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# Antifungals and Renal Injury

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**Russell Lewis**

Infectious Diseases Unit, S. Orsola-Malpighi

Associate Professor

Department of Medical Sciences and Surgery

University of Bologna

[russeledward.lewis@unibo.it](mailto:russeledward.lewis@unibo.it)



ALMA MATER STUDIORUM  
UNIVERSITA DI BOLOGNA

# Outline

- **How large of problem is antifungal-associated renal injury?**
- **How can the risk of renal injury be reduced?**
- **Do we need to re-assess the renal-injury risk of liposomal amphotericin B?**

# Epidemiology of acute kidney injury reported in prospective cohort studies:

- Adult populations: **14-26%**
- Pediatrics: **16%**
- Higher risk subgroups:
  - Cancer patients with critical illness: **54%**
  - Solid organ transplant (non-renal): **16.9%-56%**

**Most common causes:  
Volume depletion, hypotension/vasodilation (sepsis),  
and nephrotoxic medications**

Rosner, M. H. & Perazella, M. A. *Engl. J. Med.* **376**, 1770–1781 (2017).

Awdishu, L. & Mehta, R. L. *BMC Nephrol.* **18**, 124 (2017).

Rossi, A. P. & Vella, J. P. *Transplantation* **100**, 506–514 (2016).

Vanmassenhove, J., Kielstein, J., Jörres, A. & Biesen, W. V. *Lancet* **389**, 2139–2151 (2017).

# Acute kidney injury criteria

## RIFLE (changes within 7 days)

	Creatine criteria	Urine output (UO) criteria
<b>Risk</b>	Cr↑ 1.5x baseline or GFR ↓ >25%	UO < 0.5 mL/kg/h x6h
<b>Injury</b>	Cr↑ 2x baseline or GFR ↓ >50%	UO < 0.5 mL/kg/h x12h
<b>Failure</b>	Cr↑ 3x baseline or GFR ↓ >75%	UO < 0.3 mL/kg/h x24h or anuria x 12h
<b>Loss</b>	Complete loss for > 4 weeks	
<b>End stage</b>	Complete loss for > 3 months	

Progression through the increasingly severe stages of RIFLE is marked by decreasing sensitivity and increasing specificity. Correlates with mortality in critically-ill patients

# Acute kidney injury criteria

## AKIN (changes within 48 hours)

	Creatinine criteria	Urine output criteria
<b>Stage 1</b>	Cr↑ ≥ 0.3 mg/dL or 150-200% of baseline	UO < 0.5 mL/kg/h x6h
<b>Stage 2</b>	Cr↑ 200-300% (2-3 fold) of baseline	UO < 0.5 mL/kg/h x12h
<b>Stage 3</b>	Cr↑ > 300% (> 3 fold) of baseline, or SeCr equal to 4 mg/L with acute increase of at least 0.5 mg/dL	UO < 0.3 mL/kg/h x24h or anuria x 12h

GFR was discarded (used as an alternative to Cr in the original RIFLE criteria). AKIN modification does not perform better than RIFLE.

# Acute kidney injury criteria

## KDIGO (changes within 48 hours)

<b>Injury</b>	<b>SeCr<math>\uparrow</math> <math>\geq</math> 0.3 mg/dL within 48 hours; SeCr<math>\uparrow</math> 1.5x baseline within 7 days</b>  <b>UO <math>&lt;</math> 0.5 mL/kg/h x6h</b>
<b>Stage 1</b>	<b>Cr<math>\uparrow</math> 1.5-1.9x baseline or <math>\uparrow \geq</math> 0.3 mg/dL</b>
<b>Stage 2</b>	<b>Cr<math>\uparrow</math> 2-2.9x baseline</b>
<b>Stage 3</b>	<b>Cr<math>\uparrow</math> 3x baseline or SeCr <math>\geq</math> 4 mg/dL or <i>Initiation of renal replacement therapy</i></b>

Kidney Disease Improving Global Outcomes

# Limitations of injury criteria

- **Rely on function markers**
  - **SeCr, (estimated GFR), urine output**
- **Relationship between SeCr and GFR is non-linear, SeCr rises relatively late**
  - **Affected by fluid overload, sepsis, decreased creatinine generation, variable renal function**

# Limitations

- **Many patients with histological evidence of kidney injury do not fulfill AKI clinical criteria**
- **Alternative tests:**
  - **6h assessments of urinary output  $\pm$  furosemide challenge (1-1.5 mg/kg IV bolus  $\rightarrow$  100 mL urine within 2 hours)**
  - **Troponin-like biomarkers? (cystatin-C, KIM-1, NGAL, N-acetyl  $\beta$  glucosaminidase...etc.)**



# Phenotype standardization of drug-induced kidney injury

**Type A: Dose-dependent**  
(pharmacology of drug)

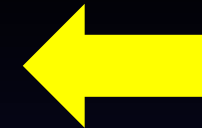
**Type B: Iatrogenic**  
(e.g., interstitial nephritis)

Acute-kidney injury  
(↑SeCr)

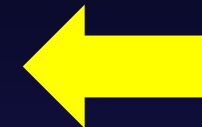
Glomerular disorder  
(proteinuria, hematuria)

Tubular disorder  
(electrolyte abnormalities)

Nephrolithiasis/crystalluria  
(ultrasound findings)



**antifungals**



**However, patient rarely receiving only  
one nephrotoxic medication**

# Frequency of antifungal-induced kidney injury

Frequency of nephrotoxicity reported as **doubling of baseline SeCr** in clinical studies

Antifungal	Percent	
AMB-d	33.2 %	
ABLC	16.5 %	
L-AMB	14.6%	
Fluconazole	0.2%	
Itraconazole	5.2 %	} <i>However....</i> Hypokalemia: 15-30% Hypomagnesaemia: 10-15%  In rare cases and overdoses, refractory hypokalemia persisted until antifungal was stopped
Voriconazole	0.3%	
Posaconazole	0.2%	
Isavuconazole	0.7%	
Anidulafungin	0.2%	
Micafungin	1.1%	
Caspofungin	3%	

