

# CONTINUITY AND DISCONTINUITY IN PSYCHOPATHOLOGY: ADHD

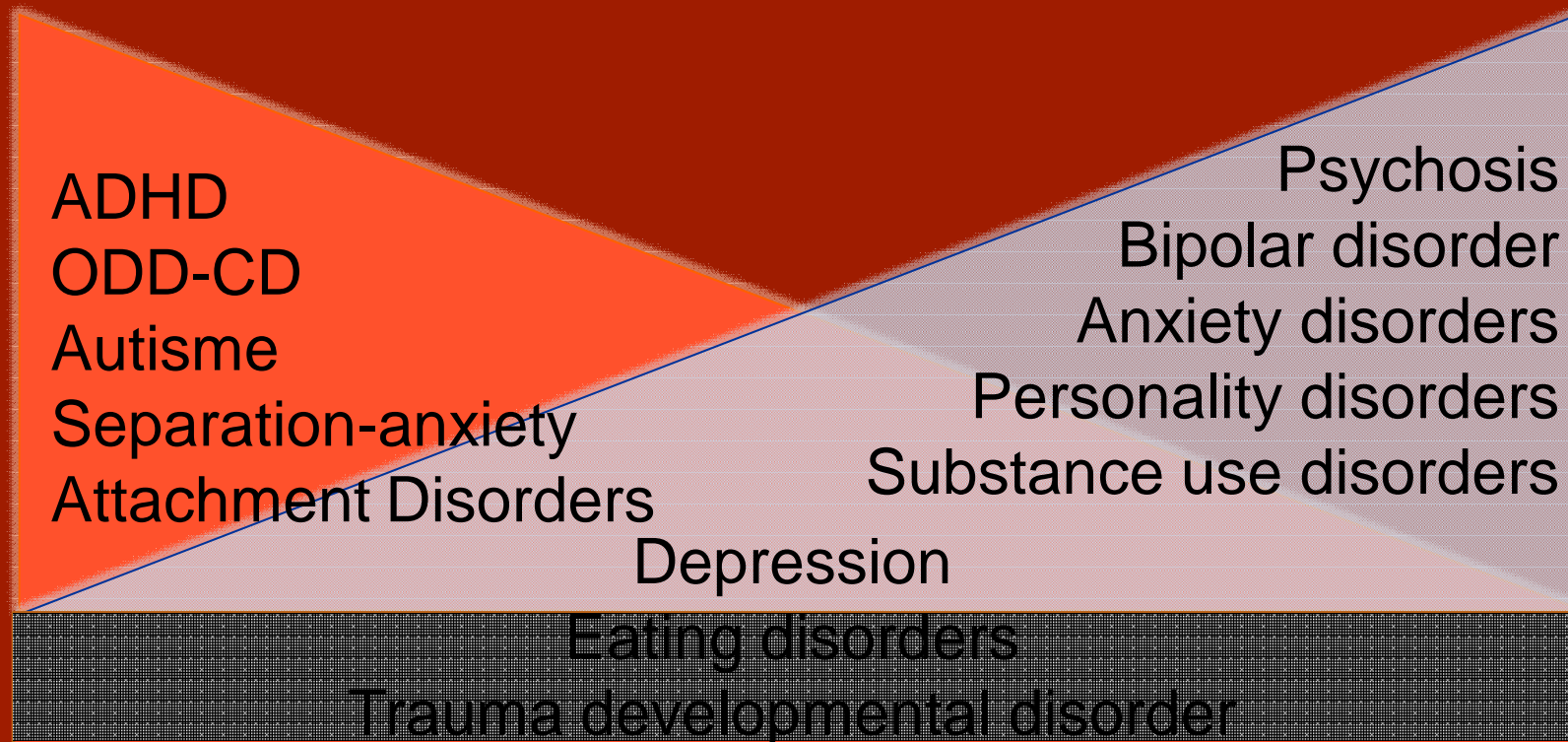
M. DANCKAERTS, UPC-KULEUVEN

[www.ADHDynamisch.be](http://www.ADHDynamisch.be)



Dieter Baeyens  
Marina Danckaerts  
Jurgen Lemiere  
Steven Stes  
Saskia VanderOord  
Nady Van Broeck

# Age trends in psychopathology



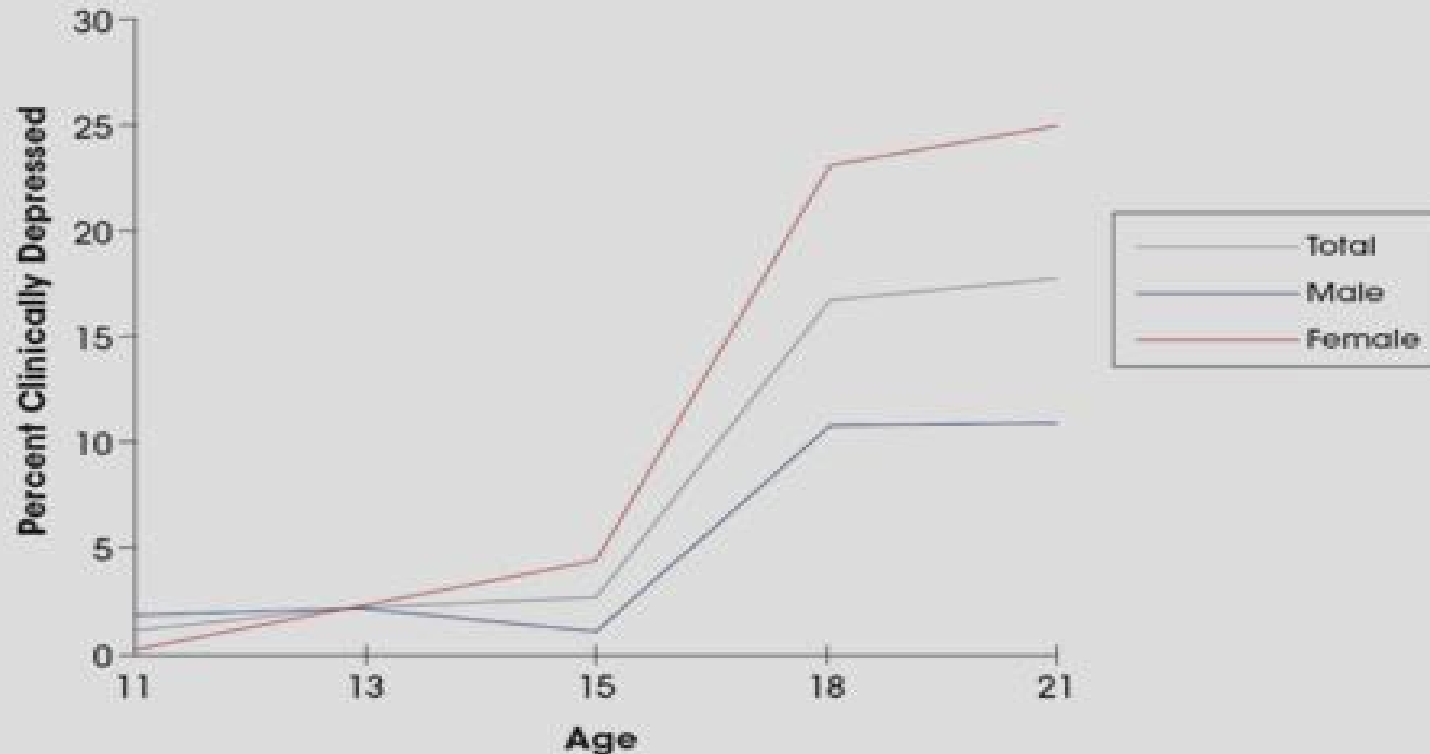
Childhood

Adolescence

Adulthood

# Developmental course of depression

Developmental Course of Rates of Clinical Depression by Age and Gender From a Prospective Community Birth Cohort Study\*

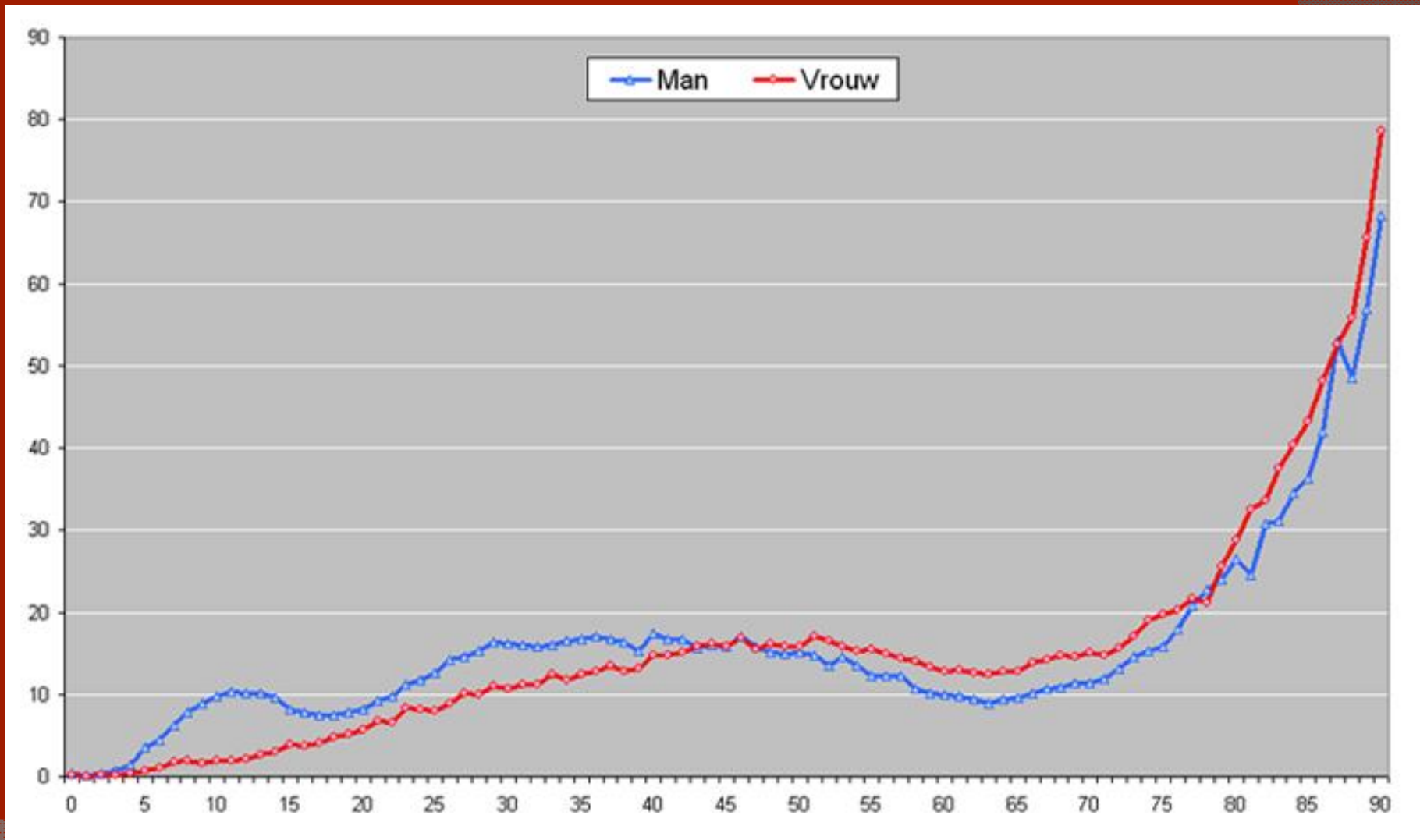


\* More girls than boys begin to become depressed after age 13, and girls become substantially more depressed than boys during middle-late adolescence (ages 15–18).

