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*Clara Oromendia*

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# Screening for Prostate Cancer

A statistician's view

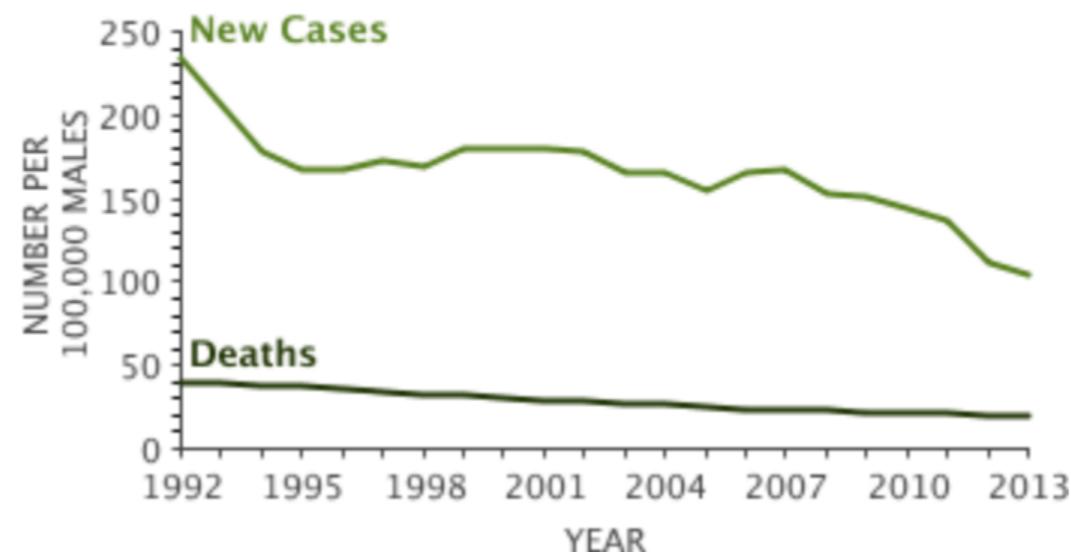
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*Department Seminar, April 11 2017*

# Prostate cancer

## ► At a Glance

Estimated New Cases in 2016	180,890
% of All New Cancer Cases	10.7%
Estimated Deaths in 2016	26,120
% of All Cancer Deaths	4.4%



Percent Surviving 5 Years
98.9%
2006-2012

**Number of New Cases and Deaths per 100,000:** The number of new cases of prostate cancer was 129.4 per 100,000 men per year. The number of deaths was 20.7 per 100,000 men per year. These rates are age-adjusted and based on 2009-2013 cases and deaths.

**Lifetime Risk of Developing Cancer:** Approximately 12.9 percent of men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer at some point during their lifetime, based on 2011-2013 data.

**Prevalence of This Cancer:** In 2013, there were an estimated 2,850,139 men living with prostate cancer in the United States.

# Screening Tests

- ❖ Prostate specific antigen (PSA)
  - ❖ Blood test for protein level
  - ❖ Also elevated for benign reasons
- ❖ Digital rectal exam (DRE)
  - ❖ Quick exam often done by PCP
  - ❖ Role in screening mostly ignored in literature



# PLCO Screening Trial

- ❖ Year: 1993 - 2001
- ❖ Schema: 76,693 men
  - ❖ 38,850 control
  - ❖ 38,343 screening
    - ❖ Annual PSA years 1-6
    - ❖ Annual DRE years 1-4
    - ❖ Biopsy decision left to patient and physician

