

# Proton Pump Inhibitors and the Treatment of GERD, Dyspepsia, and NSAID-associated Peptic Ulcer Disease

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Canadian Agency for  
Drugs and Technologies  
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# Statement of Disclosure

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# Outline

- **Didactic presentation**
  - Objectives
  - Background
  - Facts and Fallacies
  - Case-based review of evidence
- **Break into small groups - Case Studies**



# General objective

To facilitate optimal medication therapy in the treatment of gastroesophageal reflux disease, peptic ulcer disease and dyspepsia by providing an update on the evidence and research gaps around proton pump inhibitor use

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# Learning objectives

**Upon completion of this workshop, participants will be able to:**

- Define the appropriate role for PPIs in the management of upper GI tract conditions including: GERD, PUD, and Dyspepsia
- Understand the differences between the various PPIs and which PPI should be chosen for treatment



# Learning objectives

- Understand the role of double-dose PPI therapy
- Define the role of PPI therapy in treatment of asthma and laryngeal symptoms
- Recognize clinical scenarios where PPIs may be inappropriately utilized and medication therapy should be reassessed





# Where did the evidence come from?

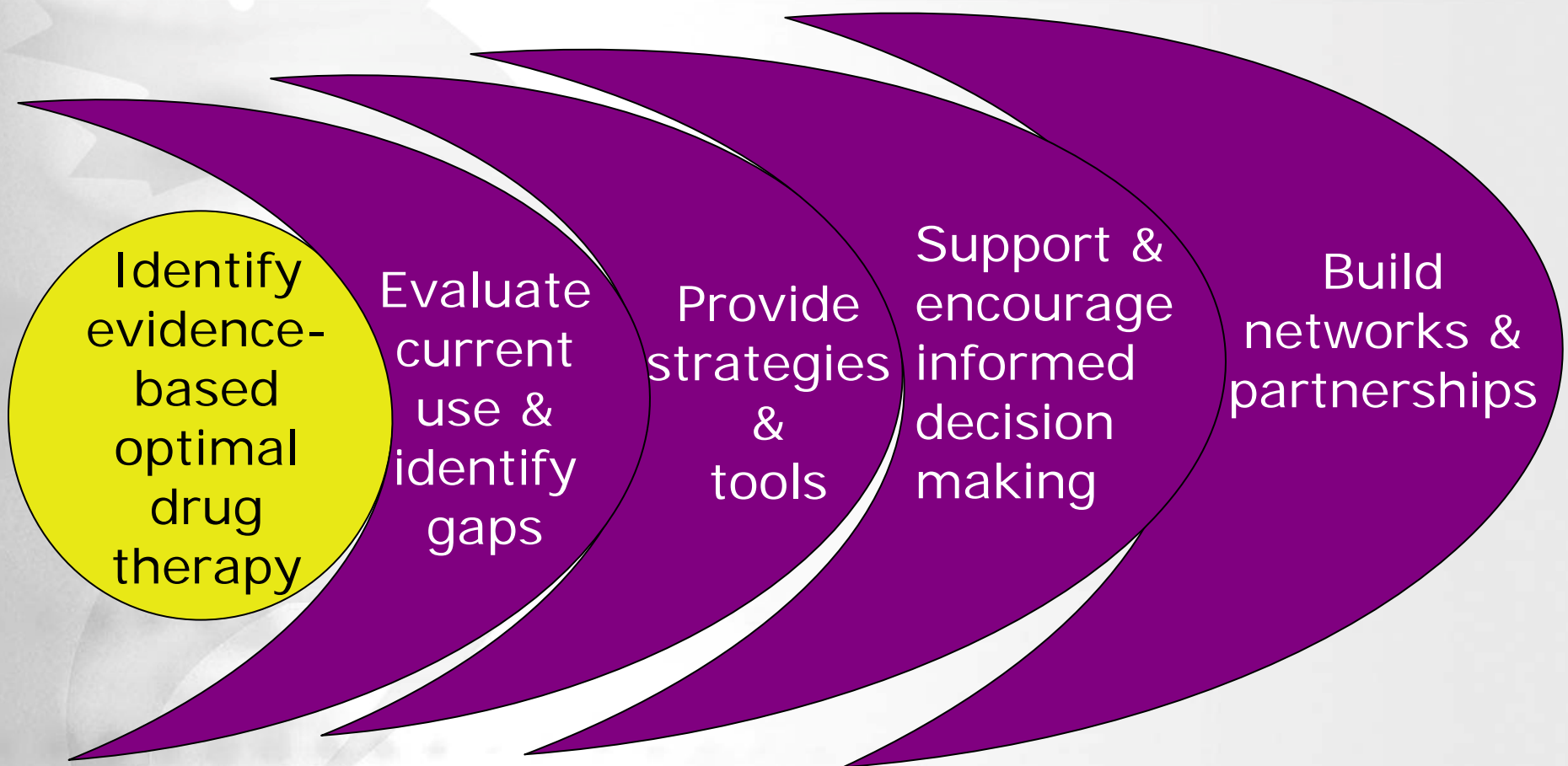
## Canadian Agency for Drugs and Technologies in Health (CADTH)

CADTH is an independent, not-for-profit agency funded by Canadian federal, provincial, and territorial governments to provide credible, impartial advice and evidence-based information about the effectiveness of drugs and other health technologies to Canadian health care decision makers.