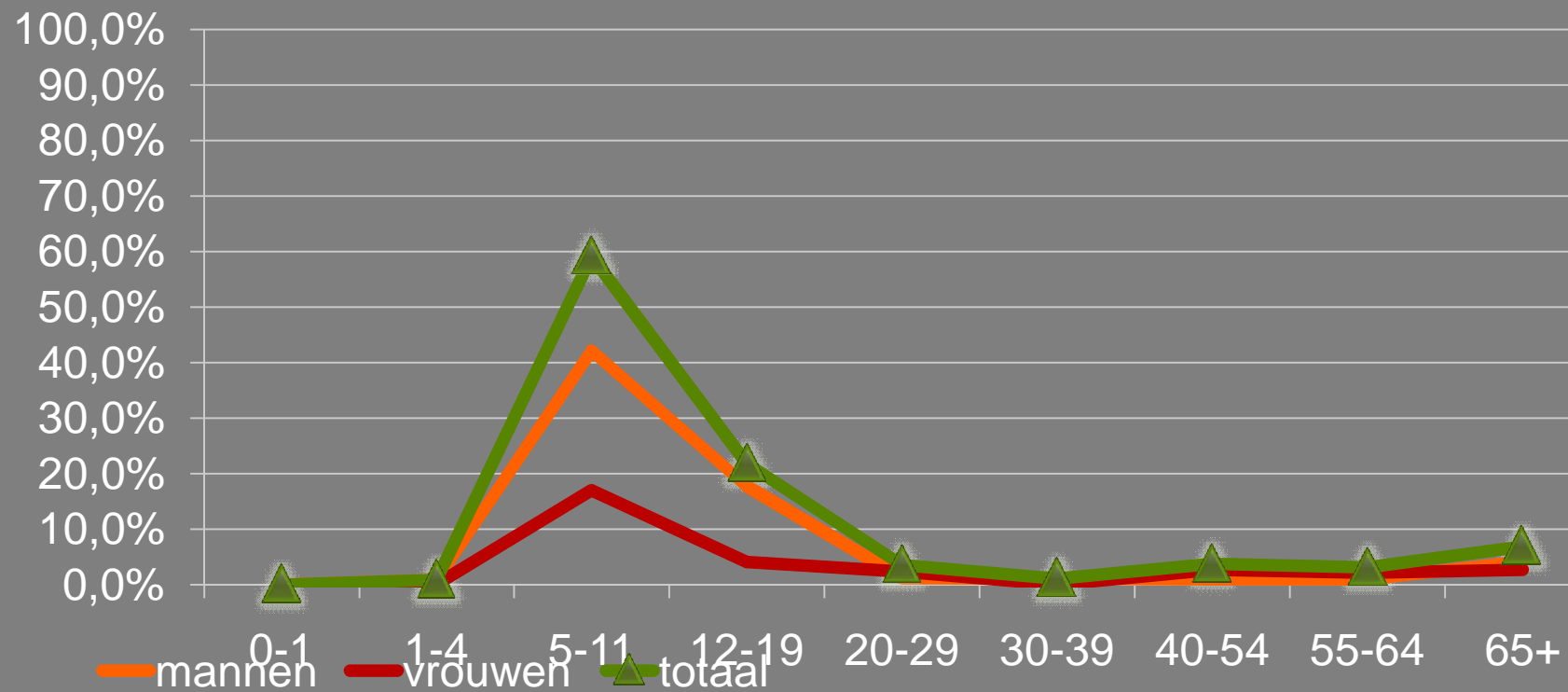
Source: Hankin BL, Abramson LY, Moffitt TE, McGee R, Silva PA, Angell KE. Development of depression from preadolescence to young adulthood: emerging gender differences in a 10-year longitudinal study. *J Abnorm Psychol*. 1998;107:128-140. Reprinted with permission. Copyright 1998, the American Psychological Association.

# Antipsychotica

Aantal verbruikers / 1000 in 2007 in **Nederland**:



# Methylphenidate ~ Age



# Development in real time...

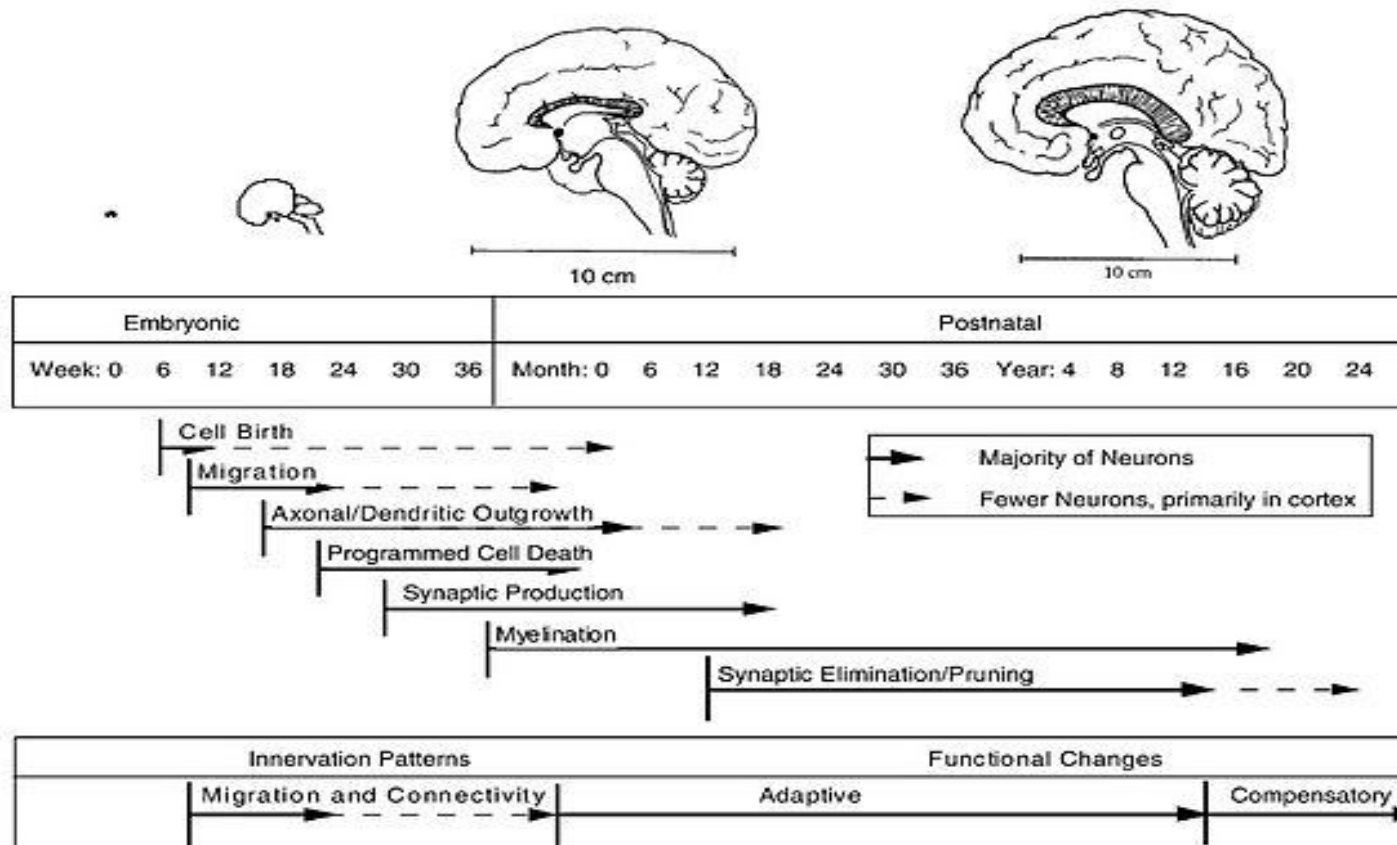
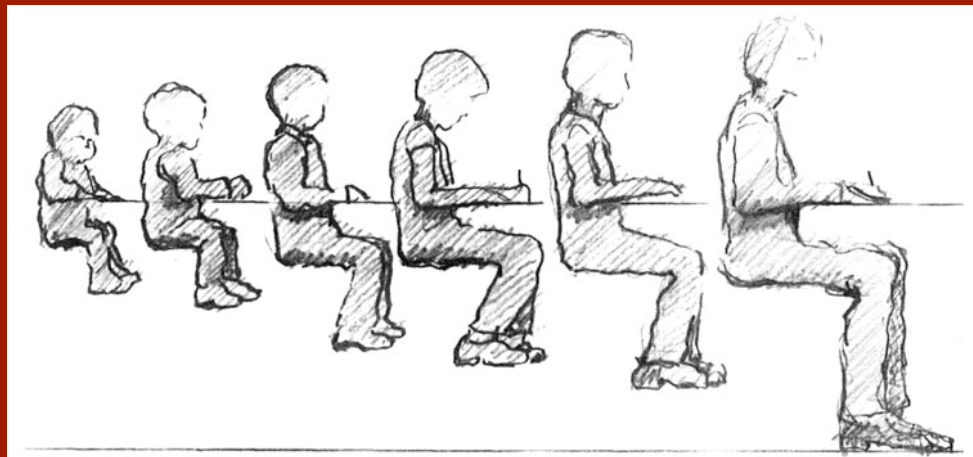


Fig. 1. The stages of brain development (top) and different windows of vulnerability (bottom). Developmental processes occur in phases, setting the stage for potential periods of vulnerability. Insults early in life (bottom) will be assimilated into innervation patterns, whereas a later pre-pubertal insult will cause functional changes that are more adaptive.

# Continuity & Discontinuity in ADHD

- ◉ Developmental course ?
- ◉ Determinants of continuity ?
- ◉ Determinants of discontinuity
- ◉ Treatment effects?





