

# Shunting and Contralateral Carotid Occlusion: Never, Always, or in Selected Cases?



Jack L. Cronenwett, M.D.

Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Vascular Study Group of New England

# Disclosure

- I do not have any potential conflicts of interest.

# Contralateral Carotid Occlusion (CCO)

1. Is stroke rate higher during CEA?
2. Are shunts required more often?
3. Should we all shunt all patients with CCO?

# Stroke Rate during CEA with CCO

- **NASCET trial showed higher stroke rate for CEA with contralateral carotid occlusion (CCO)**
  - 2.3 x higher (14.3 vs. 5.1%)
  - (Stroke rate even higher under medical Rx)
- **ACAS trial showed no effect of CCO**
  - 2.3% vs. 2.2%, ns
- Multiple small studies with different outcomes

# Stroke Rate during CEA with CCO Registry and Meta-Analyses

Contralateral ICA	Patent	Stroke	Occluded	Stroke	P
SVS Registry	10, 948	1.1%	666	3.2%	<.001
Meta Analysis*	11,511	2.4%	1,927	3.7%	<.002
Meta Analysis#	25, 726	1.9%	3,120	3.3%	<.001

\* 19 Studies, 1984-2005, Maatz et al, Ann Vasc Surg, 2008

# 30 Studies, 1984-2012, Antoniou et, al, J Vasc Surg, 2013

- **Stroke rate 1.5-1.7 x higher for CEA with CCO**
- Variation in shunt use, local vs. general anesthesia

# Shunt Requirement During CEA

- 1,212 CEA under local-regional anesthesia

Contralateral ICA Status	Stenosis <60%	Stenosis 60-99%	Occluded	P
n	958 (79%)	173 (14%)	81 (7%)	
<b>Shunt Required</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>6%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>&lt;.001</b>
Stroke or Death	2.6%	2.3%	1.2%	.74

Logistic regression predictors of shunt requirement:

**Contralateral occlusion (OR 5.7)**

Severe renal insufficiency (OR 2.1)

# Shunt Requirement based on MRA

- 431 CEA under general anesthesia
  - 88% Symptomatic
- 65 (15%) required by shunt for EEG changes
- Multivariate predictors of shunt requirement:
  - **Contralateral carotid occlusion**      **O.R. = 4.3**
  - Incomplete circle Willis      O.R. = 5.0
  - Ipsilateral ICA stenosis > 90%      O.R. = 0.15
- Collateral circulation predicts need for shunt

# Contralateral Carotid Occlusion

1. Is stroke rate higher during CEA?

Yes – 1.5-1.7 x higher

2. Are shunts required more often?

Yes – 4-5 x more often

3. Should we all shunt all patients with CCO?



# CEA Without Shunting

- CCO can be done safely without shunting
- Experienced surgical group
- 147 CEA with contralateral carotid occlusion
- General anesthesia, no shunts
  - BP > 130, Clamp time mean 20 minutes
- Stroke, death rate = 1.4%

# CEA and Contralateral Occlusion

- If contralateral carotid occlusion increases stroke risk during CEA and increases need for shunting, how can CEA be done safely by some groups without the need for shunting?

# Vascular Study Group Of New England



VSGNE

## Regional Quality Improvement Collaborative

- 30 Centers
  - 15 Academic
  - 15 Community
- Prospective data collection
  - Major vascular procedures
  - Since 2003
- Large number procedures
- “Real World” practice

# Carotid Endarterectomy in VSGNE

- 5,263 Carotid Endarterectomy, 2003-2009
  - Excluded: redo CEA, combined CABG
  - Contralateral carotid assessed by pre-op duplex
- Study cohort:

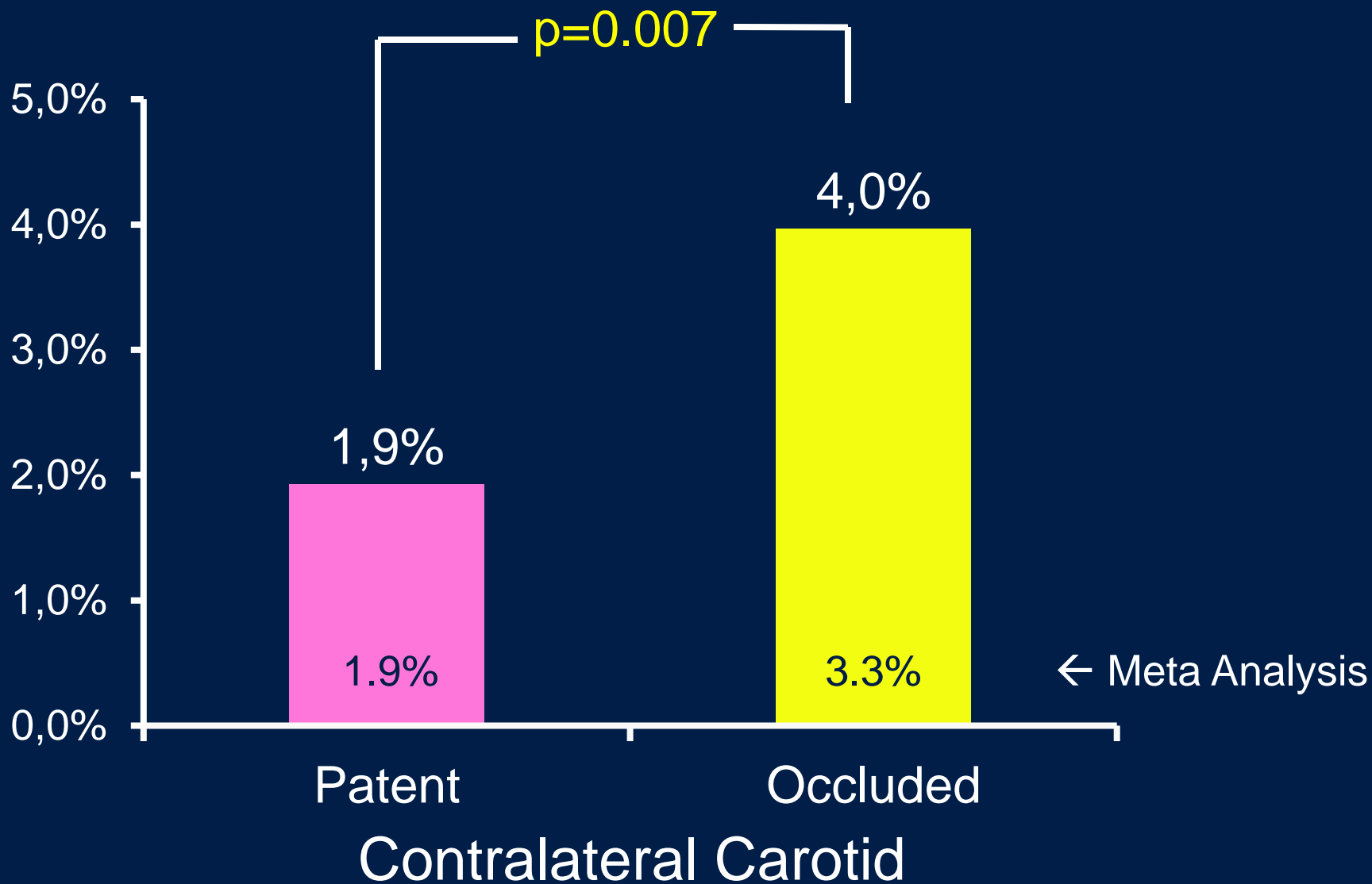
5,279 CEAs With  
A Patent  
Contralateral ICA

353 CEAs With  
Contralateral Carotid  
Occlusion (6%)

(SVS Registry: 6% CCO (Ricotta, J Vasc Surg 2012))

