

Prognostic Value of FGF23 among patients with End-Stage Renal Disease: a systematic review and Meta-Analysis

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Background and Objectives:

Fibroblast growth factor 23 (FGF23) is a circulating peptide that secreted by bone osteocytes and osteoblasts that acts on kidney to regulate phosphate and vitamin D metabolism[1]. Patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) have increased FGF23 concentrations due to phosphate retention and decreased clearance[2]. Prognostic value of FGF23 in ESRD patients is controversial[3-9]. To resolve this uncertainty of FGF23 as a prognostic biomarker, a systematic review was conducted to quantify the association between elevated FGF23 and overall mortality among ESRD patients.

Methods:

MEDLINE, EMBASE, PubMed and article reference lists were searched for relevant studies. The quality of the included studies was evaluated using Newcastle-Ottawa Scale (NOS) checklist. Pooled effects were calculated as hazard ratio (HR) using fixed-effect models and chi-square test was used for heterogeneity testing.

Results:

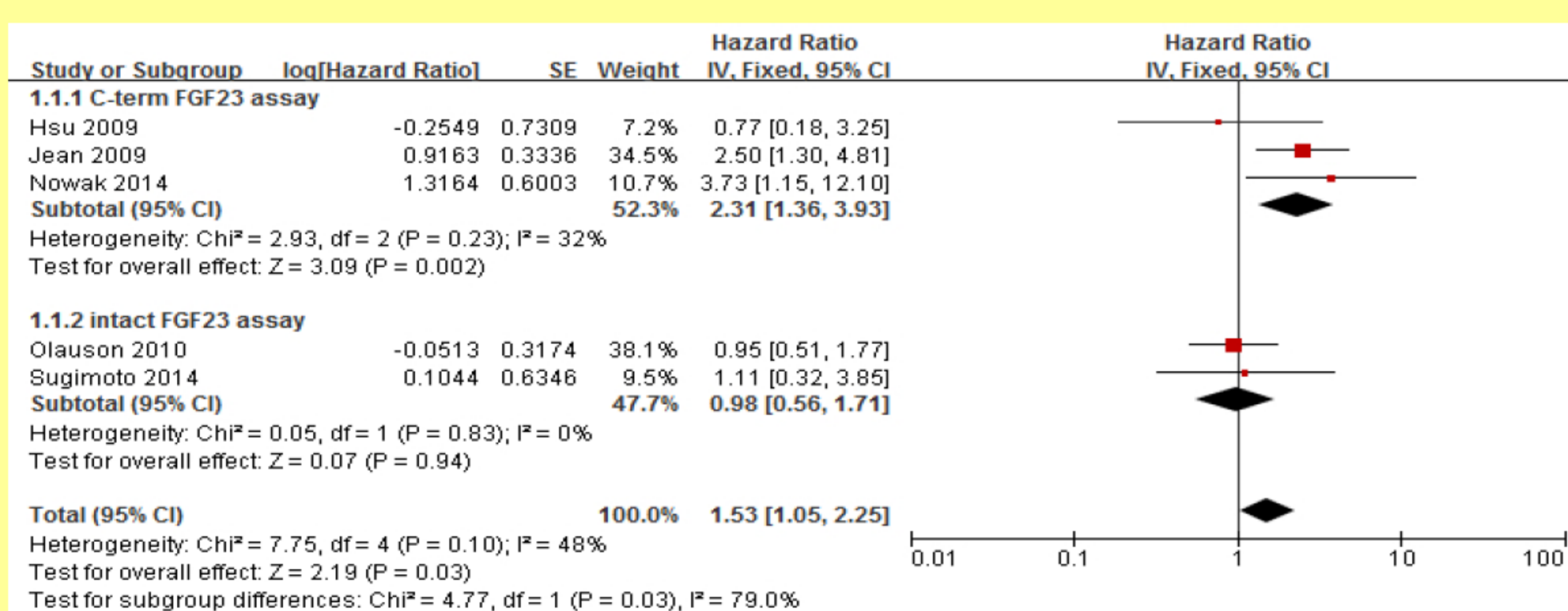


Figure 1. Total HR for the association between FGF23 and all-cause mortality and subgroup analysis in FGF23 assays

