



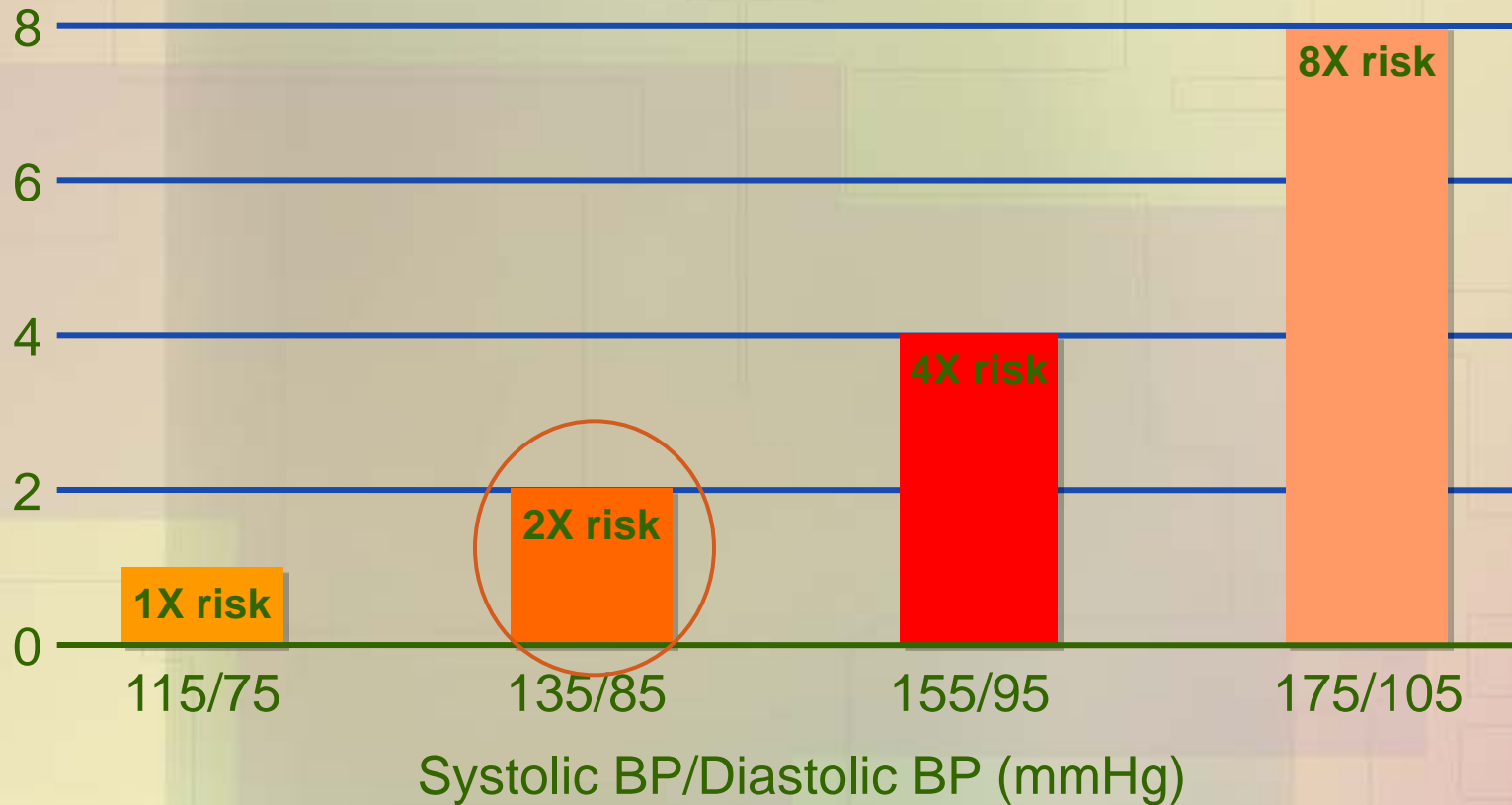
# The effect of carotenoids and flavones on oxidative stress in endothelial cells

Esther Paran MD  
Hypertension Research Center  
Faculty of Health Sciences  
Ben-Gurion University



# Cardiovascular Mortality Risk Doubles with Each 20/10 mmHg Increment in Systolic/Diastolic BP\*

Cardiovascular mortality risk



\*Individuals aged 40–69 years

# BP Reduction of 2 mmHg Decreases the Risk of Cardiovascular Events by 7–10%

- Meta-analysis of 61 prospective, observational studies
- 1 million adults
- 12.7 million person-years

**2 mmHg  
decrease in  
mean SBP**

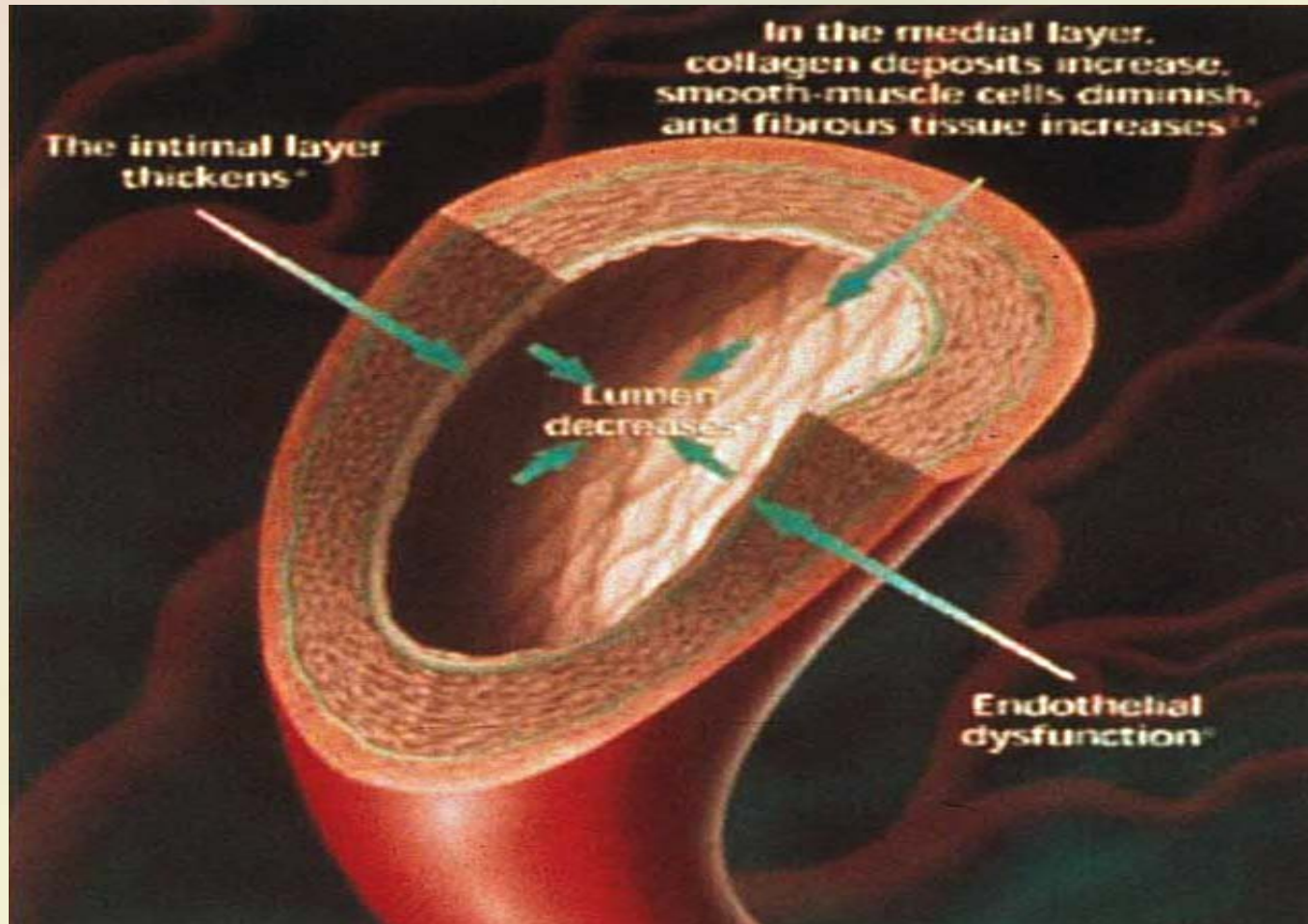


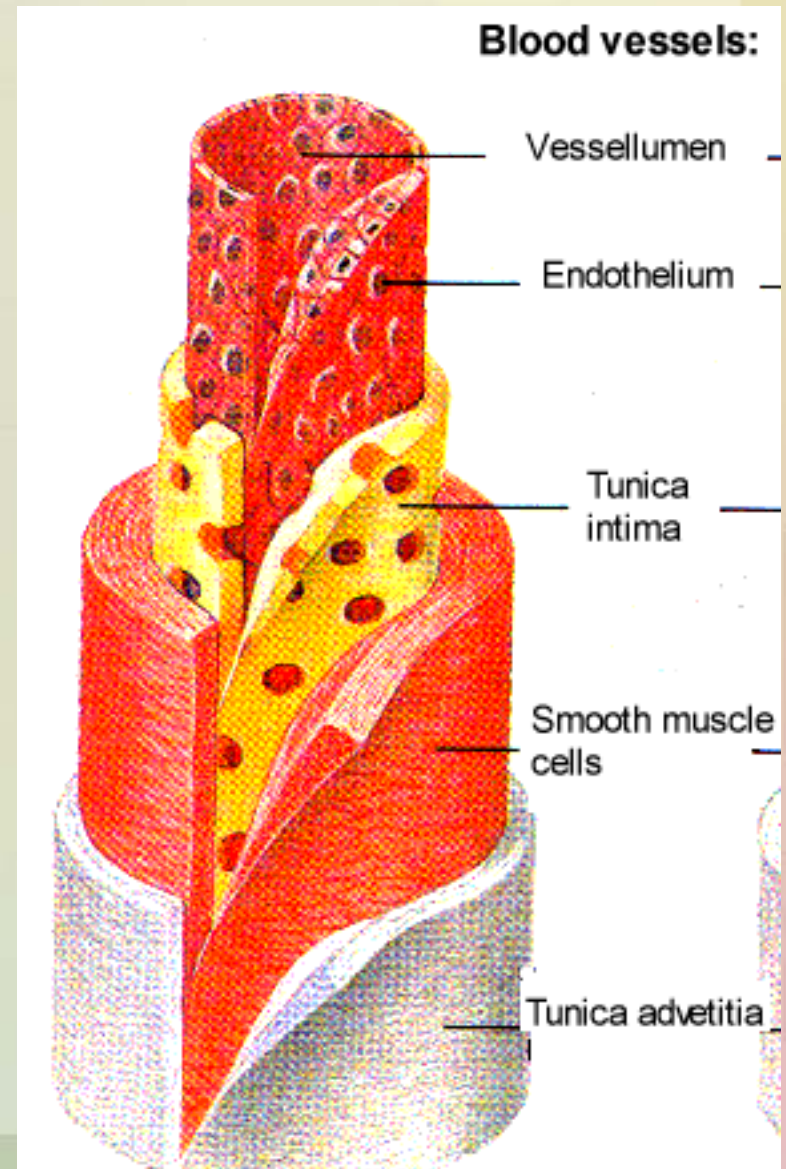
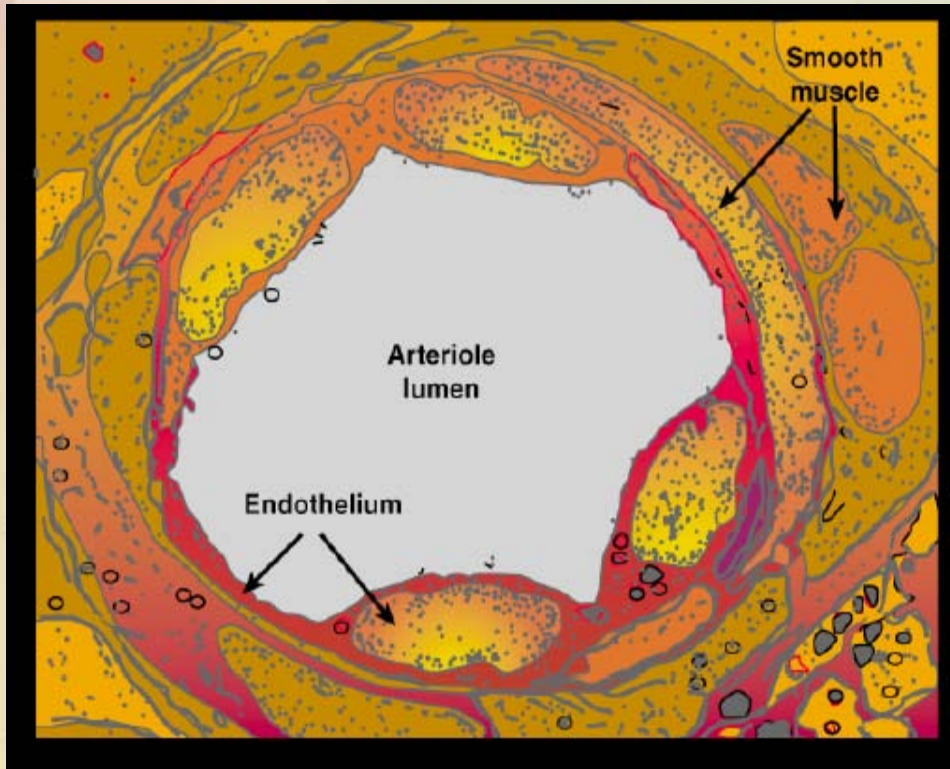
**7% reduction in  
risk of ischemic  
heart disease  
mortality**



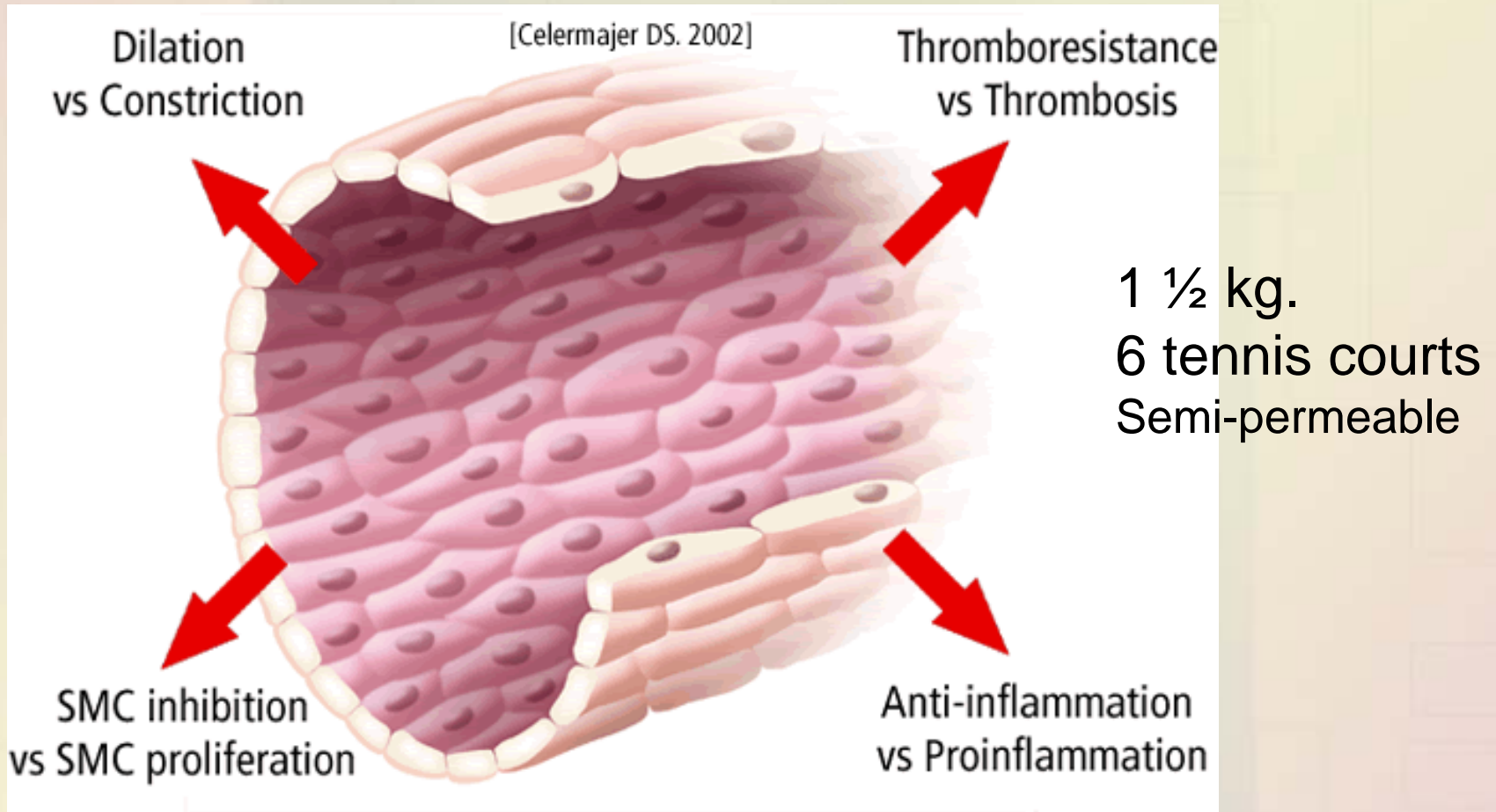
**10% reduction in  
risk of stroke  
mortality**

