Longer term All-Cause and Cardiovascular Mortality with Intensive Blood Pressure Control: A Secondary Analysis of SPRINT

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# ABSTRACT

**IMPORTANCE**. Both the Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) and the Strategy of Blood Pressure Intervention in the Elderly Hypertensive Patients (STEP) trial have shown benefits of intensive blood pressure control on cardiovascular morbidity and mortality. However, as both trials were ended after slightly more than 3 years of follow-up, the effect of intensive treatment on longer term mortality is unknown.

**OBJECTIVE**. To evaluate the legacy effect of intensive hypertension treatment on longer term all-cause and cardiovascular mortality.

**DESIGN, SETTING, AND PARTICIPANTS**. SPRINT, a randomized clinical trial of 9361 patients aged 50 years or older with hypertension and increased cardiovascular risk, but without diabetes or history of stroke. Randomization began on November 8, 2010, the trial intervention was stopped early on August 20, 2015, and trial follow-up visits occurred through July 2016.

**INTERVENTIONS**. Randomization to a systolic blood pressure goal of either less than 120 mm Hg (intensive treatment, n=4678) versus less than 140 mm Hg (standard treatment, N=4683).

**MAIN OUTCOMES AND MEASURES**. Cardiovascular and all-cause mortality assessed via the US National Death Index, beginning in 2016 through December 31st, 2020. Outpatient blood pressures measured in routine clinical practice after the trial were examined in a subset of trial participants (N=3644).

**RESULTS**. Among 9361 randomized participants (mean age, 67.9 years; 3332 women [35.6%]), the median intervention period was 3.34 years. Over a median follow-up of 8.76 years, intensive treatment was beneficial for both cardiovascular (Hazard Ratio [HR] = 0.66, 95% CI 0.49 to 0.89) and all-cause mortality (HR = 0.83, 95% CI 0.68 to 1.01) through close-out visits for the trial. However, there was no indication of benefit during post-trial follow-up for either cardiovascular (HR = 1.02, 95% CI 0.84 to 1.24) or all-cause mortality (HR = 1.08, 95% CI 0.94 to 1.23). Results were similar for subgroups based on baseline age, cognitive function, and frailty status. Analyses of outpatient blood pressures indicated a steady decline in the mean between group difference following the trial, largely driven by increases in mean systolic blood pressure in participants randomized to intensive treatment, increasing from a mean of 131.7 mm Hg (95% CI 130.7 to 132.6 mm Hg) at 4.5 years of follow-up to 136.8 mm Hg (95% CI 135.7 to 137.8 mm Hg) at 9 years of follow-up.

**CONCLUSIONS AND RELEVANCE**. The observed benefit of intensive treatment on cardiovascular and all-cause mortality was largely attenuated during post-trial observational follow-up. Given increasing blood pressures in participants randomized to intensive treatment following the trial, these results highlight the importance of consistent long-term management of hypertension.

# INTRODUCTION

Hypertension is the leading modifiable risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD).1 A meta analysis of pooled individual-level data from randomized trials has shown that pharmacological blood pressure (BP) reduction reduces the risk of major cardiovascular events across the spectrum of initial BP, with larger absolute risk reduction for older adults.2 The Systolic Blood Pressure Intervention Trial (SPRINT) and the Strategy of Blood Pressure Intervention in the Elderly Hypertensive Patients (STEP) each showed that intensive systolic BP (SBP) control, defined by a SBP target < 120 mm Hg in SPRINT and < 130 mm Hg in STEP, reduced the risk for cardiovascular morbidity and mortality.3,4 However, only SPRINT showed a benefit of intensive treatment on all-cause mortality. Another contrasting result was that intensive treatment in SPRINT, but not STEP, increased the risk of acute kidney injury (AKI). While this may be attributable to the much lower prevalence of chronic kidney disease in STEP (2.3% vs 28.3%), the consistent association of AKI with increased mortality risk5,6 raises questions about the longer term effect of intensive treatment on CVD and all-cause mortality.

Because both trials were stopped early after a median follow-up of 3 years, the objective of the current study was to estimate the longer term, legacy effect of randomization to intensive treatment on cardiovascular and all-cause mortality risk for participants in SPRINT. A secondary objective, in a subset of trial participants, was to examine attained SBP following the conclusion of trial follow-up. To accomplish these objectives, we linked SPRINT participants to the National Death Index (NDI) from 2016 to 2020, and extracted longitudinal outpatient measurements of SBP available in the electronic health record (EHR) over the same time period.

# METHODS

**Trial Design**: The design and methods of SPRINT have been published previously.3,7 Briefly, it was a multicenter randomized clinical trial that compared two strategies for managing SBP in older adults with hypertension who were at increased risk of CVD. Participants were aged 50 years or older and had an SBP between 130 and 180 mm Hg at the screening visit, depending on the number of anti-hypertensive agents prescribed. Participants were considered to have an increased cardiovascular risk if they had clinical or subclinical cardiovascular disease, chronic kidney disease (defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate of <60 mL/min/1.73 m2), or a Framingham Risk Score of 15% or greater or if they were aged 75 years or older. Individuals residing in a nursing home, persons with a diagnosis of dementia (based on medical record review), and those treated with medications primarily used for dementia therapy were excluded, as were persons with prevalent diabetes mellitus, history of stroke, proteinuria > 1 gram per day, or polycystic kidney disease. Individuals at 102 sites in the United States and Puerto Rico were randomized (1:1) to a SBP goal of less than 120 mm Hg (intensive treatment group, n = 4678) or a goal of less than 140 mm Hg (standard treatment group, n = 4683), using random permuted blocks with the randomization stratified by clinic site. The algorithms and formulary for the trial are listed in the published study protocol ( **citations needed**? ). Trial enrollment began in November 2010 and ended in March 2013, with active follow-up through July 1, 2016.8 The study was approved by the institutional review board at each participating site, and each participant provided written informed consent. The study is registered at ClinicalTrials.gov (NCT01206062).

