### ESC Congress 2023 Amsterdam

#### Heart failure trials

**Gassan Moady** 

Galilee Medical Center, Nahariya

25-28 August Onsite & Online

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None

# **Selected trials**

# **STEP HFPEF**

# **HEART FID**

# **STRONG HF**

# **MESSAGE HF**

# Semaglutide in patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and obesity

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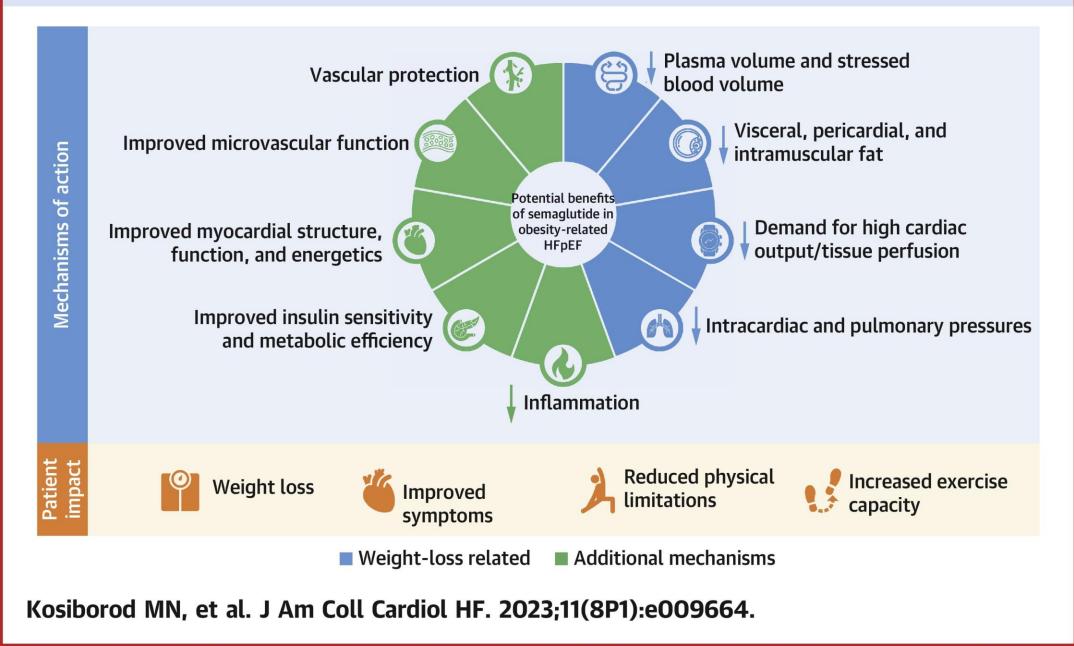
This trial was sponsored by Novo Nordisk and is registered with ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT04788511). Administrative support and development of figures and tables was provided by Casey McKeown, RVN, and Lucy Ambrose, DPhil, CMPP, FdSc, of Apollo, OPEN Health Communications, and funded by Novo Nordisk A/S, in accordance with Good Publication Practice guidelines.

# Background

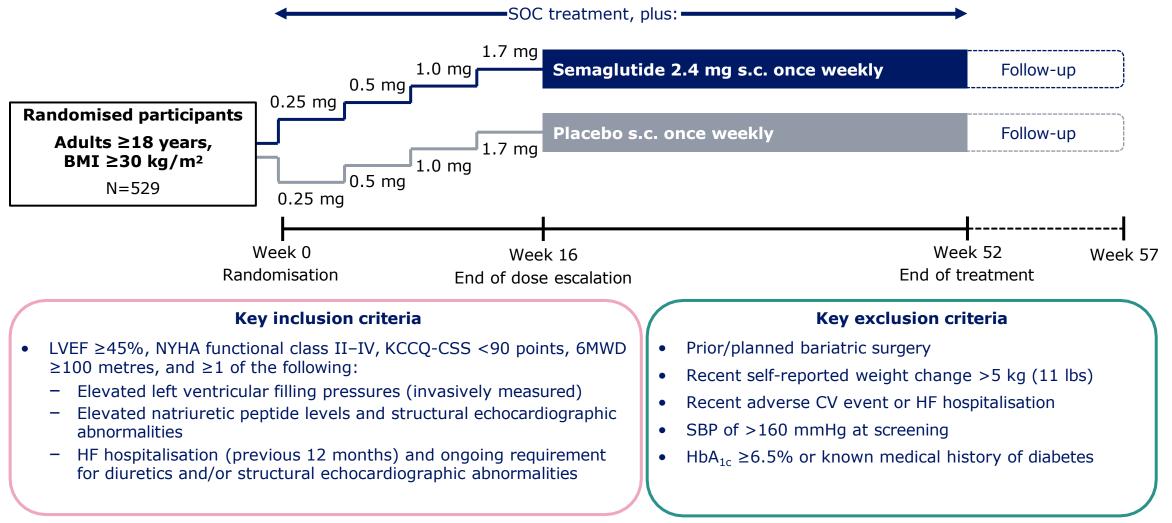
- HFpEF accounts for **more than half** of all heart failure cases, with few efficacious treatments available<sup>1-3</sup>
- The majority of patients with HFpEF have **overweight or obesity**<sup>3</sup>
- The **obesity HFpEF** phenotype has unique clinical and haemodynamic features and is associated with an especially high burden of symptoms and functional impairment<sup>1,4,5</sup>
- There are no approved therapies specifically targeting the obesity phenotype of HFpEF
- Semaglutide a potent, once-weekly GLP-1RA produces substantial weight loss in individuals with overweight and obesity<sup>6,7</sup>
- **STEP-HFpEF** (NCT04788511) is the first trial to investigate the effects of s.c. semaglutide 2.4 mg once weekly on symptoms, physical limitations and exercise function in people with the obesity phenotype of HFpEF

GLP-1RA, glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonist; HFpEF, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; s.c., subcutaneous; STEP, Semaglutide Treatment Effect in People with obesity. 1. Borlaug BA, et al. Cardiovasc Res. 2023;118(18):3434–3450; 2. McDonagh TA, et al. Eur Heart J. 2021;42:3599–3726; 3. Dunlay SM, et al. Nat Rev Cardiol. 2017;14(10):591–602; 4. Haas M, et al. Circ Heart Fail. 2011;4(3):324–331; 5. Reddy YNV, et al. Mayo Clin Proc. 2019;94(7):1199–1209; 6. Kushner RF, et al. Obesity (Silver Spring). 2020;28:1050–1061; 7. Wegovy™ US prescribing information. Available from: <u>https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/cder/daf/index.cfm?event=overview.process&ApplNo=215256</u> [accessed 4 May 2023].

# **CENTRAL ILLUSTRATION:** Potential Mechanisms of Benefit for Semaglutide in Individuals With the Obesity Phenotype of HFpEF



# STEP-HFpEF trial design



6MWD, 6-minute walk distance; BMI, body mass index; CV, cardiovascular; echo, echocardiographic; HbA<sub>1a</sub> glycated haemoglobin; HF, heart failure; HFpEF, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; KCCQ-CSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Clinical Summary Score; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; NYHA, New York Heart Association; SBP, systolic blood pressure; s.c., subcutaneous; SOC, standard of care; STEP, Semaglutide Treatment Effect in People with obesity.

# Primary and confirmatory secondary endpoints, and testing hierarchy

#### Dual primary endpoints

- Change in KCCQ-CSS from baseline to week 52
- Percentage change in body weight from baseline to week 52

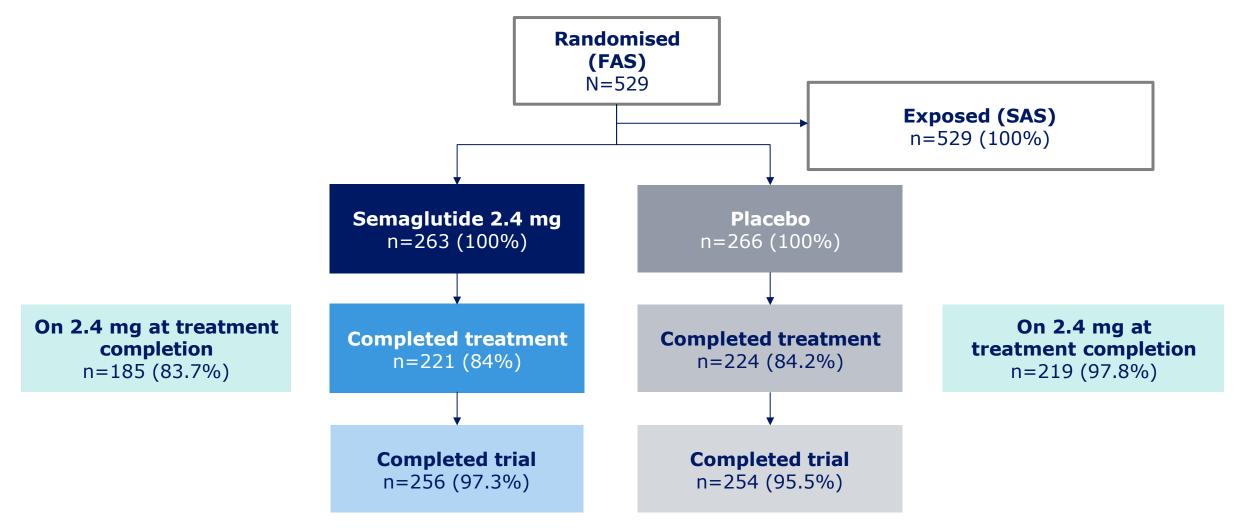
#### **Confirmatory secondary endpoints**

- Change in 6MWD from baseline to week 52
- Hierarchical composite endpoint comprising:
  - Time to all-cause death
  - Number of HF events requiring hospitalisation or urgent HF visit
  - Time to first HF event requiring hospitalisation or urgent HF visit
  - Differences of at least 15, 10 and 5 points in KCCQ-CSS change between baseline and week 52
  - Difference of at least 30 metres in 6MWD change between baseline and week 52
- Change in CRP from baseline to week 52

Values of 0.5 and 1 in the figure are weights for alpha-spending in the testing hierarchy. 6MWD, 6-minute walk distance; CRP, C-reactive protein; HF, heart failure; KCCQ-CSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Clinical Summary Score.

