

# IVUS assessment and DES-guided treatment of Left Main lesions

Jose M de la Torre Hernandez, MD, PhD, FESC

Unidad de Cardiología Intervencionista

H. Universitario Marques de Valdecilla

Santander, Spain



# Disclosure Statement of Financial Interest

Within the past 12 months, I or my spouse/partner have had a financial interest/arrangement or affiliation with the organizations listed below.

## Affiliation/Financial Relationship

- Grant/Research Support
- Consulting Fees/Honoraria
- Major Stock Shareholder/Equity
- Royalty Income
- Ownership/Founder
- Intellectual Property Rights
- Other Financial Benefit

## Company

- Abbott vascular, Boston sci, Biotronik, Biosensors, St Jude
- Medtronic, Abbott, Boston, Cordis, Biotronik, IHT, Lilly, Daychi Sankio, Astra Zeneca, Biosensors

Recommendations according to extent of CAD	CABG		PCI	
	Class	Level <sup>b</sup>	Class	Level <sup>b</sup>
Left main disease with a SYNTAX score $\leq 22$ .	I	B	I	B
Left main disease with a SYNTAX score 23–32.	I	B	IIa	B
Left main disease with a SYNTAX score $>32$ .	I	B	III	B

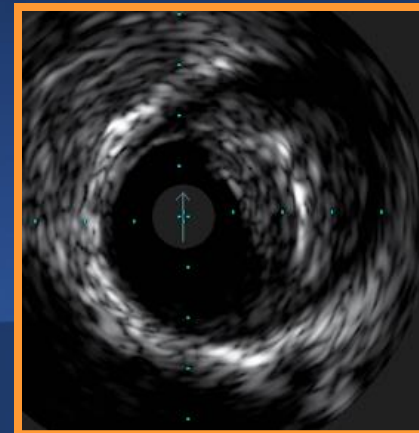
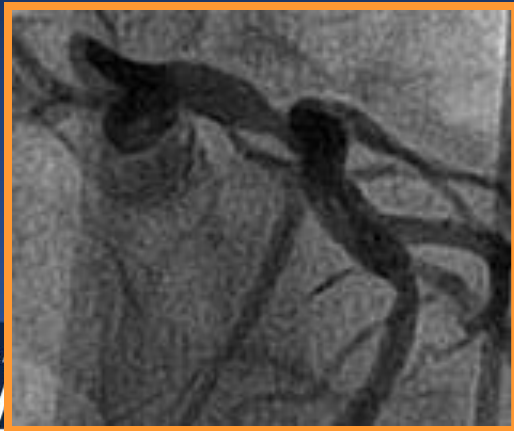
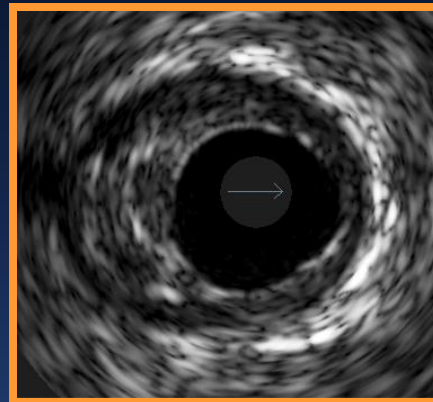
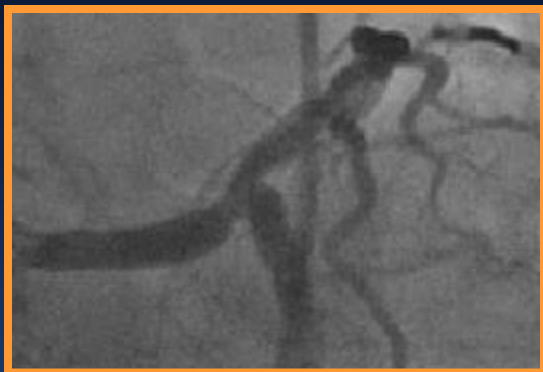
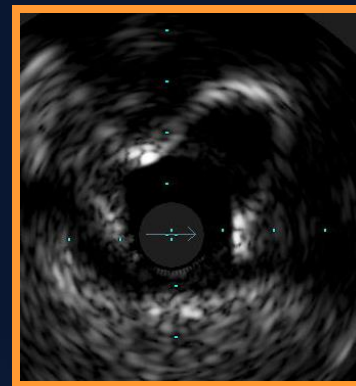
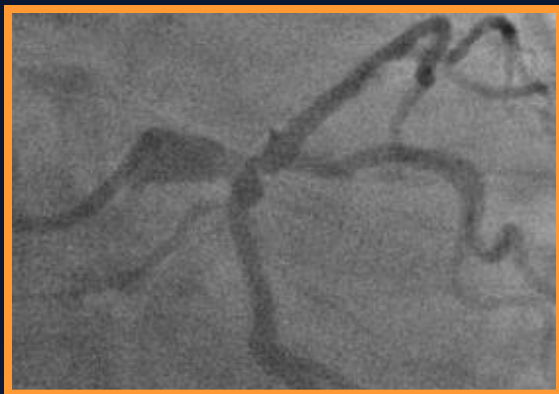
## 2014 ESC/EACTS Guidelines on myocardial revascularization

The Task Force on Myocardial Revascularization of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) and the European Association for Cardio-Thoracic Surgery (EACTS)

Recommendations	Class <sup>a</sup>	Level <sup>b</sup>
FFR to identify haemodynamically relevant coronary lesion(s) in stable patients when evidence of ischaemia is not available.	I	A
FFR-guided PCI in patients with multivessel disease.	IIa	B
IVUS in selected patients to optimize stent implantation.	IIa	B
IVUS to assess severity and optimize treatment of unprotected left main lesions.	IIa	B
IVUS or OCT to assess mechanisms of stent failure.	IIa	C
OCT in selected patients to optimize stent implantation.	IIb	C

# Significant ???

# MLA cut-off ?



# Proposed MLA cut-off values for LM

**Park et al.**

2014

N= 112

IVUS vs FFR <0.8

4.5 mm<sup>2</sup>

**Jasti et al.**

2004

N= 55

IVUS vs FFR < 0.75

5.9 mm<sup>2</sup>

**LITRO**

**De la Torre et al.**

2011

N = 354

Physics of flow / Jasti et al.

6 mm<sup>2</sup>

**Fassa et al.**

2005

N= 214

Inferred from normal pts.

7.5 mm<sup>2</sup>

Clinical follow-up

# LMCA

**MLA = 6 mm<sup>2</sup>**

## Prospective Application of Pre-Defined Intravascular Ultrasound Criteria for Assessment of Intermediate Left Main Coronary Artery Lesions

Results From the Multicenter LITRO Study

De la Torre Hernandez, et al. J Am Coll Cardiol 2011; 58:351-8

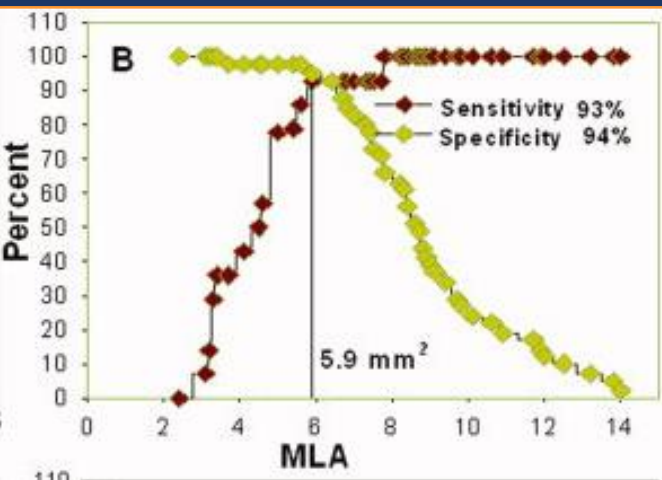
Proximal LAD

**MLA = 3 mm<sup>2</sup>**

Proximal LCx

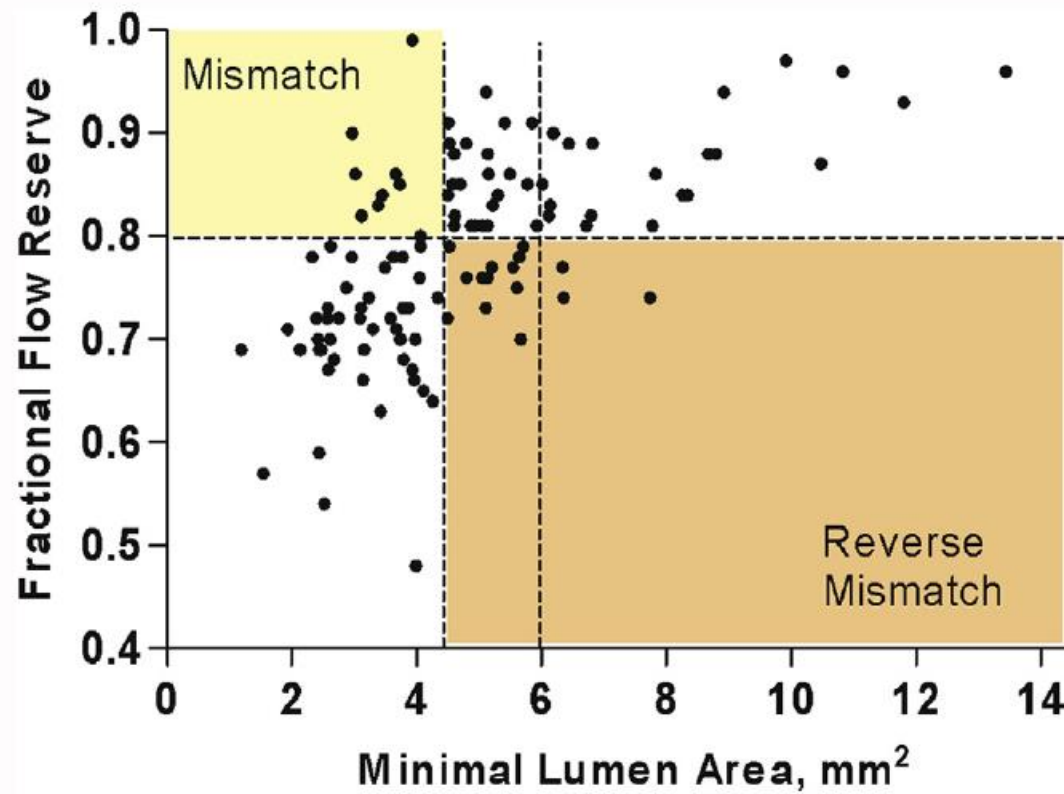
**MLA = 3 mm<sup>2</sup>**

Jasti et al.  
Circulation 2004;110:2831-6



**Linear law (epicardial coronary artery)**  
 $Do = 0.678*(D1+D2)$

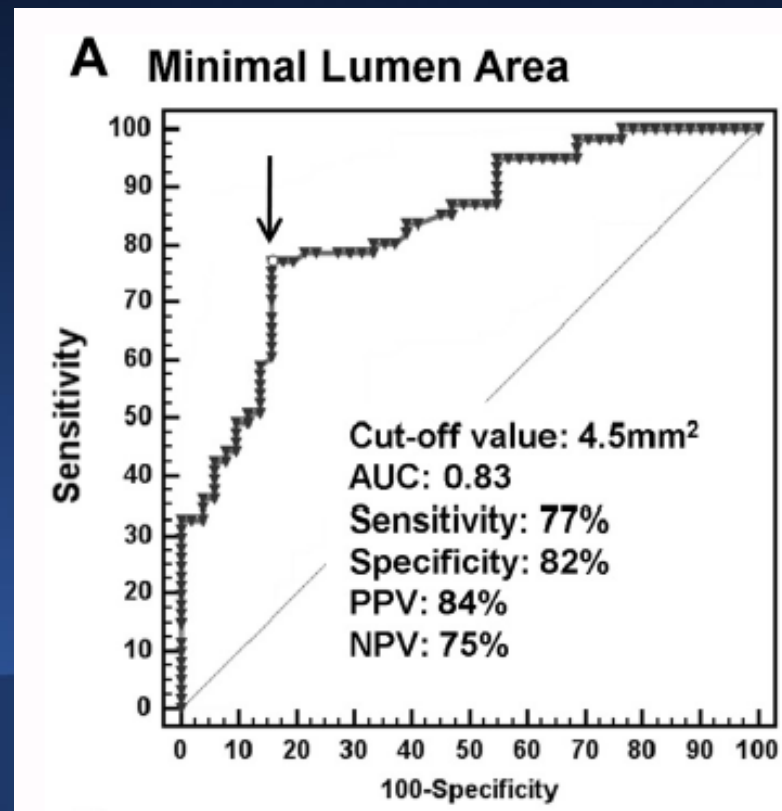
Finet G et al.  
Eurointervention 2007;3:10-17



**New cut-off  
4.5 mm<sup>2</sup>**

**112 pts  
Isolated LM ostial / shaft lesions  
Correlation IVUS - FFR**

Park et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Intv 2014;7:868-74



# First,

**The LM-MLA cut-off is population-dependent.**



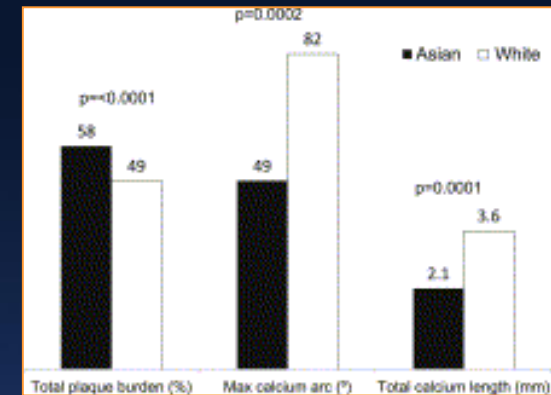
# Differences between studies

	Asiatic	White Westerners	
	Park et al.	Jasti et al.	LITRO study
<b>MLA, mm<sup>2</sup></b>	4.8	7.6	7.2
<b>Method</b>	<b>FFR</b> IV adenosine	<b>FFR</b> IC adenosine 42 - 56 µg	Clinical validation
<b>Cut-off MLA</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>6</b>

# Intravascular ultrasound comparison of left main coronary artery disease between white and asian patients.

Rusinova RP, Mintz GS, Choi SY, et al. Am J Cardiol. 2013;111:979-84.

99 Asian patients (Japan and South Korea)  
99 matched control United States white patients  
with a stable clinical presentation and >30% LM stenosis

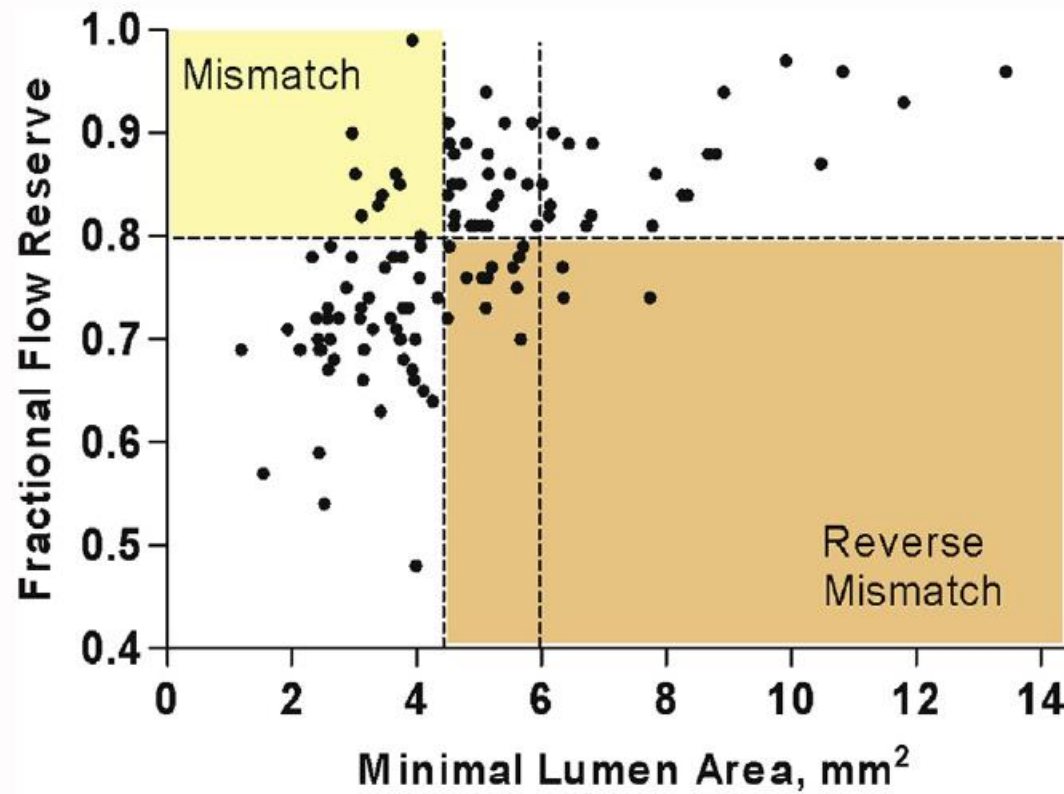


At the minimum lumen site and over the entire LMCA length  
**Asian patients had a smaller lumen area**  
**( $5.2 \pm 1.8$  vs  $6.2 \pm 1.4$  mm<sup>2</sup>; p <0.0001)**

# Second,

Given the unique prognostic implications of LM-derived ischemia, the optimal cut-off value must show very high sensitivity and negative predictive values

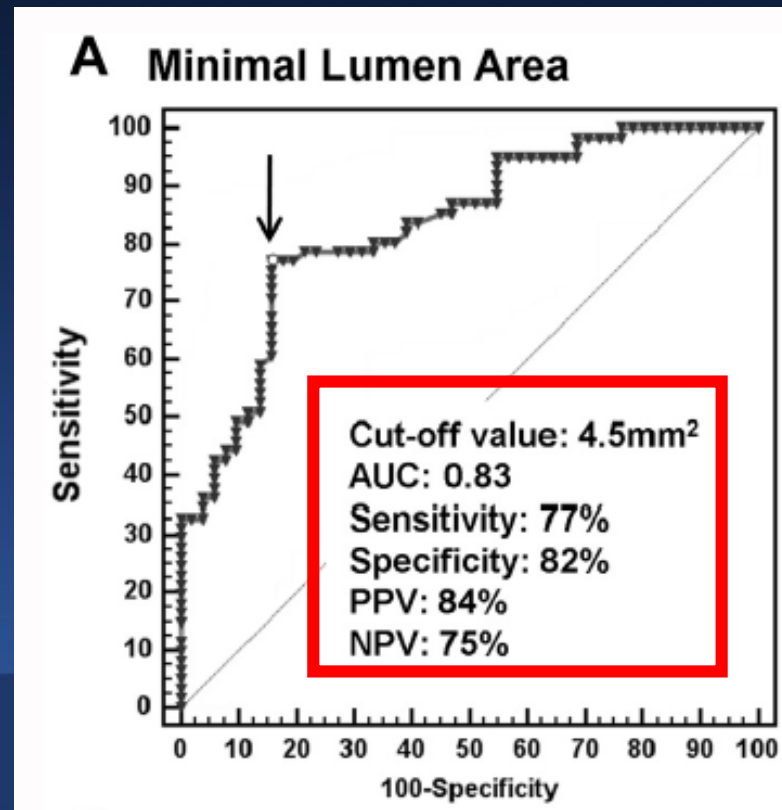
**LM-MLA > cut-off MLA  $\cong$  safe to defer**



New cut-off  
4.5 mm<sup>2</sup>

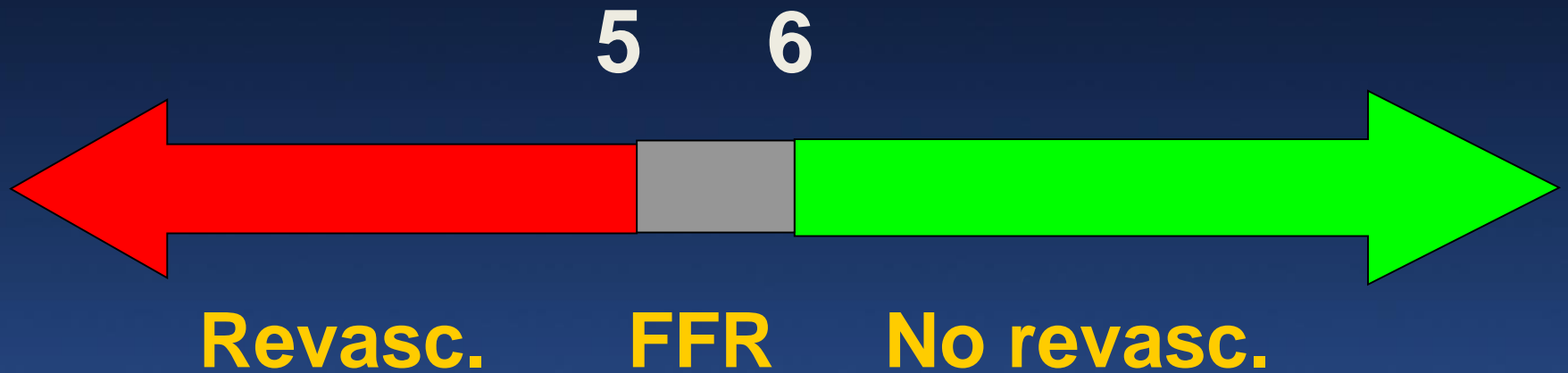


Among 54 lesions with LM-MLA >4.5 mm<sup>2</sup>  
13 (24.1%) had an FFR of ≤0.80.



Park et al. J Am Coll Cardiol Intv 2014;7:868-74

# LM - MLA mm<sup>2</sup>



# Third,

a theoretical LM-MLA cut-off value may be nicely derived from fractal geometry

- Linear law is more exact.
- Murray's law underestimates calculated mother-vessel diameter.

*Finet G et al. Eurointervention 2007;3:10-17*

## Threshold for MLA in LAD - LCx

Correlation FFR-IVUS in non-LM lesions in vessels of 3 - 3.5 mm in diameter

LAD / LCx MLA	3	3.5	4
<u>Murray's law</u>			
LM MLA	5	5.5	6
<u>Linear law</u>			
LM MLA	5.8	6.4	7.3

# Fourth,

the optimal LM-MLA cut-off value should be prospectively validated

Validation of cut-off 6 mm<sup>2</sup> in multicenter prospective LITRO study



# Prospective Application of Pre-Defined Intravascular Ultrasound Criteria for Assessment of Intermediate Left Main Coronary Artery Lesions

Results From the Multicenter LITRO Study

Jose M. de la Torre Hernandez, MD, PhD,\* Felipe Hernández Hernandez, MD,†  
Fernando Alfonso, MD, PhD,‡ Jose R. Rumoroso, MD, PhD,§ Ramon Lopez-Palop, MD, PhD,||  
Mario Sadaba, MD,‡ Pilar Carrillo, MD, PhD,§ Juan Rondan, MD, PhD,¶ Iñigo Lozano, MD, PhD,¶  
Juan M. Ruiz Nodar, MD, PhD,# Jose A. Baz, MD,\*\* Eduard Fernandez Nofrerias, MD,††  
Fernando Pajin, MD,‡‡ Tamara Garcia Camarero, MD,\* Hipolito Gutierrez, MD,§§  
on behalf of the LITRO Study Group (Spanish Working Group on Interventional Cardiology)  
*Santander, Madrid, Bilbao, Alicante, Oviedo, Vigo, Badalona, Toledo, and Valladolid, Spain*

**354 pts**

**MLA  $\geq 6 \text{ mm}^2$**

**186 pts**

**MLA  $< 6 \text{ mm}^2$**

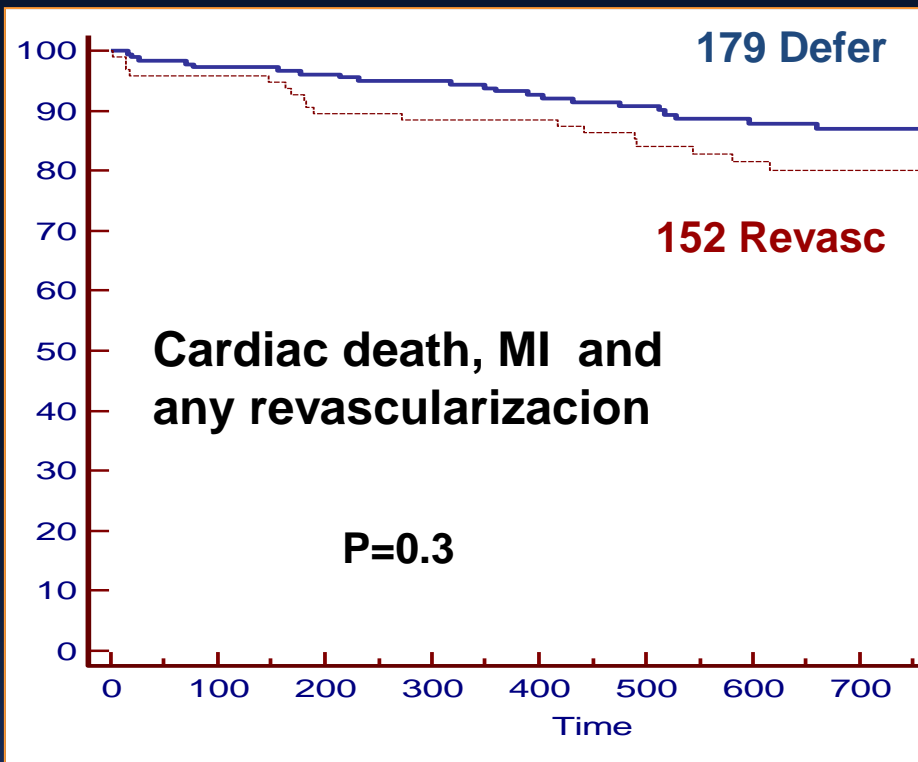
**168 pts**

**No Revascularización LM**

**179 pts (96%)**

**Revascularización LM**

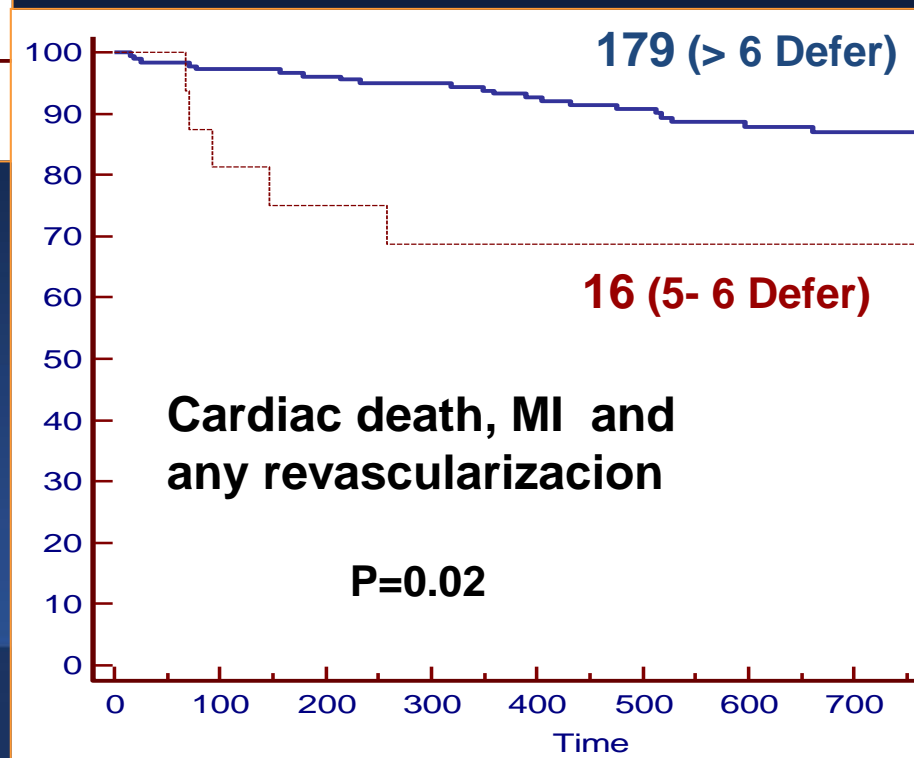
**152 pts (90%)**



**Safe approach up to 5 years**

De la Torre Hernandez et al.

Am J Cardiol 2013;111 (7S):41B



# ***FFR is more appropriate in assessing intermediate lesions***

## **Why IVUS in ambiguous LM ?**

### **An MLA cut off value of reference supported by:**

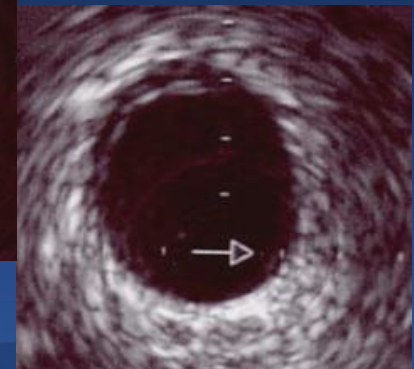
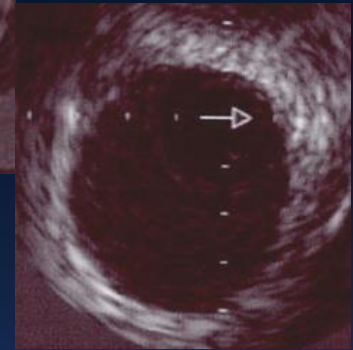
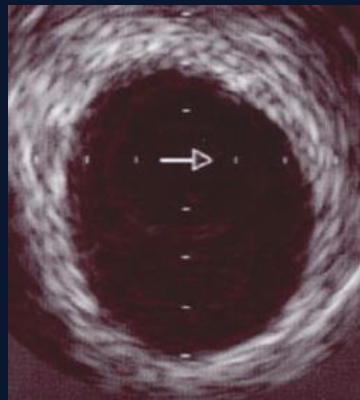
- Physics of vasculature (fractal linear law)
- FFR correlation (90 % S, 90%E; much better than in non-LM lesions)
- Prospective clinical validation (LITRO study)

### **Limitations for FFR:**

- LAD and/or LCx significant disease (frequent 30-40%)
- Collaterals to an occluded (sub-occluded) RCA
- Inter-individual variation in hyperemic response
- More vulnerable to technical issues (false readings ...)
- Gray zone 0.75 - 0.8

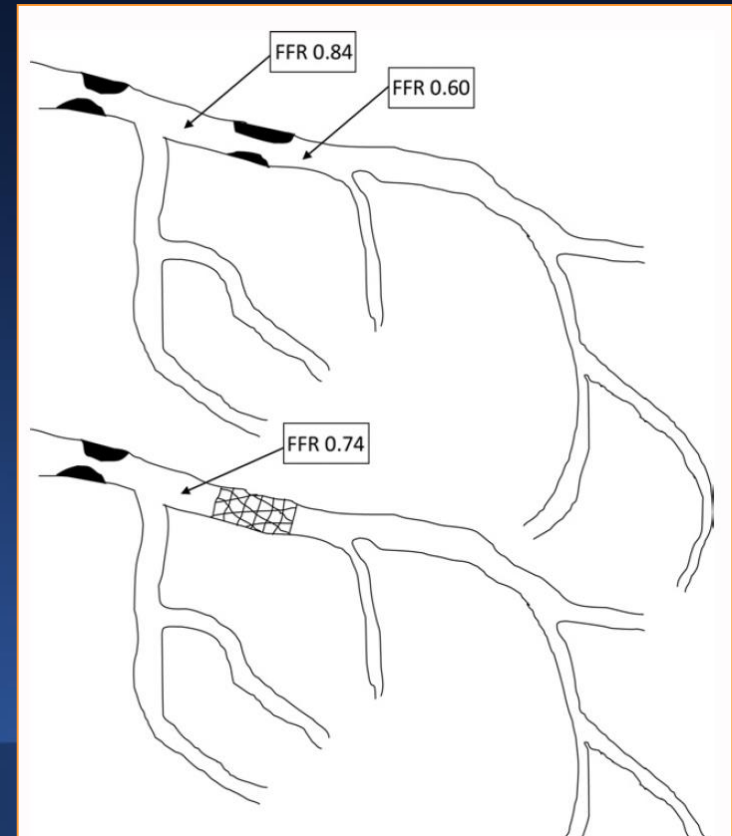
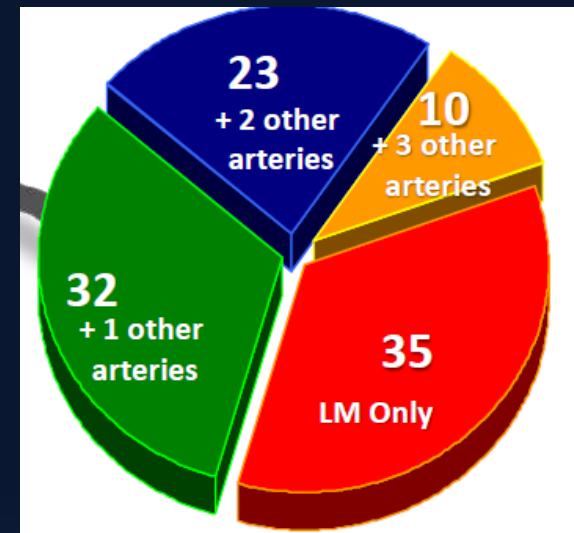
### **IVUS provides anatomic information not possible with FFR:**

- Characterization of disease (LAD / LCx ostial involvement, Ca,.....)
- IVUS may be used to guide LM PCI = Improves outcomes



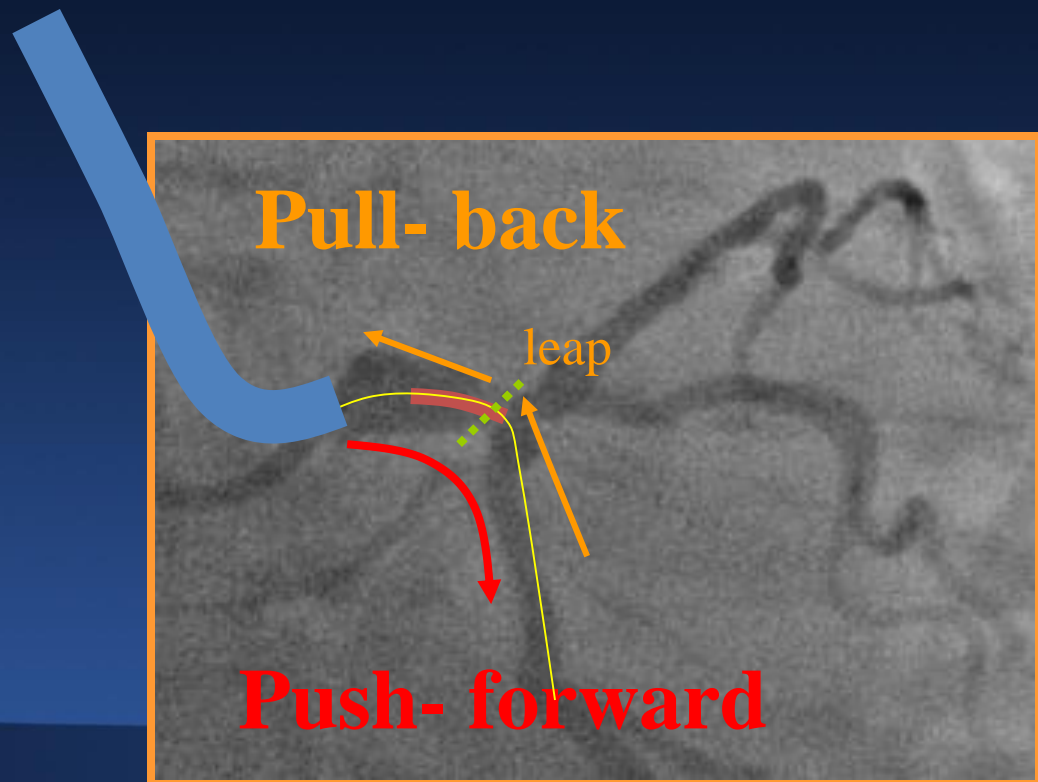
**IVUS = No disease (artifact)**  
**FFR = No significant lesion**

# No reliable FFR measurement for LM



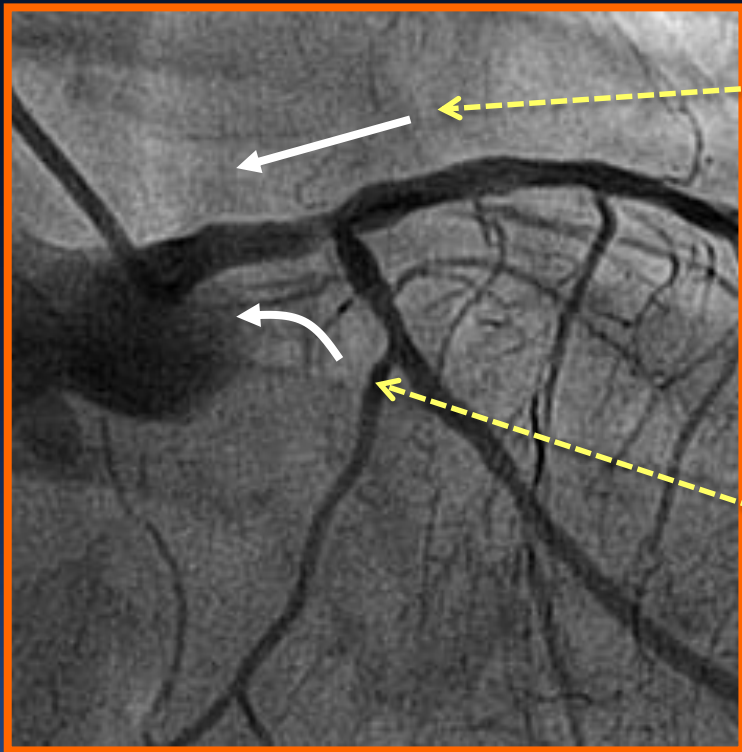
! Missing the MLA in the automatic and manual pull-backs due to leaps !

*(Alternative gentle push-forward)*

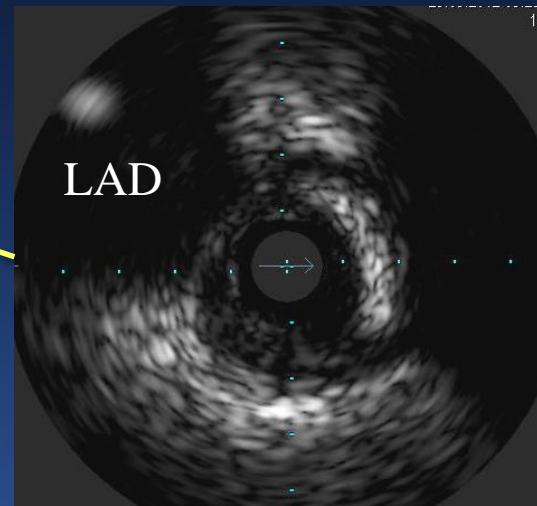
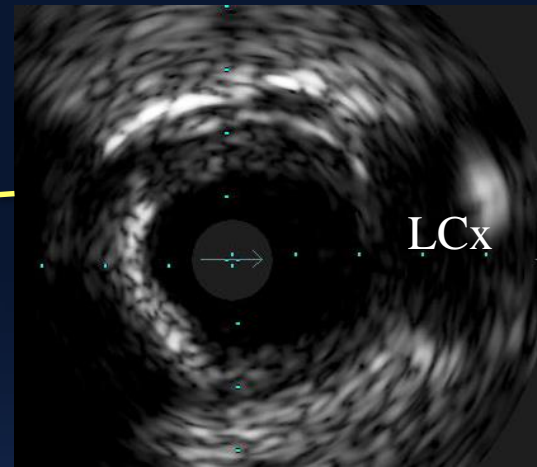


# Perform both pull-backs (1)

- From LAD to LM
- From LCx to LM



Ostial LAD  
MLA = 7 mm<sup>2</sup>



Ostial LCx  
MLA = 3.2 mm<sup>2</sup>

(1) Oviedo et al. Am J Cardiol 2010;105:948-54

# When IVUS and when FFR in basal LM assessment

## Preference for FFR and secondarily IVUS in:

Isolated ostial or midshaft lesions in pts more appropriate candidates to CABG

## Preference for IVUS in:

Distal-bifurcation lesions

Presence of significant lesions in LAD and/or LCx

Likely candidates to PCI

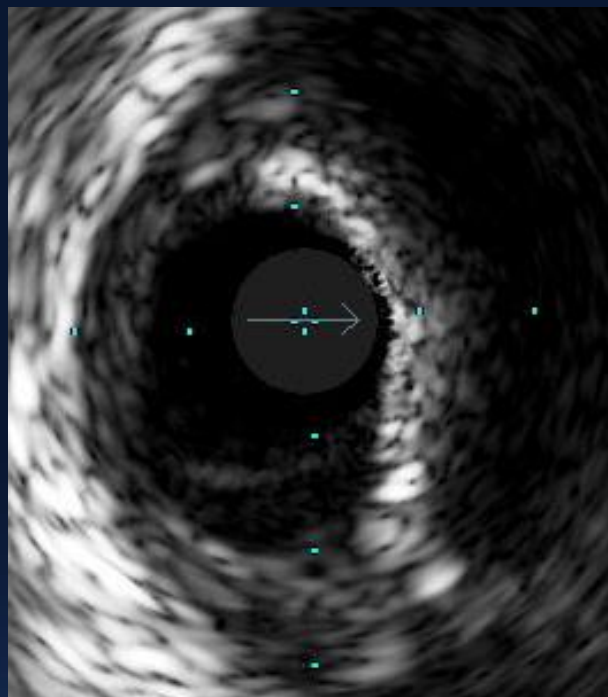


***Patients are not numbers***

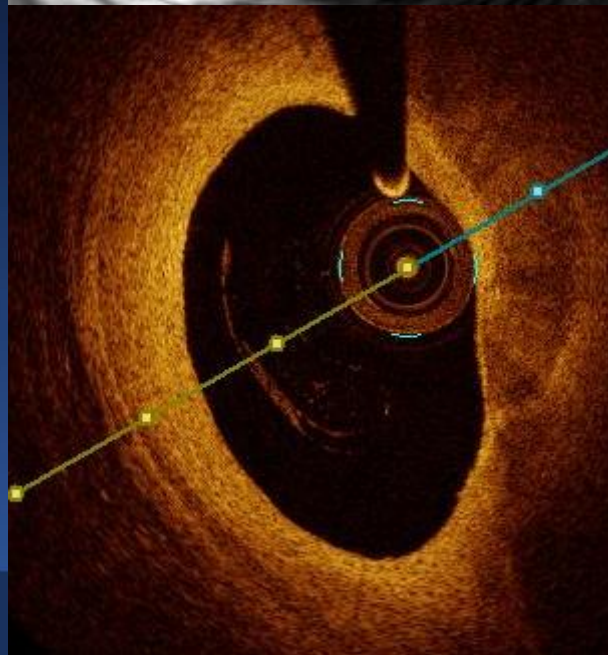
MLA or FFR should be added to a multifactorial clinical decision process



¡ Cut-off to be defined by OCT ¡



**MLA = 6.3 mm<sup>2</sup>**



**MLA = 5.1 mm<sup>2</sup>**



# The “double value” of IVUS

**LM**

**intermediate  
lesion**

**Severe lesion**

**IVUS**

*Significant*

**FFR**

**CABG**

**PCI**

**IVUS**

# Indication for plaque modulation techniques

## Calcification in angiography:

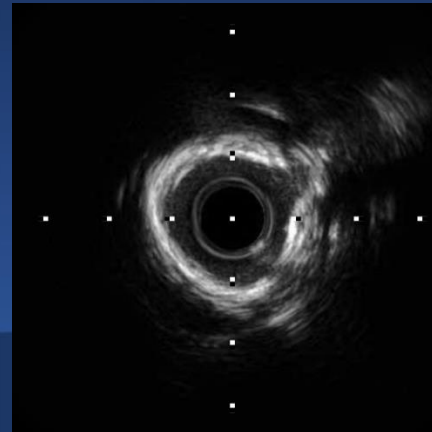
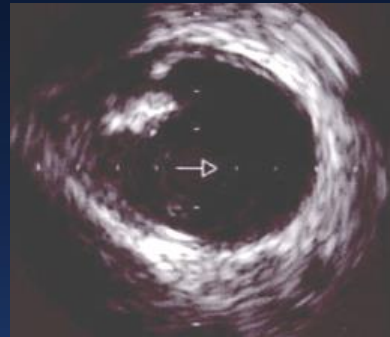
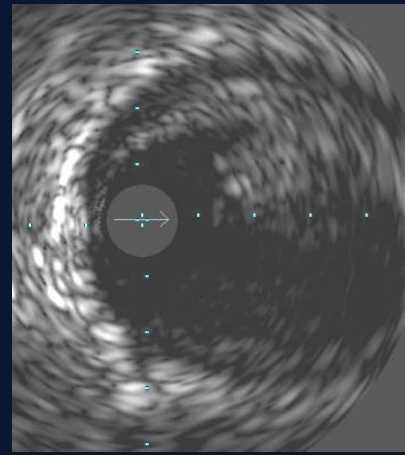
Assesment of extension, distribution and severity

-Need for Rotational ablation

## Contrast filling defects in unstable patients:

Diferential diagnosis between calcium, thrombus, plaque rupture

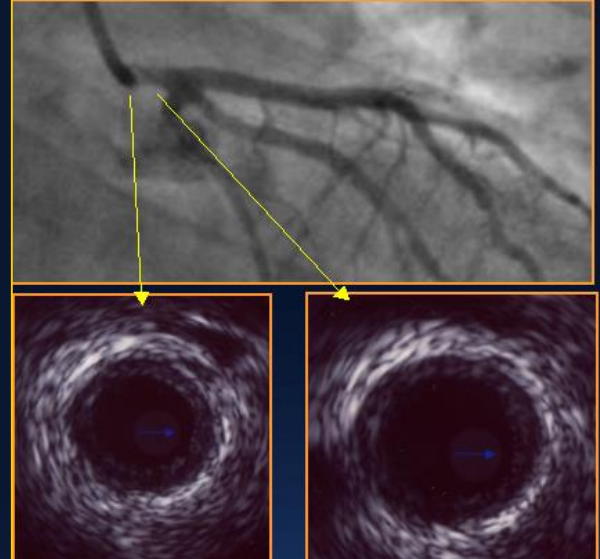
-Need for aspiration thrombectomy



# Ostial and mid-shaft lesions

## Stent length and diameter selection

Lesion: Focal in angiography and diffuse in IVUS.



**Appropriate indication of stent landing sites** (preventing stent edges problems: dissection, hematoma, large residual plaque,....)

Some **ostial** stenosis can be related with pathologic and extreme constrictive remodelling (IVUS allows safe stent sizing or indicates CABG)

In **mid-shaft lesions** is adequate to know the LM length to be covered by the stent

- To reach aorto ostial junction or not depending on plaque burden at ostium
- To reach ostial LAD or not depending on plaque burden at distal LM

## Distal lesions: (more frequent and more challenging)

### Provisional stenting vs. 2 – stents technique:

-Assessment of ostial LAD and ostial LCx compromise

-If MLA in LCx is  $> 3.5 - 4 \text{ mm}^2$  then provisional could be done safely

Kang et al. Cath Cardiovasc Interv. 2014;83:545-52

-Lumen loss at the LCX ostium frequently occur after crossover stenting from LAD to LM (median  $\downarrow 1.4 \text{ mm}^2$  )

Kang SJ et al. Circ Cardiovasc Interv. 2011;4:355-61

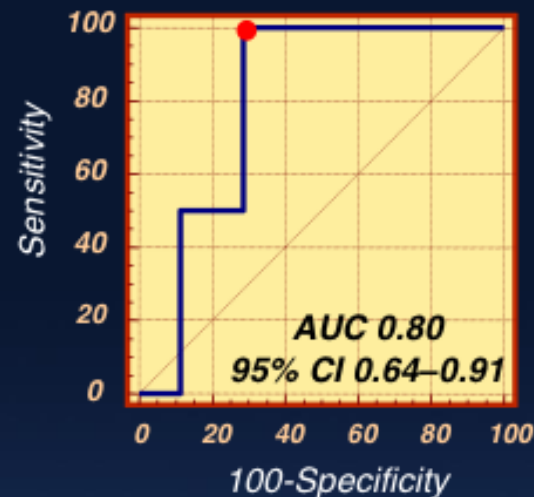
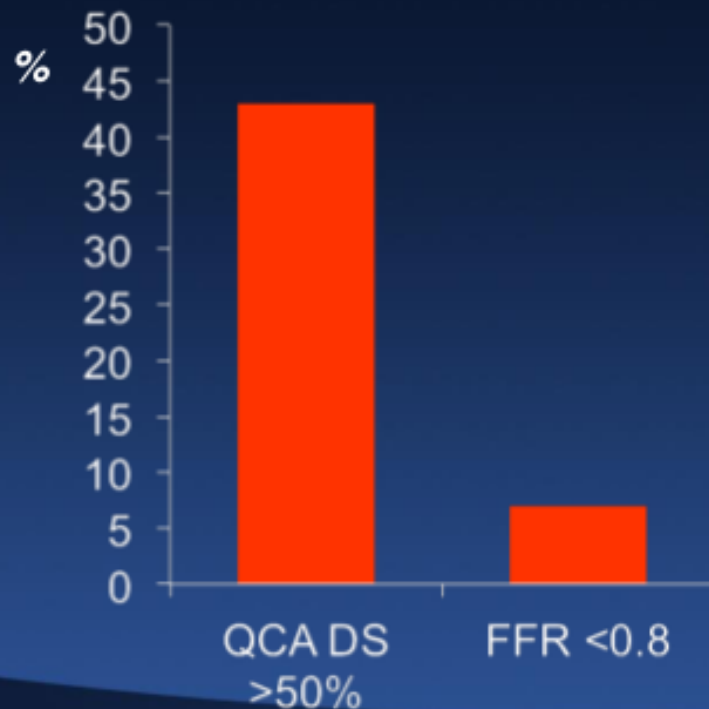
-Stent sizing (stent landing sites and lesion to be covered)

### What 2-stents technique is more suitable and stents sizing:

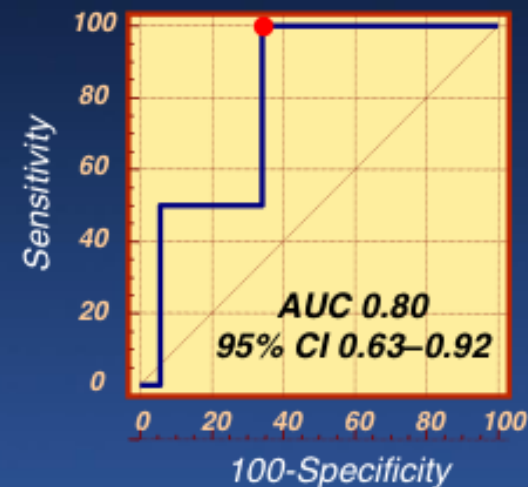
-Wide lumen in shaft, both ostial LAD and LCx significantly diseased: *V kissing*

-Angulation of LCx respect to LAD: *T or Culotte stenting*

# 43 LMCA bifurcation lesions with a pre-PCI LCX ostial DS<50% were treated by single-stent cross-over

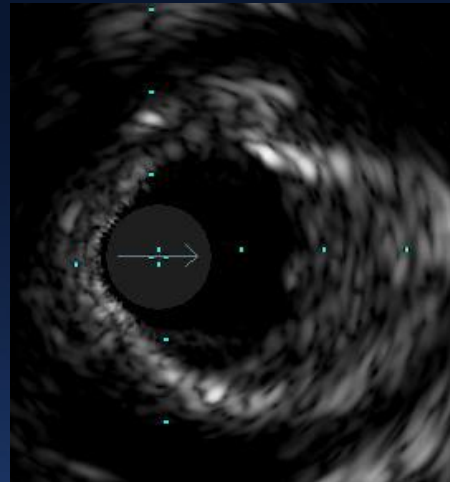
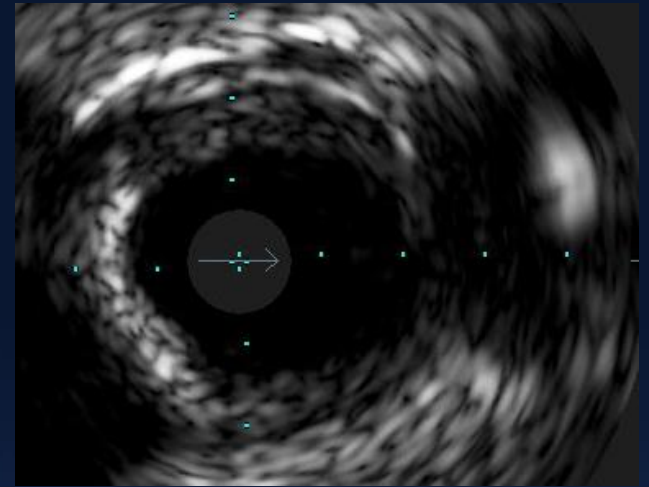


- MLA <3.7mm<sup>2</sup>**
- Sensitivity 100%
  - Specificity 71%
  - PPV 16%
  - NPV 100%

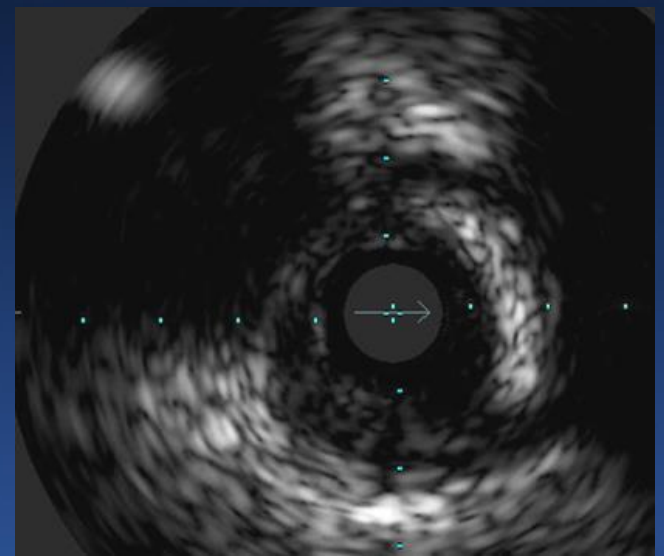


- Plaque Burden >56%**
- Sensitivity 100%
  - Specificity 65%
  - PPV 14%
  - NPV 100%

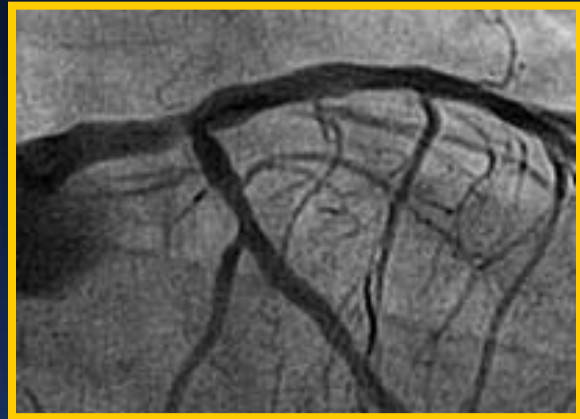
ostial LAD  
MLA = 7 mm<sup>2</sup>



LM-MLA = 4.7 mm<sup>2</sup>



ostial LCx  
MLA = 3.2 mm<sup>2</sup>





## Two stents - T stenting

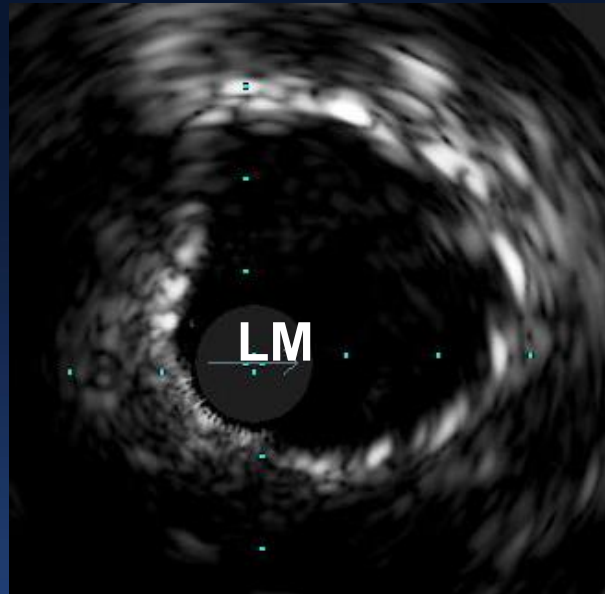
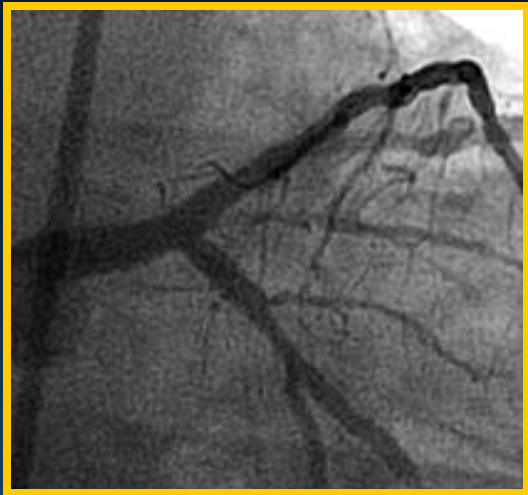
LM-LAD DES 3.5 / 15

LCx DES 3 / 12

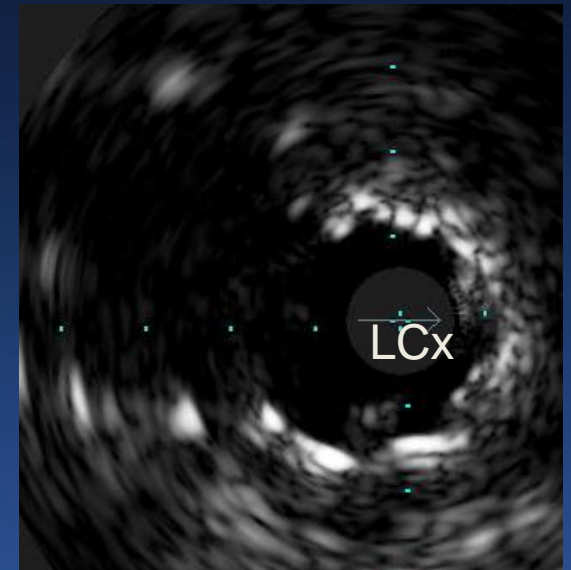
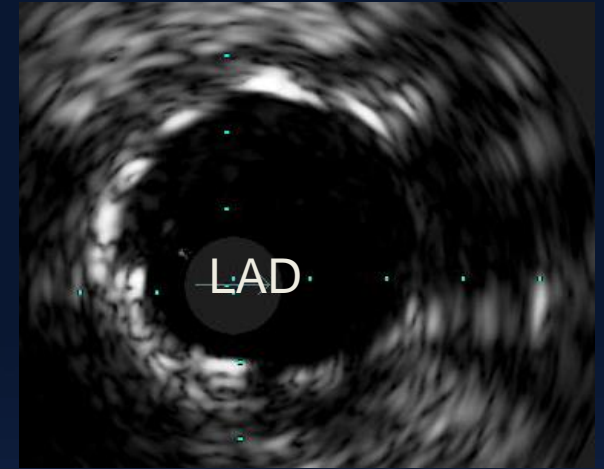
Final kissing balloon

LM ostium-mid shaft dilated 4 mm

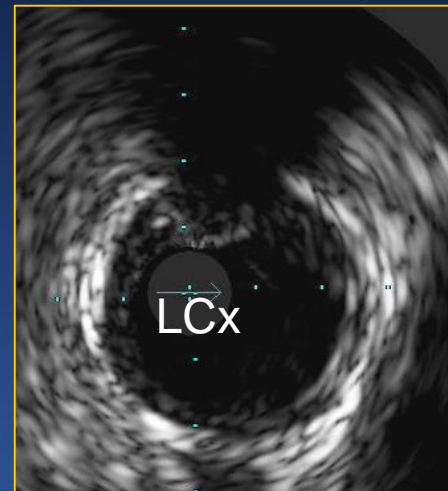
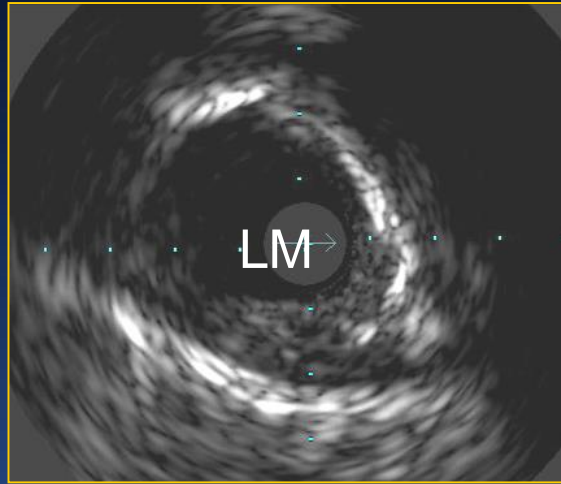
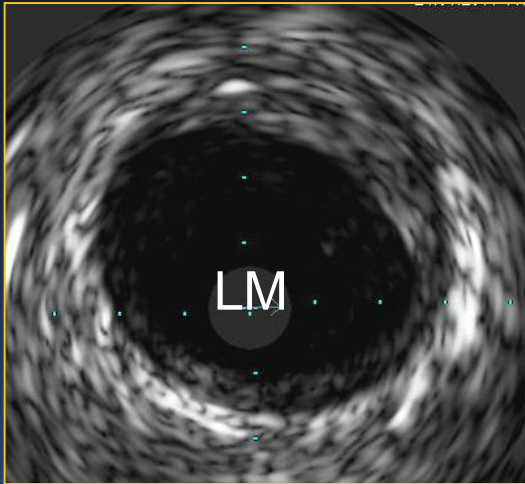
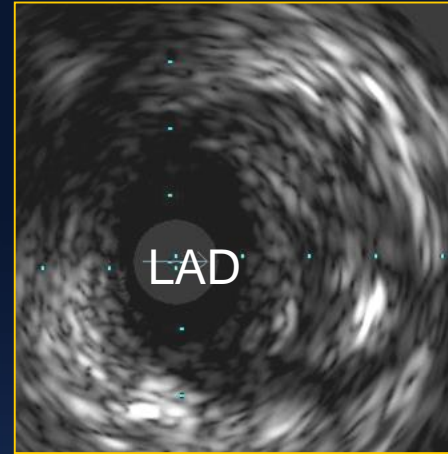
LAD-MSA = 9 mm<sup>2</sup>



LM-MSA = 11.3 mm<sup>2</sup>



LCx MSA = 6 mm<sup>2</sup>

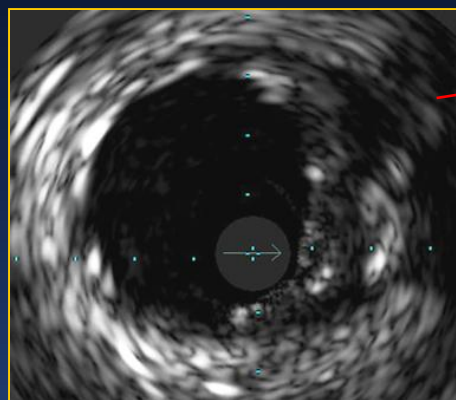




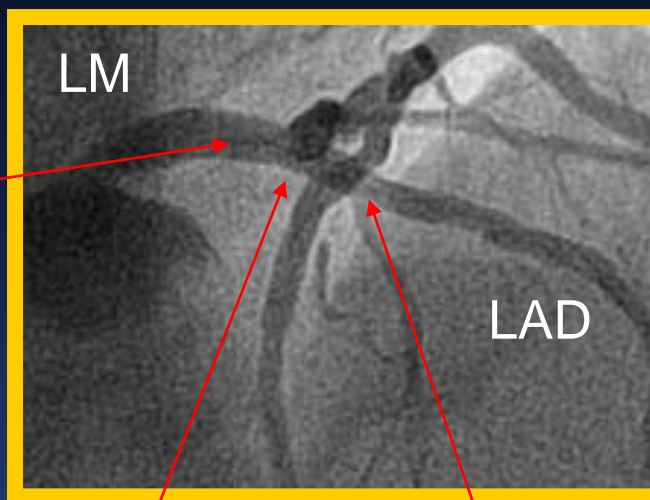
## DES from LAD to LM

3.5 / 20 mm

Post dilated proximally 4 mm

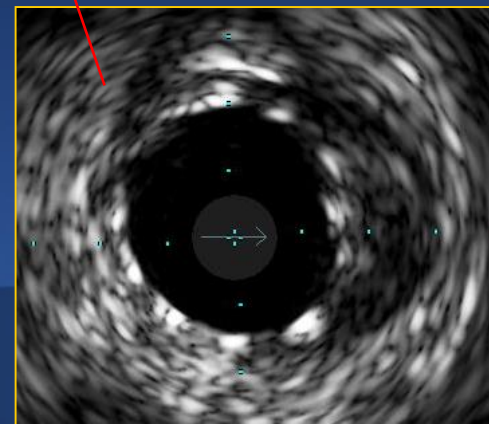
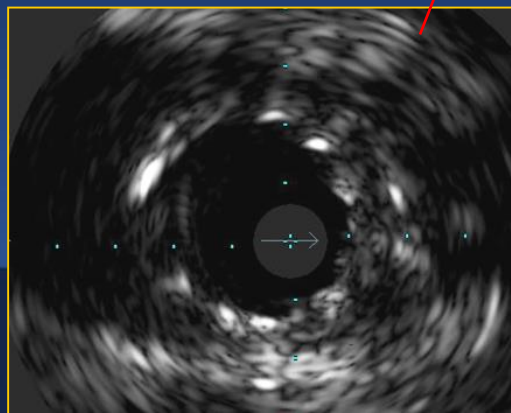


MLA 12.2 mm<sup>2</sup>



FFR > 0.9 in LCx

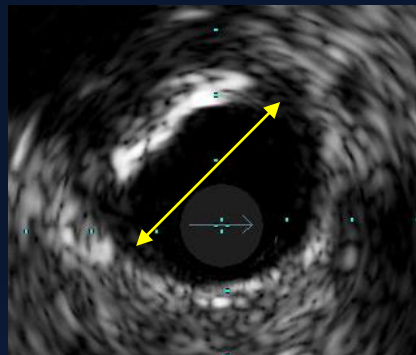
MLA 8.3 mm<sup>2</sup>



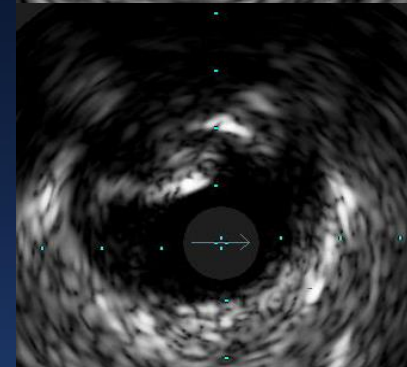
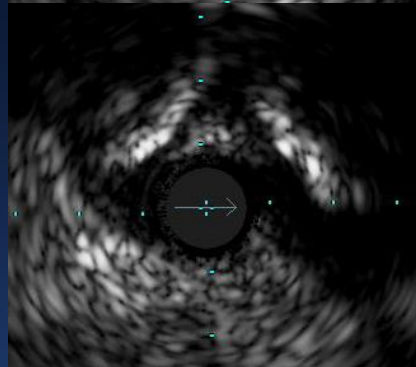
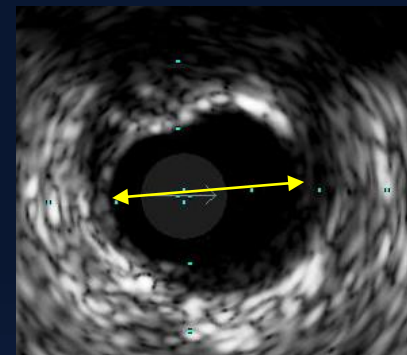
# “Landing zones”

LAD

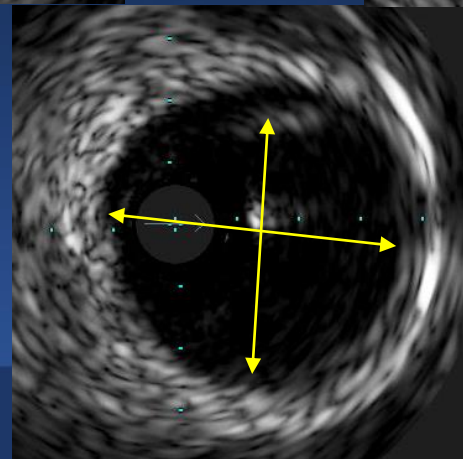
LCx



3 mm

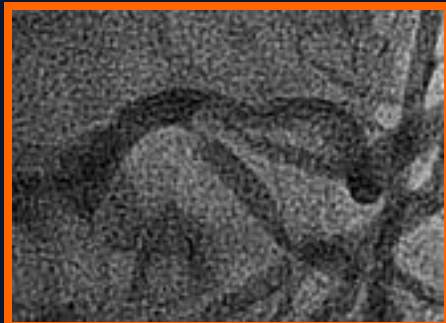


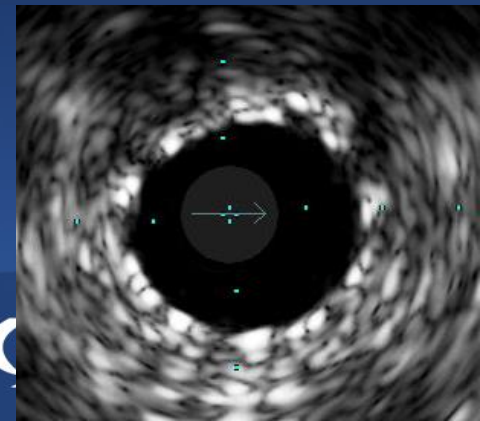
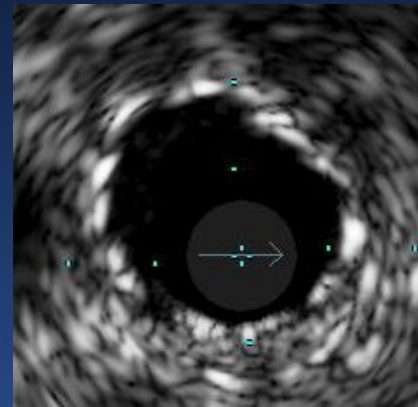
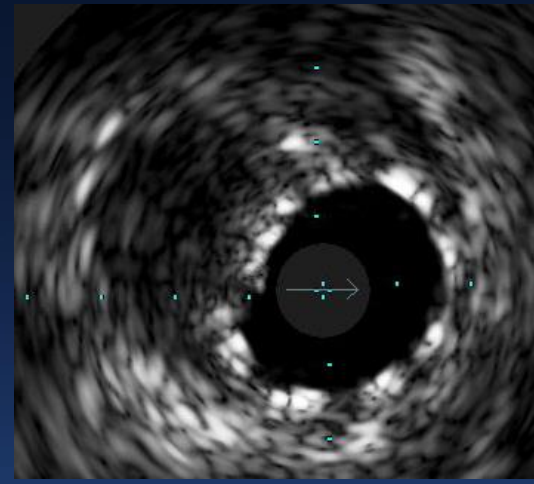
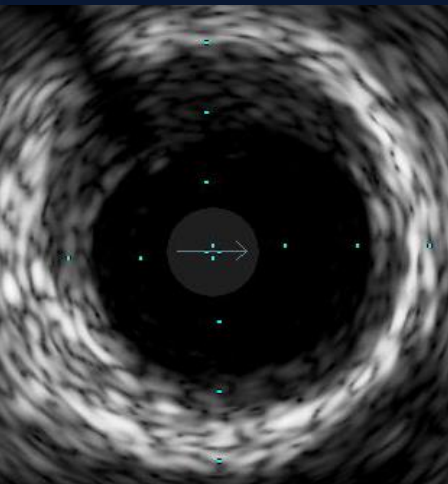
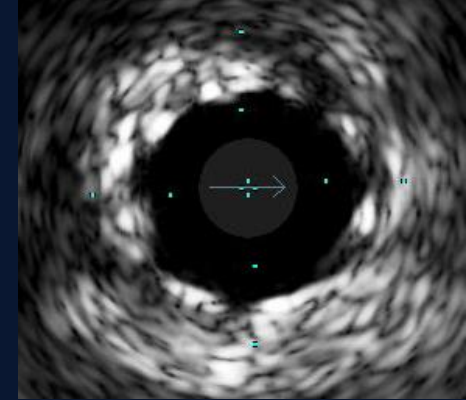
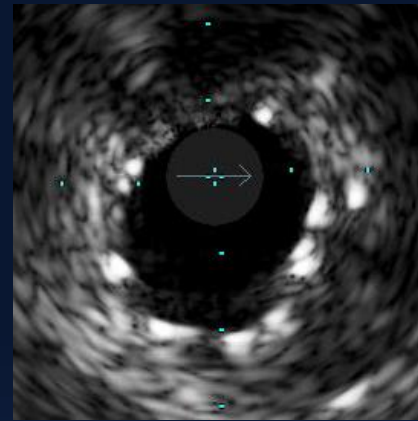
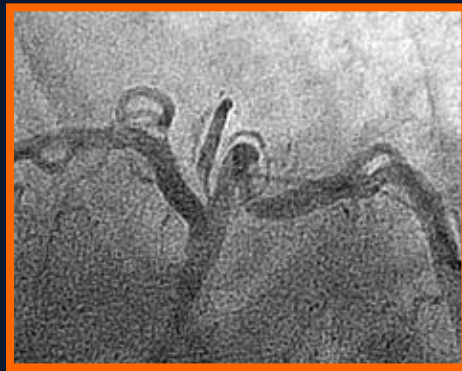
LM



“Landing zone”

4 - 4.5 mm





LM-LAD DES  
LM-LCx DES

3/18 mm  
3/15 mm

# Evaluation and optimization of stenting

Adequate lesion coverage (i.e. to reach aorta in ostial lesions)

## Edge problems:

Incomplete apposition (common in cross-over stents from LAD to LM), hematoma, dissection or large plaque burden

## Stent expansion

Subexpansion frequent in heavily fibrotic ostial lesions.

In distal lesions:

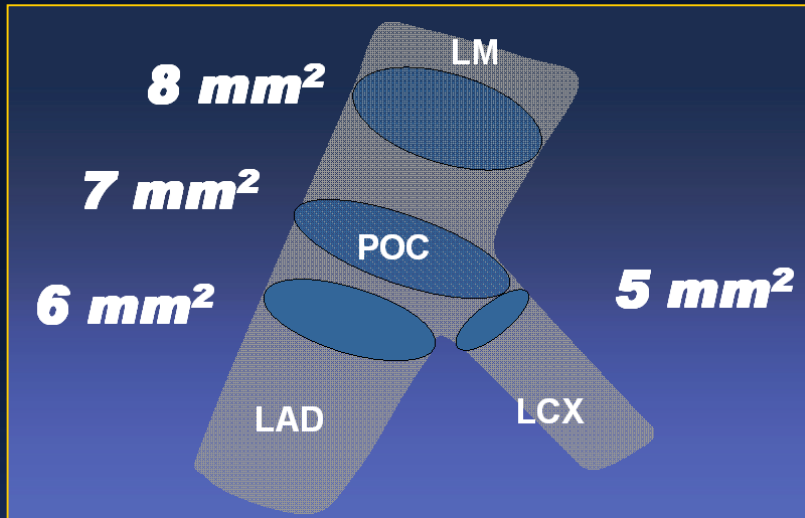
The MSA cutoffs that best predict ISR on a segmental basis are \*:

5.0 mm<sup>2</sup> (ostial LCX), 6.3 mm<sup>2</sup> (ostial LAD), 7.2 mm<sup>2</sup> (POC) and 8.2 mm<sup>2</sup> in prox LM

## LCx ostium in provisional stenting (from LAD to LM)

If FFR > 0.8 or MLA > 3.5-4 mm<sup>2</sup>, no additional stenting needed

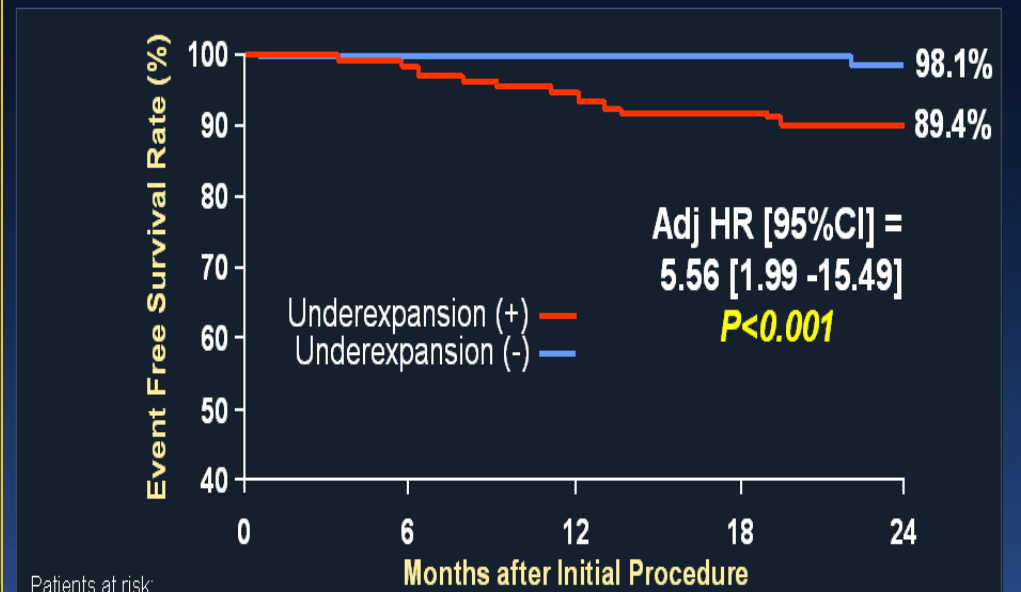
# The MSA cutoffs that best predict ISR in LM



403 pts  
9 months angio follow up

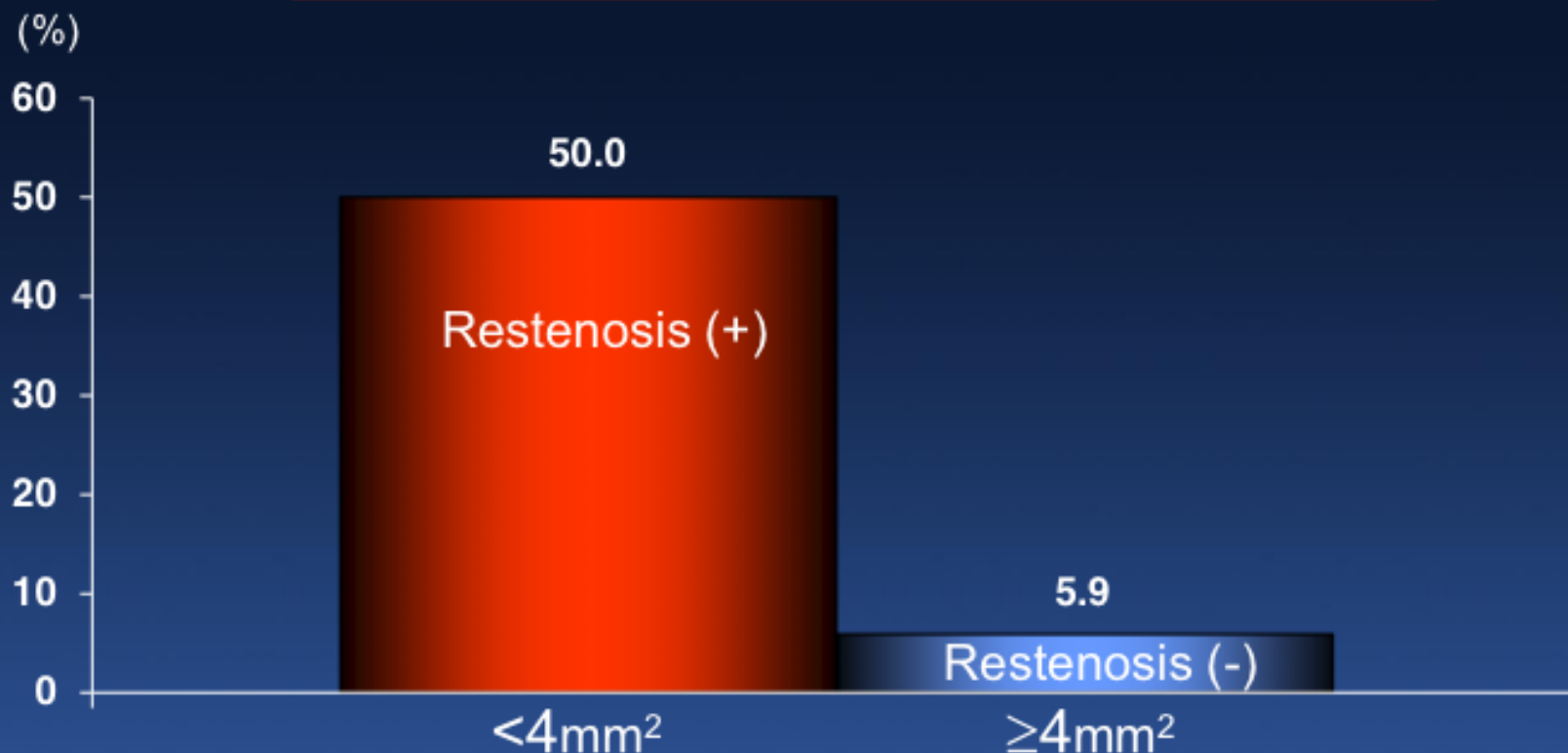
*TLR-free survival was lower in pts with underexpansion vs. no underexpansion (90.9% vs 98.5%)*

**133 pts (33.8%) had underexpansion of  $\geq 1$  segment**



# Predictor of Restenosis in Ostial LCX with both LAD/LCX IVUS Evaluation

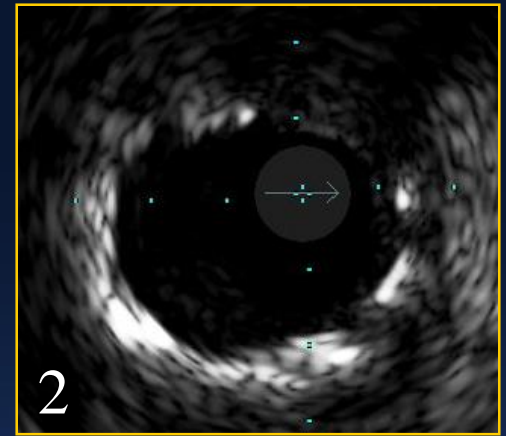
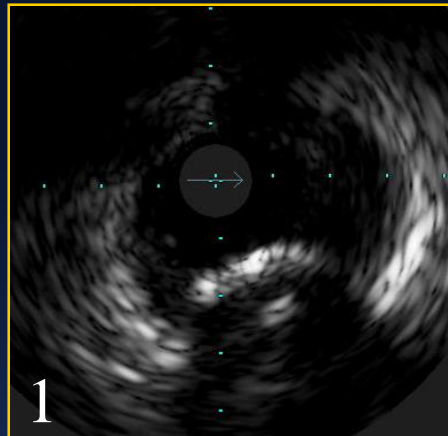
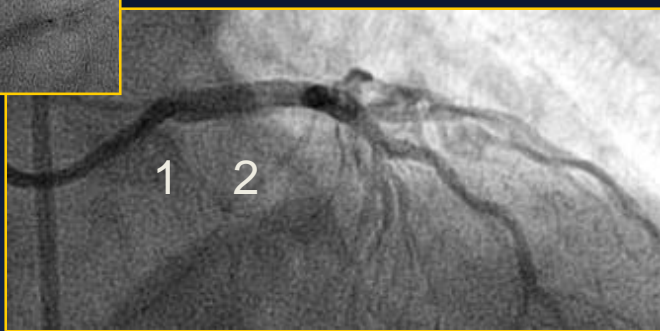
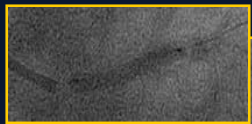
## Post LCX Minimum Lumen Area



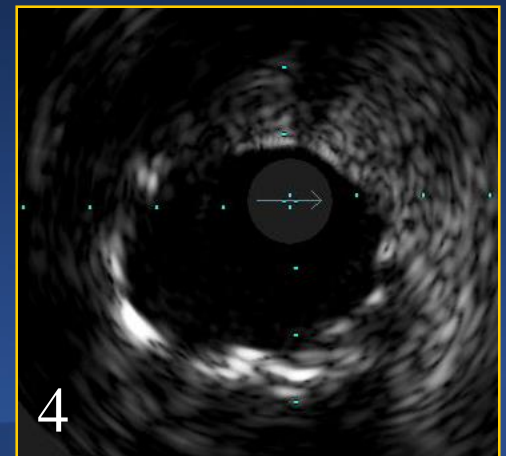
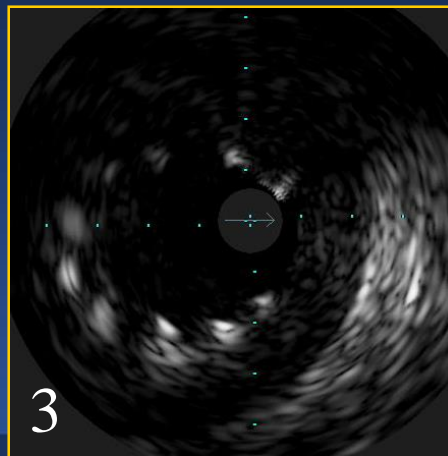
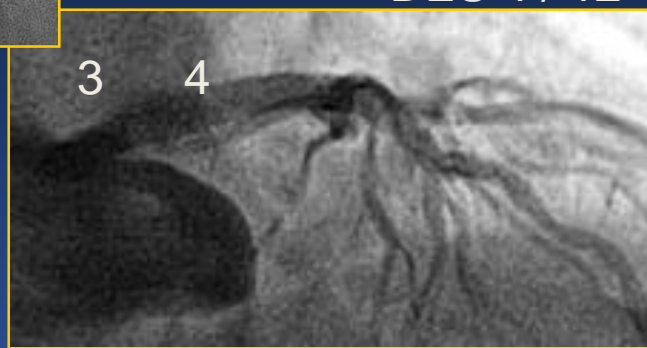
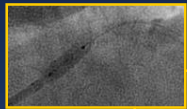




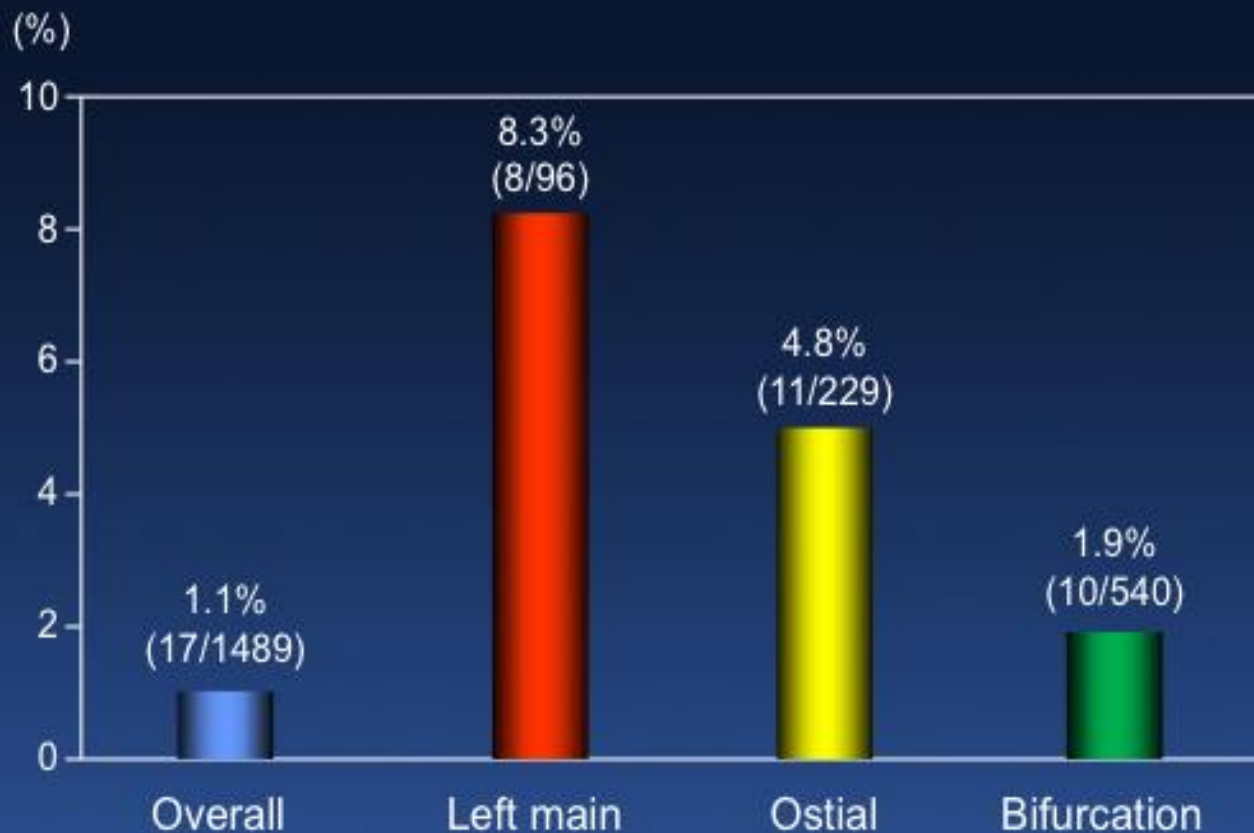
DES 3.5 / 23



DES 4 / 12

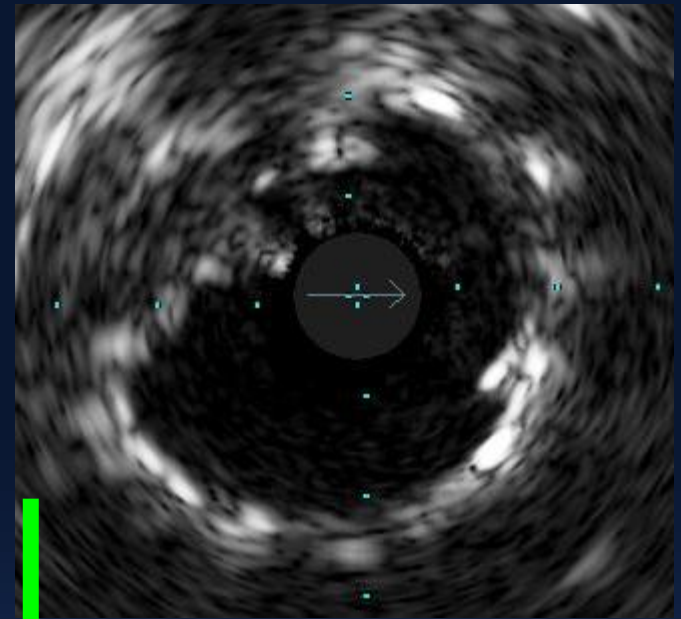


# Incidence of Stent Deformation

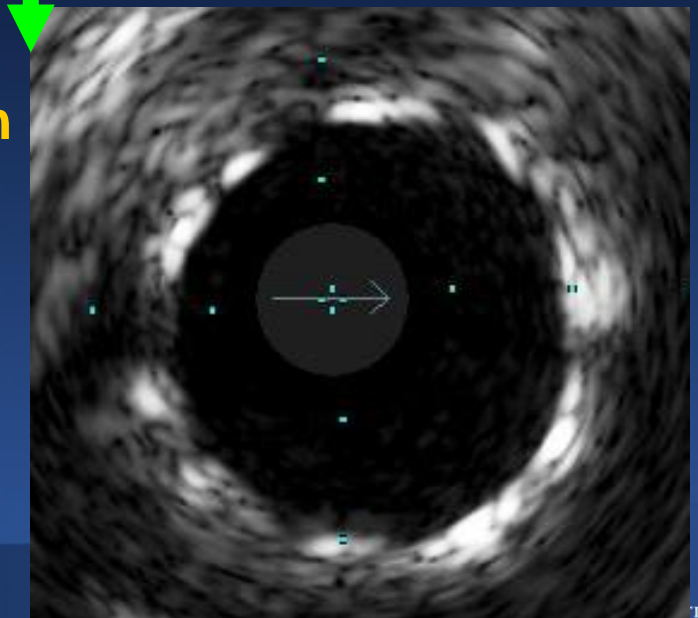
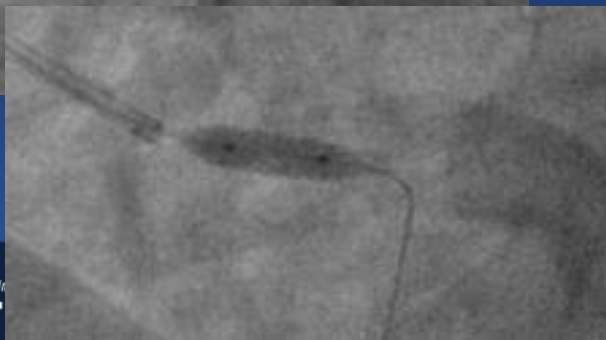




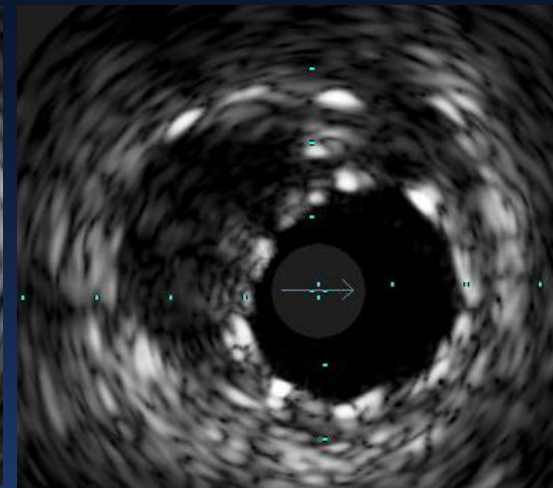
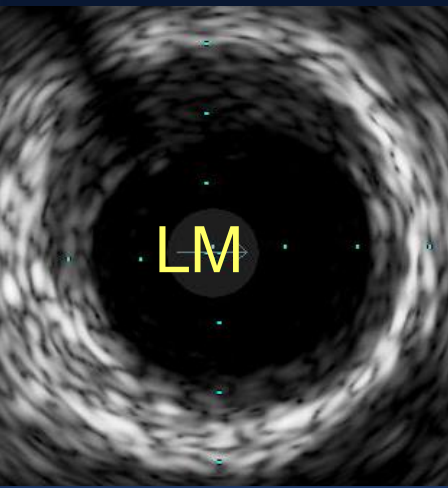
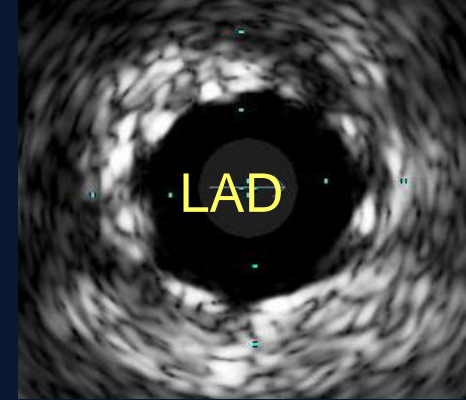
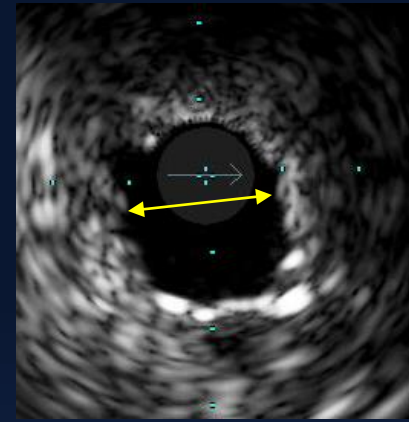
**DES 3.5 / 12**



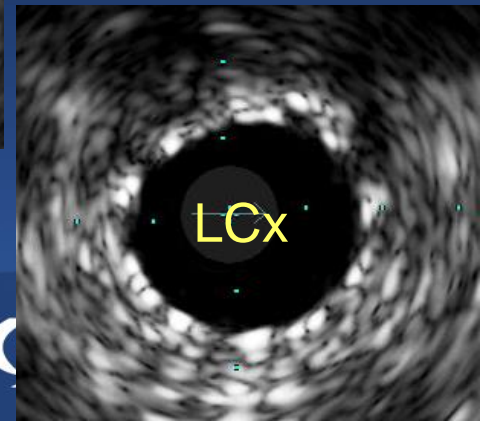
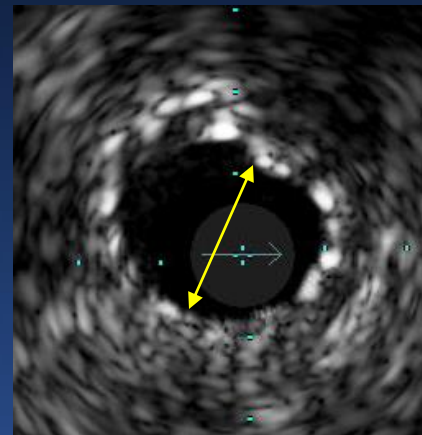
**Postdilatation  
4 mm**



# After stent implantation



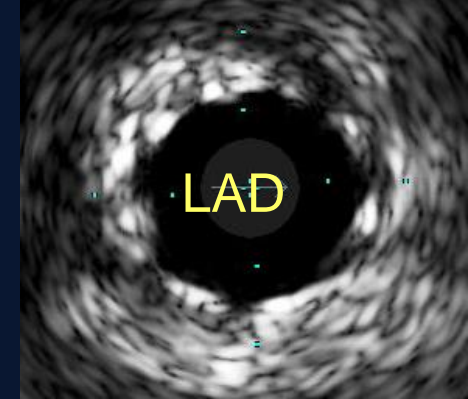
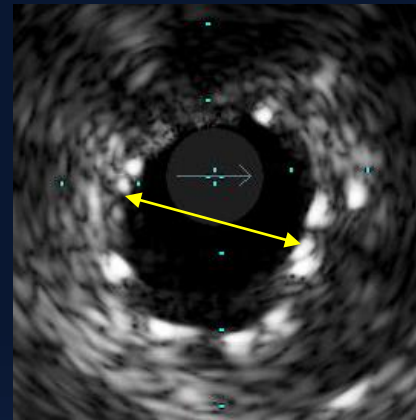
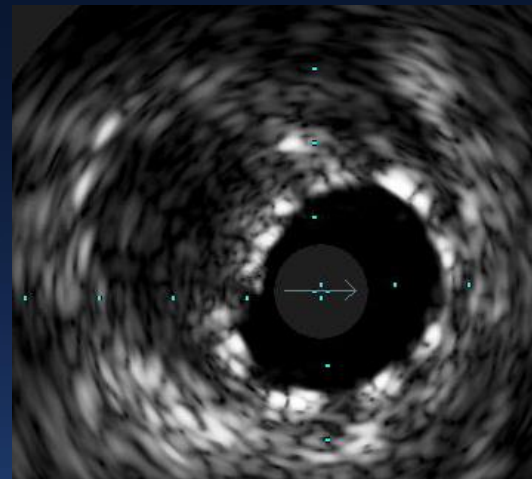
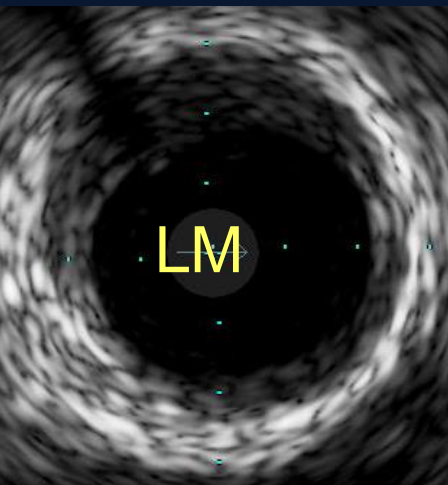
MLD = 2.3 - 2.5 mm



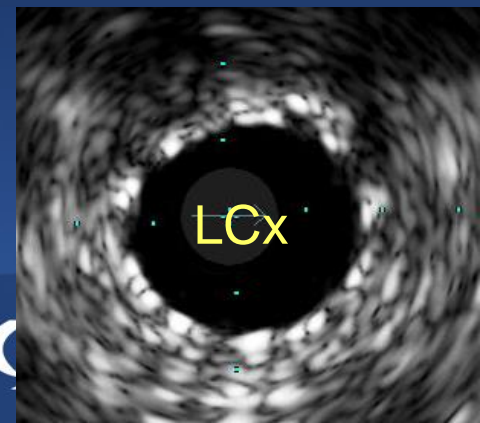
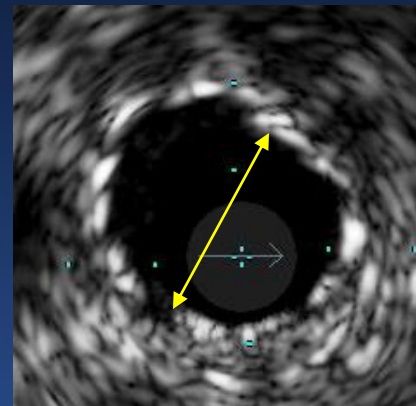
LM-LAD DES 3/18 mm  
LM-LCx DES 3/15 mm

# Postdilatation

Twin layer balloon 3 mm  
at 24 atm sequential and  
final kissing



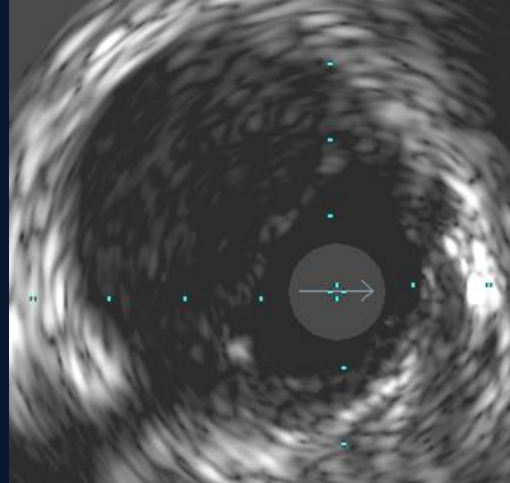
MLD = 2.7 - 2.9 mm



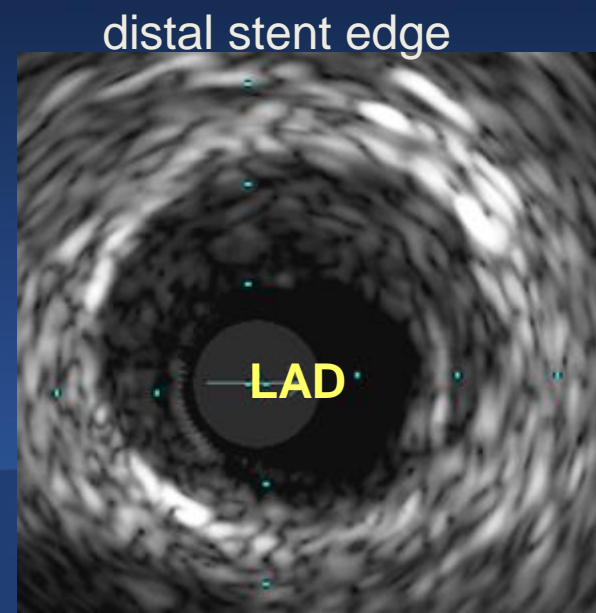
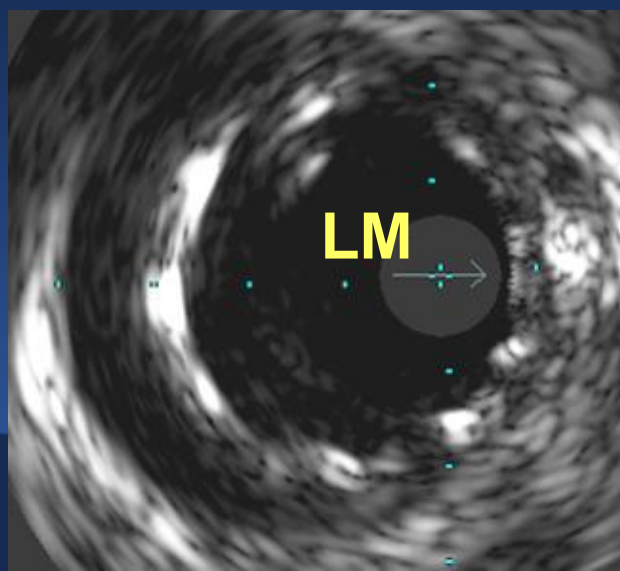
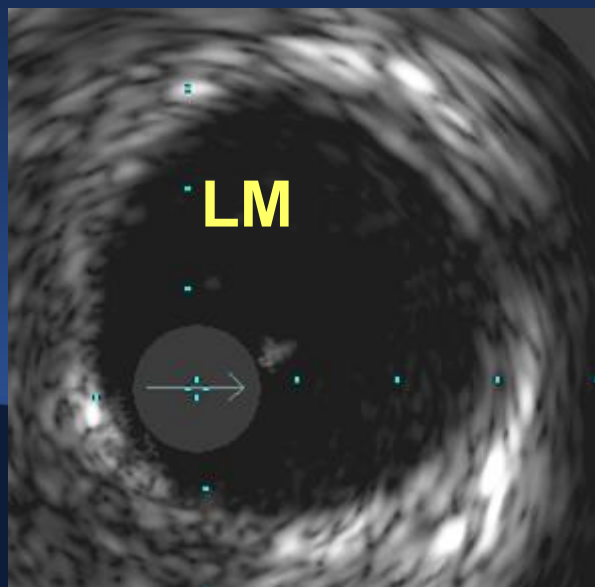
# Complications

IVUS

identifying and solving



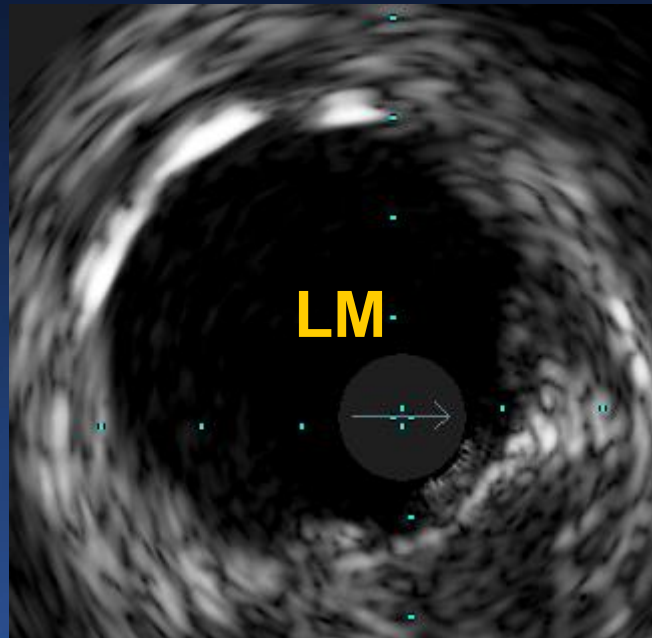
**DES 3.5 / 24 in LM**



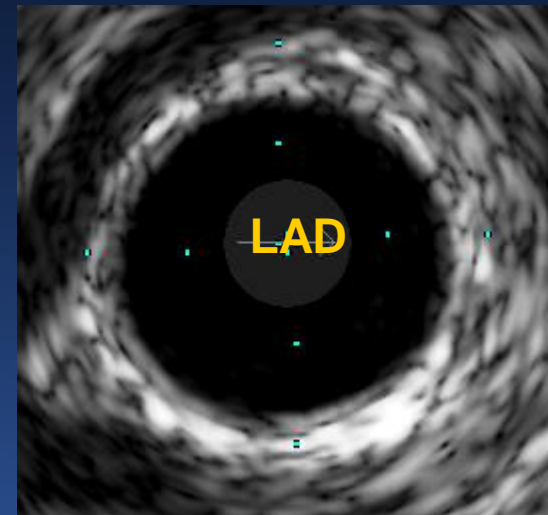


**DES 3 / 18 mm in LAD just distal to the 1st stent  
Postdilatation with 3.5 mm in the gap.**

**Postdilatation at LM level with 4.5 mm<sup>2</sup>**



distal stent edge

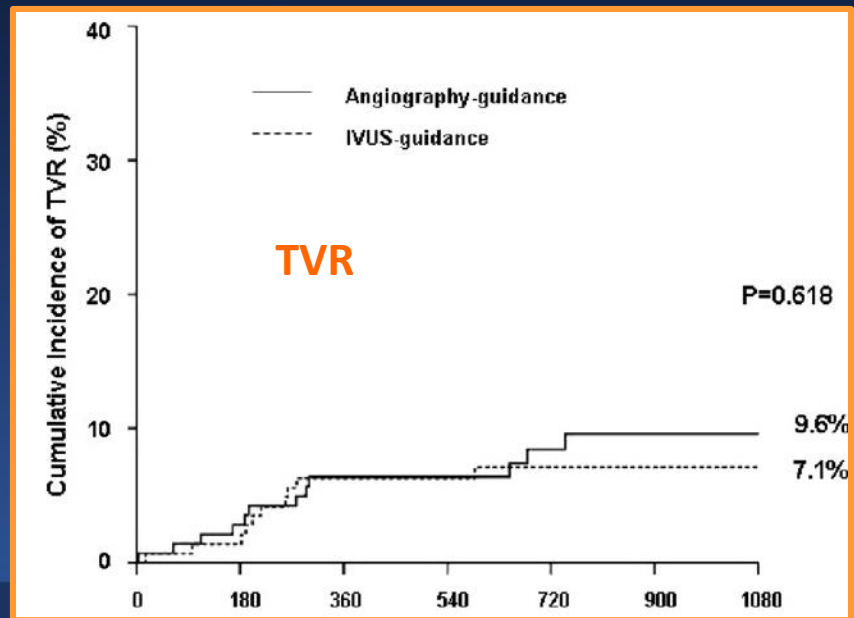
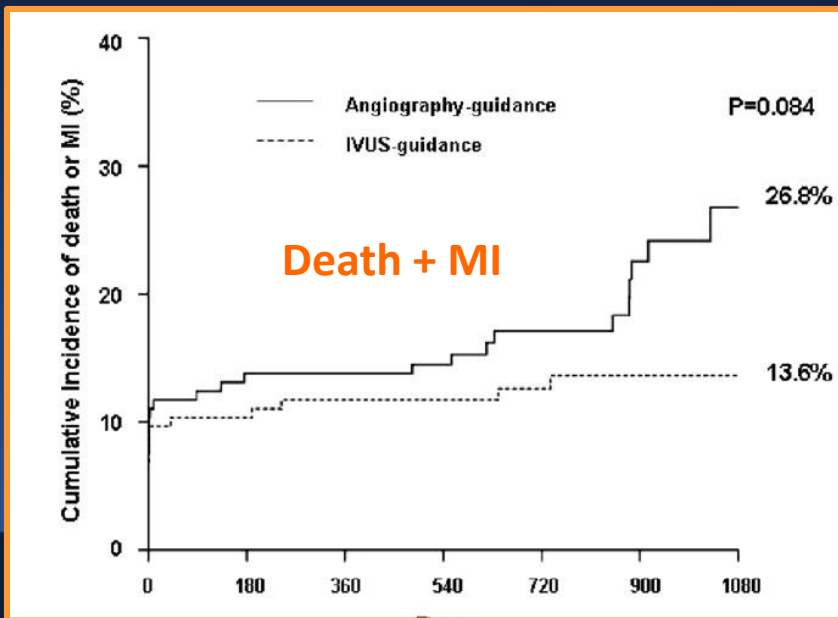
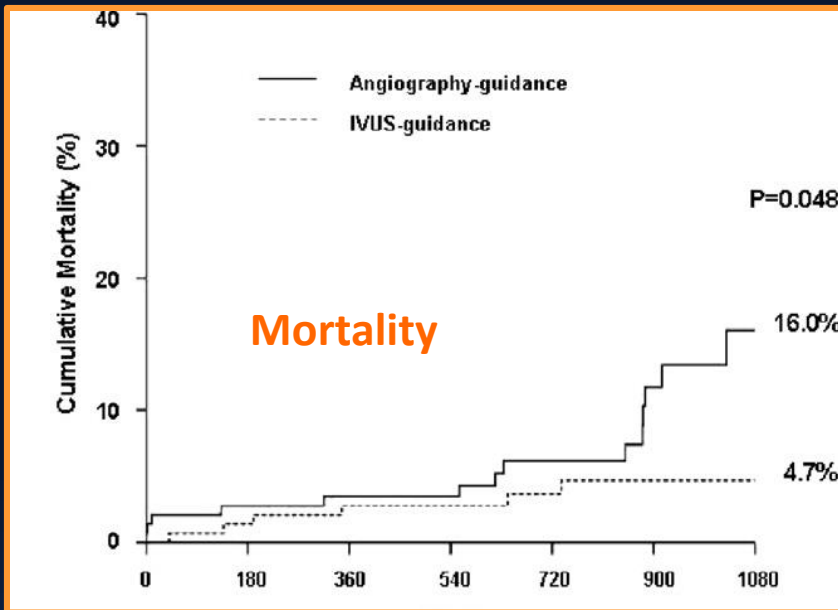




# The Korean experience

Outcomes in 145 propensity-matched pairs of patients receiving DES with and without IVUS guidance

IVUS guidance associated to lower long-term mortality



# Limitations

**Small groups (145 pts vs. 145 pts)**

**Very high use rate of IVUS in LM PCI (77%)**

**Difference in late all-cause mortality (beyond the 3rd year)**

**-High probability for unmeasured confounders**

**No cardiac mortality data**

**No stent thrombosis data**

# Clinical Impact of Intravascular Ultrasound Guidance in Drug-Eluting Stent Implantation for Unprotected Left Main Coronary Disease

Pooled Analysis at the Patient-Level of 4 Registries

Jose M. de la Torre Hernandez, MD, PHD,\* José A. Baz Alonso, MD,†  
Joan A. Gómez Hospital, MD, PHD,‡ Fernando Alfonso Manterola, MD, PHD,§  
Tamara Garcia Camarero, MD,\* Federico Gimeno de Carlos, MD, PHD,||  
Gerard Roura Ferrer, MD,‡ Angel Sanchez Recalde, MD,¶  
Íñigo Lozano Martínez-Luengas, MD, PHD,# Josep Gomez Lara, MD,‡  
Felipe Hernandez Hernandez, MD,\*\* María J. Pérez-Vizcayno, MD,§  
Angel Cequier Fillat, MD, PHD,‡ Armando Perez de Prado, MD,††  
Agustín Albarrán Gonzalez-Trevilla, MD,\*\* Manuel F. Jimenez Navarro, MD, PHD,‡‡  
Josepa Mauri Ferre, MD,§§ Jose A. Fernandez Diaz, MD,||||  
Eduardo Pinar Bermudez, MD, PHD,¶¶ Javier Zueco Gil, MD,\*  
on behalf of the collaborative IVUS-TRONCO-ICP Spanish study

*Santander, Vigo, Barcelona, Madrid, Valladolid, Oviedo, Leon, Malaga, Badalona, and Murcia, Spain*

De la Torre Hernandez et al. JACC Intv 2014;7:244-254

Registries pooled:  
**ESTROFA-LM\***  
**RENACIMIENTO**  
**Bellvitge**  
**Valdecilla**

Pts with DES in LM:  
(770 pts in 21 centers)  
(596 pts in 30 centers)  
(189 pts in 1 center)  
(200 pts in 1 center)

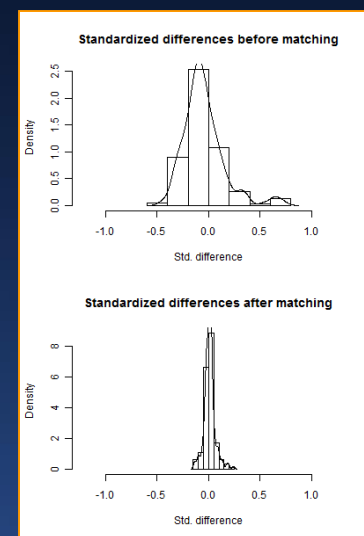
F up:  
3 yrs  
1 yr  
3 yrs  
3 yrs

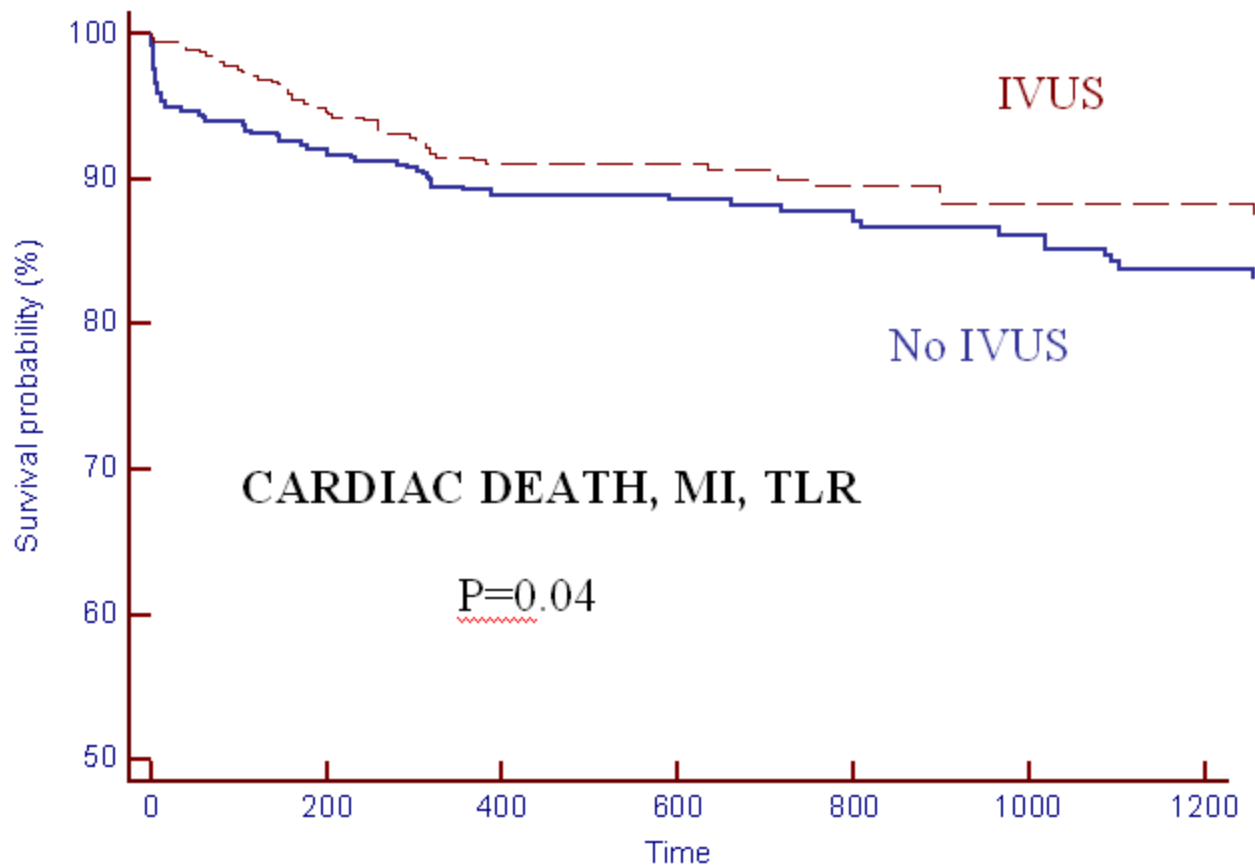
**1,670** patients with PCI with DES in LM  
(pts. with shock and duplicated inclusions excluded)

