



# Preventing post ERCP pancreatitis: What to do and how to do it

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Disclosure

Consultant for:

Cook

Steris

Interscope

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# Objectives

- Review risk factors for post-ERCP pancreatitis
- Updates on post-ERCP pancreatitis prevention/mitigation strategies
- Future directions



GUIDELINE



American Society for Gastrointestinal Endoscopy  
post-ERCP pancreatitis prevention  
recommendations

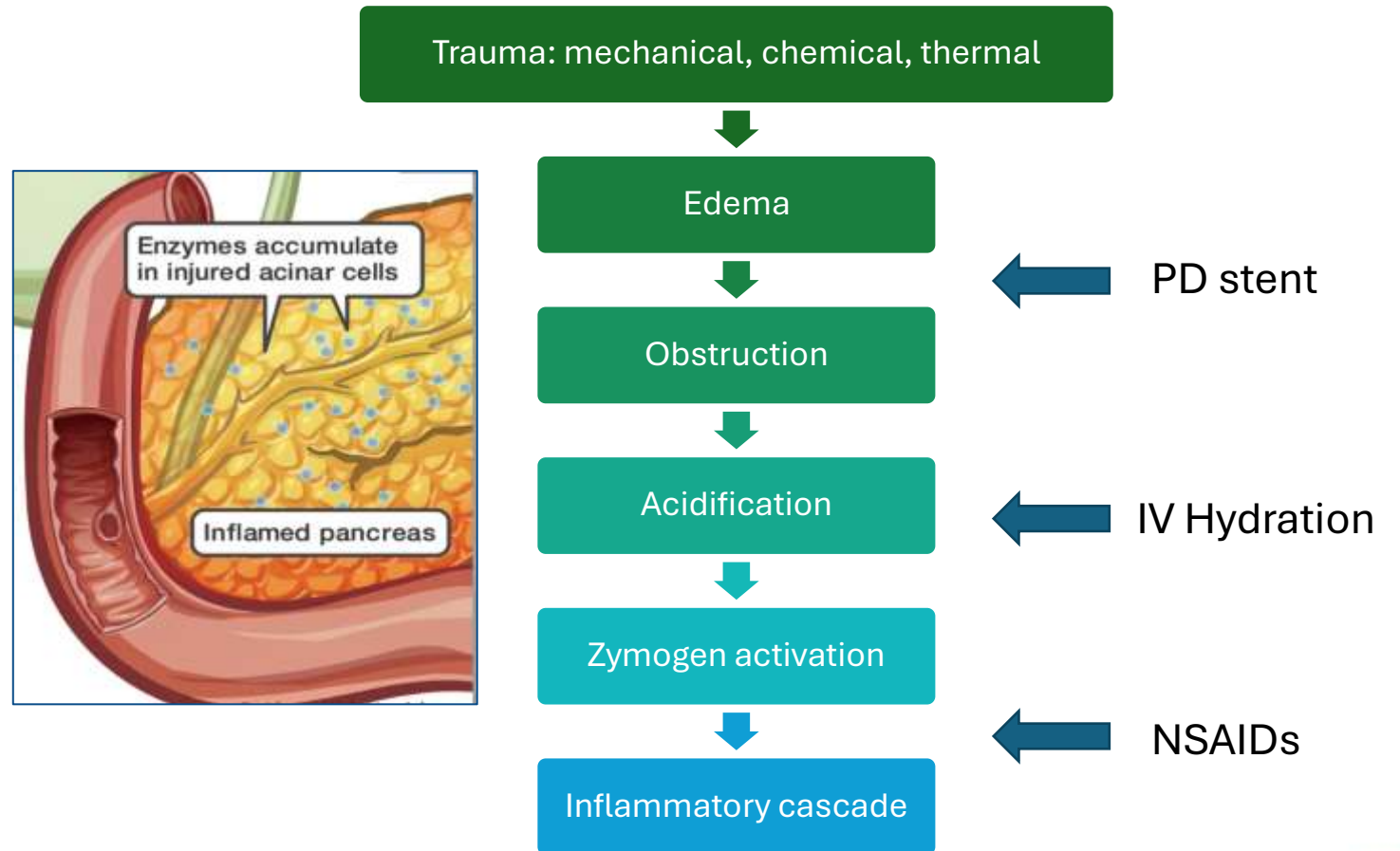
Prepared by: ASGE STANDARDS OF PRACTICE COMMITTEE

