

Experiences with AKI Clinical Trial Design

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Biomarkers

Diagnostic and Prognostic Stratification in the Emergency Department Using Urinary Biomarkers of Nephron Damage

A Multicenter Prospective Cohort Study

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Neutrophil Gelatinase-Associated Lipocalin for Acute Kidney Injury During Acute Heart Failure Hospitalizations

The AKINESIS Study

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CLINICAL RESEARCH

www.jasn.org

Perioperative THR-184 and AKI after Cardiac Surgery

Jonathan Himmelfarb,¹ Glenn M. Chertow,² Peter A. McCullough,³ Thierry Mesana,⁴
Andrew D. Shaw,⁵ Thoralf M. Sundt,⁶ Craig Brown,⁷ David Cortville,⁸ François Dagenais,⁹
Benoit de Varennes,¹⁰ Manuel Fontes,¹¹ Jerome Rossert,¹² and Jean-Claude Tardif¹³

Inhibition of Calcium Release-Activated Calcium (CRAC) channels to Treat Acute Kidney Injury: Design and Rationale of the KOURAGE study

Lakhmir S. Chawla^a, Patrick T. Murray^b, Stuart L. Goldstein^c,
Andrew Cunningham^d, Sudarshan Hebbar^d, Richard G.
Wunderink^e, and Glenn M. Chertow^f

Design of AKI Trials

SPECIAL ARTICLE

www.jasn.org

Optimizing the Design and Analysis of Future AKI Trials

Matthieu Legrand^{1,2}, Sean M. Bagshaw³, Jay L. Koyner⁴, Ivonne H. Schulman⁵, Michael R. Mathis⁶, Juliane Bernholz⁷, Steven Coca⁸, Martin Gallagher⁹, Stéphane Gaudry^{2,10,11}, Kathleen D. Liu¹², Ravindra L. Mehta¹³, Romain Pirracchio¹⁴, Abigail Ryan¹⁵, Dominik Steubl^{16,17}, Norman Stockbridge¹⁸, Fredrik Erlandsson¹⁹, Alparslan Turan^{20,21}, F. Perry Wilson²², Alexander Zarbock²³, Michael P. Bokoch²⁴, Jonathan D. Casey²⁴, Patrick Rossignol^{2,25,26} and Michael O. Harhay²⁷

Nephrol Dialysis Transplant (2023) 38: 834–844
<https://doi.org/10.1093/ndt/gfac003>
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Overcoming barriers in the design and implementation of clinical trials for acute kidney injury: a report from the 2020 Kidney Disease Clinical Trialists meeting

Daniel Lazzareschi¹, Ravindra L. Mehta², Laura M. Dember³, Juliane Bernholz⁴, Alparslan Turan^{5,6}, Amit Sharma⁷, Sachin Kheterpal⁸, Chirag R. Parikh⁹, Omar Ali^{10,17}, Ivonne H. Schulman¹¹, Abigail Ryan¹², Jean Feng¹³, Noah Simon¹⁴, Romain Pirracchio¹, Patrick Rossignol^{15,16} and Matthieu Legrand^{1,15}

Intensive Care Med

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-024-07560-y>

CONFERENCE REPORTS AND EXPERT PANEL

Recommendations for clinical trial design in acute kidney injury from the 31st acute disease quality initiative consensus conference. A consensus statement




Alexander Zarbock^{1,2*}, Lui G. Forni^{3,4}, Jay L. Koyner⁵, Samira Bell⁶, Thiago Reis^{7,8,9}, Melanie Meersch¹, Sean M. Bagshaw¹⁰, Dana Y. Fuhmann^{11,12,13}, Kathleen D. Liu¹⁴, Neesh Pannu¹⁵, Ayse Akcan Arkan¹⁶, Derek C. Angus¹³, D'Arcy Duquette¹⁷, Stuart L. Goldstein¹⁸, Eric Hoste¹⁹, Michael Joannidis²⁰, Niels Jongs²¹, Matthieu Legrand²², Ravindra L. Mehta²³, Patrick T. Murray²⁴, Mitra K. Nadim²⁵, Marlies Ostermann²⁶, John Prowle²⁷, Emily J. See^{28,29,30}, Nicholas M. Selby³¹, Andrew D. Shaw³², Nattachai Srisawat³³, Claudio Ronco^{34,35,36} and John A. Kellum^{12,13}

