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## **Cardiovascular Outcomes from Radiation Exposure**

# Radiation Epidemiology & Dosimetry Course

National Cancer Institute

[www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse](http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse)

# Disclosures

- Supported in part by grants from the National Institutes of Health (HL072705, HL078522, HL053392, CA127642, CA068484, HD052104, AI50274, HD052102, HL087708, HL079233, HL004537, HL087000, HL007188, HL094100, HL095127, and HD80002), Roche Diagnostics, Pfizer, the Children's Cardiomyopathy Foundation, the Women's Cancer Association of the University of Miami, the Lance Armstrong Foundation, the STOP Children's Cancer Foundation, the Scott Howard Fund, and the Michael Garil Fund.
- Clinigen: Consultant

# National Cancer Institute

## Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS)

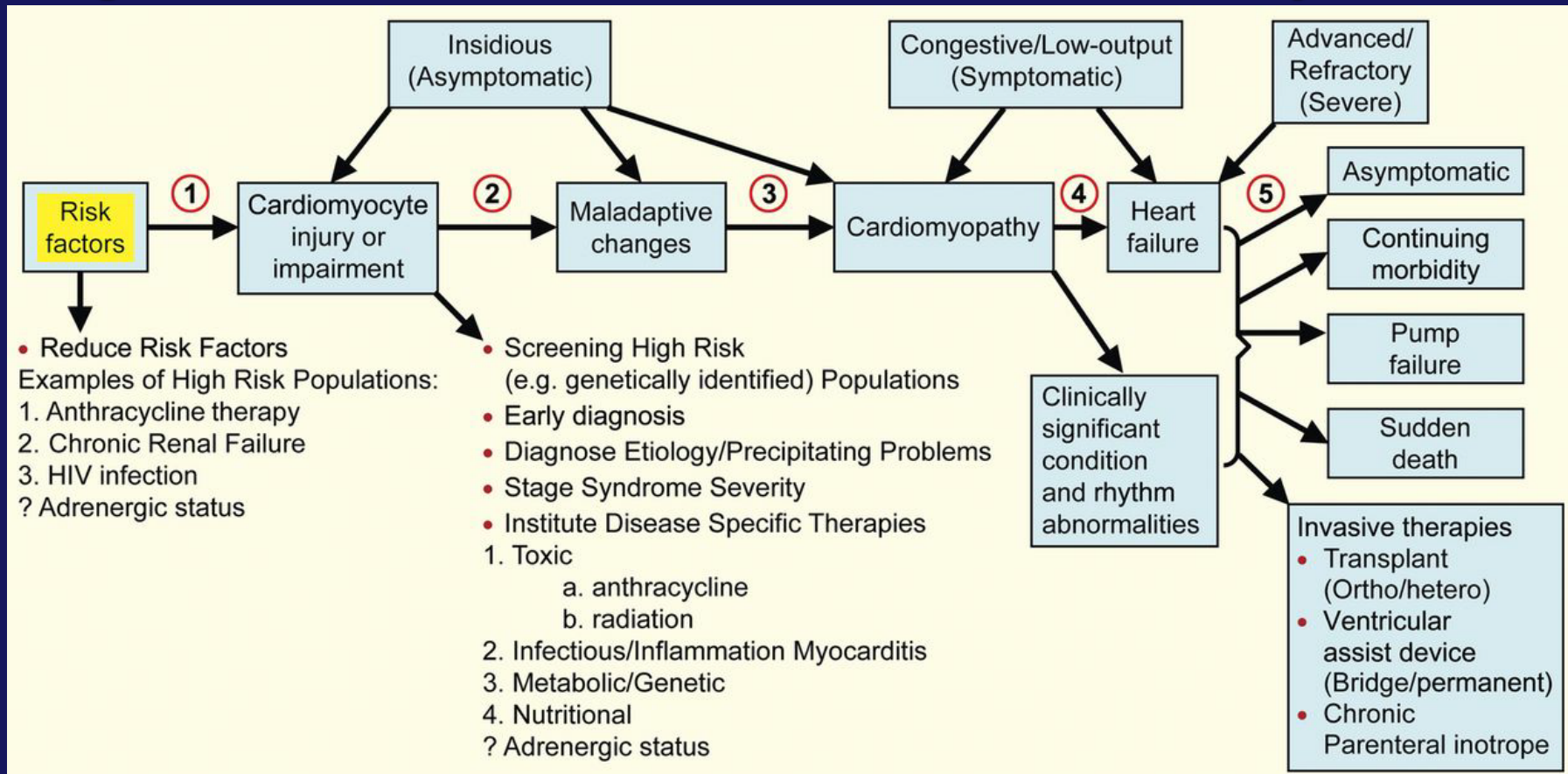
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Common late effects and relative morbidity 30 years after childhood cancer treatment:

- Neurocognitive (severe cognitive dysfunction,  $RR^* = 10.5$ )
- Psychological (depression, post-traumatic stress)
- Cardiopulmonary (decreased lung volume, heart dysfunction)  
(CAD,  $RR = 10.4$ ; CHF,  $RR = 15.1$ ; cerebrovascular accident,  $RR = 9.3$ )
- Endocrine (growth and fertility; ovarian failure,  $RR = 3.5$ )
- Musculoskeletal (major joint replacement,  $RR = 54.0$ )
- Second malignancies ( $RR = 14.8$ )

\*RR = Relative risk of survivors vs. sibling controls

# Stages in the Course of Pediatric Ventricular Dysfunction



**Preventive Strategies:** Progressively less effective as the number increases.

Primary prevention is possible at number 1.

Secondary prevention is possible at numbers 2, 3, and 4.

**Treatment Strategies:** Greater impact with higher numbers but longer effects with lower numbers.

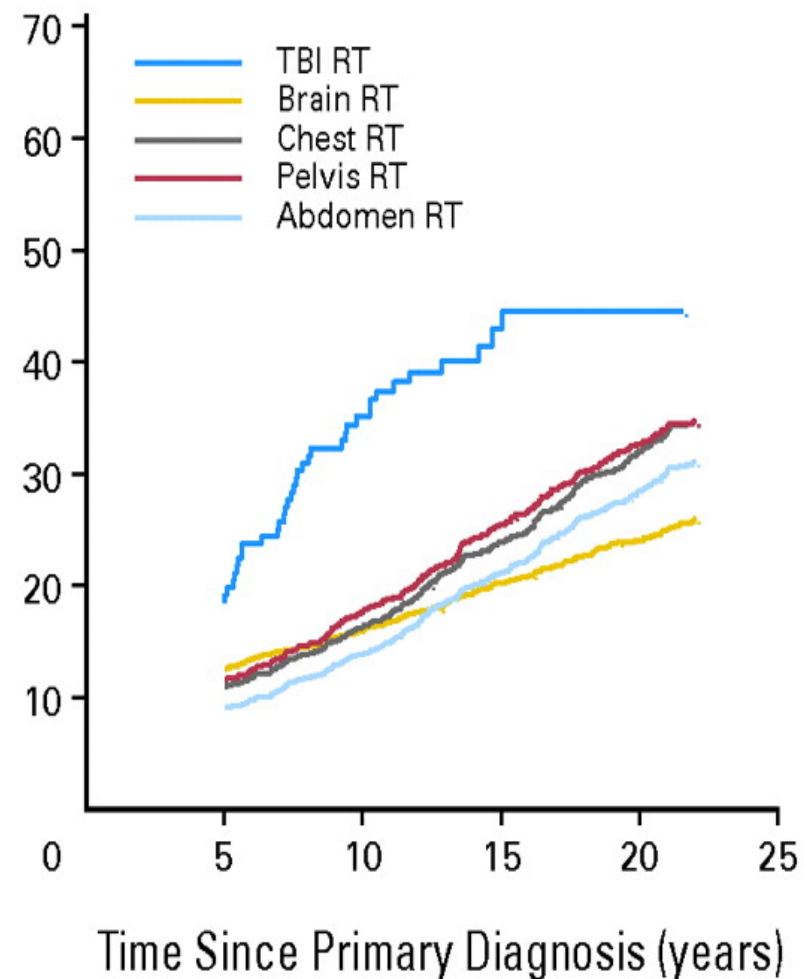
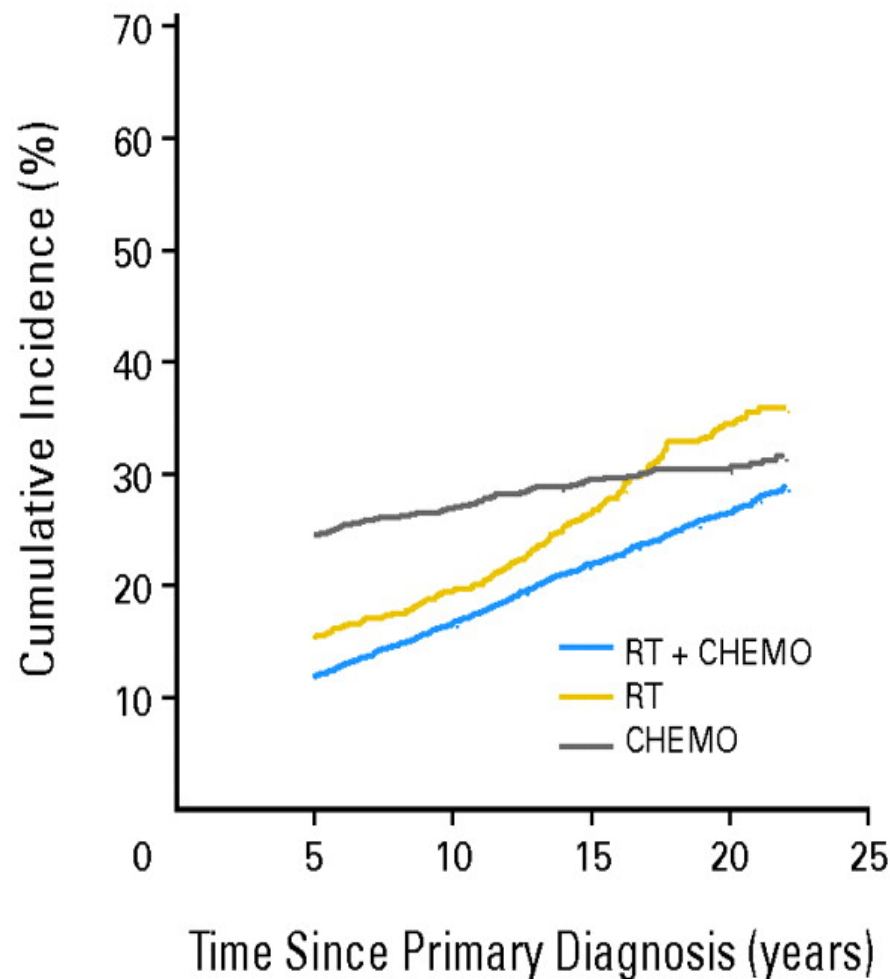
Treatment is possible at numbers 4 and 5 to reduce sequelae.

**Biomarkers/Surrogate Endpoints:**

Potentially more useful with lower numbers for alteration of course with interventions.

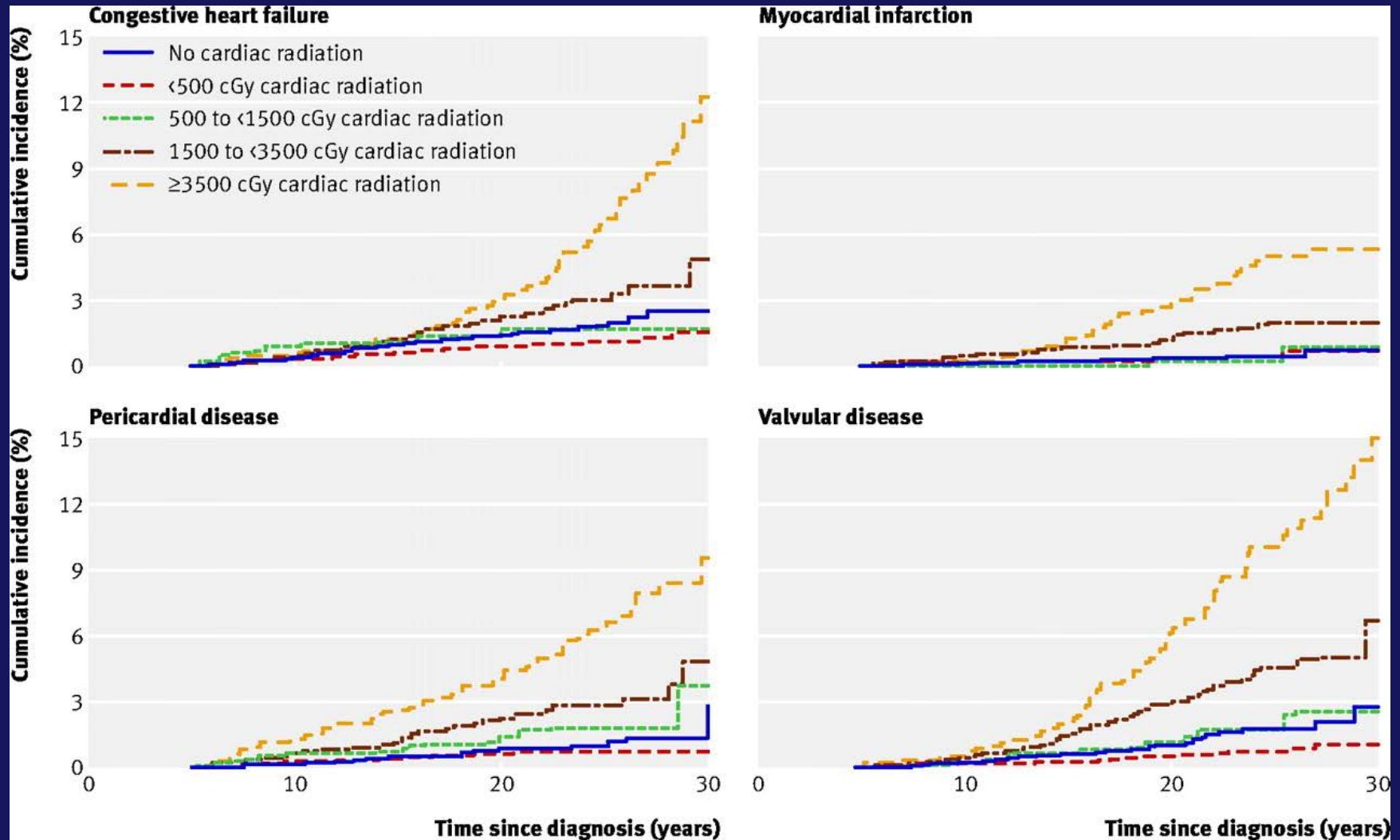
Potentially more useful with higher numbers for decisions about transplantation.

