

CMS Fistula First

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Fistula First Goal:

**Increase the prevalence of
autogenous arteriovenous
fistulas for hemodialysis
vascular access to 67% in 5
years**

Take Home Messages

- **Fistula First is pure patient safety**
- **One of the single most important quality improvement challenges at CMS**
- **Expending the resources for a compressive solution**
- **Responsibility and reward will be shared**

CMS and ESRD Care Model

- **Patients**
- **Primary Care Physicians**
- **Nephrologists**
- **Vascular Access Surgeons**
- **Operating room staff**
- **Dialysis staff**
- **Payment and Reimbursement**

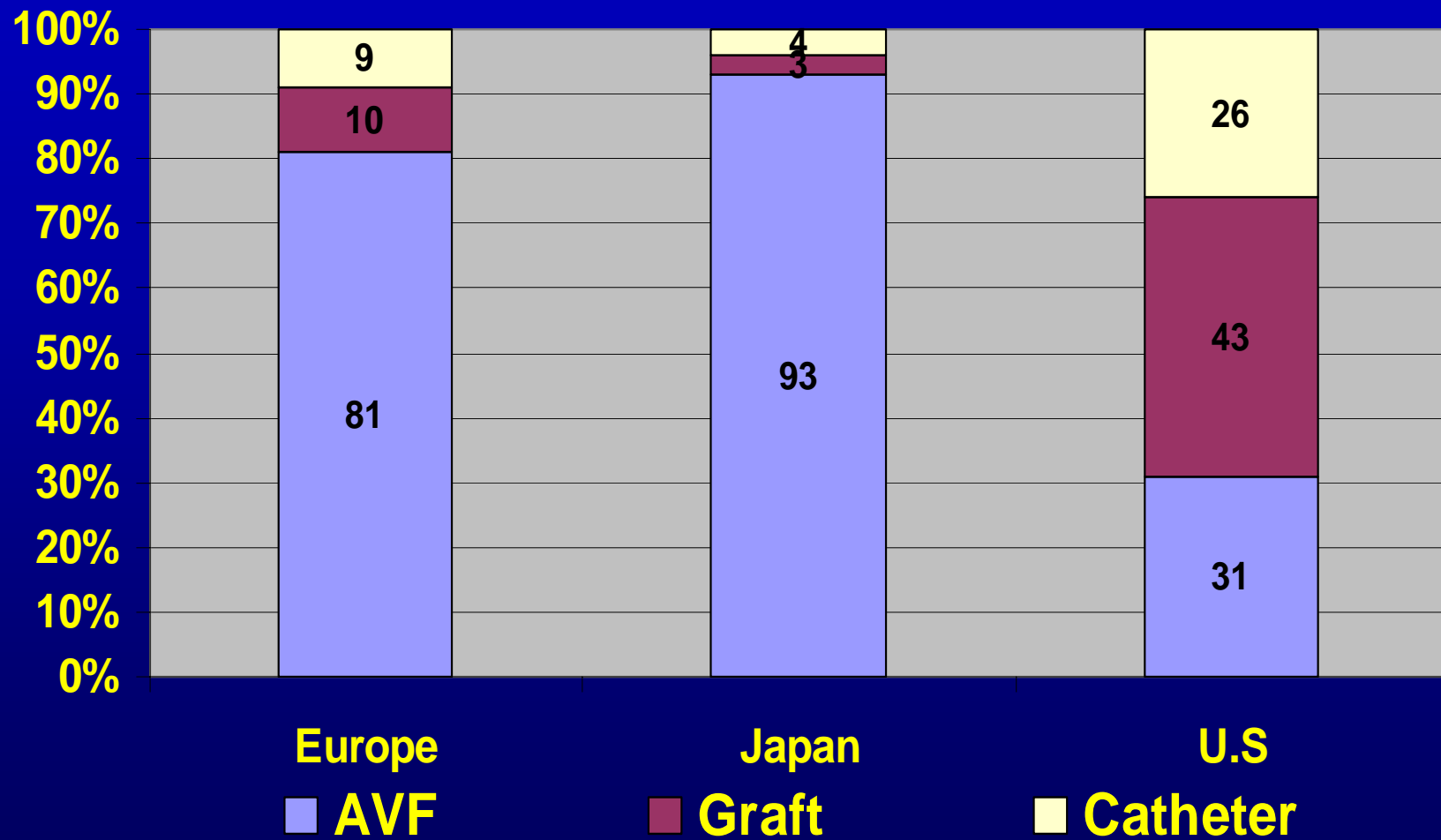
Practice Profile:

- **Active General Surgery and vascular access practice**
- **26% autogenous AV fistula**
- **Mean time to failure: 13 months**
- **Average age 67 yr.**
- **60% diabetes mellitus**

New Patients Profile :

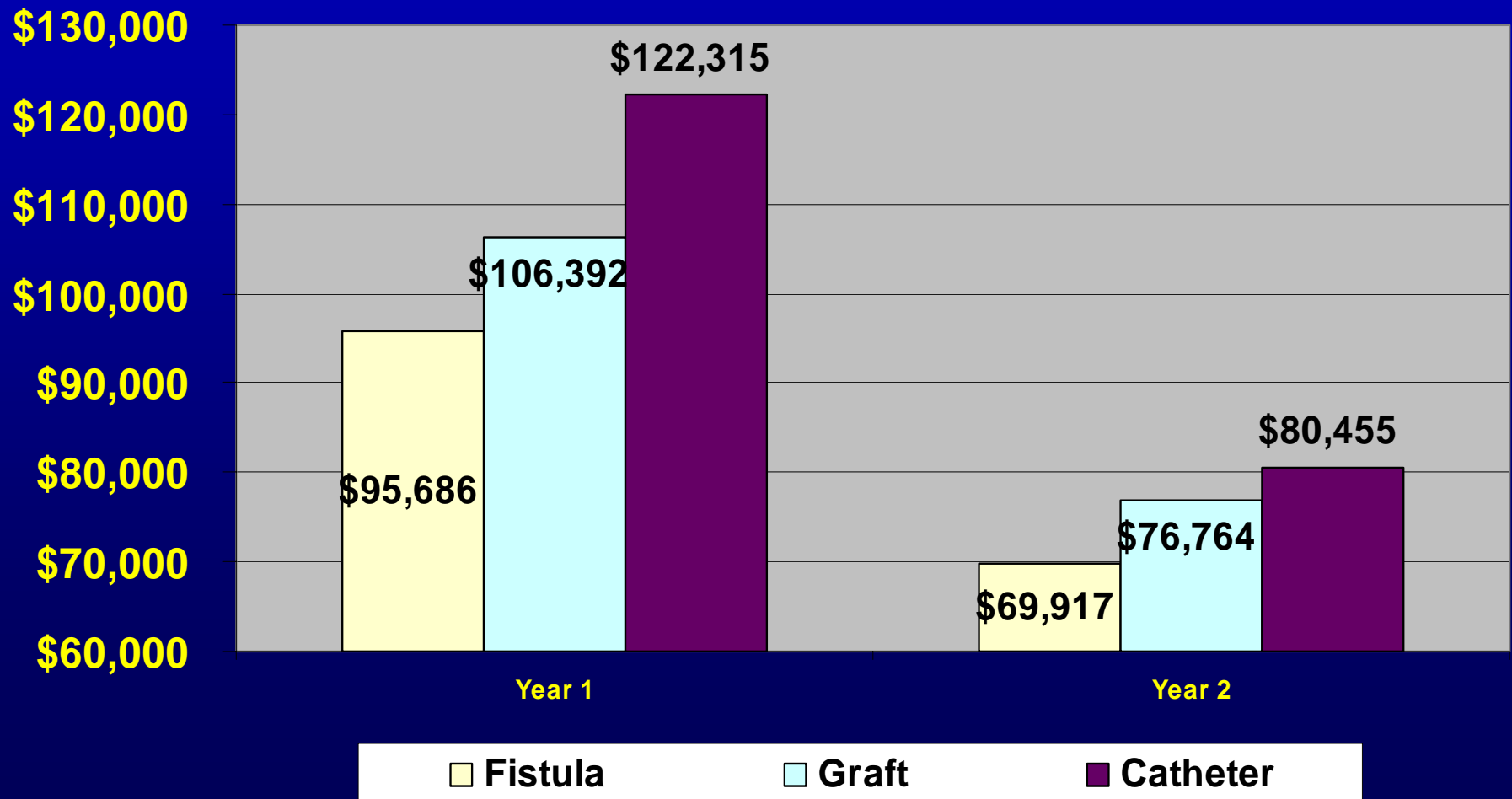
- **<1% office-based first consultation**
- **99% first vascular access consultation on the day of first dialysis**
- **Average time documented CRF prior to first VA consult: 11 months**

