

# Registry-based randomised clinical trials - An innovative trial paradigm

Ole Fröbert, MD, PhD, FESC

# Declaration of interest

- Consulting/Royalties/Owner/ Stockholder of a healthcare company (Sanofi - speakers fees)



# Background

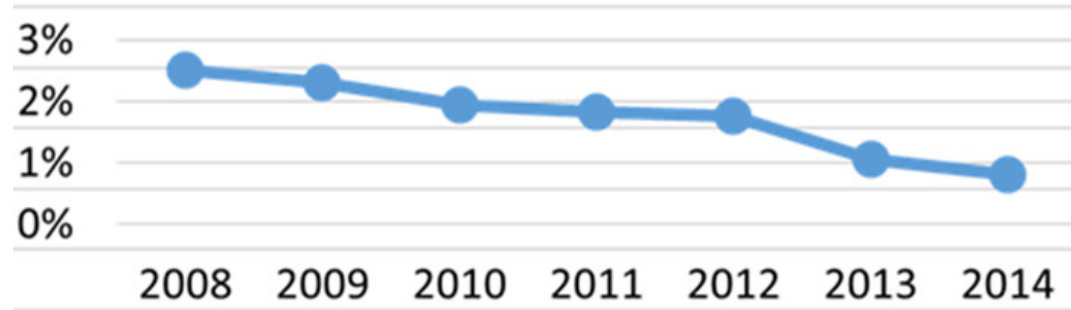
85% of the money spent on clinical trial research every year is wasted <sup>1)</sup>

Wrong research questions are chosen, studies are poorly designed, and information on trials' methods and results is often not available <sup>2)</sup>

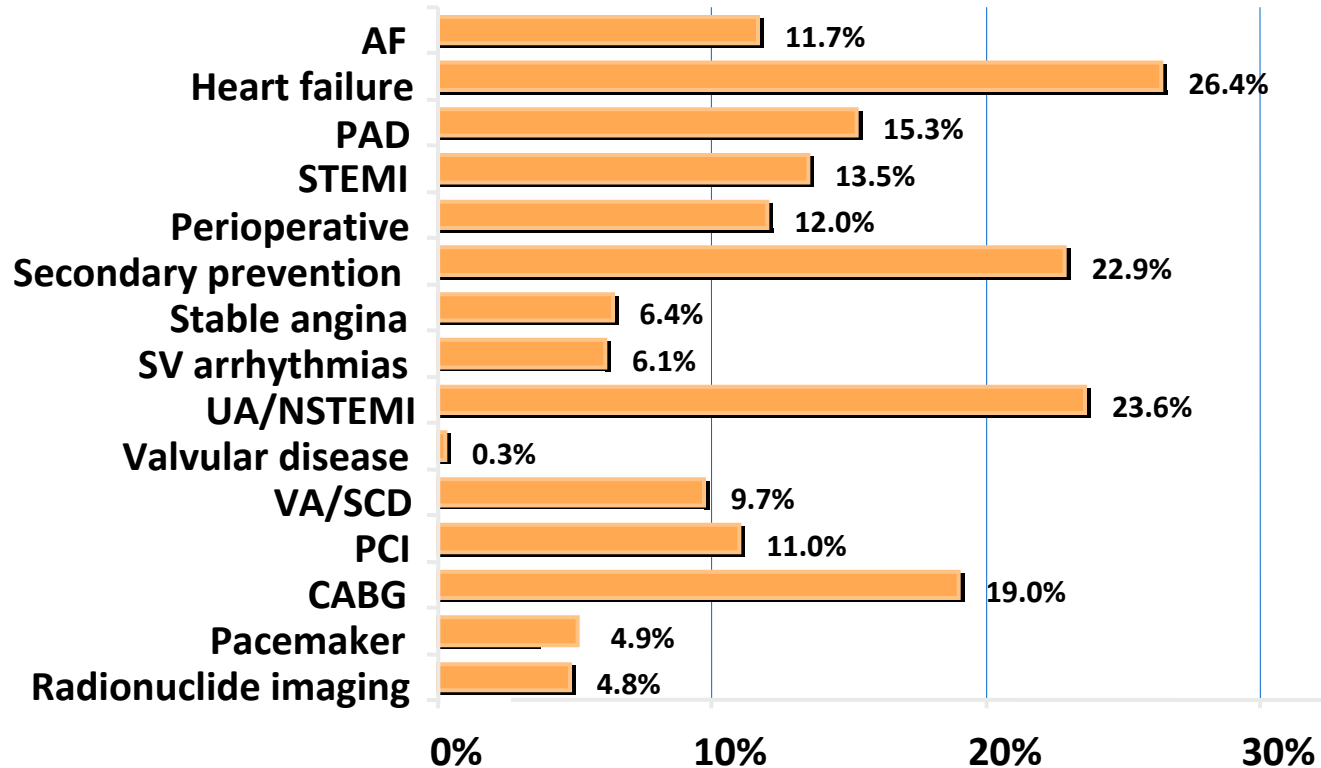
Half of all clinical trials are never published <sup>3)</sup>

# MI patients in clinical trials

Proportion of patients  
with MI enrolled in a  
clinical trial

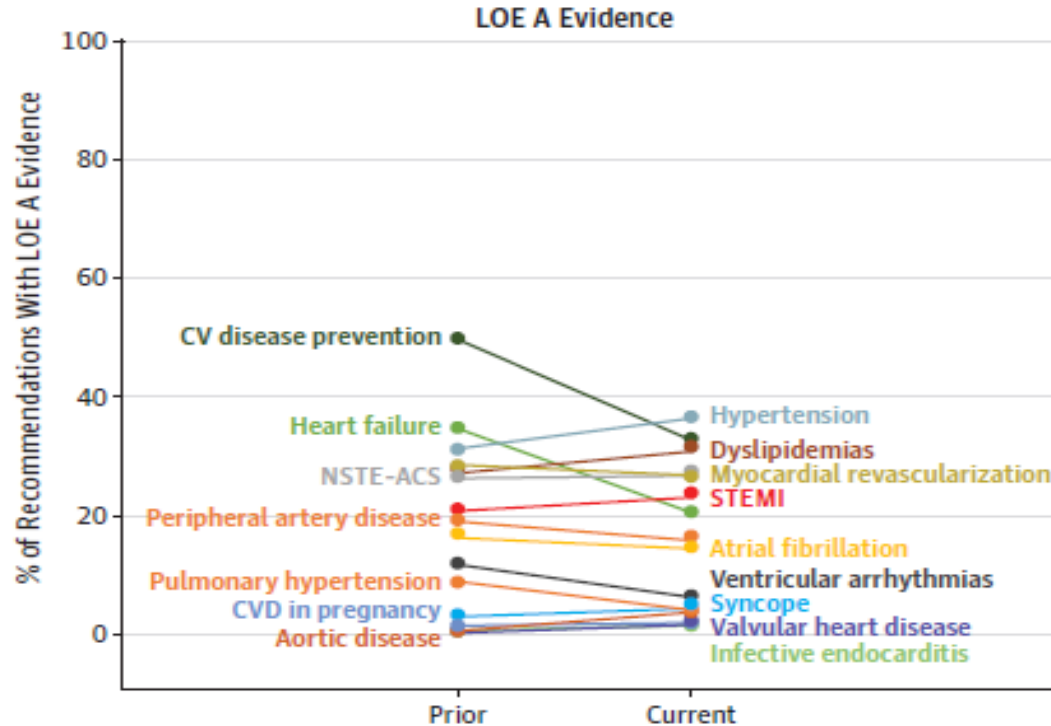


# Level of evidence A in cardiology guidelines



# Level of evidence A, ESC guidelines 2008-2019

- from 17.6% to 15.1%



# Randomized Clinical Trials - RCTs

Gold standard  
Eliminates confounding

**BUT**

Highly selected patients and centers  
Surrogate endpoints  
Long time to plan and complete  
Expensive  
Economic incentive and not patients' interests  
Not applicable to real-world patients

