

*Challenge Your Thinking*

# Dose-exposure-response analysis of finerenone on serum potassium and cardiovascular outcomes among patients with heart failure: Insights from FINEARTS-HF

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# Background

- Finerenone reduces the risk of total heart failure events and cardiovascular death among patients with HF with mildly reduced or preserved ejection fraction
- Finerenone is also known to reduce NT-proBNP and raise serum potassium, compared with placebo
- Whether the effects of finereone are dose/exposure dependent is not clear

# FINEARTS-HF Study design

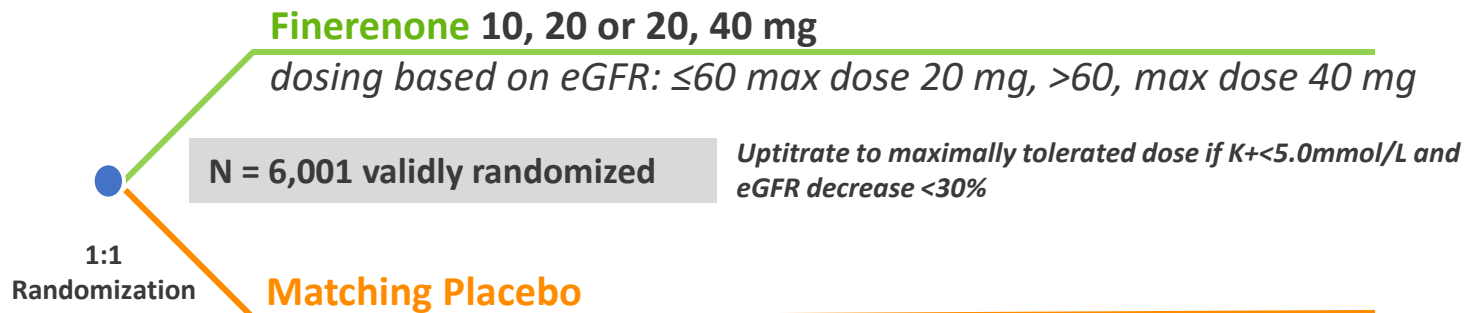
Randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled trial of patients with HFmrEF/HFpEF

## Key Inclusion Criteria

- Symptomatic HF with LVEF  $\geq 40\%$
- Age  $\geq 40$  yrs
- Elevated natriuretic peptide levels
- Structural heart disease (LA $\uparrow$  or LVH)
- Diuretics in the 30d prior to randomization

## Key Exclusion Criteria

- eGFR  $< 25$  mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>
- Potassium  $> 5.0$  mmol/L
- Symptomatic hypotension
- MRA use 30d prior to randomization



Visits: Month 1, then 3-monthly for first 12 months, 4-monthly visits thereafter

# FINEARTS-HF Dosing Algorithm – serum K

| Serum / plasma potassium (K <sup>+</sup> mmol/L) |      | Action to be taken                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------|------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First sample:</b>                             |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <5.0                                             |      | Increase to the next higher dose level (or continue at maximum permitted dose level)                                                                                                                                                     |
| ≥5.0 to <5.5                                     |      | Continue the current dose level                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| ≥5.5 to <6.0                                     |      | Down-titrate to the next lower dose if possible; if patient is already on dose level 1, interrupt study intervention. K <sup>+</sup> should be re-checked within 72 h of initial K <sup>+</sup> result awareness; follow <b>option a</b> |
| ≥6.0                                             |      | Interrupt study intervention and K <sup>+</sup> should be re-checked within 72 h of initial K <sup>+</sup> result awareness; follow <b>option b</b>                                                                                      |
| <b>Second and subsequent sample:</b>             |      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Option a</b>                                  | <5.5 | Continue current dose                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|                                                  | ≥5.5 | Down-titrate to the next lower dose if possible, or interrupt study intervention and recheck K <sup>+</sup>                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Option b</b>                                  | <5.5 | Restart at dose level 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                  | ≥5.5 | Continue to withhold study intervention, further monitoring of K <sup>+</sup> . Restart at dose level 1 <b>ONLY</b> if K <sup>+</sup> is <5.0 mmol/L                                                                                     |