# Vascular wall





# Endothelial function



# Imbalance in Factors Affecting Vascular Tone and Structure

**Constrictors/  
Growth  
Promoters**

Angiotensin II  
Catecholamines  
Endothelin-1  
**ROS**  
Cytokines  
EDCF

**Dilators/  
Growth  
Inhibitors**

Nitric Oxide  
Prostacyclin  
Bradykinin  
EDHF

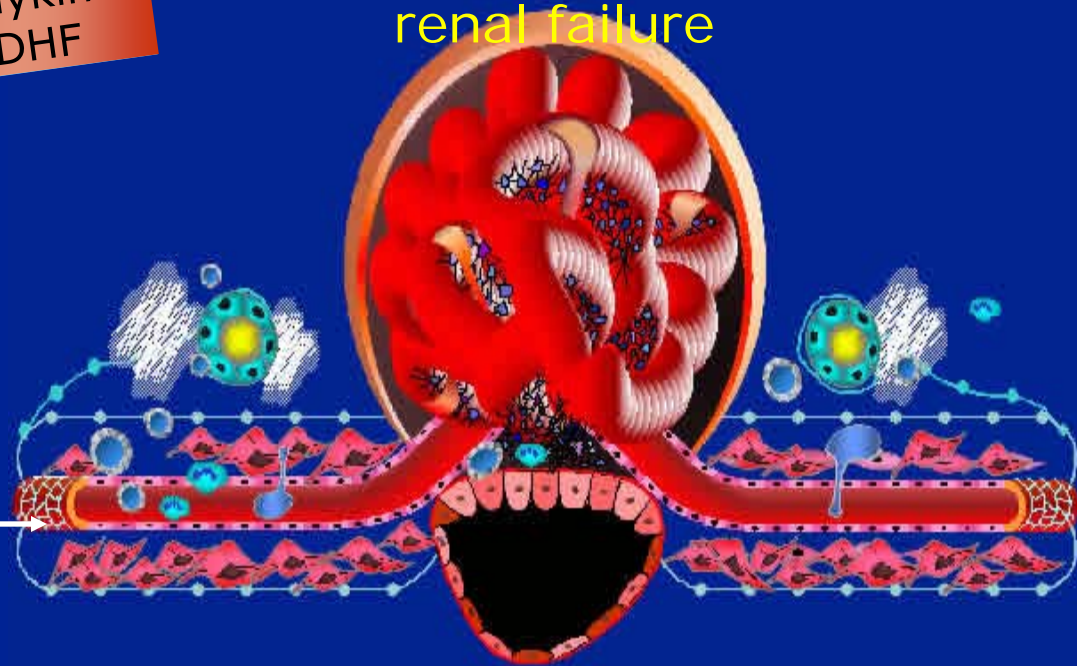
Vascular tone  
and structure

Nephron  
destruction and  
renal failure

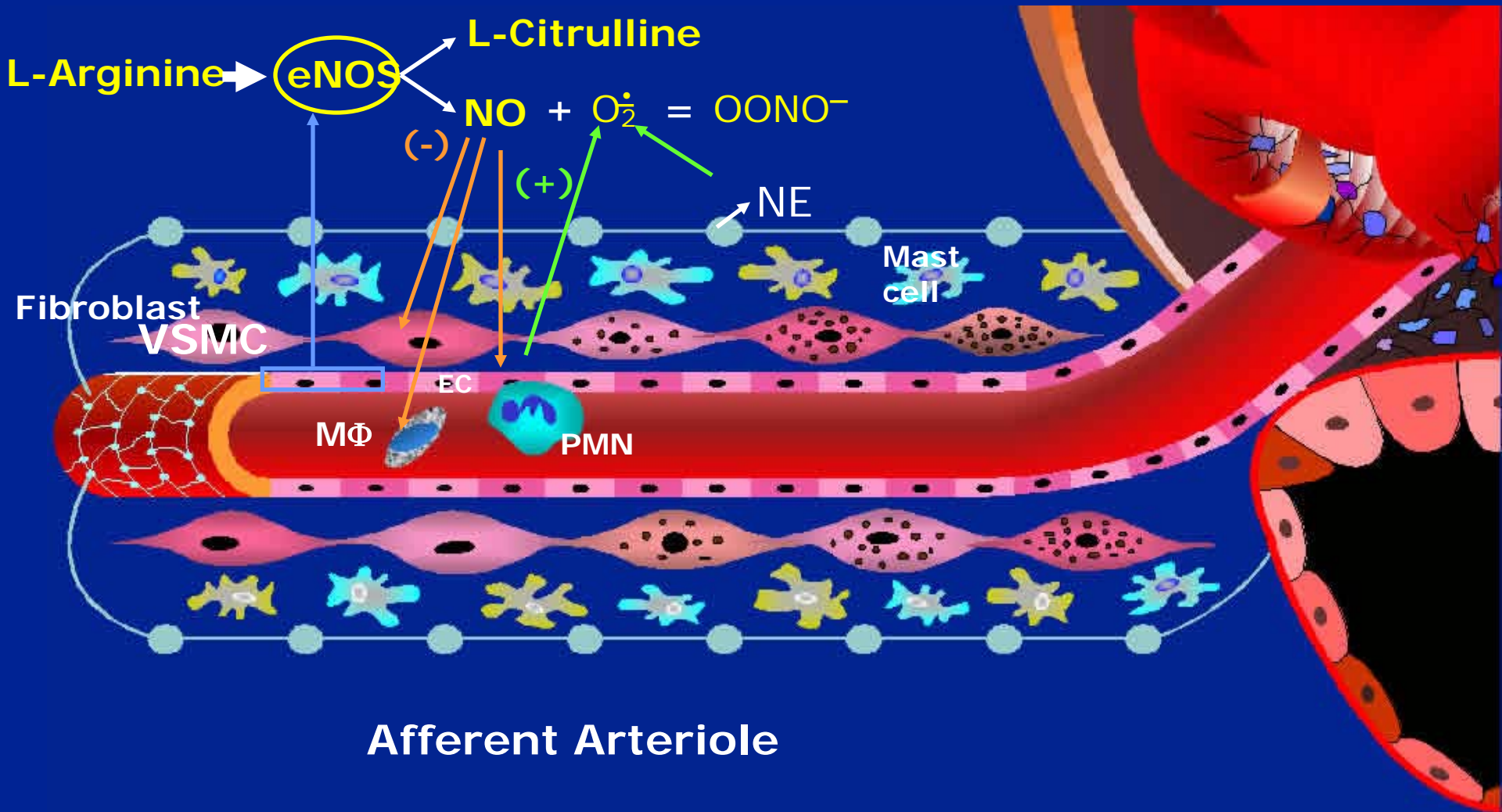
EDHF= endothelium-  
derived hyperpolarizing  
factors

ROS= reactive oxygen  
species

EDCF= endothelium-  
derived constricting  
factors

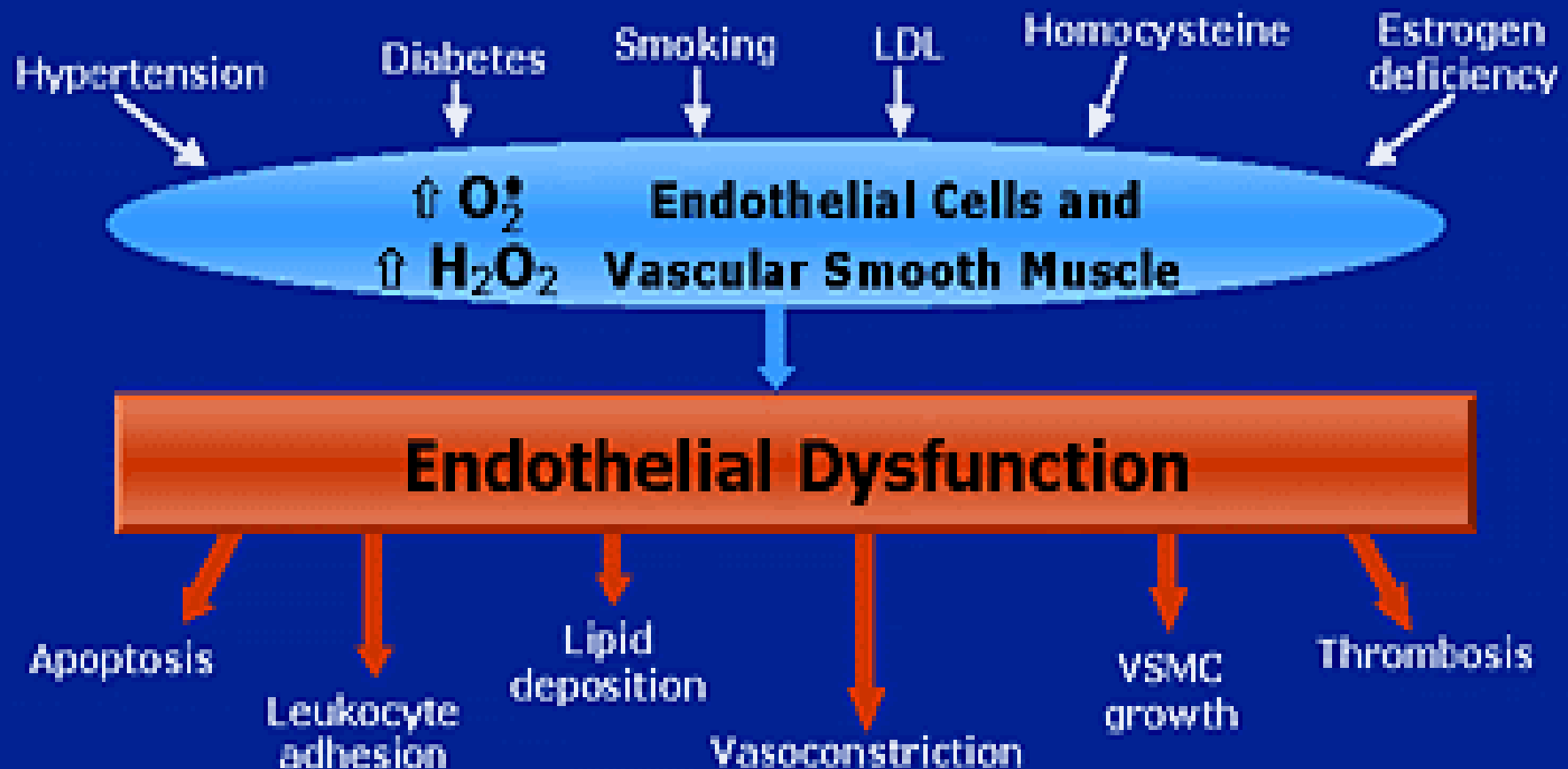


# ROS Reduces the Biological Effects of NO

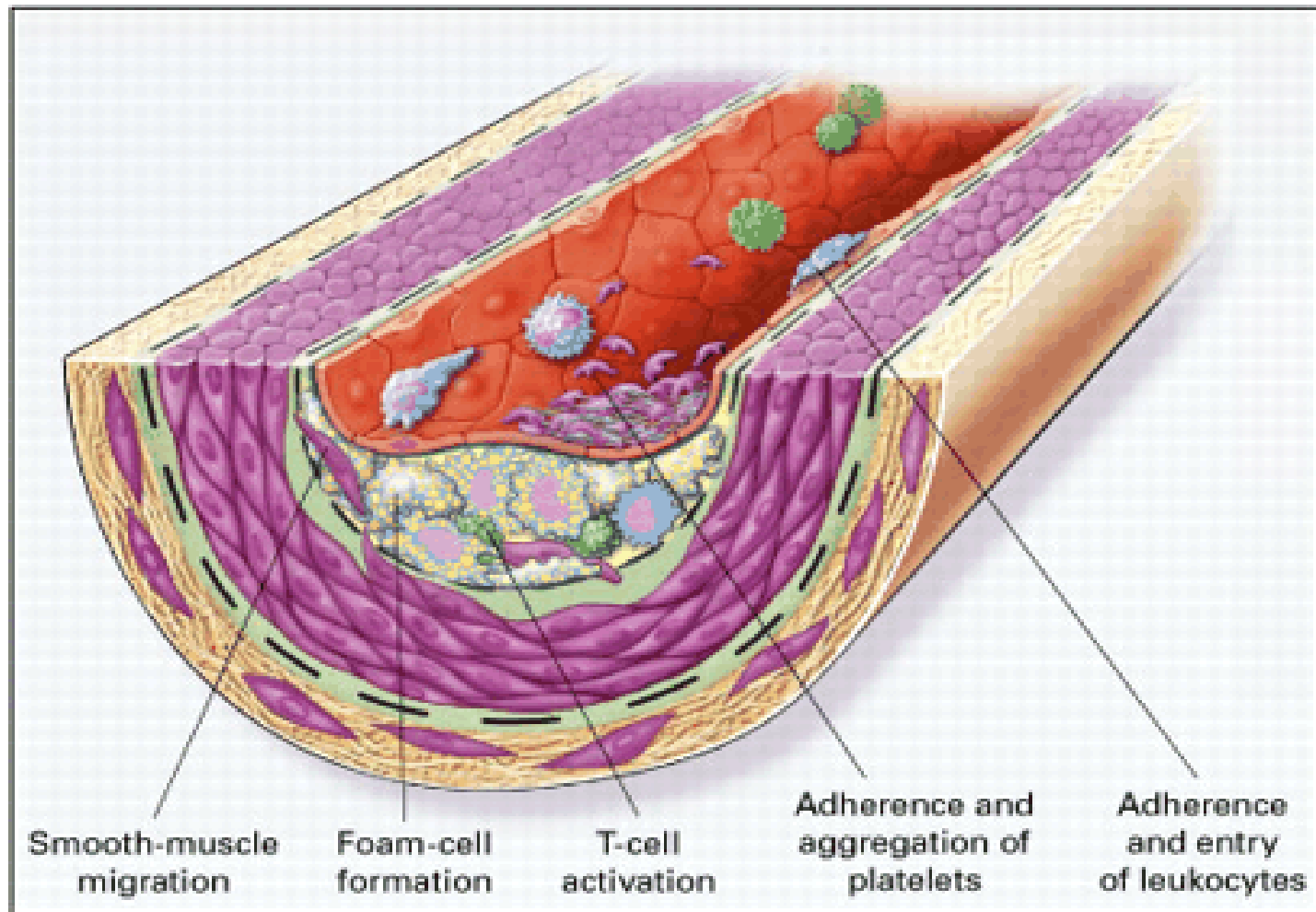




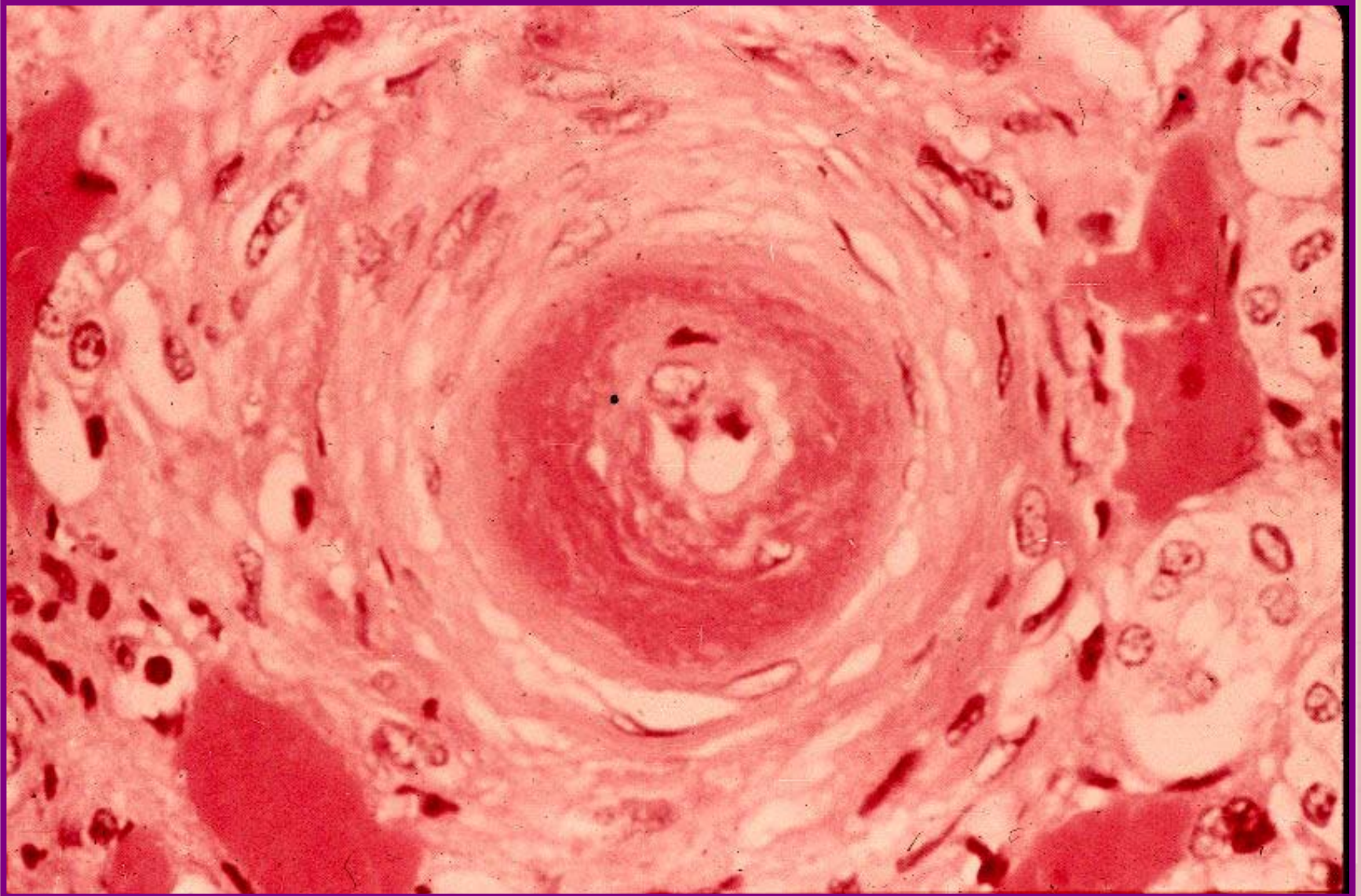
# Oxidative Stress: Endothelial Dysfunction and CAD/Renal Risk Factors



# Endothelial dysfunction



# Fibrinoid necrosis



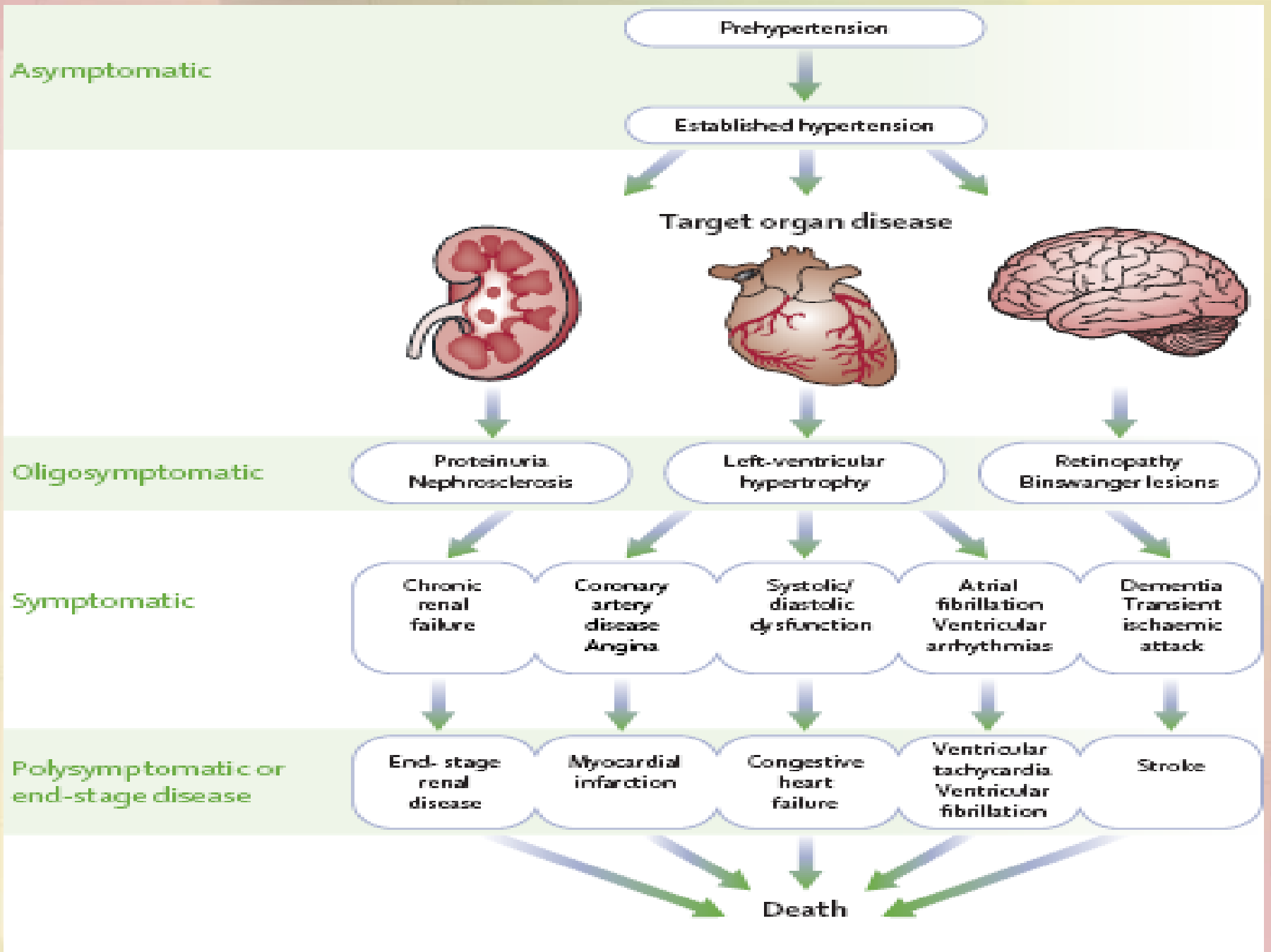
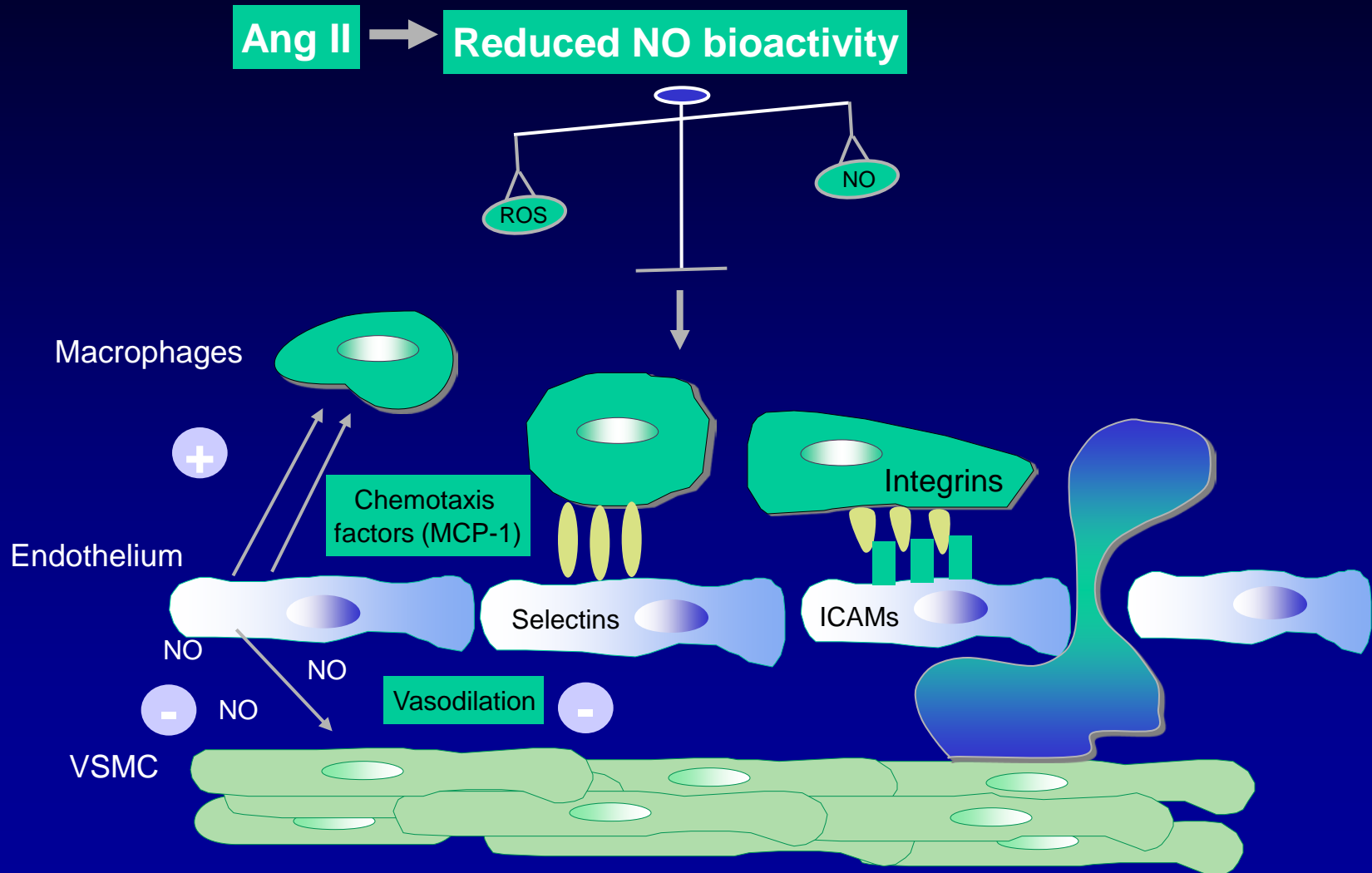


