

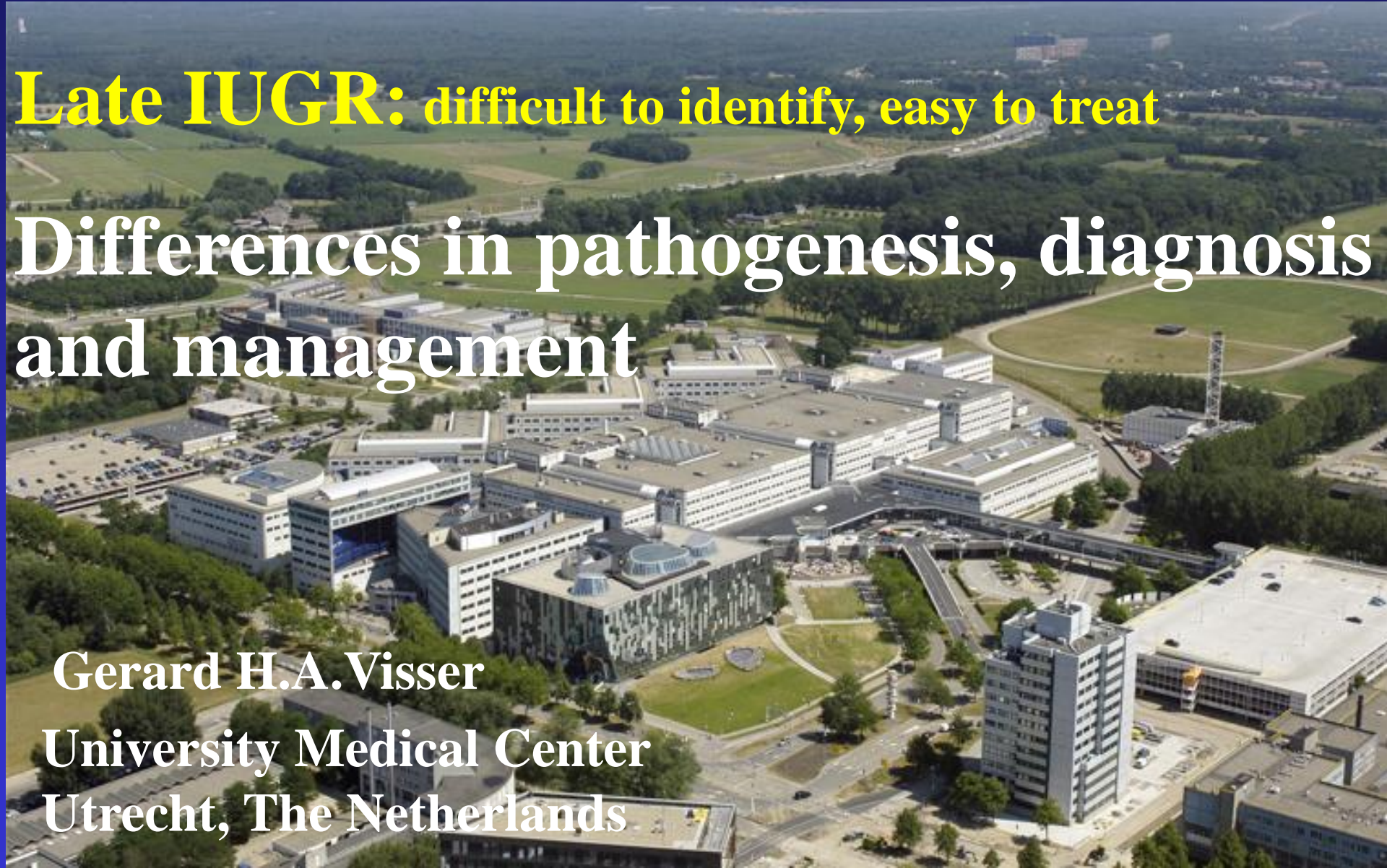
**Early IUGR: easy to identify, difficult to treat**

**Late IUGR: difficult to identify, easy to treat**

**Differences in pathogenesis, diagnosis  
and management**

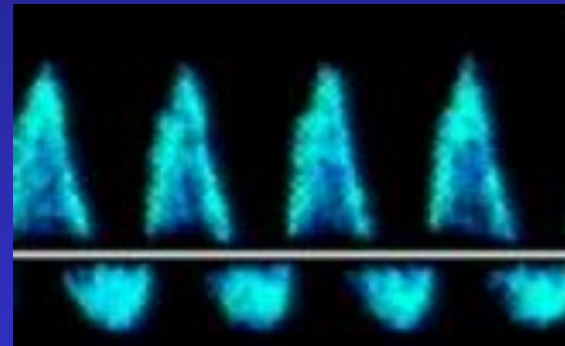
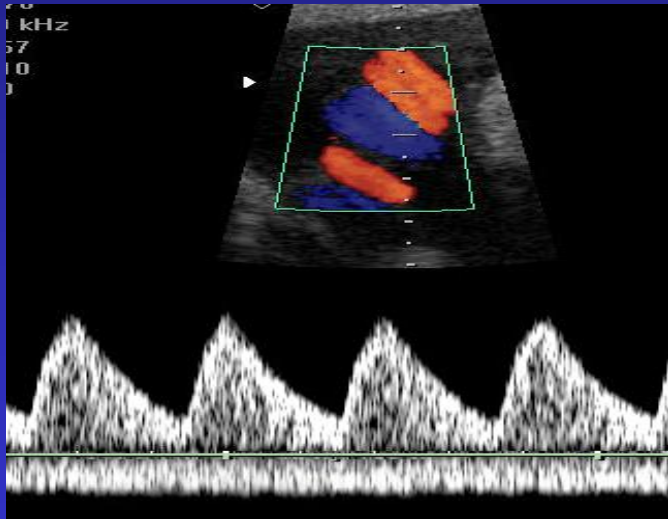
**Gerard H.A. Visser**

**University Medical Center  
Utrecht, The Netherlands**



# Early IUGR: easy to identify

All screening and diagnostic tests work properly  
(especially Doppler umbilical artery)



Moreover, 75% of IUGR accompanied by maternal hypertensive disease

# So, .....

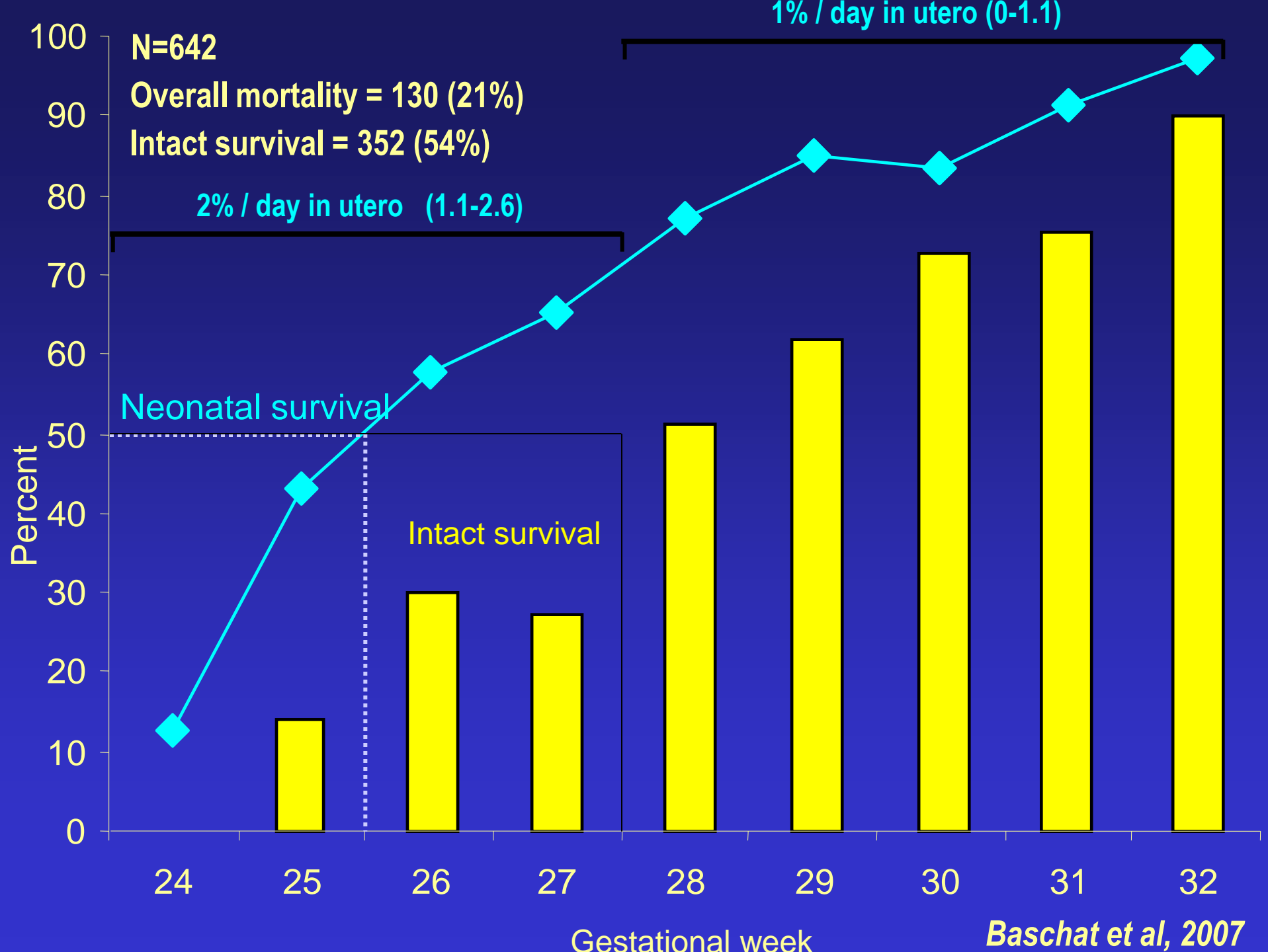
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- Easy identification
- Sufficient monitoring tools
- But,..... what next??
- Therapy: Oxygen?
  - Corticosteroids?
  - Neuroprotection ( MgSO<sub>4</sub>, Allopurinol)

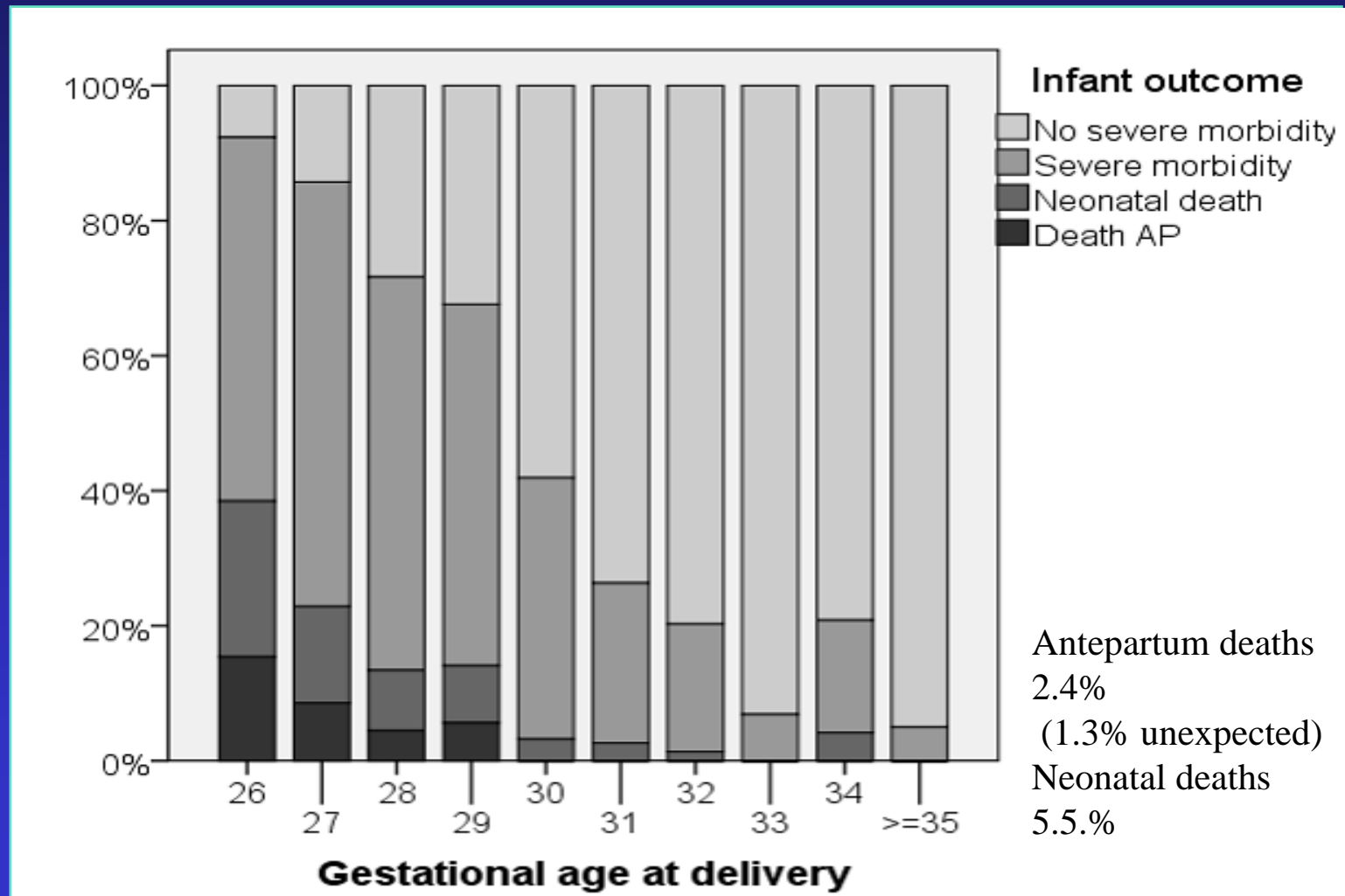
# So, .....

---

- Easy identification
- Sufficient monitoring tools
- But,..... what next??
- So, only option is (timing of) delivery (GRIT study\*, TRUFFLE study)



# TRUFFLE, Perinatal death & Morbidity





# Single center cohort study:

IUGR, <34 wks, Univ. Med Center Utrecht, n=180

## Variables

Gestational age  
Birth weight  
parity  
Sex  
Maternal disease  
Corticosteroids  
FHR pattern  
Umbilical artery PI  
Ductus Venosus  
Apgar and pH at birth  
Placenta histology  
IVH/ROP/NEC/RDS/NICU days  
Neonatal cranial ultrasound  
Neurological examination at term age  
Neurodevelopment at 2 years

## outcome

Neonatal mortality

Infant mortality

Neonatal morbidity

Neur.morbidity at 2 years

# 2 y outcome

%

100

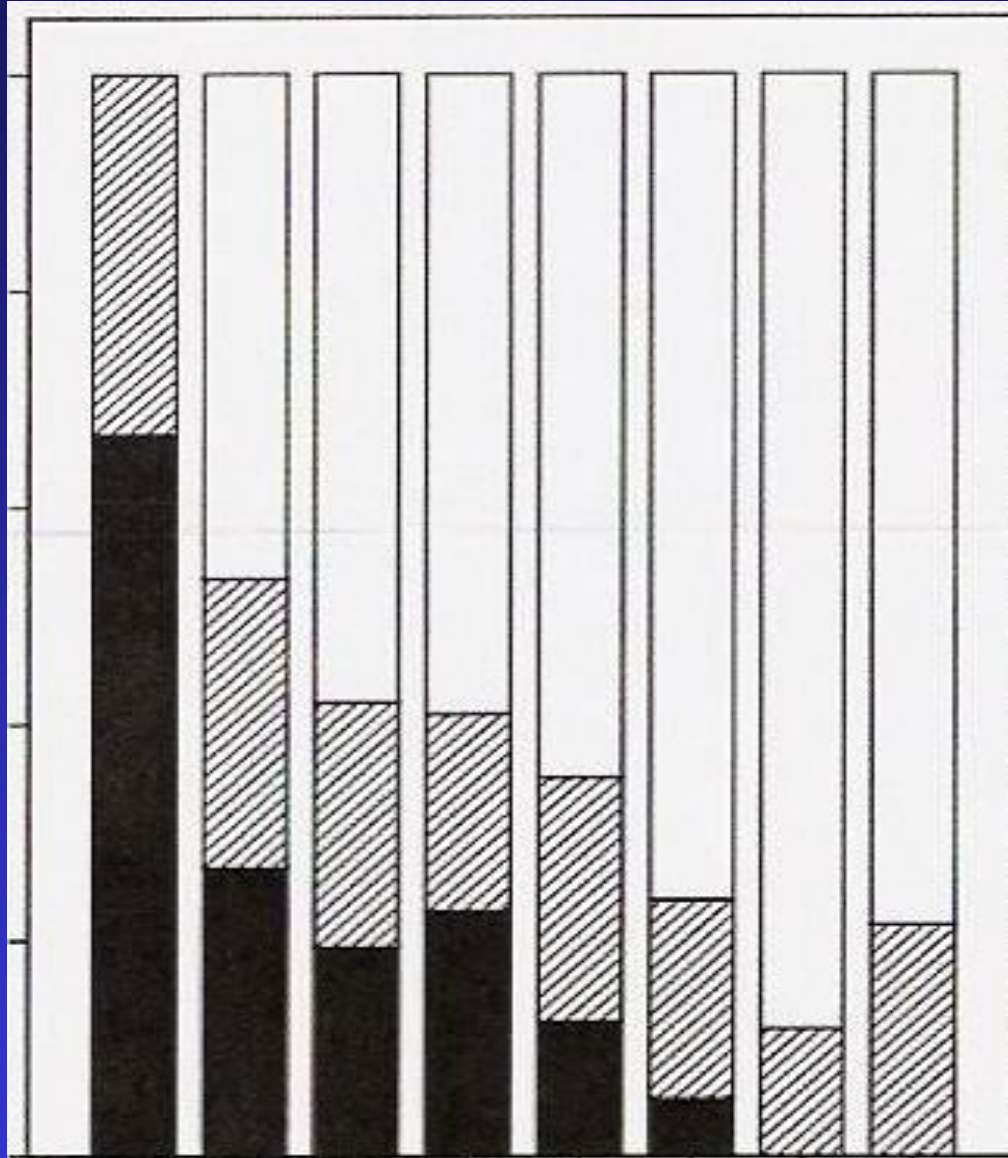
80

60

40

20

0



death

abn devel

normal devel

Intact survival at 2 years:  
66%

1 case of CP only

Torrance et al,2010



%

100

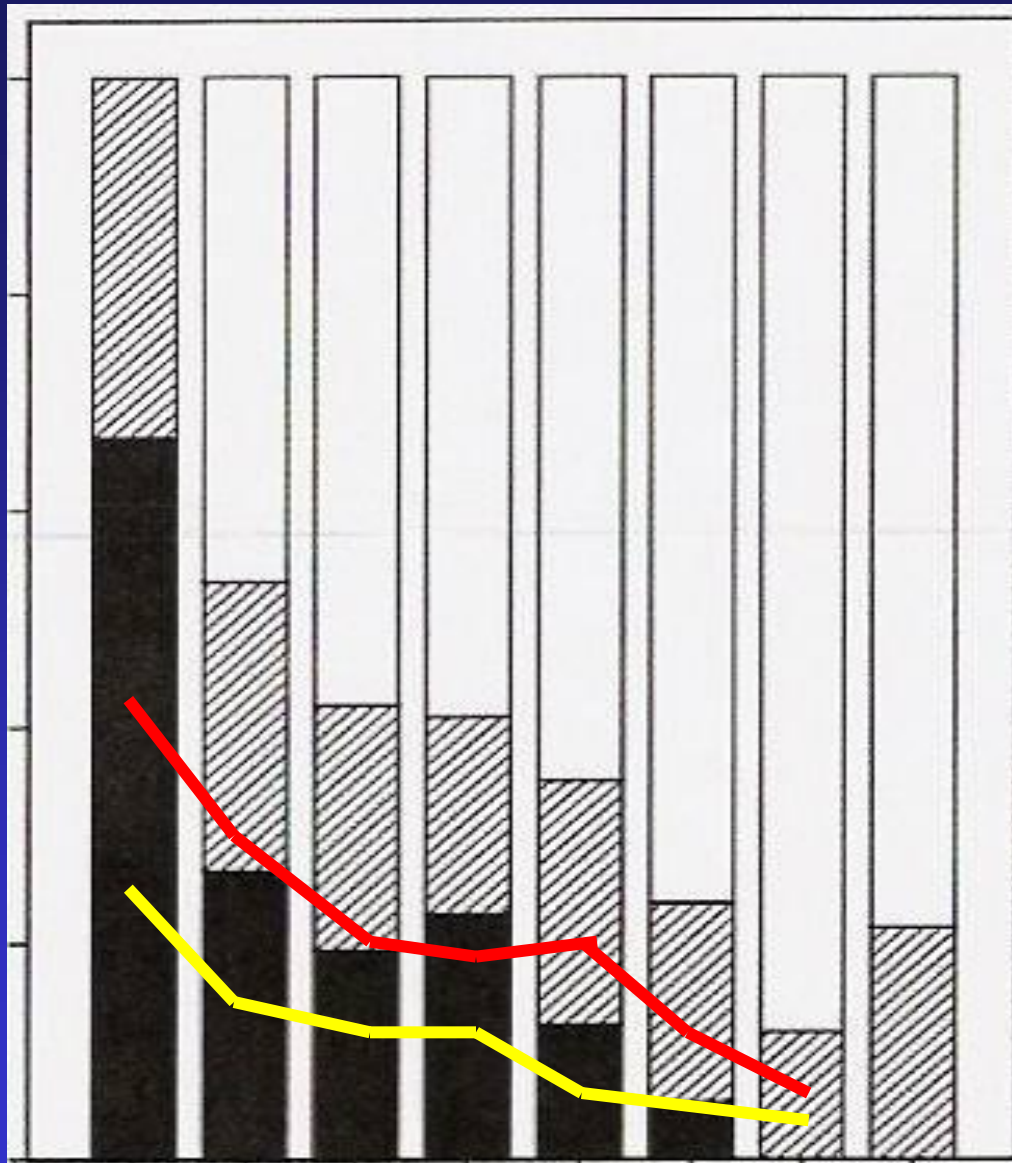
80

60

40

20

0



26

27

28

29

30

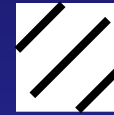
31

32

33 wks



death



abn devel



normal devel



Baschat



TRUFFLE

# Brain damage in the early IUGR fetus

---

- is it due to hypoxaemia,
- to chronic malnutrition
- or to both

# Morphological findings in human IUGR infants and in animal models

---

- Smaller brain size (grey matter volume), fewer cells, reduced total DNA in glial cell and neurons, deficits in synapse-to-neurone ratios, reduced dendritic growth
- Rather than localized lesions ( which occur after (acute) asphyxia)

