

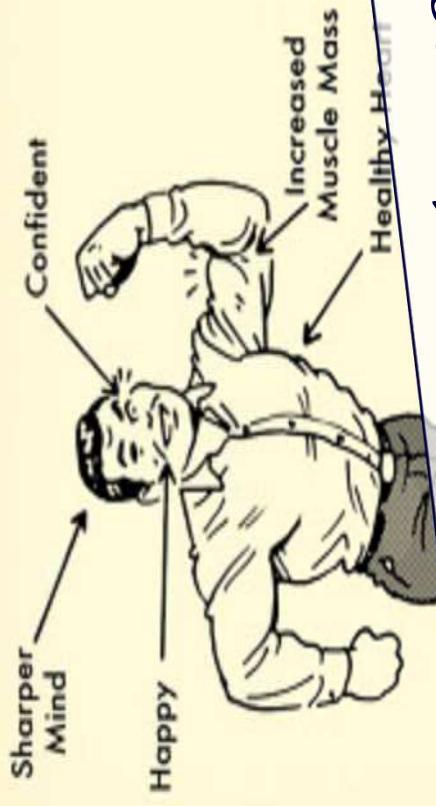


# The Vulnerable Man

- Testosterone Deficiency in End Stage Renal Disease



# The Benefits of Optimal Testosterone



Constant Fatigue  
Depressed  
Increased Risk of Alzheimer's Disease

These are also common features  
of the uremic phenotype



Man with Optimal Testosterone

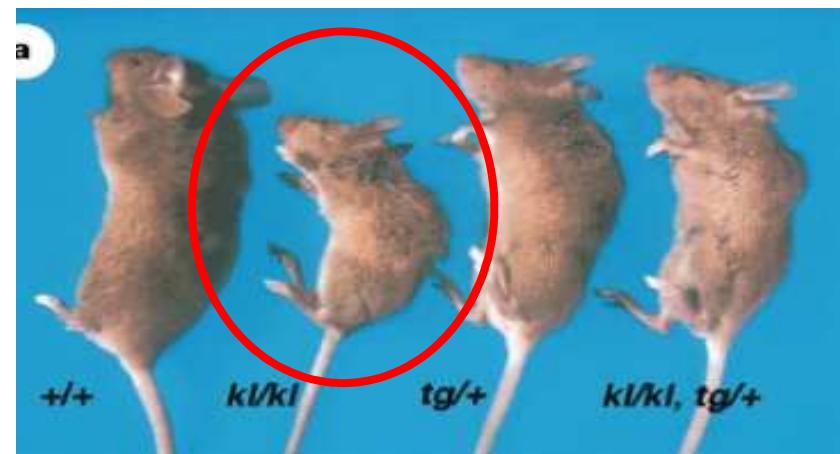
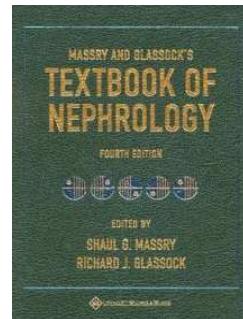
MAN<sup>W</sup>ENSS

Man with Deficient Testosterone

# Chronic Kidney Disease – a Clinical Condition with Klotho Deficiency

## Mutant klotho mice

- shorter life span
- infertility
- skin atrophy
- vascular calcification
- hypogonadism
- sarcopenia
- osteoporosis



Biochem. J. (2014) 464, 221–229 (Printed in Great Britain) doi:10.1042/BJ20140739

[Download FREE software now](#)

### **Testosterone increases renal anti-aging *klotho* gene expression via the androgen receptor-mediated pathway**

Shih-Che Hsu\*, Shih-Ming Huang\*†, Shih-Hua Lin\*‡, Shuk-Man Ka§, Ann Chen¶, Meng-Fu Shih\*\* and Yu-Juei Hsu\*‡<sup>1</sup>

\*Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

†Department of Biochemistry, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

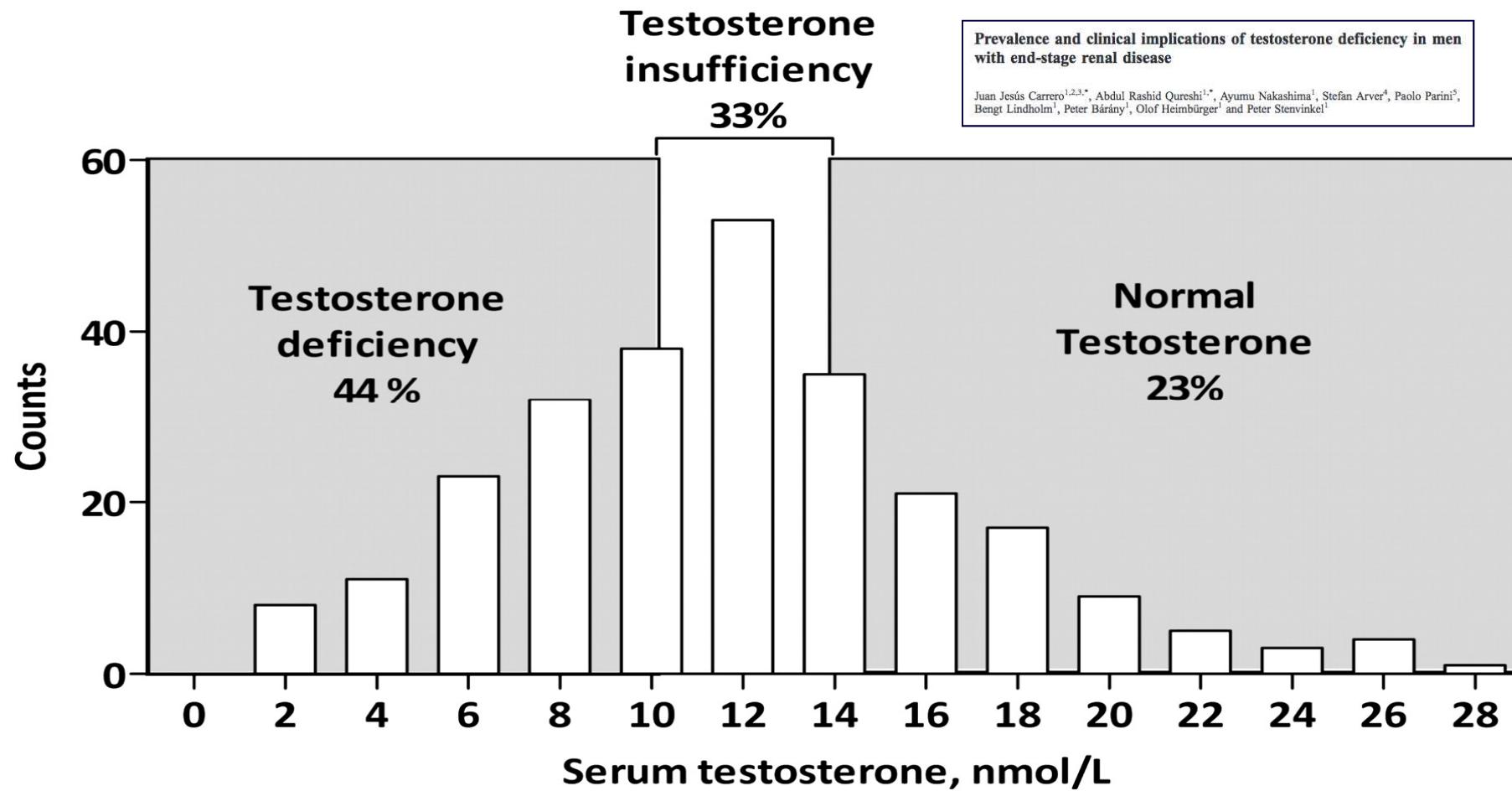
‡Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

§Graduate Institute of Aerospace and Undersea Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

¶Department of Pathology, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

\*\*Department of Nephrology, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

# Testosterone Deficiency is a Common Feature of CKD



# Causes of Low Testosterone Levels in CKD

- Prolactin-induced inhibition of gonadotropins

- Co-morbidities

- Diabetes
- Heart disease
- Obesity
- Old age
- Rheumatoid flares

- Uremic bone disease (?)
- Proteinuria (?)

**Prolactin Levels, Endothelial Dysfunction, and the Risk of Cardiovascular Events and Mortality in Patients with CKD**

CJASN 2011

*Juan Jesús Carrero,<sup>1,\*</sup> John Kyriazis,<sup>2</sup> Alper Sonmez,<sup>3</sup> Ioannis Tzanakis,<sup>1</sup> Abdul Rashid Qureshi,<sup>4</sup> Peter Sterryinkel,<sup>1</sup> Muthu Saglam,<sup>1</sup> Kostas Stylianou,<sup>2,\*\*</sup> Halil Yaman,<sup>1,\*\*</sup> Abdullah Taslipinar,<sup>5</sup> Abdulgaffar Vural,<sup>2,22</sup> Mahmut Gök,<sup>22</sup> Majeid Yenicesu,<sup>22</sup> Eugene Daphnis,<sup>22</sup> and Mahmut İlker Yılmaz<sup>1,2\*</sup>*

**Hypogonadotropic Hypogonadism in Nephrotic Rats: Increased Sensitivity to Negative Feedback Effects of Testosterone**

Allan R. Glass, Judith Beach, and Robert A. Vigersky

Metabolism 1985

# Drugs Used by Nephrologist May Affect Testosterone Levels

**Renin–angiotensin blockade reduces serum free testosterone in middle-aged men on haemodialysis and correlates with erythropoietin resistance**

NDT 2005

Michael DeLong, Joy L. Logan, Kim-Chong Yong and Yeong-Hau H. Lien

**Rosuvastatin decreases testosterone levels but not sexual function in men with type 2 diabetes**

**Ching Jung Hsieh <sup>a,\*</sup>, Bin Huang <sup>b</sup>**

Diabetes Res 2016

**Kidney & Blood Pressure Research**

Original Paper

**Kidney Blood Press Res 2016;41:1-8**

DOI: 10.1159/000368541  
Published online: January 08, 2016

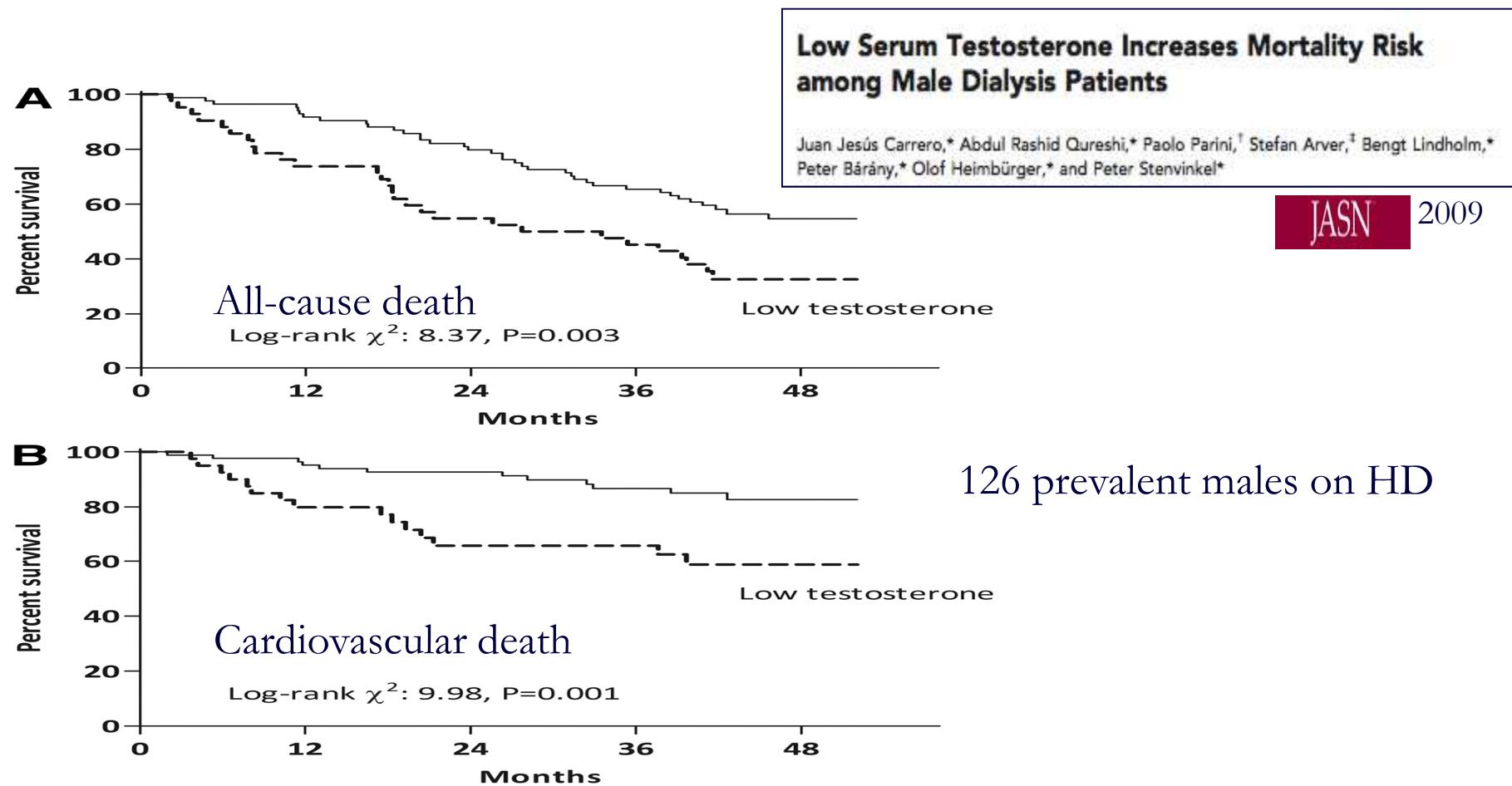
Accepted: November 17, 2015

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1423-0143/16/0411-0001\$39.50/0  
[www.karger.com/kbr](http://www.karger.com/kbr)

