







# Levosimendan In Patients With Left Ventricular Systolic Dysfunction Undergoing Cardiac Surgery With Cardiopulmonary Bypass PRIMARY RESULTS OF THE LEVO-CTS TRIAL

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on behalf of the LEVO-CTS Investigators



FROM THOUGHT LEADERSHIP
TO CLINICAL PRACTICE





## **Disclosures**

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Conflict-of-interest disclosures available at http://www.dcri.duke.edu/research/coi



## Levosimendan

- Ca<sup>++</sup> sensitizing inotrope increases sensitivity of troponin C to calcium within myocytes
- Approved in over 60 countries for treatment of acute heart failure
  - used in >1,000,000 patient
- 1000+ PubMed references
- 35+ randomized clinical trials in cardiac surgery
- Significant use peri-cardiac surgery for the prevention & treatment of low cardiac output syndrome (LCOS) in Europe

#### Cardioprotective

↓ Cardiac Cell Death Opens K+ ATP Channels in Cardiac Muscle

#### **LEVOSIMENDAN**

#### Inotropic

† Cardiac Output without † O<sub>2</sub> Demand

Calcium Sensitization of Cardiac Muscle

#### Vasodilator

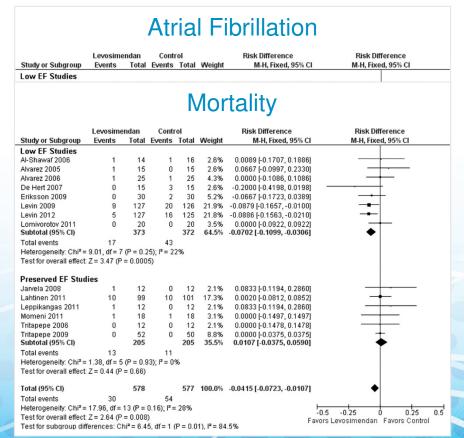
**↓** Afterload

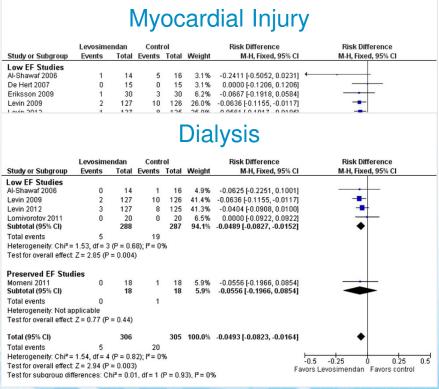
Opens K+ ATP Channels in Smooth Muscle



Rognoni A, et al., Curr Pharm Des 2013;19:3974-8 Toller W, et al., Int J Cardiol 2015;84:323-6

## Meta-Analysis of Prior Trials in CTS





## Objective

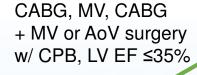
To compare the efficacy and safety of levosimendan with placebo in patients with reduced LV function undergoing cardiac surgery with cardiopulmonary bypass support



## Design

Infusion started before surgery 0.2ug/kg/min x 1 hour 0.1ug/kg/min x 23 hrs

Levosimendan



Randomization

Pre-op



**Placebo** 



Other therapies standard of care

Mehta RH, et al., Am Heart J 2016;182:62-71

## **Outcomes**

#### **Co-primary outcomes**

- Quad: death (≤30d), dialysis (≤30d), MI (≤5d), or mechanical assist (≤5d)
- Dual: death (≤30d) or mechanical assist (≤5d)

#### **Secondary outcomes**

- Low cardiac output syndrome
- Use of secondary inotropes beyond 24 hours
- ICU length of stay

#### Safety outcomes

- Hypotension
- Atrial fibrillation
- 90-day vital status



## Sample Size and Analysis

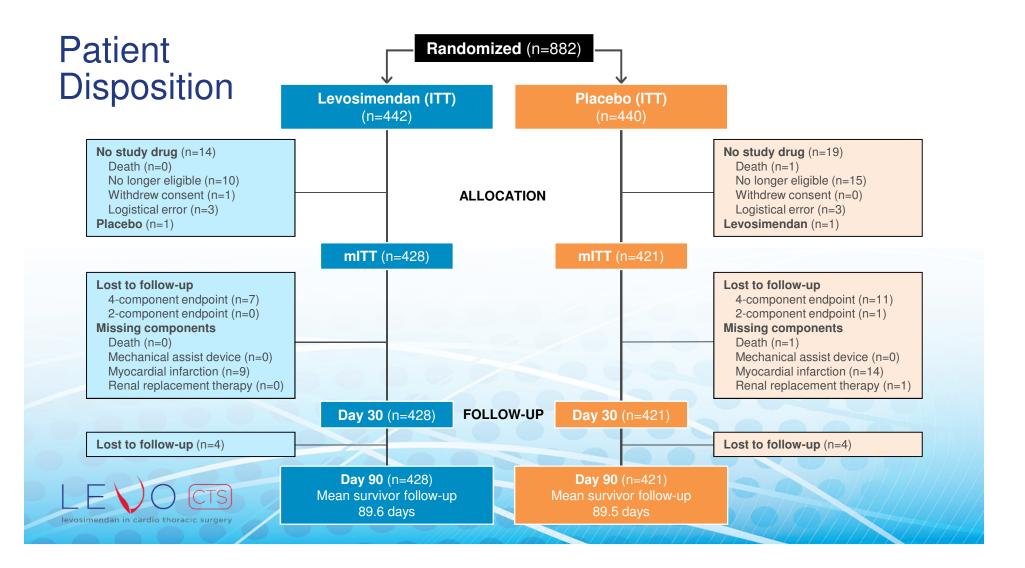
#### **Sample Size**

- 760 patients (201 4-component\* events)
  - Increased to 880 patients due to lower than projected aggregate event rate
- 86% power for at least one co-primary outcome

