

# Hormone therapy

*Dr. med. Frank Luzuy*

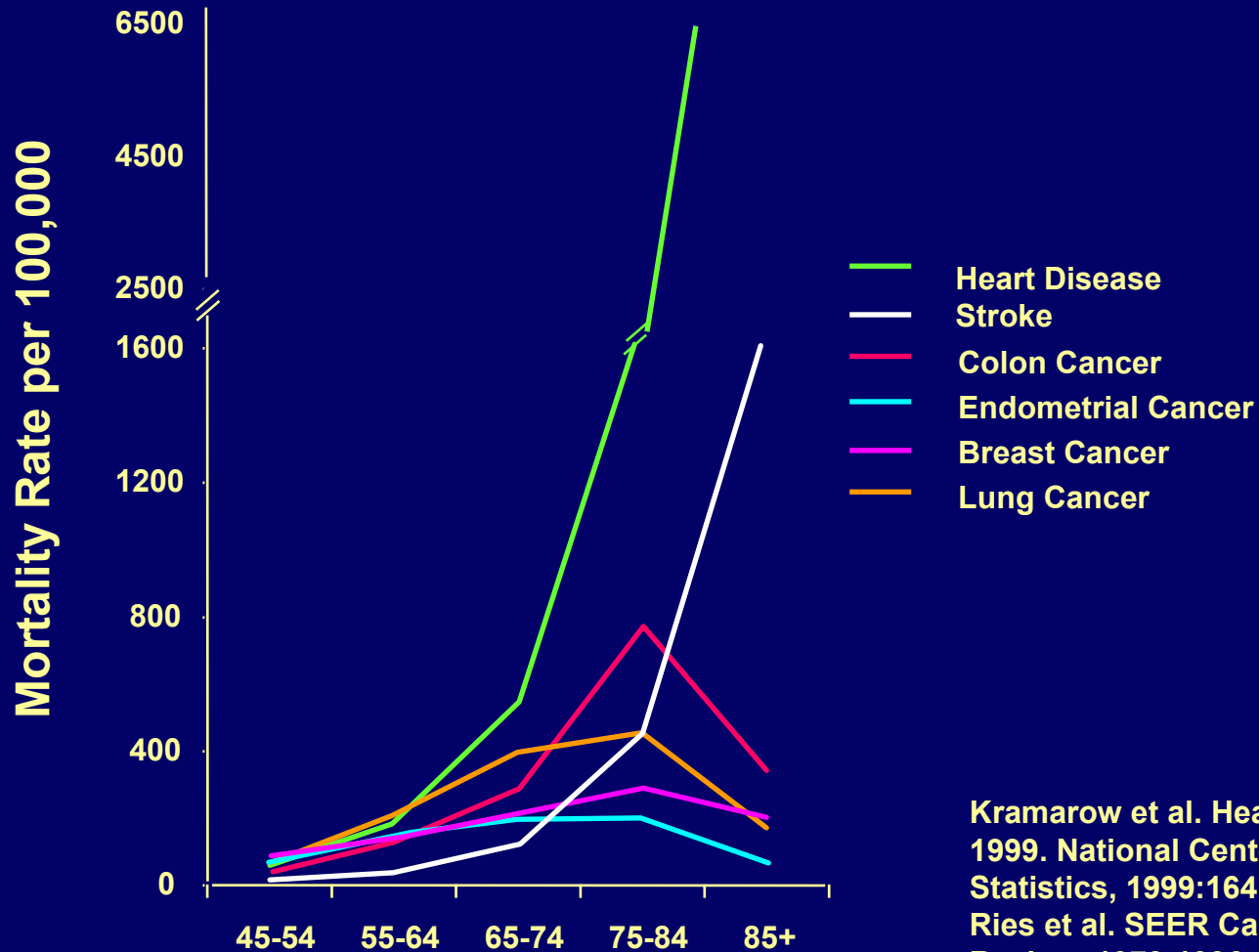
# Reasons for Initiating/Continuing HT\*



\*Among current users.

Newton et al. *J Womens Health* 1997;6:462.

# Mortality Rates in Women



Kramarow et al. Health, United States, 1999. National Center for Health Statistics, 1999:164, 167.  
Ries et al. SEER Cancer Statistics Review, 1973-1996. National Cancer Institute, 1999.

# Benefits and Risks of a HRT

## Benefits

- *improvement of the quality of life during menopause*
  - ◆ vasomotor symptoms
  - ◆ vaginal atrophy
  - ◆ dyspareunia
- *improvement of the cognitive and mental functions*
- *prevention of osteoporosis*
- *prevention of colon cancer*

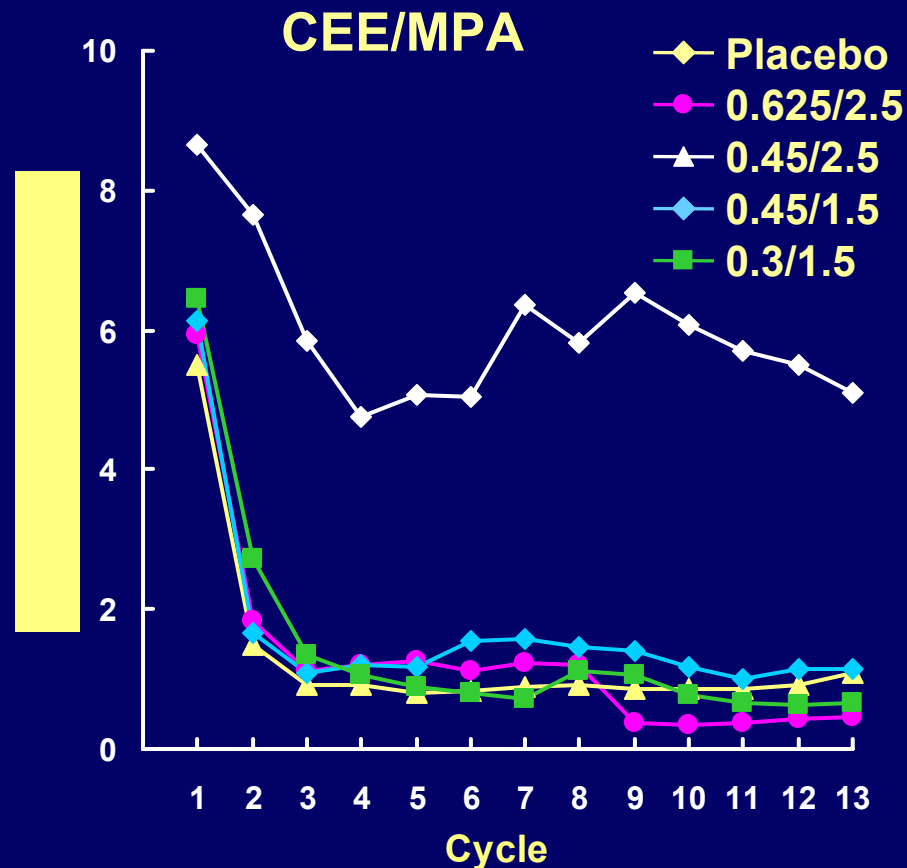
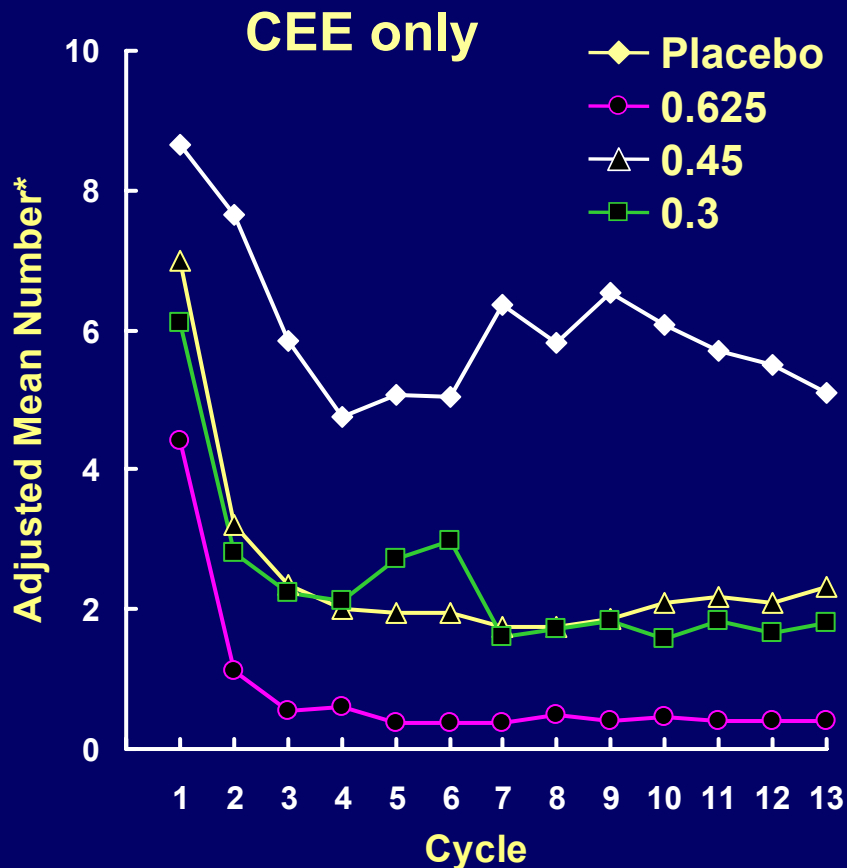
## Risks

