# Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease (ASCVD) Risk Prediction

#### Jennifer G Robinson MD MPH

Director, Preventive Intervention Center

Departments of Epidemiology and Internal Medicine, Division of Cardiology

University of Iowa

#### **Disclosures**

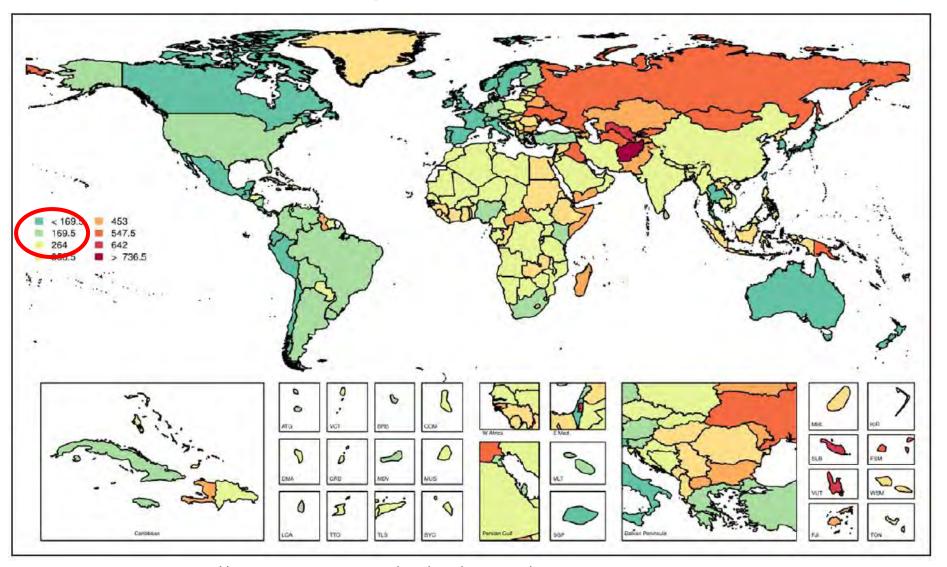
#### Jennifer G Robinson MD MPH:

- Received research grants to Institution from Acasti, Amarin, Amgen, Astra-Zeneca, Esai, Esperion, Merck, Novartis, Novo-Nordisk, Pfizer, Regeneron, Sanofi, Takeda
- Consultant for Amgen, Medicines Company, Merck, Novartis, Novo Nordisk, Pfizer, Regeneron, and Sanofi
- Vice Chair, 2013 ACC/AHA Cholesterol Guideline
- Member, 2013 ACC/AHA Risk Assessment Guideline