# Registries

Unselected populations – findings may be generalized

“Hard endpoints”

Large consecutive cohorts

Inexpensive

**BUT**

Data quality issues

Missing variables

Confounding factors

Multivariable statistics - difficult to interpret

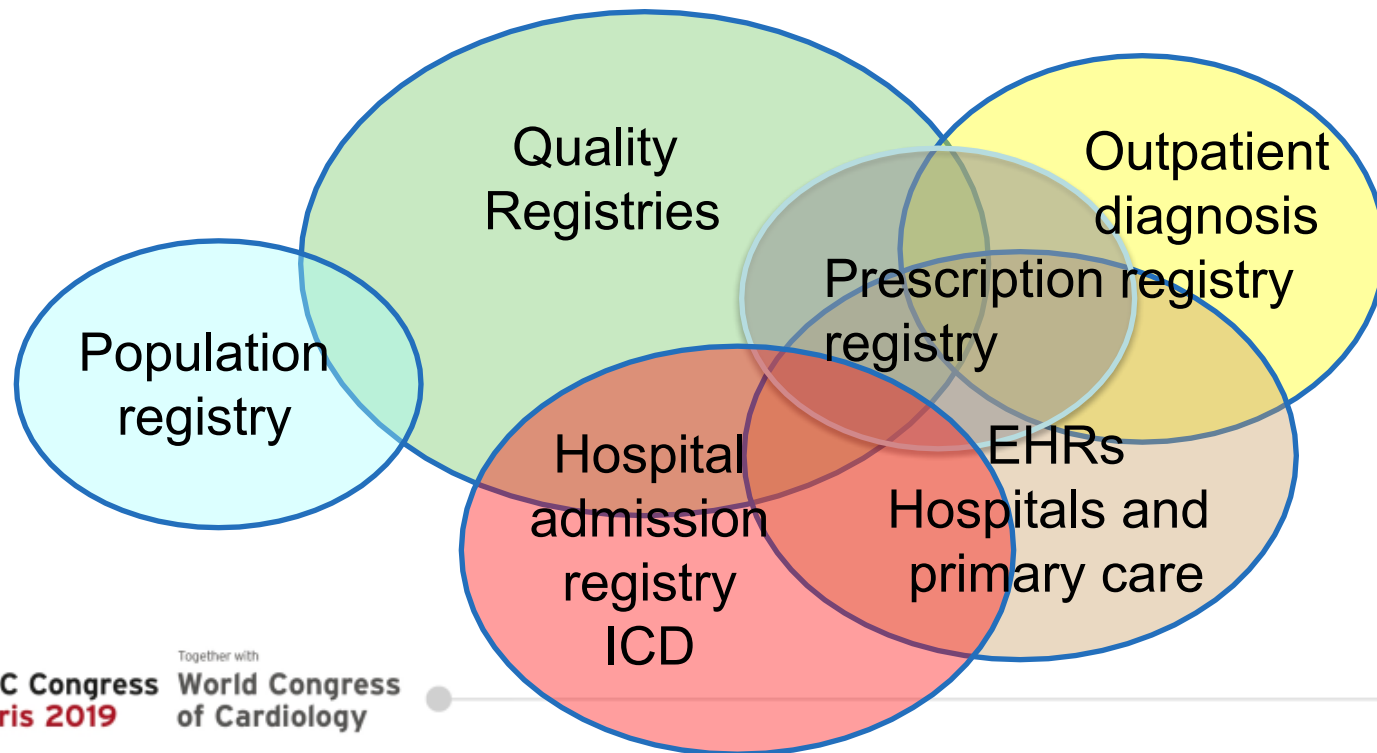


# Databases for baseline characteristics and outcomes in Sweden

Personal ID number

540219-9750

year month day place sex ctrl



Sweden statistics



Number of cases annually: 80 000

RIKS-HIA 73 CCU hospitals, 100%

SCAAR 30 PCI hospitals, 100%

Percutaneous valves 7 hospitals, 100%

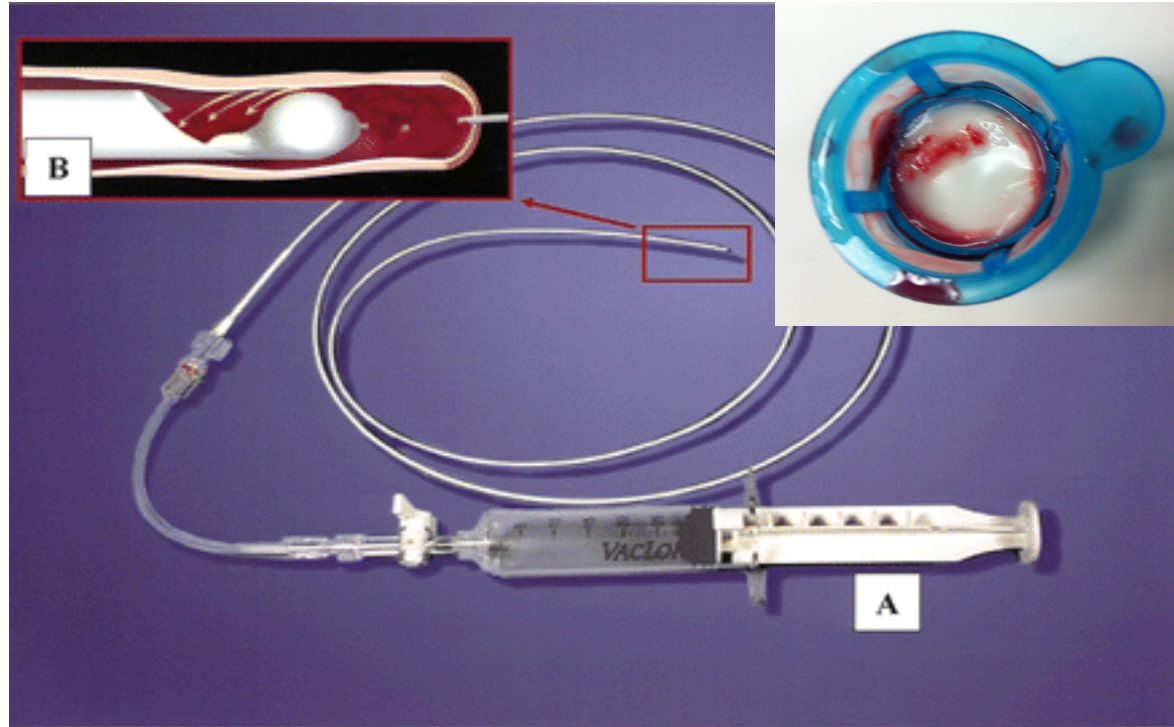
Heart surgery 7 hospitals, 100%

Secondary prevention 65 hospitals, 85%

>150 variables – baseline, procedural and outcome data

Monitoring: >95% agreement between patient records and registry data

# Thrombus aspiration: a simple technique, previously widely used with little evidence




# Methods

## **TASTE** *Thrombus Aspiration in ST-Elevation myocardial infarction in Scandinavia*

- All 29 Swedish, one Icelandic and one Danish PCI center
- Inclusion criteria
  - STEMI and oral consent
  - <24 h symptoms
  - correspondence between ECG and angiography
- Exclusion criteria
  - need for emergency by-pass operation
  - <18 years
  - previous randomization in **TASTE**
- Primary endpoint: time to all-cause death at 30 days