**Baseline Study Measurements**: Sociodemographic data were collected at baseline, with race or ethnicity information collected via self-report. The estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR) was calculated by the race-free 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine equation.9 Cognitive function was assessed using the Montreal Cognitive Assessment (MoCA).10 Lower cognitive function was defined as scoring at or below the estimated age and education-specific normative 10th percentile from the Irish Longitudinal Study of Aging,11 after adding 3 points to the scores of non-White participants.12 We defined frailty status at baseline using a 36-item Frailty Index (FI) based upon the model of deficit accumulation.13 The FI is calculated as the sum of the score for each deficit divided by the total number of nonmissing items. We categorized frailty status as fit (FI ≤ 0.10), less fit (0.10 < FI ≤ 0.21), or frail (FI > 0.21).

**National Death Index Linkage**: Outcomes of interest included all-cause and CVD mortality. Methods of ascertainment and adjudication through the course of trial follow-up have been previously described.3,8 Subsequently, mortality was ascertained through a US National Death Index (NDI) search. Possible matches were identified according to NDI guidelines.14 Deaths were treated as confirmed if they were a Class 1 match, or a Class 2, 3, or 4 match with a probabilistic score above cutoffs recommended by the NDI.14 NDI follow-up began in 2016 and ended on the date of death or December 31, 2020. Deaths ascertained in 2020 were based on the NDI preliminary data release. CVD mortality for NDI-based follow-up used the NDI Plus System, which automatically identifies underlying causes of death from death certificates, including conversion to ICD-10 codes. we defined CVD mortality as any death containing the ICD-10 codes of I00 to I99.15

**EHR Ancillary Study**: We examined the trajectory of SBP following the conclusion of the trial using outpatient SBPs extracted from the EHR. Methods for the linkage of participants to their medical record number and the extraction of vital sign data have been previously described.16 Because encounter type information was inconsistently available (i.e. outpatient, inpatient, observation, etc.), we defined a BP measurement as outpatient if there were was not a BP measurement on the preceding or following day, and if there were 2 or less BP measurements on a particular day. We averaged outpatient EHR BP readings when there were 2 on the same day.

**Statistical Analysis**: Given the a priori expectation that treatment group differences may not be constant as a function of follow-up time (i.e. the proportional hazards assumption was likely to be invalid), we modeled treatment group differences as a function of time using two approaches. The first approach used Cox proportional hazards regression but split follow-up time into non-overlapping trial and cohort phases, estimating separate treatment group differences for each phase.17. The second approach estimated the effect of treatment group as a continuous time-dependent effect.18,19 All analyses accounted for correlation within study sites,20 and analyses of cardiovascular mortality accounted for the competing risk of non-cardiovascular mortality.21. Mean between-group differences in outpatient SBP following the conclusion of trial follow-up were estimated using linear mixed models. Models included random effects for participant and clinic site and an interaction between treatment group and time since randomization, which was flexibly modeled using B-splines. All analyses were performed using SAS version 9.4 (SAS Institute Inc, Cary, NC) and R version 4.1.2 (R Project for Statistical Computing [<http://www.r-project.org>]) with multiple auxiliary R packages.22–27 All hypothesis tests were 2-sided, and P values less than 0.05 were considered statistically significant. No adjustments for multiple comparisons were made.

# RESULTS

***Study Participants***. A total of 9361 participants were randomized between November 2010 and March 2013. The mean age was 67.9 years (SD, 9.4 years), with 28.2% of participants aged 75 years or older. Randomized participants were 35.6% female, 30.0% black, and 10.5% Hispanic. The mean SBP at baseline was 139.7 mm Hg (SD, 15.6 mm Hg), and the median MoCA score was 23 (interquartile range, 20-26) (**Table 1**). Among participants included and not included in the ancillary EHR study, there was no evidence of a difference in study characteristics between participants randomized to intensive versus standard treatment (**eTable 1**).

***All-cause Mortality***. In both treatment groups, median follow-up time was 8.76 years. A total of 818 and 826 deaths occurred among participants randomized to intensive and standard treatment, respectively (**Table 2**). The hazard ratio (HR) for all-cause mortality comparing intensive to standard treatment was 0.83 (95% confidence interval [CI] 0.68, 1.01) during the trial, and 1.08 (95% CI 0.94, 1.23) during observational follow-up following the trial. In subgroups based on age, sex, race, CKD, cognitive function, and frailty, there was no evidence that intensive treatment during the trial phase had benefit for all-cause mortality during the cohort phase (**eFigure 1**). The continuous time-dependent effect of intensive versus standard treatment indicated a benefit for all-cause mortality from 1.03 to 2.80 years from randomization, and was attenuated throughout the remainder of the cohort phase (**Figure 1**).

***Cardiovascular Mortality***. A total of 248 and 273 CVD mortality events occurred among participants randomized to intensive and standard treatment, respectively (**Table 3**). The HR for CVD mortality among participants randomized to intensive versus standard treatment was 0.66 (95% CI 0.49, 0.89) during the trial phase and 1.02 (95% CI 0.84, 1.24) during the cohort phase. Adults randomized to intensive treatment who were <75 years of age, men, non-black, without CKD, or with cognitive function >10th percentile had lower CVD mortality risk during the trial phase compared to their counterparts randomized to standard treatment, but there was no evidence that intensive treatment during the trial phase had benefit for CVD mortality during the cohort phase (**eFigure 2**). The time-dependent effect of intensive versus standard treatment indicated a benefit for CVD mortality from 2.30 to 5.62 years from randomization, and was attenuated throughout the remainder of the cohort period (**Figure 2**).