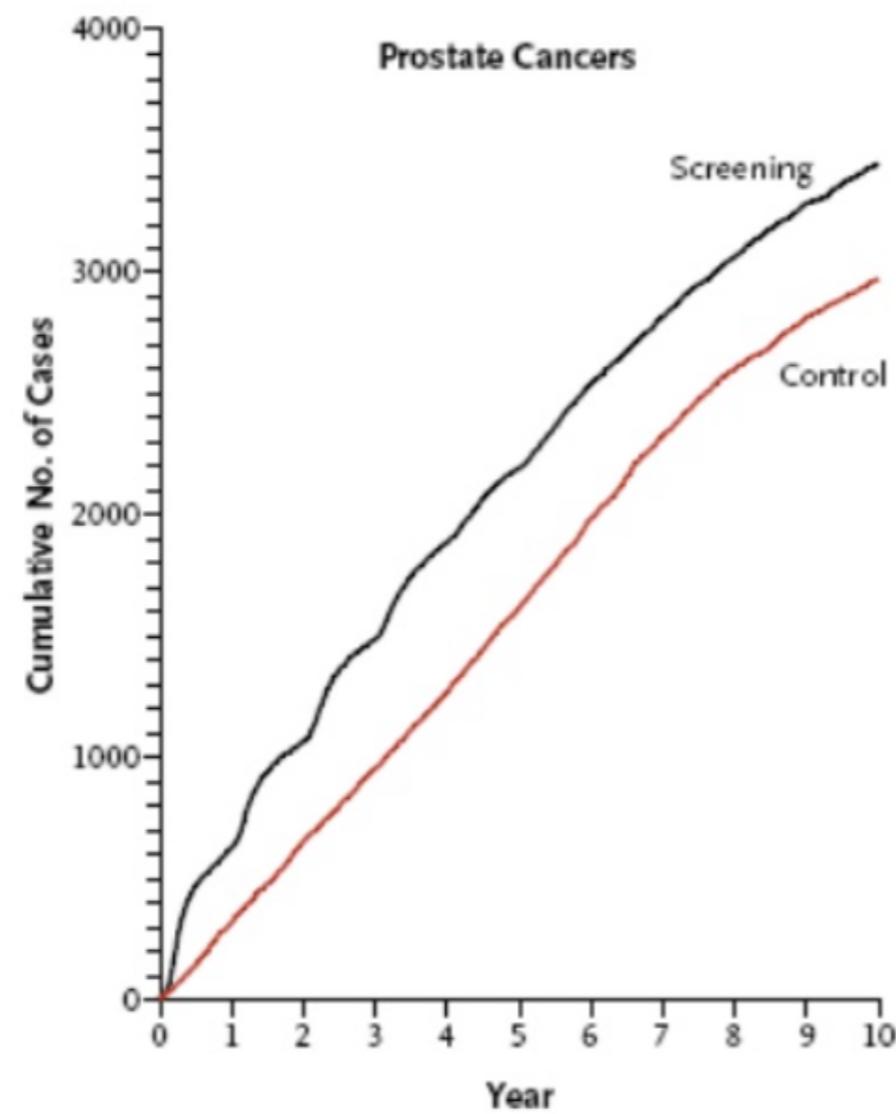
The NEW ENGLAND JOURNAL of MEDICINE

ORIGINAL ARTICLE

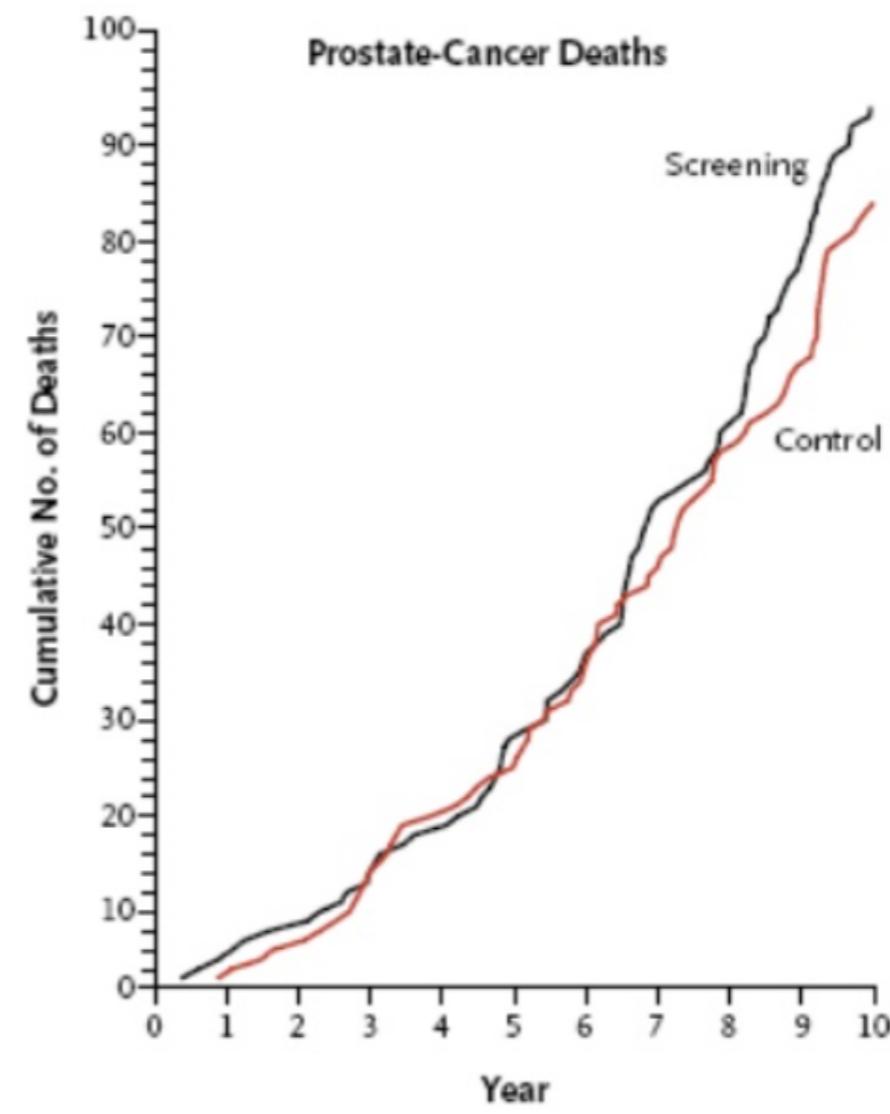
## Mortality Results from a Randomized Prostate-Cancer Screening Trial

Gerald L. Andriole, M.D., E. David Crawford, M.D., Robert L. Grubb III, M.D.,  
Saundra S. Buys, M.D., David Chia, Ph.D., Timothy R. Church, Ph.D.,  
Mona N. Fouad, M.D., Edward P. Gelmann, M.D., Paul A. Kvale, M.D.,  
Douglas J. Reding, M.D., Joel L. Weissfeld, M.D., Lance A. Yokochi, M.D.,  
Barbara O'Brien, M.P.H., Jonathan D. Clapp, B.S., Joshua M. Rathmell, M.S.,  
Thomas L. Riley, B.S., Richard B. Hayes, Ph.D., Barnett S. Kramer, M.D.,  
Grant Izmirlian, Ph.D., Anthony B. Miller, M.B., Paul F. Pinsky, Ph.D.,  
Philip C. Prorok, Ph.D., John K. Gohagan, Ph.D., and Christine D. Berg, M.D.,  
for the PLCO Project Team\*

