

INTRAVENOUS ALBUMIN

Right reason

Right way

Disclosures

- Research funding from Canadian Blood Services and Octapharma
- Chair, Intravenous Albumin Guideline, International Collaborative for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines (ICTMG)

Outline

- Evidence for use
- Complications of albumin
- Albumin trends in Ontario

Question

- Which of the following is an evidence-based indication for albumin?
 - A. Patient with presumed sepsis just admitted to the Emergency Department
 - B. Patient intraoperative undergoing a hip replacement surgery
 - C. Patient post cardiac surgery with active bleeding from chest tubes
 - D. Patient with cirrhosis admitted with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - E. Patient undergoing large volume paracentesis for ovarian cancer



EVIDENCE

[EXCLUDING NEONATES – NO EVIDENCE]

There are a lot of randomized controlled trials

International Collaborative for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines

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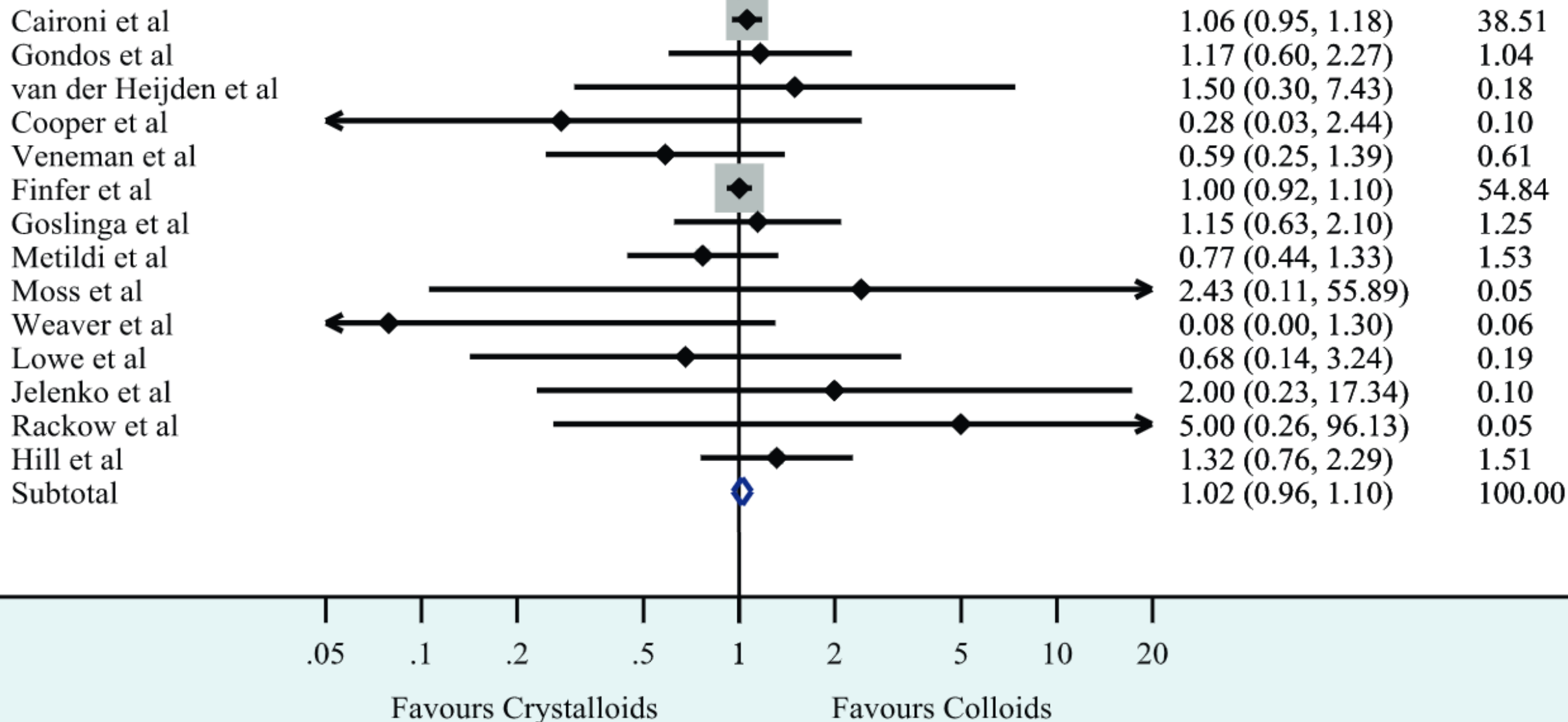
Cardiac surgery systematic review – BJA 2024 in press
Guideline (with SR) – re-submitted

Recommendation 1: In critically ill adult patients (excluding patients with thermal injuries and acute respiratory distress syndrome), intravenous albumin is not suggested for first-line volume replacement or to increase serum albumin levels (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence of effect).

Recommendation 2: In critically ill adult patients with thermal injuries or acute respiratory distress syndrome, intravenous albumin is not suggested for volume replacement or to increase serum albumin level (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence of effect).

Recommendation 3: In critically ill adult patients, intravenous albumin in conjunction with diuretics is not suggested for removal of extravascular fluid (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence of effect).