Design of AKI Trials

Review Article | Published: 31 August 2023

Designing acute kidney injury clinical trials

[Alexander Zarbock](#) , [Lui G. Forni](#), [Marlies Ostermann](#), [Claudio Ronco](#), [Sean M. Bagshaw](#), [Ravindra L. Mehta](#), [Rinaldo Bellomo](#) & [John A. Kellum](#)

Nature Reviews Nephrology **20**, 137–146 (2024) | [Cite this article](#)










[Home](#) > [Intensive Care Medicine](#) > [Article](#)

Randomised clinical trials in critical care: past, present and future

Review | Published: 02 December 2021

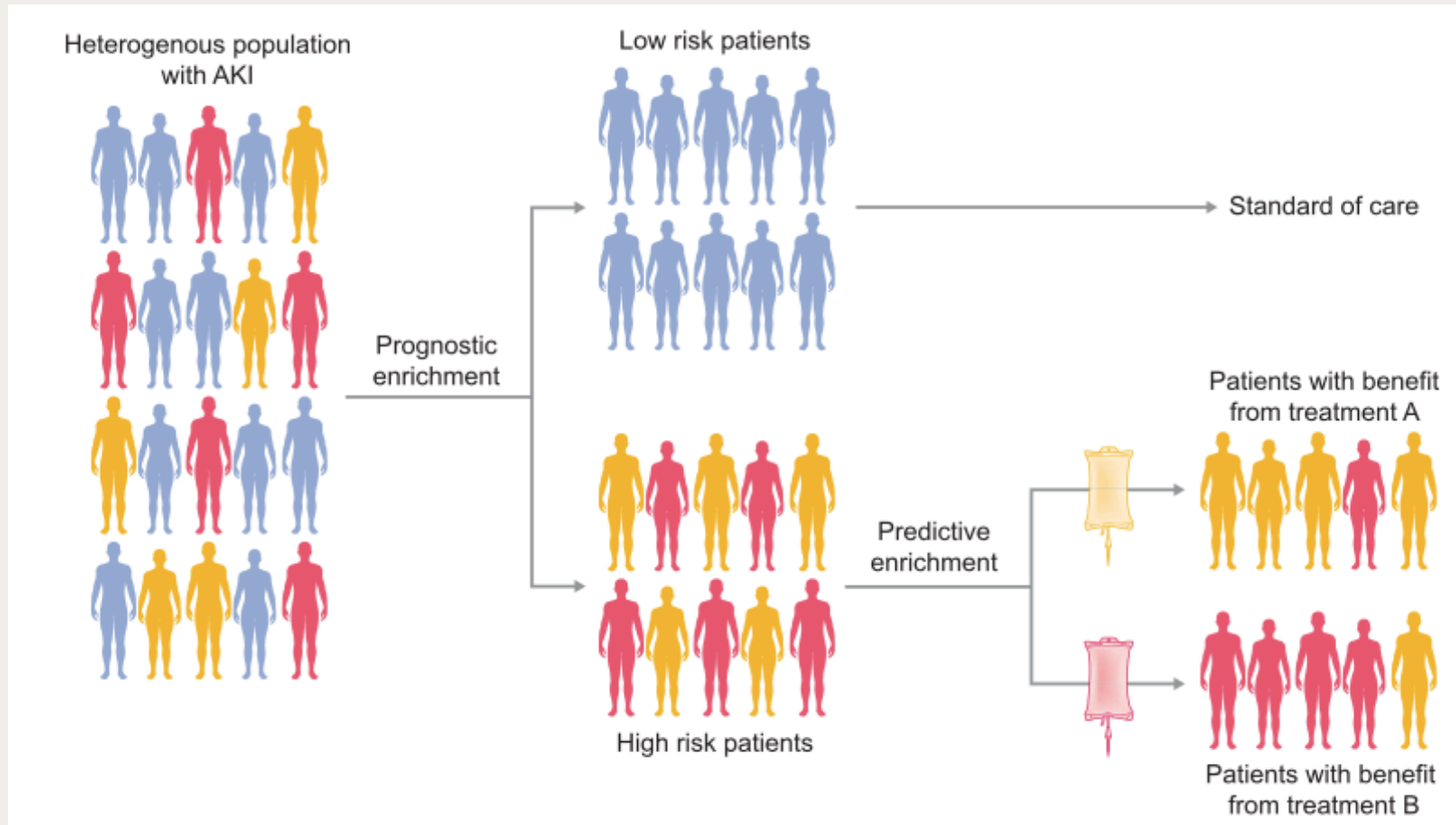
Volume 48, pages 164–178, (2022) | [Cite this article](#)