Figure 1: Range of hypertensive cardiovascular disease from prehypertension to target-organ damage and end-stage disease

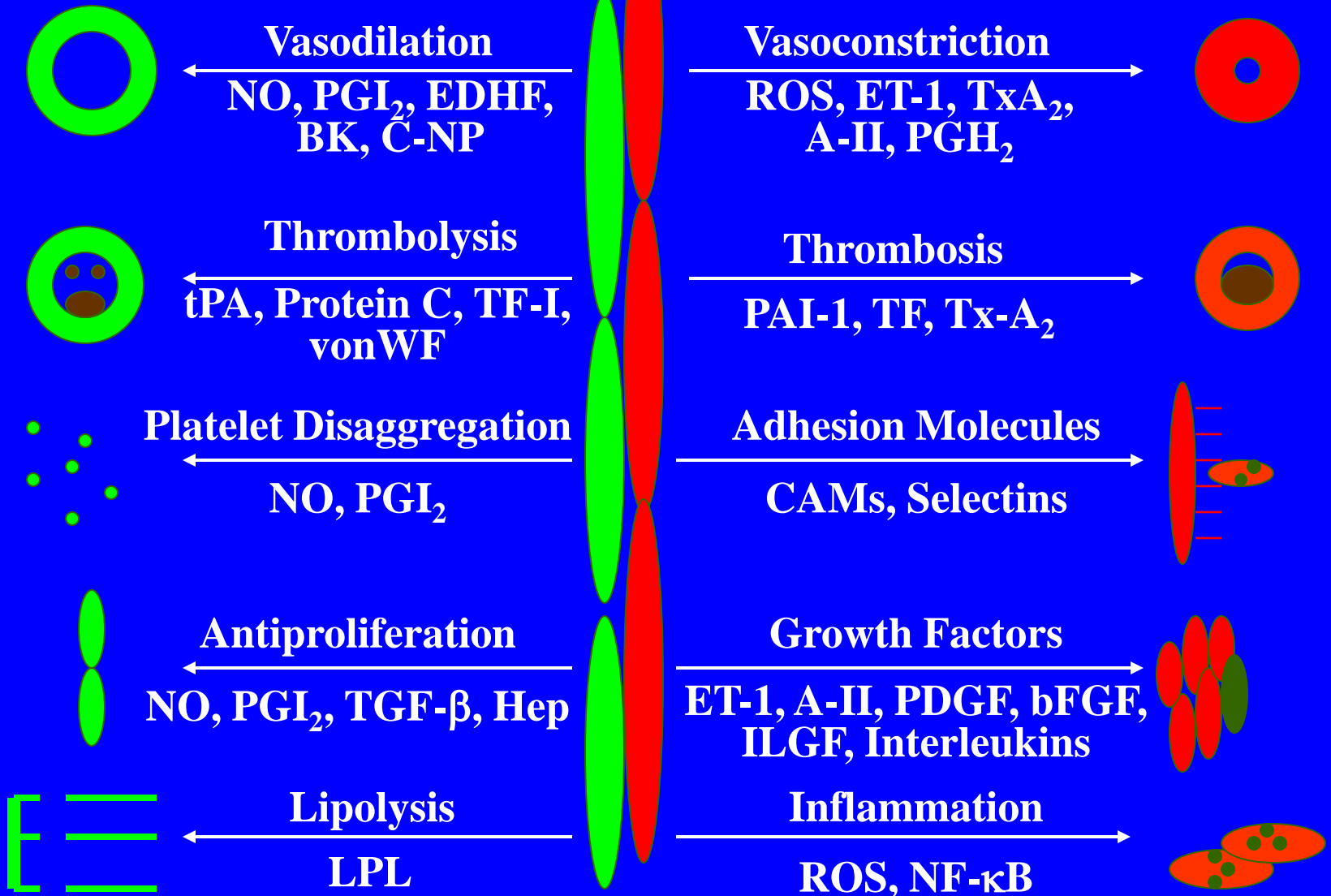
# Reactive oxygen species and endothelial dysfunction



# Regulatory Functions of the Endothelium

**Normal**

**Dysfunction**



# How to Assess ED

- Endothelium-dependent vasodilation
  - Acetyl choline or post-ischaemic FMD\*
  - Coronary or forearm arteries
- Intima-media thickness (IMT)
- Microalbuminuria
- Plasma markers
  - ADMA, CRP, adhesion molecules
- Clinical diagnosis
  - flow-mediated dilatation (FMD)
  - asymmetric dimethylarginine (**ADMA**)

- ❖ Can we prevent endothelial dysfunction?
- ❖ Are there treatments for endothelial dysfunction?
- ❖ Is it a reversible process?

**Prehypertension =  
endothelial dysfunction?**



# Correcting Endothelial Dysfunction

- Risk factor modification ( BP, DM, Smoking)
- Exercise and weight loss
- **Blockade of the RAS- ACE  $\ominus$  / ARB**
- **LDL reduction**, HDL augmentation.
- **PPAR- $\gamma$  agonists**
- Antioxidants
- Reducing homocysteine levels
- Improving insulin sensitivity
- Lowering CRP
- L-arginine.

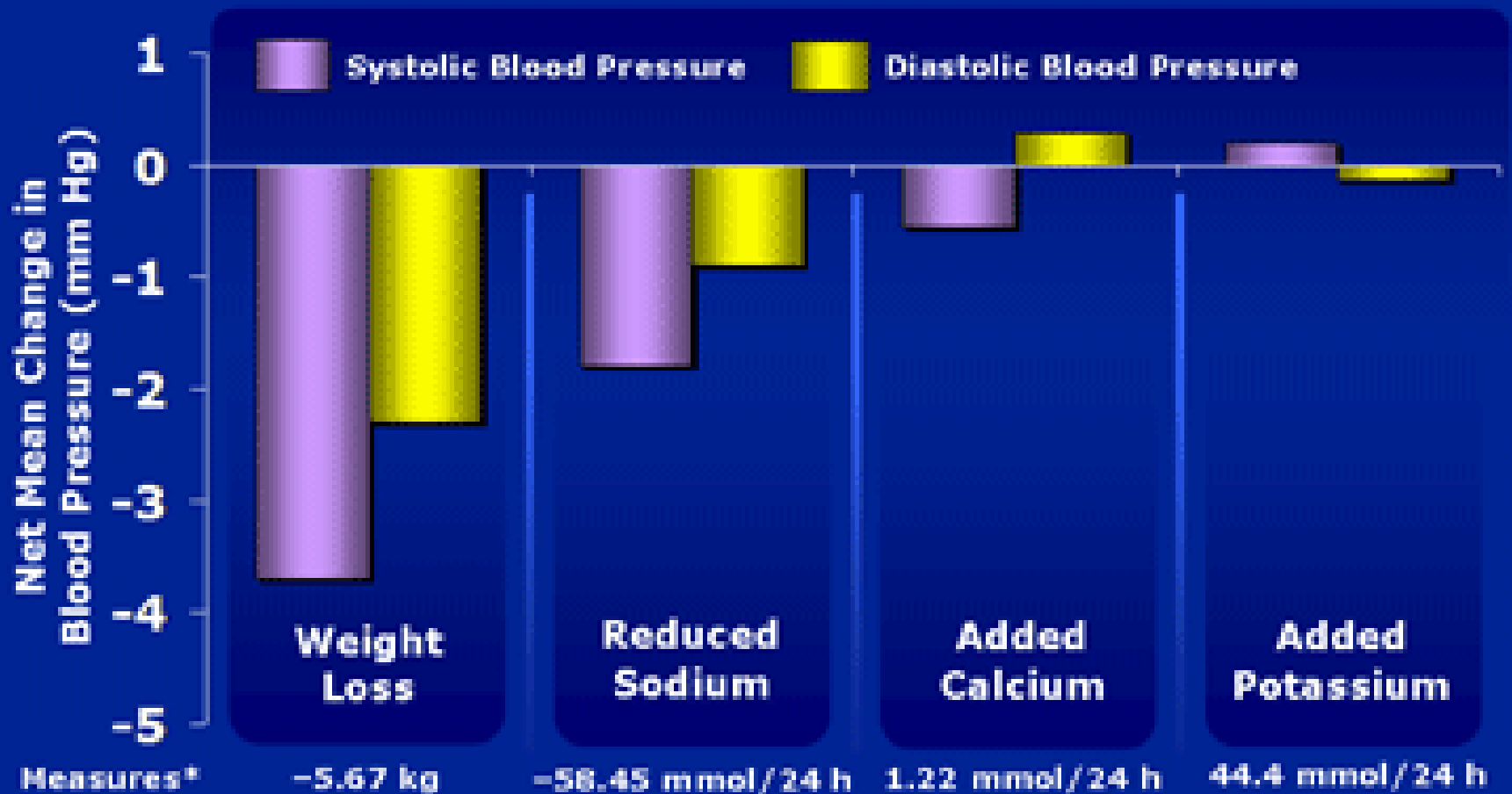
# Life style modifications

- Lose weight, if overweight
- Limit alcohol intake
- Increase physical activity
- Reduce salt intake
- Stop smoking
- Limit intake of foods rich in fats and cholesterol: DASH Diet

JNC VII and ESH recommendation

# Blood Pressure Reductions Resulting from Various Lifestyle Modifications

## Trials of Hypertension Prevention – Phase I



\*All values are averages and are statistically significant at  $P < 0.01$ .

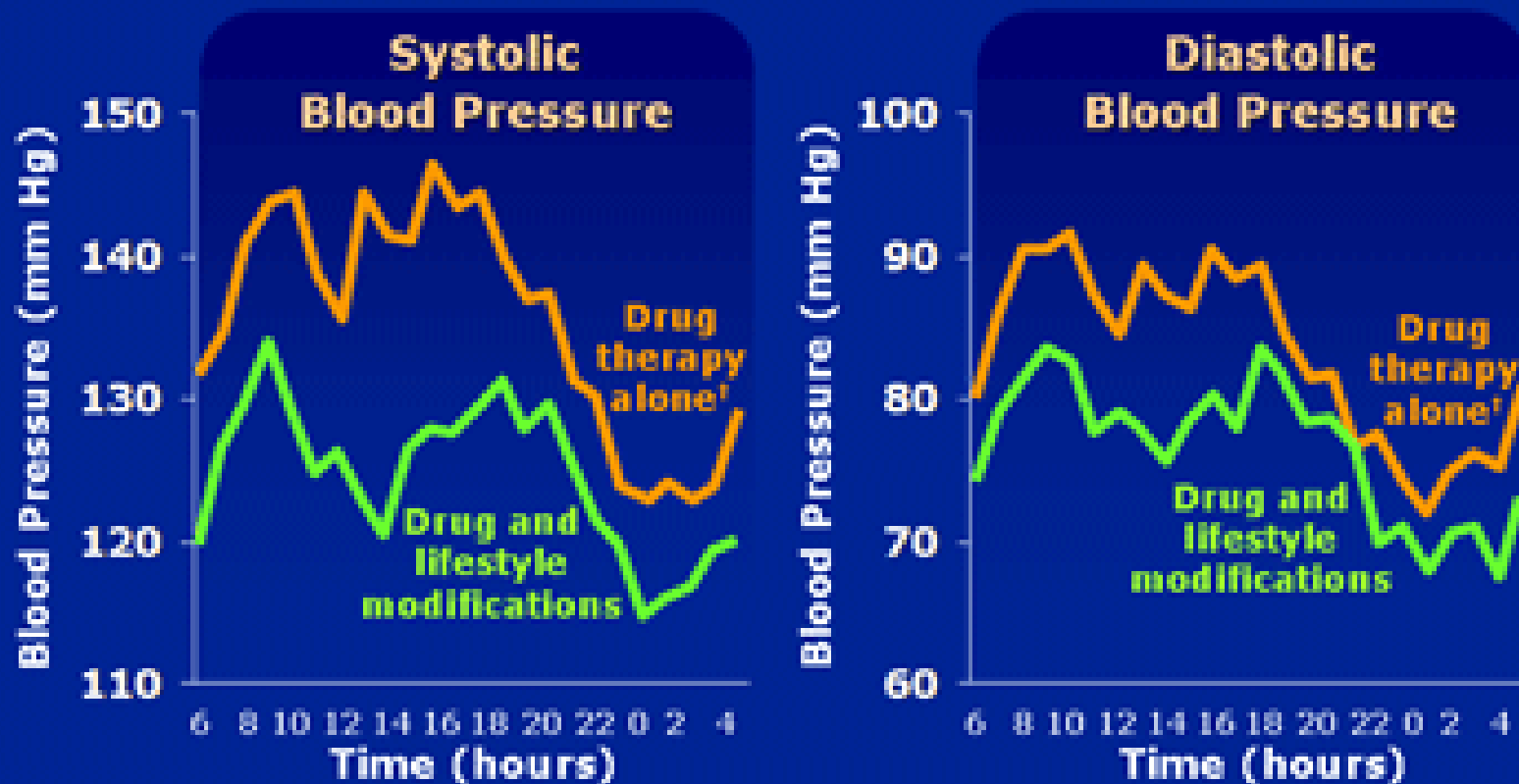
Trials of Hypertension Prevention Collaborative Research Group.  
 JAMA. 1992;267:1213-1220. Copyright © 1992, American Medical  
 Association. All rights reserved.

Slide Source  
 Hypertension Online  
[www.hypertensiononline.org](http://www.hypertensiononline.org)



# Effect of Antihypertensive Monotherapy Is Augmented by Lifestyle Modifications\*

## Diet-Exercise-Weight Loss Intervention Trial



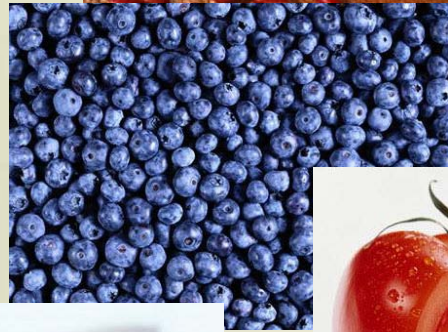
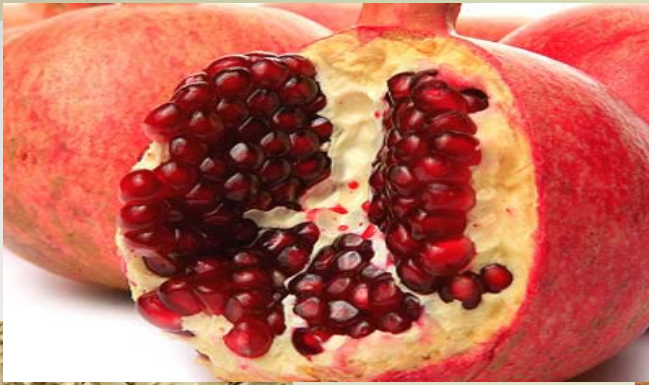
\*Low-calorie, low-sodium diet and exercise.

†A single antihypertensive drug.

Reprinted from Miller ER III, et al. *Hypertension*. 2002;40:612-618, with permission from Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.

Slide Source  
Hypertension Online  
[www.hypertensiononline.org](http://www.hypertensiononline.org)





# Health benefit of carotenoids

- Epidemiological studies
- Clinical data
- Clinical studies
- Animal experiments
- In vitro models

# Epidemiologic evidence

High serum values of carotenoids such as  $\alpha$ -carotene,  $\beta$ -carotene, and lycopene were found to be significantly associated with low hazard ratios for cardiovascular disease mortality.

