

Everything You Always Wanted to Know  
About SCD (But Were Afraid to Ask)

# Sickle Cell Disease

**H.U.B**

HÔPITAL UNIVERSITAIRE  
DE BRUXELLES  
ACADEMISCH ZIEKENHUIS  
BRUSSEL



*BHS Courses*

*Martin Colard MD-PhD*

*Red Blood Cells and Iron Disorders Unit*

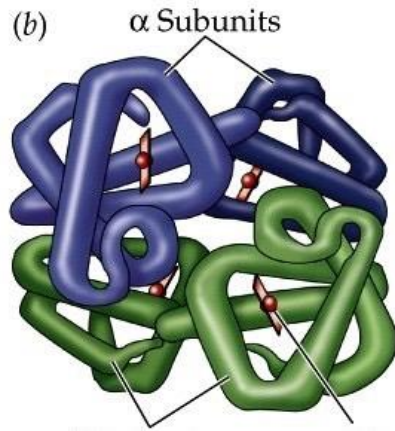
*Hematology Department*

Advisory Board : Chiesi, Pharmanovia, Bristol Meyers Squibb

Consultancy : Bristol Meyers Squibb, Menarini

Congress attendance fees :  
Novartis, Pharmanovia, Swedish Orphan Biovitrum

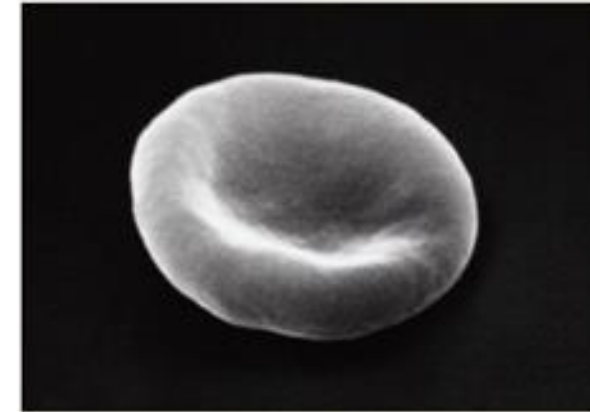
Sickle what ?



## Hb F

2  $\alpha$  chains

2  $\gamma$  chains



## Hb A

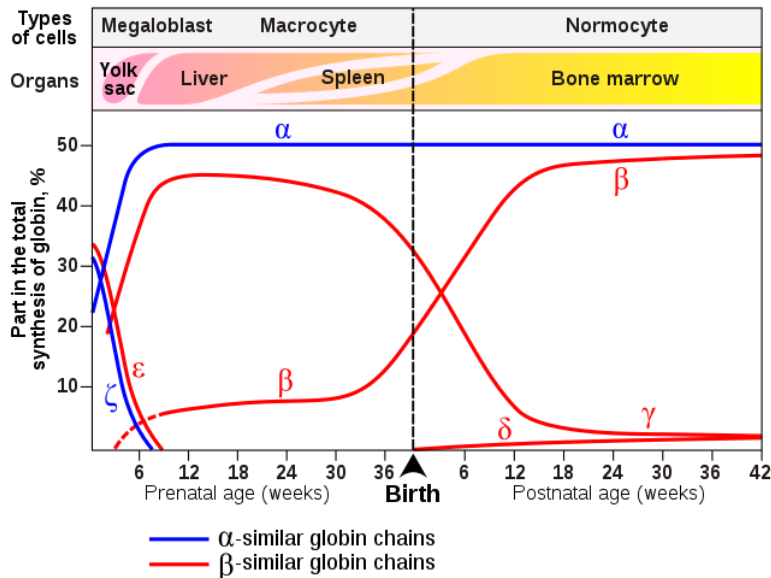
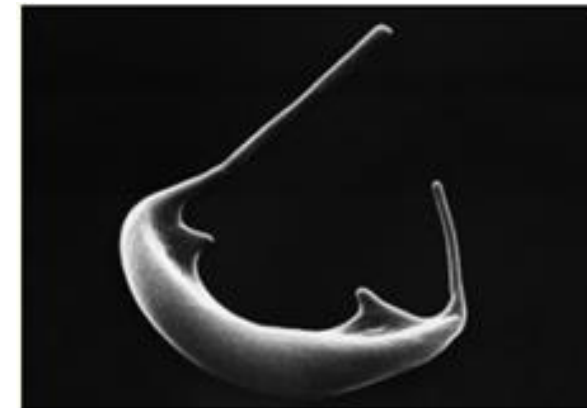
2  $\alpha$  chains

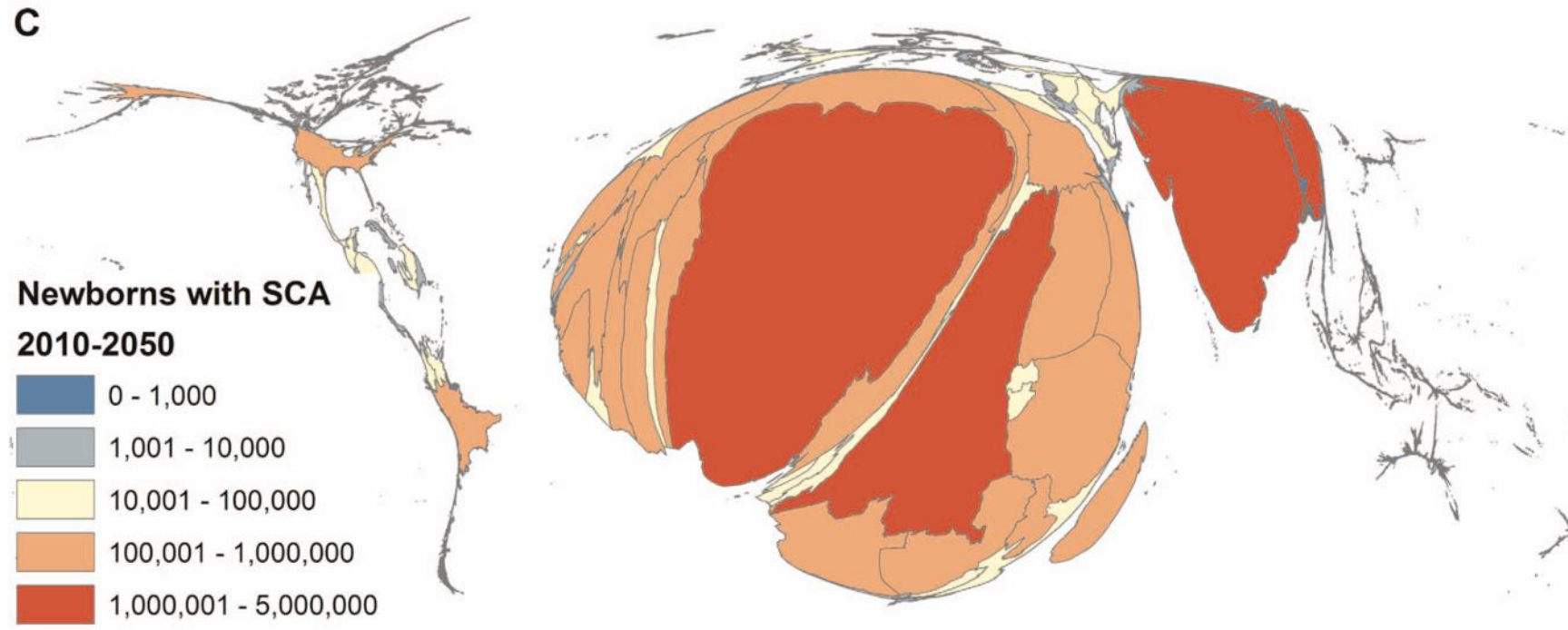
2  $\beta$  chains

## Hb S

2  $\alpha$  chains

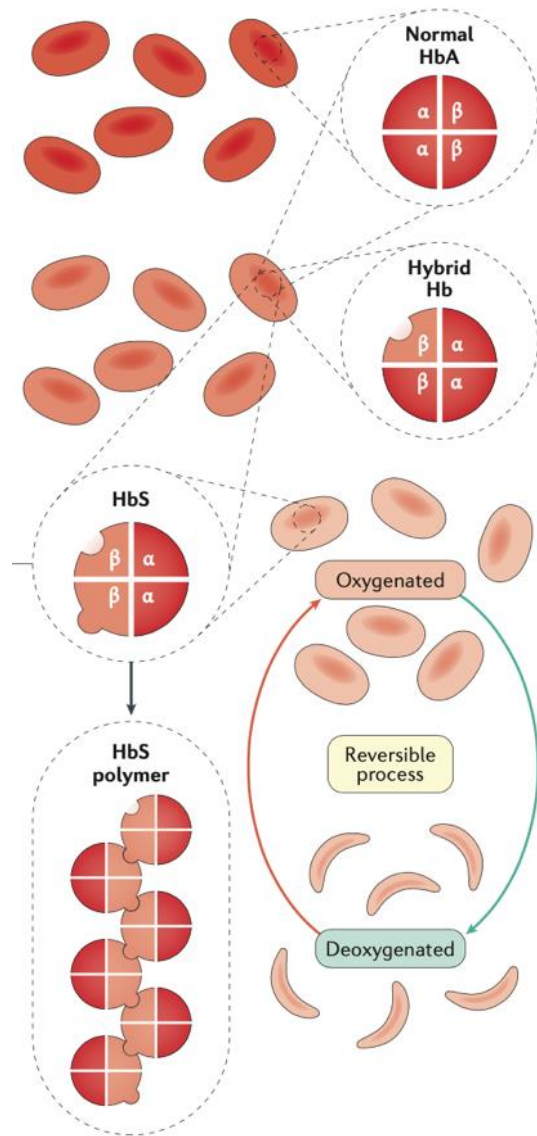
2 mutated  $\beta^s$  chains





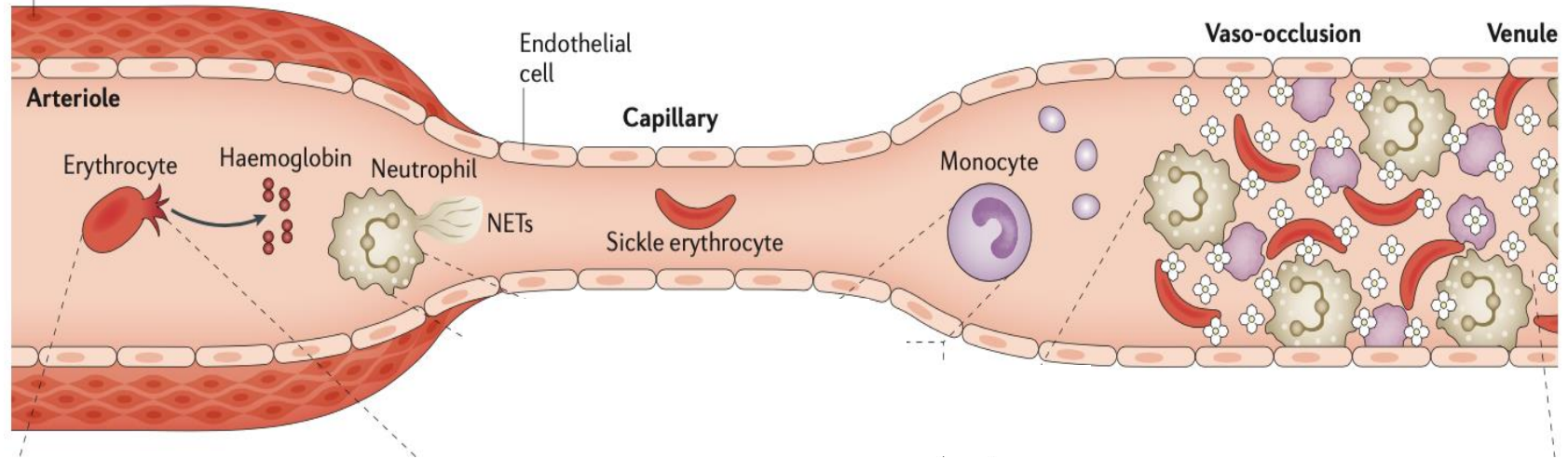
## Belgium

- 1% of newborns are carrier (« AS »)
- ≈1/2000 birth (SS, SC...)
- National Registry
  - 1203 patients (ped + ad) in Belgium 01/10/2023
- 230 patients in H.U.B. - Erasme