**Changes of Serum Total and Free Testosterone Concentrations in Male Chronic Hemodialysis Patients with Secondary Hyperparathyroidism in Response to Cinacalcet Treatment**

Piotr Kuczera Marcin Adamczak Andrzej Wiecek

# Low Testosterone Predicts Poor Outcome in CKD



## Serum Testosterone Levels and Clinical Outcomes in Male Hemodialysis Patients

Aminu K. Bello, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Peter Stenvinkel, MD, PhD,<sup>2</sup> Meng Lin, MSci,<sup>1</sup>

Brenda Hemmelgarn, MD, PhD,<sup>3</sup> Ravi Thadhani, MD, MPH,<sup>4</sup>

Scott Klarenbach, MD, MSci,<sup>1</sup> Christopher Chan, MD,<sup>5</sup> Deborah Zimmerman, MD,<sup>6</sup>

George Cembrowski, MD, PhD,<sup>1</sup> Giovanni Strippoli, MD, PhD,<sup>7</sup>

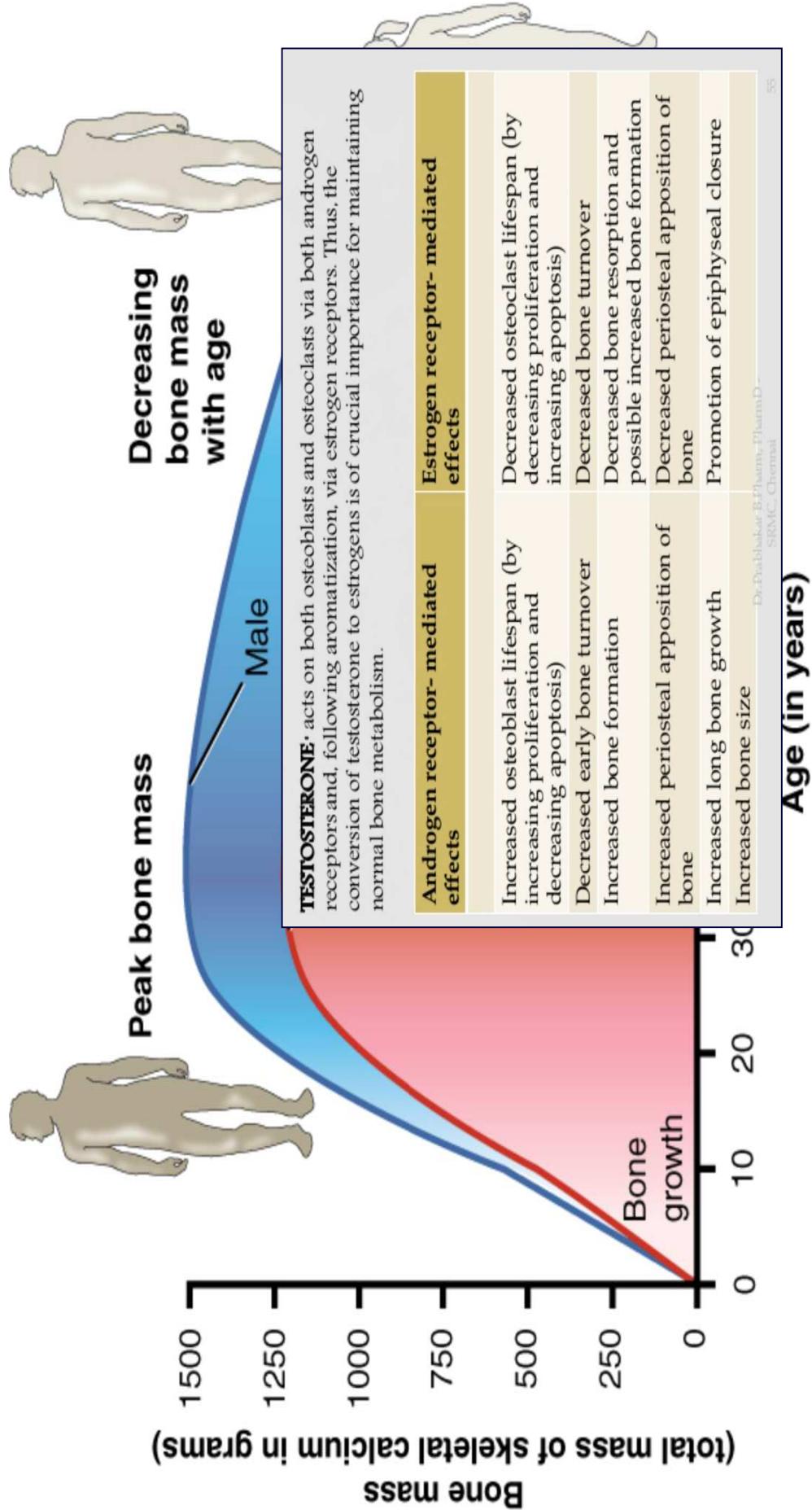
Juan-Jesus Carrero, PhD,<sup>2</sup> and Marcello Tonelli, MD, SM<sup>1</sup>

623 males

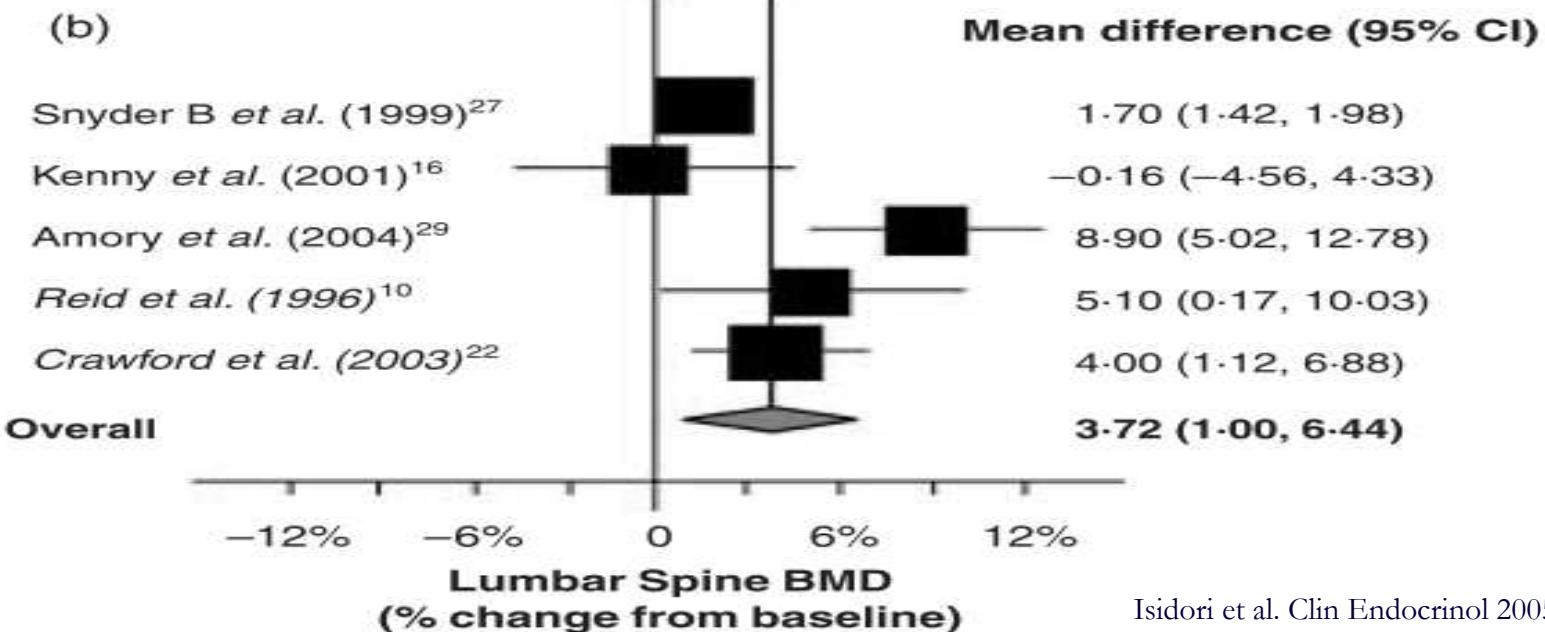
	Baseline Total Testosterone <sup>a</sup>			P for Trend
	Normal (>346 ng/dL)	Borderline (231-346 ng/dL)	Low (<231 ng/dL)	
Age <63 y <sup>b</sup>				<0.001
No. of patients	63	92	166	
No. of events	6	13	37	
Adjusted HR (95% CI)	1.00 (reference)	2.67 (0.96-7.44)	2.93 (1.10-7.78)	
Age ≥63 y <sup>b</sup>				0.1
No. of patients	40	85	177	
No. of events	14	25	71	
Adjusted HR (95% CI)	1.00 (reference)	0.97 (0.45-2.07)	1.03 (0.49-2.15)	

# Potential Beneficial Effects of Testosterone Supplementation on the Uremic Phenotype

- Life quality
- Sexual functions including libido
- **Bone quality** ←
- Muscle strength
- Depression
- Insulin resistance
- Inflammation
- Oxidative stress
- Vascular function
- Anemia and iron utilization

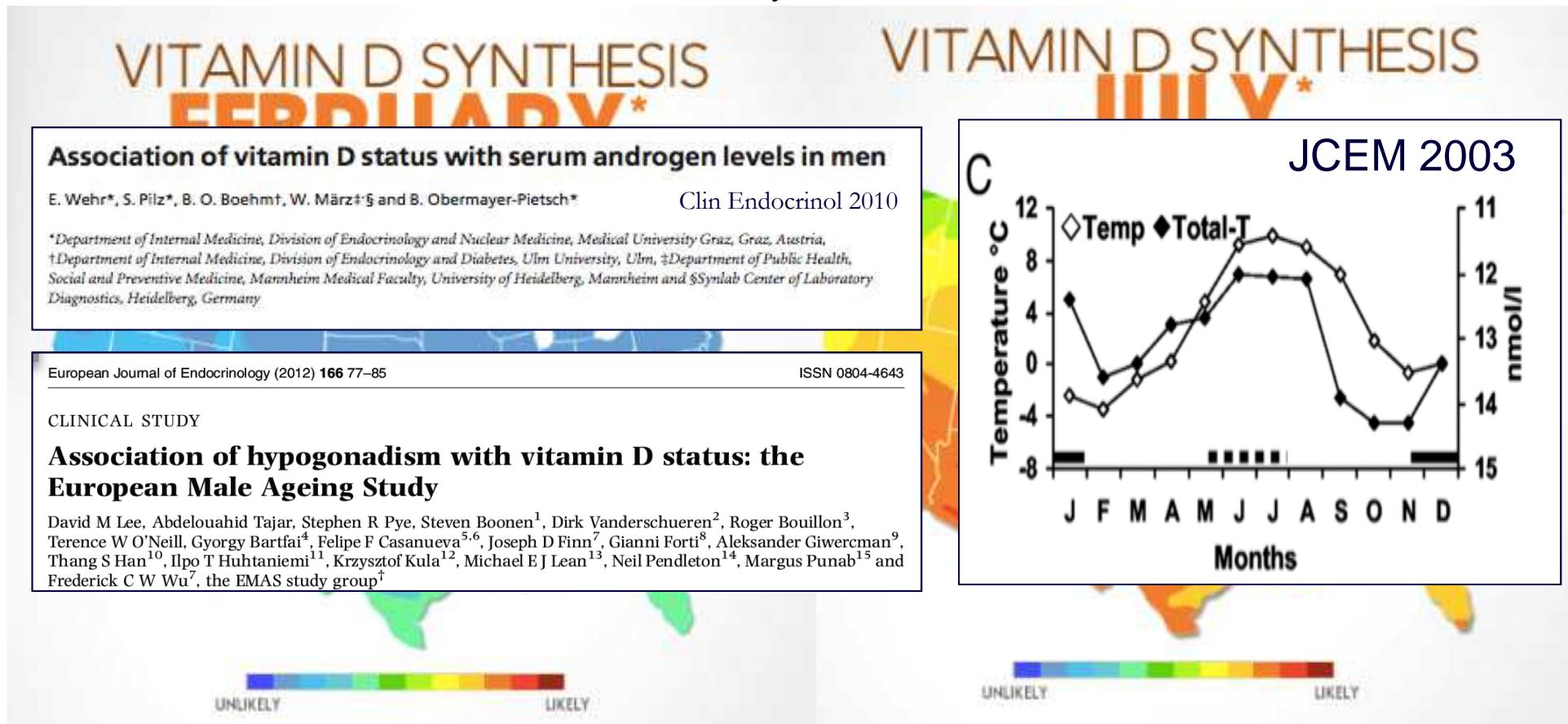


# Low Testosterone - a Cause of Osteoporosis in Males



Effects of testosterone on bone density reported as % change from basal in lumbar spine