***Blood Pressure***. The estimated mean (95% CI) SBP among participants randomized to intensive treatment was 133 (132, 134) at 5 years and 140 (137, 143) at 10 years post-randomization (**Figure 3**; panel A). For participants randomized to standard treatment, mean (95% CI) SBP was estimated to be 139 (138, 140) at 5 years and 140 (137, 143) post-randomization. The difference in mean SBP levels between participants randomized to intensive versus standard treatment, in mm Hg, was 5.90 (4.87, 6.94) at 5 years post-randomization, and was attenuated by 9, 0.0833333 years post-randomization (**Figure 3**; Panel B).

# DISCUSSION

A striking aspect of our results is the quickly weakening level of BP control for participants randomized to intensive treatment. While an attenuation of the between-group BP delta subsequent to the trial was certainly expected, one hypothesis was that such an attenuation would be driven by participants randomized to standard treatment pursuing a lower BP goal, given the results of SPRINT and subsequent changes to hypertension guidelines. However, this is clearly not what occurred. While we do not have access to prescription records to know how participant medication regimes may have changed after the trial, these results likely show some contribution of clinician therapeutic inertia, which has been identified as a significant barrier to improving population level control of hypertension. Combined with evidence showing recent decreases in the population of prevalence of controlled hypertension in the US,28 our results highlight the sobering reality facing the hypertension community. Sustainability is a clear limiting factor, especially with trying to implement lower BP goals and interventions earlier in adulthood.

This study has several limitations. First, while we restricted analyses to high quality NDI matches, some small degree of misclassification in linking participants to the NDI is likely. Second, while several studies have shown reasonable performance of using NDI diagnosis codes for defining CVD mortality, it is clearly not as robust as the adjudication process used in the primary follow-up for the trial. Third, information about BP control after the trial was limited to routine outpatient BPs extracted from the EHR, which are well known to poorly reflect the standardized BP measurement process used during the trial.16

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**Table 1**: Characteristics of study participants stratified by inclusion in the electronic health record ancillary study.

| **Characteristic** | **Included in ancillary EHR study** | | **p-valuea** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **No N = 5,952** | **Yes N = 3,409** |
| Age, years |  |  | 0.021 |
| Mean (SD) | 68 (10) | 68 (9) |  |
| Median (IQR) | 67 (60, 75) | 67 (62, 76) |  |
| Age ≥75 years | 28 | 29 | 0.3 |
| Female | 42 | 25 | <0.001 |
| Black | 31 | 33 | 0.030 |
| Chronic Kidney Diseaseb | 24 | 27 | <0.001 |
| MoCA ≤10th percentile | 28 | 26 | 0.014 |
| Frailty Status |  |  | 0.080 |
| Fit (FI≤0.10) | 16 | 15 |  |
| Pre-frail (0.10<FI≤0.21) | 51 | 51 |  |
| Frail (FI>0.21) | 32 | 34 |  |
| Table values are percentages unless otherwise specified | | | |
| aP-values computed using Wilcoxon rank sum test for age in years, chi-square test for age ≥75 years, and chi-square test for all other variables | | | |
| bChronic Kidney Disease was defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m2 based on the 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine equation. | | | |
| Abbreviations: EHR = electronic health records; FI = frailty index; IQR = interquartile range; MoCA = Montreal cognitive assessment; and SD = standard deviation | | | |

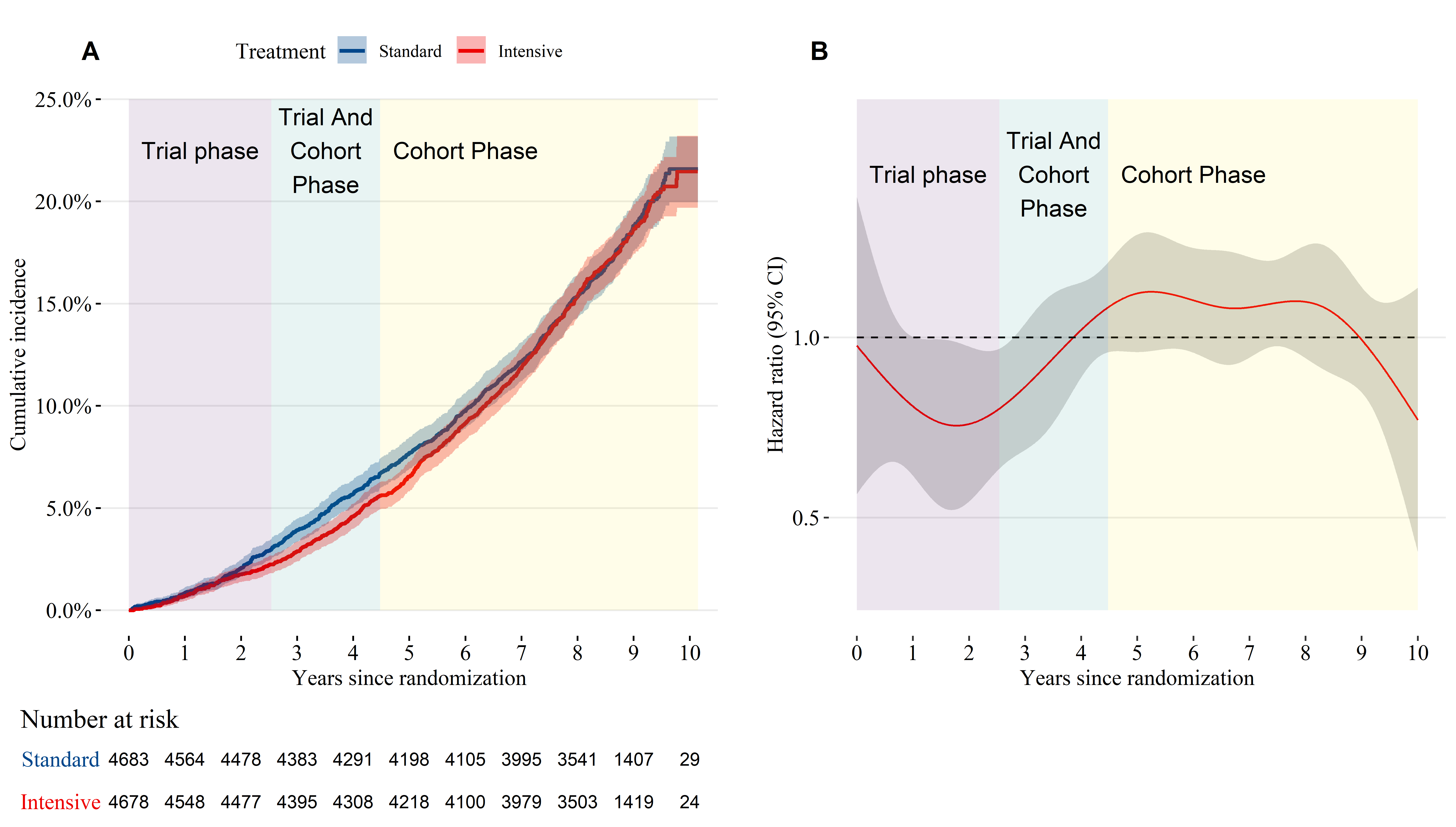
**Table 2**: All-cause mortality by treatment group and subgroup

