

**EVIDENZE E NUOVE PROSPETTIVE NEL TRATTAMENTO  
DELLE PATOLOGIE TROMBOEMBOLICHE**

*Varese, 16 Marzo 2018*

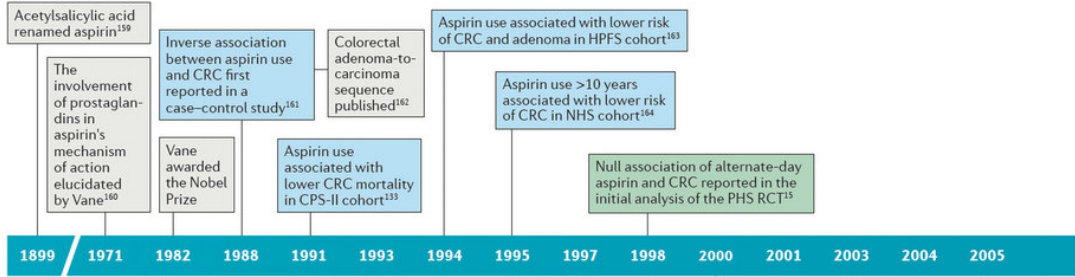
**Acido acetilsalicilico e  
Tumori**

**Francesca Santilli**

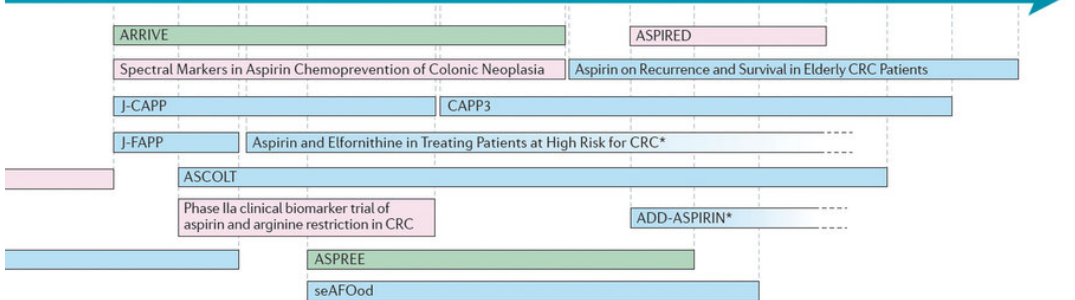
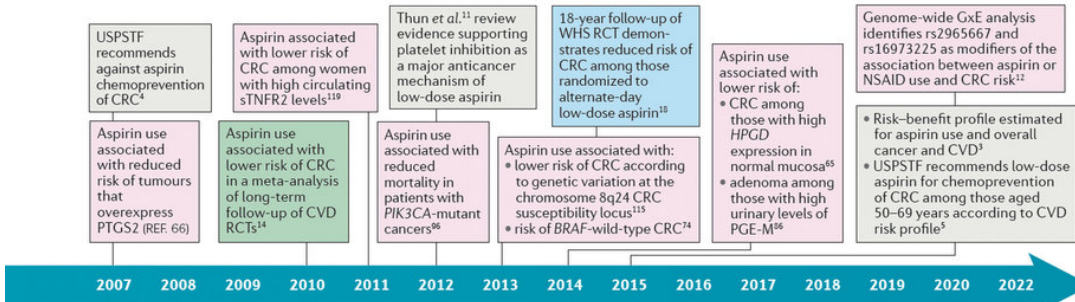
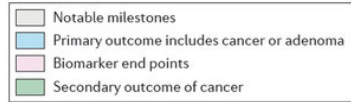
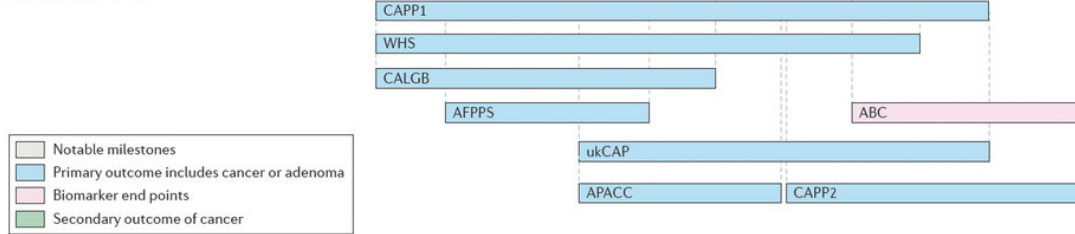
*Medicina Interna*

*Università di Chieti*

**Milestones and notable findings relating to aspirin and risk of CRC**



**Notable clinical trials of aspirin and cancer**



# OUTLINE

- SOURCES OF EVIDENCE FOR A CHEMOPREVENTIVE EFFECT OF ASPIRIN
- IS THERE A BIOLOGICALLY PLAUSIBLE MECHANISM OF ACTION?
- WHAT IS THE SIZE OF THE APPARENT CHEMOPREVENTIVE EFFECT, AND CAN IT POSSIBLY CHANGE THE BENEFIT/RISK PROFILE OF ASPIRIN IN PRIMARY PREVENTION?
- IS THE CURRENT EVIDENCE SUFFICIENT TO ISSUE CHEMOPREVENTIVE TREATMENT GUIDELINES?
- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Phospholipids – Arachidonic Acid

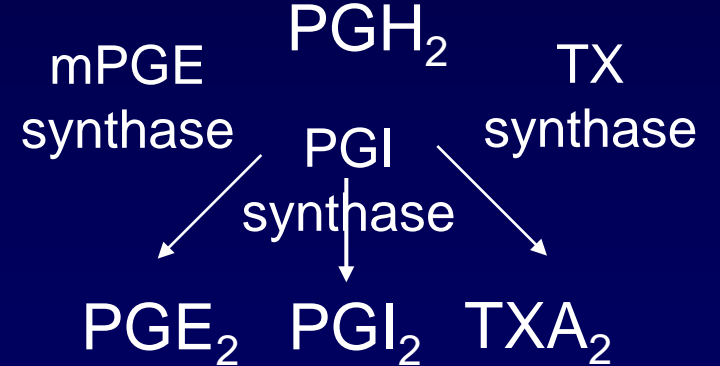
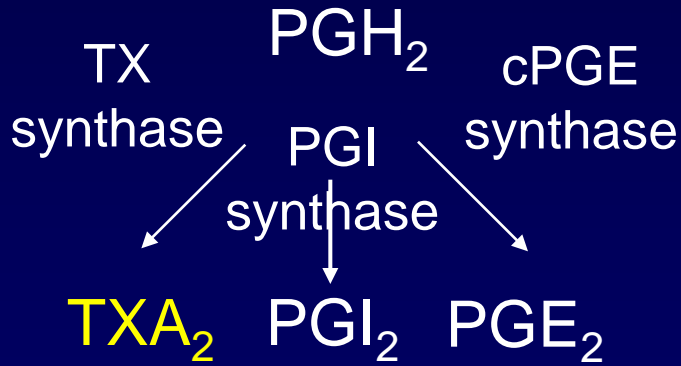
Phospholipases (cPLA<sub>2</sub>/sPLA<sub>2</sub>) activated by physical, hormonal, inflammatory, mitogenic stimuli

Arachidonic Acid

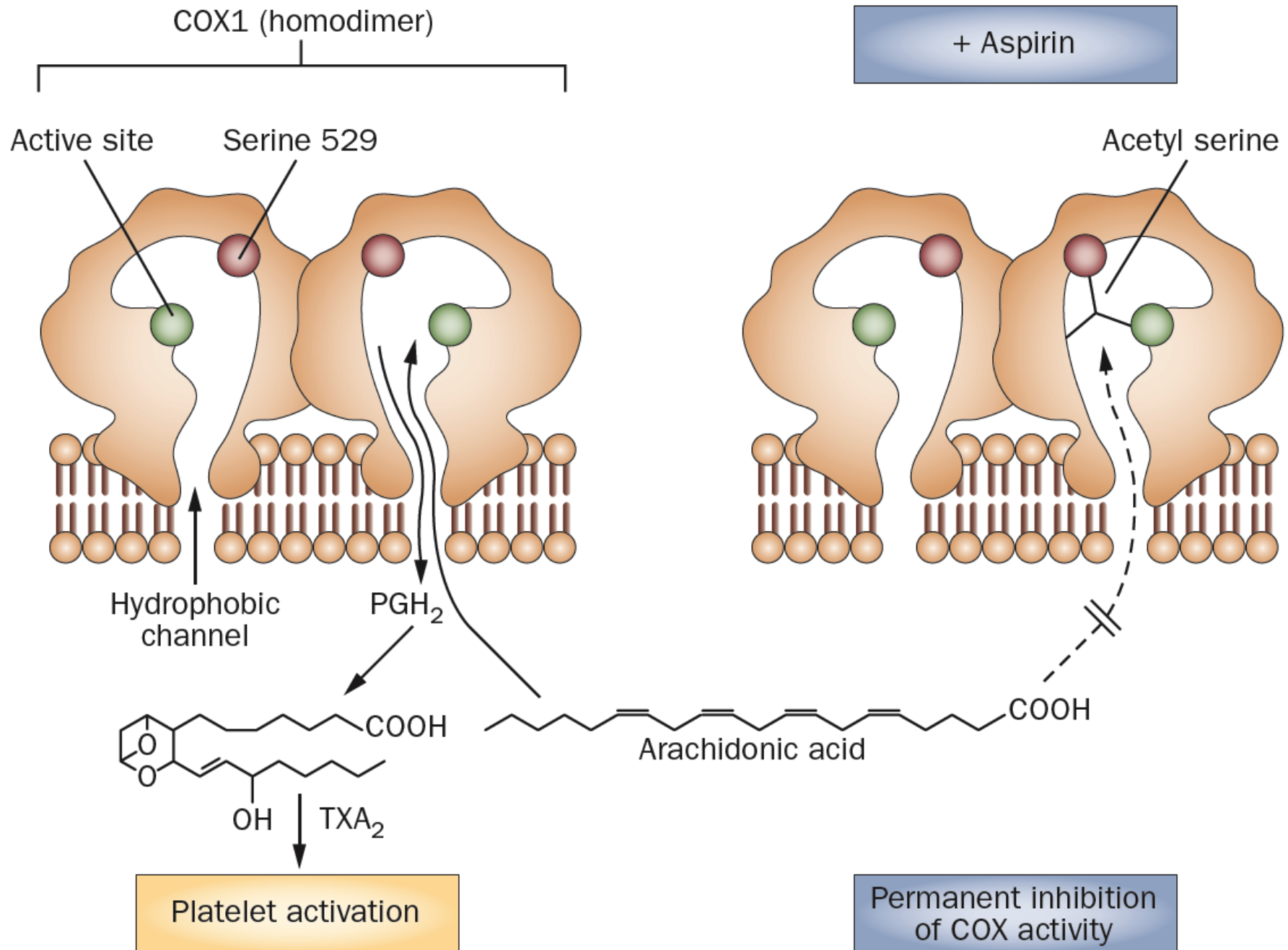
Arachidonic Acid

COX-1  $\approx$  Low-dose Aspirin

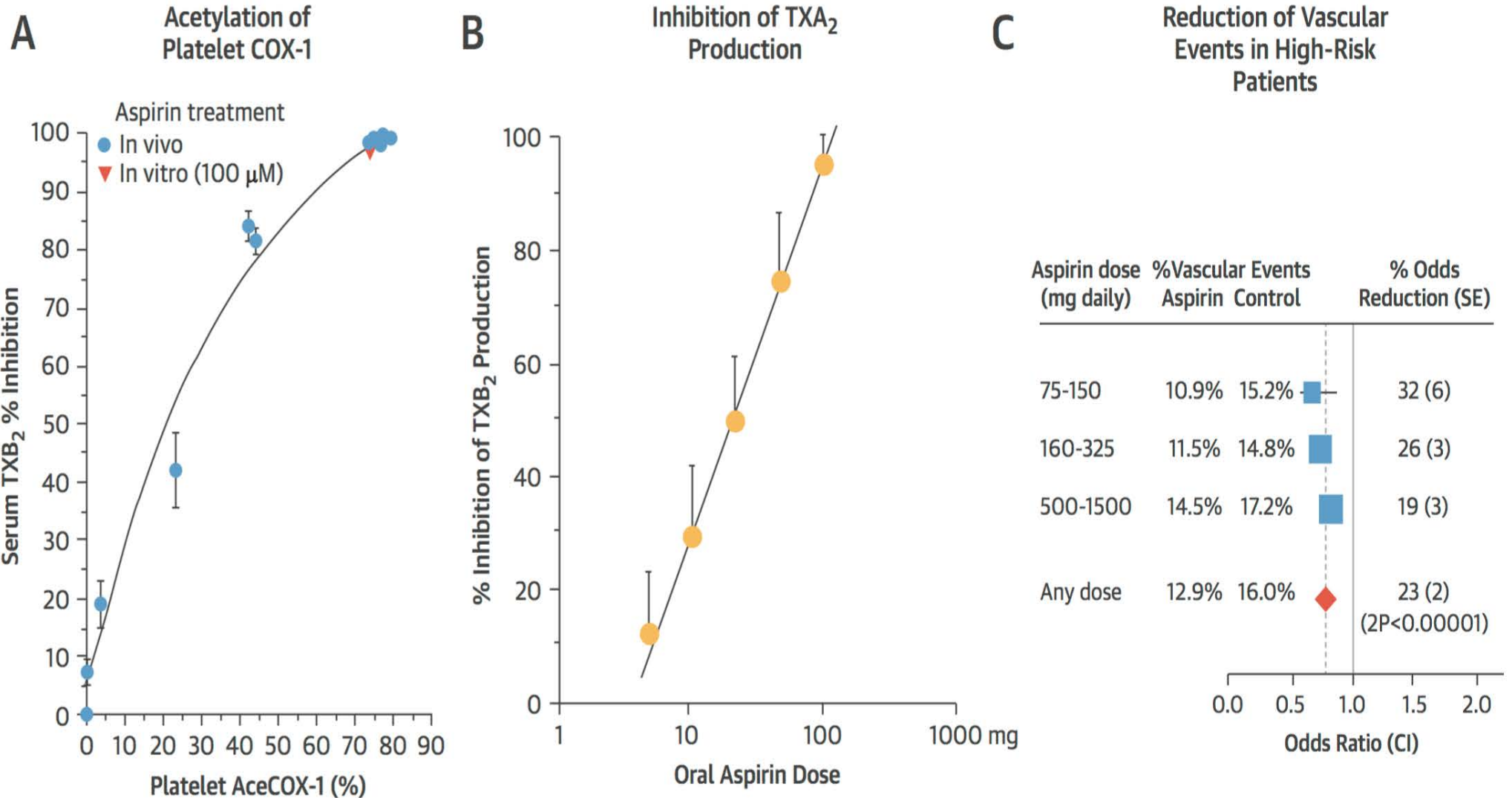
COX-2

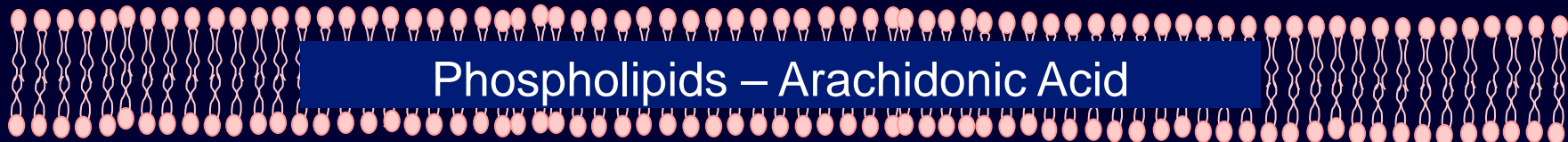


Specific Prostanoid Receptors (TP, EPs, IP)



**FIGURE 1** Acetylation of Platelet Cyclooxygenase-1, Inhibition of Platelet Thromboxane Production, and Cardioprotection by Aspirin Are Saturable at Low Doses





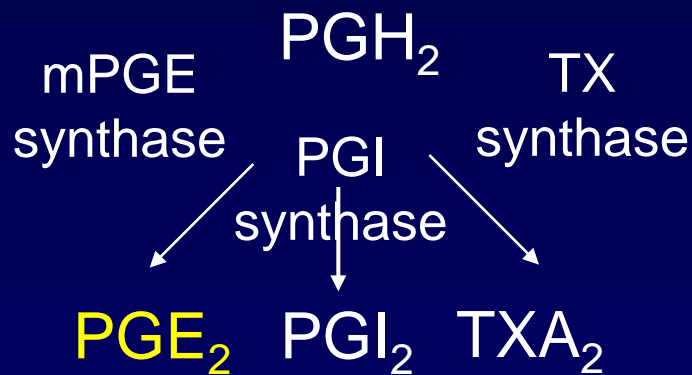
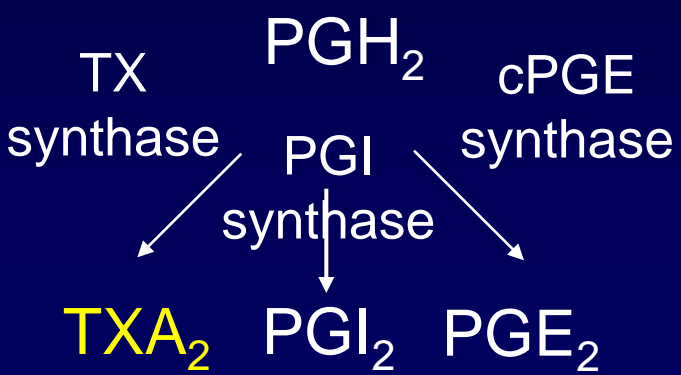
Phospholipases (cPLA<sub>2</sub>/sPLA<sub>2</sub>) activated by physical, hormonal, inflammatory, mitogenic stimuli

