



# Interplay between iron and inflammatory processes



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# Disclosure of Interests

Nothing to declare except participation in several clinical trials of anti-anemic drugs.

KDIGO

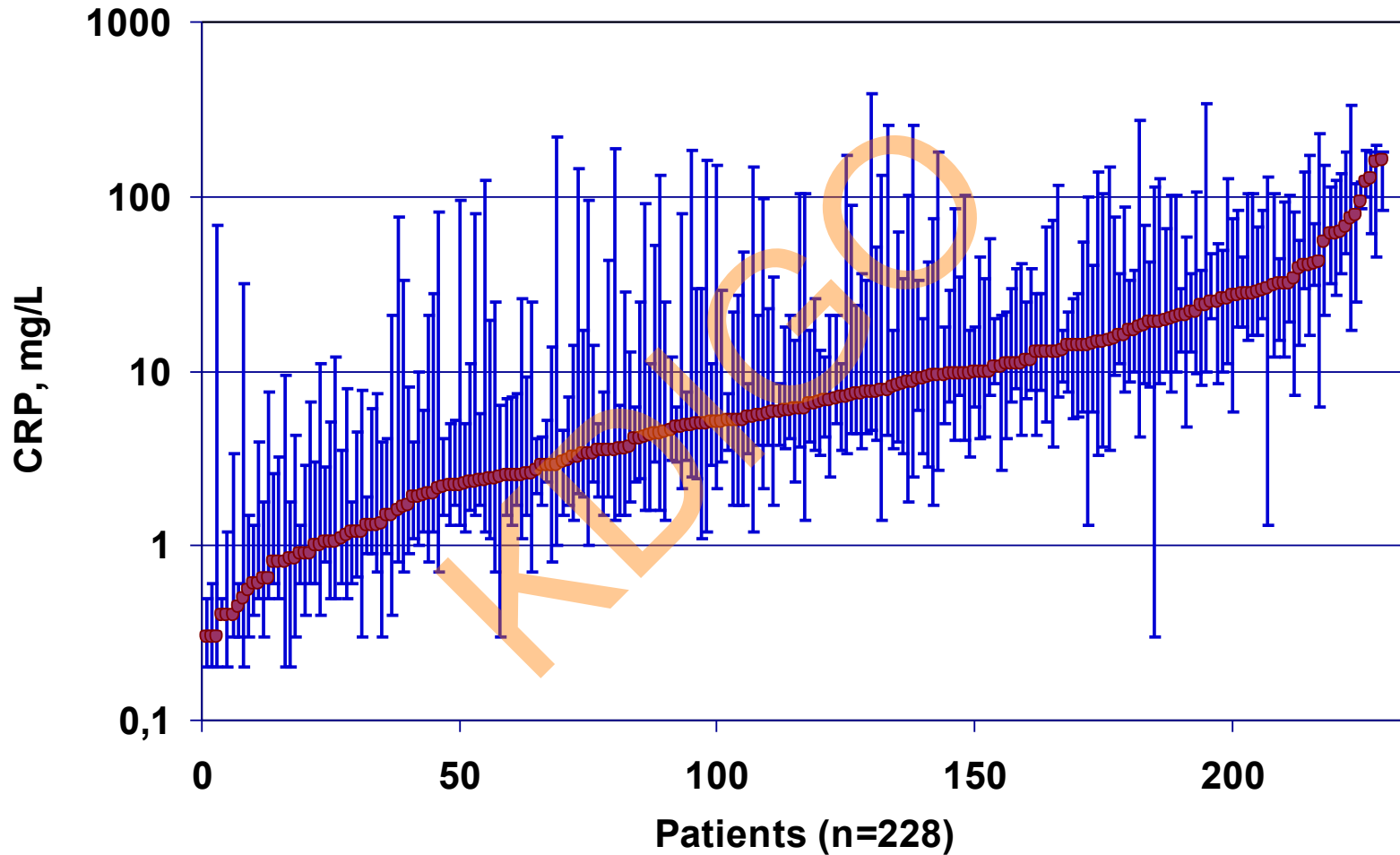


# My topics

- Inflammation, ESA resistance and functional iron deficiency
- Iron markers
  - Predictors of response to iron?
  - Correlation to inflammation
- Heparin and inflammation in CKD
- Associations with mortality in CKD patients
- Treatment with iron

# CRP Variation in Hemodialysis Patients Over Three Months

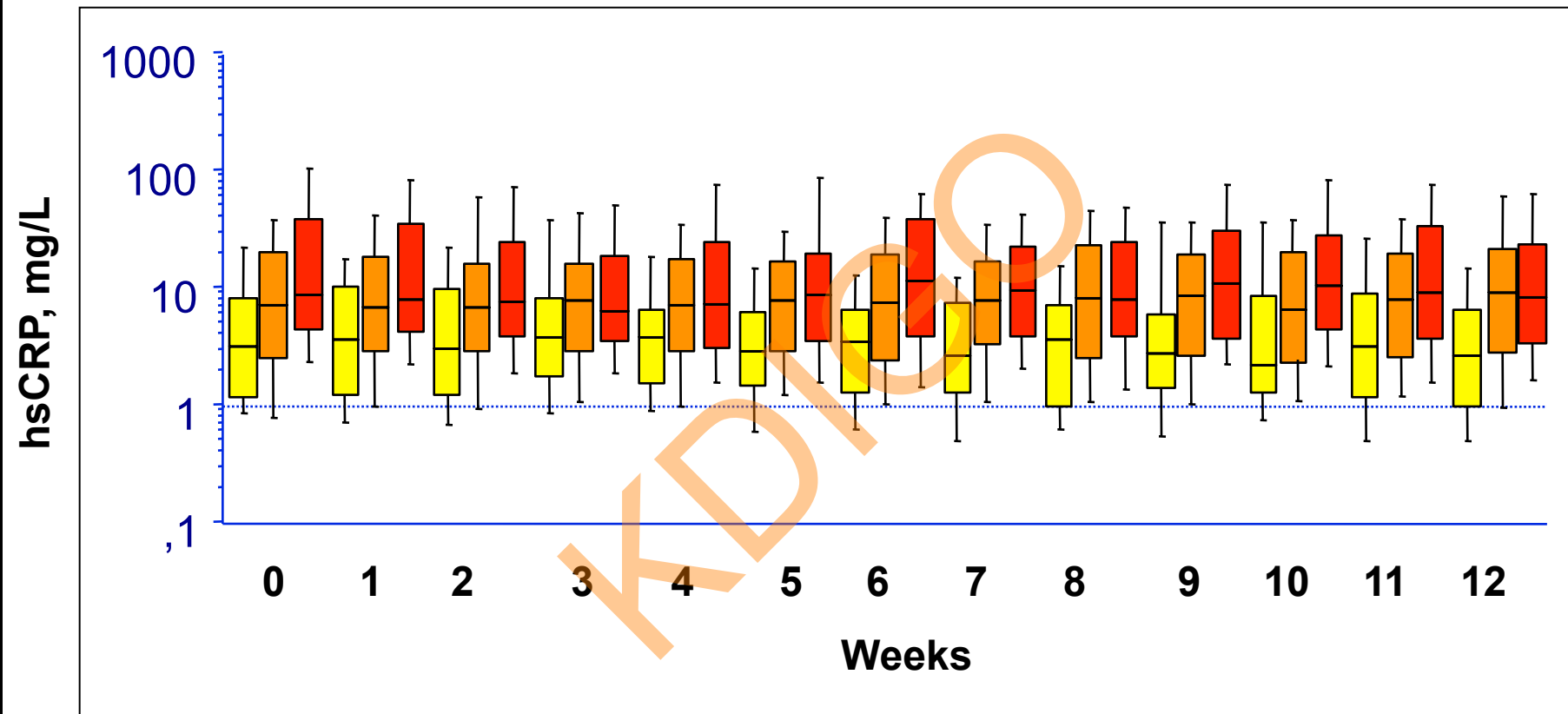
*the MIMICK study*



Snaedal *et al.* Am J Kidney Dis 2009 Jun;53(6):1024-33



# CRP are higher in HD patients with comorbidity



p-value <0.01 all weeks  
except no 3

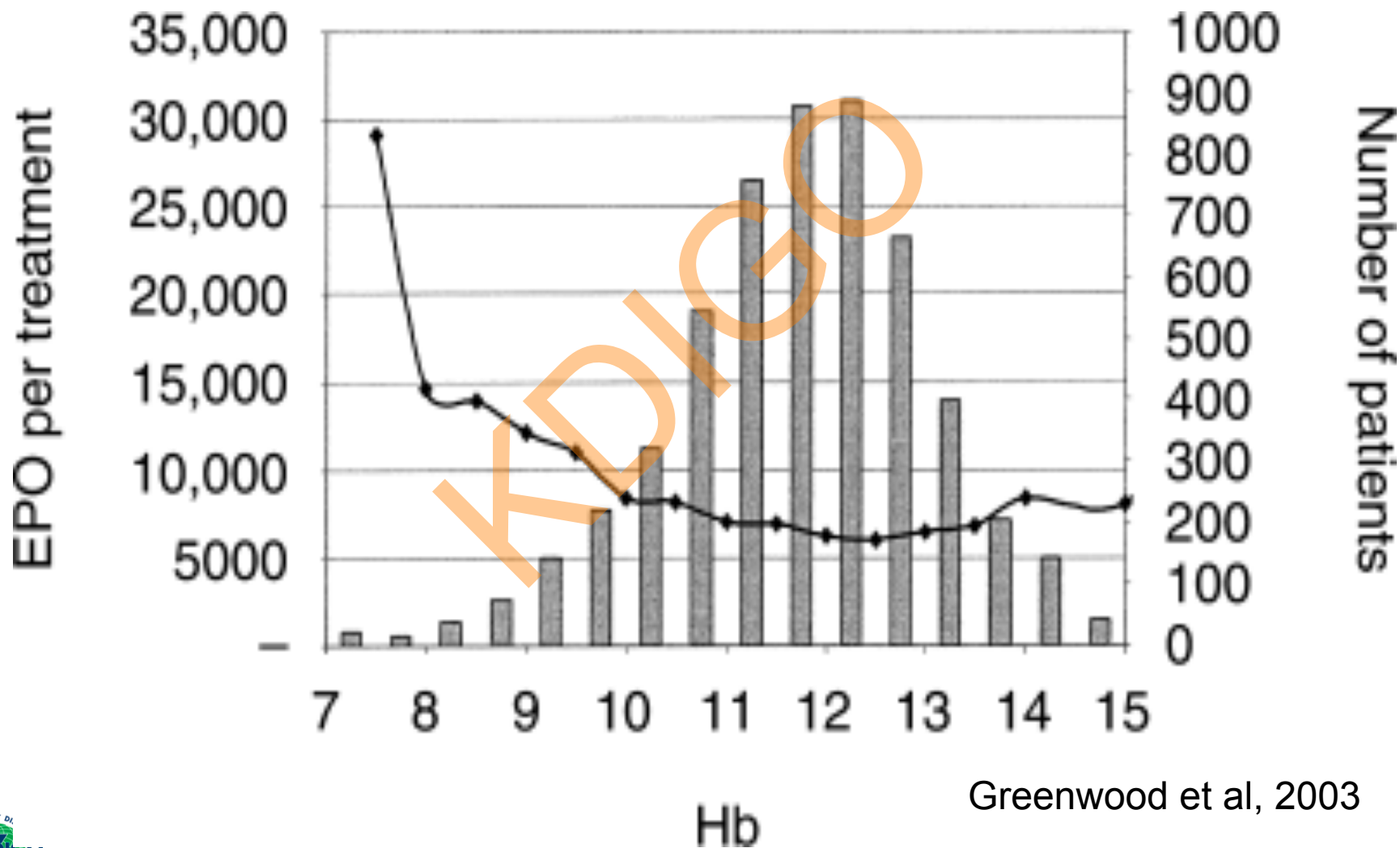
- Low risk n=43
- Medium risk n=129
- High risk n=56

Snaedal *et al.* Am J Kidney Dis 2009 Jun;53(6):1024-33

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# Anemia in *epoetin-treated* dialysis patients



Greenwood et al, 2003



# Functional Iron Deficiency Was Described Early in Epoetin-treated CKD5D Patients

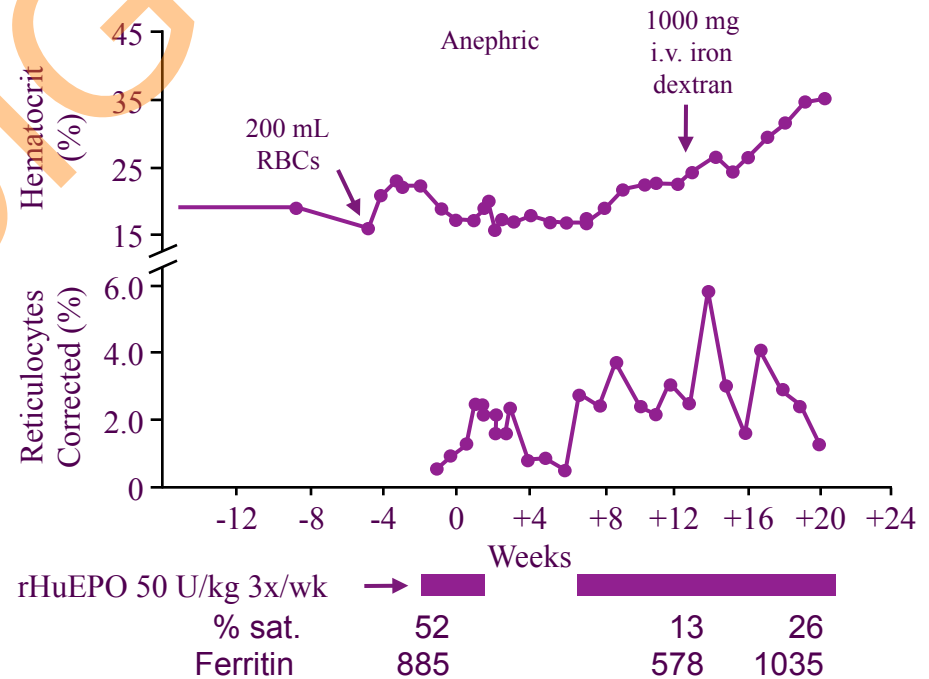
- Combined Phase I and II trial data for recombinant human erythropoietin (rHuEPO) in 25 HD patients with anemia
- rHuEPO administration induced a fall in TSAT and serum iron levels



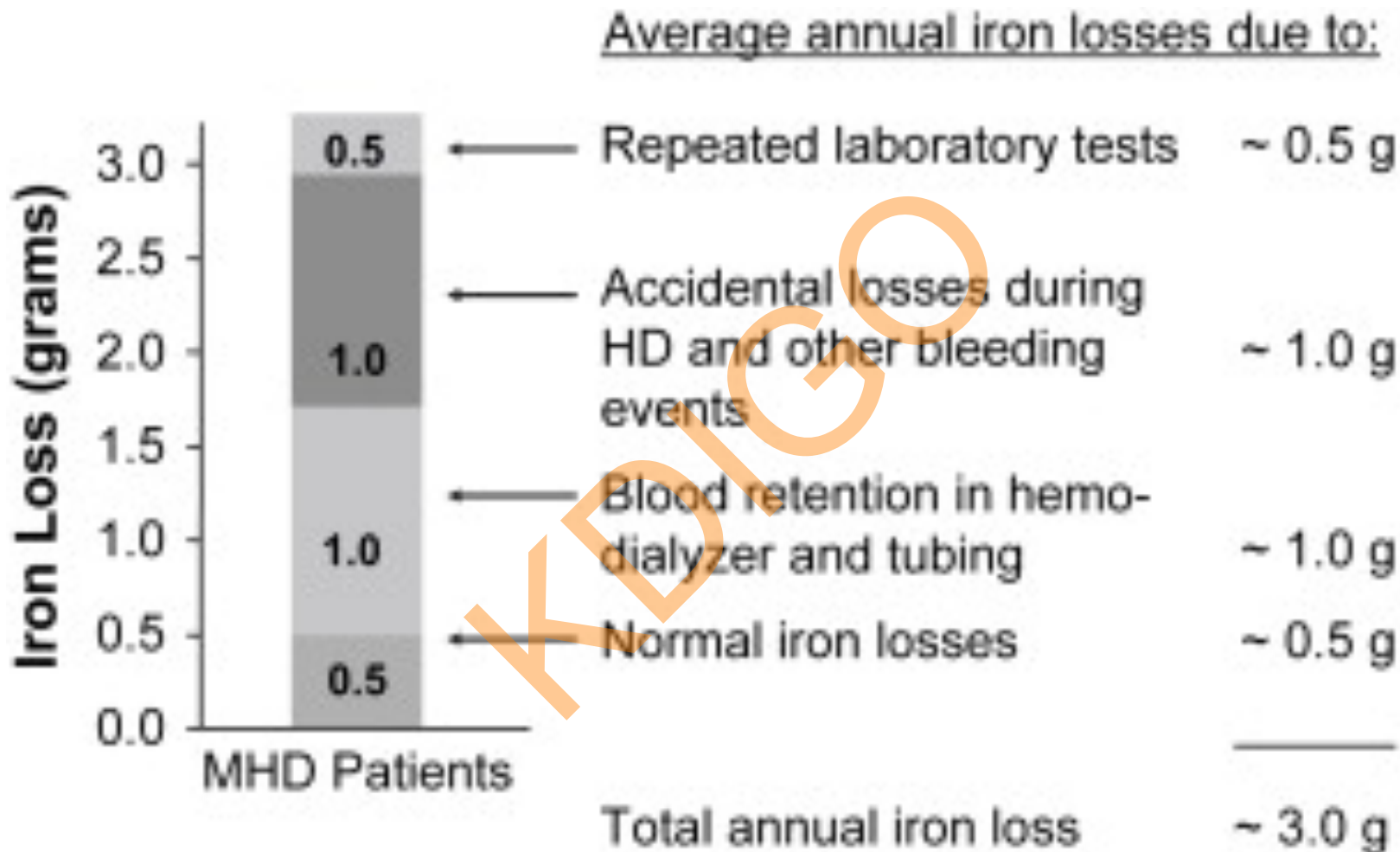
Dr. Joseph Eschbach  
1933–2007

‘One of the clinical features seen with this form of treatment was a state of functional iron deficiency’

Eschbach JW et al. *N Engl J Med* 1987;316:73–78



# Estimated annual loss of iron in hemodialysis patients





## NECOSAD study

- inadequate EPO response in 3,6 % of the pts:
  - (1) hemoglobin less than 9.7g/dL,
  - (2) serum ferritin greater than or equal to 200 g/L, and
  - (3) EPO dose greater than or equal to 14,000 IU/week.