# **Burden of ASCVD**

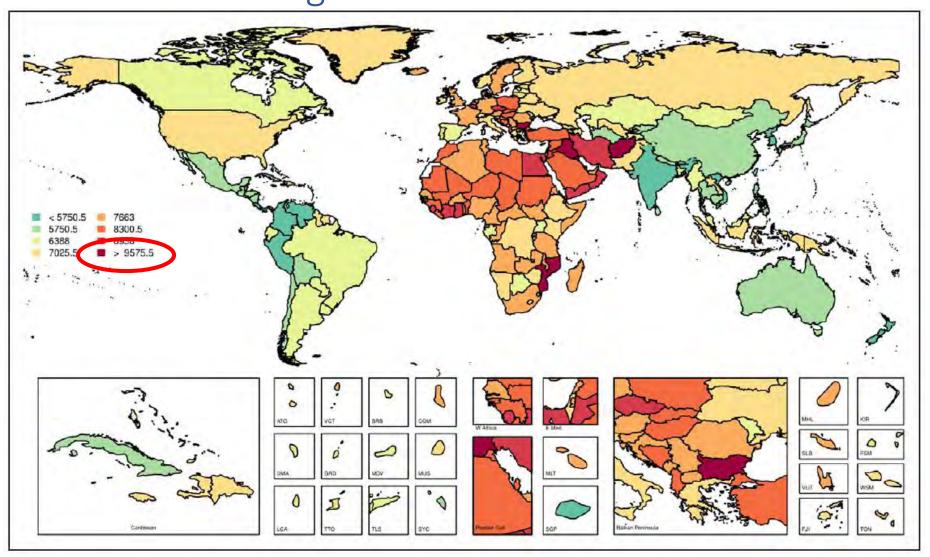
## Global CVD mortality

Age-standardized 2016

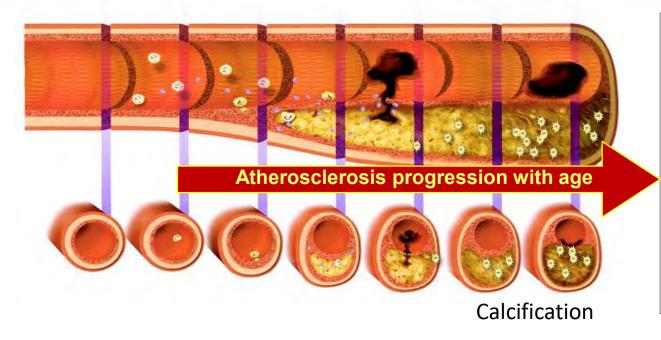


## Global CVD prevalence

Age-standardized 2016



# Atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) progression through the lifespan



#### **ASCVD EVENTS**

Acute coronary syndromes - MI/Unstable angina

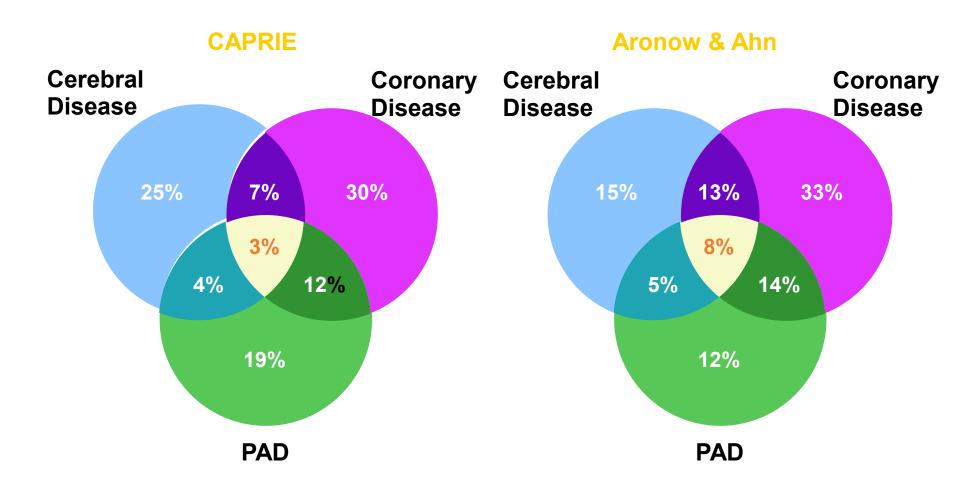
Ischemic stroke/TIA

Critical leg ischemia

**Intermittent** claudication

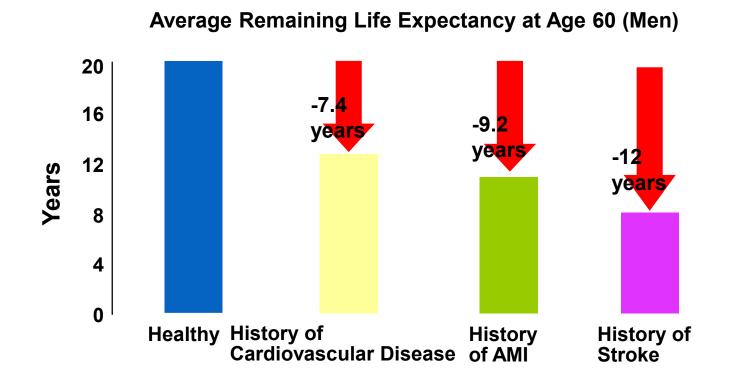
CV death

#### Overlap of clinical manifestations of ASCVD

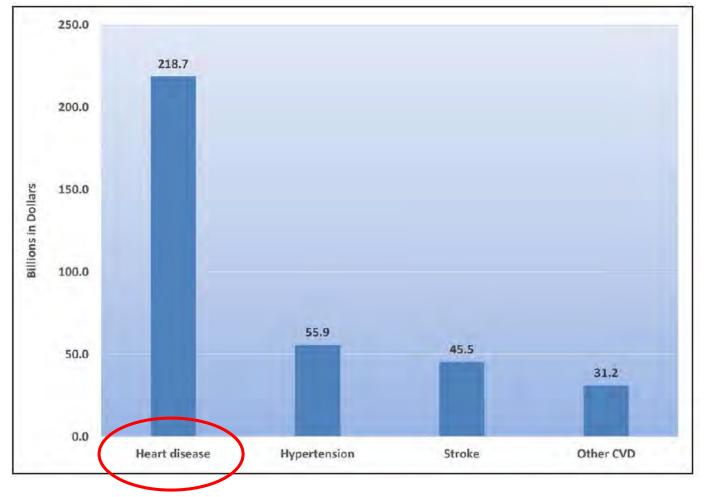


# **ASCVD Shortens Life Expectancy**

ASCVD reduces life expectancy by around 8-12 years in patients aged over 60 years<sup>1</sup>



# Direct and indirect costs of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and stroke (in billions of dollars), United States, 2015.



## **ASCVD Risk Factors**

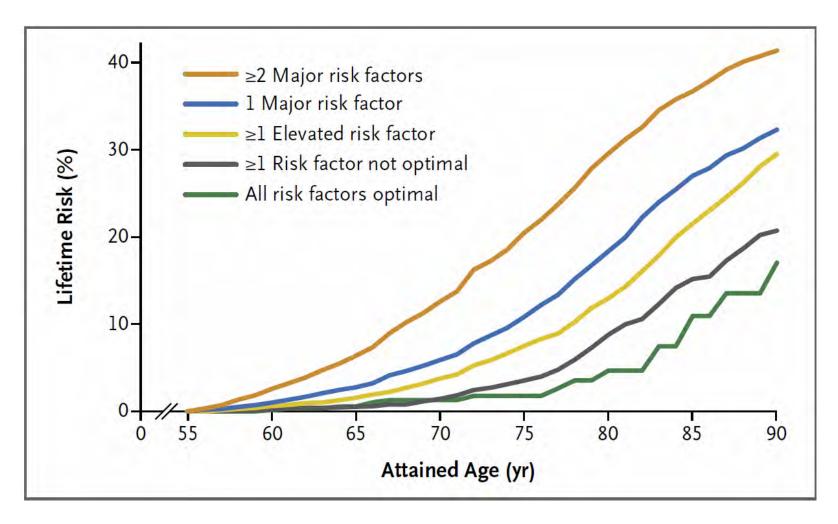
# "Traditional" CVD risk factors

- Age
- Sex
- Smoking
- High blood pressure
- High total /LDL-cholesterol
- Low HDL-cholesterol
- Family history premature CVD
- Diabetes mellitus

### Risk factors are important

- Traditional risk factors cause >85% of lifetime CVD risk
- Effective risk factor treatment can lower lifetime CVD risk by >80%
- Effective risk factor treatment can prolong life by at least 11 years (if started by age 55)
- Risk factors are additive

# Number of "traditional" risk factors predict lifetime risk of ASCVD

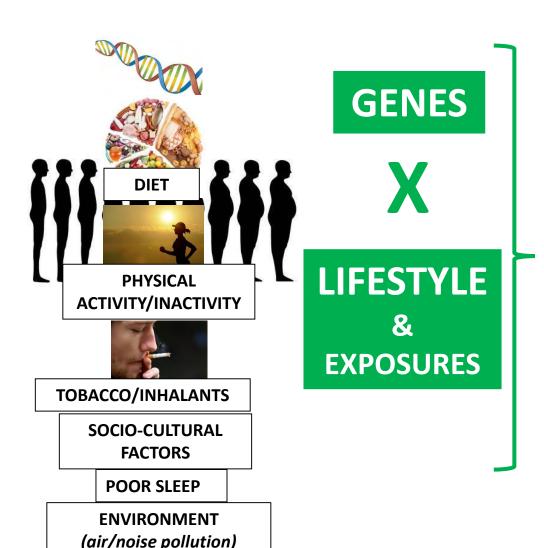


Berry, J.D., et al. N Engl J Med, 2012. **366**(4): p. 321-329.

