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14<sup>ème</sup> Journée sur l'Assistance  
Médicale à la Procréation  
de l'Hôpital Américain de Paris

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Président d'Honneur: Pr Israël NISAND

**Metabolic Syndrome and Male Infertility**

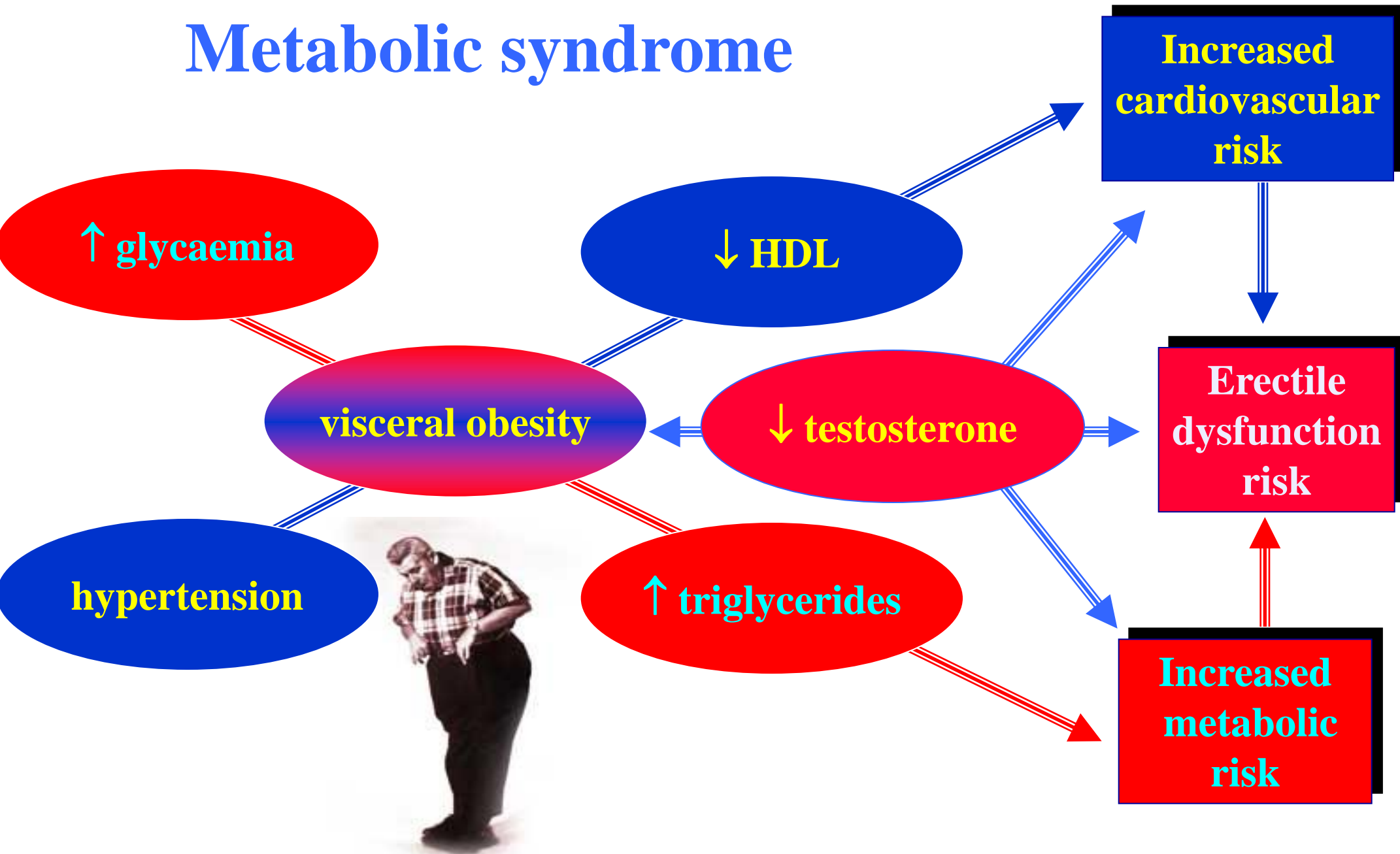
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# Metabolic syndrome



# Metabolic syndrome



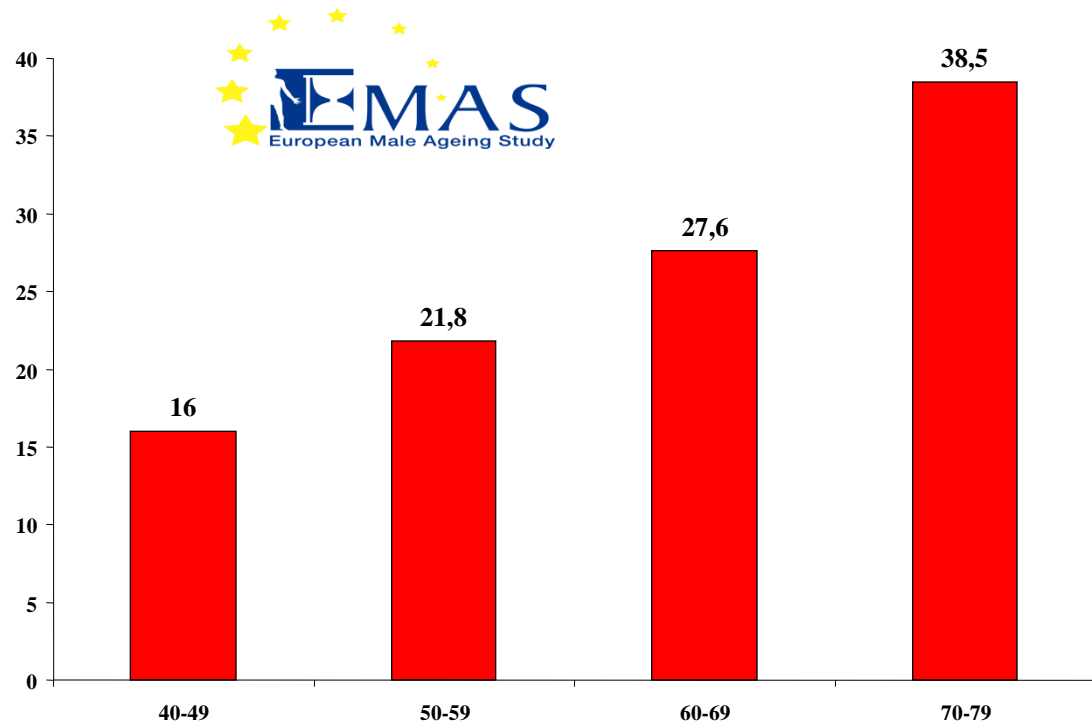
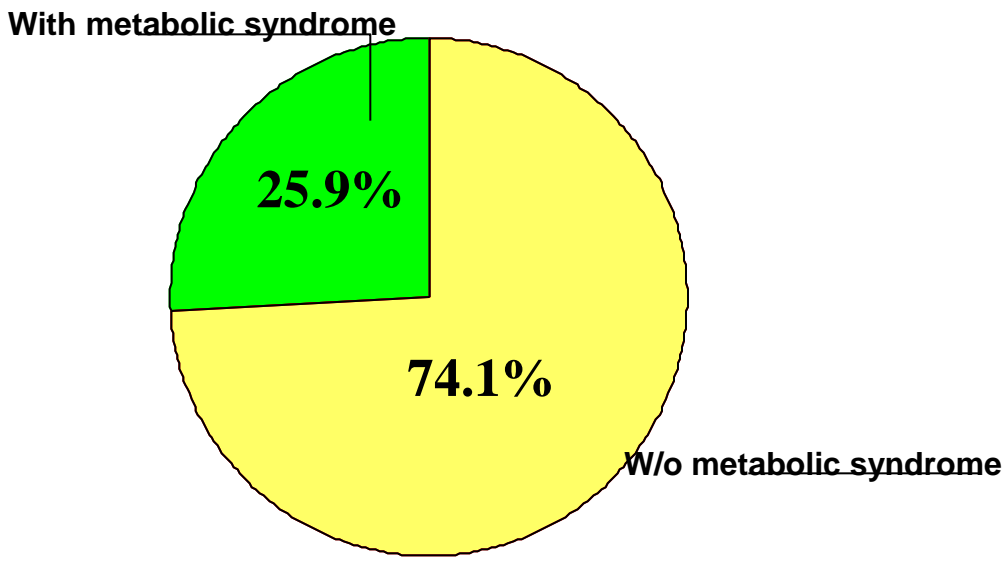
# Different definitions of metabolic syndrome

**Table 2**

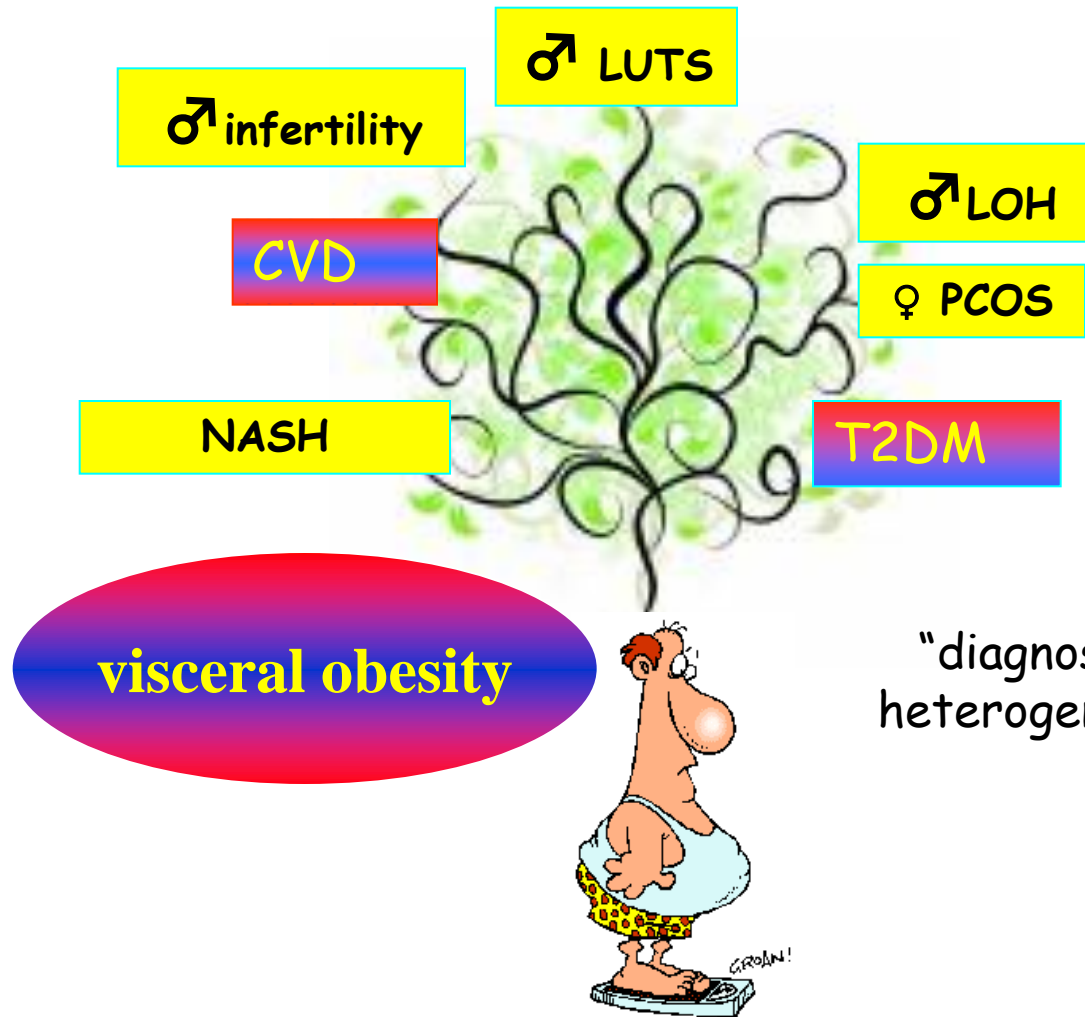
Comparisons of definitions of metabolic syndrome: National Cholesterol Education Program-Third Adult Treatment Panel (NCEP-ATPIII), International Diabetes Federation (IDF), American Heart Association/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (AHA/NHLBI) and common definition by IDF and AHA/NHLBI. In blue are shared factors among different definitions.

NCEP-ATPIII	IDF	AHA/NHLBI	IDF&AHA/NHLBI
3 or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central obesity (waist circumference &gt;102 cm)</li> <li>• Hypertriglyceridaemia: triglycerides <math>\geq</math>150 mg/dl (1.7 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Low HDL-cholesterol: &lt;40 mg/dl (1.03 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Hypertension: blood pressure <math>\geq</math>130/85 mmHg or treatment</li> <li>• Fasting plasma glucose: <math>\geq</math>110 mg/dl (6.1 mmol/L) or diabetes</li> </ul>	Central obesity (waist circumference $\geq$ 94 cm) and 2 or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hypertriglyceridaemia: triglycerides <math>\geq</math>150 mg/dl (1.7 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Low HDL-cholesterol: &lt;40 mg/dl (1.03 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Hypertension: blood pressure <math>\geq</math>130/85 mmHg or treatment</li> <li>• Fasting plasma glucose: <math>\geq</math>100 mg/dl (5.6 mmol/L) or diabetes</li> </ul>	3 or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central obesity (waist circumference &gt;102 cm)</li> <li>• Hypertriglyceridaemia: triglycerides <math>\geq</math>150 mg/dl (1.7 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Low HDL-cholesterol: &lt;40 mg/dl (1.03 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Hypertension: blood pressure <math>\geq</math>130/85 or treatment</li> <li>• Fasting plasma glucose: <math>\geq</math>100 mg/dl (5.6 mmol/L) or treatment</li> </ul>	3 or more of the following <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Central obesity (population- and country-specific definitions)</li> <li>• Hypertriglyceridaemia: triglycerides <math>\geq</math>150 mg/dl (1.7 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Low HDL-cholesterol: &lt;40 mg/dl (1.03 mmol/L) or treatment</li> <li>• Hypertension: blood pressure <math>\geq</math>130/85 mmHg or treatment</li> <li>• Fasting plasma glucose: <math>\geq</math>100 mg/dl (5.6 mmol/L) or treatment</li> </ul>

# Prevalence of metabolic syndrome (NCEP-ATPIII) in Florence general population, random series of 431 community-dwelling men (EMAS), studied at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy



# Metabolic syndrome:



"diagnostic category with a very heterogeneous clinical ramification"

# Metabolic syndrome:

♂ infertility



visceral obesity



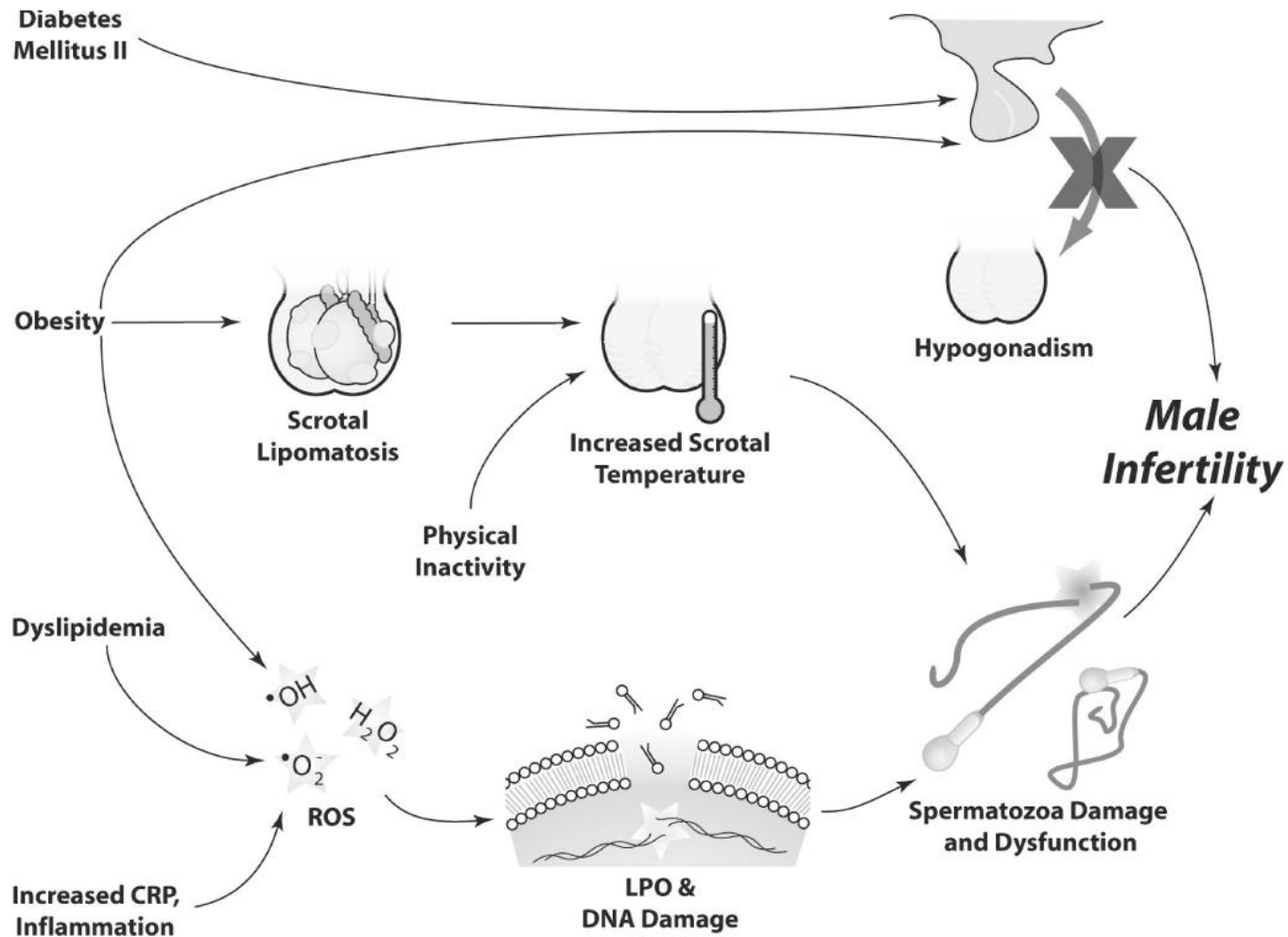
"diagnostic category with a very heterogeneous clinical ramification"

# The Metabolic Syndrome and Male Infertility

## Review

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From the \*Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and the †Department of Urology, Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine, Chicago, Illinois.





**Table 1** Summary of studies that have investigated semen parameters in overweight and obese men compared with normal-weight men with a BMI of >18.5 and <24.99 (↑, increased; ↓, decreased; NI, not clearly indicated in reference).

Semen parameters	Overweight BMI >25 <24.99 (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of subjects	Obese BMI >30 (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	Number of subjects
Semen volume (normal)	Jensen <i>et al.</i> (2004)	299	Strain <i>et al.</i> (1982)	21
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	233	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	127
	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	63	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	21
Sperm concentration ↓	Jensen <i>et al.</i> (2004)	299	Kolozsár <i>et al.</i> (2005)	58
	Magnusdottir <i>et al.</i> (2005)	25	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	128
	Fejes <i>et al.</i> (2006)	81	Roth <i>et al.</i> (2008)	1
	Hanafy <i>et al.</i> (2007)	50	Stewart <i>et al.</i> (2009)	35
	Qin <i>et al.</i> (2007)	241	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	19
	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	168	Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	80
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	35	Wegner <i>et al.</i> (2010)	36
Sperm concentration (normal)	Kolozsár <i>et al.</i> (2005)	91	Strain <i>et al.</i> (1982)	21
	Magnusdottir <i>et al.</i> (2005)	47	Aggerholm <i>et al.</i> (2008)	163
	Hanafy <i>et al.</i> (2007)	30	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	108
	Aggerholm <i>et al.</i> (2008)	773	Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	42
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	198	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	21
	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	63		
Sperm motility ↓	Magnusdottir <i>et al.</i> (2005)	25	Kort <i>et al.</i> (2006)	NI
	Kort <i>et al.</i> (2006)	NI	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	128
	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	168	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	55
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	105	Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	80
			Wegner <i>et al.</i> (2010)	35
Sperm motility (normal)	Jensen <i>et al.</i> (2004)	299	Strain <i>et al.</i> (1982)	21
	Magnusdottir <i>et al.</i> (2005)	47	Aggerholm <i>et al.</i> (2008)	163
	Aggerholm <i>et al.</i> (2008)	773	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	72
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	128	Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	42
	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	63	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	21
Abnormal sperm morphology ↑	Qin <i>et al.</i> (2007)	241	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	128
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	57	Stewart <i>et al.</i> (2009)	17
			Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	29
			Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	80
			Wegner <i>et al.</i> (2010)	19
No abnormal sperm morphology	Jensen <i>et al.</i> (2004)	299	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	98
	Hammoud <i>et al.</i> (2008)	168	Hofny <i>et al.</i> (2010)	42
	Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	176	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	21
	Ramlau-Hansen <i>et al.</i> (2010)	63		
Sperm DNA integrity ↓	Kort <i>et al.</i> (2006)	NI	Kort <i>et al.</i> (2006)	NI
			Chavarro <i>et al.</i> (2010)	127

## Functional relationship between obesity and male reproduction: from humans to animal models

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**Published data on the relation between overweight/obesity, semen parameters, endocrine status and human male fertility. Most overweight/obese men do not experience significant fertility problems, despite the presence of reduced testosterone alongside normal gonadotrophin levels.**

# The impact of body mass index on semen parameters and reproductive hormones in human males: a systematic review with meta-analysis

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Five studies were suitable for pooling and the meta-analysis found **no evidence for a relationship between BMI and sperm concentration** or total sperm count. Overall review of all studies similarly revealed little evidence for a relationship with semen parameters and increased BMI.

**Table III** Data extracted from all studies for use in meta-analysis

	BMI Category	Aggerholm et al. (2008)	Jensen et al. (2004)	Qin et al. (2007)	Kolozsar et al. (2005)	Fejes et al. (2006)
Study population	Total	1989	1558	990	274	42
	<20	67	217	42 <sup>a</sup>	29	25
	20–25	986	1042	690 <sup>b</sup>	96	
	25–30	773	299	241	91	17
	>30	171		17	58	
Mean sperm concentration (M/ml)	Total					
	<20	82		45.2 ± 4.74 <sup>a</sup>	38 ± 14	11.2
	20–25	74		69.1 ± 1.35 <sup>b</sup>	39 ± 14	
	25–30	70		76.2 ± 3.35	37 ± 14	8.1
	>30	80		70.6 ± 10.35	29 ± 12	
Median sperm concentration (M/mL)	Total		44 [21–79]			
	<20	67 [25–102]	40 [17, 75]			
	20–25	55 [9,99]	46 [23, 84]			
	25–30	53 [27,90]	39 [20, 69]			
	>30	65 [33–114]				
Mean total sperm count (M)	Total					
	<20	256		117.8 ± 14.25 <sup>a</sup>		
	20–25	231		175.3 ± 4.63 <sup>b</sup>		
	25–30	216		196.6 ± 9.51		
	>30	265		149.5 ± 25.47		
Median total sperm count (M)	Total		128 [55, 246]			
	<20	165 [86, 351]	105 [47, 240]			
	20–25	161 [77, 309]	138 [59, 259]			
	25–30	153 [67, 286]	116 [46, 213]			
	>30	156 [75, 317]				
Mean semen volume (mL)	Total					4.3 ± 0.7
	<20	3.1	3.0 ± 1.5	2.8 ± 0.20 <sup>a</sup>		
	20–25	3.2	3.2 ± 1.4	2.5 ± 0.04 <sup>b</sup>		
	25–30	3.2	3.2 ± 1.6	2.5 ± 0.07		
	>30	3.2		2.5 ± 0.29		
Average sperm motility (%)	Total					
	<20	42	63.7 ± 14.5	74.5 ± 1.58 <sup>a</sup>		
	20–25	41	65.4 ± 12.4	70.2 ± 0.45 <sup>b</sup>		
	25–30	48	65.5 ± 12.5	69.1 ± 0.87		
	>30	54		72.4 ± 2.83		

Note: Median values = median [25th, 75th percentiles]; Mean values = mean ± SD.  
 Data in *italics* is part of an unconventional BMI category (not as reported in BMI category column).  
<sup>a</sup>Underweight BMI category of <18.5.  
<sup>b</sup>Normal weight BMI category of 18.5–25.

**Table IV** Regression coefficients from meta-analysis

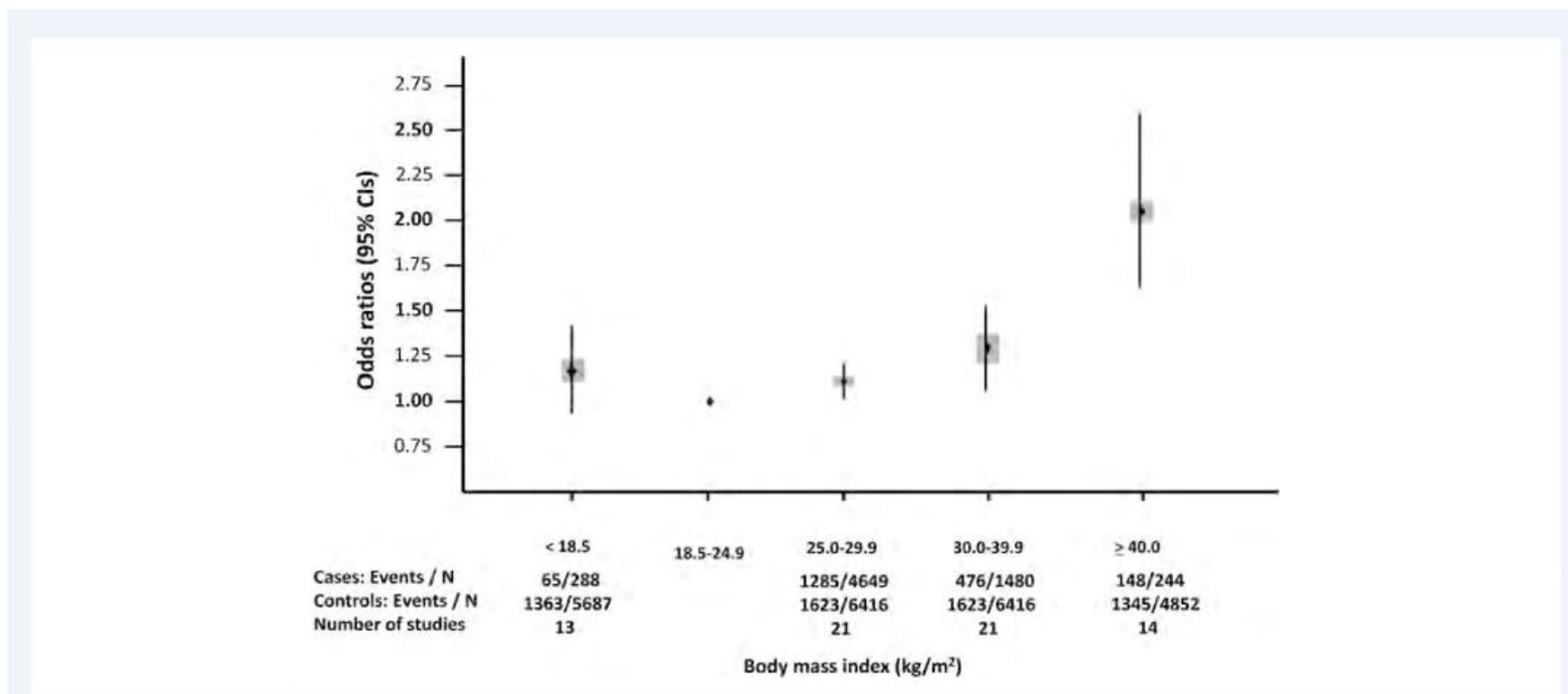
Semen Parameter	Number of studies used	Number of data entries used	Regression coefficient	95% Confidence Interval
Mean sperm concentration	4	14	−0.02	−8.24, 8.18
Median sperm concentration	2	7	1.57	−7.39, 10.53
Mean total sperm count	2	8	12.43	−164.95, 189.81
Median total sperm count	2	7	2.09	−35.79, 39.97
Semen volume	3	11	0.05	−0.05, 0.15
Average sperm motility	3	11	−1.07	−7.39, 5.25

## BMI in relation to sperm count: an updated systematic review and collaborative meta-analysis

N. Sermondade<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Faure<sup>1,2</sup>, L. Fezeu<sup>2</sup>, A.G. Shayeb<sup>3</sup>, J.P. Bonde<sup>4</sup>,  
T.K. Jensen<sup>5</sup>, M. Van Wely<sup>6</sup>, J. Cao<sup>7</sup>, A.C. Martini<sup>8</sup>, M. Eskandar<sup>9</sup>,  
J.E. Chavarro<sup>10,11</sup>, S. Koloszar<sup>12</sup>, J.M. Twigt<sup>13</sup>, C.H. Ramlau-Hansen<sup>14</sup>,  
E. Borges Jr<sup>15</sup>, F. Lotti<sup>16</sup>, R.P.M. Steegers-Theunissen<sup>13</sup>, B. Zorn<sup>17</sup>,  
A.J. Polotsky<sup>18</sup>, S. La Vignera<sup>19</sup>, B. Eskenazi<sup>20</sup>, K. Tremellen<sup>21</sup>,  
E.V. Magnusdottir<sup>22</sup>, I. Fejes<sup>23</sup>, S. Hercberg<sup>2,24</sup>, R. Lévy<sup>1,2†</sup>,  
and S. Czernichow<sup>25,26,\*†</sup>

Downloaded from <http://humu>

A total of 21 studies: 13 077 men  
✓ Obese: 1.28 (1.06-1.55)  
✓ Morbidly obese: 2.04 (1.59-2.62)



**Figure 2** Association between BMI and abnormal TCS (oligozoospermia or azoospermia) according to categories of BMI.

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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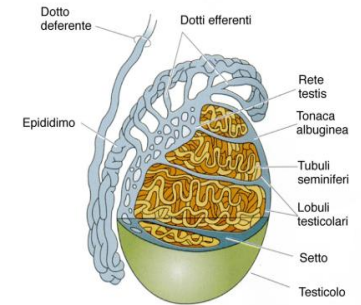
Accepted: 25-Sep-2012

doi: 10.1111/j.2047-2927.2012.00031.x

## Seminal, ultrasound and psychobiological parameters correlate with metabolic syndrome in male members of infertile couples

F. Lotti,\* G. Corona,\* † S. Degli Innocenti,\* E. Filimberti,\* V. Scognamiglio,\* L. Vignozzi,\* G. Forti\* and M. Maggi\*

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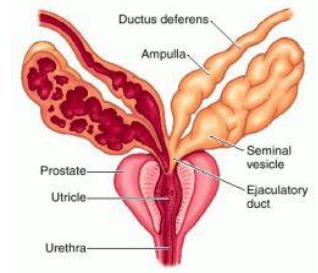
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## Metabolic syndrome and prostate abnormalities in male subjects of infertile couples

Francesco Lotti<sup>1</sup>, Giovanni Corona<sup>1,2</sup>, Linda Vignozzi<sup>1</sup>, Matteo Rossi<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Maseroli<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Cipriani<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Gacci<sup>3</sup>, Gianni Forti<sup>1</sup>, Mario Maggi<sup>1</sup>