Patient Preferences and Priorities for the Design of an Acute Kidney Injury Prevention Trial Findings from a Consensus Workshop

Meghan J. Elliott ^{1,2}, Kirsten M. Fiest ^{2,3}, Shannan Love,¹ Dale Birdsell,⁴ Maureena Loth,⁴ Heather Dumka,⁴ Benny Rana,³ Nusrat Shommu ¹, Eleanor Benterud ¹, Sarah Gil ¹, Dilaram Acharya ¹, Tyrone G. Harrison ^{1,2}, Neesh Pannu ⁵ and Matthew T. James ^{1,2}

Elliott, Meghan J., et al. "Patient Preferences and Priorities for the Design of an AKI Prevention Trial: Findings from a Consensus Workshop." *Kidney360* (2024): 10-34067.

Prognostic and Predictive Enrichment



Lazzareschi, Daniel, et al. "Overcoming barriers in the design and implementation of clinical trials for acute kidney injury: a report from the 2020 Kidney Disease Clinical Trialists meeting." *Nephrology Dialysis Transplantation* 38.4 (2023): 834-844.

Outcomes

Prevention Trials [#]		Treatment Trials	
Endpoints	Clinical Trial Phase	Endpoints	Clinical Trial Phase
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Molecular biomarkers of kidney injury • Physiological biomarkers such as urinary oxygen tension • Molecular biomarkers of kidney injury or kidney function • Renal functional reserve (physiological biomarker) 	1 or 2 1 or 2 2 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rate of change in GFR • Sustained change in GFR • Change in biomarker values specific for kidney damage • Change in genomic or metabolomic variables • Change in levels of inflammatory mediators • Presence or progression of proteinuria 	2 2 2 2 2 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stage of AKI • AKI duration • Transition from AKI to acute kidney disease • Development or worsening of chronic kidney disease based on molecular biomarkers such as albuminuria • Development or worsening of chronic kidney disease based on clinical endpoints such as eGFR (or eGFR slope) or reduction of eGFR by 50% • Development or worsening of chronic kidney disease based on clinical endpoints such as need for dialysis or kidney death 	3 3 3 4 4 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major Adverse Kidney Events • Days free of organ support therapies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Renal replacement therapy free days -Invasive mechanical ventilation free days -Intensive care/hospital free and alive days • Death • AKI trajectories • Dialysis • Hospital readmission • eGFR reduction or CKD progression 	3 or 4 3 or 4 3 or 4 3 or 4 3 or 4 3 or 4

Fig. 1 Different endpoints should be used in AKI trials on the bases of the type of intervention (prevention or treatment study) and the clinical trial phase (phase 1, 2, 3, or 4). [#] Endpoints that are used for phase 3 trials may also be used as endpoint in phase 4 trials

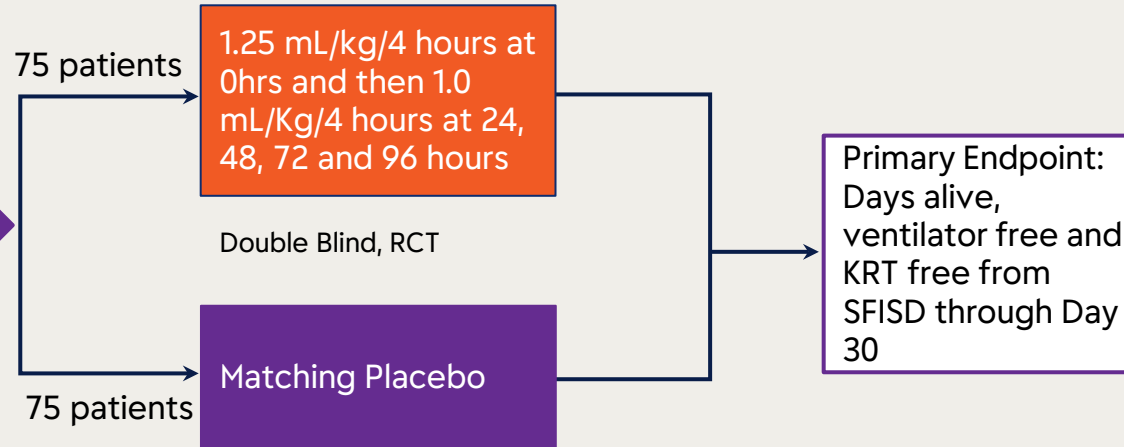
Zarbock, Alexander, et al. "Recommendations for clinical trial design in acute kidney injury from the 31st acute disease quality initiative consensus conference. A consensus statement." *Intensive Care Medicine* 50.9 (2024): 1426-1437.

