



# CLINICAL USE OF GLYCOPEPTIDES

Herbert Spapen  
Intensive Care Department  
University Hospital  
Vrije Universiteit Brussel

# Glycopeptides

## Natural

- Vancomycin → introduced in 1958
- Teicoplanin → introduced in Europe (1988) and Japan (1998)  
never licensed in USA

## Semi-synthetic

- Telavancin
  - Oritavancin
  - Dalbavancin
- ) FDA approved , mainly for treatment of acute or severe skin and soft tissue infections  
Not licensed in Europe

# Clinical Use

## Treatment

- Severe infections caused by  $\beta$ -lactam resistant Gram-positive micro-organisms (methicillin-resistant and coagulase-negative *S.aureus*, penicillin-resistant *Streptococci*)
- Infections caused by Gram-positive micro-organisms in patients with serious (IgE-mediated) allergy to  $\beta$ -lactam agents
- Clostridium difficile-associated colitis (oral form)

# Clinical use

## Prophylaxis

Major surgical procedures involving implantation of prosthetic material or devices at institutions that have a high rate of MRSA or MRSE infection

## Debatable indications

- Empirical treatment in febrile neutropenia or sepsis
- Treatment in response to a single blood culture positive for coagulase-negative *Staphylococci*

# Vancomycin dosing

**Intermittent treatment** 15-20 mg/kg bid, not to exceed 2g/day

**Continuous infusion** 15 mg/kg loading dose, then 2g/24h  
(to obtain plateau levels of 20-25µg/mL)

→ **dose adapted to renal function**

For complicated infections (bacteremia, hospital-acquired pneumonia, endocarditis, meningitis, osteomyelitis) and for infections caused by strains with MICs > 1µg/mL, vancomycin trough levels of 15-20µg/mL are recommended !

*Liu C, et al. IDSA Clinical Practice Guidelines, Clin Infect Dis 2011*

# Teicoplanin dosing

- Long half-life → can be given IM or IV once daily
- 6mg/kg (400mg) daily results in too low mean trough levels  
6mg/kg twice daily for 48h is needed to attain serum levels  $> 10\mu\text{g/mL}$  in all infections and must be continued for complicated infections and sepsis

*Harding I, et al. J Antimicrob Ther 2000; Brink AJ, et al. Int J Antimicrob Agents 2008*

- A meta-analysis of studies suggests that teicoplanin has equal clinical and microbiological efficacy as vancomycin, while having a lower incidence of infusion-related side-effects and nephrotoxicity

**(but only in less severely ill patients !)**

*Svetitsky S, et al. Antimicrob Agents Chemother 2009*

# The problem with vancomycin

- **Efficacy**
- **Reduced susceptibility and resistance**
- **Safety and toxicity**



# Vancomycin efficacy

- Slow bactericidal activity, particularly at high inocula
- Less activity against MSSA
- Poor tissue penetration
  - **meninges** (dependent on degree of inflammation)
  - **foreign devices** (orthopedic infections !)
  - **lungs**
    - 45% penetration in post-lobectomy lung tissue
    - 6:1 blood/epithelial lining fluid penetration ratio in ICU patients



# Reduced susceptibility of *S. aureus* to vancomycin

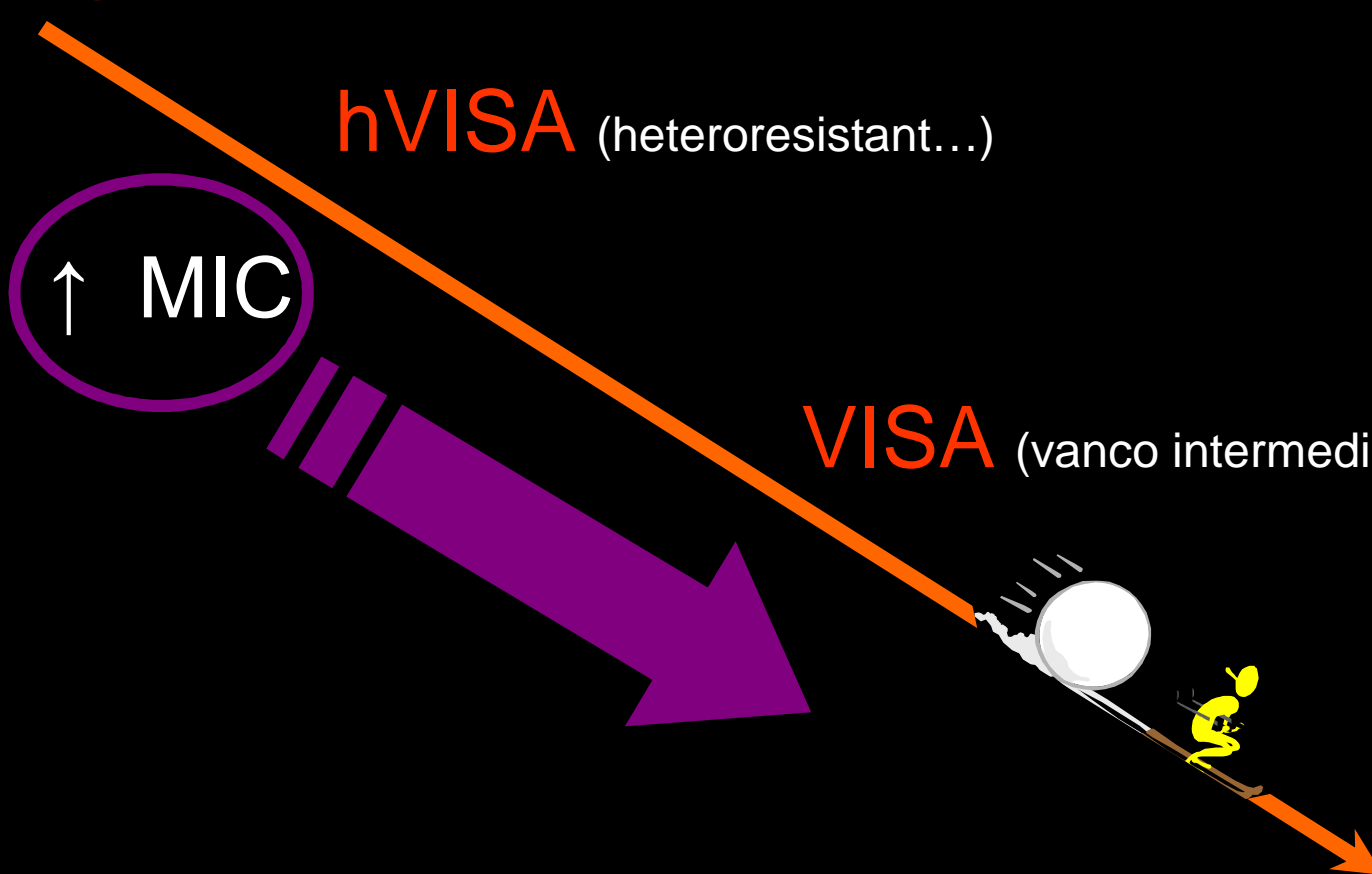
MRSA

hVISA (heteroresistant...)