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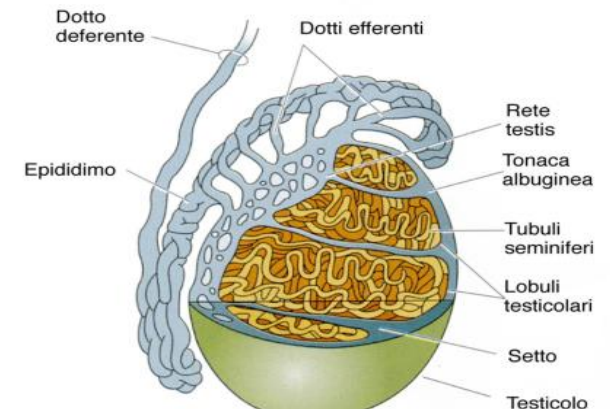
Accepted: 25-Sep-2012

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# Seminal, ultrasound and psychobiological parameters correlate with metabolic syndrome in male members of infertile couples

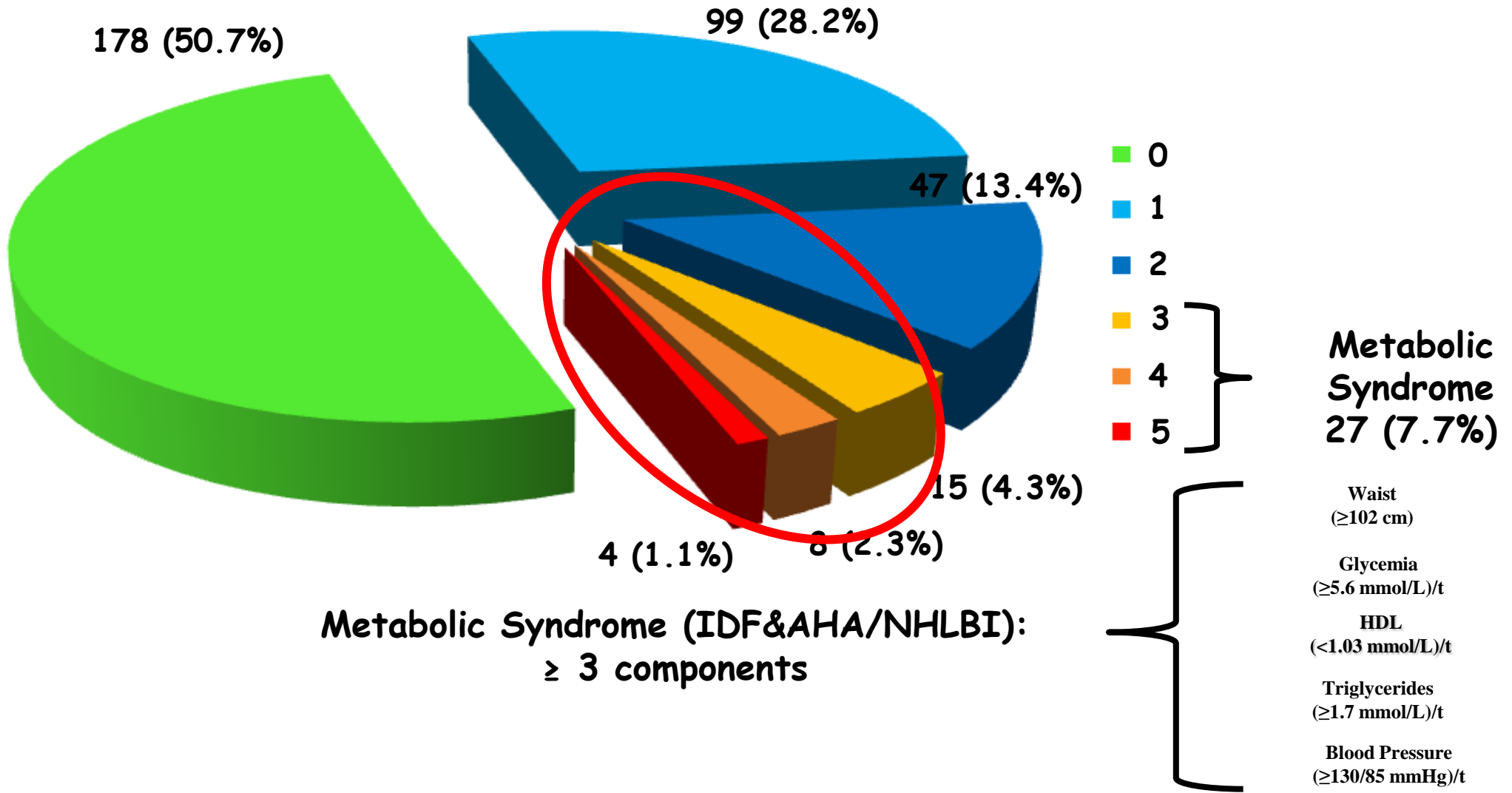
F. Lotti,\* G. Corona,\* † S. Degli Innocenti,\* E. Filimberti,\* V. Scognamiglio,\* L. Vignozzi,\* G. Forti\* and M. Maggi\*

\*Sexual Medicine and Andrology Unit, Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy, and †Endocrinology Unit, Maggiore-Bellaria Hospital, Bologna, Italy

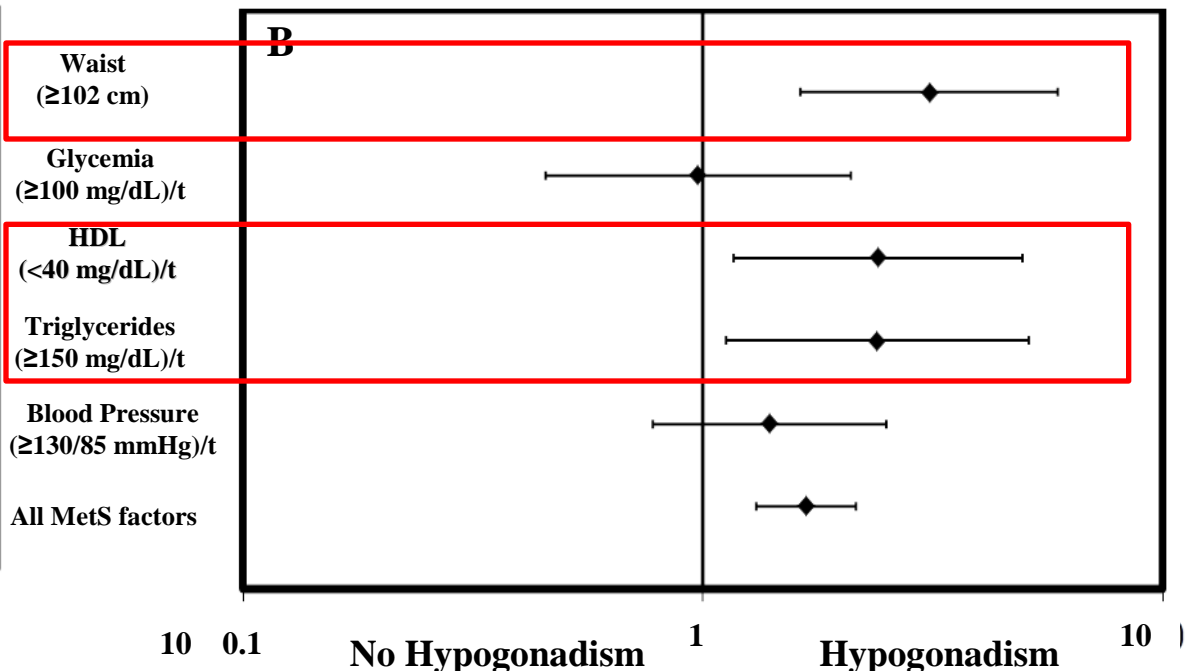
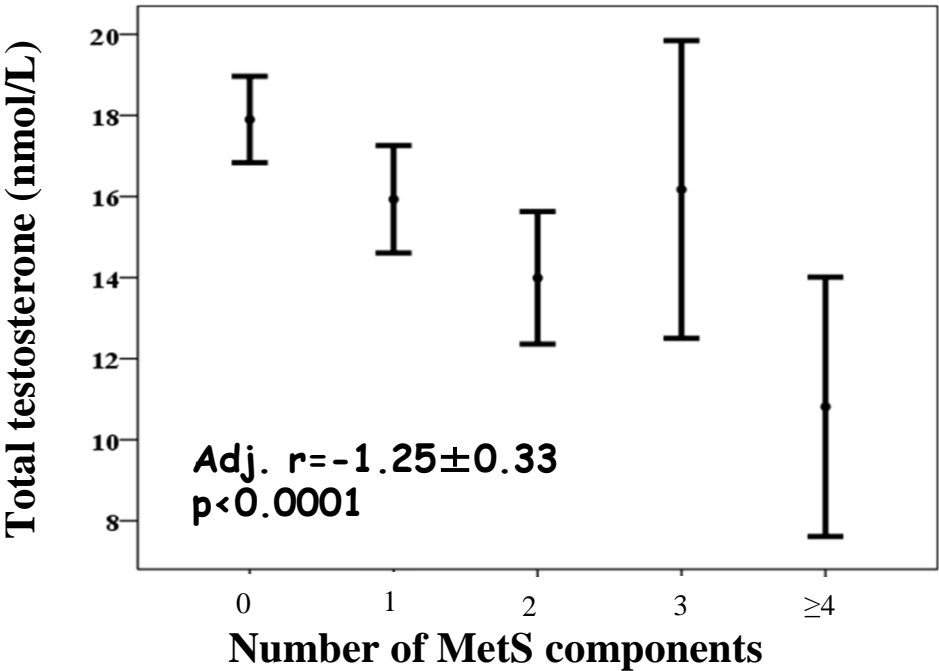


(Mean age  $36.0 \pm 8.0$  years)

N = 351

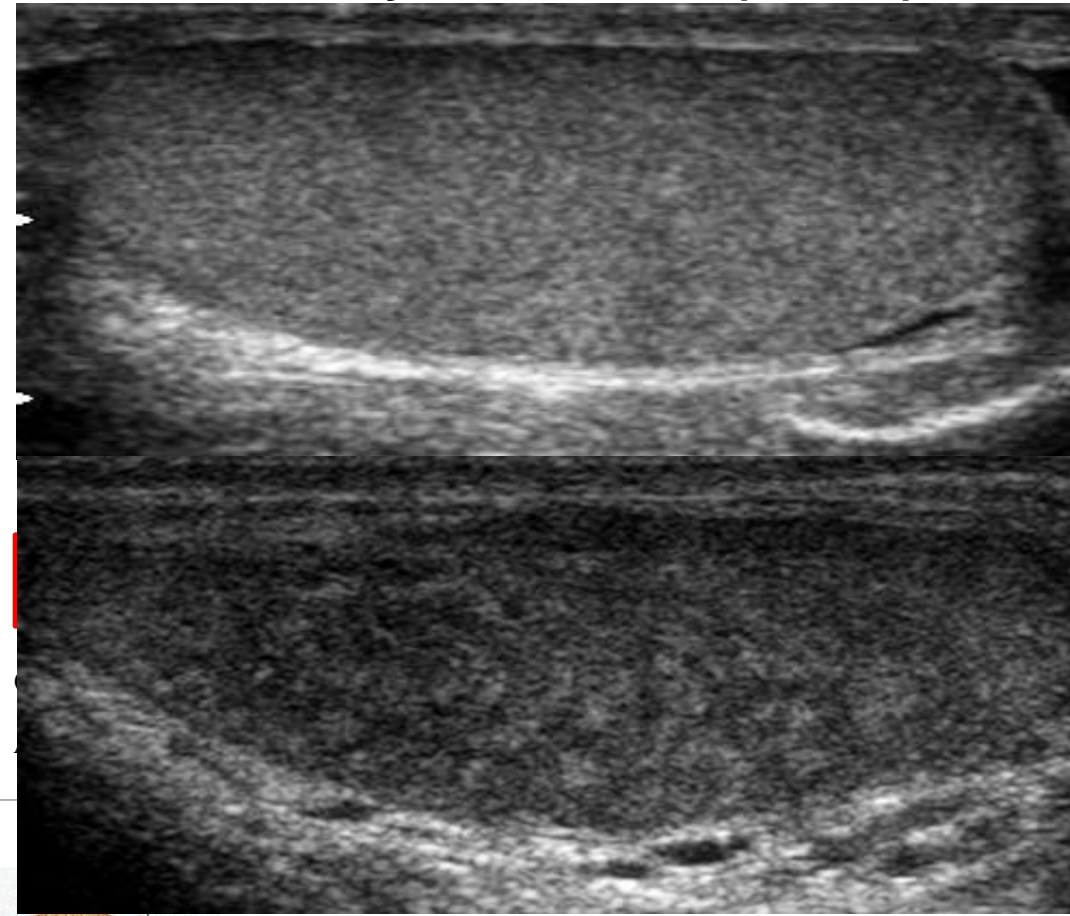
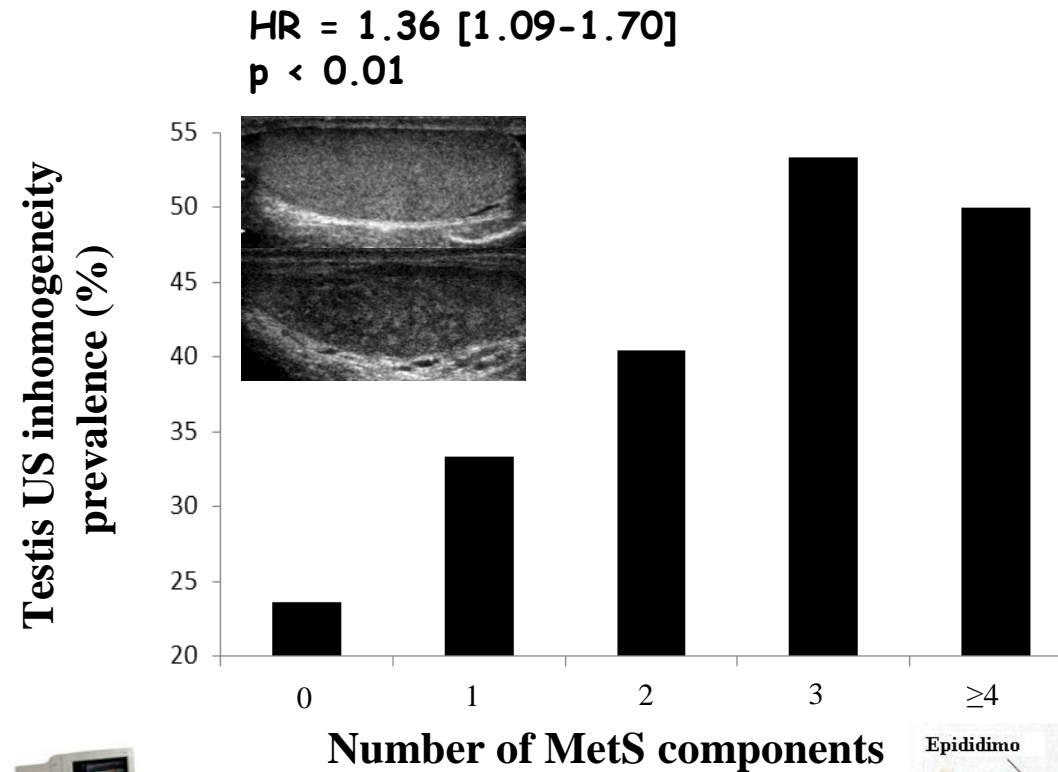


**Testosterone levels** according to **# of MetS factors (IDF&AHA/NHLBI)** and their relative **age-adjusted hazard ratio (95% CI) for MetS and hypogonadism (TT < 12 nmol/L)** in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=351), Florence, Italy

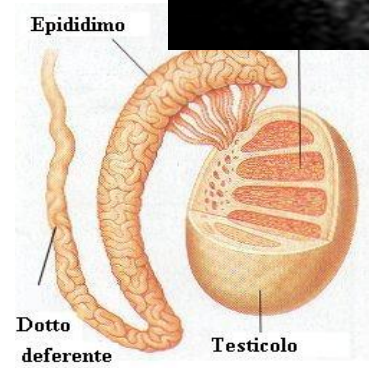


Adj. for age

# Prevalence of *testis US inhomogeneity* according to # of MetS factors (IDF&AHA/NHLBI) and their relative age-adjusted hazard ratio (95% CI) in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=351), Florence, Italy



Adj. for age

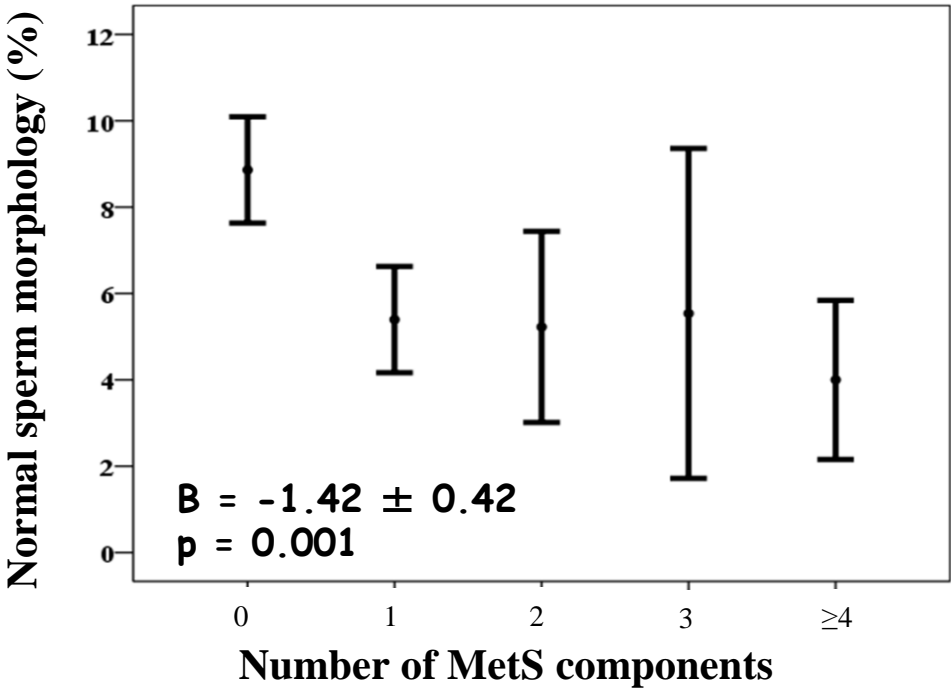




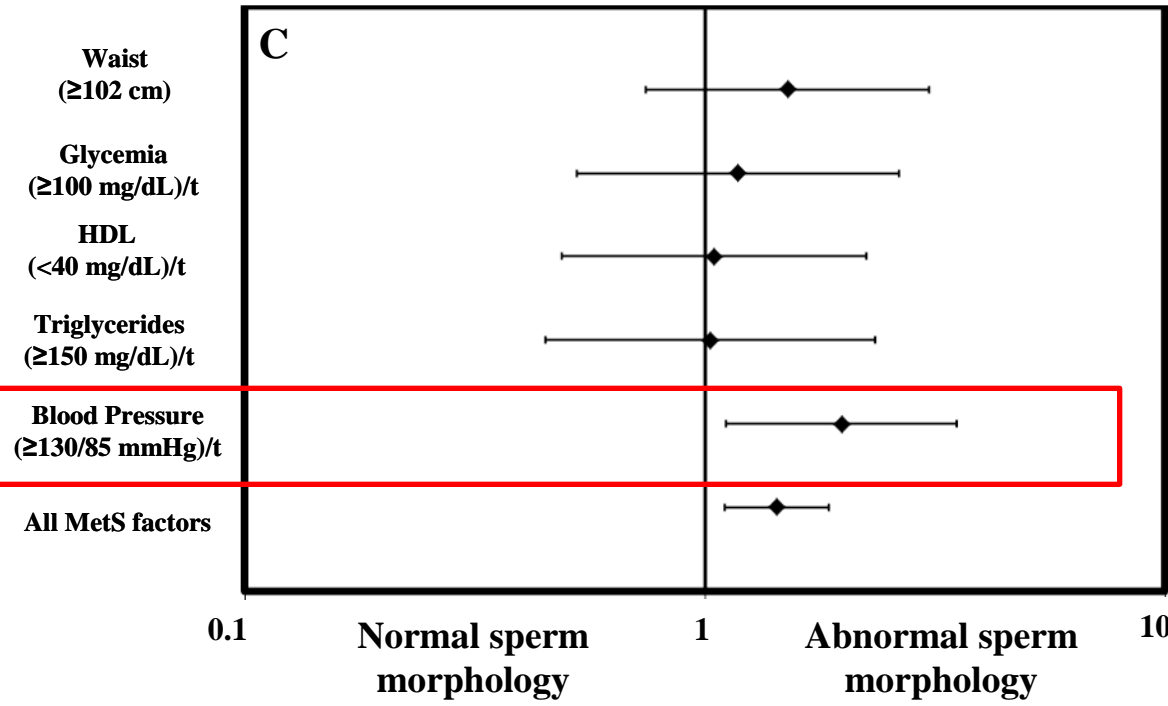
## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**

**Normal sperm morphology** according to **# of MetS factors** (IDF&AHA/NHLBI) and their relative age and T-adjusted hazard ratio (95% CI) in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=351), Florence, Italy



Adj. for age  
total testosterone

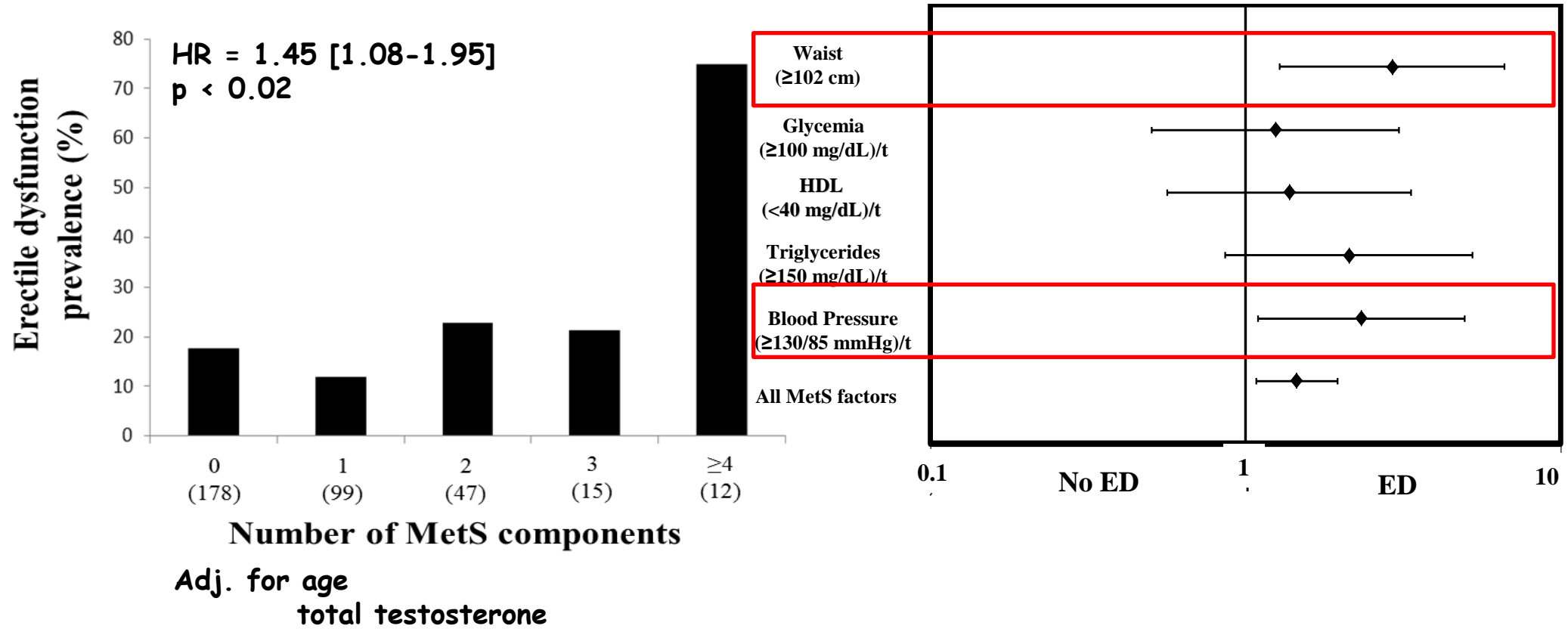


(> 4%, WHO 2010)

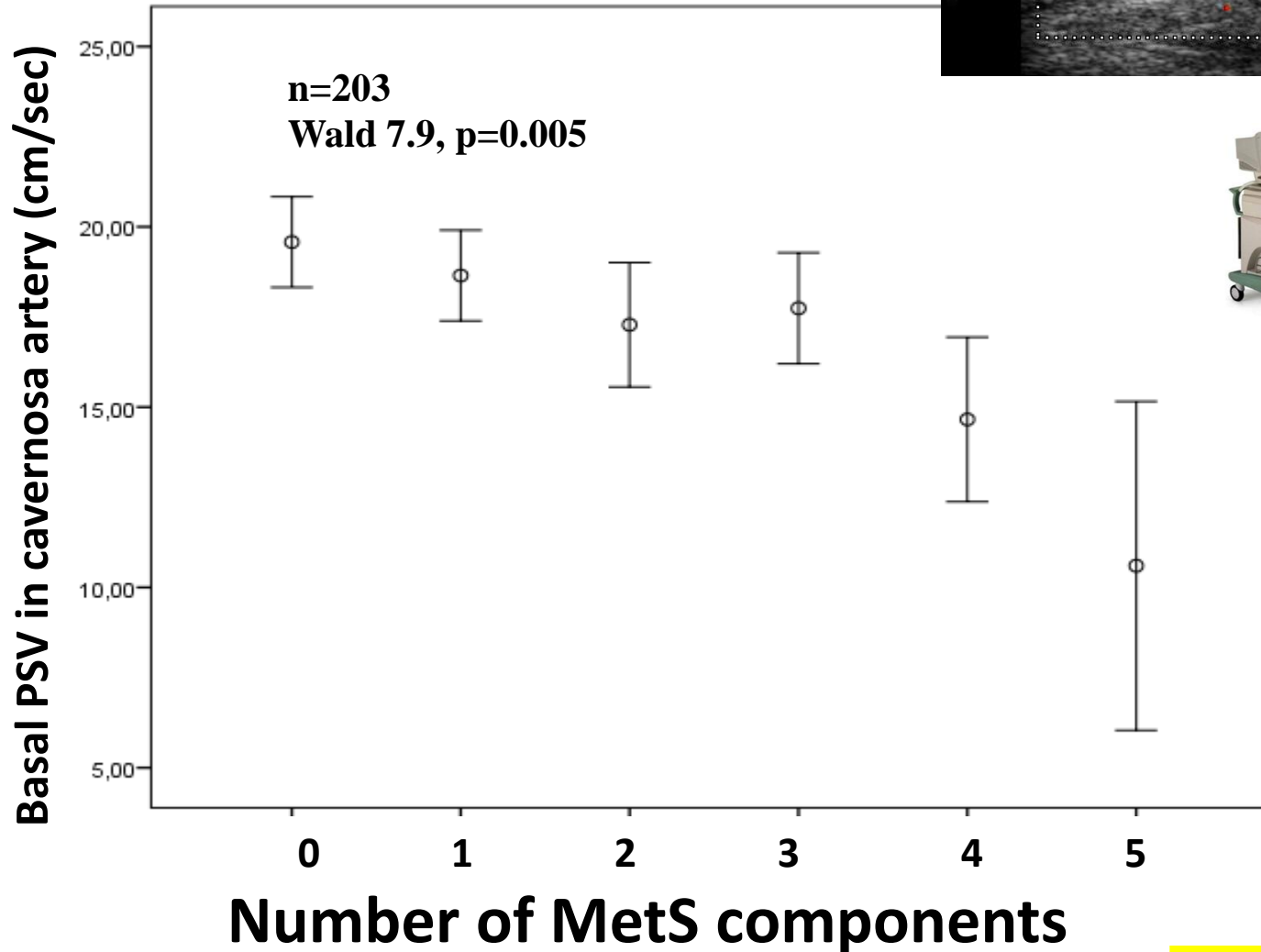
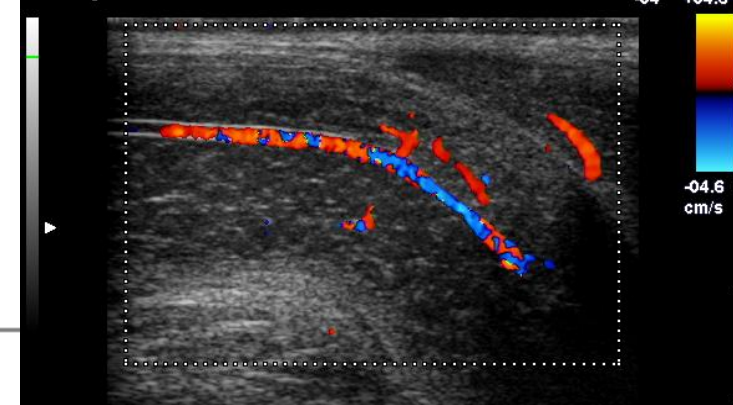
## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**

**Erectile Dysfunction (IIEF-15-EFD score < 26) according to # of MetS factors (IDF&AHA/NHLBI) and their relative age and T-adjusted hazard ratio (95% CI) in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=351), Florence, Italy**



**Penile Basal peak systolic velocity according to # of MetS factors (IDF&AHA/NHLBI) in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=203), Florence, Italy**



Adjusted for:  
-age  
-total testosterone

## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**

## Case-control (1:3 ratio) analysis

**Table 4** Comparisons between subjects with metabolic syndrome (MetS) and 1 : 3 ratio matched controls (matched for age, body mass index, total testosterone, smoking habit, alcohol consumption, past or present cryptorchidism, leucocytospermia, current positive urine and/or semen cultures). Comparison between subjects with  $\geq 4$  MetS components and three MetS components

