

INTRODUCTION

Heart failure (HF) is a chronic disease whose prognosis remains poor. Vitamin D (Vit D) is classically involved in bone homeostasis, but many studies strongly suggest extraskelletic functions including pleiotropic effects on cardiovascular health. Evidences indicate that low serum 25-hydroxivitamin D (25OHD, a biomarker of vit D status) levels are associated with increased risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD), impaired exercise performance in HF patients and Left Ventricle dysfunction. A major limit of all studies in literature is the measurement of serum 25OHD: since traditional immunoassay are often inaccurate and have a remarkable intra and inter-assay variability. High Performances Liquid Chromatography (HPLC-MS-MS) has shown high accuracy and specificity and can resolve this problem.

AIMS

RETROSPECTIVE STUDY

To define 25 OH-D levels in the HF population by a RETROSPECTIVE analysis. To reveal the condition of vitamin-D deficiency or insufficiency in the HF population, since vitamin D status is often a neglected data in these patients.

To correlate 25 OH-D levels and HF outcome markers (biochemical and instrumental evaluation) by RETROSPECTIVE analysis.

Hypothesis: vitamin D represents an emerging factor in the development and progression of HF and a potential "modifiable factor risk"

MATERIALS AND METHODS 1. PATIENTS: N = 261

CLINICAL DATABASE at Fondazione Toscana Gabriele Monasterio (FTGM), Unit of Cardiology (Pisa): data were collected from interviews, physical examinations and biochemical and instrumental test

All patients with heart failure (HF) in different NYHA classes consecutively seen in FTGM ambulatories: 1) Anthropometric data (age, sex, weight, height, BMI); 2) Anamnestic records and drugs

Biochemical evaluation: 1) GENERAL: hemoglobin, serum electrolytes, 2) NEUROHORMONES: PRA, aldosterone, catecolamine, BNP levels, 3) KIDNEY FUNCTION: creatinine and glomerular filtration rate as MDRD 4) BONE METABOLISM: albumin adjusted serum calcium, PTH

MATERIALS AND METHODS 2. 25-OH-VITAMIN D QUANTIFICATION

We used the blood samples (serum) collected at the baseline evaluation and stored at -80 C. **Fast isotope dilution Mass Spectrometry coupled to High Performances Liquid Chromatography (HPLC-MS-MS)** method was developed for the accurate measurement of 25-OH-vitamin D status. HPLC-MS-MS offers a good quantification accuracy and the contribution of interfering compounds to the final results is limited (as previously described)

MATERIALS AND METHODS 3. INSTRUMENTAL EVALUATION

1) Ejection fraction (echocardiography)

2) **Cardiopulmonary exercise test (CPET) parameters:** peak oxygen consumption (VO₂), VE/VCO₂ slope and Watt peak have utility in prognostic stratification for patients with heart failure.

3) **Calculation of Mecki score index (Figure 1)**

RESULTS

Patients were 47 females and 214 males (ratio M:F=4:1), with a mean age of 65±12 years and mean BMI of 28±14. They had stable HF disease in prevalent NYHA 2 class (Figure 2) and prevalent HF causes were 1) dilative non ischemic cardiomyopathy, 2) ischemic cardiomyopathy, 3) cardiomyopathy secondary to valvular disease. Mean EF (ejection fraction) was 33±8%; patients had mild kidney failure (creatinine 1.12±0.3 mg/dl) and they were normocalcemic and normo-PTH. Levels of 25OHvitaminD ranged 2-45 ng/ml, with mean of 17±9 ng/ml. Twenty-five% (n=65) patients had vitamin D deficiency (<10ng/ml), 62% (n=161) had vitamin insufficiency (between 10 and 30 ng/ml) and 13% (n=35) had vitaminD>30 ng/ml, without any supplementation. The linear regression analysis showed that 25OHvitaminD levels were positively correlated with CPET parameters and negatively with mortality Mecki score (Figure 3-5) and this relation was even stronger in patient with Vit D insufficiency (Figure 6).

