



# Screening for Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency Why?

*In memory of Prof. Maurizio Luisetti*



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*Department of Pulmonology*

# Conflict of Interest

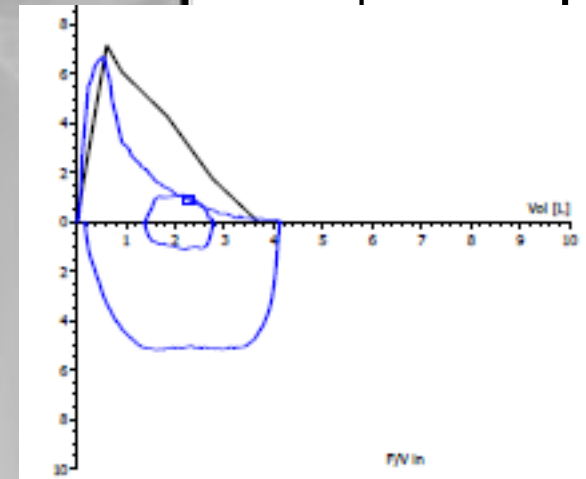
None for this topic

# A typical case that requires screening?

Age 46



FEV<sub>1</sub>: 76% pred



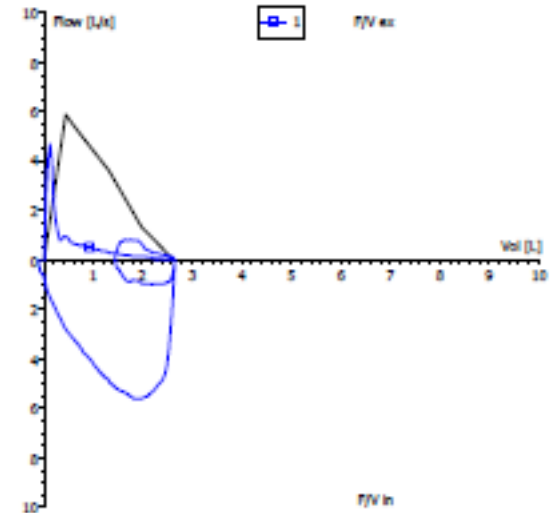
DLCO: 53% pred

# This case certainly does require screening!

Age 62



FEV<sub>1</sub>: 36% pred



DLCO: 32% pred

# My introduction to AATD



- 1996 in Portugal: UK, NL, SE, DK, D
- WHO document was starting point
- Scientific driven or patient driven?
- Only European?
- Role of Pharmaceutical Industry?