Auxora for the Treatment of AKI and Modulation of Injurious “Crosstalk” with the Lung: A Randomized Control Trial (KOURAGE) NCT06374797

Primary Objective: To assess the efficacy of Auxora in treating patients with severe AKI
Secondary Objective: To assess the safety and tolerability of Auxora in patients with severe AKI

Study Population
-Stage 2 or 3 AKI
-Acute Hypoxemic Respiratory Failure*

Stratification by both
-Invasive mechanical ventilation
-Stage 3 AKI



Primary Endpoint:
Days alive,
ventilator free and
KRT free from
SFISD through Day
30

Key Secondary
Endpoints:
•MAKE 90-1**
•MAKE 90-2***

*AHRF will be defined as a P/F \leq 300 that has been determined by either an arterial blood gas or imputed from the oxygen saturation (SpO₂) recorded using pulse oximetry and is being treated with high flow nasal cannula with minimum flow rate \geq 30 liters/min, or non-invasive mechanical ventilation, or invasive mechanical ventilation

**MAKE 90-1: \geq 25% decline in eGFR from baseline, incident KRT, and all-cause mortality at 90 days

***MAKE 90-2: \geq 35% decline in eGFR from baseline, incident KRT, and all-cause mortality at 90 days

Outcomes in AKI Trials

Intensive Care Med (2024) 50:1049–1063
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-024-07480-x>

NARRATIVE REVIEW

Heterogeneity in the definition of major adverse kidney events: a scoping review



Akinori Maeda^{1,2}, Ryota Inokuchi^{2,3}, Rinaldo Bellomo^{1,4,5,6,7} and Kent Doi^{2*}

- Is incident dialysis equivalent to death?
- 36.4% different dialysis definitions!
- Is a 25% decrease in eGFR in a stage 1 patient the same as in a stage 3 patient?
- Muscle mass and critical illness!!!!

Intensive Care Med
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s00134-024-07602-5>

CORRESPONDENCE

Major adverse kidney events as an endpoint in acute kidney injury trials: is it time for a RE-MAKE?



Dana Y. Fuhrman^{1*}, Sean M. Bagshaw², Stuart L. Goldstein³, Matthieu Legrand⁴ and Andrew D. Shaw⁵

- Hierarchical composite using endpoints important to PWLE
- Statistically evaluated by win ratio:
- Mortality
- AKI
- Nonrecovery from AKI and dialysis dependency
- GFR slope

Maeda, Akinori, et al. "Heterogeneity in the definition of major adverse kidney events: a scoping review." Intensive Care Medicine 50.7 (2024): 1049-1063.

Fuhrman, Dana Y., et al. "Major adverse kidney events as an endpoint in acute kidney injury trials: is it time for a RE-MAKE?." Intensive Care Medicine 50.10 (2024): 1723-1724.

Experiences With Conduct
of an AKI Clinical Trial:

Diagnosis of AKI
Patient Population

KDIGO Definition of AKI

KDIGO Classification of AKI

Stage	Serum Creatinine	Urine Output
1	≥ 0.3 mg/dL within 48 hours or 1.5 to 1.9 times baseline creatinine within prior 7 days	< 0.5 mL/kg/hour for ≥ 6 hours to < 12 hours
2	2.0 to 2.9 times baseline creatinine within prior 7 days	< 0.5 mL/kg/hour for ≥ 12 hours
3	≥ 3.0 times baseline creatinine within prior 7 days or ≥ 4.0 mg/dL or initiation of kidney replacement therapy	< 0.3 mL/kg/hour for ≥ 24 hours or anuria ≥ 12 hours

Community Acquired AKI: Baseline Creatinine >7 Days

- "In general, it is reasonable in patients without CKD to assume that SCr will be stable over several months or even years, so that a SCr obtained 6 months or even 1 year previously would reasonably reflect the patient's premorbid baseline."
- Protection Trial
 - Eligible patients had to have a baseline serum creatinine measurement before surgery — the most recently available measurement before randomization, obtained either during the current hospitalization or within 365 days before the current hospitalization.
- Should the prohibition on using an outpatient baseline creatinine in patients with CKD apply to patients with CKD Stages 1 and 2?