Burman CF, et al. Stat Med. 2009;28(5):739–761.

# Participant disposition



FAS, full analysis set; SAS, safety analysis set.

# Baseline demographics and clinical characteristics

Characteristic	Semaglutide 2.4 mg n=263	Placebo n=266	Total N=529
Female, n (%)	149 (57)	148 (56)	297 (56)
Age, years	70 (62; 75)	69 (62; 75)	69 (62; 75)
Race,* n (%)			
Black or African American	8 (3)	13 (5)	21 (4)
White	255 (97)	252 (95)	507 (96)
Other	0	1 (0.4)	1 (0.2)
Body weight, kg	105 (92; 120)	105 (92; 122)	105 (92; 121)
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	37 (34; 41)	37 (33; 42)	37 (34; 41)
<35 kg/m², n (%)	89 (34)	91 (34)	180 (34)
≥35 kg/m², n (%)	174 (66)	175 (66)	349 (66)
Waist circumference, cm	119 (111; 127)	120 (111; 129)	119 (111; 128)
LVEF, %	57 (50; 60)	57 (50; 60)	57 (50; 60)
NYHA functional class, n (%)			
Class II	183 (70)	167 (63)	350 (66)
Class III-IV	80 (30)	99 (37)	179 (34)
KCCQ-CSS, points	59 (43; 73)	58 (41; 73)	59 (42; 73)
6MWD, metres	316 (251; 386)	326 (232; 392)	320 (240; 389)
NT-proBNP, pg/mL	414 (229; 1014)	500 (205; 1025)	451 (218; 1015)
SBP, mmHg	133 (122; 145)	132 (120; 142)	133 (121; 144)

Data are median (IQR), unless otherwise indicated and are from the full analysis set; \*Race was reported by the investigator.

6MWD, 6-minute walk distance; BMI, body mass index; IQR, interquartile range; KCCQ-CSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Clinical Summary Score; LVEF, left ventricular ejection fraction; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide; NYHA, New York Heart Association; SBP, systolic blood pressure.

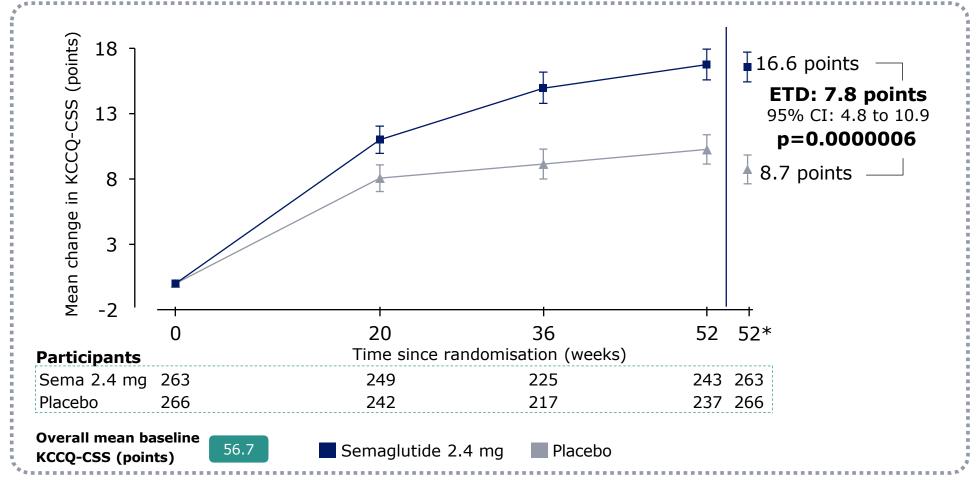
# Comorbidities and concomitant medications at baseline

Parameter	Semaglutide 2.4 mg n=263	Placebo n=266	Total N=529
Comorbidities at screening, n (%)			
Atrial fibrillation	(51) 135	140 (53)	275 (52)
Hypertension	216 (82)	217 (82)	433 (82)
HF medications, n (%)			
Beta blockers	201 (76)	217 (82)	418 (79)
ACEI/ARB/ARNI	210 (80)	214 (81)	424 (80)
Diuretics	207 (79)	220 (83)	427 (81)
Loop diuretics	158 (60)	171 (64)	329 (62)
Thiazides	40 (15)	50 (19)	90 (17)
MRAs	89 (34)	95 (36)	184 (35)
SGLT2i	8 (3.0)	11 (4.1)	19 (3.6)

Data are n (%) and are from the full analysis set.

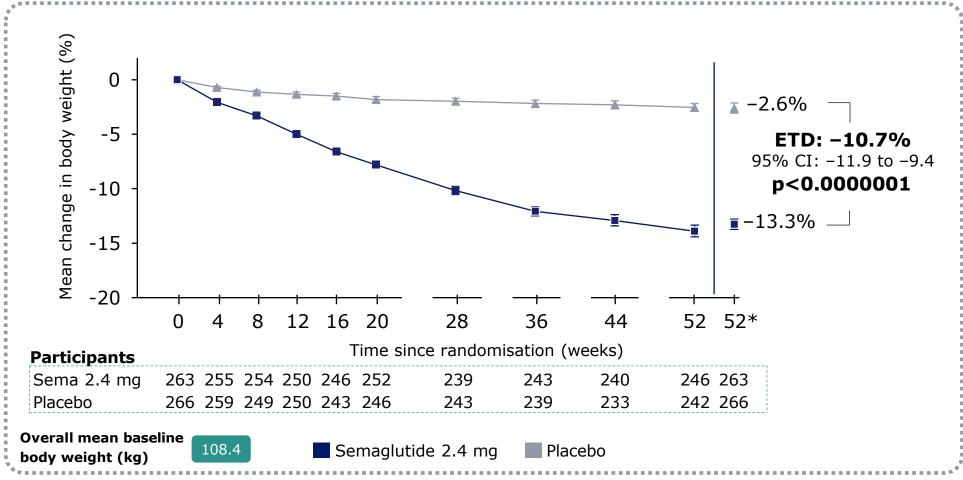
ACEI, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor; ARB, angiotensin II receptor blocker; ARNI, angiotensin receptor-neprilysin inhibitor; HF, heart failure; MRA, mineralocorticoid receptor antagonist; SGLT2i, sodium-glucose co-transporter-2 inhibitor.

# Change from baseline to week 52 in KCCQ-CSS Dual primary endpoints



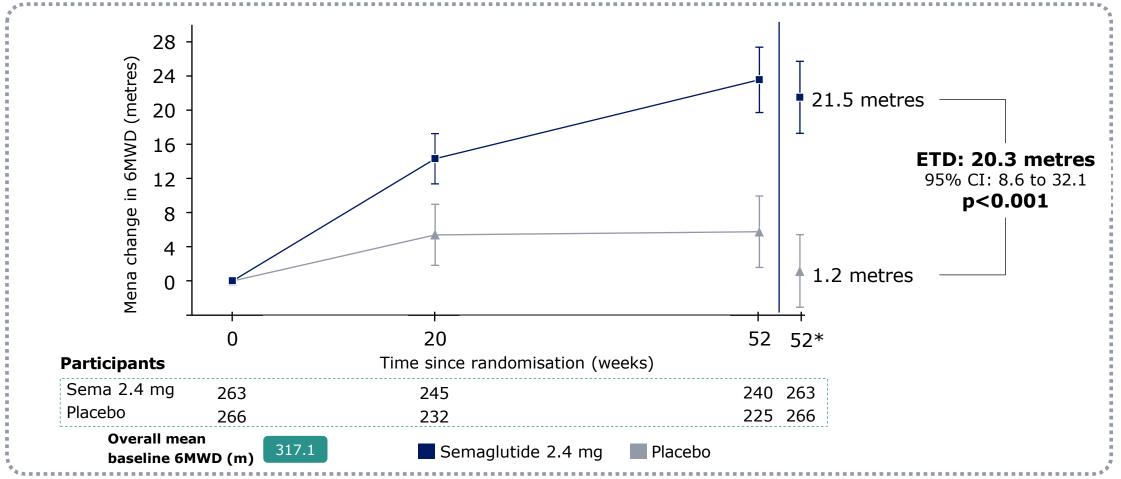
Data are for the treatment policy estimand. \*Data are estimated mean changes from baseline to week 52 for the treatment policy estimand using ANCOVA and an imputation approach for missing data. ANCOVA, analysis of covariance; CI, confidence interval; ETD, estimated treatment difference; KCCQ-CSS, Kansas City Cardiomyopathy Questionnaire Clinical Summary Score; sema, semaglutide.