**Table 2.** Possible causes<sup>a</sup> for inadequate erythropoietin (EPO) response of selected patients<sup>b</sup> ( $N = 57$ ) /1677, 3,6 %

Causes for inadequate EPO response	Total number of patients
Infection/inflammation	41
Blood loss	16
Hyperparathyroidism/aluminum toxicity	10
Hemoglobinopathy	2
Folate/vitamin B <sub>12</sub> deficiency	1
Multiple myeloma/myelofibrosis/myelodysplastic syndrome	6
Malnutrition	5
Hemolysis	0
Inadequate dialysis	2
Pure red cell aplasia	1
Malignancy	7
Graft/shunt problems	14
Operation	8
Suspected noncompliance	9
Medication ( $\geq$ bone marrow suppress)	4
Unknown	2

<sup>a</sup>Adjusted according to the categorization of the National Kidney Foundation Dialysis Outcome and Quality Investigation (2002).

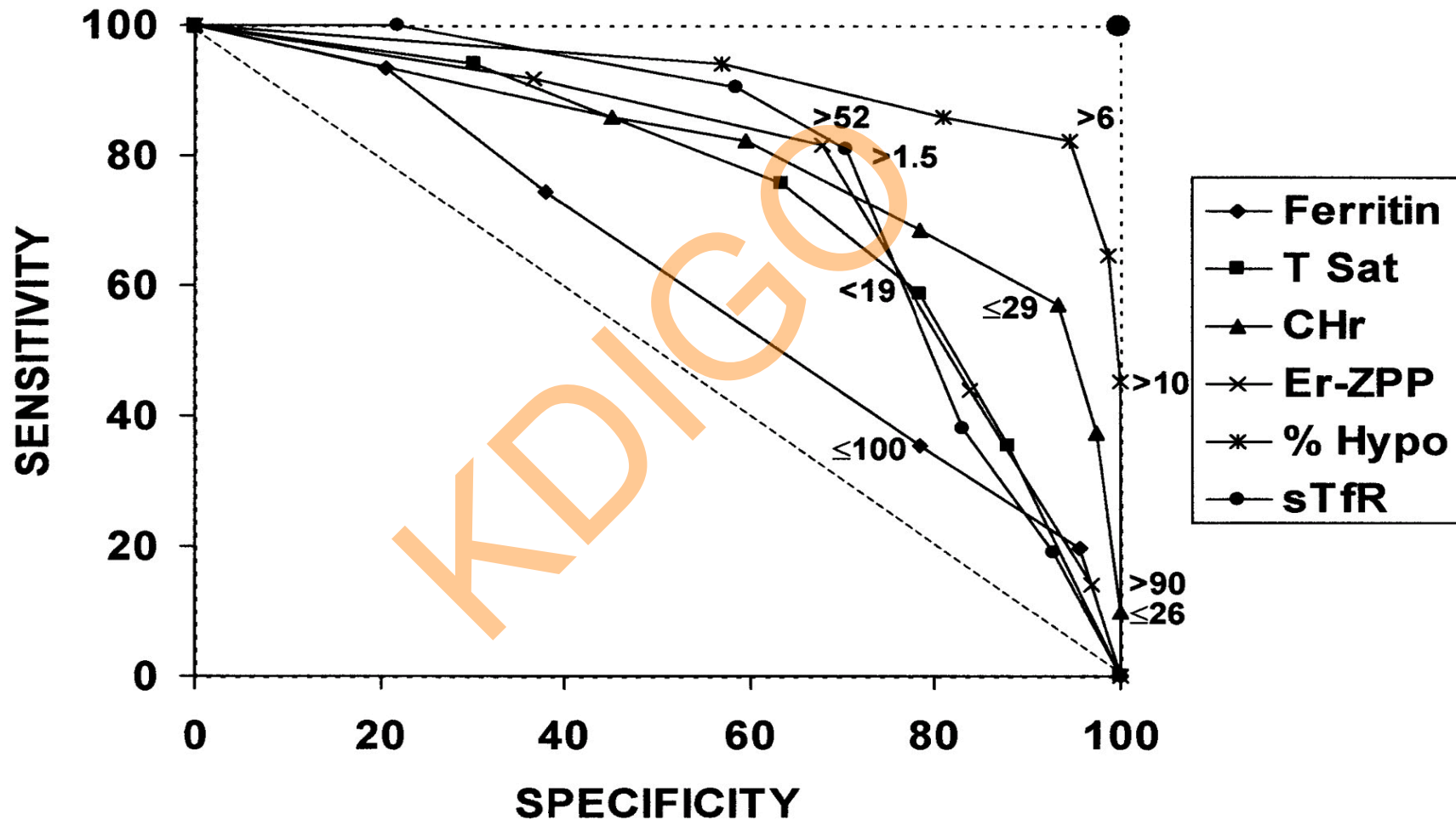
<sup>b</sup>Some patients fall in more than one category (i.e., there is more than one possible cause for their inadequate EPO response).

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# Poor prediction of ESA response by iron markers

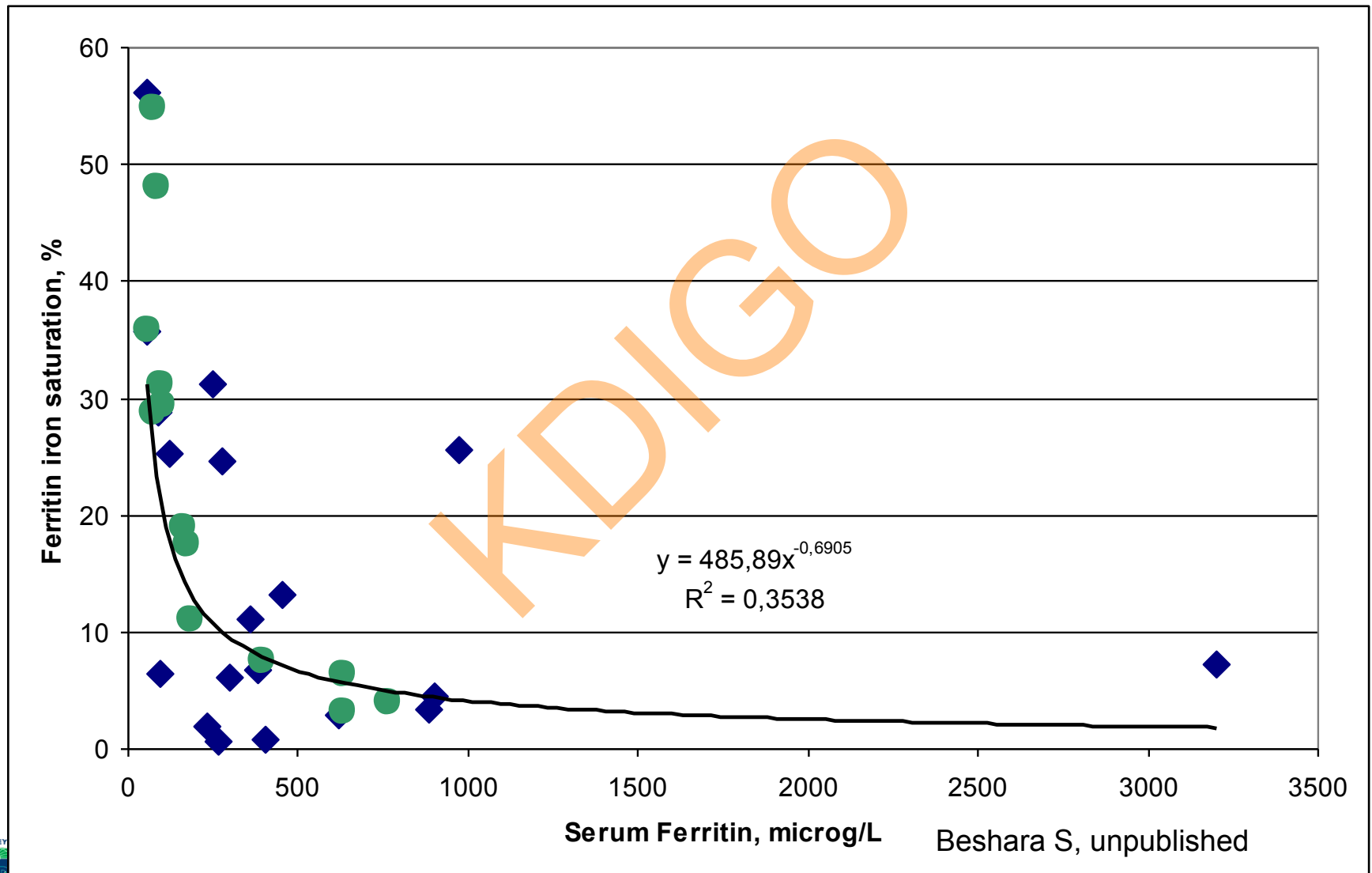


Tessitore et al. Nephrol Dial Transplant. 2001 Jul;16(7):1416-23.

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# Ferritin iron content (%) in CKD 2-5 patients (green) and dialysis patients (blue).



Beshara S, unpublished



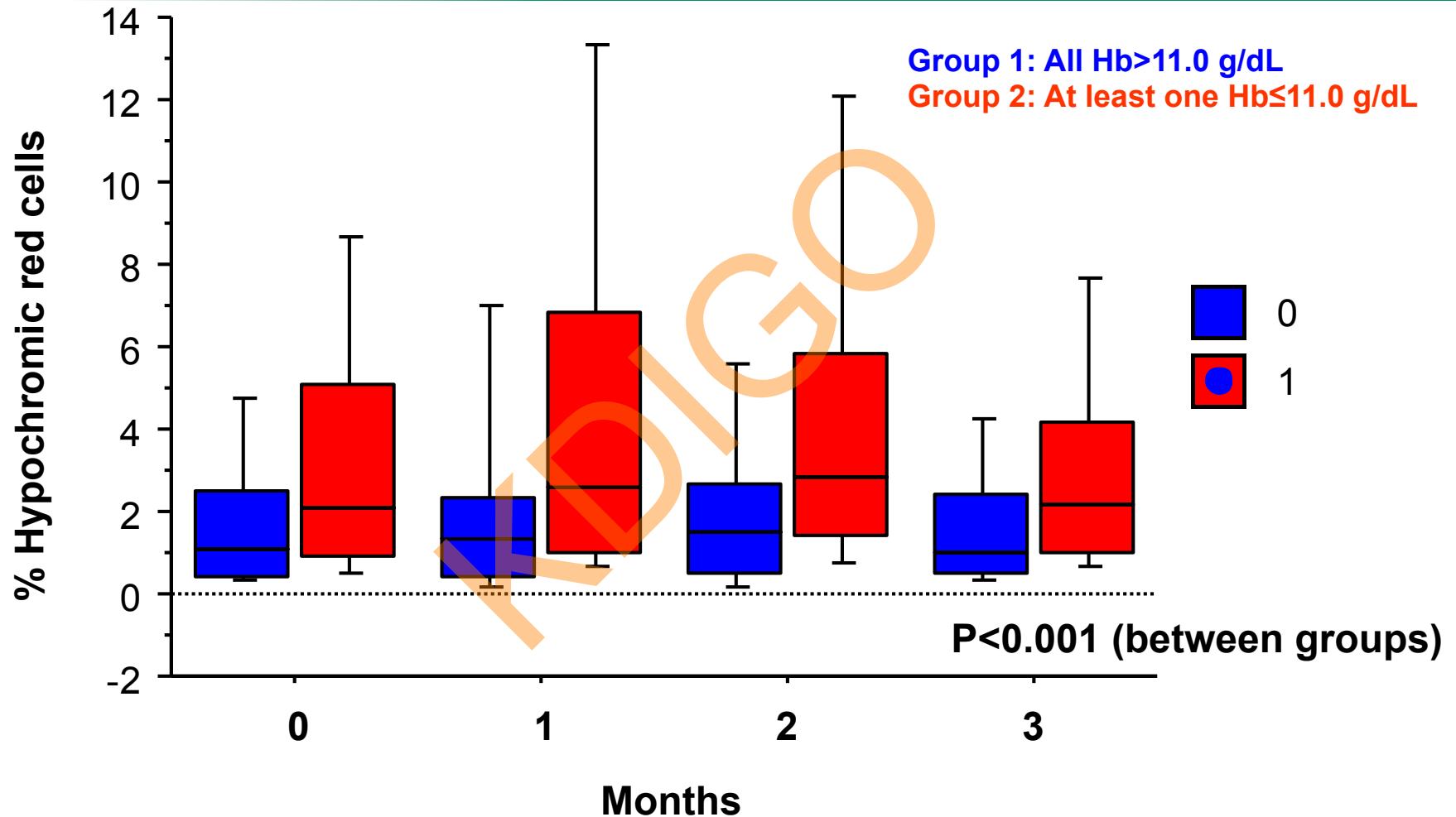
# Biomarkers for Assessing and Managing Iron Deficiency Anemia in Late-Stage Chronic Kidney Disease

- ...all currently available laboratory biomarkers of iron status (either newer or classical markers) do not have an ideal predictive ability when used singly to determine iron deficiency as defined by a response to iron challenge test.
- ... there is insufficient evidence to determine the test performance of the combinations of newer biomarkers, or combinations of newer and classical biomarkers, for diagnosing iron deficiency.
- ...it may be that CHr and %HYPO have better predictive ability for a response to IV iron treatment than classical markers (TSAT <20 or ferritin <100 ng/mL) in HD CKD patients.

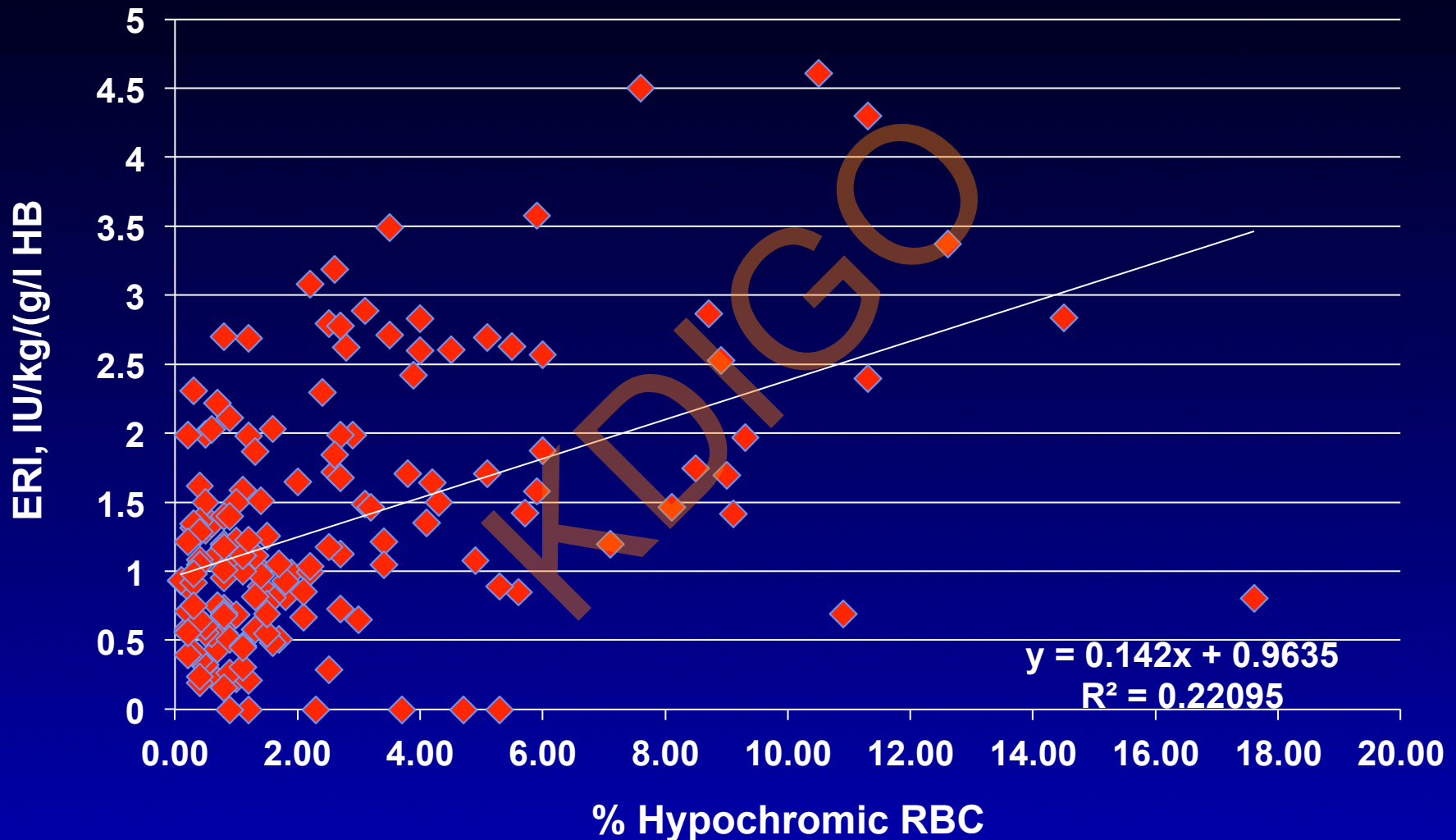
*Chung M, et al. Comparative Effectiveness Review No. 83.  
Prepared by the Tufts Evidence-based Practice Center*