← → <https://swedeheart.kvalitetsregister.se/swedeheart/regangiopci.jsp>






Arkiv Redigera Visa Favoriter Verktyg Hjälp

 **SWEDEHEART** Uppsala PCI  
Angio + PCI registrering James

Hem Administrera Sök Rapporter Hjälp Meddelanden Läs sidan Utskrift Logga ut

Name, personal ID number	<a href="#">Visa patientöversikt</a>
Akut vårdkedja	Ankomstdatum: 2013-09-02

Händelser under vårdkedjan:

START   VÅRD  PCI  SLUT 

Angio/PCI Avd.kompl. —

**Angio+PCI**

Överflyttad patient

Patienten kommer närmast från 3 Annan vårdenhet inom sjukhuset

Ange vårdenhet Uppsala HIA

**Administrative data**

Datum för procedur 2013-09-03

Typ av registrering 3 Angio + PCI

Jourtid 2 Akutfall på kontorstid

Remitterande enhet Uppsala

**Clinical background and prior CV disease**

Längd (cm) 175

Vikt (kg) 104

S-Kreatinin (mikromol/L) 96

Kreatinin clearance 92.3

Tidigare PCI 1 Ja

Tidigare CABG 0 Nej

Diabetes 1 Ja Insulin 0 Nej

Rökning 1 Ex-rökare >1 mån

**Angiographic background data**

Behandlad hypertoni 1 Ja

# The



# Registry

Data entry online

Automatic linkage with  
population registry

Automated data checks

Stresskardiomyopati	<input type="text"/>
Primärt beslut	9 PCI ad hoc
Avböjd från operation	<input type="text"/>

<b>TASTE</b>	
Does the patient consent?	<input type="text"/>
Are inclusion and no exclusion criteria met?	<input type="text"/>
Randomisera & Spara	

Spara	
<b>PCI</b>	
Operatör	
<b>Segme</b>	
Segmentnummer	<input type="text"/>
Graft	
Nummer på	
Oklusion	
Stenostyp	
Stenosklass	<input type="text"/>
Procedurtyp	<input type="text"/>
Lokal framgång	<input type="text"/>
Återställ segmentformulär	Spara/Lägg till segment

Two questions needed to be answered:

1. Does the patient consent orally?
2. Are inclusion and no exclusion criteria met?

### Vill patient vara med i Taste-studien

Munligt samtycke har inhämtats efter följande information och fråga:

Du har drabbats av en akut hjärtinfarkt. Det innebär att det finns en blodpropp som har stoppat blodflödet i ett av dina kranskär. Tidigare undersökningar har visat att blodflödet återhämtar sig snabbare om man suger ut en del av blodproppen med en liten sugkateter. Vi vet dock inte proppsugning minskar dödligheten efter hjärtinfarkt eller minskar risken för ny hjärtinfarkt eller för hjärtsvikt. Vi gör därför en vetenskaplig studie som innebär att hälften av patienterna får proppsugning innan vanlig ballongvidgning sker och hälften av patienterna får sedvanlig ballongvidgning. Sedan följer vi resultaten av behandlingen via våra hjärt-kärl register. Studien innebär inga extra provtagningar eller besök.

Vi undrar om du accepterar att delta i denna studie. Om du

Stresskardiomyopati	<input type="text"/>
Primärt beslut	9 PCI ad hoc <input type="text"/>
Avböjd från operation	<input type="text"/>
<b>TASTE</b>	
Does the patient consent?	<input type="text"/>
Are inclusion and no exclusion criteria met?	<input type="text"/>
<b>PCI</b>	
Operatör	<input type="text"/>
<b>Segment</b>	
Segmentnummer	<input type="text"/>
Graft	0 Nej <input type="text"/>
Nummer på stenosis i samma segment	1 Första <input type="text"/>
Ocklusion	<input type="text"/>
Stenostyp	<input type="text"/>
Stenosklass	<input type="text"/>
Procedurtyp	<input type="text"/>
Lokal framgång	<input type="text"/>
Återställ segmentformulär	Spara/Lägg till segment

Information for consent

#### Vill patient vara med i Taste-studien

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Avböjd från operation	<input type="text"/>

TASTE

Does the patient consent?	<input type="text"/>
Are inclusion and no exclusion criteria met?	<input type="text"/>

Randomisera & Spara

Spara

## PCI

Operatör	
----------	--

## Segment

Segmentnummer	
---------------	--

Graft	
-------	--

Nummer på stenosis i samma segment	1 Första <input type="text"/>
------------------------------------	-------------------------------

Ocklusion	<input type="text"/>
-----------	----------------------

Stenostyp	<input type="text"/>
-----------	----------------------

Stenosklass	<input type="text"/>
-------------	----------------------

Procedurtyp	<input type="text"/>
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Lokal framgång	<input type="text"/>
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Återställ segmentformulär

Spara/Lägg till segment

Randomize and save data

**Vill patient vara med i Taste-studien**

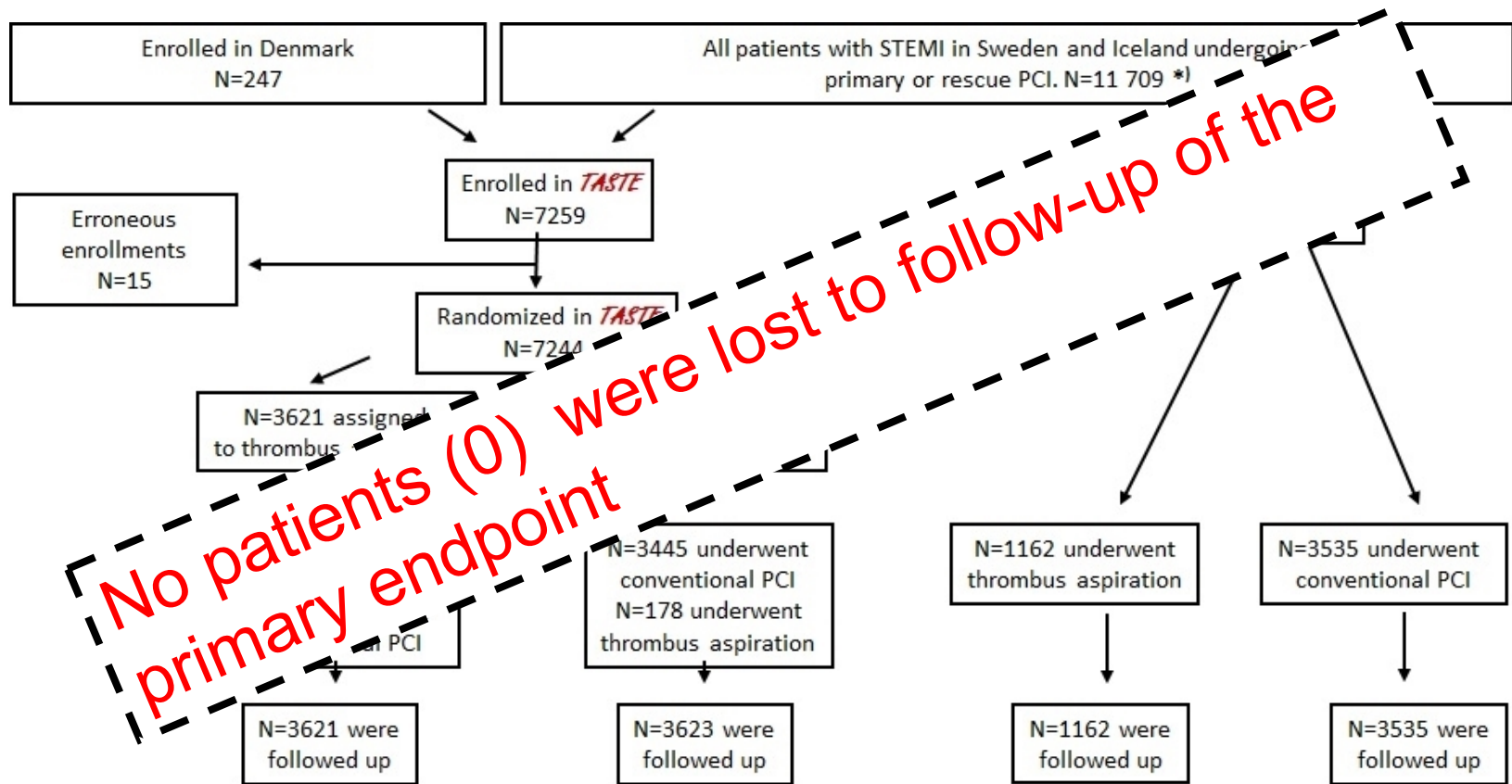
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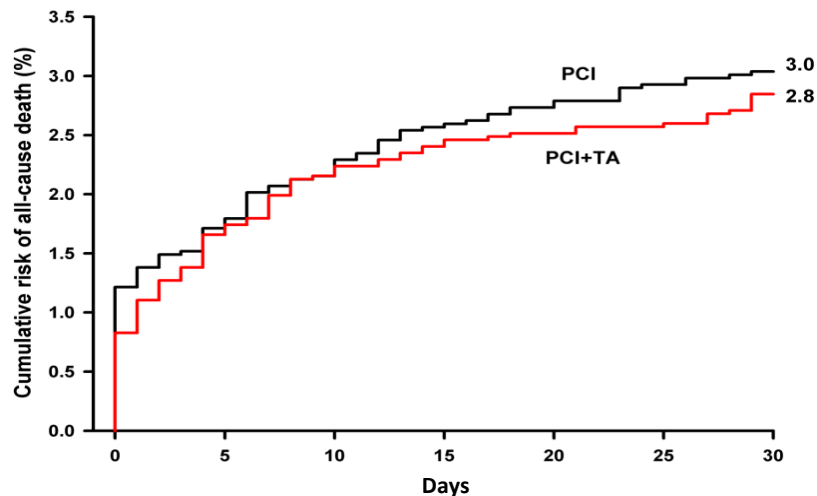


