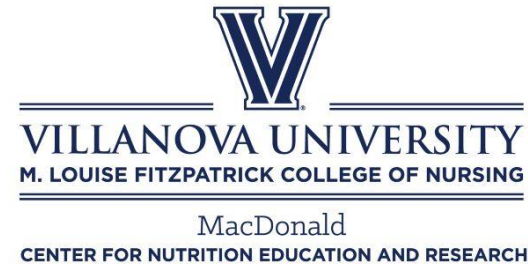


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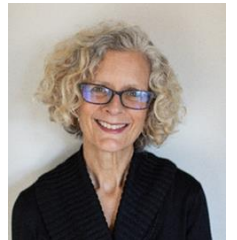
Metabolic Shifts and Menopause:
The Role of Diet in
Women's Midlife Health

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

Presented by Hannah Cabré, PhD, RDN

Moderator:

Lisa Diewald, MS, RDN, LDN
Associate Director



MacDonald Center for Nutrition Education and Research

Finding slides for today's webinar

- Slides are posted at villanova.edu/cope
- From right menu → Webinars
- Go to 9/17/25 webinar presented by Hannah Cabré, PhD, RDN

Continuing Professional Development Details



- Villanova University M. Louise Fitzpatrick College of Nursing is accredited as a provider of nursing continuing professional development by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation. This activity awards 1 contact hour for nursing professionals.
- This activity awards 1 CPEU in accordance with the Commission on Dietetic Registration's CPEU Prior Approval Program
 - Level 2 activity
 - Suggested CDR Performance Indicators: 7.1.1, 7.2.3, 9.1.1, and 9.1.5
 - To receive CE credit, you must attend the entire program.

The Q&A Box is Open!



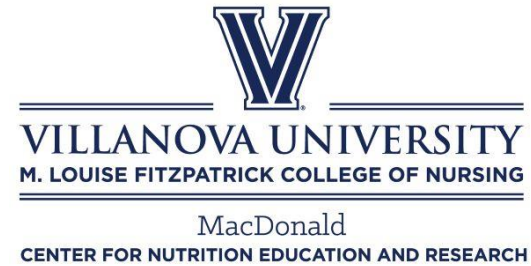
- Questions are welcome!
- Please send through the Q&A Box during the presentation.
- Q&A session will follow the program.

Dr. Cabré has received research funding from the National Pork Board. The relevant financial relationships listed for this individual have been mitigated.

Planners will review participant feedback to evaluate for real or perceived commercial bias in any activity.



Hannah Cabré, PhD, RDN
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Reproductive Endocrinology and Women's
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Pennington Biomedical Research Center



Metabolic Shifts and Menopause: The Role of Diet in Women's Midlife Health

Presented by
Hannah Cabré, PhD, RDN

Metabolic Shifts and Menopause: The Role of Diet in Women's Midlife Health

Hannah E. Cabre, PhD, RDN
Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Pennington Biomedical Research Center

Disclosures

- Funding from the National Pork Board

Objectives

- Understand the physiological and behavioral changes that surround the transition from normal menstrual cycle function to menopause
- Describe the impact of estrogen loss from clinical studies on female metabolism and weight gain.
- Summarize the specific nutritional and health needs to optimize health post-menopause and the interventions with established efficacy
- Introduce precision nutrition approaches tailored to midlife women

Women Have Been Misled About Menopause

Hot flashes, sleeplessness, pain during sex: For some of menopause's worst symptoms, there's an established treatment. Why aren't more women offered it?

By Susan Dominus
Feb. 1, 2023

'Menopause has the worst P.R. campaign in the history of the universe, because it's not just hot flashes and night sweats.'

'It suggests that we have a high cultural tolerance for women's suffering. It's not regarded as important.'

April 6, 2021

"We get 'the talk' before we start our periods around the end of grade school, but nobody gives you 'the talk' when you're about to enter perimenopause."

— Dr. Stephanie S. Faubion, medical director for the North American Menopause Society

Study Shows the Staggering Cost of Menopause for Women in the Work Force

The New York Times Magazine

Some are taking sick days. Others are cutting back their hours. Still others end up quitting altogether.

\$1.8 Billion in lost working time per year

A New Match for Menopausal Weight Gain: Ozempic

The New York Times Magazine

Weight gain is one of the most common concerns among women going through menopause. New drugs could change that.

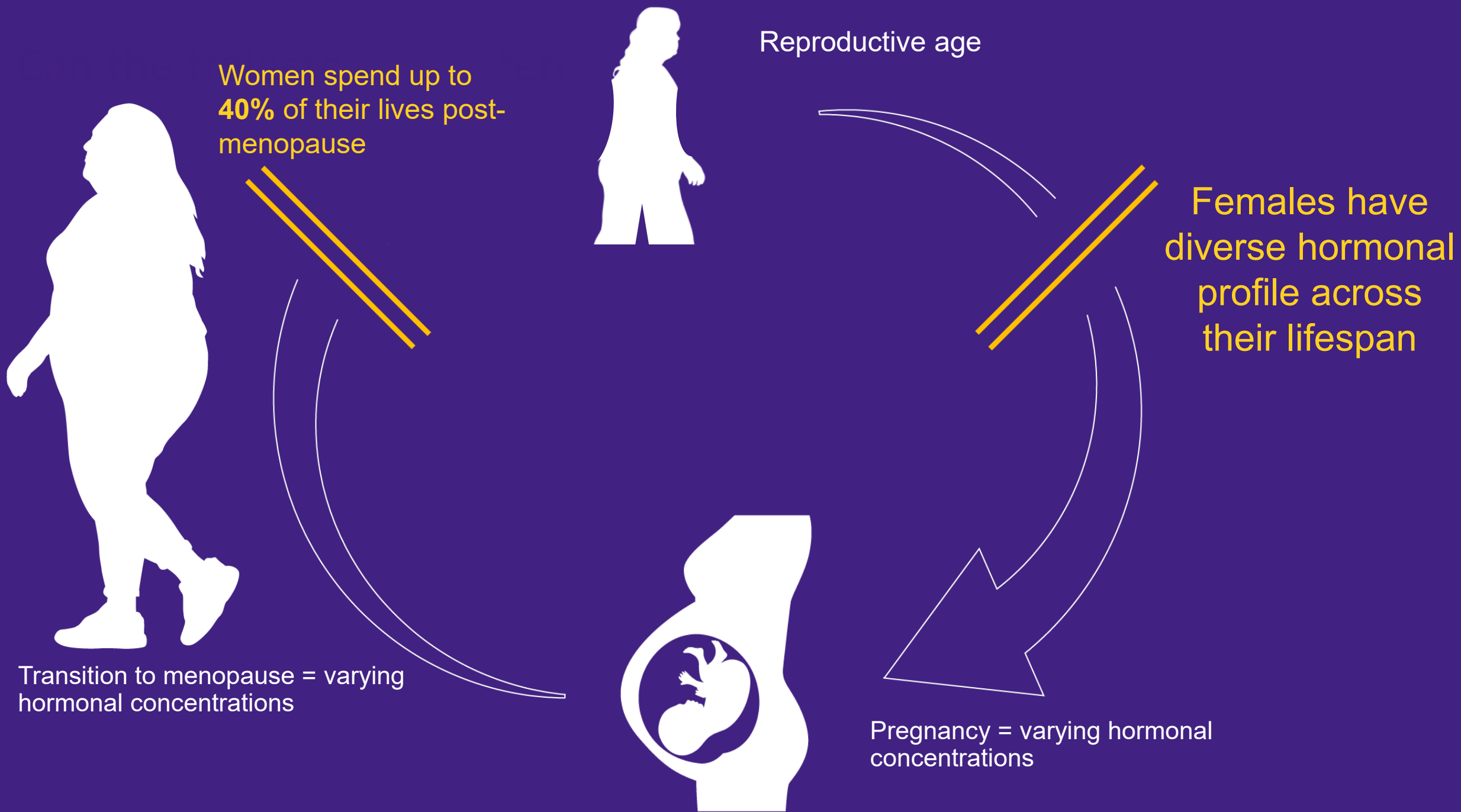


Administration | Priorities

NOVEMBER 17, 2023

Launch of White House Initiative on Women's Health Research





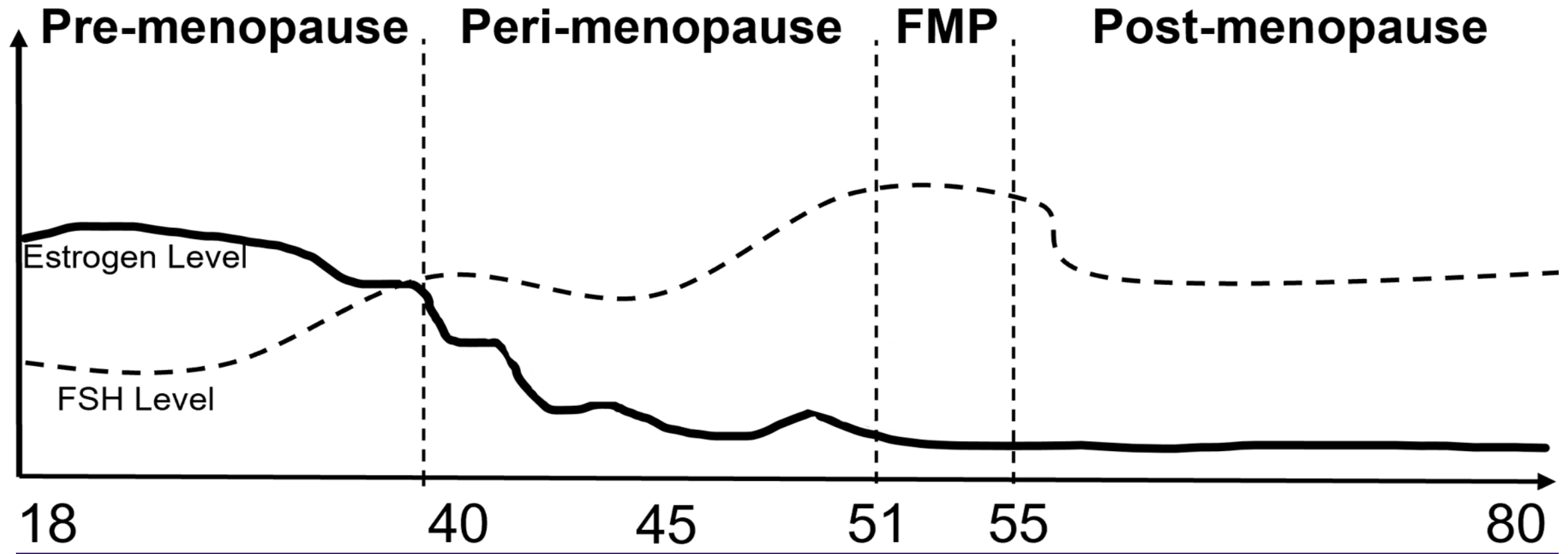
How do hormones change across the lifespan?