ALBUMIN



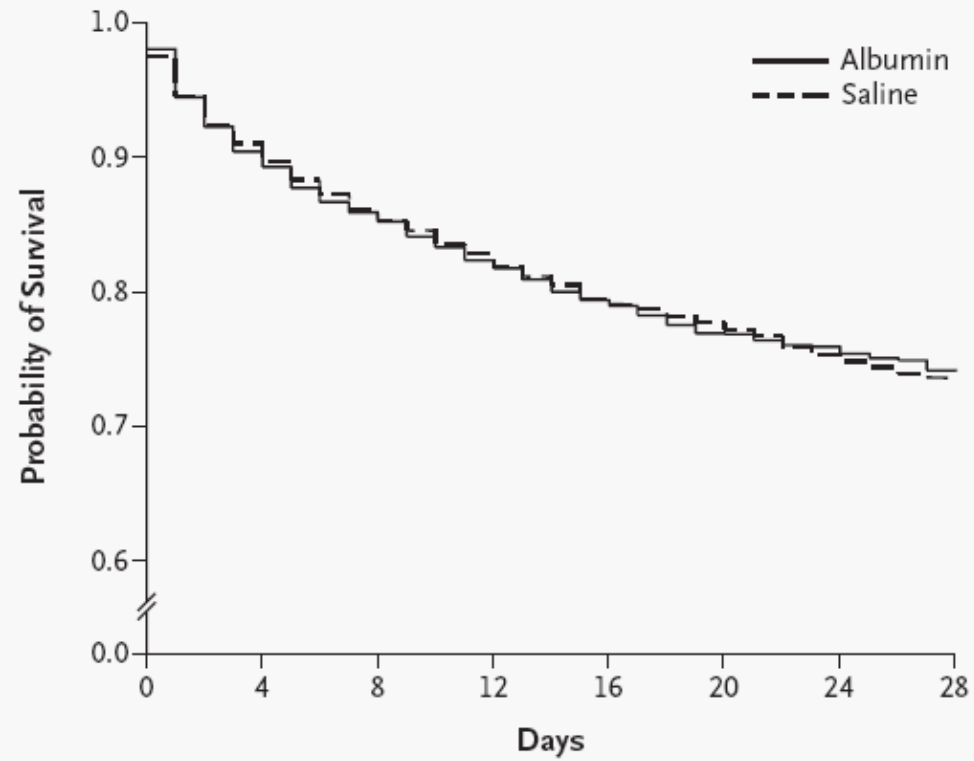


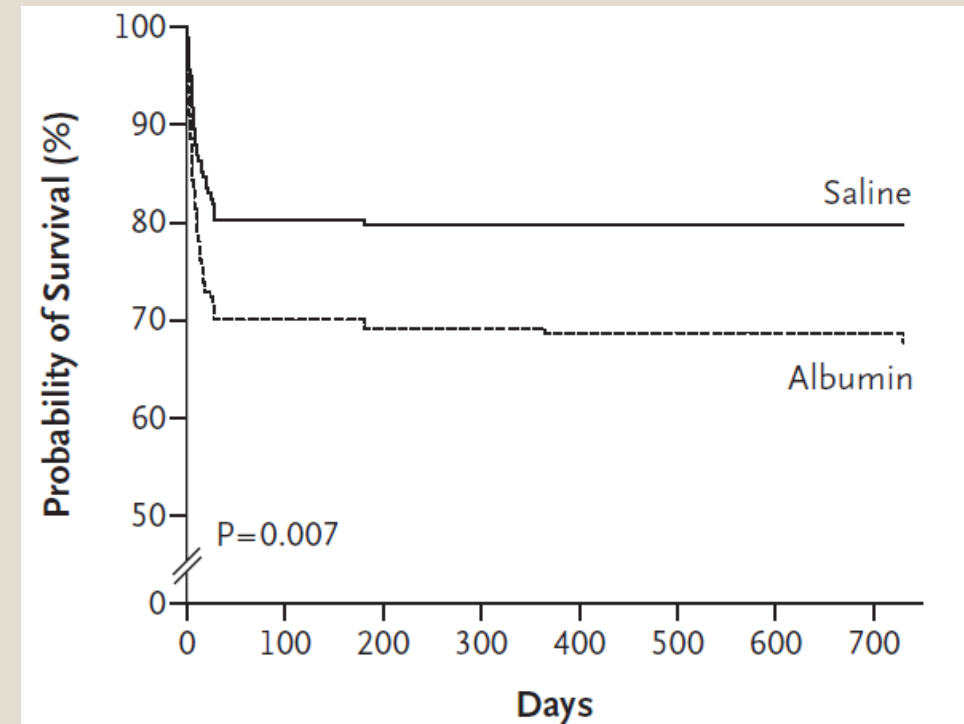
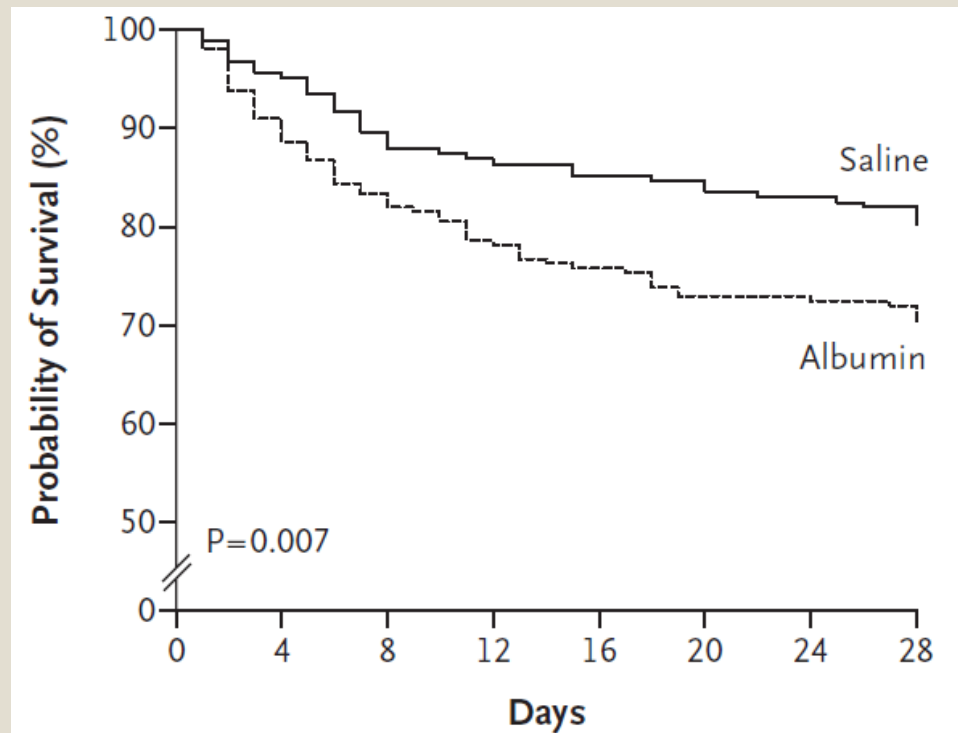
Figure 1. Kaplan–Meier Estimates of the Probability of Survival.

P=0.96 for the comparison between patients assigned to receive albumin and those assigned to receive saline.

Only difference:

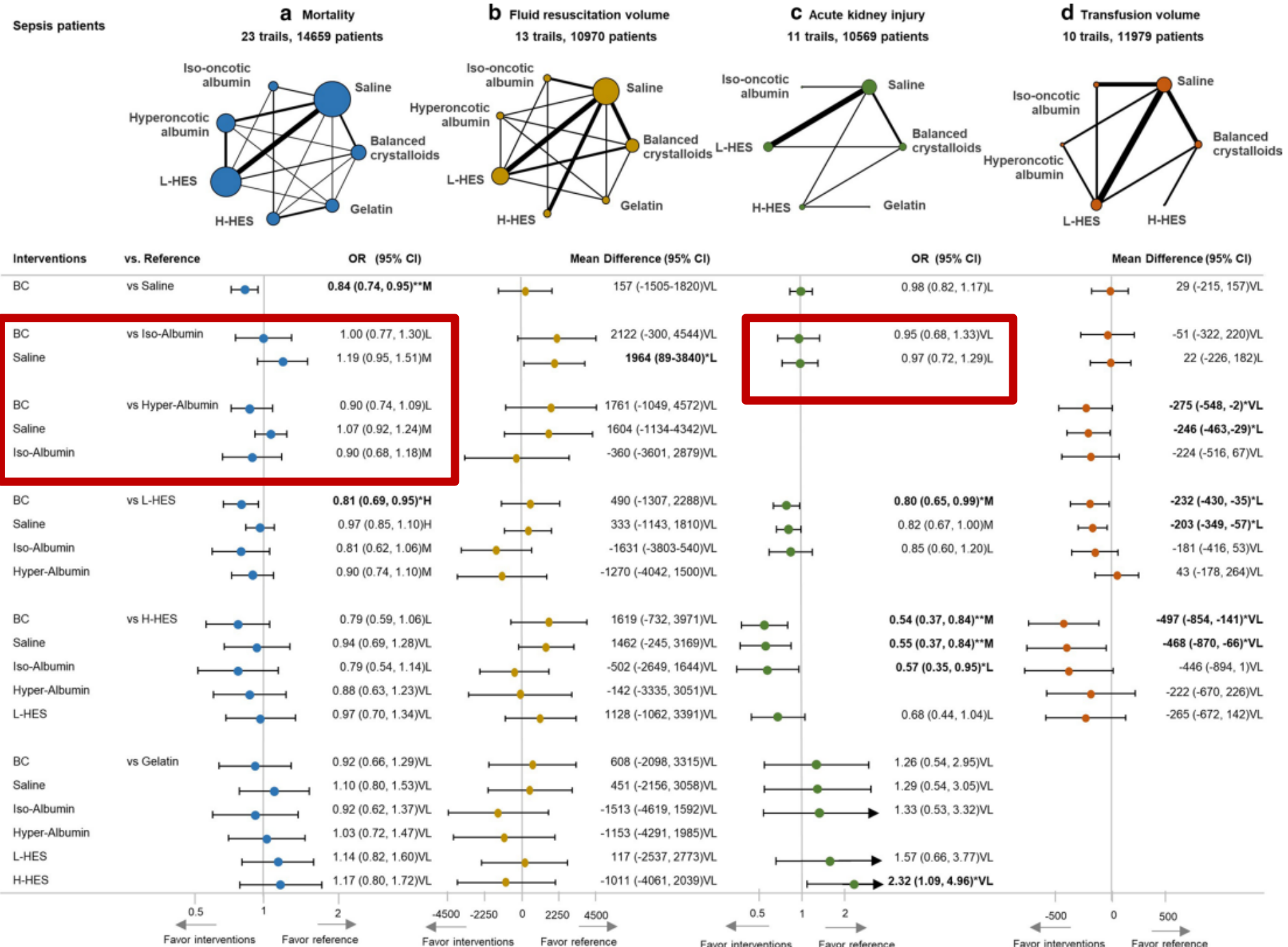
More transfusions
In albumin group

Harm in traumatic brain injury

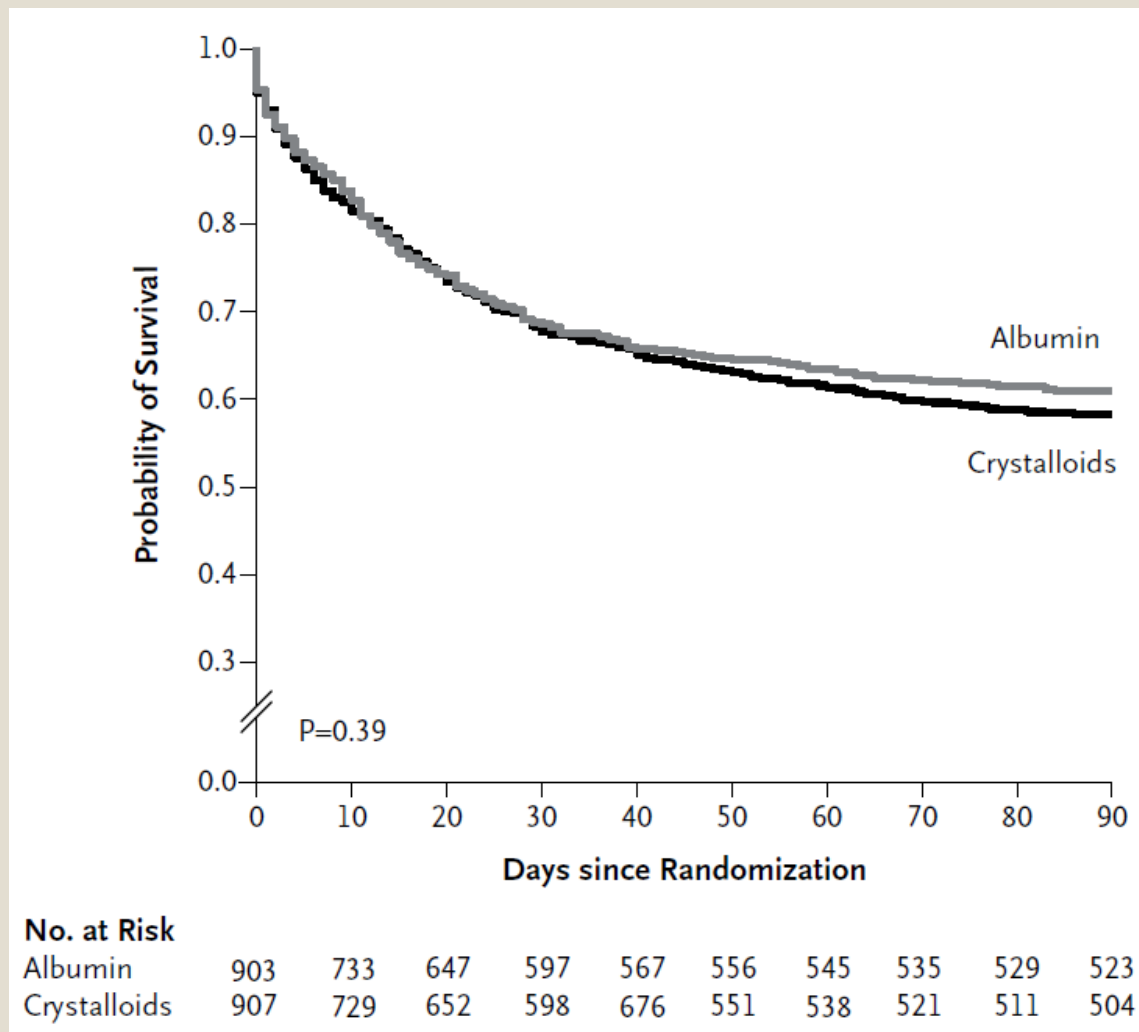


Sepsis

Tseng *et al. Crit Care* (2020) 24:693
<https://doi.org/10.1186/s13054-020-03419-y>



ALBIOS



Twitter

↳ You Retweeted



Bram Rochweg ✓
@Bram_Rochweg

I've stopped prescribing it to critically ill patients.

Other than confirmed SBP and follow-up paracentesis there's really no evidence of benefit compared to crystalloid, not to mention cost and resources.

[#ChoosingWisely](#)

10:06 AM · Oct 26, 2021 · Twitter Web App



NISHANTH BALIGA @BaligaNishanth · Oct 26

Replying to @Bram_Rochweg

What about albumin as a resuscitation fluid instead of large volume crystalloids

1



Bram Rochweg ✓ @Bram_Rochweg
I've stopped. I'm not convinced of the cost.



Show



Michelle
Replying to @Bram_Rochweg
What about albumin? I've prescribed it in the past. Even positive results.

1



Bram Rochweg
We have setting b



Oliver Karam, MD PhD @DrOliverKaram · Nov 5

Replying to @Bram_Rochweg

Smart move! I can't tell you how frustrated I am when I hear Albumin was given overnight, to increase urine output...



1



Emma Watson @EmWat650 · Oct 27

Replying to @Bram_Rochweg and @HaldenHB

Wow, that's big since my experience in Canada was that albumin is 'first line' in ICU (unlike the U.K. where it's only used for specific reasons). Not only is it expensive, it's a blood product so carries risk. It's evidence based in Hepatorenal syndrome too



3



Marcelo Zapata-Canivilo, MD. @marcelo_zapata · Oct 26

Replying to @Bram_Rochweg

Even for SBP the evidence is bad



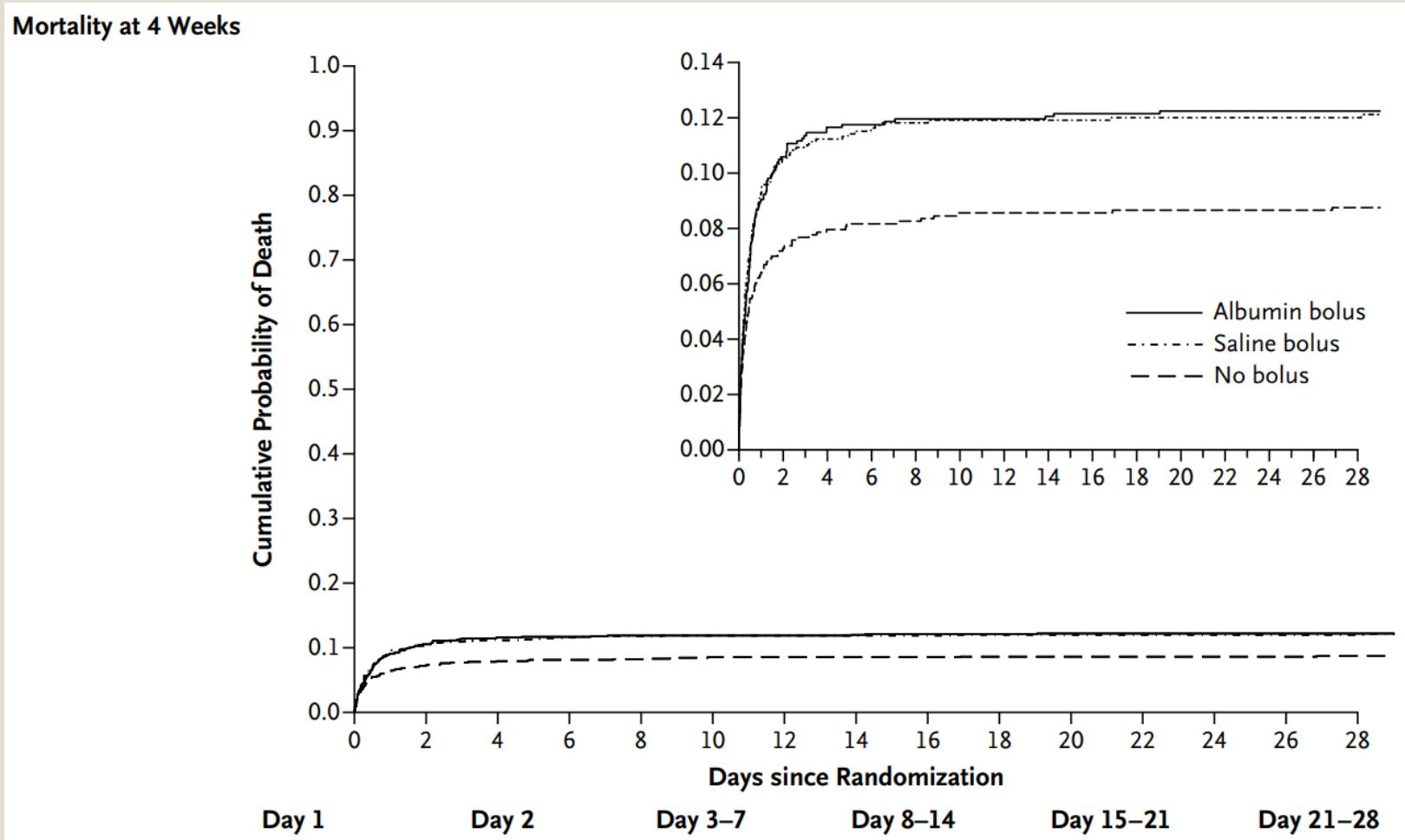
1



The Sandwich for edema

- Meta-analysis
- 10 Studies
- Increases urine output and sodium excretion at 8 hours...but difference gone at 24 hours
- No other important effects
- Conclusion: large RCTs would be needed to test this hypothesis

Recommendation 4: In pediatric patients with infection and hypoperfusion, intravenous albumin is not recommended to reduce mortality (strong recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence).



FEAST RCT

3141 children

Sepsis

N Engl J Med 2011;364:2483-95.

Recommendation 7: In patients undergoing kidney replacement therapy, intravenous albumin is not suggested for prevention or treatment of intradialytic hypotension or for improving ultrafiltration (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence).

- 3 trials involving 65 patients = no improvement in ultrafiltration
- Single RCT of 65 patients with hypoalbuminemia requiring hemodialysis
 - Less hypotension and improved ultrafiltration rate when 25% albumin was compared to saline

Knoll GA et al. J Am Soc Nephrol. 2004;15(2):487-92.

Rostoker G, et al. J Nephrol. 2011;24(2):208-17.

van der Sande FM, et al. J Am Soc Nephrol. 1999;10(6):1303-8.

Macedo E, et al. Crit Care. 2021;25(1):18.

Recommendation 8: In adult patients undergoing cardiovascular surgery, intravenous albumin is not suggested for priming the cardiovascular bypass circuit or volume replacement (conditional recommendation, moderate certainty of evidence of effect).

Recommendation 9: In pediatric patients undergoing cardiovascular surgery, intravenous albumin is not suggested for priming the cardiovascular bypass circuit or volume replacement (conditional recommendation, very low certainty of evidence of effect).