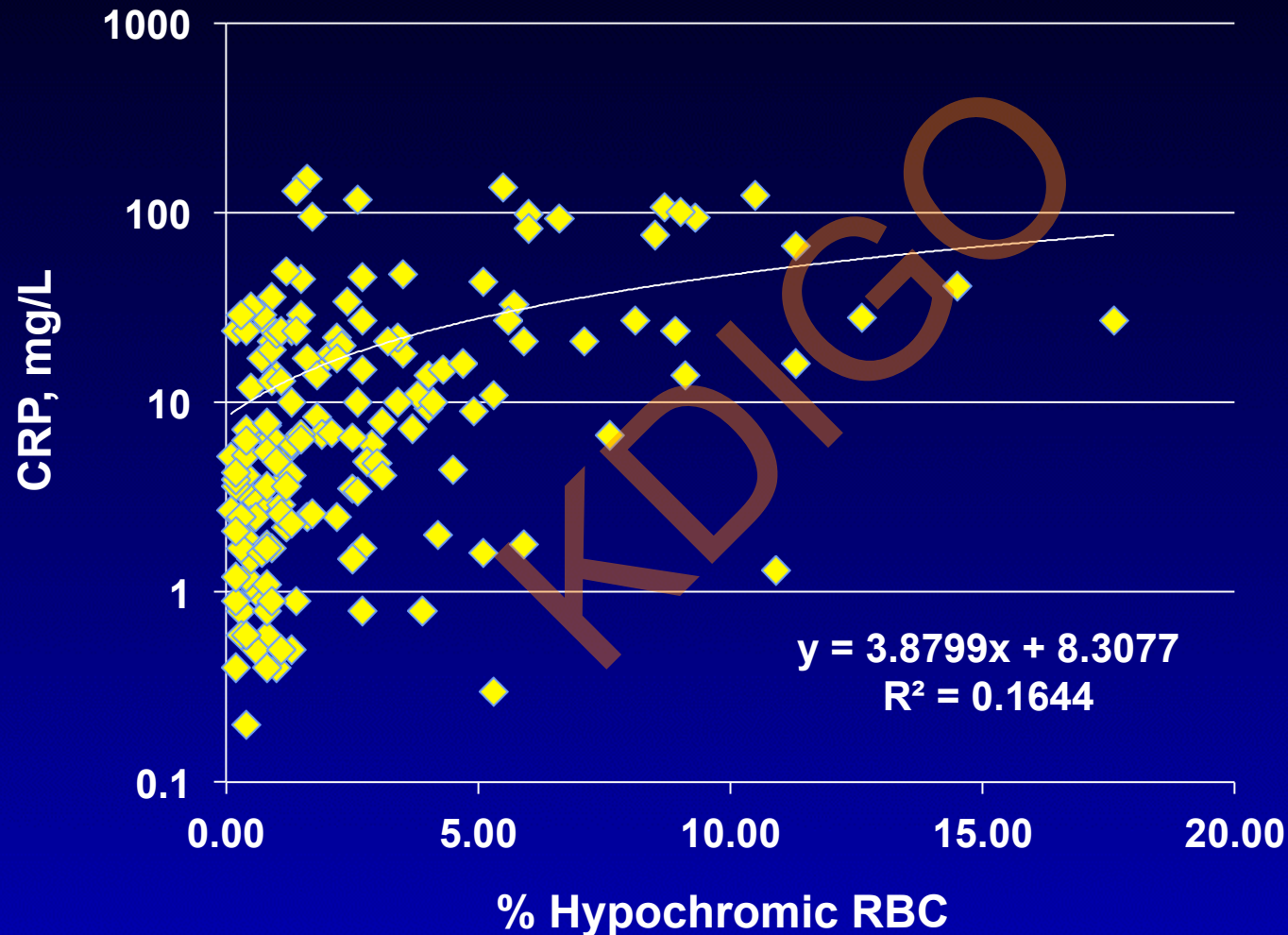
# Hemoglobin Groups and Hypochromic Red Cells the MIMICK study (unpublished)



# Relationship hypochromic RBC – ESA resistance in HD patients

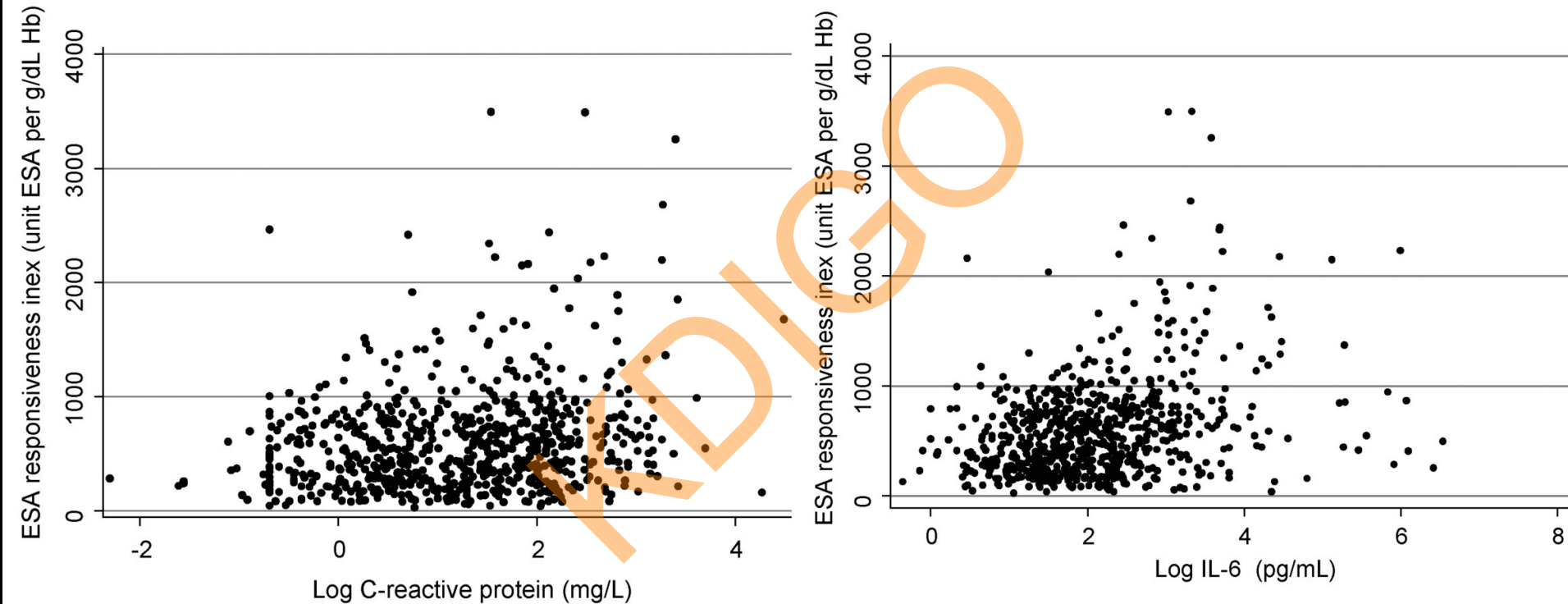


# Relationship hypochromic RBC – CRP in HD patients





# Association between two inflammatory markers (CRP, IL-6) and epoetin resistance in 754 hemodialysis patients.



Rattanasompattikul M et al. *Nephrol. Dial. Transplant.* 2013;28:1936-1945



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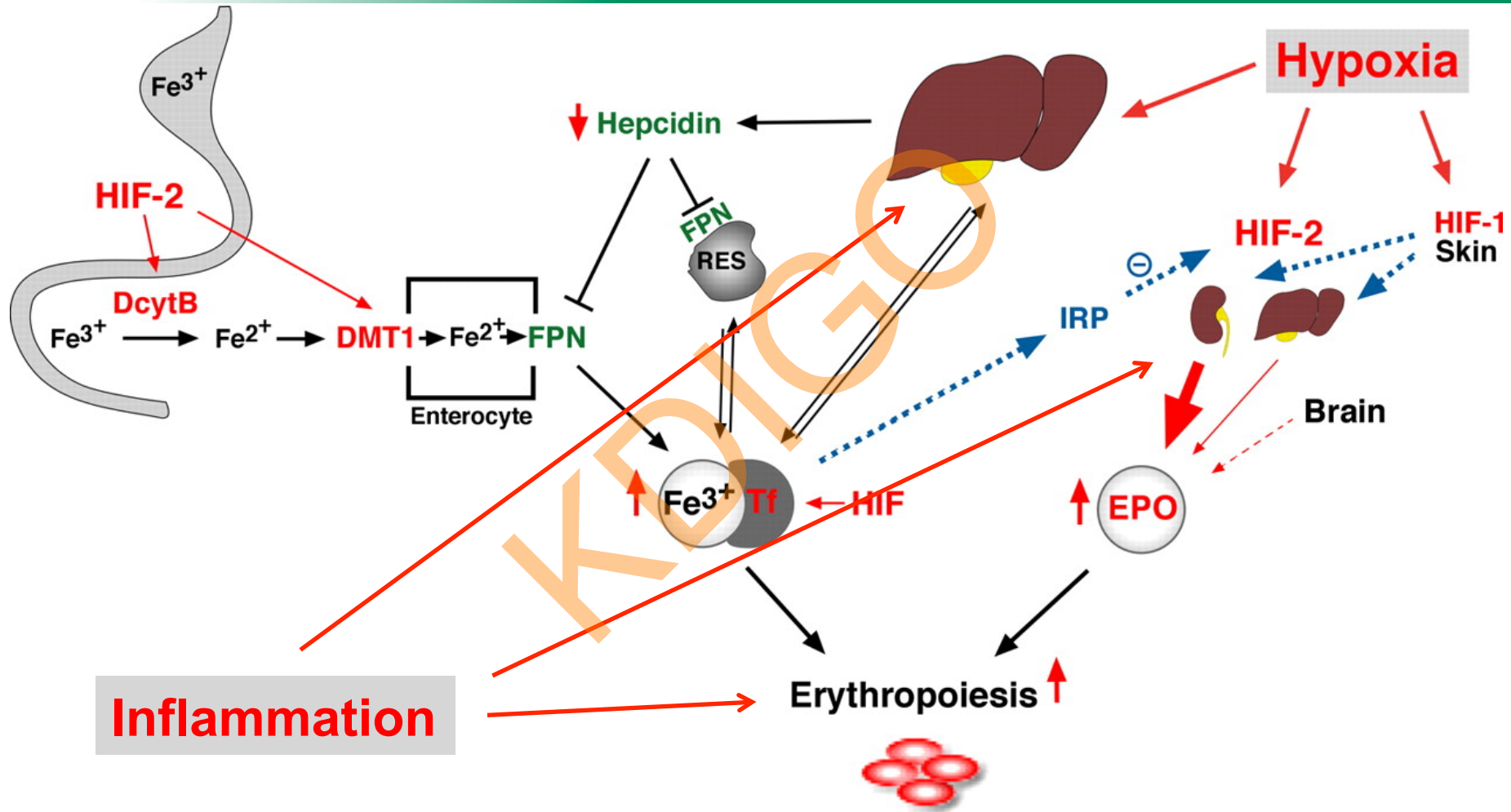


# Systemic Inflammation – Effects on Erythropoiesis

- Decreased endogenous erythropoietin production
- Suppression of erythropoiesis
  - decreased erythropoietin sensitivity
- Shortened erythrocyte survival
- Impaired iron utilization



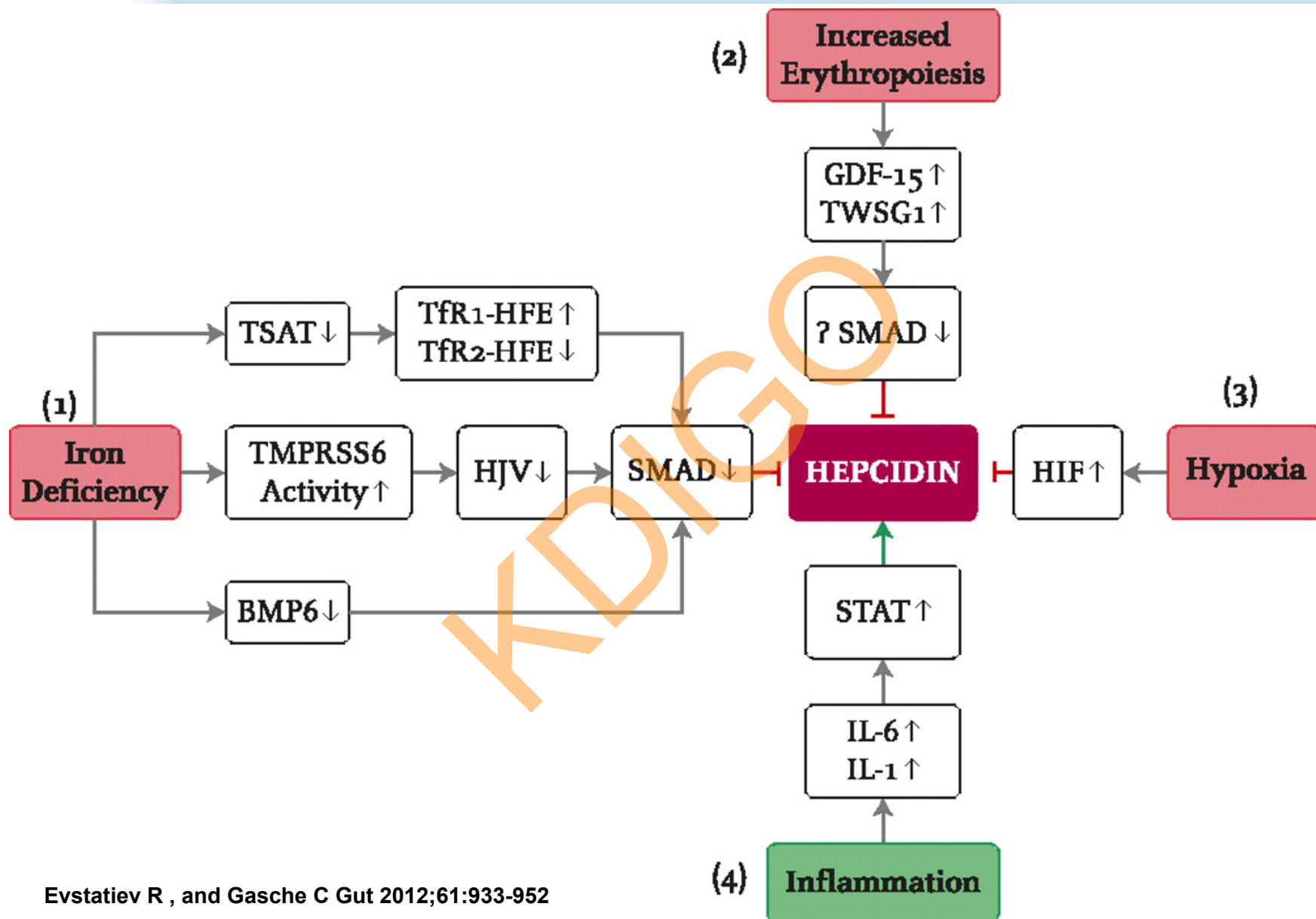
# Hypoxia and inflammation interplay: coordinates EPO synthesis with iron metabolism.