↑ Risk of Osteoporosis

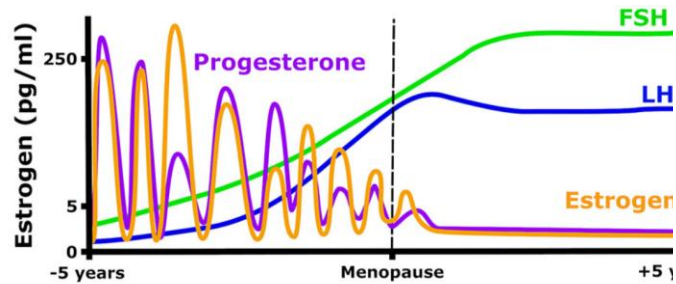
Pre-menopause: regular menstrual cycles

Peri-menopause: irregular menstrual cycles (but not amenorrheic for <12 months); **mean onset: 44 yrs**

Post-menopause: amenorrheic for ≥ 12 months; **mean age 51 yrs**

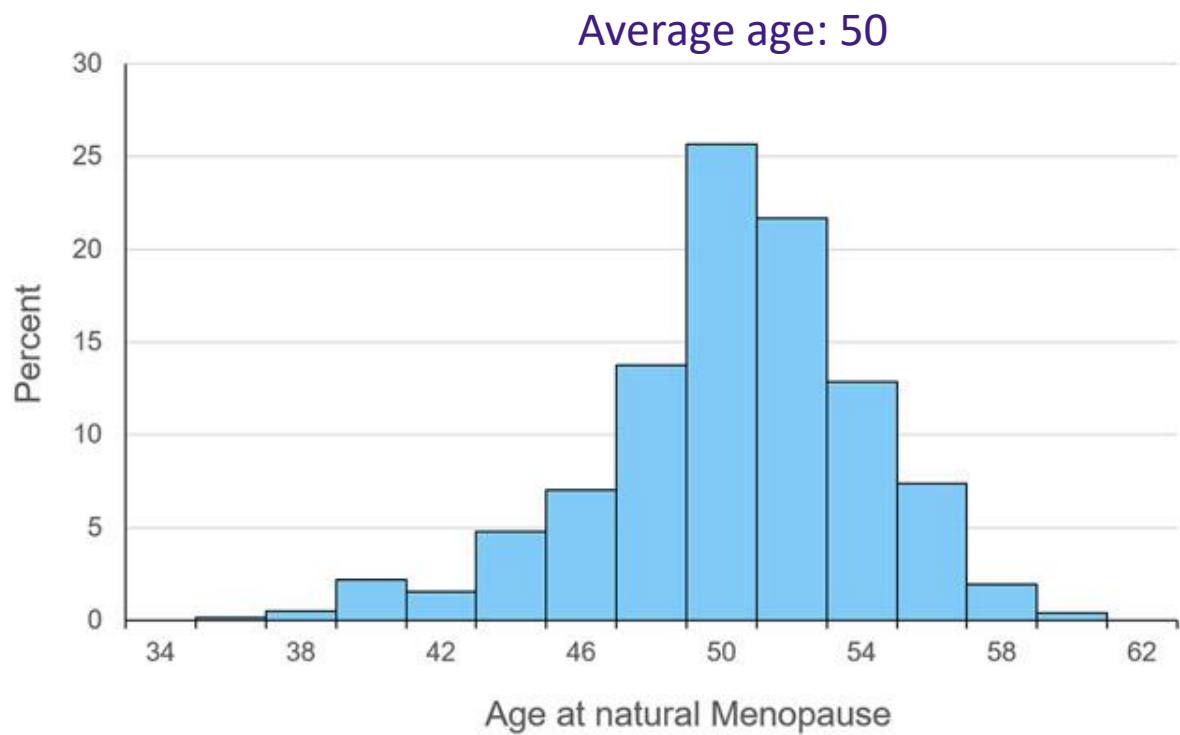


Reproductive Endocrine Changes



| Menarche | | | | | FMP (0) | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Stage | -5 | -4 | -3b | -3a | -2 | -1 | +1a | +1b | +1c | +2 |
| Terminology | REPRODUCTIVE | | | | MENOPAUSAL TRANSITION | | POSTMENOPAUSE | | | |
| | Early | Peak | Late | | Early | Late | Early | | Late | |
| | | | | | Perimenopause | | | | | |
| Duration | variable | | | | variable | 1-3 years | 2 years (1+1) | | 3-6 years | Remaining lifespan |
| PRINCIPAL CRITERIA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Menstrual Cycle | Variable to regular | Regular | Regular | Subtle changes in Flow/ Length | Variable Length: Persistent ≥7-day difference in length of consecutive cycles | Interval of amenorrhea of ≥60 days | | | | |
| SUPPORTIVE CRITERIA | | | | | | | | | | |
| Endocrine FSH AMH Inhibin B | | | Low Low | Variable * Low Low | ↑ Variable * Low Low | ↑ >25 IU/L ** Low Low | ↑ Variable * Low Low | Stabilizes Very Low Very Low | | |
| Antral Follicle Count | | | Low | Low | Low | Low | Very Low | Very Low | | |
| DESCRIPTIVE CHARACTERISTICS | | | | | | | | | | |
| Symptoms | | | | | | Vasomotor symptoms Likely | Vasomotor symptoms Most Likely | | | Increasing symptoms of urogenital atrophy |

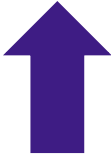
Timing of Menopause Onset & Health Consequences



Characteristics of the 771 participants at baseline and at the end of follow-up, CARDIA study 1990-1991 to 2015-2016

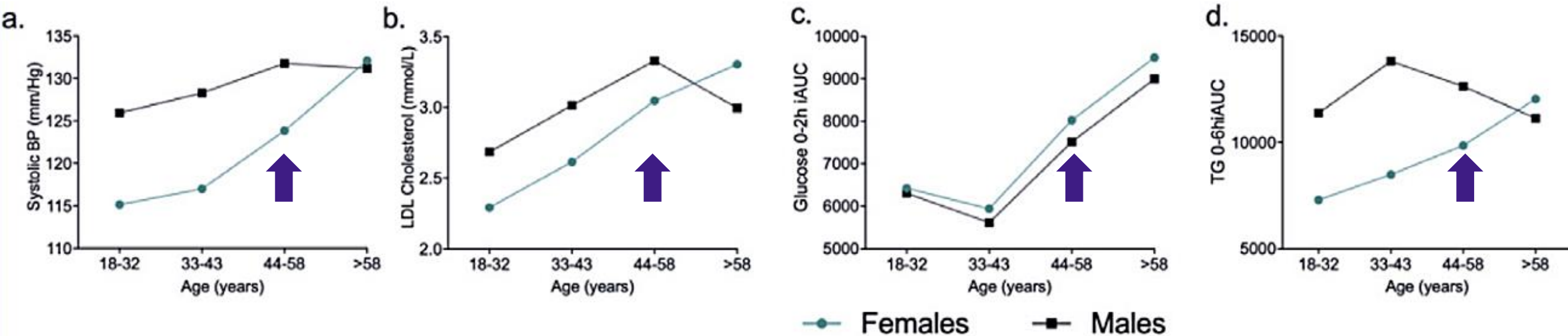
| Characteristics | Baseline (Premenopausal) | End of follow-up (Postmenopausal) |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Age, years | 31.8 (2.9) | 56.4 (3.1) |
| Systolic blood pressure, mmHg | 103.4 (10.4) | 117.7 (17.2) |
| Anti-hypertensive medication use, % | 1.7 | 28.5 |
| Diabetes, % | 0.1 | 11.8 |
| Physical activity, exercise units | 330 (250) | 292 (241) |
| Body mass Index, kg/m ² | 25.5 (6.4) | 29.9 (7.8) |
| Waist circumference, cm | 76.9 (12.5) | 90.8 (16.9) |
| Lipid-lowering medication use, % | 0.3 | 17.8 |
| HDL cholesterol, mg/dL | 58.4 (13.6) | 67.8 (18.7) |
| Total cholesterol, mg/dL | 176.5 (30.6) | 201.1 (35.6) |

Exponential Increase in Diseases

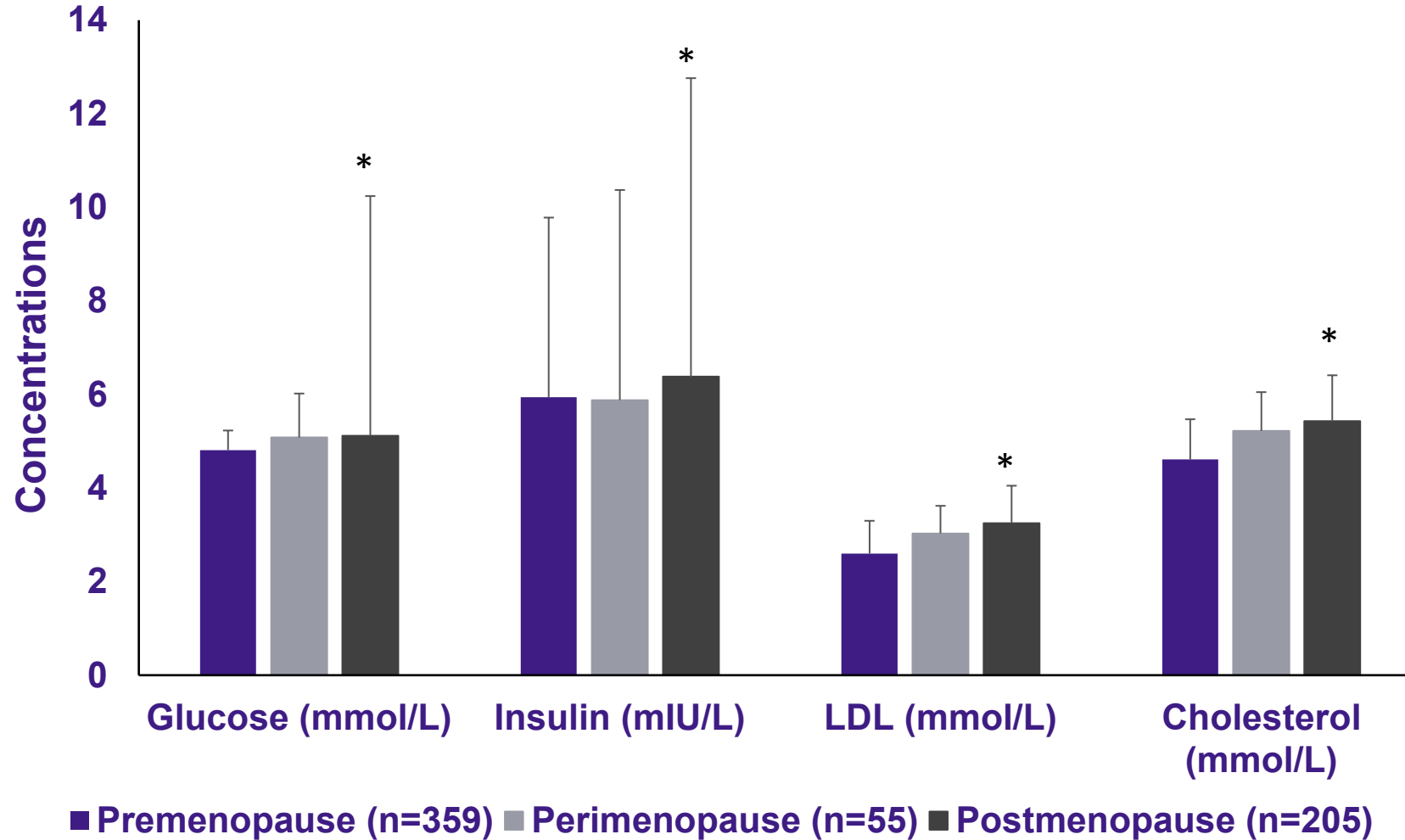


Sex Differences Across Age Groups

- The ZOE PREDICT I UK study (1,002 females and 247 males)
- Phenotypic characteristics, diet, and cardiometabolic measurements



Menopause is Associated with Metabolic Health



- The ZOE PREDICT I UK study (n=1,002)
- Postmenopausal women demonstrated **unfavorable outcomes** compared to premenopausal women

Age-Matched Inter-Individuality



Age-matched subgroup (47-56 years)