Japan 3061 people; 12 years follow-up

*Ito et al J Epidemiol, 2006. 16, 154-60*

## The Kuopio Ischaemic Heart Disease Risk Factor Study

725 middle-aged men free of CVD at the study baseline

**Low plasma lycopene** concentration is associated with **increased intima-media** thickness of the carotid artery wall and excess incidence of acute coronary events and stroke:

Men in the **lowest quartile** of serum levels of lycopene had a **3.3-fold** ( $P < 0.001$ ) risk of the acute coronary event or stroke as compared with others

Rissanen et al

1. Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol, 2000. 20 2677-811

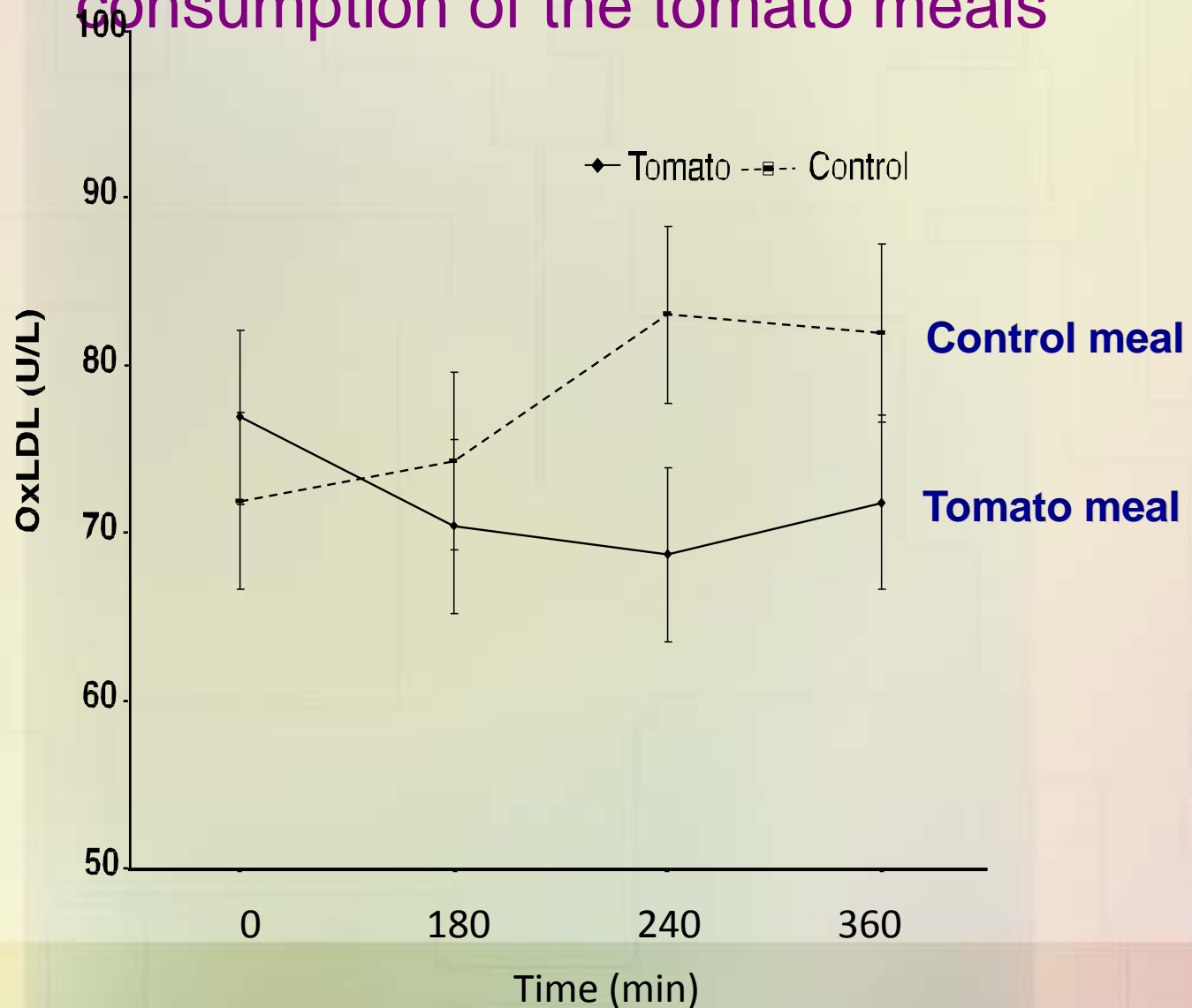
2. Br J Nutr, 2001 85, 749-54

3. Am J Clin Nutr, 2003 77, 133-8



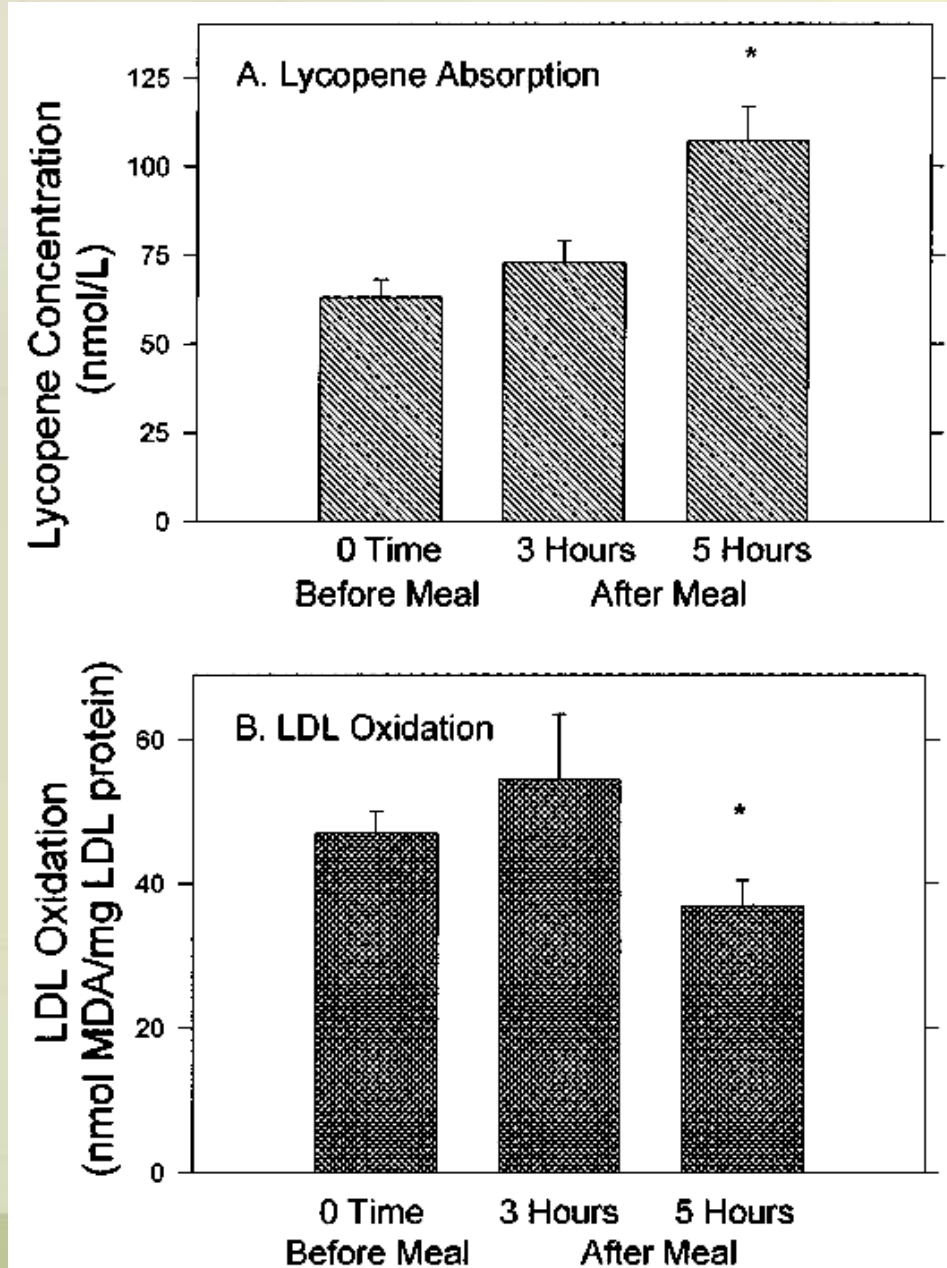
# Clinical Data

Decreased Oxidized LDL concentrations after consumption of the tomato meals



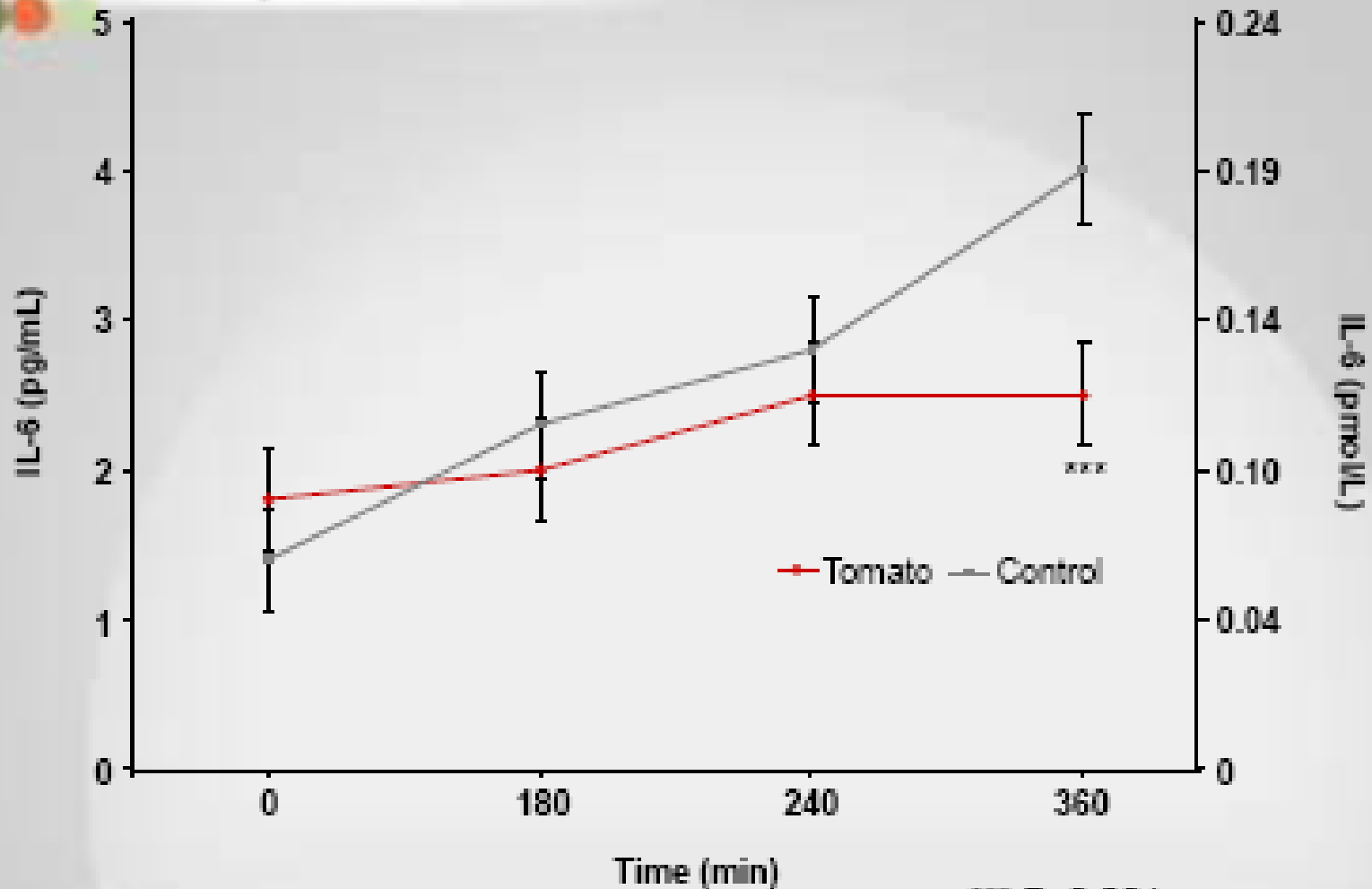
# Decreased LDL oxidation after tomato ext consumption

Fatty meal containing 30 mg lycopene in the form of tomato oleoresin (LycoMato)



Aviram et al. Antioxidants & Redox Signaling 2, 492, 2000

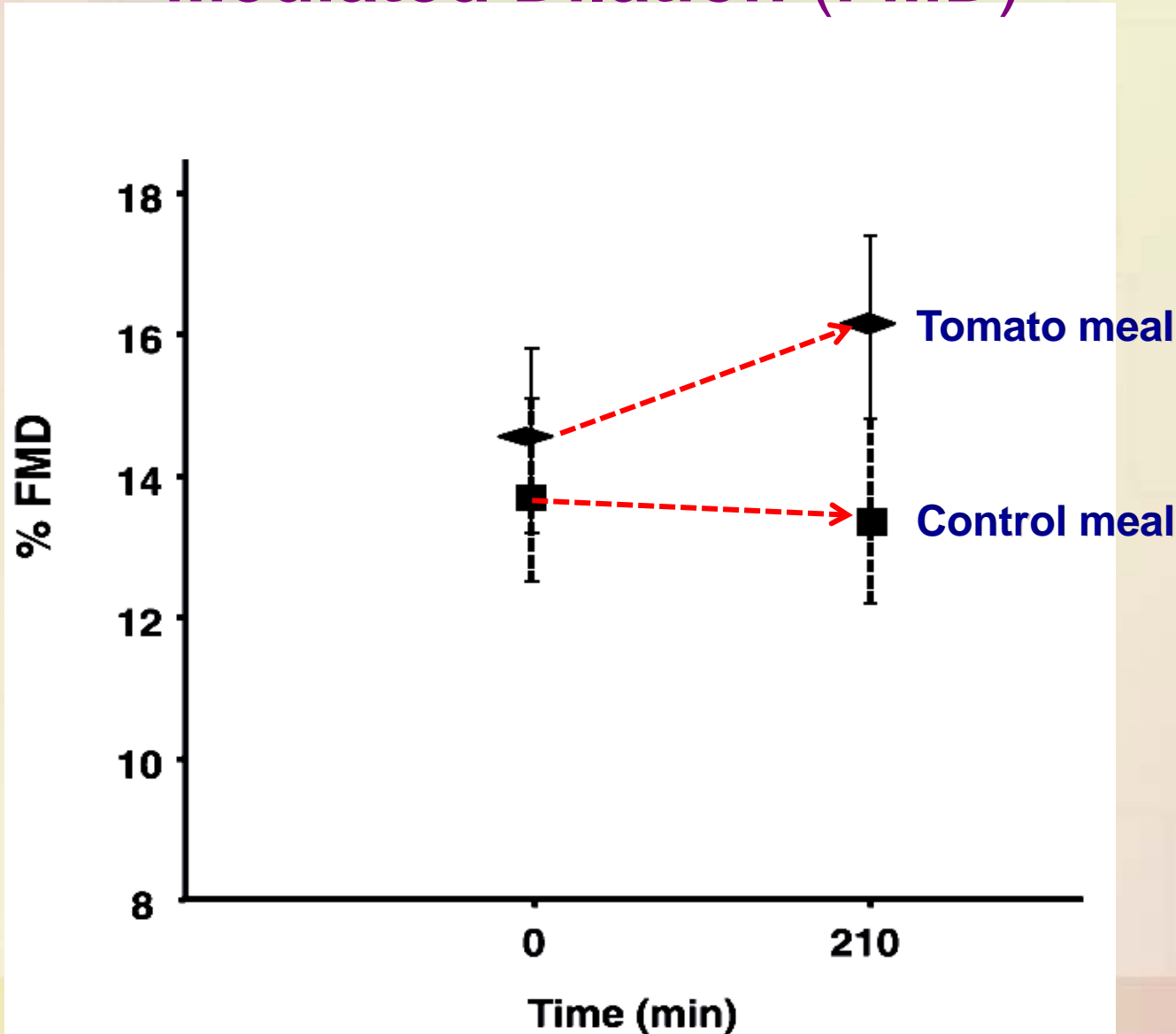
# IL-6 concentrations at baseline & after consumption of tomato and control meals

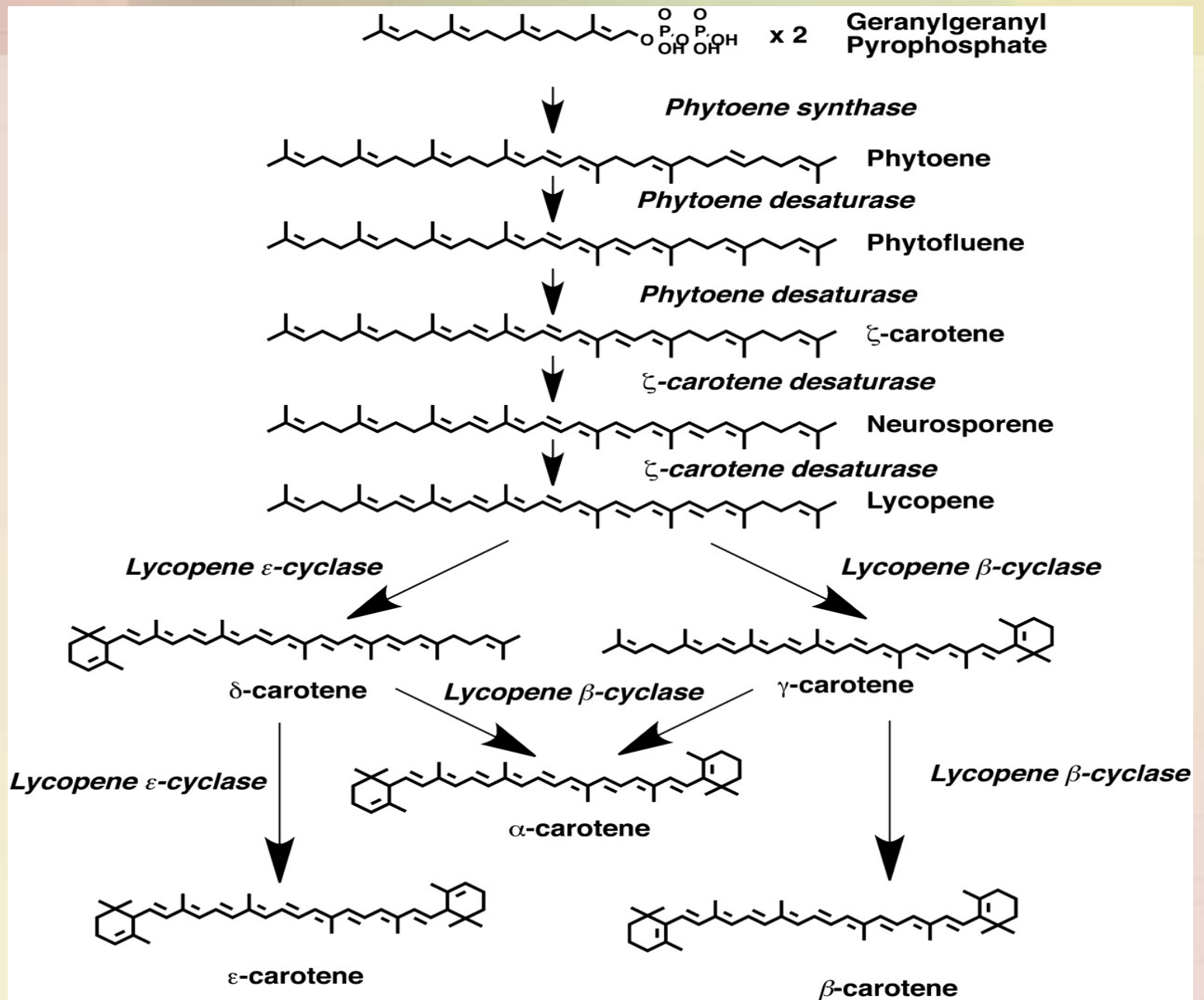


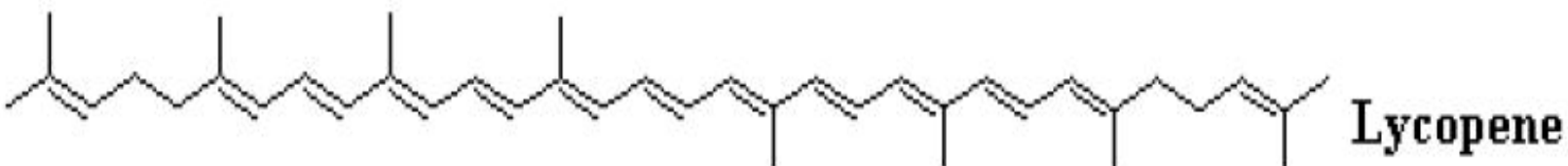
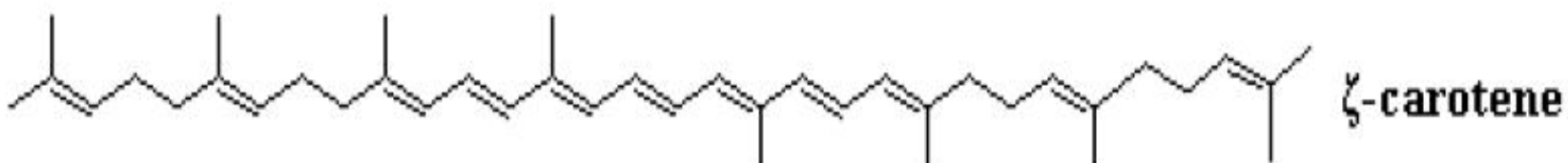
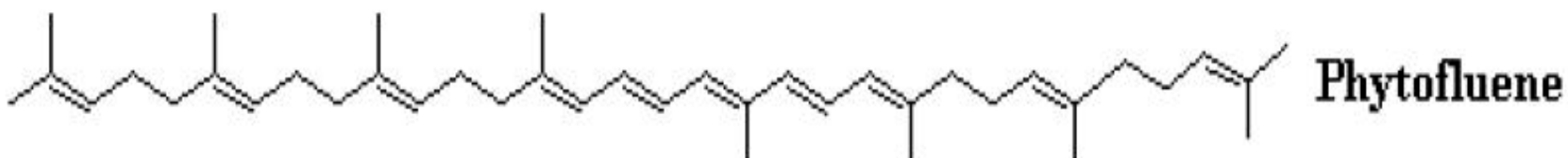
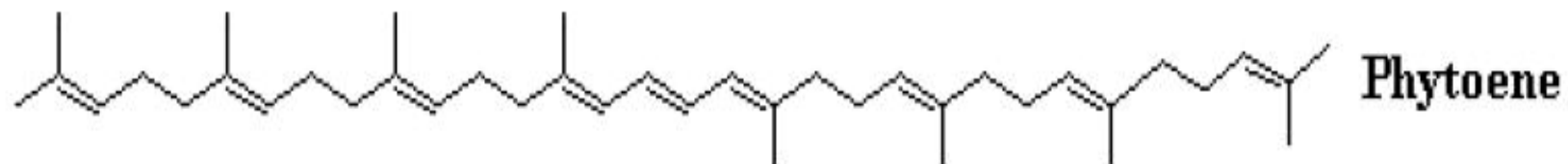
\*\*\* P<0.001