# Hypogonadism is Associated with Vitamin-D Deficiency in Nonrenal Patients



## Potential Beneficial Effects of Testosterone Supplementation on the Uremic Phenotype

- Life quality
- Sexual functions including libido
- Bone quality
- Muscle strength
- Depression
- Insulin resistance
- Inflammation
- Oxidative stress
- Vascular function
- Anemia and iron utilization



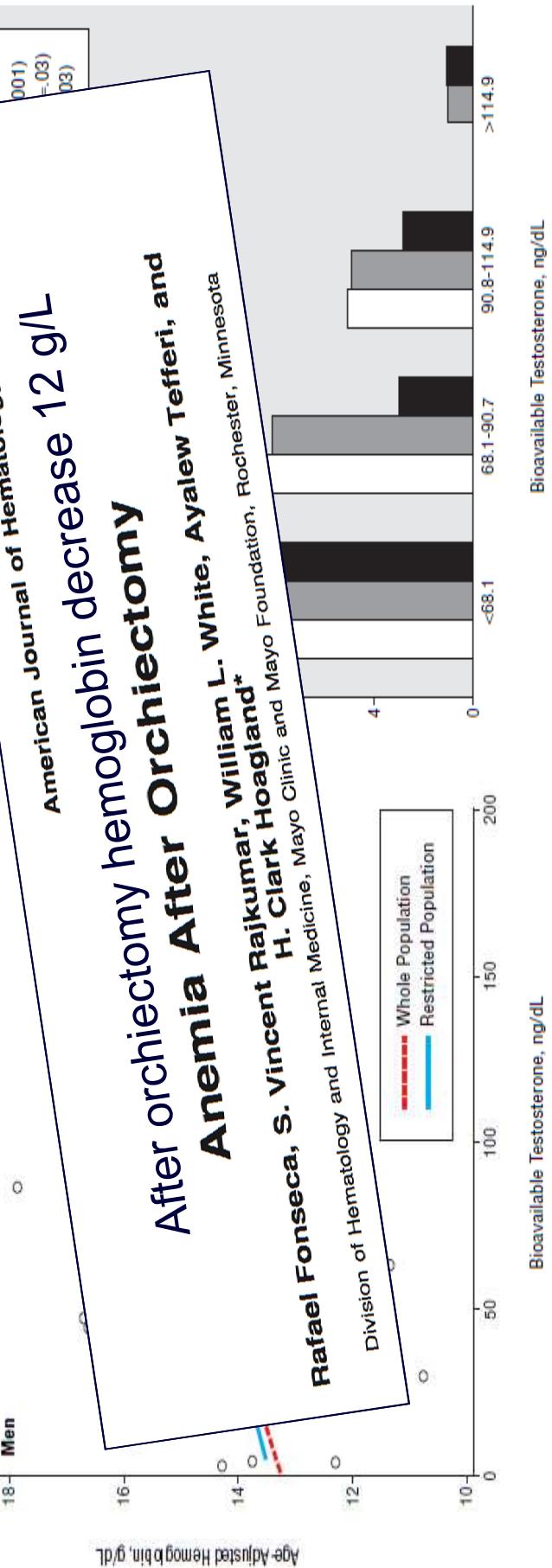
ORIGINAL INVESTIGATION

## Low Testosterone Levels and the Risk of Anemia in Older Men and Women

Luigi Ferrucci, MD, PhD; Marcello Maggio, MD; Stefania Bandinelli, MD; Shehzad Basaria, MD; Fulvio Lauretani, MD; Alessandro Ble, MD; Giorgio Valenti, MD; William B. Ershler, MD; Jack M. Guralnik, MD, PhD; Dan L. Longo, MD

Arch Intern Med. 2006;166:1380-1388

Arch Intern Med. 2006;166:1380-1388



# Hypothesis

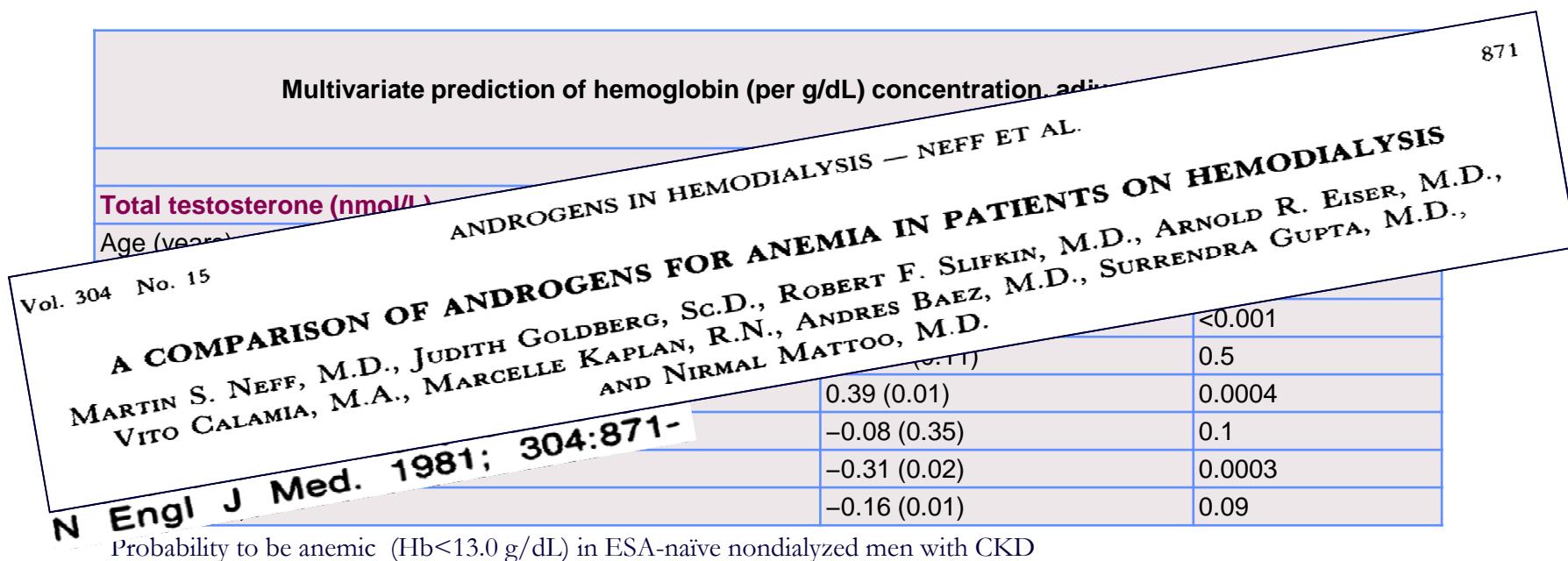
- Endogenous testosterone levels are associated with hemoglobin levels in men with CKD.
- Testosterone deficiency contributes to reduced ESA responsiveness in male HD patients.

**Testosterone deficiency is a cause of anaemia and reduced responsiveness to erythropoiesis-stimulating agents in men with chronic kidney disease**

NDT 2012

Juan Jesús Carrero<sup>1,2,3,4</sup>, Peter Bárány<sup>1</sup>, Mahmut İlker Yilmaz<sup>5</sup>, Abdul Rashid Qureshi<sup>2</sup>, Alper Sonmez<sup>6</sup>, Olof Heimbürger<sup>1</sup>, Tanez Ozgurtas<sup>7</sup>, Mujdat Yenicesu<sup>5</sup>, Bengt Lindholm<sup>2</sup> and Peter Stenvinkel<sup>1</sup>

# Testosterone vs. Hemoglobin in CKD 1-5 (I)



	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Testosterone deficiency <10 nmol/L	5.30	2.23-12.56	<0.0001

Adjusted for age, BMI, diabetes, CVD, eGFR, albumin, CRP, PTH

## Testosterone vs. ESA Dose in HD-patients (II)

General characteristics of 126 ESA-treated prevalent male HD patients stratified according to median weekly ESA dose normalized per kg of body weight (IU/kg/week).

	ESA ≤ 121 IU/kg/week, N = 63	ESA > 121 IU/kg/week, N = 63	P-value
Age, years	64 (47–76)	62 (49–70)	0.4
Vintage, months	28 (10–58)	24 (17–54)	0.8
Davies comorbidity score, %			
Low	20	17	0.1
Middle	60	49	
High	19	33	
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	25.4 (22.5–28.2)	22.3 (20.0–25.7)	<0.0001
s-Albumin, g/dL	3.5 (3.3–3.8)	3.5 (3.1–3.8)	0.4
CRP, mg/L	6.4 (2.5–17.0)	8.7 (3.4–27.7)	0.2
Haemoglobin, g/dL	12.1 (11.1–13.3)	12.3 (11.2–13.3)	0.2
Hypochromic RBC, %	0.8 (0.4–1.5)	2.6 (0.6–5.9)	<0.0001
Intravenous iron medication, %	76	63	0.2
SHBG, nmol/L	27 (19–42)	26 (20–38)	0.9
Total testosterone, nmol/L	11.0 (8.4–13.0)	8.0 (6.6–12.0)	0.04

Data are expressed as medians (interquartile ranges) or percentages.

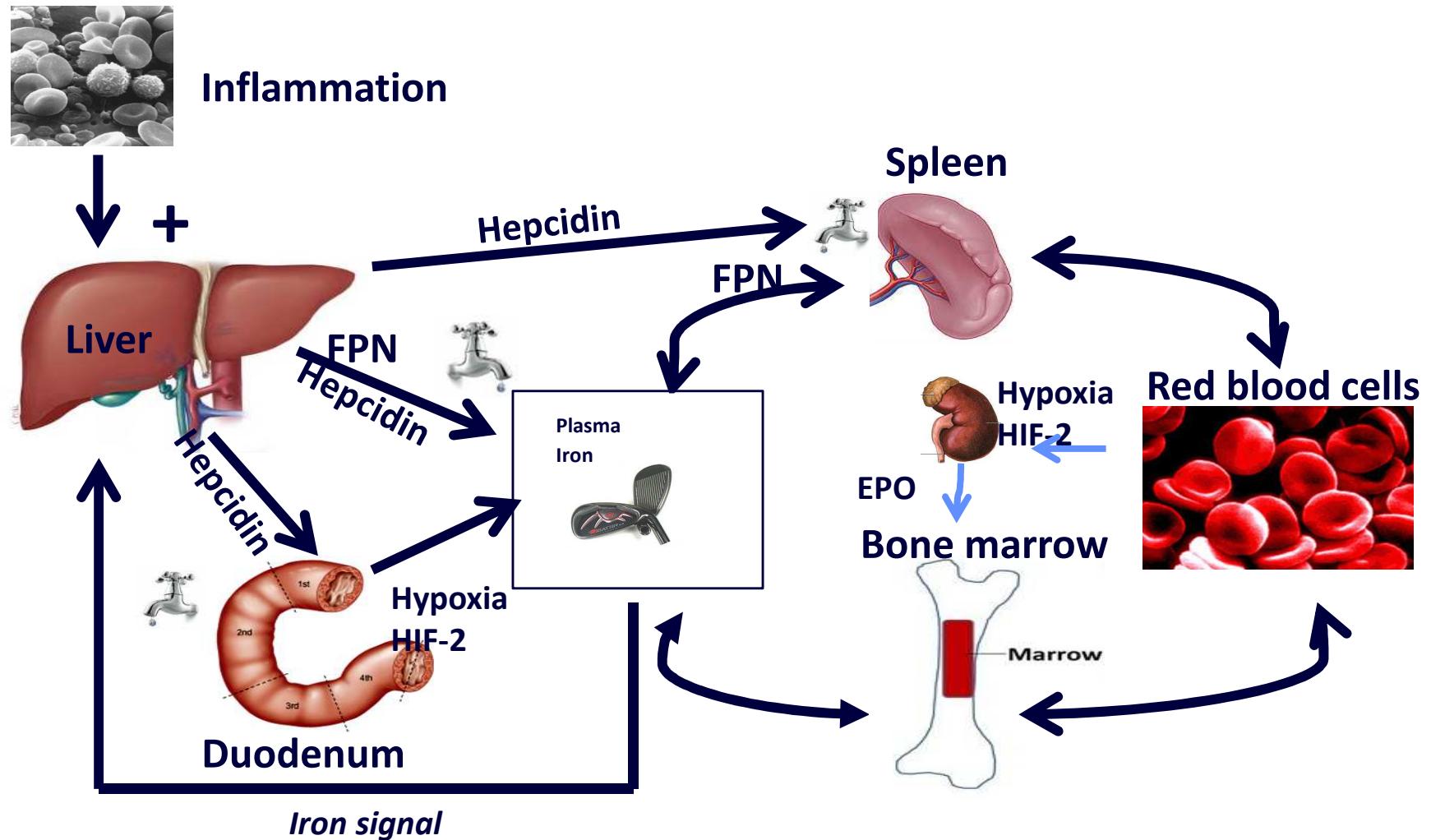
# Testosterone vs. ESA Dose in HD-patients (III)