- *breast cancer*
- *thromboembolisms*
- *cardiovascular risk in elder women*
- *cerebro-vascular accident (CVA)*

**Prevention of Alzheimer ?**

# Women's HOPE Study

## Number of Hot Flashes Over 13 Cycles

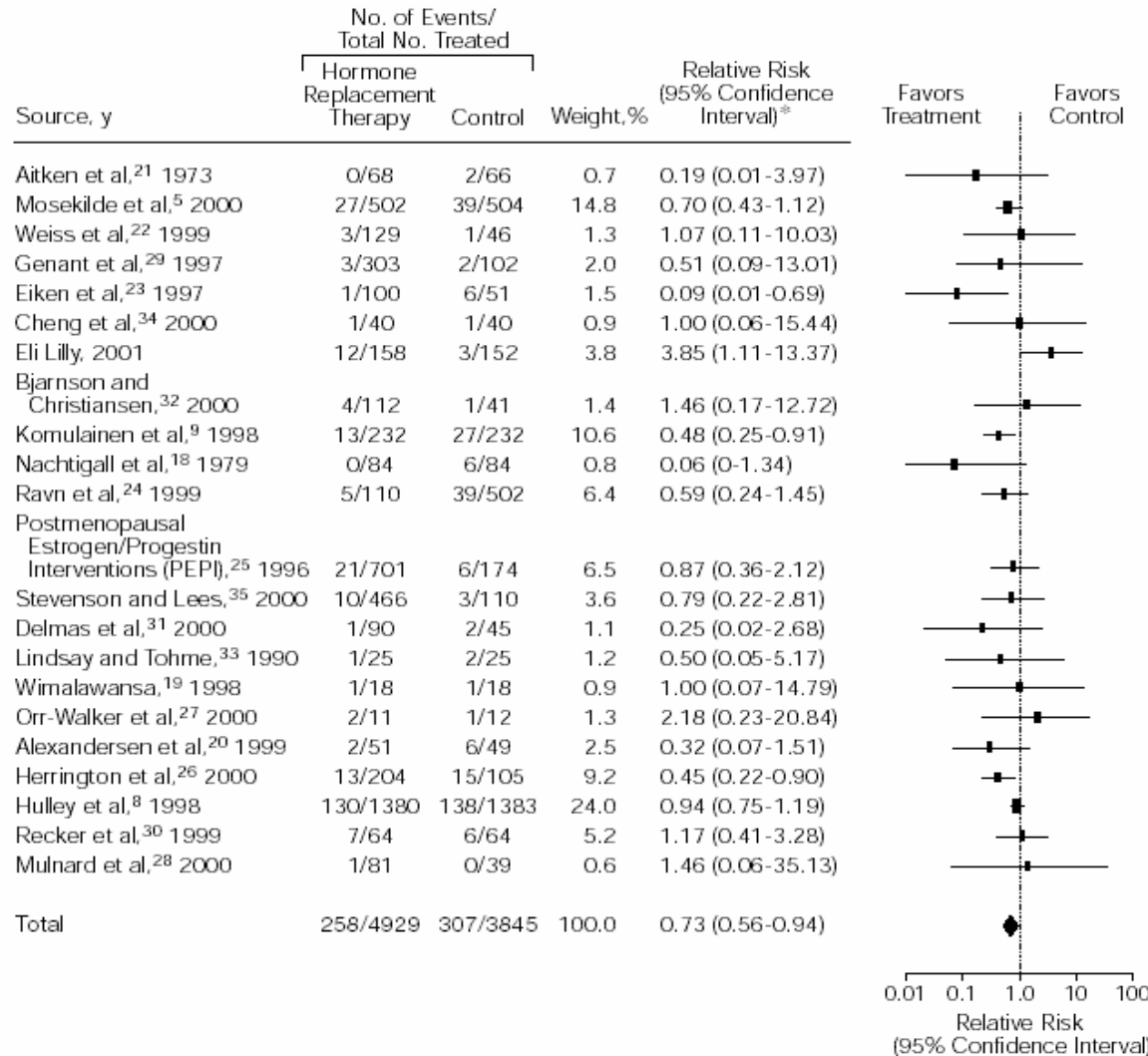


\*Adjusted for baseline.

Mean hot flashes at baseline = 12.3 (range 11.3–13.8).