Overdiagnosis of CKD in Elderly Adults

Research

JAMA Internal Medicine | [Original Investigation](#) | [LESS IS MORE](#)

Accounting for Age in the Definition of Chronic Kidney Disease

Ping Liu, PhD; Rob R. Quinn, MD, PhD; Ngan N. Lam, MD, MSc; Meghan J. Elliott, MD, MSc; Yuan Xu, MD, PhD; Matthew T. James, MD, PhD; Braden Manns, MD, MSc; Pietro Ravani, MD, PhD

[Invited Commentary](#)

[LESS IS MORE](#)

Overdiagnosis of Chronic Kidney Disease in Older Adults— An Inconvenient Truth

Ann M. O'Hare, MA, MD; Rudolph A. Rodriguez, MD; Andrew D. Rule, MD, MS

Revival median age: 70

Protection median age: 66

Thrasos median age: 71-74

- Modeled the pragmatic implications of an alternative definition of CKD based on age-specific eGFR cut points for cohort members without significant albuminuria (<45 mL/min/1.73 m² for those aged ≥65 years, <60 mL/min/1.73 m² for those aged 40-64 years, and <75 mL/min/1.73 m² for those aged <40 years).
- The size of the affected population shrank by more than one-third (from 127 132 to 81 209 cohort members)
- This reduction in the size of the affected population was largely driven by a reclassification of older adults with isolated mild to moderate reductions in eGFR (75% of reclassified cohort members were age ≥65 years and had an eGFR of 45-59 mL/min/1.73 m²).
- Those who are reclassified as having normal kidney function do not have a meaningfully higher risk of death or kidney failure

Community Acquired AKI: No Baseline Creatinine

- Many patients will present with AKI without a reliable baseline SCr on record. Baseline SCr can be estimated using the Modification of Diet in Renal Disease (MDRD) Study equation assuming that baseline eGFR is 75 ml/min per 1.73 m².

Table 9 | Estimated baseline SCr

Age (years)	Black males mg/dl (μmol/l)	Other males mg/dl (μmol/l)	Black females mg/dl (μmol/l)	Other females mg/dl (μmol/l)
20-24	1.5 (133)	1.3 (115)	1.2 (106)	1.0 (88)
25-29	1.5 (133)	1.2 (106)	1.1 (97)	1.0 (88)
30-39	1.4 (124)	1.2 (106)	1.1 (97)	0.9 (80)
40-54	1.3 (115)	1.1 (97)	1.0 (88)	0.9 (80)
55-65	1.3 (115)	1.1 (97)	1.0 (88)	0.8 (71)
> 65	1.2 (106)	1.0 (88)	0.9 (80)	0.8 (71)

Estimated glomerular filtration rate=75 (ml/min per 1.73 m²)=186 × (serum creatinine [S_{Cr}])^{-1.154} × (age)^{-0.203} × (0.742 if female) × (1.210 if black)=exp(5.228 - 1.154 × ln [S_{Cr}] - 0.203 × ln(age) - (0.299 if female) + (0.192 if black)).

Reprinted from Bellomo R, Ronco C, Kellum JA et al. Acute renal failure - definition, outcome measures, animal models, fluid therapy and information technology needs: the Second International Consensus Conference of the Acute Dialysis Quality Initiative (ADQI) Group. Crit Care 2004; 8: R204-212 with permission from Bellomo R et al.²²; accessed <http://ccforum.com/content/8/4/R204>

- This approach is likely the most sensitive for detecting AKI among patients with no pre-morbid serum creatinine value and is anticipated to work well in populations with largely preserved kidney function.
- Will this "estimation" meet the rigorous standard needed for prospective trials needed for drug approval?

KDIGO Definition of AKI

KDIGO Classification of AKI

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3	≥ 3.0 times baseline creatinine within prior 7 days or ≥ 4.0 mg/dL or initiation of kidney replacement therapy	< 0.3 mL/kg/hour for ≥ 24 hours or anuria ≥ 12 hours

Urine Output

- "Is it the mean urine output over the number of hours in the KDIGO or does it mean for every hour"?
- "Association of oliguria with acute kidney injury diagnosis, severity assessment, and mortality among patients with critical illness." JAMA network open 4.11 (2021): e2133094-e2133094., the authors state that they assessed urine output in the following manner:
 - "For every single hour of each ICU stay, we computed a 6-hour mean corresponding to the mean UO measured within the previous 6 hours. Similarly, we calculated a 12-hour mean (mean UO measured within the previous 12 hours) and a 24-hour mean (mean UO within the previous 24 hours)."

