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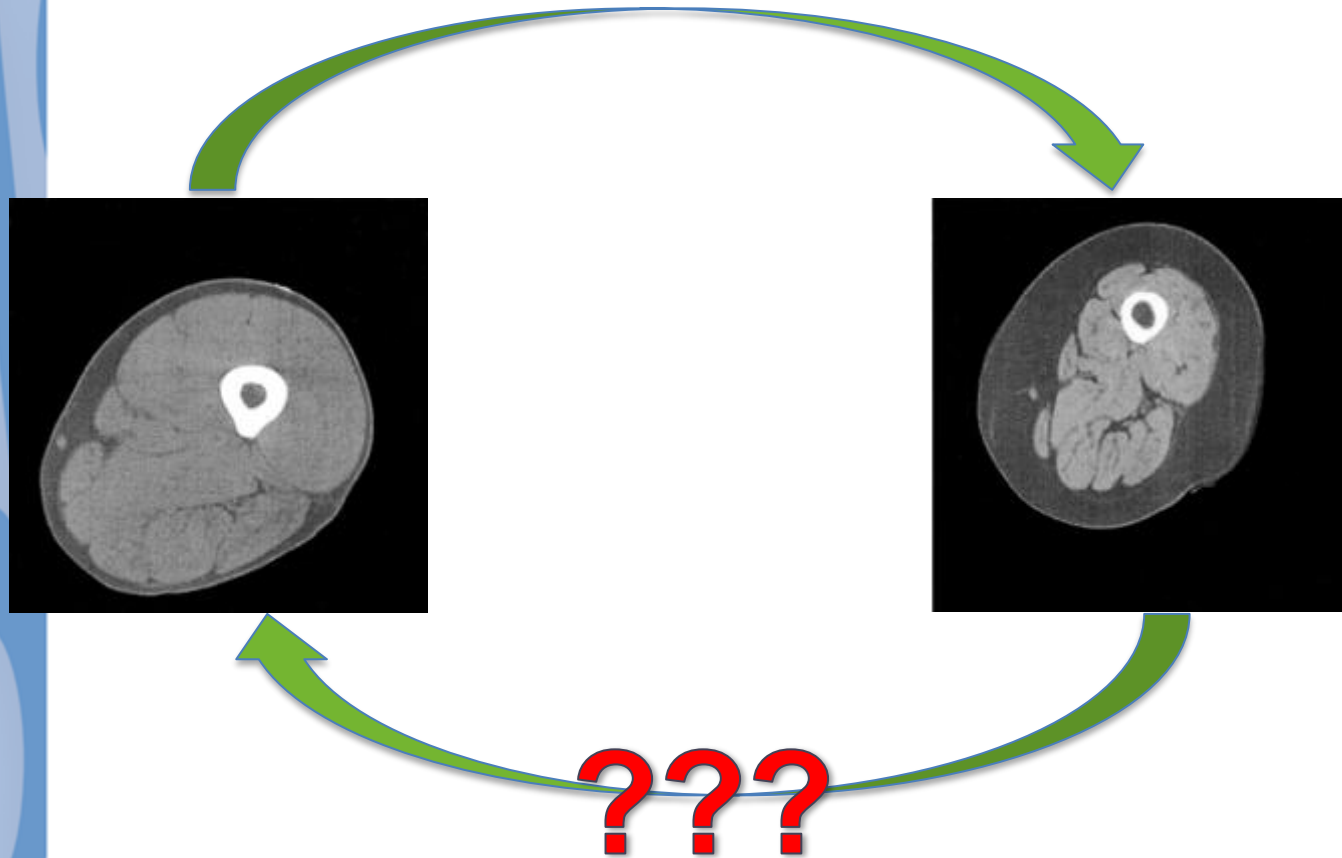
SOCIETÀ ITALIANA  
DI GERONTOLOGIA  
E GERIATRIA

# POTENZIALI APPROCCI TERAPEUTICI ALLA SARCOPENIA

**Greco A, Addante F, Longo MG, Scarcelli C, Niro V, Sancarlo D, D' Agostino MP, Paroni G, Seripa D**

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IRCCS "Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza" San Giovanni Rotondo (FG) Italia***

# Can sarcopenia be reversed?



# SARCOPENIA

σαρξ – carne  
πενια – perdita

riduzione della massa e/o della forza muscolare che si riscontra nel corso di invecchiamento

## FATTORI CHE POSSONO CONTRIBUIRE ALLO SVILUPPO DELLA SARCOPENIA

- Diminuzione età correlata delle fibre muscolari

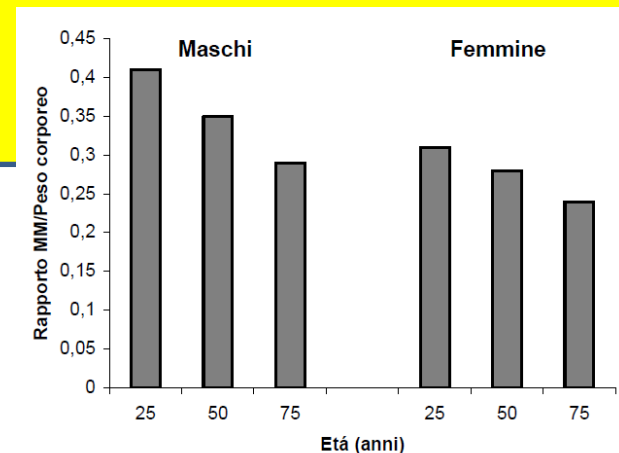
- Riduzione delle attività fisiche

- Declino ormonale: sia riproduttivi che dell'asse hypothalamic-GH-insulinlike growth factor

- Insufficienza nutrizionale

- È stata anche rilevata una componente genetica nella sarcopenia.

[Roth SM, et al: j gerontol biol sci 2004;59a:10–5]

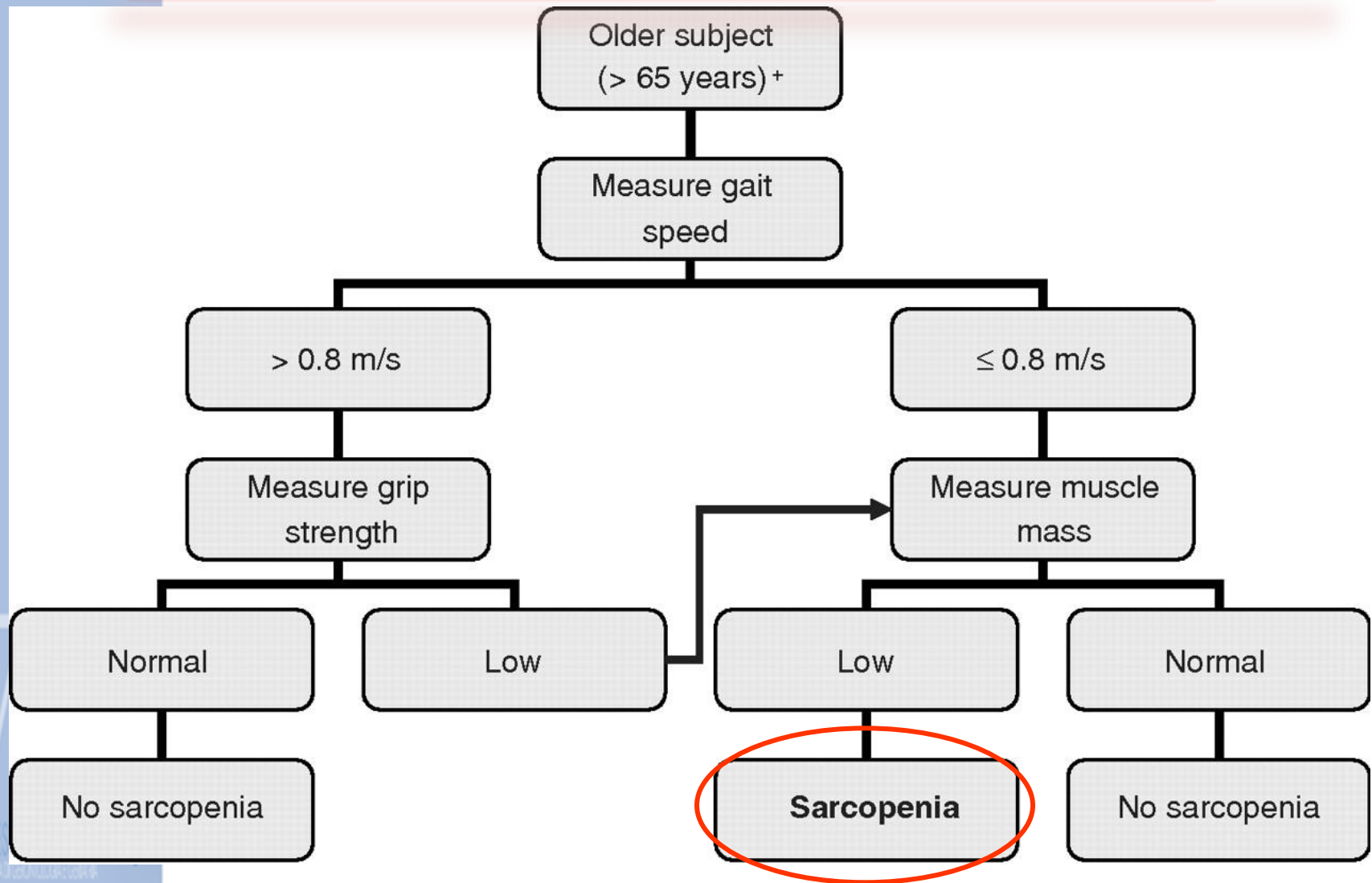


# Sarcopenia compares with malnutrition and inactivity

- To fight against sarcopenia, one needs to:
  - Screen
  - Treat



# Screening strategy

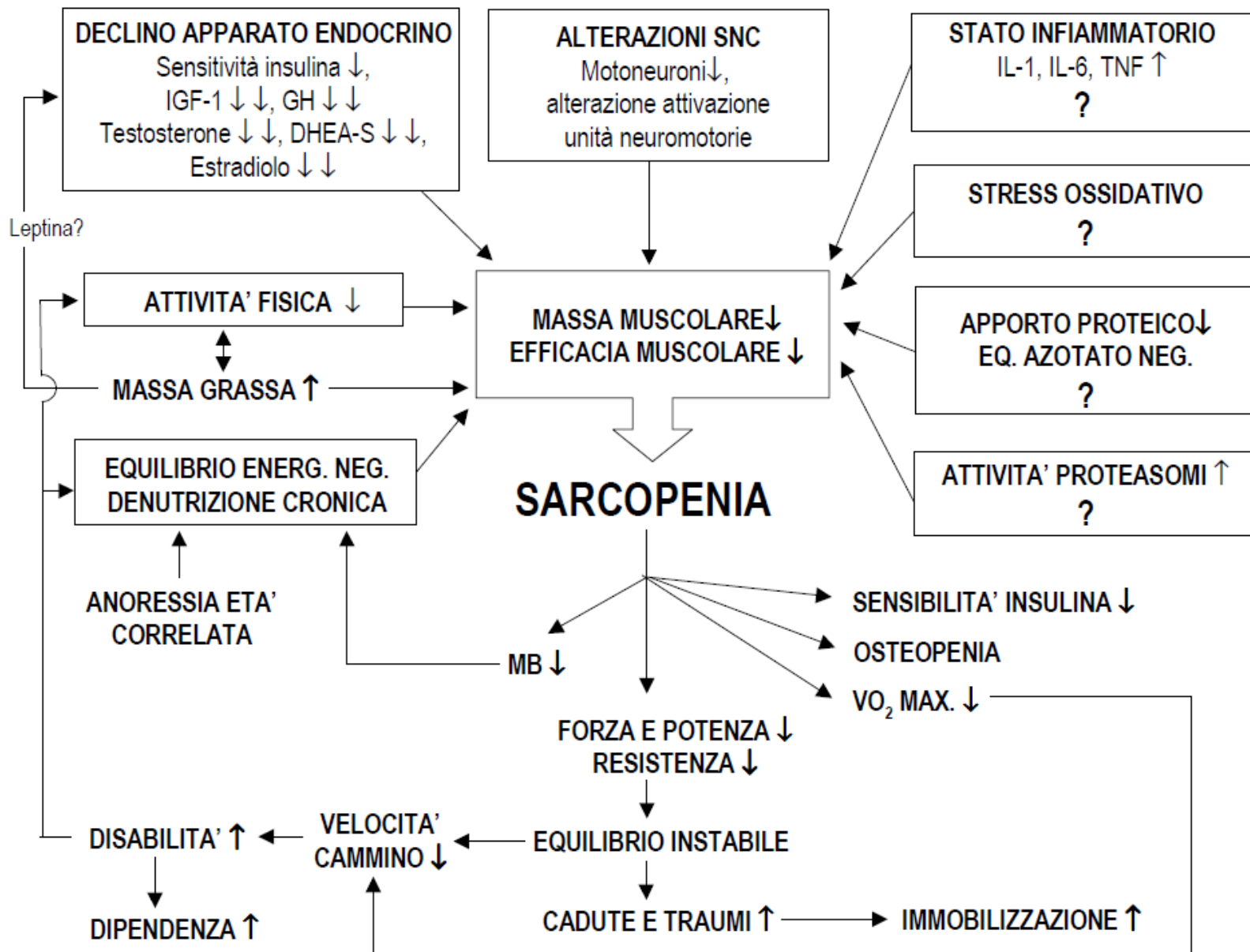


# CONSEGUENZE DELLA SARCOPENIA NELL'ANZIANO

- ↓ forza, potenza e resistenza muscolare
- ↓ massa ossea
- ↓ equilibrio con instabilità posturale
- ↓ isolamento corporeo
- ↓ produzione basale di calore
- ↑ calore specifico
- ↓ contenuto corporeo acqua
- ↓ capacità dispersione cutanea calore
- ↓ metabolismo basale e aumento della massa grassa