↑ MIC

VISA (vanco intermediate)

VRSA !!!



# Vancomycin breakpoints

Classification	MIC ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) CLSI	MIC ( $\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) EUCAST
Susceptible (VSSA)	$\leq 2$	$\leq 2$
Intermediate (VISA)	4 – 8	
Resistant (VRSA)	$> 8$	$> 2$

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CLSI      Clinical Laboratory Standards Institute  
EUCAST    European Committee on Antimicrobial Susceptibility Testing

**MIC should always be reported by method !!**

MICs determined by E-test tend to be higher than those determined by broth method

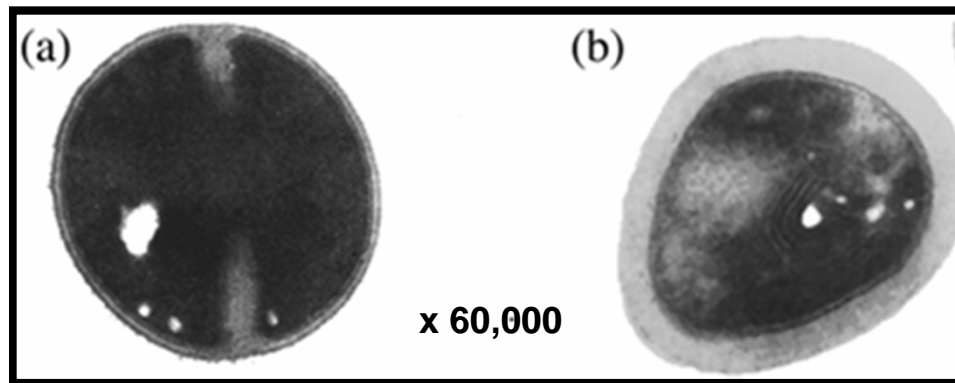
# Vancomycin resistance

## VRSA “vancomycin resistant *S.aureus*”

- conferred by transfer *vanA resistance operon* from vancomycin-resistant enterococci into *S. aureus*
- only handful of cases reported (USA, India, Iran)

## VISA “vancomycin intermediate resistant *S.aureus*”

- heterogeneous distribution worldwide (e.g. up to 26% in Japan)
- does not possess *van resistance genes* but produce a thicker cell wall



Transmission electron micrograph of Vanco-susceptible MRSA (a) and VISA strain (b)

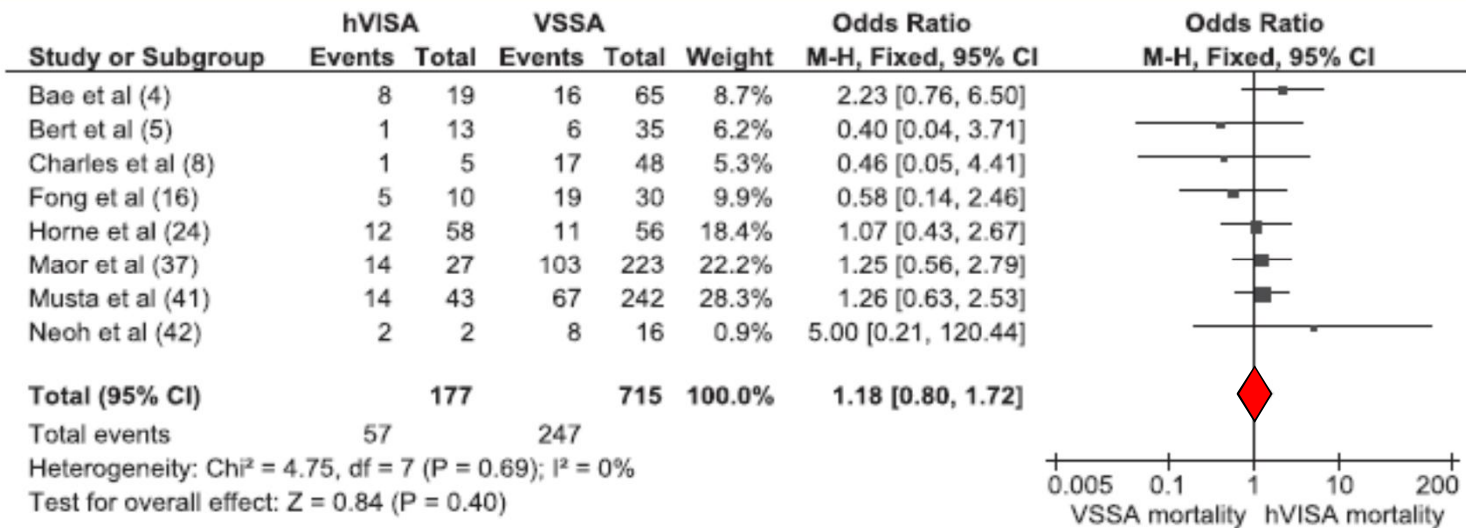
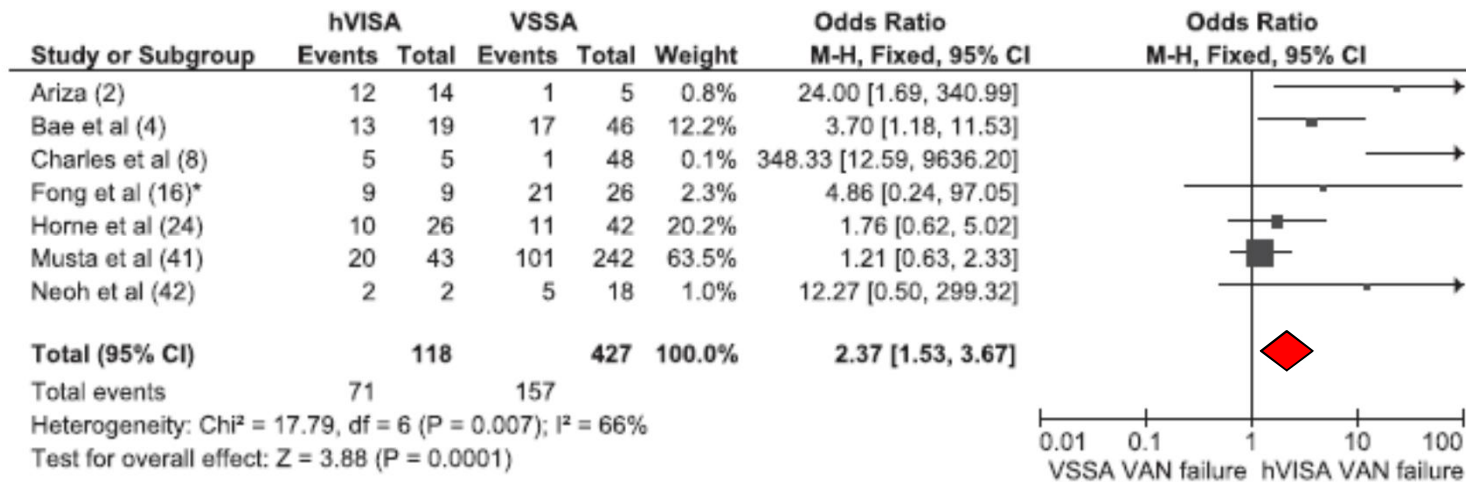
*Denis O, et al. JAC 2002*