Utian, W, et al. Fertility and Sterility. 2001; 75:1065-1079

# HRT: Prevention of non-vertebral fractures meta-analysis (22 studies)



significant  
risk  
reduction

**-27%**

# HRT: Prevention of non-vertebral fractures meta-analysis (22 studies)

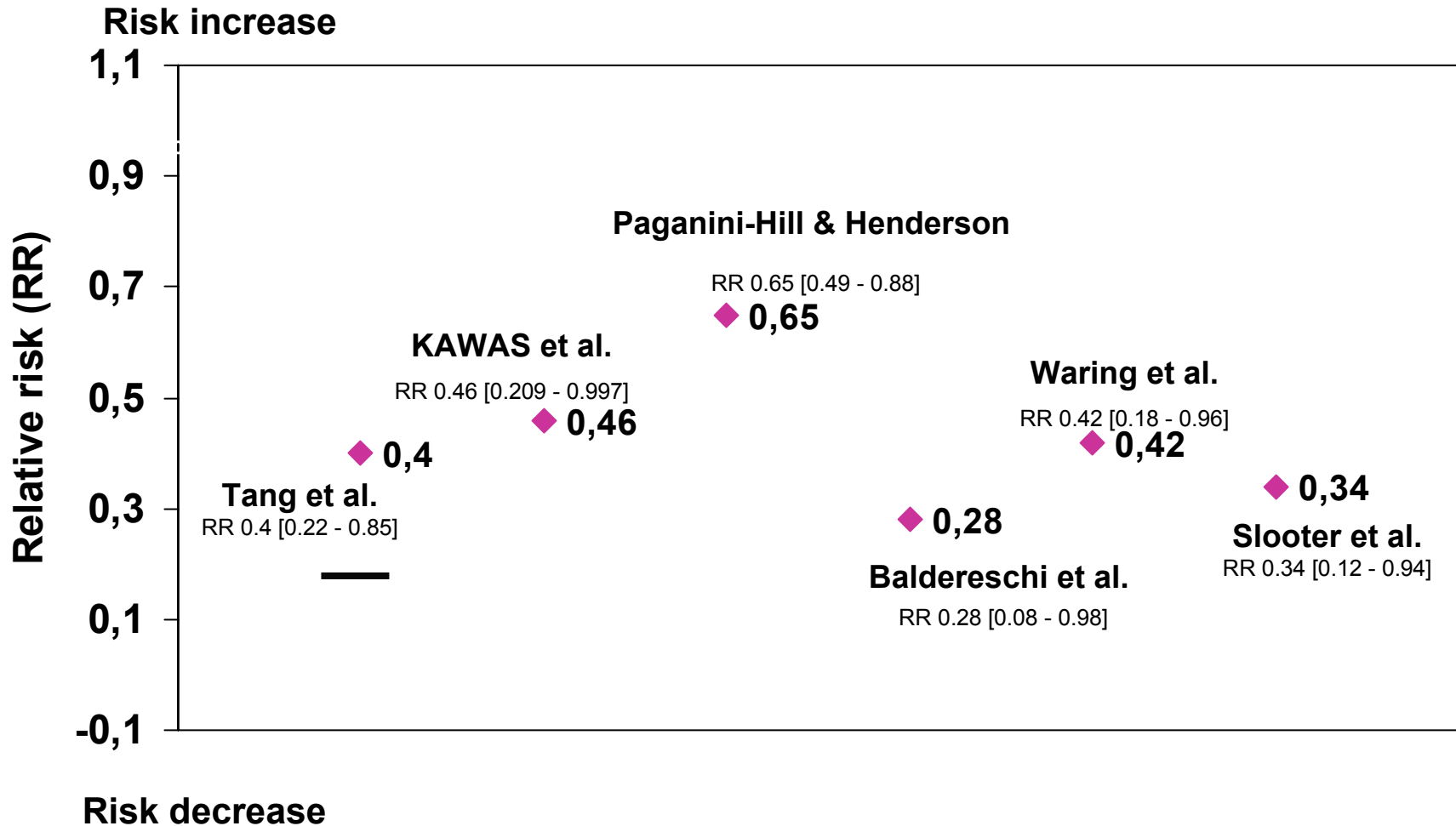
*Significant reduction of 27% of non-vertebral hip fractures*