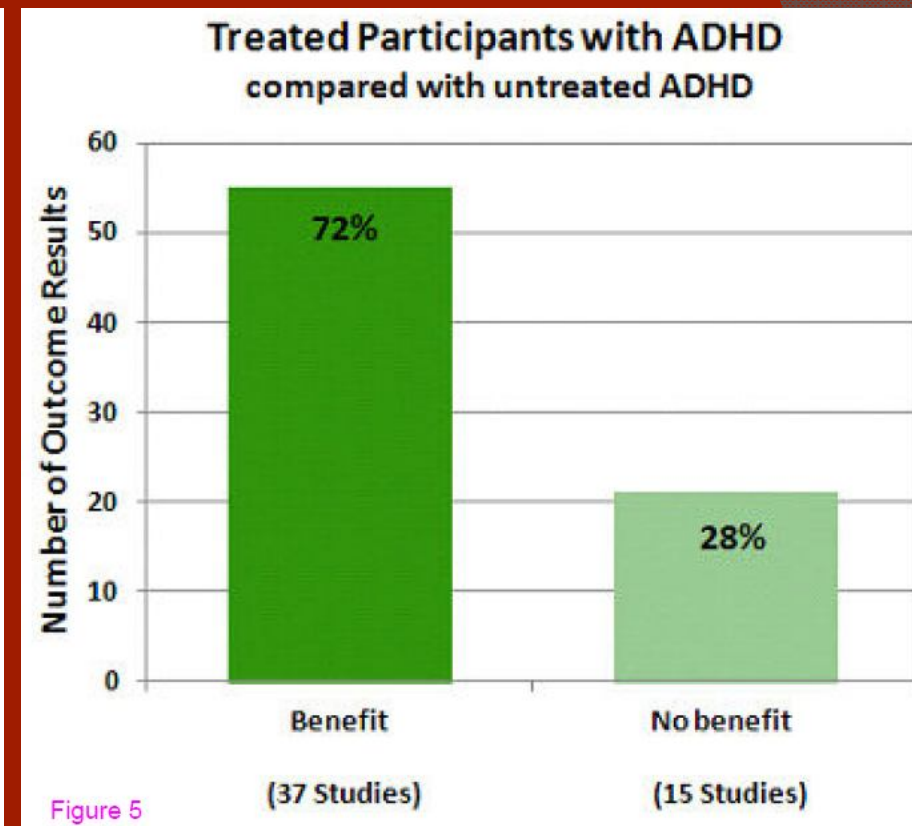
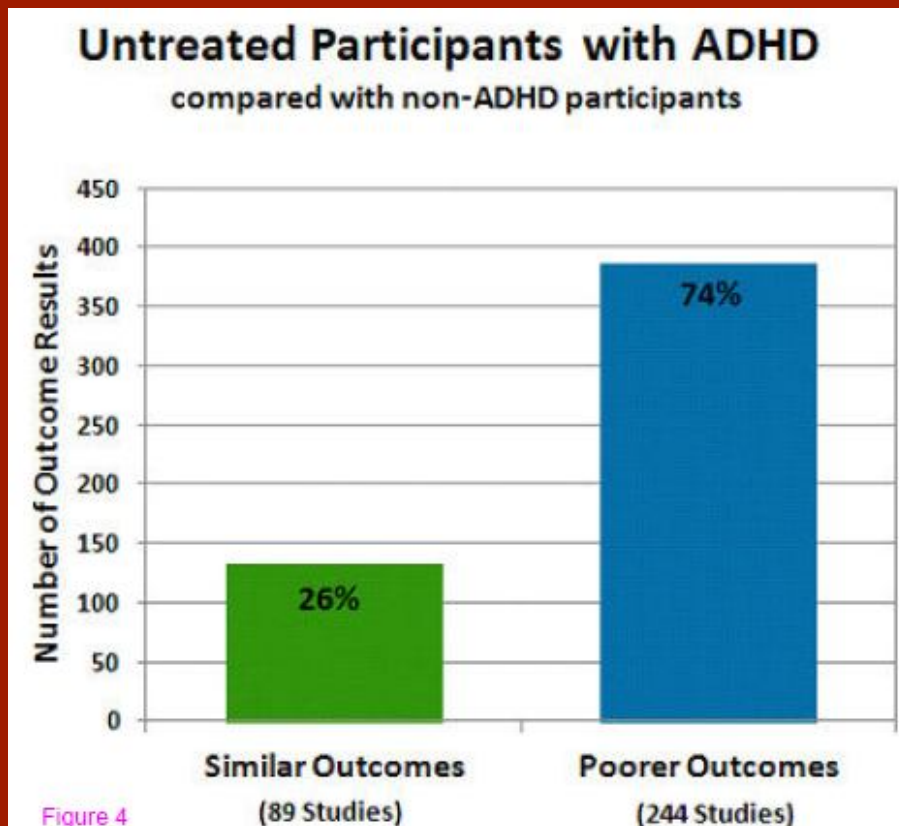
# Continuity & Discontinuity in ADHD

- ◎ Developmental outcome:
  - Is ADHD a childhood risk factor for negative developmental outcomes in young adulthood ?
- ◎ Developmental course
  - Does ADHD symptomatology persist into adulthood with its associated impairment ?

# ADHD: DEVELOPMENTAL OUTCOME

# Developmental outcome

Review of 351 outcome studies (1980-2010)



Note: 6 studies report a better outcome in ADHD

# Psychiatric outcome ?

- Cumulative risk by age 21, controlled for baseline psychopathology

- ODD: 78 % vs 20 % controls
- CD: 46 % vs 16 % controls
- MDD: 46 % vs 7 % controls
- Tics 43 % vs 7 % controls
- ASPD: 29 % vs 9 % controls
- BPD: 29 % vs 3 % controls

# Substance use disorders: meta-analysis

## Nicotine dependence

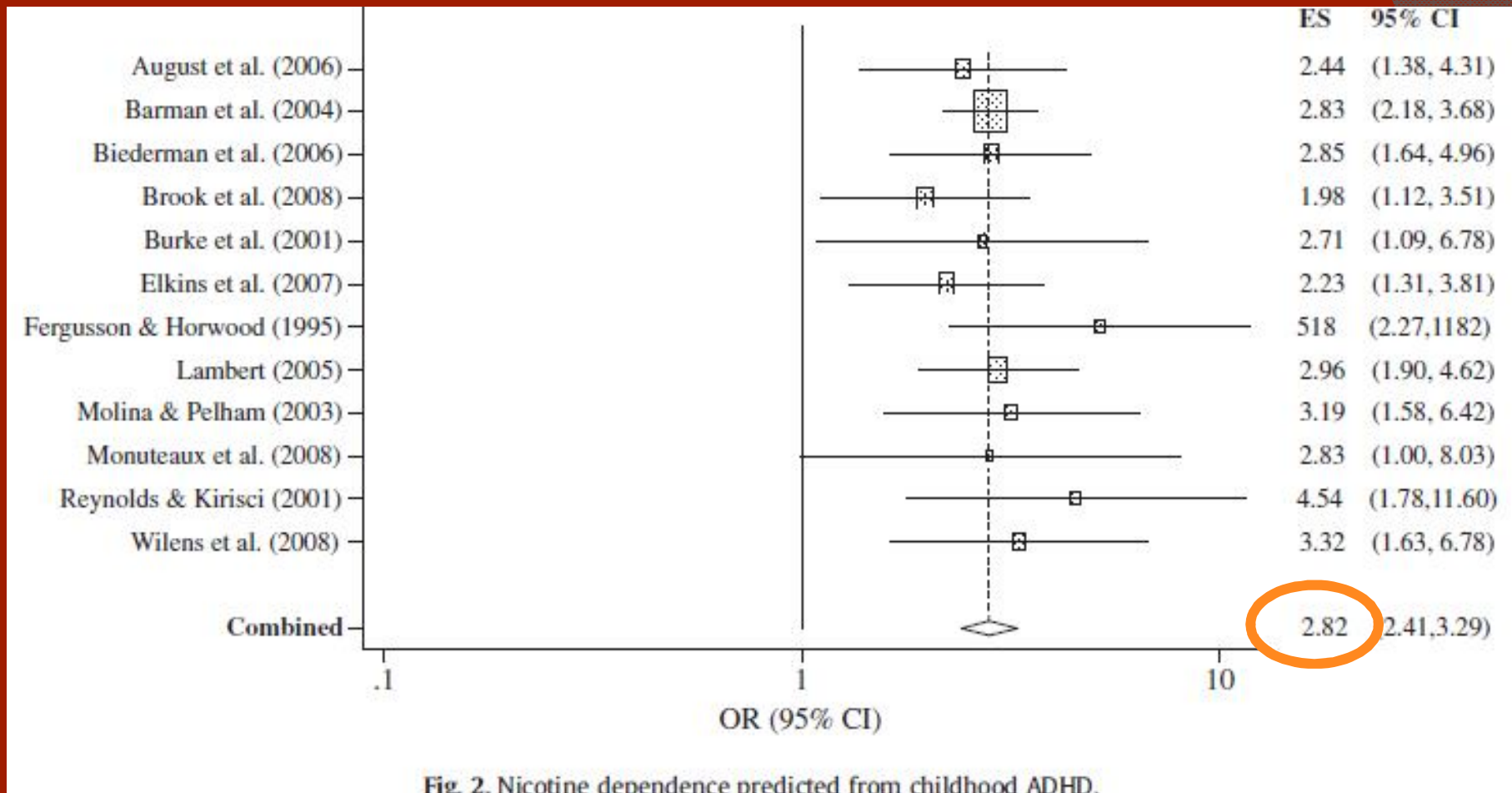


Fig. 2. Nicotine dependence predicted from childhood ADHD.

# Other Substance use disorders (abuse or dependence)

- Alcohol: OR 1.74
- Marijuana: OR 1.58
- Cocaine: OR 2.05
- General illicit drugs: OR 2.64

Conclusion: Childhood ADHD predictive of substance use disorders

This relationship may be partially or fully explained by comorbid conduct problems.