Importance of Urine Output in Assessing Risk

By Serum Creatinine ↓				
Stage 3	371 (11.6)	321 (38.6)	1019 (28.0)	2200 (51.1)
Stage 2	618 (11.3)	476 (23.9)	1553 (21.5)	831 (44.2)
Stage 1	1889 (8.0)	1262 (11.3)	3485 (13.0)	842 (32.1)
No AKI	8179 (4.3)	3158 (5.3)	5421 (7.9)	440 (17.7)
By Urine Output →				
	No AKI	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3

32,045 patients treated between 2000 and 2008, of which 23,866 (74.5%) developed AKI.

Number of patients with Stage 1 AKI: 6,309

3158 urine output alone (50%)

Number of patients with Stage 2 AKI: 11,553

8906 reach stage 2 by urine output alone (77%)

Number of patients with Stage 3 AKI: 6,024

2113 reach stage 3 by urine output alone (35%)

Importance of Urine Output in Assessing Risk

AKI sCr stage, No. (90-d mortality, %)	Stage 3	141 (13.67)	106 (33.02)	422 (29.52)	1184 (49.96)
	Stage 2	185 (19.57)	176 (24.00)	622 (26.61)	255 (35.83)
	Stage 1	663 (18.06)	571 (19.65)	1802 (21.75)	386 (32.81)
	No AKI	3477 (8.32)	1793 (12.39)	3544 (12.49)	293 (21.23)
		No AKI	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3

15,620 ICU patients between 2010 and 2020

12,143 developed AKI

Number of patients with Stage 1 AKI: 3,027

1793 urine output alone (59%)

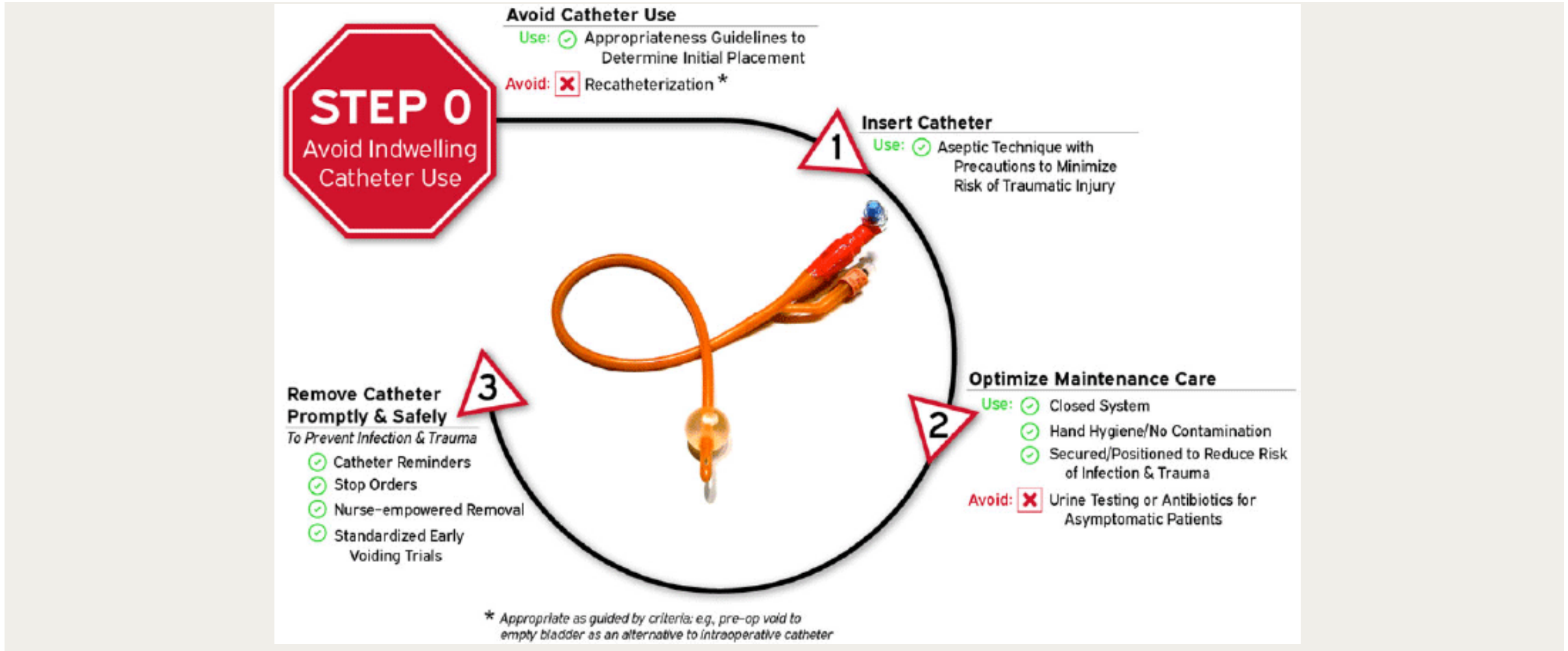
Number of patients with Stage 2 AKI: 6329

