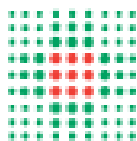


# Multimorbilità e Fragilità nell'Anziano

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Dipartimento Medico ad Attività Integrata – OSPFE



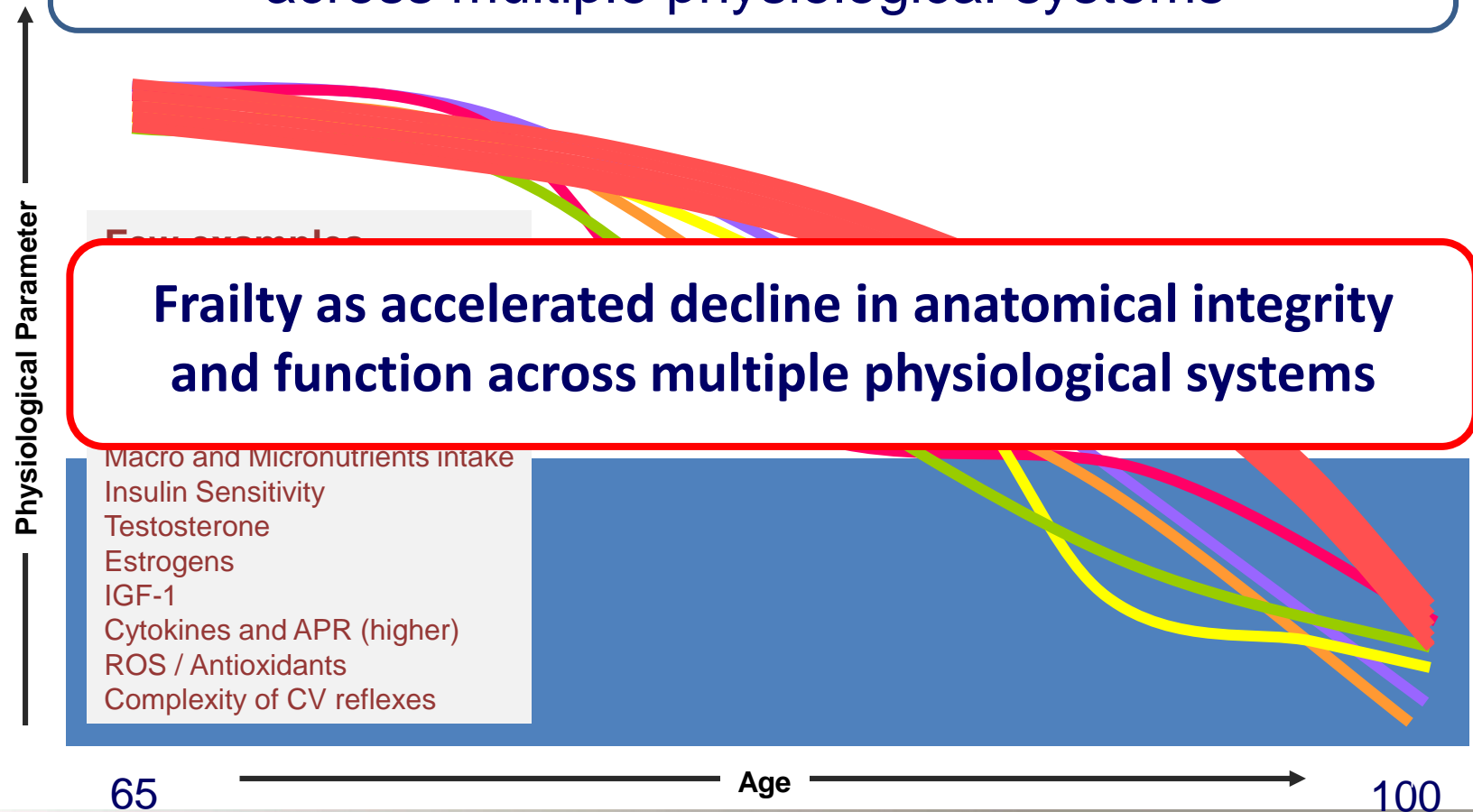
SERVIZIO SANITARIO REGIONALE  
EMILIA-ROMAGNA  
Azienda Ospedaliero - Universitaria di Ferrara



Università di Ferrara  
- ex labore fructus -

# Aging, homeostatic mechanisms, and function

Progressive decline in anatomical integrity and function across multiple physiological systems

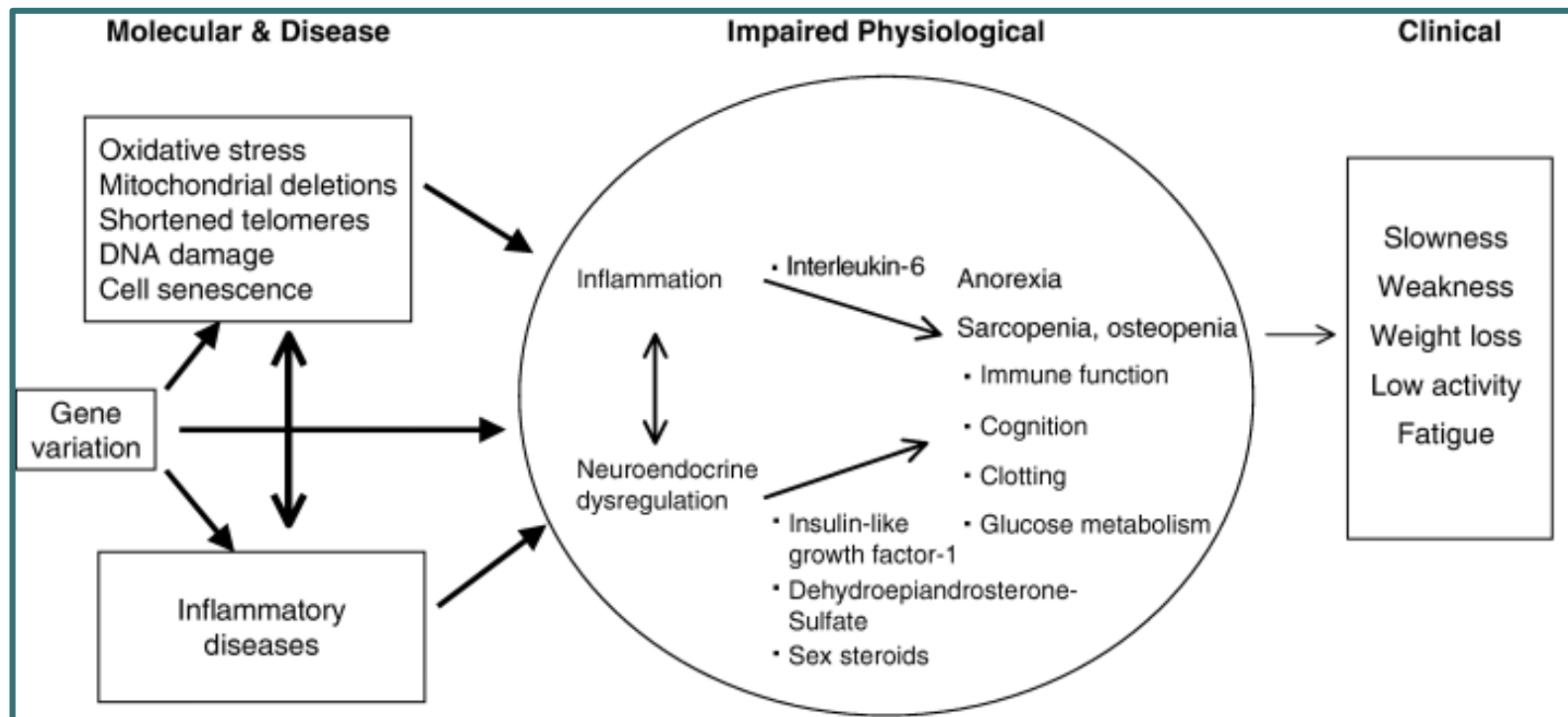


# What is Frailty?

## Frailty Consensus: A Call to Action

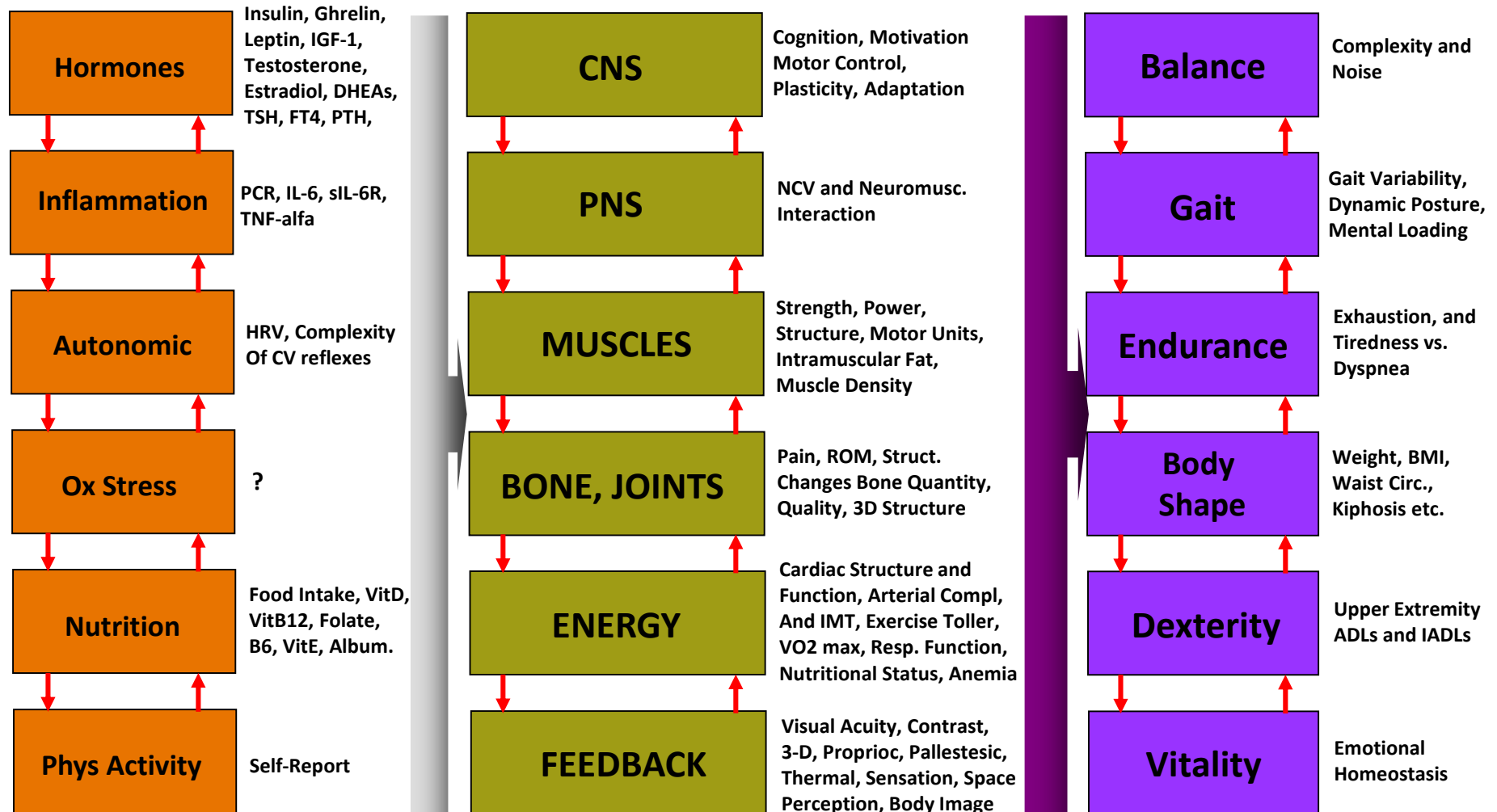
- A medical syndrome with multiple causes and contributors that is characterized by diminished strength, endurance, and reduced physiologic function that increases an individual's vulnerability for developing increased dependency and/or death
- Frailty can occur as the result of a range of diseases and medical conditions
- It is different from disability