# Vancomycin resistance

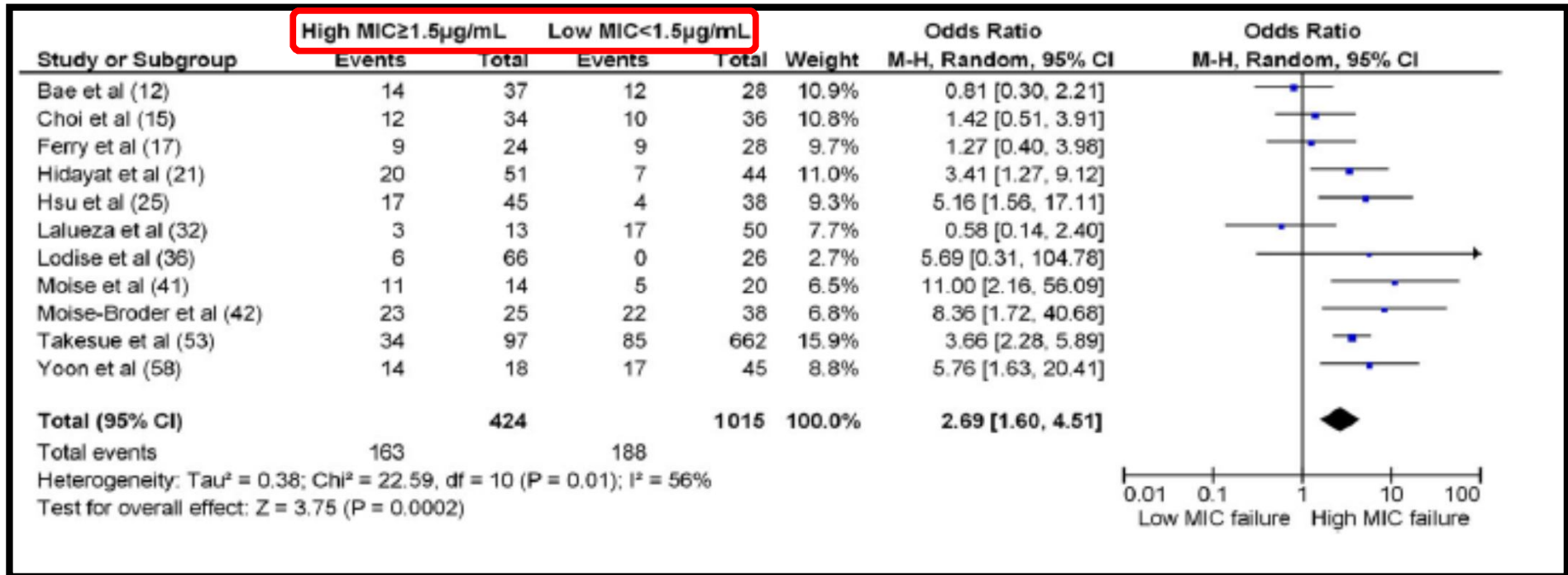
## **hVISA “heteroresistant vancomycin- intermediate S.aureus”**

- Refers to a strain with a vancomycin MIC in the susceptible range ( $\leq 2\mu\text{g/mL}$ ) which contains a subpopulation with higher MIC ( $2\mu\text{g/mL}$ )
- May be a VISA precursor
- Reported rates are variable due to differences in methods for identification
- Can disseminate even in the absence of glycopeptide pressure
- Patients harbouring hVISA strains may fail on vancomycin