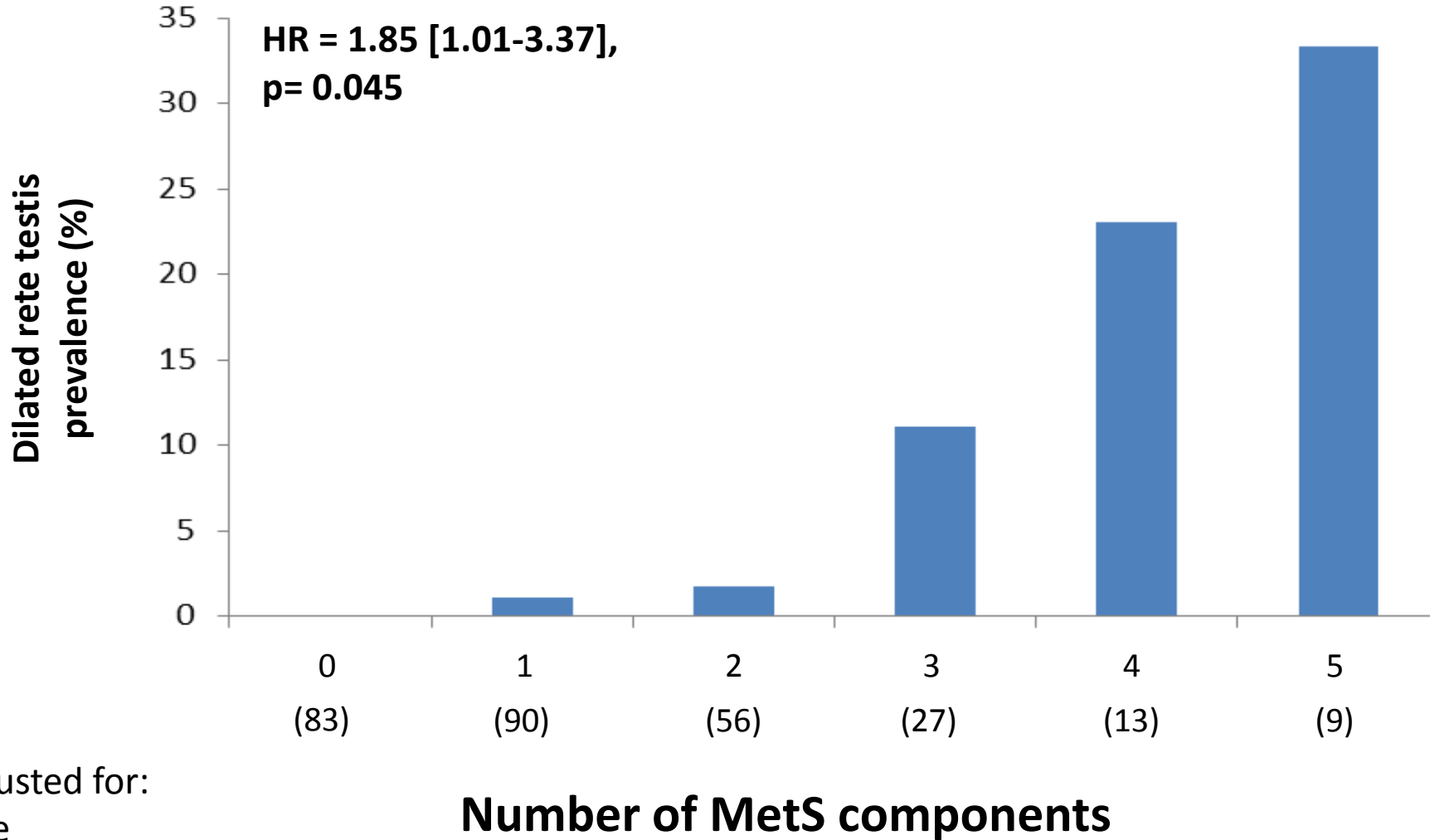
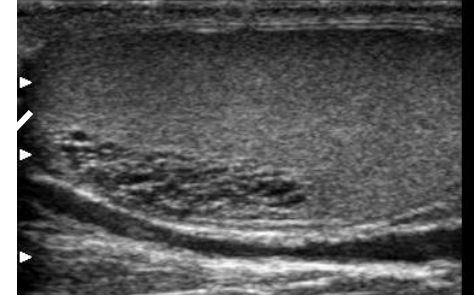
	Case patients (with 3 MetS factors, <i>n</i> = 15)	Controls (matched 1:3, <i>n</i> = 45)	<i>p</i>	Case patients (with $\geq 4$ MetS factors, <i>n</i> = 12)	Controls (matched 1:3, <i>n</i> = 36)	<i>p</i>	Patients with $\geq 4$ vs. 3 MetS factors, <i>p</i>
Age	39.9 $\pm$ 8.5	39.3 $\pm$ 7.2	0.815	48.5 $\pm$ 10.9	41.5 $\pm$ 10.1	0.055	<b>0.035</b>
Total testosterone (nmol/L)	16.1 $\pm$ 6.6	16.8 $\pm$ 5.4	0.735	10.8 $\pm$ 5.0	13.5 $\pm$ 4.8	0.137	<b>0.027</b>
BMI (kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	29.5 $\pm$ 4.7	27.6 $\pm$ 4.6	0.181	34.5 $\pm$ 6.0	30.8 $\pm$ 5.0	0.071	<b>0.030</b>
Current smoker, %	21.4	47.4	0.118	9.1	28.6	0.194	0.404
Current alcohol consumption, %	28.6	18.9	0.454	11.1	16.0	0.723	0.322
Past or present cryptorchidism	26.7	25	0.898	0	9.4	0.272	0.053
Leucocytospermia, %	20	7.5	0.185	0	6.9	0.418	0.151
Current positive urine and/or semen cultures, %	0	6.8	0.299	12.5	3.2	0.289	0.161
Sperm concentration, $\times 10^6$ /mL	10 [3.5–27]	42 [5–120]	0.126	29 [4–60]	31 [3.4–62]	0.685	0.585
Spermatozoa per ejaculate, $\times 10^6$ /mL	43 [10.9–68]	74 [21–245]	0.114	56 [12–111]	103 [11–244]	0.183	0.659
Sperm progressive motility, %	42.1 $\pm$ 19.2	42.3 $\pm$ 18.6	0.975	35.0 $\pm$ 13.9	36.9 $\pm$ 17.8	0.741	0.305
Sperm morphology, % normal forms	3 [1.5–6.5]	12 [6–18]	<b>0.001</b>	4 [2–6]	9 [3.8–16]	<b>0.036</b>	0.973
Testis inhomogeneity at ultrasound, %	53.3	20	<b>0.015</b>	50.0	10.7	<b>0.006</b>	0.863
ED prevalence (IIEF-15- EFD < 26), %	21.3	26.3	0.746	75.0	29.4	<b>0.016</b>	<b>0.006</b>

Data were expressed as mean  $\pm$  standard deviation when normally distributed, median (quartiles) when not normally distributed, and as percentages when categorical. BMI: body mass index, ED: erectile dysfunction, IIEF-15-EFD: International Index of Sexual Function-15 erectile function domain. Associations with a *p*-value < 0.05 were considered as significant, and reported in bold.



# Dilated rete testis and MetS

N = 278 males of infertile couples  
without genetic abnormalities



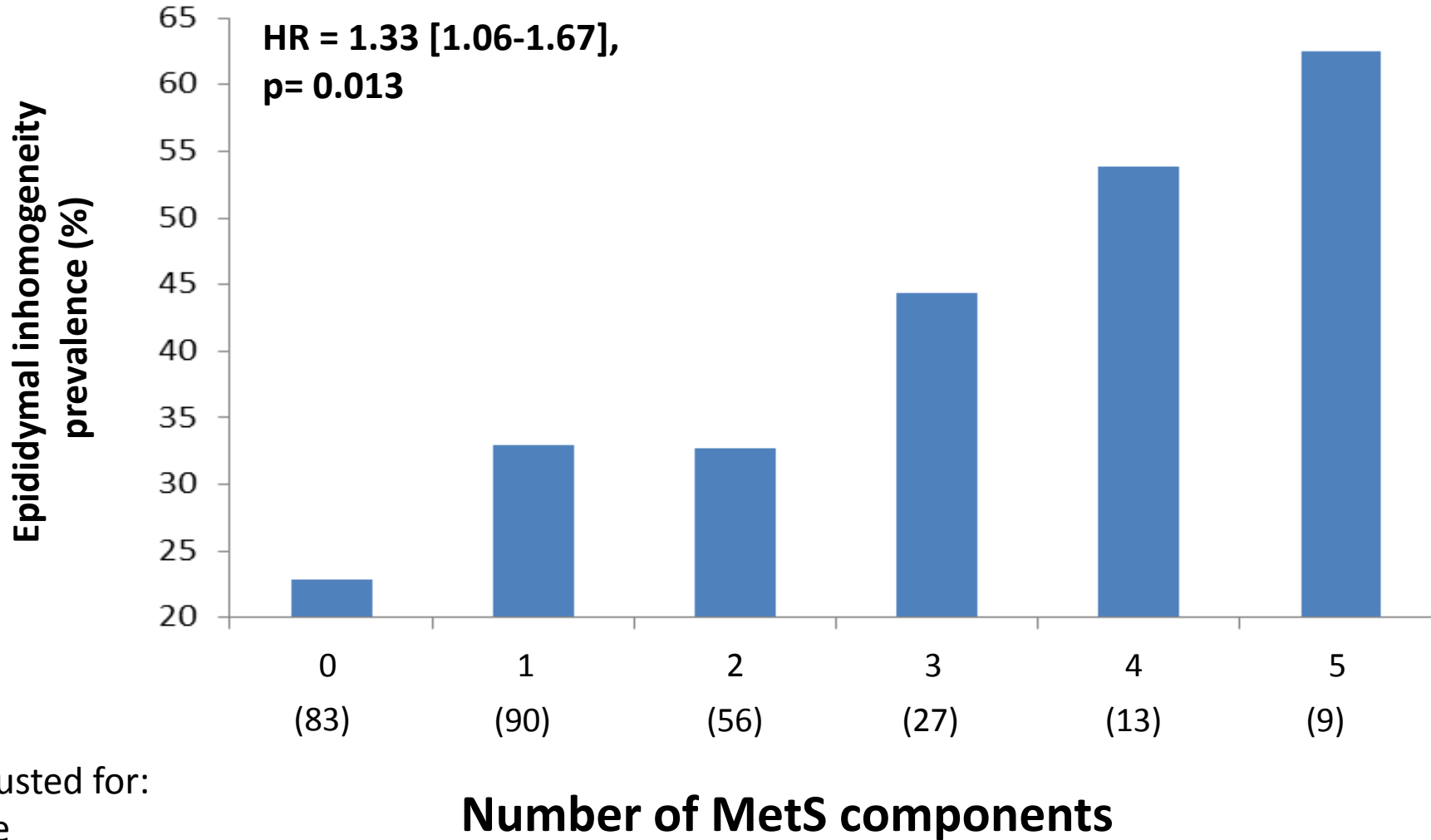
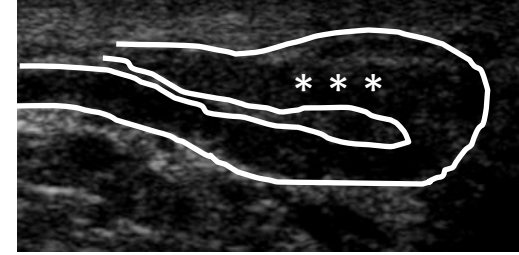
Adjusted for:  
-age  
-total testosterone





# Epididymal inhomogeneity and MetS

N = 278 males of infertile couples  
without genetic abnormalities



## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**

# A Short Clinical Diagnostic Self-rating Scale for Psychoneurotic Patients

The Middlesex Hospital Questionnaire (M.H.Q.)

By SIDNEY CROWN and A. H. CRISP

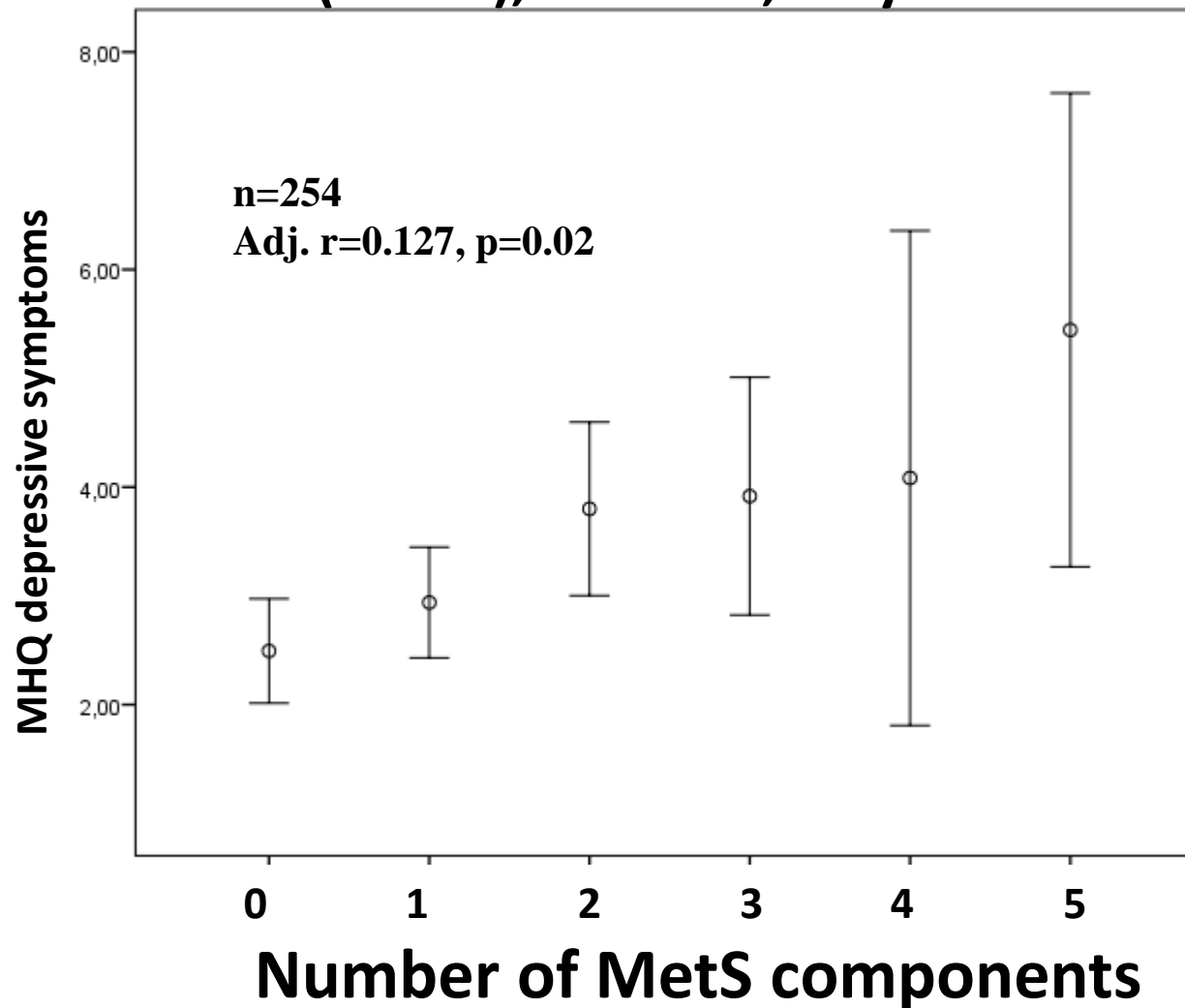
Association between Mets and:

	MetS	No MetS	p =
<u>Somatized anxiety</u> symptoms (MHQ-S):	<b>2.96 ± 2.82</b>	<b>1.86 ± 2.27</b>	
<b>0.022</b>			

<u>Depression</u> symptoms (MHQ-D):	<b>4.58 ± 2.85</b>	<b>3.00 ± 2.52</b>	p =
<b>0.011</b>			

Adjusted for - age

**Depressive symptoms (MHQ-D) according to # of MetS factors (IDF&AHA/NHLBI) in male subjects consulting for couple infertility at the University of Florence (n=254), Florence, Italy**



Adjusted for:

- age
- total testosterone
- Total MHQ score

## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

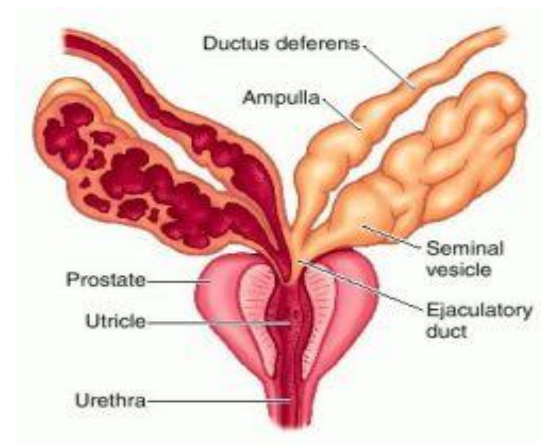
- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**
- **MetS is associated with depressive symptoms**

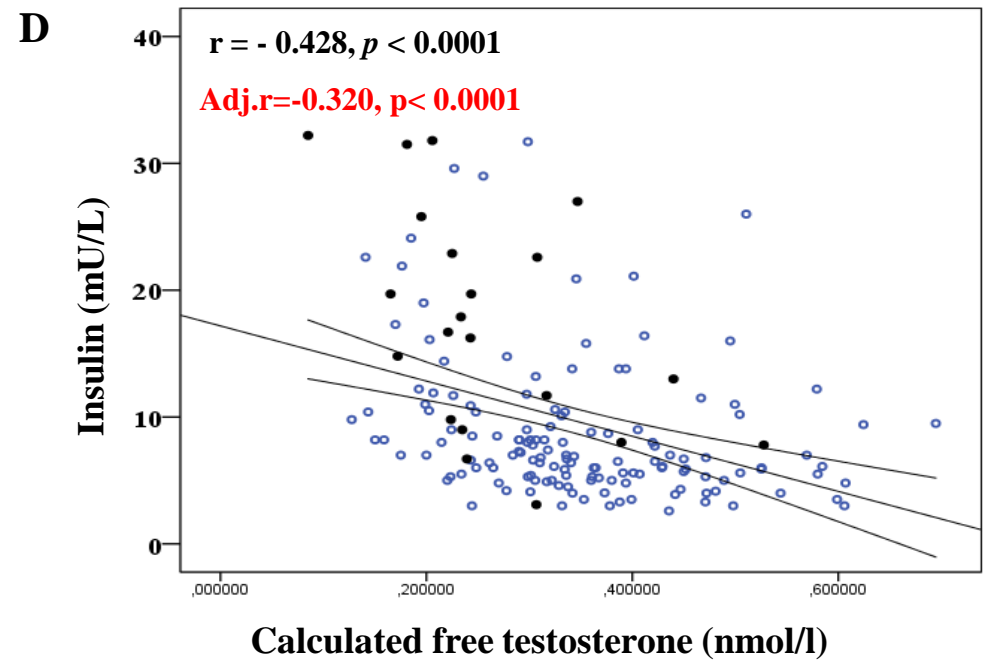
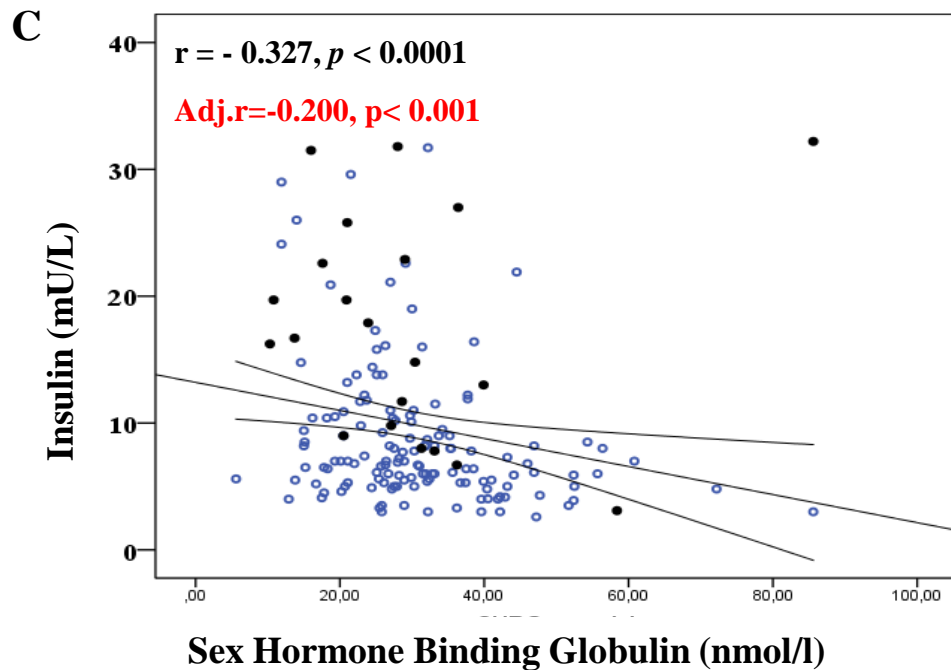
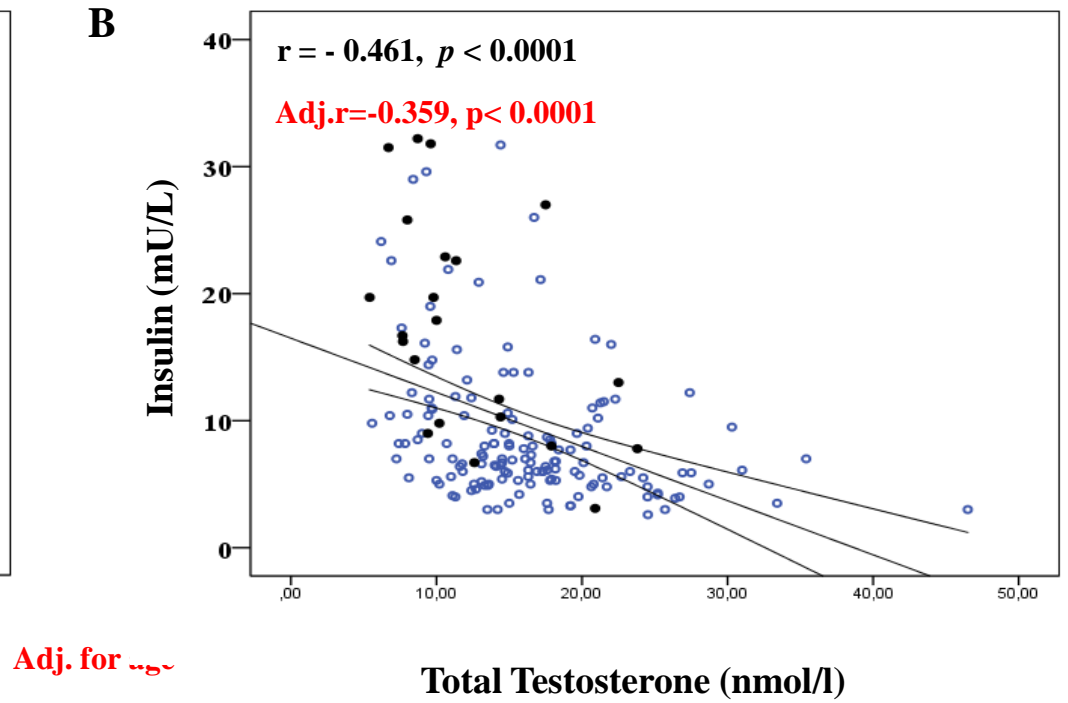
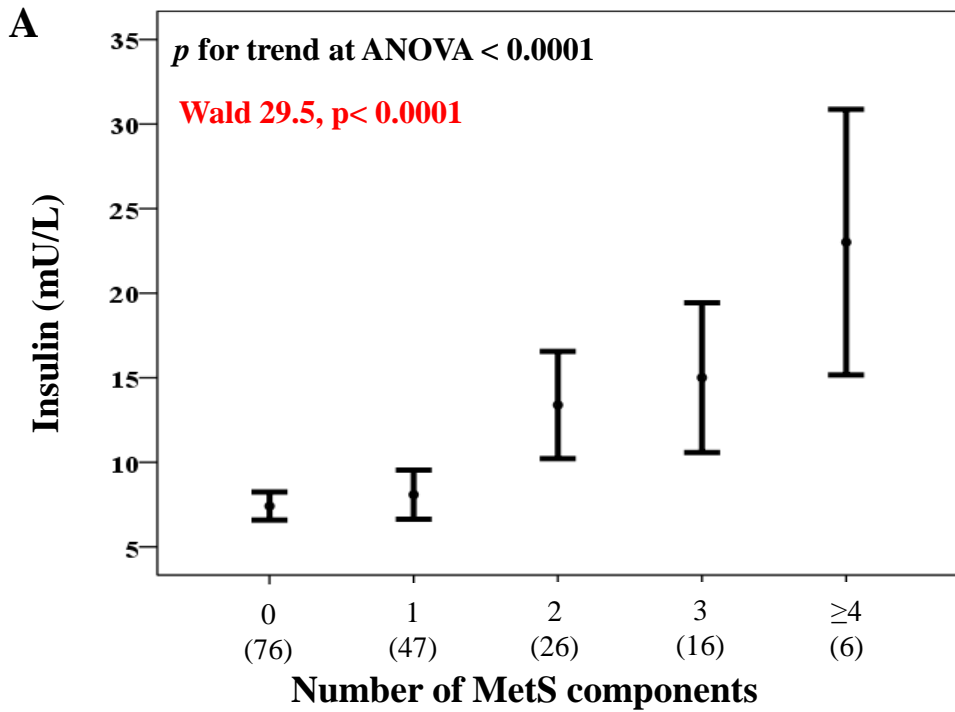


# Metabolic syndrome and prostate abnormalities in male subjects of infertile couples

Francesco Lotti<sup>1</sup>, Giovanni Corona<sup>1,2</sup>, Linda Vignozzi<sup>1</sup>, Matteo Rossi<sup>1</sup>, Elisa Maseroli<sup>1</sup>, Sarah Cipriani<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Gacci<sup>3</sup>, Gianni Forti<sup>1</sup>, Mario Maggi<sup>1</sup>

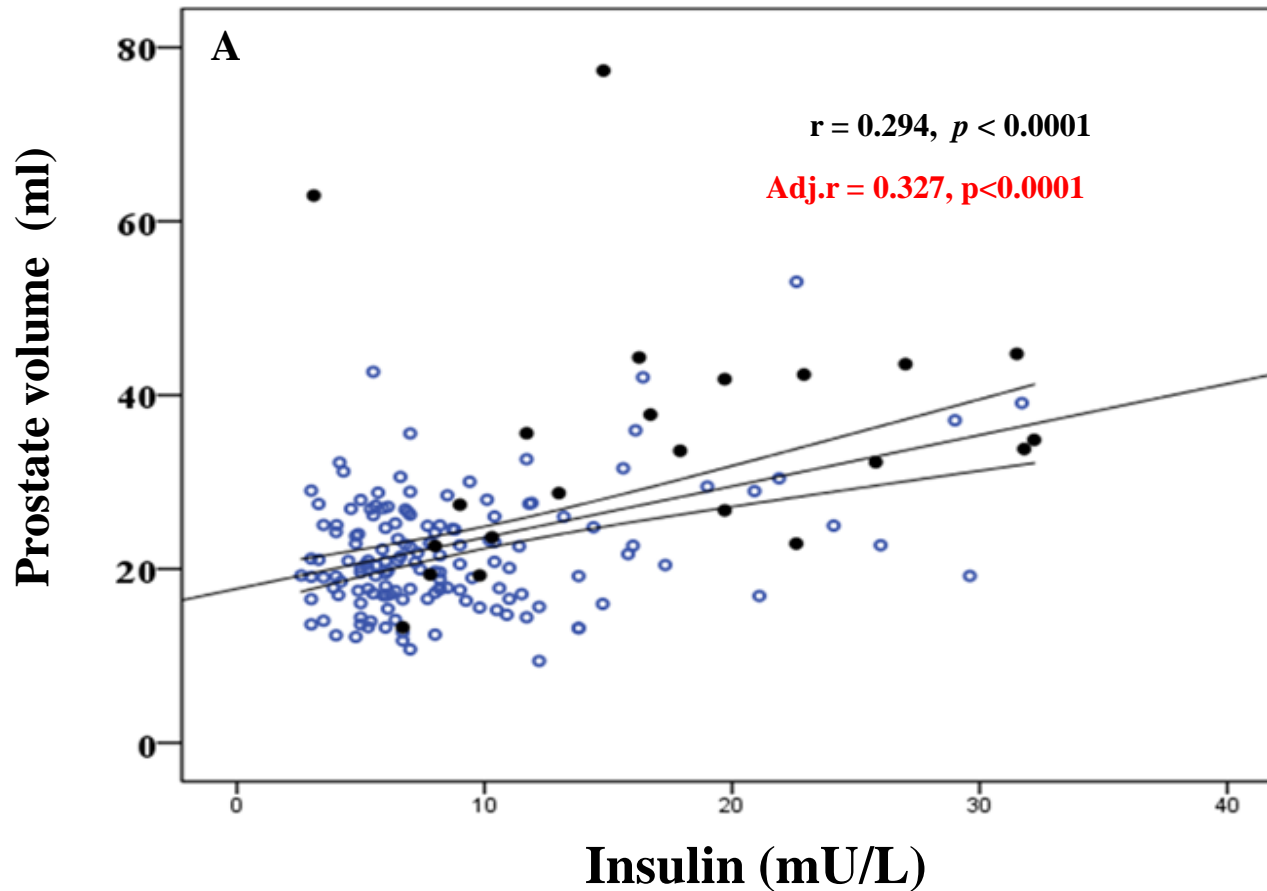
**Age=36.5 ± 8.3 years**





Association between **insulin** and **prostate volume** in a consecutive series of **infertile subjects** (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy

**Age=36.5±8.3 years**

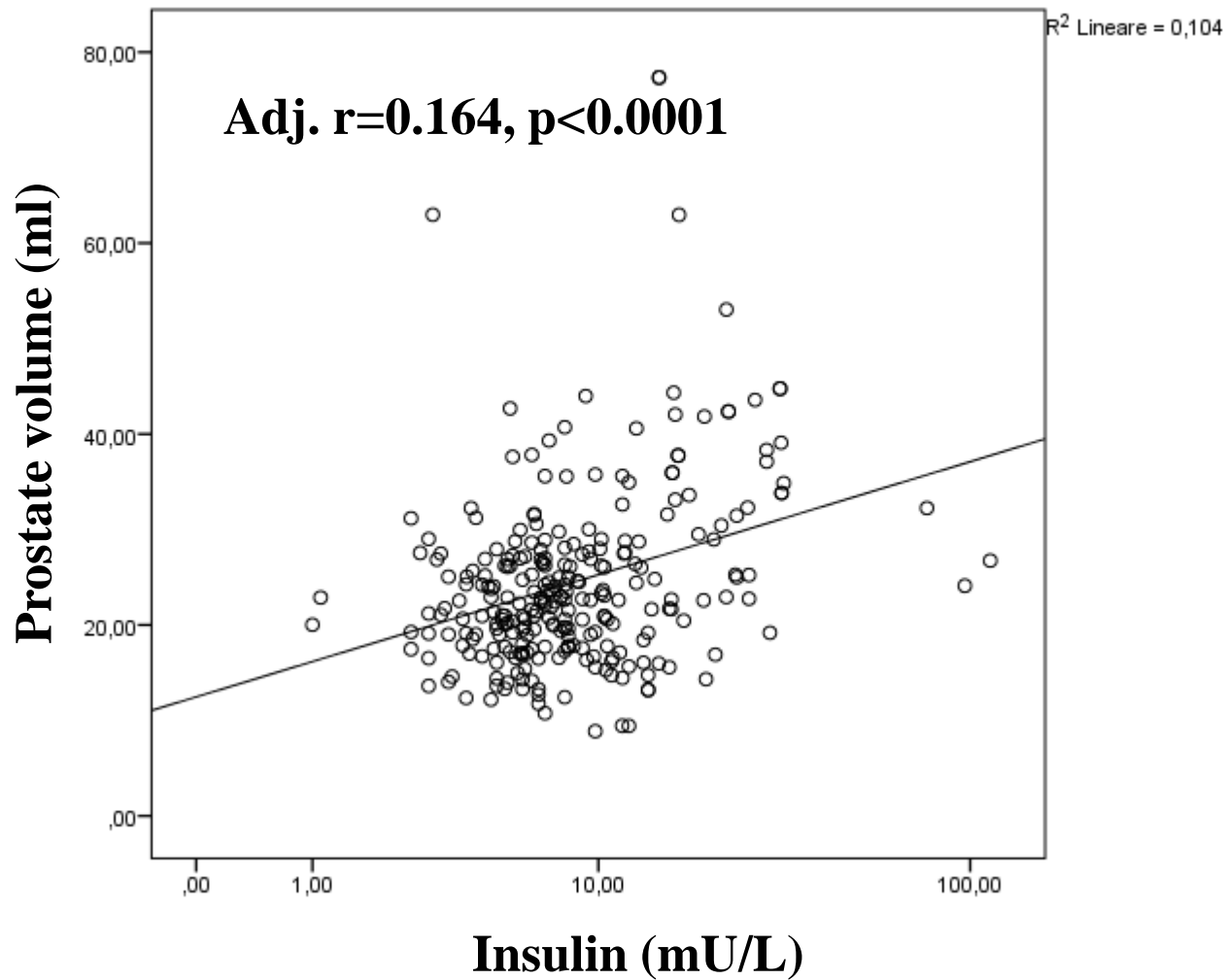


Adjusted for:

- age
- testosterone



Association between **insulin** and **prostate volume** in a consecutive series of **infertile subjects** (n=267) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy



Adjusted for:

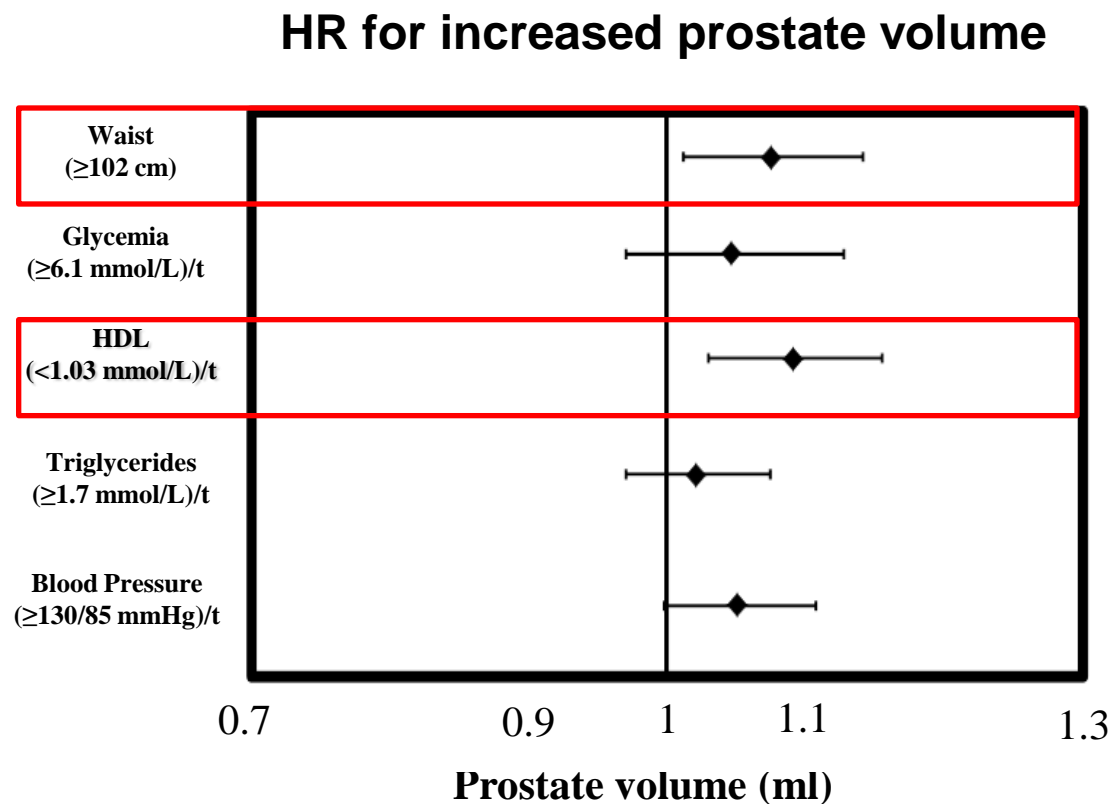
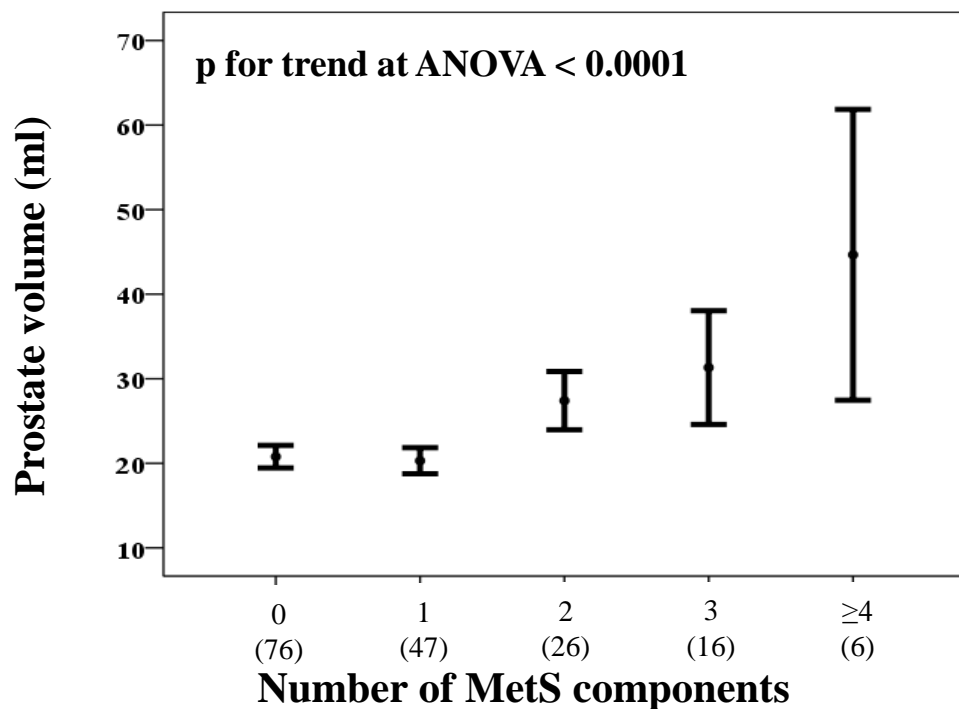
- age
- testosterone

# Association between # of MetS components and prostate volume in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy

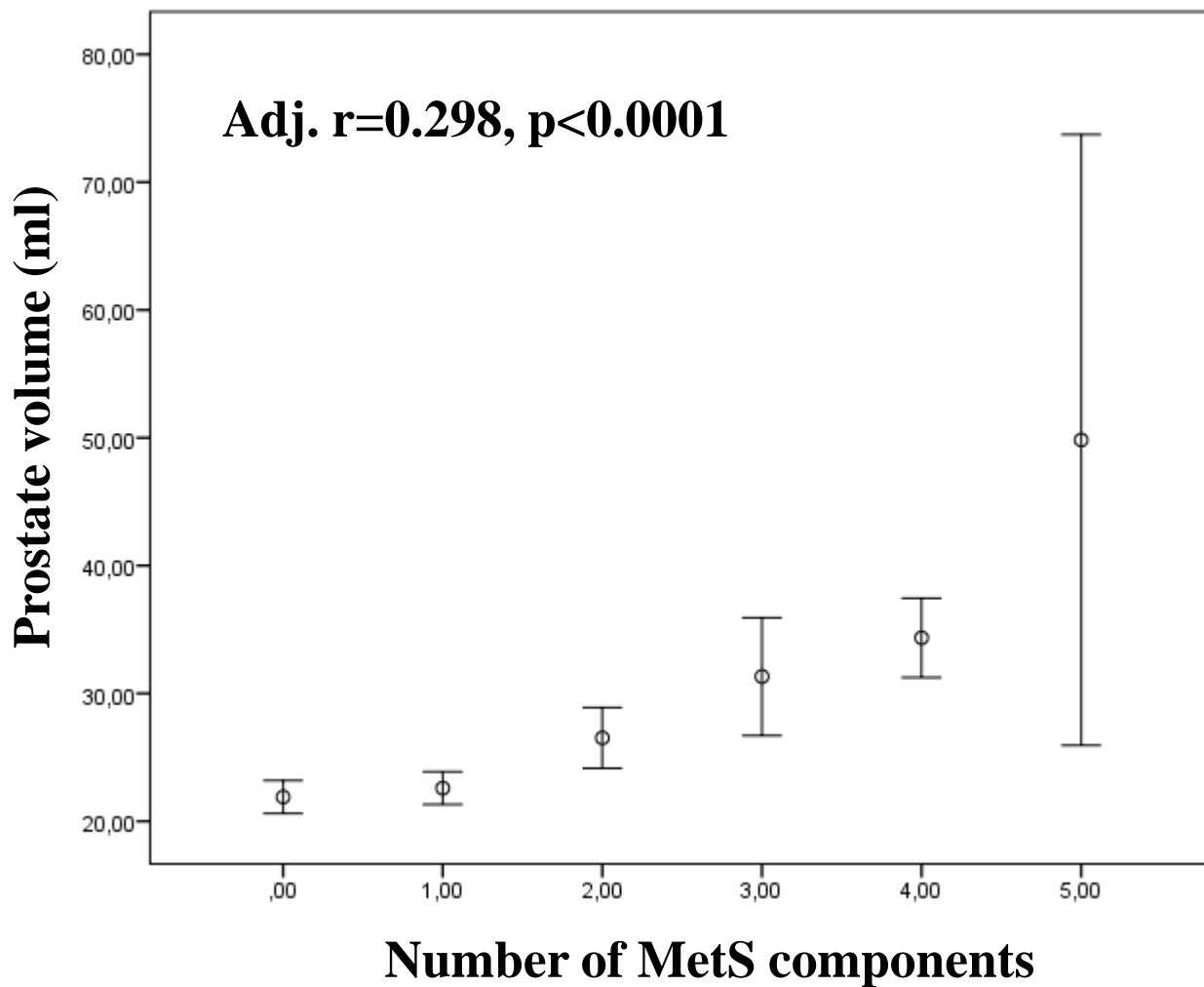
Adjusted for:

- age
- insulin
- testosterone

**Age=36.5 ± 8.3 years**



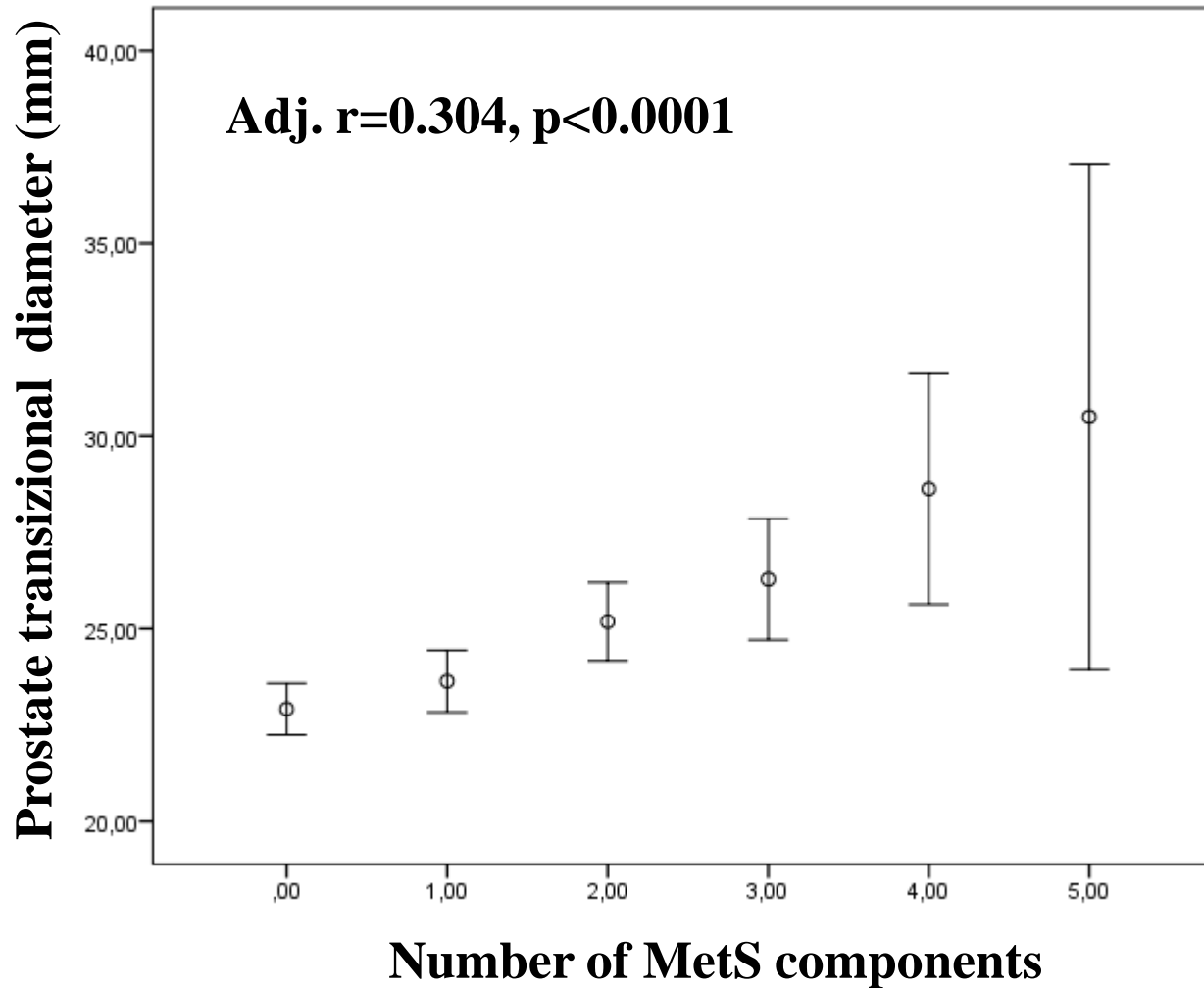
**Association between # of MetS components and prostate volume in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=270) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy**



Adjusted for:

- age
- testosterone

Association between **# of MetS components** and **prostate transitional diameter** in a consecutive series of **infertile subjects** (n=270) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy



Adjusted for:

- age
- testosterone

## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**
- **MetS is associated with depressive symptoms**
- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with ↑ insulin and BPE**

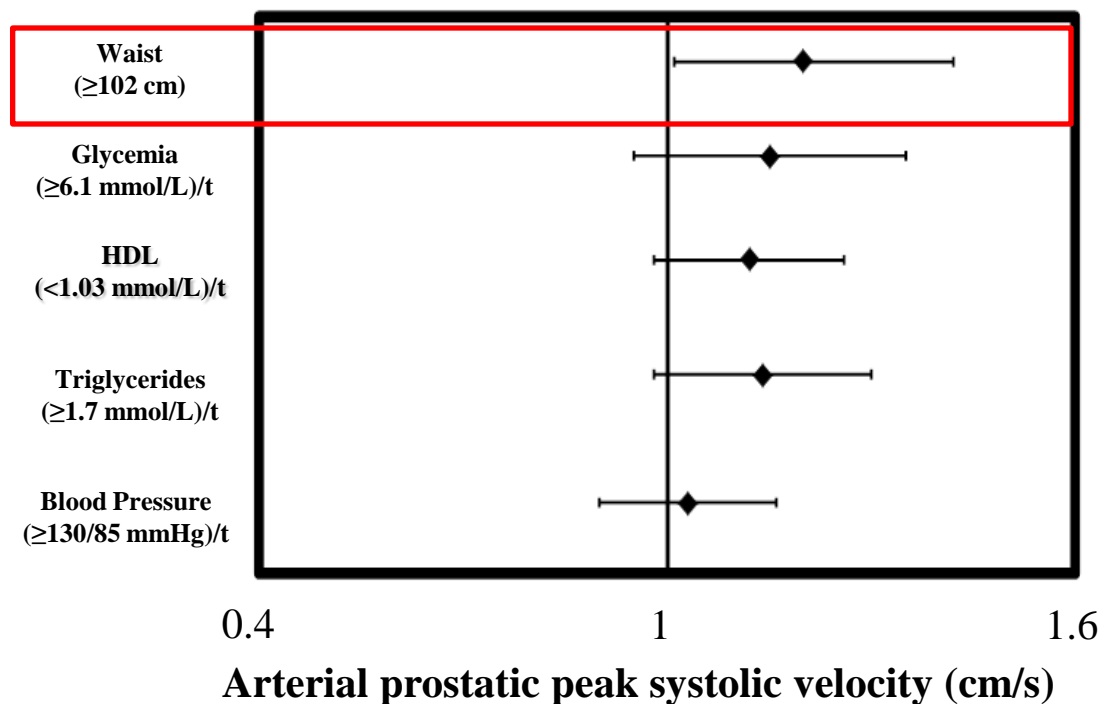
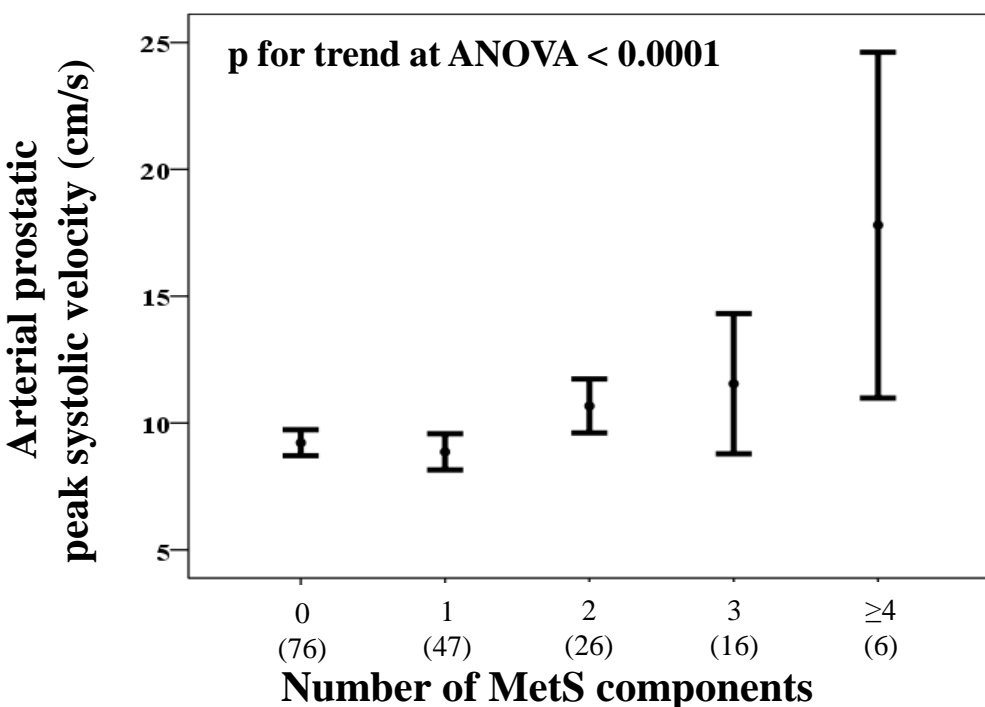
# Association between # of MetS components and arterial prostatic peak systolic velocity in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Adjusted for:

- age
- insulin
- testosterone

**Age=36.5 ± 8.3 years**

**HR for increased APPSV**

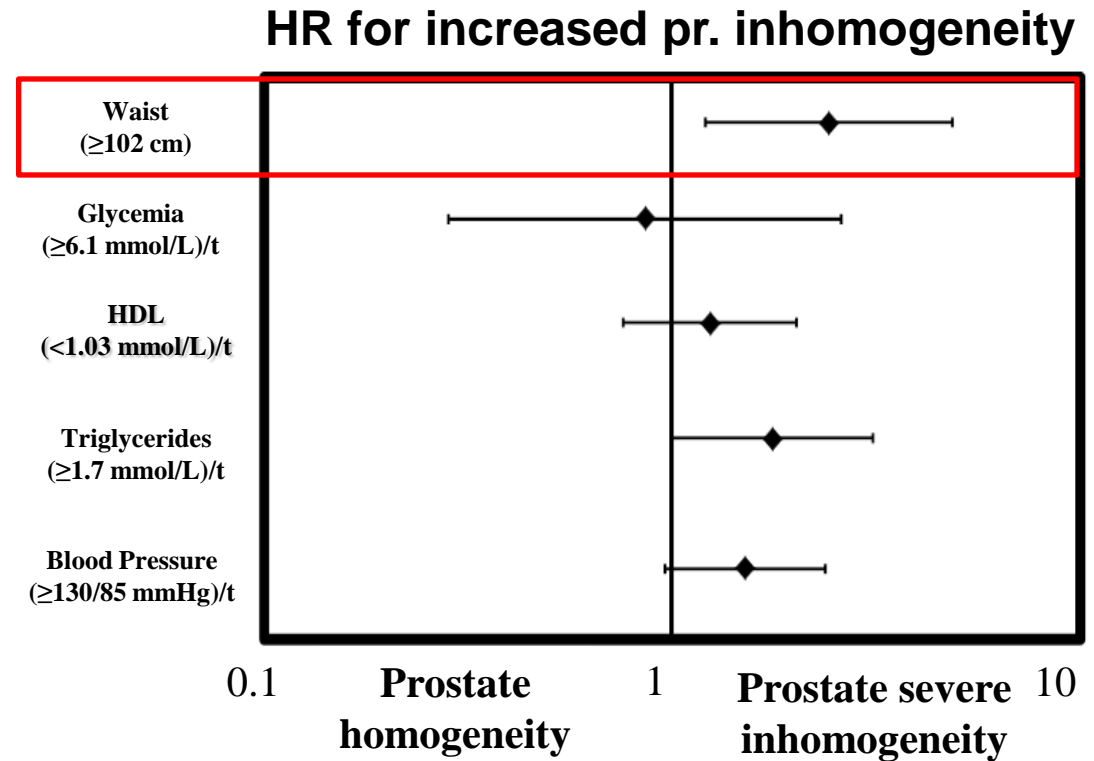
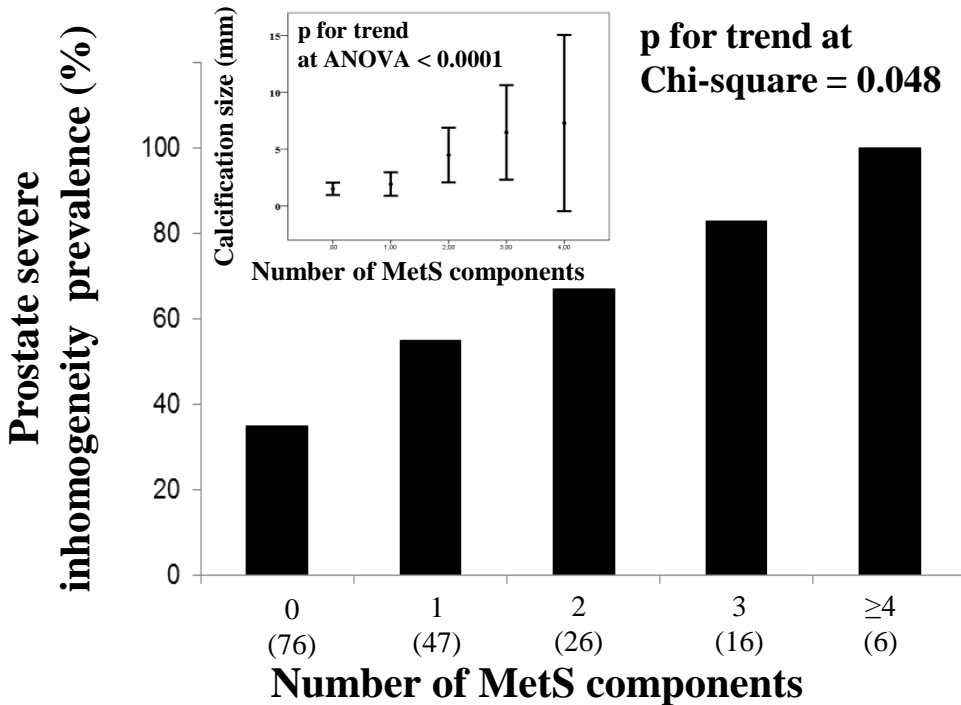


# Association between # of MetS components and prostate severe inhomogeneity prevalence in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy

Adjusted for:

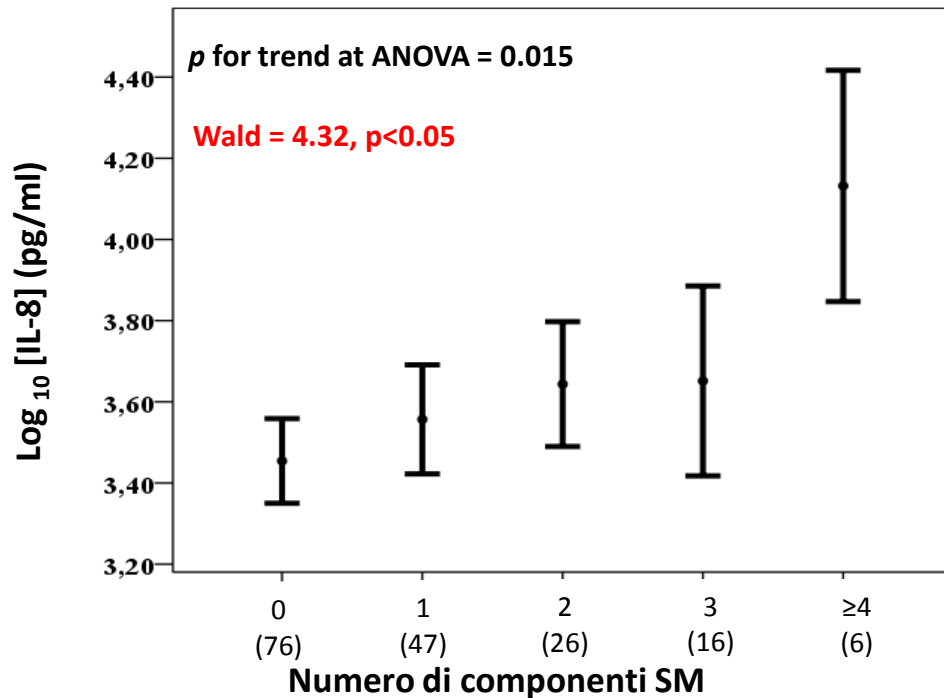
- age
- insulin
- testosterone

Age=36.5±8.3 years

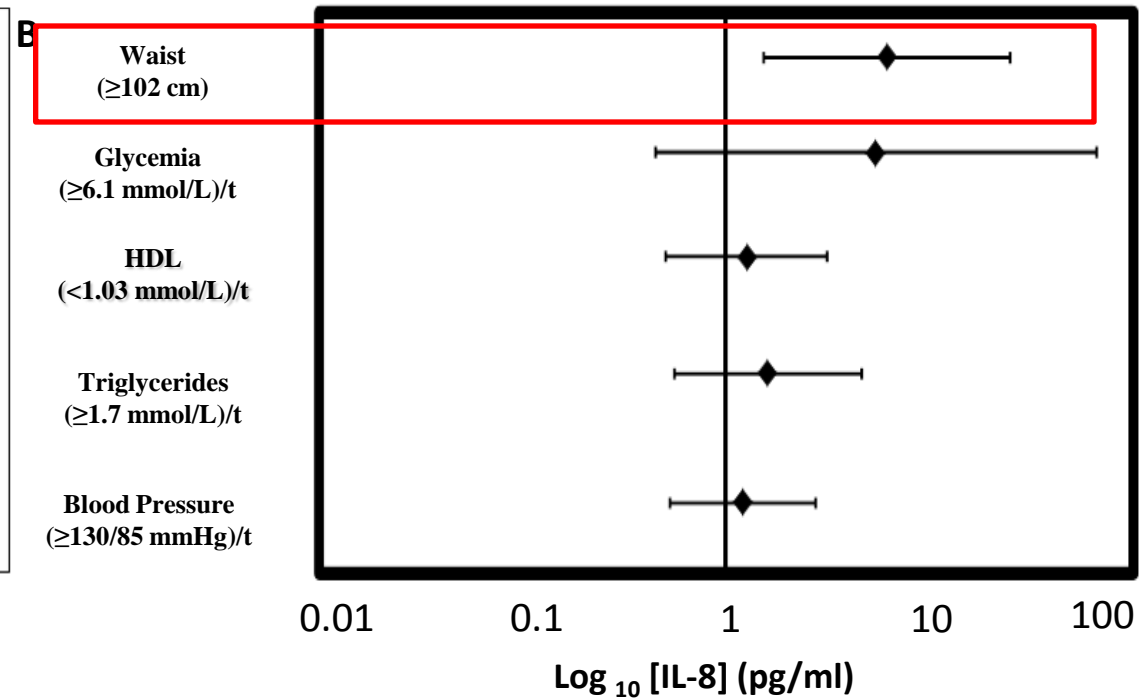


# Association between # of MetS components and seminal IL-8 in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy

A



B





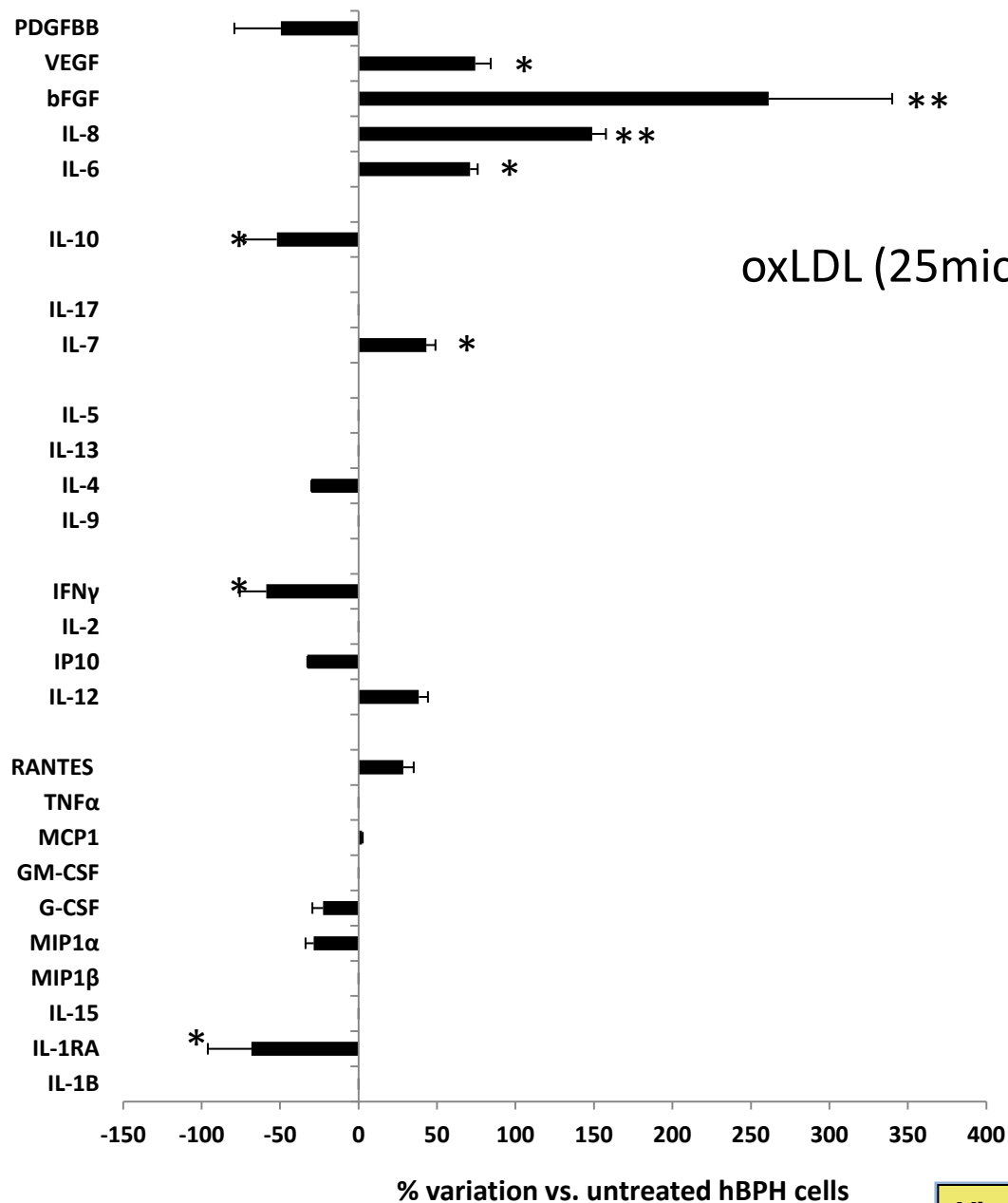
## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**
- **MetS is associated with depressive symptoms**
- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with ↑ insulin and BPE**
- **MetS (↑ waist) is associated with prostate inflammation**