# Lifestyle risk factors

- Obesity
- Lack of physical activity
- Poor diet
  - High fat/saturated fat
  - Low fruits/vegetables
  - Low fiber/whole grains
- Poor sleep
- Increased levels of other risk factors
- Also have independent effects

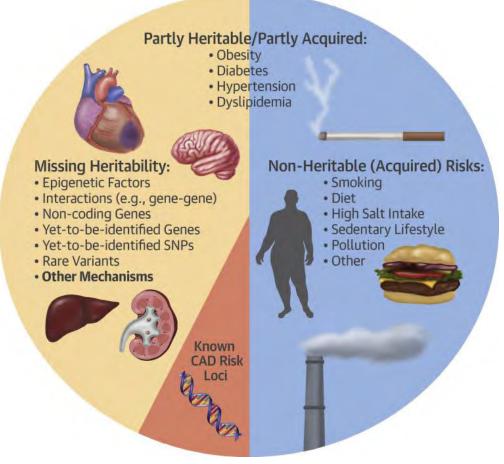
#### **ASCVD** risk



# Measured as & effect mediated by "Traditional Risk Factors"

- Age
- Sex
- Race
- Hypertension (high blood pressure)
- Smoking
- High "bad" cholesterol (LDLcholesterol)
- Low "good" cholesterol (HDLcholesterol)
- Diabetes

# Heritability of CHD



#### **Suspected and Known Factors Responsible for CAD**

The basis of "missing heritability" remains a topic of intense ongoing speculation. The factors depicted here illustrate specific aspects that appear to be of potential relevance, rather than being in any way a definitive or exhaustive list of all factors that cause coronary artery disease (CAD). SNP = single nucleotide polymorphism.

# Biomarkers or "Non-traditional risk factors" Add little or no new information to traditional risk factors

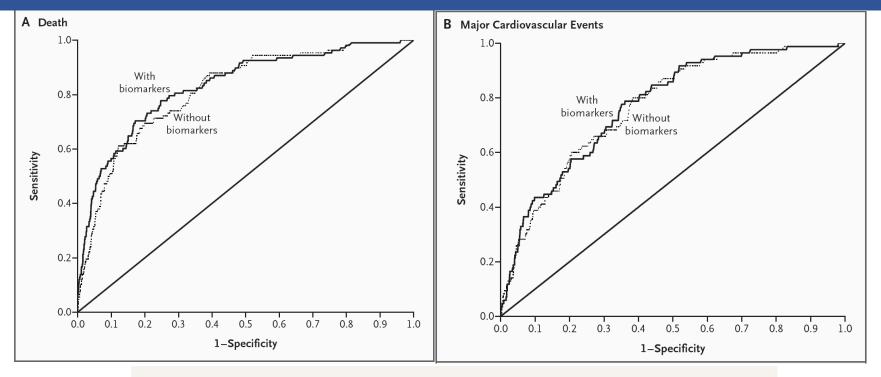
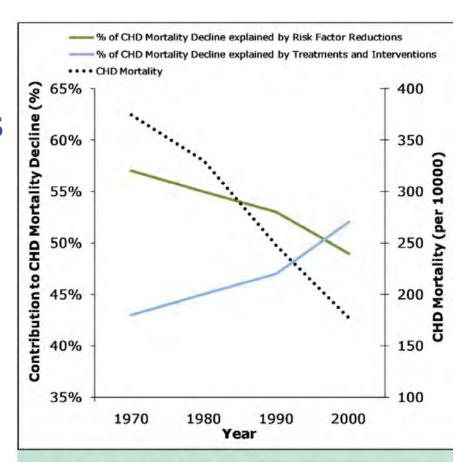


Figure 2. Receiver-Operating-Characteristic Curves for Death (Panel A) and for Major Cardiovascular Events (Panel B) during 5-Year Follow-up.

For each end point, curves are based on models of the prediction of risk with the use of conventional risk factors with or without biomarkers (multimarker score). Biomarkers for death were B-type natriuretic peptide, C-reactive protein, the urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio, homocysteine, and renin. Biomarkers for major cardiovascular events were B-type natriuretic peptide and the urinary albumin-to-creatinine ratio.

# Explanations for Dramatic Decline CHD Mortality in US over 30 years



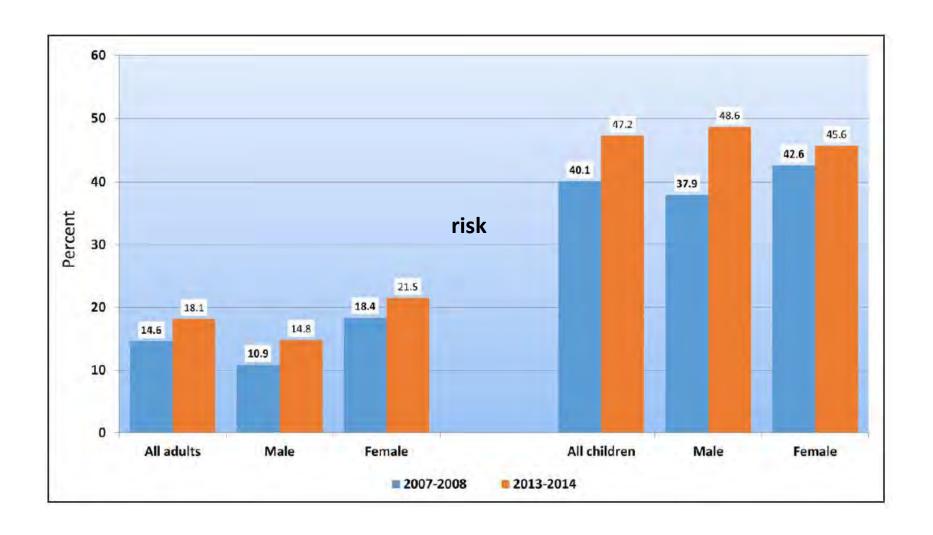
**Figure 2** Contribution to the decline of coronary heart disease mortality of risk factor control, medical treatments, and interventions in the US from 1968 to 2000. Data drawn from the National Vital Statistics System of the US and Goldman and Cook,<sup>20</sup> Hunink et al,<sup>21</sup> and Ford et al.<sup>22</sup>