# Frequency of antifungal-induced kidney injury

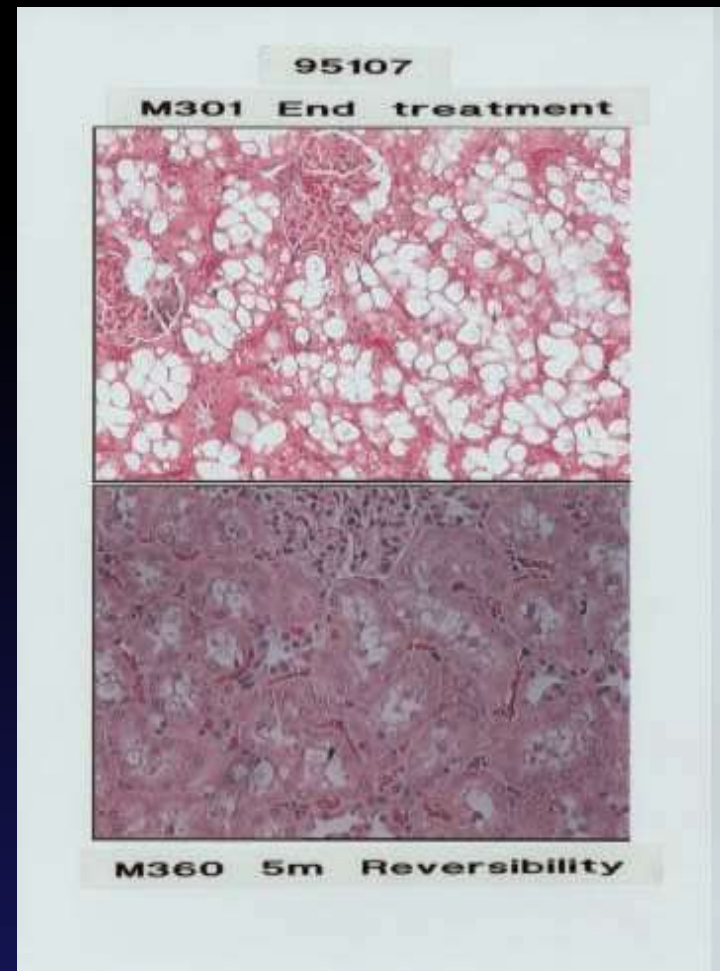
Frequency of nephrotoxicity reported as **doubling of baseline SeCr** in clinical studies

Antifungal	Percent	
AMB-d	33.2 %	
ABLC	16.5 %	“...should be avoided in patients with moderate or severe renal impairment (eGFR <50 mL/min) unless the risk justifies the use..”
L-AMB	14.6%	
Fluconazole	0.2%	
Itraconazole	5.2 %	← hydroxypropyl-β-cyclodextrin (HPβCD)
Voriconazole	0.3%	← sulfobutylether-β-cyclodextrin (SBEβCD)
Posaconazole	0.2%	← sulfobutylether-β-cyclodextrin (SBEβCD)
Isavuconazole	0.7%	
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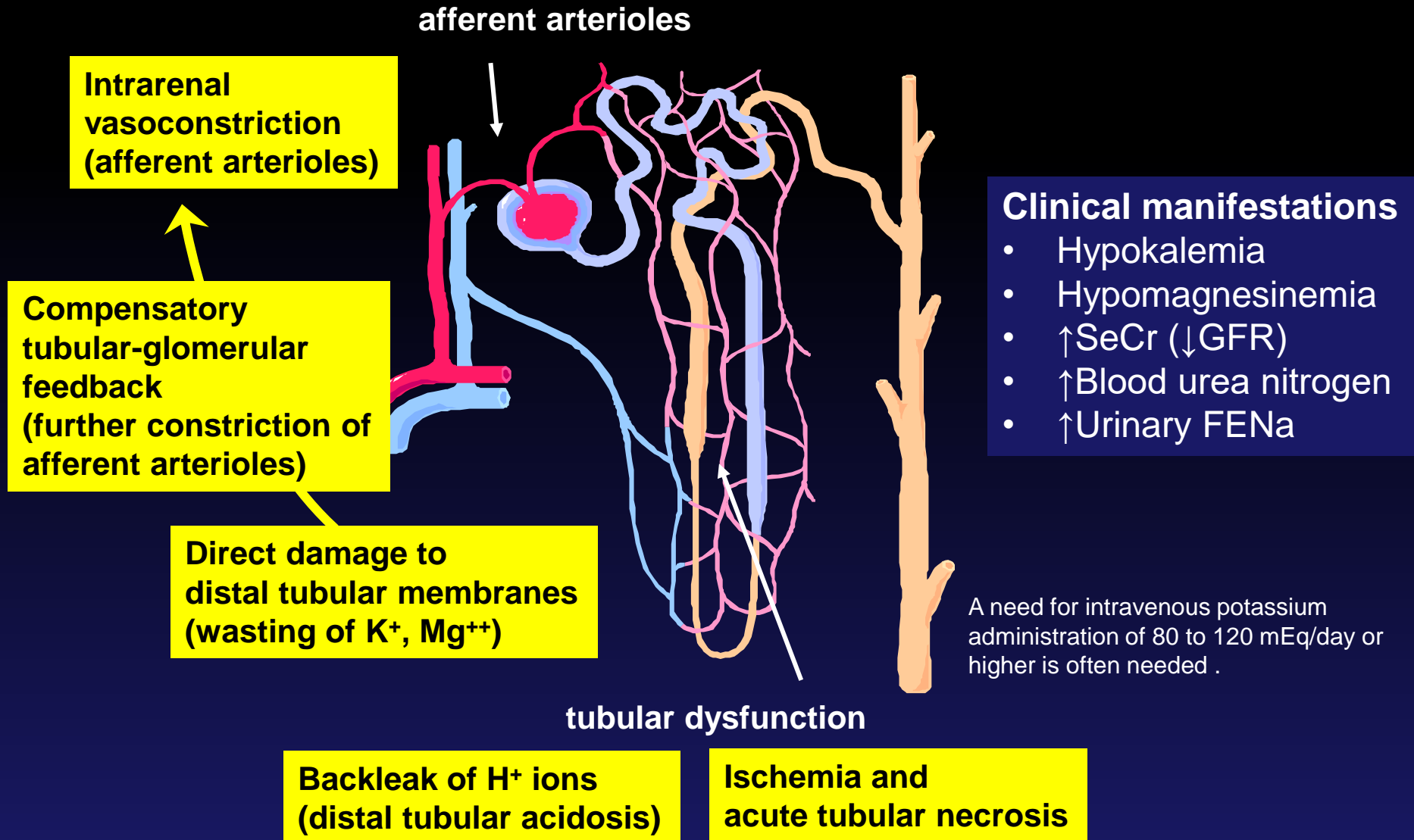
# Why the concern with cyclodextrans?

- Early unmodified cyclodextrans were re-absorbed and concentrated in kidney tubules, extracting lipid membrane components → cellular toxicity
- Current cyclodextrans (HP $\beta$ CD, SBE $\beta$ CD) are modified to avoid tubular reabsorption
- Prolonged SBE $\beta$ CD exposure in animals (6 months) showed dose-related vacuolation of renal tubular cells, but was reversible after stopping therapy.

