



ACTACC

Association for Cardiothoracic Anaesthesia
and Critical Care

Perioperative Vasoplegia in Cardiac Surgery National Audit

*Carlos Corredor, Sriveena Naganathar,
Vivek Sharma, Benjamin Milne, Gudrun Kunst
ACTACC Link Person Network*



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Disclosures

- None relevant
- On behalf of the ACTACC Vasoplegia Audit Group
- ACTACC Linkperson network
- AI (OpenAI, Canvas, Dall-E used for image generation)



Define Vasoplegia in Cardiac Surgery



VANCS (2017) (SCA)

MAP < 65 mmHg, CI > 2.2 l/min/m²
At least 1000 ml fluid challenge



ATHOS II (2017)

CI > 2.3 l/min/m² or ScVO₂ > 70%
And
MAP 55-70 mmHg + 25 ml/kg preceded
24h
On Norad > 0.2 mcg/kg/min

Patients with suspected vasoplegia in the perioperative period Patients that received 'rescue' therapies for vasoplegia

Who were the patients investigated ?

Patients suspected of perioperative vasoplegia within the first 48h of undergoing cardiac surgery (from induction of anaesthesia)

What are the objectives?

- Characteristics of perioperative vasoplegia in UK cardiac surgical patients
- What proportion of patients receive rescue therapies for vasoplegia?
- What is the association of vasoplegia and clinical outcomes including 30-day mortality, ICU stay and new RRT

The **triggers** for case report:

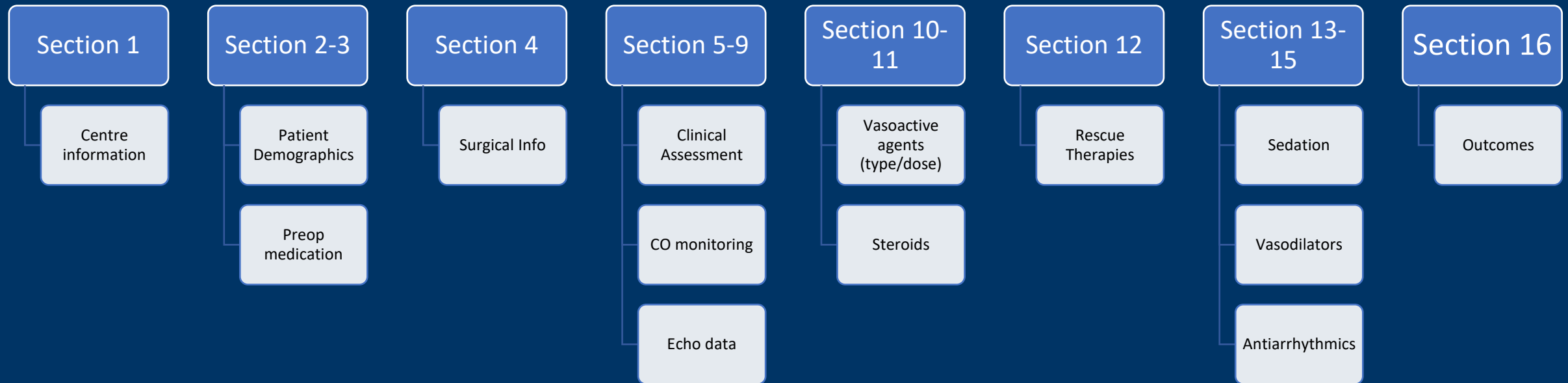
- Noradrenaline (≥ 0.2 mcg/kg/min) *
 - OR
 - >1 Vasopressor (noradrenaline and vasopressin)*
 - OR
 - Administration of rescue pharmacological agents for vasoplegia such as:
 - Methylene blue
 - Hydroxocobalamine (Cyanokit)
 - Ascorbic acid/Thiamine (Pabrinex)
 - Vitamin C
 - Cytokine Adsorber (i.e Cytosorb)
- * > 1 hour administration

Snapshot Audit on Perioperative Vasoplegia in Cardiac Surgery

Data Collected October 2024

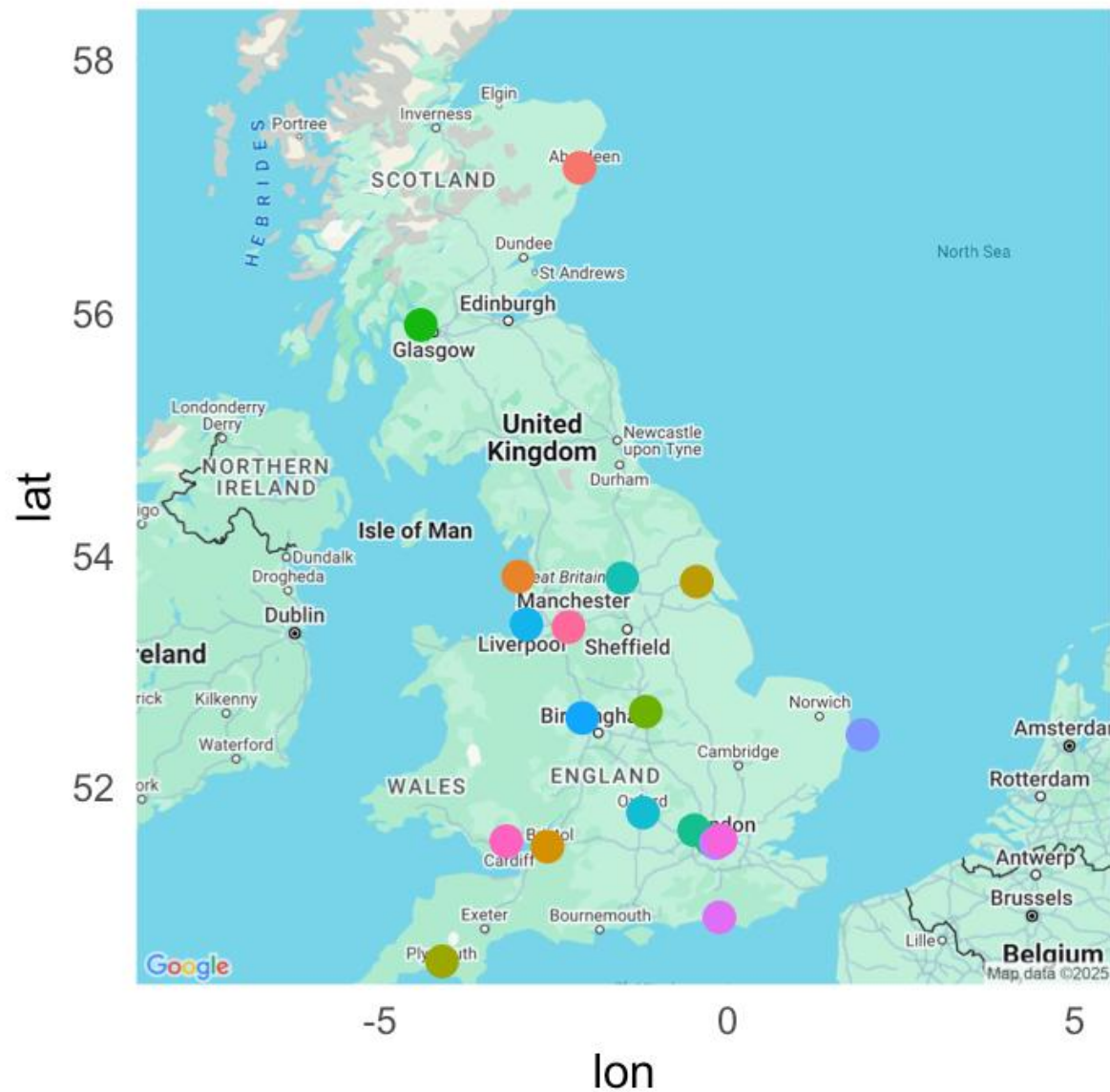


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Response Rate 57%

UK Cardiac Centres



- Bristol Royal Infirmary: 12/105 (11.4%)
- Aberdeen Royal Infirmary: 7/30 (23.3%)
- Blackpool Teaching Hospital: 8/101 (7.9%)
- Castle Hill Hospital: 2/58 (3.4%)
- Derriford Hospital: 4/111 (3.6%)
- Glenfield Hospital: 4/73 (5.5%)
- Golden Jubilee National Hospital: 7/110 (6.4%)
- Hammersmith Hospital: 2/44 (4.5%)
- Harefield Hospital: 12/114 (10.5%)
- James Cook University Hospital: 3/71 (4.2%)
- John Radcliffe Hospital: 3/60 (5%)
- Liverpool Heart and Chest Hospital: 12/192 (6.2%)
- New Cross Hospital: 2/81 (2.5%)
- Queen Elizabeth Hospital: 2/45 (4.4%)
- Royal Brompton Hospital: 8/98 (8.2%)
- Royal Sussex County Hospital: 5/47 (10.6%)
- St Bartholomew's Hospital: 16/188 (8.5%)
- University Hospital of Wales: 4/38 (10.5%)
- Wythenshawe Hospital (35): 12/109 (11%)