# PLCO Screening Trial



Incidence 12% higher



Mortality the same

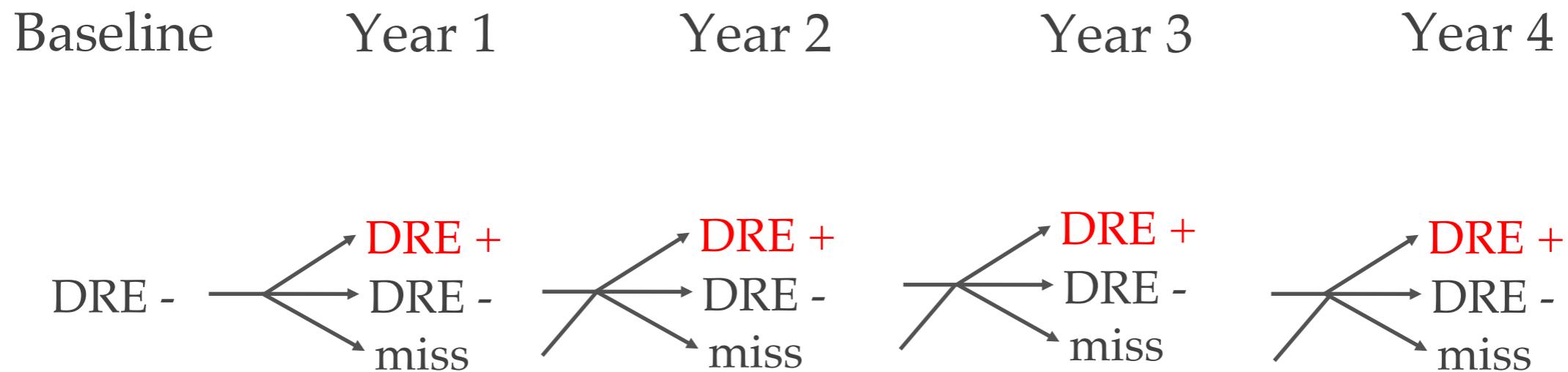
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# Question

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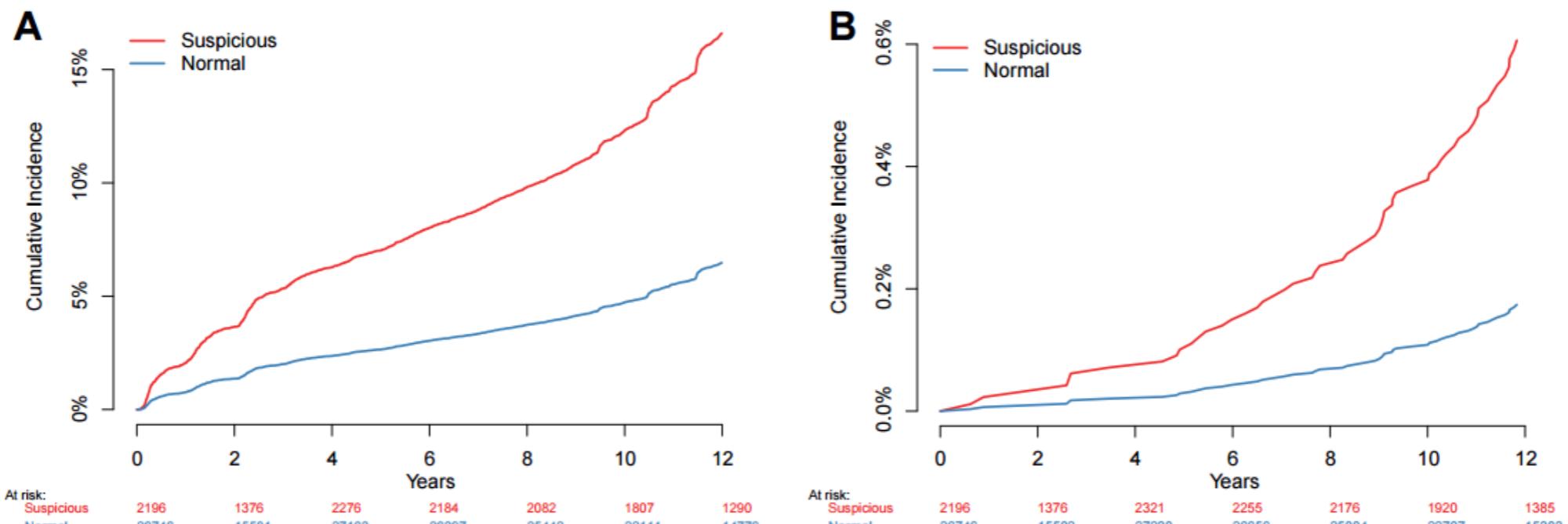
- ❖ Scientifically:
  - ❖ Are people with abnormal DRE at higher risk for prostate cancer?
- ❖ Statistically:
  - ❖ Sample: Screening Arm
  - ❖ Outcome: Time to Prostate Cancer Death
  - ❖ Method: Competing Risks Regression (Fine and Grey)
  - ❖ Predictor: Abnormal DRE

# Question



- ❖ Predictor: Ever abnormal DRE
  - ❖ Time varying
  - ❖ Missing until up to date on screening schedule

# Answer



Cumulative incidence of clinically significant prostate cancer (A) and PCSM (B) by DRE screening status



The Journal of Urology

Volume 197, Issue 2, February 2017, Pages 363–368



Adult Urology

Prognostic Significance of Digital Rectal Examination and  
Prostate Specific Antigen in the Prostate, Lung, Colorectal and  
Ovarian (PLCO) Cancer Screening Arm