**505** patients under IVUS guidance: **IVUS group**

*Propensity score matched to:*

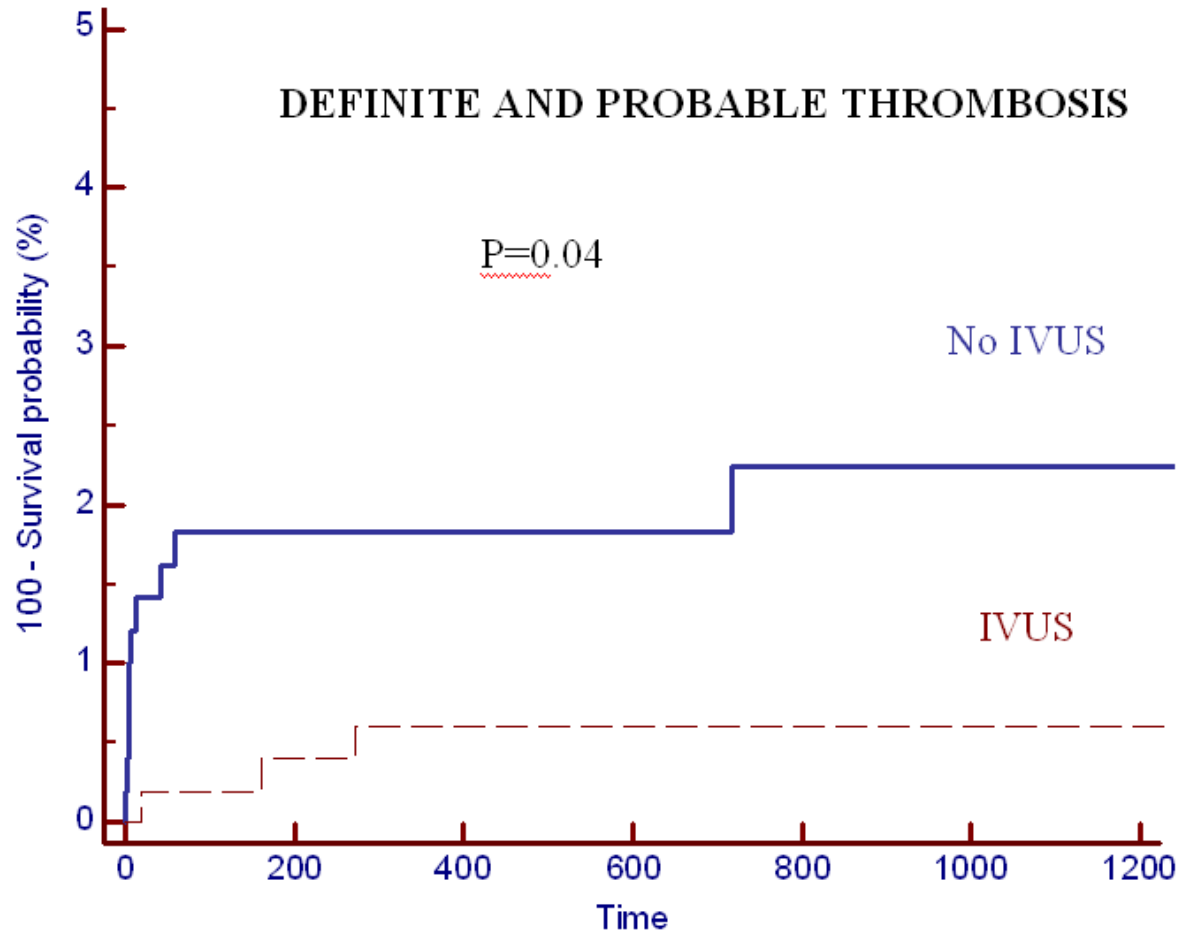
**505** patients without the use of IVUS: **no-IVUS group**





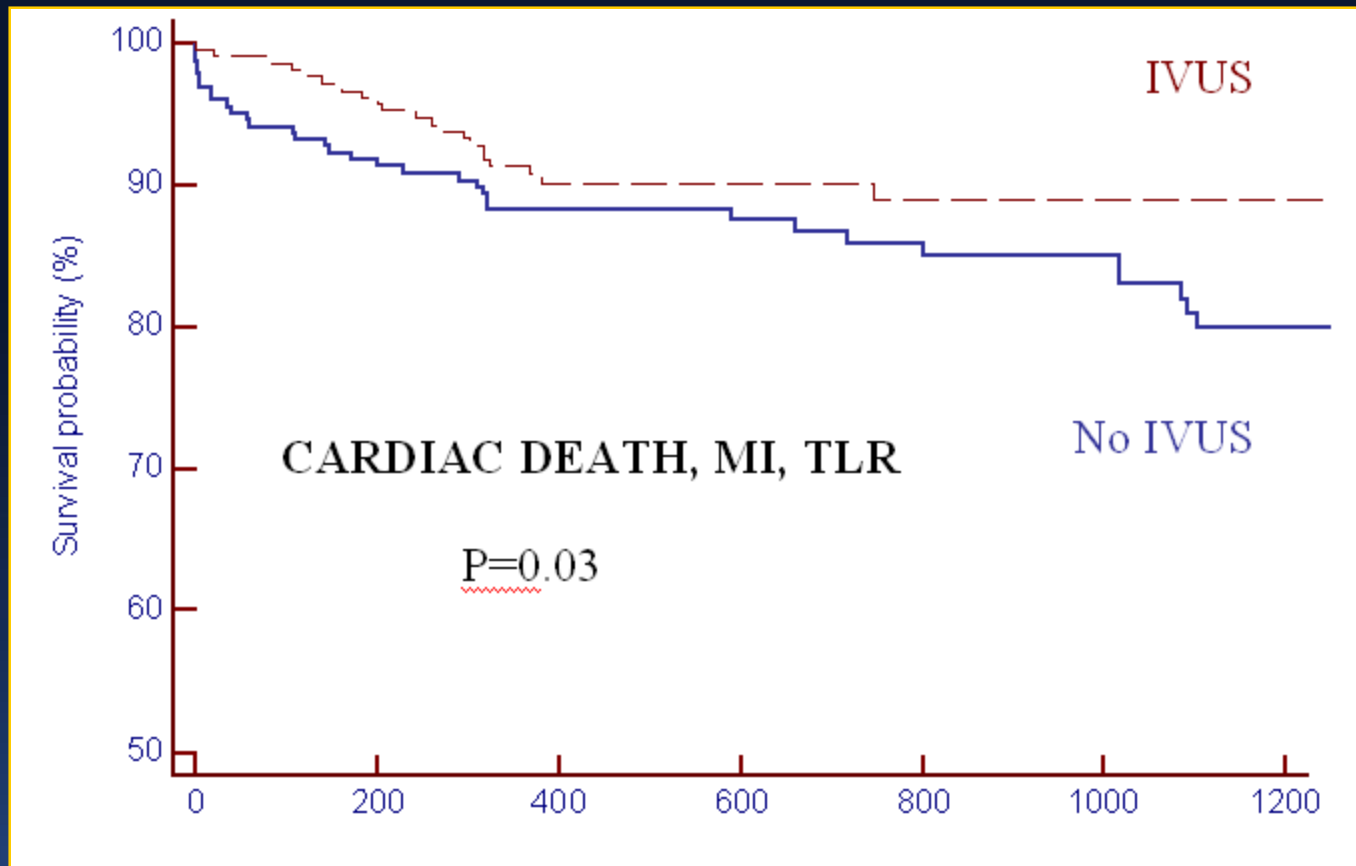
Pts. at risk	365 days	730 days	1095 days
IVUS	485	286	203
No IVUS	470	275	201

## DEFINITE AND PROBABLE THROMBOSIS



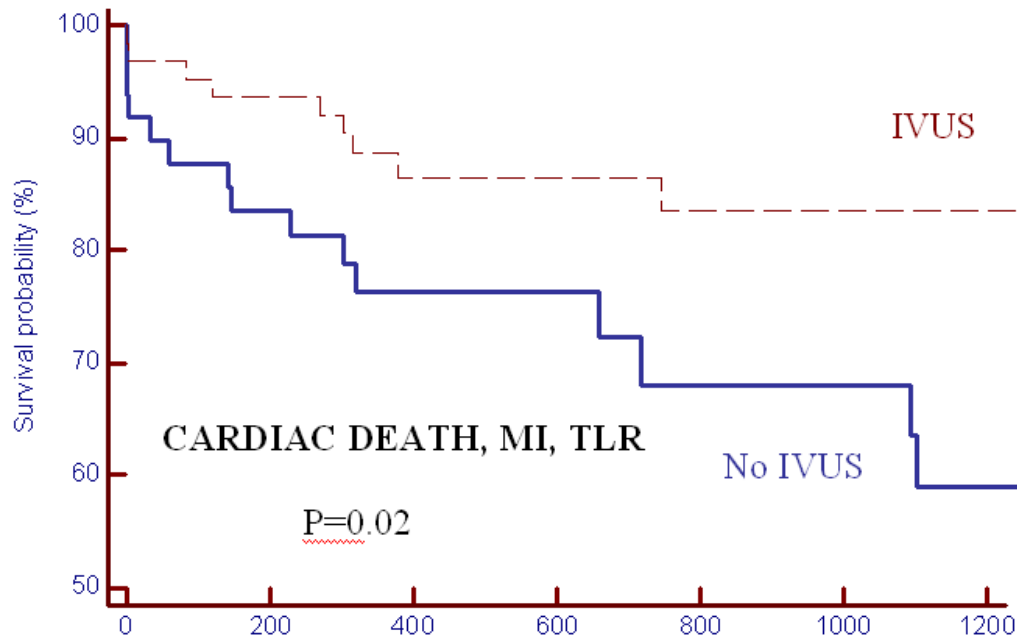
Pts. at risk	365 days	730 days	1095 days
IVUS	485	286	203
No IVUS	470	275	201

# LM distal subgroup

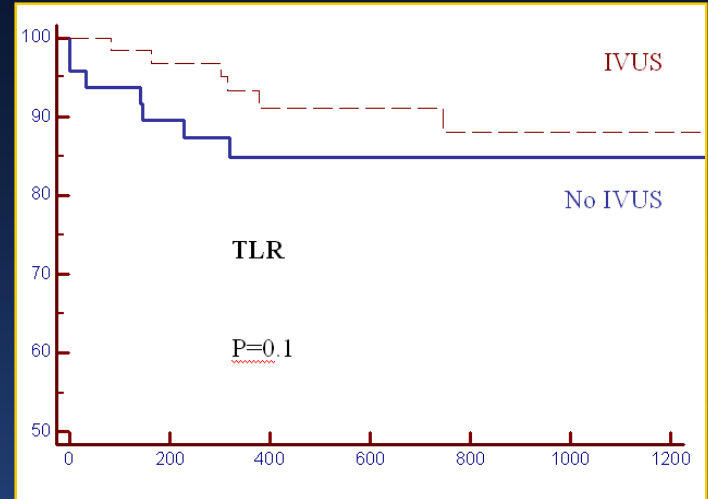


Pts. at risk	365 days	730 days	1095 days
IVUS	212	111	90
No IVUS	219	112	97

# LM distal-2 stents subgroup



Pts. at risk	365 days	730 days	1095 days
IVUS	60	41	23
No IVUS	57	24	20





RENACIMIENTO (1yr)

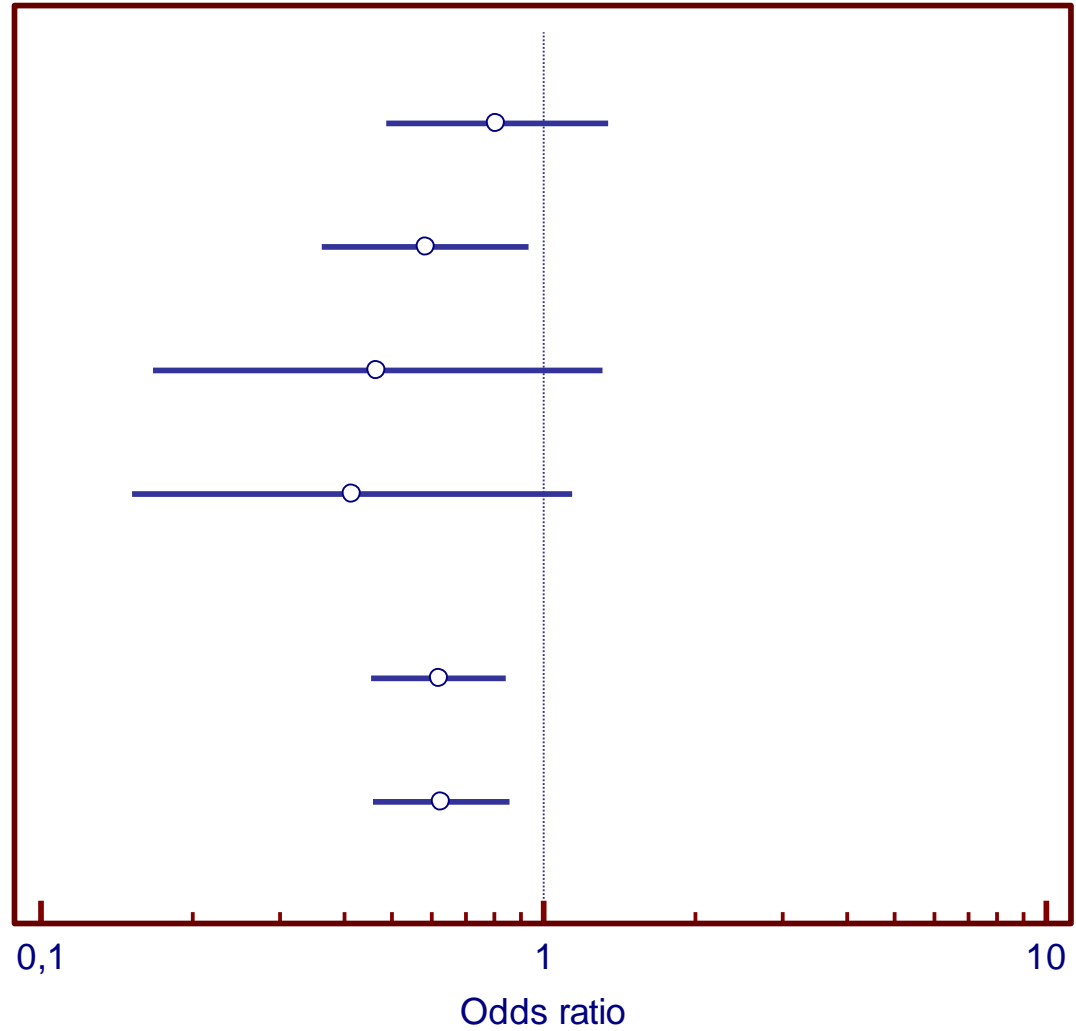
ESTROFA-LM (3 yrs)

Valdecilla (3 yrs)

Bellvitge (3 yrs)

Total (fixed effects)

Total (random effects)



**IVUS better**

**Angio better**

# Predictors of MACE (Cardiac death, MI, TLR)

Overall population	HR	95% CI	p
<b>IVUS</b>	0.70	0.52 – 0.99	0.04
<b>Age</b>	1.03	1.01 – 1.05	0.0001
<b>LVEF</b>	0.98	0.97 – 0.99	0.01
<b>Diabetes</b>	1.81	1.32 – 2.47	0.0002
<b>Distal LM with 2 stents</b>	2.23	1.44 – 3.48	0.0004
<b>ACS</b>	1.84	1.30 – 2.60	0.0006

## Subgroup with distal LM disease

<b>IVUS</b>	0.54	0.34 – 0.90	0.02
<b>Age</b>	1.02	1.004 – 1.05	0.02
<b>Diabetes</b>	1.62	1.02 – 2.59	0.04
<b>Distal LM with 2 stents</b>	2.86	1.71 – 4.77	0.0001
<b>ACS</b>	1.95	1.14 – 3.31	0.01

## Subgroup with ostial-mid LM disease

<b>Age</b>	1.04	1.02–1.05	<0.0001
<b>ACS</b>	1.68	1.17–2.40	0.004
<b>IVUS</b>	0.85	0.55–1.15	0.2

# Limitations

Despite propensity-score matching it still remains possible that some unmeasured confounders could favor the IVUS-guided arm, explaining its better outcome.

None of the registries was specifically designed to evaluate the influence of IVUS in outcomes. Therefore, there were not specific IVUS criteria for device sizing, identification and treatment of malapposition and/or underexpansion.

This is a limitation in order to know how did IVUS affect the procedure that lead to improved outcomes. The decisions taken after IVUS examination were left up to the operator.

# Conclusions

The use of IVUS to assess intermediate LM lesions results safe to defer revascularization

The use of IVUS to guide PCI and to identify and solve complications has a positive impact on clinical outcomes

*But,*

*be careful and precise in the IVUS examination of the LM*