# What is COMPUS?



# Why PPIs?

PPI topic selection criteria included:

- Over- or under-use
- Size of patient population
- Potential impact on health outcomes and cost-effectiveness
- Potential to effect change
- Benefit to multiple jurisdictions
- Measurable outcomes

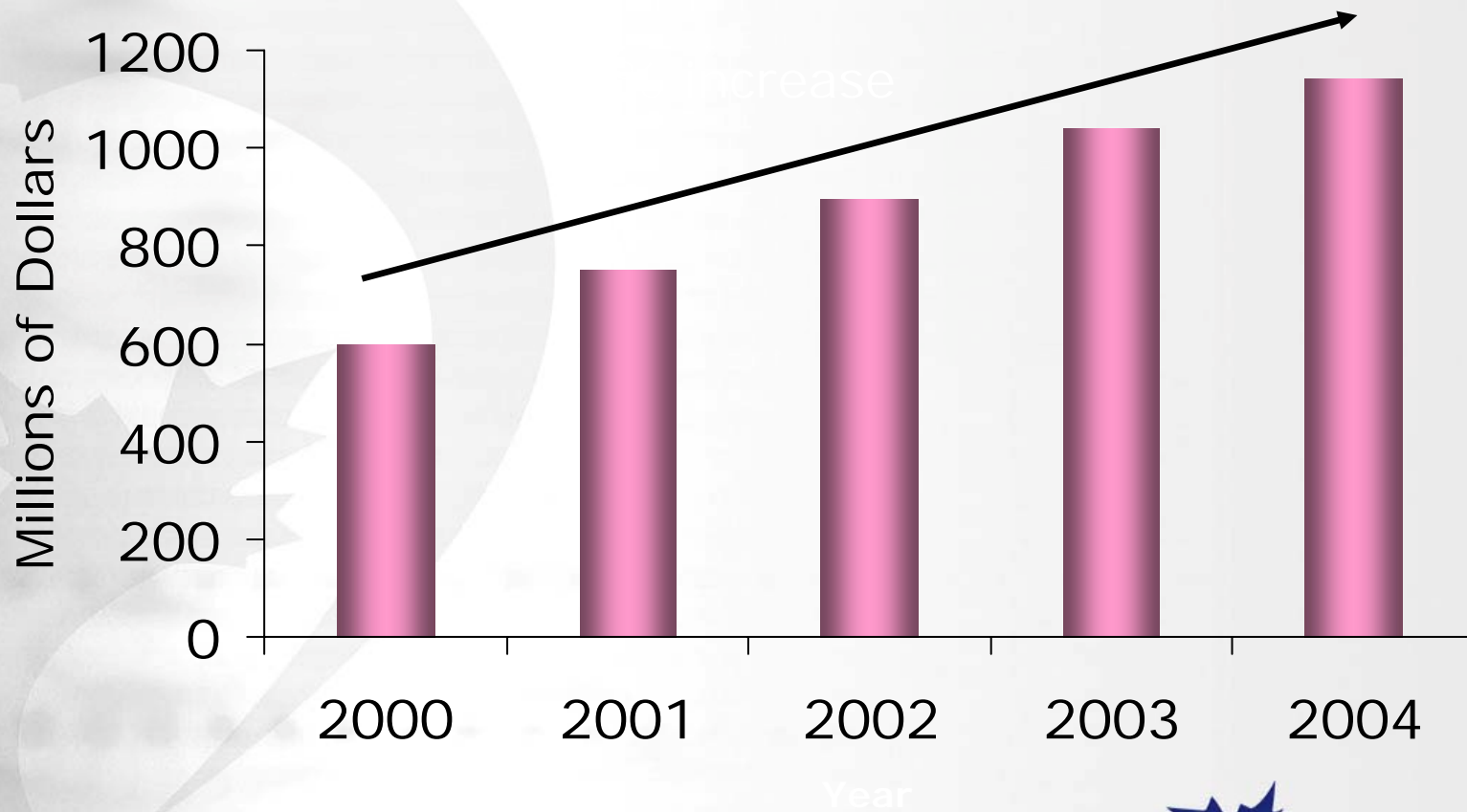
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# Why focus on PPIs?

Estimated total PPI retail pharmacy sales in Canada:



Source: IMS HEALTH, CANADA. Reprinted with permission of IMS HEALTH, CANADA

# PPI project process – evidence

- Identify, summarize and evaluate the clinical evidence in the form of evidence-based statements
- Produce reliable economic evidence
- Understand the current practice in Canada related to PPI prescribing and use
- Identify gaps in practice highlighting areas where current practice differs from the evidence

# PPI project process – interventions

- Develop key messages regarding the evidence-based statements to address the gaps in practice
- Select interventions to support the key messages and effect change in the prescribing and use of PPIs
- Develop intervention tools for implementation
- Develop an evaluation framework to measure the effect of the interventions

# PPI Expert Review Panel (ERP)

BC	Dr. J. Rideout	Family Physician
AB	Dr. S. van Zanten	Gastroenterologist
AB	Dr. A. Thomson	Gastroenterologist
SK	Dr. M. Caughlin	Family Physician
SK	Dr. B. Schuster	Pharmacist
MB	Dr. L. Targownik	Gastroenterologist
ON	Dr. A. Holbrook	Clinical Pharmacologist
ON	Dr. M. Brouwers	Methodologist
ON	Ron Goeree	Health Economist
ON	Dr. M. Man-Son-Hing	Geriatrician
ON	Dr. J. Marshall	Gastroenterologist
NS	Pam McLean-Veysey	Pharmacist



# Proton Pump Inhibitor Facts and Fallacies

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# Case #1

Mr. B:

- ❑ 53-year-old male, otherwise healthy presents with a 1-year history of classical symptoms of GERD, now occurring daily
- ❑ minimal relief from over-the-counter antacids and H2RAs
- ❑ non-pharmacological measures (trial of weight loss, avoiding trigger foods) ineffective