Model	Prediction of ESA dose (U/kg/week)	$\beta$ (SE)	$r^2$	P-value
1	Total testosterone (in nmol/L)	-0.28 (2.3)	0.05	0.007
2	1 + Age (in years) and SHBG (in nmol/L)	-0.28 (2.5)	0.04	0.004
3	2 + Davies comorbidity score	-0.27 (2.4)	0.06	0.006
4	3 + CRP (in mg/L) and albumin (in g/L)	-0.26 (2.6)	0.06	0.02

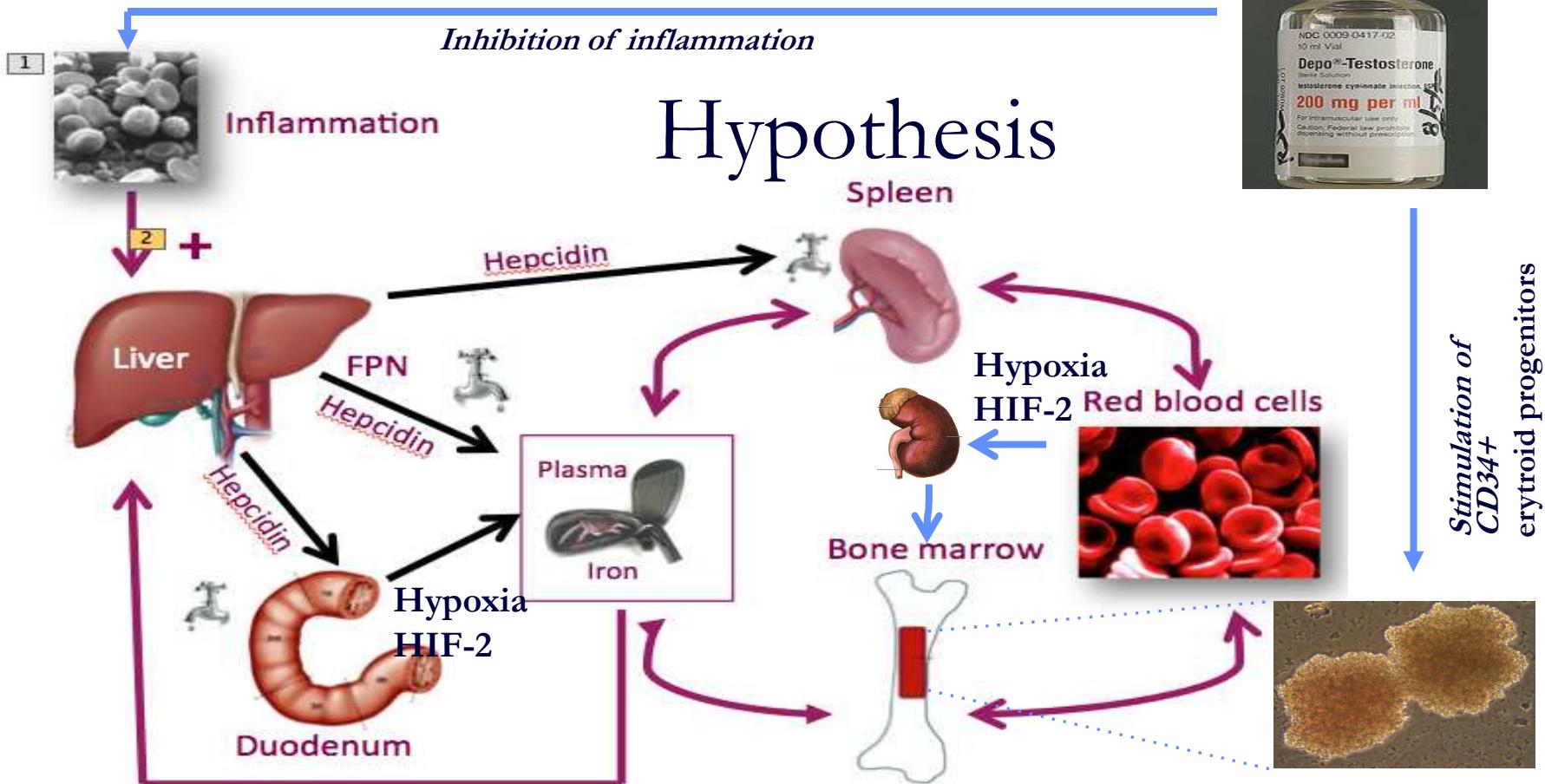
Probability to poor ESA responsiveness in ESA treated hemodialysis men.

	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Testosterone deficiency <10 nmol/L	2.68	1.17-6.14	0.001

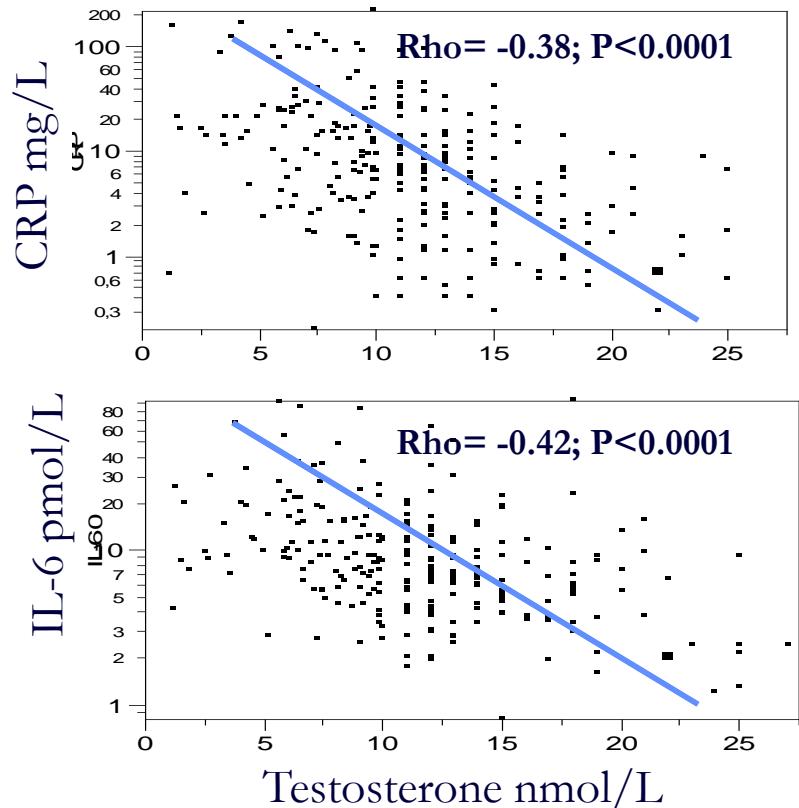
Adjusted for age, SHBG, co-morbidities, albumin, CRP



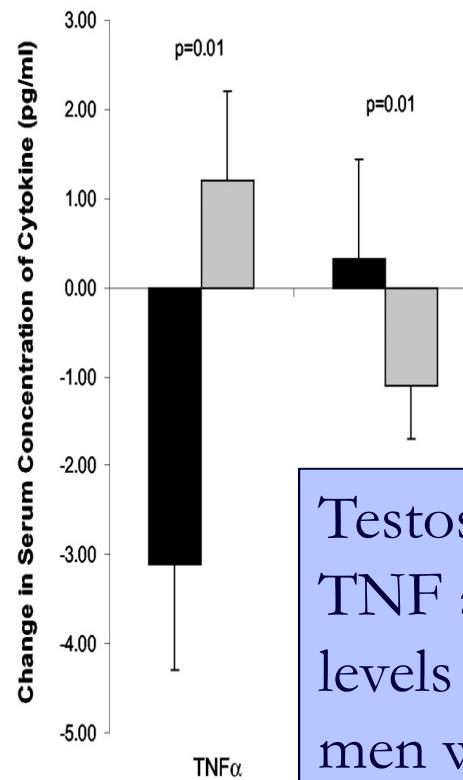
# Hypothesis



# Is Inflammation a Cause of Low Testosterone Levels in CKD?



Carrero et al. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2009 Mar;20(3):613-620

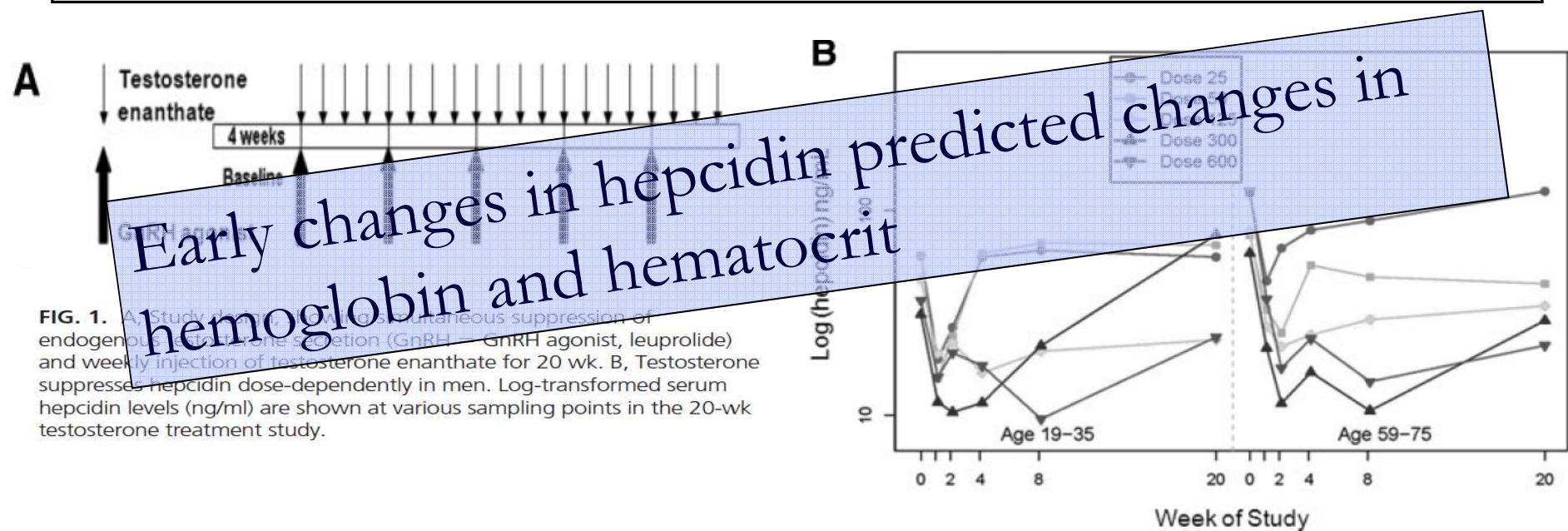


Malkin et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2004;89:3313-8.

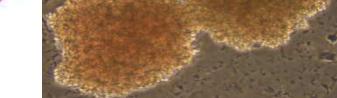
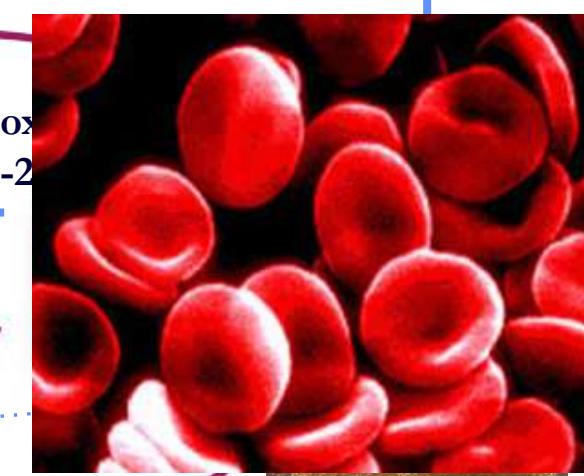
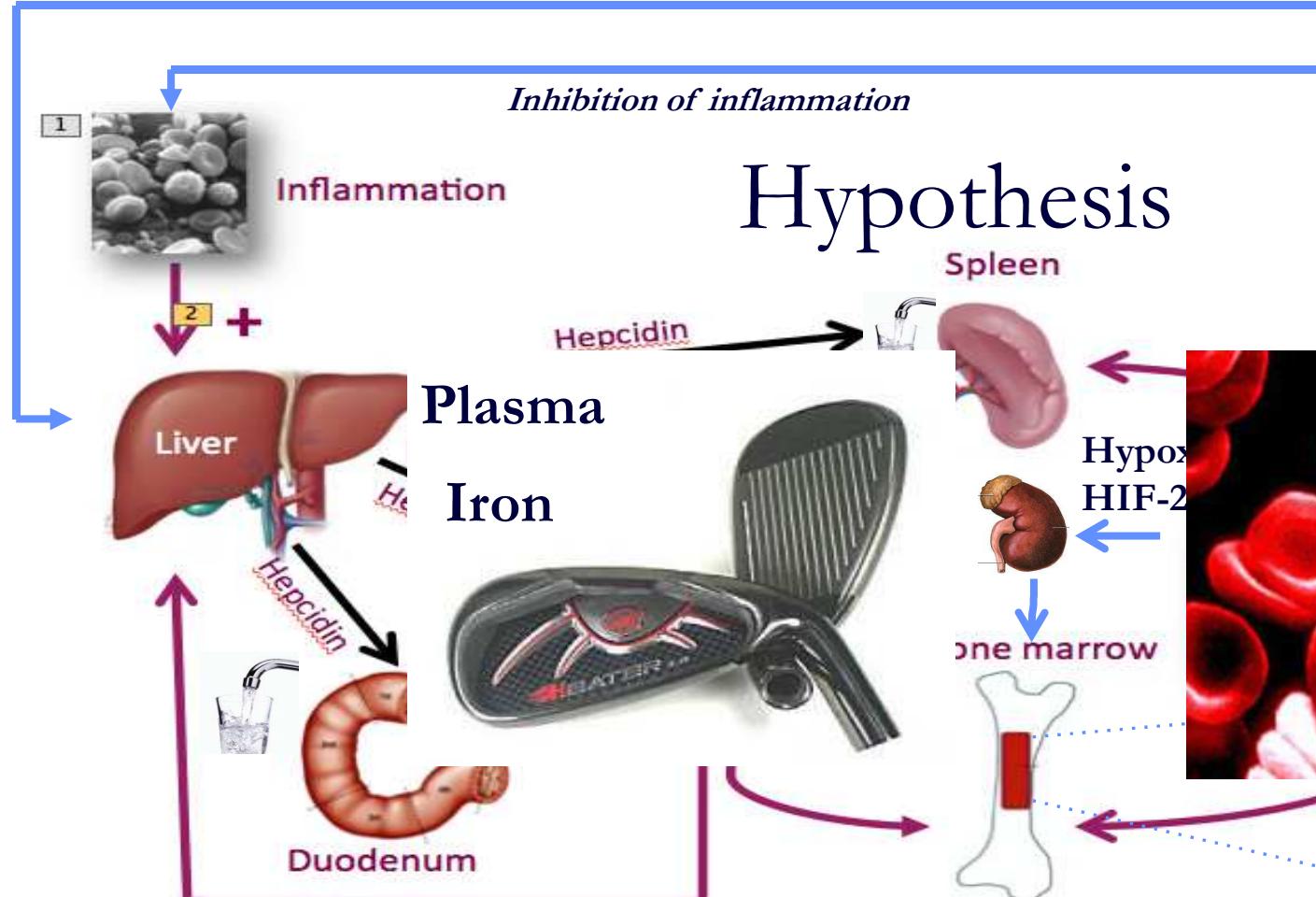
Testosterone decreased  
TNF and increased IL-10  
levels in hypogonadal  
men with heart failure