# Analytic Approach

- For data visualization, finerenone dose was considered as the dose administered before the respective PD measurement
- Non-linear mixed effects models were fit to explore relationships of repeated measures of dose/exposure with outcomes
- Serum potassium
  - Thresholds of >5.5 and >6.0 mmol/L
- NT-proBNP
  - Ratio of current concentration to baseline
- Clinical Events
  - Repeated time to event analyses (CV death & total HF events)

# Results

N=6,001



Mean eGFR  $62 \pm 20$   
mL/min/1.73 m<sup>2</sup>

n=3,168 eGFR >60  
Finerenone 20 -> 40 mg/day

n=2,833 eGFR ≤60  
Finerenone 10 -> 20 mg/day

Mean prescribed dose  
 $33 \pm 9$  mg/day

Mean prescribed dose  
 $16 \pm 4$  mg/day



Finerenone  
concentrations  
n=6,658 measurements



Serum K<sup>+</sup>  
n=123,720 measurements

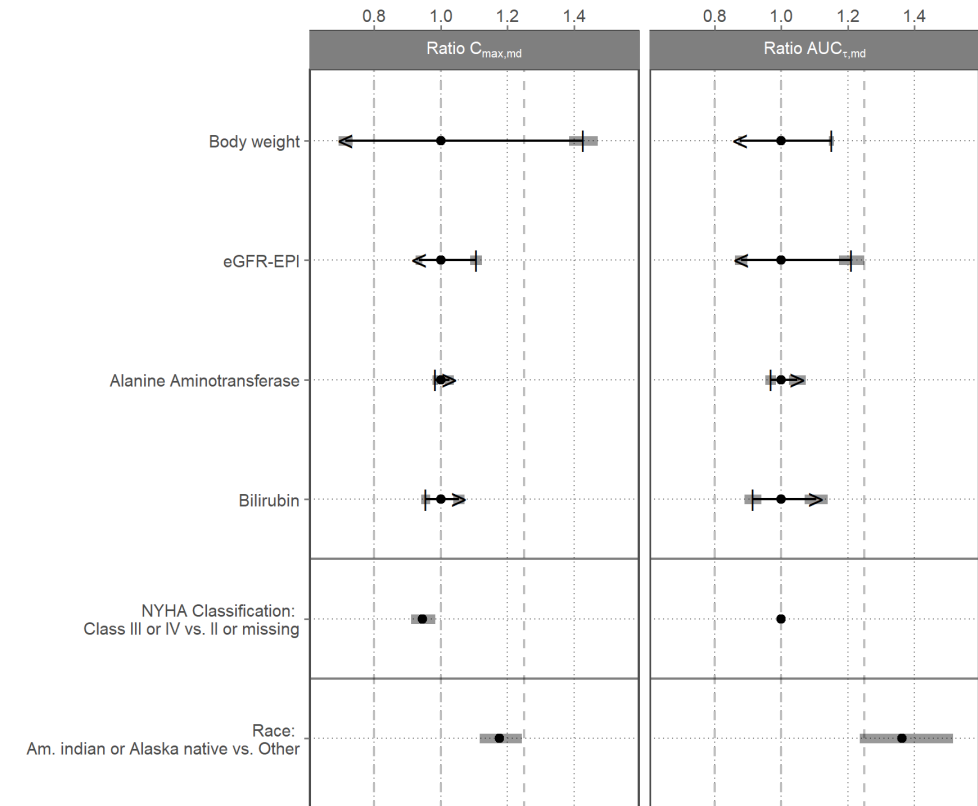
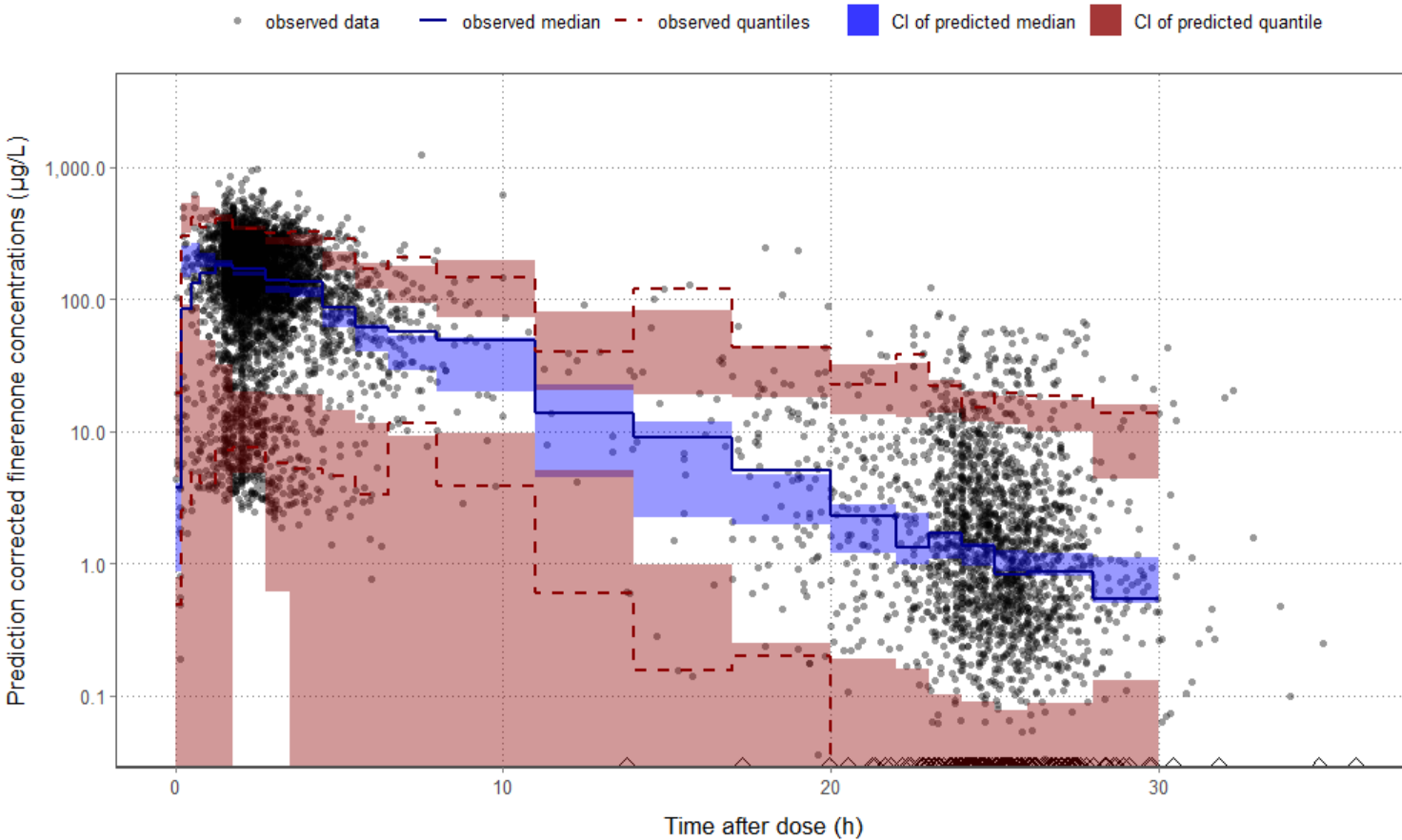


