

# Sarcopenia and frailty – preventable and treatable geriatric syndromes



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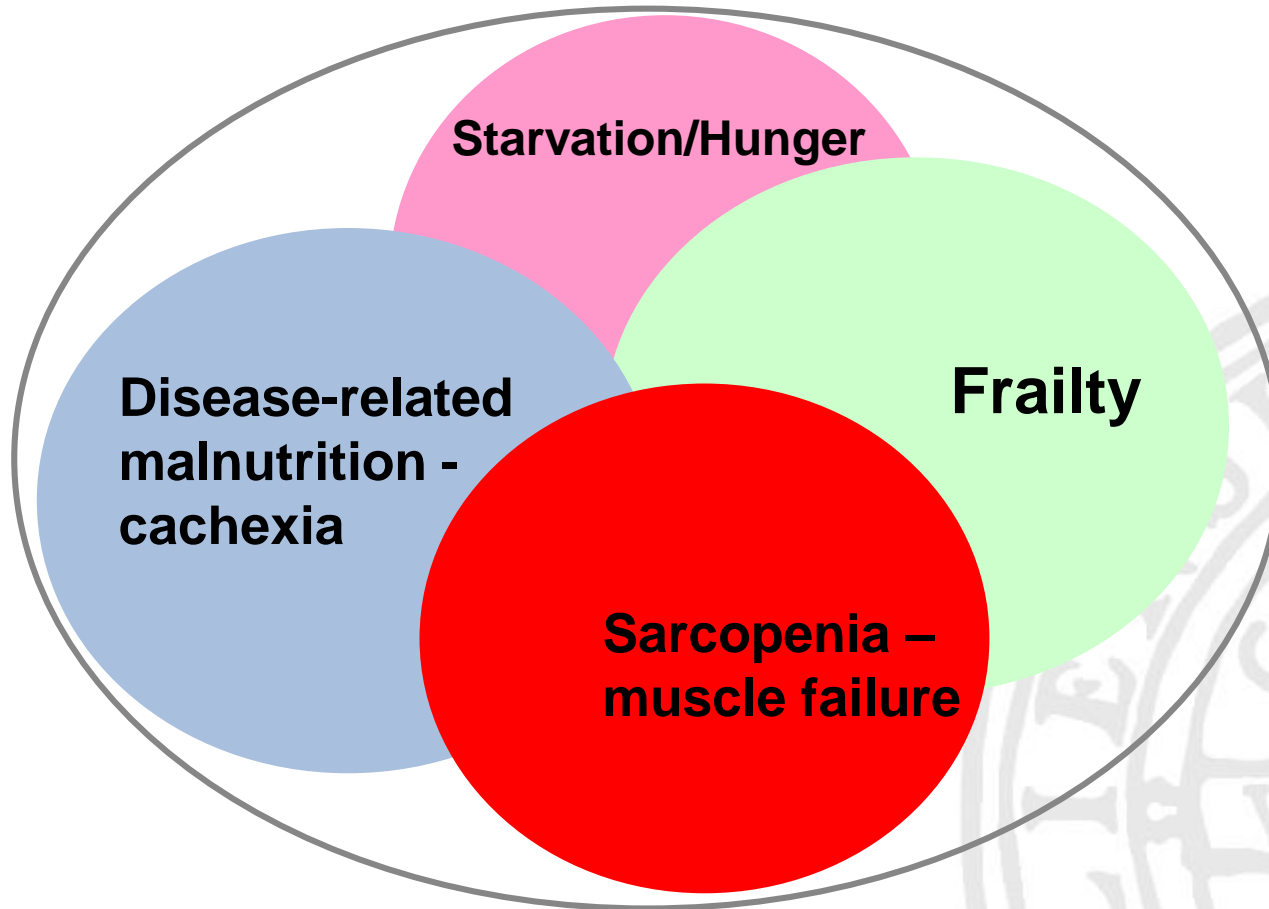
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**Dept. of Geriatric Medicine, Uppsala University Hospital,  
Sweden**

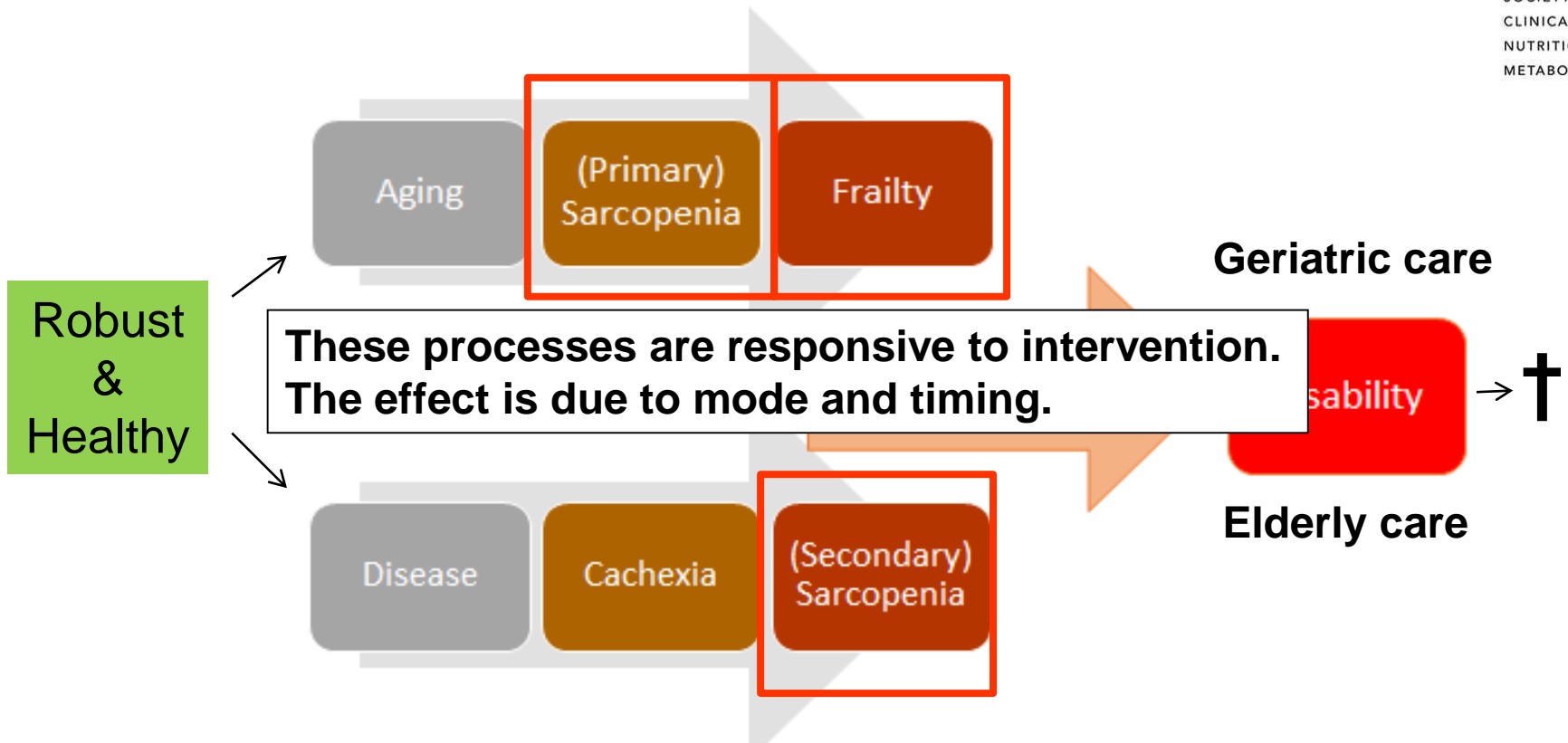


# Overlapping catabolic conditions that affect function and survival





# Ageing & Disease → disability & †



**Frailty and sarcopenia are risk factors for disability and death**



# Geriatric syndromes – Sarcopenia and Frailty new GS/Giants

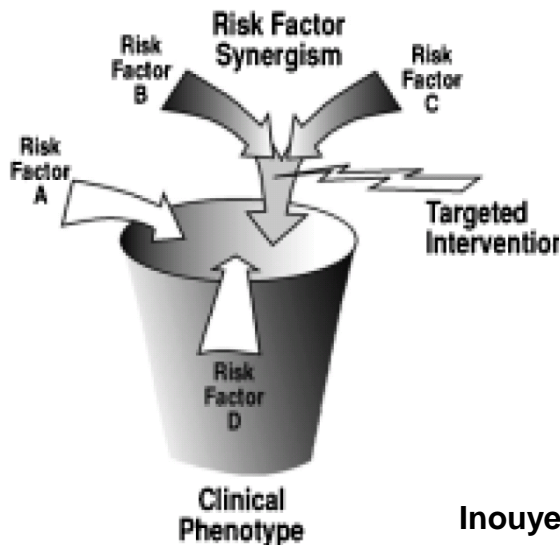


Falls  
Pressure ulcers  
Malnutrition  
Confusion  
**Sarcopenia**  
**Frailty**

A geriatric syndrome is/has

- multi-factorial pathogenesis
- one phenotype
- linked to co-morbidity
- bad prognosis

