

The DAN Europe Diving Data Base Alessandro Marroni, MD, MSc, FUHM, FECB



Buehlmann Memorial Symposium Zuerich, 30-31 March, 2019





Premessa

Non esiste alcun organismo centrale, in Svizzera, per il controllo dell'immersione sportiva, ma diversi latituli, per esempio la Compagnia d'Assicurazione Nazionale Svizzera (SUVA), raccolgame resolammente dati. La banca dati più completa, in Svizzera, è quella in possesso della Clinica

Ci sono circa 10.000 subacquei sportivi in attività in Svizzera. Questi si immergono, mediumenta più di 10 volte all'amno ciascumo, per un totale di 200.000 - 400.000 immersioni amnue, sia in Svizzera che affestero. I dati che abbiamo raccolto a 201/go si riferisceno sia agli incidenti mortali

La Tabella I mostra una media di 3 incidenti mortali all'anno, nel periodo di osservazione fra il 1981 ed il 1990, rispetto a 67 incidenti mortali all'anno per altri sport acquatici, come il muoto, la canoa esc, e 175 incidenti mortali per gli sport alpini, come roccia, sci, etc. L'annegamento è la causa più frequente di morte durante l'immersione sobsceptes, ma il rischio di incidenti, mortali e non, è

Tabella I - Incidenti Sportivi Mortali in S Media Annuale dal 1981 al 1990	ivizzera
Sport Alpini (Roccia, Sci. etc.)	175
Sport Acquatici (Nuoto, Canoa, etc.)	67
Sport Subacquei (Apnea e ARA)	3

Dal 1960 la maggior parte delle vittime di incidenti subacquei, seri ma non mortali, avvenuti in Svizzera, sono stati ricoverazi presso l'Ospedale Universitario di Zurigo. Duranze gii ultimi 10 ami sibbiano tratatto, ogni anno, 3 – 4 subacquei spectivi colpiti di Sorne di Patologia da Decompressione di tipo neurologico, a caricio dell'enterfalo, del midollo spinale, dell'oscibio o

Il numero dei pazienti da noi trattati è sufficientemente elevata per consentire di tratre ilcune conclusioni a rigarardo delle abitudini d'immersione dei subscopsi colpiti da seri incidenti d'immersione in Svizzera. 30 del 50 subscopsi che percentavano danni importanti a carico dell'erecchio interno o del midollo spinale, avevano sofferto di barotrauma dell'orecchio o del

Il barotrauma del polmone può provocare un'embolia gassosa a curico del cervello, dell'occhio e del nidollo spinale. Il barotrauma polmonare avviene, in genere, fra la profondità di 10 metri e la

La causa è l'impedimento dell'equilibrio di pressione fra bocca e orecchio medio, per il barotram dell'orecchio e fra la bocca ed una parte del polimone, a causa di un'ostruzione, totale o parziale. | Tabella II - Barrotrauma dell'orecchio con verigine, musea, somito, ipoacesia e timito
| Clinica Medica di Zurige 1971 - 1990 | 3 |
| Paziroti
Intercental	1971 - 1990	3
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L'irritazione e l'edema delle membrane mucose del tratto respiratorio è un significativo fattore distribui ner l'irritazione di haustanne.

Tabella III - Barotrauma del polmone Embolia Gassosa Arteriosa a carico del midollo spinale Clinica Medica di Zurigo 1976 - 1990		
Pazienti	18	
Immersioni "normali"	15	
Profondità maggiore di 50 m.	3	
Risalita d'emergenza	6	

La migliore tabella di decompressione ed il più sofisticato computer sobacqueo non possono evitare il fenomeno del barotrauma. Nel lavoro subacqueo professionale, per esempio, il haurtrauma dell'orecchio o del polimone è razo; la diversa mentivazione all'immersione fra sportivi e lavoratori

