

Integrating Mendelian Randomization With Real-World Evidence: Cost-Effectiveness of Lipoprotein (a) Testing for Primary Prevention of Cardiovascular Disease in High-Income Countries

Jedidiah Morton, PhD¹, Florian Kronenberg, MD, PhD², Magdalena Daccord, MSc³, Nicola Bedlington, MSc⁴, Albert Wiegman, MD, PhD⁵, Marius Geanta, MPH, PhD⁶, Tobias Silberzahn, PhD⁷, Zhenyue Chen, MPH, PhD⁸, Bogi Eliassen, MSc⁹, Mariko Harada-Shiba, MD, PhD¹⁰, Marc Rijken, MSc¹¹, George Thanassoulis, MD, MSc, FRCPC¹², Zanfina Ademi, MPharm, MPH, PhD¹³

¹Monash University, Parkville, Australia, ²Medical University of Innsbruck, Innsbruck, Austria, ³FH Europe Foundation, London, United Kingdom, ⁴European Patients' Forum, Brussels, Belgium, ⁵FH Europe Foundation, Netherlands, ⁶Center for Innovation in Medicine, Bucharest, Romania, ⁷McKinsey & Company, Frankfurt, Germany, ⁸Department of Cardiovascular Medicine, Shanghai Ruijin Hospital, Shanghai Jiaotong University School of Medicine, Shanghai, China, ⁹Copenhagen Institute for Futures Studies, Copenhagen, Denmark, ¹⁰Cardiovascular Center, Osaka Medical and Pharmaceutical University, Osaka, Japan, ¹¹FH Europe Foundation, Netherlands, ¹²MUHC Preventive and Genomic Cardiology, McGill University, Quebec, QC, Canada, ¹³Monash University, Melbourne, Australia.

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Background

- Lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] is an important risk factor for cardiovascular disease (CVD).
- Cost-effectiveness of Lipoprotein(a) [Lp(a)] testing is not established.
- We aimed to evaluate the cost-effectiveness of Lp(a) testing in the CVD primary prevention population from healthcare and societal perspectives.

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Methods

- The model Lp(a) testing in individuals not initially classified as high-risk based on age, diabetes status, or the SCORE-2 algorithm. Those with an Lp(a) level ≥ 105 nmol/L (50 mg/dL) were treated as high risk (initiation of a statin plus blood pressure lowering). The Lp(a) testing intervention was compared to standard of care (Figure 1).

Primary prevention population aged 40-69 years
Standard of care versus introduction of Lp(a) testing