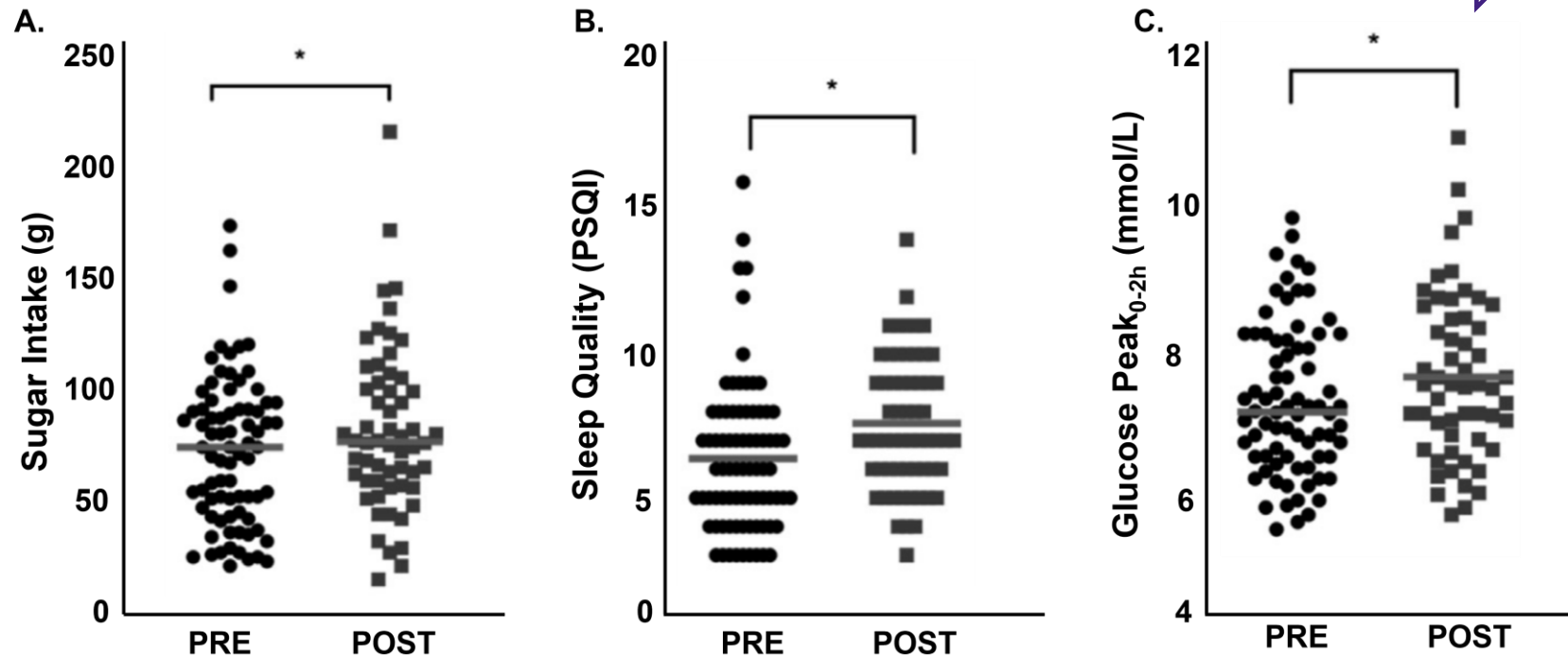


Premenopausal Women

(n=86)

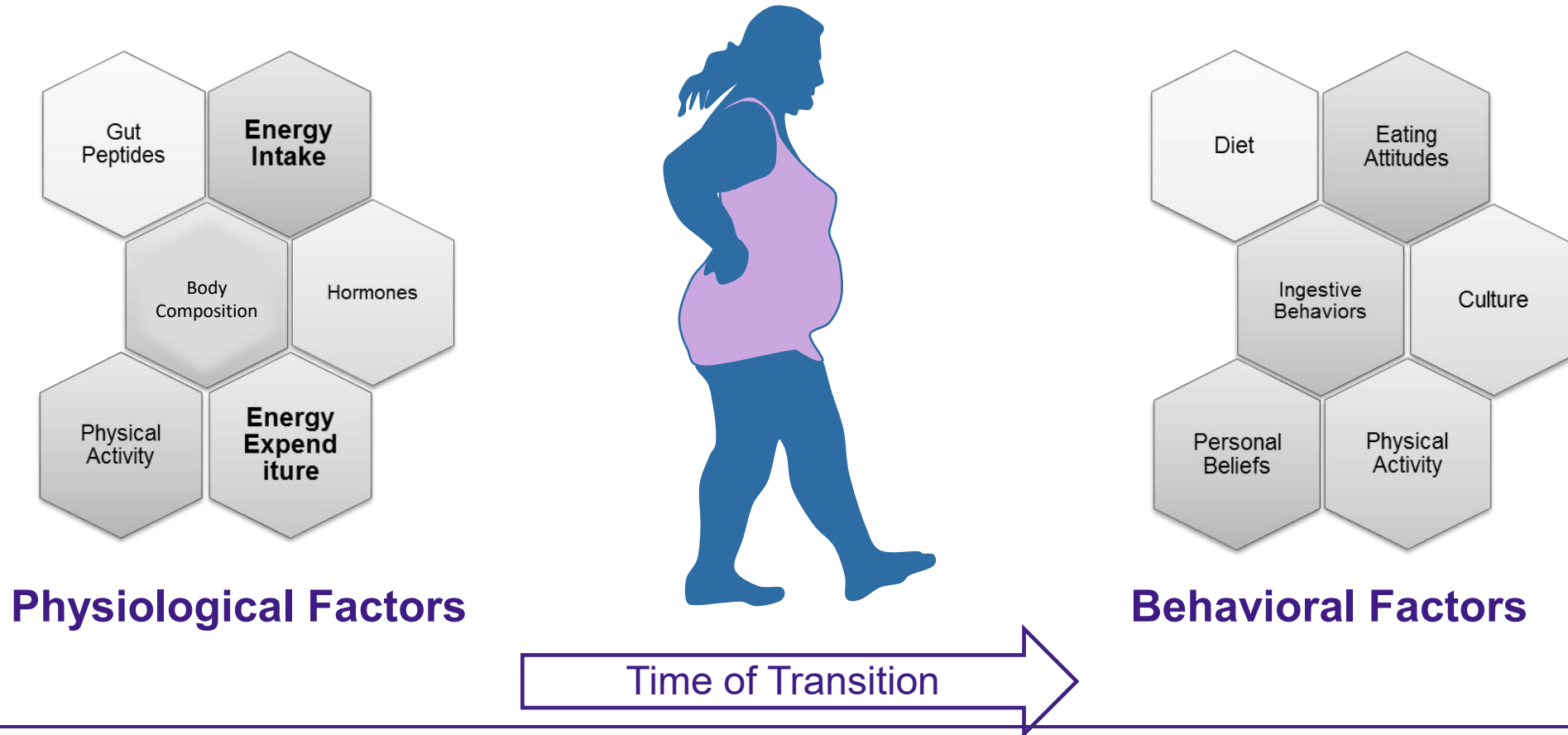
Postmenopausal Women

(n=64)

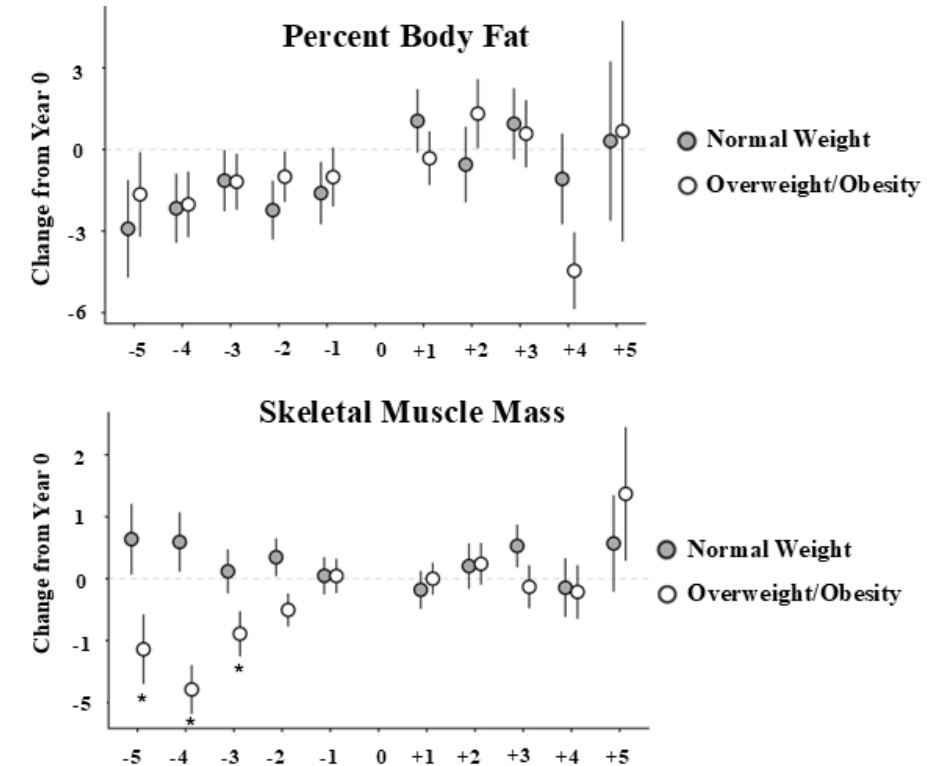
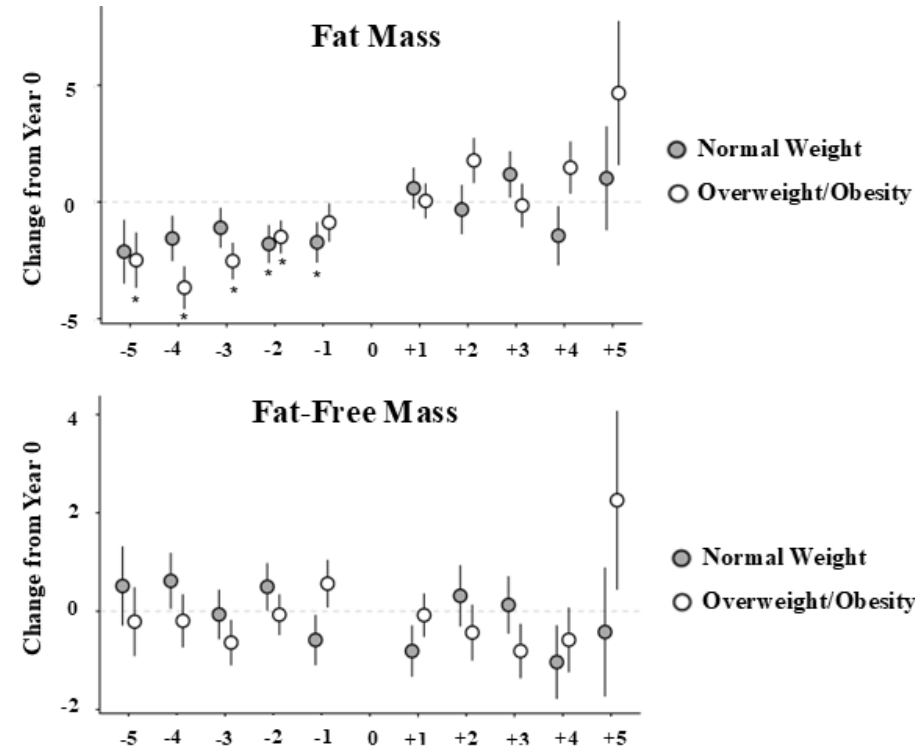