Compare a medical syndrome



Risk factors in common

- high age
- cognitive decline
- reduced mobility



Many symptoms



# Frailty – a new geriatric giant

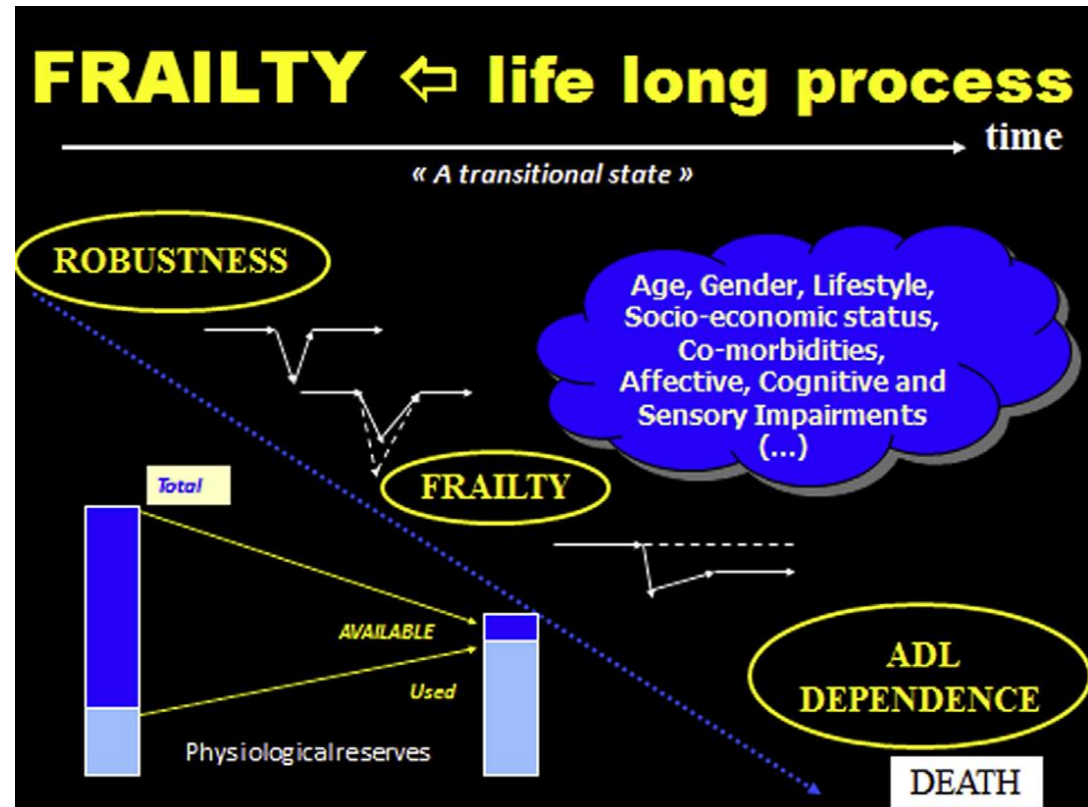


## Definition:

- Vulnerability
- Non-resilience
- Reserve capacity ↓
- Risk of morbidity and dependency

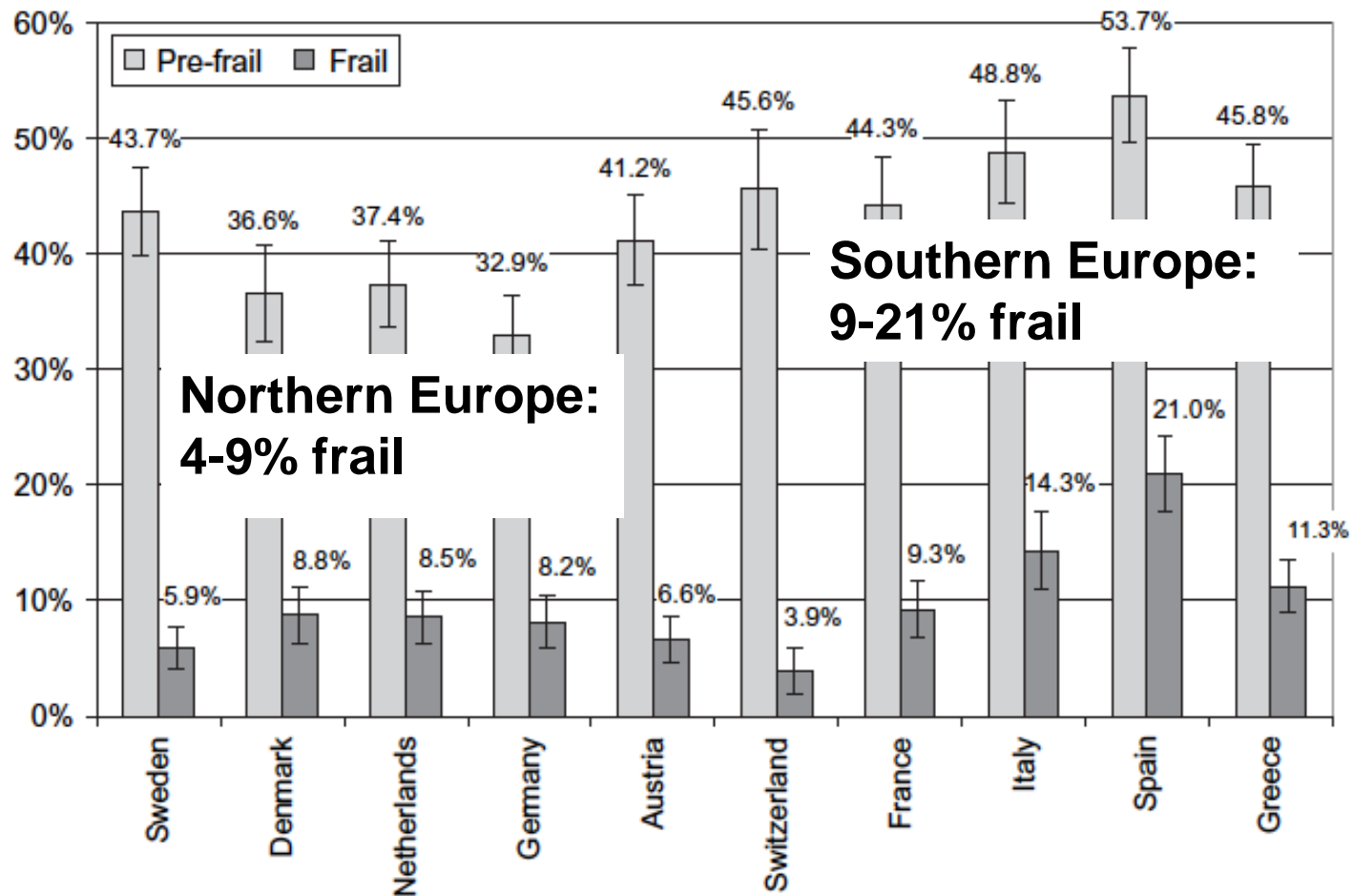
## Prevalence :

6-26% of older people  
in Europe (SHARE)  
(Frieds criteria)





# Prevalence of frailty in Europe in persons > 65 y – The SHARE Study



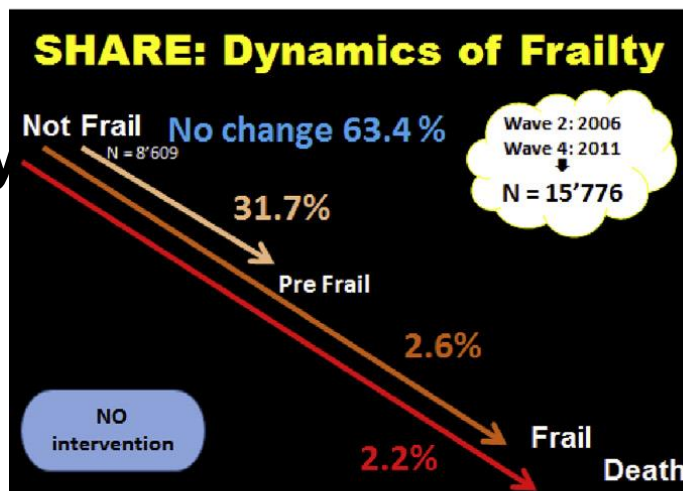




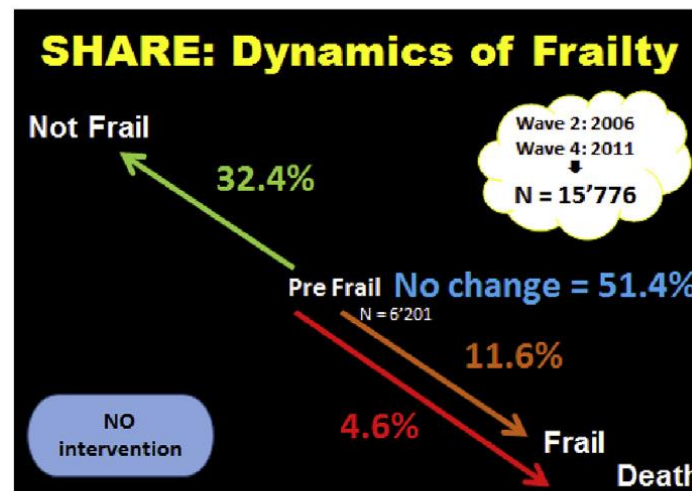
# Frailty is reversible – The SHARE Study