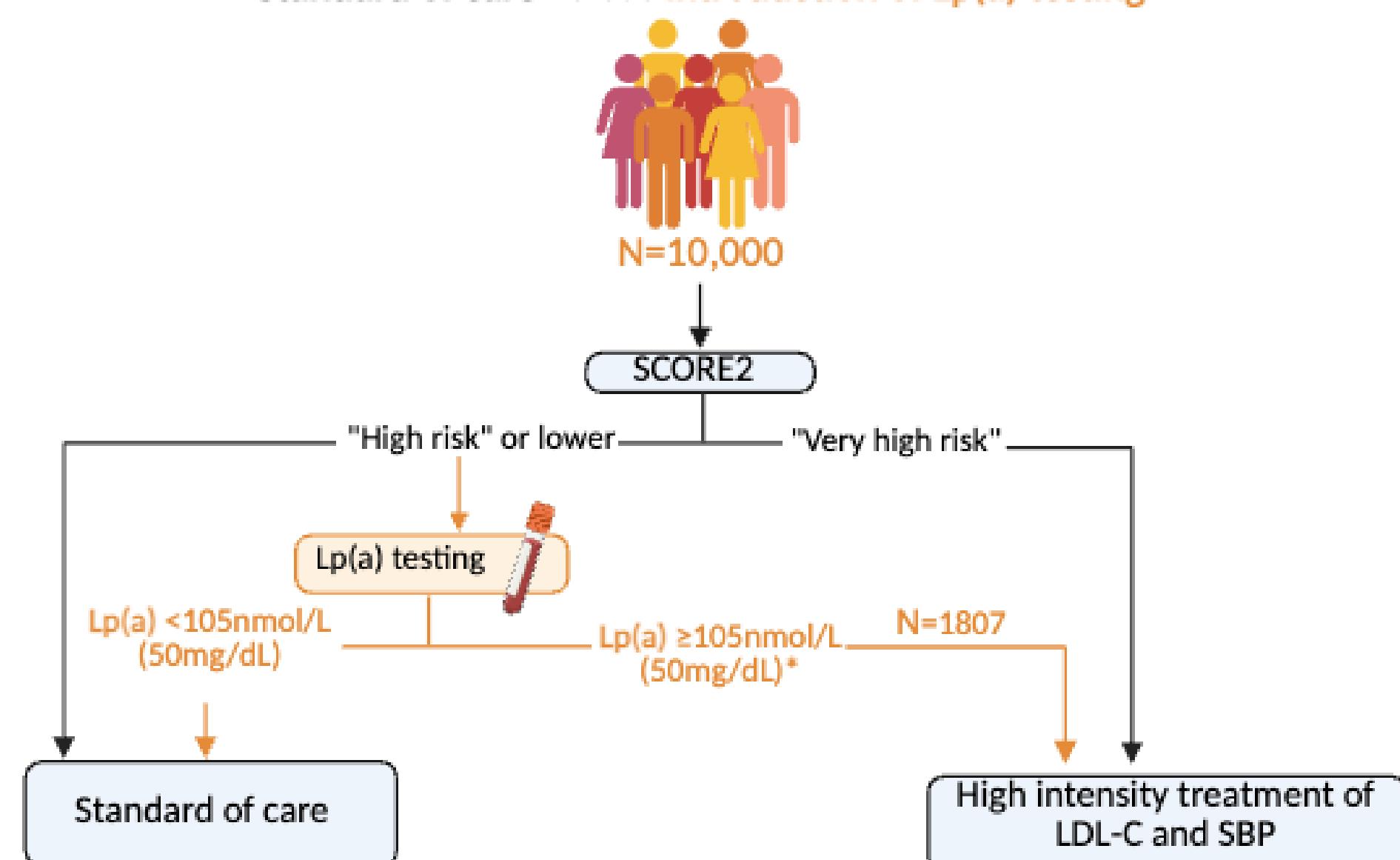


Figure 1. Standard of care versus intervention

- We constructed and validated a multi-state microsimulation Markov model for a population of 10,000 individuals aged between 40 and 69 years without CVD, selected randomly from the UK Biobank (Figure 2).
- The primary analyses were conducted from the **Australian and UK** healthcare perspectives in 2023AUD/GBP. A cost adaptation method estimated cost-effectiveness in multiple European countries, Canada, and the USA.
- The effects of LDL-C, SBP, Lp(a), and smoking on the risk of MI, stroke, and death from other causes was proportional to both magnitude and duration of exposure (i.e., the concept of cholesterol-years, pack-years, etc.), using Mendelian Randomisation.