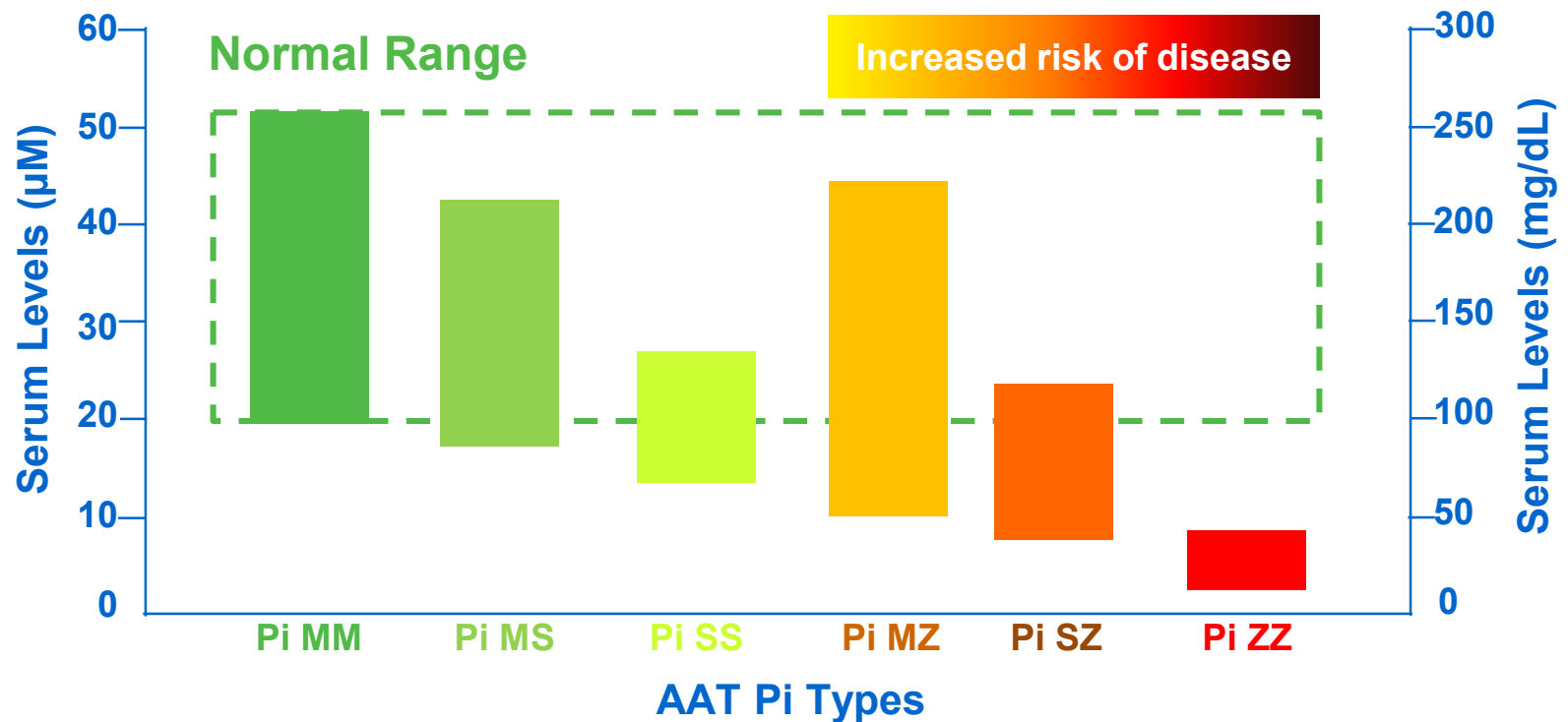


# ***Alpha<sub>1</sub>-antitrypsin Deficiency (AATD)***

- ***Autosomal, codominant genetic disorder characterised by reduced serum level of AAT***
- ***Highest prevalence in Northern Europeans and in Populations with northern european background***  
*(prevalence in Western Europe 1:1,500 – 1:5,000)*
- ***Increased risk of developing COPD (mostly pulmonary emphysema) early in life and chronic liver disease in later phases***