## Testosterone Suppresses Hepcidin in Men: A Potential Mechanism for Testosterone-Induced Erythrocytosis

Eric Bachman, Rui Feng,\* Thomas Travison,\* Michelle Li, Gordana Olbina, Vaughn Ostland, Jagadish Ulloor, Anqi Zhang, Shehzad Basaria, Tomas Ganz, Mark Westerman, and Shalender Bhagat



## *Inhibition of Hepcidin*



# Endocrine Regulation of Male Fertility by the Skeleton

2011

Cell



RESEARCH

## Menaquinone-4 enhances testosterone production in rats and testis-derived tumor cells

Asagi Ito<sup>1</sup>, Hitoshi Shirakawa<sup>1\*</sup>, Naofumi Takumi<sup>1</sup>, Yoshihiko Minegishi<sup>1</sup>, Ai Ohashi<sup>1</sup>, Zakir H Howlader<sup>1,2</sup>, Yusuke Ohsaki<sup>1</sup>, Toshiro Sato<sup>3</sup>, Tomoko Goto<sup>1</sup> and Michio Komai<sup>1</sup>



To be reproductive as a man  
you need strong bones

Testis

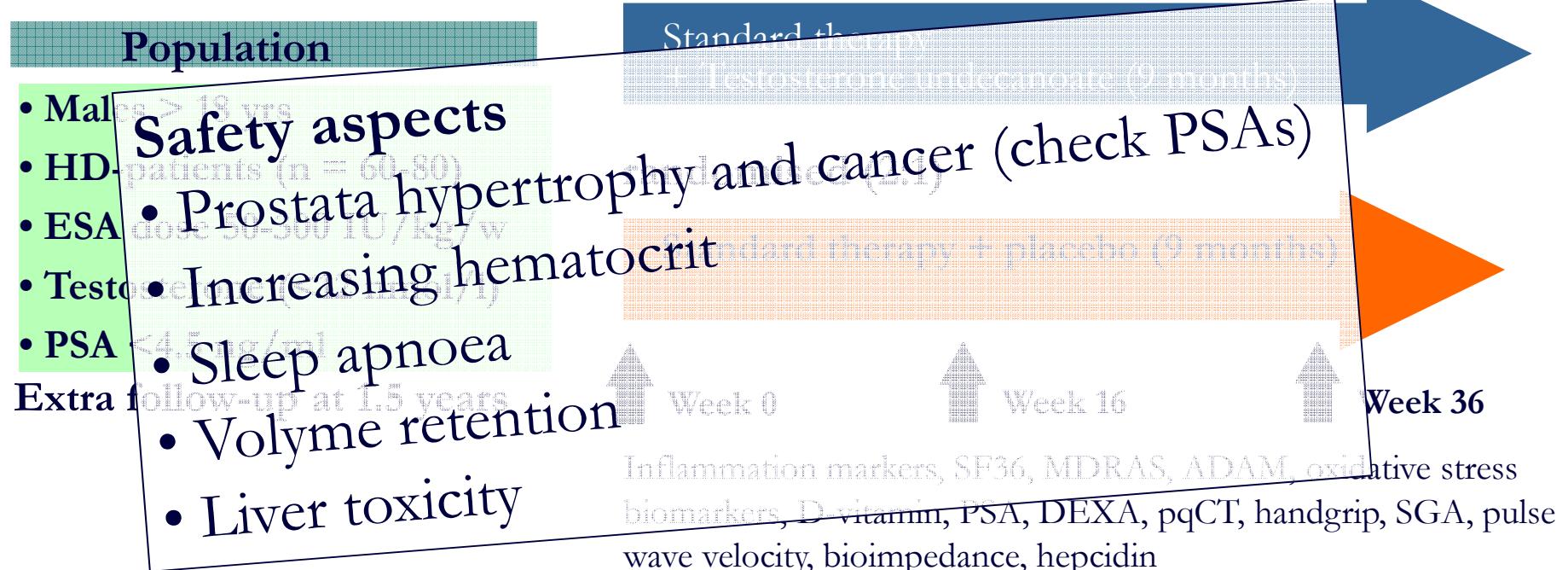
Open Access

a  
young cells in the  
testicles which  
increase synthesis of  
testosterone

# DiaTest - Study Design



EudraCT-nr: 2011-005439-20

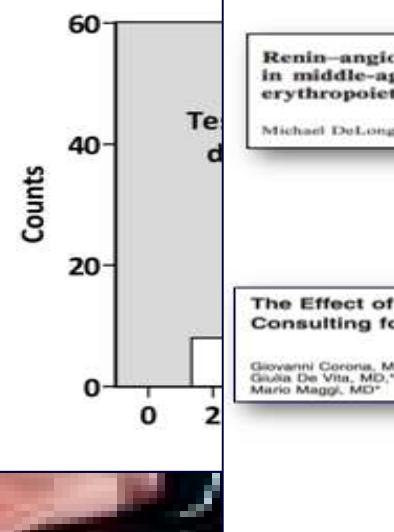


- Primary end point: Lower ESA dose requirements?
- Secondary end points: Improved muscle mass, better quality of life, better libido, less inflammation, less insulin resistance, better bone quality, better vascular function?

# What did he say?

## Testosterone Deficiency is a Common Feature of CKD

### Drugs Used by Nephrologist May Affect Testosterone Levels



### Endogenous testosterone and ESA responsiveness in ESA-treated men undergoing hemodialysis.

Model	Prediction of ESA dose (U/kg/week)	$\beta$ (SE)	$r^2$	P-value
1	Total testosterone (in nmol/L)	-0.28 (2.3)	0.05	0.007
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3	2 + Davies comorbidity score	-0.27 (2.4)	0.06	0.006
4	3 + CRP (in mg/L) and albumin (in g/L)	-0.26 (2.6)	0.06	0.02
5	4 + hypochromic RBCs ( $\leq 1.1$ versus $> 1.1\%$ )	-0.14 (2.9)	0.18	0.2

Probability to poor ESA responsiveness (ESA wk/Kg<121) in ESA treated hemodialysis men.

	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Testosterone deficiency <10 nmol/L	2.68	1.17-6.14	0.001

Adjusted for age, SHBG, co-morbidities, albumin, CRP

That's all folks!



*“Art is I – Science is We”*



Clin Exp Nephrol (2014) 18:499–506  
DOI 10.1007/s10157-013-0840-6

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

## Low serum testosterone is associated with atherosclerosis in postmenopausal women undergoing hemodialysis

Shigehiro Doi · Ayumu Nakashima · Toshinori Ueno · Nobuaki Shiraki · Naoko Sugiya · Takao Masaki · Juan Jesús Carrero · Nobuoki Kohno · Peter Stenvinkel

## Testosterone increases renal anti-aging *klotho* gene expression via the androgen receptor-mediated pathway

Shih-Che Hsu\*, Shih-Ming Huang\*†, Shih-Hua Lin\*‡, Shuk-Man Ka§, Ann Chen¶, Meng-Fu Shih\*\* and Yu-Juei Hsu\*‡<sup>1</sup>

\*Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

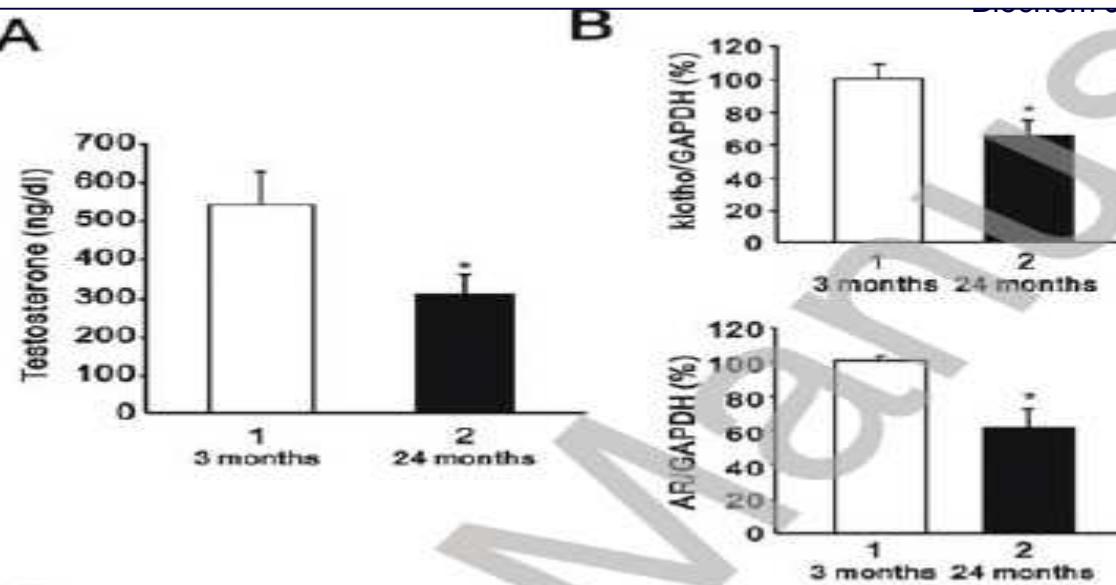
†Department of Biochemistry, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

‡Division of Nephrology, Department of Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