# CCSS: Cumulative Incidence of Chronic Health Conditions by Exposure (grade 3 to 5 only)

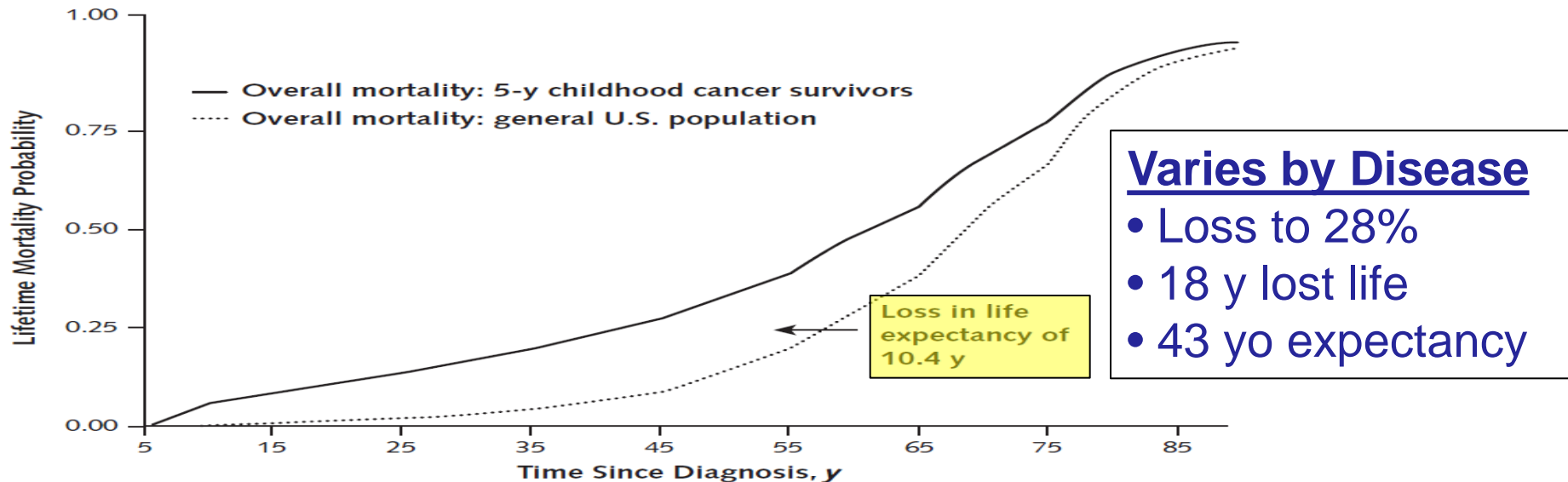
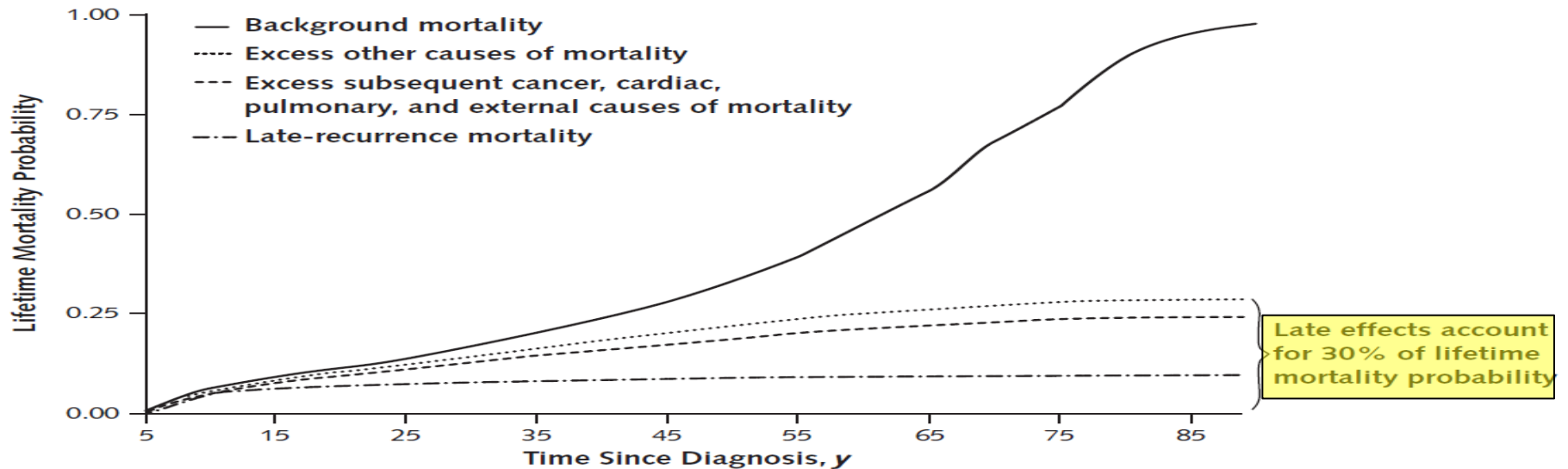




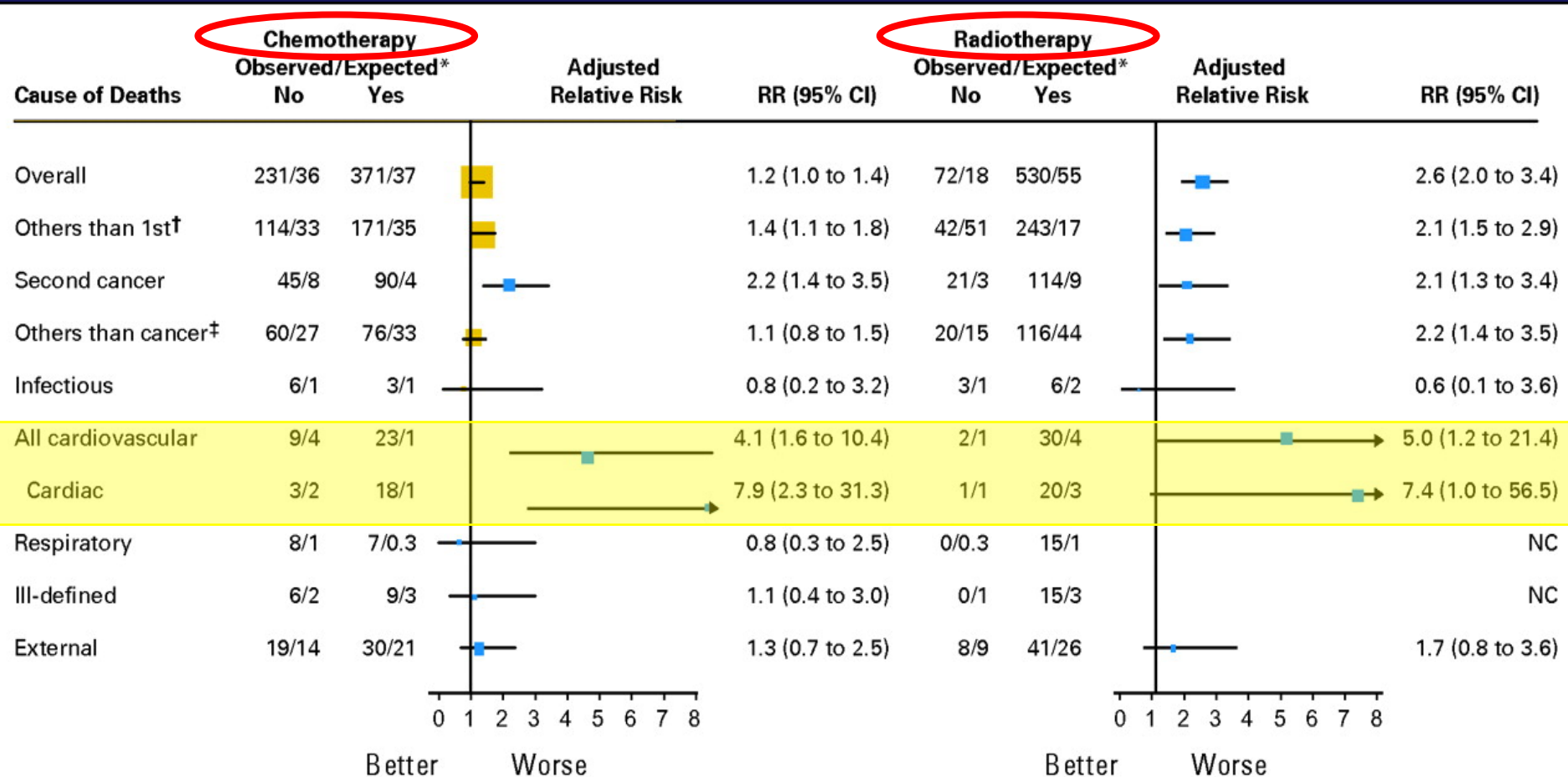
# NCI CCSS: Cumulative incidence of cardiac disorders among 14,358 childhood cancer survivors by average cardiac radiation dose



# CCSS Survivor Lifetime Cause-Specific Mortality

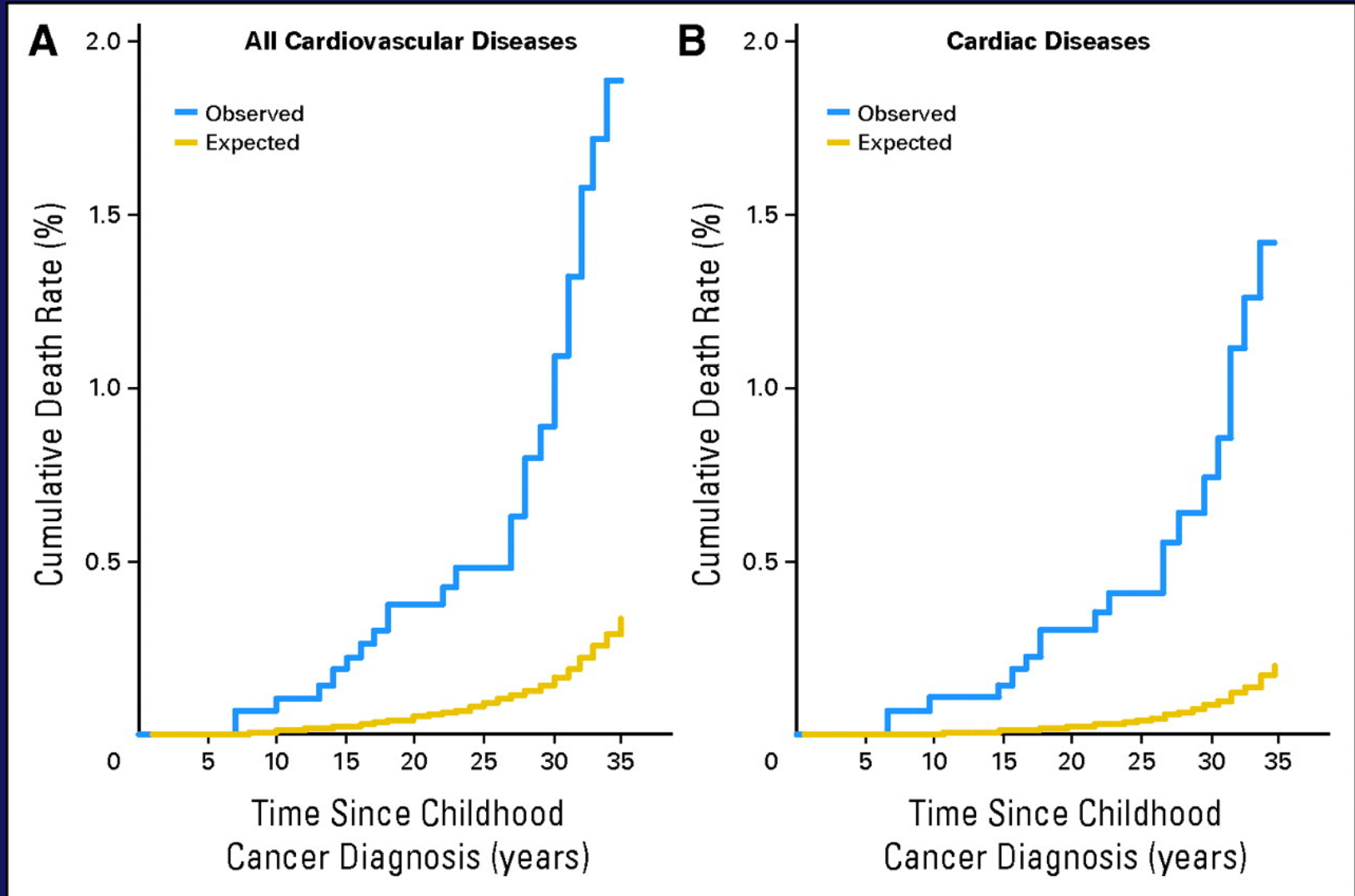


# 4,122 5-yr Childhood Cancer Survivors with 86,453 pt-yrs of Follow-up from France and UK, 27-year average F/U

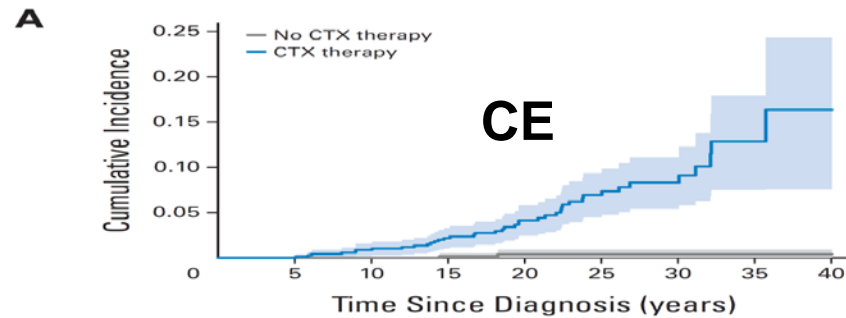




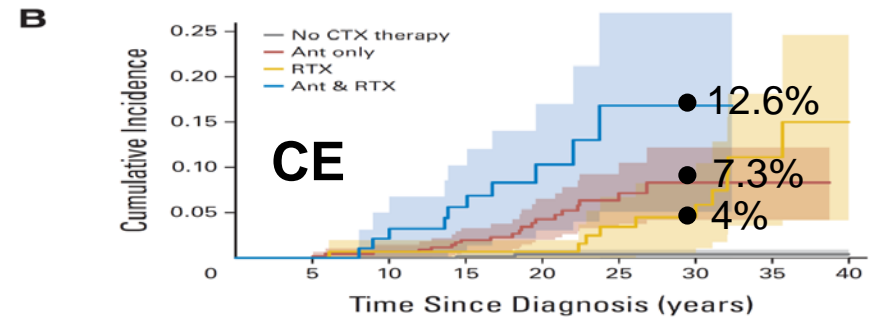
# Estimates of (A) cumulative cardiovascular and (B) cardiac mortality in the French-British CCSS (86,453 pt-yr follow up) in the general population in France and Great Britain



