

**IMMPACT-XI: Research Design Considerations for Clinical Trials  
of Pre-Emptive Analgesia and the Prevention of Chronic Pain  
Arlington, Virginia, June 5-6, 2009**

**Painful Diabetic Peripheral Neuropathy**



**D. Ziegler**

**German Diabetes Center at the Heinrich Heine University  
Leibniz Center for Diabetes Research  
Institute for Clinical Diabetology  
Department of Metabolic Diseases  
University Hospital, Düsseldorf, Germany**

# **Prevention of Painful Diabetic Neuropathy**

## *Outline*

- **Risk factors for painful diabetic neuropathy**
- **Causal treatment of diabetes and prediabetes to prevent neuropathy**
- **Disease-modifying treatment in diabetic polyneuropathy**

# Prevention of Painful Diabetic Neuropathy

## *Outline*

- **Risk factors for painful diabetic neuropathy**
- Causal treatment of diabetes and prediabetes to prevent neuropathy
- Disease-modifying treatment in diabetic polyneuropathy

# EURODIAB: Risk factors for Incidence of Polyneuropathy

Odds Ratios (95% CI); n=932 with Type 1 Diabetes; Follow-Up: 7.3±0.6 years

Cardiovascular Disease

Smoking

HbA1c

Change in HbA1c

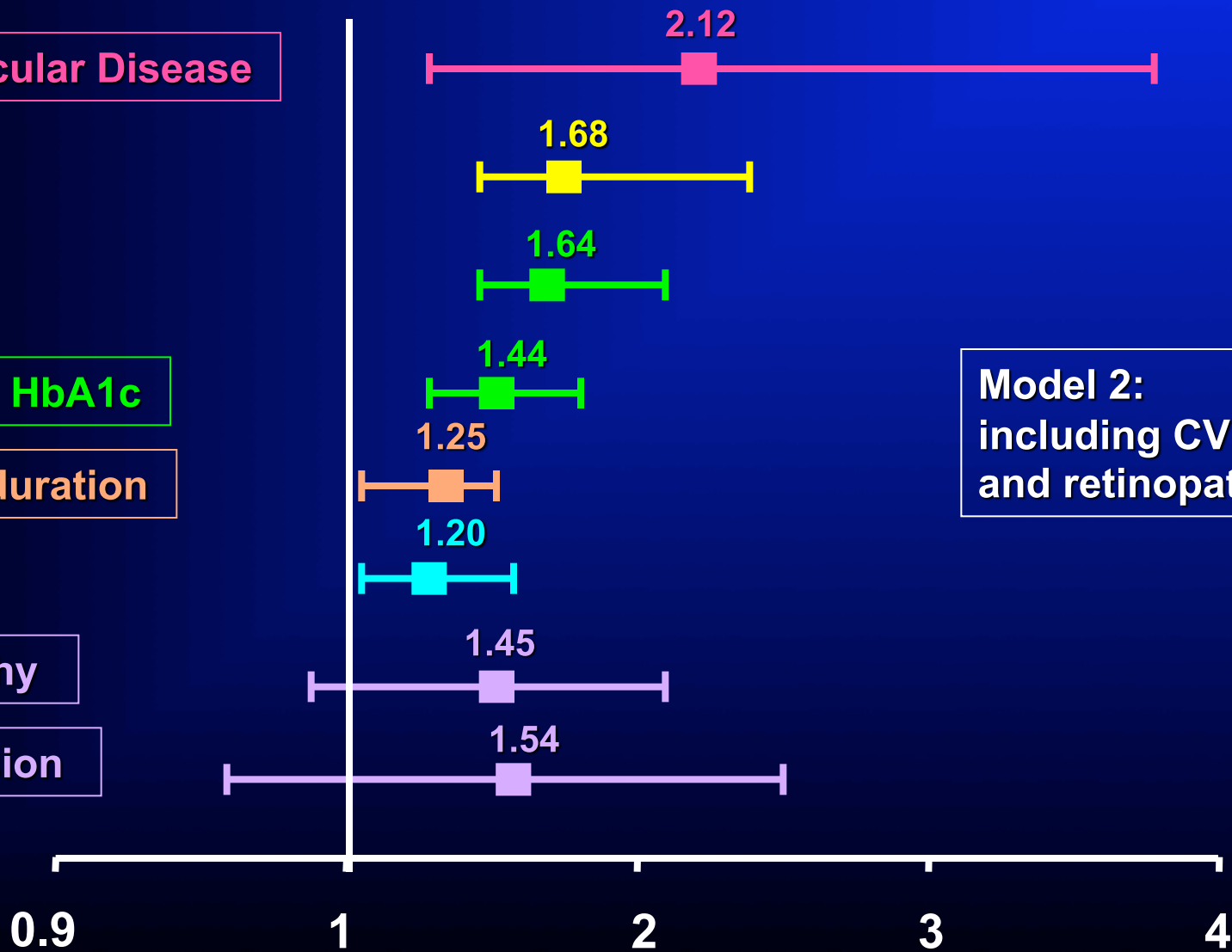
Diabetes duration

BMI

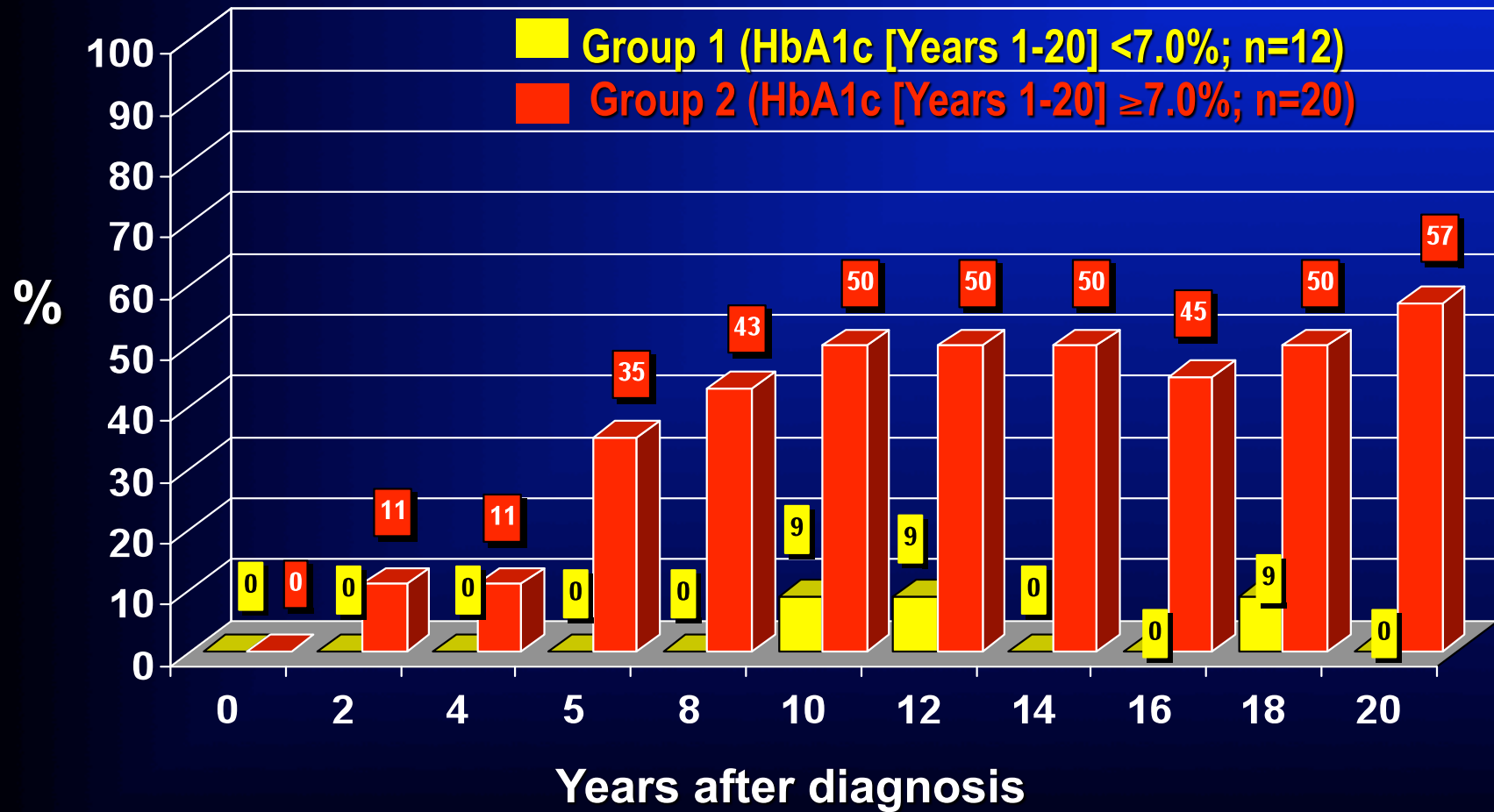
Retinopathy

Hypertension

Model 2:  
including CVD  
and retinopathy

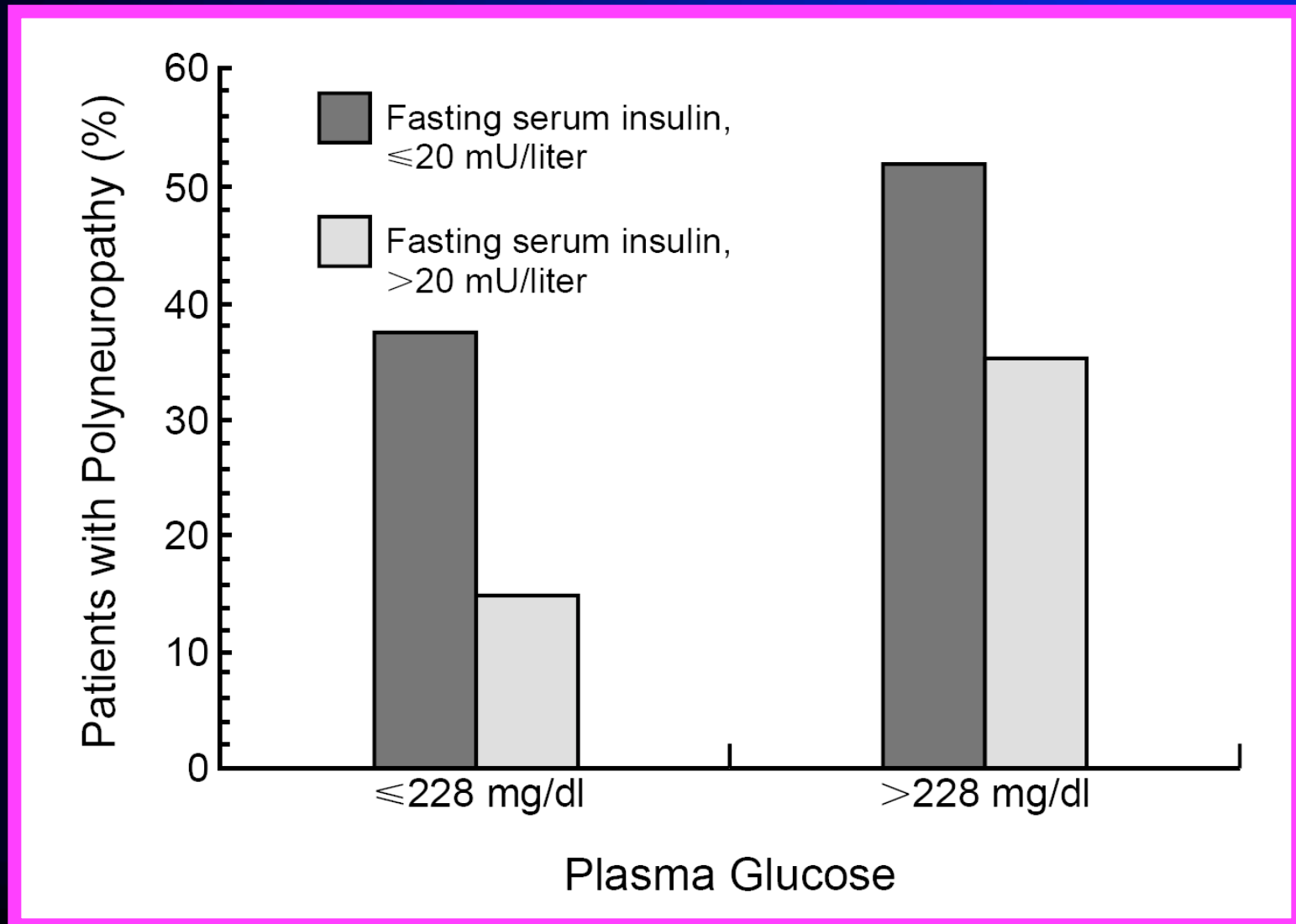


# Prevention of Polyneuropathy by Near-Normoglycemia over 20 Years after Diagnosis of Type 1 Diabetes



**Prevalence of DPN in Type 2 Diabetic Patients after 10 Jahren Is Associated with Initial Fasting Serum Insulin and Blood Glucose (0-5-10 Years)**

**Hypoinsulinemia and Hyperglycemia Are Predictors of Diabetic Polyneuropathy (DPN)**



# Risk Factors and Comorbidities of Painful Diabetic Neuropathy

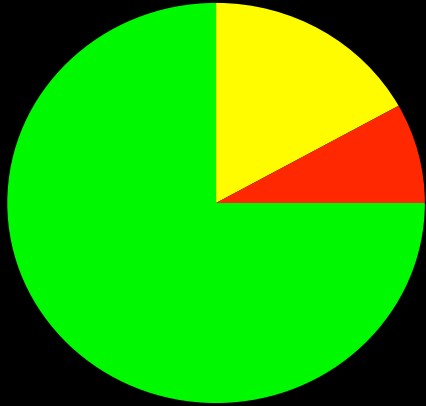
## MONICA/KORA Augsburg Surveys S2+S3

Diabetic (n=195)	OR (95% CI)	P Value
Age (years)	1.08 (1.00-1.16)	0.0389
Weight (kg)	1.03 (1.00-1.06)	0.0539
PAD (ABI<0.9)	9.27 (3.44-25.0)	<0.0001

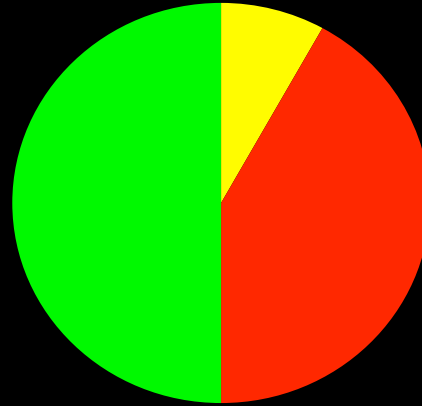
## Augsburg Myocardial Infarction Registry

Diabetic (n=214)	OR (95% CI)	P Value
Waist circumference(cm)	1.05 (1.01-1.09)	0.0054
Physical activity	0.31 (0.10-0.99)	0.0484
PAD (ABI<0.9)	5.61 (2.43-12.96)	<0.0001

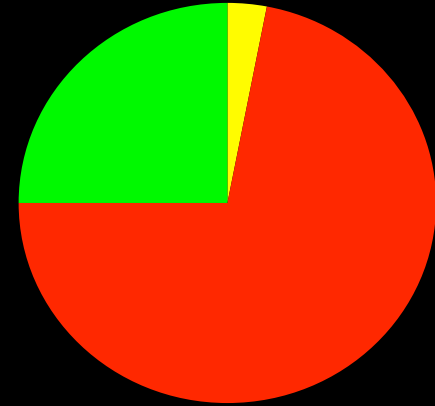
PAD = peripheral arterial disease, ABI = ankle-brachial index



75% Normal Function



50% Normal Function



25% Normal Function

**Duration of Diabetes**

-  Irreversible Component of Abnormality
-  Reversible Component of Abnormality
-  Normal



**Treatment  
of Diabetic  
Neuropathy**

Type 2 DM? Pain?

Prevention? Duration?

Pain relief, Quality of life ↑

**Glycemic  
control  
Lifestyle and  
Multifactorial risk  
intervention**

**Pathogenetic  
treatment**

**Analgesics**

# Prevention of Painful Diabetic Neuropathy

## *Outline*

- Risk factors for painful diabetic neuropathy
- **Causal treatment of diabetes and prediabetes to prevent neuropathy**
- Disease-modifying treatment in diabetic polyneuropathy

# **Prevention of Diabetic Neuropathy**

## **Randomized Controlled Clinical Trials of Intensive vs Conventional Diabetes Therapy**

### ***Type 1 Diabetes***

- **Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT)**
- **Epidemiology of Diabetes Intervention and Complications Study (EDIC)**
- **Stockholm Diabetes Intervention Study (SDIS)**
- **Oslo study**

### ***Type 2 Diabetes***

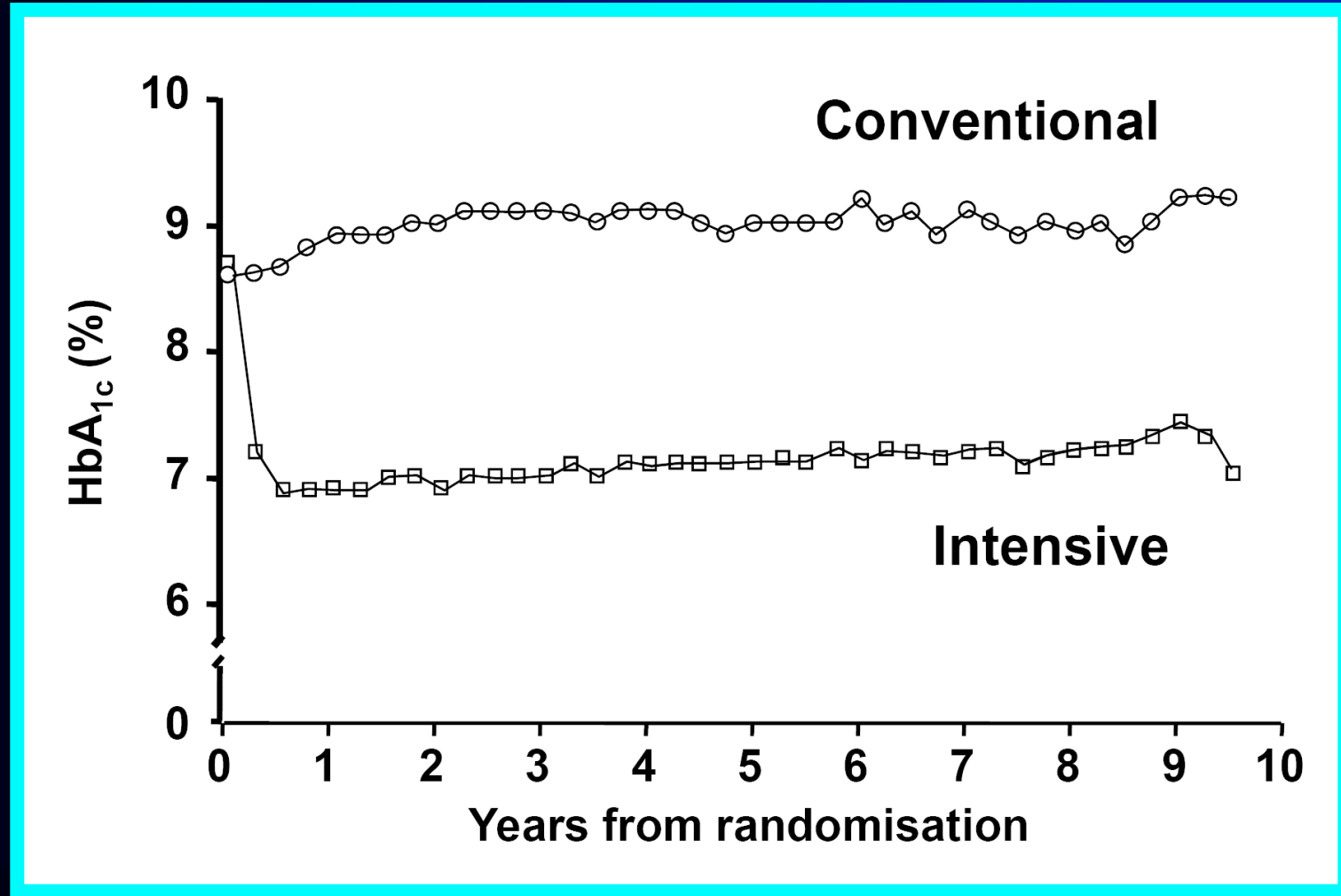
- **United Kingdom Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS)**
- **Kumamoto study**
- **Action in Diabetes and Vascular Disease: Preterax and Diamicron Modified Release Controlled Evaluation (ADVANCE) study**
- **Veterans Affairs Diabetes Trial (VADT)**
- **Steno Type 2 study (multifactorial risk intervention)**