Systematic Review

Cardiac Surgery

Adults and Kids

Albumin vs other fluid

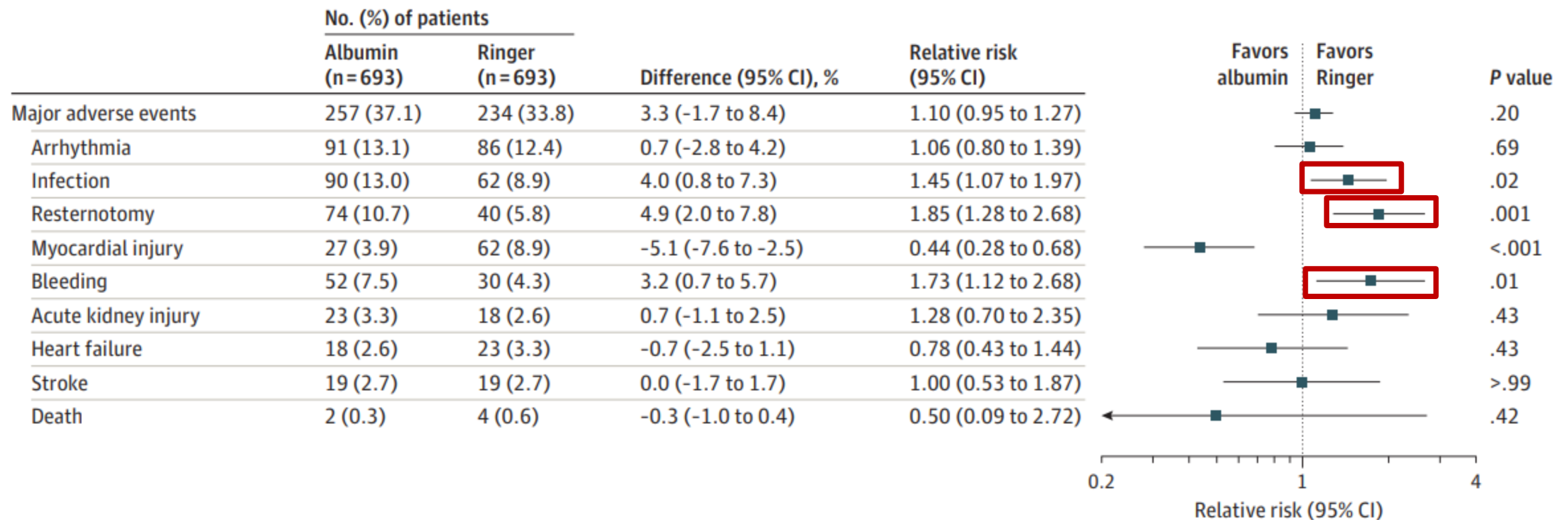
Either pump prime or for
hemodynamic support

No difference in:

- Mortality
- Renal failure
- Length of stay in ICU
- Length of stay in hospital
- Blood loss
- Transfusion
- Cardiac index

ALBICS Study

Figure 2. Primary Composite Outcome of Major Adverse Events After Cardiac Surgery



Myocardial injury = elevated CK-MB 10x ULN on day 1 post-op
 No differences in other cardiac events

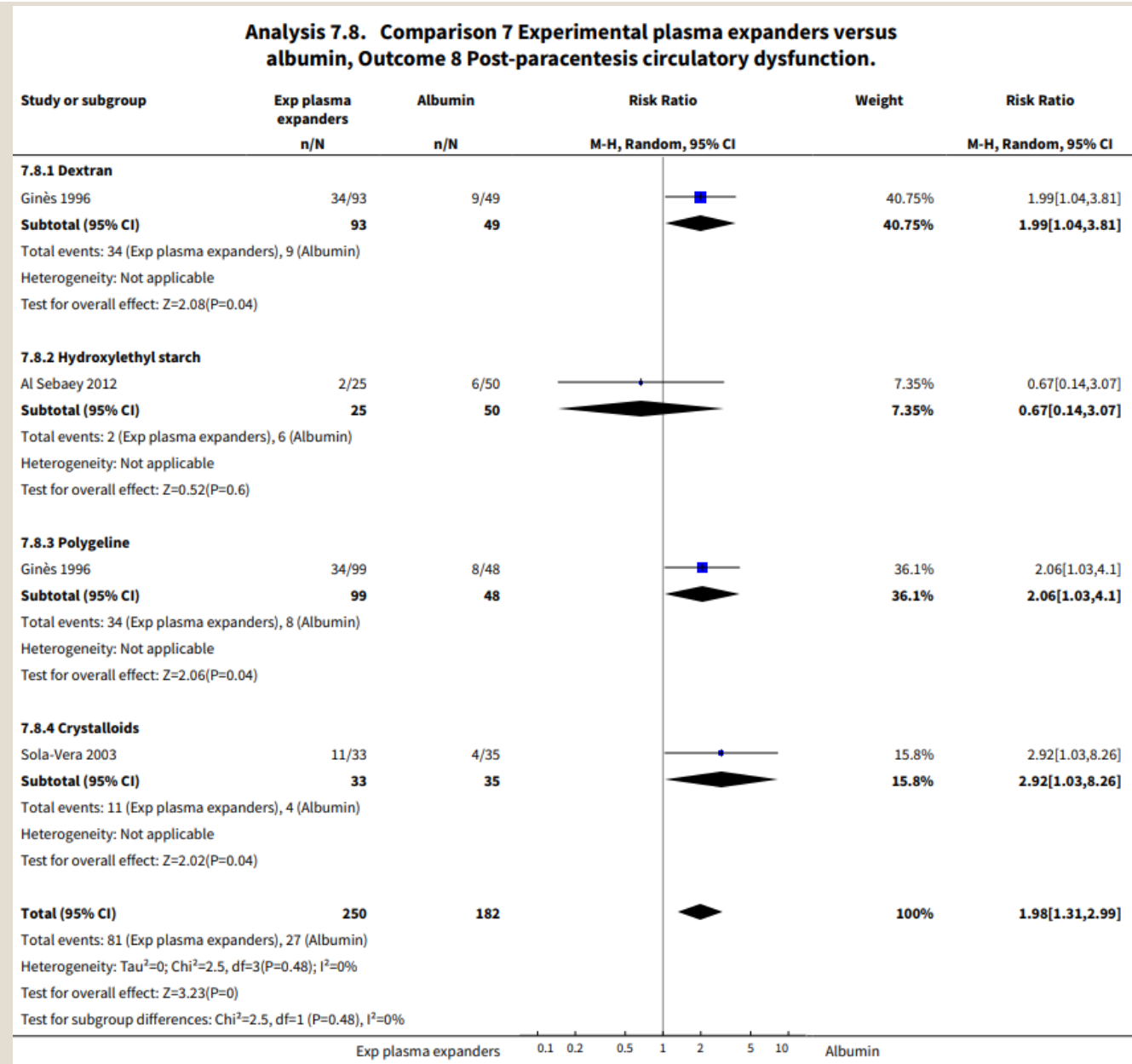
Recommendation 10: In patients with cirrhosis and ascites undergoing large volume paracentesis, intravenous albumin is suggested to prevent paracentesis-induced circulatory dysfunction (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence).

Recommendation 11: In patients with cirrhosis and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis, intravenous albumin is suggested to reduce mortality (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence).

Recommendation 12: In hospitalized decompensated cirrhotic patients with hypoalbuminemia (<30 g/L), repeated intravenous albumin to increase albumin levels >30 g/L is not suggested to reduce infection, renal dysfunction or death (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence).

Recommendation 13: In outpatients with cirrhosis and uncomplicated ascites despite diuretic therapy, intravenous albumin is not suggested (conditional recommendation, low certainty of evidence).

Large volume
Paracentesis
> 5 L



Trial	Mortality				Odds ratio (CI)	Wgt. (%)
	Albumin		Control			
	Event	Total	Event	Total		
Sort et al, 1999 ¹¹	14	63	26	63	0.41 (0.19–0.88)	54.6
Xue et al, 2002 ¹⁷	5	56	17	56	0.22 (0.08–0.66)	28.2
Fernández et al, 2005 ¹⁸	0	10	2	10	0.16 (0.01–3.85)	3.3
Chen et al, 2009 ¹⁹	4	15	6	15	0.55 (0.12–2.55)	13.9
Total	23	144	51	144	0.34 (0.19–0.60)	100.0

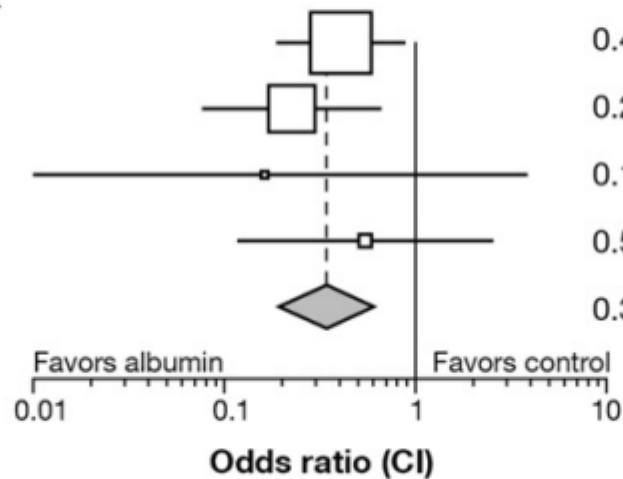


Figure 3. Mortality. CI is shown by *error bars*. Data points for individual trials scaled according to meta-analytic weight.