Location at Time of Trigger



Intensive Care
71.8%



Operating Theatre
28,2%



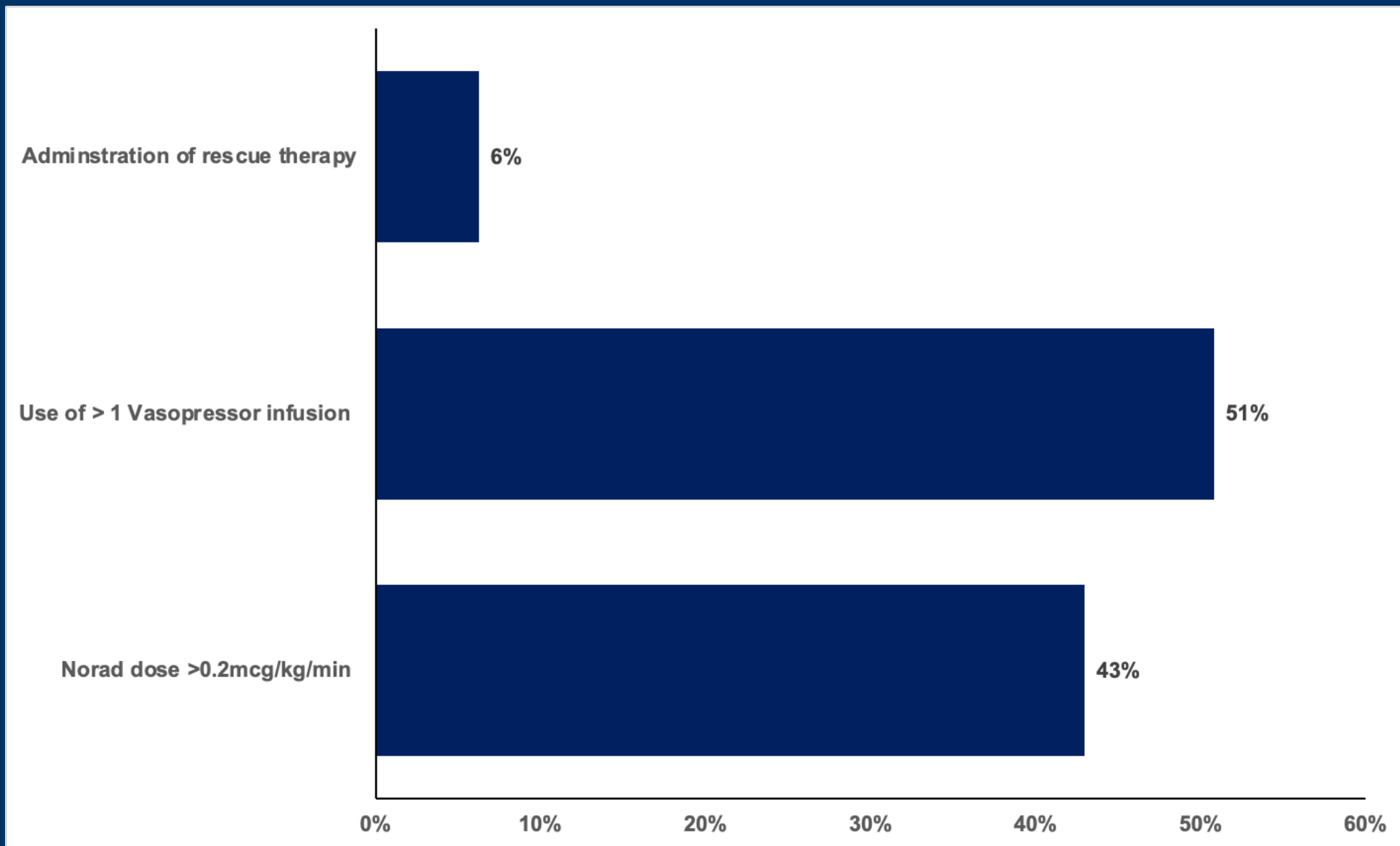
**Induction
of anaesthesia**

Time Lag

Trigger

**Count: 118 patients
Median: 9.0 hours
IQR: 6.2 – 13.3 hours**

Inclusion Trigger



Incidence analysis



Overall=

(Vasopressor+ Rescue therapy) 125

Total cases October 24 (1675)

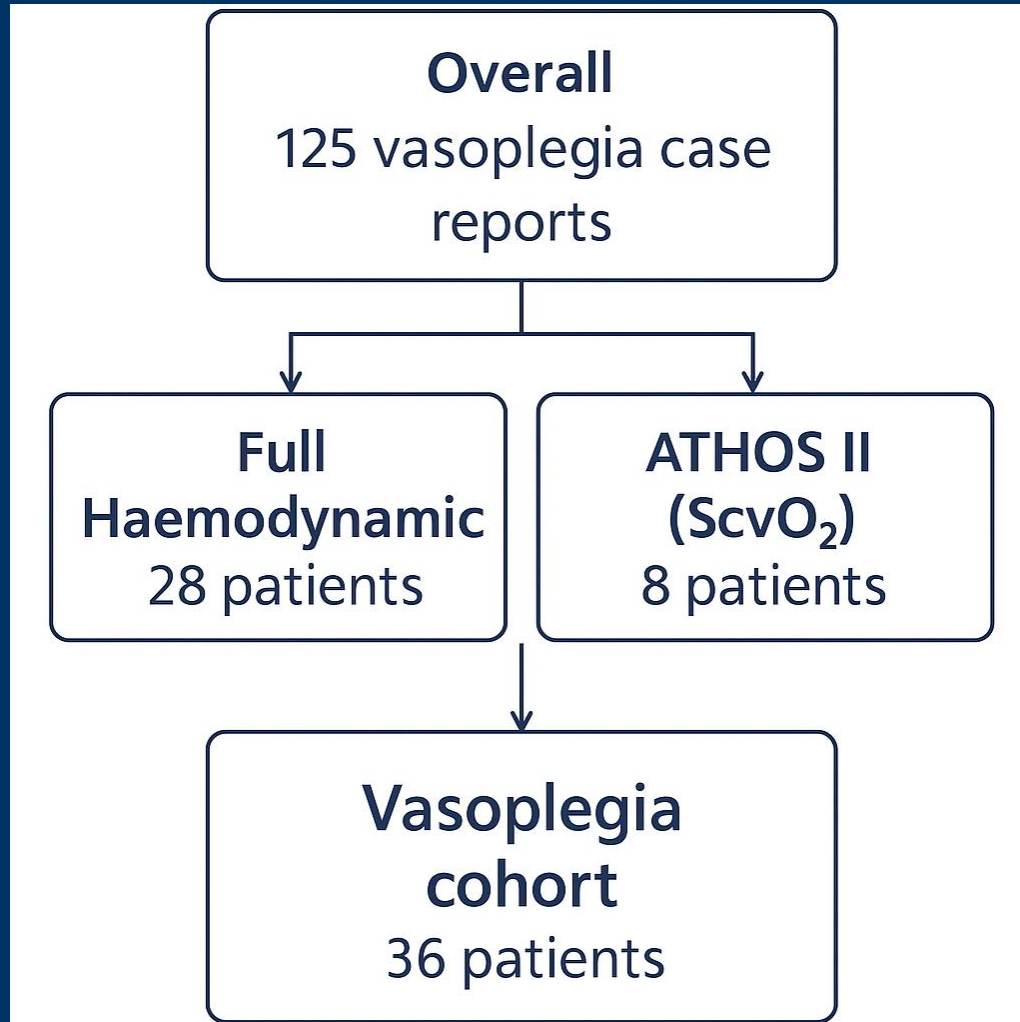
7.5%

NACSA 2023/2024:
Average 2218
operations/month

Subcohort incidence=

Number of patients fulfilling criteria/Number of patients with
haemodynamic values or ScVO₂ available

Incidence Analysis



Overall: 7.5%

Sub-cohorts

61 patients (monitoring data)

Full Haemodynamic: 58%

ATHOS II (ScVO₂): 40%

Vasoplegia Merged: 59%

Remaining 89

Patient Characteristics



Female 24%
Male 76%

Age 67y (56-74)

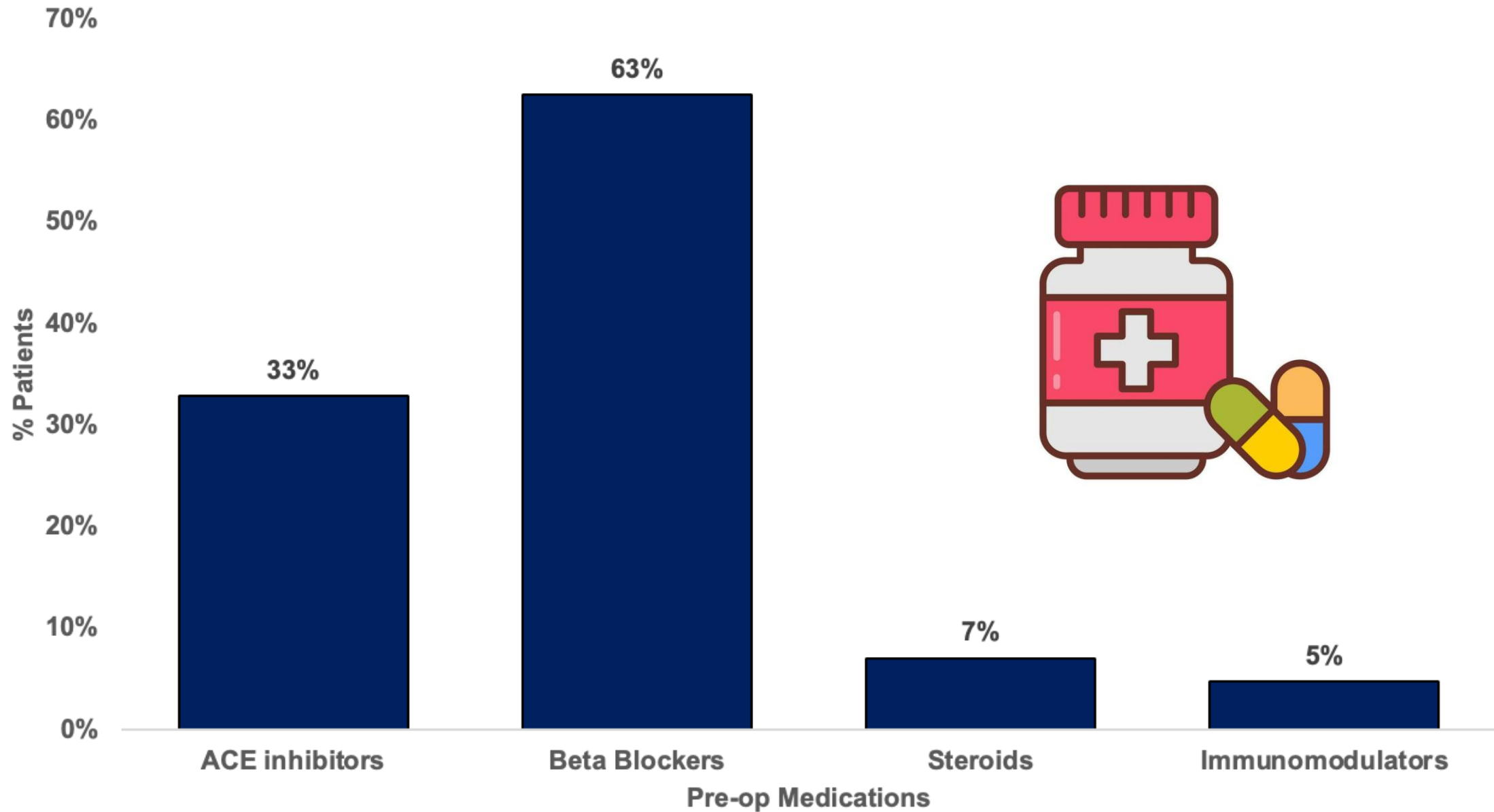
BMI : 28 kg/m² (23-31)

Euroscore: 4.5 (2.2-10.4)