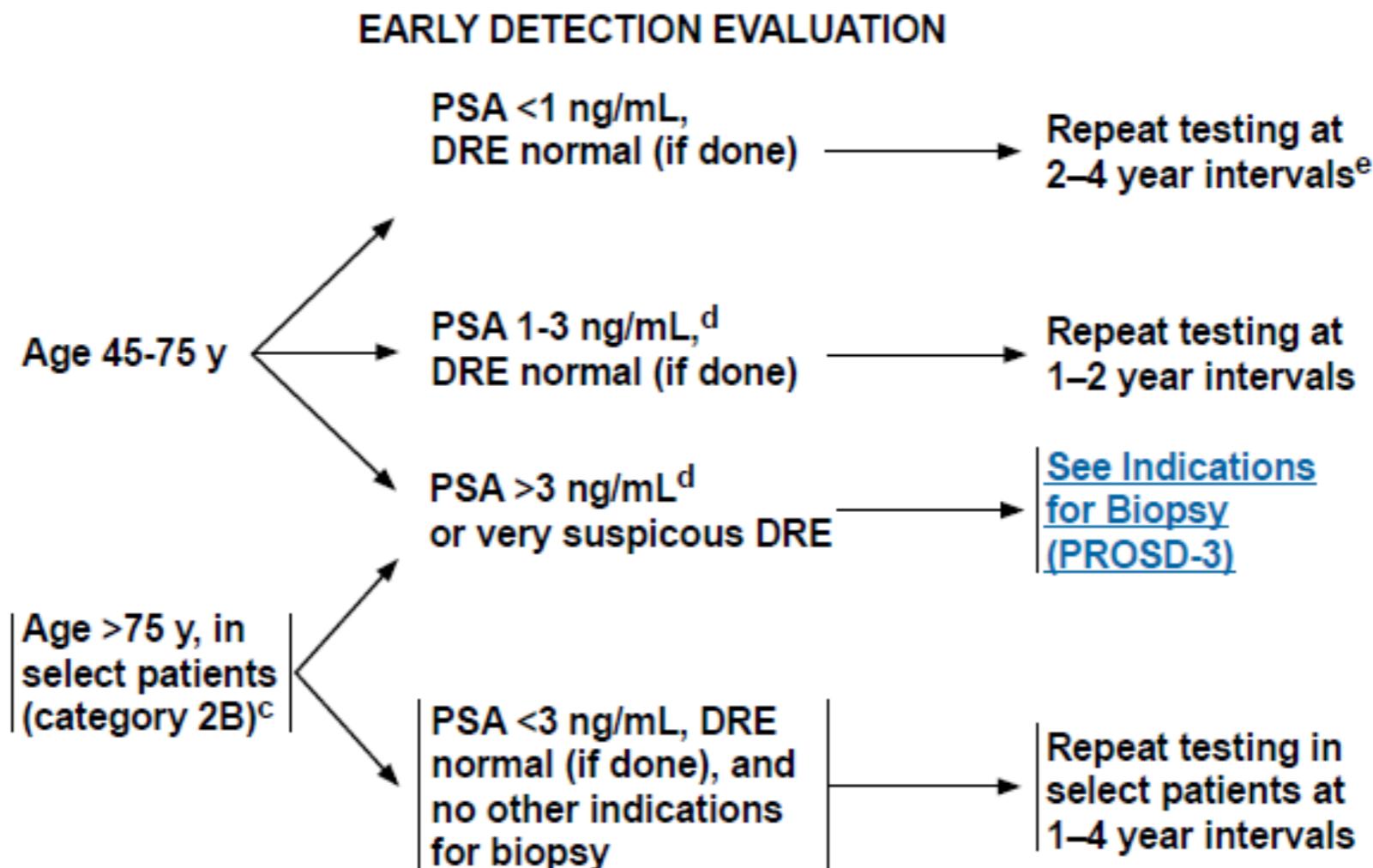
Joshua A. Halpern<sup>a</sup>, Jonathan E. Shoag<sup>a</sup>, Sameer Mittal<sup>a</sup>, Clara Oromendia<sup>b</sup>, Karla V. Ballman<sup>b</sup>, Dawn L. Hershman<sup>c</sup>, Jason D. Wright<sup>c</sup>, Ya-Chen Tina Shih<sup>d</sup>, Paul L. Nguyen<sup>e,\*</sup>, Jim C. Hu<sup>a</sup>

# What about PSA?



National  
Comprehensive  
Cancer  
Network®

## NCCN Guidelines Version 2.2016 Prostate Cancer Early Detection



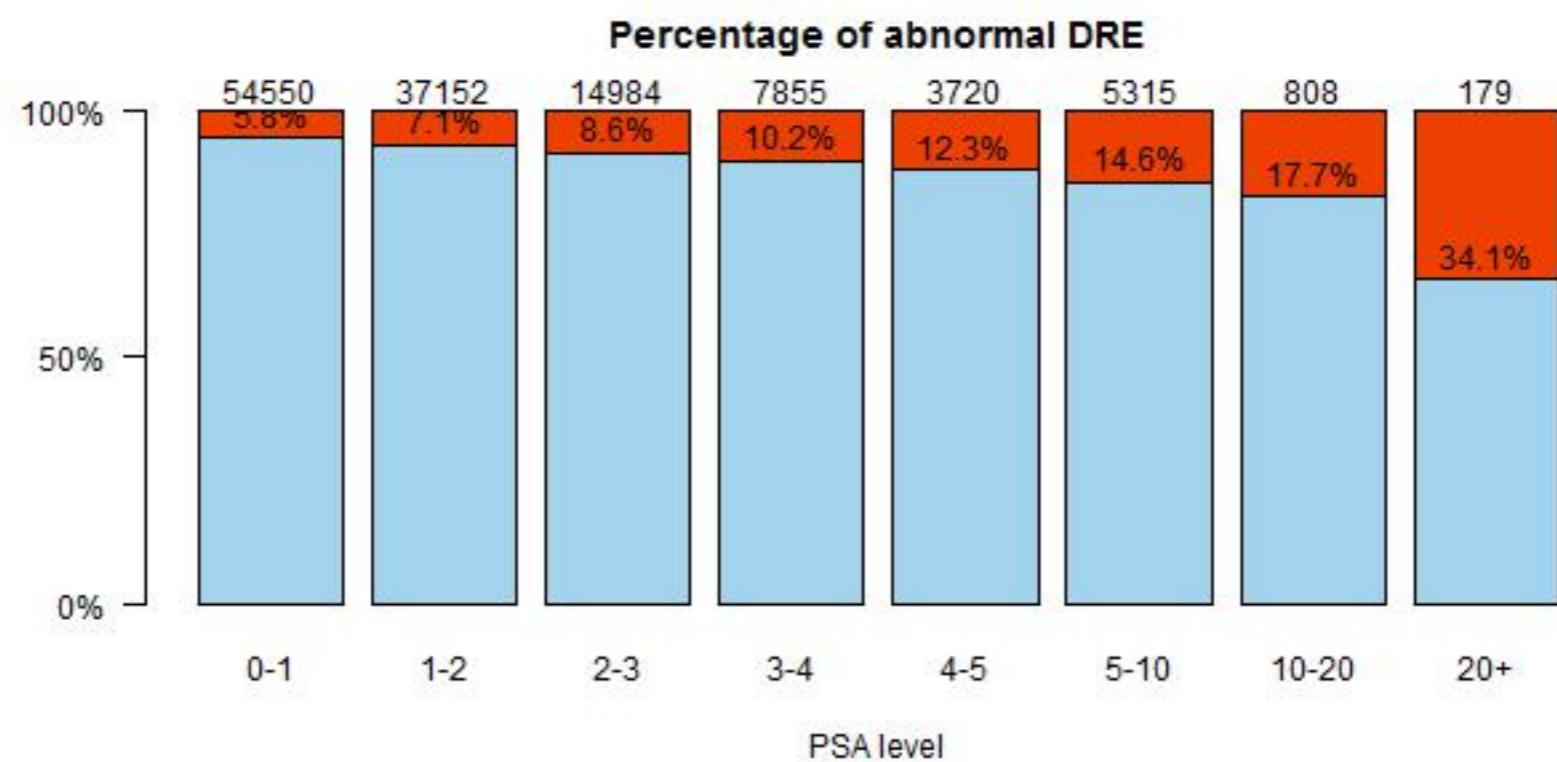
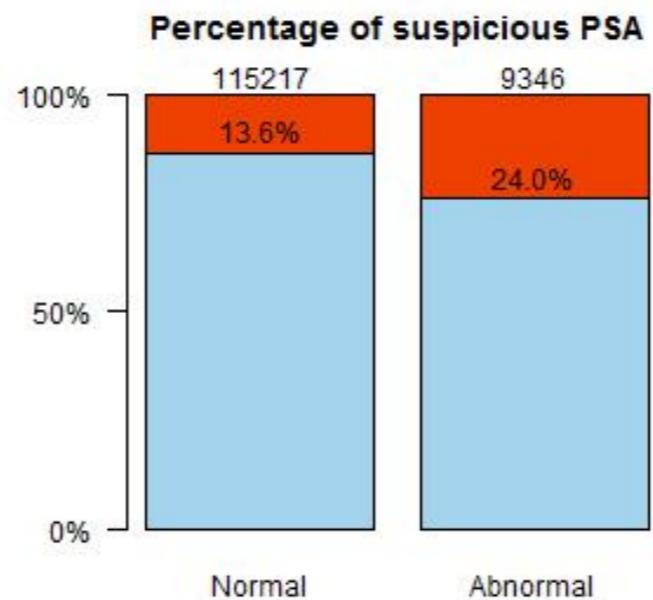
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# Question 2