The SHARE Study  
80.000 >65 y  
5-y f-up

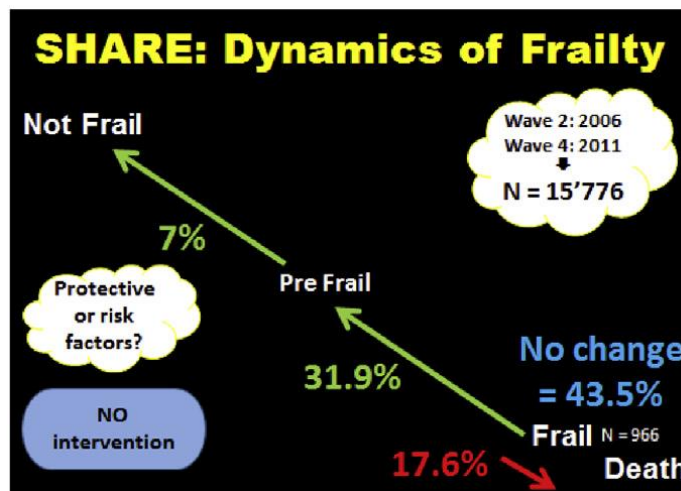
A



B



C



A: Not Frail  
B: Pre Frail  
C. Frail (40% improved)



# Diagnosis of frailty?



## The Frailty Phenotype

### Cardiovascular Health Study "Linda Fried Criteria" (2001)

- Weight loss
- Weakness
- Exhaustion
- Slowness
- Low physical activity

≥3 Frailty

1-2 Pre-Frailty

Fried L et al. Frailty in older adults: evidence for a phenotype. J Gerontol 2001

## The Frailty Index

### - "Cumulative deficit model" (60-70 items)

### Canadian Study of Health and Aging (Rockwood 2002)

A 60-point Frailty Index score, based on data routinely collected in a Comprehensive Geriatric Assessment.

Health deficit	Scoring instructions
Cognition	Score 0 if within normal limits, 0.5 if "Cognitive Impairment, No Dementia", 1 if "dementia"
Dementia stage	0 = absent, 0.33 = mild; 0.67 = moderate; 1 = severe
Delirium	0 = absent, 1 = present
Affect/mood	0 = normal; 0.5 = low mood; 1 = depression
Anxiety	0 = absent; 1 = present
Behavioural and psychological symptoms of dementia	0 = absent; 1 = present
Violence	0 = absent; 1 = present
Health attitude	0 = excellent/good; 1 = fair/poor
Mobility	0 = walks on own; 0.25 = slow 0.5 needs assistance; 1 = cannot walk
Walking aid	0 = absent 0.25 = cane; 0.75 = walker; 1 = wheelchair
Balance	0 = unimpaired; 1 = impaired
Falls	0 = none; 0.5 present, not in last month; 1 = within last month
Transfers	0 = independent; 0.5 = standby; 1 = any hands-on assistance
Bowels	0 = normal; 0.5 = constipation; 1 = incontinence
Bladder	0 = normal; 0.5 = occasional incontinence; 1 = incontinence
Hobbies	0 = retained; 0.5 = reduced; 1 = abandoned
Banking	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Medications	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Shopping	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Transportation	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Climbs stairs	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Bathing	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Dressing	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Toileting	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Grooming	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Feeding	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Weight	0 = independent; 0.5 = needs some assistance; 1 = dependent
Appetite	0 = normal; 1 = reduced
Sleep	0 = normal; 0.5 = sometimes disrupted; 1 = problem
Daytime drowsiness	0 = absent; 0.5 = occasional; 1 = present
Smoking	0 = never; 0.25 none in last 25 years; 0.5 = past; 1 = present
In Emergency Department in last 30 days	0 = no; 1 point for each visit (maximum 3)
In hospital in last 6 months	0 = 1; 1 point for each week in hospital (maximum = 6)
Co-morbidities Medications	Score 1 for each; maximum is 16 <5 = 0; 5-7 = 1.0; 8-11 = 2; 12-15 = 3; >15 = 4

Note on scoring: 1 point is added for each deficit; the total points are divided by 60 to achieve a Frailty Index score, where 0 = no deficits present, and 1.0 = all 60 deficits present. In practice, many fewer than 1% of people would have a Frailty Index score >0.67.





# Diagnosis of frailty?

## The Frailty Phenotype

Cardiovascular Health Study  
"Linda Fried Criteria" (2001)

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## The Frailty Index


- "Cumulative deficit model" (70 items)

Canadian Study of Health and Aging  
(Rockwood 2002)

- **Clinical Frailty Scale** (Rockwood 2006)

Clinical judgement on a 7-graded scale

**Box 1: The CSHA Clinical Frailty Scale**



- 1 *Very fit* — robust, active, energetic, well motivated and fit; these people commonly exercise regularly and are in the most fit group for their age
- 2 *Well* — without active disease, but less fit than people in category 1
- 3 *Well, with treated comorbid disease* — disease symptoms are well controlled compared with those in category 4
- 4 *Apparently vulnerable* — although not frankly dependent, these people commonly complain of being "slowed up" or have disease symptoms
- 5 *Mildly frail* — with limited dependence on others for instrumental activities of daily living
- 6 *Moderately frail* — help is needed with both instrumental and non-instrumental activities of daily living
- 7 *Severely frail* — completely dependent on others for the activities of daily living, or terminally ill

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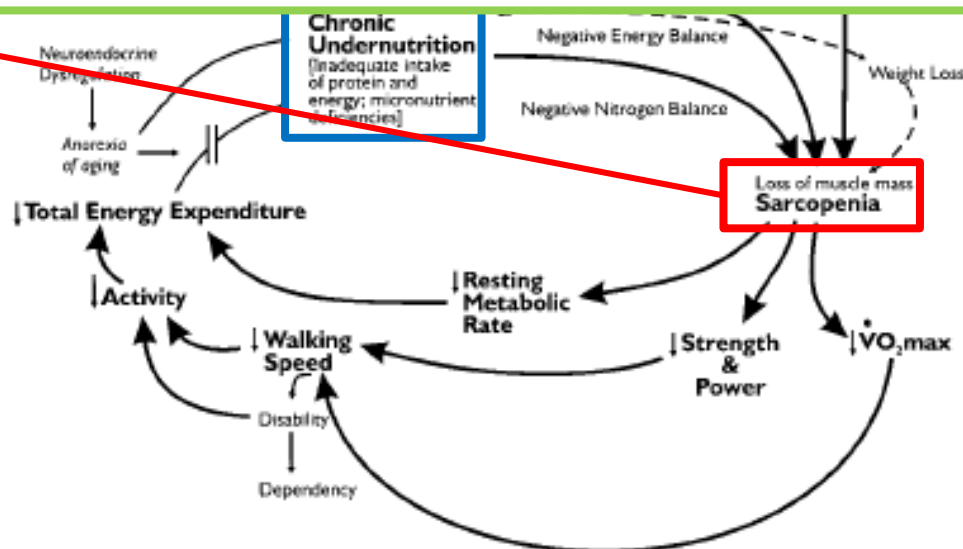
# Q: What is frailty?

## Linda Fried's criteria (2001)

- Weight loss
- Weakness
- Exhaustion
- Slowness
- Low physical activity

Frailty is a complex state of reduced strength, power and resilience (WHO), that increases risk of dependence and mortality

**A: A combination of reduced function and malnutrition**



Fried L et al. Frailty in older adults: evidence for a phenotype. J Gerontol 2001



# The role of muscle



- ~40% of body weight
- 50-75% of body protein
- **Mobility**
- **Strength**
- **Amino acid pool**
- **Glucose regulation**
- **Energy metabolism**
- **Endocrine functions**
- ....





# Sarcopenia – a novel concept for an old problem in old and ill



## Loss of muscle – Irvin Rosenberg 1989 "Muscle loss steals the freedom of the old"

**Muscle mass decrease by**

- 30-50% from 20 to 80 y
- 1-2%/y after 50 y

**Selective typ II fibre atrophy**

**Muscle strength ↓ by**

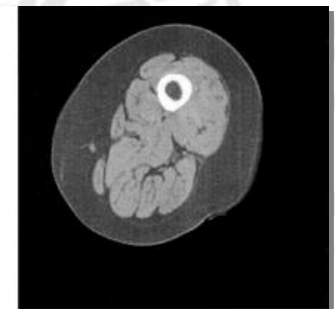
- 15% / 10 y between 50 and 70 y
- 30% / 10 y thereafter

**Sarcopenia is a syndrome characterized by progressive loss of muscle mass and strength with a risk of adverse outcomes**

Cruz-Jentoft et al. Age Aging 2010;39:412-23



Young, active



Old, sedentary

# Classification of sarcopenia

**Primary sarcopenia** (or age-related) when there is no evident cause but ageing itself

**Secondary sarcopenia** when one or more causes are identified:

- **Activity-related sarcopenia**
  - bed rest, sedentarism, deconditioning, non-gravity
- **Disease-related sarcopenia**
  - advanced organ failure (heart, respiratory, liver, renal, brain, intestinal), inflammatory disease, malignancy, endocrine disease
- **Nutrition-related sarcopenia**



# Diagnostic criteria for sarcopenia

- adopted by ESPEN/EUGMS/IAGG/IANA/

## Reduced muscle mass

$\geq 2$  SD below mean of muscle mass in a young ref population



reduced grip strength; e.g. 20 kg

Maximum walking speed of the Grim Reaper (Death) is 1.3 m/s (5 km/h)

BMJ Dec 2011;343  
Stanaway

Cruz-Jentoft et al. Age Aging 2010;39:412-23

Fielding et al. JAMDA 2011;12:249-256

Morley et al. JAMDA 2011;12:403-09

Studenski et al. J Gerontol 2014;69:547-58





# Aetiology of sarcopenia → frailty



## **Apoptosis**↑,

Caspase activation, mitochondria DNA mutations

## **Inflammation**

## **Inactivity/bed rest**

## **Hormonopause**

testosteron↓, estrogen↓, DHEA↓, GH↓, IGF-I↓

## **Insulin resistance**

relative obesity, inflammation

## **Nutritional deficiencies**

“anorexia of aging”, protein RDI 0.8 g/d/kg?