## American College of Gastroenterology Guidelines: Management of Acute Pancreatitis

Scott Tenner, MD, MPH, JD, FACG<sup>1</sup>, Santhi Swaroop Vege, MD, MACG<sup>2</sup>, Sunil G. Sheth, MD<sup>3</sup>, Bryan Sauer, MD, MSci, FACG<sup>4</sup>, Allison Yang, MD, MPH<sup>5</sup>, Darwin L. Conwell, MD, MSc, FACG<sup>6</sup>, Rena H. Yadlapati, MD, MHS, FACG<sup>7</sup> and Timothy B. Gardner, MD, FACG<sup>8</sup>

# Post ERCP Pancreatitis (PEP)

- Most common adverse event of ERCP
- Incidence 2%–15%
- Mortality <1%
- About 5% of patients who develop PEP go onto a severe course



# PEP Risk Factors

## Patient related

- **Prior history of PEP**
- **Previous recurrent pancreatitis**
- **Female**
- Nondilated CBD
- Normal bilirubin
- Younger age (<35yo)



## Procedure

- **Trauma associated with prolonged cannulation attempts (> 10 min)**
- **“Difficult” cannulation (“5-5-1” rule)**
- **Repeated pancreatic guidewire passage (>1)**
- **Pancreatic injection**
- Biliary balloon dilation of intact sphincter
- Ampullectomy
- Pancreatic sphincterotomy
- Precut sphincterotomy
- SEMS (nondilated PD)?

# What Can We Do to Prevent/Mitigate PEP?

- Pre-procedural
- Rectal indomethacin 100mg
- Procedural
- **Plus** prophylactic pancreatic duct stent
- ERCP technique
- IV hydration

Multi-targeted preventive therapy

# Rectal Indomethacin

- Dampen pancreatitis inflammatory cascade by inhibiting prostaglandin synthesis and phospholipase A2 activity
- Single 100 mg dose of indomethacin **reduces the incidence of PEP by ~ 50%**<sup>1</sup>
- Administered  $\geq 30$  min before or during<sup>2</sup>
- **NNT = 13** patients to prevent PEP in high risk patients<sup>3</sup>
- **Contraindications:**
  - NSAID allergy
  - Acute PUD
  - Renal insufficiency (creatinine level  $>1.4$  mg/dL)
  - Pregnant woman  $\geq 30$  weeks
- **For whom?**



<sup>1</sup>Buxbaum et al. GIE 2023, <sup>2</sup>Luo et al. Lancet 2016, <sup>3</sup>Elmunzer et al. NEJM 2012

# Guidelines

ESGE 2020

ASGE 2023

ACG 2024

## Prophylaxis

1 ESGE recommends routine rectal administration of 100 mg of diclofenac or indomethacin immediately before endoscopic retrograde cholangiopancreatography (ERCP) in all patients without contraindications to nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug administration.

Strong recommendation, moderate quality evidence.

**Recommendation 1:** Among unselected patients undergoing ERCP, the ASGE recommends periprocedural rectal NSAIDs be given to prevent PEP (*strong recommendation/moderate quality of evidence*).

## Preventing PEP

6. We recommend rectal indomethacin to prevent PEP in individuals considered to be at high risk of post-ERCP pancreatitis Strong recommendation, moderate quality of evidence

7. We suggest placement of a pancreatic duct stent in patients at high risk for PEP who are receiving rectal indomethacin Conditional recommendation, low quality of evidence

Cost of rectal indomethacin has skyrocketed from \$2 in 2005 to \$723.81 in 2023  
Median hospital charge of \$1,867.34!