## Hemolyse

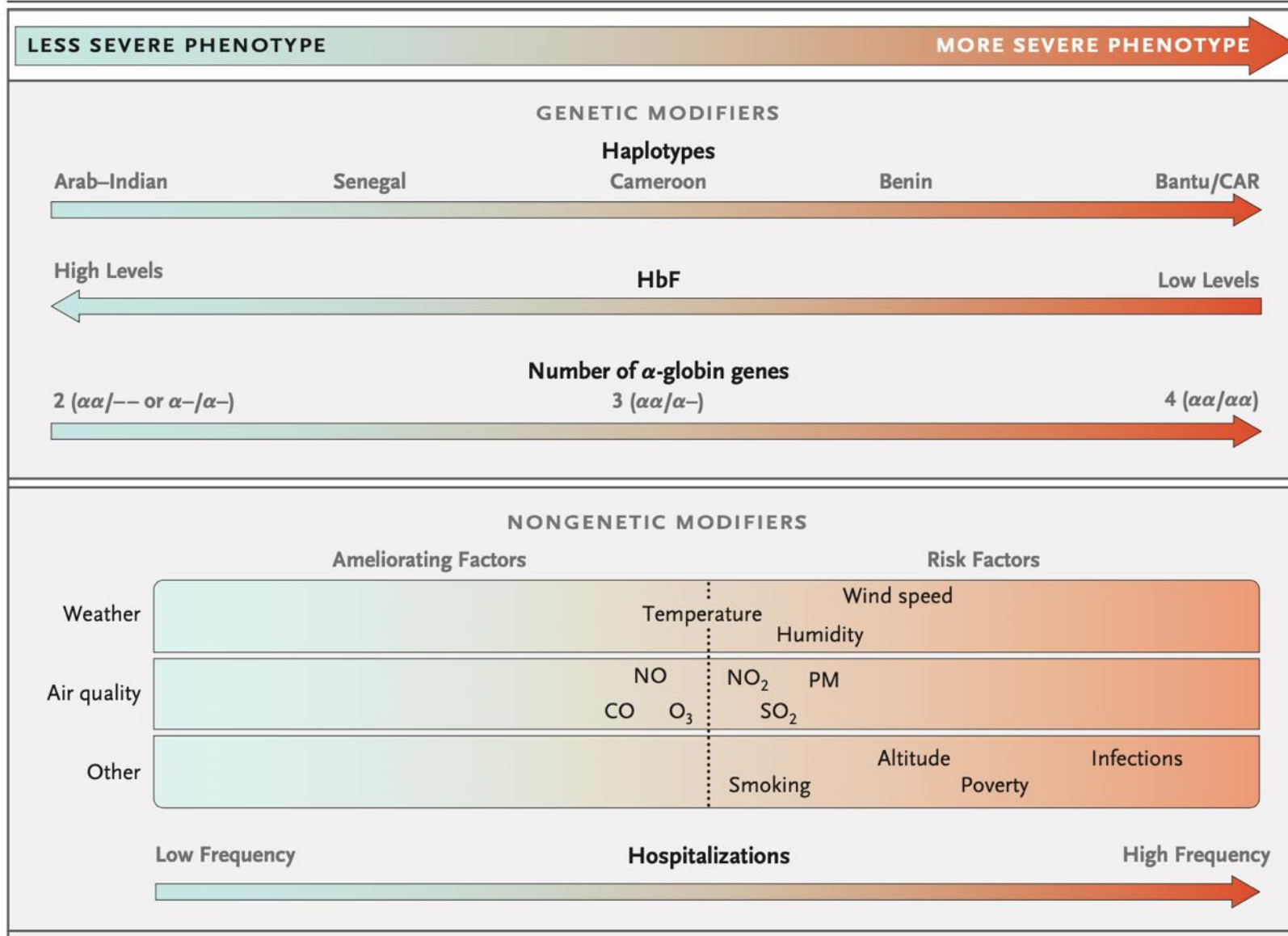
Vascular smooth muscle



## Vaso-Occlusion

## Sickle Cell Diseases

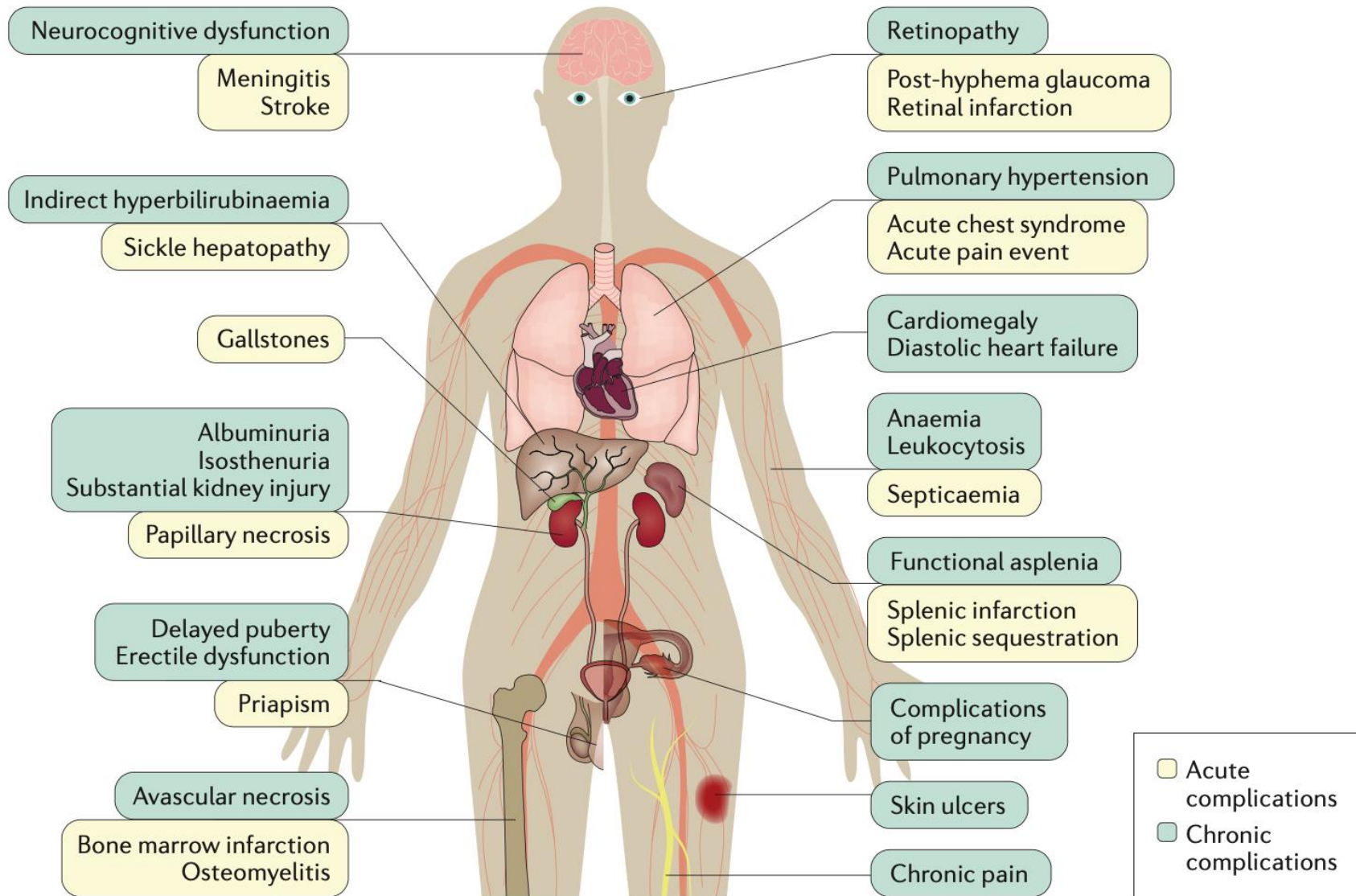
- Homozygoty SS
- Compound Heterozygoty S/C
- S /  $\beta^0$ - ou S/ $\beta^+$ - Thalassemia
- S / Other abnormal hemoglobin (S/E, S/D Punjab, ...)



Yeah, but...  
That's just pain control right ?



# Complications



Without screening :