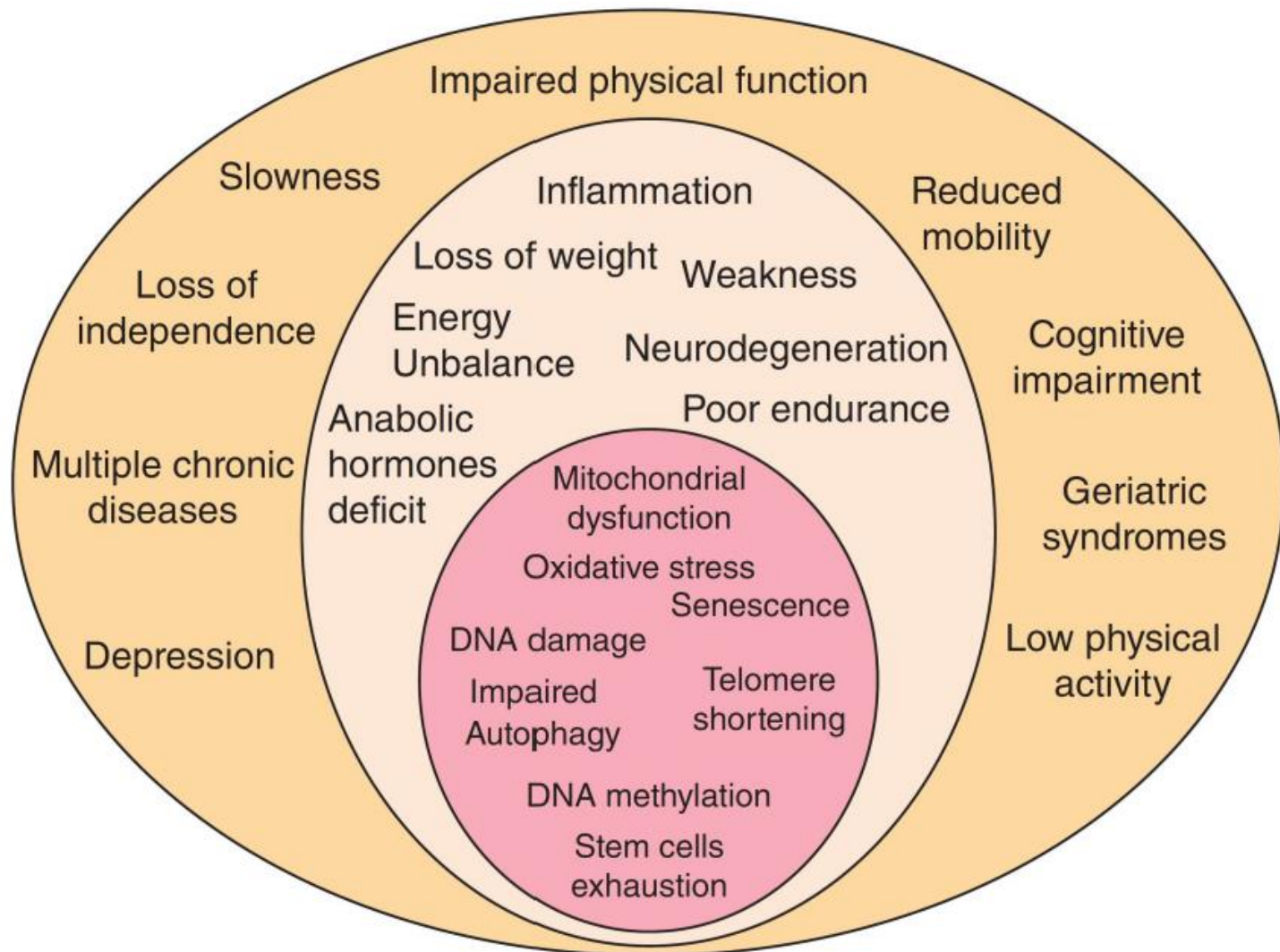
## Toward a Better Understanding of Physiology and Etiology: Summary from the AGS/NIA Research Conference on Frailty



