

Knowledge and Compassion
Focused on You

How Important Is Inflammation As Determined By C-Reactive Protein (CRP) Levels In Predicting Adverse Cardiac Events: What Drugs Can Lower This Risk



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Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest

Within the past 12 months, I or my spouse/partner have had a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with the organization(s) listed below.

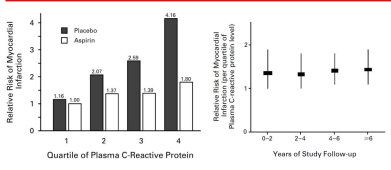
Affiliation/Financial Relationship <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant/Research Support • Consulting Fees/Honoraria 	Company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Philips • Medtronic • Amgen • Boston Scientific • Biotronik • PI CARDIA • Cordis/MedAlliance
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Low Grade Systemic Inflammation *Precedes* By Many Years the Onset of Vascular Events



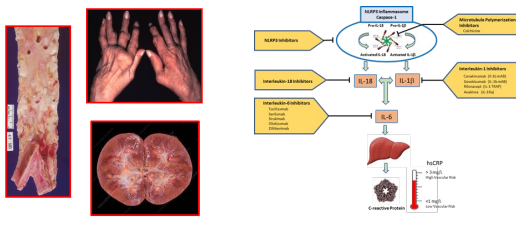
INFLAMMATION, ASPIRIN, AND THE RISK OF CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE IN HYPERLIPIDEMIC PATIENTS
 Prof. M. Ridker, MD, Alan Crofford, MD, MSc, J. Everett, MD, R. Buring, A. Tracy, PhD, and George W. Howard, MD



Quantile of Plasma C-Reactive Protein	Placebo	Aspirin
1	1.00	1.00
2	2.07	1.38
3	2.88	1.58
4	4.85	1.70

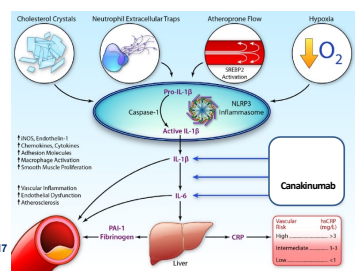
Ridker ESC 2017

Can Targeted Inflammation Inhibition Reduce Cardiovascular Event Rates and Improve Renal Function?



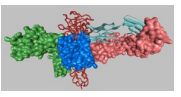
Ridker PM. Circulation 2020;141:787-789

From CRP to IL-6 to IL-1: Moving Upstream to Identify Novel Targets for Atheroprotection

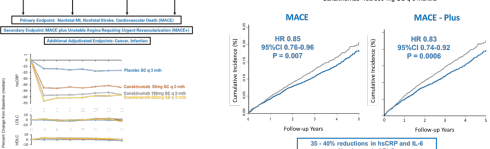


Ridker ESC 2017
 Ridker PM. Circ Res 2016;118:145-156.

Canakinumab, a Human Monoclonal Antibody Neutralizing IL-1β



CANTOS
 Ridker PM, Braunholtz H, Thaler M, et al. N Engl J Med. 2017;377:119-31.



35-48% reductions in hsCRP and IL-6
 No change in LDL-C
 No change in BP

Ridker et al, N Engl J Med. 2017;377:119-31

IL-6 Levels Are a Powerful Predictor of Future Cardiovascular Events

Plasma Concentration of Interleukin-6 and the Risk of Future Myocardial Infarction Among Apparently Healthy Men
Paul M. Ridker, MD, Nader Rifkin, MD, Marc J. Stampfer, MD, Charles H. Hennekens, MD

IL-6 and Risk of Future MI

Conclusion: In apparently healthy men, elevated levels of IL-6 are associated with increased risk of future MI. There are dose-response relationships for continuous and categorical differences in the only range of interleukin-6 elevation.

Ridker et al *Circulation* 2000;101:1767-1772
Kaptoge et al, *Eur Heart J* 2014;35:578-589

ZEUS: Study design

A randomised, parallel-group, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial (recruiting)

Ziltivekimab, a narrow spectrum fully human monoclonal antibody targeting the IL-6 ligand that is being developed specifically for atherosclerosis.