|  | **Trial Follow-up Through Close-out Visits** | | | | | **Post-trial Follow-up** | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **N Events / N Total** | | **Incidence (95% CI)** | | **Hazard Ratio (95% CI)** | **N Events / N Total** | | **Incidence (95% CI)** | | **Hazard Ratio (95% CI)** |
| **Standard** | **Intensive** | **Standard** | **Intensive** | **Standard** | **Intensive** | **Standard** | **Intensive** |
| Overall | 290 / 4,683 | 241 / 4,678 | 15.1 (13.4, 16.9) | 12.5 (11.0, 14.2) | 0.83 (0.68, 1.01) | 536 / 4,260 | 577 / 4,274 | 29.6 (27.1, 32.1) | 31.9 (29.3, 34.5) | 1.08 (0.94, 1.23) |
| *Age group* | | | | | | | | | | |
| <75 years | 137 / 3,364 | 115 / 3,361 | 9.73 (8.19, 11.5) | 8.18 (6.78, 9.77) | 0.84 (0.63, 1.11) | 257 / 3,129 | 246 / 3,123 | 18.9 (16.7, 21.3) | 18.1 (15.9, 20.5) | 0.96 (0.78, 1.17) |
| ≥75 years | 153 / 1,319 | 126 / 1,317 | 29.8 (25.3, 34.7) | 24.3 (20.3, 28.8) | 0.82 (0.62, 1.07) | 279 / 1,131 | 331 / 1,151 | 61.6 (54.7, 69.1) | 73.3 (65.7, 81.5) | 1.21 (1.00, 1.46) |
| *Sex* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 212 / 3,035 | 170 / 2,994 | 17.2 (15.0, 19.6) | 13.8 (11.9, 16.0) | 0.80 (0.64, 1.01) | 353 / 2,743 | 400 / 2,745 | 30.3 (27.3, 33.6) | 34.6 (31.3, 38.1) | 1.14 (0.97, 1.34) |
| Female | 78 / 1,648 | 71 / 1,684 | 11.4 (9.02, 14.1) | 10.2 (8.01, 12.8) | 0.89 (0.61, 1.28) | 183 / 1,517 | 177 / 1,529 | 28.2 (24.3, 32.5) | 27.0 (23.2, 31.2) | 0.94 (0.74, 1.20) |
| *Race* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Black | 209 / 3,190 | 173 / 3,224 | 16.0 (13.9, 18.2) | 13.0 (11.2, 15.0) | 0.80 (0.64, 1.01) | 386 / 2,897 | 426 / 2,953 | 31.4 (28.4, 34.6) | 34.2 (31.1, 37.6) | 1.10 (0.94, 1.28) |
| Black | 81 / 1,493 | 68 / 1,454 | 13.2 (10.5, 16.3) | 11.5 (8.95, 14.4) | 0.85 (0.59, 1.24) | 150 / 1,363 | 151 / 1,321 | 25.7 (21.8, 30.0) | 26.7 (22.6, 31.1) | 1.02 (0.78, 1.32) |
| *Chronic Kidney Diseasea* | | | | | | | | | | |
| No | 163 / 3,491 | 126 / 3,485 | 11.3 (9.67, 13.1) | 8.74 (7.30, 10.4) | 0.77 (0.59, 1.01) | 316 / 3,232 | 349 / 3,250 | 22.7 (20.3, 25.2) | 25.0 (22.5, 27.7) | 1.08 (0.91, 1.29) |
| Yes | 125 / 1,161 | 112 / 1,170 | 26.5 (22.1, 31.4) | 23.6 (19.5, 28.2) | 0.89 (0.66, 1.19) | 220 / 1,007 | 227 / 1,012 | 53.8 (47.0, 61.2) | 55.5 (48.6, 63.1) | 1.02 (0.82, 1.26) |
| *Cognitive Function* | | | | | | | | | | |
| >10th percentile | 212 / 3,397 | 152 / 3,389 | 15.1 (13.1, 17.2) | 10.8 (9.14, 12.6) | 0.70 (0.55, 0.89) | 357 / 3,101 | 408 / 3,125 | 26.9 (24.2, 29.8) | 30.7 (27.8, 33.8) | 1.13 (0.96, 1.33) |
| ≤10th percentile | 77 / 1,253 | 83 / 1,257 | 15.3 (12.1, 19.0) | 16.5 (13.2, 20.3) | 1.13 (0.79, 1.62) | 176 / 1,135 | 165 / 1,131 | 36.8 (31.7, 42.6) | 34.7 (29.6, 40.2) | 0.98 (0.76, 1.26) |
| *Frailty Status* | | | | | | | | | | |
| Fit (FI ≤ 0.10) | 21 / 729 | 18 / 751 | 6.90 (4.35, 10.3) | 5.68 (3.45, 8.73) | 0.90 (0.43, 1.87) | 34 / 685 | 42 / 715 | 11.3 (7.88, 15.5) | 13.4 (9.71, 17.8) | 1.26 (0.72, 2.19) |
| Pre-frail (0.10 < FI ≤ 0.21) | 107 / 2,406 | 93 / 2,359 | 10.7 (8.79, 12.8) | 9.52 (7.71, 11.6) | 0.90 (0.66, 1.24) | 251 / 2,244 | 261 / 2,193 | 26.1 (23.0, 29.5) | 27.8 (24.5, 31.3) | 1.07 (0.87, 1.30) |
| Frail (FI > 0.21) | 161 / 1,523 | 127 / 1,538 | 26.4 (22.5, 30.7) | 20.4 (17.1, 24.2) | 0.75 (0.57, 0.98) | 251 / 1,317 | 274 / 1,349 | 46.2 (40.7, 52.2) | 49.9 (44.2, 56.0) | 1.07 (0.87, 1.30) |
| aChronic Kidney Disease was defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m2 based on the 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine equation. | | | | | | | | | | |
| Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; and FI = frailty index | | | | | | | | | | |

