

The effect of statin therapy on heart failure events: a collaborative meta-analysis of unpublished data from major randomized trials

Short title: statins and heart failure

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ABSTRACT

Aims: The effect of statins on risk of heart failure (HF) hospitalisation and HF death remains uncertain. We aimed to establish whether statins reduce major HF events.

Methods and Results: We searched Medline, EMBASE, and the Cochrane Central Register of Controlled Trials for randomized controlled endpoint statin trials from 1994-2014. Collaborating trialists provided unpublished data from adverse event reports. We included primary and secondary prevention statin trials with >1,000 participants followed for >1 year. Outcomes consisted of first non-fatal HF hospitalisation, HF death and a composite of first non-fatal HF hospitalisation or HF death. HF events occurring less than 30 days after within-trial myocardial infarction (MI) were excluded. We calculated risk ratios (RR) with fixed-effects meta-analyses. In up to 17 trials with 132,538 participants conducted over 4.3 (weighted standard deviation [SD] 1.4) years, statin therapy reduced LDL-cholesterol by 0.97mmol/L (weighted SD 0.38mmol/L). Statins reduced the numbers of patients experiencing non-fatal HF hospitalisation (1,344/66,238 vs. 1,498/66,330; RR 0.90, 95%CI 0.84-0.97) and the composite HF outcome (1,234/57,734 vs. 1,344/57,836; RR 0.92, 95%CI 0.85-0.99) but not HF death (213/57,734 vs. 220/57,836; RR 0.97, 95%CI 0.80-1.17). The effect of statins on first non-fatal HF hospitalisation was similar whether this was preceded by MI (RR 0.87, 95%CI 0.68-1.11) or not (RR 0.91, 95%CI 0.84-0.98).

Conclusions: In primary and secondary prevention trials, statins modestly reduced the risks of non-fatal HF hospitalisation and a composite of non-fatal HF hospitalisation and HF death with no demonstrable difference in risk reduction between those who suffered a MI or not.

Key words: statin, heart failure, randomised trial, prevention, meta-analysis

Abbreviations list: HF: heart failure, MI: myocardial infarction, RCT: randomised controlled trial, RR: risk ratio, CI: confidence interval, SD: standard deviation, HPS: Heart Protection Study

INTRODUCTION

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4 Heart failure (HF) is a condition characterised by debilitating symptoms, a particularly poor quality of
5 life, frequent hospital admissions and reduced survival(1). It also places a major economic burden on
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7 health care systems. Consequently, therapies which reduce the risk of developing HF are highly
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9 desirable and likely to be cost effective. Coronary heart disease is reported to be the most common
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11 cause of HF(2). Statin therapy has been conclusively shown to reduce the risk of myocardial
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13 infarction (MI) in primary- and secondary-prevention populations(3). By reducing first and recurrent
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15 injurious myocardial events, statin therapy should reduce the development of HF. It is also possible
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17 that statin therapy may influence the development of HF by other mechanisms.
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26 To date, about half of the major placebo- and standard care-controlled statin endpoint trials have
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28 published data on a variety of HF outcomes and a borderline reduction in HF hospitalisation or HF
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30 death was only shown in one trial(4-11). Data regarding HF hospitalisation from four dose-
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32 comparison trials have been pooled with the overall result suggesting that intensive statin therapy
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34 reduces HF hospitalisation compared to moderate dose therapy(12). However, the types of HF
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36 endpoints have varied somewhat with some trials reporting any HF adverse event, some reporting
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38 HF death, some reporting non-fatal HF hospitalisation and some reporting a composite of fatal and
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40 non-fatal HF events. This heterogeneity in the categories of HF outcomes collected, along with
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42 missing information, has precluded a comprehensive pooling of HF data. In addition, none of the
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44 existing reports described whether any effect on HF hospitalisation might be fully explained by
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46 preventing precursor MIs.
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54 The purpose of this analysis was to obtain comprehensive and harmonised data for major HF events
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56 (non-fatal hospitalisation, death, and a composite of both) in major statin trials for the purpose of
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58 evaluating whether, and if so to what extent, statin therapy may reduce major HF events. In addition
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1 we wished to explore whether any reduction in HF was primarily driven by a reduction in non-fatal
2 MI.
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4 5 6 7 **METHODS** 8 9

10 11 *Data sources and searches* 12

13 We collected data from major randomized controlled trials (RCT) designed to assess the effect of
14 statins on cardiovascular outcomes. We searched Medline, Embase, and the Cochrane Central
15 Register of Controlled Trials with the terms “statin” and “HMG CoA reductase inhibitor”, plus
16 individual statin names as title or keywords, on 25th March 2014.
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25 26 *Study selection* 27

28 We limited the search to trials of adults, published in the English language, between 1st January 1994
29 and 1st January 2014. We included placebo controlled, standard care-controlled, and intensive
30 versus moderate dose trials in primary prevention, secondary prevention, and mixed primary and
31 secondary prevention populations. We excluded trials conducted entirely in participants with HF,
32 dialysis or organ transplant populations, those with less than 1,000 enrolled participants, trials with
33 a mean follow up of less than 1 year, trials of combination therapy and trials assessing surrogate
34 markers of cardiovascular disease. Study protocol and data request sheets were sent to investigators
35 from the relevant trials as described below to collect unpublished data (**Online appendix**). **A specific**
36 **definition of HF events was not provided to the contributing investigators.**
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52 *Data extraction and quality assessment* 53