### ***Prediabetes (IGT/IFG)***

- **Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)**

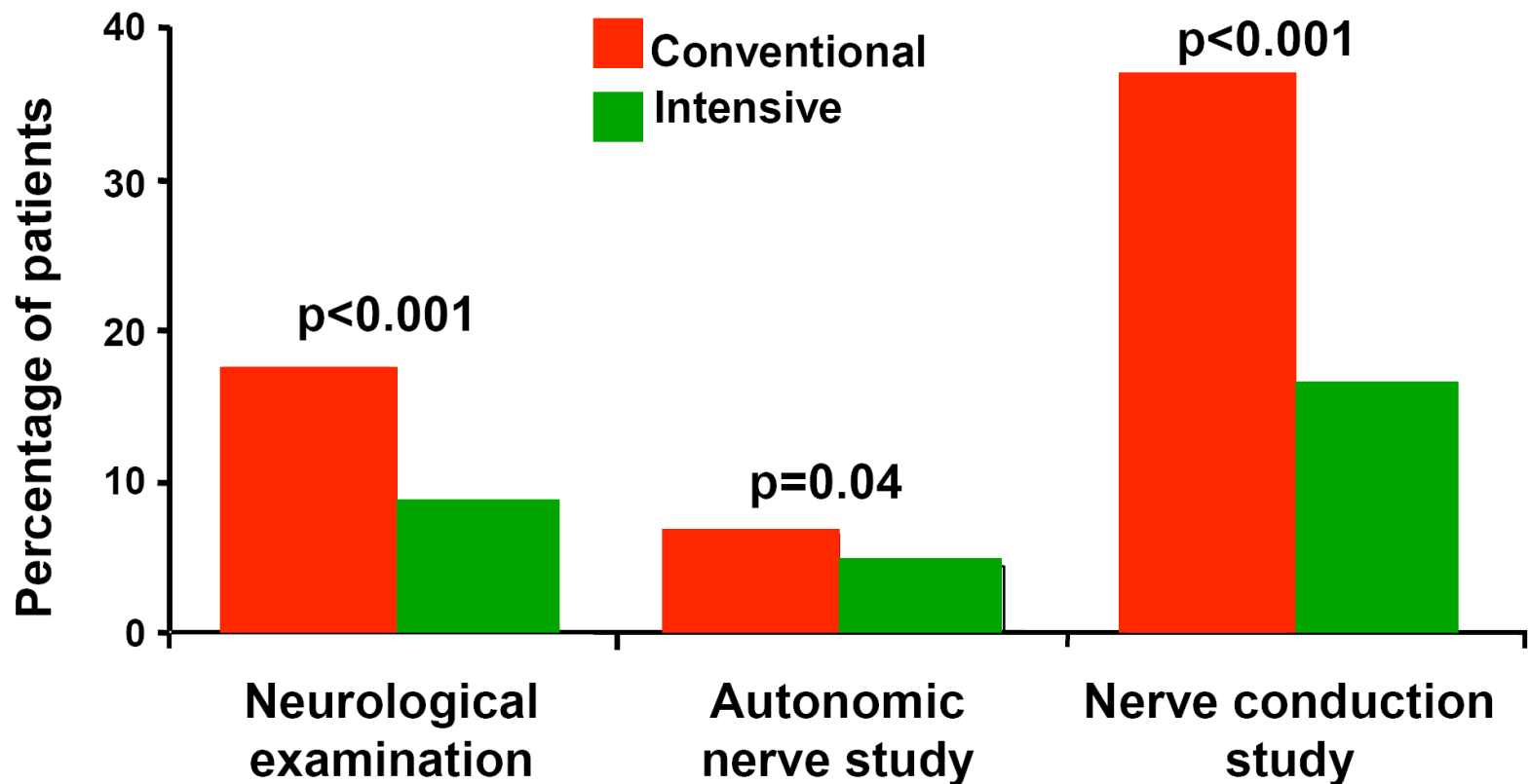
# Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT)

## Effects of management on HbA1c



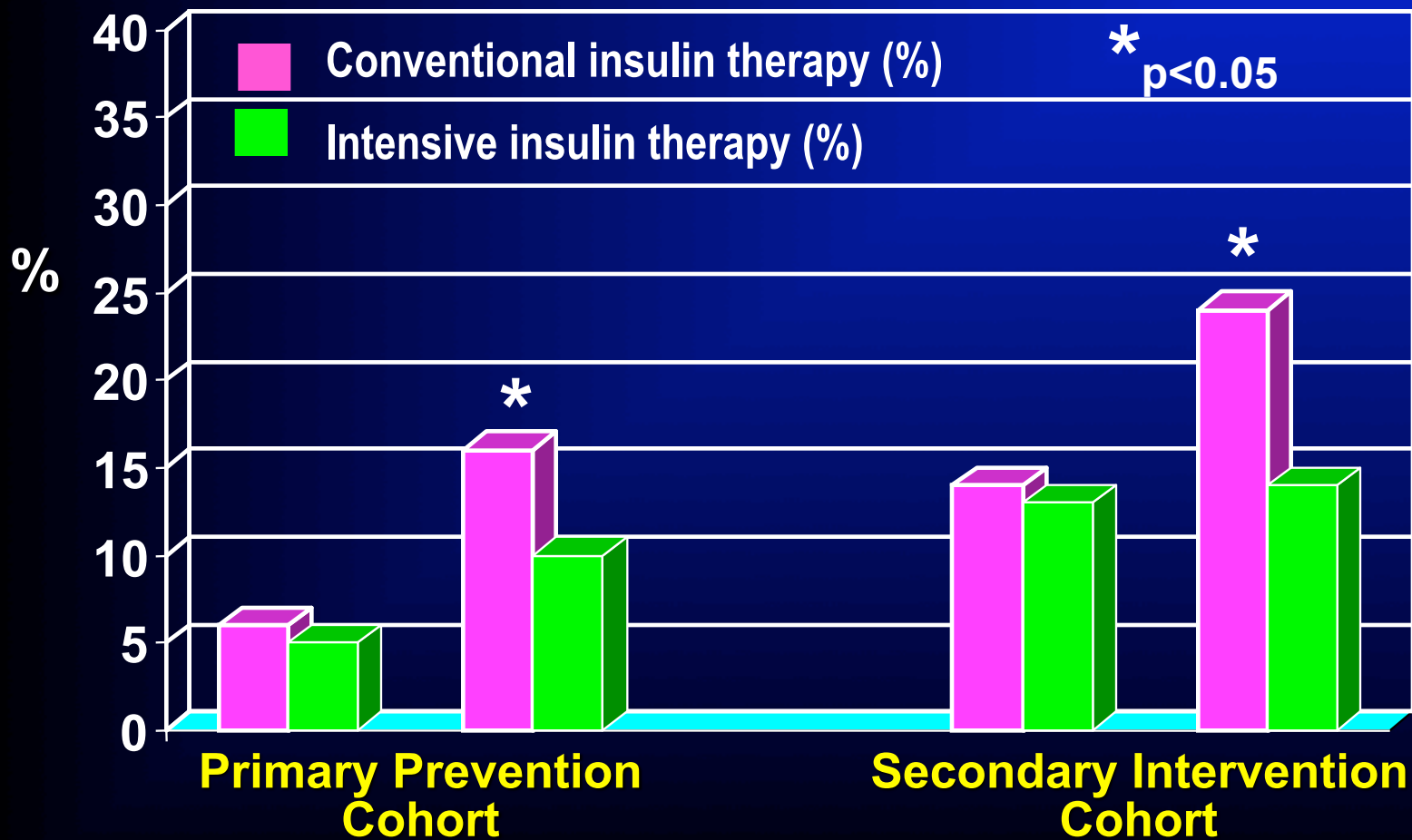
# Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT)

**Intensive insulin therapy decreased the incidence of clinically meaningful neuropathy by 60%**

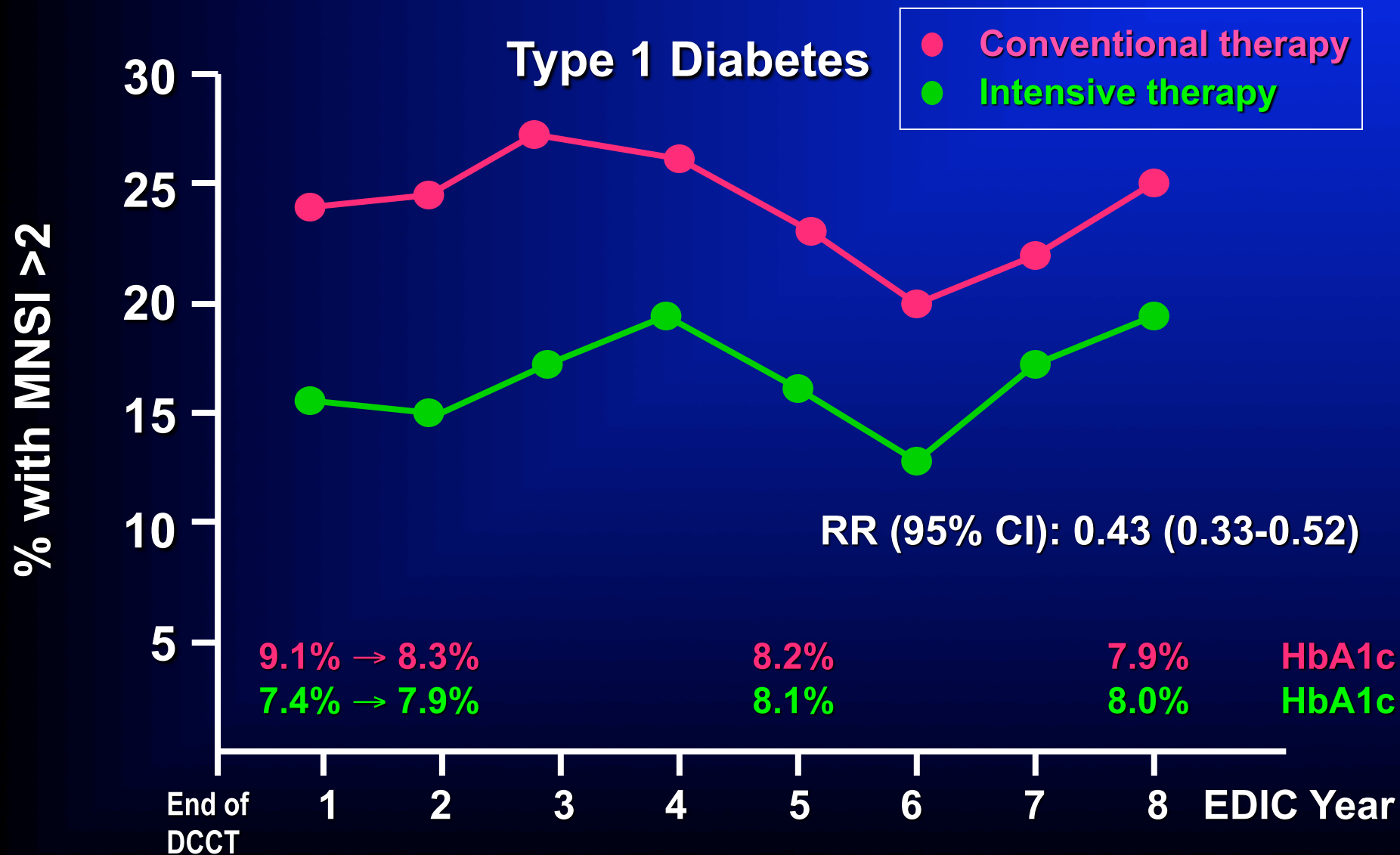


# Diabetes Control and Complications Trial (DCCT)

## Patients with clinically defined polyneuropathy (%)

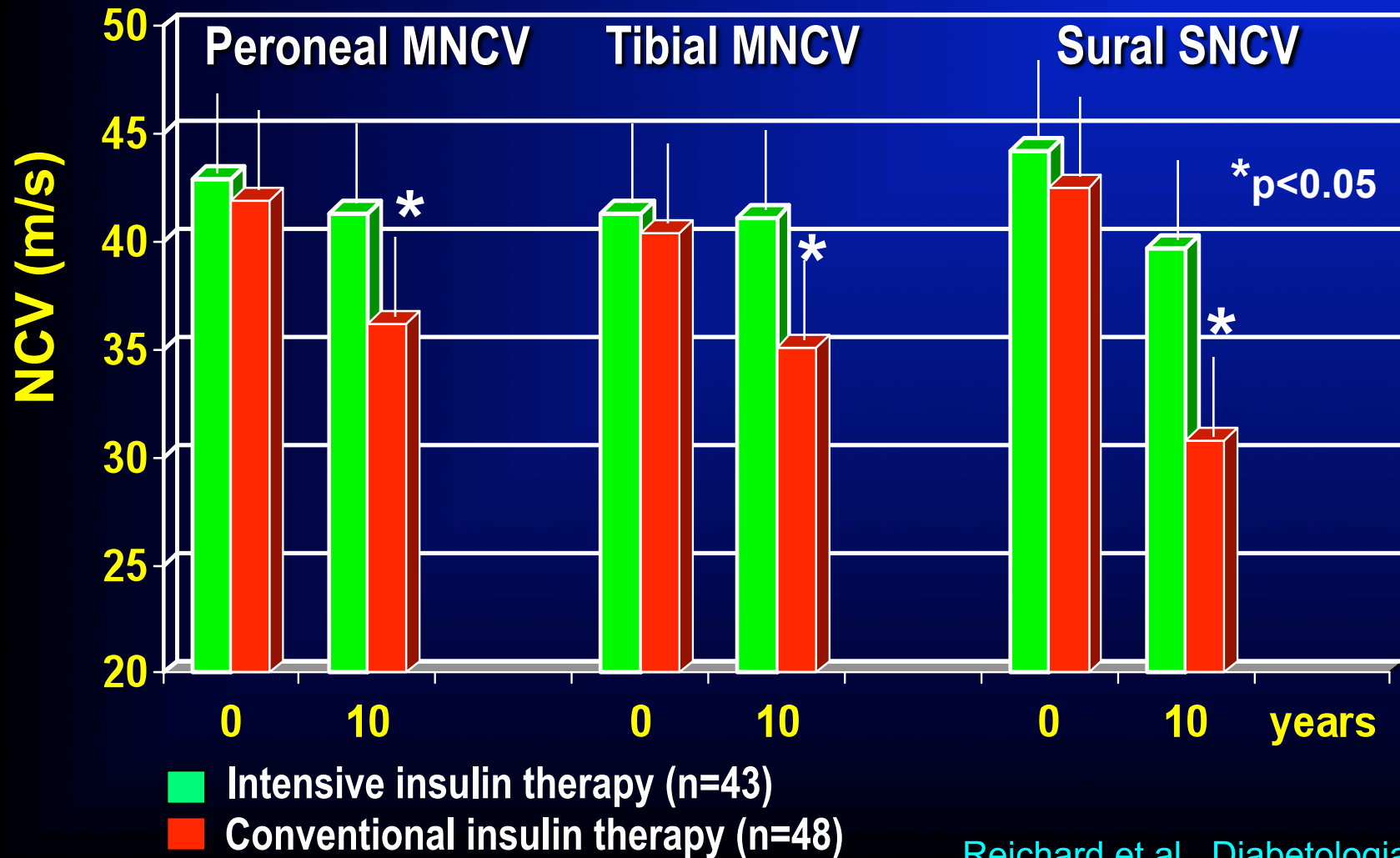


# Epidemiology of Diabetes Intervention and Complications (EDIC) Study 8-Year Follow-Up of Polyneuropathy (MNSI >2) after DCCT Completion



