

8a. Obsessive-compulsive disorder; translating between patient experience, disease models, brain imaging and therapy response (van den Heuvel)

<p>What are common behaviors of OCD patients?</p>	<p>OCD - Various symptoms Intrusive thoughts and repetitive behavior - Washing rituals, symmetry, counting and mental compulsions, hoarding, checking behaviors</p> <p>It is often disguised socially, the patient expresses the behavior alone at home</p>
<p>What is the overall epidemiology of OCD?</p>	<p>Epidemiology of OCD 1-3% of people Most often diagnosed in young adulthood Chronic and heterogeneous disorder</p>
<p>Which disorders does OCD overlap with?</p>	<p>OCD is often overlapping with other disorders</p>
<p>What are the common treatment options for OCD?</p>	<p>Treatment guideline Cognitive behavior therapy - Exposure in vivo with response prevention Anxiety drops after a while Antidepressants (mainly serotonergic) - SSRIs, higher doses compared to depression, long term treatment before evaluation, side effects (sexual drive decreases)</p>
<p>What is the supposed underlying mechanism for psychotherapy in OCD?</p>	<p>Psychotherapy underlying mechanism Extinction learning - Exposure in-vivo</p>

Brain Structures Involved in Dealing with Fear and Stress

extinction learning
(exposure-in vivo with response prevention ERP)
mPFC inhibits amygdala
Cognitive reappraisal - Dorsal PFC

What are the neuromodulatory treatment options for OCD?

Neuromodulatory treatment options

Cingulotomy
Probes are inserted into the brain to destroy a spot on the anterior cingulate gyrus, to disrupt a circuit that connects the emotional and conscious planning centers of the brain.

Capsulotomy
Probes are inserted deep into the brain and heated to destroy part of the anterior capsule, to disrupt a circuit thought to be overactive in people with severe O.C.D.

Deep brain stimulation
As an alternative to capsulotomy, an electrode is permanently implanted on one or both sides of the brain. A pacemaker-like device then delivers an adjustable current.

Gamma knife surgery
An M.R.I.-like device focuses hundreds of small beams of radiation at a point within the brain, destroying small areas of tissue.

Non-invasive stimulation is currently being developed (Transcranial Magnetic stimulation)

What is the biological reason that OCD symptoms seem so diverse?

Disease models for OCD - Many circuits are involved, model varies with symptoms

'sensorimotor' CSTC circuit
stimulus-response based habitual behavior

'dorsal cognitive' CSTC circuit
working memory, planning, emotion regulation

'ventral cognitive' CSTC circuit
response inhibition

'ventral reward' CSTC circuit
stimulus-outcome based motivational behavior

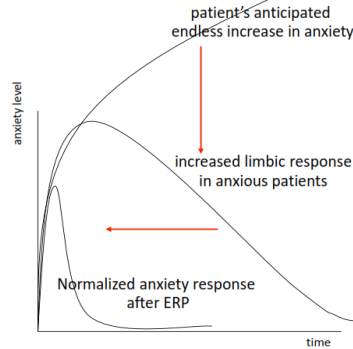
'fronto-limbic' circuit
extinction

The more habitual the problem is -> more involvement of sensory motor regions

Why is OCD often considered an anxiety disorder?

OCD has always been considered an anxiety disorder

- Harm avoidance/doubt/uncertainty
- Anxiety/stress
- Hyper-responsive limbic circuitry



Anxiety drops after a while

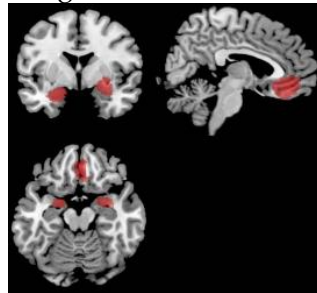
In an fMRI, which brain regions are overactivated in OCD patients?

Meta-analysis of symptom provocation in OCD

- Symptom provocation
- Emotional faces
- Other - Emotional stroop test

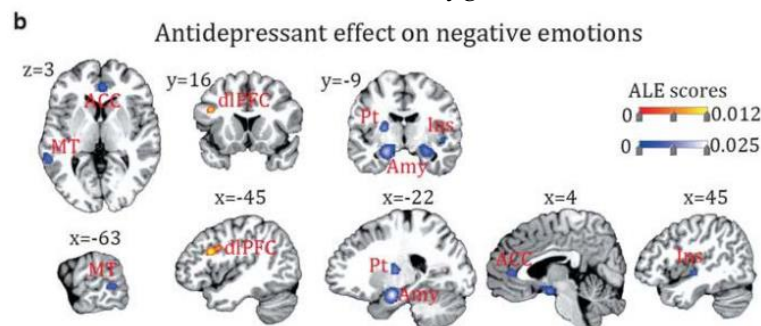
Results: Increased activation of:

- Bilateral amygdala - Mainly for disease specific stimuli (unmedicated > medicated)
- Right putamen
- Subgenual ACC/OFC



What is the effect of SSRIs in OCD patients?

Effects of SSRIs - Reduction of amygdala activation



Why is medication commonly used in OCD, when CBT seems to be more effective?

An hour is not enough for anxiety to drop, at least not in the first few sessions - Ventromedial PFC in OCD patients is less able to extinct
In the Netherlands, there is a lack of CBT therapists - Medication is more commonly prescribed
CBT is as effective as medication - They are not commonly prescribed at the same time

Describe the Bergen 4-day format for OCD treatment.

The Bergen 4-day format (1 patient: 1 therapist)



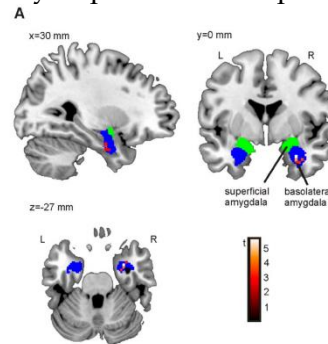
Day 1: Psychoeducation
Day 2-3: Exposure with response prevention (Lean into anxiety technique)
Day 3 end: Lessons learned with family and friends
Day 4: Prepare for maintenance at home

Overall results: All patients are in remission after a week

How can we predict which OCD patients will respond to what treatment?

Challenge: Prediction of treatment response

Try to predict which patients will respond from each treatment

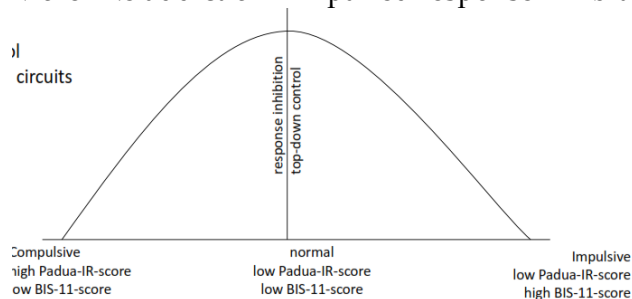


Use of fMRI and machine learning

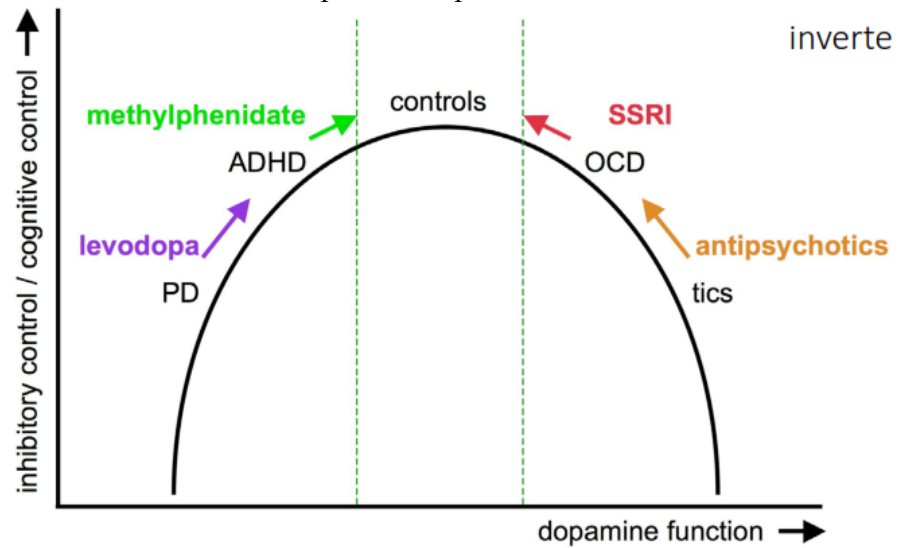
Describe how OCD could be in an impulsive-compulsive spectrum, rather than an anxiety disorder?

OCD as an impulsive-compulsive spectrum (not an anxiety disorder)

More like addiction - Impaired response inhibition



Analogy: Response inhibition in psychiatric
 Too much or too little dopamine is problematic



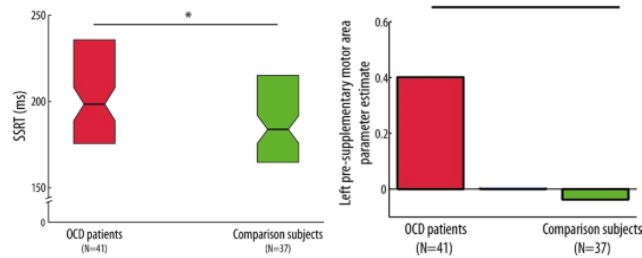
Why brothers and sisters of OCD patients work well as controls in fMRI experiments?

Response inhibition example

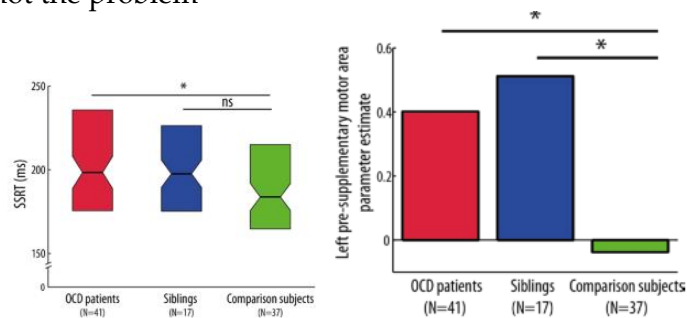
Stop signal task - Left and right arrow (red X - inhibit signal)

OCD patients are late

Higher activation of motor area (preSMA)



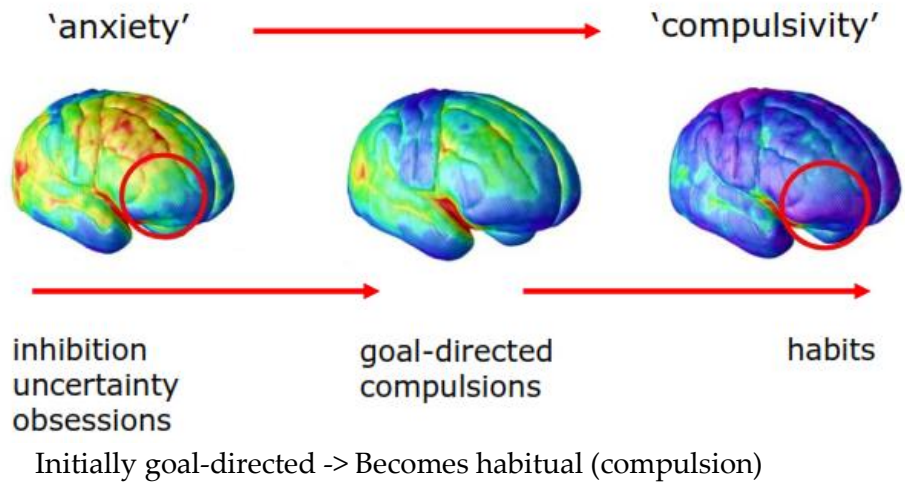
Including healthy brothers and sisters.- Conclusion that preSMA is not the problem



This was replicated with other cognitive function - Avoids spurious associations

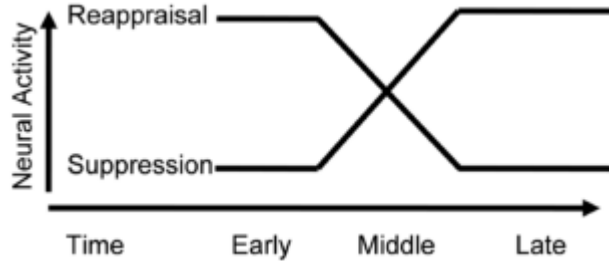
Describe the common progression of OCD.

OCD is not a static disease - Transition between anxiety and compulsivity



Why is emotional regulation important for an OCD patient during treatment?

Emotion regulation
Reappraisal - Proactive mindset

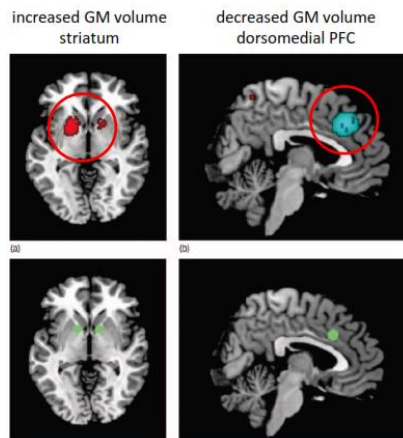


PFC cannot suppress amygdala if it is too active, it needs to be activated before amygdala (proactive state of mind)

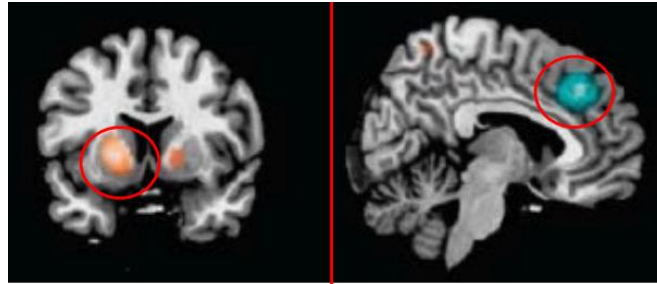
Which brain regions are smaller/bigger in OCD patients compared to the general population?

VBM studies in OCD

OCD - Bilateral insula and dorsal medial PFC is small than patients that suffer from other diseases



Bigger striatum - Typical for OCD; since it is active the whole day, it does not decrease (analogy taxi driver's hippocampus in London)



Increased ventral circuitry - Compulsivity

Decreased dorsal circuitry - Emotional regulation/Executive function

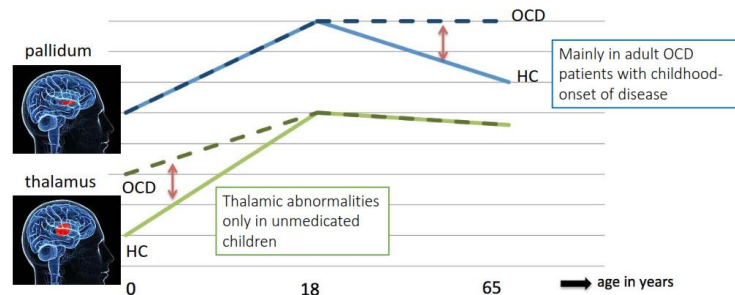
What is the difference between childhood OCD and adult OCD?

A child OCD brain is not an adult's OCD brain

Adult - Smaller brain volume, chronic disease, you cannot assess causes of disease, only consequences

Adult - Bigger striatum, smaller hippocampus (Comorbidity with depression); Thinner cortex

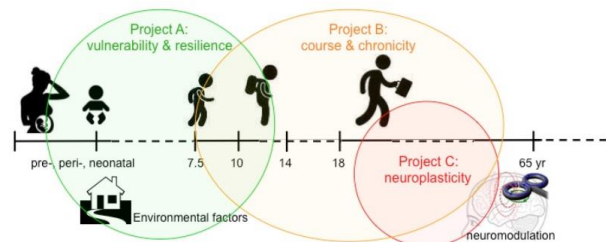
Child - Larger thalamus; Decreased surface area of cortex



Findings are only significant in medicated patients - There are no longitudinal studies that assess long-term effects of these medications

Why is a lifespan approach important to study complex diseases like OCD?

Lifespan approach (Generation R study) - Scans of the same people throughout life since birth (decreased variability, show disease progression)

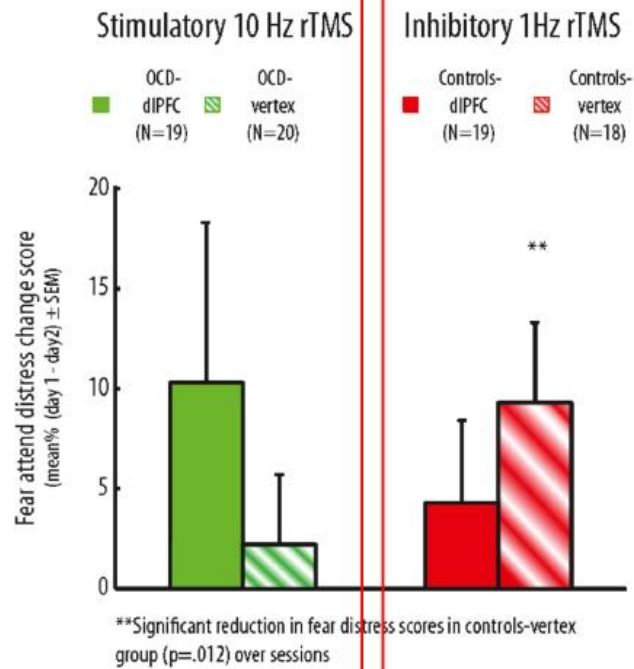


Describe what is transcranial magnetic stimulation and how it can be used to treat OCD patients.

Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation

Magnetic coil produced electric stimulation in the brain
Can inhibit or enhance neuron activation

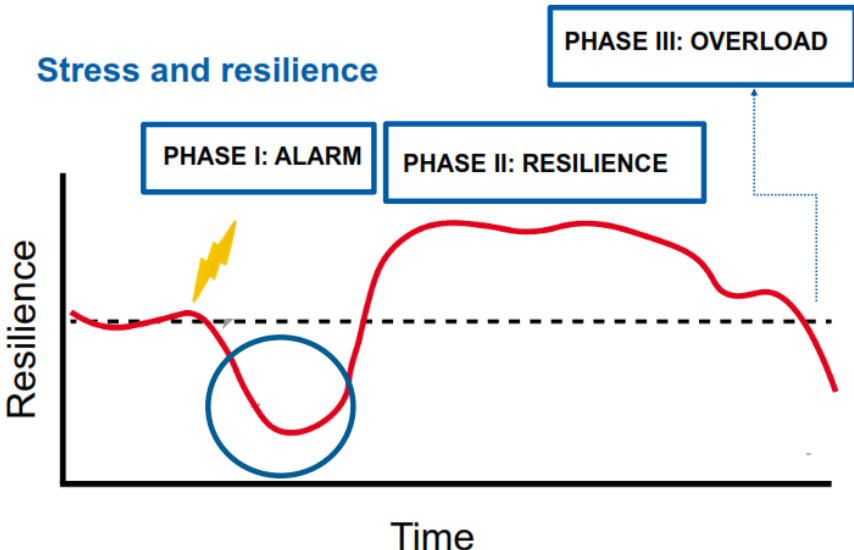
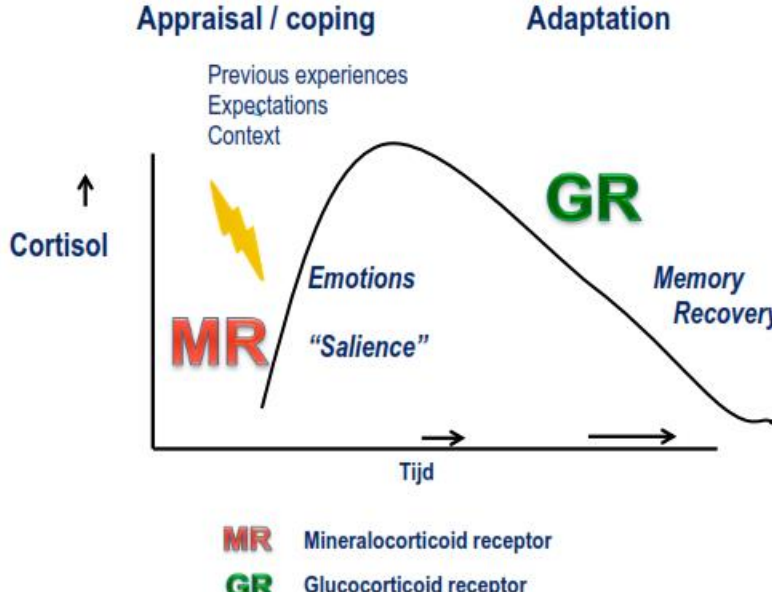
Experimental: Stimulus provocation



Repeated exposure to the same stimulus - Habituation, less anxiety
Striped lines - Controls

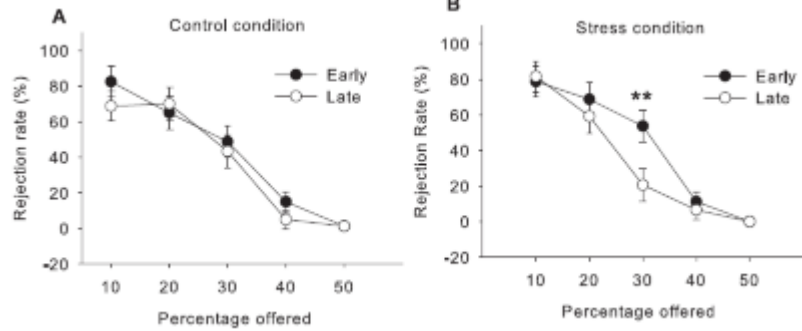
Future: Combine TMS with Cognitive Behavior Therapy

8b. Stress and neuropsychiatry (Christian Vinkers)

<p>What is stress and resilience?</p>	<p>Stress and resilience</p>  <p>Resilience - Stress resistance/ability to recover from stress Stress is not necessarily bad - Excess and total lack of stress are equally bad If the stress system stays on for too long - Overload (molecular adaptation)</p>
<p>Which are the receptors that cortisol binds to?</p>	<p>HPA-axis - Hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal gland (end products: cortisol) Cortisol binds to two different receptors: Mineralocorticoid and glucocorticoid receptor</p>
<p>Describe the interplay of cortisol and MR/GR receptors in response to stress.</p>	 <p>MR Mineralocorticoid receptor GR Glucocorticoid receptor</p>

	<p>MR is expressed in the limbic system High affinity for cortisol Activation level depends on previous experiences, expectations and context</p> <p>GR works when cortisol levels are high - 20 or 30 minutes after stress</p> <p>Low affinity for cortisol Memory associated with stress event Expressed throughout the brain Responsible for the decline of cortisol in the bloodstream - Modulation of gene transcription</p>
<p>What makes an experience stressful?</p>	<p>What makes an experience stressful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Context Predictability Control
<p>What is the role of reticular formation, limbic system and prefrontal cortex during a stressful event?</p>	<p>Brain response</p> <p>Drugs as coping mechanisms for stress Stress reduces dopamine reward system!</p>
<p>Why is timing important in stress research?</p>	<p>The importance of context and timing in stress research (do a presentation with no verbal or social cues) Initially after stress - Cortisol stays up after two hours</p>
<p>What is the main finding of the</p>	<p>Offer money (10 euros) - Unequal division ("If you do not accept my offer, we both do not get money")</p>

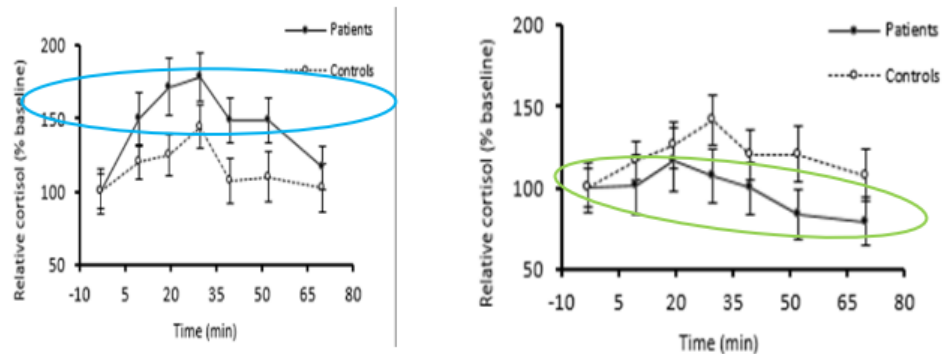
relation between stress and cooperativeness?



30% (7:3 euros) - Your stress levels are quite important for your decision

What is the difference between the response of cortisol from man and women with MDD?

Sex in stress research

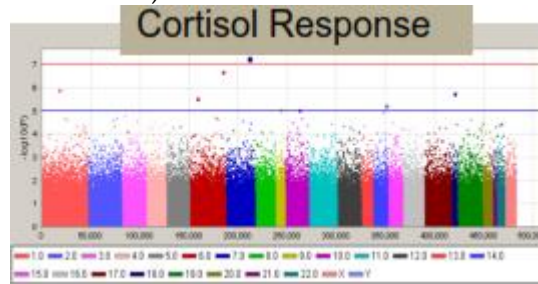


Men with MDD - Increased response to cortisol
 Women with MDD - Decreased response to cortisol
 Less research done with women (hormone complications)

What is the consistent locus associated with MDD in GWAS?

Epigenetic changes and childhood trauma

DNA methylation - Persists throughout adulthood (may be inheritable)



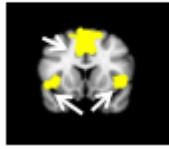
Study: 4 loci significant regarding stress response (1 consistent: KITLG: KIT ligand, stem cell factor)

How does stress change neuronal networks?

Stress-induced shift in neuronal networks

Saliience network - Up-regulated during stress, down-regulated after cortisol administration

Saliense network (SN)



-
-
-

Default mode network - Self-referential processes, suppressed during cognitively demanding tasks (stress interferes with suppression)

Default mode network

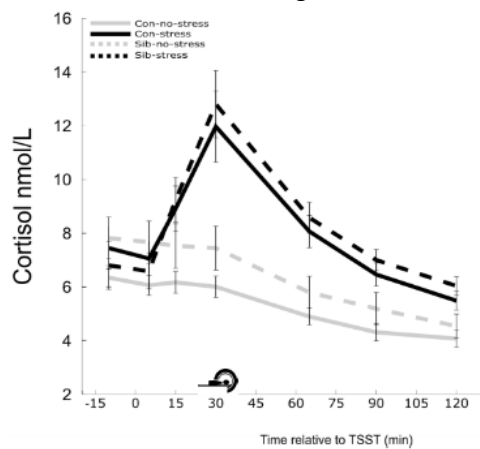


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Why is measuring cortisol from saliva probably not a good representation of stress?

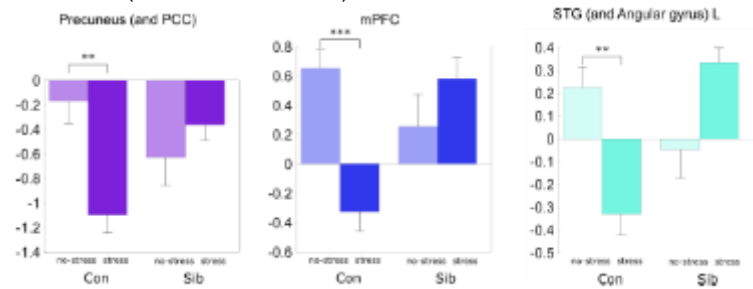
Study

Increase cortisol levels persist for 140 minutes



Not the whole picture - Cortisol in saliva does not translate directly to brain activation

Whole-brain analysis - Siblings of schizophrenic siblings = no effect of stress (30 minutes later)



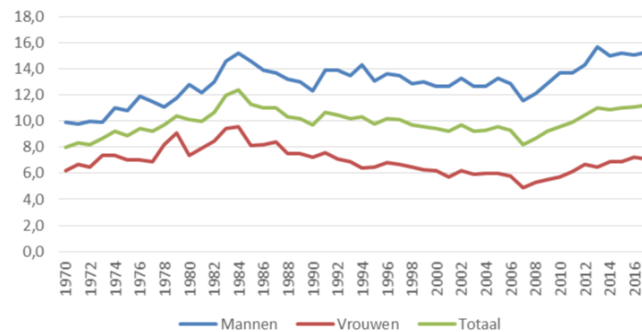
8c. If ever there was a good time to start a career in psychiatry (Aartjan TF Beekman)

What are the suicide rates of males and females in the Netherlands?

Suicide number per 100000 in Netherlands

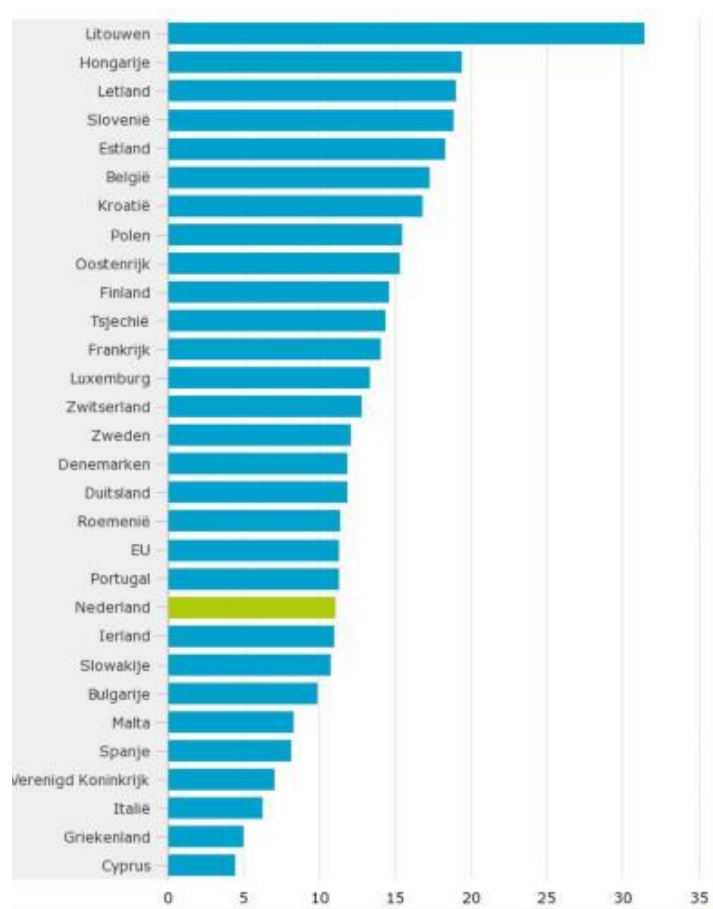
Males are more likely to commit suicide

Aantal zelfdodingen per 100.000 inwoners



What are important predictors for suicide rate?