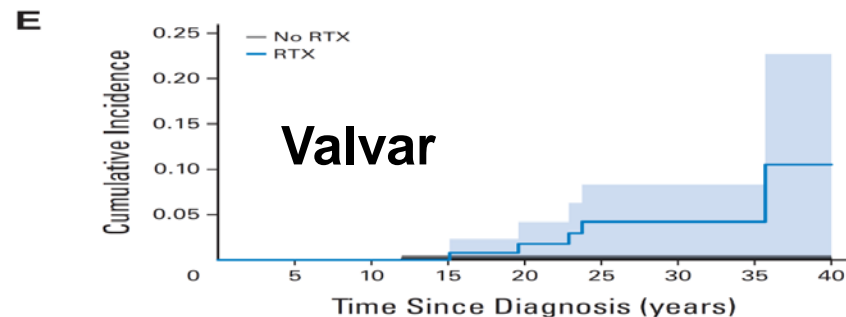
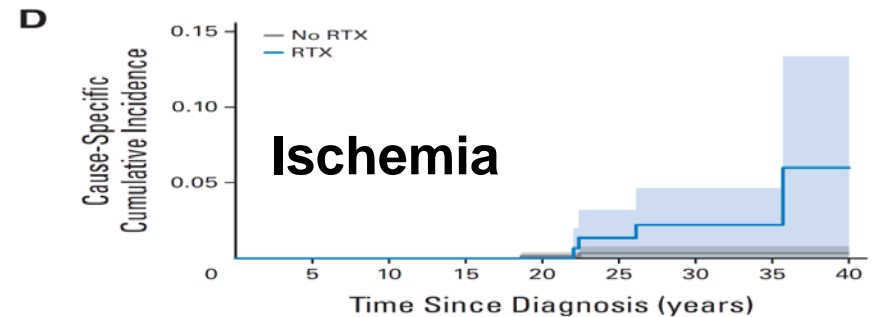
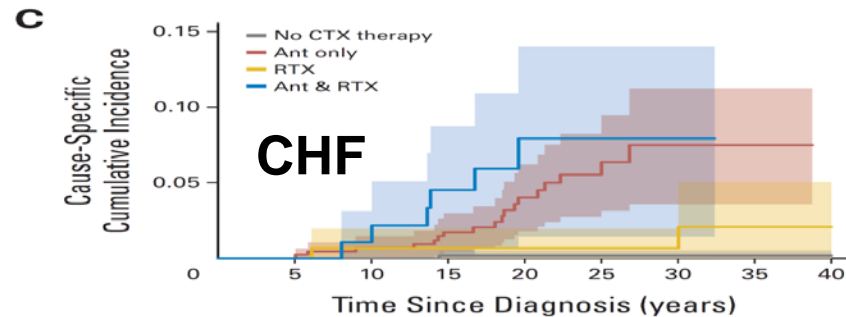
# Netherlands: ↑ Symptomatic Cardiac Events at Early Age. Anthr & Rad Highest Risk. After 30 yrs, 1 in 8 Develops Severe Heart Disease



No. at risk	639	639	619	565	426	291	148	69	10
No CTX therapy	723	723	649	570	376	230	114	34	6
CTX therapy									

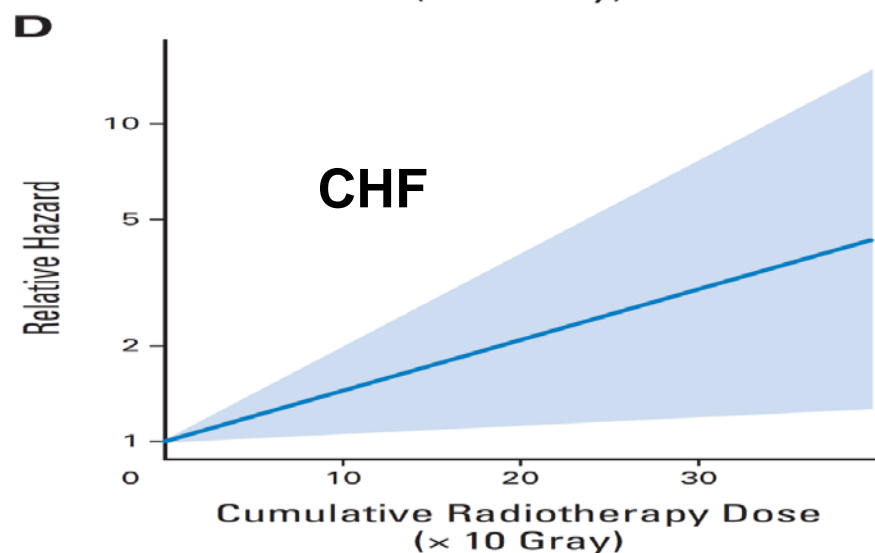
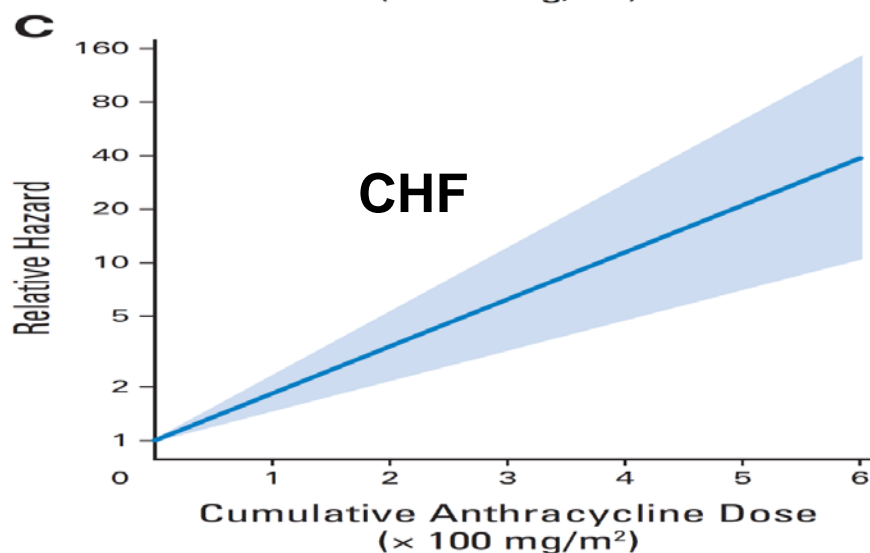
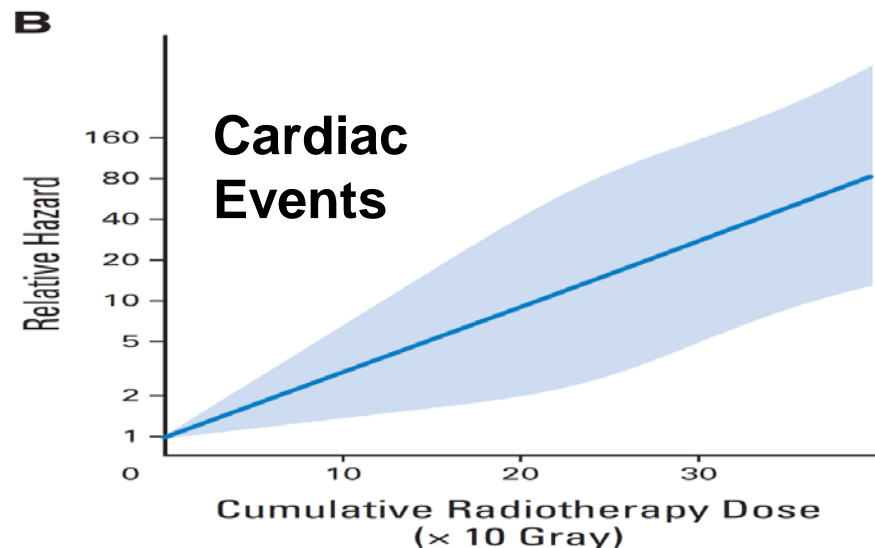
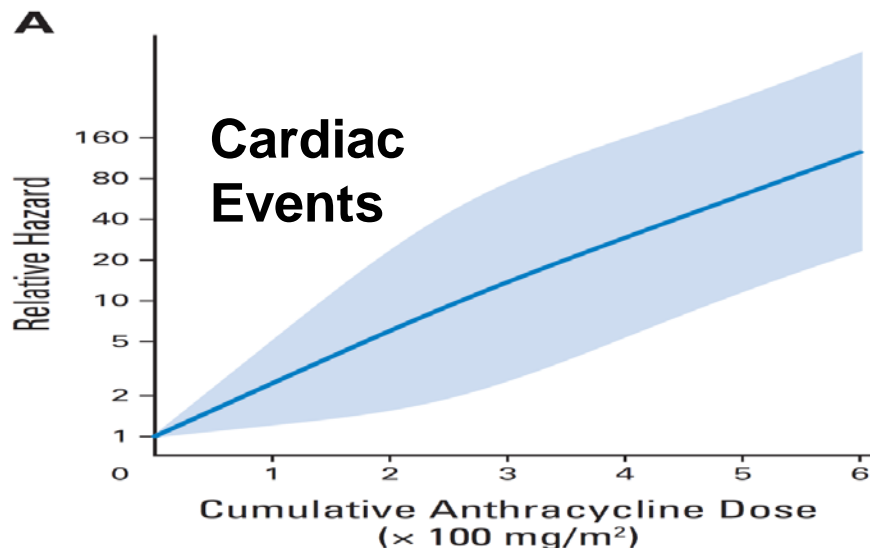


No. at risk	639	639	619	565	426	291	148	69	10
No CTX therapy	723	723	649	570	376	230	114	34	6
Anthr only	457	457	417	358	215	113	39	8	
RTX	158	158	143	136	117	95	69	26	6
Anthr & RTX	108	108	89	76	44	22	6		

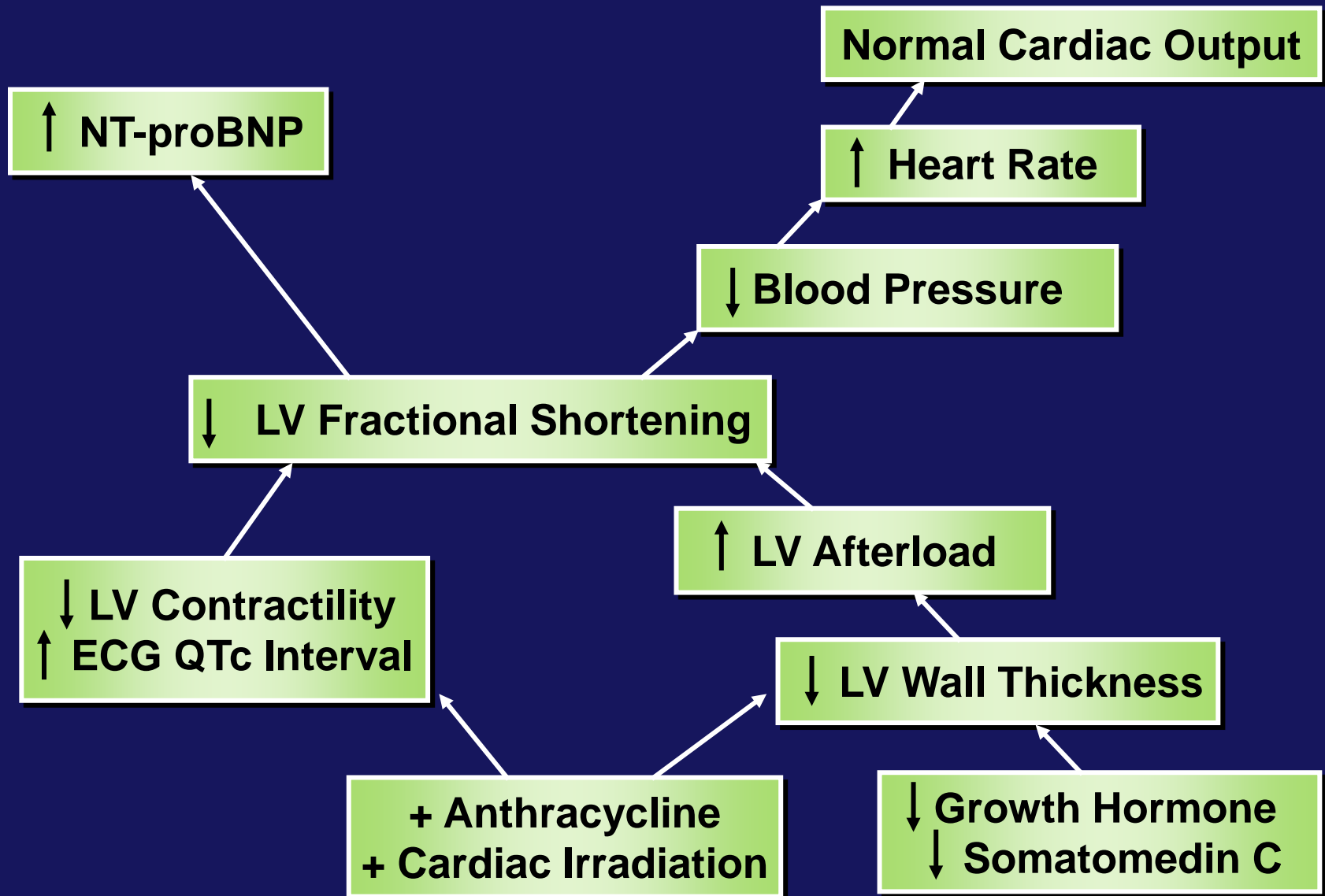


**CE = Cardiac Events**  
**CHF = Congestive Heart Failure**

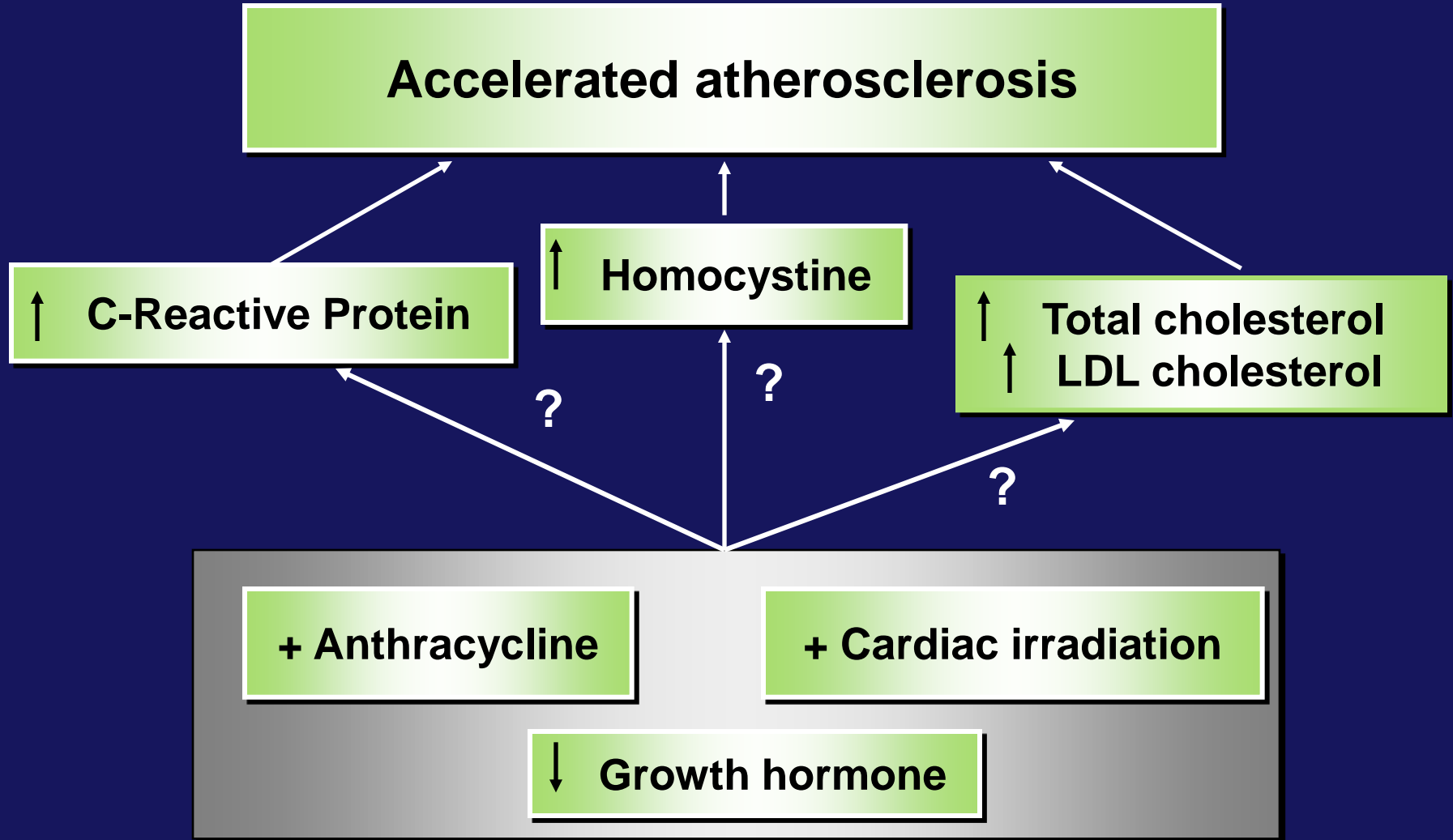
# Netherlands: All Cardiac Events (A&B) and CHF (C&D) Increase with Dose