- Goodney et al, J Vasc Surg 2012

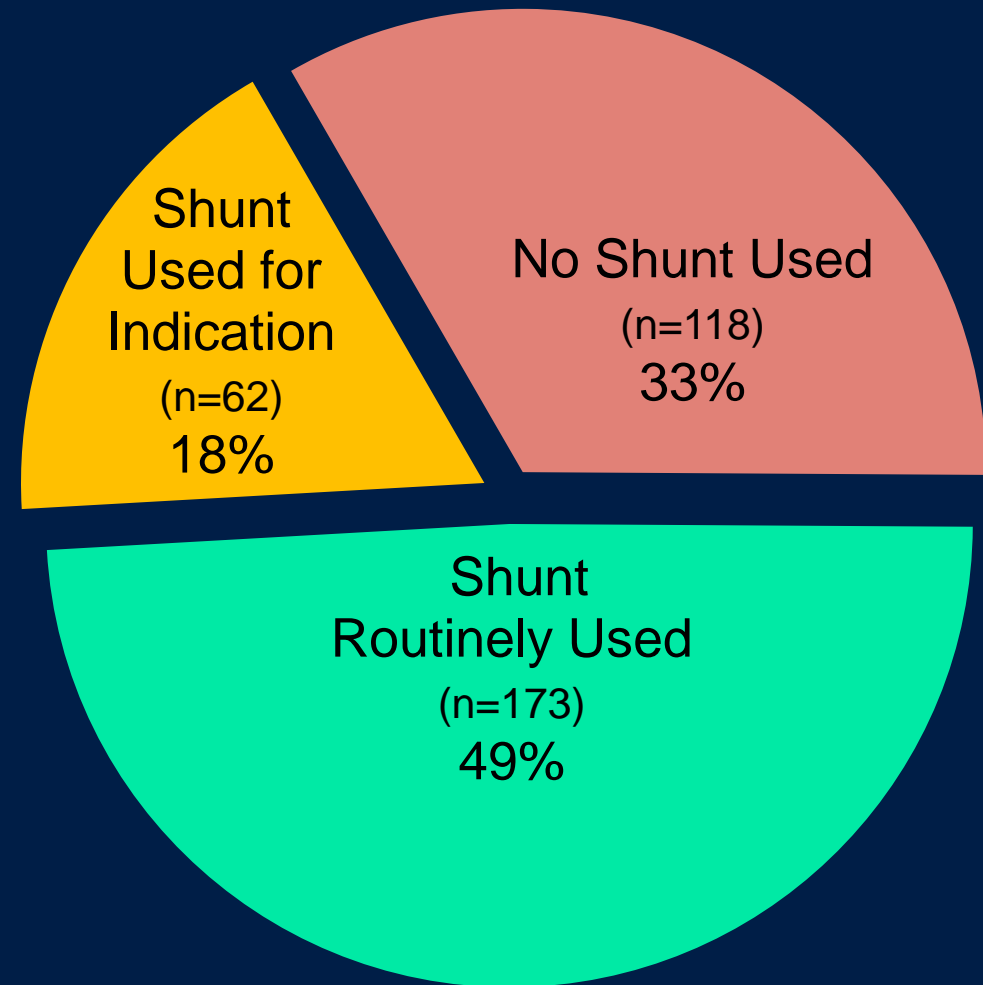
# 30-Day Stroke or Death after CEA



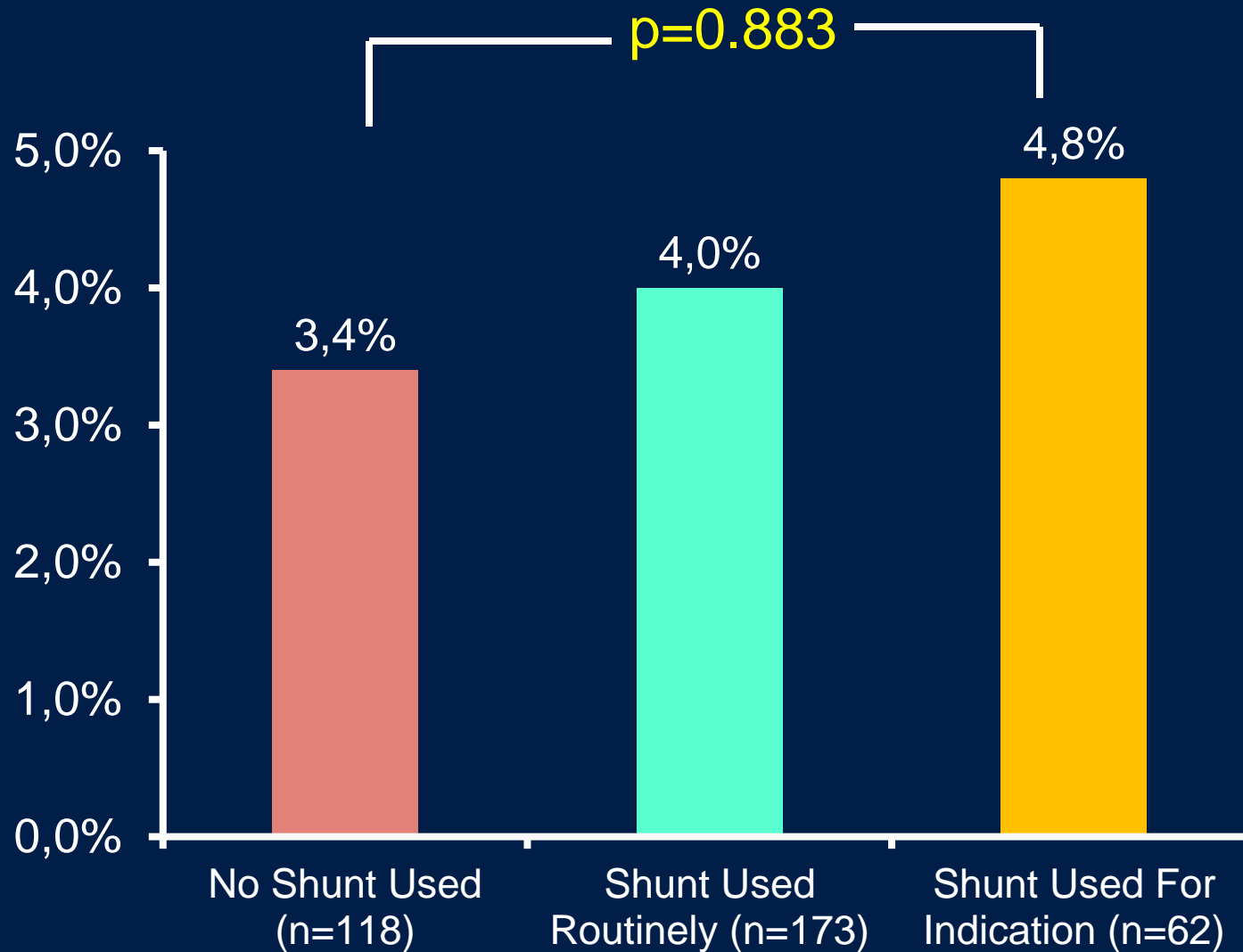
# 353 Patients with Contralateral Occlusion

- General Anesthesia: 94%
- Conventional CEA: 90%
- Patch Use: 84%
- Symptomatic: 39%
  