## Case #2

Ms. M

- 68-year-old female, past history of HTN, DM2, and osteoarthritis
- Admitted to hospital 3 days ago with upper GI bleed
- Endoscopy revealed an acute duodenal ulcer, treated with electrocautery and 3 days of intravenous pantoprazole infusion
- Had been using naproxen once daily, now discontinued, *H. pylori* negative
- Now no further bleeding, ready to be switched to an oral PPI



## Case #3

Mr. C:

- 77 year-old male, past Hx of IHD, previous CABG, HTN, COPD
- Current medications include ASA 81mg, once daily, amlodipine, ramipril
- Increasing pain from OA of the left knee, inadequate relief with acetaminophen
- You decide to initiate NSAID therapy in combination with a gastroprotective agent



## To review....



*Mr. B:* GERD refractory to OTCs/H2RAs



*Ms. M:* acute GI bleed secondary to DU



*Mr. C:* High-risk new NSAID user

***Should any of these patients be prescribed a double-dose PPI?***

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# Double-dose PPIs

## *Double-dose PPIs are commonly used:*

- 15% of PPI users are using, on average,  $\geq 1.5$  times the standard daily dose of PPIs at any given time; 7% are using  $\geq 2$  times the standard daily dose
- More likely to be used in persons with
  - Advanced age
  - Comorbid Diseases
  - Multiple prescriptions



# Double-dose PPIs: are they effective?

*PPIs exert their effect by decreasing gastric acid secretion*

- Promote an increase in intragastric pH
  - Higher pH levels = less gastric acidity

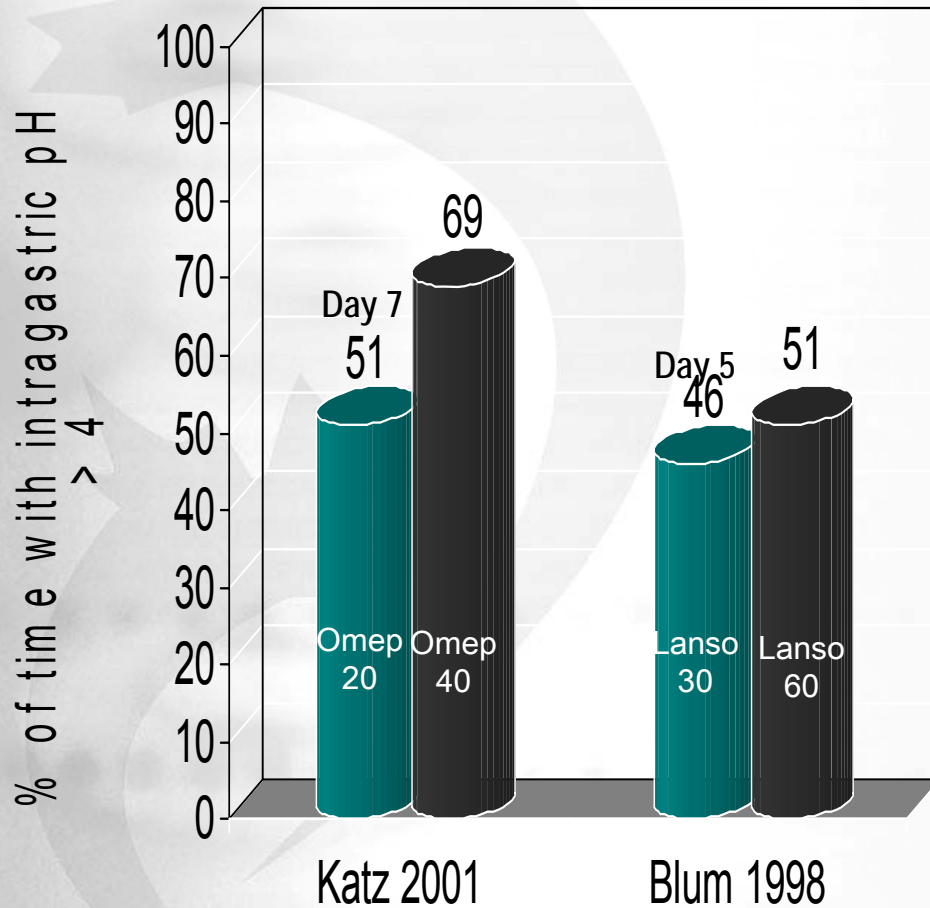
*Degree of suppression of intragastric pH*  
(% of time with intragastric pH > 4.0) is correlated with:

- Healing of duodenal ulcers
- Eradication of *H. pylori*

Jones 1987  
Hunt 1986  
Labenz 1995



# PPI dose and intragastric pH



**Increased PPI dose has a marginal effect on intragastric pH**

**Questionable clinical significance of this degree of difference of acid suppression**





# Double-dose PPIs: GERD

*Two clinical scenarios where double-dose PPIs are commonly used in patients with GERD:*

A) initial therapy of GERD

B) “step-up” therapy in patients with continued symptoms or esophagitis on standard doses of PPIs