Modified from Haase V H Am J Physiol Renal Physiol 2010;299:F1-F13



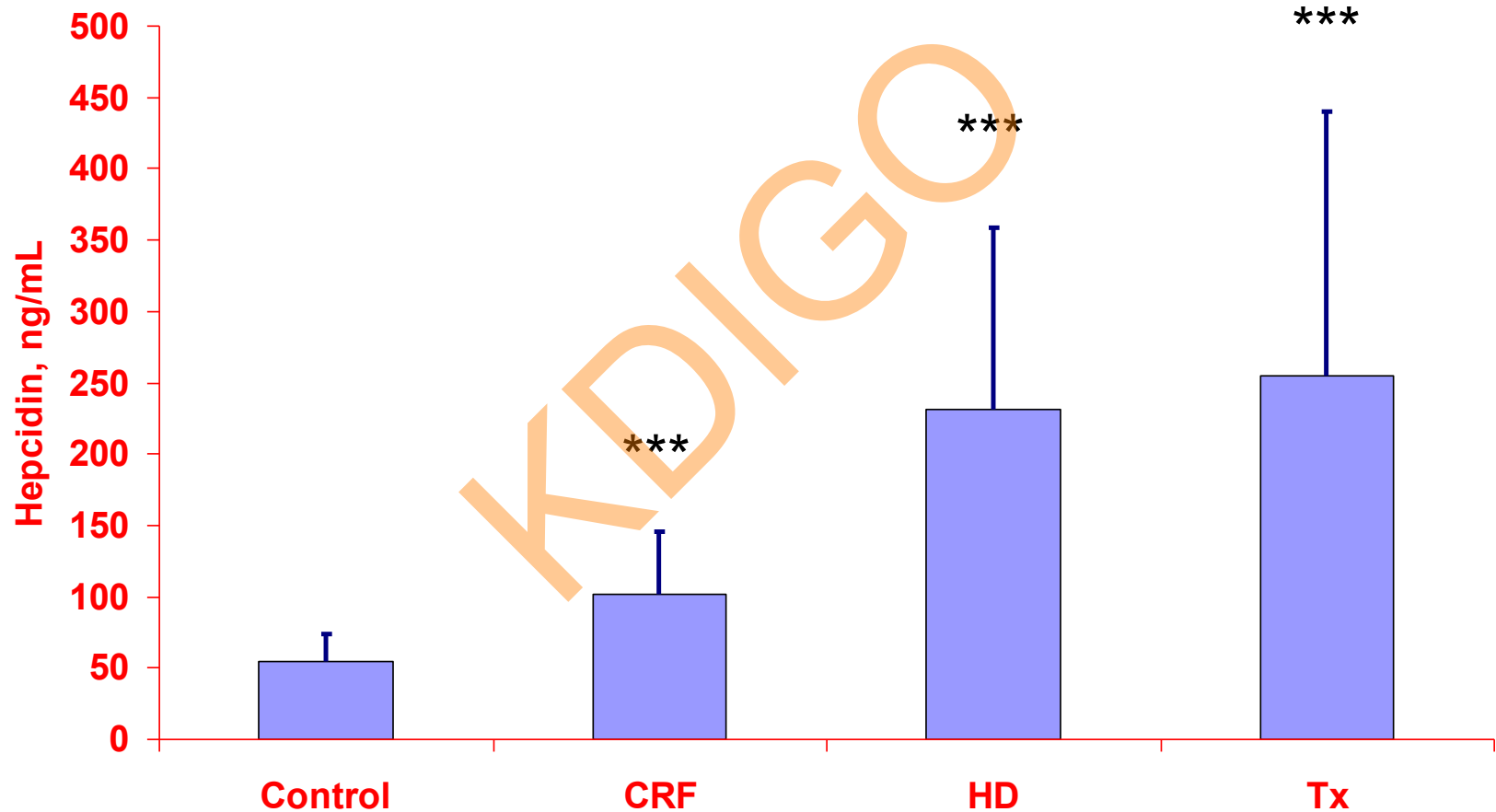
# Regulation of hepcidin synthesis.



Evstatiev R , and Gasche C Gut 2012;61:933-952



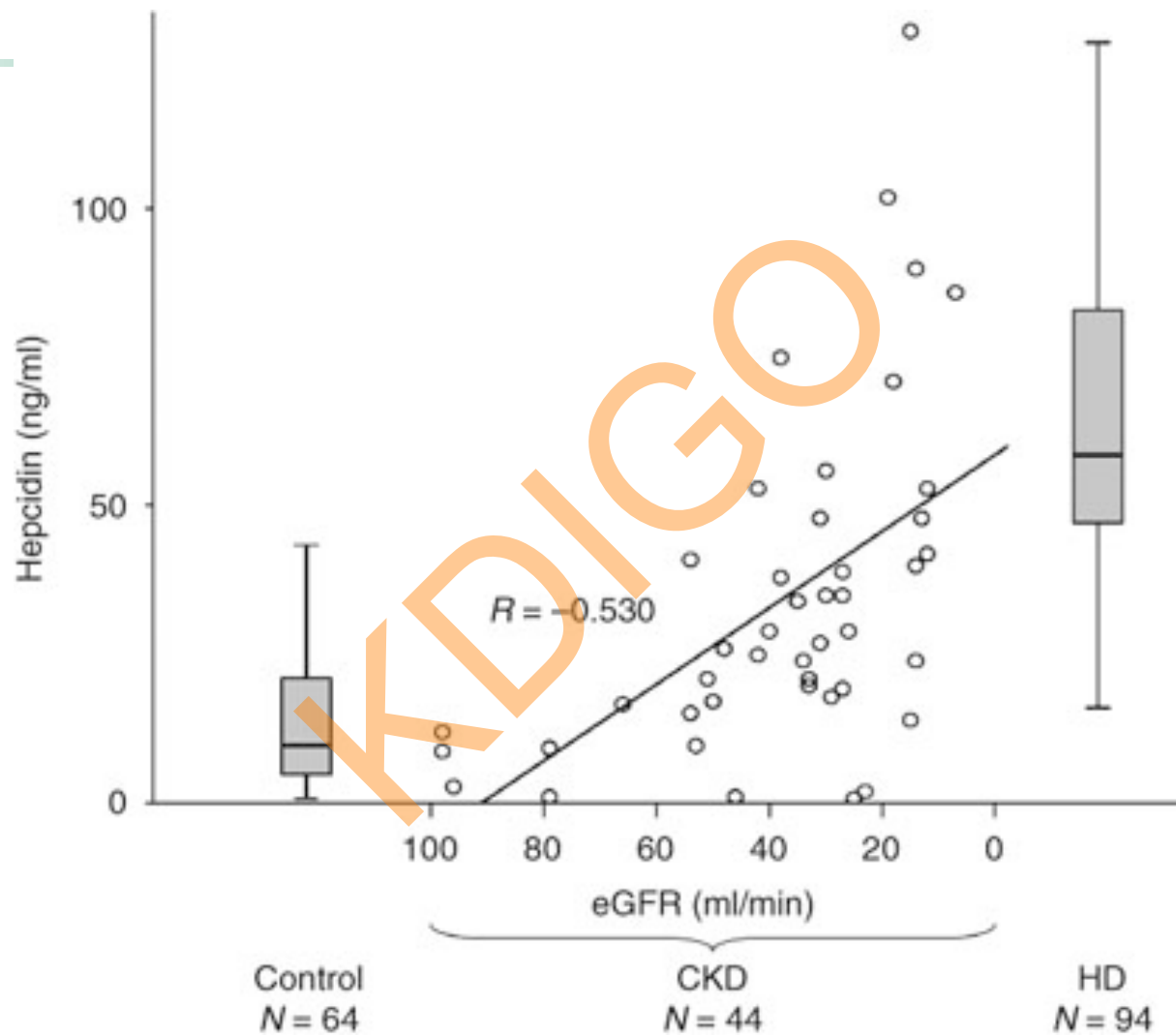
# Hepcidin levels in CKD patients



Malyszko et al. Am. J. Hematol. 81:832–837, 2006

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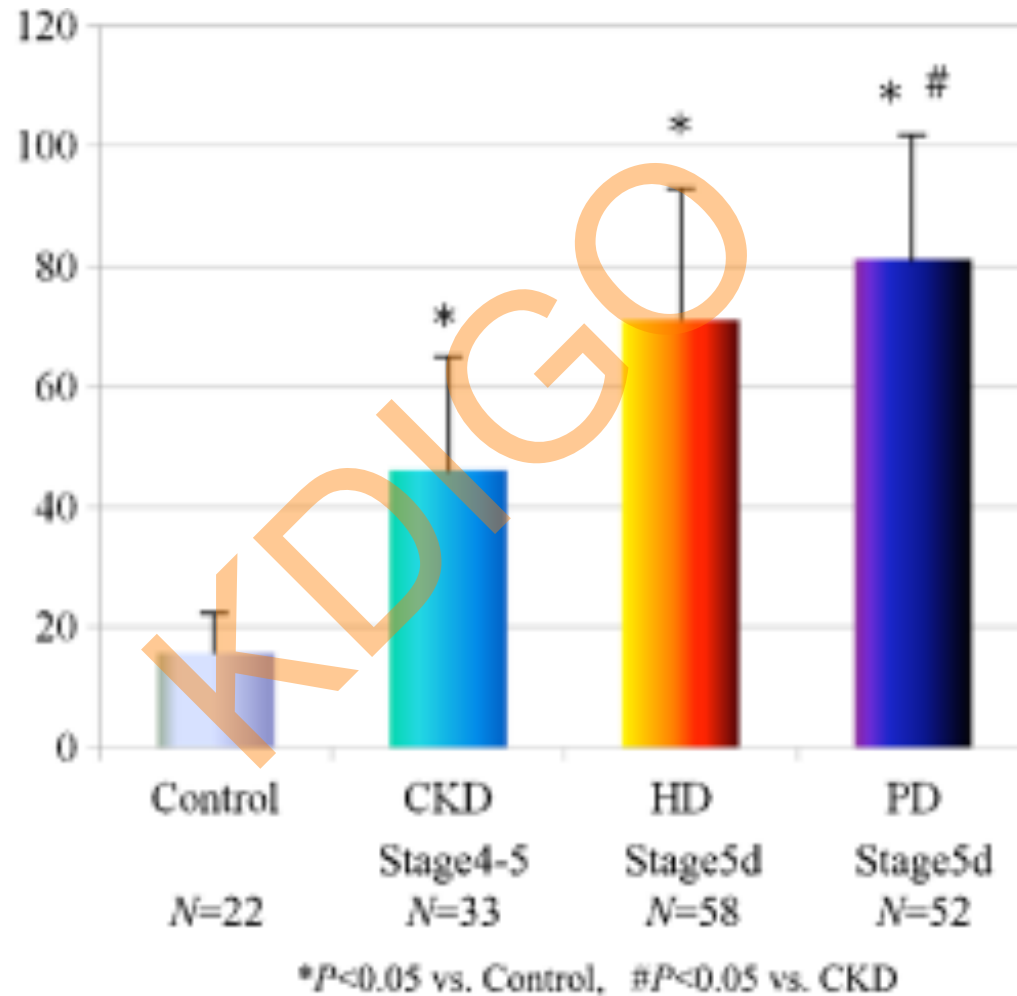




Ashby et al. *Kidney International*. 2009;75(9):976–981.



# Serum hepcidin-25 levels in healthy controls and chronic kidney disease (CKD) patients

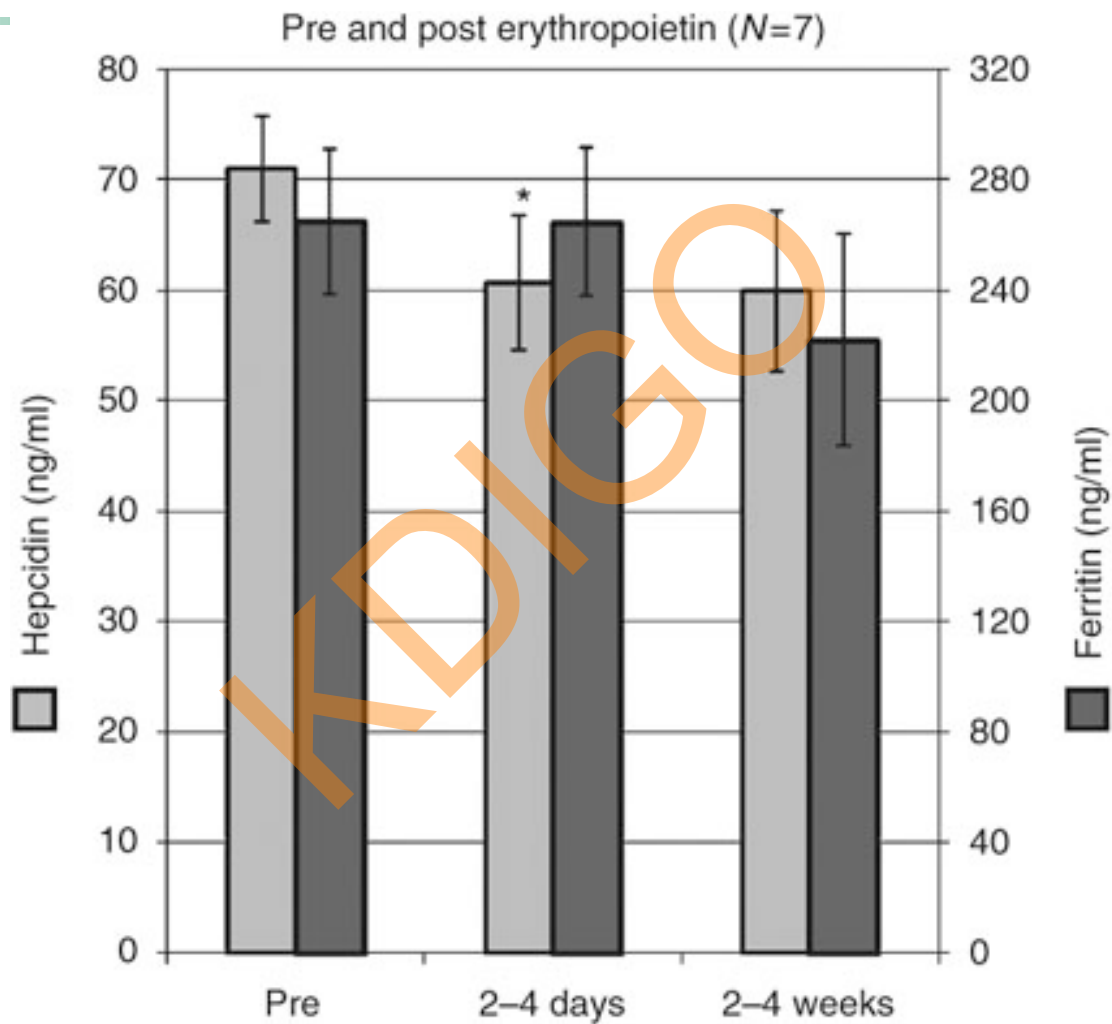


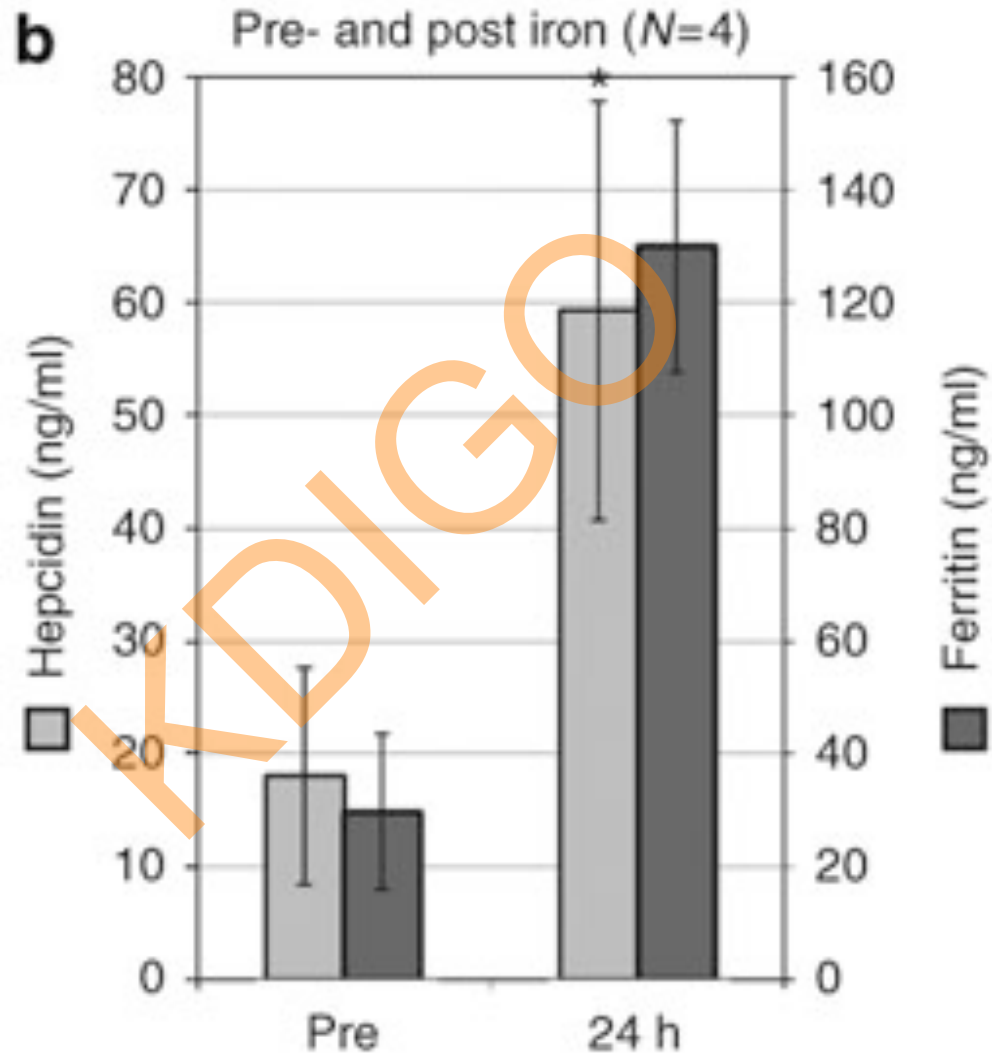
Tsuchiya and Nitta. **Therapeutic Apheresis and Dialysis** [Volume 17, Issue 1](#), pages 1-8,

Controversies Conference on Iron Management in CKD | March 27-30, 2014 | San Francisco, California, USA









Ashby et al. *Kidney International*. 2009;75(9):976–981.