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- ❖ Scientifically
  - I. How are DRE and PSA related?
  - II. Is DRE useful beyond PSA?
  - III. Is DRE useful for everyone?
  
- ❖ Statistically
  - I. Agreement at each screening
  - II. Account for PSA in regression
  - III. Interaction effects with stratified analyses

# DRE vs PSA



# Interactions

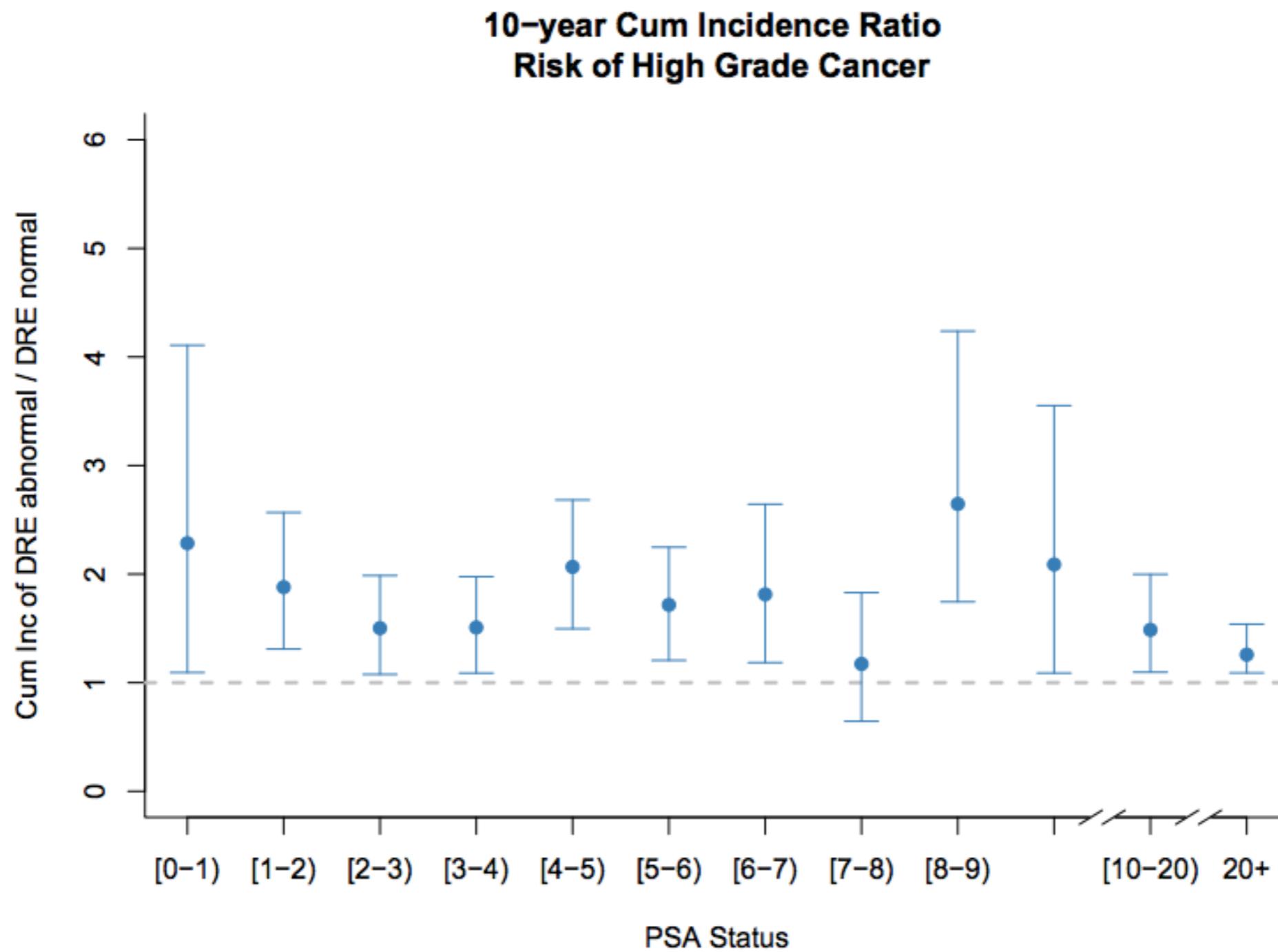
Fine and Gray Competing Risks Model:

Variable	Estimate	P-value
DRE abnorm	2.71 (2.46,2.46)	<0.01
PSArslt	1.02 (1.01,1.01)	<0.01
DRE abnorm & PSArslt	0.99 (0.99,0.99)	<0.01
age	1.01 (1.00,1.00)	0.06

Conclusion: DRE is less important with increasing PSA

→If anything, we should be sure to perform a DRE in those with low PSA.

# Interactions



# Real Question

**Do I Have Cancer?**



Yes

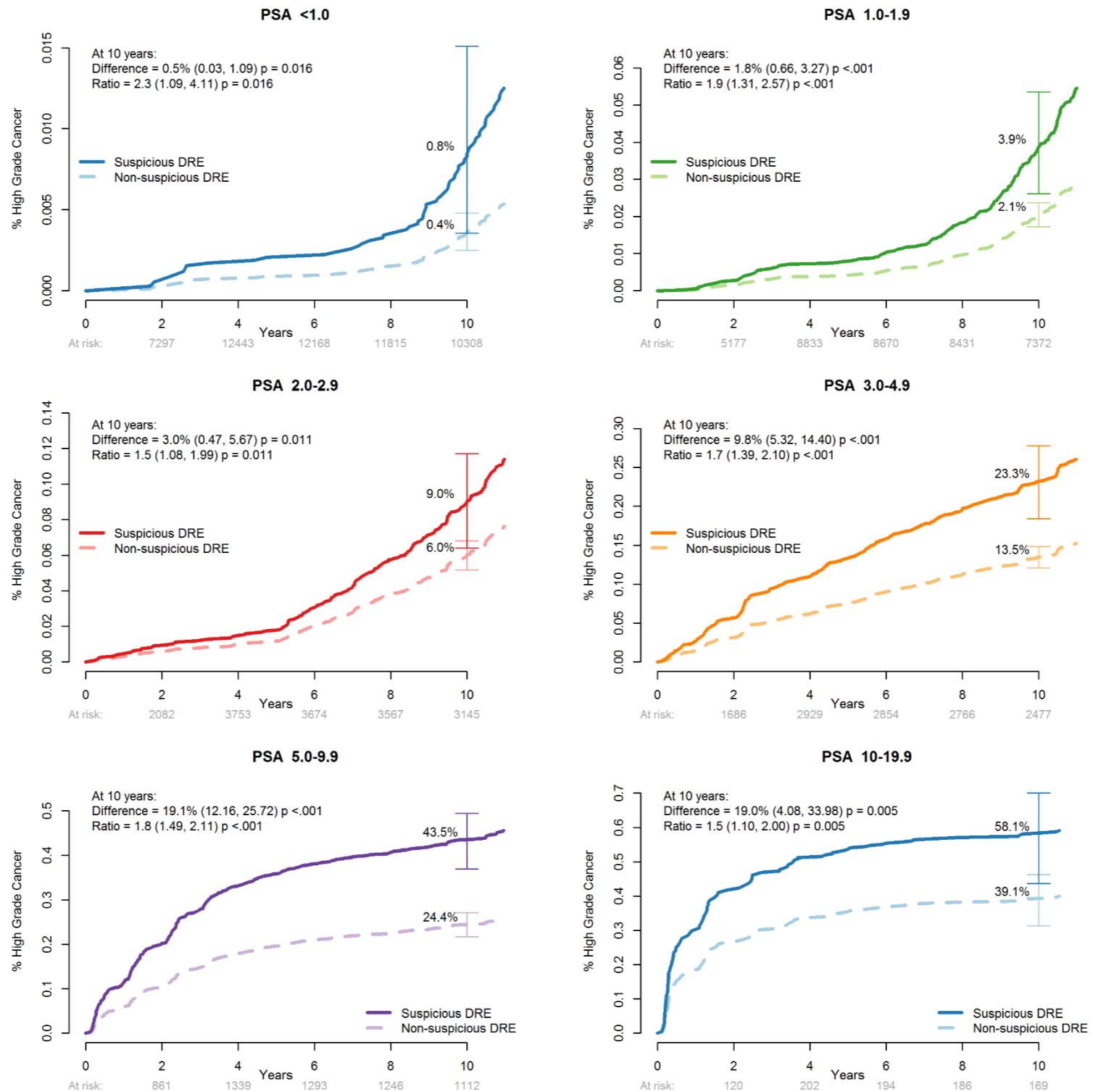


No

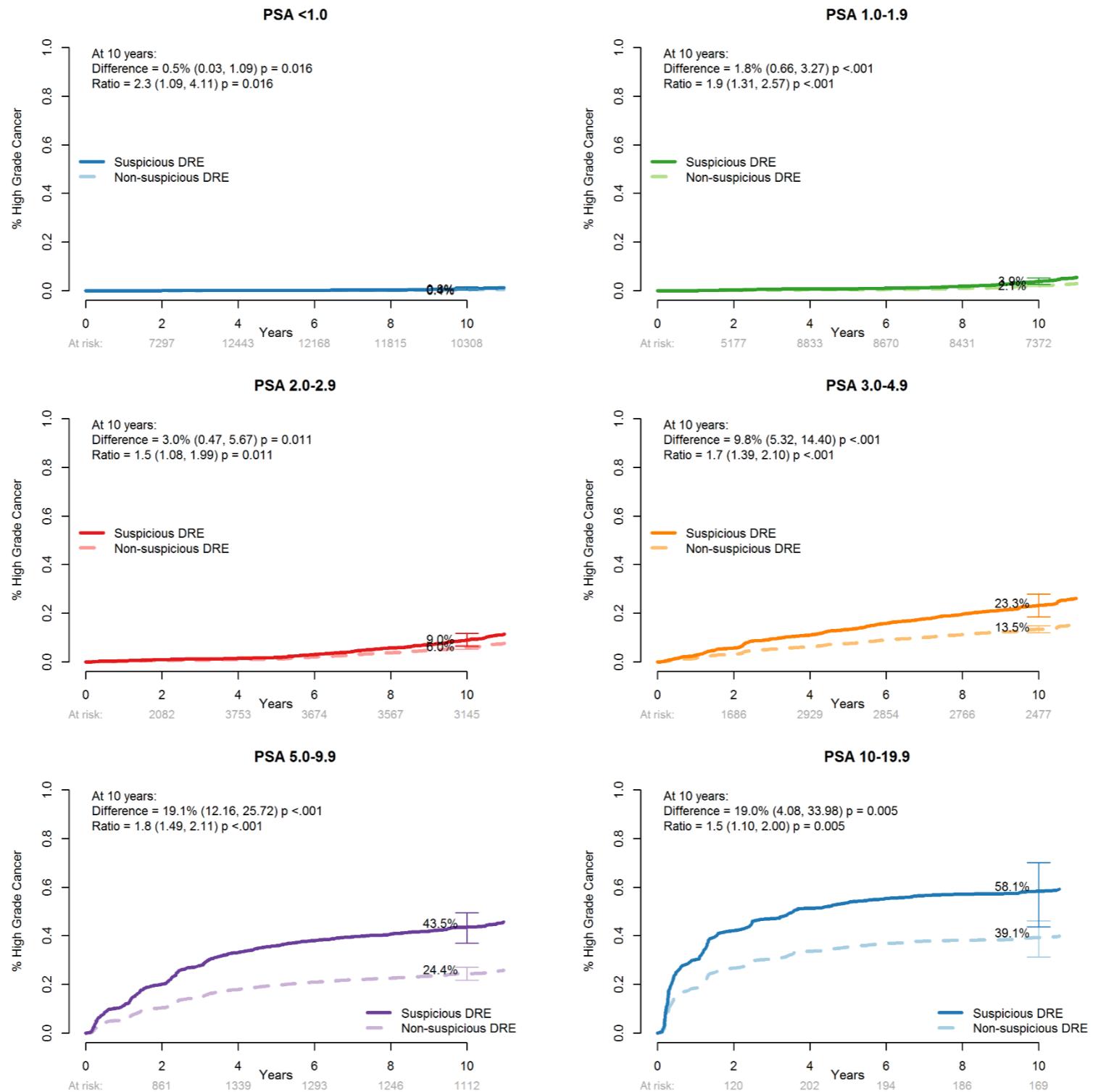


**Don't  
Tell Me**

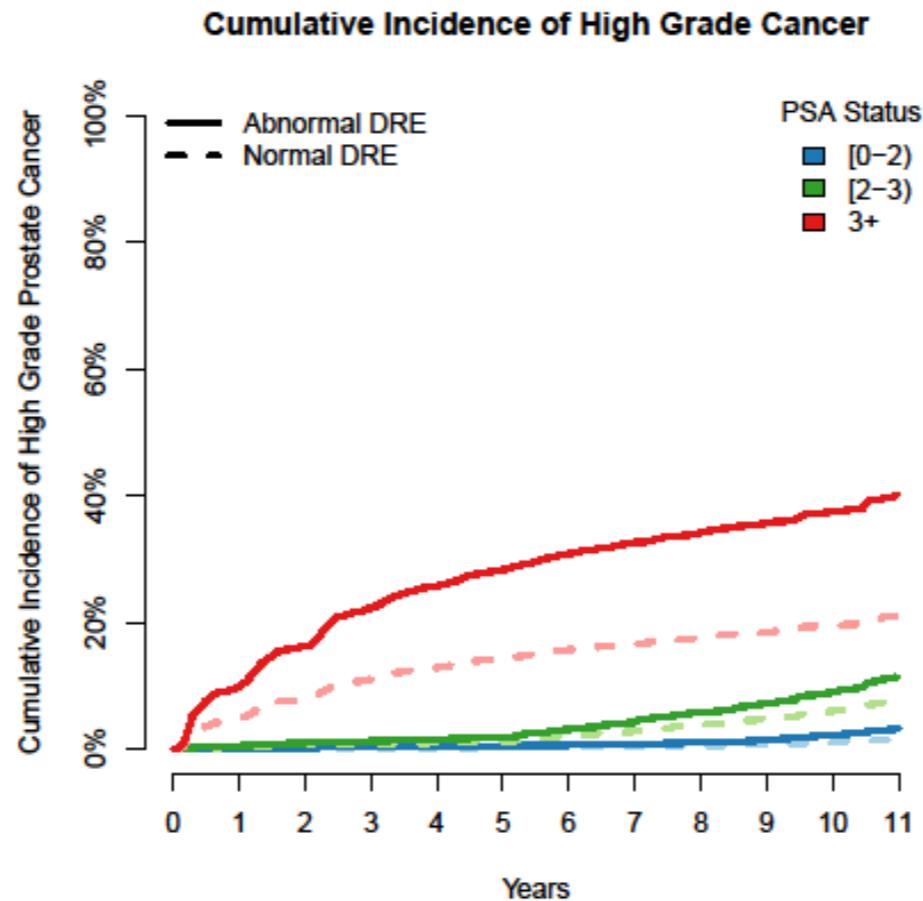
# Cumulative Incidence



# Cumulative Incidence



# Statistical Conclusion



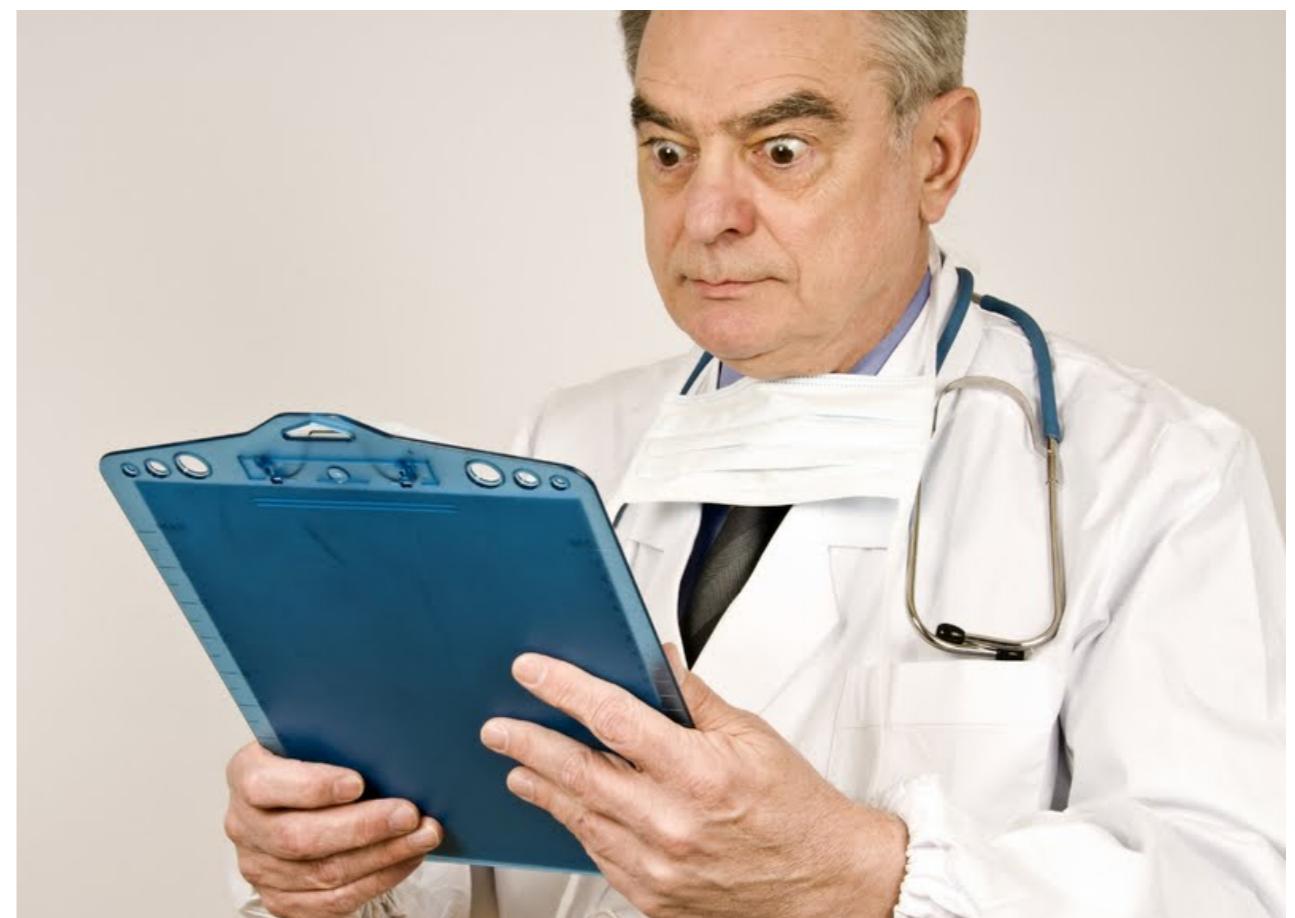
PSA 0-2 → no need for DRE

PSA 2-3 → maybe need DRE, more research needed

PSA 3+ → no need for DRE, directly to biopsy since even normal DRE has incidence of 20% at 10 years, no need to waste it.