Serum NT-proBNP  
n=16,971 measurements

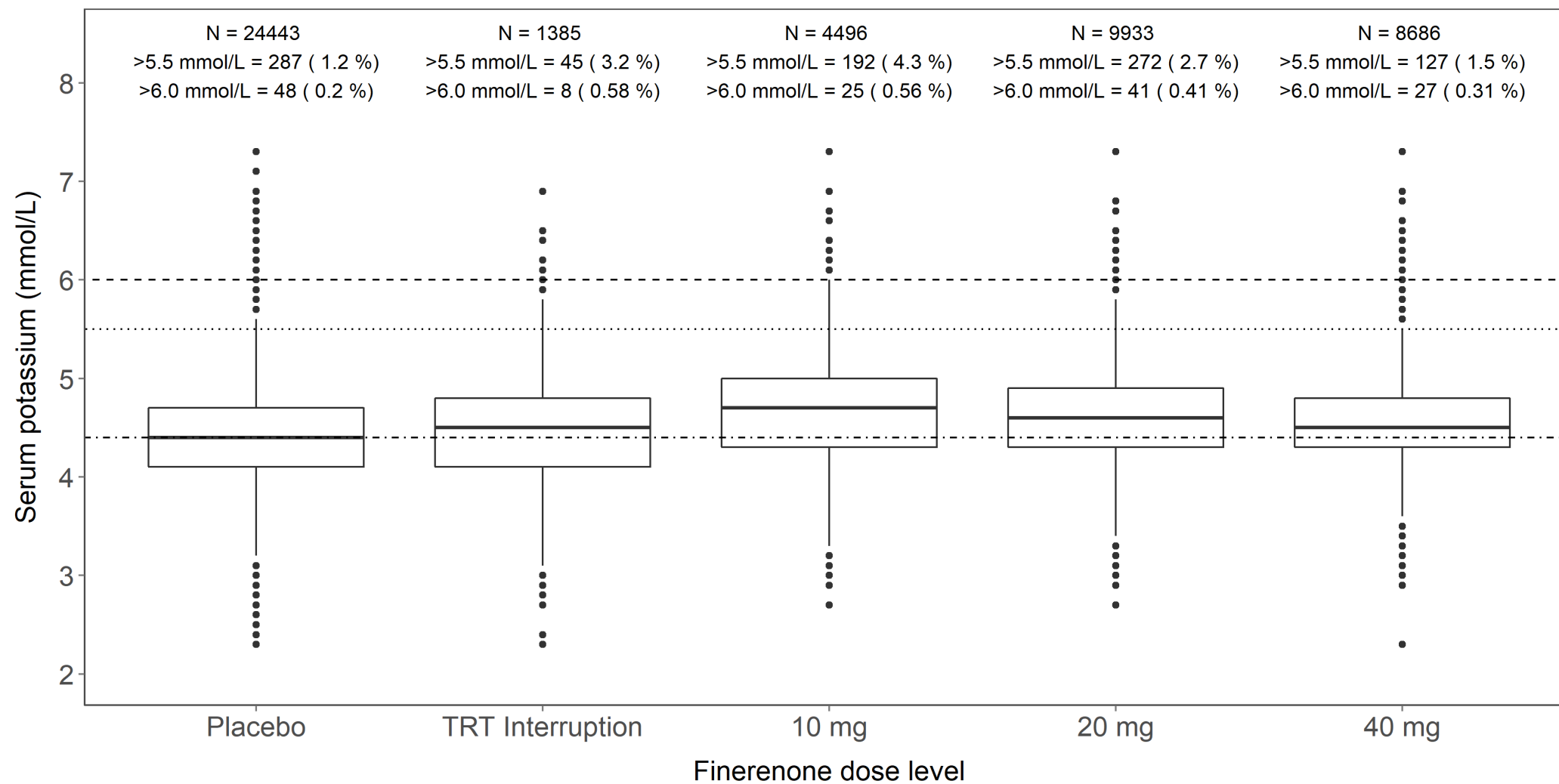


CV death & total HF  