# Change from baseline to week 52 in body weight Dual primary endpoints



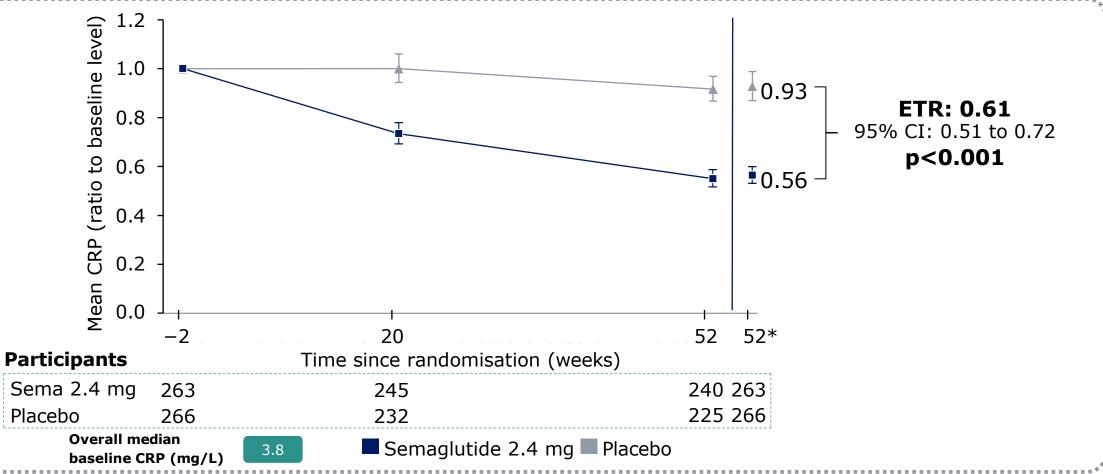
Data are for the treatment policy estimand. \*Data are estimated mean changes from baseline to week 52 for the treatment policy estimand using ANCOVA and an imputation approach for missing data. ANCOVA, analysis of covariance; CI, confidence interval; ETD, estimated treatment difference; sema, semaglutide.

# Change from baseline to week 52 in 6MWD Confirmatory secondary endpoints



Data are for the treatment policy estimand. \*Data are estimated mean changes from baseline to week 52 for the treatment policy estimand using ANCOVA and an imputation approach for missing data. 6MWD, 6-minute walk distance; CI, confidence interval; ETD, estimated treatment difference; sema, semaglutide.

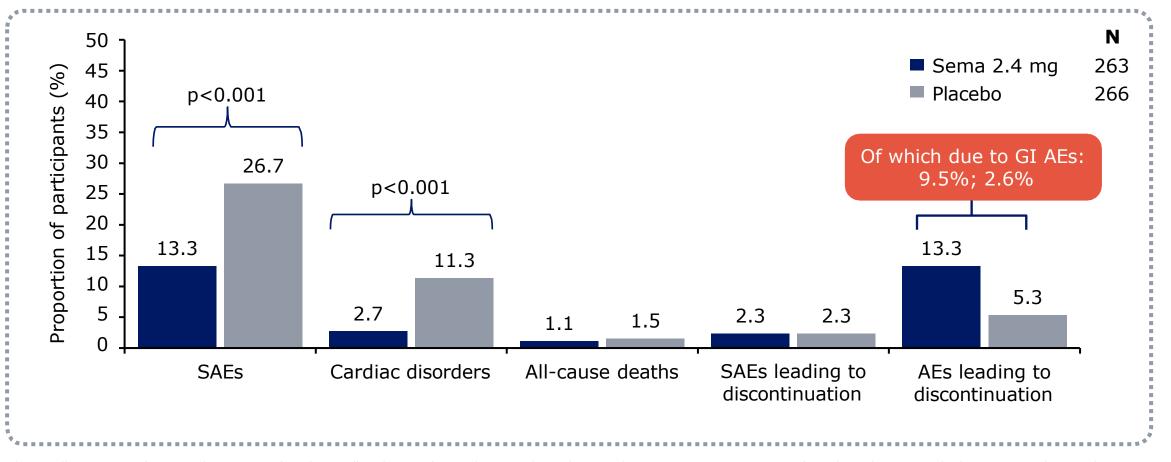
# Change from baseline (screening) to week 52 in CRP Confirmatory secondary endpoints



Data are for the treatment policy estimand. \*Data are estimated mean changes from screening at week -2 to week 52 for the treatment policy estimand using ANCOVA and an imputation approach for missing data.

CI, confidence interval; CRP, C-reactive protein; ETR, estimated treatment ratio; sema, semaglutide.

# Safety overview On-treatment period



The overall comparison of serious adverse events (SAEs), as well as the most frequently reported SAEs between the two treatment groups was performed post-hoc using Fisher's exact test and reported using unadjusted two-sided p values (p values are only shown for SAE groups with a frequency above 5% in either treatment group). AE, adverse event; GI, gastrointestinal; SAE, serious adverse event; sema, semaglutide.

# Conclusions

In patients with heart failure with preserved ejection fraction and obesity, treatment with semaglutide (2.4 mg) led to larger reductions in symptoms and physical limitations, greater improvements in exercise function, and greater weight loss than placebo.

HF, heart failure; HFpEF, heart failure with preserved ejection fraction; NT-proBNP, N-terminal pro-brain natriuretic peptide; SAE, serious adverse event.

# **The HEART-FID Trial**

Efficacy and Safety of Ferric Carboxymaltose as Treatment for Heart Failure with Iron Deficiency



On behalf the HEART-FID Investigators and Participants August 26, 2023





ESC Congress 2023 Amsterdam & Online

# Background



- Iron deficiency (ID) is common in patients with heart failure with reduced ejection fraction (HFrEF) and it is associated with worse symptoms and adverse prognosis.
- IV ferric carboxymaltose (FCM) improves quality of life and exercise capacity in HFrEF with ID. (FAIR-HF, CONFIRM-HF, EFFECT-HF)
- AFFIRM-AHF, IRONMAN and meta-analyses suggested potential benefits with IV iron on HF hospitalizations without a significant effect on mortality.
  - Thus, further evidence is needed regarding the effect of FCM on clinical events.

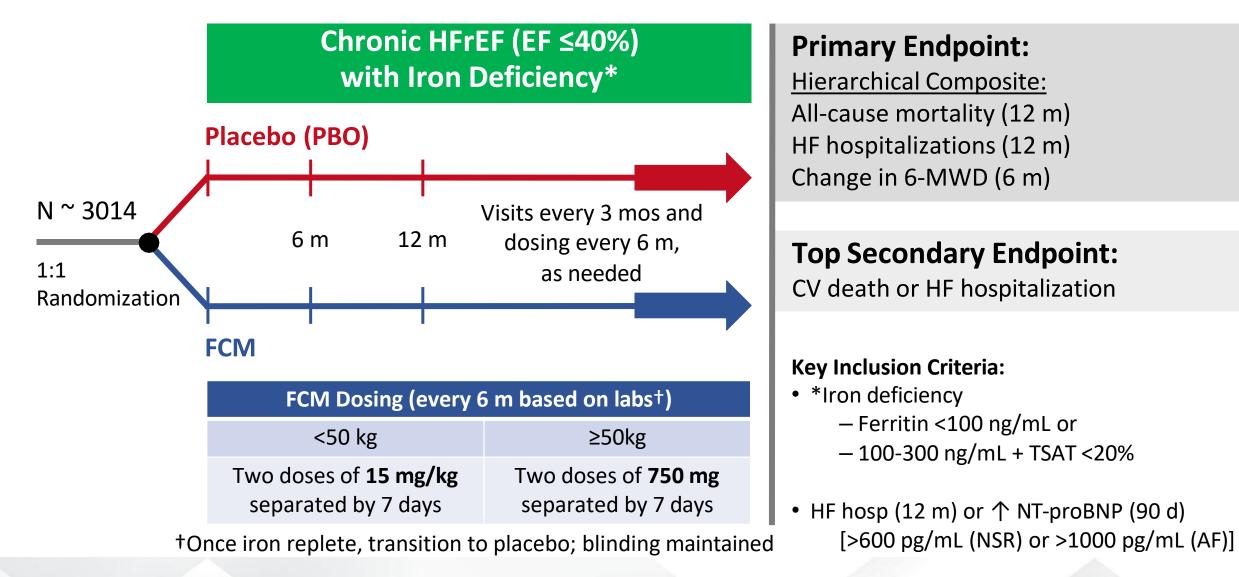
Ponikowski P, et al. Lancet 2020;396(10266):1895-1904. Kalra PR, et al. Lancet 2022;400(10369):2199-2209. Graham FJ, et al. Eur J Heart Fail 2023;25(4):528-537. Anker SD, et al. Eur J Heart Fail 2023 (in press).

Mentz RL et al. Circ Heart Fail 2021.14(5):e008100

# Design

#### Double-blind, placebo-controlled, event-driven RCT





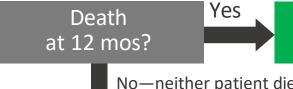
ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT03037931

# **Statistical Methods**



#### **HIERARCHICAL PRIMARY ENDPOINT**

VS.



Patient who survives (or survives longest) "wins"

No-neither patient died

Yes

Hospitalization(s) for HF at 12 mos?