# CAUSE E CONSEGUENZE DELLA SARCOPENIA



# TRATTAMENTO OTTIMALE DELLA SARCOPENIA

Burton LA, *Clinical Intervention in Aging* 2010

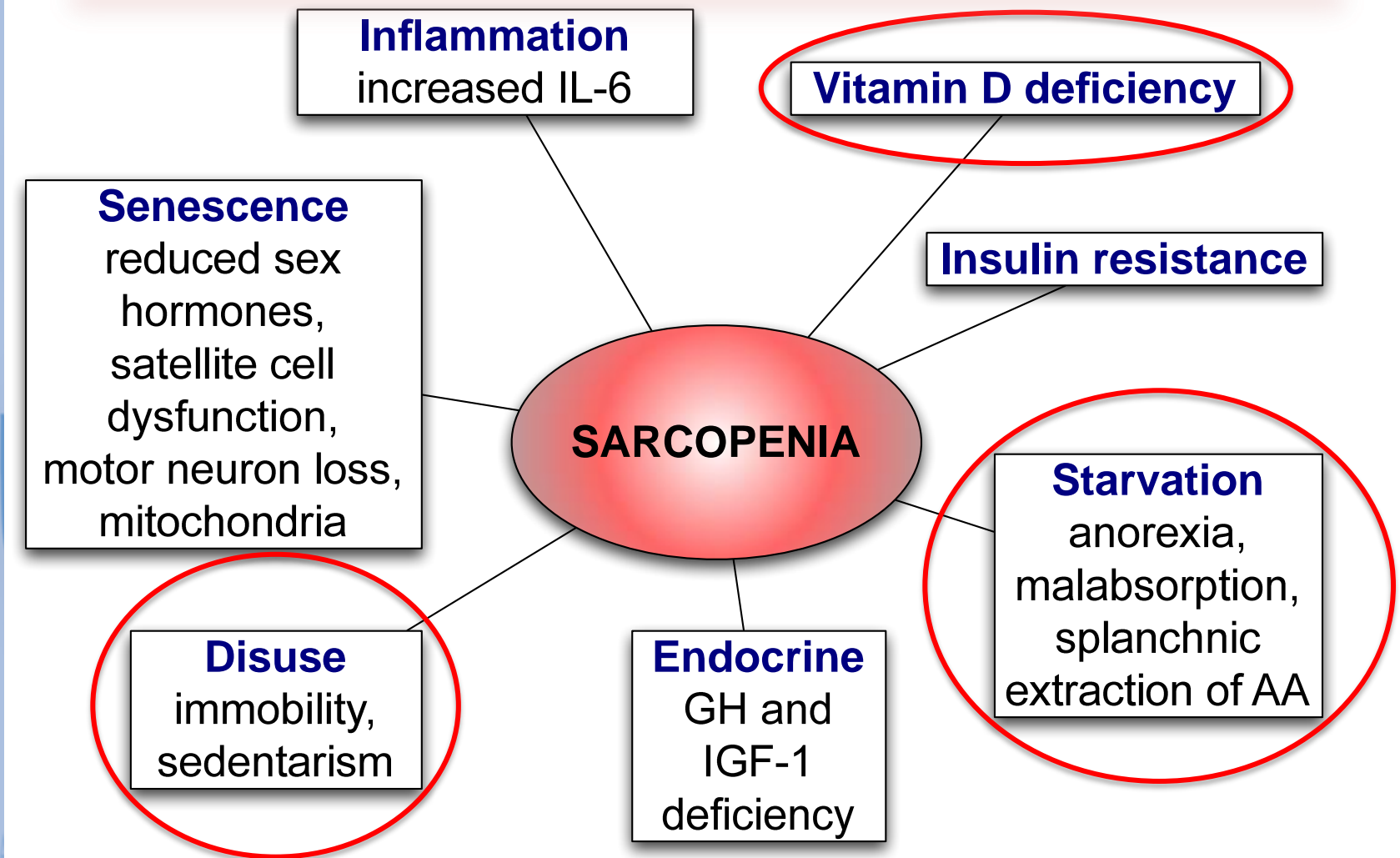
**Table 2** Summary of treatment options

Intervention	Effect	Comments
Exercise	Increased cardiovascular fitness with increased endurance	Pros: overall beneficial effects of exercise to individual
Aerobic	Increases mitochondrial volume and activity	Cons: motivation to exercise remains low
Resistance	Increased muscle mass and strength Increased skeletal muscle protein synthesis and muscle fiber size Improvement in physical performance	
Nutritional supplement	Varying evidence of increased muscle mass and strength	Pros: ensures good protein intake Cons: may reduce natural food intake
Hormone therapy	Varying evidence of increased muscle mass and strength	Cons: masculinization of women; increased risk of prostatic cancer in men
Testosterone	Poor evidence of increased muscle mass but not function	Cons: risk of breast cancer
Estrogen	Some evidence for increased muscle mass. Varying evidence for increased muscle strength	Cons: side effects including fluid retention, orthostatic hypotension
Growth hormone	Variable evidence for increased muscle strength	Pros: fracture reduction; possible cardiovascular benefits
Vitamin D	Reduced falls in nursing home residents	
ACE inhibitors	Some evidence for increased exercise capacity	Pros: other cardiovascular benefits Cons: renal function needs monitoring
Creatine	Variable evidence of increased muscle strength and endurance especially when combined with exercise	Cons: reports of nephritis
Potential new treatments		
Myostatin antagonists	No trials in older people	
PPAR $\delta$ agonist	No human trials	
AICAR	No human trials	

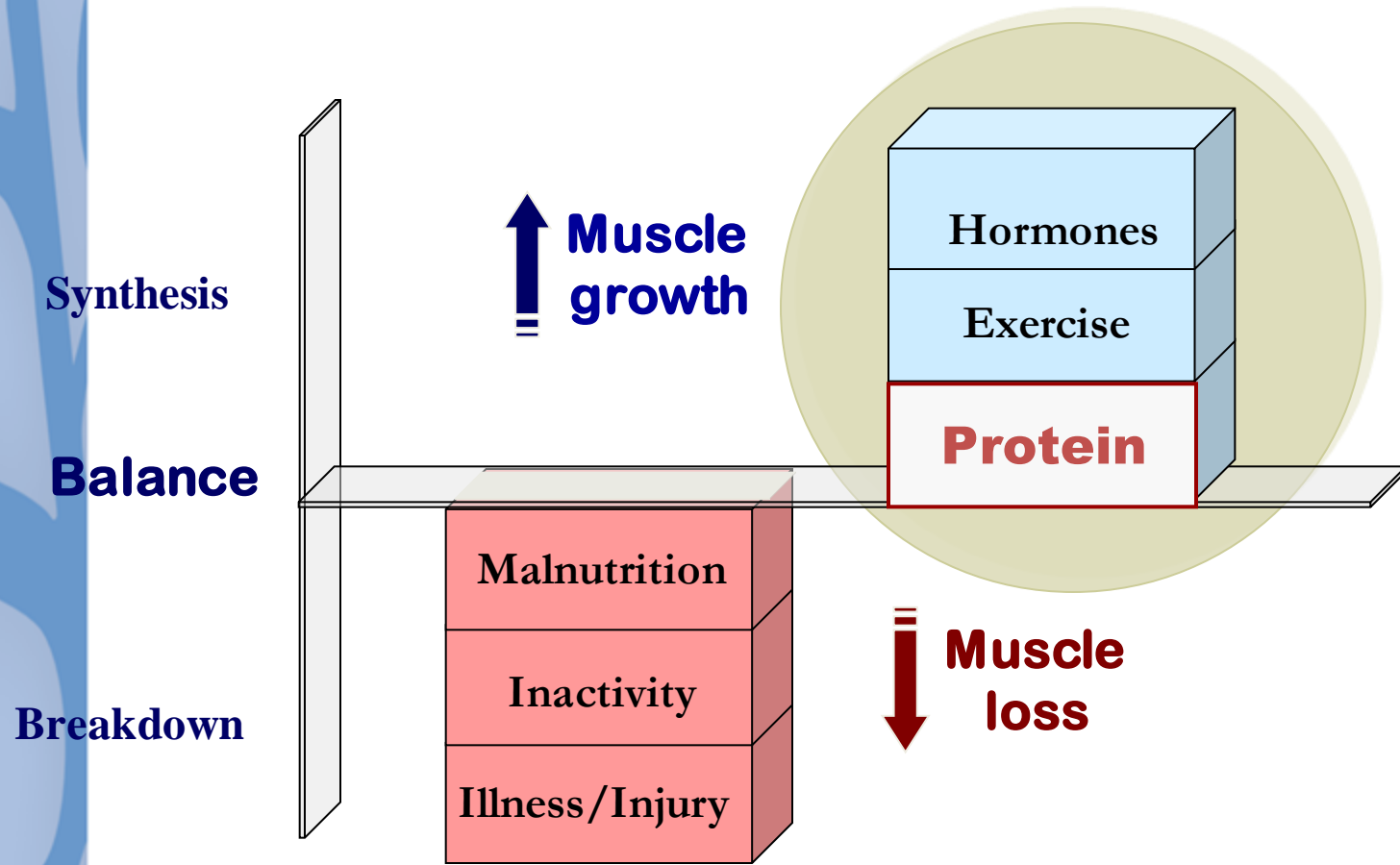
**Abbreviations:** PPAR- $\delta$ , peroxisome-proliferator-activated receptor- $\delta$ ; AICAR, 5-aminoimidazole-4-carboxamide-1- $\beta$ -D-ribofuranoside; ACE, angiotensin-converting enzyme.



# Causes of sarcopenia: therapeutic approaches?



# Maintaining Muscle Mass and Function

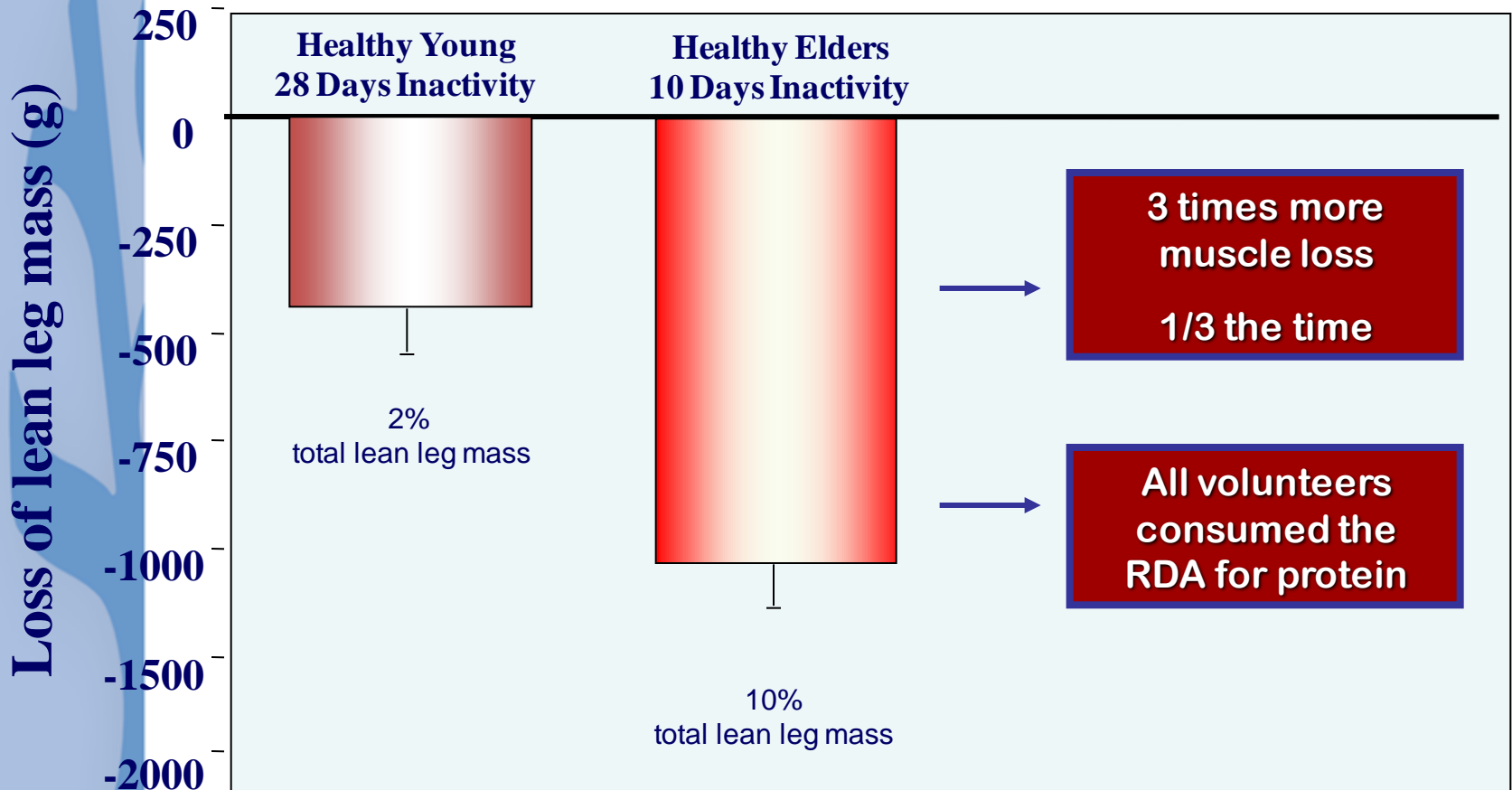


# Exercise – physical activity

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# Inactivity and Aging Muscle



Paddon-Jones et. al. 2004  
Kortebein et al. 2007

# Effects of 10 Days of Bed Rest in Older Adults

**Table.** Effects of 10 Days of Bed Rest in Older Adults

	No. of Participants (N = 12)*	Mean (95% Confidence Interval)			P Value
		Bed Rest		Change	
		Before	After		
Muscle fractional synthetic rate, % per h†	10	0.077 (0.059 to 0.095)	0.051 (0.035 to 0.067)	−0.027 (−0.007 to −0.047)	.02
% Change				−30.0 (−7.0 to −54.0)	
DEXA lean mass, kg‡	10				
Whole body		48.05 (40.61 to 55.49)	46.51 (39.57 to 53.45)	−1.50 (−0.62 to −2.48)	.004
% Change				−3.2 (−1.4 to −5.0)	
Lower Extremity		15.01 (12.41 to 17.61)	14.06 (11.85 to 16.27)	−0.95 (−0.42 to −1.48)	.003
% Change				−6.3 (−3.1 to −9.5)	
Isokinetic muscle strength, Nm per s§	11	120 (96 to 145)	101 (81 to 121)	−19 (−11 to −30)	.001
% Change				−15.6 (−8.0 to −23.1)	