- ◆ the effect is most striking in women < 60 years, reduction of 35%

*Significant reduction of 40% hip and wrist fractures*

- ◆ the effect is most striking in women < 60 years, reduction of 55%

# Prevention Alzheimer's disease by hormone treatment

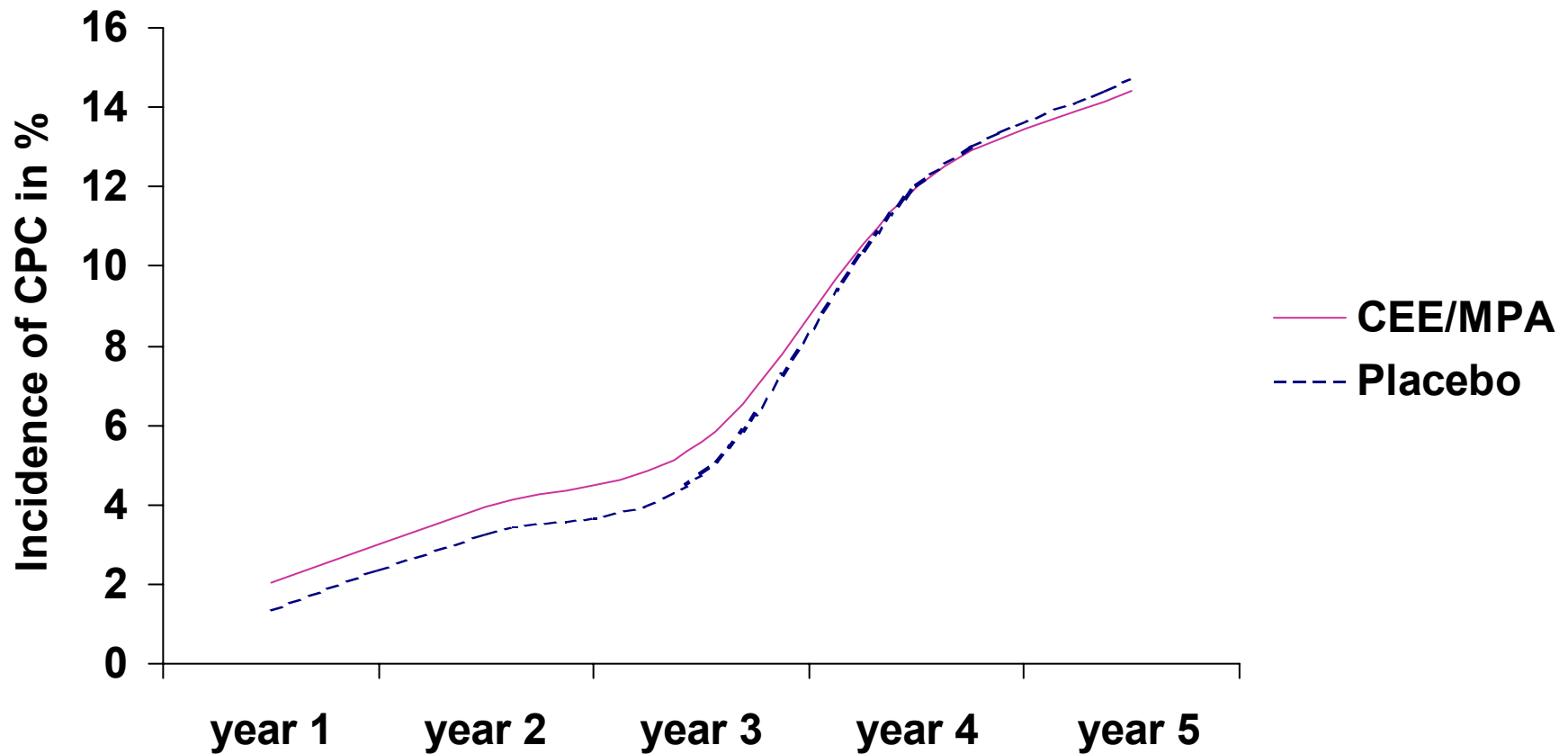




# Study of HERS patients:

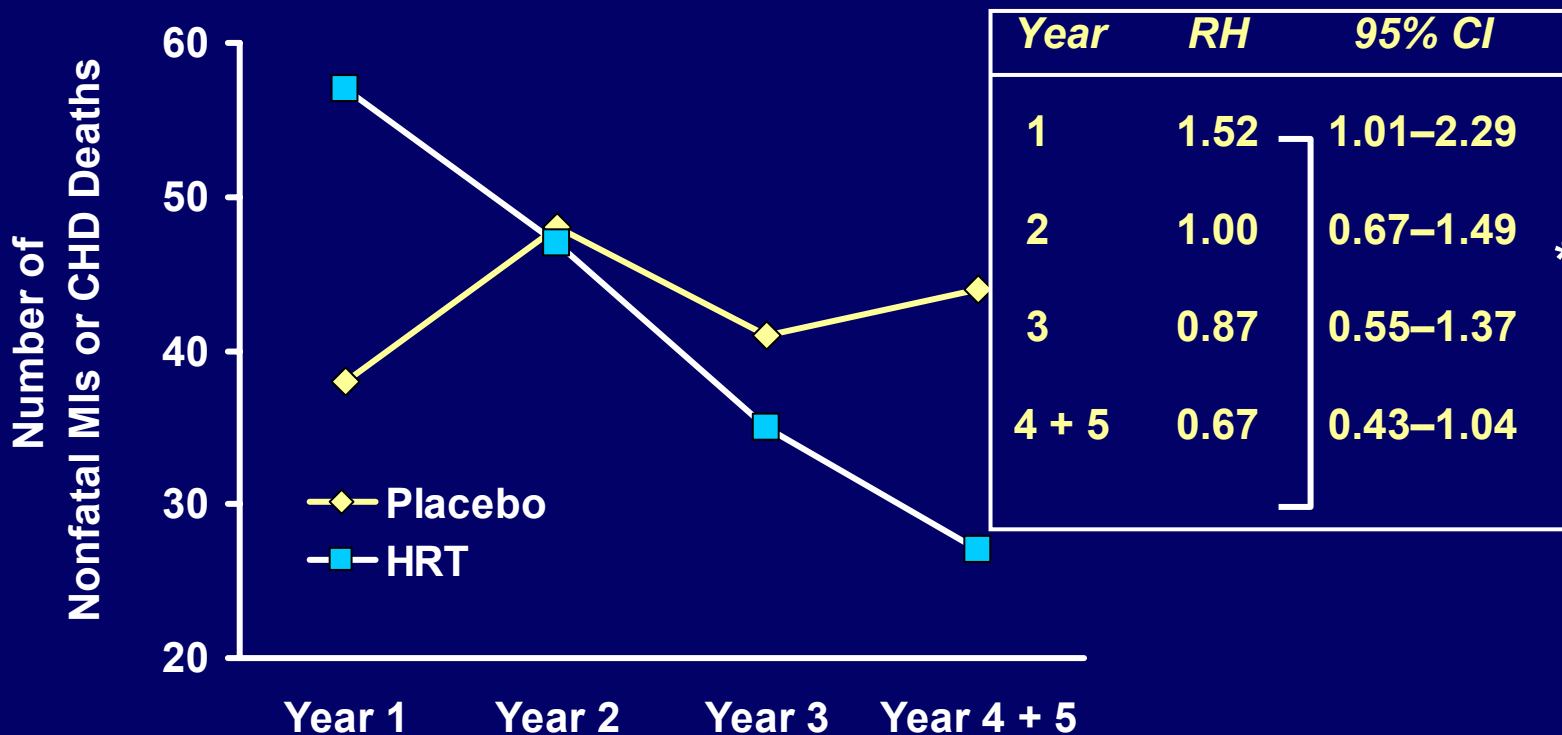
- ◆ Age  $67 \pm 7$  years, 89% Caucasian women
- ◆ Additional risk factors: diabetes (18%), overweight (55%), smoking (13%)
- ◆ Concomitant drugs:
  - Aspirin (78%)
  - beta-blocker (32%)
  - hypolipemiant (45%)
  - diuretics (28%)
  - ECA inhibitors (17%)
  - calcium antagonists (55%)
- ◆ The initial characteristics were comparable

# HERS: Additional incidence of CHD under HRT



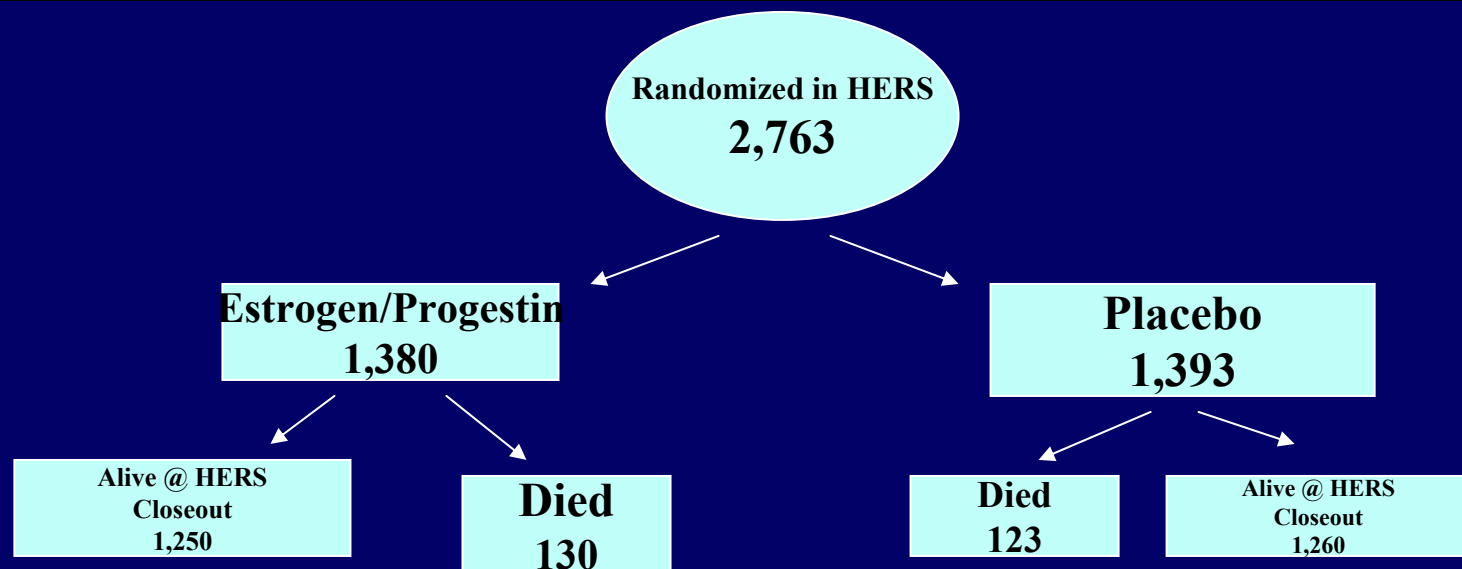
# Effect of HRT vs Placebo on CHD Events in Women With Established Coronary Disease