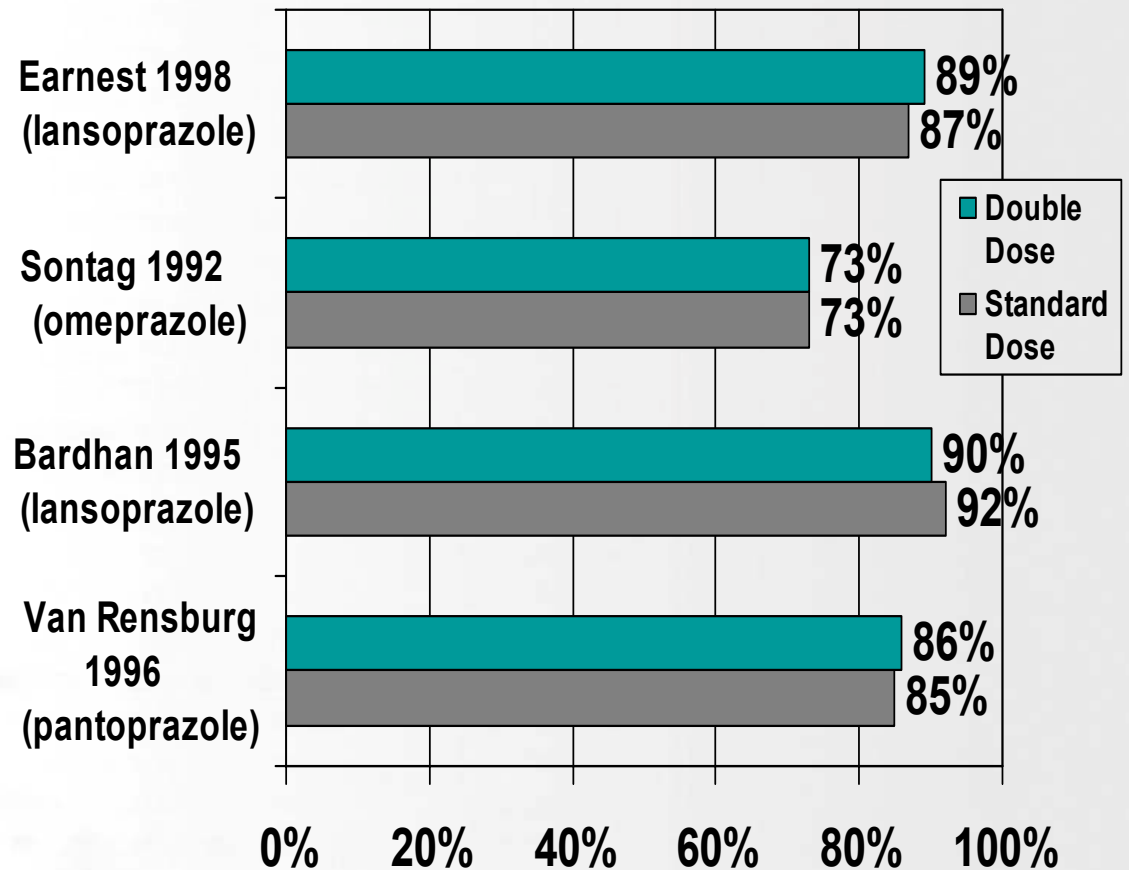


# Double-dose PPIs: initial therapy of GERD

In the COMPUS review, 4 studies comparing initial therapy with high-dose PPI versus standard-dose PPI in healing and symptom relief in erosive esophagitis at 8 weeks

- 2 lanso 30 vs. lanso 60
- 1 omep 20 vs. omep 40
- 1 panto 40 vs. panto 80

***No differences in healing and symptom relief at 8 weeks***



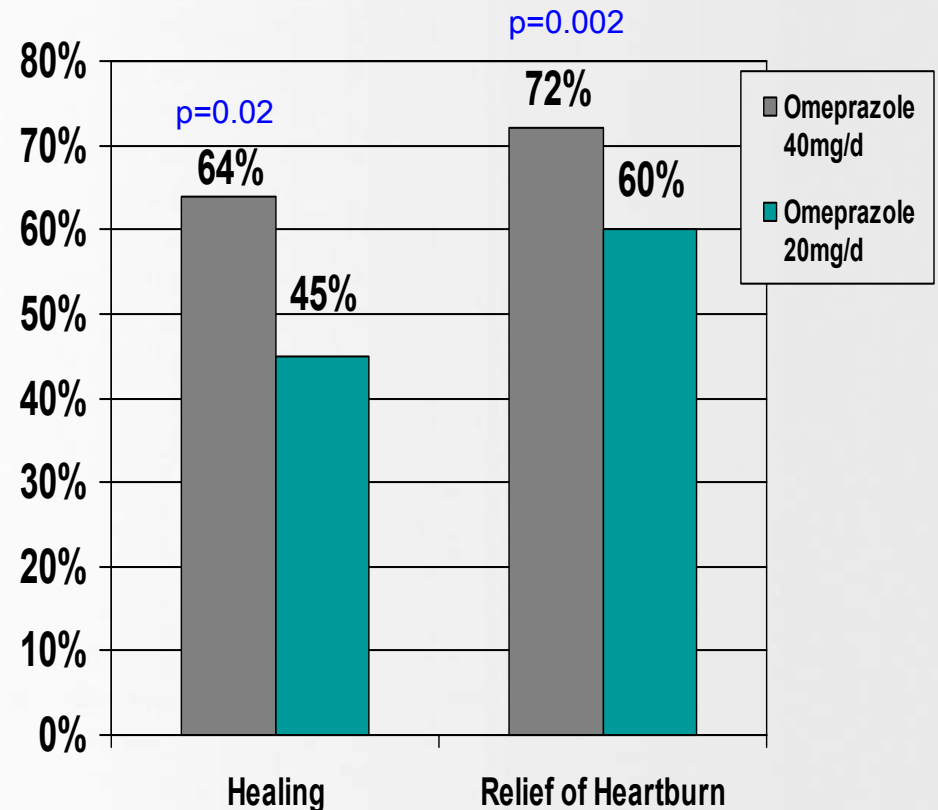
# Double-dose PPIs: step-up therapy for non-responders

Only 1 non-blinded trial

Omeprazole 40 vs omeprazole 20 for subjects with symptoms/esophagitis after 4 weeks of omeprazole 20mg

Statistically significant improvement in heartburn relief and healing of esophagitis