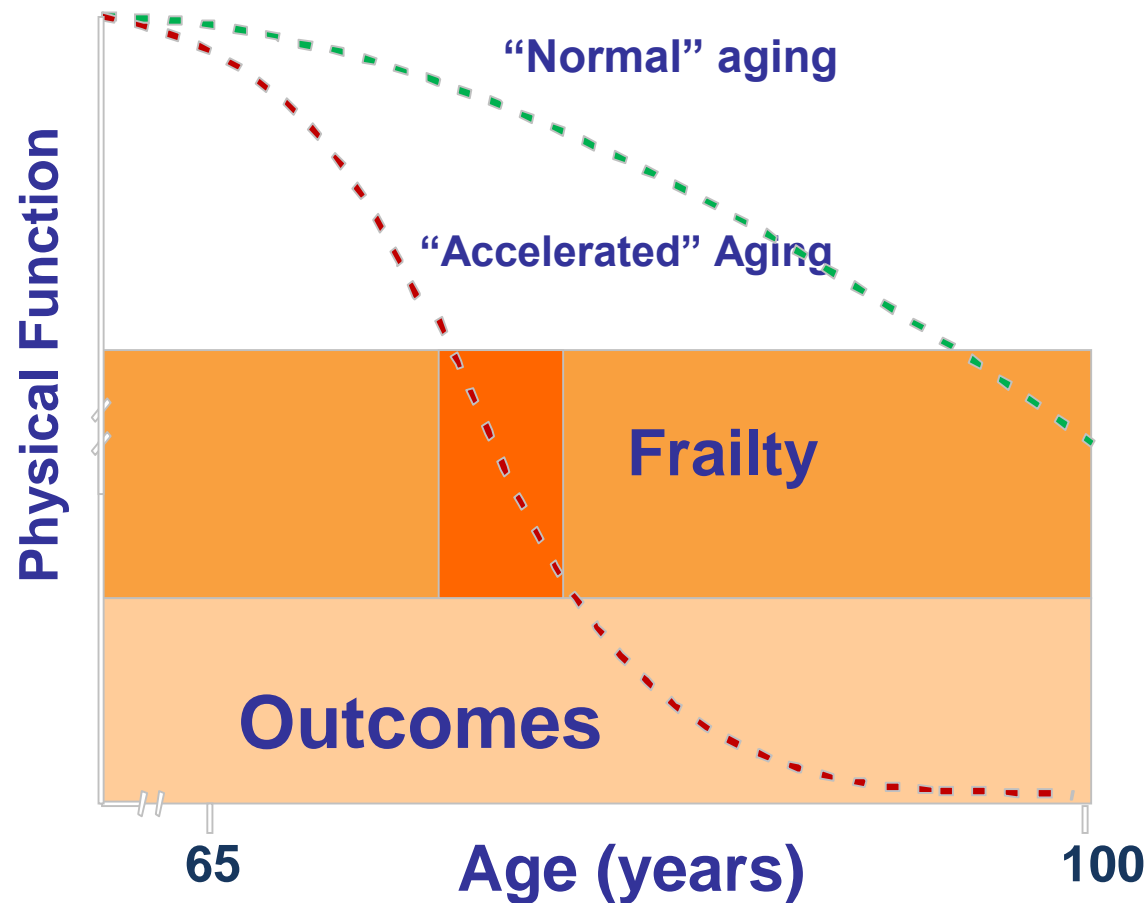
## FACING THE COMPLEXITY OF FRAILITY

### Multiple Levels of Measure and Interaction



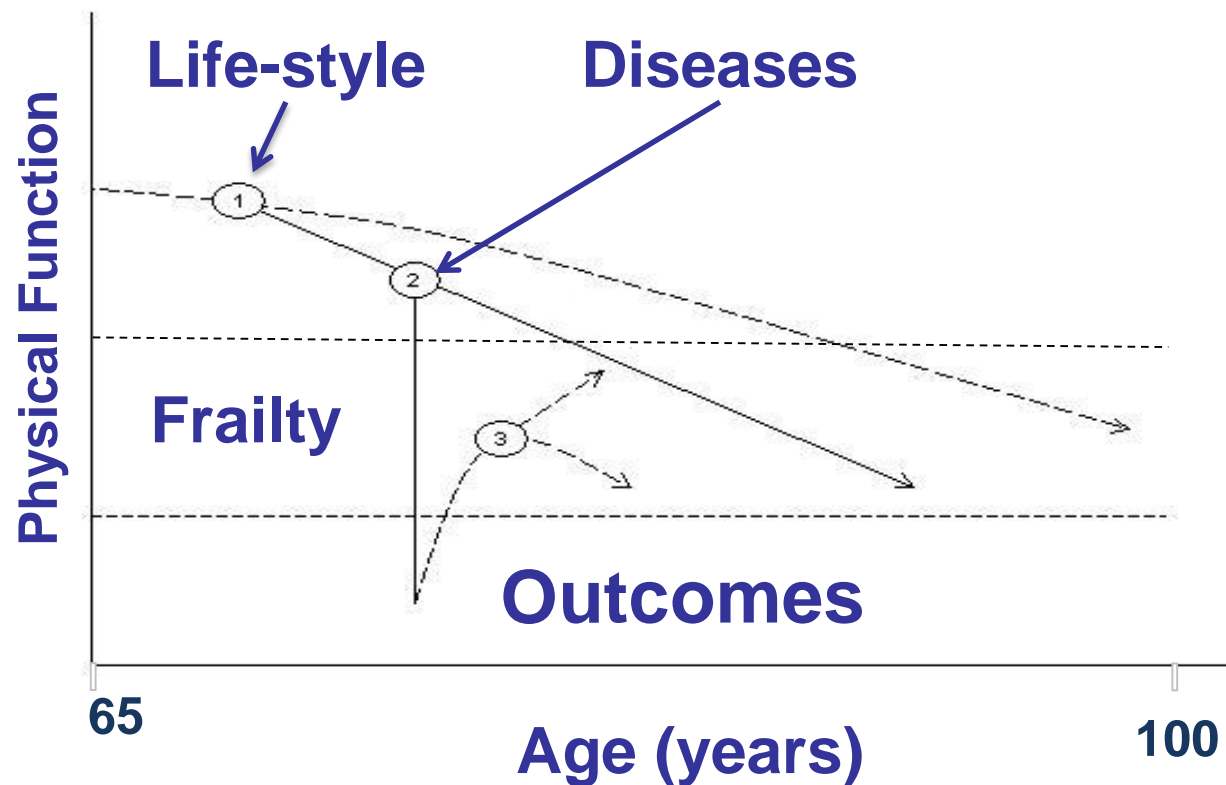


# Aging and Functional decline



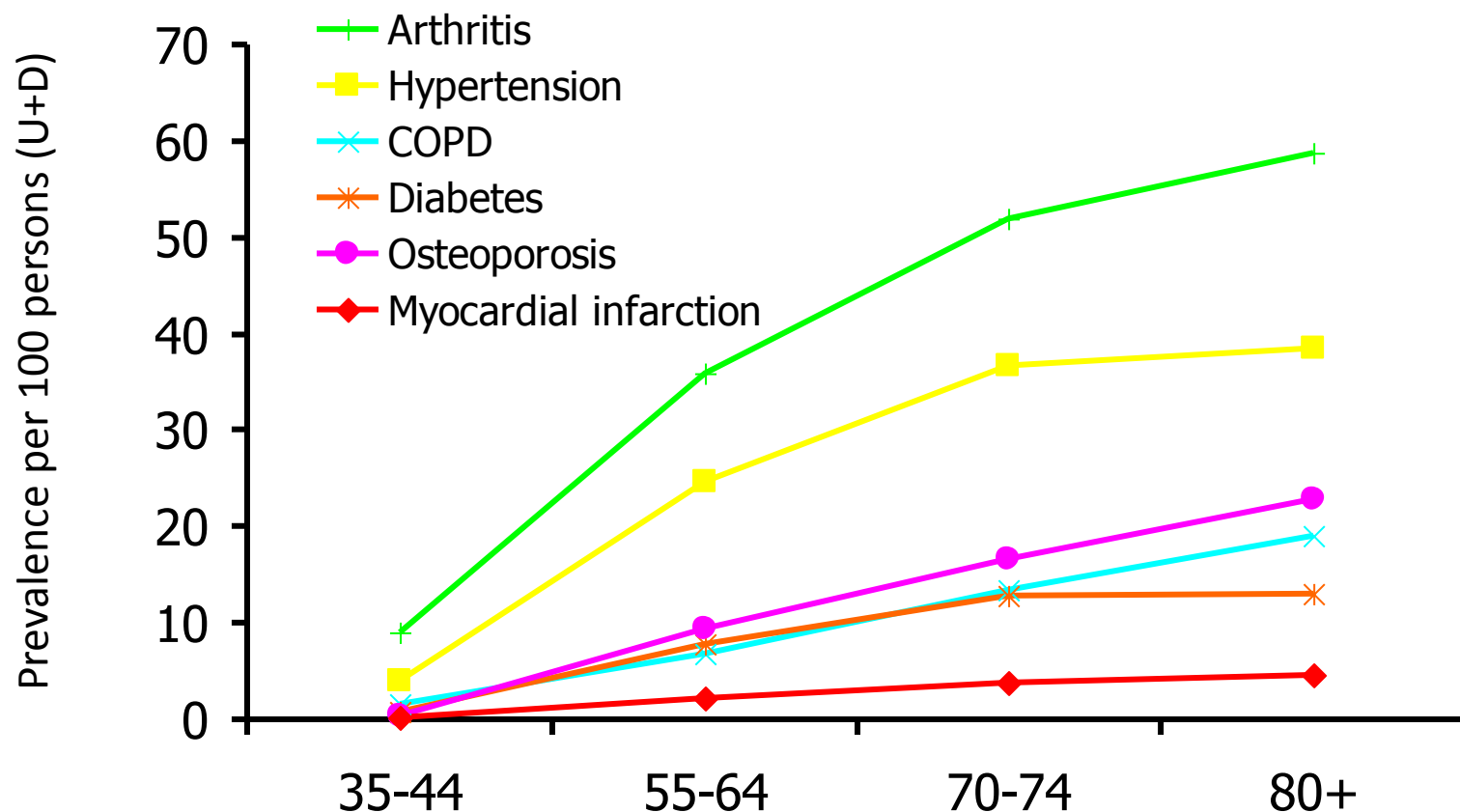


# Aging and Functional decline

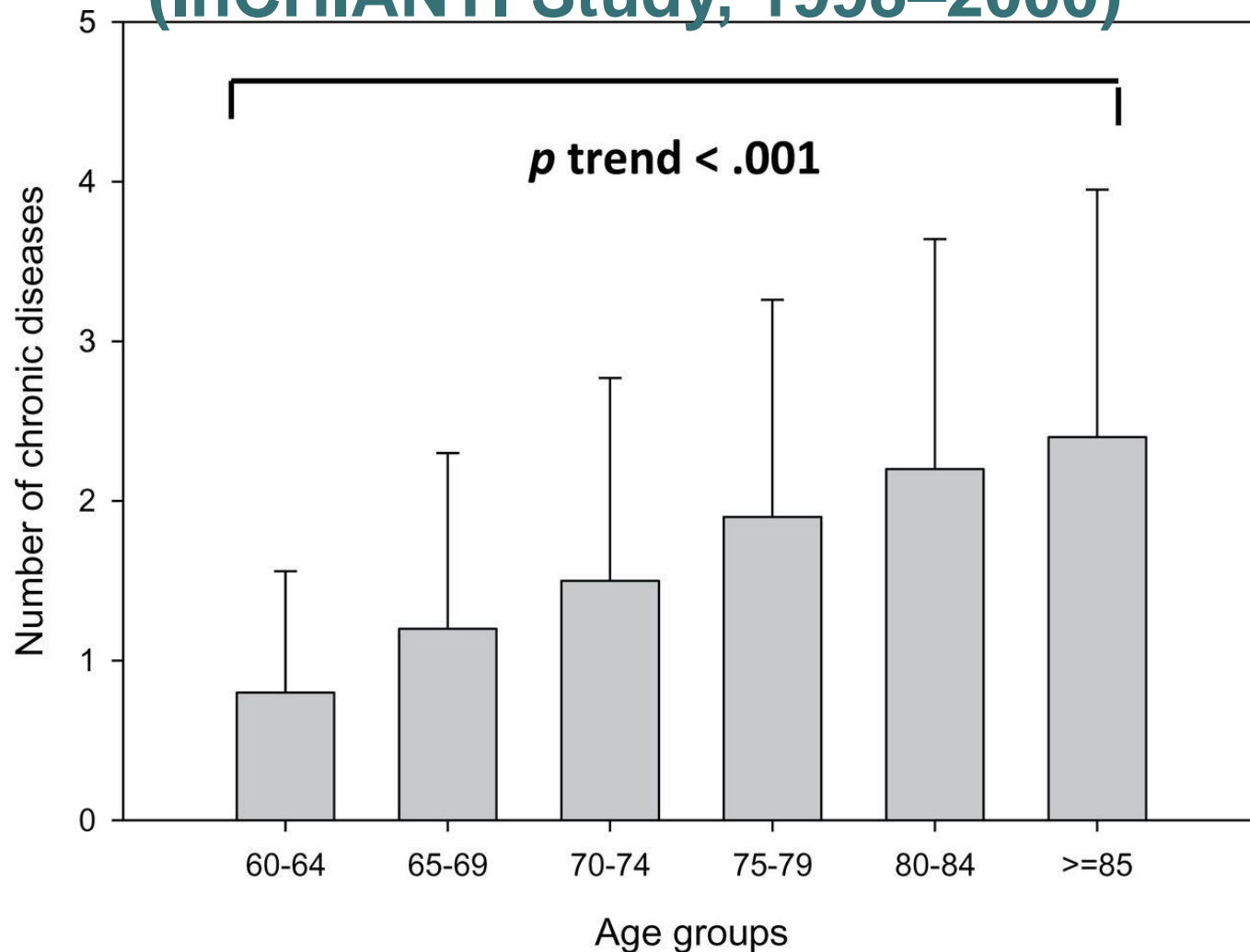




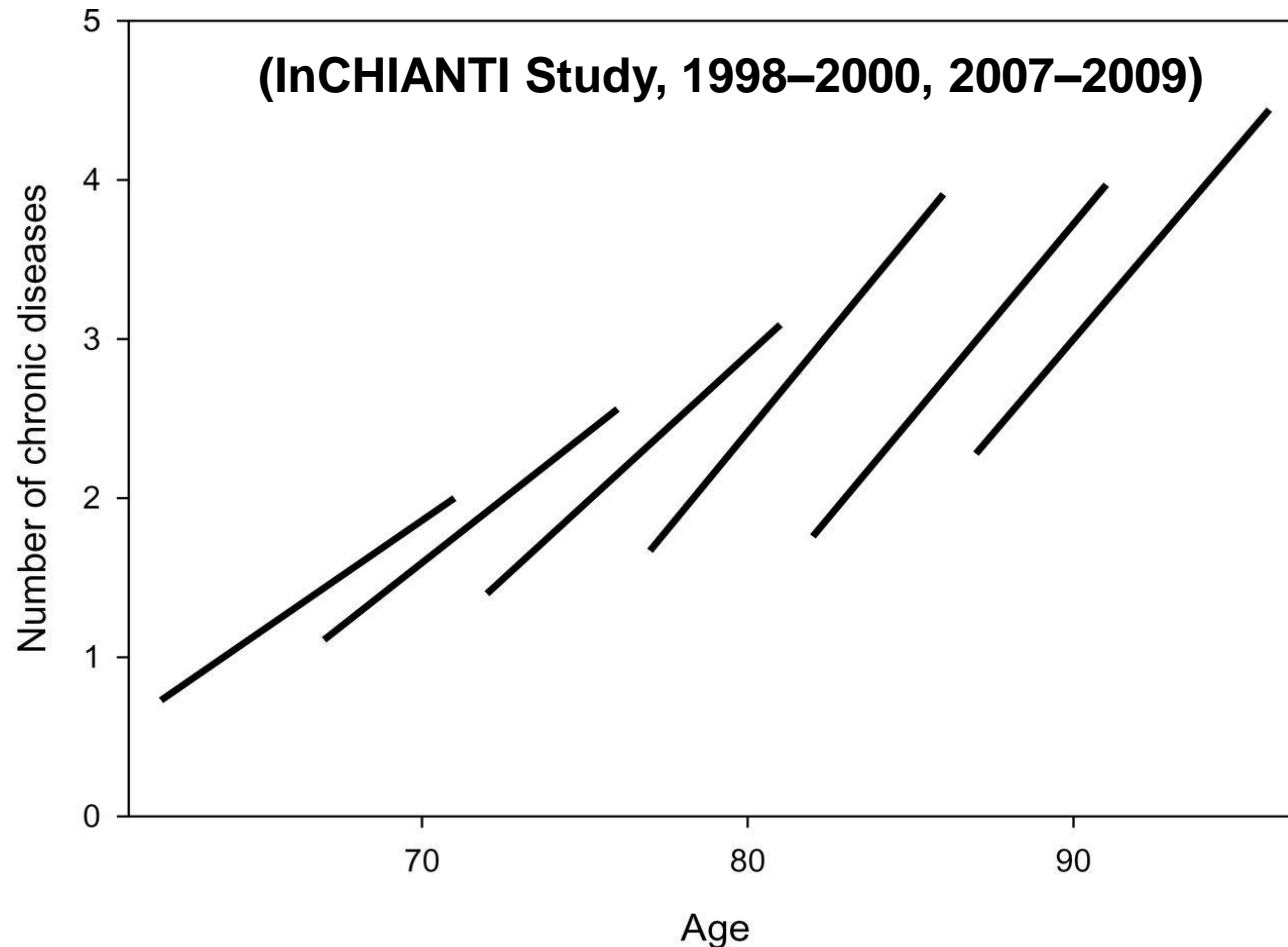
## Prevalence of Major Chronic Diseases According to Age, Italy



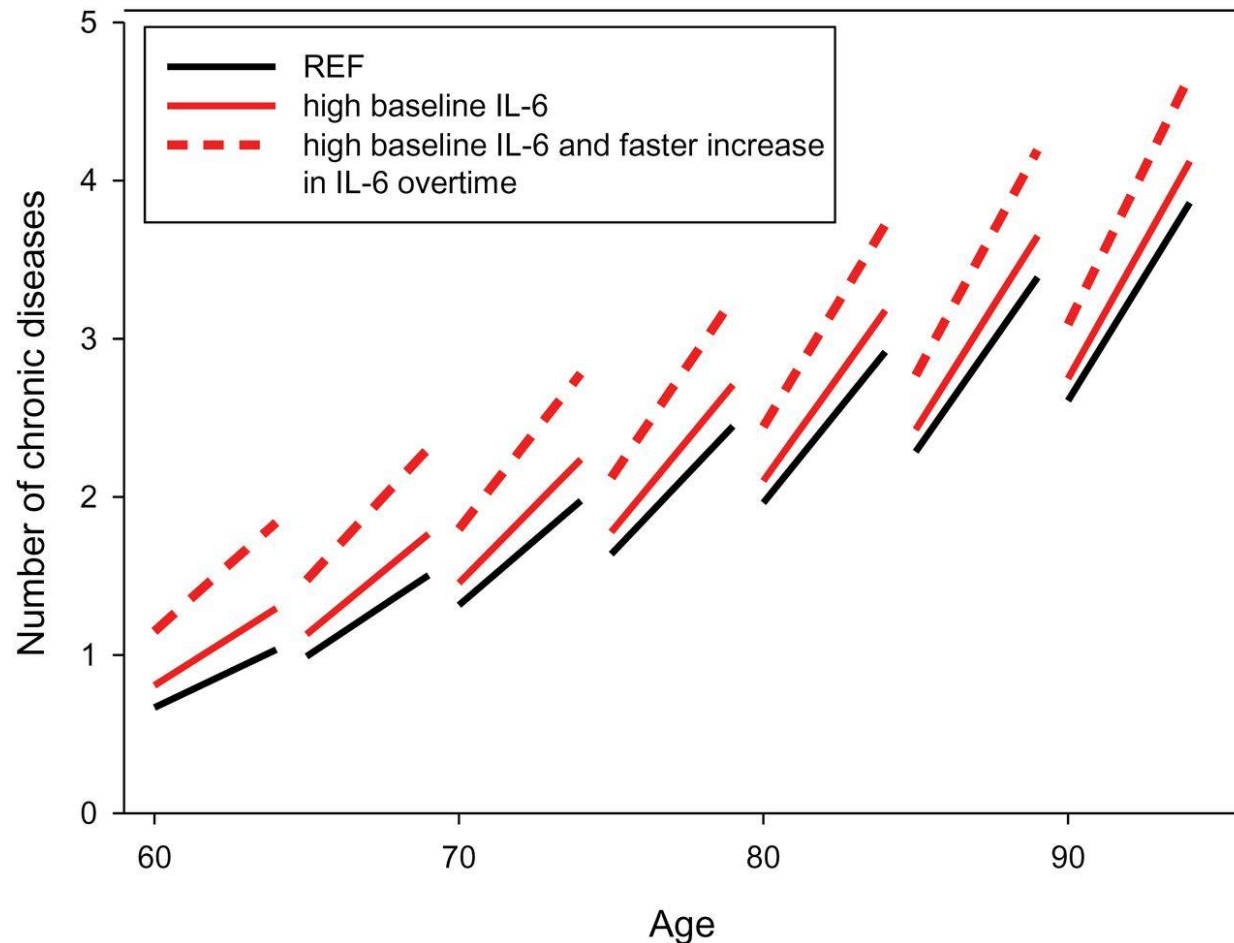
## Number of chronic diseases according to age (InCHIANTI Study, 1998–2000)