The Menopause Transition is Complex

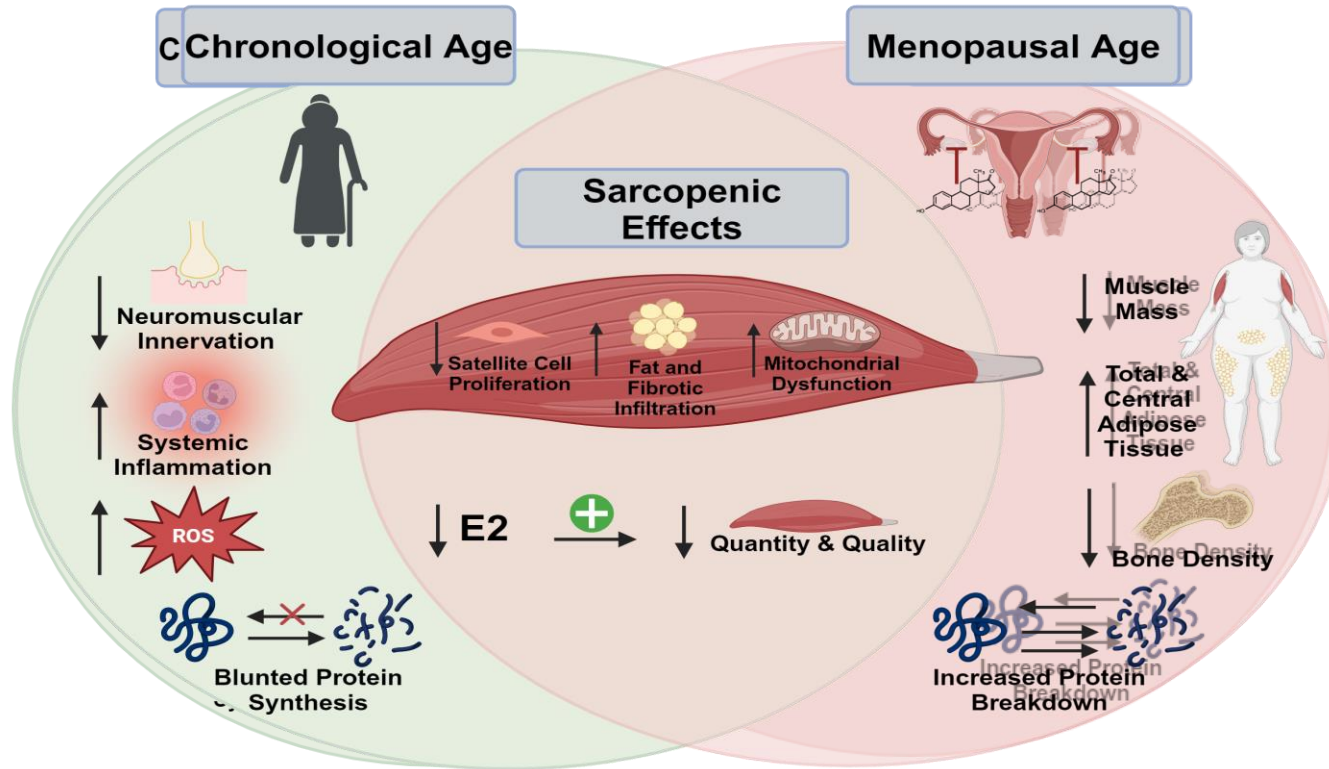
Demographic Factors



Change in percent body fat is reflected by loss of fat-free mass



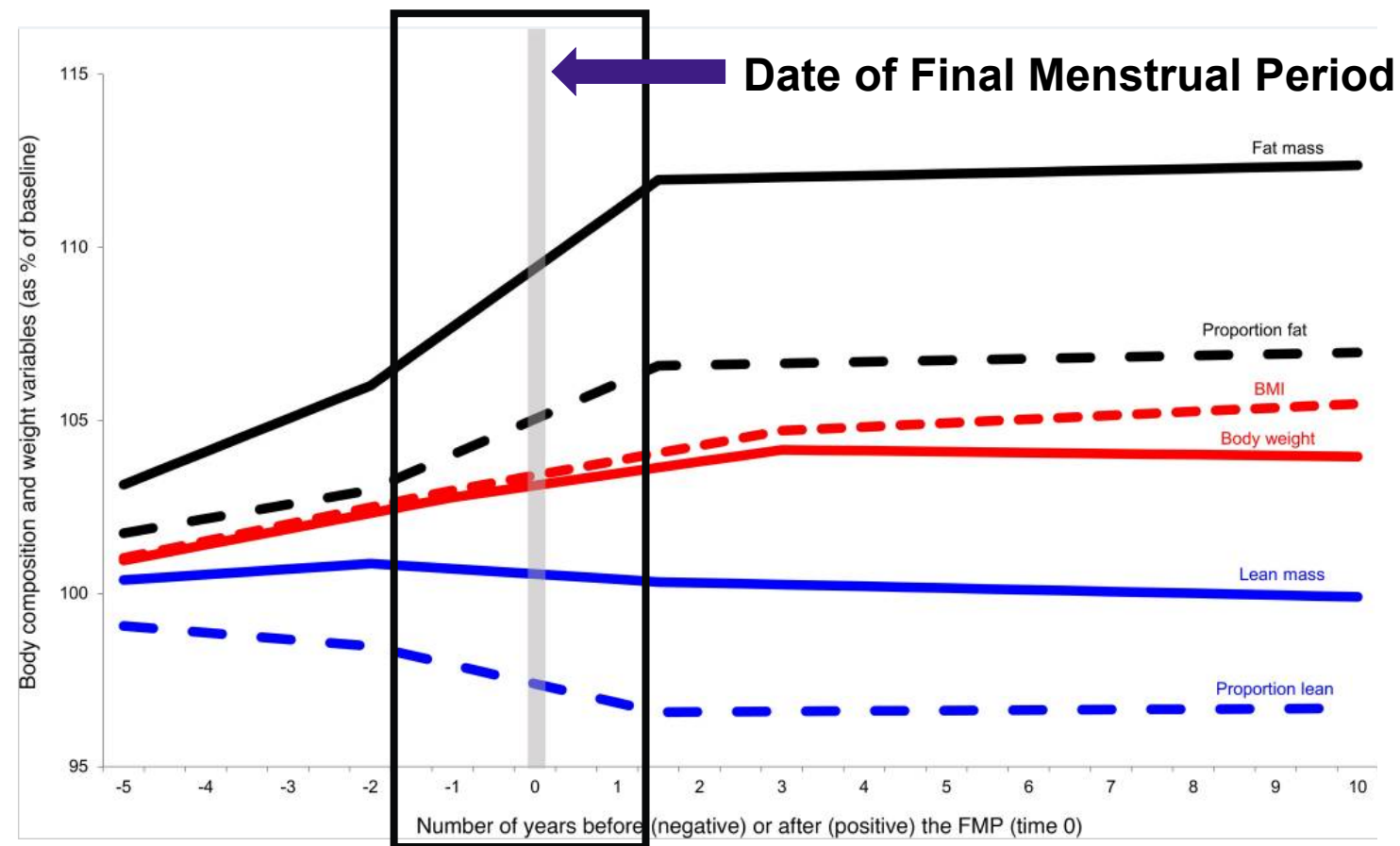
Body Composition Changes Across Age



Role of Estrogen

Hormone replacement therapy research suggests that the delivery of **estrogen** may attenuate or even reverse the age-related decline in lean mass in postmenopausal women

Estrogen & Body Composition Changes

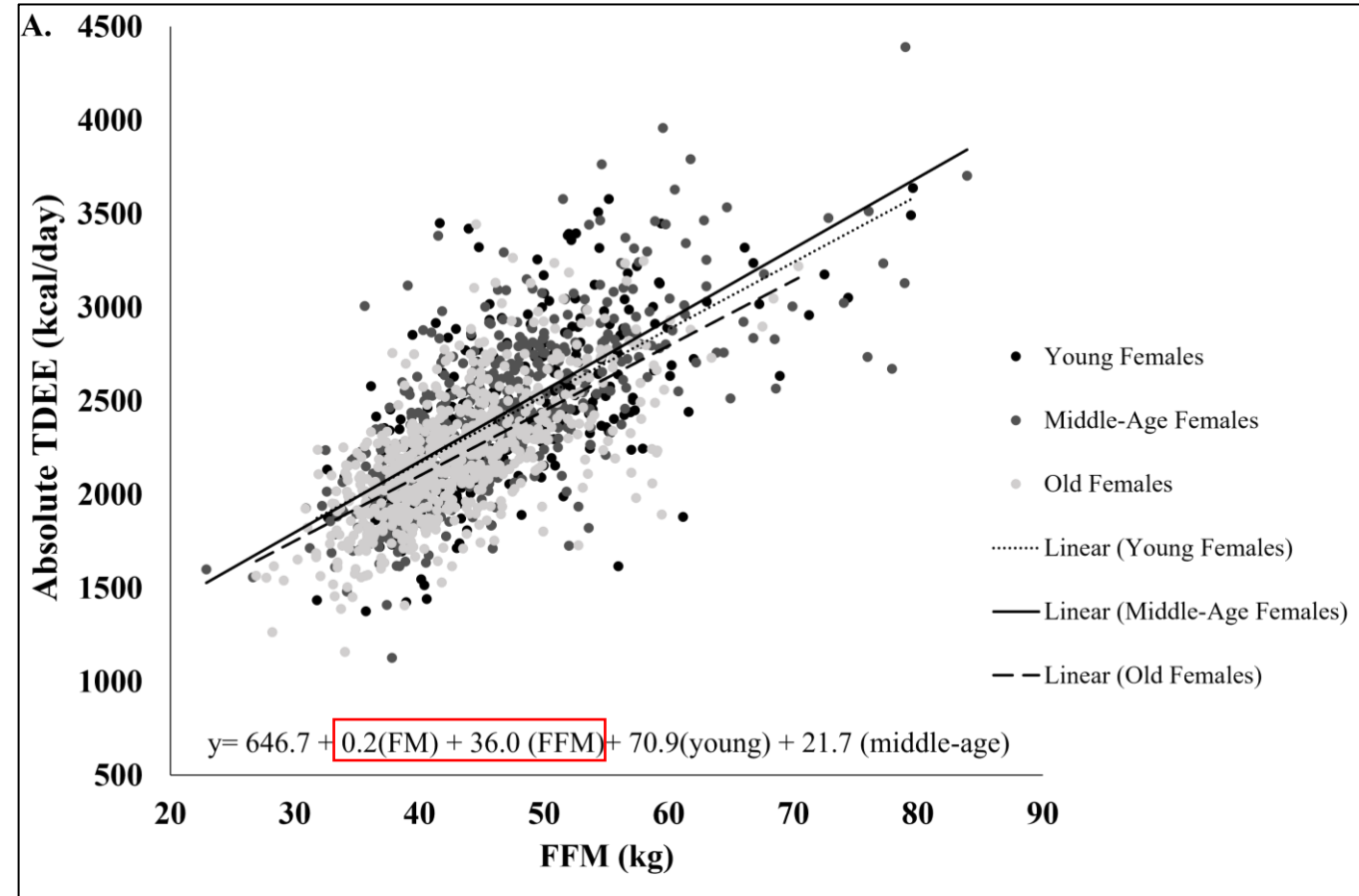
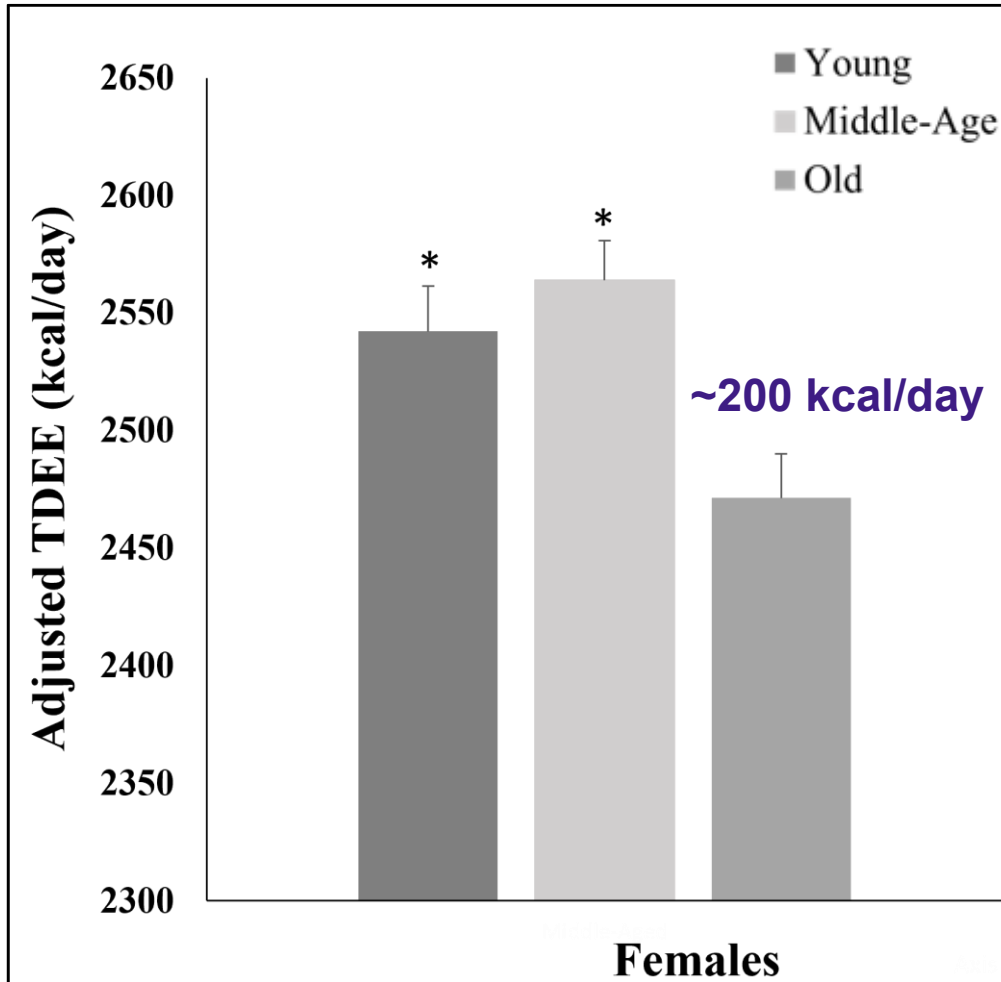


- Nationwide multi-ethnic study (n=1,246) (Greendale et al. 2019)
- Approximately 10 years of annual testing via **DXA**
- A 4-compartment study across age

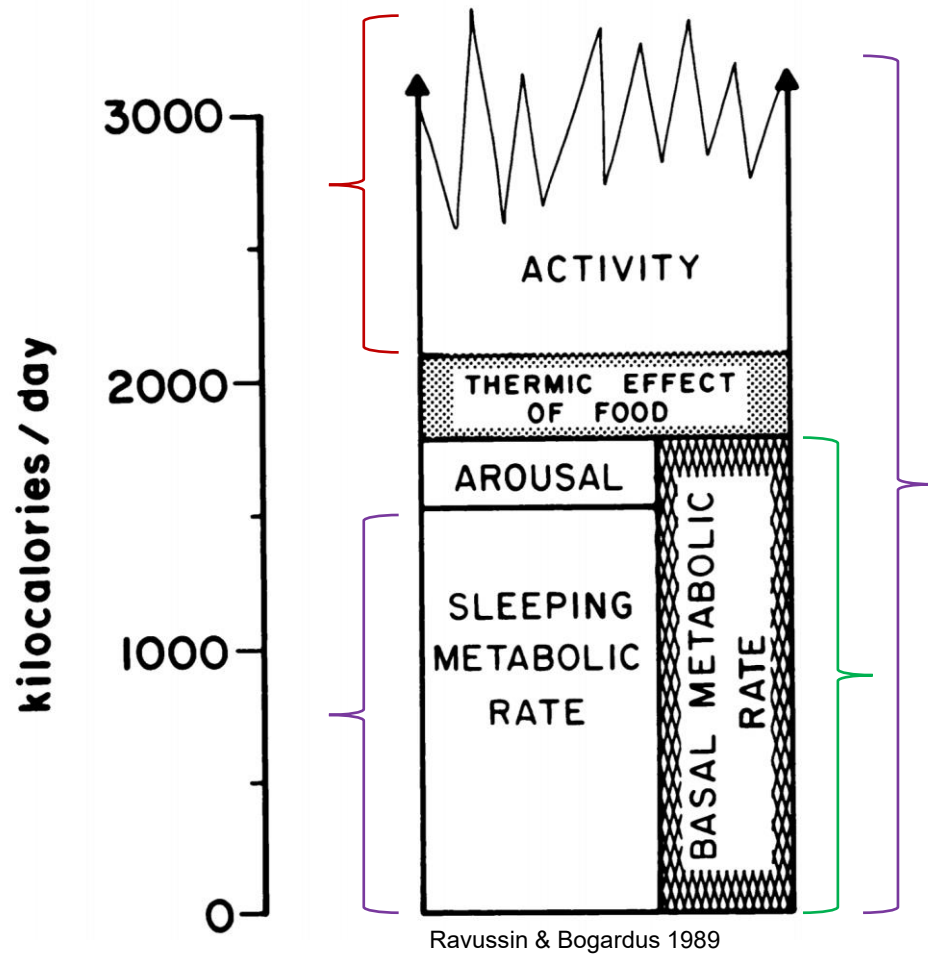
Table 2. Body Composition by Decade of Age (kg, mean \pm SD)

| Age | No. of Subjects | Protein | Water | Mineral | Fat |
|---------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|
| 20-30 | 8 | 9.9 \pm 0.8 | 33.2 \pm 2.0 | 2.9 \pm 0.3 | 14.6 \pm 5.5 |
| 31-40 | 29 | 9.2 \pm 0.8 | 31.5 \pm 2.8 | 2.8 \pm 0.3 | 19.7 \pm 6.7 |
| 41-50 | 44 | 9.1 \pm 0.8 | 31.4 \pm 3.6 | 2.8 \pm 0.3 | 24.2 \pm 7.1 |
| 51-60 | 25 | 8.8 \pm 1.0 | 30.4 \pm 3.8 | 2.6 \pm 0.4 | 23.4 \pm 7.2 |
| 61-70 | 35 | 8.4 \pm 1.0 | 30.0 \pm 3.9 | 2.4 \pm 0.3 | 24.8 \pm 7.3 |
| 71-80 | 14 | 8.4 \pm 0.9 | 29.3 \pm 3.8 | 2.2 \pm 0.3 | 21.5 \pm 6.8 |
| Overall | 155 | 8.9 \pm 1.0 | 30.9 \pm 3.5 | 2.6 \pm 0.4 | 22.6 \pm 7.3 |

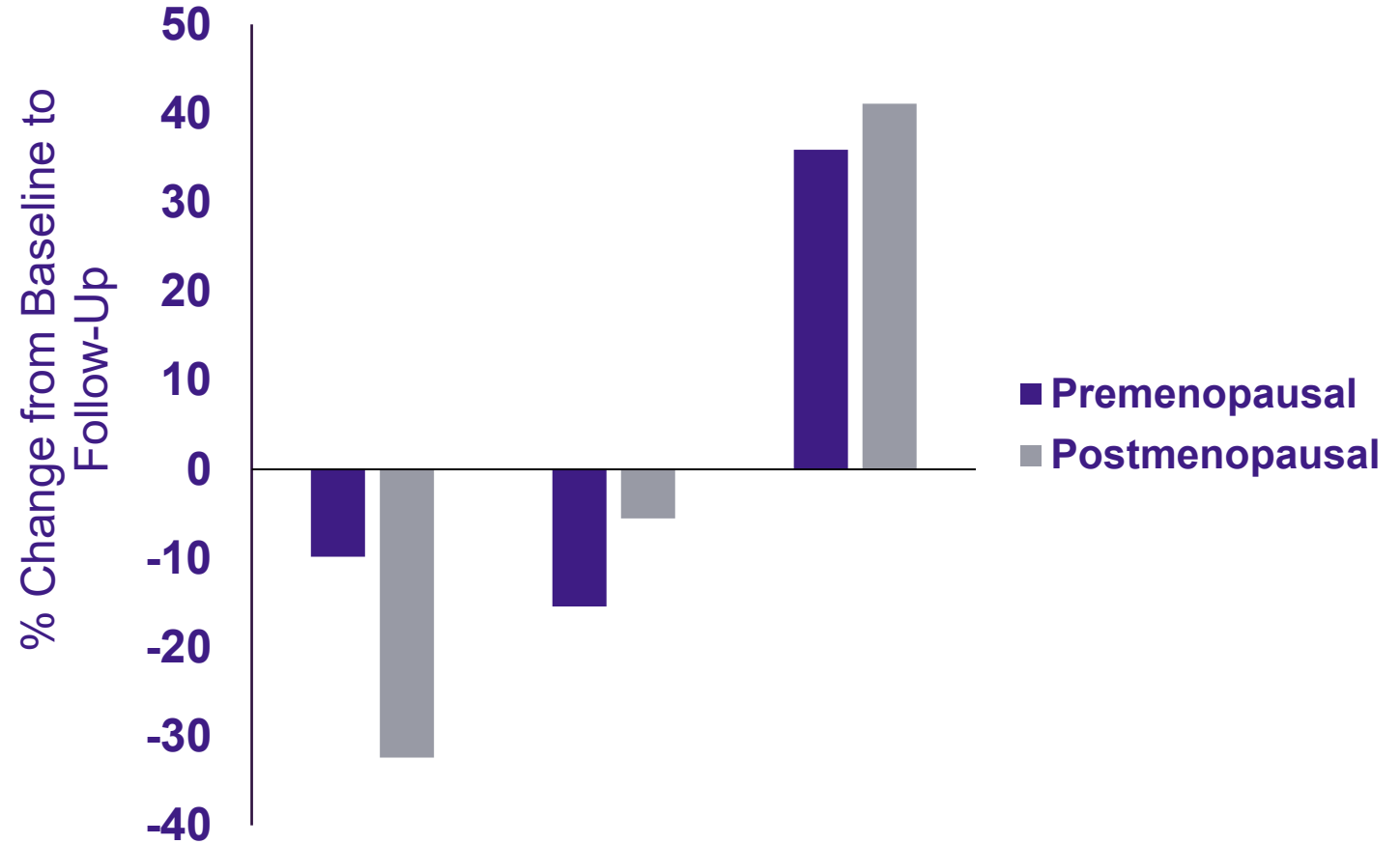
Aging Effects Total Daily Energy Expenditure



Estrogen & Energy Expenditure



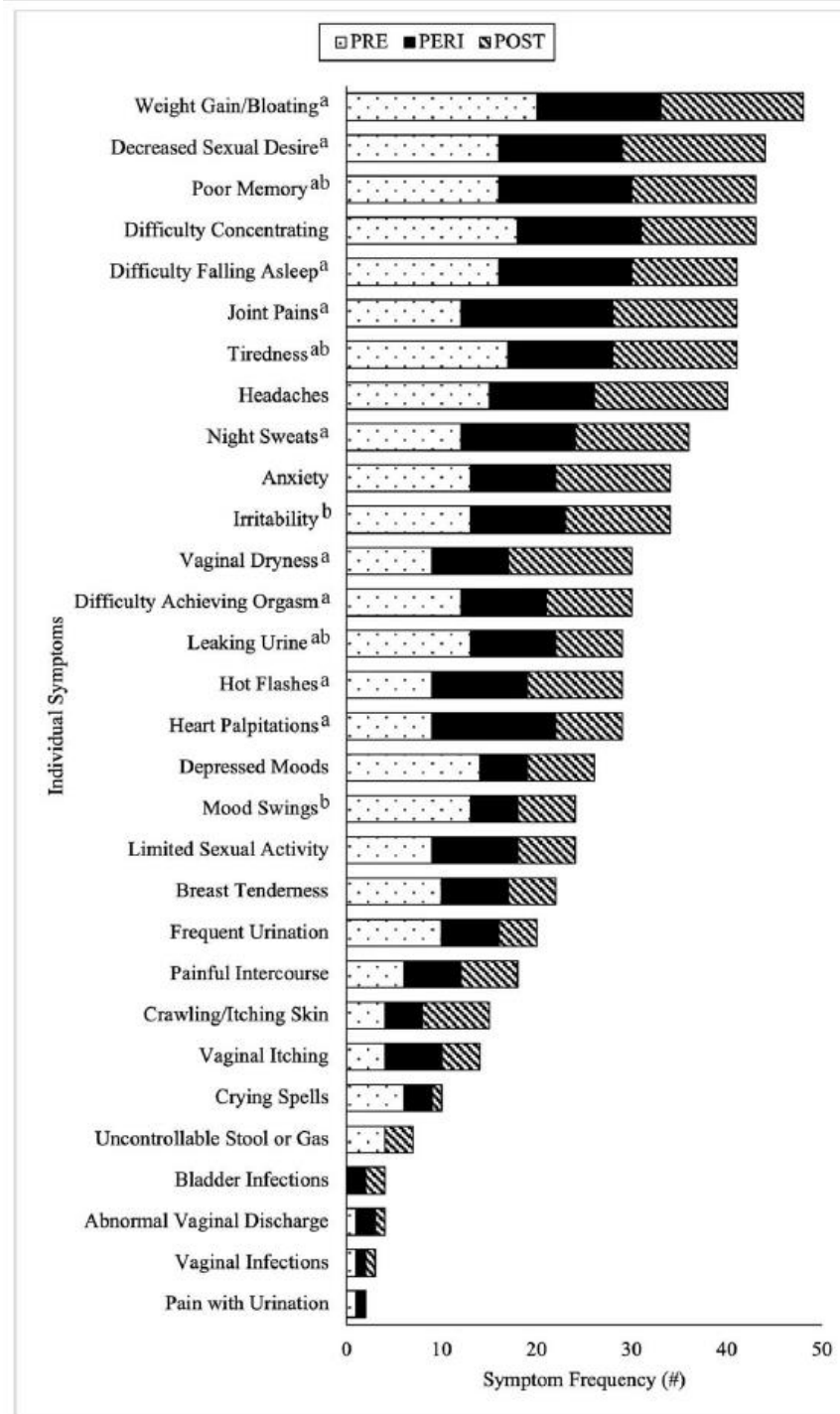
- **9% ↓ in TEE** in postmenopausal women (Lovejoy et al. 2008)
 - **9% ↓ in SEE (~111 kcal/day)**
 - **↓ in fat oxidation**



Menopause symptoms impact health outcomes



Moore SR, Cabre HE, Smith-Ryan AE. Body composition, physical activity, and menopause symptoms: how do they relate? *Menopause*. 2024 Apr 1;31(4):336-341. doi: 10.1097/GME.0000000000002334.