## *HERS*



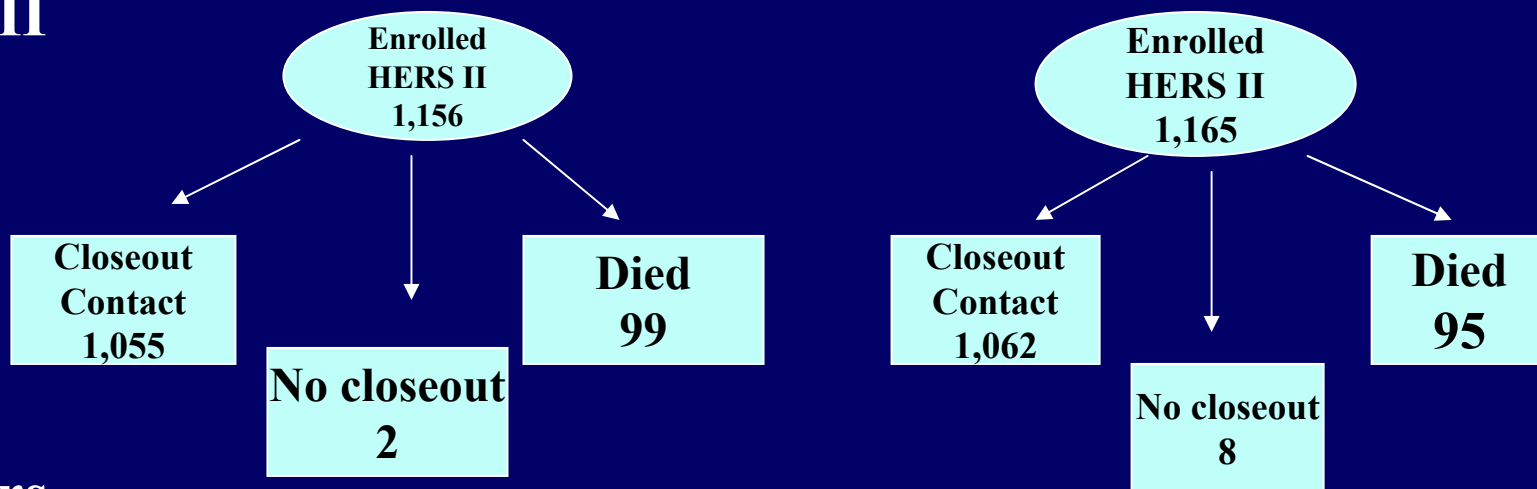
\* $P = .009$  for trend in log RH over time.  
 Hulley S, et al. *JAMA*. 1998;280:605-13.

# HERS



4.1 years

# HERS II



2.7 years

Grady, D. et al. *JAMA*. 2002

Hulley S, et al. *JAMA*. 2002

In HERS or HERS II, no difference could be established between HRT patients and the placebo group during a CPC event

Results	oestrogen/progestogen		placebo		
primary CPC	N	N	RR (95% CI)	P	
HERS	179	182	0,99 (0,81-1,22)	0,94	
HERS II	111	111	1,00 (0,77-1,29)	0,97	
total (HERS + HERS II)	290	293	0,99 (0,84-1,17)	0,93	

Relative risk = RR

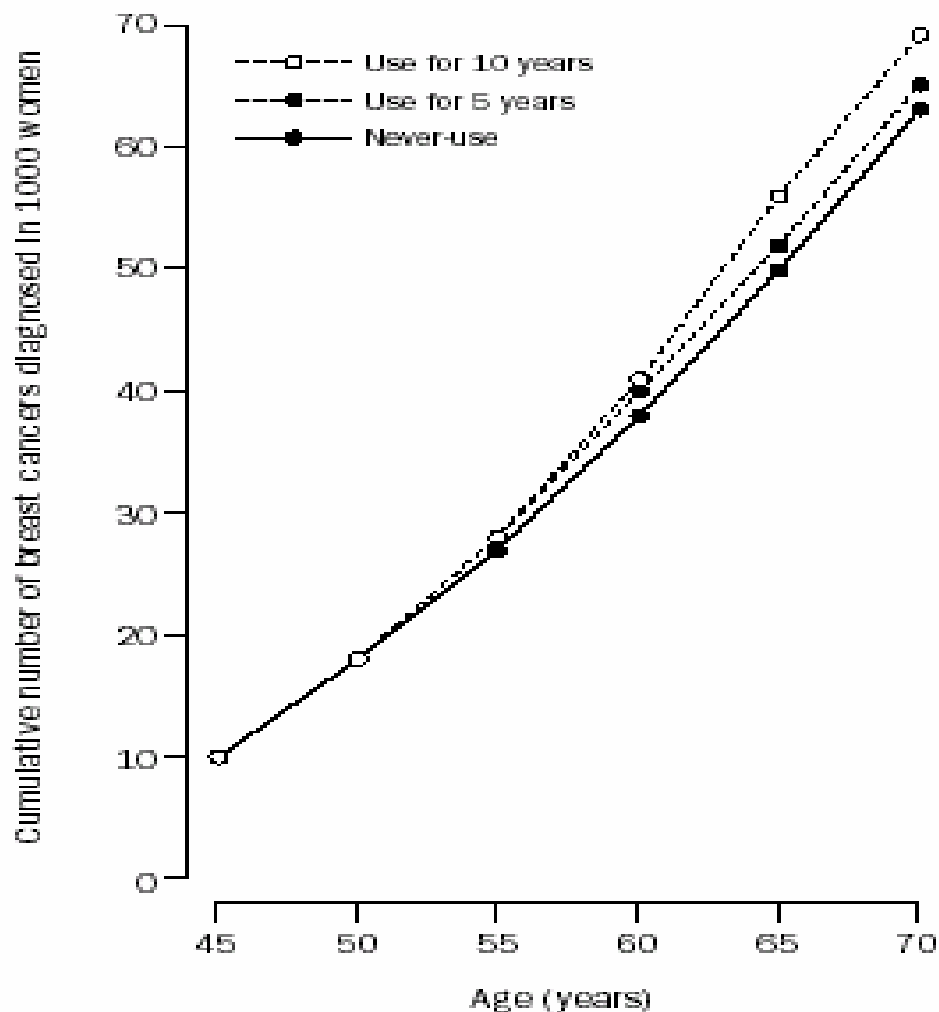
Grady, D, et al. *JAMA*. 2002; 288:49-57