# Academic risk


## Behavioural:

%	Controls	ADHD
<b>Held back</b>	13	42
<b>Suspended</b>	19	60
<b>Expelled</b>	6	14
<b>High school dropout</b>	5	35

## Academic:

**Controlled for IQ  
and parental  
education**

	ADHD N=264 %	Comparison N=185 %
Post-high school education		
No School	26.9	4.9
Vocational	18.6	5.9
Junior/Community	25.0	12.4
Four-Year	29.5	76.8



# Occupational outcome

%	ADHD	Controls
Ever been fired	61	43
Ever been laid off	33	13
Quit due to dislike	53	36
Salary per hour (\$)	14,2	16,5

	ADHD N=142 %	Comparison N=75 %
Hollingshead Level		
Group 1 (Unskilled)	72.5	36
Group 2 (Clerical)	21.8	44
Group 3 (Professional)	5.6	20

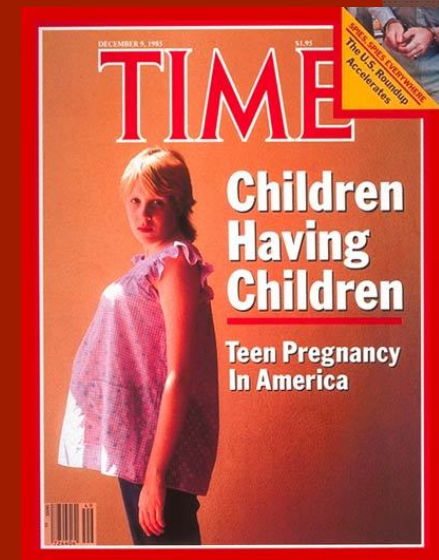




# Developmental outcome

## ◎ Sexual & reproductive outcomes

- Earlier intercourse
- More sexual partners
- Less use of contraception
- Higher rates of
  - Teenage pregnancy (OR: 42)
    - Less than half have custody
  - Sexually transmitted diseases (OR: 4)

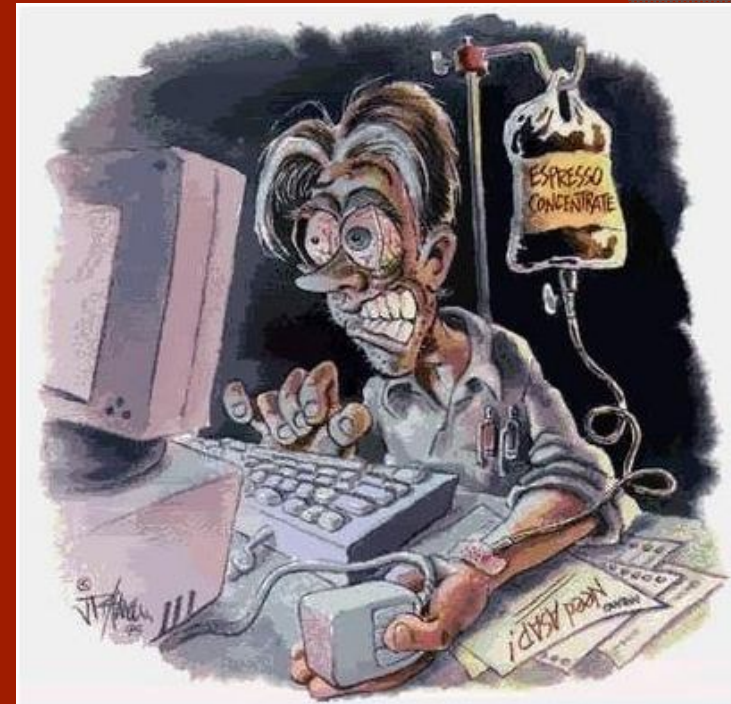


# Developmental outcome

## Screen addiction:

- Addiction = preoccupation, urge, withdrawal symptoms, causing impairment

	ADHD	No ADHD
Problematic Internet use	33 %	1.5 – 8%



- Males = females

*Yoo et al 2004, Ko et al 2008, Han et al 2009, Aboujaoude 2010, Weinstein & Lejoyeux*

# Developmental outcome

## Driving-related risks:

- ◉ driving without licence (37 vs 11%)
- ◉ licence revocations (23 vs 0%)
- ◉ at fault for crashes (49 vs 11%)
- ◉ citations for traffic violations (77 vs 47%)
  - Speeding
  - Failure to stop



*Cox ea 2004 a,b*

# Delinquency

- Mordre et al. BMC Psychiatry 2011:
  - 541 Child Psychiatric inpatients
  - FU 19-41 after hospitalization
  - **24% had been convicted:**
  - Predictors:
    - Conduct Disorder: RR 2
    - **Hyperkinetic Conduct Disorder: RR 2.7**
    - Male gender: RR 3.6
    - Chronic Family problems RR 1.3
    - ADHD = emotional dis = attachment dis
    - PDD , MR: RR < 1

# Continuity and discontinuity

- Developmental outcome DATA

+

- Diagnosis of ADHD in adults:  
demonstrated to be valid and associated  
with impairment

≠

ADHD is a chronic disorder

# ADHD: DEVELOPMENTAL COURSE

# ADHD prevalence worldwide

## Gender

Male (44 studies)  
Female (40 studies)



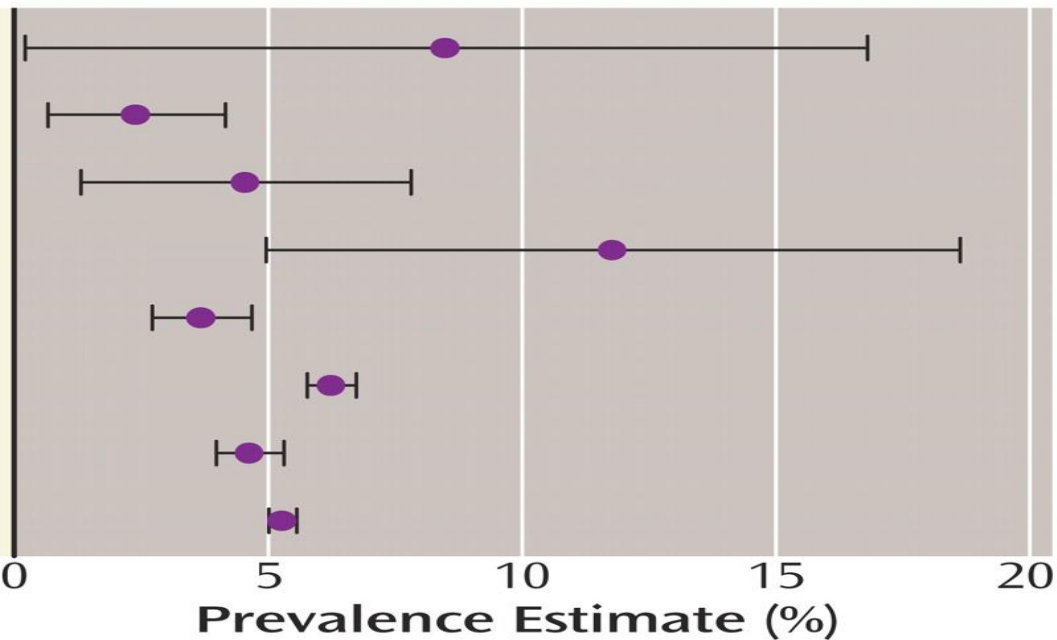
## Age

Children (43 studies)  
Adolescents (23 studies)



## Geographic Location

Africa (4 studies)  
Middle East (4 studies)  
Oceania (6 studies)  
South America (9 studies)  
Asia (15 studies)  
North America (32 studies)  
Europe (32 studies)  
Worldwide (102 studies)



*Polanczyk ea 2007*

# Developmental Course

## Epidemiological follow-up studies

Study		Method	Sources	Age range	%
Verhulst ea 1985	NL	Ratings	Teacher	8 & 11	9.5
Verhulst ea 1997		Interview	Parents	13-18	1.8
Esser ea 1990	D	Ratings	Parents	8	4
		Interview		13	2
Gomez ea 1994	E	Interview	Teacher	8	14.4
			Parents	11	5.3
				15	3



# Developmental Course

Clinical follow-up studies:

	Follow-up	Age-range	persistence
Barkley ea 1990	8y	12-20y	71.5%
Biederman ea 1996	4y	9-22y	85%
August ea 1998	5y	12-15y	69%
Steinhausen ea 2003	2.6y	10-16y	46%

# Developmental course

## ⊙ Meta-analysis of persistence in FU-studies:

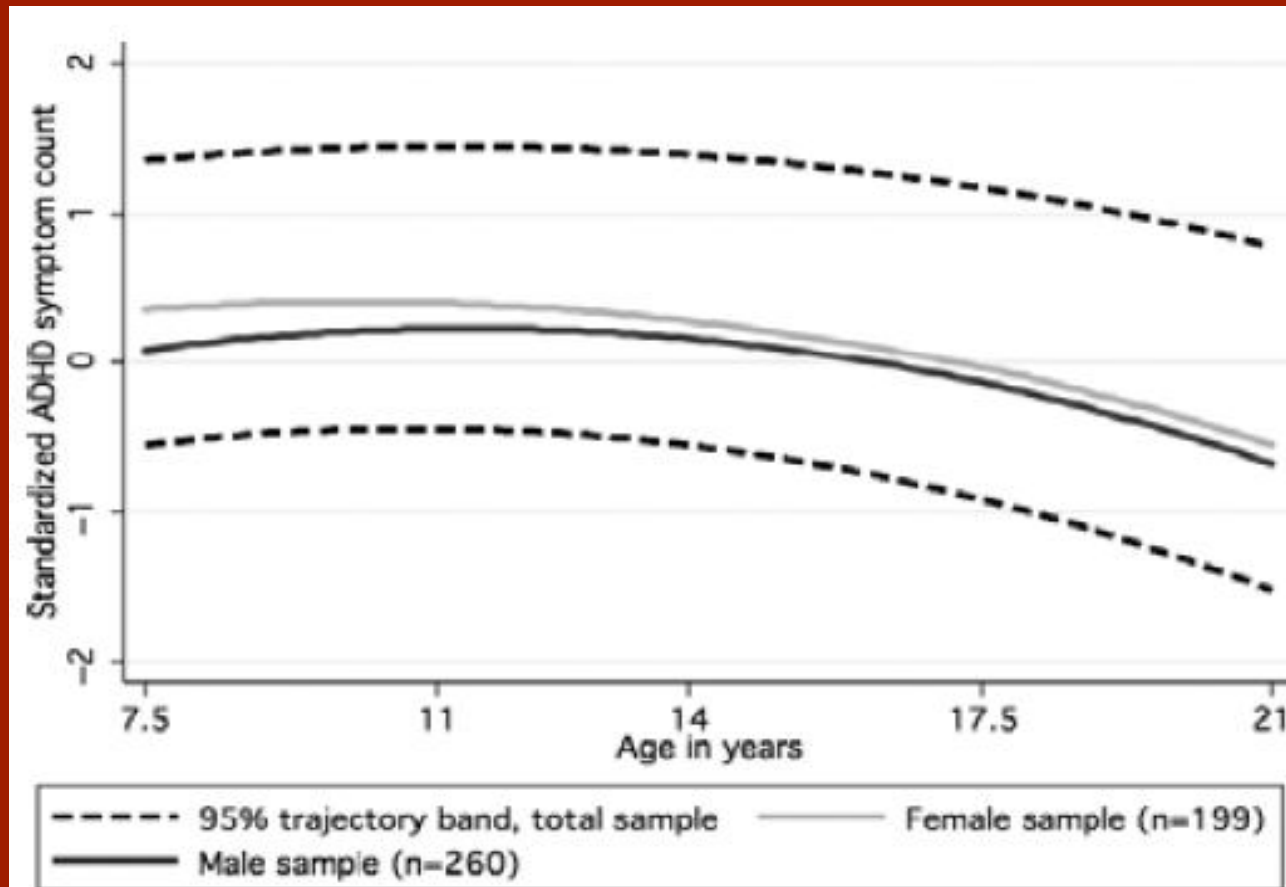
- Adolescence: 50-60 %
- Adults at 25y: 10-66%
  - 15% full syndrome
  - 65% partial syndrome

