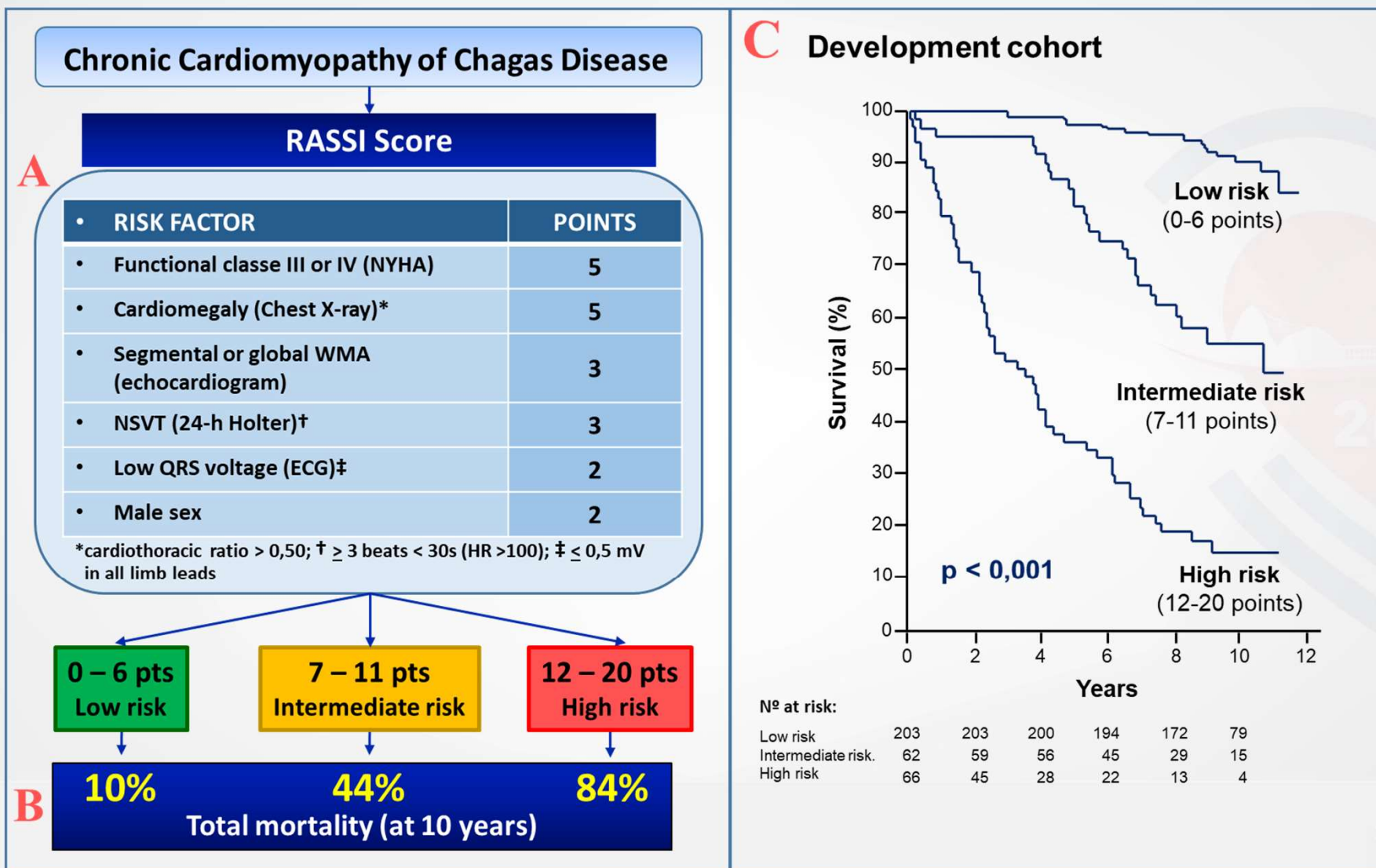
Meta analysis of  
52 studies

Annual risk of  
death

**7.9%**

(95% CI: 6.3-10.1%)

**RASSI score.** (A) Risk factors and points; (B) Total mortality at 10 years in the subgroups of low, intermediate and high risk; (C) Kaplan-Meier survival curves.

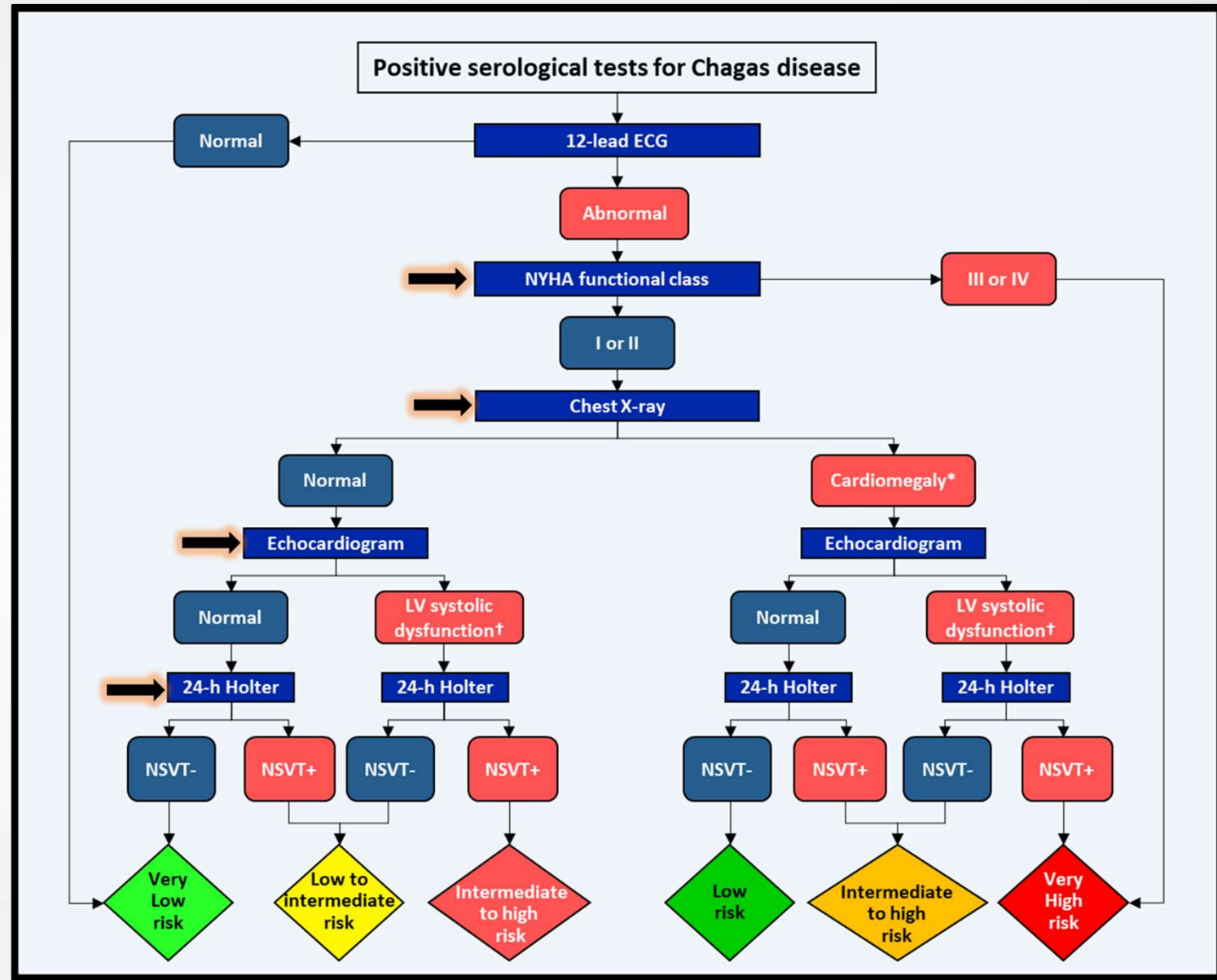


# RASSI score: results in the original cohort (Hospital São Salvador, Goiânia) and external validation in four different cohorts