## **Fat Boosts, While Androgen Receptor Activation Counteracts, BPH-Associated Prostate Inflammation**

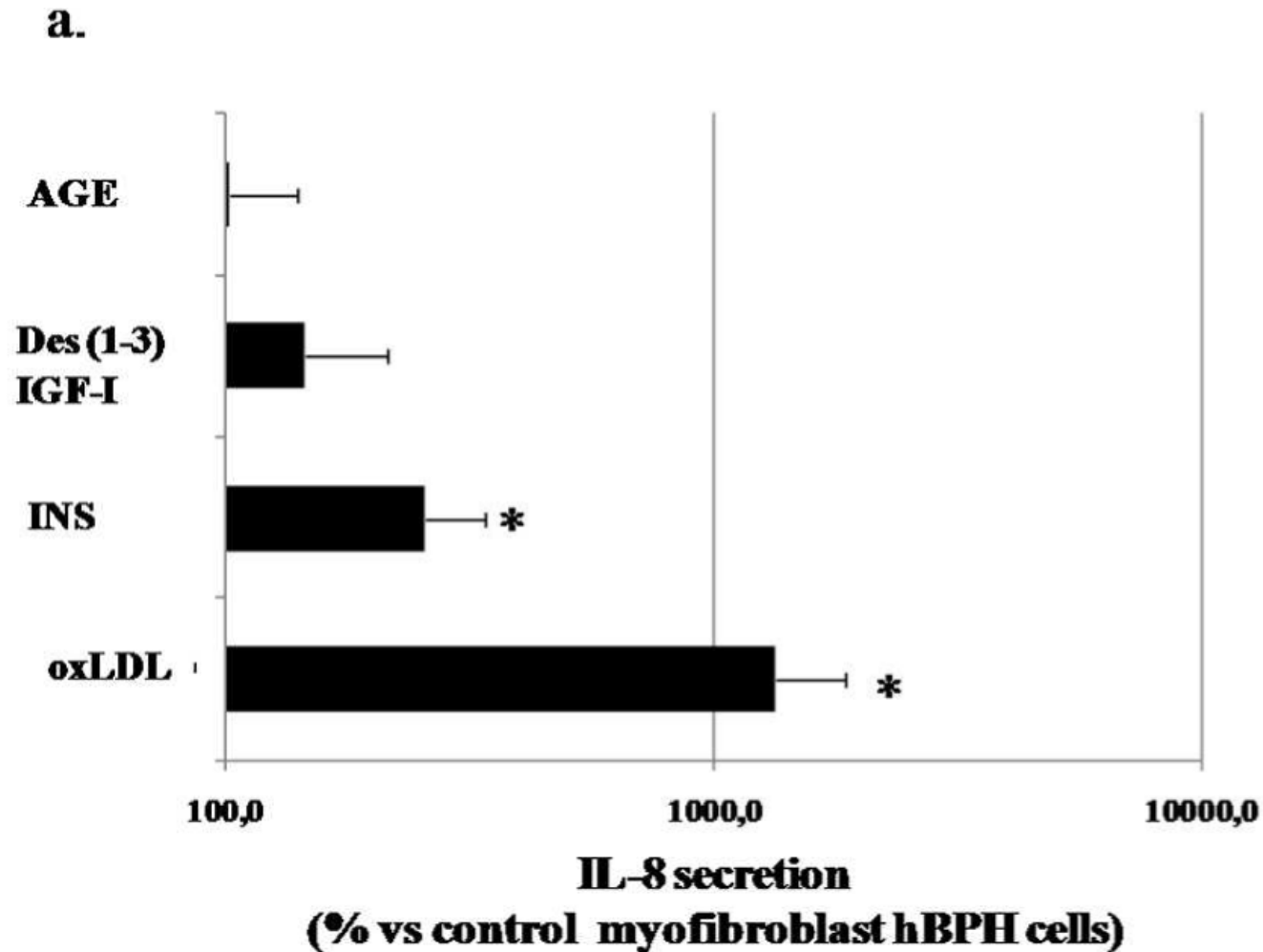
Linda Vignozzi,<sup>1,2</sup> Mauro Gacci,<sup>3</sup> Ilaria Cellai,<sup>1,2</sup> Raffaella Santi,<sup>4</sup> Giovanni Corona,<sup>1,2,5</sup>  
Annamaria Morelli,<sup>1,2</sup> Giulia Rastrelli,<sup>1,2</sup> Paolo Comeglio,<sup>1,2</sup> Arcangelo Sebastianelli,<sup>3</sup>  
Elena Maneschi,<sup>1,2</sup> Gabriella Nesi,<sup>4</sup> Cosimo De Nunzio,<sup>6</sup> Andrea Tubaro,<sup>6</sup>  
Edoardo Mannucci,<sup>7</sup> Marco Carini,<sup>3</sup> and Mario Maggi<sup>1,2\*</sup>

# Effect of oxLDL on cytokines/chemokines/growth factors secretion by hBPH cells



\*p<0.05; \*\*p<0.01

# Effect of different metabolic stimuli on IL-8 secretion by hBPH cells



**Association between # of MetS components and prostatic symptoms in a consecutive series of infertile subjects (n=171) at the University of Florence, Florence, Italy**

Adjusted for:

- age
- insulin
- testosterone

**Age=36.5±8.3 years**

**No association was found between MetS and prostate-related symptoms, as captured by both NIH-CPSI and IPSS**

## ORIGINAL ARTICLE

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## Keywords:

male infertility, National Institutes of Health-Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index, prostatitis-like symptoms, scrotal and transrectal colour-Doppler ultrasound, seminal and laboratory parameters

Received: 23-Jul-2013

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Accepted: 11-Oct-2013

## Seminal, clinical and colour-Doppler ultrasound correlations of prostatitis-like symptoms in males of infertile couples

<sup>1</sup>F. Lotti, <sup>1,2</sup>G. Corona, <sup>3</sup>N. Mondaini, <sup>1</sup>E. Maseroli, <sup>1</sup>M. Rossi, <sup>1</sup>E. Filimberti, <sup>4</sup>I. Noci, <sup>1</sup>G. Forti and <sup>1</sup>M. Maggi

<sup>1</sup>Sexual Medicine and Andrology Unit, Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Florence, <sup>2</sup>Endocrinology Unit, Maggiore-Bellaria Hospital, Bologna, <sup>3</sup>Santa Maria Annunziata Hospital, and <sup>4</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

**Table 3** Univariate correlations between the National Institutes of Health-Chronic Prostatitis Symptom Index (NIH-CPSI) total and subdomain scores and semen parameters

	NIH-CPSI total score	NIH-CPSI pain subdomain score	NIH-CPSI void subdomain score	NIH-CPSI QoL subdomain score
Semen pH	$r = 0.048, p = 0.340$	$r = 0.017, p = 0.730$	$r = 0.087, p = 0.081$	$r = 0.033, p = 0.509$
Semen volume (mL)	$r = 0.039, p = 0.440$	$r = 0.032, p = 0.525$	$r = 0.055, p = 0.253$	$r = -0.021, p = 0.682$
Sperm concentration ( $10^6$ /mL)	$r = 0.046, p = 0.355$	$r = 0.031, p = 0.536$	$r = 0.002, p = 0.967$	$r = -0.095, p = 0.057$
Spermatozoa per ejaculate ( $10^6$ /mL)	$r = 0.050, p = 0.322$	$r = 0.038, p = 0.445$	$r = 0.007, p = 0.886$	$r = 0.084, p = 0.093$
Sperm progressive motility (%)	$r = 0.079, p = 0.156$	$r = 0.071, p = 0.201$	$r = 0.019, p = 0.734$	$r = 0.101, p = 0.069$
Sperm morphology (%) normal forms	$r = -0.038, p = 0.492$	$r = -0.008, p = 0.888$	$r = -0.068, p = 0.223$	$r = -0.017, p = 0.762$
Leucocytospermia	RR = 1.02 [0.97–1.07], $p = 0.423$	RR = 1.06 [0.96–1.17], $p = 0.228$	RR = 0.91 [0.71–1.17], $p = 0.475$	RR = 1.25 [1.02–1.53], $p = 0.033$

QoL, quality of life.

**Table 4** Comparisons between patients with prostatitis-like symptoms (PLS) and age-, waist-, total testosterone (TT)-matched PLS-free patients (1 : 3 ratio)

	PLS patients (n = 39)	Age-, waist-, TT-matched PLS-free patients (1 : 3 ratio, n = 117)	<i>p</i>
Age	38.8 ± 8.8	38.0 ± 6.9	0.609
Waist	93.1 ± 7.6	92.7 ± 6.3	0.778
Total testosterone (nmol/L)	16.9 ± 5.9	16.1 ± 5.4	0.495
<b>Semen parameters</b>			
Sexual abstinence (days)	4.5 ± 2.9	4.3 ± 2.2	0.177
pH	7.5 ± 0.3	7.5 ± 0.3	0.294
Semen volume	3.4 [2.0–4.5]	4.0 [4.0–5.0]	0.982
Sperm concentration (10 <sup>6</sup> /mL)	18.0 [0.6–56.0]	11.0 [1.5–51.0]	0.763
Spermatozoa per ejaculate (10 <sup>6</sup> /mL)	36.0 [2.8–171.5]	35.0 [3.6–138.4]	0.897
Sperm progressive motility (%)	39.1 ± 17.5	32.7 ± 20.5	0.116
Sperm morphology (%) normal forms	5.0 [3.0–12.0]	5.0 [2.0–10.0]	0.343
Leucocytospermia (%)	10.2	2.6	<b>0.044</b>
Current positive urine and/or seminal culture (%)	28.2	2.6	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
sIL-8 (ng/mL)	5.03 [2.06–11.36]	2.02 [1.16–3.92]	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
PSA (ng/mL)	0.99 ± 0.83	0.76 ± 0.36	0.074
<b>Colour-Doppler ultrasound parameters</b>			
Prostate volume (mL)	20.7 ± 5.3	21.3 ± 6.3	0.534
Prostate moderate-severe non-homogeneity (%)	66.6	17.2	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Prostate hypoechoic texture (%)	69.1	6.0	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Prostate hyperaemia (%)	69.1	9.5	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Arterial prostatic peak systolic velocity (cm/sec)	11.7 ± 1.7	8.2 ± 2.7	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Ejaculatory duct calcifications (%)	17.9	6.9	<b>0.042</b>
SV volume before ejaculation (mL)	9.2 [5.2–19.2]	6.7 [4.4–11.3]	<b>0.013</b>
SV volume after ejaculation (mL)	5.9 [3.6–11.1]	4.8 [2.7–7.3]	<b>0.037</b>
SV areas of endocapsulation after ejaculation (%)	41.0	8.6	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
SV wall thickening and septa (%)	20.5	1.7	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Epididymal inhomogeneous tail (%)	53.8	22.4	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
Epididymal hyperechoic tail (%)	33.3	12.0	<b>0.006</b>
Epididymal hyperaemia (%)	15.4	2.6	<b>0.003</b>
Epididymal tail size (mm)	4.7 ± 1.5	4.1 ± 1.2	<b>0.028</b>
Hydrocele (%)	25.6	8.6	<b>0.006</b>

A *p* value < 0.05 was considered as significant.

Data are expressed as mean ± standard deviation or as median (quartiles) when appropriate, and as percentages when categorical. sIL8, seminal interleukin 8; SV, seminal vesicles.

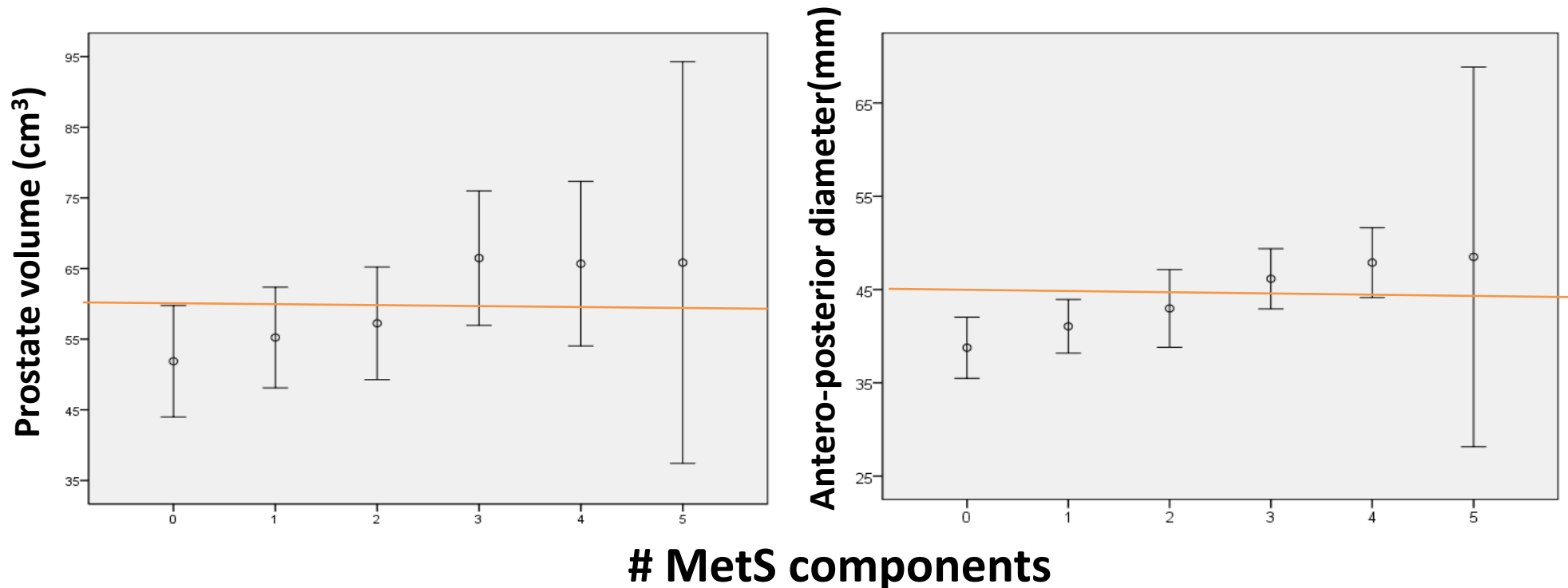
## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**
- **MetS is associated with depressive symptoms**
- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with ↑ insulin and BPE**
- **MetS (↑ waist) is associated with prostate inflammation**
- **Prostatitis-like symptoms are not associated with semen abnormalities**



# Association of increasing MetS factors and sonographic prostate volume

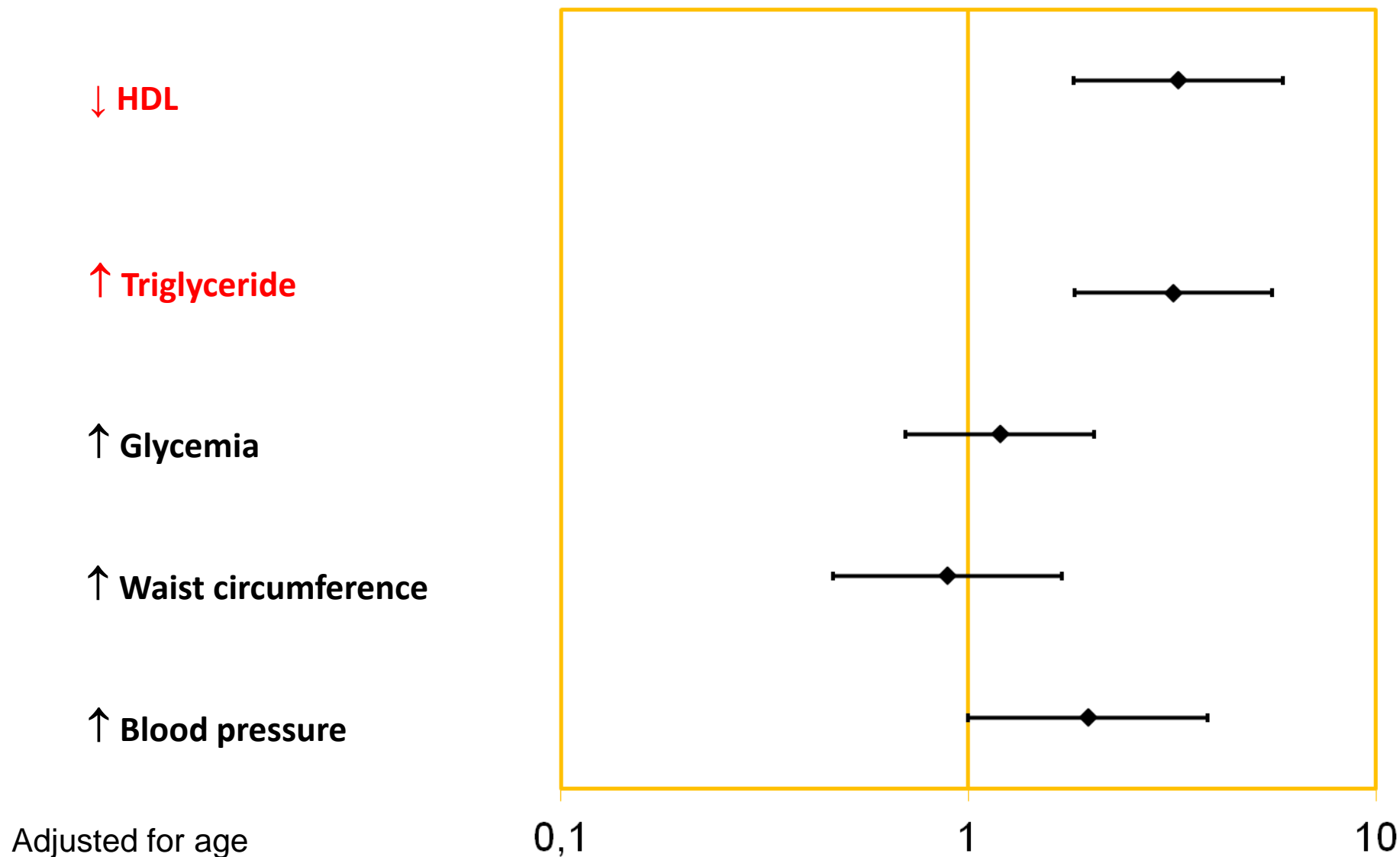
Multi-center retrospective study in BPH patients (n=244, mean age=68±7.5)



(American Heart Association/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; AHA/NHLBI)

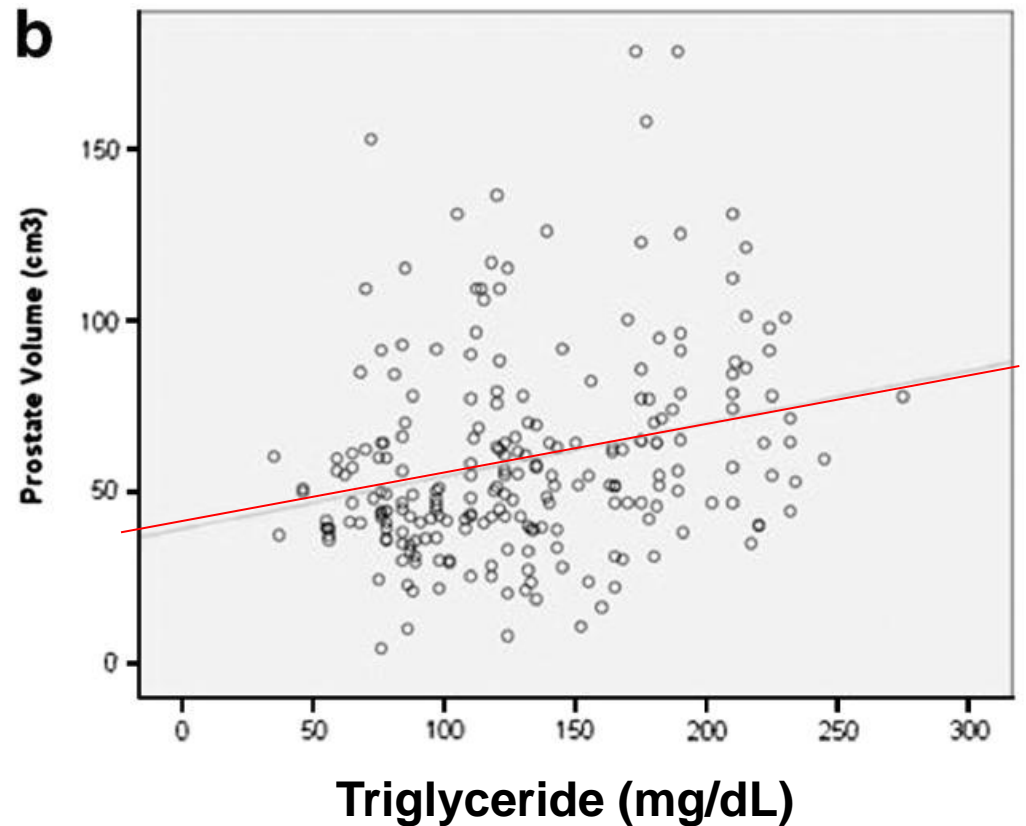
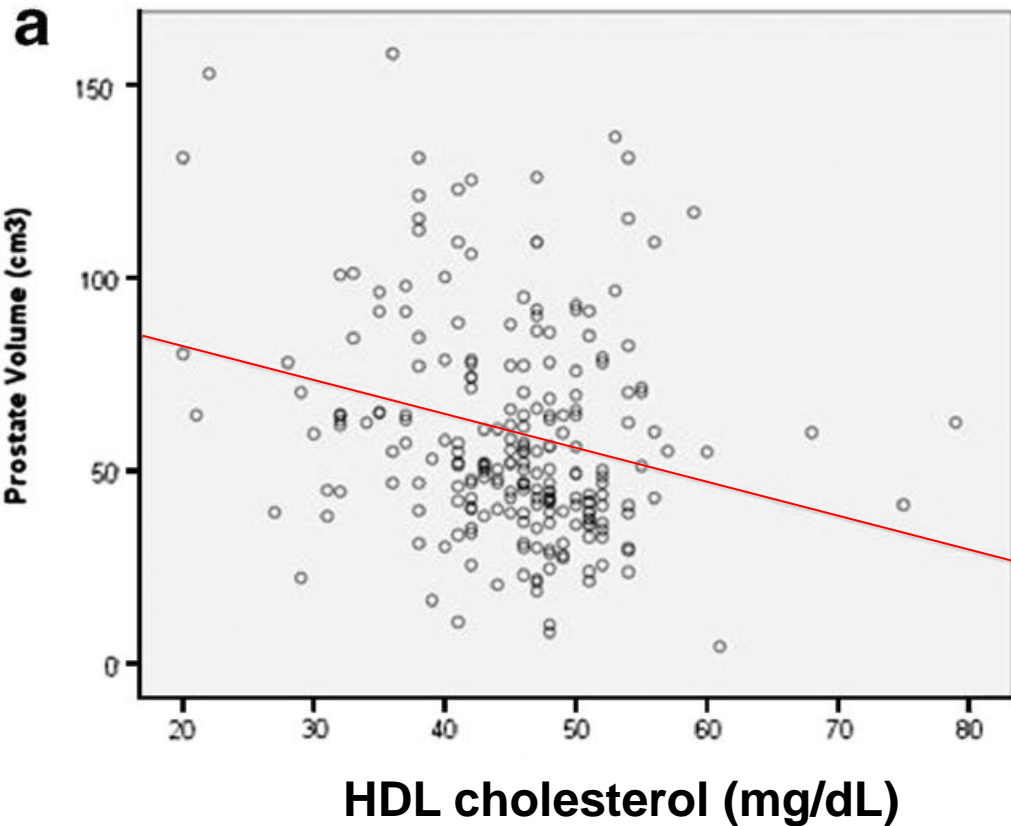
## Age-adjusted Hazard Ratio for prostate volume > 60 cm<sup>3</sup> as a function of MetS factors

Multi-center retrospective study in BPH patients (n=244, mean age=68±7.5)

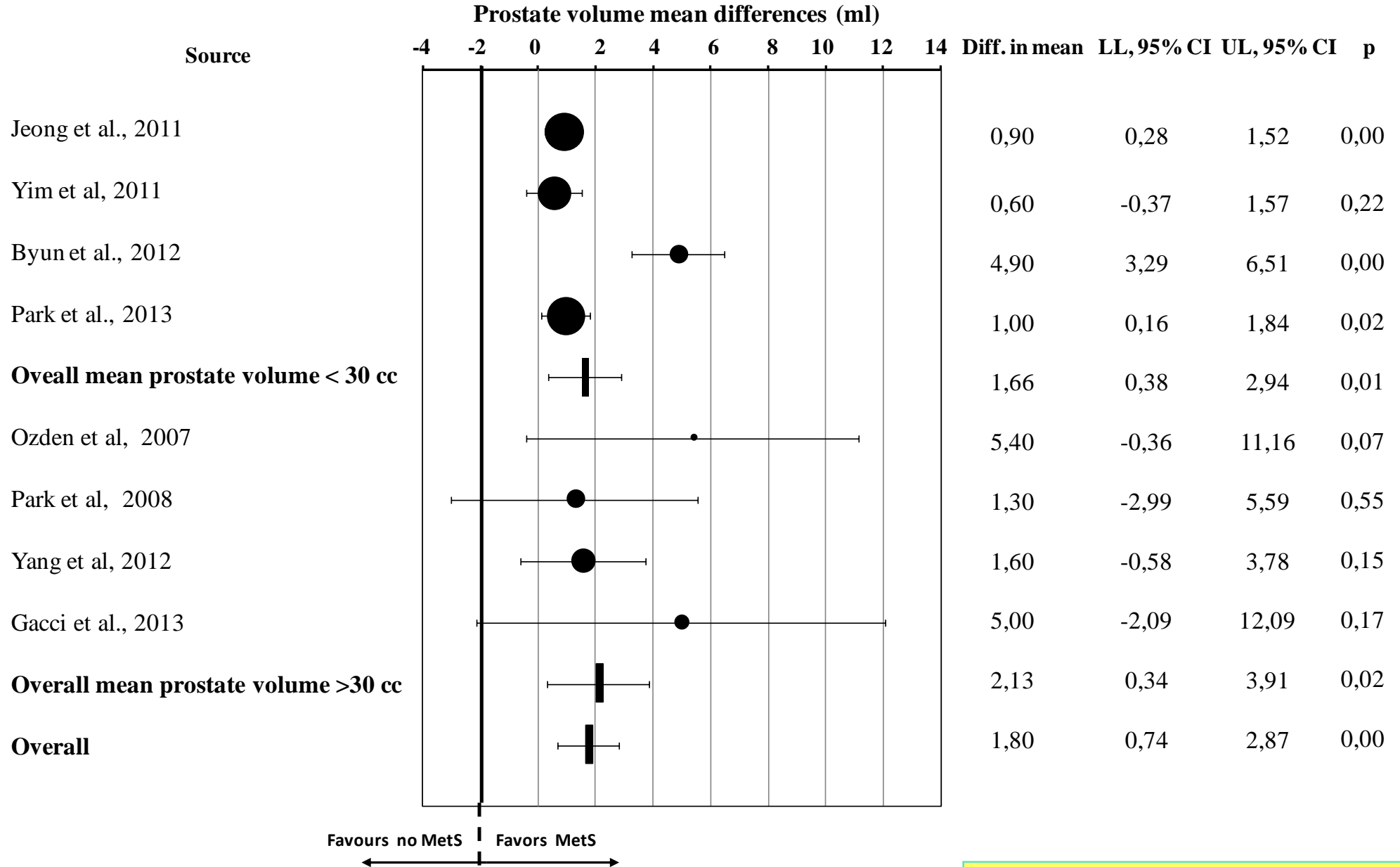


# Association between dyslipidaemia and sonographic prostate volume

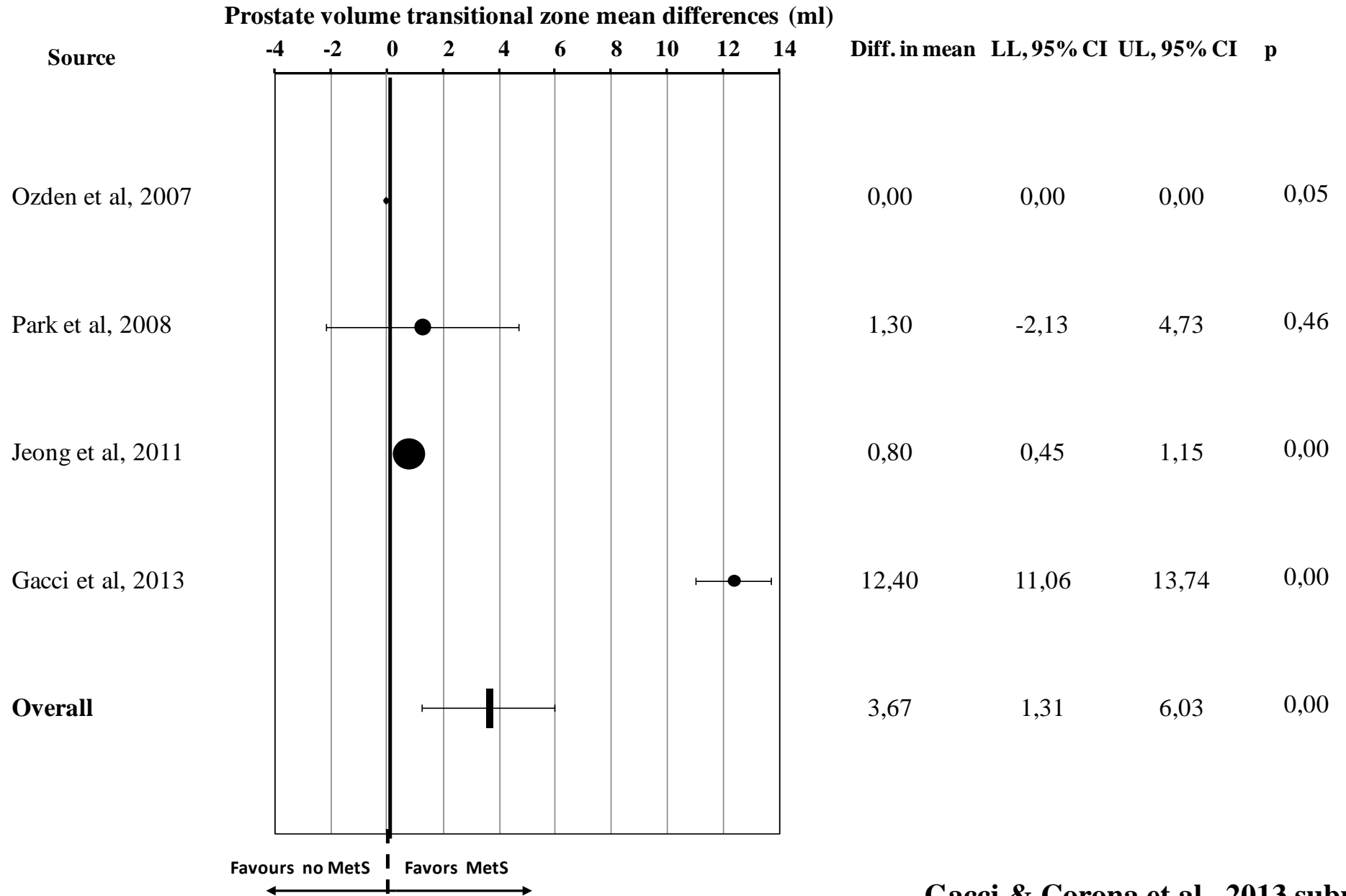
Multi-center retrospective study in BPH patients (n=244, mean age=68±7.5)