Patient who was not hospitalized (or has fewest hospitalizations) "wins"

No-neither patient hospitalized (or same number of hospitalizations)

Change in 6-MWD at 6 mos

Patient with greatest improvement (or smallest worsening) in 6MWD "wins"

#### **PRIMARY METHODOLOGY:**

Patients ranked from lowest to highest based on hierarchical composite

- Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test: Compared sum of ranks
- 2-sided significance of 0.01 (US regulatory purposes)
- Estimated 90% power with 1507 per group (N=3014)

P-value (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test) < 0.01

TO SUPPORT CLINICAL INTERPRETATION — WIN RATIO: Each participant from FCM group ranked for comparison with each participant from control group

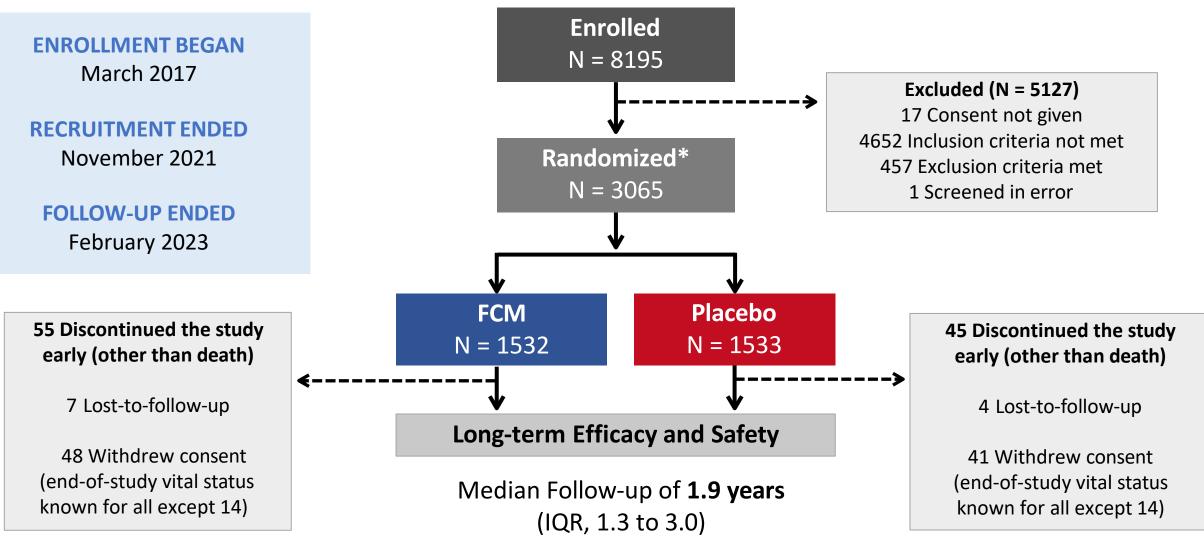
#### TOP SECONDARY ENDPOINT

- Time to CV death or HF hospitalization
  - 2-sided significance level of 0.04
- Anticipated HR set at 0.80
  - Target **771 participants** with an event
  - Estimated 90% power

ke Clinical Research Institute Mentz RJ, et al. Circ Heart Fail 2021

# **Study Execution**





# **Baseline Characteristics**



	FCM	Placebo
Characteristics	(N=1532)	(N=1533)
Age (yr)	69±11	69±11
Women	33%	35%
White race	86%	86%
Black race	11%	10%
North America	47%	47%
Asia Pacific	7%	7%
Europe	46%	46%
EF (%)	31 ± 7	31 ± 7
NYHA II / III-IV	52% / 48%	54% / 46%
Ischemic etiology	61%	59%
NT-proBNP (pg/mL)	1486 (727, 3045)	1424 (710, 2884)
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	12.6 ± 1.4	$12.5 \pm 1.4$
eGFR (mL/min/1.73m <sup>2</sup> )	59 ± 22	61 ± 22
ACEi or ARB / ARNI	59% / 30%	60% / 29%
Beta-blocker	92%	93%
MRA	56%	55%
SGLT2i	8%	7%

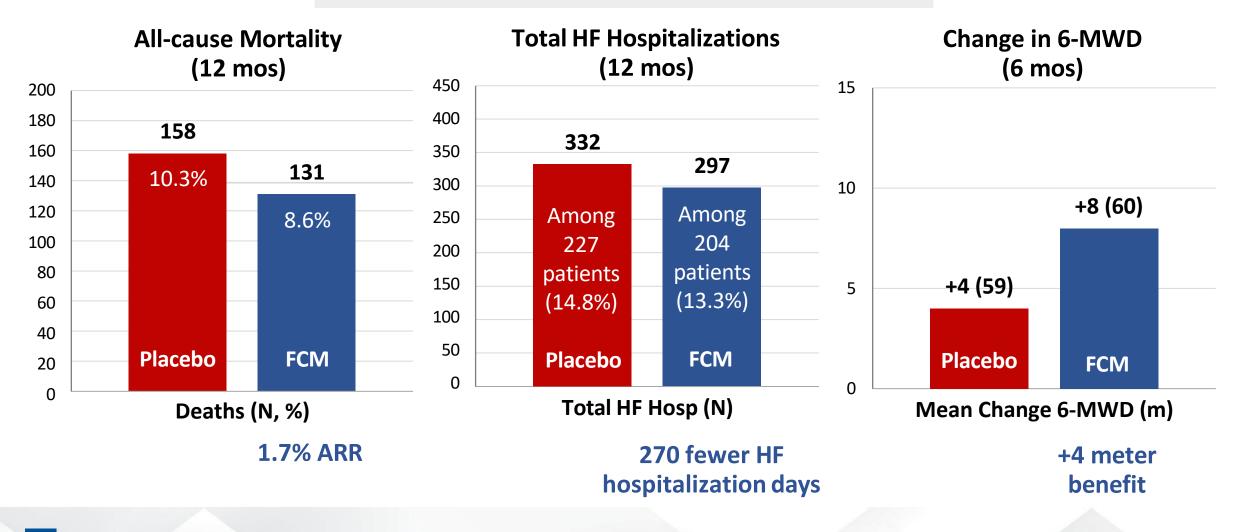
Presented as %, Mean ± SD or median (IQR)