6,200 participants

Serum hsCRP ≥ 2 mg/L

Evidence of ASCVD

CKD defined by:
 UACR ≥ 200 mg/g and eGFR ≥ 60 mL/min/1.73 m²
 or
 eGFR ≥ 15 and < 60 mL/min/1.73 m²

Objective	Primary endpoint	Secondary confirmatory endpoints
To demonstrate the superiority of ziltivekimab 15 mg s.c. once-monthly in reducing the risk of MACE compared to placebo	Time to first occurrence of 3-point MACE: • CV death • non-fatal MI • non-fatal stroke	• Time to first occurrence of expanded MACE [†] • Number of hospitalizations for HF or urgent HF visit • Time to occurrence of all-cause mortality • Time to first occurrence of a composite CKD endpoint*

*Time to first occurrence of a composite of all-cause mortality, hospitalization for HF, urgent HF visit, or all-cause mortality. †Expanded MACE includes all-cause mortality, hospitalization for HF, urgent HF visit, and all-cause mortality. *Composite CKD endpoint includes all-cause mortality, hospitalization for HF, urgent HF visit, and all-cause mortality.

ARTEMIS: ziltivekimab in AMI

9630 patients
 • AMI (STEMI or NSTEMI)
 • Angiographic evidence of atherosclerosis

30 mg Ziltivekimab 15 mg s.c. once monthly + standard of care
 30 mg Placebo 15 mg s.c. once monthly + standard of care

Trial design features:
 • Double blinded
 • 12-month treatment
 • 2 years total duration
 • Hazard ratio 0.80
 • Power 90%, alpha 5%
 • Placebo event rate = 5.0% year⁻¹
 • Loss rate 3.5%/year

Trial objective:
 To demonstrate the superiority of ziltivekimab 15 mg s.c. once-monthly versus placebo, both added to standard of care, in reducing the risk of MACE in patients with AMI

Primary endpoint:
 • Time to the first occurrence of 3-point MACE: cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI and non-fatal stroke

Confirmatory secondary endpoints (hierarchy):
 • Time to the first occurrence of expanded MACE: cardiovascular death, non-fatal MI, non-fatal stroke, urgent revascularization, hospitalization for HF, urgent HF visit
 • HF composite endpoint: hospitalization for HF, urgent HF visit, outpatient diagnosis of HF[†]
 • Time to all-cause death

Colchicine Reduces Cardiovascular Risk Now FDA approved for high-risk patients

LoDoCo2: N=5,522 stable CAD¹

COLCOT: N=4,745 recent MI²

LoDoCo2 HR: 0.69 (95% CI: 0.57, 0.83), p<0.001
 eGFR ≥ 60 mL/min/1.73 m² - HR 0.66 (95% CI: 0.54-0.80)
 eGFR < 60 mL/min/1.73 m² - HR 1.19 (95% CI: 0.53-2.65)

COLCOT HR: 0.77 (95% CI: 0.62, 0.96), p<0.02
 MACE - HR: 0.68 (95% CI: 0.54, 0.81)
 All-cause mortality: HR: 1.04 (95% CI: 0.81, 1.78)

CAD, coronary artery disease; CI, confidence interval; eGFR, estimated glomerular filtration rate; HR, hazard ratio; MACE, major adverse cardiovascular event; MACE, MACE plus heart failure and thromboembolic events; MI, myocardial infarction
 1. Nishi R et al. *N Engl J Med* 2018;379:1838-1847. 2. Torun H et al. *N Engl J Med* 2015;373:1776-1785. 3. Samuel M et al. *Can J Cardiol* 2021;37:776-785. 4. Ridker PM and Rane M. *Circulation Research* 2021;128:1728-1746

FDA Approval of low dose colchicine 0.5 mg po - June 20, 2023

FDA approves colchicine, the first anti-inflammatory drug for treating cardiovascular disease

Dave Fornell | June 20, 2023 | [Pharmaceuticals](#)

INDICATIONS AND USAGE

LODOCO is an alkaloid indicated:

- to reduce the risk of myocardial infarction (MI), stroke, coronary revascularization, and cardiovascular death in adult patients with established atherosclerotic disease or with multiple risk factors for cardiovascular disease (1).

DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION

The recommended dosage is 0.5 mg orally once daily. (2.1).