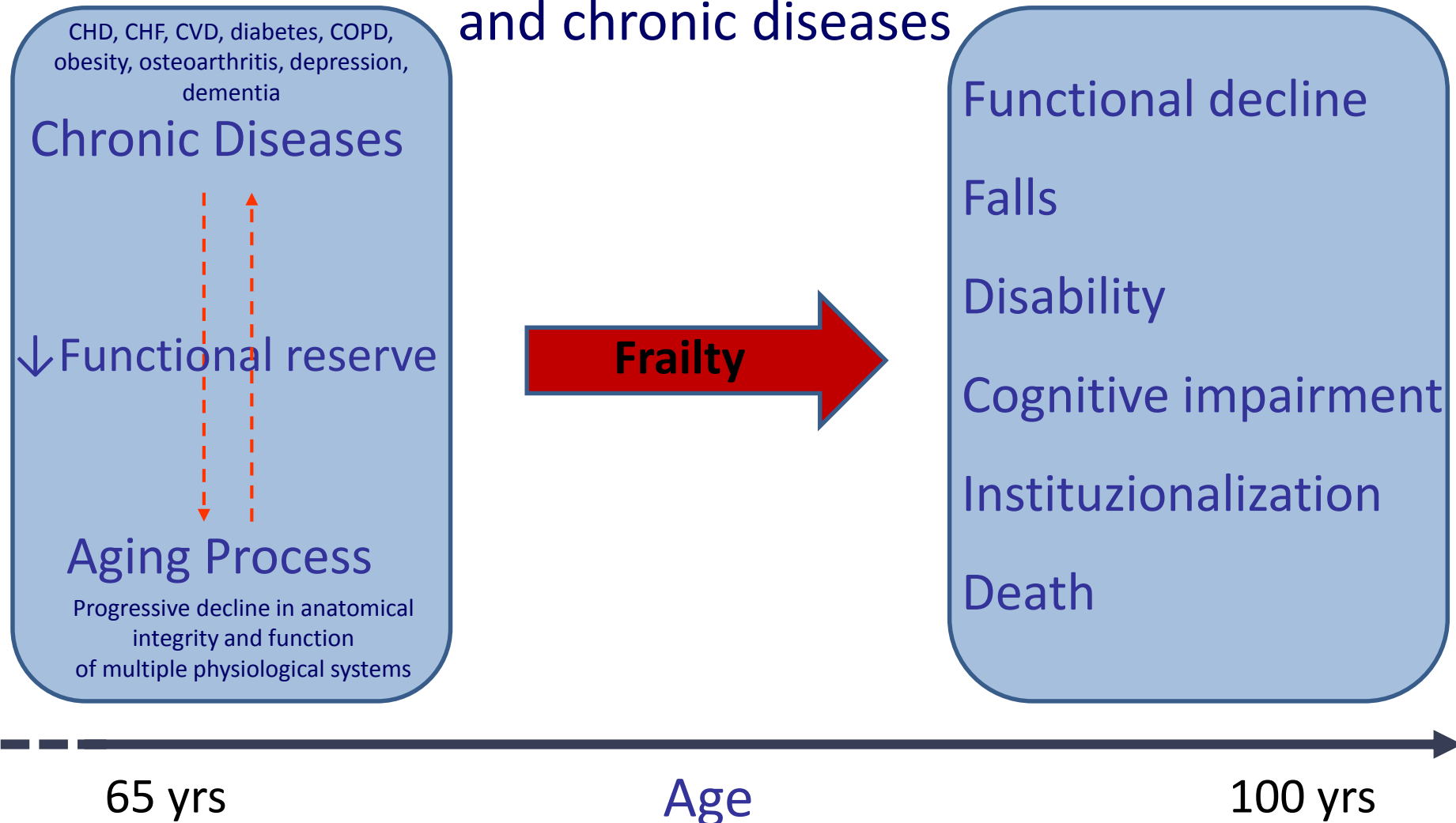
## Number of Chronic Diseases at Baseline and at 9-year follow-up and average trajectories of multimorbidity



## Trajectories of longitudinal increase in number of chronic diseases according to baseline values and rate of increase in IL-6 levels