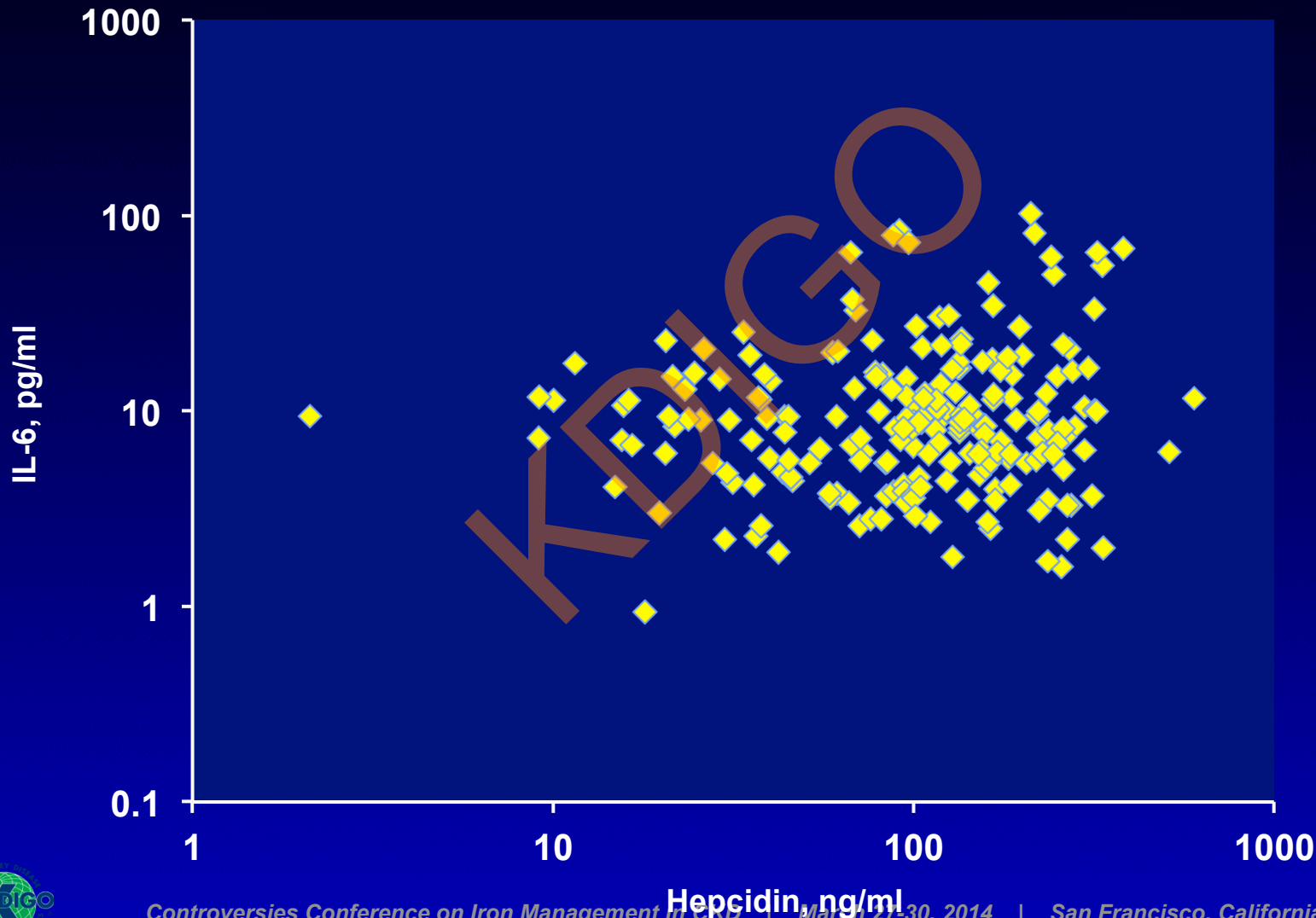
# Anemia and inflammatory variables according to hepcidin tertile groups

	Tertile 1	Tertile 2	Tertile 3	p
Hep, ng/ml	38 (22-61)	110 (96-129)	221 (170-267)	
Hb, g/dL	11.9 (10.9-12.7)	11.8 (11.0-12.7)	12.0 (11.3-12.7)	0.7
Ferritin, g/L	216 (120-380)	422 (296-610)	630 (427-834)	<0.001
Hypochromic RBC, %	1.6 (0.75-4.1)	1.1 (0.5-2.7)	1.3 (0.8-4.0)	0.12
CRP, mg/L	6.4 (2-18)	6.3 (2.6-19)	7.4 (3.0-24.3)	0.5
IL-6, pg/ml	8.7 (4.7-14.5)	8.8 (5.5-25.7)	8.2 (5.5-47.7)	0.8
ESA, IU/kg per week	168(106-240)	119, (71-265)	121 (78-209)	<0.05

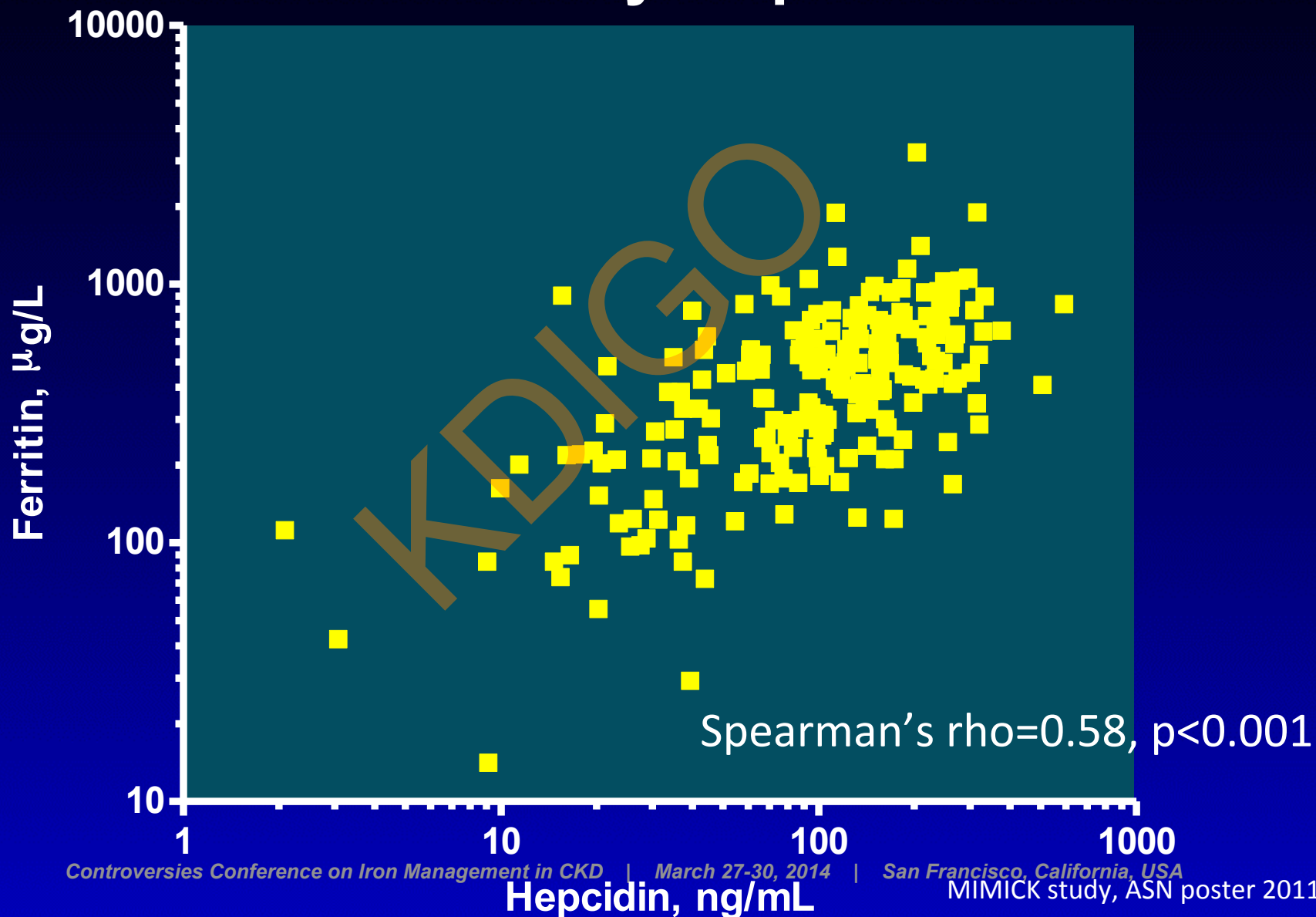
MIMICK study, ASN poster 2011



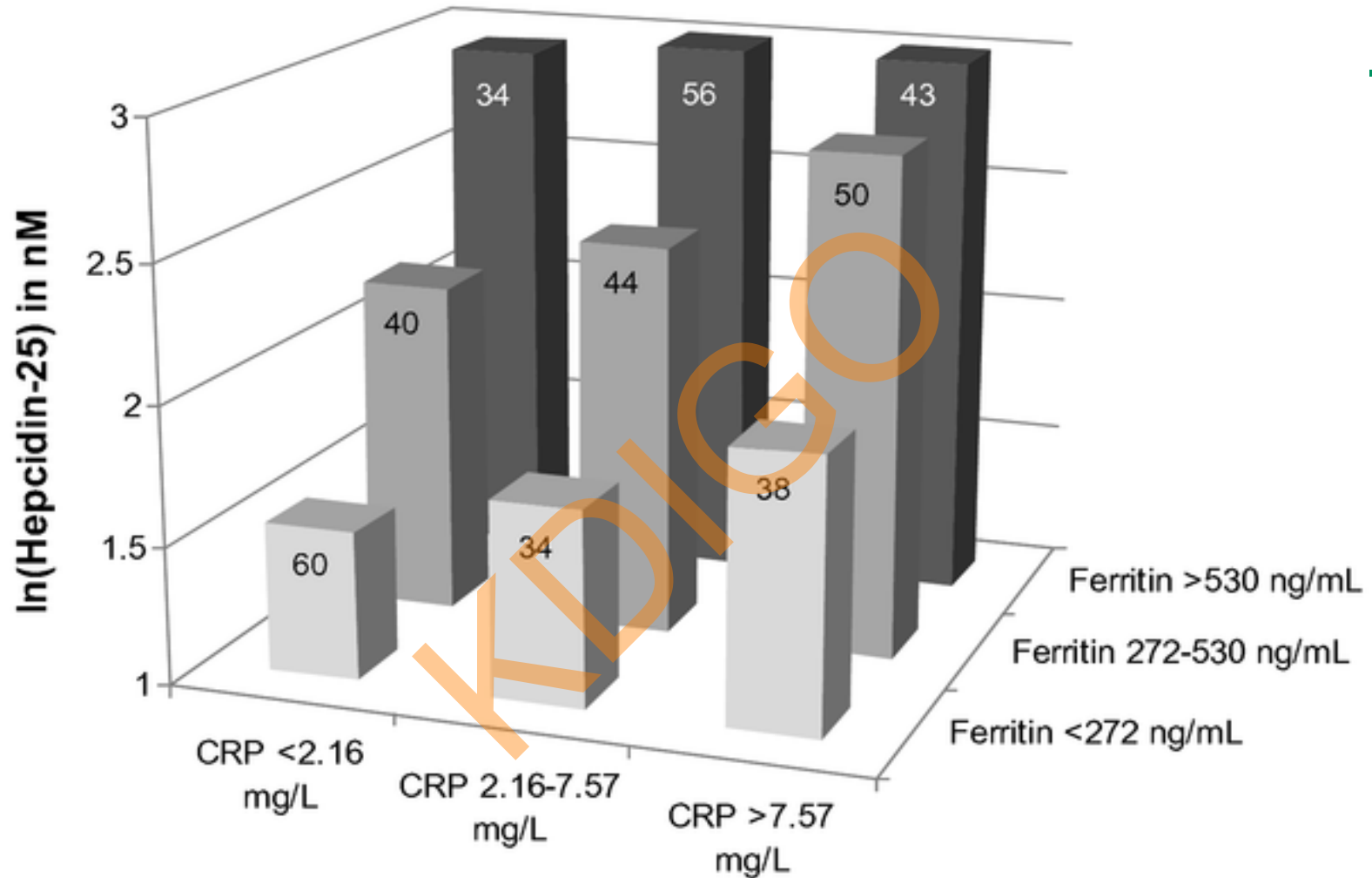
# Relationship p-hepcidin – IL-6 in hemodialysis patients



# Relationship p-hepcidin – p-ferritin in hemodialysis patients



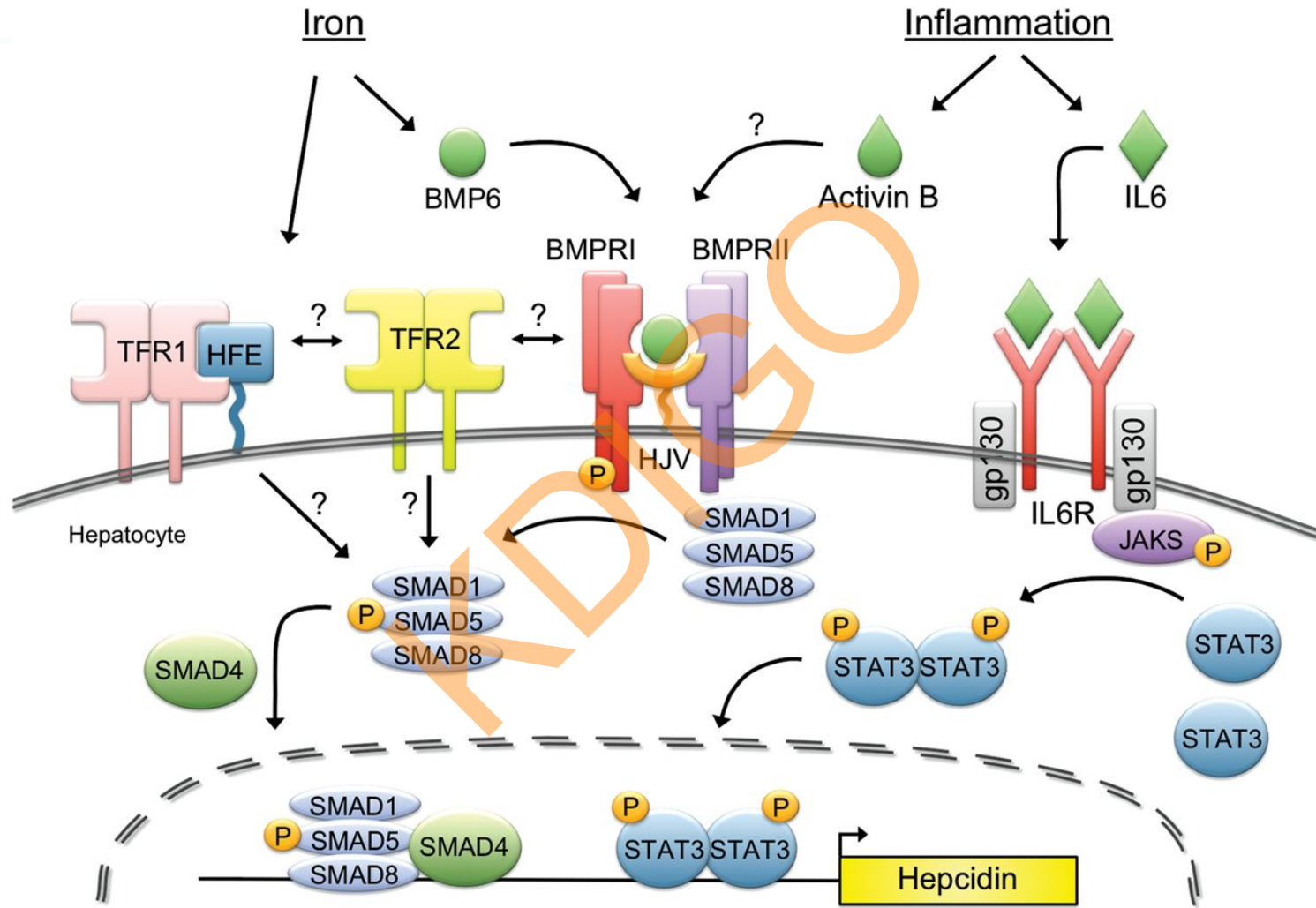
## Relationship between ferritin, hsCRP and hepcidin-25.



van der Weerd NC, Grooteman MPC, Bots ML, van den Dorpel MA, et al. (2012) Hepcidin-25 in Chronic Hemodialysis Patients Is Related to Residual Kidney Function and Not to Treatment with Erythropoiesis Stimulating Agents. PLoS ONE 7(7): e39783.