11% at 20year

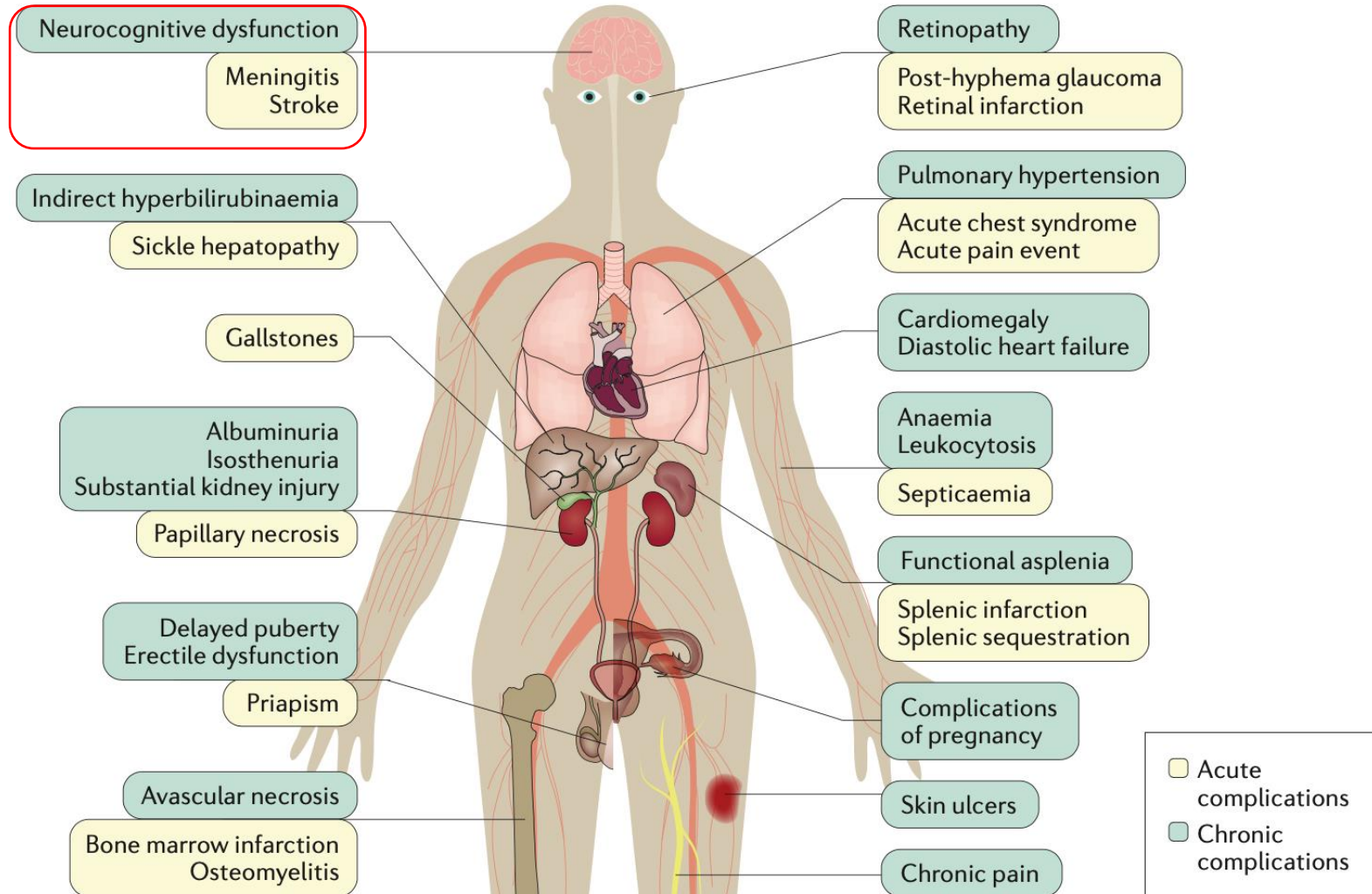
25% at 45year

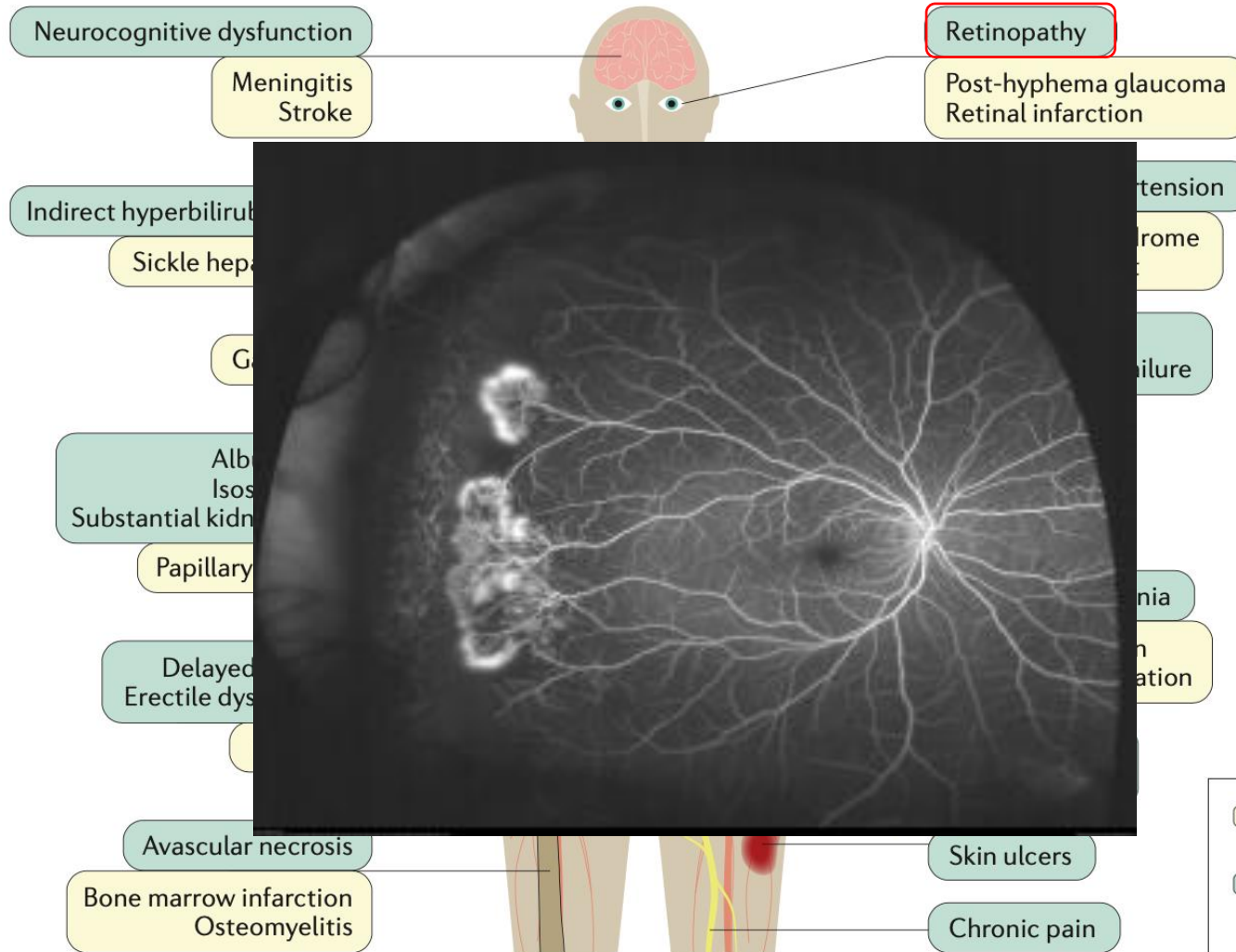
Screening :

\* TCD US

\* Angio-MRI (+Gado)

## Cerebral Vasculopathy



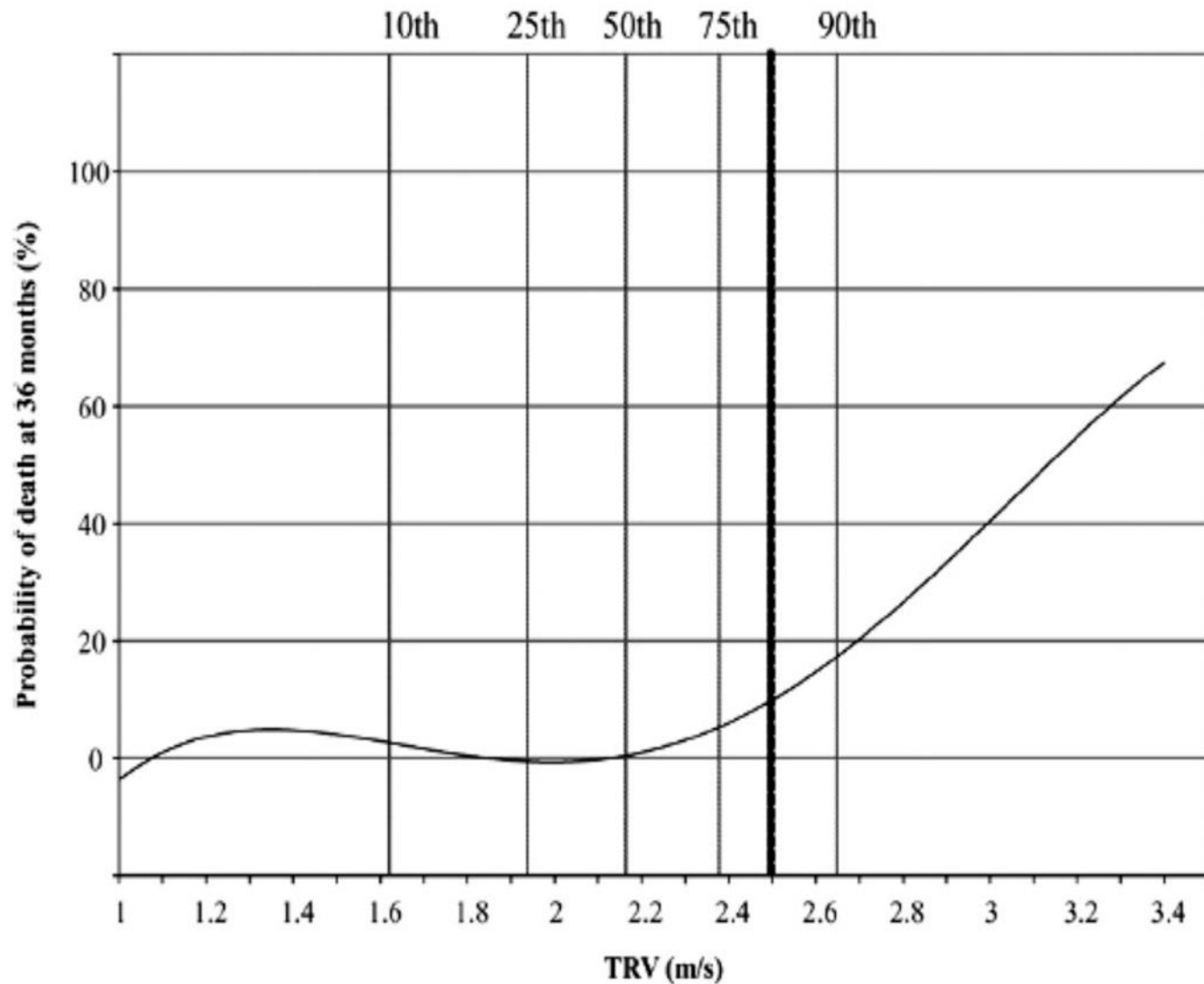


« All » patients

Annual screening starting at 10y

- Acute complications
- Chronic complications

# Complications



- Retinopathy
- Post-hyphema glaucoma  
Retinal infarction
- Pulmonary hypertension
- Acute chest syndrome  
Acute pain event
- Cardiomegaly  
Diastolic heart failure
- Anaemia  
Leukocytosis
- Septicaemia
- Functional asplenia
- Splenic infarction  
Splenic sequestration
- Complications of pregnancy
- Skin ulcers
- Chronic pain

6-10% of adult patients

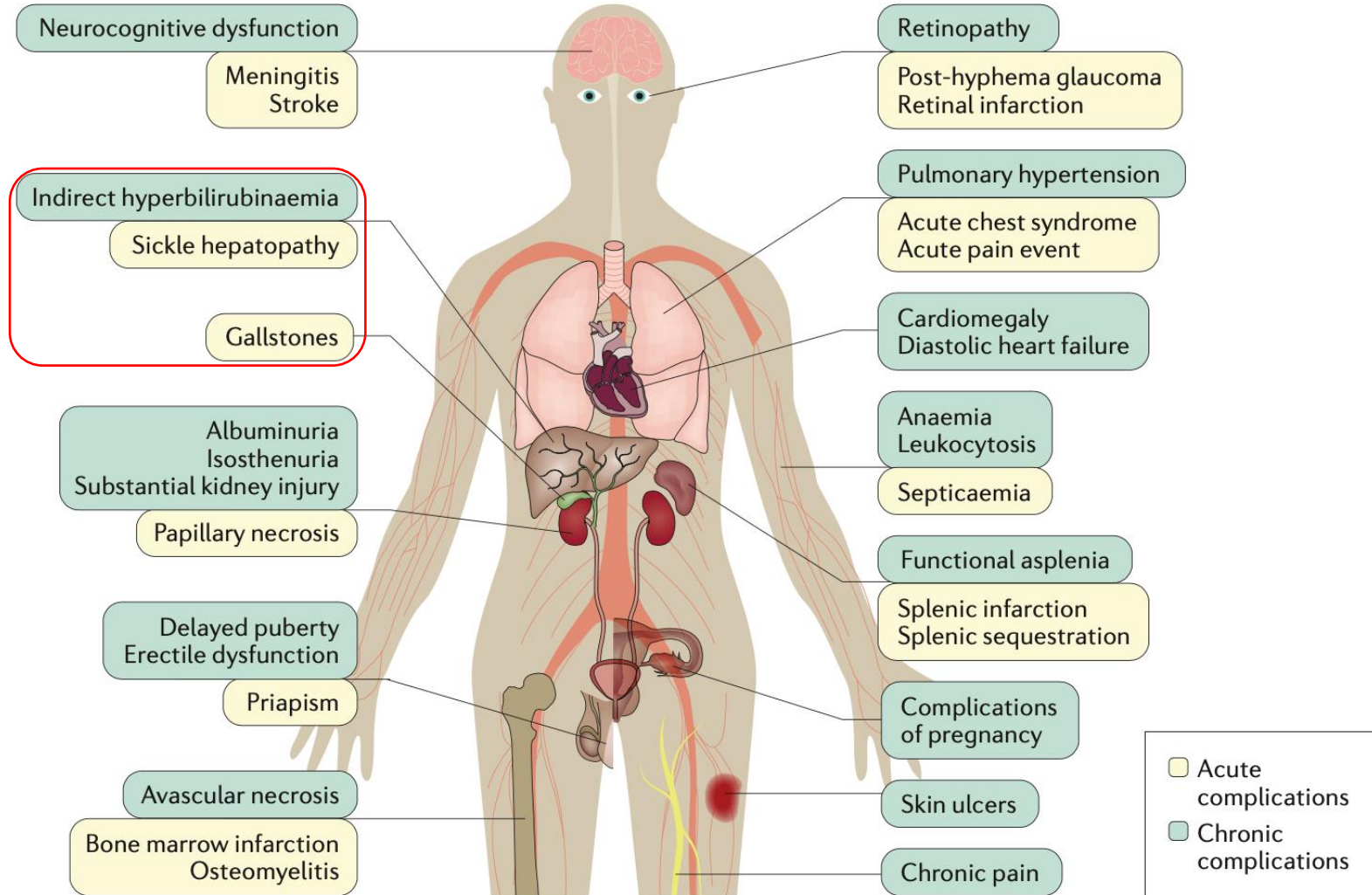
Screening :