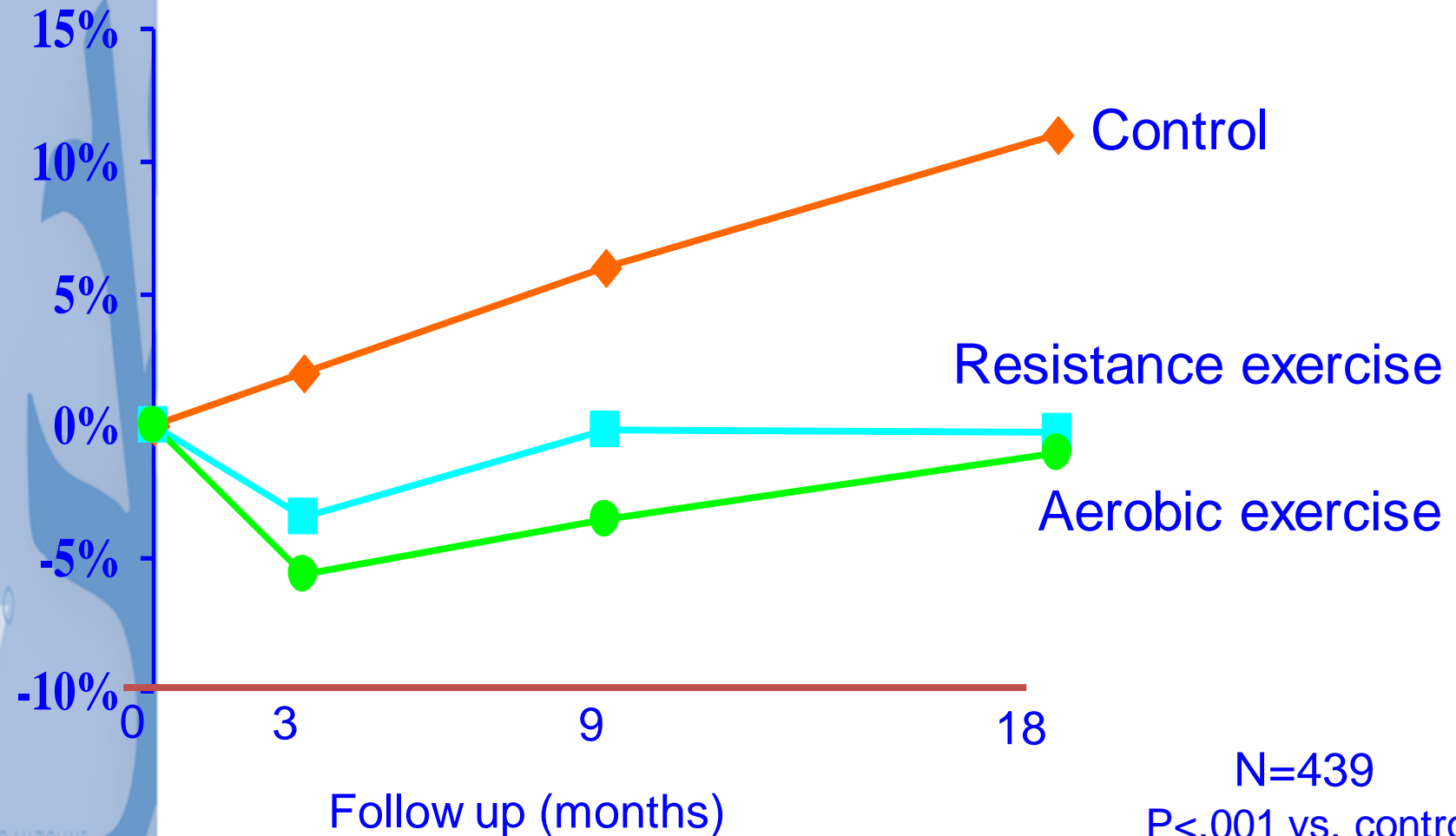
# Randomized-controlled trials of exercise benefits on functional impairment (10 RCTs, 1150 persons)

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Brown et al. 00	84 frail m+w, 83 y	↑ muscle strength, ↑ reaction time, ↑ balance
Buchner et al. 97	105 impaired m+w, 75 y	↑ muscle strength
Cress et al. 99	49 healthy m+w, 76	↑ muscle strength
Fiatarone et al 94	100 frail nursing home p, 87y	↑ muscle strength
Jette et al. 97	102 nondisabled m+w, 72 y	↑ muscle strength
Jette et al. 99	215 disabled m+w, 75 y	↑ muscle strength
Lord et al. 95	197 healthy w, 72 y	↑ muscle strength, ↑ balance
Pollock et al. 91	57 healthy m+w, 72 y	↑ muscle strength
Rooks et al. 91	131 healthy m+w, 74 y	↑ muscle strength, ↑ reaction time, ↑ balance
Wolfson et al. 96	110 healthy m+w, 80 y	↑ muscle strength, ↑ balance

# Exercise and Disability (FAST)

Adjusted % change in disability score



# ESERCIZIO FISICO

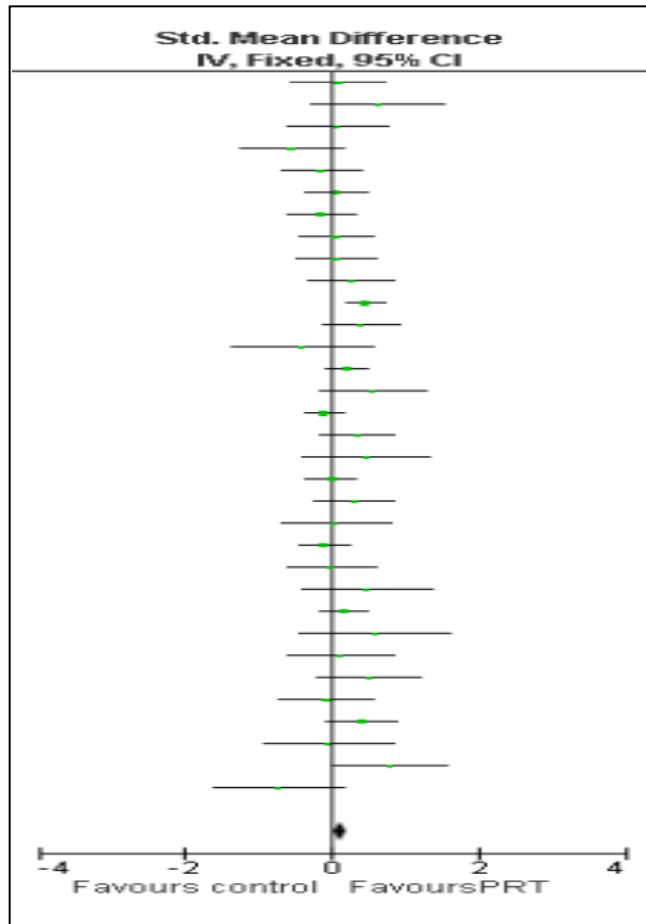
[Intervention Review]

## Progressive resistance strength training for improving physical function in older adults

Chiung-ju Liu<sup>1</sup>, Nancy K Latham<sup>2</sup>

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Figure 1. Forest plot of comparison: 1 PRT versus control, outcome: 1.1 Main function measure (higher score = better function).



### CONCLUSIONI DEGLI AUTORI

La revisione ha interessato 1021 studi per un totale di 6700 pazienti anziani. Dimostra che PRT è un intervento efficace per migliorare le funzionalità fisiche nelle persone anziane, tra cui l'aumento della forza e il miglioramento delle prestazioni nelle attività semplici e complesse



# Exercise – physical activity

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Is exercise a validated treatment for sarcopenia? Yes, in particular resistance training

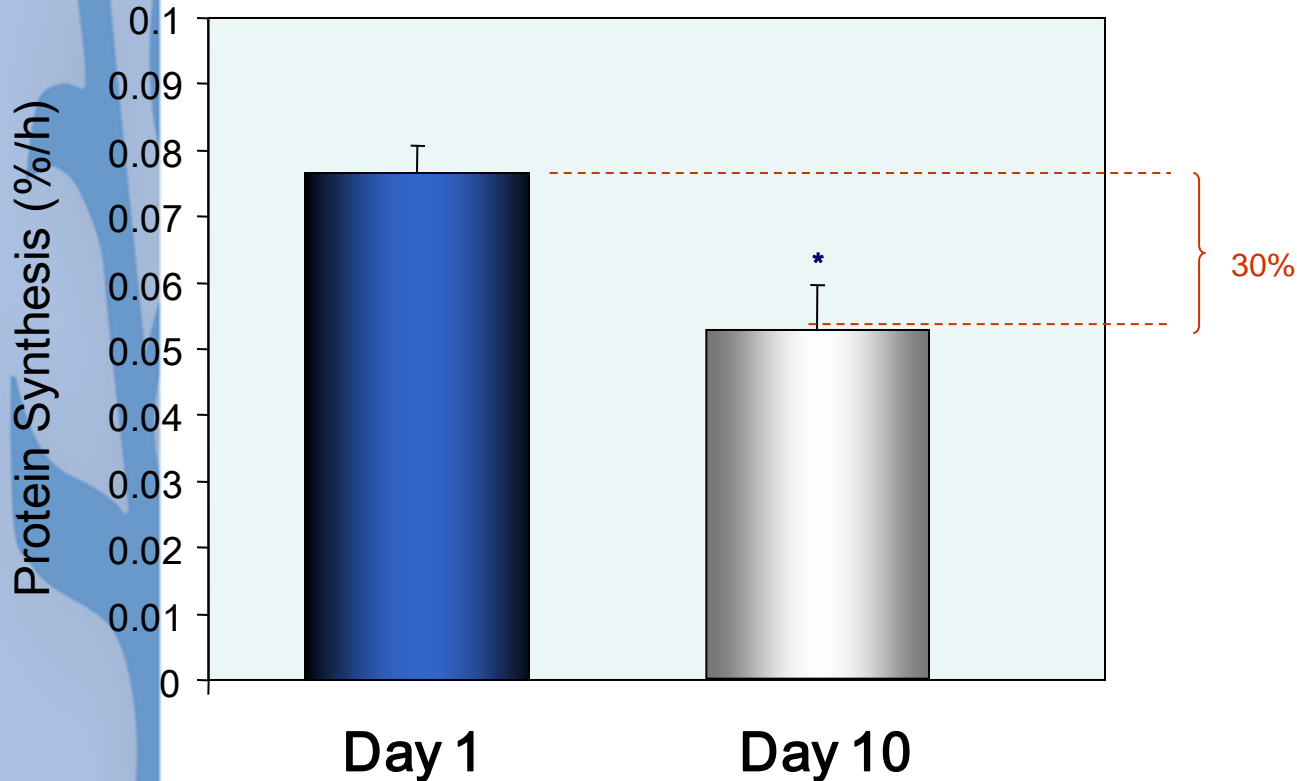
Available evidence: Very good

# Protein - Nutritional supplements

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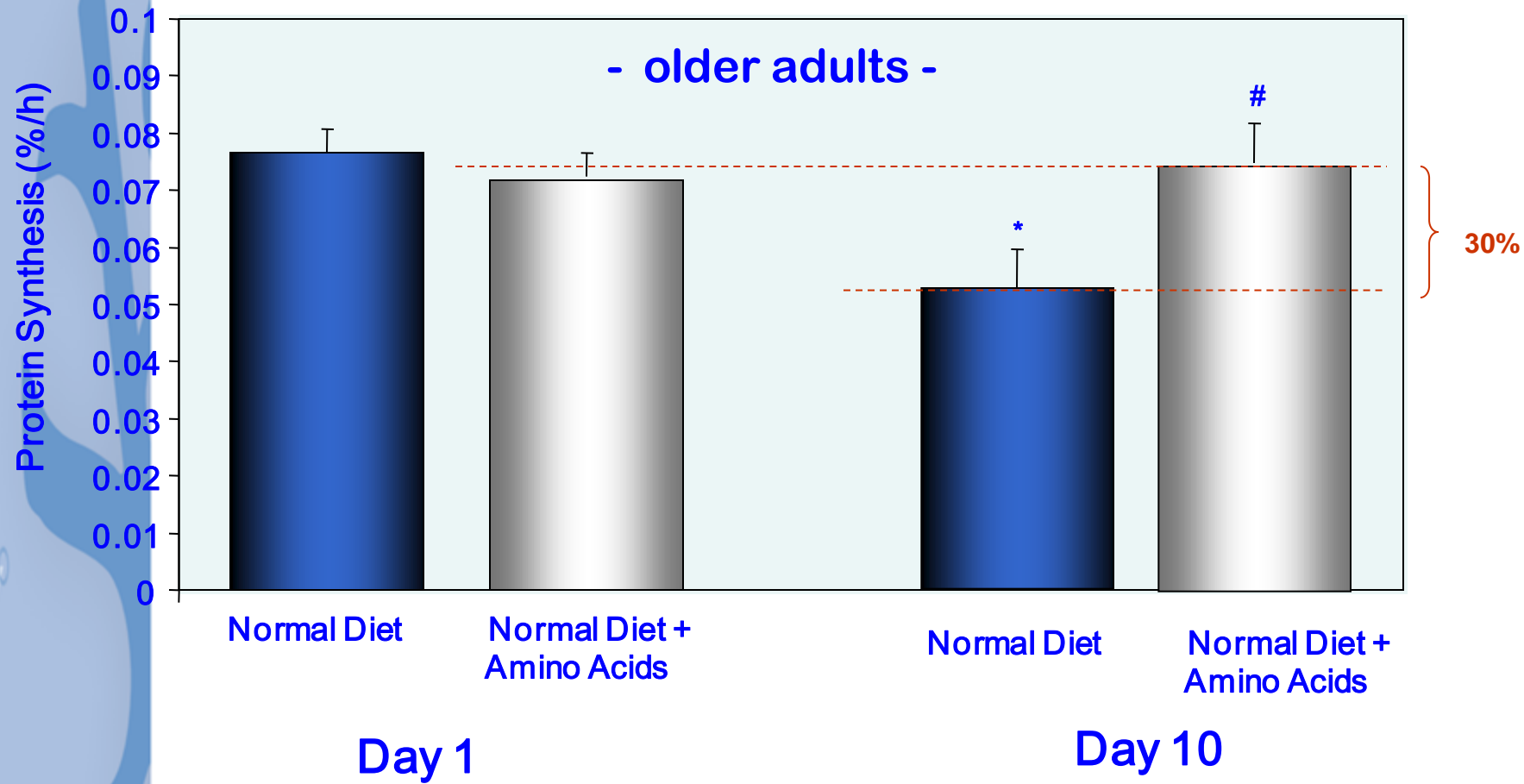
# Inactivity reduces muscle protein synthesis



24 h muscle protein synthesis during 10 day of inactivity in elders  
(stable isotope methodology)