# Molecular regulation of hepcidin by iron and inflammation.



Zumbrennen-Bullough K , and Babitt J L Nephrol. Dial. Transplant. 2014;29:263-273



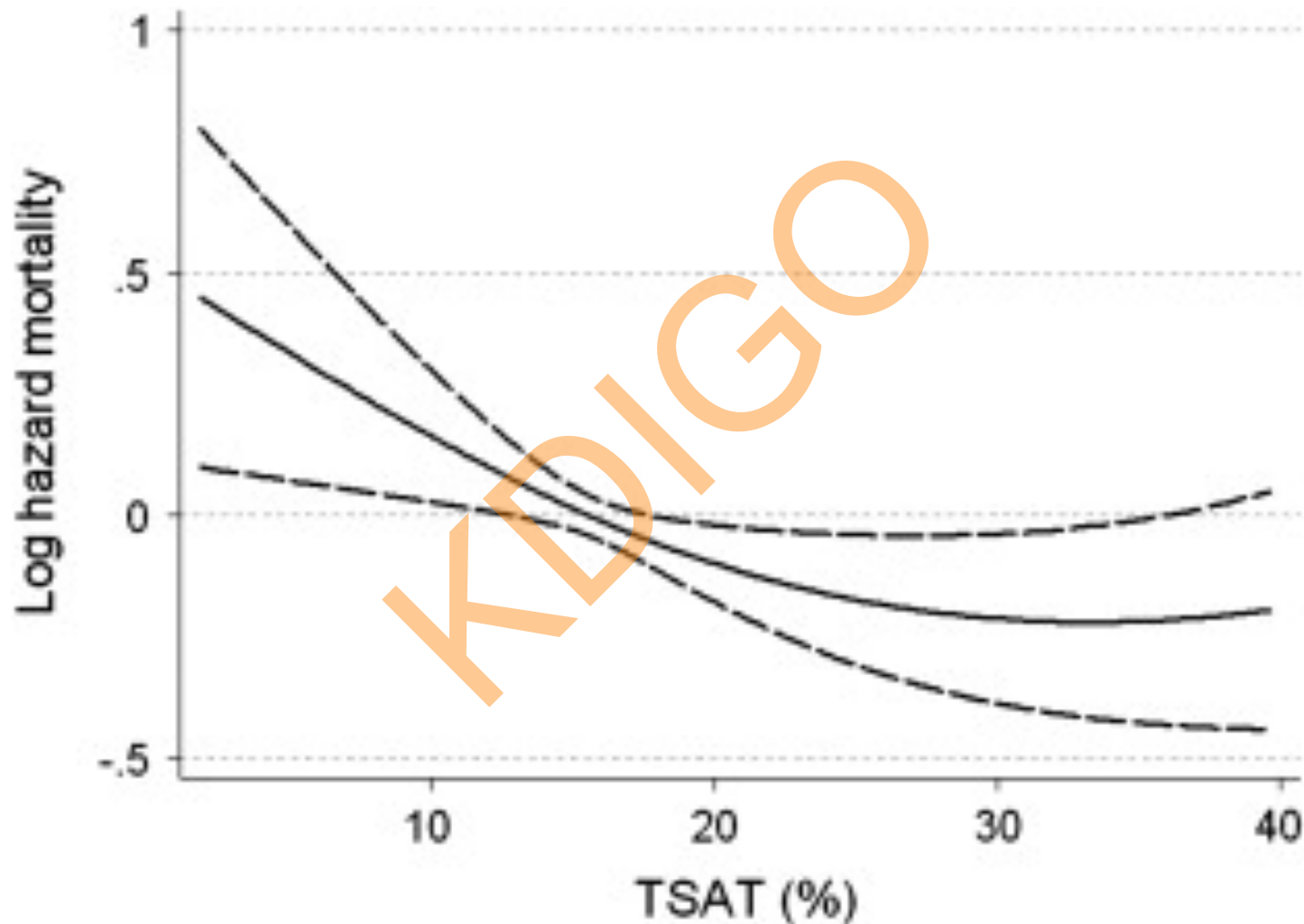
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# All-cause mortality associated with transferrin saturation (TSAT) ratio in patients with moderate and advanced non-dialysis-dependent chronic kidney

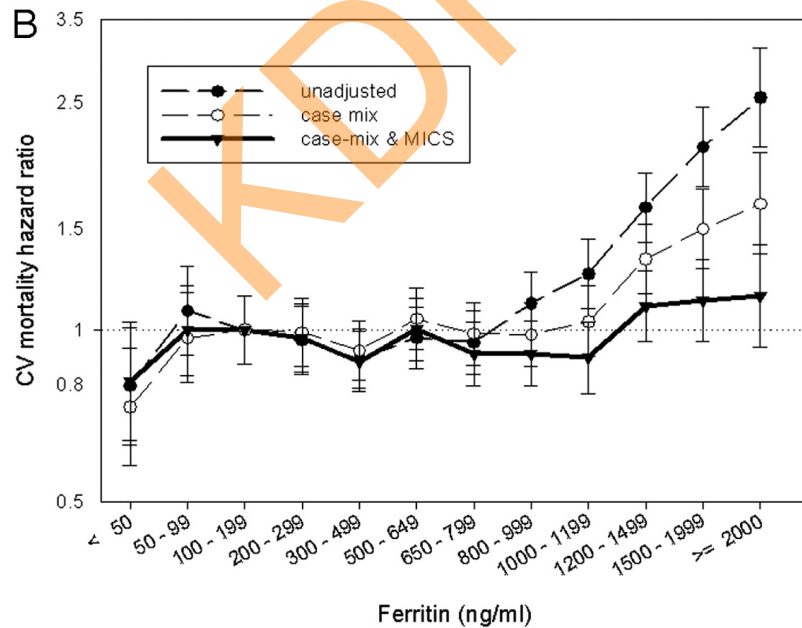
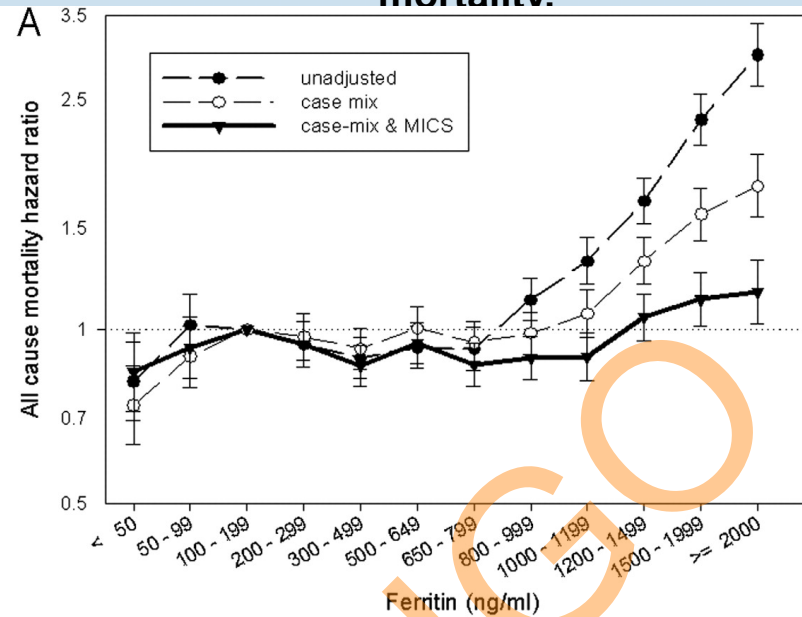


Kovesdy. Advances in Chronic Kidney Disease, Volume 16, Issue 2, 2009, 109 - 116

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# Association between serum ferritin and all-cause (top) and cardiovascular (CV; bottom) mortality.



# Association between administered intravenous iron and all-cause (top) and CV (bottom) mortality.

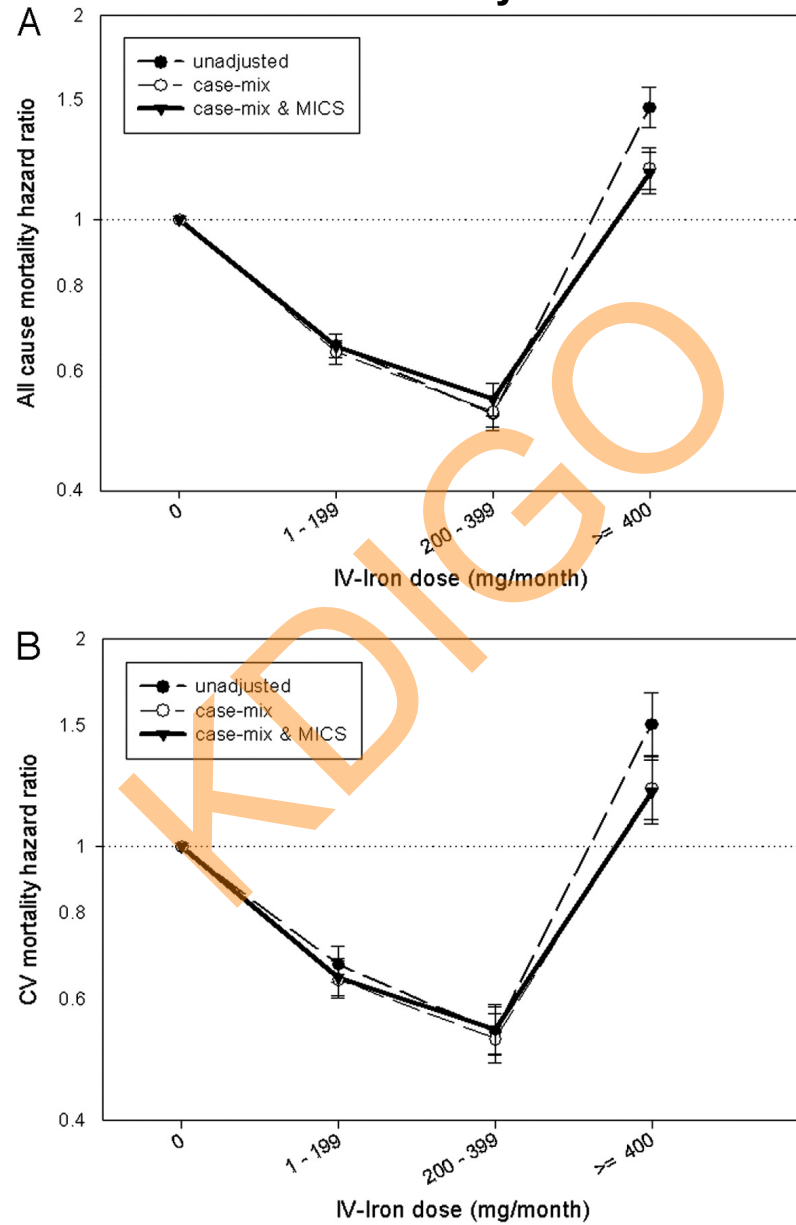


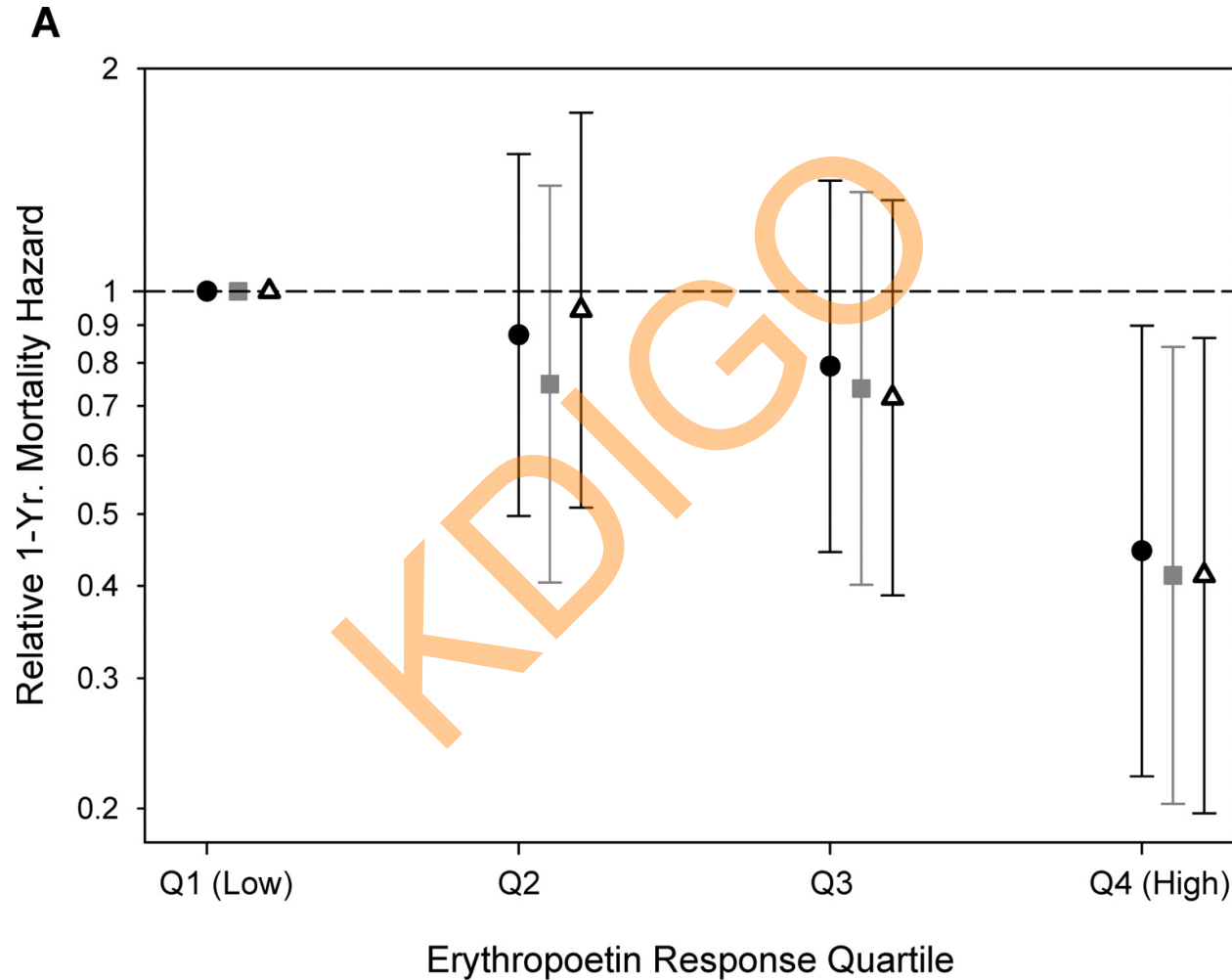
Table 3. Results of weighted multivariable model for the probability of mortality as a function of iron administered during the prior 6 mo

Variable	Category	Adjusted <sup>a</sup>	
		Hazard Ratio (95% CI)	P value
Iron (mg) <sup>b</sup>	None	Ref.	0.78
	> 0 to 700	1.04 (0.91–1.19)	
	> 700 to 1000	1.00 (0.87–1.14)	
	> 1000 to 1800	0.96 (0.84–1.09)	
	> 1800	1.04 (0.90–1.21)	

Feldman et al. J Am Soc Nephrol 15: 1623–1632, 2004



# Epoetin Responsiveness Predicts Survival in the Normal Hematocrit Study. Association between epoetin response quartile, and all-cause 1-yr mortality assessed using a Cox proportional hazard model.



Kilpatrick R D et al. CJASN 2008;3:1077-1083



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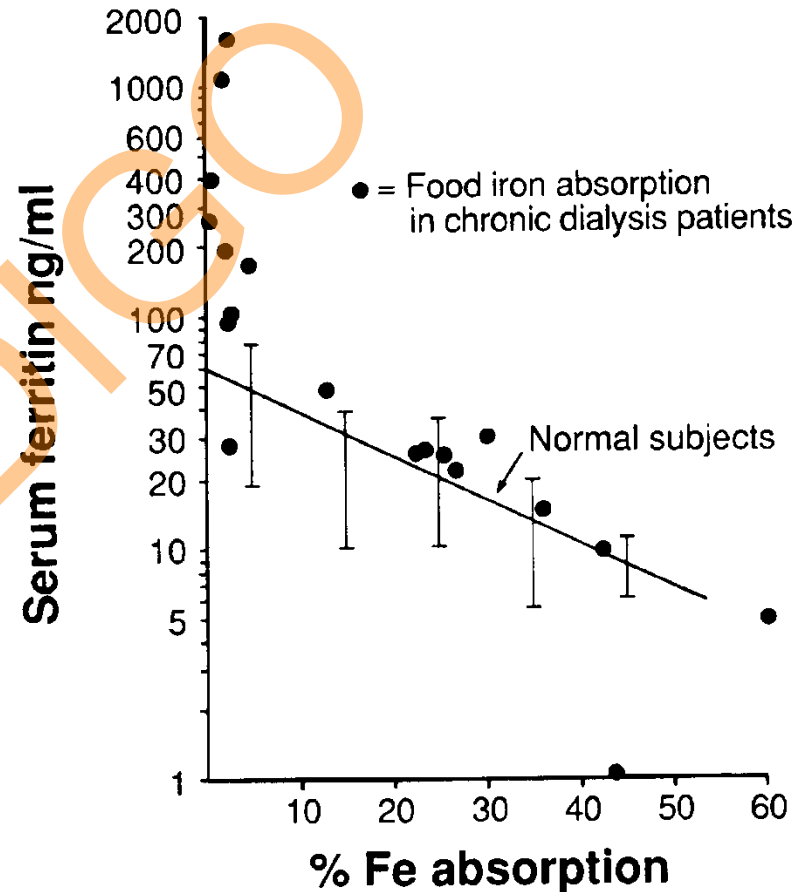
# Oral iron is often not effective in CKD