% body fat was significantly *positive* correlation with **menopause symptoms** ($r=0.464$) and *inversely* correlated with **steps** ($r=-0.364$) and **vigorous activity** ($r=-0.239$)

Lifestyle Behaviors

Physical Activity

- 50% ↓ in PA through the menopause transition
- PA ↑ in **30%** of women who entered menopause
- Higher PA resulted in better physical function at 15-year follow up

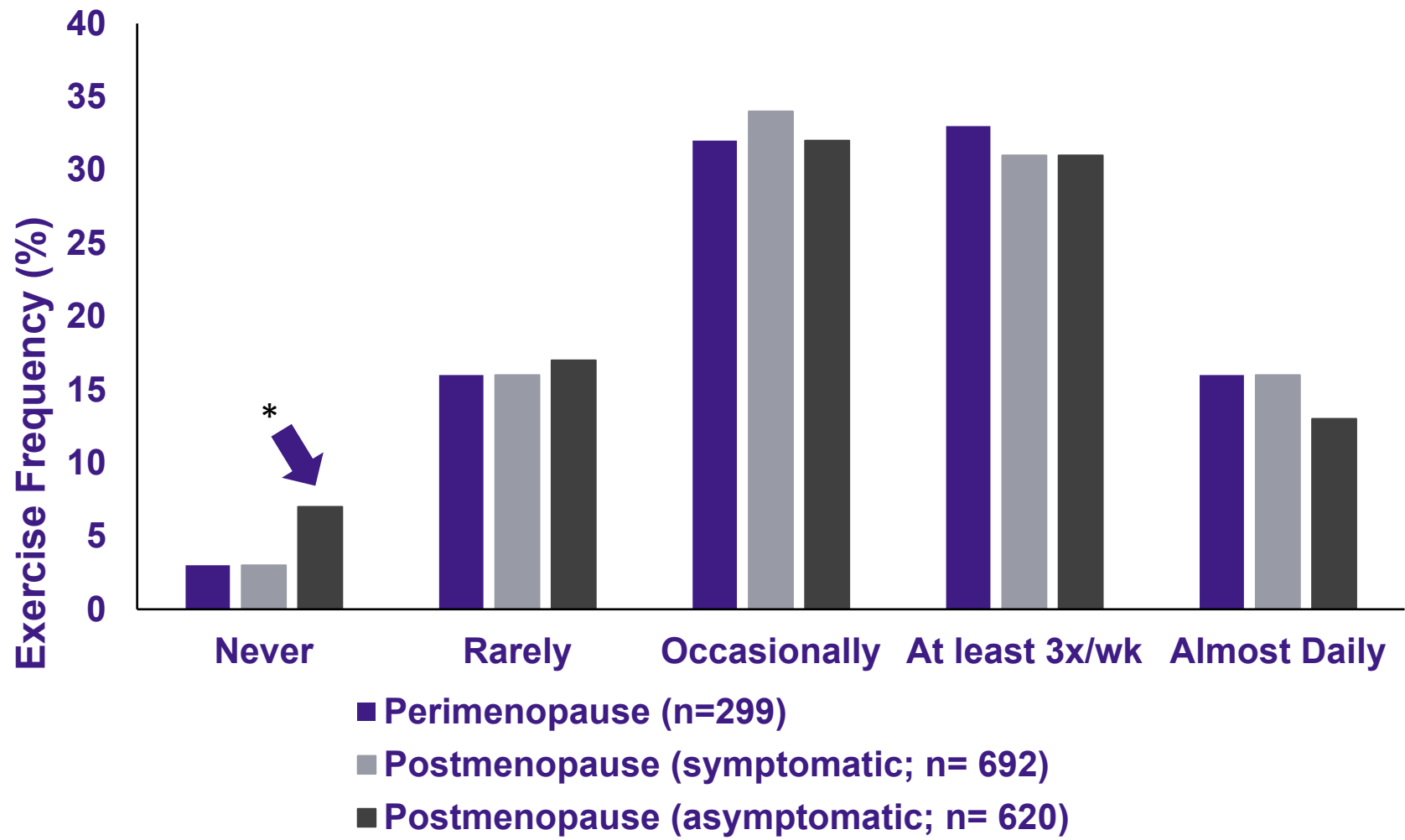
Diet

- ↓ energy intake by **250-800 kcal/day** at menopause onset (food logs)
- ↑ saturated fat & ↑ cholesterol and ↓ carbohydrates

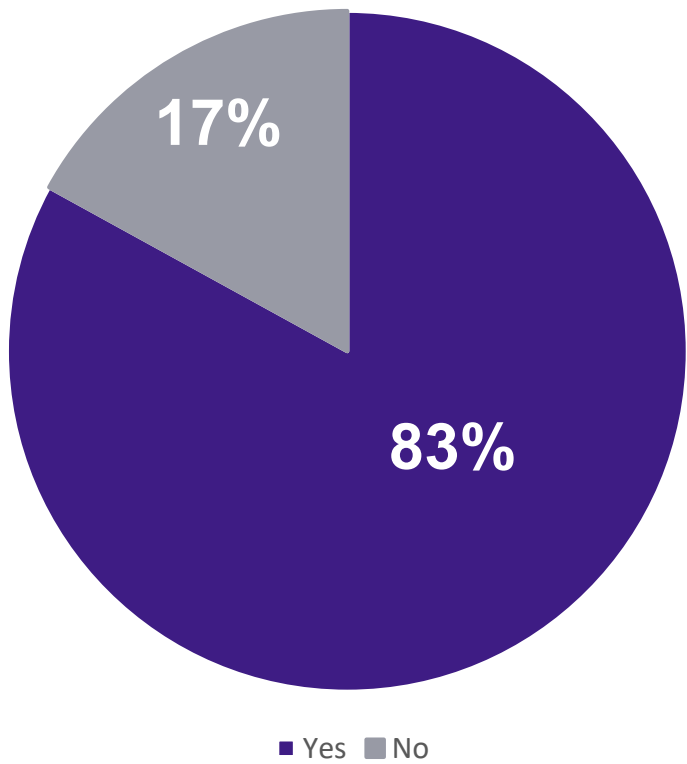
Sleep Quality

- ↑ use of sleep medications in post-menopause
- **40-60%** of menopausal women struggle with sleep problems
- Greater vasomotor symptoms → poorer sleep quality

Exercise Preferences Vary



Interest in Structured Lifestyle Program



Menopausal women are a high-priority population requiring specialized interventions

Gastrointestinal Health

- Magnesium-containing supplements
- Supplementing calcium and vitamin B12 injections (if warranted)

Bone Health

- Promote dietary consumption of calcium-rich foods, vitamins D and K, magnesium, and phosphorous
- Consider supplementing calcium and vitamin D when intake is insufficient

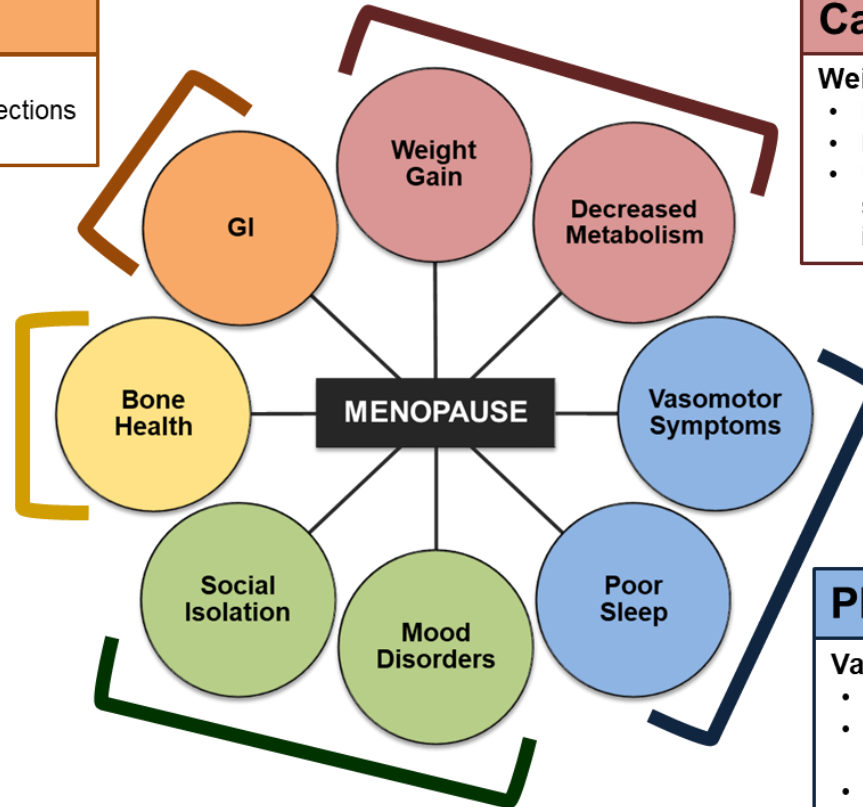
Psychosocial Symptoms

Social Isolation

- Identify food insecurities
- Refer to local resources and services

Mood Disorders

- Educate women on mental health
- Discuss emotional eating
- Encourage calorie-controlled diet



Cardiometabolic Health

Weight Gain & Decreased Metabolism

- Reduce calorie intake, increase physical activity
- Encourage healthy eating and portion control
- Utilize behavioral modifications (e.g., support system, self-monitoring of weight and calorie intake ≥ 5 days/week)

Physical Symptoms

Vasomotor Symptoms (VMS) & Poor Sleep

- Avoid caffeine, alcohol, and spicy foods
- Dietary remedies may help with VMS (e.g., soy, black cohosh, and vitamin E)
- Consuming a Mediterranean diet and other foods may promote sleep (e.g., milk, fish, and cherry juice).

Mediterranean Diet

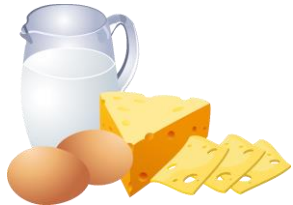
- The FLAMENCO project in perimenopausal women (**n=176**)
- Mediterranean Diet Score on food frequency questionnaire



BMI and %body fat



BMI, waist circumference, total and android fat mass, %body fat, android to gynoid fat mass ratio, VAT



Body weight, BMI, waist circumference, total and android fat mass, VAT



Waist circumference and %body fat



Body weight, BMI, waist circumference, %body fat, total and android fat mass, VAT

Treatment Strategies

Caloric Reduction

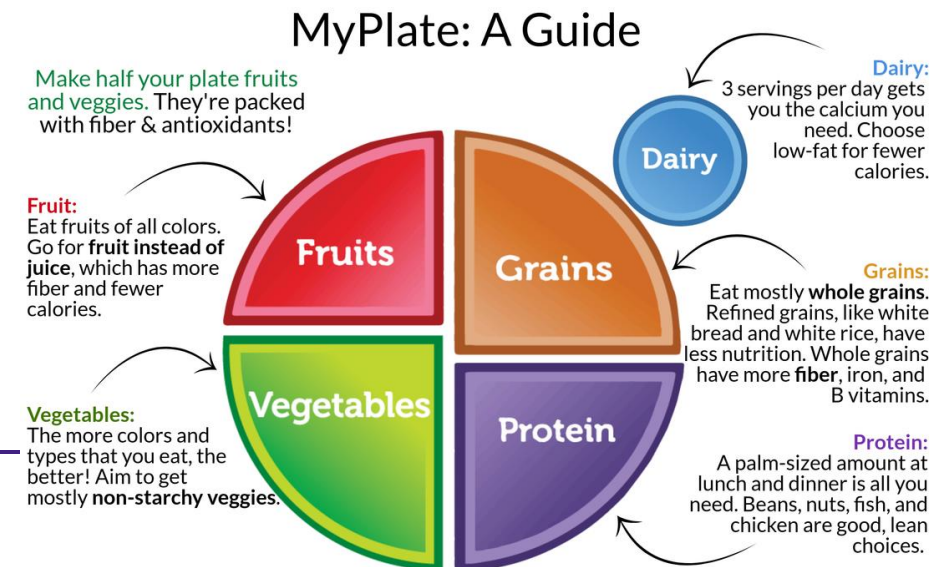
- Declines in calories expended, physical activity, and fat burning capacity
- Reduce energy intake by focusing on **portion sizes** and **nutrient dense foods**
- Calorie deficit of **400-600 kcal/day** is a general recommendation