# Stockholm Diabetes Intervention Study

## Nerve conduction velocity (NCV) after 10 years

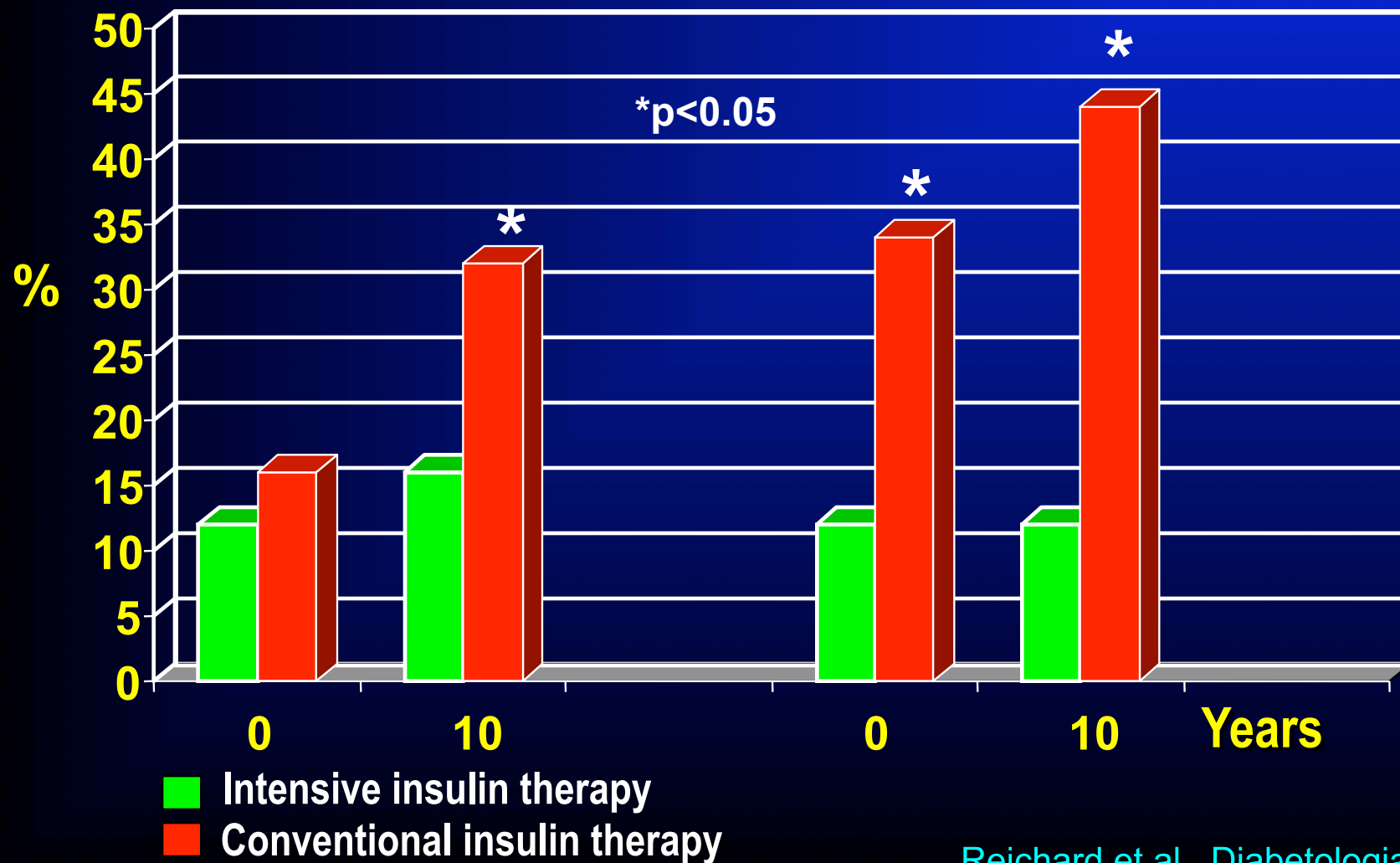




# Stockholm Diabetes Intervention Study

Neuropathic symptoms

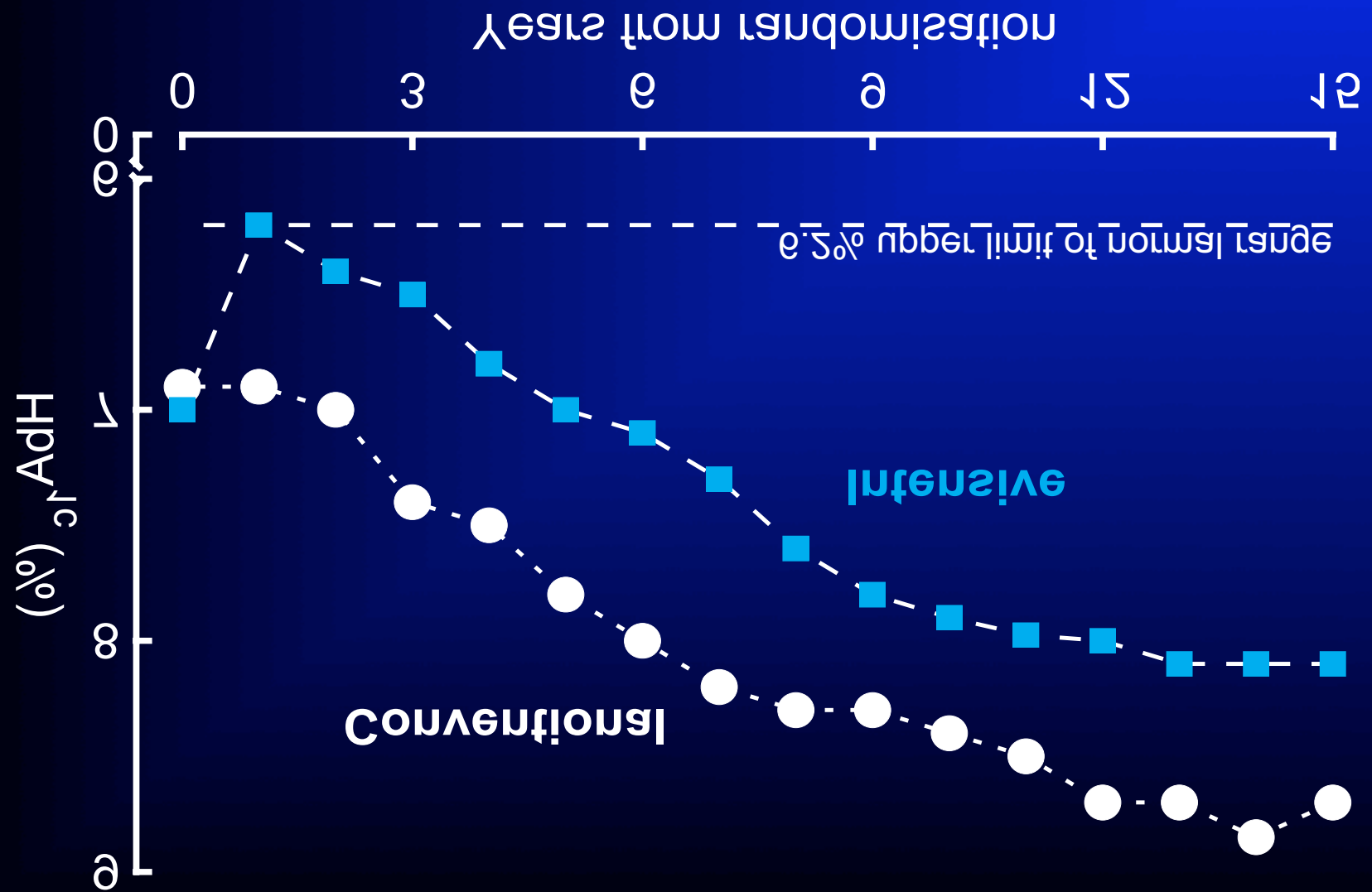
Pin-prick



Reichard et al., Diabetologia, 1996

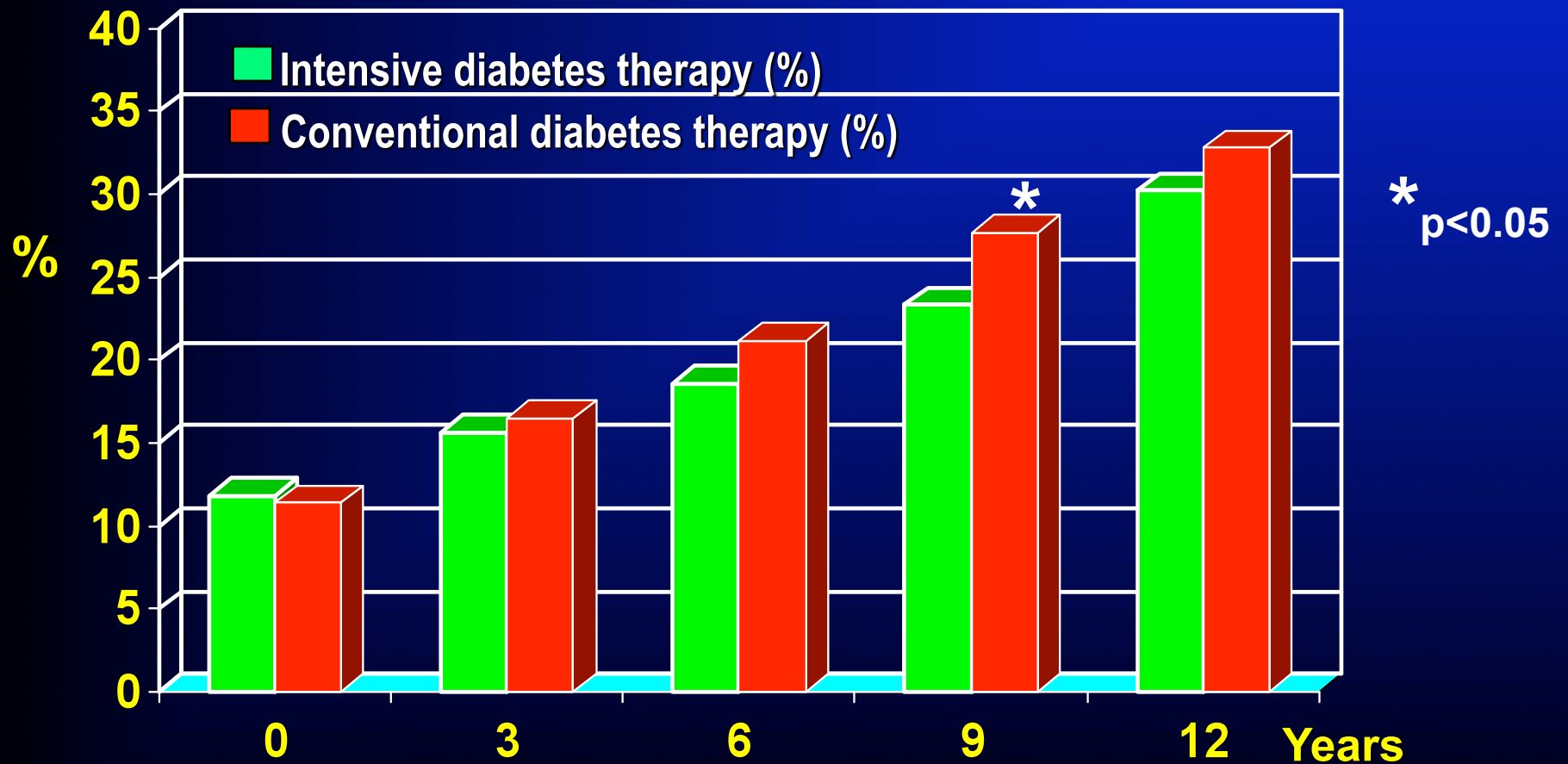
# UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS)

## HbA1c: Median values



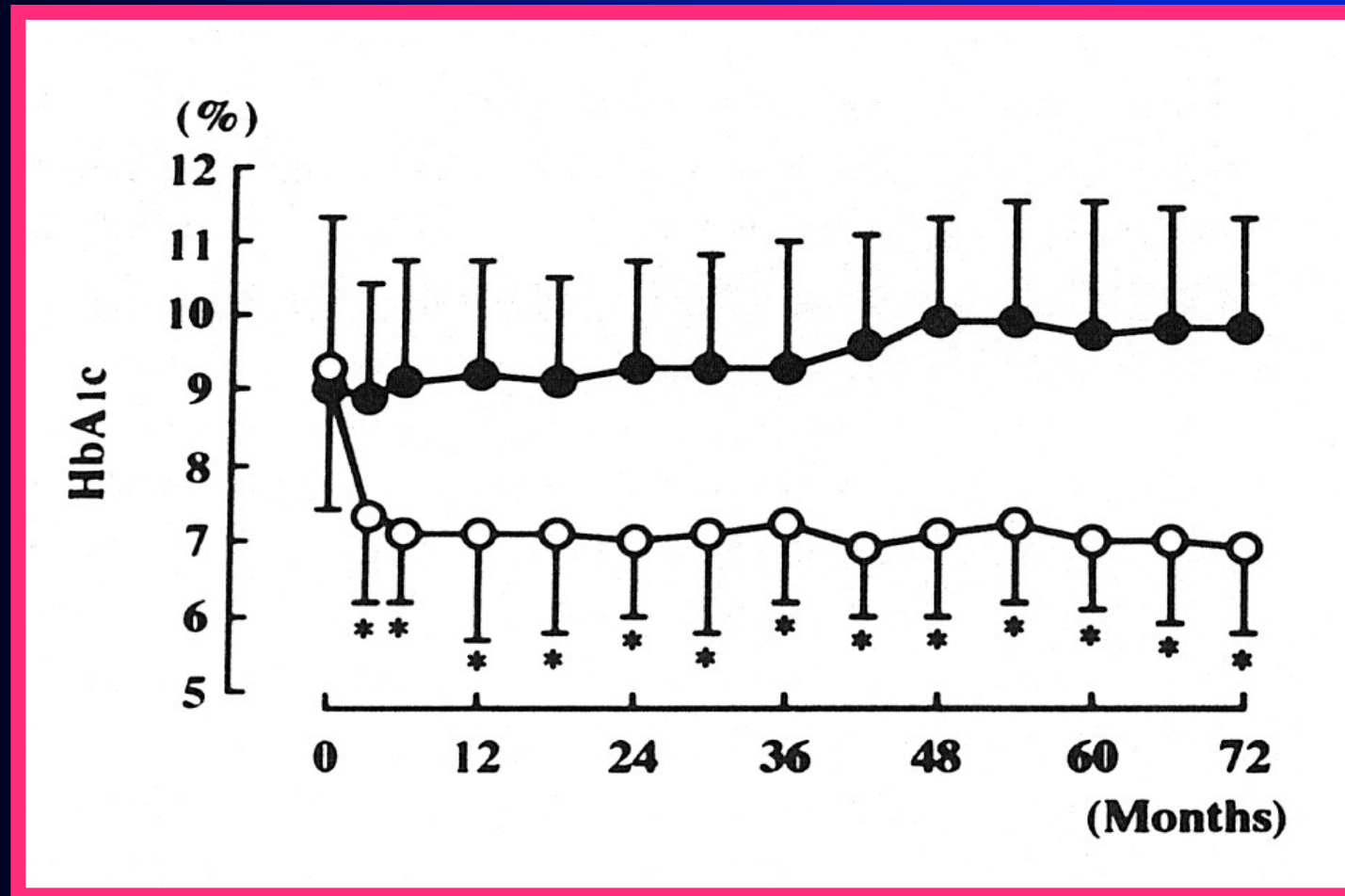
# UK Prospective Diabetes Study (UKPDS)

Elevated Vibration Perception Threshold (Biothesiometer >25 V)



# Kumamoto Study

HbA1c in patients receiving intensive (○) and conventional (●) insulin therapy



# Kumamoto Study

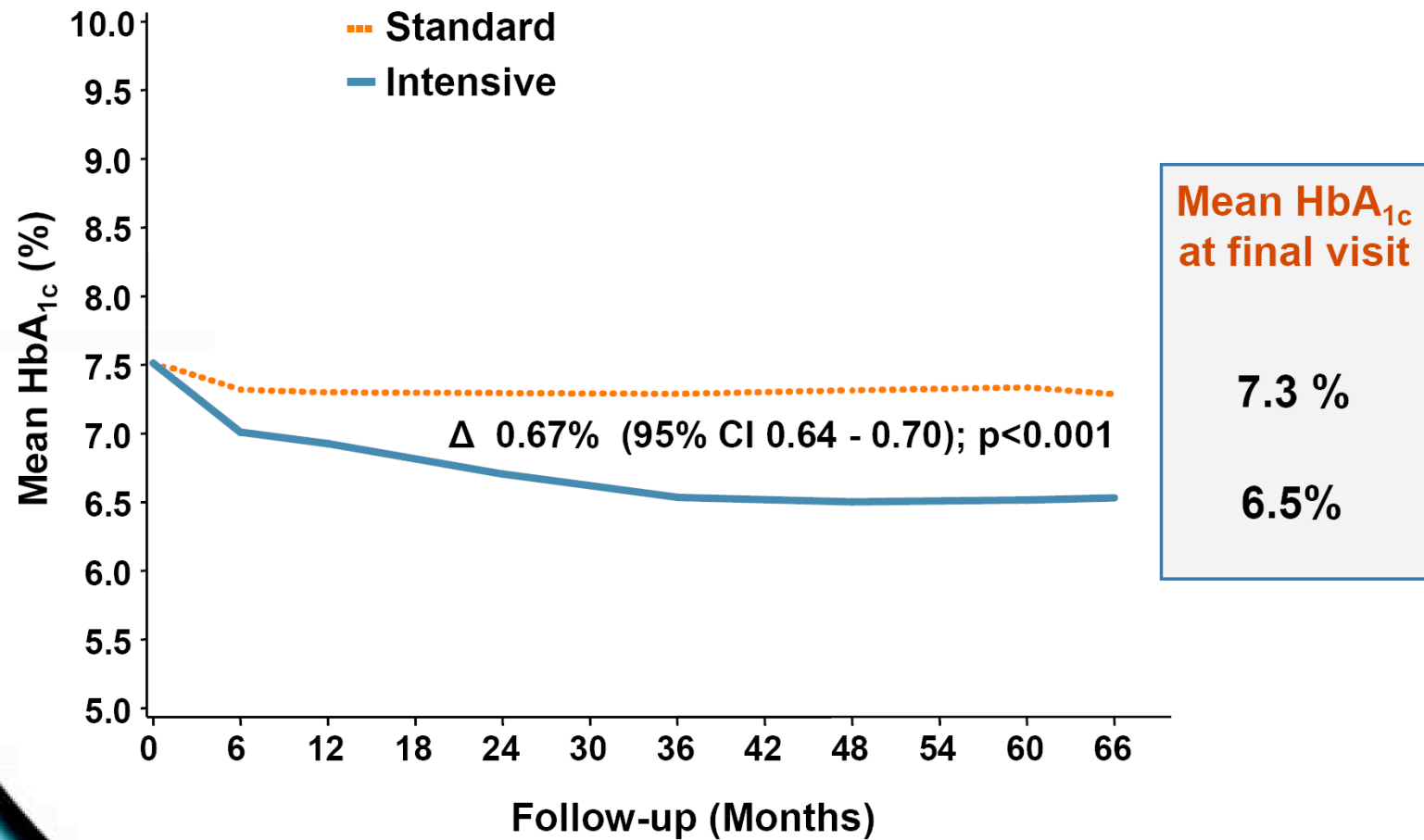
## 10-Year Follow-Up

**Intensive (n=55) vs. conventional (n=55) insulin therapy**

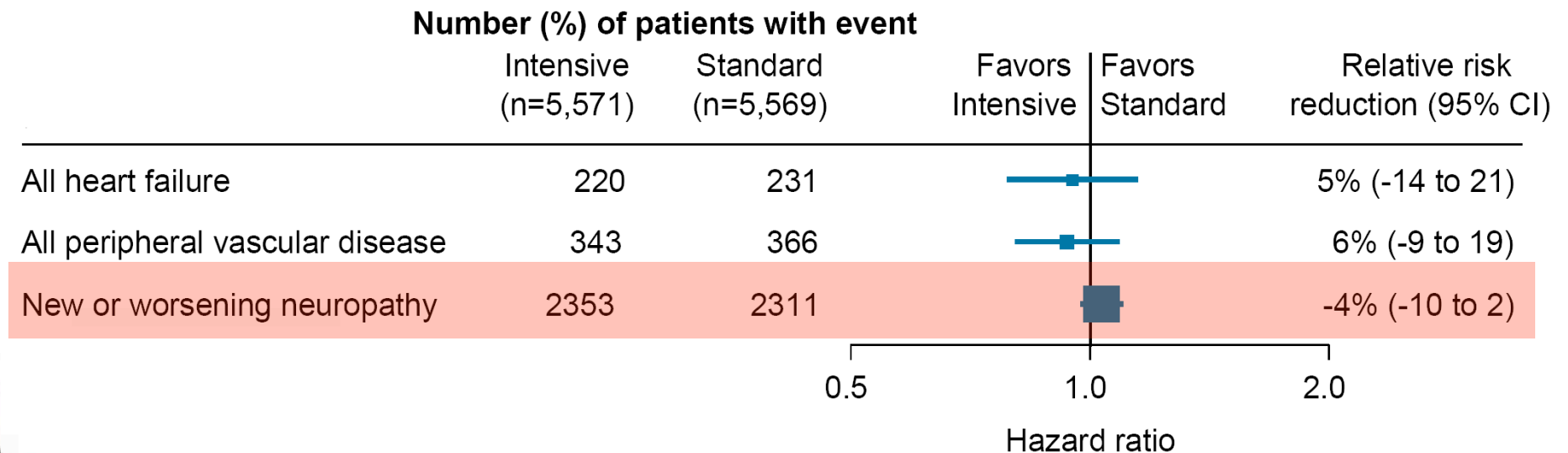
- **Neuropathy (NCV+VPT↓ or AFT↓):**  
→ Risk reduction by 64%
- **Neuropathy-free interval:**  
→ Prolonged by 2.2 years