# Serum Level Alone is NOT a Diagnostic Tool

Range of Serum AAT Levels by Phenotype

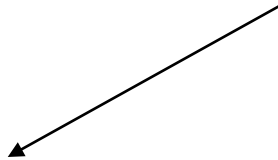


# Alpha-1-antitrypsin testing algorithm

1. Serum sample for AAT



If  $< 0.49$  g/L  
Or  
 $< 11$   $\mu$ M



2a. Phenotyping by isoelectric focussing



Result is SZ,ZZ of rare Null variant

2b. Genotyping for S or Z alleles  
by PCR



No S or Z allele  
but possible  
Null variant



SZ or ZZ genotype



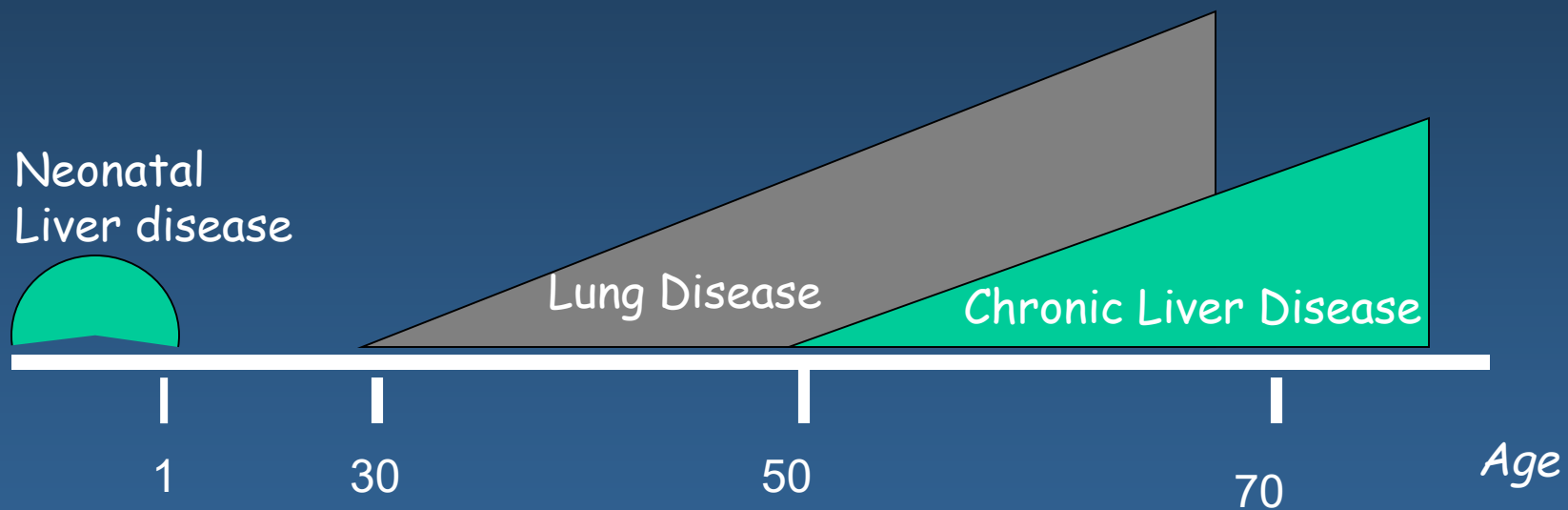
3. Phenotyping by NGS