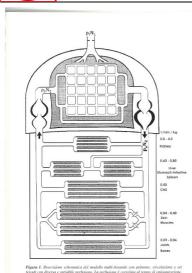
Tabella IV - Malattia da Decompresione Clinica Medica di Zurigo 1969 - 1990	
Pazienti	14
Immersioni "normali"	1
Profondità maggiore di 50 m.	3
Risalita d'emergenza	- 13

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Il medico subacqueo non può che confermare i principi di sicureza di ugni buen istruttore

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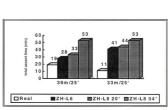


Figura 2. Confronto fra il modello ZH-L6 (Aladiu Pro) ed il modello ZH-L8, per immersion ripettiire in altitudine ed acqua fredda. Nesson sittosso di MDD dopo la prima immersion Sintonii Eve il MDD in 4 solorogni sia Nella seconda immersione occivenando i rempi di ricalii. "sperimentali" indicati come "real". Le altre colonne si ripetsicomo ai tempi indicati dal modelli disconii propriata in tempi indicati dal modelli.

La figura 3 illustra un'immersione multifivello in sequa calda. Alla profondità di 8 metri è registra un cario di lavone devoto che dara 10 minuti, mentre l'immersione cominum fino ai 28 metri Pura Durante la risolita ci sono solo brevi periodi di delvano cario di lavone. Non c'è risolita regida e noi ci sono violazioni delle tappe di decompressione. Il naffordamento è modoso, inizia dopo minuti ci di umenta dopo 39 minuti di immersione. In quastimmersione il periodo fra il 6º cd il 20 minuti ci di umenta dopo 39 minuti di immersione. In quastimmersione il periodo fra il 6º cd il 20 minuti ci di umenta dopo 30 minuti di mottari simo abbitatore del ciserno.

Ristago che il nuovo Computer Subacqueo Auto-Adattante rappresenti una nuova generazione di computer subacquei. La ricerca sulla fissiologia della decompressione e la Medicina Subacquea, fin da tempi di Haldane, è stata condotta con il mendod "Trial and Error" (tetteralimente: Tentativo ed Errore, NDT) ed i progressi vengeno consegniti per gradi. Come dec Cicerone: "Errare humanum est, diabolicane appreservare".

Riferimenti Bibliogra

Bühlmann AA, Tauchmedizin . 3rd Edition. Springer-Verlag 199;

66











Gas Bubbles in recreational Scuba Diving: prospective field studies.







DCS = bubble disease ?

- D. Elliott (2003): "After more than 100 years of decompression sickness research, we can be fairly sure of one thing than bubbles have something to do with it!"
- "Silent" bubbles without overt symptoms of DCS – suspected to be present since 1939 (Behnke et al.) – detected since 1970's (Spencer et al.)
- BUT...recent research shows that symptoms of DCS are caused by much more than bubbles alone



Asymptomatic Circulating Bubbles





Bubble Grades - Spencer: 0 - 4



From Safe Dive to DSL 1994 – 2000 Research Project Development

Dives recorded for time/depth profile by "DAN Europe Black Boxes" – modified dive computers - which are worn by the divers to assure objective dive profile recording and the availability of data ready for mathematical analysis of the computed tissue

saturation.



From Safe Dive to DSL 1994 – 2000

Research Project Development

DSL was the natural extension of the Safe Dive initiative





Precordial Doppler Recording by specially trained volunteer divers with a 3,5 MHz probe connected to an MP3 digital recorder.





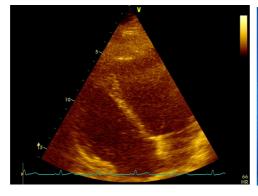
1 minute recording every 15 minutes up to 90 minutes after surfacing followed by double blind laboratory evaluation .







Ecocardiography 25m/25min Dive





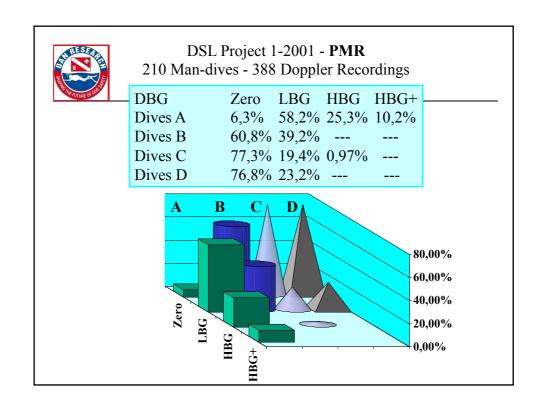


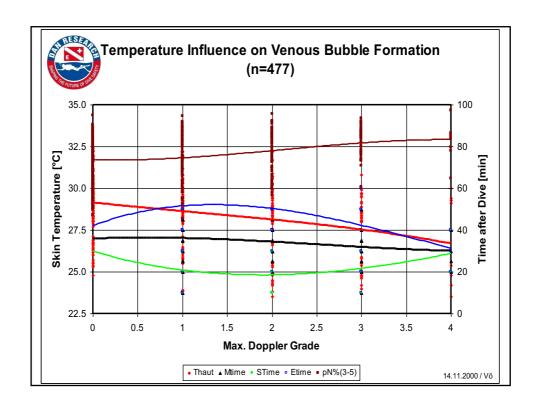
1996 – first analysis of 1100 electronic dive profiles Vs.
precordial doppler bubble data

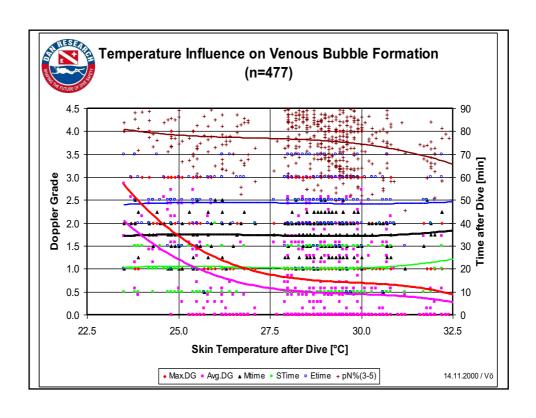


"High Bubble Grades" relate to

- "Fast Tissues"
- PltN₂ > 80% of M Value

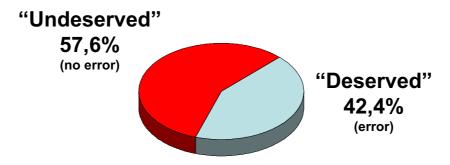








DAN Europe Database "Undeserved DCI"





- ✓ DCS can occur in SCUBA diving after "regular recreational dives"
- ✓ Notwithstanding current decompression algorithms are respected



Why Monitoring Bubbles?

Venous Gas Bubbles can transit through the Pulmonary Filter, in case of considerable volumes or rapid delivery of venous gas to the lungs.

This can happen even without a R-to-L by-pass such as PFO or anastomotic shunts, and is facilitated by the relative small Volume of decompression gas bubbles (25-300 μ m)

The amount of delivered venous gas depends on the ascent and decompression profile.

Powell 1978, Brubakk 1986, Vik 1993, Balestra 1998, Barthelemy 2006



Why Monitoring Bubbles?

The amount of arterialized gas depends on the increase of pressure in the right side of the heart

Considerable and rapid deliveries of gas bubbles (> 0.03 cc/kg/min) causes significant increase of right heart pressure.