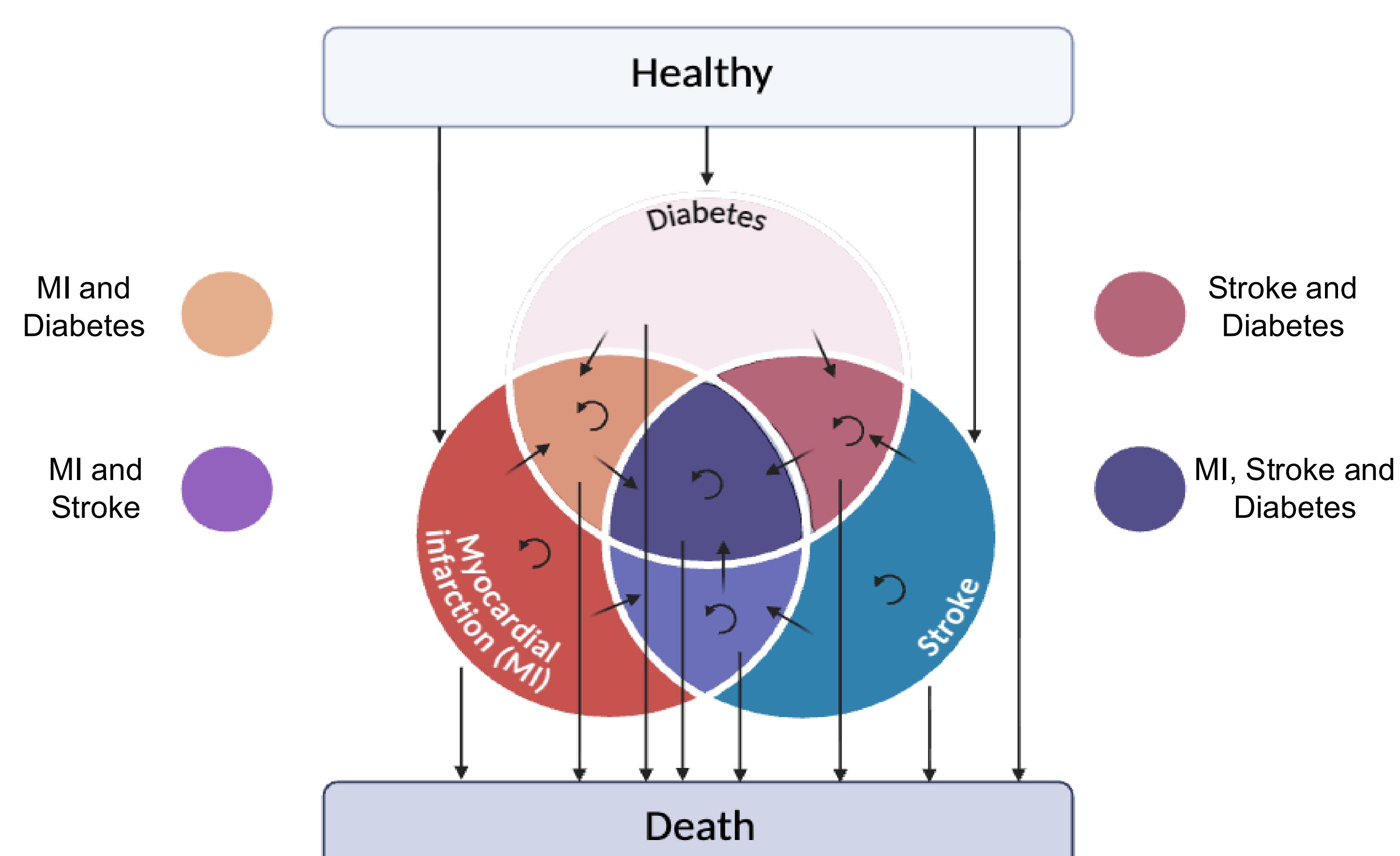
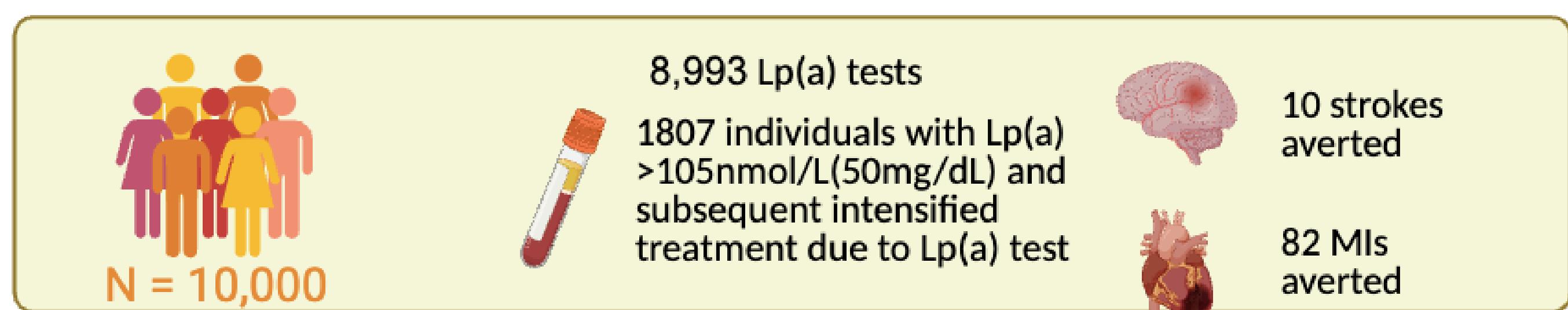


Figure 2. Multi-state microsimulation Markov model for a population of 10,000

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Results

- Among 10,000 individuals, 1,807 had their treatment modified from Lp(a) testing.