Estimated Energy Requirement

- Women 19 years and older:
$$\text{EER} = 354 - (6.91 \times \text{age [y]}) + \text{PA} \times (9.36 \times \text{weight [kg]} + 726 \times \text{height [m]}),$$
where PA is the estimated physical activity level ranging from 1 to 2.5 (sedentary to very active).
- No differences in energy needs based on race and menopause stage

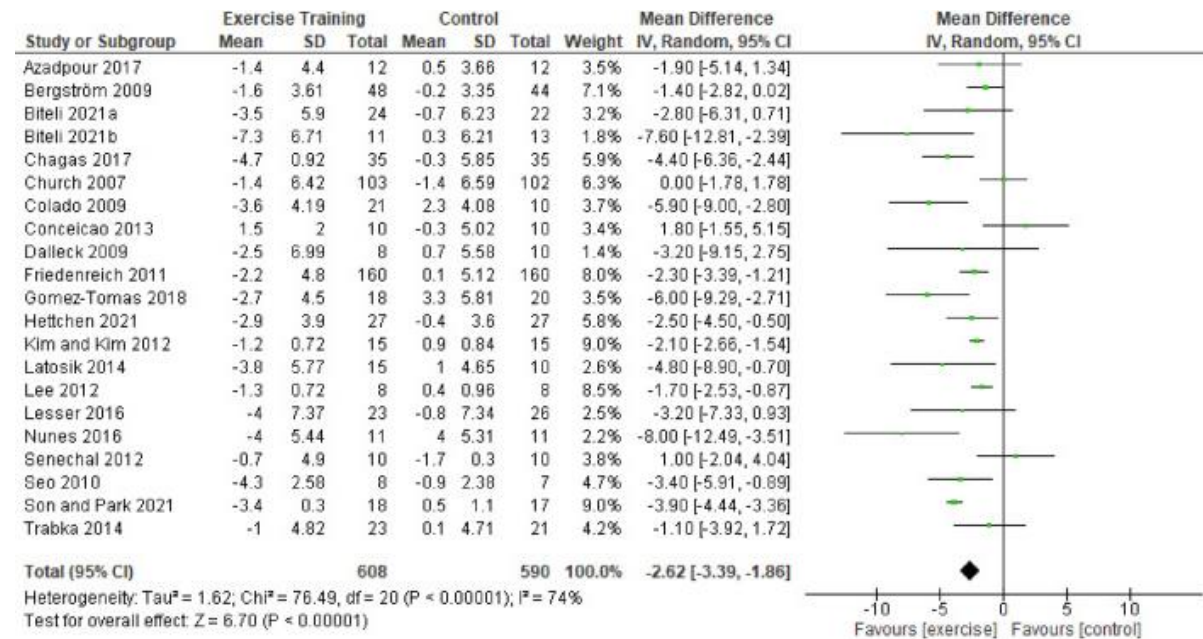
Diet Quality and Exercise

- MyPlate for healthy eating pattern, Mediterranean Diet, and DASH diet
- Exercise is important for muscle mass and bone mineral retention

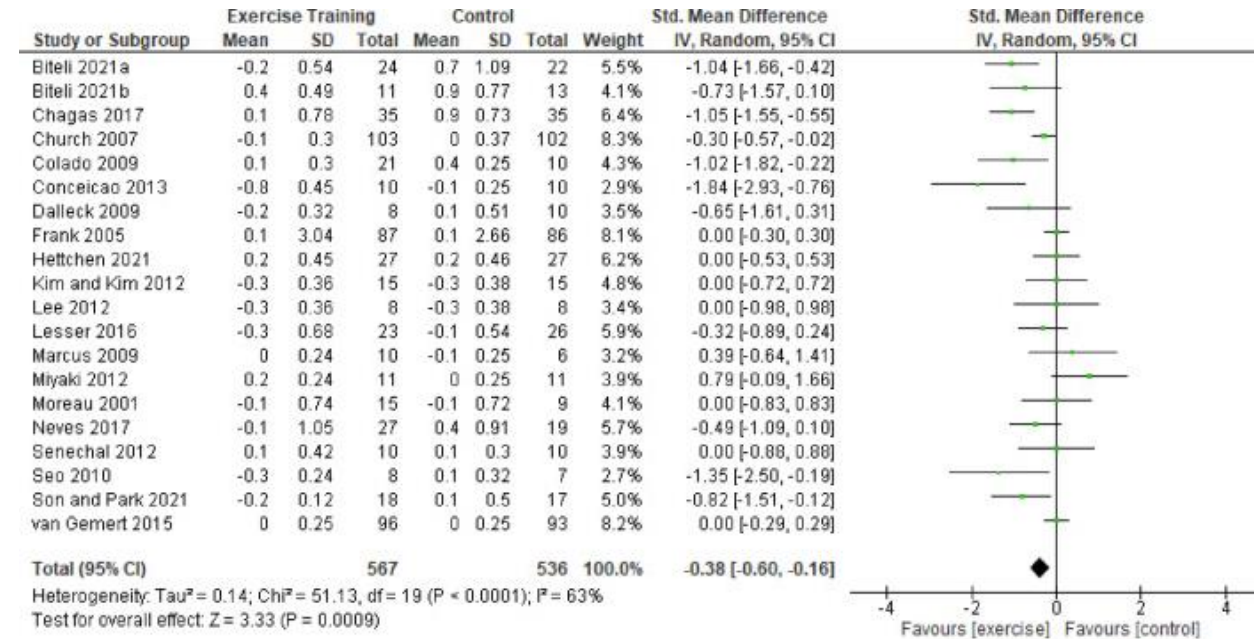


Exercise and Metabolic Profiles

Waist Circumference (cm)

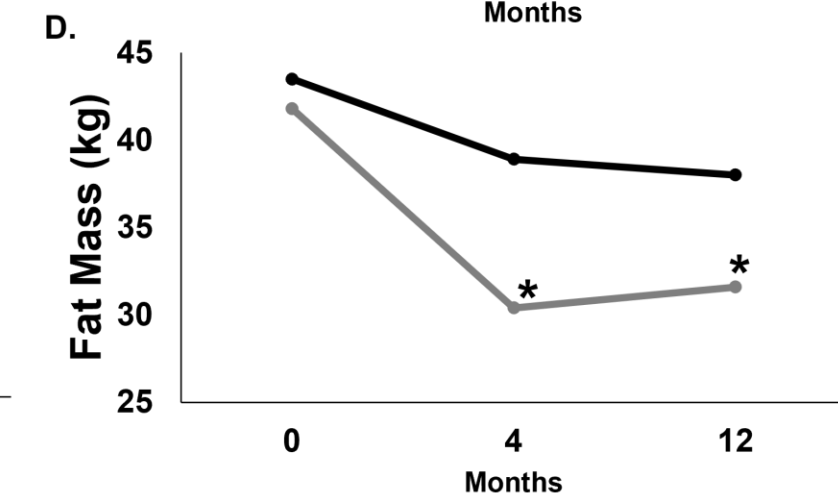
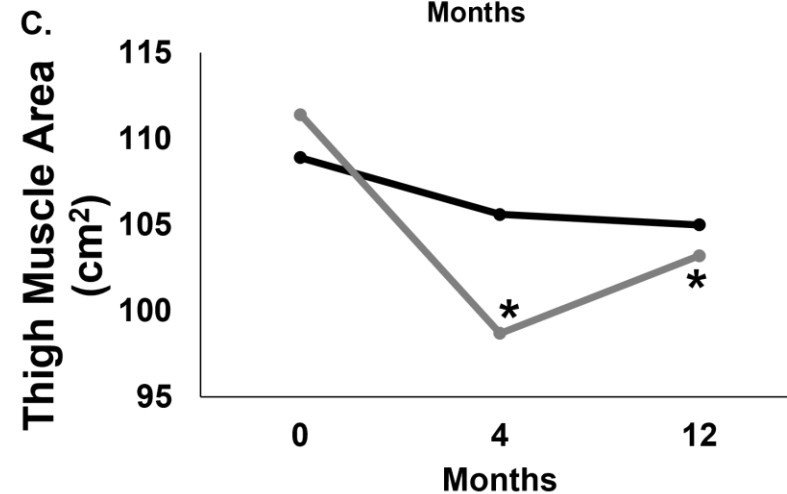
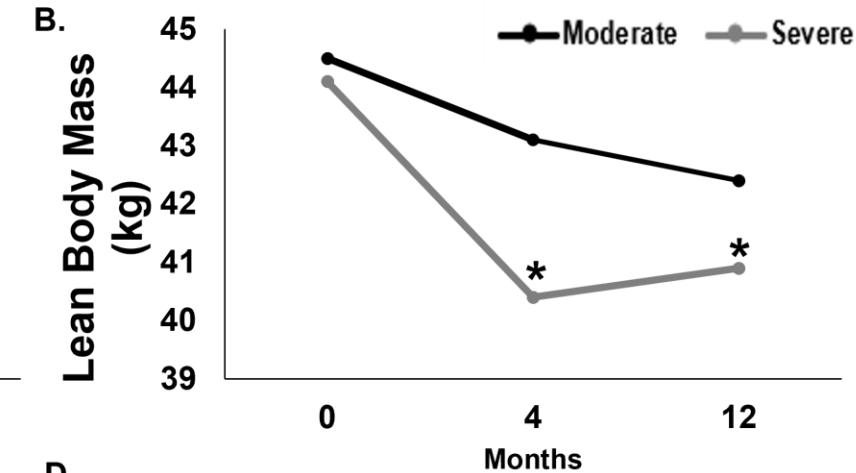
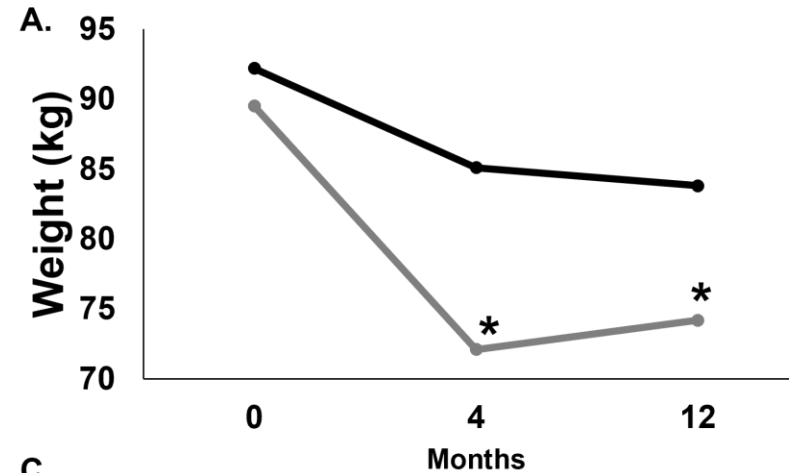


Blood Glucose (mmol/L)