# Statistical Conclusion

If PSA is high enough that you are surely going to biopsy, it is useless to do a DRE.



# Scientific Conclusion

- ❖ DRE is also used for disease staging
  - ❖ T1: Tumor cannot be felt on DRE, not seen on imaging
  - ❖ T2: Tumor can be felt on DRE

→ Doc would never do a biopsy without first doing a DRE



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# Acknowledgements

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- ❖ Karla Ballman
- ❖ Josh Halpern
- ❖ Jim C Hu
- ❖ Andrew Vickers
- ❖ Jonathan Shoag
- ❖ Sameer Mittal
- ❖ Dawn Hershman
- ❖ Jason Wright
- ❖ C2 Stats Mafia



# This morning

Experts reverse themselves on prostate cancer screenings

By Michael Nedelman, CNN  
① Updated 9:14 AM ET, Tue April 11, 2017



Top stories



TREATMENTS

## Federal Task Force Softens Opposition To Routine Prostate Cancer Screening

April 11, 2017 · 6:01 AM ET  
Heard on Morning Edition

The New York Times

HEALTH

### *Prostate Cancer Tests Are Now OK With US Panel, With Caveats*

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS · APRIL 11, 2017, 6:15 A.M. E.D.T.



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# Discussion

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- ❖ Prostate Cancer Screening
  - ❖ Ideas for analysis?
- ❖ Consulting
  - ❖ Karl Broman: [Thoughts on statistical consulting](#)
- ❖ Stat Methods
  - ❖ Time varying covariates & survival bias
  - ❖ Absolute vs relative effects
  - ❖ Competing risks regression
  - ❖ Bootstrapped confidence intervals

# DRE vs PSA