Australia

QALYs gained 217

Costs:

\$227,450 Lp(a) testing (intervention)
\$2,635,038 Healthcare costs
- \$3,489,419 Indirect costs
- \$854,381 Total costs

ICER \$12,134 (healthcare perspective)*
ICER - \$3934 (societal perspective)

United Kingdom

QALYs gained 255

Costs:

£363,920 Lp(a) testing (intervention)
- £891,069 Healthcare costs
- £1,741,463 Indirect costs
- £2,632,531 Total costs

ICER - £3491 (healthcare perspective)*
ICER - £10,314 (societal perspective)

Cost adaptation

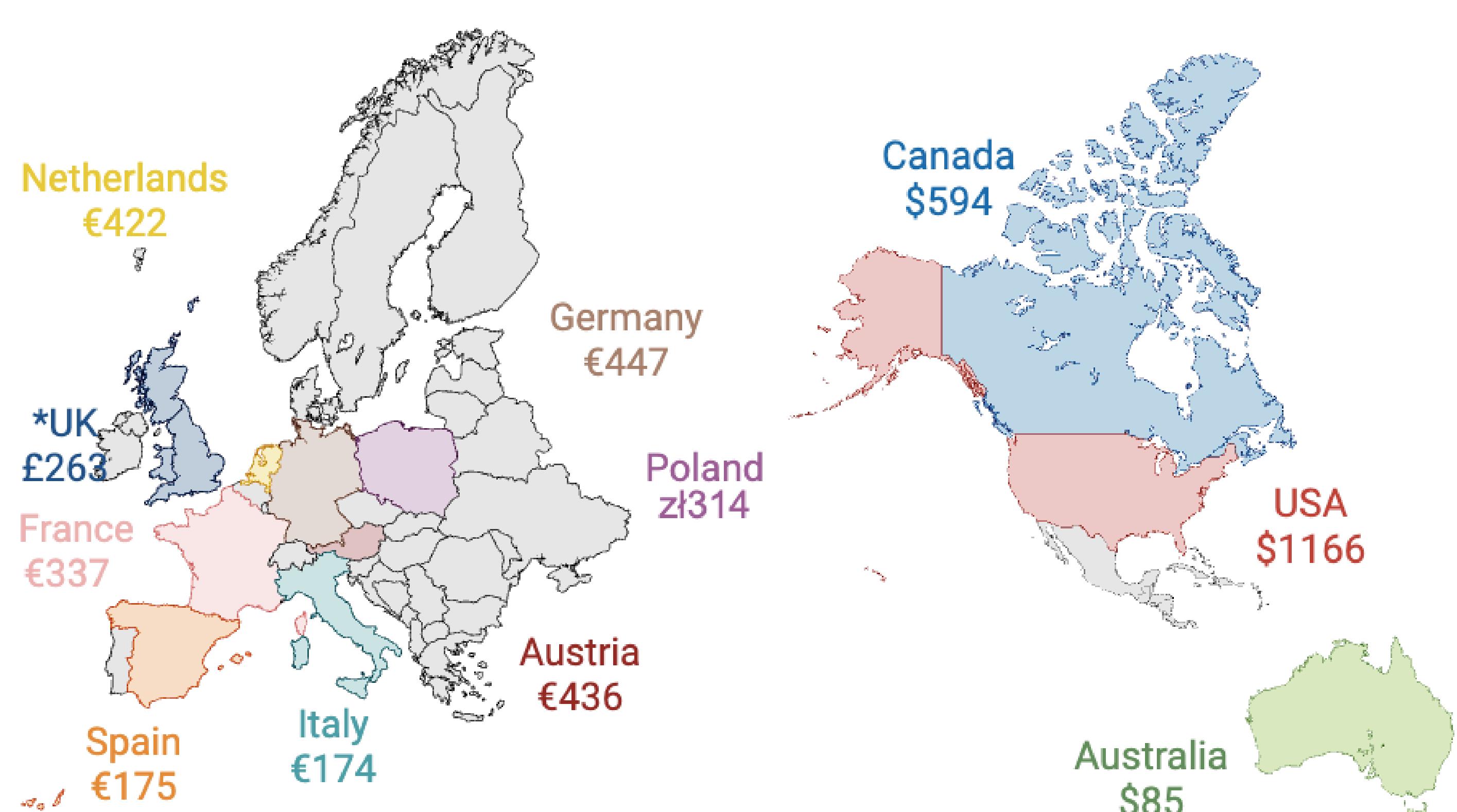
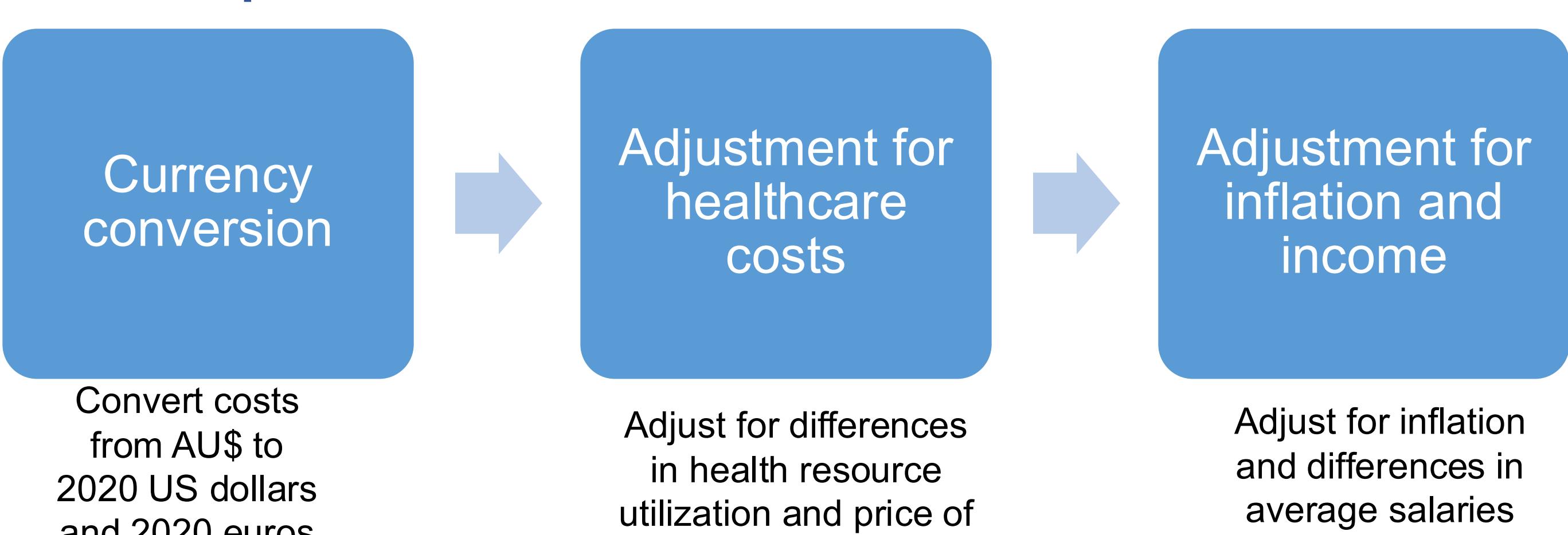


Figure 3. Cost saved per person Total Healthcare + indirect costs/10,000

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Conclusions

- Lp(a) testing in the primary prevention population to reclassify CVD risk and treatment is cost-saving and warranted to prevent CVD.
- Adapted ICERs should be viewed as approximate estimates rather than precise country-specific outcomes.

References:

1. Florian, K. Eur Heart J. 2022; 43:3925-3946.
2. Nordestgaard BG. Lancet. 2024; 404:1255-1264.
3. Ademi Z. Swiss Med Wkly. 2018; 148, w14626

Contact Professor Zanfina Ademi
Zanfina.Ademi@monash.edu