Author	Study Period	Study Location	Nº of patients	Outcome	% Outcome (5 years)			% Outcome (10 years)			C Statistic
					Low risk (0-6 pts)	Intermediate risk (7-11 pts.)	High risk (12-20 pts.)	Low risk (0-6 pts.)	Intermediate risk (7-11 pts.)	High risk (12-20 pts.)	
Rassi A Jr. et al.	1986-1991	Hospital São Salvador (Goiânia)	331*	Total mortality	2 (0-5)	18 (8-28)	63 (51-75)	10 (5-14)	44 (31-57)	84 (74-93)	0,84 <sup>†</sup>
Rassi A Jr. et al.	1990-2001	Hospital Evandro Chagas (RJ)	153	Total mortality	0	15 (1-28)	53 (31-75)	9 (2-16)	37 (16-59)	85 (63-100)	0,81 <sup>†</sup>
Rocha MOC & Ribeiro AL	1998-2006	Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais	158	Total mortality	3 (1-7)	10 (4-22)	67 (30-90)	NA	NA	NA	0,84
Benchimol Barbosa PR et al.	1995-2003	Hospital Universitário Pedro Ernesto (RJ)	100	Cardiac mortality or VT <sup>§</sup> //	4 (1-11) <sup>¶</sup>	42 (18-83) <sup>¶</sup>	50 (6-100) <sup>¶</sup>	28 (18-43)	58 (29-100)	75 (15-100)	0,79 <sup>†</sup>
				Cardiac mortality <sup>#</sup>	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	0,81 <sup>†</sup>
Senra T et al.	2001-2011	Instituto do Coração - INCOR (SP)	130	Total mortality, cardiac transplant, appropriate therapy from ICD or resuscitated of CA//	16	42	76	NA	NA	NA	NA
				Total mortality <sup>#</sup>	11	33	57,5	NA	NA	NA	NA

The numbers in parentheses correspond to the 95% CI. \*multivariate model applied to 331 patients from the original cohort with 424 patients (patients with missing data were excluded); <sup>†</sup>referring to 10 years; <sup>§</sup>defined as 3 or more successive beats; //primary outcome; <sup>¶</sup>outcome at 50 months; <sup>#</sup>secondary outcome; ICD - implantable cardioverter-defibrillator; N - number; NA - not available; CA - cardiac arrest; VT - ventricular tachycardia.

# Risk Stratification Algorithm in Chagas Disease



NSVT: non-sustained ventricular tachycardia; LV: left ventricular. \*can be replaced by LV diastolic diameter > 60 mm on echocardiography; †global or segmental. Adapted from Rassi A Jr, Rassi A, Rassi SG. Predictors of mortality in chronic Chagas disease. *Circulation*. 2007;115:1101-8.



# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

---

- Epidemiology and burden of Chagas disease
- Pathogenesis
- Antiparasitic treatment
- Classification of Chagas disease
- Diagnosis and evaluation of patients with heart disease
- Risk stratification of patients with cardiac disease
- **Treatment of heart failure**
- Treatment of cardiac arrhythmias
- Challenges in Chagas disease

# HEART FAILURE WITH REDUCED EJECTION FRACTION (HFrEF) $\leq 40\%$

Initial therapies  
(with dosing optimization)

STRONG

CONDITIONAL

ACEI or ARB (if  
intolerance)

Beta blocker

Spirolactone

SGLT2  
inhibitor

Diuretics to relieve signs and  
symptoms of congestion

Clinical and functional evaluation  
after 3-6 months

Consider additional  
therapies

Sinus rhythm  
HR > 70 bpm

Ivabradine

Side effects with  
ACEI/ARB

H-N

*H-N: hydralazine-nitrate*

NSVT

Amiodarone

Symptomatic  
Ventricular arrhythmia

Amiodarone

Symptomatic  
(NYHA II/III)

Switch ACEI/ARB to  
Sacubitril-Valsartan

Symptomatic  
AF or sinus rhythm

Digoxin

# HEART FAILURE WITH MILDLY REDUCED EJECTION FRACTION (HFmrEF) 41-54%

Diuretics to relieve signs and symptoms of congestion

Initial therapies  
(with dosing optimization)

STRONG

CONDITIONAL

ACEI or ARB (if intolerance)

Beta blocker

Spirolactone

Clinical and functional evaluation  
after 3-6 months

Consider additional  
therapies

NSVT

Symptomatic  
Ventricular arrhythmia

Symptomatic  
AF

Amiodarone

Amiodarone

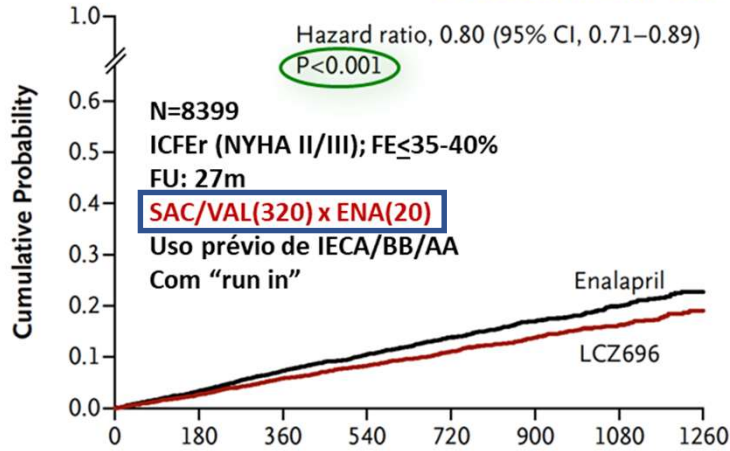
Digoxin



# Sacubitril-Valsartan ?

## Death from Cardiovascular Causes

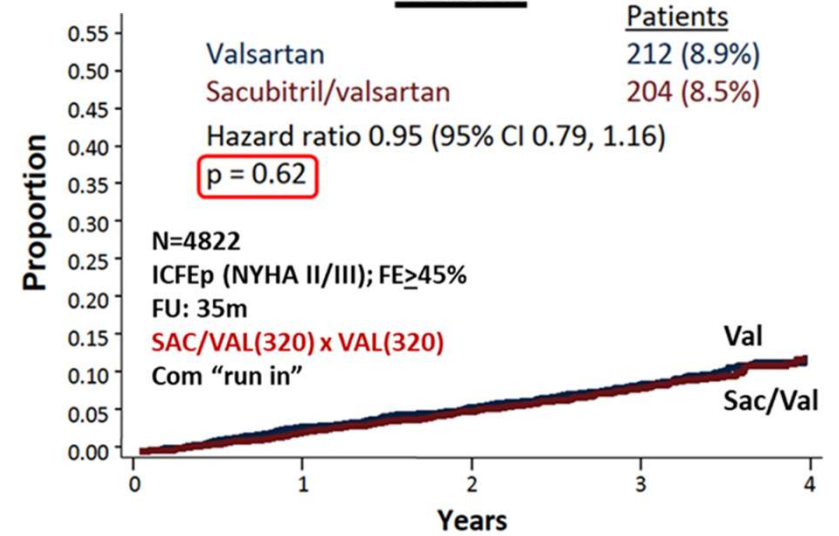
### PARADIGM-HF



	Days since Randomization							
	0	180	360	540	720	900	1080	1260
No. at Risk								
LCZ696	4187	4056	3891	3282	2478	1716	1005	280
Enalapril	4212	4051	3860	3231	2410	1726	994	279