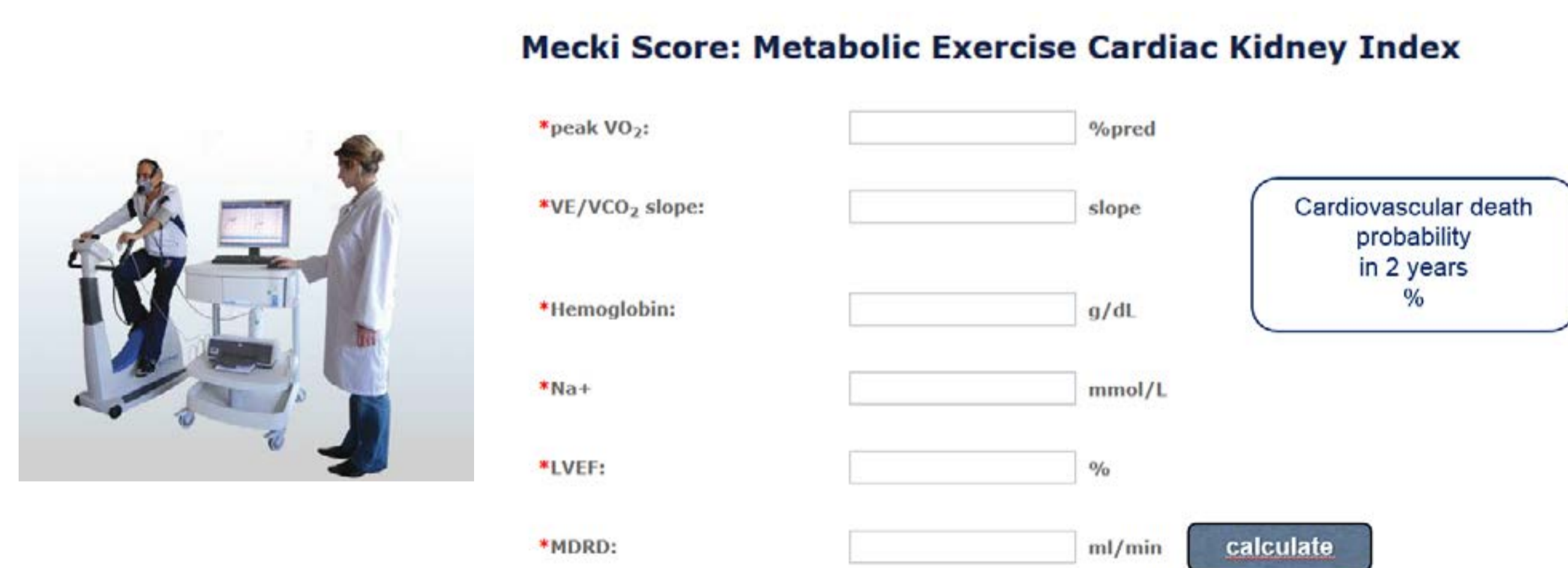


Figure 1: Cardiopulmonary test execution and Mecki score calculation

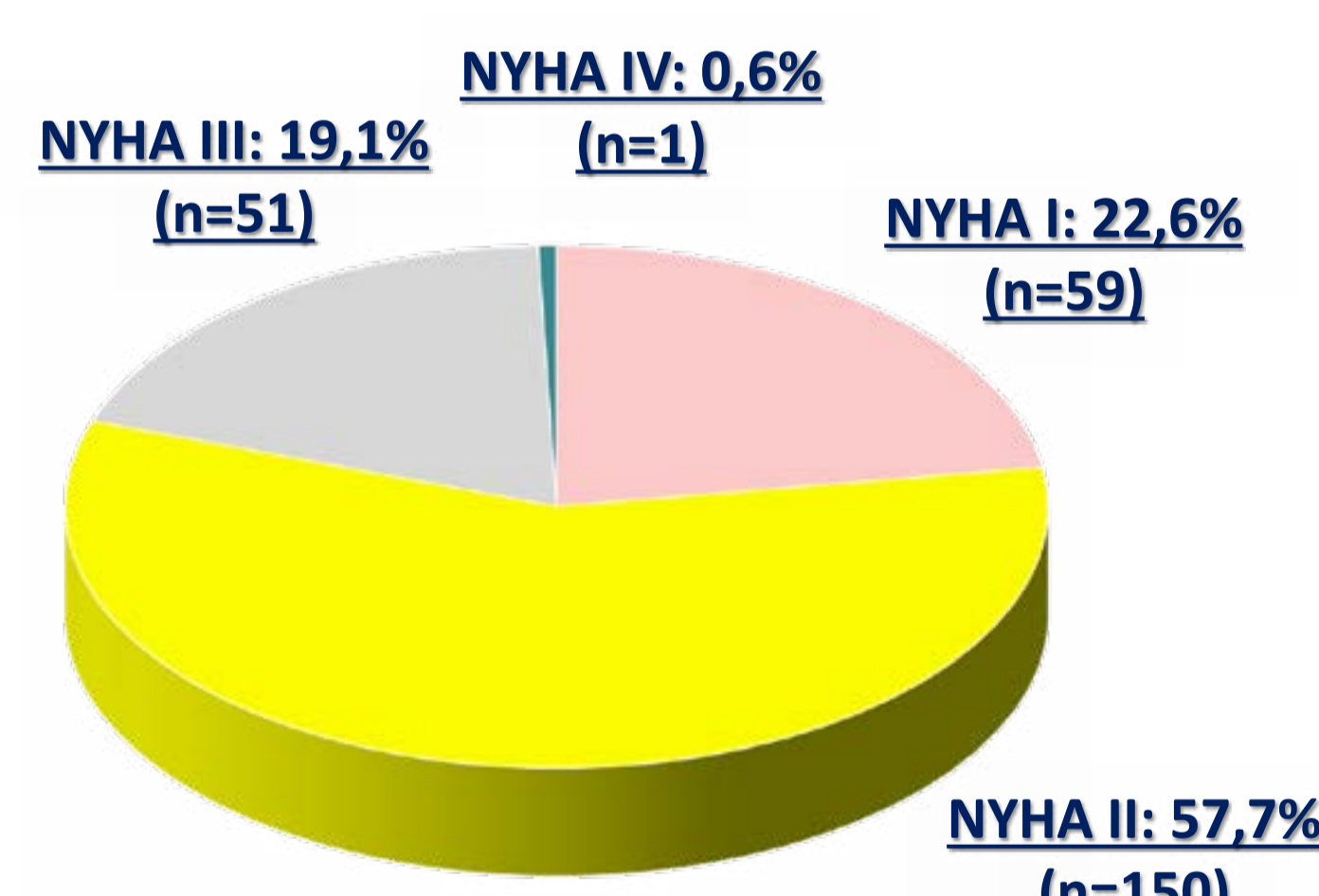


Figure 2: Patients NYHA classes distribution

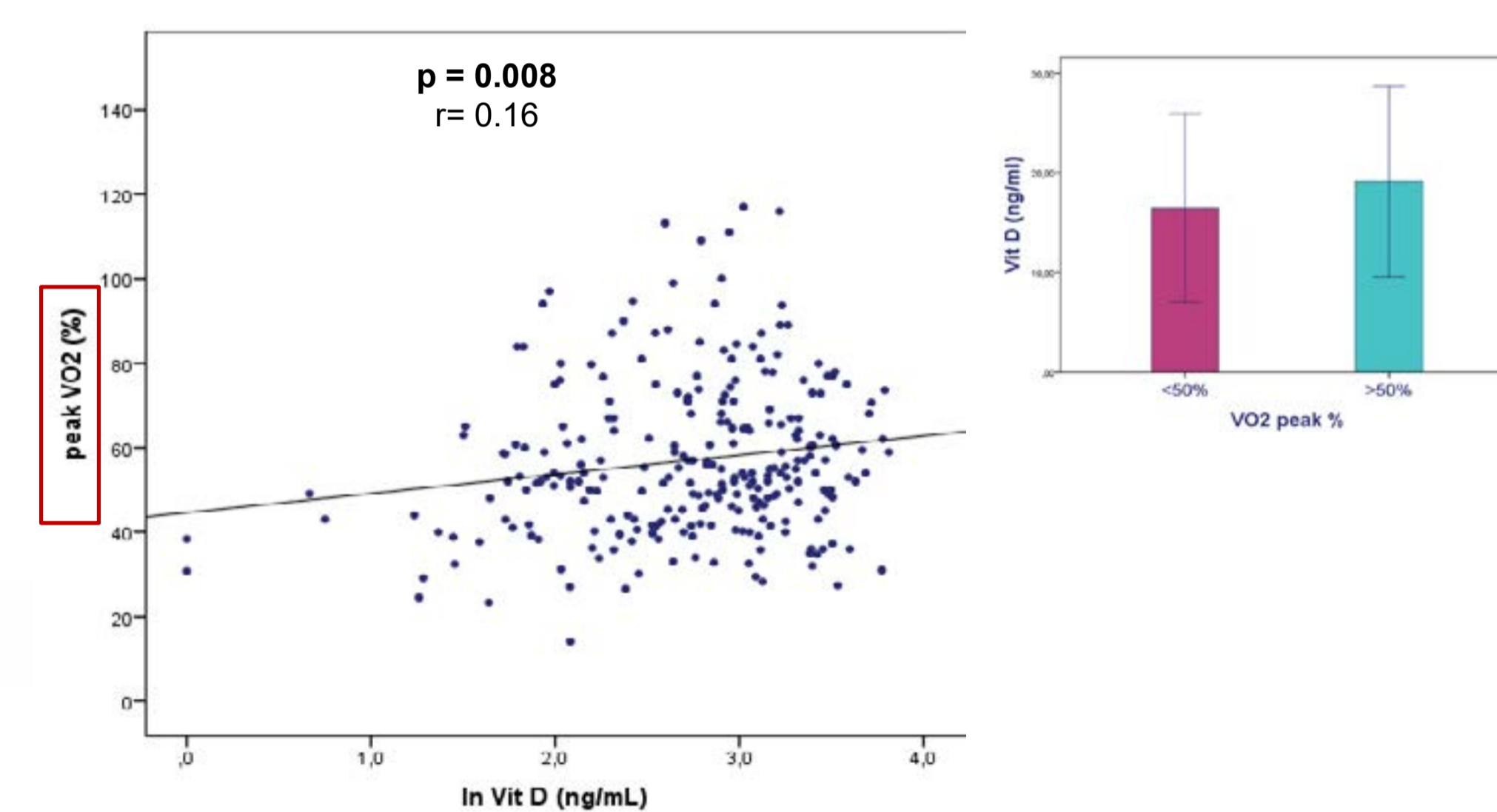


Figure 3: A) Positive correlation between 25OHD and VO₂ peak (p<0.1) in a multivariate model (Age, BMI, Hb, MDRD, NT-proBNP); B) 25-OHD levels were lower in patients with VO₂ peak% <50% and severe HF (p = 0.025)