Alcoholism is an important predictor for suicide - not socioeconomic status



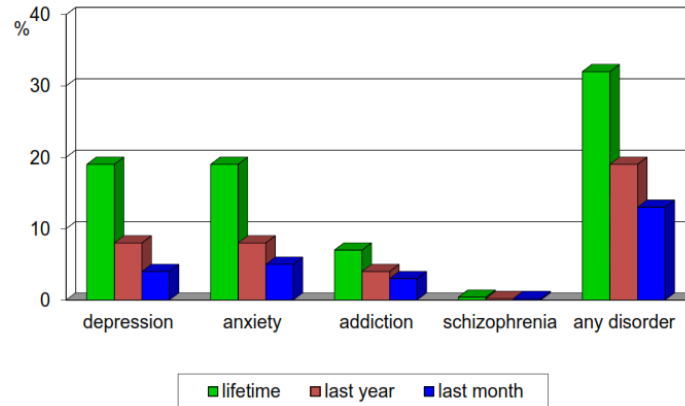
<p>What is the main cause for early retirement today?</p>	<p>Causes for early retirement - Mental disorders have an enormous economic impact</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Estimated data for causes of early retirement (%)</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Mental</th> <th>Musculoskeletal</th> <th>Cancer</th> <th>Circulation</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr><td>1989</td><td>22</td><td>30</td><td>14</td><td>14</td></tr> <tr><td>1990</td><td>23</td><td>30</td><td>13</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>1991</td><td>25</td><td>30</td><td>12</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>1992</td><td>25</td><td>31</td><td>14</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>1993</td><td>23</td><td>28</td><td>14</td><td>12</td></tr> <tr><td>1994</td><td>26</td><td>28</td><td>15</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>1995</td><td>28</td><td>25</td><td>15</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>1996</td><td>30</td><td>22</td><td>17</td><td>10</td></tr> <tr><td>1997</td><td>32</td><td>21</td><td>17</td><td>9</td></tr> <tr><td>1998</td><td>34</td><td>21</td><td>18</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>1999</td><td>35</td><td>20</td><td>18</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>2000</td><td>35</td><td>20</td><td>16</td><td>7</td></tr> <tr><td>2001</td><td>37</td><td>19</td><td>16</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2002</td><td>39</td><td>18</td><td>16</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>2003</td><td>38</td><td>18</td><td>17</td><td>6</td></tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Mental	Musculoskeletal	Cancer	Circulation	1989	22	30	14	14	1990	23	30	13	13	1991	25	30	12	11	1992	25	31	14	11	1993	23	28	14	12	1994	26	28	15	11	1995	28	25	15	10	1996	30	22	17	10	1997	32	21	17	9	1998	34	21	18	8	1999	35	20	18	8	2000	35	20	16	7	2001	37	19	16	6	2002	39	18	16	6	2003	38	18	17	6
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<p>What is the current state of affairs in the Netherlands regarding suicide rates?</p>	<p>State of affairs</p> <p>Effective treatments</p> <p>Availability of treatment is very good in NL</p> <p>But</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No effect prevalence psychopathology • Effects mental illness on public health unchanged 																																																																																
<p>Why is evidence based prevention important?</p>	<p>Automobile accidents - Illustrates the potential of scientific research influence (evidence based prevention)</p>																																																																																

8d. Ins and outs of depression (Brenda W.J.H. Penninx)

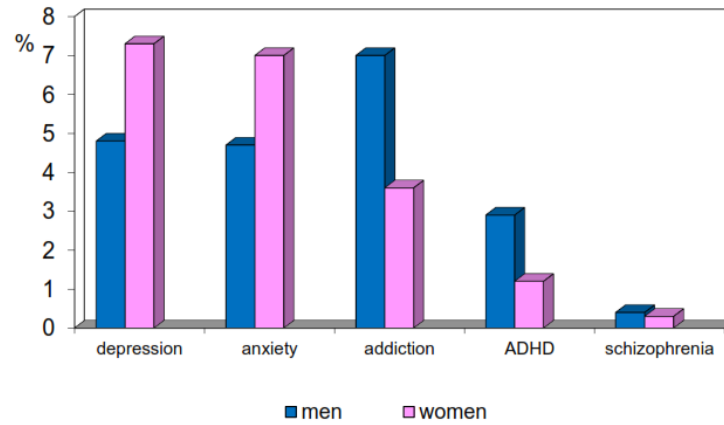
<p>Why is the prevalence of depression so high in young people compared to other diseases?</p>	<p>WHO disease burden</p> <p>Mental and behavioral disorders - Peak at 20-24 (means that young people are less prone to other diseases)</p> <p>Depression takes second place in western society</p>
<p>How is depression diagnosed today?</p>	<p>What is depression?</p> <p>Over 5 symptoms, chronic & impact on daily life:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sad/depressed mood • Little interest in doing things (anhedonia) • Increase or decrease in sleep • Increase or decrease in appetite/weight • Fatigue/no energy • Feeling of worthlessness • Concentration problem • Psychomotor retardation or agitation • Suicidal thoughts
<p>Why is the impact of depression so big?</p>	<p>Impact of depression</p> <p>High prevalence - 6% of Dutch people in the previous year (2009)</p> <p>Chronicity</p> <p>Impact early in life</p> <p>Impact on functioning</p> <p>Interaction with somatic health</p>
<p>What determines</p>	<p>Prevalence estimate of depression - Depends on time frame, characteristic of population and instrument of measurement</p>

prevalence estimate?

Time frame (Are you depressed? Have you been depressed in the last year, Have you been depressed in your life?)



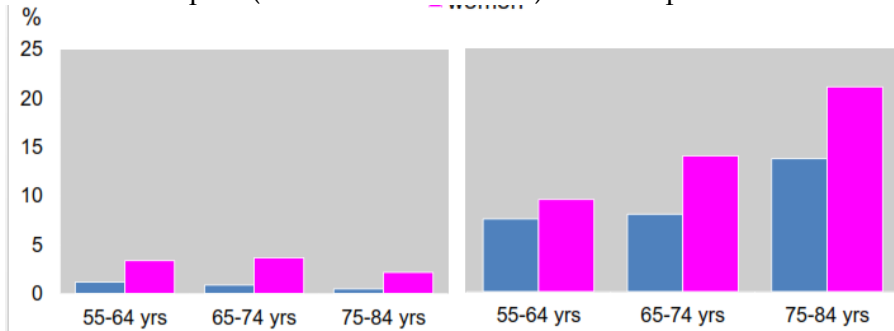
Characteristic of population (sex, age, setting)



Men are prone to addiction/ADHD, women are more affected by depression/anxiety

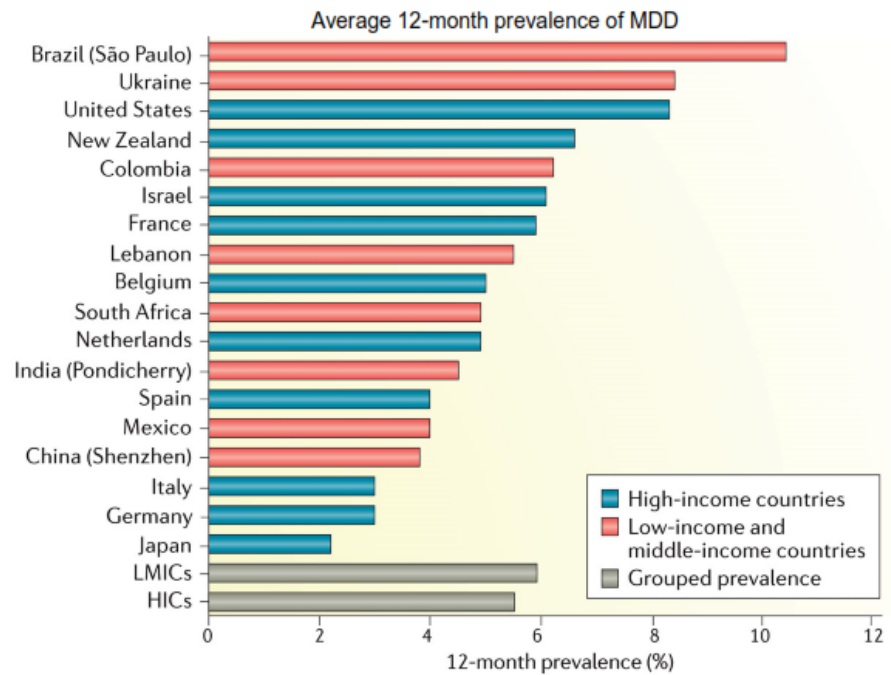
Measurement instrument

Face to face report (more strict definition) vs self report instrument



Is depression correlated with income?

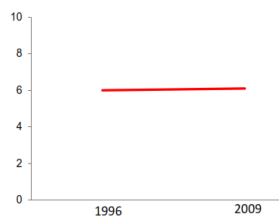
Depression prevalence worldwide
Not correlated with income



Is there a depression epidemic today?

Depression epidemic?

There is no change in depression prevalence in the Netherlands between 1996 and 2009



If our daily life stress had increased in the last years and stress is correlated with depression, how come the rates of depression have remained stable over the

Importance of environmental factors

Work stress - Increased

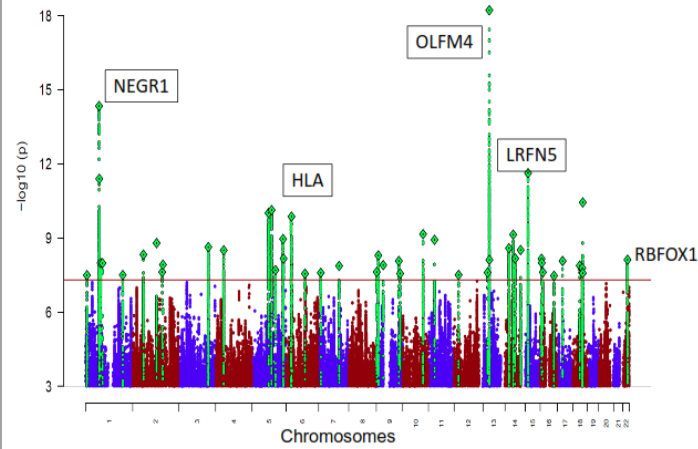
Many other environmental factors have decreased



last few decades?

What is the heritability of depression?

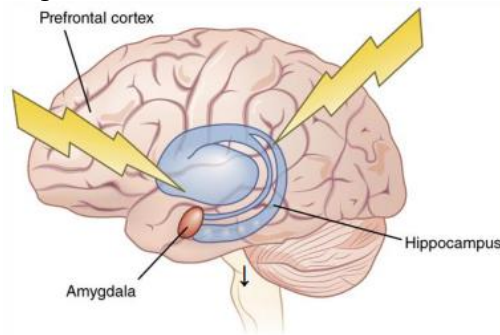
Genetic vulnerability



Heritability - 37%

What changes depression causes in the brain?

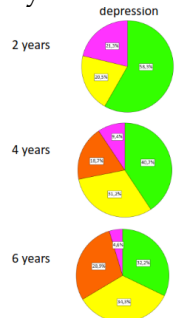
Depression - Brain disorder



Structural - Decrease in hippocampus, amygdala, prefrontal cortex
 Connectivity - Increase of DMN, decrease of salience and central executive functions
 Functional activation: Striatum

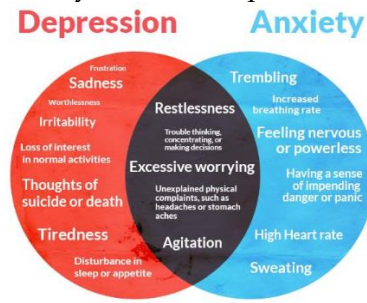
Why is it important to follow depressive patients after they overcame the disease?

2 years after initial depression diagnosis - 58% remission
 4 years - 40% remission
 6 years - 32% remission



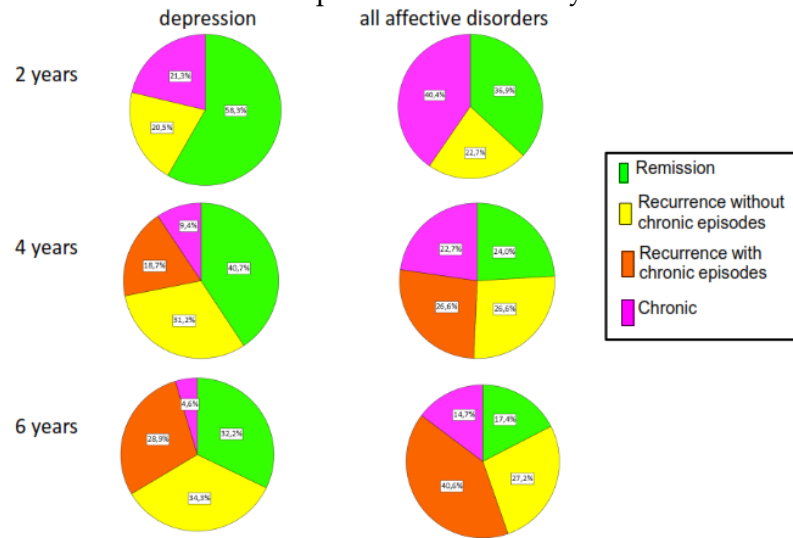
What is the comorbidity percentage between depression and anxiety?

Comorbidity between depression and anxiety - 70%



What are the remission rates when taking into account all affective disorders?

Remission levels with depression and anxiety



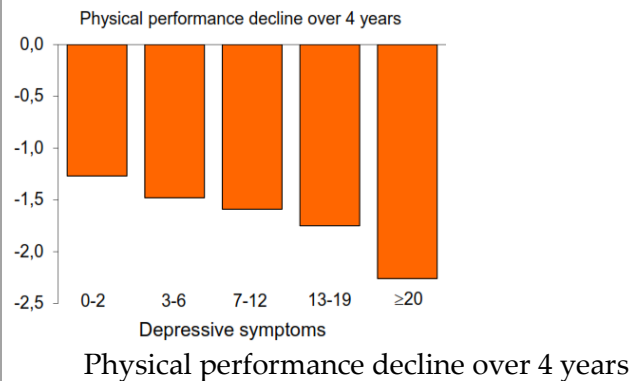
Only 17% after 6 years
With chronic episodes - More than two years

What is the mean age of depression onset?

Impact early in life - Average age of onset of depression is 28 years

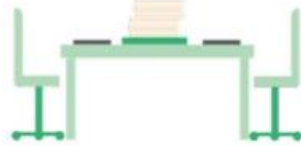
What is the relationship between depression and physical performance?

Impact on functioning



What is the economic impact of depression in work environments?

ABSENTEEISM



Absence due to illness

PRESENTEEISM



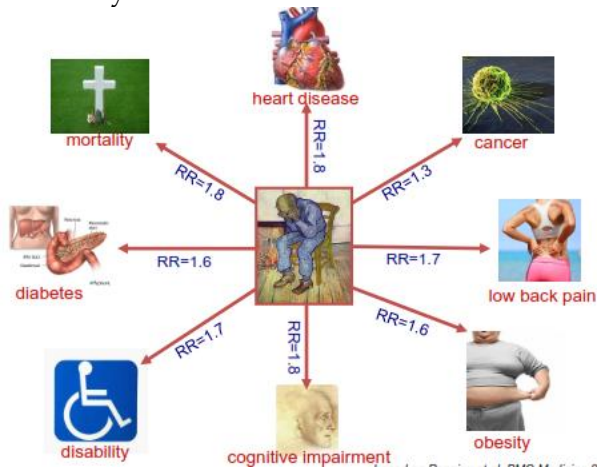
Being at work whilst ill

Absenteeism - People with depression lose 23 days per year less
 Presenteeism - People with depression lose 30 days per year less (in terms of productivity)

Which diseases are correlated with depression?

Depression is correlated with many diseases

- Cardiovascular disease
- Obesity
- Cancer
- Diabetes
- Disability



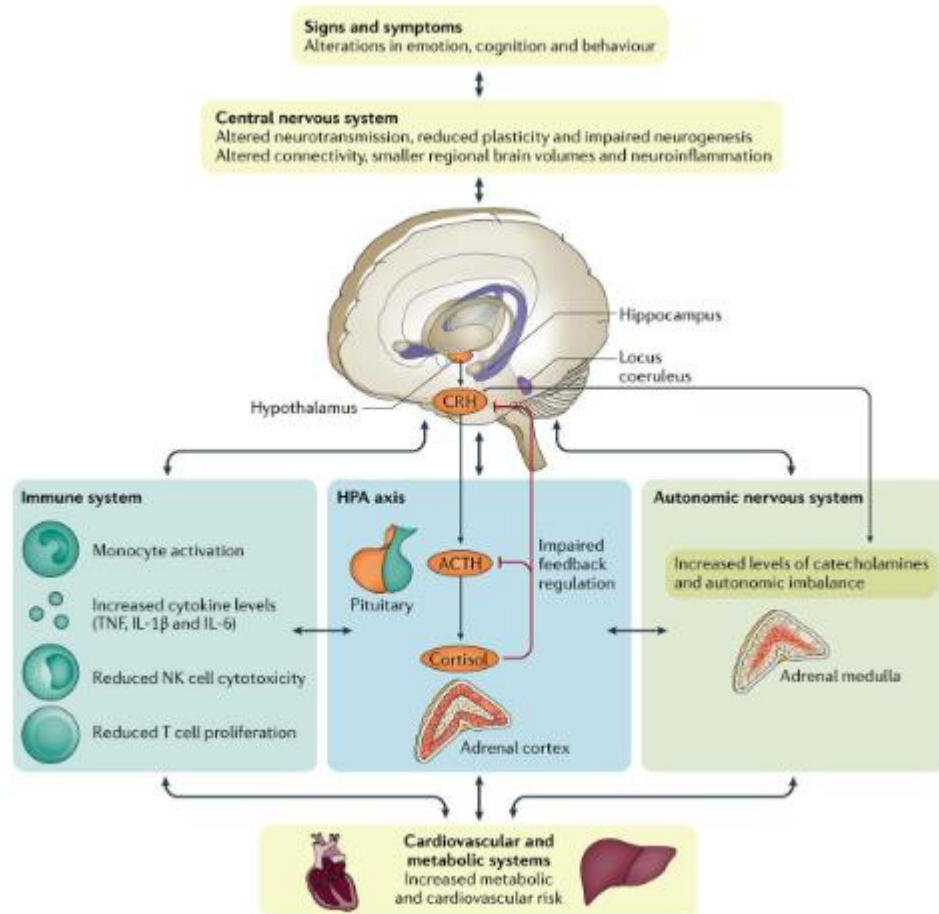
What are main lifestyle differences between depressed and non-depressed people?

Life style between depressed people and healthy people

	Healthy controls n=524	Depressed patients n=1075	p
Physical inactivity	12.8%	21.1%	.001
Regular sports activity	57.5%	37.0%	.001
Alcohol dependence	1.4%	9.1%	<.001
Smoking - moderate	21.9%	27.8%	<.001
- heavy	4.1%	17.4%	
Body Mass Index	25.1	25.9	.01
Medication adherence	28.8%	40.4%	<.001

How does depression affect the body's stress system?

Depression affect biological stress system



Autonomic nervous system - Increased heart rate
 HPA axis - Hyperactive; Increase cortisol (increased metabolism and cardiovascular risk)
 Immune system - Chronic low grade inflammation

What is the average effect of placebo, antidepressants and psychotherapy for depression?

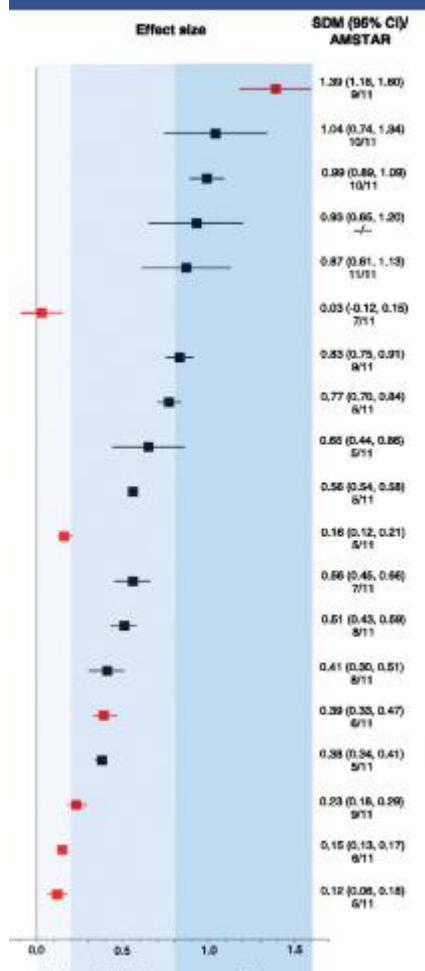
Placebo difference from antidepressant

Increase in 20% response
 There is still an effect of antidepressants compared to placebo
 Efficacy of antidepressants increases with increasing depression severity
 Combination of antidepressants and psychotherapy is best - 50% of patients

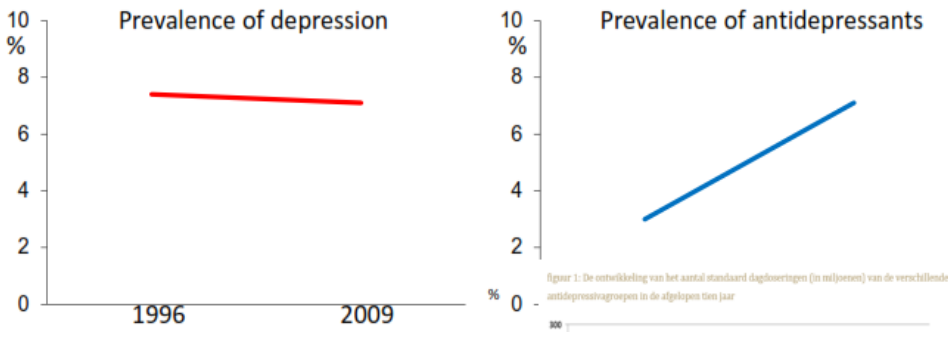
Facts	Bewijs
1. Yes, there is a placebo-effect	with placebo: ~20% response
2. In mild depression, antidepressants not very effective	
3. In moderate to severe depression, antidepressants work (on top of the placebo-effect)	Effect size~0.4
4. In moderate to severe depression, psychotherapy works (on top of the placebo-effect)	Effect size~0.35
5. The combi of antidepressants and psychotherapy is best	Hedges 'g=0.43
6. Efficacy of antidepressants increases with increasing depression severity	
7. There is large variation in the effectiveness of treatments	In ~50% there is no response

If medication has such a small effect compared to placebo, why is it still being used?

Antidepressants compared to other pharmacological treatments?



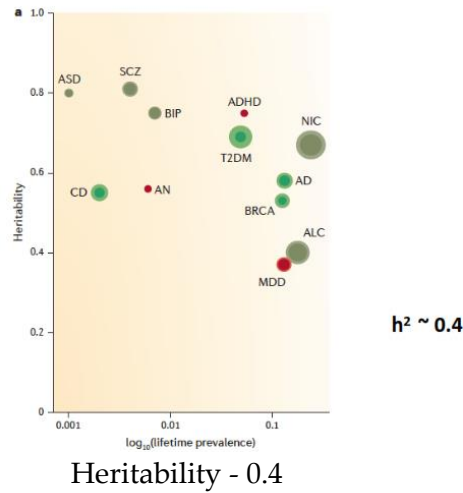
Medium effect - But is not the worst treatment option

<p>Why is the increase in antidepressant use not correlated with a decrease in depression rates?</p>	<p>Prevalence of depression - Stable Prevalence of antidepressants - Increases over time</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescribed does not mean that it is used • Antidepressants are not only used for depression • More and more chronic users • Efficacy of antidepressants is not great (especially over long term) • Adequacy of antidepressants: difference in efficacy and true effectiveness
<p>What are some non-pharmacological options for depression treatment/</p>	<p>Alternative strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mindfulness • Internet psychotherapy • Running therapy • Behavioral activation • Collaborative care • Transcranial stimulation • ECT • Deep brain stimulation
<p>How can depression be prevented at a population level?</p>	<p>Prevention</p> <p>Attention to the offspring of people with depression</p> <p>E-health courses - Reduction of risk of developing actual full depression</p> <p>Relapse prevention cognitive therapy</p>

9a. Biological pathways of MDD (Yuri Milaneschi)

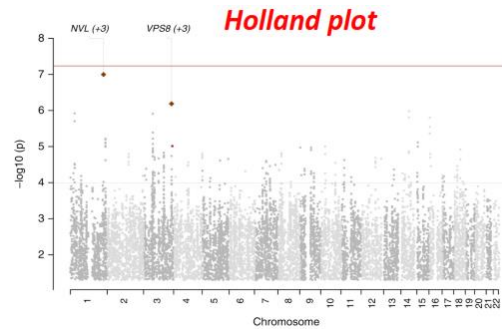
What is the average heritability of MDD?

Genetics of Major Depressive Disorder



Why did the first GWAS for depression not find any hits?

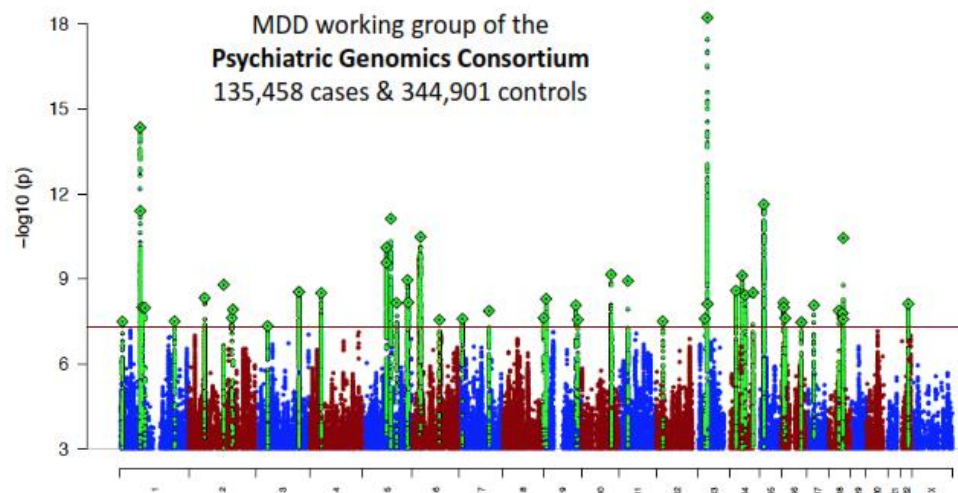
No hits in GWAS



Underpowered sample size - Each locus has a very small effect size
 Clinical heterogeneity - Maybe there are different phenotypes that we call 'depression'

How many risk variants are associated with depression?

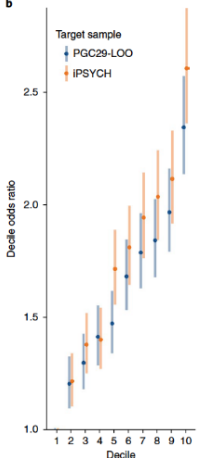
GWAS meta-analysis 2018



44 risk variants associated with depression
 Mostly expressed in the brain (gtexportal.org/home)
 Pathway analysis: Neuronal pathway and cytokine production/inflammation

What is a polygenic score?

Polygenic score
 Score of each genetic variant for a specific trait
 The higher the polygenic score, the higher the chance of developing depression (y-axis - another sample)



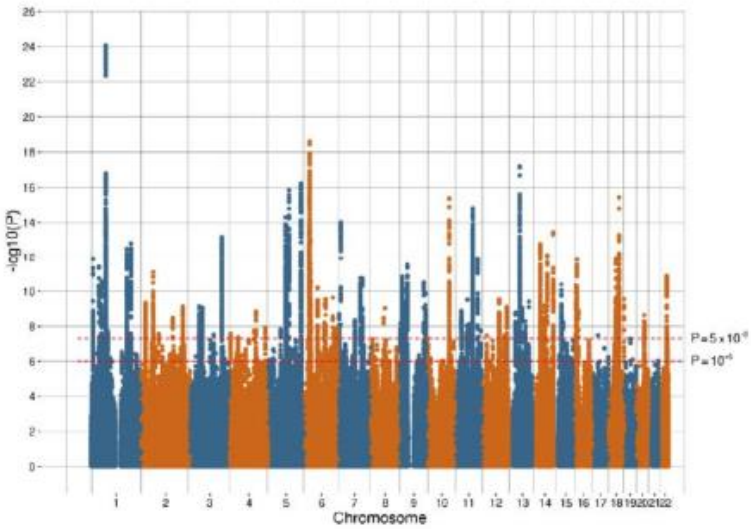
Conclusion - MDD is highly polygenic

What is the SNP heritability for MDD?

SNP-heritability - proportion of phenotype captured by all SNPs
 Heritability of SNPs - 0.09

Why are tools like Biorxiv important for research today?

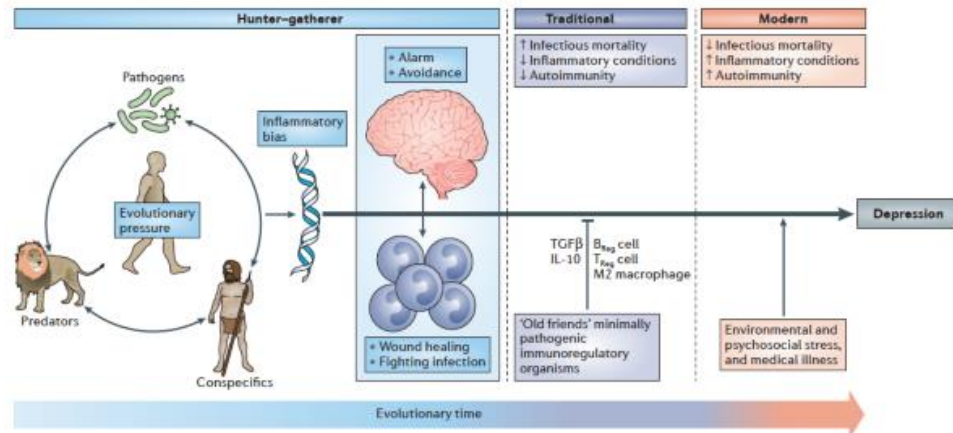
Biorxiv - Submission of data before publishing



Way to collect data more quickly - 250000 patients and 500000 controls

What is a evolutionary hypothesis for the association between inflammation and depression?

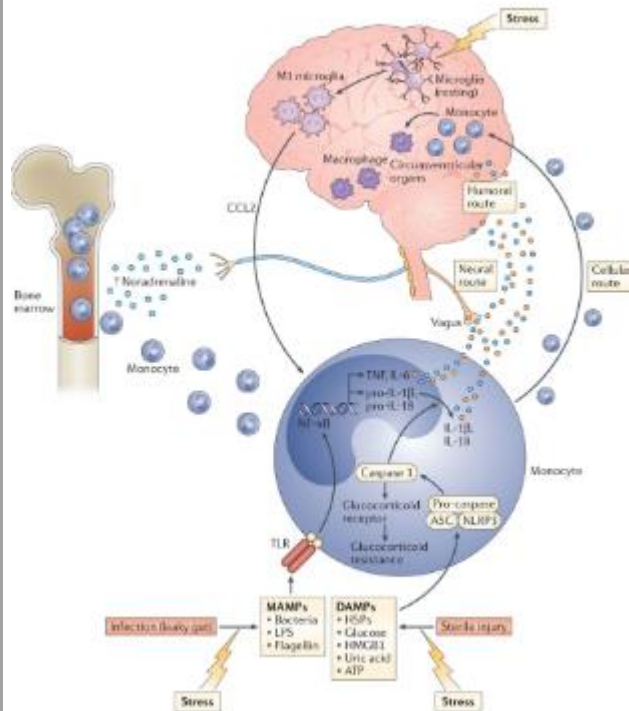
Inflammation and MDD



Mismatch between our hardwired inflammatory response and current standards of living - Nowadays it is triggered by other stimulus (psychosocial -> chronic influences)
 Depression behavior - Sickness related (social withdraw, reduction of activity)

What is the cycle of inflammation and depression?

Immune System



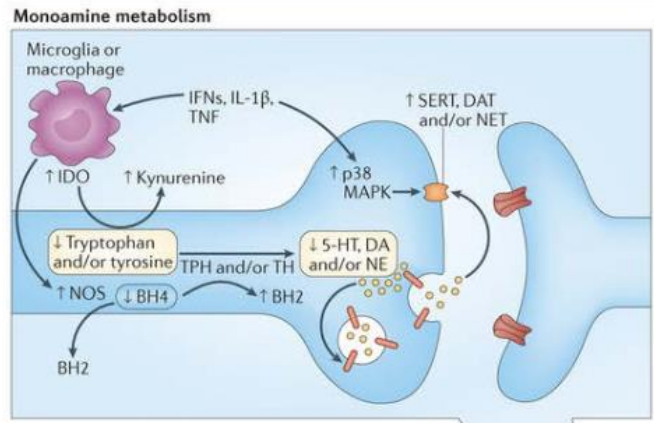
Inflammasome - Capture signal from inflammation and transfers it to the brain
 Cycle - Inflammation triggers depression (inflammasome), depression triggers inflammation (activation of HPA axis)

What is the evidence that depression is related to inflammation?

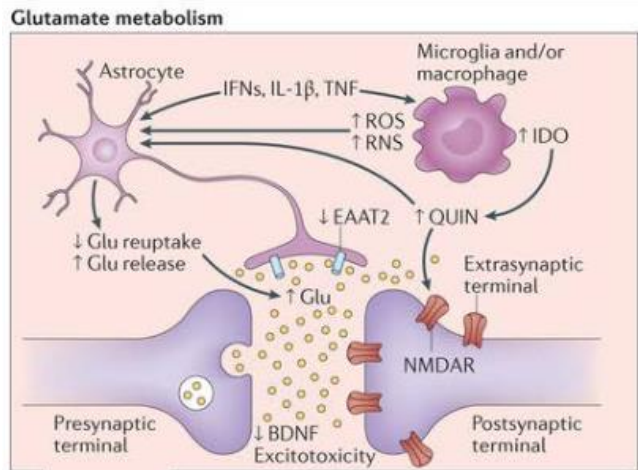
Evidence that depression may be related with inflammation
 Autoimmune diseases + early infections increase risk of mood disorders
 The use of inflammatory drugs induce depression
 Inflammation markers increase in depression

What are the hypothesis that explain the relationship between depression and inflammation?

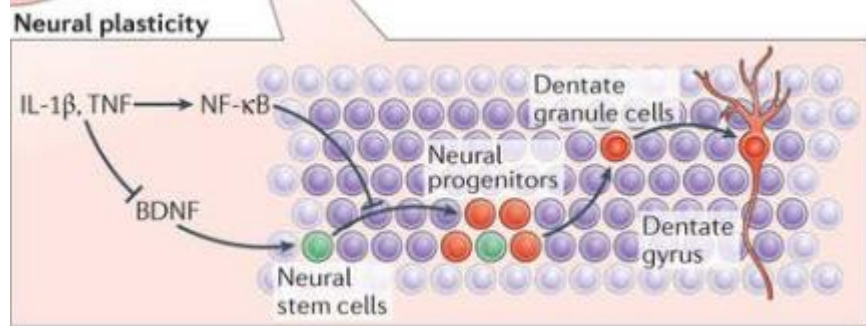
Hypothesis
 Inflammation may interfere with the metabolism of monoamines -
 Lack of tryptophan

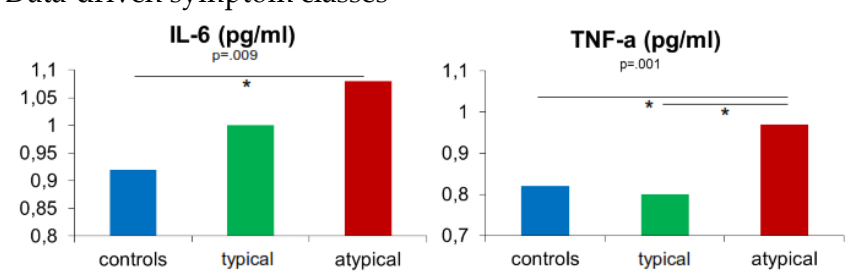


Inflammation may increase availability of glutamate



Inflammation may interfere with neuronal plasticity

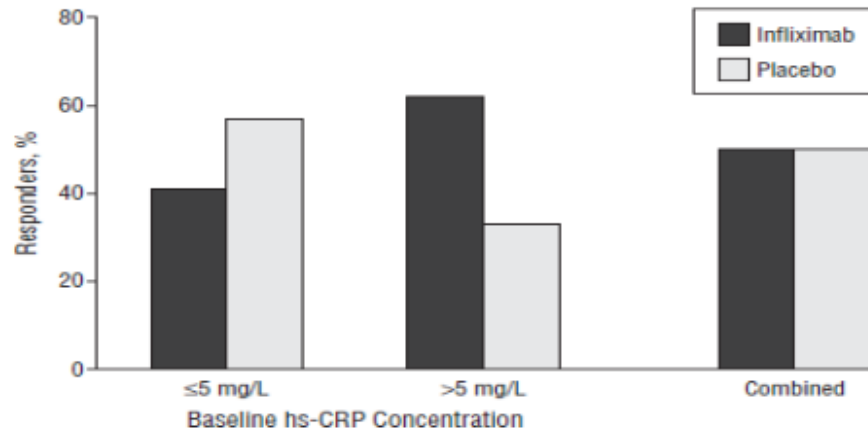


<p>What is the problem with MDD's heterogeneity?</p>	<p>The heterogeneity of MDD is: Hindering research - Inconsistent finding Hindering treatment - Small effect sizes</p>																																																												
<p>What are the two probable subtypes for depression/</p>	<p>Depression subtypes “Atypical depression” (immunometabolic) - Inflammation plays an important role Symptoms: Hyperphagia, weight gain, hypersomnia, fatigue, leaden paralysis Typical depression - Inflammation does not play an important role (correlates better with hyperactivity of HPA-axis)</p>																																																												
<p>What suggests that there may be three depression subtypes?</p>	<p>Data-driven symptom classes</p>  <p>Classification in three major subgroups - Moderate, severe typical, severe atypical</p>																																																												
<p>What is the major link between typical and atypical depression?</p>	<p>Link between atypical symptoms and inflammatory pathways Appetite symptoms - During depressive episodes, weight and appetite either increased or decreased</p>																																																												
<p>What may be the benefit for researchers to consider different depression subtypes?</p>	<p>Polygenic risk scores</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="454 1365 1055 1554"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">A MDD overall</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th>GPRS of obesity-related trait</th> <th>OR (95% CI)</th> <th>Favors Being a Control</th> <th>Favors Being a Case With MDD</th> <th>P value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BMI</td> <td>1.01 (0.99-1.04)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>.31</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRP</td> <td>1.03 (1.01-1.06)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1.2×10^{-28}</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leptin^b</td> <td>1.01 (0.99-1.04)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>.36</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BMI-adjusted leptin^b</td> <td>1.01 (0.98-1.03)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>.61</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <table border="1" data-bbox="454 1575 1055 1764"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">C Increased A/W subgroup</th> <th></th> <th></th> <th></th> </tr> <tr> <th>GPRS of obesity-related trait</th> <th>OR (95% CI)</th> <th>Favors Being a Control</th> <th>Favors Being a Case With Increased A/W</th> <th>P value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>BMI</td> <td>1.18 (1.12-1.25)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1.6×10^{-108}</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CRP</td> <td>1.08 (1.02-1.13)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>7.3×10^{-38}</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Leptin^b</td> <td>1.09 (1.06-1.12)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1.7×10^{-38}</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BMI-adjusted leptin^b</td> <td>1.06 (1.01-1.12)</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>2.1×10^{-28}</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The strength of the association between depression and obesity related genetic variance increases when you analyze a subgroup of patients</p>	A MDD overall					GPRS of obesity-related trait	OR (95% CI)	Favors Being a Control	Favors Being a Case With MDD	P value	BMI	1.01 (0.99-1.04)			.31	CRP	1.03 (1.01-1.06)			1.2×10^{-28}	Leptin ^b	1.01 (0.99-1.04)			.36	BMI-adjusted leptin ^b	1.01 (0.98-1.03)			.61	C Increased A/W subgroup					GPRS of obesity-related trait	OR (95% CI)	Favors Being a Control	Favors Being a Case With Increased A/W	P value	BMI	1.18 (1.12-1.25)			1.6×10^{-108}	CRP	1.08 (1.02-1.13)			7.3×10^{-38}	Leptin ^b	1.09 (1.06-1.12)			1.7×10^{-38}	BMI-adjusted leptin ^b	1.06 (1.01-1.12)			2.1×10^{-28}
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PhD study

Inflammatory pathways play a large role in depressive patients that present hyperfagia

Pattern of hyperfagia or hypofagia is stable over different depressive episodes



The significance of new pathways was only discovered when analyzing a subgroup of patients

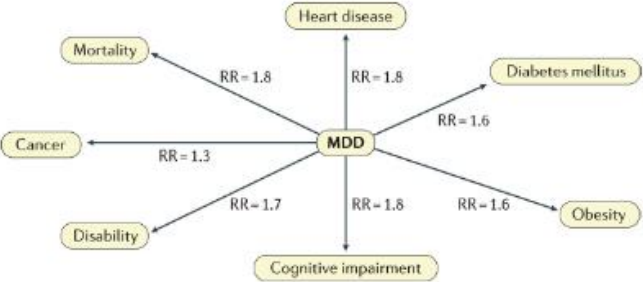
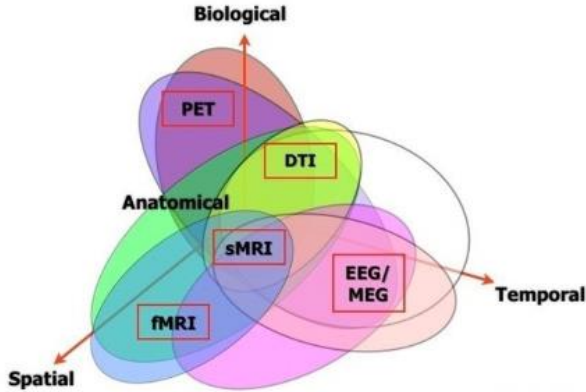
What is the clinical application for the establishment of different depression phenotypes?

Clinical applications

Stratification of patients - Creation of separate and specific treatments for different subtypes of depression

Difference in initial inflammation levels - Difference in efficacy of treatments

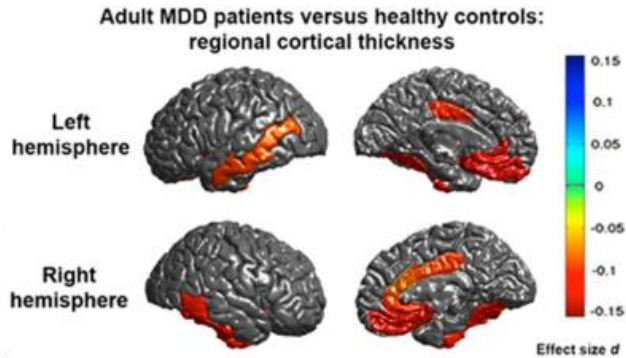
9b. Neuroimaging in Depression (Laura Nawijn)

<p>What is the prevalence of depression?</p>	<p>Prevalence of depression: 20% during lifetime 227 combinations of symptoms Subtypes: Anxious distress, melancholic features, atypical features</p>
<p>Why is depression such a heterogeneous disease?</p>	<p>Heterogeneity in clinical features Severity and functional impairment Age of onset Number and duration of episodes Treatment resistance</p>
<p>What conditions are associated with depression?</p>	<p>Comorbidity High psychiatric Comorbidity with anxiety (50%), drug abuse (15%)</p> 
<p>What is the environmental vulnerability aspects for depression?</p>	<p>Environmental vulnerability Stress: Trauma, daily-stress Social: Support network Lifestyle: Physical exercise, nutrition, sleep</p>
<p>What is the main problem with imaging studies for depression?</p>	<p>Neuroimaging of MDD</p> 

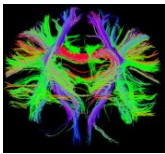
Replication problems - Heterogeneity in disease and method (small sample sizes and small effect sizes) -> creation of consortia (ENIGMA)

What are the characteristics of the brain structure of depressed patients?

Brain structure - MRI findings
 Altered brain volume - Decrease in OFC, ACC, PCC, insula, temporal lobes, hippocampus (small effect size); Increase in amygdala volume



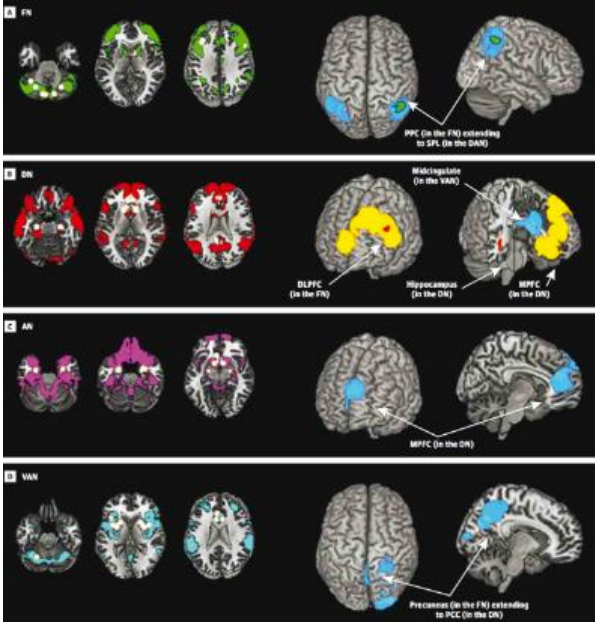
DTI



Decrease in fractional anisotropic (decrease in overall connectivity)
 Increase in mean diffusivity and fractional diffusivity (structural disconnectivity)

What are functional connectivity changes in depressed patients?

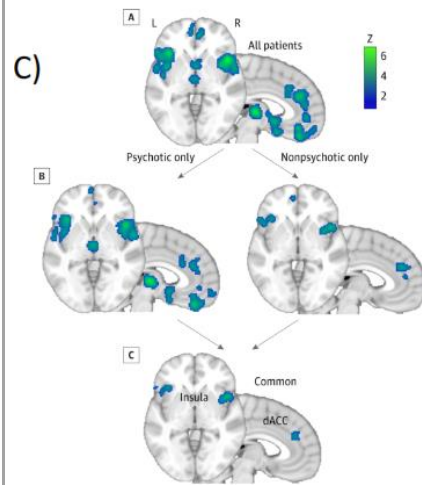
Functional connectivity findings



	<p>Decrease in :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • frontoparietal network • affective network • ventral attention network <p>Increase in default mode network</p>
<p>What did task based fMRI not get significant differences between depressed and non-depressed people?</p>	<p>Task based fMRI - No difference between depressed patients and controls Different tasks are done differently by different groups - yield different results PFC seems to be over reactive to negative stimuli and underreactive to positive stimuli</p>
<p>What are the elements of lack of convergence in task-based fMRI?</p>	<p>Meta-analysis of task based fMRI - No difference between MDD and controls (lack of spatial convergence)</p> <p>Lack of convergence in meta-analysis Different inclusion criteria Heterogeneity of experiments - Faces only vs all experiments Study quality (small sample size) ROI (specific brain regions - inflates chance of finding spurious significant results) vs whole brain</p>
<p>What are two promising avenues for MDD imaging?</p>	<p>Promising avenues in MDD Imaging Tackling heterogeneity and comorbidity: Large sample sizes (patients with MDD, bipolar, schizophrenia); Clinical features (medication, severity of disorder) Mega-analysis (raw data from every single experiment) - Machine learning</p>
<p>What is the problem with the anhedonic/anxiety subtypes for depression?</p>	<p>Subtyping Anhedonia - Fronto striata and orbitofrontal connectivity impaired Anxiety - Limbic</p> <div data-bbox="565 1541 1235 1814"> <p>Figure description: Part (a) shows two brain hemispheres with colored nodes representing different brain regions. A connectivity graph below shows the relationships between these nodes, with a correlation coefficient of $r^2 = 0.88$. Part (b) is a heatmap showing the connectivity between various brain regions, with a color scale from -0.3 to 0.5.</p> </div> <p>Posterior studies failed to replicate this finding</p>

What are the common aspects of brain functional between all affective disorders?

Cross-disorder meta-analysis

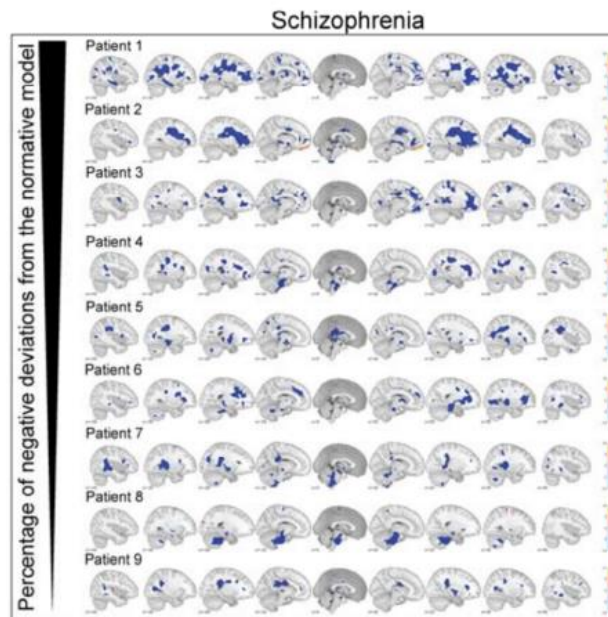


Schizophrenia, bipolar, depression, OCD, anxiety
 Common: Decreased gray matter volume and insula (associated with decreased executive function)
 Internalizing (depression and anxiety): Decrease hippocampus and amygdala volume

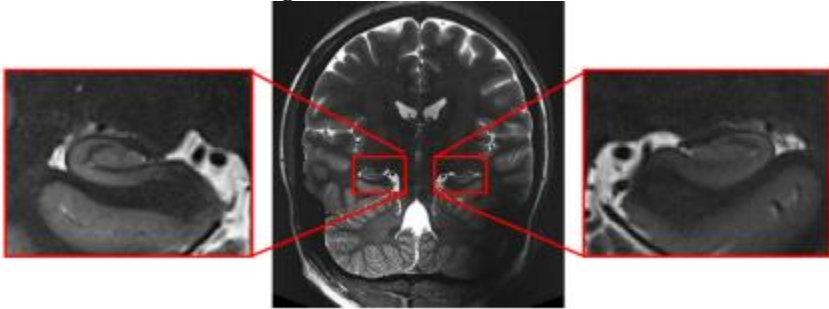
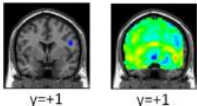
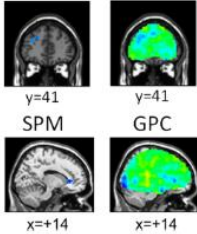
P-factor - Common genetic underpinnings for these diseases

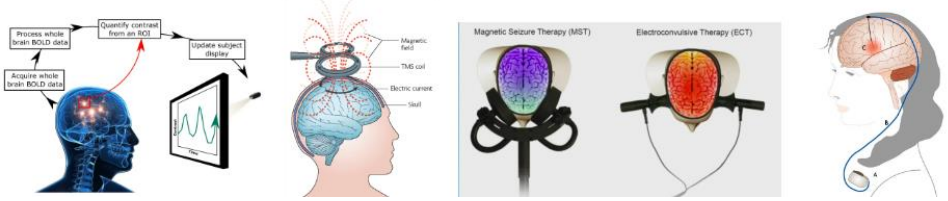
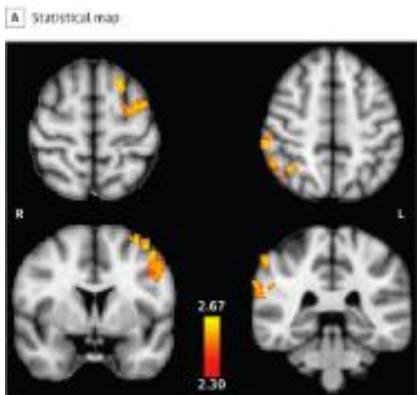
Why is it problematic to take averages in achieving the goal of a personalized treatment?

There is no average patient




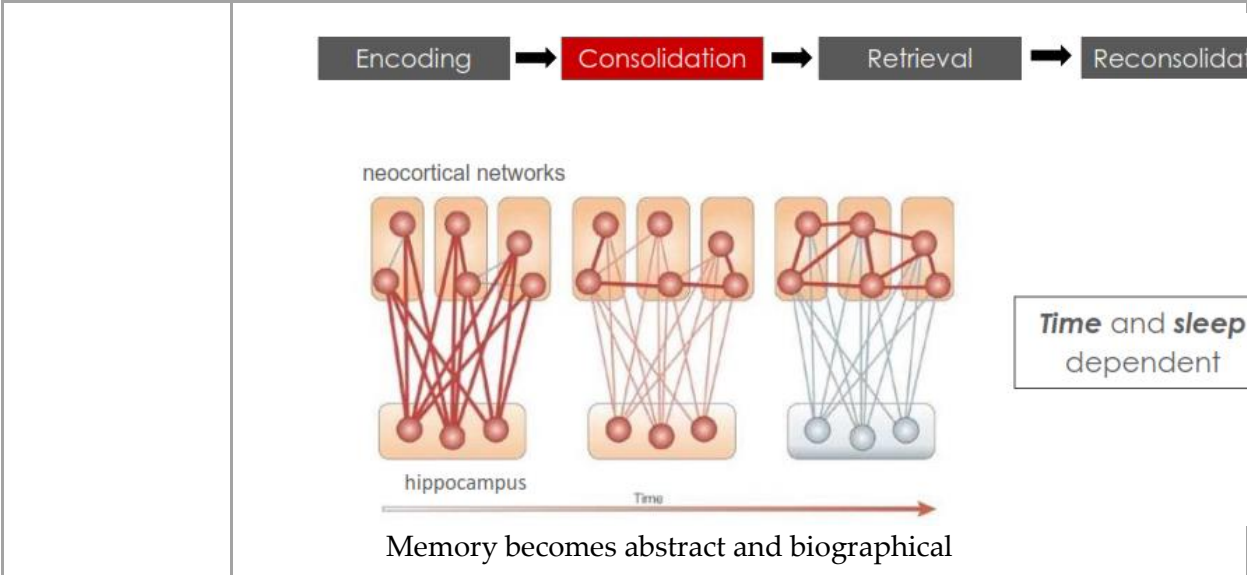
Case-control studies may disguise inter individual differences
 All patients show different deviations from an average scan
 "Idea of the average patient is a non-informative construct" - Mean is informative for groups, not for individuals

<p>Why 7-Tesla MRI may help us discover new things?</p>	<p>7 Tesla MRI - Ultra-high resolution</p>  <p>May yield new findings that were not observable before</p>
<p>What is the 'age' difference of depressed people compared to healthy controls?</p>	<p>Brain aging in MDD Structural brain features can be used to estimate chronological age People with depression show a “year older” brain than controls</p>
<p>Why neuroimaging may be useful to develop new treatments for depression?</p>	<p>Usefulness of Neuroimaging in MDD 30% of patients do not respond Treatment response takes long Recurrence is high</p> <p>Personalized medicine Machine learning: Prediction of treatment response, relapse, chronicity</p>
<p>How well does machine learn predict chronicity in MDD?</p>	<p>Predicting chronicity fMRI to predict 2-year MDD chronic course</p> <p>CHR v REM</p> <p>A: Angry SPM GPC  y=+1 y=+1</p> <p>B: Happy SPM GPC  y=41 y=41 SPM GPC x=+14 x=+14</p> <p>Emotional faces: 73% accuracy Clinical features: 69% accuracy Other fMRIs (resting state, executive task, structural MRI) did not predict above chance</p>

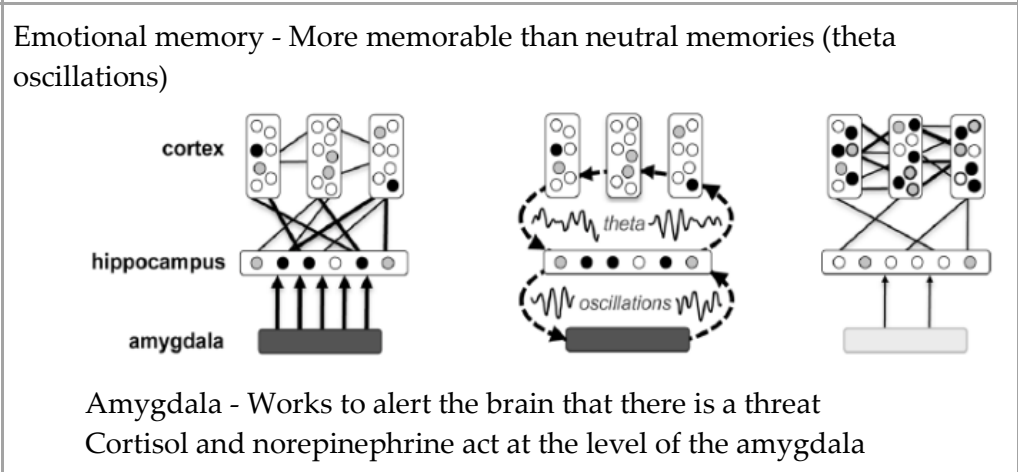
<p>How well does machine learning predict treatment response?</p>	<p>Predicting treatment response Imaging data - 82% accuracy Better when using multiple data types - Clinical data + Biology Publication bias, lack of replication in most findings</p>
<p>What are current options for therapeutic neuromodulation?</p>	<p>Therapeutic neuromodulation Neurofeedback Non-invasive brain stimulation Electroconvulsive therapy/Magnetic seizure therapy Deep brain stimulation</p>  <p>The image contains several components: on the left, a flowchart showing 'Acquire whole brain fMRI data' leading to 'Process whole brain fMRI data', which then leads to 'Quantify contrast from an fMRI' and 'Display subject display'. In the center, a diagram of a head with a TMS coil and labels for 'Magnetic field', 'TMS coil', 'Electric current', and 'Skull'. To the right, two diagrams labeled 'Magnetic Seizure Therapy (MST)' and 'Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT)' show brain stimulation patterns. On the far right, a sagittal brain scan shows a highlighted area.</p>
<p>What is the efficacy of brain stimulation in treating depression?</p>	<p>Brain stimulation efficacy High variation - Most patients prefer active treatment over fake treatment</p>  <p>Decrease amygdala activation during faces task Increase of task performance and activation of the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex</p> <p>The image shows four axial brain slices with a color scale from 2.30 to 2.67. The top-left slice is labeled 'R' and the top-right 'L'. The bottom-left slice shows a significant cluster of activation in the amygdala region, while the bottom-right slice shows activation in the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex.</p>
<p>Why machine learn may help patients even before we discover the underpinning mechanisms for depression?</p>	<p>Is depression a brain disease? Genetic findings suggests that yes How it works? We don't know.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Imaging techniques are still crude ○ With machine learning, we don't need to understand the mechanism to have an accurate prediction

9c. Sleep and traumatic memory in PTSD (Hein van Marle)

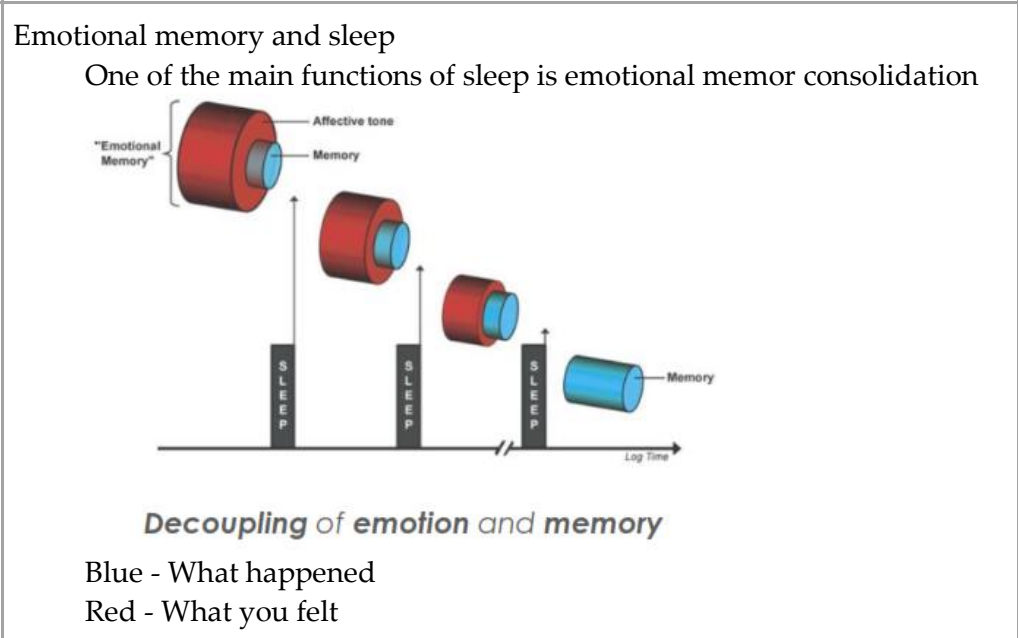
<p>What is the DSM-5 criteria for the diagnosis of PTSD?</p>	<p>Case study - Justin (American Veteran)</p>  <p>DSM-5 criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exposure to stressor • Intrusions (memories, flashbacks) • Avoidance • Negative alteration in cognition and mood • Alterations in arousal and reactivity • Lasts more than a month • Significant distress/dysfunction • Some patients develop dissociative subtype
<p>Describe the process of PTSD as a memory disorder.</p>	<p>PTSD as a memory disorder</p> <p>Encoding - When a traumatic event occurs</p> <p>Consolidation -> Integration of initial labile memory into long-term storage</p> <p>Retrieval - Flashbacks/nightmares</p> <p>Reconsolidation - treatment window -> possibility to modify memory</p> <pre> graph LR A[Encoding] --> B[Consolidation] B --> C[Retrieval] C --> D[Reconsolidation] </pre> <p style="text-align: center;"> trauma flashbacks nightmares treatment window </p> <p>Traumatic memory trace is at the basis of disorder</p>
<p>What happens when memories are consolidated in our brain?</p>	<p>System level consolidation theory</p> <p>When you acquire a memory, it is represented by connections between neocortical models and hippocampus</p> <p>Consolidation - Disconnected at a hippocampal level</p>

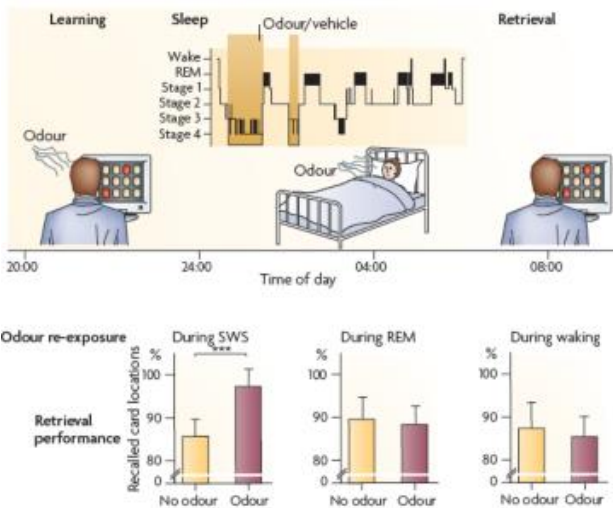


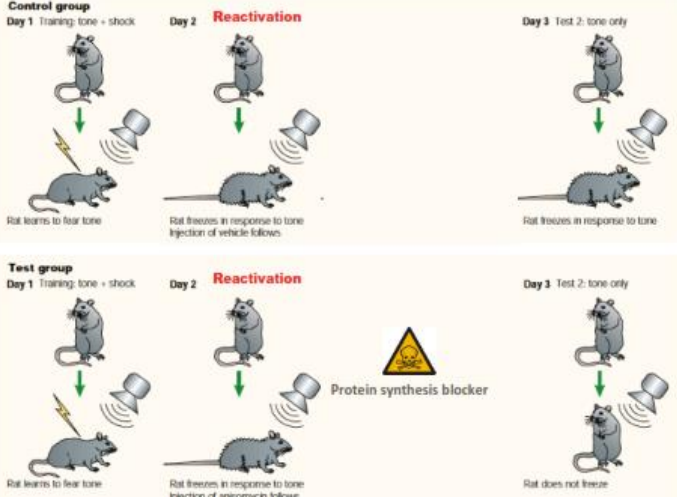
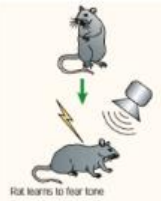
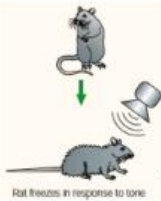
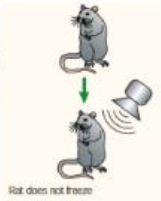
When we have an emotional memory, which brain area is most active?



What is a proposed hypothesis for the function of sleep and emotion?

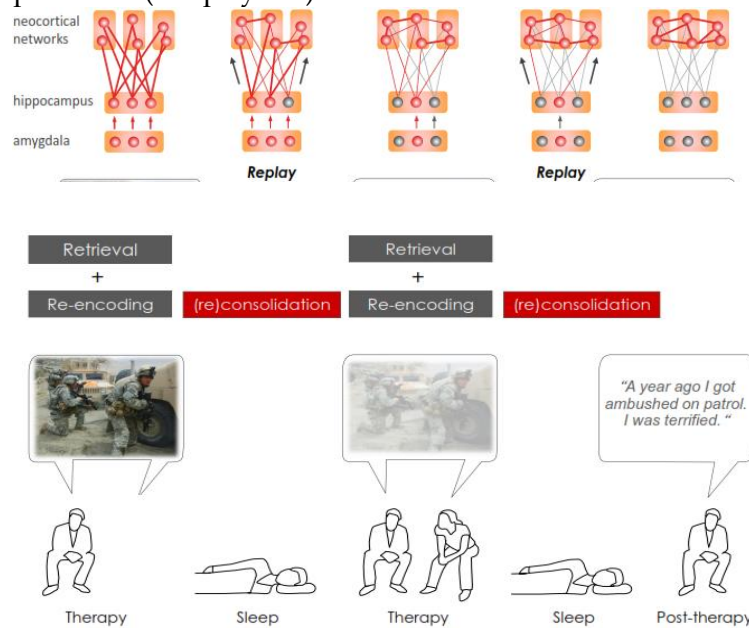


<p>Describe the experiment that discovered the mechanism of neuronal replay.</p>	<p>Mechanism behind consolidation</p> <p>Neuronal replay - Memories are repeated during sleep</p> <p>Mice walking in a triangular maze - Place cells in hippocampus activate at particular points</p> <p>When the mice slept - Same pattern was observed in the hippocampus</p> <p>Different mechanisms are necessary for neuronal replay</p>												
<p>Describe the experiment that used smell during sleep. What was its main finding?</p>	<p>Target memory reactivating to boost memory</p>  <p>The diagram shows a 24-hour cycle from 20:00 to 08:00. It includes a 'Learning' phase at 20:00, a 'Sleep' phase from 24:00 to 04:00 with a sleep stage graph (Wake, REM, Stage 1-4), and a 'Retrieval' phase at 08:00. An 'Odour/vehicle' is introduced during the sleep phase. Below are three bar charts for 'Retrieval performance' (Recalled card locations %) during 'SWS', 'REM', and 'waking' phases, comparing 'No odour' and 'Odour' conditions.</p> <table border="1"> <caption>Retrieval performance during different sleep stages</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Phase</th> <th>No odour (%)</th> <th>Odour (%)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>During SWS</td> <td>~85</td> <td>~95</td> </tr> <tr> <td>During REM</td> <td>~90</td> <td>~88</td> </tr> <tr> <td>During waking</td> <td>~88</td> <td>~85</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Visual task associated with smell</p> <p>When patients were sleeping, smell was presented again (during deep sleep)</p> <p>Memory was improved in smell patients compared with controls (not REM sleep or wake)</p>	Phase	No odour (%)	Odour (%)	During SWS	~85	~95	During REM	~90	~88	During waking	~88	~85
Phase	No odour (%)	Odour (%)											
During SWS	~85	~95											
During REM	~90	~88											
During waking	~88	~85											
<p>Why is sound advantageous and problematic as a targeted memory during sleep?</p>	<p>Memory stabilization with targeted deactivation during human slow-wave sleep</p> <p>Sound: More options than smell, more likely to wake patients up</p>												
<p>What is a hypothesis for the difference between neutral memories and</p>	<p>Hypothesis of lack of consolidation</p> <p>Neutral memory - No amygdala</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abstract, verbally accessible • Voluntary retrieval <p>Traumatic memory - Amygdala involved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linked to sensory, emotional and autonomic markers 												

<p>traumatic memories?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not verbally accessible • No autobiographical context • Involuntary retrieval
<p>What was the main finding of Nader 2000?</p>	<p>Memory reconsolidation - When you reactivate a memory, it changes</p>  <p>Nader 2000 - Rat freezes due to fear conditioning Anisomycin - Blocks protein synthesis in the amygdala -> fear is extinguished</p>
<p>What happens at a neuronal level during the process of extinction learning?</p>	<p>Extinction learning - Analogous to exposure therapy</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Conditioning</p>  <p>Rat learns to fear tone</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Extinction learning</p>  <p>Rat freezes in response to tone</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Spontaneous recovery</p>  <p>Rat does not freeze</p> </div> </div> <p>Tone is presented multiple times without negative stimulus - Second memory is formed, the first memory is still present Patients can have relapses when in the same context</p>
<p>What are possible strategies to change a memory during the reconsolidation window?</p>	<p>Reconsolidation window - 10 minutes and 6 hours.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eliminate memory trace - Not possible in humans ECT has similar effects Disrupt old memory trace - Propranolol, inhibits norepinephrine (diminishes negative memory coding) Update old memory trace - When timed in the reconsolidation window -> update and extinguish fear memory Strengthen old memory trace - Cortisol

What is the proposed mechanism behind the effectiveness of psychotherapy for PTSD treatment?

PTSD treatment
 Exposure therapy - Reactive traumatic memory, re-encode fearful memory in a positive context
 Memory gets more neutral overtime - Multiple reconsolidation processes (sleep cycles)



What types of pharmacological interventions can be used for PTSD? What is their intended effect and application in the clinic?

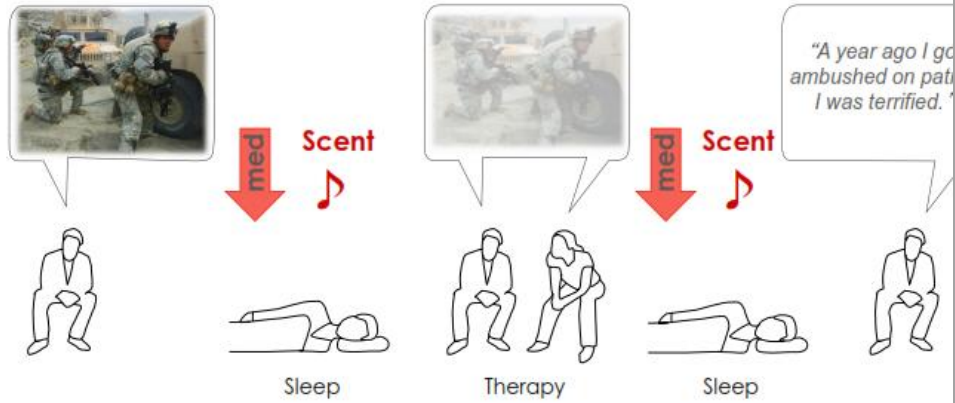
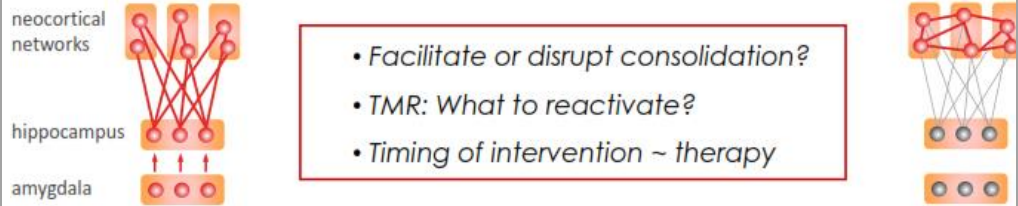
Medication treatment - SSRI
 Not linked to memory consolidation/reconsolidation
 Treatment augmentation - Therapy and medication together
 Enhancing memory drug (D-cycloserine) - Given to treatment after therapy session
 MDMA is not an established drug for PTSD

Why is sleep deprivation not a definitive solution for patients who just suffered a traumatic experience?

Immediate intervention after trauma
 Sleep deprivation - Only postpones the problem, since the patient has to sleep at some point


How can target memory/sleep be used as an experimental treatment for PTSD?

Experimental treatment - Sleep

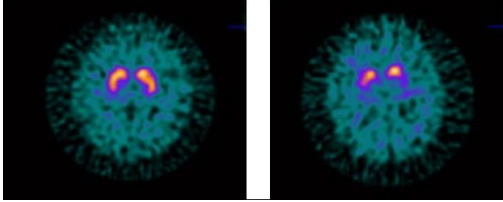
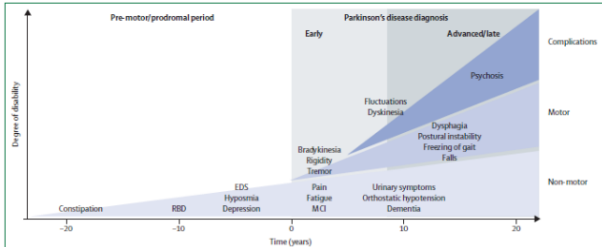


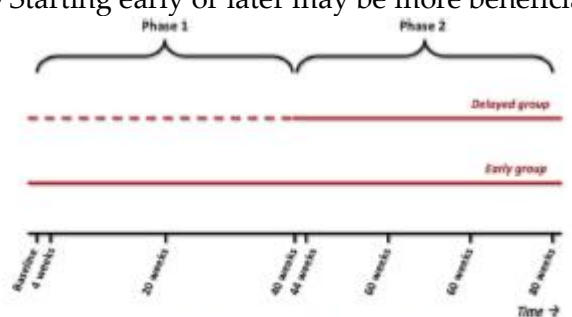
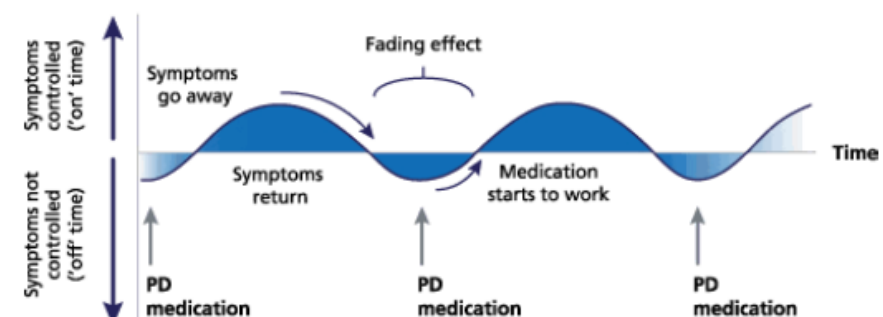
Music and smell during therapy - Exposure to the same music or smell during sleep -> promotes faster reconsolidation of the memory

10a. Movement Disorders: Parkinson's Disease

<p>What is the prevalence of Parkinson's Disease?</p>	<p>Epidemiology of Parkinson's Disease</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence of 1/800 1% of people over 65 years Mean age of onset = 70 years Man > Women (60-40)
<p>Why are we in a 'Parkinson Pandemic'?</p>	<p>Parkinson Pandemic</p> <p>Increase in lifespan of the population - Increase in incidence of Parkinson's</p>
<p>What are potential risk /protective factors for PD?</p>	<p>Risk factors</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aging - Increases risk Herbicides/pesticides - Increases risk Coffee - May be protective Nicotine effect - May be protective Head trauma - <i>Unclear evidence</i>
<p>Why do PD patients usually go to the clinic in the first place?</p>	<p>Clues for the initial diagnosis of PD</p> <p>The patient often does not know they have Parkinson - They present muscle cramps, loss of smell (hyposnyia), forgetfulness, dizzyness</p>
<p>What are the main signs of Parkinson's disease?</p>	<p>Signs of Parkinson</p> <p>Hypomimia - Unable to express emotions</p>  <p>Parkinsonism = Bradykinesia + rigidity or resting tremor</p> <pre> graph TD A[bradykinesia] --- B[rigidity] A --- C[resting tremor] </pre> <p><small>Parkinsonism = bradykinesia + at least one of the other two symptoms</small></p> <p>Bradykinesia - Decrement in amplitude and frequency of movement</p> <p>Rigidity - Velocity independent resistance to passive movement</p> <p>Lead pipe resistance</p> <p>Resting tremor - 4-6 hz in resting limb</p>

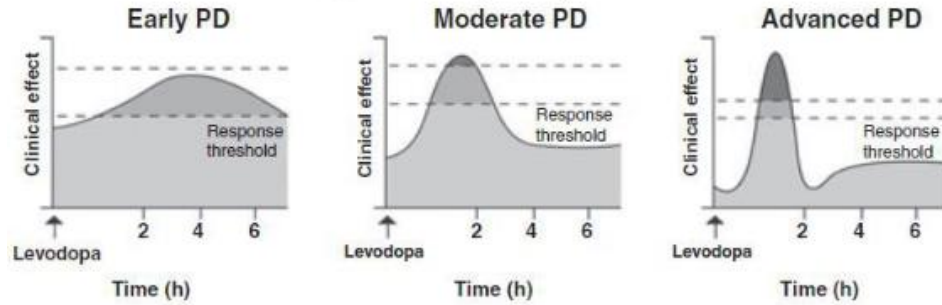
	<p>25% of patients do not have resting tremor</p> <p>Essential tremor difference - Happens during movement</p>
<p>What is the general diagnostic criteria for PD?</p>	<p>Diagnostic criteria</p> <p>Clinically established</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two supportive criteria, no red flags <p>Clinically probable</p>
<p>What are the supportive criteria for PD diagnosis?</p>	<p>Supportive criteria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Responsible to levodopa - Effects within 30 minutes ○ Hyposmia - Loss of smell (substantia nigra loss degenerates olfactory bulb) ○ Resting tremor
<p>What are the exclusion criteria for PD diagnosis?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exclusion criteria <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cerebellar abnormalities ○ Downward vertical gaze palsy - Suggests PSP, another type of parkinsonism ○ Frontotemporal dementia ○ Lower limb parkinsonism ○ Drug induced parkinsonism ○ Cortical sensory loss ○ Normal presynaptic dopaminergic imaging
<p>What are red flags for PD diagnosis?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red flags <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rapid progression of gait impairment ○ Complete absence of motor symptom progression (more than 5 years) ○ Early bulbar dysfunction ○ Inspiratory respiratory dysfunction ○ Severe autonomic failure early in disease ○ Disproportionate anterocollis ○ Symmetric parkinsonism - Typical PD is lateralized
<p>Why MRI is useful for the diagnosis of PD?</p>	<p>MRI - Used to determine if the symptoms is caused by other diseases</p> <p>Parkinson cannot be diagnosed by MRI</p>
<p>What is DAT-SPECT?</p>	<p>DAT-SPECT - Analyse dopaminergic neurons</p> <p>Tracer binds dopamine transporters in the presynaptic neurons</p> <p>Proxy for the integrity of the dopaminergic system</p>

	 <p>Red - Caudate nucleus/putamen PD - No dopamine in caudate (notice assymetry)</p>
What other diseases have Parkinson-like symptoms?	Differential diagnosis Drug induced Vascular parkinsonism - Exclusively motor Atypical parkinsonism MSA - Multiple system atrophy PSP - Progressive supranuclear palsy DLB - Dementia with Lewy Bodies CBD - Cortical basal degeneration
Which brain systems do PD affect?	PD affects all systems - Not only dopamine Acetylcholine, serotonin, endocannabinoid
What are the non-motor symptoms for PD?	Non-motor symptoms Depression - 80% of patients Anxiety Cognitive disturbances/dementia Psychosis/visual hallucination Impulsive control disorder - Only medicated patients (15-35%) Sleep disturbance - Insomnia, excessive daytime sleepiness, REM-sleep behavior disorder, restless legs Autonomic dysfunction - orthostatic hypotension, urine incontinence, impotence Other - Smell impairment, pain, tiredness
What is the prevalence of non-motor symptoms in PD patients?	Almost all PD patients present non-motor symptoms <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prevalence: 60-97% 

<p>What are the main forms of treatment for PD?</p>	<p>Treatments - Are symptomatic, not disease modifying</p> <p>Dopaminergic - MAO B inhibitor (enzyme that destroys dopamine), dopamine agonist, levodopa</p> <p>Advanced therapy - Continuous infusion of levodopa (subcutaneous, intrajejunal), deep brain stimulation in cortical thalamical</p>
<p>What is the main side effects of levodopa in the treatment of PD?</p>	<p>Side effects</p> <p>Impulsive control disorder - Higher chance when using dopamine agonist</p> <p>Inconstipation</p>
<p>What is the honeymoon phase of PD treatment? How long does it last?</p>	<p>Honeymoon phase - Drugs work quite well in the first 5 to 10 years</p> <p>End of dose effect - Treatment stops being effective</p>
<p>What is the main research question of the LEAP study?</p>	<p>LEAP study - Starting early or later may be more beneficial in the long run</p>  <p>Fig. 1 Delayed-start design. Studies with a delayed-start design investigate two agents: active treatment (solid line) and controlled treatment (dashed line). In phase 1, patients are randomised to either active (levodopa) or controlled (placebo) treatment. In phase 2, both groups receive</p> <p>First stage: Levodopa or placebo Second stage: Levodopa</p>
<p>Describe the problem that traditional PD treatment has related to therapy fluctuation?</p>	<p>Therapy fluctuation</p> <p>A typical day</p>  <p>The graph illustrates the cycle of therapy fluctuation. It shows a wave representing symptom levels over time. The y-axis is labeled 'Symptoms controlled (on' time)' and 'Symptoms not controlled (off' time)'. The x-axis is labeled 'Time'. Three vertical arrows labeled 'PD medication' point to the start of each medication cycle. The peaks of the wave are labeled 'Symptoms go away' and 'Fading effect'. The troughs are labeled 'Symptoms return' and 'Medication starts to work'.</p>

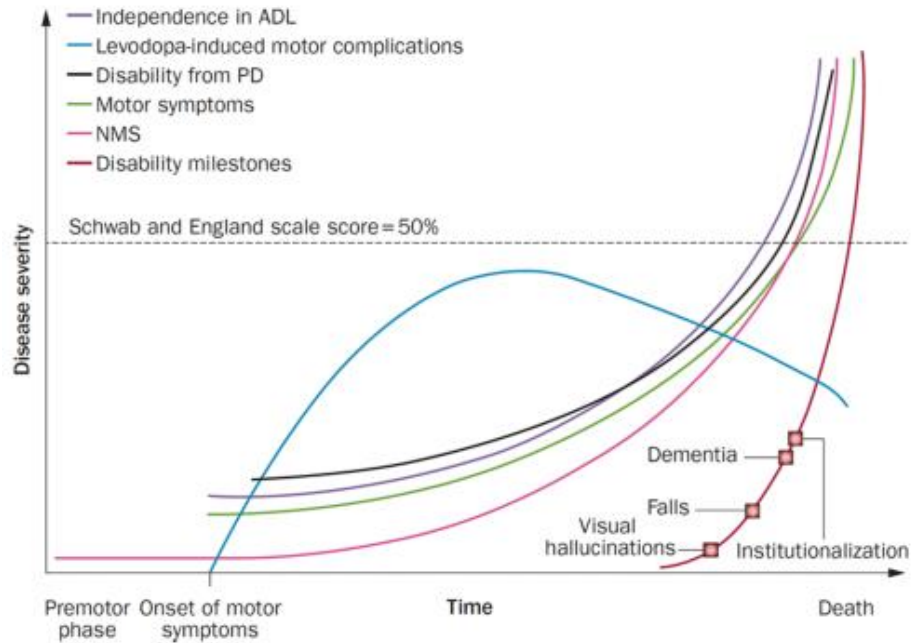
Pill form - High increase when taking the drug, rapid decrease (On-off fluctuations)

Gets worse in later stages - Patients needs more levodopa, clinical effect time gets shorter



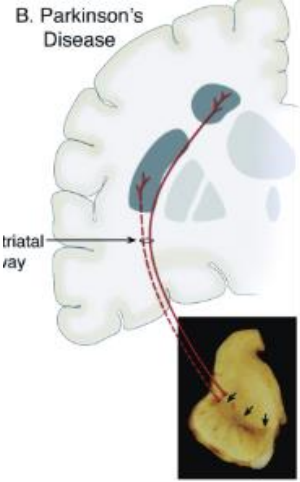
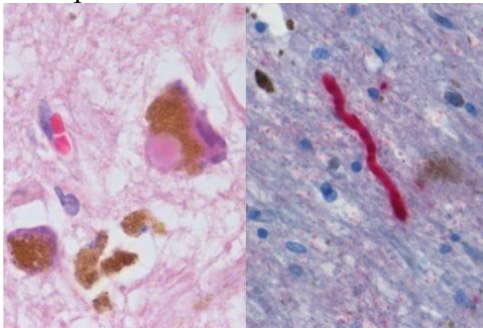
Describe the main disabilities milestones of PD.

Disability milestones



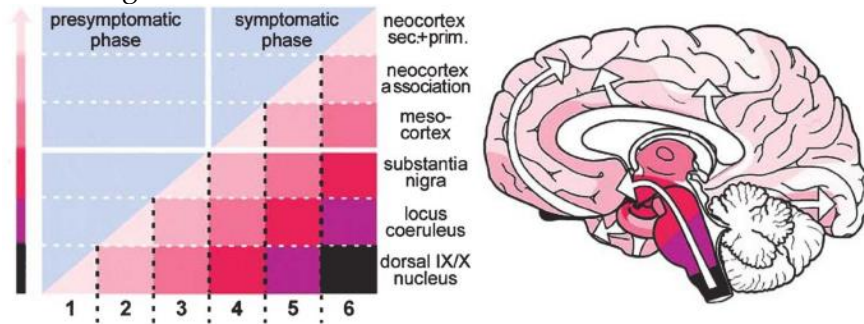
Levodopa effects is an inverted u-shape - Dopaminergic neurons are degenerated and the drug cannot act as well

10b. Pathogenesis of movement disorders: Protein misfolding and protein aggregation (Michaela Wilhelmus)

<p>What is 'sporadic PD'?</p>	<p>Parkinson's disease Progressive neurodegenerative disorder 95% sporadic (we have no idea why)</p>
<p>What are the neuropathological characteristics of PD?</p>	<p>Neuropathological characteristics</p>  <p>Degeneration of dopaminergic neurons Formation of Lewy Bodies</p>
<p>What is the main component of Lewy Bodies?</p>	<p>Alpha-synuclein is the major component of Lewy Bodies in both familial and sporadic PD cases</p> 
<p>What are pieces of evidence for the role of alpha-synuclein in PD?</p>	<p>Evidence for the relationship between alpha-synuclein and PD Point mutations in alpha-synuclein gene cause rare forms of PD Transfection of human alpha-synuclein genes induce morphological and clinical symptoms of PD in animal models</p>

Describe Braak stages for Parkinson disease.

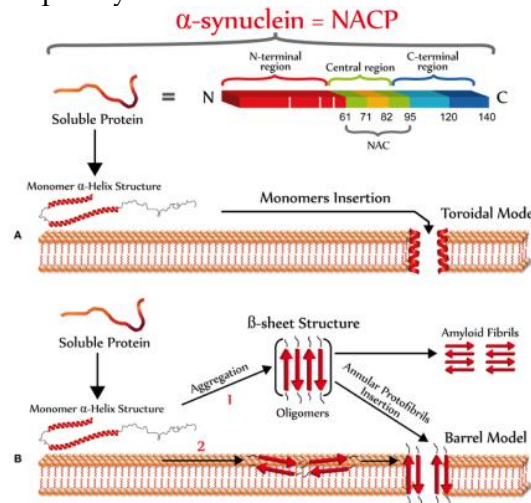
Braak stages



First stage - Smell becomes impaired - damages to olfactory bulb
End stage - Spread throughout all over brain, except cerebellum

Describe the molecular characteristics of alpha-synuclein. What is the proposed mechanism for its cytotoxicity?

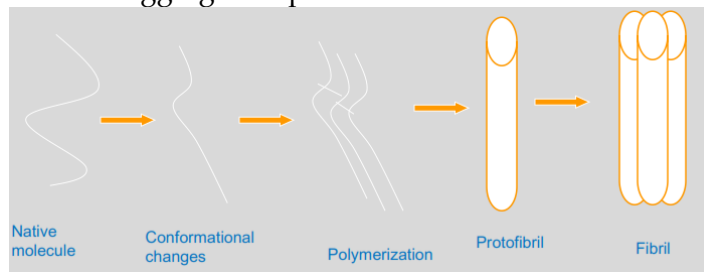
Alpha-synuclein



16 kD highly conserved
Monomer, hydrophilic, alpha coil
Binds to membranes in alpha structure
Binds to other alpha-synuclein monomers in beta sheet - Creating amyloid fibrils
Possibility - They form holes in the membrane, causing cell death

What happens to alpha-synuclein's solubility when it aggregates?

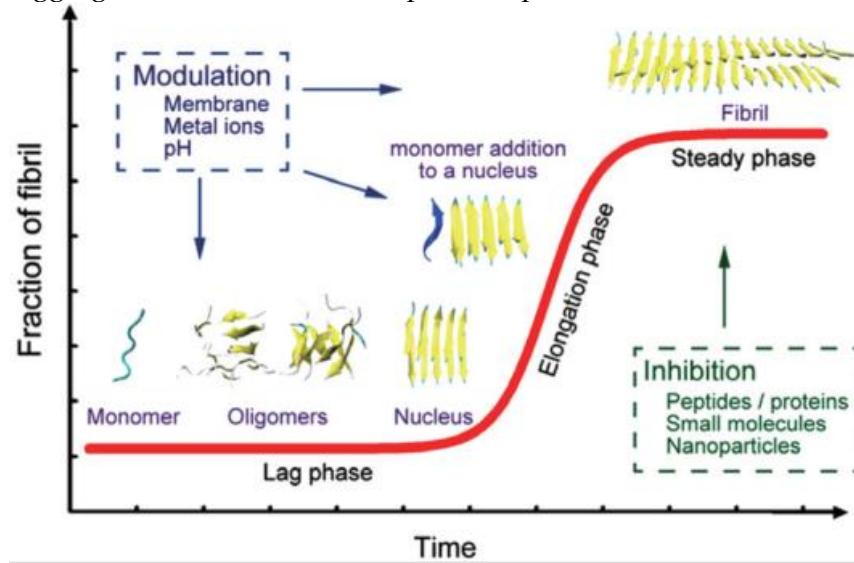
Putative aggregation process



More aggregations - decrease solubility
Toxic variant is still unknown

What physical aspects of the cell influence aggregation of alpha-synuclein?

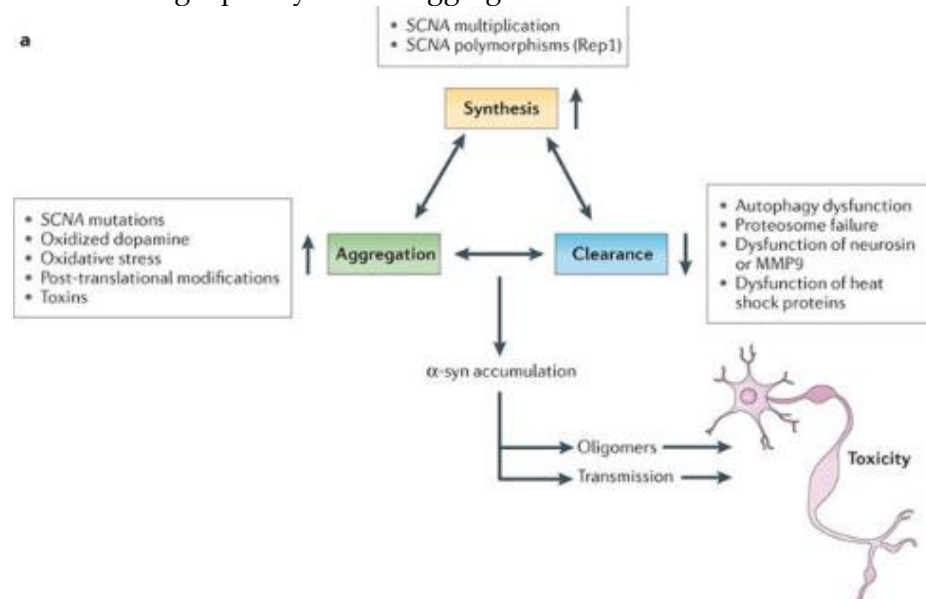
Aggregation is a nucleation dependent process



Depends on concentration and modulation of monomer (ions, alter pH)

What are the three main factors that influence alpha-synuclein aggregation?

Factors influencing alpha-synuclein aggregation



Clearance - Seems to be dependent on aging

Which CNS diseases are alpha-synucleopathies?

- Alpha-synucleopathies
- PD
- Dementia
- Multiple system atrophy
- Neurodegeneration with brain iron
- Immunoreactive lesions

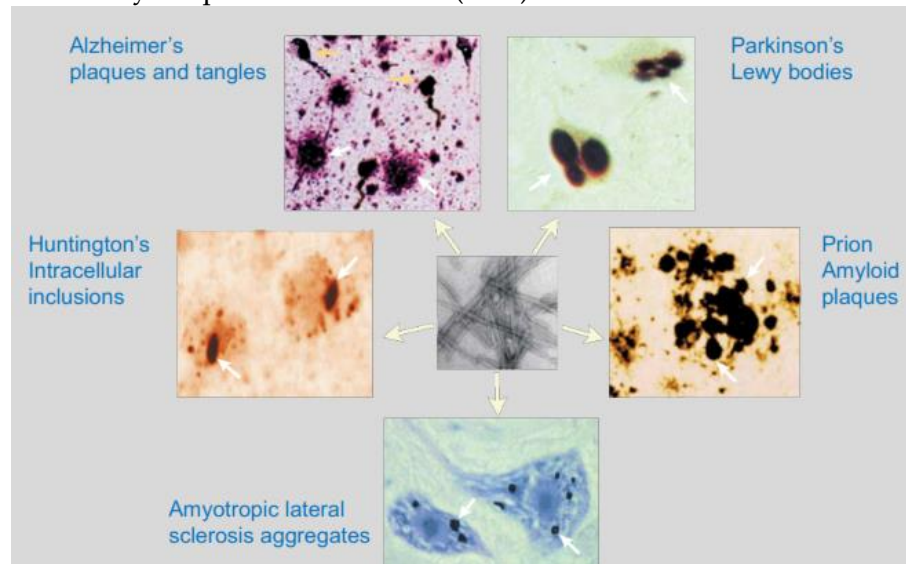
What are five CNS diseases related to protein aggregation?

Is protein aggregation unique for PD?

Alzheimer's disease - Plaques and tangles (nobody knows the function of amyloid); there are many version (not only AB1-40, AB1-42)

Examples of diseases caused by protein aggregation:

- Alzheimer's
- Parkinson's
- Huntington's
- Prion Disease
- Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS)



What are intrinsically disordered proteins?

Intrinsically disordered proteins (IDP)

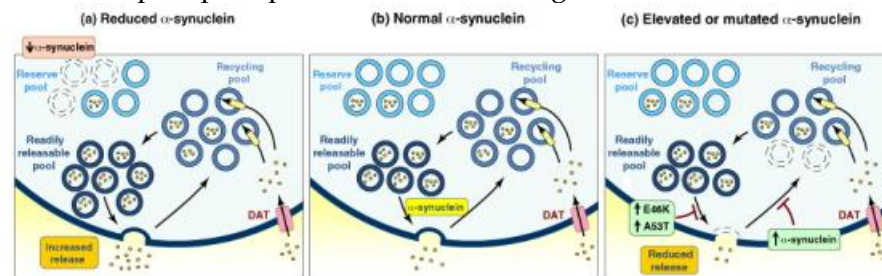
Lack of rigid 3D structure under physiological conditions

Probable reason: Flexibility of interactions with different substrates under different conditions

Hypothesis: These diseases are caused not only protein misfolding, but also protein misindification and missignaling

What is the neuronal effect of alpha-synuclein defects?

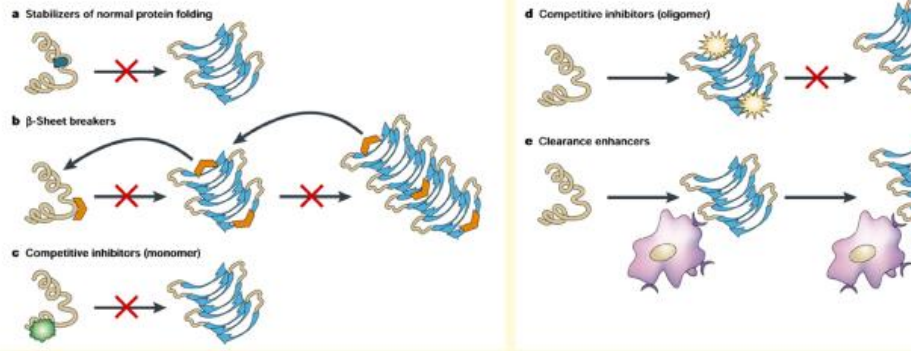
Disturbed phospholipid membrane binding



Decreased vesicle budding


What are possible strategies to deal with Inherently Disordered Protein diseases?

Therapeutic strategies - Currently not one of these is implemented



E.g. Beta-sheet breakers, amyloid inhibitors (possible protective mechanism of nicotine)

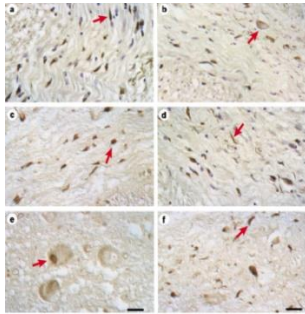
10c. Parkinson's disease: clinical heterogeneity, differential diagnosis and biomarkers (van de Berg)

<p>When were Lewy bodies discovered? And when was alpha-synuclein discovered?</p>	<p>Lewy bodies - Discovered in 1912 Alpha-synuclein - Discovered in 1997</p>
<p>What are eight conditions that mimic Parkinson's symptoms? What is their main difference from idiopathic PD?</p>	<p>Diseases that mimic Parkinson (and their differences)</p> <p>PD = Idiopathic Parkinson's Disease - Typical symptoms, unknown cause</p> <p>Essential tremor - Different amplitude of tremor, less progressive</p> <p>Progressive supranuclear palsy - Tauopathy (different areas from Alzheimer's Disease); patients tend to fall (affects balance regions of the brain)</p> <p>Vascular Parkinsonism - Symptoms depend on the affected brain region</p> <p>Multiple System Atrophy - Facial problem, more symmetrical, do not respond well to levodopa</p> <p>Drug induced Parkinsonism - Propanolol</p> <p>Incidental Lewy Body disease - Due to normal aging (lesser concentration than PD)</p> <p>Inherited Lewy Body disease - Mutations of alpha-synuclein gene are very rare but it is always causal. E.g. LAC2/Glucoseroxidase (50% of population in the Netherlands)</p> <p>Dementia with Lewy body - Clinical symptoms are memory, personality change</p>
<p>What are the neuroanatomical differences between MSA and Parkinson's</p>	<p>Multiple System Atrophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shrunk putamen (striatonigral degeneration) 

- Olivopontocerebellar atrophy (problems with balance - patients fall frequently)



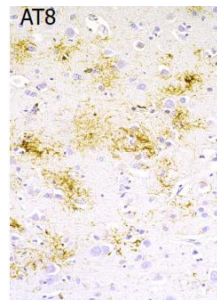
- Glial inclusions in oligodendrocytes in MSA



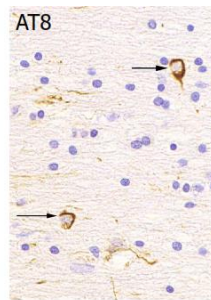
If you wanted to differentiate PD and PSP, which test could you do?

Progressive supranuclear palsy - Neurofibrillary tangles in motor cortex (tau)

‘Spider-like’ staining - **Hyperphosphorylated tau** (high accumulation in the brain, low accumulation in the CSF)



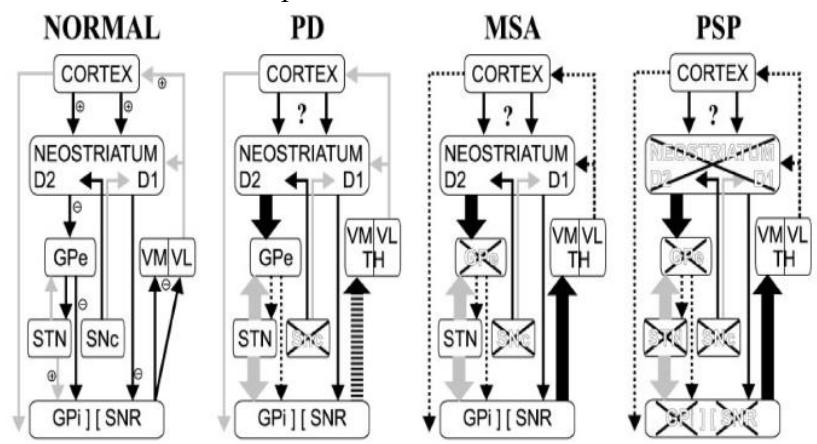
Tufted Astrocytes



Coiled bodies (white matter)

Describe in great anatomical detail how PD, MSA and PSP differ from a normal brain.

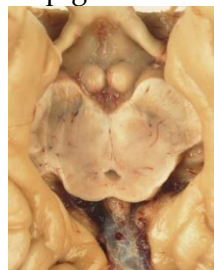
Model of PD vs other parkinsonisms



What is the difference between PD patients and patients with DLB?

Dementia with Lewy Bodies

Depigmented substantia nigra in DLB

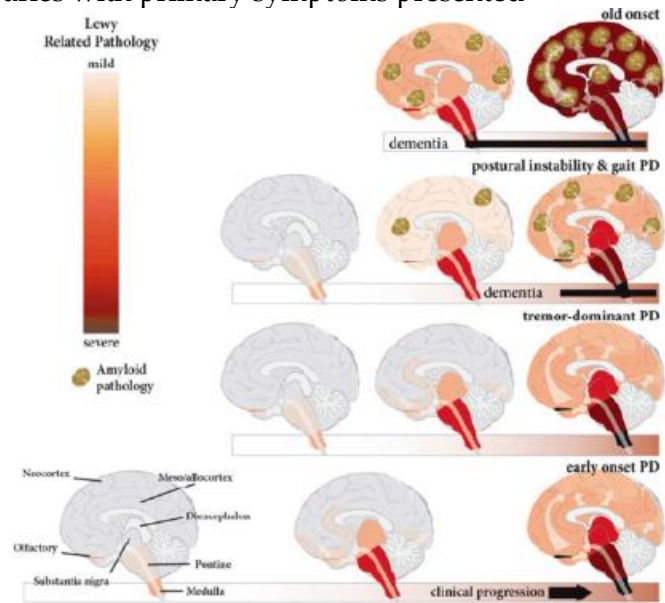


AD pathology is frequently present
30% of DLB cases have vascular abnormalities

Describe the four Braak stages (including their names) in PD.

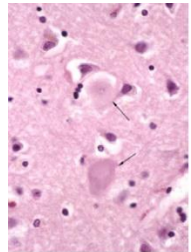
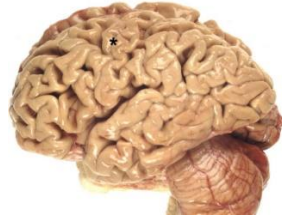
Braak stages

Varies with primary symptoms presented

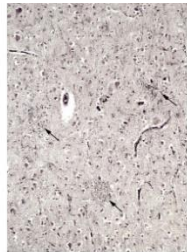


How is corticobasal degeneration defined anatomically?

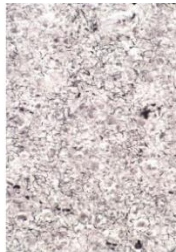
Corticobasal degeneration - Atrophy of post-central gyrus
Dilation of ventricular system



Swollen neurons



Astrocytic plaques

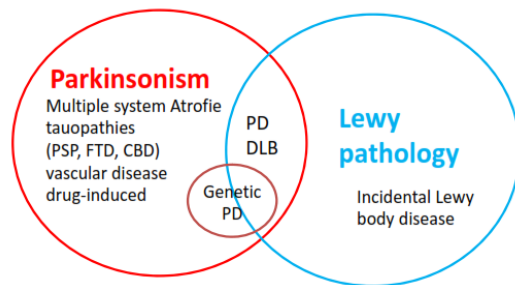


Dystrophic neurites

Swollen neurons - Tauopathy

Describe how parkinsonisms overlap with Lewy body pathology.

Parkinsonism in common in many disorders

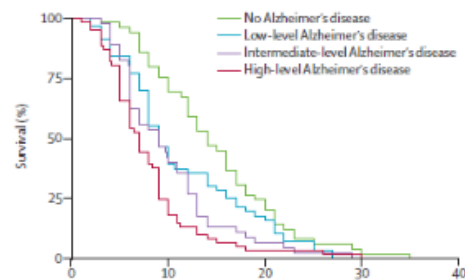


Parkinsonism - No Lewy body

Lewy pathology - No motor symptoms

What is Lewy body disease correlated with in PD patients?

Lewy body disease is associated with longer disease duration, dementia at death



More AD pathology - Shorter disease duration

What happens with soluble and truncated alpha-synuclein in the CSF of PD patients?

Quantification of Lewy body concentration:

Soluble

- Total alpha-synuclein - Does not change
- Phosphorylated alpha-synuclein - Increased in CSF of PD patients

Aggregates/Truncated alpha-synuclein

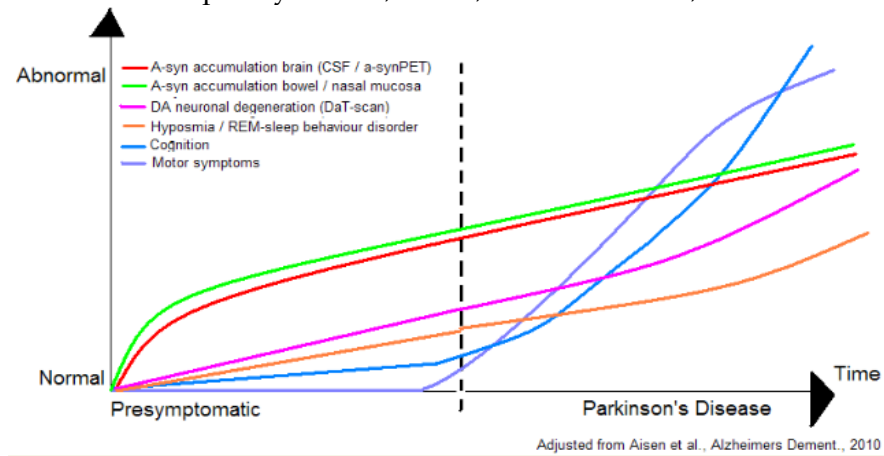
- Not detectable in controls
- Present in Lewy body diseases

70 antibodies - Differentiate all alpha-synucleopathies with a 98% accuracy

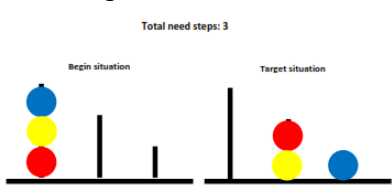
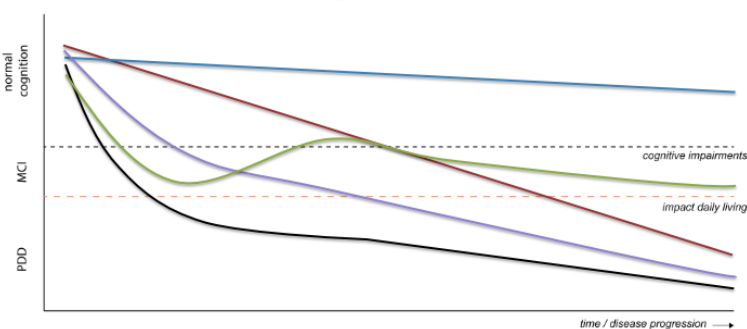
What should we expect for the future of diagnosis of PD via biomarkers?

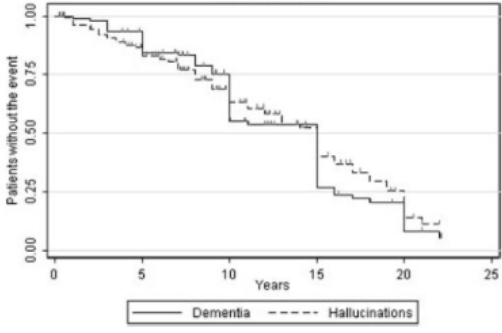
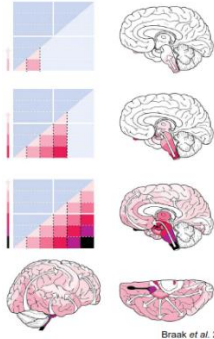
Conclusion - Many biomarkers are need to get an accurate diagnostic tool

Candidates: Alpha-synuclein, Gcase, AD biomarkers, neurofilament



11a. Cognition and Parkinson's disease - epidemiology, disease mechanisms and possible treatments

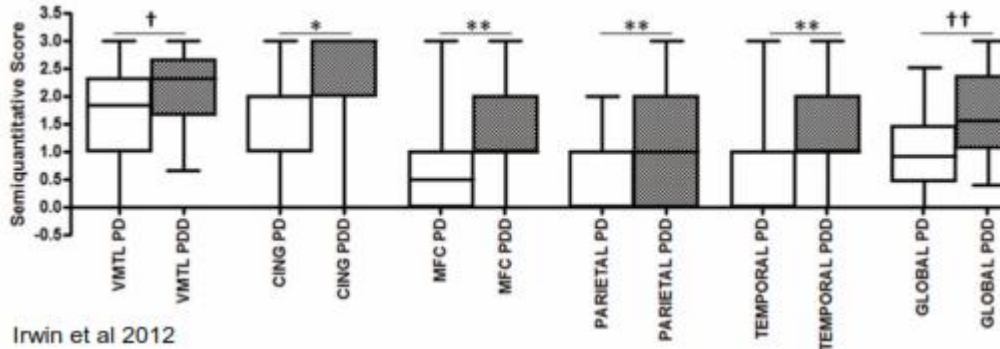
<p>What percentage of PD patients suffer from cognitive impairments?</p>	<p>50% of PD patients suffer from cognitive impairments 20-25% already have the problem at the time of diagnosis</p>
<p>What are the most common cognitive impairments in PD patients? Which tests could you use to test them?</p>	<p>Cognitive impairments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive functions • Attention • Working memory • Visuospatial function • Semantic memory (episodic memory usually not affected) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Disfunction is shown in the tower of London test (planning is impaired)  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Later stages: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hallucination/psychosis ○ Considerable morbidity ○ Decreases independence, increases hospitalization
<p>What are the three threshold of cognitive decline? Where does subjective cognitive impairment fit?</p>	<p>Stages of cognitive decline</p>  <p>MCI and dementia - Differ by impact in daily living Subjective cognitive decline - Normal cognition in tests, but there is a subject effect in daily living</p>

<p>What percentage of PD patients develop Dementia after 20 years?</p>	<p>80% of all PD patient develop Parkinson's Disease Dementia in 20 years</p>  <p>Patients without the event</p> <p>Years</p> <p>— Dementia - - - - Hallucinations</p>
<p>What is the Dual syndrome hypothesis for PD?</p>	<p>Dual syndrome hypothesis - There are two PD phenotypes: Frontal dysfunction and Cortical posterior deficits</p>
<p>What are the differences between Frontal Dysfunction and Cortical posterior deficits phenotypes for PD?</p>	<p>Frontal dysfunction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Executive problems (planning) • Working memory • Partly responsive to dopaminergic treatment • Tremor-dominant phenotype • MCI <p>Cortical posterior deficits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visuospatial dysfunction • Disturber semantic fluency • Akinetic motor phenotype • Rapid decline to PDD • (more alike AD)
<p>What happens in the third Braak stage for PD?</p>	<p>Disease mechanisms</p> <p>PD pathology</p>  <p>Alpha-synuclein reaches cortex - Degeneration and dementia</p> <p><small>Braak et al. 2003</small></p>

What is the neuropathology of degeneration and dementia in PD?

Neuropathology
 Neurocortical Lewy bodies is determinant for cognitive impairment

- Mainly frontal and parietal cortices



Irwin et al 2012

Other hypothesis: Interplay of amyloid, tau and alpha-synuclein; vascular changes may be important

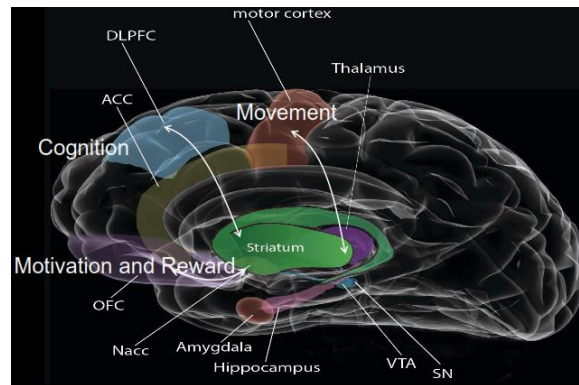
What is the current state of affairs regarding biomarkers in vivo for PD diagnosis?

Neuropathology in vivo
 CSF biomarkers - Negative correlation of AB42 and cognitive functions
 Alpha synuclein - Increases in early stages and decreases in later stages
 Molecular imaging biomarkers - A-beta pathology is not common with PDD; but when it happens, it is related to worse cognitive declines
 No predictive biomarkers thus far

Describe three brain regions affected by dopaminergic degeneration in the substantia nigra and their effects.

Neurotransmitters
 Dopamine - Produced in substantia nigra and VTA, projects to striatum and cortex

Connections of striatum

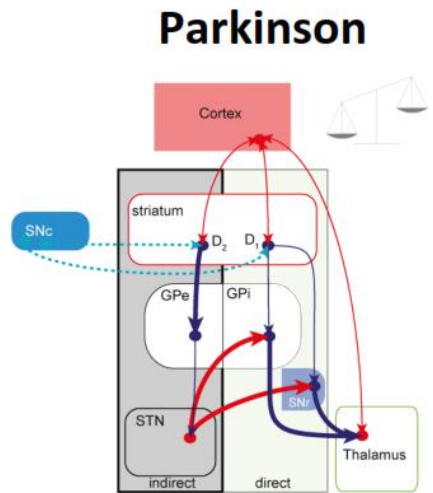


- Putamen - Movement
- Caudate nucleus - Cognition
- Nucleus accumbens - Motivation and reward

When dopamine degenerates - the circuits get stuck ('dopamine is the oil of the machine')

Describe how brain pathways are affected in PD.

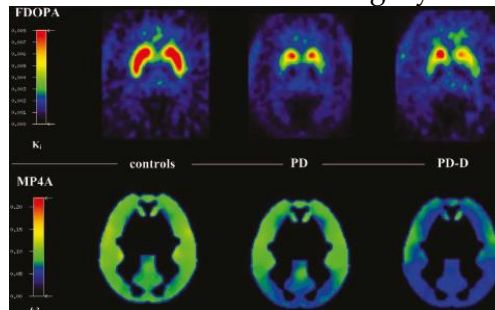
Pathways affected in PD
 Direct - 'gas'
 Indirect - 'break'
 Dopaminergic pathways mediates 'stopping or going'
 D1 - Excitatory
 D2 - Inhibitory



Parkinson - D2 is less inhibited, it becomes more active

How is the cholinergic system affected in PD patients?

Cholinergic system in PD - Impairments in functional and structural remodeling
 Levodopa scan - Measures integrity of the dopaminergic system
 MP4A scan - Measures integrity of the cholinergic system



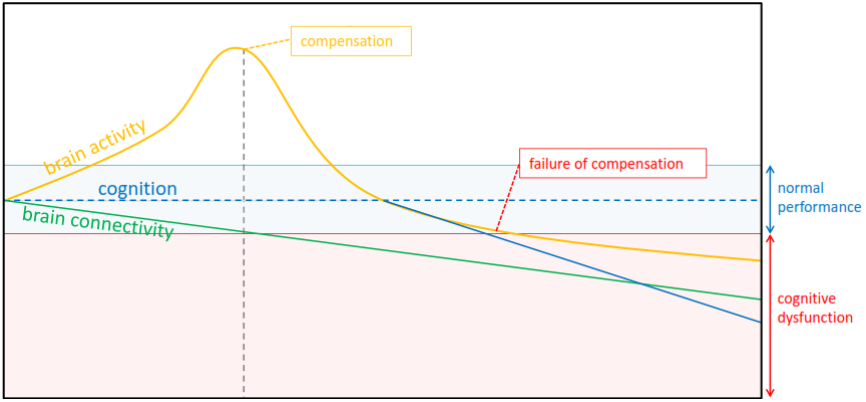
Cholinergic system is affected throughout cortex in PDD

Describe three genetic risk factors for PD.

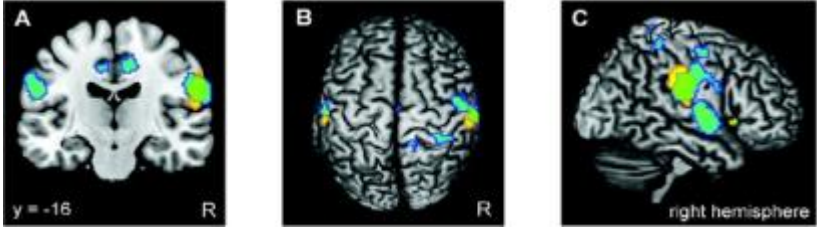
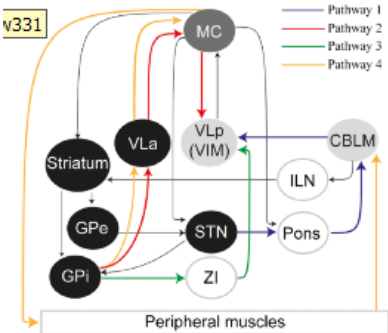
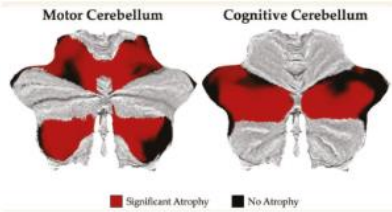
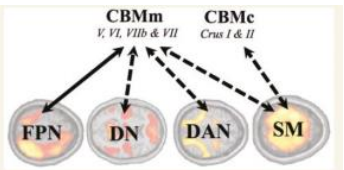
Genetic risk factors
 SNCA (alpha-synuclein)- Mutation causes familial PD + cognitive impairment + increased risk of PDD
 APOE (apolipoprotein E) - Associated with PDD
 GBA (Glucosylceramidase - glucose metabolism) - Associated with subject cognitive complaints

What are pharmacologic

Treatments
 • Cognitive impairment (for frontal phenotype) -

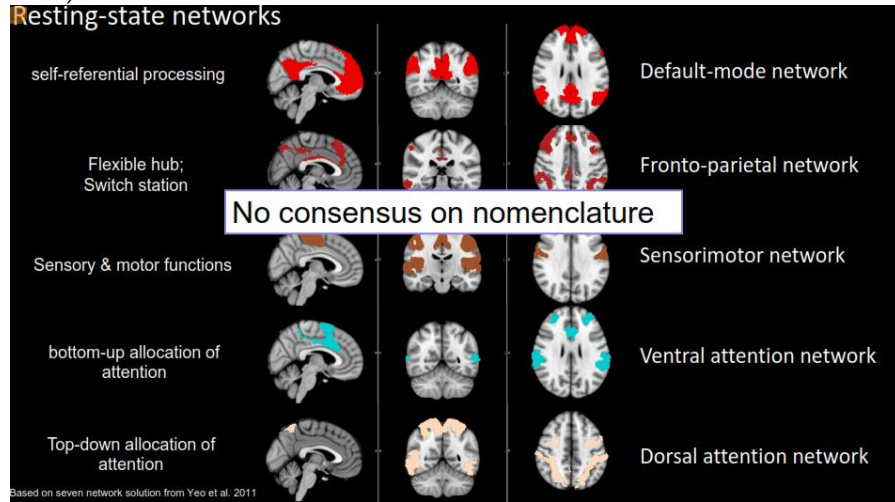
<p>al treatments for PD?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Levodopa - Dopaminergic system, patients become more attentive within 30-45 minutes • Rivastigmine - Cholinergic system (blocks Ach breakdown), only used in more severe cases (severe side effects)
<p>What are the limitations for transcranial stimulation treatments for PD?</p>	<p>Transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) - Effects last for one hour in the beginning, duration increases with treatment progression</p> <p>Transcranial direct-current stimulation (tDCS) - Device has to be wore continuously</p> <p>Both influence activity in certain brain areas</p>
<p>What is the limitation for strategy training for PD?</p>	<p>Strategy training - Coping for cognitive impairment</p> <p>Only works for patients that are mildly affected</p>
<p>Describe the hypothesized model of cognition for PD.</p>	<p>Function training</p> <p>Model of cognition - Brain activity of PD patients is higher than controls (compensation); after pathology builds up, cognition decreases (failure of compensation)</p>  <p>Most function training program offered today has not been studied</p>
<p>What is COGTIPS? What are its main goals?</p>	<p>Project goals (COGTIPS) - Increase compensation training of PD patients by playing cognitively enhancing games.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve cognitive function • Delay cognitive decline • Understand neural mechanism of cognitive training <p>Difficulty adapts to the player's ability</p> <p>Why is it a game? It needs to be fun to increase adherence</p>

11b. Brain connectivity and Parkinson's Disease

<p>What are two main connectivity changes in PD patients?</p>	<p>Connectivity of posterior putamen with motor cortex is decreased in PD patients</p>  <p>Anterior putamen with frontal areas of brain - Connectivity is decreased</p>
<p>What happens to the cerebellum in PD patients?</p>	<p>Cerebellum - Often overlooked in PD pathology</p>  <p>Cerebello-thalamo-cortical circuit - Increased in PD patients Parkinson's tremor - Triggered by basal ganglia Dopamine reduces tremor -> Inhibits the cerebellar thalamus</p>
<p>What are connectivity changes in the cerebellum in PD patients?</p>	<p>Motor cerebellum - Increased connectivity with fronto-parietal network, decreased con with sensorimotor, default network and dorsal attention network Cognitive cerebellum</p>   <p>Figure 2 Cerebellar to cortical networks structure-functional relationships. Relationships between cerebellar atrophy and resting state connectivity between the cerebellar modules and large-scale cortical networks, where dashed lines denote a loss of connectivity and solid lines an increase in connectivity. FPN = frontoparietal network; DN = default network; SM = sensorimotor network; DAN = dorsal attention network.</p>

What are five resting state networks and their proposed functions?

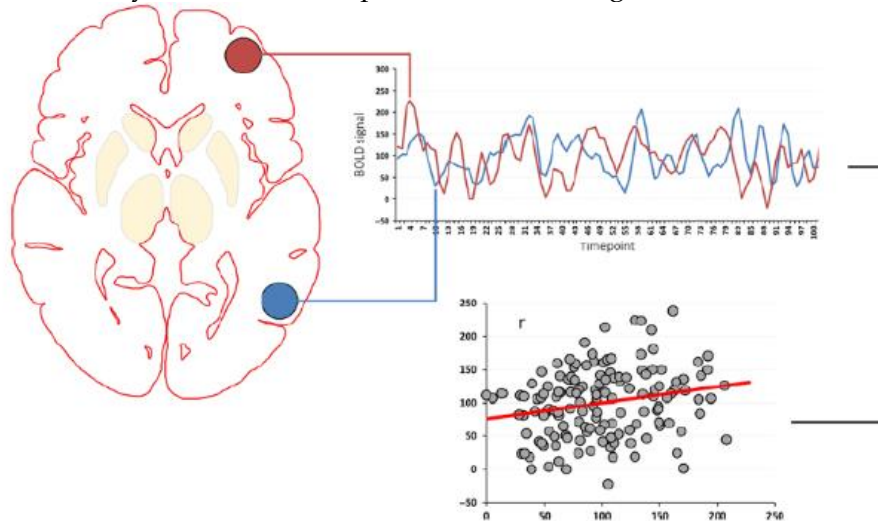
Resting state networks - No consensus on nomenclature (pay attention to the definition)



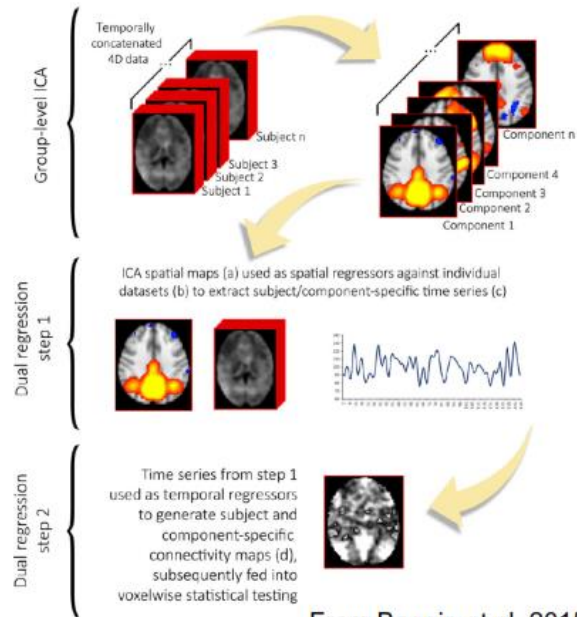
Describe three methods to calculate connectivity in the brain.

Methods to calculate connectivity

Connectivity of one area compared to another region

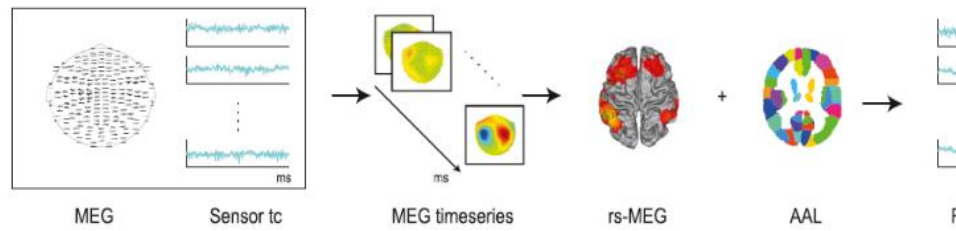


Creation of 4d spatial maps



From Baggio et al. 2015

Atlas placed on functional scan to extract time series

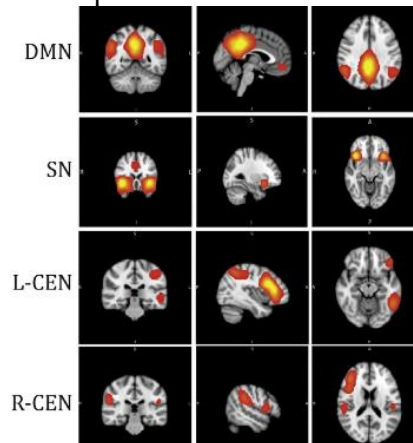


What happens in the Default Mode Network of PD patients?

Parkinson versus healthy controls

In healthy patients: DMN is anticorrelated with SN and CEN

In PD patients: Lower anticorrelation (failure to suppress DMN activity)



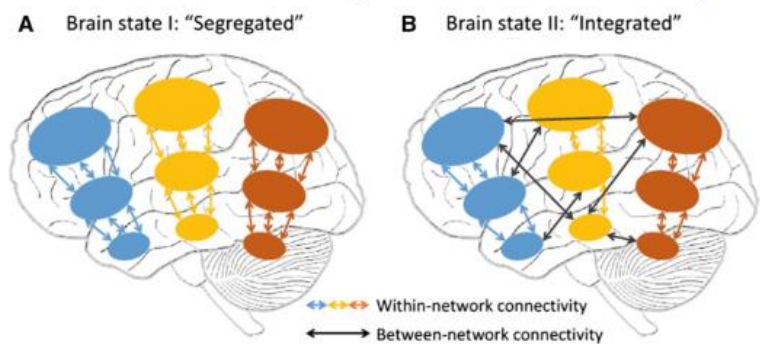
What happens to the efficiency of connections in PD patients?

Graph analysis - Based on the strength of connections
 PD patients have less global efficiency of connections

- Other results are still being discussed

Describe segregated vs integrated brain states. What happens with these networks in PD patients?

Dynamic connectivity - 5 to 10 minutes scanned are analysed in smaller chunks -> analysis of differences of connectivity measures
 Sliding window approach - Chunks are overlapped (increased sample size)



Segregated vs Integrated brain states

- Segregated - Focused
- Integrated - Diffuse

Motor symptom severity is higher -> patients change states more often (fragmented resting state network)

- This may be a problem with all brain disorders

What are two ways to study structural networks?

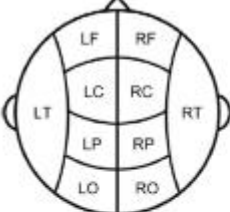
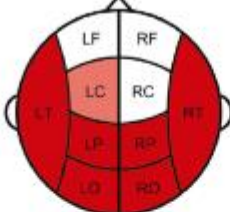
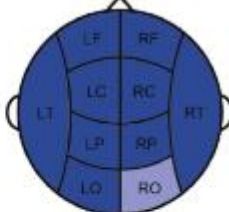
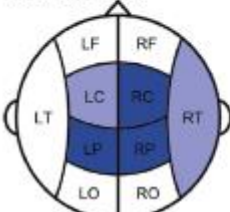
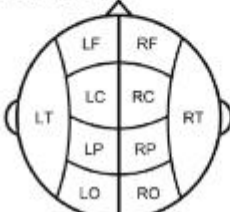
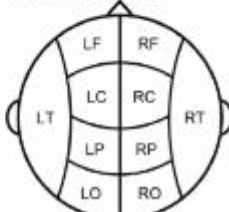
Structural networks
 Structural covariance - Gray matter volume compared to volume of other brain regions



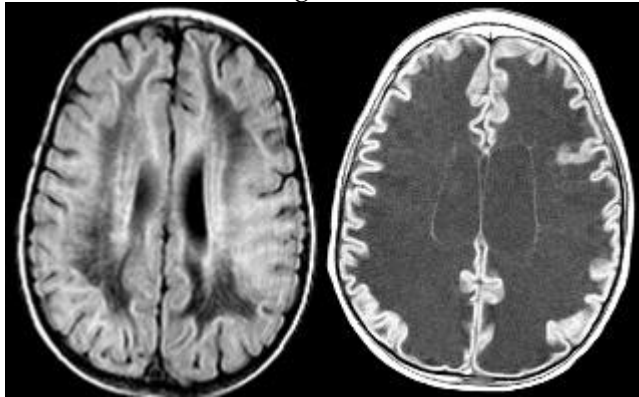
Tractography - White matter tracts

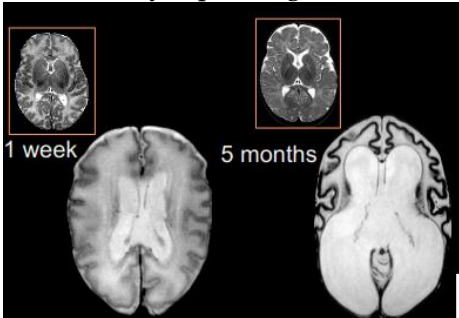
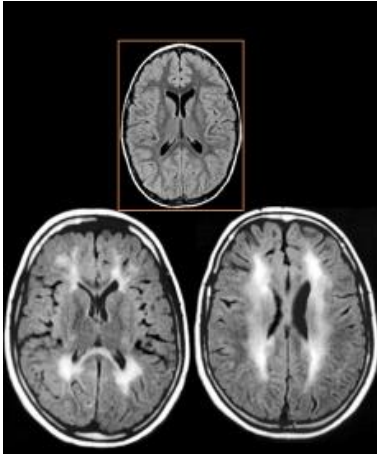


Studies with these techniques have shown that PD patients - Less global efficiency, global clustering coefficient higher or lower

<p>What does structural MRI tell about PD?</p>	<p>Structural MRI</p> <p>Loss of tissue in frontal and parietal cortices (PDD vs cognitively normal PD)</p> <p>Cognitive decline is associated with thinning of cortex</p> <p>Regions of decreased volume have higher accumulation of Lewy Body pathology</p>
<p>What does functional MRI tell about PD?</p>	<p>Functional MRI</p> <p>Lower functional resting state connectivity</p> <p>Higher default mode network - Associated with cognitive impairments</p> <p>Reduced ability to switch between networks</p> <p>Decreased functional connectivity is correlated with cognitive decline</p>
<p>What does electrophysiology tell about PD?</p>	<p>Electrophysiology</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Delta (0.5-4 Hz)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Theta (4-8 Hz)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Alpha1 (8-10 Hz)</p>  </div> </div> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: flex-start; margin-top: 20px;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Alpha2 (10-13 Hz)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Beta (13-30 Hz)</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Gamma (30-48 Hz)</p>  </div> </div> <div style="margin-top: 20px;"> <p>FU > BL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> p = ns p < 0.05 p < 0.01 <p>FU < BL</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> p = ns p < 0.05 p < 0.01 </div> <p>Slowing of oscillatory brain activity correlates with cognitive decline</p> <p>Alpha band (8-10 Hz) - shifts towards theta bands (4-8 Hz)</p> <p>Red - Increased, blue - decrease</p>

12a. Childhood white matter disorders

<p>How can lesions in the white matter appear in a FLAIR?</p>	<p>Lesions in FLAIR Show up as white - If it is solid Show up as black - Fluid abnormalities (CSF)</p>
<p>What are the common clinical features of white matter disorders?</p>	<p>Clinical features of white matter disorders Motor problems - Ataxia, spasticity(Axonal degeneration only affects the distal part of the neuron) Cognitive problems less clear No or mild epilepsy - Cortex is intact</p>
<p>What are the common clinical features of grey matter disorders?</p>	<p>Clinical features of grey matter disease disorders Early cognitive problems Motor problems (apraxia and loss of dexterity) Epilepsy</p>
<p>What is the current standard of diagnosis for white matter disorders?</p>	<p>MRI pattern recognition to diagnose white matter disorders 60% of patients with CWMD cannot be diagnosed by MRI - This is improved by using MRI + clinical features</p>
<p>What would you observe in an MRI of a patient with Vanishing white matter disorder?</p>	<p>Novel disorders White matter is turning into CSF</p>  <p>Cystic white matter - No myelin Disease: Vanishing white matter</p>
<p>What is the common disease progression for VWM?</p>	<p>VWM disease progression Chronic neurological deterioration (ataxia) Stress-sensitive disease -> Gets worse with head trauma or infections</p>

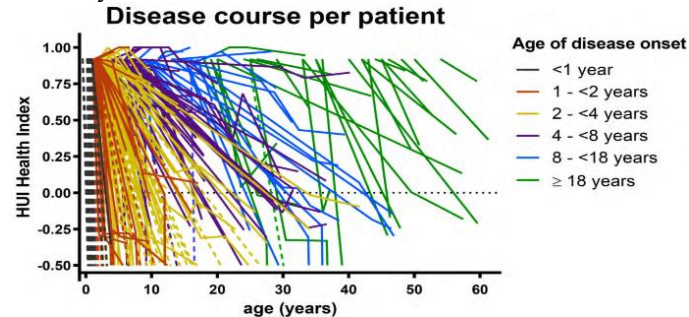
<p>Which part of the Netherlands is more commonly affected by VWM? Why?</p>	<p>Many vanishing white matter patients came from the east of Netherlands More isolated population EIF2B1-5 - Recessive mutations in all 5 genes cause VWM</p>
<p>What are the two phenotypes for VWM?</p>	<p>Phenotypic variation</p> <p>Severe Antenatal/early infantile onset - Microencephaly, growth retardation, death within a few months Transynaptic degeneration - Causes cerebellar atrophy</p>  <p>Mild Migraines Epilepsy Cognitive problems Motor deterioration</p> 
<p>Why is VWM a early onset problem, not a congenital problem?</p>	<p>You are not born with a myelinated brain This happens within 2 years of birth</p>

What determines disease severity in VWM?

What determines disease severity

Number/Severity of mutations

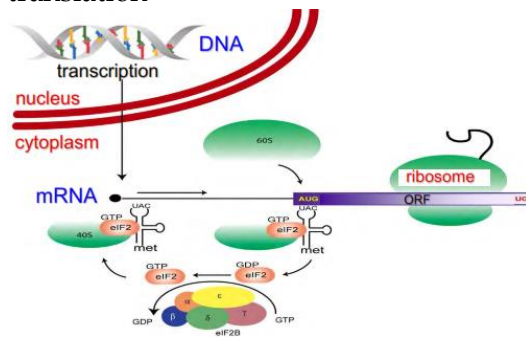
The later the onset of disease, the greater the variability of disease severity



Four years or more of disease onset - Speed of disease progression is the same

What is the role of eIF2B? Where is it expressed?

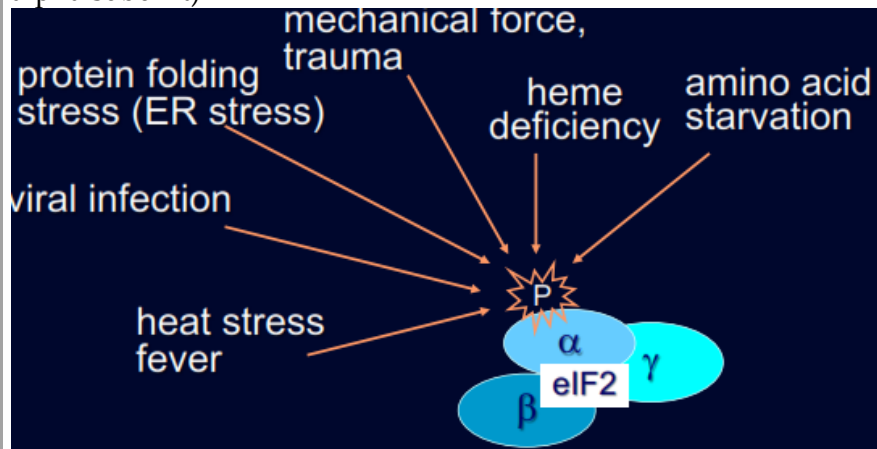
eIF2B - Exchanges GDP for GTP in the initiation complex in the process of translation



This becomes a problem during early childhood -> A lot of protein synthesis is happening

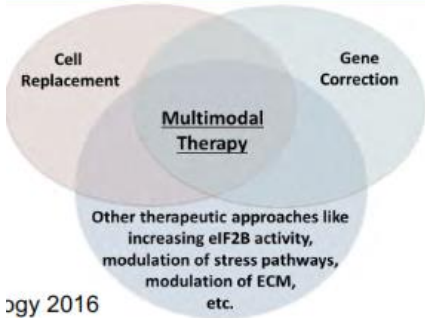
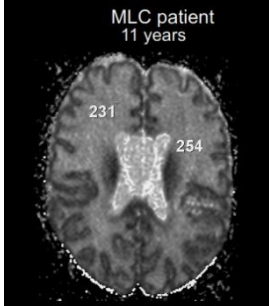
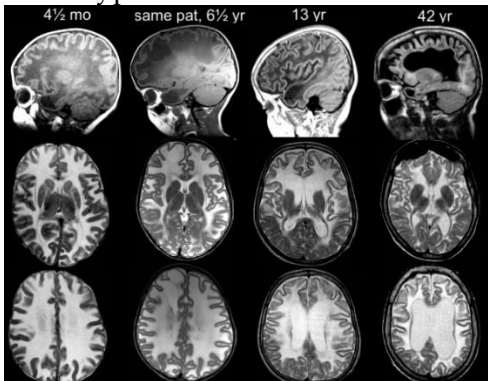
What are examples of cellular stress responses? What do they do with eIF2?

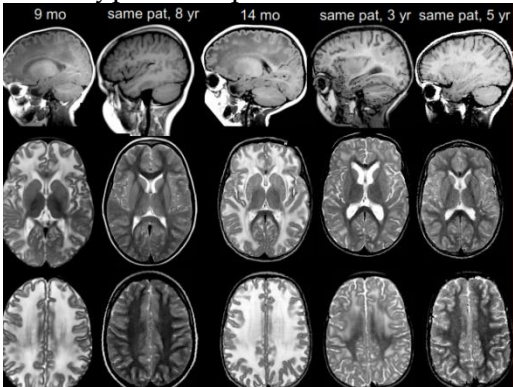
Cellular stress response - Hampers eIF2 function (phosphorylation of the alpha subunit)



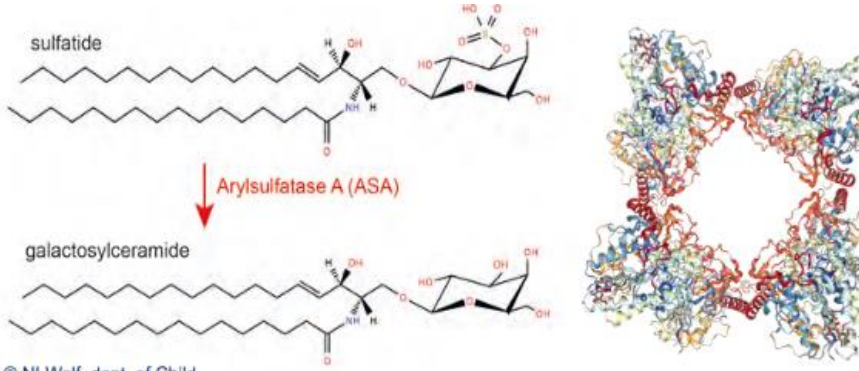
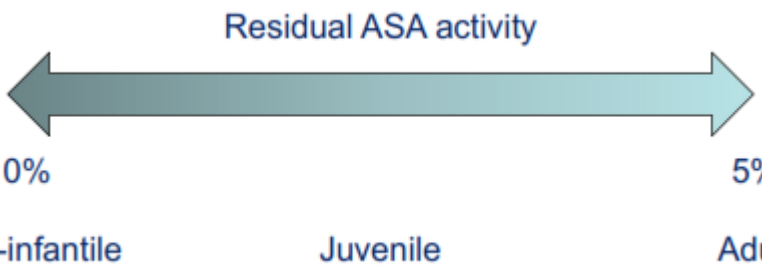
Leads to inhibition of protein synthesis

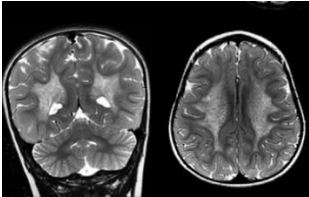
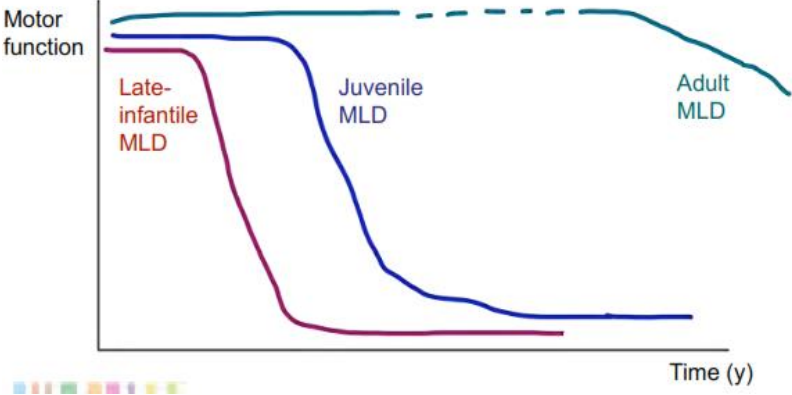
<p>Why is there no scarring due to myelin loss in VWM patients?</p>	<p>VWM pathology</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cystic WM - No scar Neurons are normal, astrocytes and oligodendrocytes are abnormal (remain immature) Lack of myelin Lack of gliotic scar - There are just holes in the MRI, no obvious damage
<p>What is the role of astrocytes in VWM?</p>	<p>OPCs - Oligodendrocyte precursors cells</p> <p>Myelin can be used as a maturation proxy - Only mature oligodendrocytes produce myelin</p> <p>Medium of VWM astrocytes inhibits maturation of oligodendrocytes</p> <div data-bbox="532 699 1430 982" data-label="Image"> </div>
<p>What is the molecule produced by astrocytes in VWM?</p>	<p>Astrocytes produce high molecular weight hyaluronan -> Inhibit oligodendrocyte maturation</p> <div data-bbox="532 1125 857 1402" data-label="Figure"> </div>
<p>What are treatment options for VWM?</p>	<p>Treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Avoid stresses - Fever, infections, head trauma Not enough - Patients still die Curative options <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase eIF2B activity - Works in mice Modulate extracellular matrix - Prevent astrocyte inhibition Gene therapy Stem cell therapy Probable future: multimodal therapy

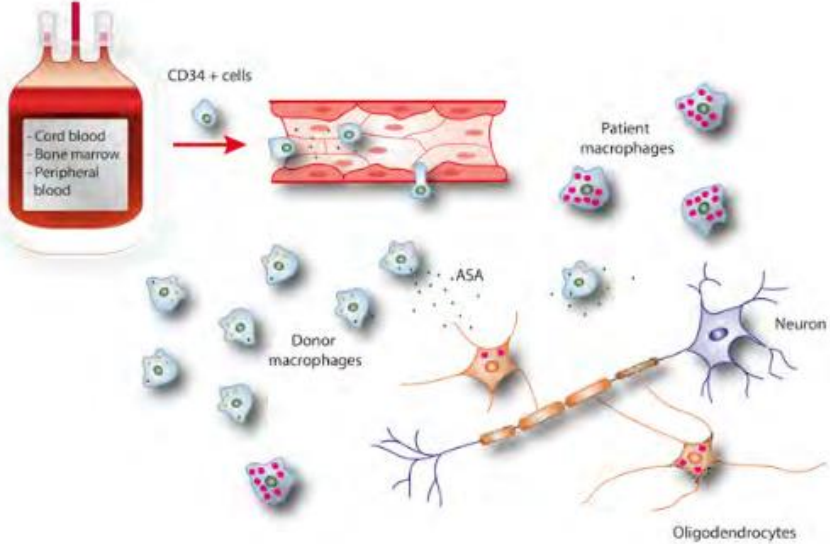
	<p style="text-align: center;">Multimodal therapy</p>  <p style="text-align: left;">ogy 2016</p>
<p>What are clinical features of MLC?</p>	<p>Disease - Megalencephalic Leukoencephalopathy with Subcortical Cysts (MLC)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macrocephaly Epilepsy Wheel-chair dependent as a teenager Autosomal recessive
<p>What can be observed in DWI in MLC patients?</p>	<p>Diffusion weighted imaging</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MLC patient has higher water content and increased ventricles
<p>What is the main genetic risk factor for MLC?</p>	<p>Genetic linkage study</p> <p>MLC1 - 70-80% of patients</p>
<p>What is MLC phenotype I?</p>	<p>Phenotype I - Classical MLC with slow deterioration</p> 

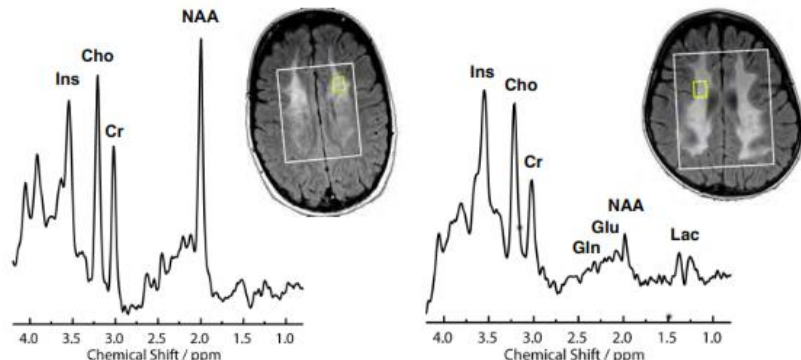
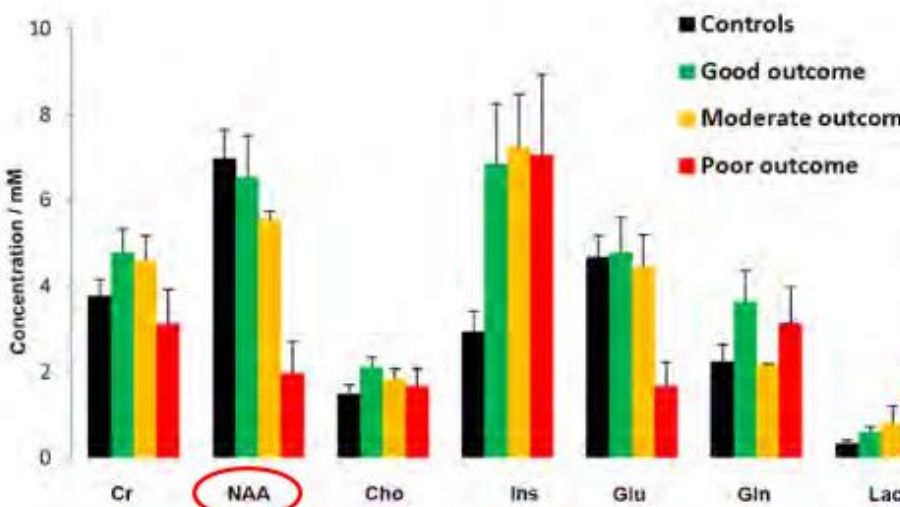
<p>What is MLC phenotype II?</p>	<p>Phenotype II - Improves over time</p>  <p>Clinically improving Macrocephaly may or may not persist</p>
<p>How was the relation between GlialCAM and MLC established?</p>	<p>Protein-protein interaction assay GlialCAM - Discovered to be the second gene associated with the disease Phenotype I - 2 GlialCAM mutation Phenotype II - 1 GlialCAM mutation</p>
<p>What is the effect of glialCAM mutation?</p>	<p>GlialCAM - Located around blood vessels Costating - Only present in the endfeet astroglial processes (CSF blood brain barrier) GlialCAM is a chaperone for MLC1</p>
<p>Why is MLC1 and GlialCAM not part of traditional prenatal screenings?</p>	<p>This disease is not present in neonatal screening - There is no treatment options!</p>

12b. Current therapy for childhood white matter disorders

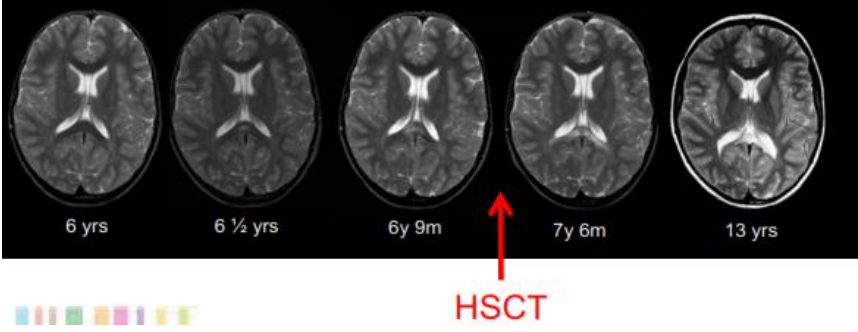
<p>What is the underlying cause for metachromatic leukodystrophy?</p>	<p>Metachromatic leukodystrophy First described in 1910 by Alzheimer Autosomal recessive inheritance</p>  <p>Low activity of arylsulfatase A Accumulation of sulfatides in membrane and lysosome</p>
<p>What is the current standard of diagnosis for MLD?</p>	<p>Diagnosis Clinical presentation and MRI Sulfatide excretion in urine ASA activity in leukocytes ARSA mutation analysis</p>
<p>What are the three forms of MLD? What is their difference in symptoms?</p>	<p>Three forms of disease Onset < 30 - Late-infantile form 30 months - 16 years - Juvenile form > 16 years - Adult form Severity of disease depends of ASA activity</p>  <p>Early onset: Motor symptoms, rapid progression Late onset: Cognitive symptoms, insidious progression</p>

<p>What would you observe in the MRI of a patient with MLD?</p>	<p>MRI in MLD</p> <p>T2 hypointensive white matter in the center of the brain - Accumulation of sulfatide</p>  <p>During disease course: Atrophy of brain structures (thalamus, cerebellum)</p>
<p>Draw the relationship between the different phenotypes of MLD with loss of motor function.</p>	<p>Clinical course of MLD</p> 
<p>What are currently used treatments for MLD? What are some failed trials?</p>	<p>Strategies for treatment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hematopoietic therapy Gene replacement therapy - Delivered to the brain; Ex vivo (hematopoietic cells -> Migrate to the brain) Enzyme replacement therapy <p>Not used due to dubious efficacy: substrate reduction therapy, neuroprotective treatment, neuronal/glial cell transplantation</p>
<p>What are the problems with enzyme replacement therapy for MLD?</p>	<p>Enzyme replacement therapy - Replace Arylsulfate A in the brain -> digest sulfatides</p> <p>Regular intravenous infusions - Once a week</p> <p>Problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Antibodies in a subset of patients Blood brain barrier for lysosomal disorders <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Drugs can be administered into the CSF space - Subvert BBB (intrathecal application)</i> Expensive


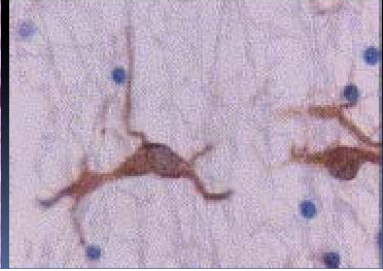

<p>Describe how hematopoietic cell transplantation works for the treatment of MLD.</p>	<p>Hematopoietic cell transplantation</p>  <p>Enzyme reconstitution Effect on oligodendrocyte progenitors (last few slides) Macrophages start digesting sulfatides in the brain</p>
<p>What are some problems with HCT for the treatment of MLD?</p>	<p>Things to consider for HCT Intensive chemotherapy - Patient must be in isolation for 6-18 months (no immune system) Effect on peripheral organs Mortality rate of 5-10%</p>
<p>What is currently used to predict disease progression in MLD?</p>	<p>What can be used to predict disease progression? MRI - Must show no atrophy HCT - Is better for juvenile patients However, two thirds of patients are not eligible for HCT</p>
<p>What happens to MLD patients that successfully undergo HCT?</p>	<p>MRI deterioration is observed for HCT after 6 months Immunosupresion Steroids -> Modify white matter</p>
<p>What do MLD patients show in a H-MR spectroscopy that is different from controls?</p>	<p>H-MR spectroscopy in MLD</p>

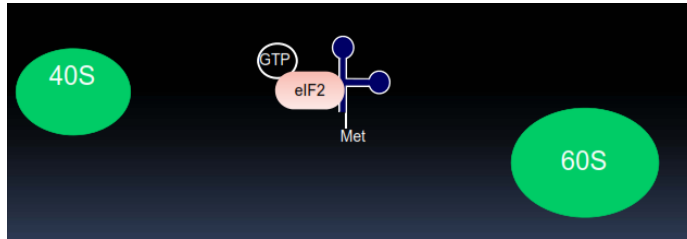
	 <p>NAA - Marker for neuroaxonal integrity Cr - Creatine (cellular marker, constant) Cho - Choline (marker for membrane turnover) Ins - Myo-inositol</p> <p>More white matter abnormalities - NAA almost disappears, some Lactate is observed</p>																																								
<p>Which markers can be used to decide whether or not to give HCT for MLD patients?</p>	<p>H-MRS can be used for prognosis</p>  <table border="1"> <caption>Approximate concentrations (mM) from the bar chart</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Marker</th> <th>Controls</th> <th>Good outcome</th> <th>Moderate outcome</th> <th>Poor outcome</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cr</td> <td>~3.8</td> <td>~4.8</td> <td>~4.5</td> <td>~3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NAA</td> <td>~7.0</td> <td>~6.5</td> <td>~5.5</td> <td>~2.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cho</td> <td>~1.5</td> <td>~2.0</td> <td>~1.8</td> <td>~1.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ins</td> <td>~3.0</td> <td>~7.0</td> <td>~7.5</td> <td>~7.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Glu</td> <td>~4.8</td> <td>~4.8</td> <td>~4.5</td> <td>~1.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gln</td> <td>~2.2</td> <td>~3.5</td> <td>~2.2</td> <td>~3.0</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lac</td> <td>~0.5</td> <td>~0.8</td> <td>~0.8</td> <td>~0.8</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Decide to do the transplantation or not</p>	Marker	Controls	Good outcome	Moderate outcome	Poor outcome	Cr	~3.8	~4.8	~4.5	~3.0	NAA	~7.0	~6.5	~5.5	~2.0	Cho	~1.5	~2.0	~1.8	~1.5	Ins	~3.0	~7.0	~7.5	~7.0	Glu	~4.8	~4.8	~4.5	~1.5	Gln	~2.2	~3.5	~2.2	~3.0	Lac	~0.5	~0.8	~0.8	~0.8
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Lac	~0.5	~0.8	~0.8	~0.8																																					
<p>What is the current transplantation criteria of HCT for MLD patients?</p>	<p>Transplantation criteria Not late-infantile MLD - Preference for stem cell therapy IQ > 85 Gross motor function normal MRI score < 17</p>																																								
<p>What can be observed in the</p>	<p>Histopathology after HCT</p>																																								

<p>histopathology after HCT in MLD patients?</p>	<p>Staining for digested fatty acids - Shows that macrophages have successfully entered the brain</p> <p>Enrichment of donor macrophages into more affected areas - M2 or protective macrophages</p>
<p>What are some caviats regarding HCT for the treatment of MLD?</p>	<p>Open questions</p> <p>Peripheral neuropathy does not respond well to HCT</p> <p>Slow deterioration with progressive spasticity and dementia without leukodystrophy</p>
<p>Aside from HCT, what are the current standings for early therapy options for MLD?</p>	<p>Early therapy options</p> <p>Enzyme replacement therapy - Intrathecal is effective, intravenous is not</p> <p>Ex vivo gene therapy - Efficient for late-infantile patients</p> <p>In vivo gene therapy - Didn't work in humans</p> <div data-bbox="581 814 1055 1092" data-label="Diagram"> </div>
<p>What is the difference between gene therapy and traditional haematopoietic cell transplant for the treatment of MLD?</p>	<p>MLD gene therapy - Only happens in Milan</p> <div data-bbox="568 1197 1380 1764" data-label="Diagram"> </div>

<p>What is the underlying cause for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?</p>	<p>X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy Elevated long chain fatty acids Several different phenotypes</p>
<p>What can be observed in an MRI for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?</p>	<p>MRI for childhood cerebral form Component of inflammation/fast deterioration</p> 
<p>What are the treatment options for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?</p>	<p>Treatment options HCT (allogenic or ex vivo gene therapy) Newborn screening</p>
<p>What are some early promising treatments for X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?</p>	<p>Early treatments Antiretroviral treatment Antisense oligonucleotides Neuronal stem cell transplantation</p>

12c. Studying Disease Mechanisms (VWM as a case study)

<p>What are the main clinical features of Vanishing White Matter disease?</p>	<p>VWM characteristics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Most prevalent inherited childhood white matter disorder Clinical signs - Mainly ataxia Chronic and episodic neurological deterioration Episodes of major deterioration provoked by stress (e.g. fever) No dysfunction of internal organs Ovarian dysfunction in female patients Grey matter remains mostly intact
<p>What is the morphological difference between healthy astrocytes and VWM astrocytes?</p>	<p>Macroglia are affected in VWM</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Abnormal pathology - Do not work properly Maturation defect - Increased number of progenitor cells <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Normal reactive astrocytes</p>  </div> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Astrocytes in VWM patient</p>  </div> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">Reduced number of processes</p>
<p>What is the mutation associated with VWM?</p>	<p>Mutation in Eukaryotic Initiation Factor 2B</p> <p>EIF2B - Regenerates EIF2-GTP complex</p>
<p>What is the importance of eIF2B? Where is it expressed?</p>	<p>EIF2B - Essential for protein synthesis - housekeeping function</p> <p>Expressed in all cells of the body</p>
<p>Describe the entire process of translation initiation and how eIF2 is involved in the process.</p>	<p>Translation initiation: mRNA architecture</p> <div style="text-align: center; background-color: black; color: white; padding: 10px;">  <p style="font-size: small; margin-top: 5px;"> UTR - Unstranlated region (before or after ORF) Cap/poly-A tail - mRNA stabilization </p> </div>

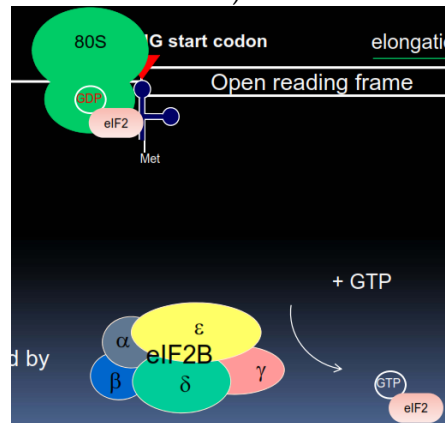


Ternary complex - GTP-eIF2-Met - in this state, the structure has a high affinity for the ribosome's small subunit

This complex in turn has a high affinity for the CAP - Starts scanning (1000 nucleotides per minute)



Large ribosome subunit joins - This process needs energy (GTP is broken into GDP)



tRNA leaves (less affinity)

EIF2B replaces GTP from GDP from the eIF2

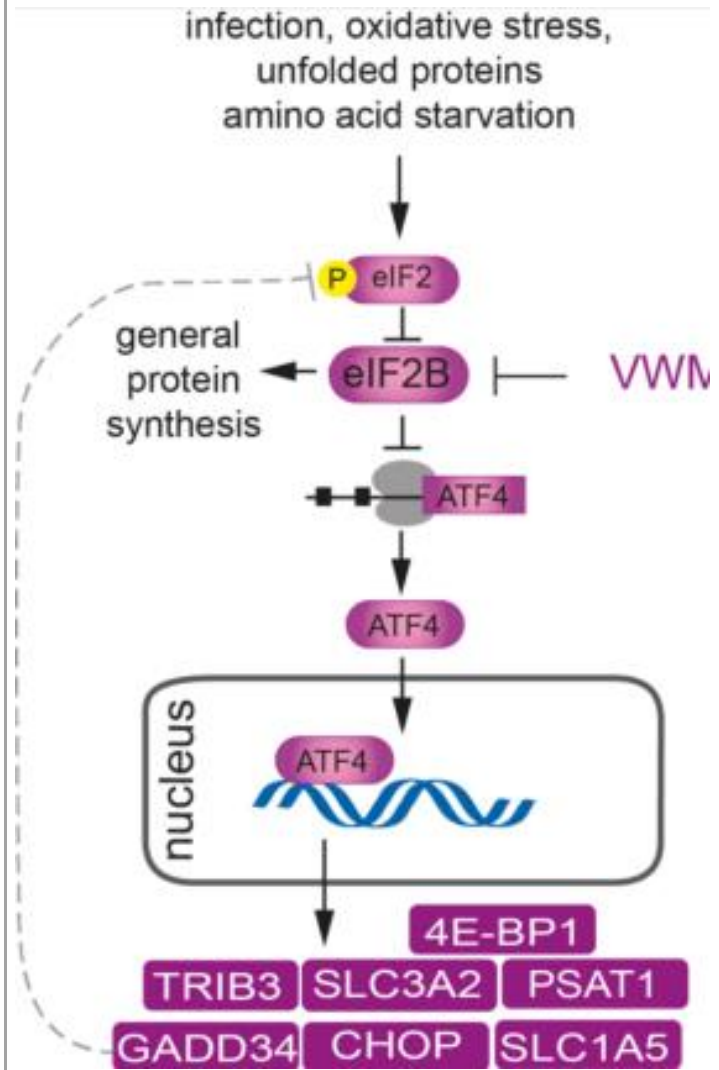
What is the function of eIF2B in the process of initiation during translation?

EIF2B regulates proteins synthesis rate
EIF2B activity drives the speed of protein translation
eIF2B activity is regulated by stress responses

What happens when eIF2 is phosphorylated? When does this naturally occur?

EIF2 is phosphorylated - Binds tightly to eIF2B (forms a inert complex)
Integrated stress response - Very fast molecular process
Phosphorylation - PERK, PKR, GCN2 and HRI
ER stress, infections (protective against replication of virus), amino acid starvation (body cannot make proteins), heme deficiency

What seems contradictory in the function of ATF4?



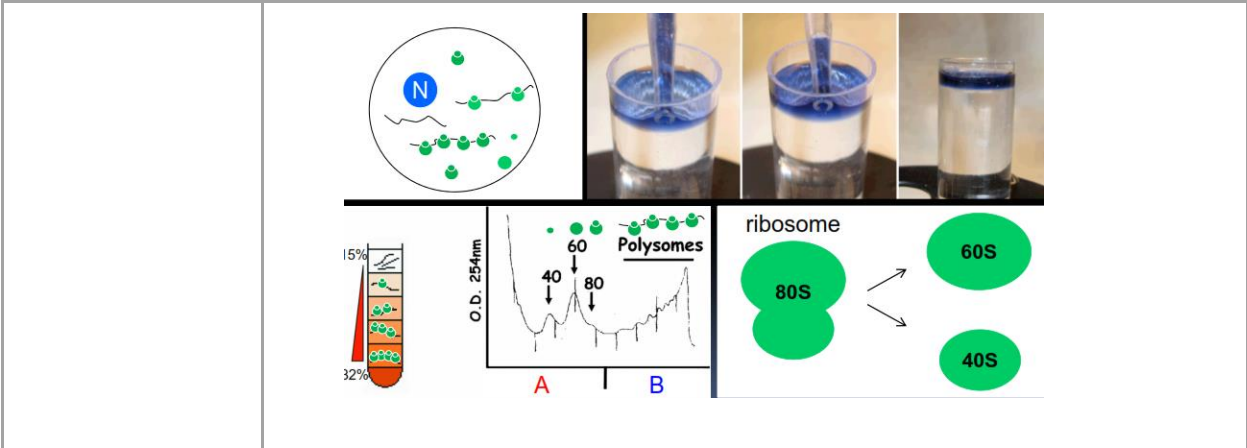
ATF4 - Is increased in protein synthesis (cell survival only)

What methods could you use to analyse the function of eIF2B in VWM?

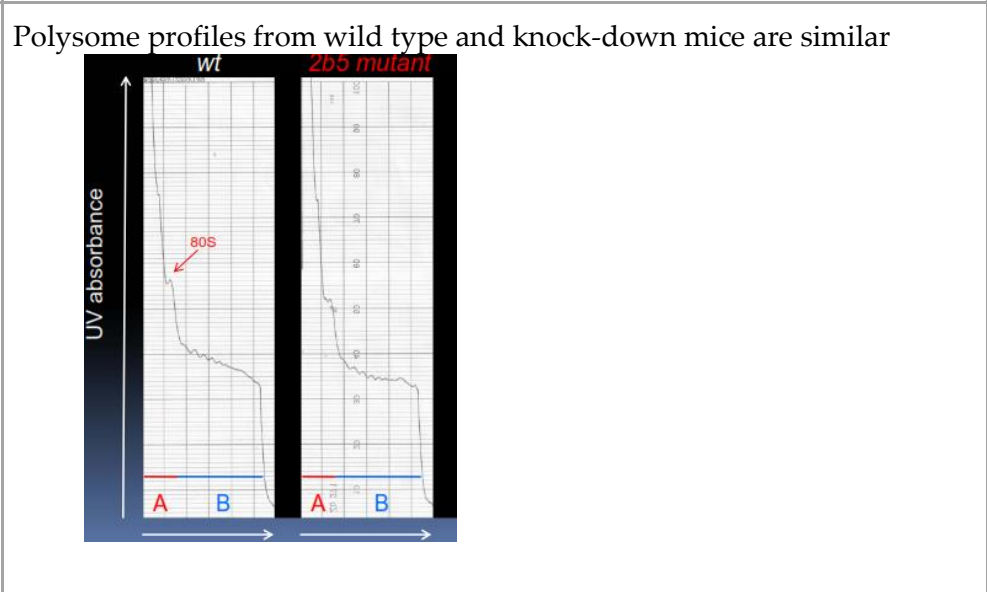
Research question: How do mutations in the eIF2B gene cause VWM
 Analyse white matter glia throughout disease course - Animal models
 Mice have reduced life expectancy - Brain white matter -> less myelin, white matter vacuoles
 Polygonal profiling experiment

Describe how would you observe polysome in a chromatography essay.

Polysomes- mRNA associated with many ribosomes
 These complexes can be separated by size (sucrose gradient in brain lysate)
 Heavy complexes - Sink more to the bottom



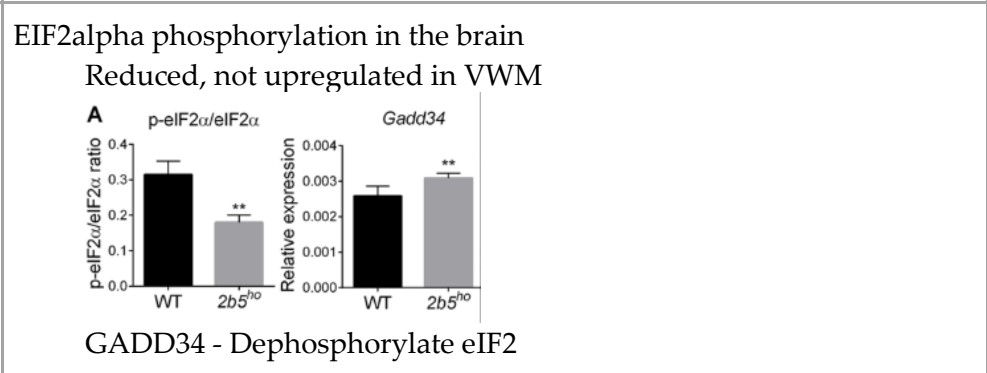
What was the main finding of the analysis of polysomes in VWM?

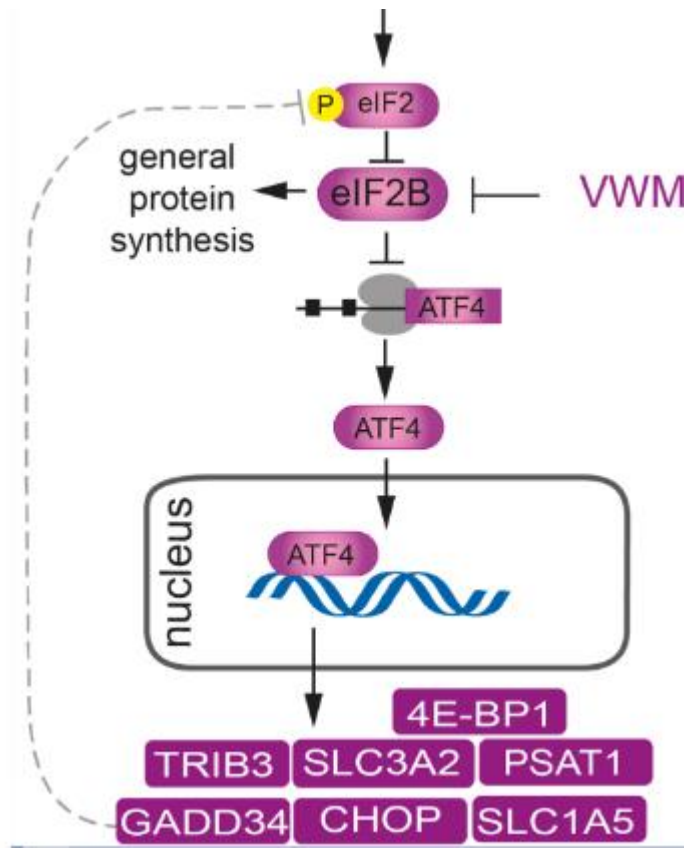


Which technique could you use to identify and quantify mRNA?

Microarray- Isolate all mRNAs and polysomes
 Identify and quantify
 176 mRNAs are differently expressed between normal mice and knockdown mice (they are upregulated in the knockdown mice!)
 64 of them are regulated by ATF4 (which is usually inhibited by eIF2B)
 62 of them overlap with VWM patient brain microarray

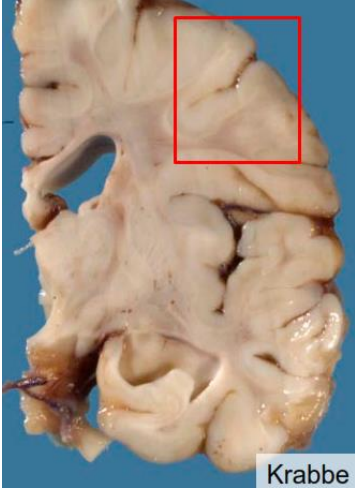
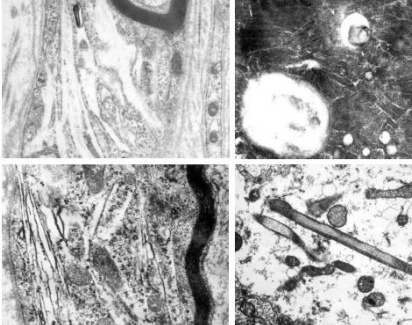
It was found that eIF2alpha was reduced, not upregulated in VWM. What may that suggest?

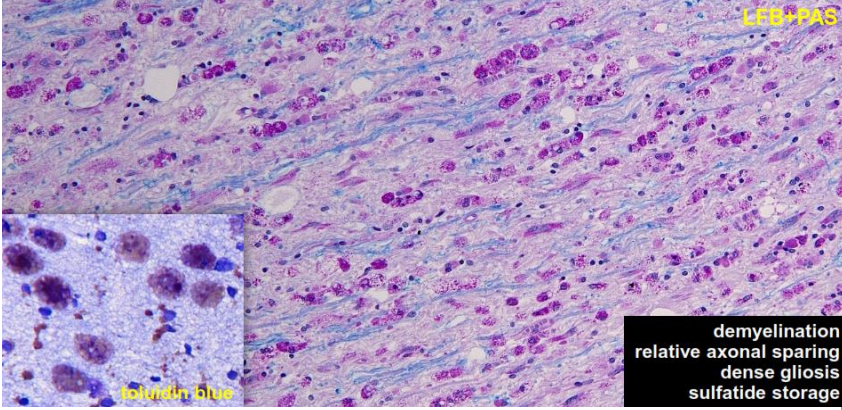


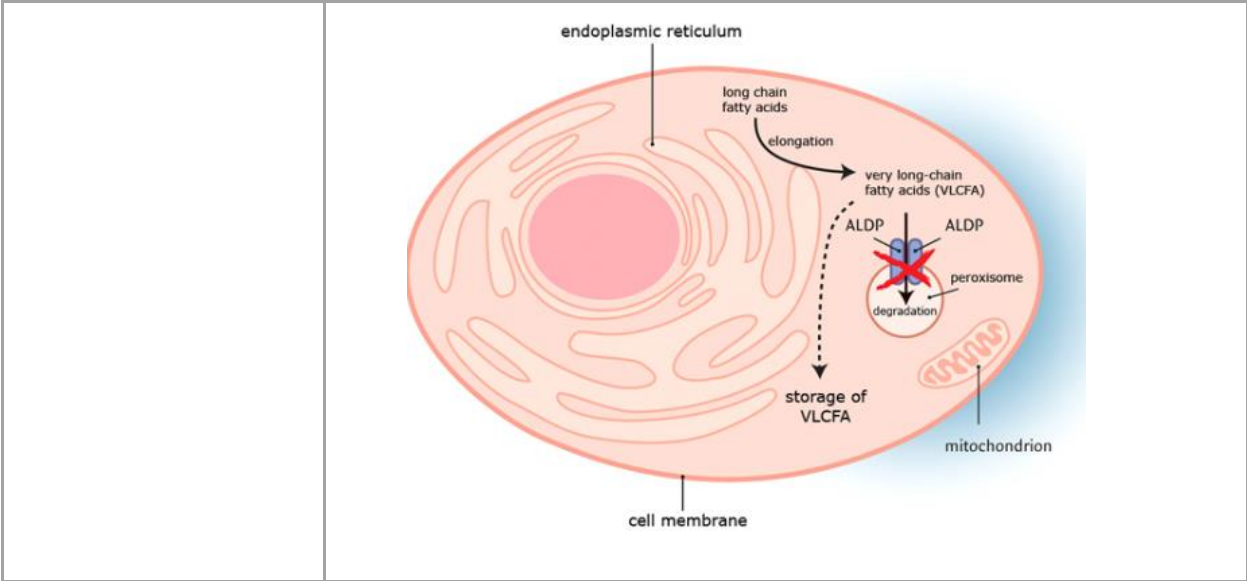


Possibly a deregulated pathway in VWM

12d. History of brain white matter disorders

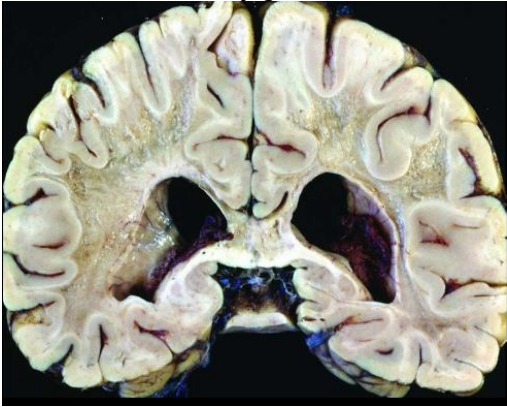
<p>What are some common neuropathologic features of leukodystrophies?</p>	<p>Leukodystrophies have common gross neuropathologic features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced brain weight Optic atrophy Ventriculomegaly Atrophy of white matter structures 'U' fibers are spare  <p>Krabbe</p>
<p>What are some common leukodystrophies microscopic features?</p>	<p>Leukodystrophies microscopic features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduced myelin staining Loss of oligodendrocytes Relative sparing of axons Macrophages with myelin debris Reactive astrocytosis (early) Fibrillary astrogliosis (late) Axonal loss <p>Leukodystrophies have distinctive macrophages and myelin debris</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vacuolates, striated, globoid (multinuclear) <p>Leukodystrophies have ultrastructural differences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lamellae - ALD Crystalloids - GLD Prismatic structures - MLD Rosenthal fibers - Alexander Vacuoles in myelin sheaths and mitochondrial changes - Canavan 

<p>What was the early leukodystrophy definition? Why is it wrong?</p>	<p>Early leukodystrophy definition: Genetic progressive disorders primarily affecting myelin, either directly or through oligodendrocytes</p> <p>MRI had not entered clinical practice</p>
<p>What happens to macrophages, large axons and small axons in MLD?</p>	<p>Metachromatic leukodystrophy</p> <p>Autosomal recessive - Compound which is a substrate for myelin is not available (there is no degeneration)</p> <p>Accumulation of sulfatide - Toxic</p> <p>Macrophages stain abnormally</p> <p>Large axons lose myelin</p> <p>Small axons do not lose myelin</p> 
<p>Which protein is affected in X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy? What is its native function?</p>	<p>X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy</p> <p>X-linked - Affects more males</p> <p>Defect on ALDP</p> <p>Accumulation of very long fatty chain - Toxic for the cell</p>



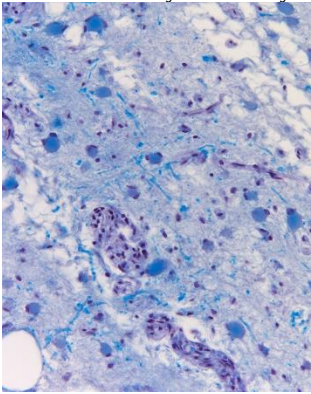
What can be observed macroscopically in the brain of a patient with X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?

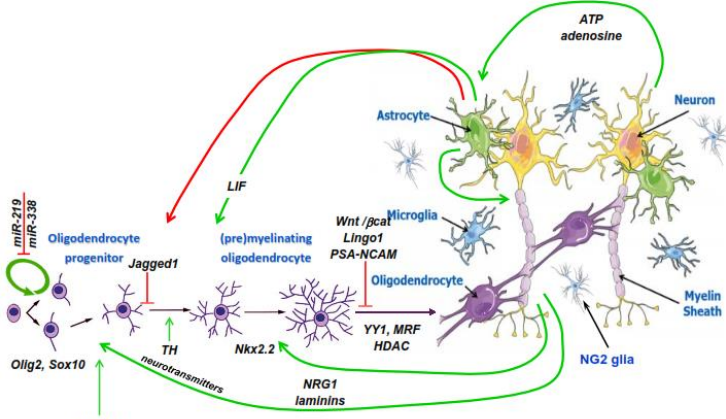
Neuroanatomy of X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy
 Ventricles enlarged
 U—fibers relatively preserved

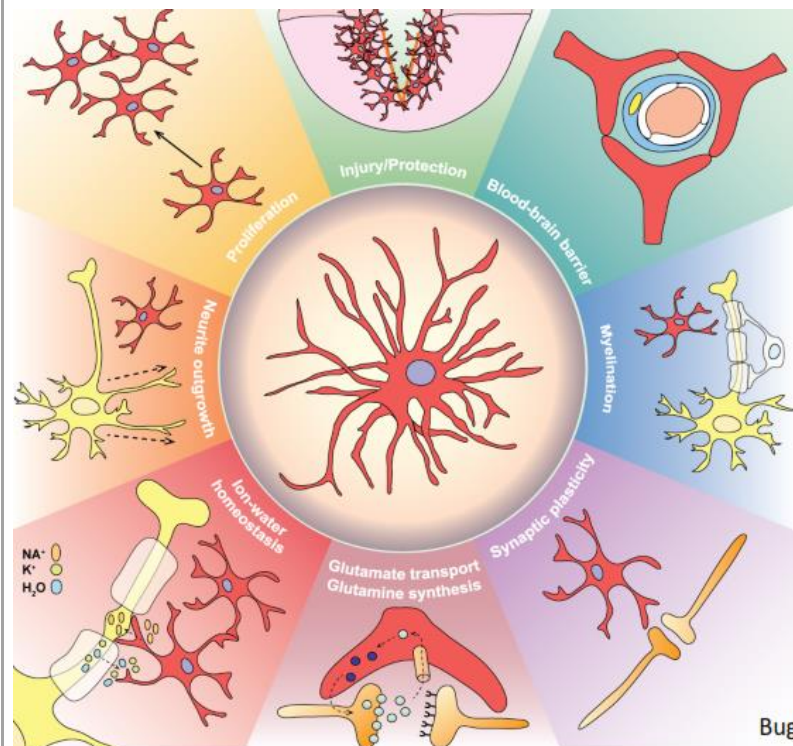


What can be observed microscopically in the brain of a patient with X-linked adrenoleukodystrophy?

Microscopy
 Inflammatory cells - Accumulate in the perivascular space (only inflammatory leukodystrophy)



<p>When was MRI introduced? What was a common misconception at first?</p>	<p>Introduction of MRI in 1980</p> <p>Sensitivity was good enough for diagnosis - Completely replaced pathology as a tool</p> <p>Radiologists used terms for the pathology(demyelination) to define the MRI</p>
<p>How was MRI established as a diagnosis method?</p>	<p>MRI pattern recognition</p> <p>Some diseases can be diagnosed for sure (genetic) - If they have the same MRI pattern, clinical symptoms, then it can be used a discriminatory tool</p> <p>2015: Over 80% of children receives a specific diagnosis</p>
<p>What promotes OPC into differentiating into mature oligodendrocytes?</p>	<p>Oligodendrocyte development</p> <p>Oligodendrocyte precursor - Present even in adults</p> <p>Stimulus that promote Oligodendrocyte progenitor - Action potential</p>  <p>Not all leukodystrophy involves oligodendrocytes/myelin</p>
<p>What is the current definition of leukodystrophy?</p>	<p>Current definition of leukodystrophy:</p> <p>Disease caused by defect of any of the white matter structural components</p>
<p>What are the five categories of leukodystrophies?</p>	<p>Classification of leukodystrophies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myelin disorders Astrocytopathies Leuko-axonopathies Leuko-microgliopathies Leukovascopathies
<p>What are some important functions of astrocytes in the brain?</p>	<p>Astrocytes - Diverse functions</p>



Maintain white matter homeostasis
 Blood brain barrier
 Control myelination
 Phagocytosis

Why is reactive gliosis an important process?

Reactive gliosis & glial scarring
 The destruction of the brain is limited to a particular area to preserve the whole

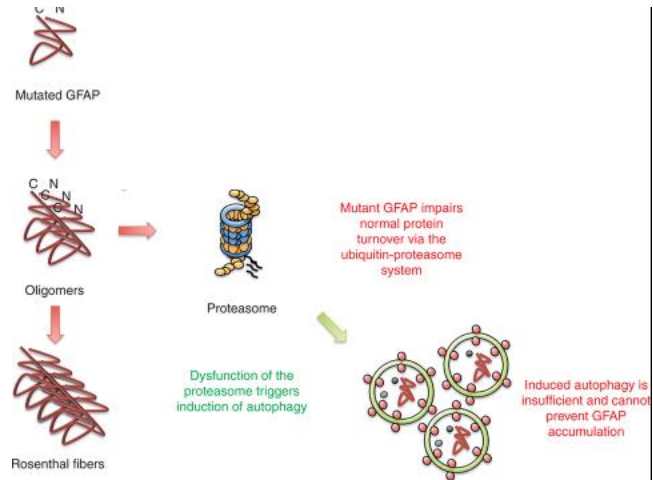
 Animal models - without reactive gliosis
 More damage than normal mice

 Asthenic astrocytes - Reactive gliosis does not occur (schizophrenia)

What is Alexander disease? Why is it a good example of why the original definition of leukodystrophies does not work?

Alexander disease
 Mutations in GFAP (intermediate filament only expressed in astrocytes)
 Dominant disease - GFAP accumulates (forms Rosenthal fibers), neurons cannot operate properly
 Oligodendrocytes are killed - no myelin is formed

 • There is no 'loss' of myelin, rather lack of myelin



Astrocytes in the frontal areas of brain have more GFAP - This brain are is more vulnerable

Which part of the brain is affected in VWM? Why?

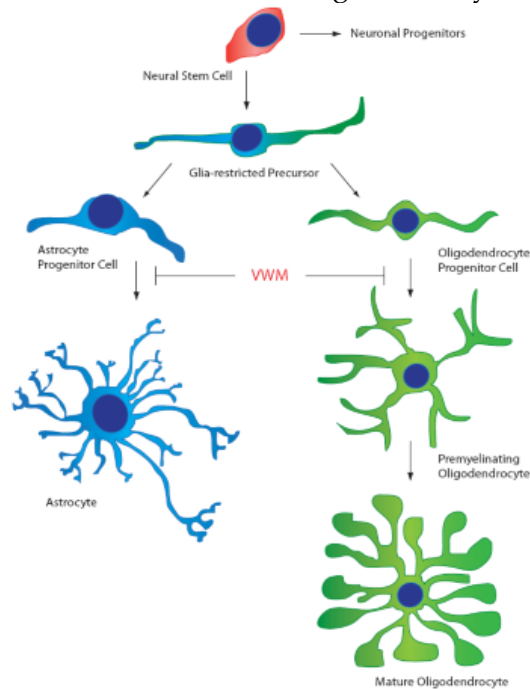
Vanishing white matter

Only dorsal part of the neural tube is affected - Ventral part is not affected

Astrocytes are never matured - High molecular weight hyaluronan -> prevents maturation

Extracellular matrix like a fetus - Fluid (hyaluronan holds water)

Proliferation of cells - Oligodendrocytes (but not mature)



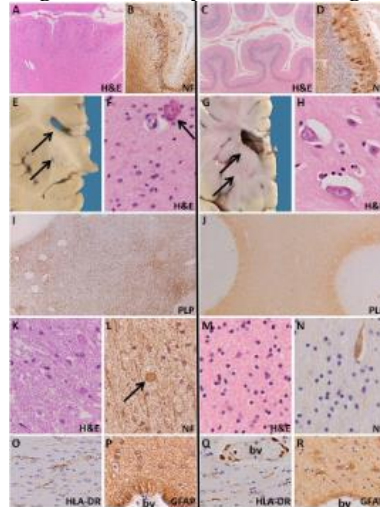
What is the underlying cause for hypomyelination with atrophy of basal ganglia and cerebellum?

Leuko-axonopathy - Hypomyelination with atrophy of basal ganglia and cerebellum (H-ABC)

Defect in beta-tubulin- Affects microtubules
Probably affects axonal transport
There is no myelin loss

Which cell is affected in H-ABC?

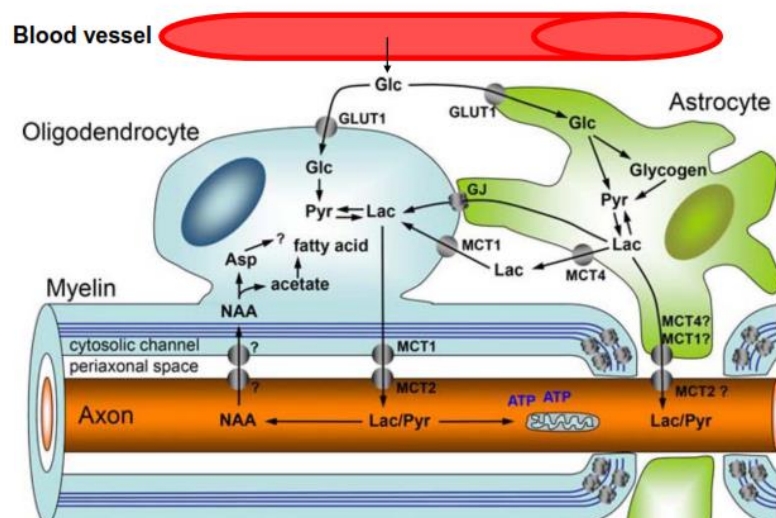
H-ABC: Two distinct neuropathological phenotypes
Right - Astrocytes and Oligodendrocytes are mostly normal



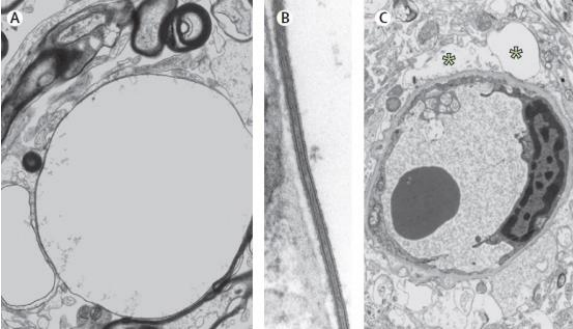
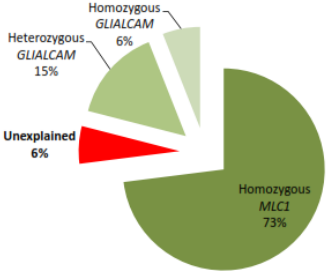
Mutations - Makes Oligodendrocyte immature
Same mutations in the neurons do not change anything

How do the axons of meter-long neurons get their energy?