\* Heart US

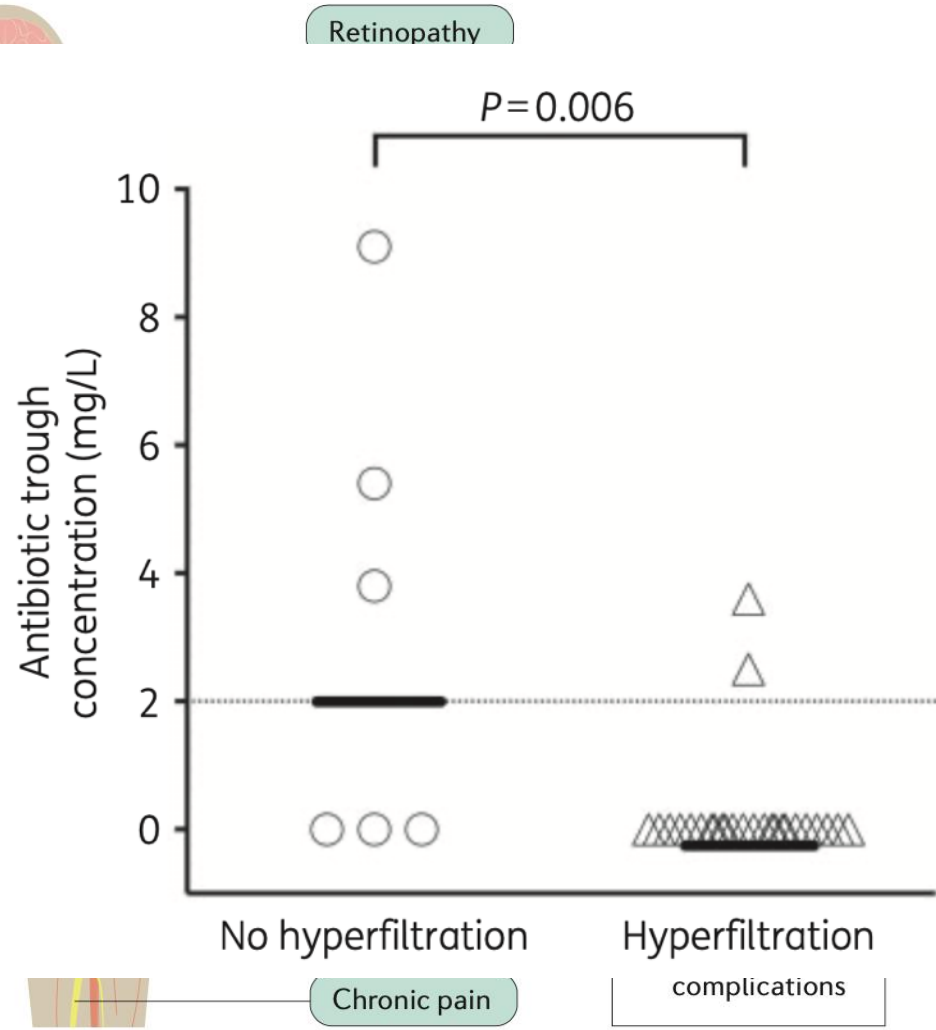
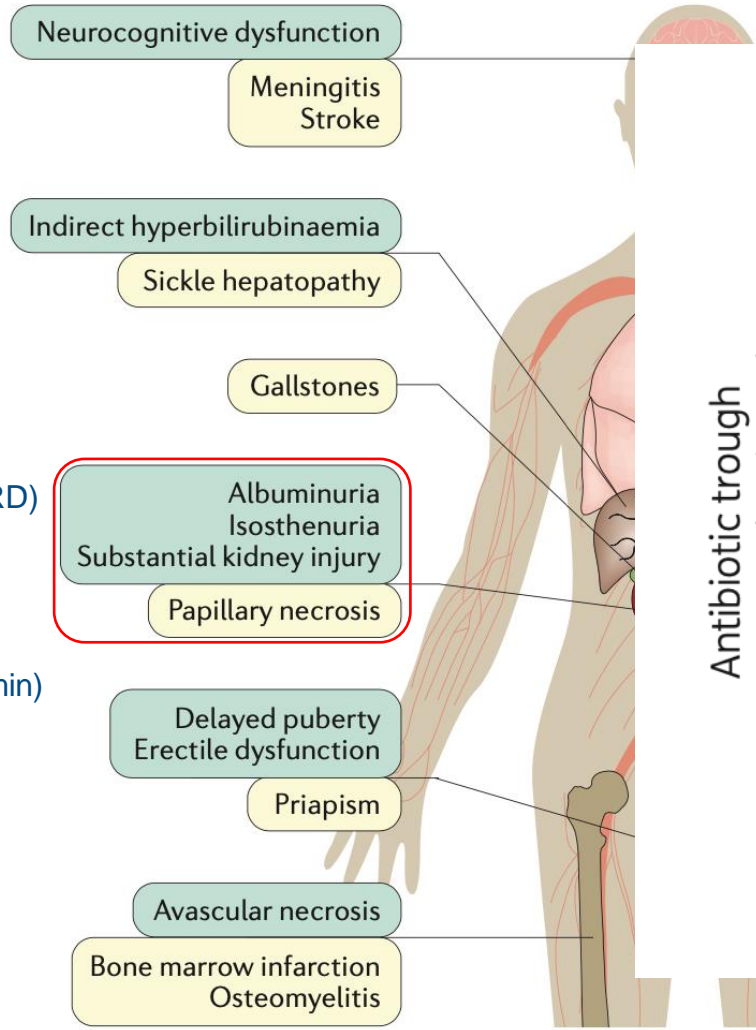
\* 6MWT

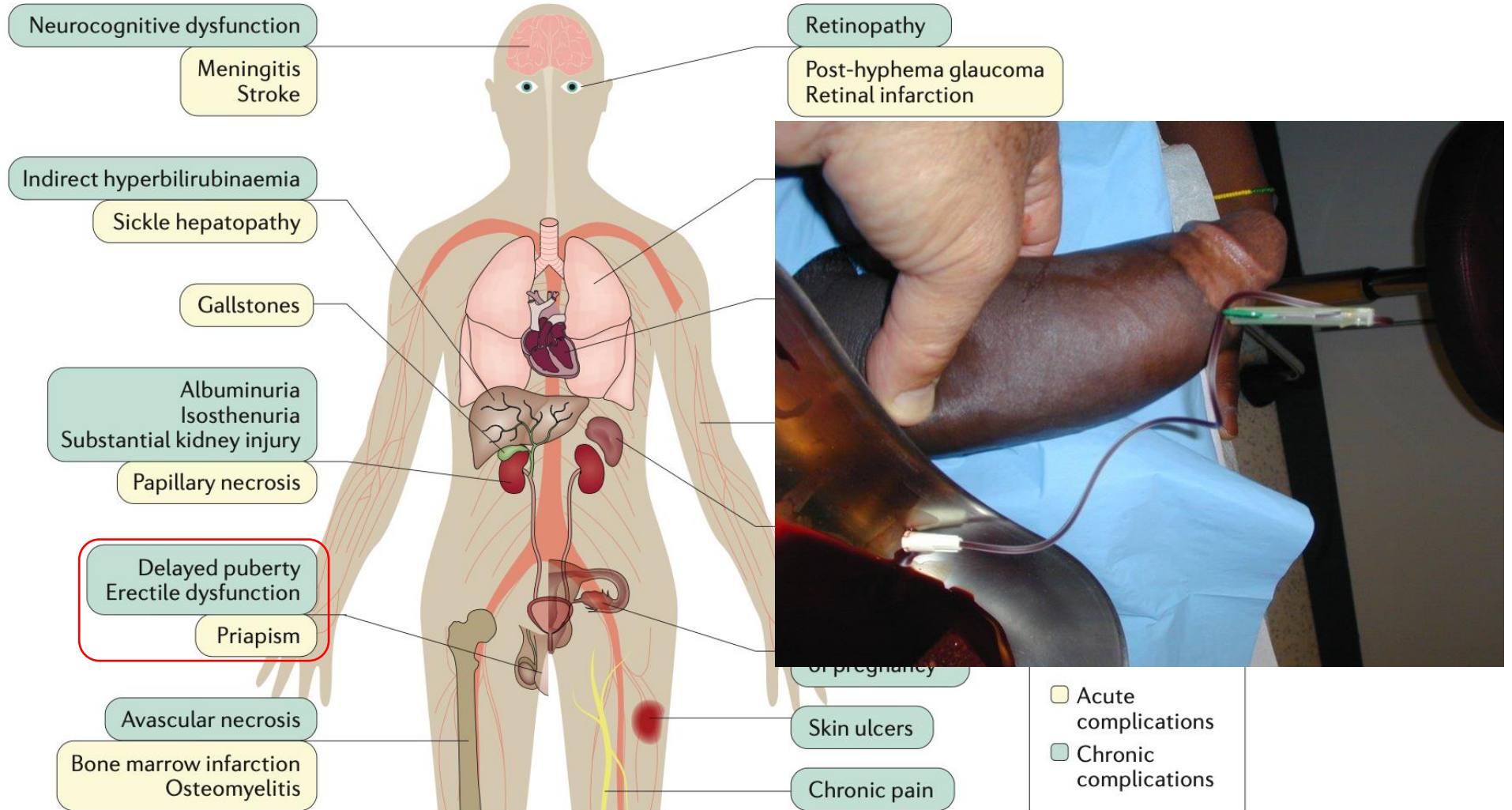
- Acute complications
- Chronic complications

60% Stones  
Chronic hepatitis (A-I, Ischemia, Virus, ...)  
Ischemic cholangitis



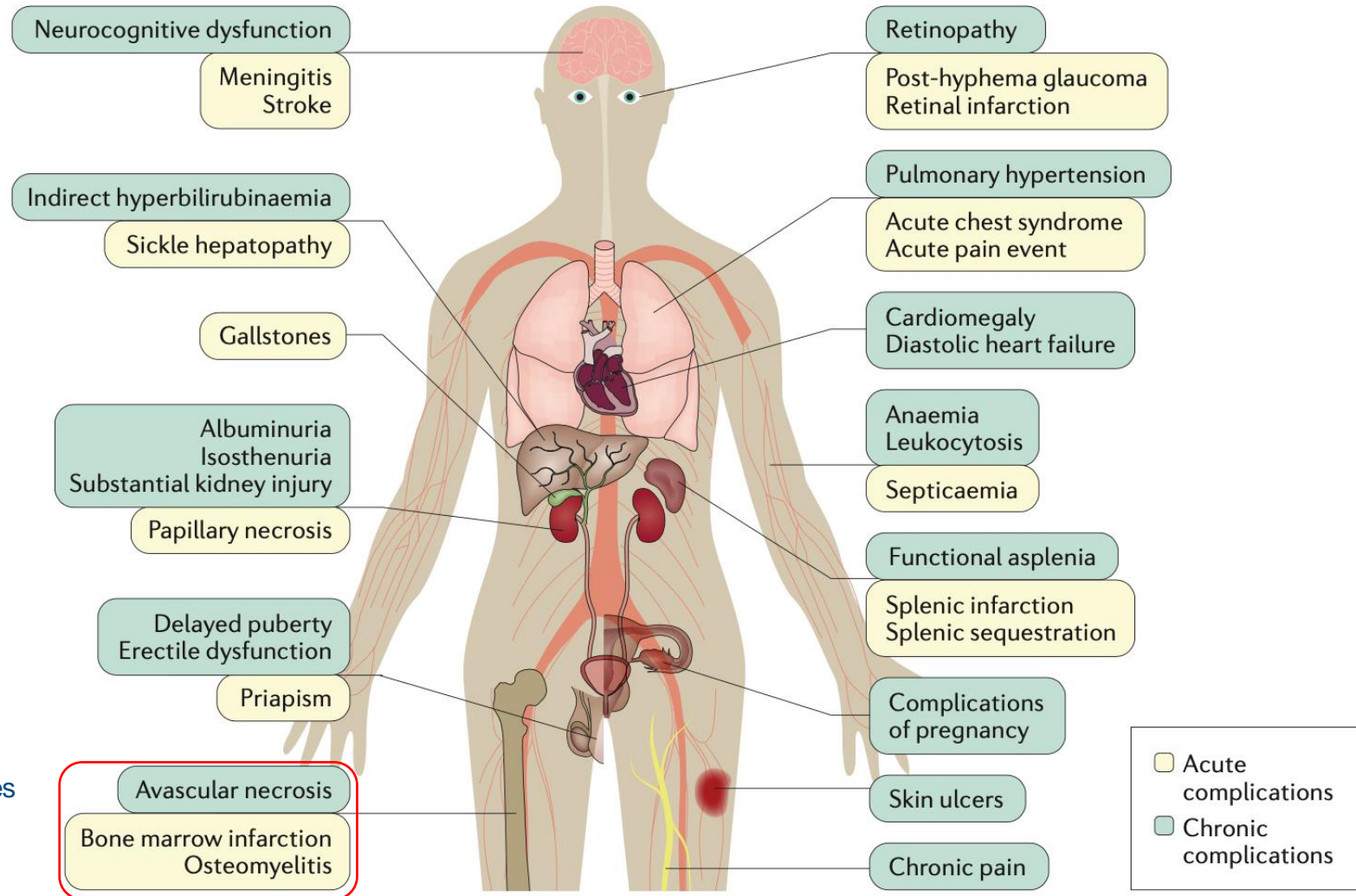
8-10% CKD 2 or more (4% ESRD)  
 CKD-EPI  
 NON corrected for ethnicity  
 Hyperfiltration (eGFR >110mL/min)