#### **Statistical Analysis**

- Efficacy outcomes analyzed as modified intent-to-treat including all randomized patients who received study drug
- Co-primary outcome analysis adjusted for covariates of age, sex,
   LV EF, and type of surgery
- Safety outcomes analyzed as treated





## Baseline Characteristics

|   | <b>Levosimendan</b><br>n=428 | <b>Placebo</b><br>n=421 |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Age, median (25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> ), years | 65 (59, 73)                  | 65 (58, 72)             |
| Female sex  | 18.9%                        | 21.1%                   |
| White race  | 91.0%                        | 89.5%                   |
| LV EF, median (25th, 75th), %                             | 26 (24, 32)                  | 27 (22, 31)             |
| Surgery type  |                              |                         |
| CABG  | 66.1%                        | 66.5%                   |
| CABG + Aortic valve                                       | 8.4%                         | 8.1%                    |
| CABG + Mitral valve                                       | 11.7%                        | 11.4%                   |
| CABG + Mitral + Aortic valve                              | 2.3%                         | 2.4%                    |
| Mitral valve  | 8.4%                         | 7.4%                    |
| Mitral + aortic valve                                     | 2.3%                         | 3.3%                    |
| Aortic valve  | 0.7%                         | 0.7%                    |

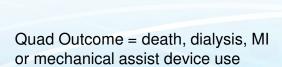


# Study Drug

|   | <b>Levosimendan</b><br>n=428 | <b>Placebo</b><br>n=421 |
|---|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Time from study drug to surgery, median (25 <sup>th</sup> , 75 <sup>th</sup> ), hours | 0.33 (0.18, 0.53)            | 0.32 (0.17, 0.48)       |
| Dose modification   | 56 (13.1%)                   | 29 (6.9%)               |
| Study Drug Duration <23.5 hours   | 68 (15.7%)                   | 48 (11.4%)              |

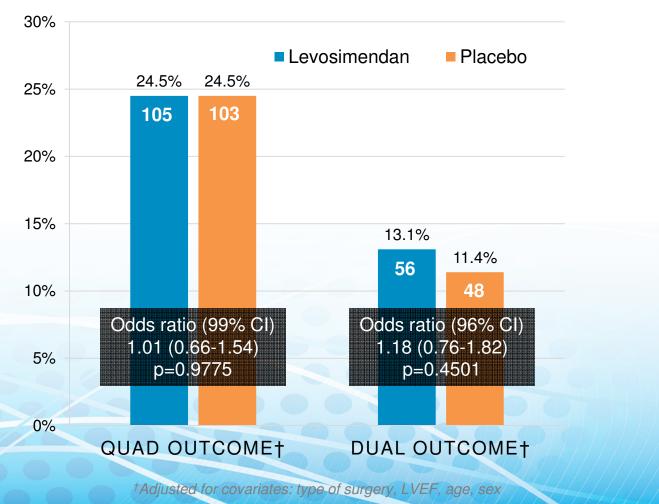


# Co-Primary Outcomes

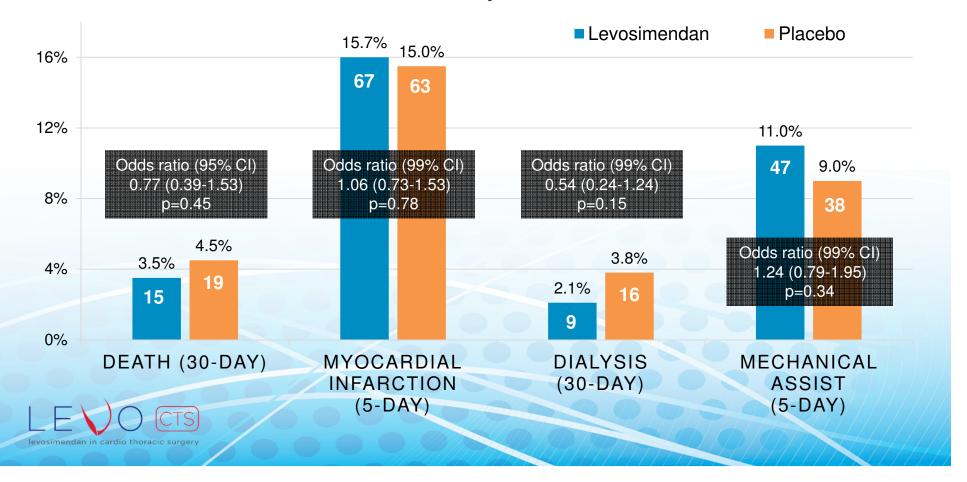


Dual Outcome = death or mechanical assist device use





## Individual Outcomes Components



## Cardiac Output

| Ca  | rai: |      | nd |    |
|-----|------|------|----|----|
| Val | ula  | 36 I | HU | CA |