- 50% due to ↓risk factors
- 50% due to acute treatment/interventions

#### AHA's 7 Metrics of Ideal CV Health Low lifetime ASCVD risk

- Never/Nonsmoker >12 months
- BMI <25 mg/kg<sup>2</sup>
- 150+ min/week moderate or 75+ vigorous
- 4-5 Healthy diet components
- Total cholesterol <200 mg/dl</li>
  - LDL-C <100 mg/dl (2.6 mmol/L)</li>
  - Non-HDL-C <130 mg/dl (3.4 mmol/L)</li>
- BP <120/<80 mm Hg</li>
- Fasting glucose <100 mg/dl</li>

#### Prevalence of meeting >5 of 7 Ideal CV Health metrics, US



## **ASCVD Risk Prediction**

#### **ASCVD Risk Prediction**

#### Why:

- Prioritize patients for intervention
- Guide intensity of intervention

#### • Who:

- Primary prevention LDL-C <190 mg/dl (4.9 mmol/L) risk estimation to guide treatment</li>
  - Age 20-75 years
  - No history of clinical ASCVD event
  - Not on statin therapy
- Secondary prevention Considered high/very high risk all guidelines
  - No validated equations yet to predict ASCVD risk in patients with subclinical or clinical ASCVD

#### When:

- Lifetime risk: Age 20-55 years, every 4-6 years thereafter
- 10-year ASCVD risk: age 40-75 years, every 4-6 years thereafter

#### How:

US PCEs adapted to your country

## Types of events predicted

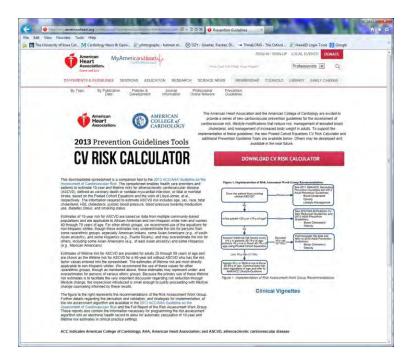
- ASCVD US
  - Myocardial infarction, stroke, CVD death
- Cardiovascular death Europe
- MACE (Major adverse cardiovascular events) clinical trial endpoint
  - ASCVD + arterial revascularizations (coronary + carotid + peripheral) + hospitalized(unstable) angina
- Heart failure
  - Ischemic & noniscehmic causes
  - HfPEF & HfREF
- All-cause death

## Risk prediction equations - US

- U.S. Pooled Cohort Equations (PCE) 10-year & Lifetime ASCVD Risk
  - Variables: Age, sex, race, smoking, total cholesterol, HDL-C, systolic BP/antihypertensive treatment, diabetes
  - Derived from 5 US epidemiologic cohorts of Caucasian & African American women & men
    - Validated in general US population of Caucasian & African Americans
      - Overestimates ASCVD risk in lower risk populations
        - East Asian ancestry (China, Japan, Korea), insured, volunteers)
      - Underestimates risk in higher risk populations
        - South Asians (India, Pakistan, Bangledesh), Pacific Islanders, Native Americans
      - Has not been evaluated in Middle-Eastern ancestry US population

#### **US PCE Risk Calculator/Apps**

- <a href="http://my.americanheart.org/professional/StatementsGuidelines/PreventionGuidelines
- iTunes (iPhones, iPads) -> <a href="https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ascvd-risk-estimator/id808875968?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2">https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/ascvd-risk-estimator/id808875968?mt=8&ign-mpt=uo%3D2</a>
- Google Play (Android phones/tablets) ->
   <a href="https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acc.cvrisk&hl=en">https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=org.acc.cvrisk&hl=en</a>
- Web Version (Desktops) -> <a href="http://tools.cardiosource.org/ASCVD-Risk-Estimator/">http://tools.cardiosource.org/ASCVD-Risk-Estimator/</a>



#### Risk stratification – ESC/EAS guideline

#### Very-high-

People with any of the following:

on imaging. Documented ASCVD includes previous ACS (MI or unstable angina), stable angina, coronary revascularization (PCI, CABG, and other arterial revascularization procedures), stroke and TIA, and peripheral arterial disease. Unequivocally documented ASCVD on imaging includes those findings that are known to be predictive of clinical events, such as significant plaque on coronary angiography or CT scan (multivessel coronary disease with two major epicardial arteries having >50% stenosis), or on carotid ultrasound.

DM with target organ damage,<sup>a</sup> or at least three major risk factors, or early onset of T1DM of long duration (>20 years).

Severe CKD (eGFR <30 mL/min/1.73 m²).

A calculated SCORE ≥10% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.

FH with ASCVD or with another major risk factor.

#### High-risk People with: Markedly elevated single risk factors, in particular TC >8 mmol/L (>310 mg/dL), LDL-C >4.9 mmol/L (>190 mg/dL), or BP $\geq 180/110 \text{ mmHg}$ . Patients with FH without other major risk factors. Patients with DM without target organ damage, with DM duration ≥10 years or another additional risk factor. Moderate CKD (eGFR 30-59 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>). A calculated SCORE ≥5% and <10% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD. Moderate-risk Young patients (T1DM <35 years; T2DM <50 years) with DM duration <10 years, without other risk factors. Calculated SCORE ≥1 % and <5% for 10-year

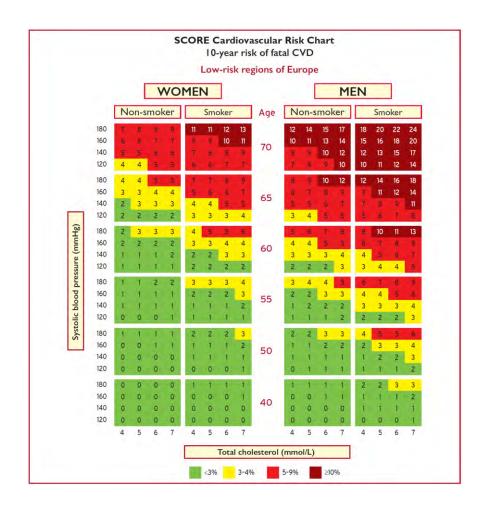
Calculated SCORE < 1% for 10-year risk of fatal CVD.