## Poor absorption

- Inflammation – high hepcidin
- Interaction with other drugs

## • Intolerance

- GI-symptoms



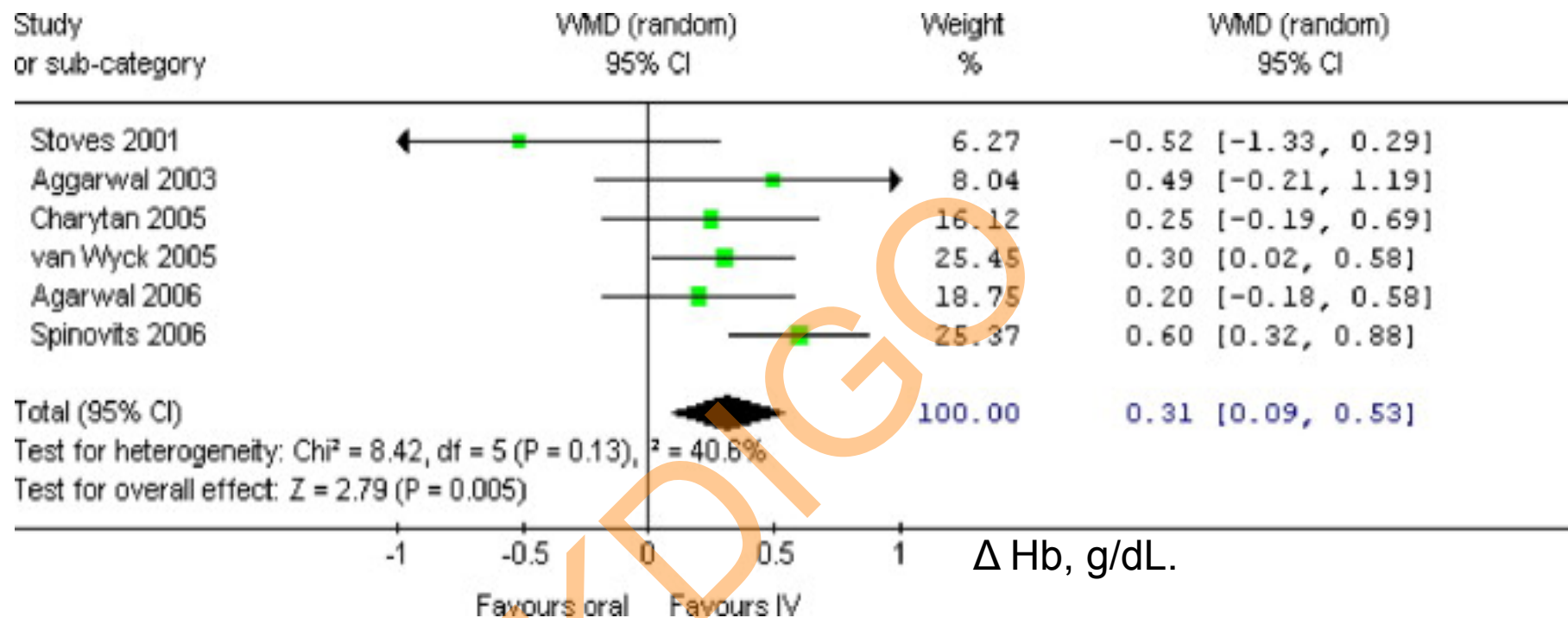
# Treatment schedules IV iron

- Intermittent (triggered by threshold levels of ferritin and /or TSAT)
  1. Low dose – 10 doses of 100 mg during 3-4 weeks
  2. High dose - 500-1000 mg total dose infusion
- Continuous (depending on response)
  1. Low dose – 10-200 mg\*1-3 per 7-28 days
  2. High dose - 1000 mg every third month





# Intravenous Versus Oral Iron Supplementation for the Treatment of Anemia in CKD: Systematic Review and Meta-analysis



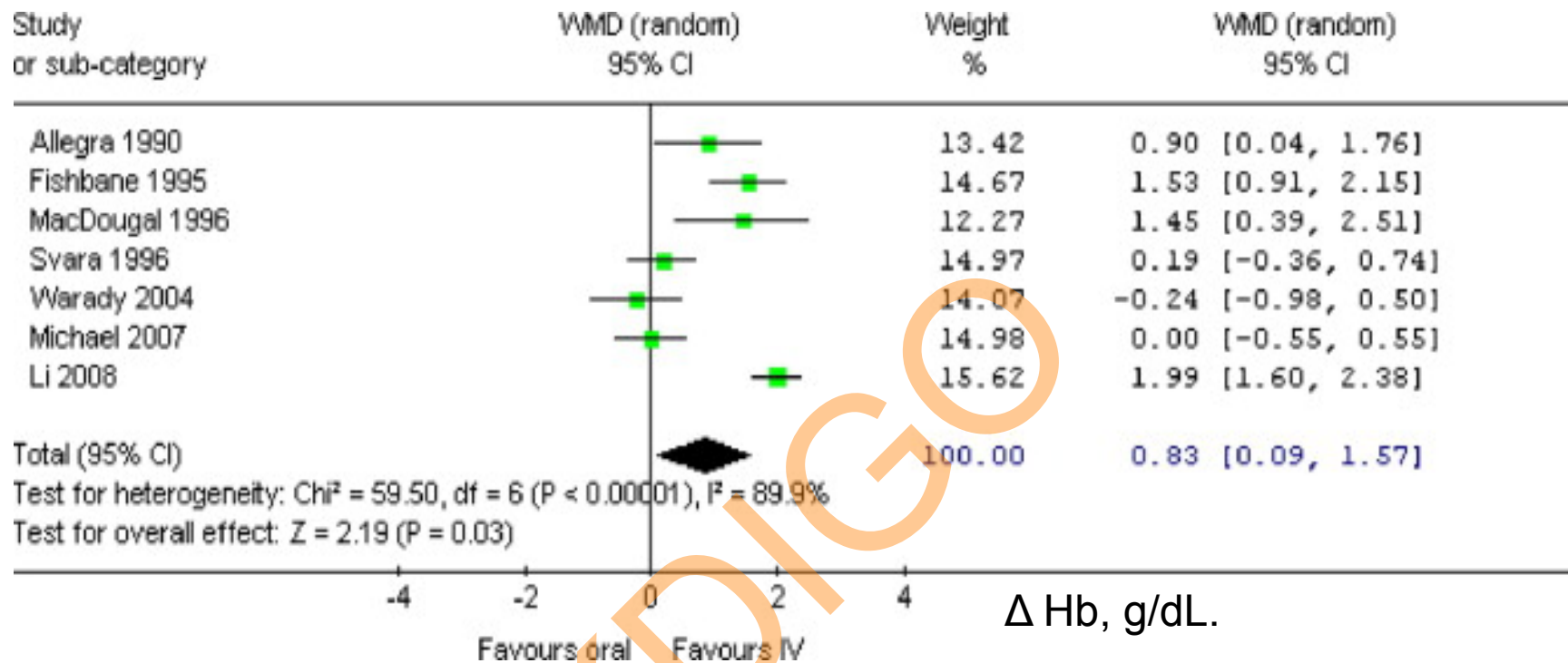
Hemoglobin (Hb) level or change from baseline for trials comparing intravenous (IV) iron versus oral iron in patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) not on dialysis therapy.

The IV iron arm included 421 patients and the oral iron arm included 281 patients.

Rozen-Zvi et al, American Journal of Kidney Diseases Volume 52, Issue 5 2008 897 - 906

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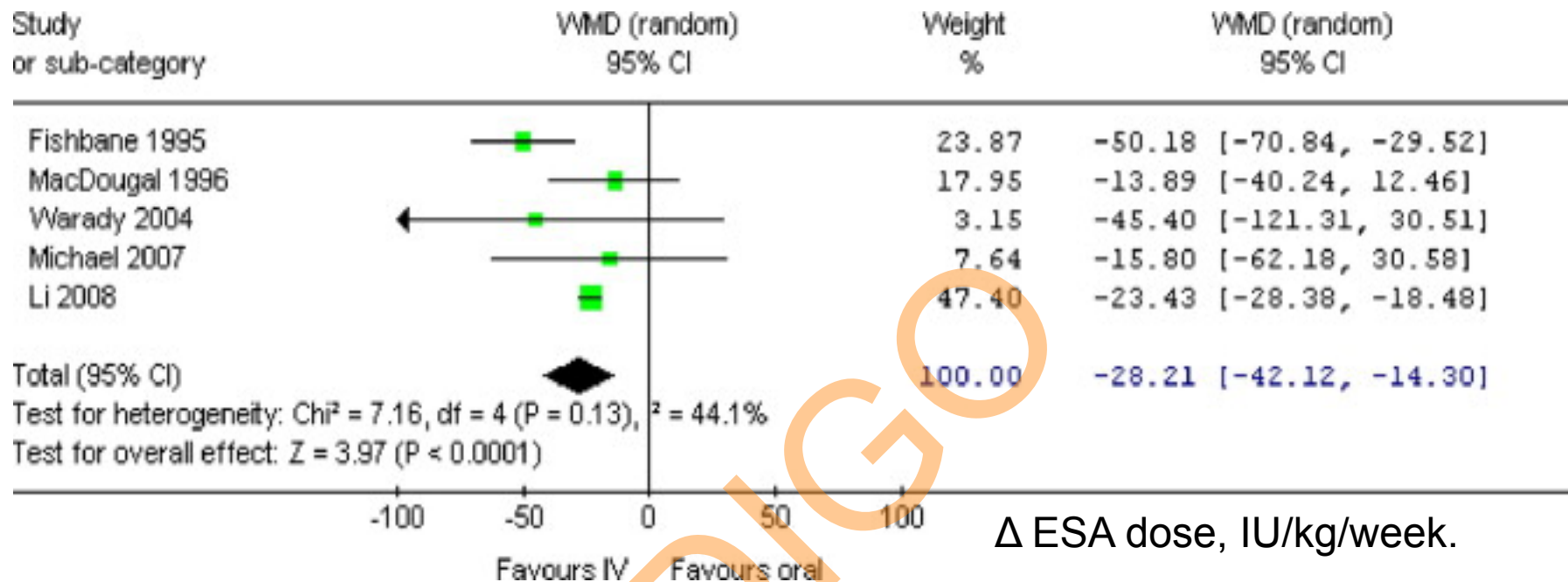




Hemoglobin (Hb) level or change from baseline for trials comparing intravenous (IV) iron versus oral iron in dialysis patients.

The IV iron arm included 215 patients and the oral iron arm included 205 patients. Serum Hb may be converted from g/dL to g/L by multiplying by 10.



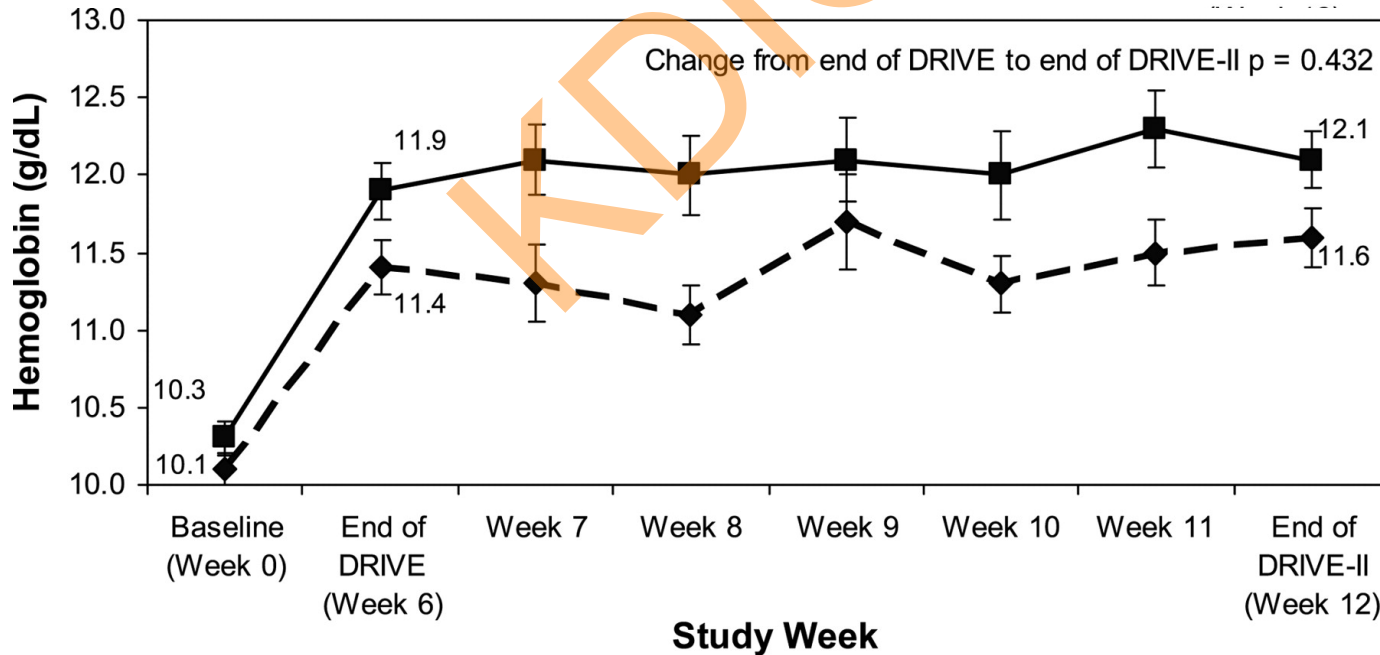
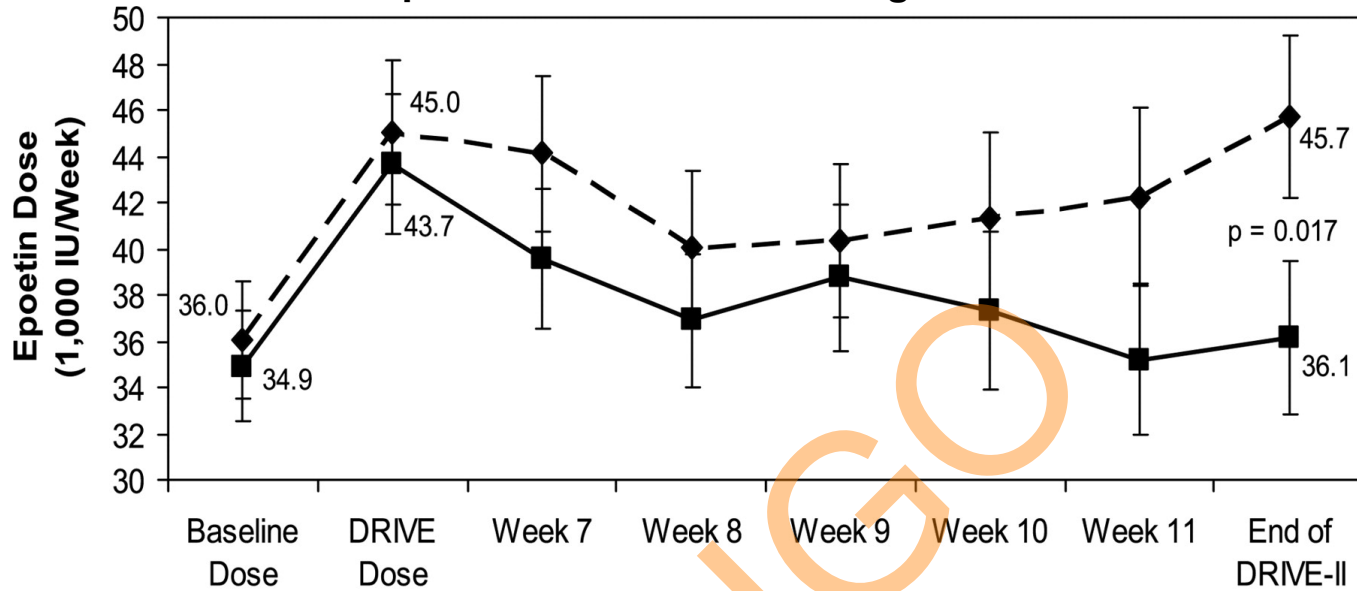


Erythropoiesis-stimulating agent (ESA) dose or change from baseline at end of study for trials comparing intravenous (IV) iron versus oral iron in dialysis patients.