**Duke** Clinical Research Institute

# **Primary Hierarchical Endpoint**



#### P-value (Wilcoxon-Mann-Whitney test) = 0.019

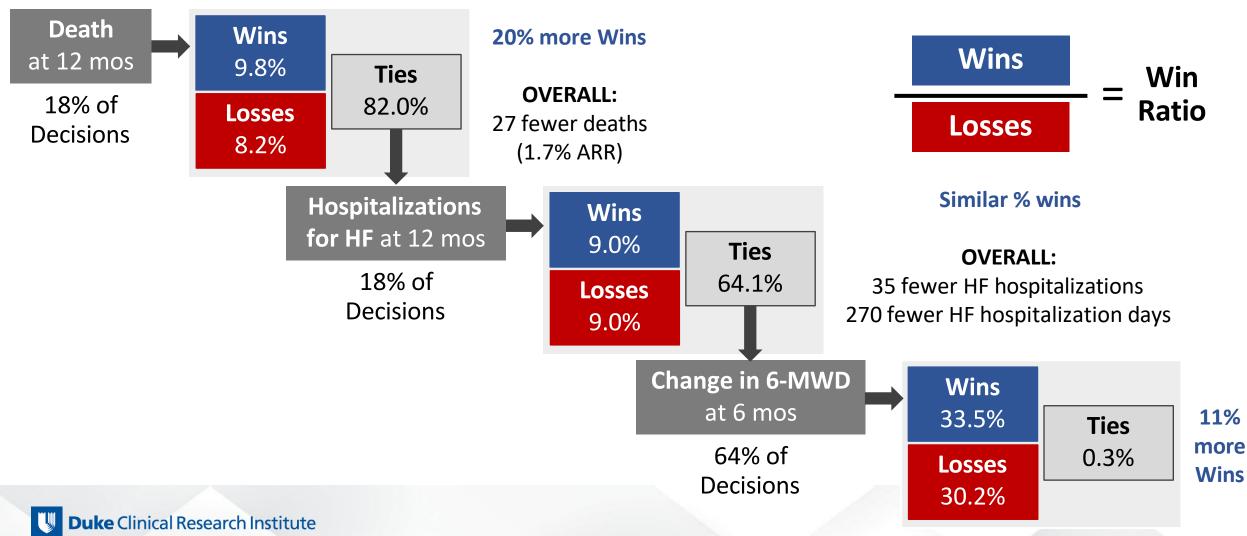


# Primary Endpoint: Win Ratio



#### Overall Win Ratio (99%CI) = 1.10 (0.99, 1.23)

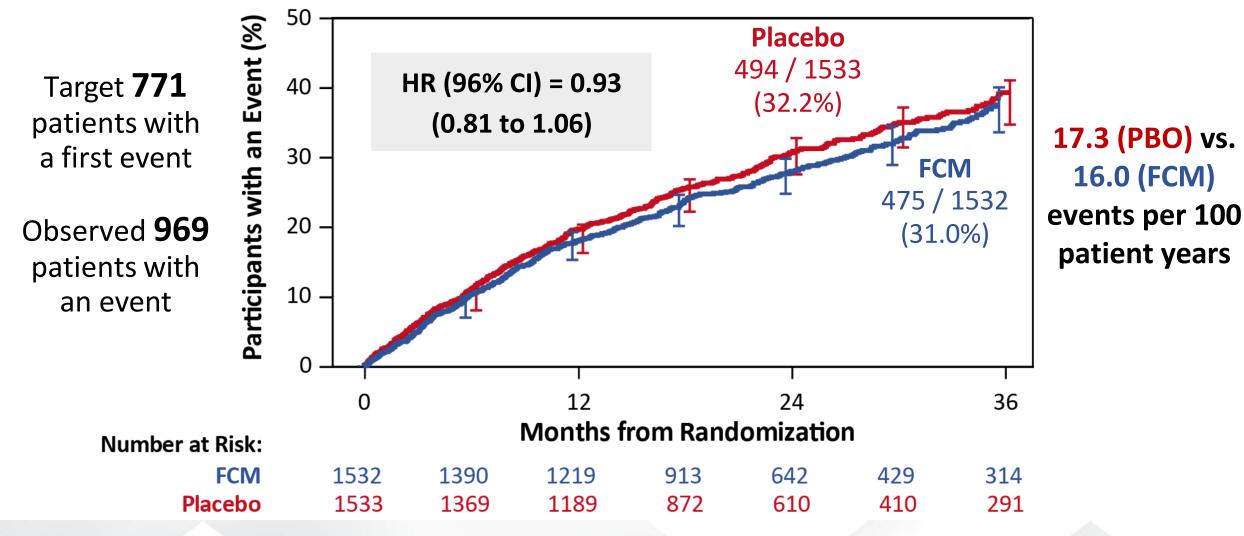
1<sup>st</sup> Imputed Dataset:



# **Top Secondary Endpoint**



#### Time to Cardiovascular Death or First HF Hospitalization

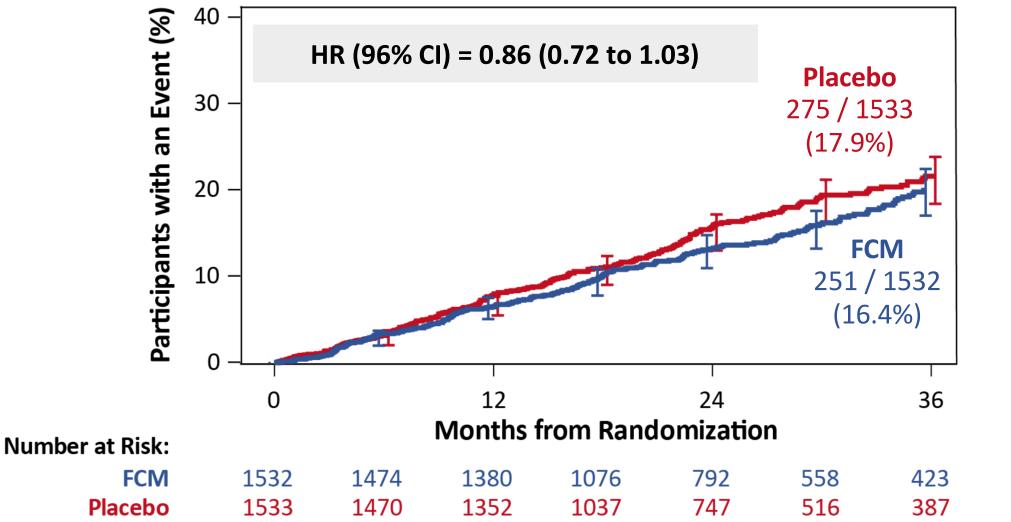


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Median Follow-up of 1.9 years (IQR, 1.3 to 3.0)

# Time to CV Death





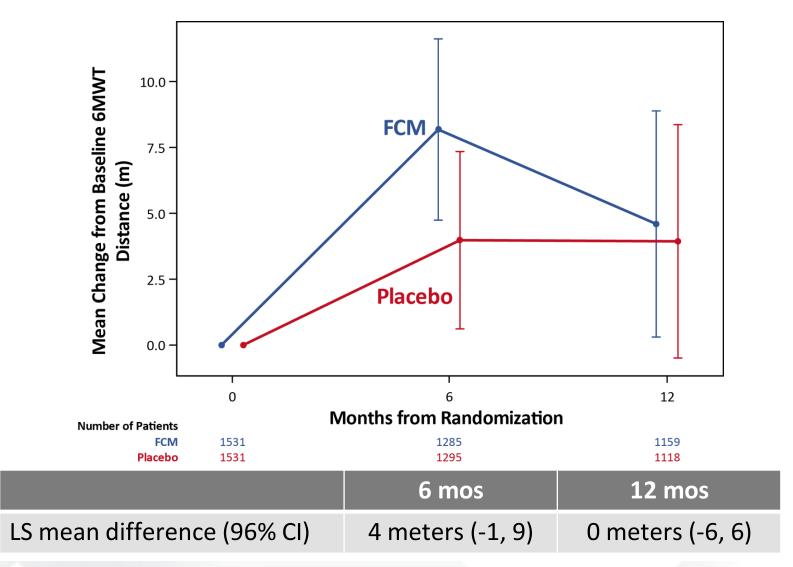
8.2 (PBO) vs. 7.2 (FCM) events per 100 patient years

**Duke** Clinical Research Institute

Median Follow-up of 1.9 years (IQR, 1.3 to 3.0)

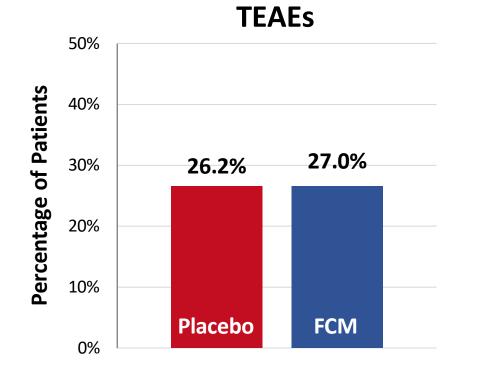
# Change in 6-MWD (from Baseline to 12 m)





# Safety: Treatment Emergent AEs





	FCM	Placebo
Hypophosphatemia	1	0
Hypersensitivity / Anaphylactoid reactions	7	1

- Hypophosphatemia (N=1)
  - Unrelated to study drug (PI assessment); resolved and study drug was continued
- Angioedema (N=2)
  - 1 probably related to study drug (Pl assessment) facial edema of moderate severity; resolved in hours with oral therapy
- Hypersensitivity (N=5)
  - 3 probably related to study drug (Pl assessment) 1 of these being severe; all patients recovering

# Summary



- HEART-FID is the largest study to assess the long-term safety and efficacy of IV FCM in HFrEF + ID.
- Well-powered for the primary and top secondary endpoint.
- FCM appeared **safe** and resulted in **modest improvement** for the hierarchical endpoint of all-cause mortality, HF hospitalizations and 6-MWD.
  - This did not achieve the pre-specified statistical significance level based on a higher US regulatory threshold (P=0.019 with specified level of 0.01).
  - While the observed differences in the primary endpoint were driven by the wins in death, the other components contributed to a larger proportion of decisions in the analysis.

The totality of evidence with IV FCM from prior studies assessing symptomatic and functional status endpoints combined with clinical outcomes studies including HEART-FID, show overall safety and clinical benefits of IV FCM in HFrEF with ID.

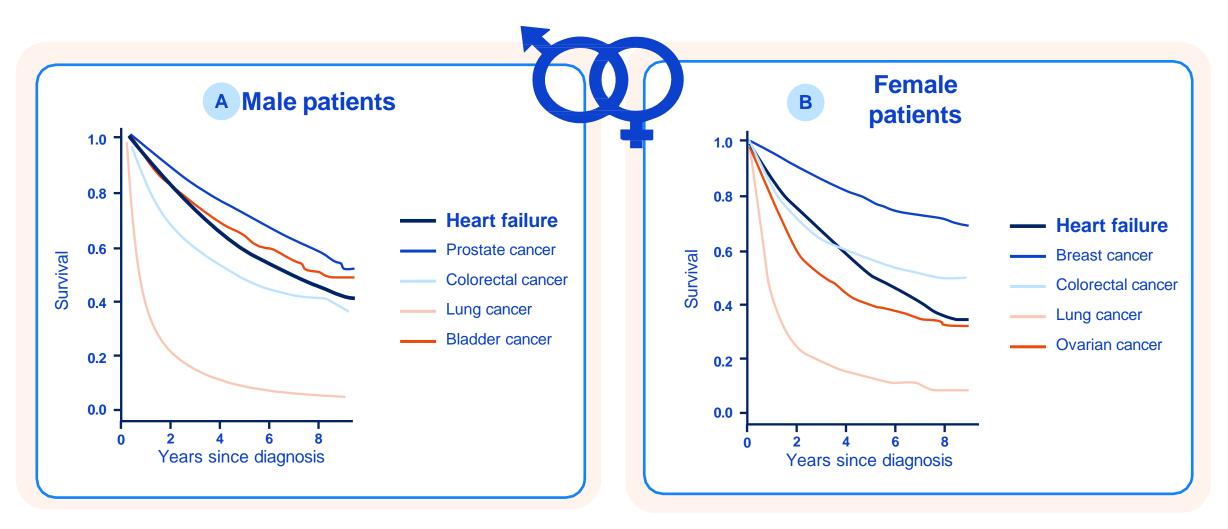


# Safety, tolerability and efficacy of up-titration of guideline-directed medical therapies for acute heart failure (STRONG-HF): a multinational, open-label, randomised, trial

**Mebazaa** A, Davison B, Chioncel O, Cohen-Solal A, Diaz R, Filippatos G, Metra M, Ponikowski P, Sliwa K, Voors AA, Edwards C, Novosadova M, Takagi K, Damasceno A, Saidu H, Gayat E, Pang PS, Celutkiene J, Cotter G. Safety, tolerability and efficacy of up-titration of guideline-directed medical therapies for acute heart failure (STRONG-HF): a multinational, open-label, randomised, trial. Lancet. 2022 Dec 3;400(10367):1938-1952.