# NCI CRG Study: 10-Year Survivors of Childhood Cancer Cardiomyopathy Changes



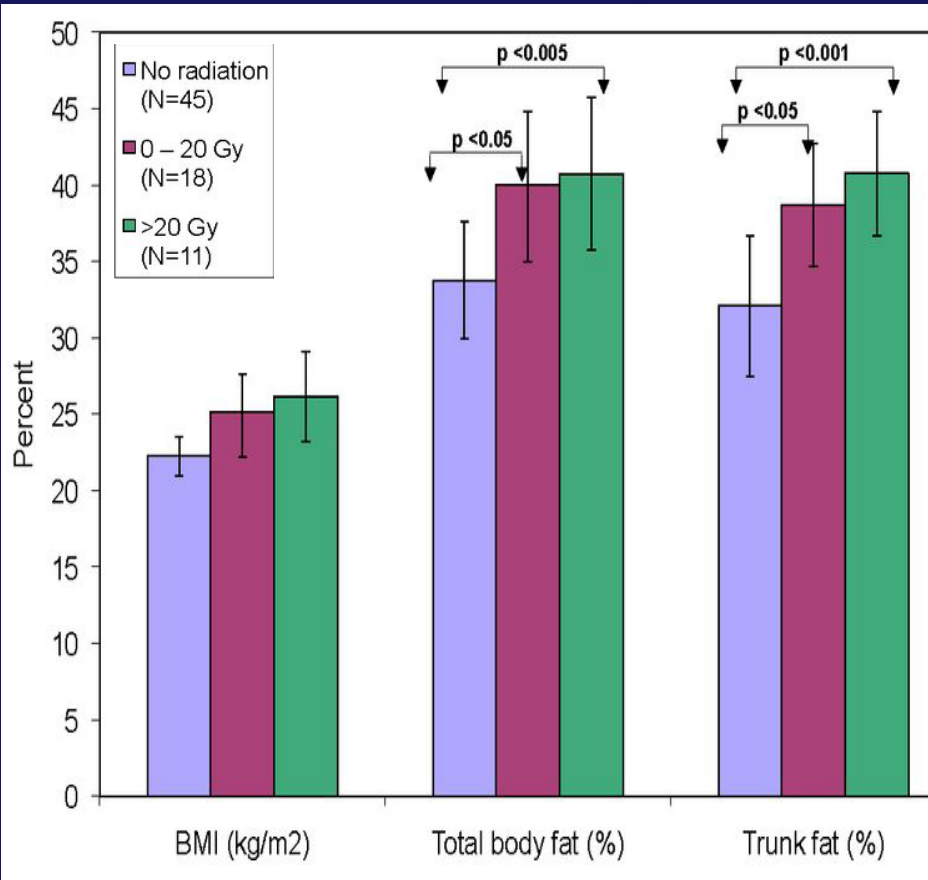
# NCI CRG Study: 10-Year Survivors of Childhood Cancer Coronary Artery Disease Risk



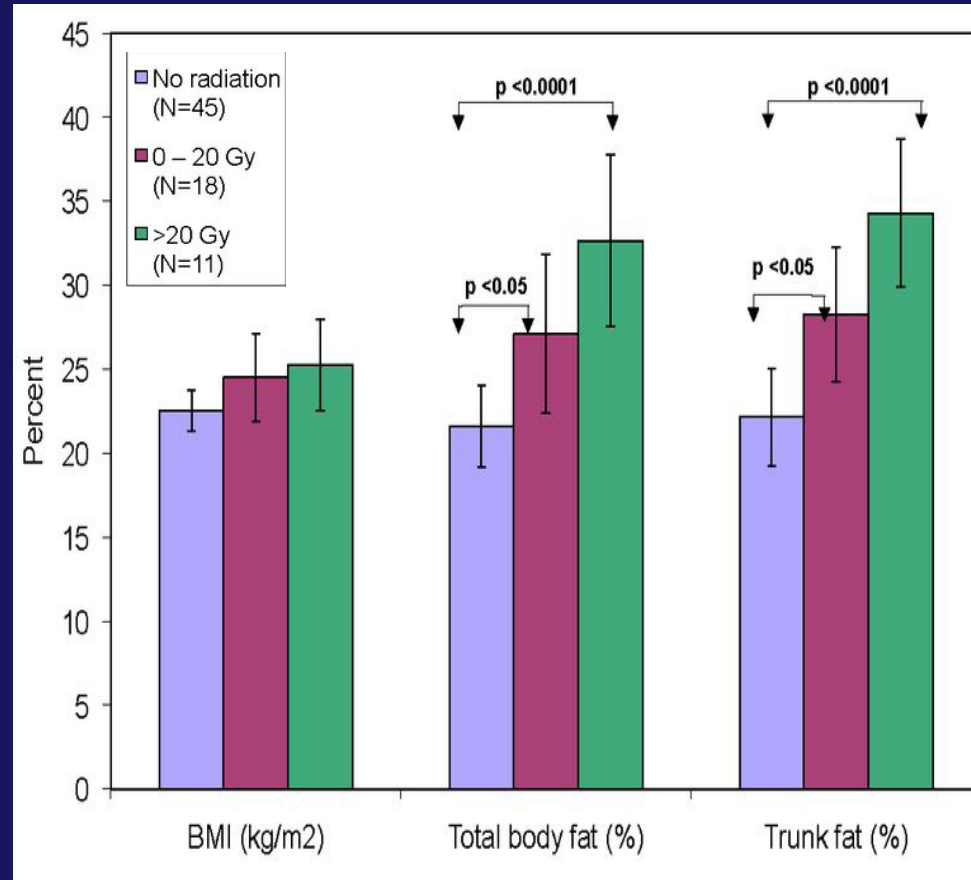


# NCI CRG Study: Adiposity Measures Among Cancer Survivors, by Dose of Cranial Irradiation, by Gender

## Females



## Males



# NCI CRG Study: 30-Year Risk of Cardiovascular Disease in Childhood Cancer Survivors

Framingham Heart Study's calculator (FHC) predicts 30-yr risk of CVD (myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, or coronary death) in those over 20-yr old.

**Mean (Range) FHC Risk Estimate for Survivors by Age-Group and Sex**

20-29 yr old females	20-29 yr old males	30-39 yr old females	30-39 yr old males
2.1% (1-9%)	3.3% (1-12%)	2.9% (1-5%)	15.6% (5-35%)

- Survivors had a 52% increased risk vs. siblings.
- Among survivors from the Long-Term Survivors Study (LTSS), median age of 56 yrs and 48 yrs since dx, 17% reported coronary artery disease and 4% reported cerebral vascular disease.
- Among survivors from the Childhood Cancer Survivor Study (CCSS), 30 yrs since dx, 1.5% reported MI.

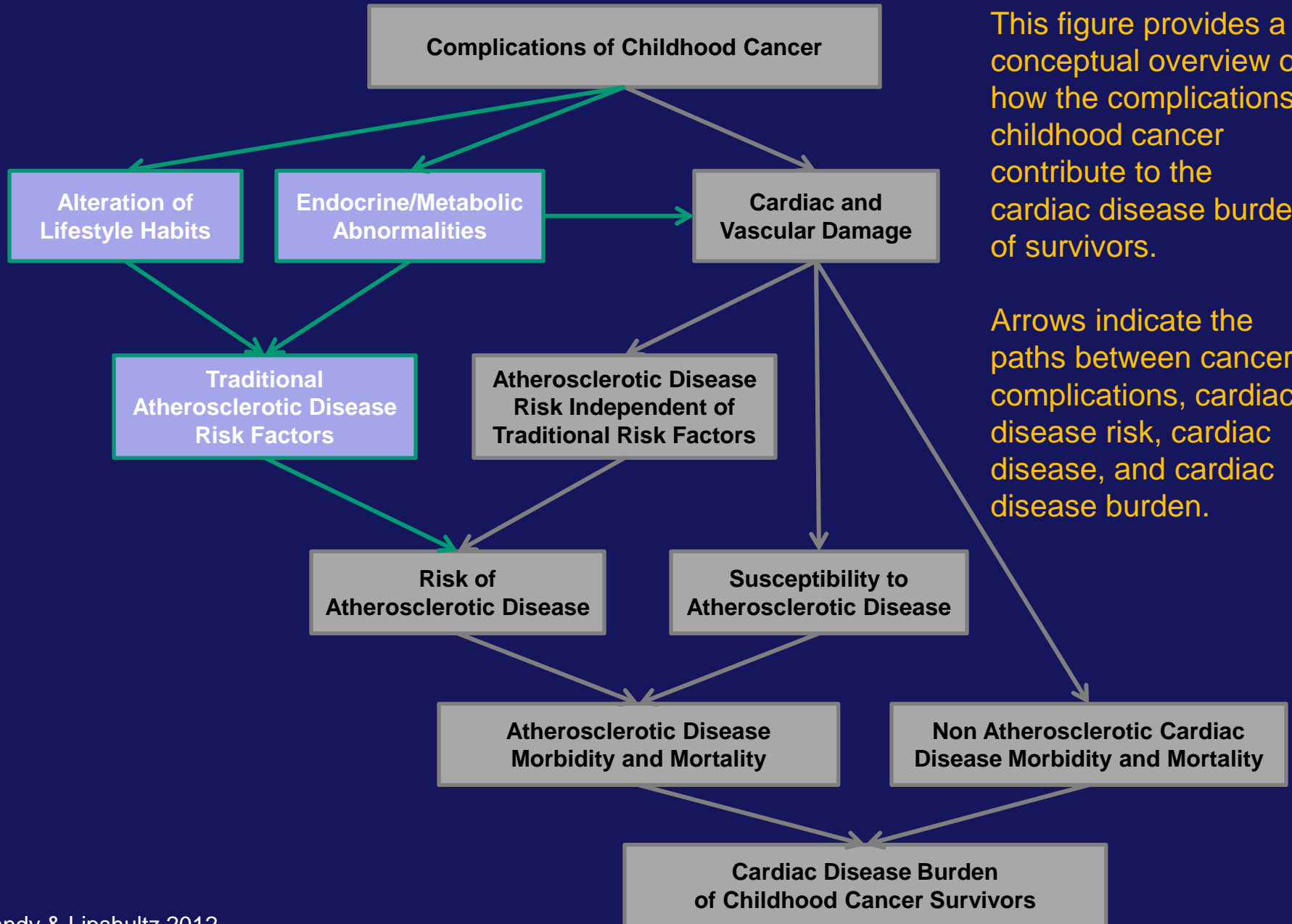
# NCI CRG Study: Risk of Atherosclerotic Disease Coronary Artery Lesions in Childhood Cancer Survivors

NIH Pathobiological Determinants of Atherosclerosis Study's risk scoring system (PDAY) that predicts risk of an atherosclerotic (AthD) coronary artery lesion in 15- to 34-yr olds.

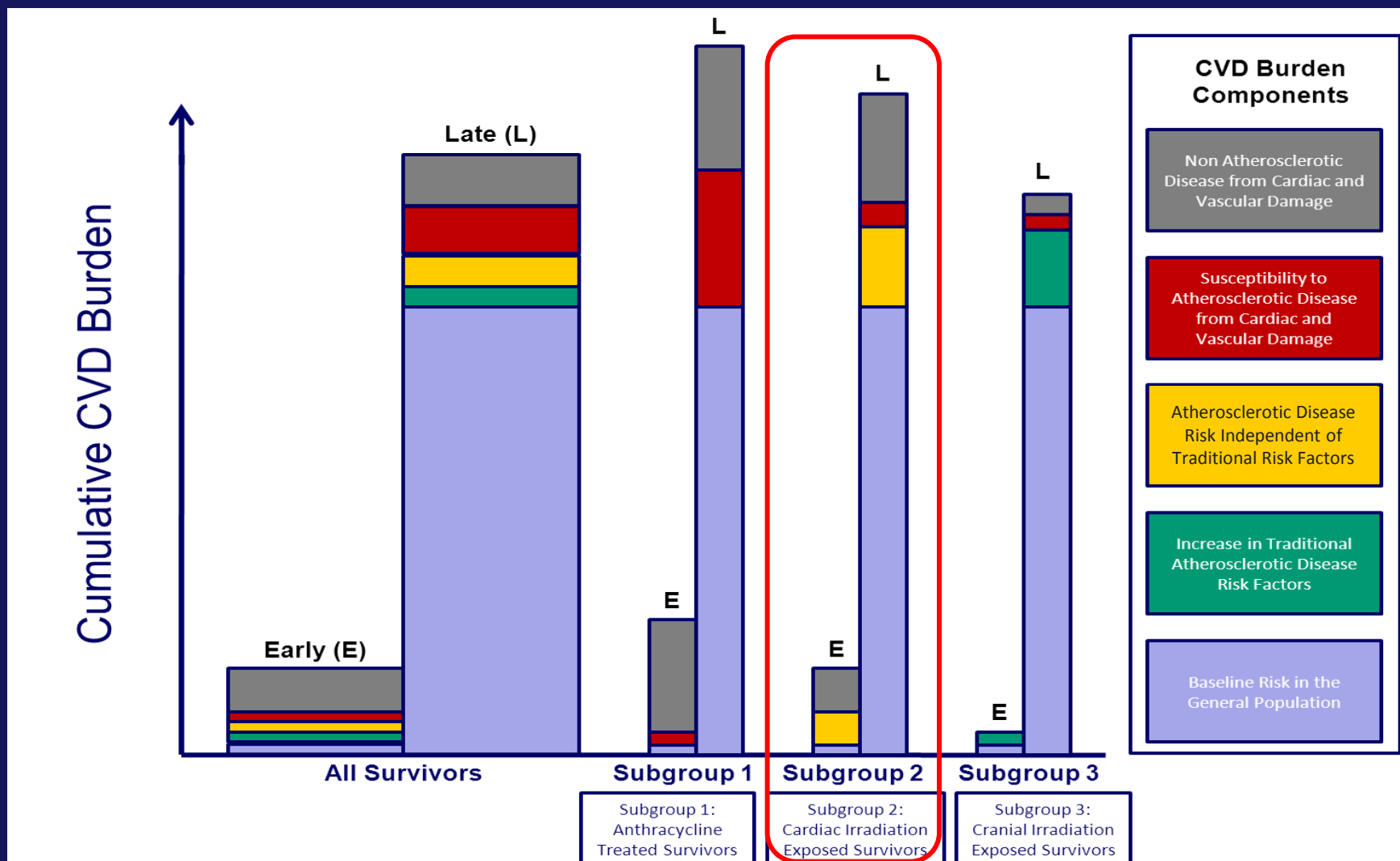
Mean (Range) PDAY Risk Estimate of AthD Lesions for Survivor Subgroups			
15-24 yr old females	15-24 yr old males	25-34 yr old females	25-34 yr old males
<1% (0-8%)	3% (0-24%)	9% (3-26%)	18% (7-42%)

- Risk was increased for males.
- Risk increased by age.