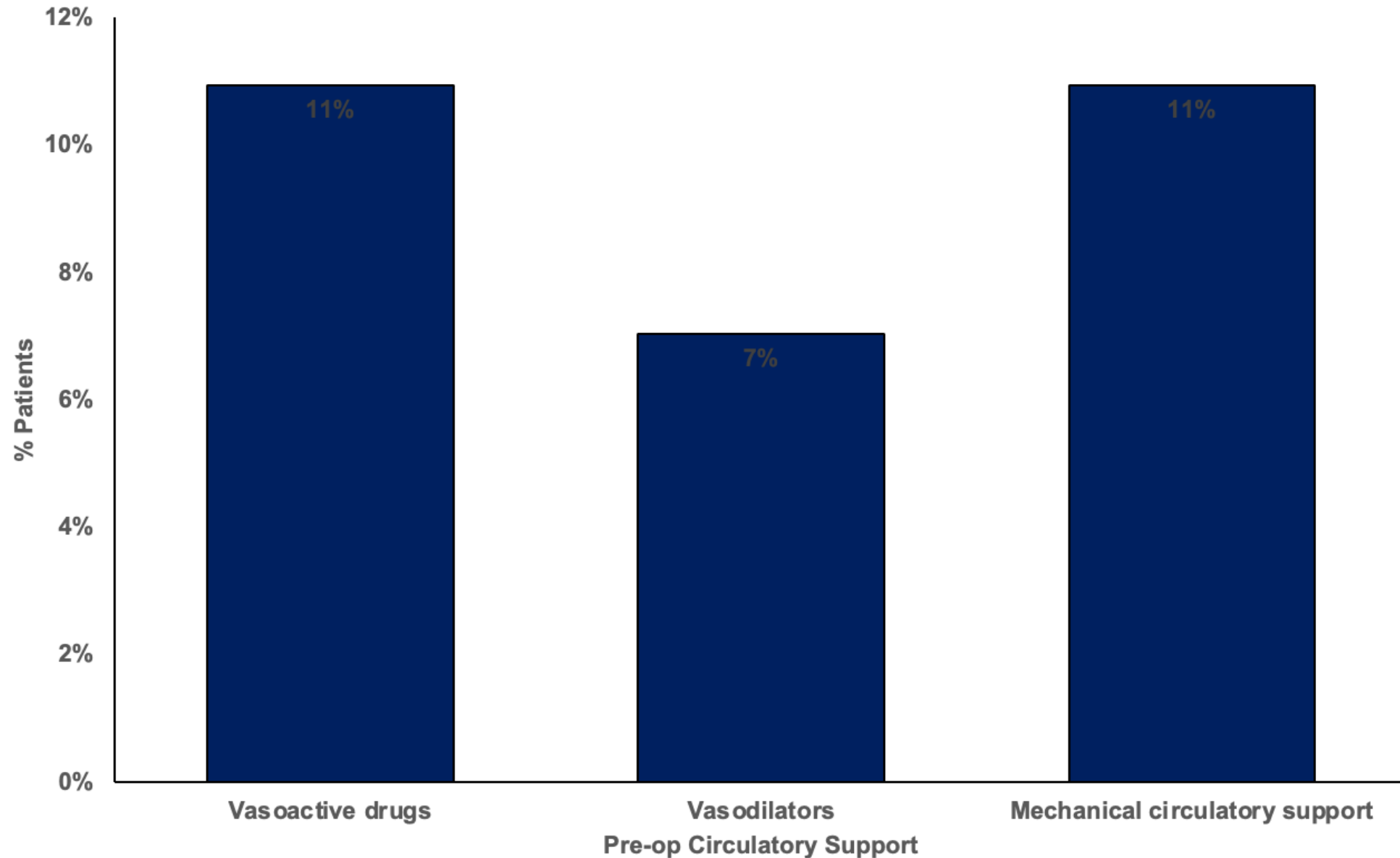
	<i>Median</i>	<i>25-75th Centile</i>
Hb (g/dl)	126	106-141
WCC nx 10⁹	8	6-10
CRP (mg/l)	8	3-21
Creatinine	93	78-118
HbA1c	43	37-50

- CKD eGFR<60 ml/min/1.73m² 33% (42 patients)
- Type 2 DM 47% (60 Patients)
- Endocarditis 15.2%(19 patients)

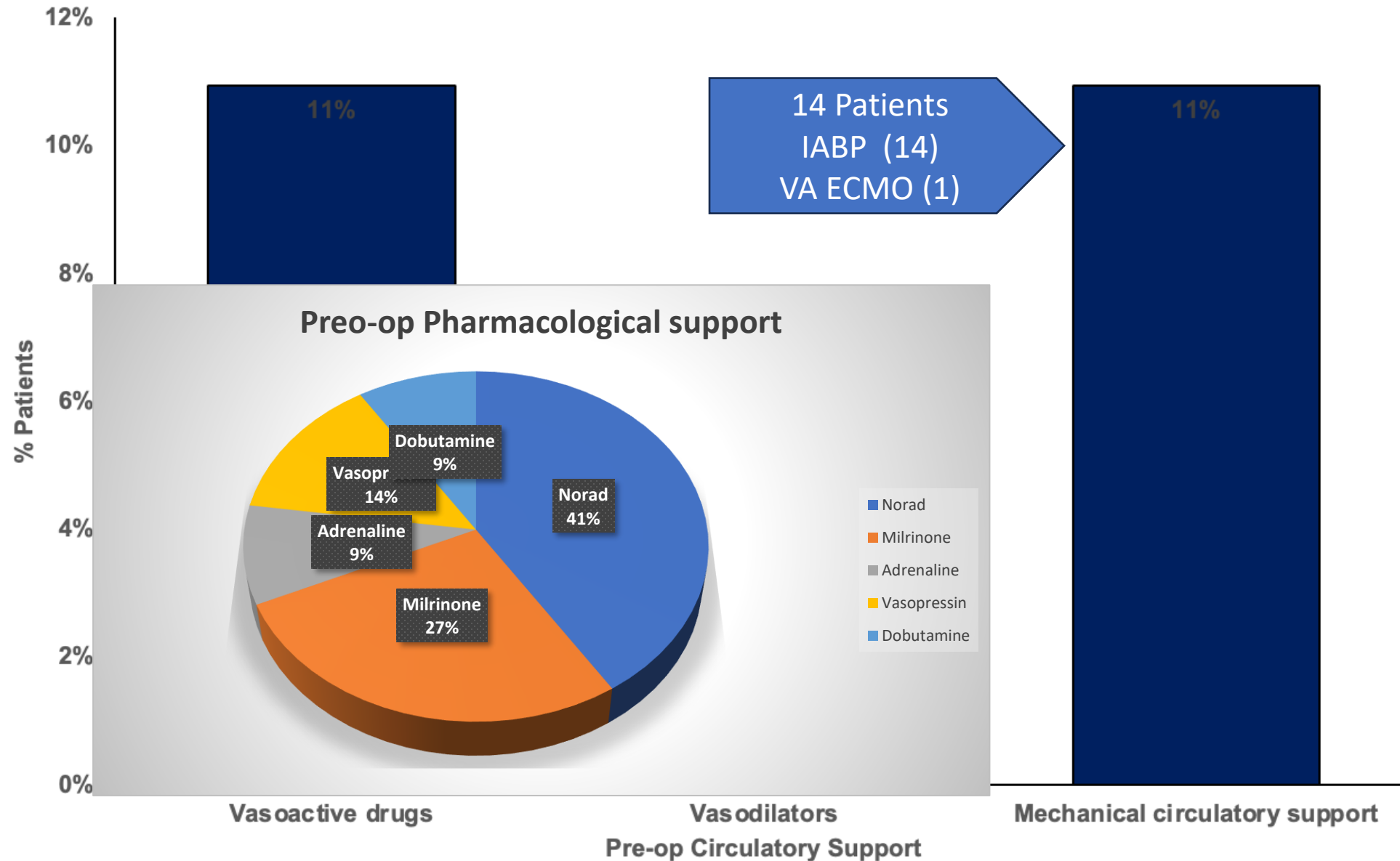
Preoperative Medications (Within 48h of Sx)



Preoperative support



Preoperative support

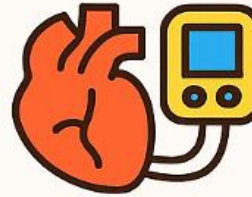


Single valve surgery



31 24.8%

CABG on pump



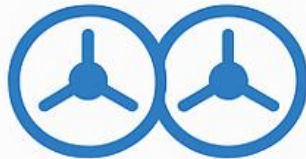
26 20.8%

Major aortic surgery



16 12.8 %

Double valve surgery



15 12.0%

CABG + valve



14 11.2%

Other
(HOCM surgery, ASD repair, VSD)