## **Motor-unit losses** (~50% between 25 and 75 y)

neuro-muscular synaptic damage





# Aetiology of sarcopenia → frailty



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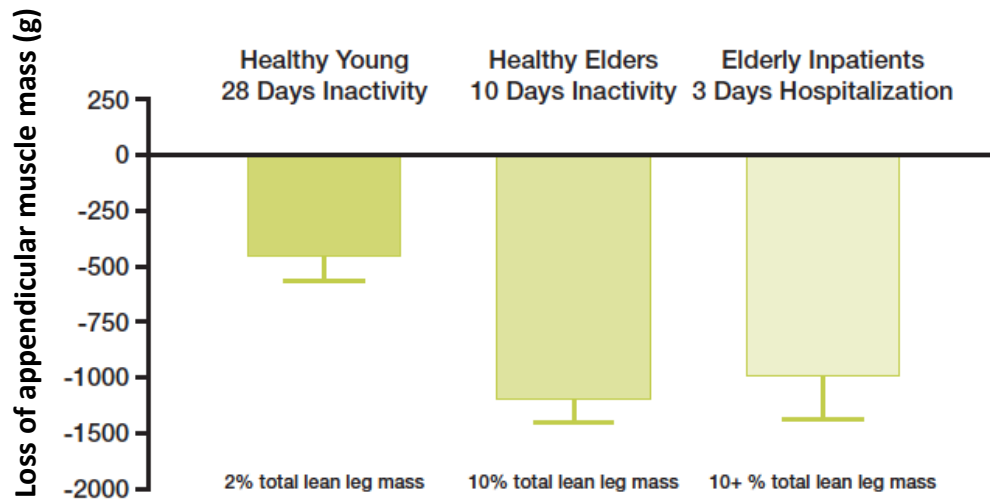
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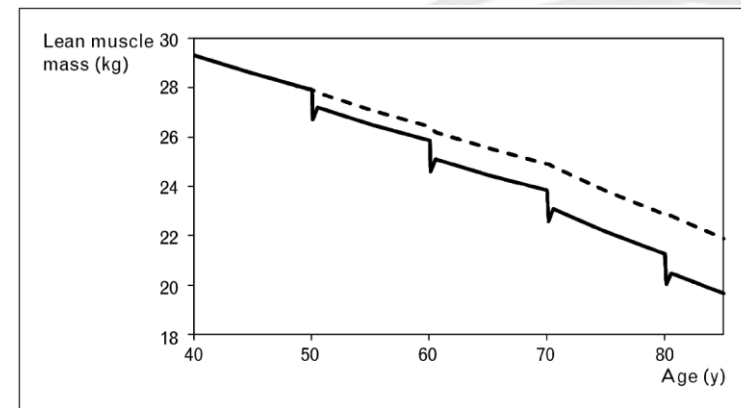


# Loss of muscle mass as a consequence of immobility in young and old – is hospitalization a cause for sarcopenia in older adults?



Kortebein P et al, JAMA 2007;297:1772-1774

**Aging + “catabolic crisis”:**  
**Recurrent disease episodes**  
**aggravate the sarcopenic process**  
 - Bedrest  
 - Inflammatory bouts



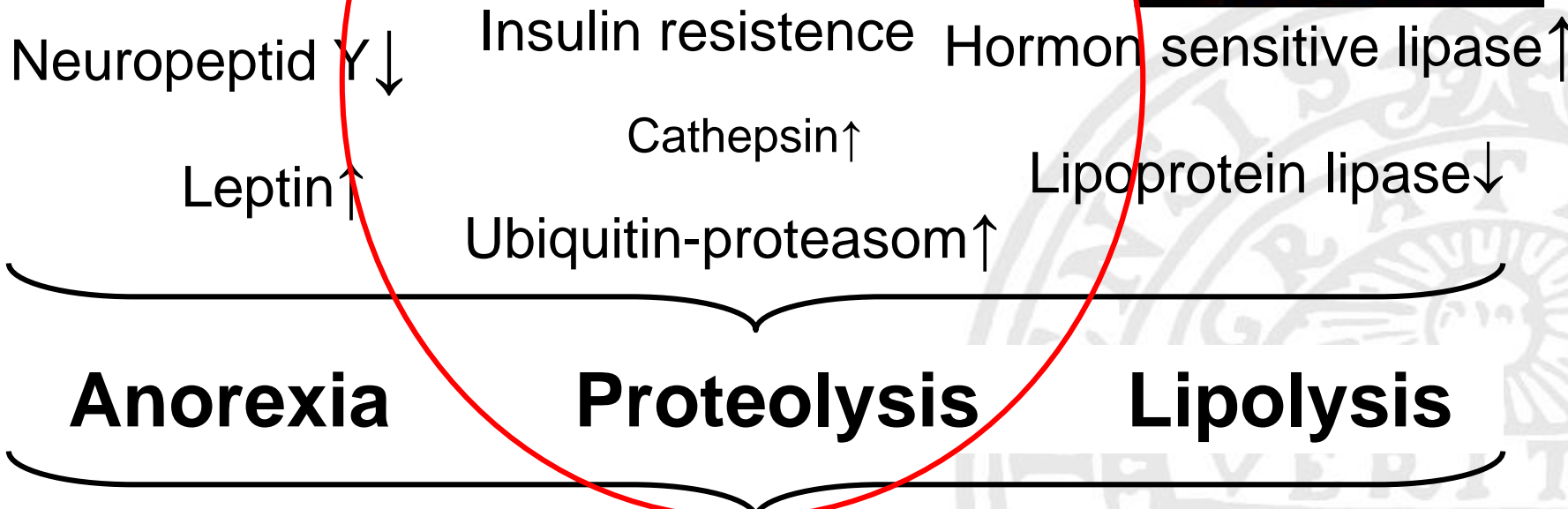
(- -), Traditional sarcopenia model; (—), Catabolic crisis model.

English&Paddon-Jones. COCNM 2010;13:34-39



# Disease/trauma/aging

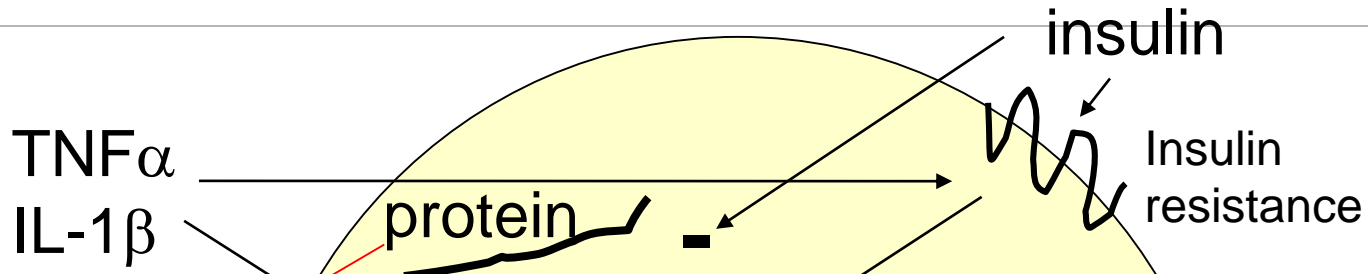
## Inflammation



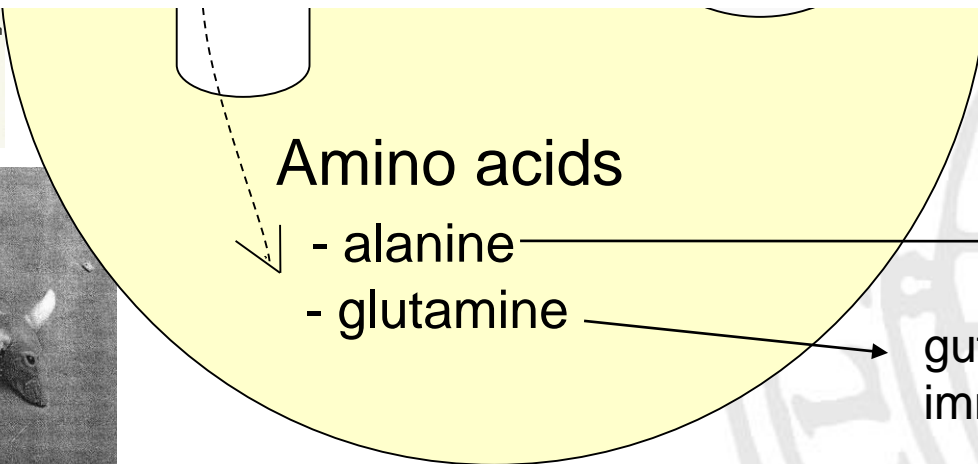
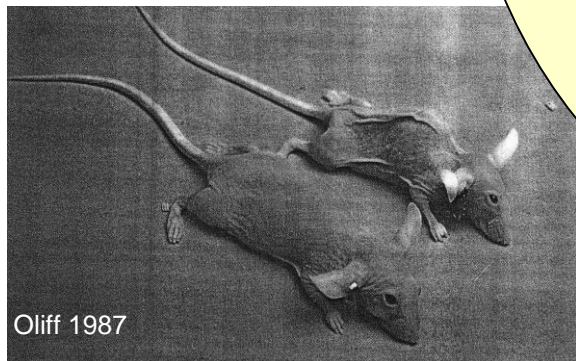
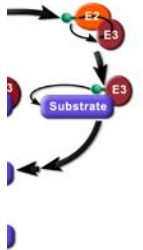
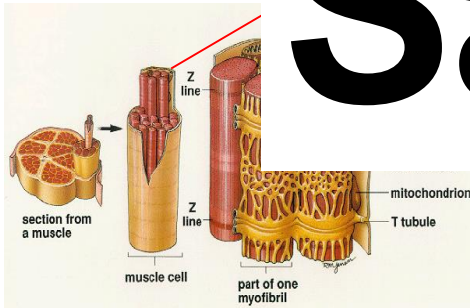
**Cachexia → Sarcopenia**