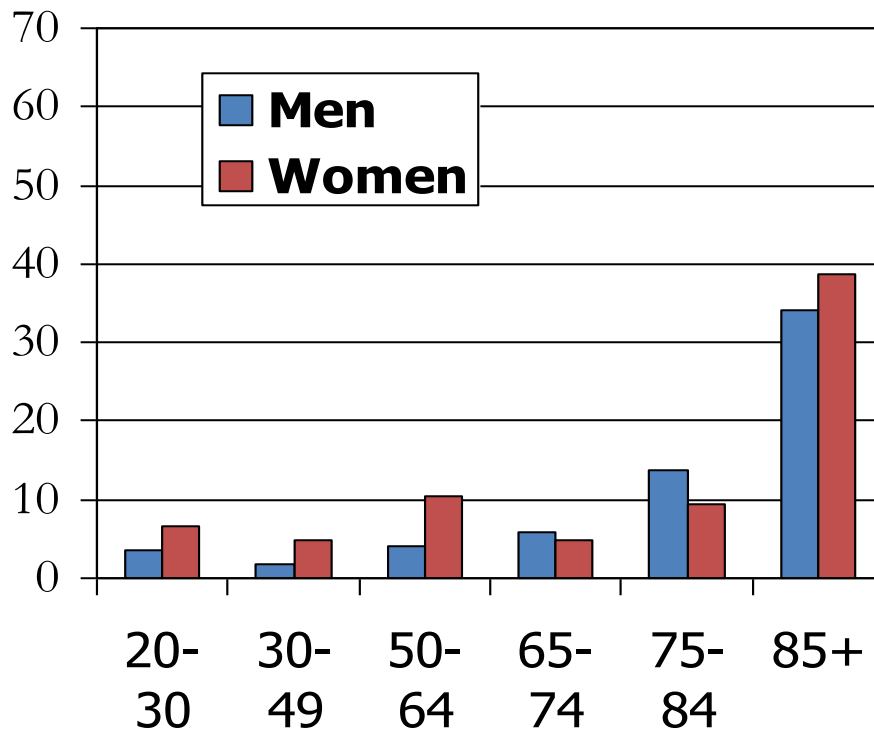


## Interactions between age-related changes and chronic diseases

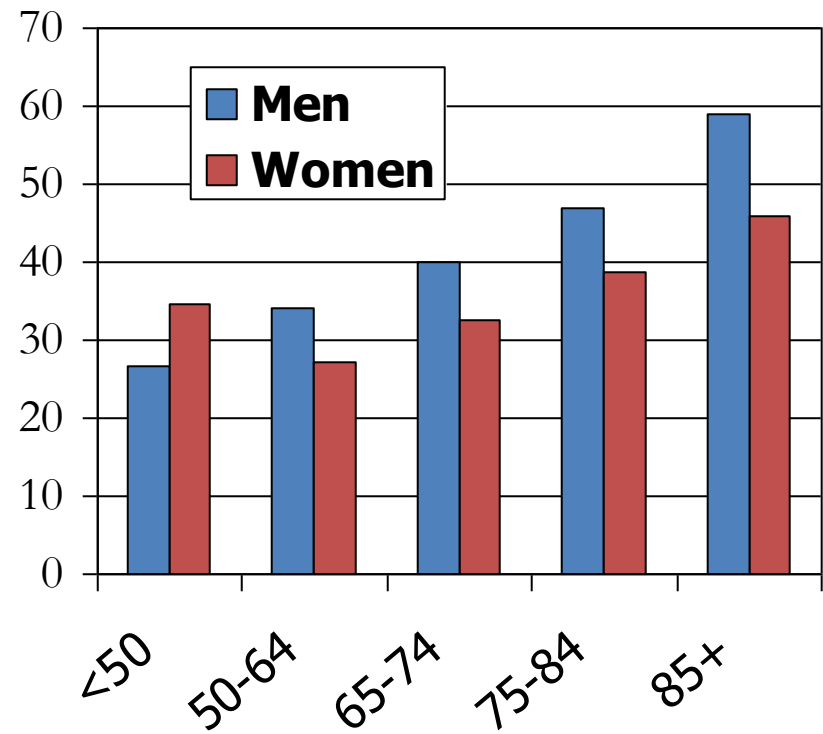


# Prevalence of anemia according to gender, age, and clinical setting

**InCHIANTI, ITALIA 1998**  
Community-dwelling



**GIFA, ITALIA 1998**  
Hospital, acute care

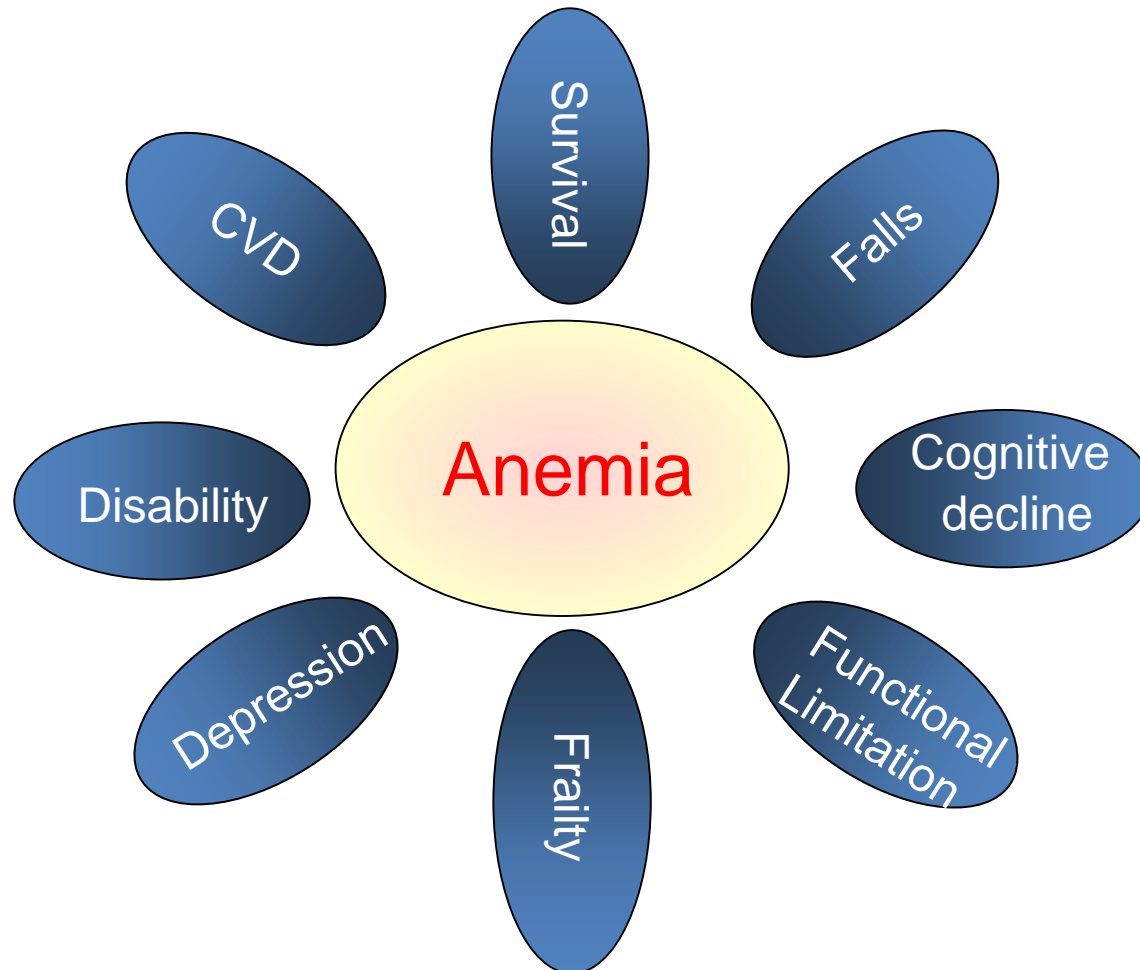


## Prognostic value of anemia in terms of disability and mortality in hospitalized geriatric patients: the CRIME study

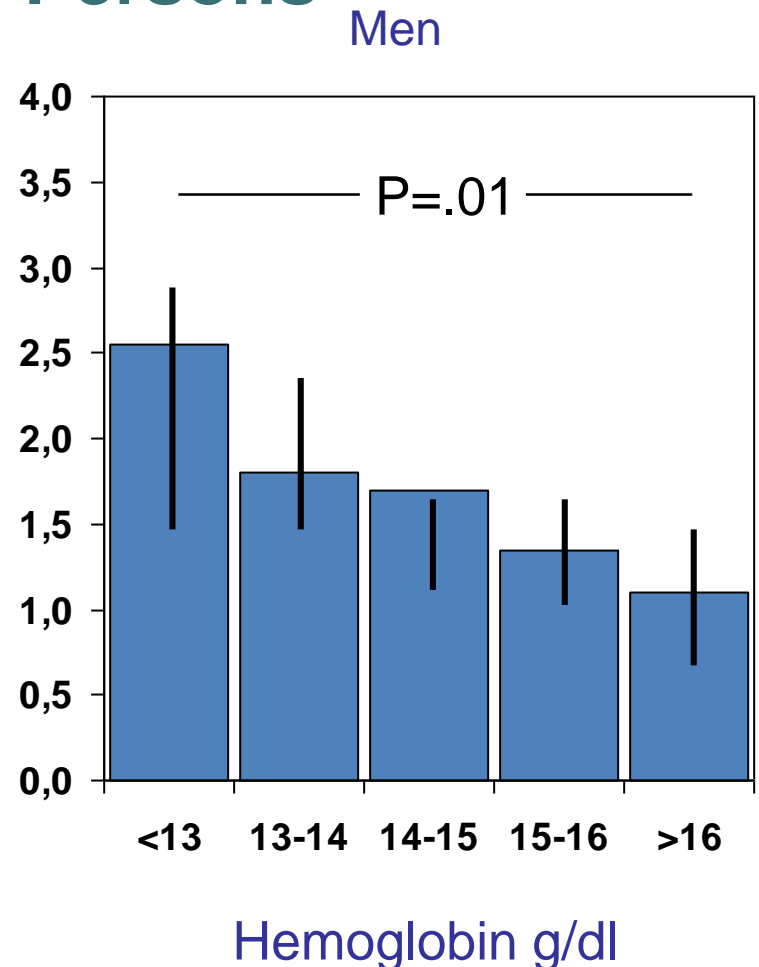
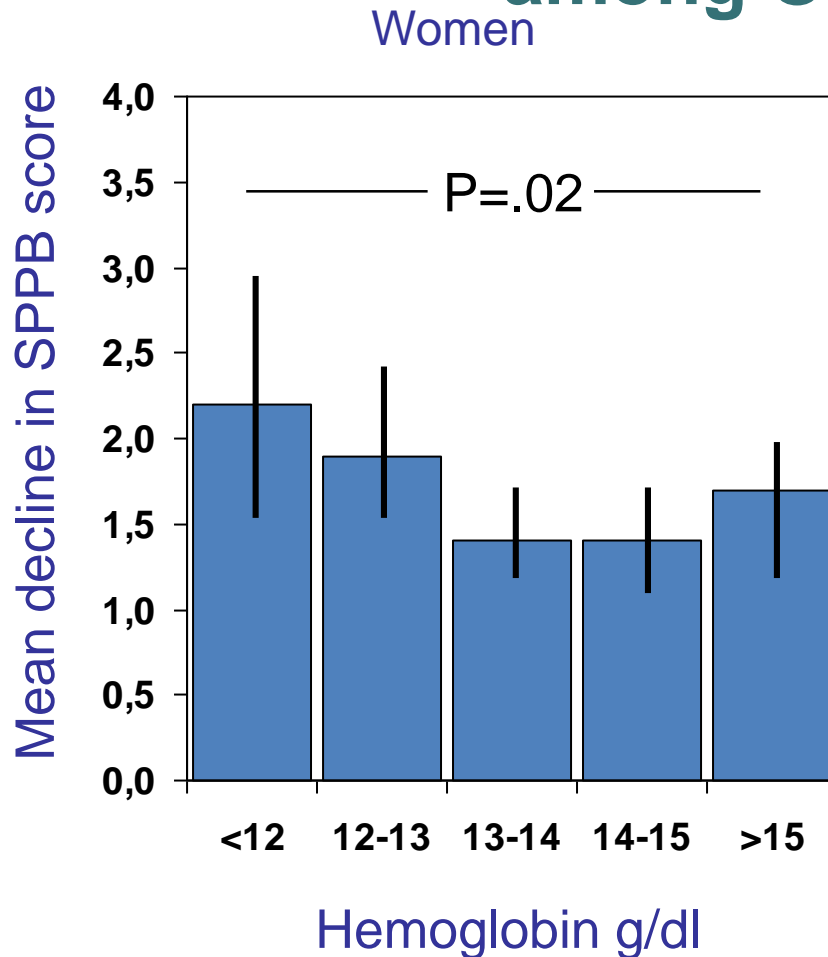
Characteristics	No anemia (n=378)	Mild/moderate anemia (n=343)	Severe anemia (n=175)	P
Female, N (%)	200 (52.9)	199 (58.0)	93 (53.1)	0.338
Age, mean±SD	78.8±7.4	83.1±7.0	82.7±6.7	<0.001
Smoking, N (%)				
Former	133 (35.2)	112 (32.7)	56 (32.0)	0.128
Never-smoker	205 (54.2)	210 (61.2)	107 (61.1)	
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> ), mean±SD	28.0±5.3	25.8±5.0	25.6±4.7	<0.001
Hospitalizations in the last year, N (%)				
One	78 (20.6)	77 (22.4)	43 (24.6)	<0.001
More than one	62 (16.4)	90 (26.2)	53 (30.3)	
Medical conditions, N (%)				
Hypertension	303 (80.2)	240 (70.0)	127 (72.6)	0.005
Coronary heart disease	102 (27.0)	116 (33.8)	56 (32.0)	0.125
Heart failure	74 (19.6)	116 (33.8)	65 (37.1)	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus	99 (26.2)	100 (29.2)	61 (34.9)	0.113
Non-Alzheimer's dementia	38 (10.0)	53 (15.4)	34 (19.4)	0.007
Alzheimer's dementia	17 (4.5)	24 (7.0)	6 (3.4)	0.157
Gastritis	34 (9.0)	48 (14.0)	27 (15.4)	0.041
Peptic ulcer	12 (3.2)	8 (2.3)	16 (9.1)	0.001
Renal failure	63 (16.7)	99 (28.9)	64 (36.6)	<0.001
Cancer	31 (8.2)	48 (14.0)	43 (24.6)	<0.001
Multidimensional assessment				
MMSE, median (IQR)	24 (19, 28)	22 (16, 27)	22 (14, 27)	<0.001
GDS, median (IQR)	3 (2, 6)	4 (2, 7)	4 (3, 7)	0.008
Disability in ADL, N (%)	113 (29.9)	176 (51.3)	108 (61.7)	<0.001
Biochemical parameters (at discharge)				
Albumin (g/dL), mean±SD	3.8±0.5	3.5±0.6	3.4±0.7	<0.001
Creatinine (mg/dL), median (IQR)	1.0 (0.8, 1.2)	1.1 (0.8, 1.4)	1.1 (0.9, 1.5)	<0.001
C-reactive protein (mg/L), median (IQR)	3.7 (1.1, 10.3)	6.3 (2.3, 17.9)	6.0 (1.5, 23.9)	0.035