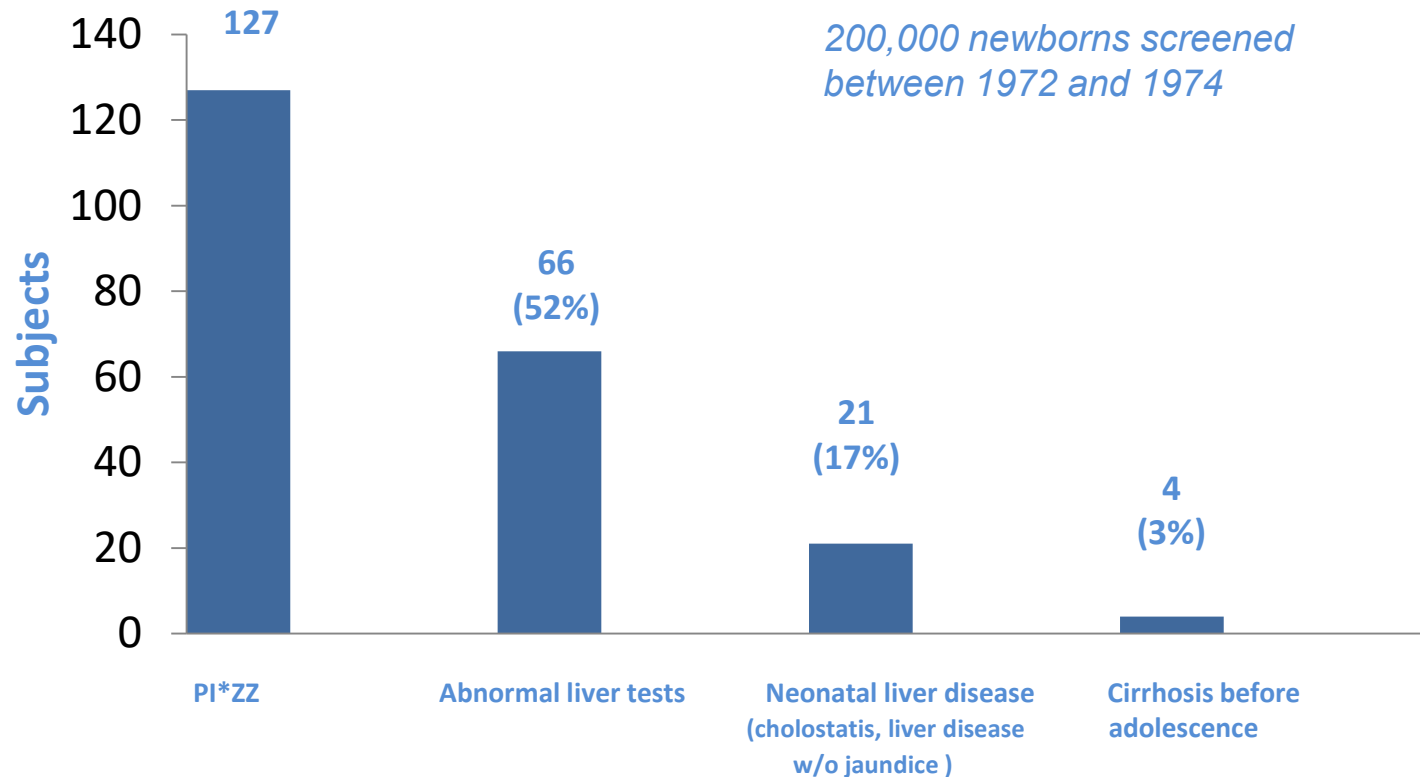
Null variant  
N =21



# LIFE CYCLE OF AATD ASSOCIATED CONDITIONS



# Liver disease in the Swedish Newborn Screening



Sveger T *N Engl J Med* 1976;294:1316  
*Hepatology* 1995;22:514

# Why screening for AATD?

The Swedish cohort patients at age 38

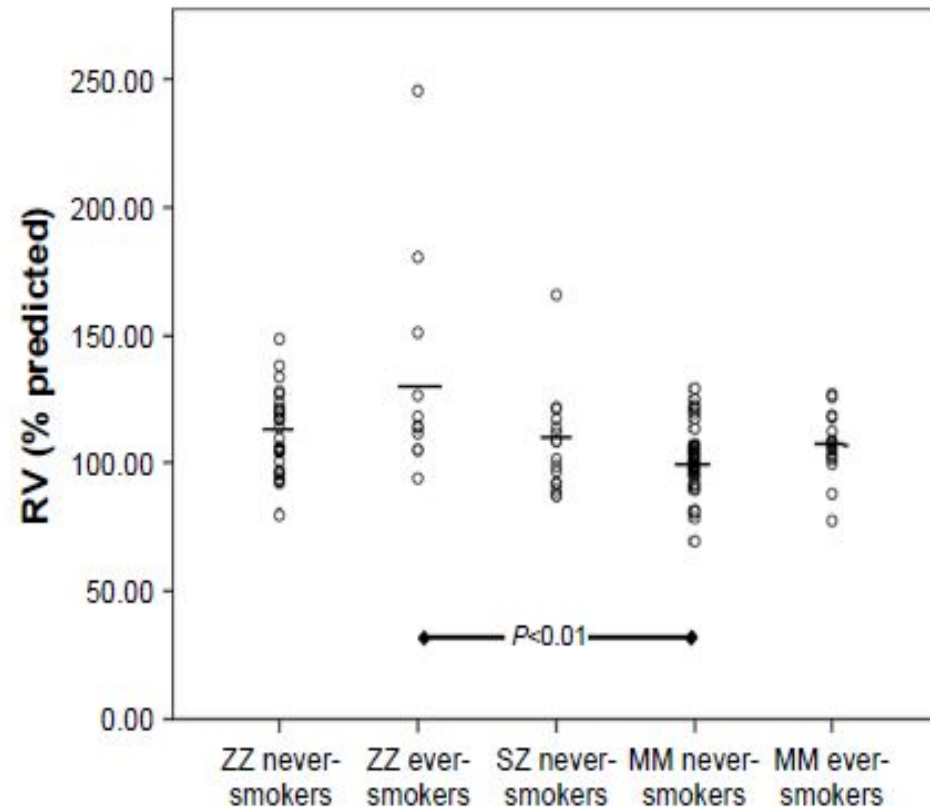


Figure 1 The RV % predicted in Pi-smoking categories.

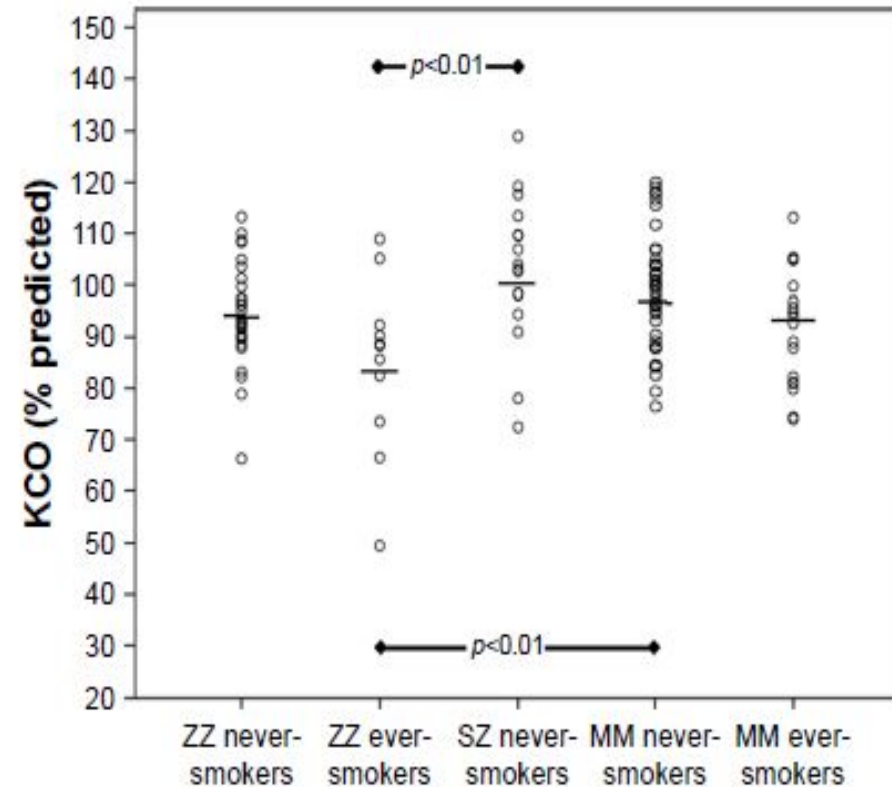


Figure 2 The Kco % predicted in the Pi-smoking categories.