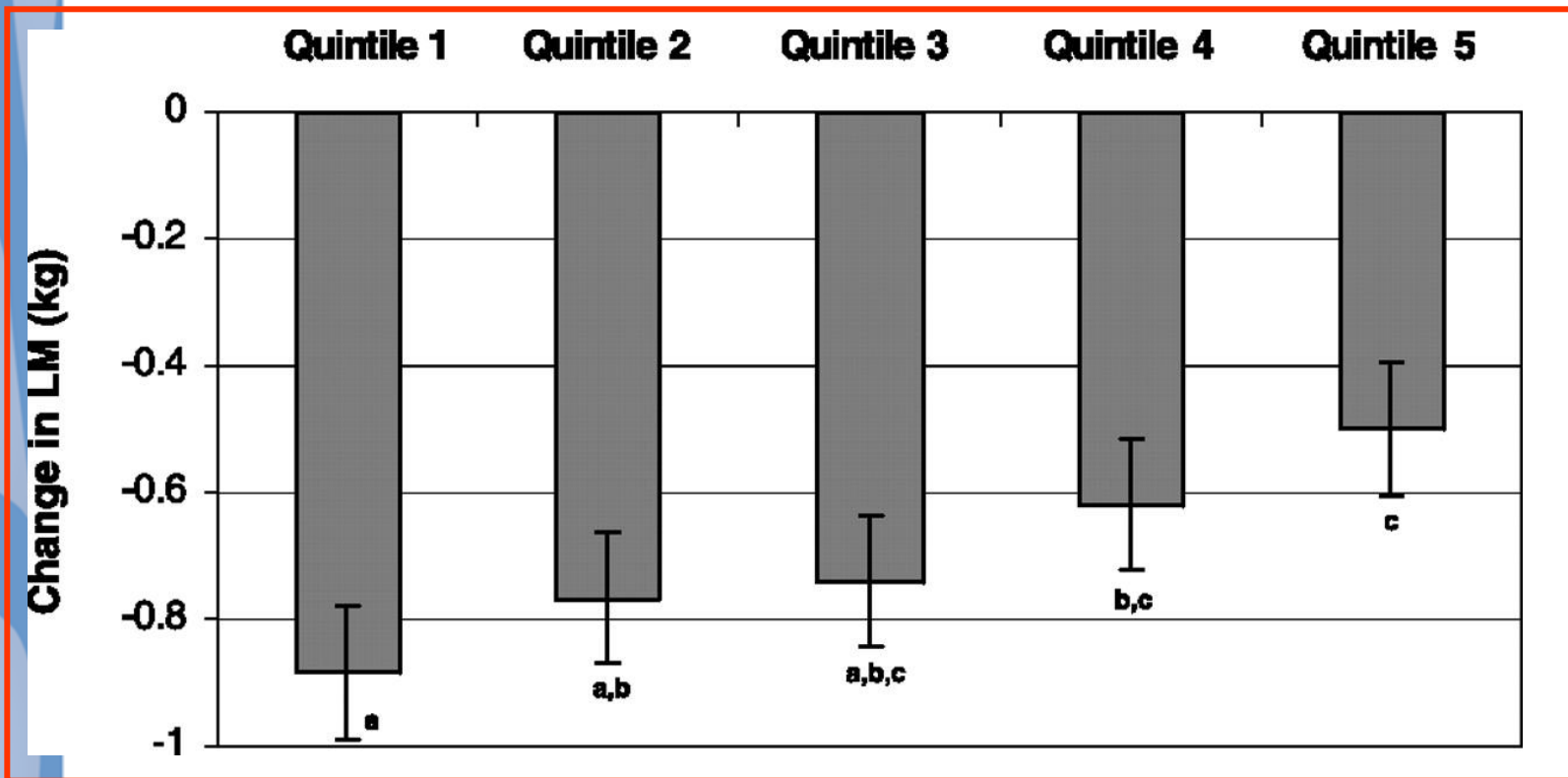
Kortebein et al. 2007

# Protein combats inactivity-induced muscle loss



Ferrando & Paddon-Jones et. al. 2009

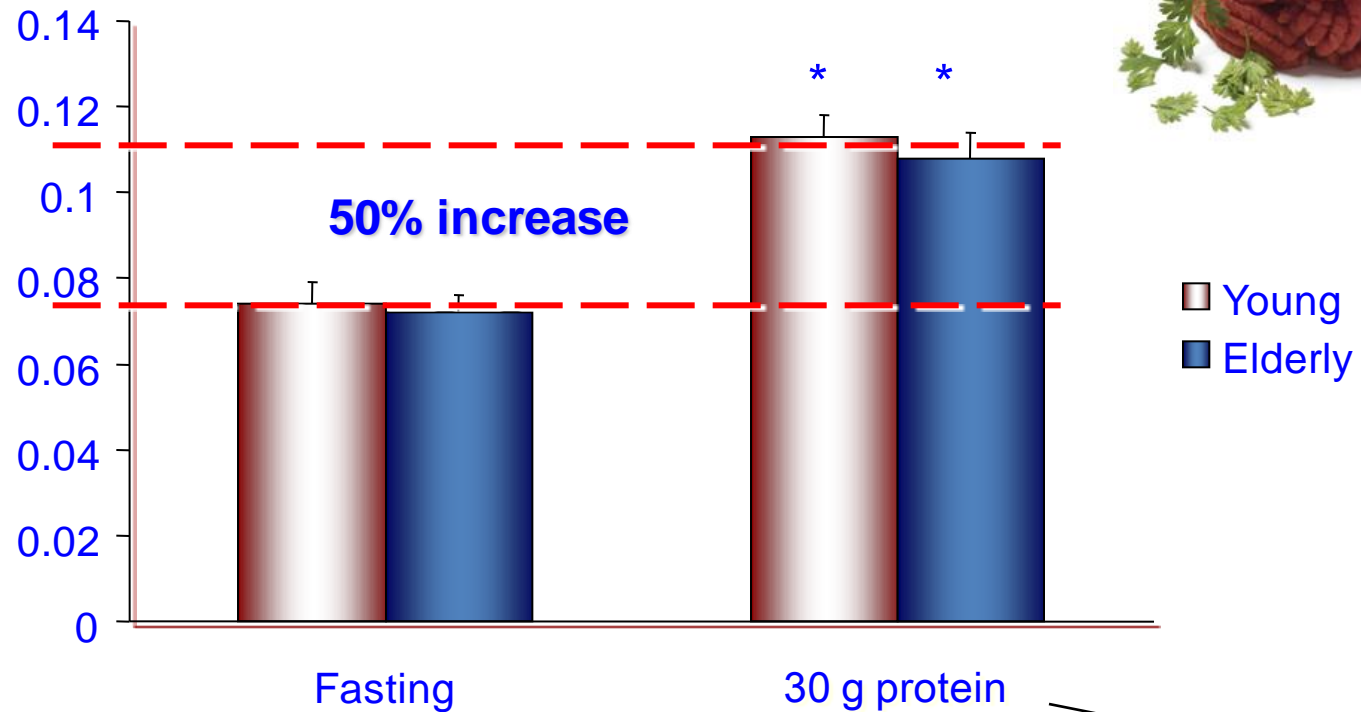
# Lean mass loss by quintile of energy-adjusted total protein intake



# Building muscle in response to protein

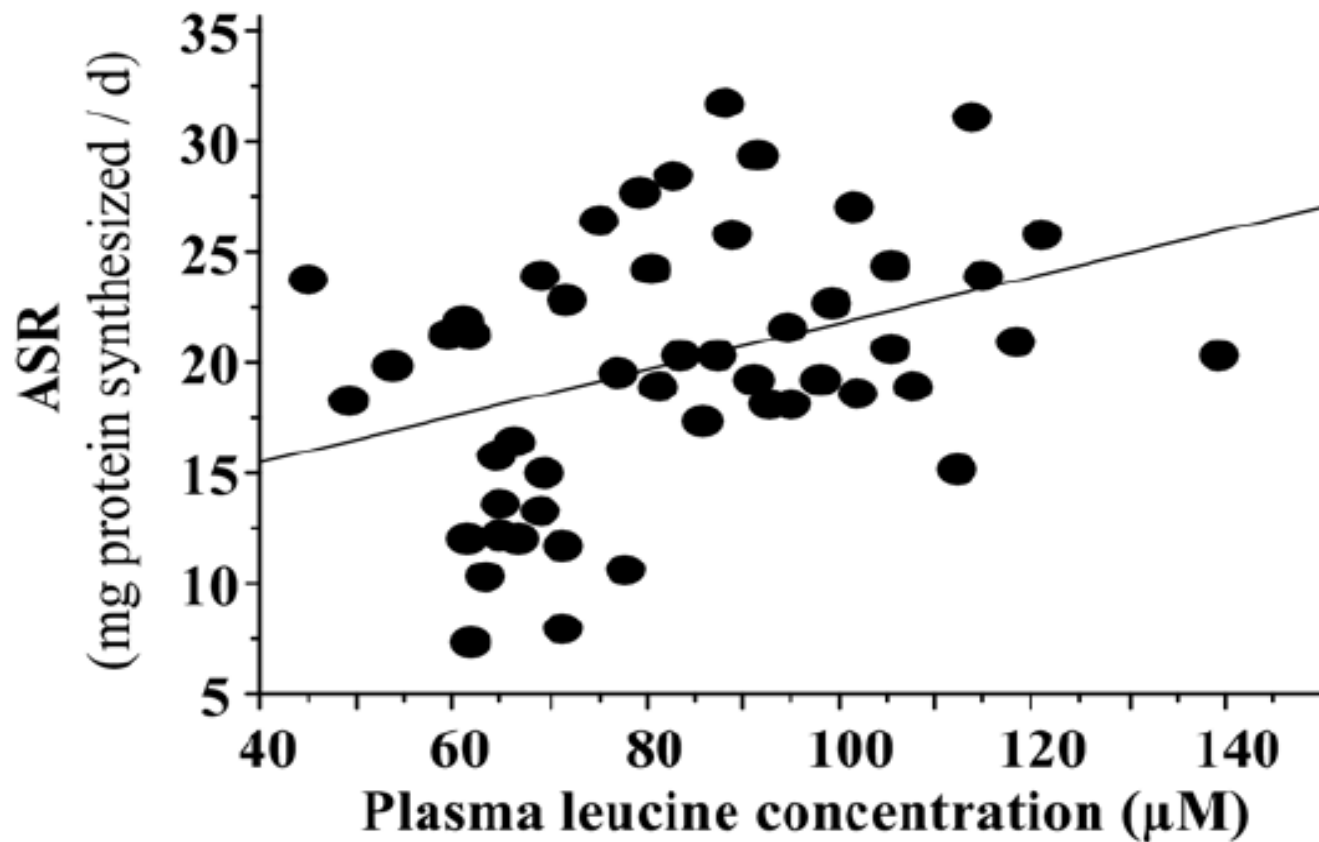
## Muscle Protein Synthesis and Age

Protein Synthesis (%/h)



\* 10 g essential amino acids

# Plasma leucine concentration and protein synthesis rate



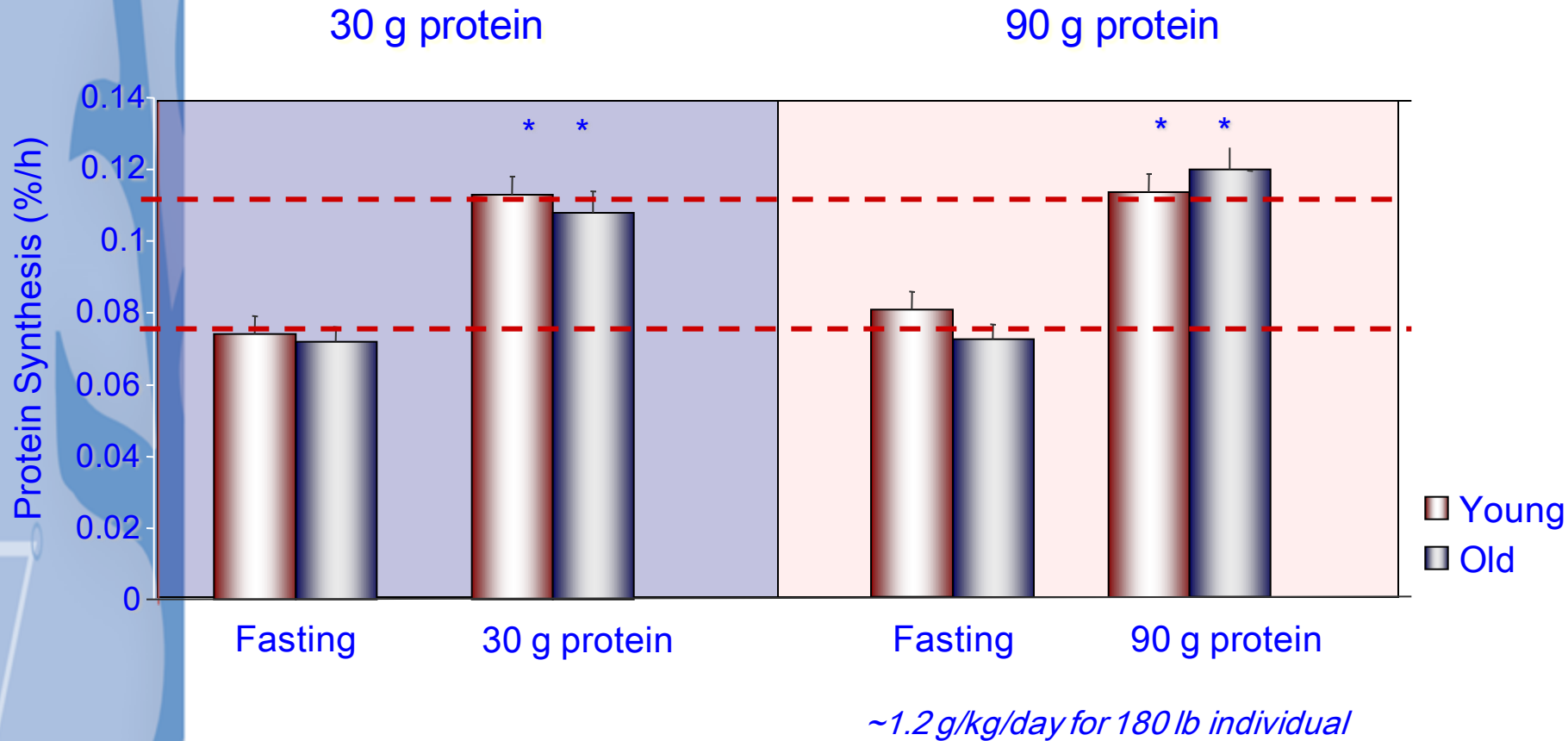
# How much protein do we need – and when ?