Anticipated Benefits of Ezetimibe, PCSK9 inhibition, and Colchicine 0.5 mg Following Aggressive Use of Statin Therapy

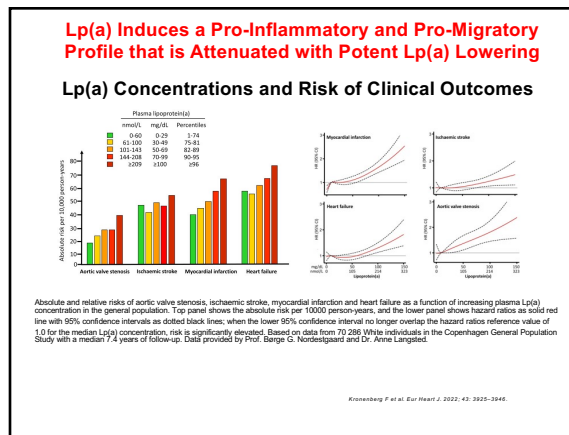
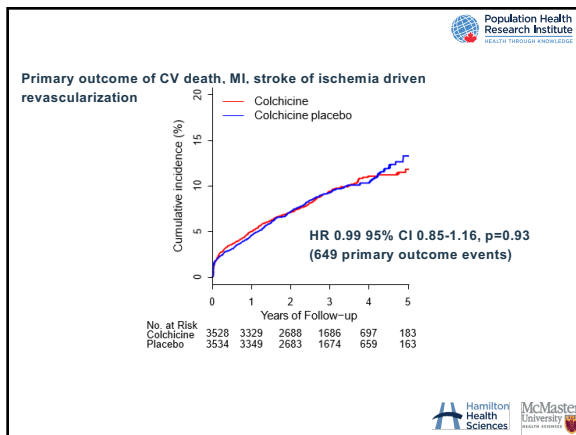
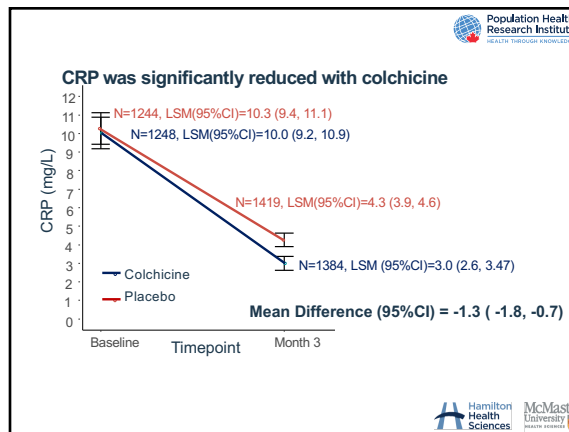
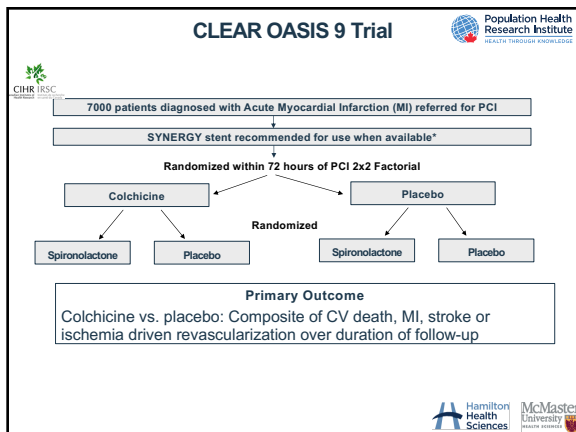
IMPROVE-IT	FOURIER	SPIRE-2	ODYSSEY	CANTOS	COLCOT [†]	LoDoCo2 [†]
Ezetimibe	Evolocumab	Becozumab	Alirocumab	Canakinumab	Colchicine 0.5	Colchicine 0.5
NEJM 2015	NEJM 2017	NEJM 2017	NEJM 2018	NEJM 2017	NEJM 2015	NEJM 2020

Relative Risk Reduction (%)

PCSK9 inhibition

Targeted Anti-Inflammatory Therapy

Circulation 2023;148:1071-1073



Targeting Inflammation: Implications for practice

- Following statin therapy, clinicians consider using an anti-inflammatory agent?
 - Consideration of **colchicine 0.5 mg po qd** for those with stable atherosclerosis and normal eGFR and **high CRP**. For Primary and Secondary prevention
 - Consideration of **bempedoic acid** which, like statin therapy, reduces both LDL-C and hsCRP
 - Consideration of **GLP1r agonists and SGLT2 inhibitors**, all of which have concomitant anti-inflammatory effects.

Thank you for your attention