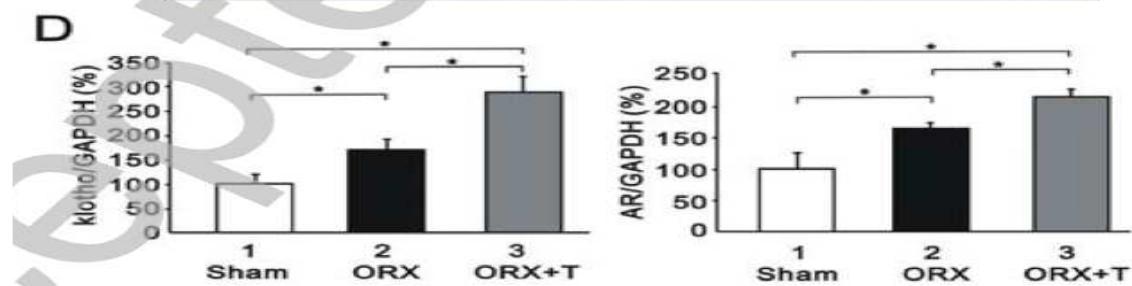
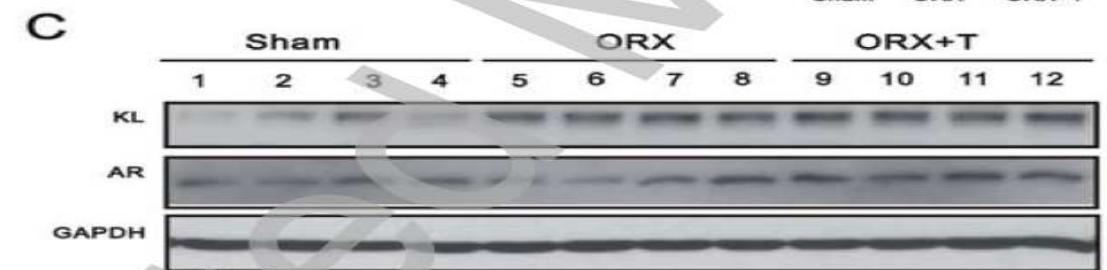
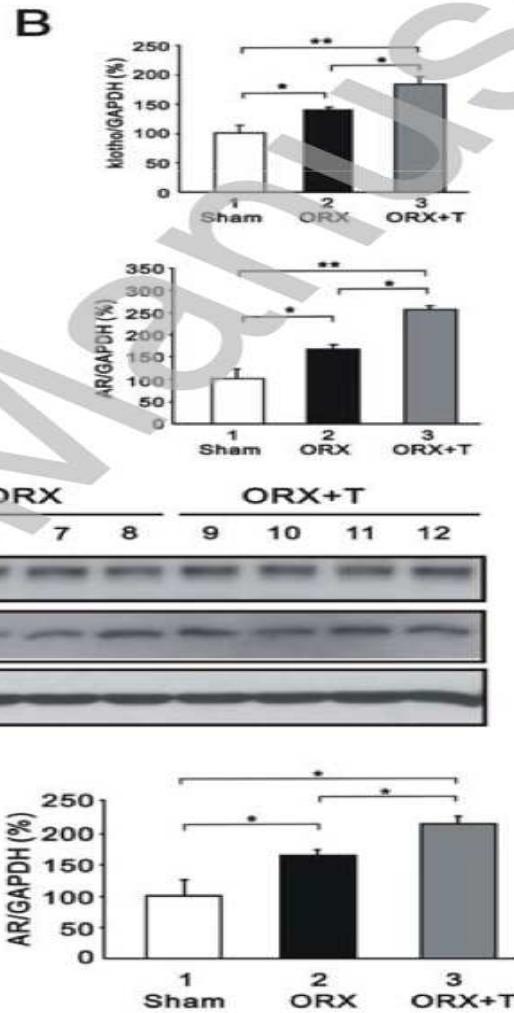
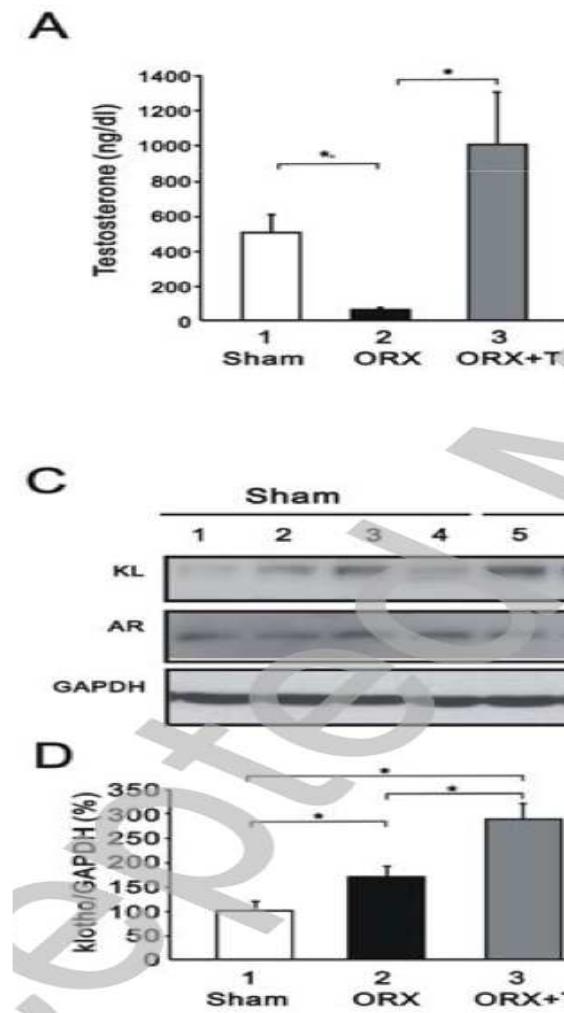
§Graduate Institute of Aerospace and Undersea Medicine, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

¶Department of Pathology, Tri-Service General Hospital, National Defense Medical Center, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

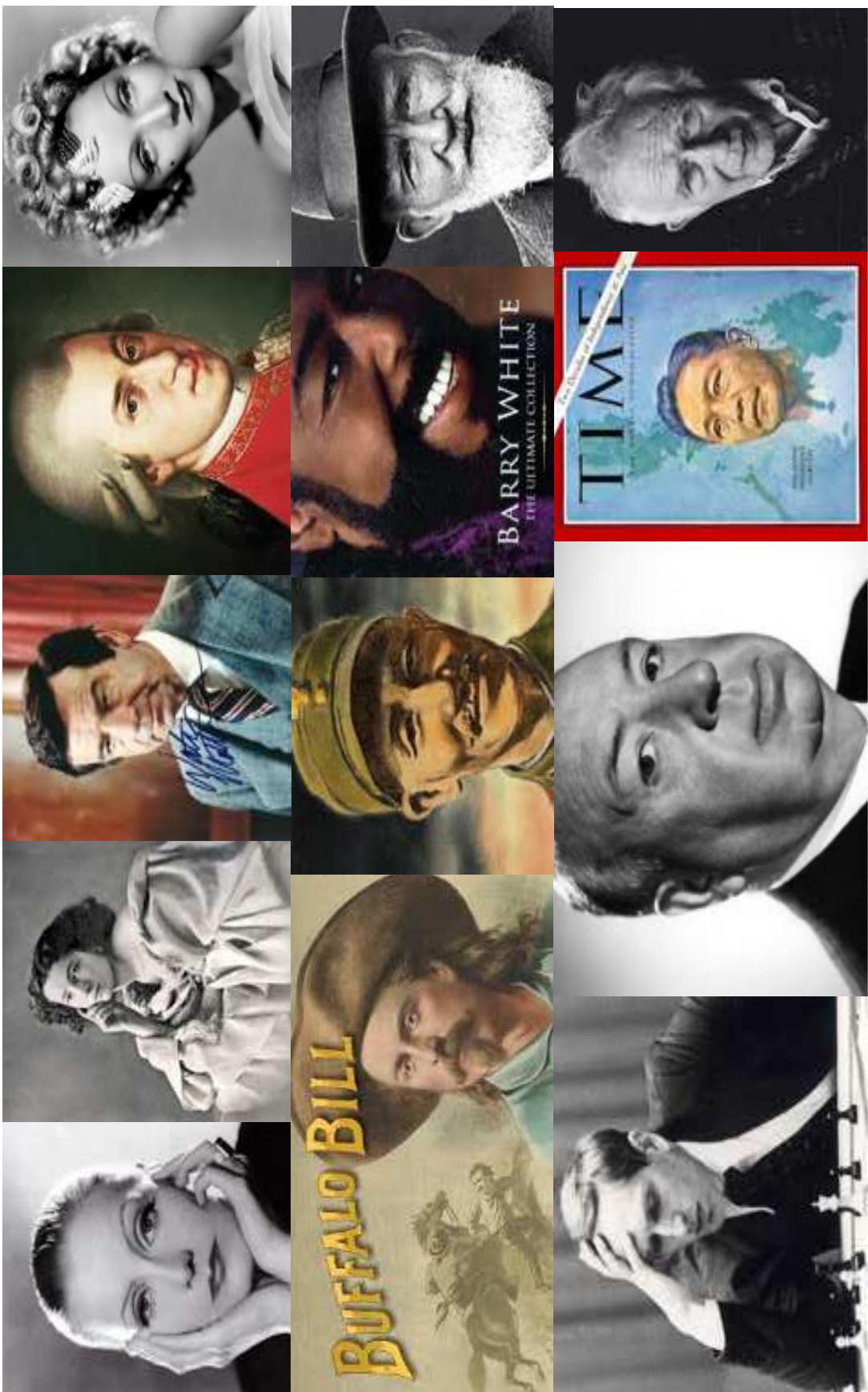
\*\*Department of Nephrology, Mackay Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.



Old age in mice  
is associated  
with lower  
testosterone  
and lower klotho  
expression



Testosterone up-regulates anti-aging klotho together with androgen receptor expression in the kidney *in vivo* and *in vitro* by recruiting androgen receptor onto the androgen response elements of the *klotho* promoter.



# Testosterone is an Anabolic Hormone with Many Beneficial Effects on Men's Health

- Depression
- Poor concentration
- Excessive tiredness
- Lack of energy



- Reduced muscle mass and/or strength
- Increased body fat
- Osteoporosis
- Anemia

- Reduced libido
- Erectile dysfunction

# Vitamin K Brist Vanligt hos Dialyspatienter

RESEARCH

Open Access

## Menaquinone-4 enhances testosterone production in rats and testis-derived tumor cell

Asagi Ito<sup>1</sup>, Hitoshi Shirakawa<sup>1\*</sup>, Naofumi Takumi<sup>1</sup>, Yoshihiko Minegishi<sup>1</sup>, Ai Ohashi<sup>1</sup>, Zakir H Howlader<sup>1,2</sup>, Yusuke Ohsaki<sup>1</sup>, Toshiro Sato<sup>3</sup>, Tomoko Goto<sup>1</sup> and Michio Komai<sup>1</sup>



870 µg vitamin K2 per 100 gram natto.

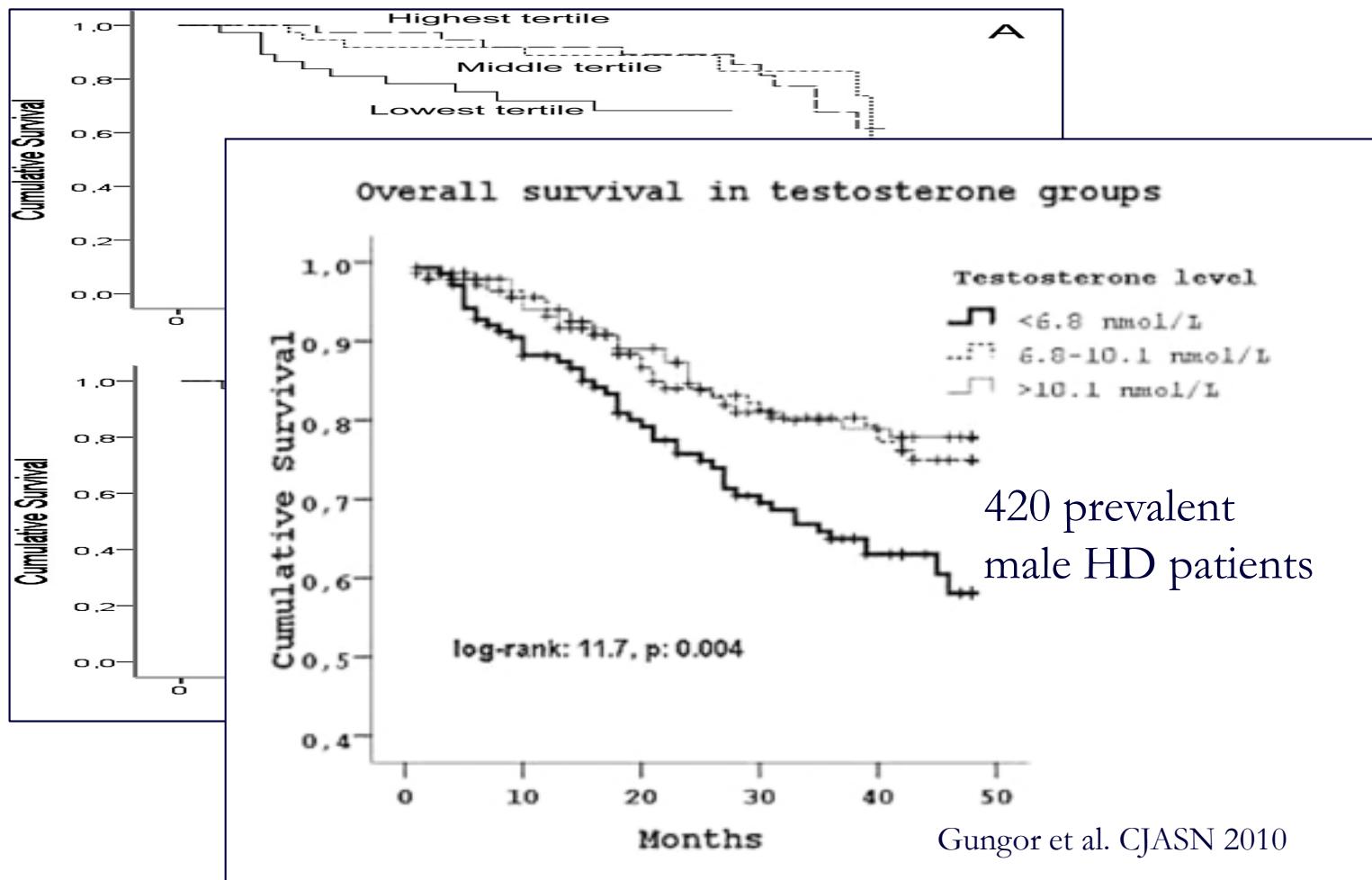


**Japanese Fermented Soybean Food as the Major Determinant of the Large Geographic Difference in Circulating Levels of Vitamin K2: Possible Implications for Hip-Fracture Risk**