**Not reported in humans,  
No effect on renal function**



# Mechanism of amphotericin B-induced nephrotoxicity



# Strategies used to reduce AMB-associated renal injury

- **Sodium loading (moderate evidence)**
  - moderate evidence from retrospective and prospective case series for amphotericin B deoxycholate
  - 1 liter /m<sup>2</sup> of 0.9 % NaCL with electrolyte supplementation as needed reduced nephrotoxicity of AMB-d (2x baseline sCR to 11.7%; severe hypokalemia ( $\leq 2.5$  mmol/l) to 19.5%<sup>1</sup>)
  - Does not prevent tubular toxicity (hypokalemia)
- **Continuous infusion of L-AMB? (conflicting evidence)**
  - Reduced intrarenal vasoconstriction, but tubular toxicity persists<sup>2</sup>
  - Clinical efficacy?
- **Liposomal formulation of AMB (strong evidence)**

<sup>1</sup> Girmenia, C. *et al.* *Support. Care Cancer* 13, 987–992 (2005).

<sup>2</sup> Eriksson, U., Seifert, B. & Schaffner, A. *BMJ* 322, 579–582 (2001).

# Amphotericin B liposomal

Review: Amphotericin B deoxycholate versus liposomal amphotericin B  
 Comparison: 1 Liposomal versus conventional amphotericin B  
 Outcome: 1 Increase in serum creatinine level  $\geq$  two-fold increase from baseline

Key

Study or subgroup	Liposomal n/N	Conventional n/N
Prentice 1997	22/236	24/102
Leenders 1997	0/15	1/13
Leenders 1998	6/52	22/54
Walsh 1999	64/343	116/344
Bodhe 2002	1/23	8/16
Johnson 2002a	0/23	9/24
Sundar 2004	1/102	3/51
Hamill 2010	0/23	29/87
Sundar 2010	0/23	1/108
Jadhav 2012	0/23	0/23
<b>Total (95% CI)</b>	<b>1353</b>	<b>819</b>

Indian study (2002)  
 Histoplasmosis (1995-1997)  
 Leishmaniasis  
 Cryptococcosis (1995-1998)  
 Leishmaniasis  
 Fungisome (generic liposomal AMB in India)

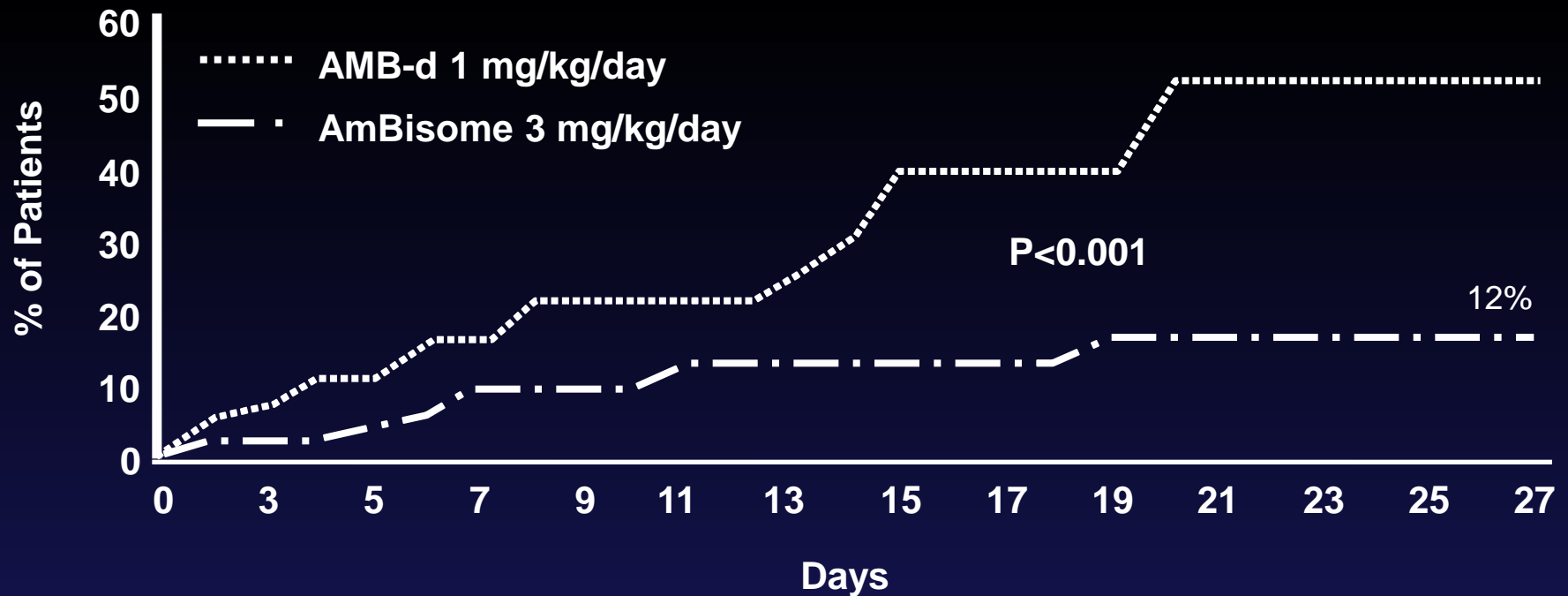
Total events: 139 (Liposomal), 214 (Conventional)  
 Heterogeneity:  $\tau^2 = 0.0$ ;  $\chi^2 = 7.01$ ,  $df = 9$  ( $P = 0.64$ );  $I^2 = 0.0\%$   
 Test for overall effect:  $Z = 7.39$  ( $P < 0.00001$ )  
 Test for subgroup differences: Not applicable

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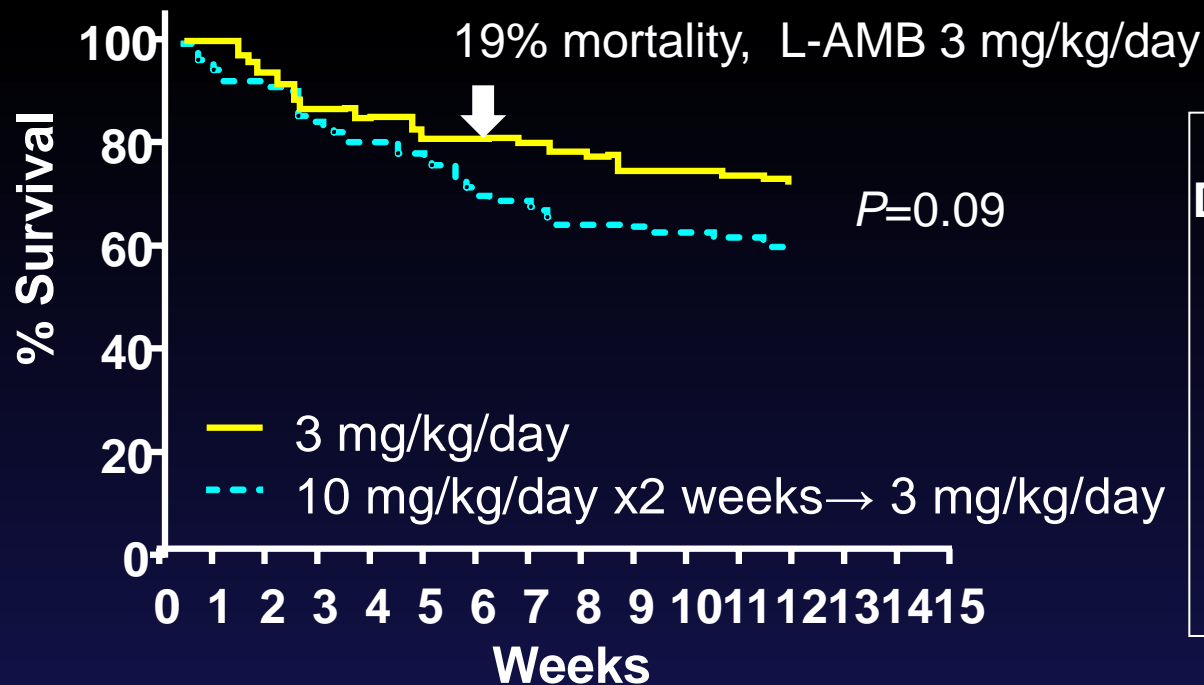
# Time until nephrotoxicity: AmBisome vs AMB-d