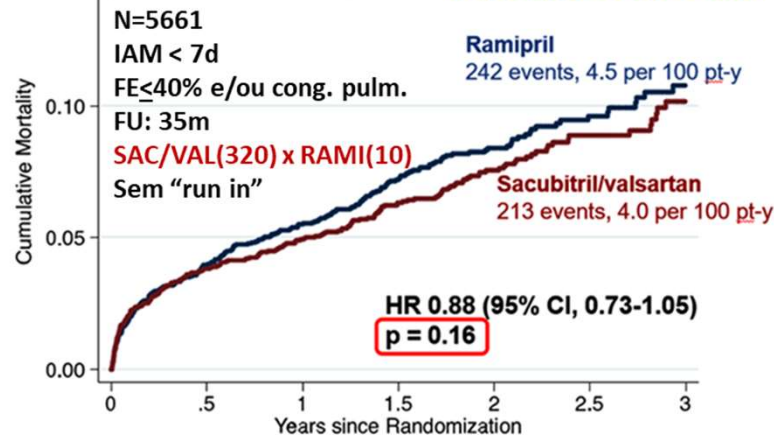
## PARAGON-HF

### CV death



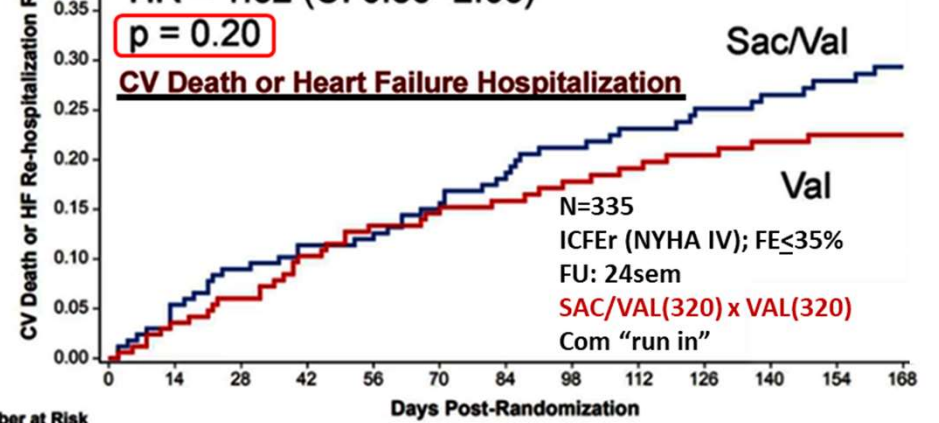
## All-cause death

### PARADISE-MI



Patients at risk, n	Years since Randomization						
	0	.5	1	1.5	2	2.5	3
Ramipril	2831	2715	2467	1852	1190	631	311
Sacubitril/valsartan	2830	2721	2473	1856	1198	629	319

## TIME

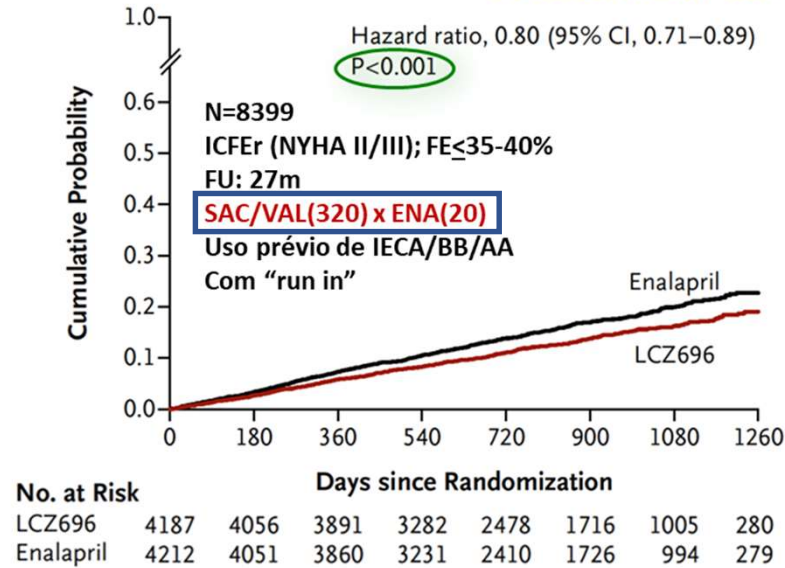


Number at Risk	Days Post-Randomization													
	0	14	28	42	56	70	84	98	112	126	140	154	168	
Sac/Val	167	158	152	147	146	140	133	124	119	111	106	103	66	
Valsartan	168	161	154	147	140	138	133	126	121	118	116	111	69	