54 Two researchers (RC + DP) independently reviewed abstracts and manuscripts to identify relevant
55 trials. A third reader (JJM) resolved any discrepancies. An assessment of study design and quality for
56 each trial was made using the Jadad score(13). Our search strategy identified 23 potentially suitable
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1 trials for which unpublished data were sought(6-11, 14-30) (**Figure 1**). The study was conducted
2 according to published Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses
3 (PRISMA) guidelines(31). Unpublished tabular data were collected regarding the numbers of
4 participants who experienced a non-fatal hospitalisation for HF, the number that died due to HF, and
5 the number that suffered either a non-fatal HF hospitalisation or HF death (composite HF outcome)
6 in each arm. Investigators were asked to detail the number of participants with HF at randomisation
7 in both treatment arms (where available), LDL-cholesterol levels at randomisation and 1 year, and
8 the number of participants who suffered a within-trial non-fatal MI. Numbers with incident HF
9 events were also requested separately in only those participants without HF at baseline. HF events
10 occurring less than 30 days after within-trial MI were specifically excluded from unpublished data
11 sought from collaborating trials. This decision was driven by the following considerations: events
12 within 30 days of MI would have been variably recorded as many participants would still have been
13 in hospital due to the index MI (i.e. some events would still not be captured by assessing HF
14 hospitalisation); development of HF soon after MI may be transient, reflecting cardiac stunning, and
15 may not necessarily lead to chronic HF; and if participants developed clinically significant HF they
16 may well have suffered a subsequent HF hospitalisation in the trial anyway. Of the 23 trials, 17
17 trials(7-11, 15, 16, 18, 20, 21, 24-30) were able to provide unpublished HF data, with HF events
18 occurring less than 30 days after within-trial MI excluded. These results were analysed for the main
19 HF analyses. For the remaining six trials, HF outcomes were available from four trials (three with
20 published data (6, 14, 23); one with unpublished data(17)). Data regarding timing of incident cases of
21 HF with regard to within-trial (i.e. post-randomisation) MI were not available in these four trials with
22 the result that HF events within 30 days of MI could not be excluded and their results were therefore
23 only combined with the full dataset in sensitivity analyses. Two authors (DP and RC) independently
24 abstracted and tabulated information about the number of participants without HF at baseline and
25 incident cases of HF according to randomisation group in those trials where only published data
26 were available.

Data synthesis and Analysis

To identify potential relationships of statins with the risk of developing HF, we calculated risk ratios (RRs) as the ratio of cumulative incidence and 95% confidence intervals (CI) from the available data for all trial participants at baseline and for those who experienced a HF event during trial follow-up. Study-specific RRs were pooled using fixed-effects model meta-analysis. Statistical heterogeneity across studies was quantified using the I^2 statistic, with $p > 0.10$ considered statistically non-significant. The I^2 statistic is derived from the Q statistic ($[Q - df/Q] \times 100$) and provides a measure of the proportion of the overall variation attributable to between-study heterogeneity. We also separately analysed the risk of HF events depending on whether a participant had or had not suffered a preceding within-trial MI. However, the available data did not allow a formal statistical comparison of those who had and had not suffered a preceding within-trial MI.

Placebo- and standard care-controlled statin trials as well as dose comparison statin trials were combined in all analyses though their respective pooled results were also compared by fixed-effect inverse-variance modelling in a sensitivity analysis. Additional sensitivity analyses included random effects meta-analysis of non-fatal HF hospitalisation, a comparison of trial populations (primary prevention, secondary prevention, mixed population), a comparison of trials which had and had not pre-specified any HF outcome, an analysis limited to only those trials which could provide data on participants without HF at baseline, and an analysis which added HF events from four trials (including events within 30 days of within-trial MI(6, 14, 17, 23)) to the unpublished trial data already analysed in the main analyses. We assessed the potential for publication bias through formal statistical testing, namely funnel plots and Egger tests(32). To evaluate potential relationships of the effects of statins on non-fatal MI and LDL-cholesterol reductions respectively with occurrence of HF events, meta-regression analyses were performed.