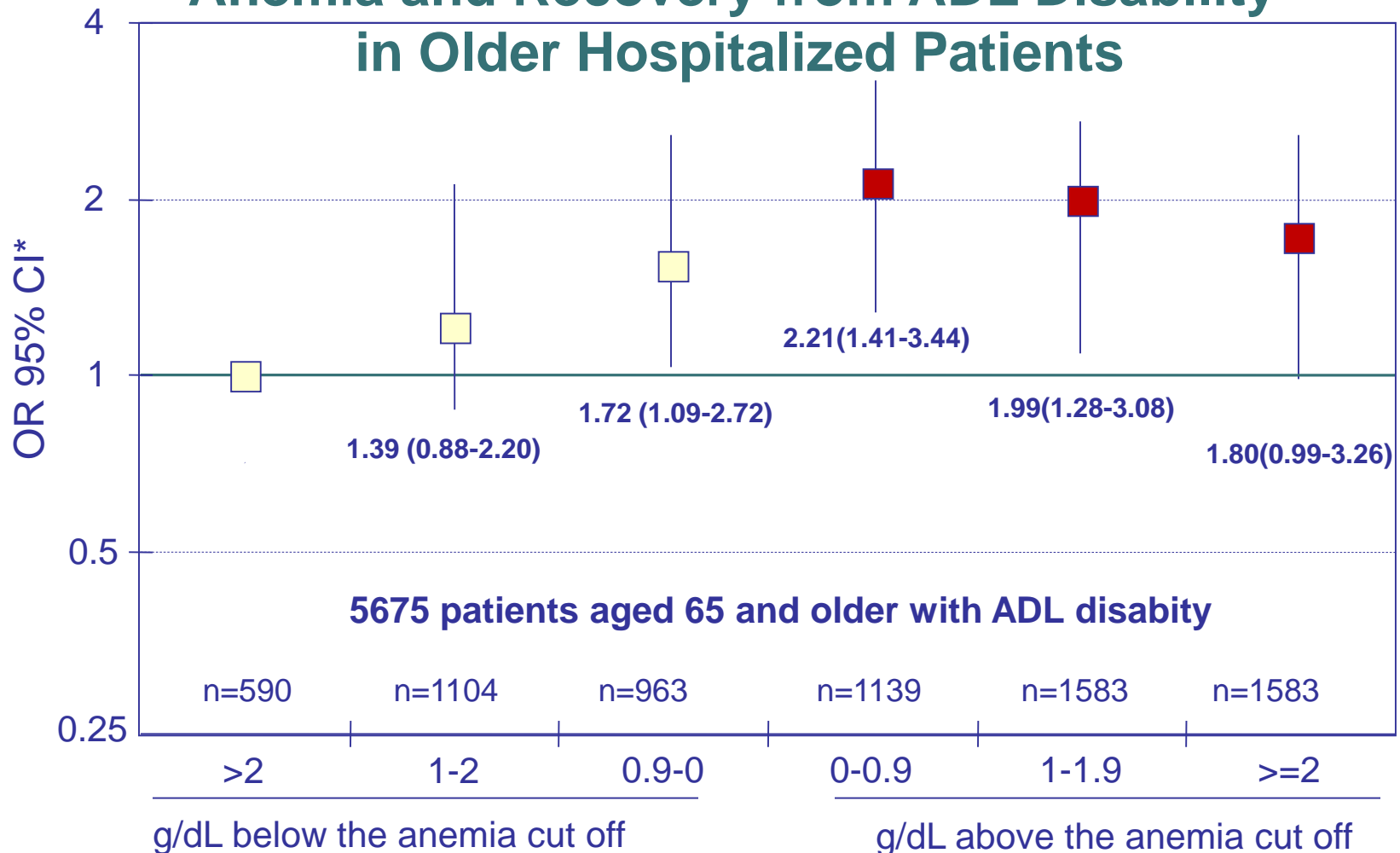
# Anemia and Geriatrics Syndromes



# Anemia and Decline in Physical Performance among Older Persons

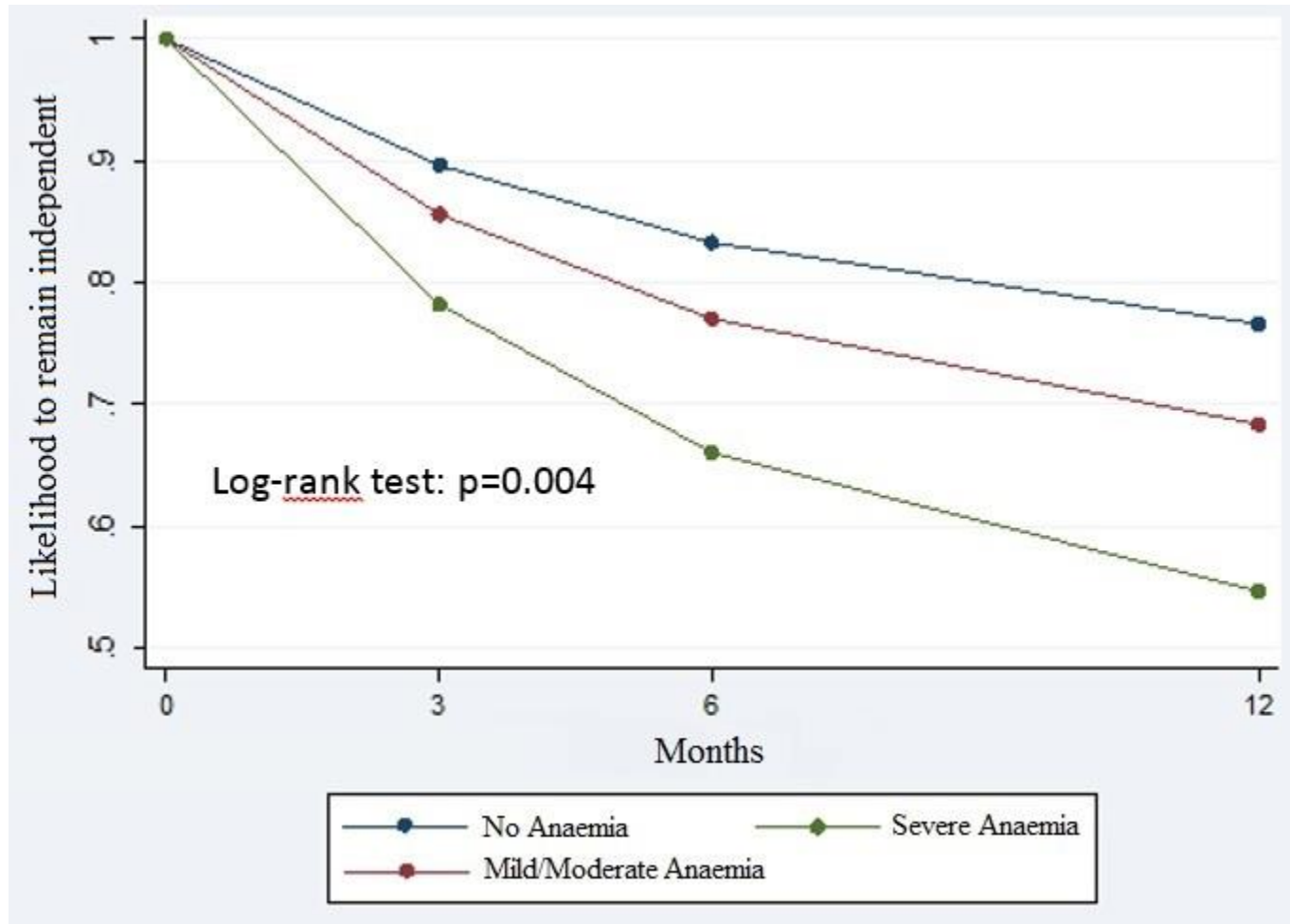


## Anemia and Recovery from ADL Disability in Older Hospitalized Patients



Adjusted for age, sex, education, smoking, marital status, cognitive status, BMI, albumin, cholesterol, creatinine clearance, stroke, CVD, CHF, COPD, pneumonia, Parkinson's disease, depression, cancer, hip fracture, Charlson Comorbidity Index, number of impaired ADL at admission

# Likelihood to remain independent at 12 months in relation to anemia severity



## EDITORIAL

Editorials represent the opinions  
of the authors and JAMA and  
not those of the American Medical Association.

## The Central Role of Prognosis in Clinical Decision Making

Thomas M. Gill, MD

JAMA 2012;307:199–200

## Prognostic Indices for Older Adults A Systematic Review

Lindsey C. Yourman, MD

Sei J. Lee, MD, MAS

Mara A. Schonberg, MD, MPH

Eric W. Widera, MD

Alexander K. Smith, MD, MS, MPH

**F**AILURE TO CONSIDER PROGNOSIS in the context of clinical decision making can lead to poor care. Hospice is underutilized for patients with nonmalignant yet life-threatening diseases.<sup>1</sup> Healthy older patients with good prognosis have low rates of cancer screening.<sup>2</sup> Older adults with advanced dementia or metastatic cancer are screened for slow-growing cancers that are unlikely to ever cause them symptoms but may lead to distress from false-positive results, invasive workups, and treatments.<sup>3,4</sup> In recognition of these phenomena, guidelines increasingly incorporate life expectancy as a central factor in weighing the benefits and the burdens of tests

**Context** To better target services to those who may benefit, many guidelines recommend incorporating life expectancy into clinical decisions.

**Objective** To assess the quality and limitations of prognostic indices for mortality in older adults through systematic review.

**Data Sources** We searched MEDLINE, EMBASE, Cochrane, and Google Scholar from their inception through November 2011.

**Study Selection** We included indices if they were validated and predicted absolute risk of mortality in patients whose average age was 60 years or older. We excluded indices that estimated intensive care unit, disease-specific, or in-hospital mortality.

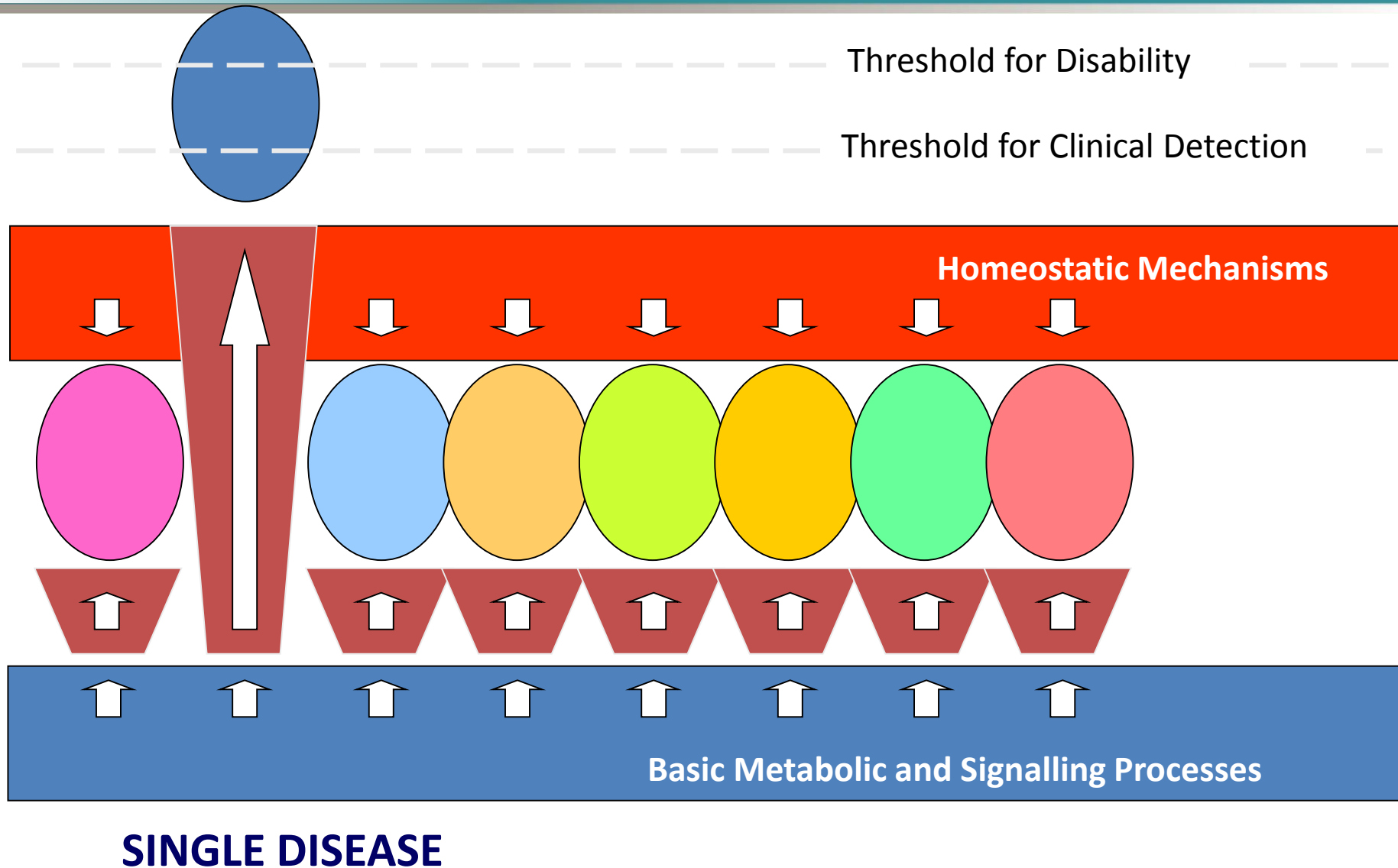
**Data Extraction** For each prognostic index, we extracted data on clinical setting, potential for bias, generalizability, and accuracy.

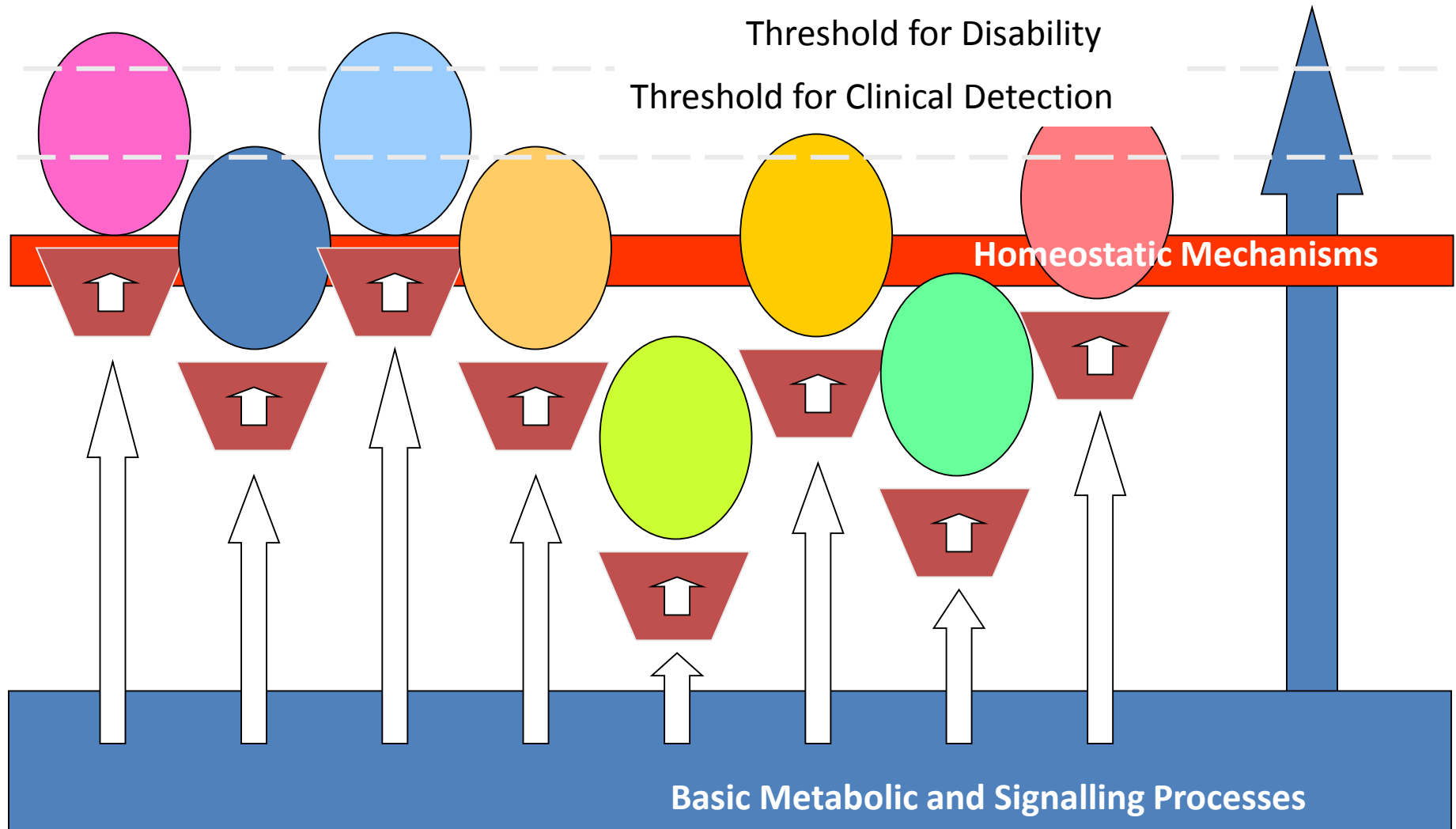
**Results** We reviewed 21 593 titles to identify 16 indices that predict risk of mortality from 6 months to 5 years for older adults in a variety of clinical settings: the community (6 indices), nursing home (2 indices), and hospital (8 indices). At least 1 measure of transportability (the index is accurate in more than 1 population) was tested for all but 3 indices. By our measures, no study was free from potential bias. Although 13 indices had C statistics of 0.70 or greater, none of the indices had C statistics of 0.90 or greater. Only 2 indices were independently validated by investigators who were not involved in the index's development.