# Sacubitril-Valsartan ?

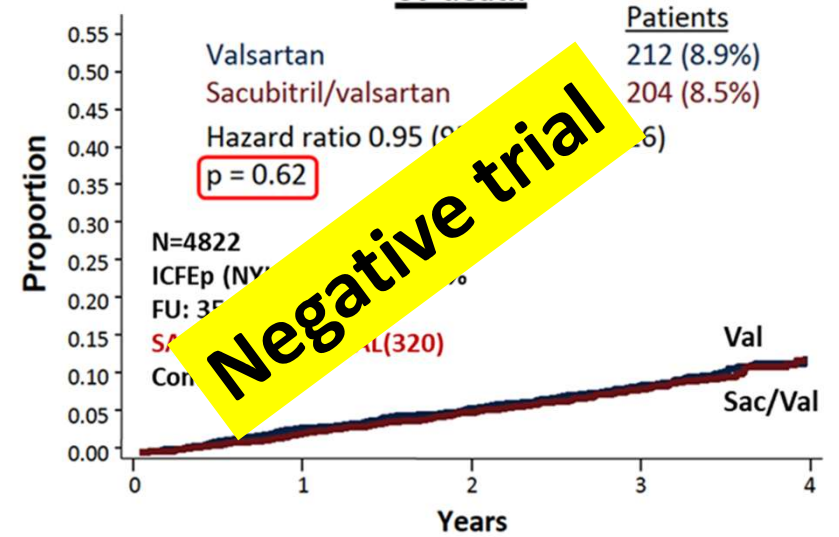
## Death from Cardiovascular Causes

### PARADIGM-HF



## PARAGON-HF

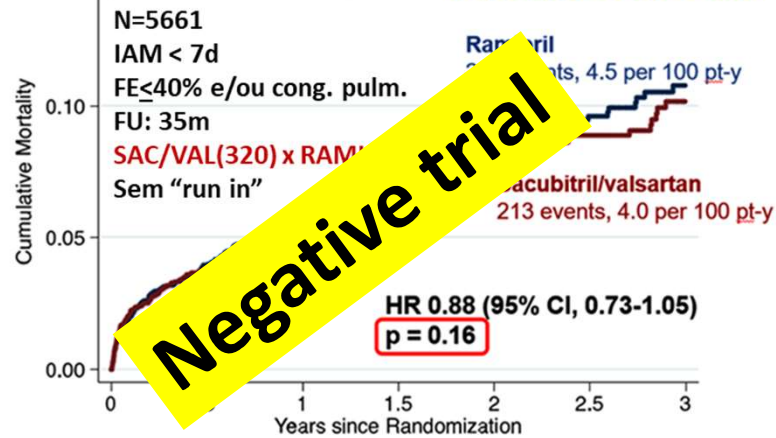
### CV death



**Negative trial**

## All-cause death

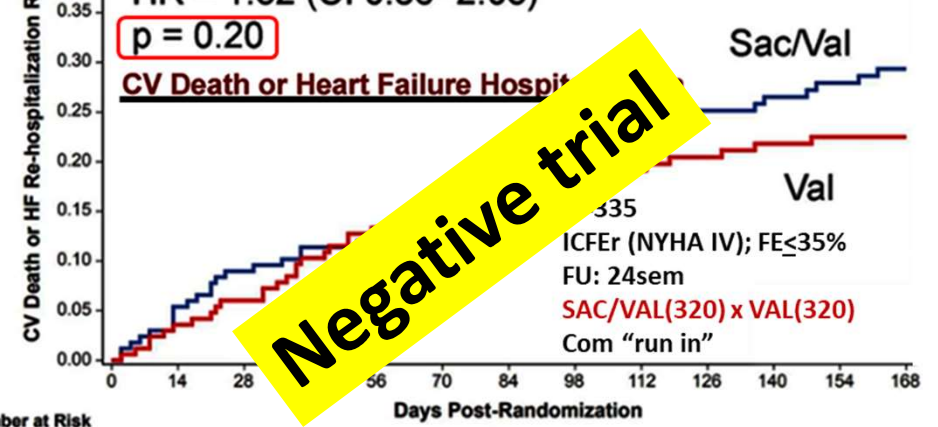
### PARADISE-MI



**Negative trial**

Patients at risk, n	Years since Randomization						
	0	1	1.5	2	2.5	3	
Ramipril	2831	2715	2467	1852	1190	631	311
Sacubitril/valsartan	2830	2721	2473	1856	1198	629	319

## TIME



**Negative trial**

Number at Risk	Days Post-Randomization													
	0	14	28	56	70	84	98	112	126	140	154	168		
Sac/Val	167	158	152	147	146	140	133	124	119	111	106	103	66	
Valsartan	168	161	154	147	140	138	133	126	121	118	116	111	69	



## Prevention And Reduction of Adverse outcomes in Chagasic Heart failure Trial Evaluation: The PARACHUTE-HF Trial

- ❑ N = 900-1200 patients
- ❑ Follow-up = 3 years

### Key Inclusion Criteria:

- Chagas disease (2 serological tests)
- Male or female ≥ 18 years of age
- HFrEF; NYHA Class II-IV
- LVEF ≤ 40%
- Increased values of NT-proBNP or BNP
- With “run in”

*ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT04023227*

## Primary Endpoint



Hierarchically ordered composite endpoint composed by:

1. time to CV death
2. time to first HF hospitalization
3. relative change in NT-proBNP from baseline to Week 12

For each pair comparison:



Winner based on NTproBNP levels change = more reduction or less increase  
To have a winner, the week 12/baseline ratio needs to differ for more than 25% between two subjects.

**SACUBITRIL/VALSARTAN(320 mg)**  
**X**  
**ENALAPRIL(20mg)**

AGAIN?



# Observational studies of CRT in CCCD



CHARACTERISTICS	Araujo et al. 2014	Menezes et al. 2018	Martinelli et al. 2018			Scorzini et al. 2018			Passos et al. 2019	
			CCCD	ICM	DCM	CCCD	ICM	OTHER	CCCD	No-CCCD
População	CCCD	CCCD	CCCD	ICM	DCM	CCCD	ICM	OTHER	CCCD	No-CCCD
Nº of patients	72	50	115	134	177	42	13	43	13	41
Male sex (%)	ND	56	65	83	51	59.5	92	56	31	66
Mean age, years	ND	63	57	68	60	60	66	58	65	62
Intraventricular block:										
-Induced LBBB (%)	15	30	74	31	17	21	0	5	NA	NA
-Spontaneous LBBB (%)	47	30	11	63	78.5	39	92	87	NA	NA
-Non-LBBB (%)	38	40	15	7	4.5	39	8	8	NA	NA
CRT-D (%)	ND	74	23.5	33	26	31	31	26	0	0
Atrial fibrillation or flutter (%)	0	16	25	16	15	14	15	14	0	0
NYHA class III/IV (%)										
• Pre-CRT	100	82	82	82	88	87.5	67	80	77	63
• Post-CRT	13	18	43.5	26	26	50	33	24	NA	NA
Mean LVEF (%)										
• Pre-CRT	27	29	26	26	24	26	27	24	27	26
• Post-CRT	44	39	27	28	29	26	34	30	NA	NA
Mean QRS duration, ms										
• Pre-CRT	148	150	163	164	162,5	161	154	160	NA	NA
• Post-CRT	ND	116	ND	ND	ND	139	134	135	NA	NA
LVEDD, mm										
• Pre-CRT	66	ND	66	69	74	68	68	73	NA	NA
• Post-CRT	65	ND	68	68	71	65	65	69	NA	NA
Mean follow-up, months	47	61	29	29	29	27	42	35	15	15
Non-responders (%)	33	34	43.5	26	26	47	33	35	NA	NA
Annual mortality (%)	9.0	9.2	25.4	11.3	10.4	25.6	4.8	13.9	18.4	3.2

LBBB: complete left bundle branch block; CCCD: chronic cardiomyopathy of Chagas disease; DCM: dilated cardiomyopathy; IMC: ischemic cardiomyopathy; LVEDD: left ventricular end-diastolic diameter; LVEF: left ventricular ejection fraction; NA: not available; CRT: cardiac resynchronization therapy; CRT-D: CRT + ICD

## Indication for CRT in CCCD

Summary of recommendations	Grade of recommendation	Level of evidence
Symptomatic HF, NYHA class II and III, with LVEF $\leq$ 35%, in sinus rhythm, with LBBB morphology and QRS duration $\geq$ 130ms, despite optimal medical therapy, to reduce morbidity and mortality.	Conditional	B

# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

---

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- Treatment of heart failure
- **Treatment of cardiac arrhythmias**
- Challenges in Chagas disease

SECONDARY PREVENTION

$$\begin{array}{l} \text{Aborted CA (VF)} \\ \text{Any SVT} \\ \text{Syncope + Inducible SVT} \end{array} + \text{Structural Heart Disease} = \text{ICD}$$

1996-2005

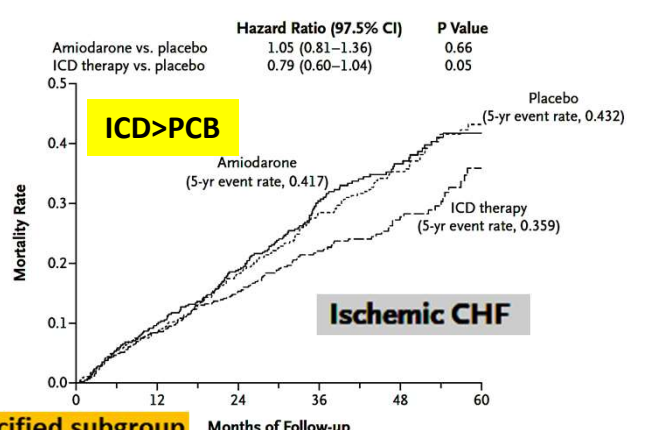
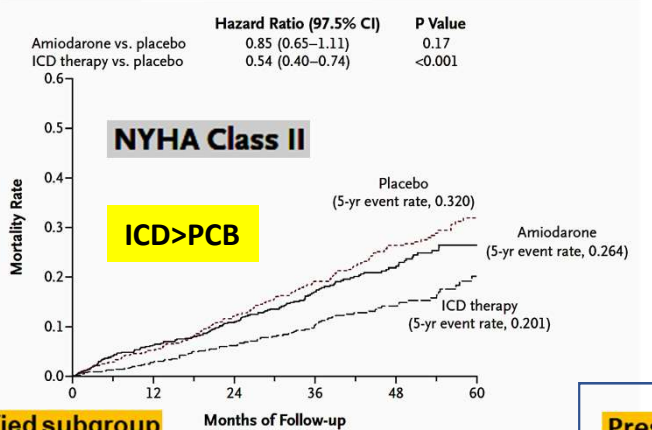
PRIMARY PREVENTION

$$\text{Ejection Fraction} \leq 35\% + \text{Structural Heart Disease} = \text{ICD}$$

Scientific evidence???