### HF is as deadly as multiple types of cancer

HF has a lower 10-year survival rate than breast or prostate cancer



## GDMT is effective in preventing mortality<sup>1</sup>

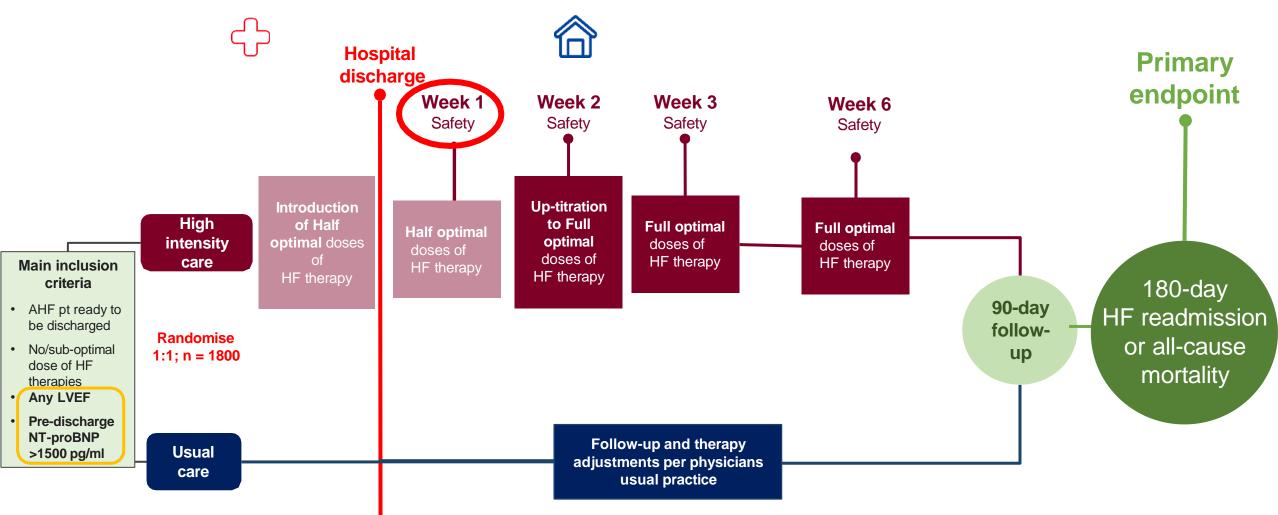
Combined therapy effect on all-cause mortality in HFrEF across meta-analyses<sup>1</sup>



Early initiation of GDMT is key and leads to significant life-years gains and reduction in all-cause mortality<sup>1</sup>

# STRUNG-HF

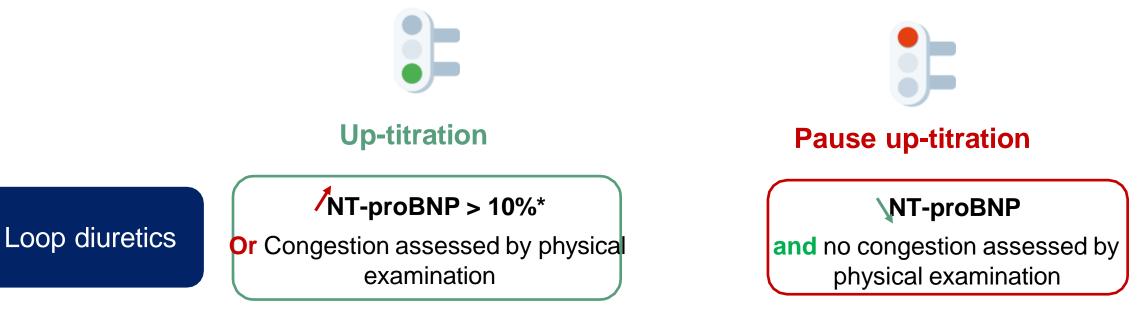
# Study design



*HF therapy*: combining ACEi/ARB/ARNi & BB & MRA Safety = clinical exam & biology (NT-proBNP, K, Creat, hemoglobin)

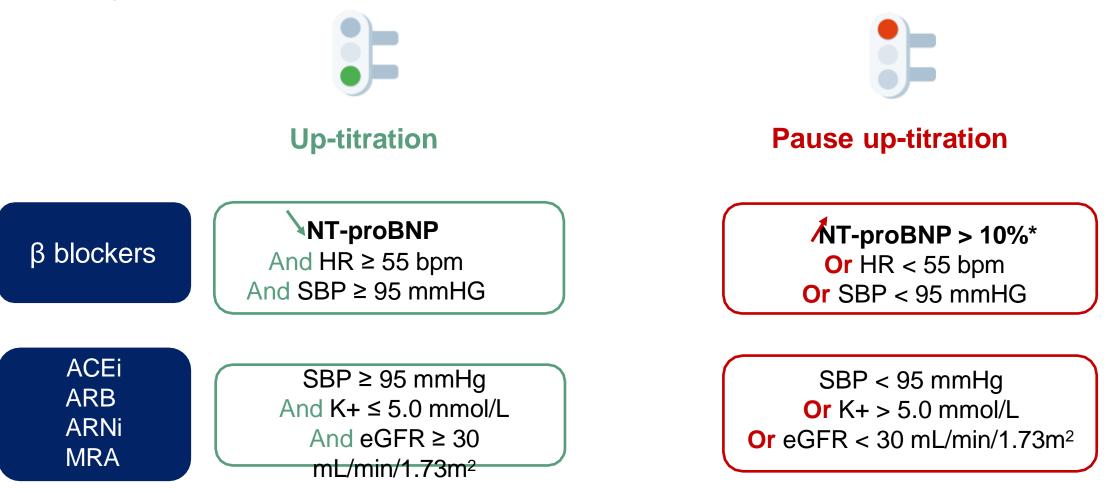
# **Titration of oral diuretics**

STRONG-HF suggests NT-proBNP can be used to monitor patients for GDMT uptitration

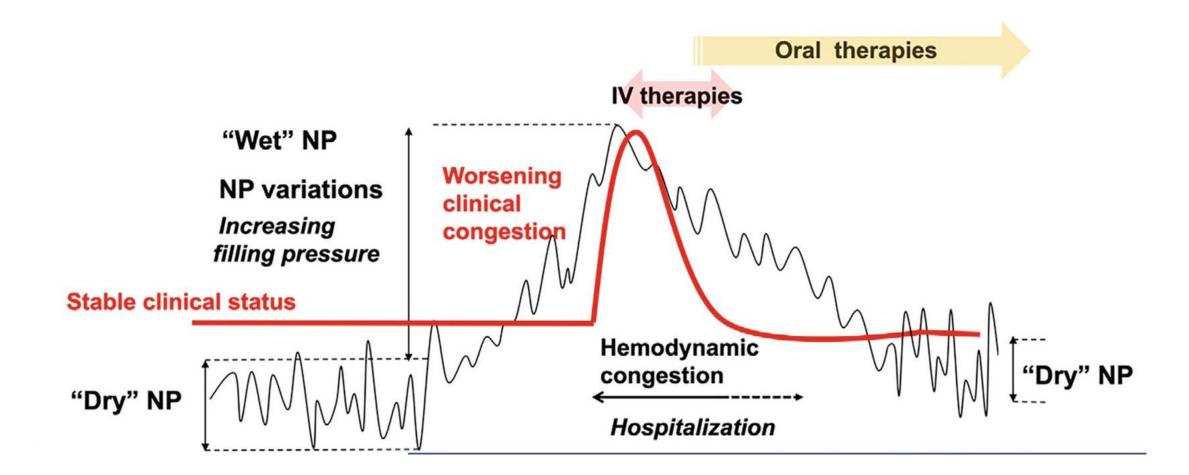


# **Titration of oral GDMT**

STRONG-HF suggests NT-proBNP can be used to monitor patients for GDMT uptitration