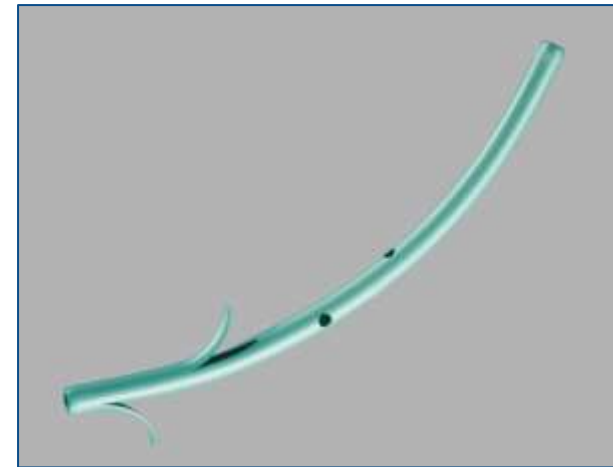
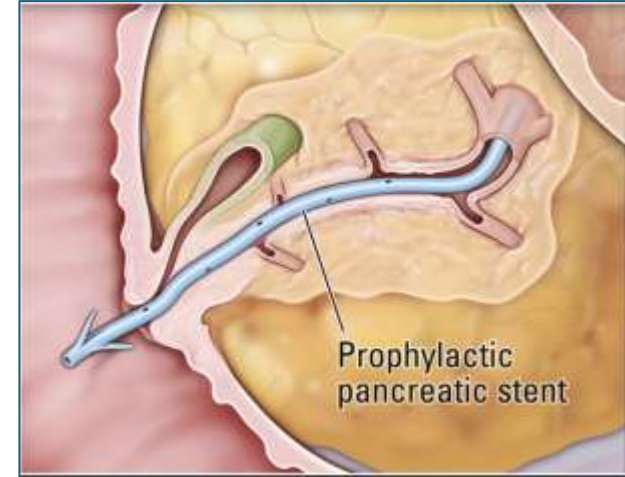
# ERCP Best Practice Techniques



- ✓ Patient selection and indication - avoid diagnostic ERCP
- ✓ Wire-guided cannulation rather than contrast-guided approach
  - 15 RCTs- 50% reduction in the rate of PEP
- ✓ Avoid PD- forceful or repeated wire advancement
- ✓ Placement of prophylactic PD stents
- ✓ "Difficult cannulation" situations, move quickly onto plan B strategy
  - Double guidewire
  - Needle-knife fistulotomy
  - Precut sphincterotomy over PD stent

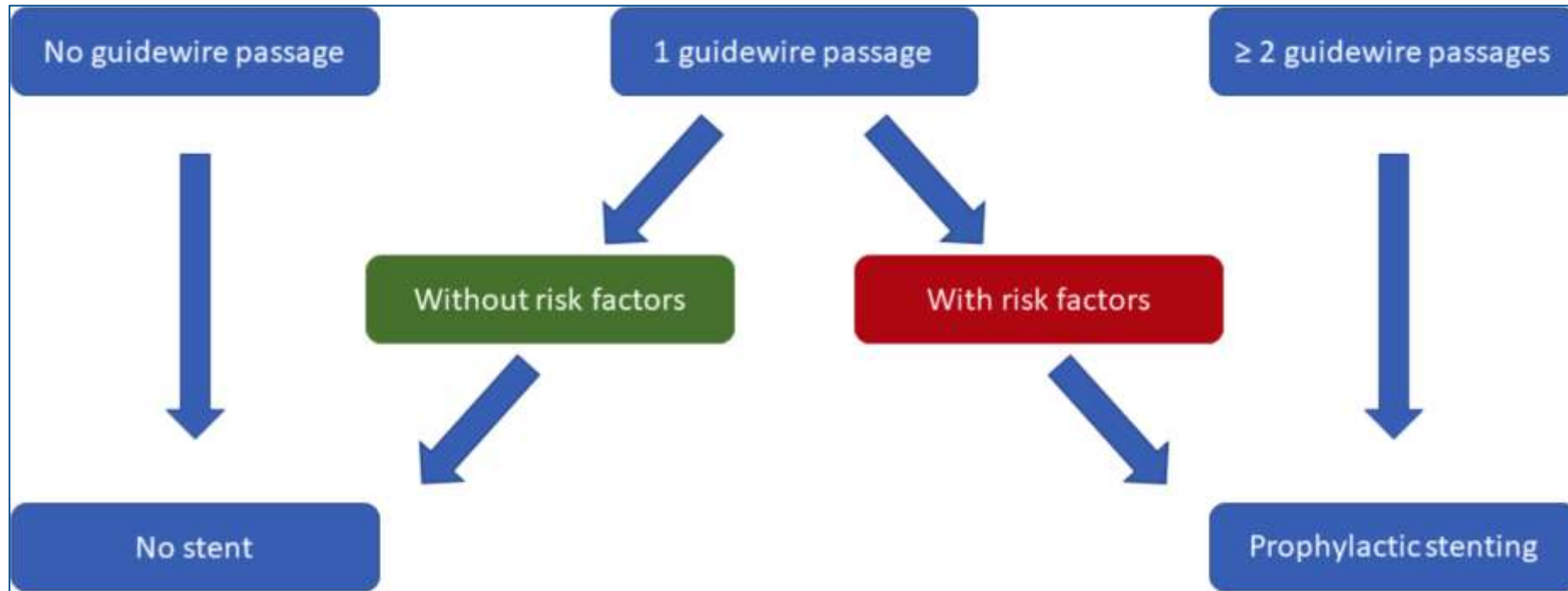
# Prophylactic PD Stents

- In **high risk patients** where PD is repeatedly or deeply accessed or inadvertently opacified
- Reduces risk of PEP by 65%<sup>1</sup>
- NNT= 8<sup>2</sup>
- **ONLY** intervention that reduces both moderate and severe PEP
- 5Fr > 3Fr stent without internal flange<sup>3</sup>
- AXR to confirm spontaneous passage within ~ 2 weeks
- Spontaneous passage in > 90%<sup>4</sup>
- Otherwise, EGD to remove stent



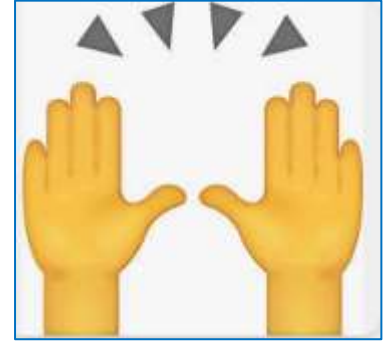
<sup>1</sup>Devriere, *Gastrointest Endosc Clin N Am* 2011, <sup>2</sup>Choudhary *GIE* 2011, <sup>3</sup>Afghani, *Endoscopy* 2014, *ESGE guidelines* 2014