Nephrotoxicity defined as doubling of serum creatinine



# Liposomal amphotericin B efficacy in aspergillosis (Ambiload trial)



**Doubling of baseline SeCr:**  
3 mg/kg (14%) vs.  
10 mg/kg (31%),  $P=.005$

**$K^+ < 3.0$  mmol/L:**  
3 mg/kg (16%) vs.  
10 mg/kg (30%),  $P=.015$

median duration of study drug treatment in the modified intent-to-treat population was 15 days (range, 1–60 days) in the standard-dose group and 14 days (range, 1–57 days) in the high-dose group.

**What about “real-life” data?**

# Best L-AMB toxicity data?

- **Prospective, longitudinal study (2000-2002) of amphotericin B tolerability in 20 European centers (n=418)**
  - Amphotericin B deoxycholate (62%)
  - **Liposomal amphotericin B (27%)**
  - Other lipid formulations (11%)
- **Nephrotoxicity ( $\geq 50\%$  increase SeCr) developed in 57% of patients, was associated with increased hospital LOS**
  - Amphotericin B deoxycholate (67.5%)
  - **Liposomal amphotericin B (30.7%)**
  - Other lipid formulations (55.8%)

# Better “real-life” data for amphotericin B nephrotoxicity?

	GFR criteria	Urine output criteria	AMB-D (n=236)	ABLC (n=90)	L-AMB (n=105)
<b>Risk</b>	SeCr ↑ 1.5x or GFR↓ 25%	UO < 0.5 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> x 6 hr	50.6%	25.7%	22.0%
<b>Injury</b>	SeCr ↑ 2x or GFR↓ 50%	UO < 0.5 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> x 12 hr	23.6%	5.7%	3.7%
<b>Failure</b>	SeCr ↑ 3x; ≥ 4 mg/dL GFR↓ 75%	UO < 0.3 ml kg <sup>-1</sup> hr <sup>-1</sup> x 24 hr anuria x 12h	11.5%	7.2%	2.4%
<b>LOSS</b>	Loss of renal function for > 4 weeks		<b>3 months later</b> <b>(88%-no Injury)</b> <b>(12%-Risk category only)</b>		
<b>ESRD</b>	End stage renal disease				

Mixed patient population,  
Less than 30% hematology

# L-AMB retrospective cohort analysis (Bologna, Seràgnoli Haematology Institute)

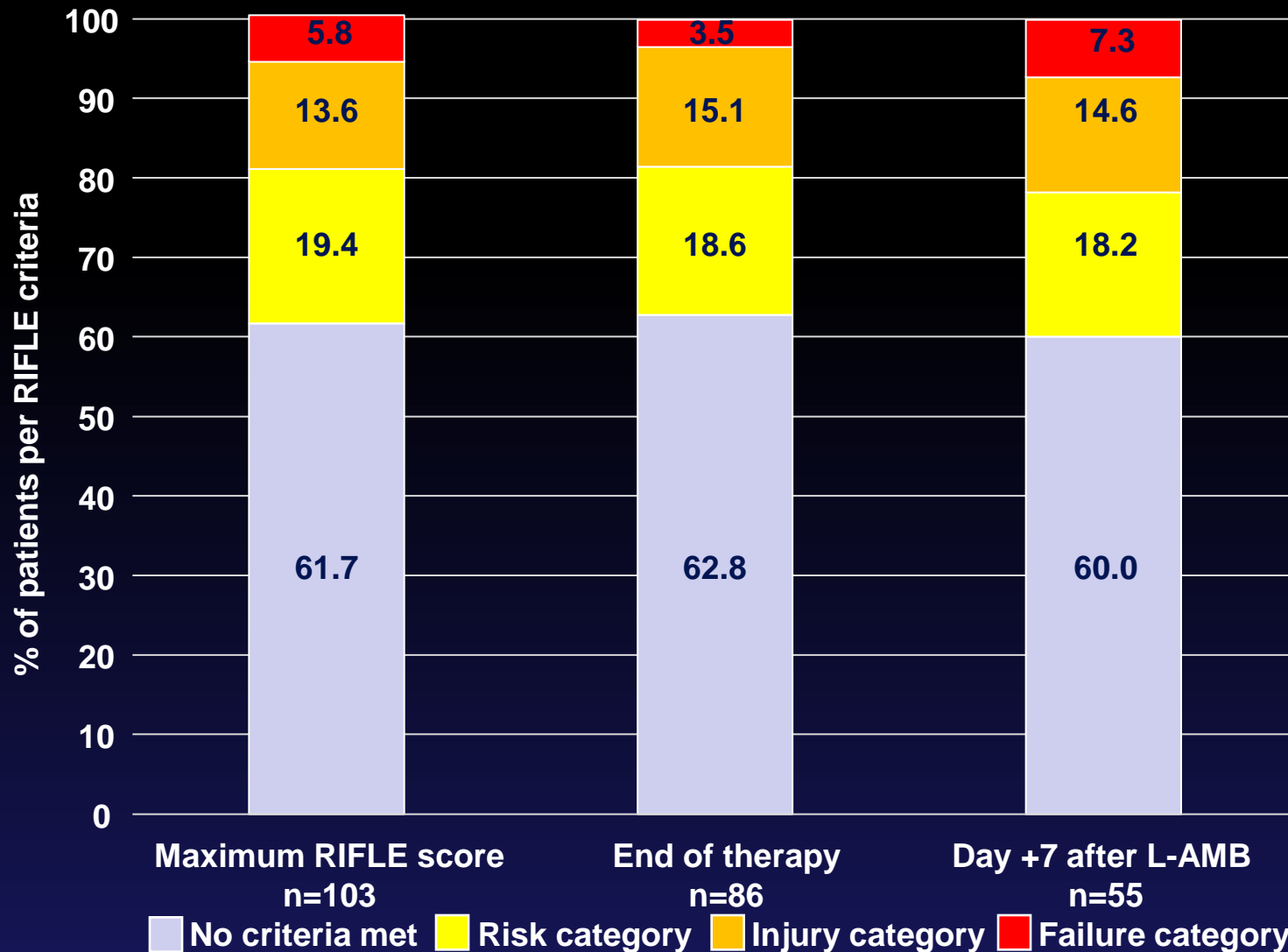
**115 L-AMB treatment courses**  
(2007-2014) in patients with  
hematological malignancies