NCV = Nerve conduction velocity  
VPT = Vibration perception threshold  
AFT = Autonomic function tests

# Hemoglobin A<sub>1c</sub>



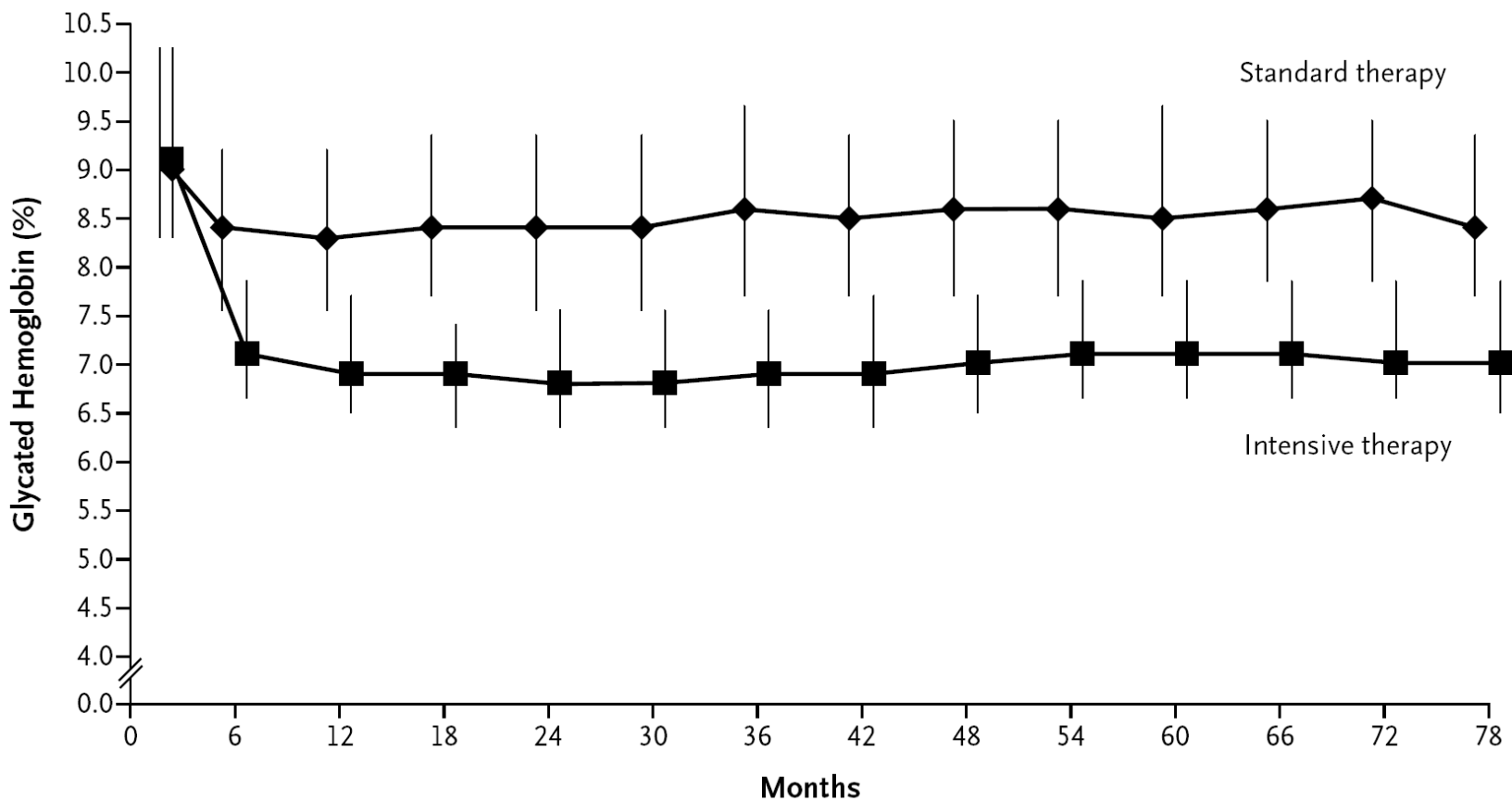
# Heart failure, PVD and neuropathy



**No effect of intensive diabetes treatment on the progression of polyneuropathy in type 2 diabetes**

# Veterans Affairs Diabetes Trial (VADT)

Changes in Median Glycated Hemoglobin Levels from Baseline through 78 Months



**No. at Risk**

Standard therapy	899	811	812	759	760	727	727	707	688	667	644	472	329	225
Intensive therapy	892	801	805	763	754	729	706	692	668	661	639	489	340	223



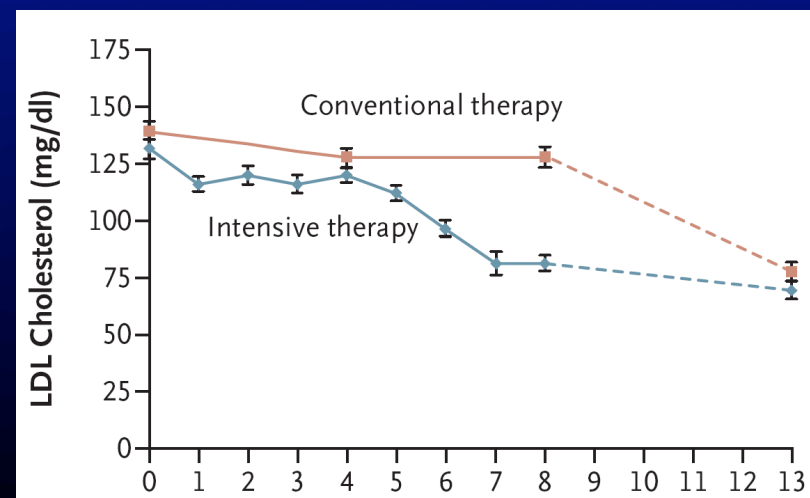
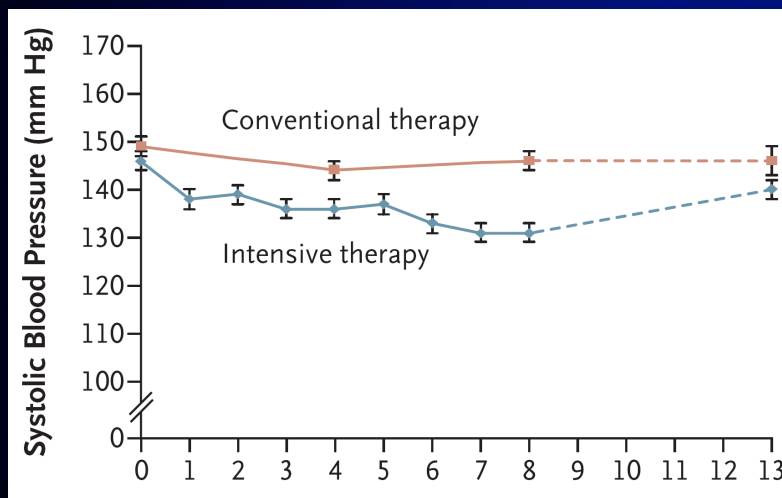
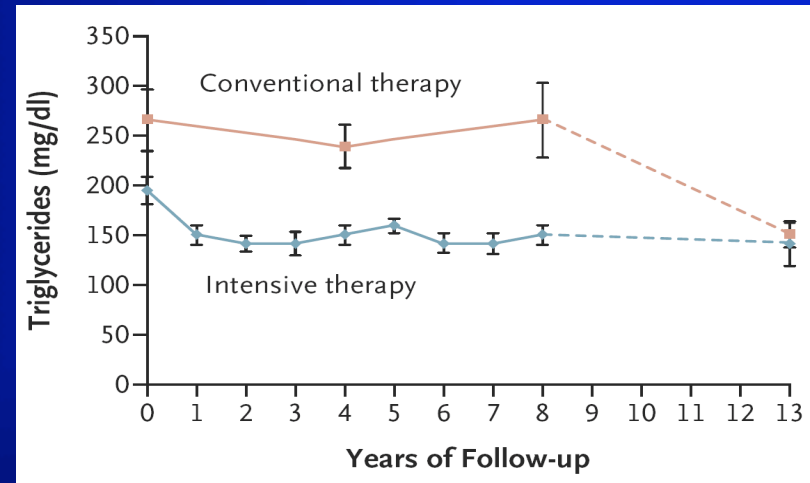
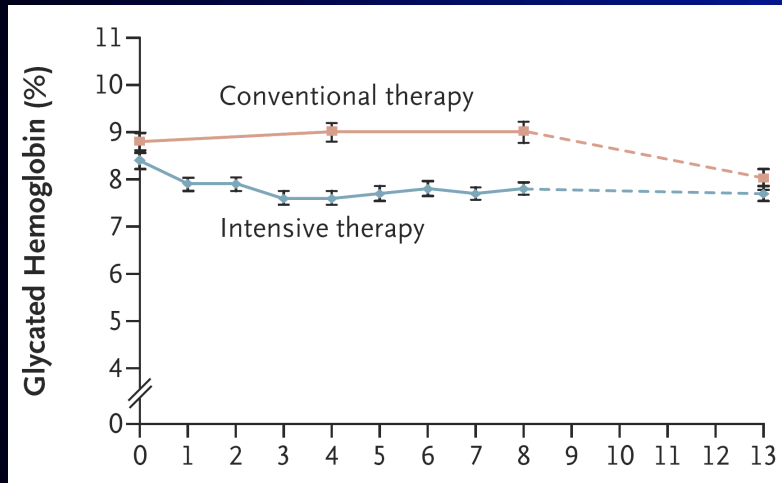
# Veterans Affairs Diabetes Trial (VADT)

Outcome	Standard Therapy (N=899) <i>no./total no. (%)</i>	Intensive Therapy (N=892) <i>no./total no. (%)</i>	P Value†
<b>New neuropathy</b>			
Any	218/498 (43.8)	202/464 (43.5)	0.94
Mononeuropathy	20/498 (4.0)	22/464 (4.7)	0.58
Peripheral	199/498 (40.0)	178/464 (38.4)	0.61
Autonomic	26/498 (5.2)	38/464 (8.2)	0.07

**No effect of intensive diabetes treatment on the progression of neuropathy in type 2 diabetes**

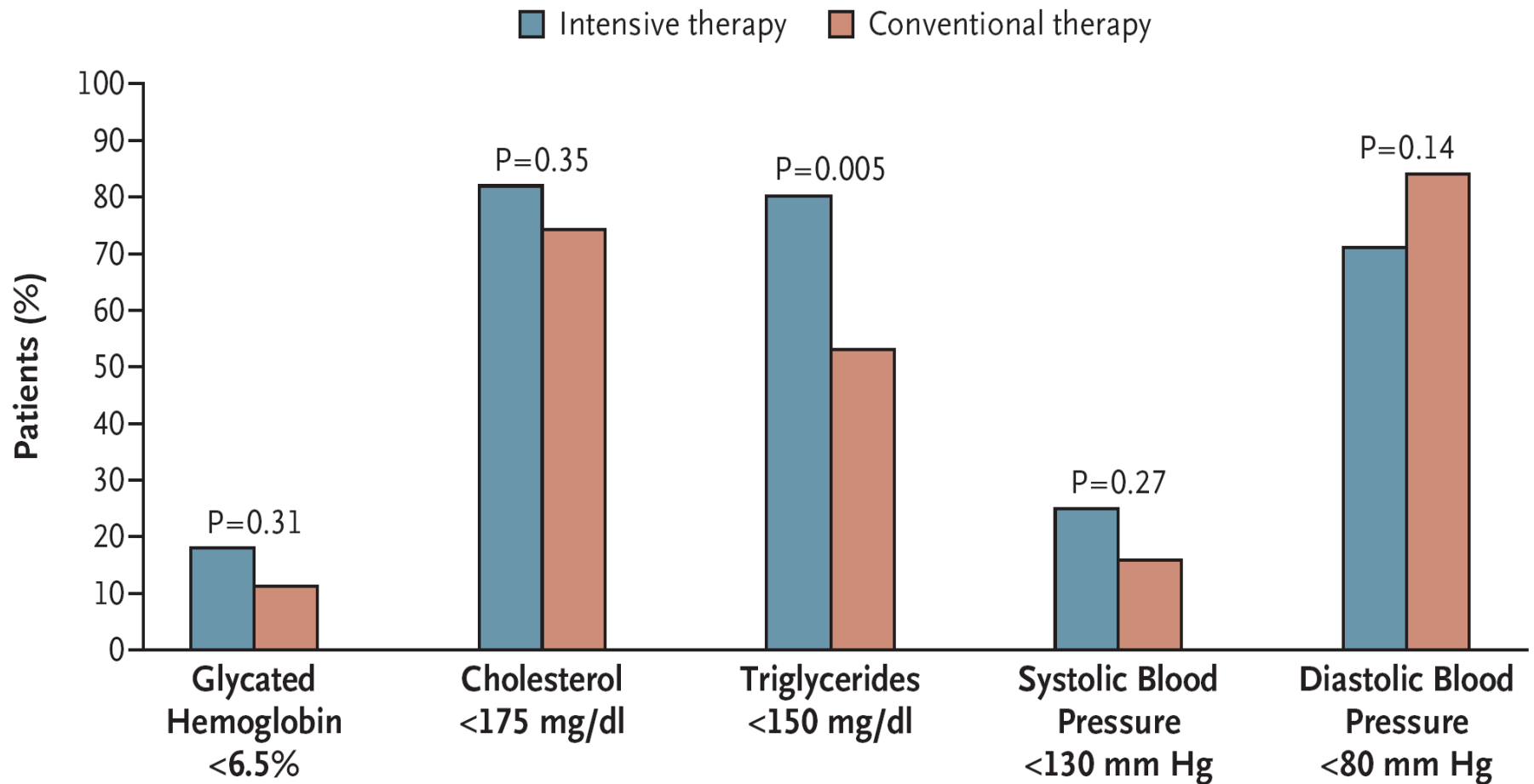
# Steno Type 2 Study: Follow-Up after 13 Years

HbA1c, systolic BP, and lipids during the interventional part of the study for all patients (solid lines) and during the follow-up period (dashed lines)



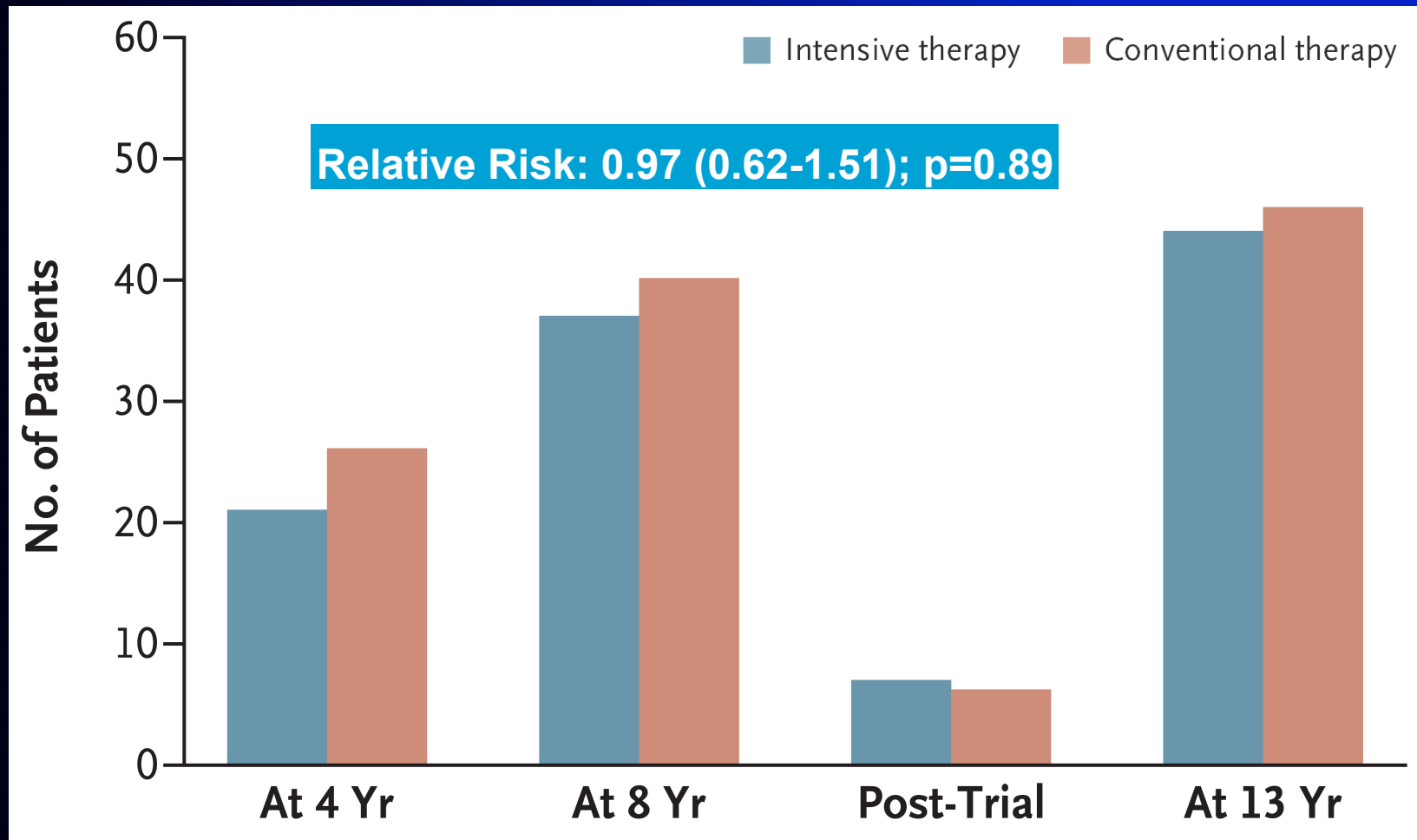
# Steno Type 2 Study: Follow-Up after 13 Years