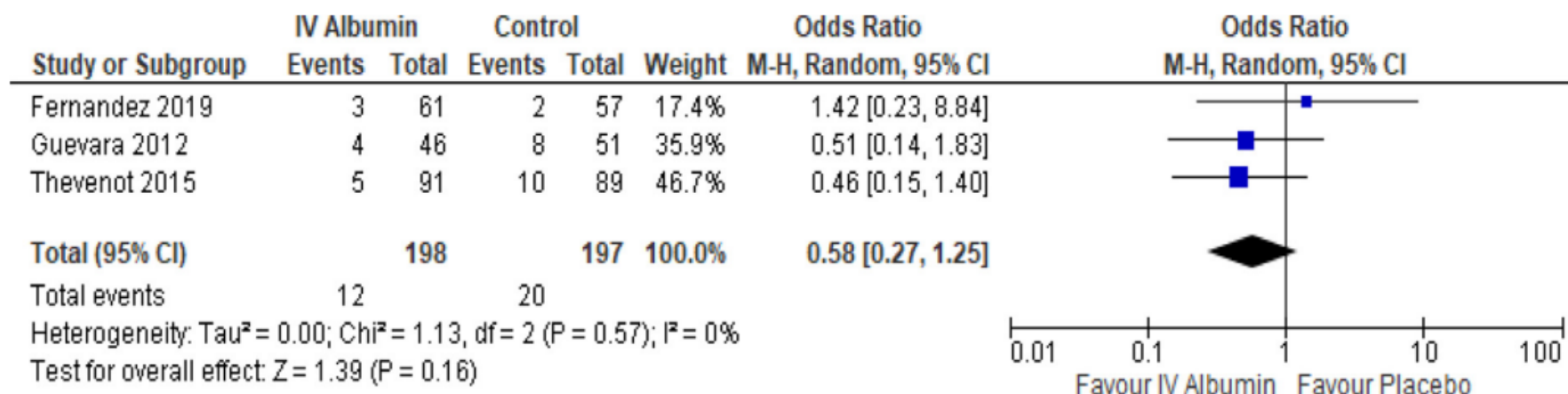


Fig. 1. IV albumin and renal impairment among cirrhosis with non-SBP infection

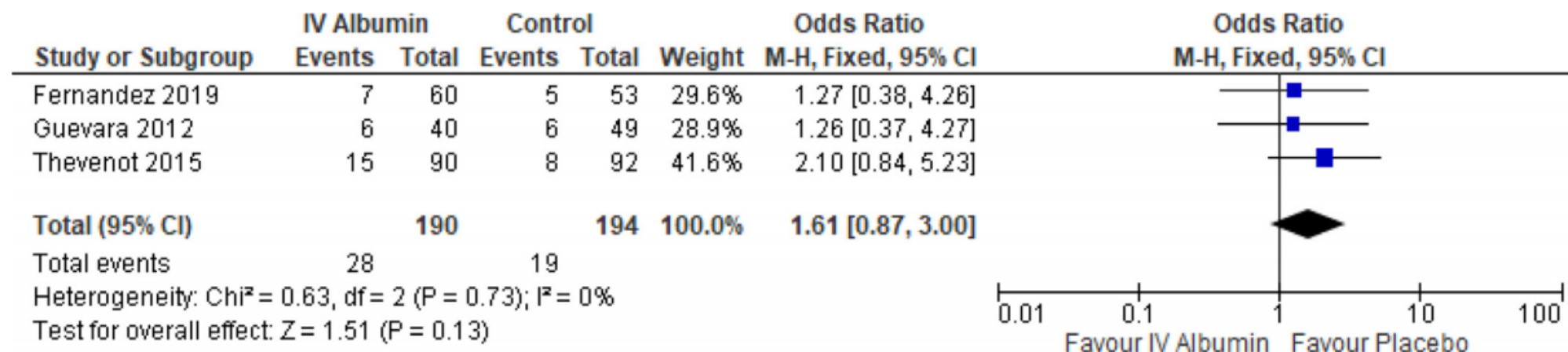


Fig. 2. IV albumin and 30-days mortality among cirrhosis with non-SBP infection

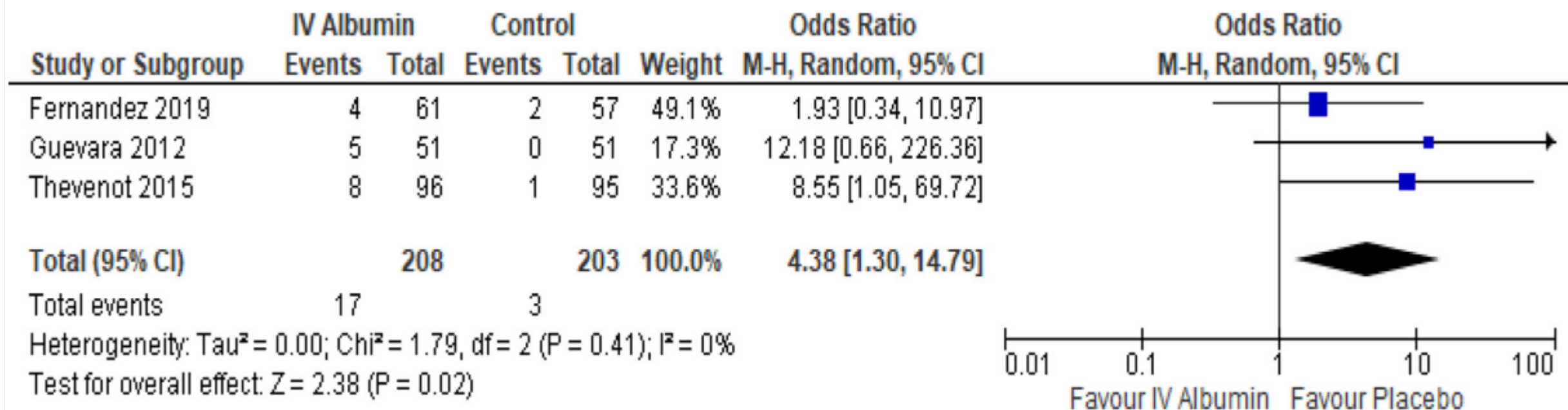


Fig. 4. Pulmonary edema among cirrhosis with non-SBP infection

ATTIRE Study (n=777)

Cirrhosis, inpatient, hypoalbuminemia (<30), 200 g (=8 bottles)

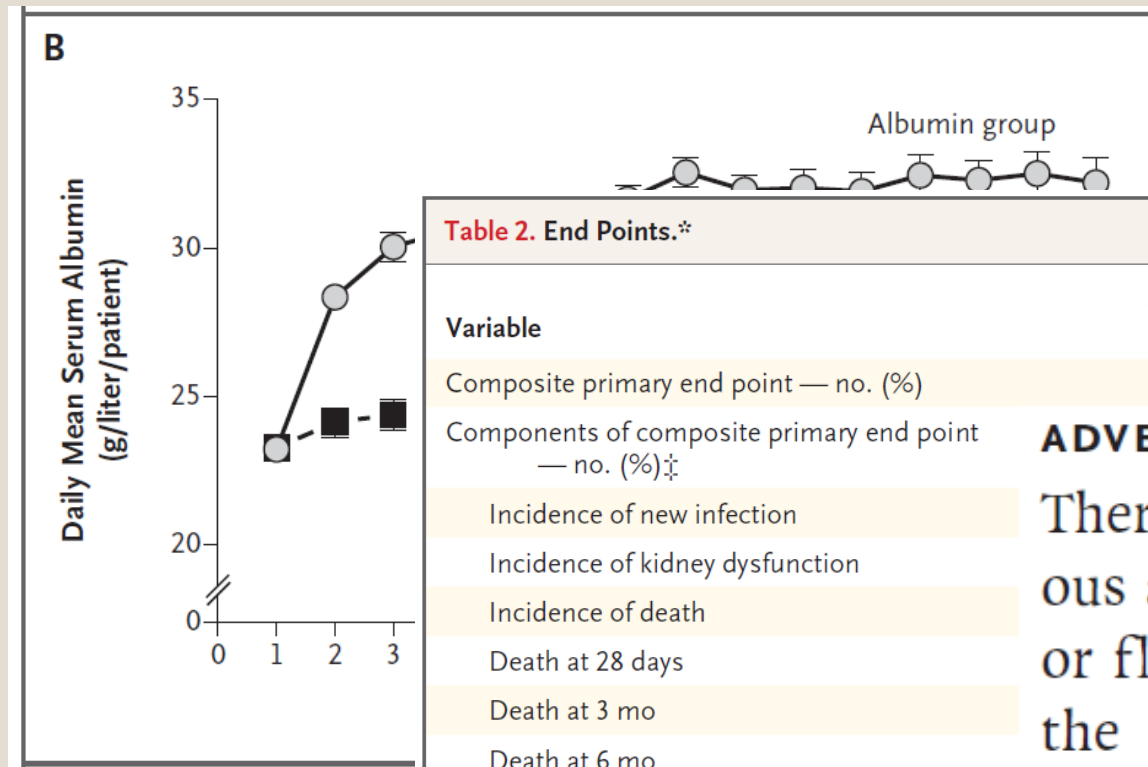


Table 2. End Points.*

Variable	Albumin Group (N = 380)	Standard-Care Group (N = 397)	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% CI) [†]	P Value
Composite primary end point — no. (%)	113 (29.7)	120 (30.2)	0.98 (0.71–1.33)	0.87
Components of composite primary end point — no. (%) [‡]				
Incidence of new infection				
Incidence of kidney dysfunction				
Incidence of death				
Death at 28 days				
Death at 3 mo				
Death at 6 mo				
Total median albumin infused per patient (IQR)				

ADVERSE EVENTS

There were more severe or life-threatening serious adverse events, especially pulmonary edema or fluid overload, in the albumin group than in the standard-care group (Table 3). Additional details are provided in Tables S9 and S10.