# Conclusions - HERS

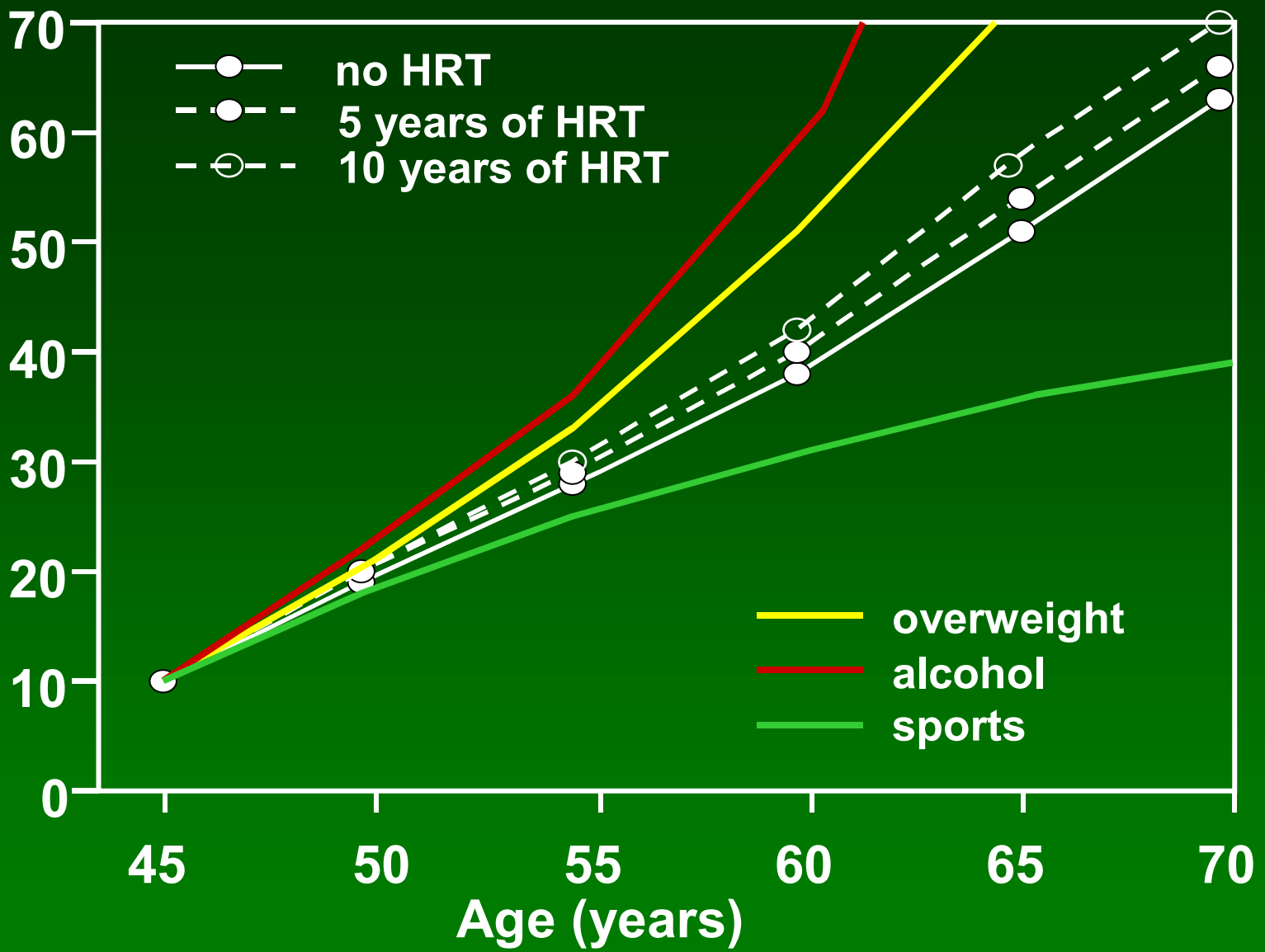
- In elder menopausal women with a documented CPC, a HRT is initiated for the sole reason of reducing cardiovascular incidents.
- *The patients included in the HERS and HERS II studies were entirely different women who required HRT during early menopause*
  - ◆ most women received concomitant treatment:  
36% statine, 33% beta-blocker, 80% Aspirin
- *The HERS II study revealed neither a benefit*

**HRT is not indicated for the treatment of CPC!!**

# HT: Incidence of breast cancer, Beral et al.



Cumulative breast cancer risk /1000 womem



overweight JAMA, Nov. 5. 1997 Vol 278, No. 17

alcohol JAMA, Feb. 18, 1998 Vol 279, No. 7

sports N. Engl. J.o. Med. 1997 Vol 336, No. 18

Lancet 350, 1997



# Relative Risk for Invasive Breast Cancer in Postmenopausal Women by Alcohol Intake and Postmenopausal Hormone Use 1980-1996

<u>Alcohol intake</u>	<u>RR</u>	<u>Postmenop. hormone use</u>	<u>RR</u>
0.1-4.9 g/d	1.08	Past	0.96
5.0-9.9 g/d	1.01	Current <5 years	1.39
10-19.9 g/d	1.24	Current > 5 years	1.27
>20 g/d	1.34		

Ann Intern Med. 2002; 137;798-804

# Breast cancer: comparison of HERS, HERSII, WHI study and Beral et al.:

<i>Study</i>	<i>Breast cancer</i>		
	<i>Number of additional cases in 1000 women</i>	<i>Duration of treatment (years)</i>	<i>Risk index (IC 95%)</i>
<i>WHI</i>	<i>0,8</i>	<i>5,2</i>	<i>1,26 (0,83-1,92)</i>
<i>Beral et al.</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>1,35 (1,21-1,49)</i>
<i>HERS</i>	<i>1,7</i>	<i>4,1</i>	<i>1,38 (0,82-2,31)</i>
<i>HERS II</i>	<i>0,4</i>	<i>6,8</i>	<i>1,08 (0,52-2,24)</i>
<i>Persson et al.</i>	<i>NA</i>	<i>13,2</i>	<i>1,0 (0,8-1,2)</i>

NA= not studiedé

Writing Group for the Women's Health Initiative Investigators. *JAMA*. 2002;288:321-333.

Hulley, S, et al. *JAMA*. 2002; 288:58-66

Beral et al. *Lancet*. 1997; 350: 1047-59

Persson, I, et al. *Int.J.Cancer*. 1996; 67:327-332

# **Women's Health Initiative (WHI)**

**Dr med. Frank Luzuy**

# WHI

## *Baseline Characteristics*

<i>Characteristic</i>	<i>HRT</i> <i>n = 8,506</i>	<i>Placebo</i> <i>n = 8,102</i>
Age at screening, yr*	63.2 (7.1)	63.3 (7.1)
Prior hormone use, %	26.1	25.6
Body mass index, kg/m <sup>2</sup> *	28.5 (5.8)	28.5 (5.9)
Never smokers, %	49.6	50.0
Diabetes, %	4.4	4.4
Hypertension, %	35.7	36.4
Statin use at baseline, %	6.9	6.8
Family Hx breast cancer, %	16.0	15.3
History of MI <sup>†</sup> , %	1.6	1.9
History of CABG/PTCA <sup>†</sup> , %	1.1	1.5 <sup>‡</sup>

\*Values are means (SD); <sup>†</sup>Overall incidence of prior cardiovascular disease = 7.7%; <sup>‡</sup>P = .04 vs. HRT.