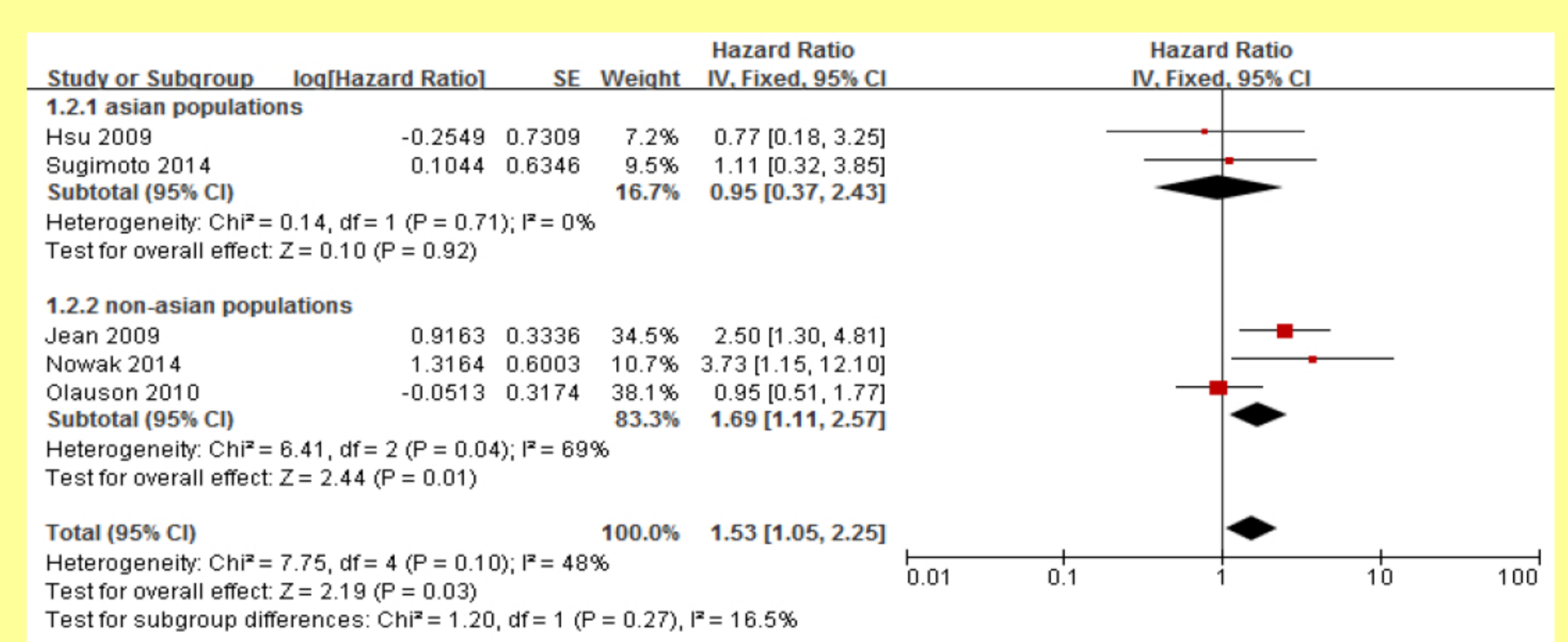


Figure 2. Total HR for the association between FGF23 and all-cause mortality and subgroup analysis of population.

There were 7 included studies[3-9] (1406 patients); 5 studies contributed data. Patients were included with mean age of 62.3 and mean follow-up of 29.4 months. 123(8.7%) of patients were receiving peritoneal dialysis while the rest of them receiving hemodialysis. From the pooled analysis, elevated FGF23 was significantly associated with increased all-cause mortality (HR, 1.53, 95% CI: 1.05-2.25) (Fig1, 2). P value for heterogeneity was at the critical point (P=0.10) with I²=48% in fixed-effect model. The heterogeneity is acceptable.

Subgroup analysis on different FGF23 assays suggest the association between elevated FGF23 level and all-cause mortality was absent in terms of C-term FGF23 assay (HR=0.98, 95%CI: 0.56-1.71), while elevated FGF23 was highly associated with all-cause mortality for intact FGF23 assay (HR=2.31, CI:1.36-3.93) (Fig1). Furthermore, the pooled HR was 0.98 (95%CI: 0.37-2.43) for Asian population and 1.69 (95% CI: 1.11-2.57) for non-Asian population respectively (Fig2). In addition, the exclusion of study on patients of 'incident' hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis strengthen the association between elevated FGF23 and all-cause mortality (HR=2.06, 95% CI: 1.27-3.36) (Fig3).

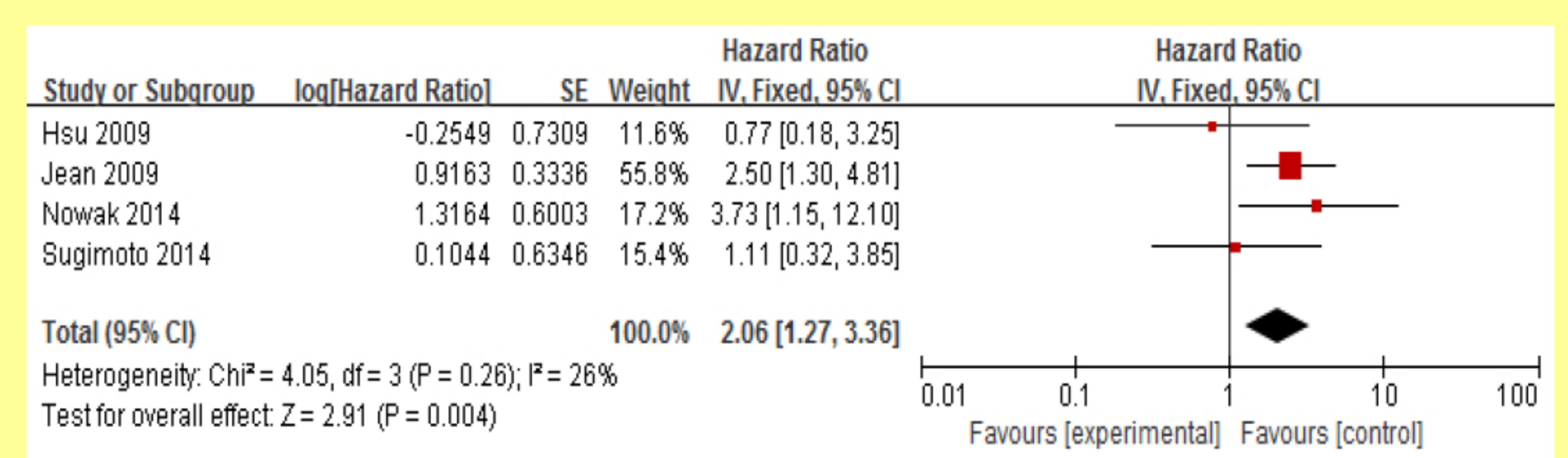


Figure 3. Pooled HR for the association between FGF23 and all-cause mortality when Olauson's study was excluded.

Conclusions:

FGF23 predicts poor prognosis in patients with ESRD. Individuals with elevated FGF23 concentration have high risk of death. This finding suggests that FGF23 may be a promising risk prediction biomarker and may help to guide clinical practice.

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