n=2,366 events

# Pharmacokinetics of finerenone

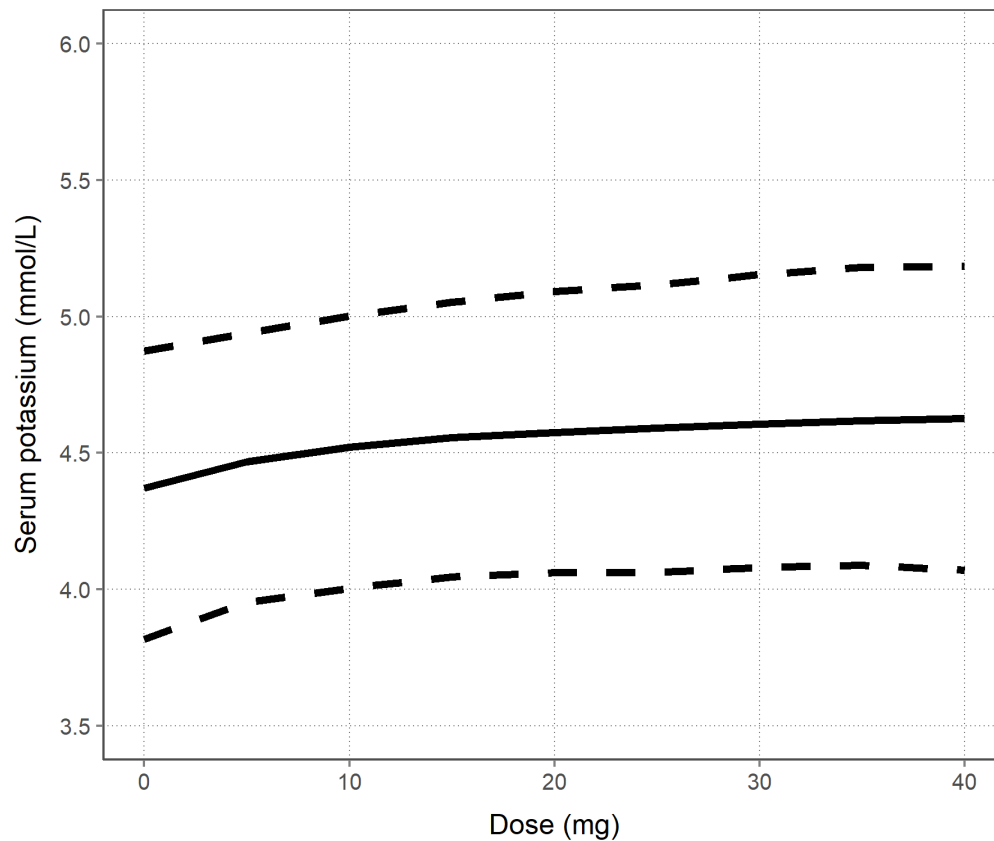