**12 cases excluded** because  
low- doses administered as  
prophylaxis (1 mg/kg daily or  
10 mg/kg weekly)

**103 L-AMB treatment courses**  
3 mg/kg/day (87%)  
5 mg/kg/day (4.8%)  
5 mg/kg/day → 3 mg/kg/day (4.8%)

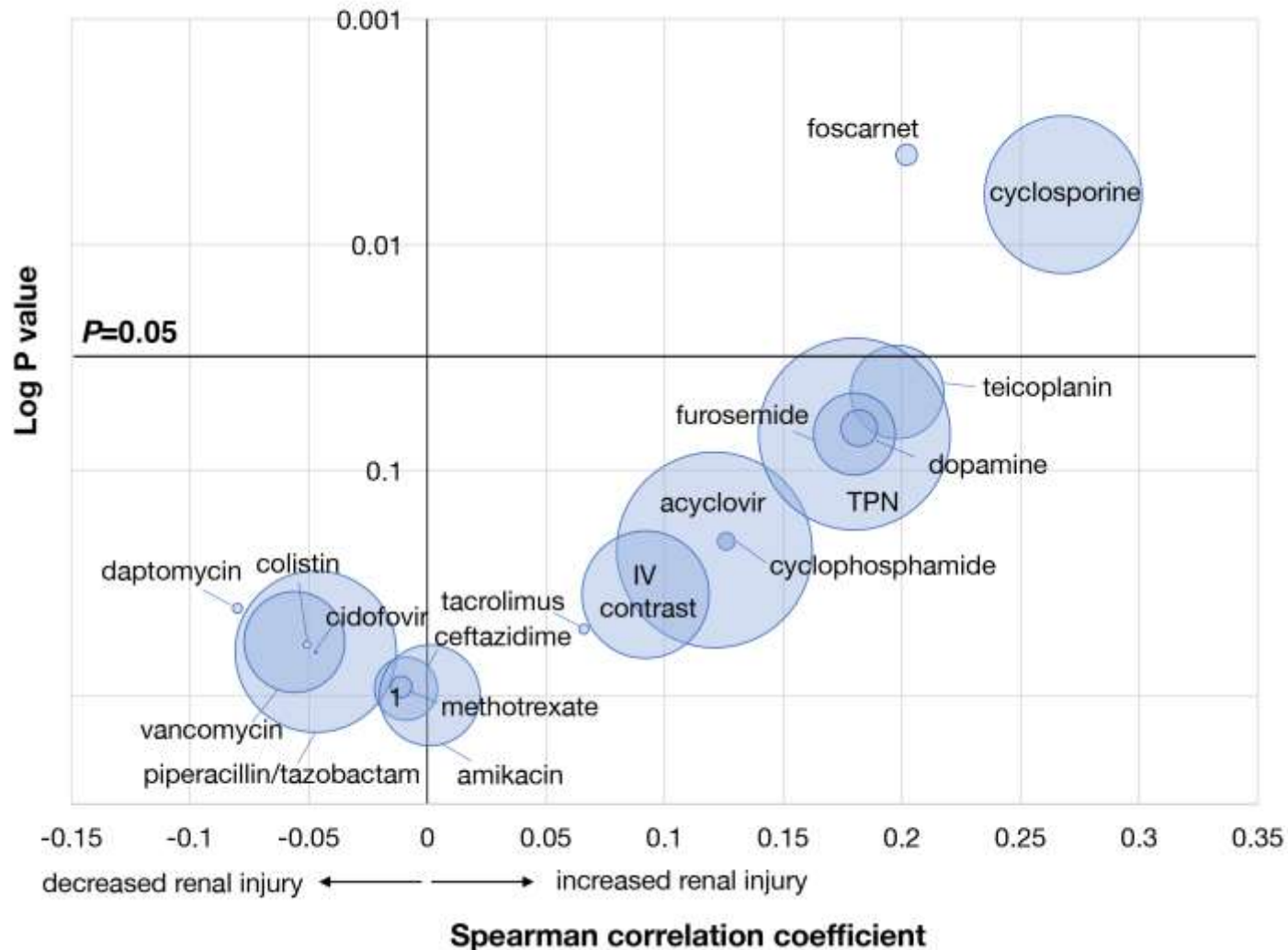
**1° endpoint:** Incidence of renal injury (RIFLE criteria)  
**2° endpoint:** Concomitant drug risk factors

# RIFLE categories met during L-AMB therapy



\*all failure patients had multiorgan failure due to sepsis, hemorrhage and uncontrolled malignancy

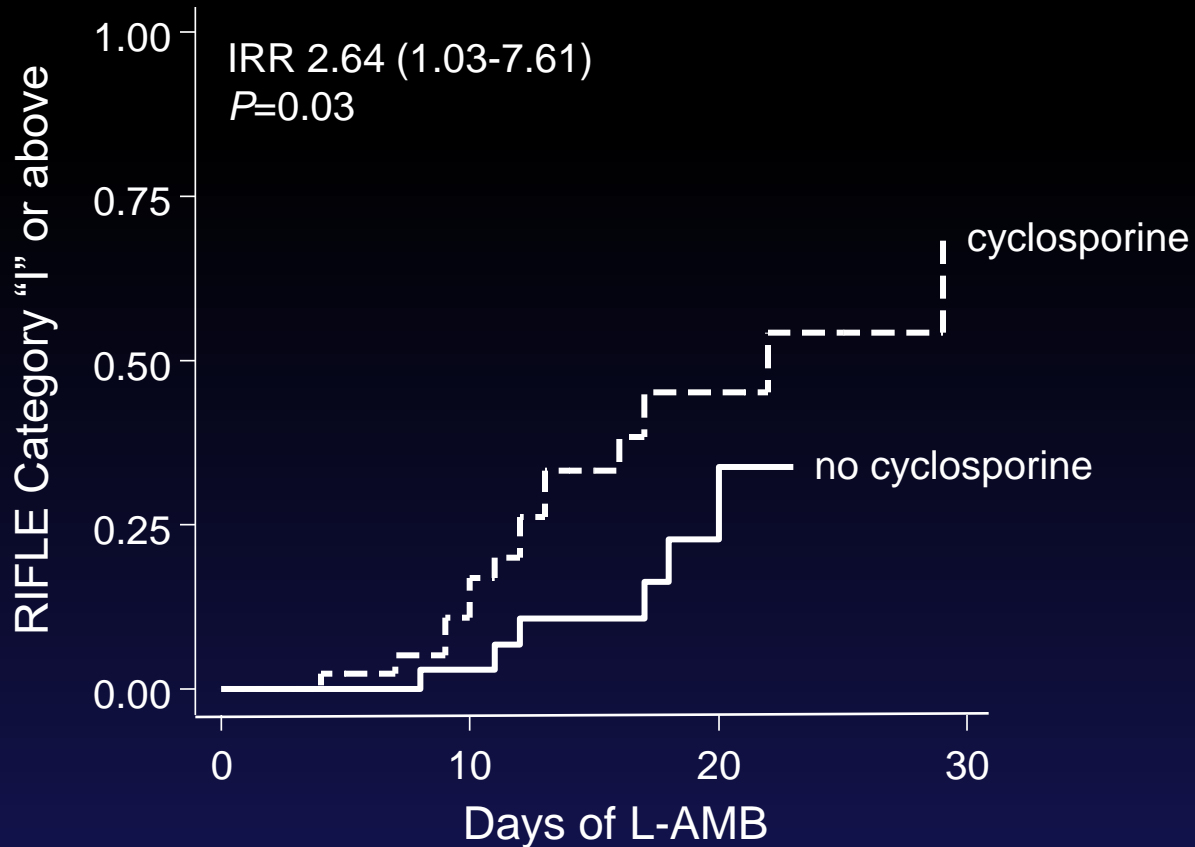
# Impact of concomitant drugs on odds of progressing to injury category or greater