## ⊙ Predictors of persistence

- Familiarity of ADHD
- Psychiatric comorbidity
- Psychosocial adversity

*Faraone ea, Psychological Medicine, 2006, 36, 159–165*

# Symptom decline & gender



**Figure 1** Predicted change in ADHD symptoms across development in male and female youth

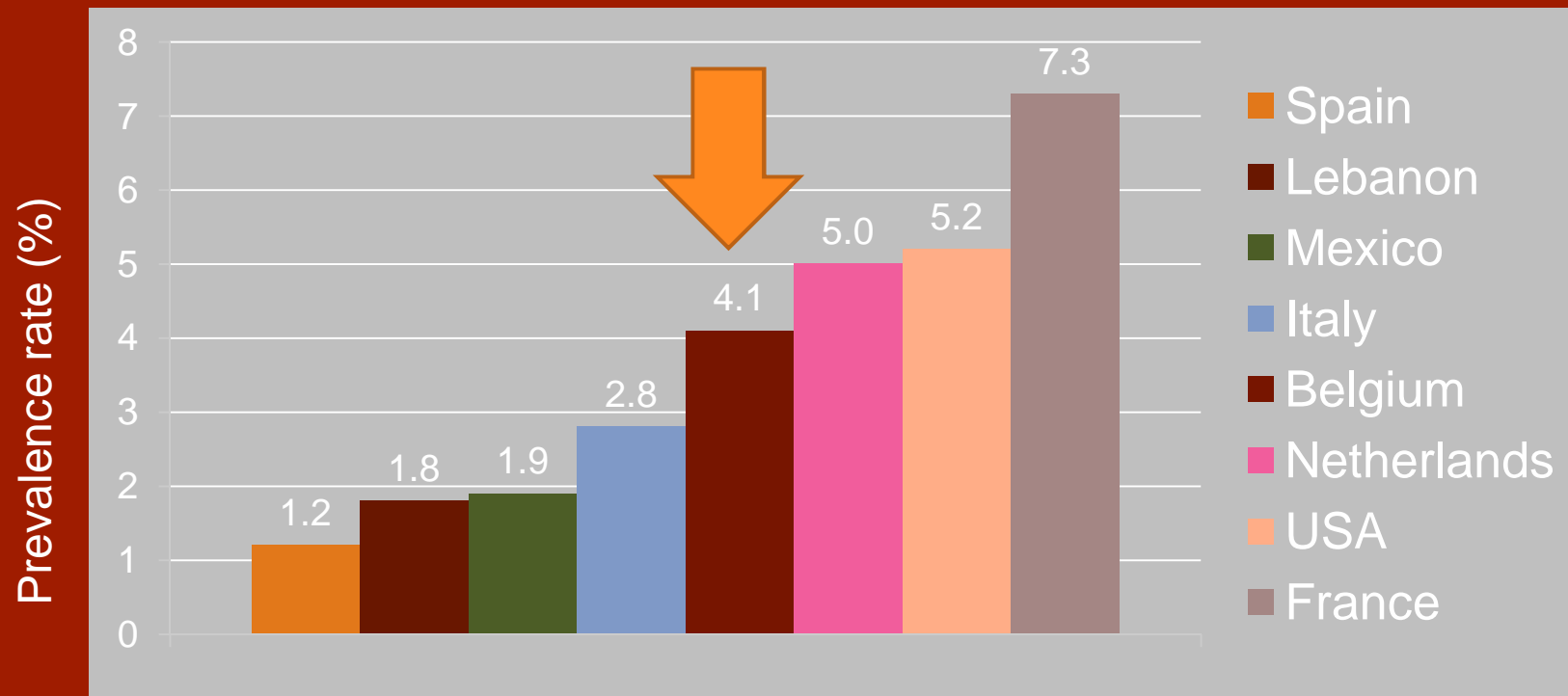
ADHD symptom decline accelerates with age

Is the same in both sexes

Stability of comorbid psychopathology is greater in females

# Adult ADHD prevalence

- Worldwide estimates: 1.2 – 7.3 %
- Prevalence Belgium: 4.1 %



# Problem: Continuity /discontinuity

- Prospective FU from childhood:
  - Low persistence rates of full syndrome 1%
- Prevalence in adults:
  - Higher prevalence 4%
- Explanation ?
  - Changing phenotype of same genotype ?
  - Partial Syndromes ? Disfunction with less symptoms ?
  - New genotype ?
  - Different rater (self versus parent/teacher) – different perception ?

# Do symptoms of hyperactivity manifest differently in adults ? US perspective:

Aimless restlessness often migrates to purposeful restlessness

## DSM IV Symptom Domain

- Squirms and fidgets
- Can't stay seated
- Runs/climbs excessively
- Can't play/work quietly
- "On the go" / "Driven by motor"
- Talks excessively



## Common Adult Manifestation

- Adaptive behavior
  - Work two jobs/long hours
  - Select very active job
- Constant activity leading to family tension
- Often felt rather than manifested

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. 83-85., ADHD in Adulthood 1999, Weiss, Hechtman and Weiss

# Do symptoms of impulsivity manifest differently in adults ?

**Impulsivity in adulthood often carries more serious consequences**

## DSM IV Symptom Domain

- Blurts out answers
- Can't wait turn
- Intrudes/interrupts others



## Common Adult Manifestation

- Low frustration tolerance
  - Quitting a job
  - Ending a relationship
  - Losing temper
  - Driving too fast

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. 83-85., ADHD in Adulthood 1999, Weiss, Hechtman and Weiss

# Do symptoms of inattention manifest differently in adults ?

Many adults do not complain of attentional problems because they have compensated to some extent

## DSM IV Symptom Domain

- Difficulty sustaining attention
- Doesn't listen
- No follow through
- Can't organize
- Loses important items
- Easily distractible, forgetful



## Common Adult Manifestation

- Poor time management
- Difficulty
  - Initiating/completing tasks
  - Changing to another task when required
- Adaptive behavior
  - Self select lifestyle
  - Support staff

American Psychiatric Association. 1994. 83-85., ADHD in Adulthood 1999, Weiss, Hechtman and Weiss



# DSM-5 : ADHD adaptations

Examples of dev. adaptations

New impulsiveness items

DSM-IV	DSM-5
Difficulty sustaining attention in tasks or play activities	Idem (eg. during lectures, conversation or during lengthy readings)
Is forgetful	For adolesc. & adults: returning calls, paying bills, keeping appointments
	Tends to act without thinking
	Often impatient
	Uncomfortable doing things slowly and systematic
	Difficult to resist temptations or opportunities

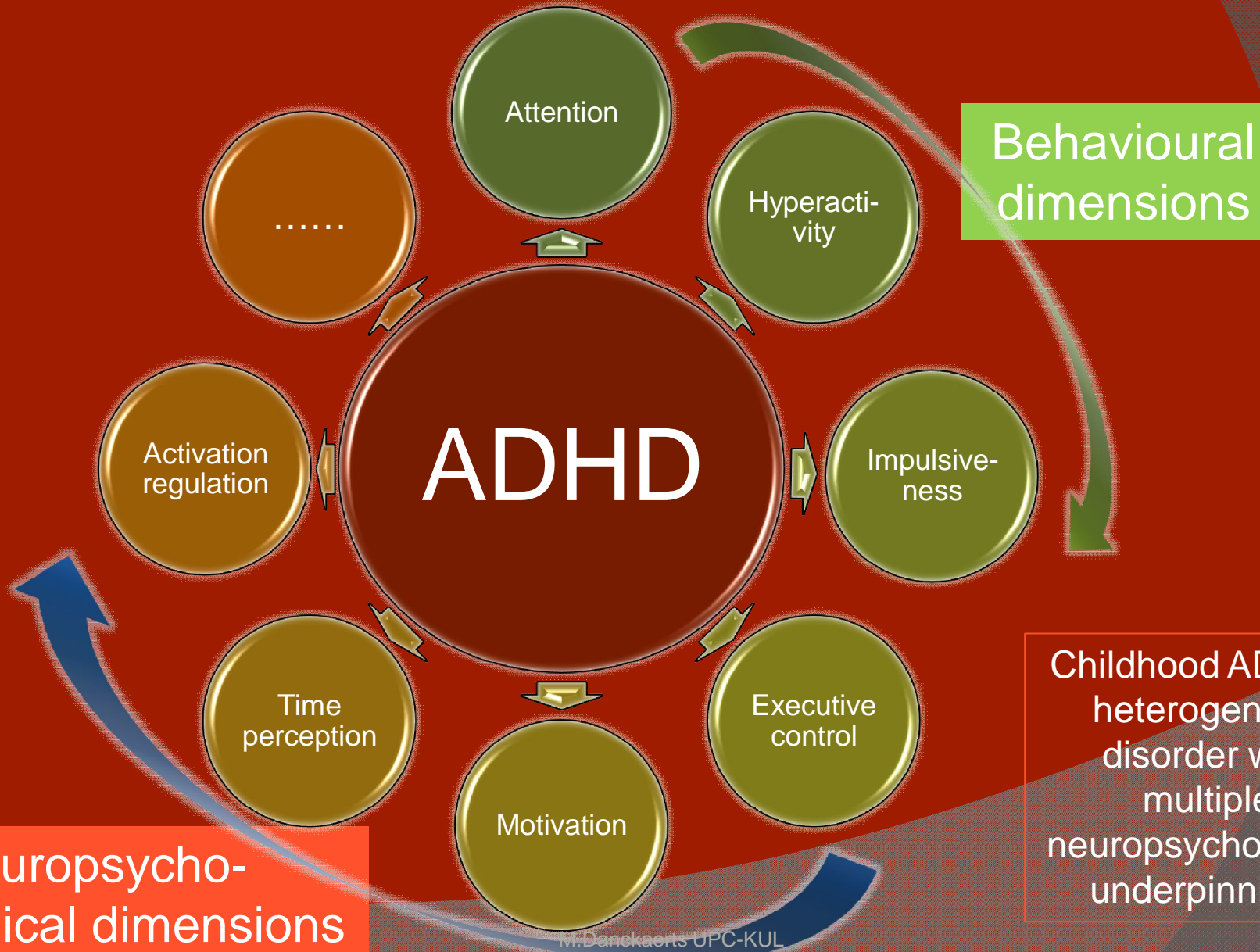
# DSM-5: ADHD adaptations

- New subtype: restrictive inattentive type
- Age of onset: before 12 years (>< 7 jaar)
- From 17y: 4/9 symptoms (>< 6/9)
- Sources: parents and teachers or other “third party” whenever possible
- Impact: “clear proof of disfunction socially, school- or job functioning
- Exclusion: ASS no exclusiecriteria

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# Neuropsychological profiles



Behavioural dimensions

Childhood ADHD = heterogenous disorder with multiple neuropsychological underpinnings

Neuropsychological dimensions

# Developmental neuropsychological profiles:

	Childhood	Adolescence / Young adulthood	
		PERSISTERS	REMITTERS
Working Memory	XXX	X	
Word processing	XXX	X	
CPT errors	XXX	X	
CPT variability & state regulation	XXX	X	X
actigraph	XX	X	X

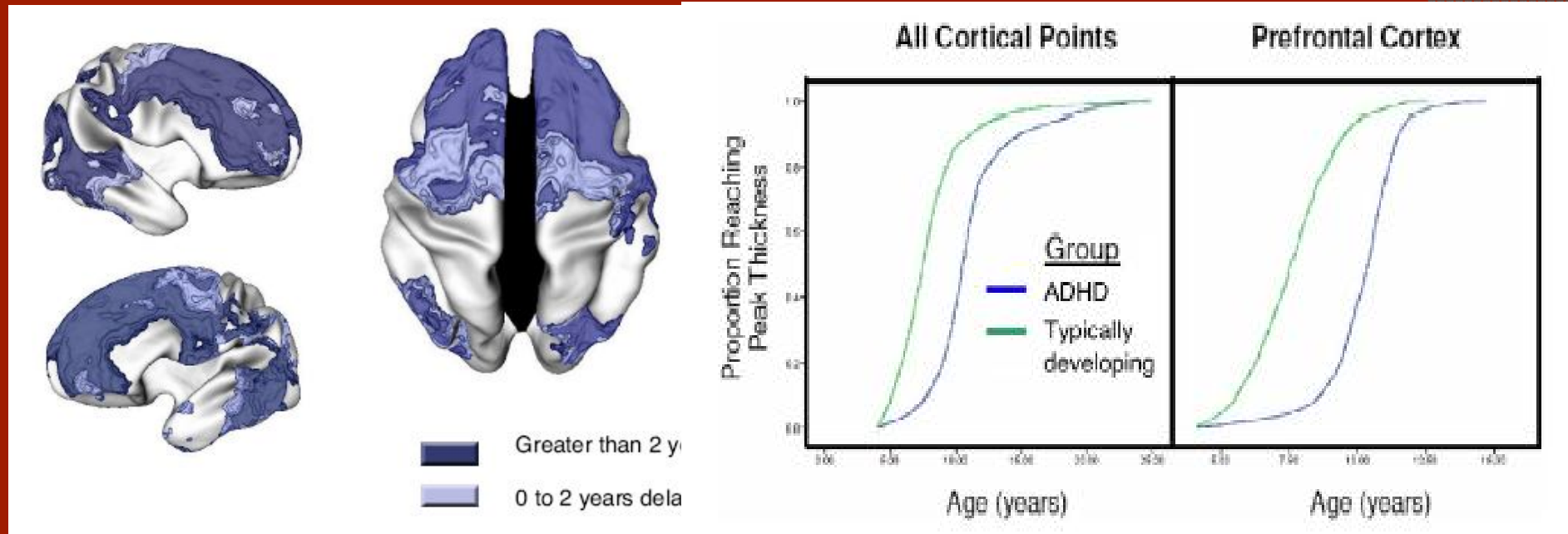
- Primary deficits:
  - perceptual sensitivity (prepotent stimuli)
  - State regulation (hypo-activation) / hypo-arousal
- Epiphenomena:
  - Effortful control / executive functioning

# Developmental hypothesis ?

- ⦿ Adult subcortical disfunction remains stable regardless of adult symptom persistence
- ⦿ Adult cortical disfunction is associated with persistence / remittance of symptoms

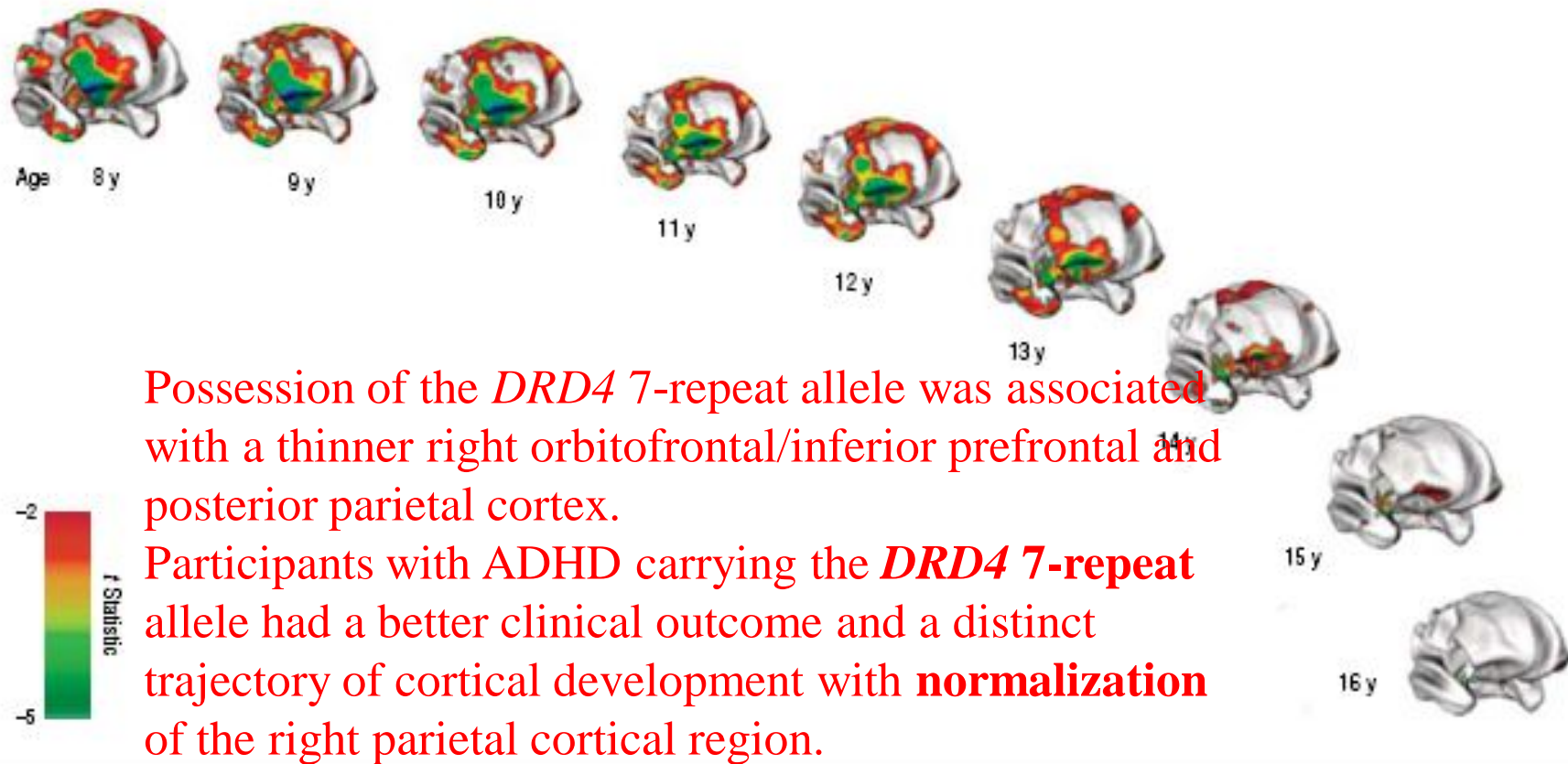
OR: persistence of symptomatology will depend on whether prefrontally mediated EF (developing during childhood & adolescence) can compensate for the more primary subcortical deficits

# Developmental Neuroanatomy: Cortical thickness



ADHD ~ delay in cortical maturation  
And: differential clinical outcome ~ differential trajectories