5346 urine output alone (84%)

Number of patients with Stage 3 AKI: 2787

934 urine output alone (34%)

AHQR CAUTI Recommendations



No AKI by Urine Output in Many Studies

- Protection Trial: LIMITATIONS AND REMAINING QUESTIONS

- Serum creatinine level alone was used to diagnose AKI because urinary catheters are typically removed within 48 to 72 hours after surgery.

- Development of a multicenter ward-based AKI prediction model

- We were not able to apply the urine output portion of the AKI criteria to our cohort; however, this is a common limitation of many large-scale investigations of inpatient AKI, because the ability to amass and analyze hourly urine outputs is difficult.

- A Clinically Applicable Approach to Continuous Prediction of Future Acute Kidney Injury

- The first two definitions were used to provide ground truth labels for the onset of an AKI; the third definition could not be used as urine output was not recorded digitally in the majority of sites that formed part of this work.

- Electronic health record alerts for acute kidney injury: multicenter, randomized clinical trial

- Owing to missing and inaccurate urine output data, urine output was not used to classify acute kidney injury.

- Automated Electronic Alert for the Care and Outcomes of Adults With Acute Kidney Injury

- Fourth, since most patients do not record urine output during hospitalization, the KDIGO creatinine standard was used to design AKI alerts, which may underestimate the actual incidence of AKI.

-Koyner, Jay L., et al. "Development of a multicenter ward-based AKI prediction model." *Clinical Journal of the American Society of Nephrology* 11.11 (2016): 1935-1943.

-Tomašev, Nenad, et al. "A clinically applicable approach to continuous prediction of future acute kidney injury." *Nature* 572.7767 (2019): 116-119.

-Wilson, F. Perry, et al. "Electronic health record alerts for acute kidney injury: multicenter, randomized clinical trial." *bmj* 372 (2021).

-Li, Ting, et al. "Automated electronic alert for the care and outcomes of adults with acute kidney injury: a randomized clinical trial." *JAMA network open* 7.1 (2024): e2351710-e2351710.

CKD Patient with AKI

- How to diagnose AKI in a patient with CKD using changes in serum creatinine?
 - Different criteria needed?
 - Stage 1: a 0.3-mg/dl increase over 24 h or a 0.5-mg/dl increase over 48 h
 - Stage 2: a 0.5-mg/dl increase over 24 h or a 1.0-mg/dl increase over 48 h
 - Stage 3: a 1.0-mg/dl increase over 24 h or a 1.5-mg/dl increase over 48 h
 - Emphasize urine output!!!!
- Patients with CKD are often excluded in trials of AKI therapeutics
 - REVIVAL: severe CKD (eGFR <25 mL/min/1.73 m²) were excluded at some sites and moderate to severe CKD at other sites (eGFR <45 mL/min/1.73 m²)
 - TIN816: History of CKD with a documented estimated GFR <45 mL/min prior to admission to hospital
 - Protection: Patients with chronic kidney disease (CKD) of equal or more than CKD stage IV* (glomerular filtration rate (GFR) <30 ml/min/1.73 m²)
 - Thrasos: exclusion of eGFR <20
 - KOURAGE: no exclusion

Thrasos AKI Trial

- **THR-184:**

- eGFR ≥ 20 and < 30 ml/min/1.73m² OR
- eGFR ≥ 30 and < 60 ml/min/1.73m² and ONE of the following additional risk factors (other than age ≥ 75 years)
OR
- eGFR ≥ 60 ml/min/1.73m² and TWO of the following additional risk factors