Overall, evidence to support step-up therapy is poor

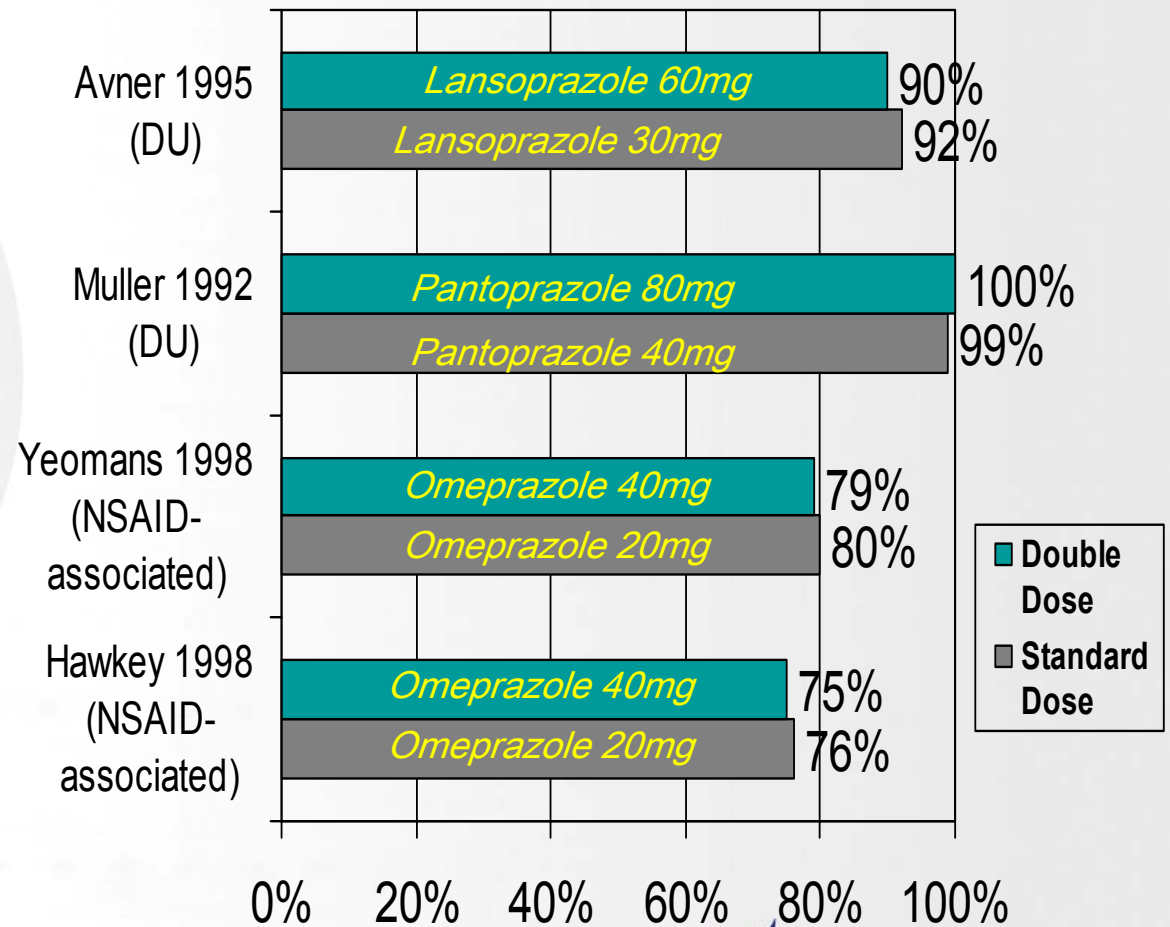


# Double-dose PPIs: peptic ulcer disease

Again, no difference in efficacy for healing of PUD (at 4 weeks for DU and at 8 weeks for NSAID-associated ulcer)

No role for double dose PPIs in the treatment of PUD

No evidence for step-up therapy for patients with non-healing ulcer



# ●● Double-dose PPIs: eradication of *Helicobacter Pylori*

- Double-dose PPIs are marginally superior to standard- dose PPI HP-eradication regimens
- One large meta-analysis
  - Double-Dose PPI: 84%
  - Standard-Dose PPI: 78%
  - $p < 0.01$ , Number Needed to Treat: 16
- Though difference is marginal, treatment is short-term and of minimal economic concern

# Double-dose PPIs

**There are no studies evaluating double-dose PPIs in:**

- Treatment of endoscopy-negative reflux disease
- Functional dyspepsia
- Prevention of NSAID-related peptic ulcer disease





# Double-dose PPIs: conclusion

Aside from eradication of *H. pylori*, there are **no proven indications** for the use of double-dose PPIs

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## To review....

### Who should be prescribed a double-dose PPI?

Mr. B: GERD refractory to OTCs/H2RAs

Ms. M: acute GI bleed secondary to DU

Mr. C: High-risk new NSAID user



# How about another case?

## Ms. P

- 64-year-old woman with severe GERD
- Recent endoscopy reveals erosive esophagitis typified by multiple linear erosions
- Which PPI should she be prescribed?



# Are all PPIs the same?

- There are currently 5 PPIs on the Canadian Market:
  - Omeprazole (Losec®, generics)
  - Lansoprazole (Prevacid®)
  - Pantoprazole (Pantoloc®)
  - Rabeprazole (Pariet®)
  - Esomeprazole (Nexium®)
- All PPIs target the same receptor which blocks gastric acid secretion (the proton pump)
- PPIs do differ in several respects (plasma half-life, pKa, hepatic vs. renal metabolism)
- Are these differences clinically significant?