— American/Italian

# Consumption of tomato meal increased **Flow-Mediated Dilation (FMD)**

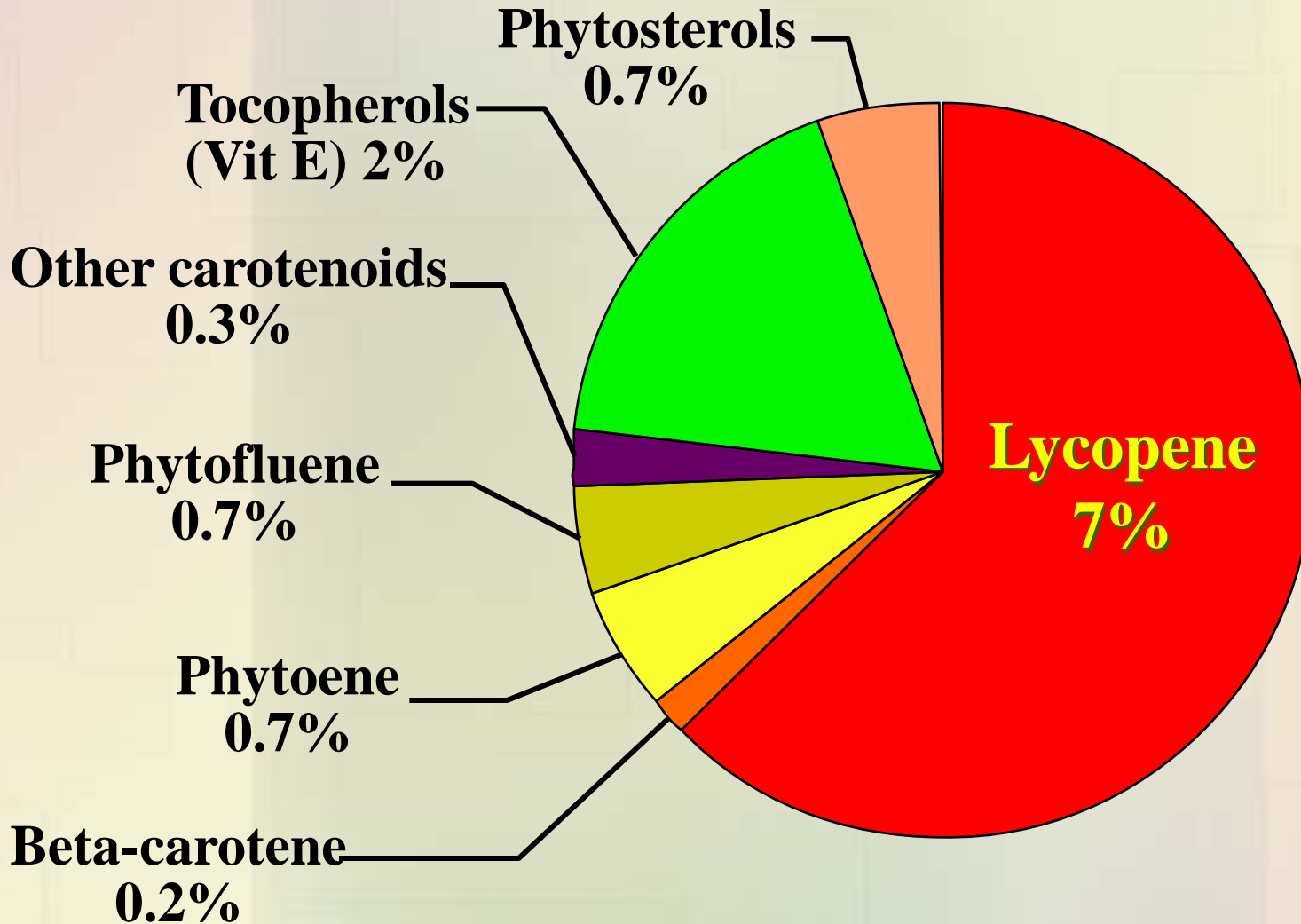






# תכולת חומרי המזון השומניים במיצוי מעגבניות

## LYC-O-MATO®



# Clinical studies

## Aims

---

Examining the effects of tomato lycopene on:

- Systolic and diastolic blood pressure
- Biochemical parameters:  
Serum lipids and lipoproteins
- Oxidative stress markers



# Results

## *Systolic blood pressure*



Significant reduction of SBP has been achieved as early as the sixth week of Cardi-O-Mato administration, -4.7 mm Hg and 10 mmHg on the eighth week

# Results

## Diastolic blood pressure

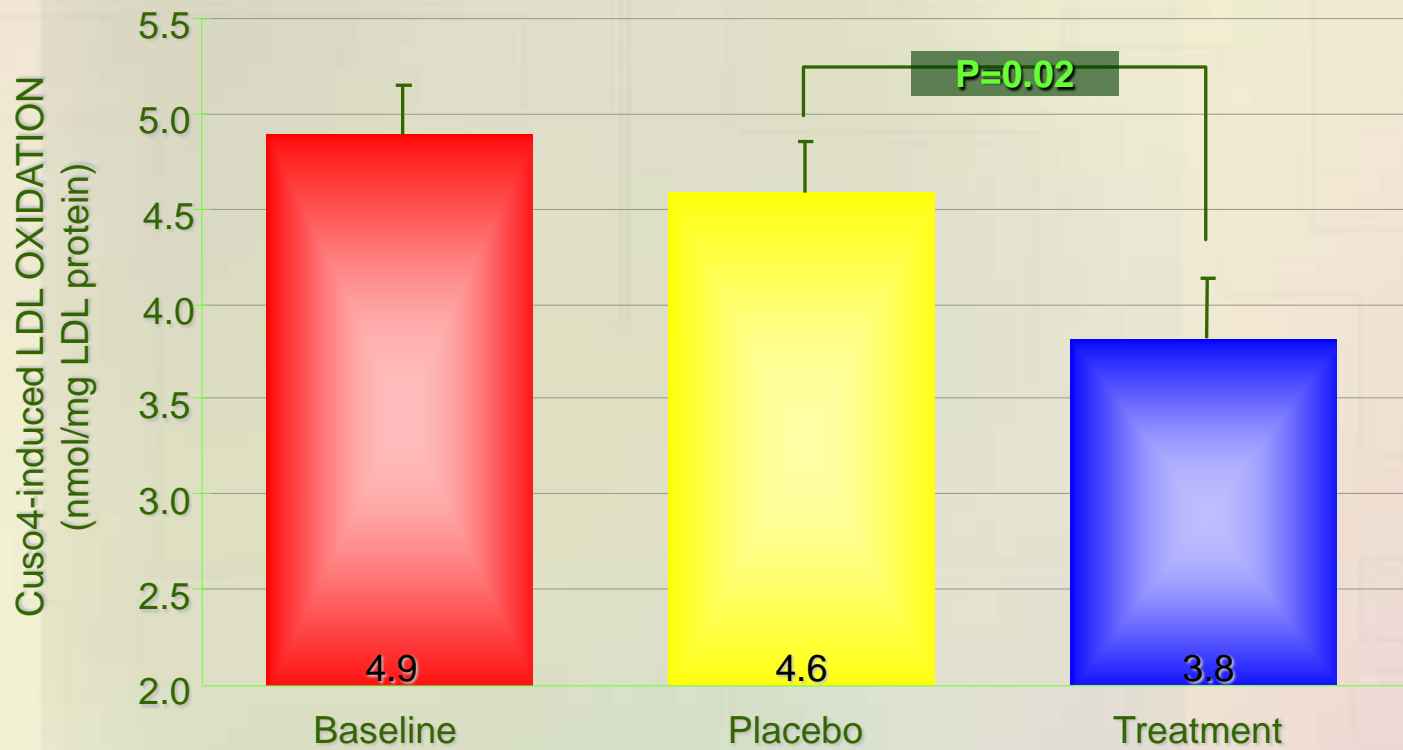


Significant reduction in DBP was demonstrated as early as the fourth week (-1.27 mm Hg,  $p=0.029$ ) and 5 mmHg on the 8<sup>th</sup> week

# Results

## *Thiobarbituric acid reactive substances*

*(TBARS)*



# Conclusions

- ❖ Tomato lycopene can reduce systolic and diastolic blood pressure significantly in newly diagnosed never treated mild hypertensives
- ❖ The same effect of tomato lycopene was recorded in mild to moderate treated patients
- ❖ Patients were compliant with the treatment at least for the relatively short term of these studies (12-16 weeks)
- ❖ No side effect was observed in any of the patients in all studies

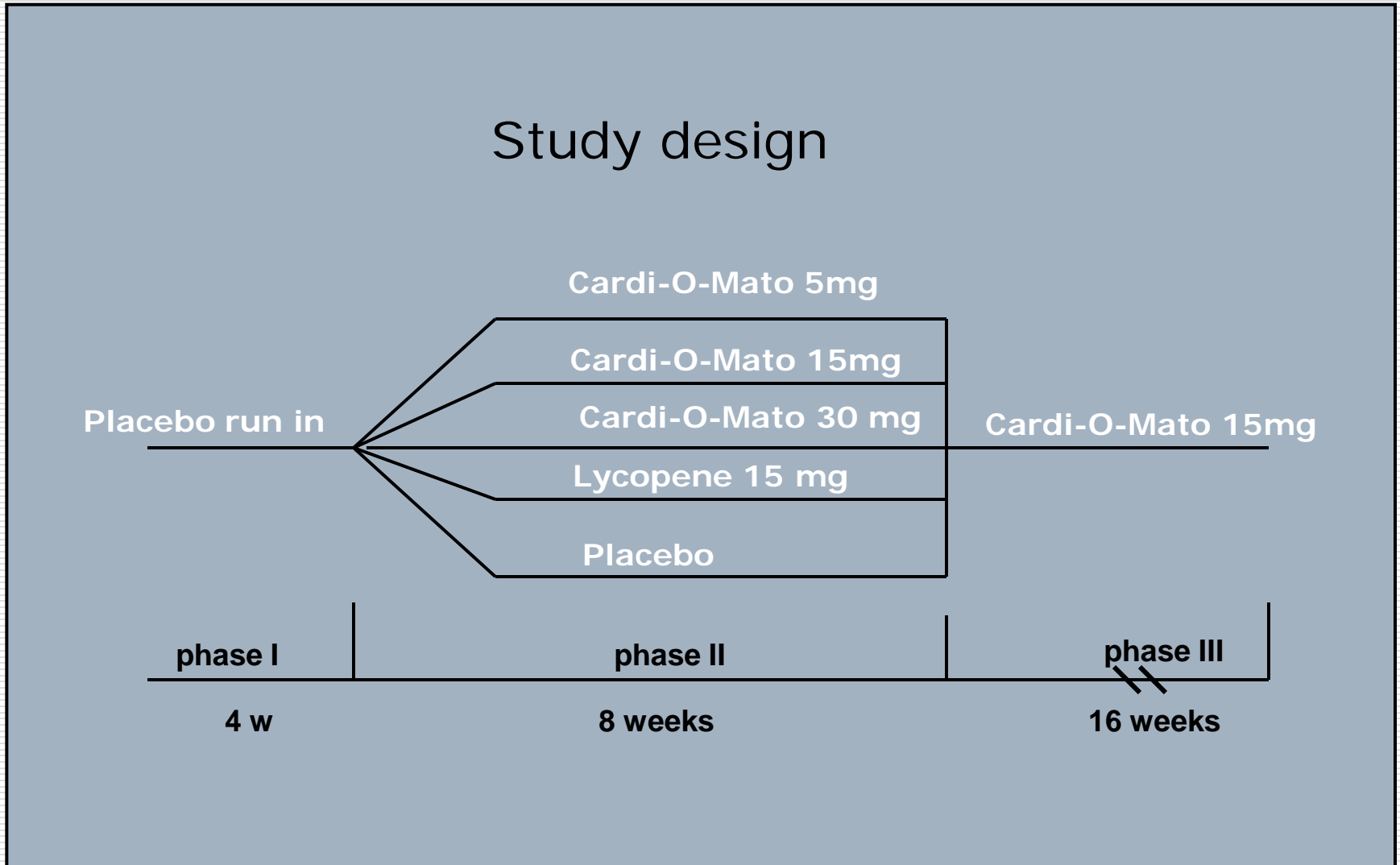
# Study design

## Prehypertensives

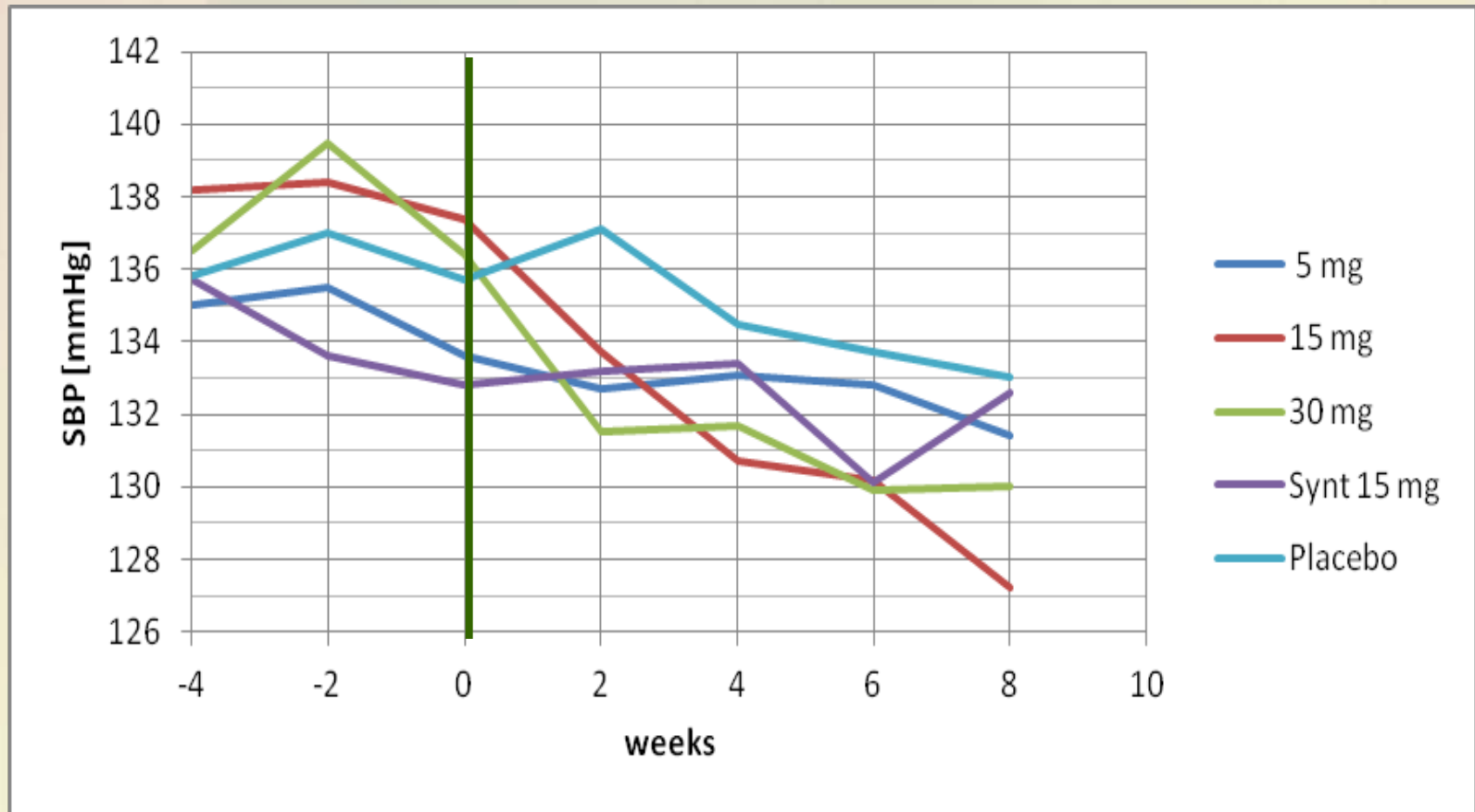
The study consists of three phases:

- Phase I Single-blind *placebo* run-in period for 4 weeks.
- Phase II Double-blind 5 arm parallel group for 8 weeks of:
  1. *Cardi-O-Mato 5mg*
  2. *Cardi-O-Mato 15mg*
  3. *Cardi-O-Mato 30mg*
  4. *Lycopene 15 mg*
  5. *Placebo*
- Phase III Long term treatment for 3 months with *Cardi-O-Mato 15mg*

# Dose-response study in prehypertensive subjects



# Systolic blood pressure changes during phase I-II of the study



Significant reduction of SBP after 4 weeks already with Cardi-O-Mato 15 and 30 mg

# Conclusions

- Tomato lycopene (Cardi-O-Mato) in doses 15mg and 30 mg reduced
  - SBP by 9 and 7mmHg compared to 1.97 mmHg by placebo or synthetic lycopene
  - DBP was reduced by 4.15 and 3.8 mmHg compared to 0.7 and -0.9 mmHg with synthetic lycopene and placebo
- The dose of 5mg caused very mild non-significant reduction in SBP and DBP



# What is the mechanism for the antihypertensive effect of the tomato lycopene?

- At what point the anti-oxidant property interferes with the vasoconstrictive forces?
- Are these actions restricted to the endothelium?
- Is there **one** active component that does all the work or is there a unique combination of micronutrients that responsible for the effect?