# TASTE trial enrollment chart

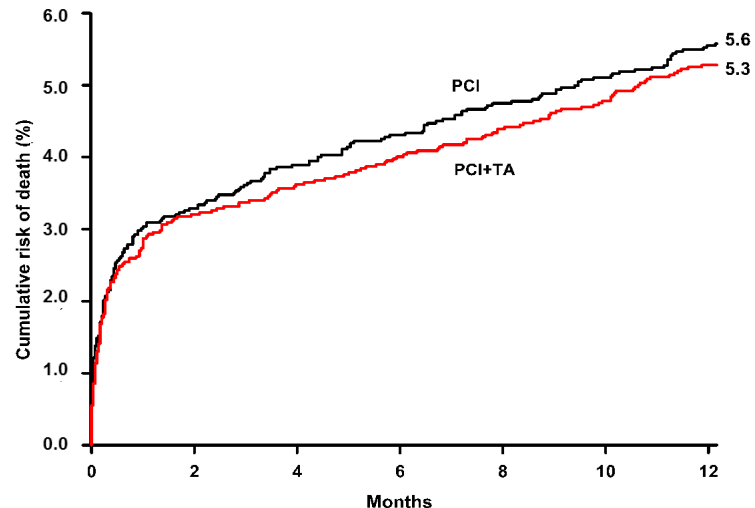


# All-cause mortality at 30 days and 1 year

HR 0.94 (0.72 - 1.22), P=0.63



HR 0.94 (0.78 - 1.15), P=0.57



# Registry based Patient Follow-up

## STEMI Thrombectomy Story

*TASTE*

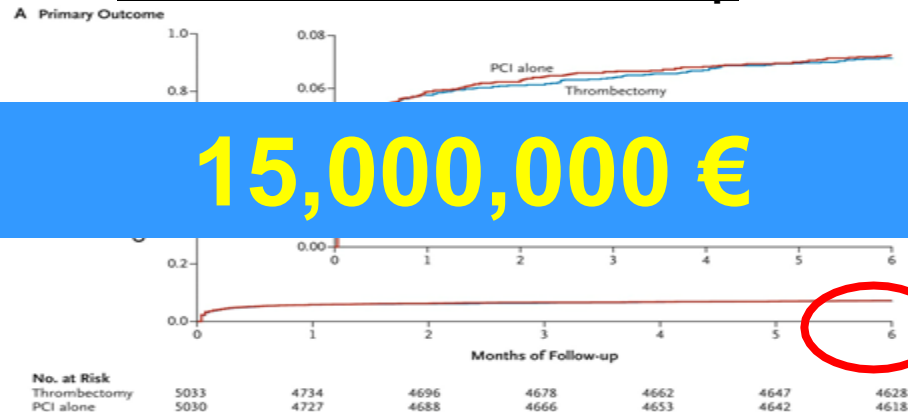


### Registry-based Follow-up

### Standard site-based Follow-up



350,000 €



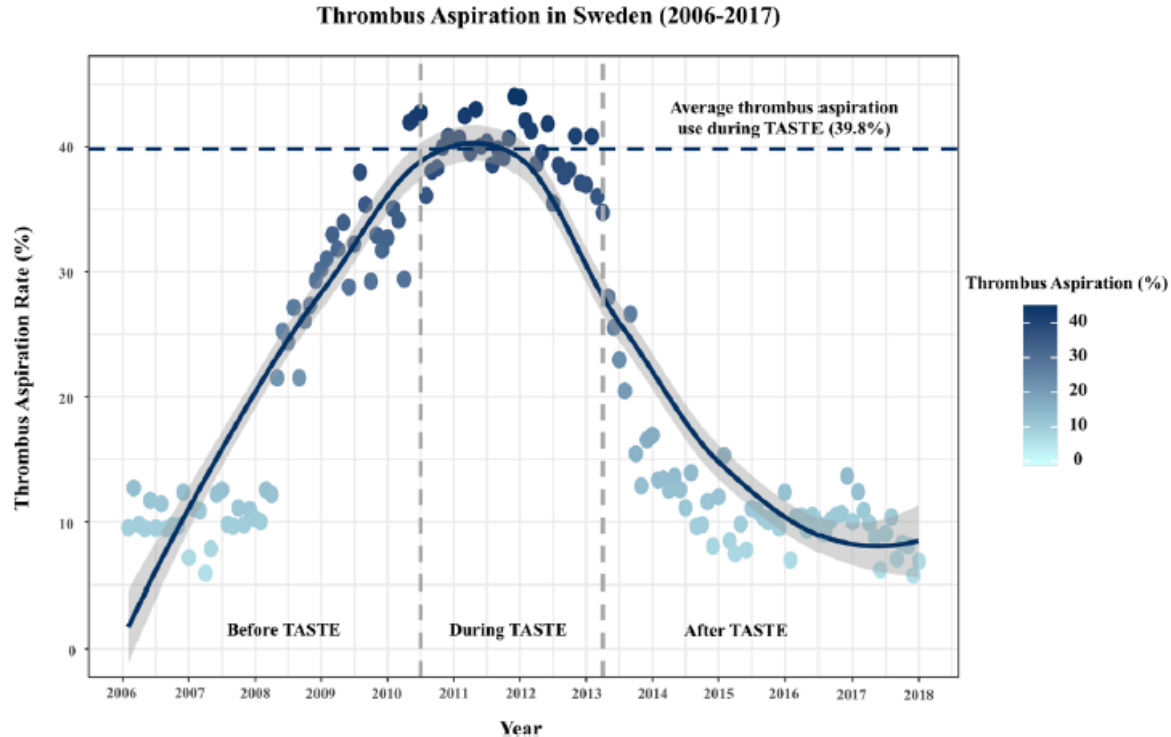
15,000,000 €

1<sup>st</sup> patient: June 2010  
31 centers  
33 months to full enrollment

1<sup>st</sup> patient: August 2010  
87 centers  
48 months to full enrollment

# TASTE – clinical impact

Thrombus aspiration  
downgraded in ACC/AHA and  
ESC guidelines from:  
IIa (reasonable to consider)  
to: IIIa (not recommended)