# Comparing the PPIs: healing of erosive esophagitis

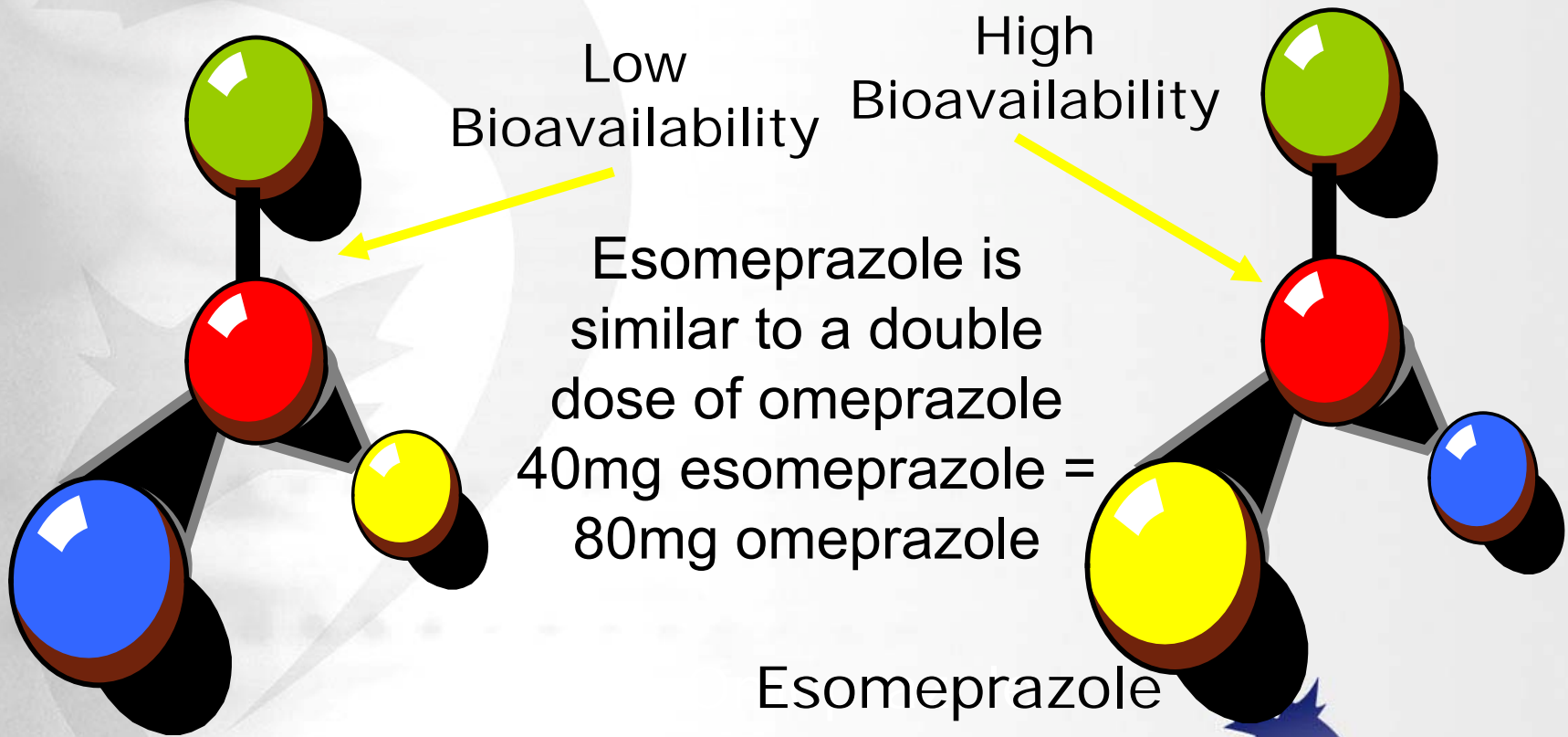
- In the COMPUS review: 6 systematic reviews were identified:
- No significant differences were detected in healing of erosive esophagitis and symptoms relief at 4 or 8 weeks for comparisons between standard doses of PPIs
- Esomeprazole 40 mg was marginally superior to standard dose omeprazole, lansoprazole, and pantoprazole in:
  - healing of erosive esophagitis (4 and 8 weeks)
  - symptom relief in patients with erosive esophagitis (4 and 8 weeks)