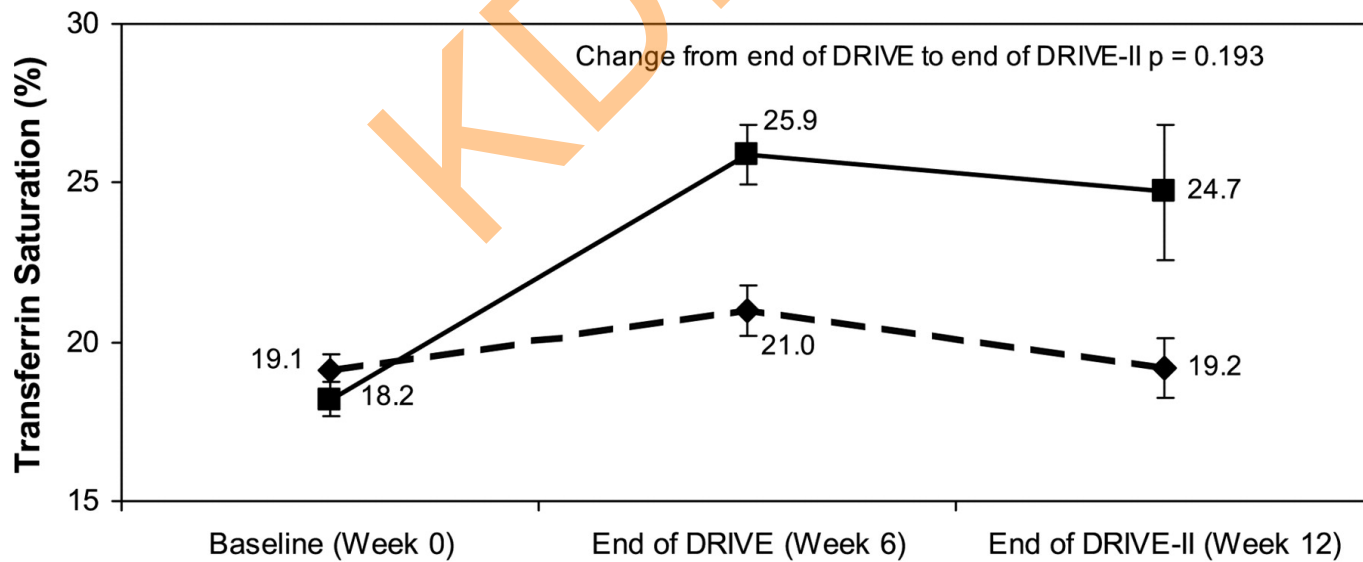
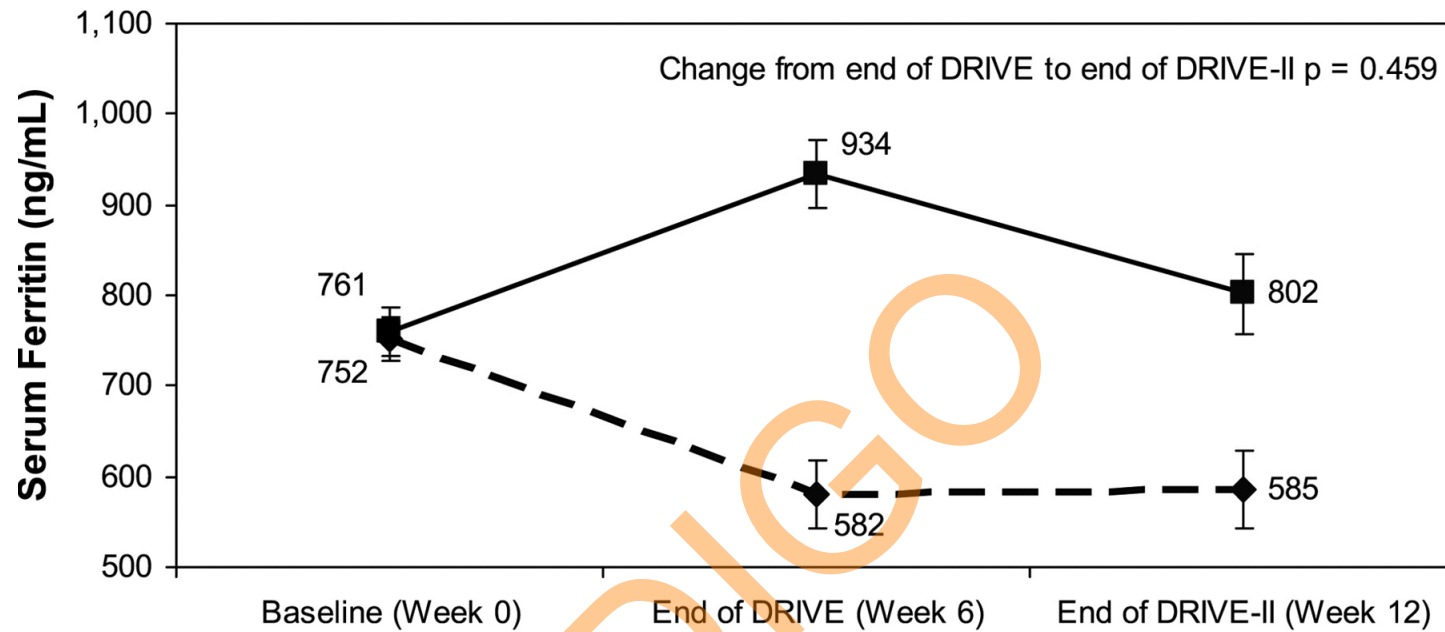
The IV iron arm included 152 patients and the oral iron arm included 156 patients. Abbreviation: CI, confidence interval.



## Epoetin dose and Hb throughout DRIVE-II.



### Serum ferritin at baseline, end of DRIVE (wk 6), and end of DRIVE-II (wk 12).



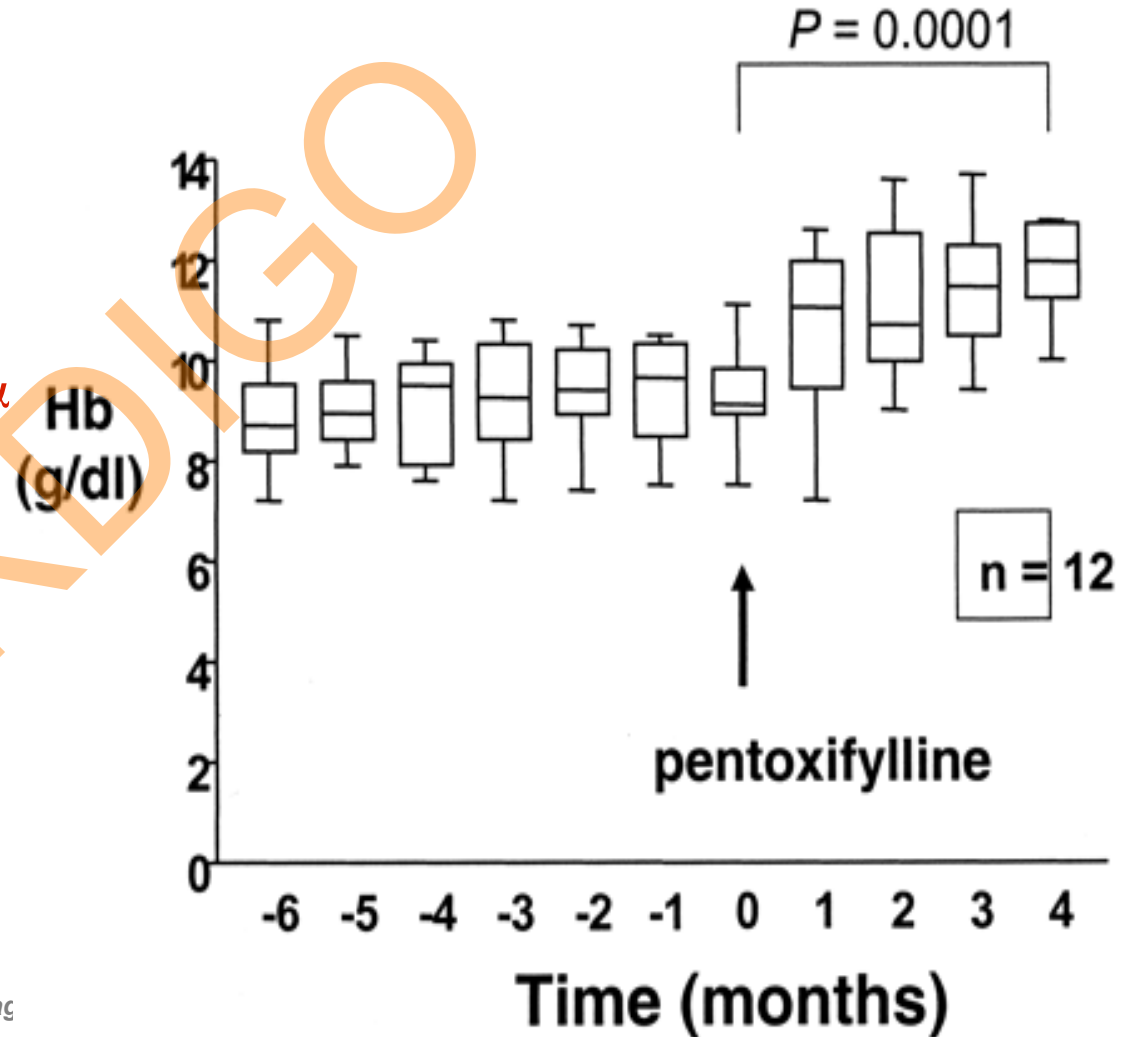
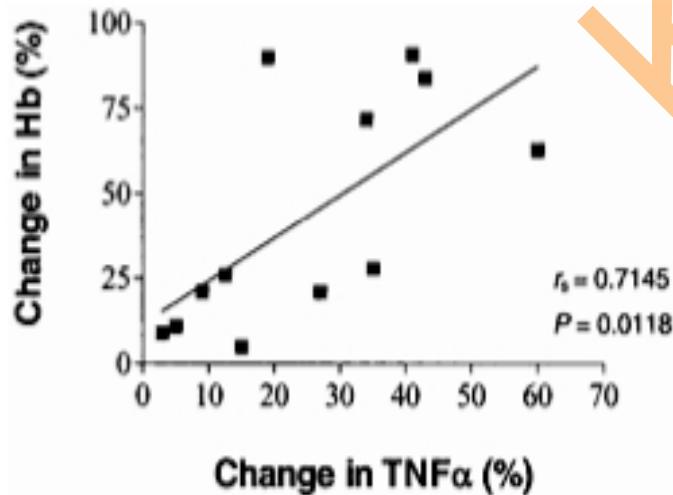
Observation Point

# Pentoxifylline Improves Hemoglobin Levels in Patients with Erythropoietin-resistant Anemia in Renal Failure

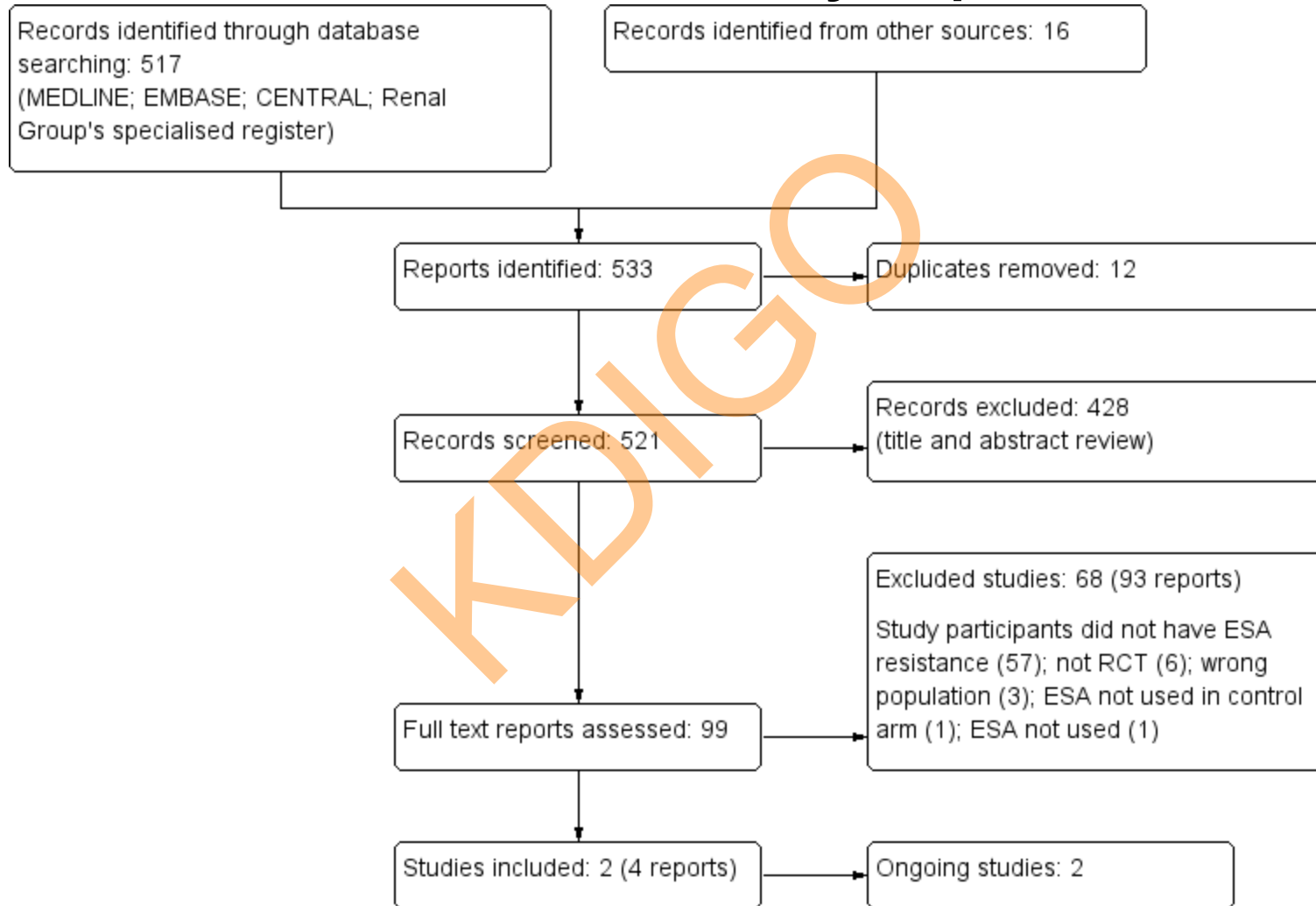
ANGELA COOPER,<sup>\*,†</sup> ASHRAF MIKHAIL,<sup>\*</sup> MARK W. LETHBRIDGE,<sup>†</sup>  
D. MICHAEL KEMENY,<sup>†</sup> and IAIN C. MACDOUGALL<sup>\*</sup>

Departments of <sup>\*</sup>Renal Medicine and <sup>†</sup>Immunology, GKT School of Medicine, King's College Hospital,  
London, United Kingdom.

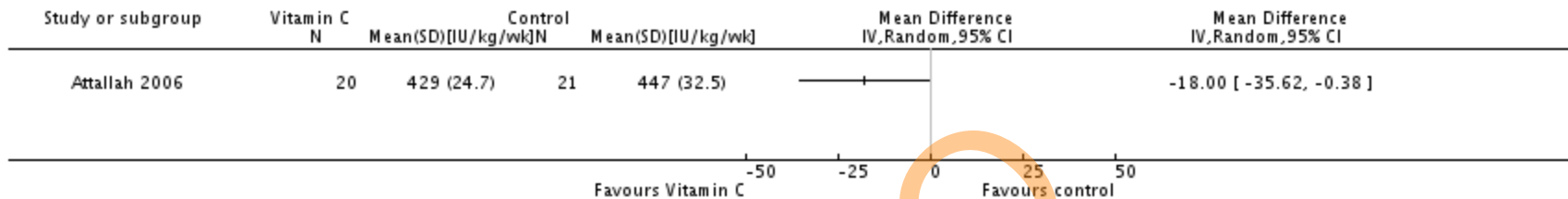
- 16 ESRD patients with EPO-resistant anemia treated with pentoxifylline for 4 months.
- Baseline *ex vivo* T cell expression of IFN- $\gamma$  and TNF- $\alpha$  decreased.



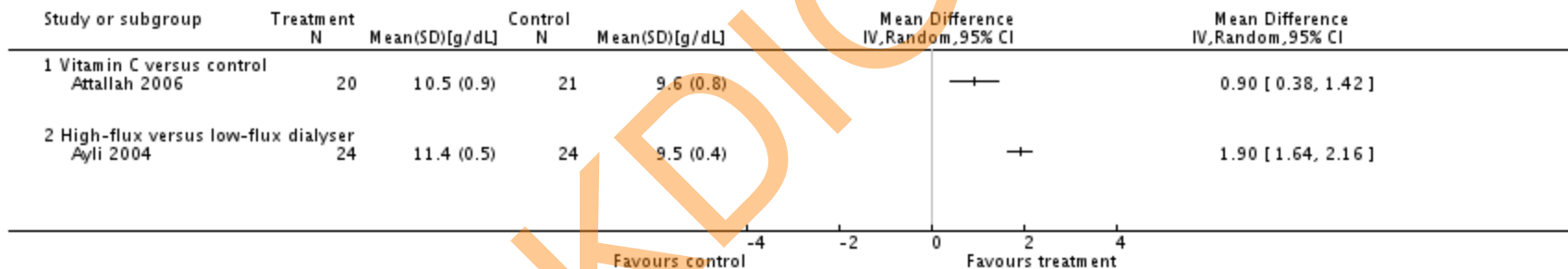
# Cochrane review: Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients



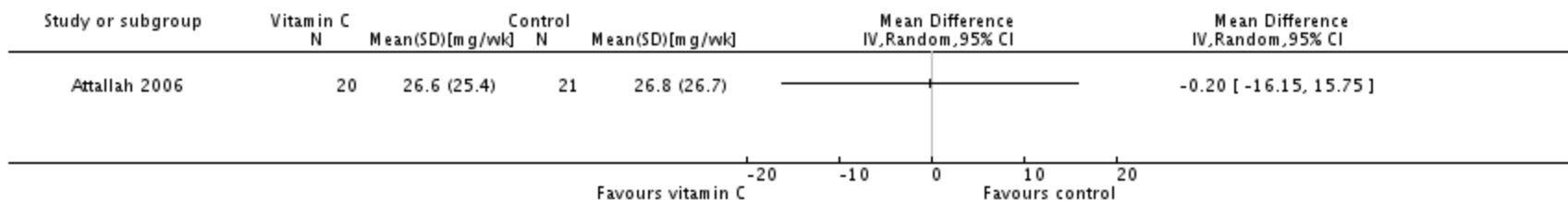
Review: Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients  
 Comparison: 3 ESA and IV iron doses  
 Outcome: 1 EPO dose



Review: Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients  
 Comparison: 2 Haematology and biochemistry results  
 Outcome: 1 Haemoglobin



Review: Interventions for erythropoietin-resistant anaemia in dialysis patients  
 Comparison: 3 ESA and IV iron doses  
 Outcome: 2 IV Iron





# Summary

- Inflammation is highly prevalent with large inter- and intraindividual variation in CKD patients.
- Inflammation has several effects on erythropoiesis and is one important regulator of hepcidin
- Inflammation, functional iron deficiency and ESA hyporesponsiveness are linked to comorbidity and mortality
- None of the currently available laboratory biomarkers of iron status is a reliable predictor for iron response in CKD patients
- CKD patients have high hepcidin levels which contribute to anemia, functional iron deficiency as well as ESA and oral iron hyporesponsiveness .
- The optimal treatment of anemia in CKD patients with inflammatory-induced functional iron deficiency and hyporesponse is not established. Long-term safety of different treatment schedules have not been adequately evaluated in clinical trials.



# thank you!

KDIGO