Priapism : 2-95%

# Complications

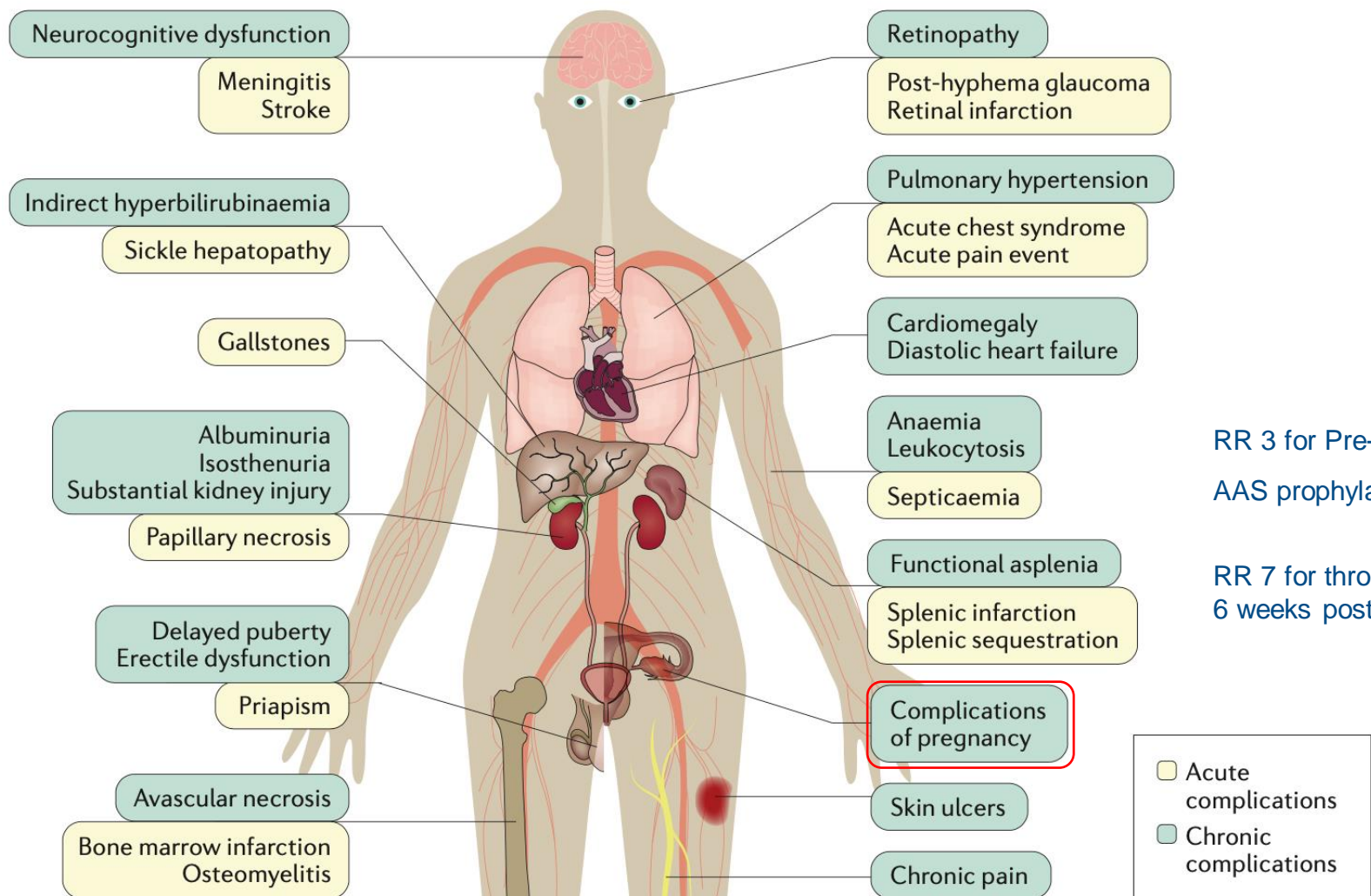


Functionnal consequences

Chronic pain



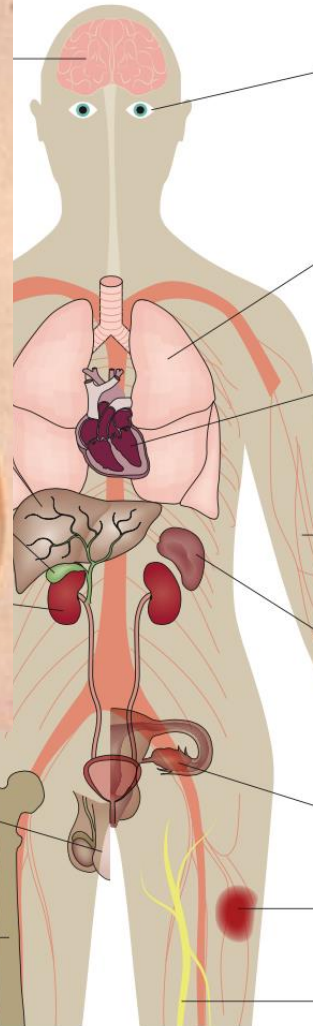
# Complications



RR 3 for Pre-Eclampsia  
AAS prophylaxis

RR 7 for thrombosis HBPM  
6 weeks post-partum

# Complications



Erectile dysfunction

Priapism

Avascular necrosis

Bone marrow infarction  
Osteomyelitis

Splenic sequestration

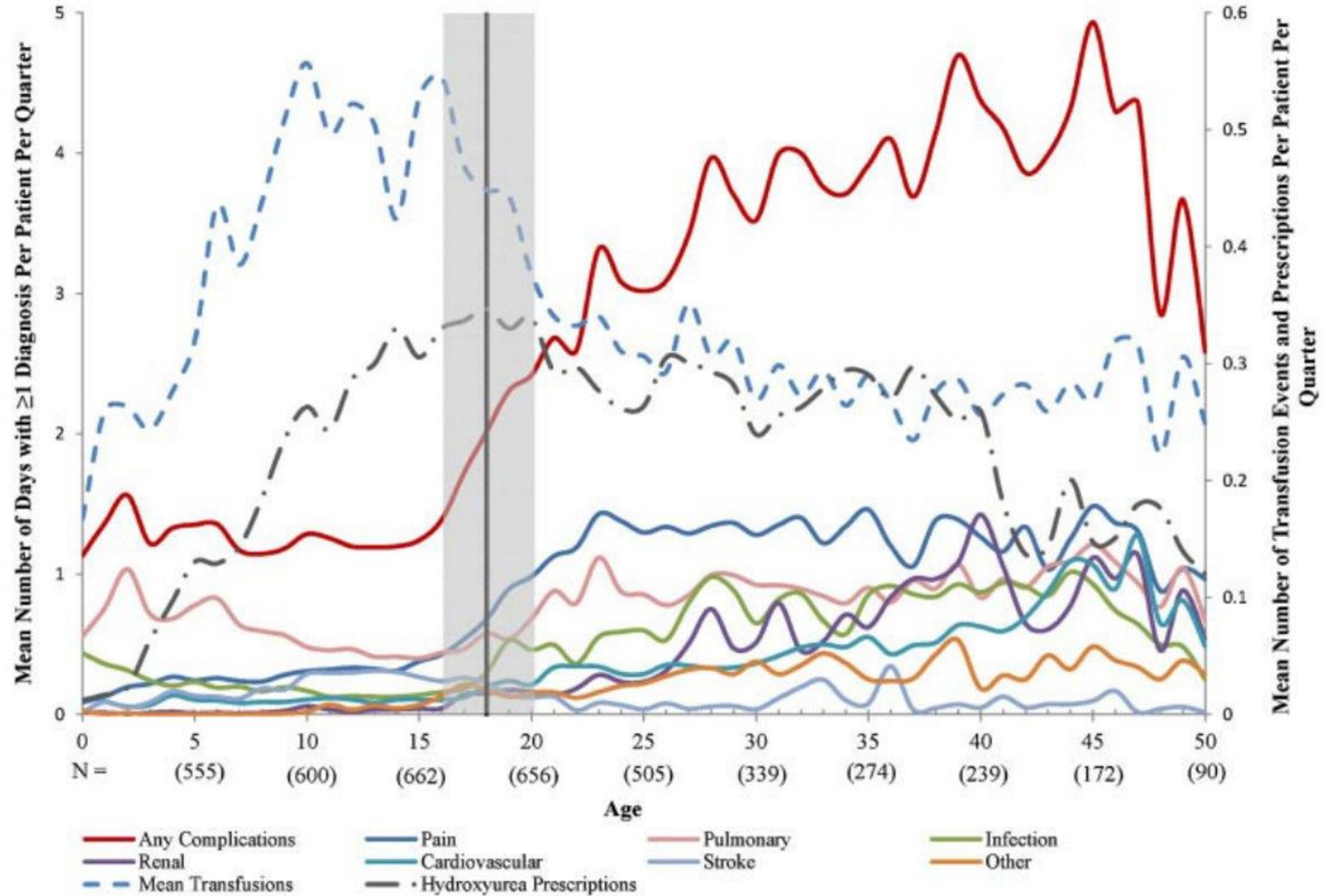
Complications of pregnancy

Skin ulcers

Chronic pain

- Acute complications
- Chronic complications

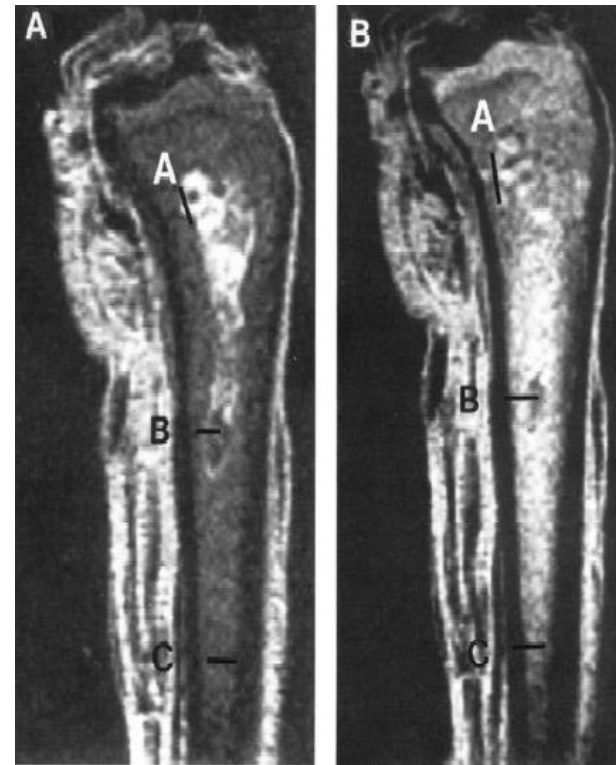
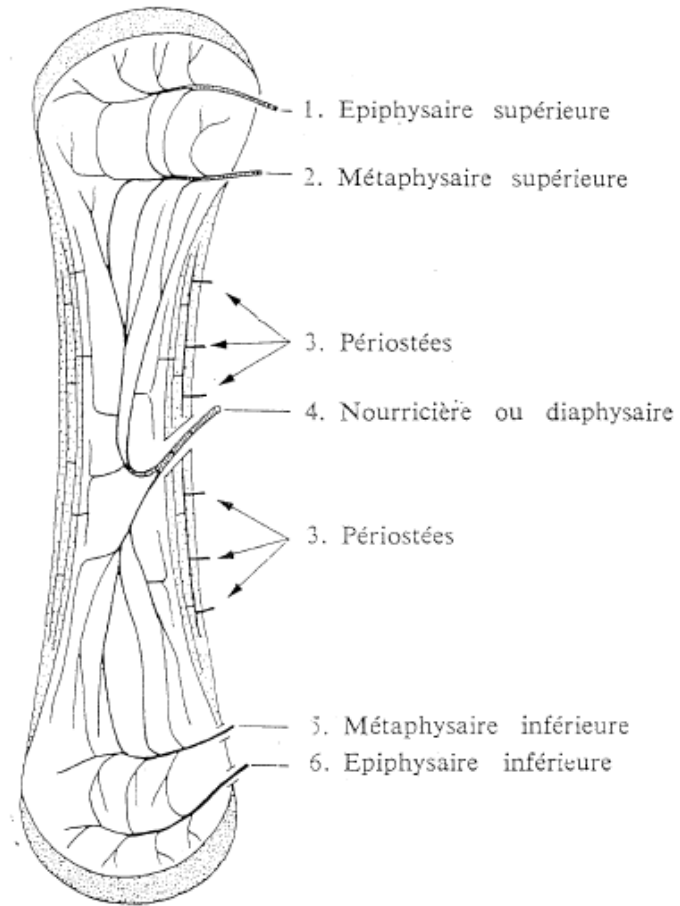
Median age of death :  
31 – 45 years old



Then, chronic patients looking  
for more painkillers ?