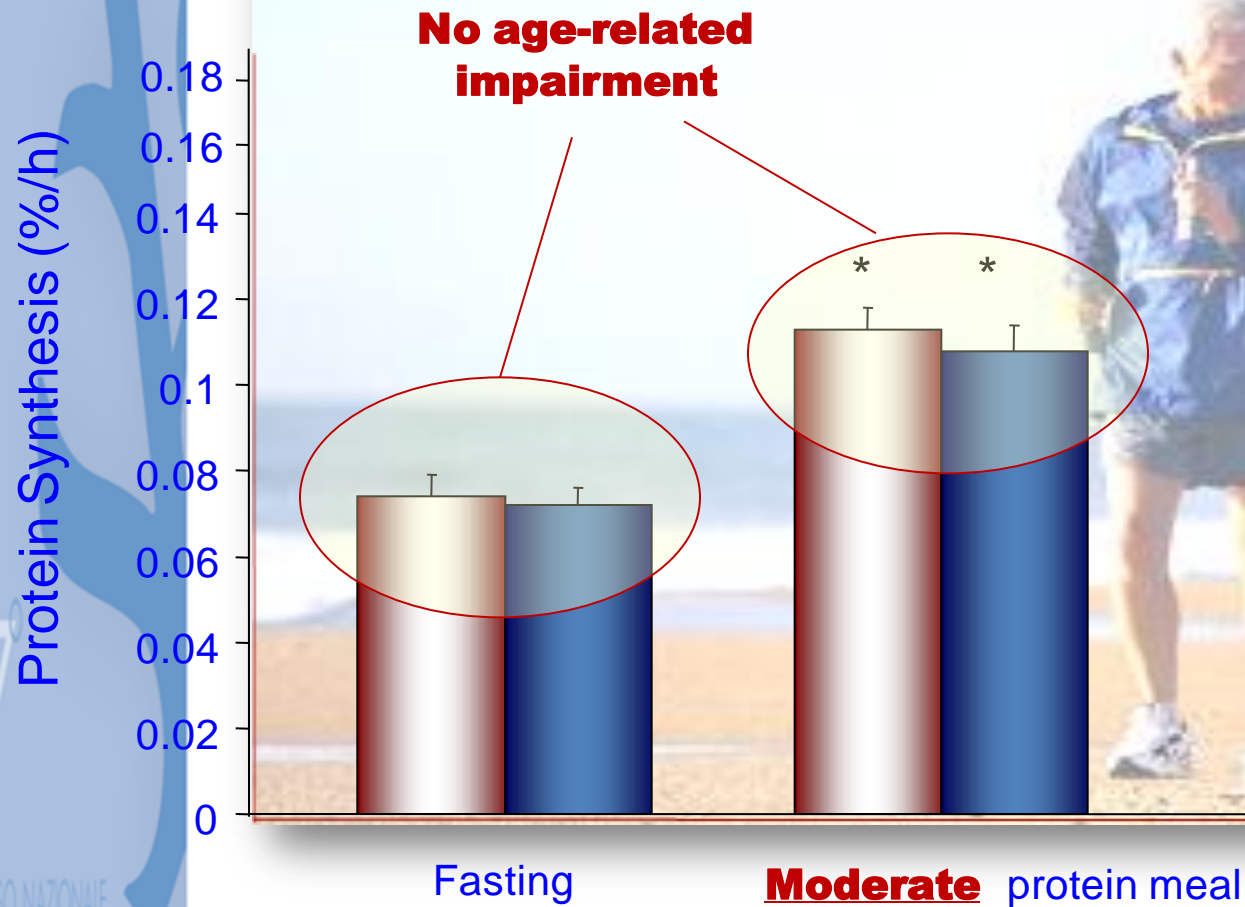


# Protein Synthesis and Portion Control

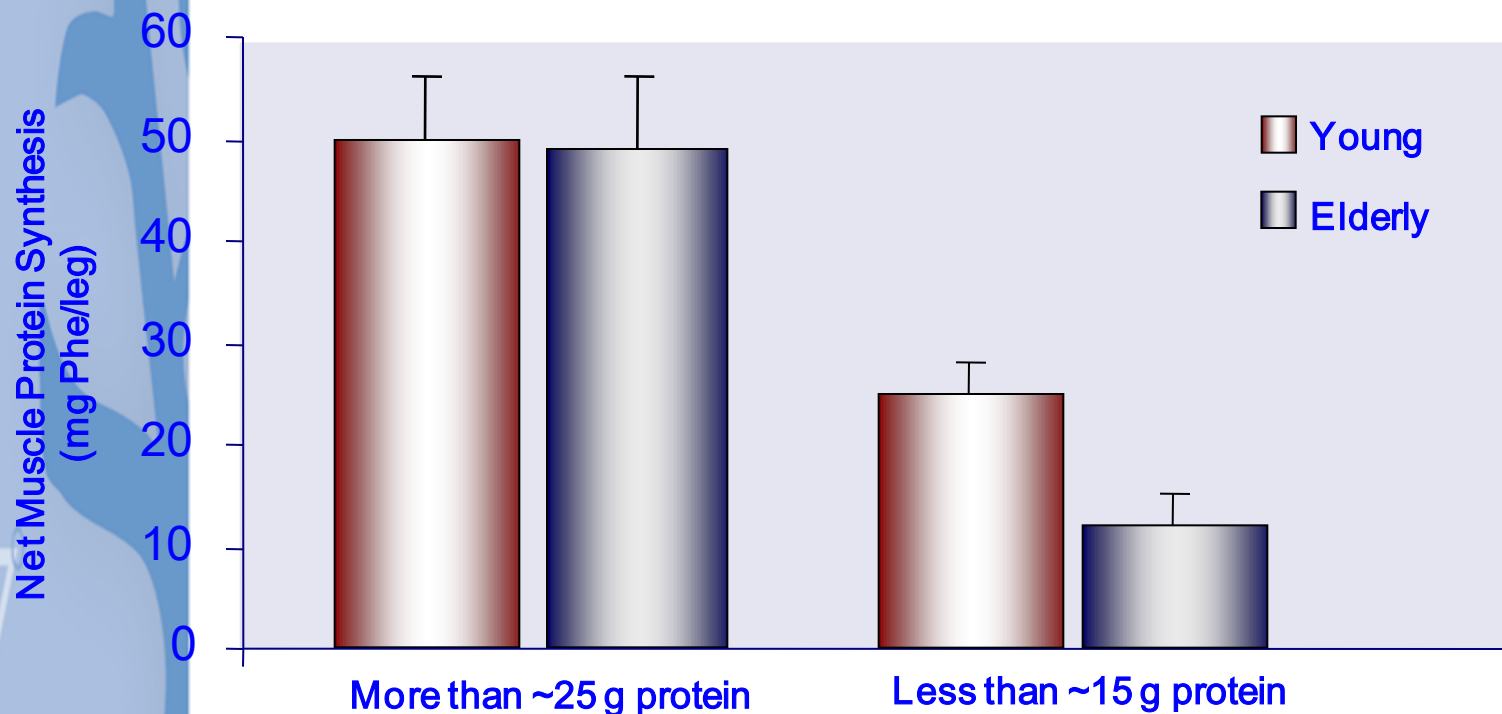
- a message of moderation -



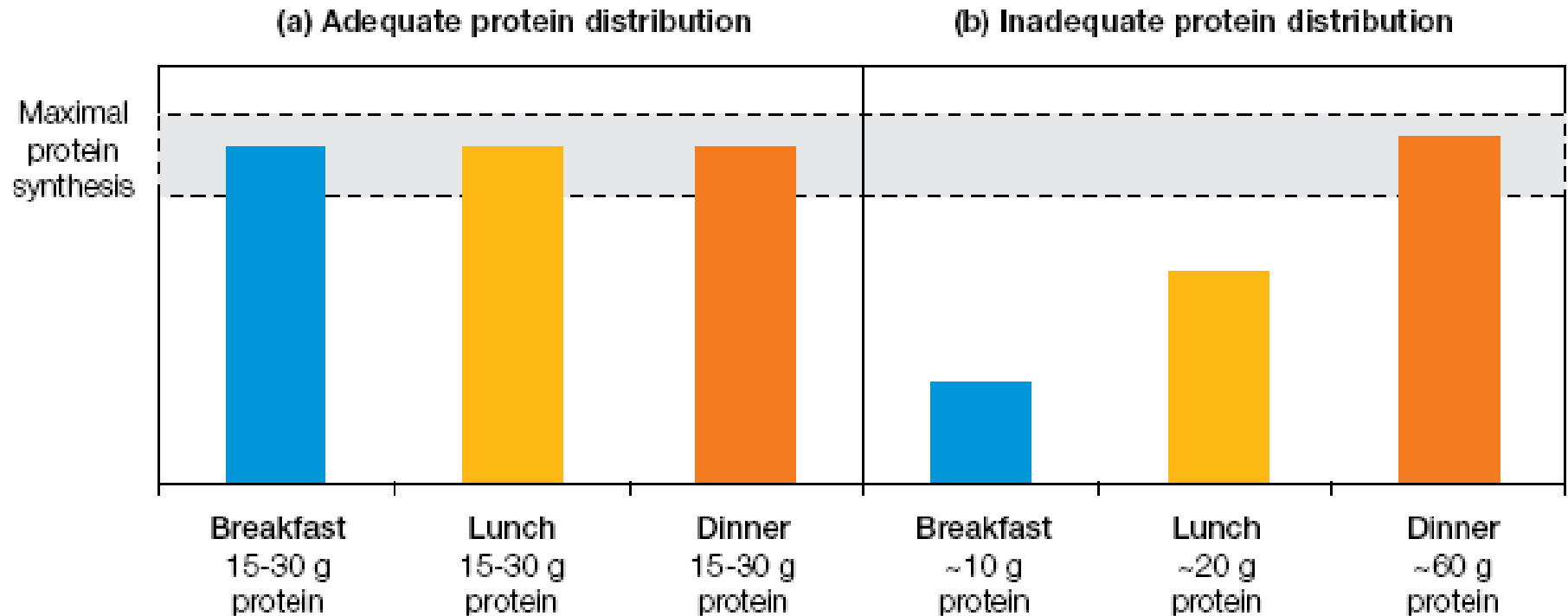
# Key points



# Age-related dose-response



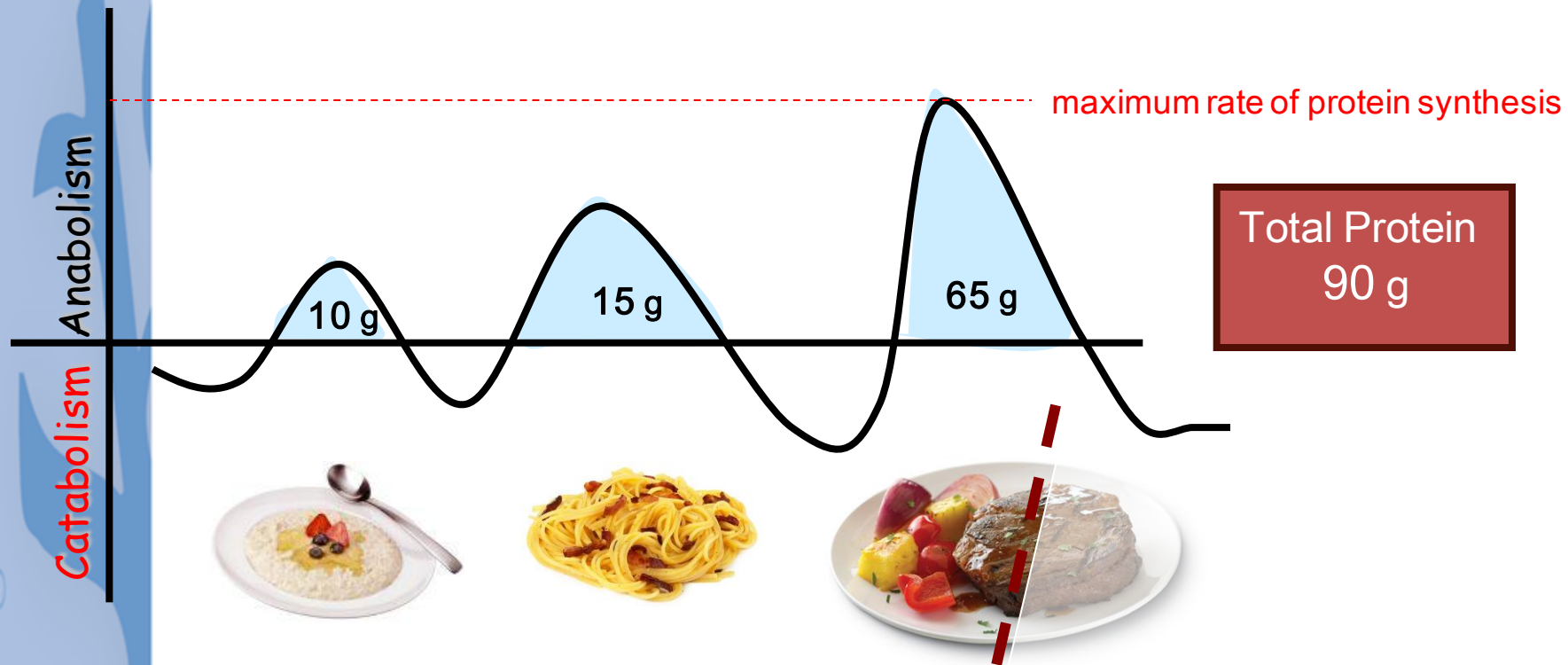
# Relationship between the amount of protein per meal and the resultant anabolic response



Adapted from Paddon-Jones, 2009

# Daily protein distribution

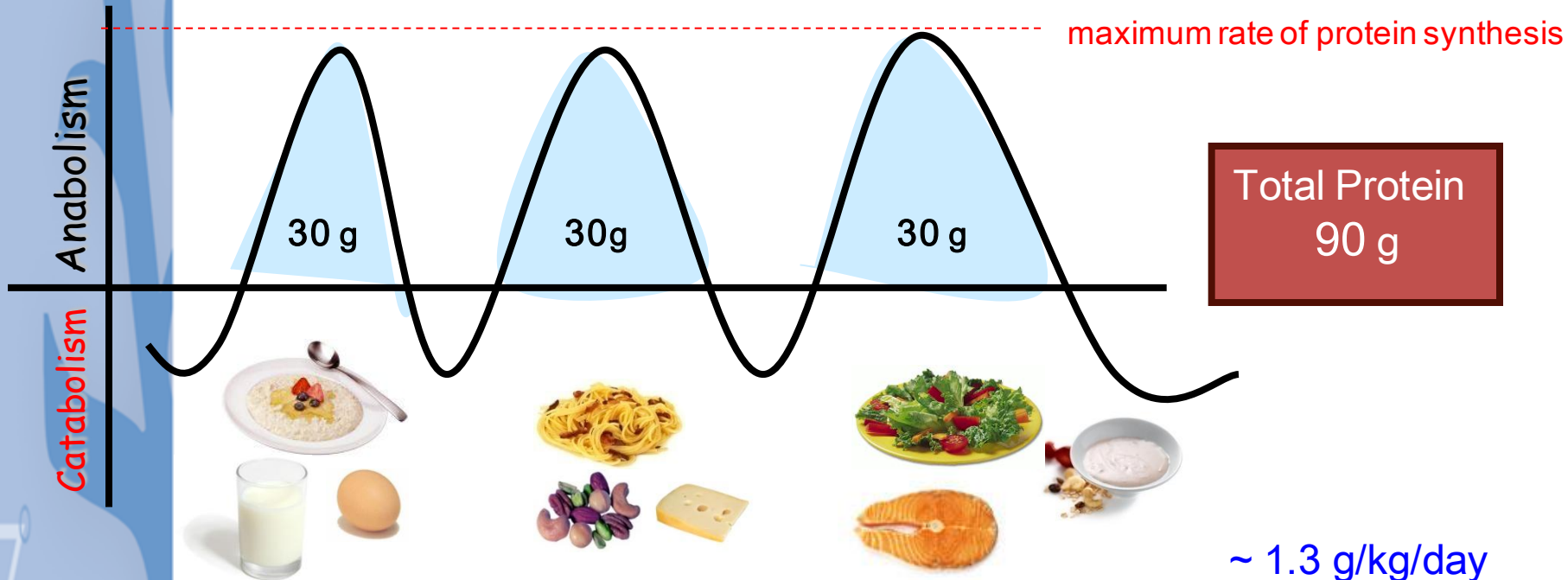
## - typical ? -



A skewed daily protein distribution fails to maximize potential for muscle growth