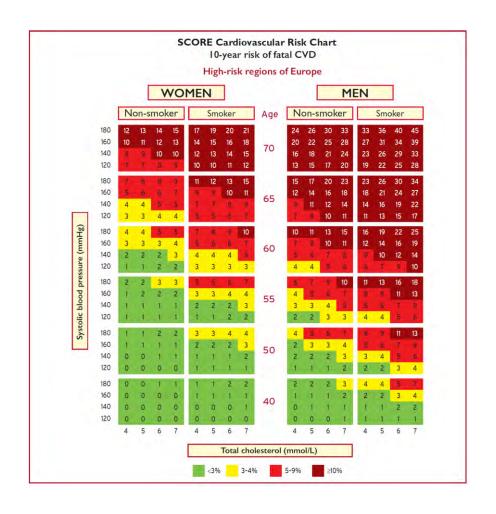
Mach F, et al. Eur Heart J 2020; 41: 111-188

risk of fatal CVD.

Low-risk

### SCORE – 2019 ESC/EAS Dyslipidemia Guideline

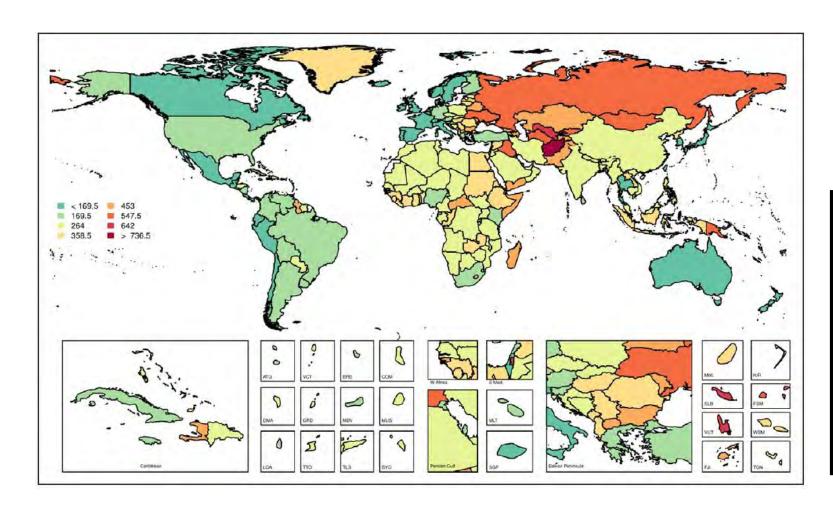




#### Risk prediction equations – Europe

- SCORE 5-year CV death
  - CVD deaths 25% of ASCVD events
  - Low risk and high risk European countries
  - PCE perform better in all populations for predicting population burden of ASCVD and benefit from statin therapy
- QRISK3 10-year risk CHD, stroke, TIA
  - Highly specific to UK
  - 18 variables including socioeconomic risk factors & comorbidities

#### Global CVD mortality, Age-standardized 2016



Oman 264/US 169.6 = 1.56 X higher risk in Oman

Oman 264/Low Europe 150 = 1.76 X higher risk in Oman

Average Omani risk estimate could be 50-75% higher than US PCE or ESC/EAS SCORE!!

# Application of Risk Prediction Equations

# 2019 ACC/AHA Guideline on the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease: Executive Summary

Arnett D, et al. Journal of the American College of Cardiology 2019; 74: 1376-1414 and Circulation 2019; https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/abs/10.1161/CIR.00000000000000677





#### Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk

	Recommendations for Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk				
COR	LOE	Recommendations			
ı	B-NR	1. For adults 40 to 75 years of age, clinicians should routinely assess traditional cardiovascular risk factors and calculate 10-year risk of ASCVD by using the pooled cohort equations (PCE).			
lla	B-NR	2. For adults 20 to 39 years of age, it is reasonable to assess traditional ASCVD risk factors at least every 4 to 6 years.			
lla	B-NR	3. In adults at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk) or intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk), it is reasonable to use additional risk-enhancing factors* to guide decisions about preventive interventions (e.g., statin therapy).			

\*Our recent analyses found risk enhancing factors do not increase risk.

American

Base treatment decisions on the estimated 10-year ASCVD risk

#### Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk (cont'd)

Recommendations for Assessment of Cardiovascular Risk				
COR	LOE	Recommendations		
lla	B-NR	4. In adults at intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) or selected adults at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk), if risk-based decisions for preventive interventions (e.g., statin therapy) remain uncertain, it is reasonable to measure a coronary artery calcium score to guide clinician—patient risk discussion.		
IIb	B-NR	5. For adults 20 to 39 years of age and for those 40 to 59 years of age who have <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk, estimating lifetime or 30-year ASCVD risk may be considered.		





#### Table 3. Risk-Enhancing Factors for Clinician-Patient Risk Discussion

#### **Risk-Enhancing Factors**

- Family history of premature ASCVD (males, age <55 y; females, age <65 y)
- Primary hypercholesterolemia (LDL-C 160–189 mg/dL [4.1–4.8 mmol/L];
   non–HDL-C 190–219 mg/dL [4.9–5.6 mmol/L])\*
- Metabolic syndrome (increased waist circumference [by ethnically appropriate cutpoints], elevated triglycerides [>150 mg/dL, nonfasting], elevated blood pressure, elevated glucose, and low HDL-C [<40 mg/dL in men; <50 mg/dL in women] are factors; a tally of 3 makes the diagnosis)</li>
- **Chronic kidney disease** (eGFR 15–59 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> with or without albuminuria; not treated with dialysis or kidney transplantation)
- **Chronic inflammatory conditions,** such as psoriasis, RA, lupus, or HIV/AIDS

Our recent analyses found risk enhancing factors do not increase risk.

Base treatment decisions on the estimated 10-year ASCVD risk

ABI indicates ankle-brachial index; AIDS, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome; apoB, apolipoprotein B; ASCVD, atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HDL-C, high-density lipoprotein cholesterol; HIV, human immunodeficiency virus; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; Lp(a), lipoprotein (a); and RA, rheumatoid arthritis.

