

PREVALENCE AND IMPACT OF HYPERKALEMIA IN PATIENTS WITH CKD 4-5 NOT ON DIALYSIS. DATA FROM PECERA STUDY

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INTRODUCTION

Hyperkalemia is a common electrolytic abnormality in patients with CKD stage 4. In most cases, nephroprotective medications (RAAS blockers) may be discontinued, abrogating their potential cardio-renal benefits. Potassium binding resins are rarely used because poor tolerance and low compliance.

OBJECTIVE

The aim of the study were: to analyze the prevalence of hyperkalemia, (K> 5.5 mEq/L), its relation to RAAS blockade, changes in RAAS blockade over time and its relation to hospitalizations and mortality in a cohort of CKD 4-5 not on dialysis patients from the PECERA study

PATIENTS & METHODS

PECERA (Proyecto de Estudio Colaborativo en pacientes con Enfermedad Renal crónica Avanzada, Estadios K/DOQI 4-5 no en diálisis) is a prospective, multicentre, observational study of patients with CKD stage 4-5 not on dialysis, who were followed-up for 3 years in the outpatient clinic.

From May 2007 to March 2009 we included 1,022 consecutive patients seen in the outpatient clinics of 11 Nephrology centres from the Valencia Region. After exclusion of non-suitable patients the study consisted of **995 patients** (806 CKD stage 4 – 81%, and 189 stage 5 not on dialysis -19%).

INCLUSION CRITERIA:

- Age > 18 year.
- CKD stage 4-5 not on dialysis (eGFR < 30 ml/min/1.73 m²) by MDRD equation.
- Life expectancy > 1 year
- Patients must be able to give consent.
- A systematic, consecutive sampling of patients was conducted during inclusion period until the desired number was reached.

EXCLUSION CRITERIA :

- Acute renal failure.
- Wasting disease, malignancy, incapacitating disease, or active infection/inflammation.
- Inability to give oral or witnessed informed consent