# Increased Cardiac Burden of Childhood Cancer Survivors



# Global CVD Risk Components



Potential CVD burden of childhood cancer survivors, both early and late in life, by simplified exposure examples. All component magnitudes are hypothetical, though theory based and survivor subgroups are assumed to have a single uncomplicated therapy exposure.



# Identical Twins at 26 Years of Age

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**The twin on the right was treated for childhood ALL at 4 years old.**



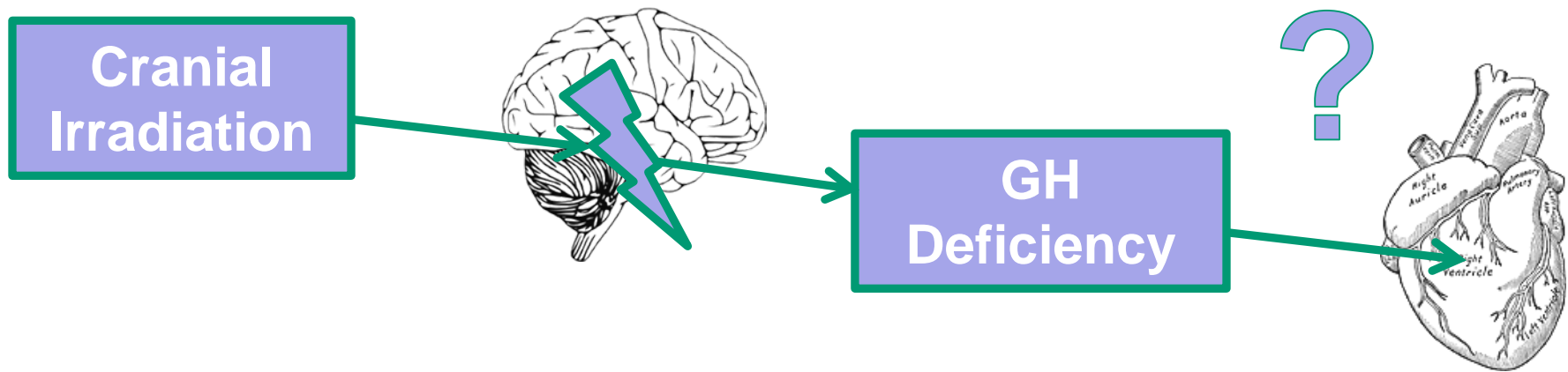
# **Adult Patient Treated During Childhood for Medulloblastoma (Right) Alongside His Father (Left). The Short Stature Results from GH Deficit, As Well As Spinal Irradiation**

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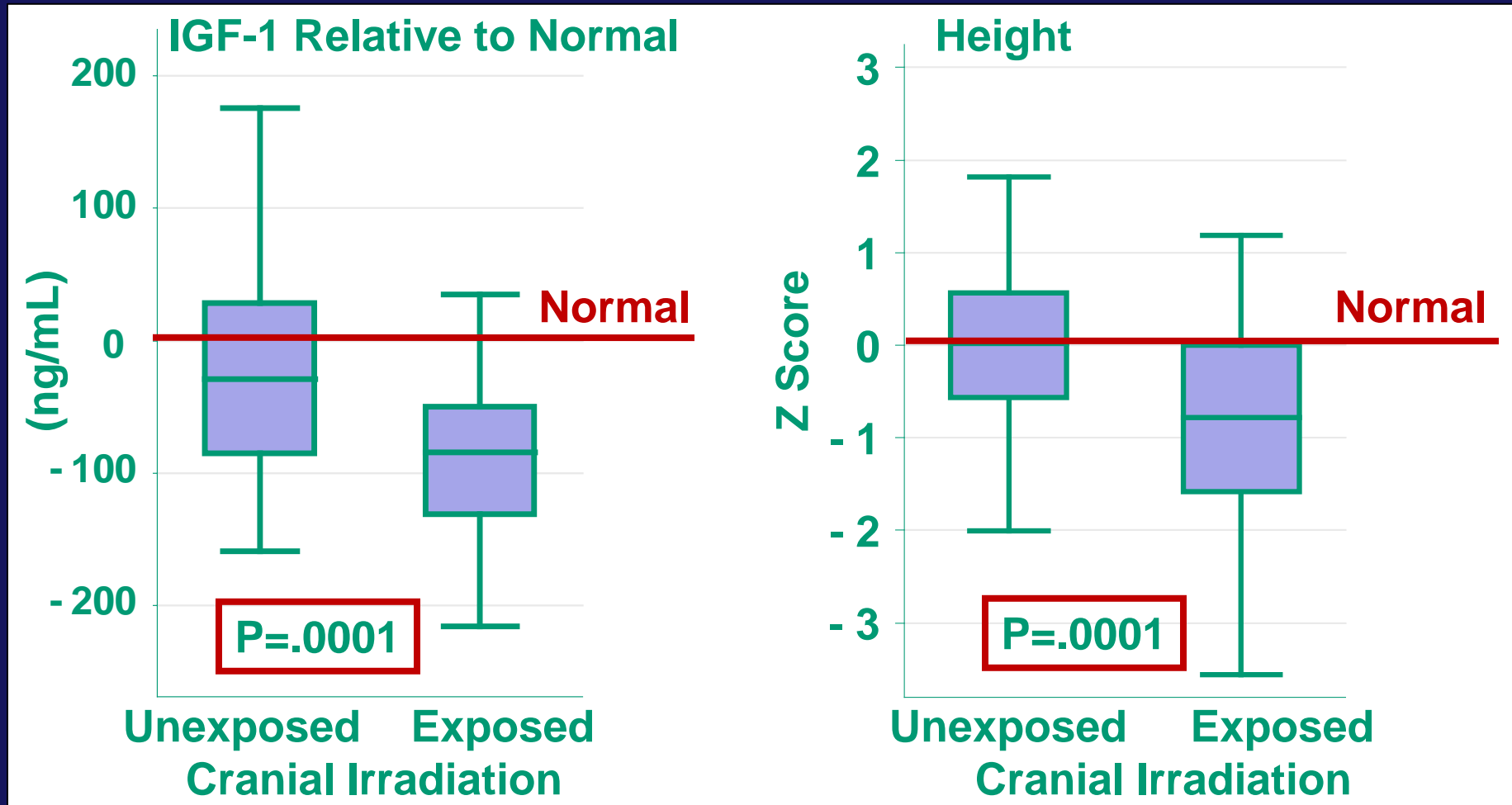


# Cranial Irradiation Can Damage the Hypothalamic-Pituitary Axis

- **Growth hormone (GH) deficiency**
  - An early complication of cranial irradiation
  - Occurs after exposure to even low radiation doses
- **GH deficiency from other etiologies**
  - Results in reduced LV mass
  - GH replacement can increase LV mass



# Cranial Irradiation Was Associated With ↓ IGF-1 and ↓ Height

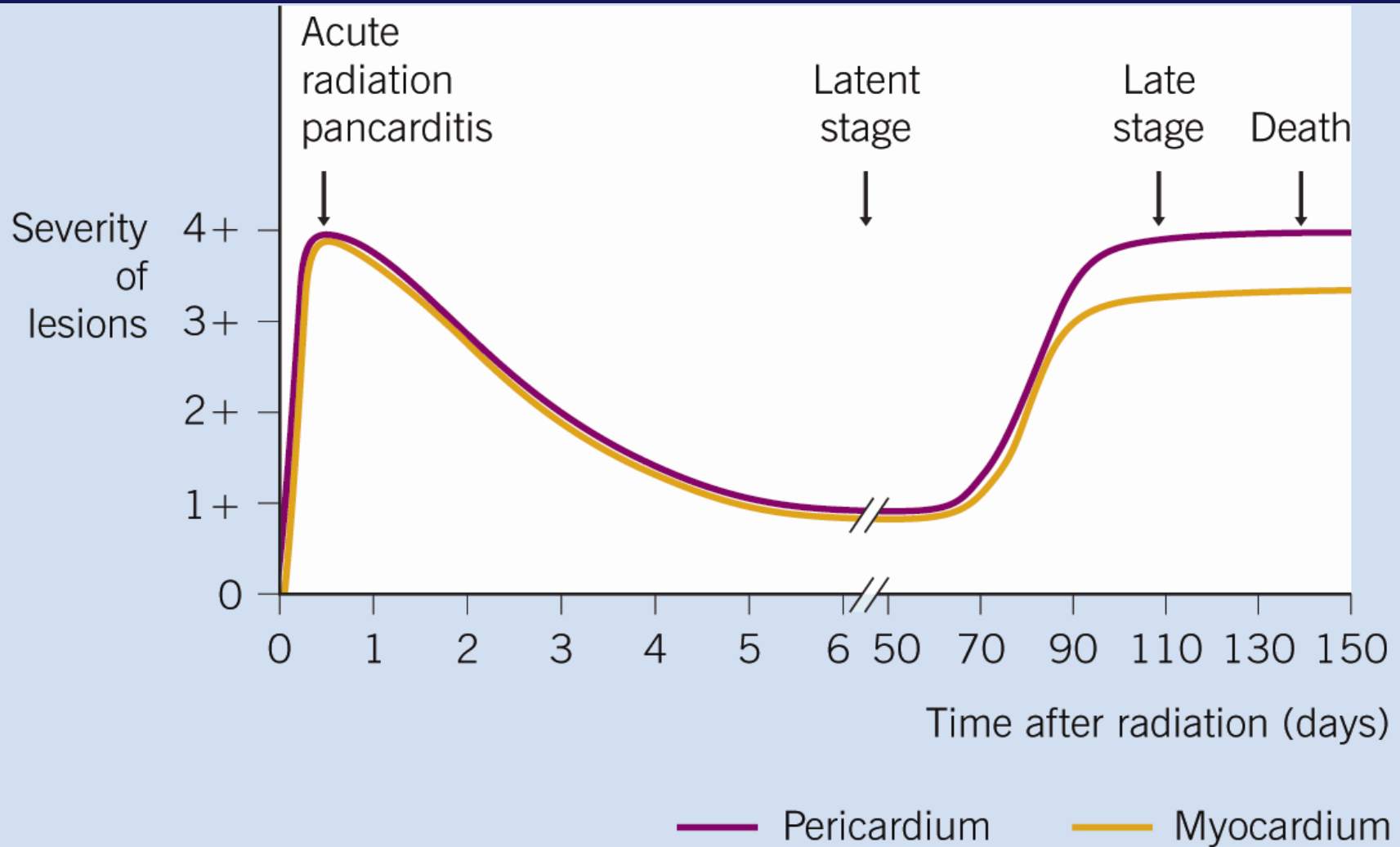


**LV mass & dimension significantly ↓ in cranial radiation (CR) exposed anth-treated survivors even after adjusting for other known anthracycline cardiotoxicity risk factors:**  
gender, cardiac irradiation, anthracycline dose, age at diagnosis, and time from diagnosis

LV parameter	Adj. difference in % change from normal (CR exposed minus CR unexposed)	P
Mass	-12.0%	<.01
Wall thickness	-2.5%	.39
Dimension	-3.6%	.03
Afterload	+1.8%	.77
F. shortening	-0.7%	.74



# Development of Radiation Heart Disease in White Rabbits as Observed by Light Microscopy After a Single Dose of 20 GY



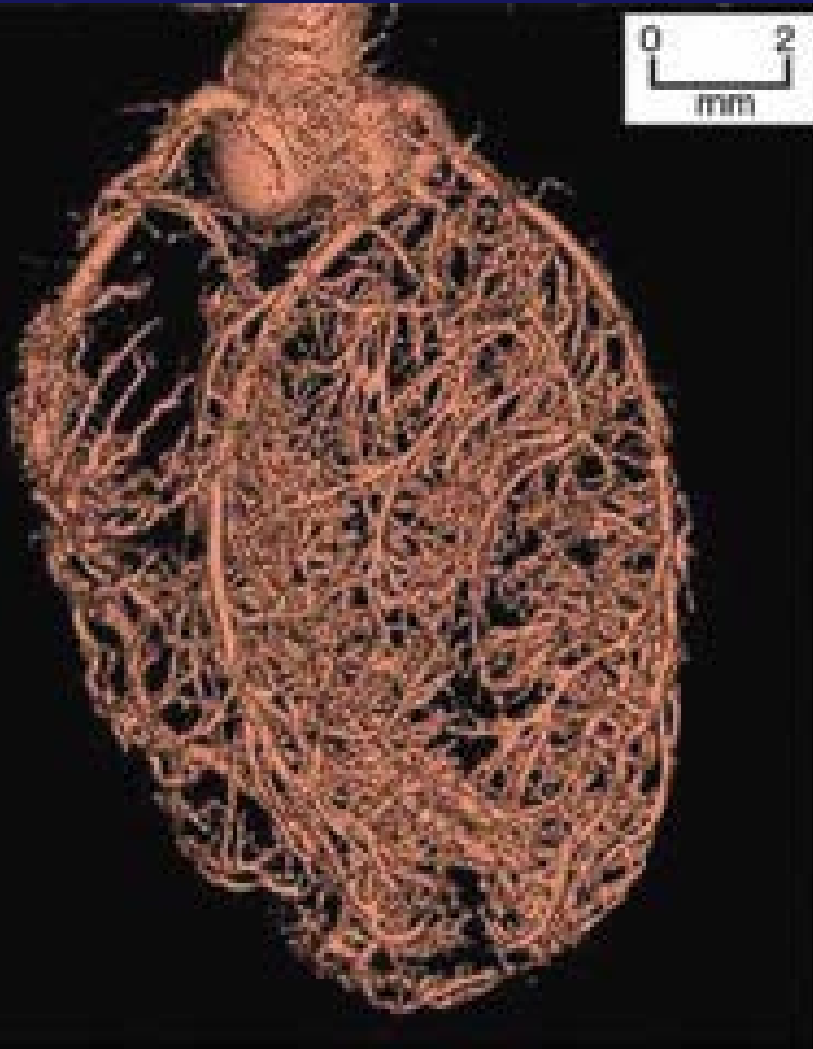
# Summary of Pre-Clinical Studies into Basic Mechanisms of Radiation Induced Heart Disease (RIHD):

## Main Observation or Study Outcome References

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- Reduced myocardial capillary density, focal loss of endothelial alkaline phosphatase, and increased expression of vonWillebrand factor indicate vascular injury in rat models of RIHD.
- Coronary artery disease has been observed after localized heart irradiation in hypertensive rats or rats on a high-fat diet.
- Increased myocardial levels of TGF- $\beta$ 1, Ang II, and aldosterone have been found after localized heart irradiation in rats.
- ACE inhibitor captopril reduced myocardial fibrosis and prevented left ventricular capillary density loss after localized heart irradiation in rats.
- Mast cell-deficient rats showed reduced radiation-induced myocardial inflammation and degeneration, but increased myocardial fibrosis when compared to mast cell-competent rats.