**Table 3**: Cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular mortality by treatment group and subgroup

|  | **Trial Follow-up Through Close-out Visits** | | | | **Post-trial Follow-up** | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **N CVD / non-CVD / Total** | | **Hazard Ratio (95% CI)** | | **N CVD / non-CVD / Total** | | **Hazard Ratio (95% CI)** | |
| **Standard** | **Intensive** | **CVD** | **Non-CVD** | **Standard** | **Intensive** | **CVD** | **Non-CVD** |
| Overall | 92 / 198 / 4,683 | 65 / 176 / 4,678 | 0.66 (0.49, 0.89) | 0.89 (0.71, 1.10) | 181 / 355 / 4,260 | 183 / 394 / 4,274 | 1.02 (0.84, 1.24) | 1.13 (0.97, 1.31) |
| *Age group* | | | | | | | | |
| <75 years | 45 / 92 / 3,364 | 27 / 88 / 3,361 | 0.53 (0.36, 0.79) | 0.95 (0.68, 1.32) | 81 / 176 / 3,129 | 73 / 173 / 3,123 | 0.92 (0.66, 1.28) | 1.01 (0.84, 1.22) |
| ≥75 years | 47 / 106 / 1,319 | 38 / 88 / 1,317 | 0.78 (0.49, 1.26) | 0.81 (0.61, 1.09) | 100 / 179 / 1,131 | 110 / 221 / 1,151 | 1.07 (0.81, 1.42) | 1.23 (0.99, 1.53) |
| *Sex* | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 68 / 144 / 3,035 | 47 / 123 / 2,994 | 0.62 (0.42, 0.90) | 0.85 (0.67, 1.08) | 119 / 234 / 2,743 | 125 / 275 / 2,745 | 1.09 (0.85, 1.38) | 1.20 (1.00, 1.44) |
| Female | 24 / 54 / 1,648 | 18 / 53 / 1,684 | 0.75 (0.45, 1.27) | 0.97 (0.64, 1.48) | 62 / 121 / 1,517 | 58 / 119 / 1,529 | 0.89 (0.63, 1.28) | 0.98 (0.71, 1.34) |
| *Race* | | | | | | | | |
| Non-Black | 67 / 142 / 3,190 | 44 / 129 / 3,224 | 0.58 (0.42, 0.81) | 0.87 (0.68, 1.12) | 126 / 260 / 2,897 | 135 / 291 / 2,953 | 1.10 (0.89, 1.37) | 1.13 (0.94, 1.36) |
| Black | 25 / 56 / 1,493 | 21 / 47 / 1,454 | 0.82 (0.46, 1.45) | 0.93 (0.64, 1.37) | 55 / 95 / 1,363 | 48 / 103 / 1,321 | 0.81 (0.54, 1.23) | 1.10 (0.84, 1.44) |
| *Chronic Kidney Diseasea* | | | | | | | | |
| No | 50 / 113 / 3,491 | 29 / 97 / 3,485 | 0.55 (0.36, 0.83) | 0.87 (0.65, 1.14) | 90 / 226 / 3,232 | 101 / 248 / 3,250 | 1.14 (0.84, 1.55) | 1.09 (0.90, 1.33) |
| Yes | 41 / 84 / 1,161 | 36 / 76 / 1,170 | 0.81 (0.51, 1.31) | 0.88 (0.62, 1.24) | 91 / 129 / 1,007 | 82 / 145 / 1,012 | 0.89 (0.67, 1.16) | 1.18 (0.93, 1.49) |
| *Cognitive Function* | | | | | | | | |
| >10th percentile | 62 / 150 / 3,397 | 40 / 112 / 3,389 | 0.56 (0.36, 0.88) | 0.74 (0.58, 0.96) | 128 / 229 / 3,101 | 122 / 286 / 3,125 | 0.93 (0.73, 1.19) | 1.25 (1.03, 1.53) |
| ≤10th percentile | 29 / 48 / 1,253 | 23 / 60 / 1,257 | 0.76 (0.41, 1.43) | 1.22 (0.83, 1.78) | 52 / 124 / 1,135 | 58 / 107 / 1,131 | 1.18 (0.81, 1.72) | 0.90 (0.72, 1.12) |
| *Frailty Status* | | | | | | | | |
| Fit (FI ≤ 0.10) | 7 / 14 / 729 | 1 / 17 / 751 | 0.14 (0.02, 1.12) | 1.22 (0.59, 2.53) | 8 / 26 / 685 | 7 / 35 / 715 | 0.77 (0.31, 1.95) | 1.26 (0.78, 2.04) |
| Pre-frail (0.10 < FI ≤ 0.21) | 34 / 73 / 2,406 | 23 / 70 / 2,359 | 0.59 (0.34, 1.03) | 1.00 (0.73, 1.37) | 75 / 176 / 2,244 | 81 / 180 / 2,193 | 1.07 (0.77, 1.50) | 1.04 (0.85, 1.27) |
| Frail (FI > 0.21) | 51 / 110 / 1,523 | 41 / 86 / 1,538 | 0.77 (0.53, 1.13) | 0.75 (0.56, 1.00) | 98 / 153 / 1,317 | 95 / 179 / 1,349 | 1.01 (0.77, 1.33) | 1.20 (0.96, 1.50) |
| aChronic Kidney Disease was defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m2 based on the 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine equation. | | | | | | | | |
| Abbreviations: CI = confidence interval; CVD = cardiovascular disease; and FI = frailty index | | | | | | | | |