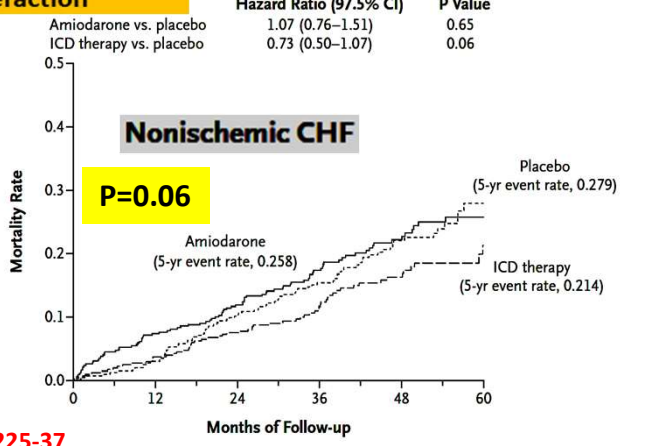
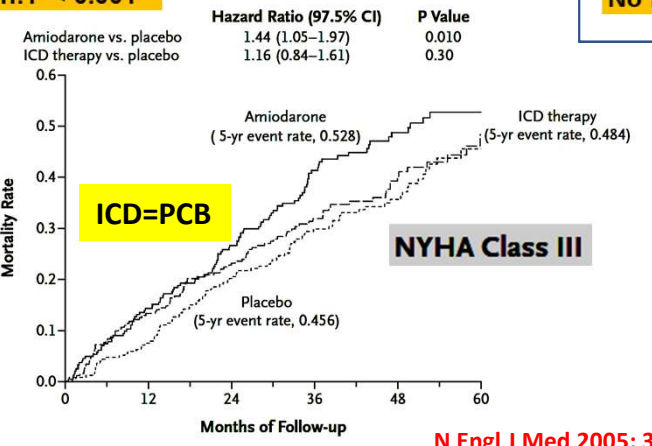
*One-size fits all: what's good for the gander is good for the goose*

3.8y



Prespecified subgroup Interaction: P < 0.001

Prespecified subgroup No interaction

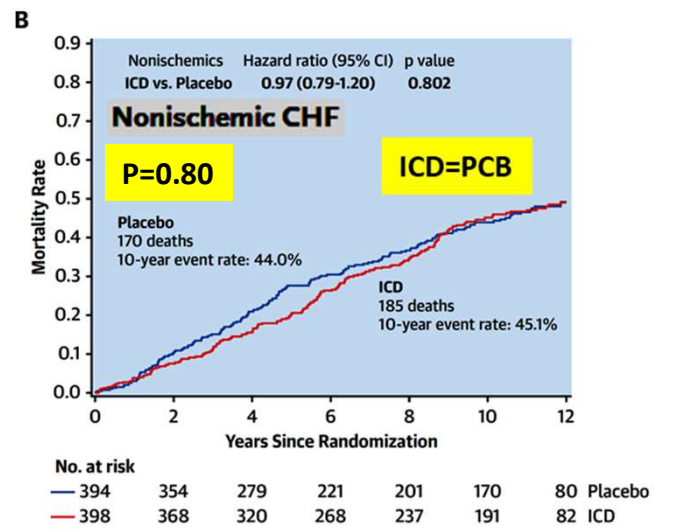
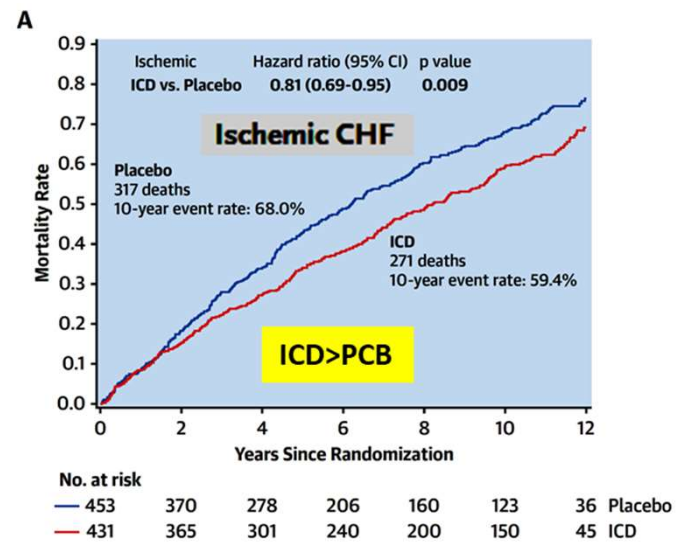


N Engl J Med 2005; 352:225-37

Subgroup	Amiodarone vs. Placebo		Forest Plot
	No.	Hazard ratio (97.5% CI)	
Diabetes	514	1.20 (0.87-1.65)	
No diabetes	1178	1.00 (0.77-1.30)	
NSVT	373	???	
No NSVT	1319	???	

Amiodarone Better | Placebo Better

Why this subgroup analysis was not done?



# SCD-HeFT Long-Term Outcomes (11y)



# PRIMARY PREVENTION

## Patient with CCCD and NSVT

Transthoracic echocardiogram

Segmental or global LV dysfunction

Yes

No symptoms

Amiodarone

Palpitations or dizziness

Amiodarone

No

No symptoms

High density of PVCs – 24-h Holter (>16-20%)

Yes

BB, sotalol or propafenone

No control

Amiodarone

No

Do not treat

Palpitations or dizziness

BB, sotalol or propafenone

No control

Amiodarone

**Strong recommendation**  
**Conditional recommendation**

BB=beta blocker  
CCCD=chronic cardiomyopathy of Chagas disease  
LV=left ventricular  
NSVT=non sustained ventricular tachycardia  
PVC=premature ventricular contraction

Primary Prevention

# CHAGASICS: Study design



## Chagas heart disease

≥ 1 episode of NSVT on 24h Holter (HR)

Rassi score ≥ 10

Age between 18 and 70

RASSI SCORE	
RISK FACTORS	POINTS
1) Male gender	2
2) Low QRS voltage (ECG)	2
3) NSVT (24-h Holter monitoring)	3
4) LV dysfunction (Echo)	3
5) Cardiomegaly (chest x-ray)	5
6) NYHA class III/IV	5

Amiodarone

Amiodarone  
Multicenter  
Brazilian  
Open label

ICD  
N = 550

Minimum follow-up: 3 years  
Mean follow-up: 4.5 years

Primary end point: all cause mortality (intention-to-treat)

Trial stopped because of low enrollment of patients (n=323)

Chronic use of Amiodarone aGAINSt Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator therapy for primary prevention of death in patients with Chagas cardiomyopathy Study: Rationale and design of a randomized clinical trial

Martino Martinelli, MD, PhD, Anis Rassi, Jr., MD, PhD, José Antonio Marin-Neto, MD, PhD, Angelo Amato Vincenzo de Paola, MD, PhD, Otávio Berwanger, MD, PhD, Maurício Ibraim Scanavacca, MD, PhD, Roberto Kalil, MD, PhD, Sérgio Freitas de Siqueira, Eng, MSc, São Paulo, and Goiânia, Brazil

**Background** The implantable cardioverter defibrillator (ICD) is better than antiarrhythmic drug therapy for the primary and secondary prevention of all-cause mortality and sudden cardiac death in patients with either coronary artery disease or idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy. This study aims to assess whether the ICD also has this effect for primary prevention in chronic Chagas cardiomyopathy (CCC).