Writing Group for Women's Health Initiative Investigators. *JAMA*. 2002;288:321-333.

# WHI Results: CHD

## *Summary by Year*

<b>Year</b>	<b>HRT n (%)</b>	<b>Placebo n (%)</b>	<b>Hazard Ratio*</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>43 (0.51)</b>	<b>23 (0.29)</b>	<b>1.78</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>36 (0.43)</b>	<b>30 (0.38)</b>	<b>1.15</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>20 (0.24)</b>	<b>18 (0.23)</b>	<b>1.06</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>25 (0.32)</b>	<b>24 (0.19)</b>	<b>0.99</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>23 (0.39)</b>	<b>9 (0.16)</b>	<b>2.38</b>
<b>6+</b>	<b>17 (0.33)</b>	<b>18 (0.42)</b>	<b>0.78</b>

n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months.  
 \*z score for trend across all years = -1.19; test for trend based on Cox proportional hazard model with time-dependent treatment effects.

# WHI Results: VTE

## *Summary by Year*

<i>Year</i>	<i>HRT n (%)</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio*</i>
1	49 (0.58)	13 (0.16)	3.60
2	26 (0.31)	11 (0.14)	2.26
3	21 (0.25)	12 (0.15)	1.67
4	27 (0.34)	14 (0.19)	1.84
5	16 (0.27)	6 (0.11)	2.49
6+	12 (0.23)	11 (0.26)	0.90

n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months.  
 \*z score for trend across all years = -2.45; test for trend based on Cox proportional hazard model with time-dependent treatment effects. VTE includes DVT and PE.

Writing Group for Women's Health Initiative Investigators. *JAMA*. 2002;288:321-333.

# WHI Results: Invasive Breast Cancer

## *Summary by Year*

<i>Year</i>	<i>HRT n (%)</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio*</i>
1	11 (0.13)	17 (0.21)	0.62
2	26 (0.31)	30 (0.38)	0.83
3	28 (0.34)	23 (0.29)	1.16
4	40 (0.50)	22 (0.29)	1.73
5	34 (0.57)	12 (0.22)	2.64
6+	27 (0.53)	20 (0.47)	1.12

n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months.  
\*z score for trend across all years = 2.56; test for trend based on Cox proportional hazard model with time-dependent treatment effects.

# WHI Results: Cancer Outcomes

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>HRT n (%)*</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)*</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio</i>	<i>Nominal 95% CI</i>	<i>Adjusted 95% CI</i>
<b>Cancer</b>					
Invasive breast	166 (0.38)	124 (0.30)	1.26	1.00-1.59	0.83-1.92
Endometrial	22 (0.05)	25 (0.06)	0.83	0.47-1.47	0.29-2.32
Colorectal	45 (0.10)	67 (0.16)	0.63	0.43-0.92	0.32-1.24
Total	502 (1.14)	458 (1.11)	1.03	0.90-1.17	0.86-1.22

\*n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months. Nominal = variability based on simple trial for single outcome; Adjusted = corrects variability for multiple analyses over time.



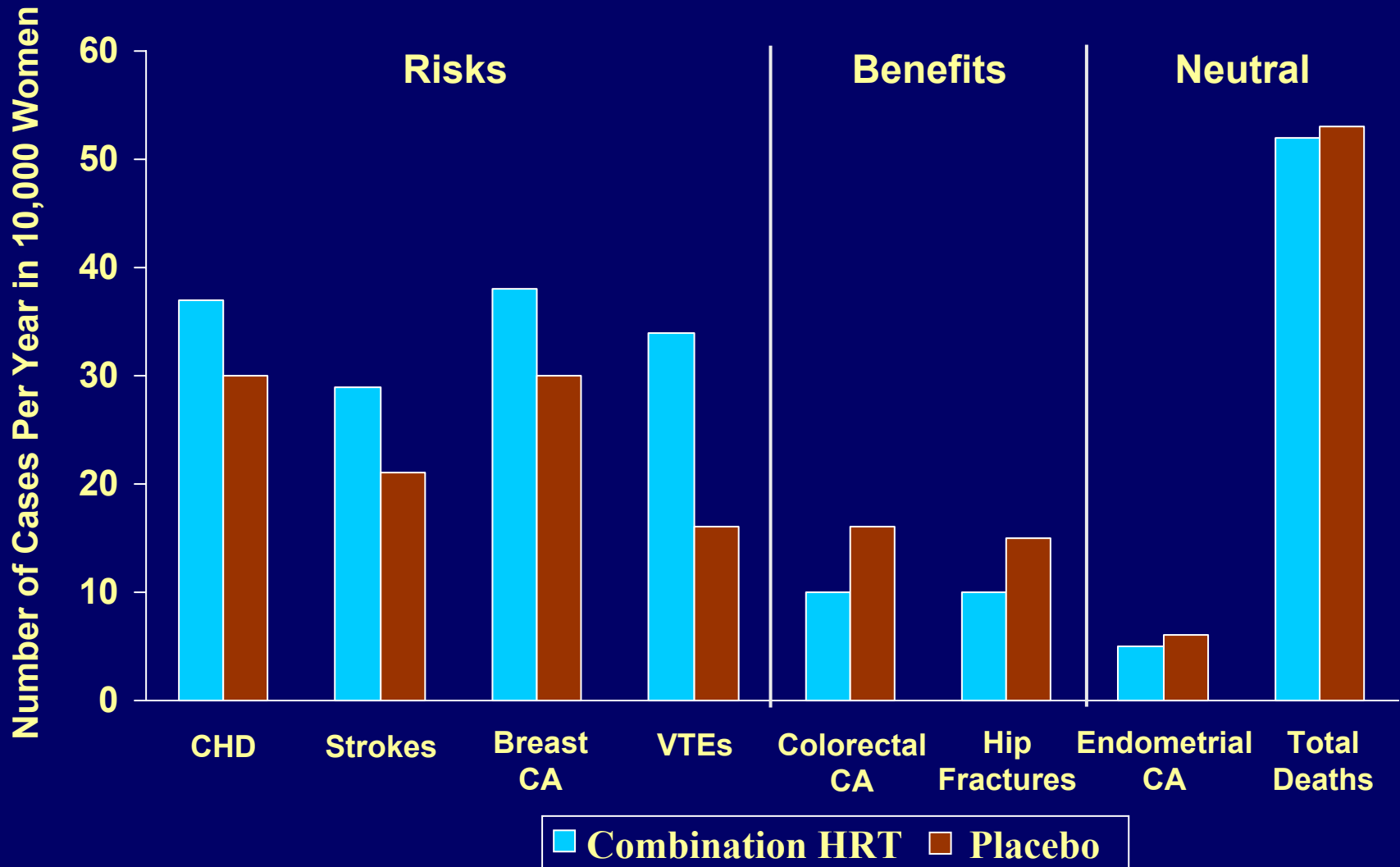
# WHI Results

## *Absolute and Relative Risk or Benefit of HRT*

<i>Health Event</i>	<i>Relative Risk vs. Placebo at 5.2 years</i>	<i>Increased Absolute Risk per 10,000 Women/Yr</i>	<i>Difference Between the groups</i>
<b>Heart attacks</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0.40</b>
<b>Strokes</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.45</b>
<b>Breast cancer</b>	<b>1.26</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>0.42</b>
<b>VTEs</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>2.15</b>
<b>Colorectal cancer</b>	<b>0.63</b>		<b>0.29</b>
<b>Hip fractures</b>	<b>0.66</b>		<b>0,25</b>