# Prophylactic PD Stents



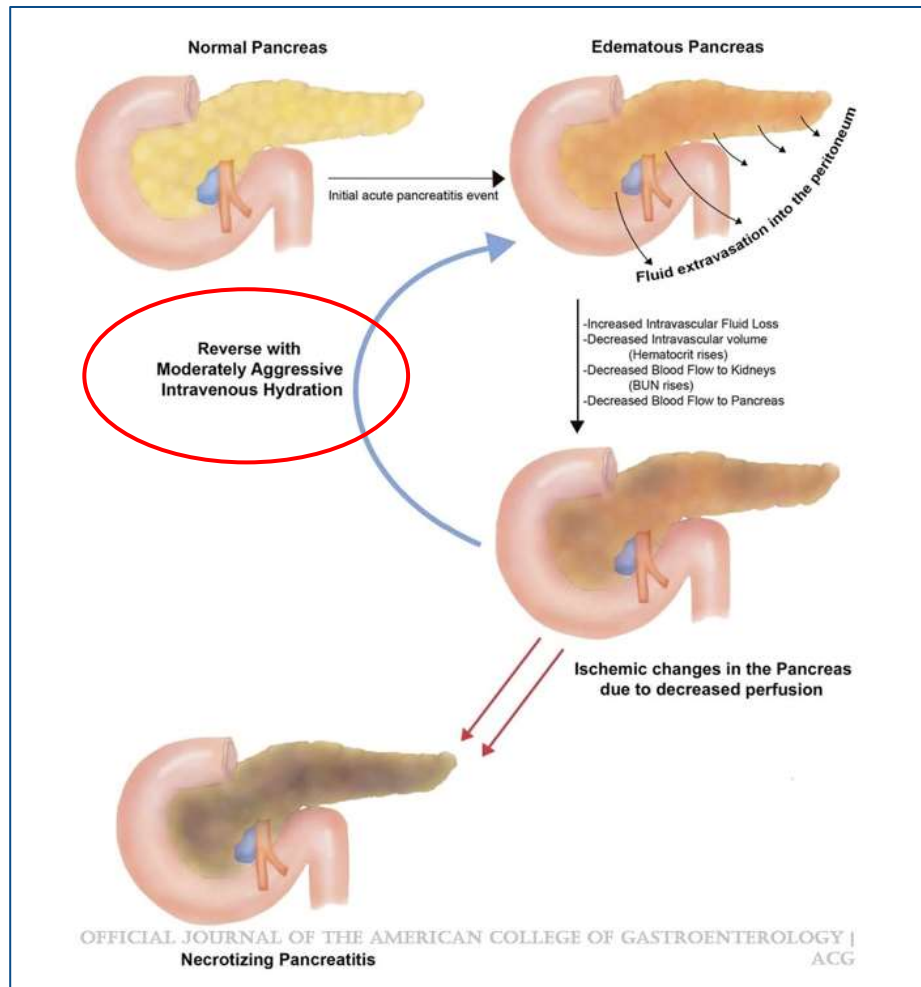
- **BUT... in the real world, prophylactic PD stents are used in ~50% of high-risk cases, despite compelling evidence of their efficacy**

# PD Stent + Indomethacin Better



- RCT non-inferiority study of 1950 patients across 20 centers
- **In high risk patients**
  - >80% were difficult cannulation
- **32% higher risk in the rectal indomethacin alone vs. indomethacin + stent of developing PEP**
- Fewer cases of severe post-ERCP pancreatitis and death
- Most benefit seen in the highest risk patients
- **NNT = 7** to prevent 1 case of PEP in the highest risk (score  $\geq 3$ )

# IV Hydration: Rationale



- **Decreased perfusion of the pancreas** from third space losses and microangiopathic effects
- **Intravenous hydration can promote blood flow** preventing pancreatic cellular death and the ongoing release of pancreatic enzymes activating the numerous cascades characteristic of pancreatic sepsis and necrosis

# Aggressive Hydration



In unselected patients undergoing ERCP, the ASGE suggests aggressive periprocedural and postprocedural intravenous hydration to prevent PEP pancreatitis (Conditional recommendation/Moderate quality of evidence).



- Based on 12 RCTs:
- **56%** reduction in rate of PEP compared to standard hydration
- No difference in the risk of volume overload between the 2 groups
- **NNT = 17** patients treated with AH to prevent 1 episode of PEP

# Closer Look at the Details

- Lactated Ringer's solution
- Rate
  - ✓ **Aggressive** = 20 mL/kg **bolus** and 3 mL/kg/h for 8 hours post procedure<sup>1</sup>
  - ✓ Standard = no bolus, 3 mL/kg/h
- Timing: Early >> rapid<sup>2</sup>
- **WATERFALL** study for acute pancreatitis:
  - IV hydration strategy tailored to volume status<sup>3</sup>
    - ✓ 10 ml/kg bolus in patients with hypovolemia or no bolus in euvolemia, followed by 1.5 ml/kg/hour over 72 hours
    - ✓ Fluid overload 20.5% in aggressive vs. 6.3% in moderate (p= 0.004)
- **FLUYT** study- aggressive LR hydration + NSAIDs was not superior to NSAIDs alone in mod/high risk, but did show a trend toward less severe PEP<sup>4</sup>

Total ~3L vs. 1.5L (70 kgs patient)

 Total 8.3 vs. 6.6L given!