The right heart pressure increase caused by Decompression bubbles is significant and rapid, although transitory. In such circumstances, arteralization of venous gas bubbles can

happen even during "innocent" dives, particularly when facilitated by effort, exercise, cough, of forced Valsalva

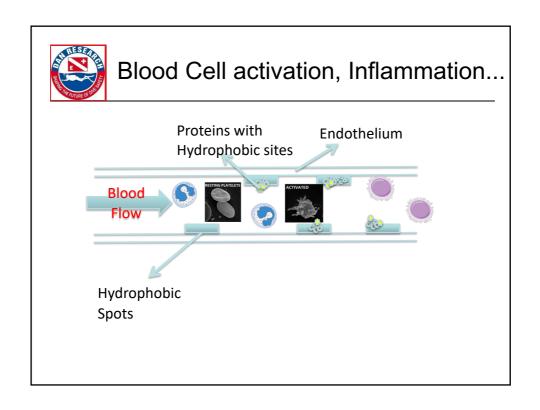
Powell 1978, Brubakk 1986, Vik 1993, Balestra 1998, Barthelemy 2006



More reasons why monitoring bubbles

Bubbles,

besides directly causing symptoms,
are also the first trigger
of complex pathophysiological reactions
accompanying and worsening
the cascade of phenomena initiated by
an excess of circulating gas.





Dive Risk Factors in Scuba Diving: analysis of 39099 dives from the DAN Europe Data Base.

39099 open circuit SCUBA Dives made by 2629 European Divers over five years (2189 male 83.3%, 440 female 16.7%) were retrospectively statistically analysed.

970 dives were also investigated for bubble formation by post-dive precordial Doppler.

327 DCS cases were also investigated



Diving Community Habits

All Dives were made in a "safe zone"

- ✓ Average depth 27.1 m,
- ✓ Average GF 0.66,
- ✓ Average ascent speed lower than the currently recommended "safe" one.
- √ Few deco omissions occurred;

This indicates that divers tend to dive very conservatively.



Diving Community Habits

Prevalence of diver and equipment related problems 6.3%

BUT Serious problems for safety out of the 39,099 dives occurred in only:

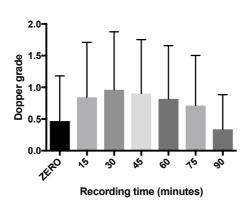
- ✓ Breathing Apparatus problems: 103 dives
- ✓ Deco omission: 20 dives✓ Rapid ascent: 109 dives

All together the serious problem sum up to less than 0.6 % of all recorded dives.

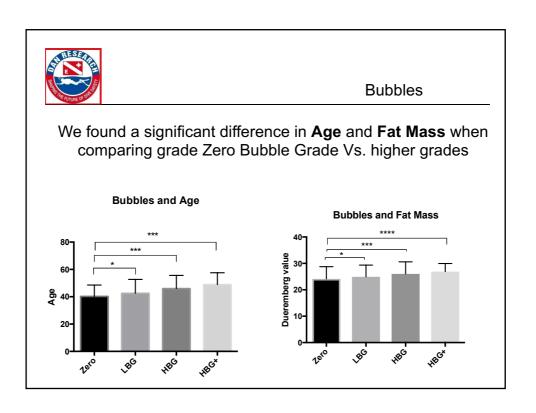


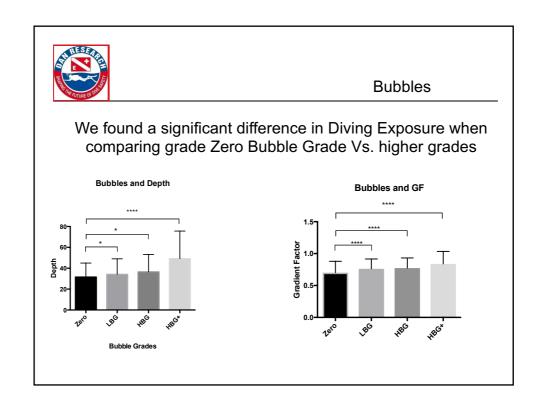
Bubbles

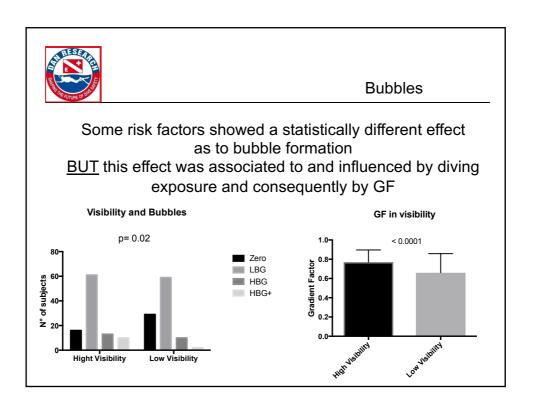
Bubble peak occurs between 30 and 45 minutes after surfacing

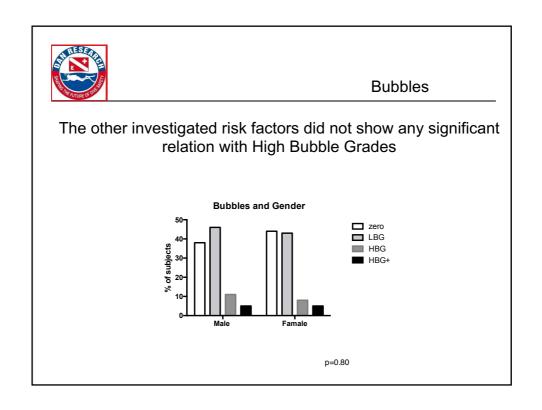


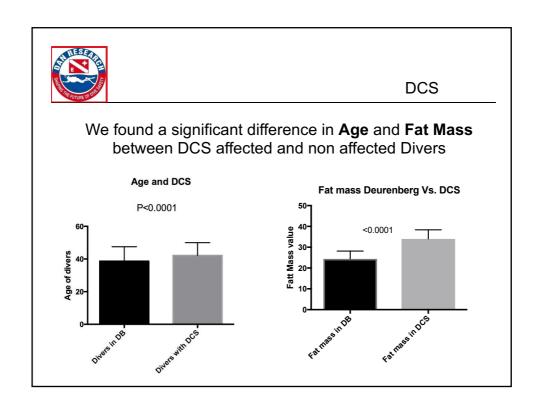
Take-home message:
Avoid efforts during
this post-dive
time interval

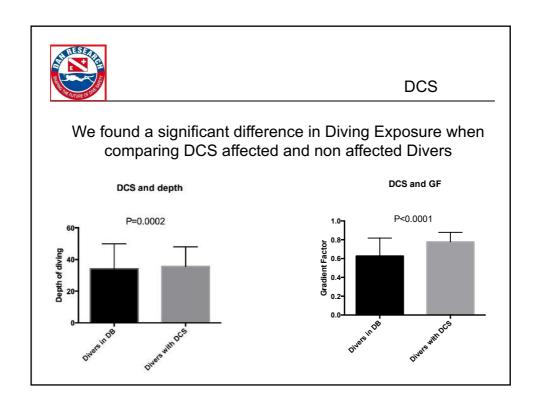


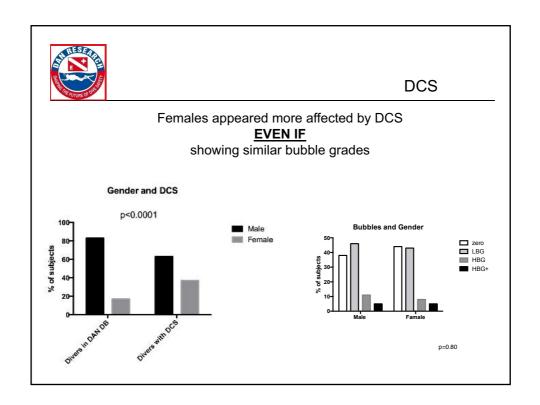














DCS

Conversely some other risk factors showed significant differences as to DCS **EVEN IF**

they have no influence on bubble grades

- ✓ Lake diving p=0.004
- ✓ Strong current and low visibility p<0.0001 and p=0.026
- √ Heavy exercise before diving p<0.0001
 </p>
- ✓ Heavy workload during diving p<0.0001
 </p>

This seems to indicate that the stress effect induced by some risk factors, might increase deco-stress and bubble susceptibility.