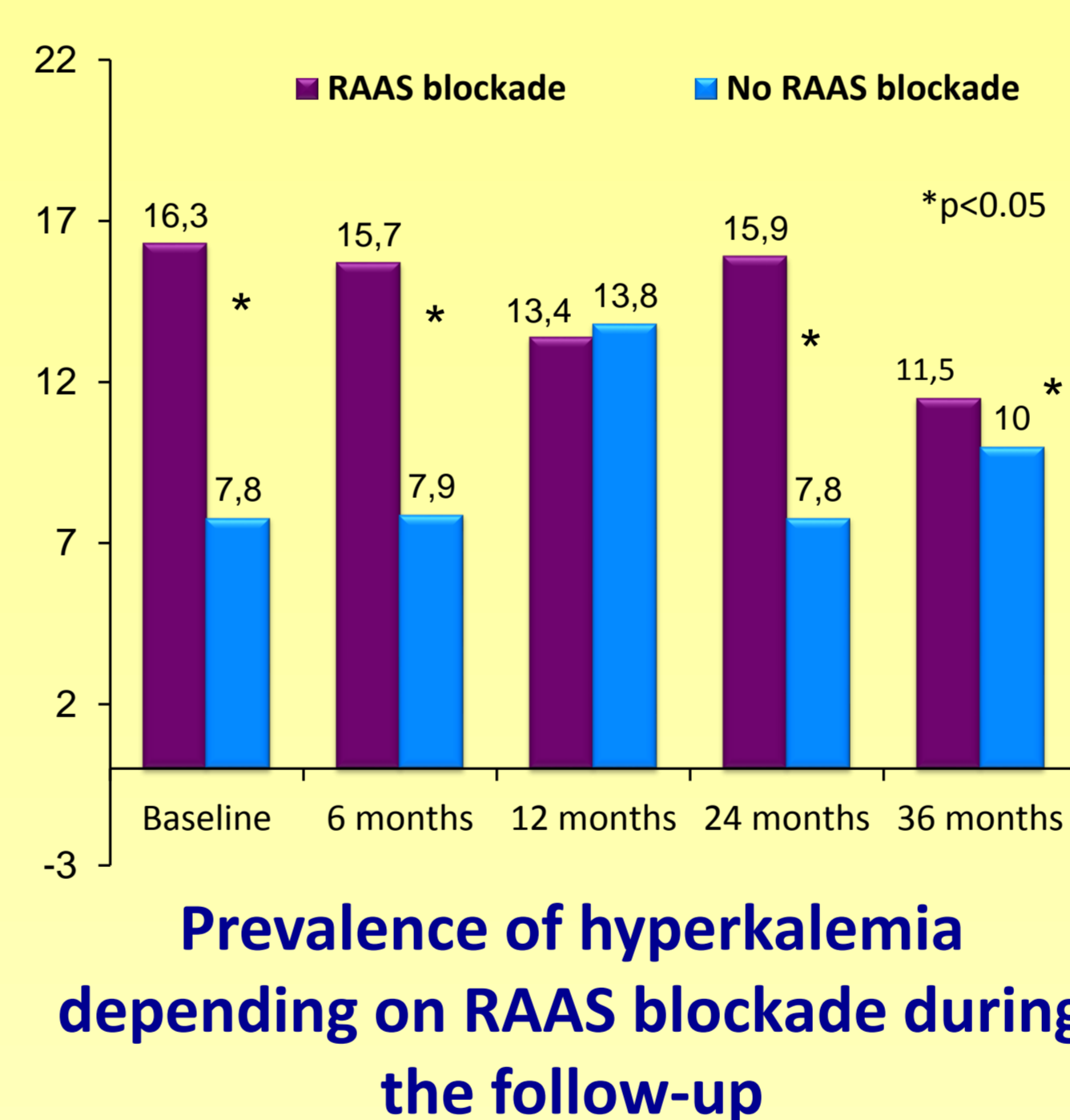
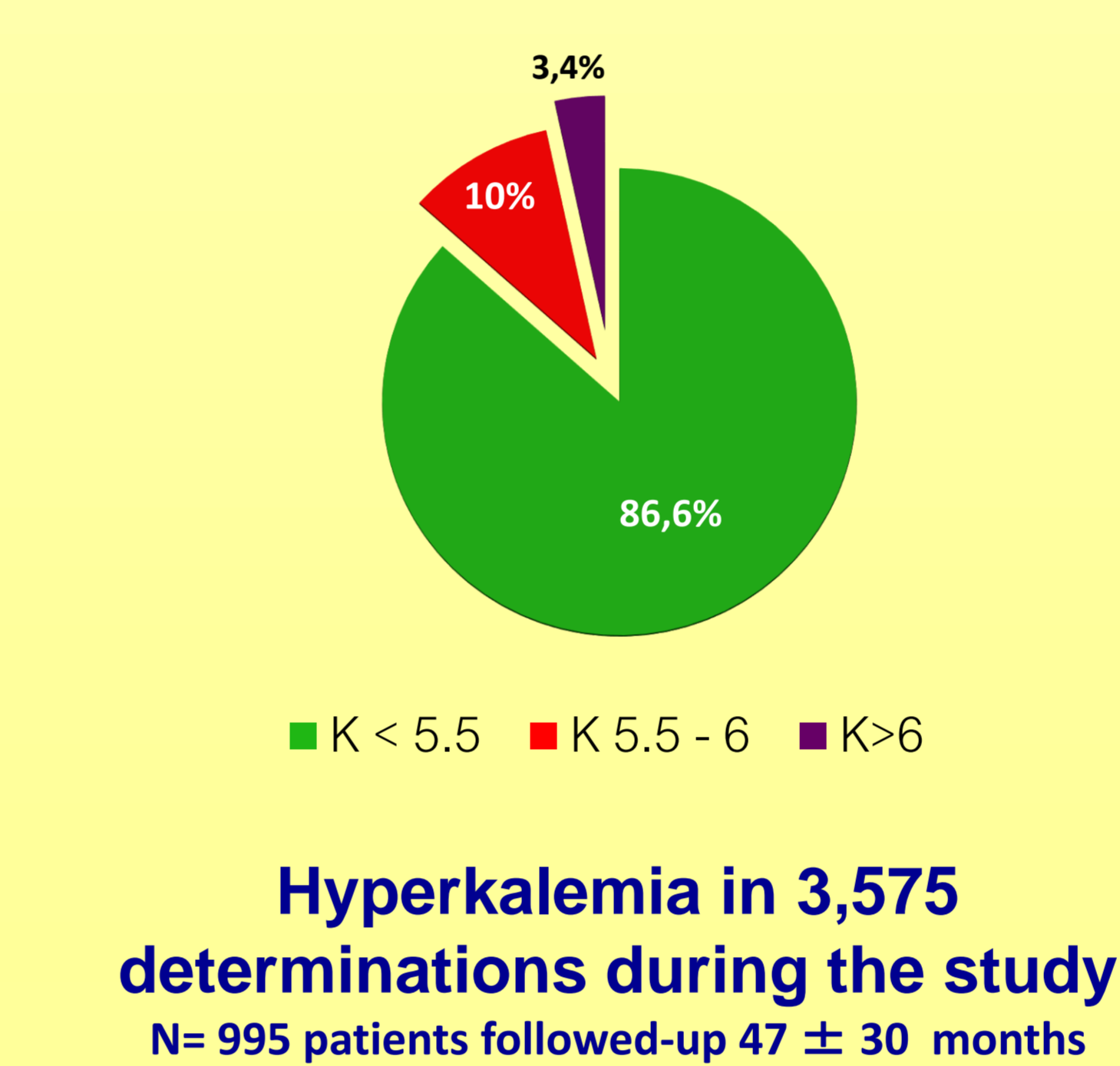
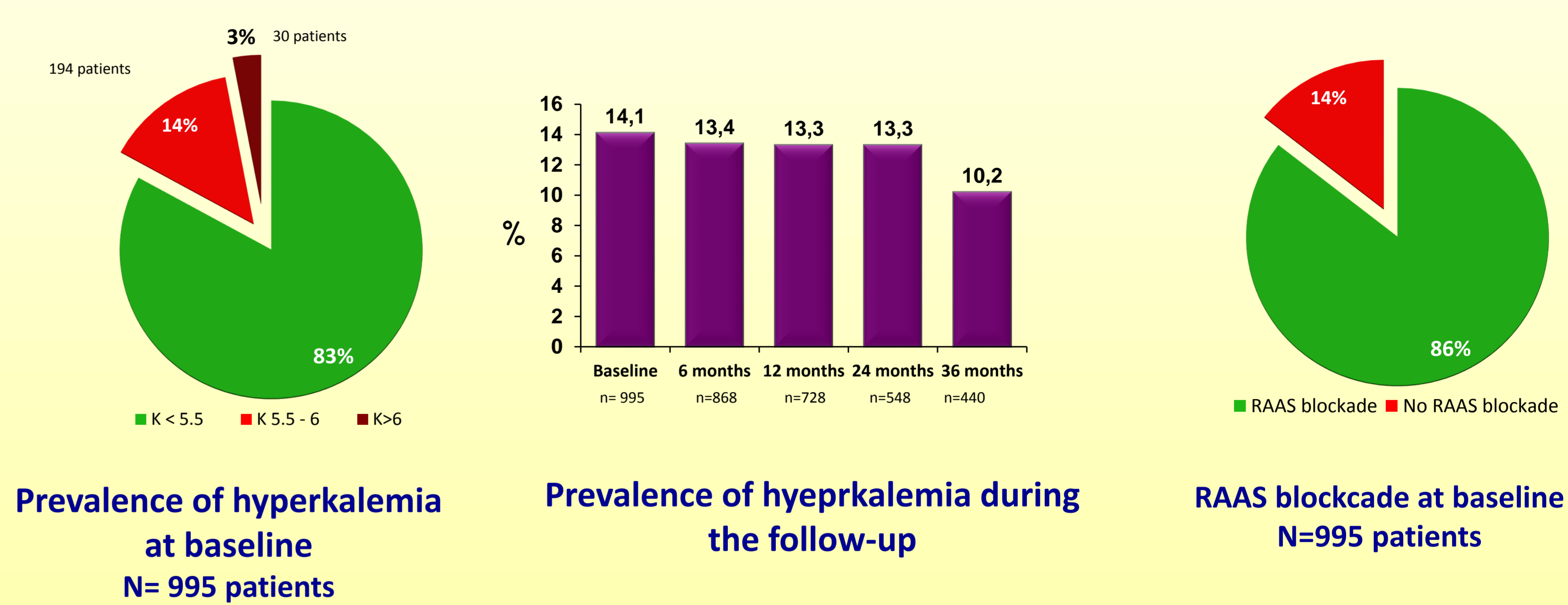
Patients had potassium measurement at baseline, 6, 12, 18, 24 and 36 months (in case they continued the follow-up). Mean follow-up 47 ± 30 months.