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2 All p values were two-sided, and $p < 0.05$ was considered statistically significant for the meta-analyses
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4 and meta-regression analyses. Analyses were conducted using Stata/SE 13 (StataCorp).
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8 9 RESULTS

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12 In the main analyses we included unpublished data from up to 132,568 participants (average age 63
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14 years, 29% women) from 17 trials who were followed up for 4.3 (weighted standard deviation [SD]
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16 1.4) years on average. These participants included a small proportion with symptomatically mild HF
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18 at baseline (weighted mean 2.8% of participants, range 0-16.1% in 13 trials with available data).
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22 Baseline characteristics are provided in **Table 1**. At 1 year, LDL-cholesterol was reduced by a
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24 weighted mean of 0.97mmol/L (weighted SD 0.38mmol/L). Trials were generally of high quality with
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26 a median Jadad score of 5 (range 3-5).
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30 31 32 *Effect of statin therapy on non-fatal MI*

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34 In 16 trials (one trial not able to provide data on non-fatal MI), risk of non-fatal myocardial MI was
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36 reduced by 26% on statin therapy (2,287 first events in 65,438 participants on statin vs. 3,107 first
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38 events in 65,530 on control; RR 0.74, 95%CI 0.70-0.78).
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44 45 *Effect of statin therapy on HF outcomes*

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47 First non-fatal HF hospitalisation was reduced by 10% on statins (1,344/66,238 vs. 1,498/66,330 first
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49 events; RR 0.90, 95%CI 0.84-0.97) in 17 trials (**Figure 2A**). This equates to numbers needed to treat
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51 of 1,454 (non-significant) in the primary prevention trials, 552 (non-significant) in the mixed trials
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53 and 200 (95%CI 126-574) in the secondary prevention trials over 5 years to prevent one patient
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55 experiencing a first non-fatal HF hospitalisation when the overall control-arm risks of events were
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57 approximately 1.2, 7.1 and 7.0 per 1,000 patient years respectively. HF death was not reduced by
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statin therapy in 14 trials (213/57,734 vs. 220/57,836 events; RR 0.97, 95%CI 0.80-1.17) (**Figure 2B**).

The risk of a participant suffering a first composite HF outcome (death or non-fatal hospitalisation) was reduced by 8% on statin therapy in 14 trials (1,234/57,734 vs. 1,344/57,836 first events; RR 0.92, 95%CI 0.85-0.99) (**Figure 2C**). There was little statistical evidence of heterogeneity for all these analyses (I^2 0%) and there was no statistical evidence of publication bias (**Figure 3**).

In meta-regression analyses, no relationship was observed between either non-fatal MI reduction ($p=0.69$; **eFigure 1**) or absolute LDL-cholesterol reduction achieved at 1 year ($p=0.75$; **eFigure 2**) on statins, and risk of first non-fatal HF hospitalisation. Results were similar when the relationships between these two variables were compared with risk of the composite HF outcome ($p=0.18$ and $p=0.18$ respectively).

Of the 17 trials included in the main HF analyses, 13 trials were able to provide data on HF status at baseline. Analyses in the 90,001 (97.2% of total) participants without documented HF at baseline in these 13 trials generally produced similar results to the main analyses described above (**eTable 1**) although with fewer events available for pooling and consequent loss of power, the benefit of statin therapy over control therapy did not reach statistical significance.

Influence of statin therapy on risk of HF events preceded or not preceded by MI

Only 10-15% of first composite HF outcomes as well as non-fatal HF hospitalisations were preceded by a documented within-trial non-fatal MI (this excludes all HF events within 30 days of MI). There was no demonstrable difference between the effect of statin therapy on risk of a first HF event preceded by a within-trial MI or not (**Table 2**). For non-fatal hospitalisation, RRs were 0.87 (95%CI 0.68-1.11) and 0.91 (95%CI 0.84-0.98) while for the composite HF outcome RRs were 0.86 (95%CI 0.68-1.09) and 0.94 (95%CI 0.86-1.01), respectively.