# Morphological findings in human IUGR infants and in animal models

- Smaller brain size (grey matter volume), fewer cells, reduced total DNA in glial cell and neurons, deficits in synapse-to-neurone ratios, reduced dendritic growth
- Rather than localized lesions ( which occur after (acute) asphyxia)

Redistribution, increased oxygen extraction, increased transport (Hb)

# In the early IUGR fetus

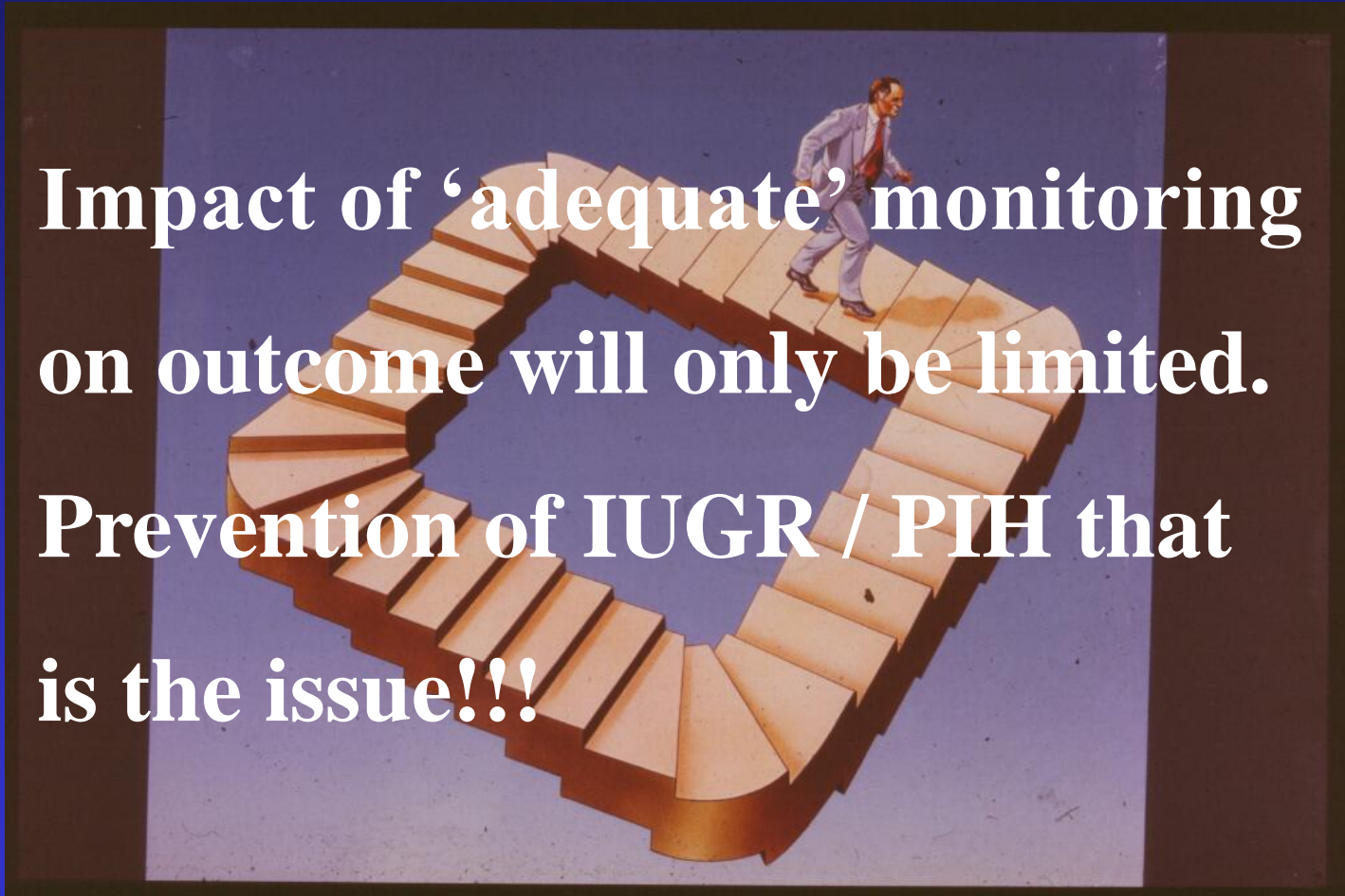
---

- brain damage is likely to be caused by malnutrition, rather than by hypoxaemia
- Which hampers adequate treatment options

**All in all,**

**Impact of 'adequate' monitoring  
on outcome will only be limited.**

**Prevention of IUGR / PIH that  
is the issue!!!**





# University Medical Center, Utrecht, the NL

- Early identification: 12 wks: Doppler, RR, plac proteins
- Primary prevention ( aspirin, Viagra, L-arginine, Ca)

~~Timing of delivery~~

Gerard H.A. Visser

# Prevention of PE with aspirin

- Meta-analysis, 31 RCTs 32.217 patients, PE 0.90 ( 95% CI 0.84-0.97); Askie, Lancet 2007

- **Metanalysis 27 RCTs 11.348 patients, early-late start of Aspirin ( Bujold et al 2010):**

- = < 16 wks RR 0.47 (CI 0.34-0.65) **IUGR RR 0.44 (CI 0.30-0.65)**

- > 16 wks RR 0.81 ns IUGR RR 0.98 ns

- Especially for **severe PE ( RR 0.09)**, preterm birth ( RR 0.22)

**Identification**

**Prevention mortal/morb**

---

Early IUGR

easy

difficult

Late IUGR/SGA

difficult

easy

---

# Stillbirth rate in relation to FGR



Gardosi et al, BMJ 2013; population based study, 389 stillbirths > 24 wks (0.42%)

# Neonatal encephalopathy in term infants: independent antenatal risk factors:

	Adjusted OR
- low socio-economic status	3.60
- neurol. diseases in family	2.73
- pregn. after infertility treatment	4.43
- maternal thyroid disease	9.70
- pregn. induced hypertension	6.30
- SFD <3 <sup>rd</sup> centile	38.23
- SFD 3 <sup>rd</sup> -9 <sup>th</sup> centile	4.37
- antenatal haemorrhage	3.57
- viral infections during pregn.	2.97
- post term	13.2

(Badawi et al, 1999)

# Cerebral palsy in preterm and term SFD\* infants; population based study; 334 infants with CP

	OR
• Early preterm <34 wks	0.8 (0.4-1.4)
• Late preterm 34-37 wks	1.1 (0.4-3.4)
• Term >37 wks	5.2 (2.7-10.1)

\*customised, < 10<sup>th</sup> centile preterm, < 5<sup>th</sup> centile term; Jacobsson et al BJOG,2008



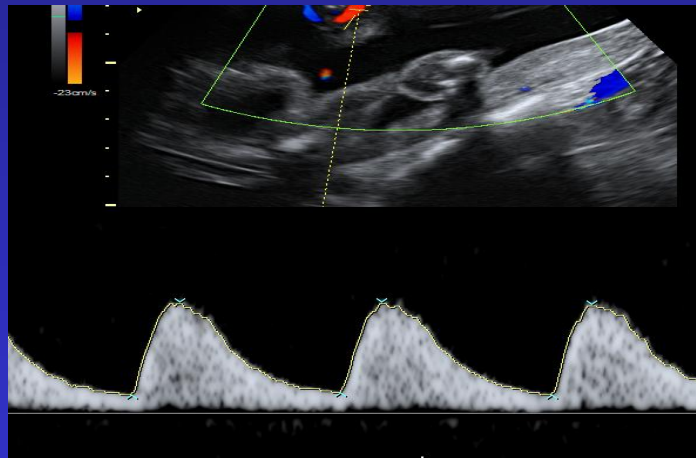
# Term IUGR/SGA

Morbidity is most likely to be due to a combination of malnutrition and fetal hypoxia

# Term IUGR/SFD

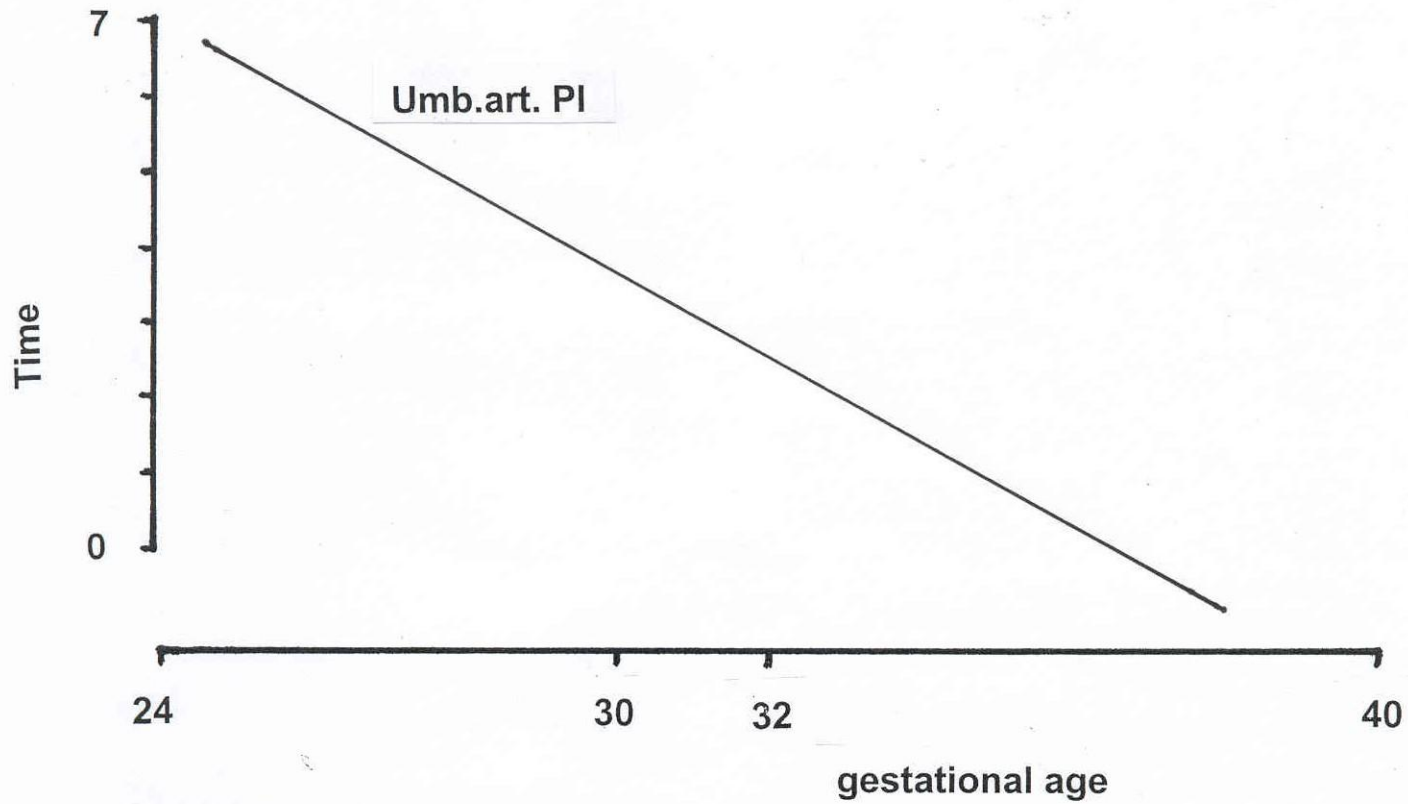
Many screening and diagnostic tests **do not** work properly

(and that holds especially for Doppler umbilical artery)



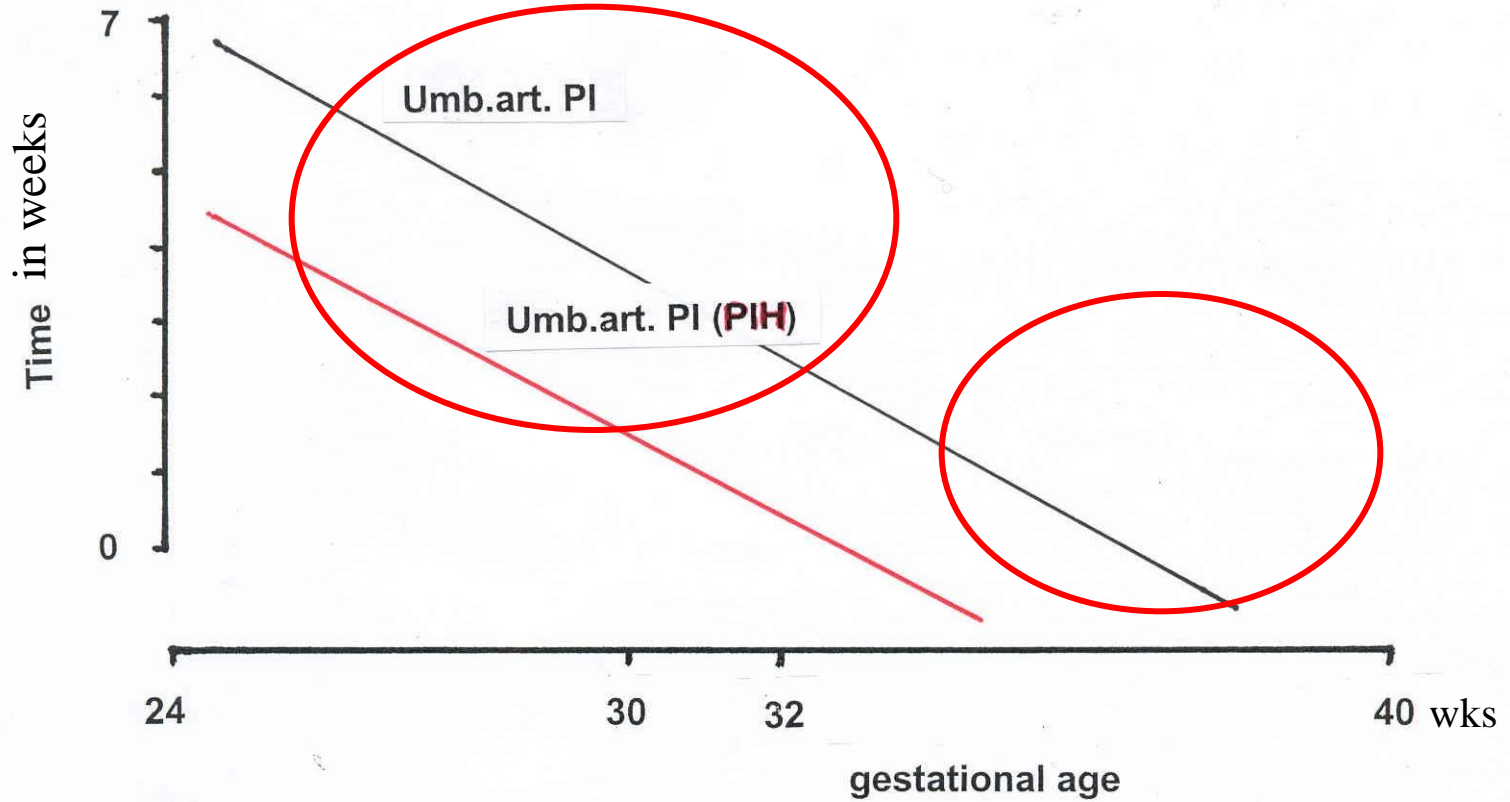
Moreover, IUGR is **not** accompanied by maternal hypertensive disease

# Interval Doppler – FHR changes



(Arduini; Bekedam; Hecher; Pal)

# Interval Doppler – FHR changes



(Arduini; Bekedam; Hecher; Pal)

# Why does Doppler not work near term?

---

- Abnormal Dopplers in umbilical artery only occur in case of a 30-50% reduction of placental function/ capacity.
- Early in pregnancy the small fetus can live on  $\frac{1}{2}$  a placenta,
- Late in pregnancy the fetus cannot

# Term IUGR/SFD

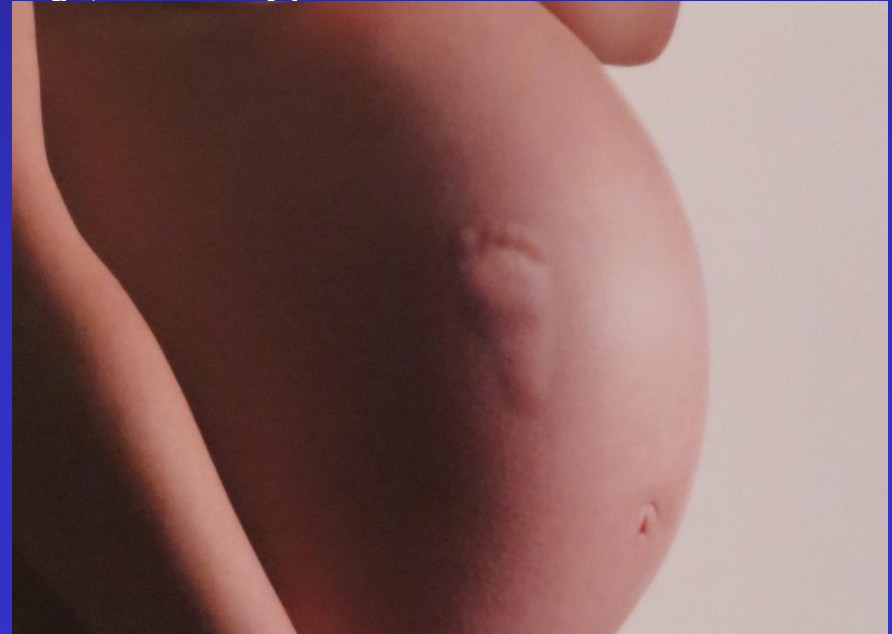
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- **Assessment techniques:**
  - Fundal height
  - Ultrasound fetal size
  - Amniotic fluid
  - Cardiotocography
  - **Fetal movements !!**



# Structured information on fetal movements at 18 wks

- 65 % reduction in IUFD in nulliparous women (OR 0.36, 95%CI 0.19-0.69)
- No change in multiparous women, smokers, obese women, maternal age >34 y, foreigners



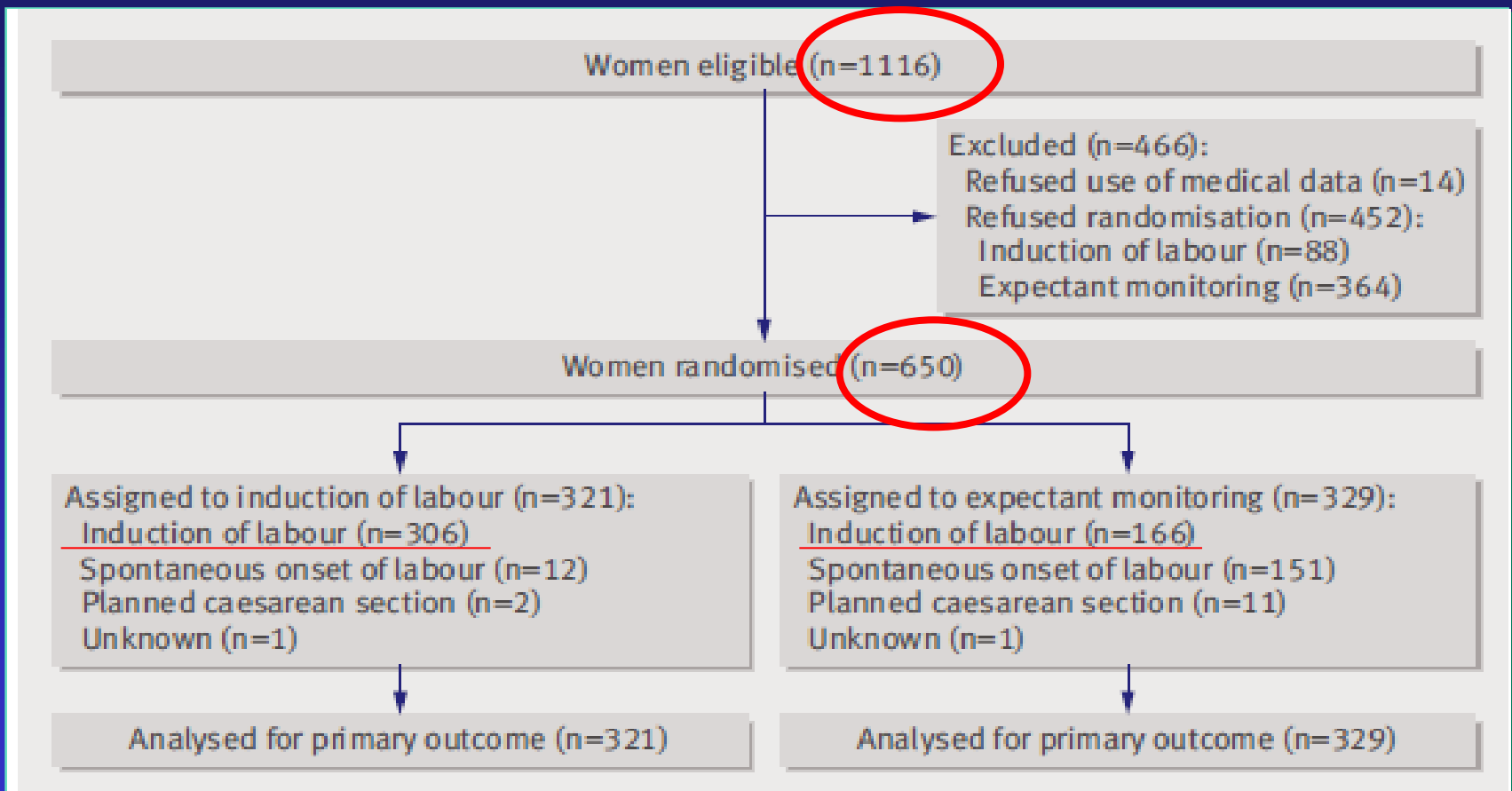
# Identification of the late IUGR fetus

---

- 1- First trimester risk screening
- 2- 30 wks uterine artery (+ placenta proteins?)
- 3- 30+ wks in case 1 and/or 2 are abnormal:
  - .. longitudinal growth assessment
- 4- 30+ wks, if growth  $<25^{\text{th}}$  centile or falling:
  - .. MCA/Umb artery ratio
  - .. FHR acceleration capacity

Delivery; when?

# DIGITAT study



Flow diagram of the trial process

# DIGITAT study

	Induction	Expect man
N	321	329
CS	14 %	13.7%
Birthweight<3 <sup>rd</sup> cent	12.5%	30.6%
Birthweight>25 <sup>th</sup> c	7.2%	6.1%
PNMortality	-	-
Composite Morbidity	5.3%	6.1%

# DIGITAT study

---

2 y follow up, 50% of the population  
Ages and Stage Questionnaire (ASQ and Child Behaviour  
Checklist (CBCL)

**No difference**

# DIGITAT study

---

- Once SGA has been identified, mortality is low in centers with adequate fetal surveillance
- Lowest morbidity occurred in spontaneous and induced labours at 38 weeks

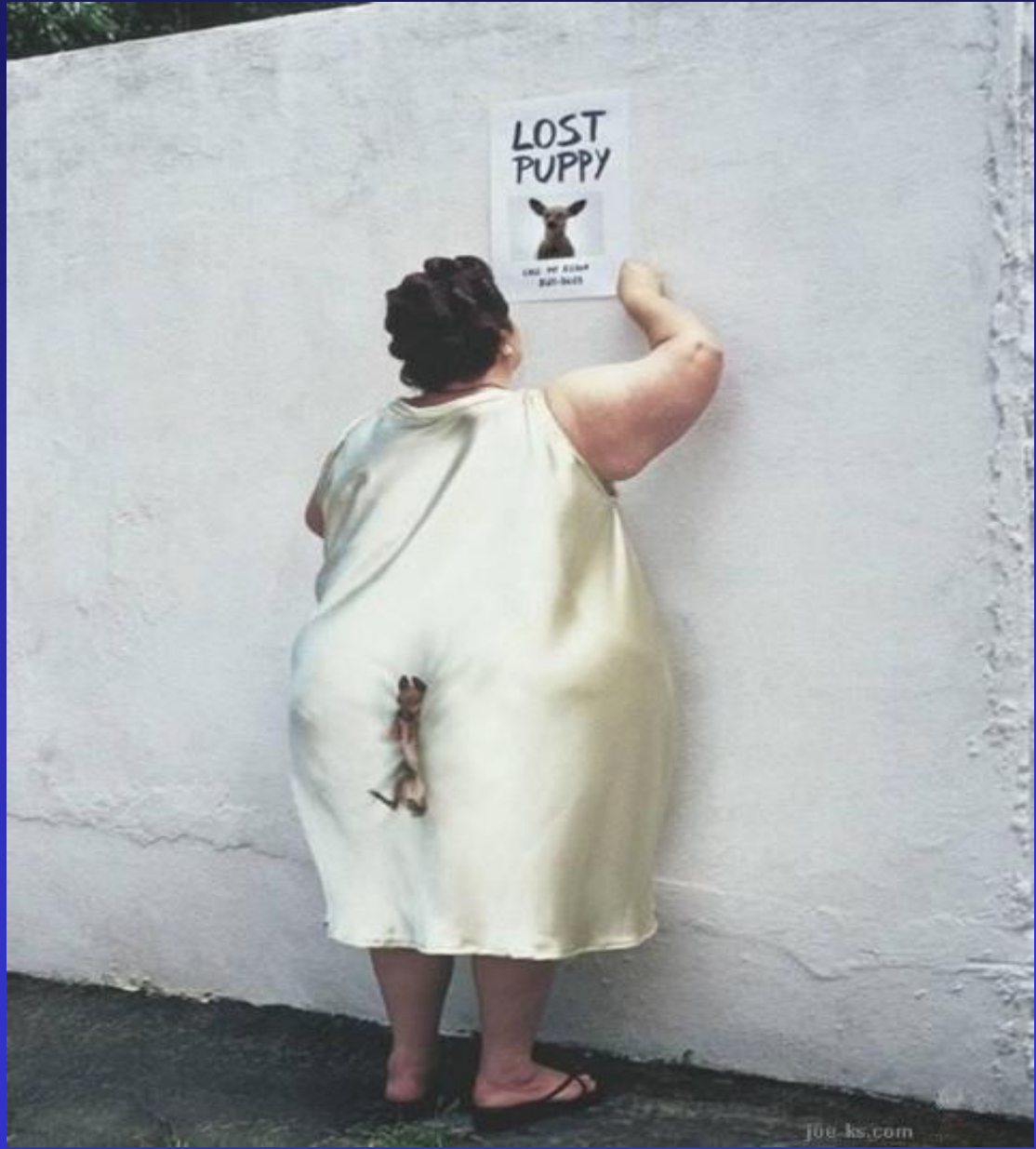


# Risk factors for 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester stillbirth

	OR <sub>multivariate</sub>
• IUGR/SFD	7.0 (3.3-15.1)
• Age>35	4.1 (1.0-16.5)
• BMI>25	4.7 (1.7-10.2)
• Education<10 y	3.4 (1.2-9.6)
• IUGR/BMI>25	71 (14-350) univariate OR

# Individualize, start thinking

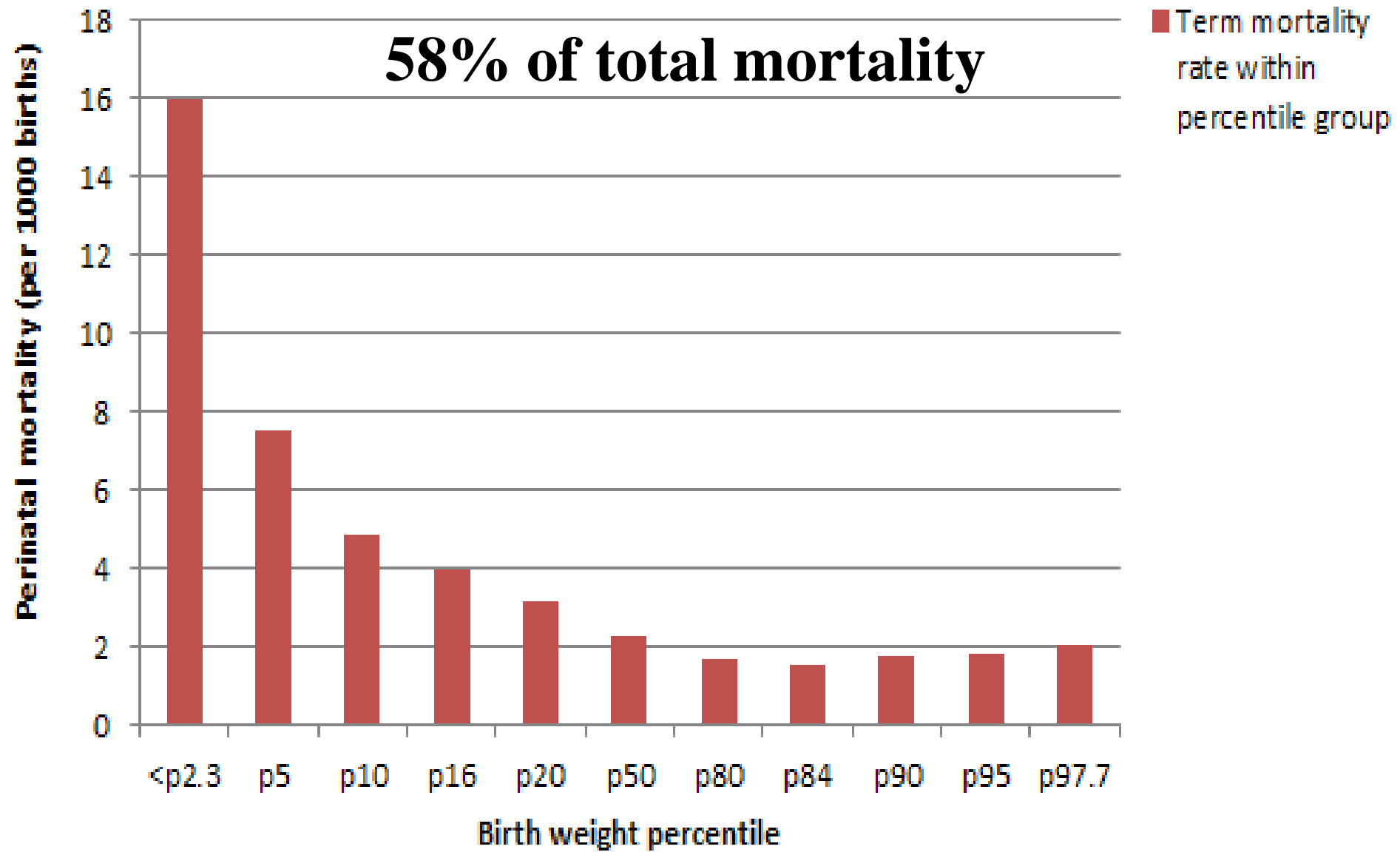




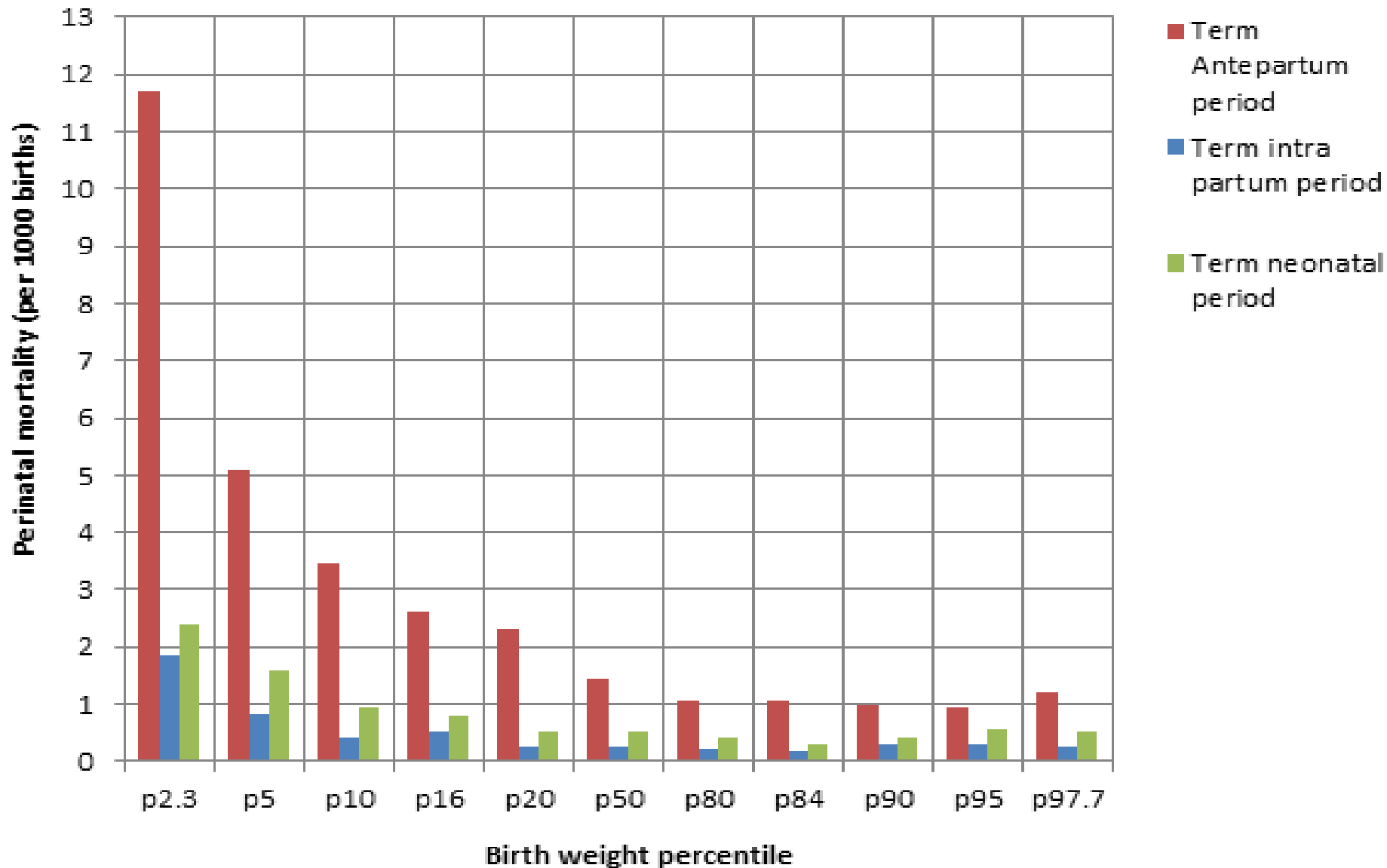
# Perinatal mortality and birth weight centiles

- 70 percent of perinatal mortality in infants without congenital malformations occurs in infants  $> 10^{\text{th}}$  centile

# Perinatal mortality >+36 wks, Nlds 2000-2008



# Perinatal mortality $\geq 36$ wks



# Incidence of fetal growth restriction (abnormal CP ratio) according to birth weight centiles

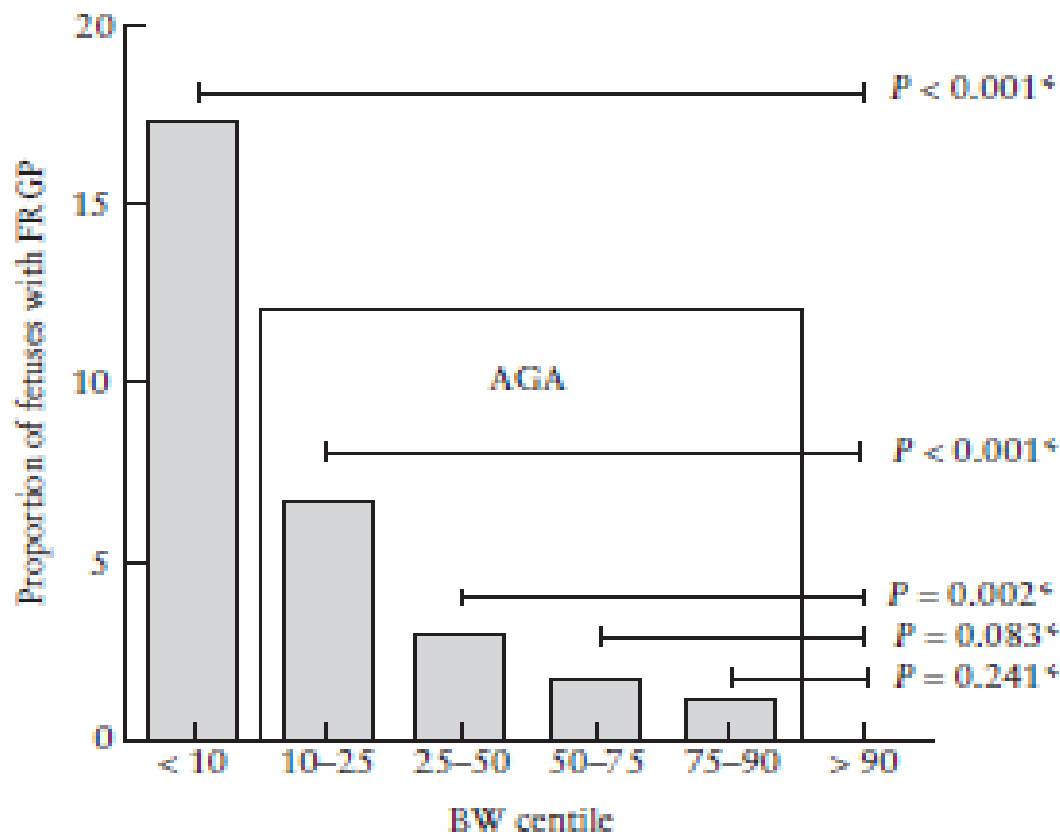


Figure 3 Percentage of term fetuses with failure to reach growth potential (FRGP) according to their birth weight (BW) centile group (i.e. percentage of fetuses presenting a cerebroplacental ratio (CPR) multiple of the median (MoM) value below the established FRGP normality threshold (CPR MoM = 0.6765), calculated after subtracting those cases with CPR MoM < 5<sup>th</sup> centile observed in the group with BW > 90<sup>th</sup> centile). Appropriate-for-gestational-age (AGA) fetuses present a progressive decrease of CPR, which is especially important in the group with BW < 25<sup>th</sup> centile. \*Chi-square test plus Holm's correction for multiple comparisons.

# And know, that...

- The risk of a term IUFD in a nulliparous 36 years old woman is greater than the risk of her having a child with a chromosomal anomaly



# OSCAR 3

- Formal assessment of perinatal risk factors at 36 to 38 weeks
- With as the question: 'take it out, or leave it in some what longer '

**And,.....**



**If in doubt**

**Take**

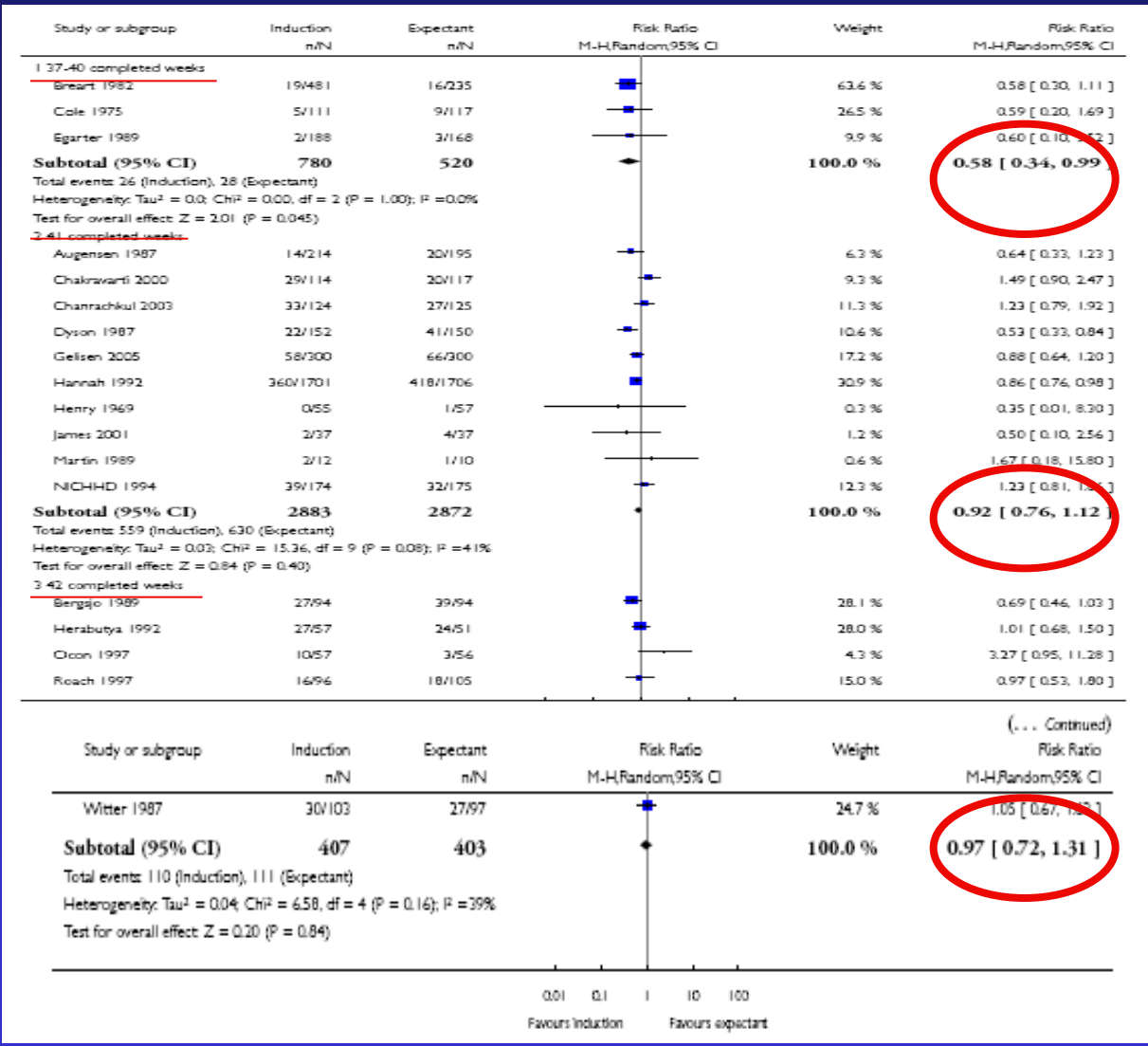
**The baby out**

# Cochrane: induction vs expectant management

37-40 wks

>41 wks

> 42 wks



“ I am a fetus in the womb  
I fear it may become my tomb  
if only I could give a shout  
to get my doctor to get me  
out!”

a British Medical Student

# High mortality/morbidity rate in the very small term babies

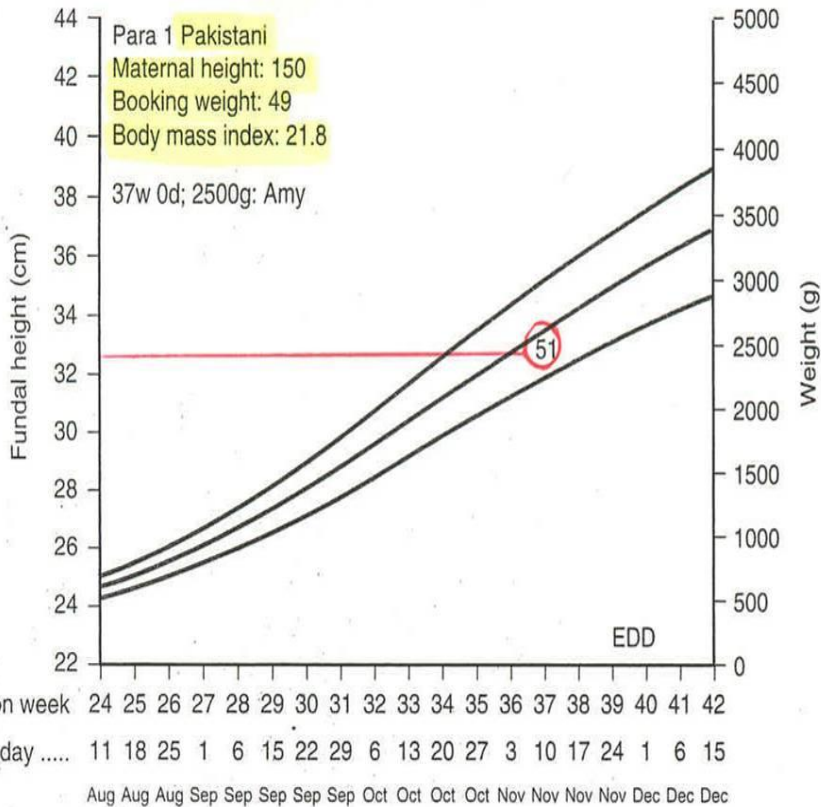
- Early identification is essential
  - Customized growth charts
  - Doppler uterine artery?
  - Umbilical/MCA Doppler ratio
  - Serial fetal growth measurements?
  - Measure of autonomic FHR control
  - Fetal movements !
  - Unlikely to be useful: serial AF assessment, FHR monitoring

# Customized antenatal growth chart

A

CUSTOMIZED ANTENATAL GROWTH CHART

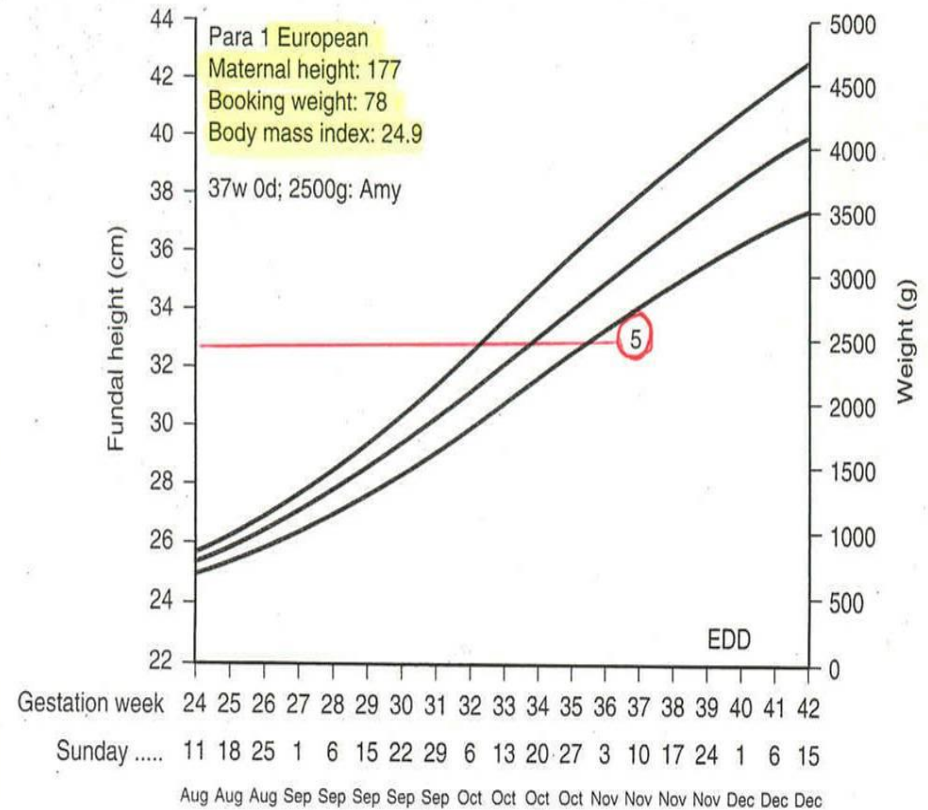
Mrs. Small (1 DOB: 01/01/75)



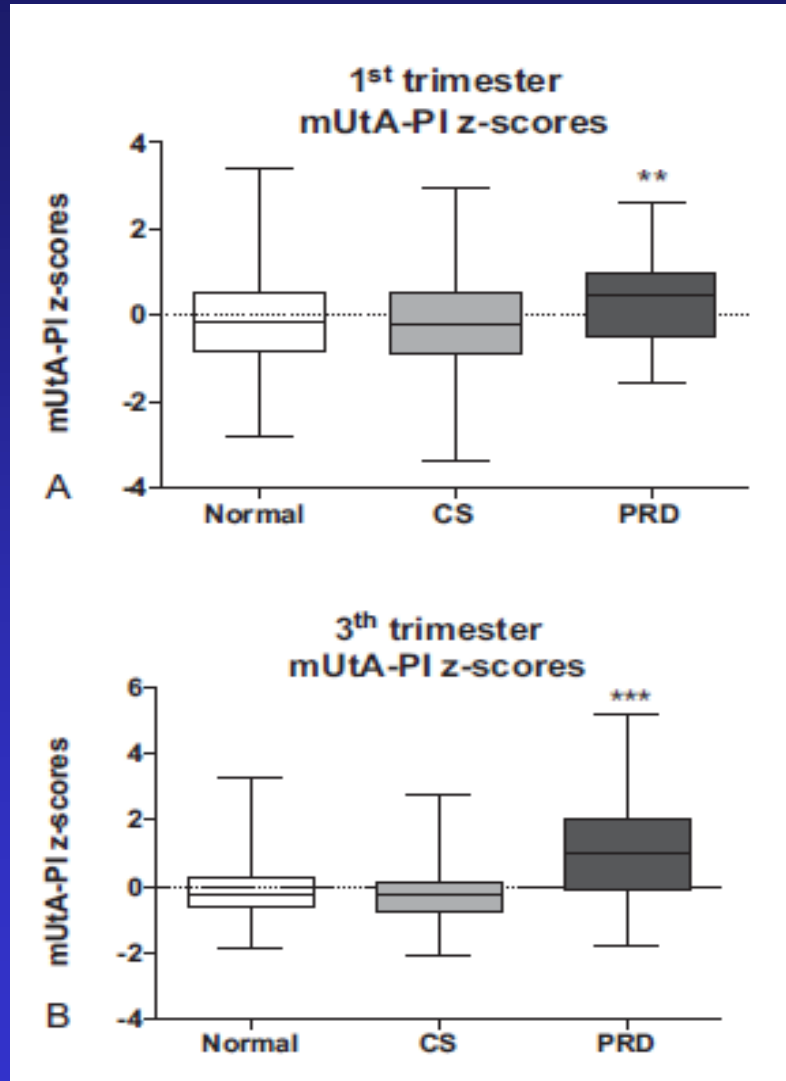
B

CUSTOMIZED ANTENATAL GROWTH CHART

Mrs. Small (1 DOB: 01/01/75)



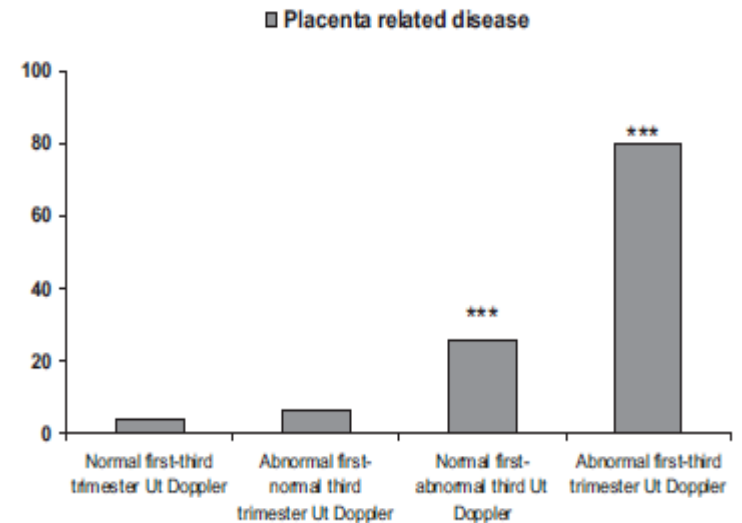
# Late onset IUGR; uterine artery



**Table 4** Concordance between first- and third-trimester abnormal mUtA-PI z-scores

mUtA-PI z-scores	Third trimester	
	normal (<2 SD)	abnormal ( $\geq 2$ SD)
First trimester, normal (<2 SD)	878	31
First trimester, abnormal ( $\geq 2$ SD)	31	5

mUtA-PI, mean uterine artery pulsatility index; SD, standard deviation.



# Longitudinal changes in uterine, umbilical and cerebral Dopplers in late onset SGA

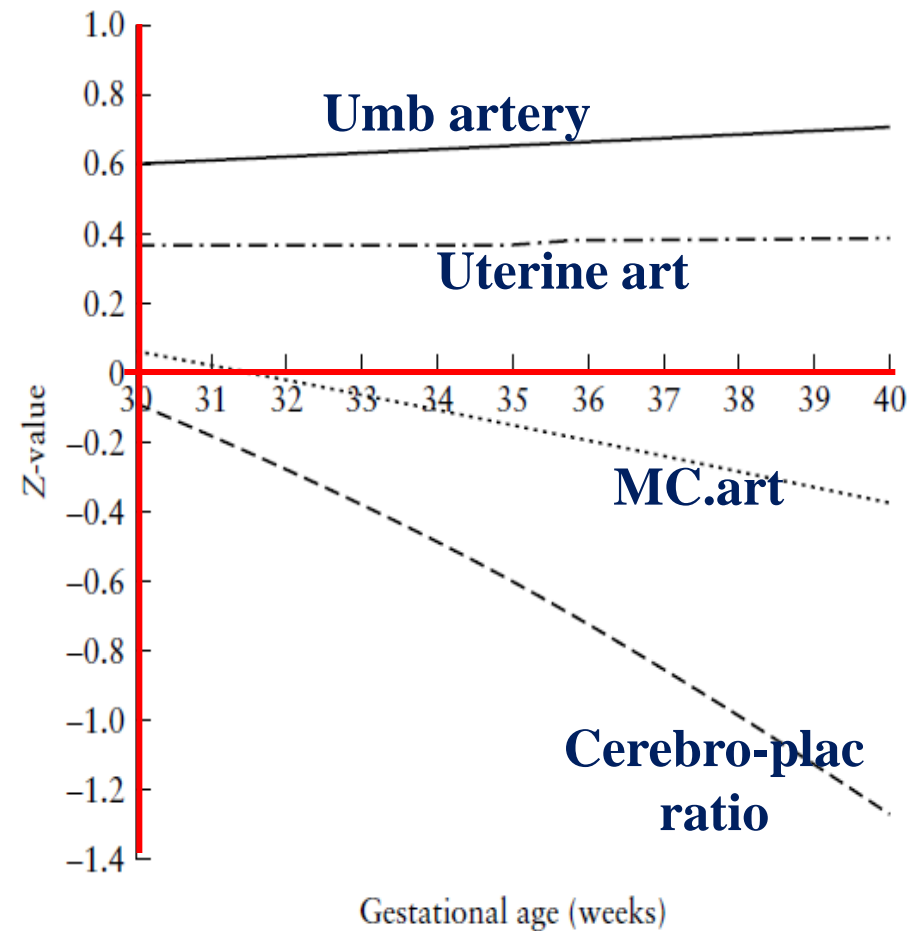
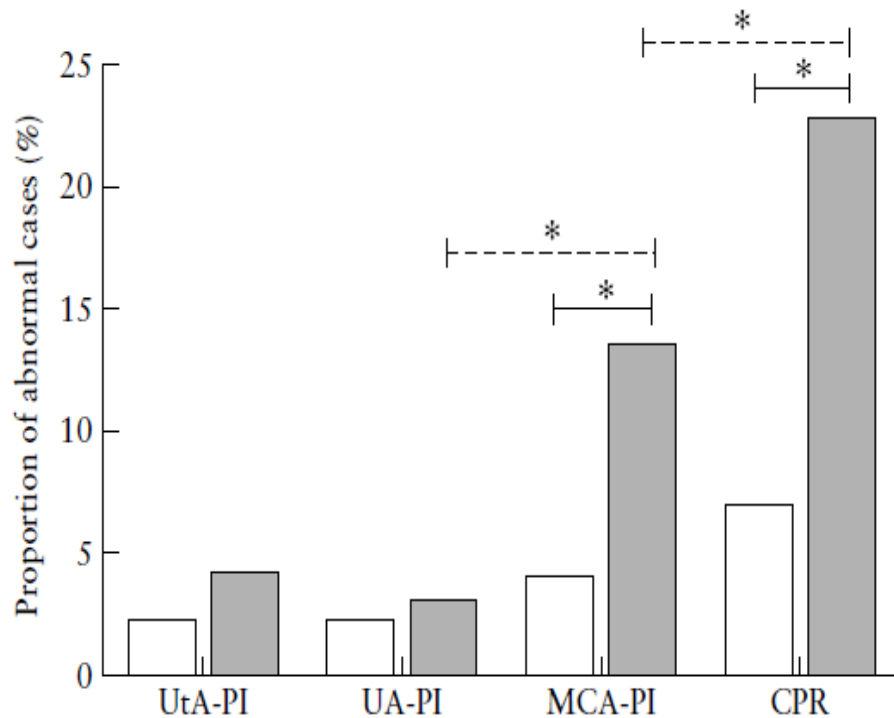


Figure 1 Proportion of abnormal Doppler findings at 37 weeks' gestation (□) and last examination before delivery (■) (\*McNemar  $P < 0.05$ ). CPR, cerebroplacental ratio; MCA, middle cerebral artery; PI, pulsatility index; UA, umbilical artery; UtA, uterine artery.



# CS and acidosis according to redistribution or not

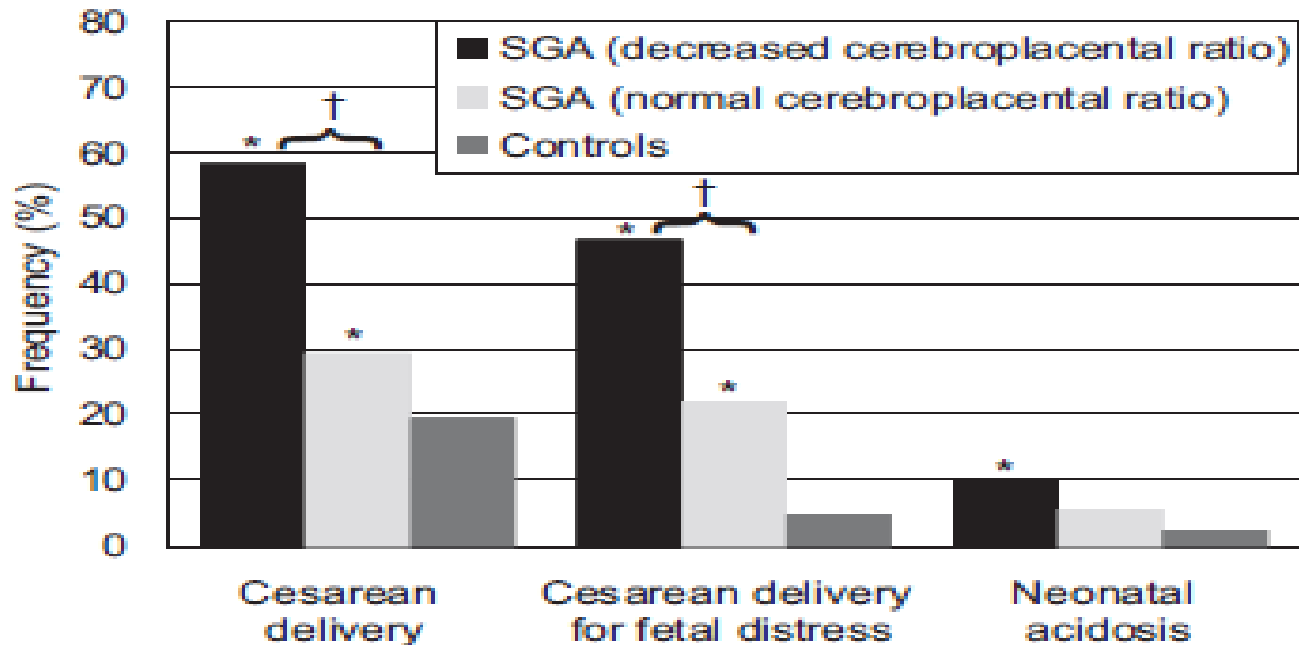
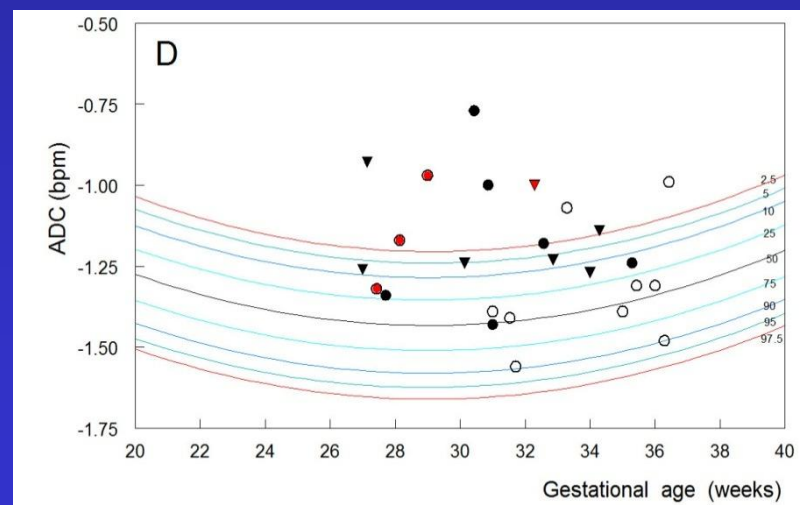
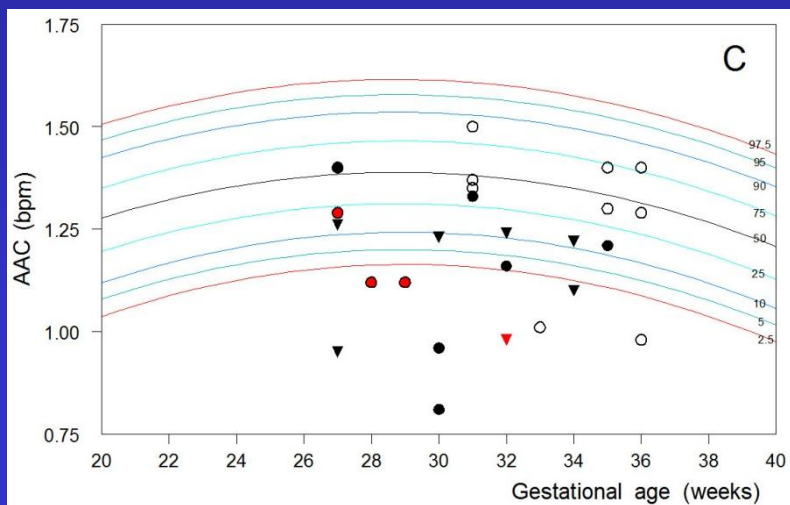
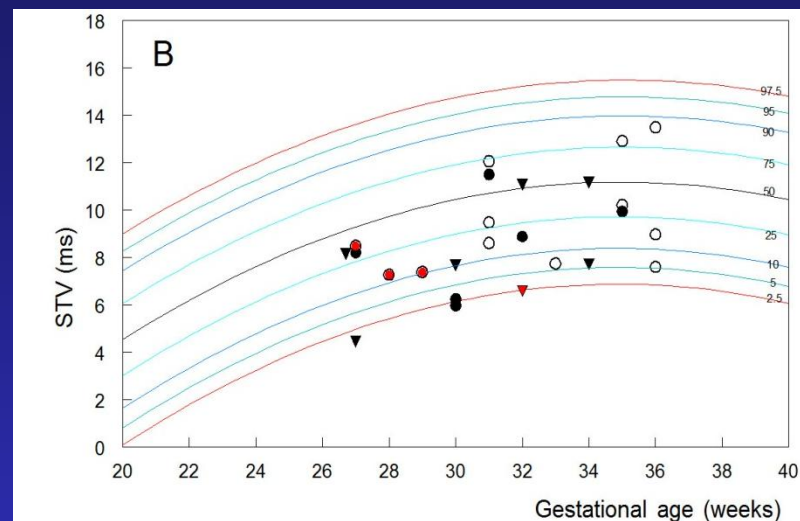
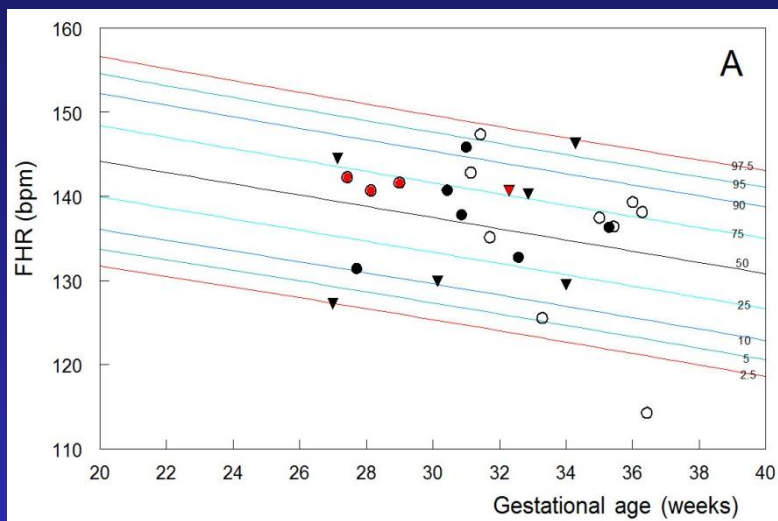


Fig. 2. Frequency of intrapartum cesarean delivery, emergency cesarean for nonreassuring fetal status, and neonatal acidosis in controls and small-for-gestational age (SGA) fetuses with and without decreased cerebroplacental ratio. \* $P < .05$  with control participants the reference group; † $P < .01$  among SGA cases.

# FHR, STV, ACC and ADC in SFD/IUGR fetuses



# First trimester markers

- Maternal history
- Maternal weight
- Maternal RR
- Uterine artery PI
- Maternal serum biomarkers

# Detection rate PE, with or without IUGR/ SGA maternal characteristics, MAP, serum biomarkers

Screening test	Detection rate (95% confidence interval) for fixed FPR							
	Early Onset PE				Late Onset PE			
	All n= 68		with IUGR n=13		All n=99		with IUGR n=49	
	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%	5%	10%
Maternal characteristics	40	56	39	69	22	31	27	41
Maternal characteristics plus								
PAPP-A	47	62	69	69	23	34	29	41
Free $\beta$ -hCG	38	56	46	62	20	31	27	39
ADAM12	40	60	58	75	19	31	21	38
PIGF	51	58	67	75	22	35	34	53
MAP	50	64	39	62	27	45	24	41
Maternal characteristics plus combination of markers								
MAP and PAPP-A	53	71	69	69	32	46	32	41
MAP and PIGF	54	68	67	75	35	56	46	63
MAP, PAPP-A and PIGF	54	70	50	83	38	52	49	60
MAP, PAPP-A, ADAM12 and PIGF	56	72	67	92	40	49	49	57

# Metabolomics and late onset PE

TABLE 4

Prediction of late-onset preeclampsia based on logistic regression model (expanded dataset<sup>a</sup>)

Model	Sensitivity, %	Specificity, %	AUC (95% CI)	P value
Glycerol <sup>b</sup>	40	94.1	0.79 (0.692–0.888)	< .001
Glycerol and weight <sup>c</sup>	40	95	0.796 (0.698–0.894)	< .001
Glycerol, 1-methylhistidine <sup>d</sup>	56.7	95	0.783 (0.667–0.898)	< .001

Respective probability equations based on the regression analyses.

AUC, area under curve; CI, confidence interval.

<sup>a</sup> Sixty normal cases added from prior publication<sup>15</sup> (total 30 late-onset preeclampsia and 119 normals); <sup>b</sup> Predictors considered in regression: glycerol, carnitine, and white/non-white race. Prob (preeclampsia) =  $0.002 \times \text{glycerol} - 2.60$ ;

<sup>c</sup> Predictors considered in regression: glycerol, carnitine, and weight. Prob (preeclampsia) =  $0.002 \times \text{glycerol} + 0.033 \times \text{weight}$ ; <sup>d</sup> Predictors considered in regression: glycerol, carnitine and 1-methylhistidine. Prob (preeclampsia) =  $0.002 \times \text{glycerol} + 0.032 \times \text{methylhistidine} - 4.04$ .

Bahado-Singh. Late-onset preeclampsia, metabolomics. *Am J Obstet Gynecol* 2013.

# Remaining challenges

- To identify the small fetus at term
- To identify those small fetuses that are at risk for poor outcome, i.e. to discriminate between the SGA and IUGR fetus
- Realizing that small may be everywhere below the 50<sup>th</sup> centile

# SAFARI study; N of inclusions: 500

- **Primary outcome:**
  - Antepartum intervention for fetal distress
  - Perinatal mortality
  - pH umb art < 7.05
  - Apgarscore 5 min < 7
  - Admission Nicu
- **8% of cases\***, n=40, 4 antenatal items to be tested
  - Cerebro-placental (MCA/Umb A) ratio
  - PI ut artery
  - Head circumference/brain volume
  - Index autonomic FHR control

\*Digitat study

# Risk factors for 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester stillbirth

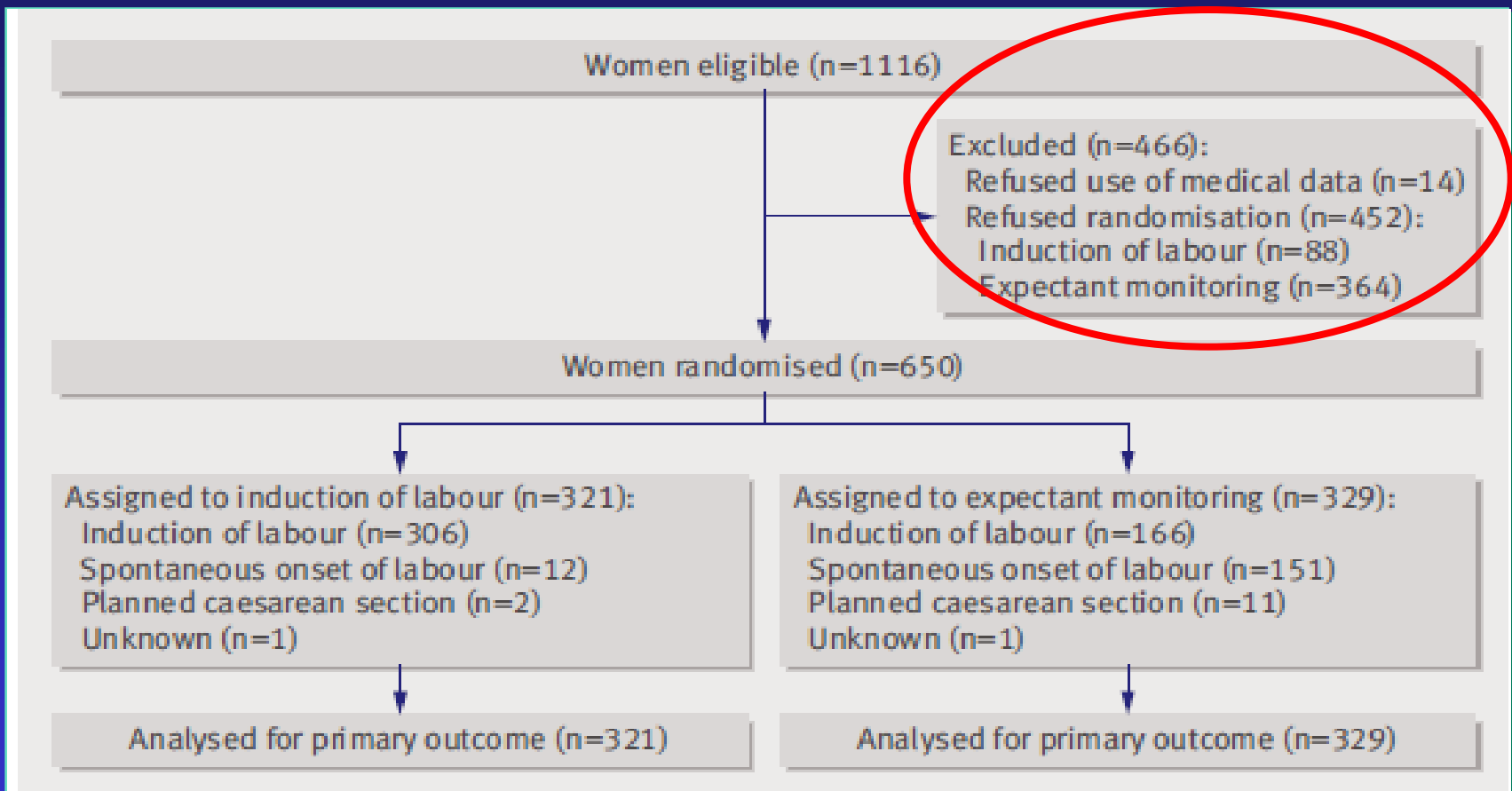
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	OR <sub>multivariate</sub>
• IUGR/SFD	7.0 (3.3-15.1)
• Age>35	4.1 (1.0-16.5)
• BMI>25	4.7 (1.7-10.2)
• Education<10 y	3.4 (1.2-9.6)
• IUGR/BMI>25	71 (14-350) univariate OR

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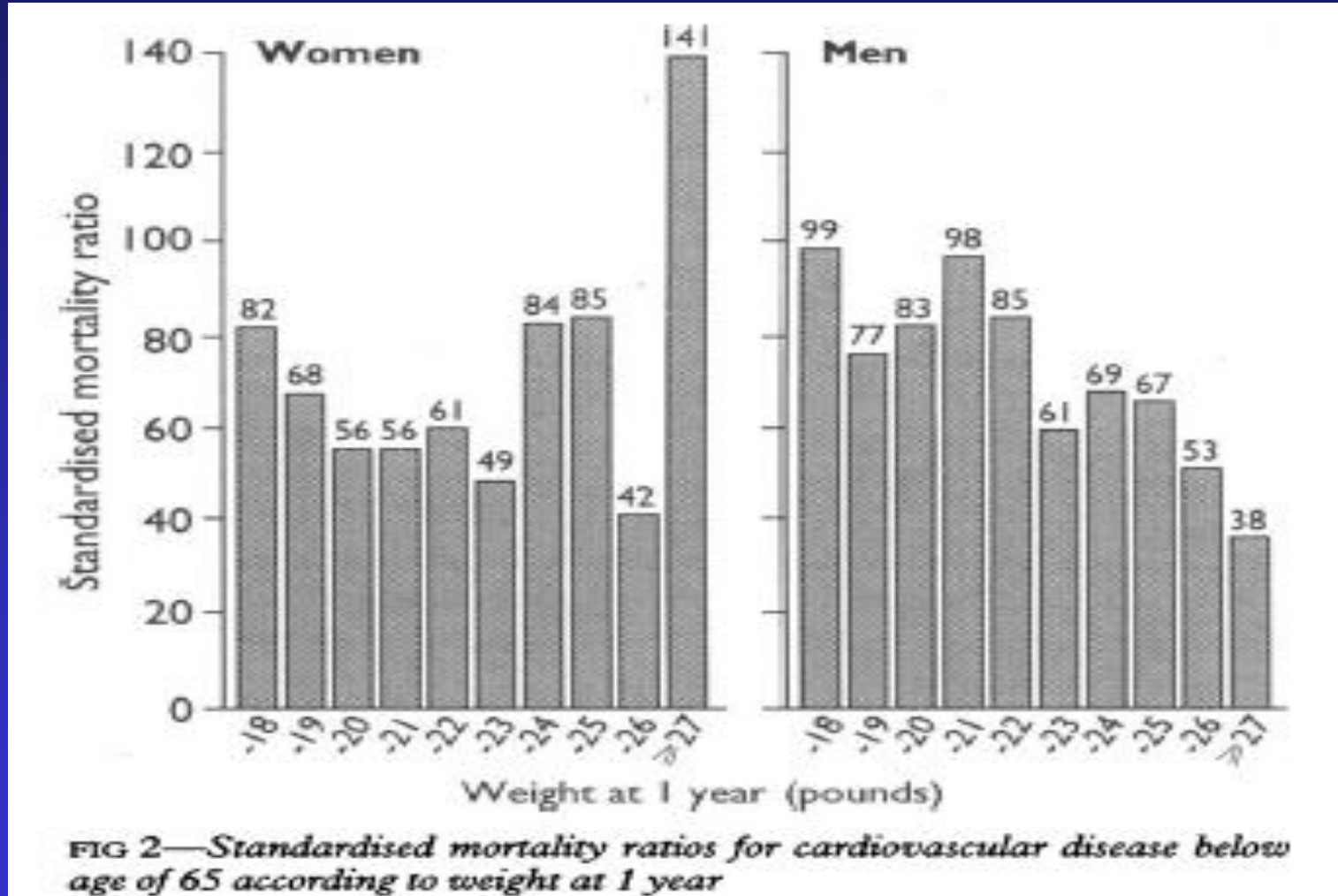
# DIGITAT study



Flow diagram of the trial process



# Weight at 1 y of age in relation to death due to cardiovascular disease <65 y



# So, for short and long term survival

- Your birth weight should be around the 90<sup>th</sup> centile
- And that also holds for weight at 1-2 y of age
- But prevent a rapid weight gain in between 2 and 7 y of age

# Risk factors for 3<sup>rd</sup> trimester stillbirth

	OR multivariate
• IUGR/SFD	7.0 (3.3-15.1)
• Age>35	4.1 (1.0-16.5)
• BMI>25	4.7 (1.7-10.2)
• Education<10 y	3.4 (1.2-9.6 )
• IUGR/BMI>25	71 (14-350) univariate OR

# Optimal fetal growth

- Most intrauterine deaths occur in fetuses with a weight in the so-called normal range
- When developing risk scores for IUFD, including maternal age, social class, BMI and fetal weight not only weights below the 10<sup>th</sup> centile should be included, but a graded more sophisticated centile distribution

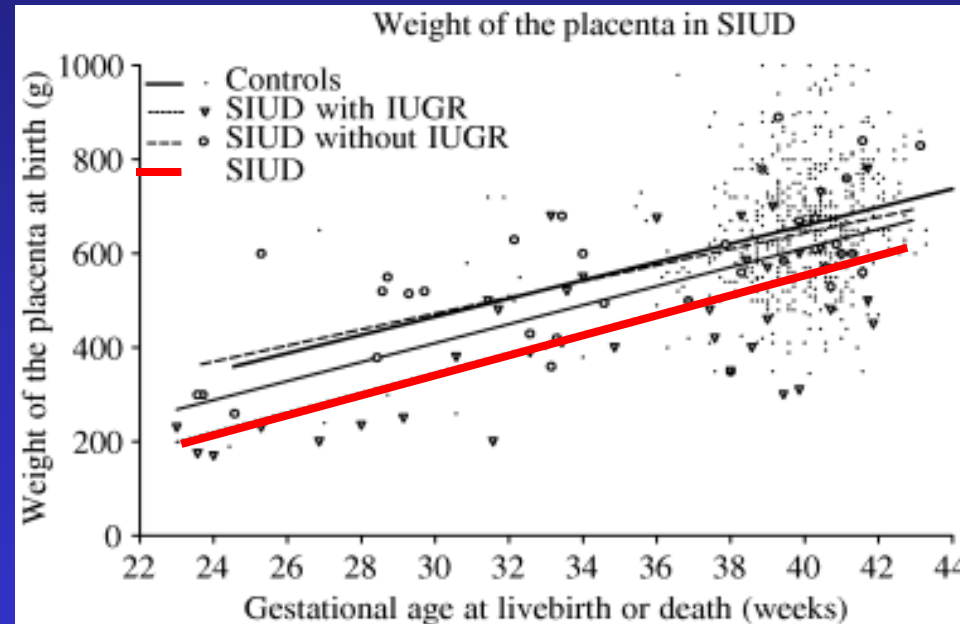


**Thank you**



# Term IUGR/ SFD

- Half of unexplained stillbirths occur  $> 37$  wks
- 50-65% of unexpl stillbirths are (customised) **IUGR**, and have a small placenta:



- In  $>60\%$  of all stillbirths significant **placental or cord pathology** is present



# CS and neonatal hospitalization in term infants with an estimated fetal weight <3<sup>rd</sup> centile

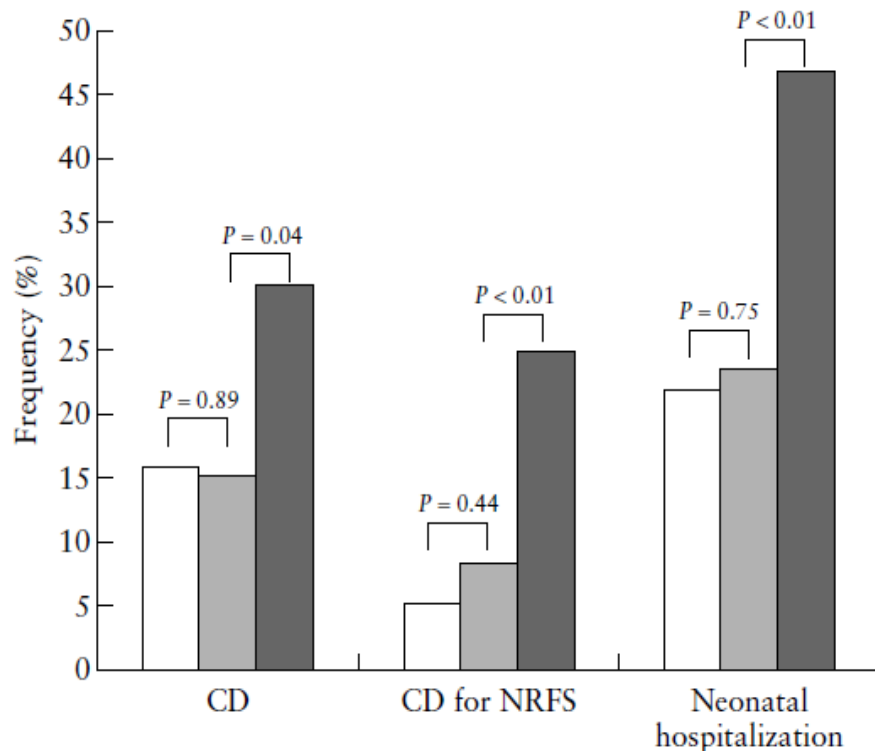


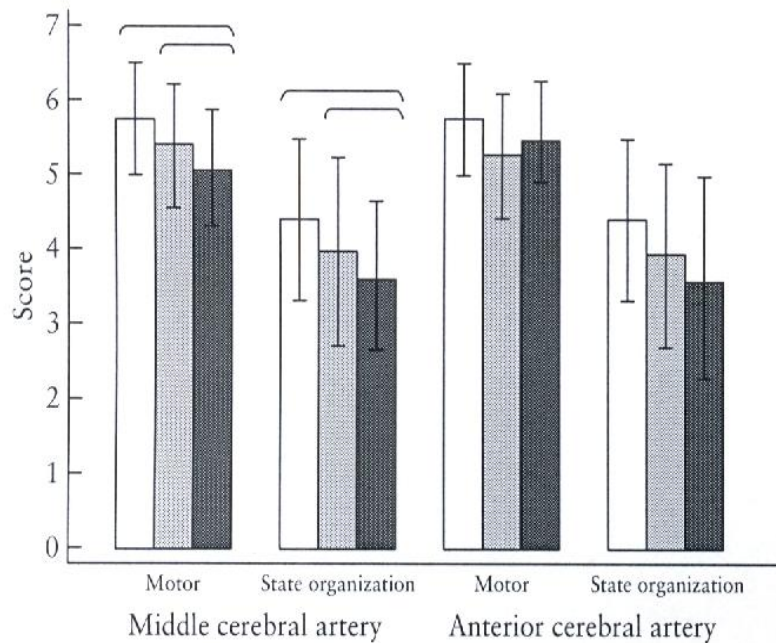
Figure 1 Frequency of intrapartum Cesarean delivery (CD), emergency CD due to non-reassuring fetal status (NRFS) and any period of neonatal hospitalization for controls and for small-for-gestational-age fetuses classified according to estimated fetal weight centile group. □, Controls; ■, SGA ≥ 3<sup>rd</sup> centile; ■, SGA < 3<sup>rd</sup> centile.

-132 SGA, (with normal Dopplers)  
-60 with EFW <3<sup>rd</sup> centile  
-132 controls

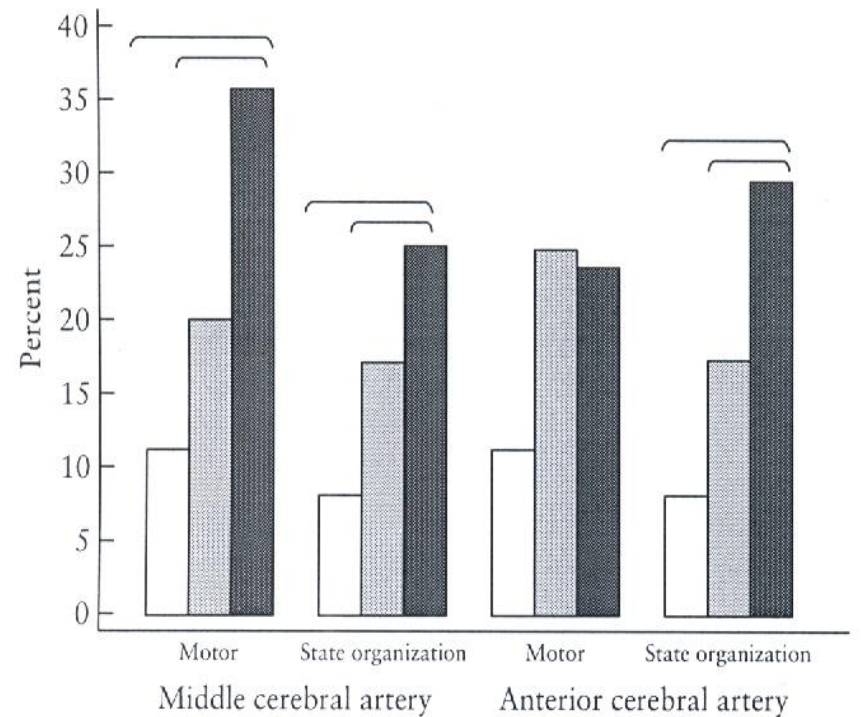
Savchev et al, UOG 2012

# Neonatal neurobehavior in term AGA and SGA infants without and with prenatal redistribution

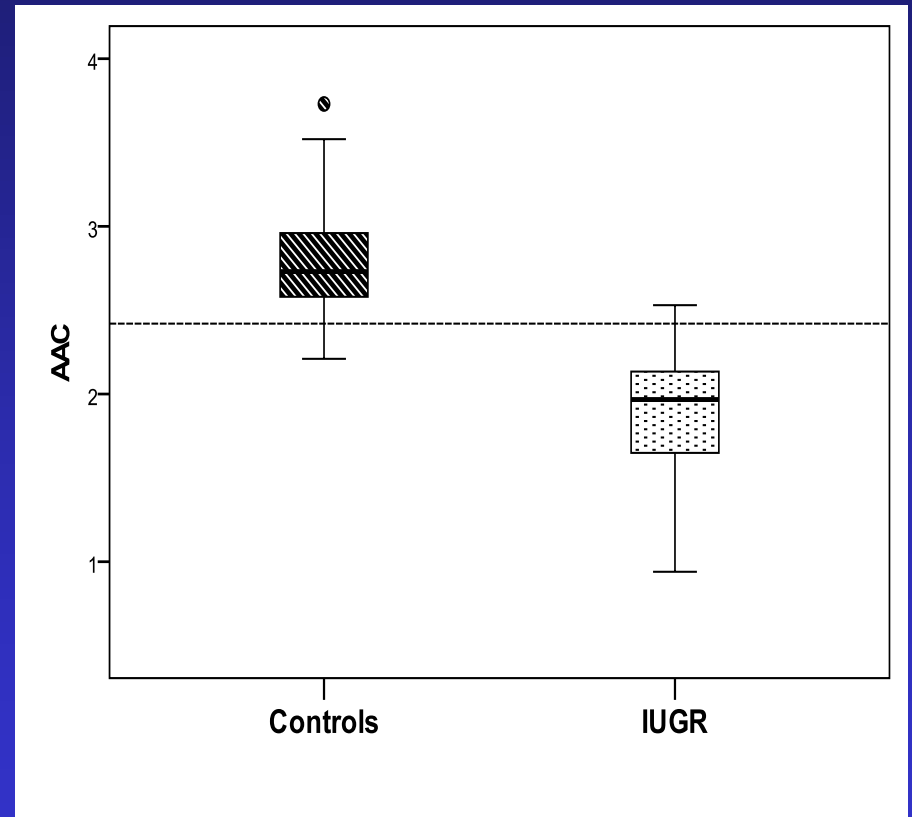
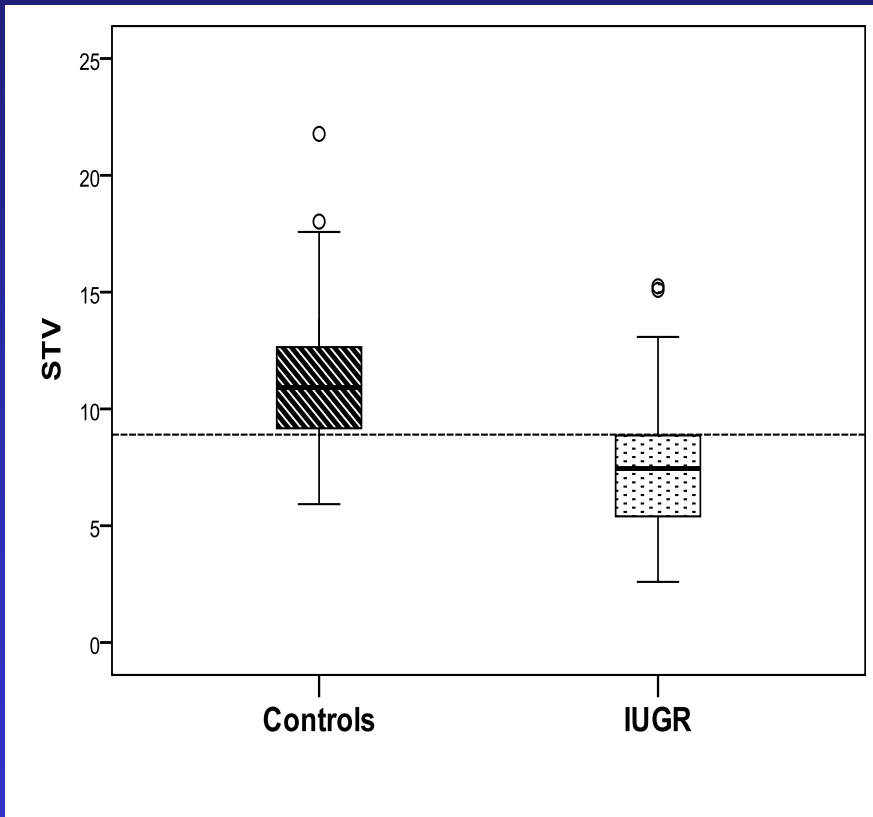
Neurobehavioral scores



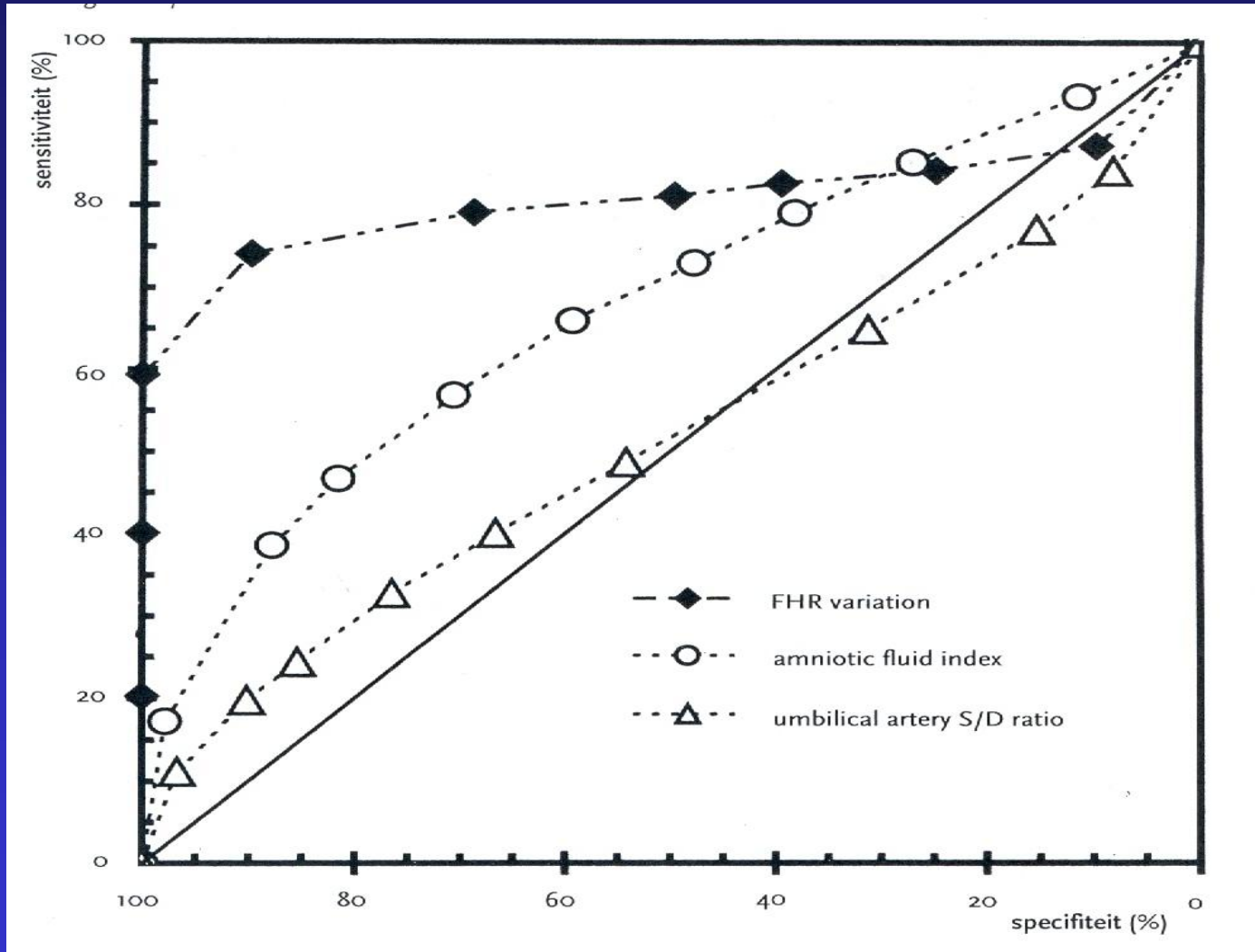
% abnormal neurobehavior



# STV and Average Acceleration capacity in controls and IUGR

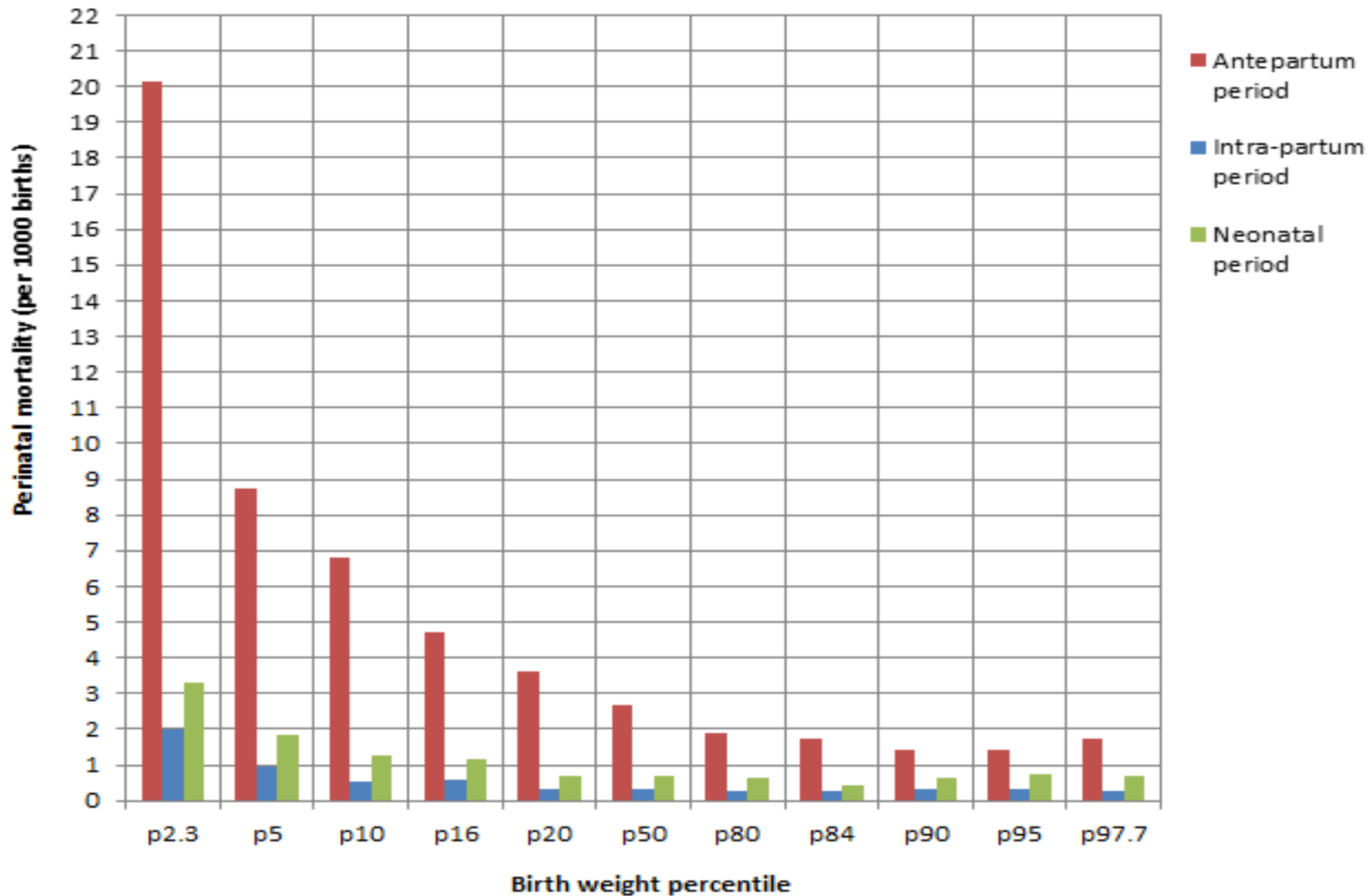


# FHR, Amniotic fluid and Doppler Umb art, 41 wks



N=367, Weiner et al, AJOG, 1994

# Perinatal mortality >28 wks

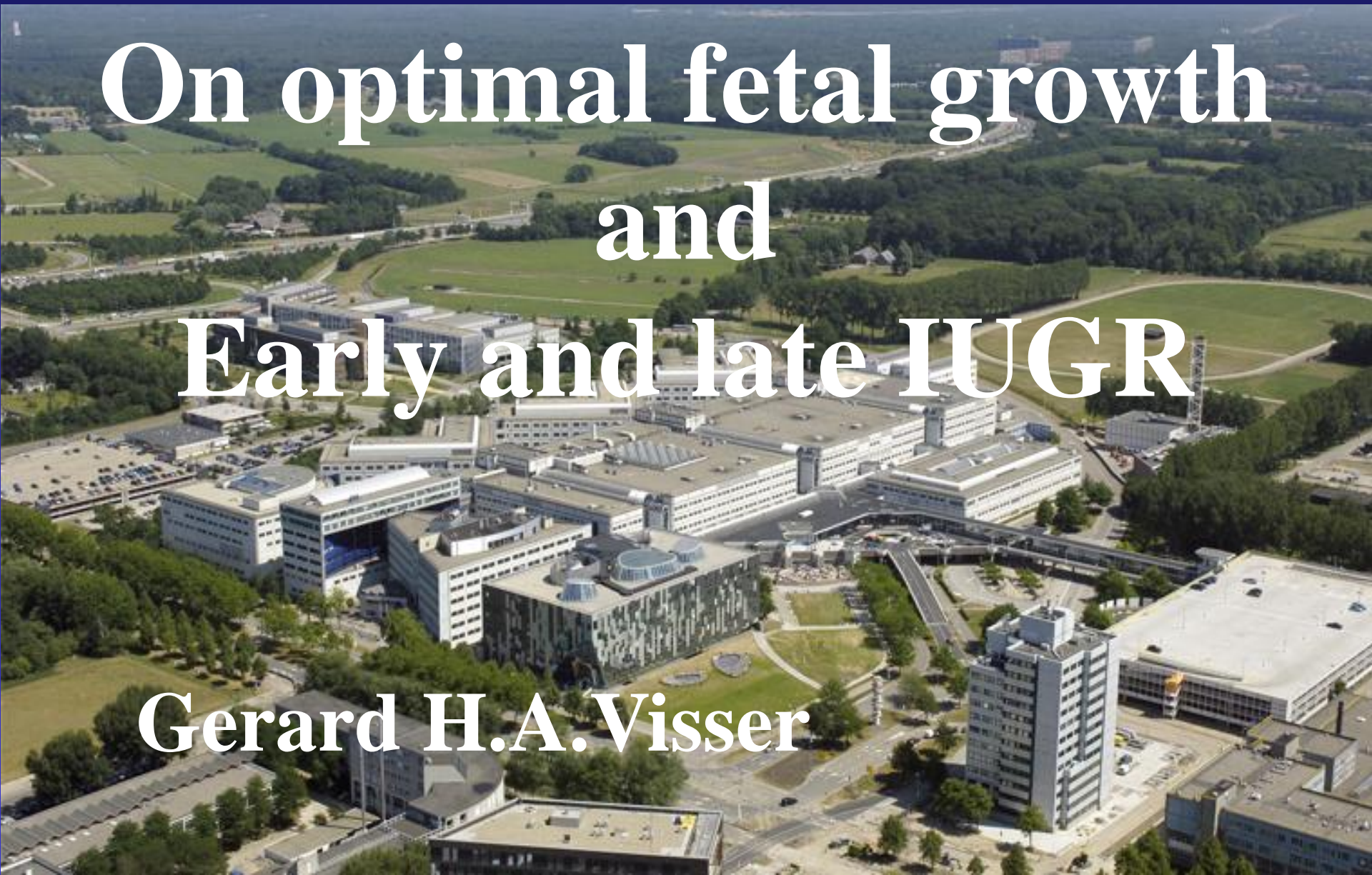




**University Medical Center, Utrecht, the NL**

**On optimal fetal growth  
and  
Early and late IUGR**

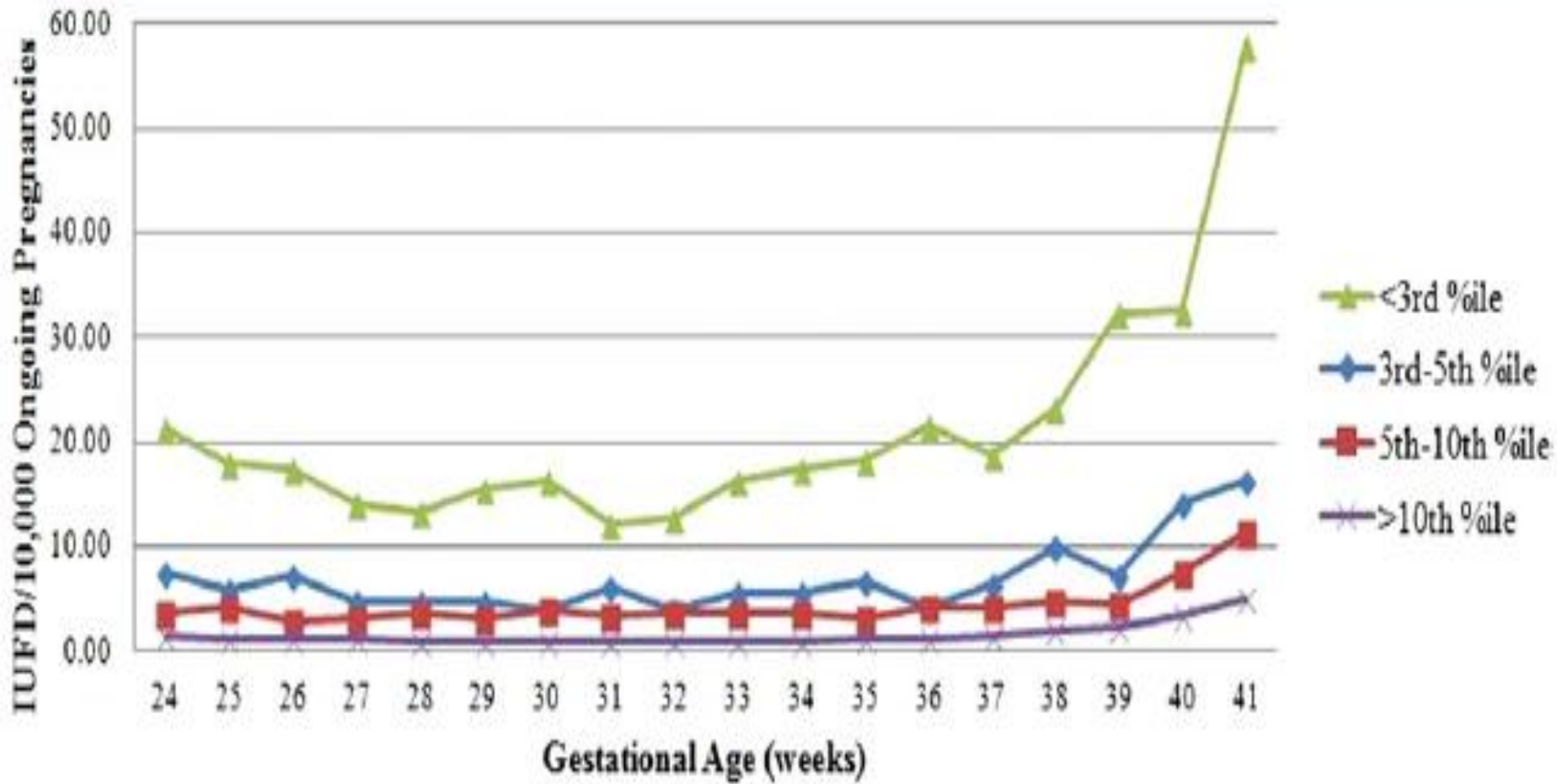
**Gerard H.A. Visser**



# FIGURE

## Risk of IUFD by gestational age

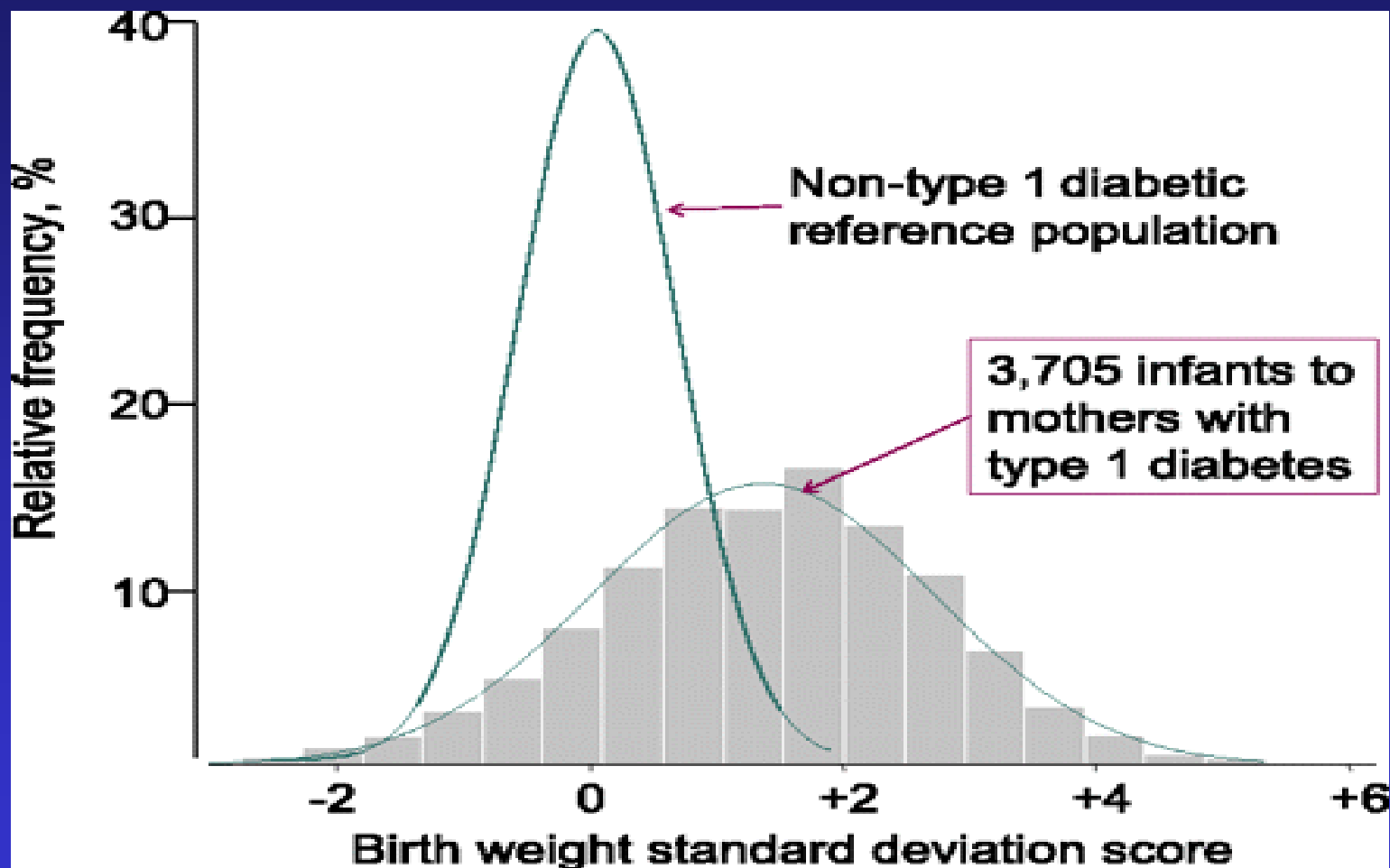
Nationwide data USA 2005



IUFD, intrauterine fetal death.

Pilliod. The risk of intrauterine fetal death in the SGA fetus. Am J Obstet Gynecol 2012.

# Birth weight distribution



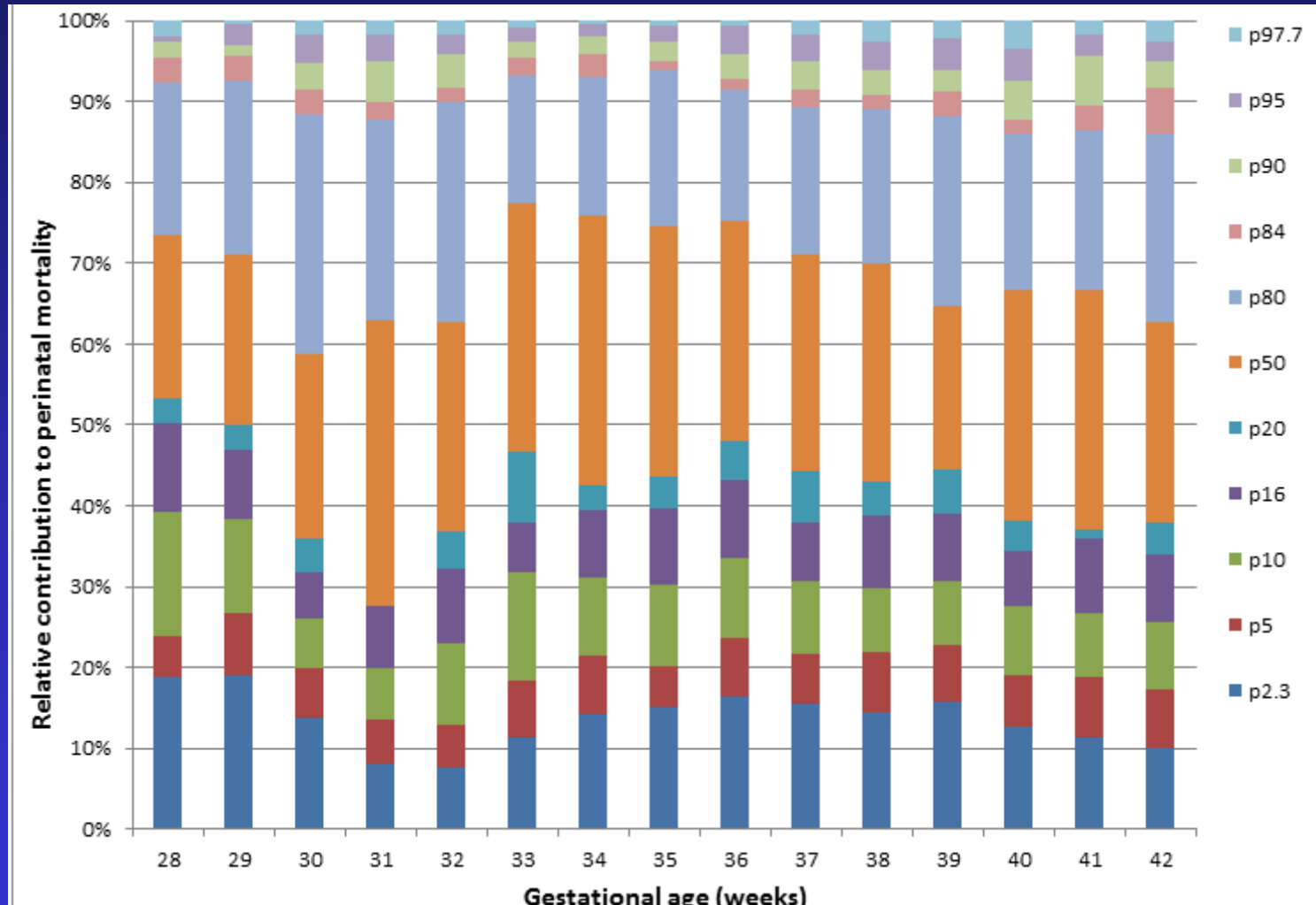


# On optimal fetal growth:

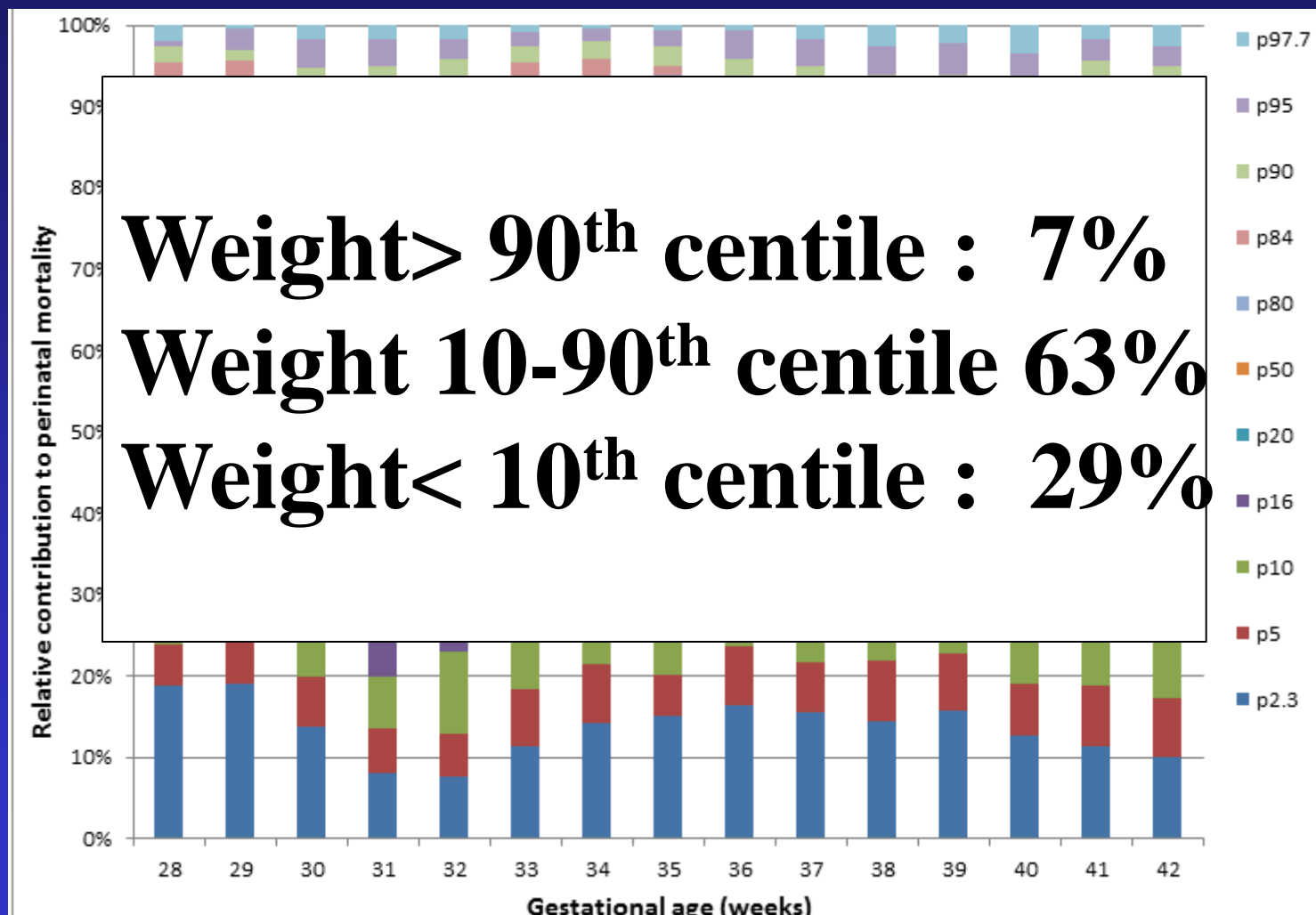
Which birth weight centiles are associated with the lowest perinatal mortality

- Perinatal deaths in the Netherlands (PRN)
- All singletons 2000-2008
- No major malformations
- 28-42 weeks
  
- N=1.170.127 PNM 5.048 (0.4%)

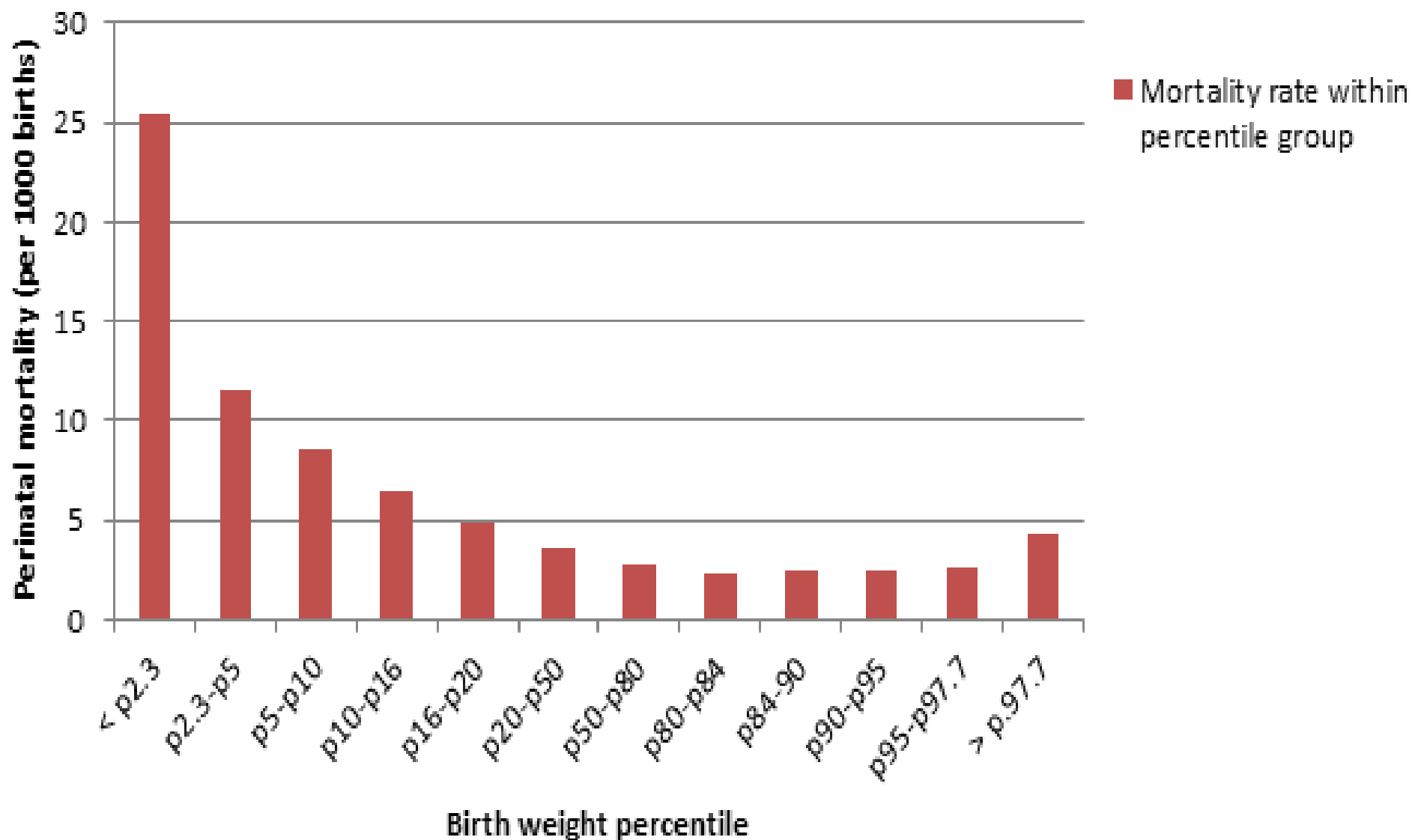
# Contribution of the different birth weight centile groups to perinatal mortality



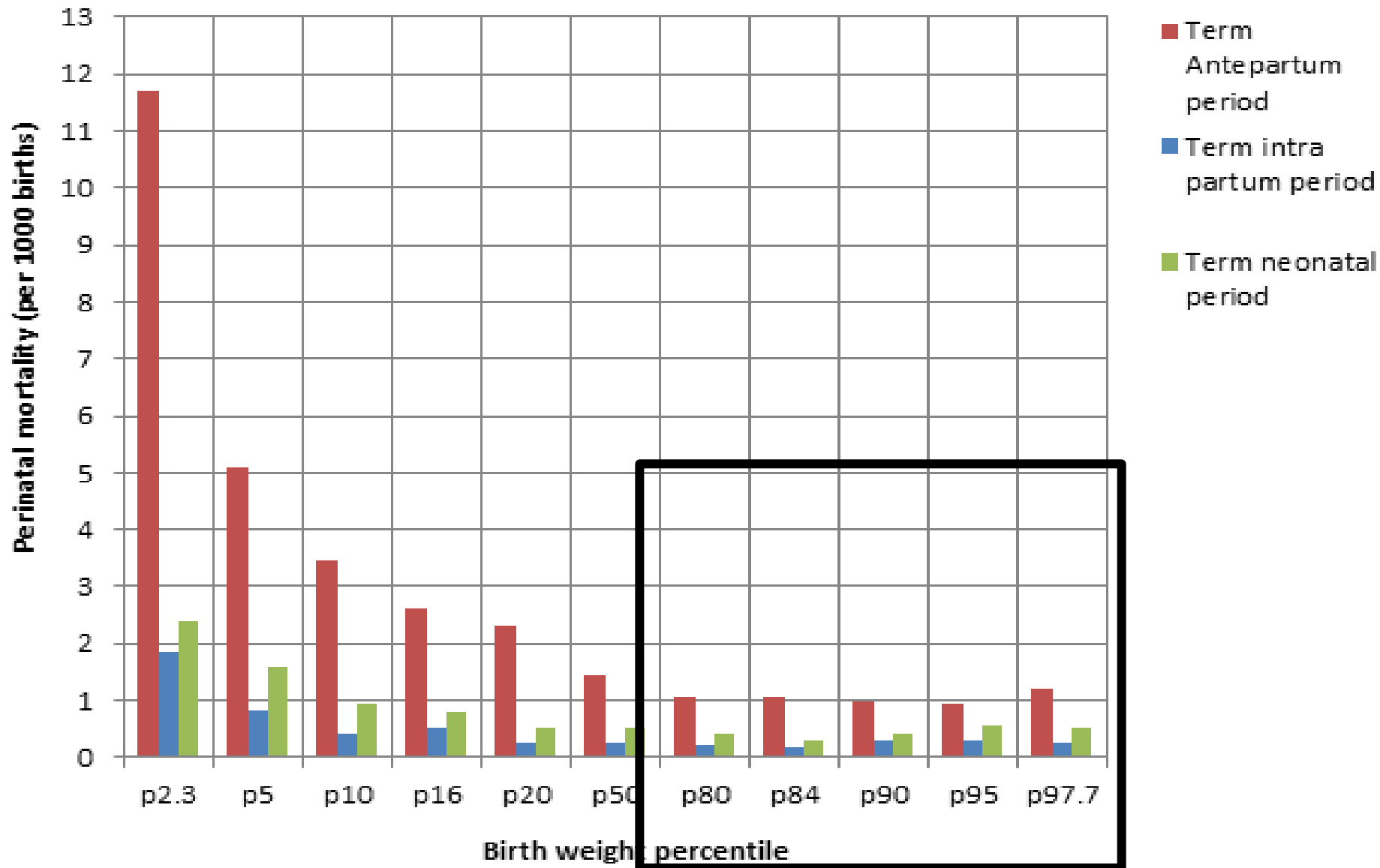
# Contribution of the different birth weight centile groups to perinatal mortality



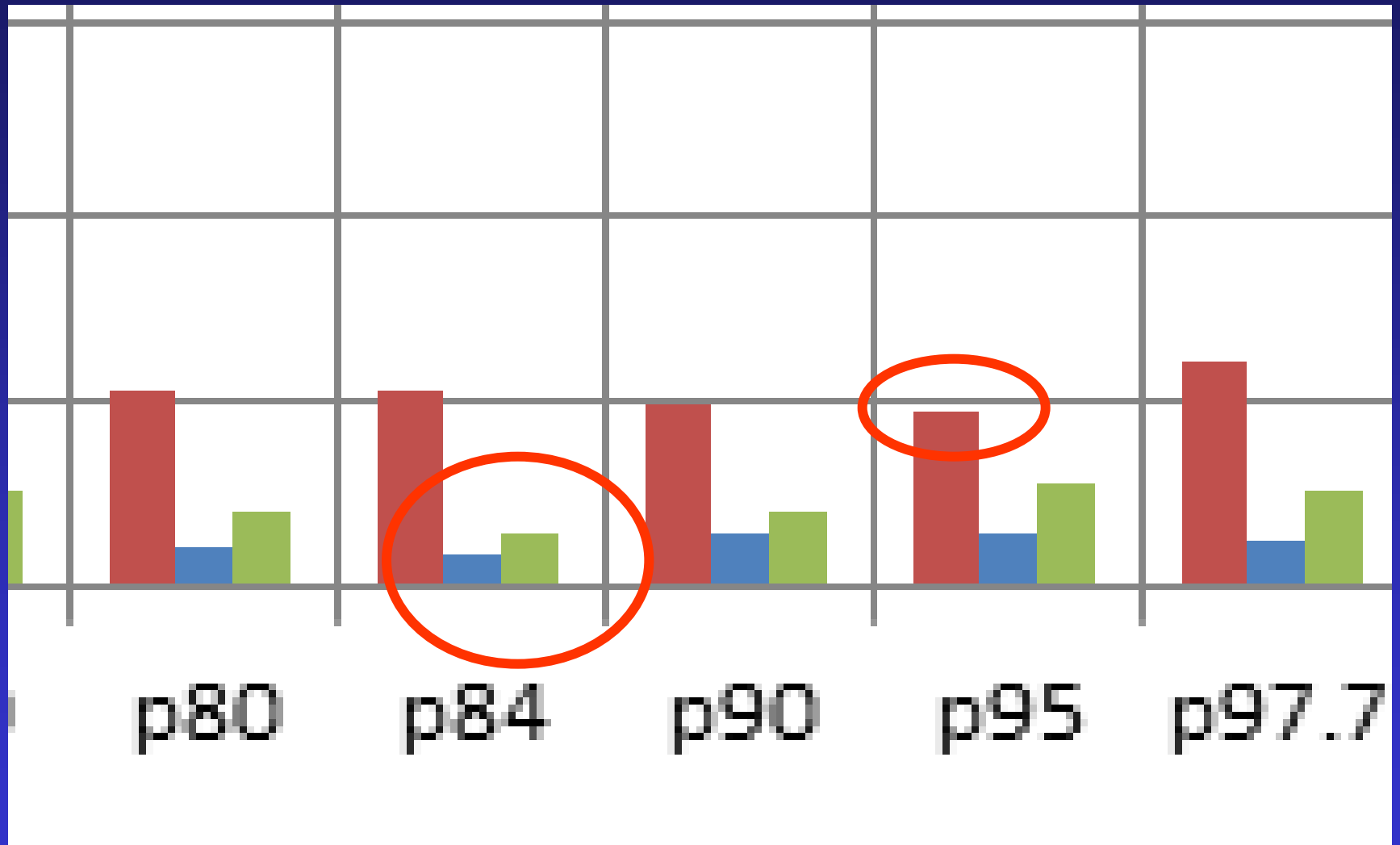
# Perinatal mortality >28 wks, Nlds 2000-2008



# Perinatal mortality $\geq 36$ wks



# Perinatal mortality $\geq 36$ wks



# So, for short term survival

- Birth weight should be around the 90<sup>th</sup> centile
- ‘The bigger the better’
- Why are 90% of infants born too small?

# Human fetal growth is restrained below optimal for fetal survival

Since the evolution of the large head, and changes in pelvic dimensions and orientation in association with bipedalism

constitute a major challenge for vaginal delivery\*

\*Trevathan et al, Evolutionary Medicine 189, 1999



# 1342 Stillbirths > 28 wks gestation; UK

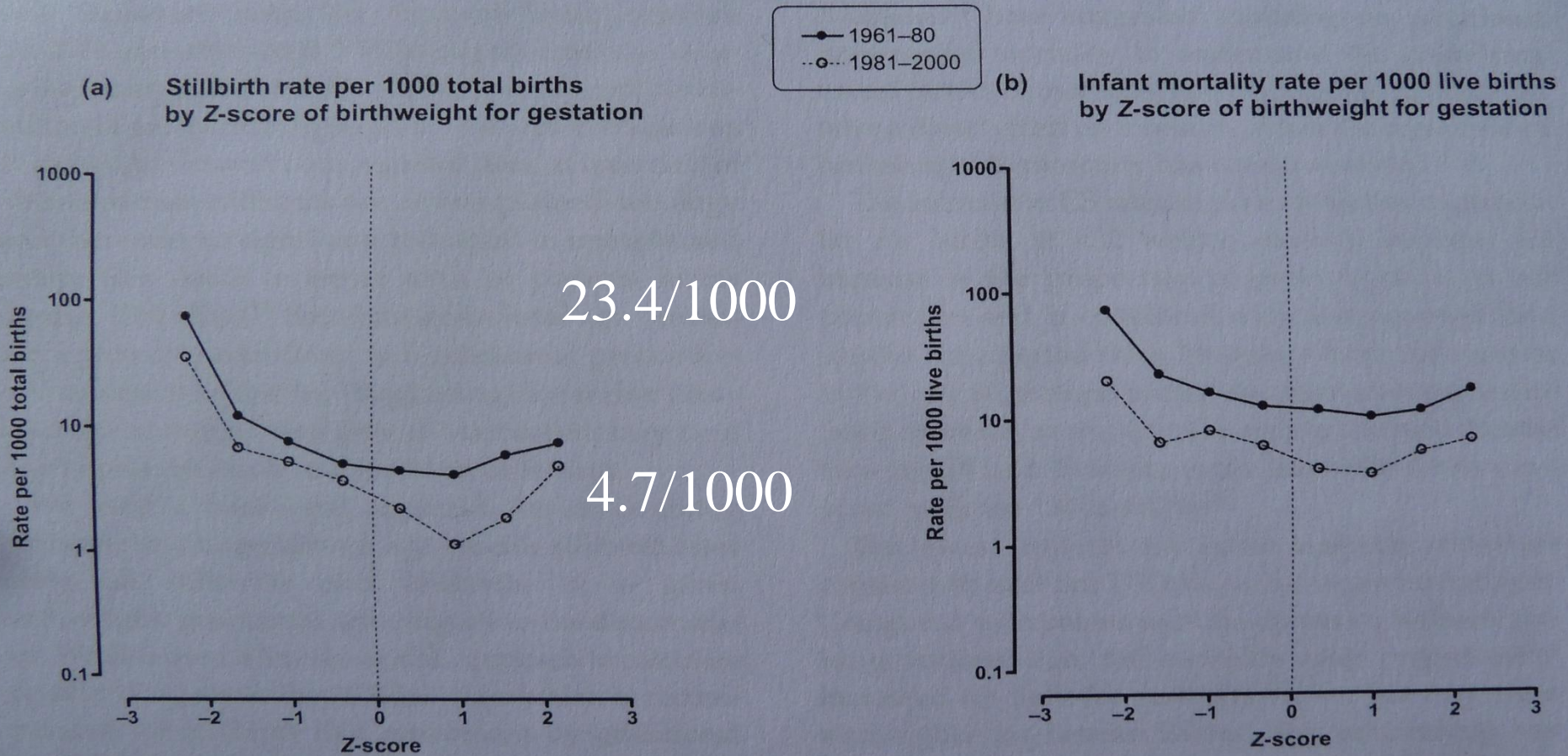


Figure 3. (a) Stillbirth and (b) infant mortality rates (on a log scale) by Z-score of birthweight-for-gestation in singleton births in 1961-80 and 1981-2000, Newcastle upon Tyne.

# Perinatal mortality in relation to birth weight. Nationwide data Norway 1980-1995

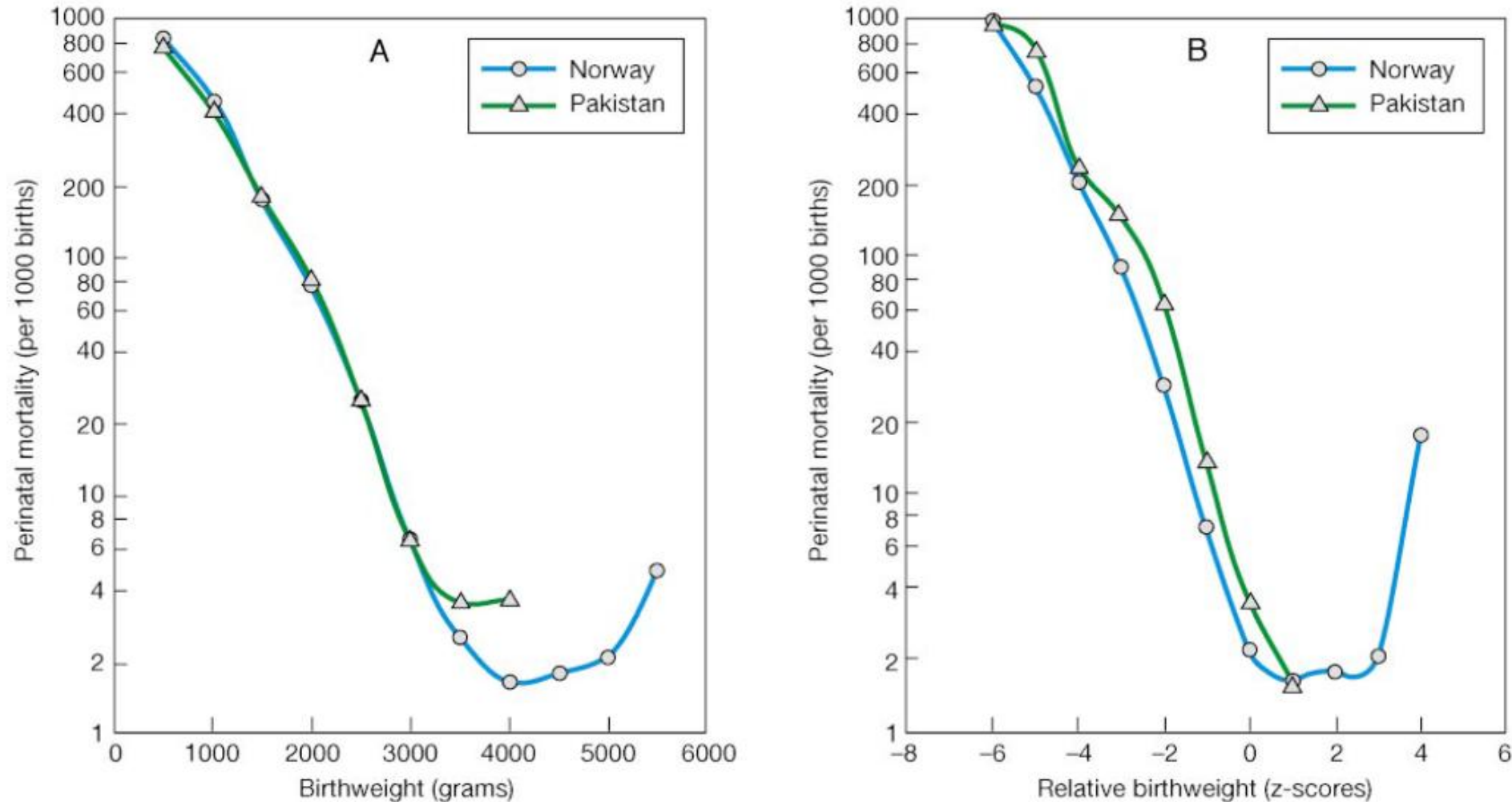


Figure 2 Birthweight-specific mortality before (A) and after (B) adjustment to a relative birthweight scale for Pakistani and Norwegian births, Norway 1980-1995

# Birth weight and death due to cardiovascular disease <65 y of age

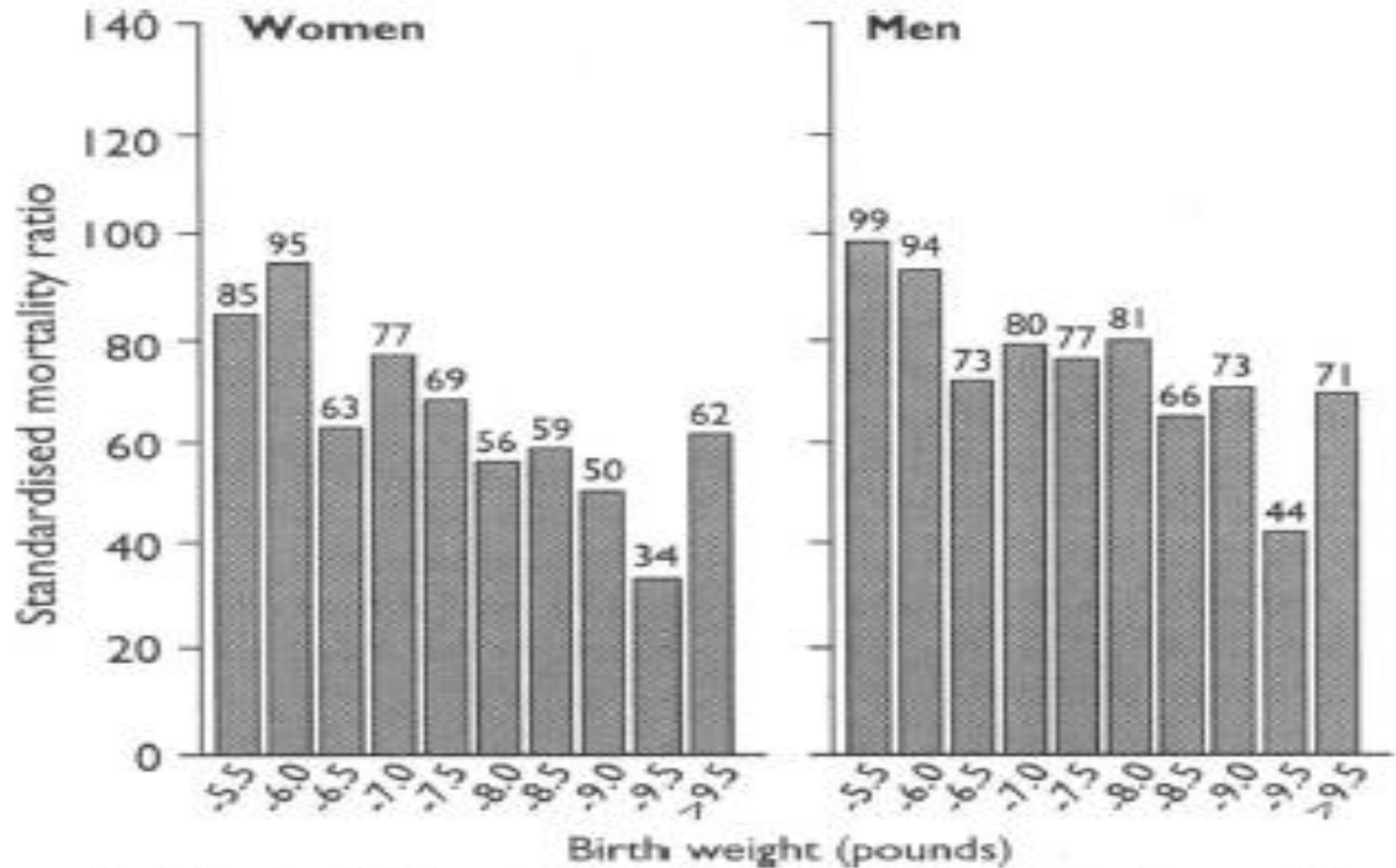


FIG 1—Standardised mortality ratios for cardiovascular disease below age of 65 according to birth weight

# Chronic Heart Disease and Stroke in relation to birth weight

TABLE 2. Rates of CHD and Stroke by Birth-Weight Category Distribution

	Rate per 10 000 (95% CI) by Birth-Weight Category				Sex-Adjusted HR (95% CI) per kg (n=10 803)	HR (95% CI) per Birth Weight z Score (n=9700)
	<3250 g (n=4052)	3250–3749 g (n=5305)	3750–4249 g (n=1199)	≥4250 g (n=247)		
CHD	15.0 (12.7–17.9)	11.9 (10.1–14.2)	7.2 (4.6–11.6)	7.4 (2.8–26.2)	0.63 (0.51–0.78) <i>P</i> <0.001	0.83 (0.73–0.94) <i>P</i> =0.004
Stroke	7.0 (5.5–9.1)	3.2 (2.4–4.5)	1.9 (0.8–5.6)	1.8 (0.26–13.0)	0.41 (0.29–0.59) <i>P</i> <0.001	0.74 (0.60–0.92) <i>P</i> =0.007
CHD or stroke	21.1 (18.3–24.4)	14.9 (12.8–17.3)	9.0 (6.2–13.8)	9.2 (3.9–27.3)	0.57 (0.47–0.69) <i>P</i> <0.001	0.81 (0.73–0.91) <i>P</i> <0.001

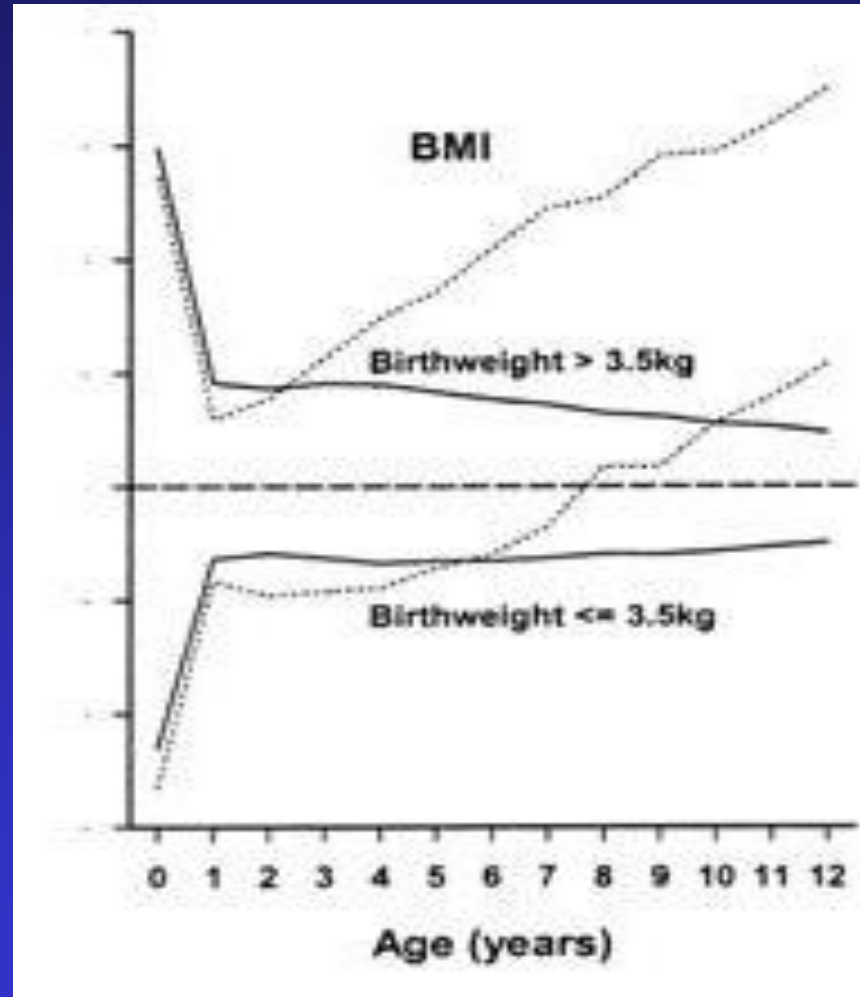
n=10 803.

# So, for short and long term survival

- Your birth weight should be around the 90<sup>th</sup> centile
- And that also holds for weight at 1-2 y of age

# Birthweight, Infant growth & Type-2 diabetes

Mean Z-score

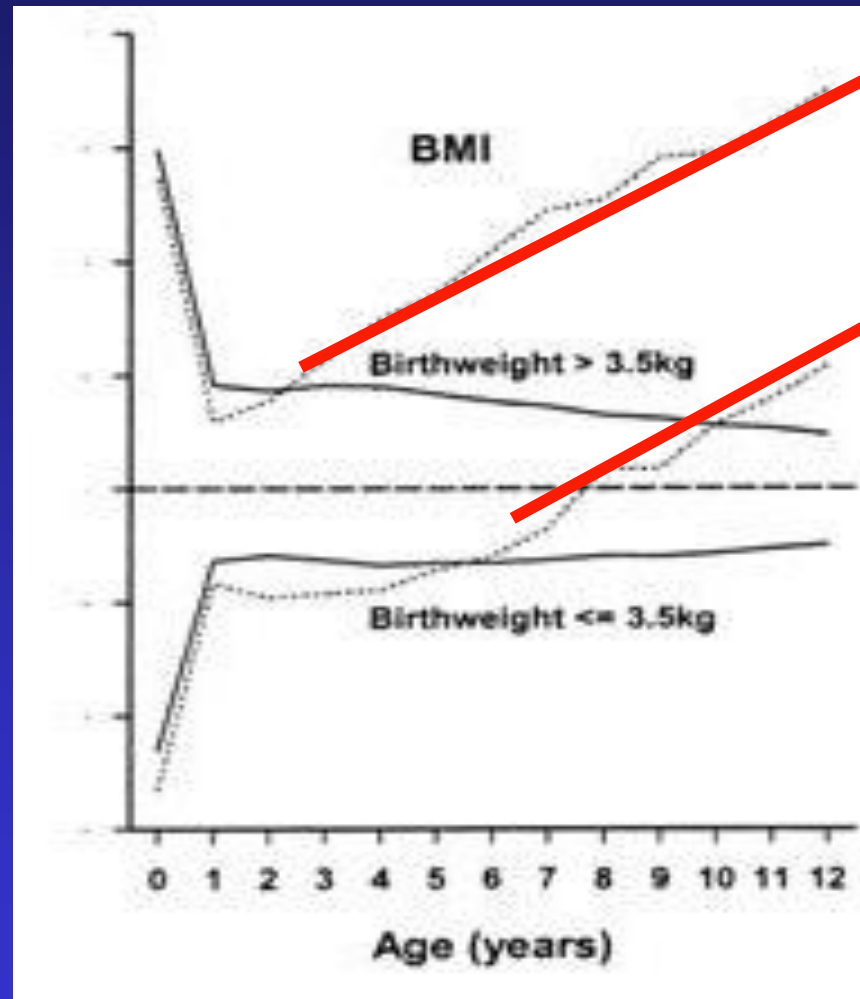


(Eriksson et al, Diab Care 2003; 26: 2006-10)



# Birthweight, Infant growth & Type-2 diabetes

Mean Z-score



diabetes

# Optimal fetal growth

- Conflict of interest ?
- YES



**Birth weight Gerry: 4 kg!**

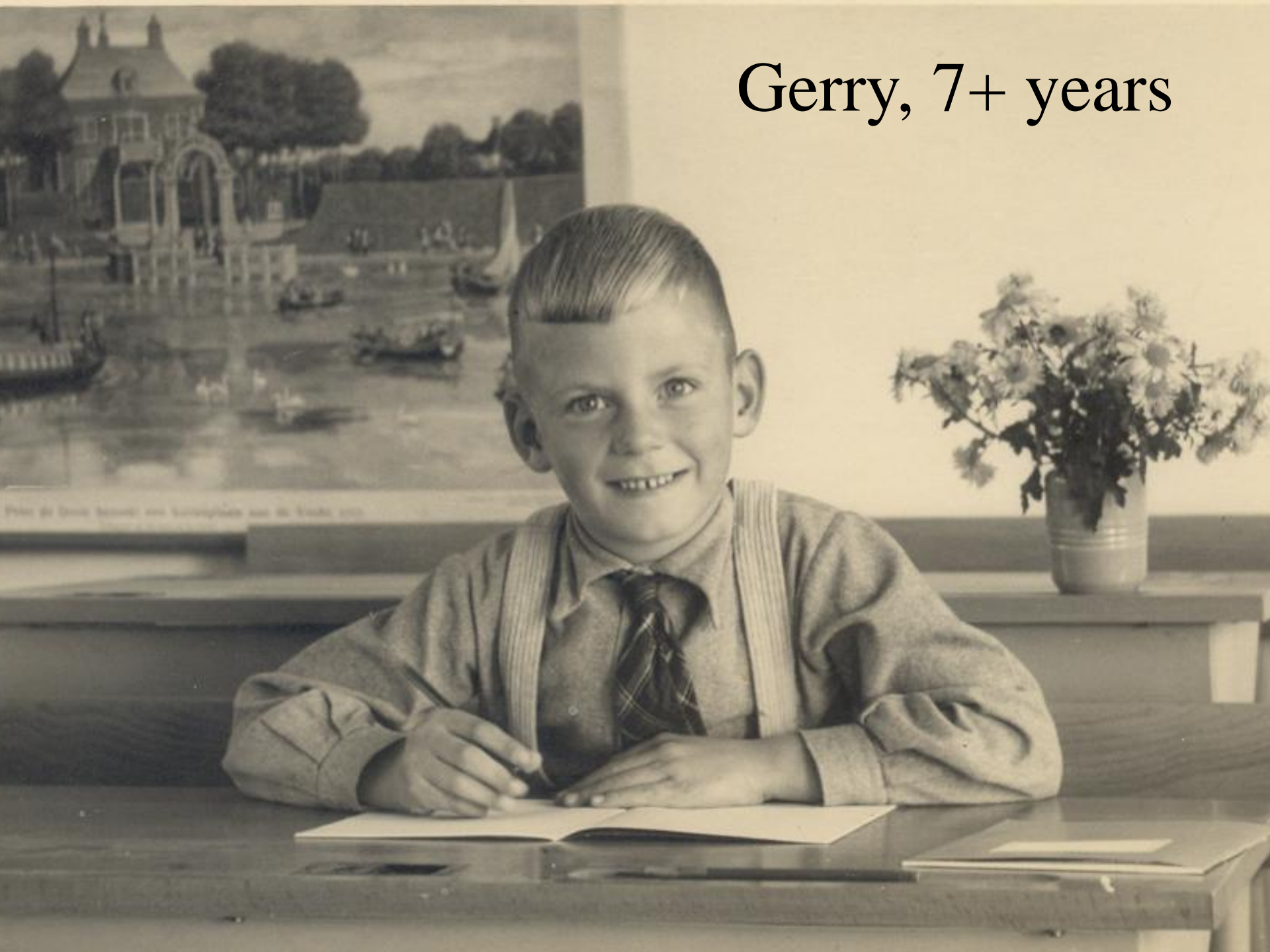


# Gerry, 2+ years





Gerry, 7+ years



# So, for short and long term survival

- Birth weight should be around the 90<sup>th</sup> centile
- Why?

# So, for short and long term survival

- Birth weight should be around the 90<sup>th</sup> centile
- Why?
  - Because these infants had an optimal intrauterine growth, without any growth restraint