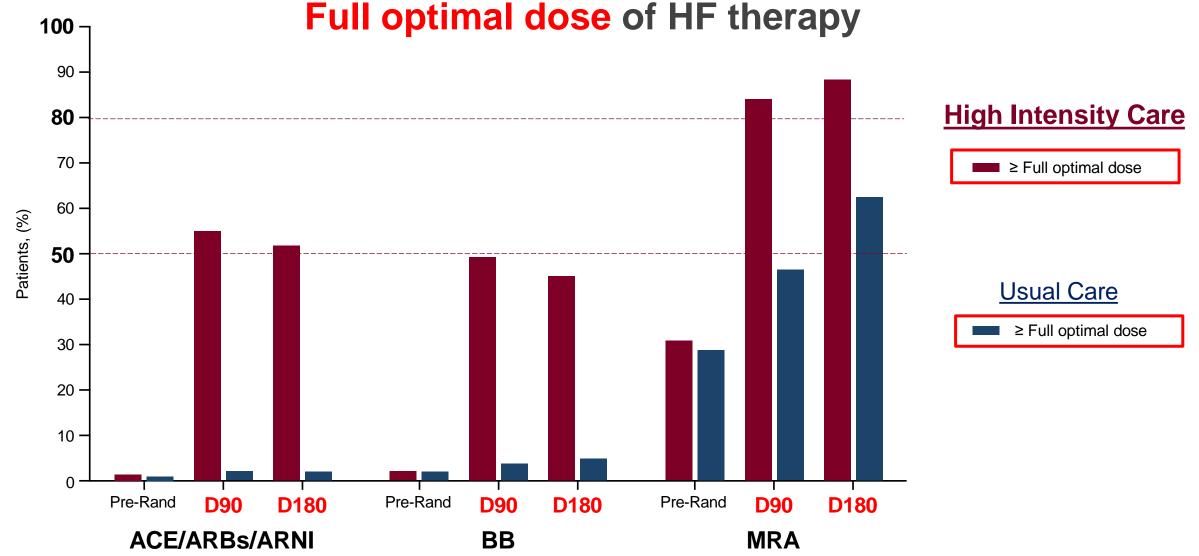


Natriuretic peptides: the most rapid and accurate marker of congestion





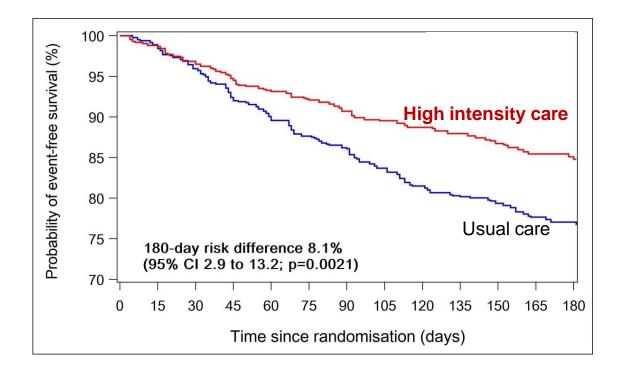
## Oral HF therapies prescribed in high intensity and usual care



Mebazaa A et al, Lancet 2022



#### **Primary endpoint**: 180-Day Readmission for HF or All-Cause Death

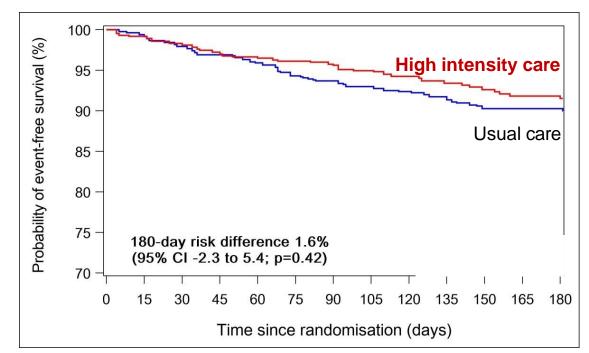


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#### Secondary endpoints: Change from Baseline to Day 90 in EQ-5D VAS

High Intensity	Usual Care	Treatment effect	P value
10.7 (0.9)	7.2 (0.9)	3.5 (1.7 to 5.2)	< 0.0001

#### 180-Day All-Cause Death

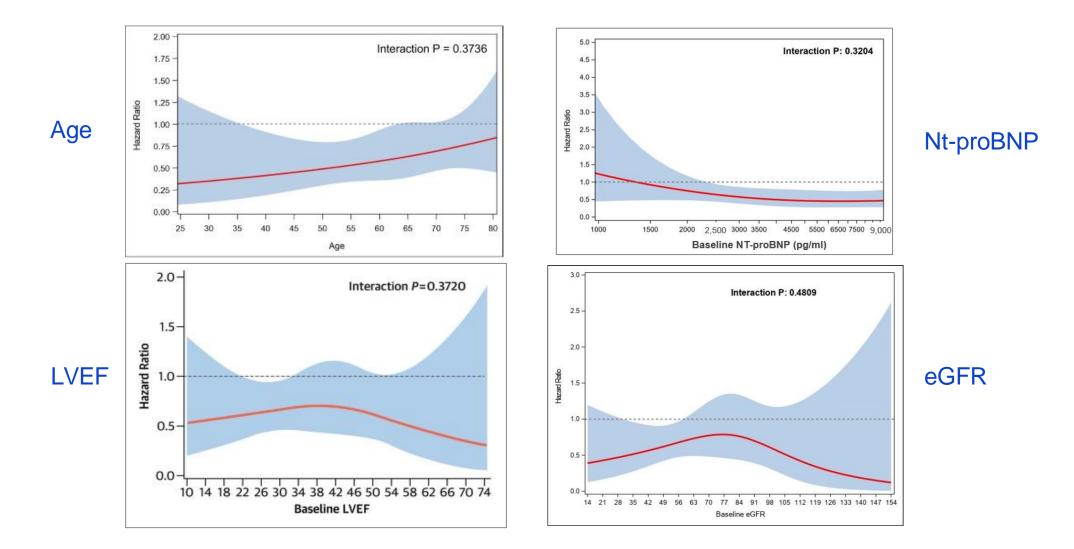


Mebazaa A et al, Lancet 2022



#### All-cause death or HF-hospitalisation at day 180

Pre specified sub-analysis



Pagnesi M, J Am Coll Cardiol, 2023; 81: 2131-2144 Mattia Arrigo et al, Eur J Heart Fail, 2023 Mariana Adamo et al, Eur Heart J, 2023- J. Ter Maaten et al, Late breaker ESC HF, 2023



#### STRONG-HF: Safety

There was no significant difference in SAEs between arms for up to 90-days follow-up

Most commonly observed AEs		Most commonly observed SAEs			
Parameter	High-intensity care (n=542)	Usual care (n=536)	Parameter	High-intensity care (n=542)	Usual care (n=536)
Overall	223 (41%)	158 (29%)	Overall	88 (16%)	92 (17%)
Cardiac failure	79 (15%)	73 (14%)	Cardiac failure	38 (7%)	47 (9%)
Hypotension	27 (5%)	2 (<1%)	Sudden death	5 (1%)	10 (2%)
Hyperkalaemia	18 (3%)	0 (0%)	Viral pneumonia	7 (1%)	3 (1%)
Renal impairment	14 (3%)	1 (<1%)	- Fatal		



Fatal SAEs occurred in 25 (5%) of patients receiving high-intensity care and 32 (6%) receiving usual care



# Conclusions: Patients will **STRONG-HF**

 Rapid up-titration of HF therapies under close follow-up (exam, NT-proBNP): is safe & reduces HF readmissions or all-cause deaths & improves patients' QoL.

In STRONG-HF, intensive up-titration of neurohormonal blockade was associated with more efficient decongestion at day 90 (across all analysed indices), which was achieved despite a lower dose of diuretics.

 Next challenge: Rapid education to implement the STRONG-HF procedure into daily practice



# **MESSAGE-HF Trial:** Telemonitoring after a Recent Heart Failure Admission

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## **Reasons for HF Decompensation**

Decompensation cause	% (n=1,250) 22.7	
Infection		
Poor medication adherence	29.9	
Increased ingestion of sodium and water *	8.9	
Acute valvular disease	6.6	
Cardiac arrhythmia	12.5	
Pulmonary embolism	0.4	
Others	32.4	

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Arq Bras Cardiol. 2015; 104(6):433-442



## **MESSAGE-HF Trial Hypothesis**

A multifaceted strategy to promote **education and self-care** based on **SMS messages and telephone contacts** could **reduce NT-proBNP** levels after a recent hospitalization for acutely decompensated HF, **compared to standard of care**.



## **MESSAGE-HF Inclusion Criteria**

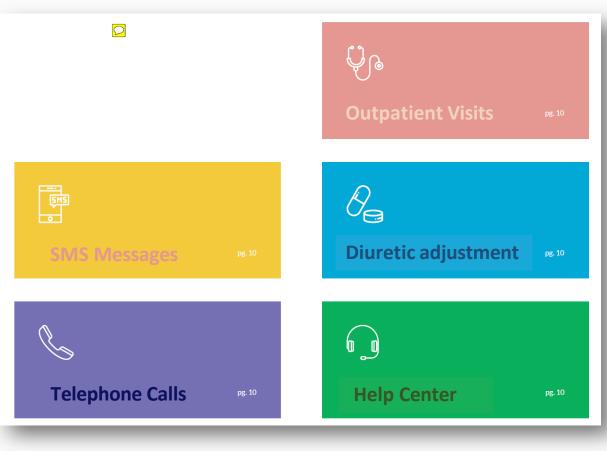
#### ADHF admission and HFrEF (LVEF < 40%) Initial Death discharge Palliation and priorities Readmission rate Transition phase Plateau phase **VULNERABLE PHASE** Median time from hospital discharge Screening Randomization Hospital **Day 60 Hospital Day 30 Admission** Discharge