DCS

only 8 DCS cases (2.5%) had a GF > 1 14 cases (4.4%) had a GF > 0.9

236 cases (73.7%) showed GF values between 0.70 and 0.90

46 cases (14.4%) showed a GF lower than 0.70 10 cases (3.4%) showed a GF lower than 0.60

13 DCS cases showed a GF lower than 0.50



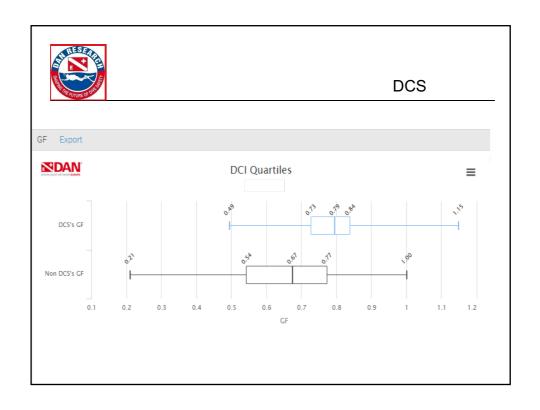
DCS

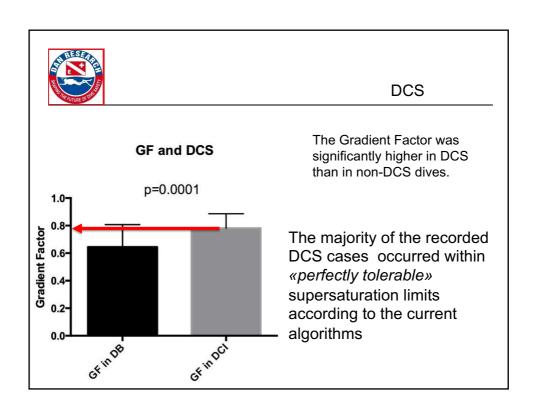
The 8 DCS cases exceeding GF 1.0 (the "deserved" ones)

Involved fast (8 and 12.5 min.) and slow (54.3 min.)
HT Compartments

The majority of DCS cases showed GF Values lower than 1.0 ("underserved"!) and involved medium HT

Compartments







Bubbles (VGE) and DCS risk

Spencer scale

• Eftedal & Brubakk Score

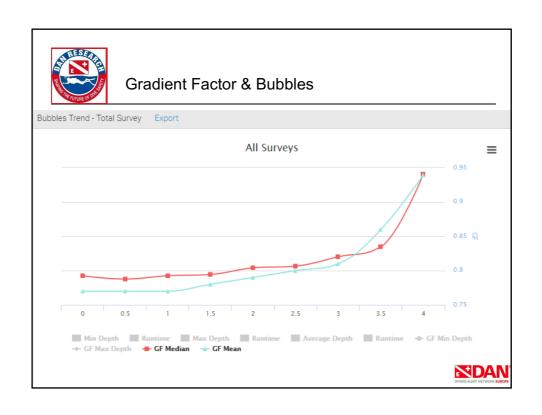
Table 2. Results from the experimental dives

Table 15.8

Bubbles vs decompression illness for compressed air dives: precordial bubbles at rest (from Spencer & Johanson, 1974; graded according to Spencer Code).

according				15/4,	graueu	
	Bubble grades					
	0	I	II	III	IV	
No. of subjects (n=174)	110	27	18	14	5	
No. with DCI (n=12)	1	1	3	6	4	
Per cent incidence	1	4	17	43	80	

Bubble	Number	Cases	AED risk, %	
grade	of	of	Estimate	95%
	dives	AED		confidence
				interval
0	66	0	0	0.0 to 6.8
1	35	2	6	0.7 to 19.8
2	30	2	7	0.9 to 22.6
3	65	9	14	7.3 to 24.6
4	7	3	43	16.0 to 74.9
5				