# Inflammation and muscle breakdown



# Sarcopenia



gluconeogenesis

gut immune system



# Clinical relevance of sarcopenia



- **QoL**↓ Patel et al. Age Ageing 2013;42:378-84
- **Insulin resistance** Sanada et al. Eur J Clin Nutr 2012;66:1093-1098
- **Osteoporosis** Verschueren et al. Osteoporosis Int 2013;24:87-98
- **Falls** Landi F et al. Clin Nutr 2012;31:652-8
- **LoS**↑ Gariballa&Alessa. Clin Nutr 2013;32:772-6
- **Re-admissions**↑ Gariballa&Alessa. Clin Nutr 2013;32:772-6
- **Mortality**↑ Landi F et al. Age Ageing 2013;42:203-9

- adjusted for several confounders





# Treatment options for malnutrition and sarcopenia



## ✓ Nutrition

- Regular food
- **Oral supplementation**
- Energy enriched
- **Protein enriched**
  - **Essential amino acids**
- **Vitamin D**
- **Essential fatty acids**
- *Dietary patterns*
- *Enteral nutrition*
- Nasogastric tube
- PEG
- *Parenteral nutrition*

- ✓ Anabolic treatment
  - BCAA, **leucin, HMB**
  - GH, Nandrolon,
  - SARMs

## ✓ Reduce catabolism

- **Myostatin inhibitors - decoy receptors**
- **Ghrelin agonists - anamorelin**
- Megesterol acetate
- Proteasome inhibitors
- ACE inhibitors

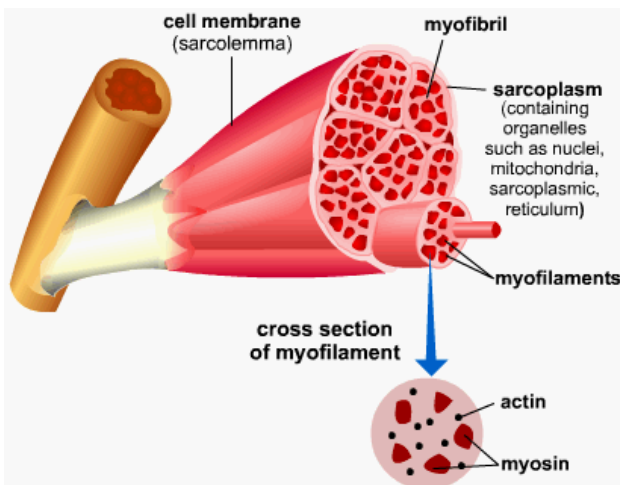
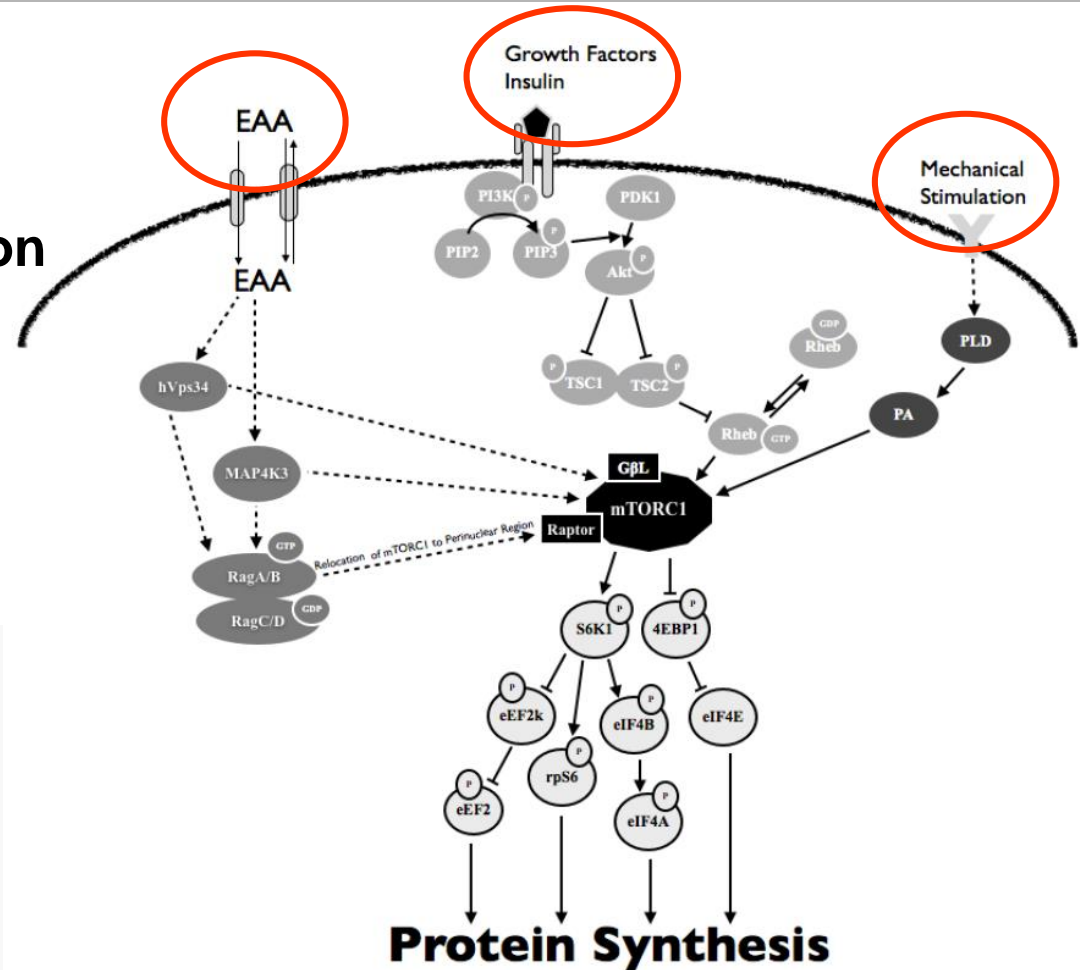
## ✓ Immuno modulation

- **n-3 and n-6 fatty acids**
- Arginine, glutamine
- Anti-oxidants

- ✓ **Physical activity**  
**Resistance training**

# How to generate protein synthesis?

- **mTOR activation**
  - Amino acids
  - Mechanical stimulation
  - Anabolic hormones
- **Transcription**
- **Translation**





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# Resistance training



# Resistance training



15 RCT in a systematic review show in general positive effects

**Strength**↑ ~200%, muscle mass↑ 10%,

Improved stair-climb, gait-speed, chair.rise, 6 minutes walk test

Seguin&Nelson Am J Prev Med 2003;25:141

66 studies in a Cochrane meta-analysis 2003:

REVIEWER'S CONCLUSIONS: PRT appears to be an **effective intervention** to **increase strength** in older people and has a positive effect....

Latham et al. Cochrane Database Syst Rev 2003

**Up-dated Cochrane analysis 2009** - 121 studies (RCT), 6700 subjects

- “modest improvement in gait speed”
- “moderate-large effect for getting out of chair”
- **“large effect on muscle strength”**

Liu & Latham. Cochrane 2009



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# Protein intake - observational studies



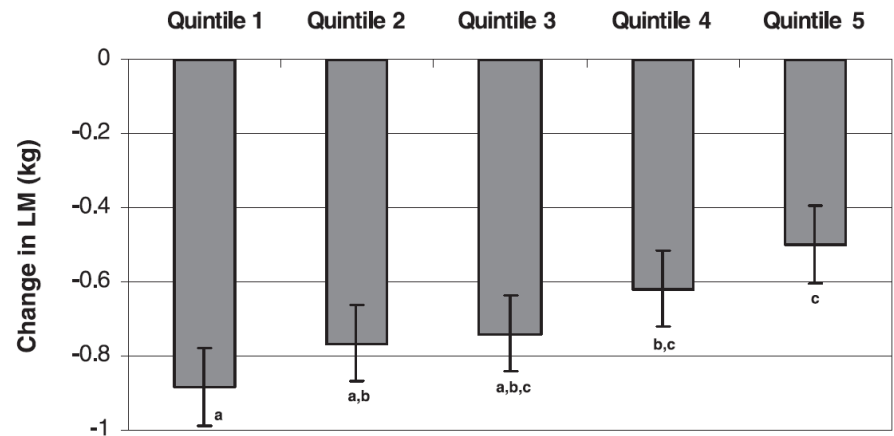
# Protein intake and muscle mass in the Health ABC Study

2066 ♀/♂, 70-79 y

3-year follow-up

Lean Mass (DXA)

Quintiles of protein intake



**Conclusion:**

**High protein intake  
preserves muscle mass**

Q1 – 0.8 g/kg bw, 11 E% protein

Q5 – 1.2 g/kg bw, 18 E% protein

Houston DK et al. AJCN 2008





# Protein intake and mobility limitation in the Health ABC Study

1998 ♀/♂, 70-79 y com-dw

- 6-year follow-up
- Tertiles of protein intake (FFQ)
- Limited walking (400 m) or stair climbing (10 steps)
- 1/3 developed mobility lim

## Conclusion:

Protein intake >1 g/kg bw/d reduces 6-y risk of mobility limitation

T1 – <0.7 g/kg bw/d

T2 – 0.7-1.0 g/kg bw/d

T3 – >1 g/kg bw/d

T1 vs T3: HR 1.89 (CI 1.41-2.44)

T2 vs T3: HR 1.49 (CI 1.20-1.84)

to develop mobility limitation when compared to >1 g prot/kg bw/d



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# Proteins/amino acids - intervention studies



# Effects of essential amino acid treatment after knee arthroplasty



N=28, 70±5 y, *sarcopenic*?