*CADTH 2007  
Kahrilas 2000  
Richter 2001*

*Castell 2002  
Labenz 2005*

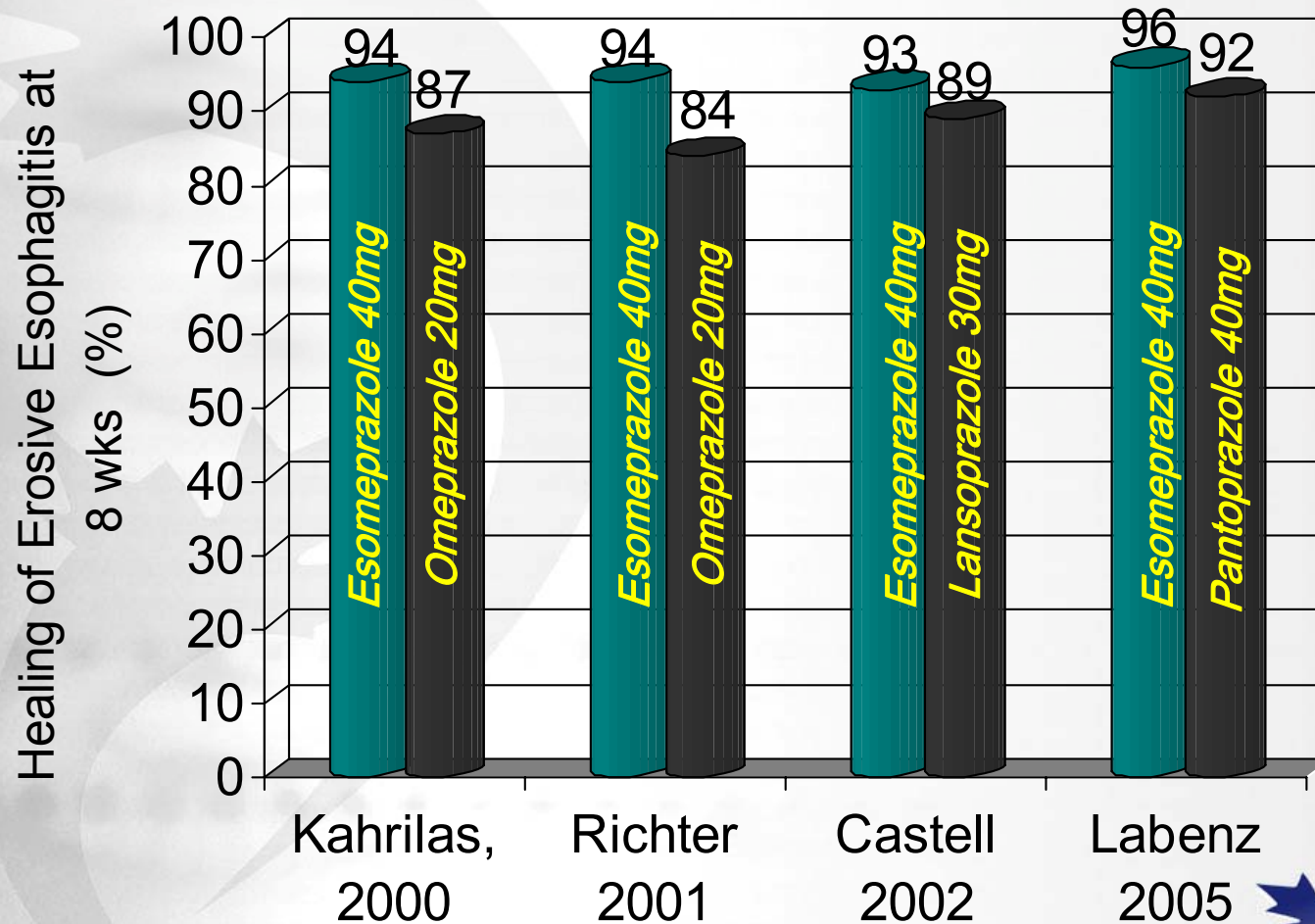
# Comparing the PPIs: What about esomeprazole?

Omeprazole is composed of 2 enantiomers (mirror-image compounds)