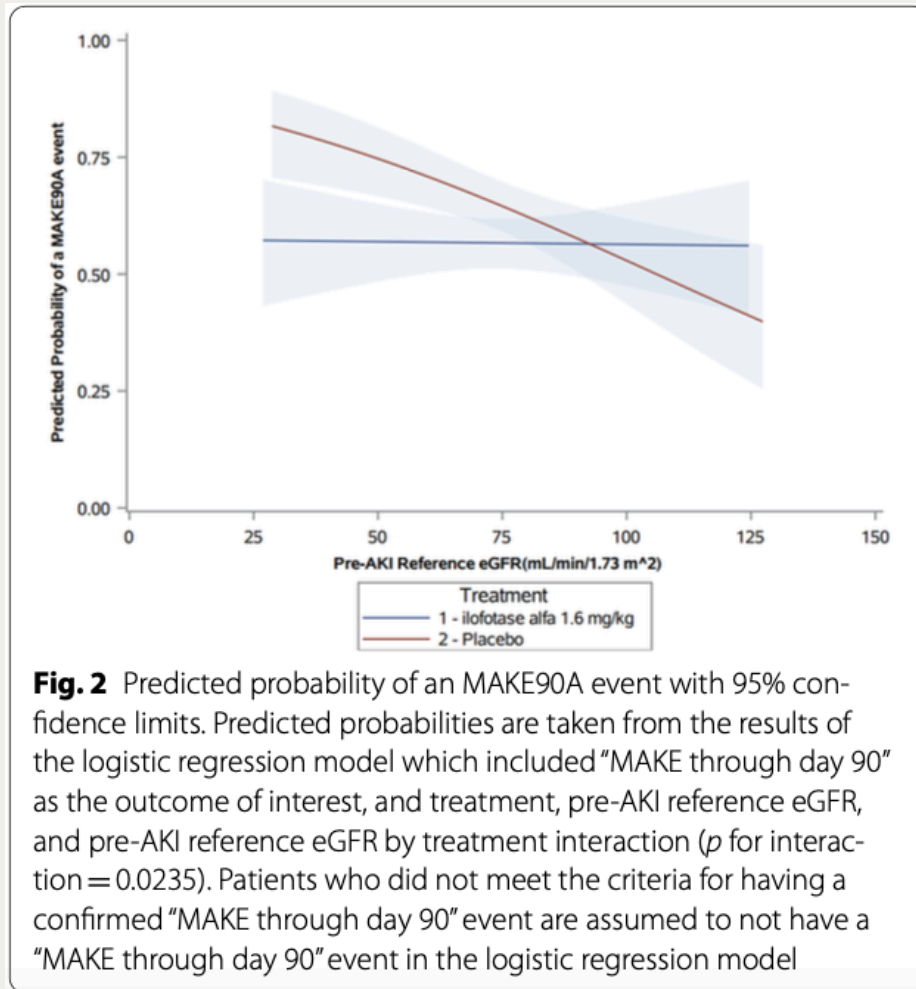
- **Risk Factors**

- Age ≥ 75 years;
- Combined valve & coronary surgery;
- Previous cardiac surgery with sternotomy;
- Documented NYHA Class III or IV within 1 year prior to surgery;
- Left ventricular ejection fraction (LVEF) $\leq 35\%$ by invasive or noninvasive diagnostic cardiac imaging - echocardiography, nuclear imaging, computed tomography, magnetic resonance imaging or angiography performed within 90 days prior to surgery. (If LVEF $\leq 35\%$ by any invasive or noninvasive imaging procedure, patient meets the risk factor.)
- Insulin-requiring diabetes;
- Non-insulin-requiring diabetes and the presence of $\geq +2$ proteinuria on urinalysis (medical history or dipstick);
- Preoperative anemia (hemoglobin < 11 g/dl for men and women).

CKD and Prognostic Enrichment

- Thrasos trial, AKI occurred in 78% of placebo patients.
 - 113 patients randomized to placebo
 - Median eGFR 59.5 IQR (44-79)
 - 57 patients randomized to placebo with eGFR <60
 - AKI KDIGO definition 86%
 - AKI KDIGO definition Scr only: 68.4%
- Protection trial, 31.7% of placebo group developed AKI
 - 1752 patients randomized to placebo
 - 597 stage 1 (21% developed AKI)
 - 747 stage 2 (30% developed AKI)
 - 408 Stages 3-5 (50% developed AKI)

Revival MAKE90 Predicted Probability



AKI Algorithm KOURAGE