1
2 *Sensitivity analyses*
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4 There was no evidence of any difference in the effect of statin therapy on HF events in primary
5 prevention, secondary prevention and mixed trial populations ($p=0.42$; **eFigure 3**). Similarly, no
6 difference was demonstrated between placebo / standard care-controlled trials and dose
7 comparison trials ($p=0.23$; **eFigure 4**). We tested whether there was any heterogeneity between
8 trials which did or did not pre-specify any HF event as a secondary or tertiary outcome and, again, no
9 difference was found ($p=0.62$; **eFigure 5**). When random effects meta-analysis was employed for
10 non-fatal HF hospitalisation, results were identical to those obtained from fixed effects meta-
11 analysis, namely RR 0.90 (95%CI 0.84-0.97).
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26 The analyses were repeated with the inclusion of data from the four trials (additional 24,560
27 participants) which did not report timing of within-trial MI. Results were similar to the main analyses
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35 **DISCUSSION**
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40 This study demonstrates that statin therapy led to reductions in the number of patients suffering HF
41 events in major primary and secondary prevention trials over approximately 4 years of follow-up.
42 The risks of both non-fatal hospitalisation and the composite HF outcome (non-fatal HF
43 hospitalisation or HF death) were reduced by approximately 10%, driven by a reduction in non-fatal
44 hospitalisation. This modest benefit appeared similar in those with and without a history of coronary
45 heart disease at baseline, and across both placebo- and standard care-controlled trials, as well as
46 dose comparison trials. By contrast, no reduction in HF death was noted though there were fewer
47 events and a small treatment benefit cannot be excluded. While relative risk reductions for HF
48 hospitalisations on statins were similar in primary and secondary prevention trial participants, the
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1 absolute risk reduction was considerably greater in secondary prevention participants whose HF
2 event rates were substantially higher.
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7 Pooled results for HF hospitalisations were previously available from four dose comparison statin
8 trials (n=27,546) in participants with established coronary heart disease, some of whom had HF at
9 baseline. These results published in 2006, which included HF events within 30 days of MI, showed a
10 27% reduction in this endpoint(12). Of the previously published HF data from trials comparing statins
11 to placebo or standard care, only the Heart Protection Study (HPS) demonstrated a reduction in any
12 major HF event, namely a borderline significant reduction of 14% in the composite outcome of HF
13 death and non-fatal HF hospitalisation on simvastatin compared to placebo (354 vs. 405 first events,
14 RR 0.86 [95%CI 0.75-1.00])(4). In HPS there were also trends towards reductions in both HF death
15 and non-fatal hospitalisations respectively(4, 33). However, other trials had found no such benefit,
16 underlining the need for a comprehensive synthesis of trial data.
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33 Notably, we found that the benefit of statin therapy for HF outcomes appeared similar regardless of
34 whether an antecedent MI occurred or not. For example, the number of participants requiring
35 hospitalisation for non-fatal HF without a preceding within-trial MI was significantly reduced by
36 statins, to a similar extent as that observed for participants with an earlier within-trial MI. A second
37 notable finding was that the proportion of participants experiencing HF events was dominated by
38 those *without* an earlier within-trial MI. Indeed, approximately 85-90% of HF events were not
39 preceded by a documented within-trial MI. There are various potential explanations for these two
40 observations. With respect to the issue of preceding MI, both the requirement for potential events
41 to fulfil adjudication requirements and the historical nature of the trials may have resulted in an
42 underestimation of the numbers of within-trial MIs. Events that did not have complete
43 documentation and the use of insensitive biomarkers may have led to this. It is also recognised that
44 myocardial ischaemia, as well as MI, may result in reduced left ventricular systolic function and, in
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1 patients with pre-existing systolic dysfunction (which many participants in the present trials may
2 have had), precipitate HF. For example, in the Studies of Left Ventricular Dysfunction trials, episodes
3 of unstable angina led to a 60% increase in risk of subsequent HF hospitalisation(34). Even
4 myocardial ischaemia that is not acutely symptomatic, or symptomatic at all, may lead to left
5 ventricular diastolic and systolic dysfunction (manifest in the most extreme cases as ‘hibernating
6 myocardium’). Statins reduce symptomatic myocardial ischaemia and may also reduce
7 asymptomatic episodes(35). An alternative and more controversial explanation is that statins may
8 not only reduce the risk of developing HF by preventing ischaemic events but also by unrecognised
9 pleiotropic mechanisms unlinked to LDL-cholesterol reduction, such as anti-inflammatory
10 effects(36).

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26 The HF benefit of statin therapy is likely to be underestimated in our analysis to some extent. Our
27 analysis was limited to hospitalisation and excluded milder episodes where hospitalisation was not
28 required. Importantly, the development of HF often leads to repeated hospital admissions(1) but our
29 analysis was limited to the risk of experiencing a first event and not recurrent events. The duration
30 of follow-up (4.3 years) may also have been too short to show a greater benefit. For example, the
31 West Of Scotland Coronary Prevention Study recently published data showing that, during extended
32 follow-up of 15 years, HF hospitalisation was reduced by 43% in pravastatin recipients compared to
33 placebo recipients(37) even though no HF benefit was observed in the initial 5 year randomized trial.
34 We decided *a priori* to exclude HF events within 30 days after MI for reasons described above. Data
35 from the PROVE-IT TIMI 22 study, in which participants were randomized to intensive or moderate
36 dose statin very soon after a coronary event, suggest that this was a reasonable approach(12). In
37 that trial, the effect of intensive statin therapy on risk of hospitalisation for HF was very similar
38 regardless of whether HF events in the first 30 days of randomisation were included or not (hazard
39 ratios [HR] 0.53 and 0.55 respectively) though the effect size appeared **markedly** larger than
40 observed in the present analysis.