Glial support of axonal energy
Long neurons have mitochondria, not ER
Glial cells give food (glucose->lactate) to the neuron

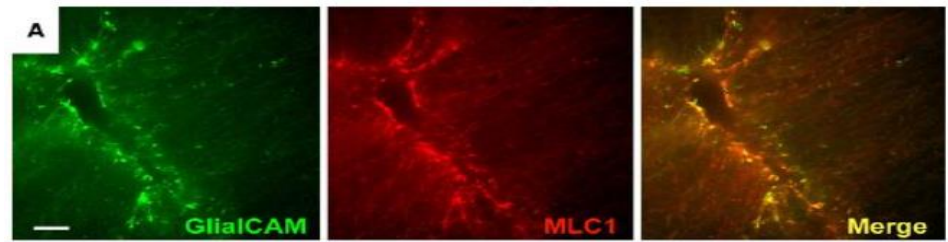


13a. Water homeostasis in white matter disease (Roger Min)

<p>What are the main characteristics of MLC?</p>	<p>MLC is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Macrocephaly from an early age <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Above 2 standard deviations from the mean White matter is swollen Mildly delayed early development Delayed onset of motor deterioration Early onset of seizures Dependency of wheel chair as a teenager Late and mild cognitive decline <p>Epileptic seizures are frequent</p> <p>Head trauma as a provoking factor (55% of patients with seizures)</p> <p>Status epilepticus (staying in the seizure) occurs often (17% of patients with seizures)</p>										
<p>What would you observe in a sample of an MLC patient under a microscope?</p>	<p>Electron microscopy of MLC</p>  <p>Endfeet of astrocytes are swollen</p> <p>Vacuoles between myelin sheets</p>										
<p>What percentage of MLC patients are unexplained genetically?</p>	<p>MLC1 and GLIALCAM</p> <p>6% of patients do not have these risk factors</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Genetic Finding</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Homozygous MLC1</td> <td>73%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Heterozygous GLIALCAM</td> <td>15%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Homozygous GLIALCAM</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unexplained</td> <td>6%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Classical MLC (homozygous for MLC1 or GLIALCAM)</p> <p>Remitting MLC (heterozygous GLIALCAM)</p> <p>More often autistic</p>	Genetic Finding	Percentage	Homozygous MLC1	73%	Heterozygous GLIALCAM	15%	Homozygous GLIALCAM	6%	Unexplained	6%
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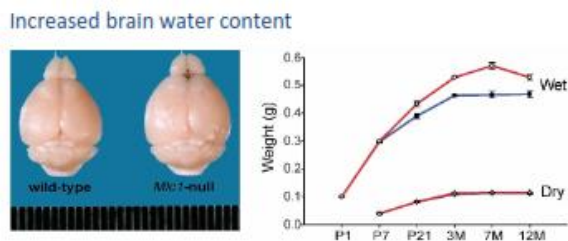
Where are MLC1 and GlialCAM localized in the neuron?

MLC1 and GLIALCAM are colocalized in astrocyte endfeet
 Genes are dependent on each other to reach their normal localization at the endfeet



What is the dry and wet weight of MLC mice brain? What does this indicate?

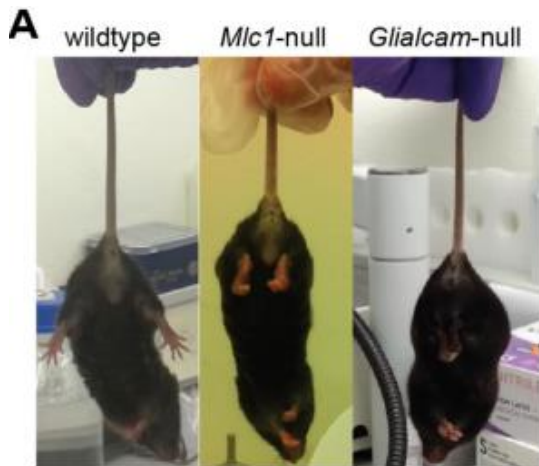
Mouse model
 Dry weight of the diseased brain is the same - Proteins, fat
 Wet weight of the diseased brain is much higher - Suggests accumulation of water



Swelling of astrocyte endfeet
 Progressive vacuolization of white matter

What is the motor phenotype of MLC mice models?

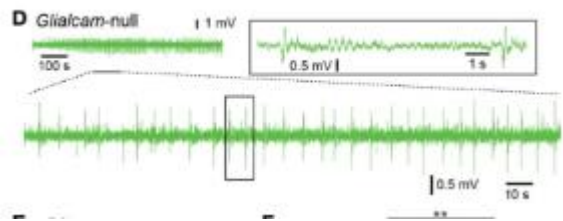
Motor problems in mice model
 Running is the same/Amount of movement is the same
 BUT, when you pick up a mouse by their tail - They do not move as much



Hind limb clasp

What is the difference between normal mice and MLC mice in terms of epilepsy?

Epilepsy in MLC mice
 MLC mice - Small discharges (interictal spikes)

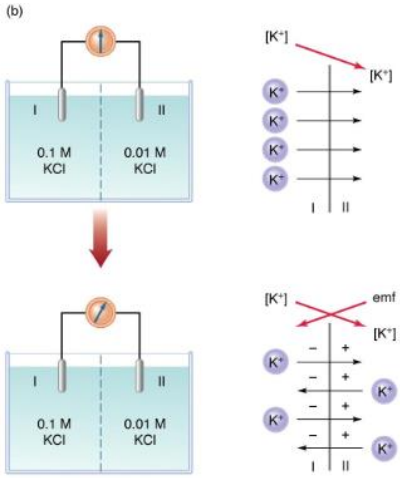


MLC mice have a lowered seizure threshold

What is the importance of maintaining a specific concentration gradient in the brain?

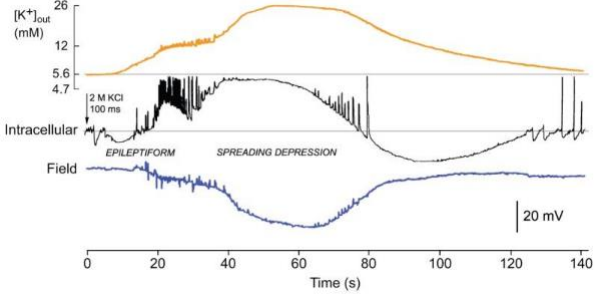
The brain has a large amount of ion transporters to maintain a very specific concentration gradient - Spends a lot of energy
 When a membrane is impermeable - no concentration gradient
 When a membrane is semipermeable - Ions can go through (concentration gradient)

Potential difference - Electrical and chemical



What happens if excess potassium accumulates in the extracellular space?

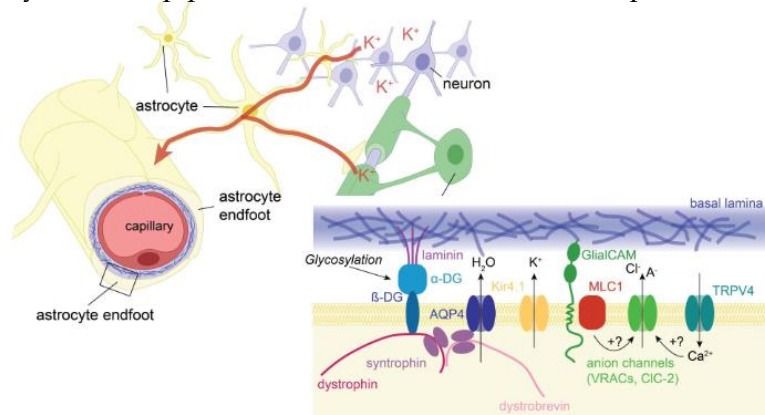
During neuronal activity ions and neurotransmitters accumulate in the extracellular space



Accumulation of potassium may lead to seizures (epilepsy) or spreading depression (migraine)
 Notice how action potentials cannot be generated during spread depression

What is the importance of astrocytes in maintaining concentration gradients?

Astrocytes take up potassium from the extracellular space and redistribute it

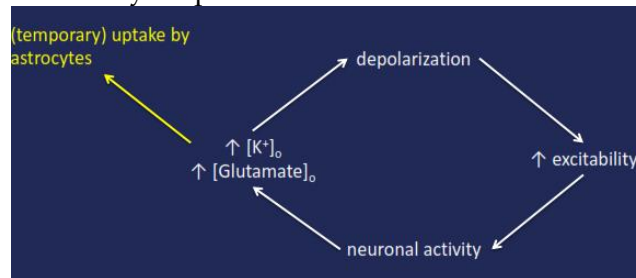


Extrapotassium can be redirected to the blood vessels
 Potassium channels are clustered underneath the myelin sheet in oligodendrocytes - Flow via gap junctions to the astrocyte

Describe the run-away loop that can happen if potassium is defective.

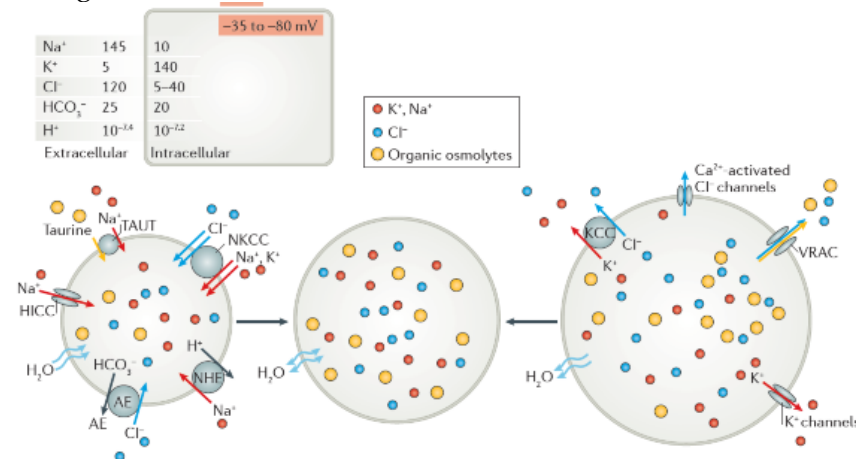
If this is defective -> potassium accumulates and water accumulates

Run-away loop



What is RVI and RVD?

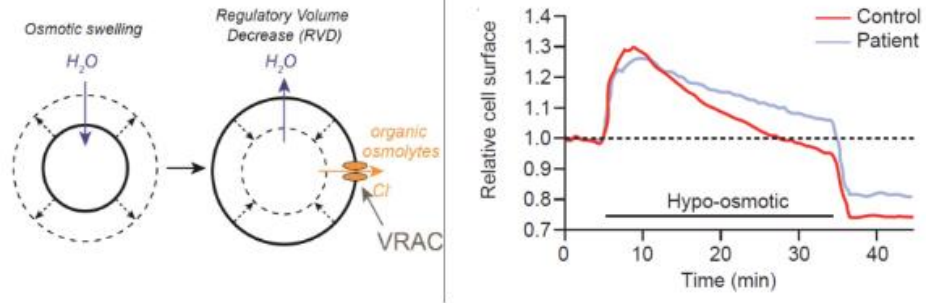
Volume regulation in mammalian cells



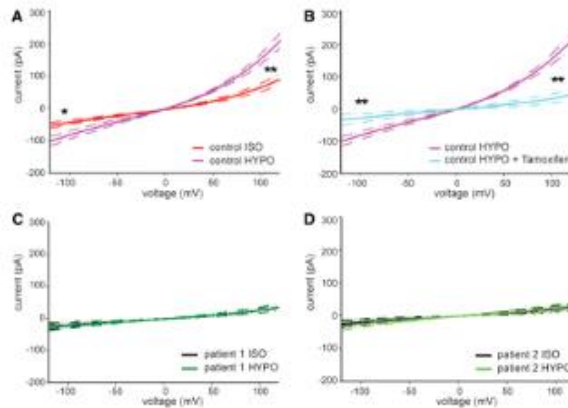
RVI (regulatory volume increase) - Induced when cells shrink
 RVD (regulatory volume decrease) - Induced when cells are swollen
 VRAC - Ion channels that let negatively charged molecules go through

What happens with volume regulation in MLC patients? What is the root cause of that?

RVD is defective in lymphoblasts from MLC patients



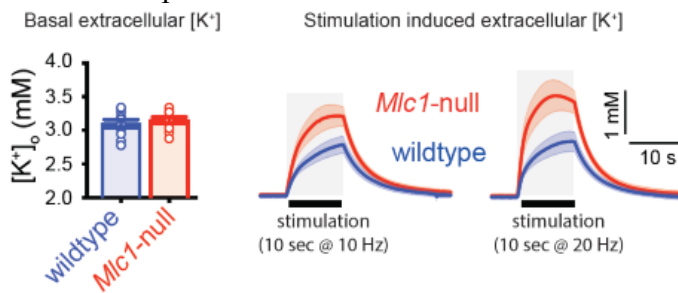
Tamoxifen - Blocks VRAC channels



What happens with extracellular potassium in MLC?

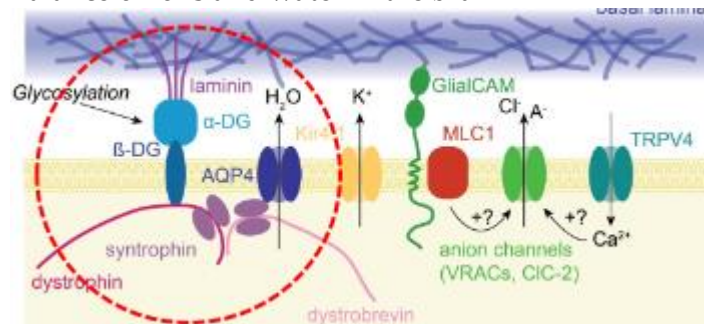
Intrinsic neuronal properties are unaltered in MLC

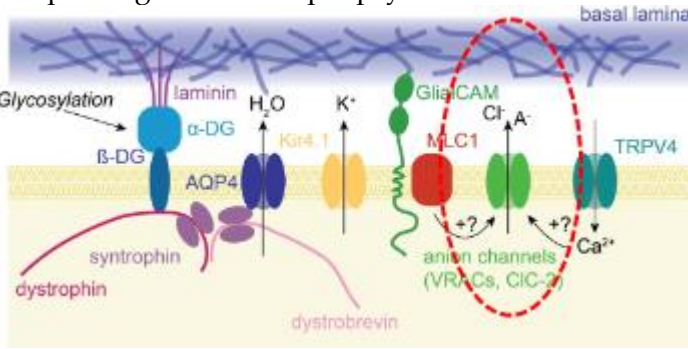
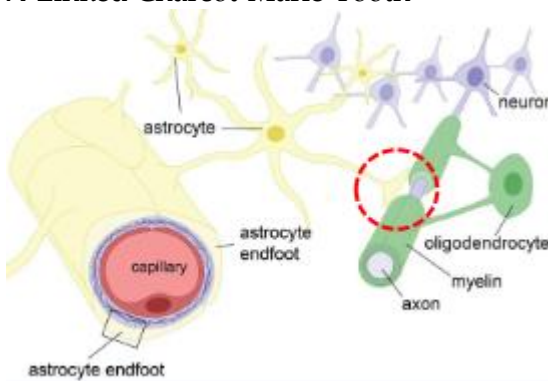
Patch-clamp recordings from MLC mice - Action potential is normal
Extracellular potassium is altered



What are similarities and differences between Muscular Dystrophy with Brain

Balance of ions and water in the brain

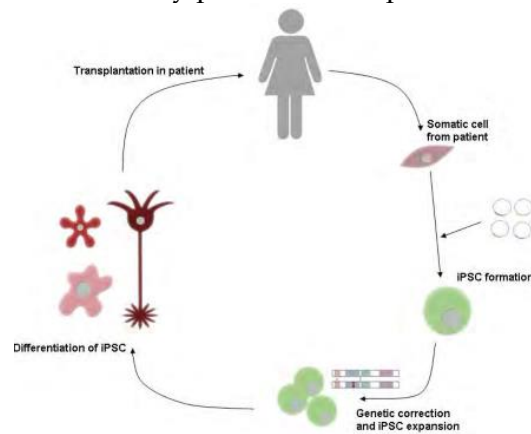


<p>Involvement and MLC?</p>	<p>Muscular dystrophy with brain involvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> White mater edema, subcortical cysts, myelin vacuolization MRI is virtually indistinguishable from MLC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Laminin is defective
<p>What do mutations in CLCN2 induce in humans?</p>	<p>Idiopathic generalized epilepsy</p>  <p>CLCN-2 - Paper retracted due to evidence of fraud</p> <p>CLCN2 knockout mice- Phenotype very similar to MLC (vacuolization); expression overlaps with GlialCAM</p> <p>Not the case - Patients with CLCN2 mutation have very mild white matter abnormalities, patients have headaches (not seizures)</p>
<p>What is the molecular cause for X-linked Charcot-Marie-Tooth?</p>	 <p>Mutations in GJB1 (connexin 32) - Junctions are compromised</p> <p>Transient white matter edema and myelin vacuolization - Happens after exertion, high altitude or infection</p>
	<p>Conclusion</p> <p>Disruption of protein involved in ion and water homeostasis can lead to neurological disease (WMD)</p> <p>Expressed by glial cells - Related to redistribution of ions</p>

13b. Stem Cell Replacement Therapies for White Matter Disorders

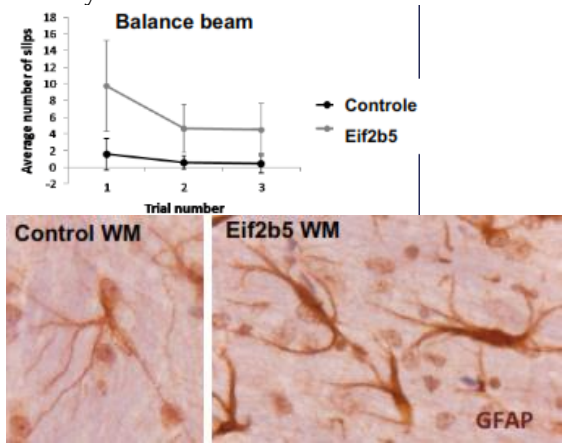
How can we answer pragmatic questions about stem cell research?

Cell replacement therapy - Questions
 Do cells recover affected areas?
 What types of cells need to be transplanted?
 Can we use patient stem cells?
 Advantage: Avoid rejection
 How many cells?
 When, in the disease course, do we need to transplant?
 Is it safe?
 Answered by proof-of-concept studies



What is the mutation necessary to create a mouse model for VWM? What is its phenotype?

Mouse model for VWM
 Eif2B5 gene - Wobbly walk from 5 months, seizures and ataxia, dies around 7-10 months
 Results - Worst balance, decreased myelin gene expression, dysmorphic astrocytes

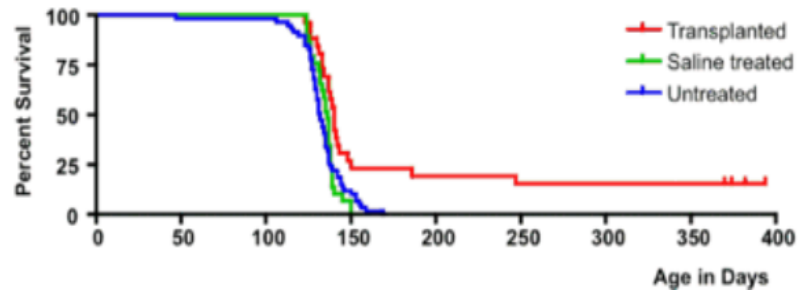


What is the mutation in Shiverer mice? What is its phenotype? What happens when human glial precursor cells are transplanted into these mice?

Proof of concept studies in mice

Shiverer mouse - Not equivalent to human disorder (major deletion in MBP gene, reduction in myelin), tremor from 12 days, seizures around 30 days, death around 120-150 days

Human glial precursor cells transplantation into immunodeficient Shi mice (avoid rejection)

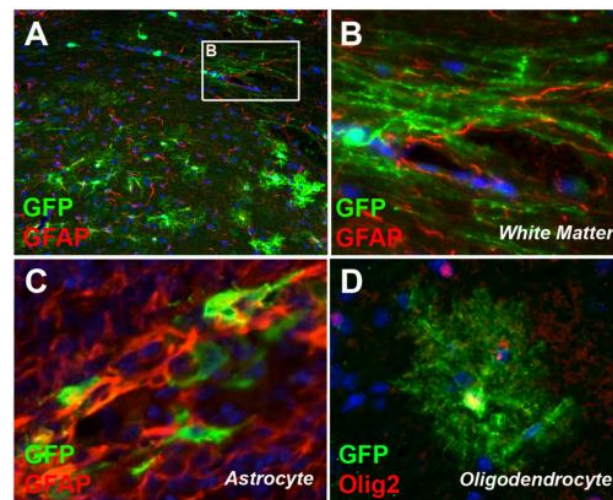
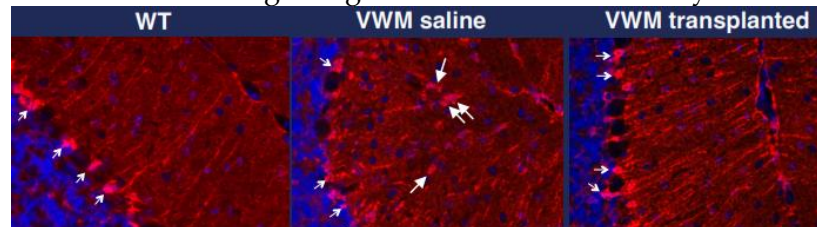


GLC develop into astrocytes - Improves phenotype (less shivering, animals live longer)

What happens when you implant Glial Precursor Cell into eIF2B5 pups at the molecular level?

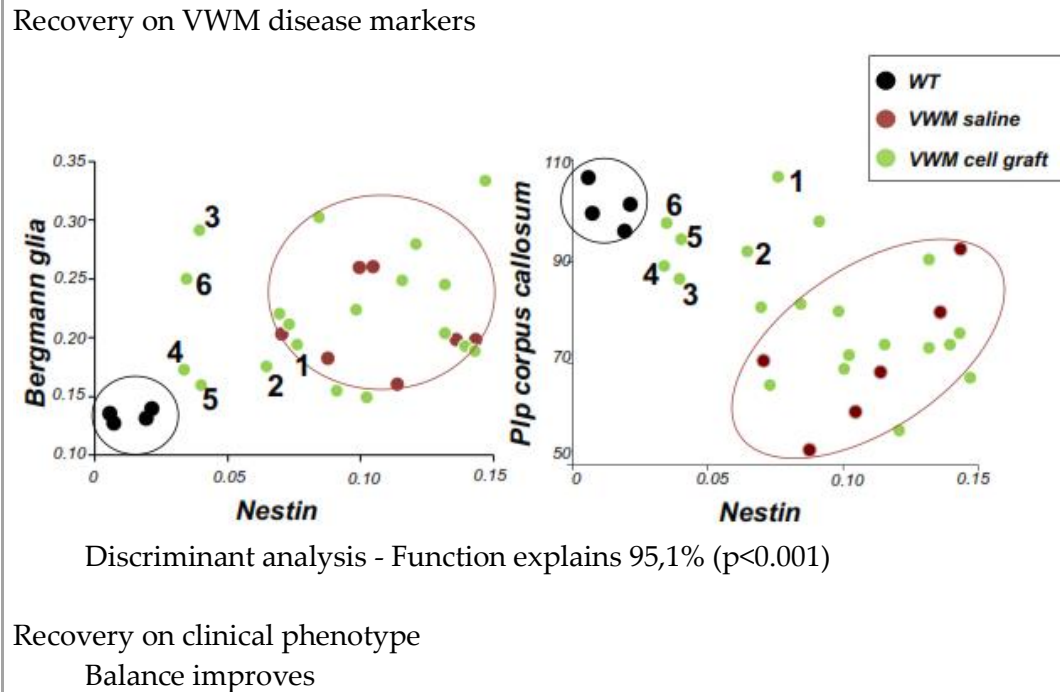
In vivo glial cell replacement studies

GFP-labelled mice GPCs injected into eIF2B5 pups - Reduced nestin+ astrocytes (nestin is an indication of immaturity), decreased number of undifferentiated oligodendrocytes (2b5ho -> do not produce myelin), less translocation of Bergman glial cells into molecular layer

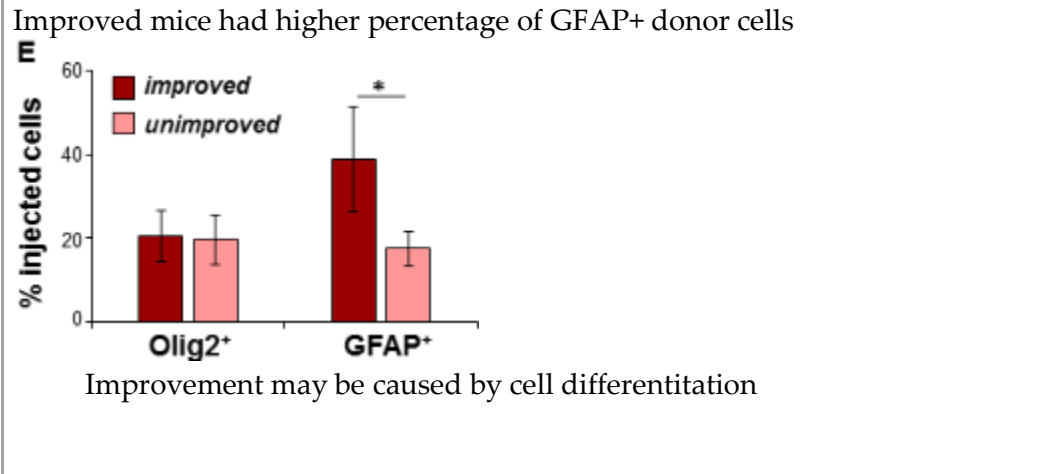


Cell grafts successfully differentiate into glial cells

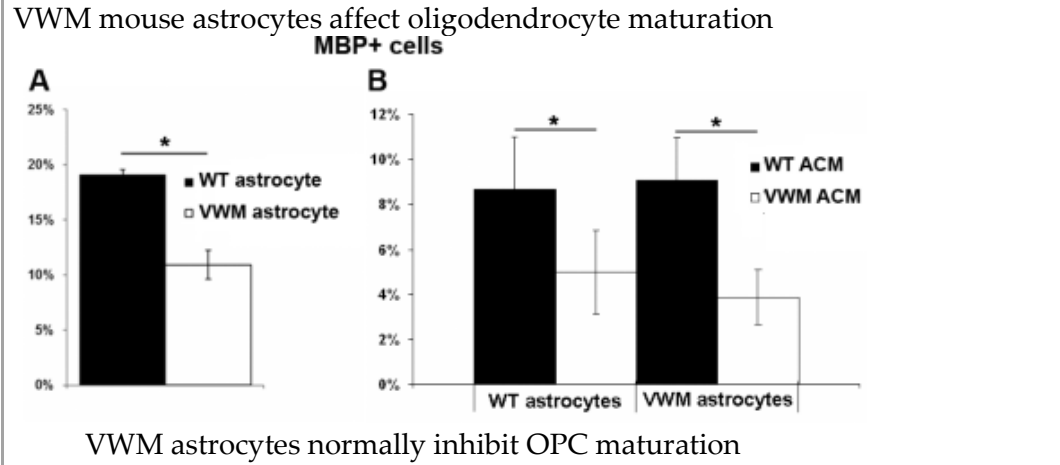
What happens when you implant Glial Precursor Cell into eIF2B5 pups regarding phenotype?

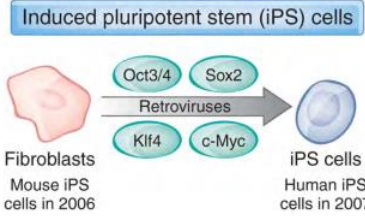
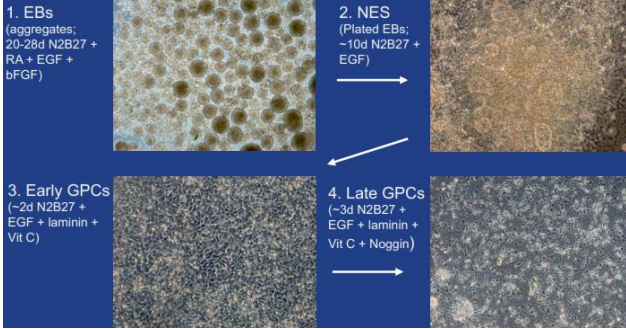
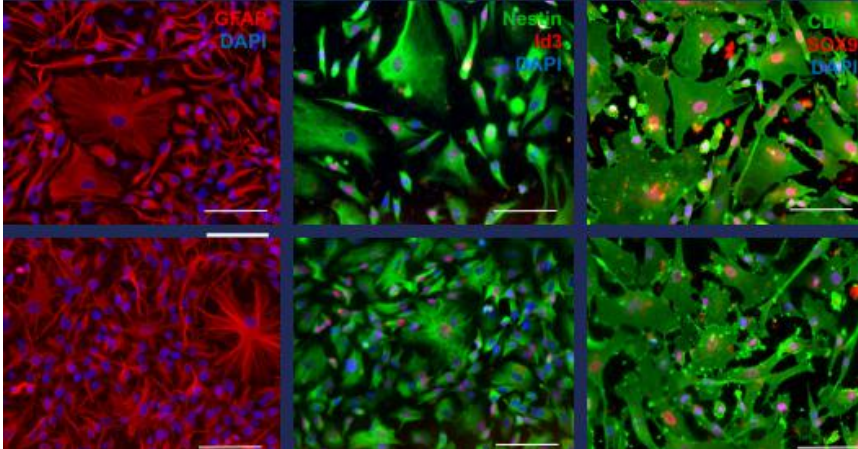


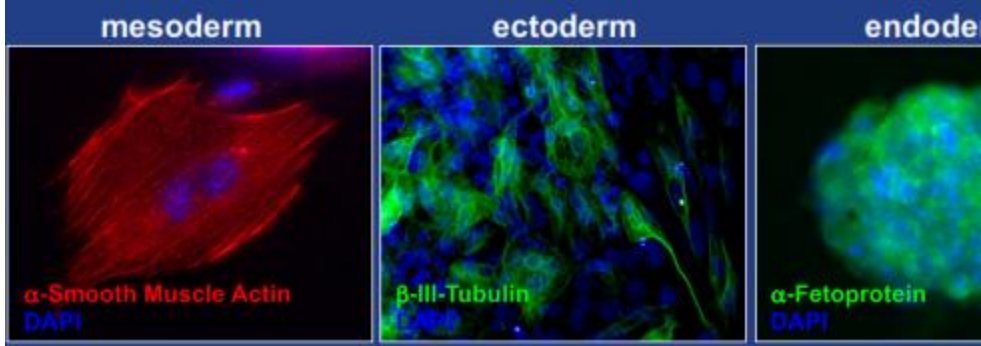
What was the main difference between mice that had an improvement in phenotype after transplanting GPCs?



What do VWM astrocytes do to affect myelination?



<p>What are the four factors necessary to produce iPSC cells?</p>	<p>Induced pluripotent stem cell technology</p>  <p>Four factors: Oct3/4, Sox2, Klf4, c-Myc -> Create pluripotent stem cells (all cells except for placenta)</p>
<p>What are the three main applications for iPSC?</p>	<p>Applications for iPSC - In vitro disease modeling, drug development, cell replacement therapy</p> <p>Glial cells contribute to almost all neurological disorders</p>
<p>How long does it take to make GPC from differentiated cells? What implication does that have in the clinic?</p>	<p>Glial precursor cells - May take 2-3 months to complete protocol</p>  <p>If disorders are rapidly evolving, stem cell therapy may not be fast enough</p>
<p>What happens to iPSC-derived grey and white matter astrocytes?</p>	<p>In monocultures, VWM astrocytes develop normally</p>  <p>However, they proliferate more</p> <p>Recent studies indicate astrocyte heterogeneity -> maybe astrocytes in white matter look abnormal in VWM</p>

	<p>Creation of human iPSC-derived grey and white matter-like astrocytes</p> <p>Different markers</p> <p>White-matter astrocytes are more affected in VWM</p>
<p>How would you confirm that a cell lineage is pluripotent?</p>	<p>Confirming pluripotency of stem cell lineage</p> <p>They are able to differentiate into all types of cell types</p>  <p>The figure displays three panels of fluorescence microscopy images, each representing a different germ layer derived from pluripotent stem cells. The panels are labeled at the top: 'mesoderm', 'ectoderm', and 'endode' (likely a typo for endoderm). Each panel shows a cluster of cells with specific markers highlighted in color, and nuclei stained with DAPI (blue). The mesoderm panel shows red staining for α-Smooth Muscle Actin. The ectoderm panel shows green staining for β-III-Tubulin. The endoderm panel shows green staining for α-Fetoprotein.</p>