Mean (SD)

Levosimendan (n=359)

2.86 (0.61)

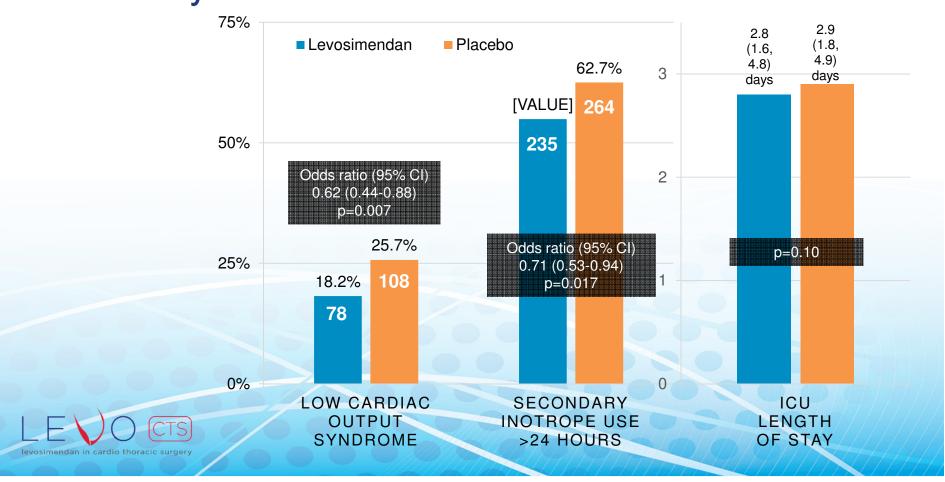
Placebo (n=340)

2.68 (0.65)

p<0.0001



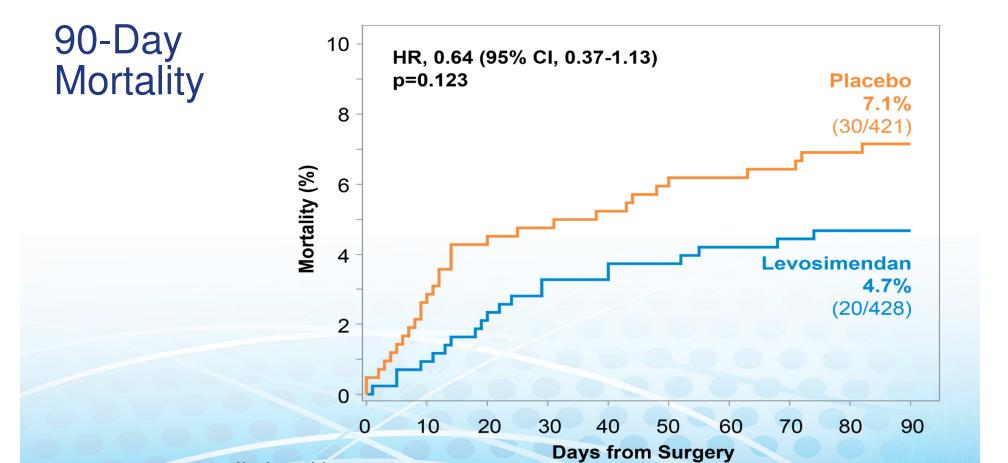
## **Secondary Outcomes**



# 30-Day Safety Outcomes

|                     | <b>Levosimendan</b><br>n=428 | <b>Placebo</b><br>n=421 | p-value |
|---------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| Hypotension         | 155 (36.2%)                  | 138 (32.8%)             | 0.29    |
| Atrial fibrillation | 163 (38.1%)                  | 139 (33.0%)             | 0.12    |
| VT / VF             | 46 (10.7%)                   | 41 (9.7%)               | 0.63    |
| Stroke              | 15 (3.5%)                    | 10 (2.4%)               | 0.33    |
| Rehospitalization   | 54 (12.6%)                   | 48 (11.4%)              | 0.55    |





Number at risk:

Levosimendan

Placebo

## Conclusions

- Levosimendan, given prophylactically prior to cardiac surgery to patients with reduced left ventricular function, had no effect on the co-primary outcomes of...
  - death, dialysis, MI, or mechanical assist device use
  - death or mechanical assist device use
- Levosimendan is effective and safe as an inotrope to increase cardiac output in patients at risk for perioperative low cardiac output syndrome



## Clinical Implications

Given its effect on cardiac output, low cardiac output syndrome, and other inotrope use, and the absence of adverse safety signals, levosimendan is a reasonable option to consider in patients undergoing cardiac surgery where increased cardiac output is the desired objective.





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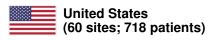
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# Thank you!

## **Publication**