#### Table 3. Risk-Enhancing Factors for Clinician-Patient Risk Discussion (cont'd)

#### Risk-Enhancing Factors

- History of premature menopause (before age 40 y) and history of pregnancy-associated conditions that increase later ASCVD risk, such as preeclampsia
- **High-risk race/ethnicity** (e.g., South Asian ancestry)
- **Lipids/biomarkers**: associated with increased ASCVD risk
- Persistently elevated,\* primary hypertriglyceridemia (≥175 mg/dL, nonfasting);
- If measured:
  - **Elevated high-sensitivity C-reactive protein** (≥2.0 mg/L)
  - Elevated Lp(a): A relative indication for its measurement is family history of premature ASCVD.
    An Lp(a) ≥50 mg/dL or ≥125 nmol/L constitutes a risk-enhancing factor, especially at higher levels of Lp(a).
  - Elevated apoB (≥130 mg/dL): A relative indication for its measurement would be triglyceride ≥200 mg/dL. A level ≥130 mg/dL corresponds to an LDL-C >160 mg/dL and constitutes a riskenhancing factor
  - **ABI** (<0.9)





#### LDL-C Lowering Therapy

Primary prevention statin therapy				
COR	LOE	Recommendations		
ı	A	<ol> <li>In adults at intermediate risk (≥7.5% to &lt;20% 10-year ASCVD risk), statin therapy reduces risk of ASCVD, and in the context of a risk discussion, if a decision is made for statin therapy, a moderate-intensity statin should be recommended.</li> </ol>		
I	A	2. In intermediate risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) patients, LDL-C levels should be reduced by 30% or more, and for optimal ASCVD risk reduction, especially in patients at high risk (≥20% 10-year ASCVD risk), levels should be reduced by 50% or more.		





### LDL-C Lowering Therapy

Primary prevention statin therapy		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
ı	Α	3. In adults 40 to 75 years of age with diabetes, regardless of estimated 10-year ASCVD risk, moderate-intensity statin therapy is indicated.
I	B-R	4. In patients 20 to 75 years of age with an LDL-C level of 190 mg/dL (≥4.9 mmol/L) or higher, maximally tolerated statin therapy is recommended.





### LDL-C Lowering Therapy

	Primary prevention statin therapy- Diabetes		
COR	LOE	Recommendations	
lla	B-R	5. In adults with diabetes mellitus who have multiple ASCVD risk factors, it is reasonable to prescribe high-intensity statin therapy with the aim to reduce LDL-C levels by 50% or more.	
lla	B-R	6. In intermediate-risk (≥7.5% to <20% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults, risk-enhancing factors favor initiation or intensification of statin therapy*.	

<sup>\*</sup> recent analyses show risk enhancing factors do not increase risk Base treatment decisions on risk cut-point





### LDL-C Lowering Therapy

Primary prevention – Optional CAC scoring		
COR	LOE	Recommendations
lla	B-NR	<ul> <li>7. In intermediate-risk (≥7.5% to &lt;20% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults or selected borderline-risk (5% to &lt;7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk) adults in whom a coronary artery calcium score is measured for the purpose of making a treatment decision, AND</li> <li>If the coronary artery calcium score is zero, it is reasonable to withhold statin therapy and reassess in 5 to 10 years, as long as higher-risk conditions are absent (e.g., diabetes, family history of premature CHD, cigarette smoking, LDL-C &lt;130 mg/dl);</li> <li>If coronary artery calcium score is 1 to 99, it is reasonable to initiate statin therapy for patients ≥55 years of age;</li> <li>If coronary artery calcium score is 100 or higher or in the 75th percentile or higher, it is reasonable to initiate statin therapy.</li> </ul>





### Adults with High Blood Cholesterol (cont'd)

Recommendations for Adults with High Blood Cholesterol			
COR	COR LOE Recommendations		
IIb	B-R	8. In patients at borderline risk (5% to <7.5% 10-year ASCVD risk), in risk discussion, the presence of risk-enhancing factors may justify initiation of moderate-intensity statin therapy.	





LDL-C ≥190 mg/dL (≥4.9 mmol/L) No risk assessment; High-intensity statin **Primary Prevention:** Fig. 3. (Class I) Assess ASCVD Risk in Each Age Group Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y **Emphasize Adherence to Healthy Lifestyle** Moderate-intensity statin (Class I) Age 20-39 y Age 40-75 y and Diabetes mellitus and age 40-75 y Age 0-19 v Estimate lifetime risk LDL-C ≥70-<190 mg/dL Risk assessment to consider high-intensity statin Lifestyle to prevent or reduce to encourage lifestyle to reduce (≥1.8-<4.9 mmol/L) (Class IIa) **ASCVD** risk ASCVD risk without diabetes mellitus Diagnosis of Familial Consider statin if family history Age >75 y 10-year ASCVD risk percent Hypercholesterolemia→ statin premature ASCVD and LDL-C begins risk discussion Clinical assessment, Risk discussion ≥160 mg/dL (≥4.1 mmol/L) ASCVD Risk Enhancers: <5% 5% - <7.5% ≥7.5% - <20% ≥20% Family history of premature ASCVD "High Risk" Persistently elevated LDL-C ≥160 mg/ "Low Risk" "Borderline Risk" "Intermediate Risk" dL (≥4.1 mmol/L) Chronic kidney disease Metabolic syndrome Conditions specific to women (e.g., Risk discussion: preeclampsia, premature menopause) Risk discussion: Inflammatory diseases (especially Risk discussion: If risk estimate + risk Risk discussion: If risk enhancers present rheumatoid arthritis, psoriasis, HIV) Emphasize lifestyle enhancers favor statin. then risk discussion Initiate statin to reduce Ethnicity (e.g., South Asian ancestry) to reduce risk initiate moderate-LDL-C ≥50% regarding moderateintensity statin to reduce factors intensity statin therapy (Class I) Lipid/Biomarkers: (Class I) LDL-C by 30% - 49% Persistently elevated triglycerides (Class IIb) (Class I) (≥175 mg/dL, (≥2.0 mmol/L)) In selected individuals if measured: hs-CRP ≥2.0 mg/L If risk decision is uncertain: Lp(a) levels >50 mg/dL or >125 nmol/L Consider measuring CAC in selected adults: apoB ≥130 mg/dL CAC = zero (lowers risk; consider no statin, unless diabetes, family history of Ankle-brachial index (ABI) < 0.9 premature CHD, or cigarette smoking are present) CAC = 1-99 favors statin (especially after age 55) CAC = 100+ and/or ≥75th percentile, initiate statin therapy





## Table 5. Diabetes-Specific Risk Enhancers That Are Independent of Other Risk Factors in Diabetes Mellitus

### **Risk Enhancers in Diabetic Patients**

- Long duration (≥10 years for T2DM (S4.3-36) or ≥20 years for type 1 diabetes mellitus (S4.3-16))
- Albuminuria ≥30 mcg albumin/mg creatinine (S4.3-37)
- eGFR <60 mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup> (S4.3-37)
- Retinopathy (\$4.3-38)
- Neuropathy (\$4.3-39)
- ABI < 0.9 (\$4.3-40, \$4.3-41)</li>

ABI indicates ankle-brachial index; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; and T2DM, type 2 diabetes mellitus.