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2 Our analysis was designed to investigate the effect of statin therapy on the development of HF and
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4 so could not address statins' potential effect on repeat HF hospitalisation in those with existing HF.
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6 However, the effect size we observed with statins was similar to that observed in the CORONA trial
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8 which compared rosuvastatin to placebo in patients with established systolic HF (5,011 participants
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10 of whom 1,291 were hospitalised [2,408 events] for HF, HR 0.91, 95%CI 0.82-1.02). In CORONA,
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12 statin therapy significantly reduced both the risk of repeat HF admissions and the overall number of
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14 admissions(38).
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21 Strengths of this meta-analysis include the following: first, it represents the largest systematic
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23 analysis evaluating the effect of statin therapy on HF events with over 132,000 participants and over
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25 570,000 patient-years of follow-up for the main analyses. This provided power to detect potentially
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27 modest effects. Second, unpublished data were collected allowing us to provide information on
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29 homogenous HF endpoints, as far as possible. And third, access to trial data allowed harmonisation
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31 of data and assessment of relevant subgroup and sensitivity analyses. Potential weaknesses include
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33 the following: first, the analyses were conducted with summary-level data, not with individual
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35 participant data, and we combined trial-specific RRs because not all trials could provide HRs for the
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37 outcomes of interest. Second, HF outcomes were not pre-specified in many trials which may have
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39 affected the quality of the data available for *post hoc* analysis, and it was not possible to use a
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41 uniform definition for HF events due to the nature of the data; however, limited heterogeneity for
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43 all the analyses provides some confidence that any such variation did not introduce systematic bias.
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48 Third, data were missing for some of the HF endpoints and not all major statin trials could be
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50 included. Fourth, we were unable to conduct a formal statistical comparison of the HF risks of
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52 participants who did and did not experience a within-trial MI prior to developing HF, but the large
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54 degree of overlap for these respective results strongly suggests that there was no difference
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56 between them. Fifth, we did not have access to data regarding the likely etiology of HF though,
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1 based on the characteristics of the trial participants, relatively few are likely to have developed
2 preserved ejection HF. And sixth, we were unable to compare outcomes in men and women.
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7 In conclusion, our meta-analysis of data from major trials demonstrated that statin therapy modestly
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9 reduced the risk of non-fatal HF hospitalisation and the composite outcome of HF death and non-
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11 fatal hospitalisation over 4.3 years.
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Author contributions: Dr Preiss had access to all of the data in the study and takes responsibility for the integrity of the data and the accuracy of the data analysis.

Study concept and design: Preiss, Campbell, McMurray

Acquisition of data: all authors

Analysis and interpretation of data: all authors

Drafting of the manuscript: Preiss, Campbell, McMurray

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Figure Legends

Figure 1. Flow diagram of literature search to identify randomized placebo-controlled, standard care-controlled trials, and dose comparison statin trials

Figure 2. The effect of statin therapy on the risk of (A) first non-fatal heart failure hospitalization in 17 trials (B) heart failure death in 14 trials (C) first composite heart failure outcome in 14 trials

Footnote: all HF events within 30 days of MI were excluded

Figure 3. Funnel plot for non-fatal heart failure hospitalization

Footnote: Egger test $p=0.74$

Table 1. Baseline characteristics for 21 statin trials providing data on heart failure events

Trial	Year	Trial population	Active arm (n)	Control arm (n)	Age, years	LDL-c, mmol/L	Follow up, years	Women (%)	Percentage with HF at baseline	Was HF a pre-specified endpoint?	Included in main HF analyses
4S(5, 14)	1994	Secondary	Simvastatin 10-40mg (2,221)	Placebo (2,223)	58.5 (-)	4.87 (0.66)	5.4 (-)*	19	-	No	No
WOSCOPS(15)	1995	Primary	Pravastatin 40mg (3,302)	Placebo (3,293)	55.2 (5.5)	4.96 (0.45)	4.81 (0.78)	0	0.0%	No	Yes
CARE(16)	1996	Secondary	Pravastatin 40mg (2,081)	Placebo (2,078)	58.6 (9.3)	3.59 (0.38)	4.83 (0.94)	14	7.2%	Yes	Yes
AFCAPS TEXCAPS(17)	1998	Primary	Lovastatin 20-40mg (3,304)	Placebo (3,301)	58 (7)	3.89 (0.43)	5.2 (0.9)	15	0.0%	Yes	No
LIPID(6)	1998	Secondary	Pravastatin 40mg (4,512)	Placebo (4,502)	62 (-)*	3.88 (3.36-4.40)*	6.1 (-)	17	-	Yes	No
GISSI PREVENZIONE(18)	2000	Secondary	Pravastatin 20mg (2,138)	No treatment (2,133)	59.9 (10.4)	3.92 (0.67)	1.9 (0.6)	14	16.1%	No	Yes
HPS(20)	2002	Mixed	Simvastatin 40mg (10,269)	Placebo (10,267)	64 (8.4)	3.38 (0.83)	5 (1.1)	25	-	No	Yes
PROSPER(7)	2002	Mixed	Pravastatin 40mg (2,891)	Placebo (2,913)	75.3 (3.4)	3.79 (0.80)	3.2 (0.63)	52	-	Yes	Yes
GREACE(8)	2002	Secondary	Atorvastatin 10-80mg (800)	Usual care (800)	59 (12)	4.65 (0.62)	3 (1)	22	-	Yes	Yes
ALLHAT-LLT(9)	2002	Mixed	Pravastatin 40mg (5,170)	Usual care (5,185)	66.6 (7.6)	3.76 (0.55)	4.8 (1.3)	49	0.0%	Yes	Yes
ASCOT-LLA(10)	2003	Primary	Atorvastatin 10mg (5,134)	Placebo (5,106)	62.7 (8.5)	3.44 (0.72)	3.2 (0.6)	19	0.0%	Yes	Yes
CARDS(21)	2004	Primary	Atorvastatin 10mg (1,428)	Placebo (1,410)	61.6 (8.1)	3.03 (0.71)	3.84 (1.06)	32	0.1%	No	Yes
ALLIANCE(11)	2004	Secondary	Atorvastatin 10-80mg (1,217)	Usual care (1,225)	61.2 (8.8)	3.80 (0.68)	4.29 (1.5)	18	6.8%	Yes	Yes
A TO Z(23)	2004	Secondary	Simvastatin 40-80mg (2,265)	Placebo + Simvastatin 20mg (2,232)	61 (53-69)*	2.87 (2.46-3.39)*	2.0 (-)*	24	-	Yes	No
TNT(24)	2005	Secondary	Atorvastatin 80mg (4,995)	Atorvastatin 10mg (5,006)	61 (8.8)	2.52 (0.45)	4.9 (0.76)	19	7.8%	Yes	Yes
IDEAL(25)	2005	Secondary	Atorvastatin 80mg (4,439)	Simvastatin 20-40mg (4,449)	61.7 (9.5)	3.14 (0.90)	4.62 (0.82)	19	6.0%	Yes	Yes
ASPEN(26)	2006	Mixed	Atorvastatin 10mg (1,211)	Placebo (1,199)	61 (8.2)	2.93 (0.66)	4 (0.55)	34	0.4%	Yes	Yes
MEGA(27)	2006	Primary	Pravastatin 10-20mg (3,866)	usual care (3,966)	58.3 (7.2)	4.05 (0.45)	5.29 (1.92)	68	0.1%	No	Yes
SPARCL(28)	2006	Primary	Atorvastatin 80mg (2,365)	Placebo (2,366)	62.8 (11.3)	3.45 (0.62)	4.8 (1.1)	40	0.4%	Yes	Yes
JUPITER(29)	2008	Primary	Rosuvastatin 10mg (8,901)	Placebo (8,901)	66.1 (7.7)	2.70 (0.48)	2.1 (0.9)	38	0.3%	No	Yes
SEARCH(30)	2010	Secondary	Simvastatin 80mg (6,031)	Simvastatin 20mg (6,033)	64.2 (8.9)	2.50 (0.61)	6.7 (1.5)	17	-	No	Yes