# Daily protein distribution

## - Optimal -



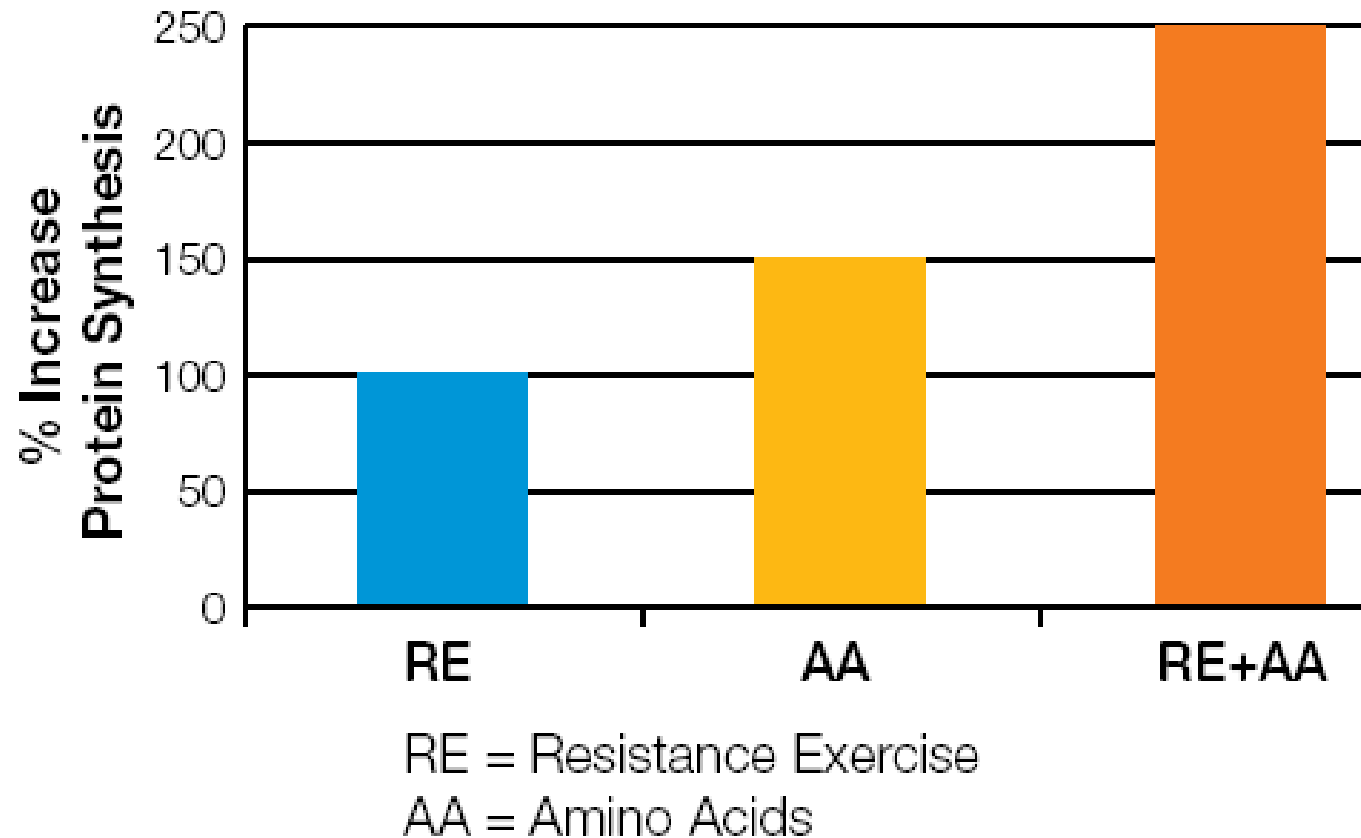
**Repeated maximal stimulation of protein synthesis**  
→ increase / maintenance of muscle mass

# Protein-exercise interaction

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# Resistance exercise + nutrition (protein)

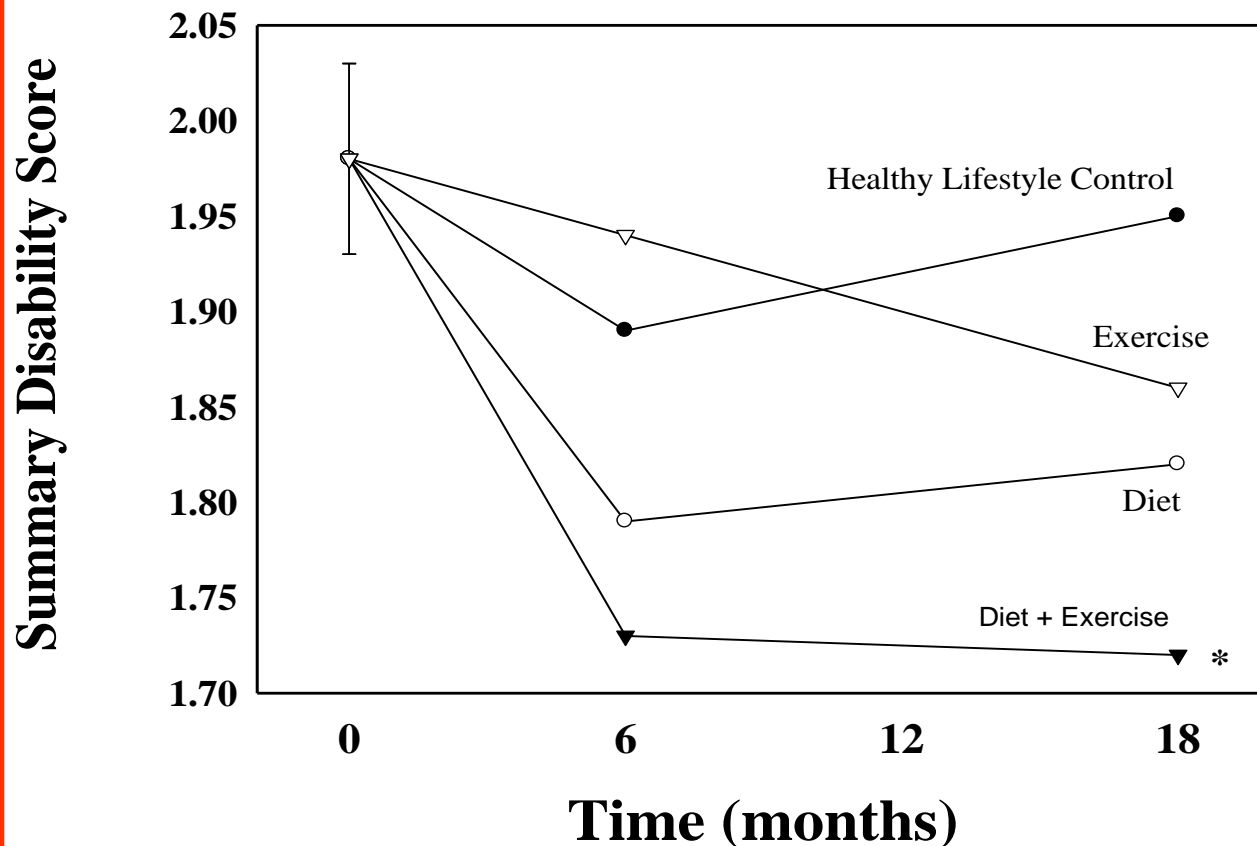


Adapted from Biolo, 1997



# ADAPT – Diet, exercise and disability

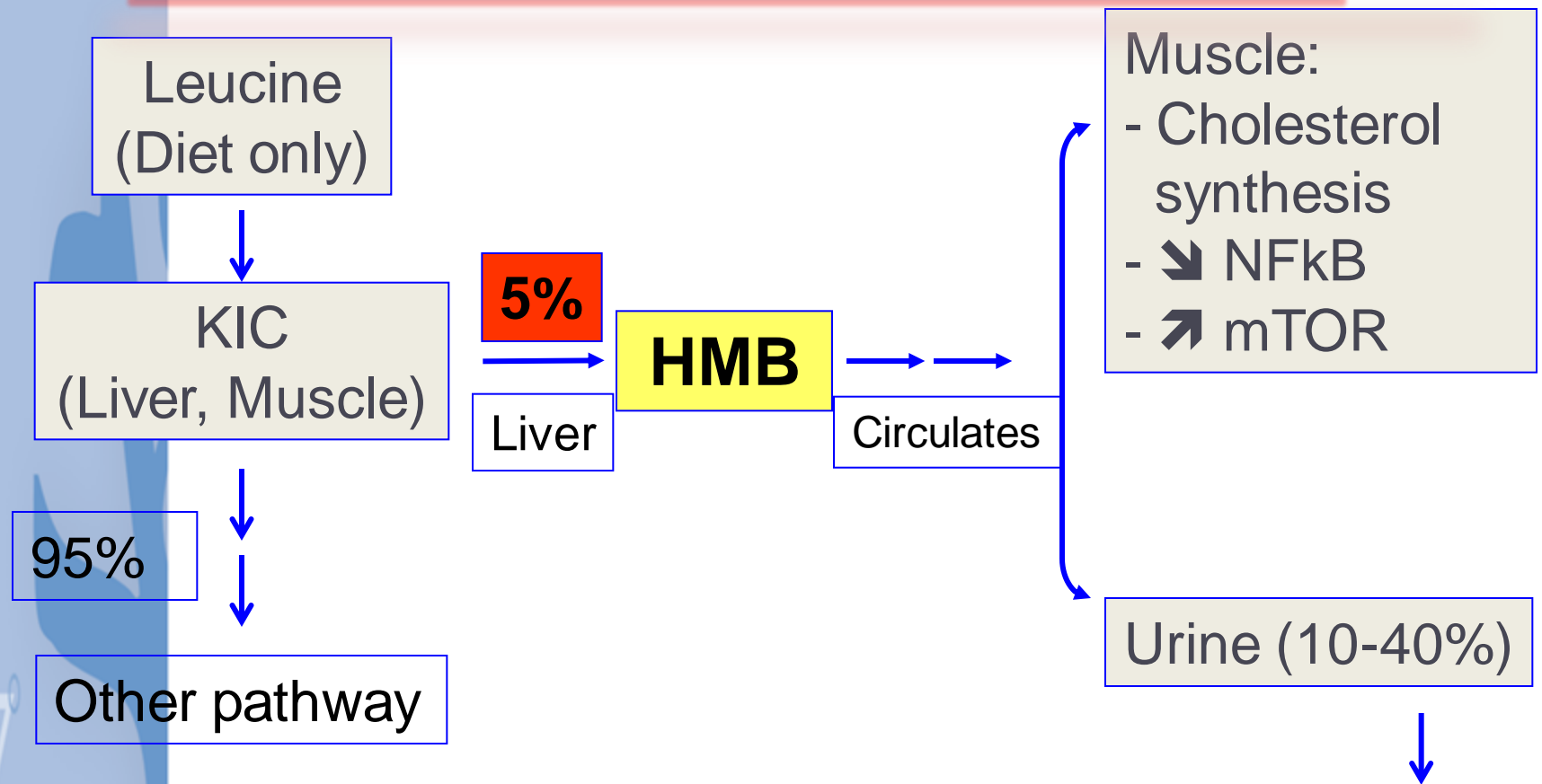
## Physical Disability



# Options to optimize post-prandial anabolic action of dietary proteins

- Increase protein intake
  - Age-specific RDAs
- Increase amino acid bioavailability
  - Distribution of protein intake
  - Digestion rate
- Use specific substrates
  - Leucine
  - $\beta$ -hydroxy- $\beta$ -methylbutyrate (HMB)
  - Vitamin D

# Leucine-HMB Metabolic Pathway



This is an amino acid metabolite that occurs naturally in human muscle cells. Traditionally, HMB has been used by athletes to enhance performance and build muscle mass. Recent studies have focused on the use of HMB to preserve or rebuild muscle mass.

# Role of HMB on muscle function

```
graph TD; A[Role of HMB on muscle function] --> B[Protective effects]; A --> C[Protein synthesis]; B --> B1[- Substrate for cholesterol synthesis]; B --> B2[- Stabilize muscle cell membrane]; B --> B3[- Protect muscle cells]; C --> C1[- Inhibition activation caspase - 8]; C --> C2[- Attenuate protein degradation]; C --> C3[- Activation mTOR signal pathway]; C --> C4[- Stimulation protein synthesis];
```

## Protective effects

- Substrate for cholesterol synthesis
- Stabilize muscle cell membrane
- Protect muscle cells

## Protein synthesis

- Inhibition activation caspase - 8
- Attenuate protein degradation
- Activation mTOR signal pathway
- Stimulation protein synthesis

# Studies in Elderly with HMB

Citation	Population	Intervention	Results
Vukovich <i>et al.</i> J Nutr 2001	31 elderly individuals 70 ± 1 years old	8-week study CaHMB: 3 g/d or Placebo Trained with walking and stretching	Greater reduction in % body fat* Lean mass increased Greater upper and lower body strength*
Panton <i>et al.</i> Med Sci Sports Ex 1998	35 M/F elderly adults	8-week study CaHMB group or Placebo group Resistance training	Greater functional mobility*
Coelho <i>et al.</i> Med Sci Sports Ex 2001	12 Males 50–72 years old with high cholesterol	3 grams CaHMB or Placebo Endurance and resistance training	Reduced LDL-cholesterol Increased LBM Greater weight lifting and strength*