The multivariate analysis was conducted by means of Cox proportional hazards model (death and hospitalization)

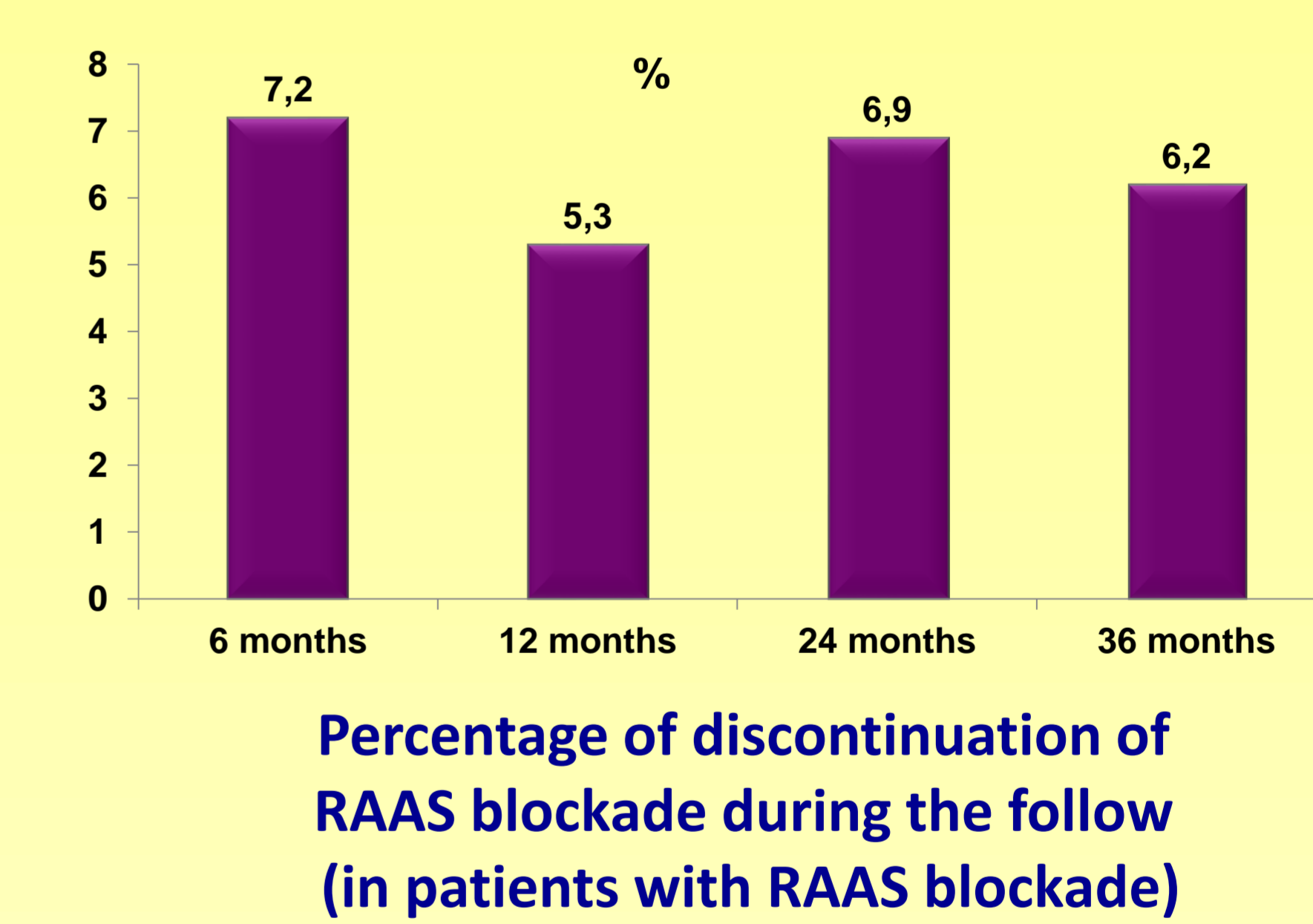
CHARACTERISTICS OF THE PATIENTS AT BASELINE (I)