- Shunt Used: 67%

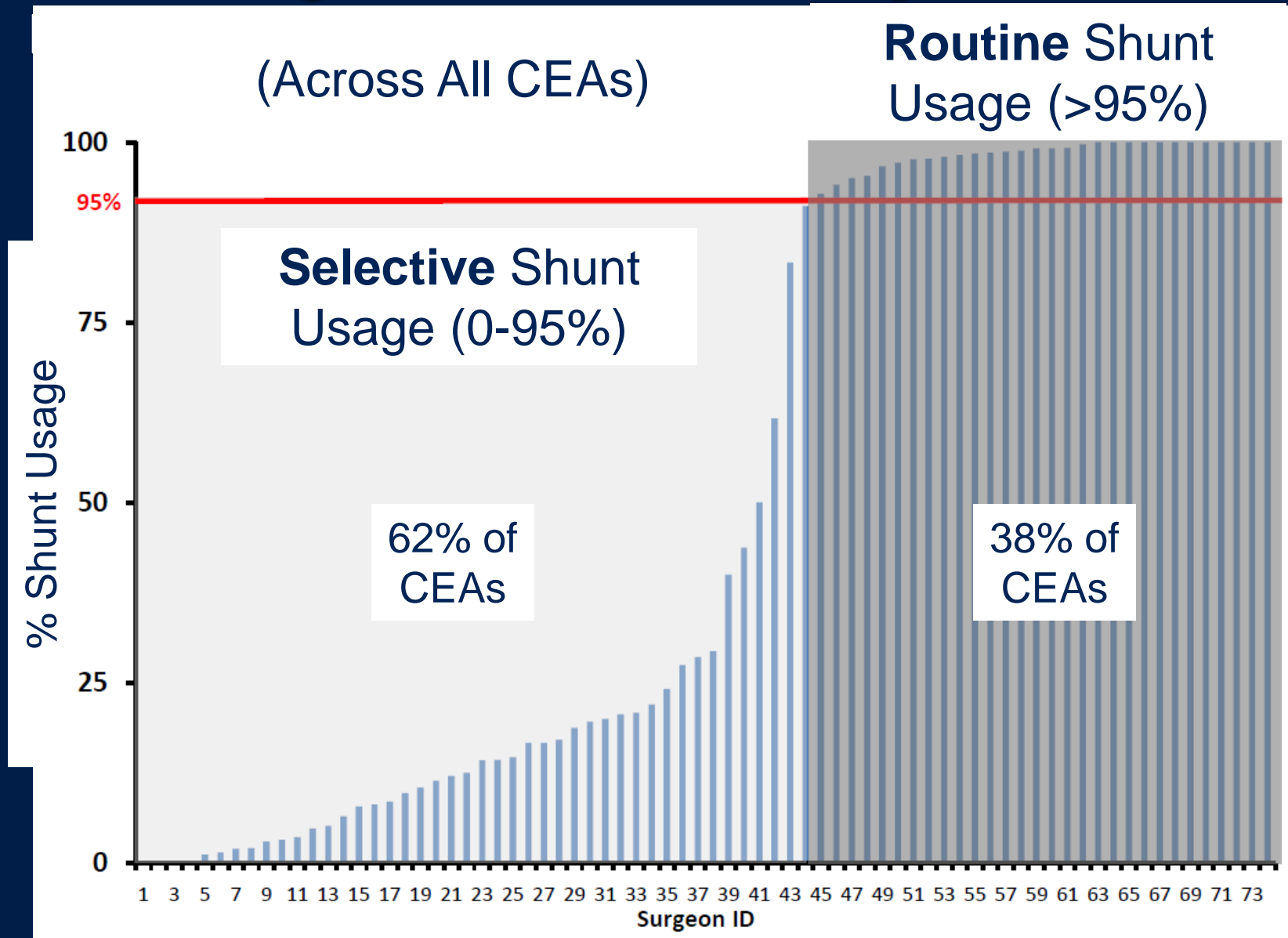
## Shunt Usage



# 30-Day Stroke or Death, by Shunt Type

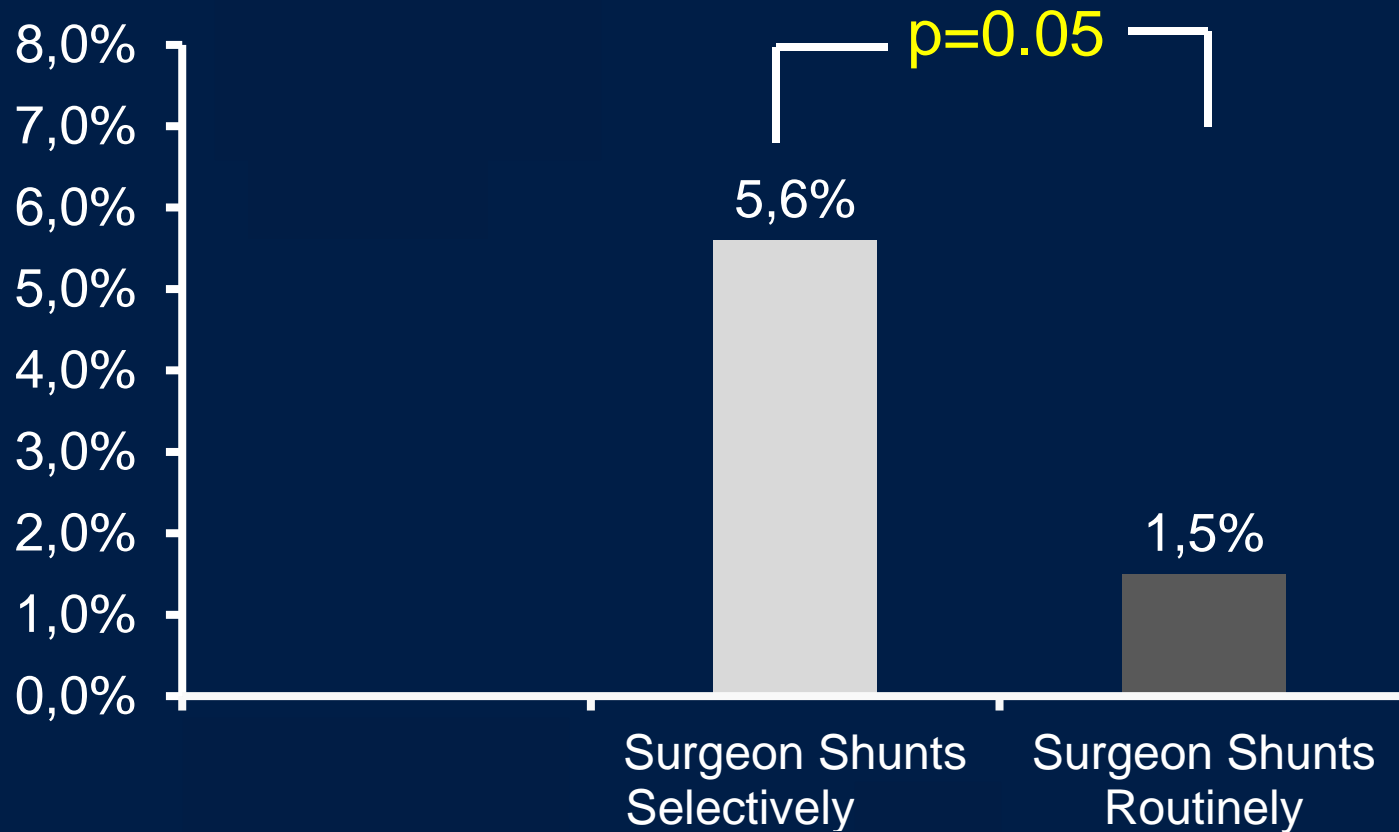


# Surgeon Shunt Usage Pattern

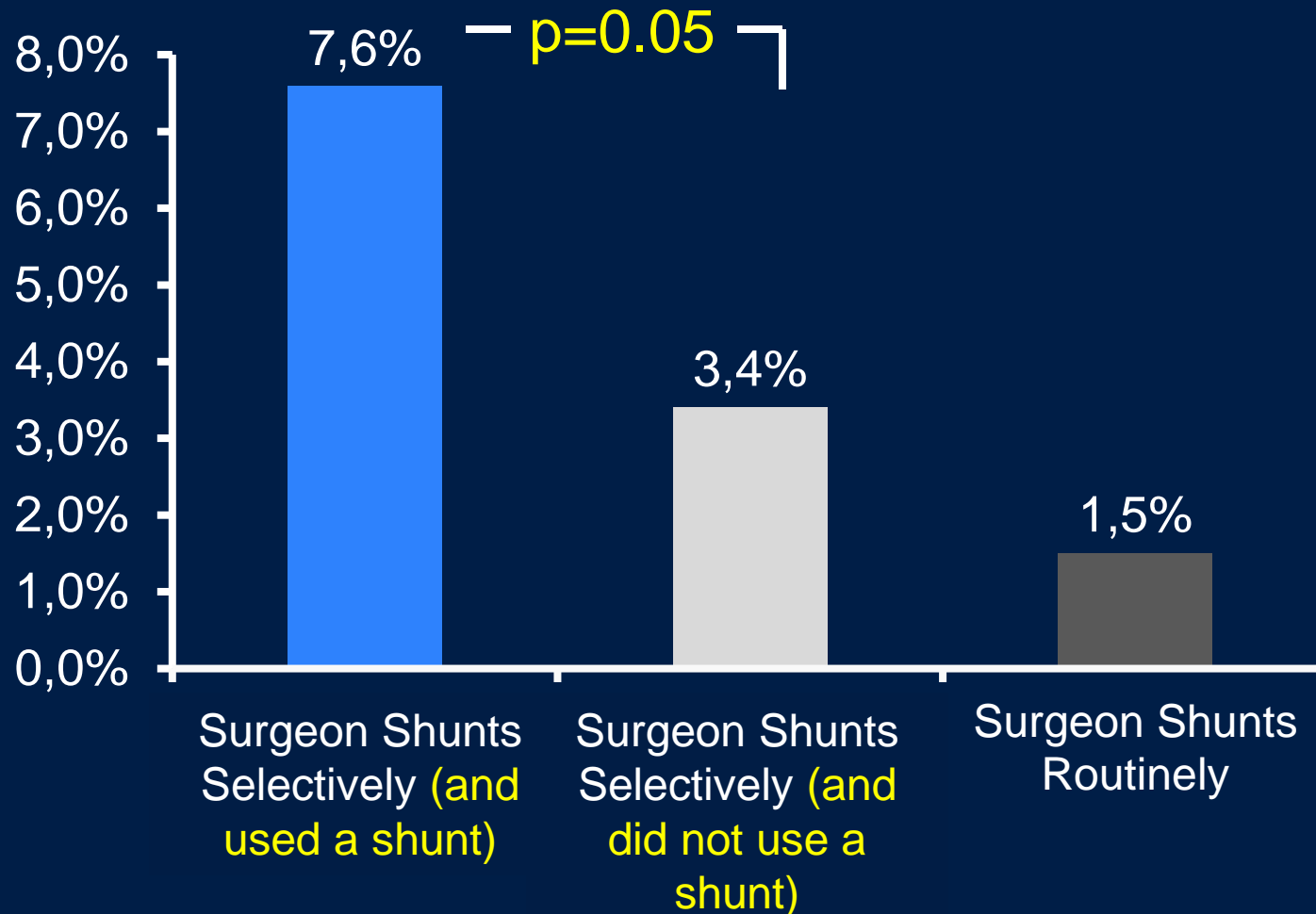




# 30-Day Stroke or Death, by Surgeon Shunt Usage Pattern



# 30-Day Stroke or Death, by Surgeon Shunt Usage Pattern



# Multivariable Analysis

- Account for potential differences in patient mix by calculating observed to expected ratio for stroke/death by surgeon shunt usage pattern:

- Routine shunt use:** O/E = 0.4 [0.2-0.8]
- Selective, no shunt:** O/E = 0.9 [0.7-1.2]
- Selective, used shunt:** O/E = 1.7 [1.2-2.1]

P<.05

# Implications

- **Complex processes of care** (such as shunt placement) are best performed by surgeons who use them frequently
- The **safest operation** a vascular surgeon can perform in a patient with a CCO is the operation they would perform if the CCO were not present.

# Contralateral Carotid Occlusion (CCO)

1. Is stroke rate higher during CEA?

Yes – 1.5-1.7 x higher

2. Are shunts required more often?

Yes – 4-5 x more often

3. Should we all shunt all patients with CCO?

**No**

- **Local anesthesia:** Use shunt for neurologic deficit
- **General anesthesia:** Use shunt only if surgeon uses a shunt routinely for all CEAs

# Vascular Study Group of New England