**Conclusion** We identified several indices for predicting overall mortality in different patient groups; future studies need to independently test their accuracy in heterogeneous populations and their ability to improve clinical outcomes before their widespread use can be recommended.

JAMA. 2012;307(2):182–192

www.jama.com





**FRAILITY AND COMORBIDITY**



## Frailty Consensus: Examples of Well-Validated Frailty Models

- Cardiovascular Health Study
- Study of Osteoporotic Fractures
- Deficit Model
- FRAIL – International Academy of Nutrition and Aging
- SHARE-FI
- Vulnerable Elder Survey
- Tilburg Frailty Index
- Groningen Frailty Indicator

# Frailty in Older Adults

**F**railty, commonly associated with aging, includes several characteristics (see below). Frail older adults are weak, often have many complex medical problems, have a lower ability for independent living, may have impaired mental abilities, and often require assistance for daily activities (dressing, eating, toileting, mobility). Most frail older adults are women (partly because women live longer than men), are more than 80 years old, and often receive care from an adult child. Because of the rapid rate of growth in the population aged 65 years and older, the number of frail elderly persons is increasing every year.

The November 8, 2006, issue of JAMA includes an article about care for frail older adults.

## WHAT IS FRAILTY?

- Low physical activity
- Muscle weakness
- Slowed performance
- Fatigue or poor endurance
- Unintentional weight loss

To be considered frail, a person must have 3 or more of these characteristics. Persons who are frail are more likely to become disabled, to be admitted to the hospital, and to have health problems. Research has shown that individuals who smoke, persons with depression or long-term medical problems, and those who are underweight are more likely to become frail. Frail older adults are more likely to develop infections because their immune systems do not work as well as in healthy older adults. Simple infections may cause more harm, even death, for a frail elderly person, than for for an individual of the same age who is healthy. Malnutrition is also common among frail older adults. Loss of muscle mass (more than with healthy aging) may result from a diet low in protein. Because of inability to plan and prepare their own meals, frail elderly individuals may not consume enough protein and calories to maintain their body weight and health.

## FOR MORE INFORMATION

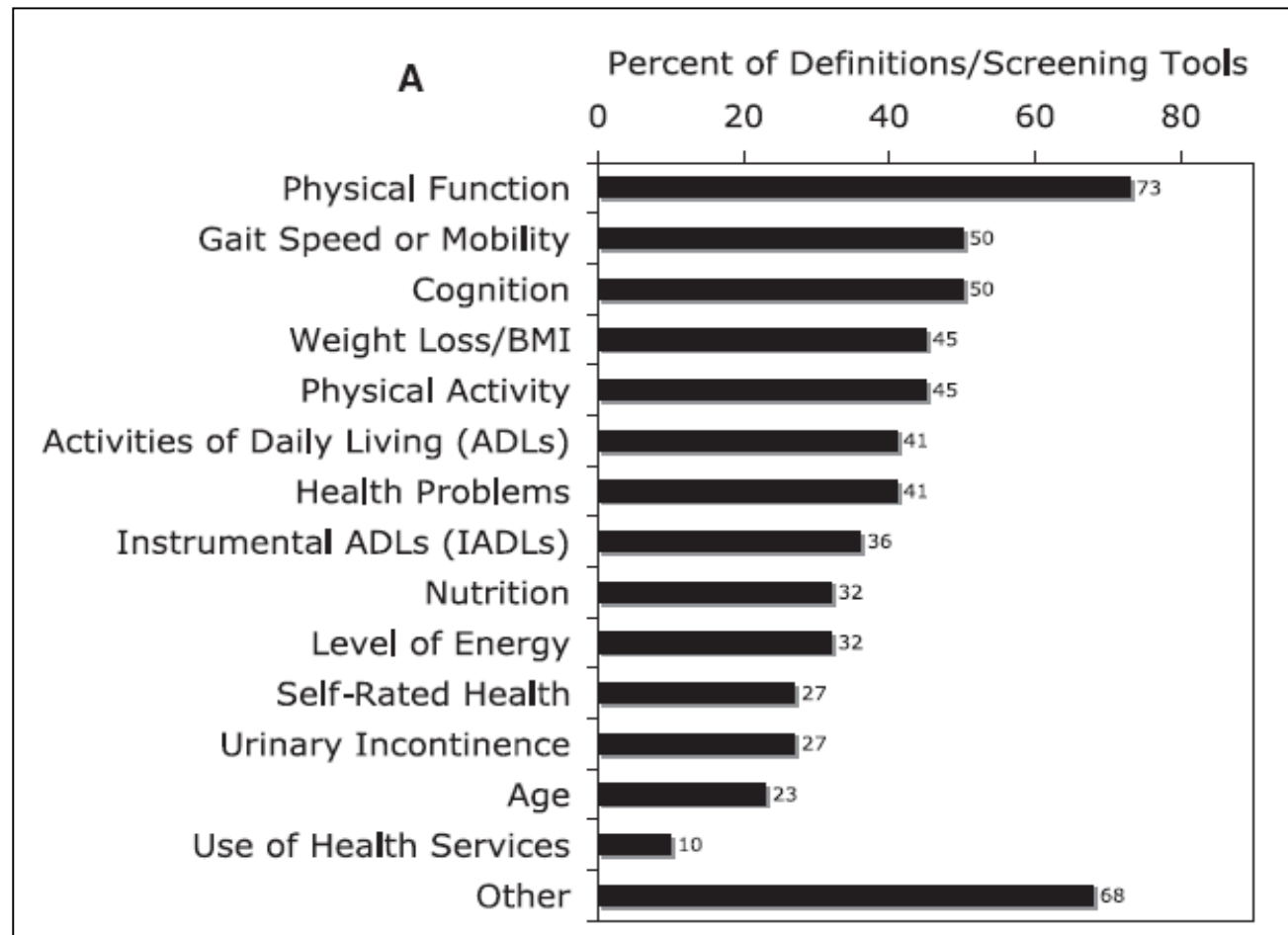
- National Institute on Aging  
[www.nia.nih.gov](http://www.nia.nih.gov)
- American Geriatrics Society  
Foundation for Health in Aging  
[www.healthinaging.org](http://www.healthinaging.org)
- National Council on Aging  
[www.ncoa.org](http://www.ncoa.org)

## INFORM YOURSELF

To find this and previous JAMA Patient Pages, go to the Patient Page Index on JAMA's Web site at [www.jama.com](http://www.jama.com). Many are available in English and Spanish. A Patient Page on fitness for older adults was published in the July 12, 2006, issue; and one on psychiatric illness in older adults was published in the June 7, 2000, issue.



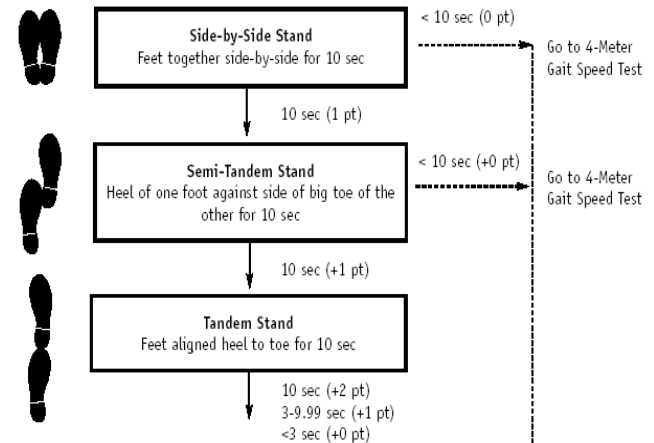
## Prevalence of identifying factors for frailty in definitions and screening tools



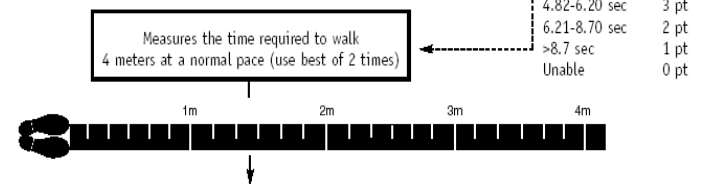
## Lower Extremity performance test

### Short Physical Performance Battery

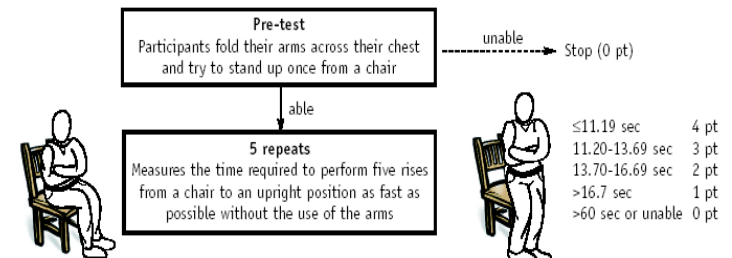
#### 1. Balance Tests



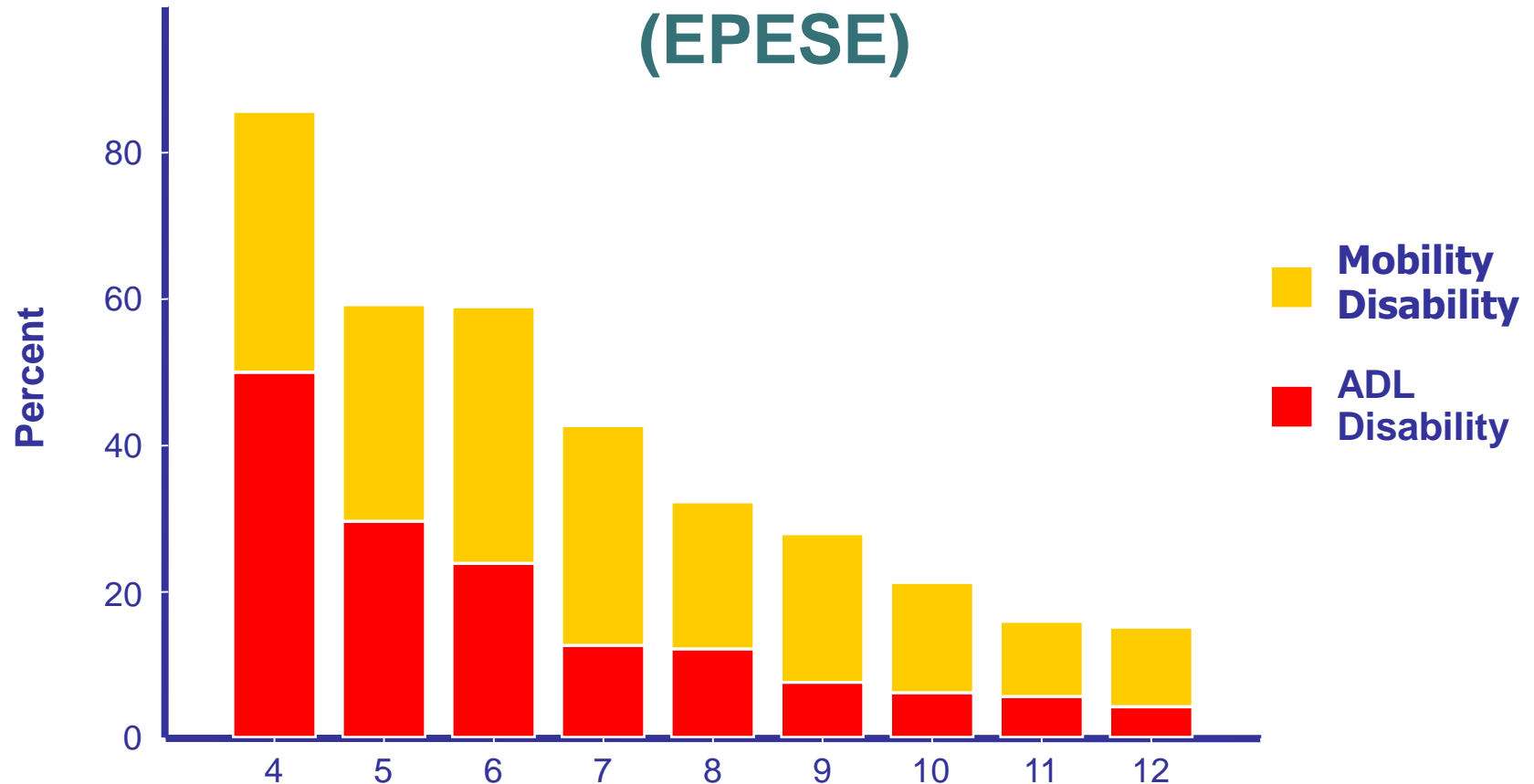
#### 2. Gait Speed Test



#### 3. Chair Stand Test



## Absolute Risk of Disability after 4 years according to SPPB score in older non disabled people (EPESE)



## Short Physical Performance Battery e Length of hospital stay in older geriatric patients

		<b>Model 1</b>		<b>Model 2</b>		<b>Model 3</b>	
		$\beta$ coef.(SE)	p	$\beta$ coef.(SE)	p	$\beta$ coef.(SE)	p
<b>SBBP</b>							
<b>0-4</b>	<b>(n.25)</b>	reference*	-	reference*	-	reference*	-
<b>5-7</b>	<b>(n.37)</b>	-2.2 (1.5)	0.151	-1.9(1.6)	.240	-1.3 (1.4)	.359
<b>8-12</b>	<b>(n.28)</b>	-3.9 (1.4)	0.005	-3.2(1.4)	.026	-2.5 (1.2)	.036
<b>†SBBPscore continuous</b>		-0.72 (0.21)	.001	-0.62(0.22)	.005	-0.54 (0.20)	.007