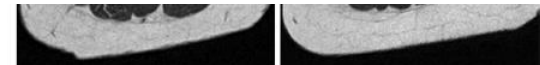
- Knee arthroplasty
- RCT: 20 g EAA vs placebo for 6 weeks post-op
- MRI for lean mass
- Muscle performance

**Conclusion: EAA-treatment protect lean mass and accelerate functional mobility after knee arthroplasty**

## Lean mass

EAA: - 6±2 %

Plac: - 18±2 %



## M. Quadriceps strength

EAA: + 7±7 %

Plac: - 16±7 %



## Timed up-go-test

EAA: - 4±10 %

Plac: + 32±10 %



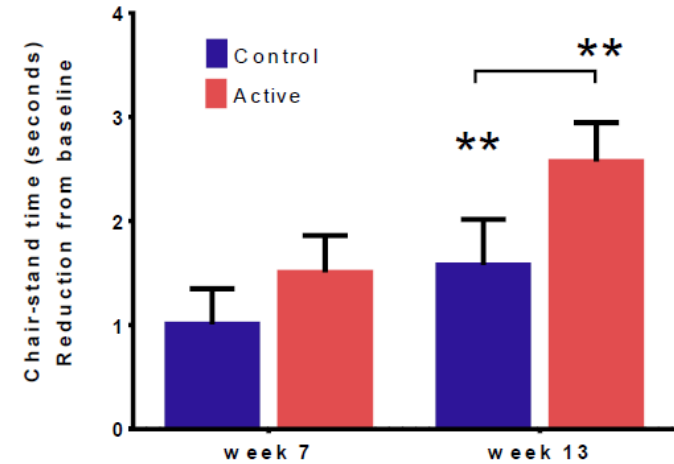
# Protein + leucin + vitamin D to *sarcopenic non-malnourished* older adults: The Provide Study

- 380 >65 y,  $77 \pm 1$  y, sarcopenic, non-malnourished,
- RCT for 13 weeks
- 40 g prot, 3 g leucin, 1600 IU vit D, 300 kcal vs. isocaloric placebo
- Primary outcomes: SPPB, HGS,
- Secondary outcomes: Chair-stand, DXA

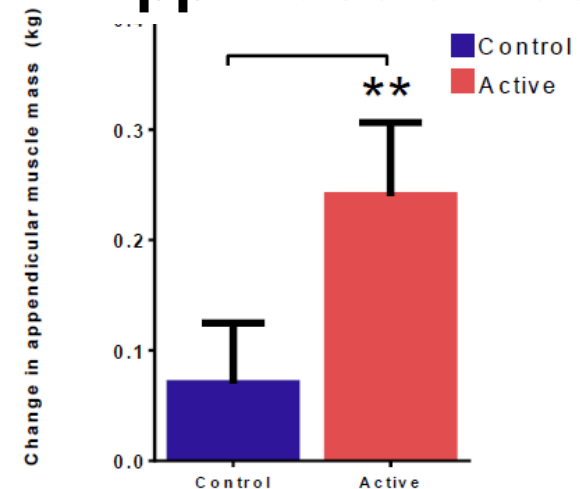
## Conclusion:

- **Faster 5 times chair stand**
- **Gains in appendicular muscle mass**

## Chair-stand



## App muscle mass





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# Proteins and exercise - combination studies





# VIVE2 – 6 mo RCT combining exercise and protein/vitD suppl

## Subjects:

- 149 subjects,  $78 \pm 5$  y, 46% w
- BMI 28
- SPPB  $\sim 8$  – *mobility-limited*
- Vit D  $< 60$  nmol/L;  $\sim 50/20$  nM/L/  
ng/ml

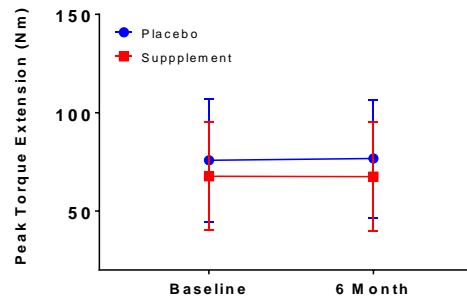
## Results – 400 m walk speed:

- Improved  $\sim 0.1$  m/s in both groups.

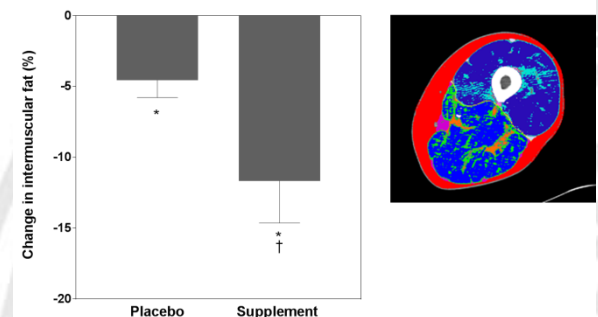
## Intervention:

- Physical activity 3x/week for 24 w; walking, strength, balance, and flexibility.
  - Randomized to a daily high protein/high leucine, vitamin D nutritional supplement or placebo.
- Primary outcome: Gait speed (400M walk).

## Results – leg strength:



## Results – im fat:



## Conclusion: 24 w of intervention showed

- improvement in gait speed in both groups with no significant effect of the supplementation,
- no effect on leg strength
- reduced im fat infiltration by supplementation





# Whey protein, EAA, leucine and vit D to exercising *sarcopenic* old adults

130 *sarcopenic* old adults, 80 y. BMI 24, Exercise for everybody for 12 w.

RCT: Whey prot + EAA + leucine + vit D or placebo

Effects of supplementation compared to placebo

Variable	Mean change	Treatment effect			
		p	P <sup>2</sup>	Mean difference (95% CI)	P <sup>3</sup>
Fat-free mass, g	1382	6		1695 (892, 2498)	<0.001
Fat mass, g	-345	2		-114 (-786, 559)	0.689
Gynoid, %	-1.39	6		0.54 (-0.67, 1.75)	0.451
Android, %	-2.03			1.80 (0.30, 3.29)	0.021
RSMM, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	0.21			0.27 (0.07, 0.47)	0.009
MNA score	1.76	5		1.52 (0.51, 2.52)	0.003
Weight, kg	1.12 (0.57, 1.67)	0.004		2.00 (0.97, 3.04)	<0.001
BMI, kg/m <sup>2</sup>	0.42 (0.11, 0.72)	0.008		0.84 (0.43, 1.25)	<0.001
Waist circumference					0.449
ADL score					<0.001
SF-36 MCS score					0.166
SF-36 PCS score					0.030
CRP, mg/dL					0.038
IGF-I, ng/mL					0.002
Handgrip, kg					<0.001

	Inter-vention	BMI	Sarco-penia	Hand-grip (kg)	ONS outcome
<b>VIVE2</b>	Ex+ONS	28	y/n	26	? -/+
<b>Rondinelli</b>	Ex+ONS	24	Yes	18	+

**Fat free mass ↑ 1.6 kg**

**ADL score ↑**

**IGF-I ↑**

**Handgrip ↑ 3.7 kg**



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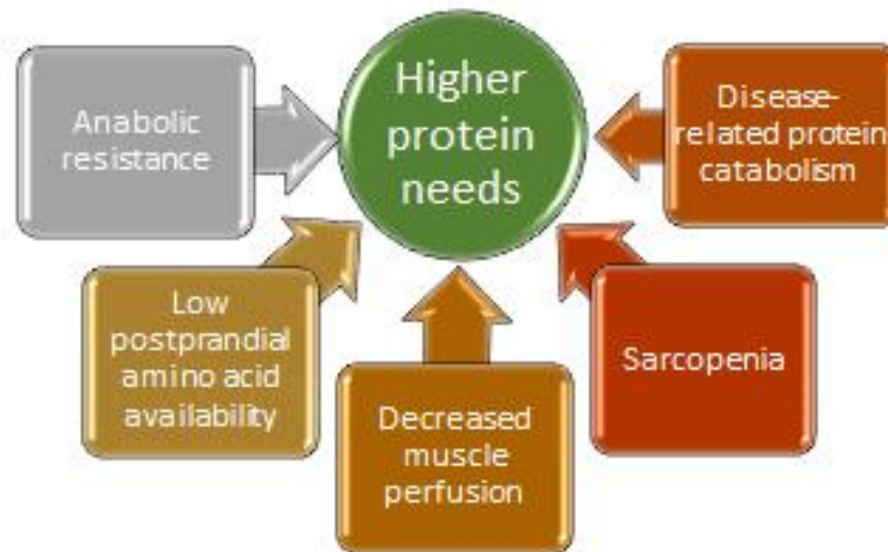