Volume 10 | Number 12 | December 2012 | ISSN: 1945-7197 | DOI: 10.1163/1945-7197-hb-0120 | Copyright © 2012 by the author(s)

## Potential Mechanisms by Which Testosterone Therapy may Result in Erythrocytosis

- Suppression of inflammation
- Hypoxia
- Stimulation of erythropoiesis
- Alterations in iron sensing
- **Direct suppression of hepcidin transcription**





## The Safety of Erythropoiesis-Stimulating Agents for the Treatment of Anemia Resulting from Chronic Kidney Disease

Nicolas Roberto Robles<sup>1,2</sup>

**Side effects of ESA:**

- Hypertension
- Cramps
- Access "clotting"
- Stroke
- Risk for malignancies

Nephrol Dial Transplant (2016) 0: 1–6  
doi: 10.1093/ndt/gfw268

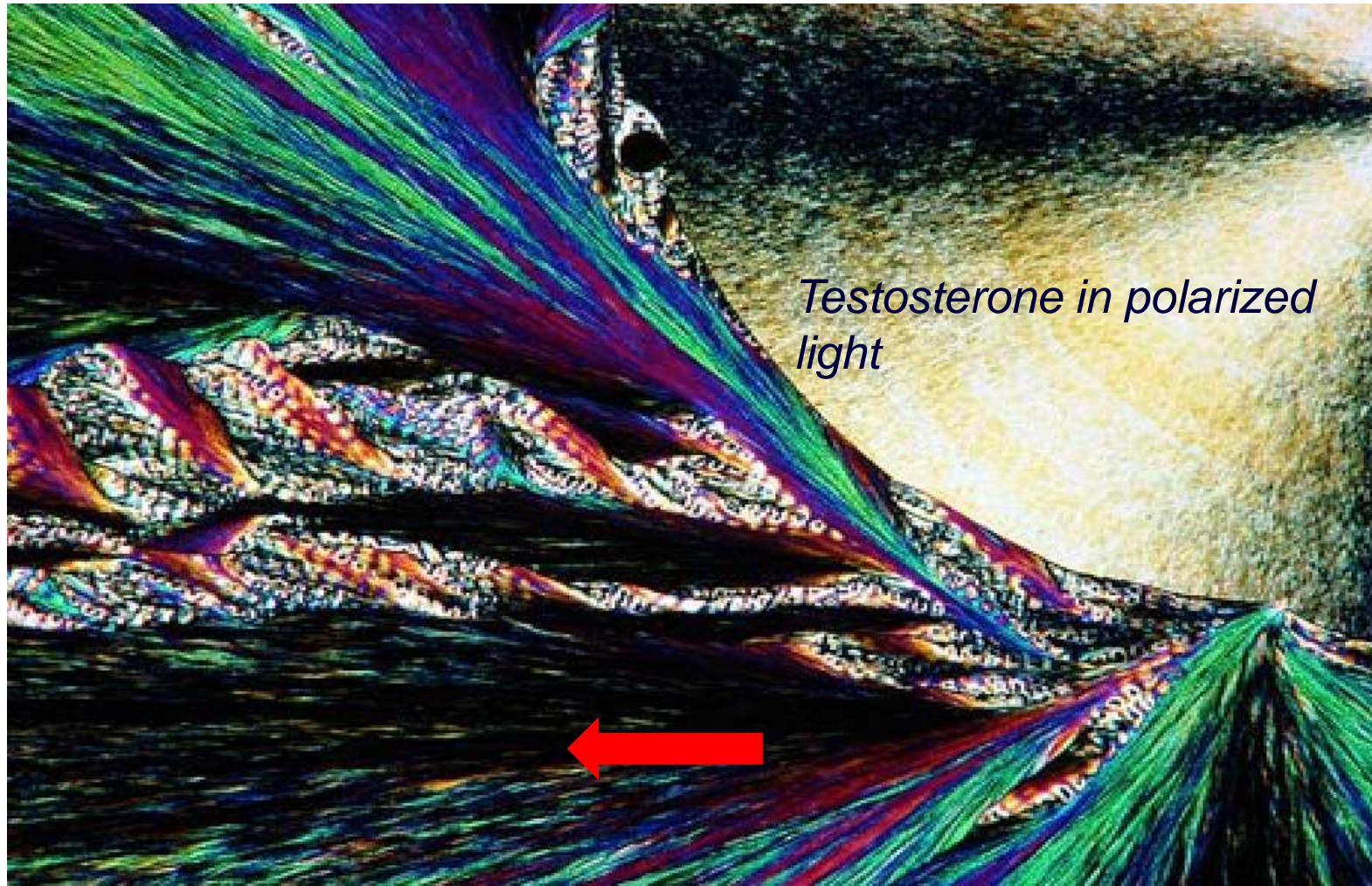
NDT Advance Access published July 21, 2016



*Original Article*

**Association of erythropoiesis-stimulating agents and the incidence risk of cancer diagnosis among chronic dialysis patients: a nested case-control study**

Emilie René<sup>1</sup>, Hind H. Lazrak<sup>1</sup>, Louis-Philippe Laurin<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Naoual Elftouh<sup>1</sup>, Michel Vallée<sup>2,3</sup> and Jean-Philippe Lafrance<sup>1,2,3</sup>