Question

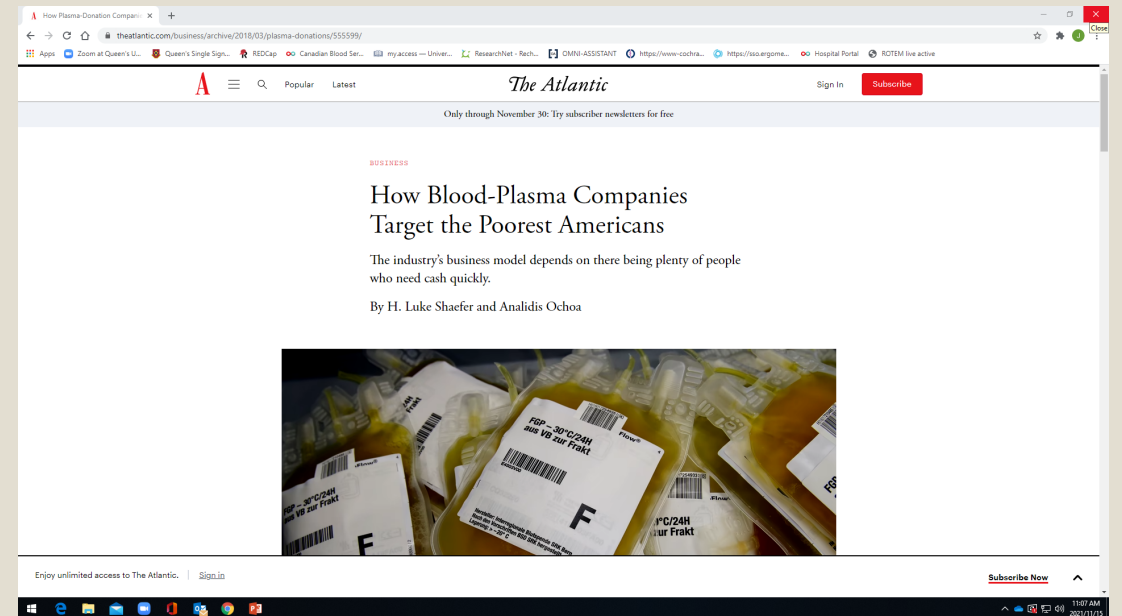
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 - B. Patient intraoperative undergoing a hip replacement surgery
 - C. Patient post cardiac surgery with active bleeding from chest tubes
 - D. Patient with cirrhosis admitted with spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - E. Patient undergoing large volume paracentesis for ovarian cancer



ADVERSE CONSEQUENCES

Risks

- Heart failure
- More bleeding (dilution of coagulation factors?)
- More RBC transfusions (dilution vs. bleeding?)
- More infections (dilution of immunoglobulins?)
- Anaphylaxis (antibodies to plasma proteins)
- Peripheral gangrene (dilution of anticoagulants?)
- Risks to the plasma donor (and ethical issues)