# Effect of Lyc-O-Mato® Supplementation on Endothelial Function and Oxidative Stress

## Clinical trial setting

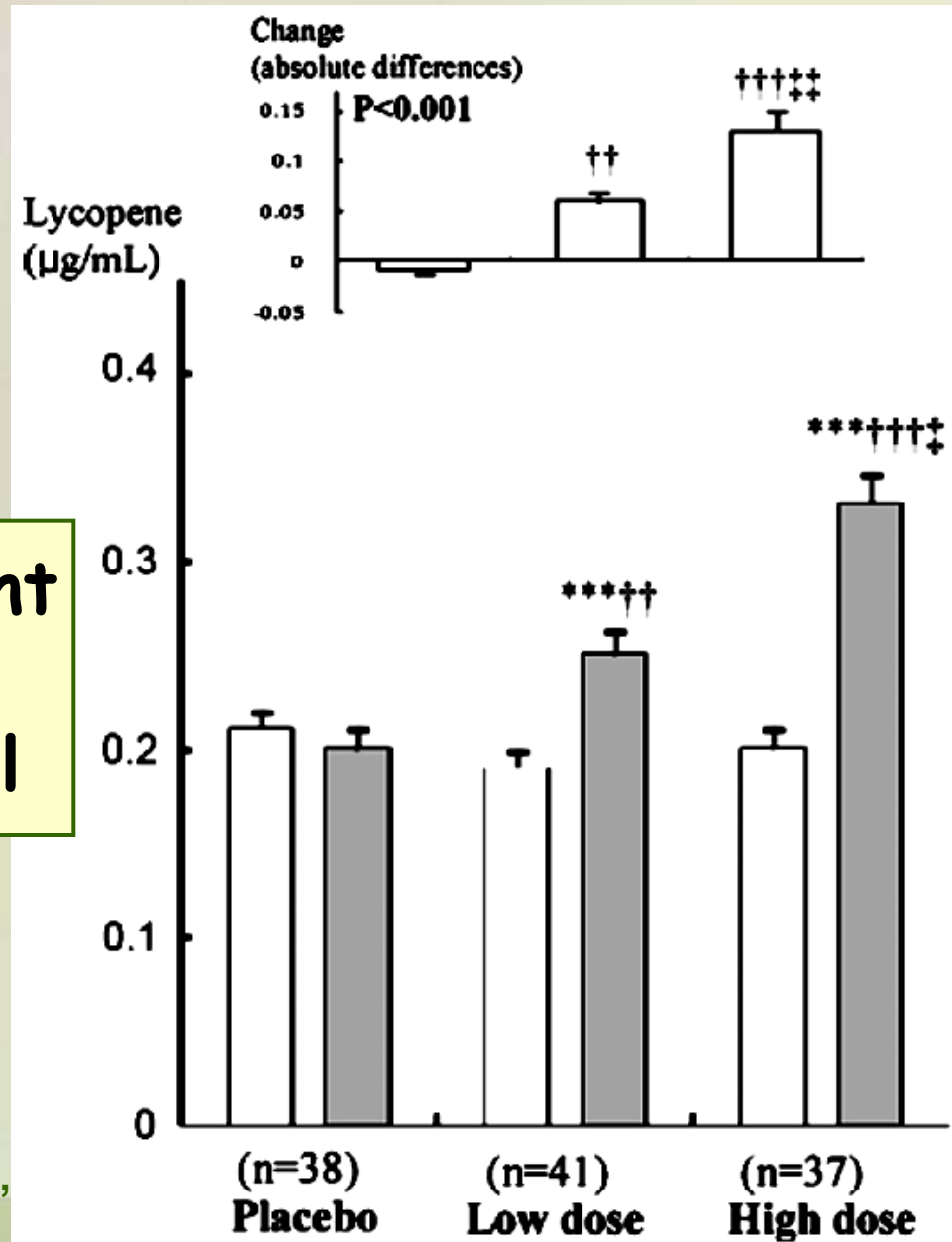
- Healthy frequent smoking men (n=126) were randomized to receive placebo, Lyc-O-Mato® pills (6 or 15 mg lycopene) daily for 8-week

## Endpoints:

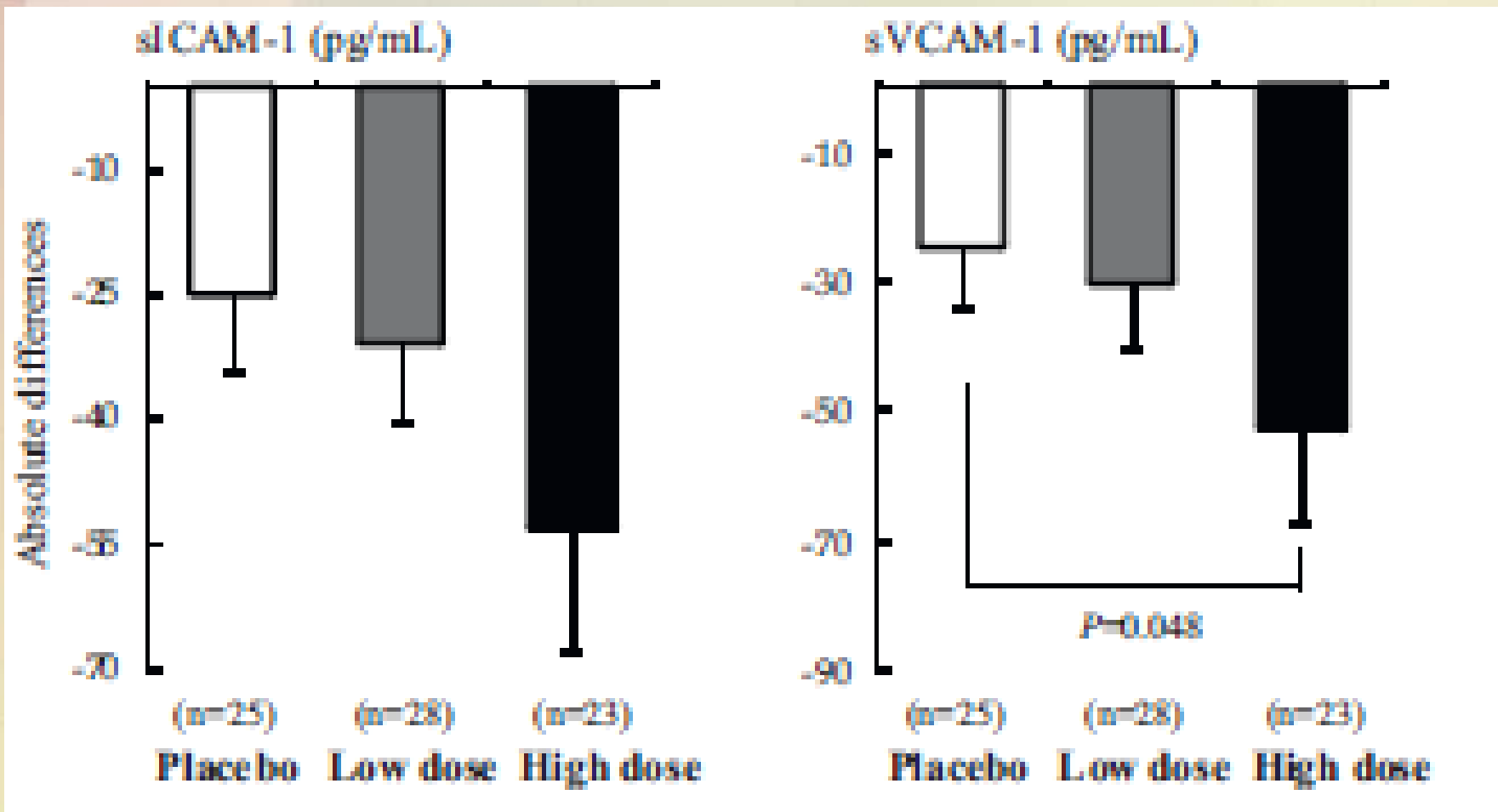
- **Endothelial function as measured by reactive hyperemia peripheral arterial tonometry (RH-PAT)**
- Oxidative stress measured by plasma superoxide dismutase (SOD) activity; Alkaline comet assay for DNA damage in circulating lymphocytes; Plasma sVCAM-1, sICAM-1 and LDL particle size

# Lyc-O-Mato® Increased lycopene blood level

Dose dependent increase in lycopene level

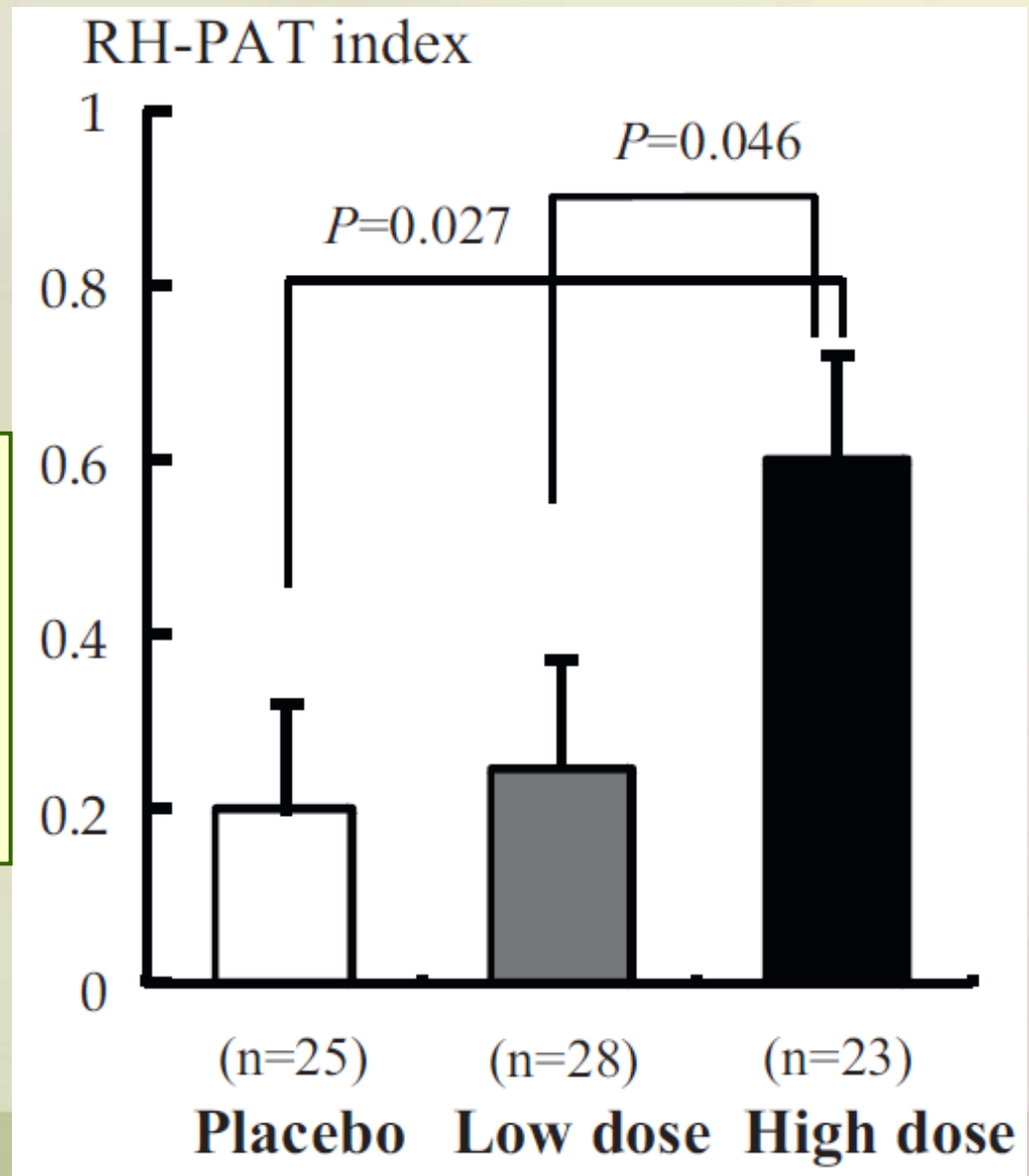


# Changes in adhesion molecules ICAM and VCAM

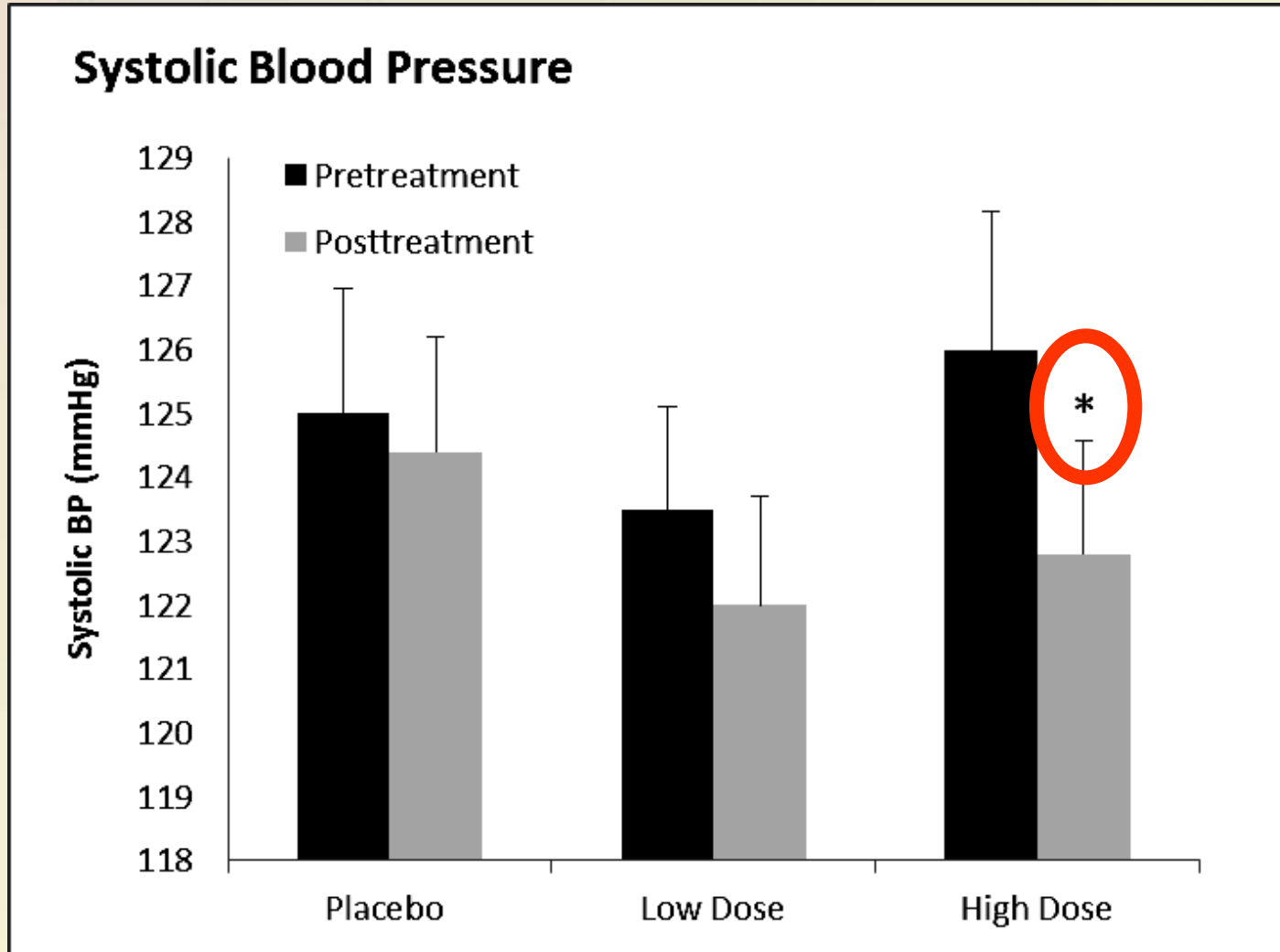


# Endothelial Function improved after Lyc-O-Mato® consumption

Endothelial Function measured by Reactive Hyperemia Peripheral Arterial Tonometry (RH-PAT)



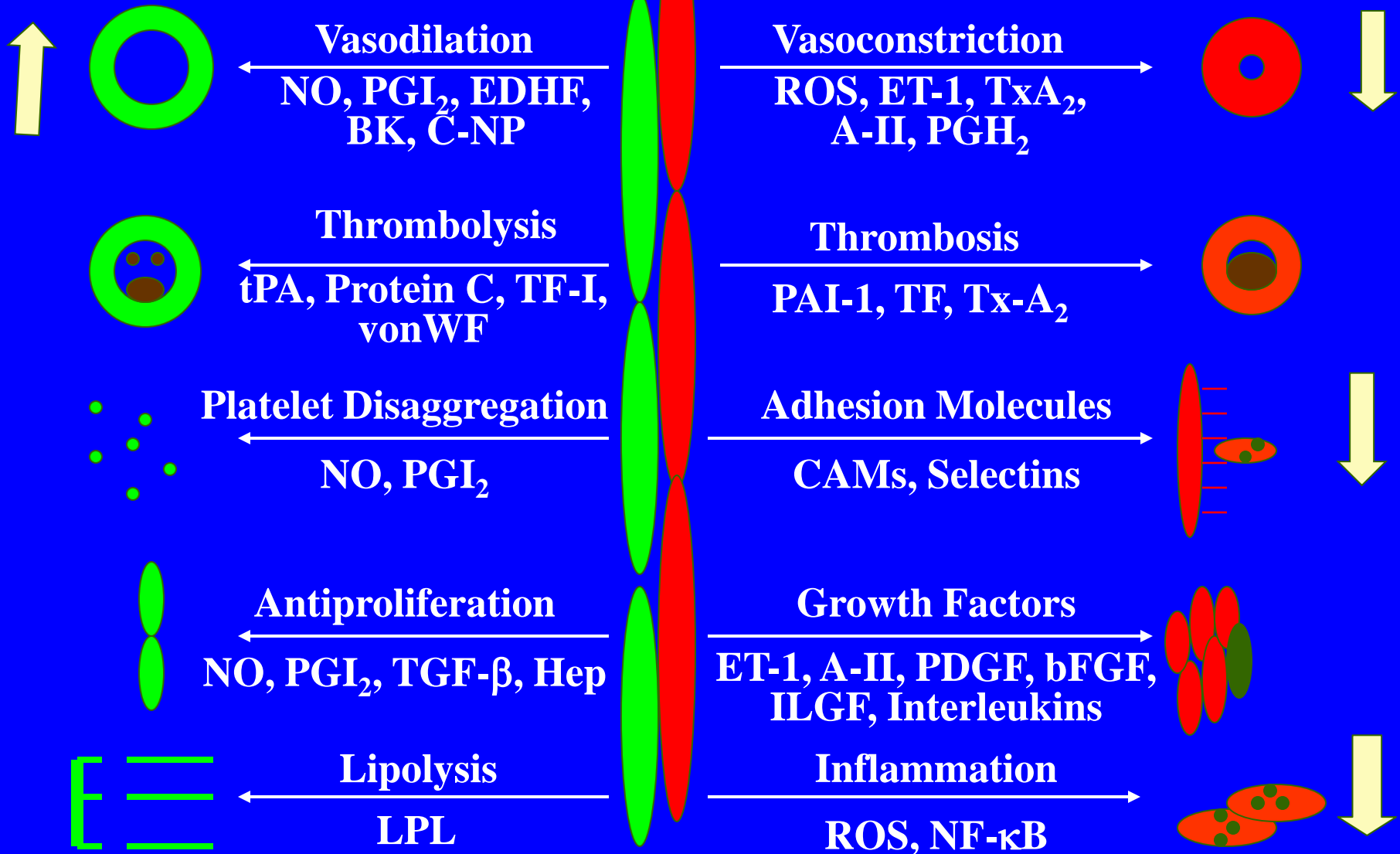
# Systolic blood pressure was reduced after Lyc-O-Mato® consumption



# Regulatory Functions of the Endothelium

**Normal**

**Dysfunction**



# Anti-inflammatory effect in animal models

## studies carried out in:

- in vitro – mouse macrophages
- in vivo – animal models:

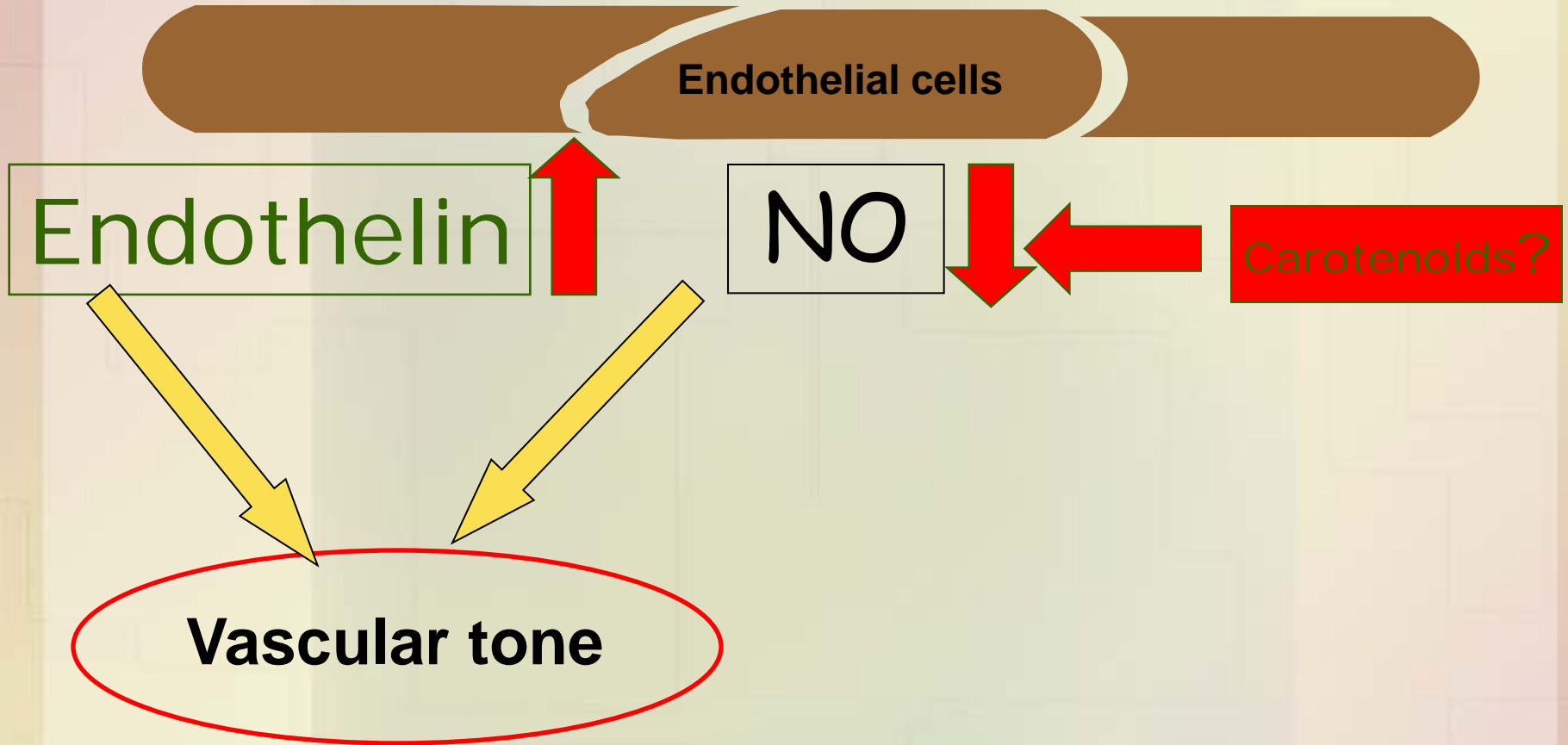
Paw edema in rats

Peritonitis in mice

By Prof Rachel Levy  
Ben-Gurion University



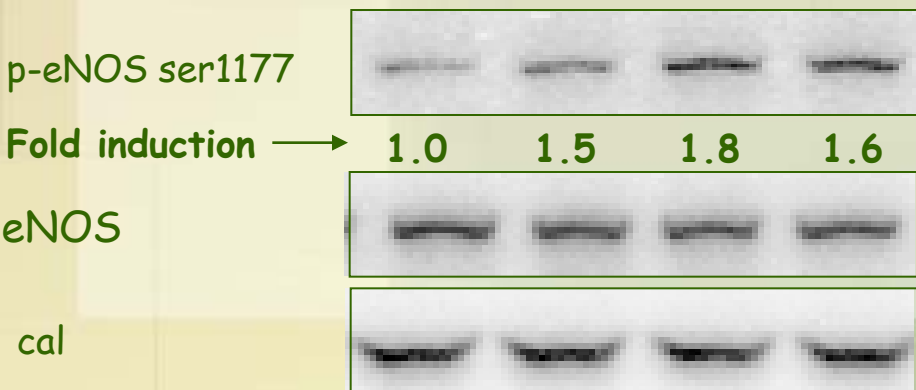
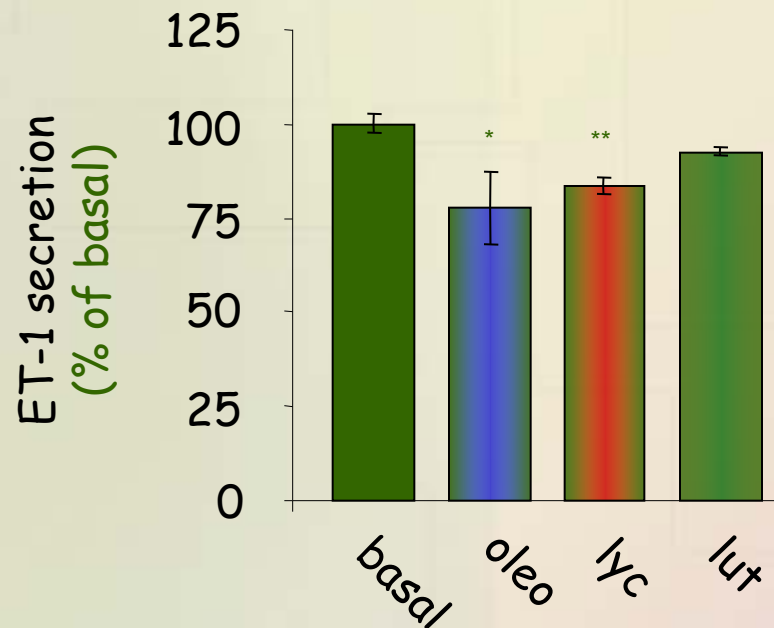
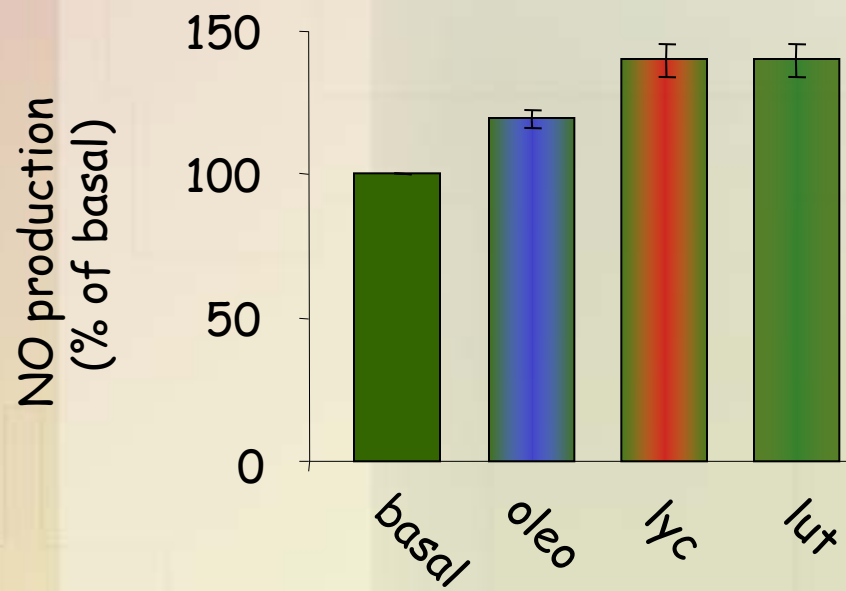
# Endothelial dysfunction



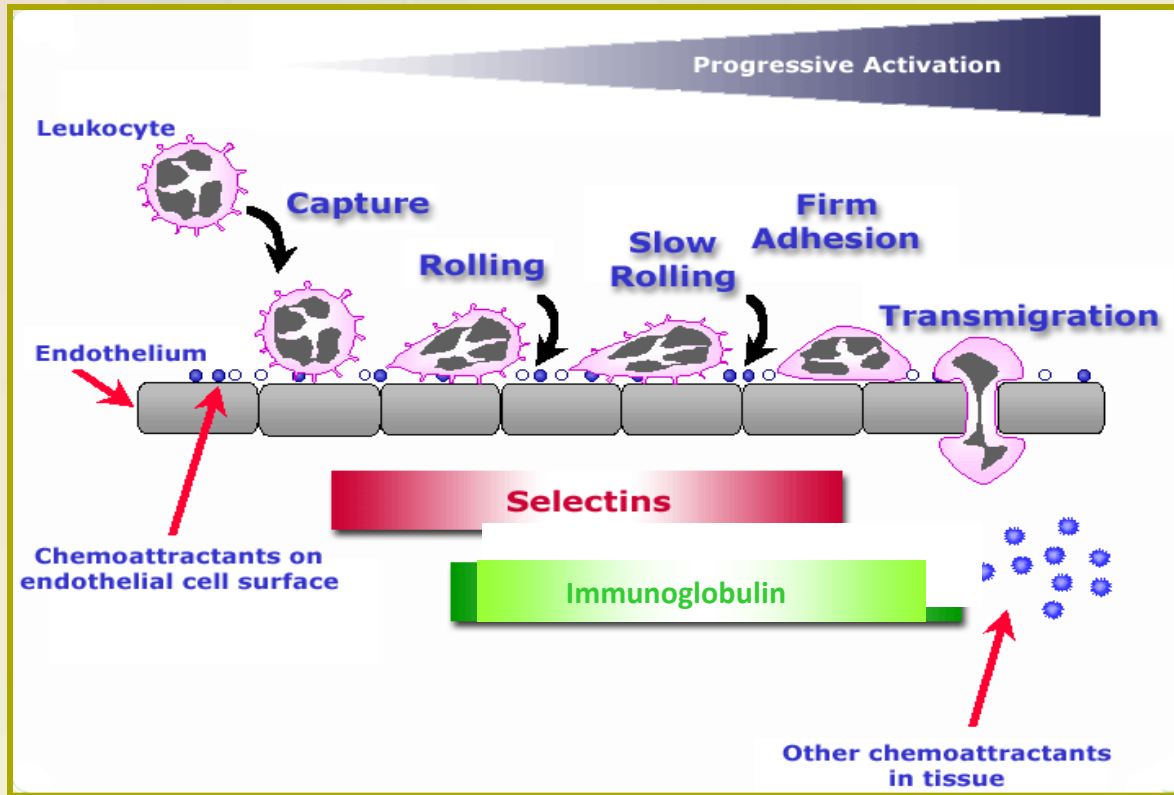
# Effect of carotenoids on NO induction and ET-1 secretion