Arachidonic Acid

Arachidonic Acid

COX-1  $\approx$  Low-dose Aspirin

High-dose Aspirin  $\approx$  COX-2



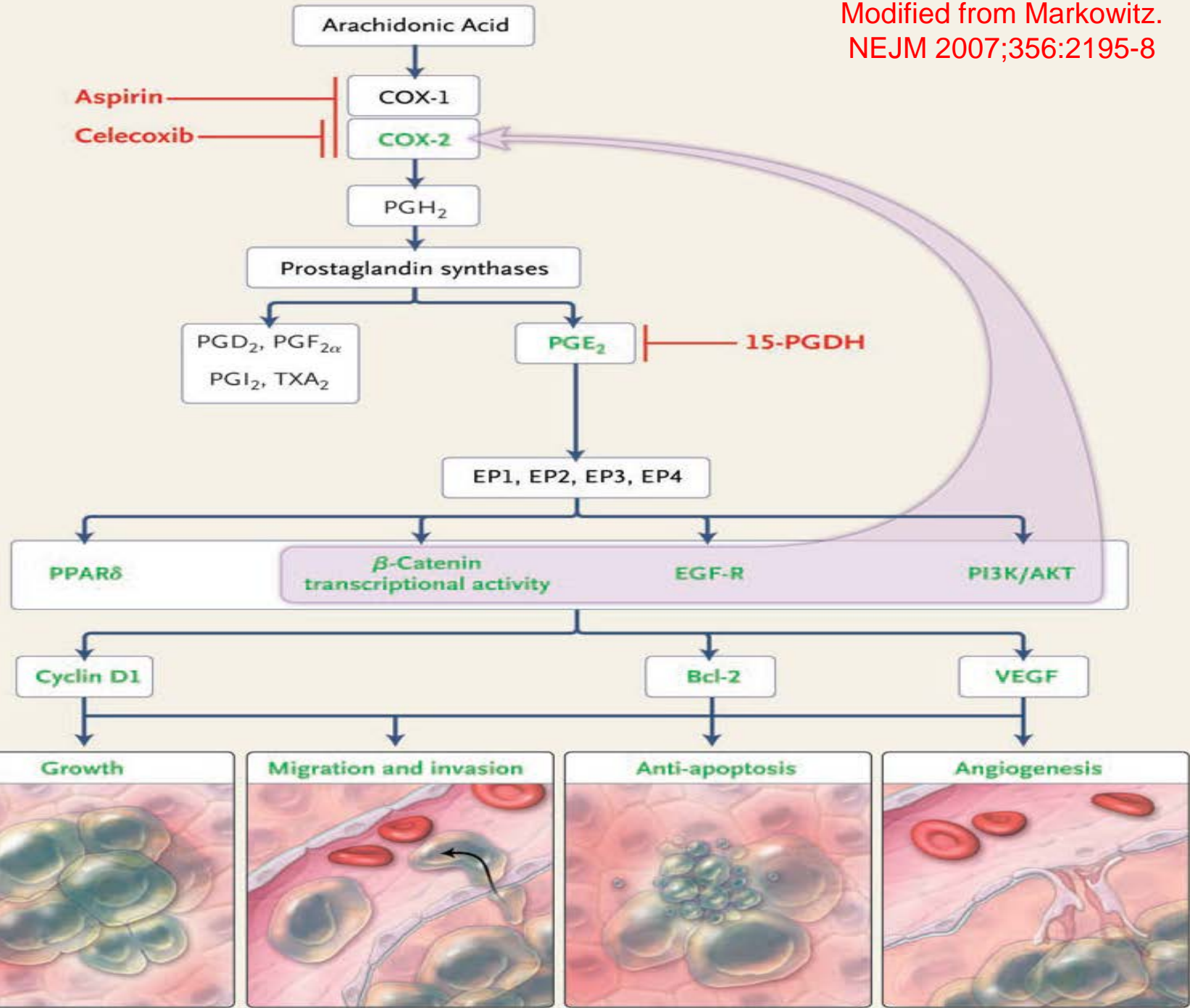
Prostaglandins

Prostaglandin receptors

Signaling pathways

Target genes

Biologic activities







Prostanoids



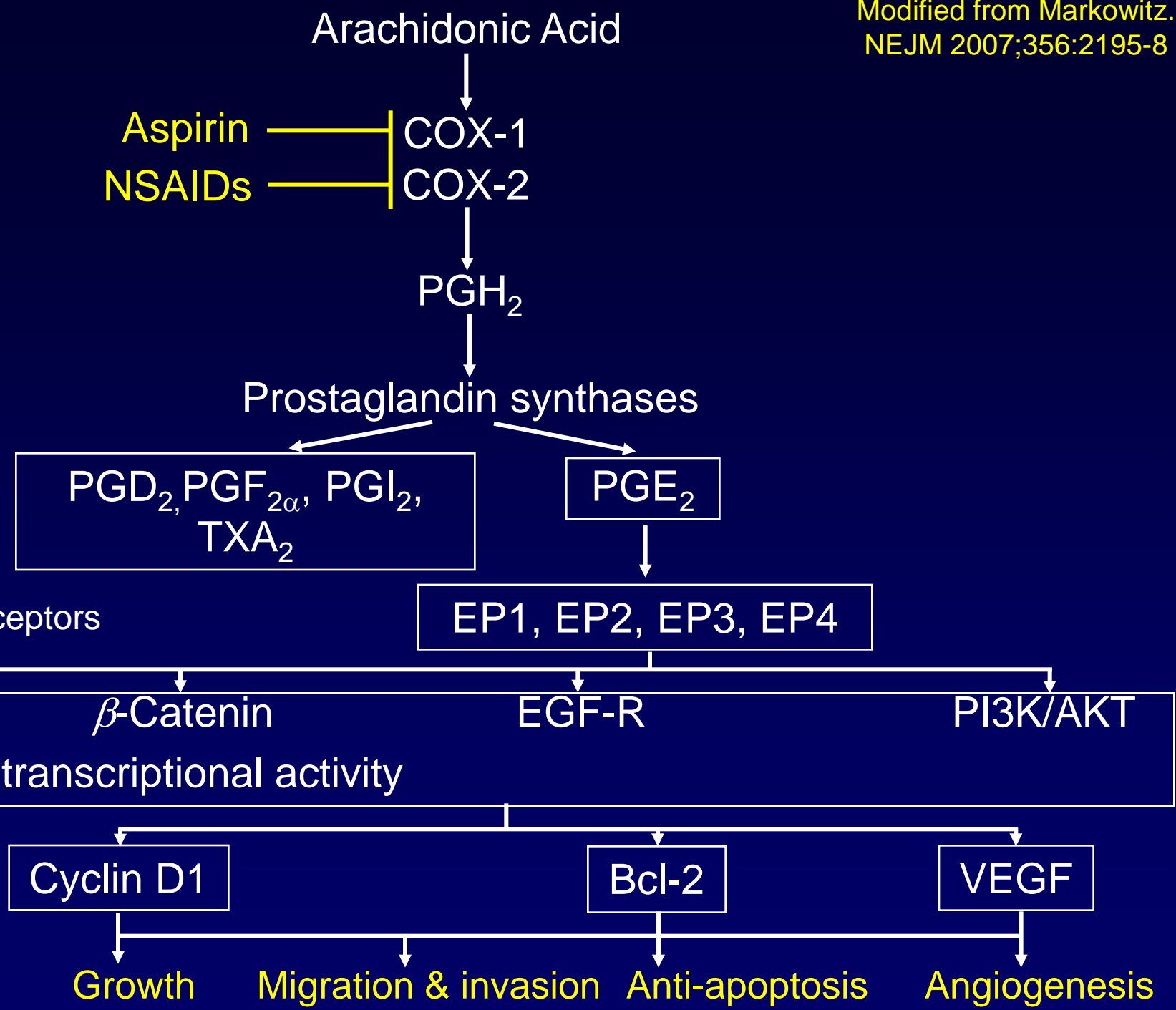
Prostaglandin E<sub>2</sub> receptors



Target genes



Biologic activities



Growth

Migration & invasion

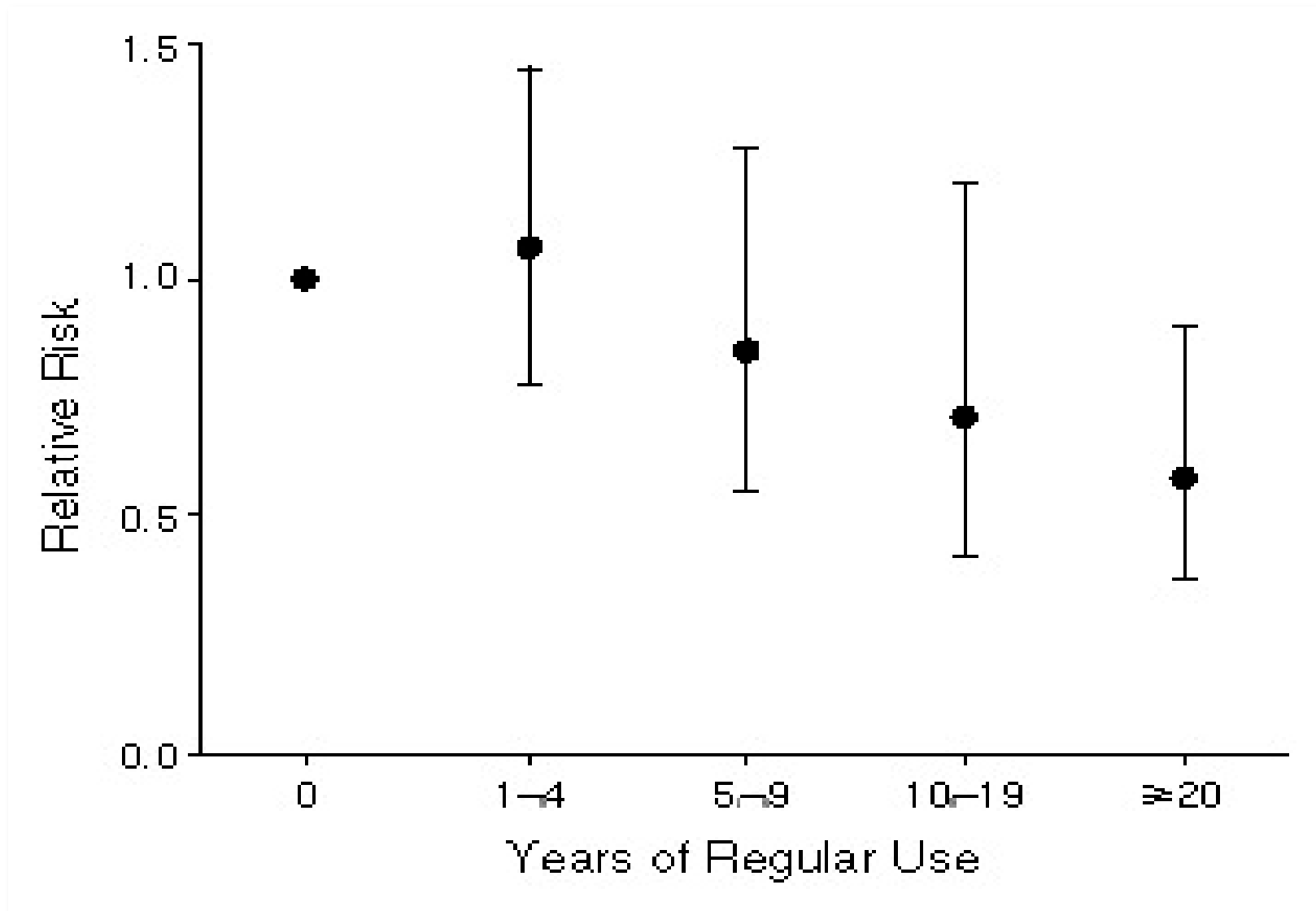
Anti-apoptosis

Angiogenesis

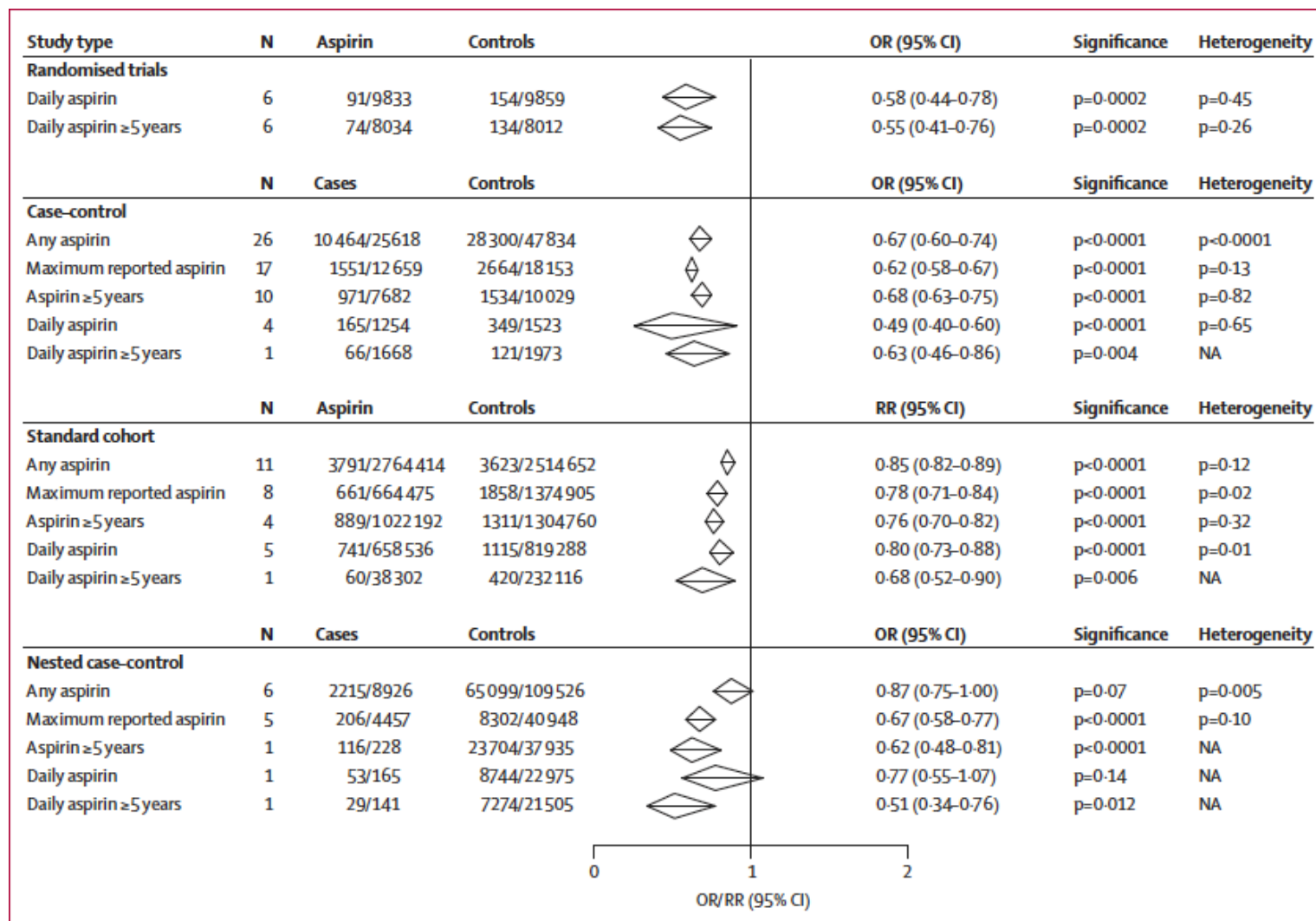
# Sources of Evidence Supporting a Chemopreventive Effect of Aspirin Against Gastrointestinal Cancers

1. Over 40 observational case-control studies and their meta-analysis (Algra & Rothwell, Lancet Oncol 2012).
2. Four randomized, placebo-controlled clinical trials in subjects with sporadic colorectal adenomas (Cole, JNCI 2009).
3. A placebo-controlled RCT in the Lynch syndrome with post-trial follow-up (CAPP2, NEJM 2008; Lancet 2011).
4. A post-hoc individual patient data (IPD) meta-analysis of 51 randomized controlled trials in prevention of vascular events (Rothwell et al, Lancet 2012).

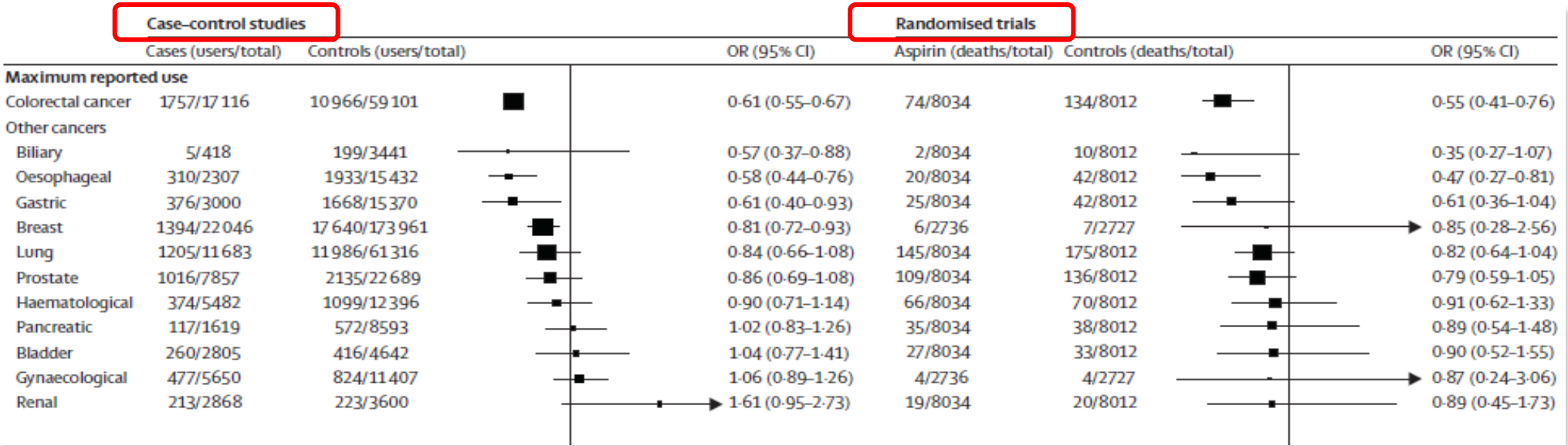
# Age-Adjusted Relative Risks of Colorectal Cancer According to the Number of Consecutive Years of Regular Aspirin Use among Users as Compared with Nonusers of Aspirin



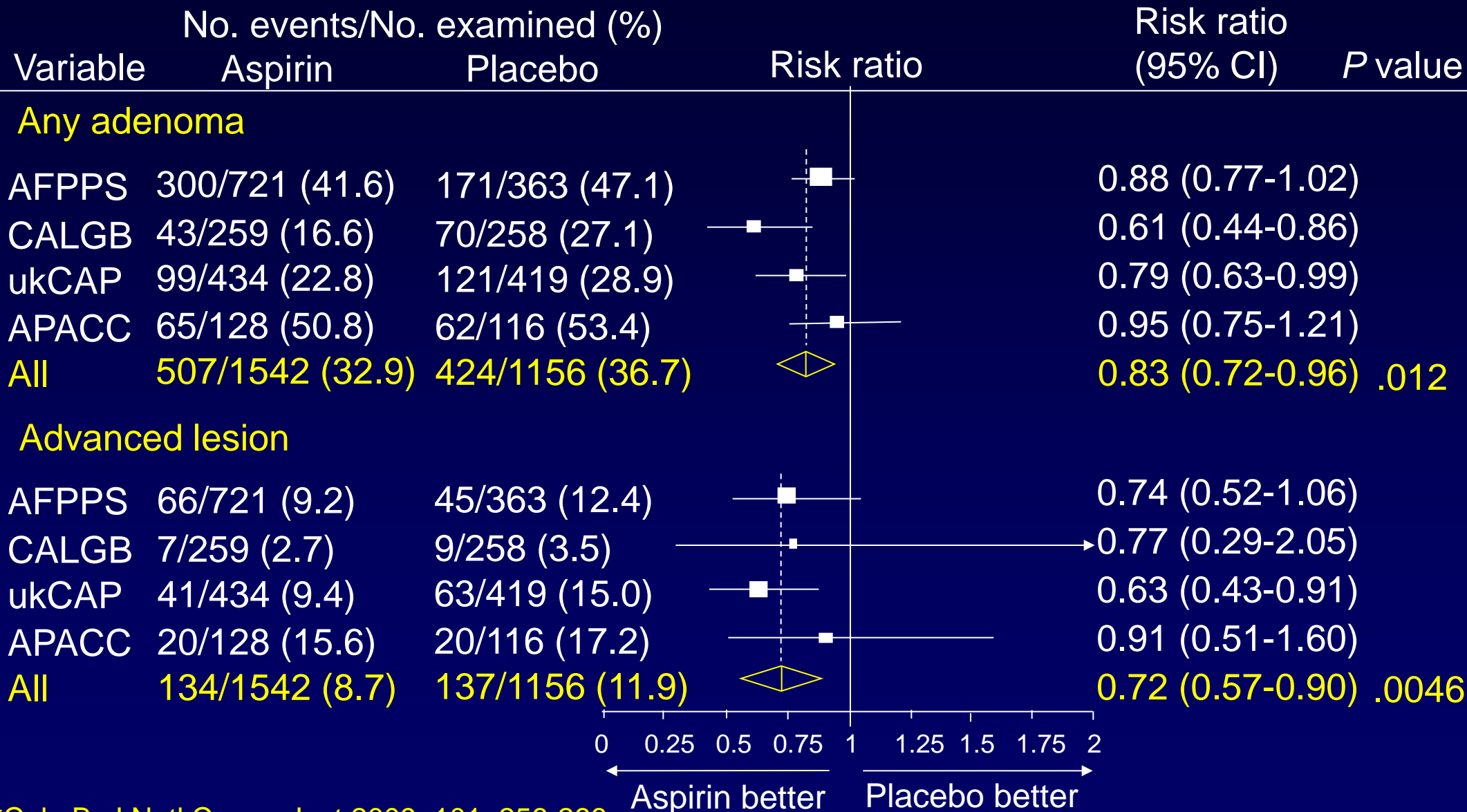
# Associations between regular use of aspirin and risk of colorectal cancer in case-control and cohort studies compared with estimates from randomised controlled trials



# Evidence from **case-control** studies vs evidence from **meta-analysis of trials** of aspirin versus control, by tumor site

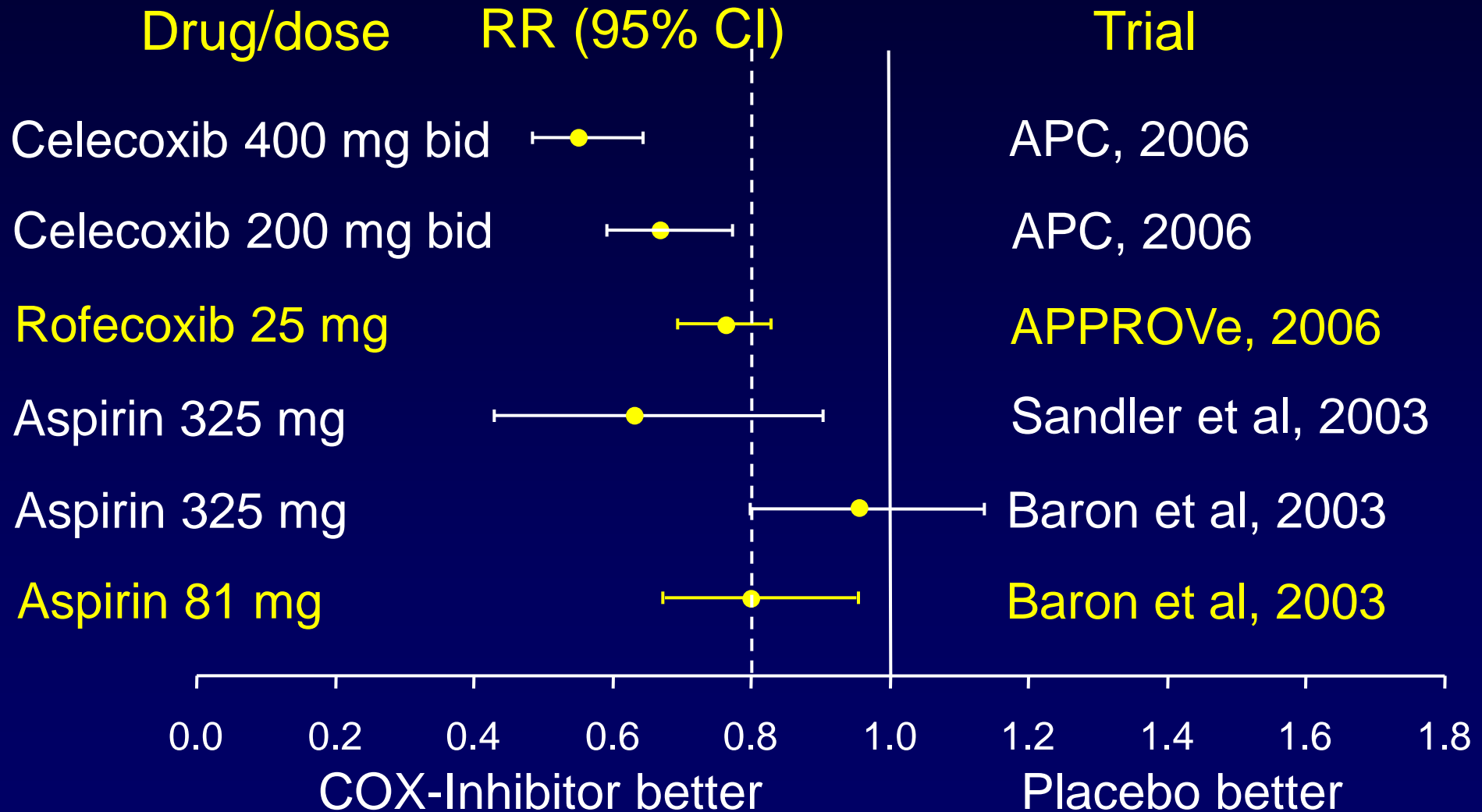


# Meta-Analysis of RCTs of Aspirin vs Placebo for the Secondary Prevention of Colorectal Adenomas\*

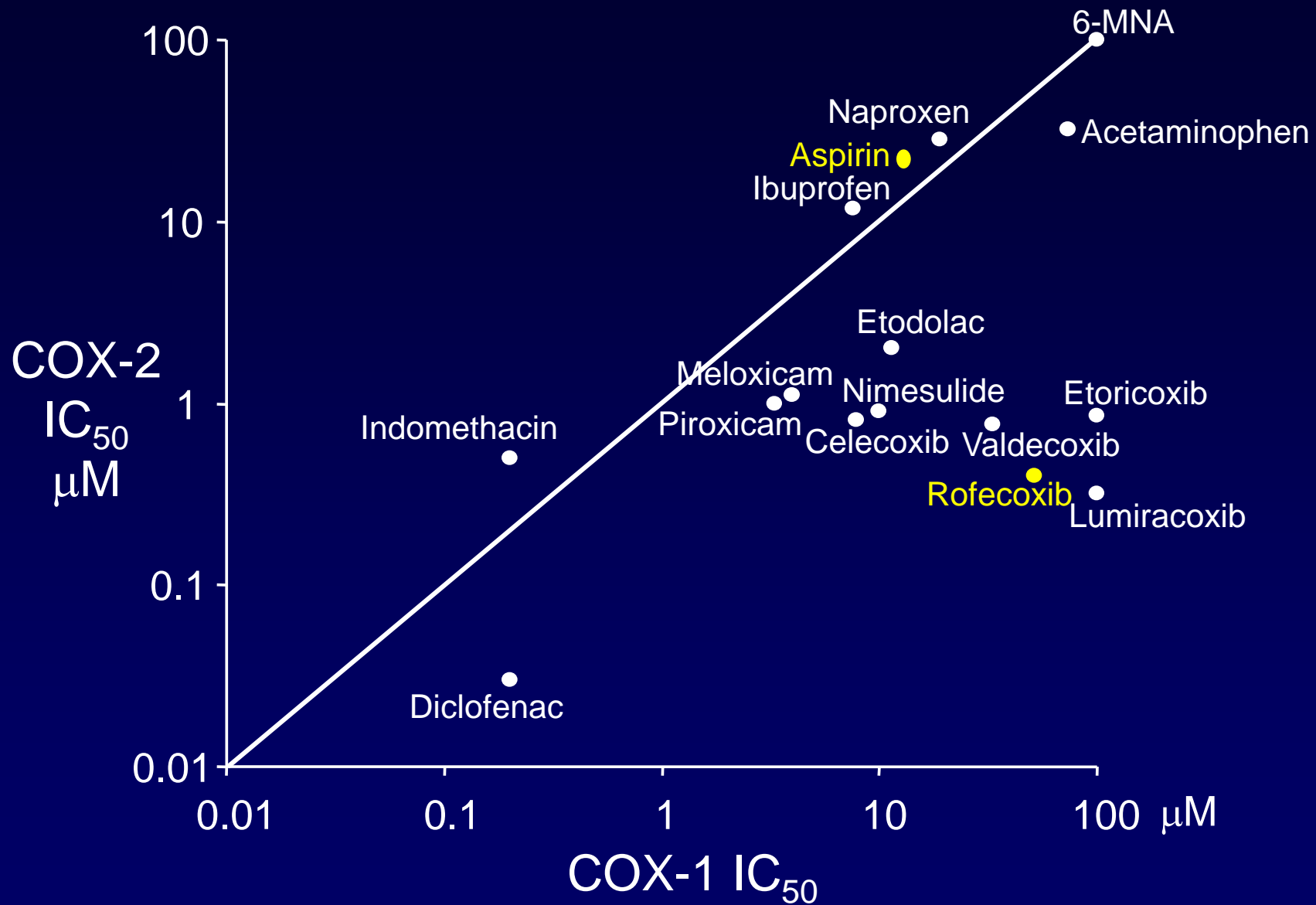


\*Cole B; J Natl Cancer Inst 2009; 101: 256-266

# Relative Risk of Any Colorectal Adenoma at Follow-up Endoscopic Examination



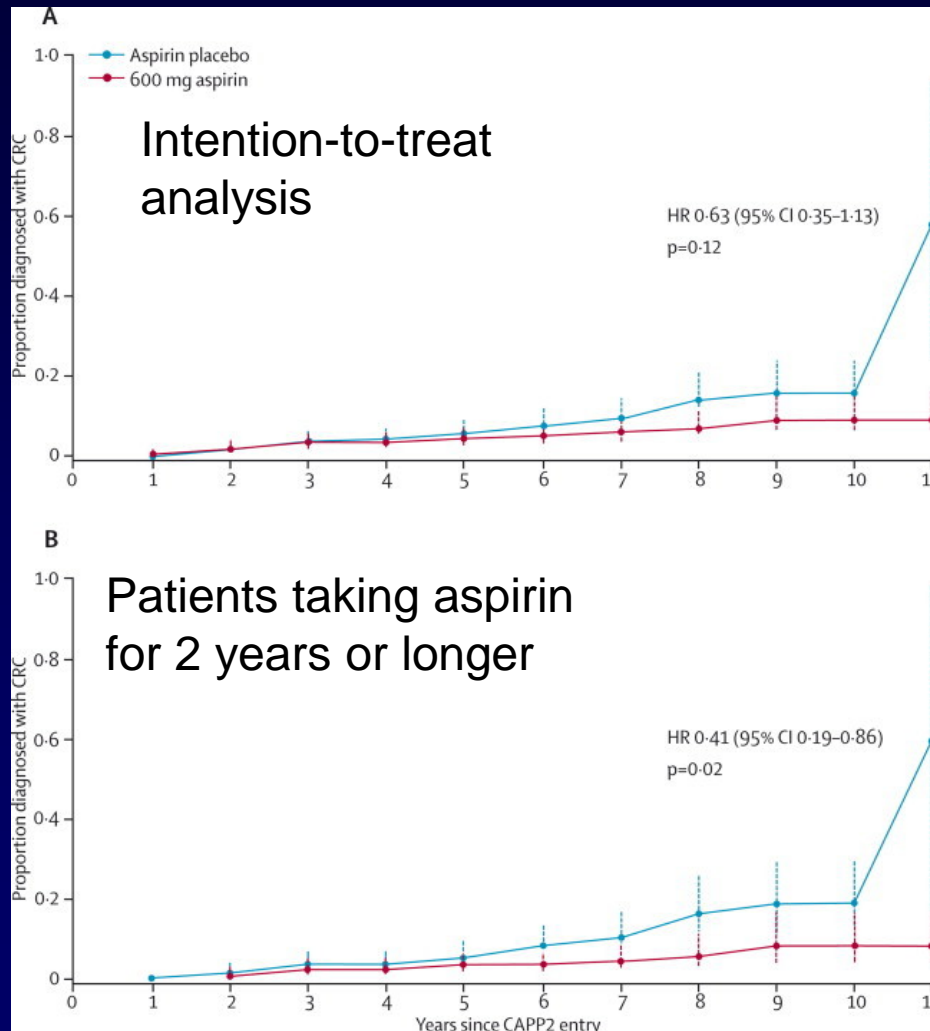
# COX-2 Selectivity as a Continuous Variable



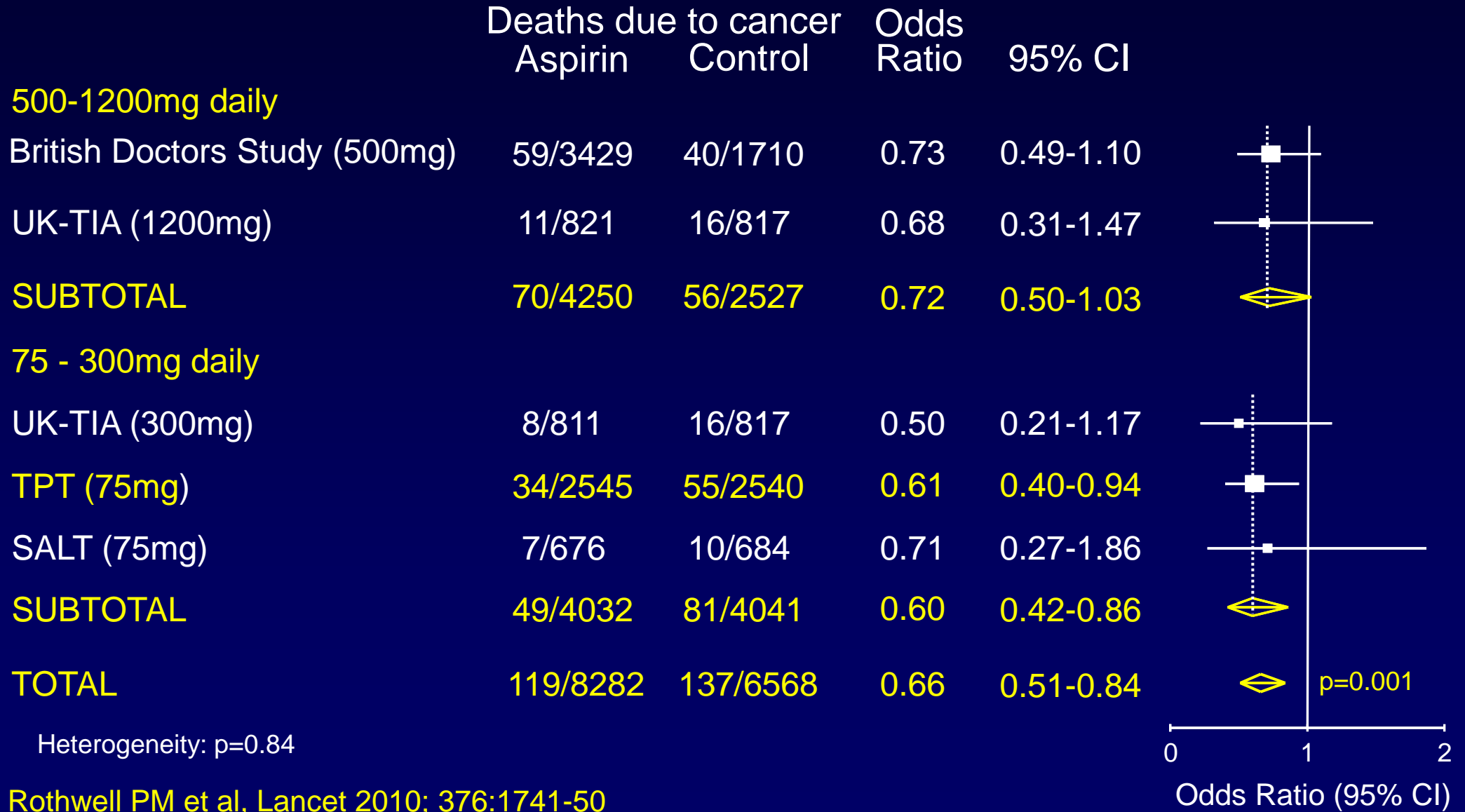
Updated from FitzGerald & Patrono, N Engl J Med 2001; 345:433-442



# Death due to CRC in patients with Lynch Syndrome randomly assigned to aspirin 600 mg compared with those assigned to aspirin placebo

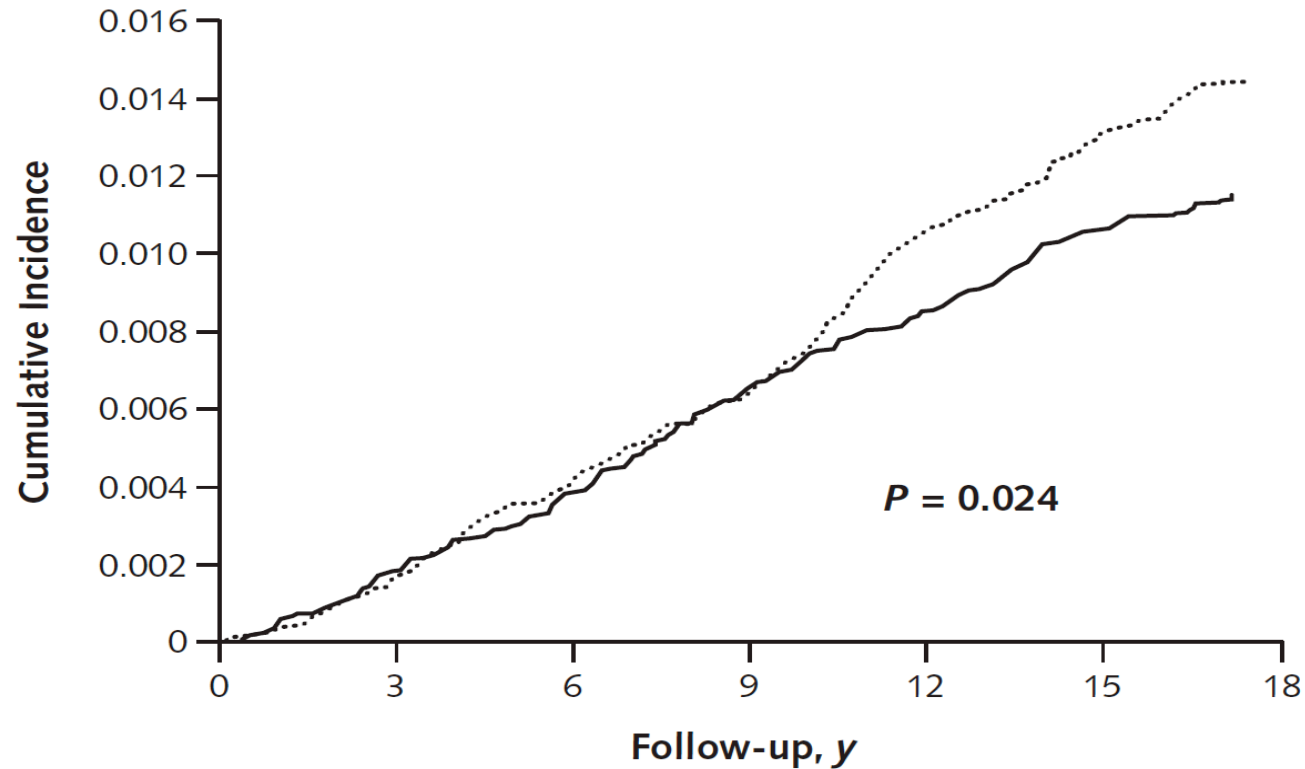


# Death Due to Colorectal Cancer on Long-Term Follow-Up After Randomization in Trials of Aspirin vs Control



# Alternate-day, low-dose aspirin and cancer risk: long-term observational follow-up of Women's Health Study

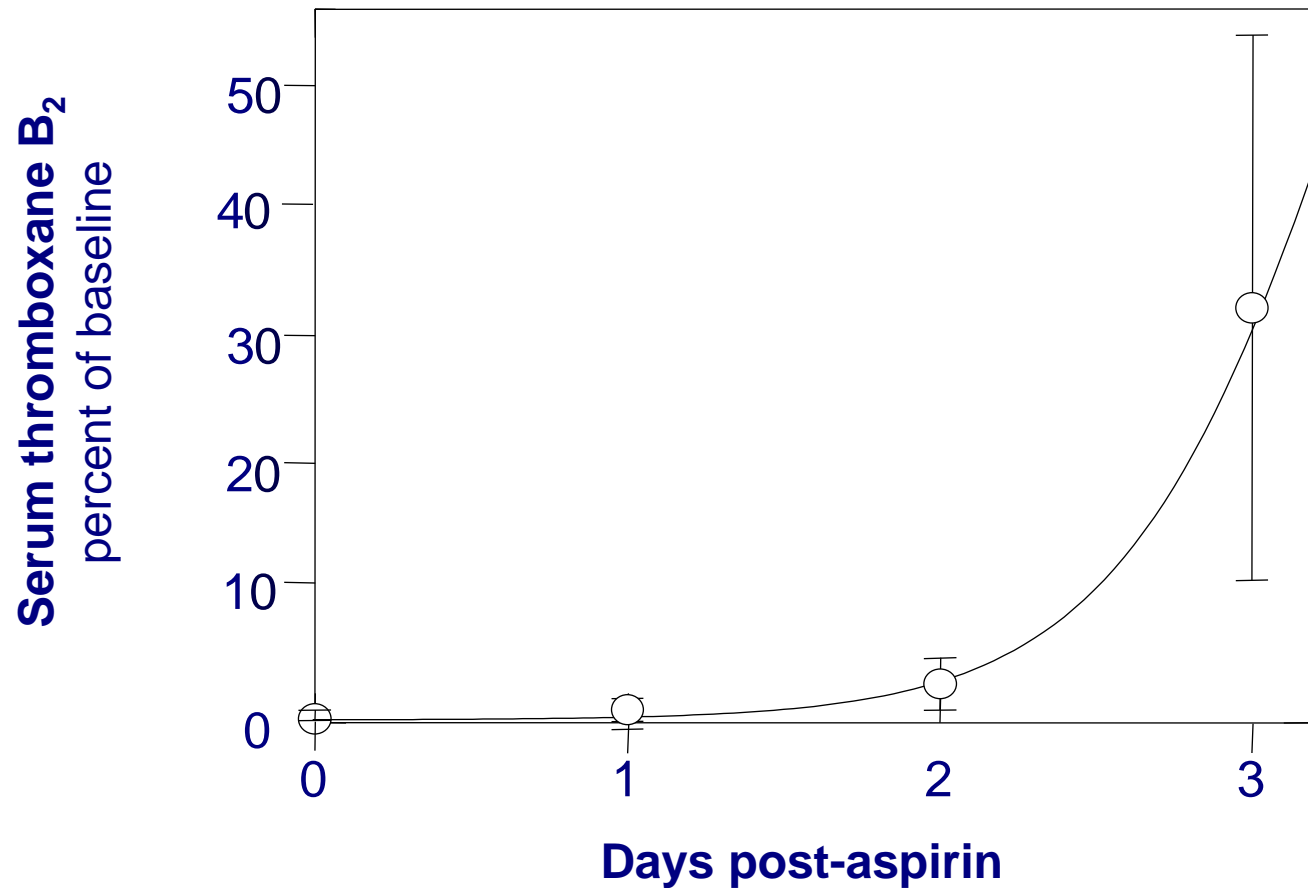
## C. Colorectal Cancer



### Participants at risk, *n*

Aspirin	19 934	19 443	18 868	17 975	15 592	14 617
Placebo	19 942	19 467	18 857	17 977	15 424	14 358

# Lag in recovery of serum TXB<sub>2</sub> after aspirin withdrawal in healthy volunteers



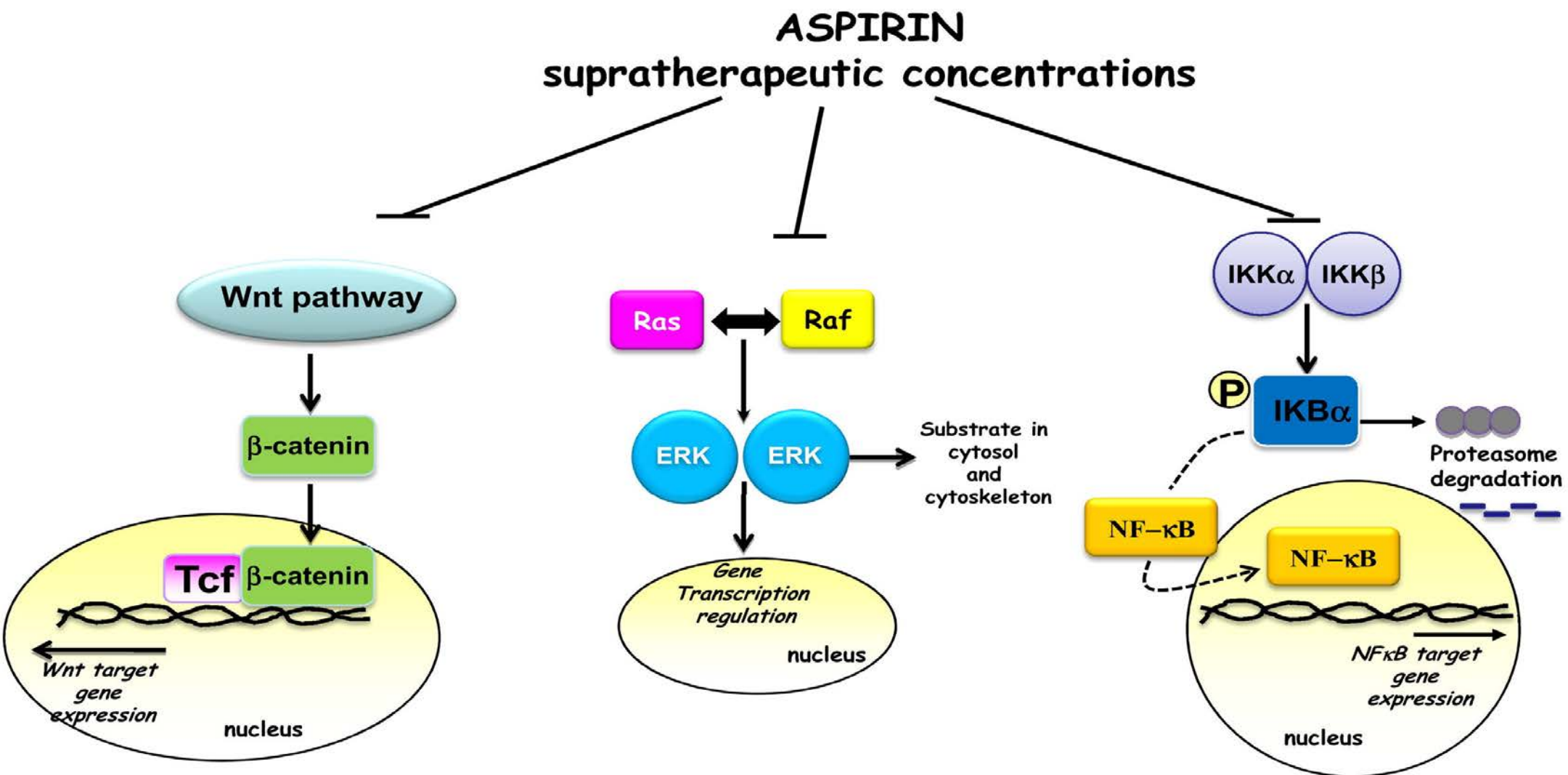
# Some Features of the Chemopreventive Effect of Aspirin Against Colorectal Cancer in Cardiovascular Trials

- Detectable benefits at **daily doses as low as 75 mg** (SALT, TPT);
- **No convincing evidence** that higher doses (up to 1200 mg daily) are more effective (Rothwell et al 2010, 2011);
- Chemoprevention detectable with **alternate day 100 mg dosing** in healthy women (Cook et al, Ann Intern Med 2013);
- Chemoprevention detectable with a low-dose (75 mg) **controlled-release formulation** developed to maximize cumulative inhibition of platelet COX-1 in the prehepatic circulation and **minimize inhibition of COX-2 in the systemic vascular endothelium** (FitzGerald et al; TPT).

Any effects of low-dose aspirin administered once daily or every other day on nucleated cellular targets would be more difficult to reconcile with its pharmacokinetics (very short half-life) and pharmacodynamics (relatively selective inhibition of platelet COX-1)

None of these features are compatible with a direct inhibitory effect of low-dose aspirin on COX-2 or with various COX-independent mechanisms that have been proposed.

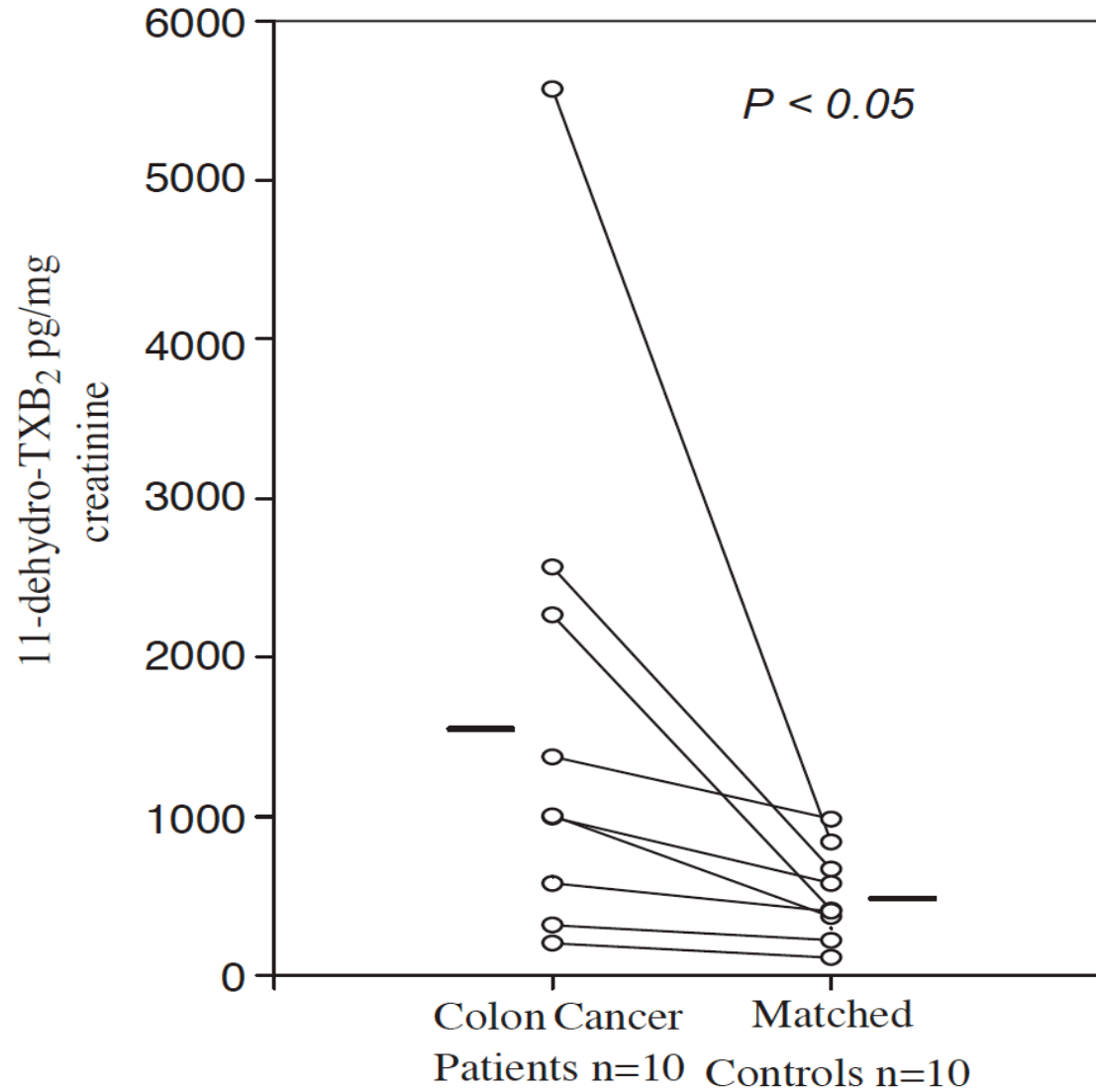
# COX-independent mechanisms of the antitumoural effects of aspirin



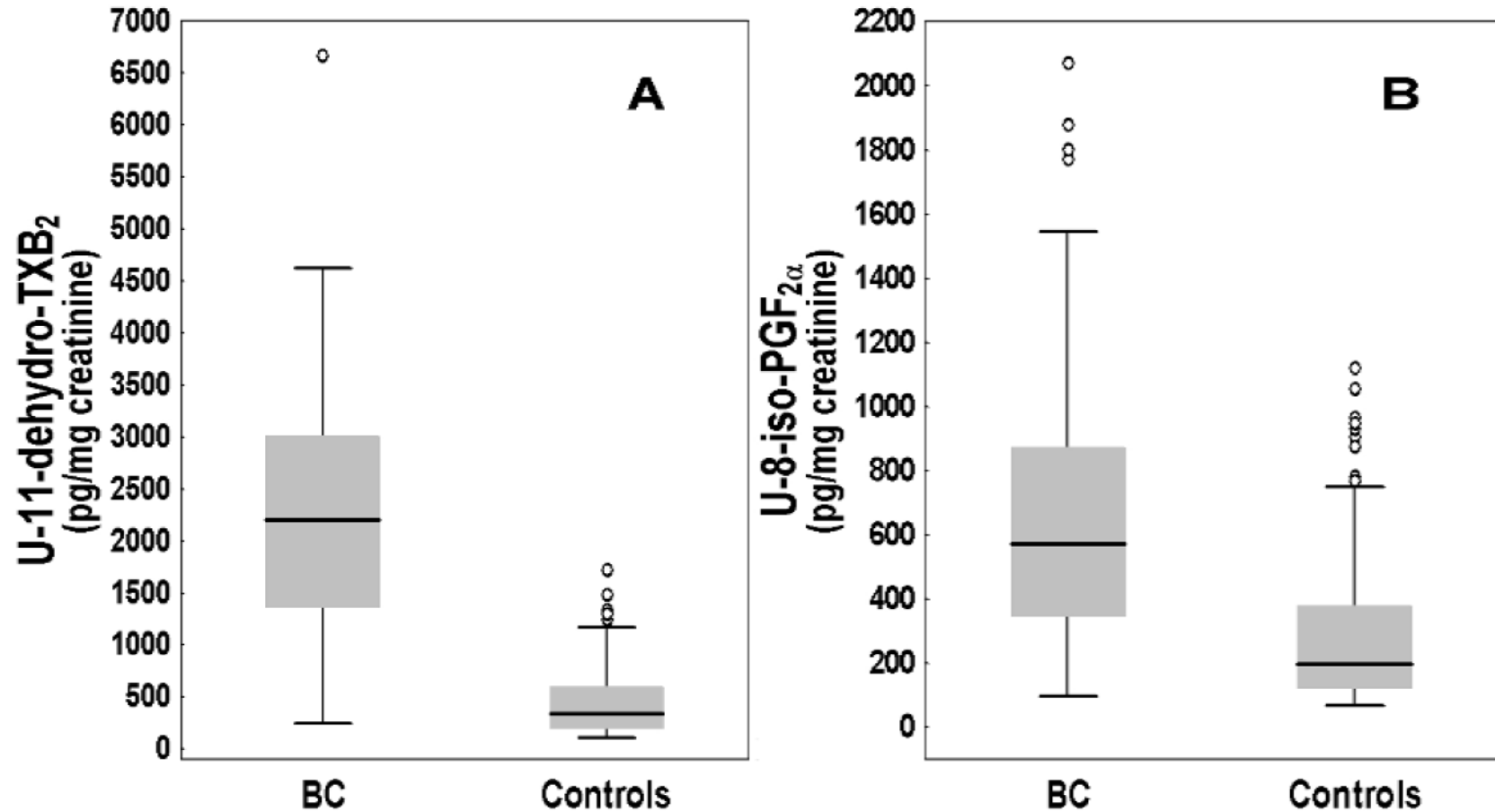
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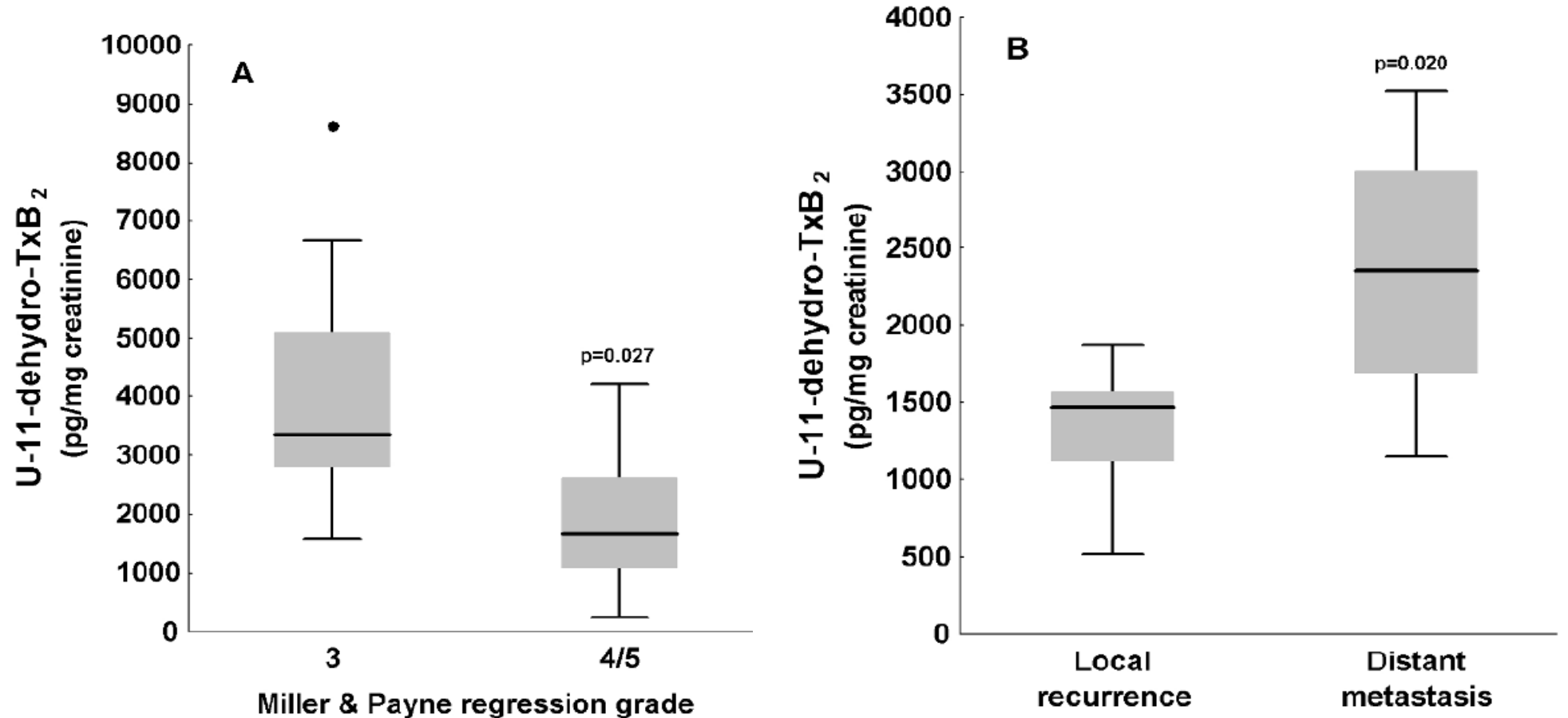
# Platelet activation in patients with colorectal cancer



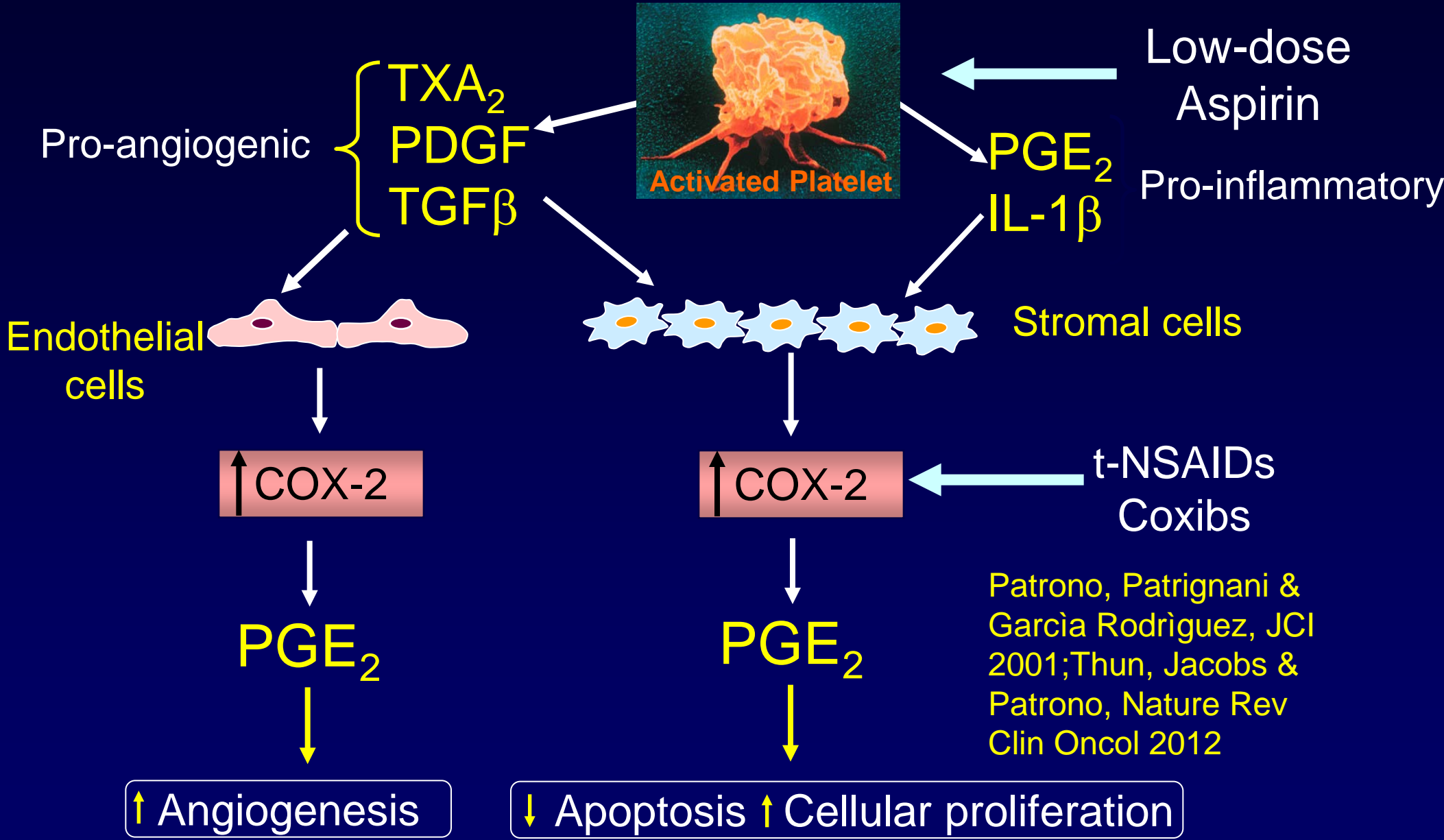
# Oxidant stress as a major determinant of platelet activation in invasive breast cancer

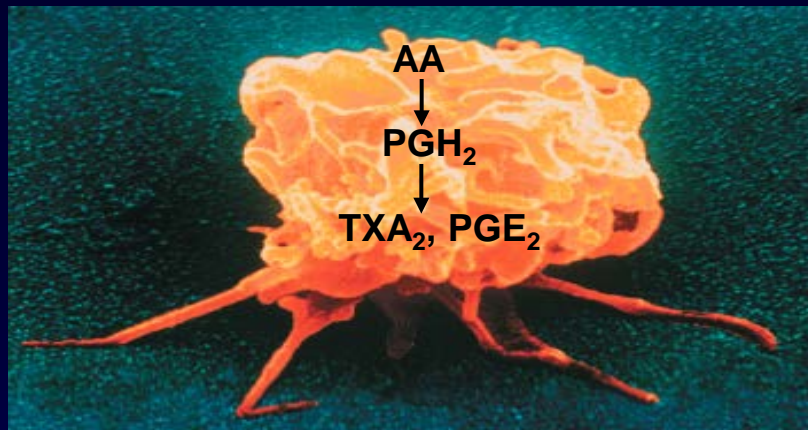


# U-11-dehydro-TXB<sub>2</sub> excretion levels measured at time of surgery predicted poor pathological response to neoadjuvant chemotherapy and distant metastasis

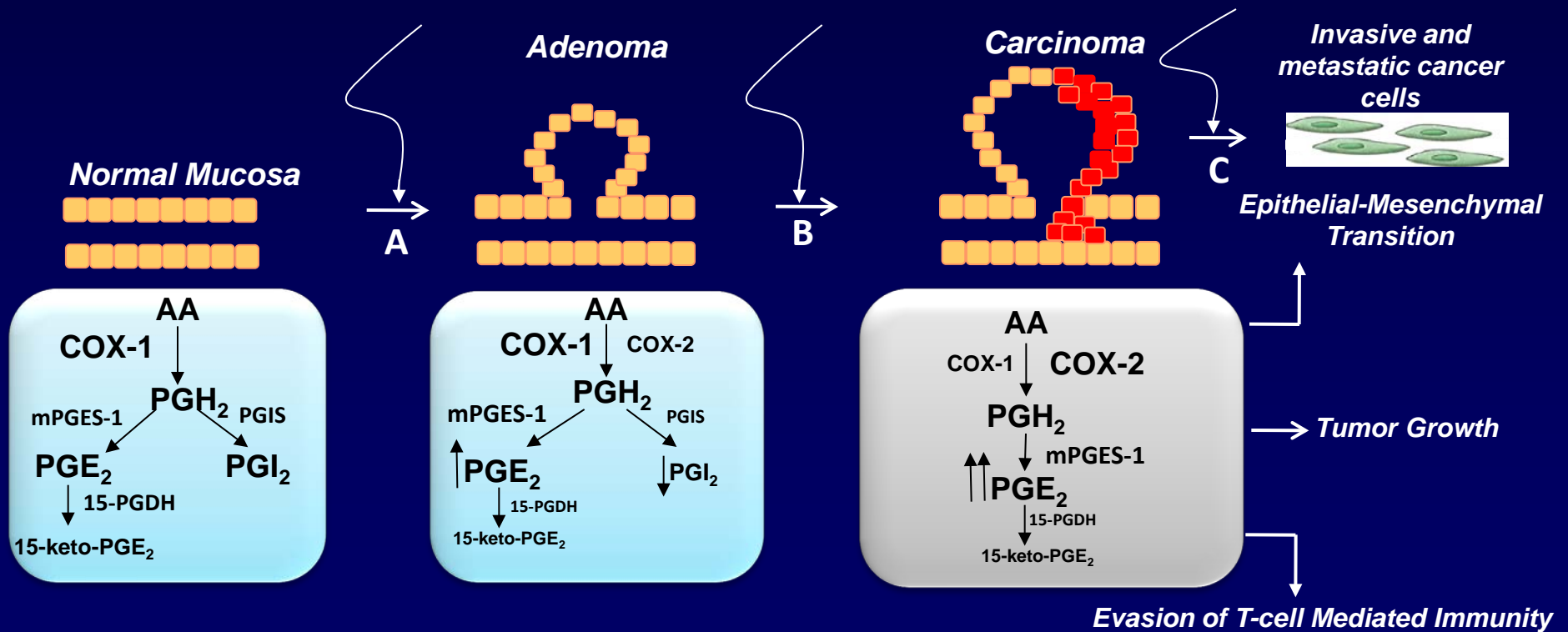


# Activated Platelets at Sites of Intestinal Mucosal Injury





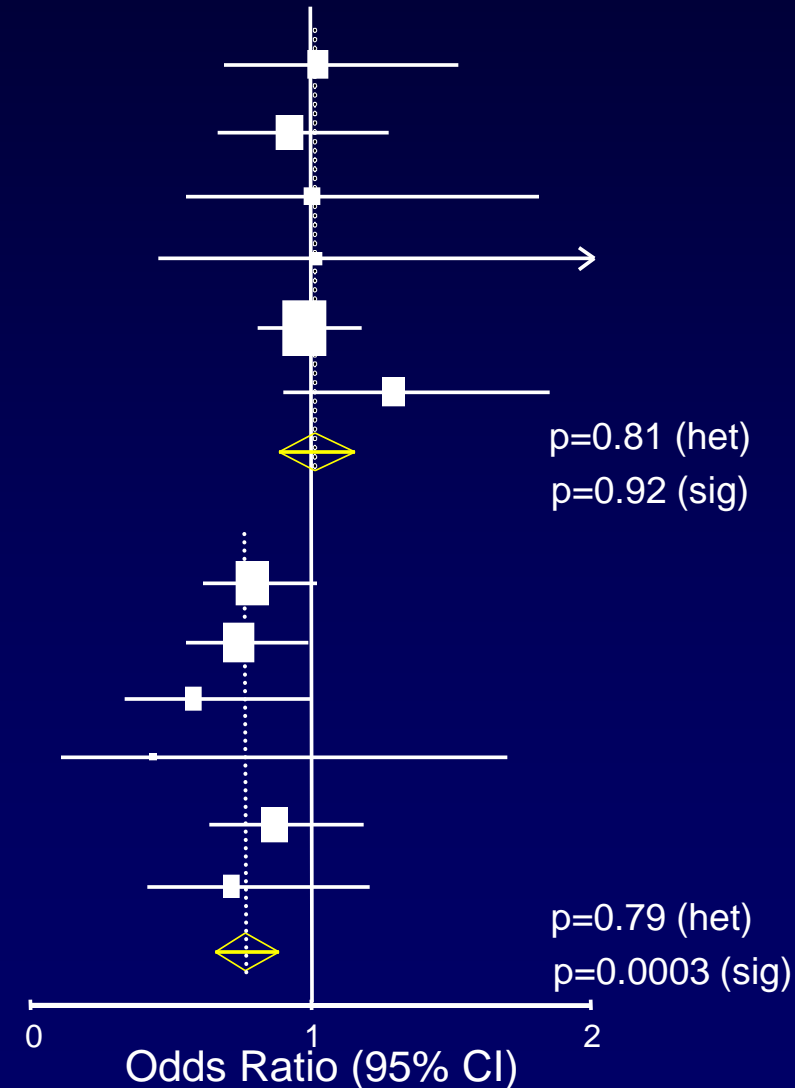
Lipid and protein mediators, and microvesicles (rich in microRNAs) are released from activated platelets and interact with adjacent resident cells and circulating cancer cells



What is the time course of  
the chemopreventive  
effect?

# Cancer Incidence During Six Randomised Trials of Daily Low-Dose Aspirin in Primary Prevention of Vascular Events

Trial Follow-up	Events/Subjects		Odds Ratio	95%CI
	Aspirin	Control		
<b>0-2.9 years</b>				
AAA	50/1675	49/1675	1.02	0.68-1.52
TPT	72/2545	78/2540	0.92	0.66-1.27
POPADAD	23/638	23/638	1.00	0.56-1.80
JPAD	12/1262	12/1277	1.01	0.45-2.26
HOT	219/9399	255/9391	0.97	0.81-1.17
PPP	69/2226	55/2269	1.29	0.90-1.84
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>445/17745</b>	<b>442/17790</b>	<b>1.01</b>	<b>0.88-1.15</b>
<b>≥3 years</b>				
AAA	116/1593	145/1599	0.79	0.61-1.02
TPT	84/2431	112/2433	0.74	0.56-0.99
POPADAD	22/532	37/593	0.58	0.34-1.00
JPAD	3/1095	7/1117	0.44	0.11-1.69
HOT	75/9063	86/9029	0.87	0.64-1.18
PPP	24/1689	34/1713	0.71	0.42-1.21
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>324/16463</b>	<b>421/16484</b>	<b>0.76</b>	<b>0.66-0.88</b>





# Short-term effects of daily aspirin on cancer incidence, mortality, and non-vascular death: analysis of the time course of risks and benefits in 51 randomised controlled trials

Peter M Rothwell, Jacqueline F Price, F Gerald R Fowkes, Alberto Zanchetti, Maria Carla Roncaglioni, Gianni Tognoni, Robert Lee, Jill F F Belch, Michelle Wilson, Ziyah Mehta, Tom W Meade

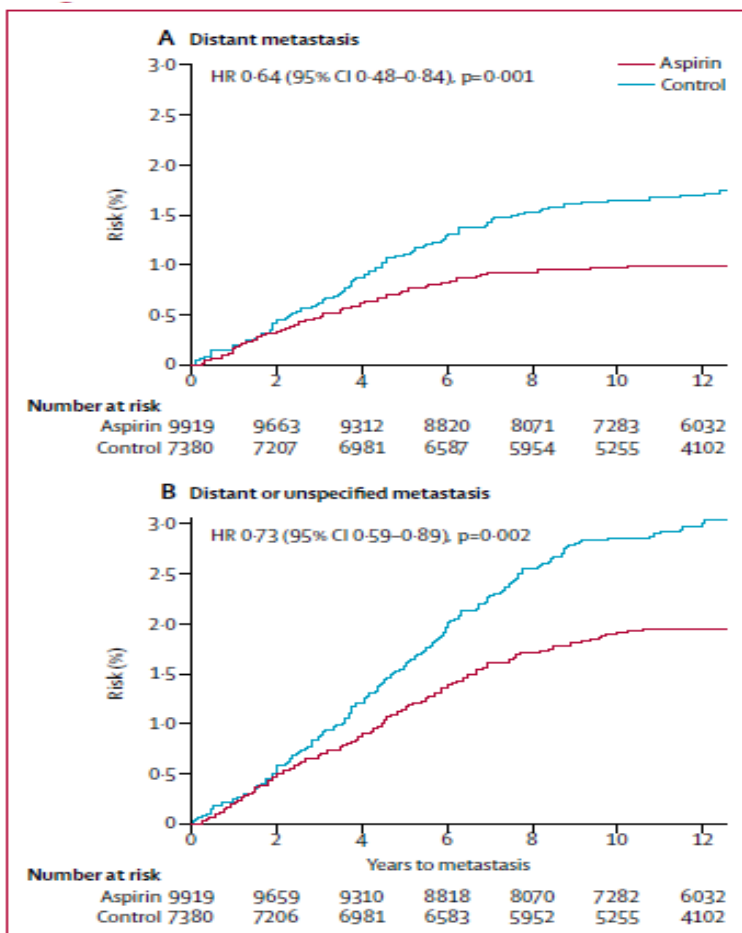
	Events/participants		ARR per 1000 patients per year	Odds ratio (95% CI)	P <sub>Interaction</sub>
	Aspirin	Control			
<b>Cancers</b>					
0-2.9 years	445/17745	442/17790	-0.06	1.01 (0.88-1.15)	
3.0-4.9 years	193/16463	237/16484	2.19	0.81 (0.67-0.98)	0.04
≥5 years	131/4444	184/4460	4.80	0.70 (0.56-0.88)	



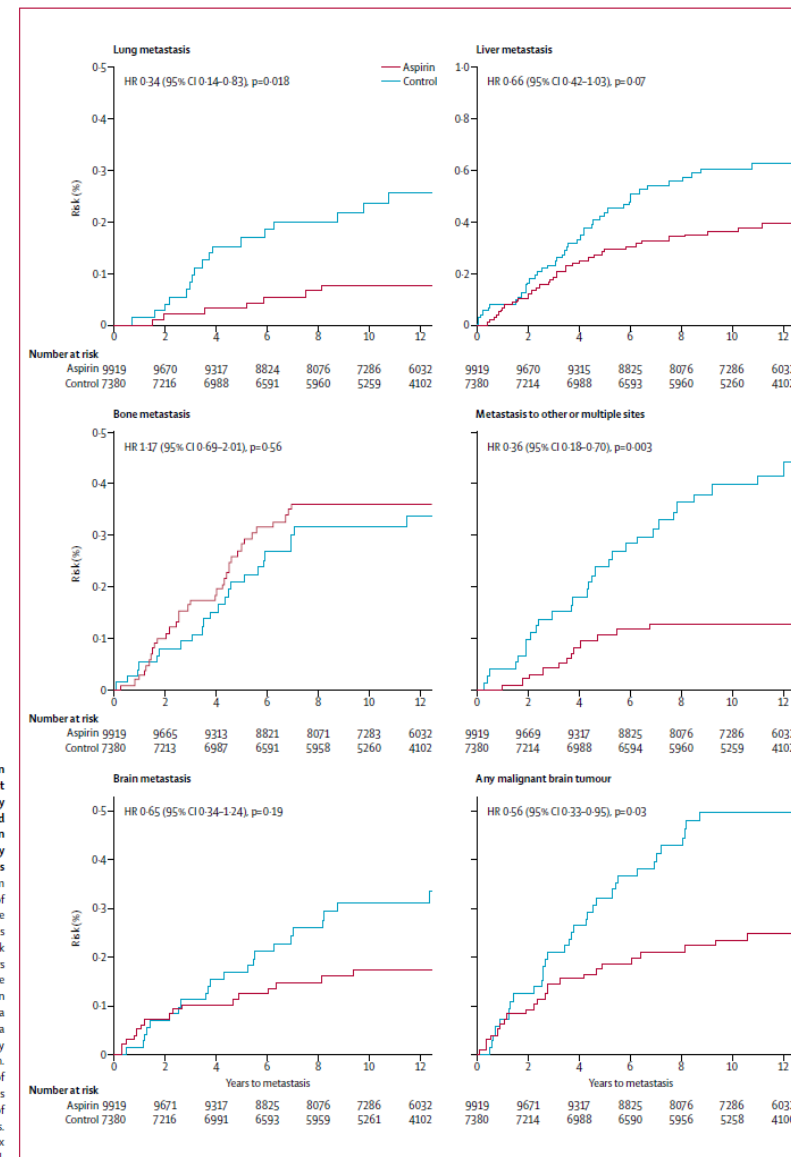
# Effect of daily aspirin on risk of cancer metastasis: a study of incident cancers during randomised controlled trials



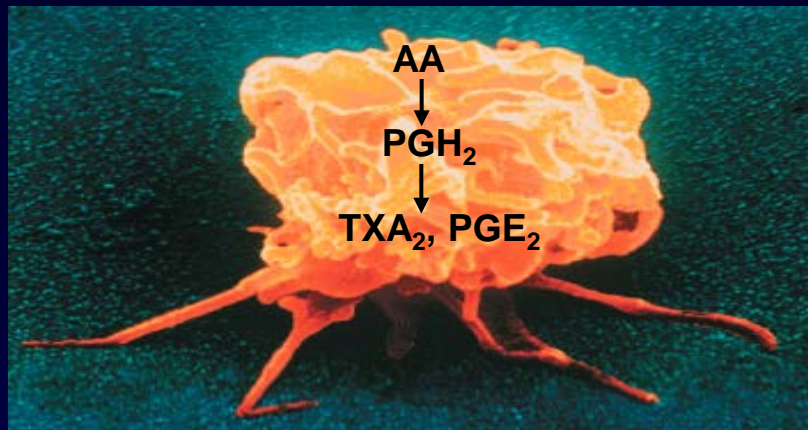
Peter M Rothwell, Michelle Wilson, Jacqueline F Price, Jill F F Belch, Tom W Meade, Ziyah Mehta



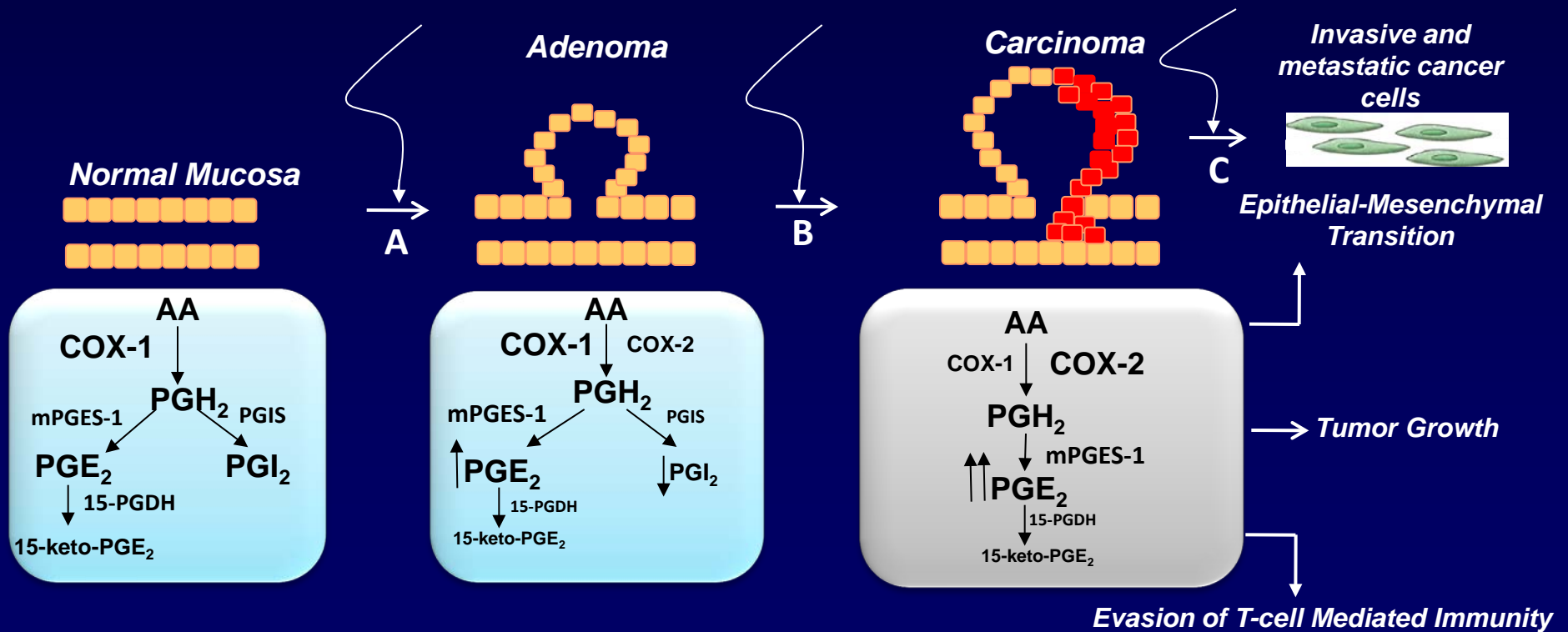
**Figure 1: The effect of aspirin on risk of metastasis due to any incident cancer diagnosed during five trials of aspirin versus control**  
Analysis is based on time from randomisation to diagnosis of metastasis during or after the trials. Part A shows definite site-specific distant metastasis and part B also includes metastatic cancers in which the site of the metastasis was not specified. HR=hazard ratio from a Cox regression stratified by trial.



**Figure 2: The effect of aspirin on risk of definite distant metastasis due to any incident cancer diagnosed during five trials of aspirin versus control, stratified by site of metastasis**  
Analysis is based on time from randomisation to diagnosis of metastasis during or after the trials. The sensitivity analysis of the effect of aspirin on risk of all malignant brain tumours is included because of the clinical inaccuracy in differentiating between a primary brain tumour and a solitary metastasis, particularly if a biopsy was not undertaken. 29 patients in the analysis of other or multiple metastasis are also included in analyses of site-specific metastasis. HR=hazard ratio from a Cox regression stratified by trial.



Lipid and protein mediators, and microvesicles (rich in microRNAs) are released from activated platelets and interact with adjacent resident cells and circulating cancer cells





### **TUMOR GROWTH**

- Growth factors
- Angiogenesis
- Granulocytes reclamation

### **IMMUNE ESCAPE**

- Platelet-cancer cell aggregates
- Platelet-fibrin deposition
- Blocking NK cell-mediated cytotoxicity

### **EXTRAVASATION**

- MMP production
- MMP-mediated matrix degradation
- Vessel permeability
- EMT induction

## IMMUNOTHERAPY

# Platelets subvert T cell immunity against cancer via GARP-TGF $\beta$ axis

Saleh Rachidi,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Alessandra Metelli,<sup>1,2\*</sup> Brian Riesenbergs,<sup>1,2</sup> Bill X. Wu,<sup>1,2</sup> Michelle H. Nelson,<sup>1,2</sup> Caroline Wallace,<sup>1,2</sup> Chrystal M. Paulos,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Mark P. Rubinstein,<sup>1,2,3</sup> Elizabeth Garrett-Mayer,<sup>2,4</sup> Mirko Hennig,<sup>5</sup> Daniel W. Bearden,<sup>6</sup> Yi Yang,<sup>1,2</sup> Bei Liu,<sup>1,2</sup> Zihai Li<sup>1,2,7†</sup>

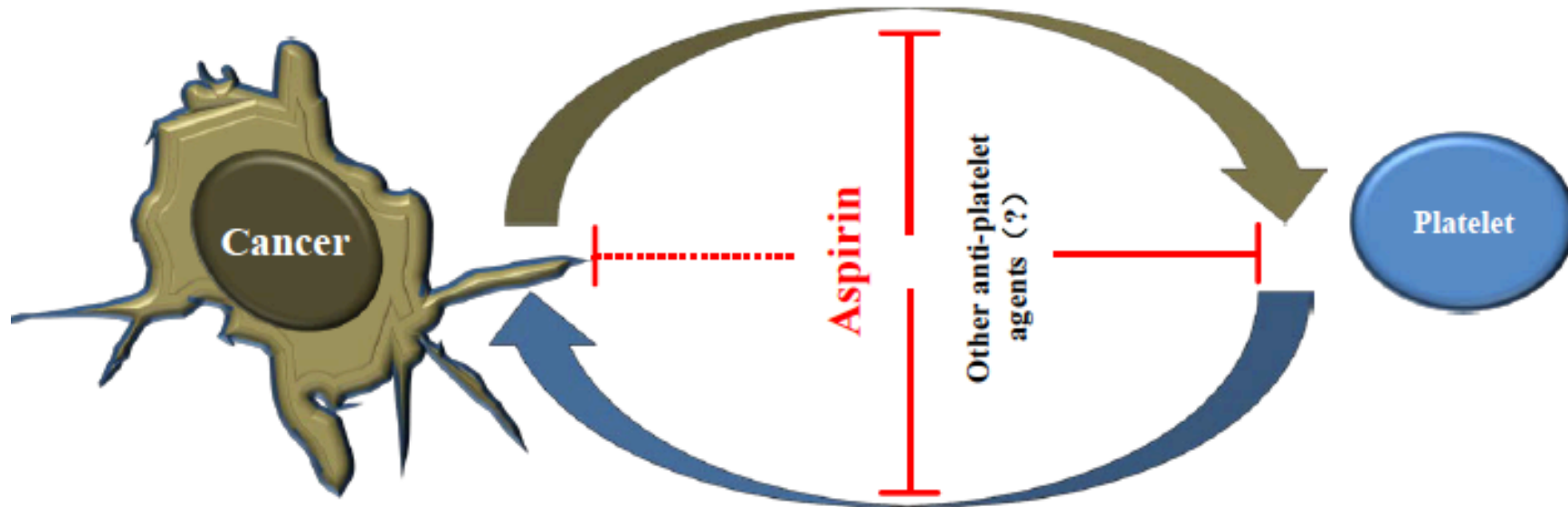
Cancer-associated thrombocytosis has long been linked to poor clinical outcome, but the underlying mechanism is enigmatic. We hypothesized that platelets promote malignancy and resistance to therapy by dampening host immunity. We show that genetic targeting of platelets enhances adoptive T cell therapy of cancer. An unbiased biochemical and structural biology approach established transforming growth factor  $\beta$  (TGF $\beta$ ) and lactate as major platelet-derived soluble factors to obliterate CD4<sup>+</sup> and CD8<sup>+</sup> T cell functions. Moreover, we found that platelets are the dominant source of functional TGF $\beta$  systemically as well as in the tumor microenvironment through constitutive expression of the TGF $\beta$ -docking receptor glycoprotein A repetitions predominant (GARP) rather than secretion of TGF $\beta$  per se. Platelet-specific deletion of the GARP-encoding gene *Lrrc32* blunted TGF $\beta$  activity at the tumor site and potentiated protective immunity against both melanoma and colon cancer. Last, this study shows that T cell therapy of cancer can be substantially improved by concurrent treatment with readily available anti-platelet agents. We conclude that platelets constrain T cell immunity through a GARP-TGF $\beta$  axis and suggest a combination of immunotherapy and platelet inhibitors as a therapeutic strategy against cancer.

*Rachidi et al. Sci Immunol 2017*

# Cancer and Platelet Crosstalk

Tumor cells

- induce platelet activation and aggregation;
- cause platelet extracellular vesicles and granule contents release;
- alter platelet phenotypes and platelet RNA profiles;
- enhance thrombopoiesis, etc.



Platelets

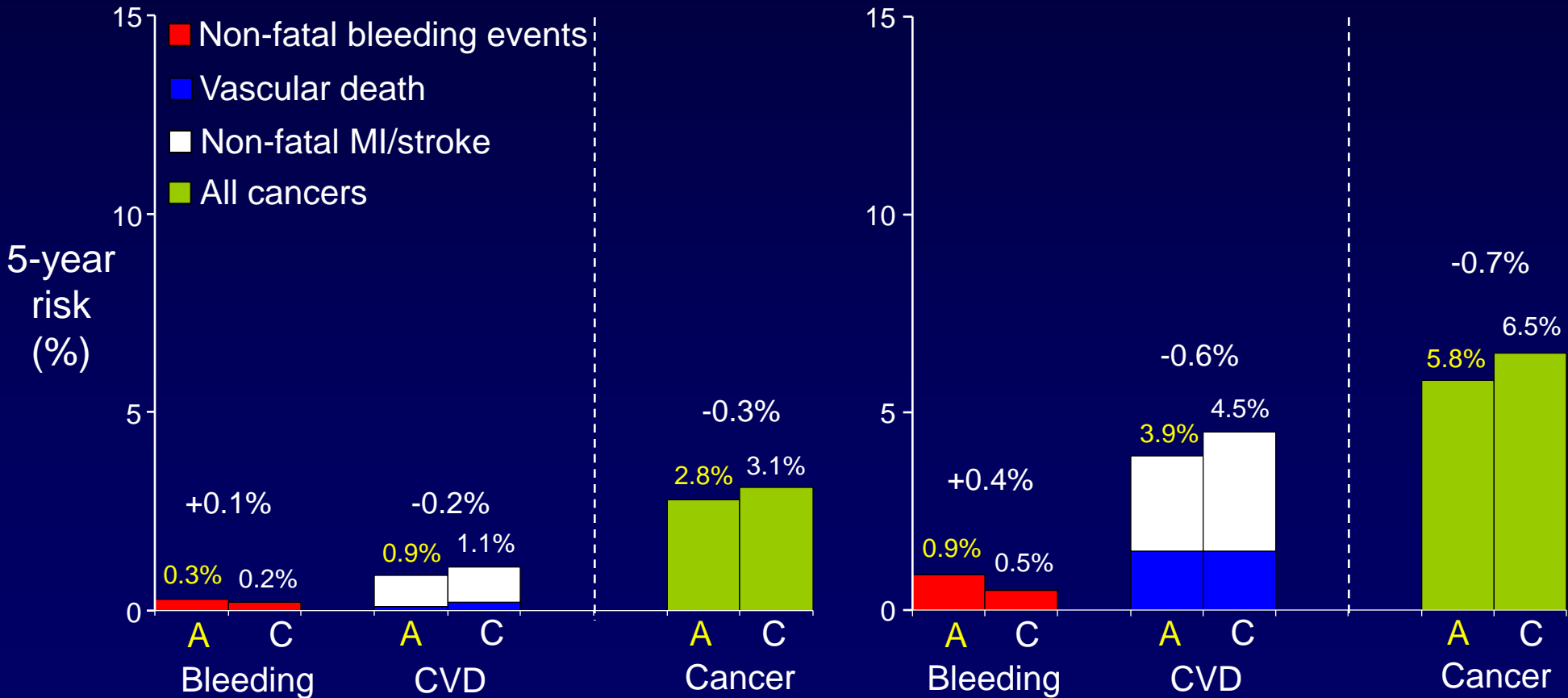
- facilitate cancer to sustain proliferative signaling, resist cell death and induce angiogenesis;
- activate tumor cell invasion and support metastasis;
  - a) induce an invasive epithelial-mesenchymal transition phenotype of tumor cells
  - b) promote tumor cell survival in blood circulation
  - c) facilitate tumor arrest at the vascular endothelium, extravasation and seeding
- promote tumor to evade immune destruction, etc.

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# Five-Year Risk of Vascular Events and Major Bleeding Based on Primary Prevention Trials of Aspirin vs Placebo, and Hypothetical 10% Reduction in Cancer Incidence by Age and Sex

Females, age 50-59 years

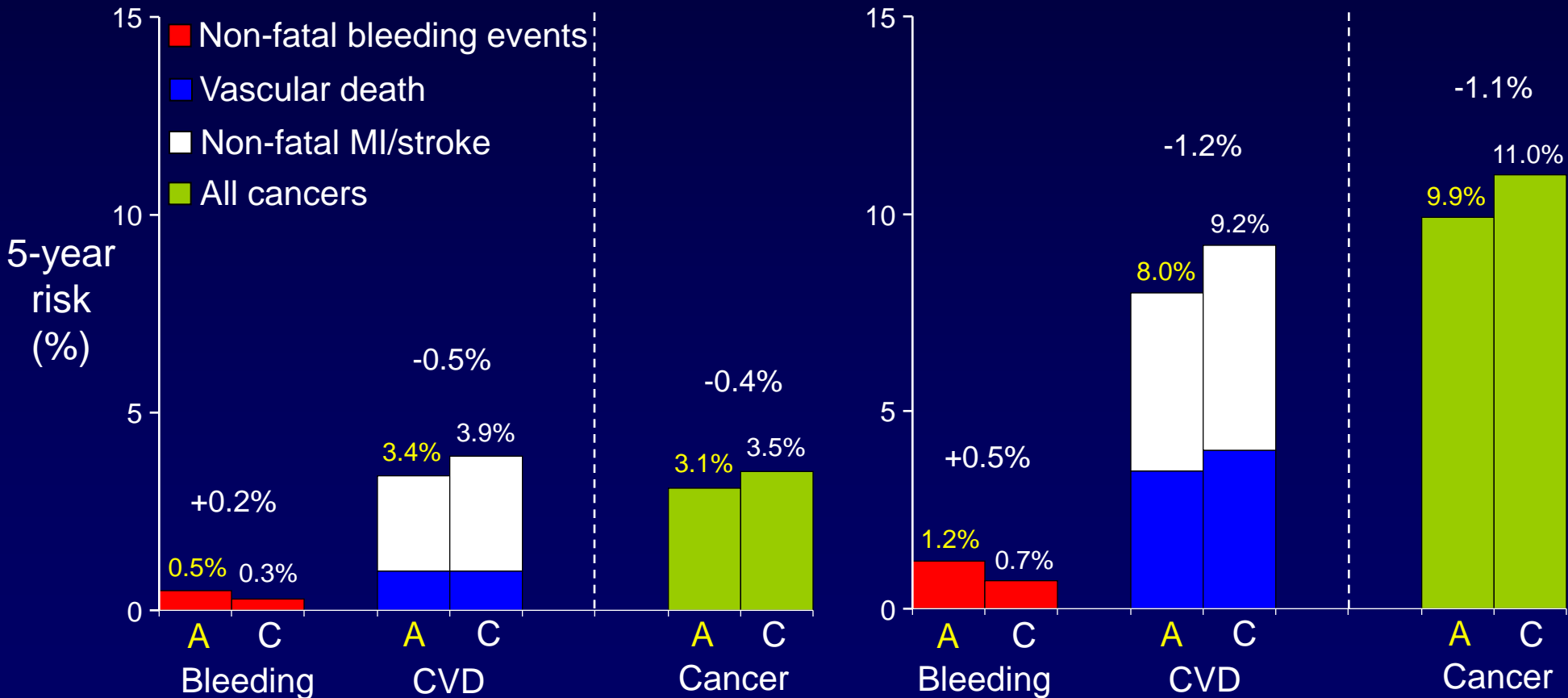
Females, age 65-74 years



# Five-Year Risk of Vascular Events and Major Bleeding Based on Primary Prevention Trials of Aspirin vs Placebo, and Hypothetical 10% Reduction in Cancer Incidence by Age and Sex