## Percentages of patients who achieved the goals of intensive therapy



# Steno Type 2 Study: Follow-Up after 13 Years

No effect of multifactorial intervention on the progression of peripheral neuropathy



## Effects of randomized clinical trials of intensive diabetes therapy in prevention of diabetic polyneuropathy

Trial	n	Duration [years]	HbA <sub>1c</sub> [%] CT vs IT	Neuropathy Outcome			
				Clinical	NCV	VPT	HRV
<i>Type 1 Diabetes</i>							
• DCCT	1441	up to 9	9.1 vs 7.2	+	+		+
• Stockholm Study	91	10	8.3 vs 7.2	+	+		
• Oslo Study	45	8	n.a.		+		
<i>Type 2 Diabetes</i>							
• UKPDS	3867	up to 15	7.9 vs 7.0	--		--/+ (*)	--
• Kumamoto Study	110	6	9.4 vs 7.1		+ (§)	+ (**)	--
• VADT	153	2	9.5 vs 7.4	--		--	--
• ADVANCE Study	11140	5	7.3 vs 6.5	--			
• Steno Type 2 Study	160	7.8	9.0 vs 7.7			--	+(§§)

+ = benefit; -- = no effect; (\*) = only n=217 patients available after 15 years out of n=3.836 at baseline; (\*\*)=Significant difference between CT and IT for VPT on the hand but not foot; (§)= only NCV in the upper but not lower limbs available; (§§)= effects of ACE inhibitors, antioxidants, and statins not discernible from those of glycemic control; CT = conventional treatment; IT = intensive treatment; NCV = nerve conduction velocity; VPT = vibration perception threshold; HRV = heart rate variability

# Lifestyle intervention in prediabetes



# Lifestyle Intervention after 3 years in IGT (n=72)

## Progression of neuropathy despite diet and exercise counseling (DPP)

	1 year	2 years	3 years
Weight	↓ (4.3%)	↔	↔
LDL cholesterol	↓	↓	↓
Weekly exercise	↑	↔	↔
2h BG in OGTT	↔	↓	↔
IENFD	↑	↔	(↓)
QSART	↑	↔	(↓)
LDF	↑	↔	(↓)
UENS		↔	↓

IENFD = Intraepidermal nerve fiber density  
 QSART = Quantitative sudomotor axon reflex test  
 LDF = Laser Doppler flow  
 UENS = Utah Early Neuropathy Scale

↑ Increased  
 ↓ Decreased  
 ↔ Unchanged

# Disease-modifying treatment of diabetic neuropathy based on the putative pathogenetic mechanisms

Abnormality	Compound	Aim of treatment	Status of RCTs
Polyol pathway ↑	Aldose reductase inhibitors	Nerve sorbitol ↓	
	Sorbinil		Withdrawn (AE)
	Tolrestat		Withdrawn (AE)
	Ponalrestat		Ineffective
	Zopolrestat		Withdrawn (marginal effects)
	Zenarestat		Withdrawn (AE)
	Lidorestat		Withdrawn (AE)
	Fidarestat		Effective in RCTs, trials ongoing
	AS-3201		Effective in RCTs, trials ongoing
	Epalrestat	Marketed in Japan	
Myo-inositol ↓	Myo-inositol	Nerve <i>myo</i> -inositol ↑	Equivocal
Oxidative stress ↑	α-Lipoic acid	Oxygen free radicals ↓	Effective in RCTs, trials ongoing
Nerve hypoxia ↑	Vasodilators	NBF ↑	
	ACE inhibitors		Effective in one RCT
	Prostaglandin analogs		Effective in one RCT
	phVEGF <sub>165</sub> gene transfer		RCTs ongoing
Protein kinase C ↑	Protein kinase C-β inhibitor (ruboxistaurin)	Angiogenesis ↑ NBF ↑	RCTs ongoing
C-peptide ↓	C-peptide	NBF ↑	Studies ongoing
Neurotrophism ↓	Nerve growth factor (NGF)	Nerve regeneration, growth ↑	Ineffective
	BDNF	Nerve regeneration, growth ↑	Ineffective
LCFA metabolism ↓	Acetyl-L-carnitine	LCFA accumulation ↓	Ineffective
GLA synthesis ↓	γ-Linolenic acid (GLA)	EFA metabolism ↑	Withdrawn
NEG ↑	Aminoguanidine	AGE accumulation ↓	Withdrawn

AE, adverse event; AGE: advanced glycation end product; BDNF, brain-derived neurotrophic factor; EFA: essential fatty acid; LCFA, long-chain fatty acid; NBF, nerve blood flow; NEG, nonenzymatic glycation; RCT, randomized clinical trial.



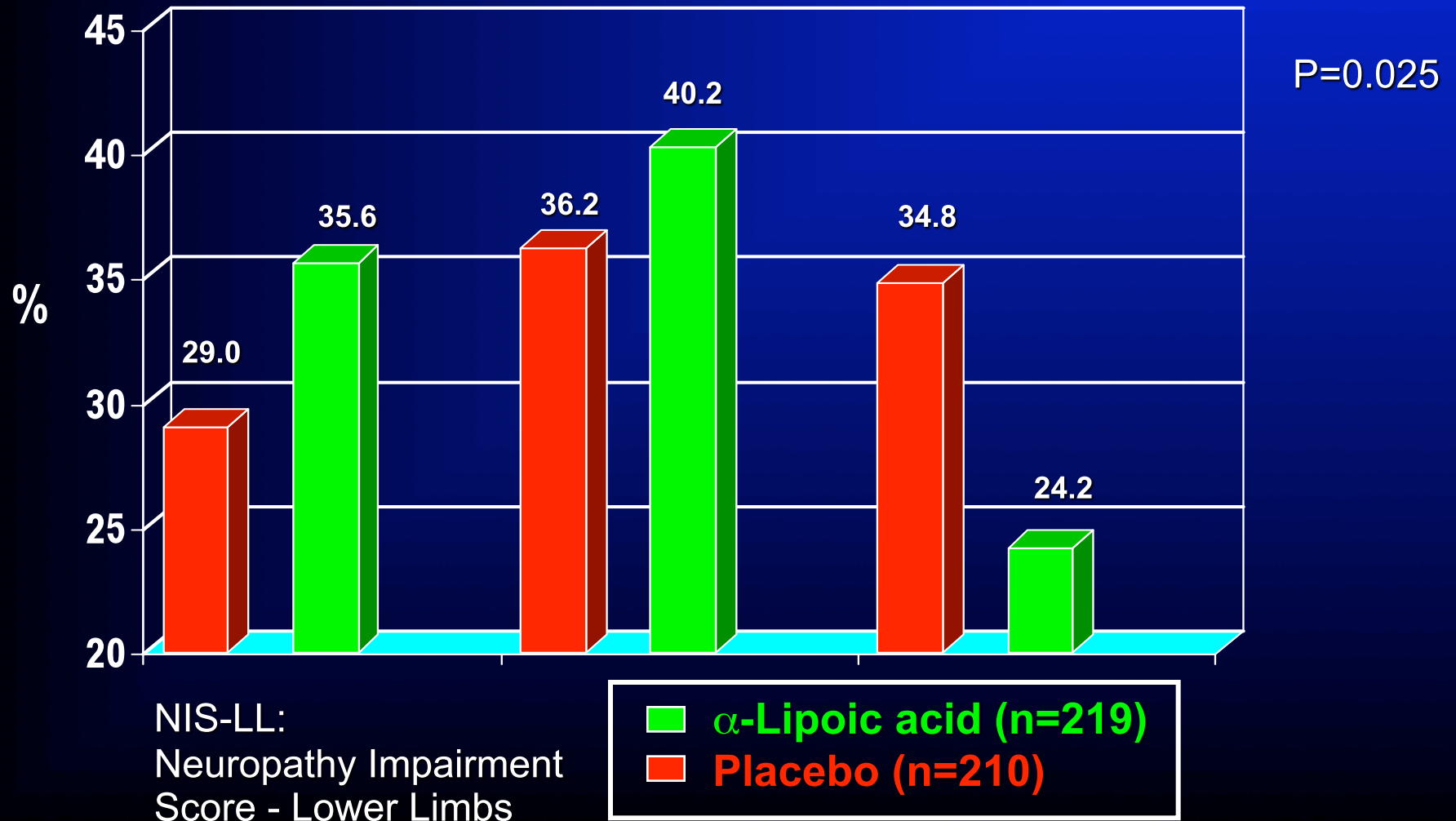
# NATHAN 1 Study

## NIS-LL Responders vs NIS-LL Progressors after 4 Years

Responders  
NIS-LL  $\leq$  -2 pts

Unchanged  
NIS-LL  $>$  -2 to  $<$  +2

Progressors  
NIS-LL  $\geq$  +2 pts



## Conclusions

- **Cardiovascular risk factors may represent targets for strategies to prevent (painful) diabetic polyneuropathy.**
- **Intensive diabetes therapy aimed at normoglycemia prevents the development/progression of polyneuropathy in type 1 diabetes, but there is no such a clear evidence in type 2 diabetes and prediabetes.**
- **No controlled prevention studies are available in painful diabetic neuropathy.**



# KORA A Study: MONICA/KORA Augsburg Surveys S2+S3 Augsburg Myocardial Infarction Registry



Leibniz  
Gemeinschaft

KOOPERATIVE GESUNDHEITSFORSCHUNG  
IN DER REGION AUGSBURG  
**KORA**

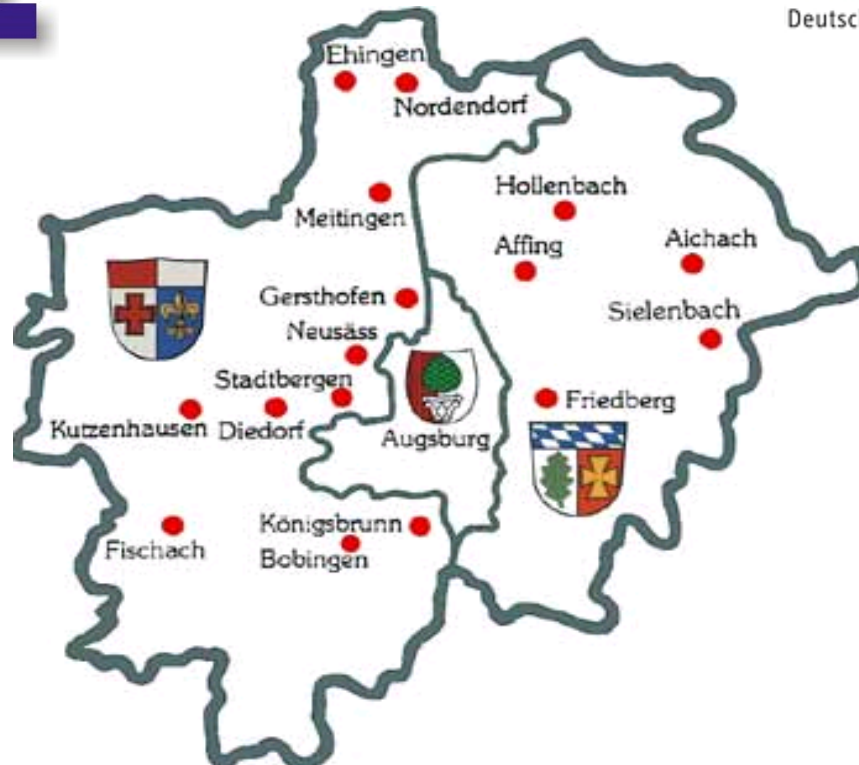


HELMHOLTZ  
GEMEINSCHAFT

**DDZ**

HelmholtzZentrum münchen

Deutsches Forschungszentrum für Gesundheit und Umwelt



**DDZ**

Deutsches Diabetes-Zentrum

# **Definition of Painful Neuropathy**

**Pain in the lower legs/feet  
+  
MNSI Score >2 points**

# Michigan Neuropathy Screening Instrument (MNSI)

## Clinical examination

### 1. Appearance of feet

**Right**

a. Normal  0 Yes  1 No

b. If no, check all that apply:

Deformities

Dry skin, callus

Infection

Fissure

Other

specify: \_\_\_\_\_

**Left**

Normal  0 Yes  1 No

If no, check all that apply:

Deformities

Dry skin, callus

Infection

Fissure

Other

specify: \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Ulceration

**Right**

Absent  0 Present  1

**Left**

Absent  0 Present  1

### 3. Ankle reflexes

Present  0 Present/Reinforcement  0.5 Absent  1

Present  0 Present/Reinforcement  0.5 Absent  1

### 4. Vibration perception at great toe

Present  0 Decreased  0.5 Absent  1

Present  0 Decreased  0.5 Absent  1

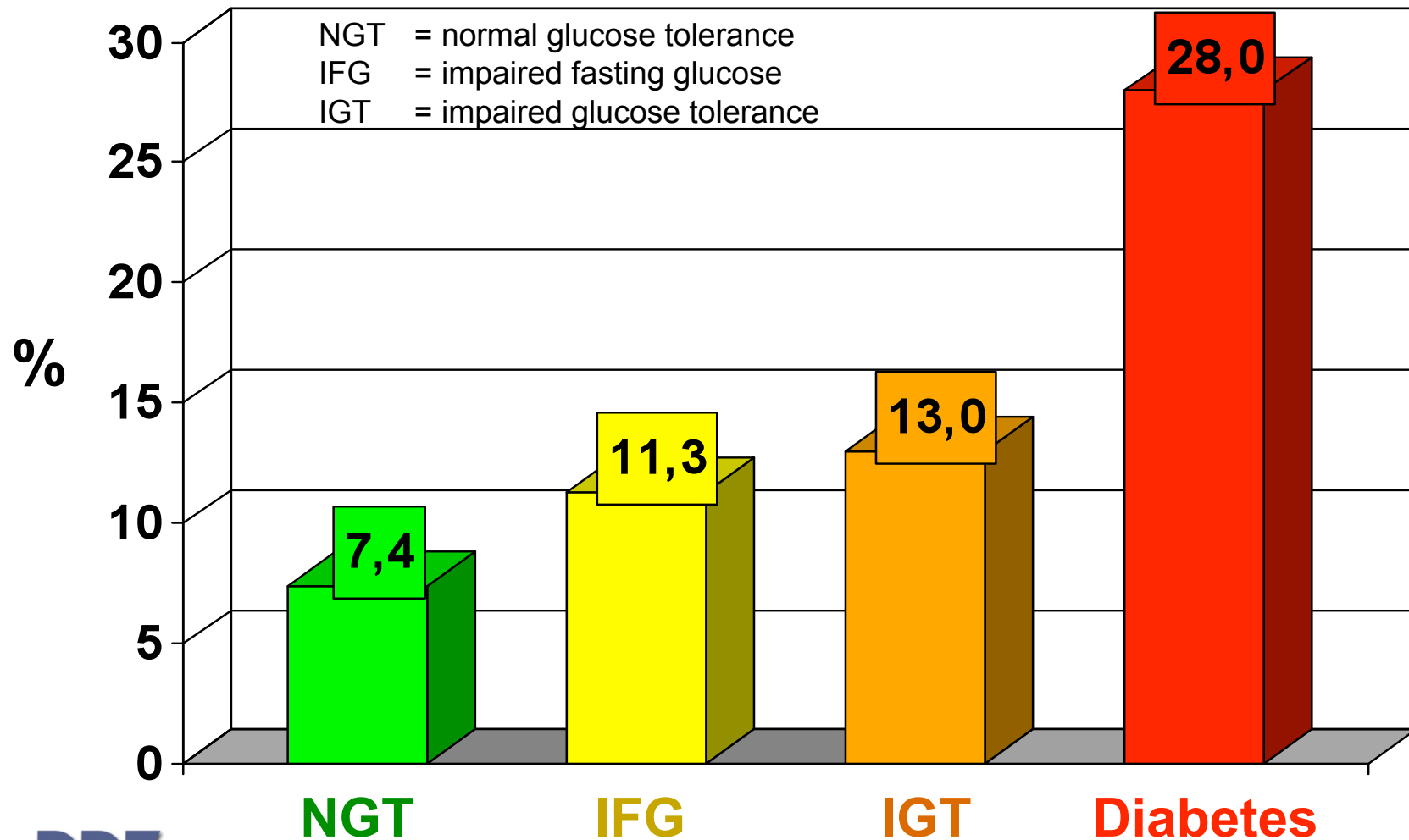
### 5. Monofilament

Normal  0 Reduced  0.5 Absent  1

Normal  0 Reduced  0.5 Absent  1

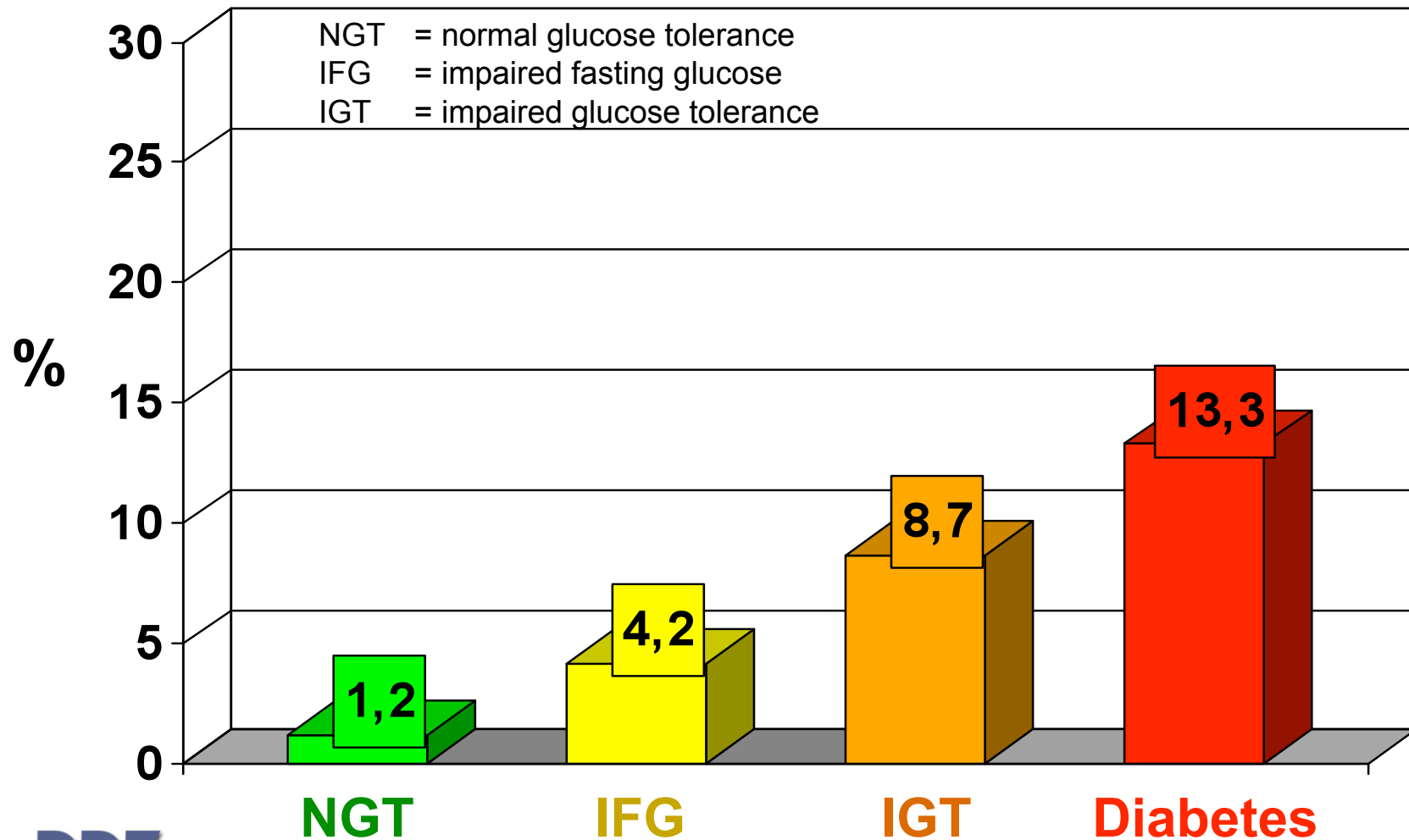
# Prevalence of Polyneuropathy in Prediabetes and Diabetes