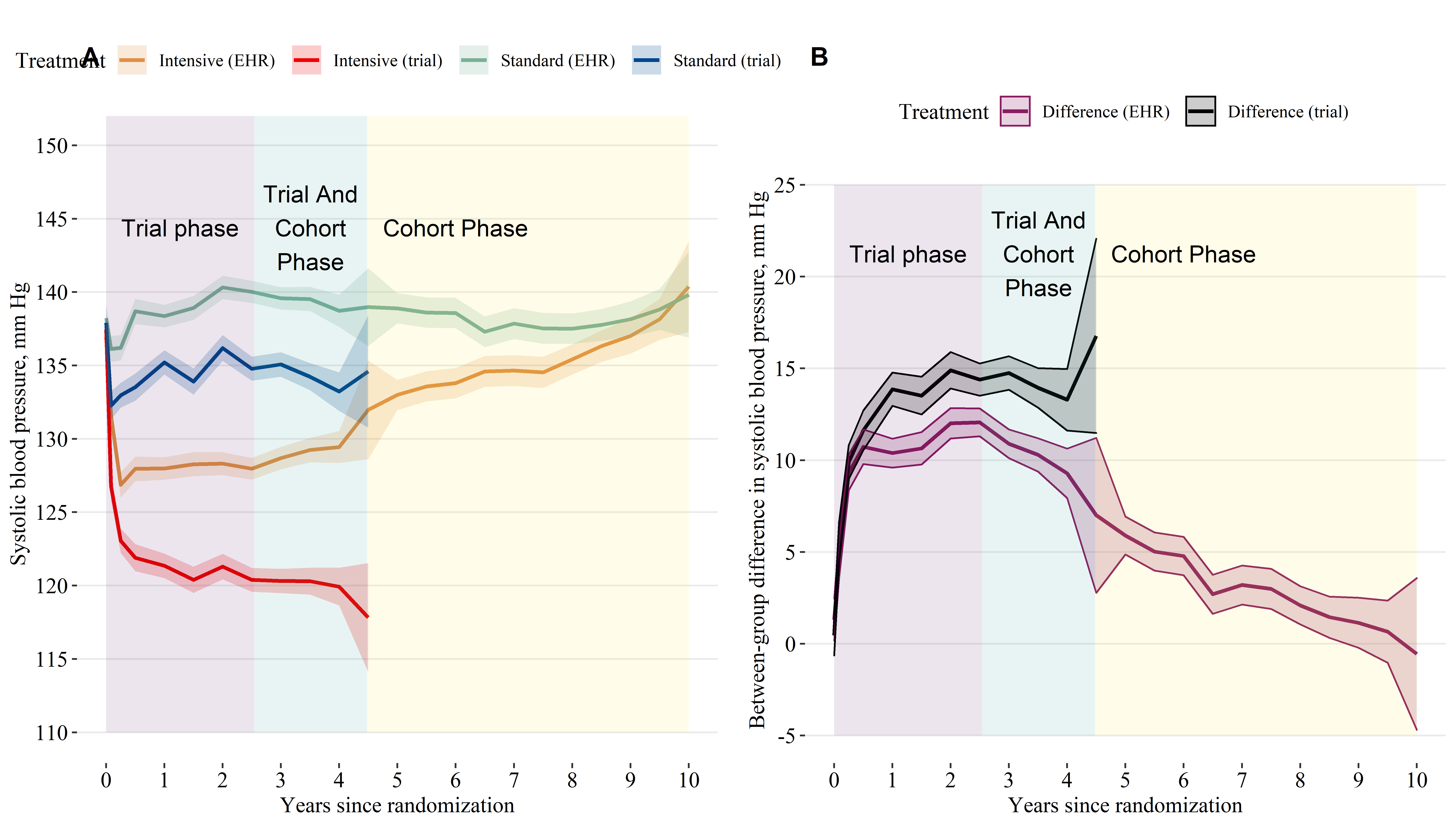
**Figure 1**: (A) Cumulative incidence of all-cause mortality by treatment group. (B) Time-dependent effect of randomization to intensive treatment for all-cause mortality.