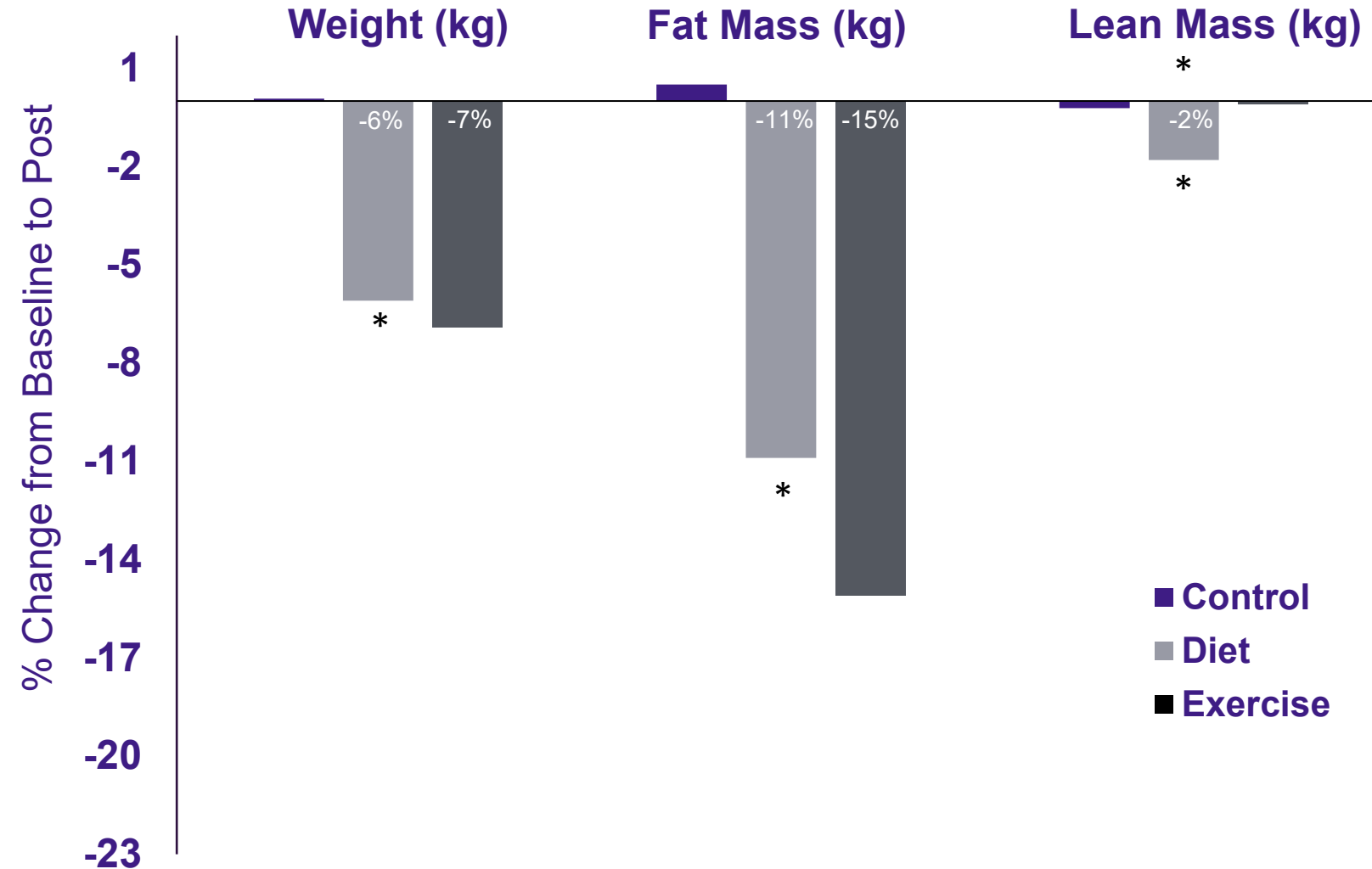


Regular physical activity can be a non-pharmacological tool in reduction of metabolic syndrome in postmenopausal women

- The TEMPO Diet Trial in postmenopausal women (**n=101**)
- 12-month diet intervention
 - Moderate CR (25-35%)
 - 4-mo. severe CR (65-75%) + 8-mo. Moderate
 - Both groups 1.0 g/kg protein
- Both interventions were effective for weight loss, but severe CR decreased lean body mass and bone mineral density to a greater extent

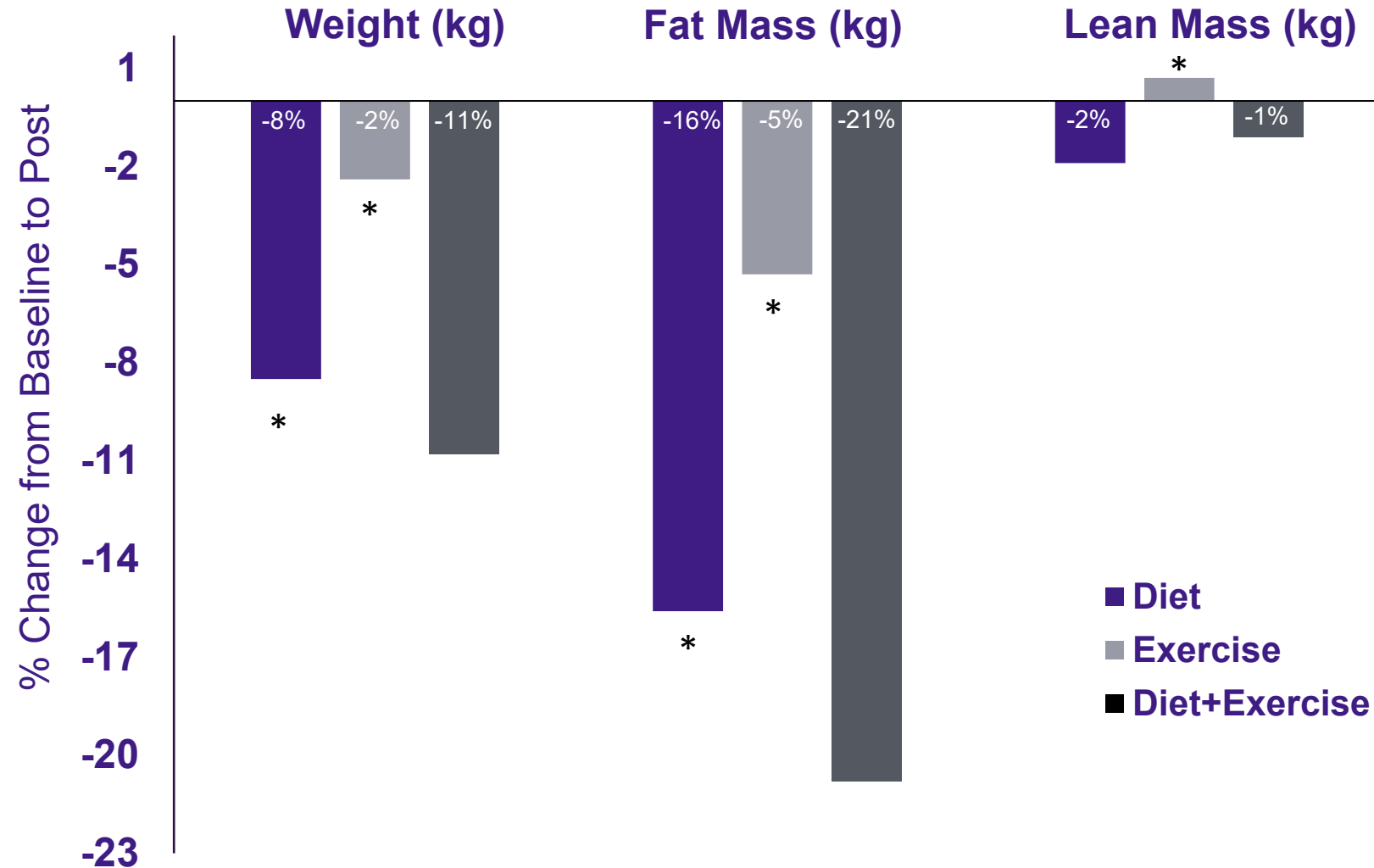


- The SHAPE-2 Trial in postmenopausal women (**n=243**)
- 16-week intervention
 - Calorie-reduced (-500 kcal/d)
 - Intensive aerobic + resistance training program (-250 kcal/d)
 - Control group
- Aerobic exercise paired with resistance training and slight caloric restriction preserves lean mass while decreasing weight and fat mass

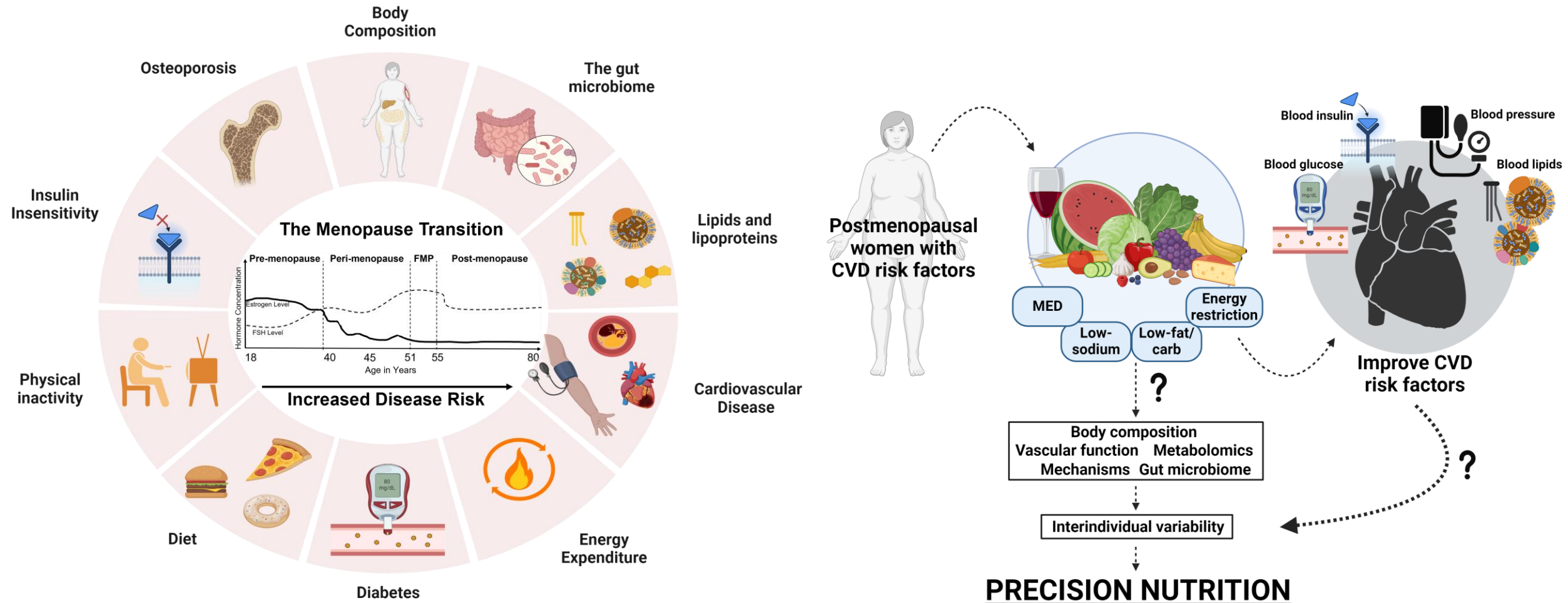


Caloric Restriction + Exercise

- Postmenopausal women (**n=439**)
- 12-month diet intervention
 - Calorie-reduced, low-fat diet
 - Moderate-intensity aerobic exercise
 - Combination of diet + exercise
- Changes in diet drive body composition changes
- The addition of exercise maximizes intervention efficacy



The New Frontier: Precision Nutrition



Summary

- The loss of estrogen leads to body composition changes which drive adverse metabolic outcomes in postmenopausal women
- Menopausal symptoms impact quality of life and are related to body composition and exercise habits
- Caloric restriction with exercise can attenuate negative body composition changes and improve metabolic profiles

Reproductive age



**Let's help women
live stronger,
healthier lives**



Menopause



Pregnancy





Mentors & Colleagues

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Lauren Duff, Chief Public Affairs Officer
Megan Greevy, MS, RD, LDN, Director of Nutrition Education
Feeding Pennsylvania

Wednesday, 10/29/25
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Nicola McKeown, PhD
with Rodney Wallace, PhD and
P. Stephen Baezinger, PhD

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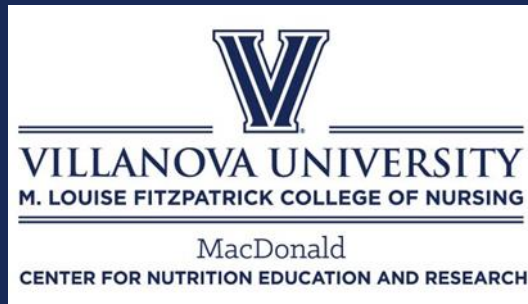
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Q&A

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