**Counseling to not start smoking helps!**

# Why screening for AATD?

in extended Swedish registry

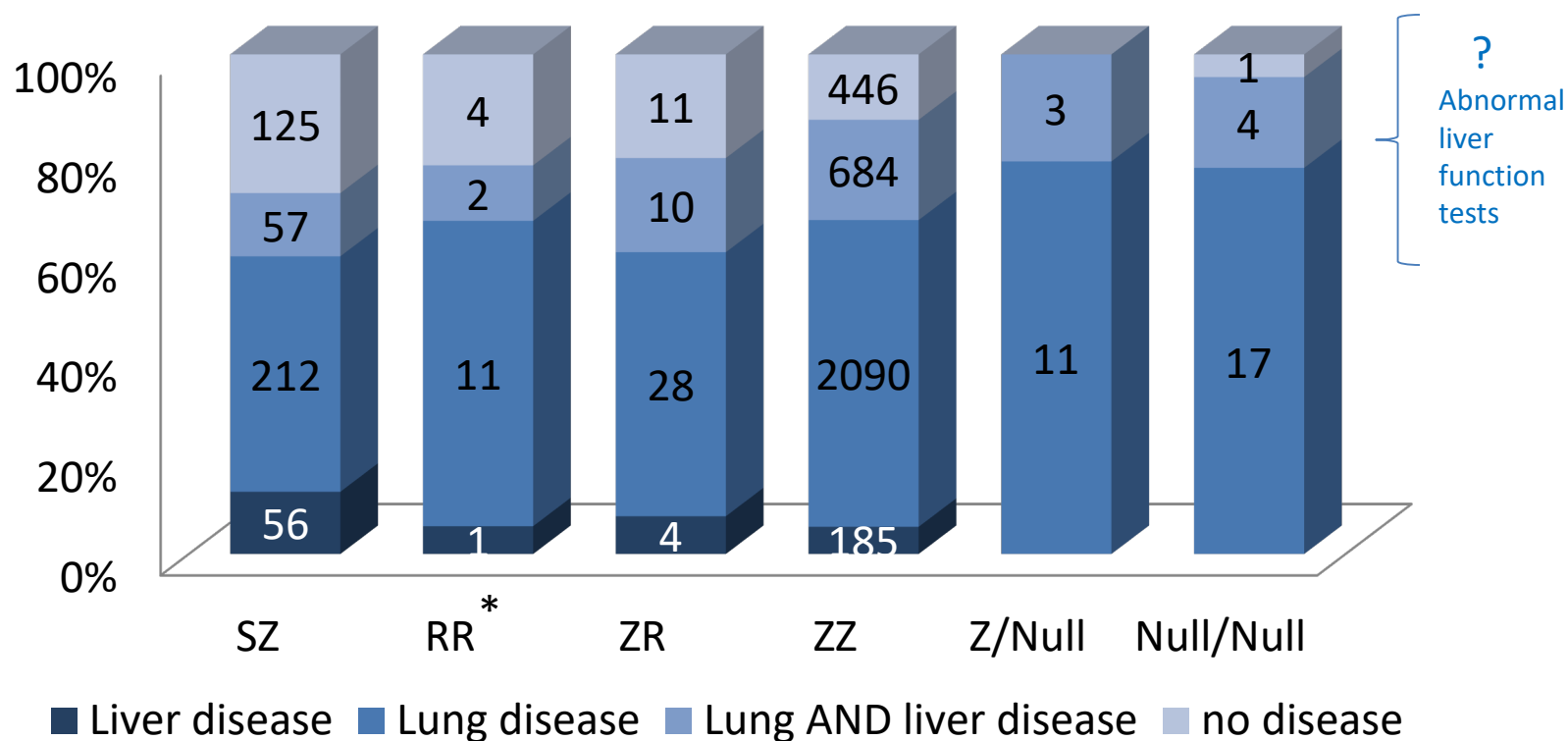
Liver disease	At identification ( <i>N</i> = 55)	At inclusion ( <i>N</i> = 53)	At study end ( <i>N</i> = 155)
Liver cirrhosis	45	49 <sup>a</sup>	103
Fatty liver	4	2	17
Unspecific hepatitis	2	Recovered	6
Hepatocellular carcinoma	2	2	29 <sup>b</sup>
Neonatal cholestasis	2	Recovered	–

<sup>a</sup>Includes 2 patients with fatty liver who developed liver cirrhosis before inclusion in the register

<sup>b</sup>Includes 13 patients with liver cirrhosis who developed hepatocellular carcinoma during the follow-up

**Liver fibroscan for cirrhosis or liver MRI for HCC is recommended**

## Frequency of lung and/or liver disease at diagnosis according to different genotypes



\* R denotes non-Z and non-S deficiency variants

# What is the protective level of AAT to aim for?

- Luisetti & Sapaldia study for AAT threshold: *Plos One* 2012; 7(8): e42728
- population-based study showed that neither PiMS, nor PiMZ carriers have a substantial impact on change in lung function. **This suggests that the 11  $\mu$ M (0,5 g/L) threshold is a clinically relevant one.**

# Alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency: optimal therapeutic regimen based on population pharmacokinetics

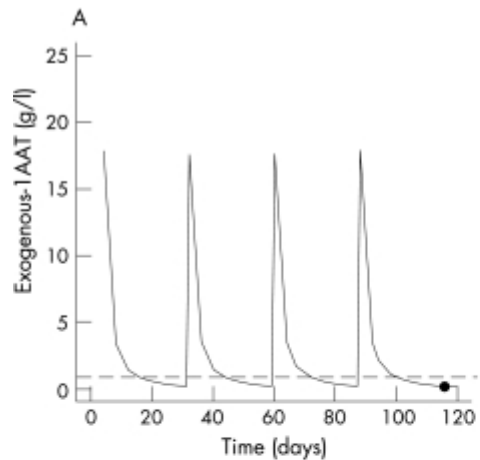
D Soy, C de la Roza, B Lara, C Esquinas, A Torres, and  
M Miravittles

Thorax. 2006; 61(12): 1059–1064.

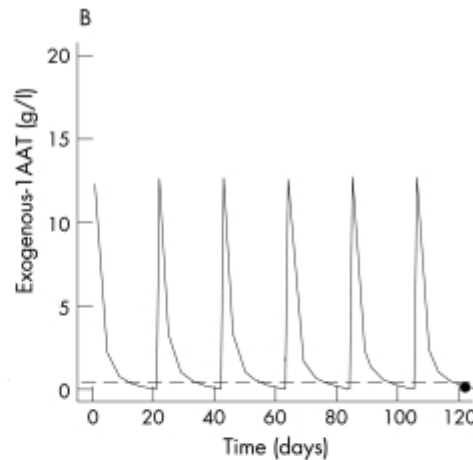
To address the question:

**If so, at what dose and at  
what rhythm?**

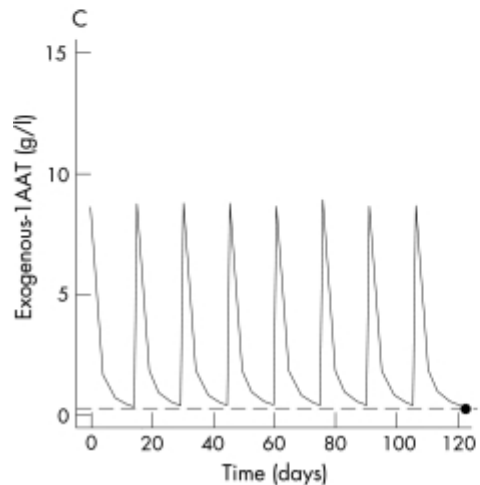
# If so, at what dose and at what rhythm?



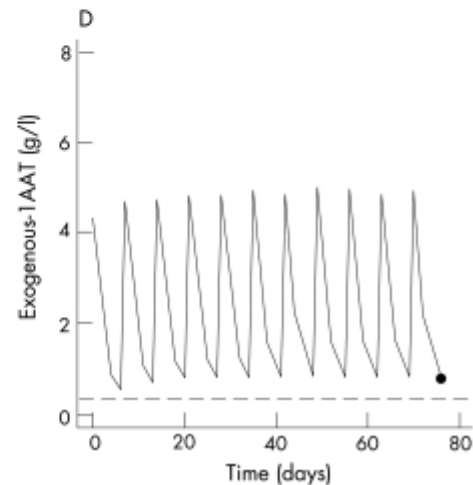
**A:** 180mg/kg every 28 days result in AAT trough concentration of 0.19 g/l far from the 0,5 g/L AAT target level.