Model 1: adjusted for age and gender

Model 2: adjusted for age, gender, and Cumulative Illness Rating Scale (number of severe ratings)

Model 3: adjusted for age, gender, Cumulative Illness Rating Scale (number of severe ratings), and BADL disability at admission

# Risk of New Hospitalization or Death During the Follow-Up According to SPPB Score at Discharge

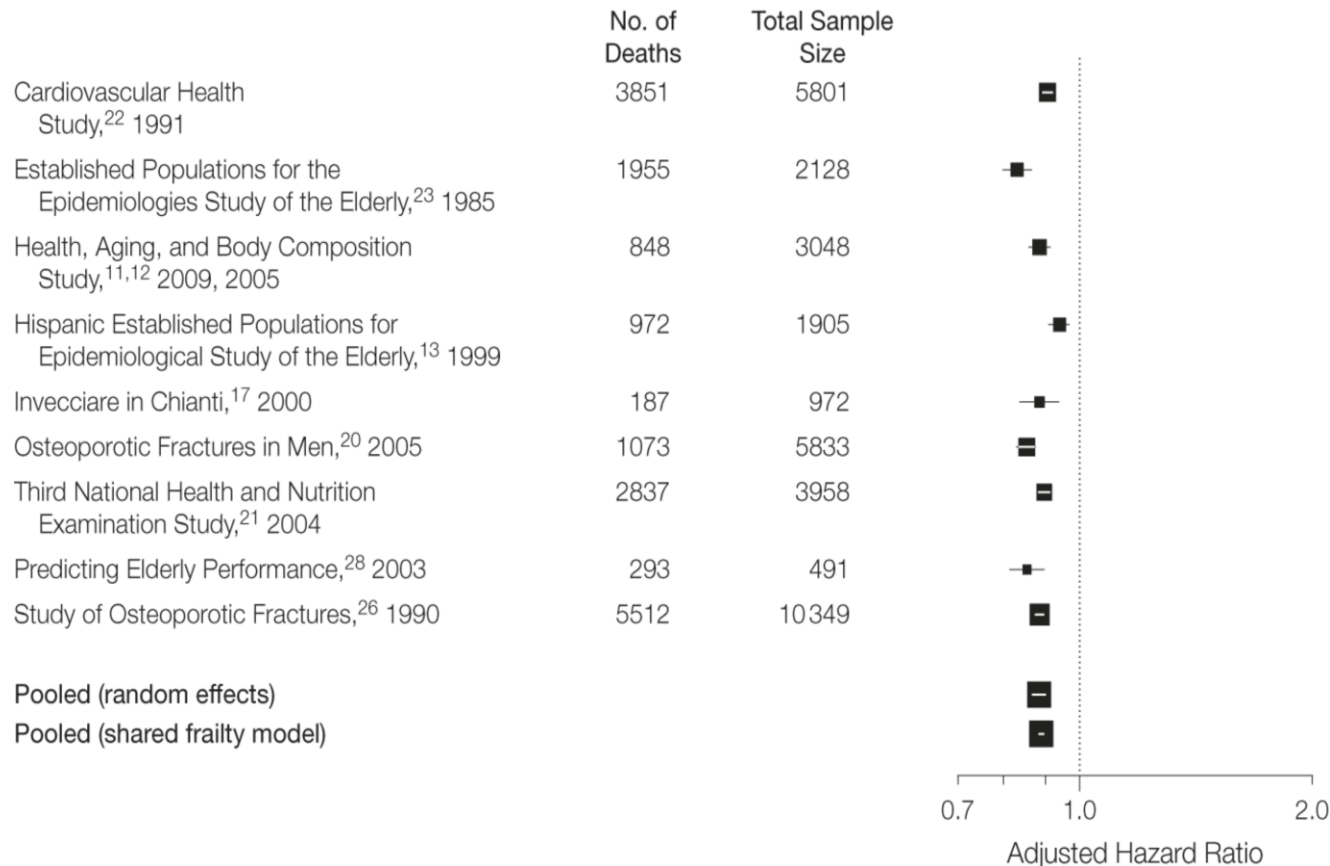
## Discrete-time survival analysis with logistic regression

SPPB Categories		Outcome	Model 1		Model 2	
		%	OR	(95% C.I.)	OR	(95% C.I.)
0-4	(n. 16)	75.0	3.72	(1.52-9.08)	5.38	(1.82-15.9)
5-7	(n. 27)	65.4	2.95	(1.38-6.28)	2.63	(1.16-6.01)
8-12	(n. 44)	52.3	1.0	-	1.0	-
†SBBP (continuous)			0.87	(0.78-0.97)	0.86	(0.75-0.98)

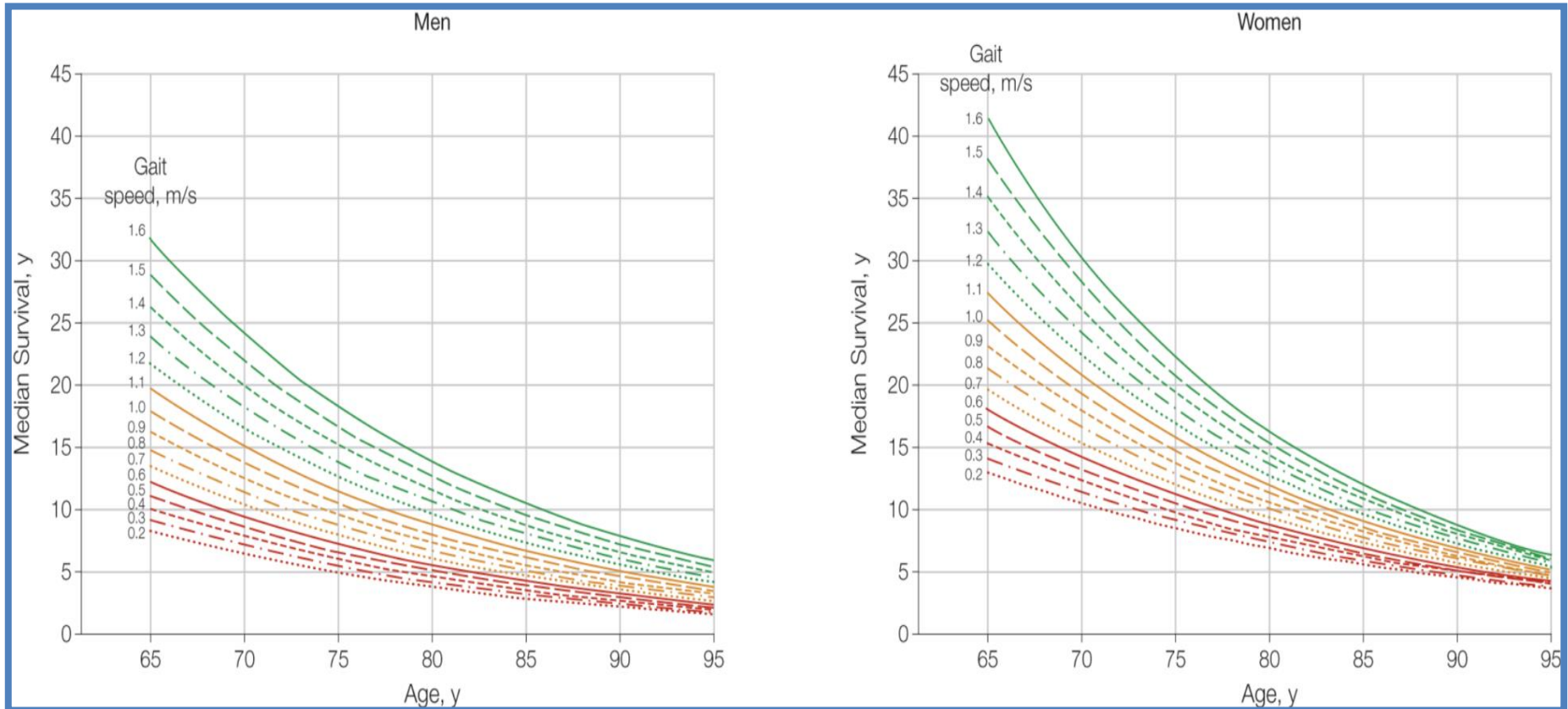
Model 2: adjusted for age, gender, education, CIRS, ADL summary scale 2 weeks before hospital admission, ADL summary scale at discharge, MMSE score at hospital admission



# Gait Speed and Survival in Older Adults: Pooled analysis of 9 cohort studies



# Gait Speed and Survival in Older Adults: Pooled analysis of 9 cohort studies



## VIEWPOINT

Incorporating Lag Time to Benefit Into Prevention  
Decisions for Older AdultsApplying the Framework During an Annual Medicare  
Wellness Visit

The following example illustrates an approach for applying this framework. A 75-year-old man who has hypertension (blood pressure, 135/75 mm Hg), diabetes, chronic obstructive lung disease, and difficulty walking several blocks is wondering whether he should be screened for colorectal cancer.

First, determine the patient's life expectancy. Using published general mortality indexes for older adults from a systematic review, the index proposed by Lee et al<sup>7</sup> is identified as appropriate for this patient. Using the web calculator available at <http://eprognosis.ucsf.edu>, the Lee index estimates that the patient has a 4-year mortality risk of 45%, suggesting a life expectancy of approximately 5 years.

Second, determine the lag time to benefit for colorectal cancer screening and blood pressure control. A recent study quantified the lag time to benefit for screening fecal occult blood testing to be 10.3 years for an absolute risk reduction of 1 death prevented for 1000 persons screened.<sup>6</sup> Because the lag time to benefit exceeds the patient's life expectancy, it is unlikely that he would benefit from screening; thus, screening would not be recommended.

The ADVANCE study suggests that benefits of more intensive blood pressure control in older patients with diabetes appear at 12 to 18 months.<sup>8</sup> Given this patient's life expectancy of 5 years, continuing more intensive blood pressure control would be recommended.

## Conclusion

Preventing illness through early detection and treatment is a central component of care for older adults. However, nearly all prevention exposes patients to immediate risks for the hope of improved future health outcomes. Thus, it is critical to the answer to the question "When will it help?" when individualizing preventive decisions in older adults. Although research will continue to improve the accuracy of life expectancy prediction and lag time to benefit, guidelines should move beyond age and explicitly encourage clinicians to juxtapose these 2 elements to improve the targeting of prevention.

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## Conclusions

- Frailty and multimorbidity are common conditions in older people
- Frailty and multimorbidity have a negative synergistic effect increasing the risk for several negative outcomes
- Several Frailty models have been validated and proposed, but the utilization in clinical practice may be difficult
- Simple performance-based test of physical function may be used to identify older people at high risk of health status deterioration