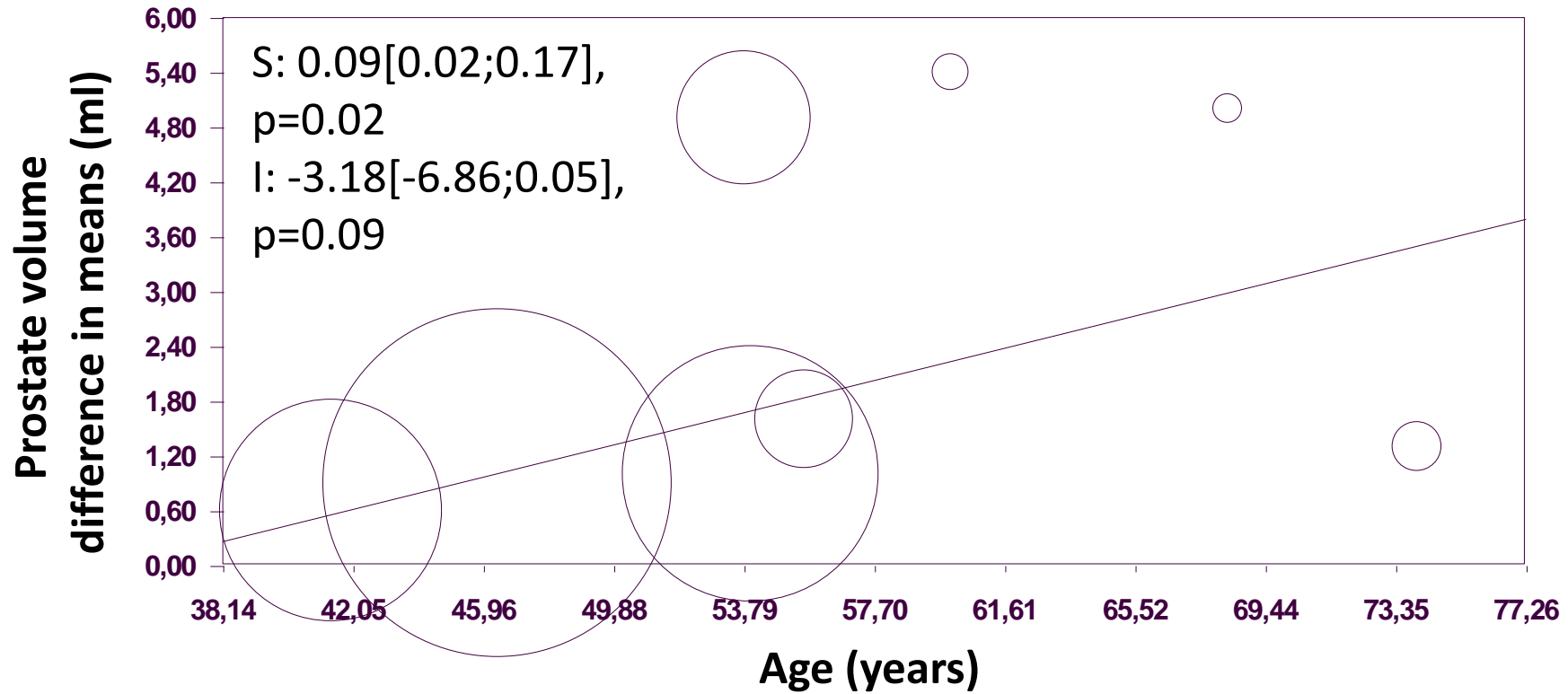
# RANDOM-EFFECTS POOLED MEAN DIFFERENCE OF TOTAL PROSTATE VOLUME BETWEEN MetS CASES AND CONTROLS



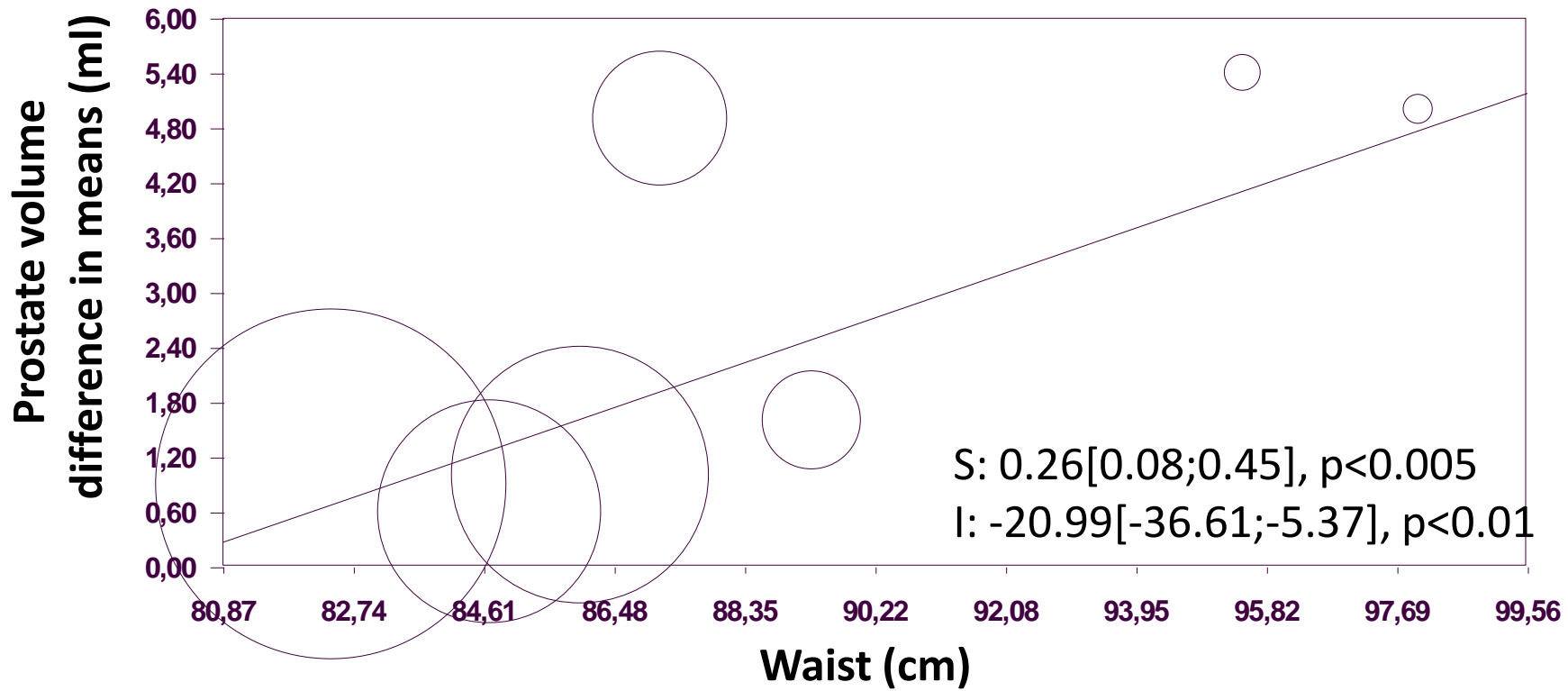
# RANDOM-EFFECTS POOLED MEAN DIFFERENCE OF PROSTATE VOLUME (TRANSITIONAL ZONE) BETWEEN MetS CASES AND CONTROLS



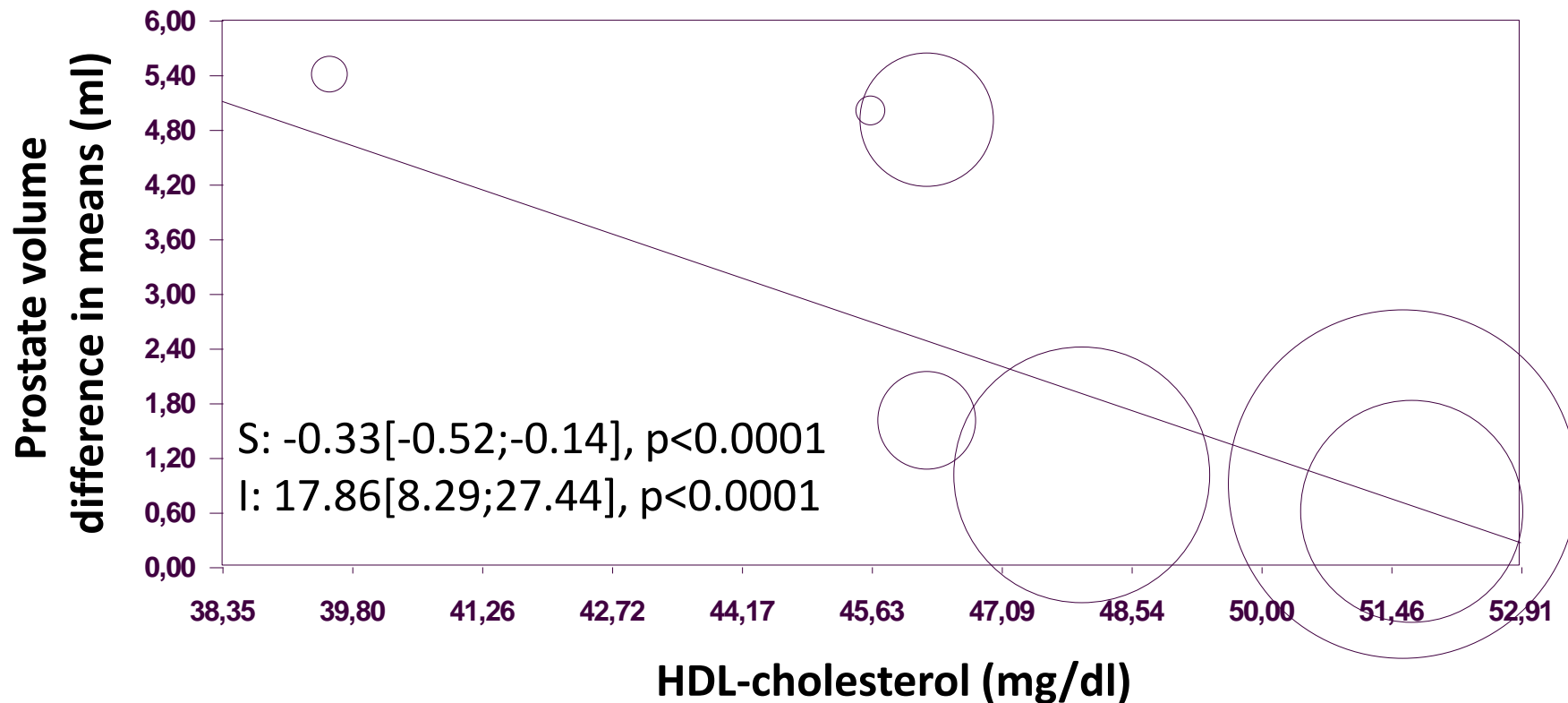
### Regression of age on Difference in means



### Regression of waist on Difference in means



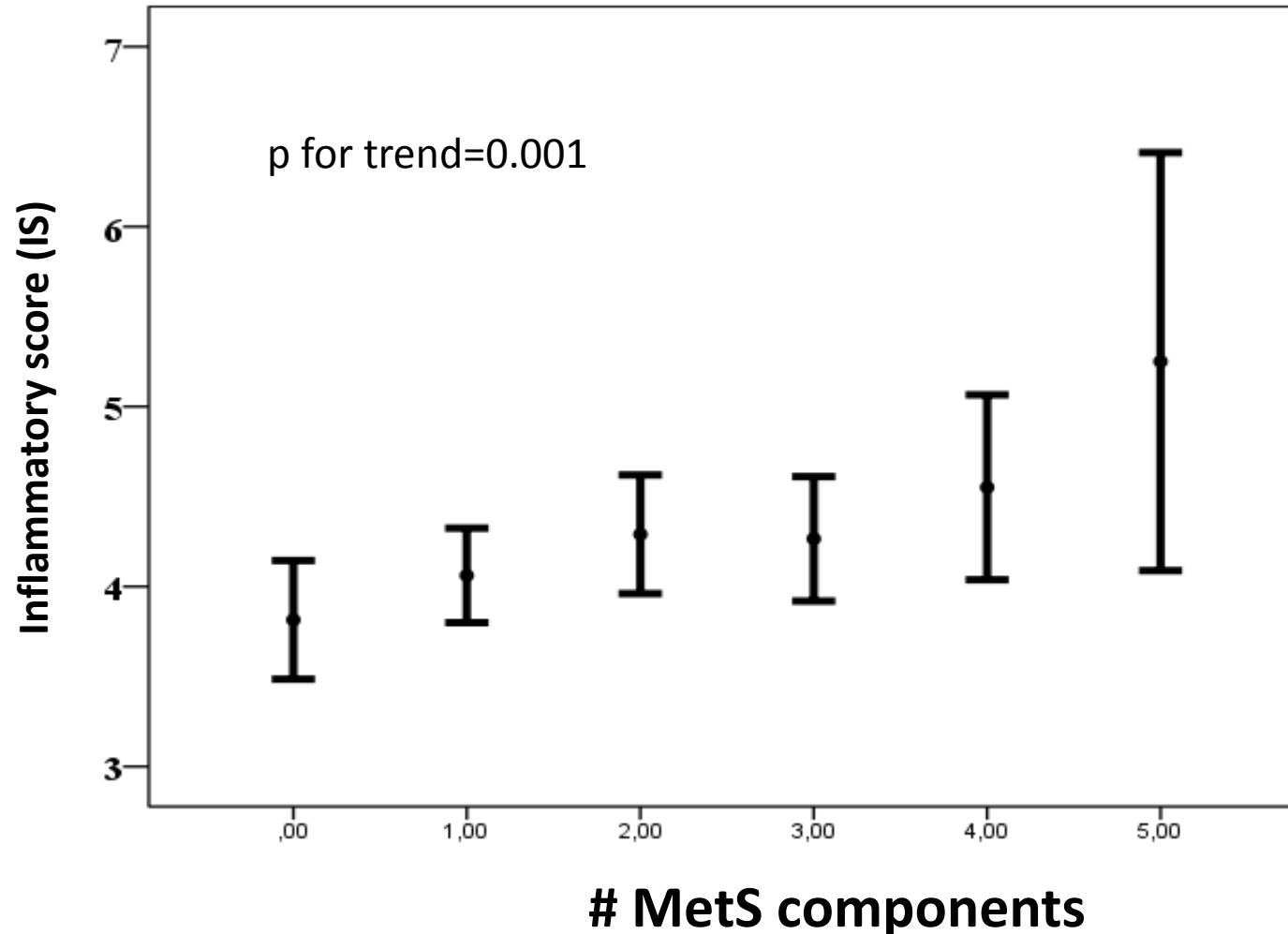
### Regression of HDL on Difference in means





## Association of increasing MetS factors and prostate inflammatory score

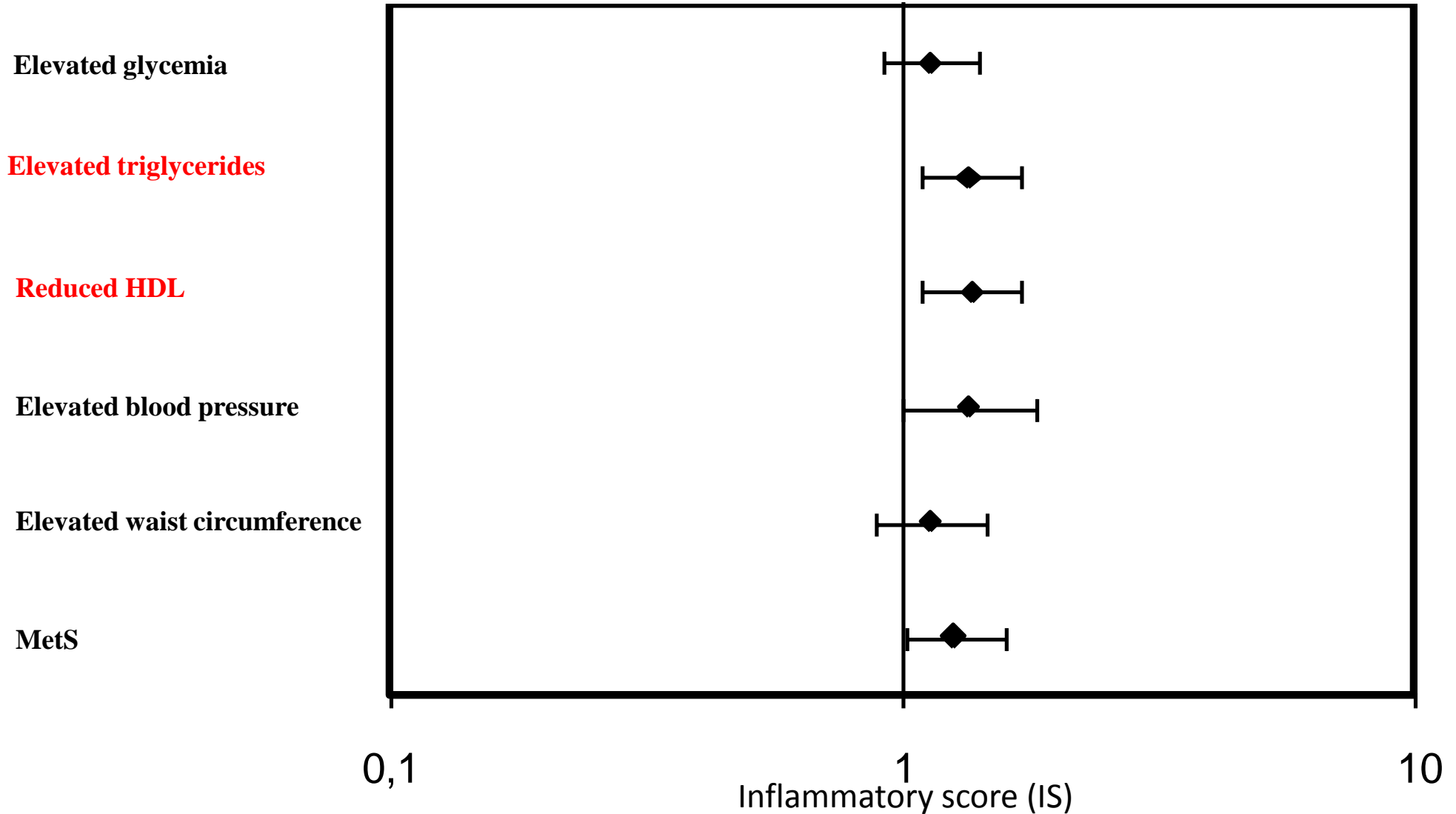
Multi-center retrospective study in BPH patients (n=244, mean age=68±7.5)



(American Heart Association/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; AHA/NHLBI)

# Age-adjusted Hazard Ratio for prostate inflammatory score as a function of MetS factors

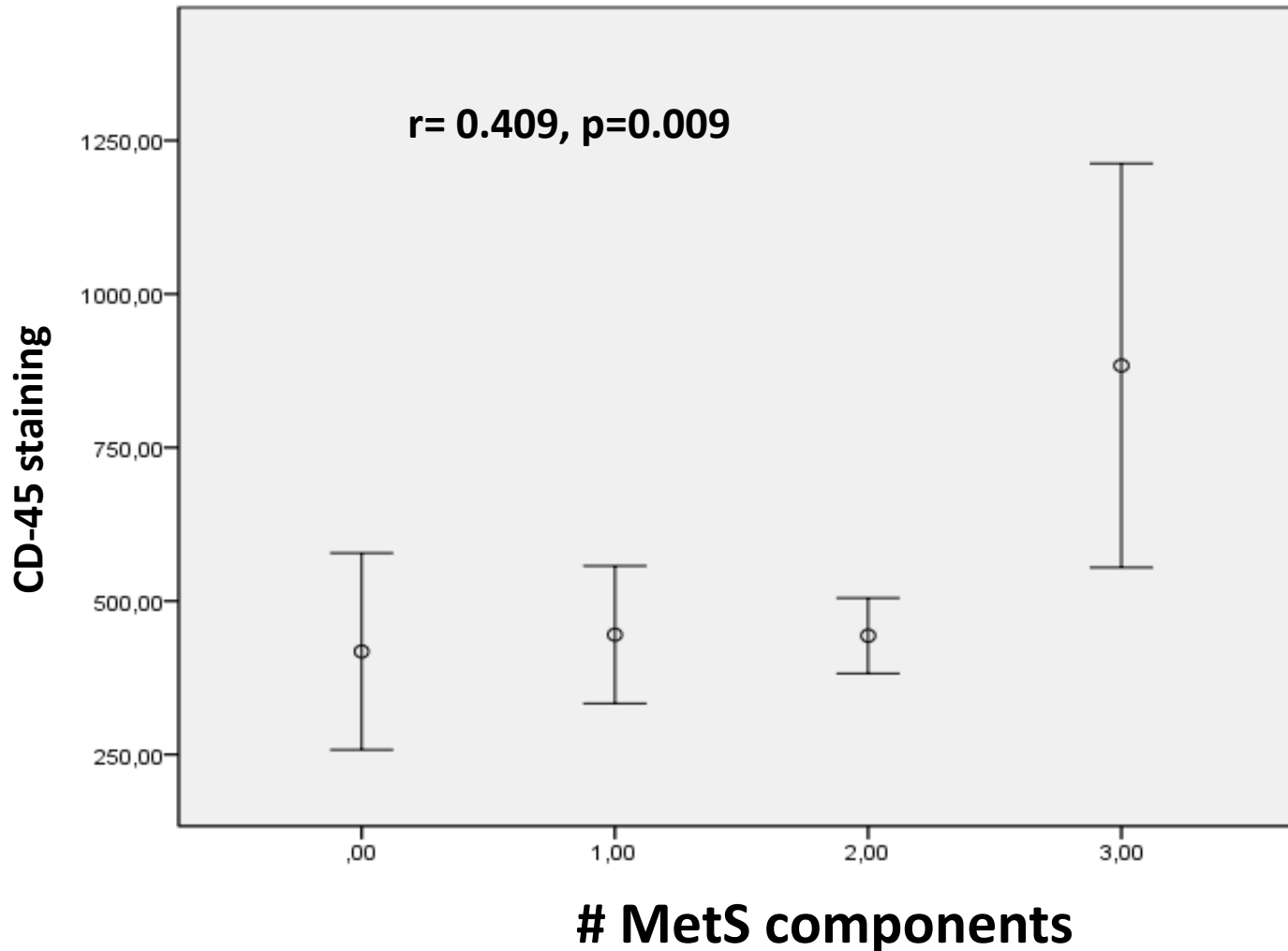
Multi-center retrospective study in BPH patients (n=244, mean age=68±7.5)



Adjusted for age

## Association of increasing MetS factors and prostate CD-45 staining

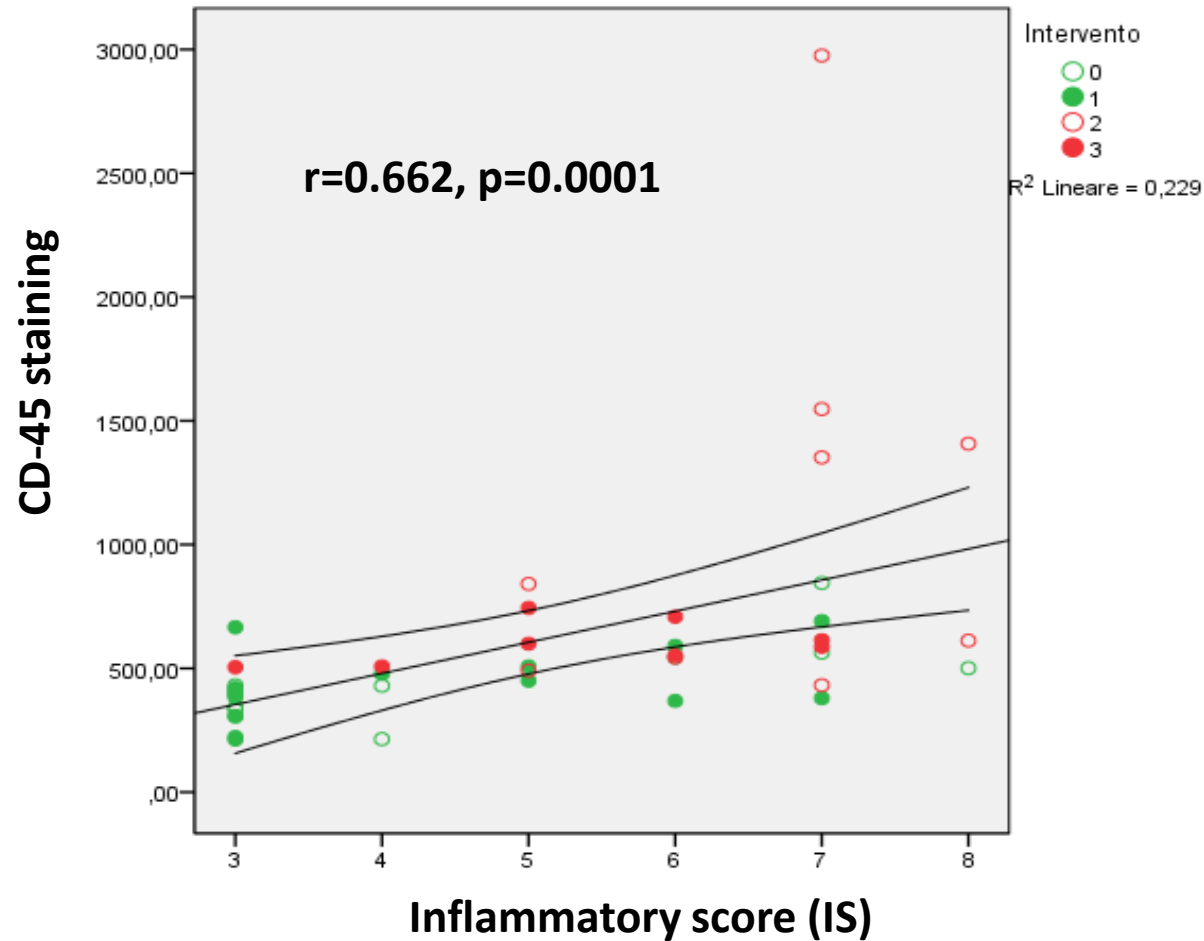
Restrospective study in BPH patients from FILUVA<sup>1</sup> (n=42, mean age=70±7 )



(American Heart Association/National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute; AHA/NHLBI)

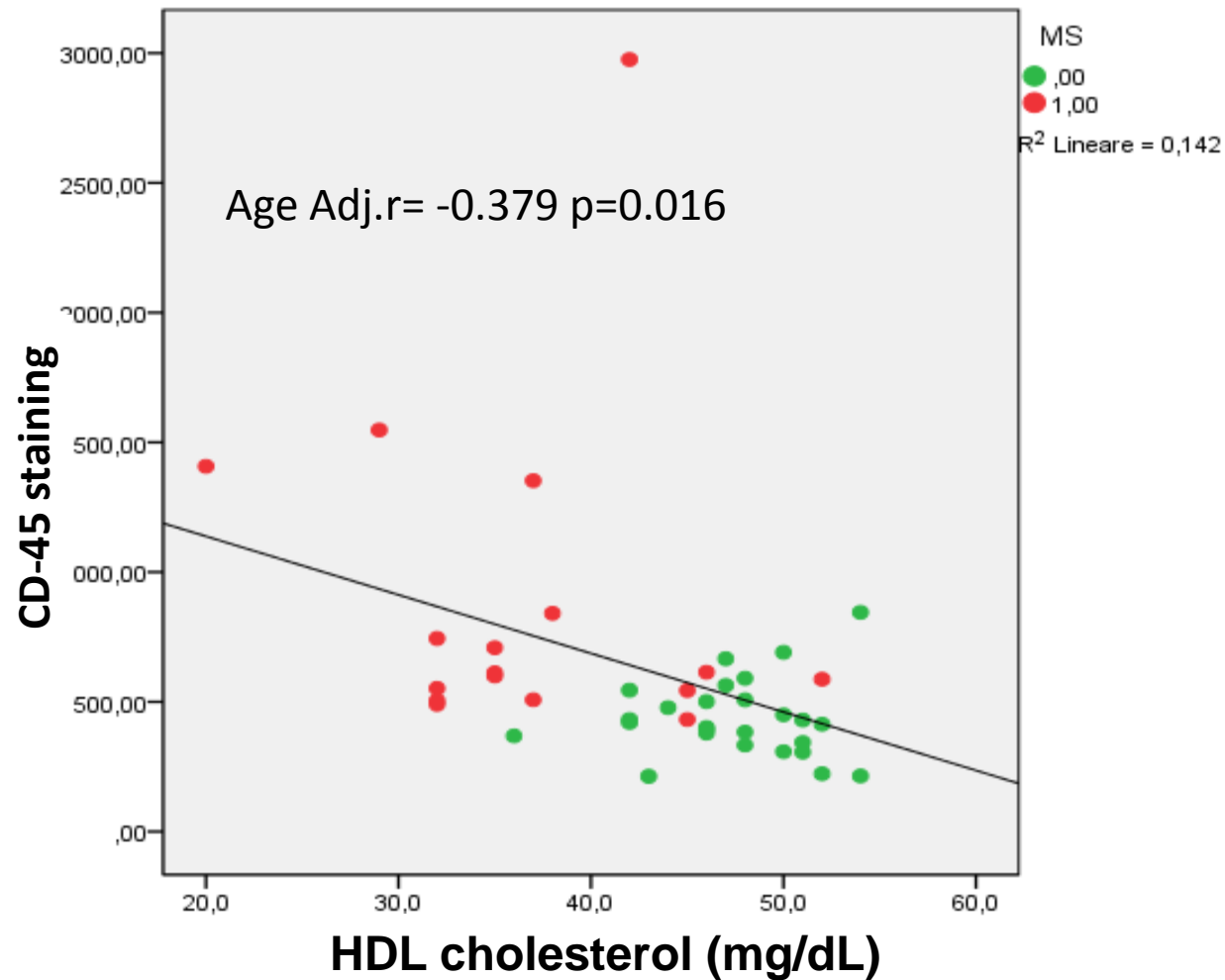
## Association between inflammation score and prostate CD-45 staining

Restrospective study in BPH patients from FILUVA<sup>1</sup> (n=42, mean age=70±7 )



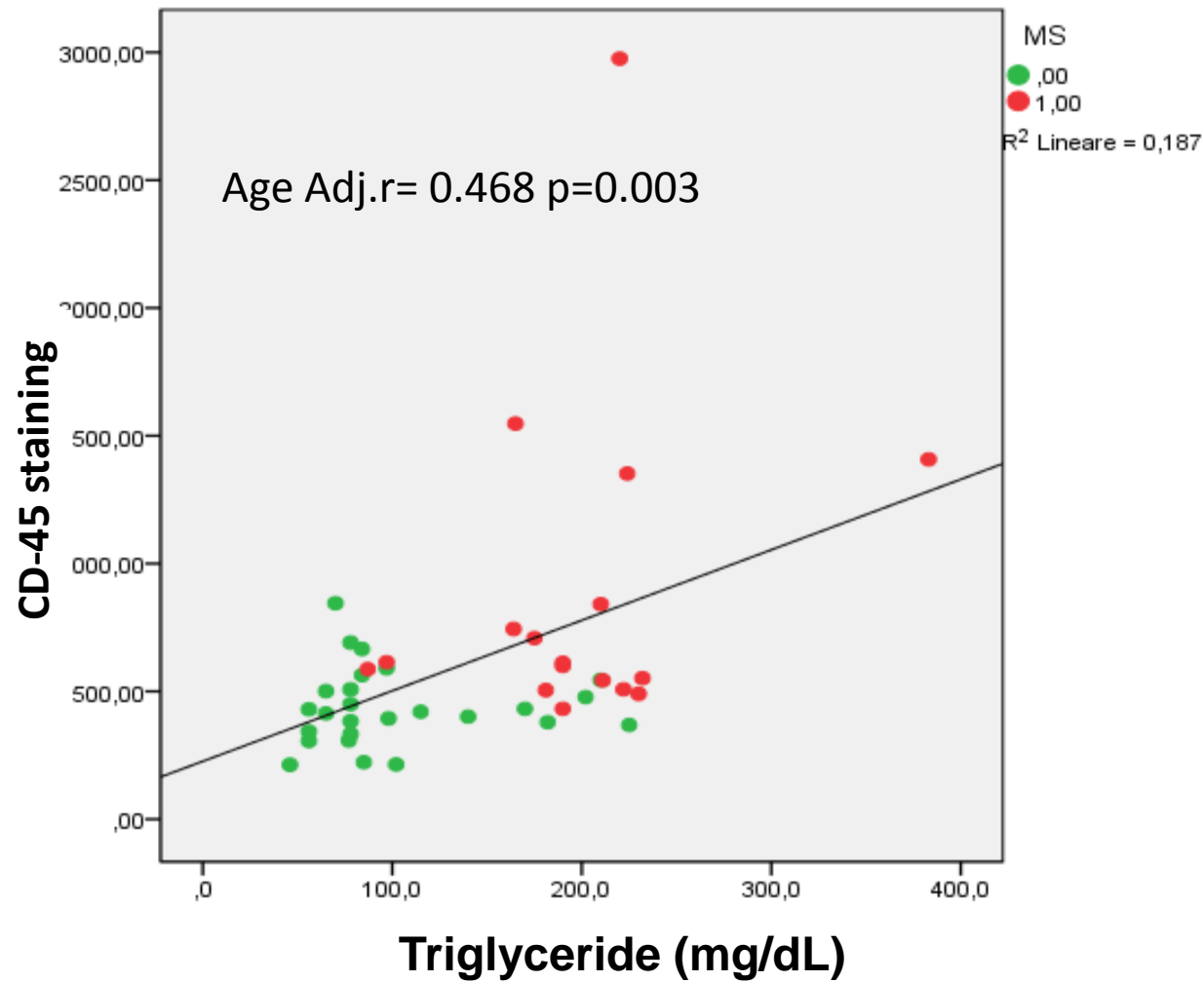
## Association between dyslipidaemia and prostate CD-45