# RRCT vs. RCT

	RCT	RRCT
Treatment strategy		+
Device – CE marked, in use		+
Device, first in man	+	

# Four finalized RRCTs – all guideline changing

## TASTE

Thrombus aspiration in ST-elevation myocardial infarction, N=7244  
(*N Engl J Med.* 2013, 369:1587 and *N Engl J Med.* 2014, 371:1111)

## IFR-SWEDEHEART

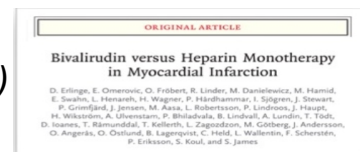
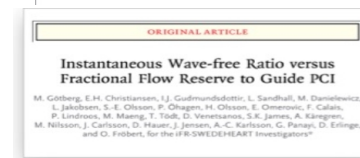
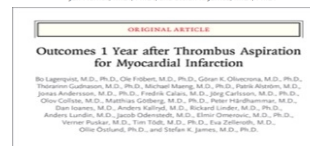
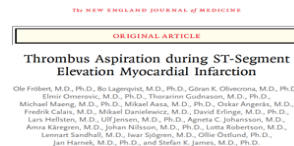
Comparison of two invasive diagnostic methodologies, N=2037  
(*N Engl J Med.* 2017 376:1813)

## DETO2X-AMI

Determination of the role of oxygen in acute myocardial infarction, N=6629  
(*N Engl J Med.* 2017; 377:1240)

## VALIDATE-SWEDEHEART

Bivalirudin versus Heparin in NST and ST- Elevation myocardial infarction in patients on modern antiplatelet therapy, N=6006 (*N Engl J Med.* 2017; 377:1132)



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# Impact on Swedish health economy

## **TASTE**

Cost of study:	350 000 €
Cost reduction for health care system:	220 000 €/year

## **DETO2X-AMI**

Cost of study:	950 000 €
Cost reduction for health care system:	3 800 000 €/year

## **VALIDATE-SWEDEHEART**

Cost of study:	1 600 000 €
Cost reduction for health care system:	4 700 000 €/year

# Some ongoing RRCTs in Sweden

- IAMI: Influenza vaccine/placebo post-MI, n=4400
- REDUCE: Open label beta blocker post-MI, n= 7000
- MINOCA: Open label beta blocker/ACE post-MINOCA, n=3500





# RRCT advantages and limitations

## Advantages

- No need for purpose built data collection system
- Fast recruitment of large cohorts of "real world" patients
- No or negligible loss to follow-up
- High impact
- Inexpensive
- Long term follow-up and follow-up of non-randomized patients



# CONSORT extension coming up for trials using cohorts and routinely collected health data

Open access

Protocol

## BMJ Open Protocol for a scoping review to support development of a CONSORT extension for randomised controlled trials using cohorts and routinely collected health data

Linda Kwakkenbos,<sup>1</sup> Mahrukh Imran,<sup>2</sup> Kimberly A McCord,<sup>3</sup> Margaret Sampson,<sup>4</sup> Ole Frøbert,<sup>5</sup> Chris Gale,<sup>6</sup> Lars G Hemkens,<sup>7</sup> Sinead M Langan,<sup>8</sup> David Moher,<sup>9</sup> Clars Relton,<sup>8</sup> Merrick Zwarenstein,<sup>10,11</sup> Eric I Benchimol,<sup>12,13,14</sup> Isabelle Boutron,<sup>15,16,17</sup> Marion K Campbell,<sup>18</sup> David Erlinge,<sup>19</sup> Sena Jawad,<sup>6</sup> Philippe Ravaud,<sup>15,16,17</sup> Danielle B Rice,<sup>2,20</sup> Maureen Sauve,<sup>21,22</sup> Tjeerd P van Staa,<sup>23,24</sup> Lehana Thabane,<sup>25</sup> Rudolf Uher,<sup>26</sup> Helena M Verkooyen,<sup>27,28</sup> Edmund Juszczak,<sup>29</sup> Brett D Thombs<sup>2,20,30,31,32,33</sup>

To cite: Kwakkenbos L, Imran M, McCord KA, et al. Protocol for a scoping review to support development of a CONSORT extension for randomised controlled trials using cohorts and routinely collected health data. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e025266. doi:10.1136/bmjopen-2018-025266

► Prepublication history and additional material for this paper are available online. To view these files, please visit the journal online (<http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmjopen-2018-025266>).

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### ABSTRACT

**Introduction** Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) conducted using cohorts and routinely collected health data, including registries, electronic health records and administrative databases, are increasingly used in healthcare intervention research. The development of an extension of the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement for RCTs using cohorts and routinely collected health data is being undertaken with the goal of improving reporting quality by setting standards early in the process of uptake of these designs. To develop this extension to the CONSORT statement, a scoping review will be conducted to identify potential modifications or clarifications of existing reporting guideline items, as well as additional items needed for reporting RCTs using cohorts and routinely collected health data.

**Methods and analysis** In separate searches, we will seek publications on methods or reporting or that describe protocols or results from RCTs using cohorts, registries, electronic health records and administrative databases. Data sources will include Medline and the Cochrane

### Strengths and limitations of this study

- Our scoping review will be conducted using rigorous methods, with peer-reviewed searches developed by a research librarian that will comply with Institute of Medicine standards and are not limited by language.
- Due to the novelty of randomised controlled trials using cohorts and routinely collected health data, we anticipate identifying only a limited number of methods and reporting articles in our scoping review.
- To supplement articles on methods and reporting, we will review primary trial protocols and reports to identify elements that need reporting and to identify examples of good reporting.

### INTRODUCTION

Randomised controlled trials (RCTs), when well designed and conducted, are widely

STUDY PROTOCOL

Open Access



## Protocol for the development of a CONSORT extension for RCTs using cohorts and routinely collected health data

Linda Kwakkenbos,<sup>1</sup> Edmund Juszczak,<sup>2</sup> Lars G Hemkens,<sup>3</sup> Margaret Sampson,<sup>4</sup> Ole Frøbert,<sup>5</sup> Clars Relton,<sup>6</sup> Chris Gale,<sup>7</sup> Merrick Zwarenstein,<sup>8,9</sup> Sinead M Langan,<sup>10</sup> David Moher,<sup>11</sup> Isabelle Boutron,<sup>12,13,14</sup> Philippe Ravaud,<sup>15,16,17</sup> Marion K Campbell,<sup>18</sup> Kimberly A McCord,<sup>19</sup> Tjeerd P van Staa,<sup>16,17</sup> Lehana Thabane,<sup>18</sup> Rudolf Uher,<sup>19</sup> Helena M Verkooyen,<sup>20,21</sup> Eric I Benchimol,<sup>22,23,24</sup> David Erlinge,<sup>25</sup> Maureen Sauve,<sup>26,27</sup> David Torgerson<sup>28</sup> and Brett D Thombs<sup>29,30,31,32,33</sup>

### Abstract

**Background:** Randomised controlled trials (RCTs) are often complex and expensive to perform. Less than one third achieve planned recruitment targets, follow-up can be labor-intensive, and many have limited real-world generalizability. Designs for RCTs conducted using cohorts and routinely collected health data, including registries, electronic health records, and administrative databases, have been proposed to address these challenges and are being rapidly adopted. These designs, however, are relatively recent innovations, and published RCT reports often do not describe important aspects of their methodology in a standardized way. Our objective is to extend the Consolidated Standards of Reporting Trials (CONSORT) statement with a consensus-driven reporting guideline for RCTs using cohorts and routinely collected health data.