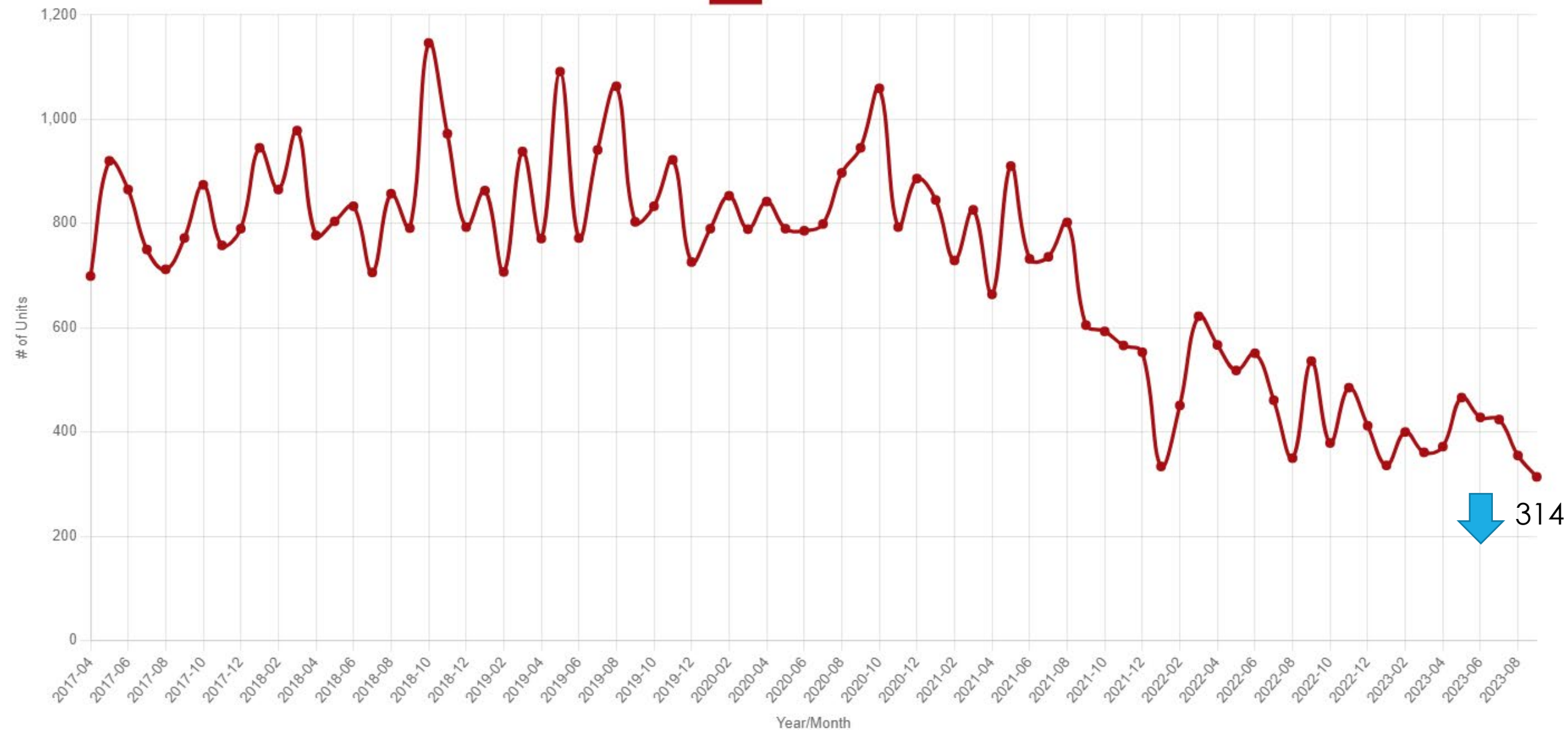




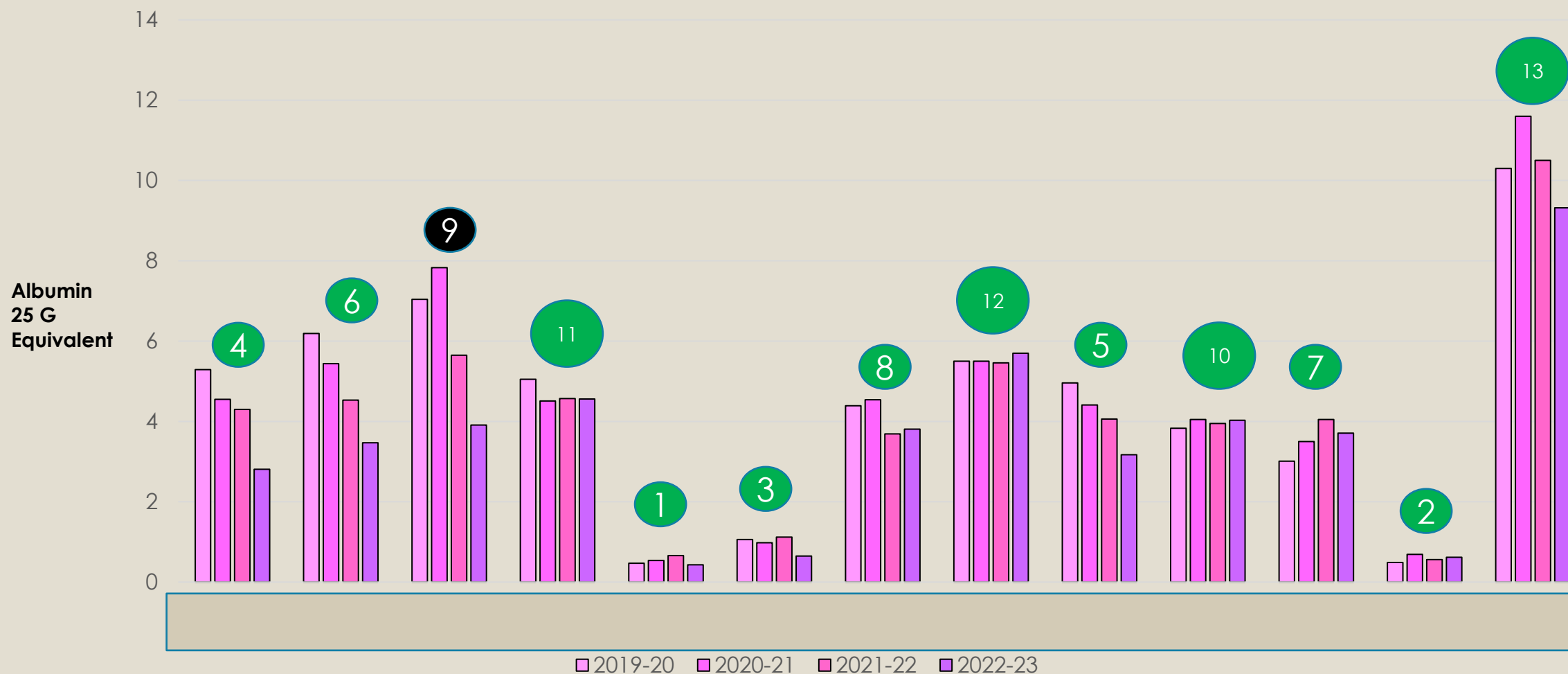
CHANGE IS HAPPENING

Maybe not everywhere

Plasma Protein and Related Products, Transfused

 Transfused

Albumin (25G Eq) Per 100 AIP Days for Ontario Teaching Hospitals



Summary

- There are only a few evidence-based indications
 - Large volume paracentesis and spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
 - Maybe for refractory sepsis not responding to crystalloids and inotropes as a rare rescue treatment
 - Sparingly during and after cardiac surgery (harm) – and probably any bleeding patient
 - Never with traumatic brain injury
- There are risks
- We are changing how we use albumin in Ontario
 - Bring this back to your hospital
 - Ask why your patient has been ordered albumin
 - Report complications of albumin to Health Canada

Questions welcome

1. Know why your patient is getting albumin
2. Find out if the order is aligned with the guidelines
3. Know the complications of albumin
4. Never waste a bottle of albumin
5. Report complications to your blood bank



INTRAVENOUS ALBUMIN:

giving it for the right reason and the right way

Pre-Transfusion Knowledge Question 1

Jackie is a 65- year- old female undergoing large volume paracentesis today, due to ascites 7 liters of fluid to be removed. Her physician has also ordered Albumin 5% 200ml IV, infuse over 2.5 hours (80/ml/hour)

Jackie's nurse should (select all that apply)

- a) Review the albumin monograph for guidance.
- b) Call the physician to confirm the product (5% vs 25% albumin)
- c) Send blood work for group and screen
- d) Start IV of Ringers lactate TKVO

Outline



Indications and Benefits: Understand when and why intravenous albumin is used and its therapeutic benefits in clinical practice.



Safe Administration: Learn the proper procedures for administering albumin, ensuring patient safety and minimizing risks.



Effective Documentation: Emphasize accurate documentation and interprofessional communication when using intravenous albumin as part of patient care.

Improving patient outcomes and safety

Identify indications for albumin use.

Understand the mechanism of action and therapeutic effect of albumin

Recognize possible adverse events associated with administration of albumin

Storage and Transportation

Dosing and Administration

Monitoring

Nurse must feel comfortable reviewing the proper use of albumin with the interprofessional team to improve patient outcomes and safety.

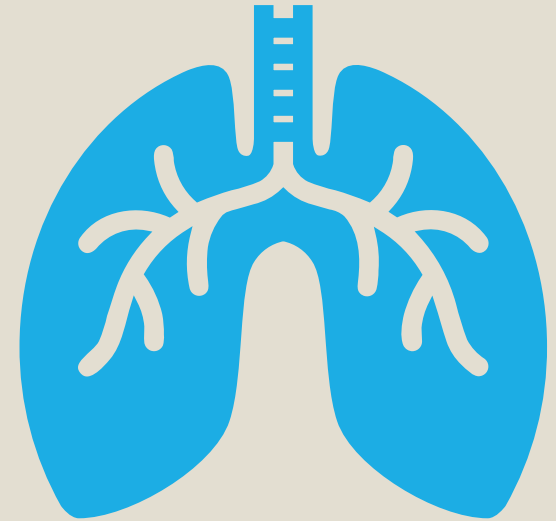
Percentages of Albumin

5% Albumin

1. Plasma Exchange
2. Thermal injury (burns) involving $> 50\%$ total body surface area, if unresponsive to crystalloid (only after transfer to specialized burn centre).

25% Albumin

1. Liver failure patients with ascites undergoing large volume paracentesis
2. In conjunction with specific medications in Type 1 hepatorenal syndrome



Dosage

Intravascular volume response

500ml of 5% albumin=25 grams of albumin and will give you **500ml** increase in intravascular volume

100ml of 25% albumin =25 grams of albumin and will give you **450ml** increase in intravascular volume.

Administering 25% albumin instead of 5% in error could result in circulatory overload!

Giving Albumin: Indications

***See albumin
clinical practice
recommendations***

Gastrointestinal Indications: Large Volume paracentesis in patients with cirrhosis

1. Paracentesis – for large volume paracentesis albumin should be considered as the fluid of choice.

Volume of Ascites	=	25% Albumin volume
<5L	–	albumin is not necessary
5-6 L	=	100ml of albumin 25%
6-8 L	=	200ml of albumin 25 %
>8 L	=	300ml of albumin 25%

2. Spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
3. Hepatorenal syndrome – use of intravenous albumin alone is ineffective for hepatorenal syndrome.
4. Therapeutic Plasma Exchange +/- crystalloid with some exceptions.

1. Hypovolemia with or without shock- second line therapy. Albumin is not superior to crystalloid for resuscitation in critical care.
2. Thermal injury involving >50% total body surface area, if unresponsive to crystalloid. Intravenous albumin should only be commenced after transfer or consult with a specialized burn unit.
3. Cardiopulmonary bypass: There is no evidence to support the use of albumin, as compared to crystalloid, for
 - a) Priming fluid for cardiopulmonary bypass
 - b) Post-cardiopulmonary bypass
4. Hypotension during hemodialysis
5. Acute lung injury

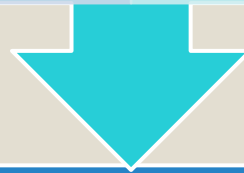
Giving
Albumin:
current
medical
literature does
not support.

Mechanism of Action

Albumin has two essential physiological functions

Contributes to colloid osmotic pressure

Transporting vitamins, enzymes, and hormones throughout your body.