**Methods** In this randomized (concealed allocation) open-label trial, we aim to enroll up to 1,100 patients with CCC, a Rassi risk score for death prediction of >10 points, and at least 1 episode of nonsustained ventricular tachycardia on a 24-hour Holter monitoring. Patients from 28 centers in Brazil will be randomly assigned in a 1:1 ratio to receive an ICD or amiodarone (600 mg/d for 10 days, then 200-400 mg/d until the end of the study). The randomization sequence will be generated by computer, and the members of the committees responsible for end point validation and data analysis will be blinded to study assignment. The primary end point is all-cause death, and enrollment will continue until 256 patients have reached this end point. Key secondary end points include cardiovascular death, sudden cardiac death, hospitalization for heart failure, and quality of life. We expect follow-up to last 3 to 6 years, and data analysis will be done on an intention-to-treat basis. This trial is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov number NCT01722942.

**Conclusion** CHAGASICS is the first large-scale trial to assess the benefit of ICD therapy for the primary prevention of death in patients with CCC and nonsustained ventricular tachycardia, who have a moderate to high risk of death. [Am Heart J 2013;166:976-982.e4.]

Martino Martinelli, MD, PhD, Anis Rassi Jr, MD, PhD, José Antonio Marin-Neto, MD, PhD, Angelo Amato Vincenzo de Paola, MD, PhD, Otávio Berwanger, MD, PhD, Maurício Ibraim Scanavacca, MD, PhD, Roberto Kalil, MD, PhD, Sérgio Freitas de Siqueira, Eng, MSc, on behalf of the CHAGASICS Investigators, Brazil. *Am Heart J* 2013; 166: 976-982.



**Stable SVT &  
SVT with mildly reduced EF**



**Zero RCT with ICD**

## SECONDARY PREVENTION ICD TRIALS

Study	AVID <sup>[2]</sup>	CASH <sup>[3]</sup>	CIDS <sup>[4]</sup>
Years	1993 to 1997	1987 to 1998	1990 to 1997
Patients	1016	191	659
Mean age (years)	65±11	58±11	63±9
Male (%)	78	79	85
Follow-up (months)	18±12	57±34	36
CAD (%)	81	73	83
Nonischemic (%)	15	12	10
LVEF	32±13	46±19	34±14
<b>Presenting arrhythmia (%)</b>			
VF	45	100	45
VT with LOC	21	0	16
VT without LOC (LVEF < 35%)	34	0	24
Syncope	0	0	15
BB (%)	42	0	33
ACE-I/ARB (%)	69	45	NR
One-year mortality (%): Control/ICD	17.7/10.7	15.2/8.1	11.2/9.5
Two-year mortality (%): Control/ICD	25.3/18.4	27.2/17.2	21.0/14.8

LOC: loss of consciousness



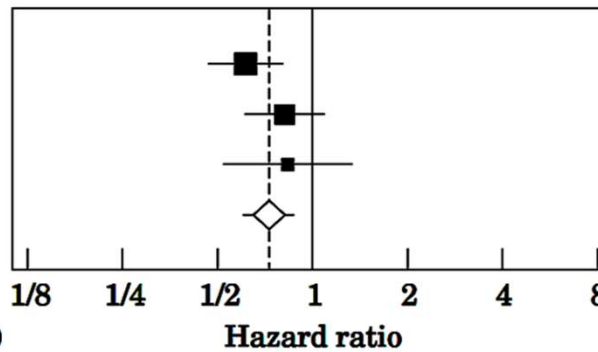
Name	n	Events	HR	95% CI
AVID	1016	80	0.62	0.47, 0.81
CIDS	659	83	0.82	0.61, 1.10
CASH	191	37	0.83	0.52, 1.33

Fixed effects HR = 0.72 95% = 0.60, 0.87

Test for association (U = 11.77 on 1 df) P = 0.00060

Test for heterogeneity (Q = 2.37 on 2 df) P = 0.30550

Total mortality



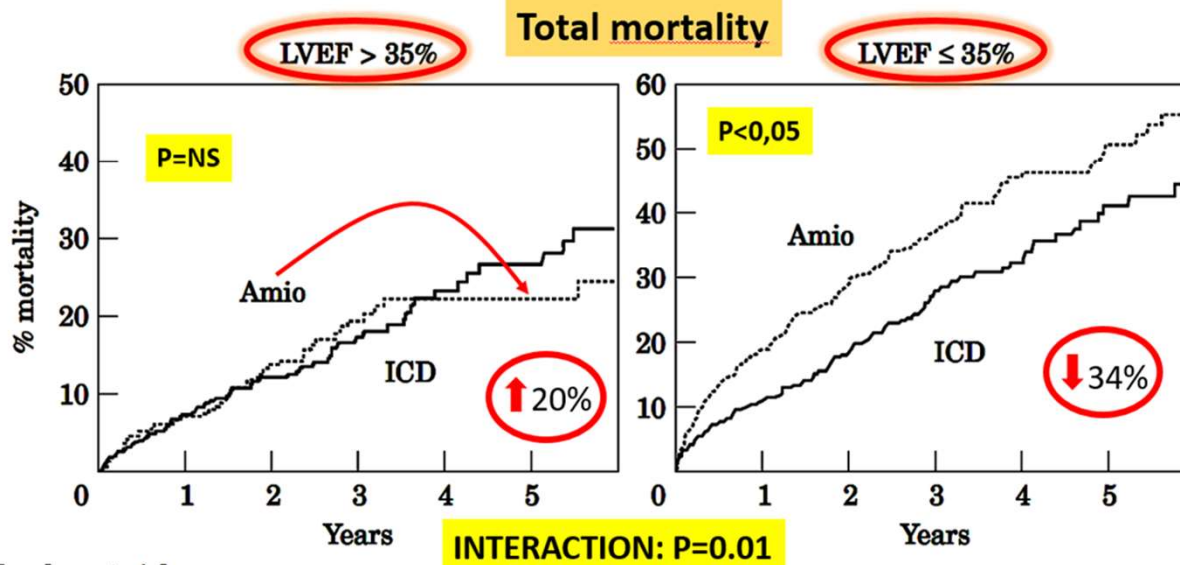
# META ANALYSIS AVID, CIDS, CASH

Table 3 Baseline characteristics of patients: pooled database

	ICD n=934	Amiodarone n=932
Age (years)	63 ± 11	64 ± 10
Male gender (%)	81	82
Left ventricular ejection fraction	34 ± 15	33 ± 14
NYHA class (CHF symptoms) ≥3	9%	12%
Prior myocardial infarction	69%	69%
Non-ischaemic cardiomyopathy	12%	13%
No heart disease	4%	3%
Presenting arrhythmia		
Ventricular fibrillation	51%	52%
Ventricular tachycardia	44%	43%
Syncope	5%	4%
Randomized in the 'epicardial era'	9%	8%
Discharge beta-blocker	42%	19%
Discharge ACE inhibitor	63%	64%
Discharge ASA	51%	51%

\*Randomized before 1 July 1991.