R-Omeprazole

# Comparing the PPIs: What about esomeprazole?

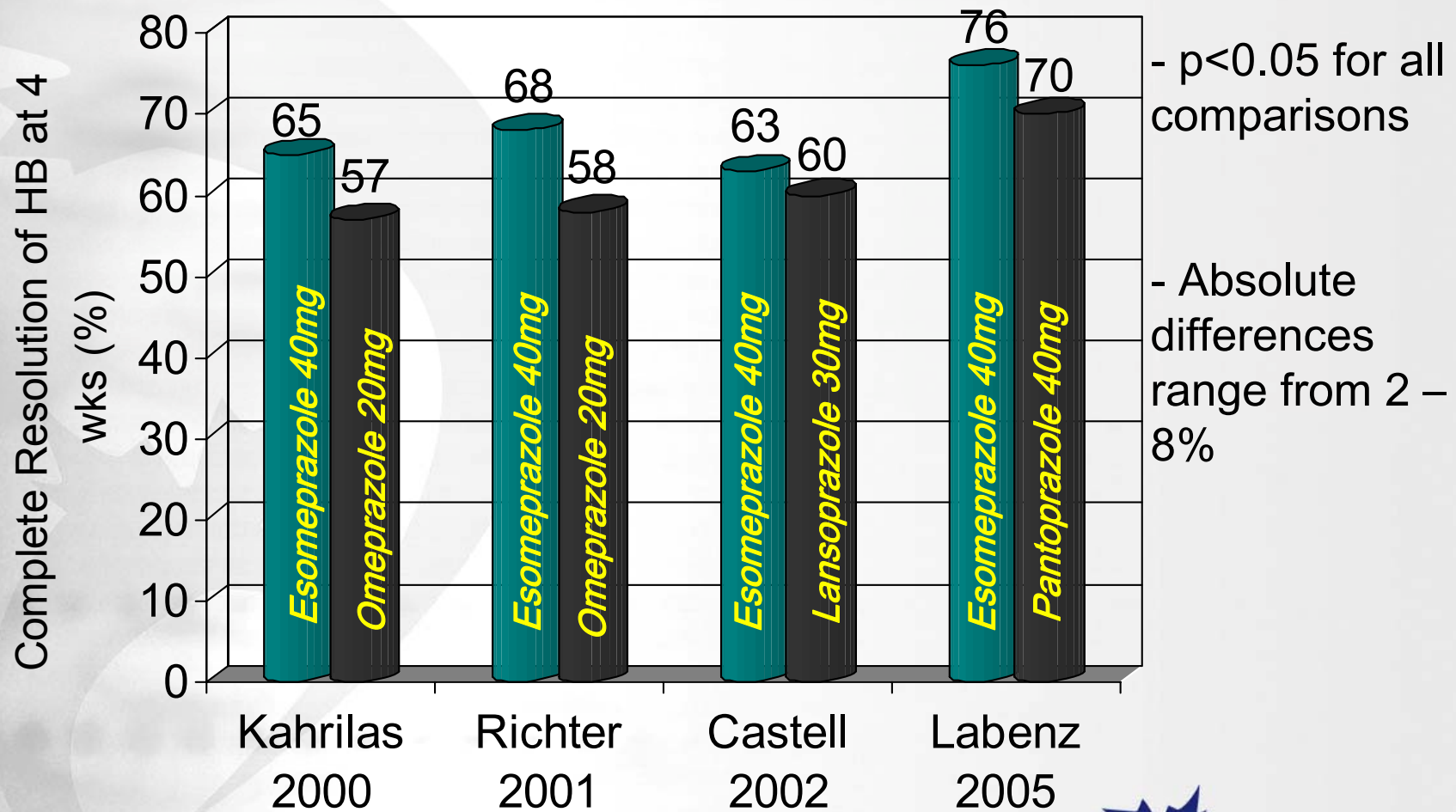


-p<0.05 for all comparisons

-Absolute differences range from 4 – 10%



# Comparing the PPIs: What about esomeprazole?





# Comparing the PPIs: endoscopy-negative reflux disease

- The majority of patients with GERD (approx. 70%) will have normal endoscopy
- In patients with normal endoscopy
  - No differences between the PPIs in symptom relief, including esomeprazole 40 mg vs. standard-dose omeprazole 20 mg

*Armstrong 2005  
Armstrong 2004  
Fock 2005  
Mönnikes 2005*

# Comparing the PPIs: peptic ulcer disease

- In direct comparisons, no significant differences in healing rates between:
- Standard-dose of Omeprazole and standard doses of:
  - Lansoprazole
  - Pantoprazole
  - Rabeprazole
- According to the COMPUS review, rates of ulcer healing in patients with NSAID-associated ulcer are similar among different PPIs.

# • Comparing PPIs: prevention of NSAID-related peptic ulcer disease

- Only direct comparison is for omeprazole vs. pantoprazole in one RCT
- Rates of endoscopic ulcer formation are similar for PPIs evaluated for this indication:
  - Omeprazole
  - Lansoprazole
  - Pantoprazole

# Comparing PPIs: eradication of *H. Pylori*

- COMPUS identified 5 high-quality systematic reviews
- No significant differences in eradication rates across all PPIs, including esomeprazole

# Comparing PPIs: side effects/drug interactions

- COMPUS did not specifically address the issue of drug interactions and side effects between PPIs
- There are no studies reporting any difference in the side-effect profiles of specific PPIs
- Rabeprazole and pantoprazole have less potential for drug-drug interactions due to their dual metabolism
  - Clinical significance is likely small, should not determine choice of PPI

# Comparing PPIs: summary

- Esomeprazole 40 mg is slightly more efficacious than other PPIs at standard doses, specifically for healing of erosive esophagitis
  - Small difference in benefit is insufficient in recommending its use over other PPIs
- All PPIs are equivalent for initial treatment of all other GI indications
  - endoscopy-negative reflux disease
  - erosive esophagitis
  - NSAID-associated ulcer disease (prevention and treatment)
  - HP eradication



# Practice implications

*Prescribing may be optimized by focusing on lower cost PPIs*

Standard Dose PPIs	Generic Omeprazole 20mg Daily	Pariet® Rabeprazole 20mg Daily	Pantoloc® Pantoprazole 40mg Daily	Prevacid® Lansoprazole 30mg Daily	Nexium® Esomeprazole 20mg Daily	Losec® Omeprazole 20mg Daily
Daily Price <sup>4</sup>	\$1.25	\$1.30	\$1.90	\$2.00	\$2.10	\$2.20
Approximate Monthly Price†	\$43.00	\$44.40	\$61.20	\$64.00	\$66.80	\$69.60

## One last case

Mr. P.

- 37-year-old male, previously healthy
- 2 month Hx of:
  - Sore throat, voice hoarseness, non-productive cough
- No SOB, no wheezing, no hemoptysis
- 0.5ppd smoker x 15 years
- No classical symptoms of GERD (heartburn /regurgitation/waterbrash)

*Should we consider empiric therapy with a PPI?*



# PPIs for chronic laryngitis

- GERD is often suspected as a cause for chronic laryngeal symptoms, including:
  - Sore throat
  - Globus sensation (lump in throat)
  - Hoarseness
  - Cough
- Diagnosis is often based on the presence of laryngoscopic evidence of reflux



# PPIs for chronic laryngitis

According to the COMPUS review...

**PPIs are no better than placebo in relief of laryngeal symptoms**



# PPIs for chronic laryngitis

Meta-analysis of 8 placebo-controlled trials of chronic laryngitis:

- Enrolled patients with chronic laryngeal symptoms
- PPI subjects were no more likely to have symptom relief than placebo
- OR 1.28 (95% CI 0.94-1.74)

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# PPIs for chronic laryngitis: some caveats

PPI response more likely in subjects with laryngeal symptoms + GERD confirmed by 24h pH testing

- Laryngeal signs and abN 24h pH test:
  - OR 1.58 (95 % CI: 0.97 – 2.57)
- Laryngeal signs and no pH monitoring
  - OR 1.05 (95% CI: 0.76 – 1.44)

ENT-diagnosed laryngeal changes are very non-specific for GERD, while 24h pH testing is the gold standard for GERD

*Qadeer 2006  
Vavricka 2007  
Armstrong 2005*



# PPIs and chronic laryngitis: summary

- PPIs are at best marginally effective in patients with laryngeal symptoms in the absence of classical GERD symptoms
- There are multiple other non-GERD related causes for laryngeal symptoms
- Therefore, no role for PPIs in the empiric management of laryngeal symptoms
- Can consider a referral to a GI specialist for 24h pH monitoring for laryngeal symptoms not responding to other interventions



# COMPUS Key Messages

- 1. Double-dose PPIs are no more effective than standard-dose PPIs, except in HP eradication**
- 2. There are few meaningful differences between the PPIs**
- 3. PPIs are ineffective in the empirical management of chronic laryngeal symptoms**



# *Questions ?*

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