MONICA/KORA Augsburg Surveys S2+S3



# Prevalence of Painful Neuropathy in Prediabetes and Diabetes

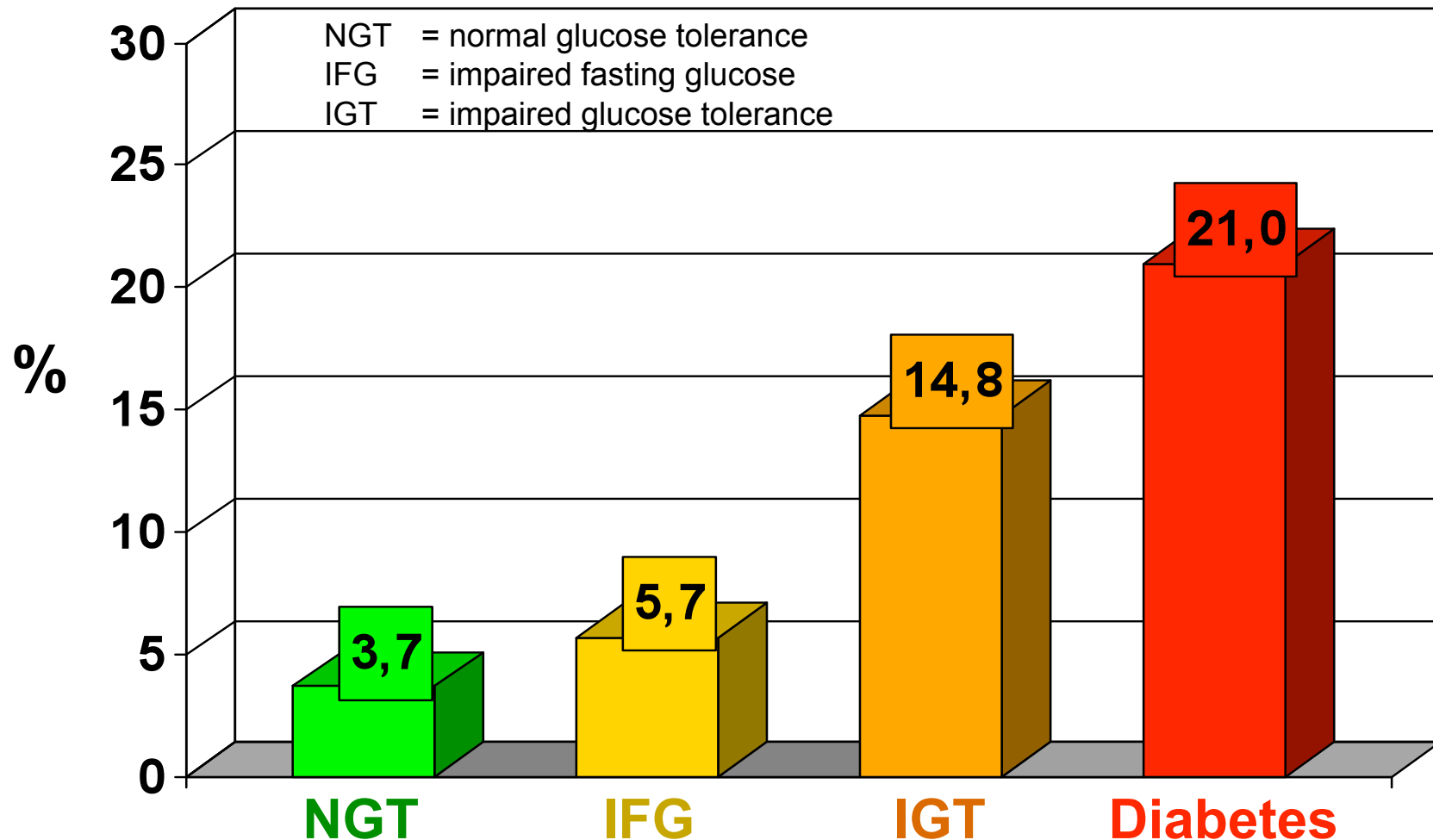
MONICA/KORA Augsburg Surveys S2+S3



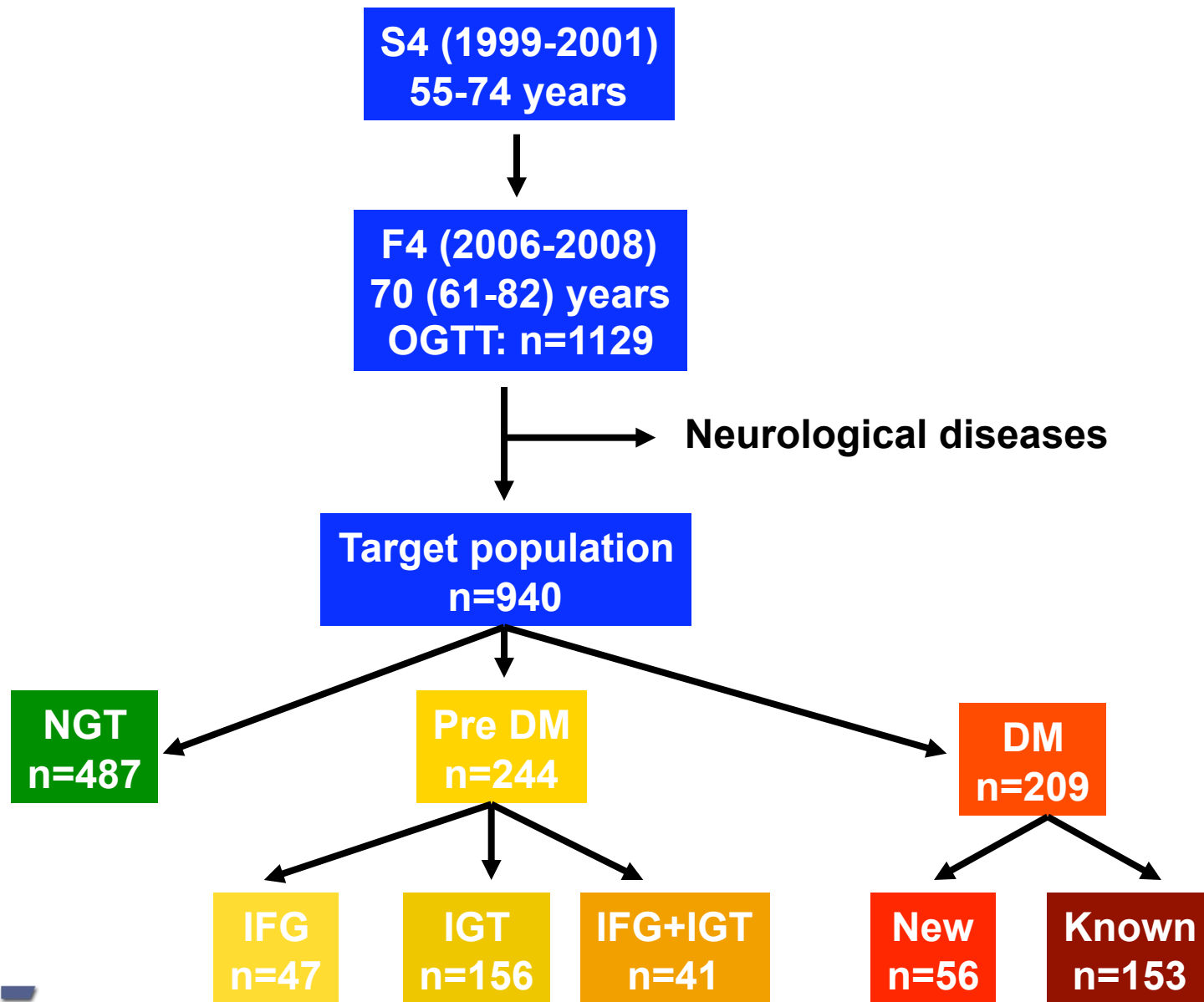


# Prevalence of Painful Neuropathy in Prediabetes and Diabetes in Survivors of Myocardial Infarction

## Augsburg Myocardial Infarction Registry

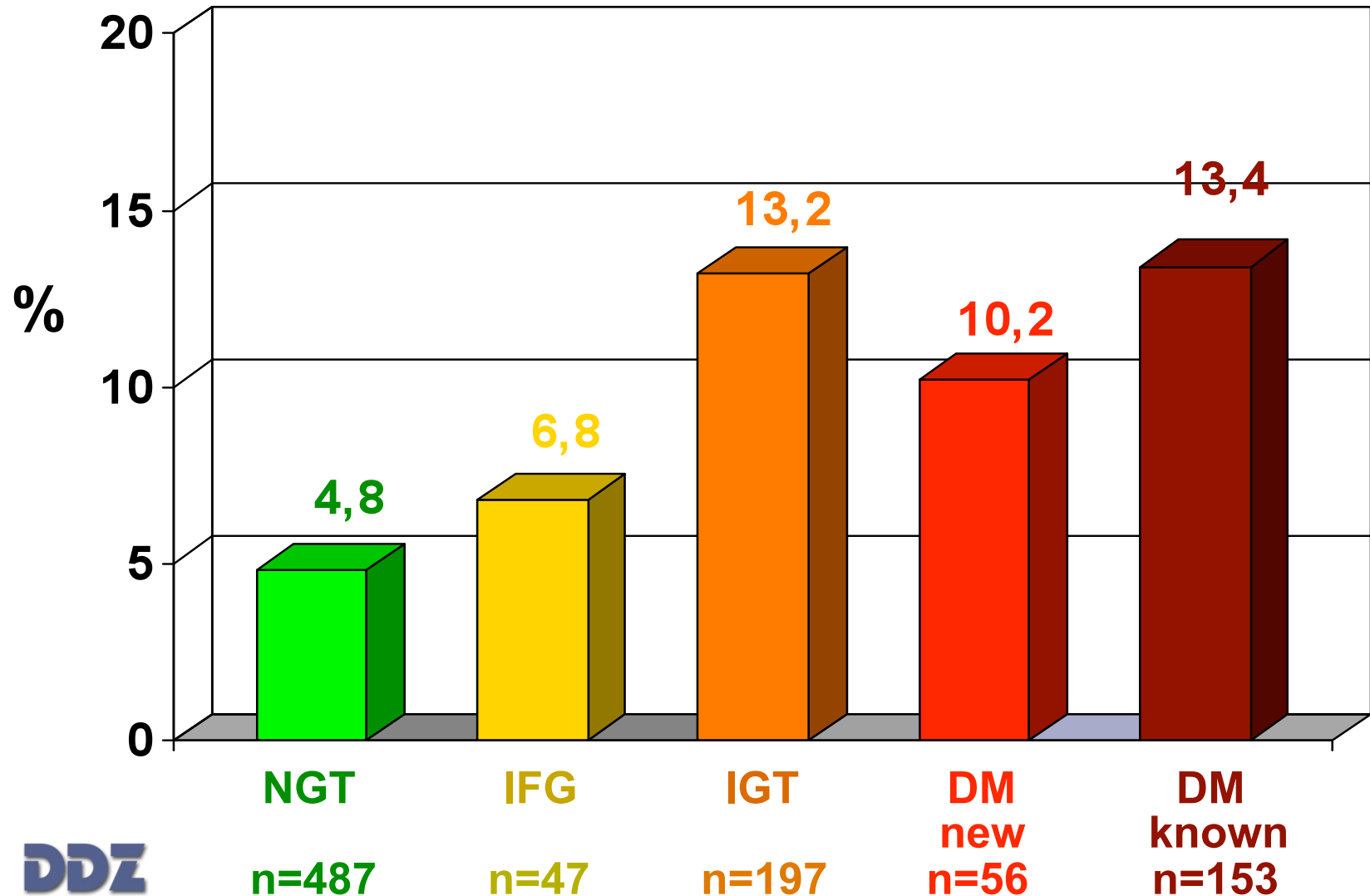


# KORA Follow-Up F4



# Prevalence of painful neuropathy MONICA/KORA Augsburg F4 (Age: 61-82 years)

**MNSI>2 (original) + Pain in the feet/distal legs 4 weeks**

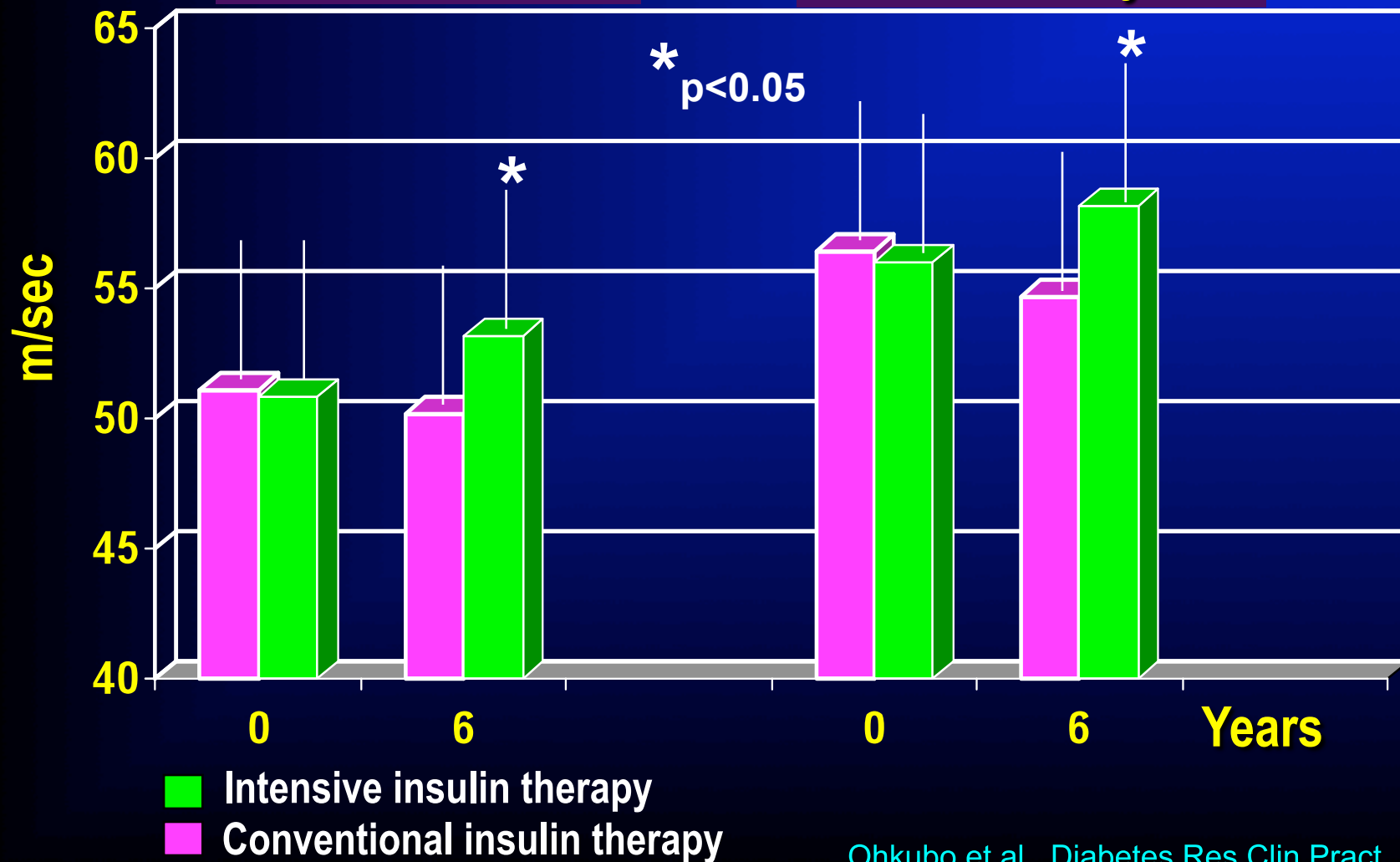


# Kumamoto Study

Type 2 Diabetes; n=110; Nerve conduction velocity

Median motor NCV

Median sensory NCV