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# Current recommendations on protein intake



**Nordic Nutrition Recommendation 2012:  
... goal for protein intake in old adults is 18 E%,  
i.e. 1.2-1.4 g/kg bw/d...**





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# EUGMS – PROT-AGE 2013

JAMDA 14 (2013) 542–559

... healthy old at least in  
the range of **1.0-1.2 g  
prot/kg bw/d**

...acute and chronic  
disease or frail need  
even more, i.e. **1.2-1.5 g  
prot/kg bw/d**



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JAMDA

journal homepage: [www.jamda.com](http://www.jamda.com)



Special Article

Evidence-Based Recommendations for Optimal Dietary Protein Intake in Older People: A Position Paper From the PROT-AGE Study Group

Jürgen Bauer MD<sup>a,\*</sup>, Gianni Biolo MD, PhD<sup>b</sup>, Tommy Cederholm MD, PhD<sup>c</sup>, Matteo Cesari MD, PhD<sup>d</sup>, Alfonso J. Cruz-Jentoft MD<sup>e</sup>, John E. Morley MB, BCH<sup>f</sup>, Stuart Phillips PhD<sup>g</sup>, Cornel Sieber MD, PhD<sup>h</sup>, Peter Stehle MD, PhD<sup>i</sup>, Daniel Teta MD, PhD<sup>j</sup>, Renuka Visvanathan MBBS, PhD<sup>k</sup>, Elena Volpi MD, PhD<sup>l</sup>, Yves Boirie MD, PhD<sup>m</sup>

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journal homepage: <http://www.elsevier.com/locate/clnu>



ESPEN endorsed recommendation

Protein intake and exercise for optimal muscle function with aging: Recommendations from the ESPEN Expert Group

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THE EUROPEAN  
SOCIETY FOR  
CLINICAL  
NUTRITION AND  
METABOLISM

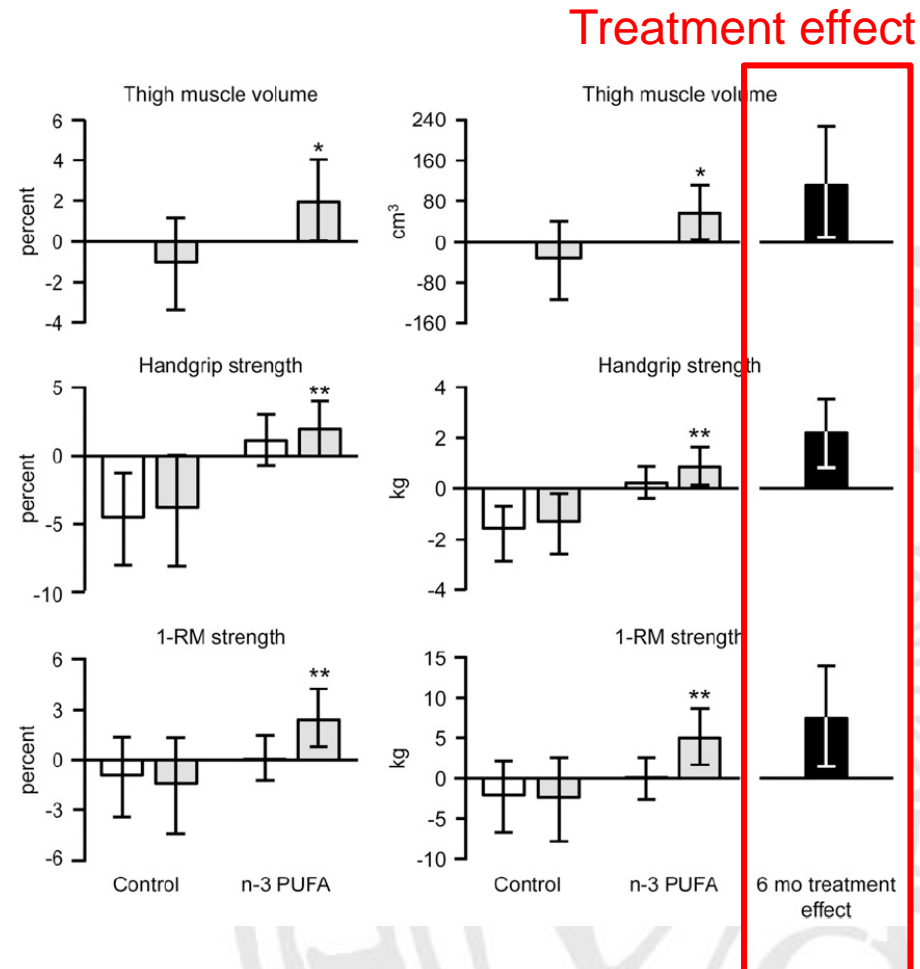
- **Fat quality?**
- **Vitamin D?**



# N-3 fatty acids may improve muscle mass and function in healthy old adults

- 60/44 **healthy**, 60-85 y,
- 6 months RCT,
  - N-3 fatty acids – 3.3 g/d
  - Linoleic acid (C)
- **Outcome;**
  - Thigh volume,
  - Grip strength,
  - 1-RM strength

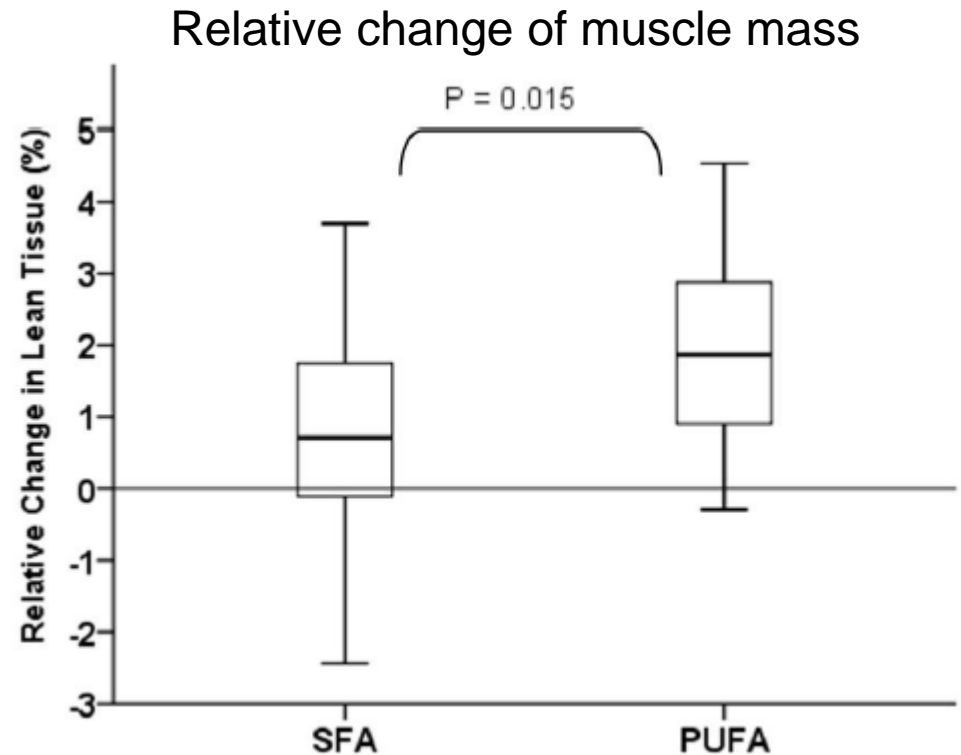
**Conclusion:**  
6-mo treatment with n-3 FA increased muscle mass and improved muscle strength in healthy old adults





# Effects on muscle mass by over-feeding n-6 PUFA vs. SFA

- Lipogain Study (RCT)
- N=41 (20-36 y)
- Palm oil (SFA) vs. Sun flower oil (n-6 PUFA) for 6 weeks
- 3% (intended) weight gain