Restrospective study in BPH patients from FILUVA<sup>1</sup> (n=42, mean age=70±7 )



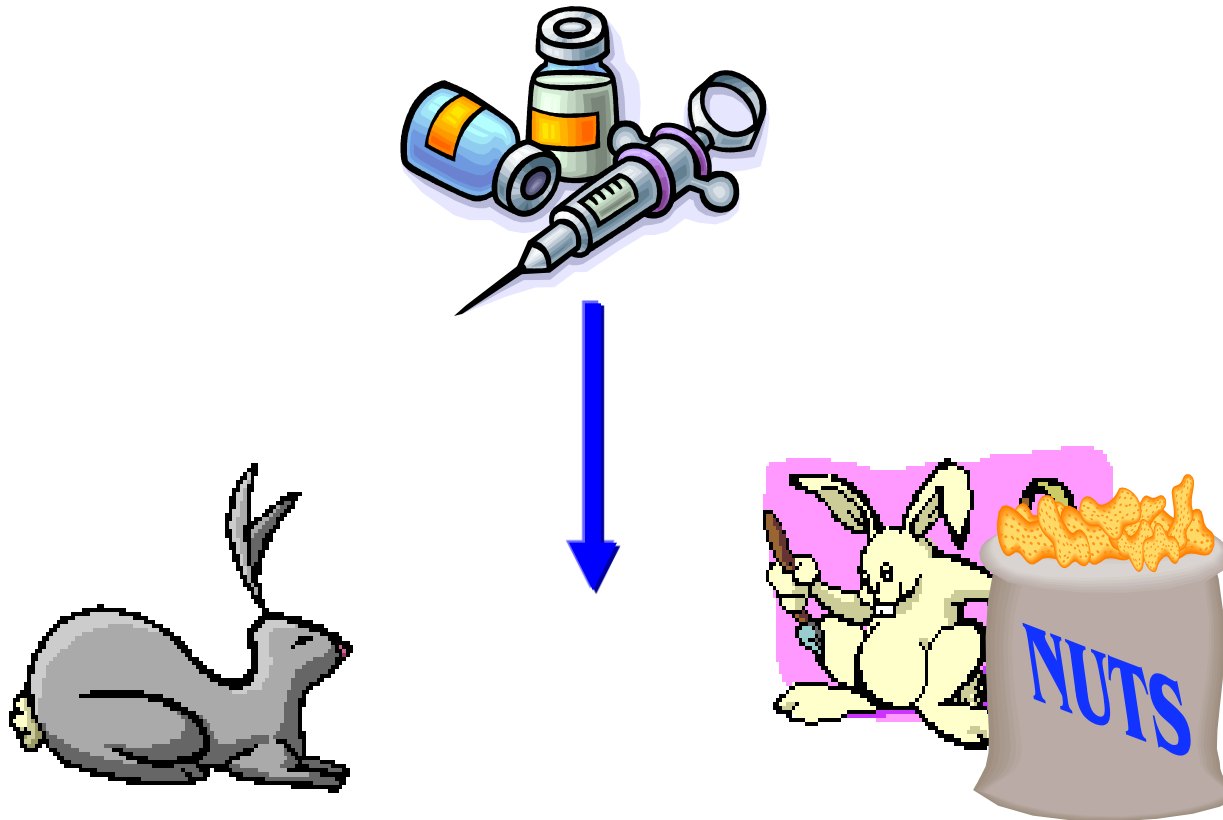
## Association between dyslipidaemia and prostate CD-45

Restrospective study in BPH patients from FILUVA<sup>1</sup> (n=42, mean age=70±7 )



## MetS and male infertility

# Pre-clinical studies on metabolic syndrome: The Florence experience

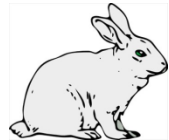
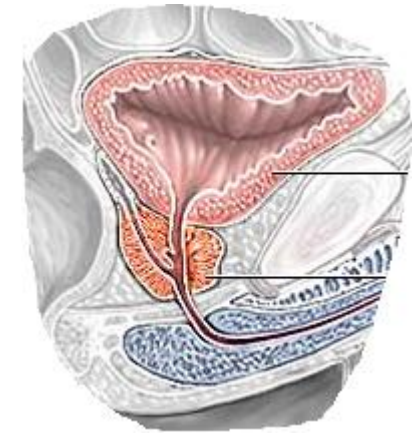


hypogonadism



infertility

Metabolic syndrome



•Standard diet: control

•High fat diet: HFD

0.5% cholesterol  
and 4% peanuts oil



### MetS

- ✓Hyperglycaemia
- ✓Reduced glucose tolerance (OGTT)
- ✓Hypercholesterolemia
- ✓Hypertriglyceridemia
- ✓Hypertension
- ✓Increased visceral fat mass
- ✓ Overactivity of RhoA/ROCK

Filippi et al., J Sex Med 2009, 6(12):3274-88

Vignozzi et al., J Sex Med. 2011 Jan;8(1):57-77

Vignozzi et al., J Endocrinol. 2012 Jan;212(1):71-84.





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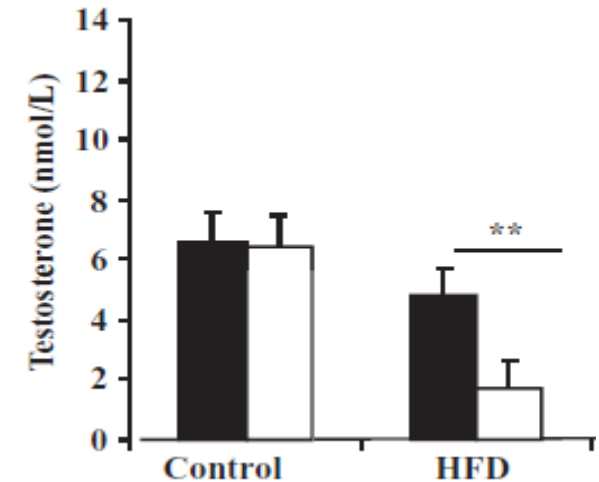
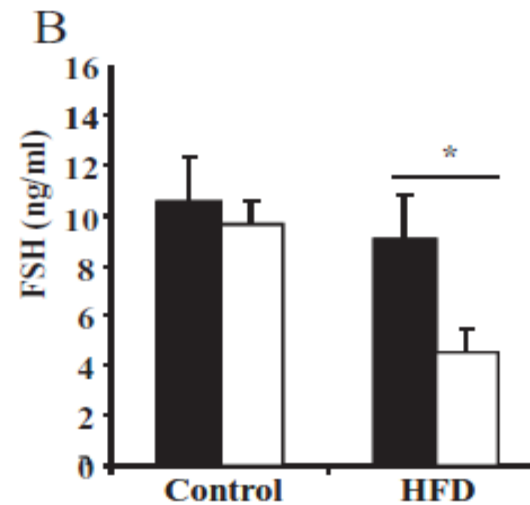
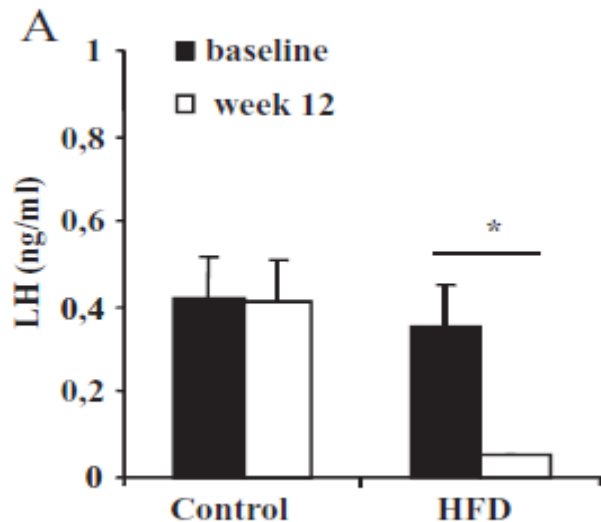
# Animal model of MetS and Hypogonadism



- Regular diet: **RD (control)**
- High fat diet: **HFD**

## Hypogonadotropic hypogonadism

- ↓ testosterone, ↓ FSH and LH
- ↓ prostate, seminal vesicles weight
- ↓ testis weight





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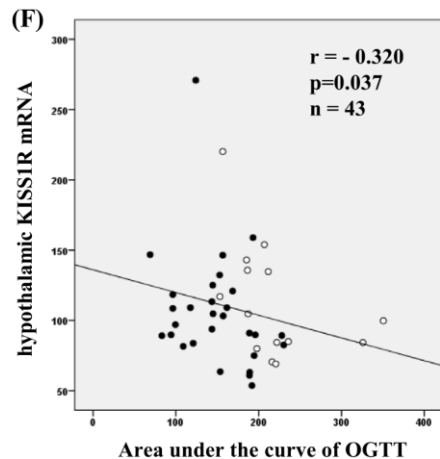
# Molecular and Cellular Endocrinology

journal homepage: [www.elsevier.com/locate/mce](http://www.elsevier.com/locate/mce)

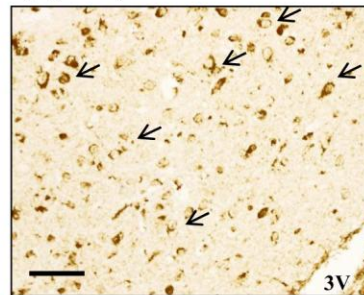
## Metabolic syndrome induces inflammation and impairs gonadotropin-releasing hormone neurons in the preoptic area of the hypothalamus in rabbits



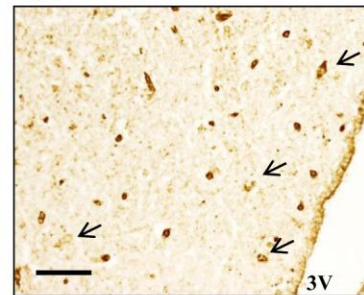
Annamaria Morelli <sup>a</sup>, Erica Sarchielli <sup>a</sup>, Paolo Comeglio <sup>b</sup>, Sandra Filippi <sup>c</sup>, Linda Vignozzi <sup>b</sup>, Mirca Marini <sup>a</sup>, Giulia Rastrelli <sup>b</sup>, Elena Maneschi <sup>b</sup>, Ilaria Cellai <sup>b</sup>, Luca Persani <sup>d,f</sup>, Luciano Adorini <sup>e</sup>, Gabriella B. Vannelli <sup>a</sup>, Mario Maggi <sup>b,f,g,\*</sup>



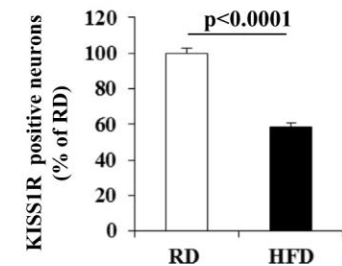
(A) RD, KISS1R



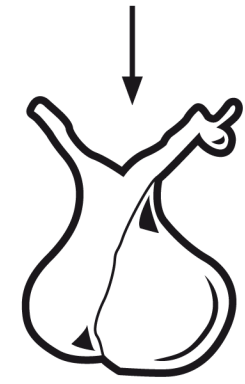
(B) HFD, KISS1R



(C)

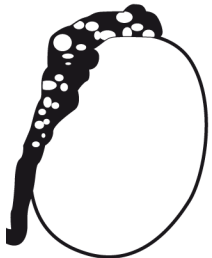


↓GnRH ← ↓Kiss1R



pituitary

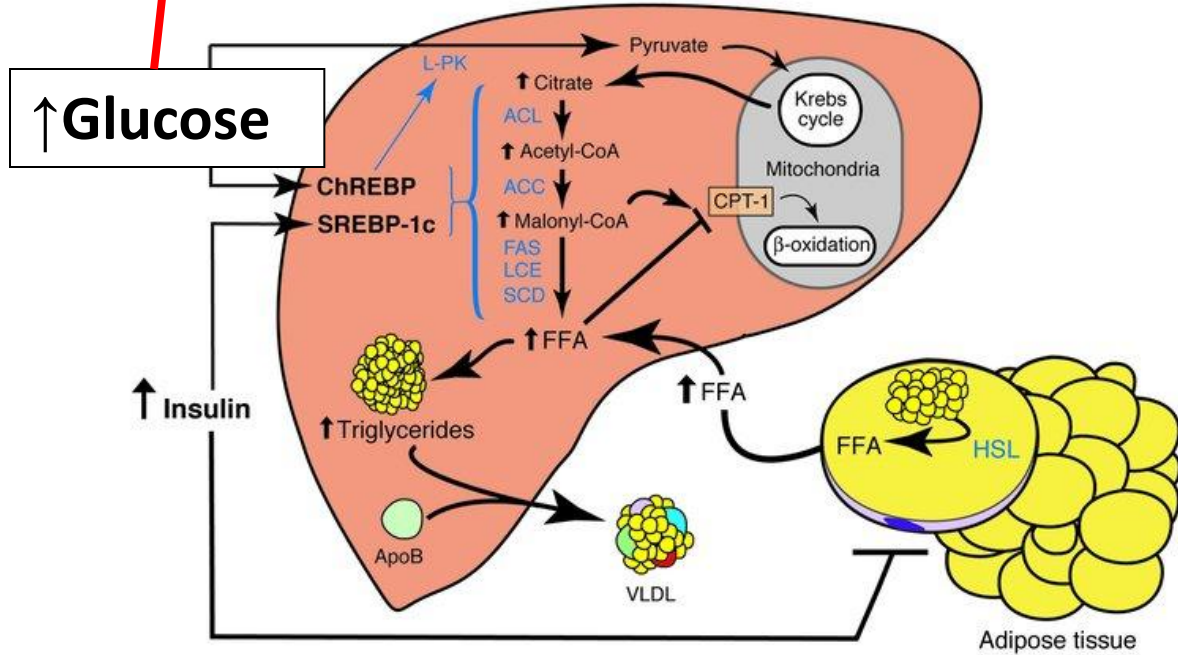
↓LH, FSH



testis

In the **hypothalamus** MetS is associated with:

- inflammation
- decreased expression of GnRH-related genes



↓ testosterone

## Testosterone protects from metabolic syndrome-associated prostate inflammation: an experimental study in rabbit

Linda Vignozzi<sup>1</sup>, Annamaria Morelli<sup>1</sup>, Erica Sarchielli<sup>3</sup>, Paolo Comeglio<sup>1</sup>, Sandra Filippi<sup>4</sup>, Ilaria Cellai<sup>1</sup>, Elena Maneschi<sup>1</sup>, Sergio Serni<sup>5</sup>, Mauro Gacci<sup>5</sup>, Marco Carini<sup>5</sup>, Marie-Pierre Piccinni<sup>6</sup>, Farid Saad<sup>7,8</sup>, Luciano Adorini<sup>9</sup>, Gabriella B Vannelli<sup>3</sup> and Mario Maggi<sup>1,2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Sexual Medicine and Andrology Unit, Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Viale Pieraccini 6, Florence 50139, Italy

<sup>2</sup>CIRMAR (Centro Interuniversitario di Ricerca sulle basi molecolari della Malattie della Riproduzione), Milan, Italy

<sup>3</sup>Department of Anatomy, Histology and Forensic Medicine, <sup>4</sup>Interdepartmental Laboratory of Functional and Cellular Pharmacology of Reproduction,

<sup>5</sup>Department of Urology and <sup>6</sup>Immunology Unit, Department of Internal Medicine, Center of Excellence for Research, Transfer and High Education DENOTHE, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

<sup>7</sup>Scientific Affairs Men's Healthcare, Bayer Pharma AG, Berlin, Germany

<sup>8</sup>Gulf Medical University, Ajman, United Arab Emirates

<sup>9</sup>Intercept Pharmaceuticals Italia Srl. Via Toelliati, 06073 Corciano, Perugia, Italy  
Journal of Steroid Biochemistry & Molecular Biology xxx (2012) xxx-xxx

orence;



## Testosterone and farnesoid X receptor agonist INT-747 counteract high fat diet-induced bladder alterations in a rabbit model of metabolic syndrome

Annamaria Morelli<sup>a</sup>, Paolo Comeglio<sup>a</sup>, Sandra Filippi<sup>b</sup>, Erica Sarchielli<sup>c</sup>, Ilaria Cellai<sup>a</sup>, Linda Vignozzi<sup>a</sup>, Ravit Yehiely-Cohen<sup>a</sup>, Elena Maneschi<sup>a</sup>, Mauro Gacci<sup>d</sup>, Marco Carini<sup>d</sup>, Luciano Adorini<sup>e</sup>, Gabriella B. Vannelli<sup>c</sup>, Mario Maggi<sup>a,\*</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

<sup>b</sup> Interdepartmental Laboratory of Functional and Cellular Pharmacology of Reproduction, Depts. of Pharmacology and Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

<sup>c</sup> Department of Anatomy, Histology and Forensic Medicine, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

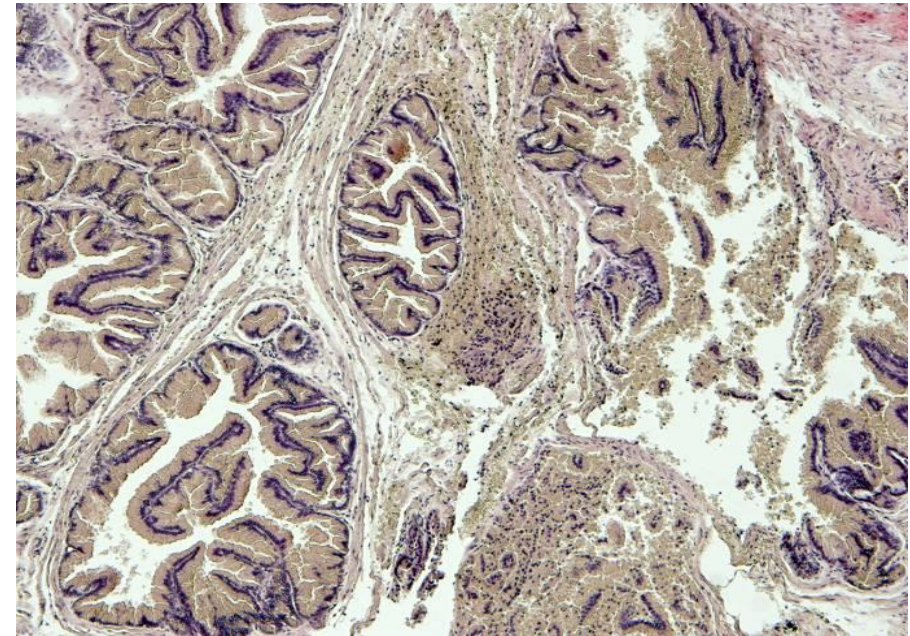
<sup>d</sup> Department of Urology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

<sup>e</sup> Intercept Pharmaceuticals, New York, NY 10013, USA

**The Prostate 73:428–441 (2013)**

## In prostate & bladder MetS is associated with:

- inflammation
- fibrosis
- hypoxia



## Mechanism of Action of Phosphodiesterase Type 5 Inhibition in Metabolic Syndrome-Associated Prostate Alterations: An Experimental Study in the Rabbit

Annamaria Morelli<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Comeglio<sup>1</sup>, Sandra Filippi<sup>2</sup>, Erica Sarchielli<sup>3</sup>, Linda Vignozzi<sup>1</sup>, Elena Maneschi<sup>1</sup>, Ilaria Cellai<sup>1</sup>, Mauro Gacci<sup>4</sup>, Andrea Lenzi<sup>5</sup>, Gabriella B. Vannelli<sup>3</sup> and Mario Maggi<sup>1\*</sup>

## Testosterone Partially Ameliorates Metabolic Profile and Erectile Responsiveness to PDE5 Inhibitors in an Animal Model of Male Metabolic Syndrome

Sandra Filippi, PhD,\* Linda Vignozzi, MD, PhD,† Annamaria Morelli, PhD,† Aravinda K. Chavalmane, PhD,† Erica Sarchielli, PhD,‡ Benedetta Fibbi, MD, PhD,† Farid Saad, MD,§ Peter Sandner, MD,¶ Peggy Ruggiano, MD,† Gabriella B. Vannelli, MD,† Edoardo Mannucci, MD,\*\* and Mario Maggi, MD††

## REPRODUCTION

RESEARCH

### Spermatogenic and sperm quality differences in an experimental model of metabolic syndrome and hypogonadal hypogonadism

Con Mallidis<sup>1,2</sup>, Agnieszka Czerwicz<sup>2</sup>, Sandra Filippi<sup>3</sup>, Jason O'Neill<sup>2</sup>, Mario Maggi<sup>3</sup> and Neil McClure<sup>2</sup>

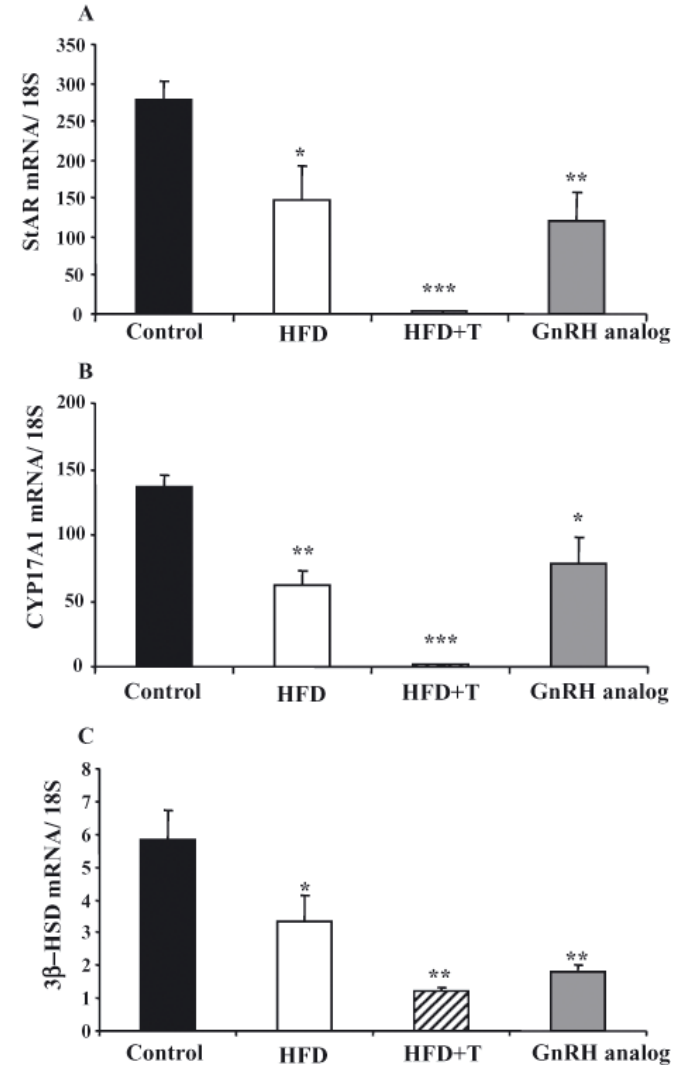
<sup>1</sup>Centre of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, University of Münster, Domagkstrasse 11, D-48149 Munster, Germany, <sup>2</sup>Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, BT12 6BJ, UK and <sup>3</sup>Andrology and Sexual Medicine Unit, Department of Clinical Physiopathology, University of Florence, Florence 50139, Italy

Correspondence should be addressed to C Mallidis at Centre of Reproductive Medicine and Andrology, University of Münster; Email: con.mallidis@ukmuenster.de

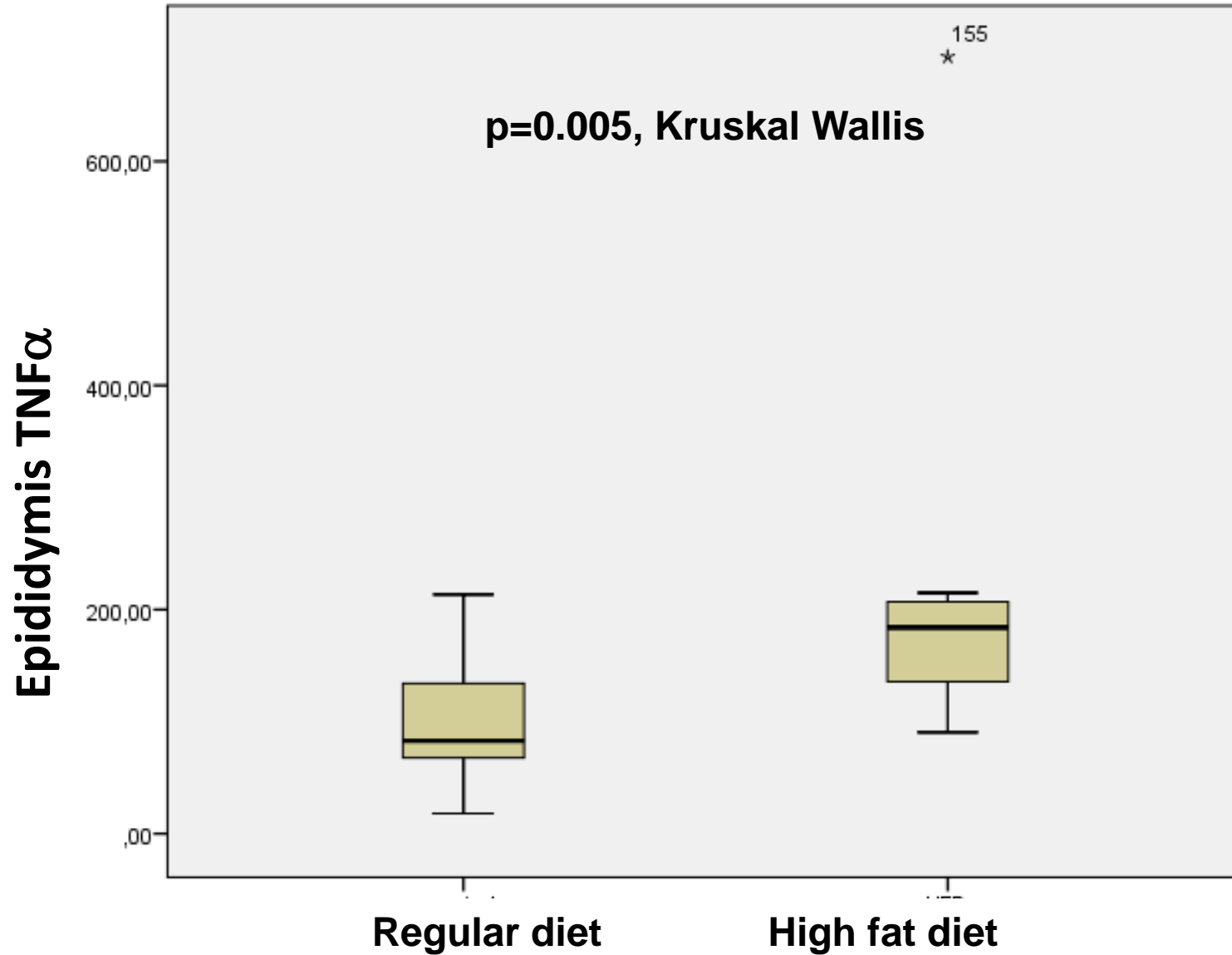
## In the testis MetS is associated with:

- Decreased steroidogenic enzymes
- No major changes in testicular histology

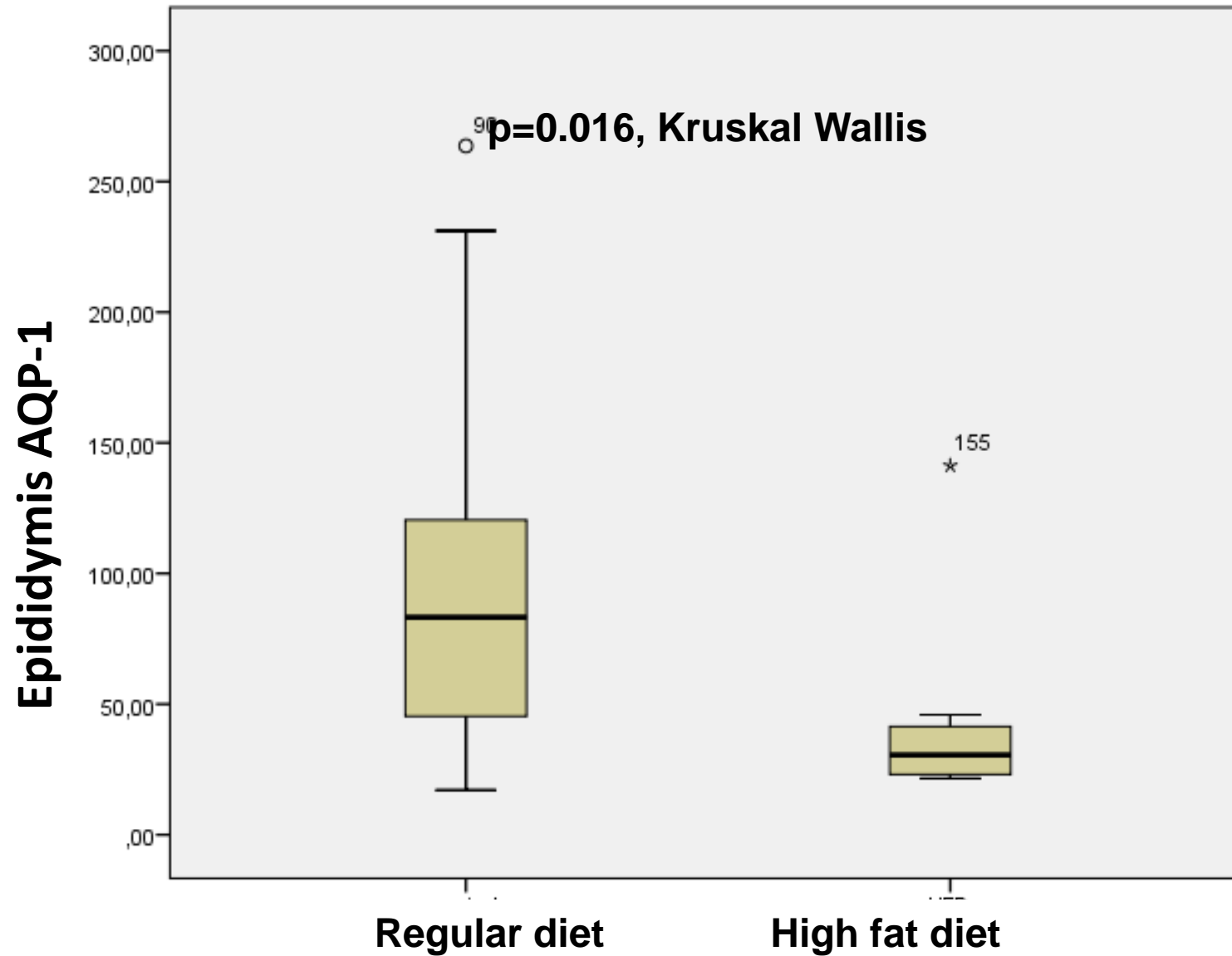
3280



# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal $TNF\alpha$ gene expression in MetS rabbits