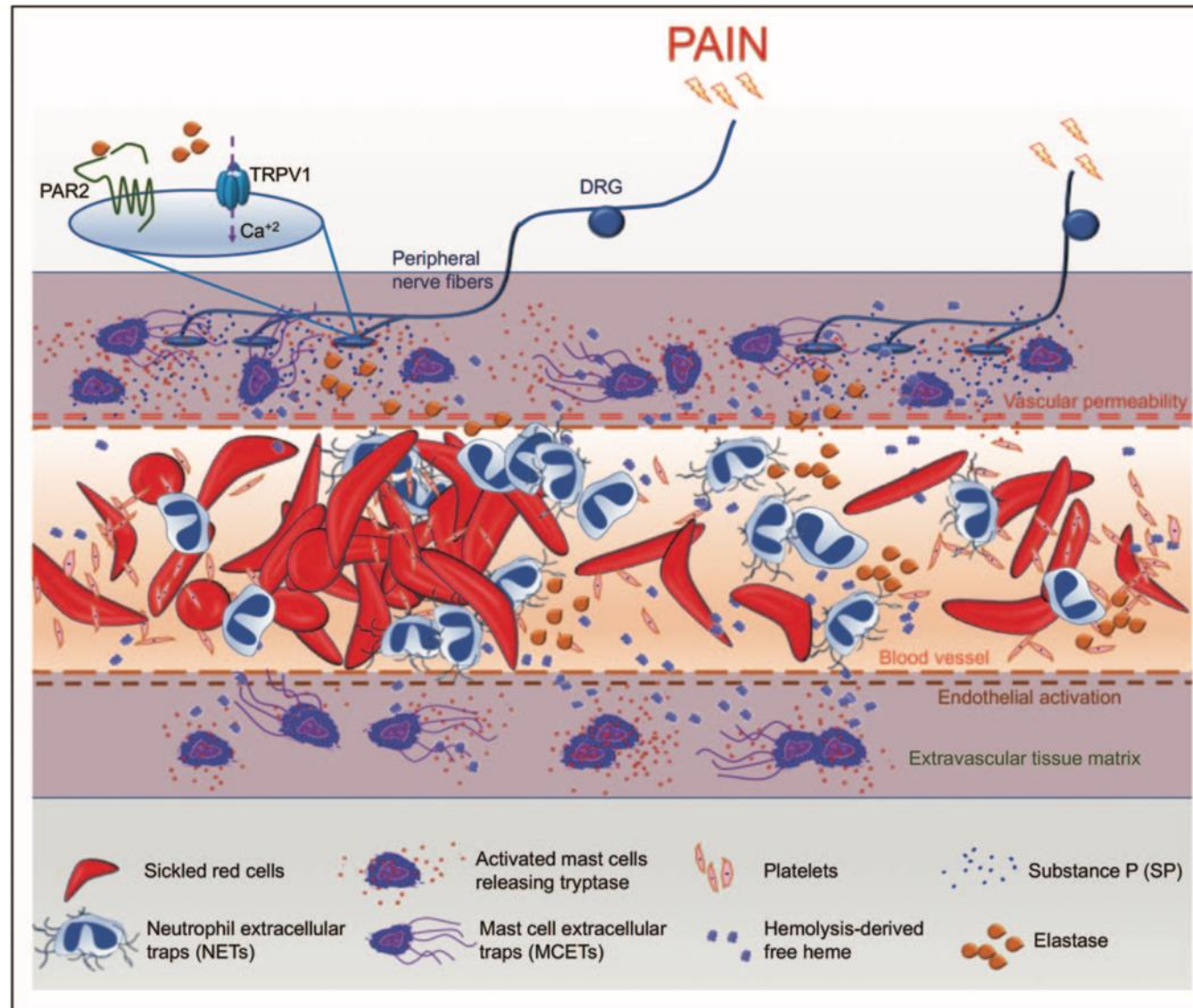
- Causing 95% of hospitalisations
- Osteo-articular pain
  - Paroxysmic and intense
  - Localised / diffuse
  - Functionnal impotency

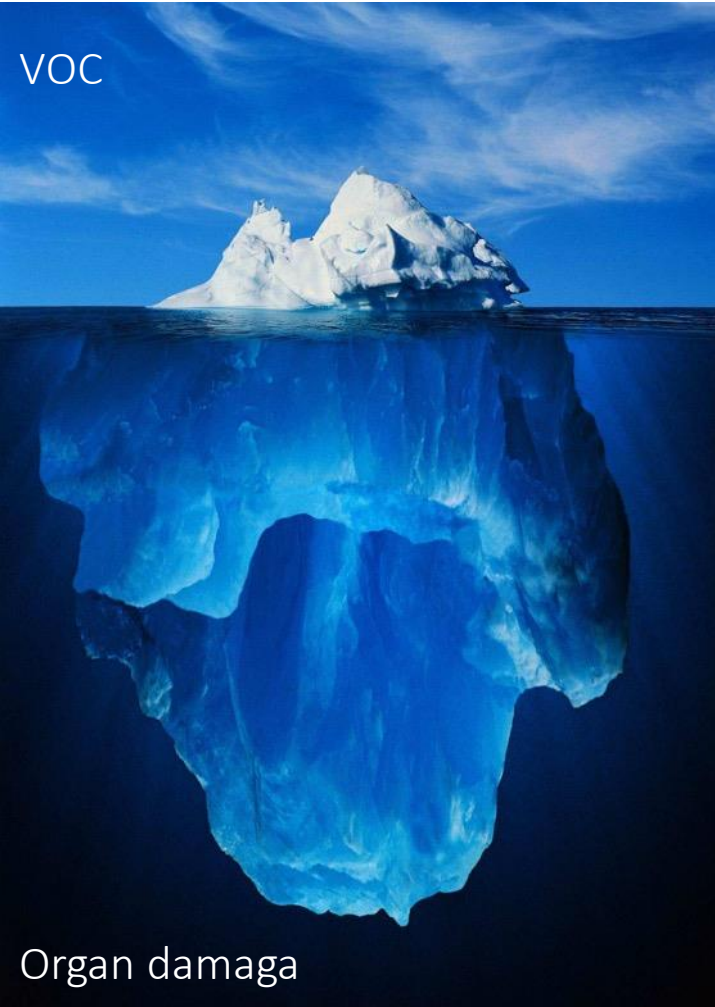
# Pain – Vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC)



IRM T2

# Pain – Vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC)





**Table 2. Cox Model to Examine the Relationship between VOC and Complications**

Outcomes among Sickle Cell patients (N=20,909)	Results from Cox Model for Follow-up VOC			
	HR	95% CI		p-value
Time-to-Death <sup>a</sup>	1.56	1.19	2.05	0.0014
Time-to-Acute Chest Syndrome <sup>b</sup>	58.67	50.21	68.55	<0.0001
Time-to-Splenic Sequestration <sup>c</sup>	43.99	30.65	63.13	<0.0001
Time-to-Pulmonary Embolism <sup>d</sup>	2.82	2.21	3.58	<0.0001
Time-to-Stroke <sup>e</sup>	2.26	1.94	2.63	<0.0001
Time-to-Pulmonary hypertension <sup>f</sup>	4.12	3.14	5.41	<0.0001



# Pain – Vaso-occlusive crisis (VOC)

Pain = Emergency

**TRIAGE :  
VERY URGENT**

First pain killers within 30 mn  
PainScale < 4 within 60 mn

Unusual charecteristic or localisation of pain

Chest pain or respiratory symptoms

No trigger

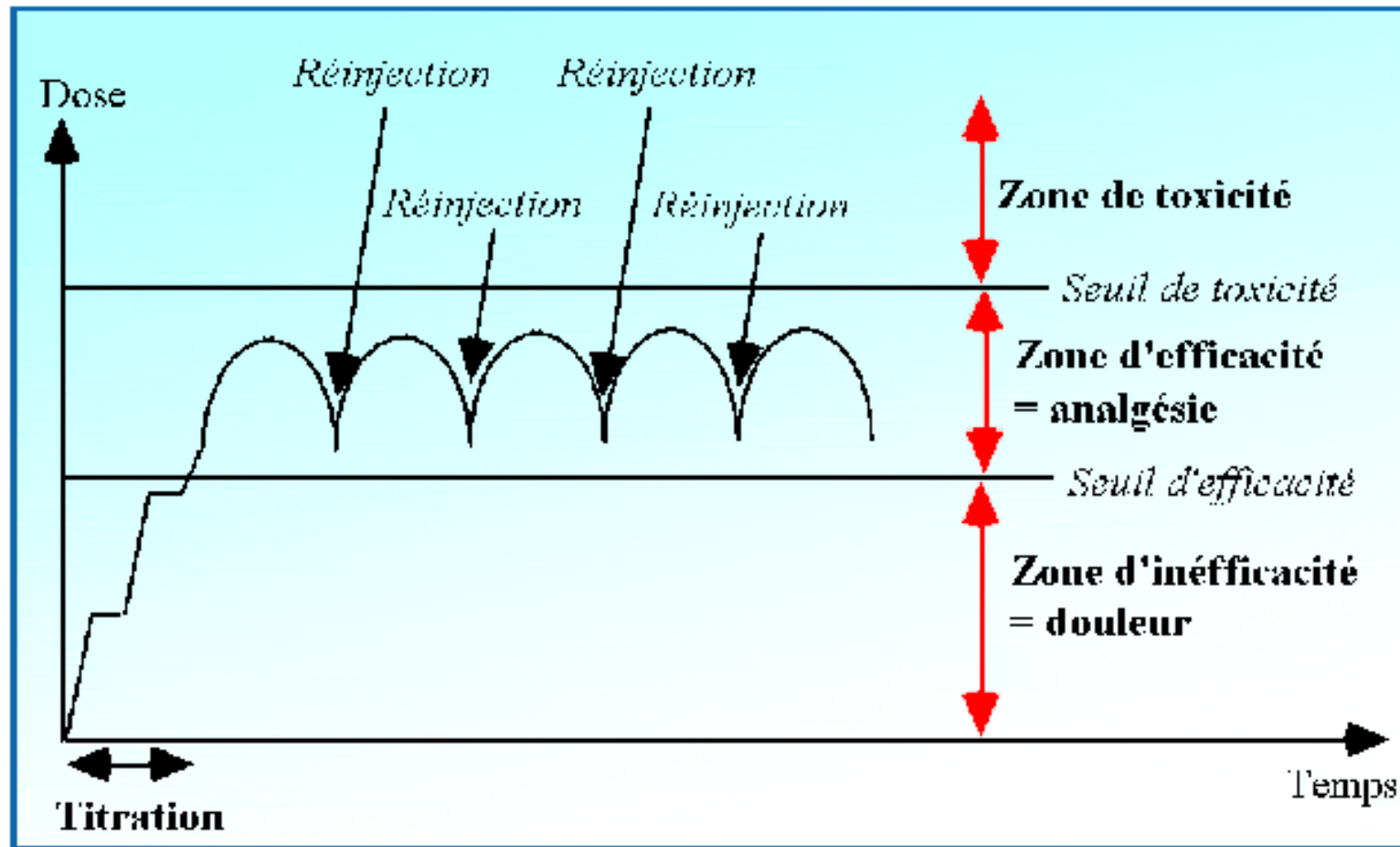
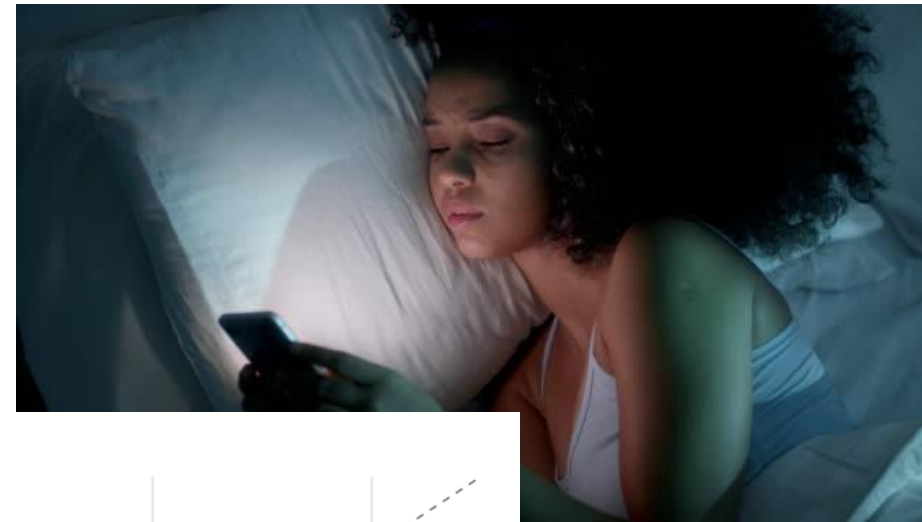


Figure 3 : Technique d'analgésie morphinique correcte associant une titration initiale et des réinjections à bonne posologie et à horaires fixes permettant de maintenir les seuils plasmatiques d'analgésique dans la zone d'efficacité. [7]



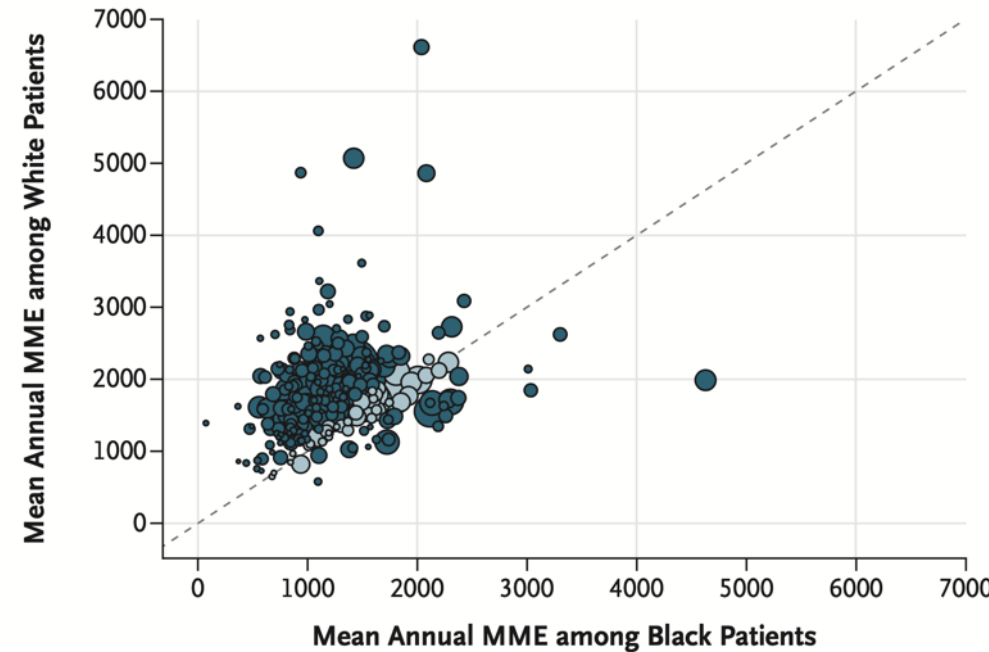
## Racial bias in pain assessment, recommendations, and differences between Black and White patients

Kelly M. Hoffman<sup>a,1</sup>, Sophie Trawalter<sup>a</sup>, Jordan R. ...