# ↓ Vascular Density After Cardiac Irradiation

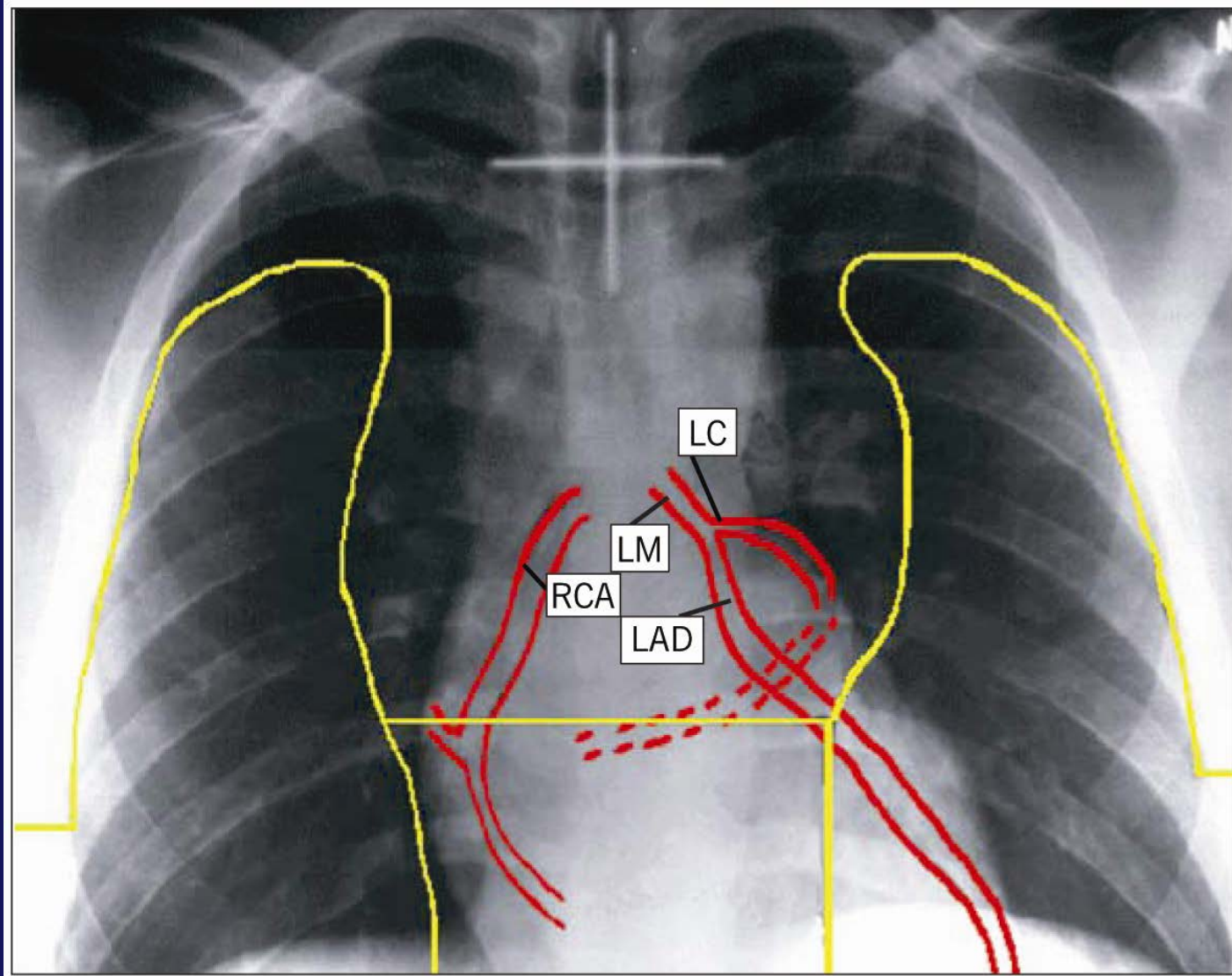


**Control**



**10 Gy TBI**

# 30 Gy Irradiation to 15-Year-Olds with Hodgkin's Disease



# Radiotherapy to the Heart During Childhood is Associated with Progressive Late Cardiac Findings 16-Years Later and Potential Future Morbidity and Mortality

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- Restrictive cardiomyopathy  
→ heart failure
- Valvular heart disease  
→ endocarditis
- Intracardiac conduction defects → sudden death
- Coronary artery disease → heart attack
- Others

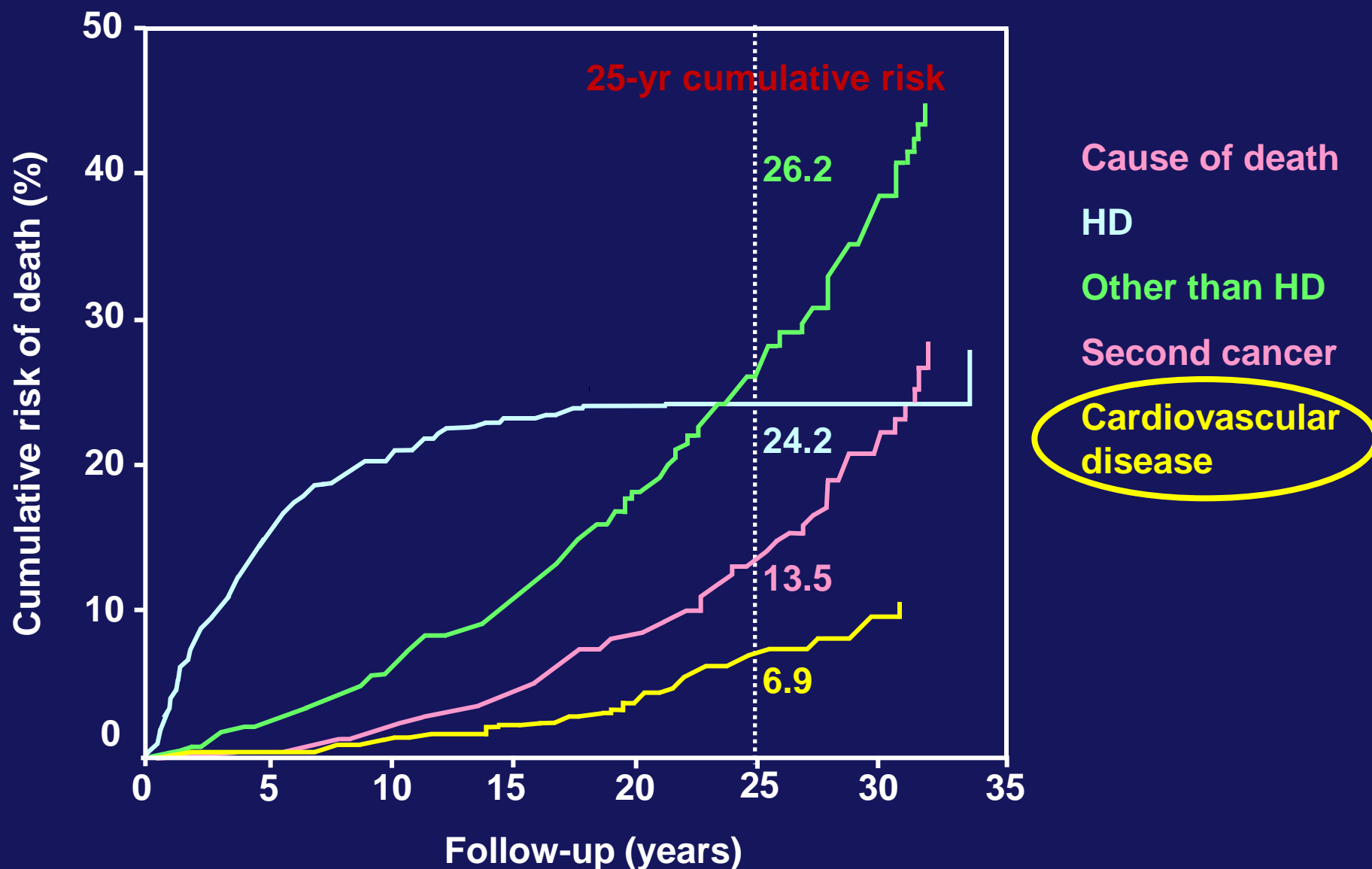




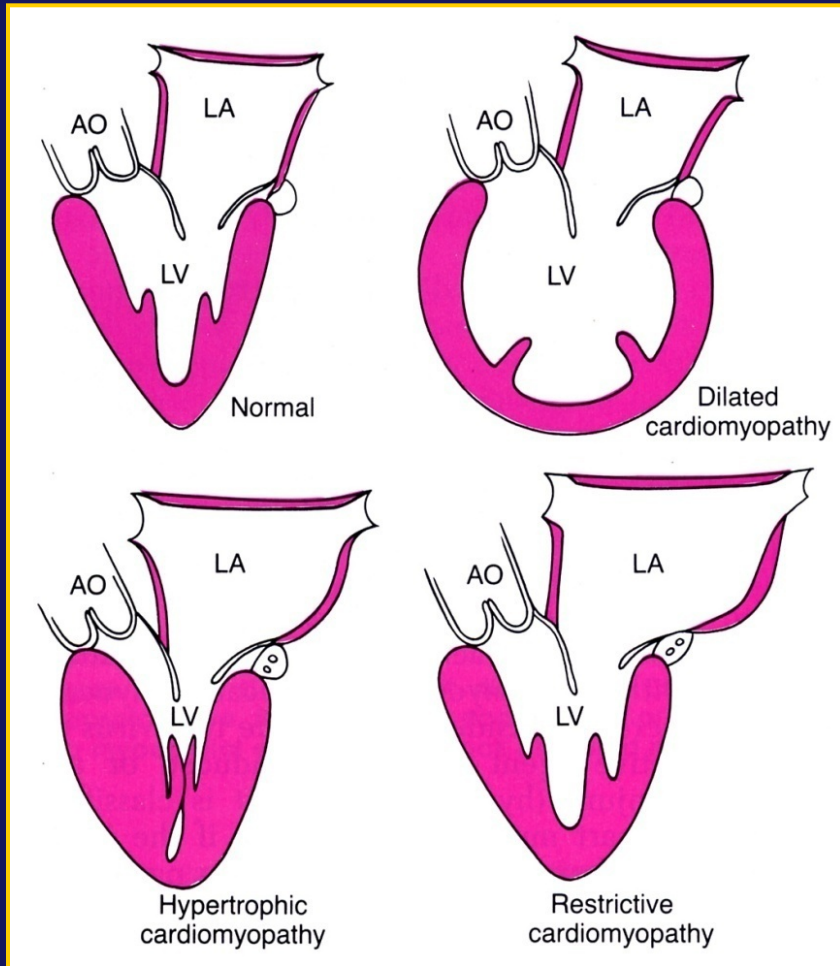
- Progressive findings may become apparent clinically 10 or more years after radiotherapy
  - Findings may be unsuspected but clinically significant
  - Serial comprehensive cardiac testing is advised
- Unlike the loss of heart muscle cells related to anthracycline use, radiotherapy to the heart appears related to progressive fibrosis (scar tissue formation) years after therapy



# Competing Mortality Over Time



# Picture of Restrictive Cardiomyopathy



- 12% with an abnormal measurement of LV systolic function

**Restrictive cardiomyopathy**



**Diastolic dysfunction**

# Fibrotic Heart Valve Defects

Valve Defect	Obs %	Expected %	P-value*
<b>Mitral stenosis</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Mitral regurgitation (Grade $\geq$ Mild)	<b>21</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>0.022</b>
<b>Aortic stenosis</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>
Aortic regurgitation (Grade $\geq$ Mild)	<b>19</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>&lt;0.001</b>
<b>Significant left-sided valve defect</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

# Progressive Fibrotic Heart Valve Disease

Valve Defect	Obs %	Expected %	P-Value*
Tricuspid regurgitation (Grade $\geq$ Mild)	25.6	14.4	0.06*
Pulmonary regurgitation (Any)	2.6	—	—
Signif. right-sided defect	23	—	—
<b>Any significant defect</b>	<b>42.6</b>	—	—
Any valve defect	68	—	—

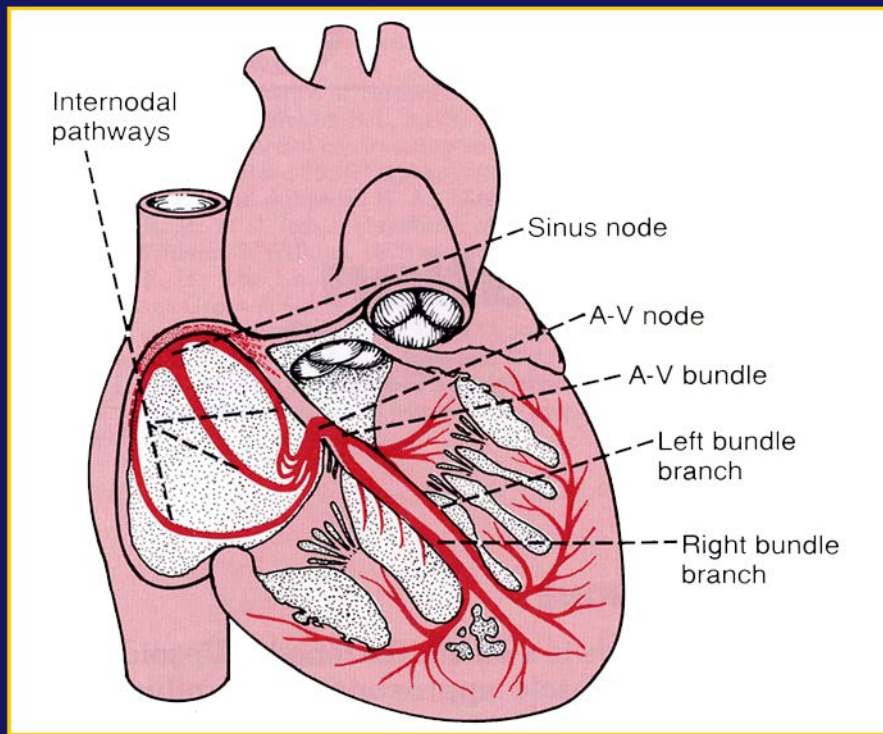
\* Comparison values from Framingham Heart Study. *Am J Cardiol* 1999.

Number of patients screened to find one patient needed antibiotics for valvular heart disease (SBE prophylaxis): <10 years since irradiation: 13 patients and >20 years since irradiation: 1.6 patients.