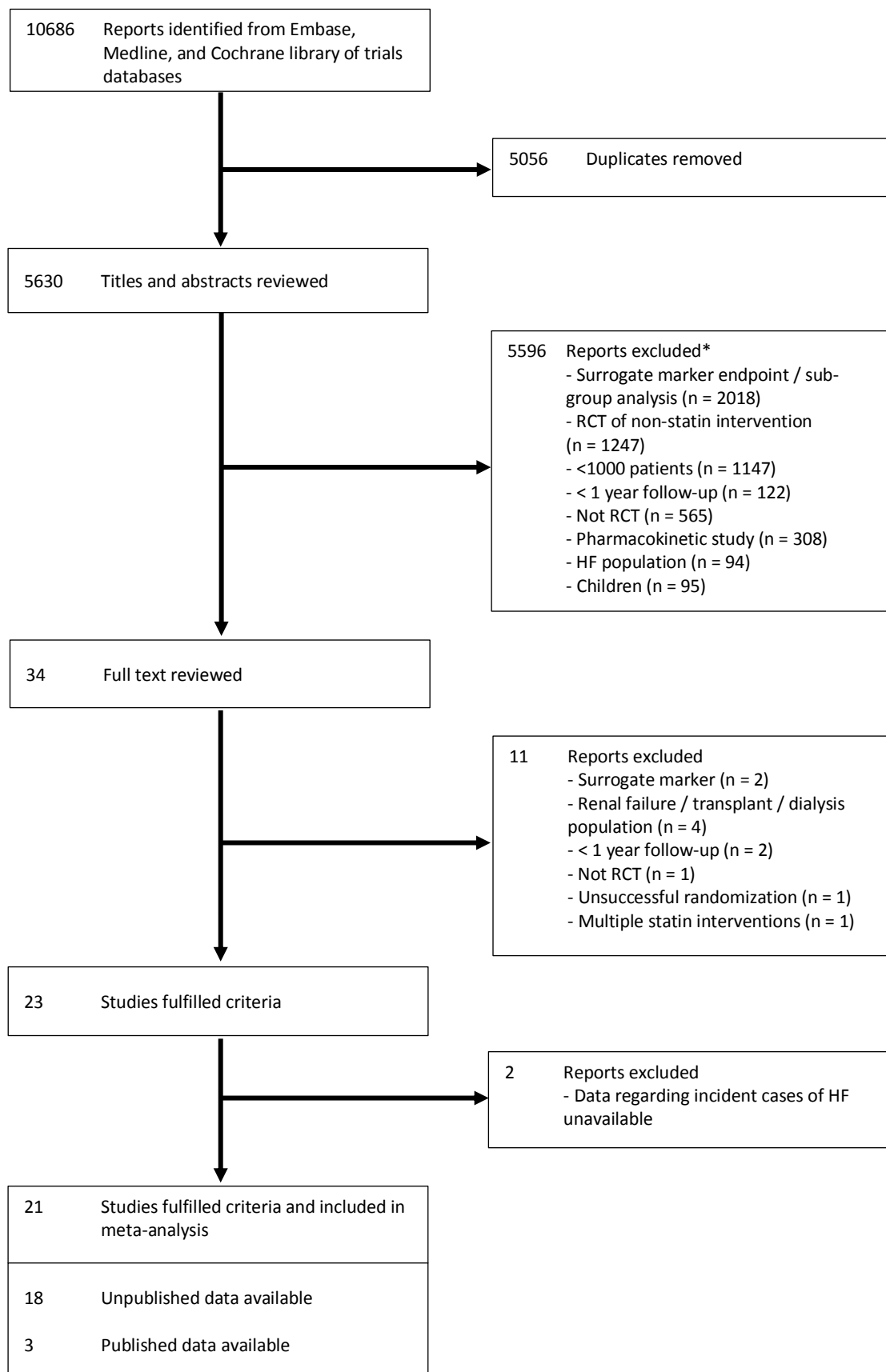
Data are listed as mean (standard deviation) or *median (interquartile range); HF: heart failure; LDL-c: low density lipoprotein cholesterol