**Figure 2**: (A) Cumulative incidence of cardiovascular and non-cardiovascular mortality by treatment group. (B) Time-dependent effect of randomization to intensive treatment for cardiovascular mortality.



**Figure 3**: (A) Mean systolic blood pressure over time by treatment group. (B) Mean difference in systolic blood pressure over time. Shaded areas indicate a 95% confidence interval for the mean. Horizontal lines during the trial period show target blood pressure values for each treatment group



**Online supplement only**

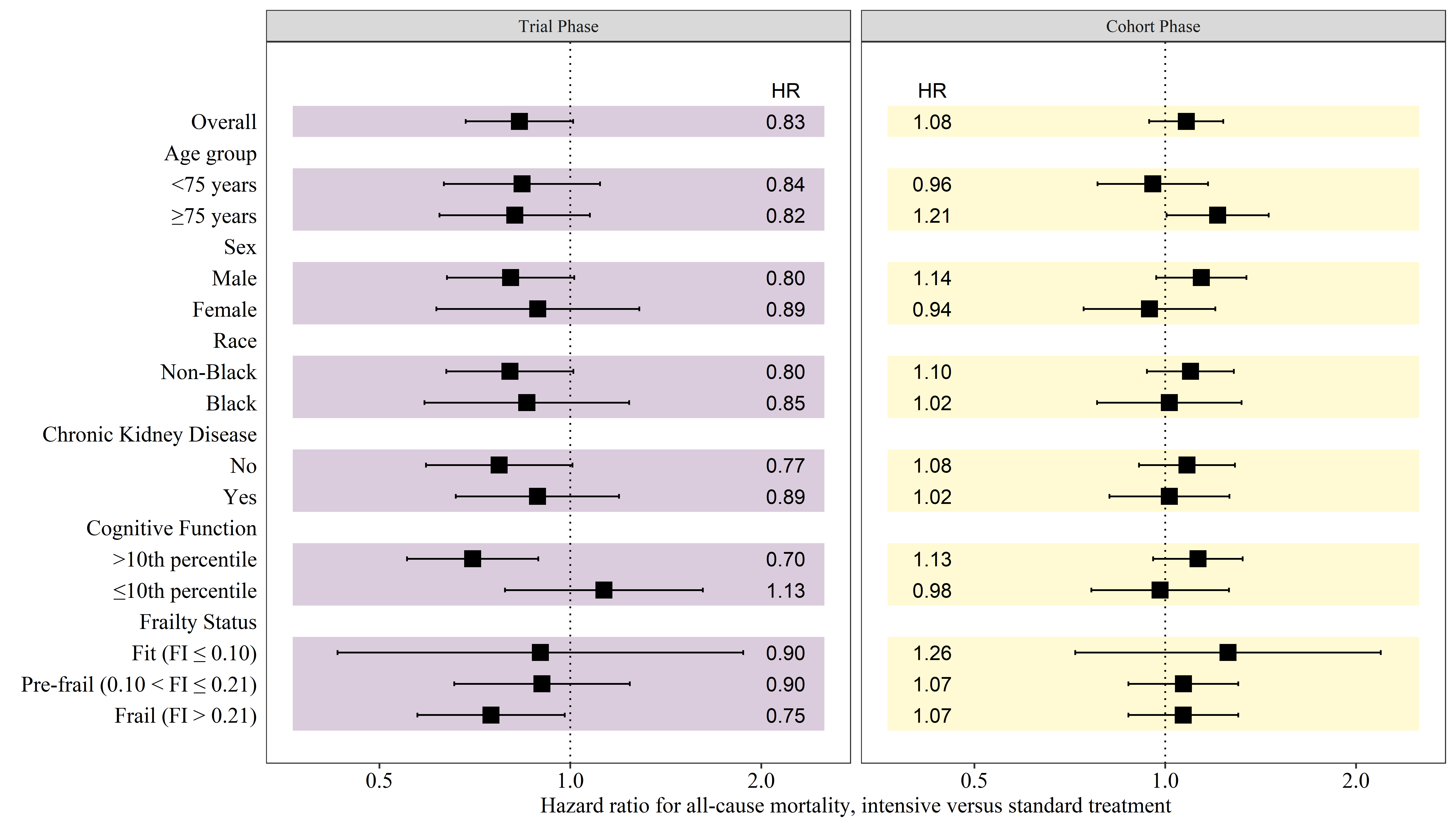
Byron C. Jaeger, PhD,1 Adam P. Bress, PharmD, MS,2,3 Joshua D. Bundy, PhD,4 Alfred K. Cheung, MD,5,6 William C. Cushman, MD,7 Paul E. Drawz, MD,8 Lawrence J. Fine, MD,9 Karen C. Johnson, MD,7 Cora E. Lewis, MD,10 Suzanne Oparil, MD,11 Michael V. Rocco, MD,12 Stephen R. Rapp, PhD, 13 Joni K. Snyder, RN,BSN,9 Mark A. Supiano, MD,14 Paul K. Whelton, MD,4 Jeff D. Williamson, MD, MHS,15 Jackson T. Wright, Jr, MD, PhD,16 David M. Reboussin, PhD,1 and Nicholas M. Pajewski, PhD1