# Developmental neuroanatomy: genetic mediation ?



*Shaw et al 2007, Arch Gen Psychiatry*



# Developmental neuroanatomy: Outcome ~ brain development

Persistent anatomical differences in persistent ADHD / worse outcome

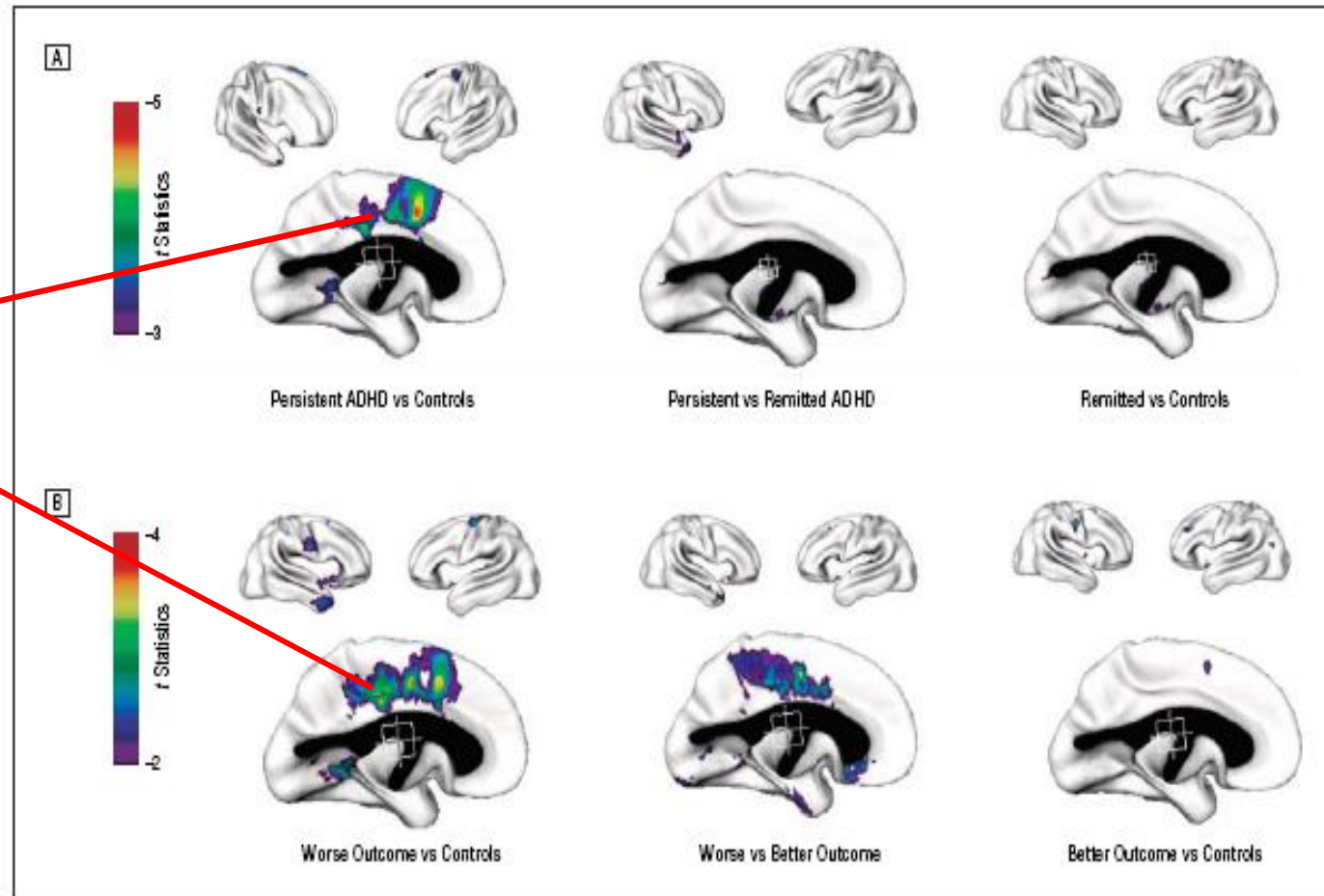


Figure 2. Contrasts between patients with attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) with differing outcomes and controls. A, The  $t$  statistical maps of pairwise contrasts using persistence/remission of ADHD as the outcome measure. B, The  $t$  maps using Children's Global Assessment Scale scores as the outcome measure. Adjustment is made for IQ and mean cortical thickness.

Shaw et al 2006

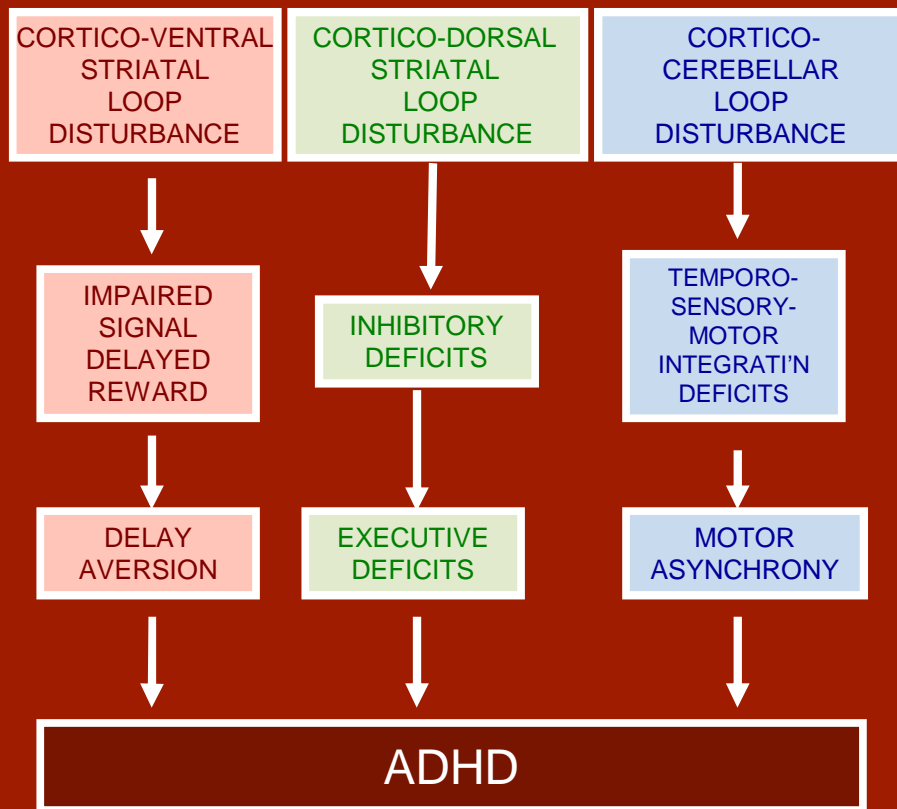
# Relationship developmental course & outcome

- ◎ Proal et al 2012: 33y follow-up:
  - Continuing grey matter deficits
    - Cortical thinning in dorsal attentional networks
    - N. Caudatus, Cerebellar hemispheres
  - No relationship with caseness

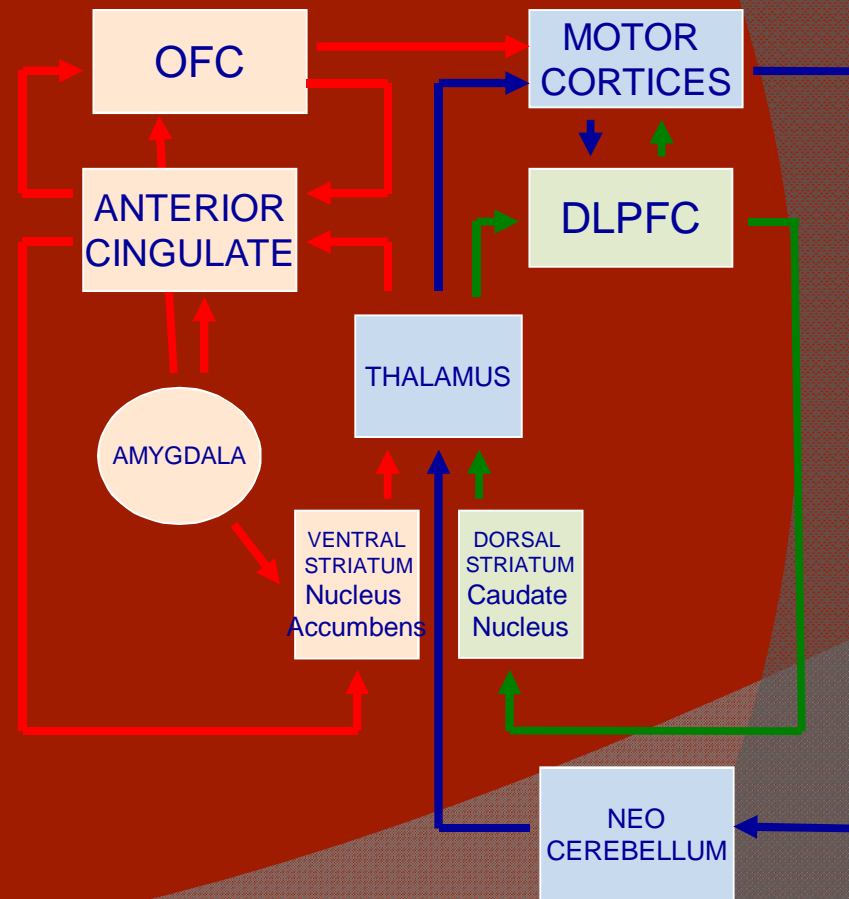
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# A TRIPLE PATHWAY HYPOTHESIS



# SIMPLIFIED FUNCTIONAL NEUROANATOMY



# Developmental genetics

## ◎ Cross sectional twin studies:

- High heritability in childhood : 0.70 – 0.80
- Lower heritability in adulthood: 0.30 – 0.40

Parent & Teacher ratings

Self-ratings

## ◎ Prospective twin studies:

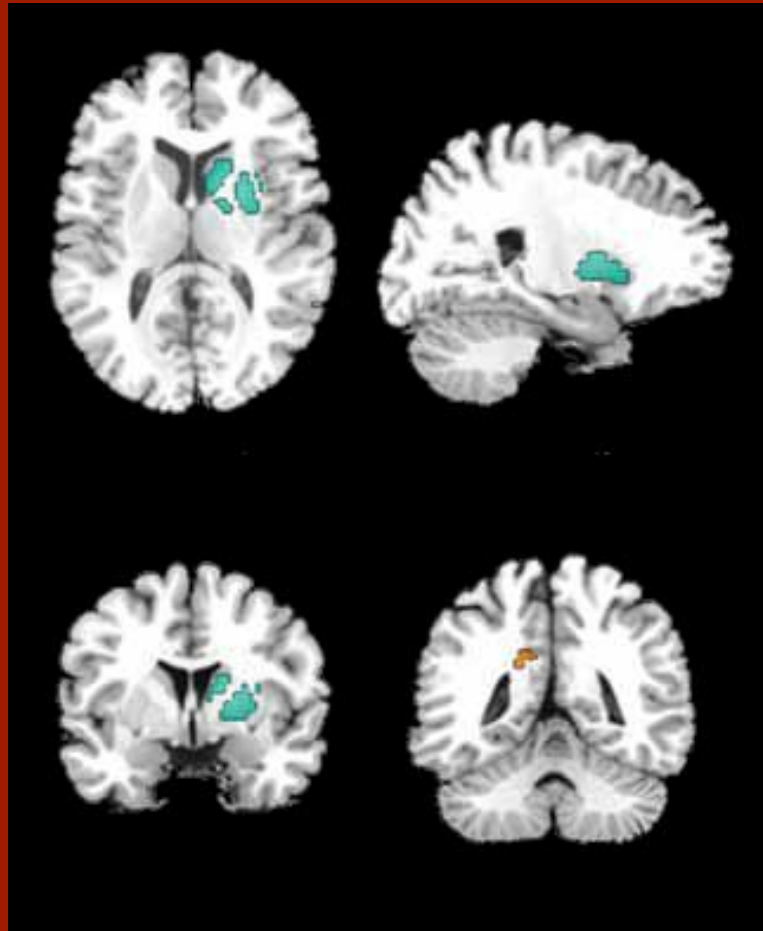
- When cross-**informant** ratings are used: higher heritability is found in adult ADHD: 0.80
- Both developmentally stable and dynamic (i.e. **different genetic effects operating at different ages**) are demonstrated

*Chang ea, CJAMA Psychiatry., Published online January 2, 2013*

# Treatment effects on continuity / discontinuity ?

# Medication effects on brain development

**Meta-analysis:** 14 datasets: 378 ADHD (202 ch&adol) vs 344 CON; 55% on medication



- In general: **decreased grey matter**; most consistent in n.caudatus:
- **AGE** and **USE OF MEDICATION** were independent predictors of normal volumes

*Nakao ea. Am J P sychiatry 2011, 168, 1154-1163*

# Medication effects on brain development

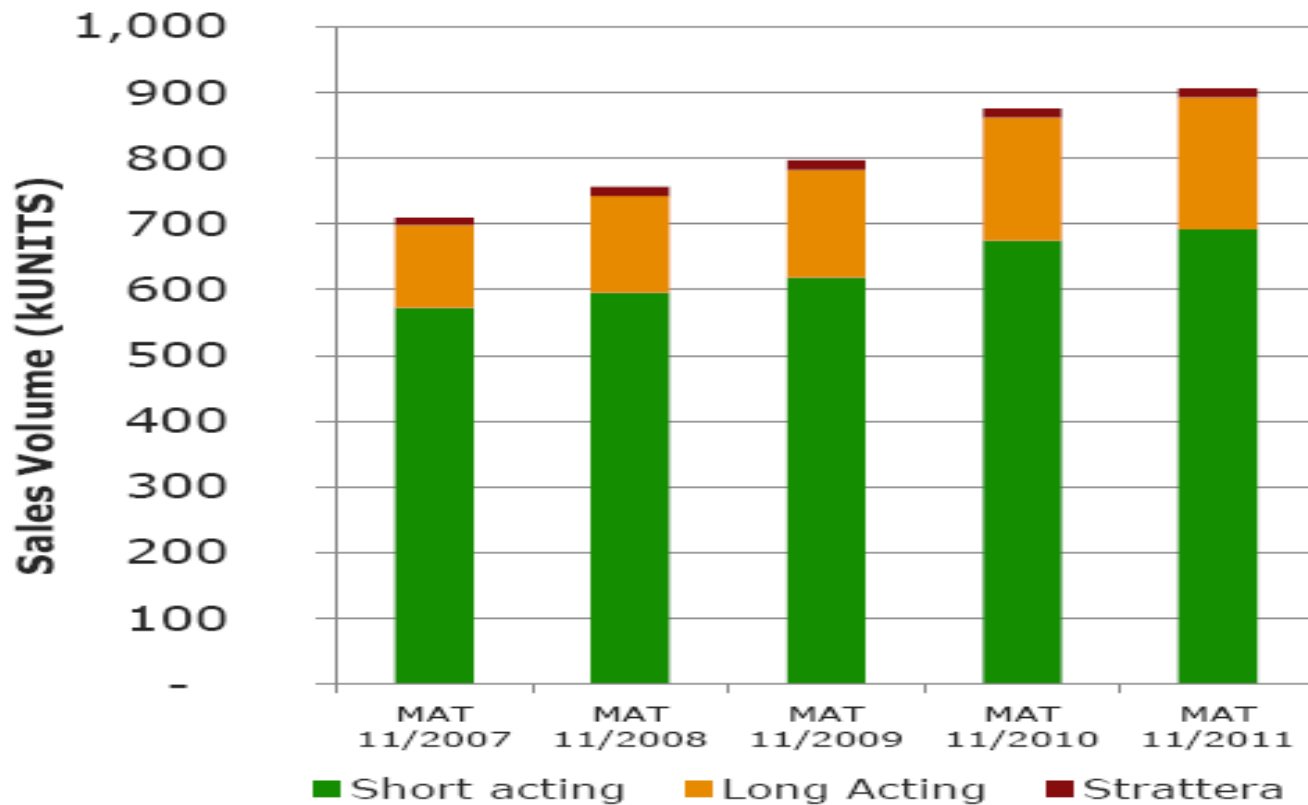
6 studies > 10 months: ADHD +/- medication:

- 2 no neuro-anatomical differences
- 4 **more normalisation** with medication:
  - N. caudatus
  - White matter
  - Cortex thickness
  - G. cingularis anterior
- None of the studies shows deterioration
- Mechanism? Direct effect or “use it or loose it” ?



# Belgium: Pharmaco-epidemiology: 2007-2011

**Total Sales Volume of split N06B Market over the last 5 years (UNITS)**



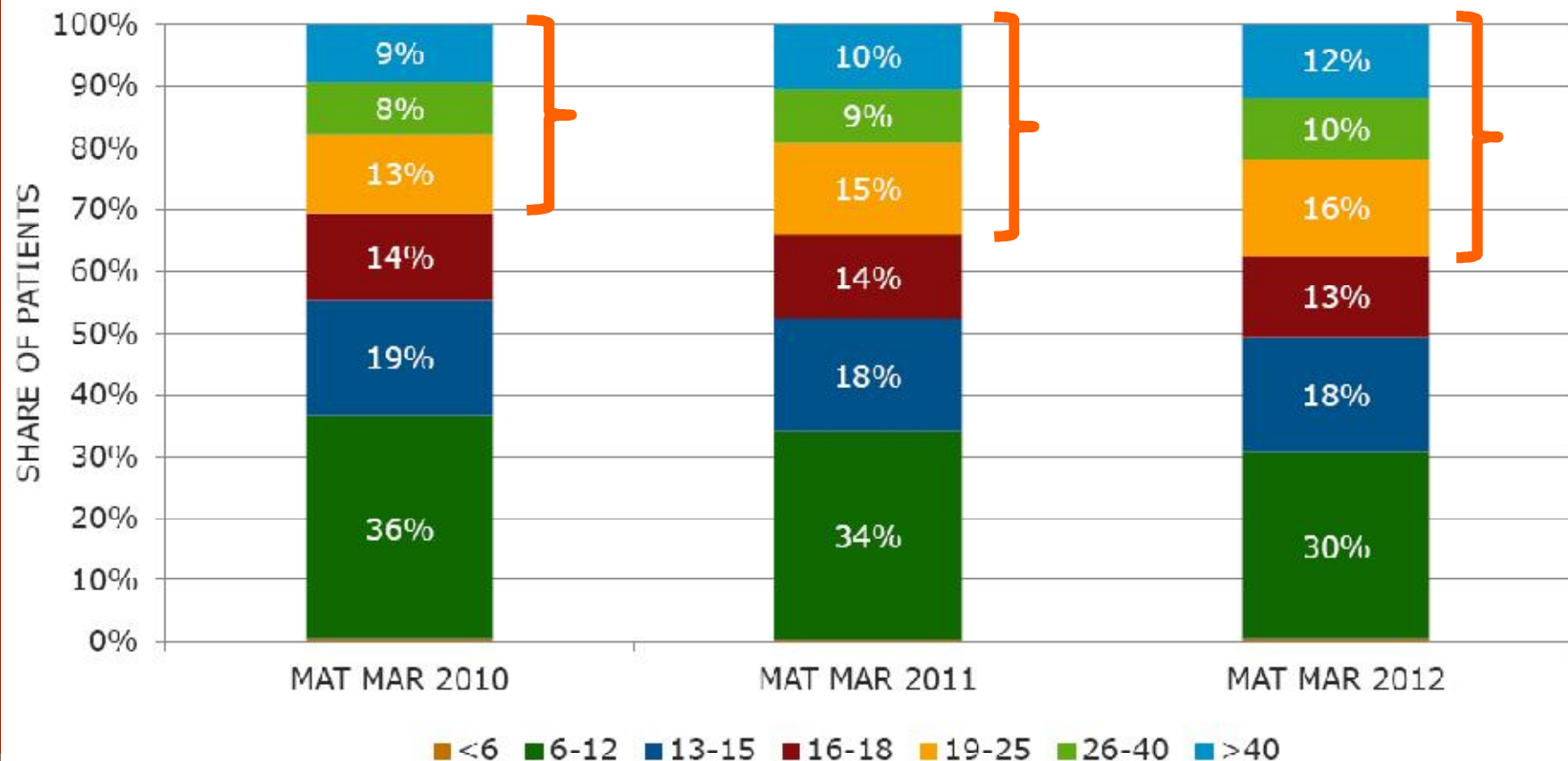
Source: IMS LMPB data

# Belgium: proportion of +18y increases

**Half of the patients taking ADHD drugs are under the age of sixteen, with 30% of them between six and twelve**

The share and amount of older patients seems to be increasing, looking at the shift in age over the previous 3 years

ADHD patient split per age group (MAT Mar 2010, 2011 and 2012)

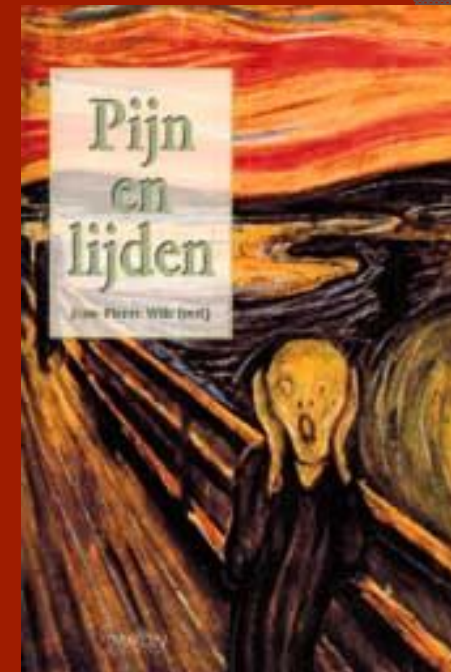


# Conclusions:

- ⦿ Problematic developmental outcome of childhood ADHD
- ⦿ Applying same criteria: discontinuity & continuity
- ⦿ Discontinuity seems a linear process starting in early adolescence
- ⦿ DSM-5 adaptations will (artificially ?) increase “continuity”
- ⦿ Neurodevelopment suggests partial normalization or compensation
- ⦿ Twin studies suggest rater bias and new genes coming into action
- ⦿ Treatment may foster some normalization
- ⦿ Proportion of “treated” adults in Belgium increases

# “In the patiënt’s best interest ?

- How much “disfunctioning” / “suffering” is necessary to reach the threshold of caseness?



*“Zolang men gezond is, existeert men niet”*

*De wreedheid van de pijn – genieten van het lijden, omdat je geniet van je eigen, met het wezen van het leed verbonden persoonlijkheid. Het laatste toevluchtsoord voor de honger naar leven en de dorst naar genot (F. Pessoa)*

# Transition of care from adolescence to adulthood

- ◎ UK 3-tier model based on complexity:
  - Tier 1: follow-up by GP (specialist back-up)
  - Tier 2: follow-up by GP + coach
  - Tier 3: follow-up by specialist
- ◎ Re-assessment at school leaving age
- ◎ Transition period
- ◎ Autonomy / dependence