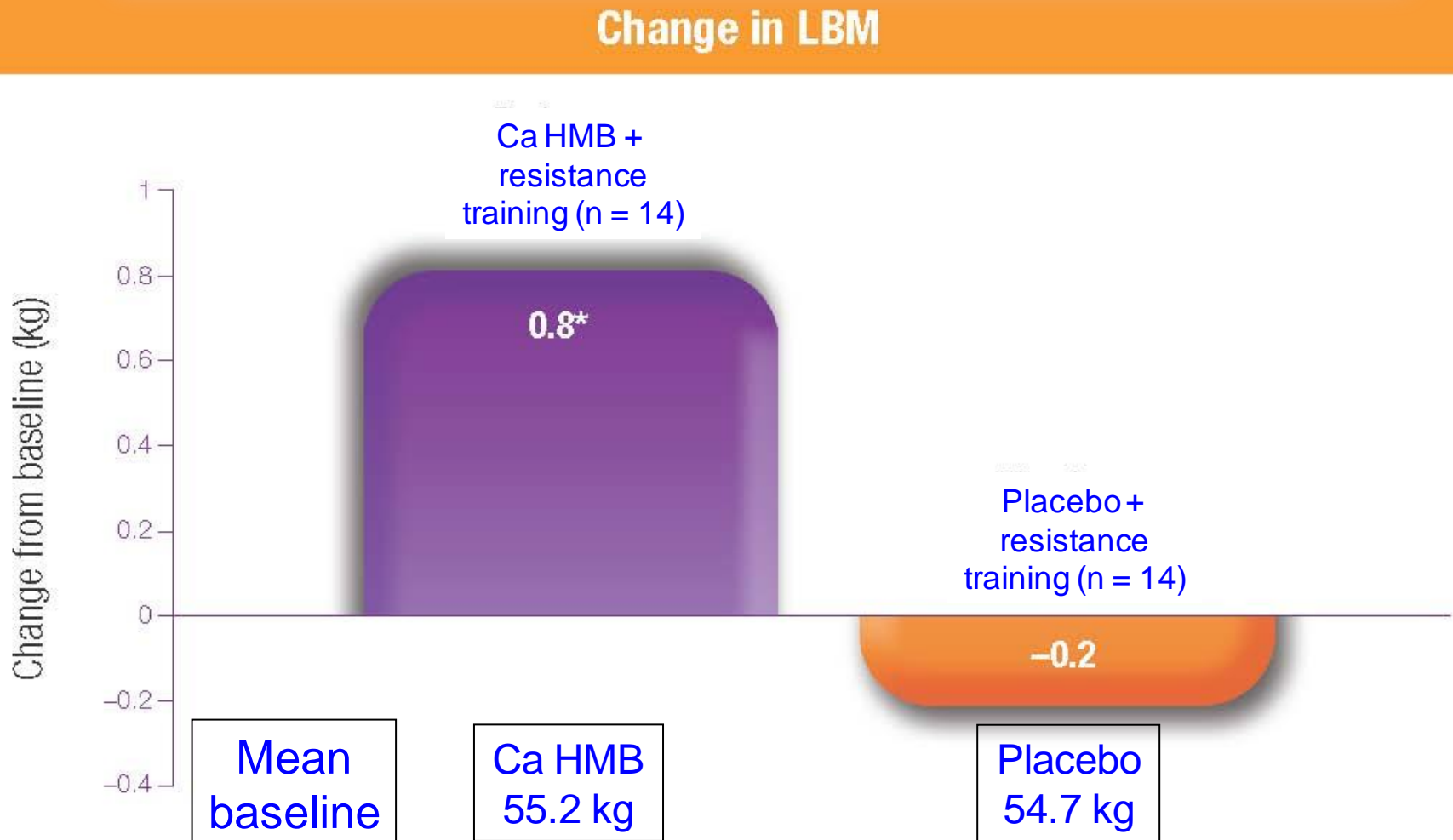
\*P<0.05

# Study in elderly subjects receiving HMB

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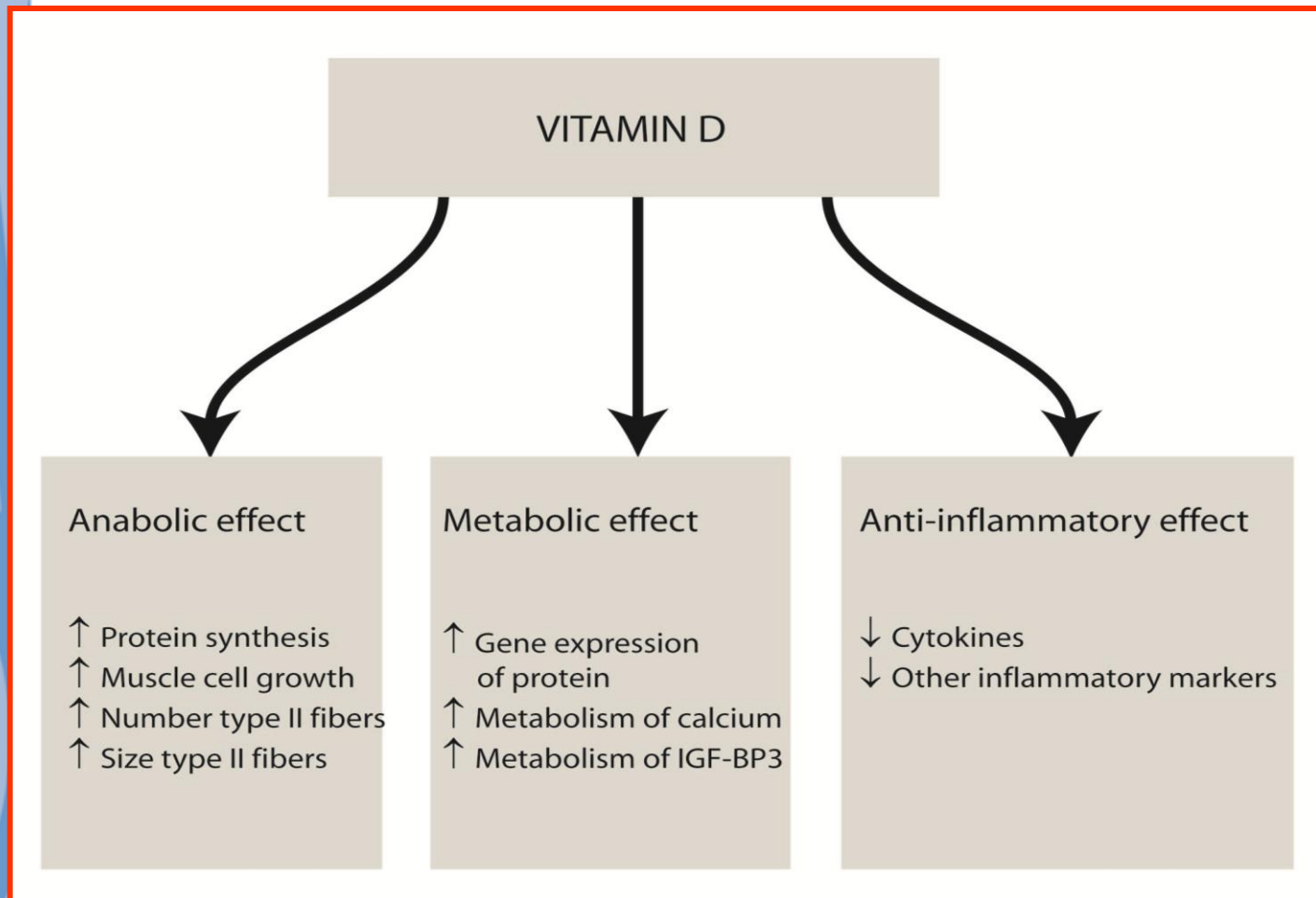
- **Objective:**
  - *Can HMB increase LBM and strength in older adults engaged in resistance training?*
- Prospective, randomized, blinded, placebo-controlled trial
- 31 subjects ( age > 70 yrs); male and female
- 8-week supplementation + exercise (5 d / wk)
- 3 g HMB/day versus placebo

# Improved LBM in elderly subjects receiving HMB (p=0.08)



# Mechanism of action Vitamin D

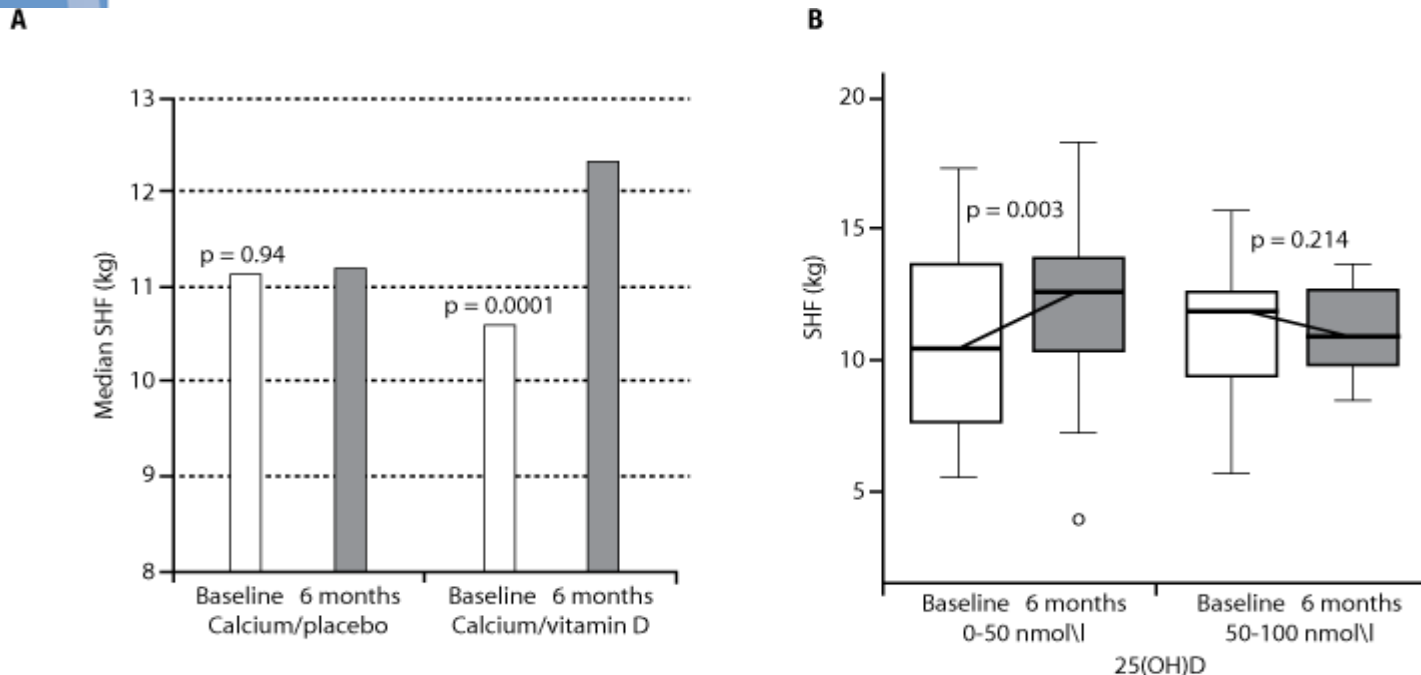
## ► Role of Vitamin D on muscle function :





# Vitamin D and muscle function

- Institutionalized elderly
- Vitamin D : 150,000 IU per month for 2 months, then 90,000 IU per month for 4 months



**Figure 3.** Evaluation of the Strength of Hip Flexors (SFH) after six-month vitamin D replacement in institutionalized elderly. (A) Shows the significant increment in SFH observed in the group that received vitamin D<sub>3</sub> treatment (average of 3600 IU/day), which was not seen in the placebo group. (B) Demonstrates that the SFH increment was seen only in those who had lower levels of 25OHD levels at baseline (< 50 nmol/L) (43).

# RCTs: Vitamin D and Physical Performance

Bischoff et al. 2003	122 ♀ 85,3 y NH	800 IU D3/d +Ca vs. Ca, p.o. 3 months	+ Strength M. quadriceps, Handgrip, TUG
Latham et al. 2003	243 ♀ ♂ 79,1 y Rehab	300000 IU D3 vs. Placebo, p.o. 3/6 months	- Strength M. quadriceps, TUG, Balance
Dhesi et al. 2004	139 ♀ ♂ 76,6 y Amb	600000 IU D2 vs. Placebo, i.m. 6 months	+ Physical performance, Reaction time, Body sway - Strength
Pfeifer et al. 2009	242 ♀ ♂ 77 y Amb	800 IU D3/d +Ca vs. Ca, p.o. 12 months	+ Strength M. quadriceps, TUG, Body sway
Zhu et al. 2010	302 ♀ 77 y Amb, VD deficient	1000 IU D3/d +Ca vs. Ca, p.o. 12 months	+ Strength hip extensor and adductor, TUG, Body sway

# Meta-analysis: Fall prevention

700-1000 IU Vitamin D/d

Relative risk (95% CI)

Prince et al

Broe et al

Flicker et al

Bischoff-Ferrari et al

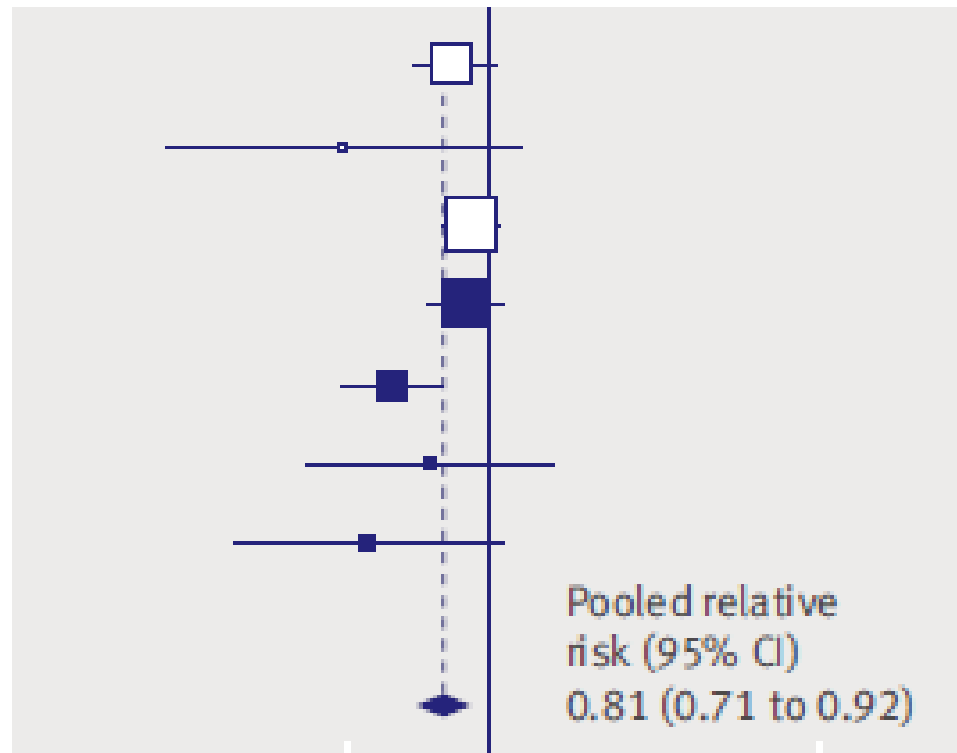
Pfeifer et al

Bischoff et al

Pfeifer et al

Combined

n=1921



# ESERCIZIO FISICO E NUTRIZIONE

## Effects of Exercise and Amino Acid Supplementation on Body Composition and Physical Function in Community-Dwelling Elderly Japanese Sarcopenic Women: A Randomized Controlled Trial

Hun Kyung Kim, PhD,\* Takao Suzuki, MD, PhD,<sup>†</sup> Kyoko Saito, PhD,\* Hideyo Yoshida, MD, PhD,\* Hisamine Kobayashi, DVM,<sup>‡</sup> Hiroyuki Kato, MS,<sup>‡</sup> and Miwa Katayama, DVM<sup>‡</sup>

JAGS 60:16–23, 2012

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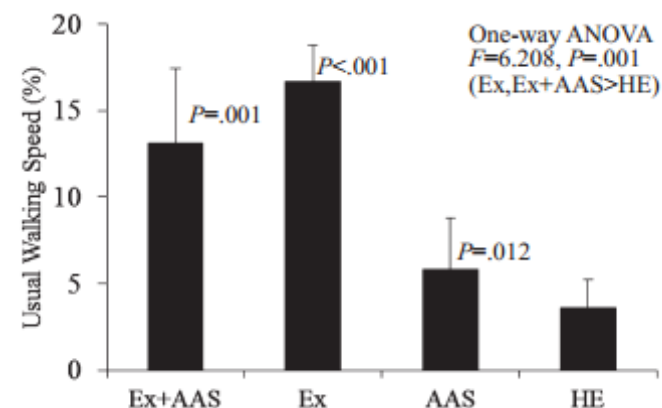
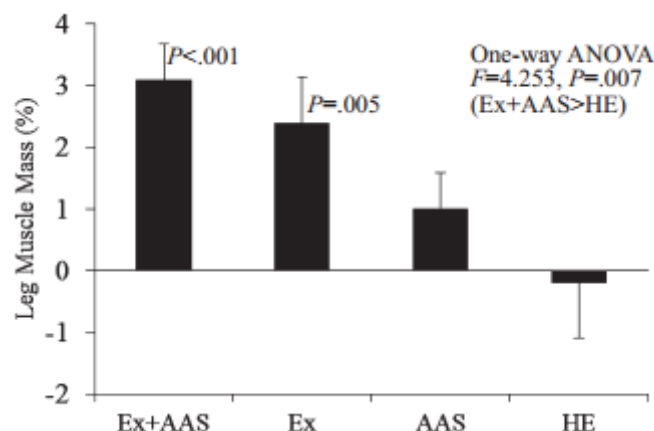


Table 3. Change in Leg Muscle Mass and Functional Fitness After Intervention According to Study Group

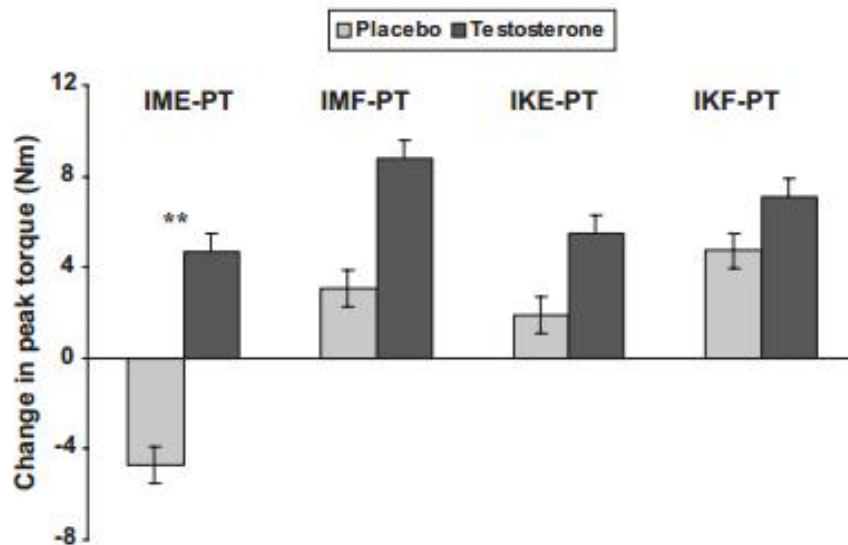
Dependent Variable*	Adjusted Odds Ratio (95% Confidence Interval)		
	AAS	Exercise	Exercise + AAS
Change in leg muscle mass and knee extension strength	1.99 (0.72–5.65)	2.61 (0.88–8.05)	4.89 (1.89–11.27)
Change in leg muscle mass and usual walking speed	1.35 (0.45–4.08)	2.41 (0.79–7.58)	4.11 (1.33–13.68)

# TERAPIA ORMONALE

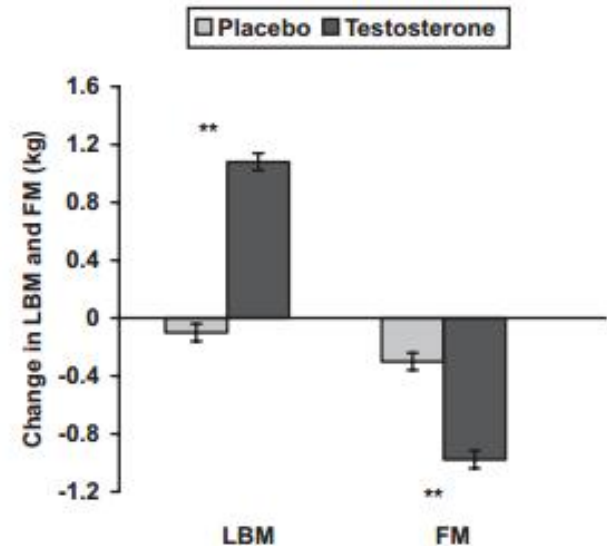
## Effects of Testosterone on Muscle Strength, Physical Function, Body Composition, and Quality of Life in Intermediate-Frail and Frail Elderly Men: A Randomized, Double-Blind, Placebo-Controlled Study

J Clin Endocrinol Metab, February 2010, 95(2):639–650

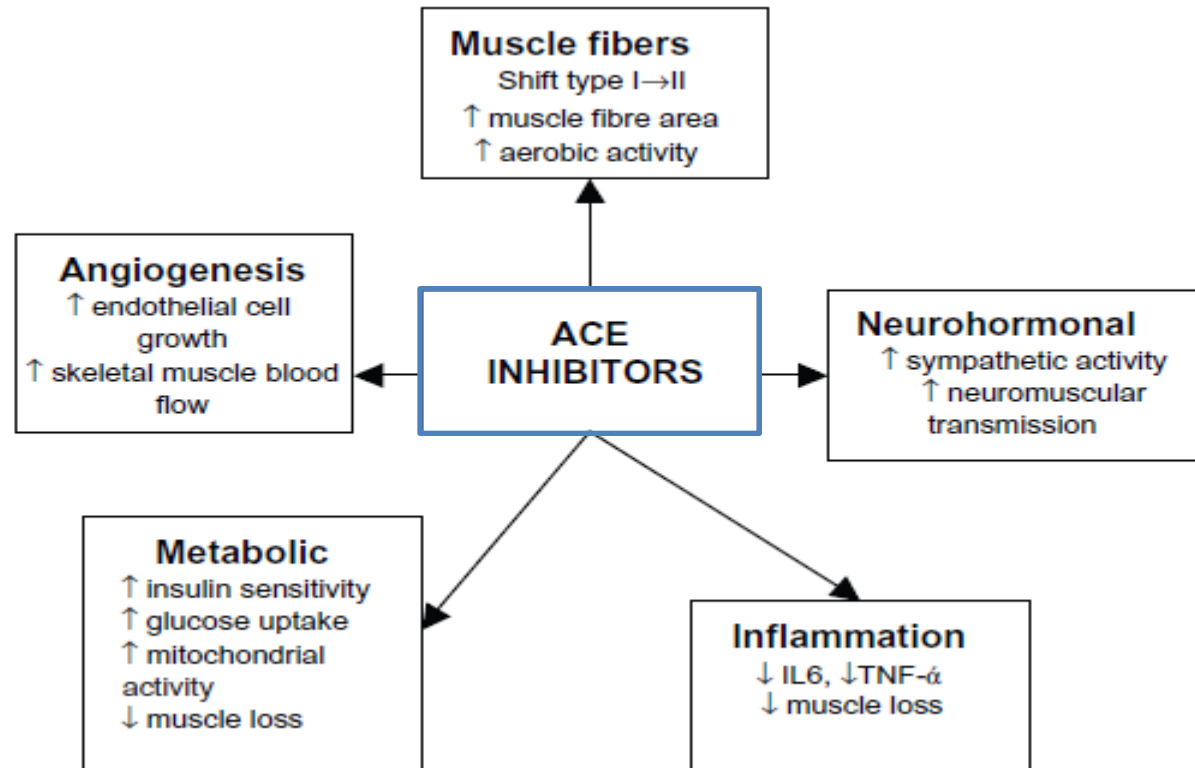
**A** Change in Peak Torque



**B** Change in Body Composition



# TERAPIA FARMACOLOGICA NON ORMONALE



# Relation between use of angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors and muscle strength and physical function in older women: an observational study

Graziano Onder, Brenda W J H Penninx, Rajesh Balkrishnan, Linda P Fried, Paulo H M Chaves, Jeff Williamson, Christy Carter, Mauro Di Bari, Jack M Guralnik, Marco Pahor

THE LANCET • Vol 359 • March 16, 2002 • www.thelancet.com

- Continuous ACE inhibitors users
- Intermittent ACE inhibitors users
- ▲- Continuous/intermittent other drug users
- ...◆... Never drug users

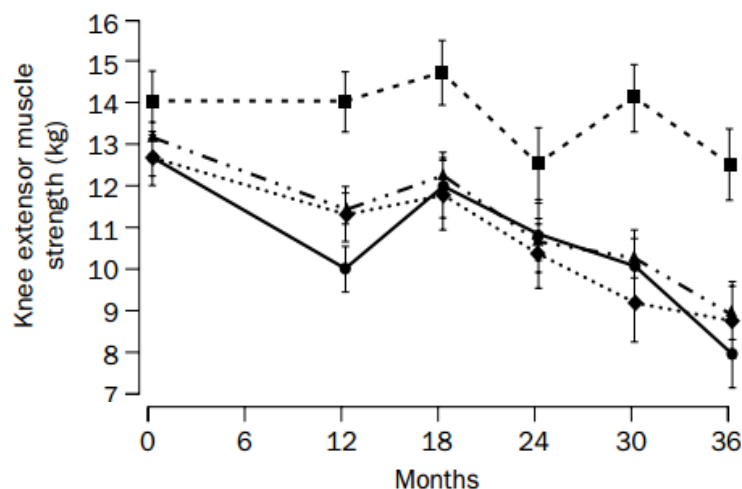
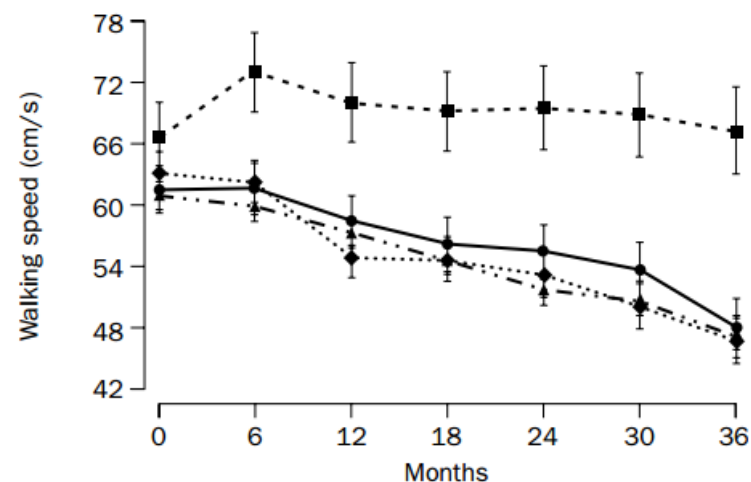


Figure 1: Mean knee extensor muscle strength and walking speed over 3 years of follow-up among patients with hypertension



	Continuous users of ACEi (n=61)	Intermittent users of ACEi (n=133)	p*	Continuous/intermittent users of other drugs (n=301)	p*	Never drug users (n=146)	p*
Muscle strength (mean [SE], kg)	-1.0 (1.1)	-3.0 (0.7)	0.096	-3.7 (0.5)	0.016	-3.9 (0.7)	0.026
Walking speed (mean [SE], cm/s)	-1.7 (4.1)	-13.6 (2.7)	0.015	-15.7 (1.8)	0.002	-17.9 (2.7)	0.001

Results of random-effect models, adjusted for age, race, body-mass index, baseline systolic blood pressure, presence of diabetes, ischaemic heart disease, and stroke. ACEi=Angiotensin converting enzyme inhibitors. \*p values indicate comparisons with continuous users of ACEi as a reference.

Table 2: Mean 3-year decline in knee extensor muscle strength and walking speed

# PROSPETTIVE FUTURE

- Anticorpi della MIOSTATINA → inibisce rigenerazione muscolare
- CREATINA → aumenta la massa muscolare e le performance fisiche
- TRICOSTATINA A → antagonista della miostatina
- PGC-1 $\alpha$  → regolatore della mitocondrogenesi
- Attivatori della AMP-activator protein
- CELLULE STAMINALI



# Polymorphic Variation in the Human Myostatin (GDF-8) Gene and Association with Strength Measures in the Women's Health and Aging Study II Cohort

Michael J. Seibert, MS, Qian-Li Xue, PhD, Linda P. Fried, MD, MPH, and Jeremy D. Walston, MD

JAGS 49:1093-1096, 2001

© 2001 by the American Geriatrics Society

Table 2. Linear Regression Analyses of Association Between Strength Measures and Genotype, Adjusting for Race and BMI

	Overall Strength		Hip Flexion		Knee Flexion		Grip Strength	
	Mean (SE)*	P-value	Mean (SE)*	P-value	Mean (SE)*	P-value	Mean (SE)*	P-value
Genotype*:								
K/R or R/R	-5.04 (2.98)	.09	-4.00 (1.58)	.01	-2.11 (1.29)	.10	0.76 (1.23)	.54
Race†:								
African American	6.30 (2.09)	<.01	4.15 (1.10)	<.01	1.47 (0.90)	.11	1.36 (0.89)	.13
Body mass index (BMI)	0.58 (0.14)	<.01	0.36 (0.07)	<.01	0.18 (0.06)	<.01	0.07 (0.06)	.21

\*reference group: K/K.

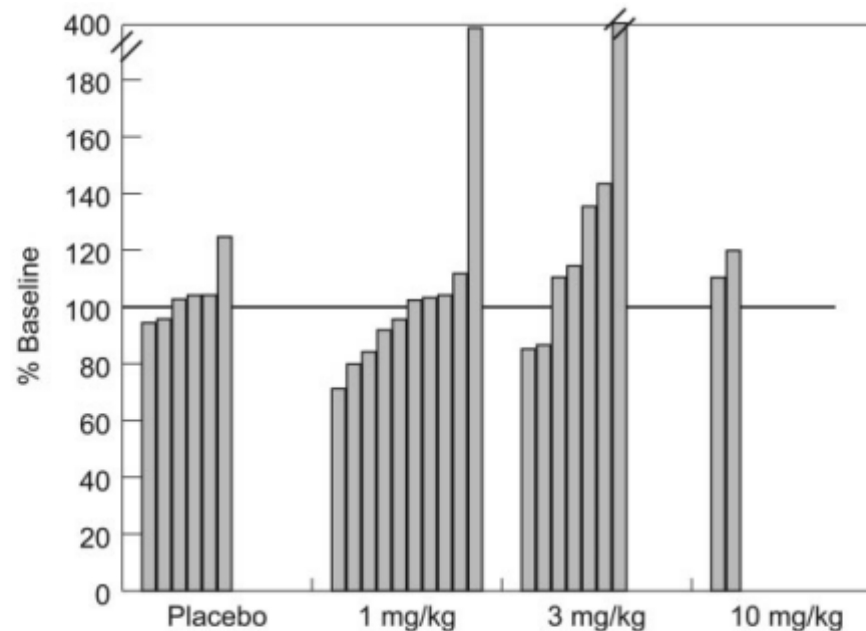
†reference group: Caucasian.

SE = standard error.

\*mean values in kg.

# A Phase I/II trial of MYO-029 in Adult Subjects with Muscular Dystrophy

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*Fig 3. Muscle fiber diameters show the percentage change in muscle fiber diameter before and after treatment. Each vertical bar represents one patient. There was an increase in muscle fiber diameters in the 10 (median = +15.2% change from baseline) and 3mg/kg groups (+14.4%) compared with the 1mg/kg treatment (-0.93%) and placebo groups (+2.7%). A trend toward larger fibers with increasing dose (differences did not reach statistical significance) is shown; only two patients in the 10mg/kg group had muscle biopsies.*

## Sarcopenia

A research agenda has been set, but recognition in clinical practice is lagging behind



- What should clinicians look for?
- Well recognized risk factors for sarcopenia include increasing age, low levels of physical activity, inadequate nutrition, and comorbidity.
- Identifying high risk groups of older people is straightforward, but making a diagnosis is more difficult.
- In the European guidelines, sarcopenia is diagnosed firstly on the basis of impaired physical performance, characterized by slow gait speed, and then either by low muscle strength assessed by handheld dynamometry or low muscle mass measured, for example, by bioimpedance.

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## Sarcopenia

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- In terms of managing sarcopenia, meta-analyses show that resistance exercise can improve muscle mass and strength in older adults.
- The evidence for the role of nutrition in the prevention and treatment of sarcopenia is less clear. In particular, more information is needed on protein and specific amino acids, such as leucine.
- Protein intake may become insufficient with the reduction in total food intake seen in later life and dietary reference intake for protein may be set too low to ensure optimal intake in healthy older adults.

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- Attempts to improve muscle mass and function with protein supplementation have had variable results.
- Similarly, findings from observational studies and randomized controlled trials reporting the effects of vitamin D on muscle strength have not been consistent, although some do report benefit.
- Sarcopenia is firmly on the agenda for research into ageing and now needs to be recognized in routine clinical practice.

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Il movimento è lo stato dell' uomo e la base della sua essenza.  
La vita umana non può essere concepibile in senso statico.  
Dal battere delle palpebre alla massima velocità in corsa,  
nel sonno o nella piena attività, l'uomo è in movimento.

(Kaplan A)