Males, age 50-59 years

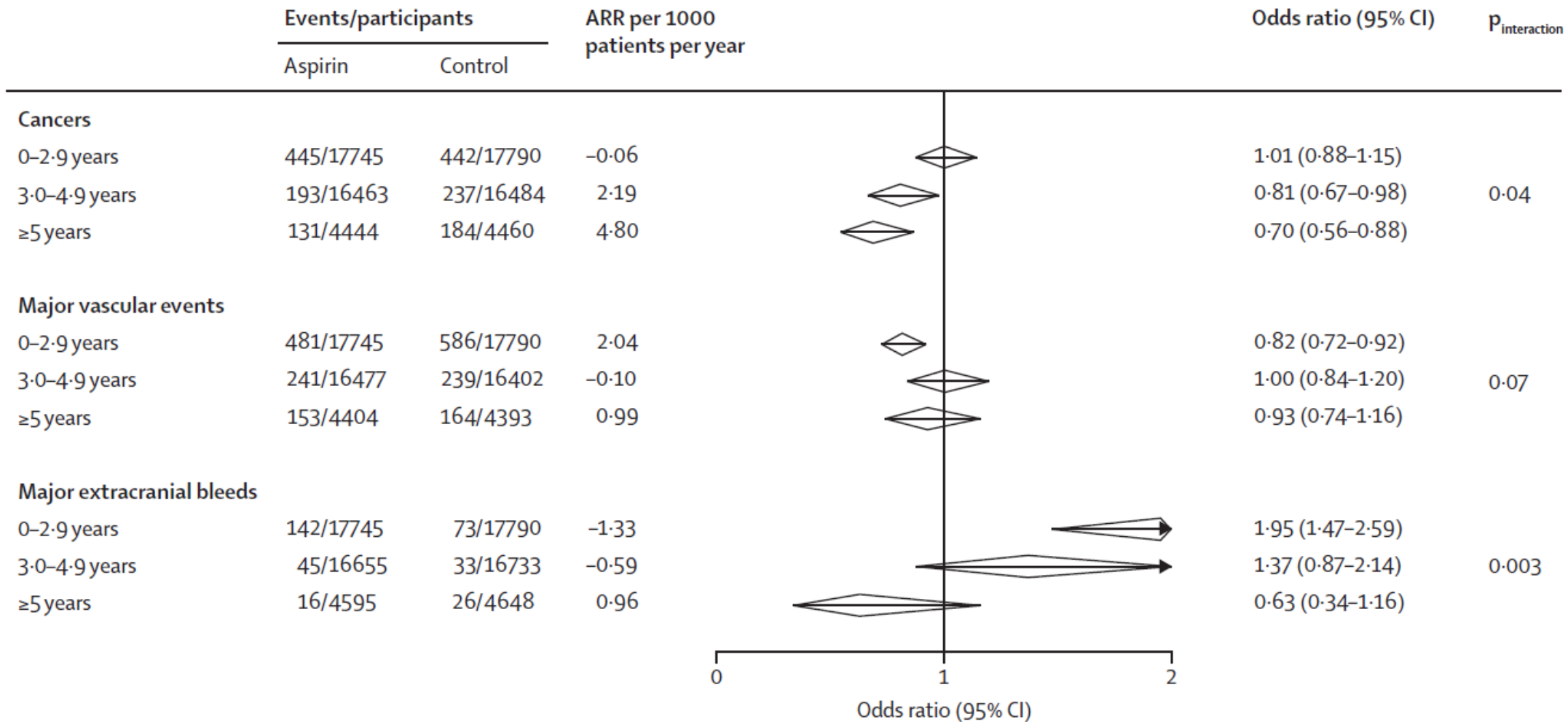
Males, age 65-74 years



Thun, Jacobs, Patrono *Nature Rev Clin Oncol* 2012;9:259-67



# Summary of primary prevention meta-analyses of the effect of aspirin on risks of incident cancer, major vascular events, and major extracranial bleeds



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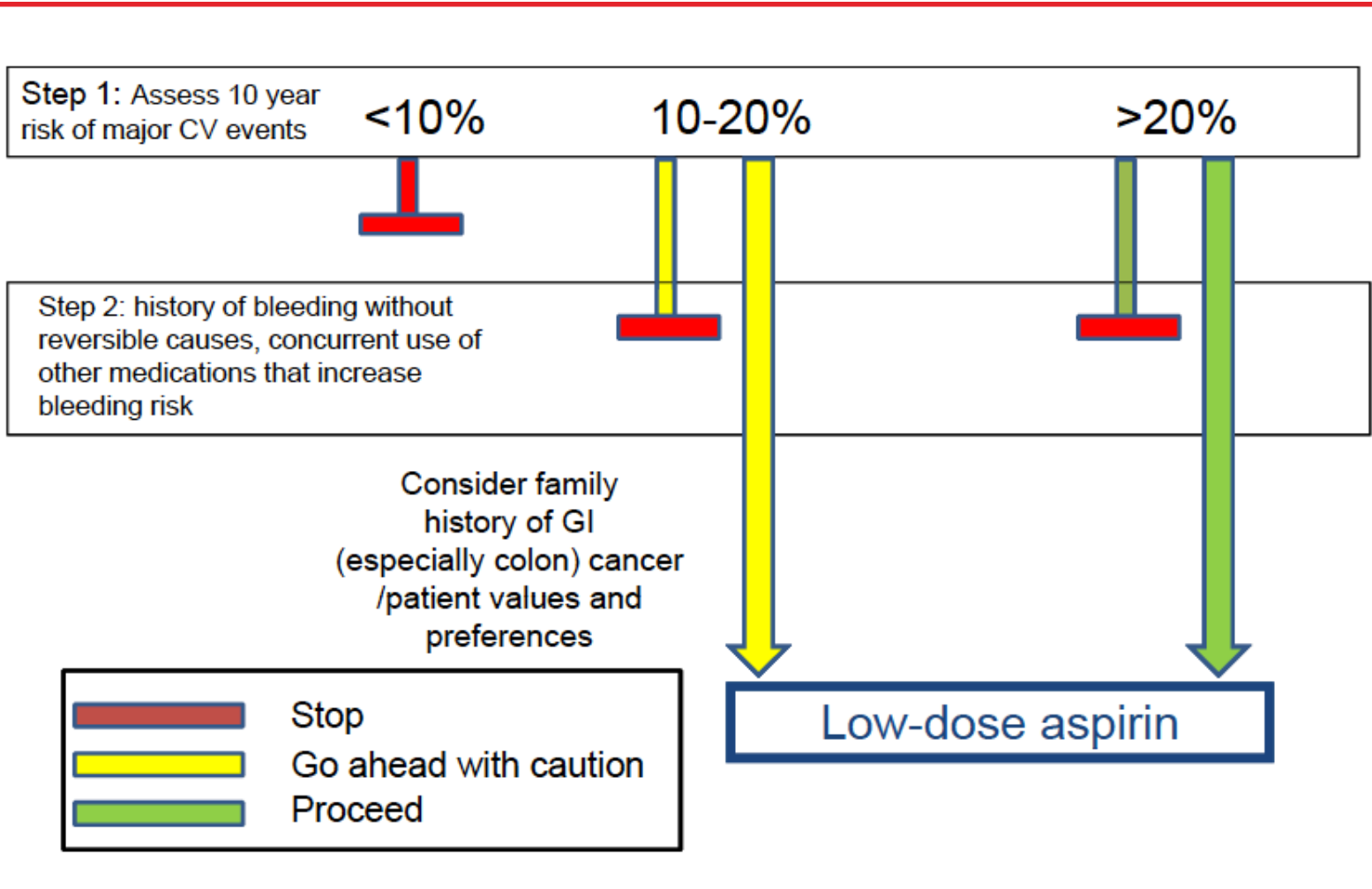
# Aspirin Use for the Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease and Colorectal Cancer: U.S. Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement

Population	Recommendation	Grade
Adults aged 50 to 59 years	The USPSTF recommends initiating low-dose aspirin use for the <b>primary prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) and colorectal cancer (CRC)</b> in adults aged 50 to 59 years who have a 10% or greater 10-year CVD risk, are not at increased risk for bleeding, have a life expectancy of at least 10 years, and are willing to take low-dose aspirin daily for at least 10 years.	<b>B</b>
Adults aged 60 to 69 years	<b>The decision to initiate low-dose aspirin</b> use for the primary prevention of CVD and CRC in adults aged 60 to 69 years who have a 10% or greater 10-year CVD risk <b>should be an individual one.</b> Persons who are not at increased risk for bleeding, have a life expectancy of at least 10 years, and are willing to take low-dose aspirin daily for at least 10 years are more likely to benefit. Persons who place a higher value on the potential benefits than the potential harms may choose to initiate low-dose aspirin.	<b>C</b>

# Aspirin Therapy in Primary Cardiovascular Disease Prevention

A Position Paper of the European Society of Cardiology Working Group on Thrombosis

*J Am Coll Cardiol 2014*



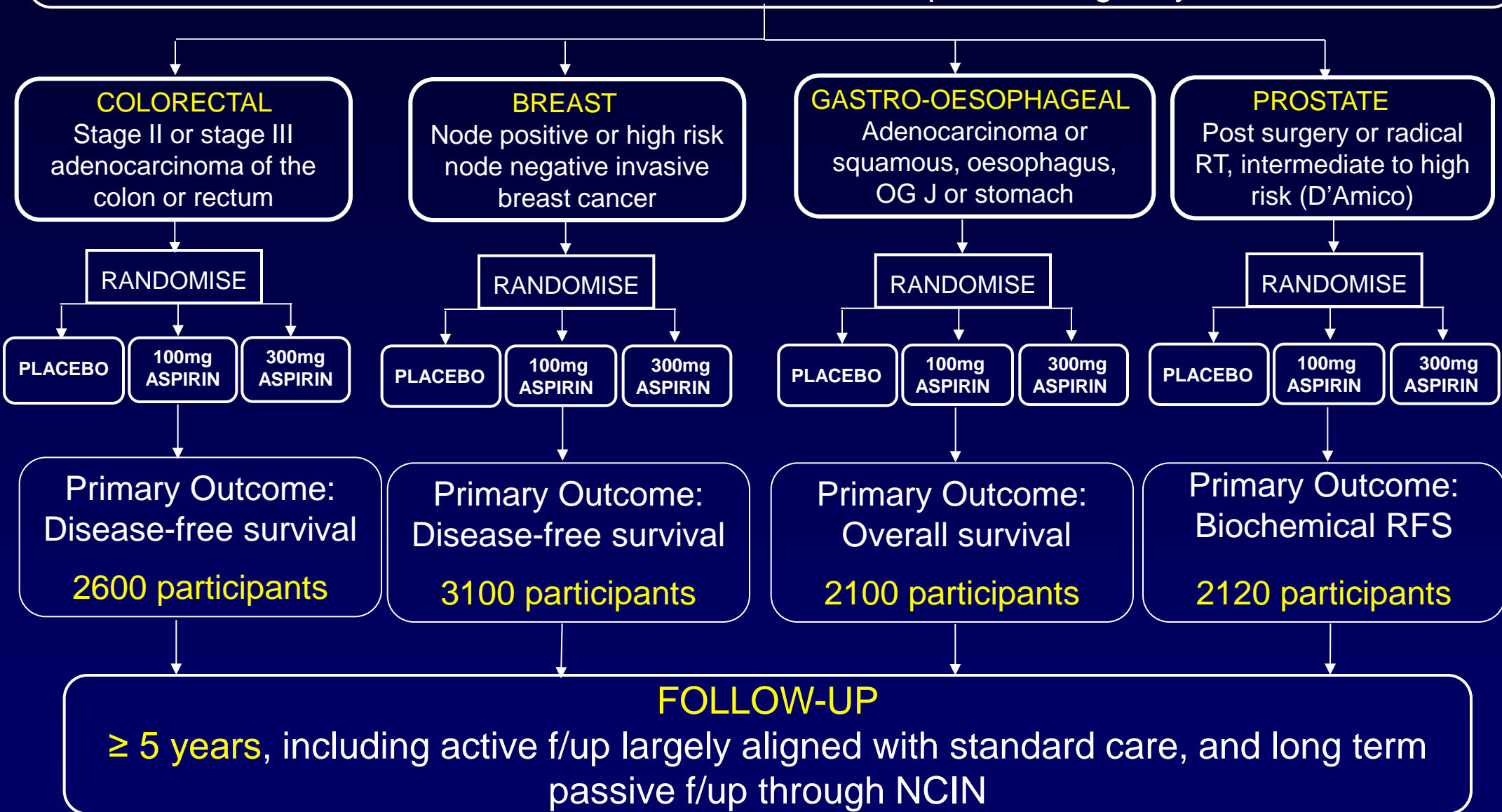
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# Ongoing Randomised Trials of Aspirin vs Placebo: Low-Risk Individuals

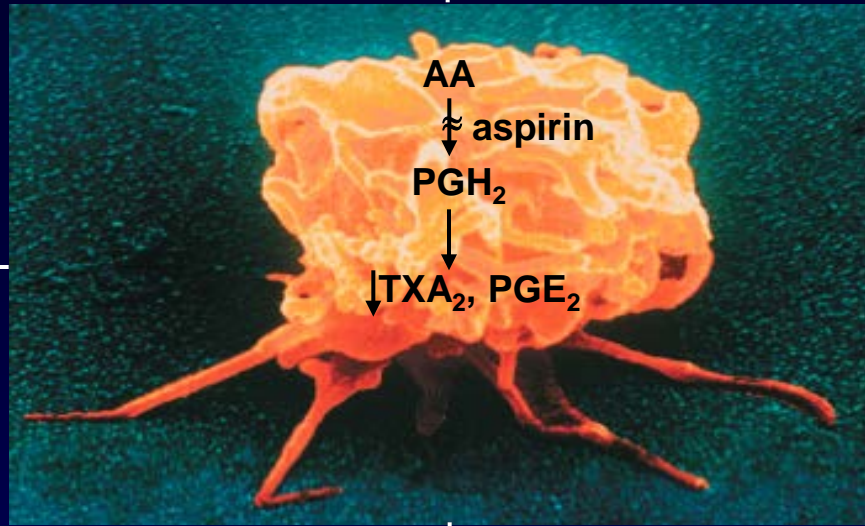
Study	Regimen(s)	Treatment duration	N	Eligibility	Primary endpoint	<u>Estimated</u> total of all cancers		End date
						≤5 years	>5 years	
ACCEPT-D	A100 vs open control; simvastatin for all	5 y	5170	Diabetes, no CVD	CV death, non-fatal stroke, nonfatal MI, other CV hospitalisation	~300	-	2015
ARRIVE	A100 enteric coated vs P	5y	12,000	10-20% estimated 10y risk of CHD	MI, stroke, CV death, unstable angina, TIA	~800	-	2016
ASPREE	A100 vs P	5 y	19,000	Elderly, no diabetes or CVD	Death, dementia or significant disability	~1000	-	2017
ASCEND	A100 vs P (ω3FA vs P)	7.5 y	15,000	Diabetes, no CVD	MI, stroke or TIA, or CV death	~900	~500 in trial, then registry)	2018

# ADD-ASPIRIN TRIAL: 4 PARALLEL PHASE III TRIALS

Participants undergone primary treatment with curative intent for an early stage common solid tumour  
RUN IN PERIOD – 8 weeks Aspirin 100 mg daily



↓ Release of microparticles



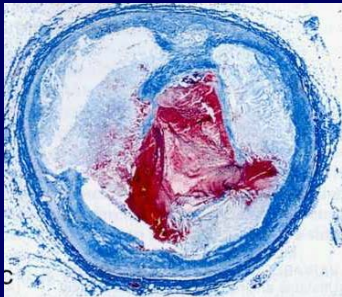
↓ Platelet surface for clotting factors assembly

↓ Release of pro-thrombotic prostanoids

↓ Release of pro-inflammatory, mitogenic and pro-angiogenic autacoids

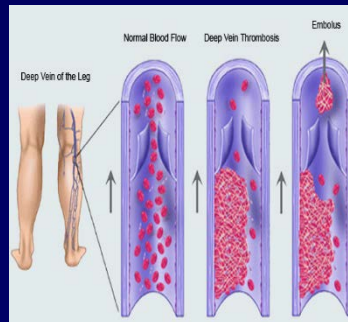
### ↓ Coronary Atherothrombosis

- Evidence from >50 RCTs and meta-analyses



### ↓ Venous Thromboembolism

- Evidence from several RCTs and meta-analyses



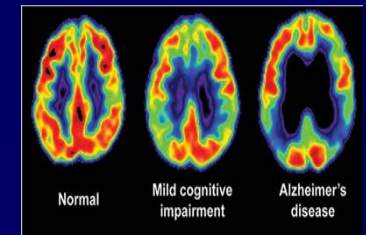
### ↓ Colorectal Cancer

- Evidence from observational studies and meta-analyses
- Evidence from post-hoc long-term follow-up of RCTs and meta-analyses
- Currently being tested prospectively in primary prevention and adjuvant RCTs



### ↓ Cognitive Impairment

- Limited evidence from observational studies
- Currently being tested in the ASPREE primary preventional trial

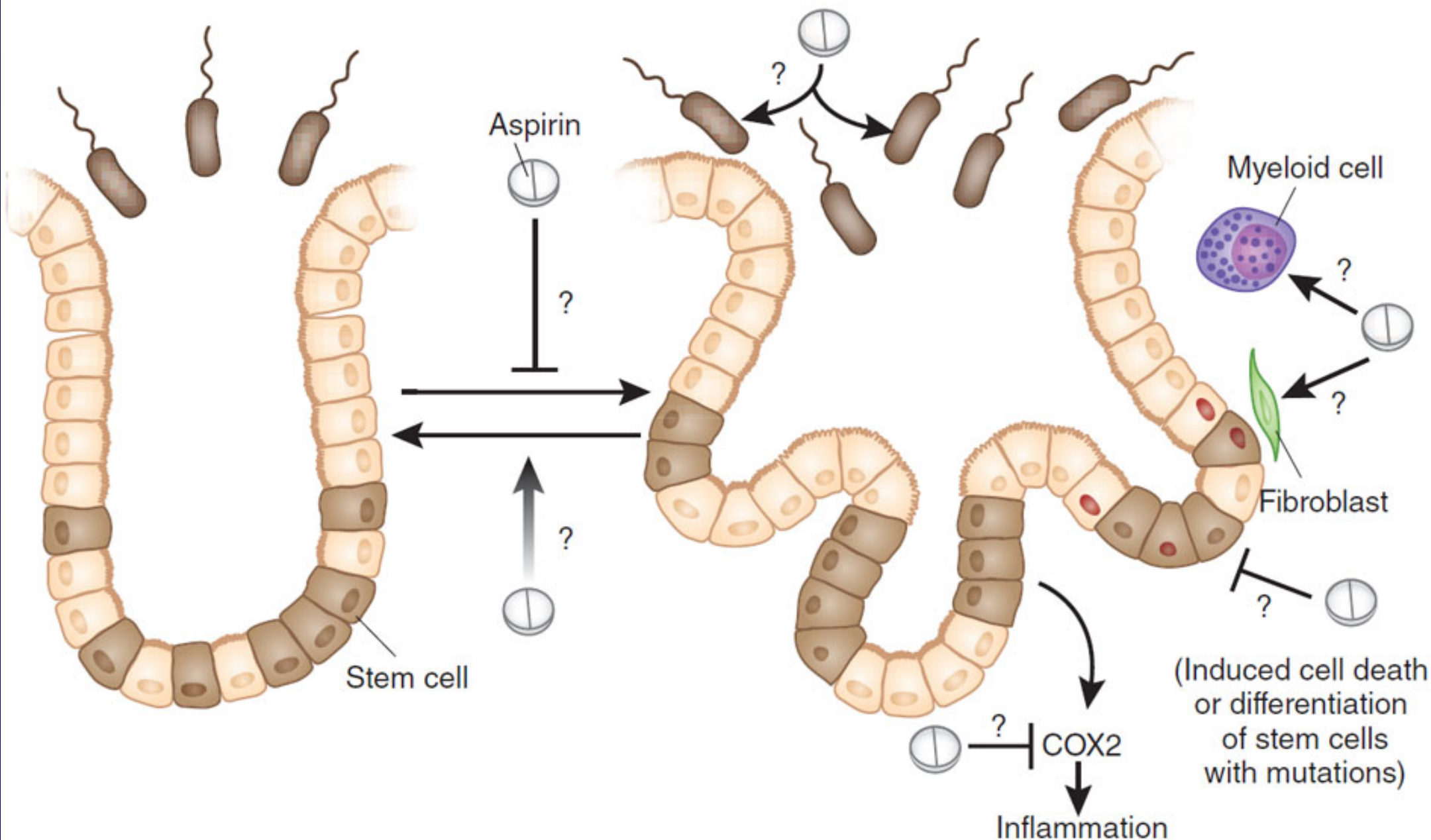















# Healthy intestinal crypt

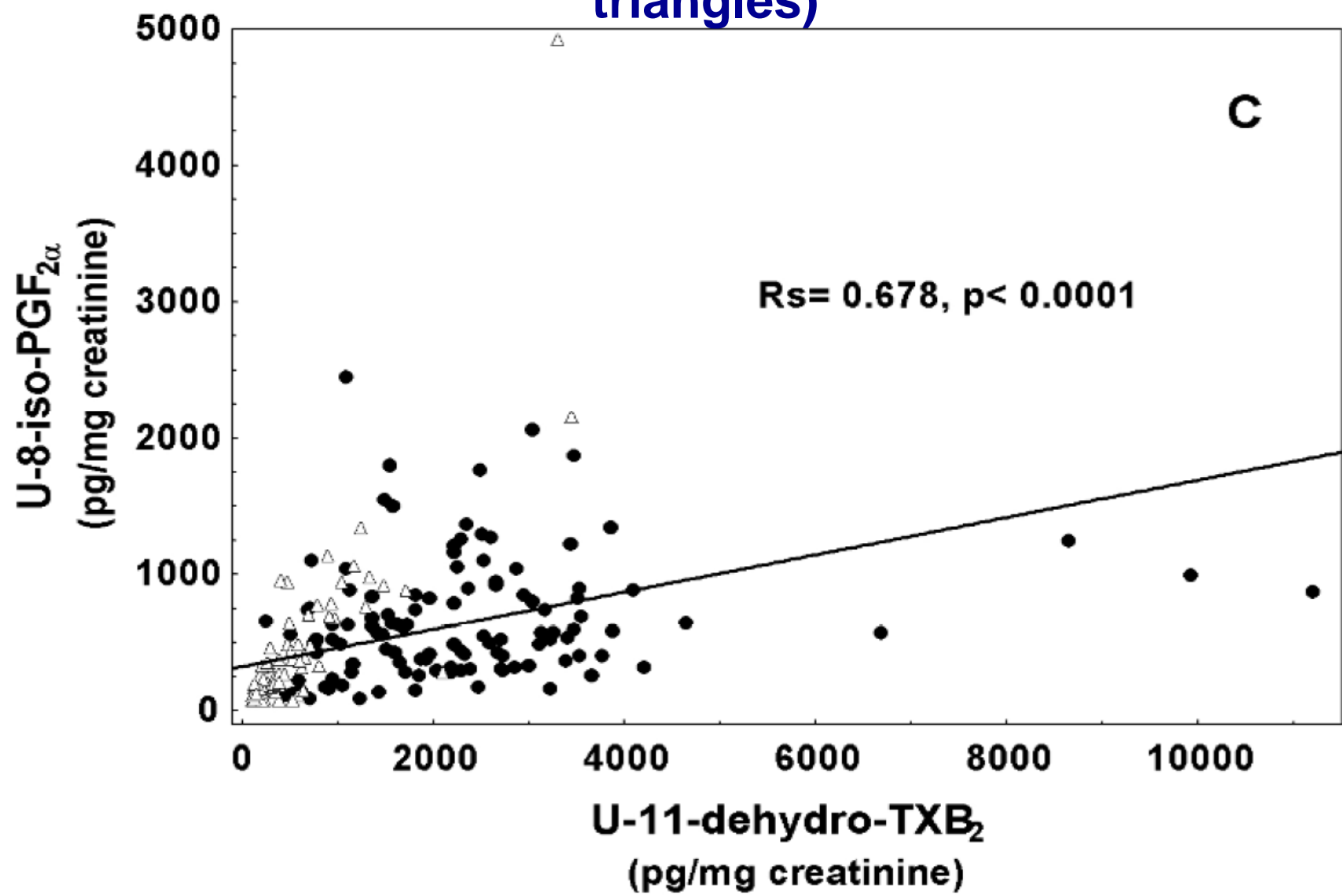
# Dysplastic crypt



# COX-2-Dependent Clinical Read-Outs: Are They Modulated by Aspirin *In Vivo*?

Clinical Read-Out	Effect of 75-100 mg	Effect of 300-325 mg	Effect of 650-1,300 mg
PGI <sub>2</sub> biosynthesis			
PD interaction with ACE-inhibitors			
Pain & inflammation in OA/RA			

Correlation between urinary levels of U-11-dehydro-TXB<sub>2</sub> and U-8-iso-PGF<sub>2α</sub> in breast cancer (closed circles) and control women (open triangles)



## TABELLA III.

*Fattori di rischio CV extra SCOREE ISS e danno d'organo considerati.*

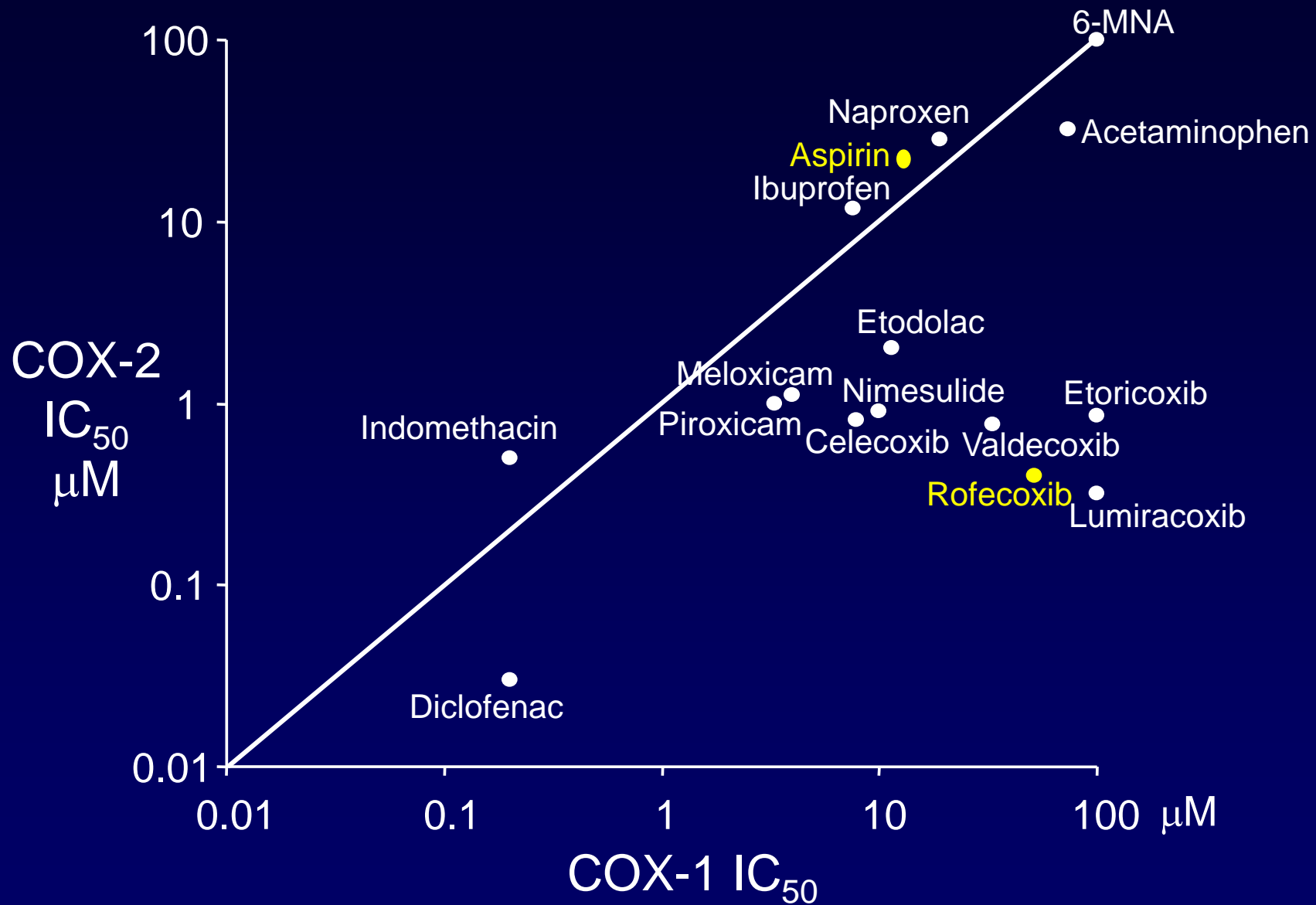
- Familiarità di 1° per malattie CV in età precoce (< 55 anni per l'uomo e < 60 anni per la donna)
- Obesità (BMI > 29)
- Ipertrofia ventricolare sinistra
- Ateromasia carotidea non emodinamicamente significativa e/o ispessimento mio intimale
- Danno renale (micro-macroalbuminuria o FG < 60 ml/min)

Queste condizioni conferiscono un rischio CV elevato, superiore a quanto stratificabile con la carta di rischio.

# Ongoing...

1. Mechanistic studies to test the “platelet hypothesis” in animal models of intestinal cancer
2. RCTs to assess prospectively the efficacy and safety of low-dose aspirin as a chemopreventive agent: adjuvant therapy vs primary prevention
3. Adequate knowledge of the available clinical trial evidence to inform patients, physicians and guideline writing committees about the quality and interpretation of the evidence

# COX-2 Selectivity as a Continuous Variable

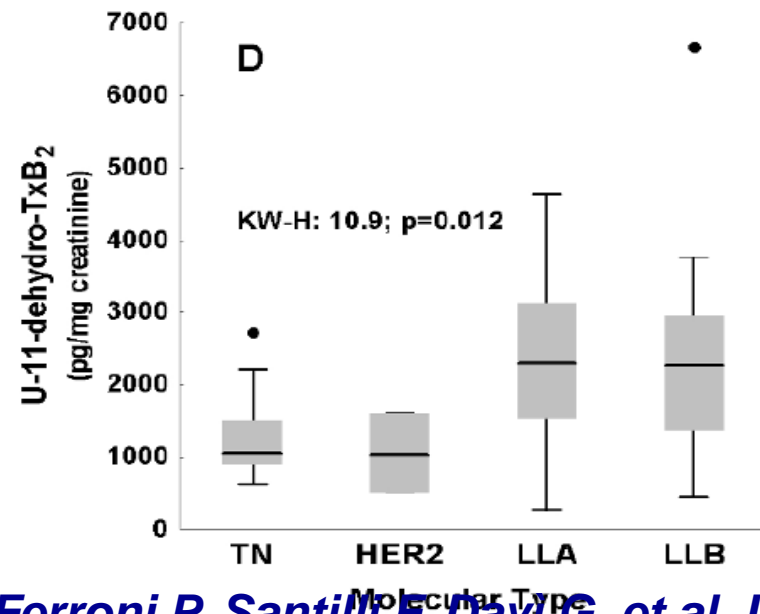
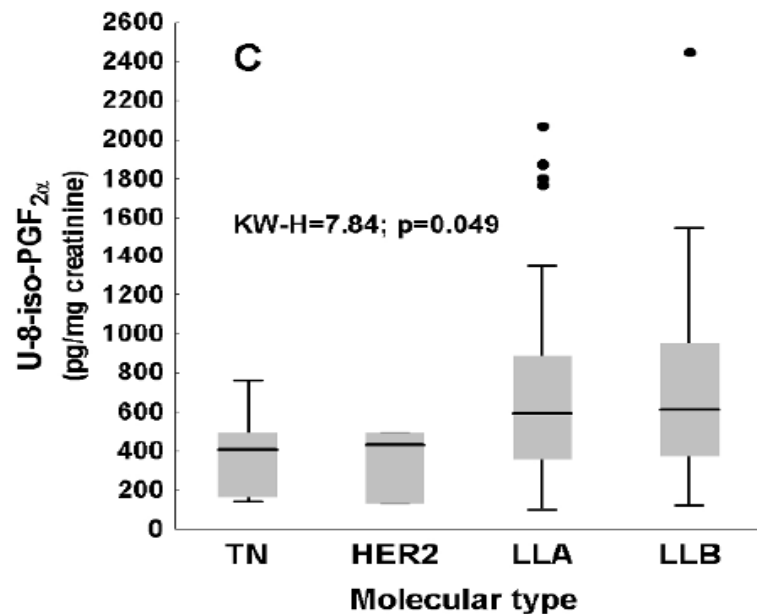
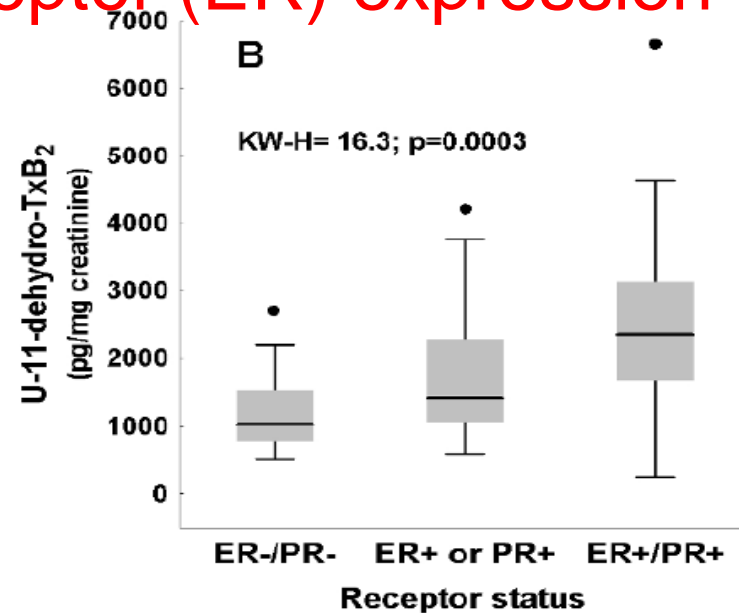
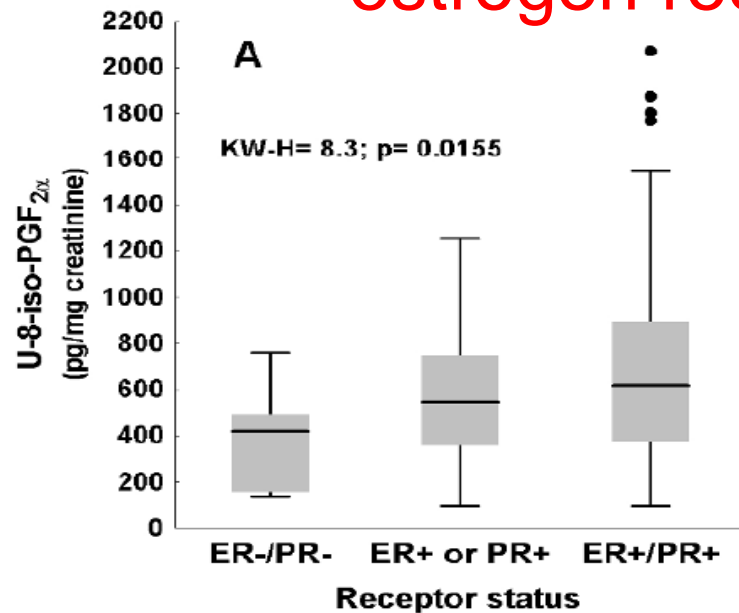


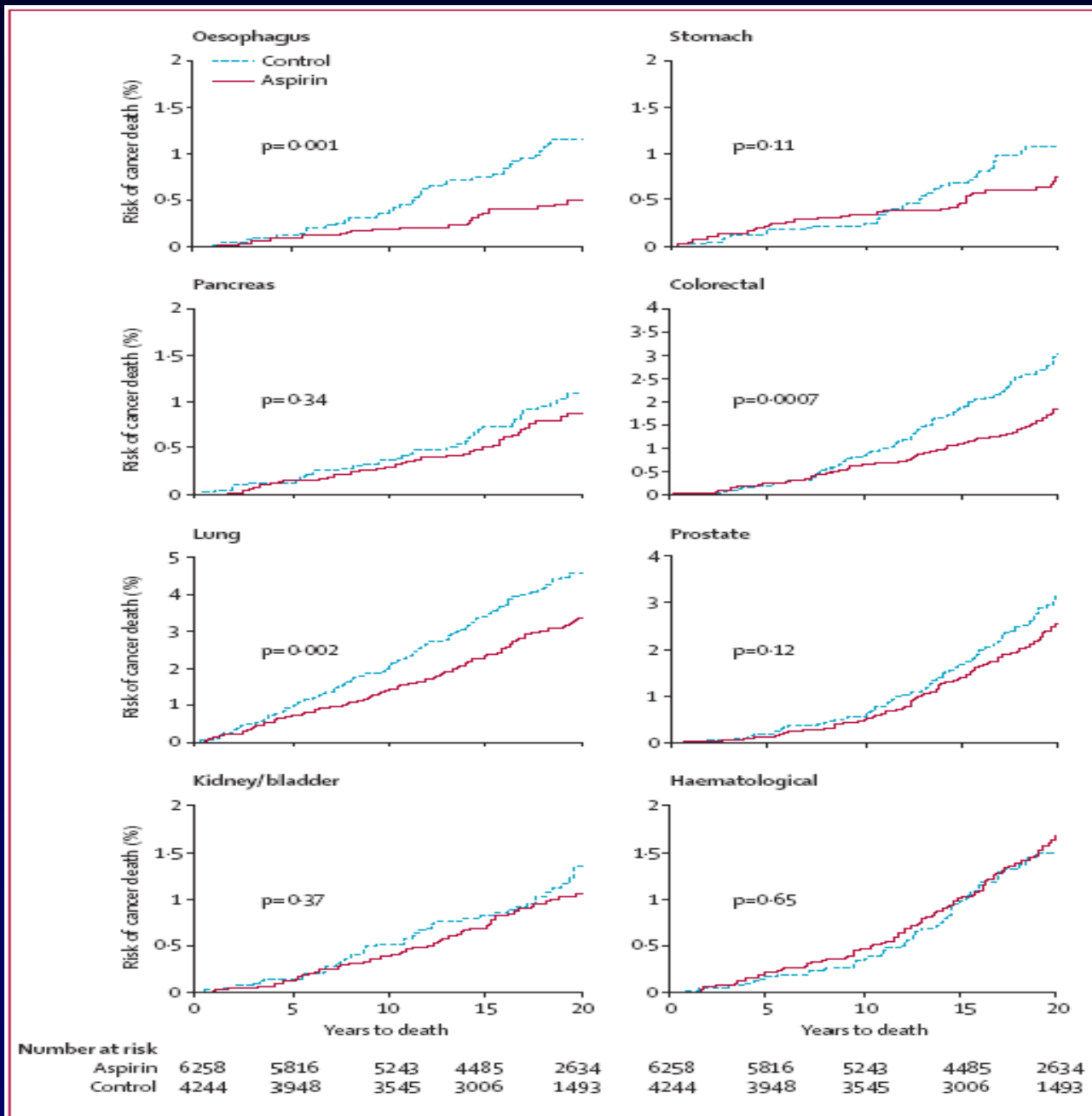
Updated from FitzGerald & Patrono, N Engl J Med 2001; 345:433-442

Whether we hypothesize a direct effect of aspirin on nucleated cellular targets (cancer or inflammatory cells), the chemopreventive effects of low-dose aspirin administered once daily do not fit with its pharmacokinetics (very short half-life) and pharmacodynamics (the relatively selective inhibition of platelet COX-1)



# Both urinary biomarkers directly correlated with BC patients' estrogen receptor (ER) expression





## Effect by Tumor Site

**Figure 4:** Effect of allocation to aspirin versus control on the 20-year risk of death due to the most common fatal cancers in the 10 502 patients with scheduled treatment duration of 5 years or longer in the three trials with long-term follow-up<sup>27-29</sup>