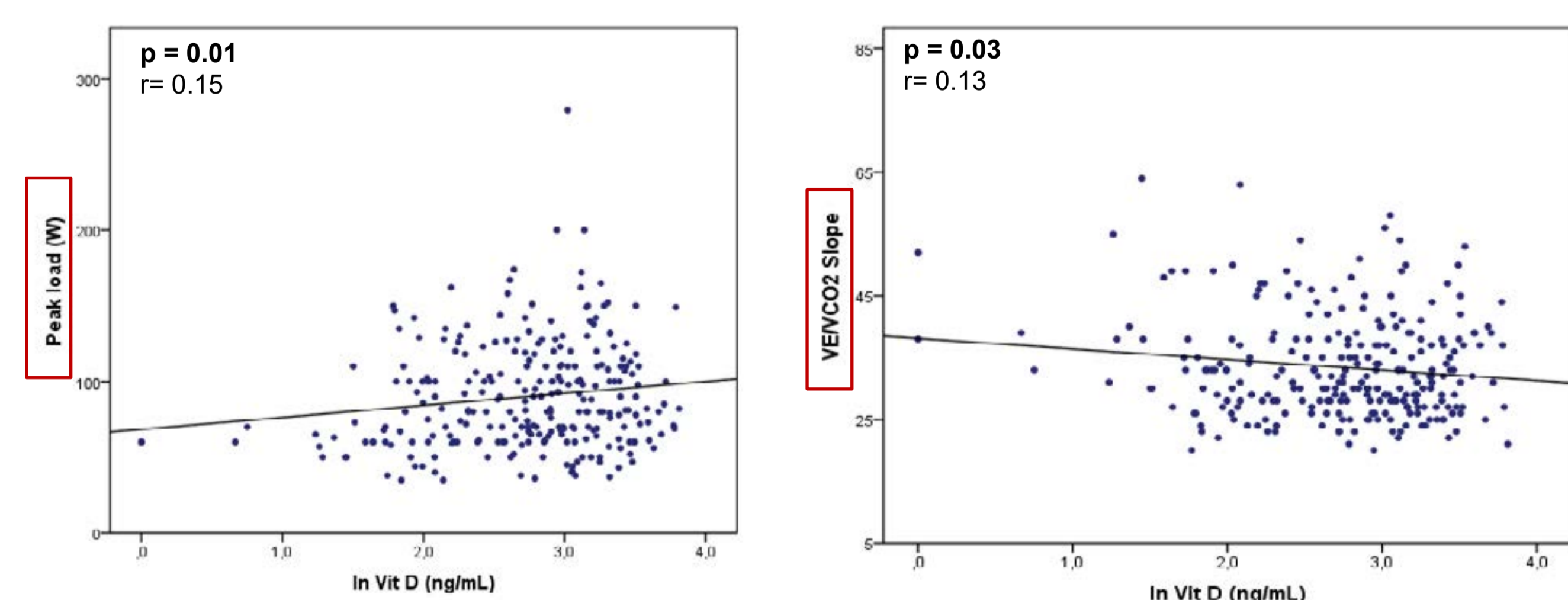


Figure 4: Positive correlation between 25OHD and peak load (CPET) and negative correlation between 25OHD and VE/VCO₂ slope (CPET) in a multivariate model (Age, BMI, Hb, MDRD, NT-proBNP) p<0.1

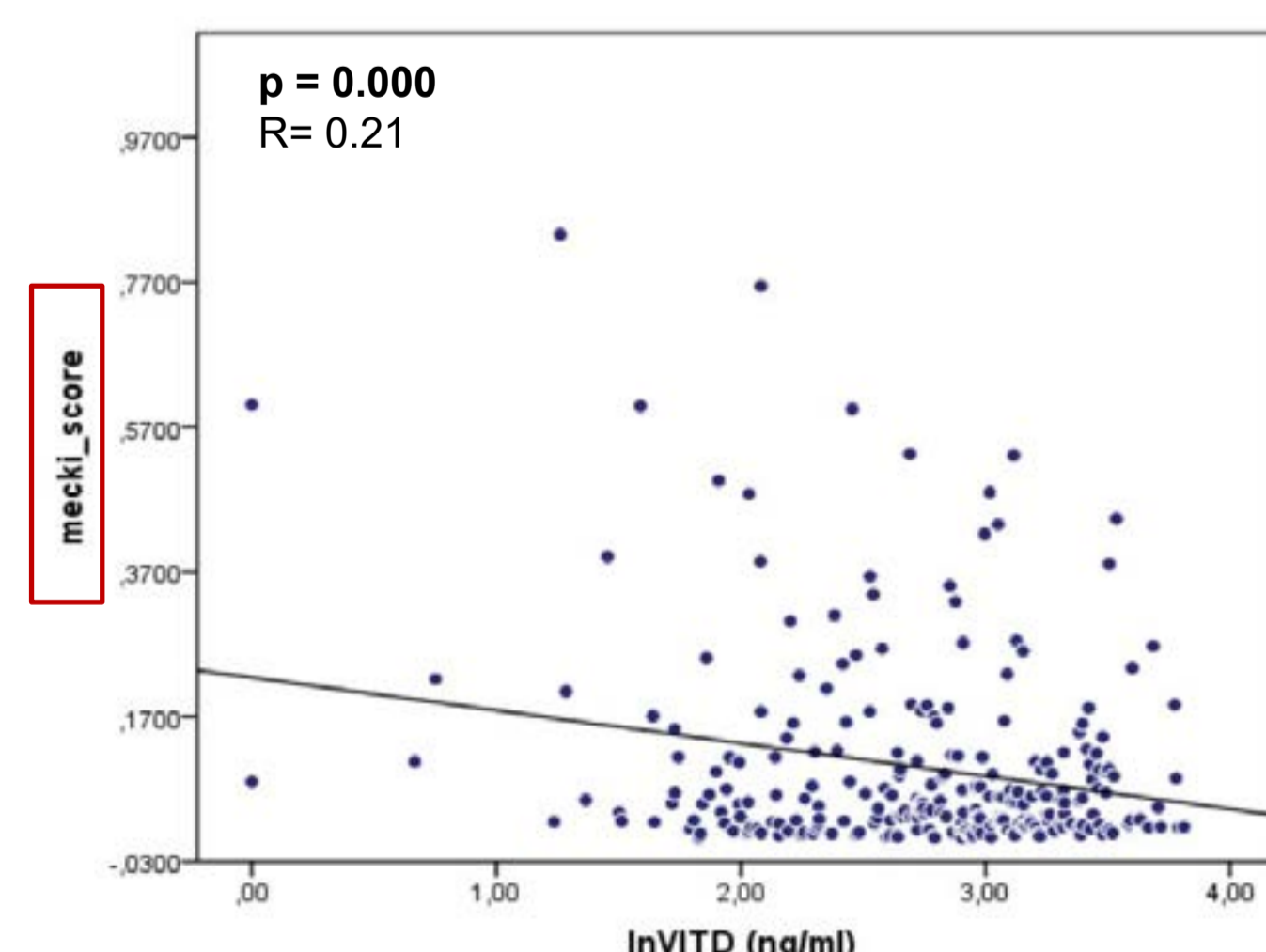


Figure 5: INVERSE CORRELATION between 25OHD and MECKI score of mortality in a multivariate model (Age, BMI, Hb, MDRD, NT-proBNP) p<0.0001