# WHI

## *Disease Rates for Women on HRT or Placebo*



Adapted from *WHI HRT Update*, June 2002.

# WHI Results: CVD Outcomes

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>HRT n (%)*</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)*</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio</i>	<i>Nominal 95% CI</i>	<i>Adjusted 95% CI</i>
<b>CHD</b>	<b>164 (0.37)</b>	<b>122 (0.30)</b>	<b>1.29</b>	<b>1.02-1.63</b>	<b>0.85-1.97</b>
<b>CHD death</b>	<b>33 (0.07)</b>	<b>26 (0.06)</b>	<b>1.18</b>	<b>0.70-1.97</b>	<b>0.47-2.98</b>
<b>Nonfatal MI</b>	<b>133 (0.30)</b>	<b>96 (0.23)</b>	<b>1.32</b>	<b>1.02-1.72</b>	<b>0.82-2.13</b>
<b>CABG/PTCA</b>	<b>183 (0.42)</b>	<b>171 (0.41)</b>	<b>1.04</b>	<b>0.84-1.28</b>	<b>0.71-1.51</b>
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>127 (0.29)</b>	<b>85 (0.21)</b>	<b>1.41</b>	<b>1.07-1.85</b>	<b>0.86-2.31</b>
<b>Fatal</b>	<b>16 (0.04)</b>	<b>13 (0.03)</b>	<b>1.20</b>	<b>0.58-2.50</b>	<b>0.32-4.49</b>
<b>Nonfatal</b>	<b>94 (0.21)</b>	<b>59 (0.14)</b>	<b>1.50</b>	<b>1.08-2.08</b>	<b>0.83-2.70</b>
<b>VTE disease</b>	<b>151 (0.34)</b>	<b>67 (0.16)</b>	<b>2.11</b>	<b>1.58-2.82</b>	<b>1.26-3.55</b>
<b>Deep vein thrombosis</b>	<b>115 (0.26)</b>	<b>52 (0.13)</b>	<b>2.07</b>	<b>1.49-2.87</b>	<b>1.14-3.74</b>
<b>Pulmonary embolism</b>	<b>70 (0.16)</b>	<b>31 (0.08)</b>	<b>2.13</b>	<b>1.39-3.25</b>	<b>0.99-4.56</b>
<b>Total CVD</b>	<b>694 (1.57)</b>	<b>546 (1.32)</b>	<b>1.22</b>	<b>1.09-1.36</b>	<b>1.00-1.49</b>

\*n = number of patients; % = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months. Nominal = variability based on simple trial for single outcome; Adjusted = corrects variability for multiple analyses over time.

Writing Group for Women's Health Initiative Investigators. *JAMA*. 2002;288:321-333.

# WHI Results: Death and Global Index

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>HRT n (%)*</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)*</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio</i>	<i>Nominal 95% CI</i>	<i>Adjusted 95% CI</i>
<b>Death</b>					
Due to other causes	165 (0.37)	166 (0.40)	0.92	0.74-1.14	0.62-1.35
Total	231 (0.52)	218 (0.53)	0.98	0.82-1.18	0.70-1.37
<b>Global Index<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>751 (1.70)</b>	<b>623 (1.51)</b>	<b>1.15</b>	<b>1.03-1.28</b>	<b>0.95-1.39</b>

\*n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months. Nominal = variability based on simple trial for single outcome; Adjusted = corrects variability for multiple analyses over time.

<sup>†</sup>Represents the first event for each participant from among the following types: CHD, stroke, PE, breast cancer, endometrial cancer, colorectal cancer, hip fracture, and death due to other causes.

# WHI Results: Fracture Outcomes

<i>Outcome</i>	<i>HRT n (%)*</i>	<i>Placebo n (%)*</i>	<i>Hazard Ratio</i>	<i>Nominal 95% CI</i>	<i>Adjusted 95% CI</i>
<b>Fractures</b>					
<b>Hip</b>	<b>44 (0.10)</b>	<b>62 (0.15)</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.45-0.98</b>	<b>0.33-1.33</b>
<b>Vertebral</b>	<b>41 (0.09)</b>	<b>60 (0.15)</b>	<b>0.66</b>	<b>0.44-0.98</b>	<b>0.32-1.34</b>
<b>Other osteoporotic<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>579 (1.31)</b>	<b>701 (1.70)</b>	<b>0.77</b>	<b>0.69-0.86</b>	<b>0.63-0.94</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>650 (1.47)</b>	<b>788 (1.91)</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.69-0.85</b>	<b>0.63-0.92</b>

\*n = number of patients; (%) = annualized % calculated from average exposure over ~60 months. Nominal = variability based on simple trial for single outcome; Adjusted = corrects variability for multiple analyses over time.

<sup>†</sup>Includes all fractures other than chest/sternum, skull/face, fingers, toes, and cervical vertebrae, as well as hip and vertebral fractures reported separately.

# WHI Conclusions I

- **No significant improvement of the breast cancer risk and of CPC was found during a treatment of oestrogen only.**
- **In the combined treatment, the risk of breast cancer did not increase for four years.**
- **The combined treatment need not pursued or initiated to prevent secondary cardiopathies.**
- **A purely primary cardiovascular prevention has not been studied.**
- **The average age (63 years) does not correspond to the usual age, at which the treatment is initiated in the female Swiss population.**
-

# WHI Conclusions II

- ◆ The profile of the patients chosen for the study was unusual.
- ◆ In order to prevent osteoporosis, women may consult their doctors to evaluate the benefits against their personal risks of a myocardial infarction, CVA, thrombosis and breast cancer; there are alternative therapies for the prevention of osteoporosis and fractures.
- ◆ Short-term treatments of menopause-related symptoms have not been studied.
- ◆ Data are no longer available for other combinations and doses.

# Conclusion

*Bush T.L., Whiteman M.K.*

*Hormone replacement therapy and risk of breast cancer.*

*Jama, 1999; 281 : 2140-2141*

**« A potential risk improvement, if it exists at all, will be less important or will apply only to a limited population; otherwise it would have been observed more consistently in most epidemiological studies performed with a satisfactory methodology. »**