# Risk factors for meeting any RIFLE criteria

Allogeneic HSCT;  $P=0.06$

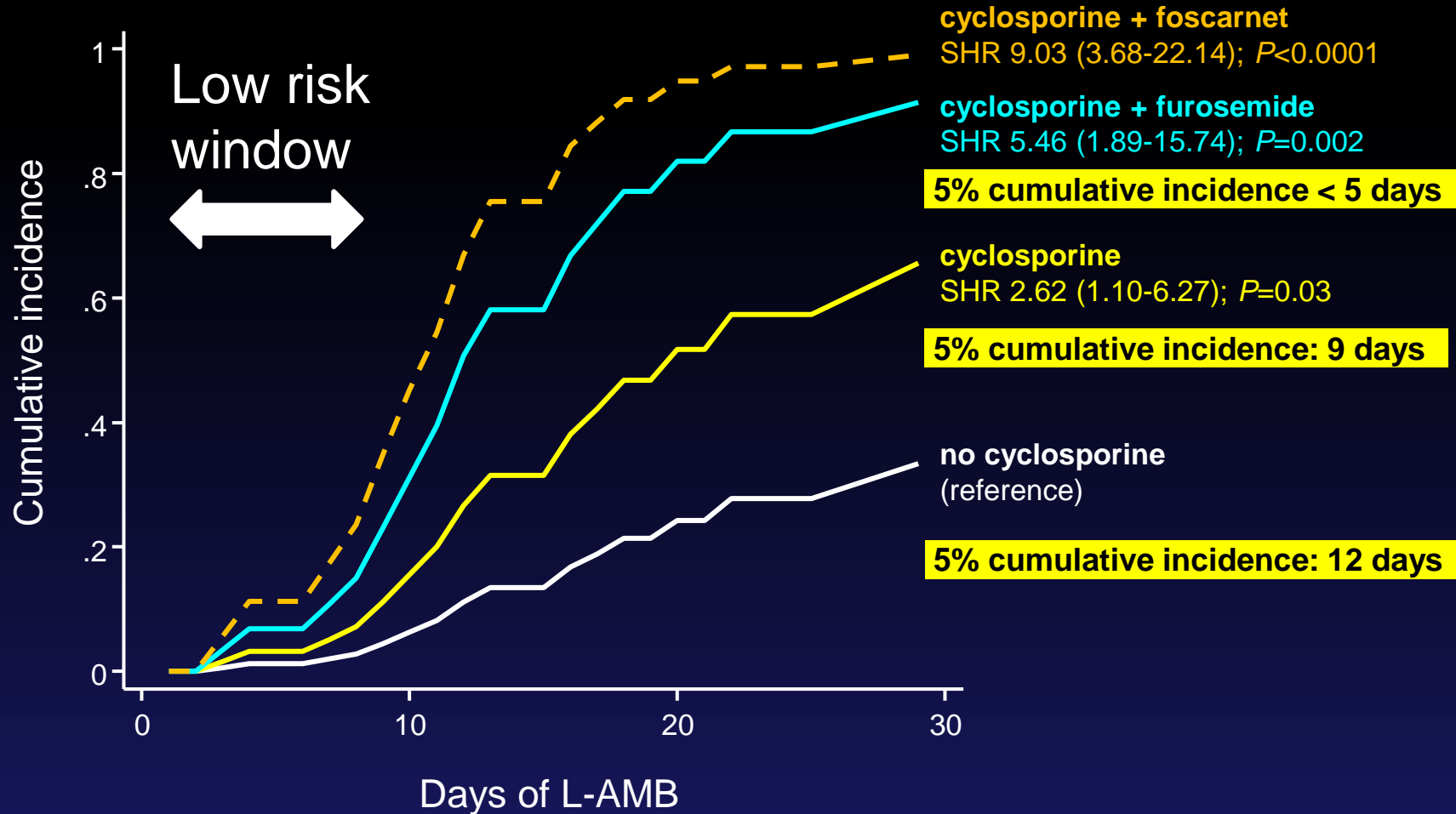
Duration of L-AMB (median 13 vs. 8;  $P<0.0009$ )



no cyclosporine	61	28	7	2
cyclosporine	42	29	7	2



# L-AMB treatment window vs. risk of renal injury



## Avoid contrast-enhanced CT scans for invasive mould disease?

### 2016 Revised IDSA Aspergillosis Guidelines:

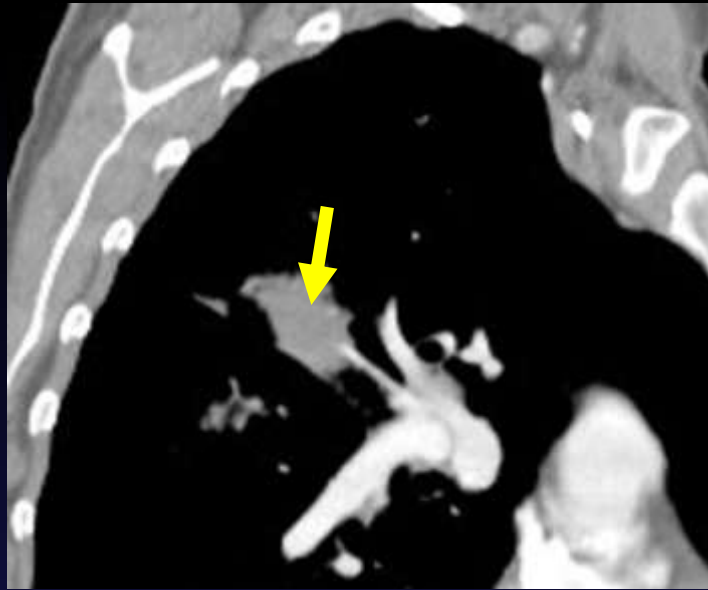
“Routine use of contrast during chest CT scan for suspicion of IPA is not recommended”