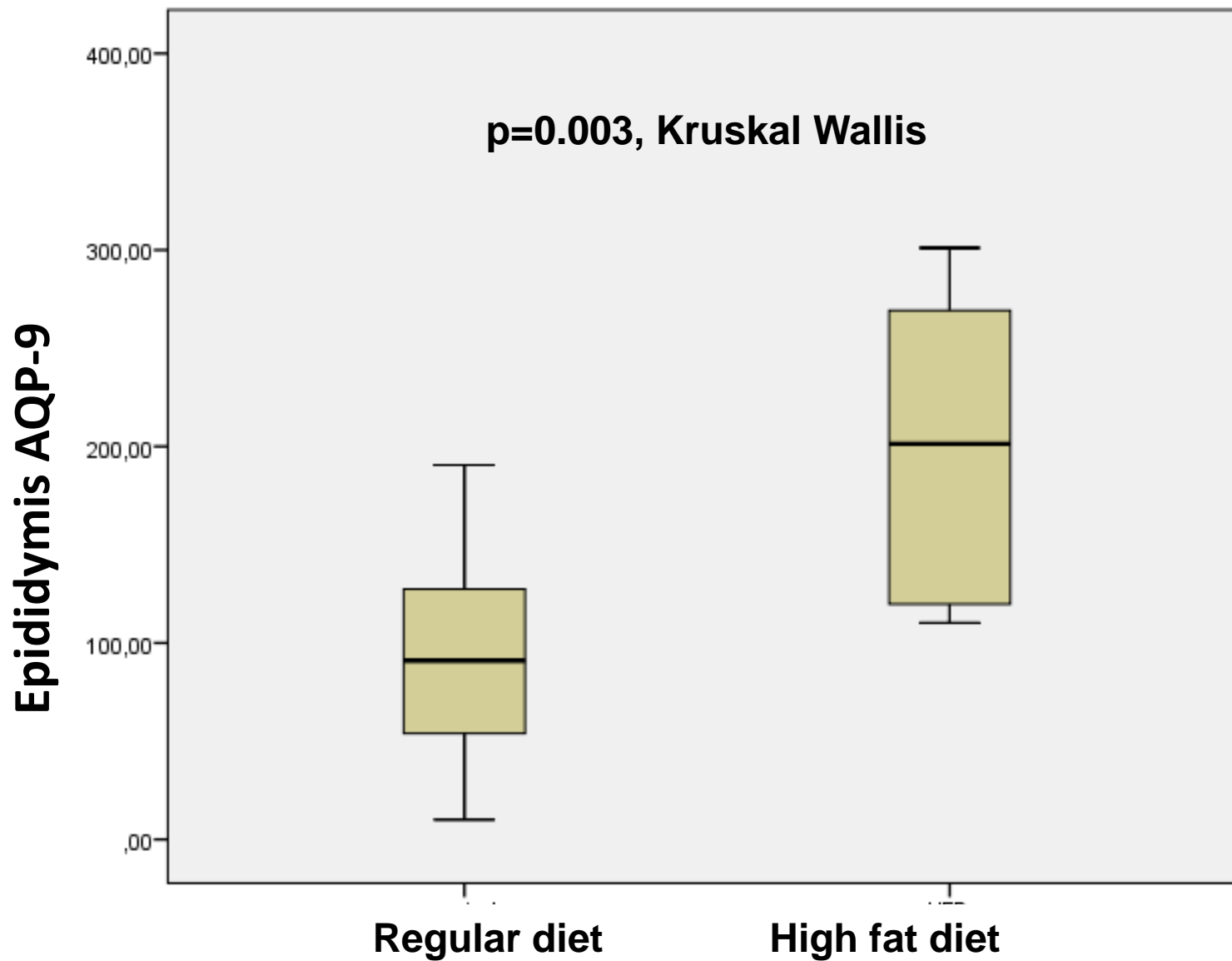


# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal aquaporin 1 gene expression in MetS rabbits

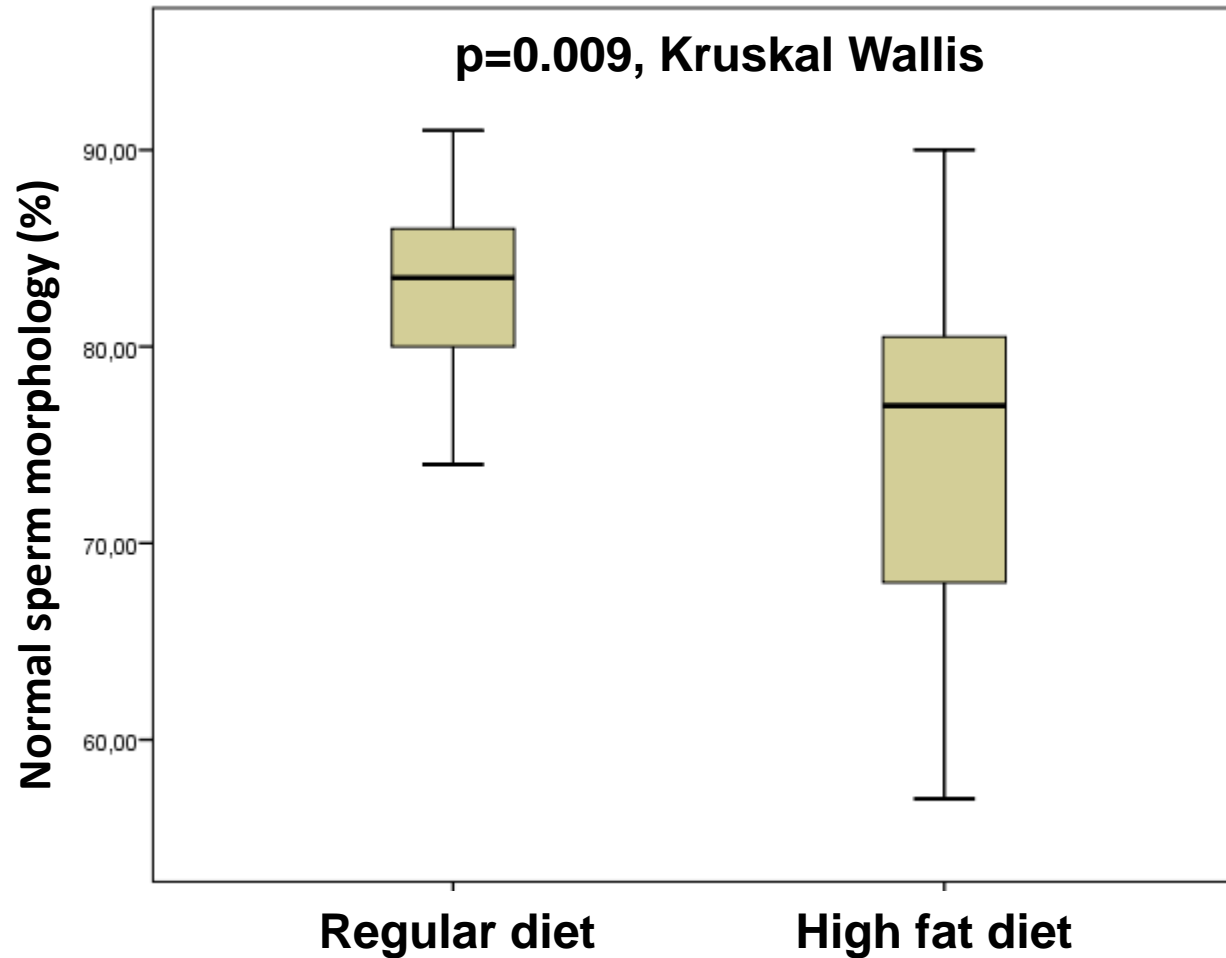




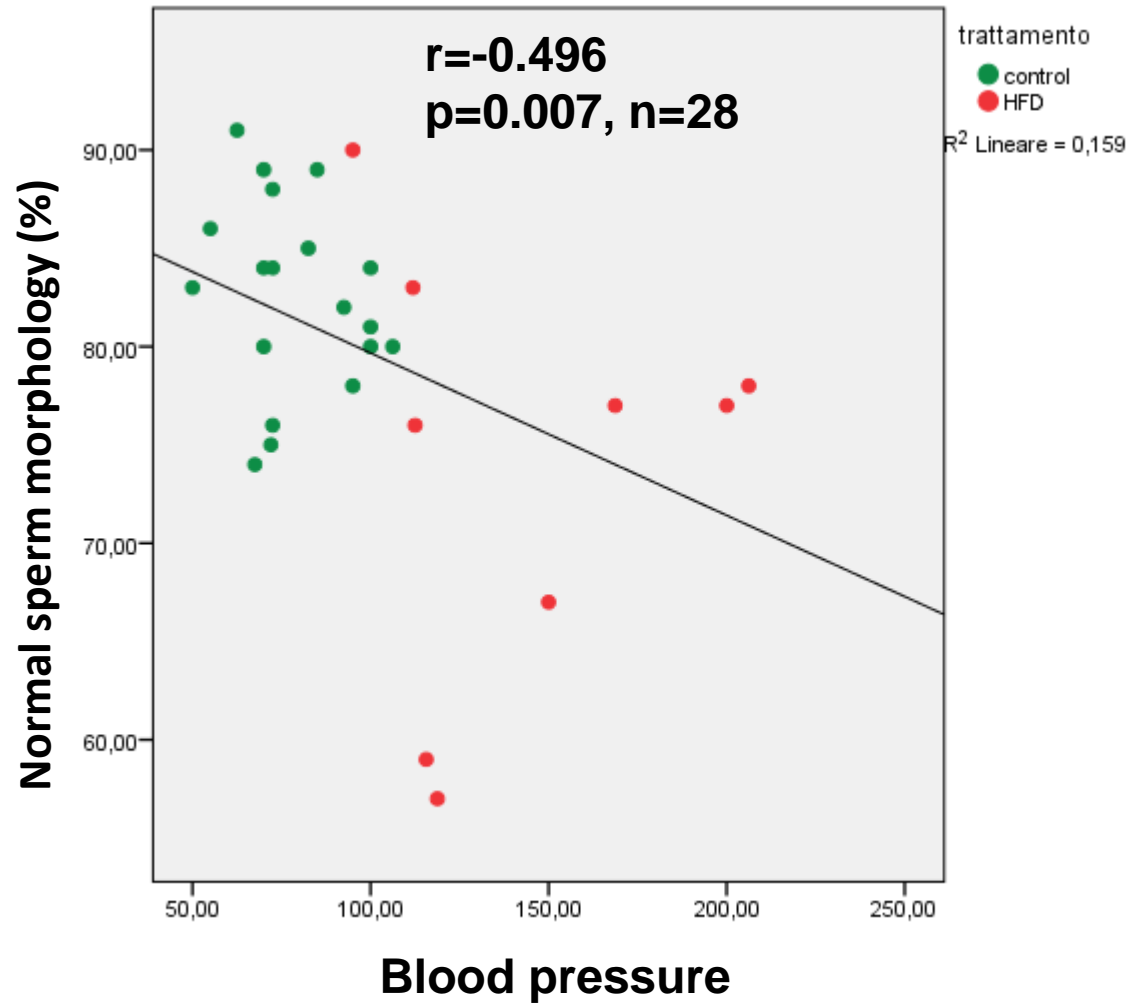
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal aquaporin 9 gene expression in MetS rabbits



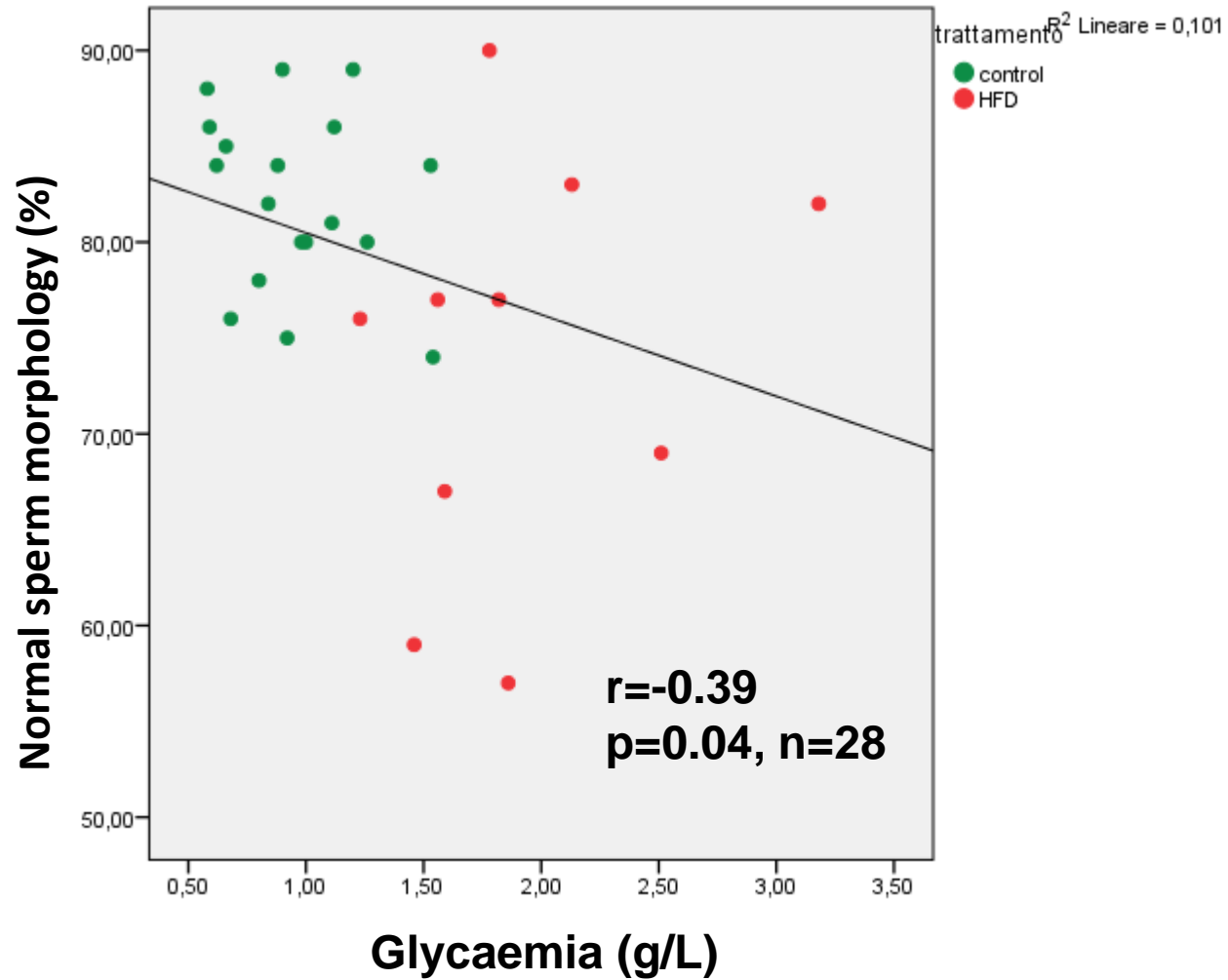
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm morphology in MetS rabbits



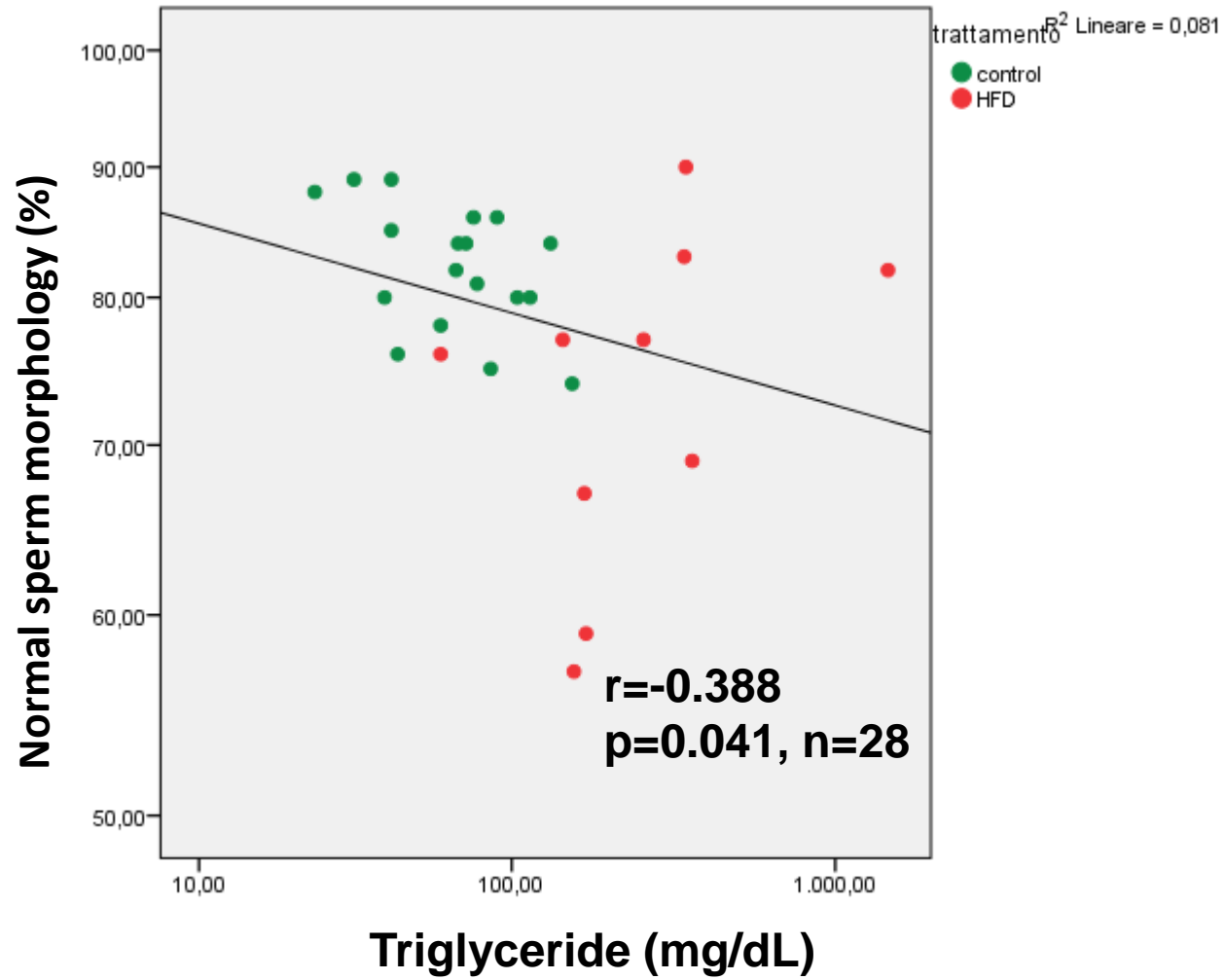
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm morphology in MetS rabbits



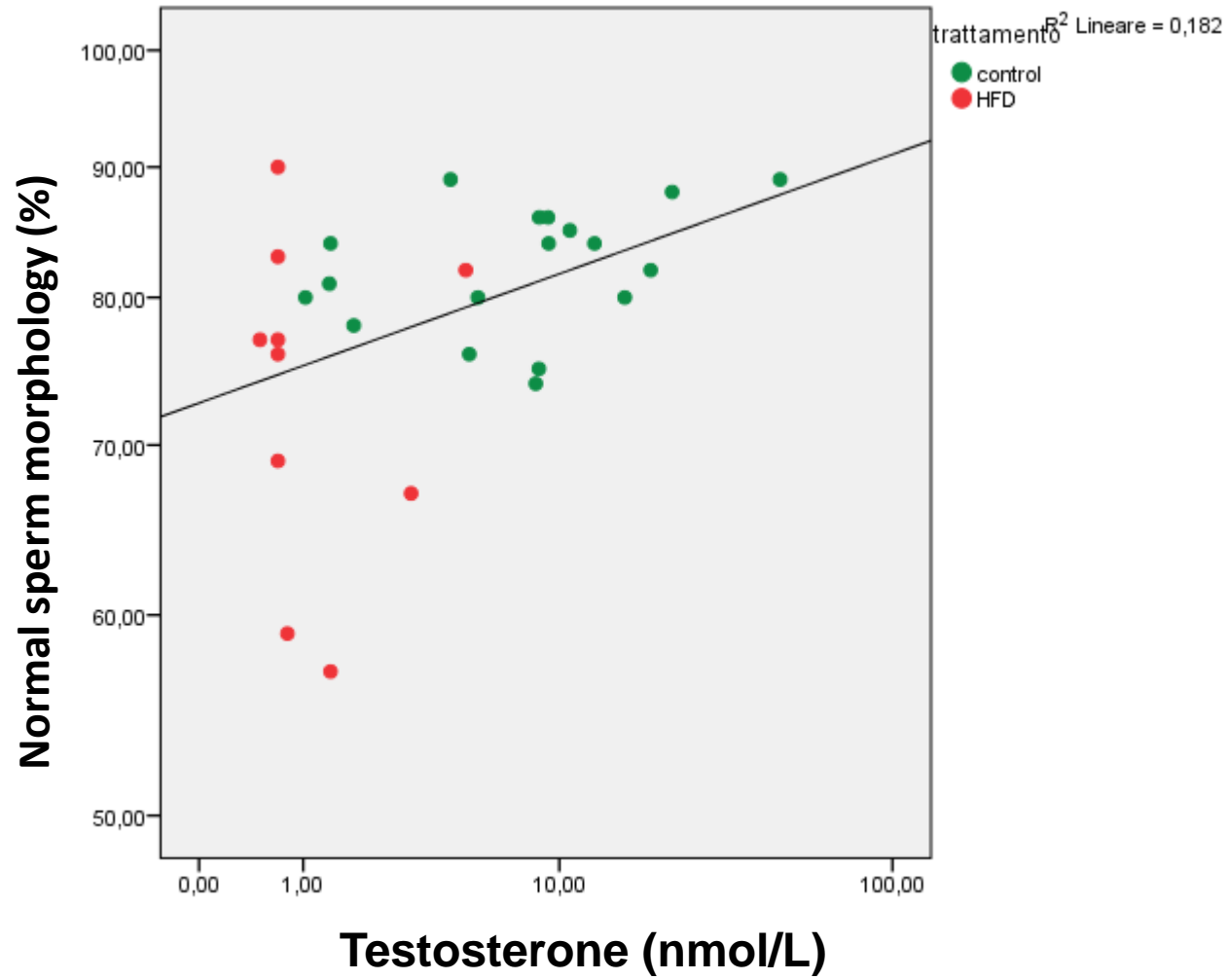
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm morphology in MetS rabbits



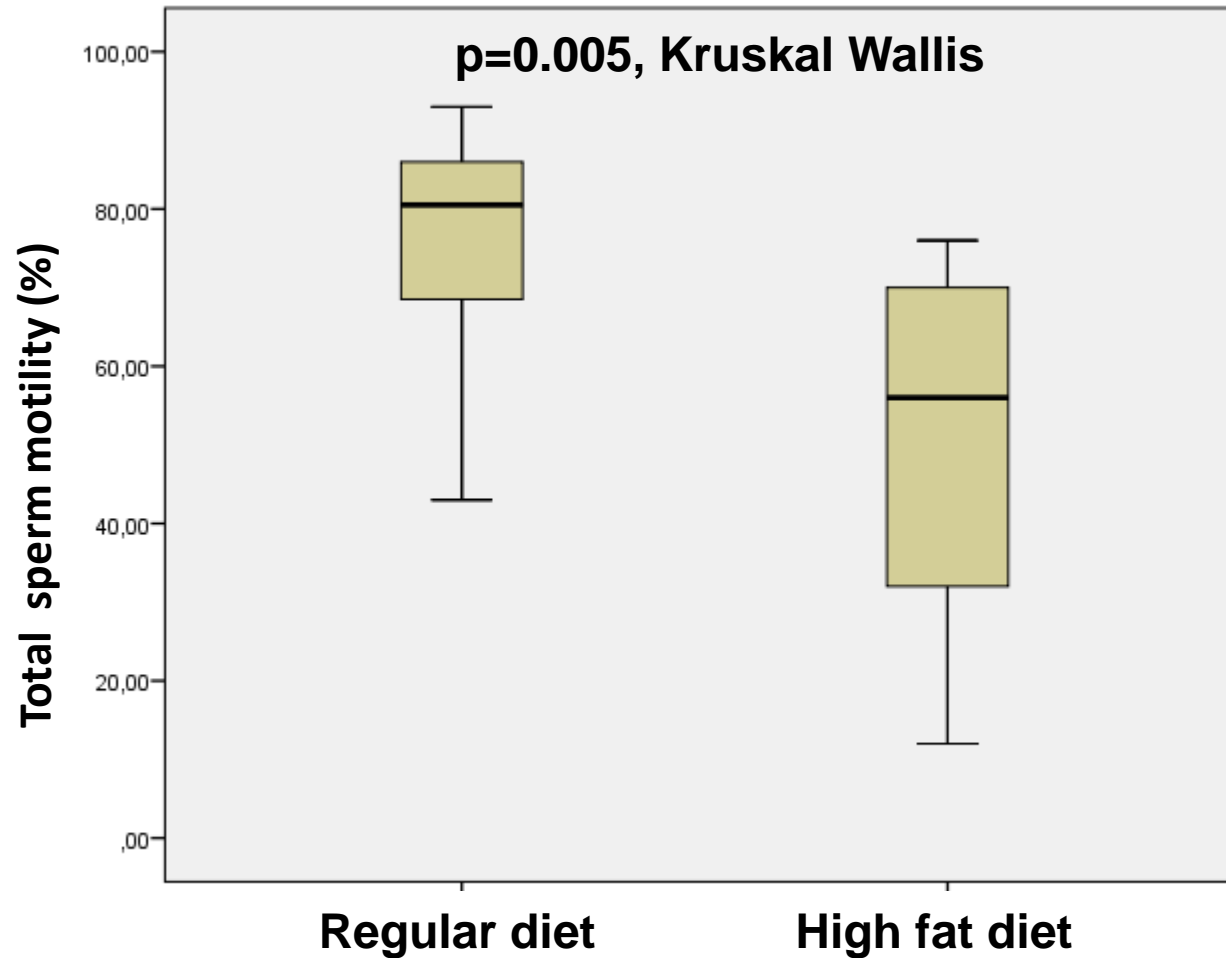
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm morphology in MetS rabbits



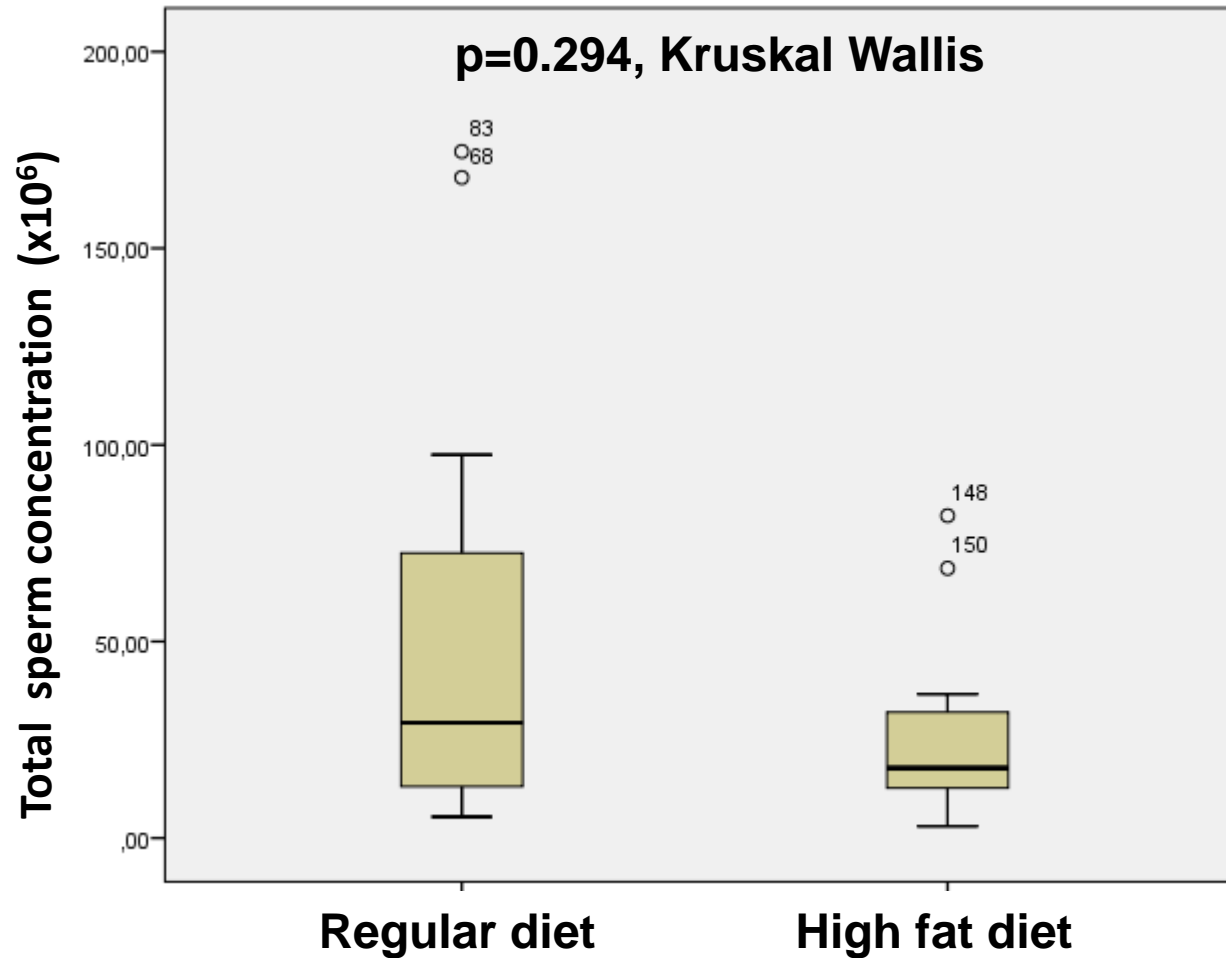
# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm morphology in MetS rabbits



# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm motility in MetS rabbits



# Effect of high fat diet on epididymal sperm concentration in MetS rabbits





## **Final take-home messages for MetS and male infertility:**

- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with LOH & testis inhomogeneity**
- **MetS (↑ BP) is associated with abnormal sperm morphology**
- **MetS (↑ waist, ↑ BP) is associated with arteriogenic ED**
- **MetS is associated with epididymal inhomogeneity and rete testis dilation**
- **MetS is associated with depressive symptoms**
- **MetS (↑ waist, dyslipidaemia) is associated with ↑ insulin and BPE**
- **MetS (↑ waist) is associated with prostate inflammation**
- **Prostatitis-like symptoms are not associated with semen abnormalities**

**MetS is associated with marginal changes of reproductive functions**

# Acknowledgements

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**Dott. ssa Ilaria Cellai**

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