## **MESSAGE-HF Groups**

### 2. Intervention Group

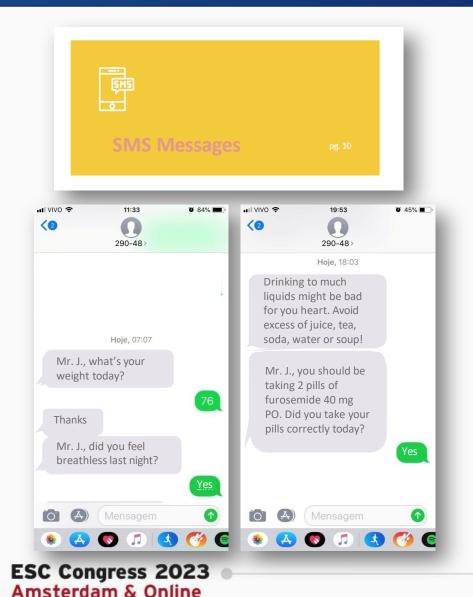






### 2. Intervention Group





## 4 daily messages in the first 30 days:

- 1 Educational Message
- 3 Feedback Messages with Simple Questions



> 2 kg increase in the first week after discharge

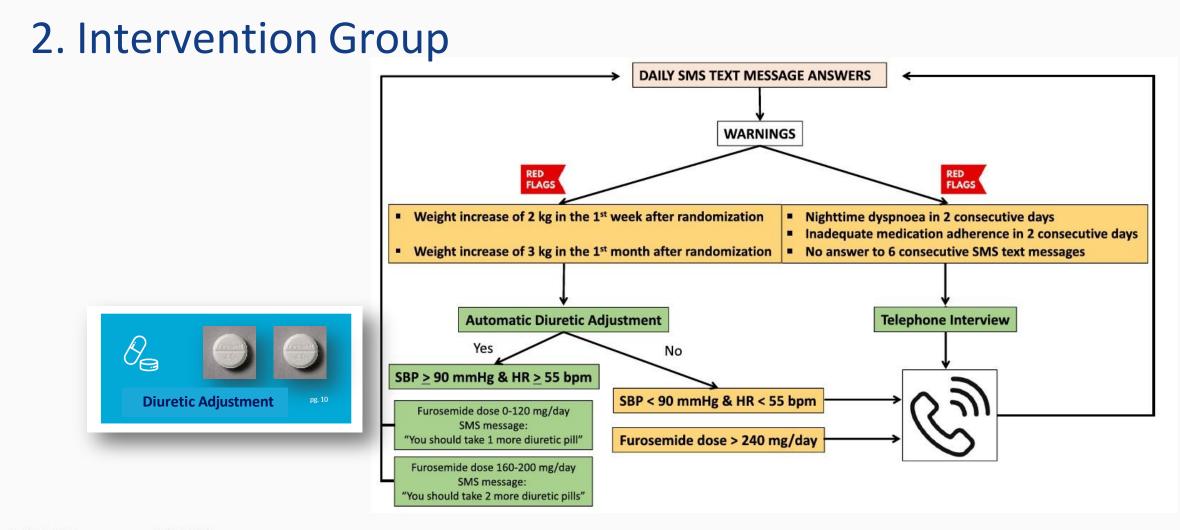
> 3 kg increase in the first month after discharge

2 consecutive days with nocturnal symptoms

2 consecutive responses of inappropriate use of medication

No response from 5 consecutive messages



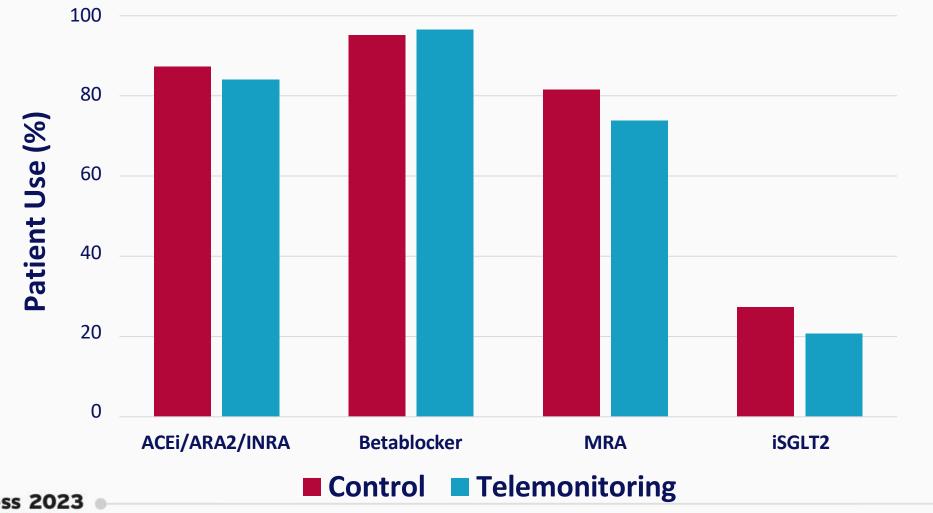


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## **Baseline Characteristics**



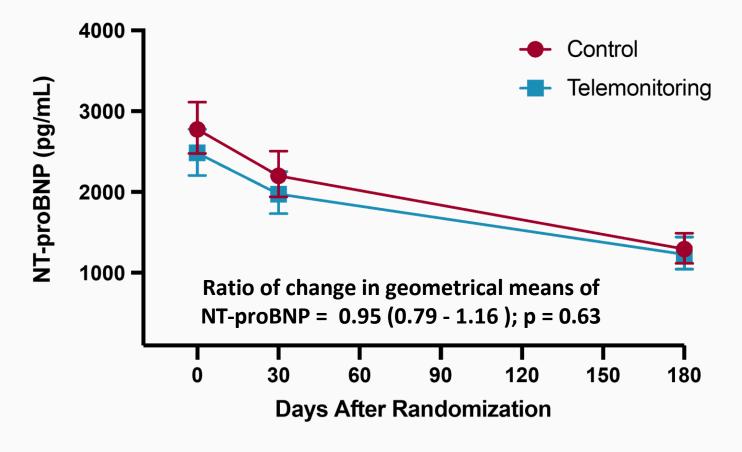
#### **Baseline HF Drug Treatment**



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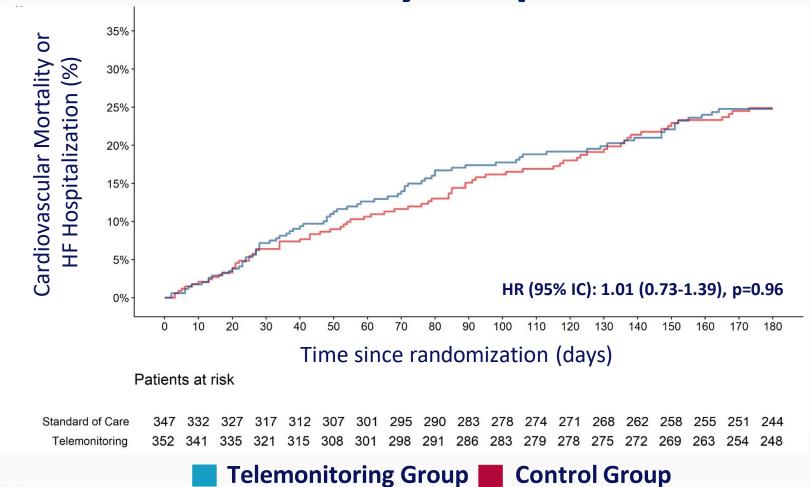


## **Primary Endpoint**





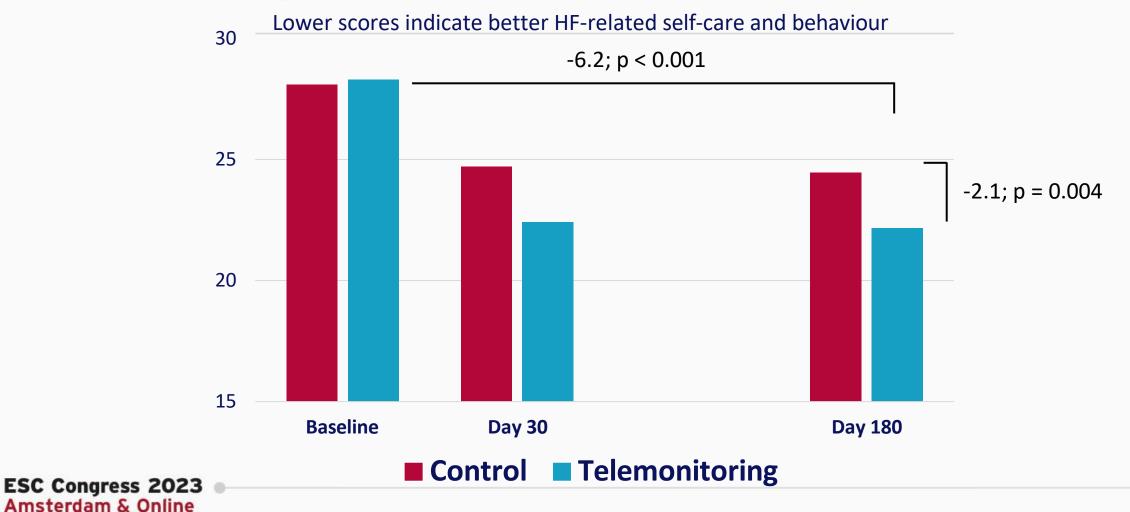
### **Secondary Endpoints**



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## **European HF Self-care Behaviour Scale**



# **Final Conclusions**



The MESSAGE-HF trial demonstrated that an intensive and tailored self-care promotion strategy based on automated text messaging and telephone calls was feasible, well-accepted and increased scales of HF self-care, but had no effect on NT**proBNP levels** or on a composite hierarchical outcome in patients with a recent HF admission in Brazil.