# Finerenone dose and serum K

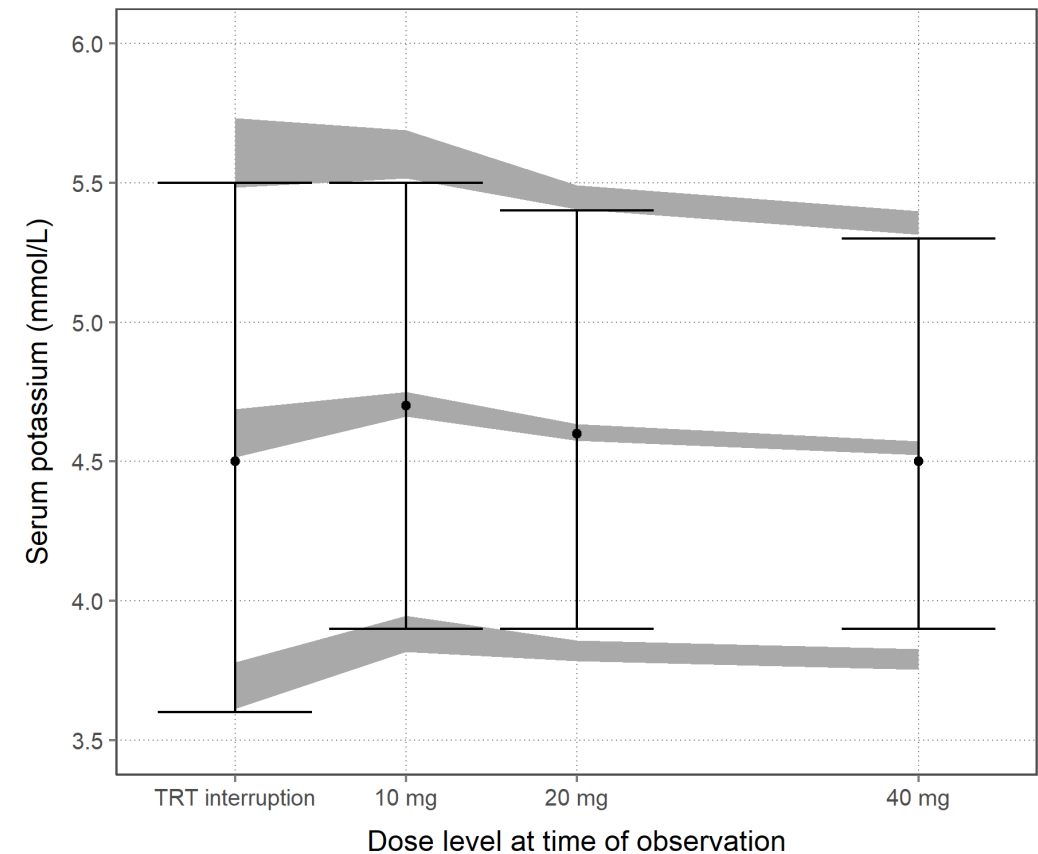


# Simulation studies – dose and serum K