13 10.4%

CABG off pump



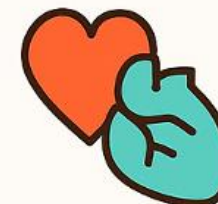
4 3,2%

LVAD implantation



3 2,4%

Heart transplant

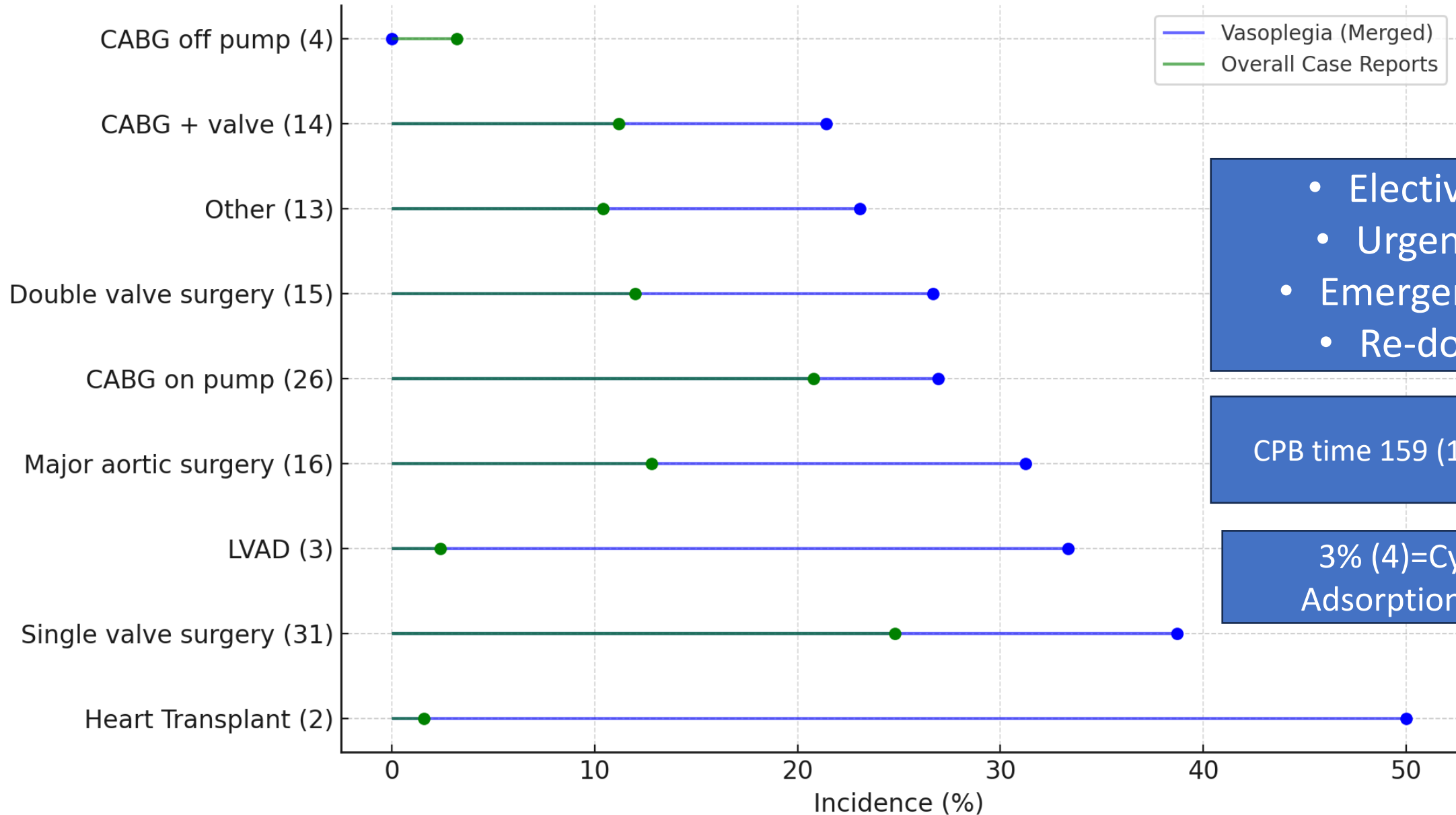


2 1,6%

Surgical Characteristics



Vasoplegia vs. Overall Case Report Incidence by Surgical Procedure



- Elective 41%
- Urgent 47%
- Emergency 11%
- Re-do 6.4%

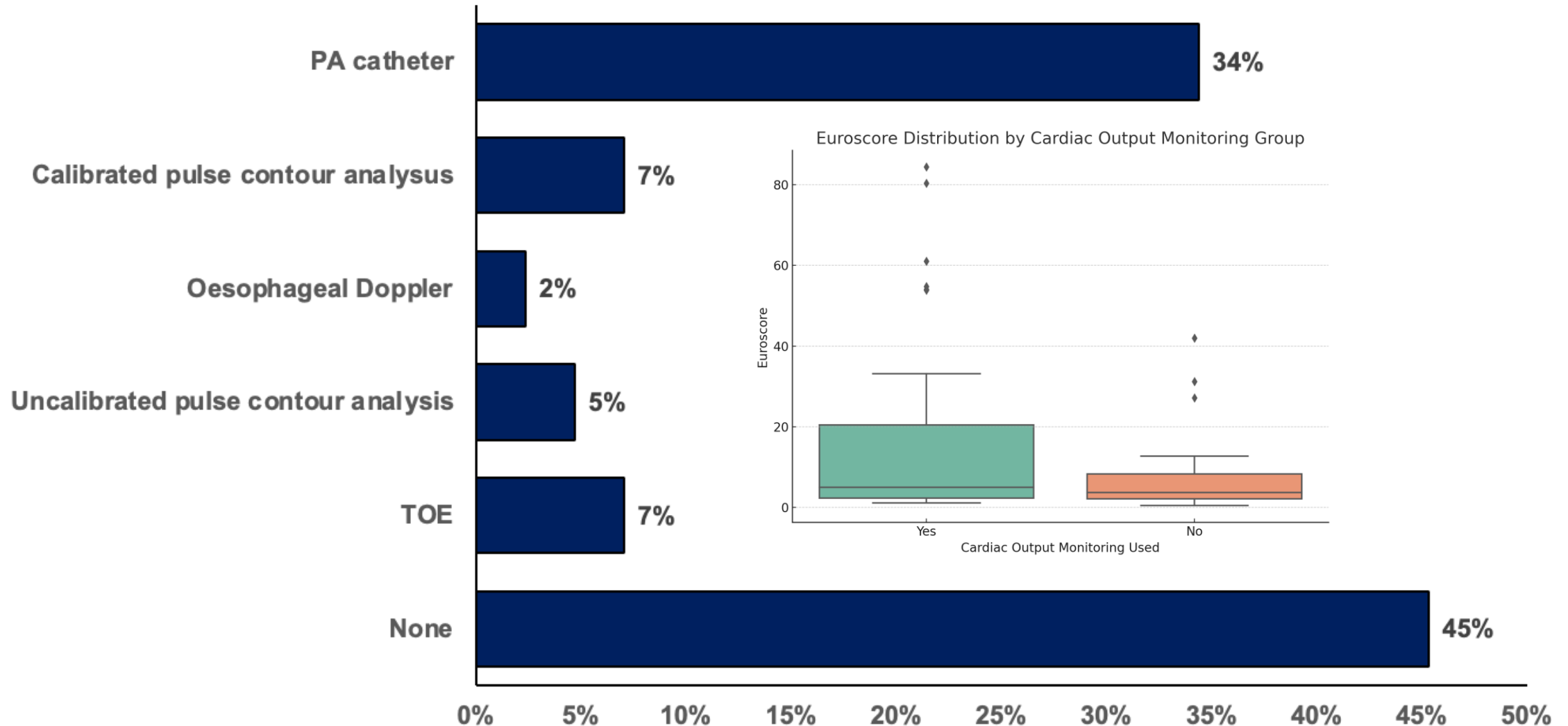
CPB time 159 (108-230) min

3% (4)=Cytokine
Adsorption on CPB

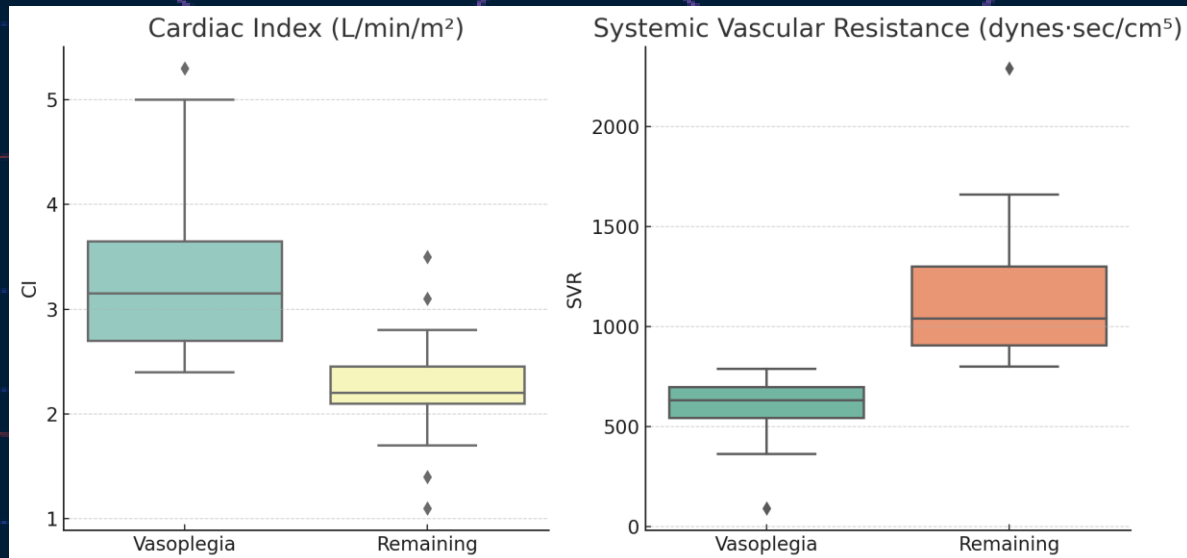
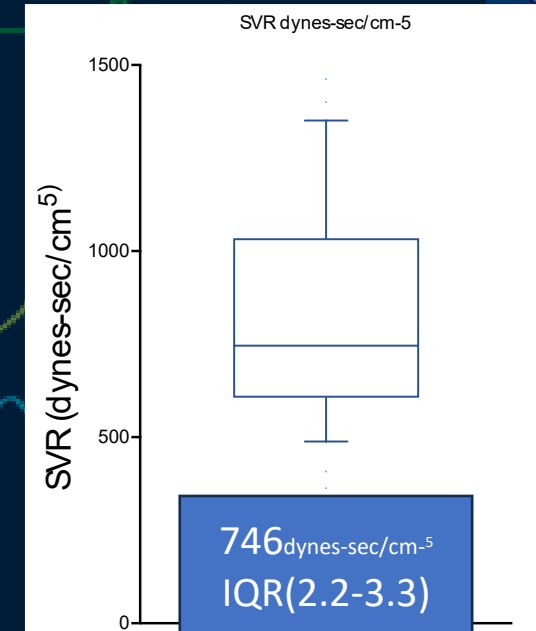
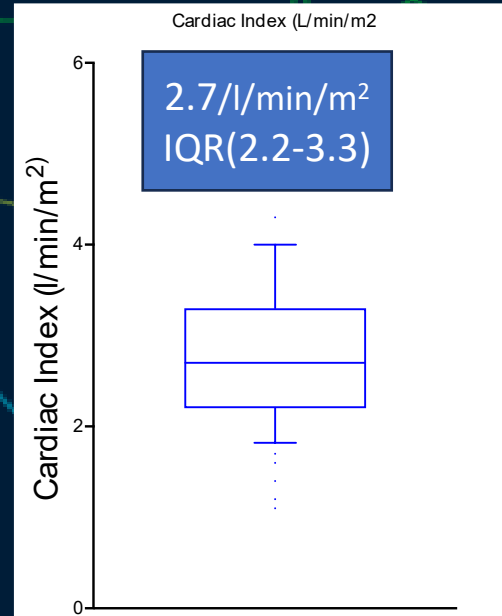
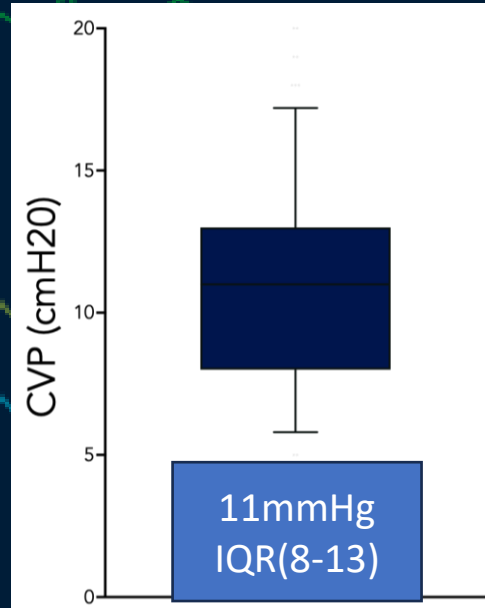
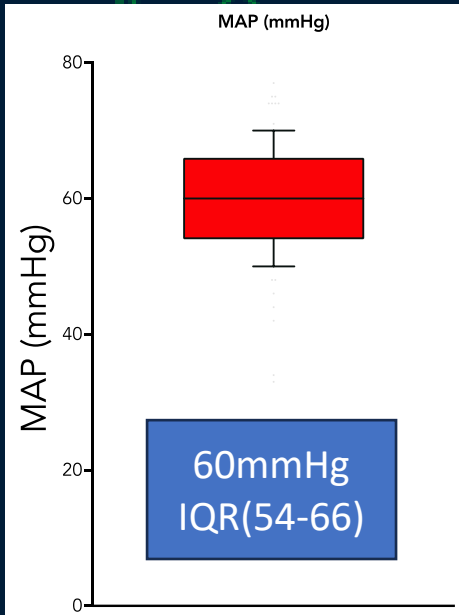
CO monitor used in 56%