## Time to Take Stock of Systematic Review Disparities for Pain

Salimah H. Meghani, PhD, MBE

A Short-Term Opioid Receipt



JOURNAL of MEDICINE

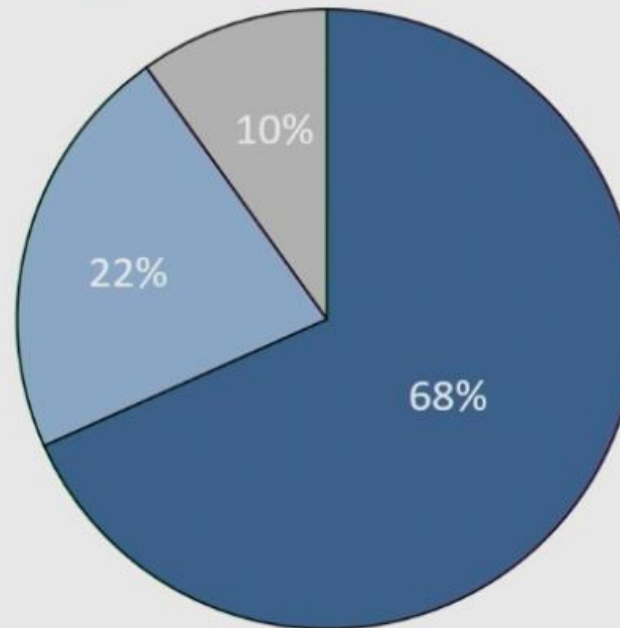
ARTICLE

## Prescription Opioid Disparities in Diverse and Rural Health Systems

...n, M.P.H., Andrew Wood, M.P.H., ...ara, Ph.D.

Have you ever been treated unfairly while seeking care?

■ Yes ■ No ■ I don't know



Because of race (67%)

Because of requesting more pain medicine (65%)

Approximately 60% of participants felt that the health care system treats people unfairly based on race or ethnic background "quite a bit" or "very much"

## Titration of morphine (IV)

In case of AKI prefer Piritramide (Dipidolor®) (equianalgesia 1:1)

Loading dose : **0,1 mg/kg**

Re-infusion every 5-10 minutes → ENS < 4

Monitoring of respiratory rate and sedation

STOP TITRATION : RR < 10 or sedation (EDS ≥ 2)

### Échelle de Sédation (EDS)

**S0** : Pas de sédation, patient bien éveillé

**S1** : Patient somnolent, stimuable verbalement

**S2** : Patient somnolent, stimuable tactilement

**S3** : Patient non réveillable, comateux

- Paracetamol 1g / 6h
- Diclofenac : 75mg then 37,5mg/6h
- Clonidine (Catapressan®) : 75micrograms IV in 30 min (monitoring) then *per os*
- Hot water bottles



- Hydratation IV :  
Ionolyte<sup>®</sup> 84mL/h
- Prophylactic anticoagulation  
**First dose in the ER**
- Oxygenotherapy : 2L/min



How could we miss a severe complication ?

- Woman – 19 ans
- SS Homozygoty
  - No chronic organ damage
  - Hydrea 1000mg qd
  - 1 hospitalization a year for VOC
- D3 : Saturation 93%  
Abnormal pulmonary auscultation



## Definition

At least 2 of 3 criteria among :

Abnormal auscultation

Radiographic abnormality

Chest pain (55-95%), dyspnoea (50-60%) or fever (60-80%)

## Epidemiology - Risk

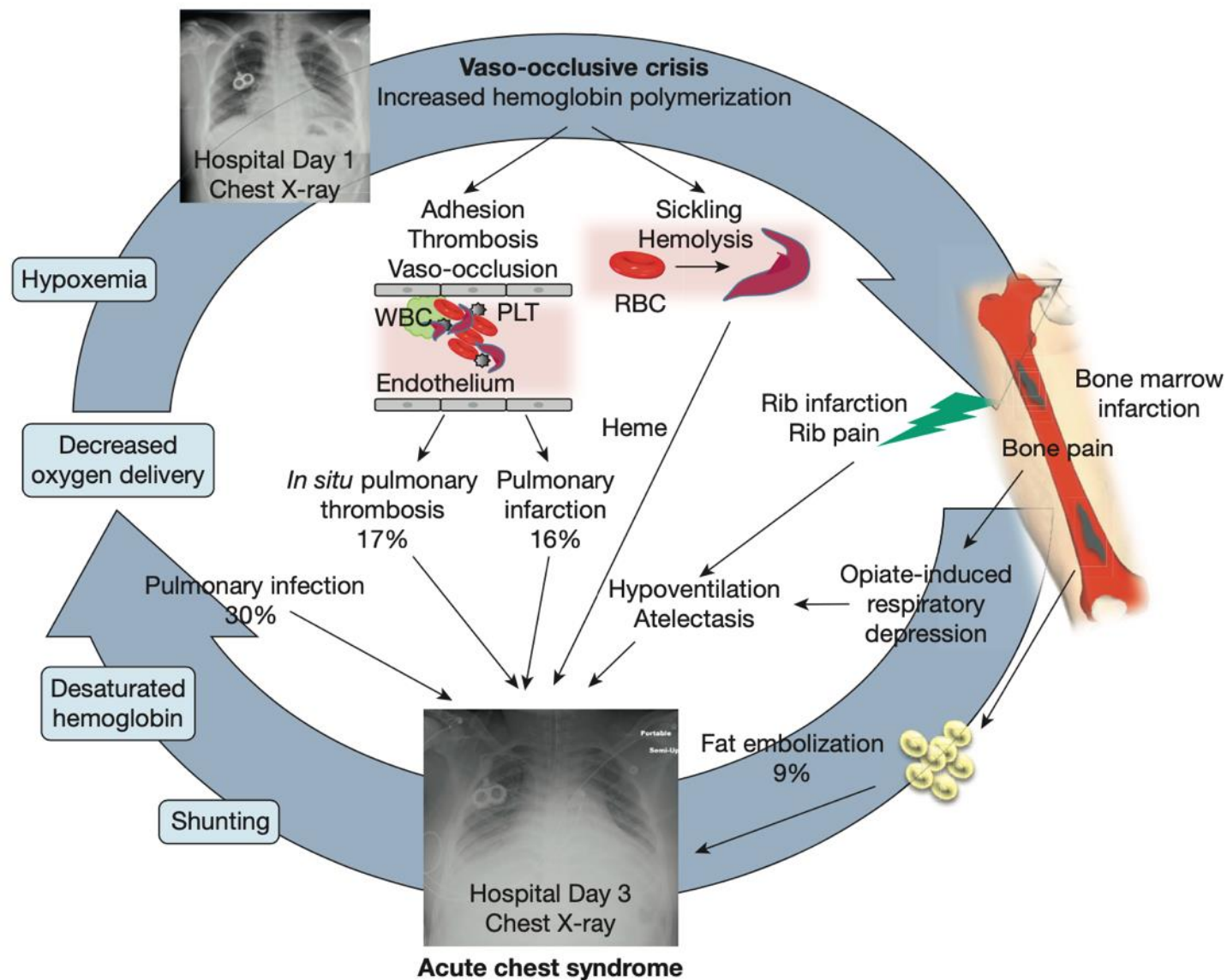
2<sup>nd</sup> more frequent acute complication

50% are preceded by a VOC

Onset on average within 2-3 days after a VOC

**Mortality 10%** - 13% need invasive ventilation

# Acute Chest Syndrome



## Biological

– NO D-dimers dosage

## Imaging

– Pleuro-pulmo US

Parameters	All Episodes (n = 44)	Lung Ultrasound Score		P
		Lower Values (n = 25)	Higher Values (n = 19)	
Treatment				
Oxygen flow, L/min	4 [3–8]	4 [3–6]	6 [4–12]	0.02
Antibiotics	43 (98)	24 (96)	19 (100)	>0.99
Antibiotics duration, d	7 [5–9]	7 [5–10]	7 [5–8]	0.76
Transfusion	36 (82)	18 (72)	18 (95)	0.11
Total number of transfused red blood cell units	4 [2–6]	2 [0–4]	6 [3–6]	<0.01
Total volume of exsanguinated blood, mL	450 [0–1488]	250 [0–700]	1150 [350–2050]	<0.01
Outcome				
Mechanical ventilation	11 (25)	3 (12)	8 (42)	0.04
Noninvasive	11 (25)	3 (12)	8 (42)	0.04
Invasive	3 (7)	0 (0)	3 (16)	0.07
ICU stay, d	5 [3–8]	4 [2–7]	7 [5–8]	0.02
ICU death	0 (0)	–	–	–

Razazi, K. *et al. Medicine* (2016)

LU Score : Bouhemad, B. *et al. Critical Care Medicine* (2010)

## Imaging

- Pleuro-pulmonar US
- Chest Xray
- Chest-CT ?

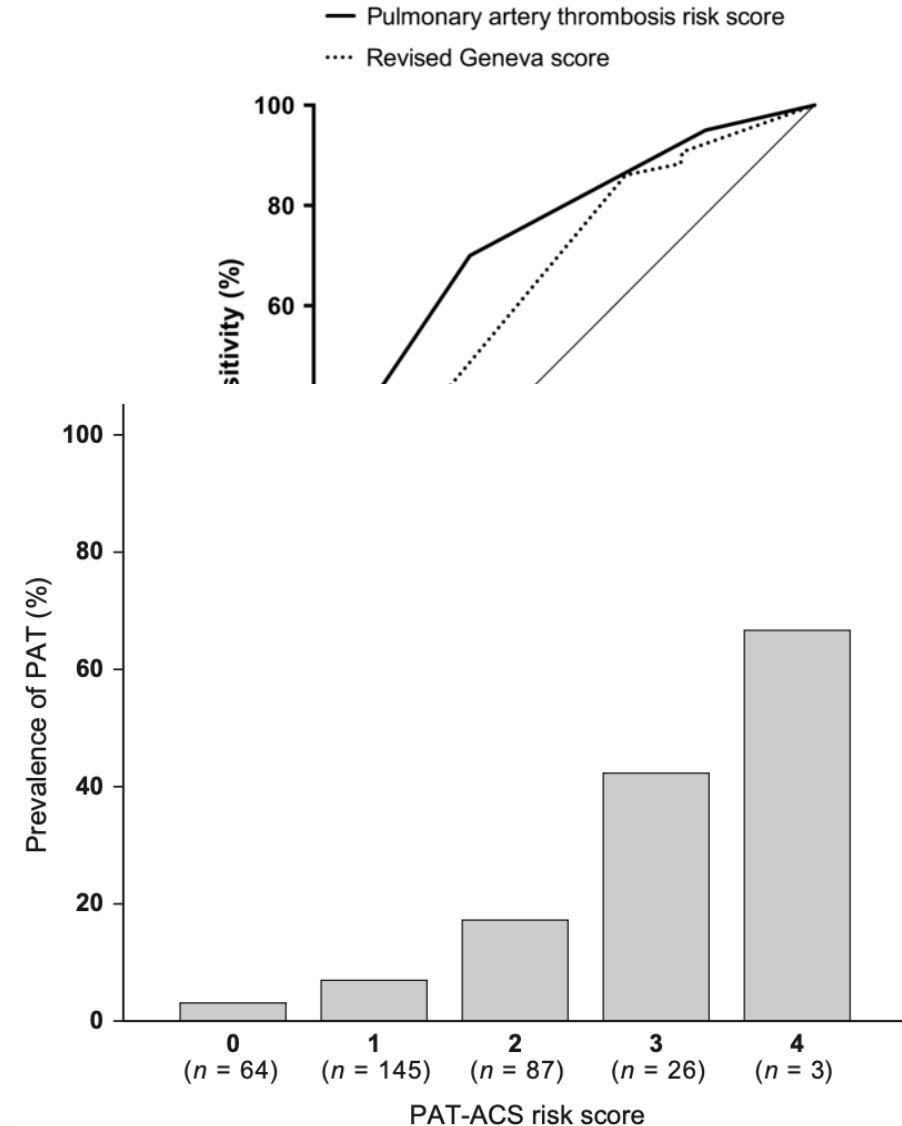
# Pulmonary arterial thrombosis in ACS

## PAT-ACS Risk Score

Variable	OR (95% CI), p value	Score weight
Baseline total hemoglobin > 8.2 g/dL		
No	1	0
Yes	3.32 (1.48-7.45), p=0.004	1
No triggering factor*		
No	1	0
Yes	2.00 (0.98-4.11), p=0.057	1
Platelet count >440.10 <sup>9</sup> /L*		
No	1	0
Yes	3.88 (1.88-8.00), p<0.001	1
PaCO <sub>2</sub> <38 mmHg*		
No	1	0
Yes	3.14 (1.37-7.18), p=0.007	1