Table 2. Effect of statin therapy on heart failure events according to the presence or absence of a previous within-trial MI

	Number of trials	First events/n on statin, First events/n on control therapy	Risk ratio (95% CI)	I ²
Non-fatal heart failure hospitalisation*				
First non-fatal hospitalisation	17	1,344/66,238, 1,498/66,300	0.90 (0.84-0.97)	0%
No MI preceding first non-fatal hospitalisation	15	1,096/63,357, 1211/63,452	0.91 (0.84-0.98)	0%
MI preceding first non-fatal hospitalisation	15	119/63,357, 137/63,452	0.87 (0.68-1.11)	0%
Heart failure death*				
Death	14	213/57,734, 220/57,836	0.97 (0.80-1.17)	0%
No MI preceding death	13	178/56,934, 181/57,036	0.98 (0.80-1.21)	0%
MI preceding death	7	33/33,124, 35/33,232	0.95 (0.59-1.51)	0%
Heart failure composite outcome (death or non-fatal hospitalisation)*				
First composite outcome	14	1,234/57,734, 1,344/57,836	0.92 (0.85-0.99)	0%
No MI preceding first composite outcome	13	1,093/56,934, 1,170/57,036	0.94 (0.86-1.01)	0%
MI preceding first composite outcome	12	128/48,033, 149/48,135	0.86 (0.68-1.09)	0%

*all HF events occurring less than 30 days after within-trial MI excluded from analysis

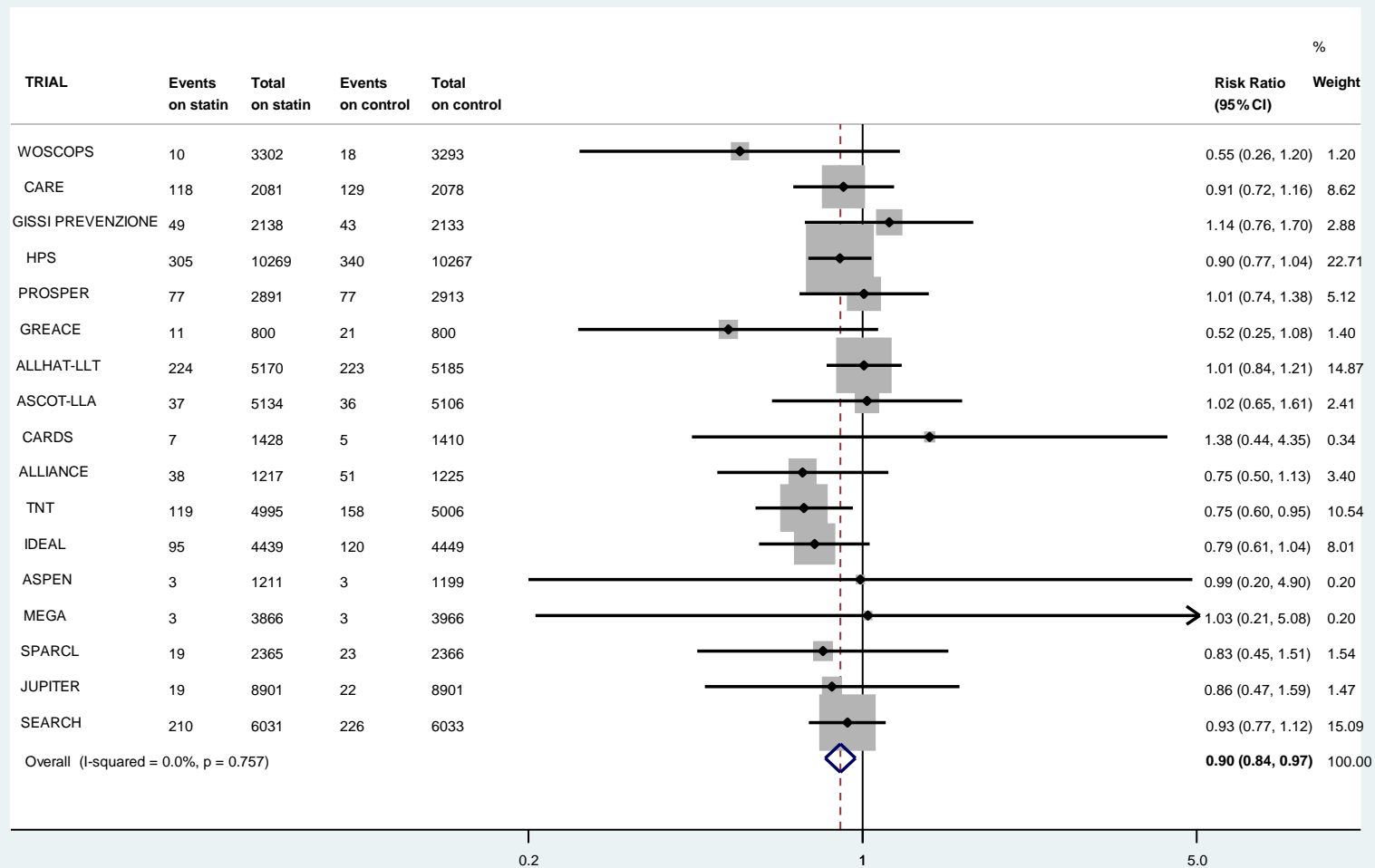
Figure 1.