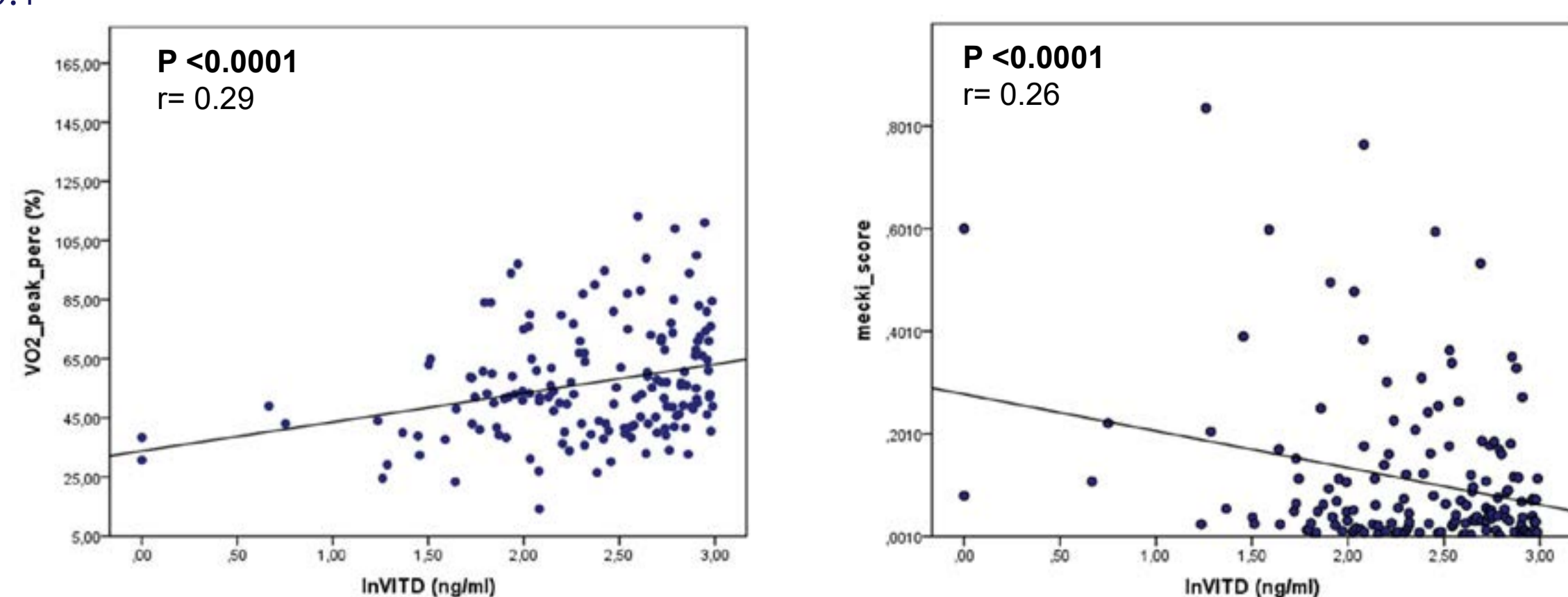


Figure 6: Positive correlation between 25OHD and VO₂ peak and negative correlation between 25OHD and Mecki score in a multivariate model (Age, BMI, Hb, MDRD, NT-proBNP) p<0.0001 in in patients with hypovitaminosis D (<20 ng/ml - n=158 - 60%)

CONCLUSIONS

- This pilot study confirms the condition of vitamin-D deficiency or insufficiency in the HF population
- This study confirms that HPLC-MS-MS is a valuable alternative to Immunoassay and offers a good quantification accuracy
- This study correlates 25 OH-D levels and HF outcome in terms of CPET parameters, particularly in HF patients with hypovitaminosis D
- Vitamin D represents an emerging factor in the development and progression of cardiovascular disease and a potential "modifiable factor risk"
- Further studies needed: prospective study



federica.saponaro@gmail.com