↑ NO induction

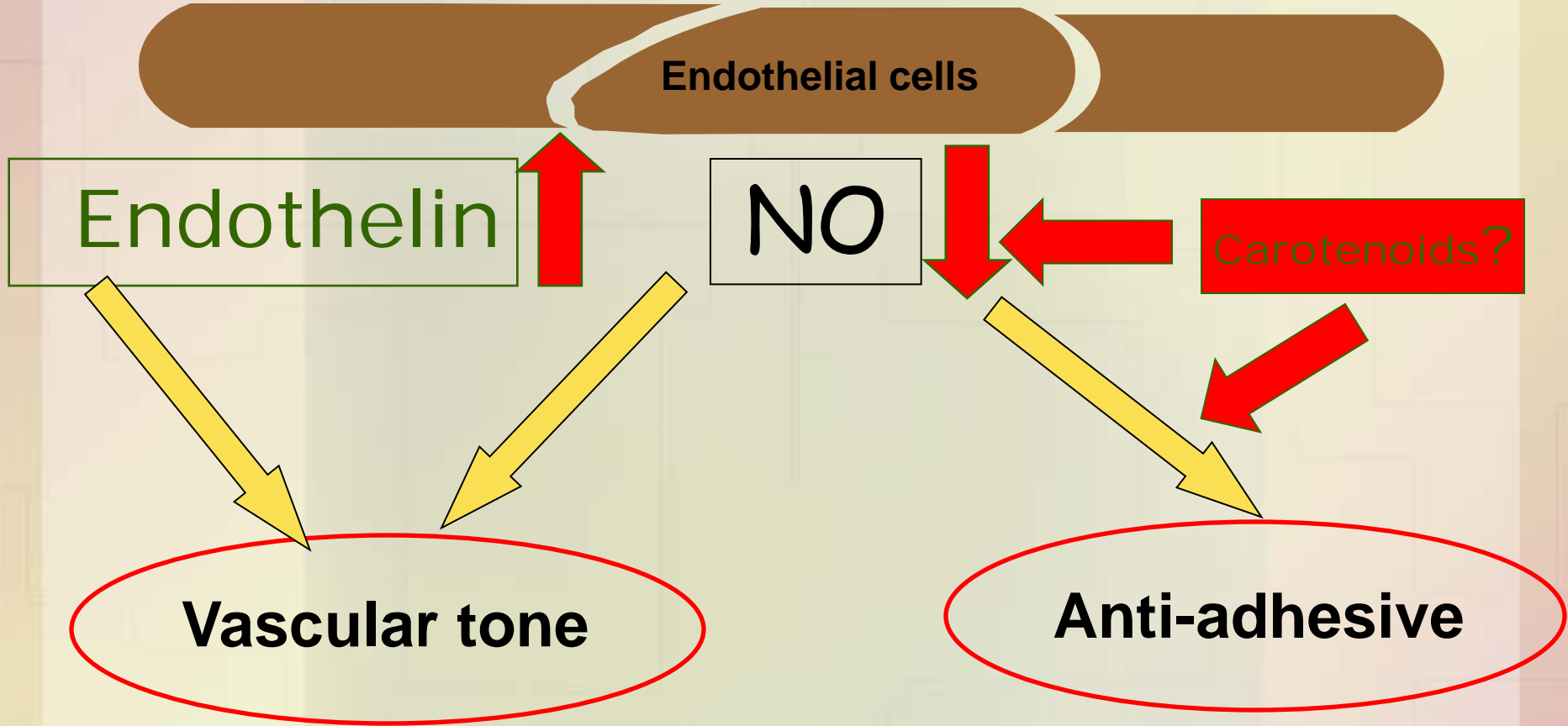
↓ ET-1 secretion



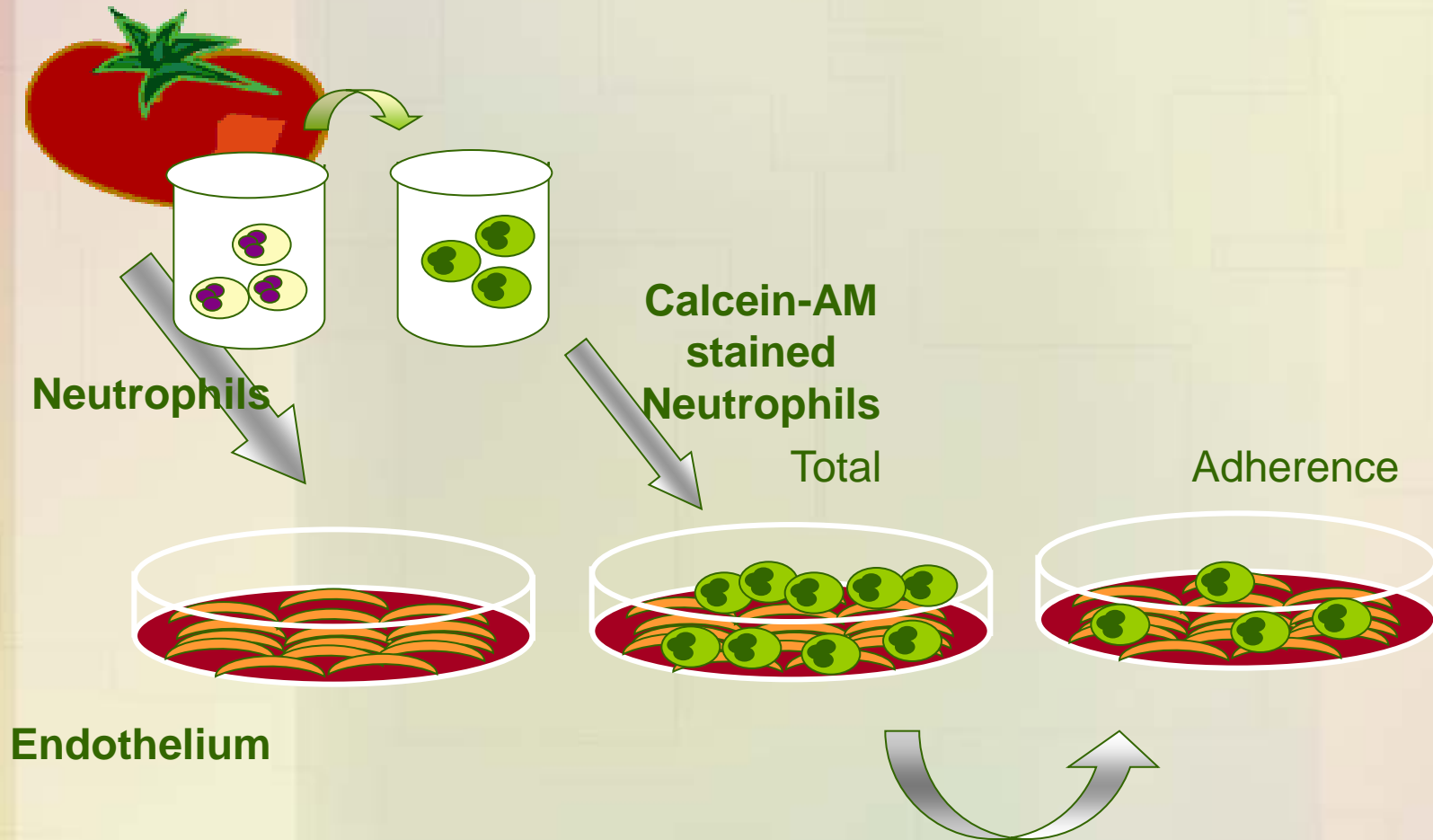
# Adhesion of leukocytes



# Endothelial dysfunction

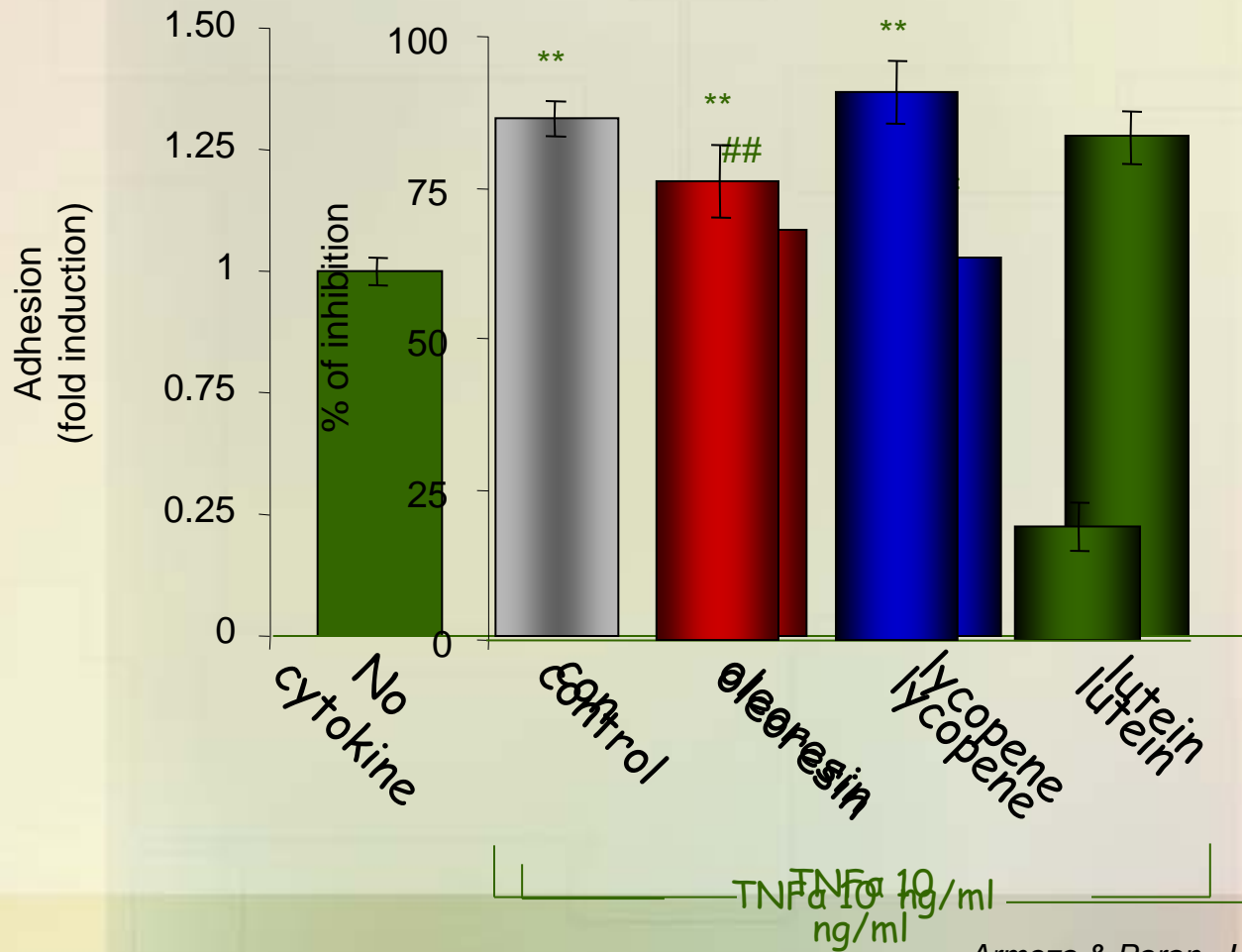


# Adhesion assay



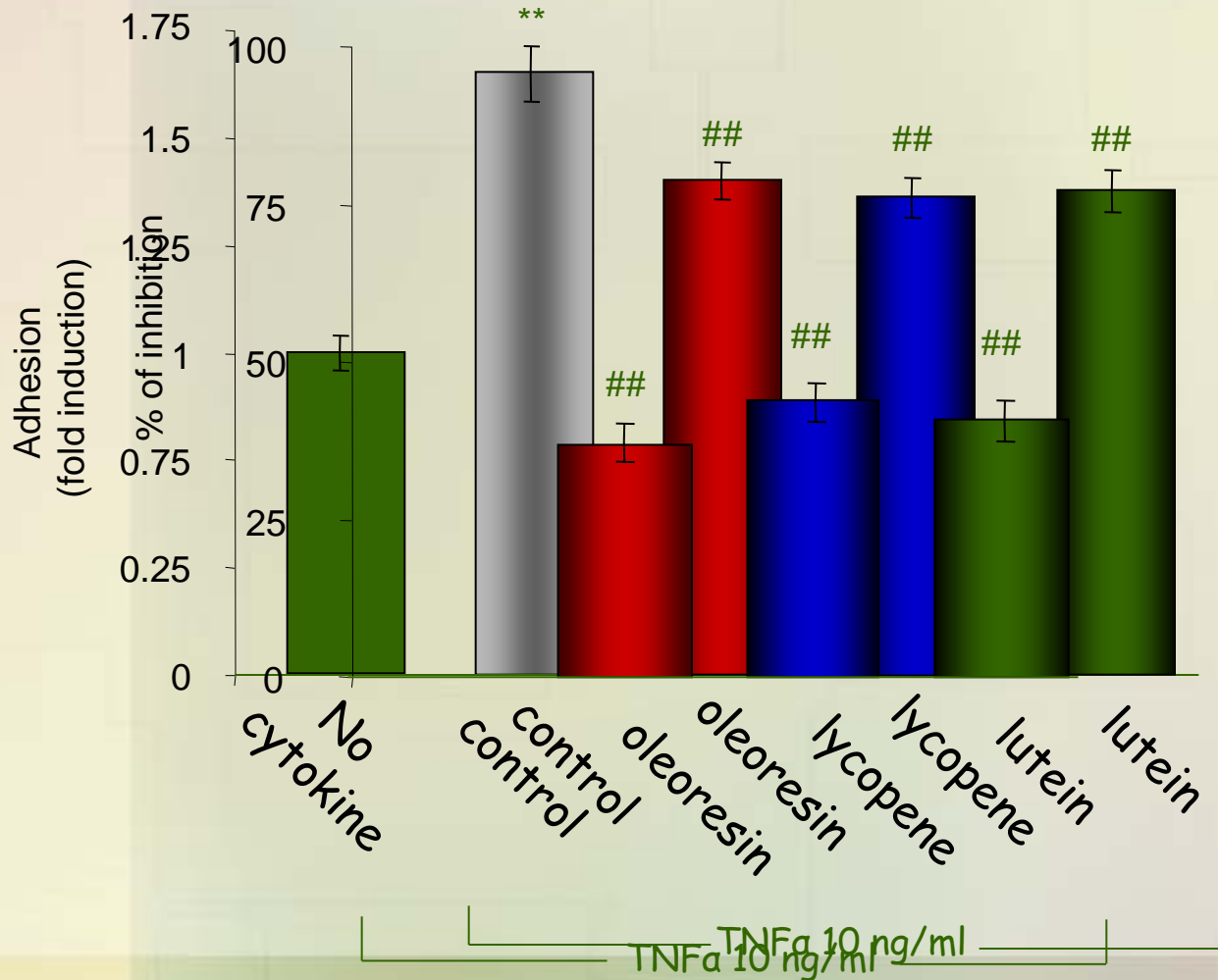
# 1. Lycopene, Lutein and tomato oleoresin inhibit the adhesion of white blood cells to stimulated EC

**A** EA.hy 926 (cell-line)

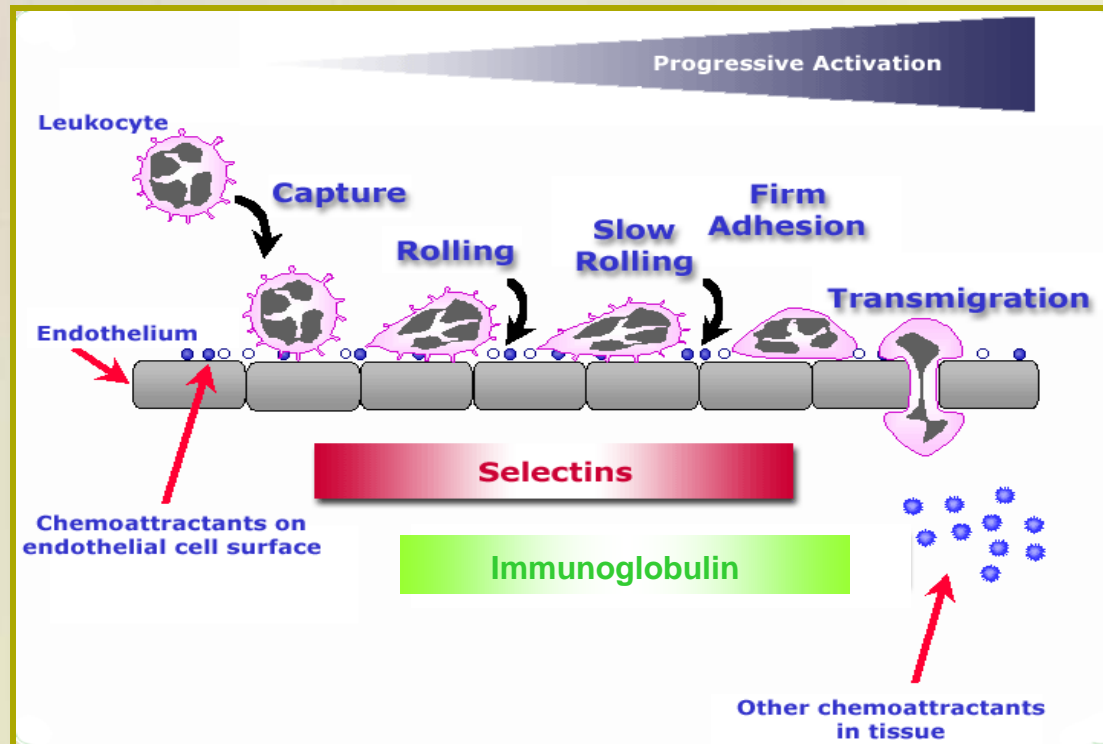


**B**

# hUVEC (primary cell culture)



# Adhesion of leukocytes



## selectins

P-selectin (C,I)  
E-selectin (I)

## Immunoglobulin

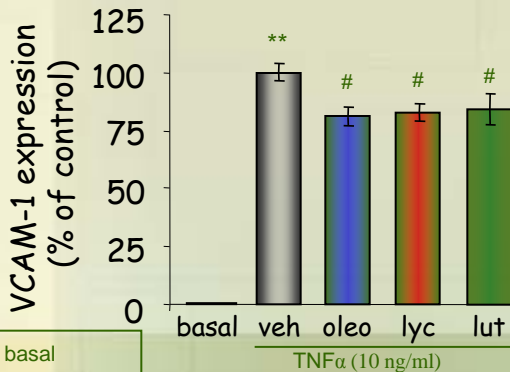
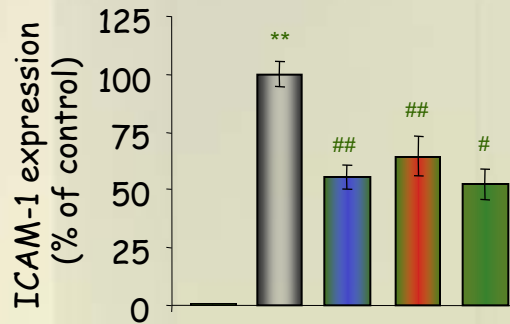
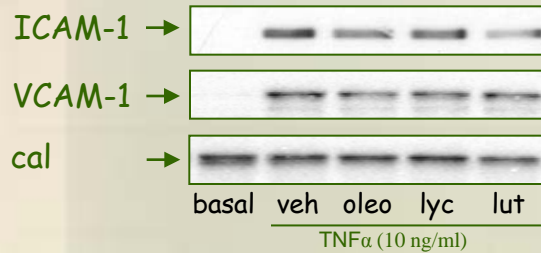
ICAM-1 (C,I)  
ICAM-2 (C)  
VCAM-1 (C,I)

NFkB

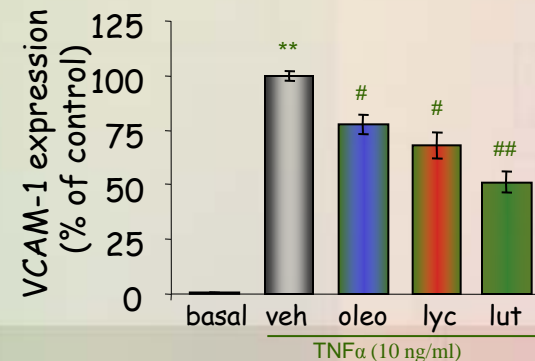
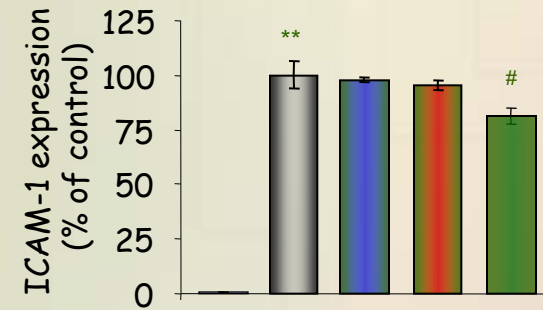


# 2a. Carotenoids and tomato-oleoresin reduce expression of adhesion molecules (ICAM-1 & VCAM-1) in stimulated EC

## A EA.hy 926 cells

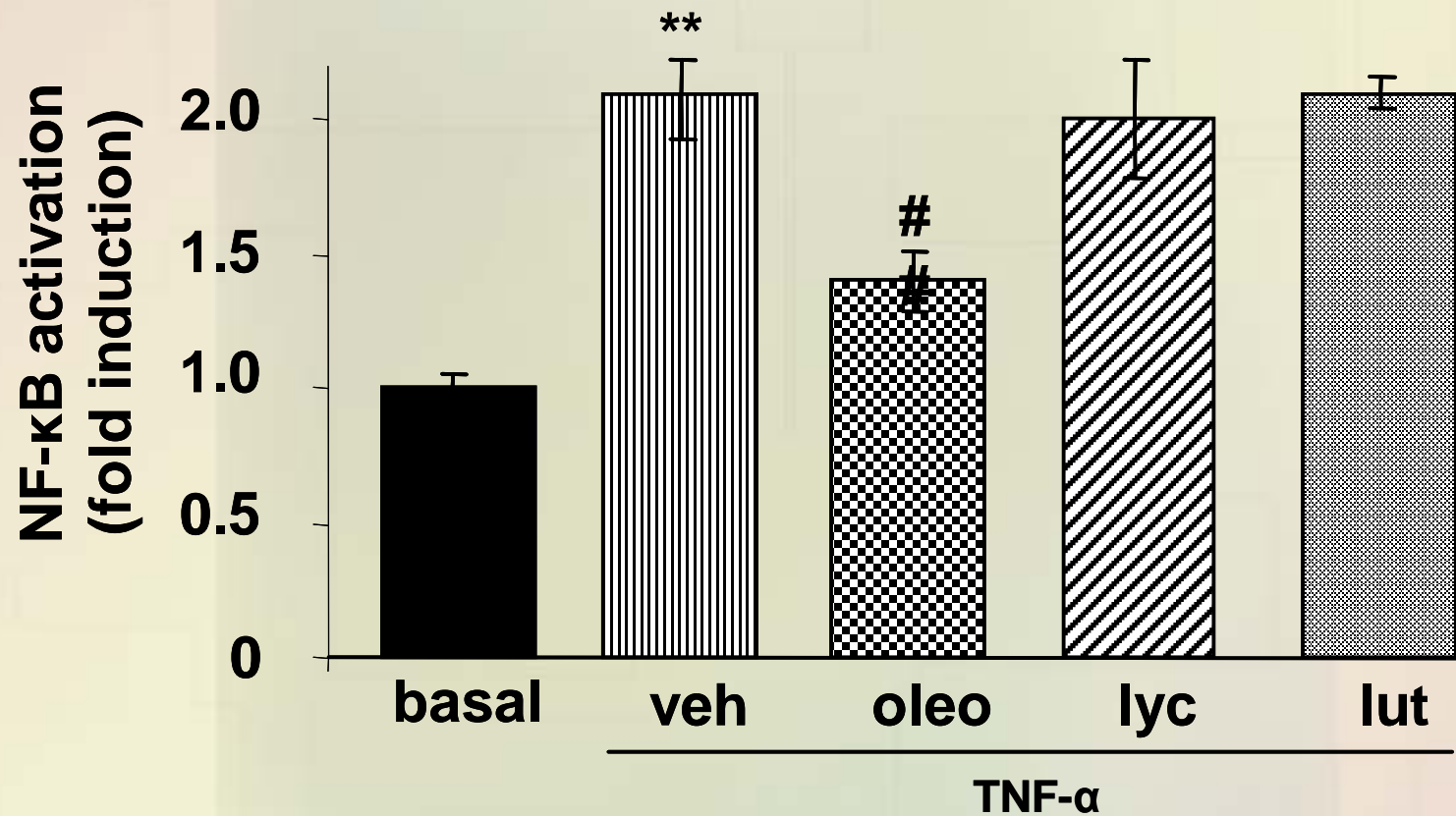


## B hUVEC



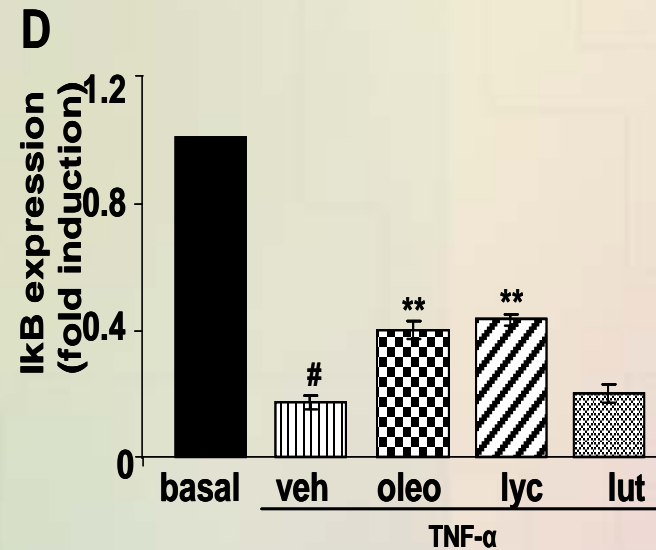
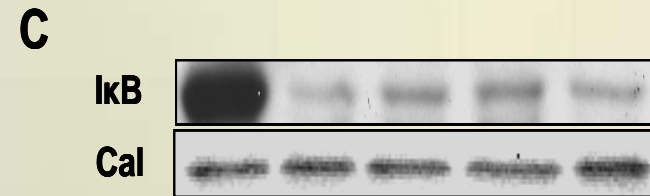
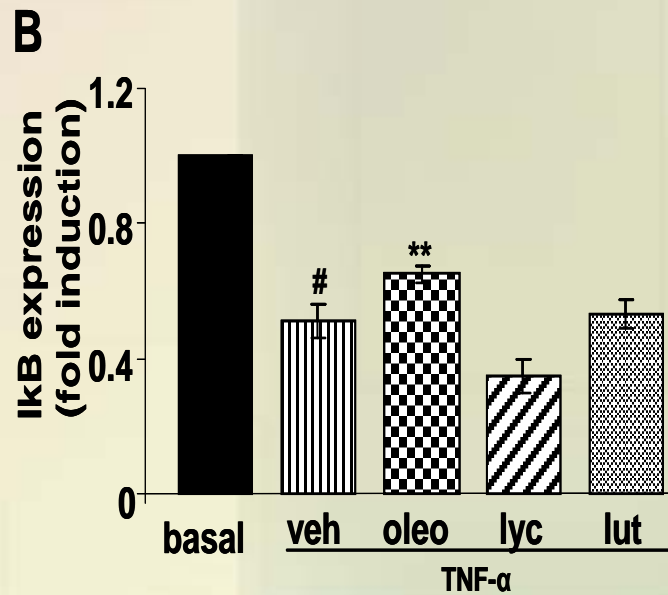
\*\* p<0.001, \* p<0.05 vehicle vs. basal  
## p<0.001, # p<0.05 treatments vs. vehicle

# Effects of carotenoids on TNF- $\alpha$ -induced NF- $\kappa$ B activation in endothelial cells



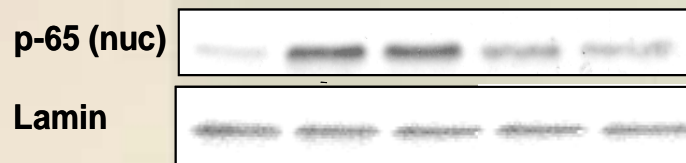
To further investigate whether carotenoids act through regulation of NF- $\kappa$ B pathway, the effects of the carotenoids on dislocation of NF- $\kappa$ B-complex components (I $\kappa$ B, p65 and p50) were tested. Thirty minutes following exposure to TNF- $\alpha$  dramatic reduction in cytoplasm I $\kappa$ B was detected in both cell types

# Reduction in cytoplasm IκB

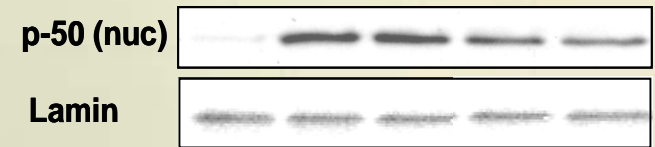


# Reduction in the production of the subunits P65 and P50

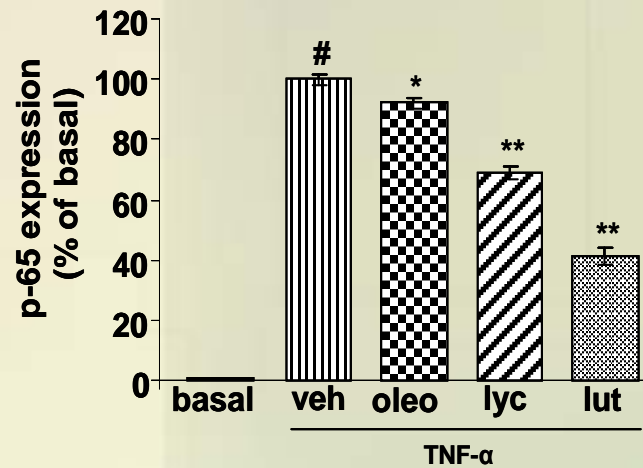
E



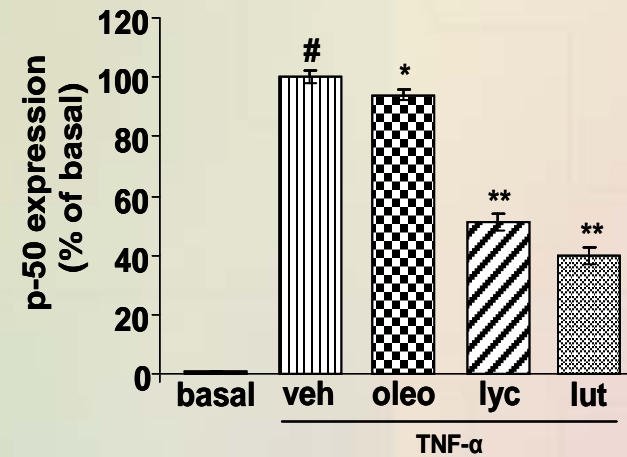
G



F



H



# Conclusions

*(in-vitro models)*

- Carotenoids attenuate the adhesion of neutrophils to stimulated endothelial cells.
- Carotenoids reduce expression of adhesion molecule ICAM-1
- Carotenoids inhibit activation of transcription factor NFkB

Carotenoids inhibit vasoconstrictive and pro-inflammatory effects and improve endothelial function



**Thank you**