# hVISA- Treatment failure and Mortality



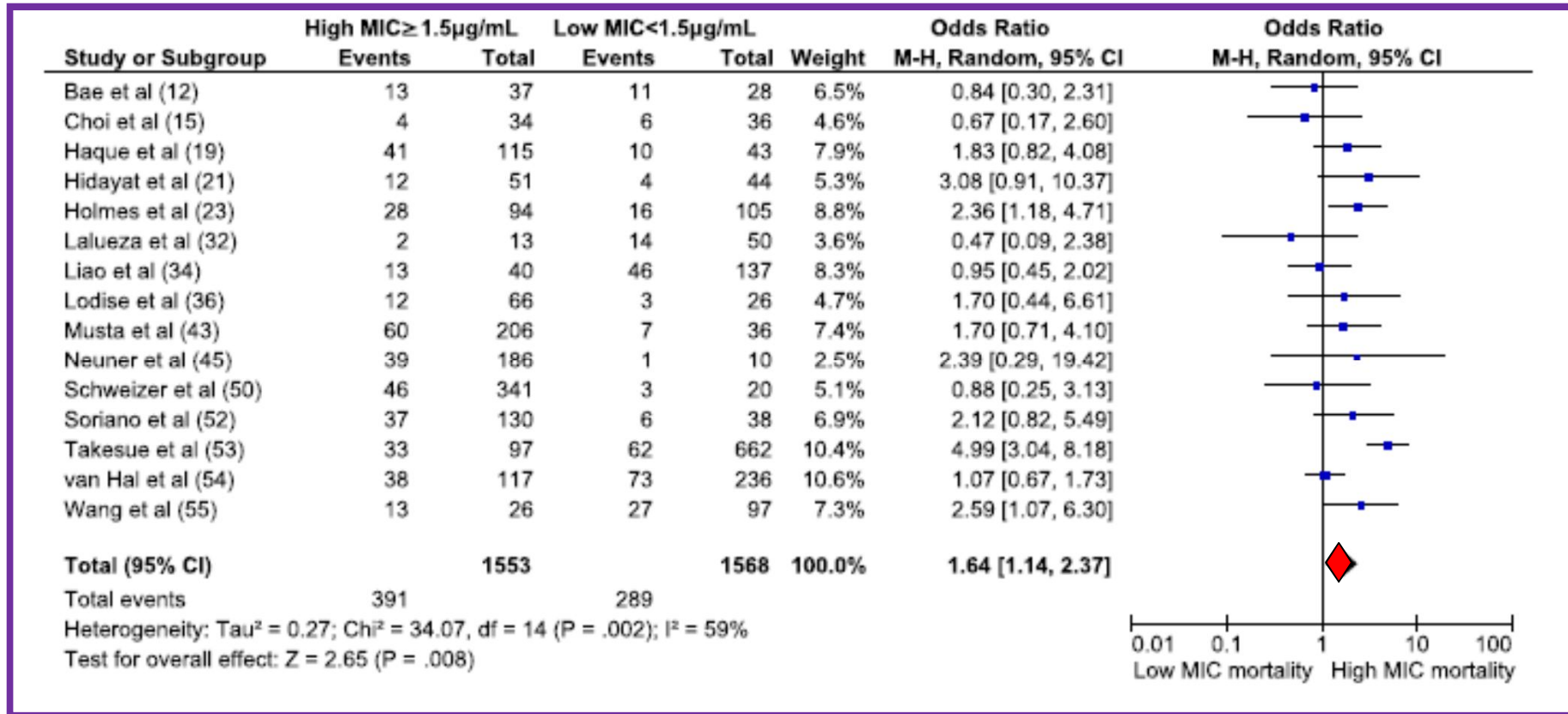
# Clinical significance of Vancomycin MICs – S.aureus treatment failure



Irrespective of source of infection and MIC methodology used

Van Hal SJ, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2012

# Clinical significance of Vancomycin MICs – MRSA mortality



**Irrespective of source of infection and MIC methodology used**

# Vancomycin Safety & Toxicity

- ↑ Prevalence of vancomycin-resistant enterococci (VRE)
- Red (wo)man/red neck syndrome
- Toxicity
  - ototoxicity
  - nephrotoxicity





# Red (wo)man/neck syndrome

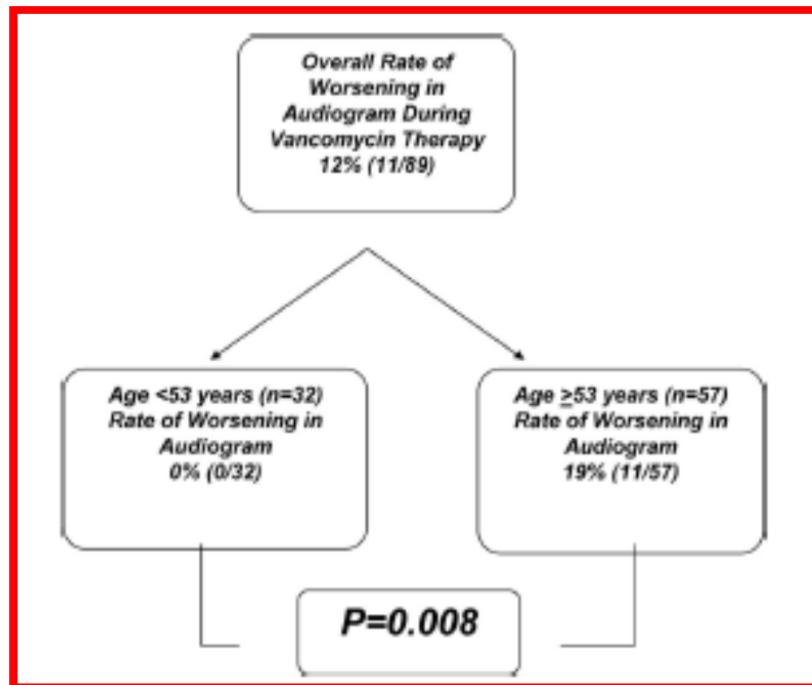
- Caused by degranulation of mast cells and basophils resulting in histamine release (not IgE-mediated)
- Characterized by pruritus, erythematous rash, sometimes hypotension



- Most severe reactions occur in patients < 40 years or with rapid infusion
- Treatment: discontinuation of infusion, antihistaminics, fluids (vasopressors)

# Ototoxicity

Audiograms performed after an average of 27 days of vancomycin therapy aiming at trough levels between 10-20µg/mL