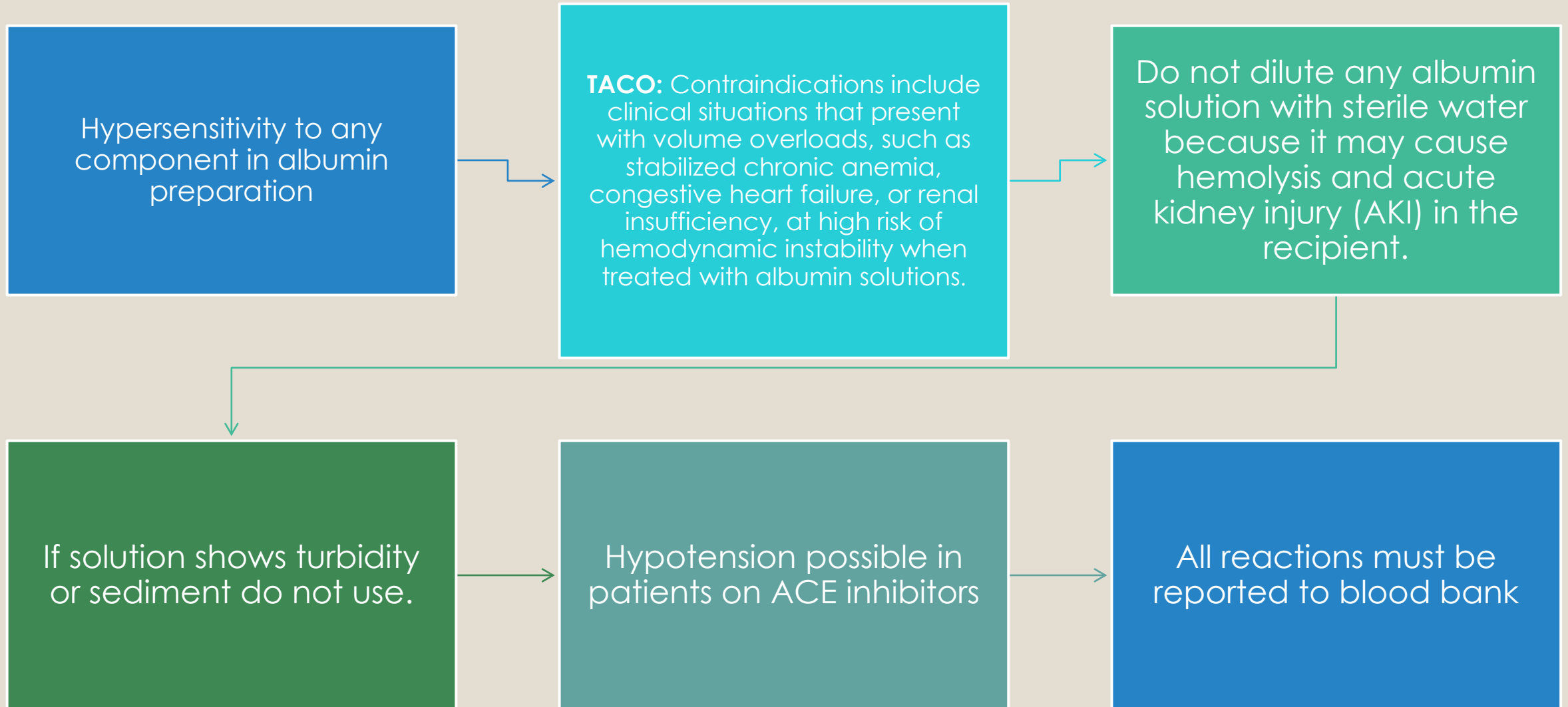
The principle mechanism of action of albumin infusion is to increase the colloid osmotic pressure . Driving the interstitial fluid into the intravascular compartment and increasing the effective volume of the circulatory system.



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

Nurse must feel comfortable reviewing the proper use of albumin with the interprofessional team to improve patient outcomes and safety.

Contraindications



Adverse Events



Fever



Chills



Tachycardia



Nausea



Vomiting



Hypotension



Edema and **fluid overload** are common adverse effects, depending on the volume, speed of infusion, and the clinical scenario.



Since albumin is human derived blood product, adverse effects are rare.

Storage and Transportation

- Availability from the blood bank
- Albumin is stored at room temperature – not to exceed 30degrees Celsius
- Shelf life is two to five years- exp date on each package
- Blood products in glass bottles such as albumin do not require blood tubing and filter. Vented tubing is required for infusions directly from glass bottles.

Do not administer if:

1. Solution is frozen
2. Solution is turbid
3. Vials are damaged
4. Particulate material (glass or cork) is visible within the solution.

What to consider before administering albumin

- Identified indication on patient care order set
- The concentration of the albumin preparation
- Adverse reactions or intolerances
- Albumin is a blood product. Written informed consent is required.
- Must be administered by IV infusion
- Vented IV tubing must be used; a filter is not required
- Compatible with all IV fluids: the choice of which solution to use depends whether the patient requires a higher colloid osmotic activity.
- The infusion rate of 5% albumin should not exceed 5ml/min and the infusion rate for 25% albumin should not exceed 2ml/min. Must be specified by a physician and adjusted to individual patient requirements.
- It must be used within 4 hours of opening
- Record lot number, expiration date and volume of albumin administered in patient record.
- Vitals and monitoring: vital required pretransfusion, at 15 minutes, at the end of transfusion, and at any reaction.



Patient care order set

Kingston Health Sciences Centre
Centre des sciences de la santé de Kingston

Unit Number: 0016016
Patient's SURNAME, FIRST NAME: BEAR, FUZZY
FAMILY DOCTOR: PITCHER, DOCTOR
Date of Birth: YYYYMMDD: 2021-04-21
AGE: 27 years old
SEX: FEMALE

Patient Care Order Set
Review Due Date: 2024 August

UNIT COPY

Intravenous Albumin Order Set

Weight: _____ kg

Adverse Reactions or Intolerances

Drug ☒ No ☐ Yes (list) _____
Food ☒ No ☐ Yes (list) _____
Latex ☒ No ☐ Yes _____

Identified Indication

CAUTION: Each 100 mL of 25% albumin equals 500 mL intravascular volume expansion
Each dose of 500 mL of 5% albumin or 100 mL of 25% albumin costs approximately \$75
For apheresis-related albumin orders, use Therapeutic Plasma Exchange (TPE) Order Set
☒ Written informed consent obtained from the patient or their surrogate decision maker
☒ Indication for intravenous albumin
Large Volume Paracentesis with Cirrhosis

OR
Other and reason: _____

Vitals/Monitoring

☒ Temperature, HR, RR, BP, SpO₂ prior to initiation of infusion
THEN 15 minutes after initiation
AND at completion of infusion
☒ Temperature, HR, RR, BP, SpO₂ PRN for signs or symptoms of a reaction (urticarial rash, pruritus, hypotension, hypoxia, or stridor)

Gastrointestinal Indications

☒ If large volume paracentesis (greater than 5 L) in patients with cirrhosis
☒ Infuse 25% albumin IV 200 mL for 6 to 8 liters drained _____ once

If suspected hepatorenal syndrome (for diagnostic dose to rule out pre-renal failure)
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ once day 1

THEN
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ once day 2

If confirmed hepatorenal syndrome with vasopressor agent (treatment order after failure of the diagnostic dose above)
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ q24 h for 7 days

If spontaneous bacterial peritonitis
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ once for 1 day

THEN
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ once 48 hours after first dose

Submitted by: _____ YYYY-MM-DD HH:MM

Pharmacy Use Only:
Reviewed By: _____
Entered By: _____

Kingston Health Sciences Centre
Centre des sciences de la santé de Kingston

Unit Number: 0016016
Patient's SURNAME, FIRST NAME: BEAR, FUZZY
FAMILY DOCTOR: PITCHER, DOCTOR
Date of Birth: YYYYMMDD: 2021-04-21
AGE: 27 years old
SEX: FEMALE

Patient Care Order Set
Review Due Date: 2024 August

UNIT COPY

Intravenous Albumin Order Set

Kidney Indications

If recurrent intradialytic hypotension (after failure of adjustment of dry weight and blood pressure management, use of cool dialysate, and addition of midoprine)
Infuse 25% albumin IV 100 mL, once for patients receiving intermittent hemodialysis or continuous low efficiency dialysis (CLED).
OR
Infuse 25% albumin IV 100 mL, q12h for _____ days (maximum 3 days) for patients receiving continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT).

Critical Illness Indications

If septic shock with hypotension not responding to crystalloids and inotropes
Infuse 25% albumin IV 300 mL, once on day 1 _____ (signature)
THEN
Infuse 25% albumin IV 100 mL, q12h for a total of 4 doses beginning on day 2 _____ (signature)

Cardiac Surgery Indications

If hypotension due to hypovolemia unresponsive to crystalloids (greater than 3 L) and inotropes
Infuse 5% albumin 250 mL IV _____

Hepatobiliary Surgery Indications

If post liver surgery with transudative ascites (greater than 3 L per day; albumin level less than 25 g/L; refractory and worsening ascites)
Infuse 25% albumin IV _____ liters of fluid removed (maximum 300 mL, or approximately 25 mL per L removed)
Severe interstitial fluid overload in the presence of poor urine output and albumin 25 g/L or less
Infuse 25% albumin IV 150 mL, q12h for 24 hours (300 mL of 25% albumin total)

Other Indications

Other indication must be documented at the top of the order set
Infuse 5% albumin IV _____ mL, once
OR
Infuse 25% albumin IV 100 mL, q _____ h for 24 hours

Rate of Infusion

☒ Infuse each vial of 25% albumin IV 100 mL over 15-30 minutes
Rate should not exceed 1-2 mL/minute
Infuse each vial of 5% albumin IV 250 mL over _____ minutes
Rate should not exceed 1-2 mL/minute

Submitted by: _____ PRINTED NAME: YYYYMMDD HH:MM
Prescriber: Jearnie Caffum, MD 2023-06-02 12:21 Electronically Verified
PRINTED NAME: YYYYMMDD HH:MM SIGNATURE

thinkresearch



TIPS AND TRICKS

Hanging Albumin

Post-Transfusion Knowledge Question 1

Jackie is a 65- year- old female undergoing large volume paracentesis today, due to ascites 7 liters of fluid to be removed. Her physician has also ordered Albumin 5% 200ml IV, infuse over 2.5 hours (80/ml/hour)

Jackie's nurse should (select all that apply)

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