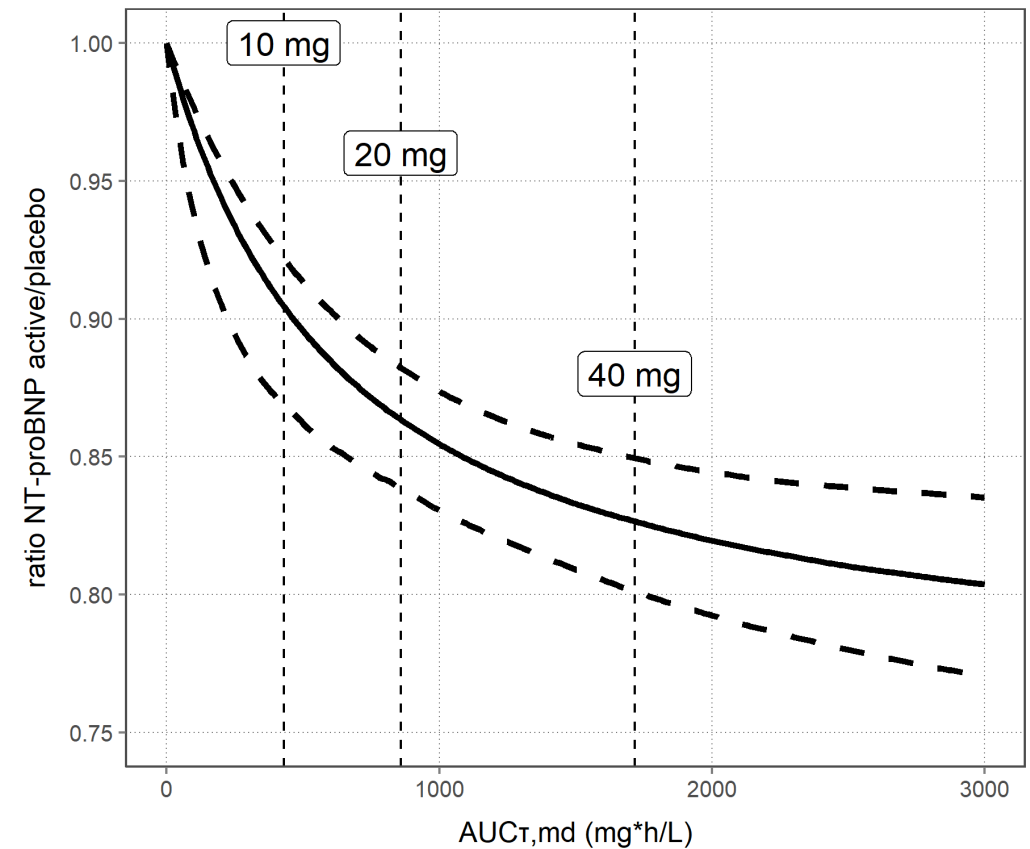
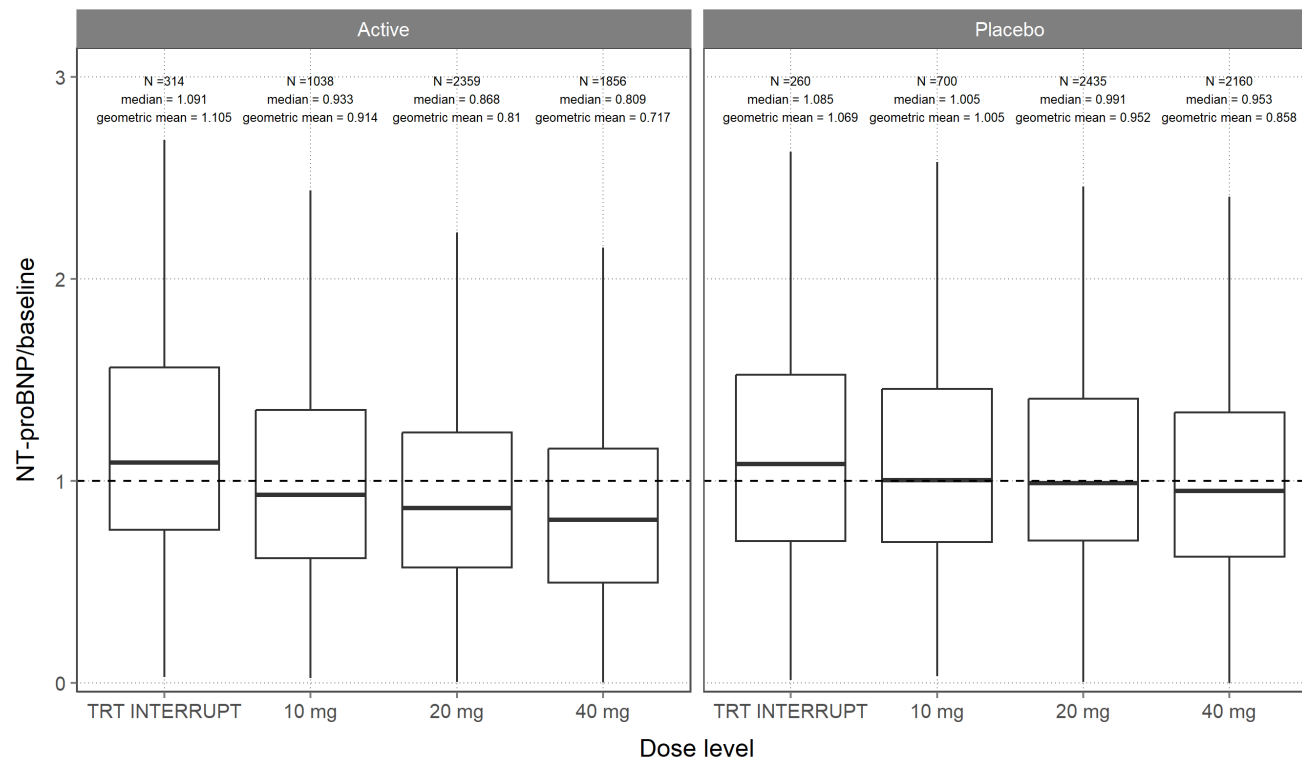
Without dose titration