* most studies fulfilled multiple exclusion criteria
 HF= heart failure; RCT= randomized controlled trial

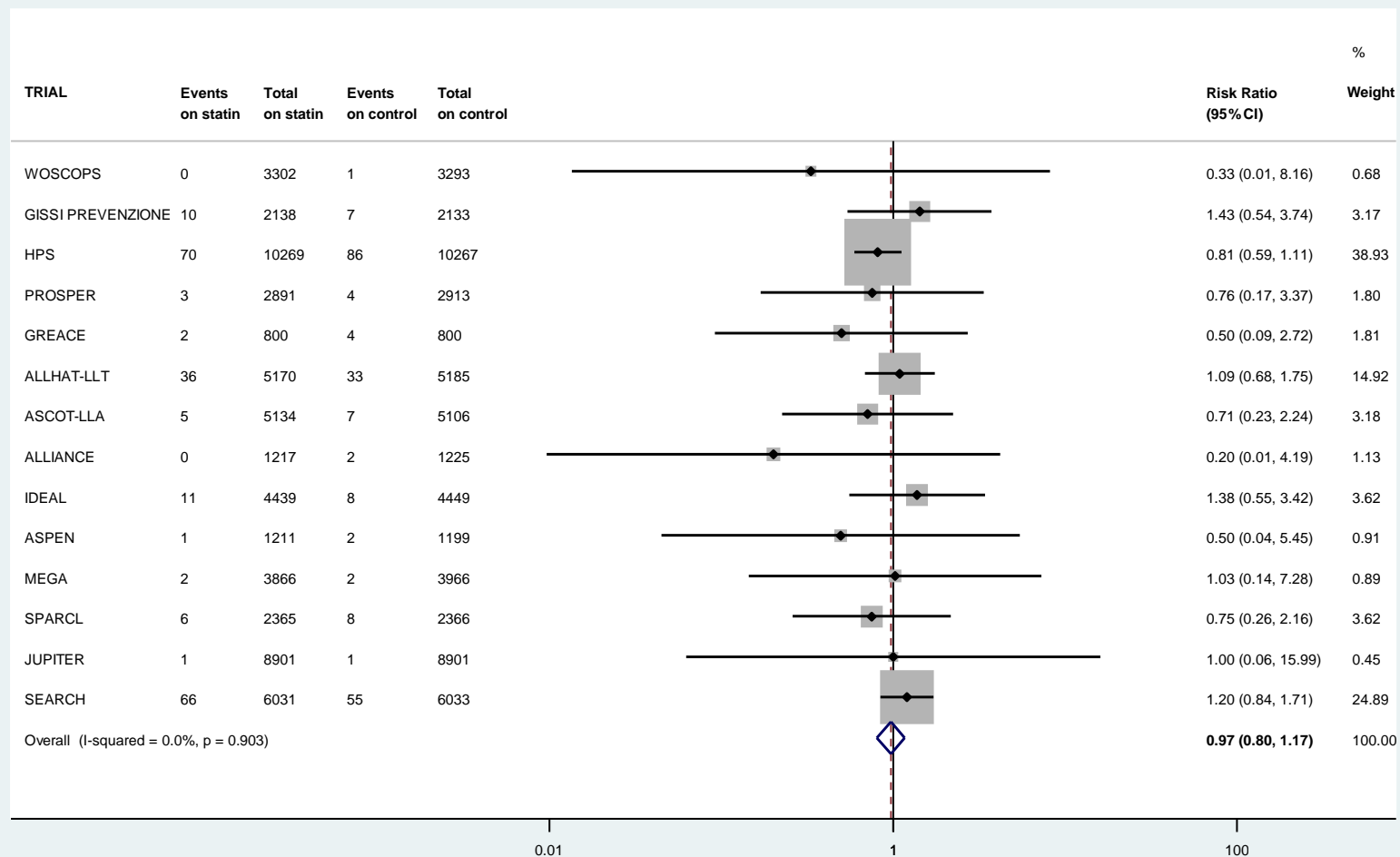
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Figure 2A.



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Figure 2B.



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Figure 2C.