*(strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)*

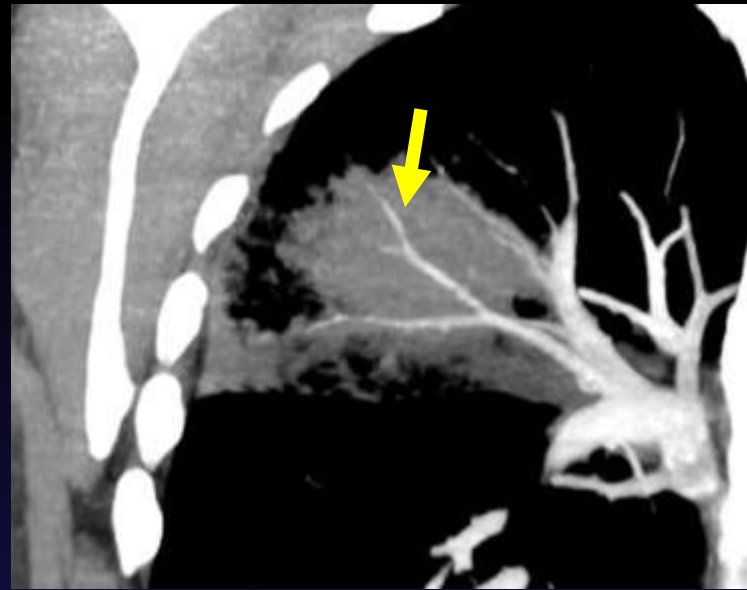
“Contrast is recommended when a nodule or a mass is close to a large vessel”

*(strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence)*

# CT pulmonary angiography (CTPA) can differentiate mould vs. bacterial pneumonia



**CTPA positive,  
proven mould  
disease by autopsy**



**CTPA negative,  
bacterial pneumonia**

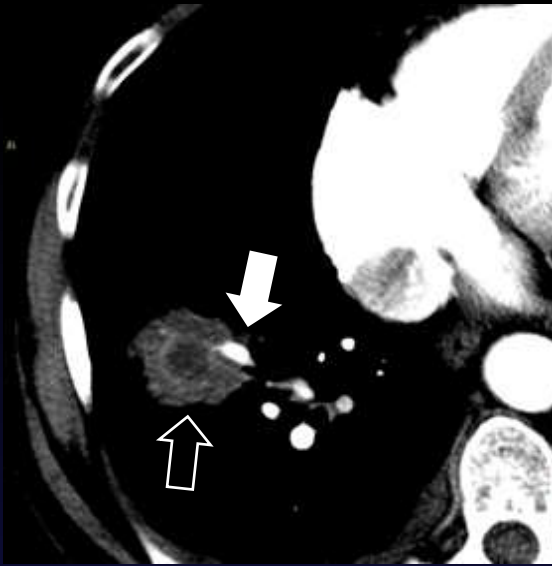
# Contrast improved detection of the hypodense sign in invasive pulmonary aspergillosis