CHF=congestive heart failure; ACE=angiotensin converting enzyme; NYHA=New York Heart Association.



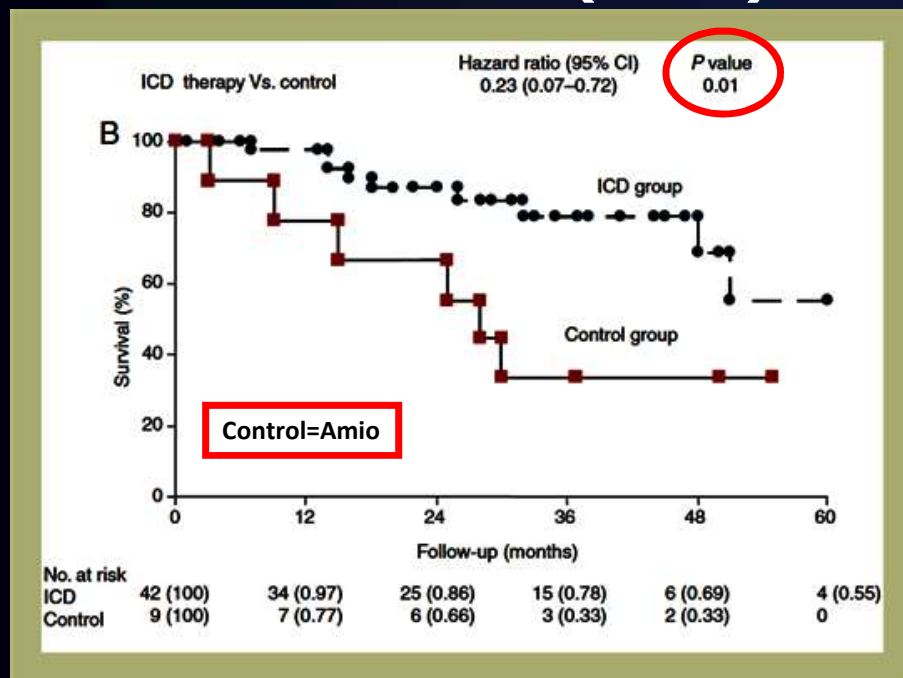
Number at risk	0	1	2	3	4	5	0	1	2	3	4	5
ICD:	337	272	191	121	71	53	583	432	265	145	86	49
Amio:	307	233	162	97	57	40	608	417	255	145	68	40

Figure 2 Cumulative risk of death for patients with left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) >35% and ≤35%.

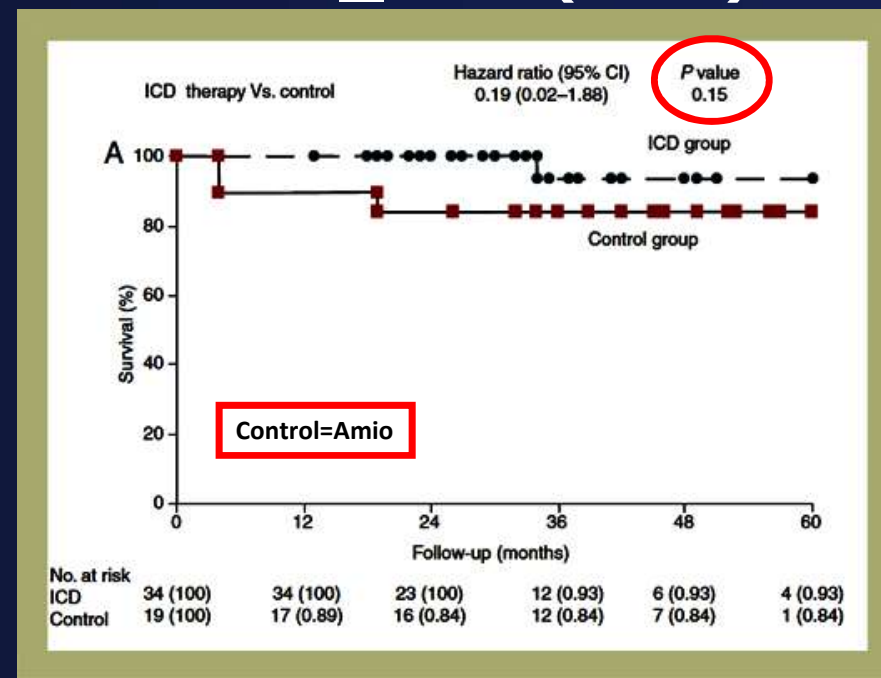
# ICD x AMIO in Secondary Prevention (Chagas)

- Observational study (single center in Ribeirão Preto, SP)
- ICD: 76 patients; 48 men; age  $57 \pm 11$  years; LVEF  $39 \pm 12\%$ ; 100% SVT
- AMIO: 28 patients; 18 men; age  $54 \pm 10$  years; LVEF  $41 \pm 10\%$ ; 74% symptomatic SVT, 22% syncope + inducible SVT at EPS, 4% aborted CA
- Mean follow up: 34 months

**LVEF < 40% (n=51)**



**LVEF  $\geq$  40% (n=53)**



Gali WL et al. *Europace* 2014;16:674-80



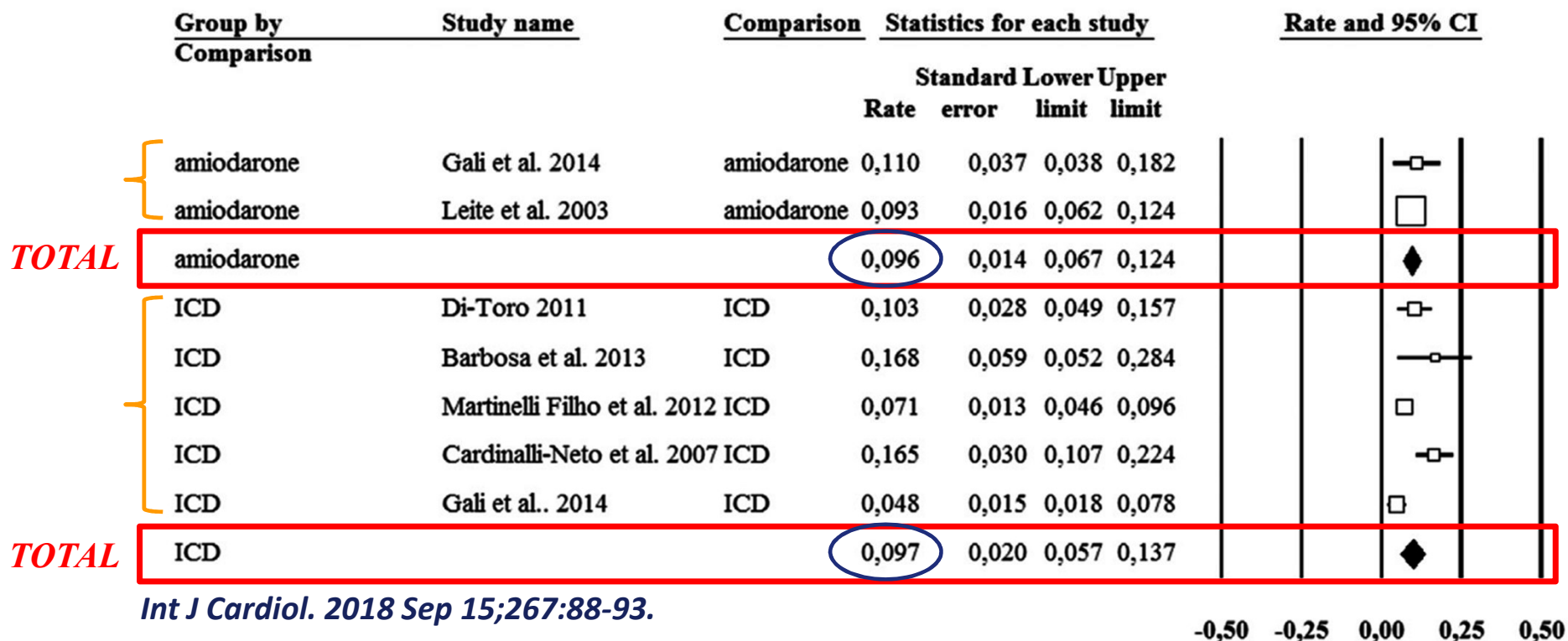
# Implantable cardioverter-defibrillator in Chagas heart disease: A systematic review and meta-analysis of observational studies