# Scarring of the Electrical System in the Heart

## Conduction Defect/Arrhythmia in 74.5%

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- **59.6% conduction delay in anterior right bundle**
- **4% right bundle branch block**
- **8.5% prolonged corrected QT interval**



# Decreased Quality of Life and Physical Functioning

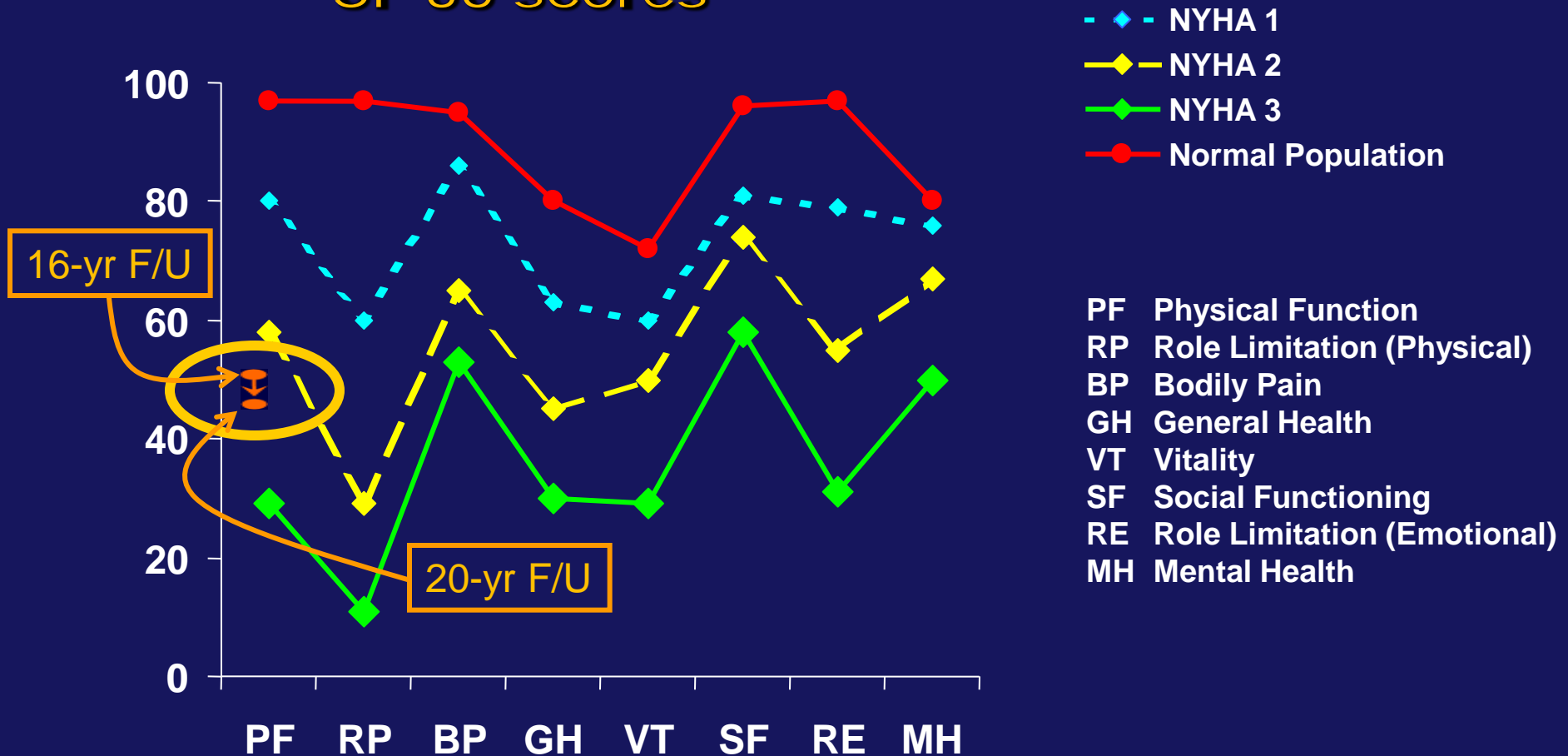
- All Rated Overall Health as Good or Better
- **However** on the General Health Survey:
  - 67% fatigue (half  $\geq$  moderate problem)
  - 40% short of breath (1/3  $\geq$  moderate problem)
  - 10% significant problem with dizziness
  - 25% chest pain





# QoL: Radiation Effects Are Similar to CHF

## SF 36 scores



# Multiple Populations with Increased CHD Risk After Chest Irradiation

- **Childhood Cancer Survivors**
  - Particularly HD survivors treated with  $> 35\text{-}40\text{ Gy}$
  - Significant increased relative incidence at  $> 15\text{ Gy}$
- **Increased risk demonstrated in non-cancer populations at doses as low as  $2.5\text{ Gy}$** 
  - **Peptic Ulcer Disease**
    - RR of mortality = 1.5
  - **Atomic bomb survivors**
    - Less than 40 yrs at time of bombing
    - Risk first appeared after 40 years of follow-up



# Summary of Risk Factors

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- Younger age at exposure
- Cumulative radiation dose
- Treatment with other cardiotoxic therapies
- Length of follow-up since therapy
  - Approx 15 year lag time



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**Sievert = Biological effects of radiation**

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**Gray = Absorbed radiation dose**

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# Radiation Exposure Dose-Response: Clear as Mud

## DOSE-RESPONSE: CLEAR AS MUD

A dip into the vast literature on radiation exposure shows that figuring out the true relationships between dose and response is—to say the least—complicated. The infographic shows a sampling of the many points along the dose spectrum where a researcher or an agency detects a biological response or threshold, or where a person receives a dose from a medical test or procedure. As you'll see, effects asserted at these points are not necessarily consistent with each other. There are a lot of measurements in use, but for the sake of simplicity, doses in this article have been converted to the sievert scale. The sievert is the internationally used unit corresponding to the best available estimated impact on our biology. (Sieverts and "rems" are based on other units, namely "grays" and "rads," respectively, which are measures of energy absorbed by living tissue.) Exposures in the chart below are expressed in millisieverts.

**10.0**

A low dose  
Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, 2011

**10.0**

Repeated doses at this level, separated by more than one week, are "remarkably consistent" with breast cancer response in Japanese bomb survivors

Jerome Puskin, Center for Science and Technology, EPA, *Dose Response*, 2009

**40.0**

Exposure producing a 27 percent decline in cancer mortality in Soviet nuclear waste facility workers compared to nearby villages who were not exposed

Alexander M. Vaiserman, Institute of Gerontology, Kiev, *Dose Response*, 2010

**1,000.0**

Exposure where classic radiation sickness symptoms—such as nausea, hair loss, and infections—appear

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research

**7,000,000.0**

Amount *Deinococcus radiodurans* bacteria can tolerate by accurately repairing damage to their DNA  
Maurice Tubiana, MD, et al, National Institutes of Health, *Sourced Radiology*, April 2009

**0.067**

Average dose from Chernobyl that caused a 43 percent increase in infant mortality  
Christopher Busby, European Committee on Radiation Risk, *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, December 2009

**0.13**

Mammogram  
World Health Organization

**1.5**

Annual exposure that can produce stillbirths and birth defects

Hagen Scherb and Kristina Voigt, Institute of Biomathematics and Biometry, Germany, *Environmental Science and Pollution Research International*, 2009

**2.0**

Amount below which no bystander response is seen. A bystander is a cell not directly hit by radiation but near cells that have been irradiated. (See main article.)

B. Salbu, Norwegian University of Life Sciences; Carmel Mothersill, et al, McMaster University, Ontario, *Environmental Science and Technology*, May 2008

**3.0**

Annual radiation exposure from natural sources for the average American

Nuclear Energy Institute

**50.0**

Level below which Health Physics Society and American Nuclear Society say "the risks of detrimental health effects are either too small to be observed or are non-existent"

Jerry M. Cuttler and Myron Pollycove, University of California San Francisco, 2009

**50.0**

Exposure producing serious risk of neoplasia (leading to cancer)

David J. Brenner, Columbia University, *Proceedings of the National Academies of Sciences*, 2005

**1.0**

A low dose  
International Atomic Energy Agency

**1.0**

Dose corresponding to one electron track from a radioactive substance or ray hitting one nucleus. (This measure is for low linear energy transfer sources, which refers to radiation such as photons and gamma rays that travel fairly far through tissue and therefore deposit a relatively low amount of energy at any given point.)

Mark P. Little, Imperial College, School of Public Health, *Mutation Research/Fundamental and Molecular Mechanisms of Mutagenesis*, May 2010

**12.0**

Whole-body CT scan  
World Health Organization, 2006

**20.0**

Whole-body CT scan  
Department of Energy, 2011

**3.1**

Annual exposure from man-made sources (medical, commercial and industrial)

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission

**200.0**

Level above which there is a statistically significant high rate of cancers compared to the normally expected occurrence in the population

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research

**500.0**

A high dose  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Fact Sheet

**500.0**

Exposure above which adaptive responses are no longer seen

Maurice Tubiana, et al, National Institutes of Health, *Radiology*, April 2009

**500.0**

Lowest potentially cancer-causing dose

Alexander M. Vaiserman, Institute of Gerontology, Kiev, *Dose Response*, 2010

**1.0**

A very low dose  
Bobby Scott, Lovelace Respiratory Research Institute, *Dose Response*, publication of the International Hormesis Society, 2008

**1.0**

Annual chronic (ongoing, repeated) dose that would produce one fatal malignancy per 40 people

International Atomic Energy Agency

**1.0**

Lowest level in which adaptive (protective) responses are observed in rodents and cultured cells

Ronald E.J. Mitchell, et al, Atomic Energy of Canada Limited, *Dose Response*, 2010

**5.0**

Strong bystander response in nonirradiated cells exposed to medium from irradiated cells. A bystander is a cell not directly hit by radiation but receives signals from cells that have been irradiated. (See main article.)

B. Salbu, Norwegian University of Life Sciences; Carmel Mothersill, et al, McMaster University, Ontario, *Environmental Science and Technology*, May 2008

**5.0**

Level below which no adaptive response seen

E. Vincent Holahan, Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

**5.0**

Level above which cells are able to repair DNA damaged by radiation

Maurice Tubiana, et al, *Radiology*, April 2009

**35.0**

Highest level measured in 1,149 children tested in Fukushima prefecture, about half of whom had I-131, the type of radioactive iodine released from nuclear reactions, in their thyroid glands

Rowan Hooper, *New Scientist*, August 16, 2011

**500-1,000**

Range in which breast cells cloned from irradiated cells show changes "highly correlated with malignant progression"; in other words, the cloned, nonirradiated cells look like they're on the way to becoming cancer.

Christopher A. Maxwell, University of British Columbia, *Cancer Research*, October 2008

**4,000.0**

Level that will kill half of exposed adults

Institute for Energy and Environmental Research

**49,000.0**

Approximate lifetime dose from natural background radiation for some residents in Ramsar, Iran, where those in the study demonstrated an increase in DNA repair and a reduced cancer mortality

Jerry Cuttler and Myron Pollycove, 2009, *Radiology*, April 2009

Figuring out the true relationships between dose and response is—to say the least—complicated. This infographic shows a sampling of the many points along the dose spectrum where a researcher or agency detects a biological response or threshold, or where a person receives a dose from a medical test or procedure. As you'll see, effects asserted at these points are not necessarily consistent with each other.



# Official Radiation Exposure Limits

## OFFICIAL EXPOSURE LIMITS

The variety of exposure limits established by regulatory agencies and advisory bodies.

<b>0.10</b> <small>Dose (in millisieverts)</small>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>300.0</b>	<b>500.0</b>	<b>750.0</b>
Annual effective dose equivalent limit to any individual based on emissions in "ambient air"	Annual regulatory limit for exposure to the public	Annual limit for exposure by ingestion	Recommended annual occupational limit (averaged over 5 years, with no more than 50 millisieverts in any one year)	Annual whole-body (internal and external) occupational limit	First formal annual standard for humans, set in 1928	Annual occupational limit for any single organ	EPA guideline for maximum dose to emergency workers volunteering for lifesaving work
Environmental Protection Agency Code of Federal Regulations	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Food and Drug Administration	International Commission on Radiological Protection Publication 103 (General recommendations)	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Alexander M. Vaiserman, Institute of Gerontology, Kiev, <i>Dose Response</i> , 2010	Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Oak Ridge National Laboratory Alexander M. Vaiserman, Institute of Gerontology, <i>Dose Response</i> , Ukraine 2010
	Recommended annual limit for exposure to the public	Annual dose that fetuses can take without harm					
	International Commission on Radiological Protection Publication 103	Nuclear Regulatory Commission					

# Study Population: The Hempelmann Cohort

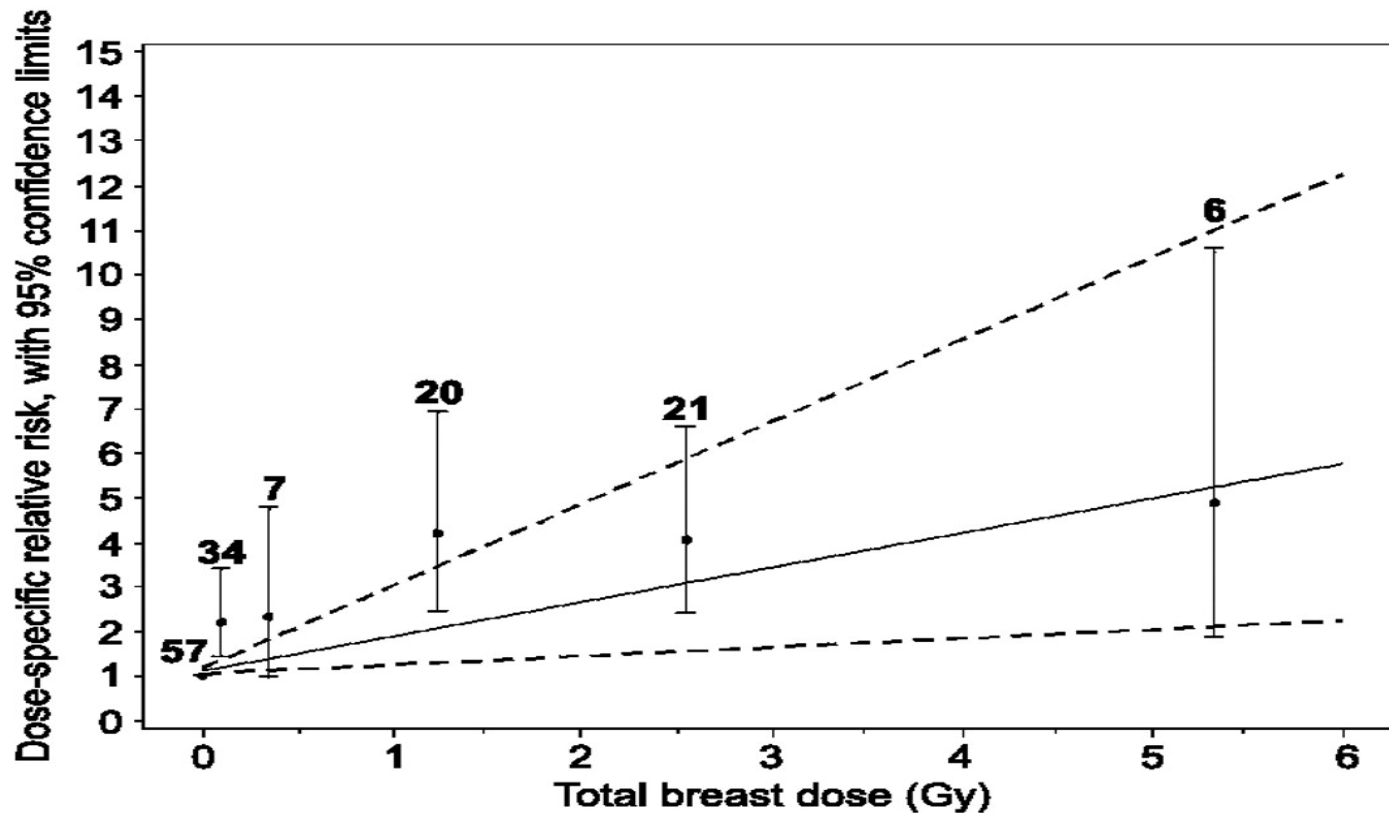
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- Individuals treated with chest RT for an enlarged thymus in the Rochester NY area & siblings\*
  - 2567 Treated Individuals
  - 4833 Untreated Siblings (born before 1964)
- Treated between 1926 and 1957
  - Median age at treatment: 5 weeks
  - 90% treated prior to 6 months of age
  - Mean thymus radiation dose 1.36 Gy
- Surveyed previously in 1953, 1959, 1963, 1969, 1975, 1985-87