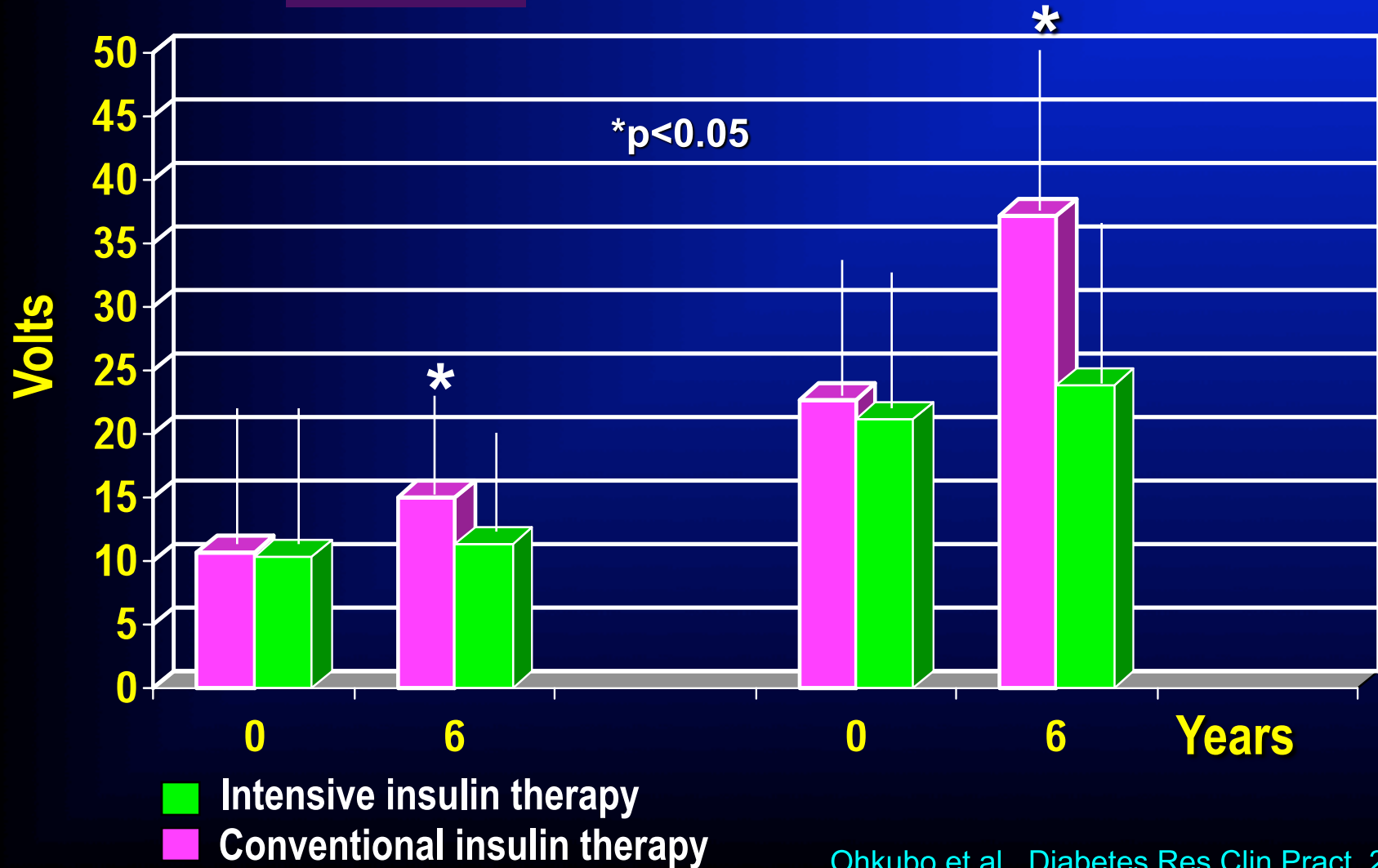


# Kumamoto Study

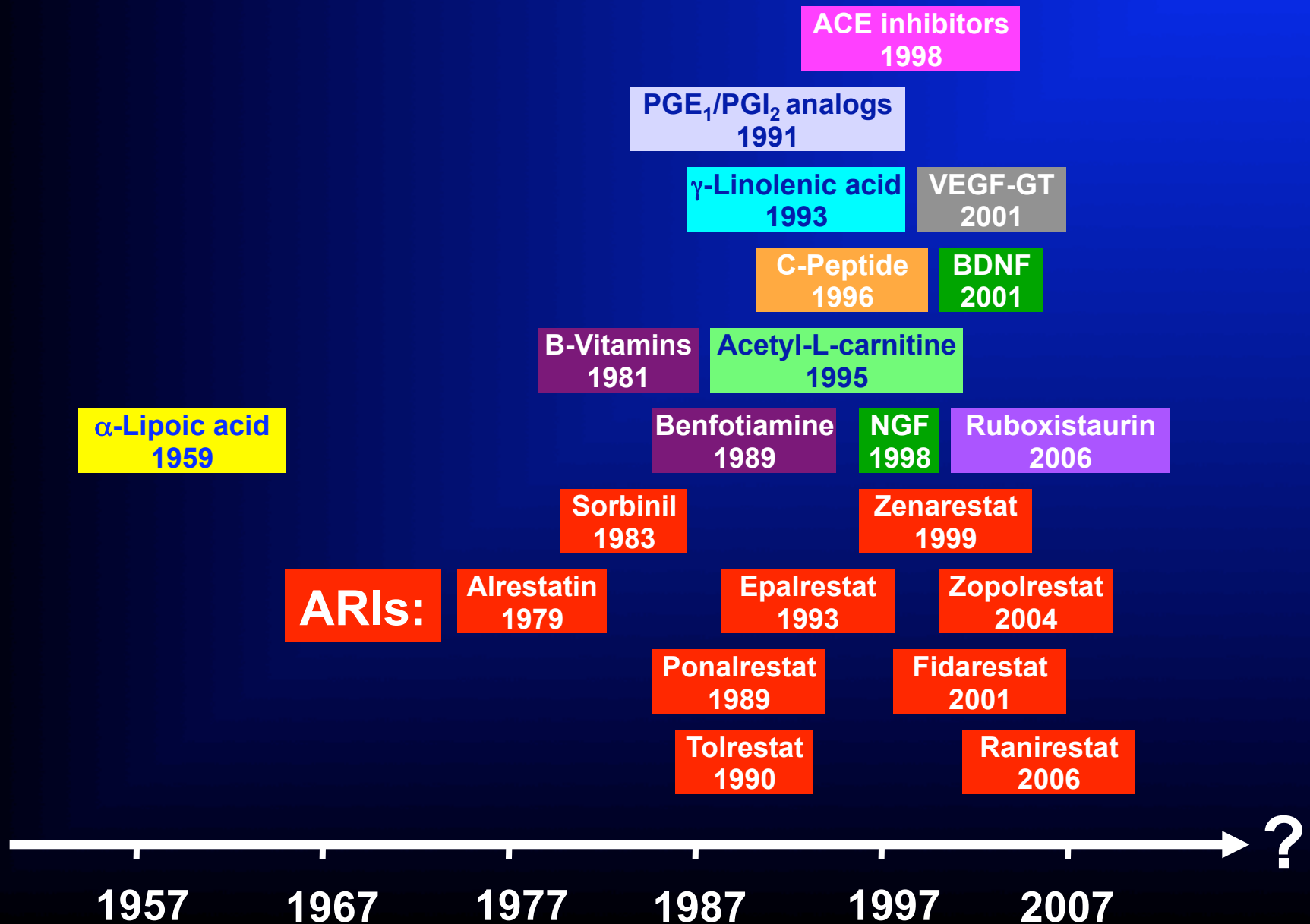
Type 2 Diabetes; n=110; Vibration perception threshold (VPT)

Ulnar VPT

Malleolar VPT

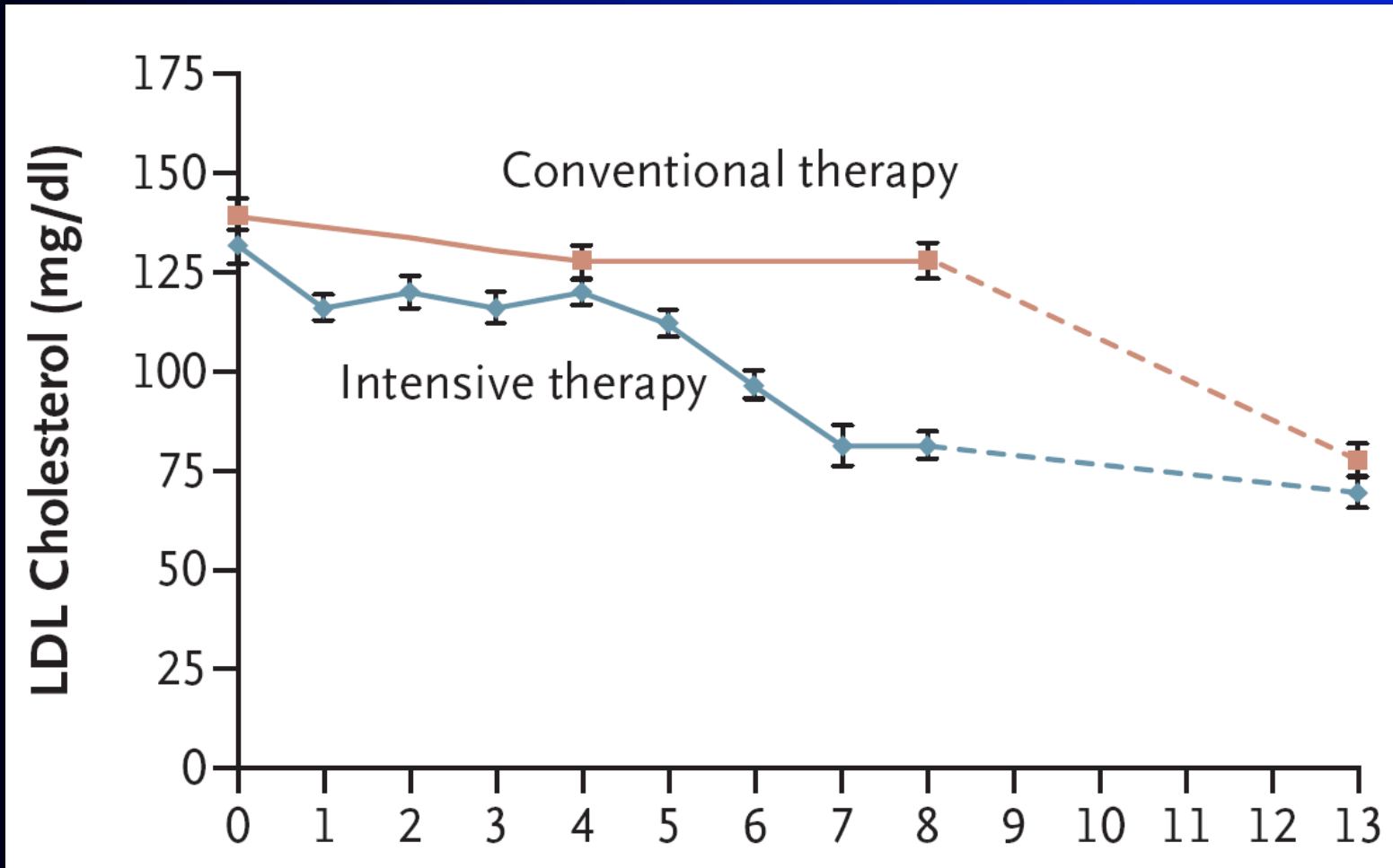


# Disease-Modifying Treatment of Diabetic Polyneuropathy



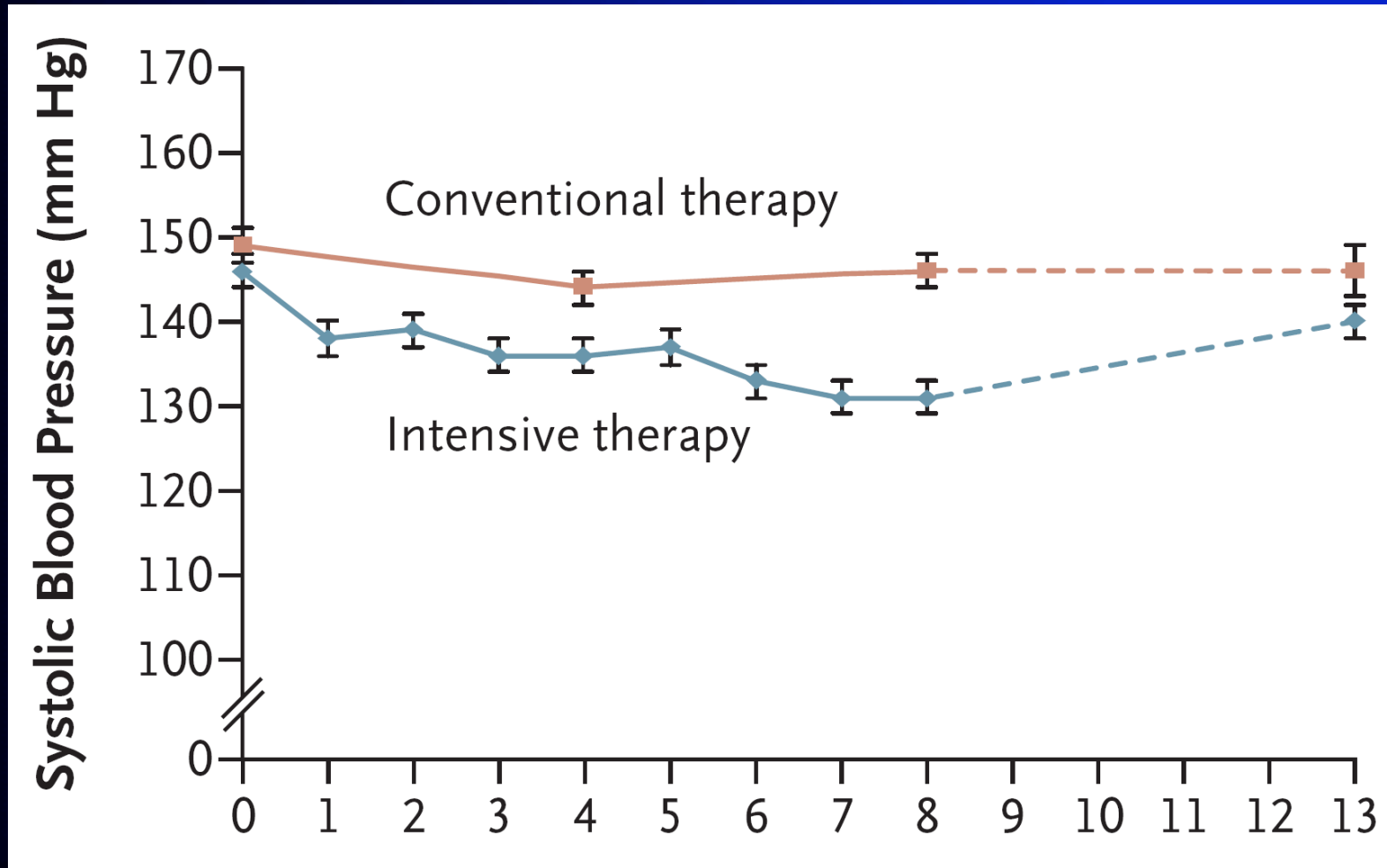
## Steno Type 2 Study: Follow-Up after 13 Years

LDL cholesterol during the interventional part of the study for all patients (solid lines) and during the follow-up period (dashed lines)



## Steno Type 2 Study: Follow-Up after 13 Years

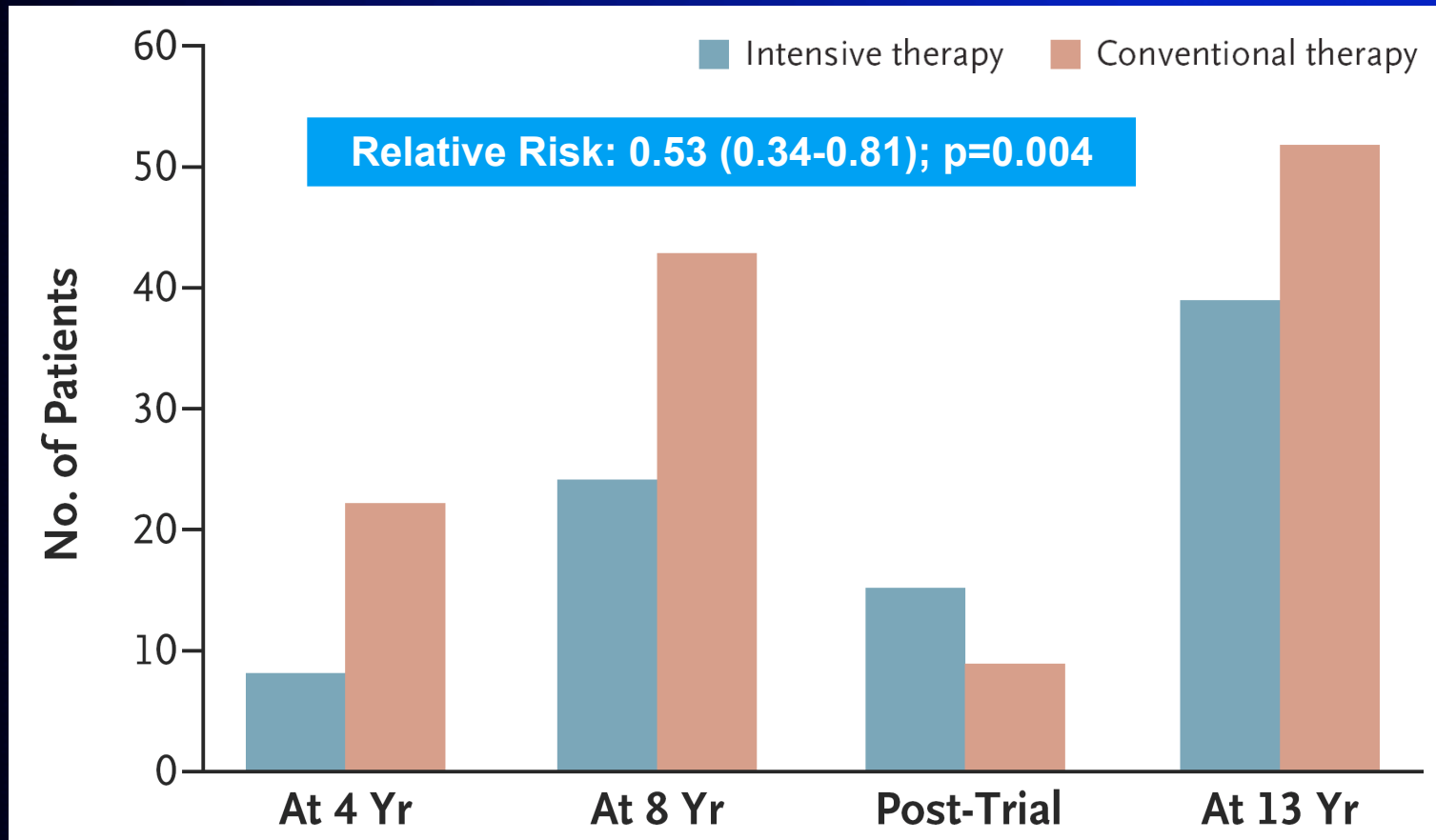
Systolic blood pressure during the interventional part of the study for all patients (solid lines) and during the follow-up period (dashed lines)