# Table 6. Selected Examples of Candidates for CAC Measurement Who Might Benefit from Knowing Their CAC Score is Zero

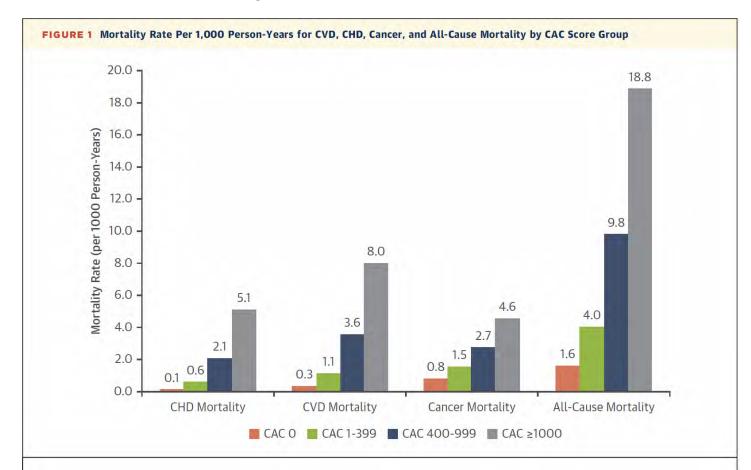
### **CAC Measurement Candidates Who Might Benefit from Knowing Their CAC Score Is Zero**

- Patients reluctant to initiate statin who wish to understand their risk and potential for benefit more precisely
- Patients concerned about need to reinstitute statin therapy after discontinuation for statinassociated symptoms
- Older patients (men 55–80 y of age; women 60–80 y of age) with low burden of risk factors (S4.4-42) who question whether they would benefit from statin therapy
- Keep CAC zero! I disagree with this one: Adults (40–55 y of age) with PCE-calculated 10-year risk for ASCVD 5% to <7.5% with factors that increase their ASCVD risk, although they are in a borderline risk group.





## Presence of CAC predicts all-cause death



Incidence rates increased for all-cause and cause-specific mortality with increasing CAC scores. Particularly those with CAC score ≥1,000 had a 5.1, 8.0, 4.6, and 18.8 mortality rate per 1,000 person-years for CHD, CVD, cancer, and all-cause mortality, respectively. In contrast, those with CAC scores from 400 to 99 had a 2.1, 3.6, 2.7, and 9.8 mortality rate per 1,000 person-years for CHD, CVD, cancer, and all-cause mortality, respectively. \*A version of this figure including error bars for 95% confidence interval can be found in Supplemental Figure 1. CAC = coronary artery calcium; CHD = coronary heart disease; CVD = cardiovascular disease.

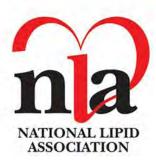
### Adults with High Blood Pressure or Hypertension

Recommendations for Adults with High Blood Pressure or Hypertension			
COR	LOE	Recommendations	
I	SBP: B-RSR	5. In adults with T2DM and hypertension, antihypertensive drug treatment should be initiated at a BP of 130/80 mm Hg or higher, with a treatment	
	DBP: C- EO	goal of less than 130/80 mm Hg.	
l	C-LD	6. In adults with an estimated 10-year ASCVD risk <10% and an SBP of 140 mm Hg or higher or a DBP of 90 mm Hg or higher, initiation and use of BP-lowering medication are recommended.	





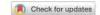
# Secondary Prevention ASCVD Risk Prediction



Journal of Clinical Lipidology

### Scientific Statement

# Enhancing the value of PCSK9 monoclonal antibodies by identifying patients most likely to benefit. A consensus statement from the National Lipid Association



Jennifer G. Robinson, MD, MPH\*, Manju Bengularu Jayanna, MBBS, Alan S. Brown, MD, FACC, FNLA, Karen Aspry, MD, MS, FACC, FNLA, FAHA, Carl Orringer, MD, FNLA, Edward A. Gill, MD, FNLA, FASE, FACP, FACC, FAHA, Anne Goldberg, MD, FACP, FNLA, Laney K. Jones, PharmD, MPH, Kevin Maki, PhD, Dave L. Dixon, PharmD, Joseph J. Saseen, PharmD, FNLA, Daniel Soffer, MD, FNLA, FACP

Division of Cardiology, Departments of Epidemiology and Internal Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA (Dr Robinson); Division of Cardiology, Departments of Epidemiology and Internal Medicine, University of Iowa, Iowa City, IA, USA (Dr Jayanna); Division of Cardiology, Advocate Heart Institute at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, IL, USA (Dr Brown); Brown University, Alpert Medical School, Lifespan Cardiovascular Institute, RI, USA (Dr Aspry); University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, Miami, FL, USA (Dr Orringer); Division of Cardiology, University of Colorado School of Medicine, Aurora, CO, USA (Dr Gill); Professor of Medicine, Washington University School of Medicine, St. Louis, MO, USA (Dr Goldberg); Genomic Medicine Institute, Danville, PA, USA (Dr Jones); Midwest Biomedical Research, Center for Metabolic and Cardiovascular Health, Wheaton, IL, USA (Dr Maki); Department of Pharmacotherapy & Outcomes Science, Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, VA, USA (Dr Dixon); University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, CO, USA (Dr Saseen); and Department of Internal Medicine, University of Pennsylvania Health System, Philadelphia, PA, USA (Dr Soffer)

### **KEYWORDS:**

PCSK9 inhibitors; Ezetimibe; Secondary prevention; Familial hypercholesterolemia; Cost-effectiveness Abstract: Acquisition costs and cost-effectiveness have limited access and recommendations to use proprotein convertase subtilisin/kexin type 9 (PCSK9)–inhibiting monoclonal antibodies (mAbs). Recently, prices were reduced by 60% for alirocumab and evolocumab. This statement systematically reviewed subgroup analyses from statin and PCSK9 mAb trials to identify higher risk groups for which PCSK9 mAbs at the new price could be considered a reasonable (<US\$100,000 per quality adjusted life year [QALY]) or high (<US\$50,000 per QALY) value. In patients at extremely high risk, with a high burden of athersclerotic cardiovascular disease (ASCVD) or ASCVD with multiple poorly controlled or adverse risk factors, PCSK9 mAbs can provide reasonable value when low-density lipoprotein cholesterol (LDL-C) is ≥70 mg/dL. In patients at very high risk (ASCVD without peripheral arterial disease and lower levels of poorly controlled risk factors), PCSK9 mAbs provide a reasonable