Andre A.L. Carmo <sup>a,1</sup>, Marcos R. de Sousa <sup>a,1</sup>, Juan F. Agudelo <sup>b,1</sup>, Eric Boersma <sup>c,1</sup>, Manoel O.C. Rocha <sup>a,1</sup>, Antonio L.P. Ribeiro <sup>a,\*,1</sup>, Carlos A. Morillo <sup>d,e,1</sup>

Studies assessing mortality outcomes in patients with CHD and SVT treated w/ ICD implantation or w/ amiodarone.

## Secondary prevention

## Death Rate Meta-analysis



*Int J Cardiol. 2018 Sep 15;267:88-93.*

**Conclusion:** The best available evidence derived from small observational studies suggests that ICD therapy in secondary prevention of sudden death (VT or resuscitated SCD) is not associated with lower rate of all-cause mortality in patients with ChCM. Randomized controlled trials are needed to answer this question.

# Patient with CCCD and Malign VA

ICD

Sim

1. Survivors of cardiac arrest (VF/SVT)
2. Unstable SVT (low cardiac output)

Não

3. Syncopal SVT
4. Stable SVT
5. Syncope with inducible SVT

TTE

LVEF  $\leq$  40%

Yes

No

ICD

Amiodarone

ICD

Refractory or incessant SMVT

Catheter ablation

Catheter ablation

Catheter ablation

Strong recommendation  
Conditional recommendation

Multiple therapies, despite the use of AA drugs and ICD reprogramming

Recurrent SMVT without previous use of amiodarone

AA=antiarrhythmic  
CCCD=chronic cardiomyopathy of Chagas disease  
ICD=implantable cardioverter-defibrillator  
LVEF=left ventricular ejection fraction  
SVT=sustained ventricular tachycardia  
SMVT=sustained monomorphic ventricular tachycardia  
TTE=transthoracic echocardiogram  
VA=ventricular arrhythmias  
VF=ventricular fibrillation

SECONDARY PREVENTION

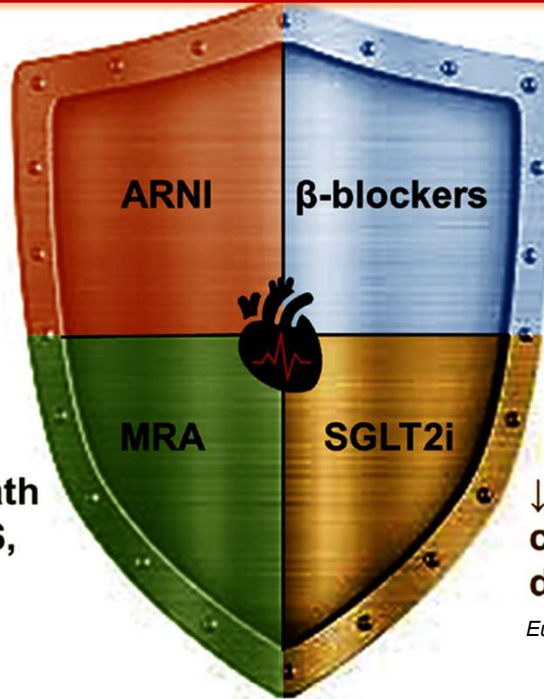
**Comprehensive Medical Therapy to Reduce Risks of Sudden Death in HFrEF**

↓ 20% in sudden death &  
↓ 21% in VA, ICD shock,  
or resuscitated cardiac  
arrest vs. ACEi in  
**PARADIGM-HF**

*Eur J Heart Fail. 2022;24:551–61.*

↓ 23% in sudden death  
in **RALES, EPHEBUS,**  
and **EMPHASIS-HF**

*Clin Res Cardiol. 2019;108:477–86.*



↓ 31% in sudden  
death based on meta-  
analysis of trials

*BMC Cardiovasc Disord. 2013;13:52.*

↓ 21% in VA, resuscitated  
cardiac arrest, or sudden  
death in **DAPA-HF**

*Eur Heart J. 2021;42:3727–38.*

**Figure 1** Comprehensive medical therapy to reduce risk of sudden death in heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF). Each component of contemporary HFrEF pharmacotherapy has been shown to reduce risk of sudden death, including ARNI (hazard ratio [HR] 0.80; 95% confidence interval [CI] 0.68–0.94),  $\beta$ -blockers (odds ratio 0.69; 95% CI 0.62–0.77), MRA (HR 0.77; 95% CI 0.66–0.89), and SGLT2i (HR 0.79; 95% CI 0.63–0.99).

*European Journal of Heart Failure (2022) 24, 562–564*

# Chagas Disease: guidelines 2022 (SBC)

---

- Epidemiology and burden of Chagas disease
- Pathogenesis
- Antiparasitic treatment
- Classification of Chagas disease
- Diagnosis and evaluation of patients with heart disease
- Risk stratification of patients with cardiac disease
- Treatment of heart failure
- Treatment of cardiac arrhythmias
- **Challenges in Chagas disease**



# 70% of people with Chagas don't know they're infected

13 Apr 2021

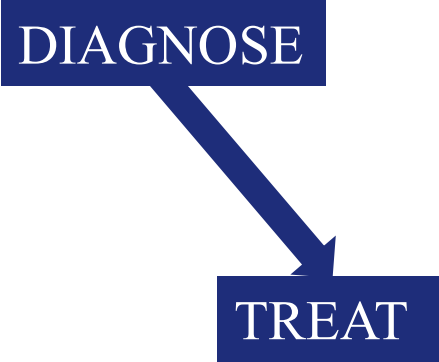


## Only 1% of those infected are treated annually

In the clinical picture, Chagas disease, as a complicating factor, is hidden in the heart and digestive tract, and therefore, only 1% of those infected are treated annually. Chagas disease must be diagnosed by laboratory tests as the cause in such cases and disorders, which afflict millions of people.

Achieving universal health coverage, including clinical management and counseling for all people diagnosed in the late stages, is essential for controlling the disease and improving the quality of life of those affected.

Under the slogan "Comprehensive and Equitable Health Care and Services for All," this year's World Chagas Disease Day seeks to raise the visibility of the disease and increase and broaden awareness of the importance of improving early detection while expanding diagnostic coverage and equitable access to clinical care for Chagas.





## Diretriz da Sociedade Brasileira de Cardiologia sobre Diagnóstico e Tratamento de Pacientes com Cardiomiopatia da Doença de Chagas

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