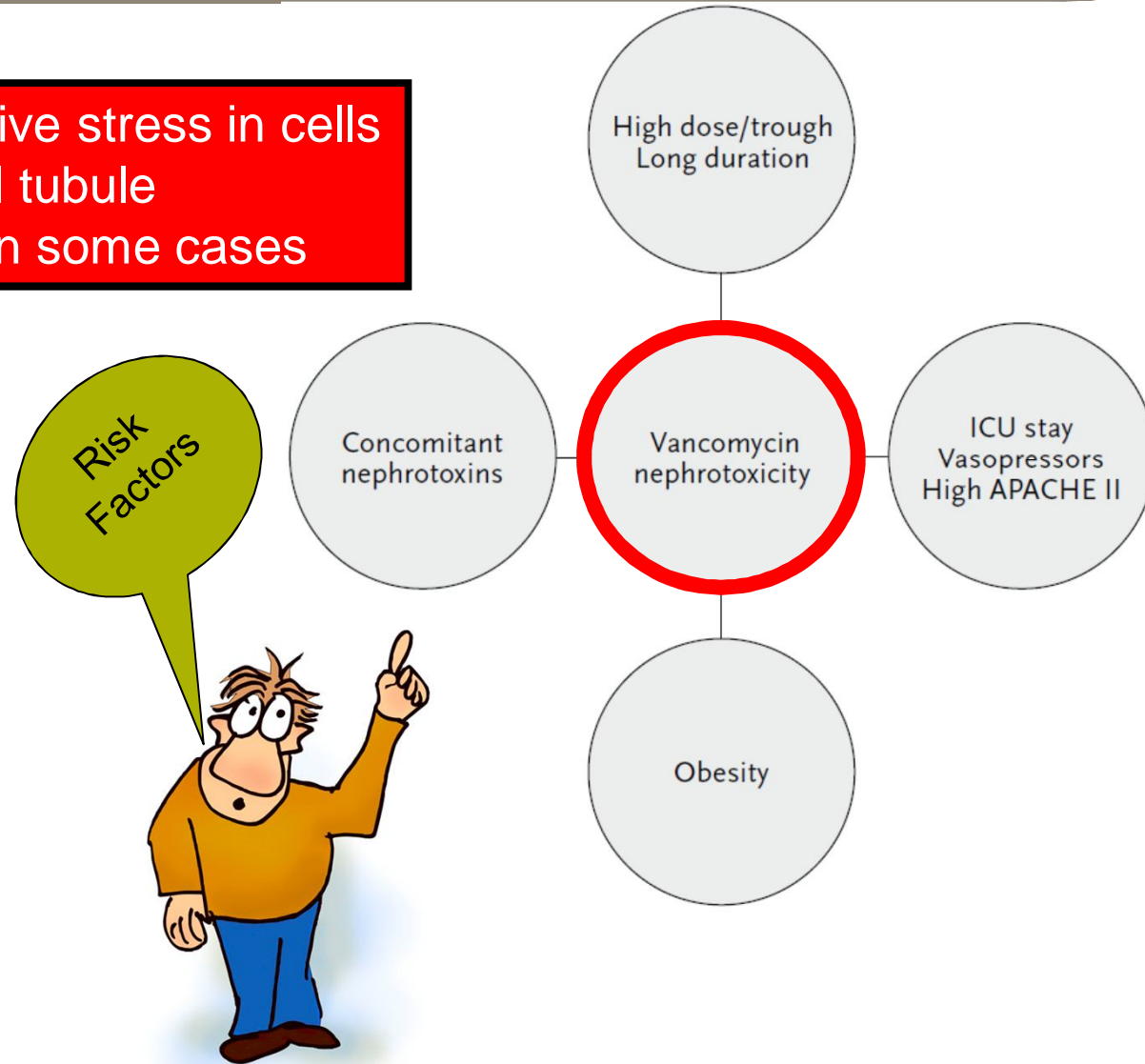
Ototoxicity risk depends upon:

- age
- abnormal baseline audiogram



# Nephrotoxicity

Mechanism = oxidative stress in cells of the proximal renal tubule  
Interstitial nephritis in some cases



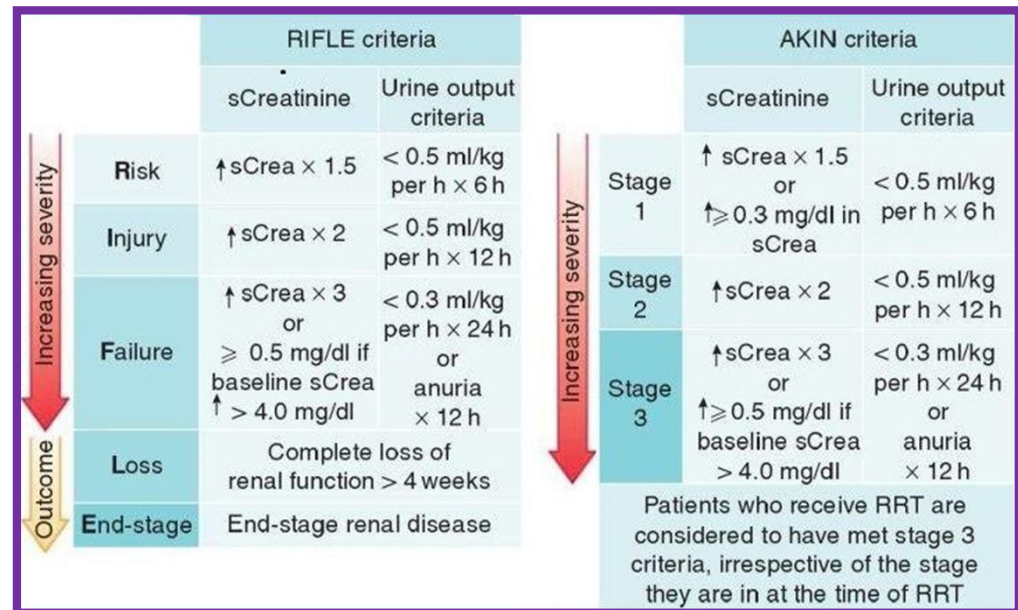
# Incidence of vancomycin-associated nephrotoxicity

Reference	N	Dose	Nephrotoxicity
Hermesen et al. <sup>16</sup>	55	Trough $\geq 15$ vs $< 15$	HD 31% SD 10%
Hidayat et al. <sup>17</sup>	95	Dose to achieve trough concentration of 4-5 times MIC of MRSA strain	HD 12% SD 0%
Jeffres et al. <sup>18</sup>	94	30 mg/kg/d to target trough of 15-20 $\mu\text{g/ml}$	42.6%
Lodise et al. <sup>19</sup>	291	$\geq 4$ g/d vs $< 4$ g/d	HD 34.6% SD 9.7%
Lodise et al. <sup>5</sup>	166	Trough $\geq 15$ vs $< 15$	25.9% vs 10.1%
Mora et al. <sup>25</sup>	163	Trough $\geq 15$ vs $< 15$	HD 8% SD 3%
Ingram et al. <sup>27</sup>	167	CI vs IA	15.6%
Hutschala et al. <sup>28</sup>	149	CI vs IA	29.5% overall 27.7% in CI 36.7% in IA
Vuagnat et al. <sup>29</sup>	44	CI vs IA	8.7% in CI* 42.9% in IA*

N = number of patients; HD = high dose; SD = standard dose; CI = continuous infusion; IA = intermittent administration; \* = adverse drug effects.

**Variable incidence, ranging from  $< 1$  to  $> 40\%$**

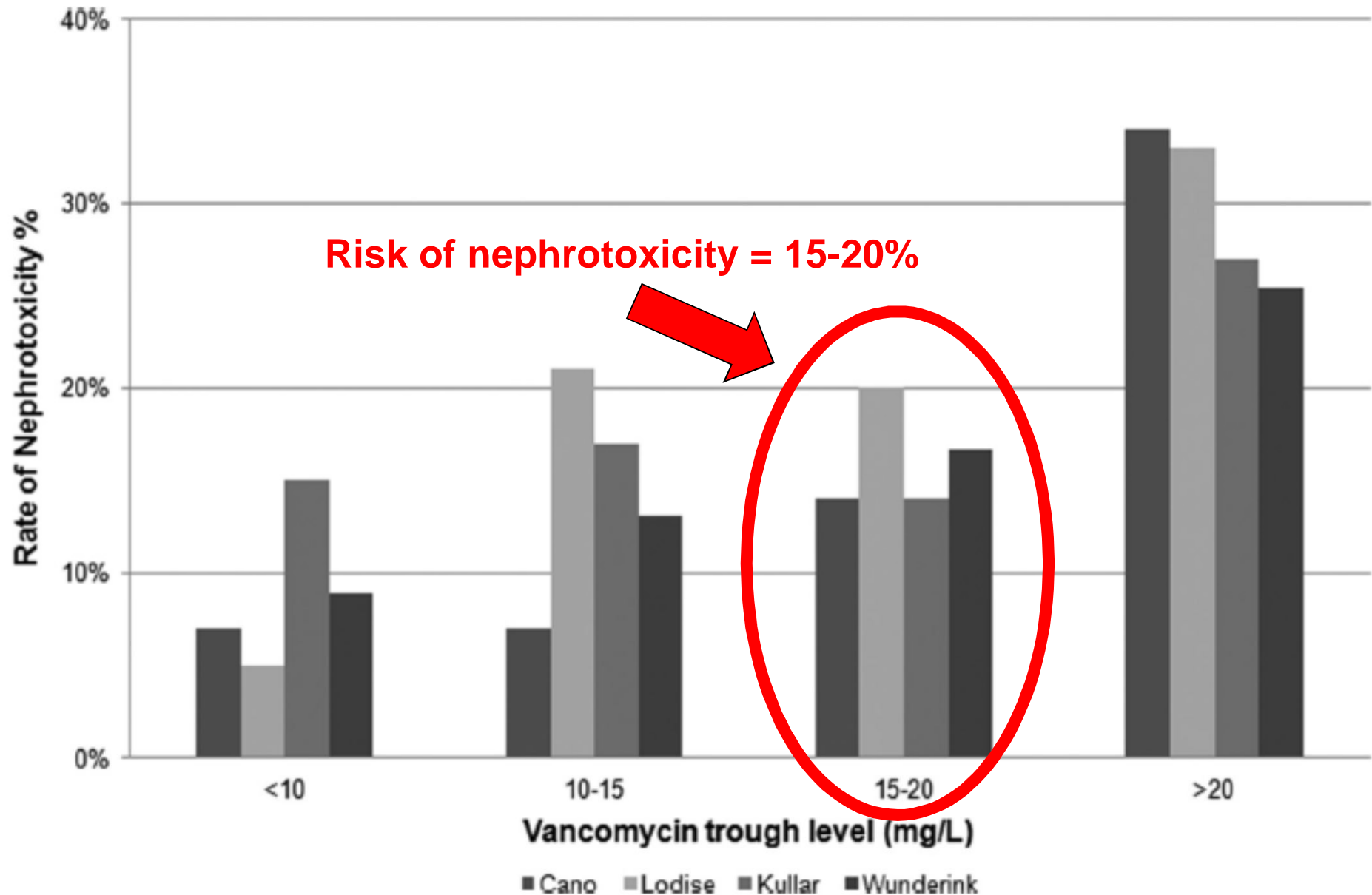
- different populations studied
- different dosing regimens
- different definition of nephrotoxicity



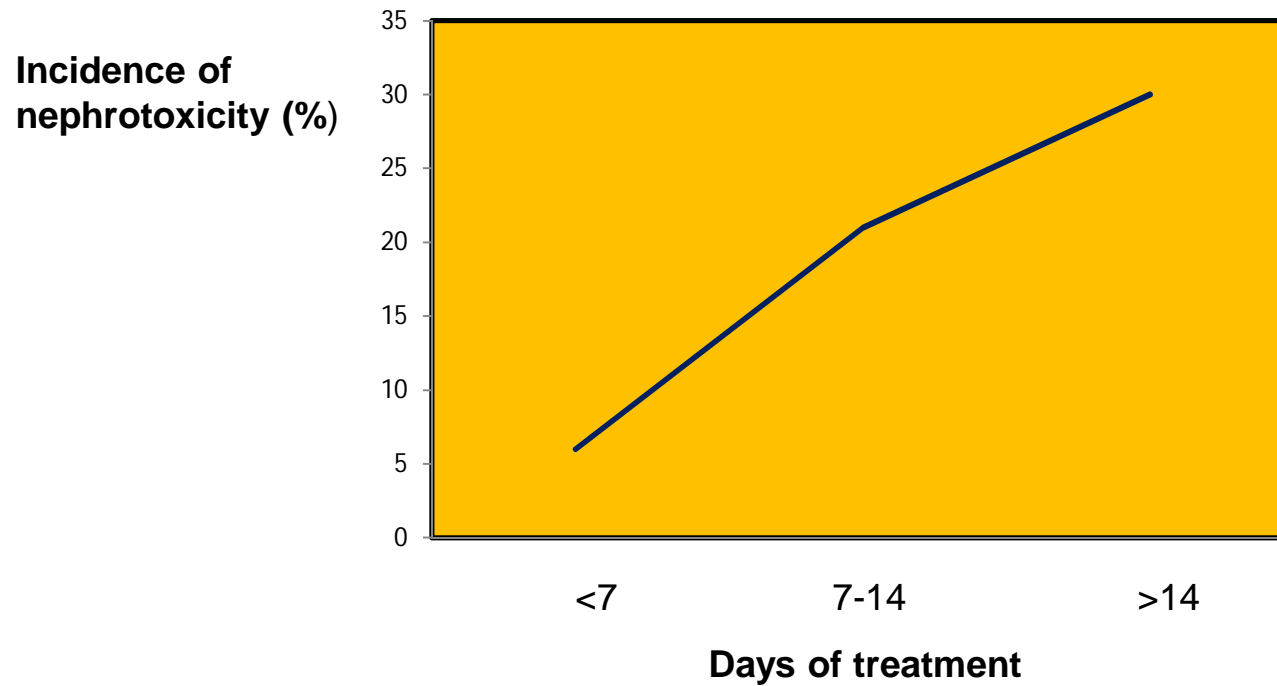
Gupta A, et al. Neth J Med 2011

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# The “Trough-Toxicity” dilemma

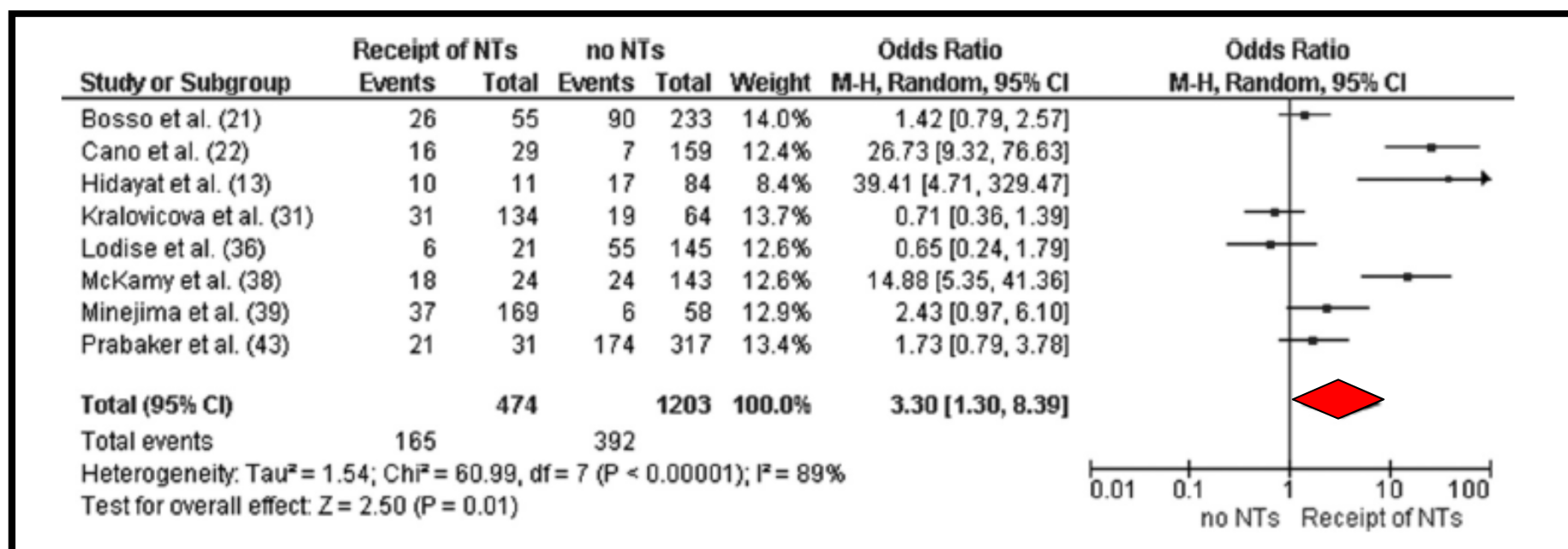


# Duration of therapy and nephrotoxicity



*Lodise TP, et al. Clin Infect Dis 2009*

# Vancomycin and concomitant nephrotoxins



Nephrotoxins include any or all of the following: aminoglycosides, amphotericin B, angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitor, angiotensin receptor blocker, colistin, contrast dye, cyclosporine, cisplatin, diuretics, nonsteroidal antiinflammatory drugs, tacrolimus, and **vasopressors (?)**.

Van Hal SJ, et al. *Antimicrob Agents Chemother* 2013

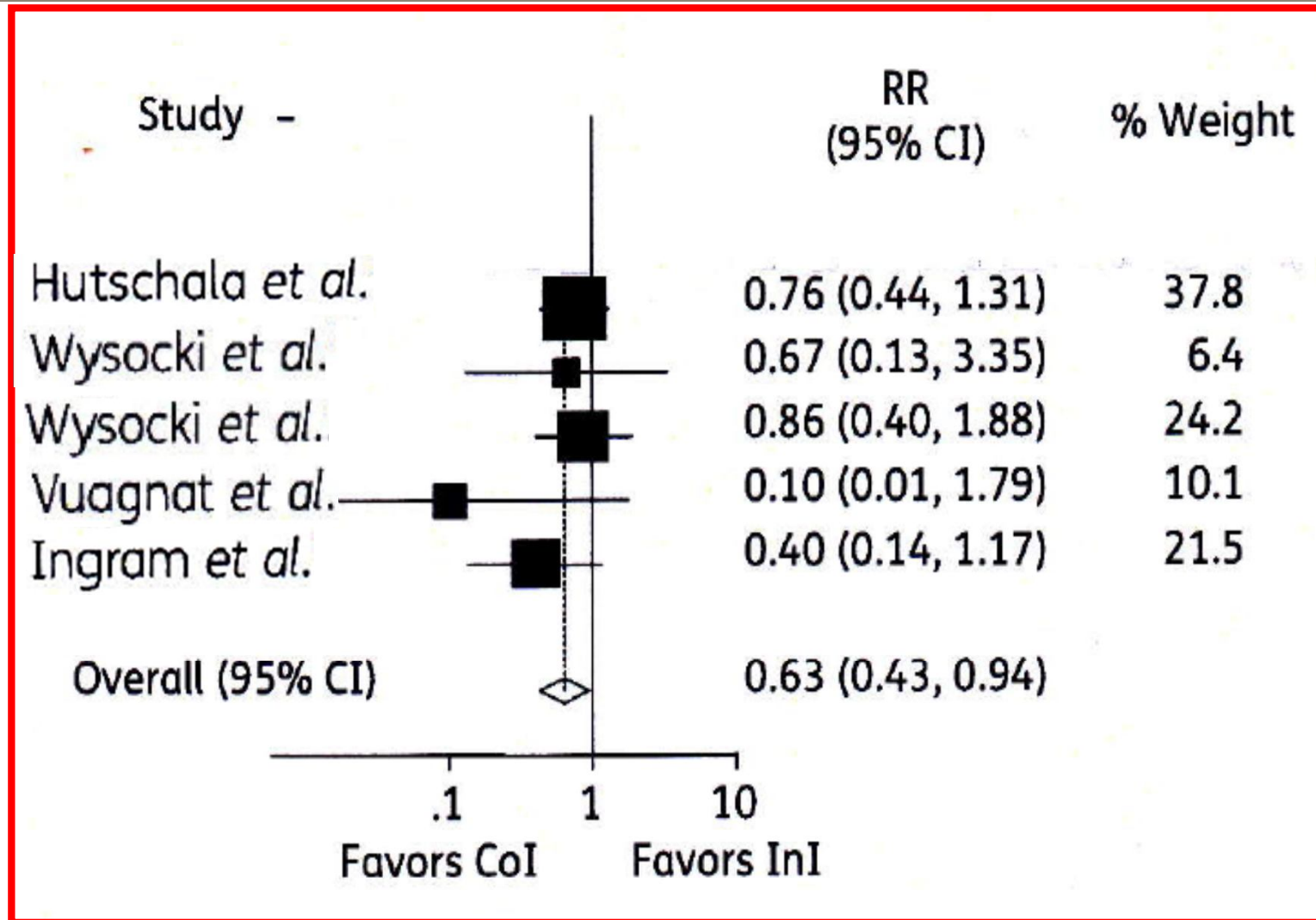
# Some thoughts about vancomycin nephrotoxicity

1. Temporal relationship between elevated trough vancomycin levels and development of nephrotoxicity remains uncertain, precluding a definite cause-effect analysis  
**Elevated levels may be consequence rather than cause of nephrotoxicity.**
2. Degree of renal dysfunction remains modest with resolution occurring in > 70% of patients at discharge. Dialysis need in 5-30% of patients,
3. Less nephrotoxicity with continuous infusion of vancomycin?

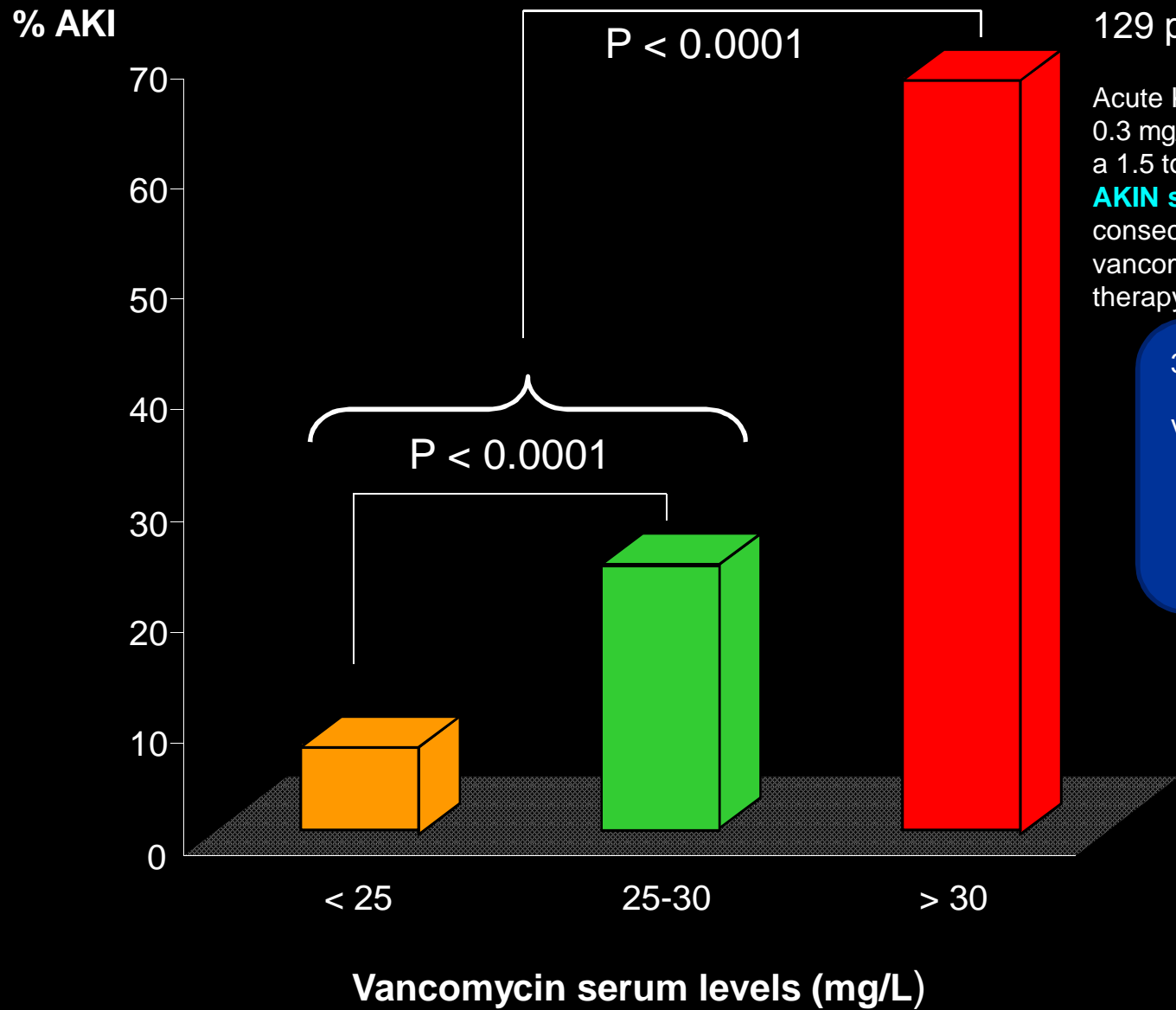




# Vancomycin continuous infusion and nephrotoxicity



# Vancomycin continuous infusion and nephrotoxicity



129 patients

Acute Kidney Injury (AKI) defined as a 0.3 mg/dL increase in creatinine level or a 1.5 to 2 x increase from baseline (i.e. AKIN stage 1) on at least two consecutive days from initiation of vancomycin till 72h after completion of therapy

30% developed AKI

Variables contributing to AKI:

- high vancomycin levels
- higher body weight
- severity of disease
- longer treatment duration

**Thank you for your attention !**