**B:** 180mg/kg every 21 days: Trough AAT level at 0,23 g/L.



**C:** 120mg/kg every 14 days: Trough level AAT at 0,58 g/L

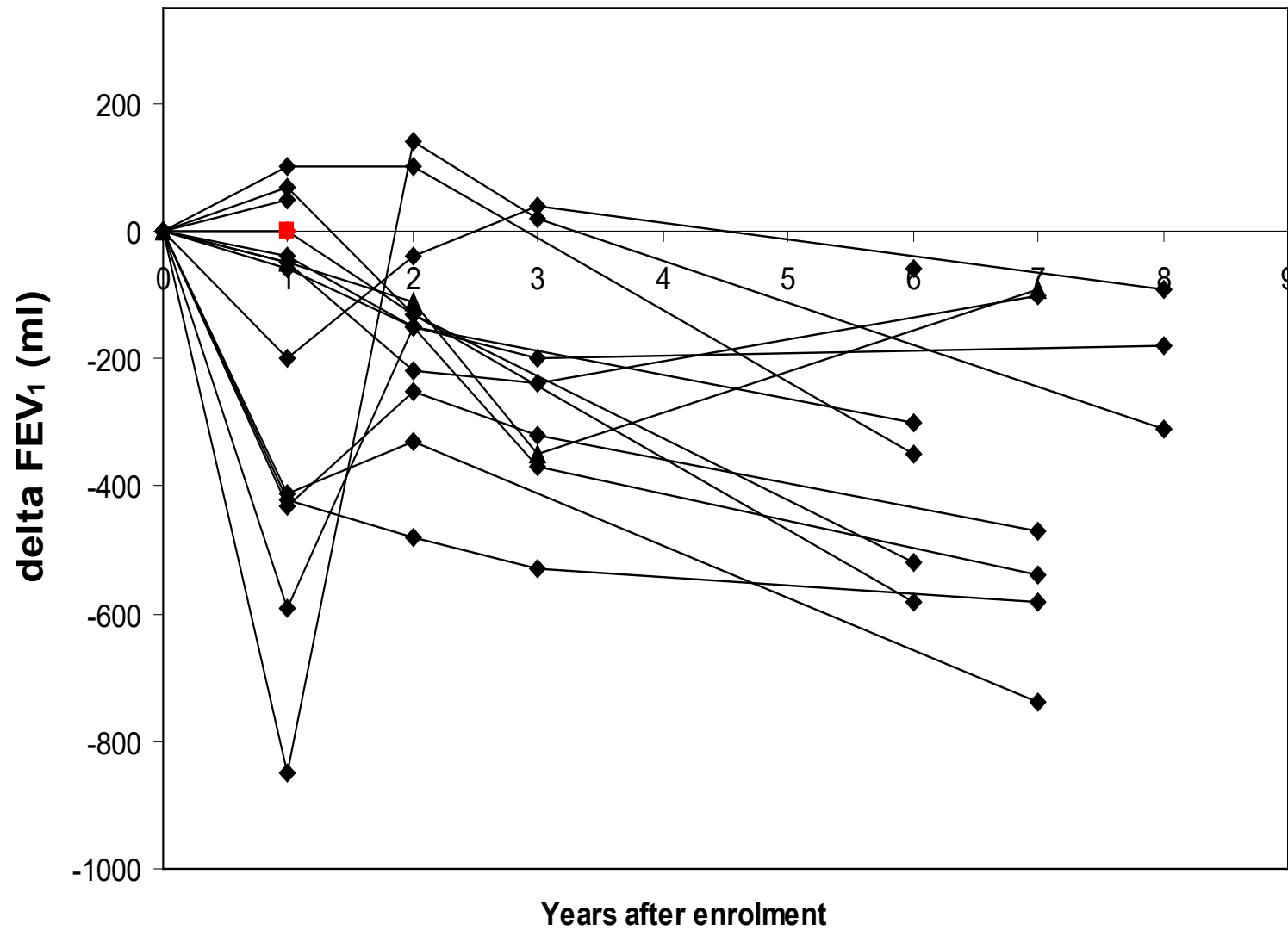


**D:** 60 mg/kg every 7 days: Trough AAT level at 0,73 g/L

**We don't know the relation between dose and elastase inhibition capacity in vivo**



# Change of FEV<sub>1</sub> from baseline



**MULTIVARIATE ANALYSIS OF FEV<sub>1</sub> DECLINE: MEAN FEV<sub>1</sub> DECLINE (ml/yr)  
BY FEV<sub>1</sub>% PREDICTED AND AUGMENTATION THERAPY STATUS\***