# Future Directions

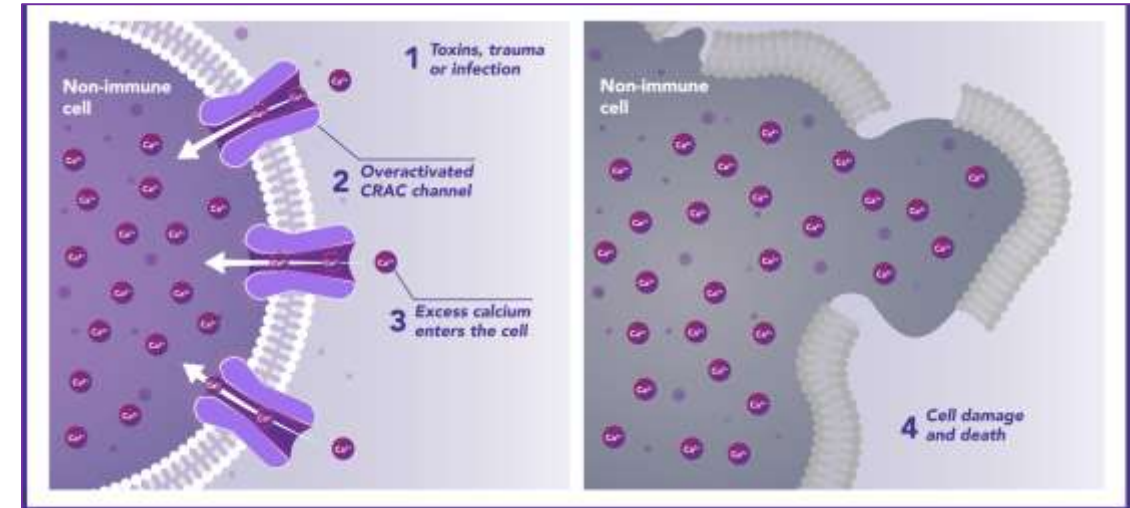
- Can we further identify clinical characteristics associated with increased PEP risk such as race, BMI, etc?
- PEP predictors to help tailor therapy
- Should outpatient and inpatient PEP be managed the same?
- Call to action for drug price regulations
- Room for improvement overall, as rate of PEP and associated mortality has not decreased despite guidelines





# New Therapies on the Horizon?

- Novel calcium release-activated calcium (CRAC) channel inhibitor
- In the setting of acute pancreatitis + SIRS
- Targets multiple inflammatory pathways:
  - End organ
  - Pancreatic acinar and ductal cells
  - Pro-inflammatory mediators
  - Cytokines
  - Macrophages
  - Neutrophils
- Daily IV infusion over 4 hours x 3 days



# CARPO trial- Phase IIB



- International, double-blinded, randomised, placebo-controlled study designed to determine the dose-response and efficacy of CRAC
  - 216 patients with acute pancreatitis and  $\geq 2$  SIRS
- **Results-**
  - ✓ **Faster** time to **solid food tolerance** vs. placebo
    - 43.6% relative reduction (2.1 day improvement) in median
  - ✓ **No new onset severe respiratory failure** vs. 4/47 (8.5%) placebo (p=0.0027)
  - ✓ **Lower rate** of new onset **necrotizing pancreatitis** at 30 days (30%) vs. placebo (37%)
  - ✓ **No patient** with **> 21 day LOH**

# Summary

- PEP is the Achilles heel of ERCP
- Multi-targeted mitigation strategies include:
  - ✓ **Pre-procedure**- rectal indomethacin
  - ✓ **Peri-procedure**- wire cannulation, PD stents
  - ✓ **Post-procedure**- IV lactated Ringer's
- Potential medical treatments are on the horizon
- Despite data, strategies are under-utilized ➡ call for action!



Thank you!



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