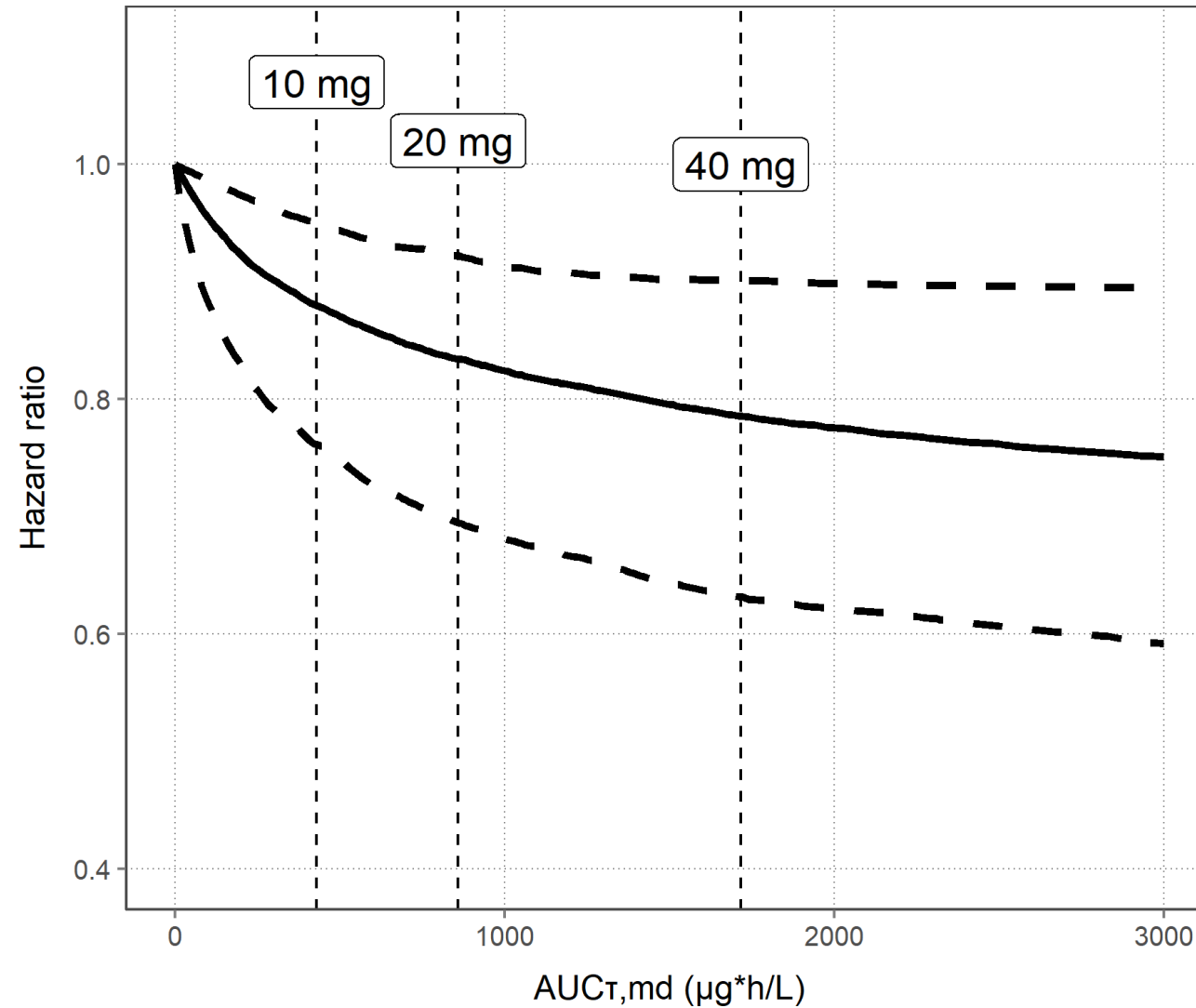
With dose titration



# Dose-exposure and NT-proBNP



# Dose-exposure and CV events



# Conclusions

- The major determinants of higher finerenone exposure were lower body weight and lower eGFR
- Due to protocolized finerenone dose titration, higher doses did not lead to higher serum potassium concentrations
- Higher finerenone exposure was associated with a non-significant lower frequency of CV events and significantly greater reduction in NT-proBNP
- These data are consistent with prior results from CKD & T2DM, and should provide reassurance for appropriate prescribing and titration of finerenone in HFmrEF/HFpEF

# Acknowledgements

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