### Extremely high risk >40% 10-year ASCVD risk

Systematic review subgroups of RCTS Moderate vs high intensity statins, PCSK9 mAbs

ON STATIN THERAPY			
Burden and activity of clinical ASCVD	Adverse or poorly controlled cardiometabolic risk factors		
EXTREMELY HIGH ATHEROSCLEROTIC BURDEN	EXTREMELY HIGH RISK FACTORS		
Majority had at least 1 additional adverse or	poorly controlled cardiometabolic risk factor		
<ul> <li>Polyvascular clinical ASCVD (coronary heart disease†, ischemic stroke, and symptomatic peripheral arterial disease)</li> <li>Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease** in addition to a coronary heart disease† or ischemic stroke</li> <li>A clinical ASCVD event (coronary heart disease†, stroke, or symptomatic peripheral arterial disease**) with multi-vessel coronary artery disease defined as ≥40% stenosis in ≥2 large vessels</li> <li>Recurrent myocardial infarction within 2 years</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Heterozygous familial hypercholesterolemia with clinical ASCVD (or coronary artery calcium &gt;100)</li> <li>History of myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, or symptomatic peripheral arterial disease** with at least one of:         <ul> <li>Diabetes</li> <li>LDL-C &gt;100 mg/dl</li> <li>Less than high intensity statin therapy</li> <li>High sensitivity C-reactive protein &gt;3 mg/L</li> </ul> </li> <li>Poorly controlled hypertension and clinical ASCVD</li> </ul>		

### Very high risk 30-39% 10-year ASCVD risk

Systematic review subgroups of RCTS Moderate vs high intensity statins, PCSK9 mAbs

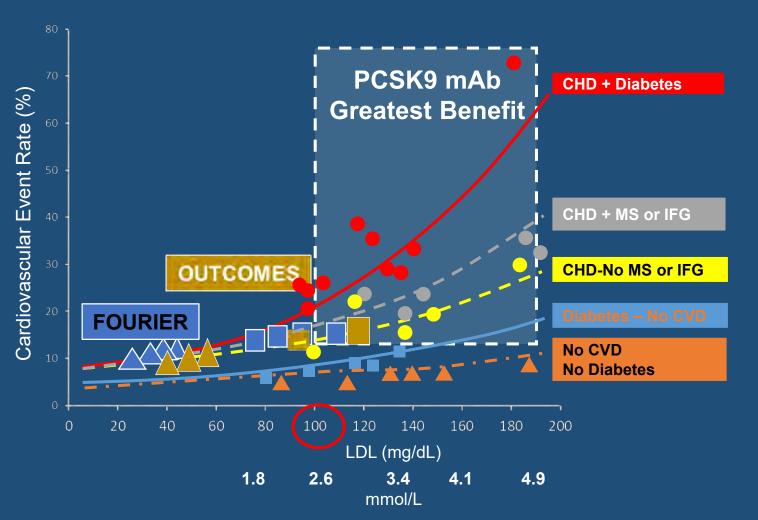
ON STATIN	THERAPY
Burden and activity of clinical ASCVD	Adverse or poorly controlled cardiometabolic risk factors
VERY HIGH ATHEROSCLEROTIC BURDEN	VERY HIGH RISK FACTORS
Majority had at least 1 additional adverse or	poorly controlled cardiometabolic risk factor
<ul> <li>Recent acute coronary syndrome (only if no subsequent event within 2 years)</li> <li>Coronary heart disease† and ischemic stroke without symptomatic peripheral arterial disease**</li> <li>Coronary artery bypass grafting</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Clinical ASCVD and one or more of:</li> <li>Age ≥65 years</li> <li>Chronic kidney disease</li> <li>Lipoprotein(a) ≥37 nmol/L</li> <li>High sensitivity C-reactive protein 1-3 mg/L</li> <li>Metabolic syndrome with a history of myocardial infarction, ischemic stroke, or symptomatic peripheral arterial disease**</li> <li>Smoking</li> </ul>

### High risk 20-29% 10-year ASCVD risk

Systematic review subgroups of RCTS Moderate vs high intensity statins, PCSK9 mAbs

ON STATIN THERAPY			
Burden and activity of clinical ASCVD			
HIGH ATHEROSCLEROTIC BURDEN	WELL-CONTROLLED RISK FACTORS		
<ul> <li>High burden (20-29% 10-year ASCVD risk)</li> <li>Coronary heart disease† only</li> <li>Ischemic stroke only</li> <li>Symptomatic peripheral arterial disease only**</li> <li>Acute coronary syndrome with no subsequent ASCVD event after 2 years</li> </ul>			

### Log Linear Association LDL-C & CV Event Reduction



Diminishing returns at lower LDL-C levels

CVD, cardiovascular disease; IFG, impaired fasting glucose; LDL-C, low-density lipoprotein cholesterol; mAb, monoclonal antibody; MS, metabolic syndrome; PCSK9, proprotein convertase subtilisin/kinexin type 9.

Adapted from Risk curve concept: Robinson JG, Stone NJ. Am J Cardiol. 2006:98;1405-1408.; FOURIER median of baseline LDL-C quartiles from Sabatine M, et al. Presented ACC Scientific Sessions; March 2017; Washington DC; Schwartz G, et al N Engl J Med 2019; 379: 2097-2017

# 5-year NNTs, Acquisition Costs, and Quality Adjusted Life-years (QALY)

5-year NNT 10-14	No discount (\$14,000/year) /≈ \$150,000 QALY (Poor value)	
	Discount ≈ 50% (≈ \$7700/year) /\$150,000 QALY (Low value)	
NNI 21-28	Discount ≈ 60% (≈ \$5400/year) /\$100,000 QALY (Reasonable value) Discount ≈ 77% (≈ \$3200/year) /\$50,000 QALY (High value)	
	Discount ≈ 85% (≈ \$2200/year) to avoid exceeding growth targets US healthcare costs	



NLA Statement
PATIENT GROUPS
WITH REASONABLE TO
HIGH VALUE
FROM ADDING PCSK9
mAb