Point cut-off*	NPV (95% CI)	PPV (95% CI)	Specificity (95% CI)	Sensitivity (95% CI)
0	-	12.3% (8.9-16.4)	0.0% (0.0-1.3)	100.0% (91.2-100.0)
1	96.9% (89.2-99.6)	14.6% (10.5-19.4)	21.8% (17.1-27.0)	95.0% (83.1-99.4)
2	94.2% (90.1-97.0)	23.9% (16.5-32.7)	68.8% (63.0-74.1)	70.0% (53.5-83.4)
3	90.8% (87.0-93.9)	43.3% (25.2-62.9)	94.0% (90.6-96.5)	32.5% (18.6-49.1)
4	88.2% (84.2-91.0)	66.7% (9.4-99.2)	99.7% (98.1-100.0)	5.0% (0.6-16.9)

Cut-off 2

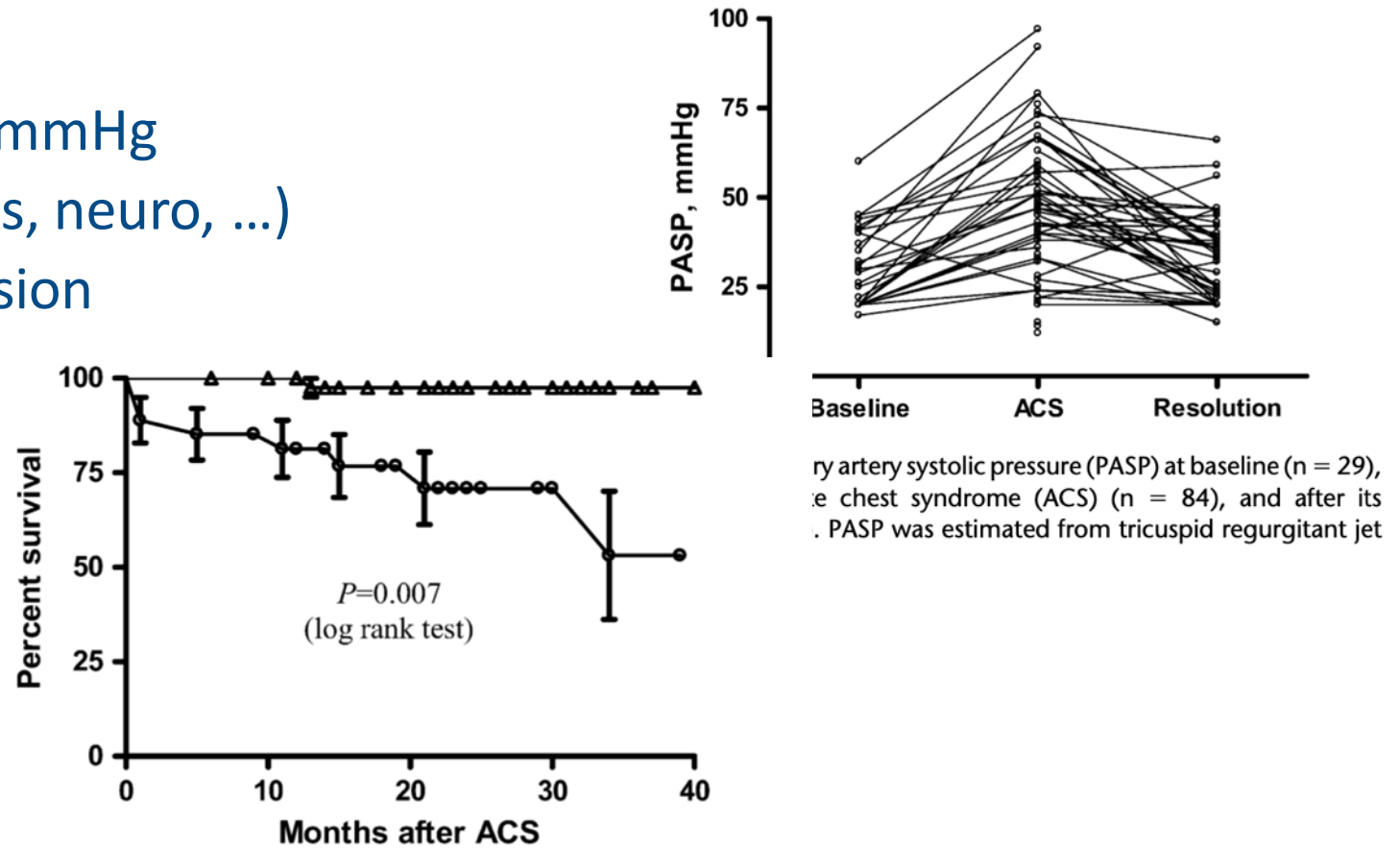


## Severity criteria

- Hypoxemia with PaO<sub>2</sub> < 70mmHg
- « classical » (hemodynamics, neuro, ...)
- Acute pulmonary hypertension

## In case of severe ACS :

- Chest-CT
- Cardiac US



**Figure 4.** Kaplan-Meier long-term survival curves according to tricuspid regurgitant jet velocity (TRV) during severe acute chest syndrome (ACS). *Triangles*, TRV < 3 m/second during all episodes (n = 43, deaths = 1); *circles*, TRV ≥ 3 m/second during at least one episode (n = 27, deaths = 8).



That's RBC disease...  
Why not just give them blood ?

- Acute anemia (> 2g below baseline), poorly tolerated and hypoproliferative
- Severe Acute Chest Syndrome
- Stroke
- Any acute organ damage due to SCD complication or not
- Prophylactic transfusion before major surgery

## NOT

- Chronic anemia even at a « very » low level
- Severe pain
- Non-severe ACS
- Recently (<30days) transfused patient
- Allo-immunized patient

- Woman – 19 ans
- SS Homozygoty
  - No chronic organ damage
  - Hydrea 1000mg qd
  - 1 hospitalization a year for VOC
- D3 : Saturation 93%  
Abnormal pulmonary auscultation
- D4 : OTI – Prone position
- Exchange transfusion with rapid improvement

Hémoglobine	g/L	↓ 10.5
Hématocrite	g/L	↓ 31.5
MCV	L	86.1
MCH	L	28.7
MCHC	L	33.3
RDW	L	↑ 19.5
Réticulocytes	L	↑ 5.79
Réticulocytes absolu	g/L	↑ 211.9
Plaquettes	g/L	284
MPV	L	↑ 11.1
Fraction reticulo.immature	L	↑ 30.1
<b>Formule leucocytaire</b>		
Polyneutrophiles	g/L	62.7
Polyneutrophiles absolu	L	↑ 7.21
Erythroblastes	L	↑ 16.5
Erythroblastes absolu	L	1.9
<b>Recherche/Suivi d'une hémoglobinopathie</b>		
<b>Hémoglobine normale/thalassémies</b>		
Hb A	L	75
Hb A2 (par élec. capillaire)	g/L	↑ 3.4
Séparation des Hbs à pH 9,4	g/L	Hb A + Hb F + Hb S (20%)

<b>Numération</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Vérification	L	Formule réalisée au microscope
<input type="checkbox"/> Leucocytes	g/L	10.77
<input type="checkbox"/> Globules blancs corrigés	L	8.25
<input type="checkbox"/> Globules rouges	g/L	↓ 1.56
<input type="checkbox"/> Hémoglobine	g/L	↓↓ 5.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Hématocrite	g/L	↓ 14.5
<input type="checkbox"/> MCV	L	92.9
<input type="checkbox"/> MCH	L	33.3
<input type="checkbox"/> MCHC	L	35.9
<input type="checkbox"/> RDW	L	↑ 21.6
<input type="checkbox"/> Réticulocytes	L	↑ 6.26
<input type="checkbox"/> Réticulocytes absolu	g/L	97.7
<input type="checkbox"/> Plaquettes	g/L	341

<b>Hémoglobine anormale/thalassémies</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> Hb A	L	15
<input type="checkbox"/> Hb A2 (par élec. capillaire)	g/L	↑ 5.9
<input type="checkbox"/> Hb F	g/L	↑ 7.2
<input type="checkbox"/> Séparation des Hbs à pH 9,4	g/L	Hb F + Hb A + Hb S (72%)

LDH 2650 UI/L

# Blood groups

Génotypage érythrocytaire		
<input type="checkbox"/> RH2 C	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> RH3 E	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> RH4 c	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> RH5 e	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL1 K	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL2 k	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL3 Kpa	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL4 Kpb	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL6 Jsa	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> KEL7 Jsb	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> FY1 Fya	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> FY2 Fyb	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> JK1 Jka	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> JK2 Jkb	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> MNS1 M	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> MNS2 N	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> MNS3 S	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> MNS4 s	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> LU1 Lua	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> LU2 Lub	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> DI1 Dia	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> DI2 Dib	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> CO1 Coa	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> CO2 Cob	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> DO1 Doa	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> DO2 Dob	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> DO4 Hy	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> DO5 Joa	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> LW5 Lwa	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> LW7 Lwb	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> SC1 Sc1	↯	Positif
<input type="checkbox"/> SC2 Sc2	↯	Negatif
<input type="checkbox"/> HEA commentaire	↯	<p>Système FY : Présence du polymorphisme correspondant à l'allèle FY*2 à l'état homozygote. Présence de la mutation -67 T&gt;C (mutation GATA) dans la région promotrice des allèles FY*2 à l'état homozygote. Phénotype érythrocytaire attendu: FY:-1,-2.</p> <p>Système RH: Présence de la mutation c.733C&gt;G à l'état hétérozygote au niveau de l'exon 5 de l'allèle RHCE*ce.</p>

Sounds complicated.  
Any forbidden drugs ?

## Corticosteroids :

**CONTRA-INDICATION !! – Severe ACS**

Pas si HbS>60%

## Hydroxyurea

Reduce or hold in case of low reticulocyte count (RPI<2,5-3)

Carefull in case of renal failure

## Benzodiazepines :

Risk of respiratory depression when combined with opiods

# “Start / Stop” drugs

G6PD deficiency  
35% of C

Acide acétylsalicylique (Aspirine)	☹
Acide ascorbique (Vitamine C)	☹
Acide nalidixique <sup>§</sup>	✘
Acide pipémidique	☹
Antipyrine (voir Phénazone)	☹
Aspirine (voir Acide acétylsalicylique)	☹
Bleu de méthylène (voie injectable)*	✘
Carbutamide <sup>§</sup>	☹
Chloroquine	☹
Ciprofloxacine	☹
Dapsone	✘
Dimercaprol	☹
Enoxacine	☹
Fluméquine	☹
Glibenclamide	☹
Glibornuride <sup>§§</sup>	☹
Gliclazide	☹
Glimépiride	☹
Glipizide	☹
Hydroxychloroquine	☹
Lévofloxacine	☹
Loméfloxacine	☹
Métamizole sodique (voir Noramidopyrine) <sup>§</sup>	✘
Moxifloxacine	☹
Nitrofurantoïne	✘

Noramidopyrine (Métamizole sodique) <sup>§</sup>	✘
Norfloxacine (voie orale)	☹
Ofloxacine (voies orale et injectable)	☹
Paracétamol	☹
Péfloxacine	☹
Phénazone (voie cutanée et nasale)	☹
Phytoménadione (voir Vitamine K)	☹
Prilocaine	☹
Primaquine*	✘
Quinine	☹
Rasburicase	✘
Spiramycine	☹
Streptokinase*	☹
Sulfacétamide <sup>§§</sup>	☹
Sulfadiazine (voie orale)	✘
Sulfadiazine (voie cutanée)	☹
Sulfadoxine	☹
Sulfafurazole	✘
Sulfaguanidine <sup>§</sup>	✘
Sulfaméthizol	☹
Sulfaméthoxazole	✘
Sulfasalazine	✘
Triméthoprime**	☹
Vitamine C (voir Acide ascorbique)	☹
Vitamine K <sub>1</sub> (Phytoménadione)	☹



1. Rapid and aggressive pain management
2. Prevention and early detection of potentially lethal complication as ACS
3. DO NOT TRANSFUSE
4. **Rare diseases suffer from amateurism**  
**Collaboration with expert centers serves patients**

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