CT images

No contrast



Contrast arterial

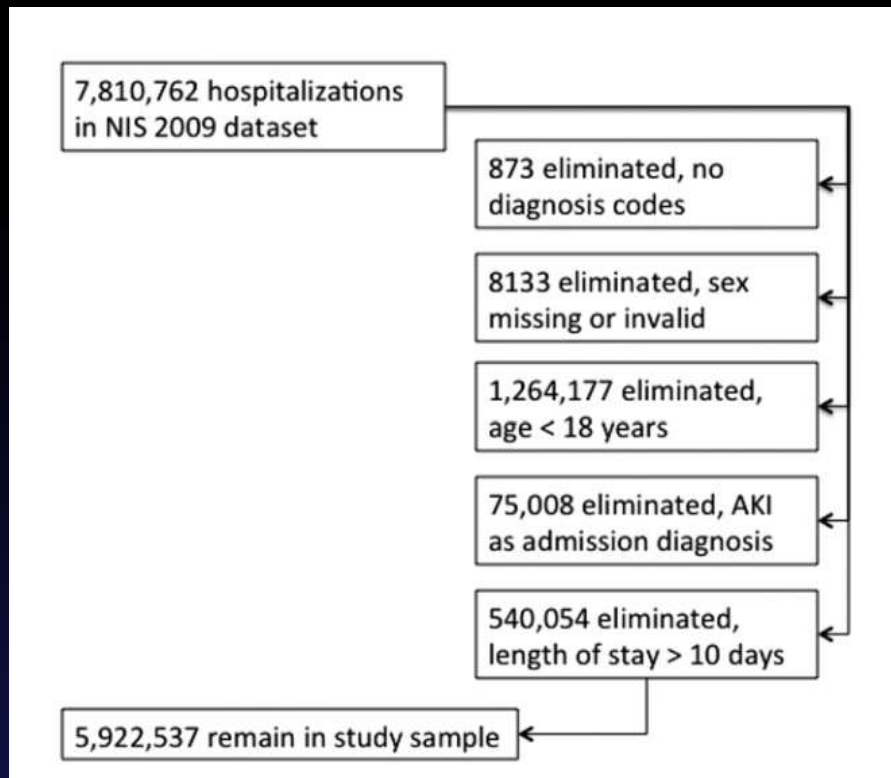


Contrast venous



- ⇒ hypodense sign  
vessel occlusion
- hypodense sign  
vessel occlusion

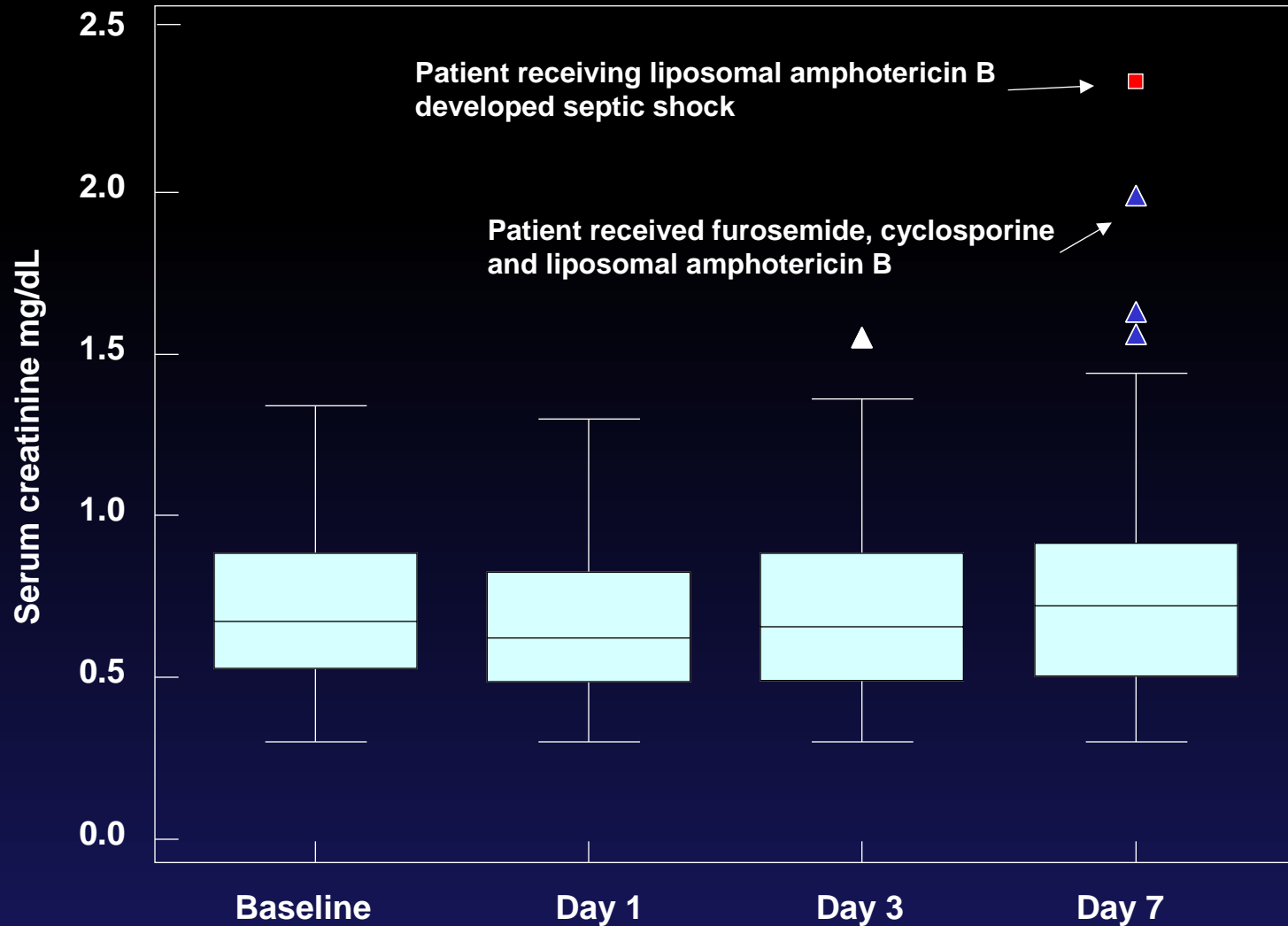
# Estimating the risk of radiocontrast-induced nephropathy



- Rates of acute kidney injury
  - No contrast: 5.5%
  - Contrast 5.6%
- Adjust. for comorbidities, odds ratio for renal injury associated with contrast administration:
  - OR 0.93 (95% CI 0.88-0.97)

Conclusion: risk for contrast-associated nephropathy may be overstated in the literature and overestimated by clinicians

# CTPA-nephrotoxicity concerns (n=100 patients)



# Coadministration of liposomal amphotericin B and contrast medium does not increase risk of kidney injury

Category	Contrast	Non-contrast	OR (95% CI)	P value
<b>AKIN stage 1</b>				
Unadjusted	19 (17)	16 (19)	0.86 (0.41-1.80)	0.69
Matched 1:1	12 (18)	13 (20)	0.87 (0.32-2.42)	0.80
<b>AKIN stage 2</b>				
Unadjusted	7 (6)	7 (8)	0.73 (0.25-2.16)	0.57
Matched 1:1	4 (6)	5 (8)	0.80 (0.21-2.98)	0.74
<b>AKIN stage 3</b>				
Unadjusted	6 (5)	1 (1)	4.67 (0.55-39.5)	0.12
Matched 1:1	3 (5)	0 (0)	10.5 (0.64-174)	0.20

Matched 1:1: adjustment for age, baseline kidney function,  
And other clinical risk factors by propensity score

Physicians avoid using contrast in patients with more comorbidities because of the perceived risk of AKI.

The low risk of AKI attributable to contrast administration suggests such a strategy might not be warranted in many conditions. However, the risk of contrast-induced AKI is not zero, and **therefore this risk should always be balanced against the consequences of an incomplete diagnostic or interventional work-up caused by avoiding contrast administration.**



# Conclusions

- **The risk of renal injury with antifungal therapy may be overstated by older literature**
- **Forms of renal injury have been observed with all antifungals, but are most prominent with amphotericin B formulations**
- **Risk of L-AMB renal injury can be reduced by using**
  - **Recommended doses (3-5 mg/kg/day)**
  - **Adequate hydration and sodium loading**
  - **Avoidance of multiple concomitant nephrotoxic medication**
  - **Reassessing continued need after first 7-10 days of therapy**

Administration of intravenous or intra-arterial contrast medium\*

Risk stratification

eGFR >60 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>†

No diabetes or heart failure and eGFR  
30–60 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>†  
OR  
Diabetes or heart failure and eGFR  
45–60 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>†

No diabetes or heart failure and eGFR  
<30 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>†  
OR  
Diabetes or heart failure and eGFR  
<45 mL/min per 1.73 m<sup>2</sup>†  
OR  
Monoclonal gammopathy‡

Risk category

Low risk of CI AKI

Intermediate risk of CI AKI

High risk of CI AKI

Course of action

Liberal fluid intake‡  
1 L over 12 h before contrast administration  
and 1 L over 12 h after contrast administration

Per oral volume expansion schedule‡  
1 g NaCl + 150 mL of H<sub>2</sub>O every hour from 2 h before  
until 6 h after contrast administration

Intravenous volume expansion with isotonic  
saline or sodium bicarbonate‡

- Isotonic saline:  
1 L NaCl 0.9% over 12 h before and after contrast  
administration

OR

- Sodium bicarbonate:  
1 L glucose 5% + 150 mmol/L bicarbonate 8.4%/L,  
3 mL/kg per h over 1 h before and 1 mL/kg per h  
during 6 h after contrast administration§

Only two-thirds of patients at risk for AKI are sufficiently volume expanded

**Patients routinely received hydration (250-500 mL 0.9% NaCl) before and after L-AMB infusions, and were managed with a standardized electrolyte replacement protocol for potassium replacement (goal  $K^+$  = 4.0 mEq/L) and magnesium supplementation (5 g of  $MgSO_4$  IV daily until serum  $K^+$  levels normalized; thereafter oral  $Mg^{2+}$  supplementation was used at a daily dose of 535 mg (5.33 mEq)  $MgCl$  twice daily.**