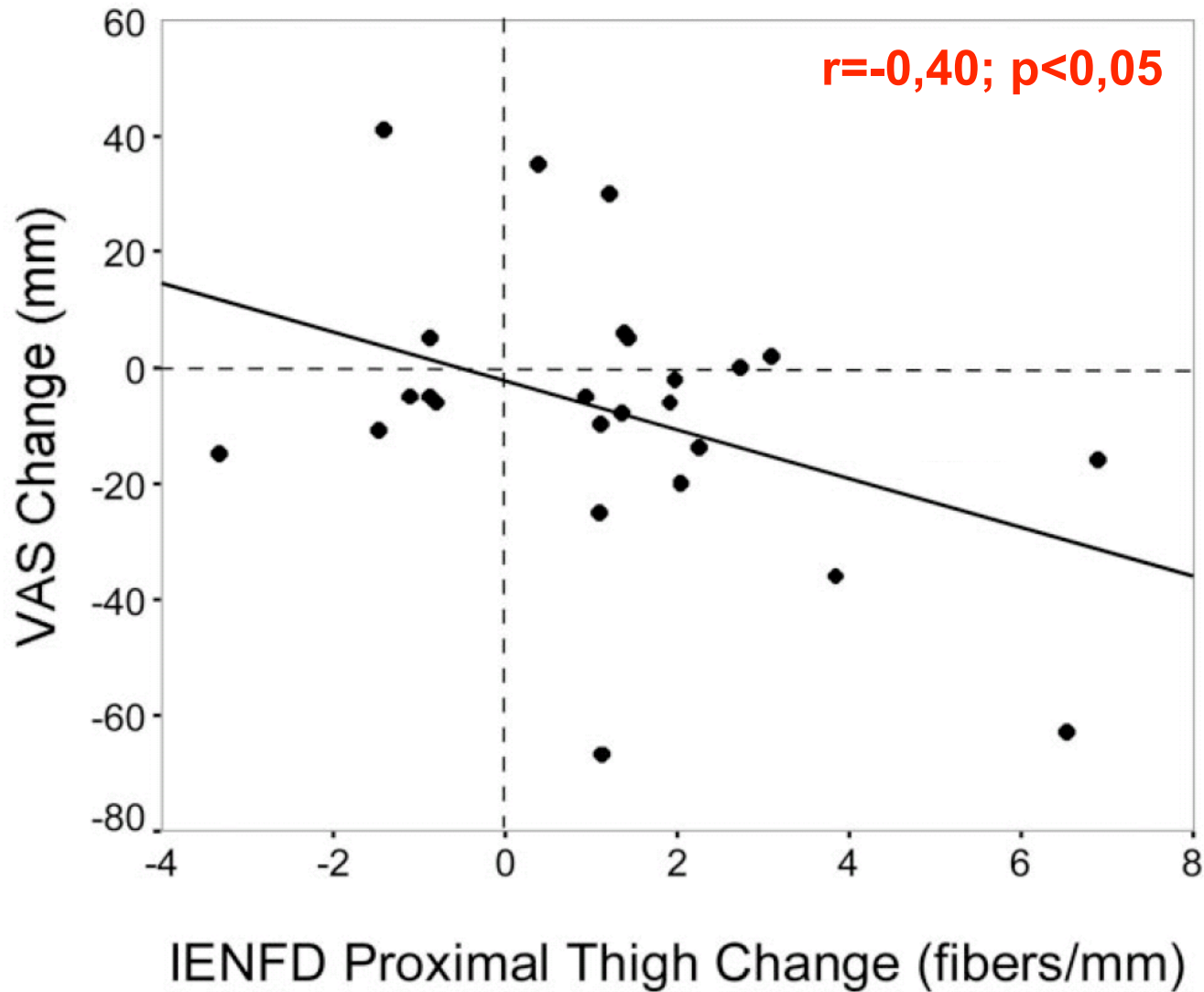
# Steno Type 2 Study: 13-Year Follow-Up

Multifactorial risk intervention slows the progression of reduced heart rate variability



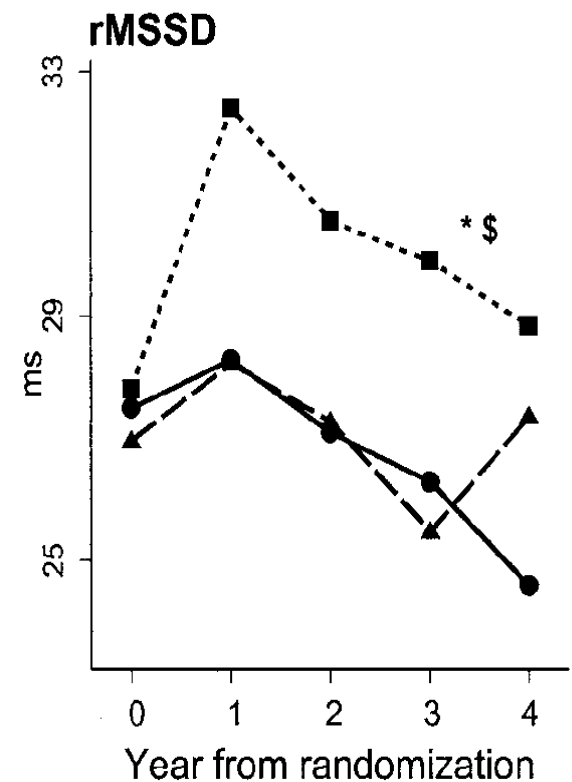
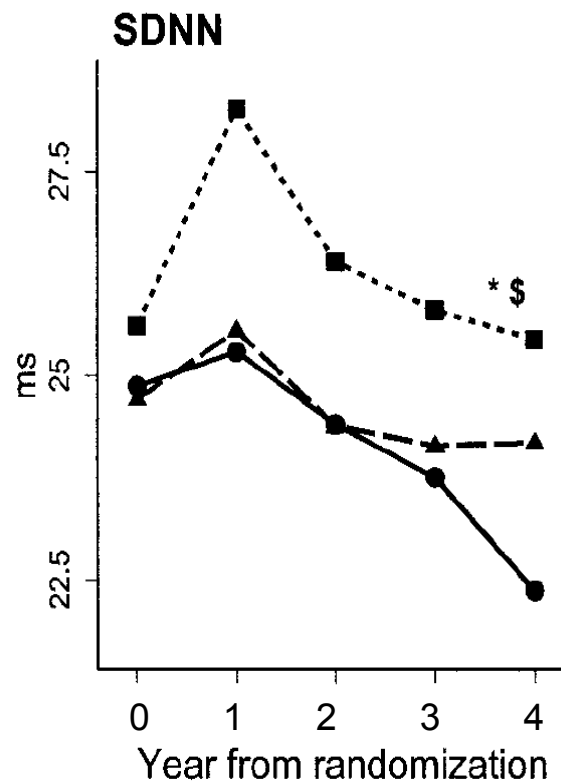
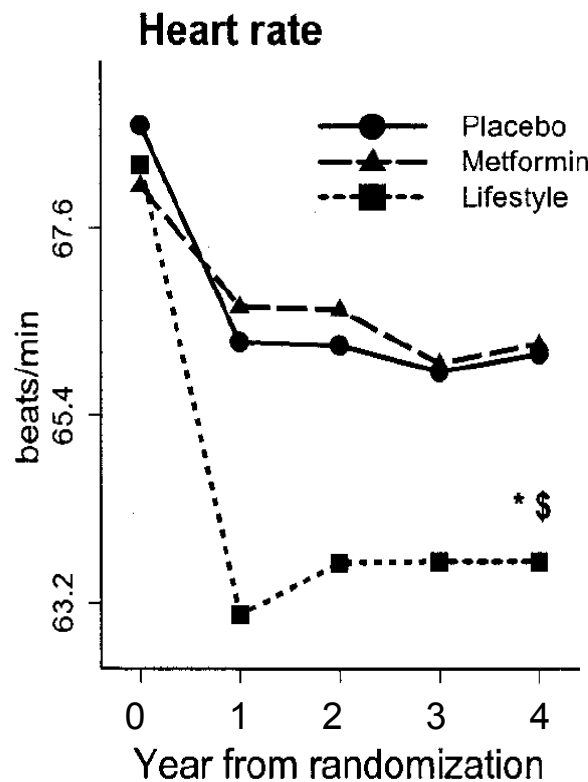
# Lifestyle intervention over 12 months in impaired glucose tolerance (IGT)

## Correlation between epidermal reinnervation and pain relief (VAS)



# Effect of Lifestyle Intervention on Heart Rate Variability over 4 Years in Prediabetes

## Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)



## **Neurological Assessment of Thioctic Acid in Diabetic Neuropathy (NATHAN) 1 Study**

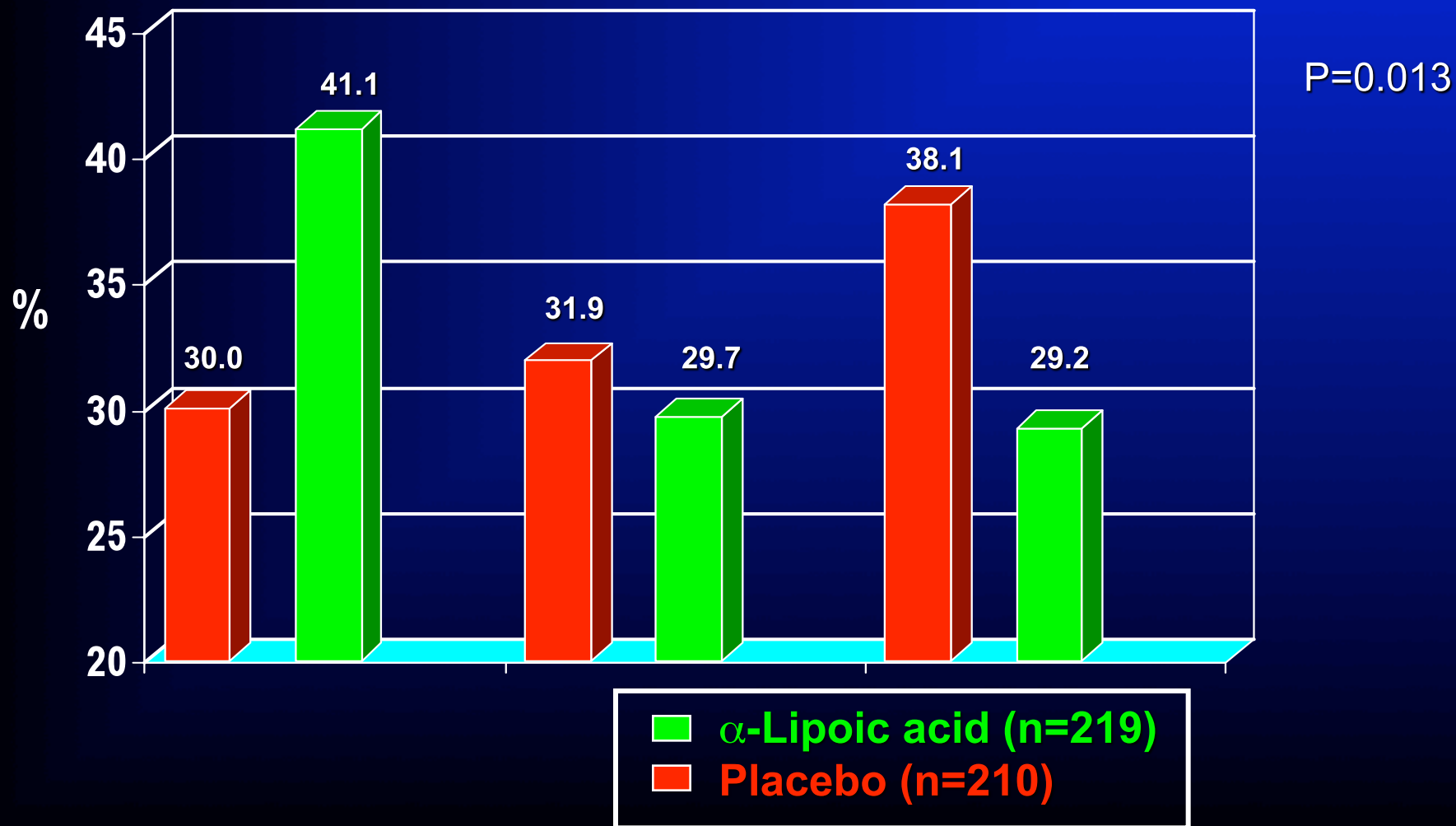
- Design:*** Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicenter trial (36 centers)
- Subjects:*** Two parallel groups of Type 1/Type 2 patients vs placebo
- Medication:***  $\alpha$ -Lipoic acid (thioctic acid) 600 mg or placebo qd orally
- Duration:*** Screening: 2 wk, placebo run-in: 6 wk, treatment: 192 wk, follow-up: 4 wk
- Endpoints:*** NIS-LL+7 tests, NIS, QST, HRV
- DPN severity:*** Stage 1 or 2a (mild to moderate) polyneuropathy

# NATHAN 1 Study: NIS Responders vs NIS Progressors

**Responders**  
NIS  $\leq$  -2 points

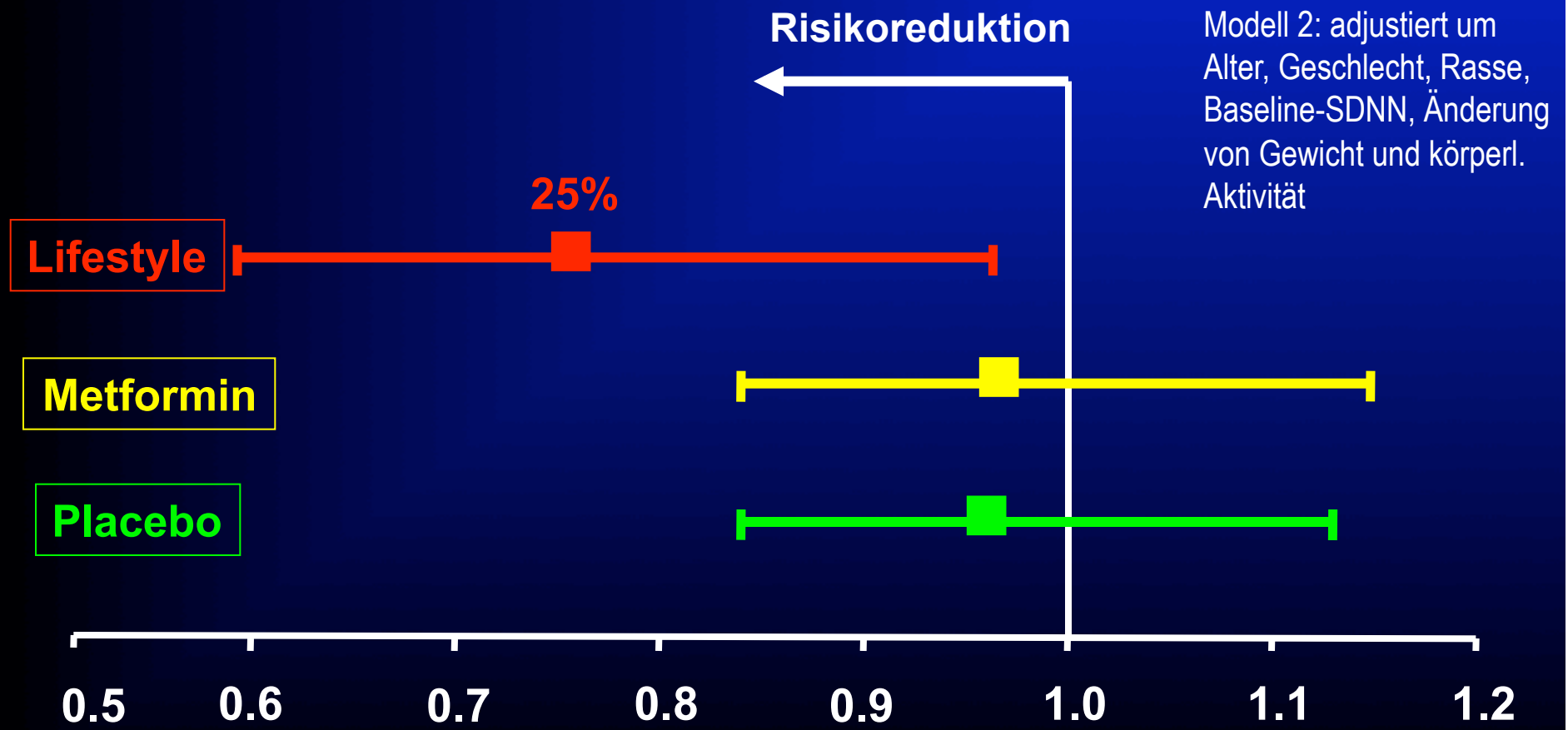
**Unchanged**  
NIS  $>$  -2 to  $<$  +2

**Progressors**  
NIS  $\geq$  +2 points



**Lifestyle-Intervention reduziert das Risiko für Diabetes in Assoziation mit Verbesserung der HRV (SDNN pro 17 ms Anstieg)**

## Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP)



**Will power lasts  
about two weeks and  
is soluble in alcohol.**

**Mark Twain**

# ADA Criteria for the Diagnosis of Pre-Diabetes

NGT = Normal glucose tolerance

IFG = Impaired fasting glucose

IGT = Impaired glucose tolerance

State	FPG level (mg/dl)	2-h plasma glucose in OGTT (mg/dl)*
IFG	100–125	<200
Isolated IFG	100–125	<140
IGT	<126	140–199
Isolated IGT	<100	140–199
Combined IFG/IGT	100–125	140–199
NGT	<100	<140

P  
R  
E  
D  
I  
A  
B  
E  
T  
E  
S

\*Standard 75-g OGTT.



# **IMPAIRED GLUCOSE TOLERANCE—DOES IT CAUSE NEUROPATHY?**

JAMES W. RUSSELL, MD, MS, MRCP,<sup>1,2</sup> and EVA L. FELDMAN, MD, PhD<sup>1</sup>

*Muscle Nerve* 24: 1109-1112, 2001

---

## Peripheral Neuropathy With Impaired Glucose Tolerance

*John T. Kissel, MD*

*A Sweet Smell of Success?*

ARCH NEUROL/VOL 63, AUG 2006

---

## **DOES IMPAIRED GLUCOSE METABOLISM CAUSE POLYNEUROPATHY? REVIEW OF PREVIOUS STUDIES AND DESIGN OF A PROSPECTIVE CONTROLLED POPULATION-BASED STUDY**

PETER J. DYCK, MD,<sup>1</sup> P. JAMES B. DYCK, MD,<sup>1</sup> CHRISTOPHER J. KLEIN, MD,<sup>1</sup>  
and STEPHEN D. WEIGAND, MSc<sup>2</sup>

*Muscle Nerve* 36: 536–541, 2007

## **Reasons for difficulties to define the causative role of prediabetes for painful neuropathy**

- **Selection bias**
- **Few population-based studies including NGT controls**
- **Variable definitions of neuropathy & metabolic abnormality**
- **Inadequate assessment of micro-/macroangiopathy**
- **Inadequate statistical power**
- **Lack of prospective cohort studies**