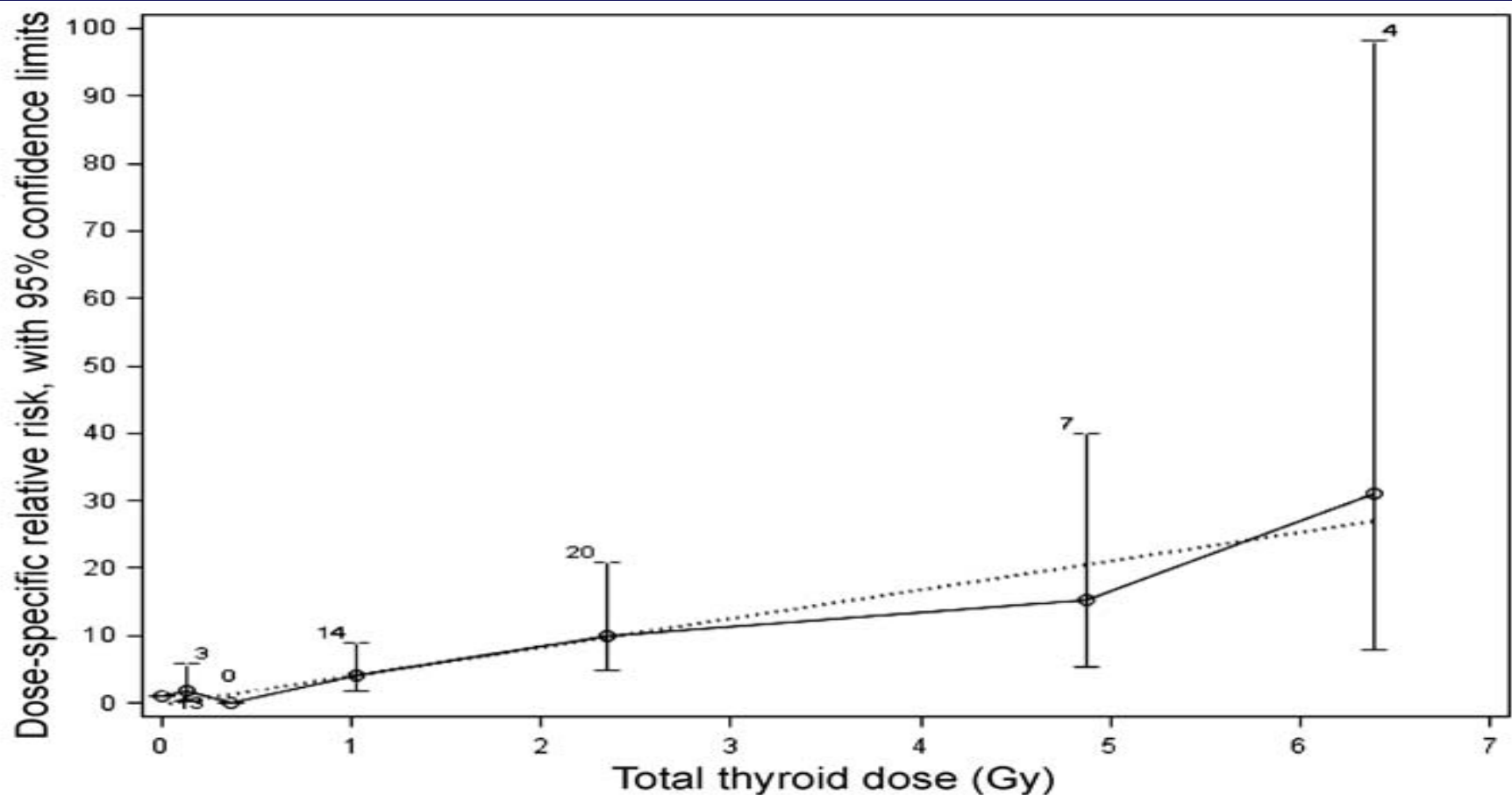
\*Eligible if successful follow-up of  $\geq 5$  years

# Radiation Dose Response for Breast Cancer Incidence Among 3,449 Women in the Rochester, NY Thymus Irradiation Cohort, with Known Thymus Irradiation Doses – 57.5 yr median f/u 159,459 person-yrs f/u





# Radiation Dose Response for the Incidence of Thyroid Cancer Among 7,490 Subjects in the Rochester, NY Thymus Irradiation Cohort, with Known Thyroid Radiation Dose – 57.5 yr median f/u 334,347 person-yrs f/u



# Person-Years After Age 15 & Event Rate by Dose Group

	# Persons	Person- years	Mean Cardiac Dose (std) (Gy)	Median Cardiac Dose (Gy)	MI Cases	MI Rate*	CHD Cases	CHD Rate*
Non-irradiated siblings	4755	141,592	--	--	130	9.2	206	14.6
<b>Total irradiated</b>	<b>2608</b>	<b>86,898</b>	<b>1.45 (1.28)</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>16.6</b>
0.17-0.99 Gy	1036	29,922	0.40 (0.23)	0.25	17	5.7	22	7.4
1.00-1.99 Gy	906	29,853	1.58 (0.24)	1.56	33	11.1	51	17.1
2.00-2.99 Gy	321	12,962	2.44 (0.27)	2.46	20	15.4	33	25.6
3.00-20.99 Gy	223	9,164	4.44 (1.55)	4.00	8	8.7	29	32.0
Dose unknown	122	4,997			5	10.0	9	18.1

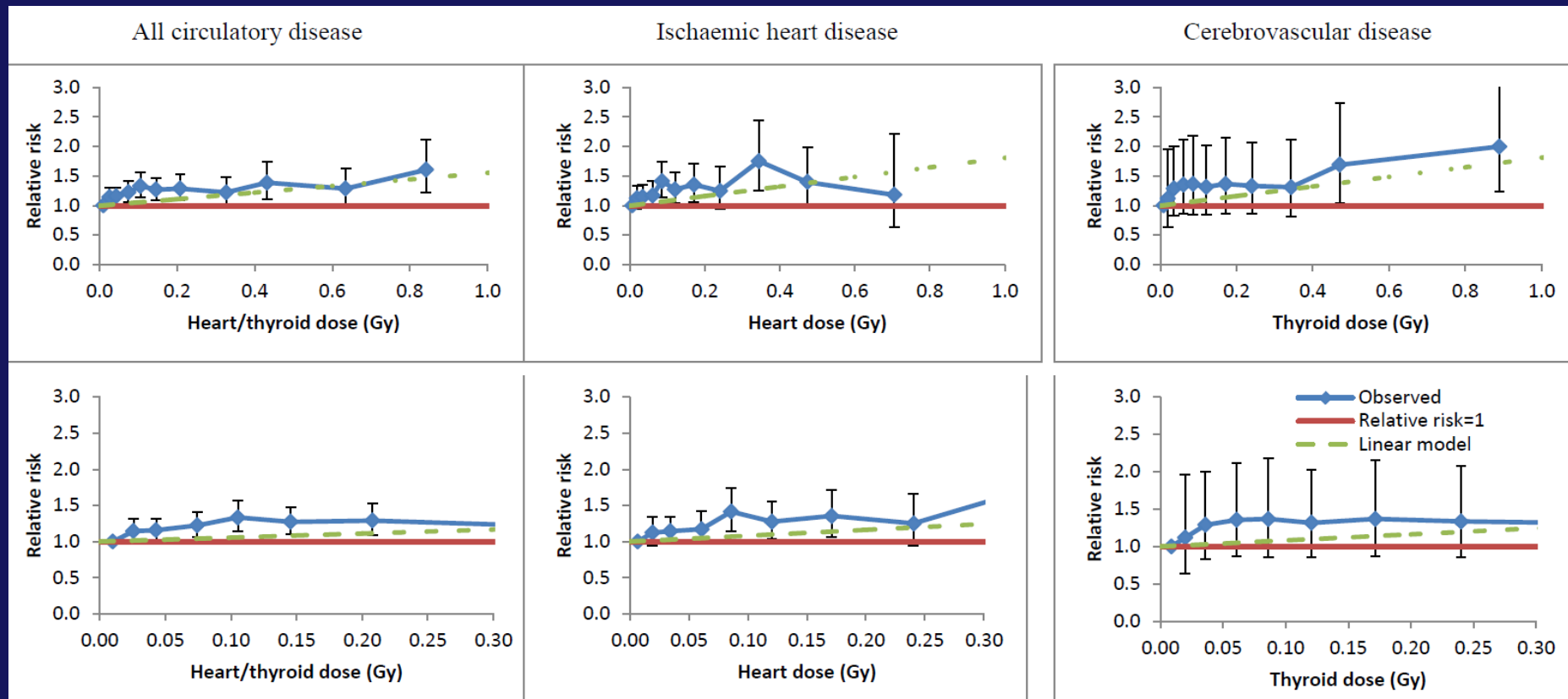
\* Rates per 10,000 person years

# Increased Circulatory Disease Mortality With Low and Moderate Doses of Ionizing Radiation

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- >800K patients with cardiac radiation dosimetry and >18M pt-yrs of follow-up.
- Estimated excess population risks for all circulatory disease mortality in 9 developed nations ranged from 2.5%/Sv in France to 8.5%/Sv for Russia.
- Radiation-related mortality is about twice that currently estimated based on estimates for cancer end points alone (which range from 4.2% to 5.6%).
- Cardiac mortality is worse when radiation exposure occurs during childhood.

# Low-dose Ionizing Radiation Exposure, under 100 mGy, is Associated with Increased Circulatory Diseases, more so than at Higher Doses

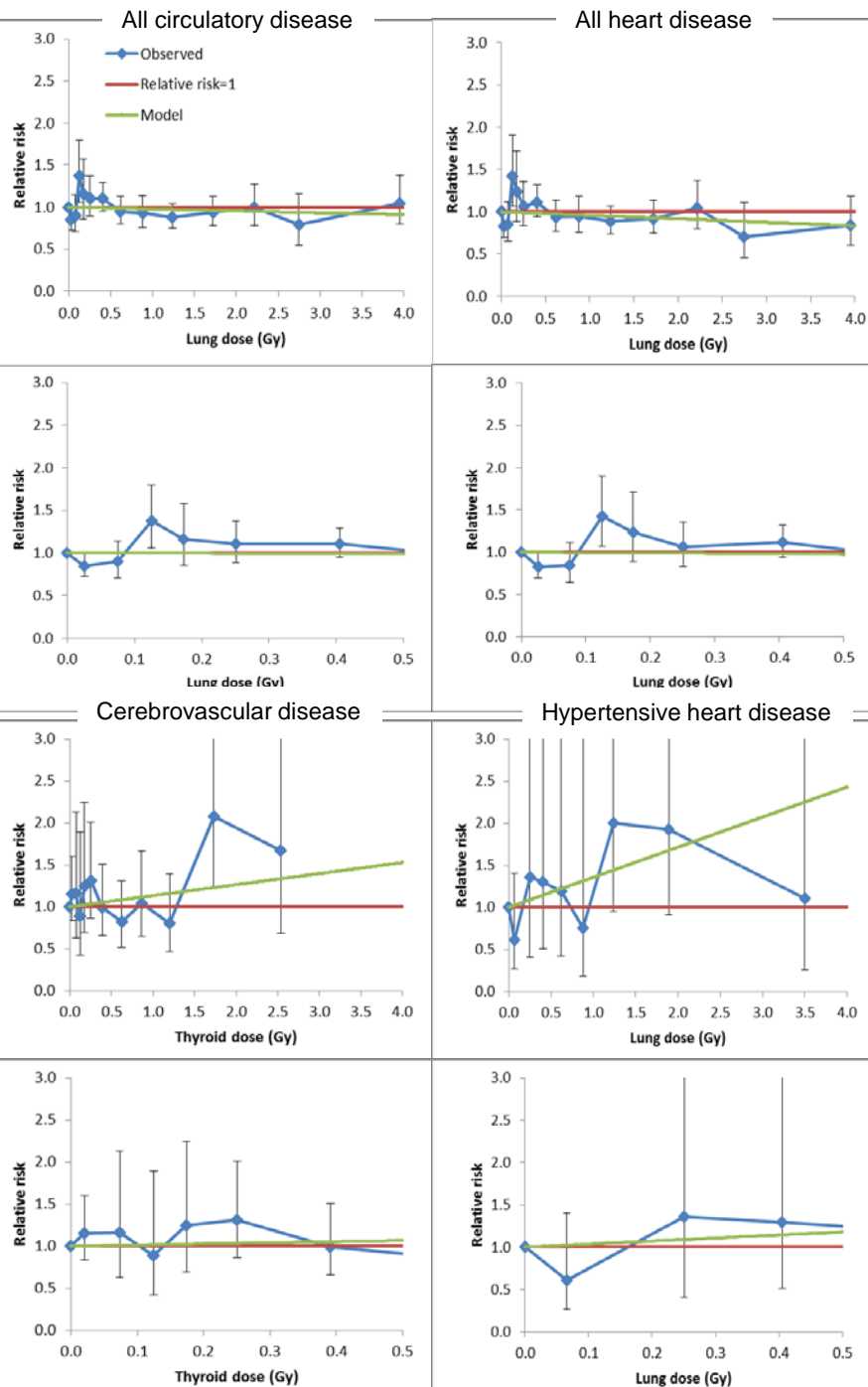


\*Lower panel in each graph is low dose (<0.5 Gy) part of upper graph.

- 100,369 US Radiologic Technologists. Made worse with cigarette smoking, diabetes and obesity.

# Excess Cardiovascular Disease Risks at Low Radiation Doses <0.5 Gy.

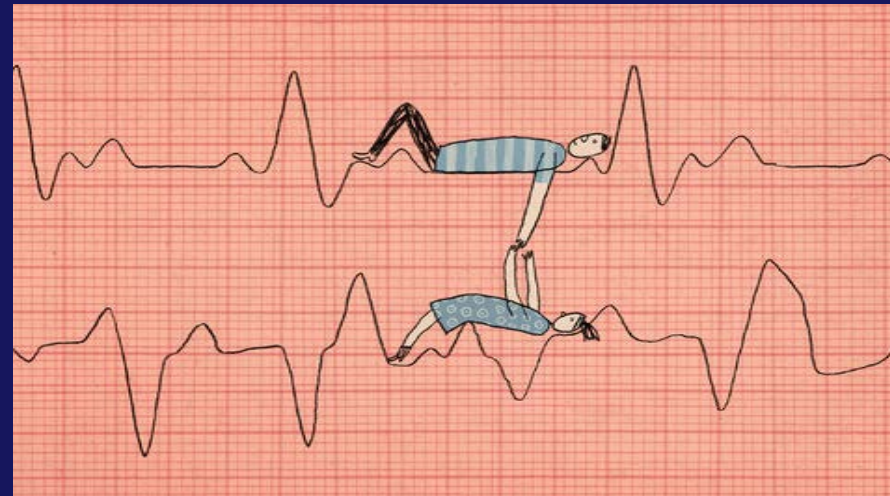
13,568 Massachusetts Tuberculosis Workers



# Conclusions

- Cardiotoxicity associated with cancer therapeutics can be pervasive, persistent, and progressive but missed clinically
- If you don't look, you don't know
- Tailored follow-up and therapies are needed and may be unique
- Genetic, environmental, and temporal factors interact to cause toxicity and identify high risk groups for safer treatment options and targeted interventions
- Validated surrogate cardiac endpoints are lacking
- Survivor cardiac monitoring delays heart failure and improves QOL
- Cardiovascular-related health burden will increase as this expanding population ages

**"In Matters of the Heart, We're in This Together."**



# Questions and Answers

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
National Institutes of Health | National Cancer Institute

[www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse](http://www.dceg.cancer.gov/RadEpiCourse)

1-800-4-CANCER

Produced May 2015