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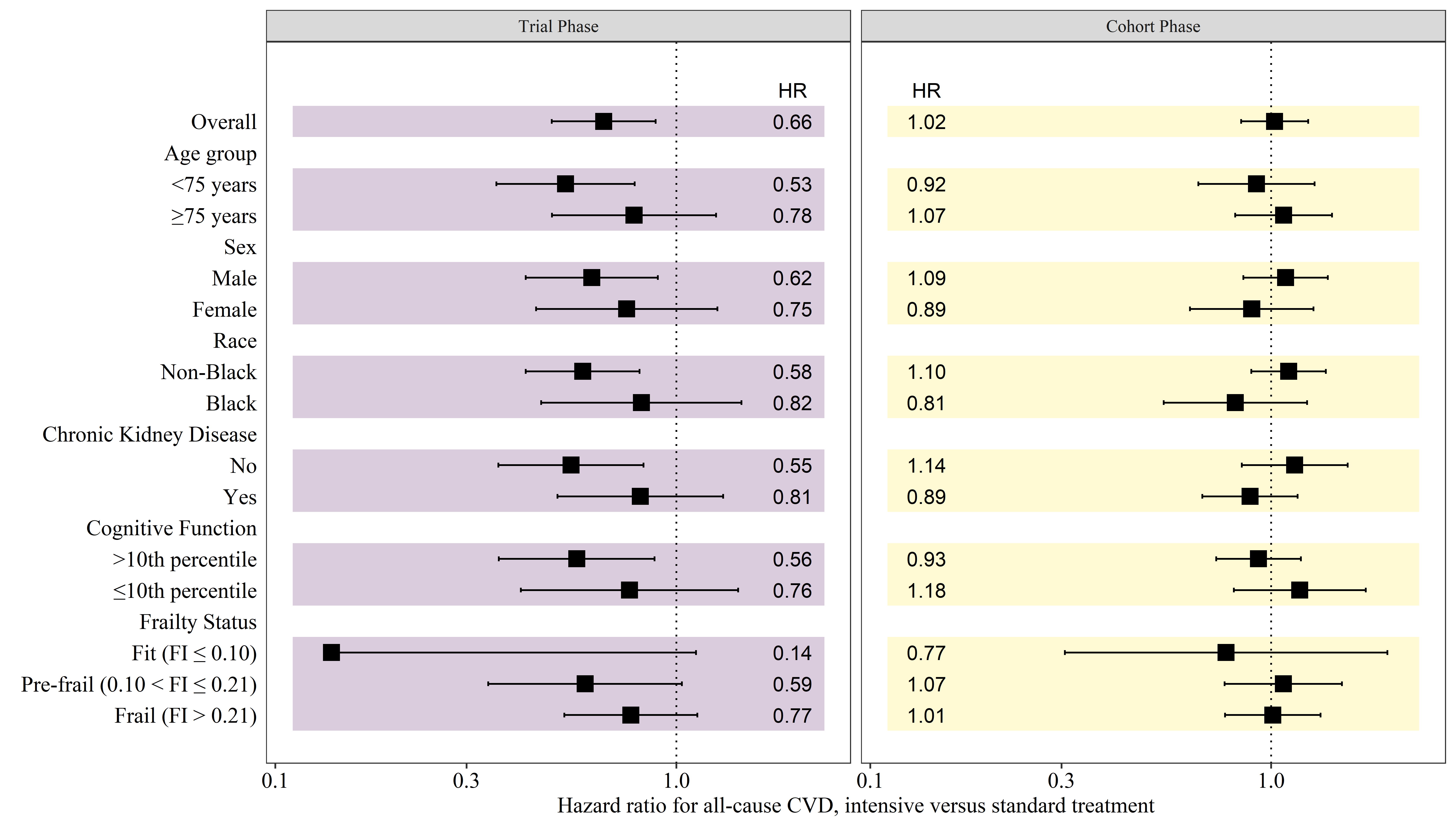
**eTable 1**: Characteristics of study participants stratified by inclusion in the electronic health record ancillary study and by treatment group.

|  | **Not included in EHR ancillary study** | | | **Included in EHR ancillary study** | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Characteristic** | **Standard N = 2,985** | **Intensive N = 2,967** | **p-valuea** | **Standard N = 1,698** | **Intensive N = 1,711** | **p-valuea** |
| Age, years |  |  | 0.5 |  |  | 0.2 |
| Mean (SD) | 68 (10) | 68 (10) |  | 68 (9) | 68 (9) |  |
| Median (IQR) | 67 (60, 75) | 67 (60, 75) |  | 67 (61, 76) | 68 (62, 76) |  |
| Age ≥75 years | 28 | 28 | 0.9 | 29 | 29 | 0.8 |
| Female | 41 | 42 | 0.3 | 25 | 25 | >0.9 |
| Black | 31 | 31 | 0.8 | 34 | 32 | 0.3 |
| Chronic Kidney Diseaseb | 24 | 24 | 0.7 | 27 | 28 | 0.5 |
| MoCA ≤10th percentile | 27 | 28 | 0.4 | 26 | 25 | 0.3 |
| Frailty Status |  |  | 0.7 |  |  | 0.4 |
| Fit (FI≤0.10) | 17 | 16 |  | 14 | 16 |  |
| Pre-frail (0.10<FI≤0.21) | 52 | 51 |  | 52 | 51 |  |
| Frail (FI>0.21) | 32 | 33 |  | 34 | 34 |  |
| Table values are percentages unless otherwise specified | | | | | | |
| aP-values computed using Wilcoxon rank sum test for age in years, chi-square test for age ≥75 years, and chi-square test for all other variables | | | | | | |
| bChronic Kidney Disease was defined by an estimated glomerular filtration rate <60 ml/min/1.73 m2 based on the 2021 CKD-EPI creatinine equation. | | | | | | |
| Abbreviations: EHR = electronic health records; FI = frailty index; IQR = interquartile range; MoCA = Montreal cognitive assessment; and SD = standard deviation | | | | | | |

**eFigure 1**: All-cause mortality hazard ratio for participants randomized to intensive versus standard treatment.



**eFigure 2**: Cardiovascular mortality hazard ratio for participants randomized to intensive versus standard treatment.



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