Conclusion

- Considering that only 8 of the 327 DCS cases showed a Gradient Factor higher than 1, all the others should be considered as "undeserved" according to the current decompression algorithms
- This confirms our previous observations that there is an evident "grey area" in the current algorithms' "mathematical" ability to predict DCS



Conclusion

The analysis of the DAN DB shows clearly that most dives were made in a "safe zone"

Prevalence of diver and equipment related problems occurred only in a very limited fraction of these dives

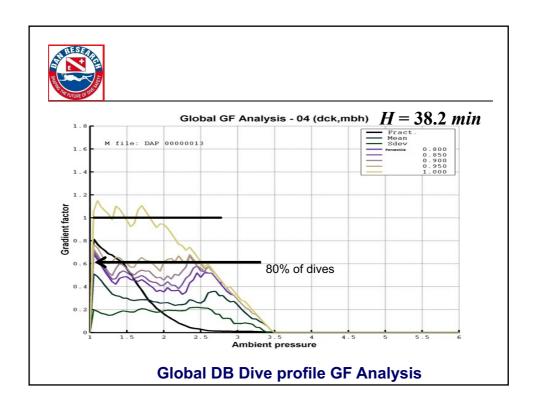


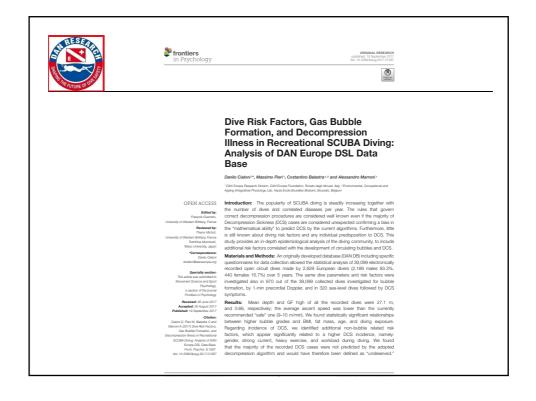
Conclusion

Bubble peak occurs between 30 and 45 minutes after surfacing

Certain risk factors DO NOT influence bubble formation but appear to directly influence DCS occurrence.

Could such factors be considered as "Stress Factors"?

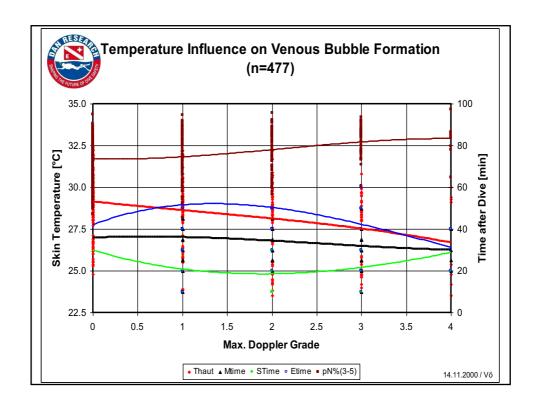


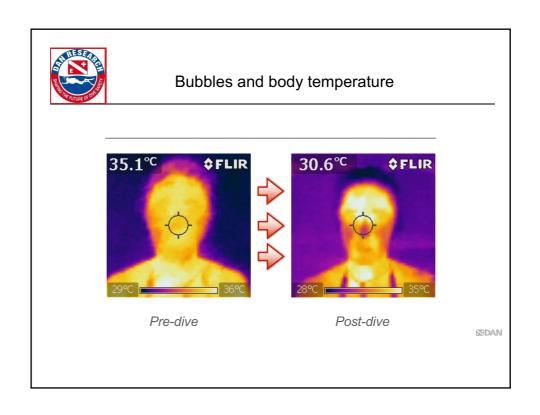




Conclusions

- Less VGE \rightarrow less risk for DCS : simple logic
- Recent research is unraveling an ever more complex network of physical, physiological, and biochemical interactions







THE IMPORTANCE OF REAL TIME MONITORING