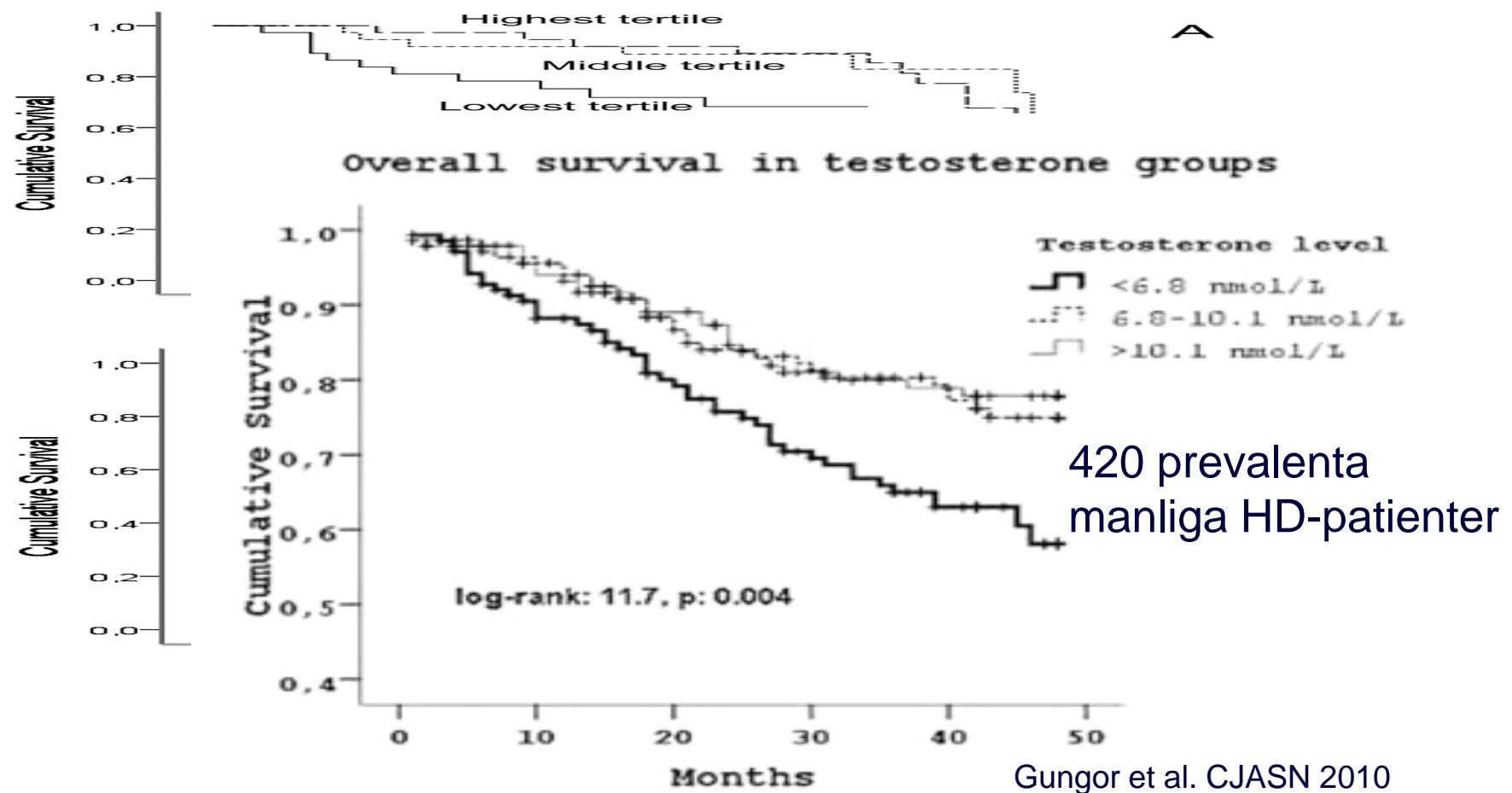


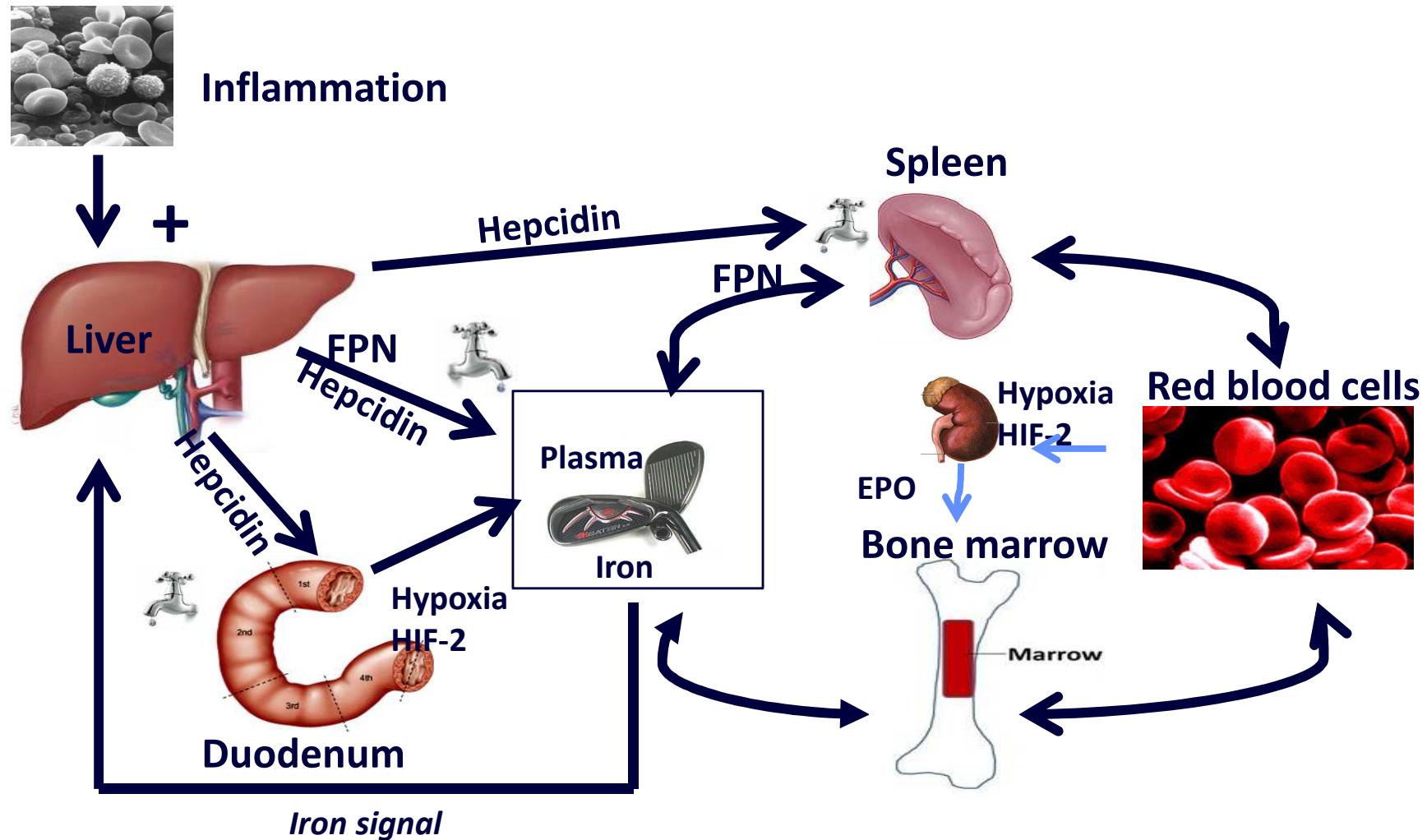
## Nettie Moore Lyrics

### Bob Dylan

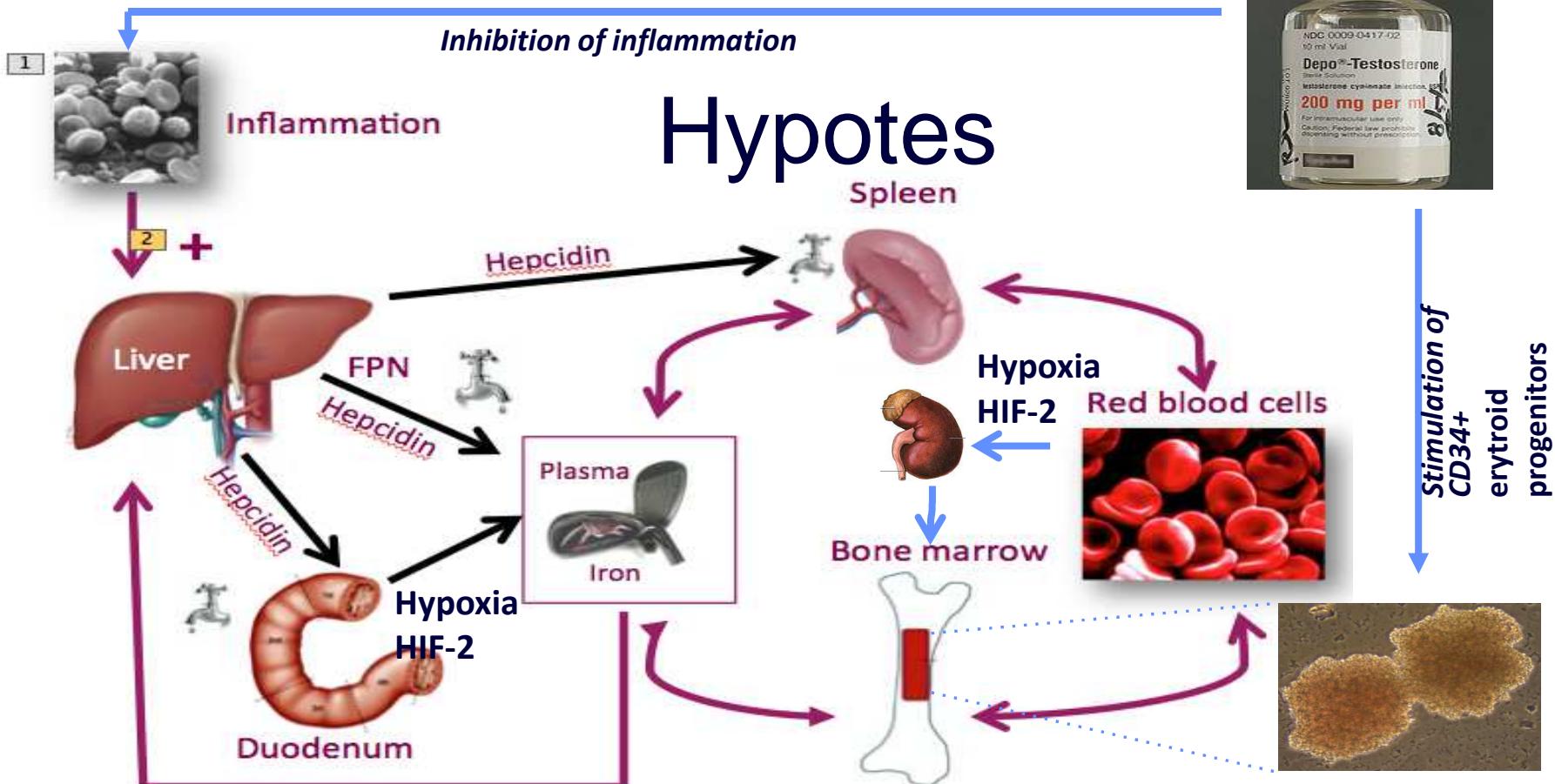


Well, the world of research has gone berserk  
Too much paperwork  
~~Albert's in the graveyard, Frankie's raising hell~~  
I'm beginning to believe what the Scriptures tell

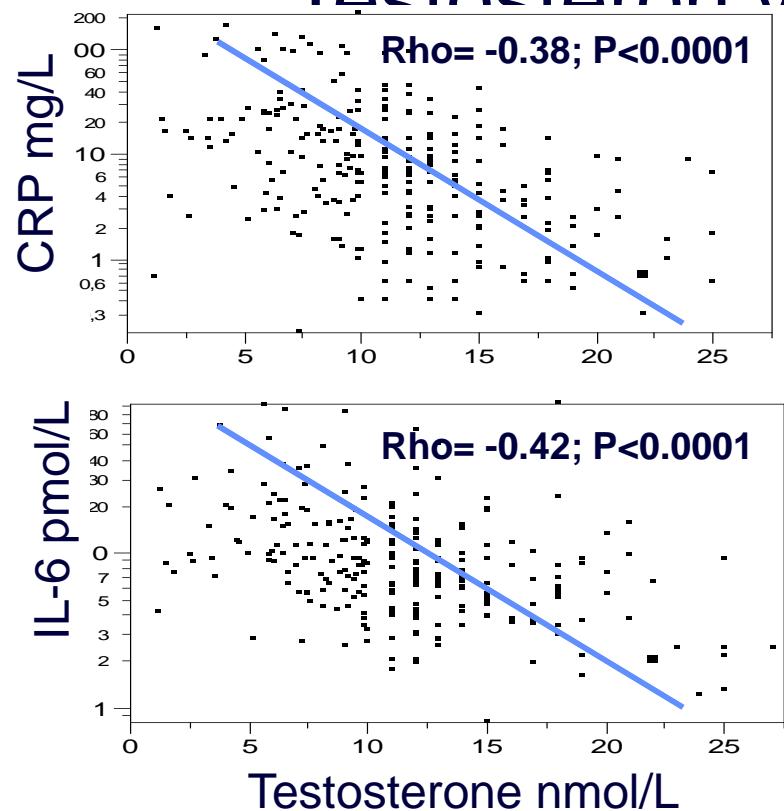




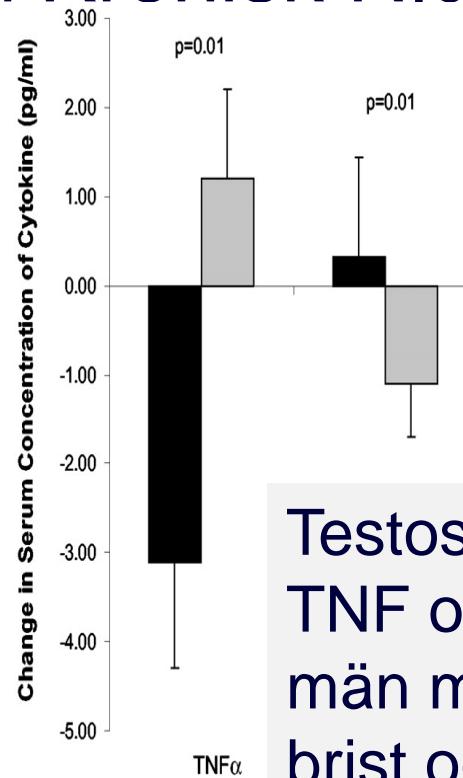
# Hypotes



# Är Inflammation en Orsak till Låga Nivåer av Testosteron vid Kronisk Niursvikt?



Carrero et al. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2009 Mar;20(3):613-620



Malkin et al. J Clin Endocrinol Metab. 2004;89:3313-8.

Testosteron minskar TNF och ökar IL-10 hos män med testosteronbrist och hjärtsvikt

# The Fountain of Youth – Can Nutritional and Pharmacological Interventions Extend Age?

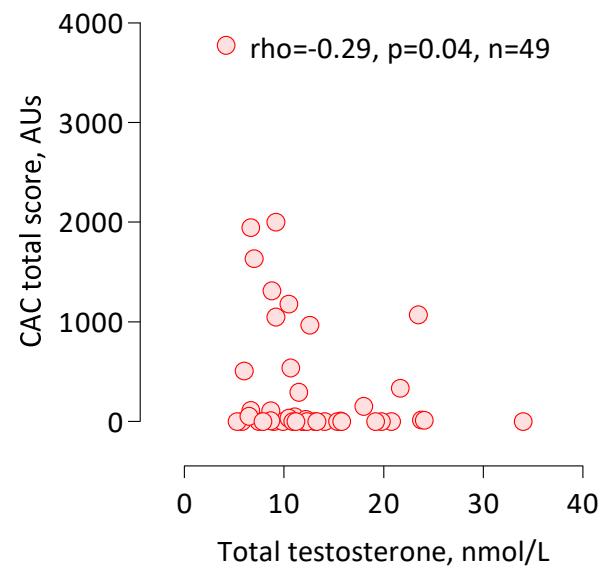
Nutritional and life style interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Caloric restriction (96)</li><li>• Red wine (121).</li><li>• Fish oil (omega 3) (106)</li><li>• Phosphate restriction (152)</li><li>• Physical exercise (104)</li></ul>
Pharmacological interventions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>SIRT activation</i>; resveratrol (101)</li><li>• <i>Increased Klotho expression</i>; drugs that alter DNA hypermethylation (154), inhibition of NF-<math>\kappa</math>B (81), PPAR-<math>\gamma</math> agonists (146), thyroid hormones (147), ACE-inhibition (148), D vitamin (155)</li><li>• <i>mTOR inhibition</i>; rapamycin (108), metformin (110), resveratrol (111)</li><li>• <i>Stabilizing telomeres</i>; statins (130), estrogens (131), telomerase reactivation (129), D-vitamin (132)</li><li>• <i>Limit DNA damage</i>; inhibition of NF-<math>\kappa</math>B (135), anti-oxidants (136)</li><li>• <i>Phosphate-lowering</i>: phosphate binders (156), blocking of the intestinal phosphate transporter Npt2b (153)</li></ul>

Stenvinkel and Larsson. AJKD 2013

# Tänkbara Gynnsamma Effekter av Testosteron hos Patienter med Kronisk Njursvikt

- Livskvalitet
- Sexualla funktioner (ökad lust)
- Kvalitet på benmassa
- Muskelstyrka
- Depression
- Insulinresistens
- Inflammation
- Oxidativ stress





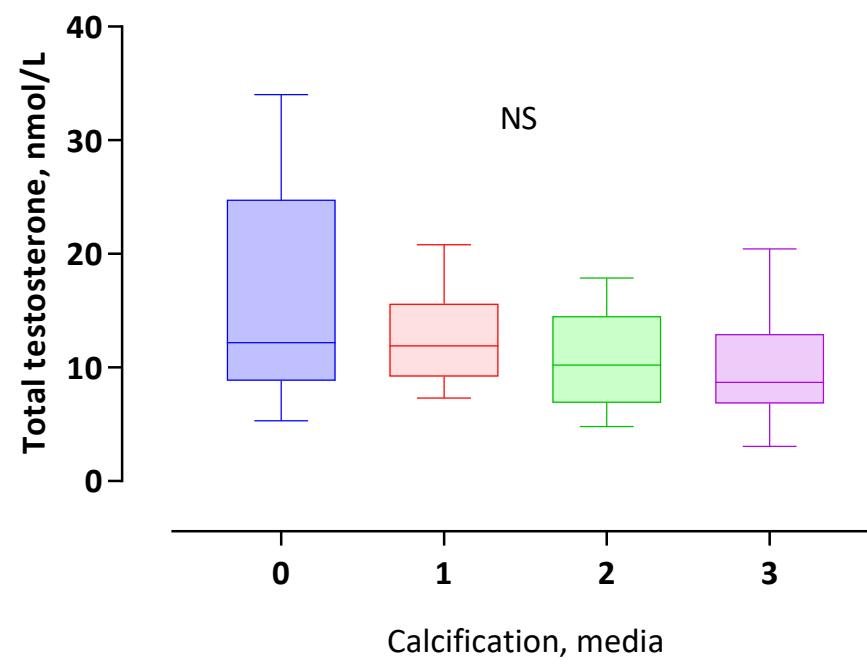
# Testosteron vs. Hemoglobin vid CKD 1-5 (III)

Model	Prediction of ESA dose (U/kg/week)	$\beta$ (SE)	$r^2$	P-value
1	Total testosterone (in nmol/L)	-0.28 (2.3)	0.05	0.007
2	1 + Age (in years) and SHBG (in nmol/L)	-0.28 (2.5)	0.04	0.004
3	2 + Davies comorbidity score	-0.27 (2.4)	0.06	0.006
4	3 + CRP (in mg/L) and albumin (in g/L)	-0.26 (2.6)	0.06	0.02

Ca 2.5 gånger ökad risk för låg ESA känslighet hos män som behandlas med HD

	Odds Ratio	95% CI	P value
Testosterone deficiency <10 nmol/L	2.68	1.17-6.14	0.001

Adjusted for age, SHBG, co-morbidities, albumin, CRP



## Methods: Cross-sectional study in.....



....126 prevalent HD men

The median ESA equivalent dose was 10,000 (6,000–14,750) U/week.

Age, years	63 (49–73)
Vintage, months	25 (14–55)
Davies comorbidity score, %	
Low	19
Middle	54
High	26
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	24.6 (21.3–27.5)
s-Albumin, g/dL	3.5 (3.2–3.8)
CRP, mg/L	6.8 (2.9–21.0)
Haemoglobin, g/dL	12.2 (11.0–13.4)
Hypochromic RBC, %	1.1 (0.5–4.1)
Intravenous iron medication, %	69
SHBG, nmol/L	27 (20–39)
Total testosterone, nmol/L	10.0 (7.2–12.0)