Prevalence of Vascular Access

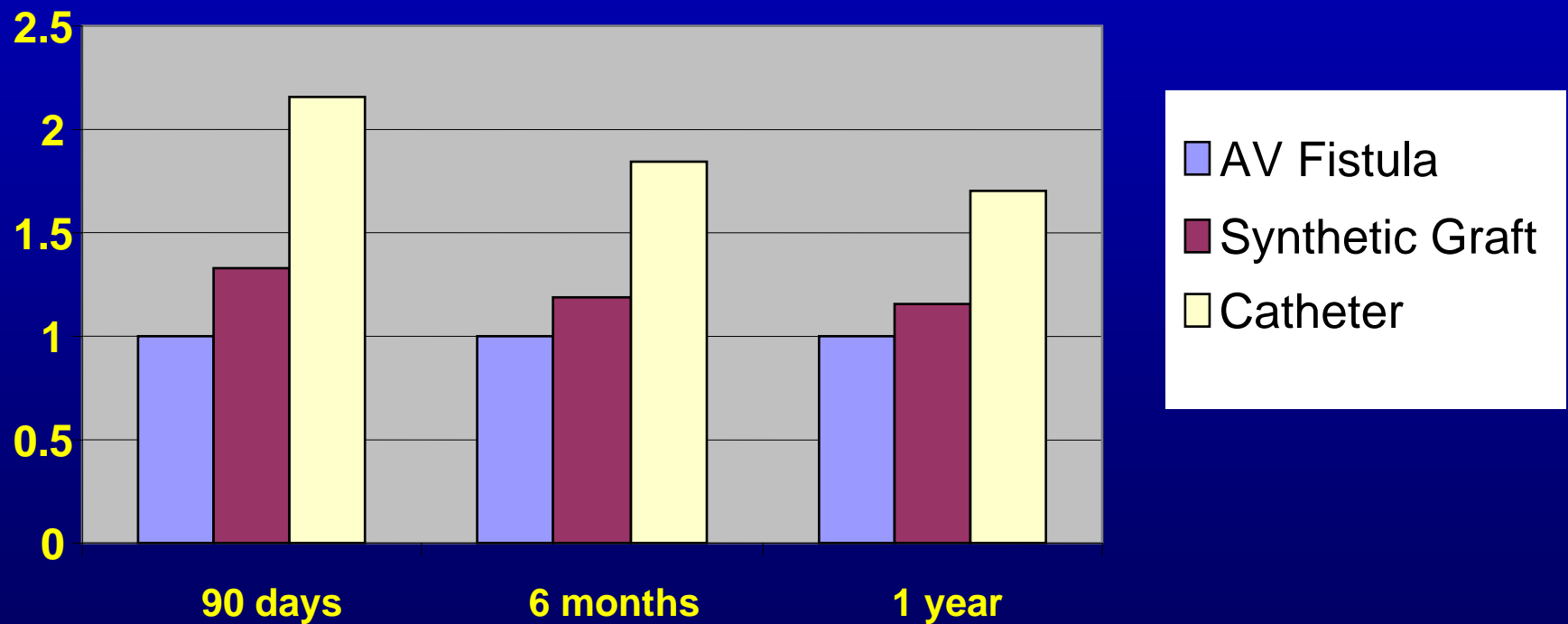


Pisoni, RL *Kidney Int* 61:305-316, 2002

Cost of AVF vs. Graft vs. Catheter



Adjusted Hazard Ratios for Death by Initial Access Type



Xue, JL, Dahl, D *AJKD*, Vol 42, No 5 (November), 2003

Fistula First:

**A New Paradigm for
Quality and Safety**

**“No one would
remember the Good
Samaritan if he only had
good intentions. He had
money as well.”**

-Margaret Thatcher