**Methods:** The development of this CONSORT extension will consist of five phases. Phase 1 (completed) consisted of the project launch, including fundraising, the establishment of a research team, and development of a conceptual framework. In phase 2, a systematic review will be performed to identify publications (1) that describe methods or reporting considerations for RCTs conducted using cohorts and routinely collected health data or (2) that are protocols or report results from such RCTs. An initial "long list" of possible modifications to CONSORT checklist items and possible new items for the reporting guideline will be generated based on the Strengthening of Reporting of Observational Studies in Epidemiology (STROBE) and The Reporting of Studies Conducted using Observational Routinely-collected Health Data (RECORD) statements. Additional possible modifications and new items will be identified based on the results of the systematic review. Phase 3 will consist of a three-round Delphi exercise with methods and content experts to evaluate the "long list" and generate a "short list" of key items. In phase 4, these items will serve as the basis for an in-person consensus meeting to finalize a core set of items to be included in the reporting guideline and checklist. Phase 5 will involve drafting the checklist and elaboration-explanation documents, and dissemination and implementation of the guideline.

**Discussion:** Development of this CONSORT extension will contribute to more transparent reporting of RCTs conducted using cohorts and routinely collected health data.

**Keywords:** Administrative data, Cohort, CONSORT, Electronic health records, Electronic medical records, Electronic patient records, Randomized controlled trials, RCTs, Registries, Reporting guideline, Routinely collected health data

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1) Kwakkenbos L. *BMJ Open* 2018;8:e025266  
2) Kwakkenbos L. *Research Integrity and Peer Review* (2018) 3:9

# Conclusions

- Urgent need for randomized trials in clinical medicine
- Registries are strong networks for collaboration enrolling complete patient populations
- Registry-based Randomized Clinical Trials are ideal for:  
*One clinical hypothesis, broad inclusion, hard endpoints*
- Baseline and outcome variables from registries
- Initiated by clinicians, not Big Pharma
- Fast enrollment, low cost
- Keep it simple

THANK  
YOU!

A hand is shown in the bottom right corner, holding a piece of white chalk and finishing the exclamation mark at the end of the word 'YOU!'. The hand is wearing a dark suit sleeve with a white cuff. The chalkboard has some faint horizontal lines.

[ole.frobert@regionorebrolan.se](mailto:ole.frobert@regionorebrolan.se)

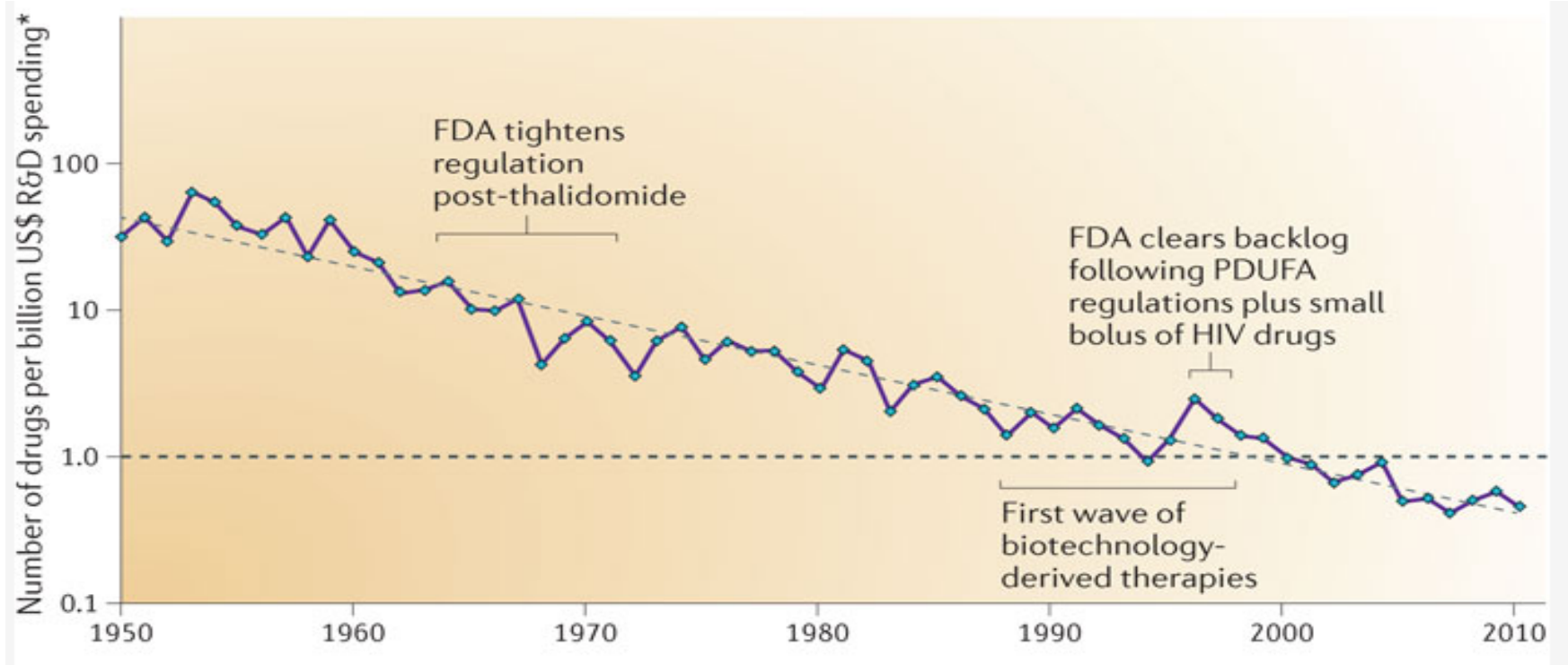
# Back-up slides



# An RRCT do-it-yourself guide

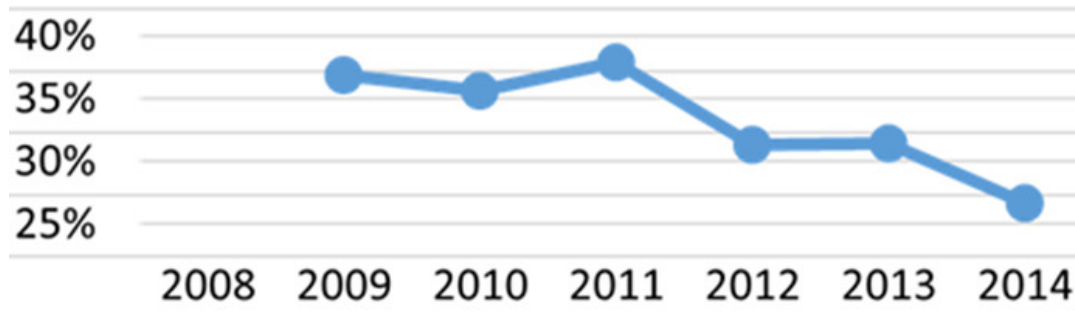
- One, simple hypothesis
- Patient representatives on board if possible
- Well-defined baseline and primary outcome variables
- All centers and colleagues
- Limit additional workload, simple randomization
- Reduce monitoring
- Adjudicate selected variables only
- Online inclusion status
- Broad representation in publications

# R&D productivity



# Hospital participation in MI trials

Proportion of hospitals enrolling at least 1 MI patient/year

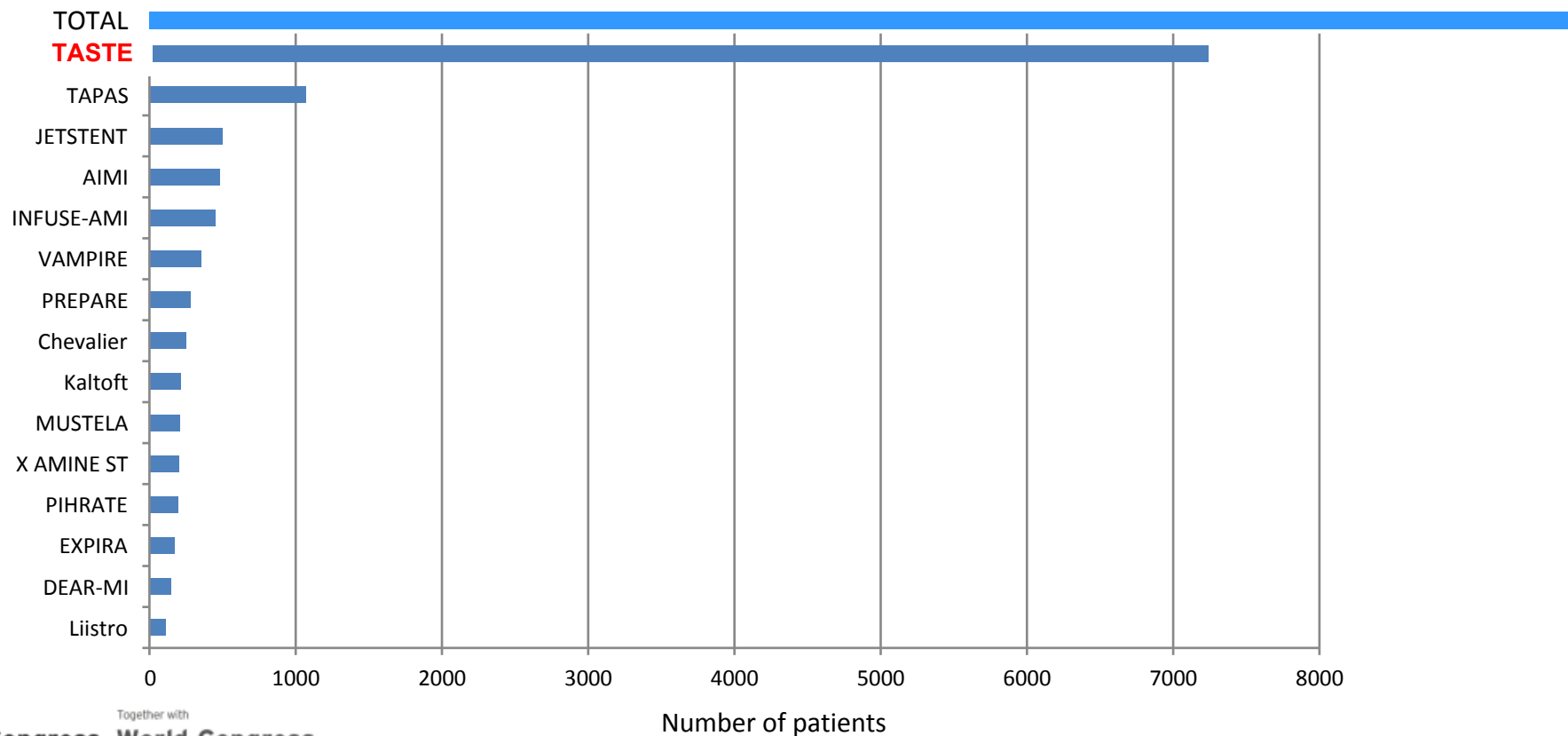


Proportion of patients with MI enrolled in a clinical trial





# TASTE and previous trials



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# A disruptive technology?

- The New England Journal of Medicine suggested it:

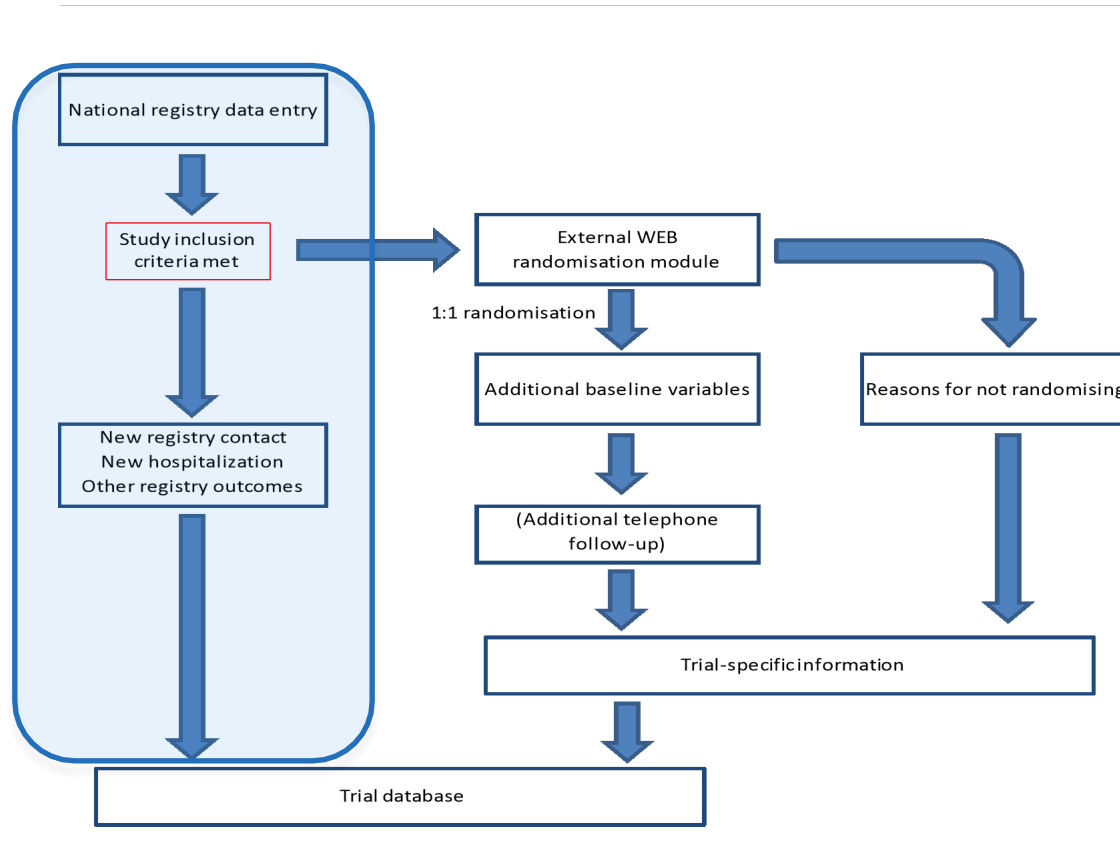


# A disruptive technology?

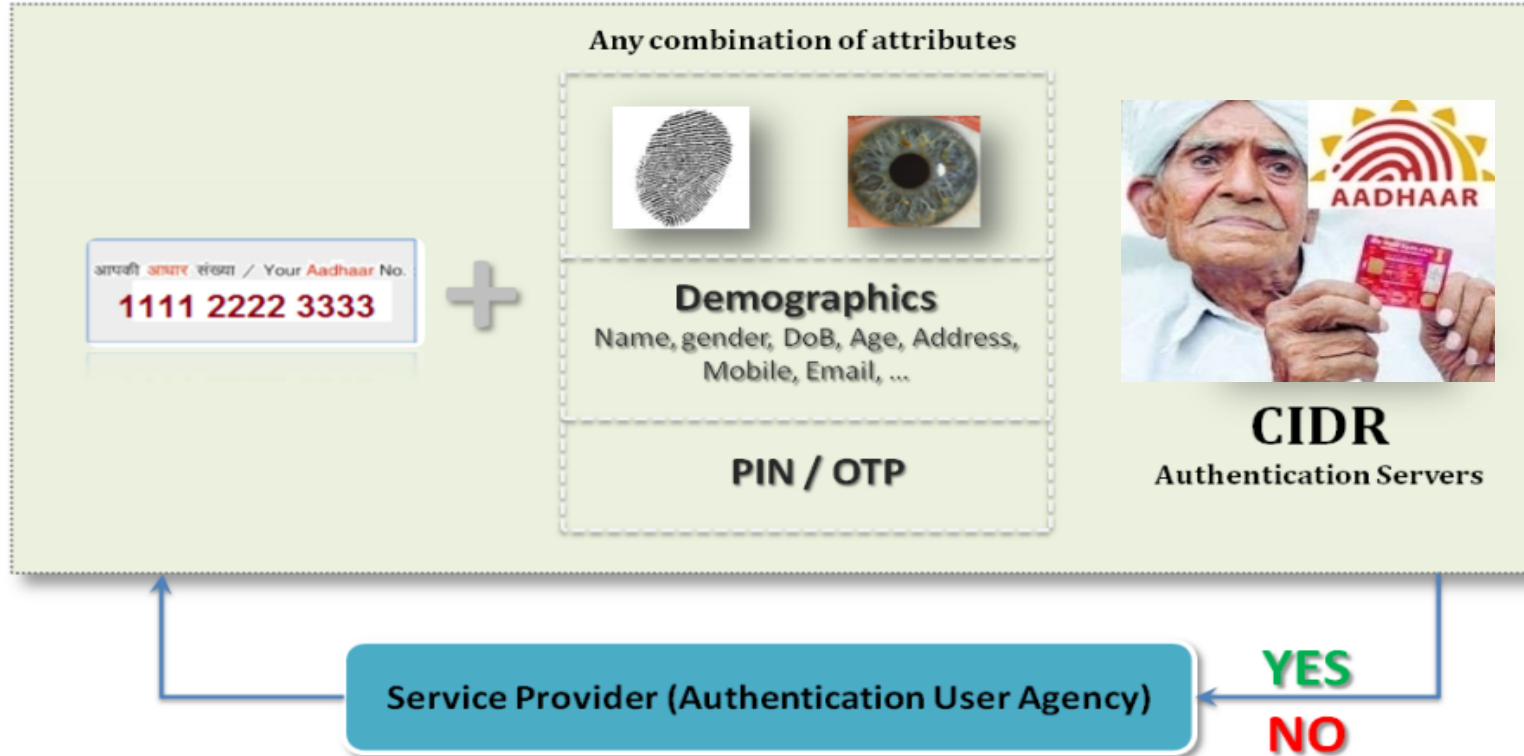
- .. is one that displaces an established technology and shakes up the industry or a ground-breaking product that creates a completely new industry



# Several countries with different registries



# RRCTs – not only possible in Scandinavia



Patients with **myocardial infarction**, undergoing angiography  
and if appropriate revascularization  
and **LV-EF $\geq$ 50%**, included in SWEDEHEART



Informed consent  
**Randomization**  
**n=7000**



**Oral Beta-blockade**  
(Metoprolol Succinate or Bisoprolol)  
**n=3500**



**No Beta-blockade**  
**N=3500**



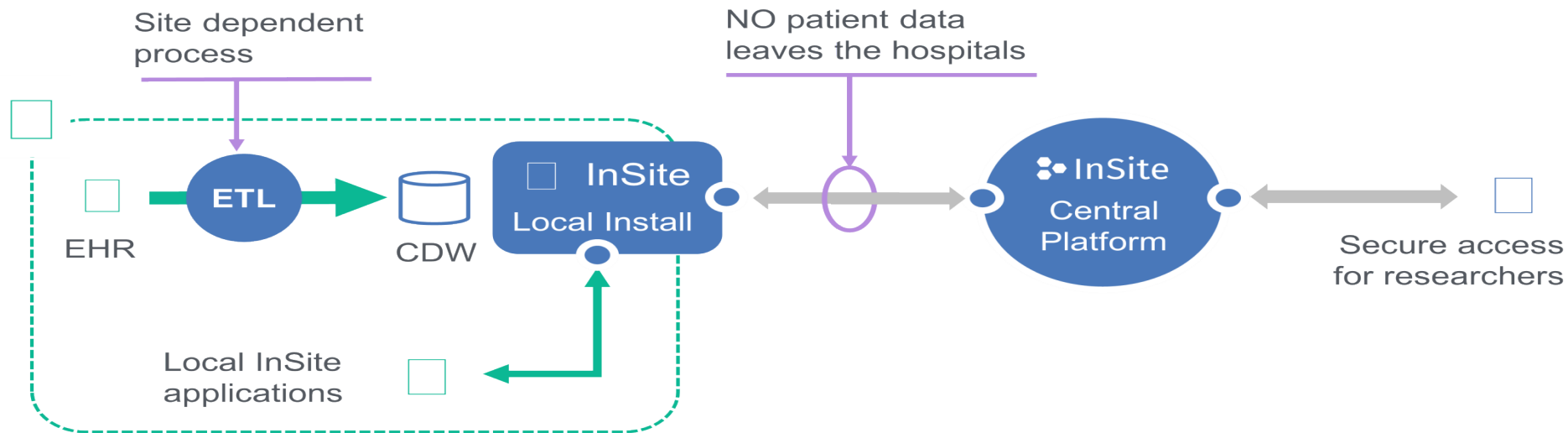
**Primary endpoint: Death or non-fatal MI**

(Event driven ITT, expected median follow-up of 2 years)

**Secondary endpoints:** Death, cardiovascular death, MI, HF, atrial fibrillation

(Safety data, PROM)

# A new tool – The InSite platform for identifying eligible patients



# Retrospective observational study

- Different doctors and hospitals choose different treatments for no obvious reason



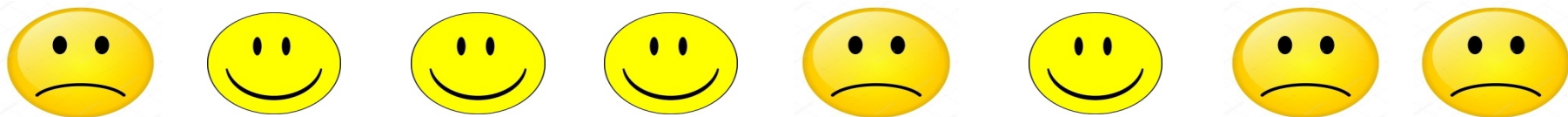


# Prospective randomization in a registry (RRCT)

- Instead of different treatment dependent on local preferences one could randomize



**Randomization**



# Beta-blockers to patients with Chronic Obstructive pulmonary disease (BRONCHIOLE)

A pragmatic clinical trial with partial registry-based follow-up

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