CO Monitoring Used



Physiological Parameters



CH1:Art

CH2:Cvp

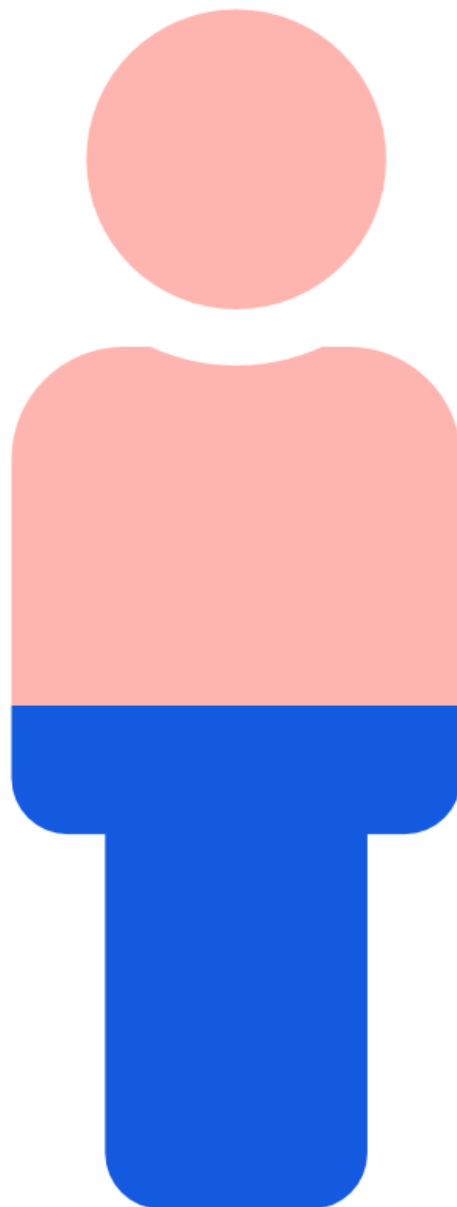
Vasodilated to
touch

- Vasoplegia
Cohort: 90%
Remaining: 58%

Remaining Cohort

CRT <2s

41.9%



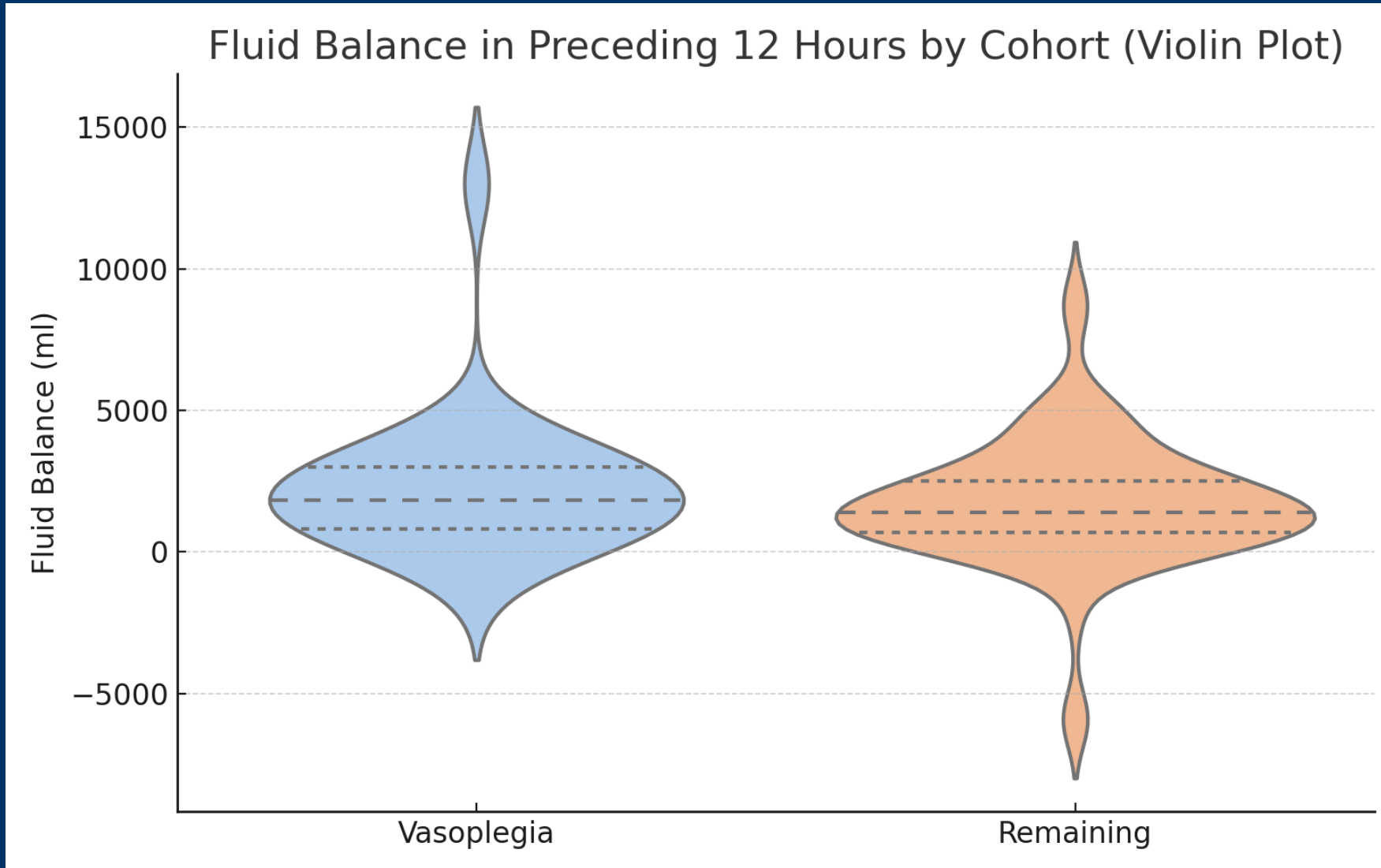
Vasoplegia Cohort

CRT <2s

10%



Fluid Balance on trigger



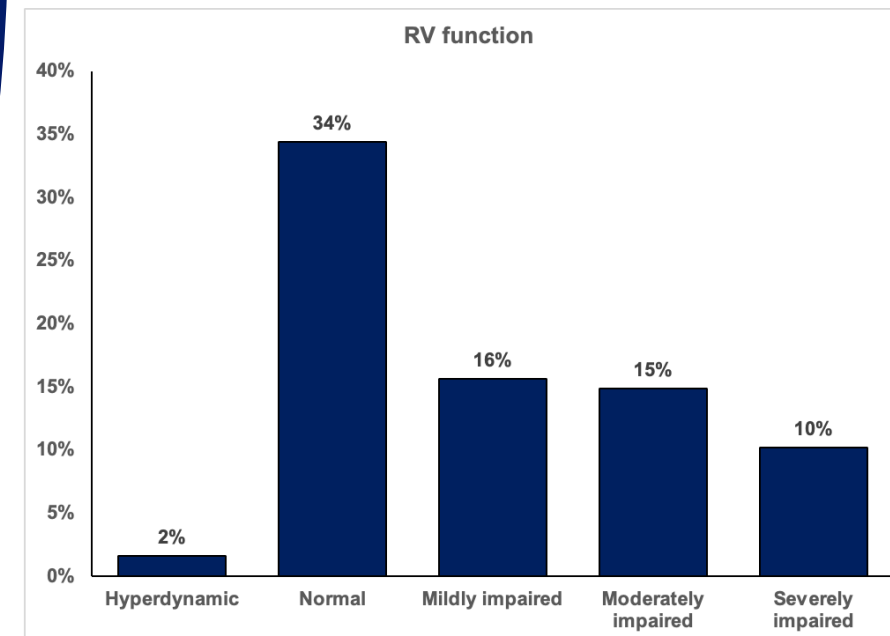
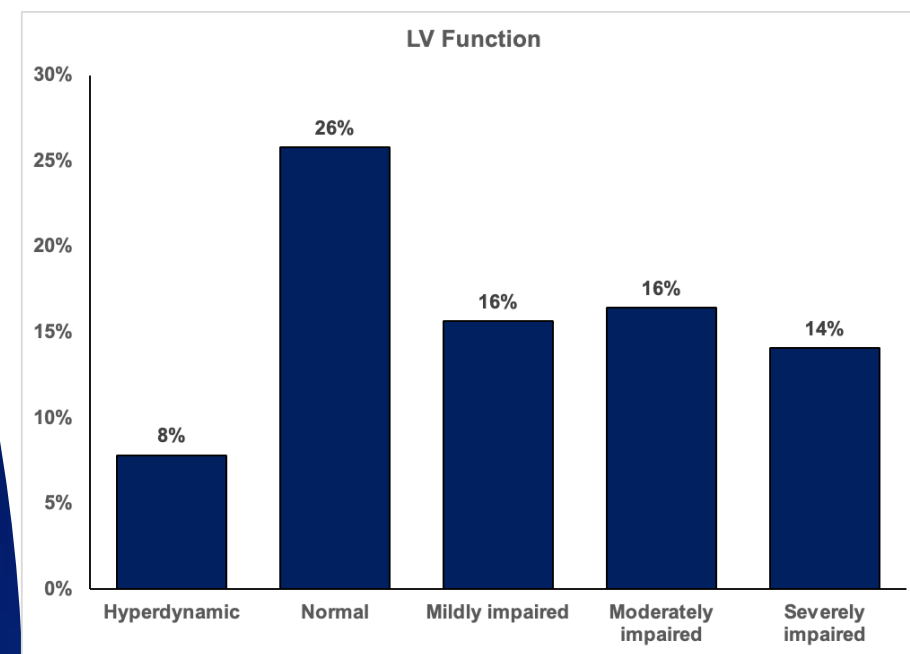
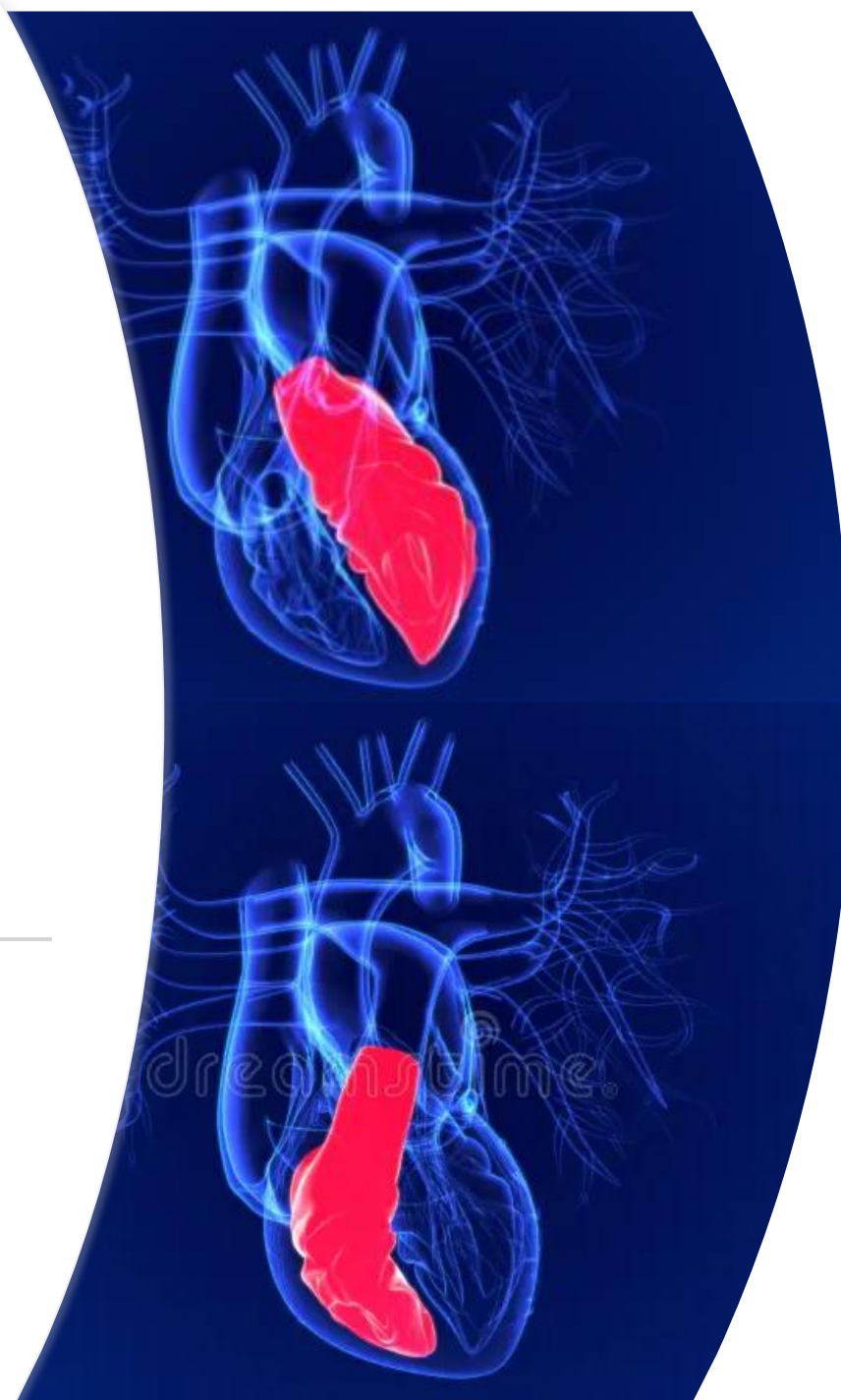
Median Volumes

Overall
1430ml (720-2978)
Vasoplegia: 1836(800-3000)

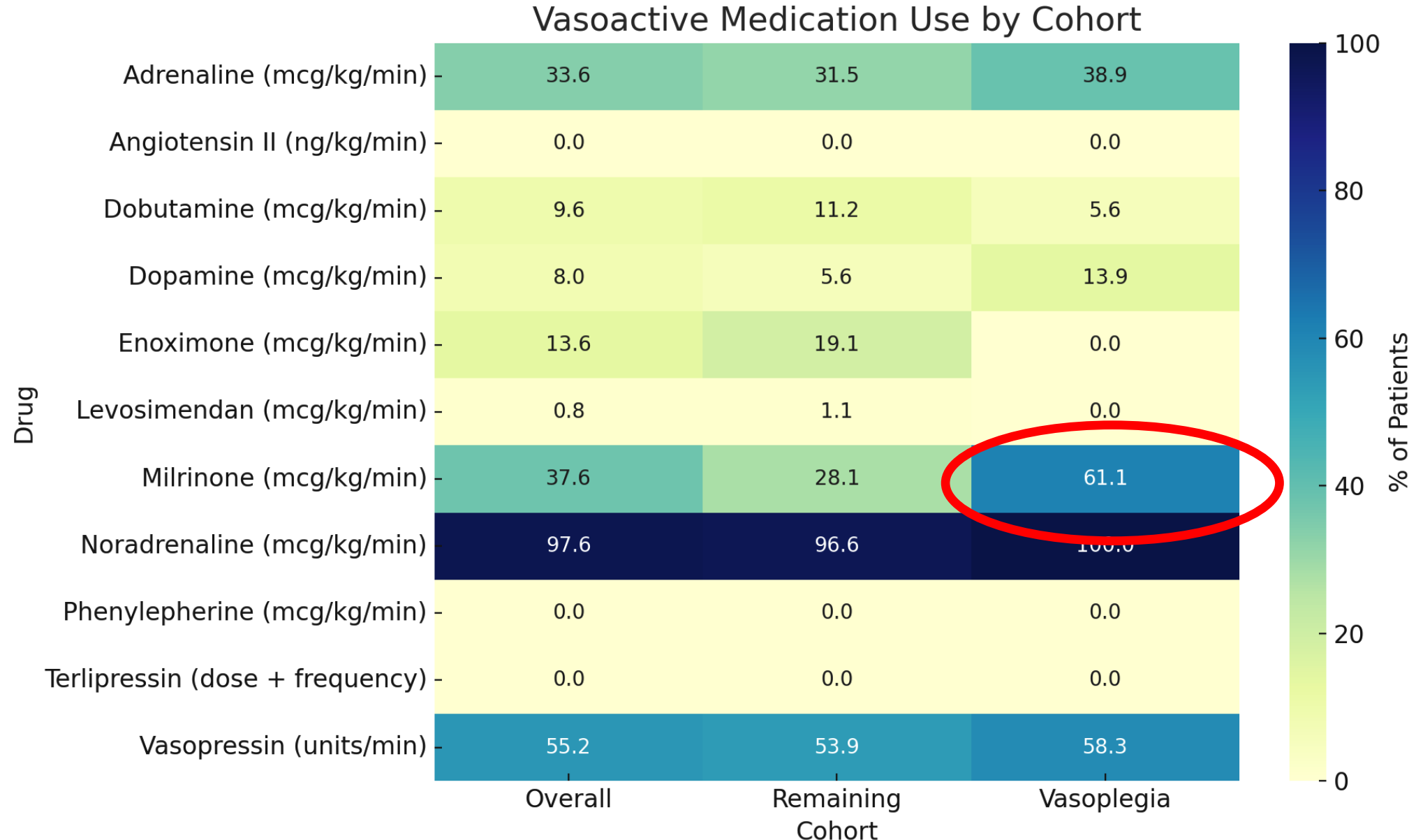
Remaining:
1402 (681-2500)



TOE examination

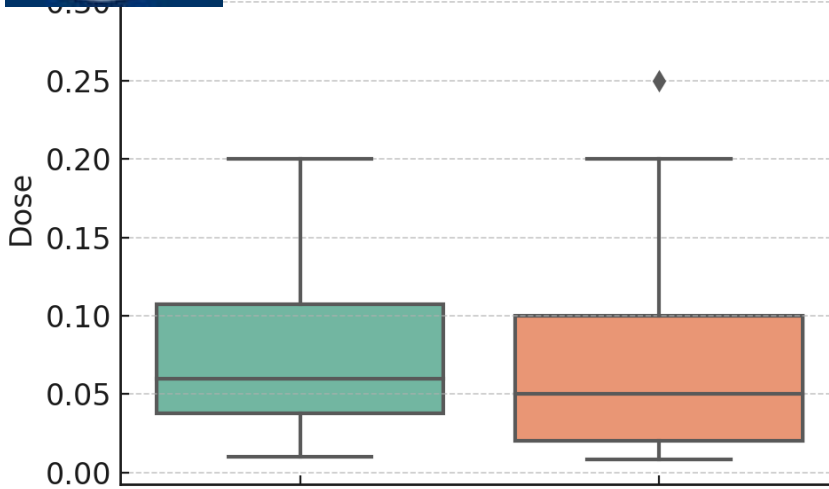


Pharmacological Support

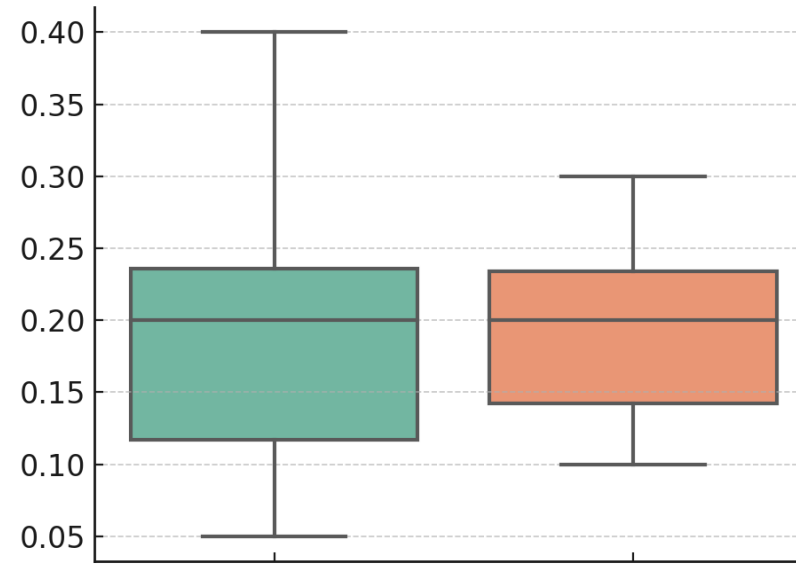




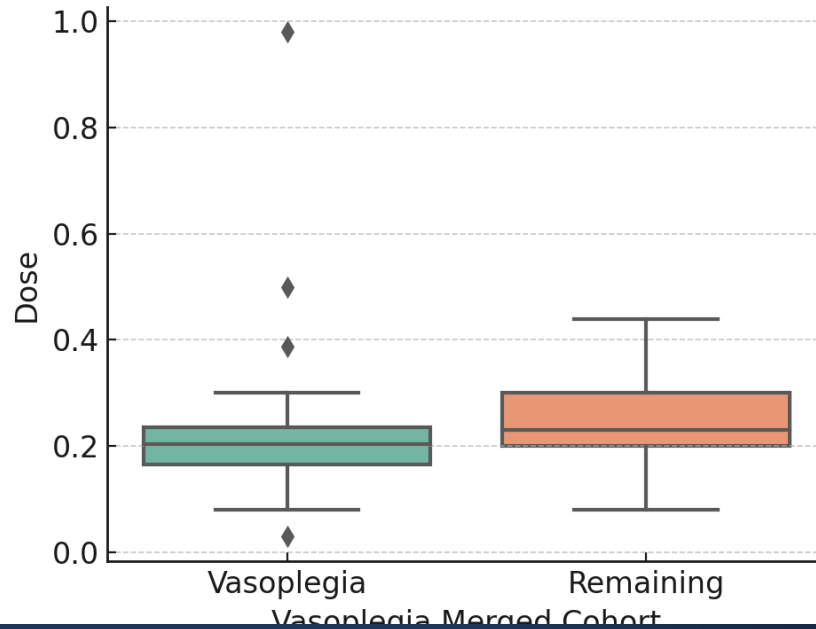
Drug = Adrenaline (mcg/kg/min)



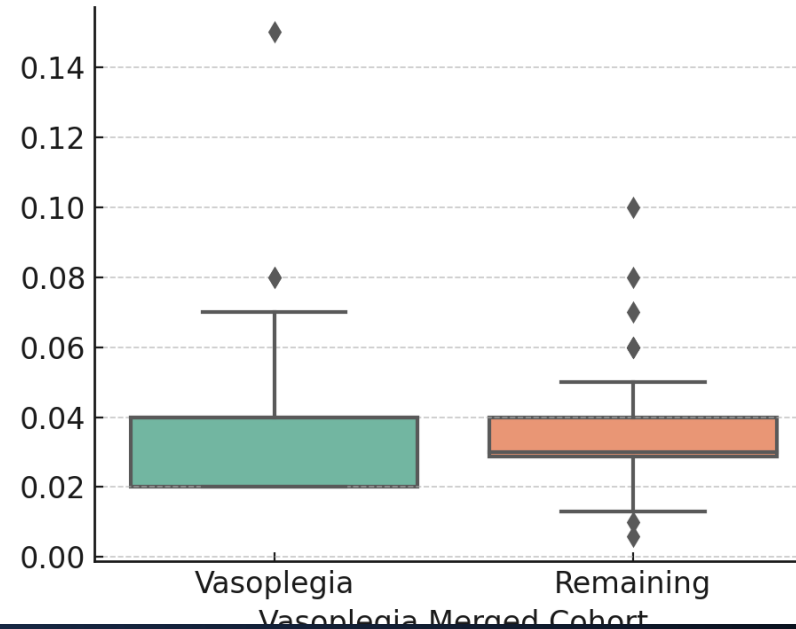
Drug = Milrinone (mcg/kg/min)



Drug = Noradrenaline (mcg/kg/min)



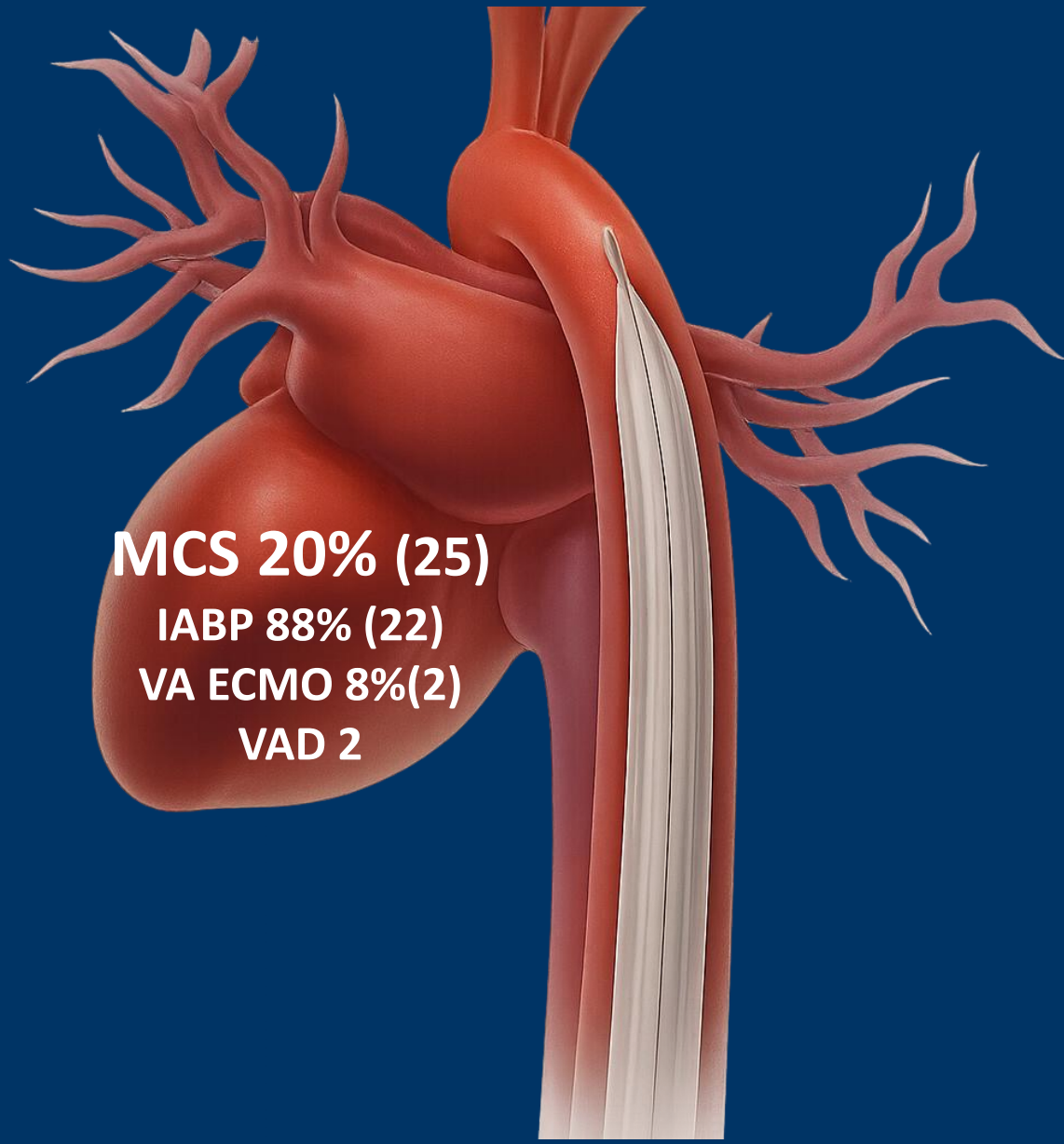
Drug = Vasopressin (units/min)



Pharmacological Support

- Noradrenaline
mcg/kg/min: 0.22
(0.19-0.29)
- Adrenaline
mcg/kg/min: 0.05
(0.02-0.1)
- Vasopressin units/min:
0.03 (0.025-0.04)
- Milrinone mcg/kg/min:
0.2 (0.1-0.23)

Other support @ Trigger



MCS 20% (25)

IABP 88% (22)

VA ECMO 8%(2)

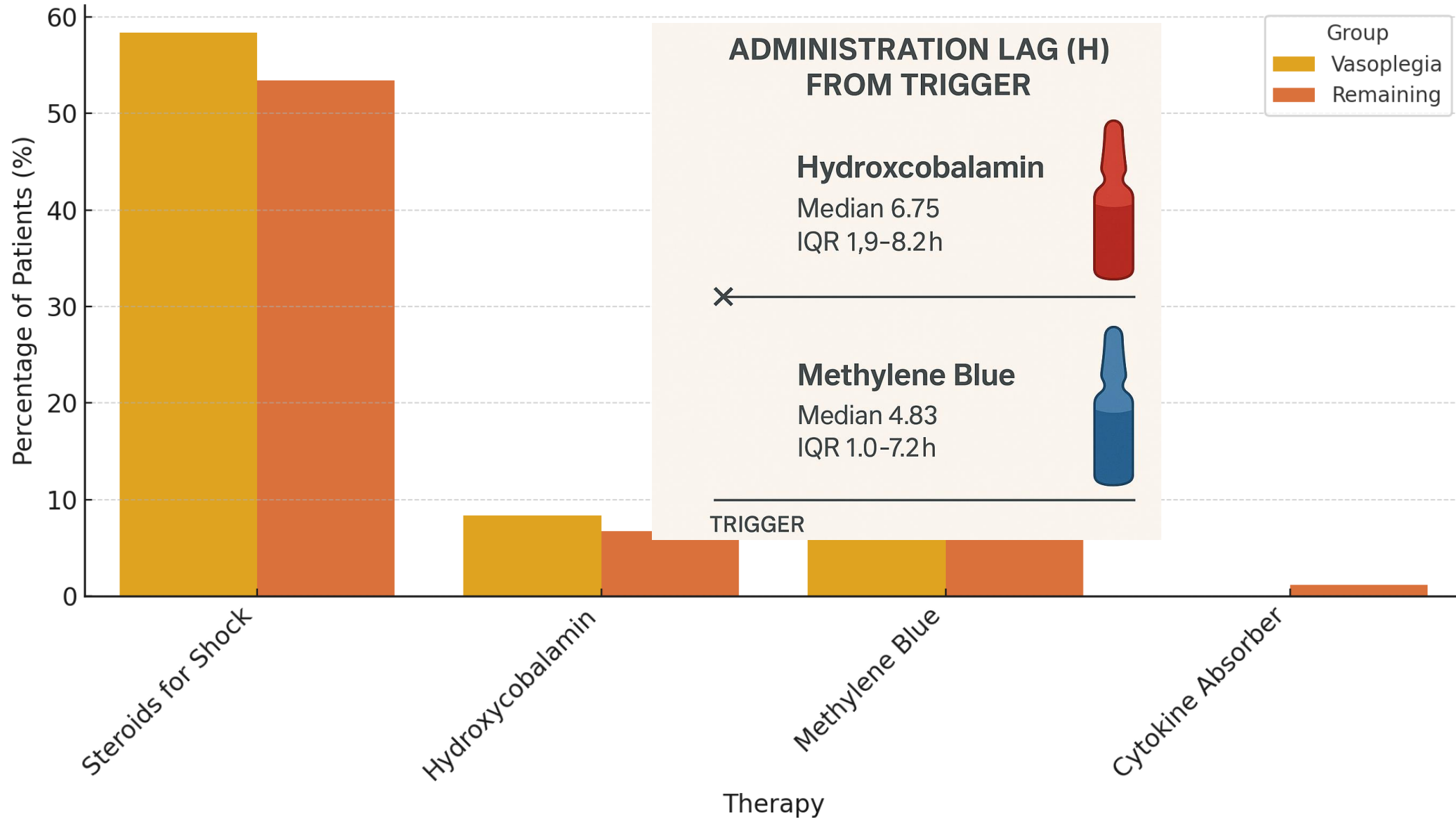
VAD 2



Steroid and Rescue Therapies



Use of Rescue Therapies by Cohort



Potential Vasodilators

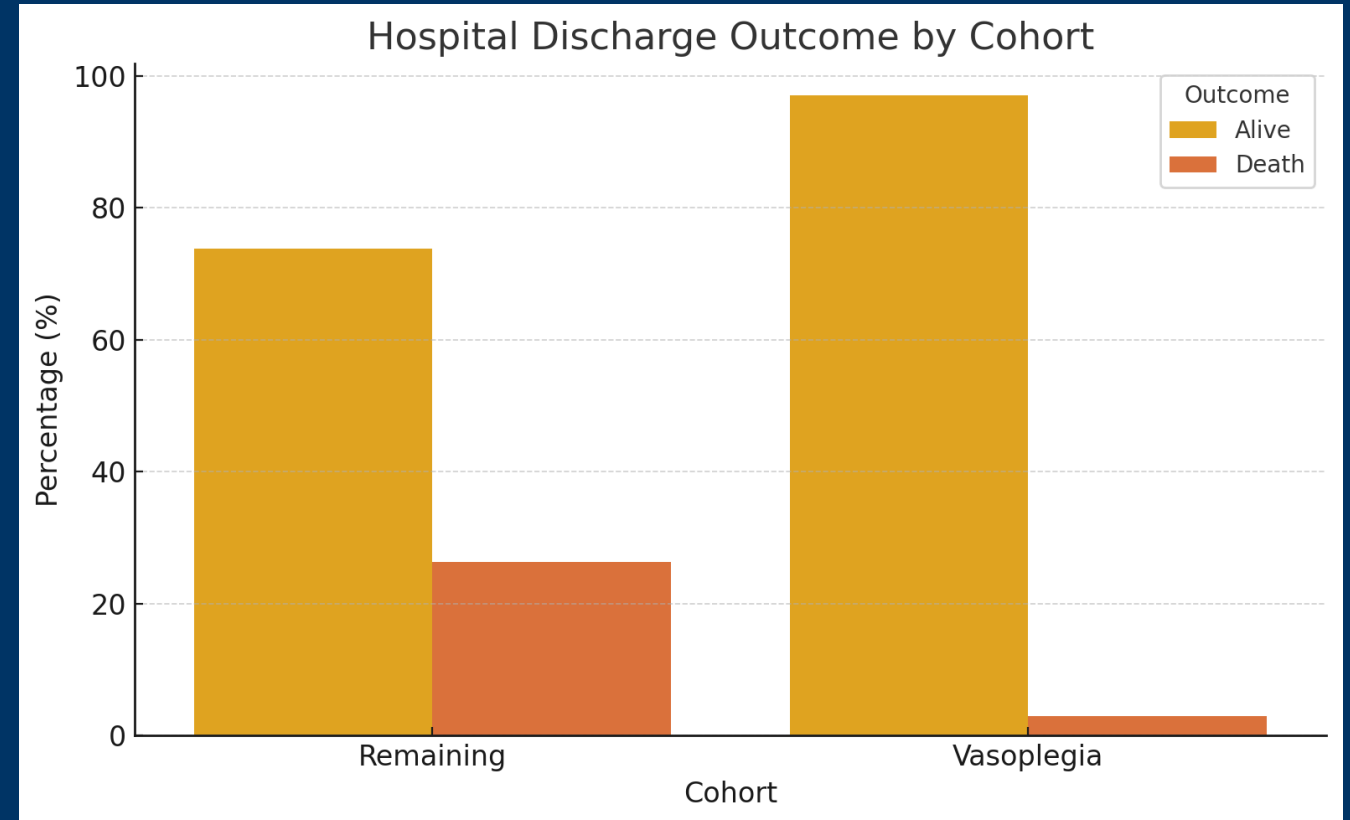
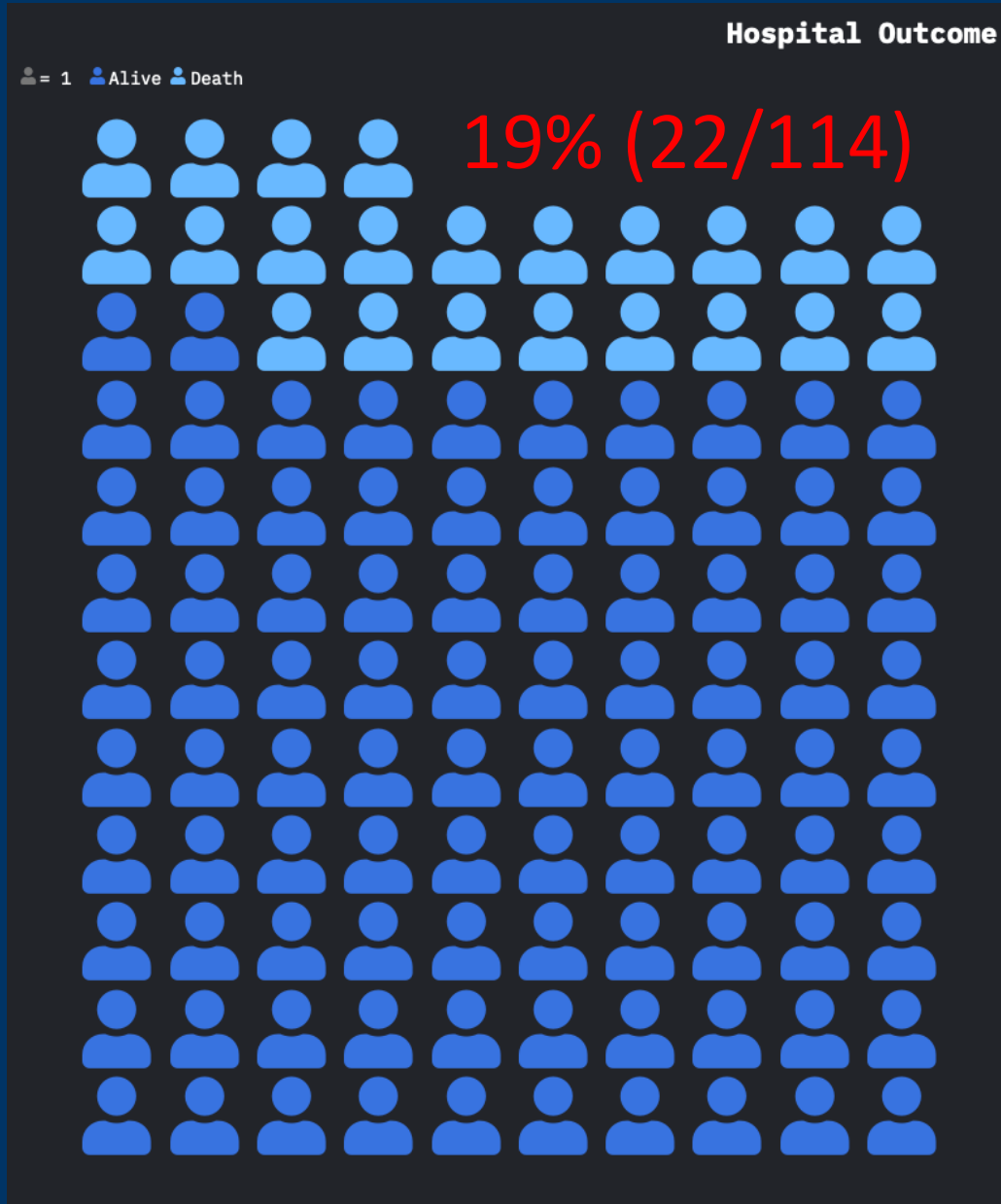


NO 9.6% (12)
Prostacyclin 0.8% (1)



Amiodarone 8% (11)

Patient Outcomes



ICU Mortality 17.6%
(22/125)

ICU LOS Median 6 (4-16)
Hospital LOS 13 (8-27)



Limitations

Selection bias

- inclusion based on vasopressor thresholds and rescue therapy
- No control group by design (Audit)

Definitions of Vasoplegia
highly dependent on
monitoring

Designed as snapshot
audit (short window)

No adjustment for
confounding (no
multivariate)

May be missing mixed
shock states



Conclusions

Vasoplegia rates compatible with wider literature 5%-20% or Higher Risk groups (30-50%)

Diagnosis linked to monitoring but clinical signs may help

Most cases triggered by vasopressor criteria/ Rescue therapy is rare

Inclusion criteria identified a high risk cohort (17-19% Mortality)

CAPTIVE
Cardiogenic Shock(MCS) +
Vasoplegia



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Thank you

*Special thank you to all contributors
to the audit and the ACTACC
linkperson network*