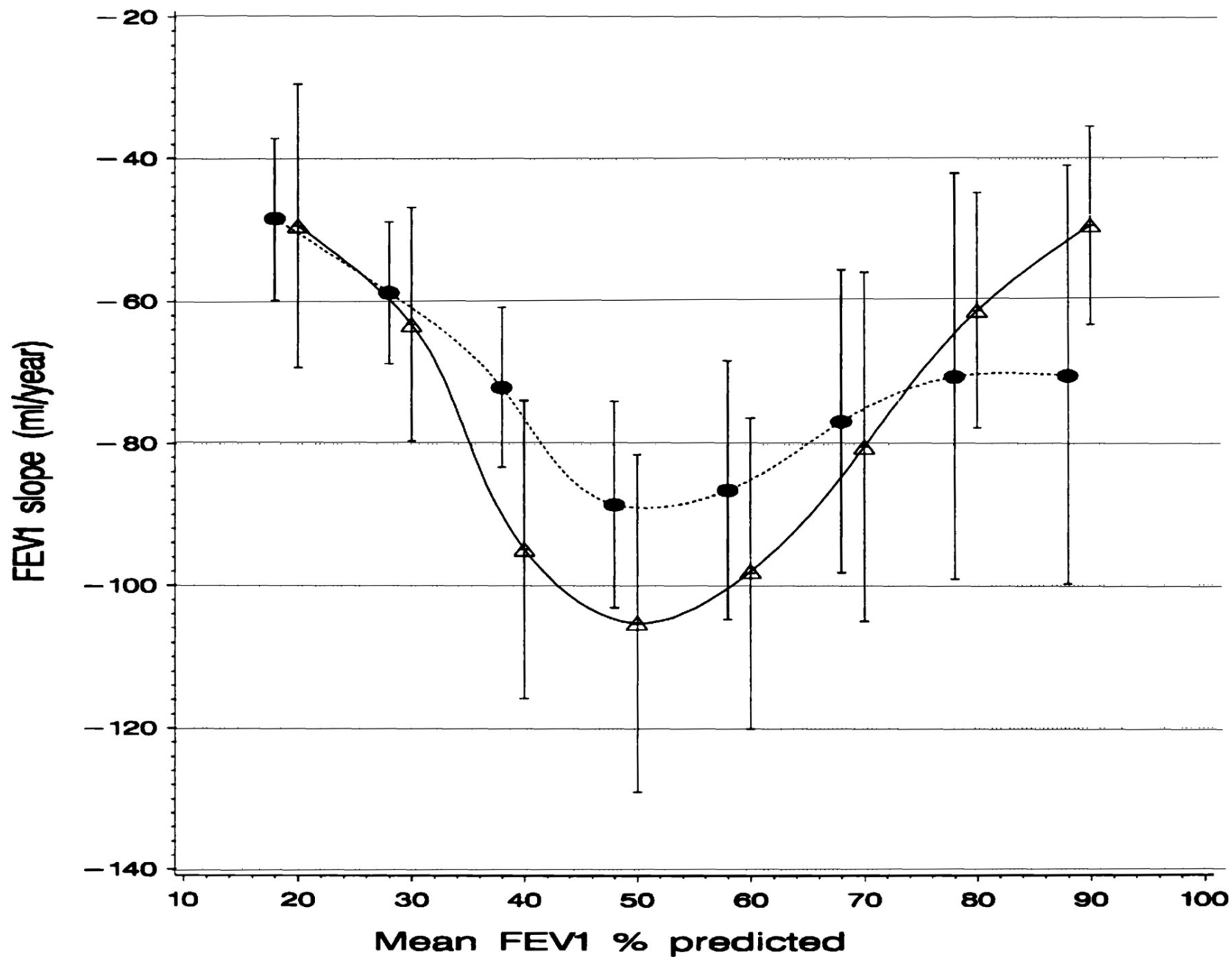
	Not Receiving Augmentation Therapy		Receiving Augmentation Therapy		Difference Receiving
Mean FEV <sub>1</sub> % Predicted	Mean	SE	Mean	SE	Estimate
FEV <sub>1</sub> < 35%	-46.5	6.2	-43.9	3.4	2.6
FEV <sub>1</sub> 35-49%	-93.2	11.1	-66.4	5.0	26.8
FEV <sub>1</sub> 50-79%	-81.2	8.9	-73.7	6.8	7.5
FEV <sub>1</sub> ≥ 80%	-39.2	5.6	-63.0	12.8	-23.8
Pooled categories <sup>†</sup>					
All subjects	-56.0	3.8	-51.8	2.7	4.2
35-79%	-83.5	7.6	-69.9	4.1	13.6

\* Reported means are least-squares means that adjust for other factors included in the model. The multivariate model for change in FEV<sub>1</sub> included age, bronchodilator responsiveness, FEV<sub>1</sub>% predicted (categorized as < 35%, 35-49%, 50-79%, ≥ 80%), augmentation-therapy status (not receiving predicted and augmentation-therapy status). Reported means are the average estimated rates of FEV<sub>1</sub> decline with and without augmentation therapy, averaged across the levels (categories) of the other factors (smoking status, age, bronchodilator responsiveness), using weights based on the overall cohort.

<sup>†</sup> A positive difference in slopes implies a slower rate of decline for subjects receiving augmentation therapy compared with those not receiving augmentation therapy. Slopes with and without augmentation therapy were estimated using cumulative time on augmentation therapy as a time-varying covariate (see supplemental section).

<sup>‡</sup> Estimates for pooled categories are obtained from a model fit to the entire cohort or to the specific subgroup, with interaction terms between augmentation therapy excluded from the model.

## A. Mean FEV1 decline



# Take home message

- In AATD the AAT genotype is the clinical characteristic that determines outcome of lung disease
- The ATS-ERS guidelines from 2003 state that baseline  $FEV_1$  should be between 35 and 65% pred. at start of AAT iv treatment.
- There is a poor correlation between  $\Delta FEV_1$  and  $\Delta$  change CT scan lungdensity score.
- The impact of liver fibroscanning is currently being evaluated.