**Conclusion: Muscle mass increased significantly more by PUFA (n-6) than by SFA**

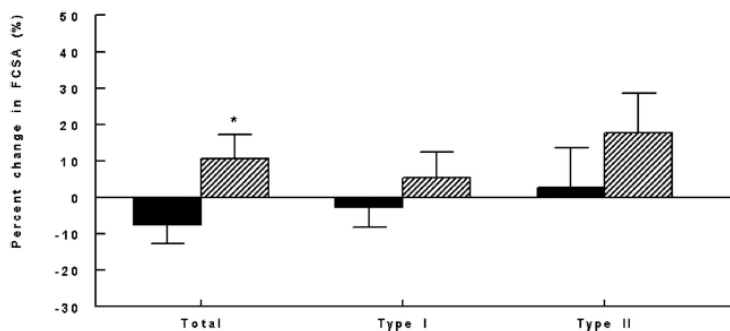




# Vitamin D supplementation, muscle fiber area and leg strength



- 21 w, mobility limitation, 77 y
- RCT; 4000 IU Vit D for 4 mo

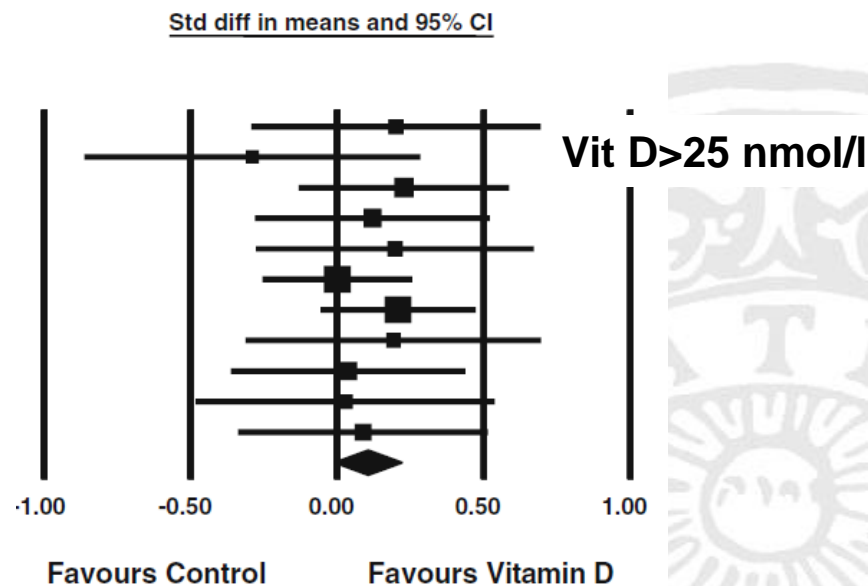


## Result

- Fiber area ↑ 10%
- No effect on SPPB or knee-extension strength (small study)

Ceglia et al. JCEM 2013

## Meta-analysis -17 RCT • Quadriceps strength



In 2 studies w. Vit D < 25 nmol/l Vit D supplementation resulted in improved leg strength

Stockton et al. Osteopor Int 2011



# Pharmacology

- **Myostatinab**
  - **Bimagrumab**
- **Ghrelin agonist**
  - **anamorelin**



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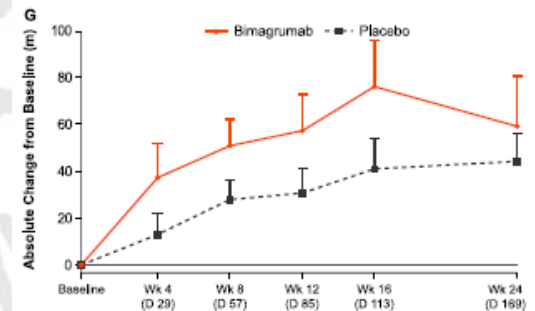
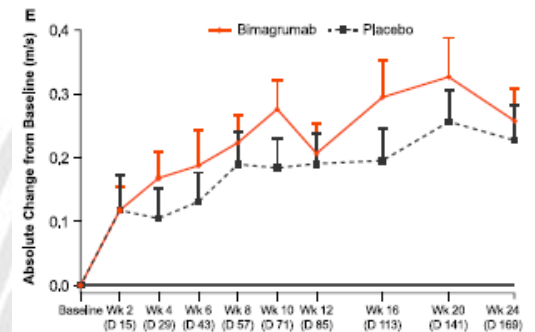
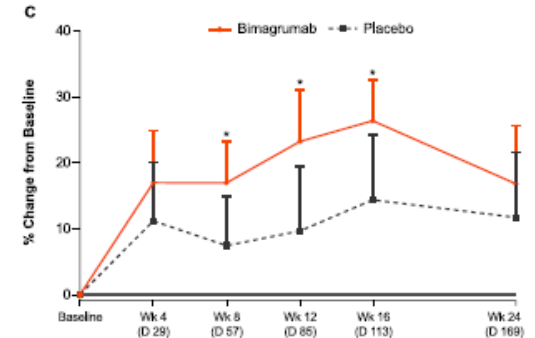
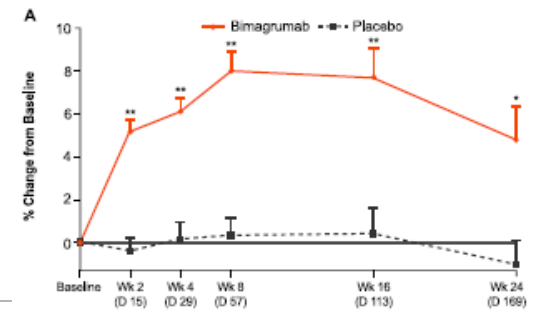
# Myostatin ab (bimagrumab) to sarcopenic old

- 40 comm-dw subjects, >65 y
- Slow gait speed (<1 m/s) and reduced muscle mass (= *sarcopenia*)
- Myostatinab (bimagrumab) for 24 w
- Leg muscle volume
- Grip strength
- Walking speed
- 6-min walking distance

**Conclusion: 6 mo treatment with bimagrumab improved muscle mass, grip strength and walking speed in old sarcopenic adults**



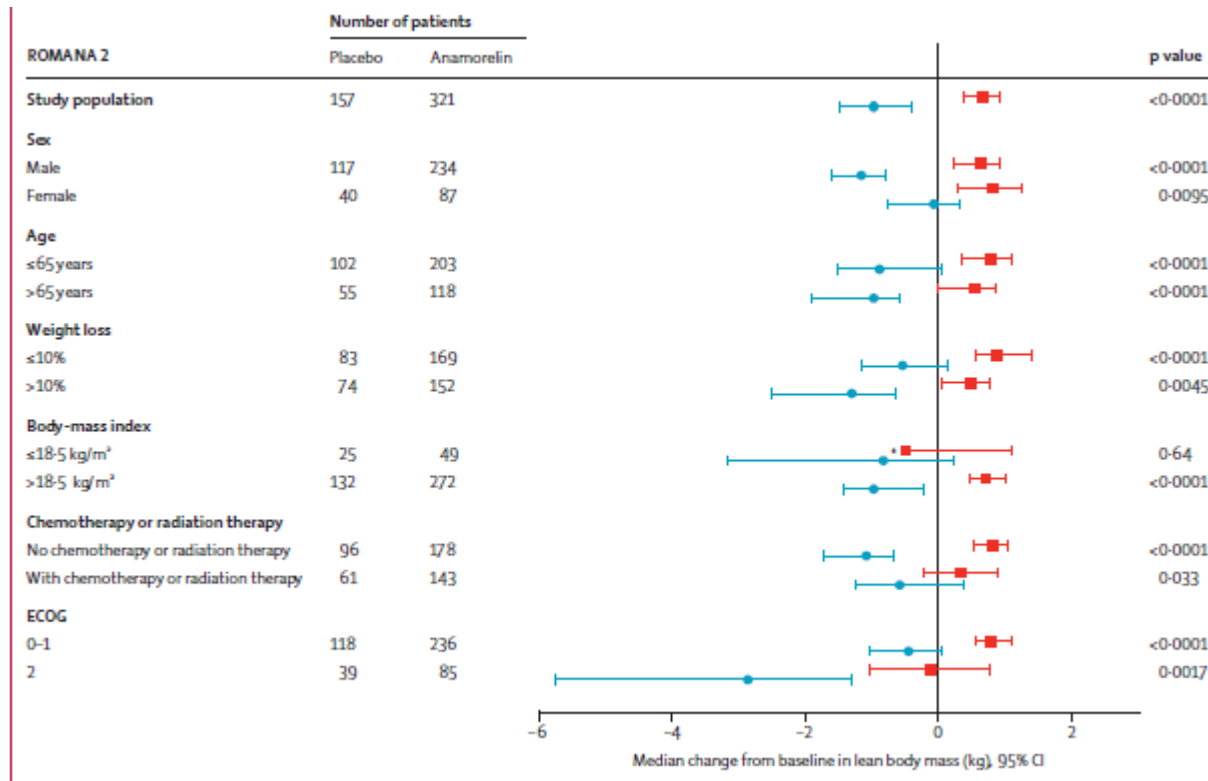
Rooks et al. JAGS 2017





# Ghrelin agonist in lung cancer

- 495 patients w. non small cell lung cancer och anorexia-cachexia.
- Ghrelin agonist (anamorelin) for 12 w.
- DXA/lean body mass (kg). Hand grip strength.



- **LBM**↑
- **HGS**→
- **Symptoms**↓



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# Take-home messages

## Food, nutrients and exercise for treatment of malnutrition and sarcopenia



### Exercise

- Resistance training - works always

### Nutrition

- Protein and amino acid supplementation

- Target 1.2-1.4 g/kg bw/d
- Whey, essential AA and leucin/HMB

Works mainly when there is a deficit (energy or proteins)

- Essential fatty acids (n3) supplementation?

- Needs more research

- Vitamin D supplementation

- Target 20 ug/800 IU per day

### Pharmacological treatment

- Myostatinab, ghrelin, SARM...

We are not there yet

### Combinations...





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# Thanks for your attention

**FOOD**

An anatomical diagram showing a cross-section of a muscle with fibers and connective tissue. The word "FOOD" is overlaid on the diagram in large, 3D, orange-to-yellow gradient letters.

**+**

A close-up photograph of a human joint, likely a knee, showing the skin and underlying structures.

**...keys to successful rehab,  
survival and aging**