N= 995 PATIENTS	n (%), x ± SD
Age, years (± SD)	69 ± 13 (r: 19-95)
Gender (Male/ female)	60.2 % / 39.8 %
BMI, kg/m ²	28.2 ± 5.1 (16-52)
Diabetes	359 (35.4 %)
Stage (MDRD):	
- 4 K/DOQI (15-29 ml/min/1.73 m ²)	189 (19 %)
- 5 K/DOQI (< 15 not on dialysis)	806 (81 %)
Etiology	
- Glomerular	6.3 %
- Interstitial	17.0 %
- Vascular	58.5 %
- Polycystic renal disease	4.4 %
- Diabetic nephropathy	13.0 %
- Unknown	11.7 %
- Other	12.5 %
Congestive heart failure	20.1 %
Coronary heart disease	21.8 %
Cerebrovascular disease	13.3 %
Peripheral vascular disease	17.3 %
Current smoking	10.9 %
Former smoking	33.8 %
Serum creatinine, mg/dl	3.1 ± 1.1
eGFR (MDRD, ml/min/1.73 m ²)	20 ± 5
Proteinuria (gr/day)	1.4 ± 2.6
RAAS blockade	727 (73.1 %)
Systolic blood pressure, mmHg	132 ± 17
Diastolic blood pressure, mmHg	72 ± 9
Waist circumference, cm	100 ± 15

RESULTS



During follow-up, the blockade was discontinued in a total of 145 patients (14.5%). Causes: hyperkalemia 33 %, deterioration of renal function 26 %, both 41 %



Risk factors for hospitalization (Cox regression model adjusted by age)

Factor	HR	95% CI	P
Diabetes Mellitus	1.60	1.20 – 2.12	0.01
Previous congestive heart failure	2.12	1.53 – 2.95	0.001
Cardiovascular disease	1.42	1.15 – 2.15	0.01

The serum potassium was included as continuous and dicotomic variable (serum potassium > 5.5 mEq/L in more than one determination). The analysis was repeated with serum potassium > 6 mEq/L in more than one determination (p = ns). (In case of baseline potassium as continuous variable, p = 0.07).

The presence of hyperkalemia was not an independent prognostic factor for the number of admissions

Risk for cardiovascular mortality (Cox regression model adjusted by age)

Factor	OR	95% CI	P
Age	1.06	1.02 – 1.09	<0.001
Diabetes mellitus	1.77	1.09 – 3.20	0.045

The serum potassium level was included as continuous variable as well as and serum potassium level > 5.5 in more than one occasion.

The analysis was repeated with K > 6 on more than one determination (p = ns)

The presence of hyperkalemia was not an independent prognostic factor for mortality

CONCLUSIONS

- Hyperkalemia is a frequent complication in CKD stage 4-5 not on dialysis.
- One quarter of CKD patients stage 4 don't receive cardio and nephroprotective drugs.
- During the follow up more than 10 % per year of the patients withdraw RAAS blockade.
- The presence of hyperkalemia is associated to a discontinuation of drugs that can produce cardio-renal benefits.
- In our series, hyperkalemia (K>5.5) was not associated with either, an increase in hospitalizations nor an increase in mortality. This may be due to the close monitoring of the studied patients

Study sponsored by:

