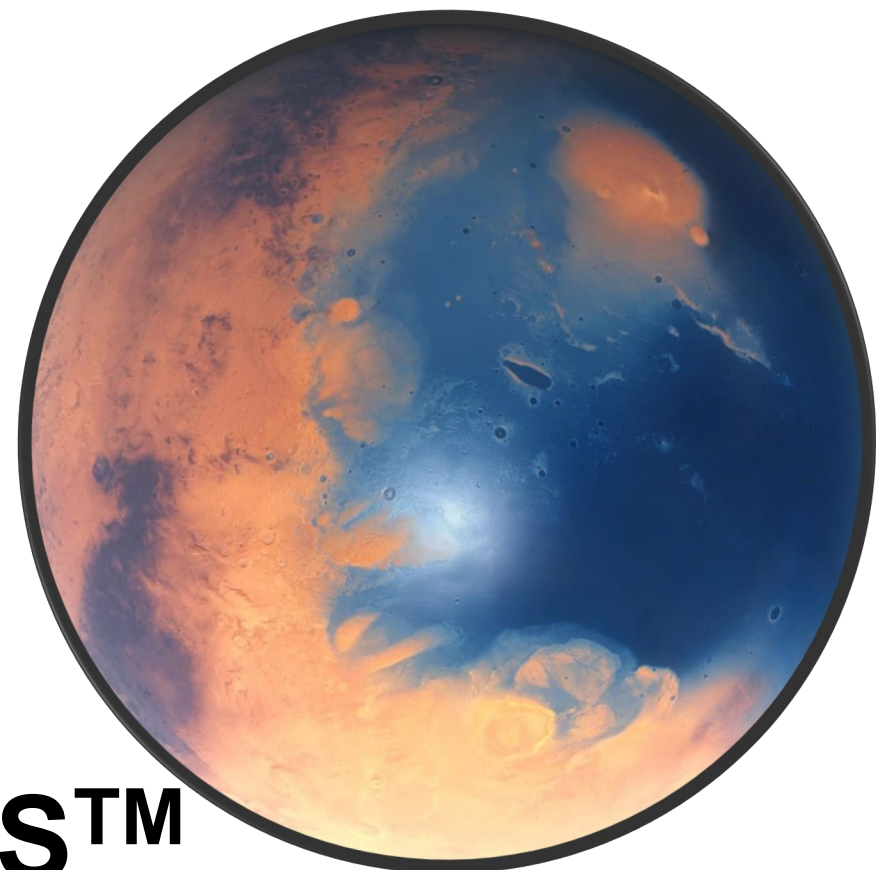




Pharmacotherapy on MARS™ (Molecular Adsorbent Recirculating System)

Yen Tran, Pharm.D, MBA

Pharmacy Grand Rounds
Sep 01st, 2020

Burden of Liver Failure Disease

>1 million
deaths
worldwide

1-6 cases per
million
people/year

Mortality ~50%
in acute liver
failure

6% of liver-
related deaths

7% of
orthotopic liver
transplant

Objective

1. Review the pathophysiology of acute liver failure and the indications for liver dialysis
2. Describe the mechanism of MARS™ (Molecular Adsorbent Recirculating System)
3. Discuss the pharmacokinetic changes of medications affected by MARS™ and the clinically relevant implications



Objective

- 1. Review the pathophysiology of acute liver failure and the indications for liver dialysis**

Definition of Acute Liver Failure

AASLD Guideline 2011

Coagulation
abnormality

- **INR ≥ 1.5**

Mental alteration

- **Encephalopathy**

Cirrhosis

- **Without preexisting cirrhosis**

Duration

- **< 26 weeks**

AASLD: American Association for the Study of Liver Disease

Acute Liver Failure Subtypes

Classification, clinical features, and prognosis of acute liver failure

*Time from jaundice to encephalopathy
(Weeks)*

0 - 1

1 - 4

4 -12

Clinical feature	Hyperacute	Acute	Subacute
Severity of coagulopathy	+++	++	+
Severity of jaundice	+	++	+++
Degree of intracranial hypertension	++	++	+/-
Survival without emergency transplantation	Good	Moderate	Poor
Typical etiology	Acetaminophen Hepatitis A & E	Hepatitis B	Drug induced

+/-: present or absent ;+: mild severity; ++: moderate severity; +++: high severity

Etiologies of Acute Liver Failure

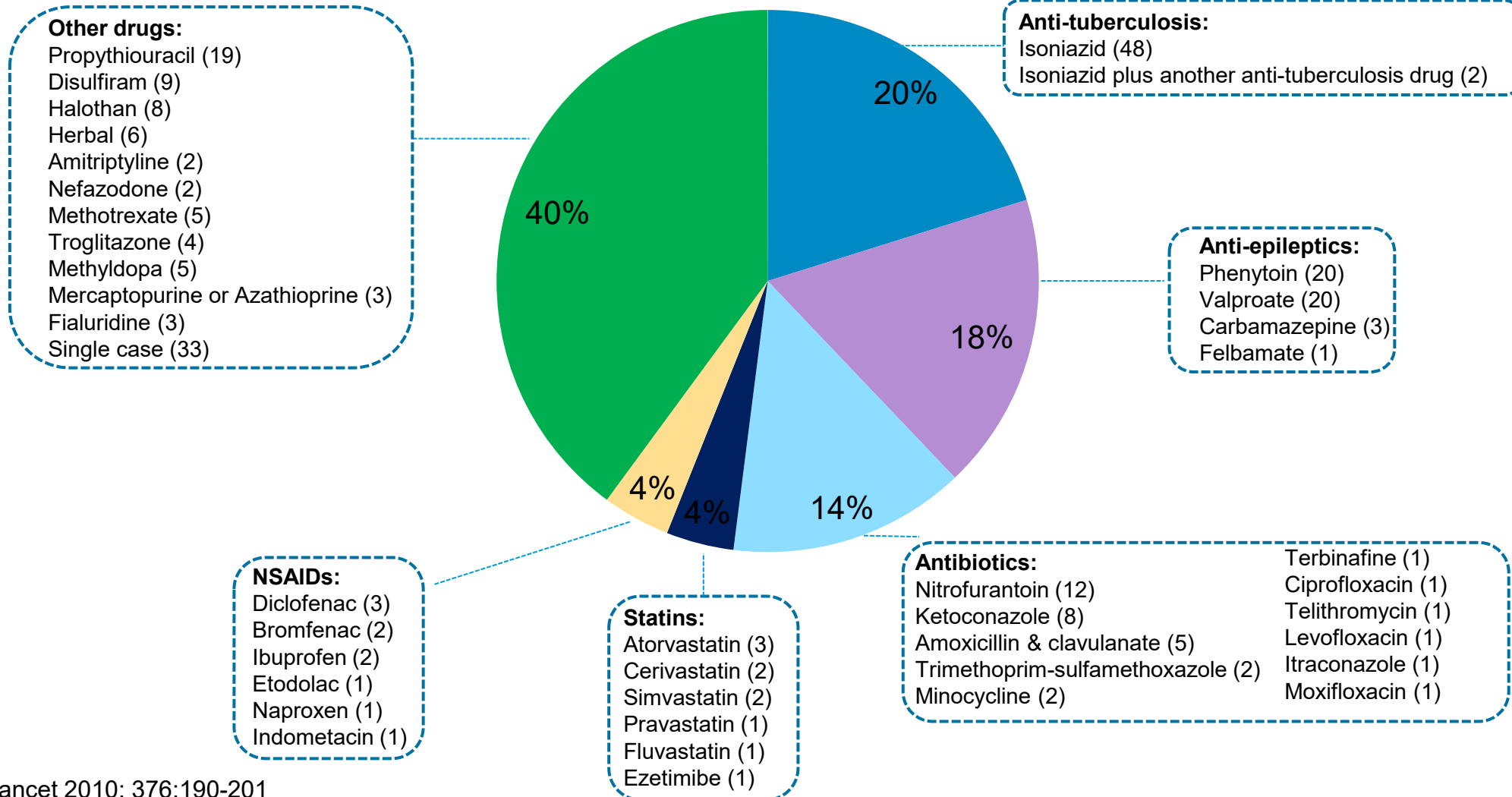
- Drug induced liver injury
- Herbal and supplements
- Viral hepatitis
- Poisoning

- Genetics:
 - Wilson disease
 - α 1-antitrypsin deficiency
 - Galactosemia
 - Hemochromatosis
 - Tyrosinemia

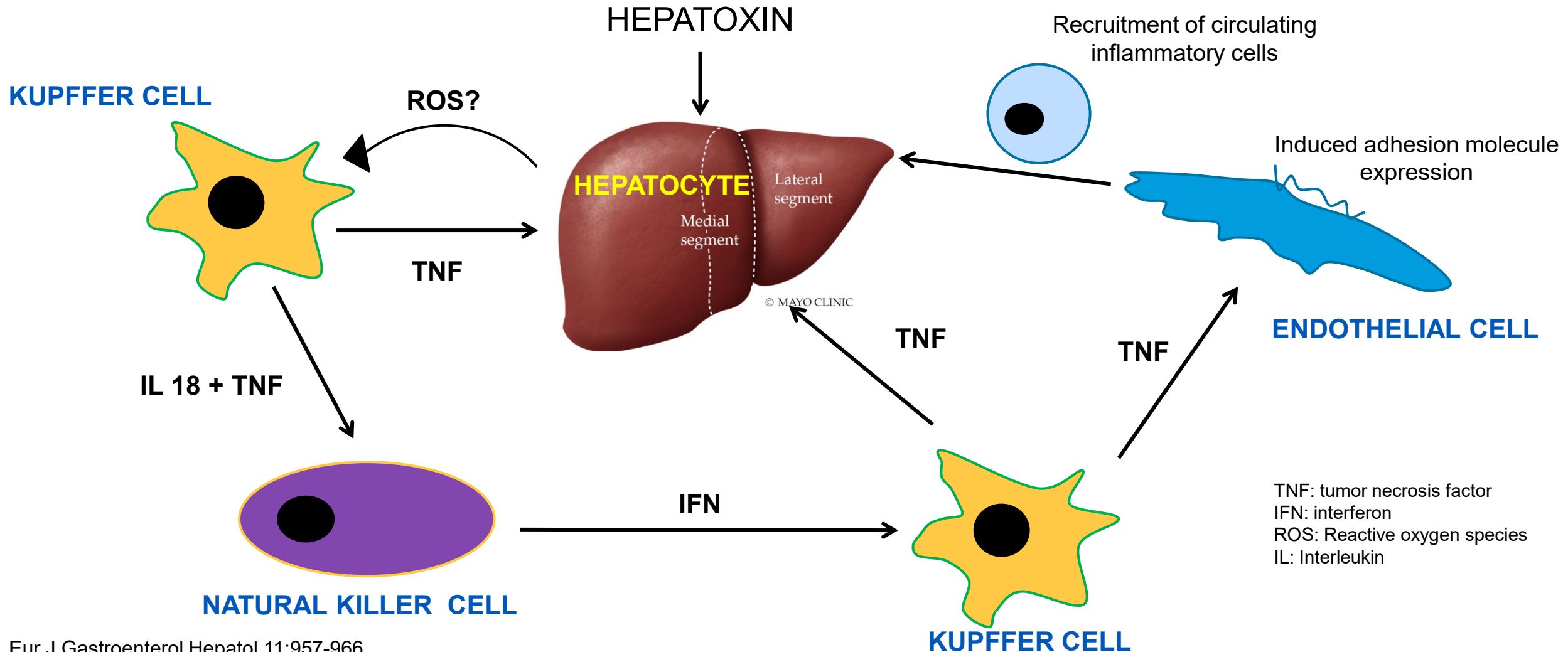
- Others:
 - Pregnancy-related liver disease
 - Ischemic hepatitis
 - Autoimmune hepatitis
 - Malignant infiltration
 - Cryptogenic

Drugs Associated with Liver Injury and Failure

#1: Acetaminophen



Cytokine Production During Acute Liver Failure



Inflammatory Factors and Toxins

Direct hepatic necrosis

- ↓ Metabolic function
- ↓ Gluconeogenesis
- ↓ Clearance of lactate and ammonia
- ↓ Synthetic capacity

Release of cytokine and toxin

- ↑ Tumor necrosis factor (TNF- α)
- ↑ Interleukin (IL)

**Systemic
response**

Multi organs dysfunction

Clinical Features of Acute Liver Failure

Brain

- Hepatic encephalopathy
- Cerebral edema
- Intracranial hypertension
- Seizures

Liver

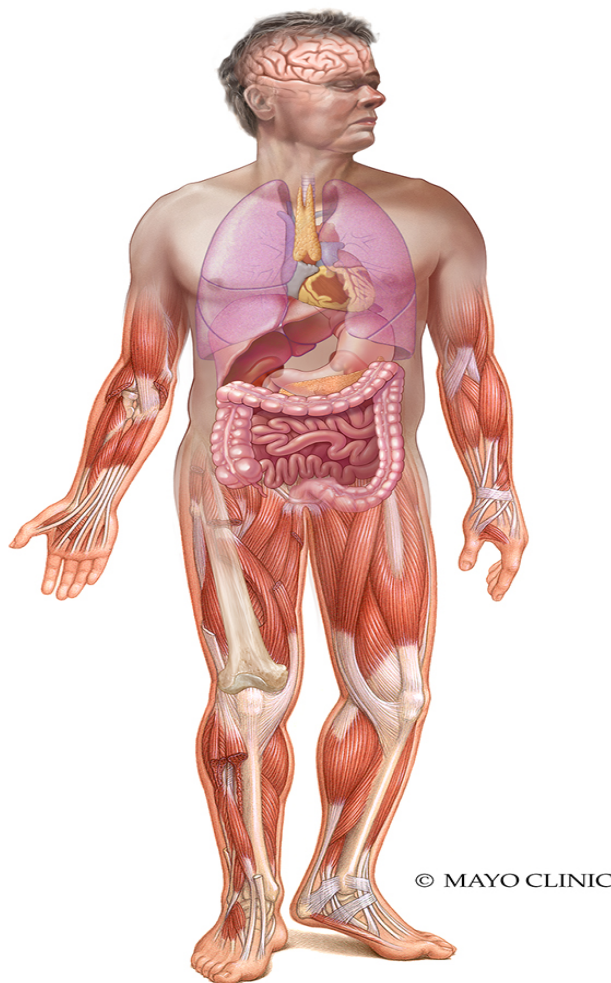
- Loss of metabolic function
- Hypoglycemia
- Hyperammonemia
- Coagulopathy
- Lactic acidosis

Kidney and adrenals

- Hepatorenal syndrome
- Hepatoadrenal syndrome
- Electrolyte abnormalities

Systemic

- Systemic inflammatory response
- Immunosuppression
- High energy expenditure
- Catabolic state



Heart

- High output state
- Subclinical myocardial injury
- Hepatocardiac syndrome

Lung

- Acute lung injury
- Acute respiratory distress syndrome
- Hepatopulmonary syndrome

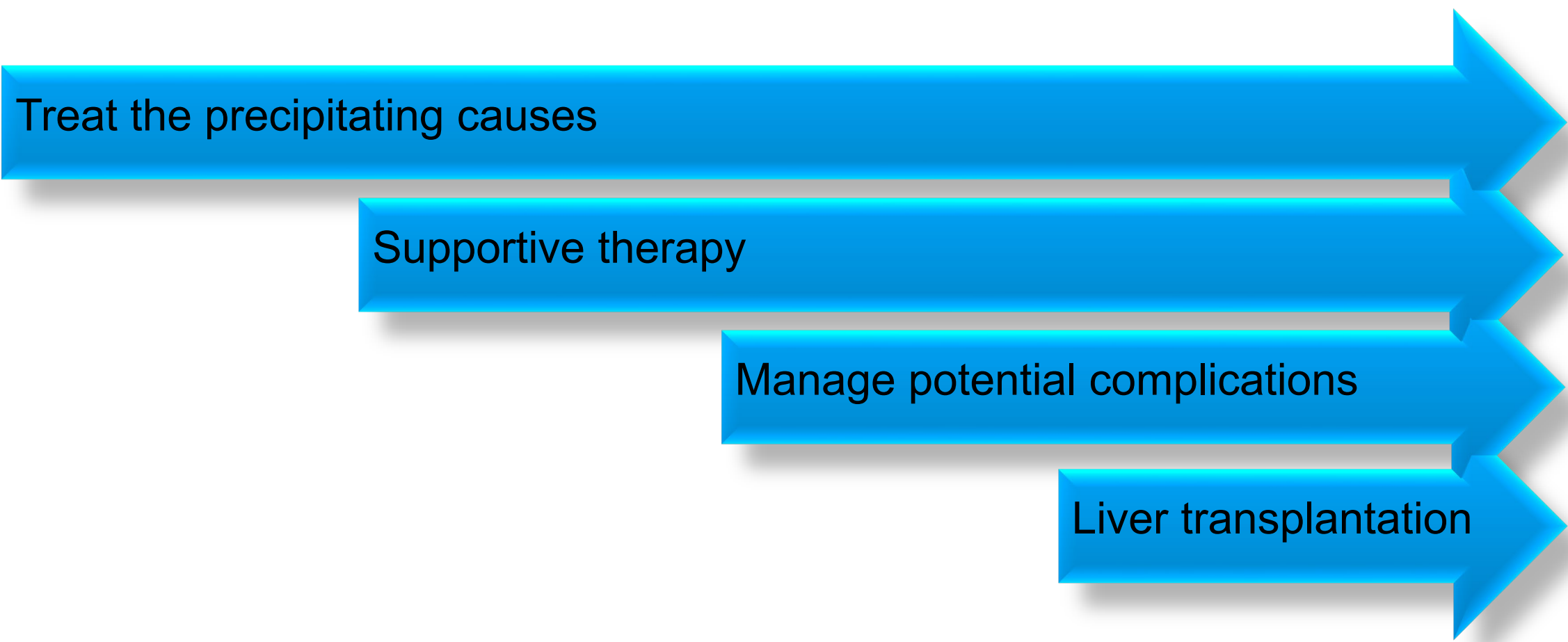
Pancreas

- Pancreatitis

Bone marrow

- Frequent suppression
- Anemia
- Thrombocytopenia

Management of Acute Liver Failure



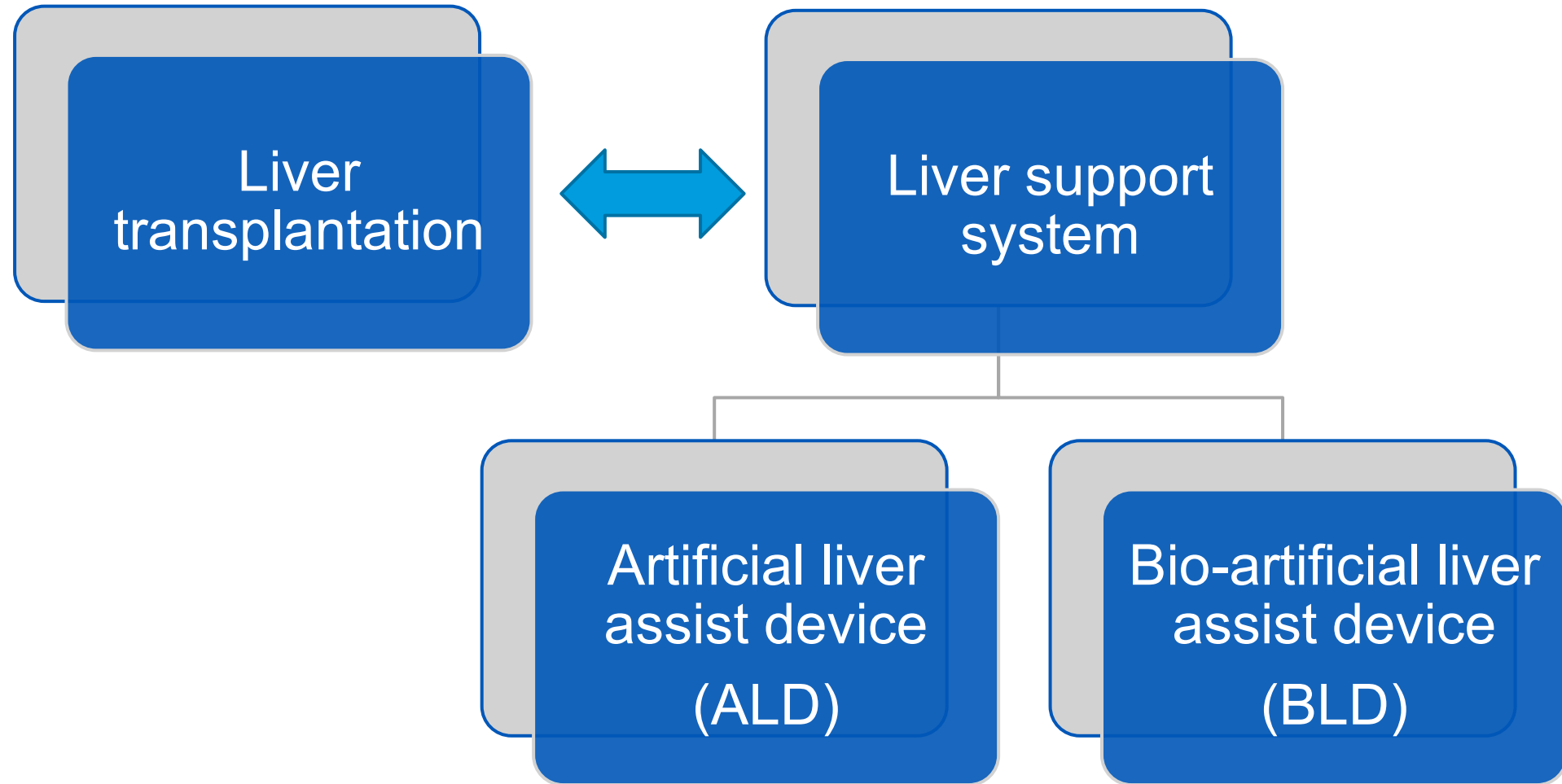
Treat the precipitating causes

Supportive therapy

Manage potential complications

Liver transplantation

Liver Transplantation vs Liver Support System



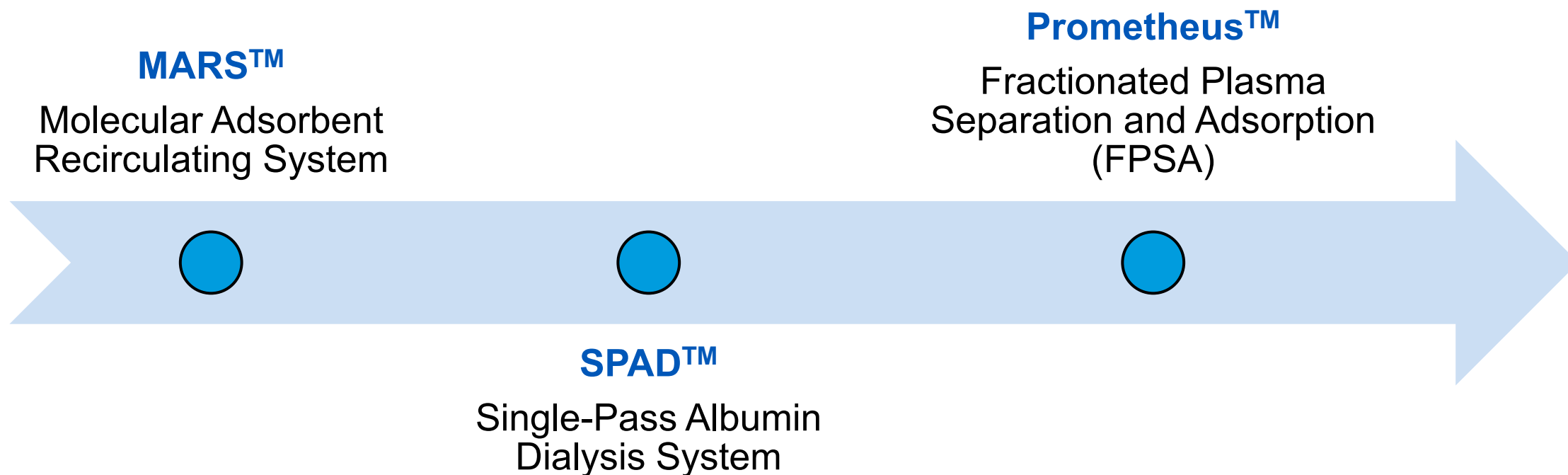
Question 1

- Which medication is the number one cause of drug-induced liver injury?
 - A. Isoniazid
 - B. Acetaminophen
 - C. Statin
 - D. Phenytoin

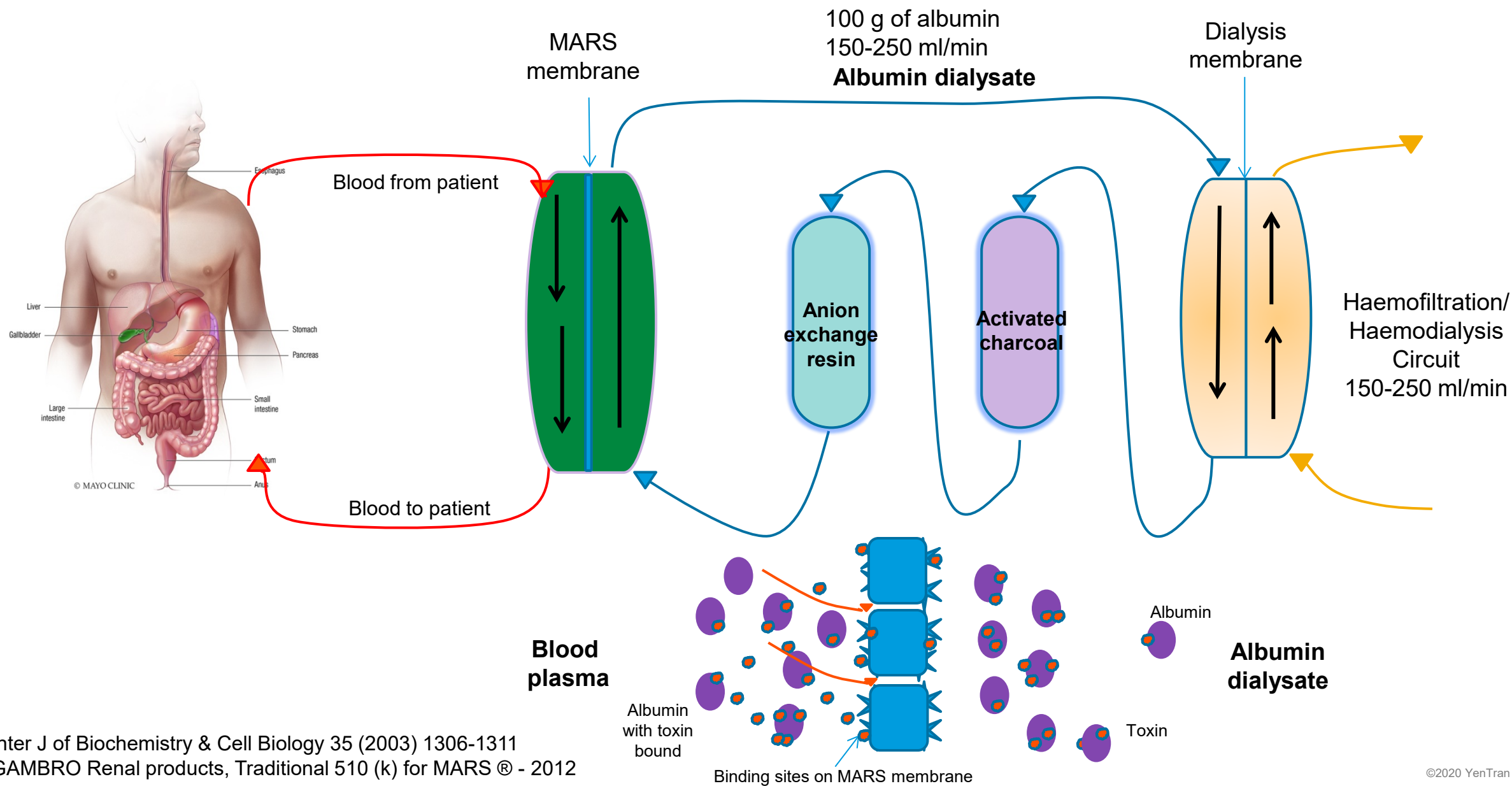
Objective

2. Describe the mechanism of MARS™ (Molecular Adsorbent Recirculating System)

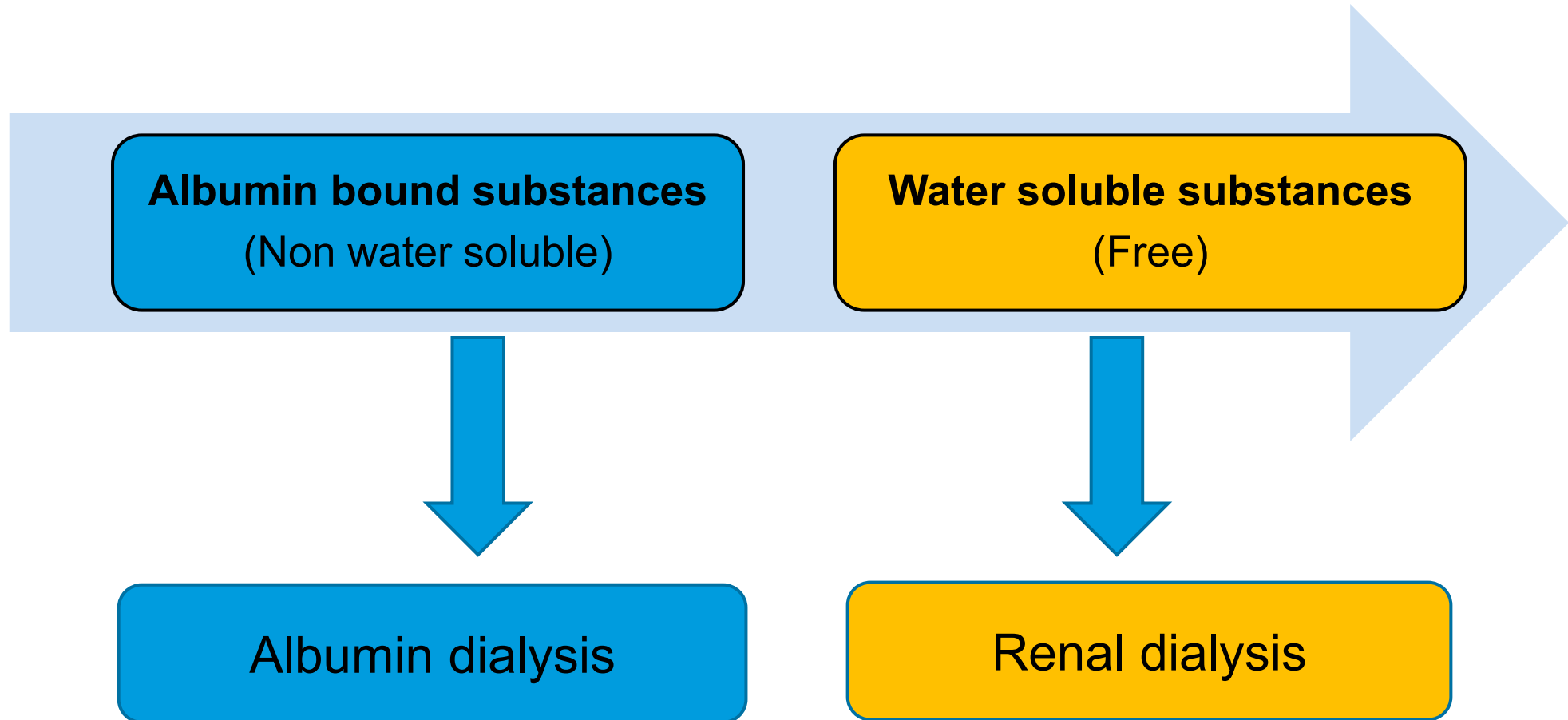
Albumin Dialysis Concept-Based Systems



Mechanism of MARS™



MARS™ Therapy: Substances Removal



MARS™ Therapy: Substances Removal

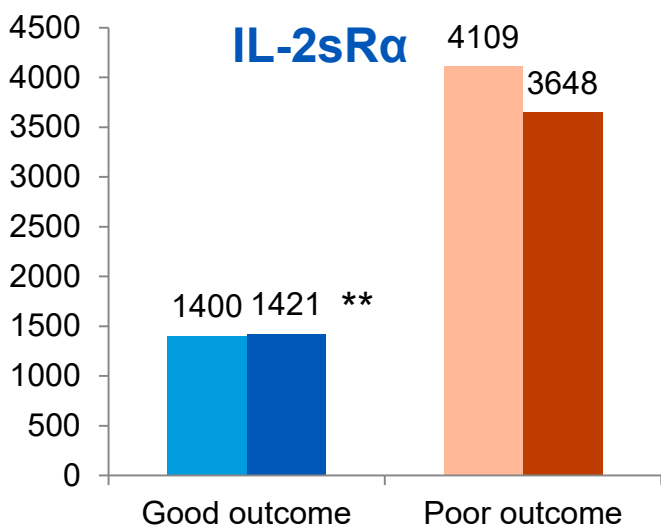
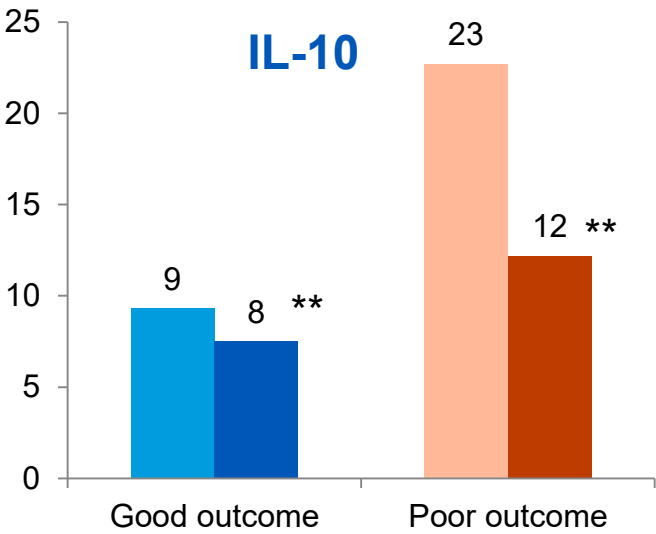
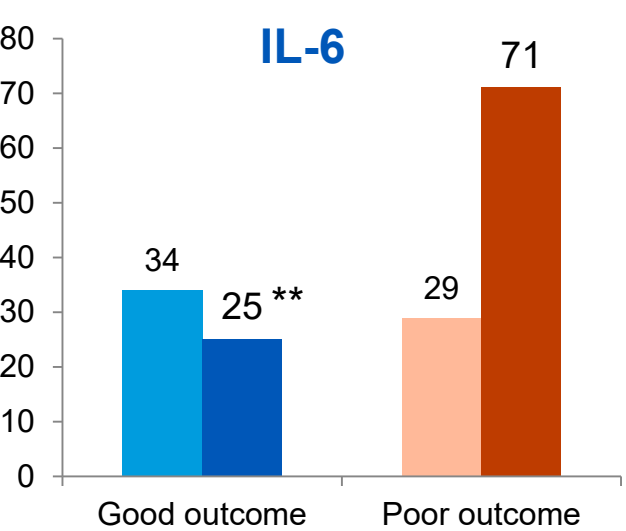
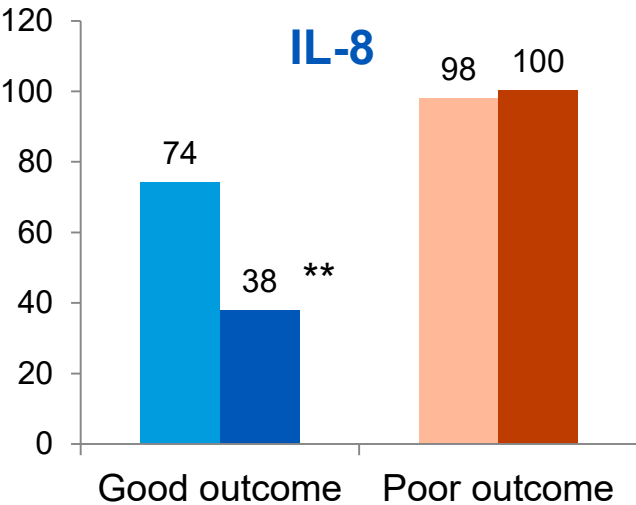
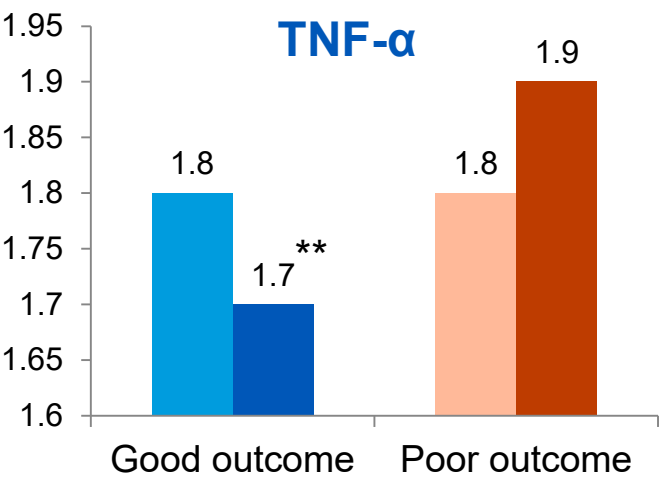
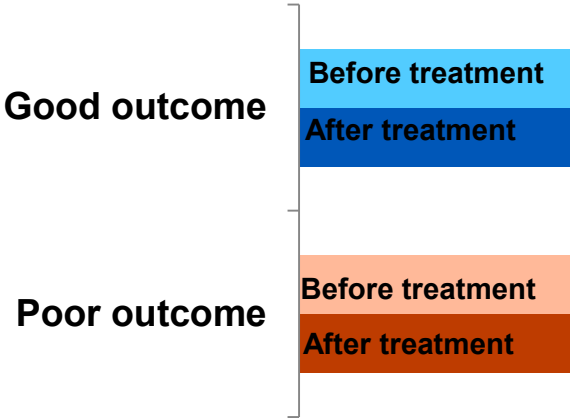
Albumin bound substances
(Non water soluble)

Bilirubin (conjugated and unconjugated)
Bile acid
Copper
Nitric oxide
Fatty acids
Protoporphyrin

Water soluble substances
(Free)

Ammonia
Aromatic amino acids
Creatinine
IL-6
TNF- α
Tryptophan
Urea

Cytokines Reduction Associated with Good Outcome



MARS™ Indications

- **Drug overdose and poisonings**
 - Dialyzable (in unbound form) and bound by charcoal and/or ion exchange resins
- **Hepatic encephalopathy due to decompensation of a chronic liver disease**

Suggested Indications of MARS™

- Acute decompensation on chronic liver disease
 - Complicated by progression jaundice, hepatic encephalopathy, renal dysfunction
- Intractable pruritus in cholestasis
- Liver failure secondary to graft dysfunction
- Post-transplant or post-surgical liver failure
- Bridge to liver transplantation

Early Experience with MARS™

- Improvement in hemodynamic parameters
- Usefulness in the treatment of hepatic encephalopathy
- Successful case studies in the treatment for poison-induced liver injury
- Benefits in drug-induced liver injury cases

Heemann U et al. *Hepatology* 2002;36:949-958

Sen S et al. *Liver Transplantation*. 2004;10(9):1109-1119

Hanish SI et al. 2017;266(4):677-684

Eapen J et al. *Oxford case reports*. 2018;2018(1):omx077

Ostapowicz G et al. *Annals of Internal Medicine*. 2002;137(12):947-954

Leise et al. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2014;89(2):241-253.

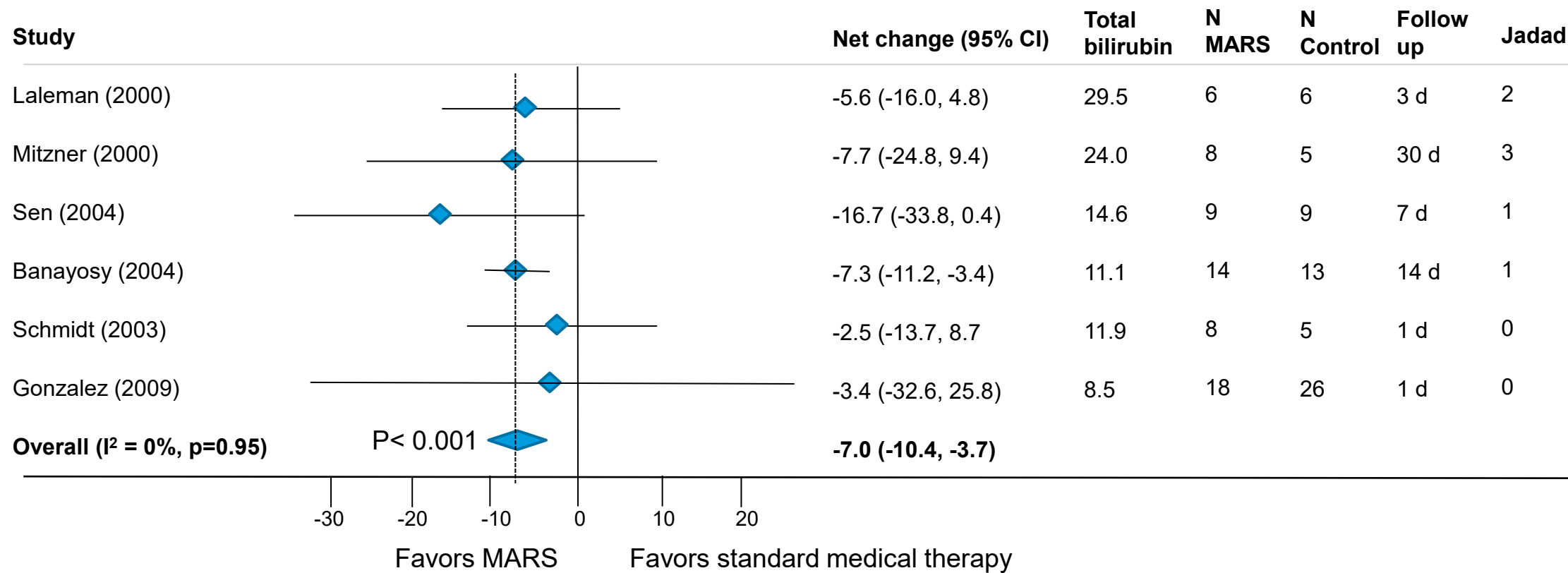
MARS™ Therapy for Liver Failure

Meta-Analysis

Author	Year	Study period	Etiology of liver failure	No of Patients	Age (years)
Mitzner	2000	30 days	Alcoholic/viral hepatitis	13	47
Heemann	2002	30 days	Alcoholic	24	52
Schmidt	2003	1 day	Predominant acetaminophen toxicity	13	42
Sen	2004	7 days	Alcoholic/viral hepatitis	18	45
Banayosy	2004	14 days	Cardiogenic shock	27	63
Laleman	2006	3 days	Alcoholic liver disease	12	56
Hassanein	2007	5 days	Alcoholic/viral hepatitis	70	51
Gonzalez	2009	1 day	NR	45	48
Hessel	2010	3 years	Predominant alcoholic liver disease	149	49
Banarest	2010	28 days	NR	189 (pp-156)	NA

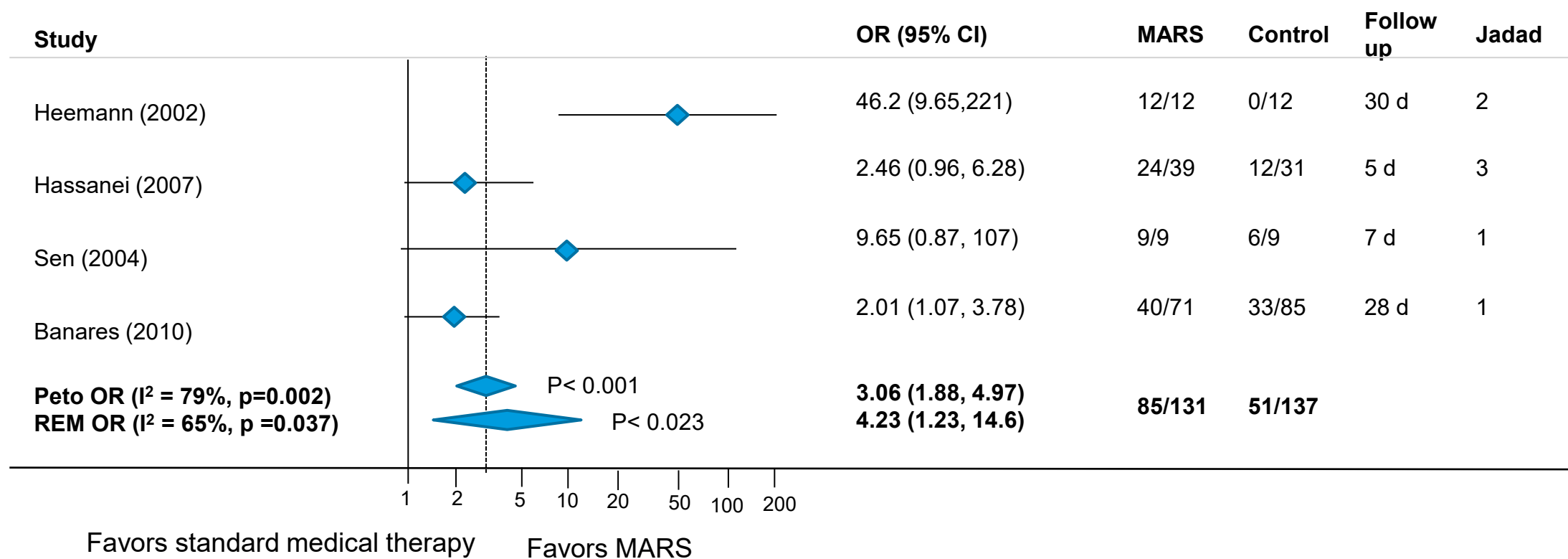
MARS™ Therapy for Liver Failure Meta-Analysis

Net change in total bilirubin levels



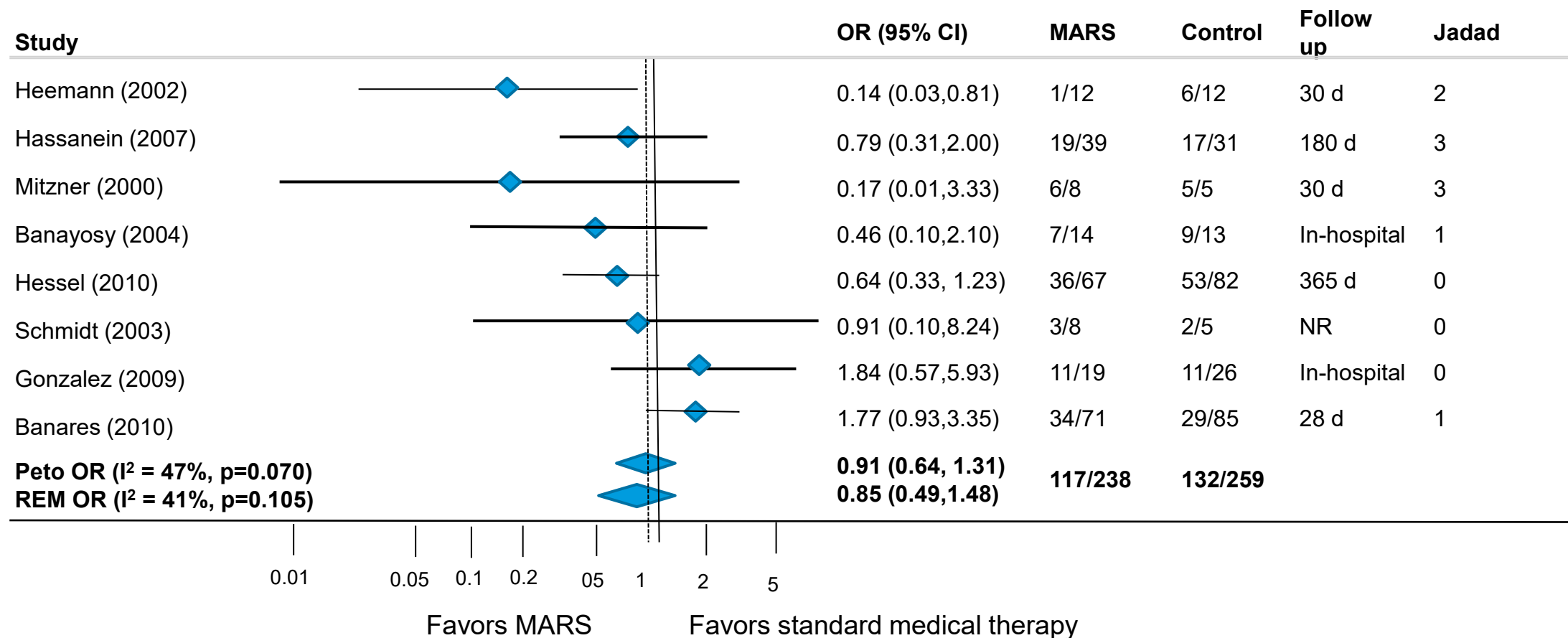
MARS™ Therapy for Liver Failure Meta-Analysis

Improvement in hepatic encephalopathy



MARS™ Therapy for Liver Failure Meta-Analysis

Reduction in mortality



RELIEF Trial

MARS™ in Acute-on-Chronic Liver Failure

*Prospective randomized controlled trials
19 hospitals in Europe*

- Acutely decompensated cirrhosis
- Serum bilirubin > 5 mg/dL
- And at least one:
 - Hepatorenal syndrome
 - Hepatic encephalopathy ≥ grade II
 - Rapidly progressive hyperbilirubinemia

SMT + MARS
(90 patients)

SMT
(89 patients)

SMT: Standard medical therapy

MARS therapy

- First 4 days: 1 session/day followed by 3 sessions/week until sustained improvement
- Maximum: 10 sessions/21 days

RELIEF Trial

MARS™ Improved Laboratory Parameters....

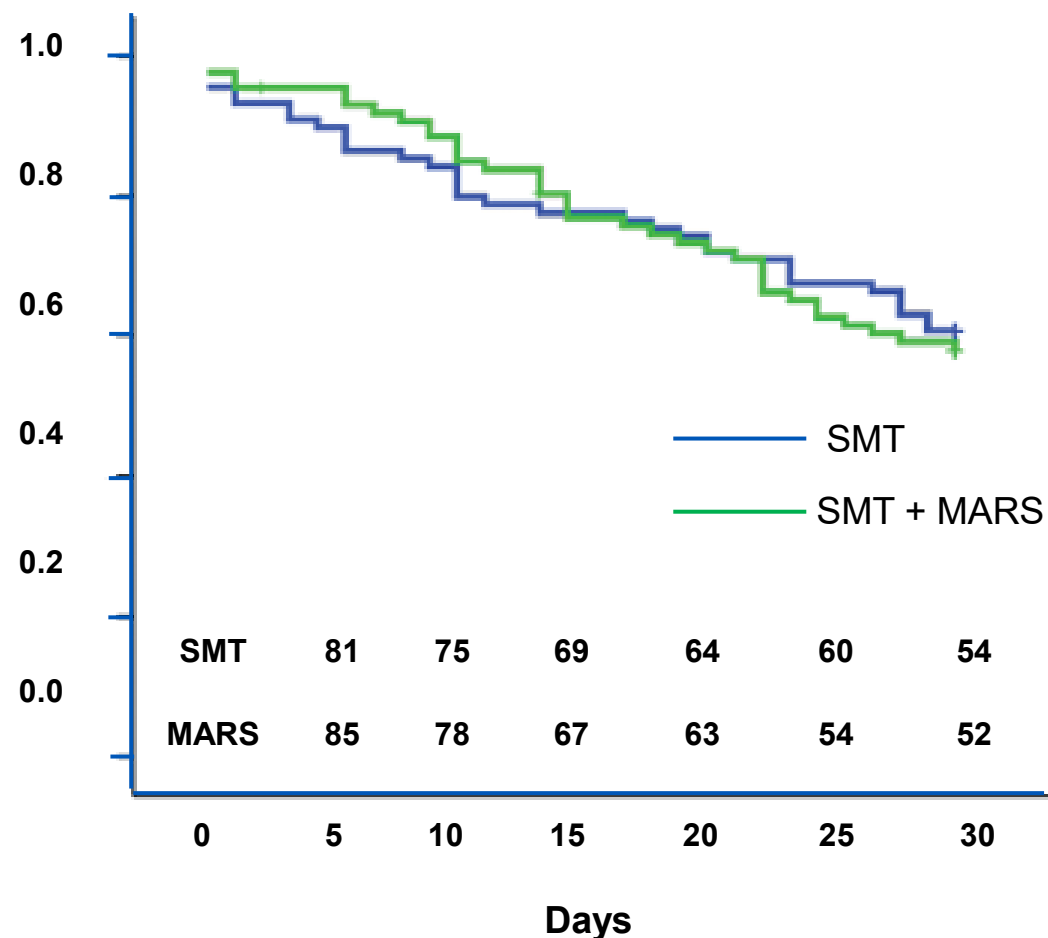
Percentage of change from baseline value in intention-to-treat population

Laboratory Parameters	MARS + SMT	SMT	P value
Bilirubin (mg/dL)	-26.4	-8.92	<0.001
Creatinine (mg/dL)	-20.04	-6.43	0.022
Serum sodium (mEq/L)	2.94	1.44	0.081
Albumin (g/L)	7.83	5.67	0.587
INR	0.00	6.38	0.098
Hemoglobin (g/dL)	-7.16	0.15	0.009
Platelet (*10 ³ /mm ³)	-29.06	-1.80	<0.001

SMT: Standard Medical Therapy

RELIEF Trial

...But Did Not Improve 28-day Survival



Survival analysis according to predetermined subgroups

ITT Population Subgroup	MARS + SMT (n, %)	SMT (n, %)	P value
Hepatorenal syndrome	25/48 (52%)	25/47 (53%)	0.914
HE $\geq$ grade II	16/32 (50%)	19/39 (49%)	0.896
Progressive hyperbilirubinemia	21/57 (37%)	19/62 (31%)	0.475
MELD > 20	30/71 (42%)	29/62 (47%)	0.601

ITT: intention-to-treat
HE: Hepatic encephalopathy
MELD: Model for End-Stage Liver Disease
SMT: Standard Medical Therapy

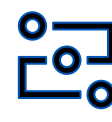
MARS™ Therapy – Adverse Events and Monitoring

 Hypotension

 Decrease platelets

 Renal dysfunction

 Bleeding

 Electrolyte imbalances

 Inadequate removal of toxin

Question

In RELIEF trial, for patients with acute on chronic liver failure, MARS™ therapy was proven to improve:

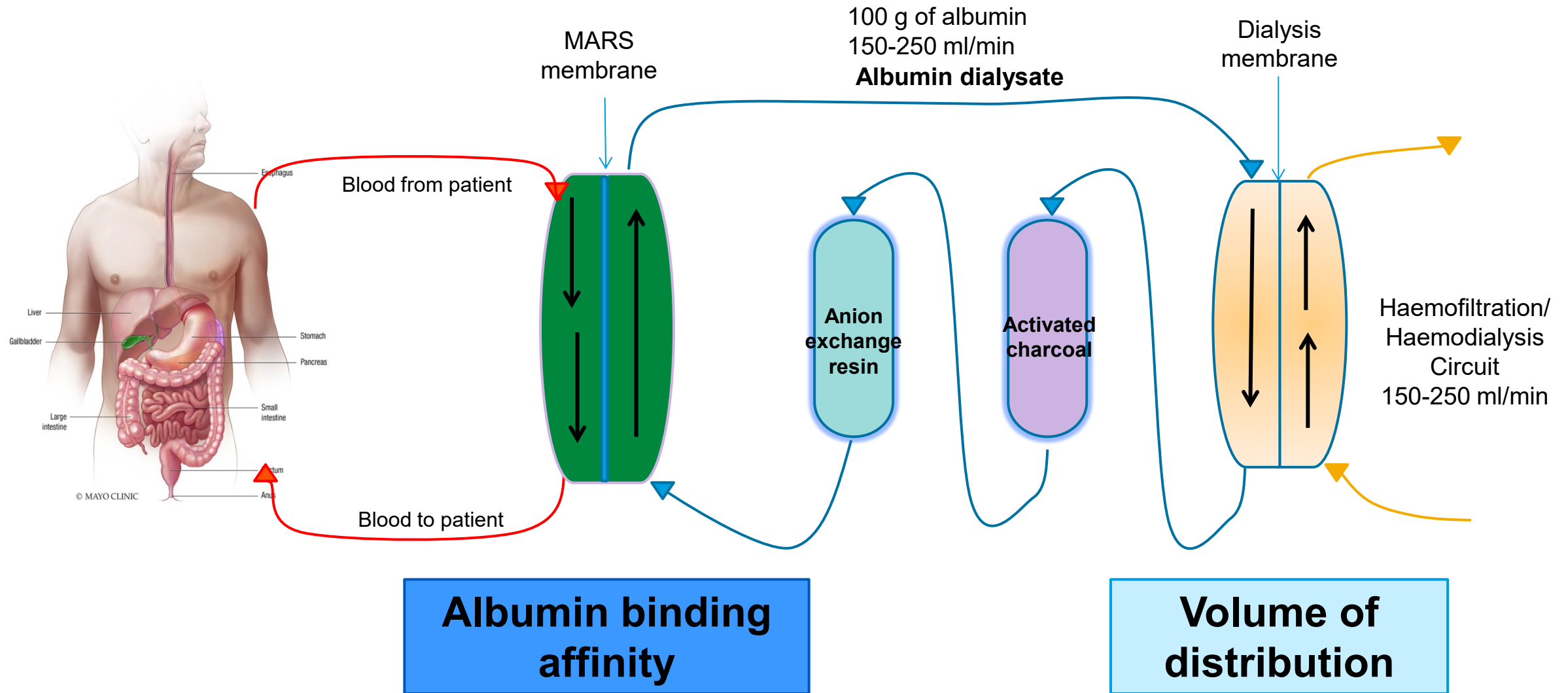
- A. Significantly reduced serum bilirubin
- B. Significantly reduced serum creatinine
- C. Improve 28-days survival among patients with encephalopathy
- D. A&B
- E. All of the above



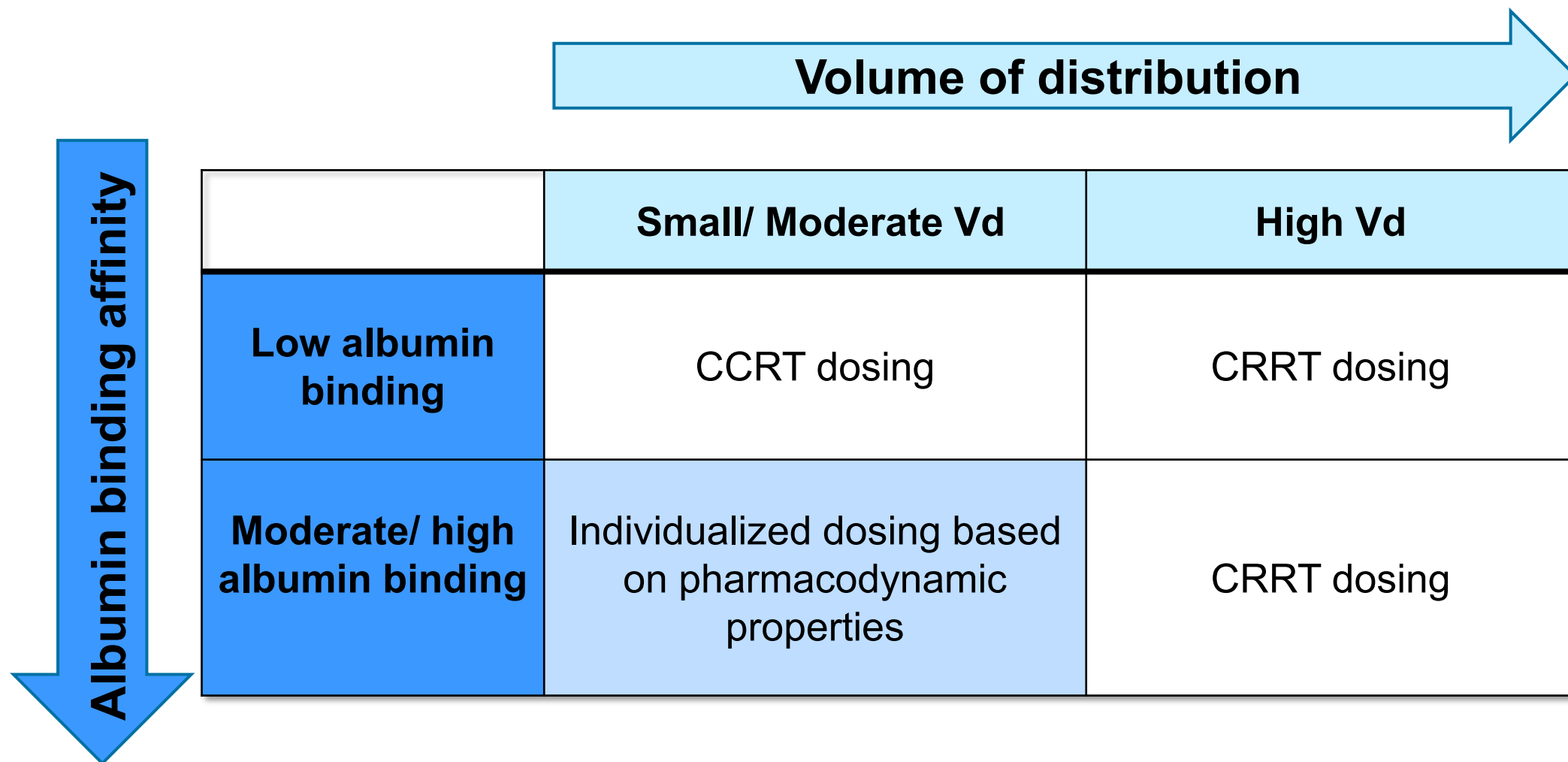
Objective

- 3. Discuss the pharmacokinetic changes of medications affected by MARS™ and the clinically relevant implications**

Mechanism of MARS™



Medication Dosing Strategy in MARS™



Medication Dosing Strategy in MARS™

Consideration for Antimicrobials

	Small/ Moderate Vd	High Vd
Low albumin binding	CCRT dosing	CRRT dosing
Moderate/ high albumin binding	Individualized dosing based on pharmacodynamic properties	CRRT dosing



Antimicrobial Pharmacodynamic Property	Dosing Considerations
T > MIC	Re-dose during albumin dialysis Continuous infusions/extended infusion Increase frequency Bolus dose prior to MARS
AUC/MIC	Increase dose and frequency
Cmax/MIC	Increase dose

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS™

Selected Antimicrobials

Protein binding		
High (> 70%)	Moderate (31-69%)	Low ($\leq$ 30%)
Ceftriaxone Daptomycin Micafungin Anidulafungin Rifampin Gentamicin	Aztreonam Levofloxacin Vancomycin Trimethoprim/ Sulfamethoxazole	Cefepime Fluconazole Ganciclovir Linezolid Meropenem Piperacillin/Tazobactam

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Ceftriaxone

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
HIGH 85 -95%	LOW 0.3 L/kg	No change	Bolus dose prior to MARS

Ceftriaxone concentration change during 6 hours	
Conventional CVVHD	MARS dialysis
 (20%) from 117.3 to 94.4 mg/L	 (71%) from 119.2 to 34.9 mg/L

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Levofloxacin

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
LOW/MODERATE 24-38%	MODERATE 0.8 L/kg	250-750 mg Q24h	C _{max} /MIC Bolus dose prior to MARS Re-dose after MARS

Levofloxacin concentration change during 6 hours	
Conventional CVVHD	MARS dialysis
 (99.3%) from 7.7 to 0.05 mg/L	 (99.3%) from 7.02 to 0.05 mg/L
Level 0.05 mg/L by 180-240 min	Level 0.05 mg/L by 30 min

Maicher-Peszynska J, et al. Z Gastroenterol. 2001;39 (Suppl 2):33-35

Bellmann R. Artif Organs. 2003;26(4):358-259

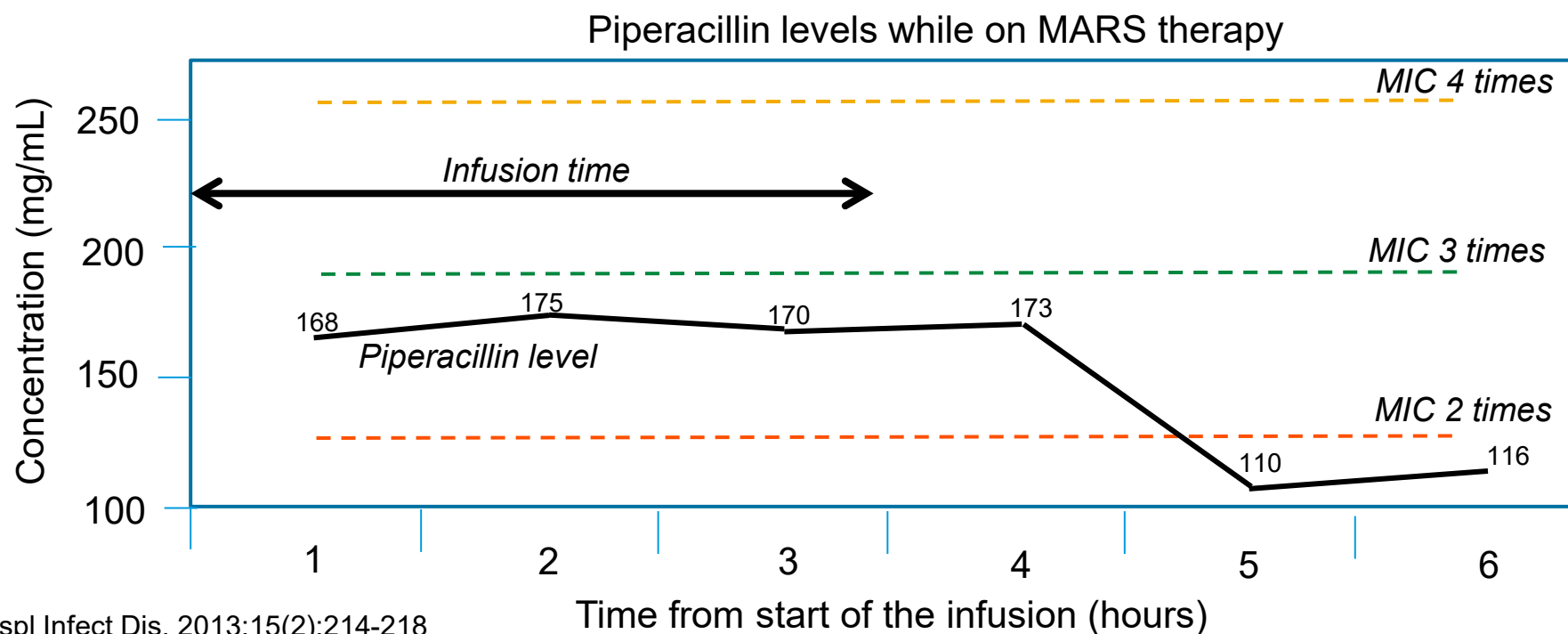
Micromedex

Mayo Clinic CCRT Dosing Guideline

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Piperacillin-Tazobactam

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
LOW 30%	SMALL 10-16L	3.375 g Q6h or 4.5 g Q8h	Increase frequency?



Ruggero, et al. Transpl Infect Dis. 2013;15(2):214-218

Micromedex

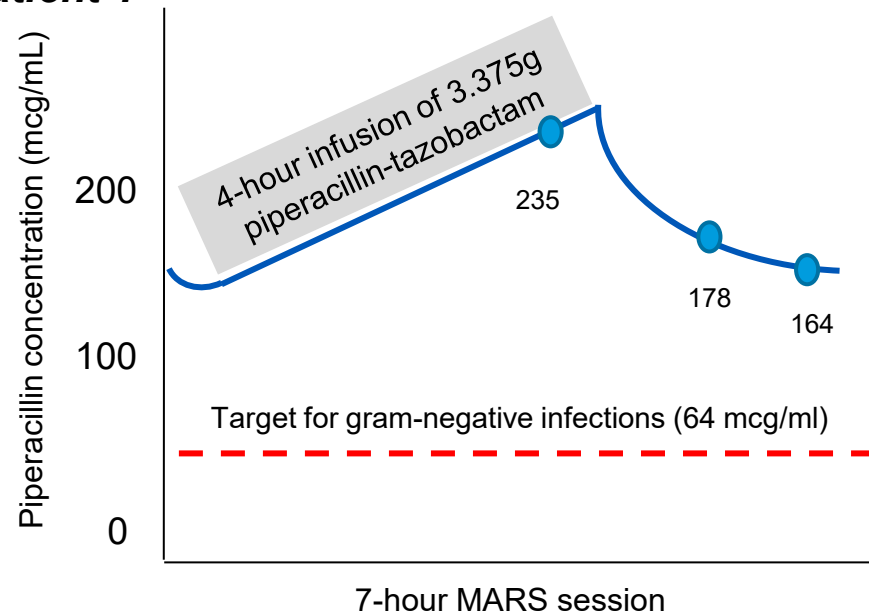
Mayo Clinic CCRT Dosing Guideline

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

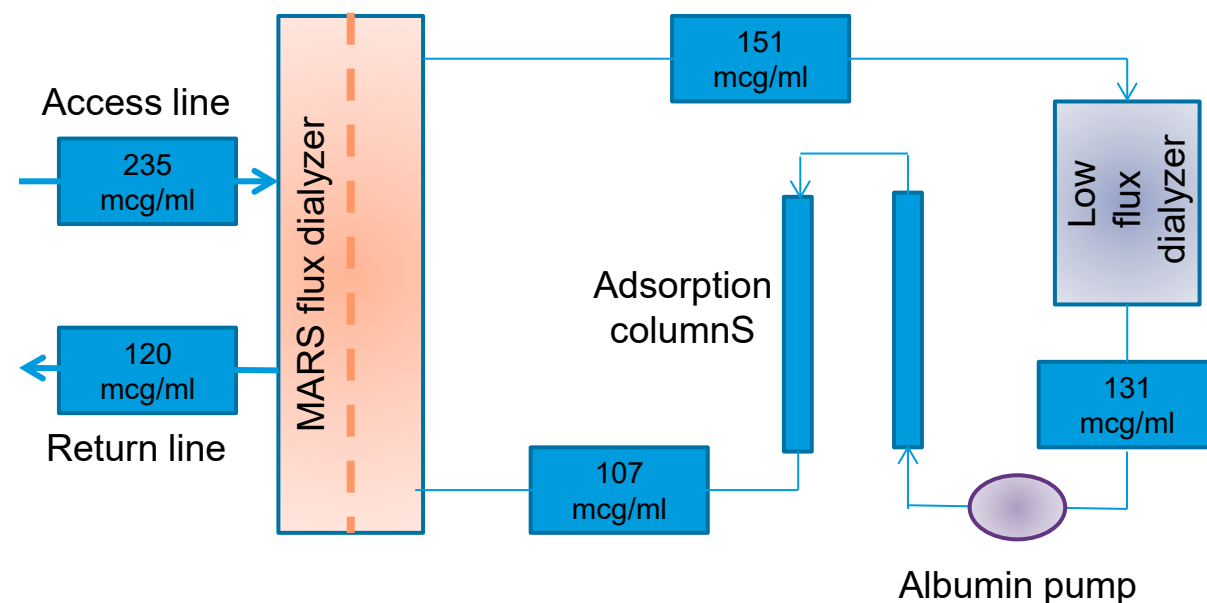
Piperacillin-Tazobactam

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
LOW 30%	SMALL 10-16L	3.375 g Q6h or 4.5 g Q8h	Extended infusion Frequency Q6-Q8h

Patient 1



Patient 2



Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Meropenem

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
LOW 2%	SMALL 12-20 L	1g Q8-Q12h	Increase dose Extended infusion?

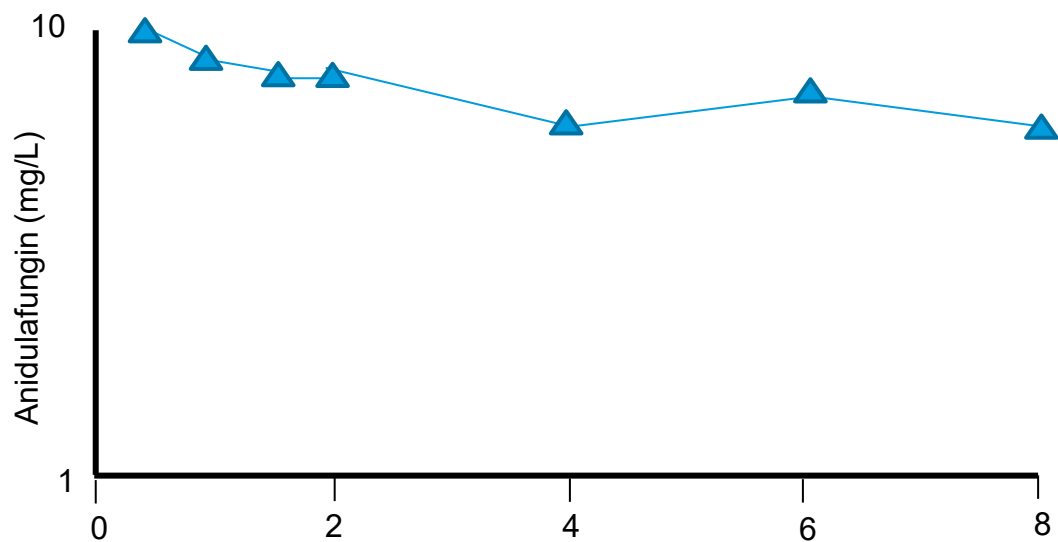
- Model: Meropenem LD 1g, followed by 2g IV over 8hr Q8h
- Meropenem concentration in the return line after MARS constantly lower than in the access line
- Charcoal removed the majority of meropenem

Removal of meropenem in the mock MARS circuit after initiation	
MARS flux dialyzer	50.43%
Low-flux dialyzer	20.49%
Activated charcoal	23.81%
Anion exchanger	3.89%
Total removal	98.62%

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Anidulafungin

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
HIGH >99%	SMALL 30-50L	No change	Cmax/MIC Dose after MARS session



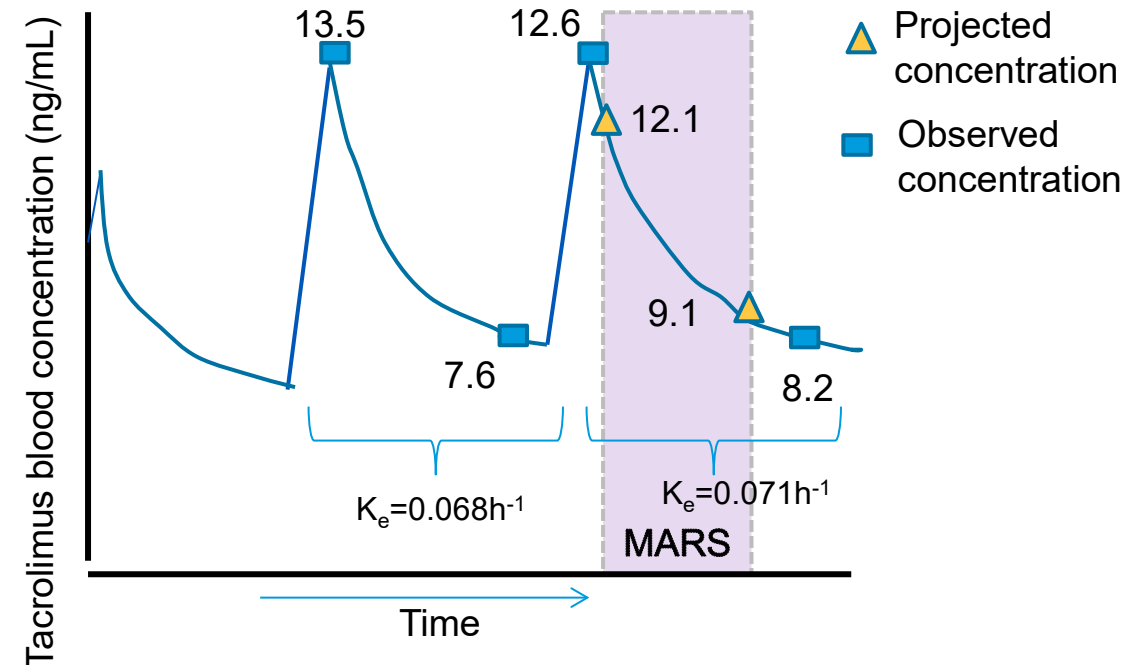
Peak plasma concentration with 100 mg dose on day 4	9.45 mg/L
AUC from 0-8 hours	53.7 hours*mg/L
T1/2	17.81 hr

Drug Dosing in Albumin Dialysis with MARS®

Tacrolimus

Protein binding	Vd	CRRT dosing	Consideration for MARS dosing
HIGH 99%	LOW-MODERATE 0.85 -1.41 L/kg	Level monitoring	Dose adjustment based on drug level

Tacrolimus trough level			
Days from MARS	Morning dose (mg)	Evening dose (mg)	Whole blood trough (ng/mL)
0	3	3	7.2
1	4.5	3	8.6
2	3	3	7.6
3	3	3	8.0
5	3	3	7.9
7	3	3	7.0
8	3	3	7.7
9	3	3	8.6
10	3	3	7.4



Individualized Medication Dosing Strategy in MARS™

Mechanism	Problems	Suggested Approach
High protein bound medications removed by MARS	No recommended dosing strategy	Alternative with low protein binding, providing same therapeutic efficacy
MARS runs 6-8 hours per session for 3-5 days, with the transition to CRRT in the between sessions	Intermittent dosing strategy between MARS and CRRT	When MARS is off: - Dose adjustment follows CRRT - Administer non-critical medication
High ultrafiltration rates and/or dialysis flow rate	Extra drug removal by MARS/ dialysis	- Dose adjustment - Monitor clinical response
Longer MARS run	Extra drug removal by MARS	
Patient with residual renal function	Extra drug removal by kidney	

Question

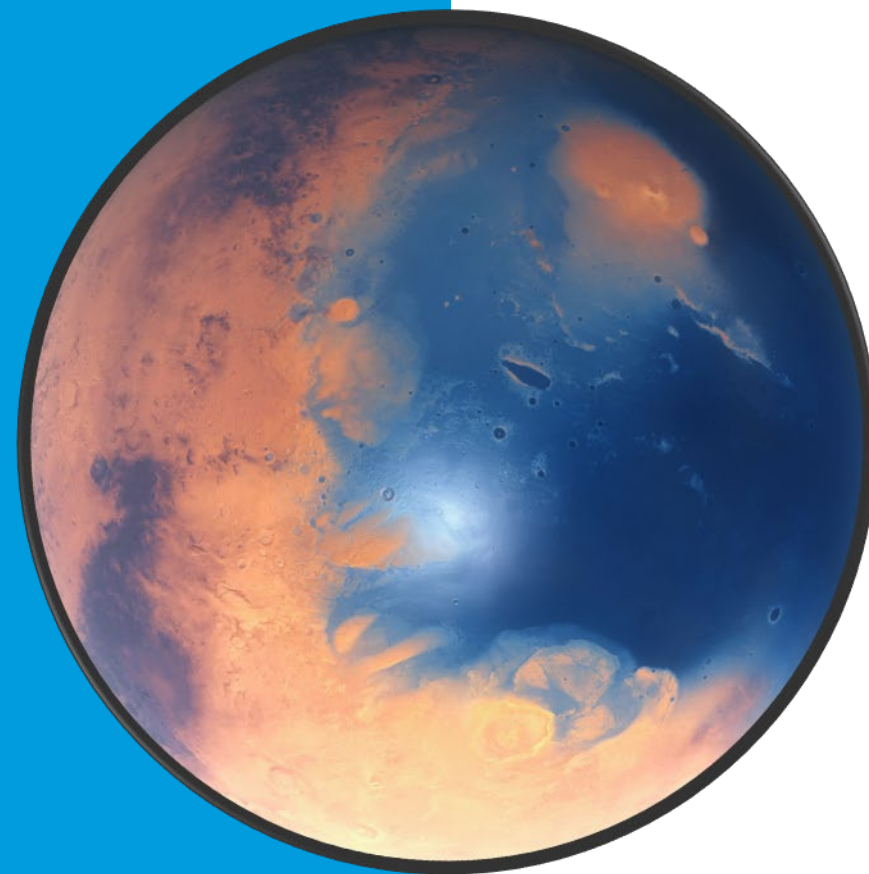
What factors would you consider when adjust medication dosing during MARS™ therapy?

- A. Protein binding affinity
- B. Volume of distribution
- C. Individualized strategy
- D. Clinical response
- E. All of the above

Conclusions

- Challenge in management for patients with liver failure
- Liver support system as one of treatment modality
- MARS™ with proven benefits for symptomatic improvement
- Individualized strategy approach for medication dosing for patients treated with MARS™

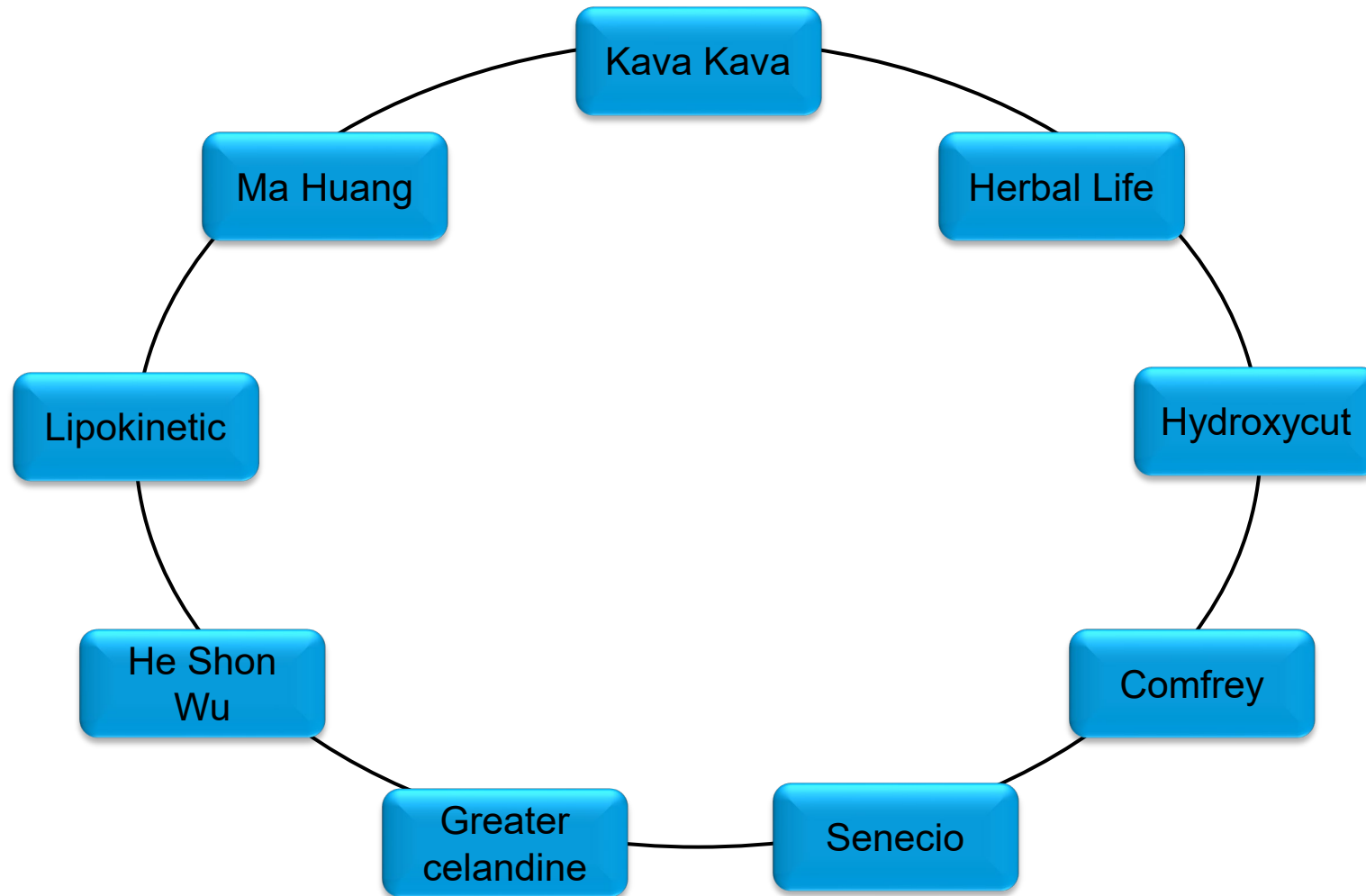
THANK YOU



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS



Herbal Products and Dietary Supplements Associated with Hepatotoxicity



Cytokines and Inflammatory Factors in ALF

Pro-inflammatory cytokines	Anti-inflammatory cytokines	Other
• TNF-α • IL-8	• IL-10 • IL-6	• IL-2sRα

Hypotension
Cerebral edema
Organ dysfunction

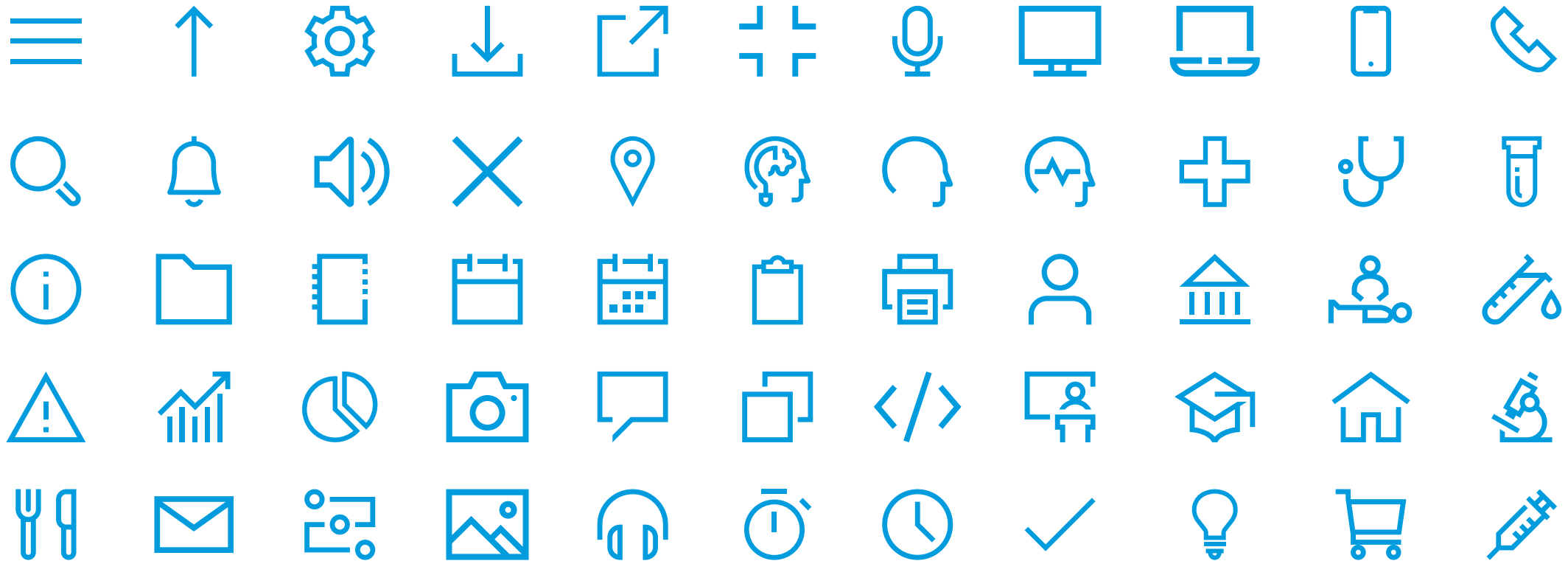
BRAND ICONOGRAPHY



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